



A new start for The Five Horseshoes

With breathtaking views over the surrounding Chilterns, the Five Horseshoes in Maidensgrove near Henley is certainly far more than your average country pub. Reopened under new owners in 2005, and with their new wonderkid head chef Duncan Welgemoed (23), the food at the pub is as exceptional as the views.

The Bar menu has all of the usual traditional English favourites, from bangers and mash made with local Brakespear bitter sausages, beer battered fish and chips, to burgers and ploughman's, all at a reasonable price. If however you want to try something a bit more elaborate, the "Rooms With a View Menu" offers dishes such as deep fried pigs trotter with ham hock and celeriac remoulade or open ravioli of Berkshire fallow venison.

All of the ingredients are bought locally. The steak is from Oxfordshire's "Field Farm Fresh" butchers, the vegetables all come from within a twenty mile radius, the bread is freshly baked at the award winning Lawlor's bakery in Henley, the crayfish are caught in local streams and the game is from the local estate. You might expect such quality cuisine to come at a price, however Nat Langlands Pearse is determined to keep the price of eating at the pub as low as possible, a three course meal for two, complete with a bottle of wine can be enjoyed for less than sixty pounds.

The stunning views across some of England's most unspoilt countryside can be taken in from both of the pub's beer gardens and the majority of the tables inside. Fields, copses and hedgerows, reach out to the horizon with the distant flocks of sheep and herds of cows in the fields, and red kites soaring in the skies above, the only apparent inhabitants of the surrounding Chilterns. Whether sampling some of the fine English food that the pub has to offer, or simply enjoying a pint of local ale in the beer garden on a summer's evening, the low-key relaxed atmosphere and the friendly staff at the Five Horseshoes are sure to make you feel right at home.

www.thefivehorseshoes.co.uk

Summer Whites

Mid-summer evenings call for refreshing whites that provide a pick-me-up after a hot day. The essential key is cleansing acidity that freshens your palate, and allows you to enjoy those fruit and floral flavours that perfectly capture the essence of the season.

Here are six of the best for drinking at home or from Summertown Wine Café:

Chateau des Eyssards Bergerac Sec 2006
£7.95 (£6.95 Members)

A classic blend of fresh, fruity acidity of Sauvignon Blanc combined with the structure and finesse of Sémillon to deliver a moreish combination of melon and green apples. This has been our House White for a year and it recently won 5 stars in Decanter. At this price it is the perfect everyday white for your house too!

Schloss Vollrads Riesling 2005 £14.95
(£13.45 Members)

An enchantingly floral wine: full of orange blossom and rose petals. Dry, not sweet - yet only 11.5% alcohol so it really is the perfect wine for a hot day.

Saint Clair Sauvignon Blanc 2006 £12.95
(£11.66 Members)

Easily our best seller at Summertown Wine Café: quite amazing how they pack all those stunning aromas of elderflower and passion fruit into the bottle. This will jolt you into an evening of joie de vivre.

Laroche 'St Martin' Chablis 2005 £12.95
(£11.66 Members)

A modern classic: fresh, crisp, un-oaked Chardonnay, with the flavours locked in with a screw-cap. Chablis is the quintessential summer food wine, and this is the best example we could find.

Loimer 'Kaferberg' Gruner Veltliner 2004
£16.95 (£15.25 Members)

This wine is my favourite if I really want to surprise and impress a connoisseur. Seductively peppery, it is the Audrey Hepburn of wine: quiet, elegant and beautifully poised.

Paul Jacqueson Rully Chardonnay 2005
£16.95 (£15.25 Members)

We think it is the best value white Burgundy available in Britain. Classic complexity delivered with ripe white summer fruits with a very restrained dash of toasty oak.

Cheers, Rob Malcolm
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