

# loft living ... and eating

## THE LOFT LOUNGE

BIRMINGHAM

Lee Clarke eats at Loft Lounge, where the puddings are flown in from New York for authenticity!



Inspired by New York City loft living, The Loft Lounge has an ambient, laid-back feel that practically calls you in from the street through its huge glazed doors, which, on a nice day, are completely open to the street.

Using a combination of colours and textures (brick walls, wooden floors, comfy leather sofas, grand Louis dining chairs, modern lights juxtaposed against decadent chandeliers), it's like walking into a New York designer's home. It shouts comfort and class without a hint of pretence.

On the Friday lunchtime when I dined, the clientele was a mixture of trendy passers-by, businessmen doing deals in the corner booths and ladies lunching. Sited in Bromsgrove Street, just off Hurst Street and within the heart of the gay quarter (but absolutely not aimed exclusively at this market), it makes a great place for lunch, and a very trendy (but busy) place for dinner.

And the menu is just as packed as the venue on a weekend too! There's a fairly sizeable list of specials ranging from soup to pâté, to stuffed chicken breast and fillet of cod, alongside the daily menu. The signature dish is the Loft Lounge Salad (also available with chicken) – an enormous dish that would satisfy anyone, but there is also a huge selection of brunches, paninis, salads, main courses, dishes for sharing, side orders and desserts.

I had the Classic Club Sandwich (£5.95) which was absolutely stacked with chicken breast and bacon pieces plus all the usual salad, and my partner chose the Fillet of Scotch Cod, grilled and topped with Greenland prawns in a creamy sauce (£8.25), served with baby veg and new potatoes. Both were faultless.

Puddings were a dilemma as always, as these are specially flown in from New York for authenticity, so we knew they'd be good. I had the NYC Heaven – a raspberry white chocolate cheese brûlée served with a vibrant red raspberry jus. And heaven it was. Even though I've got a serious cholesterol problem, I just had to have it. And my partner felt the same way about the Chocolate Lovin' – a more than generous wedge of warm, moist chocolate cake with fudge filling and chocolate sauce. It was stunning to say the least.

Nothing could top the food, and the service was just as spot-on, with really friendly staff who seemed genuinely concerned that we were having a good time. Thankfully though, as we left, completely replete, nobody instructed us to 'have a nice day'. Quite honestly, after a meal like that, I think we'd already had it!

The Loft Lounge, 143 Bromsgrove Street, Birmingham, B5 6RG  
Tel: 0121 622 2444  
[www.theloftlounge.co.uk](http://www.theloftlounge.co.uk)  
Open 11am – 2am seven days per week.  
Food served 11am – 11pm.