

Lunch with the Mich

Once you needed a big win on the horses to afford lunch at a Michelin-starred restaurant. But now, says **Dominic Midgley**, they're offering great deals

When Michelin-starred chef Bjorn van der Horst was planning the price list for his new restaurant last summer he devised a £90-a-head menu.

But the credit crunch hit, and when his Clerkenwell eaterie, the Eastside Inn, finally opened for business earlier this month the £90 extravaganza had been whittled down to £45 for three courses and £65 for seven.

And Van der Horst is not the only uber-chef who is confronting the reality of the recession.

No less than 44 of the 49 London restaurants that have been awarded at least one Michelin star – the most prestigious award for culinary excellence – are offering great value set-lunch deals.

Joel Robuchon, for example, who runs the two-star L'Atelier de Joel Robuchon, is offering a two-course lunch for just £19 a head (see list).

At the one-star Arbutus, you can get three courses – including dishes such as smoked eel risotto with horseradish cream – for just £15.50.

And if it's a grand setting you're looking for, you can't do much better than the one-star L'Ambassade de l'Ile in South Kensington, which is offering a two-course lunch for £20.

It's not just the prices that have improved either. "The service is better now too," says one restaurant consultant. "There is no more of the arrogance and snootiness there used to be."

While Eliot Sandiford, head of lifestyle at Bacchus PR, says: "All in all, you're not just getting good value in terms of deals but added value in terms of the experience."

Here we present our guide to the lunch deals available at all of London's Michelin-starred restaurants.

ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY LAUREN DAVIES



WHAT EARNS A MICHELIN STAR?

Derek Bulmer, editor The Michelin Guide

"Stars are awarded solely for the quality of the cooking; matters such as service and levels of comfort have no bearing on this annual award. As such, we look at the quality and compatibility of the

ingredients, the technical skill and flair that goes into their preparation, the clarity and combination of flavours and, above all, the taste.

"Equally important is the ability to produce excellent cooking time and again – consistency is key."

TOP-TABLE TALENT | Super chefs (l-r) Michel Roux Jr (Le Gavroche), Jason Atherton (Maze Grill), Brett Graham (The Ledbury), Marcus Wareing (Marcus Wareing at The Berkeley), Atul Kochhar (Benares), and Gordon Ramsay (Restaurant Gordon Ramsay)

Under £20 a head

- 1 Michelin
- 2 Michelins
- 3 Michelins

★ Yauatcha
Price: From £14.50 (2 courses – must order lunch for two), £20 (3 courses), including tea
Cuisine: Chinese
15 Broadwick Street, W1

★ Nahm
Price: £15 (2 courses)
Cuisine: Thai
The Halkin, Halkin Street, SW1

★ Arbutus
Price: £15.50 (3 courses)
Cuisine: Mod. European
63 Frith Street, W1

★ Ristorante Semplice
Price: £16 set lunch of

two courses with coffee, £19 for two courses with glass of wine and coffee, £22 for three courses with glass of wine and coffee
Cuisine: Italian
9-10 Blenheim Street, W1

★ Hakkasan
Price: From £16.20 (2 courses – if shared) or £20.80 (3 courses)
Cuisine: Chinese
8 Hanway Place, W1

★ Amaga
Price: £16.25 (8 tasting portions), £16.50 (3 courses)
Cuisine: Indian
Halkin Arcade, Motcomb Street, SW1

★ L'Astre Pied
Price: £17.95 (2 courses), £20.95 (3 courses)

Cuisine: French
5-7 Blandford Street, London, W1

★ Maze Grill
Price: £18 (3 courses)
Cuisine: New York grill-style
10-13 Grosvenor Square, W1

ITALIAN FLAVOUR
Ristorante Semplice



AMAZING VALUE
Maze Grill

★ Club Gascon
Price: £18 (3 courses)
Cuisine: French
57-59 West Smithfield, EC1

★ Wild Honey
Price: £18.95 (3 courses, Mon-Sun), pre-theatre £21.95 (3 courses – Mon-Fri)
Cuisine: Modern European
12 St George Street, W1

★ Foliage
Price: £19 (2 courses), £29 (4 courses), 4-course dinner from £60
Cuisine: Modern European
Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park, 66 Knightsbridge, SW1

★ Kai
Price: £19 (3 courses)
Cuisine: Chinese
65 South Audley Street, W1

★ The Ledbury
Price: £19.50 (2 courses – Mon-Sat), £24.50 (3 courses). Sunday lunch £40
Cuisine: Mod. European
127 Ledbury Road, W11

★ Rhodes W1
Price: £19.95 (2 courses), £23.95 (3 courses) – Wed, Thur and Fri
Cuisine: British
Great Cumberland Place, W1

★ L'Atelier de Joel Robuchon
Price: £19 (2 courses), £25 (3 courses)
Cuisine: French
13-15 West Street, Covent Garden, WC2

BUZZING | Great lunch deal at Wild Honey



Ends 7 June

PICASSO

CHALLENGING THE PAST



Don't miss this inspirational exhibition
Special late opening every day
until 9pm from 25 May–7 June

Book Now: 0844 209 1778
www.nationalgallery.org.uk

THE NATIONAL GALLERY

CREDIT SUISSE

THE TIMES

elin mob

£20-£30 a head



GALLIC | Go French at L'Embassade de L'Ile

★ **Ambassade de L'Ile**

Price: £20 (2 courses)
Cuisine: French
117-119 Old Brompton Road, SW7

Cuisine: Japanese
14-16 Bruton Place, W1

★ **La Trompette**

Price: £23.50 (3 courses - Mon-Fri), Sunday lunch £29.50 (3 courses), dinner all week £37.50 (3 courses)
Cuisine: French
5-7 Devonshire Road, Chiswick, W4

