

## Fact Sheet

### Dubai: Dining Delights

Dubai offers a rich cultural mix of cuisines. The emirate boasts numerous restaurants and coffee shops providing a range of dining experiences, and its central position located at the gateway between East and West means that restaurants offer a diversity of cuisines and prices with virtually all tastes catered for, from classic European, through to traditional Gulf and Middle Eastern, and Pacific Rim cuisine.

From roadside vendors selling delicious *shwarmas* - meat cooked on a spit, topped with tahini and salad and served with pitta bread - to elegant Michelin star restaurants serving up gastronomic delights within luxury hotels, to street-side *sheesha* (hubbly bubbly) cafés and budget bites. Dubai truly has something for everyone.

#### Dubai's Cuisine

Dubai's traditional cuisine tends to be fairly simple but with local rustic influence such as *harees*, small pieces of meat and cracked wheat blended together like a stiff porridge; and *machboos*, a slow-cooked dish of rice, onions and meat seasoned with spices, salt and dried lemon. The emirate is a melting pot of different cultures and draws on the cuisine of other Arabian countries, such as Morocco with its rich tagines, Lebanon with its delicate pastries and falafel from Syria.

*Mezze* (starters or hors d'oeuvres) served in UAE restaurants comprises some of the following - *humus* (chick pea dip), *kibbe* (meat patties made from minced lamb, bulghur wheat and onions), *tabbuleh* (salad of couscous or bulghur wheat with diced tomatoes, onions, mint and parsley), *kussa mahshi* (stuffed courgettes), *warak enab* (stuffed vine leaves), *falafel* (chick pea patties), *fattoush* (finely chopped tomato, cucumber and lettuce salad), *mutabel* (similar to humus but made with aubergine).

Deserts are usually very sweet, and are frequently pastries filled with honey and nuts (*baklava*) or *Umm ali* is a bread pudding with raisins and nuts. Dates are also central to Dubai's cuisine.

#### Dubai's restaurants

Dubai's thriving culinary scene offers hundreds of restaurants many based in the emirate's luxury hotels, and the majority of which are licensed to sell alcohol, unlike those located outside of hotels. However, these independent outlets should certainly not be dismissed, as many are culinary delights in their own right.



Some of the world's culinary stars have moved into the Dubai market including:

#### **Gordon Ramsay - Hilton Dubai Creek**

Gordon Ramsay's understated and elegant *Verre* restaurant at the Hilton Dubai Creek is the epitome of fine dining and has been awarded three-Michelin stars - confirmation that Dubai has arrived as a world-class food destination. [www.hilton.co.uk/dubaicreek](http://www.hilton.co.uk/dubaicreek)

#### **Pierre Gagnaire - InterContinental Dubai Festival City**

Three-Michelin-starred chef Pierre Gagnaire made his mark on the global stage when his Parisian restaurant was named third best in the world by Restaurant magazine. To the delight of Dubai locals and visitors, he brings his inimitable style to Reflets by Pierre Gagnaire, located on the hotel promenade. The upscale menu boasts specialties the chef calls "multisensory hits," created by blending unexpected tastes and textures for a truly adventurous dining experience.. [www.intercontinental.com/dubai](http://www.intercontinental.com/dubai)

#### **Gary Rhodes - Grosvenor House**

Michelin starred British chef Gary Rhodes heads up *Rhodes Mezzanine*, which presents British classics with a French flair. Open since September 2007, the restaurant brings an unprecedented yet authentic English dining experience to the emirate. [www.grosvenorhouse-dubai.com](http://www.grosvenorhouse-dubai.com)

#### **Atlantis**

Atlantis The Palm, located on the Palm Jumeirah, opened its doors in 2008 offering a range of exquisite dining options from Michelin starred restaurants through to authentic Arabian cuisine.. With 17 restaurants, bars and lounges, Atlantis The Palm is a culinary destination from family friendly to fine dining. [www.atlantisthepalm.com/](http://www.atlantisthepalm.com/)

- **Nobu Matsuhisa - Nobu Atlantis**

The first Nobu restaurant in the Middle East is located at Atlantis Dubai, combining cutting-edge Japanese style with Arabian influences by world-renowned chef Nobu Matsuhisa.

- **Giorgio Locatelli - Ronda Locatelli**

Celebrity chef Giorgio Locatelli presents sophisticated trattoria-style Italian cooking from brick-oven pizzas and antipasto to delicate pastas. The restaurant boasts circular, family-style dining tables with all food is prepared in four centrally located wood-fired ovens.



