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# Families South West

covering SW London including Chelsea, Fulham, Clapham, Kensington, Wandsworth, Wimbledon, etc.

## Local Restaurant Reviews - October 2008

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The Three Bridges Restaurant, Rebato's, The Olive Garden, Purple Café, The Lawn and The Cinnamon Club.

The Three Bridges Restaurant  
153 Battersea Park Road, SW8 4BX  
Tel: 020 7720 0204

Reviewed by Helli Roberts

Unpromisingly located near Battersea Dogs Home, this Italian restaurant is well worth seeking out. The ambience is smart but relaxed, the service is impeccable and the food is delicious. A wide range of home made pasta and pizza dishes are available but there are many more interesting options too! We shall certainly be going back.

I had one of the specials of the day - seafood risotto (tiger prawn with mint and orange juice - exquisite!) followed by pan fried sea bass with warm potato salad and sweet-spicy salami. My partner had another special - home made tagliatelle with shaved truffle; which was perfectly cooked. Tilly had pan-fried lemon scented baby squid with tomato tartare (£6.50) followed by grilled tiger prawns in a sweet and sour sauce (£14.50). Harry had Parma ham with melon followed by the most scrumptious duck breast with rhubarb and plum sauce (£14). The puddings (for example homemade pannacotta or plums in Italian brandy) range from £4.50 to £7.50.

High chairs are available but there are no baby changing facilities. Reservations are a good idea but are not always necessary. Children's portions (£5 less than the adult price) are available from the main menu.

The wine list is extensive and has been carefully chosen. We were recommended a Terraner Kellerei Pinot Blanc (£22.50) which perfectly complemented the fish and the pasta.

Rebato's  
169 South Lambeth Road  
SW8 1XY  
Tel: 020 7735 6388  
[www.rebatos.com](#)

Reviewed by Neil Hennessy

My 9 year-old foodie son and I set off for SW8 with great expectations. Rebato's is something of an institution - authentic Spanish cooking at its best. Established 24 years ago, this is a delightful, modest, friendly and quietly confident restaurant.

We had a selection of tapas (the restaurant is divided into a tapas bar at the front and a more formal dining room at the rear). The young gastronome astounded me by eating all his Boquerones (fresh anchovies in olive oil and garlic) proclaiming, "I never knew fish could taste so nice!" The freshly hand cut Serrano Ham was lovely as was the Spanish Omelette which provided a foil to the other stronger flavours in our selection - priced £3-£7. Stuffed Mushrooms (not a bad comparison as to how we were feeling even at this stage!) were fresh and full of vivid green spinach and pine nuts. But for £15, the Roast Suckling Pig with Apple Sauce stole the show. It was rustic, very big and delicious - a crispy skin and moist meat within - simply fantastic! The vibrancy of my son's Paella at £15 was a sure reminder of Spain with orange and red hues and fresh, tasty ingredients.

An amazing desert trolley followed (if you have room, we didn't but had some anyway). Gran alimento!

The Olive Garden  
48 Coombe Lane  
SW20 0LA  
Tel: 0871 961 0097

Reviewed by Maggie O'Brien

West Wimbledon is supposedly 'up & coming' with a huge new Starbucks and the promise of a 'Waitrose'. My definition of a good area is based on the availability of tasty food! The Olive Garden was just that, a wonderful surprise!

Lucky enough to get a table on a jam-packed Saturday night, my daughter and I were hungry and ate every bit of our chosen dishes, Vegetariana Pizza for me (£8.55) and Tortellini Pomerodora (£8.65) for her. The pizza was extremely satisfying with fresh chunks of artichokes and a real Italian aroma. My daughter's pasta was delicious and in her words 'scrumptious!' Desserts included tiramisu, ice creams, sorbet and cantellomi, all at £4. A glass of rose and I felt transported back to the holiday I'd enjoyed two weeks before!

The Olive Garden was a warm and welcoming restaurant and the staff accommodating. There is an adjoining café and deli which is open daily until 6pm offering a wide range of excellent Italian fayre. Takeaway service is available and being very close to Raynes Park station, parking doesn't have to be an issue. Children are most welcome; however the evenings appear to be mainly adult.

Purple Café  
18 The High Parade, Streatham High Road  
SW16 1EX  
Tel: 020 8677 2277

Reviewed by Alison Wareham

I can't resist telling you that Purple is truly purple by name, purple by nature! Great décor with, unsurprisingly, lilac walls and multi-coloured lamps hanging from the ceiling - the children liked it the moment we walked in. Our appreciation grew as we were offered highchairs and crayons and paper for drawing straight away!

