



BEANS MEANS BUCKS: Miranda McCurry tastes a \$5.30 cup of Yahava coffee served with handmade gingerbread biscuits at Palais 85 in South Perth.

Pictures: RICHARD HATHERLY



Coffee cracks the \$5 barrier

By GAIL WILLIAMS

FORGET the days of grabbing a few coins to score a caffeine hit.

Perth cafes have broken the \$5 coffee barrier, forcing coffee addicts to break bigger notes to get their daily fix.

Palais 85 in South Perth — Perth's first self-proclaimed six-star restaurant — has set the trend by charging \$5 for a flat white and \$7 for a latte. They both come with a handmade biscuit and a spectacular view.

But other suburban cafes are not far behind — without offering such enticements. And Perth's prices don't compare well with those in Sydney and Melbourne — the nation's coffee capital.

It's common in WA to be slugged \$4 or more for a flat white. The Boatshed and Bellhouse cafes in South Perth charge \$4.50, and Matilda Bay in Crawley, the Floreat Beach Kiosk and Cottesloe's Blue Duck charge \$4.

But even regular cafes — Epic Espresso in West Perth and Cimbalino in Cottesloe — charge \$4

for a flat white and a seat, and as much as \$5.70 to take a coffee away. That's more than Melbourne's iconic Grossi Florentino, Caffè E Cucina, Babka and De Graves in Flinders Lane, where a great coffee costs less than \$3.50.

At Pigeon in Surry Hills, which sells arguably the best coffee in Sydney, a flat white is \$3.

But there's still value to be had in Perth.

Mt Lawley's Coope Street Cafe (\$3.70), West Perth's Fix Espresso (\$3.40), Subiaco's Hot Shots (\$3.80) and Milk'd in North Perth

(\$3.80) are at the cheaper end of the market.

None come, such as at Palais 85, with handmade biscuits on the side. But at Crown Cafe in Stirling St you can get a biscuit with your flat white for \$3.30.

Perth coffee expert Corey Diamond, of Epic Espresso said: "We get away with charging \$4 because we are using two shots, not one, and 5 Senses coffee and Bannister Downs milk. It's also highly competitive over east with more coffee shops."