

(these seafood specialists)



## Clamms, premium seafood suppliers

Next time you order the prawns or a tuna tartare at a Melbourne restaurant, chances are these men had a hand in bringing it to your table. The secret of their success? “They’re reliable, they deliver to us twice a day. People like that are invaluable in the industry,” says Karen Batson, chef at city restaurant Cookie. “If we’ve had a big lunch and we’ve sold out of our barramundi, you ring up and they go, ‘Yep, we’ll get you more.’” Clamms is easily Melbourne’s largest supplier of fish to restaurants with more than 350 customers including many of the stars of this year’s *Age Good Food Guide* such as Cutler & Co, Vue de Monde, Gingerboy, Longrain and Circa, the Prince ...

Four men run the business: George Kaparos, Jason Jurie, James Andronis (pictured) and James’ father, Con Andronis. Between midnight and 3am, they comb the wholesale fish market in West Melbourne. “You look for the freshness,” says Jurie, “you look for the sparkle in the fish, the texture and the smell – all those things add up to selecting good produce.”

Each week they turn over, on average, 60 tonnes of fish, importing some like blue eye, hapuka and snapper from New Zealand and exporting to top hotels in Singapore and Hong Kong.

Because top Melbourne chefs always want to be the first to offer something new or different, Clamms also sources specialty products direct from fishermen and aquaculture farms.

The Japanese-style, plump Kumamoto oyster grown in South Australia, for example, is sold exclusively through Clamms and might appear at places such as Cumulus Inc, where a selection of 10 oysters is often available.

The strangest request from a chef, says James Andronis, was for a bucket of seawater. “Jason’s got a holiday house in Ocean Grove so he went out in his jet ski on the weekend and got a bucket of sea water and put it into an esky and brought it in on Monday. They were doing a seawater foam.” If that all sounds too over the top, you can buy fresh fish, sushi and fish and chips from Clamms Fast Fish in St Kilda and Albert Park.