

Lunchquest Edinburgh



* 2015 Guide *



Lunchquest started in July 2011, as a simple way of ensuring that two great friends ate in a wide variety of restaurants, rather than spending their entire lives in the same place.

Four years on, we've reviewed over 1,300 restaurants, cafés, bars, takeaways, and other assorted eating places, and we've had a great deal of fun doing it.

This year's Guide is very different to our previous versions. We've gone for an alphabetical list of the top 101 places we most frequently recommend. This has been quite a constraint on our thinking and it means that we've missed out a number of places that we really like.

Our selection is heavy on coffee shops and street food, but light on fine dining, amongst other things.

This reflects both our own increasing preferences, but also the questions we're most frequently asked by our readership.

Everyone knows where the Michelin places are, so they don't need our help to find them.

We're light in some other categories, too, but I think this reflects the great depth of other food writers and enthusiasts in the city who more than splendidly champion the cause of various different styles of dining. As with every city, Edinburgh has strengths and weaknesses in its dining provision, too.

We continue to revel in all that Edinburgh has to offer. What we present in this short Guide is a brief and personal insight into all of the fun we have on our travels around the city.

We've welcomed many new restaurants and cafés, this year, and said goodbye to far too many treasured friends that will live long in our culinary memories.

Change is inevitable, but don't neglect your most valued dining spots, as the restaurant business is perilous, and no-one is immune to the vacillations of external economic factors. If you don't use your local dining spots, you may surely lose them.

We wish you good lunching and dining luck!

MJ & BKR





181 Deli

An excellent recent addition to the city, 181 is a bright and airy little deli, with an excellent selection of cheeses and smart cafe space in the rear of the shop.

They have a lovely light lunch menu, with the mackerel, ricotta and walnut quiche that I sampled proving to be one of the tastiest combos of the year.

If you haven't visited yet you should, as 181 is an elegant and charming piece of Bruntsfield class.

Bruntsfield Place, Bruntsfield

£7 for lunch (1 diner)



Al Dente

High quality fare in a friendly and welcoming environment, Al Dente is a lovely dining spot for tasty Italian food.

Their dishes are classy and classic with fresh flavours to the fore.

One of Edinburgh's finest Italians, it's a place worthy of your close attention.

Easter Road, Leith

£35 for lunch (2 diners)



Angels with Bagpipes

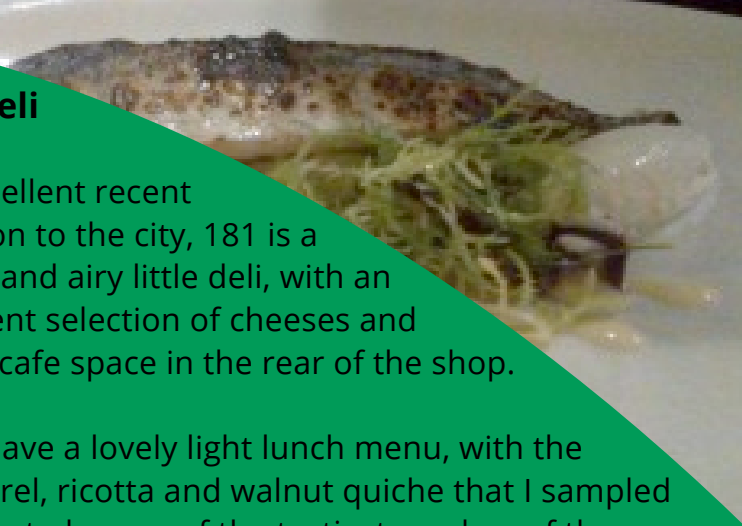
On the historic Royal Mile, Angels with Bagpipes is a purveyor of high quality fare served in smart surroundings.

Stylish and accomplished dishes are matched by simple and elegant surroundings.

A great option for a larger party with a broad range of tastes, Angels with Bagpipes is a winner of a place.

High Street, Old Town

£36 for lunch (2 diners)



The Apiary + Three Birds

The Apiary and Three Birds are just an absolute joy, with beautifully executed, imaginative dishes that lend themselves to enjoyable communal dining.

Sharing platters are to the fore, and their specials board is packed with quality.

A very good selection of both wines and beers round out these highly impressive places' excellent offering.

Newington Road, Newington
Bruntsfield Place, Bruntsfield

£30 for dinner (1 diner)



Archipelago Bakery

Initially hidden away on the corner of Frederick Street and Queen Street, and now in new premises on Dundas Street, Archipelago is a magnificent bakery.

Their savoury tarts are absolutely first class and the focaccia delicious.

Packed with sweet treats, too, make time for a visit, soon.

Dundas Street, New Town

£6 for lunch (1 diner)



The Atelier

The Atelier has developed a devoted following since opening in 2013.

Praise has been lavished upon the place in no small measure, too.

Stylish and well-balanced dishes are showcased in smart premises making this is a highly enjoyable place to dine.

Morrison Street, West End

£26 for dinner (1 diner)





B&D's Kitchen

B&D's Kitchen is a real Chinese gem, with cheap and delicious dishes that you won't find on other menus.

Their outstanding hakka beef is simply tremendous, for example.

One that needs to be added to your list for a visit at your earliest convenient opportunity.

Dalry Road, West

£14 for dinner (1 diner)



BBL

With outstanding burgers and sausages, BBL is an absolute delight and continues to be Edinburgh's premier place for a burger.

They don't just content themselves with meaty delights either, being one of the few places to make their own veggie sausages.

Once you've found BBL, you're unlikely to become anything other than a regular and frequent visitor.

Pleasance, Old Town

£4.60 for lunch (1 diner)



Bentoya

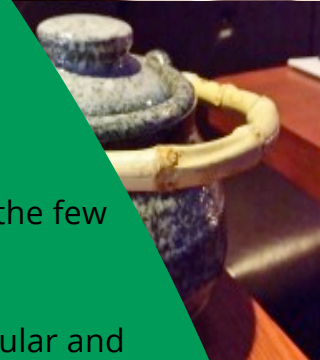
We've had a fresh batch of Japanese places that have opened over the course of the last year, with Bentoya leading the charge.

