

2night

magazine



freetimeguide

DUBLIN

DECEMBER 2010

food fight!

30 great restaurants for Christmas



Welcome

to the December issue of our magazine. We're stuffed like a Christmas turkey this issue with features, events and the discerning reviews you've come to expect from 2night. For our special feature this month, we're sizing up 30 great places to enjoy a special meal with family or friends. Along with great food - that's a given - 2night has selected places that offer a particularly interesting experience or an atmosphere that's worth venturing out in the cold for. Check them out on page 4. Of course, if you are venturing out, you'll find it worth your while this month - there are plenty of great gigs from Irish and international legends, while several promising up-and-comers are also playing. You can find out all about these gigs - along with special club nights, exhibitions, and other interesting events - on page 18. And if you fancy the cinema, we've still got your back: our sharp-tongued film buffs have parsed through the month's major releases on page 14. This mag even gives you something - indeed, lots of things - for nothing - with great competitions on page 16. Whether you fancy a ride on the Dublin Wheel, a VIP night to see Pete Tong at The Wright Venue, a hamper of chocolatey treats from the Sweetest Thing or a nice meal at Havana Tapas Bar, you'll find it at 2night! Of course, there are even more great competitions on our website, along with many more venue reviews, up-to-the-minute event listings, and interesting interviews. Just log on to 2night.ie to get the inside scoop, always.



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Best of Dublin
 Where to eat, drink and party in Dublin.



AFTER WORK

from after work to late night, find the perfect spot to spend your evening

EVENTS

an events calendar with daily listings of parties, concerts, exhibitions and more, keeping you in the know about what's on in your area

PEOPLE: COMMUNITY

meet other night-life enthusiasts keen on making the most of the night



your guide to restaurants, venues and events in your city



Food fight!

*2night rounds up
30 great restaurants
for Christmas*

'Tis the season to be jolly – and to catch up with family and friends over drinks or dinner, of course. While we spoke to Dublin's best pubs and bars in our last issue, this month, we've decided to devote some time to people in search of a great experience eating out, surveying 30 of the city's best restaurants.

But what makes a restaurant ideal for that special dinner with family and friends? It's hard to pin down. Good food and service are a must, of course, and any places we considered had to deliver on this. But to make a meal truly special, a venue has to have a certain x-factor – an exciting quirk or a particularly winning atmosphere – that ensures you feel spoiled.

The 30 restaurants we've picked have this quality in spades – they're fun, welcoming, interesting or a mix of all three. Of course, we know that this is subjective, and many of our readers will have their own favourite places to go. That's why we're inviting you to log on to 2night.ie – there, you can comment on these and many other venues in the city, and even send us your hot tips. There's no reason why anyone needs to have a middling meal out this Christmas.

FOODIE



Name: **Andrew Dennehy**
Age: **32**
2night username: **Lothaar**

What, for you, makes a great meal out?

Value is the number one contributing factor for a great meal. 'Price' is not necessarily an indicator of value: €20 for three courses of slop does not equal value. I'd happily spend €200 if I get my money's worth. I want good food, attentive-not-intrusive service and a decent atmosphere. One of the best meals I ever had was in the Hilton Cavalieri in Rome, costing €300 for two. On the flipside, another of the best meals I've had cost €45 for two in the Thai Garden in Blanchardstown. As Warren Buffett says: "Price is what you pay, value is what you get."

What's your favourite restaurant in the city, and why?

Currently, it's Shanahan's on the Green – specifically the €45 early bird. Three courses of heaven. Really basic traditional dishes, such as mussels, fillet mignon and chocolate fondant, executed to perfection. The room is opulent and the atmosphere is perfect.

What dish or restaurant is your 'guilty pleasure'?

I don't have a 'guilty' pleasure! I'm a midweek regular at the Thai Garden in Blanchardstown, which has an early bird starting from €17.95 for three courses. I generally end up licking my plate clean and forking out only €50 for a family of four, without feeling guilty in the slightest.

have your say
2NIGHTERS AND THEIR NIGHTLIFE

EXPERT



John Shanagher
Head Chef, Pacino's, Suffolk Street

What's the secret to good food?

The ingredients, the method in which you use them, how you handle them, the seasoning and your foundation – the foundation in which you were brought up. If you start slowly and you learn, and you continue this process over a number of years, you understand how the ingredients come together, why they belong together, and how you're using them.

Of the dishes at Pacino's, what's your favourite dish?

I've only been here for a short amount of time – to say that right now would be very difficult.

Where in Dublin do you like to eat out?

I really don't do it as often as I'd like to. If I'm working, I don't have time. If I'm not, I don't have the dough! I wouldn't choose a place – I'd choose the chef.

This is only a small part of our interview with John – log on to 2night.ie to read it all!

BAR PINTXO

12, Eustace Street -
Dublin 2
Tel: 016728590

The cosy, candle-lit surroundings here immediately remind you of similar bars in Bilbao – a far cry from some of the paddy-whackery in Temple Bar. As the name suggests, this place specialises in Pinxtos, the more informal Basque take on classic Spanish tapas, though you'll still find staples like patatas bravas and a fine paella.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 17:00 (12:00 Saturday, 12:30 Sunday) to 21:30 (00:30 Friday and Saturday, 23:30 Sunday).

BUENOS AIRES GRILL

Castle Way, Golden
Lane - Dublin 8
Tel: 014759616

For too long, Dublin diners have been denied the rich flavours of Argentina, but Buenos Aires Grill's menu is packed with dishes from the pampas. We'd be quick to recommend both the Argentine fish stew and the half rack of lamb with minted wine jus, though there are vegetarian options too, lots of steak choices, and plenty of South American wines.

Opening hours: Open Monday to Saturday. Lunch served from 12:00 to 15:00, dinner from 17:00 to late.

CAFÉ MANILA

14, Middle Abbey
Street - Dublin 1
Tel: 018729573

Filipino cuisine is a veritable melting pot, a fact reflected in the menu of this unique restaurant. Though the Malaysian flavours are the first things you'll notice, there are influences from Spain to America with many countries in between. There's a casual layout here, and the food is informal – stews, stir-fries and similar Filipino staples are all excellent.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 10:00 to 22:00 (20:00 Monday to Wednesday).

DARWIN'S

80, Aungier Street -
Dublin 2
Tel: 014757511

Since setting up in a new, larger home, the original home of 'evolutionary food' has been winning plenty of people over with classic Irish steaks, seafood dishes and more creative efforts. The lamb plate, featuring a char grilled half rack and roasted eye fillet marinated in garlic and rosemary and served with a mint jus, is the menu's highlight. A lengthy, well-chosen wine list also stands to the place.

Opening hours: Open Monday to Saturday, from 17:00 to late.

EL BAHIA

37, Wicklow Street -
Dublin 2
Tel: 016770213

One of Dublin's only Moroccan restaurants, El Bahia goes all-out in its decor to conjure up images of a bazaar you'll probably never see for yourself. Crucially, effort has also gone into the menu, which is full of rich, hearty tagines and intriguing flavours. Prices are on the reasonable side, with the most expensive main course weighing in at €20, and there's even a little Kasbah upstairs.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 17:00 to 22:00.

EDEN

Meeting House
Square - Dublin 2
Tel: 016705372

Even if it didn't offer some great continental and Irish bistro cuisine, Eden would merit a mention for its excellent location looking onto probably the nicest civic square in the city. The seasonally changing menu has dishes drawn from across European traditions, with a few Irish recipes too.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week. Lunch and brunch served from 12:30 (12:00 Saturday and Sunday) to 15:00, dinner from 16:00 to 22:30 (22:00 Sunday to Tuesday).

FIRE

Mansion House, Dawson
Street - Dublin 2
Tel: 016767200

Everything about this restaurant is designed to impress, from the Mansion House location to the impressively high eighteenth-century ceiling and grandiose décor. The menu is similarly audacious: you don't just get a cut of lamb, you get '10 day aged Wexford lamb rump' – and a very fine rump it is, too.

Opening hours: Open Monday to Saturday. Lunch served from 12:00 to 15:00, dinner from 17:30 (17:00 Thursday to Saturday) to 22:00.

GEORGE'S WINE BAR AND BISTRO

29, South Frederick
Street - Dublin 2
Tel: 016797000

In addition to a successful renovation, George's Wine Bar and Bistro has gone from being pricey place to eat into one of the best value restaurants in the area – you'll be hard pressed to find as much variety in this price bracket elsewhere, and there's something on the cosmopolitan menu to suit any taste.

Opening hours: Open Monday to Saturday, from 07:30 to 23:00 (01:00 Thursday, 02:00 Friday and Saturday).

IL POSTO

10, Stephen's Green -
Dublin 2
Tel: 016794769

A high-end Italian with an atmospheric underground dining room and attentive service on the Green – it's a recipe for success, and Il Posto has deservedly enjoyed 12 fruitful years. Along with the popular fe-gato (lamb's liver), the polpetta (beef meatballs with a spicy pepper sauce) come highly recommended. You can also dine al fresco on warmer days.

Opening hours: Open Monday to Saturday. Lunch from 12:00 to 14:30, early dinner from 17:30 to 19:00, dinner from 17:30.

JUST OFF FRANCIS

78, Thomas Street -
Dublin 8
Tel: 014738807

Just off Francis is pitched perfectly at discerning but definitely not loaded visitors to Thomas and Francis Street. Along with gourmet sandwiches, pastas and salads of varying complexity, the menu is centred on hearty dishes that stimulate without lightening the wallet too much. A selection of pies, fine Italian sausage, and sliders make great fuel for a night out.

Opening hours: Open Monday to Saturday, from 11:00 to 23:00 (21:00 Saturday).

KOH

7, Jervis Street -
Dublin 1
Tel: 018146777

Between a packed dining room (the modern Thai menu ticks many boxes for both novices and experts in Asian food) and a cracking cocktail bar, there's an enjoyable atmosphere here, particularly when one of their cocktail making classes – which can be combined with an evening meal – is taking place.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week. Lunch served from 12:00 to 17:00, dinner from 17:00 to 23:00 (22:30 Sunday and Monday, 23:30 Friday and Saturday). Late cocktail bar.

LA DOLCE VITA

5, Music Hall, Cow's
Lane - Dublin 2
Tel: 017079786

This charming but modern-looking place only opened its doors in January and has already impressed diners. La Dolce Vita is a great spot for a light meal, with traditional Italian cheeses, salami, grilled vegetables, authentic Italian sauces, crostini, biscuits, and melted chocolate bars all tempting the senses. The décor is also cool and modern.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 08:30 (10:00 Sunday) to 23:00 (01:00 Friday).



L'GUELETON
5, Fade Street -
Dublin 2
Tel: 016753708

One of the first genuinely affordable places in the city to take food really, really seriously, L'Gueleton has done rather well in recent years. There's all the typical French fare on offer – snails, foie gras, French onion soup and Toulouse sausages – in a rustic bistro setting. Intimate lighting also helps make this a popular spot for dates and get-togethers.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 12:30 (13:00 Sunday) to 22:00 (21:00 Sunday).



SABA
26, Clarendon Street -
Dublin 2
Tel: 016792000

Executive chef Taweesak Trakoolwattana (who has previously cooked for the king of Thailand) continues to wow diners at this still-hip Thai eatery. The menu has treats for adventurers and more conservative tastes alike, from black pepper squid to tempura vegetables. If you fancy lingering, the cocktail bar up front has won a few awards of its own, and the sake mojito is a great twist on a Dublin staple.

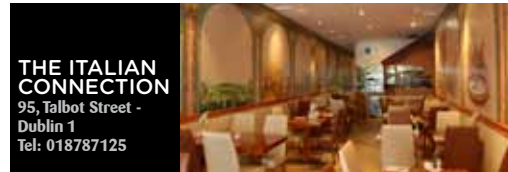
Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 12:00 to late.



THAI ORCHID
7, Westmoreland Street -
Dublin 2
Tel: 016719969

The location and welcoming setting would make this place a firm favourite with Dubliners even if the food wasn't up to much. Happily, it is – between staples like the pad thai, and more esoteric dishes including Neud Tod Krob (fried crispy beef in a honey chilli sauce with cashew nuts), there's plenty of tasty fare to satisfy lovers of Thai cuisine.

Opening hours: Open Monday to Saturday. Lunch from 12:00 to 15:00, dinner from 17:00 to late.



THE ITALIAN CONNECTION
95, Talbot Street -
Dublin 1
Tel: 018787125

Disproving the notion that good Italian restaurants must be either severe or pricey, this family-run establishment has atmosphere, value and a menu rich in popular dishes. The veal escalope stands out, but there's a broad range of meat, pasta and pizza dishes to choose from. There are daily specials on offer too, and an early-bird menu is great value.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 08:00 (10:00 Sunday) to 22:00.



LUIGI MALONE'S
5, Cecilia Street -
Dublin 2
Tel: 016792723

This Temple Bar restaurant enjoys a near-constant buzz, proving that an establishment doing good food in informal surroundings can still thrive. Luigi Malones offers a range of international dishes (with a particularly Mediterranean focus) and some Irish staples too, with highlights including the pizzas and the tequila and lime fillet steak fajitas.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 12:00 (13:00 Sunday) to 23:00 (21:00 Sunday).



SALON DES SAVEURS
16, Aungier Street -
Dublin 2
Tel: 014758840

Conrad Gallagher's latest venture has an innovative, concept: a selection of four tasting menus, ranging from €24 right up to €54, are on offer with shared themes and ingredients through each course. Though there are lunch and early bird menus, enjoying dishes so carefully chosen to complement each other is the real attraction.

Opening hours: Open Monday to Saturday. Lunch from 12:30 to 14:30 (extra sitting Friday at 16:00). Dinner from 17:00 to 22:00.



THE ANGLER'S REST
Strawberry Beds,
Knockmaroon Hill -
Co Dublin
Tel: 018208314

Set by the picturesque village of Chapelizod, this restaurant has a warm atmosphere and an authentic, traditional feel. The ground floor is a homely bar layout while, upstairs, there's a sleeker dining room, with creams and elegant wooden furniture dominating. The seafood is superlative.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 12:00 to 21:00 (22:00 Thursday to Saturday). Bar open to 23:30 (23:00 Sunday).



THE MONGOLIAN BBQ
7, Anglessea Street -
Dublin 2
Tel: 016704154

The concept behind this restaurant – a buffet service, where you pick and choose a bowl of meats, vegetables, spices and sauces, before watching the ingredients cooked up in front of you – makes it ideal for parties. The all-you-can-eat dinners are available from €15.99.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 12:00 to late. Early bird menu from 18:00 to 19:00 (16:30 to 18:30 Friday and Saturday).



MARCO PIERRE WHITE STEAKHOUSE
51, Dawson Street -
Dublin 2
Tel: 016771155

One of very few 'celebrity chef' restaurants to really take flight in this city, Marco Pierre White's steakhouse has a simple formula for survival: great food. The steak is as tantalizing as you'd expect, and there's now a rich menu of meat-based mains and seafood cooked perfectly – the calf's liver and halibut are delights. Well-drilled service also helps.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 12:00 to 23:00 (00:00 Friday and Saturday).



TANTE ZOE'S
1, Crow Street -
Dublin 2
Tel: 016794407

Dublin's favourite Cajun-Creole restaurant is celebrating 21 years of dishing out spicy, exotic treats in 2010. They've even added some star power, recruiting Momma Cheri as their head chef, though the menu still contains classic Cajun and deep south dishes from gumbos and jambalayas to southern fried chicken, along with more mainstream steaks and seafood.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week. Lunch served from 12:00 to 18:00, dinner from 18:00 to 00:00.



THE DARK HORSE INN
1, George's Quay -
Dublin 2
Tel: 016751862

Professional chefs add culinary élan to this beautifully-renovated bar. The menu is particularly strong at lunchtime, where Irish favourites and a selection of international dishes are served by welcoming staff in a warm atmosphere. A new continental breakfast buffet is also very handy for busy early starters.

Opening hours: Open Monday to Saturday, from 07:30 (19:30 Wednesday and Thursday) to 23:30 (00:30 Friday and Saturday).



THE MILLSTONE
39, Dame Street -
Dublin 2
Tel: 016799931

This place still bears the Victorian facade of Lucky Coady's, an old-time lottery ticket shop, but has been utterly transformed inside into a romantic sister restaurant to the Miller's Pizza Kitchen on Baggot Street. There's a mixed menu of pizzas, plus Irish and Mediterranean dishes.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week. Brunch from 10:30 to 12:00 (16:00 Saturday and Sunday). Lunch from 12:00 to 18:00, dinner from 18:00 to 23:00 (23:30 Saturday).

THE WINDING STAIR

40, Ormonde Quay -
Dublin 1
Tel: 018727320



The emphasis at this fine little restaurant here is on good Irish food with organic direction, which has earned the restaurant a deserved 'Bib Gourmand' (an award given to high-quality but relatively affordable restaurants) from the Michelin guide. There's a beautiful view over the Liffey if you can reserve a window seat too.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week. Lunch from 12:00 to 15:00, Monday to Sunday, Dinner from 17:30 to 22:30, Monday to Saturday.

TIPPENYAKI

39, Castlewood
Avenue - Dublin 6
Tel: 014979463



Tippenyaki roughly translates as 'grilled on an iron plate', which seems inadequate for describing the barbeque-as-spectacle that this restaurant specialises in. Quite aside from the pleasure of watching your food being prepared with considerable flair, it's actually pretty tasty once it reaches you too.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week. Lunch served Monday to Friday from 12:30 to 15:00, dinner from 18:00 (16:00 Saturday and Sunday) to 22:00.

