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Shannon Bennett serves up kitchen for \$29m Melbourne penthouse

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MELBOURNE NEWS VICTORIA



An artist's impression of S P Setia's Sapphire by the Gardens development, overlooking Carlton Gardens.

A FUTURISTIC kitchen designed by celebrity chef Shannon Bennett will be a highlight of a new \$29 million Melbourne penthouse, boasting a meat ageing cabinet and its own herb garden.

Separate fridges for fish, vegies and cheese and a Miele "Dialog Oven" that won't be available in Australia for years are also planned for the absolute top-end kitchen.

"It's my fantasy of how I'd like my own kitchen to be," Mr Bennett said.

The Vue de Monde head chef and *MasterChef* star is designing the foundations of the 60-70sq m kitchen, and he'll then work with whoever buys the apartment to customise it.

The 650sq m penthouse will occupy the entire top floor of the 57-storey residential tower in S P Setia's Sapphire by the Gardens project on Exhibition St, overlooking Carlton Gardens.

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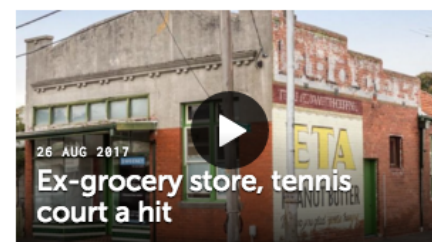
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Celebrity chef Shannon Bennett. Picture: David Smith



The penthouse occupies the entire 57th – and top – floor of one of the development's two towers.

The five-bedroom, six-bathroom penthouse will become Australia's most expensive apartment if it achieves its \$29 million price guide – beating \$26 and \$27 million off-the-plan penthouses in Sydney's Opera Residences.

But it will be rivalled by Devitt Property Group's [recently announced penthouse worth \\$40 million](#) atop The Muse apartment development on St Kilda Rd.

Sapphire by the Gardens' residential tower will feature 345 apartments in total and be connected to a 65-storey building hosting [Melbourne's newest five-star hotel, Shangri-La](#), via a "sky bridge".

Mr Bennett said the penthouse kitchen would reflect the future of Australia's high-end kitchens, serving as an attractive place to entertain guests, but also a functional space with the best elements of a commercial kitchen.



An early design of a lounge room within the development.



A concept image of the infinity pool in the residential tower.

It would offer room to "bring in a private chef" to cook for "20 friends" and also function as a "Monday to Friday kitchen" for regular nights where the occupant was just cooking for themselves, he said.

He said its features would include induction cooktops, ventilated ceilings, a built-in spice rack, herbatorium, indoor barbecue, meat ageing cabinet, cooking island "like we've got at Vue de Monde" and Miele appliances – including brand new products like the Dialog Oven, thanks to Mr Bennett's role as Miele ambassador.

"This will be the first Victorian kitchen to have a Dialog," he said.

"There'll also be segregated fridge space ... for cheese, for fish, for vegetables. Vegetables should be

There will also be segregated fridge space for chicken, for fish, for vegetables. Vegetables should be stored at 4-12C to keep at optimum freshness, but fish need to be at 0C.

"It's not about showing off — it's about functionality."



An early render of the lobby within one of the two towers.



Mr Bennett said his expertise as Sapphire by the Gardens' official ambassador and kitchen designer "won't stop at the penthouse".

Eighty per cent of Sapphire by the Gardens' apartments have already been snapped up, with the towers set to be finished by 2021.

There'll be a push to sell the remaining residences at an investor event at the Marriot Hotel in Melbourne, which kicked off today and runs through to Tuesday, October 10.

Interested parties can register their details or book an appointment by visiting sapphirebythegardens.com.au or calling 1300 088 530.

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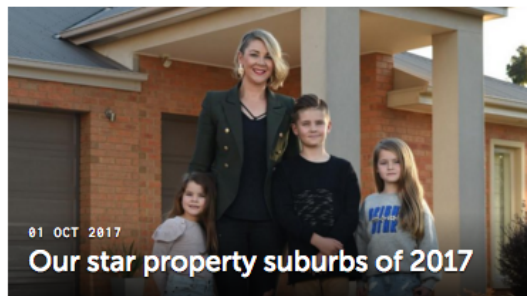
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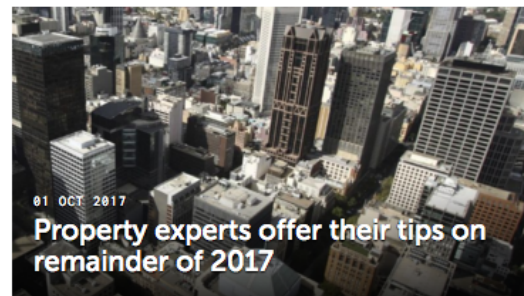
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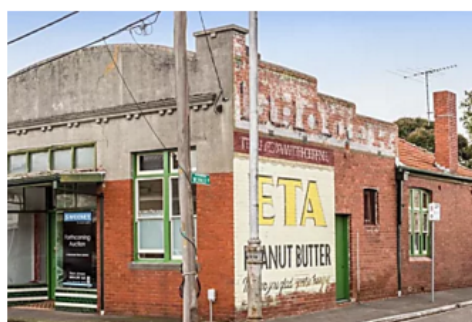
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