

Country charm at Clevedon Cafe



Restaurant
Clevedon Café
 1 North Road, Clevedon
 Review by Laura Wallace

Often, a café-type establishment tries to transform itself into a restaurant and fails dismally.

The Clevedon Café, a converted woolshed, has transformed itself into something that is simply delicious.

Clevedon Café is a restaurant that smells good. The décor is friendly yet practical, and the staff all charming without being insipid.

Claire, our waitress, escorted us to the table in the corner of the restaurant, where we had a view of the comings and goings in the Clevedon township.

Even on a Wednesday night, the café was busy, catering for a

wide range of people – families, business people and friends.

We began with a rustic platter of breads and pestos and two glasses of Whitehaven Pinot Gris.

It was only a matter of minutes before all conversation ceased as we tore into nicely warmed slices of thick, sunflower seed-coated crusty bread, and then fought over who got the best pesto of the three on offer.

We declared the sundried tomato the winner, with the olive a close second. The standard basil pesto is tasty but not unique. The bread serving is incredibly generous, but we ended up needing more pesto – of the tomato variety.

What we loved about Clevedon Cafe was that no one seemed to mind how long you took to eat. There is nothing worse than

being hurried through your food – so we were impressed that forty minutes and another glass of wine later, our main was served.

I ordered Thai Chicken Curry, and although it was not hot or particularly spicy, it was delicious.

A nicely done poppadum sat on the side, with tasty date and apricot chutney and plenty of boiled white rice. The serving was large and one of those dishes you just want to keep eating even when you have had more than enough.

My fellow diner, who refuses to eat lamb when at home, ordered the lamb salad on a tortilla base, which arrived piled high with juicy lettuce and drizzled with an appetising yoghurt aoli.

The lamb was juicy and tender, the tortilla not soggy and the lettuce fresh and crispy.

The 'non-lamb-eater' declared it a great success.

After eating more than our fill of bread and mains, we stretched to try and find some room in our stomachs for the desserts, all of which sounded rich and tempting.

Claire convinced us to try the chocolate-covered licorice and chocolate-coated nougat as a smaller option to the large, rich portions of ice creams, crème brulee and cheesecake.

The bite-sized pieces were a perfect accompaniment to the strong coffee and rich hot chocolate that we chose to finish off the meal.

Clevedon Café is an oasis of class, good dining and nice wine in a district that boasts few other options. Definitely worth the country drive.

Different show for girls' night out



Entertainment
Showgirls
 Customs St, Auckland
 Review by Lauren Bartlett

For a dirty, dirty bar, Showgirls is surprisingly clean.

Waitresses whip around, scantily-clad with dish-clothes in tow.

I'm not sure if the cleanliness is hygiene reasons, or just a genuine need to mop up the sinful vibe.

If I'm putting my drink where a naked lady just sat, I'm glad someone had the courtesy to pre-wipe.

While this isn't the classiest

joint in the big smoke, as a lady, Showgirls can be a cost-cutting venue to start the night.

Women don't pay an entry fee, and on Wednesdays and Thursdays there is free champers to be had.

Don't get me wrong, it's probably not the best place to appear cheap, but the male patrons were more than happy to give us Showgirls dollars to pop in the stripper's garters as they shimmed past.

I'm not the biggest fan of naked ladies, but the dancers were talented, and not too graphic.

We sat towards the back of the stage, so got more of a side view rather than the full-frontal expe-

rience as we watched just a few of the 50 dancers Showgirls employ.

The dancers were also charmingly pleasant.

We particularly enjoyed Miss Hawaii and her floral lei.

"You've got a fantastic figure," we complimented.

Her secret to keeping trim? Pole dancing and lots of it.

"It gives you a really great work-out, especially for your arms and abs," she explains.

It was almost more interesting watching the other patrons ogling the strippers, burning their cash with each new dancer.

Bedecked with life-sized roof models of Elvis and Marilyn Munroe, Showgirls has become a Customs Street icon.

After 10 faithful years of service to the community, manager Victoria says Showgirls is set apart by its relaxed atmosphere.

"It's more of a nightclub than a strip-club," she says. "People can just come here for a beer and they get the bonus of entertainment on the side."

The club is free during the day, and lunch snacks are available ranging in price from \$4 to \$9.

