



CASE STUDY



Gran Torino

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Neil Perry is one of the most recognisable names in Australian hospitality. The Neil Perry star has at times risen stratospherically high, successfully launching and operating big-budget, corporate-friendly restaurants such as Rockpool and Rosetta. In more recent times, Perry has returned to his roots, basing himself in the old stamping ground of Double Bay, in the salubrious eastern suburbs of Sydney.

Neil Perry's vision might be more grassroots and family centric but his eye for detail and his desire to deliver a superior product remains undaunted. So you'd expect his latest venues Gran Torino and Bar Torino to be a cut above. And they are, with Gran Torino offering amazing Italian food and Bar Torino a superior bar concept.

Paul Cavallaro won the AV design and

installation job. Paul's company Goldfinch Projects was subcontracting to AV Lounge on the project. He worked closely with the builder, Calida.

SONANCE INVISIBLE

Above the bar is Gran Torino, a 130-seat upstairs dining room. It's easy to feel instantly at home. The cooking is as comforting as a hug from nonna, while the interiors are nostalgic without being mawkish, featuring a burgundy palette, leather banquettes, creamy marble surfaces, plush velvet curtains, and feature photography from Earl Carter.

"The architect specified the Sonance Invisible range of loudspeakers," explains Paul Cavallaro. "The product is installed behind the plasterboard – they're genuinely invisible and they perform well. Installing them was a learning experience. The speakers need to be installed prior to the



plasterboard, but the ceiling design made things tricky. We were grateful for Amber Technology's design assistance."

If you're unaware of the Sonance Invisible range, it's something out of the ordinary. Unlike traditional speakers with visible grilles, these employ a transducer tech that uses the wall or ceiling surface itself as a diaphragm, turning the entire plane into a sound-radiating element. This creates a very diffuse and immersive sound field with wide dispersion (up to 180 degrees) without compromising the room's aesthetic. As you can imagine, Sonance Invisible is especially popular in luxury homes and with architects.

Gran Torino is far from Neil Perry's first rodeo, and like every top-shelf restaurateur he's keenly aware that all elements of the design need to be in

balance to support the main offering – the amazing food and wine.

"The lighting and music need to be in balance with the interiors," explains Neil Perry. "Often I'll see a battle between the architect and the audio about where to position the 'ugly loudspeakers' and it feels like one or the other is inevitably compromised. That's not happened this time. They have no idea where the music is coming from yet the quality is next level."

Goldfinch Projects: goldfinchprojects.com.au

Gran Torino: themargaretfamily.com/venue/gran-torino