



The Eastern Eye

With industry and celebrity accolades weighing down its culinary belt, **Laura Rowe** tests whether The Eastern Eye lives up to the hype

With plaudits coming from the likes of Pat Chapman (the founder of the Curry Club) right through to Johnny Depp and Keith Floyd it seems Mr Choudhury has done something right at The Eastern Eye. With a reputation that has grown and exceeded all expectations over the past 27 years, this family run business has established itself not only as one of the best Indian restaurants in Bath, but the South West. And, it was with this in mind that we braved the icy pavements and headed towards the

esteemed restaurant.

From the outside it's easy to miss, sandwiched in between the boutiques and banks of Quiet Street. But up the stairs is something altogether different and rather special. Neither focktastic circa 1983, nor the sleek and contemporary look of the naughties, The Eastern Eye is instead an impressive Indian tribute to its Georgian foundations. Formerly a bazaar, the grand dining hall features colourful murals framed by classical columns, and a tall grandiose ceiling punctuated by three impressive glass domes,

which along with the tall sash windows flood the room with natural light – a rarity in a city of basement bistros. This is a place made for banquets – and we certainly weren't about to let this tradition down. I, at least, ordered with fervour.

The menu, complete with Anglo-Indian classics as well as less well known regional dishes, is distinctly Bengali, Punjabi and North West Indian in its cuisine. And, good for those who aren't connoisseurs of such fayre, there's a guide to where each dish originates from and what each contains – from the main ingredients