With a whirring top of a waitress/owner directing operations, this informal sushi bar serves Japanese dishes that are only rivalled in quality by nearby Kanpai.

Their lunchtime bento boxes are particularly good value and their BYOB with no corkage makes it a highly attractive place to visit.

Bread Street, Old Town

£22 for lunch (2 diners)





Bon Vivant



The Bon Vivant is a firm favourite and it's not hard to see why.

A highly sophisticated and elegant menu is matched by stylish surroundings and fantastic cocktails.

This Thistle Street gem is always one for the shortlist when looking for dinner and drinks in town.

Thistle Street, New Town

£20 for lunch (1 diner)



The Bonham

In west end elegance, the restaurant at The Bonham produces excellent quality, with their risotto outstanding.

The stylish hotel premises provide an excellent backdrop for the food, too.

Service is on-point throughout making a trip to The Bonham an absolute joy.

Drumsheugh Gardens, West End

£70 for dinner (3 diners)



Bow Bar

A real Edinburgh institution in the heart of the Old Town, the Bow continues to provide an impressive range of primarily British brews, with an understandable emphasis on the cask beer which is dispensed from its vintage Aitken tall fonts.

They also serve a mean lunchtime pie, from Findlay's of Portobello, so it's one for a pie and pint visit, soon.

West Bow, Old Town

£15.40 for lunch (2 diners)





Breadshare

Having been trading at markets around the city for a number of years, Breadshare transferred to their permanent bakery cafe premises in Portobello, early in 2015.

Serving their trademark excellent bread alongside a light menu of healthy dishes, they were fortunate enough to discover a pizza oven in decent working order, from a previous incarnation of the restaurant. They put this to good use.

Supporting the community in a range of thoughtful ways, this is a gem of a place that demands a visit.

Seafield Road East, Portobello

£5.50 for lunch (1 diner)



Brew Lab

Home of impressive coffee paraphernalia, Brew Lab is at the forefront of Edinburgh coffee excellence.

The folks do a fine line in tasty comestibles to go with their great coffee, with particularly nicely crafted sandwiches.

At the heart of student land, Brew Lab's welcoming atmosphere brings together a broad spectrum of the city to bask in its wonders.

South College Street, Old Town

£16.50 for lunch (2 diners)



Broughton Deli

The Broughton Deli is an exceptional café, just off Broughton Street.

Their mixed pork and beef burger is truly outstanding, sourced from excellent local producers

With a charming vitality about the place, it's a great wee spot for brunch or a relaxing lunch.

Barony Street, Broughton

£20 for lunch (2 diners)





C-Shack

A great addition to our seafood selection, the C-Shack serves a regularly changing menu of excellent local seafood.

Their premises are small and bright, offering lovely views across Newhaven harbour.

With a good selection of Belgian beers to match, C-Shack is definitely one for a visit.

Pier Place, Newhaven

£65 for dinner (2 diners)



Café St Honore

With chef Neil Forbes at the helm, St Honore is a bastion of local sourcing.

Always on a list recommending places for Scottish fare delivered with French flair, the place is a great supporter of Slow Food in Edinburgh, hosting regular "big table" dinners.

A touch of class in the New Town, you'll be impressed when you visit.

Thistle Street, New Town

£80 for lunch (4 diners)



Cairngorm

Purveyors of fine coffee from Mr Eion and excellent baked goods, Cairngorm is a fantastic shop.

With a fondness for cheese, their fabulous toasties are becoming the stuff of legend and the café space very nicely appointed.

An increasingly regular haunt, we'd strongly recommend a visit.

Frederick Street, New Town

£6.50 for lunch (1 diner)



Casa Angelina

Don't miss Casa Angelina for delicious cakes and tea.

Hidden away, this tiny emporium never fails to delight with its high quality and warm welcome.

Their doorstep sandwiches are highly impressive, too, for those with not such a sweet tooth.

London Street, New Town

£10 for lunch (1 diner)



Castello Coffee

Showcasing Allpress espresso, which remains our favourite, Castello is our most frequent stop in the city.

Bircher muesli and their pain au banane are breakfast time favourites and they make their own soups daily on the premises.

A place with a warm welcome and exceptional quality on offer, it's an absolute must-visit for all coffee lovers.

Castle Street, City Centre

£7.50 for lunch (1 diner)



Century General Store

A real Marchmont curio, Century General Store is an Aladdin's cave of items for "tenement living". This includes a coffee counter with some outstanding local baking.

With Steampunk supplying the coffee and Archipelago the baking, their small and focussed selection is packed with wonderful quality.

An ideal spot to spend a few moments of absolute calm in your otherwise busy schedule, Century General Store is a magical oasis in the city.

Marchmont Crescent, Marchmont

£6.50 for coffee and cake (1 diner)





Chez Jules

The steak frites at Chez Jules is the best we've sampled in the city and the value on offer is consistently good.

It's a charming little place with one of the better lunchtime deals in the city.

A regular staple when we have friends visiting from out of town, Chez Jules is an enduring favourite.

Hanover Street, New Town

£160 for dinner (6 diners)



Civerino's

Purveying a fine line in informal Italian dining, Civerino's is a great spot for a shared dining experience with friends.

Their pizzas are large, with some served by the slice, and are of good quality. They have a good array of well-executed pasta dishes, too.

Their nutella calzone for dessert needs to be seen to be believed, making their overall offering really compelling. Well worthy of a visit.

