
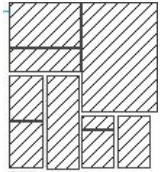


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**TABLETALK**

20 BEST SUNDAY LUNCH SPOTS

FOR ROASTS, RACKS, PUDS AND SPUDS

Has brunch had its day? Many restaurants are now switching back to the traditional Sunday roast at lunchtime. Call it a sharing plate, and the millennials will lap up what their grannies have been serving for generations. If your mouth is watering at the thought of all that juicy meat, **Lucinda O’Sullivan** has the definitive list of her 20 best Sunday lunches in the capital and nationwide

**DUBLIN**

**FX BUCKLEY**

You’re always assured of the best meat from this legendary butchering family. Sip on a Bloody Mary at the clubby new cocktail bar in its Pembroke Street branch, while choosing a whopping great steak or a lunch special — which includes the Sunday roast rib of beef with Yorkshire pudding, and all the trimmings, at €17.50. [fxbuckley.ie](http://fxbuckley.ie)

**GUINEA PIG**

French chef Jerome Fernande has put his own stamp on the Guinea Pig restaurant in Dalkey, with a cool, fresh brasserie feel and delicious French food to boot. Think *cassolete de morue* (cod casserole) followed by *boeuf bourguignon*

from his great-value Sunday-lunch menu. Two/three courses, €21.95/€25.95. [guineapigrestaurant.ie](http://guineapigrestaurant.ie)

**LOCKS**

There’s a slightly bohemian feel to Locks again. It’s the perfect spot for enjoying elegantly languid lunches (12pm to 4pm) while gazing at the swans drifting by on the Grand Canal. Connor O’Dowd and Paul McNamara’s ‘new Irish’ fare, includes a Sunday special main for two to share. Two/three courses, €30/€35. [locksrestaurant.ie](http://locksrestaurant.ie)

**MARCO PIERRE WHITE COURTYARD BAR & GRILL**

With a lovely leafy courtyard that’s perfect for enjoying a cocktail, the Marco Pierre White Courtyard Bar & Grill in Donnybrook is plush, with French tweaks.

A full a la carte menu is available, plus great-value Sunday-lunch specials with mains (€14.95 to €19.95) such as slow-cooked roast beef with Yorkshire pudding, Savoy cabbage and fondant potato.

[marcopierwhite.ie](http://marcopierwhite.ie)

### PEPLOE'S

Graham Dodrill is at the stove in Barry Canny's discreet, classy Peploe's, a bastion of good food. It has a new Sunday roast menu (12pm to 7.45pm) to make your mouth water. Go for fish, and give the Lambay Island crabmeat and radish salad a go, followed by pan-fried ray wing. Himself can have the roast *boeuf*. Two/three courses, €32.50/€38.50.

[peploes.com](http://peploes.com)

### ROLY'S BISTRO

Roly's Bistro in Ballsbridge has been serving up terrific Sunday lunches to the great and good since 1992, and is a top spot for people watching. Extensive choices include roast rib of beef, and their signature Kerry lamb pie, which has been on the menu since day one. Three-course lunch, €28.50 plus 10pc service charge.

[rolysbistro.ie](http://rolysbistro.ie)

### SEASONS RESTAURANT

Overlooking beautiful enclosed gardens at the plush five-star InterContinental Hotel, Seasons Restaurant has a new Sunday-lunch menu, by Chef Alberto Rossi, that's a steal. Start with grilled calamari and Italian-style stuffed sardines, and follow up with grilled black sole on the bone with prawn colcannon. Two/three-course lunch, €35/€40.

[intercontinentaldublin.ie](http://intercontinentaldublin.ie)

### THE LEGAL EAGLE

Groaning with atmosphere and *Rumpole of the Bailey*-types clutching their briefs, the big secret here is the Seriously Seventies Lunch on Sundays. Of course, you have to have the prawn cocktail

with real Dublin Bay prawns — none of those other cheapo substitutes will do. There's bread-and-butter pudding, too! One/two/three courses, €25/€29/€35.

[thelegaleagle.ie](http://thelegaleagle.ie)

### THE OLD SPOT

The Old Spot is a hip, hot gastropub on Bath Avenue in Sandymount, with the delightful general manager, Denise McBrien, in command on the floor. It's very handy for the Aviva, and great for late lunches too, as food is served on Sundays and bank holiday Mondays from 1pm to 8pm (lunch is from noon to 3pm on weekdays). Watch the movers and shakers chow down on roast beef with duck fat roasties or beer-battered fish 'n' chips. A la carte mains, €16.50-€31.

[theoldspot.ie](http://theoldspot.ie)

### WILDE

One of Dublin's most elegant settings, Wilde at the five-star Westbury Hotel, off Grafton Street, has a superb a la carte menu of seafood and grills; grains and vegetables; plus weekend specials (12.30pm to 5pm) including roast rib of beef, €29. Great cocktails in the hotel's Sidecar bar.

