

Food as stunning as the surroundings at Calcutta Brasserie

CALCUTTA Brasserie in Stony Stratford is inside one of the most heavenly buildings you are ever likely to see set aside for such an earthly purpose as eating, writes David Tooley.

The 17th century former orphanage building and chapel lies just off the richly charactered High Street in the town to the north of Milton Keynes.

It took me less than 30 minutes to get there from Bletchley on a Thursday early evening.

A stream of customers, including business groups couples and families were also there on the same night, enjoying the company of the team run by business owners Ajmol Ali and Abdul Masobbir.

One pair near me erupted in delight when one of the team of seven front of house staff brought their still-sizzling food to the table. And other people were smiling broadly, so impressive are the surroundings, service and offerings.

I'm anything but a food critic – I would be happy to munch my way through a pile of poppadums and chutneys all night – but I have a few standard tests in restaurants.

Test one is with lettuce. It was crisp, clean and without a hint of starting to turn brown.

Test two is with onion bhajis. I hate it if they fall apart at the slightest touch. The ones I had kept their consistency and they were nicely spicy, too.

Test three is the potato test. If they are strong enough to

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hold up a knife but only need minimum pressure to cut them, to me that means they are perfect.

During my visit the cutlery and crockery was sparkling and there is a strict attention to detail on the neat table decorations, a clear sign to me of management and team discipline.

My meal took one hour from start to finish, including a chat with Mr Ali and me taking it deliberately slow so I could have a good look at the fabulous old building and the reproduction of Michelangelo's Creation of Adam on the public

school-like interior's wall.

It's well worth considering booking up soon to have the office Christmas curry at Calcutta Brasserie.

From December 1 to 24, Christmas lunch menus will be on offer at £9.99 per person. Dinner menus will be £16.95 per person. Parties of six or more will be asked to pay a 10 per cent service charge.

And for people like my mum, who cannot stand even a hint of spice at all, there will be a four-course traditional Christmas Day lunch for £29.95 per person. Have a look on the restaurant's website for full menu and venue details.

Oh, and I should also mention that on Thursday, November 18, an Abba Tribute Act will be playing at the Calcutta Brasserie.

The final test I give a restaurant is whether I would go back and pay; I would. If you like old buildings and great restaurants, I urge you to give Calcutta Brasserie a try.

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STUNNING SURROUNDINGS: Food matches the wonderful setting of Calcutta Brasserie



Advert ID:MAP222151
 265 mm by60 mm
 Booking Code:MAP222151
 Customer ID:Calcutta Brasserie (NRS)
 Colour:4
 First Appearance:30/09/10
 Last Appearance:30/09/10