TOWN BAR AND GRILL

21, Kildare Street -
Dublin 2
Tel: 016624800



Set in the old cellars of Mitchell's Wine Merchants, Town has a wonderfully intimate atmosphere for a 100-seater dining room and an exceptional menu of fresh and hearty New York influenced Italian fare. Try the rib-eye or the monkfish fillet for a real treat. Live jazz on Sundays adds to the atmosphere.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week. Lunch served from 12:30 to 15:00 (17:30 Friday to Sunday), dinner from 17:30 to 23:00 (22:00 Sunday).

UKIYO

7-9, Exchequer Street
- Dublin 2
Tel: 016334071



Sushi, a late night bar, and karaoke - Ukiyo offers the stereotypical Japanese night out. Diners wary of raw fish will find a few dishes to suit (Bul Go Gi, or pan-fried striploin with mixed vegetables, is good) but you'll have a better night if you throw yourself in head-first, choosing from the Nigiri sushi menu and sampling the original cocktails.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 12:00 to late. Main menu served all day. Karaoke runs until 02:30.

WRIGHTS CAFE BAR

The Plaza, Forster
Way - Co Dublin
Tel: 018406744



For a venue with such a modern look and feel, this café bar has remained mercifully laid-back. There's a fine menu at lunch and in the evening, with the focus on Irish dishes and good comfort food - the spicy chicken and chorizo stew is worth a try, though, if you're feeling a bit adventurous. A lengthy cocktail menu is great for keeping your meal well-lubricated.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 12:00 to 02:30 (23:30 Monday, 01:00 Sunday).

WRIGHTS FINDLATER HOWTH

Findlater House,
Howth Road - Co
Dublin
Tel: 018384488



The upstairs restaurant of this renovated pub feels like an oasis of fine dining in a village dominated by chip shops. As you can imagine, fish features prominently on the menu - the Findlater Fish Pie and Chowder are specialties, though there are plenty of steaks and other dishes that appeal to landlubber tastes too.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 12:00 to 23:30 (02:30 Friday and Saturday, 23:00 Sunday).



GET CLOSER TO THE STARS THIS CHRISTMAS RIDE THE DUBLIN WHEEL

A striking addition to the new Point Village, the Dublin Wheel has been delighting docklanders and visitors since opening this summer. The massive wheel offers stunning views over the city, along with the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains, and boasts 42 fully-enclosed pods that seat up to eight people. There are even VIP pods for added luxury on special occasions! Adults can enjoy the Dublin wheel experience for €9, with senior citizens and student tickets available for €7. Children from four to 16 can ride the wheel for €6.50, it's only €1 for a toddler from one to three years old, and babies under 12 months get in free! 2night is also joining up with the team behind the wheel to offer you a chance to enjoy the experience absolutely free. To win, just turn to page 12.

For more information, check out www.pointvillage.ie or call (01) 8559204



COMPETITIONS

WIN FREE TICKETS AND GREAT NIGHTS OUT WITH 2NIGHT!

THE BLISS ROUTINE

Fresh from their tour of Ireland with legendary American soul band The Stylistics, Karen Coleman and Madaline Pritchard are set to headline Whelan's with their own band, The Bliss Routine. Some of the best musicians from Ireland and Europe are joining the party, including Paul Muscovi, drummer for legendary Italian singer Neffa. Tickets for their December 3 gig are on sale now for €10, but we've two pairs to give away!
To win, just tell us why you want to catch these fabulous soul sisters live.

HAVANA TAPAS BAR

One of the city's favourite places to enjoy top-drawer tapas in welcoming surroundings, Havana's Cuban spirit extends from the staff (as welcoming and friendly as you could wish for) and lively atmosphere to the unpretentious – but undeniably tasty – food. That's why we're pretty psyched to offer a meal for two at Havana (up to a maximum value of €60) with a jug of tasty Sangria on the side. To win, just visit Havana's review on 2night to answer the following question: How much does a fine Cuba Libre cost at Havana? Is it (a) €8.50, (b) €10 or (c) €7.50?

IL DIVO

Eating in Rathgar has been considerably more enjoyable since Il Divo came to town. The Italian restaurant is managed by a team that are ferociously committed to authenticity, quality ingredients and value, with a broad menu that has something new for everyone. We're obviously excited to have dinner for two and a bottle of wine to give away! To win, just check out our review of il Divo and answer the following question: How much does a pizza of your choice with a moretti cost at Il Divo? Is it (a) €16, (b) €13.95 or (c) €14.50?

PETE TONG

A legend of modern dance music, Pete Tong is headed to The Wright Venue for his first Irish show in over five years. The sometime radio presenter and executive has had to limit his DJ appearances aside from his well-regarded Wonderland residency in Ibiza – which sold out right through the season – and the odd U.S. tour, meaning demand is high for his mix of cutting-edge new music and dancefloor hit. Naturally, Tong doesn't shy away from blending the commercial and the credible. "People forget it's entertainment," he explains. "I wouldn't be doing this if I couldn't champion new music, but a mix is the key. And it's supposed to be fun." Tong is rolling in to The Wright Venue on December 3 with support from David DeValera, Paul Webb and Steven Cooper. Tickets from €20 are on sale now, and 2night has teamed up with The Wright Venue to offer a free VIP package for the show to one lucky winner. You and three mates can enjoy access to the dance show of the year and a VIP table in the Wright Venue Backstage Bar, plus a chilled bottle of Smirnoff on arrival! To win, we're asking our facebook fans to tell us who their favourite DJ is and why. You can go all Pete Tong, of course, but we're more than happy to hear some more offbeat choices! We'll select the person who makes the best case for their chosen DJ for this great prize.



THE DUBLIN WHEEL

A striking addition to the new Point Village, the Dublin Wheel has been a great addition to Dublin, offering offering stunning views over the city, along with the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains. It boasts 42 fully-enclosed pods that seat up to eight people, and even VIP pods for added luxury on special occasions. Naturally, we're pretty excited to have several great trips on the wheel to give away! One lucky reader will enjoy a trip with their friends on a VIP capsule and some champagne to enjoy, two more will get trips on VIP capsules as well, three winners get a regular private capsule to themselves, and eight more readers can win free tickets to ride the wheel! To win, just post a picture of yourself with this magazine to our Facebook page! The first 14 are guaranteed a ride on the wheel, and we'll select the most creative pictures for the special prizes.



THE MORGAN HOTEL

Located at the heart of Dublin's Temple Bar, The Morgan Hotel remains a very hip place, with great cocktails, fantastic food and a really interesting décor all helping to keep it that way. A great night out here is still in high demand, which is why we're pretty excited to offer cocktails and tapas for two for one lucky winner! To do that, we're asking 2night's fans on Facebook to post a picture from their favourite night out on our wall. We'll select the most entertaining or creative picture and announce the winner in December.



THE SWEETEST THING

In retrospect, we're amazed it took this long for a dedicated chocolate café to open its doors, but The Sweetest Thing is well worth the wait. Aside from the delicious hot chocolate, they've a bevy of tasty cupcakes, milkshakes, ice creams and, of course, chocolates on offer. They're also teaming up with 2night to offer one lucky reader a hamper of goodies worth €100! To win, we're looking for a bit of inspiration from you: head along to the discussion on our Facebook page and tell us what your favourite chocolate is – whether it's Irish or foreign, available now or a memory from long ago – and why. We'll check out any treats we're unfamiliar with (we're good like that) and get in touch with the winner this month. This is a great little pre-Christmas treat, so get gorging!

HOW TO ENTER

Entering our competitions is easy and free – simply sign up for membership, head to the 'free and promo' section of our site (www.2night.ie) and answer the question posed in our competition. We'll select the most passionate, entertaining or original entry, and announce the winner on our Facebook page. We'll ask for your contact details to get in touch with you when you've won, but will respect your privacy – have a read of the privacy policy on our website by all means. Full terms and conditions are available at www.2night.ie.

THE FRONT ROW

2NIGHT PREVIEWS THE MAJOR CINEMA RELEASES THIS DECEMBER.

3 DECEMBER

MEGAMIND 3D

Everyone loves a good anti-hero, which explains why the announcement of Megamind – an animated feature following Will Ferrell as the eponymous supervillain opposite the irritatingly-handsome Metroman (Brad Pitt) – caused quite a stir. Unfortunately, this hasn't shaped up as the searing antidote to the anodyne superman story that it could have been. In a nutshell, Megamind defeats Metroman relatively early in the film and, getting a little bored of ruling Metro City unchallenged, creates a new superhero – Titan, voiced by Jonah Hill – as a rival. When Titan turns bad and Metroman is more focused on his music than saving the world, though, Megamind needs to step up and save the day. There are a few good laughs in this feature, and the 3D is relatively well-used, but Megamind can't shake the sense of being a missed opportunity.



MONSTERS

Lovers of post-apocalyptic flicks have had some disappointments recently – The Road, shorn of Cormac McCarthy's elegant prose, was too bleak to engage us, while it's best not to mention The Book of Eli. Thus, they'd be forgiven for being anxious about this British effort set in the wake of an alien infestation along the U.S.-Mexico border. More precisely, it focuses on Andrew, an American photojournalist helping his wealthy employer's daughter, Samantha, to get back to America through the 'infected zone', which has been quarantined off by the U.S. military. As you may have guessed, the topical references come thick and fast. Effects in this low-budget effort are light on the ground, which isn't necessarily a bad thing – we get a few fleeting glimpses of supersized squid-like creatures at exactly the right moments – and this is as much a road movie and love story as it is a thriller. Once you allow for that, Monsters will satisfy.



9 DECEMBER

CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: VOYAGE OF THE DAWN TREADER

With The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe being generally regarded as a competent-but-plodding effort, and Prince Caspian enjoying plenty of success outside the US, this third film instalment of C.S. Lewis' epic fantasy may well decide the series' legacy. It's remained faithful to the original text by following the two younger Pevensies, Edmund (Skandar Keynes) and Lucy (George Henley), who are staying with their cousin Eustace Scrubb (Will Poulter) but find themselves drawn into a painting of an old ship. There, they join the new King of Narnia, King Caspian (Ben Barnes) for a rip-rolling Narnian adventure. It's been a difficult gestation period – Disney, the distributor of the first two efforts, pulled out amid disputes over the budget and creative direction of the film – but the finished product is visually stunning and the performances are good enough to keep Lewis fans satisfied.



THE TOURIST

Imagine a (not too much) darker version of Knight and Day, with Johnny Depp taking Cameron Diaz's place as the ordinary punter dragged into a world of car chases and ultra violence while Angelina Jolie is the suave outsider who pulls him in. Congratulations – you've figured out The Tourist. Depp is Frank, an American who visits Italy to mend his broken heart, only to stumble across Elise (Jolie). She's sought him out to distract gangsters and the police from following her former lover, who's wanted in 14 countries, while Frank just wants a little romance in Venice. The web of intrigue plays out rather better than in Cruise-Diaz's saccharine effort earlier this year, Jolie makes up for Depp's somewhat mumbled performance, and the beautiful backdrop is used well by director Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck.



17 DECEMBER

TRON LEGACY 3D

Since emerging in 1982, the ground-breaking computer fantasy Tron has developed a cult following that belied its modest original success. With special effects having come on a great deal in 28 years, the time is ripe for this follow-up. Our story begins with Sam Flynn (Garrett Hedlund), a rebellious 27-year-old haunted by the disappearance of his father Kevin (Jeff Bridges, reprising his role in the original). However, he investigates a strange signal sent from the abandoned Flynn's Arcade—one that could, apparently have only come from his father—and finds himself pulled into the digital world where Kevin has been trapped for 20 years. If that sounds like so much nonsense, we can guarantee that you will hate watching Hedlund swan around the 'Tron' world in a figure-hugging onesy, make friends and enemies with various sentient programs, and engage in all manner of confrontations that resemble video-game action. Still, there'll be plenty of people who positively lap up the rich – and frequently stunning – visuals, savouring the sheer imagination of this film even as they forgive the odd wooden performance.



BURLESQUE

Maybe, in a parallel universe where Moulin Rouge never happened, tying Christina Aguilera into a movie about a burlesque club opposite Cher would seem like a fresh idea. Never mind the fact that the plot – a tired 'star is born' model, where the young Ali (Aguilera) moves to L.A. in search of silver screen success and finds herself drawn into a burlesque club, before becoming the star – and script are both deeply derivative: it's a song-and-dance movie about a scene that's popular at the moment, and it's got Cher dammit! Unfortunately, we live in the here and now – the burlesque scene has been done with more visual and vocal flourish, and just about every



theme and scene in Burlesque has been done to death already. Cher is still a star, of course, and Aguilera can actually act – it's just a shame that she hasn't been given the opportunity to do so in this by-the-numbers effort.

22 DECEMBER

LITTLE FOCKERS

A few years back, an open letter did the rounds in Hollywood before leaking to the outside world. 'Dear bobby,' it began, before explaining to Robert De Niro why his career was on a downward slide. It wasn't the fault of his long-suffering agents, the author insisted: De Niro was to blame for starring in so many god-awful, transparent "paycheck" movies. Though it started promisingly a decade ago, the Meet the Parents franchise is surely falling into that category for both Bobby and co-star Ben Stiller. Once again, Gaylord Focker (Stiller) and his father-in-law Jack Byrnes are sparring – this time, they've set the action against a Christmas visit from the latter and his wife – but we've seen them kiss and make up so many times already that there's never any doubt about the ending. The humour is similarly tired, and it's telling that much of the gags are generic: quite simply, any laughs that can be gleaned out of tension with in-laws have been had long ago. If Robert De Niro ever read that open letter, he clearly didn't take it to heart.



WHERE TO SEE THEM

For full city centre cinema listings, visit www.2night.ie.





PARTY TIME

2night speaks to Create Your Night owner **Claire Malone**

One way or another,

Claire Malone has spent all her working life helping people have a good night out. After starting out at the Gaiety theatre and acting on the side, she moved to L.A. in search of silver screen success and found auditions rolling in. Then music came calling. "I came back to Ireland and my plan was to save up some money to go back to L.A. – I intended to live there. I did a run of gigs with ABBA bands at the RDS and went back to the Gaiety. Then I got a call at the end of January from this guy in The Commitments. They were looking for a female singer, but I said I wasn't really looking to do tribute bands – I was going back to L.A. to act," she recalls. Still, Claire went along to the audition, and got the part. "Three weeks later, I had breakfast in Dallas, lunch in Chicago and dinner in Winnipeg. That was the beginning of my proper touring, and that was my work for the last seven years."

After a frantic time – during which she supported the Black Eyed Peas, played for President Bush, and did backing vocals for Ben E. King – another change happened last year. "I was always into event management and I love planning stuff – it's fun organising things for people," Claire explains. "From entertainment, I'd become friends with a lot of people in the industry, across bars, clubs and all that, so I tended to have people asking me to get them on the guest list at places and organise tables. Last year, I was organising a night out for a friend's birthday. I got them to meet me in town at a bar, but before I got there I rang a friend there and said 'send them over a couple of shots'. They let me organise it all, so I took them to Sin and brought them up to a gentleman's club. Then I took them to Lillie's. They had a great night and, at the end of it, they were saying 'Claire, that was

just fantastic. We didn't have to worry about a thing – getting into places, tables, waiting around'. Everything was just in, sorted, fantastic. The next morning, I just said 'I should just do this.'"

Create Your Night was born, and Claire has since plunged herself into managing every aspect of a night out for groups of friends, co-workers or family members. "Slowly but surely, I'm getting enquiries in. I mean, the packages are great. If someone said to you that, for €20 per person, someone will meet you at your accommodation in town (and can organise your accommodation for you), bring you out to a couple of bars, make sure you're in and have a table there, then bring you to a club, and you'll get a couple of drinks, you'd be up for that. It saves so much walking around looking for a place, and there are lots of groups that can't get in because there's too many of them – some door staff just won't allow big groups in. But there are a lot of places just crying out for people to come in. You know, I'd like to create things for those clubs while things are the way they are," she says. "You hear people talking about private members clubs and saying 'how do we get in?' We take care of that – your guide walks you in. You just have a good time, and we take care of all the rest."

Ringed countless bars and clubs to get great deals, before serving as the energetic host for the evening must be tough work, and we can't help asking just what makes her do it. "I want people to enjoy nights out," she says simply. "When I'm out with friends, it kind of frustrates me when I don't see people having a good time. I have friends with kids, and they don't get out a lot. When they do, I want them to have a good night, so I do my best to organise things. I know the company is the main thing – you can go to a crap bar with no

atmosphere, but you can be with a really great group of friends – but, if I can make it better by bringing people to nice places and organising things for us, then that's great." It's clear, then, that Claire is doing for groups of people what she'd already do for friends – which makes her pretty qualified to judge what makes a great night. "A good group of people, and the atmosphere in a place. I really like to have a table when I go into the bar or club. Guys don't really care but, for girls, standing around in heels all night does their heads in. They want to put their jacket down, they want to put their bags away. I like to have a nice table, somewhere to go back to when you go for a dance or a cigarette or whatever. Table service is great – nobody likes queuing at a bar," she adds. "I want to be looked after on a night out. When you're spending good money, everyone should be treated well."

