

underbelly shoots at swiss grand

BONDI ICON becomes
backdrop for new series.

It seems it's not only meetings delegates who like the style and architecture of the Swiss Grand Bondi Beach, with the venue recently swarming with thespians and film crews during shooting of the new series of Underbelly.

Actors and crew were at the Swiss Grand Resort & Spa recently to film some scenes which are meant to be based in a hotel in Singapore, New Zealand and Brisbane in the 1980s. Because of the current economic climate it was decided it would be cheaper to have Bondi become Singapore than to fly cast and crew overseas. Although the Swiss Grand Resort & Spa has undergone extensive renovations in recent years, its 'Budapest meets Sydney' 1980s architecture was said to be perfect for the era and the ambience



needed. Underbelly staffers removed the hotel room modern furniture and finishings and brought in period furniture to theme the set appropriately. Hotel employees, many of them fans of the original show, were thrilled to see some of the actors from "Australia's best-ever crime drama" on-site.

While the majority of the first series was filmed in Melbourne - where many of the events took place - the prequel will follow more closely Vince Colosimo's character, Alphonse Gangitano and will also feature many Sydney underworld figures.

Nine Network has revealed the title of the prequel will be Underbelly: A Tale of Two Cities and will focus on the booming heroin and marijuana trade of the 1970s and 80s.