

EAT

Purnell's Birmingham

€€€

The flavour

One of four Michelin-starred restaurants in Birmingham (the most in the UK outside of London), Purnell's serves modern British gourmet fare in a chic city centre setting near the elegant Cathedral Square.

For foodies who...

Want some truly original fine dining. Even the seaweed croissant is fantastic.

The pedigree

Charismatic owner and occasional TV star Glynn Purnell, who earned his Michelin star in 2009, cut his teeth training with Gordon Ramsey and Gary Rhodes among others.



The dress code

Smart casual is the way to go but, don't fret, nobody will frown if your shirt is slightly crinkled.

The must-try dish

No trip here is complete without a taste of the Burnt English Custard Egg Surprise. This sublime dessert – an egg shell filled with crème brûlée and served with marinated strawberries and honeycomb – achieved a '10/10/10' judges' score when Purnell unveiled it during

his appearance on the BBC's *Great British Menu*.

And to drink

The wine list is extravagant and extensive, but the staff naming their personal favourites on the menu is a nice touch.

Food for thought

For those on a budget there's also nearby Purnell's Bistro, where they serve up excellent food in a more relaxed, bar atmosphere.

purnellsrestaurant.com



Egg-cellent choice
The iconic Egg Surprise (here), star chef Glynn Purnell (below left), the decor at Purnell's (below)



Other places for better eating



Les Bords de Mer
Marseille | €€€

Perched on picturesque La Corniche, a pathway meandering along the Mediterranean coast, this diddy seafront restaurant provides a feast for the eyes and the stomach. The food – Asian-inspired fresh seafood – is as knock-out as the view.

lesbordsdemer.com



DNB Budapest
Budapest | €€

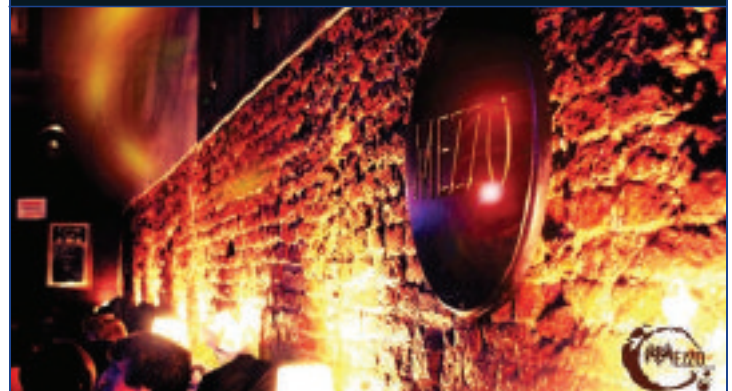
Settle in at this casual eatery next to the Danube to indulge in revamped Hungarian classics such as the hearty grass-fed beef marrow laid next to mushroom-topped toast, and sweet *túrógombóc* dumplings served with berries, strawberry confit and roast almonds for afters. dnbbudapest.com

WORDS JAMES MARCH PHOTOS JIM VARNEY, ABERRATION FILMS, JACK SPICER ADAMS, STEPHANE ABOURDARAM



Chill and groove

Mezzo Bar
Place St. Gery | Borgval 18 | Brussels



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Mezzo Bar is Open:
Every Friday and Saturday from 3pm to 5am,
and every day from 3pm to 3am