

places for Sunday lunch in south-west London

Jo Rodgers tracks down the finest roast lunches in London's smartest postcodes to see you through the winter.



Newsletter



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Before things really heat up, I need to start with a word about location bias, because the best Sunday lunch is one from which you can get home with minimal friction. I live with my family in west London and the places I am loyal to tend to be in that part of town.

I'm full of other biases, too. For instance, that Sunday lunch should feel domestic and a little frowsy, regardless of whether you're eating with relatives. You should be at ease, leaning in, accidentally dragging an elbow through mustard. The service shouldn't be stiff

the son of the owners). Expect things such as rare roast beef over mash, topped with butter-browned *girolles*, and Cornish sole with tomato salad. There isn't a special menu on Sundays, but Sunday is the best day to come — it's always packed and people can't seem to believe their luck to be in there. There are more toasts, more babies and more pudding courses going around. 020-8940 5230; <https://petershamnurseries.com>

For the traditionalist: The Surprise, SW3

If we haven't made a plan and the yen for sticky toffees strikes, The Surprise is where we try to get a table. It sits majestically at one end of a residential square in Chelsea, with Christ Church holding Sunday services at the other, and is neither a lah-di-dah restaurant nor a drinking den. The food is comforting above anything else; on weekdays, it's a place you'd meet someone for hot chunky chips and oversized glasses of red wine. Sunday roasts are traditional down to the ground, from the buoyant Yorkshire puddings to the plain-Jane bread sauce (just like at home).



Not feeling roast-y? The burgers look good too... Photo: The Surprise, Chelsea

(Image credit: The Surprise)

It's unusually good looking inside, with ruddy pink walls and a wood-burning fire, and attracts some destination diners and tourists. But mostly we notice mister what's-his-name from one road over, with the yappy dogs, or the older couple a few doors down from us, who we sometimes see having supper at home, candles lit, in their basement dining room. There are almost always a few Chelsea Pensioners at the tables, handsome in their scarlet

coats. It's our local and it's a balm to be there. *020-3837 4600; www.thesurprise-chelsea.co.uk*



Credit: Estelle Manor

Estelle Manor review: The Oxfordshire hotel and private member's club that will appeal to honeymooners and families alike

Estelle Manor is a sanctuary from the rest of the world — a place where life is easy and everyone