

The Somerville Eating Out Guide

The restaurants listed below with an * are considered to be some of the "best" available in the local area. We have included most of these restaurants because they are known to us personally and are where we would choose to eat ourselves. Some are included because they are strongly recommended by other guests. **Advance reservations are strongly recommended at weekends and during the summer months.**

Increasingly, Trip Advisor reviews are available for restaurants and we would recommend that these are also looked at when making a choice. We would also strongly recommend that you leave reviews for others.

We have tried to be as accurate as possible and any comments are generally the product of our personal experiences at these restaurants. We do not claim infallibility.

* *No 7 - Speciality Fish Restaurant*

7 Beacon Terrace TQ1 3BH

01803 295055

www.no7-fish.com

Simply the best fish/seafood restaurant in the Bay and also our favourite. Informal and small with brisk, friendly service. Not a cheap option but very much value for money with the high quality fresh produce. Booking is absolutely essential all year round. The addition of the wine bar upstairs is worth a visit for the superb choice of wines.

* *Amici's – Italian*

29 Torwood Street, Torquay TQ1 1ED

01803 201770

www.amicitorquay.co.uk

Beautifully decorated, nice looking restaurant, with excellent young staff who understand about good service. We thought the food from the menu is perfectly acceptable but the specials are generally really good and so are a better bet. Reasonably priced and with a lovely buzz.

* *Bianco's – Italian*

38 Torwood Street, Torquay

01803 293430

<https://www.biancos.co.uk/>

Owned by the same people who own Amici's, this restaurant offers traditional trattoria style Italian food in enormous portions.

* *The Elephant Brasserie - Contemporary English*

Beacon Terrace TQ1 3BH

01803 200044

www.elephantrestaurant.co.uk

Run by a chef proprietor Simon Hulstone with 1 Michelin star rating. Brassiere style (open all year). One of the most expensive options in the bay, Prompt service and the sort of food you would expect to see in a top London restaurant. For those not worried about a budget. Look out for the guest chef evenings which are excellent.

* *Jungjaow Thai Restaurant*

39-41 Torwood Street TQ1 1DZ

01803 213631

<https://jungaowthai.com/>

Serving the usual wonderful Thai cuisine. Delicious Massaman curry and Pad Thai.

* *The Old Vienna – Austrian*

7 Lisburne Square, Torquay TQ1 2PT

Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday only

01803 380180

A three or four minute walk from the Somerville, this is a very small intimate restaurant run by a chef proprietor with a very big personality. Service and food are both superb. Some of the dishes are very Austrian, others a little more familiar to British palates. This little restaurant makes you feel very welcome, as well as the free Schnapps offered at the end.

* *Ephesus*

48 Torwood Street, Torquay, TQ1 1DT

01803 294466

Located on a very short walk from The Somerville, this restaurant has quickly gathered a very strong following amongst locals. The Greek and Turkish cuisine is tasty and varied and very well presented. The staff are enthusiastic and friendly, and the owner is welcoming and very eager to please. Lamb Kleftiko is truly amazing!!!

Harbour 16

16 Victoria Parade, TQ1 2BB

01803 914669

www.harbour16.co.uk

Fabulous steaks and a great Sunday lunch looking out over the harbour.

Eltons Piano Bar

4 Torwood Street, TQ1 1EB

01803 390729

www.eltonspianobar.com

A new bar just down the road from us and serving great cocktails. A fabulous atmosphere with the most talented of pianists - they will play anything of your choice if you ask. (Very nice nibbly sharing platters for two £35)

Pier Point

Torbay Road, TQ2 5LN

www.pier-point.co.uk

Adjacent to the marina, this is essentially a fish & chip restaurant overlooking the sea. Recently came first in Best Fish & Chip restaurants in the country. Not cheap but really excellent and large piece of cod or haddock.

Le Bistro Pierre

Abbey Sands, Abbey Crescent, Torquay. TQ2 5FB

01803 221213

www.lebistropierre.co.uk

Part of a small chain, this restaurant produces some remarkably good food for a very reasonable price. The upstairs restaurant has spectacular views across the bay. Service can be a little slow but the young staff seem genuinely eager to please. This is about a 15-minute walk from the harbour.

Las Iguanas

Unit 4, Abbey Sands, Ground Floor TQ2 5FB

www.iguanas.co.uk

On the Abbey Sands development and is part of a small chain of restaurants providing south American food. A national chain restaurant but good fun and pleasant atmosphere; excellent vegetarian/vegan options.

Saltwater Fish Restaurant and Takeaway

2 Victoria Parade, TQ1 2BB

01803 414142

www.saltwatertorquay.co.uk

Without a doubt the best Fish & Chips in Torquay centre, whether you sit and eat on the seafront or eat in the restaurant. Try the large cod if you hungry enough.

Ollie's

34-36 Torwood Street, TQ1 1EB

01803 297 177

www.olliesrestaurant.co.uk/

A contemporary steak restaurant serving quality beef from a Devon herd, and with a fabulous wine list. What's more it is only a short stroll from us.

BAR 21

Harbourside, Torquay

01803 293332

Informal bar serving good value tapas. If you want a view and a bite to eat this is the spot for you.

The Angel

South Embankment, Dartmouth TQ6 9BH

01803 316100

Recently re-opened with the new head chef Elly Wentworth (Masterchef 2016 runner-up) at the helm. Truly magnificent, but the evening menu is pricey. They also have a great lunch menu @ £25 for 2 courses but YOU WILL need a reservation! A must if you are Dartmouth area, or take the steam train to Kingswear then take in lunch, then return.

The Wild Goose

Combeinteighthead, TQ12 4RA

01626 872241

A lovely family-owned and run freehold country pub with a warm welcome. Fantastic fire in the winter and a pretty garden in the summer. Great food in a pretty Devon village - it's worth the drive down the narrow lanes to get to it.