★ **The Glasshouse**

Price: £23.50 (3 courses - Mon-Fri)
Cuisine: Mod. European
14 Station Parade, Kew, TW9

★ **Benares**

Price: £24.95 (2 courses), 3 courses £29.95
Cuisine: Indian
12a Berkeley Square House, W1

★ **The Greenhouse**

Price: £25 with a bellini (3 courses), set dinner is £48 with bellini (Mon-Thurs)
Cuisine: Modern European
27A Hay's Mews, W1

★ **Murano**

Price: £25 set lunch (3 courses) 12-2.30pm
Cuisine: Italian
20 Queen Street, W1

★ **Chez Bruce**

Price: £25.50 (3 courses - Mon-Fri)
Cuisine: French
2 Bellevue Road, Wandsworth Common, SW17

★ **Nobu**

Price: £26 (2 courses)
Cuisine: Japanese
19 Old Park Lane, W1

★ **Nobu Berkeley Street**

Price: £28 (bento box lunch special including the miso cod, rock shrimp tempura and sushi and sashimi)
Cuisine: Japanese
15 Berkeley Street, W1

★ **Aubergine**

Price: £29 (3 courses)
Cuisine: French
11 Park Walk, SW10

★ **Helene Darroze at the Connaught**

Price: £29 (2 courses), £32 (3 courses)
Cuisine: French
The Connaught, Carlos Place, W1

★ **Tom Aikens**

Price: £29 (3 courses)
Cuisine: Mod. European
43 Elystan Street, SW3

★ **Zafferano**

Price: £29.50 (2 courses), £34.50 (3 courses)
Cuisine: Italian
15 Lowndes Street, Knightsbridge, SW1

★ **Sketch - Lecture Room and Gallery**

Price: £30 (2 courses), £35 (3 courses)
Cuisine: French
9 Conduit Street, W1

★ **Gordon Ramsay at Claridge's**

Price: £30 (3 courses)
Cuisine: Haute cuisine
Brook Street, W1

★ **Pied à Terre**

Price: £24.50 (2 courses)
Cuisine: French
34 Charlotte Street, W1

★ **The Square**

Price: £30 (2 courses), £35 (3 courses), dinner £75 (3 courses)
Cuisine: Mod. European
6-10 Bruton Street, Mayfair, W1

★ **The Capital**

Price: £27.50 (2 courses, Mon-Fri), £33 (3 courses, available all week), dinner £55 (2 courses), £63 (3 courses), £70 (5 courses)
Cuisine: Mod. European
The Capital Hotel, 22 Basil Street, SW3

Five Michelin-starred restaurants are not offering lunch deals.

- ★ Rhodes 24
- ★ St John
- ★ Assaggi
- ★ Locanda Locatelli
- ★ River Cafe

For more details go to www.thelondonpaper.com/barsandrestaurants

BENTO BOX CLEVER
Nobu Berkeley Street

★ **Quilon**
Price: £20 (3 courses)
Cuisine: South Indian
41 Buckingham Gate, SW1

★ **Rasoi Vineet Bhatia**

Price: £21 (2 courses), £26 (3 courses)
Cuisine: Indian
10 Lincoln Street, Chelsea, SW3

★ **Umu**

Price: £21 (3 courses)



EAT YOUR GREENS
The Greenhouse

Over £30 a head

★ **Roussillon**

Price: £55 (3 courses)
Cuisine: French
16 St Barnabas Street, SW1

★ **Hibiscus**

Price: £33.50 (3 courses with a glass of wine, coffee and petits fours)
Cuisine: Mod. European
29 Maddox Street, W1

★ **Marcus Wareing at The Berkeley**

Price: £35, a la carte £75

Cuisine: Modern European
The Berkeley, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge, SW1

★ **Alain Ducasse at The Dorchester**

Price: £39.50 (2 courses), £45 (3 courses), both with 2 glasses of wine, mineral water and coffee
Cuisine: French
Park Lane, W1

★ **Le Gavroche**

Price: £48 (3 courses, including half a bottle of wine, half a bottle of mineral water and free coffee and petits fours - special price offered Mon-Fri only)
Cuisine: French
43 Upper Brook Street, W1

★ **Restaurant Gordon Ramsay**

Price: £45 (3 courses), dinner a la carte £90
Cuisine: French
68 Royal Hospital Road, SW3



STYLISH | Le Gavroche

Back by popular demand

Have you tried

Mobile Broadband?

Have you tried T-Mobile?

Get a USB stick and one month's unlimited* surfing

Just **£34.35**
Only available instore

Great Mobile Broadband starter kit

After your first month, surf on one of our great value plans: never pay more than...

- £2 a day,
- £7 for 7 days
- £15 for 30 days.



HURRY offer ends 31st May 2009

Only available in your local T-Mobile store

Life's for Sharing

T-Mobile

The legal stuff you need to know: Get a USB stick and £15 of Mobile Broadband pay as you go top up credit for a total of £34.35 instore before 31 May. Check out our brochure "Your Guide" for the legal stuff and "fair use policies for our £2 a day, £7 for 7 days or £15 for 30 day options." *Fair use policy applies.