Her prescription of relaxing and feeling looked after raises an obvious question – how hard is it to do in Dublin clubs? "I'm ok because I'm comfortable anywhere. But I remember, years ago, that I was incredibly uncomfortable going into places. I felt really awkward and embarrassed standing at a bar. It just wasn't comfortable being out there. There are younger groups who go out, and they might be slightly uneasy about other people around them or, depending on the kind of place, what kind of people there are. They might be nervous about themselves, or their bag. Don't get me wrong, I do go in and have shit nights, depending on what happened. You can't have a great night all the time. I try though!" she laughs. One thing that doesn't appeal, though, is

tacky gimmicks and animals. Speaking in the wake of a wallaby's ill-fated appearance on a Dublin dancefloor, Claire reveals that some party-goers are more than happy to pull similarly daft stunts. "I was MCing a party, a 21rst a few months ago. They brought two huge snakes – maybe 18 feet – and a small alligator. I swear, people just walked around with an alligator

on their shoulder. It was crazy. People just go 'wow', and then they walk away, so what's the point? The snakes, well, people do that as part of shows, but that poor alligator was just sitting in his pool of water, you give him a bit of meat and he won't do a thing. I ran straight out of that party," she says. "I've been

at a few parties where snakes were there, but the alligator was only once. I'm not into it, to be honest. It's good when you have fire-eaters outside or that kind of thing at the opening of a party, but the animal thing doesn't work for me."

At the moment, then, she's sticking to the fundamentals of finding great bars and making sure people are pampered – while also working on recording some modern soul music of her own. However, Claire insists that her new venture is her main focus.

"Create your night is something that I think Dublin needs. You get pub crawls with a group of strangers that meet in the city centre, which is great for tourists and that, where they all meet each other and hang out. I'm not offering that – I'm doing something a little more upscale, but at a cheap price."

Visit 2night.ie for a chance to win a great night out managed by Create Your Night.

For more information about Create Your Night, log on to www.createyournight.com.

EVENTS

WEEK | 1 - 5 DECEMBER



DECEMBER 4 FREEFALL*

After a hugely successful appearance at last year's Ulster Bank Theatre Festival, and having snagged the Best Director and Best New Play gongs at the 2009 Irish Times Theatre Awards, this production of Freefall has enjoyed yet another fine run. Michael West's play is engaging from the off, with a sudden shock that sees a man's entire life flashing before his eyes. As the very ordinary hero gradually pieces together the memories and events that shaped him, the story gets progressively more poignant, compassionate, and surreally funny. The latest run has been a successful Abbey main stage debut for Corn Exchange, an exciting production company, with Annie Ryan in the director's chair and a strong performance from Declan Conlon in particular. This is the final night of the show.

From €25, 19:30

The Abbey Theatre. 26, Lower Abbey Street. Dublin 1. Tel: 018872200

DECEMBER 1

LITTLE GEM

Playwright Elaine Murphy's hugely successful debut about three generations of Artane women has become the Play That Would Not Die. It's back at The Abbey's Peacock Theatre for a quick run, with this night the final instalment.

From €18, 20:00

The Abbey Theatre. 26, Lower Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018872200

READING YEATS

The Abbey's programme exploring the work of W.B. Yeats continues with two readings at The Abbey. December 1 sees Gavin Qinn direct readings of The Words Upon The Window-Pane and The Death of Cuchulain. The following evening features The Only Jealousy of Emer and Purgatory directed by Wayne Jordan, with an introduction by Declan Kiberd.

€6/€4, 18:00

The Abbey Theatre. 26, Lower Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018872200

TOMMYTIERNAN

Following his 'world tours' of Kerry, Donegal and other counties, the marmite-like comedian with a nose for trouble is holing up at Vicar Street for the second of two runs. He's due another controversy soon - it's been a little over a year since he brought down accusations of anti-semitism on himself at Electric Picnic 2009 - but he remains well able to lead an audience into the realm of hilariously bad taste.

€35, 20:30

Vicar Street. 57, Thomas Street - Dublin 8. Tel: 017755800

JANELLE MONAE

An artist who definitely isn't afraid to push the boundaries of R'n'B and soul-pop, Janelle Monae set tongues wagging with

her 2007 concept album debut Metropolis, and the creativity has continued since her signing to P Diddy's Bad Boy Records: this year's follow-up The ArchAndroid saw her still firmly in sci-fi/impressionism-influenced territory.

€28, 19:30

Tripod. Old Harcourt Street Station, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

MARISSA NADLER

She may dabble in fine art, but Nadler is best known in these parts for her dreamy folk songs, filled with American gothic stories and interesting character of her own imagination.

€14, 20:00

Crawdaddy. Old Harcourt Street Station, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

INTERPOL

It's the final show of a three-night run for these dark New York Post Punkers, gearing up to release a new album with hints of the heavy sound that made Turn On The Bright Lights a breakthrough success. The after party takes place at The Academy.

From €44, 20, 19:30.

The Olympia Theatre. 72, Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016793323

DECEMBER 2

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

There'll be many renditions of Handel's classic piece over the Christmas season, and this one is among the best. Fiona Murphy, Eamonn Mulhall, Imelda Drumm and Owen Gilhooly are joined by the Dublin Bach Singers and the Irish Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by David Brophy. This production will also repeat on December 4.

From €27, 19:00

Grand Canal Theatre. Grand Canal Square, Docklands - Dublin 1. Tel: 01 6777999

THE NATIONAL

Success for this Brooklyn-based band has come so quickly that it's easy to forget that they've been knocking around for over a decade: from Matt Berninger's distinctive baritone to the big-but-not-overpowering arrangements, The National have displayed a certain sure-footedness and a way with timeless American rock that's rare. This is the first gig in a three-night stint.

From €28.50, 19:30

The Olympia Theatre. 72, Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016793323

THE MIGHTY STEF

This chap differs quite a bit from the callow singer-songwriters that still dominate Dublin's music scene. For one, there's the voice, which seems rather more influenced by Luke Kelly than, say, James Blunt. Then there's the weird blend of country and clash-inspired punk in his recordings, and the storytelling nature of his songs: The title track to latest album 100 Midnight is a lament to the deceased son of a drunken, old French brothel-keeper. And yes, it's rather touching.

€10, 20:00

The Workman's Club. 11, Wellington Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 016706692

DECEMBER 3

BELLE & SEBASTIAN

The lack of mainstream success for these fey indie-poppers will always be cited by certain music lovers as proof that the record buying public knows absolutely nothing. They've found a ready audience here in Ireland, as this headline demonstrates.

From €39.20, 19:30

Grand Canal Theatre. Grand Canal Square, Docklands - Dublin 1. Tel: 01 6777999

CHEERIOS CHILDLINE CONCERT

It turns out that a concert featuring Westlife's Nicky Byrne as compere, X Factor's Shayne Ward, Westlife, The Wanted, Jedward, Jason Derulo, and Irish stars-in-waiting Wonderland needn't be a guilty pleasure: proceeds from this annual knees-up, which has raised some €3.4 million since beginning in 1997, all go to a very worthy cause.

€45, 19:30

The O2 Arena. North Wall Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 018198888

PETETONG

The sometime radio presenter and executive has had to limit his DJ appearances aside from his well-regarded Wonderland residency in Ibiza - which sold out right through the season - and the odd U.S. tour, meaning demand is high for his mix of cutting-edge new music and dancefloor hits.



€23, 22:00

The Wright Venue. Airside, Swords - County Dublin. Tel: 018900099

STEVE LAWLER

He's been dabbling in the house scene since the age of 17, so producer and DJ Steve Lawler has picked up a fair few tricks behind the decks since catching his big break in Ibiza during the 1990s. Pressed for the influences he draws on in creating his brand of heavy house, he cites "vices" and dark experiences - we're intrigued anyway.

€17.50, 23:00

Tripod. Old Harcourt Street Station, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

DECEMBER 4

INDECENT CIGAR EMPORIUM

We'll admit it, we're partial to these guys simply for adopting a cool name, but they're an interesting musical mix too, drawing in influences from motown, funk and disco to hip-hop and do-wop. The five piece are launching their album at this concert.

€TBC, 20:00

The Twisted Pepper. 54, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018734038

HORSLIPS

After reforming for gigs in Dublin and Belfast during 2009, the pioneers of Celtic rock boys are at it again with another O2 gig.

From €49.50, 18:30

The O2 Arena. North Wall Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 018198888

ELECTRIC SIX

The Ultra-camp indie-disco stars whose hits include Gay Bar and Danger! High Voltage!, have remained a popular act here long after MTV tired of their novelty, and are hitting Ireland for the second time in two years.

€20, 19:00

The Academy. 57, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

CHRISTMAS FAIRY TELLS ALL

It's your last chance to catch Nicola Lindsay's play, a happy little frolic instigated by Crystal, the Christmas Fairy. When Crystal forces a young, accident-prone taxi driver into taking three not-very-wise women to visit Maria, Joe and Baby Noel, disaster ensues.

€15 (€12 concessions), 20:00

The New Theatre. 43, East Essex Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016703361

DECEMBER 5

ARCADE FIRE

If indie collective Arcade Fire didn't exist, Pitchfork would have to invent them. Their popularity as a live act is underlined by their ability to fill a venue most mainstream bands can only dream of playing. This is the first gig in a two-night stint.

From €55.80, 18:30

The O2 Arena. North Wall Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 018198888

THE STORY OF MOTOWN

The Story of Motown blends the music of Detroit's golden age into a show featuring two main vocal groups (the all-girl Jewellettes and the manly Detroits) and the eight-piece Motown band. July's run of the show proved a great success, so the organisers are planning a last hurrah before the new year.

€25, 19:30

The Olympia Theatre. 72, Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016793323

4 IN A BAR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The self-styled bad boys of barbershop promise to put us in the festive spirit with Christmas classics and some interesting reworkings of old favourites. The group are accomplished - they're the IABS National Barbershop Champions for the last two years, and won silver medalists at the international competition - and promise mince pies and mulled wine to add to the fun.

€16.50, 20:00

The Back Loft. La Cathedral Studios, 7-11, Saint Augustine Street - Dublin 8. Tel: 0872753944

EVENTS

WEEK | 6 - 12 DECEMBER

LIVE MUSIC CLUBBING * ONGOING EVENT
EATING AND DRINKING THEATRE ARTS



DECEMBER 12

LEFTFIELD*

Having stormed onto the early 90s rave scene with debut album *Leftism*, Leftfield have seen hugely successful acts such as The Chemical Brothers and The Prodigy acknowledge their influence even as the LP continues to top polls naming the best dance album of all time. Ireland's been the scene of a major comeback for Paul Daley and Neil; Barnes, who called it quits in 2002 but hooked up again in the summer. Barnes – who described the reaction to their triumphant Electric Picnic set as “wonderful” – is pretty self-deprecating about where the quick success comes from. “Obviously it's nostalgia on one level and I wholeheartedly accept that,” he says. “For years, I didn't listen to any of it. It was the last century when those tracks first came out!” Their show on December 11 has already sold out, so they're adding another tonight. €38.50, 19.30

Tripod. Old Harcourt Street Station, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

DECEMBER 6

ANGUS AND JULIA STONE

After packing out a Button Factory gig back in July, the brother-and-sister team return to Tripod to continue the tour of their second full-length album, *Down The Way*. From €17, 19.30

Tripod. Old Harcourt Street Station, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

PLC BAND COMPETITION

A great chance to check out up-and-coming acts before anyone else gets wind of them. €5, 20.00

The Academy. 57, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

QUEER NOTIONS 2010

Following a successful debut last year, the festival featuring gay-themed plays, art, music, films and talks returns. Project Arts Centre is the epicentre

of the event, which also gets input from THISISPOPBABY.

€TBC, Various times
Project Arts Centre. 2, Essex Street East - Dublin 2. Tel: 018819613

DECEMBER 7

SCROOGE

Grand Canal Theatre goes panto with this production of the Dickens classic, which opens tonight. British stage and screen legend Tommy Steele returns to tread the boards as Ebenezer Scrooge, and magician Paul Kieve (who helped out on the effects for the Harry Potter Films) helps create the illusions. The play runs until January 2. From €20, 18.30

Grand Canal Theatre. Grand Canal Square, Docklands - Dublin 1. Tel: 01 6777999

10 BANGLES

A new Irish play by popular poet David Lordan sees a middle-aged

mother dealing with life and the growing pains of a teenage daughter against the backdrop of our nasty recession. This is the first preview night, and the play runs until December 18. From €10, 20.00

Focus Theatre. 6, Pembroke Place - Dublin 2. Tel: 016763071

STEVE FORBERT

The veteran singer-songwriter is best known for his song, *Romeo's Tune*, and is currently touring last year's album *The Place And The Time*. €22.50, 19.30

Whelan's. 25, Wicklow Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

LISSIE

The folk-rocker is a rising star since releasing debut album *Catching a Tiger in June*. She's also got a mean cover or two up her sleeve – her performance of *Stairway to Heaven* on The Great British Songbook programme in late August was breathtaking.

€17, 19.00

The Academy. 57, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

AIRBOURNE

Unreconstructed hard rock comes all the way from Australia. Their oeuvre includes *Ready to Rock*, *Runnin' Wild* and latest album *No Guts, No Glory*. Which should say a lot. €23, 19.30

The Olympia Theatre. 72, Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016793323

LAURA MARLING

The English singer-songwriter is finding fans outside the comfort zone of her folk origins, dabbling in rock and indie in recent recordings. This year's effort, *I Speak Because I Can*, was certified gold, and there's already another album due in February. €25, 20.30.

Vicar Street. 57, Thomas Street - Dublin 8. Tel: 017755800

SMOKE FAIRIES

Katherine Blamire and Jessica Davies are an acoustic duo with more than a hint of the ethereal. Mojo hit the nail on the head in describing their singular sound as “dark, lustful blues-folk”. €12, 20.00
The Workman's Club. 11, Wellington Quay - Dublin 2. Tel: 016706692

DECEMBER 8

THE POGUES*

Admit it – if you were witness to the many shambolic Christmas gigs Pogues frontman Shane McGowan turned in down the years, you didn't think he'd make it this long (in fact, many seemed to be attending for fear of missing his last gig). But he's still going strong and, if anything, has cleaned up – the voice is shot, but the lyrics are remembered. And even if they're not, the sing-along atmosphere sees it through. After all, with the Pogues and as a solo artist, he's crafted some of the most tragically beautiful and raw songs of the last century, along with a fair few bawdy anthems. The reunited Pogues are hitting the road for what's billed as a nine-date farewell tour, and they're also playing this venue the following evening. From €44.20, 19.00

The Olympia Theatre. 72, Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016793323

TWO DOOR CINEMA CLUB

Part of a three-date Irish tour, this headline sees the Down alternative electropoppers wowing their Irish audience. Cast of Cheers and Not Squares play support. From €18.50, 19.30

Tripod. Old Harcourt Street Station, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

COME TOGETHER FOR JOHN LENNON

Commemorating the 30th anniversary of the rock legend's death, the Chocolate bar hosts an evening of all things Lennon, with tunes from The Beatles and his solo career playing on the sound system. Free, 19.30
The Chocolate Bar. Old Harcourt Street Station, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

KATHERINE LYNCH*
The Leitrim lady returns to Vicar Street for a run of shows up to December 12. The Hack of Ya promises a cast of new characters, along with old favourites from her hit RTE series *WonderWomen*. €28, 20.30

Vicar Street. 57, Thomas Street - Dublin 8. Tel: 017755800

FRIGHTENED RABBIT

The Selkirk indie men are driven by lead vocalist, rhythm guitarist and lyricist Scott Hutchison, who's come on remarkably as a songwriter in the last seven years. Their U.S. television debut came this year with a *Late Night With Jimmy Fallon* gig, and latest album *The Winter of Mixed Drinks* was one of the year's little gems. €18, 19.00

The Academy. 57, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

VILLAINS – DUBLIN REVUE

Big Chief Random Chaos hosts this vaudeville effort set on the dirty backstreets of Berlin, the sideshows of Coney Island, plus numerous graveyards and other freaky locations. €10 (€15 seated), 20.00

The Good Bits. 1, Store Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018197635

DECEMBER 10

THE CORONAS*

Opening the main stage of Oxegen this year was only the latest success for the band behind summer hit *San Diego Song* - formed in 2003, they've released two studio albums, *Heroes or Ghosts* (2003) and last year's *Tony Was an Ex-con*. Now, they're looking to keep up the momentum. This is the first of three Olympia dates. €27, 20.00

The Olympia Theatre. 72, Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016793323

THE STONE ROSES EXPERIENCE

Few tribute acts develop a genuine following of their own, but these lad

have actually outlasted Ian Brown and John Squire's sometimes-brilliant, sometimes-dreadful partnership, and are regarded as one of the best Stone Roses cover bands in the British Isles. €12, 23.30

The Academy. 57, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

GODSPEED YOU! BLACK EMPEROR

Reforming after a decade of silence, the hard-rockers are playing a cluster of live dates including All Tomorrow's Parties across the water and a few US gigs next year. It's unclear what their future plans are after these shows, though, so this may be our last chance to see them. €24, 19.30

Tripod. Old Harcourt Street Station, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

THE JOLY BOYS

Since forming way back in 1955, these boys have had plenty to be jolly about, including major commercial success in the 80s and early 90s among reggae lovers. A split in the early part of last decade soured things somewhat, but they've reunited since 2008 and are hitting the road. A new album, *Great Expectation*, is set to land any day now. €17, 19.30

DECEMBER 11

THE BUTTON FACTORY

Curved Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016709202

HEATHERS

The 20-year-old twins behind that Discover Ireland ad tune are keeping the momentum going. Tracks from their debut album, *Here Not There*, are being re-released as singles, even as fans agitate for new stuff. Still, their frequent live appearances should help keep them satisfied. €12.50, 19.30
Whelan's. 25, Wicklow Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

SIDESHOW

A twisted Christmas Cabaret with Joe Black and Mr Pustra, Gringo O'Hara, The Pony Girls and special guests. €22.50, 20.00
The Complex Theatre, Smithfield Square - Dublin 7.

