



📷 Publicans Josh Talbot and Oliver Brown enjoy a drink inside their newly refurbished Stag Public House in Rundle St. Picture: Bianca De Marchi

## Stag Public House: An old favourite gets its groove back

Gordon Knight, The Advertiser

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THE historic Stag Hotel is set to write a new chapter, opening with a new look and new name.

In a nod to its past, the iconic East End pub, on the corner of Rundle St and East Tce, has been given a back-to-the-future makeover that's out with glitz and in with proper wooden pub furniture. and an old-meets-new name – the Stag Public House.



📷 The newly refurbished Stag in Rundle Street. Picture: Bianca De Marchi

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The new owners, Josh Talbot and Oliver Brown, know how to create a great hospitality venue. The duo own and run NOLA, just around the corner from the Stag, and the principles that they employed there, such as a focus on good service, SA produce and supporting other locals, have carried over.

The fresh design turns a big, noisy space into a series of nooks, where you can enjoy a quiet pint, and tuck into a schnittie, steak sandwich or fish 'n' chips – with everything made in house and overseen by head chef Justin Penman.

Produce is sourced from some of the stars of the SA food scene: Richard Gunner for meats; Kasim Erkokand his family-run Murray Bridge farm for almost everything else.

“Kas grows everything for us. He’s an absolute jet,” Oliver says. “Say we want celeriac, we can ask him and he’ll plant it for us.”



📷 The Stag Public House promises to be the kind of place where the barman knows you by name.  
Picture: Bianca De Marchi

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Keeping it local extends to the beer and wine, and even the feel of the bar – Oliver says he wants people to treat it as their “local”. “Locality was a huge thing for us. Here, you’ll know who’s behind the bar, and everyone is treated well when they come in,” Oliver says. “We wanted homely service.”

When the big games are on, the Stag’s new sports bar will be the place to be. It boasts three big screens and an impressive collection of posters featuring sports stars of the past.



📷 Favourites old and new are on tap. Picture: Bianca De Marchi

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“We cleaned the attic space out,” Oliver says. “It’s creepy up there, but we found a fair few old treasures, including some of the stuff in the sports room such as the old Fosters posters.”

Even the music is all Australian. While you can expect relaxed modern Aussie music during the day – Oliver says the nights might see *Horses* by Daryl Braithwaite make the playlist.

That’s the way it’s gonna be.

**Open daily, noon- 2am, 299 Rundle St, city, [thestagpublichouse.com](http://thestagpublichouse.com)**