Meat 59 - *Gastro style burger restaurant*

Abbey Road TQ2 5NQ

01803 431221

www.meat59.com

Won the accolade of best burger in the South West and down to the last six for best burger nationally. Worth a visit if you are a burger fan and as for the 'dirty fries' - delicious! Not the prettiest location (understatement) but great staff and always welcoming. Best table is sitting at the bar.

The Thatched Tavern – *Traditional pub*

(Maidencombe) Steep Hill Maidencombe TQ1 4TS

01803 372140

www.thethatchedtaverndevon.co.uk

A multi award winning pub, not least the national pub and bar awards' 'Best pub in Devon 2022'.

Prezzo – *Italian*

1 Vaughan Parade TQ2 5EE

01803 389525

www.prezzoplz.co.uk

National restaurant chain similar to Pizza Express and Ask. In a stunning former bank chambers on the harbour side. Quality of food and service generally OK but we thought it somehow fails to live up to the setting.

Otto Pizza Bar

www.ottotorquay.co.uk

A new trendy bar with outstanding view overlooking the harbour, Otto's serves brunch and the most outstanding pizzas after 3pm. And the cocktails are superb! Otto's doesn't take reservations - it's walk in only.

The Waddling Duck @ Hamiltons

63 Babbacombe Downs Rd TQ1 3LP

01803 203778

www.thewaddlingduckbistro.co.uk

In Babbacombe (1.5 miles away), owners Lydia and Russell (chef) are most welcoming and serve excellent English cuisine. Worth a visit by taxi.

The Drum – Pub food

Cockington Village TQ2 6XA8

01803 690264

www.vintageinn.co.uk/thedruminncockington

Recently refurbished - it needed it! - this is owned by Vintage Inns so it's the usual pub fayre. That said, it has a great location in the very heart of Cockington and overall it's been much improved.

Kents – Pub food

1 Ilsham Road (Wellswood) TQ1 2JG

01803 292522

www.thekentstorquay.co.uk

Wonderful pub located on the corner of the High St in Wellswood. Ideal if you want to be away from the hurly burly of the harbour area. Well run friendly pub with beer garden. Recently refurbished, this has seriously upped the quality of its food offering.

East in the West - Indian

01803 269875

eastinthewest.uk.com

Simply the best curry house in the whole bay producing quality cuisine at reasonable prices. If you fancy a decent curry somewhere this side of Paignton, take a cab here for a fiver - it's worth the fare! A second restaurant has just opened in Torquay, just down the road from The Somerville.

The Hole In The Wall – Torquay's oldest pub

6 Park Lane, Torquay, TQ1

01803 200 755

Great for bar snacks and a lovely pint even if the restaurant food is a little old fashioned. The Live Music after 9pm on Tues/Thu/Sun is a great evening out. What I would call a proper pub with excellent local Real Ales.

Below Decks – Harbour-side café

Beacon Quay, Torquay TQ1 2BG

01803 411106

Perfect for a light lunch overlooking the marina , cheerful staff and with a terrace overlooking the marina, my favourite is the Club Sandwich

Angels -The Best Tea Rooms

49 Babbacombe Downs, Torquay TQ1 3LP

01803 324477

This is a real treat. There is not a place in the Bay to match it for afternoon tea (or lunch). Homemade cakes and scones and locally made jams and breads will make this a memorable experience. Can get busy so really worth booking. The outdoor terrace is wonderful in summer.

Offshore – Café/Bar

13 Vaughan Parade Torquay TQ2 5EG

01803 292108

A very popular bar café and restaurant with a lovely harbour setting. Very chilled venue with live music most nights. Food has improved dramatically with a new chef - definitely worth a visit

Smokehouse Joes – American themed restaurant

64 Torwood Street, Torquay TQ1 1DT

01803 214444

www.cottoneyedjoes.co.uk

A themed American steakhouse serving steaks, ribs and burgers. On the downside the inside is a little dated; also there are very few vegetable options. Excellent if you just want steak and chips. (If you phone in advance they can do you jacket potatoes). Great 'Smoky Ribs' too.

The Cary Arms – Gastro Pub

(Babbacombe) Babbacombe Beach TQ1 3LX

01803 327110

www.caryarms.co.uk

Gastro pub in a truly stunning location on Babbacombe beach. Alfresco dining on the terrace in the summer is a must. A very popular choice, just five minutes drive away - but you need to get a taxi as parking is difficult. Quite expensive and opinions are divided between those who love it and those who don't. If for nothing else, it's a really fantastic spot for a drink early evening with the sunset.

Small World Tapas Bar - *Spanish*

01803 431010

Number 1 on Trip Advisor for restaurants in Torbay (something we have in common as we are number 1 for B&Bs!) Amazing choice of tapas in rather average location on Abbey Road. Really excellent cuisine and really worth a visit for a tapas or two. Plus, the chef comes up with the odd surprise for guests. Very much worth a visit.

Coombe Cellars - *Gastro Pub*

Combeinteignhead

01626 872423

www.coombecellars.co.uk

Gastro pub in the most delightful setting overlooking the River Teign. Lovely outside terrace for an afternoon snack looking down towards the estuary, or sit in the bar with the enormous fireplace during the winter months. Pub food at the top end of the scale. Note that the drive is down precarious Devon country lanes!

Rockfish

Torquay

01803 212175

Excellent position right on the harbourside, serving fish from Brixham. Owned by Michelin starred chef Mitch Tonk, who owns six of these fish restaurants. Reasonably priced despite haddock and chips being £22.95 - but unlimited chips and an enormous portion of haddock. Worth a visit.