

Food and drink in Winchester

You don't have to wander very far to find good food and drink. There are a number of good restaurants and the pubs, almost universally, serve good beer and many pubs serve food (which is often relatively cheap and can be quite good!) though it is worth checking how late they serve until. Those with attached restaurants will, of course, continue until late but some stop at 9pm. This guide is very short. There are very many more restaurants in Winchester, plus the usual chains, as well as several different coffee chains (the obligatory Starbucks plus UK Italian-style chains Costa and Caffe Nero).

It is useful to use the post codes given if you want to find the places quickly in any online map (in the UK the post codes are very precise). When prices are given the range usually refers to the cheapest and the most expensive dish on the restaurant's dinner menu. **Vegetarians:** We are not sure whether there is a purely vegetarian/vegan restaurant in Winchester, but you should be absolutely fine as most, if not all, restaurants always have a few vegetarian options on their menu.

Pubs - a few selections, concentrating on those best for food

The King Alfred, 11 Saxon Road, SO237DJ, tel. 019 62854370 is highly recommended but one sometimes needs to book a table.

St.James Tavern, 3 Romsey Road, SO22 5BE, tel. 019 62861288 It's very convenient for the workshop and also very good, as are

The Corner House 71 North Walls, SO23 8DA (open all day for breakfast, lunch and dinner) and

The Green Man, 53 Southgate Street SO23 9EH, tel. 019 62866809 (near the Screen Cinema where you can nip in and see Harry Potter and convenient for the workshop) upstairs (restaurant) and downstairs for bar food are all relaxed, with reasonably priced but good food. The above three pubs are all owned by the same person and are of a similar standard.

The County Arms, 85 Romsey Road, SO22 5DL, tel. 019 62851950, is the closest pub to the workshop. Also handy for the hospital and the garden centre. It serves quite reasonable bar-type food (steak and chips style) until 9pm and the beer is good, if a little standard. Highly recommended if you don't have Sky Sports at home and want to watch the football.

The Old Vine Great Minster Street, SO23 9HA, tel. 019 62854616, near the Cathedral: several starters can make a meal but it is sometimes crowded. A touch more expensive.

The Wykeham Arms, 75 Kingsgate Street, SO23 9PE, tel. 019 62853834, near Winchester College, used to be the best food pub in Winchester. The management has now changed and it isn't quite so good, but is still reasonable. They have a restaurant and do sausages at the bar. A nice, interesting pub to visit (this and the Black Boy very individual pubs).

The Bishop on the Bridge 1 High Street SO23 9JX, tel. 019 62855111 (near King Alfred's statue) serves reasonable food but nothing fancy. It's the best place to sit outside overlooking the river when the weather's good.

The Black Bottle 4 Bridge Street, SO23 9BH, is a wine bar. It's a bit pricey but an experience.

The Jolly Farmer, on the Andover Road, SO22 6AE, tel. 019 62 851950 up the hill from the railway station, about where the railway line goes under the road, is good quality and cheap (you get a big plate-full). They do a curry and a pint for around £6 on some nights. There's also the opportunity to practise your Karaoke skills on one night per month, which I'm sure you're all desperate to do.

The Queens Inn, Kingsgate Street, SO23 9PG, tel. 019 62853898. Does an excellent BBQ lunch.

If you have transport, you can't move for good food **pubs in the surrounding countryside**, eg:

The Plough Inn in Sparsholt SO21 2NW, tel. 019 62776353 (excellent food of both restaurant and bar type) <http://www.thegoodpubguide.co.uk/pub/view/Plough-SO21-2NW>. About 3 miles from the city centre.

The Flowerpots Inn at Cheriton, near Alresford, SO24 0QQ, tel. 019 62771318, about 8 miles away. (www.flowerpots.f2s.com). This one is famous for the beer that it brews and has a large outside area. A good place to cycle to if you don't get lost on the cross-country tracks.

Pubs with good beer but not chosen particularly for food.

The Black Boy – 1 Wharf Hill, SO23 9NP, tel. 019 62861754. A great pub with good beer and very quirky decor (worth visiting just to see), food is also available at the restaurant next door.

Eclipse Inn – 25 The Square, SO23 9EX, tel. 019 62865676

Royal Oak – Royal Oak Passage (off High Street), SO23 9AU, tel. 019 62842701

Railway Inn – 3 St Pauls Hill, SO22 5AE, tel. 019 6286779. They have a pool table. Also, its a music venue (check out your correspondent's mates, 'Hot Rabbit'). Details on their website.

The Bell Inn – 83 St. Cross Road, SO23 9RE, tel. 019 62865284

Exchange – 9 Southgate Street, SO23 9DZ, tel. 019 62854718. Sports pub. Has beer garden.

And the other ones... we're not necessarily fond of these pubs as they are not old-man real-ale bars, or even bikers' pubs, but here they are..

Wetherspoon's – chain pubs, cheap beer and cheap but average food. Located on Jewry Street, easy to find, quite a massive haunt. And they are hosting a Cider Festival from 21 – 31 July. (Their ale and cider festivals are usually good, and cheap).

O'Neils – similar to Wetherspoons, chain pubs, cheap. SO23 9AP, 90-91 High Street (on the corner of High St. and Jewry St).

Pitcher and Piano – err.. yes... Anyway, you find this chain pub not far from Kind Alfred's statue. They also serve food.

Italian

We only list a few but there are many Italian eateries in Winchester. They are clustered mainly around the High Street. Note there are **discount vouchers** on line for the likes of ASK, Zizzis and Pizza Express. Search for keywords 'promotions' or 'offers' and the restaurant name.

