



Lower Corve street, Ludlow SY8 1DU.
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Summer 2004

The basic facts

Ludlow, set in the Welsh Marches, is an historic town still showing its medieval origins. The Merchant House is an old Jacobean building at the northern end of town. It backs onto the Corve, the smaller of Ludlow's two rivers, in what was once the tanning district. Most recent of its uses has been as our home and restaurant.

We open for dinner, Tuesday to Saturday, from 7.00pm. and for lunch on Friday and Saturday, from 12.30. There are seven well-polished tables, with linen placemats, and a log burning fireplace. There's room for 24 diners, but a maximum table size of six.

Dinner is a simple fixed-price menu of three courses at £35.00 (service included), which generally gives four choices in each course. Lunch is the same pattern, but with just three choices, and priced at £29.00. We take Visa and MasterCard.

The list of 90 wines goes for quality over quantity, grouped by style, and basically what we would like to drink ourselves. If there is a theme, it is the interesting, and the great growers, from wherever. More artisan than blue chip. Wine service in restaurants can be quite elaborate, but our approach is straightforward. We offer you a taste to check the condition, and then leave it up to you. AA Winelist of the Year 2004.

I have to tell you, in the wake of some seriously positive publicity last year, we are fully booked several months ahead. Barring cancellations which it always worth calling us for, we're looking at 3 or 4 months for free tables. It may sound obvious but some sessions are more popular than others, so book up earlier. Saturday dinner (NOT this year!), followed by Friday dinner fills first. Next come lunches on the same days. Last to fill are Thursday back to Tuesday dinner. Those are the **general** rules, as much as we know them.

Shaun and Anja Hill.

A sample dinner menu

grilled sea bass with saffron and pepper sauce

steamed lobster with coriander, chick pea
and olive oil sauce

sautéed monkfish with mustard and
cucumber sauce

calf's sweetbreads with potato and olive cake

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roast john dory with sorrel and shallots

saddle of venison with foie gras

roast squab pigeon with parsley risotto

rack of young lamb with herbs and
red wine sauce

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Somloi - Hungary's version of trifle - flavoured
with apricot, walnuts and rum

muscat crème caramel with
prunes in armagnac

apricot tart with amaretto ice cream

cardamom figs with burnt honey and
yoghurt pannacotta

cheese - Cashel Blue, Etorki and Munster
(cheese as an extra course - £6.00)

~ ~ ~

coffee - tea - tisane - £3.00



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How to find us

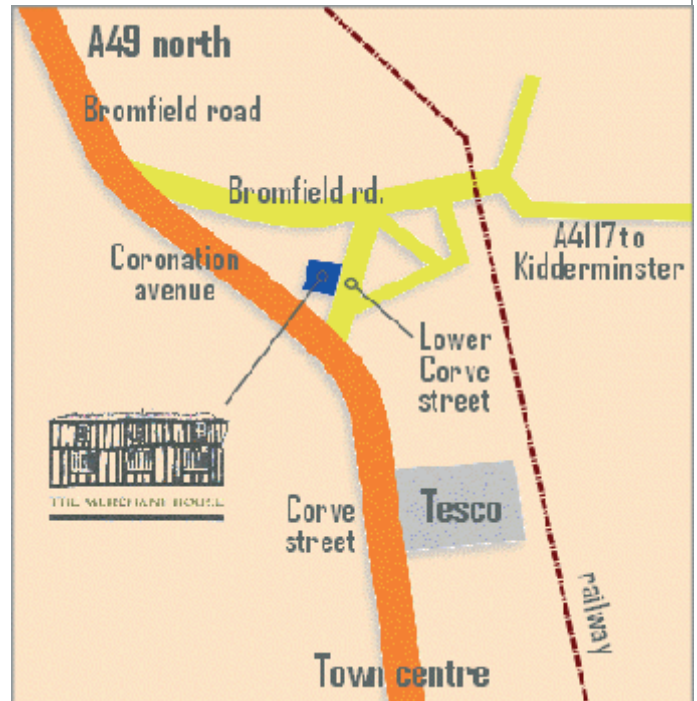
BY ROAD: Access is fairly easy. The main A49 runs up from Hereford, past Ludlow, onwards to Shrewsbury.

From the south, take the first sign to Ludlow. This enters the town via a traffic-lighted bridge over the river Teme. Go round to the right, and then the road bends left and up-hill to the centre. Go down the other side, past Tesco's, and as the road starts to go left, turn right into Lower Corve street. We're on the left. You should be able to find a parking space in the street outside, or in the road opposite opposite.

From the north, follow Bromfield road (changing to Coronation avenue) from the roundabout on the A49, and take the second left into Lower Corve street.

From London, use the M40 up to the M42 and go west to M5. Go north on the M5 to first junction, 4. Exit on A491 signed Kidderminster. Go through Kidderminster on A456, towards Leominster. But turn left after Bewdley, A4117, signed Cleobury Mortimer. This road crosses the A49 into Ludlow. Just before the railway, the road bends right, then left under bridge. Our road is second on the left.

BY RAIL: The railway station is only a short walk from the centre of town, and is on the main Marches line from Manchester Piccadilly with its connections from the North; down to Cardiff. The stop at Newport connects through from London. www.walesandborderstrains.co.uk has more info, or call 0870 9000 772 for telesales.



ACCOMMODATION: Nowhere outstanding, but recently customers have approved of:

The Feathers £55, 01584 875261
www.feathersatludlow.co.uk

Dinham Hall £90, 01584 876464

Mr. Underhills £65 (also good restaurant)
01584 874431.
www.mr-underhills.co.uk

There's a full list of the options at
www.ludlow.org.uk/accomm2.asp

TAXIS: Recommended are Annette's Taxis, 01584 878787; PM Taxis, 01584 878849; Ludlovian Taxis, 07970 208020. Note in this rural part of the world, taxis can be difficult to book at short notice. If you need a taxi to take you home, it's best to book it in advance. Allow about 2½ hours.