



Spotlight

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Hertfordshire  
Hoteliers  
Association

# The Ramada

In the latest of our Spotlight articles featuring members of the Hertfordshire Hoteliers Association, we take a look at the Ramada Hemel Hempstead/ St. Albans – and give details of a very special offer for *Hertfordshire Countryside* readers.

The Ramada Hemel Hempstead/ St. Albans has a special place in the affection of local people. It stands within the southern part of what was a large prehistoric defended enclosure known as The Aubreys, a name derived from Anglo-Saxon meaning ‘an old fortified place’. When a hotel appeared there, it was called by this name before being bought by the Jarvis chain. The property is on the site of a thirteenth century farmstead, later possibly converted to a coaching inn. More recently it was renamed Foresters Farm and reverted to farming use. Guests in the Ostlers Room, a grade II listed building, can see timber framing dating from the sixteenth and seventeenth



centuries. Appropriately, farming has given way to food as one of the attractions on the site. The Ramada is an enthusiastic backer of the Hertfordshire Hoteliers Association’s new campaign to encourage people looking for somewhere to eat out to do so in hotels, as many do on the continent. Ramada general manager Edward Holland says: “Having a meal in a hotel ensures high standards of service and comfort. At the Ramada, we have a healthy dinner, bed and breakfast turnover, which means constant fresh supplies and a wide choice for all our guests. “Our Arts Brasserie is very competitive in price and we have the flexibility to source local produce according to season. The restaurant offers traditional and internationally inspired cuisine, delicious desserts and a selection of fine wines to complement a meal, plus friendly and helpful service from experienced staff, many of whom have been with us for a long time. “We can also offer the Arts Bar as a place to relax, with a wide range of wines, beers, spirits and soft drinks and more food options in the form of light meals for guests who like a more informal atmosphere.”

Mr. Holland also points out another key advantage – his hotel like most others is open for food all day, year round. “If you’re hungry at 11am or 4pm, that’s when you want to eat,” he says. “We can cater for that.” Theme nights are another attraction in the Arts Brasserie, each with a main course plus a pint of beer or lager or glass of house wine at £11.45 or main course only at £8.95. Mondays and Saturdays are Oriental nights while pies are the feature on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Wednesdays and Sundays are curry nights, and Italian cuisine takes over on Fridays. Regular special events such as a recent Malt of the Month promotion focussing on Laphroaig whisky are also held. Diners at the Ramada also benefit from the hotel’s peaceful atmosphere. The modern 137-bedroom property is set in six acres of natural surroundings on the edge of Aubrey Park five miles from Redbourn and St. Albans and easily accessible from Junction 9 of the M1 and the M25. Says Mr. Holland: “Having worked at 3 Ramada properties this is a fantastic hotel and each of the Ramada Jarvis properties is different and this is less corporate than some, with more of a family feel. It’s a great place for a great meal.”

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