



## Daily Telegraph – The Mouth Review February 2020

### Old post office worth writing home

Younger readers may find this hard to believe, but there was a time when people wrote letters to one another. No, seriously.

They sat down with a piece of paper and a pen, poured out their hearts and their thoughts, stuffed the paper into an envelope which was then dropped into a post box, and then waited days or weeks in the hope of a reply from the person addressed. Today of course, everyone just sends WhatsApps consisting of a string of emojis of fruits and vegetables punctuated with kissy-faces and get their bills online.

A few years back they took the local vintage 1900 heritage post office and turned it into a restaurant. And a very good one at that.

The Mouth is not going to make you wait until the end for the verdict here. This is the sort of restaurant every suburb should have but few do. One Penny Red (its name comes from an old stamp) is sort of two restaurant in one. There's a warm and cosy upstairs wine bar with lots of yummy snacks upstairs (again, visitors from outside Summer Hill will wonder, why haven't we got a place like this in our village?) and then the more formal, if that's the right word, dining room downstairs, which is all warm hues and woods and old wine bottles on the windowsills.

The food is very much the same – its high-end comfort food done really well, and largely by hand. On a recent night some very nice duck liver pate was joined by some bright pistachio and orange mortadella (made in-house!) with little pickled radishes. There were also some salt cod fritters (can't go wrong) and slightly startling prawn tartare that maybe didn't need the avocado.

A little butterflied barramundi was the surprise winner of the night, topped with a very Mediterranean helping of tomatoes and capsicums, while a half roast chicken was expertly cooked but could have done with a little jug of sauce, not just a smear on the plate.

The same goes for a smoked and glazed short rib which was just crying out for a drink of some sort of reduced liquid.

Any qualms about mains were put aside with multiple plates of fried banana and salted caramel beignets with a chocolate fudge sauce which, with a splash of cognac, were quickly resolved.