

THE QUARTER ON HAY | Perth

There's a buzz to the city these days that wasn't there a while ago. Newish places such as The George, Andaluz and Helvetica have mixed it up with classics like Bar One and Balthazar to give us all a good reason to head into the city.

The Quarter, at the Wesley Centre, opened about eight months ago and has already built an impressive following. Owner Ryan Taylor is running a sleek and smooth show. It's all silver-blues and rich, quilted fabrics. Service is excellent. Start with a G&T (one of the finest I've had in quite some time. Good quality gin and two big wedges of lime). The 'by the glass' list is small but has most varieties represented.

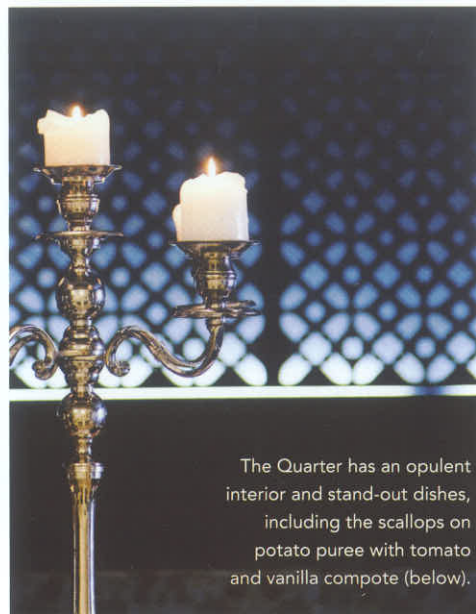
It's the food, however, that has tongues wagging. The young and talented Shannon Wilson spent 10 years in London and he and his team have orchestrated a menu with strong British and French influences. A grilled haloumi salad is a highlight. Sun-dried tomatoes give sweetness to a dish that is a delight of flavour and texture. Soft, just-grilled haloumi sits on a bed of witlof. Pita croutons give the crunch and a wild thyme dressing spices it up.

The steak tartare is not the best I've had; a little too much mayonnaise (why put any in at all?) and not enough Dijon mustard or Worcestershire sauce – but it's saved by some wonderfully ground, excellent quality fillet. Or try the innovative scallops on a bed of potato puree with a tomato and vanilla compote.

Leave room for dessert. There's a pecan and banana pudding with toffee caramel which is worth ordering just for the caramel! Team it with one of the superb dessert wines such as the Alvaro, Domecq Pedro, Ximenez 1730.

There's a bar/lounge serving shared items at the front and plans for expansion.

OPEN Monday - Friday (lunch), Tuesday - Saturday (dinner). The Wesley Centre, Shop 10, 93-95 William Street (Corner William and Hay), (08) 9322 2424.



The Quarter has an opulent interior and stand-out dishes, including the scallops on potato puree with tomato and vanilla compote (below).