Hunter Square, Old Town

£77 for dinner (3 diners)



The Counter

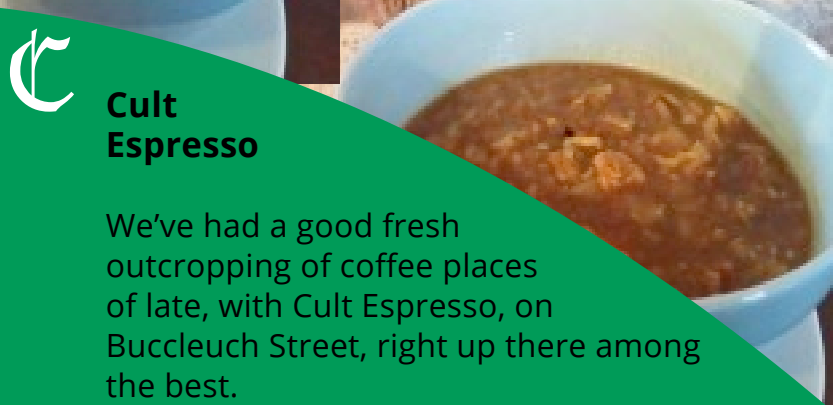
A top quality police box coffee shop, The Counter also does all its own baking to match the excellent Mr Eion coffee.

Now in the process of expanding to two additional sites across the city, it's good that those beyond Morningside can more regularly sample its excellent wares.

A real coffee favourite, make sure to visit soon and visit often.

Morningside Road, Morningside

£2.60 for coffee and cookie (1 diner)



Cult Espresso

We've had a good fresh outcropping of coffee places of late, with Cult Espresso, on Buccleuch Street, right up there among the best.

Showcasing blends from Round Hill roastery as their primary offering, the espresso is outstandingly good.

With smartly sourced food options, too, Cult Espresso is a new favourite that has grown a devoted and appreciative audience.

Buccleuch Street, Southside

£5.80 for lunch (1 diner)



The Dogs

Serving dishes of exceptional quality, The Dogs should be at the top of your list for a fabulous lunch or dinner in Edinburgh.

From their Hanover Street premises, replete with dog detailing in the design, they surprise and entertain with a well-balanced menu of modern British cooking.

A must-visit.

Hanover Street, New Town

£30 for lunch (2 diners)



Domenico's

Excellent pasta dishes, delicious lunchtime sandwiches, and one of the best fish stews in the city make Domenico's an absolute delight

Warmly welcoming, this Leith gem continues to be at the forefront of places we recommend and visit ourselves.

Sandport Street, Leith

£20 for lunch (2 diners)





Edinburgh Larder + Bistro

The Larder is a real Lunchquest favourite, exuding quality and charm in equal measure.

It offers delicious lunchtime soups and salads, which are high on both flavour and value.

A busy wee place in the Old Town, it's a lunchtime venue that's likely to put a broad grin on your face.

Blackfriars Street, Old Town

£4.50 for lunch (1 diner)



El Cartel



The recently opened sister restaurant, although in a completely different style, of Bon Vivant, El Cartel excels at informal Mexican dishes.

Their starters are simply superb with the guacamole outstanding.

El Cartel is firmly at the peak of this style of cuisine in Edinburgh.

Thistle Street, New Town

£15 for lunch (1 diner)



Enjoy - Gusto Italiano

Behind a rather unassuming frontage on Clerk Street, Enjoy - Gusto Italiano is quietly knocking out some cracking home-style Italian fare that's guaranteed to make you smile, inside and out.

Their tomato soup, which is more like a stew, is remarkably good and right up there with the best Italian dishes in the city.

With warmth and charm aplenty, this informal, reasonably priced and high-class little place is a real Southside gem.

Clerk Street, Southside

£9.30 for lunch (1 diner)



Field

A regular recommendation and consistent purveyor of greatness, Field's levels of excellence remain impressive, both in terms of the food and the service.

With an ever-changing menu of locally sourced dishes, the quality and variety is outstanding.

Book early to ensure you get to sample their magic restaurant for yourself.

West Nicolson Street, Southside

£70 for lunch (4 diners)



Forn

Pared-back simplicity itself, Forn's brand of Catalan cafe charm has built an appreciative audience, since it opened its doors in early 2015.

With sensational Spanish cured meats at the heart of their offering, this is a place that does a lot with a little.

With good Spanish coffee also to the fore, this is an excellent option for a really rewarding daytime snack or light meal.

East Preston Street, Southside

£6 for lunch (1 diner)



Fortitude

With one of the best ranges of retail beans we've come across in the city, Fortitude continues to make a great impression on all who visit.

With excellent Workshop espresso-based drinks at the core of their offering, the quality on offer is extremely high.

With an understated and minimalist charm, Fortitude is a lovely wee place.

York Place, City Centre

£6.30 for lunch (1 diner)





Fresh Revolution

Street food continues to improve in Edinburgh, with Fresh Revolution probably the finest purveyor to emerge in the last year.

Unusually, they've flourished without developing one "killer" menu item, instead focussing on the freshest seasonal ingredients as their core selling-point.

This means they have an adaptable menu of ever changing treats, which lends itself to regular and rewarding repeat visits.

Various markets

£4 for lunch (1 diner)



Goya 23



The Spanish ingredient kings of Stockbridge, a trip to Goya 23 is a joy for all the senses.

Alongside their excellent deli selection, they do a lovely little selection of lunch and snack items, with their salads absolutely first rate.

Few places bring such pure pleasure and warmth than this spectacular Spanish gem.

North West Circus Place, Stockbridge

£4.20 for lunch (1 diner)



Giovanni's

The chip shop fish champion of Edinburgh, Giovanni's is a place that's full of charm and quality.

Having opened in the late 1960s, it has been a favourite for many a year. Their huge pieces of crisply battered fish are rightly valued very highly.

With a fresh refurbishment under their belts and a typically warm Italian welcome, this is definitely Edinburgh's go-to spot for fish n chips.

Northfield Broadway, Northfield

£11 for dinner (2 diners)





Grain Store

In a real character property on Victoria Street, the Grain Store serves excellent dishes based on locally sourced ingredients.

Their lunchtime deal is one of the best in the city, so worth seeking out.

A place that's guaranteed to impress, get yourself along for a visit, soon.

Victoria Street, Old Town

£40 for lunch (3 diners)



Hanging Bat

The Hanging Bat really raised the bar for the Edinburgh beer scene when it opened in 2013, with 21 lines – and an on-site brewkit – showcasing the very best in modern beer, with the accent on the finest Britain has to offer.

