



Al fresco dining makes Clocktower tick

After its £1m transformation, Clocktower restaurant at Rudding Park has enjoyed superb trading this summer. In July and August, Clocktower served almost 16,750 covers, compared to just 11,000 last year – a massive 52 per cent increase.

The huge increase in trade was in part due to the July heat-wave and also because the restaurant's terrace was enlarged as part of the refurbishment of the restaurant, with the introduction of a new covered area which includes patio heating. As a result diners have been able to eat outside throughout the day and late into the evening.

Clocktower re-opened in April 2006 with a star studded opening party whose guests included Full Monty star Hugo Spear, Emmerdale actors Deena Payne, Mark Charnock and Patrick Mower. Since then a range of local celebrities have been drawn to the restaurant, including Paul Gascoigne, David O'Leary, Christa Ackroyd and Harry Gration, Gaynor Faye, Ken Bates and Gareth Southgate.

Visitors to Clocktower have been amazed as every part of the restaurant has been dramatically transformed; from the reception with its central fireplace to the magnificent conservatory with a 400 year old olive tree, from Tarragona, Barcelona. A hand-made pink crystal chandelier from Nice is the striking centrepiece to the dining room which features American black walnut, a glass wine wall, Moroccan wall lights and hand painted Brazilian wallpaper.

Judi Mackaness, Director of Rudding Park oversaw the transformation of Clocktower, and comments: "We're delighted that the restaurant has been so well received by our guests since re-opening. Clocktower has been exceptionally busy from the day we re-opened, following its four month transformation. As well as creating a stunning interior, we wanted to ensure the outside areas offered the same 'Clocktower' experience for al fresco diners. Our trading figures show that we've been able to achieve that."

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For more information: Kathryn Simpson or Laura Thompson 01423 534660