The menu offered a wide variety of classic café options, catering for breakfast, brunch, lunch and dinner. Starters included gazpacho (£3) and whitebait while for main courses we could choose from traditional offerings like cottage pie, fish cakes, pasta and burgers (from £6) to more original dishes of red snapper or calf's liver with onions (£10). The children were very happy with their sausages and massive amounts of mash and fish cakes, which had a good mixture of haddock, salmon and coriander. The adults amongst us were satisfied by generous veggie burgers with goat's cheese and halloumi salad. The meal ended on a high note (quite literally for the smaller members of the party) with huge milkshakes, for which Purple is justifiably renown.

This is a lovely café with a relaxed atmosphere and good food at amazingly reasonable prices. The staff were very friendly and welcoming to the children, even going so far as to tactfully close a window between our table and some smokers outside. This part of Streatham High Road is gradually becoming a real alternative to Balham for dining out.

The Lawn  
Fulham Palace  
Bishops Avenue,  
Fulham SW6 6EA  
Tel: 020 7610 7160  
[www.fulhampalace.org](#)  
[www.thelawnrestaurant.co.uk](#)

Reviewed by Pascale Gravell

The secret is out. When our children were young, we so enjoyed Fulham Palace Gardens that I never tried very hard to write about it in Families, wanting to keep it secret; we played hide and seek and had numerous picnics in the secluded walled garden in particular. With the opening of a lovely restaurant right in the Palace, there's a country estate to be enjoyed by everyone right in the middle of Fulham.

Owned till the 1970s by the Bishop of London for over 1,300 years, imagine yourself in the Bishop's drawing room: you are deeply rooted in a comfy sofa, the floor boards are creaking and the children? They've had lunch with you but they are now playing outside, on the lawn, in your full view. Relax, unwind, read the papers, The Lawn is open for breakfast and afternoon tea as well as lunch and dinner. Due to tiny kitchens (soon to be extended) the a la carte menu is characterised by its use of the grill so everything is fresh.

We went for a family celebration and enjoyed beautiful sea bass, asparagus, fresh peas and pea shoots, mint and braised ham hock. Desserts were typical of a genteel restaurant: Eton mess, strawberries and cream! Starters from £5.50, mains £11-18.50. Private dining rooms available for private parties and family lunches. Warmly recommended.

The Cinnamon Club  
The Old Westminster Library,  
30-32 Great Smith Street, SW1P 3BU  
Tel: 020 7222 2555  
[info@cinnamonclub.com](#)

Reviewed by Helli Roberts

We dined at this elegant restaurant for my birthday treat - and what a treat! Located unassumingly in the old majestic Westminster Library where many of the books are still on shelves. It is open for breakfast (English and Indian), lunch and dinner.

This is fine dining Indian style - don't ask for a vindaloo or a poppadom here! Instead I recommend the Roasted Grouse with Pumpkin Pickle (£32), or Roasted Monkfish with Kadhai sauce (£26). The children had Organic rare breed pork loin with aromatic spices chilli and date sauce (£27), and Smoked saddle of Herdwick lamb with Chettinad spices and spinach poriyal (£24). Everything was superb and the service was helpful and attentive without being obtrusive. For starters we had Char-grilled swordfish with flash-fried chilli squid (£10), Bengali style grilled half lobster (£15), Baked chicken breast with peanuts and dried mango (£9), and Tamarind glazed tandoori fruits with passion fruit yoghurt (£7.50). For pudding we had Marinated berries in pomegranate jelly with champagne granite (£7.50), Buffalo milk 'Kulfi' with cardamom and nuts (£7.50), Warm chocolate mousse with white chocolate fondant and bitter chocolate ice cream (£8.50).

The fusion between high quality English seasonal produce and exquisite Indian spices and flavours is harmonious and heavenly!

The atmosphere was lively and vibrant and at 7.30pm on a Tuesday night no-one was the least concerned that Tilly (9) and Harry (11) were the only children diners. They loved it. Some children may find the food too spicy, so take advice from the staff. Two Cinnamon Club cookbooks are for sale too. Highly recommended. I can't wait for another opportunity for a treat.

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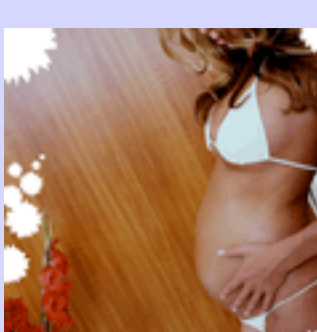
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