DECEMBER 12

HERE COME THE GIRLS

Lulu and Anastacia return, along with M People's Heather Small, to drive a party atmosphere with a brand new seven-piece band. Campy fun is promised. From €44.20, 18.30
The 02 Arena. North Wall Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 018198888

THE FRAMES*

It's hard to believe that Glen Hansard's original band have been on the go for 20 years now, with six albums under their belt. The former Commitments star and Oscar-winner remains the creative focus of the group, though accomplished bandmates more than pull their weight. They play *The Olympia* tonight and tomorrow, returning to Whelan's on December 15. €35, 19.00

The Olympia Theatre. 72, Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016793323

EVENTS

WEEK | 13 - 19 DECEMBER

LIVE MUSIC **CLUBBING** *ONGOING EVENT
EATING AND DRINKING **THEATRE** **ARTS**



DECEMBER 15 TO 17

IMELDA MAY*

This is a time when Dublin's Rockabilly queen can, it seems, do no wrong. Having struck gold in debut effort Love Tattoo, she followed up with a marathon U.S. Tour and a triumphant homecoming at the O2 last December. She's appearing more regularly on our screens as a style icon in her own right, but has still somehow managed to finish off second album Mayhem in the meantime. The album sees May in full-throated form, with her backing band as tight as ever, but it's the musical development that has really caused excited critics. She's come on immensely both as a songwriter and as a cover artist - you wouldn't think Tainted Love could benefit from an amensely reworking, but you'd be wrong. It's been a deserved hit for Mrs. May, and she's set to play here for three nights after an initial December 15 gig sold out in minutes.

From €32.50, 19:00

The Olympia Theatre. 72, Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016793323

DECEMBER 13

BLACK REBEL MOTORCYCLE CLUB

After initial success - Spread

Your Love, a thrashy and deeply catchy summer anthem, was one of their first singles - things took a nasty turn for this group, with drug problems and a split with Virgin records the lowlights. But B.R.M.C. are tough, and sixth album Beat The Devil's Tattoo was released in March.

€25, 19:00
The Academy. 57, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

A VIENESE CHRISTMAS

Vladimir Jabllok teams up with The Slovak Festival Musicians, tenor Sean Costello and soprano Claudia Boyle to offer an evening of songs including You Are My Hearts Delight, Vienna City of Dreams, Silent Night, A Winters Tale, the Blue Danube Waltz and more.

From €25, 20:00

The National Concert Hall.
2, Earlsfort Terrace - Dublin 2. Tel: 014710077

DECEMBER 14

DEADMAUS

Arguably the most exciting name in the club scene today, Deadmaus is striking while the iron is hot, giving both his popular tunes and the gigantic mouse head he performs in plenty of exposure. If anything, in fact, he's working too hard: a collapse onstage at a show earlier this year revealed that, beneath the mighty mouse, is a man (Joel Thomas Zimmerman) who's plenty capable of suffering from exhaustion. Not that you'd know it from his subsequent actions: he's



bang in the middle of his biggest UK and Ireland tour to date, with support from Calvin Harris and Steve Aoki.

€49.20, 18:30

The O2 Arena. North Wall Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 018198888

DECEMBER 15

ARRAH NA POGUE

A rip-roaring romantic adventure set in the Wicklow mountains sees popular rebel Beamish MacCaul lying in wait to ambush rent-collecting Michael Feeny, before he scoots off to marry Fanny Power. There's a love story budding between Shaun the Post and heroine Arrah Meelish too, though their wedding isn't destined to go down without a hitch. The play runs until February 5, with tonight the first preview.

From €13, 19:30

The Abbey Theatre. 26, Lower Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018872200

ELTON JOHN WITH RAY COOPER

After having to cancel the Irish stop of his acclaimed 'Red Piano' show due to illness, one of pop's true greats returns with backup - Ray Cooper, one of the world's most talented drummers, is in tow. Forget the mixed reviews of his latest album, and enjoy the pageantry: Elton John's live shows have been known to include multi-color neon sculpture, pop art, inflatables, baubles, balloons - and, almost as an afterthought, a great band.

From €65.70, 20:00

The O2 Arena. North Wall Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 018198888

DAMIEN DEMPSEY

Damo continues his marathon touring schedule with a pre-christmas show. The northsider has had five successful albums, from debut They Don't Teach This Shit in School (2000) to The Rocky Road, a covers collection released in 2008.

€31, 20:30

Vicar Street. 57, Thomas Street - Dublin 8. Tel: 017755800

DECEMBER 16

VERSIVES

The electronic-rock outfit are touring in support of debut album Prussian Blushes and lead-off single Kicking Up a Brand New Storm. Support comes from Toy Soldiers.

€TBC, 20:00

The Twisted Pepper. 54, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018734800

SHAKIRA

She's racked up more than 214 global award nominations and more than 50 million albums sold worldwide, but still has the energy to take on a mammoth global tour - never underestimate a she-wolf.

From €49.20, 18:30

The O2 Arena. North Wall Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 018198888

DELORENTOS

With five years under their belts (not including a brief 2008 split) and a breakthrough album in You Can Make Sound last year, these rock-with-hooks-loving Dubliners are looking straight ahead.

€17.50, 20:00

The Workman's Club. 11, Wellington Quay - Dublin 2. Tel: 016706692

PJ GALLAGHER

Though he may have risen to public notice embarrassing the living daylight out of ordinary people in Naked Camera, PJ Gallagher has been working hard to prove that he's got more strings to his bow. The recent documentary, Back in The Saddle, revealed his adventures in the world of motorbike racing and his second stand-up DVD, Just Jokes, did well on its 2009 release with Universal. A new comedy series is in the works, along with

a documentary on Irish Travelers - we may see his serious side yet. Before that, though, we get an evening of his straight stand-up.

€28, 20:30

Vicar Street. 57, Thomas Street - Dublin 8. Tel: 017755800

THE RUBBERBANDITS

After shows at Electric Picnic, slots on RTE's Republic of Telly and going viral on youtube, the up-and-comers launch their debut single Amanda's Wedding.

€12/50, 20:00

The Button Factory. Curved Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016709202

DECEMBER 17

DAVID O'DOHERTY

The casio Keyboard-tapping philosophy grad clearly has something special - childlike melodies coupled with ruminations on modern life only take you so far if you're not actually that funny. A perennial hit at the Edinburgh Fringe, O'Doherty is a popular live act here too, as a run of Whelan's shows demonstrates. This is the first of four headliners, including a matinee on Saturday.

€17.45, 19:30

Whelan's. 25, Wicklow Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

PNAU

Nick Littlemore and Peter Mayes have been spinning dance music together since the mid-90s, even as they dabble in side projects like Empire of The Sun, and their landmark eponymous album generated considerable acclaim, including an interesting endorsement from Elton John. The pop legend declared it to be the greatest record he'd heard in years, and is helping out on their fourth LP.

€15, 20:00

Crawdaddy. Old Harcourt Street Station, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

REPUBLIC OF LOOSE

The funk-rockers' four-month residence at The Academy has seen them showcasing material from their latest album, which is at once rockier, more upbeat and more mature than previous efforts. This is the final night of their run of gigs, so expect a celebratory feel.

€22.50, 20:00

The Academy. 57, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

AIDAN & THE ITALIAN WEATHER LADIES

The Wallis Bird Band veteran returns to Ireland with his Belgian backing band, The Italian Weather Ladies to play songs from his forthcoming album, Live and Sans-Souci, which is set to land next March.

€8, 21:00

The Cobblestone. 77, North King Street, Smithfield - Dublin 7. Tel: 018721799

PARCHMAN FARM

Formed by guitarist Pete Mc Gowan and ex bass player Gerry Murray and Tommy Grimes after the demise of The Axis Blues Band, Parchman Farms eschew indulgent solos in favour of the classic drum-led style of early Chicago blues.

€10, 21:00

JJ Smyths. 12, Aungier Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014752565

DECEMBER 18

MEAT LOAF

The former Hair singer has travelled a long road, via two mega-albums (Bat Out of Hell and Bat Out of Hell 2) and even the odd movie appearance. Latest album Hang Cool Teddy Bear arrived in May to a positive critical response, and broke into the top tier of album charts worldwide.

From €59.80, 18:30

The O2 Arena. North Wall Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 018198888

ELIZA DOOLITTLE

21-year-old Londoner Eliza Doolittle may just be the anti-diva. For one, she's been writing her own material since age 12, giving her plenty of time to hone in on a sunny, tinkly sound with lyrics inspired by the stresses of city life and teen aggro, with magpie-like musical influences coming from the golden age of pop in the 1960s and 70s. This is an over-14s show with no alcohol served.

€19.50, 19:00

The Academy. 57, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

NIGEL MOONEY

One of Dublin's more charismatic blues guitarists, Nigel Mooney helped spearhead the movement in Ireland with his Griepwater Blues Band and has played with legends including B.B. King, Lowell Fulson and Louisiana Red. This late night intimate show should be a treat.

€10, 21:00

JJ Smyths. 12, Aungier Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014752565

JASON BYRNE

The Ballinteer native is currently hosting The Byrne ultimatum of RTE Two, but his live shows - often featuring audience participating/humiliation, you have been warned - remain popular.

€28, 20:30

Vicar Street. 57, Thomas Street - Dublin 8. Tel: 017755800

DECEMBER 19

MOONEY TUNES

The popular RTE presenter hosts a concert of music selected by his Radio 1 listeners, with the RTE Concert Orchestra, conductor David Brophy and special guests helping out.

€10, 20:00

Grand Canal Theatre. Grand Canal Square, Docklands - Dublin 1. Tel: 01 6777999

EVENTS

WEEK | 20 - 31 DECEMBER

LIVE MUSIC
CLUBBING
* ONGOING EVENT
EATING AND DRINKING
THEATRE
ARTS



FROM DECEMBER 26 FUNDERLAND*

Celebrating 35 years of fun this Christmas, Funderland is both a Dublin institution and a rite of passage: quite simply, if you've never eaten too much candy floss only to throw it up on the waltzers, or spent all the money your nice uncle Larry gave you here, you haven't lived. Europe's largest travelling funfair returns to its familiar stomping ground from Stephen's Day, with the big wheel, the dodgems and the Shockwave rollercoaster all making a return. The rides also include the stomach-churning Extreme and plenty of family friendly attractions too. This year, they've adopted an easy-to-understand pricing structure. Entrance costs €2, kiddie rides cost €1.50 or €2, rollercoasters cost from €3.50 up, and other rides will set you back €2.50. The carnival continues until January 10. €2, 12:00

RDS Main Hall. Merrion Road. Ballsbridge · Dublin 4. Tel: 016680866

DECEMBER 20

CHRISTY MOORE AND DECLAN SINNOTT

Once you're elevated to 'national treasure' status, the conventional wisdom states, the only way is down. Not so for former Planxty man Christy Moore, who passed that mark long ago. Even though his career may have had a dip since his well-documented struggle with alcohol took its toll on his mid-90s output – he's enjoyed an Indian summer in his career, and recent solo efforts (including last year's Listen) have delighted fans around the world. Part of that is surely down to his collaboration with talented musicians like Sinnett, who's worked with him before as part of Moving Hearts, and his rediscovering the joy of playing live: the duo played a marathon run of gigs this time last year, so it's only natural that they should return. This is the second of two Vicar Street gigs, and the pair also play Grand

Canal Theatre on January 3 and 4. €39.50, 20:00

Vicar Street. 57, Thomas Street – Dublin 8. Tel: 017755800

DECEMBER 21

VILLAGERS

Conor J. O'Brien and chums have had quite the year. Debut album Becoming a Jackal went straight to number 1 here on its release in May, garnering a coveted Mercury Music Prize Album of the Year nomination in Britain. However, they're not resting on their laurels by any stretch, and gigs tonight and tomorrow round off a lightning tour of Ireland that took in Waterford, Kilkenny, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Belfast. If their storming appearances at Oxegen, Leeds/Reading and the Electric Picnic are anything to go by, it should be a fun night. €25, 19:30

Vicar Street. 57, Thomas Street – Dublin 8. Tel: 017755800

DECEMBER 22

BITCHES WITH WOLVES

Dabbling in dirty electro, glam and pop, this crew made quite a splash at Oxegen's dance tent playing alongside top acts from Fatboy Slim to Calvin Harris. Broken Hearts (available on their Myspace) is a good introduction. €TBC, 20:00

Whelan's. 25, Wicklow Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

DECEMBER 22

JANE EYRE

Andrea Corr has made quite an impression in the title role for this stage version of Charlotte Brontë's classic tale, adapted well for the stage by the ubiquitous Alan Stanford, who is also in the director's chair for a production that runs until January 15. A student deal, offering tickets available for €15,

runs from Monday to Thursday. From €25, 19:30

The Gate Theatre. 1, Cavendish Row – Dublin 1. Tel: 018744045

DECEMBER 23

REVERBERATION

It's a packed one-night bill, featuring popular vets Power of Dreams and The Sultans of Ping playing with The FRNK & Walters. €27.50, 19:00

The Academy. 57, Middle Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

THE BRAD PITT LIGHT ORCHESTRA

We're not sure what the star of Fight Club and Ocean's Eleven makes of this outfit, but he should be happy to be linked with a band that blends harmonies and laid back sounds so seamlessly. Lowering The Tone is a gem of an album, and they've an infectious

energy live that – coupled with the snappy threads – conjures up more than a hint of Jerry Fish and the Mudbug Club in their pomp. €TBC, 20:00

Whelan's. 25, Wicklow Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

GAVIN MURPHY: THE GOLDEN BOUGH*

Using both found and specially created objects, Gavin Murphy's latest exhibition includes texts from Flaubert to Fellini, and the hidden fabric of Charlemont House itself, to explore the arts as a system ordering knowledge, ideas, and cultural history. The exhibition runs until January 16. Free, 10:00

Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery. 1, Parnell Square West – Dublin 1. Tel: 018741903

DECEMBER 24

CHIPS!

There's nothing for it on Christmas Eve but to join in the Dublin tradition, queuing and gorging outside the city's best-known chippers. There are outlets all over the place, but this place remains the original and best. Beshoff's on O'Connell Street is worth a shout too. €2.50, From 12:00

Leo Burdock's. 2, Wexburgh Street – Dublin 2.

DECEMBER 25

THE FORTY FOOT DIVE

This Christmas tradition originally began as a mass, all-male skinny dip. Then women came in, and men covered up. That hasn't abated the carnival atmosphere – you'll see everyone lining up to dive here from loons in luxes and fancy dress (they soon learn what salt water does to good clothes) to families supping warm tea and

sharing sandwiches before taking the plunge. If you've overdone it a bit the night before, a leap into the icy water will wake you right up. The Forty Foot. Sandycove Beach, Sandycove – County Dublin.

DECEMBER 26

JOHN O'CALLAGHAN

This accomplished Irish DJ cut his teeth against Ibiza's notoriously competitive DJ scene and lived to tell the tale. That should speak to him even had last year's album, Never Fade Away, not been packed with interesting tunes. John Askew and Ummet Ozcan are also on hand in support. €27.50, 22:00

Tripod. Old Harcourt Street Station, Harcourt Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

DECEMBER 27

THE FUREYS AND DAVEY ARTHUR

Balyfermot first folk family are still growing strong despite being all married with kids, and celebrated their 30th anniversary in 2008. They're joined by Donegal man Davey Arthur, who played with the group even before he made his name as a solo artist in 1992. €25, 20:00

The Helix. DCU, Collins Avenue – Dublin 9. Tel: 01700700

DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

It's a full stage performance of Disney's classic music, featuring Simon Keogh as the best, Naoise Stuart Kelly as belle and Ian Whyte as Gaston. Deirdre O'Connor on Wardrobe has created some beautiful costumes, while Vivian Coates is in the director's chair. From €18, 19:00

The National Concert Hall.

2, Earlsfort Terrace – Dublin 2. Tel: 0147170077

DECEMBER 27

PERFORMANCE 2010

Dublin's annual megafestival featuring tons of up-and-coming acts will be returning. The line-up is still to be confirmed as we go to press, but Whelan's has already been earmarked as the venue. €TBC, time TBC

Whelan's. 25, Wicklow Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

DECEMBER 28

POST-WAR AMERICAN ART: THE NOVAK/O'DOHERTY COLLECTION*

If you're just beginning to emerge from the warm bosom (read: crushing boredom) of the family home, then this exhibition is an interesting way to stimulate your senses. The exhibition highlights a gift by art historian Barbara Novak and artist Brian O'Doherty of watercolours, drawings, limited edition prints and photographs, along with striking paintings and sculptures. Works appear from across 20th Century American art, particularly from 60s and 70s New York. Free.

Irish Museum of Modern Art. Royal Hospital, Military Road, Kilmainsham – Dublin 8. Tel: 016129900.

THE DUBLINERS

They're all living legends, and well able to put on a good show. After a sell-out run of shows at the same venue last year, the surviving Dubliners begin a three-night stand at Vicar Street tonight. Expect plenty of special guests at what most Dubliners hope will become an annual event. €42, 20:00

Vicar Street. 57, Thomas Street – Dublin 8. Tel: 017755800

DECEMBER 29

DICKIE ROCK

Fancy some wanton nostalgia? The showband legend can still get a crowd swinging, as a string of live dates across the country demonstrated. €35, 21:00

The Regency Hotel. Swords Road, Whitehall – County Dublin. Tel: 018371531.

