



## Foodnique

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Healesville is fast becoming the place to set up a new trendsetting cafe restaurant or bar. Herd I'd say is a step above the rest, why?

There are all the things that make a place great, the right mix of service, food (and where you source it from) and decor. Herd has all of these in a subtle abundance. While this place has a tucked away underground uber-cool bar vibe, you are in no way excluded or made to feel intrusive if you just want a meal or non-alcoholic drink.

My first visit to Herd, was a stumble upon situation, my love of architecture drew me into the place, and the sight of all that marvellous vertical timber cladding sucked me in like a moth to a light. The interior is a fantastic mix of formed concrete, murals and artwork that is a little quirky if you take notice. There are some clever tricks with columns and mirrors, you even seem to have little nooks you can sit in and almost feel like it's your own space.

The food, while small in portion is quality, well put together and most importantly tasty, probably ideal size if you're drinking too. On our last visit between us we tasted a number of dish from meat to vegetarian and there wasn't a grumble in place rather an exploration of delightful bites, I can't believe how full of flavour the duck kebab was! Not to forget they serve Proud Mary coffee and they do it well.

The staff are more than accommodating with your dietary requests and generous with their patience if you happen to visit with some more difficult members to your party. I've even had an iced coffee made for me when not even on the menu, that's service with a smile too. There are a few places I could call out in the same area that could learn a thing or two from Herd.

Congratulations to the owners for putting together the whole package, it's very rare to get all elements right.