



# The Prince Leopold Inn

## Upton Lovell

### **An American-style bar and grill has been launched in west Wiltshire.**

Route 36 is a new bar and grill with fully-functioning indoor barbecue, which is expected to transform the award-winning Prince Leopold pub in Upton Lovell, near Warminster.

A launch party was held on Saturday with champagne on arrival, a disco and the presentation of new sports kit for Heytesbury Football Club, who the pub sponsor. Manager Simon Lock, 41, said the idea behind Route 36 is to fill the gap in the market for steak and grill houses in Wiltshire. "The bar looked like a restaurant waiting room, which is what it has basically been used for," he said. "It has had a mild refurbishment to give it a new look and make it look more contemporary. "The place is a bar and grill in a very nice country setting with a contemporary look and a relaxed feel."

Starter dishes include garlic mushrooms in a creamy garlic sauce or dip, fish goujons in a tartar sauce and potato jackets with bacon and mushroom filling. Main meals include 8oz to 12oz sirloin steaks with chips, onion rings, mushrooms and tomatoes, barbecue rack of ribs with all the trimmings, or half a roast chicken with smoky barbecue sauce and all the trimmings. The restaurant can seat up to 60 people, with 20 in the bar area.

Route 36 has been given a fresh look in the run up to its official launch and has been repainted in burgundy with fresh white on the ceilings. "It's a people's bar but any age can feel comfortable here. It's quite diverse," said Mr Lock, a self-confessed adult adolescent who has run bars at various concerts and public events such as at Aintree Races for Wayne Rooney's 18th birthday party. "I think some of the personal aspect of the trade has been lost in pubs and I am trying to bring that back."

The award-winning pub, which is named after the Duke of Albany, the youngest son of Queen Victoria, is in the Wylde Valley between Warminster and Salisbury, and features a beer garden running alongside the River Wylde. The owner Nash Keshwala moved from Hounslow in Middlesex to take over the 19th century pub with wife Melanie in April, after falling in love with it at first sight.

It was initially a village shop, post office and general store.

The pub has six en-suite bed and breakfast rooms and the extensive gardens can seat 150 people in the summer. It also has a games room with dart board, pool table and wide-screen TV.



Licensee Nash Keshwala (left) and manager Simon Lock (second Left) with staff and guests at the launch of the Route 36 bar at the Prince Leopold.

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