▪ **Santi Santimaria - Ossiano**

*Ossiano* is the acclaimed Spanish chef, Santi Santimaria's, signature seafood restaurant. His cooking – often including dishes cooked in a traditional Catalan style – are simple yet sophisticated and dominated by his respect for the seasonality of food. This elegant restaurant features fine dining and contemporary Catalan-inspired cuisine, offering gourmet seafood and an enticing ambience in the underwater world of Atlantis The Palm.

▪ **Michel Rostang – Rostang - The French Brasserie**

Traditional French cuisine with a modern twist are brought to life under the watchful eye of double Michelin-starred restaurateur, Michel Rostang. This Parisian restaurant offers a patisserie and a large array of fresh seafood on display within the bistro. French traditional cuisine with a modern twist, with special features including a raw bar, i.e. superb oysters, shellfish, crayfish, truffle sandwiches.

### **Dining at Dubai Marina**

Marina living has become one of the most desirable and sought-after lifestyles in the world. And now, Dubai Marina provides visitors with the chance to sample life waterside amid Dubai's world-class hospitality offering. At the heart of the development is **The Walk** at Jumeirah Beach Residence which features a range of restaurants and cafes, so visitors can sample both local and international cuisine. Restaurants along The Walk include seafood restaurant **Blues**, shisha and coffee specialist **Chandelier**, al fresco eatery **La Movieda**, the European cuisine of **Inferno**, the stylish **Fashion Lounge** and the eclectic Turkish restaurant **Kosebasi**.

### **Fine Dining**

Dubai boasts some of the world's most sophisticated and refined fine dining experiences. It would simply be impossible to list all the fantastic restaurant offerings, but here are a few to give you a flavour of what's on offer in the emirate's burgeoning restaurant scene:

**Celebrities** at One&Only Royal Mirage is a landmark restaurant, offering a modern interpretation of Western and Middle Eastern fusion cuisine, with outstanding views over the Arabian Gulf.

**[www.oneandonlyresorts.com](http://www.oneandonlyresorts.com)**

**Vu's** at Jumeirah Emirates Towers Hotel is an award-winning favourite in the heart of the city. The restaurant serves the best in modern European cuisine in a stylish setting. Located on the 51<sup>st</sup> floor, Vu's has stunning panoramic views of Dubai's cityscape. **[www.jumeirahemiratestowers.com/dining/vus](http://www.jumeirahemiratestowers.com/dining/vus)**



**Almaz by Momo's** in Harvey Nichols at Mall of The Emirates has had fantastic reviews. Mourad Mazoouz brings a gourmet experience in a legendary North African-Maghrebian style of cuisine. [www.malloftheemirates.com](http://www.malloftheemirates.com)

### Arabian and Persian cuisine

Dubai's leading Arabian and Persian restaurants include:

- **Bastakiyah Nights** in Bur Dubai serves Middle Eastern cuisine and offers al fresco roof top dining as well as private dining rooms for groups of different sizes.
- **Shabestan at the Radisson Blu** offers a wonderful introduction into Persian cooking and has stunning views of the Creek. [www.radissonblu.com](http://www.radissonblu.com)
- **Shahzad** is located in the Hyatt Regency hotel and has a rich, traditional ambience. This Persian restaurant evokes enchantment and beauty. [www.dubai.regency.hyatt.com](http://www.dubai.regency.hyatt.com)

### Indian cuisine

There is a range of Indian restaurants offering filling thalis (the Indian equivalent of tapas), curries, dhals and freshly baked breads, served alongside an array of hot pickles, chutneys and chilli dips. Restaurants include:

- **Aangan** at the Dhow Palace Hotel not only serves fantastic food but is good value for money as well. [www.dhowpalacehoteldubai.com](http://www.dhowpalacehoteldubai.com)
- **Nina** at the One & Only Royal Mirage offers contemporary Indian cuisine in elegant surroundings. [www.oneandonlyresorts.com/royalmirage](http://www.oneandonlyresorts.com/royalmirage)
- Bollywood star Asha Bhosle's restaurant **Asha's** is at Wafi City Mall with fabulous Indian food, funky décor and a winter terrace. [www.waficity.com](http://www.waficity.com)
- While Michelin star chef Vineet Bhatia is a consultant at Grosvenor House's **Indego** restaurant. [www.grosvenorhouse-dubai.com](http://www.grosvenorhouse-dubai.com)

### Seafood

Top seafood choices include **The Aquarium** at the Dubai Creek Golf & Yacht Club ([www.dubaigolf.com](http://www.dubaigolf.com)) and **Fish Market** at the Radisson Blu Hotel, Dubai Deira Creek which sports a suitably aquatic vista of the Creek. [www.radissonblu.com/hotel-dubaideiracreek](http://www.radissonblu.com/hotel-dubaideiracreek)

### European

Dubai boasts an abundance of European restaurants. Italian is particularly prominent.

