



EATING & DRINKING

The best restaurants in Chelsea: 13 irresistible dining spots

Tasty Chelsea restaurants for celebratory dining in and around SW3

BY CONNOR STURGES

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Discussing the best restaurants in Chelsea can cause as many eye rolls and grimaces as it can nods of approval. The average Londoner doesn't choose to dine in these leafy suburbs lightly. Some of the restaurant covers are highly sought-after, requiring forward-thinking, while bills can total considerably more than in many other **London** areas. However, there are plenty of gems among the pomp and pageantry some



The Surprise Helen Cathcart

The Surprise

Tucked away in a residential area just around the corner from the Chelsea Physic Garden, The Surprise looks like the kind of village pub you'd encounter on a Sunday hike in the [British countryside](#). The restaurant is cosy and warm, filled with rich colours, making you feel at home right from the beginning. If you can book in advance, ask the staff for a table next to the fireplace – the best seat in the house, in our opinion. To start, we share the Olgeshield cheese tartlet with balsamic glaze, the punchy cheese pairing beautifully with the vinegar's sweetness. I pick at moules marinières, fresh with a tasty white wine and creamy sauce. The wine list contains good classical domains and famous labels; bonus points for the reds. My vegetarian dining companion opts for the butternut squash gnocchi with sage, kale, and pine nuts for their main course; the balance of the kale and the seasonal vegetables makes it a light and tasteful dish. Based on our waiter's recommendation, I chose the ribeye steak, which arrives cooked to perfection and accompanied by a crunchy salad, a chargrilled shallot, and thick, crunchy chips with a peppercorn sauce. Tender and flavourful, this is comfort food at its finest. The real surprise here is dessert. While my guest goes for the quintessentially British sticky toffee pudding, I dive into homemade chocolate mousse. It is not easy to impress us with these two classics, but The Surprise rises to the challenge – well-balanced and not overly sweet, the perfect way to conclude this beautiful meal. If you are around Sloane Square, this is the ideal spot to catch up with friends and family. The Surprise brings the classic English pub experience to a new level. *Louis Delbarre*

Address: The Surprise, 6 Christchurch Terrace, London SW3 4AJ

Website: thesurprise-chelsea.co.uk