They host some absolutely first-rate Meet the Brewer events, too, making them a regular place to visit and revel in the beery glory.

Lothian Road

£30 for lunch (4 diners)



Harajuku Kitchen

An impressive all-rounder, Harajuku is a wonderfully stylish Japanese place serving an excellent range of quality dishes.

Their bistro adds to their regular street food stall that continues to draw an appreciative following at Stockbridge market.

Their miso soup is one of the best in the city, making it a great favourite with us.

Gillespie Crescent, Tollcross

£25 for lunch (2 diners)





Hula Juice Bar & Gallery



Everyone's favourite little ray of sunshine, Hula serves dishes that delight the senses and are packed with flavour sensations.

Pop in for a juice, coffee, bagel, porridge, granola...their list of excellence is a lengthy one.

It also showcases the work of emerging local artists in their regularly changing exhibitions. A very special place that embodies so many of the great things about Edinburgh.

Grassmarket

£15 for breakfast (2 diners)



Jones & Son



Our finest purveyors of pulled pork, Jones & Sons Bespoke BBQ match sparkling service and glorious grub for very pleasing results.

A regular at the Tram Stop, people come from far and wide to sample their excellence.

They've now added splendid burgers to their growing making them very much at the forefront of Scottish street food excellence.

Tram Stop Market

£5 for lunch (1 diner)



Kanpai



Outstanding sushi in simple and elegant surroundings, Kanpai leads the way for Japanese food in Edinburgh.

Their sashimi platter is exquisite and their sweet miso aubergine is one of the finest dishes in the city.

It's always a joy to see excellent Scottish seafood delivered in this elegant way. A must-visit.

Grindlay Street, West End

£40 for lunch (3 diners)





Khartoum Café

Home of some of the city's finest wraps, Khartoum Cafe radiates warmth and charm from every pore.

The folks that run it are full of good banter and often give you cheeky tasters of other menu items to lure you in to further joys on your next visit.

Their cardamom infused Sudanese coffee is definitely worth a try, too, making this a generally delightful place to stop for lunch.

Gillespie Place, Tollcross

£10 for lunch (2 diners)



Kim's Mini Meals

Kim's continues to wow crowds of appreciative diners with its knockout dishes, all served on mismatched crockery in a little curiosity of a restaurant, just next to the university.

Regularly to be seen with a crowd of people queueing out of the door for a table, the quality of the food on offer more than matches the pervading atmosphere of welcoming hilarity.

The beef bulgogi is a particular favourite, so that's a dish not to miss when you visit.

Buccleuch Street, Southside

£18 for dinner (1 diner)



King's Wark

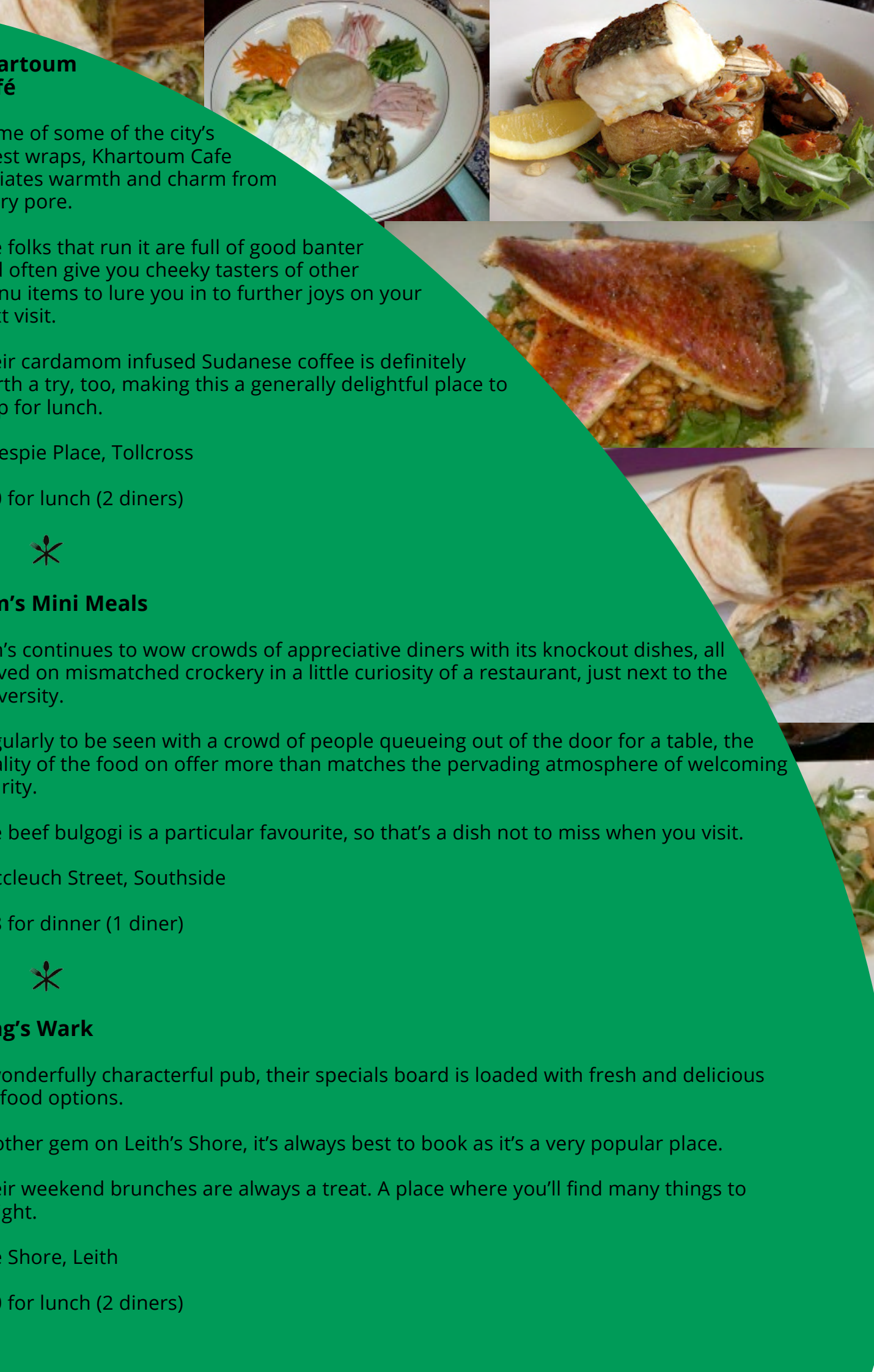
A wonderfully characterful pub, their specials board is loaded with fresh and delicious seafood options.

