

## The Courtyard

Just like its sister restaurant, La Stella, The Courtyard is tucked away on a quaint, cobbled lane giving it character and a somewhat Continental feel.

As soon as we entered the doors of The Courtyard we were greeted with a warm welcome from restaurant manager James, who took our coats and showed us to our seats.

I was pleasantly surprised to see that they have Blue Moon beer on tap, which was my favourite drink while living in the US. However, on this occasion both my mum and I opted for a glass of the house Sauvignon Blanc.

The Creations menu at The Courtyard is a carefully crafted menu which changes

regularly to offer the finest produce of each season. After taking one look at it I knew it wasn't going to be easy to make a decision with so many great choices.

After placing our order we were served a delicious amuse-bouche of haggis bon bon with a whiskey mayonnaise to tempt our taste buds. To start I chose the duck on toast, a full flavoured mix of confit duck leg and Scottish wild mushrooms on toast alongside a delicate radicchio salad and a perfectly poached duck egg. Mum opted for the large pot of mussels cooked in a creamy garlic sauce with pancetta and pear cider, giving it a perfect sweet and salty balance.

To follow we were presented with a strawberry lime sorbet to cleanse our palettes for the main course. My choice for main came from the daily fish specials, a tender tuna steak marinated in lime, orange and tequila on a bed of ribbon

vegetables, topped with two light and crisp crab and ginger spring rolls served with a side of golden couscous and drizzled with a sweetcorn and chilli relish. Mum went for a classic dish with a modern twist, the posh scampi, which were meaty pieces of crispy bread crumbed monkfish served with a stack of freshly fried chips and a tart and tangy homemade tartar sauce.

Unfortunately neither of us could manage dessert but it only gives us another reason to return as well as the changing menu and perhaps for a glass of cool, refreshing Blue Moon beer.

The Courtyard Restaurant

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