

Gastronomy

Indulging in mouth-watering food at a fabulous restaurant is one of the great joys of a short break away in South East England. From quaint country pubs to nationally recognised fine dining, the diverse range of restaurants in South East England will ensure you have a memorable and enjoyable dining experience on your next visit.

If you're really looking to spoil yourself, then you're in for a treat as the South East has some of the most celebrated restaurants in England. The village of Bray in Berkshire is certainly not to be missed as it is home of **The Fat Duck** and the **Waterside Inn** - two of only three restaurants in England to be awarded 3 Michelin stars.

If eating in a relaxed atmosphere is more to your taste, be sure to have a look at South East England's lovely Great Country Pubs website www.greatcountrypubs.com. Set in some of the most scenic countryside in England, with wholesome traditional food, it's what rural breaks are all about. Tour Operators and Group Organisers can also use this website to search for 'group friendly' pubs for larger parties and coaches.

And if you're looking for more than just your usual 'cuppa' for a tea stop, why not try one of the South East's speciality tea bars **Formosan** in Oxford offer an authentic Taiwanese tea experience.

<http://www.visitsoutheastengland.com/things-to-do/food-and-drink>

TOP 10 South East England's restaurants



1. **The Fat Duck - Berkshire:** the Fat Duck is well known for its molecular gastronomy and is awarded three Michelin stars, restaurant of the year, Best Restaurant in the World and Best Restaurant in the UK.
2. **Waterside Inn - Berkshire:** located in the charming 16th century village of Bray, Waterside Inn is famous for its French cuisine and is awarded three Michelin stars.
3. **Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons - Oxfordshire:** Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons has two Michelin stars. It is home to around 1000 different wines from around the world and the two-acre kitchen garden produce a wide range of vegetables and herbs.

4. **Michael Wignall At The Latymer, Pennyhill Park Hotel - Surrey:** awarded two Michelin star and five AA Rosettes, Michael Wignall at The Latymer is a premier food experience.
5. **Artichoke - Buckinghamshire:** named a Rising Star in the Michelin Guide 2011 and AA Restaurant of the Year for England 2013 - 2014, Artichoke prides itself on innovative and refined Modern European cuisine, featuring the best of the season's ingredients.
6. **The Pass - West Sussex:** The Pass is a four AA Rosetted country house hotel and restaurant that offers culinary experience focusing on seasonality.
7. **The Hand & Flowers - Buckinghamshire:** The Hand & Flowers has four AA rosettes and is the only UK pub to be awarded two stars in the Michelin guide. The dishes are sophisticated yet familiar.
8. **The Sportsman - Kent:** The Sportsman is an awarded Michelin star pub and has the second place in the top 50 UK gastro-pubs, after The Hand & Flowers.
9. **The Royal Oak - Berkshire:** The Royal Oak is a Michelin star restaurant serving great British food and drink with over 500 varieties of wine.
10. **The Three Lions - Hampshire:** The Three Lions is a restaurant with rooms, serving British and French cuisine based on the best local produce, with fine wines.

❖ **Breweries**

From the 15th century Kent, Surrey and Hampshire have been among the main hop-growing counties in the country. By 1840, there were 50,000 breweries in England – a large proportion of which were in the South East.

The South East is still home to some of the best independent breweries in England. Take a tour of the 300-year-old **Shepherd Neame Brewery** in Faversham, Kent, one of the oldest (and perhaps most famous) breweries in England. Tours and group lunches are available for large parties.

Tours are also available at **The Hogs Back Brewery** in Tongham, Surrey, and **The Hook Norton Brewery Visitor Centre** in Oxfordshire, a museum and active brewery that is still powered by a steam engine.

Other breweries in England located in the South East include **New Forest Cider**, **Oakleaf Brewing Company** and the **Southwick Brewhouse**, which are all located in Hampshire; **Rebellion Beer Company** and the **Chiltern Brewery** both in Buckinghamshire; and **The Wychwood Brewery** in Oxfordshire.

<http://www.visitsoutheastengland.com/things-to-do/attractions/breweries>

❖ **Vineyards**

There are hundreds of commercial vineyards in England and many are in the South East. The locally produced wine is eminently quaffable – here is a selection of some of the best vineyards in South East England where you can sample and decide for yourself.



The 265-acre **Denbies Wine Estate** in Dorking, Surrey, is one of the biggest vineyards in England. It has many award-winning wines and an excellent visitor centre and shop, art exhibitions, and tours. It's also a great place for a lunch stop with a beautiful glass roof conservatory and it offers joint tick packages with nearby attractions.

At **Biddenden Vineyards** and **Cider Works** in Kent, visitors can stroll around the 22 acres of vines, taste some of the red, white, rosé and sparkling wines or take an organised tour.

Other most acceptable wineries in the South East include: **Bookers Vineyard** in West Sussex, **Danebury Vineyards** in Hampshire and **Elham Valley Vineyards** in Kent.

If you fancy yourself as a real wine connoisseur try to visit the South East during the *English Wine Week*, which takes place every May, when many of the vineyards in the region attract visitors from far and wide with events and special offers.

<http://www.visitsoutheastengland.com/things-to-do/attractions/vineyards>

For more gastronomy information visit:

[Time for tea](#)

[Lunch stops for groups](#)

[South East England Group Travel Guide 2014](#) - comprehensive Lunch stops section

