

Modern European

The Jackson Stops



Food Served: Tues-Sat
noon-2.30pm, 6.30pm-9pm;
Sun noon-3.30pm

For summer visitors, the pretty garden is an enticing al fresco dining spot. The restaurant itself consists of four interconnected rooms of varying sizes, all of which make The Jackson Stops an ideal venue for everything from a romantic meal for two to a group celebration.

► **Location** Rookery Lane, Stretton, Nr. Oakham, LE15 7RA **t:** 0844 502 7724
w: www.thejacksonstops.com

The charm of a stunning Grade II listed country pub has been combined with exceptional cuisine at this hidden gem in the heart of rural Rutland. Classic flavour combinations are given an update on a menu that expertly showcases locally sourced ingredients and fresh, seasonal produce.

My starter of goat's cheese cheesecake served with roast fig and beetroot purée was a rich and earthy delight, with the contrasting colours and textures making it look just as good as it tasted. This delicious dish was followed by an equally comforting and flavoursome main course of confit duck leg, chorizo and sausage cassoulet with buttered beans. My dessert of spiced poached pear with berry compote and blackcurrant sorbet was a light and fragrant end to a wonderful feast. Each dish was an expert balance of exciting flavours with hearty, comforting portions.

In winter the cosy bar area, with its quirky decor and warm log fire, is the perfect sanctuary in which to relax and enjoy an aperitif. For



Modern European

Poacher's Brasserie



Open: Weds-Sat
noon-2.30pm, 6pm-9.30pm;
Sun noon-4pm

decadent option. Themed nights, such as Italian night on Wednesday evenings and pizza on Thursday evenings, are also popular. Look out for the interactive theatre nights and sports evenings, too. At Poacher's Brasserie, a warm welcome and memorable dining experience awaits.

► **Location** 22 Church Street, Thurlaston, LE9 7TA **t:** 0844 502 7728
w: www.poachersbrasserie.co.uk **e:** eat@poachersbrasserie.co.uk

Nestled in the Leicestershire countryside is the historic village of Thurlaston, which lies between Leicester and Hinckley, just a short five-minute drive from J21 of the M1. Located opposite a beautiful Norman church, Poacher's Brasserie is a former 17th-century inn that has been sensitively refurbished to provide a tasteful, contemporary dining area, while the lounge and bar area retains all the charm and ambience of the original 400-year-old building.

Neapolitan head chef Vincenzo Della Pietra (chef profile page 39) has created a brasserie-style menu that features an appealing mix of fresh, seasonal dishes at affordable prices. Tempting starters include wood pigeon accompanied by celeriac purée and Port sauce. Main dishes are equally impressive – take for instance the sumptuous pan-fried fillet of wild stone bass with pumpkin purée, spring onions and purple potato. Pizzas are also available and as Vincenzo hails from Naples, you can be sure of the

tastiest and most authentic pizza in the area. Don't overlook desserts, with cappuccino cheesecake and cantuccini crumble a particularly

