

# 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

[www.no7-fish.com](http://www.no7-fish.com)

t: 01803 295055

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.

## \* *The Elephant Brasserie - Contemporary English*

Beacon Terrace TQ1 3BH

[www.elephantrestaurant.co.uk](http://www.elephantrestaurant.co.uk)

t: 01803 200044

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.

\* **The Orange Tree – *Traditional English***

14 Parkhill Road TQ1 2AL

www.orangetreerestaurant.com            t: 01803 213936

Listed by 'Les Routiers' - sweet romantic restaurant. An expensive option but service is not hurried and as such the evening will be leisurely experience and the atmosphere is relaxed. This intimate restaurant is simply made for special occasions.

\* **The Old Vienna – *Austrian***

7 Lisburne Square, Torquay TQ1 2PT

t: 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

t: 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!!!

\* **On The Rocks**

1 Abbey Crescent Torquay, TQ2 5HB

www.ontherocks-torquay.co.uk            t: 01803 203666

This restaurant has a sea front location next to the new Abbey Sands Development. The restaurant is stylish and modern and has excellent food. The menu changes regularly and there is a great use of local produce. They are producing some innovative dishes and bookings are essential. Simply the best mussels (from Elberry Cove, Brixham) in the bay.

**Le Bistrot Pierre**

Abbey Sands, Abbey Crescent, Torquay. TQ2 5FB

www.lebistrotpierre.co.uk            t: 01803 221213

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.lguanas.co.uk](http://www.lguanas.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.

### Jingles - *Tex-Mex*

34 Torwood Street TQ1 1EB

[www.jinglesrestaurant.com](http://www.jinglesrestaurant.com)

t: 01803 293340

A wide menu with huge portions – don't have a starter unless you are mega hungry! Food quality is perfectly adequate, on a par with some of the better pubs.

### Jasmines - *Thai*

(Paignton) Winner Street, Paignton TQ3 3BW

t: 01803 556656

Fifteen minutes drive away. Simply the best Thai food in the area. Informal restaurant which is not licensed so bring your own alcohol. Excellent value for money, but service can grind to a halt late on so go early – at about 6pm!! Ask for the "stink beans" (not on the menu) if you dare...

### Meat 59 - *Gastro style burger restaurant*

Abbey Road TQ2 5NQ

[www.meat59.com](http://www.meat59.com)

t: 01803 431221

Recently 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

[www.thethatchedtaverndevon.co.uk](http://www.thethatchedtaverndevon.co.uk)

t: 01803 329155

A 15 minutes drive away - beautiful thatched pub with restaurant in a country setting with above average pub food. Perhaps a little pricey for what it is.

### *Hanbury's – Fish and Chips*

(Babbacombe) Princes Street TQ1 3LW

[www.hanburys.net](http://www.hanburys.net)

t: 01803 314616

This fish and chip shop is a regular award-winner and the only place to go for traditional fish and chips. Parking is behind the restaurant which is a five minute drive/taxi journey away. Alternatively, Brixham has some excellent fish and chip shops (which are cheaper too).

### *Prezzo – Italian*

1 Vaughan Parade TQ2 5EE

[www.prezzoplz.co.uk](http://www.prezzoplz.co.uk)

t: 01803 389525

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.

### *The Drum – Pub food*

Cockington Village TQ2 6XA8

[www.vintageinn.co.uk/thedruminncockington](http://www.vintageinn.co.uk/thedruminncockington)

t: 01803 690264

Located in the very heart of Cockington, this potentially lovely pub has a slightly shabby chic feel and serves good value for money food. We have found it can be a bit average in quality, and service can be somewhat erratic.

### *Kents – Pub food*

1 Ilsham Road (Wellswood) TQ1 2JG

[www.thekentstorquay.co.uk](http://www.thekentstorquay.co.uk)

t: 01803 292522

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*

75 Torquay Road, Paignton, TQ3 2SE

[eastinthewest.uk.com](http://eastinthewest.uk.com)

t: 01803 269875

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!

### *Simla Spice – Indian*

39 Torwood Street, Torquay TQ1 1DZ

The best of our local Indian Restaurants and just a short walk away. This has some interesting and different dishes.

### *Pizza Express – Italian*

16 The Strand, Torquay TQ1 2AA

[www.pizzaexpress.co.uk](http://www.pizzaexpress.co.uk)

t: 01803 211525

National restaurant chain and OK if you want a straight forward pizza/pasta. The interior has just had a lovely make-over, making this a great choice for a relaxed and informal meal. Can be manic due to internet voucher offers.

### *The Hole In The Wall – Torquay's oldest pub*

6 Park Lane, Torquay, TQ1

t: 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

t: 01803 411106

OK for a light lunch, snack or latte overlooking the harbour. Best Club Sandwich in Torquay! Located near the Living Coasts attraction.

### *Pier Point - Contemporary bistro style cuisine*

Torbay Road, Torquay TQ2 5HA

t: 01803 299935

Perfect location on the promenade. This restaurant can produce some stunning food and the young chefs obviously take pride in what they do. The 'specials' are particularly fine. Service from the young staff can perhaps be frustratingly casual, but it is well meaning.

### *Wellies - Café bar and Bistro*

21 Ilsham Road, Torquay, Torbay TQ1 2JG

t: 01803 200307

A charming and extremely friendly establishment in the heart of "Wellswood Village". Menu can be a little static but the daily specials make up for that. Food and service both really good. Wednesday night is two rump steaks and a bottle of wine for £25 - bargain!

### *Angels -The Best Tea Rooms*

49 Babbacombe Downs, Torquay TQ1 3LP

t: 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.

### *Amici's – Italian*

29 Torwood Street, Torquay Tq1 1ED

[www.amicitorquay.co.uk](http://www.amicitorquay.co.uk)

t: 01803 201770

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.

### *Offshore – Café/Bar*

13 Vaughan Parade Torquay TQ2 5EG

t: 01803 292108

A very popular bar café and restaurant with a lovely harbour setting. Very chilled venue with live music most nights. Food quite acceptable without being outstanding.

### *Smokey Joes – American themed restaurant*

64 Torwood Street, Torquay TQ1 1DT

[www.smokeyjoestorquay.co.uk](http://www.smokeyjoestorquay.co.uk)

t: 01803 214444

A themed American restaurant serving simply the best steaks in town. 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

[www.caryarms.co.uk](http://www.caryarms.co.uk)

t: 01803 327110

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.

### *Bianco's – Italian*

38 Torwood Street, Torquay

Owned by the same people who own Amici's, this restaurant offers traditional trattoria style Italian food, again in enormous portions, and worth a visit with a voucher (we often have one behind reception), or ask for the set menu including a bottle of wine.

### *Small World Tapas Bar - Spanish*

t: 01803 431010

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

[www.combecellars.co.uk](http://www.combecellars.co.uk)

t: 01626 872423

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.