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Glamour and fine dining with a touch of humour

Review

Danielle Manning spends an evening at the Vincent

I HAD been looking forward to dinner at the Vincent all weekend.

The restaurant, overlooking the town's Lord Street boulevard, has cemented its reputation as the ultimate go-to venue for the height of luxury and glamour in Southport.

So spending an evening there for dinner with my mother after a day of Christmas shopping sounded like the perfect Sunday to me. And it didn't disappoint.

From the moment you walk into the restaurant, you know you're in for a treat. The decor oozes sophistication, from the trendy chairs and tables to the cool ambience of the dimly-lit lights and sprinkling of candles.

But it is the attention to detail that always grabs my attention when eating at the Vincent. I can't help but smile when I notice the quirky napkins – those who have been will know just what I mean, but suffice to say that if you find you've had one cosmopolitan too many at the Tony McGee bar behind the restaurant, then the napkins are a valuable aid to help your taxi driver get you home safe and sound... This humorous touch also applies to the dessert section of the menu, under the title of 'life is uncertain, eat puddings'. My sentiments exactly, now pass me the chocolate!



The Vincent Hotel

But before we got to our dessert, my mum and I started our meal with a bottle of Pinot Grigio which was wonderfully refreshing after an exhausting day battling queues and crowds of festive shoppers.

We paired our wine with a starter of hummus, focaccia bread and olives (£6.95). Perfect for sharing and absolutely delicious.

The extensive menu, which includes the restaurant's legendary sushi bar, has something for everybody with English classic fish and chips on offer alongside a decadent lobster risotto.

My mum opted for the chargrilled tuna steak topped with a poached egg, warm new potatoes and salad (£13.95), which she said was lovely and light.

I chose the steak noodle salad with crispy vegetables, soy and cashew nuts (£13.95) which I thoroughly enjoyed. The helping of steak was generous and the presentation impressive.

Our service was superb, we

wouldn't so much as glance at our wine glasses for our waiter to swoop and top them up.

But by far the best part of the dinner was dessert. Even if you don't have a sweet tooth, I'm sure anybody would enjoy the 'flaming smores board' (£6.95).

It came to our table presented beautifully with marshmallows to be toasted on a small flame and dipped in caramel, chocolate, topped off with ice cream and cinnamon biscuits.

Their motto is true, life IS uncertain, so we should all treat ourselves to a top class dinner whenever we can.

THE FACTS

Address: The Vincent hotel and restaurant, 98 Lord Street, Southport PR8 1JR.

Value: Reasonable, £61.30 including a bottle of wine.

Service: Professional and attentive

OFFER 20% off a la carte menu at Saahil



Voucher entitles the holder to
20% off a la carte menu
at Saahil, at 665 Lord Street, Southport

READERS can enjoy 20% off all dishes on the a la carte menu at Saahil.

The Indian restaurant, at 665 Lord Street, specialises in Kashmiri and Punjabi cuisine. Everything is prepared using the freshest ingredients and is 100% halal.

Vegetarians, vegans and other special dietary requirements are also catered for.

At Saahil, a BYOB policy is available, customers can bring their own alcohol to enjoy with the meal. Soft drinks are also sold at the bar and glasses and ice are supplied.

For bookings, call Saahil on 01704 512 345.

Chef of the Week

Tony Brough, of Brough's Butchers



A HIGH-flying butcher has shared with us his top tips for the perfect Christmas meal.

Tony Brough, owner of the popular Brough's Butchers, says there can be no finer festive foods than the home-made style of meat dishes and delicacies he sells in Lancashire and Merseyside.

Having started out in Ainsdale in 1974, Tony has a wealth of knowledge when it comes down to the best of the Christmas period, and he suggests beginning with a mouth-watering starter.

A chicken liver and brandy pâté from Patchwork, served on a bed of lettuce will be the ideal start to the traditional Christmas lunch. Add a festive slice

of orange to give the starter a hint of sweetness.

While your guests are enjoying themselves with the pâté, follow Tony's top turkey cooking tips for a successful main.

One favourite of his is the Copas bronze free-range turkey.

When placing the turkey in the oven, turn it upside down for the majority of the cooking time. This ensures that the turkey essentially bastes the breast itself and brings out the best flavours.

Carefully turn the turkey back over gently about two thirds of the way through cooking to bronze the skin.

Serve with seasonal vegetables and enjoy!



● FINO'S – enjoy three tapas and a dessert. For bookings, phone 01704 501745.



● MARINE Brasserie – two courses at the Ramada's restaurant. For bookings, phone 01704 516220.



● TRATTORIA 51 – two traditional Italian courses. For bookings, phone 01704 510051.



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