

Saturday August 16 2008

Restaurant review: Vatika, Southampton

**Botley Road, Shedfield (Tel: 01329-830405) price per head
£35**

[Humayun Hussain](#)

Michelin-starred chef Atul Kochhar of Benares fame ups his game to a whole new level with the opening of this country outpost, set amid the Wickham Vineyard. As overseen by Kochhar's talented protege head chef Jitin Joshi, whose credits include Maze and The Capital, the modern British cooking here comes with a subtle Indian twist and doesn't put a foot wrong. Replacing chutneys are fine granules of spiced salts, served with freshly made bread rolls. Pigeon-beetroot, with tandoor cooked squab, vanilla and five-spice beetroot and jellied consommé, results in a harmonious marriage. Chicken-corn, with charged basil chicken, stewed corn and pickled avocado offers another triumphant partnership. Pea cakes with cauliflower puree and lemon marmalade are also flavourousom