



PRESS RELEASE

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The Chesil Rectory Unveils Glamorous Refurbishment

One of Hampshire's most historic independent restaurants, The Chesil Rectory, has had an interior facelift in time for its 10th anniversary. Unveiled to customers this Autumn, the refurbishment comes as owner Mark Dodd continues to evolve and grow the family run business.

Its medieval building, now the oldest commercial property in the Winchester area, is what makes The Chesil Rectory unique. Occupying a 600 year old grade II listed medieval house the restaurant has always been full of exceptional character, and the stylish overhaul accentuates this famous ambience, giving the historical surroundings a fresh look 10 years on from the original design.

The refurb includes a new dining room, a sumptuous new bar area and a revamped private room, now re-christened 'The Jane Austen Room' after one of Winchester's most famous residents. Thanks to interior designer and old friend Shaun Clarkson, the space now pops with shades of emerald green and deep blue, with luscious fabrics and marigold silk shades.

Upstairs, the intimate 'Merchant's Lounge' bar area is undoubtedly the new crowning glory of the restaurant. Relocated to the centre of the floor to open up the restaurant, the decadent bar features deep button British leather panels and bar stools to add a touch of luxury and comfort, while marble topped tables and gold trimmed bar stools surround the space. The new look achieves a cosy yet intimate vibe to sit, lap up the authentic atmosphere and enjoy a delicious array of pre dinner drinks.

With the new bar comes an exciting cocktail menu, a new offering from The Chesil Rectory. Customers can indulge in time-honoured classics with a twist such as the Hampshire Gin Martini and The Chesil Negroni. Alternatively celebrate local hero Jane Austen with the new 'Pride and Prejudice' a delicious gin, prosecco and crème de fraise mix, or simply indulge in a glass of Hattingly English fizz.

Elsewhere the restaurant has added a low hanging silk pendant lighting scheme which has retained the unique cosiness of the space whilst improving visibility for customers and giving each table a striking centrepiece.

Mark Dodd said of the refurb: “Whilst we enjoy being the custodians of this incredibly historic site, we know that it’s important to evolve and offer our customers fresh surroundings. This latest project has transformed the building into a stylish yet intimate space, giving our diners the opportunity to extend their visit and enjoy the drinks created by our talented mixologist, before choosing from our modern British menu.”

For more information on The Chesil Rectory visit www.chesilrectory.co.uk

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About The Chesil Rectory:

The Chesil Rectory is a unique and historic restaurant located in Winchester which occupies a 600 year old grade II listed medieval house of exceptional character and charm. Independently owned since 2008 by a small group of friends who share a passion for food and wine, the Chesil Rectory offers a modern British menu featuring simple, classic, seasonal dishes and an abundance of fresh local produce.

The Chesil Rectory History:

Steeped in history, the medieval Chesil Rectory building is now the oldest commercial property in Winchester. A restaurant for the last 85 years, but with a history that includes use as a merchant’s house, antique shop, tannery, Bishop’s residence, general store and tea rooms, it was taken over in 2008 by the current team.

The city of Winchester has played an important part throughout history. During Saxon times, King Alfred, who was crowned here in 871, made Winchester a royal city: it became the centre of Wessex, the capital of England and subsequently remained a royal residence for many centuries.

The Chesil Rectory is located on 1 Chesil Street, Winchester, SO23 0HU

