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The Fleur Bar & Bistro

Miss out on the revamped Fleur Bar & Bistro at your peril. It may be just off Elizabeth Way, a brutalist portion of Cambridge's ring road, and it may be a sorely missed pub on the gay scene - but - what it is right now is a real find: a superb restaurant-bar.

With the central conceit that customers can choose from a wide selection of dishes, the Fleur is ideal for socialising. This is summed up by the Meze plate - a delicious self selected platter of starters - ideal for sharing and playing around with. Of the selection we tried, incorporating artichokes, chorizo and humus alongside the integral pita, salad and breadsticks, the artichokes excelled - freshly cooked and far removed from the normal oily specimens we resort to in the UK.

Although the rest of the menu was less inspired, what one does get is simply excellent, more so at the reasonable price. In our experience few establishments at this price range have a chef who comes round towards the end of the evening to enquire as to how we found his wares! Rib-eyed steak and fresh mushroom and pumpkin ravioli for mains were well received, as were varied cheesecakes for dessert including the imaginative Tennessee Grasshopper.

Nowhere is perfect, so one niggling minor fault was the wine list. A pared down affair with minimal choice: the predictable Pinot Grigio summed it up really. That said though, a very respectable wine fridge was spotted, including Canard-Duchêne Brut. All one needs to do is ask! Since the time of our visit the Fleur has expanded its printed wine list.

Alongside the Backstreet Bistro and Brasserie, it's another experiment in luring hungry suburbanites away from the city centre. In some weird trend mimicking this transformation, another formerly gay pub The Punter (formerly the Town & Gown) has also metamorphosed into a food conscious establishment in recent months.

Whitewashed and containing tables at different heights and large mirrors, if anything, the interior of the Fleur seems to be whatever one makes of it. Outside however, it is to die for. A palatial decked terrace extends into the periphery and if one Autumnal night is anything to go by, when spring comes around this place will be the number one night spot in Cambridge.

When this occurs though - don't forget the food!