[doylecollection.com](http://doylecollection.com)

### COUNTRYWIDE

#### BRABAZON

The gorgeous Tankardstown, outside Slane, Co Meath, always reminds me of a French chateau, and, at its Brabazon restaurant, there's an excellent Sunday-lunch menu, with two/three courses,

**CLOCKWISE FROM MAIN:** Perrotts Garden Bistro, Hayfield Manor Hotel, Cork; Peploe's, St Stephen's Green, D2; Locks, Windsor Terrace, D8; The Bell Tower in Castlemartyr Resort in east Cork; The Legal Eagle, Chancery Place, D1; Seasons Restaurant, InterContinental Dublin, Ballsbridge, D4; Contents page: Marco Pierre White Courtyard Bar & Grill, Donnybrook, D4

€25/€30. Try confit pork belly with boulangere spuds.

[tankardstown.ie](http://tankardstown.ie)

### **JULES RESTAURANT**

Just across the road from Co Meath's amazing Trim Castle, a shooting location for the 1995 movie *Braveheart*, is Jules Restaurant at the Trim Castle Hotel, which has a great-value set menu (1pm to 4pm), including pan-fried Irish lamb cutlets with garlic crumb and colcannon. Two/three courses, €20/€30.

[trimcastlehotel.com](http://trimcastlehotel.com)

### **MACNEAN HOUSE**

Neven Maguire's fabulous MacNean House in Blacklion, Co Cavan, has just had the most sublime makeover, so snag a table for his brilliant Sunday lunch as quickly as you can. There's roast beef of course, but think also of guinea fowl, or maybe monkfish with pearl barley risotto. Sunday lunch, €48.

[nevenmaguire.com](http://nevenmaguire.com)

### **MCLAUGHLIN'S RESTAURANT**

Roast beef carved at your table is one of the great treats of Sunday lunch, and, at McLaughlin's Restaurant in the fabulous Castletroy Park Hotel in Limerick, a perfectly roasted striploin comes with Yorkshire pudding, herb mash and a red wine jus. Two/three courses, €25/€28.

[castletroypark.ie](http://castletroypark.ie)

### **THE MAIGUE**

The Maigne restaurant at the Murphy family's Dunraven hotel in Adare, Co Limerick, sets the bar when it comes to good service, and it's where the world-renowned chef, Michel Roux

Senior OBE, chose to dine recently, describing the hotel as "faultless". Carving roast rib of beef every night from the trolley, as well as ham for breakfast, its Sunday roasts are knockout. Three courses, €32 plus 12.5pc service charge.

[dunravenhotel.com](http://dunravenhotel.com)

### **MIKEY RYAN'S**

John Magnier's cool revamped old pub in Cashel, Co Tipperary, where Darren Quinlan, the new head chef, has been making his mark, also has a terrific terrace where you can bring your pooch. Sunday-lunch choices include beef and Guinness tart; arancini; roast sirloin, and roast lamb with all the trimmings. Try the pistachio layered cake.

Two/three courses, €24/€29.50.

[mikeeryans.ie](http://mikeeryans.ie)

### **PERROTTS GARDEN BISTRO**

Sunday lunch is served in a lovely conservatory atmosphere at Perrotts, part of Cork's five-star Hayfield Manor. Try green asparagus, endive and sauce *gribiche* to start, followed by roast Middleton leg of lamb with apricot stuffing. Four courses, €46.

[hayfieldmanor.ie](http://hayfieldmanor.ie)

## **THE BELL TOWER**

Overlooking the formal gardens at the splendiferous Castlemartyr Resort in east Cork, The Bell Tower never fails to impress. Kick off with Ballycotton smoked salmon, or ham hock and foie gras terrine, and follow up with roast sirloin and wild mushroom pithivier. Three-course lunch and coffee and petit fours, €37.50.

**[castlemartyrresort.ie](http://castlemartyrresort.ie)**

## **THE FOYLE HOTEL**

Donegal chef Brian McDermott has done a lot to raise the profile of good food in his home county. At his new hotel in Moville, food is a source of pride, and his superb Sunday lunch reflects this. If it's available, don't miss the pan-fried whole sole, curried cockles, capers, cucumber, and lemon-brown butter. Three courses, €25.

**[foylehotel.ie](http://foylehotel.ie)**

## **THE HOUND**

On the magnificent Mount Juliet Estate in Thomastown, Co Kilkenny, The Hound is the more casual dining option — a foil to the hotel's Michelin-starred Lady Helen Restaurant. The Sunday-lunch a la carte menu includes a whole roast chicken at €16.95, and roast rib of beef at €18.50.

**[mountjuliet.ie](http://mountjuliet.ie)** 

*lucindaosullivan.com*