DECEMBER 30

GAME ON*

This celebration of video games is well into its long run at the ambassador, but seeing how they developed from the early days to a multi-billion dollar industry has lost none of its magic. Aside from being remarkably accessible for non-gamers, the exhibition is also packed with playable demos of early and cutting edge games, plus other fun features. A one hour session costs only €10, you can enjoy two hours for €16, while a bumper three-hour session costs €20. Game on will run until January 30. From €10, 12:00

The Ambassador Theatre. 189, Parnell Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018734344

DECEMBER 31

NEW YEARS EVE AT TRIPOD

Tripod has already announced its initial plans for a packed evening, featuring Kormac's Big Band, Japanese Postpsters and many more special guests. €17.50, 22:00

Tripod. Old Harcourt Street Station, Harcourt Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

EVENTS

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAYS

NO FIXED ABODE

A weekly reading group laid on by youth gang Exchange Dublin. Be generous if the donations bucket passes your way. Donations, 18.30
Exchange Dublin. Exchange Street Upper, Temple Bar – Dublin 2. Tel: 016779264

LOUNGE LIZARDS

The ever-popular Lounge Lizards sees guest DJs step up to the plate and spin their favourite tunes for lounging. Expect a chilled-out evening with a surprise guest on occasion. Free, 20:00
Solas. 31, Wexford Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014780583

SKA NIGHT

It's not just ska on the menu – there's a bit of rock-steady and house to be danced to at this evening. Free, 20:30
Thomas House. 86, Thomas Street – Dublin 8. Tel: 016772619

HEFTY HORSE

A simple concept for a Monday night club - live music and bands playing their own DJ sets to 02:30 - is made all the sweeter by cheap drinks and free admission. The line-up varies, but the post-gig atmosphere is almost always rocking. Free, 22:00
Whelan's. 25, Wicklow Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766

ISLAND CULTURE

A cocktail party, with rum cocktails and Jamaican soul on the menu, at this club with a definite penchant for the easy-going life. Free, 22:00
South William. 52, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016725946

WEEDWAY

A six-piece reggae band take over. Free, 22:30
The Turk's Head. 27, Parliament Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016792606

TUESDAYS

TASTE

Classics, Soul and more make for an easy Tuesday night. Free, 20:00
Solas. 31, Wexford Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014780583

SUBTERANNEAN

Rock, punk and metal sounds are on at Thomas House. Free, 20:30
Thomas House. 86, Thomas Street – Dublin 8. Tel: 016772619

ANDREW STANLEY'S COMEDY

MISH-MASH
Comedy laissez faire with a laid-back evening of stand-up, sketches, songs, messing about and free biccies hosted by Comedy Cellar man Andrew Stanley. €TBC, 21:00
The International Bar. 23, Wicklow Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016779250

WHITE CHOCOLATE

Classic rock and modern covers are on offer from a soulful outfit.

€TBC, 21:30

The Mezz. 23, Eustace Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016707655

JUICY BEATS

The Village's resident DJs churn out the best of indie, rock, classic pop, synth pop and electro music at this weekly Tuesday nightclub. €5, 22:00
The Village. 26, Wexford Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014758555

C. U. NEXT TUESDAY

There's more than just a naughty name to recommend this new club night – indie, electro, pop and dance tunes make a varied mix. €12/5, 23:00
Crawdaddy. Old Harcourt Street Station, Harcourt Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374

PLAY

Hosted by DJs Dany Doll and Eddie Bolton, this night made waves by launching on October 5 with a 'Father Ted Special', showcasing every song referenced or played during the shows 3 seasons including My Lovely Horse, Ghost Town and Ziggy Stardust. It's usually a mix of indie, soul, and new sounds. Hosted by DJs Dany Doll and Eddie Bolton, this night made waves by launching on October 5 with a 'Father Ted Special', showcasing every song referenced or played during the shows 3 seasons including My Lovely Horse, Ghost Town and Ziggy Stardust. It's usually a mix of indie, soul, and new sounds. Free, 22:00
The Grand Social. 11, Lower Liffey Street – Dublin 1.

CRACKITY JONES

A regular cinema event kicking off with a great movie from yesteryear, followed by DJ sets by Crackity Jones DJs, Megan Fox & Indie Dublin band Reader's Wives frontman Niall James Holohan. Admission is free, and drinks promos abound. A regular cinema event kicking off with a great movie from yesteryear, followed by DJ sets by Crackity Jones DJs, Megan Fox and Dublin band Reader's Wives frontman Niall James Holohan. Admission is free, and drinks promos abound. Free, 20:00
The Grand Social. 11, Lower Liffey Street – Dublin 1.

SHEBEEN FLICK

A new film night showing much-loved Irish films and some unseen work. Each night has a short film followed by a full-length feature. Free, 19:30
Shebeen Chic. 4, South Great George's Street – Dublin 2.

BATTLE OF THE AXE

Looking to start in comedy? Look no further than this open-mike night at the Ha'penny Bridge Inn. €7, 21:00
The Ha'penny Bridge Inn. 42, Wellington Quay – Dublin 2. Tel: 016770616

GENTLE TUESDAYS

The Mighty Stef and chums sing their favourite songs on out-of-tune acoustic guitars. Free, 21:00
The Workman's Club. 11, Wellington Quay – Dublin 2. Tel: 016706692

WEDNESDAYS

SYNERGY

A mid-week mix of some well known and some not so well known tunes at this fine cocktail bar. Free, 20:00
Solas. 31, Wexford Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014780583

LAUGH OUT LOUD

A regular comedy night featuring MC Aidan Killian and special guests. €7/€5, 20:30
Anseo. 18, Camden Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014751321

GROOVALIZACION

Brazilian food and music fill this hopping club every Tuesday. Free, 21:00
South William. 52, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016725946

SONGS OF PRAISE

It's karaoke, Jim, but not as we know it. This long-running DIY rock'n'roll night has moved to Wednesdays after tiring of kicking everyone out early on Sundays. Check out the full playlist on www.theresquesquad.com/songsofpraise. Free, 21:00
The Village. 26, Wexford St – Dublin 2. Tel: 014758555

THE SONG ROOM

Hamlet Sweeney presents this showcase of up-and-coming artists at The Globe. Free, 21:00
The Globe. 11, South Great Georges Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 0167711220

THE ZODIAC SESSIONS

An acoustic showcase featuring some promising talent at Bruxelles. Free, 21:00
Bruxelles. 7-8, Harry Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016775362

SEVEN DEADLY SKINS

Ignore the lame pun in the name, and focus on the musicianship of this quality reggae cover band. €TBC, 21:30
The Mezz. 23, Eustace Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016707655

SPACE N' VEDA

Veda Beaux Reeves and Davina Devine rule the big gay roost at this club-cum-cabaret evening. Free before 22:00/€10, 21:00
The George. 87-89, South Great Georges Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014782983

SHAKER

A mash-up of electro, hip hop, indie and decent pop. €8/6, 23:00
The Academy. 57, Middle Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

DINOSAUR CLUB

Perfect Pete and Boplaik team up to play old surf, rock and blues at this new weekly night. Free, 20:00
The Secret Bar. 3, Fade Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 017645681

VOGUE

Pop, pop, and more fantastic pop – with lots of drinks promotions. €8 (€6 with flyer), 23:00
ALT – Andrew's Lane Theatre. 9-17 Saint Andrew's Lane – Dublin 2. Tel: 016795720

THE RUBY SESSIONS

This singer-songwriter night has been on the go for over 10 years and features some great performers in an intimate setting. €6, 21:00
Doyles. 9, College Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016710616

THURSDAYS

GARAGE INC

The clue is in the name – Good garage tunes in a cool setting. Free, 20:30
Thomas House. 86, Thomas Street – Dublin 8. Tel: 016772619

THE ODEON MOVIE CLUB

Relax to classic films while being pampered by a full bar and waiter service. To reserve seats or a table, e-mail hello@odeon.ie Free, 20:00
The Odeon. Old Harcourt Street Station, Harcourt Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014782088

MASH

Matfajz, Lex Woo, Baby Dave, Marina Diniz and friends spin late into the evening at South William. Free, 21:00
South William. 52, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016725946

MUZIK

An unabashed student night, Muzik is packed with upbeat indie and electro tunes, with plenty of drinks promotions to get the party going in earnest. €6, 21:00
The Button Factory. Curved Street, Temple Bar – Dublin 2. Tel: 016709202

PARTY ANIMAL

Gorillas with vodka guns, all drinks costing €3.50, and the hot and sweaty Andrews Lane Theatre dancefloor. €8 (€6 concession), 23:00
ALT – Andrew's Lane Theatre. 9-17 Saint Andrew's Lane – Dublin 2. Tel: 016795720

THE LITTLE BIG PARTY

DJ Brendan Conroy takes over the decks at Ri Rá, beneath the Globe bar, every Thursday. An eclectic mix of soul, indie and rock prevails.

Free, 22:00

Ri-Rá. 11, South Great George's St – Dublin 2. Tel: 016711220

TANKED UP

Dublin's biggest student night in an ideal location. You'll find drinks promotions aplenty. €5, 22:30
Tranco Brewery. 121, Lower Rathmines Road – Dublin 6. Tel: 014968050

THE PANTI SHOW

Pantibar's fabulous proprietor takes to the stage in all her glory every Thursday, with Bunny and some special guests for support. A medley of music, dramatic reconstructions, connect 4 (yes, that one throws us too) and puppets makes for a very dramatic night. Free, 22:00
Pantibar. 7-8 Capel St - Dublin 1. Tel: 018740710

KUSH

Dublin's newest electronic music night hits the city's newest venue, with artists drawing on everything from hip-hop to sea shanties. And no, that's not a typo. €5, 21:00
The Grand Social. 11, Lower Liffey Street – Dublin 1.

ISOTOPE

Dublin's longest-running jazz session is still going strong. €10, 20:00

JJ Smyths. 12, Aungier Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014752565

FRIDAYS

ROTATE

Oliver T Cunningham plays his own brand of Funk, Latin and whatever takes his fancy. Free, 20:00
Solas. 31, Wexford Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014780583

THE CRAIC PACK COMEDY IMPROV

Peter O'Byrne is the MC for this regular, energy-filled comedy evening. **The Bankers.** 16, Trinity Street – Dublin 2.

BASEMENTTRAXX

DJs Half Dutch and De-jackulate preside. Free, 22:00. **Hogan's.** 35, South Great Georges Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016775904

LETS MAKE PARTY

Hip hop, soul and funk are dished out by Mikki Dee and JB the Deejay. **The Village.** 26, Wexford Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014758555

FRIDAYS AT MY HOUSE

The master room includes upcoming DJs Ray Shah, Keith Feely and Rafiq. €TBC, 23:00. **Buck Whalays.** 67, Lower Leeson Street – Dublin 2.

LECTROSOUL

Richie Rock, Mark Kiernan and Warren Kiernan hit the decks from 23:00 to 03:00, with a set from Marina Diniz every fourth Friday at 23:00. Free, 23:00. **The Exchequer.** 3-5 Exchequer Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016706787

SHAKEDOWN

A hot new Friday club with 70s-influenced rock'n'roll from original bands playing lengthy sets. The line up varies from week to week. Free, 23:00. **Pacinos.** 18 Suffolk St - Dublin 2. Tel: 016775651

WAR

The popular Spy club night relocates to Andrew's Lane. Drinks promotions abound, and the first 40 people (and the first 40 to show up with dog tags or warshirts) get in free.

€5 before 00:00 (€10 thereafter), 23:00. **ALT – Andrew's Lane Theatre.** 9-17 Saint Andrew's Lane – Dublin 2. Tel: 016795720

SATURDAYS

THE MATINÉE BRUNCH CLUB

Another Odeon film club, this time featuring more family-friendly movies. But then again, who wouldn't like to see Up over brunch with a pint? Free, 12:00. **The Odeon.** Old Harcourt Street Station, Harcourt Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014782088

RETRO DISCO

A wide spectrum of dance music dominates at the newly renovated Ulysses Venue, with special guests and themed nights aplenty. €5 before 23:00 (€10 after), 21:30. **James Joyce Café Bar and Ulysses Venue.** 52, Middle Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018728188

PROPAGANDA

The legendary club night now has a Dublin colony in The Academy. €10/8, 22:30. **The Academy.** 57, Middle Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018779999

GOSSIP

Yes, the popular Spy club night has moved – it's still loaded with indie-pop and fun times though. €TBC, 23:00. **ALT – Andrew's Lane Theatre.** 9-17 Saint Andrew's Lane – Dublin 2. Tel: 016795720

TRANSMISSION

This club night is on a mission to break down the barrier between guitar and DJ culture in the city. Good luck with that, we hear you say, but it's made a great start thus far. €12, 23:00. **The Button Factory.** Curved

Street, Temple Bar – Dublin 2. Tel: 016709202

PENTAGON

Local residents and special guest DJs play across five rooms of the Tripod complex. €12, 23:00. **Tripod.** Old Harcourt Street Train Station, Harcourt Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014780225

DADDY OR CHIPS

Techno, house and hip hop are all offered across three rooms at this new club. €8, 22:00. **The Good Bits.** 1, Store Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018197635.

SUNDAYS

PLAY!

DJ Ronan O' does a mix of classic 80s and 90s tracks, drawing on disco, pop and feel-good tunes. Cocktails are available from €5. €5, 18:00. **The Odeon.** Old Harcourt Street Station, Harcourt Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014782088

M.A.S.S

Power FM curates a blessed-out night of music, arts, sights and sounds. Free, 19:00. **Hogan's.** 35, South Great Georges Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016775904

SUNDAY SUSHI

Jazz is dished up with a Far Eastern flavour. Free, 19:30. **Yamamori Sushi.** 38/39, Lower Ormond Quay – Dublin 2. Tel: 018720003

PIANO MAN

A Las Vegas-style evening of sing-along anthems around the piano. Free, 20:00. **Dandelion.** 130, Stephen's Green – Dublin 2. Tel: 014760870

COMEDY CRUNCH

Free comedy + free food = great night. Free, 21:00. **Shebeen Chic.** 4, South Great George's Street – Dublin 2.

DANCEHALL STYLES

The button factory becomes Reggae Central on Sunday nights from 23:00, with foundation reggae, dancehall classics and contemporary Jamaican music getting an airing. €5, 23:00. **The Button Factory.** Curved Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016709202

BEST OF DUBLIN



AFTER WORK

AMIR'S DELIGHTS. 5, Bloom's Lane, Ormond Quay – Dublin 1. Tel: 0863536404. Excuse the pun, but this is a delightful little place for enjoying Turkish coffee or shisha.

ANSEO. 18, Camden Street Lower - Dublin 2. Tel: 014751321. A very old-school music bar that also features a regular comedy club.

BORDERLINE RECORDS. 17, Temple Bar – Dublin 2. Tel: 016799097. One of the most popular punky record stores around, and deservedly so.

BOULEVARD CAFE. 27, Exchequer Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016792131. Now that Leon's gone, this place is our new favourite coffee spot along this street.

BREWBAKERS CAFÉ. 23, South Frederick Street – Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. A very popular spot for a sandwich – the chicken and bacon effort is simply delicious.

BRICK ALLEY CAFÉ. 25, East Essex Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016793393. A very nice replacement for The Joy of Coffee.

BUTLER'S CAFÉ. 24, Wicklow Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016710599. Hot drinks, and some of the best little chocolates around: it's a winning combination.

BUSY BEAN CAFÉ. Talbot Street – Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. A fun café that's bustling without being too frantic. There's a selection of sandwiches and whatnot, plus daily specials.

BUSYFEET & COCO CAFÉ. 41-2, South William Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016719514. A characterful little place with a particularly nice atmosphere after dark.

CAFÉ 7. 7, St Andrew's Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016792988. A welcoming place with a great selection of wines.

CAFÉ AROMA. 84, Middle Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. A very pleasant little place just off O'Connell Street.

CAFÉ EN SEINE. 40, Dawson St - Dublin 2. Tel: 016774017. The/club/restaurant is as enjoyable as ever – now with added elbow room.

CAFÉ SOL. 135, Lower Baggot Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016628001. A bright and breezy, well-run café.

CAFÉ SOL. 61-63, Dawson Street – Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. A small-but-friendly branch of the coffee chain.

CAFFE CAGLIOSTRO. Millenium Walkway, Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. A decidedly authentic Italian café.

CASSIDY'S. 27, Westmoreland Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016708604. Welcoming pub with lots going on.

CHORUS CAFÉ. Fishamble Street – Dublin 2. 7, Scarlett Row, Fishamble Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016167088. A bright little place to enjoy a quick sandwich or salad.

COBBLER'S CAFÉ. Leeson Lane - Dublin 2 Dublin City. Tel: 016785945. Popular lunchtime café. Soups are particularly favoured by office worker crowd.

COFFEE SOCIETY. 2, Lower Liffey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 014781064. A favourite coffee shop for many years now among shoppers seeking a little refuge.

DICEY'S GARDEN BAR. 21-25, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014784066. There's nothing dicey about this popular bar, which boasts an impressive beer garden.

DAME CAFÉ. Centra, Dame Street – Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. You might think that a café based in a convenience store wouldn't be a nice place to while away a few hours. You'd be wrong.

DANDELION. St Stephens Green West - Dublin 2. Tel: 014760870. A popular club with cheap cocktails, celeb appearances and contemporary music.

DARKY KELLYS. The Harding Hotel, Fishamble Street – Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. The official bar and bistro of the Harding Hotel.

DOHENY & NESBITT'S. 5, Baggot Street Lower - Dublin 2. Tel: 016762945. The classic local-for-a-listers is a lot bigger than it used to be, but it still consistently packs out.

DOYLES. 9, College Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016710616. A traditional bar by day and student mecca by night. Opens late at weekends.

