

There's a distinct air of charm and sophistication on walking in to Chameleon. The black interior, with its gold accents and very deco feel, makes for a cool, stylish venue indeed.

The swanky, vintage tone of the place isn't overwhelming though – we feel very comfortable strolling in and taking up a spot at a very plush half-moon-shaped booth.

Chameleon is known for its blended beverages and has an extensive menu with flavours and mixes to suit every palate – we decide on a fruity mango variety. We've heard about a cotton candy beverage too, that could very well be next on the list. While the barman is working his magic we sit back and munch on the delicious spiced popcorn that has arrived at our table – yum!

Chameleon, while looking super-posh, is by no means snobbish. The music is a fantastic mix of classic 80s and early 90s tunes, and is not so loud that you can't hear the person next to you.

Our mixed beverage arrives and is as delicious as expected – a mango delight with a hint of ginger for added zing. Settled in with our drink we decide to sample some food from the small (but perfectly formed) menu.

We opt for the crab cakes, which are tasty and served with a delicious lemon aioli, while our companions try the Angus beef burger and the chicken and leek pie. By all accounts the pastry on the pie is perfect and the burger quite the taste sensation, particularly the homemade bun.

We've come in on a Saturday evening, a calm night at the bar, but we're told that on Fridays after the Fairmont's brunch, Chameleon is quite the busy spot, with post-brunch revellers continuing the party into the evening.

Sarah Widdup

Details

What? Chameleon

Where? The Fairmont Bab Al Bahr

We say: Relaxed, beautiful and not too hard on the wallet

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