

West Country

Ed Brown-Jackson and Luke Freeman

Victoria Park,
Bedminster, Bristol

THE PEOPLE: Ed Brown-Jackson and Luke Freeman had been friends for 15 years before deciding to take on this Enterprise Inns lease. Previously, Ed worked for an outside catering company and Luke was a chef and sausage maker. The duo was joined by business partner Dean Woolley, who

helped finance the deal.

THE PUB: The trio took on the pub in March 2010 and closed the site for five months for a full-scale refurbishment to create an open, airy, more inviting atmosphere befitting its new role as a gastropub. The three business partners invested £90,000, with Enterprise contributing £60,000 for the work.

THE BUSINESS: To live up to its gastropub billing, the Victoria Park's menu centres on freshly-prepared dishes, using as much local produce as possible. The menu changes seasonally and is influenced by international, not just British cuisine. Drinkers are still welcomed, which is reflected in the 55:45 wet:dry split.

ON OFFER: The pub offers a wood-fired



oven in an outside kitchen that attracts customers for alfresco dining when the weather is good. Events include a book club and sewing workshops.