DUBLIN TOURISM CENTRE. Suffolk Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 1850230330. An excellent source of information for both tourists and curious Dubliners about the city.

DYLANBAR. The Dylan Hotel, Eastmoreland Place - Dublin 4. Tel: 016603000. A stylish cocktail bar that's worth the journey out to D4.

ELY. CHQ, IFSC, Docklands - Dublin 1. Tel: 016768986. Another branch of the successful Ely wine bar chain.

ELY WINE BAR. 22, Ely Place - Dublin 2. Tel: 016768986. Ever-trendy wine bar with a hearty food menu and an impressive range.

FÉILE. 11, Wexford Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 0861057573. Opened up where carnival once stood, this pub has a more traditional, laid-back feel.

FIXX COFFEE HOUSE DAWSON STREET. 17, Dawson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. A great place to win award-winning coffee.

GILBERT & WRIGHT, MALAHIDE. 1, Ross Lane, Malahide - County Dublin. Tel: 018456580. There's a hint of 70s retro chic at this stylish bar in a seaside village.

GIN PALACE. 42, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018748881. Obviously a place for some gourmet gins, but you'll find a lively bar and some nice tapas here too.

GRAND CENTRAL. 10/11, O'Connell Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018728658. A Dublin landmark, this place is packed out by post-work drinkers most evenings.

HAIRSTYLE. 12, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016706202. Want a chic haircut? Just hop in here.

INSOMNIA. 2, Lower Mayor Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016720320. This place dishes up a much-needed caffeine fix for docklands workers.

INSOMNIA. 40-43, Nassau Street - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. One of the first branches in the chain, this is still one of the best places to nip in for a coffee just off Grafton Street.

INSOMNIA. 51B, Dawson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. An excellent spot for people-watching over coffee - grab the bay window if you can.

INSOMNIA. 9, Wexford Street - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. A branch of the popular coffee chain on Ireland's premier gigging strip.

INSOMNIA. Custom House Quay, IFSC, Docklands - Dublin 1. Tel: 016720320. Another great place to grab a coffee near the Liffey.

INSOMNIA. Pembroke Street - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. A handy location makes this place a top spot among workers in the nearby offices.

INSOMNIA. Spar, Capel Street - Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. Another branch of the popular coffee chain that's teamed up with a convenience store.

INSOMNIA. Spar, Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. Got the shopping? Reward yourself with a nice cuppa.

JL'S CAFÉ. 4, Upper Abbey Street - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. Fresh and tasty home-cooked food is served up quick here.

LA BOULANGERIE. 6, Chatham Court, Chatham Street - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. A great place for sweet treats with your coffee fix.

LA CORTE. Custom House Square, IFSC - Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. Whisper it - this little place does some of the nicest Italian coffee in the area. And in Dublin, for that matter.

LA CUVÉ. Burton Hall, Mayor Square, IFSC - Dublin 1. Tel: 016054912. A renamed and

revamped wine bar in the heart of the docklands.

LA DOLCE VITA. 5, Music Hall, Cow's Lane - Dublin 2. Tel: 017079786. A wonderful little café and wine bar just away from the bustle of Temple Bar.

LASER DVD. St Andrew's Street - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. A Great place to pick up some obscure or foreign movies.

MADIGAN'S. 4, Lower Abbeey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018745456. A traditional pub with a good pint to offer.

MUNCHIES. 2, South William Street - Dublin. Tel: 018733455. The original Munchies restaurant, this place has recently started serving late night tapas.

MUNCHIES. Lower Baggot Street - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. A welcoming branch of the popular sandwich chain.

NATIONAL COLLEGE OF IRELAND. Custom House Square, Lower Mayor Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 014498500. A well-regarded institution with a range of full and part-time courses.

O'BRIEN'S SANDWICH BAR. Harbourmaster Place, IFSC - Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. A conveniently-located sandwich bar for IFSCers.



THE WRIGHT VENUE FIRE & ICE PARTY – DECEMBER 31

It's the culmination of a year in which the biggest parties this city - no, sorry, this country - have seen lit up people's lives. Week on week, there've been electric nights in the multi-award-winning Wright Venue that have astounded all who were there. The venue has had its epic foundations rocked by the likes of Roger Sanchez and Laidback Luke manning the decks. The world's stars came out to play too. Where else would you see Rihanna, 50

Cent, and Verne Troyer getting their party on in this country? It's been a record breaking year at the venue and, on New Year's Eve, the Wright Venue is going out of 2010 with more than a loud bang - it's going nuclear! The Wright Venue is set to host the most spectacular ultimate party of 2010. The Wright Venue 'Fire & Ice Party' will be throbbing with a blizzing night of performers, dazzling dancers and the anthems that set

alight the dance floors for 2010. Prepare yourselves for a New Year's Eve party like no other. Forget New York, Miami and Sydney - on New Year's, The Wright Venue is where it's at. It's the venue that invites superlatives and now it's inviting you and yours to the night that will rock the final moments of 2010. The Wright Venue is the ideal setting for welcoming 2011. Its grand exterior coupled with its exotic and decadent interior will act

as a surreal portal of time. Stepping into the Wright Venue on December 31 will be an experience like no other - enter on New Year's Eve and emerge on January 1 with a smile that will last you until the end of 2011! The Wright Venue 'Fire & Ice Party' December 31: Glitz, glamour and good time. Tickets from www.thewrightvenue.ie and ticketmaster and call 018900099.

O'DONOGHUES. 15, Merion Row - Dublin 2. Tel: 016607194. A legendary trad music pub that was loved by The Dubliners, and is still popular today.

OLESYA'S WINE BAR. 18, Exchequer Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016724087. Well-stocked wine bar with a mix of Irish and continental fare.

PANAMA. 30, Batchelor's Walk - Dublin 1. Tel: 018745730. A Panamanian theme lends this Liffey-side pub plenty of character.

PANTIBAR. 7-8, Capel Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018740710. The fabulous Panti presides over this popular gay bar.

PETER'S PUB. 1, Johnson Place - Dublin 2. Tel: 01 6778588. A Surprisingly cool little city-centre bar.

QUEEN OF TARTS. 3-4, Cow's Lane - Dublin 2. Tel: 016334681. Known internationally for both savoury tarts and sweet treats. This is the larger of the two twinned restaurants, and the original Queen of Tarts is based on Dame Street.

RED ROSE CAFÉ. 23, Dawson Street. Tel: 0863704873. A cosy, welcoming café has taken on the space once occupied by an O'Brien's sandwich bar.

READER'S CAFÉ. First floor, Waterstones, Dawson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016791260. Lovely scones and high-quality cooking make this ideal for enjoying a first flick through a freshly-bought book.

RON BLACK'S. 25, Dawson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016728231. A still-chic cocktail and champagne bar.

RUSH BAR. 65, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016719542. It's not as frantic as the name suggests, but that's no criticism of this well-run bar.

SABOTAGE. 14, Exchequer Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016704789. A clothes shop with some refreshingly different looks on offer.

SHAKES. 15, Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. Dublin's very first milkshake bar has a wealth of recipes to choose from and very efficient staff.

SHEBEEN CHIC. 4, South Great George's Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016799667. Don't let the shabby décor fool you - this is a very happening bar and restaurant.

SIMON'S PLACE. 22, South Great George's Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016797821. A bohemian café with lots of charm and delightful cheesecake.

SIN É. 14/15, Upper Ormond Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 018787079. A very popular music bar and pub, this place unusually comes to life on Sunday afternoons and early evenings.

SOUP DRAGON. 168, Capel Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018723277. A great place for hearty and creative soups, as well as some indulgent sweets.

THE BAGEL FACTORY. 33, Wicklow Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016334588. A great selection of bagels to take on the go.

THE BAGEL FACTORY. 34, Lower Liffey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018782935. Shoppers surely appreciate this convenient place for grabbing bagels on the go.

THE BAGEL BAR. Unit 1, Custom House Square, IFSC - Dublin 1. Tel: 016739923. Great value bagels are served with a smile at this Docklands place.

THE BAGEL FACTORY. Lower Mayor Street, IFSC - Dublin 1. Tel: 016119730. There's plenty of variety in the bagels from here, along with seating room if you want to eat in.

THE BAGEL FACTORY. 19, Merrion Row - Dublin 2. Tel: 016766235. A very popular music bar and pub, this place unusually comes to life on Sunday afternoons and early evenings.

THE BAGGOT INN. 143, Lower Baggot Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 0166618758. A much-loved older pub that's received a successful renovation in recent years.

THE BAILEY. 2, Duke Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 016773055. This hip place also serves a nice little food menu.

THE BANK. 20-22, College Green - Dublin 2. Tel: 016770677. This lovingly-restored bank building now houses a very popular bar and restaurant.

THE BERNARD SHAW. 50/51, South Richmond Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 0857128342. Imagine an old-man bar on powerful hallucinogens. It's better than you think.

THE BLEEDING HORSE. 24, Camden Street Upper - Dublin 2. Tel: 014752705. One of the oldest pubs in the city, this place is spacious, grand and lively.

THE BLOODY STREAM. 14, West Pier, Howth - Dublin 13. Tel: 018395076. A cosy pub that makes the most of its setting, just a few short yards

away from the picturesque Howth Harbour.

THE BOAR'S HEAD. 149, Capel Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 014752705. A very popular spot for lunch and a pint, this is also fun to visit after work.

THE BRAZEN HEAD. 20, Bridge Street - Dublin 8. Tel: 016779549. Apparently the oldest pub in Dublin, this place does great food and has friendly staff.

THE CAPEL STREET BRIDGE. Lower Ormand Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 016707744. A charming river-side café.

THE CELI. 81, Talbot Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018788655. A welcoming, traditional pub.

THE CLARENDON. 32, Clarendon Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016170060. A stylish bar with some nice grub during lunchtime and early evening.

THE COBBLESTONE. 77, North King Street - Dublin 7. Tel: 018721799. The Northside spot for Irish traditional music. Trust us.

THE CONFESSION BOX. Malborough Street - Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. Don't be put off by the genuinely teeny interior. Staff is efficient, and it's great fun here once the trad session gets going.

THE FOGGY DEW. 1, Fownes Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016779328. A traditional bar that's retained its atmosphere through modernisation. Still great for a singsong on special nights.

THE FRONT LOUNGE. 33, Parliament Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016704112. A relatively quiet - but nonetheless fun - gay bar.

THE FXB BULL & CASTLE. Christchurch Place - Dublin 2. Tel: 014751122. A huge gastropub with a great range of craft beers.

THE GAITYTHEATRE. South King Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016771717. This stately old theatre is host to some innovative shows and musicals.

THE GINGERMAN. 40, Fenian Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016766388. Inspired by the JP Dunleavy novel, this place has a strong literary theme and a warm, moody atmosphere.

THE GLOBE. 11, South Great Georges Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016711220. Also home to the popular student night Rí-Rá, the globe is a consistently-packed bar with a friendly vibe all round.



RED ROSE CAFÉ

23, Dawson Street - Dublin 2
Opened where a branch of O'Brien's Sandwich Bars once stood, The Red Rose Café has taken back a little corner of Dublin 2 to open a small, friendly little coffee shop and sandwich bar. Staff are as friendly and efficient as you could wish for, and they've managed to get an impressive amount of comfy seating into the building. Bagels start at €4.50 and sandwiches are available from €3.95, though we splash out for the brie, bacon and cranberry effort at €4.25. They've also got a great range of smoothies for €3.80 - the 'blueberry startie' is an innovative (and tasty!) recipe.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 07:00 (08:00 Saturday, 09:00 Sunday) to 18:00 (17:00 Sunday).

THE GOOD BITS. 1, Store Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018197635. Formerly known as Radio City, this live venue remains hugely popular.

THE HAIRY LEMON. 42, Lower Stephen Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016797724. An extensive pub with plenty of nooks and crannies for a quiet conversation.

THE INTERNATIONAL. 23, Wicklow Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016779250. Home to the legendary International Comedy Club and a very nice little bar in its own right.

THE MARKET BAR. 14a, Fade Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016139094. No piped music, a tapas menu, and a surreal decorative display of foot measures. You can't accuse it of being unoriginal!

THE OLD STAND. 37, Exchequer Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016777220. Apparently a favoured haunt of Michael Collins in the day, you'll see why from a visit to this traditional pub.

THE OLYMPIA THEATRE. 172, Dame Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016793323. The popular live venue and theatre still heaves with action on gig nights.

THE ORMOND WINE BAR. 6, Ormond Quay Upper - Dublin 7. Tel: 018749778. A recently-opened gem, this place has frankly stunning décor and a great range of wines.

THE PEMBROKE. 31-32, Lower Pembroke Street – Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. A handily-located pub with plenty of character and some interesting design features.

THE PLOUGH. Lower Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. A cosy and charming pub that reopened its doors to a grateful public in 2008.

THE PORTER HOUSE. 16-18, Parliament Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016798495. You'll find a breathtaking array of beers at this massive pub/brewery.

THE PORTOBELLO. 33, Richmond Street South - Dublin 2. Tel: 014752715. The canal-side location makes this pub a very nice spot on sunny days.

THE PURTY KITCHEN. 34, Essex Street East - Dublin 2. Tel: 016770945. A large pub and club with live music.

THE QUAYS. 11-12, Temple Bar – Dublin 2. Tel: 016713922. Get over the griping about Temple Bar being a tourist trap, and you'll find this pub very nice for a night out.

THE STAG'S HEAD. 1, Dame Court - Dublin 2. Tel: 016793701. Space is at a premium here but it's worth persevering – once you sit down, this old-school pub is impossible to leave.

THE TEMPLE BAR. 2, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016725286. A consistently packed tourist pub, this offers live music and plenty of atmosphere.

THE TURKS HEAD. Junction of Parliament Street and Essex Gate, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 876764657. Criminally underrated nightspot with lashings of atmosphere and a fun crowd.

THE VILLAGE. 26, Wexford Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014758555. A worthy addition to the Camden/Wicklow Street Strip, this place has booze, music and atmosphere in abundance.

THE WOOLSHED. Unit 4, Parnell Centre, Parnell Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018724325. A popular sports bar with many drinks promotions on quieter nights.

THE VAULTS. 1, Harbournmaster Place, IFSC - Dublin 1. Tel: 016054700. This sprawling venue features a restaurant, bar, and late night club at weekends.

THE STREET. The Campshires, North Wall Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 016700073. A nice little café for grabbing a quick coffee and watching the Docklands traffic passing.

THE SWEETEST THING. 17, Bachelor's Walk – Dublin 1. Tel: 018720233. It's high time there was a dedicated chocolate café in the heart of Dublin, we say. These folks agree.

THE TEMPLE BAR HOTEL. 13-17, Fleet Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016773333. Handy, centrally-located hotel with some good last-minute deals.

THE WINDJAMMER. 8-10, Townsend Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016772576. A popular early house and generally welcoming pub at any time.

TGI FRIDAYS. St Stephens Green West - Dublin 2. Tel: 014781233. Cheap cocktails and a consistently-lively atmosphere make this a handy hangout for the young.

TIFFIN CAFÉ. 4, Molesworth Place – Dublin 2. Tel: 016761040. A friendly little spot for soup or a sandwich.

TOSS'D. CHQ Building, Custom House Quay, Docklands – Dublin 1. Tel: 018291607. A great place for fresh noodles and salads, Toss'd gets particularly busy at lunchtime.

TOWER RECORDS. 8, Wicklow Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016713250. A great place to pick up interesting music, with a massive selection of DVDs too.

URBAN OUTFITTERS. Cecilia Street, Temple Bar – Dublin 2. Tel: 016706202. A shop that's loaded with cool clothes, music and general bits-and-bobs.

WEST COAST COFFEE. Bachelor's Walk – Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. A lovely little spot to enjoy good coffee while looking out onto the Liffey.

WHELANS. 25, Wexford Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014780766. A long-standing indie music pub, this place is increasingly featuring innovative live acts.

DINNER

101 TALBOT. 101, Talbot Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018745011. Fresh and contemporary Irish, continental and African cuisine.

ACAPULCO. 7, South Great Georges Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016770733. Popular Tex Mex establishment with quality ingredients.

BAR ITALIA. 26, Bloom's Lane, Lower Ormond Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 018741000. An unpretentious Italian restaurant with authentic, well-prepared ingredients.

BOOJUM. Millenium Walkway, Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018729499. A great little burrito bar, which even offers frozen margaritas.

BRASSERIE SIXTY6. 66, George's Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014005878. A popular spot for dinner and cocktails, this place also has a highly-regarded brunch to offer.

BROADWAY PIZZA PARLOR. Unit 6, Custom House Square, IFSC - Dublin 1. Tel: 016721812. It's always buzzing at this place – taste the pizzas or calzonés to find out why.

CACTUS JACKS. Millenium Walkway, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018746198. Fun Tex-Mex spot with an outlet in Galway. Great margaritas.

CAFÉ AZTECA. 19-22, Lord Edward Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016709476. Great burritos and more are on offer from this informal restaurant.

free
Present this
coupon for a free
dessert with any
main course.



THE HARBOURMASTER

Custom House Dock - Dublin 1
Tel: 016701688
Web: www.harbourmaster.ie

Re-opened under new management, The Harbourmaster has once again started to cram in docklanders like nothing ever interrupted their flow to the bar and restaurant. The setting - the old harbour master's office - is still striking, and the renovation of the space has managed to preserve the traditional pub feel with lots of nooks and crannies, while adding a more modern dining space. The food, a mix of Irish and international dishes, has plenty of charm: we plump for the confit of duck every time. Here's a daytime tip - they offer one of the best cheap cups of coffee in the little café on the side of the building. Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 12:00 to 23:30 (12:00 to 00:30 Friday and Saturday, 12:00 to 19:00 Sunday). Food served from 12:00 to 20:30 21:00 Thursday to Saturday, 18:00 Sunday).