Another gem on Leith's Shore, it's always best to book as it's a very popular place.

Their weekend brunches are always a treat. A place where you'll find many things to delight.

The Shore, Leith

£30 for lunch (2 diners)





La Garrigue



Chef patron Jean-Michel Gauffre showcases the regional delights of the Languedoc at the truly magnifique La Garrigue.

With an excellent wine list and dishes of panache and verve, La Garrigue is a real favourite.

With another lovely view over the city, this is always a great lunchtime or evening option.

Jeffrey Street, Old Town

£35 for lunch (2 diners)



La Petite Mort

A smart bistro in the back room of Bennet's Bar, La Petite Mort has carved out a nice niche for itself, since opening earlier in 2015.

With a short, seasonal menu packed with charm and verve, it's a really good spot for pre-theatre dining in advance of seeing Nigel Havers or Liza Goddard at the nearby King's.

They have a good cocktail menu, too, making it a very enjoyable place to visit.

Valleyfield Street, Tollcross

£60 for dinner (2 diners)



La Sal

La Sal is slightly hidden away from the public gaze, but has still flourished as the city's finest Spanish tapas place for a number of years.

With a flamenco school as part of the business, their dishes are of really pleasing quality, with the octopus a particular favourite.

Worth seeking out, visit La Sal next time you're looking for a great place for an evening of delicious sharing dishes.

Howden Street, Southside

£22 for dinner (1 diner)



Leo's Beanery

A top-notch New Town café with a varied menu of treats, Leo's Beanery is an impressive place.

Their menu has options to suit all tastes and is served in wonderfully welcoming surroundings.

Service is attentive and warm, coffee excellent, and dishes extremely pleasing.

Howe Street, New Town

£10 for lunch (1 diner)



L'Escargot Blanc et Bleu

With Fred Berkmillier at the helm, both L'Escargot Blanc and L'Escargot Bleu match excellent dishes with a sparkling atmosphere for true restaurant joy.

Dishes are routinely outstanding, packing flavour and charm aplenty.

For relaxed dining of consummate class, showcasing our local larder to best advantage, this is the restaurant for you.

Queensferry Street, West End/Broughton Street

£85 for dinner (2 diners)



Lovecrumbs

The apotheosis of Edinburgh cakey excellence, Lovecrumbs wows and charms in equal measure.

With the cake wardrobe always packed with delights, their coffee is first rate, too.

Their quirky West Port premises are a joy to visit, so make sure to stop in next time you're in the cake mood.

West Port, Old Town

£5.40 for lunch (1 diner)





Machina Espresso caters to all your coffee needs, serving excellent drinks in the shop and providing a full range of coffee equipment and paraphernalia for those who prefer to make theirs at home.

With an ever changing menu of Britain's best roasters to the fore, their coffee is of extremely good quality.

A Tollcross gem, make a visit to Machina a priority.

Brougham Place, Tollcross

£9.70 for lunch (2 diners)



Maialino

The best breakfast roll in the city was a hotly debated topic until Maialino arrived. Now, their bacon and pancetta rolls have set a new standard in porky excellence.

From a charming deli space on William Street, there's so much to like about the affable service and cosy premises.

They do outside catering, too, so next time you're looking to impress people at a morning meeting you know who to call.

William Street, West End

£5.50 for lunch (1 diners)



Mark Greenaway

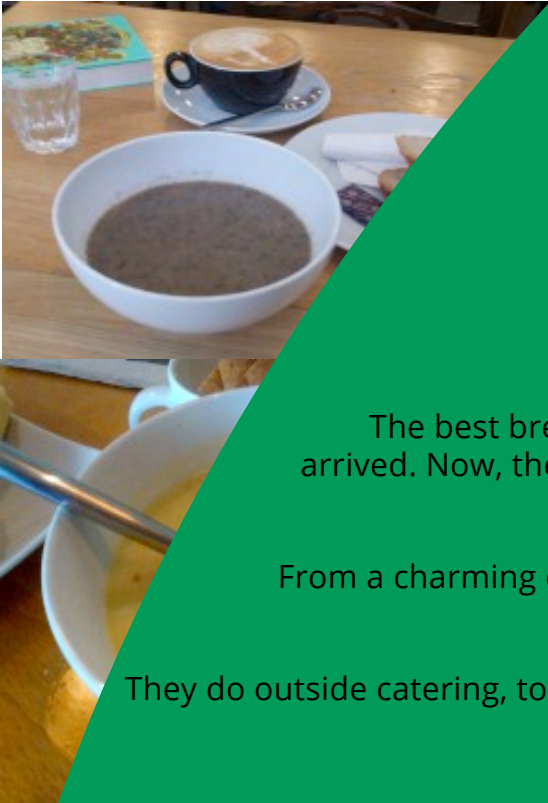
With confident and stylish cooking throughout, Mark Greenaway's dishes are runaway crowd pleasers.

With a considerable flair for presentation, Greenaway's is one of the rare places where I sometimes eschew the cheeseboard in favour of sweet dessert treats, which are entirely excellent.

Fast becoming an Edinburgh institution, it's a restaurant worthy of your close attention.

North Castle Street, New Town

£55 for lunch (2 diners)



Meat Hook at Mather's

Having successfully transitioned from street food stall to taking over a pub kitchen full time, Meat Hook deliver excellent quality tucker.

With a focus on burgers and sausages, they also do excellent potato salad and their macaroni cheese burger is something to behold.

If you haven't visited yet, it's definitely one to add to your list.

