

Chapters Hotel and Restaurant: Stokesley

Enjoy a fine meal ...then sleep on it

Bed and board is first class

IT'S great going out to eat, but a recent visit to Chapters Hotel and Restaurant in Stokesley proved to be something extra special.

Formerly a coaching inn, the hotel dates back some 250 years and its Gourmet Nights - which include an evening meal, overnight stay and breakfast - sounded the perfect way to unwind and relax.

Arriving in the reception area we were greeted by the manager and he instantly made us feel very welcome.

First we headed to our room - and what a lovely touch, sparkling wine on ice with petit fours.

The room was spacious with a wonderful mixture of modern and traditional furniture creating a beautifully elegant environment. Then it was time for food.

We'd booked into the brasserie but were also given the option of the themed Moroccan night in the restaurant.

Sticking with our original choice, we took a look at the menu's mouthwatering selection of dishes.

My husband decided on carpaccio of local beef, horseradish cream and beetroot

Tracy Littlefair reports:

crisps to start; I opted for duck liver parfait which came with mango, pickled ginger chutney and toasted brioche.

The presentation of both dishes was superb and few words were spoken as we devoured our first course.

On to the mains and we both chose the fillet of local beef with wild mushroom diane sauce.

Everyone must try this sauce - it was delicious.

I only wish they would sell it as I would gladly have taken some home.

This was served with twice cooked hand cut chips and dressed house salad.

Dessert was a true paradise for chocolate lovers. Choices included nemesis of chocolate, a crème brûlée, chocolate soufflé, chocolate mousse with wild berries and chocolate ice cream - all beautifully presented in individual dishes.

My husband decided to try the selection of local and continental cheeses with home-made chutney and jam.

All in all a fantastic meal - inspirational combinations of ingredients and delicious flavours.

After a wonderfully relaxing



night's stay in our hotel room, it was time for breakfast.

Again, there was plenty of choice from a light meal to a full cooked plateful.

It's not often you'd think of booking a night in a hotel when it's so close to home, but I'm converted.

It's a great way to really unwind and relax and enjoy some fantastic food.

It's perfect for a special occasion or if you just fancy some extra TLC, but there's still plenty to enjoy at Chapters even if you can't stay the night.

Our meal was included in the Gourmet Night price, but starters begin at £4.95 and include delicious treats such as Yorkshire Blue cheese twice bake souffle and steamed Shetland mussels - both at £5.95.

Main courses include pan roasted rump of local lamb at £15.95 and saddle of venison with sauteed king prawns at £18.50.

I'm not sure if it'll be just a meal or a relaxing overnight break, but I'll definitely be making a return visit to Chapters soon.

Chapters' Gourmet Night

(includes meal, overnight stay and breakfast)

A double room costs £145 per couple and an executive room is £155

Verdict ★★★★★½

What's on your bookshelf?

MATTHEW LITTLE

(pictured right), 14, of Middlesbrough, talks about his favourite books.

■ What was the first book you ever read?

Charlie And The Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl.

■ What are you reading at the moment?

I am reading Lemony Snicket's A Series Of Unfortunate Events.

■ Which author has inspired you most in your life?

William Shakespeare, because I believe he was quite advanced for his time.

Sarah Dale reports:

■ Which book have you started but couldn't finish?

The Lord Of The Rings series (by JRR Tolkien) - it was very boring.

■ What character from a book would you most like to be and why?

When I was a child I wanted to be Charlie from Charlie And The Chocolate Factory.

■ What character describes you best?

BFG, because I am big, friendly and a giant at heart.



■ TO add your own review of **THE BOOK OF TOMORROW** by Cecelia Ahern, the Gazette's Book Club Book of the Month for February, log on to www.gazettelive.co.uk/bookclub

Top Ten Books

- 1 **The Lovely Bones** by Alice Sebold (Pan Macmillan, £7.99)
- 2 **Breaking Dawn** by Stephenie Meyer (Little Brown, £14.99)
- 3 **Eclipse** by Stephenie Meyer (Little Brown, £7.99)
- 4 **One Day** by David Nicholls (Hodder and Stoughton, £7.99)
- 5 **Fallen** by Lauren Kate (Random Children's, £9.99)
- 6 **Vampire Diaries** by L J Smith (Hachette Children's, £6.99)
- 7 **Twilight** by Stephenie Meyer (Little Brown, £6.99)
- 8 **The Road** by Cormac McCarthy (Pan Macmillan, £7.99)
- 9 **The Reunion** by L J Smith (Pan Macmillan, £6.99)
- 10 **The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas** by John Boyne (Transworld, £6.99)

■ List compiled by Waterstones, Captain Cook Square, Middlesbrough

Read it:

■ A SISTER'S GIFT by Giselle Green (Avon, £6.99)

THIS is a tale of two sisters who are poles apart but bound together by love and duty.

Hollie Hudson and her husband Richard are fast losing hope of ever having their own child.

But Hollie is unable to give up her dream of having her own family and so calls on her last chance - her wayward sister, Scarlett.

The 24-year-old is the antithesis of her more reserved older sister but capable of giving Hollie the miracle she so desperately wishes for.

Having almost single-handedly brought Scarlett up after their runaway mother abandoned them, Scarlett knows she owes Hollie everything - and now it's time to pay her back with the ultimate gift.

Scarlett also has an ulterior motive. She's recently returned from the Amazon where she's been working with endangered species and threatened tribes, but she finds being back home difficult - especially as the past and past feelings come back to haunt her.

Meanwhile, an increasingly desperate Hollie is faced with the decision of a lifetime if she's ever to get the baby she wants, but just how much is she willing to put at stake?

Green has fleshed out these characters, making them human and flawed and takes the reader on a heart-breaking journey.

A great read, it raises some interesting questions about how far we would be prepared to go to fulfil our desires.