

# The Food & Drink 50

Our essential chart of the capital's best restaurants and bars, old and new – updated every week!

## Central

### Aaya

**JUST OPENED** Exceptional modern Japanese cooking in sleek Soho surrounds. *Aaya*, 66-70 Brewer St, W1F 9UP (020 7319 3888) Piccadilly Circus tube. Meal for two with wine and service: around £70.

### Apsleys

**JUST OPENED** New hotel restaurant with an all-Italian menu and a top-end wine list. *Apsleys*, The Lanesborough, Hyde Park Corner, SW1X 7TA (020 7259 5599) Hyde Park Corner tube. Meal for two with wine and service: around £120.

### Barrafina

This justly popular tapas bar serves Spanish classics, from jamon to tortilla. *Barrafina*, 54 Frith St, W1D 4SL (020 7813 8016) *barrafina.co.uk* Tottenham Court Rd tube. Meal for two with wine and service: around £60.

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### The Beehive

**JUST OPENED** A Marylebone pub serving Brit favourites and top tipples. *The Beehive*, 126 Crawford St, W1U 6BF (020 7487 4863) Baker St tube. Meal for two with drinks and service: around £40.

### Berlin Snacks

**JUST OPENED** Cheery caff serving imported north German food and drink. *Berlin Snacks*, 106 King's Cross Rd, WC1X 9LR (020 7837 8001) *berlinerfoodcompany.co.uk* King's Cross St Pancras tube/rail. Meal for two with drinks and service: around £14.

### Bincho Yakitori

**NEW BRANCH** The second branch brings its yakitori-based izakaya dining to Soho. *Bincho Yakitori*, 16 Old Compton St, W1D 4TL (020 7287 9111) Tottenham Court Rd or Leicester Square tube. Meal for two with drinks and service: around £60.

### Cha Cha Moon

**JUST OPENED** Alan Yau's fun and upbeat Soho restaurant impresses with its traditional Chinese noodles and snacks.

*Cha Cha Moon*, 15-21 Ganton St, W1F 9BN (020 7297 9800) Oxford Circus or Piccadilly Circus tube. Meal for two with drinks and service: around £20.

### Coburg Bar

TIME OUT'S TOP BAR

The cocktail list charts the origins of the cocktail from sours up to the modern day. *Coburg Bar*, The Connaught, Carlos Place, W1K 2AL (020 7499 7070) *the-connaught.co.uk* Bond St or Green Park tube.

### Côte

**NEW BRANCH** Expect fairly priced and well-executed French dishes. *Côte*, 124-126 Wardour St, W1F 0TY (7287 9280) *cote-restaurants.co.uk* Tottenham Court Rd tube. Meal for two with wine and service: around £60.

### Graphic Bar

**JUST OPENED** A new cocktail bar with a seriously good spirits list and fab cocktails. *Graphic Bar*, 4 Golden Square, W1F 9HT (020 7287 9241) *graphicbar.co.uk* Piccadilly Circus tube.

### Hix Oyster & Chop House

**JUST OPENED** Chef Mark Hix continues to thrill with his perfectly executed modern British dishes. Stunners included salted ox cheek and mutton curry. *Hix Oyster & Chop House*, 35-37 Greenhill Rents, off Cowcross St, EC1M 6BN (020 7017 1930) *restaurantsetcld.co.uk* Farringdon tube/rail. Meal for two with wine and service: around £80.

### Maze Grill

**JUST OPENED** Jason Atherton's new steakhouse serves excellent meat dishes. *Maze Grill*, 13-15 Grosvenor Square, W1K 6JP (020 7495 2211) Bond St tube. Meal for two with wine and service: around £130.

### Napket

**NEW BRANCH** The newest branch of this super-chic café continues to serve its signature soups, salads and cakes. *Napket*, 5 Vigo St, W1S 3HD (020 7734 4387) *napket.com* Piccadilly Circus tube. Meal for two with drinks and service: around £20.

### Ottolenghi

**NEW BRANCH** A new takeaway outpost of the excellent veggie-friendly eatery. *Ottolenghi*, 13 Molcomb St, SW1X 8LB (020 7823 2707) *ottolenghi.co.uk* Knightsbridge or Hyde Park Corner tube. Meal for two with service: around £40.

### Roka

A Modern Japanese restaurant serving novel dishes such as rice hot pot with king crab and wasabi tobiko (flying fish roe). *Roka*, 37 Charlotte St, W1T 1RR (020 7580 6464) *roka-restaurant.com* Goodge St or Tottenham Court Rd tube. Meal for two

with wine and service: around £90.

### Texture

**CREDIT-CRUNCH LUNCH** Try chef Agnar Sverrisson's innovative dishes such as chargrilled Icelandic lamb in a bargain two-course lunch for £18.50. *Texture*, 34 Portman Square, W1H 7BY (020 7224 0028) *texture-restaurant.co.uk* Marble Arch tube. 'Credit-crunch lunch' for two with wine and service: around £55.

