

RESTAURANT CLOSES AMID RAT INVASION CHAOS

Restaurant bosses in Hurlton were in damage limitation mode yesterday when it was announced their restaurant had been closed down due to a massive rat infestation.

On Thursday morning, it was announced via a local television report that award-winning restaurant Bolini had been shut down after food safety officers visiting the premises found that rats were inhabiting the pantry and work areas.

Popular restaurant Bolini, run by brother and sister Mal and Syna, has been a mainstay of the restaurant economy in Hurlton since the early 2000s. Its 'pay what you think' approach has attracted large numbers of diners who are happy to pay more for a good quality experience. Awards it has won include best new high street business, best restaurant (4 years running), best upmarket eatery and best organic restaurant. It serves a range of foods using many local ingredients sourced from farms within a 40-mile radius. Its popularity increased exponentially after a visit by famous TV chef and food critic Horace Wample.

However, on Thursday the reputation of Bolini had been left in tatters after it was revealed that the premises had a major problem with rodents. A routine, unannounced inspection to update the site's food hygiene rating was carried out and inspectors were horrified to find rats present in both food storage and food preparation areas.

Food standards officer Wilma Phillips said that evidence of live animals was found consistent with a long-term infestation and explained that "rats were not startled by loud noises or by the busyness of food preparation stations, meaning they have been living here for a prolonged period of time."

A written report produced following the visit also states that evidence in the form of droppings, chewed items and greasy fur marks were discovered on surfaces and behind appliances.

Subsequent to the visit, Mal Bolini was said to be devastated. Syna Bolini, whose role involves managing the customer-facing aspect of the business, said she could not believe her brother, who is head chef, would run his kitchen in this manner: "I am perplexed by what the officers found. My brother is a stickler for high standards and food hygiene is crucial when running a food establishment." She also explained that she had never seen any indication of a rodent problem. "It's surely not just coincidence that the food standards officer is the mother of a junior chef we had to dismiss because of an inadequate standard of work."

The restaurant has a month to address the issues raised in the report and put pest control procedures into place before a second inspection, the result of which will determine whether it can reopen. The current closure will, however, have put a strain on the business and time will tell whether it will recover from this setback.

Complete the grid using the information from the text.

Name	Role
Mal Bolini	
Syna Bolini	
Wilma Phillips	
Horace Wample	

One of the owners said that she had seen no evidence of rats. What do you think might have happened? Use evidence from the text to support your opinions.

What evidence was reported of a rat infestation?

The current closure will, however, have put a strain on the business and time will tell whether it will recover from this setback.

Suggest a reason why the restaurant may not recover.

Write down three things that would make Bolini attractive to its customers.

Find words or phrases in the text to match the meaning.

Meaning	Word or phrase
confused	
continuing for a long time	
after	
to sack	
poor	

Complete the grid using the information from the text.

Name	Role
Mal Bolini	Restaurant owner and head chef
Syna Bolini	Restaurant owner and manager of the customer-facing aspect of the business
Wilma Phillips	food standards officer
Horace Wample	TV chef and food critic

One of the owners said that she had seen no evidence of rats. What do you think might have happened? Use evidence from the text to support your opinions.

The food standards officer might have lied about what she had found because she is the mother of a chef who had been sacked by the restaurant.

What evidence was reported of a rat infestation?

- **rats**
- **droppings**
- **chewed items**
- **greasy fur marks**

The current closure will, however, have put a strain on the business and time will tell whether it will recover from this setback.

Suggest a reason why the restaurant may not recover.

Answers which identify how the public might feel about the restaurant, for example:

- **People won't want to go to a rat-infested restaurant.**
- **People might think that the restaurant has low hygiene standards.**
- **People might worry that rats will come again.**
- **It could be hard to persuade people to return.**

Write down three things that would make Bolini attractive to its customers.

Any three from:

- **It has won many awards.**
- **It uses organic food.**
- **It sources food locally.**
- **A famous chef has visited it.**
- **It offers good quality food.**
- **You can pay what you want.**

Find words or phrases in the text to match the meaning.

Meaning	Word or phrase
confused	perplexed
continuing for a long time	prolonged
after	subsequent to following
to sack	dismiss
poor	inadequate

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