



At these



PETER MCGUIRE

Order judiciously and you can eat deliciously for less, in restaurants from Dublin, to Cork, Galway and Athlone

NOT SO long ago, a cheap meal meant an early bird dinner, and home not long after 7pm. But restaurants have been forced to massively adapt over the past year, and a growing number are now offering great value lunches and dinners right through the day. Whether going for a quick bite, casual dining, or upper end, there are simply too many good deals around to justify paying over the odds: it's become ludicrous not to get a good deal on your dinner.

ALL NIGHT EARLY BIRD in Fallon and Byrne

An all-night early bird offering two courses for €24 or three for €28.81, running from Monday to Friday, and with one sitting on Saturday at 6pm. The average savings are €3-€5, although one option – terrine of monkfish and salmon for starter, followed by a delicious cut of aged rib-eye with chips, leaves, and bearnaise sauce – will keep more than €6 in your wallet. Every detail is catered for here: the food is consistently impressive, the atmosphere is buzzing, and the customer service is impeccable. There's a very clear sense that this place respects its diners. I once gently pointed out that my very tender and flavoursome steak wasn't quite the medium rare I'd ask for; they insisted on taking the wine off the bill.

First Floor, 11-17 Exchequer Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 472 1010. Web: fallonandbyrne.com

SUNDAY LUNCH in The Exchequer

Roast chicken or pork for four people, with stuffing, mash,

Two courses for €24 or three for €28.81



HONOURABLE MENTIONS

BRASSERIE ONE RESTAURANT
Two courses for €20, three courses for €25.

CAFE BLISS
Early bird: two courses plus tea or coffee for €9.95.

GREEN 19
All mains for €10.

SOL RIO
Set menu: two courses for €21.95, three courses for €25.95.

CUPAN TAE
Generous afternoon tea, served on fine china, for €12 per person.

RESTAURANT PATRICK GUILBAUD
Two courses for just €36, three courses for €48.

CHAPTER ONE (below)
One of the best and most popular pre-theatre menus in Dublin.



prices, it really is good to share

roasties, roast vegetables, gravy, and a bottle of house wine for €39.95

Roast dinner for four + wine for €39.95

bag-standard pub carvery would cost the same or more, but this is no pub carvery: cooked to order, an entire joint is brought to your table to carve...

3-5 Exchequer Street, Tel: 016706787

ALL NIGHT EARLY BIRD at The Larder

The "pre theatre" deal - two courses for €16 - runs all night, seven days a week.

Two courses for €16. Seven days

8 Parliament Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6333581

DINNER in Hillan

In the heart of Dublin's unofficial Chinatown, Hillan is one of the city's best Chinese restaurants.

Chinese banquet for two: this place is all about the grill. For €39.80 between two people...

Chinese banquet for two: this place is all about the grill. For €39.80

34 South William Street, twitter.com/crackbird

you can make a very cheap evening of it. Flawless service and a lively, buzzing atmosphere seal the deal...

45 Capel Street, Tel: 018748677

LUNCH in One Pico

If you have an afternoon off work, or if you're struggling to make ends meet but fancy an indulgent treat...

Three courses Bib Gourmand €25

5-6 Molesworth Place (off Molesworth Street), Schoolhouse Lane, Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6760300.

FREE FOOD Tweetsats at Crackbird

In itself, fried chicken restaurant Crackbird isn't amazingly good value: the prices are around average at €9.95 for a half chicken or €17.95 for a full chicken.

81-82 Talbot Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 7040126.

Main and sides for three people, under €30

129 Upper Lesson Street, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Tel: 01 6688793

TOASTED BUNS at Gourmet Burger Kitchen

The full-price burgers aren't

BURRITOS at Pablo Picante's

Burritos: cheap, filling, and just the right point between fast food and a decent sit-down meal.

Burritos €5.95

2 Clarendon Market, Dublin 2 (sit-in or take out) and 131 Baginbun Street (take-out with a few bar stools), Dublin 2.

OLD RELIABLES at Le Bon Crubeen

Steak, chips, and salad for €13.50. Bangers and mash for €10.

Steak, chips and salad for €13.50

GREEK ADVENTURES at Kestik Cafe

Bring your own bottle with no corkage to this tiny Greek/Mediterranean eatery.

Meal for two between €15 and €20

16 Lancaster Quay, Cork. Tel: 021 427 79 39.

Buy two burgers and fries, get a third free

amazingly good value, but GBK runs very attractive monthly offers via its website to anybody who signs up for a twice monthly email.

Match days aside, when Sober Lane can get horribly crammed, this place serves some of the simplest and best pub food in Ireland.

PIZZAS AND PITCHERS in Sober Lane

Match days aside, when Sober Lane can get horribly crammed, this place serves some of the simplest and best pub food in Ireland.

Pizza and pitcher of beer/wine/cocktails €20

EARLY BIRD at Cafe Paradiso

Denis Cotter's Cork restaurant isn't just the best vegetarian in Ireland, it's also one of the best restaurants in Ireland, and it will excite you about the possibilities of vegetarian cuisine.

Early bird: two courses €23 or three courses €29

Dine in Dublin starts today and runs for the next seven days (until October 30th). It will see some of the city's best restaurants offering special promotional rates of €15, €20, €25 or €30 per person for a three-course dinner menu.

Dublin deals



SEA SIDES at McDonagh's

A Galway institution, McDonagh's is almost as old as the sea itself.

Starter, main, glass of wine, and tea or coffee for €19.95

22 Quay Street, Galway. Tel: 081 565 001. Web: mcdonaghs.net

EUROPEAN AGENDA at The Left Bank Bistro

Athlone is well served by restaurants, including Kin Khao (Thai), the Olive Grove (bistro) and the more upmarket Wine Port.

Two courses for €20. Three courses for €25

Fry Place, Athlone, Co. Westmeath. Tel: 090 6494446. Web: leftbankbistro.com

Peter McGuire blogs at Cheapsteaks.ie

Dine in Dublin starts today and runs for the next seven days (until October 30th). It will see some of the city's best restaurants offering special promotional rates of €15, €20, €25 or €30 per person for a three-course dinner menu.