



RESTAURANTS

10 of Sydney's favourite places to dine out

Sydney

A multi-cultural city like Sydney has a plethora of international flavours to suit all budgets and tastes. The Spanish Quarter is between Liverpool and Kent streets in the city and is the best spot around for tapas, tostadas, tortillas or paella, washed down with a jug of sangria. Nearby Chinatown offers Chinese, Vietnamese, Thai, Korean and Japanese food. Head to Cleveland Street in Redfern for Lebanese and for Indian try South Dowling Street. There are also many ethnic restaurants on Crown and Bourke Streets in Surry Hills.

1 SWELL: head to Bondi Beach and take an early morning stroll along the spectacular cliff-top walk from Bondi to Bronte, where you can then take in the sun, sand and sea views at one of the many cafes that line the footpath beside the beach. This great little cafe beside Bronte Beach is perfect for a catch-up brunch with friends. 465 Bronte Rd, Bronte. Tel: (02) 9386 5001.

2 BAR ITALIA: we can thank the Italians for Sydney's great coffee. Head to Leichhardt for the real deal. Locals line up on the footpath for a table or a big cone of gelato. Try the iced coffee. 169 Norton St, Leichhardt. Tel: (02) 9560 9981.

3 DOYLES ON THE BEACH: a Sydney long-lunch institution. The views from this beachside restaurant are magnificent, as is the fresh seafood. 11 Marine Pde, Watsons Bay. Tel: (02) 9337 2007

4 THE BATHERS' PAVILION: great food and great views out through The Heads and over Middle Harbour. The restaurant and café, housed in an historic beach pavilion on the edge of the sand is a Sydney favourite. 4 The Esplanade, Balmoral. Tel: (02) 9969 5050

5 THE VICTORIA ROOM: this opulent baroque-style lounge, dining room and club bar is an icon of old-world style and class. Go for High Tea and treat yourself to dainty sandwiches, luscious sweets and traditional empire teas. Upstairs 235 Victoria Street, Darlinghurst. Tel: (02) 9357 4488.

6 GUILLAUME AT BENNELONG: inside the iconic Sydney Opera House, every seat in Guillaume at Bennelong has a stunning view. Go for a pre-show dinner or take your time over Guillaume Brahimi's divine food. Sydney Opera House, Bennelong Pt, Sydney. Tel: (02) 9241 1999.

7 LONGRAIN: some of Australia's best Thai food, dished out in a sleekly designed, converted warehouse. Communal dining is the go here, and no reservations are taken, so you may have to wait for a seat, but it's a great excuse to sample some of the magic muddled cocktails at the bar. 85 Commonwealth St, Surry Hills. Tel: (02) 9280 2888.

8 TETSUYA'S RESTAURANT: if you really want to splurge, this year Restaurant Magazine ranked Tetsuya's as the fifth best restaurant in the world. Tetsuya's Japanese meets French cuisine is unique, and the renowned 10-course degustation menu changes frequently. 529 Kent Street, Sydney. Tel: (02) 9267 2900.

9 ROCKPOOL: find out just why chef Neil Perry has become synonymous with fabulous culinary innovations, with either the five-course set menu or the decadent eight-course degustation. 107 George St, The Rocks. Tel: (02) 9252 1888.

10 SPICE AM: you can't beat this small hole in the wall restaurant legendary for its no-holds-barred, authentic Thai cooking for great value. 90 Wentworth Ave, Sydney. Tel: (02) 9280 0928.