

Going Out Food And Drink

# A family affair to treasure

**Restaurant Reviews**  
Delhi Grill ★★★★★

**C**hapel Market is one of those scruffy streets you're unlikely to come across unless you're local. But scratch its surface – market purveying items in colours never found in nature, shops selling discount footwear, a bewildering quantity of shopping trolleys – and here be treasures.

There's the redoubtable Euphorium bakery. The Naked Sausage foodstall, which knocks out decent burgers and bangers with the most dizzying collection of condiments. And wonderful Manze's, one of London's original cel and pie shops in all its mirrored, shiny-tiled glory.

Then there's the roti stall, where three quid buys a fresh, fluffy bread wrap stuffed with excellent fillings. But now the same owners also run the restaurant space behind it, rechristened Delhi Grill. Anyone mourning the previous tenant, the rather good Rooburoo, should get down here pronto. It's a little belter.

Brothers Aman and Preet Grewal (it's a family operation; recipes



**Outrageously good:** The food at Islington's Delhi Grill is a joy

But we're not here to admire the scenery, we're here to eat our way through the admirably succinct menu. With the exception of an uninspiring biryani, the food is a joy. You can tell they're serious when the relishes arrive, no catering pack of jammy mango here but subtle, garlicky chickpea purée, fresh, minty yoghurt and a magnificent beetroot chutney.

Then rotis: freshly made, warm, seductive little breads, perfect for mopping up sauces; in the evenings there's a bar where a roti-wallah cooks them up like a dervish. Naan, thinner and crisper than the norm, are also made fresh to order. And the rogan josh is a beauty, each spice thrillingly distinct, the meat slow-cooked until you could cut it with a spoon. I'm eating with two Scots who maintain you can't get a decent pakora down south

but the marinated tilapia in gram flour batter has us fighting over every piece.

Punjabi grills are first-class too. Sheekh kebab is charred in the tandoor and singing with ginger, freshly milled coriander and cumin. Chicken tikka isn't the usual dry, fibrous beast but robustly spiced chunks of outrageously tender meat. Only the lamb chops fail to thrill.

Delhi Grill calls itself an 'Indian canteen' so I feel like a fraud ordering a £14 bottle of Pinot Grigio. We should have had a beer.

Apparently, when they first opened, the brothers' harshest critic, their mother, wafted in. They needn't have worried, she loved it. Me too.

*Marina O'Loughlin*  
A meal for two with wine and tip costs about £30.  
21 Chapel Market. Tel: 020 7278 8882. www.delhigrill.com  
Tube: Angel

**The rogan josh is a beauty, the meat slow-cooked until you could cut it with a spoon**

come from wives, cousins and aunts) have based it on the idea of a dhaba, one of the ad hoc, shabby restaurants that cluster round petrol stations in northern India. Anyone who thinks Delhi Grill, with its azure walls, Indian newspapers as wallcoverings and Bollywood-blasting telly, is on the shonky side should see the originals. A dhaba makes this look like the Taj Mahal.

**Androuet ★★★★★**

Hot on the heels of Chelsea's L'Art du Fromage comes a concession of French cheesemonger superstars, Androuet, in Old Spitalfield Market, run by the charming Guameri brothers. It's mostly a shop, shelves groaning with beautifully kept cheeses but at the back is the teeny restaurant with a few more tables on the market terrace. The short menu is obviously heavy on the cheese, with the odd detour via charcuterie or duck with lentils.

After Parmesan crisps and olives with feta, we eyeball our fondue, far denser than the version at L'A du F, its strings so chewy and, well, cheesy

that they offer the very real possibility of death by fromage. The vinous fruitiness of Sydre Argette – the champagne of ciders – helps save our lives. A cheeseboard comes laden with booty from the boutique: granular comté, pungent reblochon, an ashy goat, all in perfect nick and served with crisp charcoal biscuits and tangy chutney. Cheese overkill? Not in my book.

*MO'L*  
A meal for two with wine, water and service costs about £50.  
Old Spitalfields Market, 107b Commercial Street. Tel: 020 7375 3168. www.androuet.co.uk  
Tube: Liverpool Street

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