



LIFE MAGAZINES

MONTHLY A5 LOCAL LIFESTYLE MAGAZINES

BEST RESTAURANT AWARDS - OUR PICK OF THE RESTAURANTS WE'VE REVIEWED OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS.

Since Southwell Life was launched in April 2005 we have done 48 restaurant reviews. That isn't to say that we've reviewed 48 restaurants because we've reviewed some places twice, either because they've changed hands or because we felt it was worth going back for another bite of the cherry. Sadly, several of the restaurants we reviewed are no longer in business, victims of increasingly tough times in the hospitality trade.

So, it's time to step back and review our handiwork and dish out a few "best of" awards. Who knows, in years to come our seal of approval could be as eagerly sought after as a Michelin Star. When we review a restaurant we're really looking at four different aspects of the whole dining experience: food, ambience, décor/ setting and service. Here, then, are our top four contenders in each category.

Food

1. Waggon & Horses, Halam. T: 01636 813109

Owner/ Chef, Roy Wood, is an inspired master of the kitchen. Always a dining experience to remember.

2. The Angel, Kneesall. T: 01623 861078

Superb food, arguably where you might least expect it. Our compliments to the chef.

3. Trumps, Newark. T: 01636 610661

Classic cuisine, gorgeous ingredients, beautifully prepared. Yummy!

4. Tom Browns Brasserie, Gunthorpe.
T: 0115 9663642

10 out of 10 for consistency; you will never eat a dish here that is less than very good. A great menu too!

Ambience

1. Farndon Boathouse, Farndon.
T: 01636 676578

Always cool, always happening, always a bit of a buzz – especially on live music nights.

2. Mughal Rasoi, Southwell. T: 01636 813618

Bustling every night of the week and everyone has a smile from the waiters to the last customer.

3. French Living, Nottingham.
T: 0115 9585885

Like being transported to a local bistro in Toulouse. Don't expect to spend any less than three hours over your meal.

4. Le Bistro Pierre, Nottingham.

T: 0115 9412850

All life is there, from accountants letting their hair down to writers dreaming up their next chapter. Enjoy!

Décor/ Setting

1. Woodborough Hall, Woodborough.

T: 0845 0805104

A gorgeous building, gorgeously restored in a gorgeous setting. You'll feel like royalty every time you dine there.

2. Farndon Boathouse, Farndon.

T: 01636 676578

Well worthy of a 3 page spread in Architectural Digest Magazine, Farndon Boathouse is beautifully designed, beautifully executed and beautifully finished.

3. The Red House, Kelham. T: 01636 705266

Rather like Woodborough Hall but without the sympathetic restoration.

4. Café Piano, Southwell. T: 01636 816770

A beautiful Georgian building, kept totally in character with views over Southwell Minster. What more could you ask for?

Service

1. Tom Browns Brasserie, Gunthorpe.

T: 0115 9663642

Everything about Tom Browns is slick and professional, the service most of all.

2. The Lambley, Lambley. T: 0115 9313085

Top of the tree in professionalism, the Lambley offers faultless service.

3. Mughal Rasoi, Southwell. T: 01636 813618

Always there when you need them, always with a smile and you always get what you asked for. Simple! Why do some other restaurants find it so hard?

4. Bistro Pierre, Nottingham. T: 0115 9412850

Crisp aprons, a dash of formality. Everything as it should be.

Best Restaurant?

Surprisingly, we're not going to nominate a best restaurant. Different things are important to different people at different times. Put it this way; if you go to any of the places we've recommended, you won't be disappointed.

Howard Clemmow