CAFÉ CARLO. 63, O'Connell Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018880856. You can get more than just Italian stuff at this cosy, central spot – they do some mean Irish dishes too.

CAFÉ IRIE. 11, Fownes Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016725090. Indie-esque coffee shop and sandwich bar which shares a building with lots of intriguing stores.

CAFÉ MAO. 2-3, Chatham Row – Dublin 2. Tel: 016704899. An excellent Asian restaurant, with a branch in Dun Laoghaire too.

CAFE NOVO. The Westbury Hotel, Harry Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016463353. An elegant restaurant in one of the city's most-loved hotels.

CAFÉBARDELLI. 12, South Great Georges Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016771646. A lively restaurant with a great range of salads, pizzas and other treats.

CAPTAIN AMERICAS. 44, Grafton St – Dublin 2. Tel: 016715266. Long-standing American style cookhouse and bar.

CASANOSTRA. 85, Malborough Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018728143. A relatively new Italian kid on the block.

CARLUCCIO'S. 52, Dawson Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016333957. The first Irish branch of a popular UK chain, this venue blends a coffee shop, foodhall and Italian restaurant.

CHAPTER 1. 18, Parnell Square North – Dublin 1. Tel: 018732266. Quite possibly the best restaurant in this fine city. Top food at very competitive prices.

CHATHAM BRASSERIE. Chatham Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016790055. A new New-York style restaurant with a twist of personality. Ideal for brunch.

CHEZ MAX. 133, Baggot Street – Dublin 4. Tel: 016618899. Max's full-scale bistro is one of the nicest spots on Baggot Street.

CHEZ MAX. 1, Palace Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016337215. A wonderful little French bistro, with an intimate atmosphere.

CIAO BELLA ROMA. 25, Parliament Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016770004. A great place for a late night, sit-down pizza that's fresh and authentic.

CORNUCOPIA. 19 Wicklow Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016777583. An all-vegetarian restaurant with lots of tricks up its sleeve. Also offers a cookbook for sale if the recipes appeal to you.

DIEP LE SHAKER. 55, Pembroke Lane – Dublin 2. Tel: 016611829. This trendy Thai place is one of the most consistently good restaurants at any stage in the day.

DUNNE & CRESCENZI. 16, South Frederick St – Dublin 2. Tel: 016773463. Popular Italian wine bar and restaurant, with an extensive range.

FALLON & BYRNE. 2, Exchequer Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014721000. A mix of wine bar, gourmet food hall and high-class restaurant, this place is packed with little treats for yourself.

FIRE. Mansion House, Dawson Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016767200. Fire has food to do its beautiful setting justice. The flatbreads are particularly worth a try.

FLANAGAN'S. 61, Upper O'Connell Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 8731388. A great family restaurant in the shadow of the spire.

FXB RESTAURANT. 2, Lower Pembroke Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016764606. A high-quality steakhouse that also does a mean bit of seafood and offers great value.

GOTHAM CAFÉ. 8, South Anne Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016795266. A menu packed

with delicious salads, innovative pizzas and other treats ensures Gotham is packed out even on weeknights. A great place for a weekend brunch.

GOVINDAS. 83, Middle Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018727463. Vegetarian restaurant with a varied menu. Branches are also on Merrion Row and Aungier Street.

GREEN NINETEEN. 19, Camden Street Lower – Dublin 2. Tel: 014789626. Popular good value restaurant. All main courses cost €10.

GRUEL. 68, Dame Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016707119. Wilfully unpretentious and hearty food. The 'roast in a roll' is a lunchtime treat.

HARD ROCK CAFÉ. 12, Fleet Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016717777. Dublin's outlet of the popular franchise does well from both tourists and temple bar revellers in need of a refuel.

HARRY'S MEDITERRANEAN CAFE & WINE BAR. 22, Dawson Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 012808337. Popular post-work café bar with a branch in Dun Laoghaire.

HAVANA. Georges Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014005990. An unpretentious tapas bar with a Cuban twist.

HELL. 36, Wexford Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 1890456666. A recently opened gem of a pizza place, offering both eat-in and take-away deals.

IL POSTO. 10, Stephen's Green – Dublin 2. Tel: 016794769. Outstanding Italian food is on offer here in a very atmospheric underground dining room.

JADE. 27, Little Mary Street – Dublin 7. Tel: 018874468. This Chinese restaurant is one of Dublin's many 'hidden gems', and uses no MSGs in its food.

JUST OFF FRANCIS. 78, Thomas Street – Dublin 8. Tel: 014738807. A welcoming little restaurant doing high-quality food at pocket-friendly prices.

KOH. 7, Jervis Street, Millennium Walkway – Dublin 1. Tel: 018146777. This Thai restaurant and cocktail bar has a constant hum of activity.

KOKORO SUSHI BENTO. 19, Lower Liffey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018728787. A great new place for reasonably-priced sushi.

KUDOS. Clarion Hotel, IFSC – Dublin 1. Tel: 014338866. The Clarion's Kudos restaurant has considerable style.

KYLEMORE AT THE SPIRE. 1, Upper O'Connell Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018780498. This Dublin institution has benefited greatly from a major sprucing-up.

L'GUEULETON. 1, Fade Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016753708. Long a stalwart of the Dublin dining scene, this restaurant does great French Cuisine.

LA CAVE. 28, Anne Street South – Dublin 2. Tel: 016794409. Long standing wine bar and restaurant with a loyal clientele.

LA MAISON. 15, Castle Market – Dublin 2. Tel: 01727258. A dedicated French restaurant opened where the much-loved Maison des Gourmets once stood.

LA MED. 22, East Essex Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016707358. This promises a bit of sunshine and delivers with a selection of Italian and international dishes.

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LAGOONA. Mayor Square, IFSC - Dublin 1. Tel: 017918928. A burger and a pint from here is an unexpected delight.

LE BON CRUBEEN. 81-82, Talbot Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 017040126. A stylish and (thank heavens) affordable brasserie, and a welcome addition to the northside.

LEMON. 66, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016729044. Before a host of pretenders started serving crepes, there was this place, which is still dishing up savory and sweet snacks from South William Street.

MAMMA'S PIZZA. 4, Talbot Street - Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. Quick, hearty pizza on the go will float anyone's proverbial boat.

MILANO. 38, Dawson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016707744. The first outlet of Milano's (Pizza Express in the UK) to make it over to these shores.

MILANO. 19, East Essex Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016703384. A great place for a quick pizza in Temple Bar.

MILANO. 6, Excise Walk, Clarion Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 016119012. A spacious and airy branch of the successful Milanos chain.

MONGOLIAN BBQ. 7, Anglesea Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016703802. An all-you-can-eat restaurant with fresh Mongolian fare cooked in front of you.

MUNCHIES. Millenium Walkway, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018733455. The perfect spot for grabbing a quick and healthy sandwich on your break.

MYO. Lower Mayor Street, IFSC - Dublin 1. Tel: 016721031. Create your own wraps, sandwiches or even pizzas from a good buffet of ingredients at this innovative new spot.

NEWYORK GRIND. 5, Excise Walk, Clarion Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 016360110. A pretty good recreation of the classic Big Apple diner, NYG is known for doing a mean brunch and some tasty wraps.

NUDE. 21, Suffolk Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016774804. The original uber-wholesome, organic café-cum restaurant.

NYONYA MALAYSIAN RESTAURANT. 76, Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016707200. Genuine dedication to quality and authenticity makes this place a little bit special.

O'BRIEN'S SANDWICH BAR. Custom House Square, Docklands - Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. The sausage toastie from this

branch of the O'Brien's chain is hard to beat.

ODESSA. 13, Dame Court - Dublin 2. Tel: 016707634. A mouth-watering menu and a laid back atmosphere makes this a perfect 'unwinding' restaurant.

ONE PICO. 5/6, Molesworth Place - Dublin 2. Tel: 016760300. A delightful little restaurant, that knows it's a little bit special. Great French-influenced food.

PACINO'S. 18, Suffolk Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016775651. A very lively Italian restaurant and club just off Grafton Street.

PASTA FRESCA. 2, Chatham Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016792402. Good value, fresh Italian food in the heart of the city.

PEPLOE'S WINE BISTRO. 16, St Stephen's Green - Dublin 2. Tel: 016763144. Lovingly decorated restaurant set below a Georgian home. The menu is also packed with variety.

PICHET. 14-15, Trinity Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016771060. A popular restaurant and café with a modern dining room.

PINOCCHIO. Luas Kiosk, Ranelagh - Dublin 6. Tel: 014722444. A very authentic Italian restaurant and wine bar.

RAY'S PIZZA. Upper Fownes Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. Filling the pizza-slice-sized void since the demise of Difontaine's, this place does very nice pizzas to eat in or take away.

ROLYS BISTRO. 7, Ballsbridge Terrace - Dublin 4. Tel: 016682611. Another Dublin institution, Roly's is best enjoyed at quiet lunchtimes. However, there's a nice lively feel at the evening sitting.

SAAGAR INDIAN RESTAURANT. 16, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014755060. It's more than just late-night revellers that enjoy the fine Indian fare at this restaurant.

SABA. 26-28, Clarendon Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016792000. One of Dublin's coolest Thai restaurants, with an award-winning cocktail bar to boot.

SALAMANCA. 1, St Andrew's Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016774799. A fantastic long-standing tapas restaurant. Doesn't usually take reservations.

SAMSARA CAFÉ BAR. 35, Dawson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016774444. Thai food café bar, with a strong cocktail menu.

SIAM THAI. 14-15, St Andrew's Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016773363. Fresh, healthy and enjoyable Thai cuisine is served amid stylish surroundings.

SOHO. 17, South Great Georges Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 017079596. American-style diner food done with a bit of class and creativity.

SUSHI KING. Baggot Street Dublin 2. Tel: 016449836. Cheap - and tasty - sushi will always appeal to tastebuds. This smaller Baggot place is ideal for grab-and-go.

SUSHI KING. 13, Dawson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016752000. You can grab a seat at this outlet from the increasingly-popular Sushi King.

SWAL. Unit B, The Campshires, North Wall Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 018561633. A modern Malaysian restaurant set with views over the Liffey.

TASTE. 39, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016798475. Simple, straightforward-but-tasty food served up by friendly staff.

THE ANGLER'S REST. Strawberry Beds, Castleknock - County Dublin. Tel: 018204351. French elegance is the predominant theme at this easy-going restaurant.

THE BAD ASS CAFÉ. Temple Bar Square, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016712596. There are great pizzas to be tasted, along with plenty of unpretentious fare at this spot in Temple Bar Square.

THE CEDAR TREE. 11, St Andrew's Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016772121. An authentic Lebanese restaurant with a rich and intriguing décor. An early bird menu also offers good value.

THE CHILLI CLUB. 1 Anne's Lane, South Anne Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016773721. Reportedly Dublin's first Thai restaurant, and still a popular choice.

THE COFFEE CO. 13, Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016797141. This place does exactly what it says on the tin: a great cup of the black stuff.

THE EPICUREAN FOOD HALL. Corner of Liffey Street and Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. You'll find a great selection of food from across a range of traditions at this hall.

MACTURCAILL'S

15, Townsend Street - Dublin 2
016790981

A welcoming, family-run pub that's just far enough off the beaten track to feel like an oasis from Dublin city centre's bustle, Macturcaill's has an old-school décor that avoids tackiness and hugely welcoming staff that make anyone feel at home. In addition to a fine pint, you'll also find this pub offering a carvery lunch that's hugely popular among local office workers, and an evening a la carte menu too. They're pulling out the stops for private parties in particular this month: for pre-booked groups of 30 or more, all pints cost a mere €3.50, and a two-for-one deal is running on their tasty platters. Opening hours: Open Monday to Saturday, from 12:00 to 23:30 (00:30 Thursdays, 01:30 Friday and Saturday). Lunch served Monday to Friday from 12:00 to 15:00, dinner from 17:00 to 20:30 (19:30 Monday and Tuesday). Saturday menu served from 13:00 to 19:00.





THE EXCHEQUER. 3-5, Exchequer Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016706856. Brilliantly restored hotel bar with a very strong food menu using Irish-sourced ingredients.

THE FARM. 3, Dawson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016718654. This organic-themed restaurant also has a pleasant little cocktail menu.

THE ITALIAN CONNECTION. 95, Talbot Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018787125. A lovely, wholesome restaurant with a cosy dining room.

THE MILL STONE. 39, Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016799931. An intimate, warm restaurant with some surprisingly creative pizzas.

THE PIG'S EAR. 4, Nassua Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016703865. An excellent new little bistro, with hearty fare and charming views of Trinity College.

THE STEPS OF ROME. 1, Chatham Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016705630. A great place for hot slices of pizza to go.

THE UNICORN. 12, Merion Row - Dublin 2. Tel: 016624757. Established long ago and still going strong, the Unicorn repays Dubliners' continued affection with hearty Italian fare.

THE WINDING STAIR. 40, Lower Ormond Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 018726576. The restaurant above this well-loved bookshop has gone all upmarket in recent years, with considerable success. Some great value lunch deals are on offer.

THUNDER ROAD CAFÉ. Fleet Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 0167794057. A big restaurant with big portions and big rock'n'roll playing.

TOSCANA. 3, Cork Hill Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016709785. Authentic Tuscan food served in very-pleasant surroundings.

TOTO. 8, Talbot Street - Dublin 1. Tel: N/A. A surprisingly nice restaurant and pizzeria.

TOWN BAR & GRILL. 21, Kildare Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016624800. A fun New York style eatery. Town's strong menu and service ensures it packs out most evenings.

TROCADERO. 3, St Andrew's Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016775545. The famous restaurant for a special pre-theatre meal is still going strong.

VENU. 2, Anne's Lane, South Anne Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016706755. This brasserie-cum-cocktail bar is nothing if not stylish, with both the food and cocktail menus having plenty of appeal.

WOLFES. 153, Capel Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018749570. This lovely little food and wine store has a cosy feel and plenty of treats - it's now serving dinner too.

YAMAMORI SUSHI. 38-39, Lower Ormond Quay - Dublin 1. Tel: 018720003. Excellent spot for sushi from the same folks behind the George's Street restaurant.

YO'SUSHI. Brown Thomas, Clarendon Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016728950. A sushi bar made unmissable by the charming addition of a conveyor belt carrying the food. It's also quite affordable by Dublin standards.

AFTER DINNER

4 DAME LANE. 4, Dame Lane - Dublin 2. Tel: 016790291. Yummy cocktails and great DJs make this place a winner.

BIABAR. 30, Lower Stephens Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014053653. Appealing food, great drinks on tap, and live music are on offer here.

BRANNIGANS. Cathedral Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018725315. An old-school Northside pub with a friendly welcome.

BRUXELLES. 7-8, Harry Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016775362. A favoured indie/metal music bar, this place gets packed out by 18:00 most evenings.

CAPITOL. 18/19, Lower Stephen Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014757166. A popular cocktail bar, particularly with the younger crowd - we think drinks for €5 may have something to do with it.

CASSIDYS. 42, Lower Camden Street Lower - Dublin 2. Tel: 014756540. Another welcoming traditional bar.

CENTRE STAGE CAFE. 6, Parliament Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016703390. A lovely little café-cum-pub with lots of atmosphere.

CITIBAR. 46-49, Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016794455. An enjoyable bar, club, and hotel located right at the heart of things - their 'Irish tapas' is also an interesting twist.

COPPER ALLEY BISTRO. 2, Lord Edward Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 0167965000. Linked to the Harding Hotel, this place has a great menu which isn't too pricey either.

DAKOTA. 9, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016727690. This trendy place still packs them in on Fridays - it's just as nice for a lunchtime visit if you don't fancy a crowd.

DAVY BYRNES. 21, Duke Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016775217. A literary pub with a great bar food menu.

DEVITT'S. 2, Upper Camden Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014753414. These guys do old-school service - and very well, thanks very much - along one of the trendiest streets in the city.

ENOTECA DELLE LANGHE. Blooms Lane - Dublin 1. Tel: 018880834. A welcoming and authentic Italian wine bar.

FITZSIMONS BAR AND HOTEL. 21-22, Wellington Quay, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016779315. Even if you're not looking for a room, the relaxing bar is a nice place to spend an evening.

GILBERT & WRIGHT, SWORDS. Unit 14, The Plaza, Swords - County Dublin. Tel: 018408400. A relaxed, cool bar has been one of the best venues in Swords since it opened in 2007.

GRAINGERS. 51, Talbot Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018363249. A great place for a slightly-off-the-beaten-track pint.

HOGANS. 35, South Great Georges Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016775904. The former jazz club is beloved by the over-thirties, and rightly so: it's still wonderfully mellow and the service is top-notch.

JACK NEALON'S PUB. 165, Capel Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018723247. Nealon's traditional pub is a welcome - and welcoming - sight in these parts.

JAMES JOYCE CAFÉ BAR AND ULYSSES VENUE. 52, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018728188. A lively and fun café bar with a great food menu and a tasty selection of cocktails, plus regular gigs and club nights.

J MCNEILL'S. 140, Capel Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018747679. Another popular bar on the perpetually-rocking Capel Street Strip.

KATE'S COTTAGE. 1, Amiens Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 871315291. A traditional Irish pub with a warm atmosphere.

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THE NEW ISSUE

DUBLIN'S SONIC BOOM!

FEATURING 17 BAND PROFILES AND INTERVIEWS

AVAILABLE FROM:
TROUT RECORDS (GEORGE'S STREET ARCADE)
ALL CITY (CROW STREET)
SUB CITY (EXCHEQUER STREET)
FREEBIRD RECORDS (WICKLOW STREET)
THE RECORD, ART & GAME EMPORIUM (FADE STREET)



KEHOE'S. 7, South Anne Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016778312. A welcoming, popular pub just off Grafton Street.

