

The Best Restaurants in London 2022

We've rounded up the capital's finest eating establishments, from long-standing favourites to new openings ▶

By Laura Martin and Esquire Editors 13 Jun 2022



The Princess Royal

- ▶ **Cuisine:** Mediterranean
- ▶ **Location:** Notting Hill (47 Hereford Rd, W2 5AH)
- ▶ **Price:** ££
- ▶ **The Princess Royal reservations**

The idea of a good food-pub is nothing new, especially in London. But as the overall pub trade has gradually waned, the need to diversify with food has increased, and in turn we have more not-very-good food-pubs than ever. In fact, the number of really good food-pubs in London is low, so we can rejoice at the arrival of the Princess Royal in Notting Hill. Part of a surprisingly large stable of chic boozers (The Orange in Pimlico, the Thomas Cubitt in Belgravia and quite a few more), the Princess Royal serves a Mediterranean-skewed menu, via UK produce, courtesy of chef-director Ben Tish. When we visited, we took advantage of the raw bar (loads of ice, loads of crustacea) and ordered Cornish crab and pangrattato, followed by a brilliant warm chicken salad and perfectly cooked Florentine steak. The chips – oh boy, the chips! – were insane, and came with the kind of spikey aioli that renders all other sauces obsolete. And an honourable mention to the padron peppers, which might just be the best we've ever had.

A seasoned restaurateur (and someone fans of *Saturday Kitchen* will be well aware of), Tish has overseen a menu that confidently covers all the bases but doesn't overdo it. We're talking English burrata with blood orange and radicchio; whipped nduja and fennel biscuits, wild bream crudo, Dorset monkfish and Amalfi lemon & olive oil cake, to name but a few highlights. On Sundays there is porchetta – a sure-fire way to win at the roast – but you can order a mixed roast if indecision takes hold. (The pub's Instagram also alludes to a tallegio and nduja cheeseburger, which looks amazing, but sadly wasn't on the menu when we visited.) And when it all gets too much, you can decamp to the terrace, or even check in to one of the rooms upstairs.

cubittthouse.co.uk/the-princess-royal