Prezzo – Italian, 16 Jewry Street, SO23 8RZ, tel. 019 62864256, open: 12:00 – 23:00, mains: £7.00 – £12.00

Zizzi – Italian, 57 High Street, SO23 9BL, tel. 019 62841814, open: 12:00 – 23:00, mains: £7.00 – £13.00 Good quality and reasonably priced.

Ask – Italian, 101 High Street, SO23 9AH, tel. 019 62849464, open: 12:00 – 23:00, mains: £6.50 – £12.50

Gourmet Pizza 21 The Square, SO23 9EX, tel. 019 62842553 (near the Cathedral). Your correspondent's teenage sons like this one, but it's still very good. (If they bother you, just buy them an ice-cream and they'll play in another street).

Pizza Express 1 Bridge Street, SO23 9BH, tel. 019 62841845. Mains: £7.00 – £12.00

Other small eateries and Takeaways

As well as the pizza palaces, Winchester has most of the standard food chains. It also has a variety of local outlets in the city centre, eg in the High Street and around the Cathedral eg:

Reeves the Bakers 41A High Street, SO23 9BL, tel. 019 62856371. Generally very good, and does lovely bacon butties (Ed. - sandwiches to everyone else) but can be a bit slow if full as everything is prepared freshly. Take-away or eat in.

There is a very reasonably priced **refectory in the grounds of Winchester Cathedral**. There is outdoor seating and it is a very pleasant environment when the weather is good.

YMCA in St John's House at the Broadway is very good, and cheap, for coffee, but it isn't a restaurant.

If you go straight down the hill of St James' Lane, at the edge of the campus, you will end up after about 400m at St Cross Road. You will then be standing very close to the **Wessex Tandoori**, 6A St Cross Road, which is a very good Indian take-away. **The Green Man** pub, mentioned earlier, is opposite.

Slightly further down St Cross road (away from the city) you reach....

Frying Fish - 81 St. Cross Road, SO23 9RE, tel. 019 62813332. Open: 11:30 – 21:00 most days apart from Mon and Sun when it opens at 17:00 until 21:00. Definitely the best Fish & Chips place in Winchester. There's a nice pub (The Bell Inn) just next door.

Note that

Other cuisines

Mr So's (Chinese) 3 Jewry Street, SO23 8RZ, tel. 019 62861234 is truly excellent, at least to British tastes.

Tanoshii Fusion, 12 Upper High Street, SO23 8UT, tel. 019 62820288. A blend of various east asian foods. If you choose carefully it is good fun. Mains: £6.00 – £16.00

Gurkha Kitchen – Nepalese/Indian, 70A Parchment Street, SO23 8AT, tel. 019 62844409, open: 18:00 – 22:00 (estimated!), mains: £7.00 – £12.00 (estimated!). Nice little restaurant. They also do take aways.

Rimjhim – Indian, 1-3 City Road, SO23 8SD, tel. 019 62868352, open: 12:00 – 14:30 and 17:30 – 23:00, mains: £8:50 – £15:00. A favourite with many people and very good for large groups. (IMcH, however, thought he had too much sauce and too few prawns...)

Bangkok Brasserie (Thai, of course), 33 Jewry Street, tel. 019 62869966 (also sister restaurant: **Bengal Sage** 72-74 St George's Street, SO238AH, tel. 019 62862173, are very good. Mains: £6.50 – £13.00

Dim T – Chinese, 8-9 Jewry Street, SO23 8RZ, tel. 019 62843000, open: 12:00 – 23:00, mains: £7.00 - £10.00 IMcH's teenage sons go here, so it must be cheap...

English-style Restaurants

Loch Fyne - Fish, 18 Jewry Street, SO23 8RZ, tel. 019 62872930, in one of the older Winchester buildings, open: 10:00 – 22:00 Specialises in fish, which it does very well, but IMcH never finds fish to be filling enough, so he sticks to the steak.

The Black Rat – English, 88 Chesil Street, SO23 0HX, tel. 019 62844465, open: 19:00 – 23:00

Winchester Royal Hotel – English/Fine Dining, 21 - 22 St Peter Street, SO23 8BS, tel. 019 62840840, open: 12:00 - 14:00 and 19.30 - 21.30

Porterhouse Steak House – Steakhouse/Fine Dining, 24 Jewry Street, SO23 8SB, tel. 019 62810532, open: 12:00 – 22:00, mains: £14.00 – £26.00

Chesil Rectory – English/Modern British, 1 Chesil Street, SO23 0HU, tel. 019 62851555. Located in historic building dating 1450. Open: 12:00 – 14:20 and 18:00 – 21:30, mains: £13.50 - £19.00, deals for Sun lunch & early evening (18:00 – 19:00). Good food but very expensive. (Even IMcH's lawyer friends don't go there any more.) Mentioned here so that you don't make a mistake if you go there by chance. Plays on its name as one of the oldest buildings in Winchester.

Other European

Brasserie Blanc – French, 19-20 Jewry Street, SO23 8SB, tel. 019 62810870, open: 12:00 – 14:45 and 17:30 – 22:00, mains: £8.50 – £26.50 Well, Winchester is a major centre so you have to have one of these restaurants. It is very popular so booking is essential at the weekend, tho

probably not during the week. High quality but not exceptionally cheap.

El Sabio Tapas – Spanish (some would call it English take on Spanish though, I haven't tried), 60 Eastgate Street, SO23 8DZ, tel. 019 62820233, open: 12:00 – 15:00 and 17:00 – 23:00, each tapas: £2.50 – £6.50

La Place - French-style bar on the ground floor for a glass of wine and imaginative snack/lunch (not personally sampled yet)

Hotel du Vin & Bistro – Modern European, Southgate Street, SO23 9EF, tel. 019 62841414, open: 12:00 – 14:00 and 19:00 – 22:00, mains: £13.00 – £21.00 Suitable for posh events.

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