

NEXT LEVEL



We've seen a lot of hotel refurb's in Macarthur over the last ten years. The transformation of Ambarvale Hotel is maybe the most extreme. It went from a nondescript suburban drinking hole, to a state of the art food and craft beer destination.

The rebirth of Ambarvale Hotel is astounding, but don't take my word for it, get there and check it out. I wouldn't have believed the quality of design, finishes and intent, if someone espoused it to me. I did have a heads up though, I know the boss of the fit out company Paul Kelly Designs. When Ambarvale Hotel came up on his Instagram page, I was at once surprised Paul was working in Macarthur, and two, extremely excited because I know that

this guy is top of his field. I knew it would be amazing.

When Ambarvale Hotel management agreed to advertise their brand spanking new venue in the magazine, I asked our photographer, Kylie, to call me when she was going. I met her there and we wandered around the sprawling venue with Manager, Tim Miller. It's a simple U shape layout that doesn't waste a square inch. The hotel can seat 500. That is an incredible number. "So you're a food pub," I said, thinking I was being rather obvious. "Well no, not entirely," Tim explained. "We want to be known as a brewery too," he said pointing to the four huge vats behind the main bar. "At full capacity they can hold 68,000 litres so there is a serious intent." He went on to tell






me that they plan to create packaged beer too. "We want Ambarvale Brewery to become a brand of its own in the wider market."

Meanwhile Kylie was wandering around capturing the gorgeous pub through her lens. "We want to get some food shots too," Tim said. That was organised and the first dish was brought before us. The Poke Bowl done and dusted we signalled we were ready for the dessert. Out it came and just on looks it got a ten out of ten. Shooting it was pretty easy but the melting nature of the ice-cream meant there was urgency to get it right quickly. When

we were finished Tim announced, "you must eat it - it's amazing." Kylie and I are easily persuaded when it comes to food. We got a spoon each and we sampled - and then we sampled - and then we virtually dived into the strawberry delight. The Strawberries and Cream, Ice Cream Pie is superb! Order it.




It's probably best to have it after your meal though. I was meeting The Guru for our seasonal finance chat and I was supposed to have lunch. We got work out of the way quickly (page 28) and our attention moved to the menu. I was looking for something



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small and tasty. "Barbecued pork belly Bao," I read out loud. "I'm done!" My love for Bao is strong and this interpretation delivers in bucket loads. Again, order it with confidence. Peter went for a dish that Tim had coincidentally recommended. Prawn Linguine looked amazing and Pete gave it a big thumbs up. Chef, Danny Russo's kitchen is creating top shelf pub food.

I also sampled Ambarvale's own Pete's Pacific Pale Ale. It's fruity like Stone and Wood's Pacific Ale, but nowhere near as intense. You could drink this one all day, something I

cannot do with Stone and Wood. It was a lovely introduction to Ambarvale Brewery's beers. I'm keen to investigate further.

I spoke to a friend a couple of days later, who had taken his family event to Ambarvale Hotel after seeing my Facebook posts about the venue. "How good is the food!" he exclaimed. "It's a great addition to Campbelltown."

I agree. Actually, Ambarvale Hotel is a great addition to Macarthur. This is a destination for food and beer lovers. Get there!



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