

Kitley House Restaurant

Kitley House in Yealmpton offers a dining style that you will not find in the high street. Its fascinating historic story begins in Tudor times and has Regency and Jacobean extensions. Now, with a resurgence of attention, the restaurant has been awarded 1 rosette and is aiming for 2 and 3 rosettes in 2019.

We never tire of the A379 drive to Yealmpton. On the western edge of the town, good signage on the left points to an arched gateway for the drive through park-like grounds to Kitley House. Our booking was for Sunday lunch – a meal which is served all day. At Kitley, it is true to English tradition with Roast Sirloin, or Loin of Pork, or Breast of Chicken, each with roast vegetables and trimmings. An option of Sea Bass for fish lovers and another option for vegetarians made choice for the main course delightfully difficult.

The starter menu offers five dishes, including soup. There is a Tian of Prawns in Marie Rose with Smoked Salmon; Duck Confit with caramelised Shallots and Quince; Chicken Liver parfait with Walnut bread and Whiskey marmalade. All are attractively presented and they each make a good beginning to the meal.

For something sweet to follow, the desert menu includes Scruffy Pavlova; Assiette of Chocolate; Sticky Toffee pudding. Cheese lovers are catered for too. The deserts are served in Kitley's consistently tasteful way. Pricing for Sunday lunch is currently £17.95 for two courses; £22.95 for three.

To add to your Sunday experience at Kitley, plan to be there between 1 and 3 for live piano music; or between 3 and 5 for live jazz. Pleasant music plays in the background at other times. Regency style chairs, linen serviettes, marble pillars, walls lined with book-shelves, are all features that add to the experience. And by day, long views of the estate's parkland running down to the River Yealm, are to be seen from the windows.

The owners are restoring the fabric of the building and some interior decorating is underway. Lounges, which were long shut off, have been opened up. Like all buildings with a history, Kitley has its stories. In the bar, the fire-grate is never used in case the rare bats that once lived in the chimney, return. Residents of this 4-star hotel share the dining room with non-residents diners.

We had enjoyed aperitifs by the log fire in the hall. It is a large fireplace and its size seemed to add to the warmth and comfort. We went back to the hall's fireside sofas after dinner for coffee from pots that seemed bottomless.

Make a call if you would like more information: 01752 881555