### Vanilla Black

**JUST OPENED** This vegetarian restaurant serves Modern European dishes with influences from as far as India and Japan. *Vanilla Black*, 17-18 Tools Court, off Cursitor St, EC4A 1LB (020 7242 2622) *vanillablack.co.uk* Chancery Lane tube. Meal for two with wine and service: around £80. Set lunches from £21 for two courses.

## North

### The Betjeman Arms

**JUST OPENED** A pub with a great wine list and smart food in St Pancras station. *The Betjeman Arms*, Unit 53, St Pancras International Station, Pancras Rd, NW1 2QP (020 7923 5440) *geronimo-inns.co.uk* King's Cross St Pancras tube/rail. Meal for two with wine and service: around £65.

### Cottons

**BONA FIDE RUM BAR IN CAMDEN** The famous 'rhum shack' offers more than 200 kinds of rums, and an inspired cocktail list. *Cottons*, 55 Chalk Farm Rd, NW1 8AN (020 7485 8388) Chalk Farm tube. Meal for two with drinks and service: around £50.

### Charles Lamb

Hearty food and a good selection of world beers and real ales. *Charles Lamb*, 16 Elia St, N1 8DE (020 7837 5040) Angel tube. Meal for two with drinks and service: around £50.

### Clissold Arms

A gastropub serving well-executed dishes with Mediterranean and French flair. *Clissold Arms*, 115 Fortis Green, N2 9HR (020 8444 4224) East Finchley tube. Meal for two with wine and service: around £75.

### Fratelli la Bufala

**NEW BRANCH** An Italian dining import that focuses on buffalo products. *Fratelli la Bufala*, 1 Hurdwick Place, NW1 2JE (020 7388 6041) *fratellilabufala.com* Mornington Crescent tube. Meal for two with wine and service: around £60.

### Louis Pâtisserie

Sample a range of creamy confections and quality loose-leaf teas, served by the pot. *Louis Pâtisserie*, 32 Heath St, NW3 6TE (020 7435 9908) Hampstead tube. Tea and cake for two with service: around £12.

## South

### ACE Fusion

**JUST OPENED** This Caribbean restaurant serves classics such as jerk chicken. *ACE Fusion*, 110 St John's Hill, SW11 1SJ (020 7228 5584) *acefusion.co.uk* Clapham Junction rail. Meal for two with drinks and service: around £75.

### Butcher & Grill

**NEW BRANCH** Go for the juicy grills at this second branch of the Battersea original. *Butcher & Grill*, 33 High St, Wimbledon Village, SW19 5BY (020 8879 3845) Wimbledon tube/rail. Meal for two with wine and service: around £65.

### Le Cassoulet

The French dishes, such as the signature cassoulet, are exemplary. *Le Cassoulet*, 18 Selsdon Rd, South Croydon, CR2 6PA (020 8633 1818) *lecassoulet.com*

South Croydon rail. Meal for two with wine and service: around £80. Set meals: from £10.

### Le Chardon

**NEW BRANCH** The classic French dishes at this new branch of the East Dulwich original are particularly good. *Le Chardon*, 32 Abbeville Rd, SW4 9NG (020 8673 9300) *lechardon.co.uk* Clapham Common tube. Meal for two with wine and service: around £65.

### The Devonshire

Recently revamped, but the Young's ales remain and the wine list is as decent as ever. *The Devonshire*, 39 Balham High Rd, SW12 9AN (020 8673 1363) Balham tube/rail.

### Franco Manca

**JUST OPENED** The sourdough pizzas here are the best in the neighbourhood. *Franco Manca*, 4 Market Row, Electric Lane, SW9 8LD (020 7738 3021) Brixton tube/rail. Meal for two with wine and service: around £15.



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## Gazette

**JUST OPENED** The second branch of an emerging chain of simple French bistros. *Gazette*, 1 Ramsden Rd, SW12 8QX (020 7223 0999/[gazettebrasserie.co.uk](http://gazettebrasserie.co.uk)) Balham tube/rail. Meal for two with wine and service: around £70.

## Gaucha O2

**NEW BRANCH** Argentinian flavours reign at the latest branch of this steakhouse chain. *Gaucha O2*, The O2, Peninsula Square, SE10 0DX (020 8858 7711/[gauchorestaurants.co.uk](http://gauchorestaurants.co.uk)) North Greenwich tube. Meal for two with wine and service: around £75.

## Mangosteen

The Vietnamese cooking at this small oriental caff is exceptional. *Mangosteen*, 246 Gipsy Rd, SE27 9RB (020 8670 0333) Gipsy Hill rail or 322 bus. Meal for two with wine and service: around £40.

## Zeitgeist @ The Jolly Gardeners

**GERMAN PUB GRUB JUST OPENED** Sample a huge range of German beers and classic dishes. *Zeitgeist @ The Jolly Gardeners*, 49-51 Black Prince Rd, SE11 6AB (020 7840 0426/[zeitgeist-london.com](http://zeitgeist-london.com)) Vauxhall tube/rail. Meal for two with beers and service: around £35.

## East

### The Crown

**JUST REOPENED** This landmark pub has an impressive drinks list and a good menu. *The Crown*, 223 Grove Rd, E3 5SN (020 8880 7261/[geronimo-inns.co.uk](http://geronimo-inns.co.uk)) Bethnal Green or Mile End tube. Meal for two with wine and service: around £65.