I haven't tried the cuisine myself, but burgers and kebabs are some of the delights on offer.

There's something about skewered meat and pole-dancers that doesn't quite sit right, but hey, with meals at these prices who's complaining?

music

AK Underground Festival 06
The King's Arms, Newton
 September 29 - October 1
 Featuring The Prison Def Fux, Night Of The Living Poodle, Carthaginian Solution, Krotchrot, The Bludgers and The Wrongmen.

Tickets \$10 from Real Groovy and Door sales.

Tim Finn
SkyCity Theatre
 October 6
 Come along to the SkyCity Theatre in Auckland, where Tim Finn will launch his brand new album, *Imaginary Kingdom*.

Tickets \$60 from Ticketek.

Smokefree Rockquest 2006 National Finals
Bruce Mason Centre, Takapuna
 October 7
 New Zealand's biggest and most influential youth music event. This annual secondary schools competition has helped launch the careers of scores of bands and attracts audiences in excess of 100,000 each year.
 Tickets \$19 from Ticketek.

Rockstar Taste of Chaos
St James Complex
 October 8
 The Rockstar Taste of Chaos tour of Australia and New Zealand this year has attracted a stellar international line up, including Taking Back Sunday, Thursday, Anti-Flag, Underoath, Senses Fail, Saosin Parkway Drive, Cold By Winter, Cobra Khan, The Rabble and Tomorrow Never Comes.

Static fm 88.1

Mon - 12-2pm: Juliette Live- 'Midday Munchies'
 2-4pm: Fleur Live
 4-6pm: Karen Live- 'Evenings with Karen Margaret'
 Tue - 8-10am: Vanessa Live
 12-2pm: Richard Live 'Dragon's Lair'
 2-4pm: Darryl Live- 'Down, up, down with Darryl'
 Wed - 8-10am: Glynis Live
 10-12: Gemma Live
 2-4pm: James Live, 'The Runaround'
 Thur - 12-2pm: Matt Live
 4-6pm: Maia Live

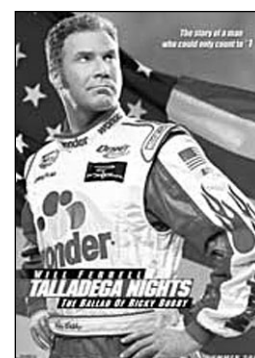
Planet fm 104.6

Mon- Islamic 2.10pm
 Niuean 5.25pm
 Sinhalese 6pm
 Russian 7.05pm
 Tue- Cambodian 2.10pm
 Panjabi 3.20pm
 Kiribati 9.20pm
 Bulgarian 9.55pm
 Wed- Tongan 6.30am
 Hindi 8am
 Maitreya 9.05am
 Irish 10pm
 Thur- Cook Islands 6.30pm
 Kannada 7.05pm
 Samoan 7.40pm
 Korean Youth 10pm
 Fri- Fijian 6.30pm
 Dutch 7.05pm
 Kirundi 8.10pm
 Spanish 10.40pm
 Sat- Scottish 11.05am
 Congolese 3.35pm
 Turkish 7.35pm
 Pashto 8.40pm
 Sun- Krishna 7.50am
 Vietnamese 1.50pm
 South African 2.55pm
 Croatian 7.45pm

Reviews editor's picks:

Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby
Cinemas Nationwide
 Now Showing

From the makers of 'Anchorman' comes this similarly themed fable about idiot NASCAR driver Ricky Bobby. The cast is all class with three of the funniest people in the biz: Will Ferrell ('Old School', 'Anchorman'), John C. Reilly ('The Good Girl', 'Magnolia') and Sacha Baron Cohen ('Ali G', upcoming 'Borat').



Waitakere Moon Festival
New Lynn Community Centre
 October 6 - October 7

A celebration of the city's rich diversity, the Waitakere Moon Festival is a time of fun and entertainment including storytelling, Chinese fortune-telling and free moon cakes.

Tempo Dance Festival
Assorted Auckland venues
 September 29 - October 15
 Details...

Come along and join in the fun of this year's Tempo Dance Festival at various venues around Auckland. Events range from Robert Hylton's Urban Classicism at Auckland Town Hall, to Peter And The Wolf, at TAPAC in Western Springs.