

FT Globetrotter Eating and drinking in London + Add to myFT

Eat to the beat: top London venues for dinner and jazz

Seven spots where the combo of food and live music hits just the right note



Trumpeter Jackson Method at Ronnie Scott's © Monika S Jakubowska | Trumpeter Jackson Method at Ronnie Scott's

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This article is part of FT Globetrotter's [guide to London](#)

"What makes jazz different is that you can't predict it, it's all about freedom," said the American jazz vocalist Gregory Porter. "Just when you think you know what you are going to hear, there will be a left turn, a jazz musician will change it up."

That is exactly what London's jazz scene is doing at the moment: evolving and expanding, and becoming all the more exhilarating. It is not only attracting a more youthful and diverse audience than it has in a generation, but also embracing the capital's equally eclectic food culture with new gusto.

My love affair with jazz was ignited by my dad, Bernard Victor, a regular attendee at the London Jazz Club at 100 Oxford Street during the 1950s and '60s, where he was friendly with musician Chris Barber and singer Beryl Bryden and was an acquaintance of George Melly (who allegedly stole one of his girlfriends). He also started to go to The Flamingo, a modern jazz club, after it opened in 1952. There was invariably jazz played at home, and he memorably took me to see Oscar Peterson play one of his last concerts, which truly stoked my passion for the music.



28°-50° by Night (Marylebone)

76 JASON COURT, WIGMORE STREET, LONDON W1U 2SJ

- **Good for:** Exceptional wines from small estates not found on many lists
- **Not so good for:** A clandestine meeting
- **FYI:** Head sommelier Jules Bensacq has worked alongside some of the greats of French viticulture in Bordeaux, the Rhône Valley and Burgundy
- **Website; Directions**



Jazz can be enjoyed alongside an exploratory wine list at 28°-50° by Night

A complete revelation was discovering the 28°-50° wine bar's spacious and glamorous basement music venue. Here, jazz in many genres is enjoyed alongside a superlative wine list that has been curated by sommeliers keen to share their knowledge. I liked choosing the wine first — an esoteric and exceptionally fine Burgundy from a small producer, and then a dish of lamb loin with mushrooms and thyme to suit the grape. Drummer and composer Sam Jesson, a key figure on the London jazz scene, leads the 28°-50° Vintage Piano Trio, who on Thursday evenings play their own takes on legendary pieces from Sonny Rollins to Dewey Redman. The venue is large enough to both enjoy the music and conduct conversation without feeling discourteous to the musicians. *Tuesday to Saturday; à la carte from about £50pp excluding drinks*