KNIGHTSBRIDGE BAR. Bachelors Walk, O'Connell Bridge – Dublin 1. Tel: 014970111. A welcoming traditional-style pub.

LEMON JELLY. 11, Essex Street East - Dublin 2. Tel: 016776297. Delicious crepes and more are available at this trendy café.

LINCOLNS INN. 18-19, Lincoln Place - Dublin 2. Tel: 016762044. A classic old pub that's been redecorated with considerable élan.

LOTS BAR. 9, Lower Liffey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018727669. A mixed décor of a traditional and modern café bar, and a trendy crowd.

MADIGANS. 25, North Earl Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018746362. A very casual, laid-back pub.

MCDAIDS. 7, Harry Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016794395. A haunt of no less than Brendan Behan in its day, this is one of the oldest pubs in the city and one of the best.

MESSRS MAGUIRE. 1-2, Burgh Quay - Dublin 2. Tel: 018041205. A massive pub set on many levels, with a good bar

food menu and some excellent Messrs-brewed beers.

METRO. 43, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016794515. A coffee shop that feels like it's been here for decades. Lovely espresso, even lovelier leather seating.

O'DONOGHUE'S. Suffolk Street Dublin 2. Tel: 016770605. A very popular spot with people who want that 'local pub' feel in Dublin 2.

O'NEILLS. 2, Suffolk Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016793656. A sprawling pub with oodles of atmosphere and a mean selection of gourmet beers.

O'REILLY'S. Tara Street Station – Dublin 2. Tel: 016716769. This place offers great value on pints and cocktails, and has an interesting décor too.

O'SHEAS. 19, Talbot Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018365670. A veritable treasure trove of a pub, with many cosy little spaces.

OLIVER ST JOHN GOGARTY'S. Fleet Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016711822. A traditional pub that's very popular with tourists.

PEADAR KEARNEY'S. 64, Dame Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016753971. Looking on the outside like any salty boozier, Peadar Kearney's actually

attracts a reasonably young crowd for some great music nights.

PYGMALION. Powerscourt Townhouse Centre, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014539890. This place has taken over Bar Mizu's prime location, and offers a great atmosphere.

Q-BAR. 1-2, Burgh Quay - Dublin 2. Tel: 016777835. One of the first places to serve good-quality cocktails at prices to compete with a pint, Q-Bar is still a fun venue.

SOLAS. 31, Wexford Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014780583. A cocktail bar with a bit of outsider charm – and a very nice lunch menu.

SOUTH WILLIAM. 52, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016725946. Trendy club with a pie-themed food menu, extensive cocktails and varied club nights.

SUFI'S CAFÉ. 45-50, Lower Stephen Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016798577. A continental-style café with a secluded atmosphere.

SWEENEY'S. 2, Dame Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016350058. The boutique hotel-cum-cocktail bar and jazz club has recently undergone a very good revamp.

THE ARLINGTON HOTEL AND LEGENDS. 16, Lord Edward Street, Dublin 2. Tel: 016708777. A popular tourist hotel with Irish dancing seven nights a week.

THE ABBEYTHEATRE. 26, lower Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018962335. Ireland's National Theatre is well-furnished and has plenty going on.

THE CHURCH. Junction of Mary Street and Jervis Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018280102. Excellent pub-cum-restaurant-cum-club that ticks all the boxes.

THE CLARENCE HOTEL. 6-8, Wellington Quay - Dublin 2. Tel: 014070800. One of the city's best hotels and home to both the Tea Rooms and the Octagon Bar.

THE CZECH INN. Essex Gate, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016711535. Czech-themed bar with plenty to appeal to everyone, including an extensive beer range.

THE DAWSON LOUNGE. 25, Dawson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016771487. An antidote to the trendiness of the Dawson Street strip, The Dawson lounge claims to be the smallest pub in the city. We believe it.

THE DICE BAR. 79, Queen Street, Smithfield - Dublin 7. Tel: 016746710. Part-owned by fun loving criminal Huey Morgan, this cool little bar has a lot of noo yawk charm.

THE DRAGON. 64, South Great George's Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014781590. A relatively new kid on the gay bar block, this pub has a packed event programme.

THE DUKE. 8-9, Duke Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 876764657. A nice large traditional pub with good service and a trad evening on Sundays.

THE FLOWING TIDE/NEPTUNE BAR. 9, Abbey Street Lower - Dublin 1. Tel: 018744108. Very popular with the post-theatre crowd, and home to a comedy club that's generating considerable buzz.

THE GRAFTON LOUNGE. Unit 2, Royal Hibernian Way, Dawson Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016796260. Opened where the popular Coocon once stood, this has a rather more laid-back feel than its predecessor.

THE HARBOURMASTER. Customs House Dock, IFSC - Dublin 1. Tel: 016701688. Great coffee by day and a crackling atmosphere by night make this a winner.

THE HUT. 159, Phibsboro Road, Phibsboro – Dublin 7. Tel: 018302238. A decidedly old school bar – in a good way. Friendly service and a fine pint of Guinness are both on offer.

THE LONG HALL. 51, South Great Georges Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014751590. A popular pub with impeccable traditional credentials.

THE MARBLE BAR. The Westbury Hotel, Harry Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016791122. Just off Grafton Street lies one of the most relaxing and best-staffed cocktail bars in the city.

THE MINT BAR. Westin Hotel, Westmoreland Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016451322. This underground bar has a cosy atmosphere and great drinks – try the elderflower Collins.

THE PAVILION BAR. Trinity College – Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. One of the cheapest places in the city, the Pav is a hot spot for students and those who still wish they were.

DOYLES

9, College Street – Dublin 2
Tel: 016710616

Stroll into Doyles on any given afternoon and it's hard to see at first glance how this easy-going pub with traditional fittings has been one of the most popular student hangouts since time immemorial. It makes sense when you think about it, though. The location – within five minutes of Trinity College – plays its part, of course, as does the upstairs room: it hosts late events all through the week, including the Ruby Sessions (a great singer-songwriter night) on Tuesdays, and DJs who know how to mix indie and alternative tunes with a touch of quality pop. The Ha Ha Comedy Club upstairs on Sundays is also well worth a look. If you're more in the mood for a quiet evening, though, the ground floor bar remains laid-back even when it's packed and is a great place to watch any matches taking place before pulling a late one. They've also started serving good pub grub in the evenings to match an already highly-regarded lunch menu, and there's a spacious room available to hire for private functions. Little wonder, then, that this place is becoming popular outside student circles too. Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 12:00 to 02:30 (2:30 Sunday).



THE PINT. 28, Aston Quay - Dublin 2. Tel: 018745255. Neighbourhood bar with a varied live music mix.

THE PORT HOUSE. 64, South William Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016770298. A gorgeous little tapas bar with candlelight, and some innovative dishes.

THE MORGAN HOTEL. The Morgan Hotel, 10, Fleet Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014757166. This place is very popular, and it's easy to see why – the cocktails are frankly fantastic.

THE ODEON. 57, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014782088. With more room to breathe, you can appreciate the wonderfully restored décor of this place all the better – arrive before the late-night rush.

THE PALACE BAR. 21, Fleet Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016717388. One of the most welcoming traditional pubs to survive in Dublin city centre.

'THE SECRET BAR' 3, Fade Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 017645681. The city's worst-kept secret doesn't even need a name badge to draw in the punters.

THOMAS READS. 1, Parliament Street - Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. Still a very popular bar among clued-in people who don't

fancy the full-on Temple Bar night out.

UKIYO. 7-9, Exchequer Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016334071. Karaoke, sushi and cocktails may be an unconventional recipe, but it certainly works.

WRIGHT FINDLATER HOWTH. Findlater House, Howth – County Dublin. Tel: 018324488. A striking outdoor facade offers a hint at the stylish café bar that lies within.

LATE NIGHT

ABBEY COURT HOTEL. 29, Bachelor's Walk – Dublin 1. Tel: 018780700. Good budget accommodation by the Liffey with free wifi.

BROOKS HOTEL. 59-63, Drury Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 012788093. A boutique hotel just off Grafton Street, you say? Yeah, we'll take that.

BUCK WHALLEYS. 67, Lower Leeson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016334200. Popular wine bar, now with a full bar license and late opening.

CELTIC LODGE. 81-82, Talbot Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018788810. Great facilities, bars and restaurants nearby, and a spot by the Luas are all in this establishment's favour.

CLUB NASSUA. 1-2, Nassua Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016794388. The 'home of the slow set' plays old school hits from the 1980s and other decades every week.

COPPER FACE JACKS. 29, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 867816251. Many a romance has begun (and ended) in this heating Dublin club.

CRAWDADDY. Old Harcourt Street Train Station, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014780225. An intimate live venue downstairs at the POD complex.

DAY'S INN. 95-98, Talbot Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018749202. A handily located hotel, particularly for 02 concert-goers.

GILBERT & WRIGHT, DUN LAOGHAIRE. 128, Lower Georges Street, Dun Laoghaire – County Dublin. Tel: 016636148. One of the newest additions to the Dun Laoghaire social scene has drawn new nightlife-lovers to the seaside town.

GRAFTON CAPITOL HOTEL. Lower Stephen Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016481100. Good rooms, great rates, and helpful staff – it's all anyone really needs from a city-centre hotel.

JACOB'S INN HOSTEL. 21, Talbot Place – Dublin 1. Tel: 018555660. A welcoming, youth-orientated hostel.

KINLAY HOUSE HOSTEL. 2-12, Lord Edward Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016796644. A very handy place to kip just off the edge of Dame Street.

HARDING HOTEL. Fishamble Street, Christchurch - Dublin 2. Tel: 016796500. This place has all the benefits of a location just on the edge of Temple bar, but without all the noise you'd get right in the centre of it.

HOTEL ISAACS. 1, Store Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018134700. A handy little hotel for anyone in the O'Connell Street area, with a great live venue in The Good Bits.

HOWL AT THE MOON. 7-8, Lower Mount Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016345460. A spacious club with many levels – and lots going on most evenings.

ICE BAR. Four Seasons Hotel, Simonscourt Road - Dublin 4. Tel: 016654000. You can now get top-drawer sushi at this stylish cocktail bar – we're amazed nobody thought of the combination before.

KRYSTLE. 21-25, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014784066. A club clearly aiming for the high-class, high-

spending market, and hitting it right on the button.

LILLIES BORDELLO. Adam Court, Grafton Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016799204. The playground for the super-rich is increasingly letting in the hoi-polloi. Just don't try approaching the celebs.

MEZZA. 13, Parliament Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016706424. Late night Lebanese cuisine is understandably popular.

MOLLOY'S. 59, Talbot Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018550017. An old-school Irish pub.

NORTH STAR HOTEL. Amiens Street, Dublin 1. Tel: 018363136. A convenient location makes this an ideal place for travellers by bus.

O'SHEA'S HOTEL. 19, Talbot Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 014568901. A hotel promising great food, drink and fun within walking distance of O'Connell Street.

PARAMOUNT HOTEL. Parliament Street & Essex Gate, Temple Bar – Dublin 2. Tel: 01479900. This Temple Bar Hotel is just as lively as you'd expect.

RADDISSON BLU HOTEL. Golden Lane – Dublin 2. Tel: N/A. A very impressive hotel within a short walk of the city centre.

RÍ-RÁ. 11, South Great Georges Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016711220. A hugely popular student nightclub.

RIPLEY COURT HOTEL. 37, Talbot Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018365892. A new three-star hotel based in the centre of the city.

SIN. 17-19, Sycamore Street - Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016334232. Uber-popular Temple Bar nightclub with a mixed music policy.

THE ACADEMY. 57, Middle Abbey Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014751895. A cool club and live venue that makes the most of its space.

THE BUTTON FACTORY. Curved Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016709202. The refurbished and revamped Temple Bar Music Centre is a great place for smaller gigs.

THE DRURY COURT HOTEL. 28-30, Lower Stephen Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 014751988. Sitting close to the heart of the city, this is a lively hotel with some delicious food on offer too.

THE MEZZ. 23, Eustace Street, Temple Bar - Dublin 2. Tel: 016707655. Formerly the mezzanine bar, this Temple Bar club is winning many new converts.



BOWES

31, Fleet Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016714038

The sister pub to Doyles around the corner is drowning in an old-world charm that you don't get just anywhere these days, with perfectly woodstained furniture and panelling, 1850s green leather cushions, and even a chandelier. The décor would make Bowes feel a little bit like a gentleman's club or library if it weren't solidly unpretentious – you're more likely to hear people discussing football than Foucault here, which is no bad thing. Whisper it, but it's also one of the best places to enjoy high-end whiskeys outside those aforementioned (and hideously expensive) private clubs. You can usually get a table to yourself, which is nice, and there's also nice music to enjoy: the daytime barmen in particular seem to have a great taste in old jazz, so on any day off (or just an off-day) you can do a lot worse than spending the afternoon here reading the papers, drinking away a few productive hours, and yes, watching the football. Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 16:00 to 23:30 (00:30 Friday and Saturday, 23:00 Sunday).



GILBERT AND WRIGHTS DUN LAOGHAIRE

128, Lower George's Street, Dun Laoghaire – County Dublin. Tel: 016636148

It's a sight to warm the hearts of any jaded reviewer: a new pub that's actually made a serious effort. This branch of the Gilbert and Wright's night-life empire is their first foray into the south side of the city, and they're clearly determined to blow people away. The décor is retro, and not in the sense that somebody's half-heartedly installed an old lamp in and called it funky; this place is saturated with 1970s-style furniture, loads of old records and artefacts from a far cooler time. There's a stack of magazines we normally only see in Mad Men (they even take The New Yorker, for goodness sake!) giving us even more reason to stay a while. The charm is more than superficial too, with service that's efficient but doesn't break the easy-going vibe, a very respectable cocktail menu and the kind of relaxation that comes from enjoying great drinks in a particularly interesting sitting room. Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 17:00 (15:00 Friday, 12:00 Saturday and Sunday) to 23:30 (00:30 Friday and Saturday, 23:00 Sunday).



PACINOS

18, Suffolk Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016775651

This already-popular Italian eatery continues to improve in leaps and bounds. In the space of a year, they've added regular nights featuring salsa dancing, comedy, live rock'n roll and even theatre at a weekly supper club. They've also started offering great food on the go, from pastas, pizza, and ciabatta to a range of their tasty sauces to take home and work with yourself. Of course, no chef at home can quite capture the charm or atmosphere in Pacinos' spacious dining room, or the sterling service on offer. Pacinos has successfully hosted many private parties and high-profile events already and, with 16 years under its belt, don't be surprised if this revitalised venue adds many more.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 9am (09:00 Saturday, 10:00 Sunday) to 23:00 (22:00 Sunday/Monday). Late club Friday and Saturday from 23:00. For more information, go to Pacinos.ie



THE SUGAR CLUB. 8, Lower Leeson Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016787188. An intimate live venue with comfy seating, a pleasant bar, and a strong event line-up.

THE TWISTED PEPPER. 54, Middle Abbey Street - Dublin 1. Tel: 018734038. This venue gives a welcome stage to some cutting edge electronic musicians and DJs. Regular club nights Pogo and Mud are also great fun.

THE WRIGHT VENUE. Airside, Swords - Co. Dublin. Tel: 018900099. A gigantic, Miami-style club. Buses are available

as transport to the venue from the city centre.

TRAMCO BREWERY. 121, Lower Rathmines Road - Dublin 6. Tel: 014968050. A purveyor of craft beer by day and hip student club by night, this place ticks two very different boxes very well.

TRINITY LODGE HOTEL. 12, South Frederick Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016170900. A hotel with excellently appointed rooms in a great location.

TRIPOD. Old Harcourt Street Train Station, Harcourt Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 014763374.

One of the best clubs and live venues in the city, Tripod hosts some top international acts along with more offbeat artists.

VANILLA NIGHTCLUB. 19-21, Morehampton Road – Dublin 4. Tel: 016739805. A stylish boutique club with great private booths.

WRIGHTS CAFÉ BAR. The Plaza, Swords – County Dublin. Tel: 018406744. One of Ireland's original superpubs remains a fun place both for a cocktail (try the Wright Flirt) or good Irish food.

WYNN'S HOTEL. 35-39, Lower Abbey Street – Dublin 1. Tel: 018745131. A very comfortable hotel that still manages to have a lovely historic feel.

ZAYTOON. 14-15, Parliament Street - Dublin 2. Tel: 016773595. One of the best kebab places in Dublin, and just off Temple Bar. Enough said.

THE EXCHEQUER

3-5, Exchequer Street – Dublin 2. Tel: 016706787

It's easy to see why this hip gastropub has recently celebrated a very successful year in business even as many other places bite the dust. Along with an intriguing décor, you'll find real substance to what the exchequer offers, including quality Irish food with that rare combination of creativity and value – it's pub grub with a creative twist, and it's already piling up accolades: The Exchequer was a deserved winner of the Best Gastropub award at the Irish Restaurant Awards 2010. Their celebrated Sunday roast – a generous traditional meal for four – is a steal at €39.95.

The Exchequer has also caught on as a night-time venue with the help of DJs Marina Diniz and Richie Rock doing a mix of upbeat, summery tunes and darker heavy house. Top mixologist Darren Geraghty has also honed a well-thought out cocktail menu that gives a new twist to old classics, and throws in many innovative creations as well.

Opening hours: Open seven days a week, from 07:30 (08:00 Saturday and Sunday) to 23:30 (01:00 Thursday, 02:30 Friday and Saturday, 23:00 Sunday).



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