### Favela Chic

Eccentric London bar where you can enjoy the best of mojitos and caipirinhas. *Favela Chic*, 91-93 Great Eastern St, EC2A 3HZ (020 7613 4228/[favelachic.com/london](http://favelachic.com/london)) Old St tube/rail.

### The Gun

**DOCKLANDS GASTROPUB** Enjoy a pint of Adnams Broadside accompanied by a pint of prawns.

*The Gun*, 27 Coldharbour, E14 9NS (020 7515 5222/[thegundocklands.com](http://thegundocklands.com)) Canary Wharf tube/DLR.

### Lahore Kebab House

Great Pakistani food at low prices, a BYO policy and a lively atmosphere. *Lahore Kebab House*, 2 Umberton St, E1 1PY (020 7488 2551) Shadwell DLR. Unlicensed. Meal for two with soft drinks and service: around £18.

### Lock 7

**JUST OPENED** Sample simple fare while you have your bicycle repaired. *Lock 7*, 129 Pritchards Rd, E2 9AP (07515 360 721) Cambridge Heath rail or bus 55. Lunch for one: around £10.

### Mudchute Kitchen

They've recently installed their own smokehouse – expect delicious results. *Mudchute Kitchen*, Mudchute Park and Farm, Pier St, E14 3HP (020 7515 5901) Mudchute DLR. Meal for two with drinks and service: around £30.

### The Pavillon Café

Pop along for a weekend fish barbecue (Sat, Sun 2-6pm) during June. *The Pavillon Café*, Victoria Park, Crown Gate West, E9 5DU (020 8980 0030/[the-pavillon-cafe.com](http://the-pavillon-cafe.com)) Bethnal Green tube or Hackney Wick rail or bus 26, 277. Meal for two with drinks and service: around £30.

### Saf

**VEGAN FINE DINING JUST OPENED** Inspirational vegan and raw food dishes triumphing in flavour, texture and presentation. *Saf*, 152-154 Curtain Rd, EC2A 3AT (020 7613 0007/[safrestaurant.co.uk](http://safrestaurant.co.uk)) Old St tube/rail. Meal for two with wine and service: around £75.

### Tayyabs

Excellent Pakistani eatery that's BYO and as a result, constantly packed. *Tayyabs*, 83-89 Fieldgate St, E1 1JU (020 7247 6400/[tayyabs.co.uk](http://tayyabs.co.uk)) Aldgate East or Whitechapel tube. Meal for two with soft drinks and service: around £20.

## West

### Adam's Café

Cosy eatery specialising in African cookery that's hearty and delicious. *Adam's Café*, 77 Askew Rd, W12 9AH (020 8743 0572) Hammersmith tube then 266 bus. Meal for two with wine and service: around £45.

### Café Strudel

**JUST OPENED** A charming caff that excels in iconic Austrian treats and coffee. *Café Strudel*, 429 Upper Richmond Rd West, SW14 7PJ (020 8487 9800/[cafe-strudel.co.uk](http://cafe-strudel.co.uk)) Mortlake rail or bus 33, 337, 492. Meal for two with wine and service: around £60.

### Fifth Floor

**NEW SWEDISH LUNCH MENU** Indulge in modern Swedish dishes such as pickled herring with vodka jelly, at £19.50 for two courses and £24.50 for three. *Fifth Floor*, Harvey Nichols, 109-125 Knightsbridge, SW1X 7RJ (020 7235 5250) Knightsbridge tube. Meal for two with wine and service: around £70.

### Havelock Tavern

This West Kensington gastropub has three hand-pulled ales, and the food's terrific. *Havelock Tavern*, 57 Masbro Rd, W14 0LS (020 7603 5374) Goldhawk Rd tube. Meal for two with wine and service: around £50.

### Pig's Ear

A mellow Chelsea gastropub that serves modern British cooking. The French-based wine list is also appealing. *Pig's Ear*, 35 Old Church St, SW3 5BS (020

7352 2908/[thepigsear.co.uk](http://thepigsear.co.uk)) Sloane Square tube. Meal for two with wine and service: around £60.

### Shilpa

We loved the hearty and substantial south Indian dishes such as Kerala lamb. *Shilpa*, 206 King St, W6 0RA (020 8741 3127/[shilparestaurant.co.uk](http://shilparestaurant.co.uk)) Ravenscourt Park tube. Meal for two with wine and service: around £45. Set lunches: from £3.99.

### Sushi-Hiro

Enjoy simply superb sushi at bargain prices at this tiny café. Reservations are highly recommended. *Sushi-Hiro*, 1 Station Parade, Uxbridge Rd, W5 3LD (020 8896 3175) Ealing Common tube. Meal for two with wine and service: around £35. Set meal: £5-£14.

### The White Horse

This Parsons Green pub arguably has the finest beer list in London – eight rotating cask ales feature some brews rarely seen elsewhere. *The White Horse*, 1-3 Parsons Green, SW6 4UL (020 7736 2115) Parsons Green tube.

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