Broughton Street

£30 for lunch (3 diners)



IJ Mellis

Mellis is one of Scotland's finest cheese purveyors, so it was to considerable rejoicing that they added a little range of lunchtime items, as well as a backroom café in their Stockbridge premises.

Their simple and delicious cheese rolls on artisan bread are impressively good.

With an excellent range of condiments to bring things together, add Mellis to your schedule for a sandwich visit.

Victoria, Street, Old Town/Stockbridge

£6.90 for lunch (1 diner)



Michael Neave

Their insanely good lunchtime deal makes this place hugely popular, with customers returning time and again to sample the ever-changing menu of carefully crafted dishes.

Their evening menu is one of the most balanced we've come across, with particularly good and imaginative vegetarian options.

Their whisky selection in their upstairs bar is highly impressive, too, making it a very attractive place for a visit.

Fishmarket Close, Old Town

£8 for lunch (1 diner)





Mumbai Mansion

With the chefs having previously worked at Mithas, a stellar restaurant that sadly closed this year, we were always likely to enjoy Mumbai Mansion.

And so it proved, with many dishes making a reappearance from the former Mithas menu.

In smart surroundings, with a particularly impressive chandelier, this is an Indian well worth checking out.

Morrison Street, West End

£28 for dinner (1 diner)



Natural Foods Etc

The finest place we lunched in 2014, Natural Foods Etc is a simply excellent little shop and cafe, on the Southside.

With delicious soups and salads matched with first rate coffee, their offering is highly compelling.

What's more you can pick up an excellent array of healthy ingredients to cook at home, when you visit, so it really is a great wee place.

Clerk Street, Southside

£10 for lunch (1 diner)



Ninja Buns at Paradise Palms

From their beginnings as a street food stall, Ninja Buns progressed, this year, to taking over the full time kitchen duties at smart bar Paradise Palms.

This allowed them to expand their menu, while still retaining their signature buns at the heart of their offering.

For a quick and delicious bite, throughout the day, Ninja Buns will look after you in grand style.

Lothian Street, Old Town

£30 for dinner (2 diners)



Nira Caledonia

The quality of the steak on offer at Blackwood's is mind-blowing.

It's one of the few restaurants in Edinburgh where you can genuinely "dazzle your friends".

With a complete menu of Josper-cooked delights, Blackwood's is head-and-shoulders above any other steak place in the city.

Gloucester Street, New Town

£113 for dinner (2 diners)



Nobles

Nobles is a Leith favourite serving dishes packed with punch and pizzazz.

This includes a very enjoyable brunch selection and excellent burgers.

Their wine list is very good, too, making it a very impressive all-round place.

Constitution Street, Leith

£43 for lunch (2 diners)



Nom de Plume

A broad menu, comfy seats, a nice drinks selection and a feeling of total calm make Nom de Plume a wonderfully welcoming Sunday destination.

Another excellent Broughton Street spot, sit back with a copy of The Spurtle and let Sunday wash over you.

It's an extremely good place for vegetarian and vegan choices, also.

Broughton Street, Broughton

£50 for lunch (4 diners)





Ondine

Our premier purveyor of seafood excellence, Ondine delivers one of the finest dining experiences in the city.

The seafood on offer is of the highest quality and service is peerless.

It gets a lot of exposure from famous visitors and when you cross the threshold you will soon see why.

George IV Bridge, Old Town

£36 for lunch (2 diners)



Origano

The height of Edinburgh pizza excellence, this place manages to feel like it's in a sleepy little corner despite being on the main road of Leith Walk.

With room for only around 20 diners in their previous place, they've recently moved to expanded premises, across the road.

They do a collection service so you can munch on their tasty dishes at home, which is always handy.

Leith Walk, Leith

£71.50 for dinner (4 diners)



The Pantry



Serving a wonderfully varied menu across the day, The Pantry can be relied upon to produce highly accomplished dishes.

With excellent local sourcing and a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere, dishes deftly straddle classic and innovative.

A wonderful place for a lazy afternoon, their fish finger sandwiches are worth seeking out, in particular.

North West Circus Place, Stockbridge

£28 for lunch (2 diners)



Papii

With great Artisan Roast coffee and memorably good breakfast options, Papii is a favourite spot for morning coffee.

A valued treasure on Hanover Street, it has a simple and life-affirming charm to it.

Try their waffles next time you're looking for a breakfast treat.

Hanover Street, Tollcross

£4 for lunch (1 diner)



Patisserie Madeleine

Zen, minimal decoration and pastry to die for. Patisserie Madeleine is the real deal.

With outstanding eclairs, macarons and teas, it's a café of real charm and elegance.

There are few greater pleasures in the city than an afternoon spent in its smart confines.

Raeburn Place, Stockbridge

£12 for tea and cake (2 diners)



Pep and Fodder

The kings of salad dressing, Pep & Fodder will knock you together a delicious salad box, to order, then top it with some magical flavour combos.

Serving excellent coffee, too, their Waterloo Street shop has become a frequent stop on our travels.

Very popular with the local offices, Pep & Fodder is guaranteed to please.

Waterloo Place, City Centre

£4.50 for lunch (1 diner)





Peter's Yard & Soderberg

With their famous sourdough bases, Peter's Yard does outstandingly good pizza.

Toppings are fresh and delicious, with quite an abbreviated range of options. It's hard to resist other baked good in their shop on a visit, too, particularly their amazing cardamom buns.

Peter's Yard has established itself as an Edinburgh favourite with a broad cross-section of the community.

Quartermile, Old Town/Deanhaugh Street, Stockbridge/
Queensferry Street, West End

£33 for lunch (2 diners)



Piatto Verde

Piatto Verde is a wondrous little Italian offering great dishes and service that's full of character.

Their prices haven't changed for a decade and more making it a high-value proposition, too.

Definitely one for your list when Italian food is the order of the day.

Dundee Terrace, West

£43 for dinner (2 diners)



Polentoni

A stylish little deli and cucina, Polentoni showcases traditional daytime dishes from northern Italy

With a particularly good selection of breakfast and baked goods, it's a really welcome addition to our city's dining options.

