



Marrocco's Ice cream

5 of the best for... Italian restaurants

From rustic plates of tasty antipasti to hearty bowls of sumptuous spaghetti...sometimes only an Italian hits the spot

1 Tuscan Kitchen, Rye

Tuscan Kitchen is located in the heart of the Citadel of Rye and is home to Florentine chef Franco and his wife Jen, who are building on their experience of running a family farm and restaurant in Tuscany for over 25 years. The friendly couple throw open their doors with typical Florentine hospitality, offering high-quality traditional Tuscan food and wine. The menu includes characteristic dishes cooked with top-quality ingredients, while the wine list showcases a selection of famous Tuscan tipples. The combination of an authentic family-run rustic kitchen set in an olde worlde beamed listed building makes for a relaxed home-from-home atmosphere and has established this cosy trattoria as a popular choice with local residents and visitors alike.

Tuscan Kitchen, 8 Lion Street, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7LB
01797 223269 tuscankitchenrye.co.uk



Seafood at Mo Mambo

2 Mo Mambo, Eastbourne

Mo Mambo serves up delicious and authentic Italian food with a big side dish of wonderfully warm Italian hospitality. Founders Maurizio and Gaetano Manfredi, along with chef, Gianpiero Loforese, believe that 'eating out should be fun, affordable and very satisfying'. True to their word, the food is top notch and budget-friendly, the service is excellent and the atmosphere invariably fun and lively. The restaurant's basement dining area has open views of the kitchen, so their clientele can feel part of the action and they put on nights where diners are treated to the dulcet tones of talented young crooner, Tom Fitzpatrick.

71 Seaside Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex BN21 3PL
01323 732832 momambo.com



Hearty Tuscan fare in Rye



No Italian is complete without a well-stocked bar

3 Gino's, Seaford

Gino's is a friendly, family-run restaurant right in the heart of Seaford. Owners Gino and Sue opened in 1991 and have been serving excellent Italian food ever since. Head chef Gianluigi ensures all dishes are freshly made using only the very best ingredients, and the food is very well priced for the high quality. Gino's is something of a local favourite with a loyal clientele, and Gino and the attentive waiting staff work hard to create and maintain an atmosphere that's both relaxed and intimate. Perfect for a celebratory meal or romantic dinner - you'll feel relaxed as soon as you're seated, and will go home with a full belly and a smile on your face.

4 Claremont Road, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2AY, 01323 890711
ginosseaford.co.uk



Gino's is a local favourite in Seaford



The family-run Gino's

Next month: 5 of the best restaurants with tasting menus If you have a favourite Sussex restaurant with a tasting menu, we'd love to know about it. Send us an email to sussexeditor@grubmagazine.co.uk with '5 of the best' in the subject box.



4 Marrocco's, Hove

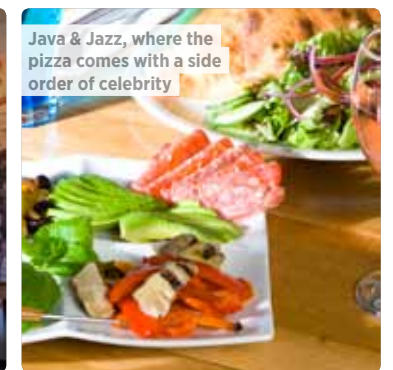
Bringing a touch of Naples to Sussex, family-run Marrocco's first opened in 1969 and has since become something of an institution in Hove (actually). Located on King's Esplanade - so at least you have a lovely sea view as you queue (yes, the gelateria really is that popular) for Marrocco's legendary ice cream - this delightful restaurant has bags of rustic charm, a relaxed warm atmosphere and excellent food. In addition to the usual Italian fare - pasta, risotto, pizza - Marrocco's makes the most of its seaside location with a comprehensive seafood menu. Highlight dishes include the deluxe seafood platter and lobster alla catalana. Marrocco's Ristorante is a real gem by the seaside.

8 King's Esplanade, Hove BN3 2WA 01273 203764
marroccos.co.uk

5 Java & Jazz, Forest Row

Independently owned, Java & Jazz is an atmospheric pizzeria and café well loved by locals and even a couple of celebrities. Ben Elton said of the popular restaurant: 'Not just one of my favourite places to eat in Forest Row, not just in Sussex - but also in the whole world!', while Ronnie Wood sums it up in a nutshell: 'We love Java & Jazz.' High praise indeed, but fortunately Java & Jazz lives up to the hype with great food - including the famous pizzas and no less than 14 flavours of Italian ice cream and sorbet - excellent service, a relaxed ambience and a splash of jazz thrown in for good measure.

The Square, Lewes Road, Forest Row, East Sussex, RH18 5ES
0134282 6699, javaandjazz.co.uk



Java & Jazz, where the pizza comes with a side order of celebrity

WORDS: Sharon Wright