



Oldie but goodie: The must-know London restaurant institutions

While today London has a reputation for world-class international food and is quite literally brimming with **Michelin stars** (80 and counting), it wasn't always this way. Transport yourself back a century or two and you would have found just a handful of restaurants serving up fancy fare – think the posh game dishes at Rules in Covent Garden and Quality Chop House's hearty pies – before **seafood** stalwarts J Sheekey and Bentley's cottoned on to the idea of fine dining in London in the early 20th century. They paved the way for The Ritz, The Ivy, Veeraswamy and more to enter the capital's food scene and establish themselves as London restaurant institutions with loyal fan bases that have carried them through wars, recessions, pandemics and everything in between.

So, when news broke earlier this year that beloved Deptford pie shop Manze's was set to close next year – marking the end of 110 years of cockney cooking – it caused waves in the city's food scene. As we all know, the Grade-II listed interiors, decades-old recipes, original buildings and storied histories of some restaurants simply can't be replaced, which is why it's now more important than ever to show your favourite London eateries just how much you love them. Don't know where to start? Here are the capital's must-visit restaurant institutions to book now.



Since 1926

Veeraswamy wasn't just the first **Indian restaurant in London** when it opened in 1926 – it was the first in the entire UK. Steeped in history, it was founded by the great-grandson of an English general and an Indian Mughal princess and has stood steadfast on Regent Street for 97 years. Interiors pay homage to its native country, while food – which was awarded a long-overdue Michelin star in 2016 – spotlights more than 16 culinary traditions found across India, with different regional chefs preparing the dishes from their hometowns. Pick from tandoori green prawns, grandma's spicy egg roast masala, slow cooked *champaran* lamb, and *bhatkal* Devon crab biryani.

99-101 Regent Street, W1B 4RS, visit veeraswamy.com