Easter Road, Leith

£7 for lunch (1 diner)





Porto & Fi

A dazzling star of place with a Sunday menu to meet all tastes and requirements, Porto & Fi is quite magical.

Their fish pie is one of the best in the city. All dishes are delivered to an excellent standard.

With views out across the Firth of Forth, there are few more relaxing places to replenish both body and soul.

Newhaven Main Street, Newhaven

£60 for lunch (4 diners)



Purslane

The parade of stylish and spectacular food from Paul Gunning at the Purslane is practically never-ending.

Dishes bring constant delight to all who dine there, with elegance and flavour at their heart.

The premier casual fine dining place in the city, for absolute certain.

St Stephen Street, Stockbridge

£30 for lunch (2 diners)



Rafael's

Fantastic dishes in a place that's packed with effortless charm and homely Spanish joy, there's nowhere else in the city quite like Rafael's.

I had one of the most joyous dining experiences in all quests there, when I visited.

Warmth, comfort, flavour and style come together to form a great little restaurant.

Deanhaugh Street, Stockbridge

£36 for dinner (1 diner)



Committed to bringing a full-blooded BBQ experience to Edinburgh diners, Reekie's has done fine work since it opened in late 2014.

Hitting all the BBQ classic notes, it's in their innovative, Scottish themed condiments that they achieved particular success, with the likes of Buckfast and Irn Bru worked in to the mix.

Visit early in the day to try their burnt ends as they have an unusual habit of disappearing into appreciative diners' tummies.

Holyrood Road, Old Town

£11 for lunch (1 diner)



Rivage

An under-appreciated Indian gem on Easter Road, Rivage can be relied upon to produce high quality dishes that will impress.

Their lamb saag was one of the finest I've sampled in the city, for example.

With a warmly welcoming staff and menu packed with cracking dishes, we'd recommend a visit to Rivage at your earliest available opportunity.

Easter Road, Leith

£20 for dinner (1 diner)



Rocket

A lovely cafe in Morningside, Rocket offers a diverse menu with their breakfast options particularly strong.

Their mushrooms and gruyere on toast was one of the best breakfast dishes we sampled all year, for example.

With good Artisan Roast coffee also on the menu, Rocket is a real favourite and worthy of regular visits.

Morningside Road, Morningside

£8 for breakfast (1 diner)



Rollo

Rollo is a fabulous place for a relaxed afternoon or evening with friends.

With a welcome that's hard to beat and sharing dishes across a range of styles, it has been a revelation since it arrived in Stockbridge in late 2013.

One of the hottest restaurant seats in town, you'll be entirely charmed by this little darling of a place.

Raeburn Place, Stockbridge

£14 for lunch (1 diner)



Rost

With a range of home cured meats, fantastic salads and spectacular sandwiches, Rost is a great street food purveyor of fine locally sourced dishes.

Their venison pastrami is outstanding and the welcome is always warm and smiley.

Once of our finest street food traders, make it your business to visit soon.

Tram Stop Market

£5 for lunch (1 diner)



Safari Lounge

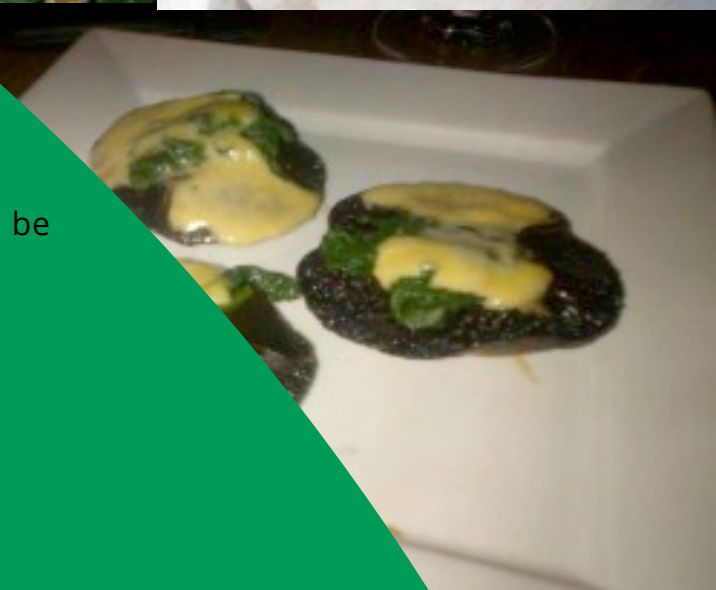
In terms of diversity, there are few places that can match the Safari Lounge's menu.

With Spanish, Chinese, North African and American dishes (to name but a few) regularly appearing on the menu, it has something for everyone.

Probably the most successful of the recent rash of "gentrified" pub refurbishments, you'll be impressed when you visit.

Cadzow Place, Abbeyhill

£7.25 for lunch (1 diner)



Salisbury Arms

Salisbury Arms serves really impressive food in a wood and tweed-clad setting.

With an excellent range of dishes, many of which lend themselves to sharing, the place has a welcoming atmosphere and attentive service.

We were mightily impressed with everything we sampled, making it entirely worth checking out, next time you're in the pub grub mood.

Old Dalkeith Road, Newington

£140 for dinner (6 diners)



Scoff

Featuring an outstanding Cullen skink and tattie scone wrap, there are few more innately Scottish pleasures than a trip to Scoff.

With an expanded selection now including a delicious smoked mackerel salad and excellent black pudding, they're fast becoming a street food favourite.

Tram Stop Market, Localmotive Market

£5 for lunch (1 diner)



Ship on the Shore

Quality seafood in a relaxed pub setting, the seafood platters at the Ship on the Shore are a joy to behold.

Ordering is often done by pointing at what another table is having and saying you want the same, or at least that's how it usually works with me!

A classic and well-established favourite, you will be impressed by this excellent seafood establishment.

The Shore, Leith

£60 for lunch (3 diners)





Social Bite

Social Bite continues to impress and is a great spot for a lunchtime meal on the go.

This social business has spread its wings with a second Edinburgh branch and three in Glasgow.

Further stores surely beckon for this excellent business.

