

DINING KAT ADAMSKI

Portico a cut above pub grub



NO longer does dining at a hotel mean you're going to be eating pub food.

Not that there's anything wrong with pub grub, but Portico Restaurant, at Killara's Greengate Hotel, offers fine dining.

Apparently, people rave so much about particular dishes they are kept on the menu due to their popularity.

My friend and I chose one of these as our entree, the lobster and crab steamed dumplings infused with ginger, served with a soy dipping sauce.

Simply divine with their wafer thin wonton casing, the inside of the dumplings had a subtle flavour with a kick of ginger.

Now we could understand why this dish was a mainstay at Portico.

We also tried the grilled scallops which were the plumppest morsels I had ever seen.

Served on top of a mini baked toast, we were treated to a great mix of textures and flavours.

Drizzled with a mild Japanese wasabi dressing and seaweed salad, it was a beautifully presented dish, artfully dressing up the scallops.

DIVINE DINING: Beef Wellington and (inset) grilled scallops

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For our mains we were spoilt for choice because, as well as the regular menu, it was "carnivores night".

Carnivores are welcome on Wednesday nights while lovers of Italian food can indulge with two courses for \$30 on Tuesdays.

We chose a wagyu rump from the carnivores selection and the pan-fried chicken breast from the regular menu.

The wagyu arrived medium-rare, just as ordered, charred slightly on the sides, just the way I like it.

The chicken breast was filled with a delicious chorizo and oregano stuffing, served with puree of broccolini,

sweet corn croquette and a speck emulsion.

And then silence descended on our table after the desserts arrived.

The sticky fig pudding served with butterscotch sauce and ice cream has become my new favourite.

We didn't talk while we devoured the pudding, only to make comments like "oh my goodness" and "this simply melts in your mouth".

Our other choice was a lemon and lime tart served with raspberry coulis and ice cream. Portico also has a private function room and three other rooms that cater for "weddings, parties, anything".

PORTICO

Where: Greengate Hotel, corner Pacific Highway and Greengate Rd, Killara.

When: Every day for lunch from noon and dinner from 5.30pm, Sunday brunch from 10am.

How much: Entrees from \$16, mains from \$22, dessert \$13.

Bookings: 9496 7205.