

where we've been...



AMANO Ristorante e Pizzeria by Brooke

My husband Ryan and I don't get out for dinner much these days because baby Rose (10 m.o) is in bed by 7pm, so it doesn't leave a lot of time for a relaxing meal at a restaurant. But sometimes you've just got to treat yourself. We dined at Amano Ristorante in Emerald Hills on a recent Saturday and boy, was it a treat!

We booked in for the incredibly cool dining time of 5.30pm. The restaurant was, of course, mostly empty at the time, so I got to have a good look around. This restaurant is absolutely stunning. I can just imagine standing inside, with the incredible aroma of the kitchen, Aperol Spritz in hand, overlooking the water on the Almalfi Coast.

In the spirit of treating myself, I ordered a glass of the Cesari Mara, Valpolicella Ripasso DOC Superiore - Veneto. Ryan and I shared some Olives and Arancini to start off with and I ordered Rose the Caserecce Bolognese from the Bambini menu. Rose has tried a lot of different foods (you could say it's my number one hobby at the moment) and is a very good eater, but she really was loving her meal - I could barely keep up with the demanding little mouth opening.

For mains, I ordered the Gnocchi, pan fried with burnt butter, pancetta and sage. It was WOW. The Gnocchi was unbelievably, pillowy soft and flavoursome with a lovely crunch from the pancetta.

Ryan ordered Spaghetti Frutti Di Mare with Mussels, Prawns, Vongole, Fish and Calamari. Ryan loves seafood and I don't cook a lot of it at home, with the exception of fish, because I don't really like it. That's a bit 'shellfish', I know (sorry, I couldn't help myself there). Anyway, Ryan was absolutely loving life. "This is the best pasta I've ever had! These are the clams (pointing at the Vongole) that we have in Tonga. They are my favourite! Can you make this at home?"

I was very full of Gnocchi, because I just couldn't stop, but I could've squeezed dessert in if Ryan had wanted some too. The Tiramisu and Italian Crepes were singing out to me. But it was fast approaching Rose's bedtime and I live in fear of messing up her bedtime routine.

The restaurant was packed by this time. They were now turning people away without reservations, so make sure you book! For a new restaurant in a fairly new estate, they sure are busy. But this place ticks all the boxes, so I can see why it's so popular.

Lucky for us we're just down Raby Road at Eschol Park - we will no doubt be back very soon, so I don't have to attempt the Spaghetti Frutti Di Mare at home and so I can answer the calls of the Tiramisu. Their cocktail menu also looks superb. Maybe next time, we find a babysitter!