Rose Street, City Centre

£5 for lunch (1 diner)



Spice Lounge Kitchen

Buried away in the western part of the city, Spice Lounge Kitchen is a place of surprising and remarkably high quality.

It has become a real favourite over the course of this year, with their leg of lamb one of the best Indian dishes we've tried.

Definitely worth the bus ride as there are few better or more diverse Indian places in the city.

Craigmount View, West

£68 for dinner (2 diners)



Spit/Fire

This year the Hanging Bat expanded their offering to a second place, Spit/Fire which we visited before their official launch and menu revamp, but we were blown away by it.

With rotisserie cooked meats still very much to the fore, this is essentially a two-in-one place, with Spit upstairs as the restaurant/wine bar and Fire down below the cave-like home to beery treats.

With spot-on staff and a splendid sense of home about both places, you should make it your business to visit soon.

Dublin Street, New Town

£128 for dinner (6 diners)





Stag Espresso

Stag Espresso is a gem of a place with great soup, excellent sandwiches and tremendous coffee, making for a very attractive café offering.

With their first café located with the Dovecot Studios, they successfully took over the Warburton Gallery café with their second branch for much of 2015.

Always busy and buzzing, both places are greatly valued Edinburgh favourites

Infirmery Street, Old Town

£15 for lunch (2 diners)



Tani Modi



Serving one of the better bacon rolls in the city, Tani Modi is a lovely little Italian cafe on Hanover Street.

The wonderful folks there will also serve you a really enjoyable Italian roast espresso.

Their lunchtime meatball sandwich is a real treat, too, making it a place that's worthy of many a visit.

Hanover Street, New Town

£4 for breakfast (1 diner)



Tanjore

Delicious south Indian cooking including excellent dosas make Tanjore a must-visit.

Their lunchtime thali offers excellent diversity and the informal setting lends itself to sharing dishes.

The southside is an excellent place for Indian food, with Tanjore among the very best places.

St Patrick's Square, Southside

£20 for lunch (2 diners)



Tapame

With a menu that's a joyous mix of Spanish and Greek tapas dishes, Tapame has proved very popular since it opened in late 2014.

Their well-priced lunch deal, with two dishes for £5 is a particular favourite and worth checking out.

We've yet to find a bad dish on the menu, so would recommend you give it a try.

Teviot Place, Old Town

£8 for lunch (1 diner)



Timberyard

Greatly valued in Edinburgh circles, this former timber yard has been transformed into one of the city's most impressive dining spaces, with dishes of real quality to match.

They have a stylish cocktail bar, make their own soda, keep chickens and quail, and grow other ingredients on the premises.

Innovation and creativity is at the heart of this much-treasured restaurant.

Lady Lawson Street, Old Town

£32 for lunch (2 diners)



Time 4 Thai

With raging panoply of flavour to the fore, the dishes at Time 4 Thai are packed with taste explosions that will impress and delight.

Soups and salads are whether their strength lies, with their wonderfully punchy and aromatic dishes.

An enduring favourite.

North Castle Street, New Town

£60 for dinner (2 diners)





Ting Thai Caravan

Offering a completely different take on Thai food to what's on offer in other Edinburgh places, with a strong emphasis on street dishes, Ting Thai Caravan is a great informal dining option.

Originally an August pop-up, its continuing appeal led to a year-round re-appearance.

Quality and speedy service pervades this highly accomplished little place.

Teviot Place, Old Town

£6.40 for lunch (1 diner)



Tupiniquim

The Brazilian crepe maestros and darling of the gluten-free community, Tupiniquim continue to do excellent work from their little tardis at the top of Middle Meadow Walk.

Their crepes are wonderfully filling and their juices bright and flavour-packed.

One of the best all-year-round street food places, visit Tupiniquim soon and often.

Middle Meadow Walk, Old Town

£7.50 for lunch (1 diner)



Twelve Triangles

With Lovecrumbs now established as one of our premier cake places, Twelve Triangles, a bakery on Brunswick Street with a slightly less sweet tooth than its big sister, has recently joined the fold.

Having said that the steer a little away from the sweet, they're probably most famous for their insanely good doughnuts, but their daily changing focaccia is other-wordly, too.

With top-quality coffee also on show, Twelve Triangles is as much a must-visit as Lovecrumbs.

Brunswick Street, Leith

£6 for lunch (1 diner)



Twenty Princes St

With their Josper grill and excellently sourced beef, the burger at Twenty Princes Street, complete with tasty rarebit, is magnificent.

With excellent views across the city, the restaurant is super-stylish.

With an excellent lunchtime deal, this really is a place worth visiting.

Princes Street, City Centre

£26.50 for lunch (2 diners)



Union of Genius + Dumbo

Union of Genius is the epitome of soupy excellence.

They serve the soup needs of half the city, these days, from their mother-ship café, their soup van, Dumbo, and as a supplier to multiple businesses across the city.

Soup royalty, they have elevated this humble dish to real distinction.

Forrest Road, Old Town

£25 for lunch (4 diners)



Water of Leith Café Bistro

Down by the river, the Water of Leith Bistro is warmly welcoming and the ideal place to stop off after a joyful Sunday stroll.

With a strong French influence in the kitchen, dishes are delivered to a very good standard.

Now firmly settled in their new Canonmills premises, it's an idea place to relax and unwind.

Howard Place, Canonmills

£25 for lunch (2 diners)





Top quality produce, peppered with foraged goodies, Paul Wedgwood's restaurant is top class.

From their stylish Canongate premises, it produces exquisite platefuls, and their lunchtime deal is very good value, too.

A place of real quality and panache.

Canongate, Old Town

£13 for lunch (1 diner)



Yellow Bench

An understated shop-front on Leith Walk, with a yellow bench out front, hides a little pearl of Polish dining.

Delicious and wonderfully hearty dishes at a ridiculously low price are what Yellow Bench is all about.

With a warm welcome from staff members who are committed to ensuring you enjoy your experience of the place, Yellow Bench is a must-visit.

Crichton Place, Leith

£29 for dinner (3 diners)

