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What do Winston Churchill and Kylie have in common? The former PM was a regular at this old reform club, which dates back to 1871 and the plucky aussie treated her staff to a meal at room restaurant on her comeback tour last year. Neither momentous occasion is marked, but a statue of Gladstone is hard to miss as you ascend a grand staircase to this rather trendy bar and restaurant set in the fashionable part of town.

With my trusty fella in tow (a real critic of style over substance if ever there was one) I hoped very much that he would be impressed. The 110 cover restaurant features long runs of dark wood tables, high ceilings, enormous red lampshades and very expensive looking wallpaper. We were a little late so declined the welcoming cocktail bar to head straight to our table. The place was practically full, so booking ahead is advised.

Room is great for a party, but if you want to come for a quiet meal the music from the bar can get a little irritating. On the plus side is the extremely attentive nature of the hosts, who are on hand to advise you at all times, not in a fawning way but genuinely wanting to explain Room's philosophy on classic retro dishes.

We started well with some delicious warm crusty herb bread with balsamic butter. However, after ordering the creamy garlic and potato soup, i was beginning to worry that my cholesterol might be in for a bit of a hammering so i played safe for my main dish with salmon niçoise with buttered new potatoes (will I ever learn?) My partner had spotted his favorite dish and was looking forward to an 8oz sirloin steak with peppercorn sauce. Being rather a connoisseur of the dish (he will order it wherever they serve it) it probably isn't fair to compare but for the price he was left feeling that it wasn't the most generous of portions.

However, that left plenty of space for dessert, a delicious mix of blueberry, raspberry, peach and coffee ice cream and sorbet. Room- which also has branches in Leeds, Lincoln and Liverpool- is well situated for lunching shoppers and if you are planning a special night out I would recommend you take a look at their useful website to check out the menu and special offers beforehand.