- **Rivington Grill** is located in the heart of Downtown Burj Dubai in Souk Al Bahar. Rivington Grill offers the best in British cuisine. [www.rivingtongrill.ae](http://www.rivingtongrill.ae)



- □ **La Moda's** plush setting in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Dubai Deira Creek and delicious Italian dishes make it the place to see and be seen. [www.radissonblu.com/hotel-dubaideiracreek](http://www.radissonblu.com/hotel-dubaideiracreek)
- □ **Andiamo** at the Grand Hyatt Dubai is a popular and colourful open-kitchen restaurant. [www.dubai.grand.hyatt.com](http://www.dubai.grand.hyatt.com)
- □ **Casa Mia** at Le Meridien Dubai is one of the emirate's most credible Italian dining experiences, well-known for its fresh ingredients and great service. [www.starwoodhotels.com/lemeridien](http://www.starwoodhotels.com/lemeridien)
- □ **Urbano** is an authentic Italian dining experience at the heart of Downtown Dubai that captures the spirit of Milan. [www.urbano.ae](http://www.urbano.ae)

### Far East

There are some magnificent restaurants with Far Eastern influences which include:

- **Hukama** in The Address Hotel offers a refined Chinese dining experience. [www.theaddress.com](http://www.theaddress.com)
- **Peppercrab** at the Grand Hyatt Dubai offers Singaporean cuisine and is one of the best places to eat seafood. The restaurant is opulent style is combined with friendly staff and outdoor seating. [www.dubai.grand.hyatt.com](http://www.dubai.grand.hyatt.com)
- **Zheng He's** at Madinat Jumeirah is a contemporary Chinese restaurant with a beautiful interior featuring one of the most stunning views of Dubai. [www.madinatjumeirah.com](http://www.madinatjumeirah.com)
- **Creekside** at the Sheraton Dubai offers Japanese cuisine. The restaurant has attracted a loyal following with its outdoor seating and good-value theme nights [www.sheratondubaicreek.com/dining/creekside](http://www.sheratondubaicreek.com/dining/creekside)
- **The Noodle House** entertains customers with live kitchens showing the chefs preparing South-East Asian food in five different locations in Dubai including Souk Madinat. [www.thenoodlehouse.com](http://www.thenoodlehouse.com)

### **Friday Brunch**

Brunch can range from fun-filled family buffet brunches, complete with table entertainers, face painters and kids' play areas, to gastronomic delights at leading gourmet restaurants.

- **Andiamo!** at Grand Hyatt [www.dubai.grand.hyatt.com](http://www.dubai.grand.hyatt.com)
- **Beachcombers** at Jumeirah Beach Hotel [www.jumeirah.com/Hotels-and-Resorts/Destinations/Dubai/Jumeirah-Beach-Hotel/](http://www.jumeirah.com/Hotels-and-Resorts/Destinations/Dubai/Jumeirah-Beach-Hotel/)
- **Focaccia** at Hyatt Regency [www.dubai.regency.hyatt.com](http://www.dubai.regency.hyatt.com)
- **Glasshouse** at Hilton Dubai Creek [www.hilton.co.uk/dubaicreek](http://www.hilton.co.uk/dubaicreek)
- **Latitude** at Jumeirah Beach hotel [www.jumeirah.com/Hotels-and-Resorts/Destinations/Dubai/Jumeirah-Beach-Hotel/](http://www.jumeirah.com/Hotels-and-Resorts/Destinations/Dubai/Jumeirah-Beach-Hotel/)
- **Legends** at Dubai Creek Golf Club [www.dubaigolf.com](http://www.dubaigolf.com)



- **Mediterraneo** at the Shangri-La hotel [www.shangri-la.com](http://www.shangri-la.com)

### **Cultural Considerations**

For the duration of the Holy Month of Ramadan guests should avoid drinking, eating and smoking in public areas during daylight hours, however the majority of international hotels and resorts serve food and drink during the day throughout this period. Eating areas may be screened off so as not to cause offence.

Pork and alcohol are not consumed by Muslims, however many restaurants still use them in dishes prepared for visitors and will highlight them on the menu.

Finally, locals tend to dine late in the evening, after 9pm, so visitors should plan dinner from around this time to enjoy the atmosphere.

