

TASTE PARRAMATTA



EAT YOUR
WAY AROUND
PARRAMATTA

Foodie hotspots p8

HARRIS PARK:
SYDNEY'S
LITTLE INDIA

Sweet & savoury p12



“EXPLORE THE LANEWAYS
AND SECRET SPACES
TUCKED AWAY IN THE
CITY AT THE PARRAMATTA
LANES FESTIVAL.”

Discover more events in Parramatta on page 20



WELCOME

Australia's second city. Food bowl of the colony. Geographical centre of Sydney. Aboriginal heritage site. However you describe Parramatta, it's clear to see its importance to Sydney, and the more time you spend here, you'll come to discover the foodie revolution that's taking place.

It might be a culinary big name like Temasek (home to Sydney's best laksa) or Little India in Harris Park that brings you here. Maybe you'll come early and get an artisanal coffee at a café like Darcy Street Project before wandering the picturesque riverside park. Then you'll see other eateries – both local gems like The Emporium and big names like Bourke Street Bakery. Parramatta's food scene is flourishing, and all foodies should take note.

There's also plenty of contemporary culture to pique your interest, and centuries of heritage to wrap your head around. Look out for *Discover*, the heritage guide, and *Explore*, the activity map, for a comprehensive look at Parramatta.



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NEWS

What's new on the dining scene in Sydney's Central City?

THE CROWN OF PARRAMATTA

Parramatta will soon usher in a new level of style and class with construction of the 30-story V By Crown Group tower. The vertical community boasts 595 luxury apartments offering sweeping views of the Sydney skyline. V by Crown Group comprises a boutique hotel, pool, gym, sauna, conference facilities, a theatre, library and a ground level retail and dining plaza.

The mixed-use development champions Parramatta's highest bar, Sky Bar, nestled more than 100 metres above ground level.

"There is a huge demand for bars like this in Parramatta; offering luxury style in a relaxed atmosphere," said Crown Group Director of Sales and Marketing Roy Marcellus. "The 270-degree views from the terrace have to be seen to be believed," he adds.

"PARRAMATTA'S HIGHEST BAR, SKY BAR, WILL BE NESTLED MORE THAN 100 METRES ABOVE GROUND LEVEL."



PARRAMATTA'S SMALL BAR SCENE GROWS

Uncle Kurt's, tucked away underneath Parramatta City Centre carpark, has staked its claim to Parramatta's first small bar. Blink and you might miss this New York-style deli and dive bar, serving up brisket and pastrami sandwiches matched with cocktails, craft beer and rye whisky.

"We believe all the boutique and crafty offerings in Parramatta are heading away from Church





"I would definitely recommend Hong Fu. There's usually a line out the door, but they make the best handmade noodles and dumplings that I've tasted, and I've travelled all around Asia. It's because of the freshness of the ingredients that they use that makes it just - wow.

"I have friends that come and stay with me from all around the world, and - especially my Japanese friends - every time they come over they want to go back to Hong Fu. It's just near the river so after you've stuffed yourself silly full of dumplings and noodles you can waddle down to the river and enjoy a nice stroll to walk it off."

- Mike Chin, local filmmaker and artist



Street almost intentionally and there are a number of amazing places which have opened up either on Horwood Place or just off it," says owner George Makram.

"Our vision is to create a space for Parramatta that is cool and edgy, not watered down, and would comfortably compete with its peers in Surry Hills or the CBD," he added. Head in soon to take advantage of the friendly atmosphere and crafted cocktails.

"PARRAMATTA HAS SUCH A DIVERSE AND EMERGING FOOD AND CULTURAL SCENE AND WE ARE EXCITED TO ADD BURGER PROJECT TO THE MIX."

- Neil Perry, renowned chef, owner of Burger Project

FRESH FOODIE FINDS

The Parramatta River foreshore is set to be home to a new dining hub. The Meriton retail precinct, part of the foreshore apartment development, will include a range of fresh flavours to complement Parramatta's flourishing dining scene. Follow your tastebuds to Kellys Bar and Grill for steak, ribs and burgers, Alex and Co for tasty Italian dishes, or The Lab Cafe for a caffeine fix. Finish up at Bayvista Dessert Bar & Cafe for sweet serves that will make your mouth water.

It's all testament to the new foodie options flooding to Sydney's Central City, including Sydney icons Bourke Street Bakery and Gelato Messina. Keep an eye on Parramatta to discover what other new foodie destinations will join the scene in the near future.



“PARRAMATTA IS HOME TO A STRING OF EXCELLENT CAFÉS OFFERING QUALITY COFFEE ON PAR WITH THE REST OF SYDNEY.”

“There’s so much diversity in the Parramatta dining scene, and the scene has changed a lot, from having five or six main restaurants in all of Parramatta 30 years ago, to now when there must be close to 300. The variety is my favourite thing about eating out in Parramatta. I go with my kids when I can, and we’ll pick a different cuisine, and there’s a good one of everything.



“The quality is improving, too. There were a lot of restaurants 10 years ago, but over the years the quality has grown. You’re seeing chefs from cities like Melbourne or Sydney coming here and having a go.

“These days diners are a lot more educated and like to give feedback. That means the quality of food everywhere is getting better and better.”

– Paul Kuipers, owner and chef, Courtney’s Brasserie

COFFEE IN THE CITY

Long gone are the times bean-hunters searched the city to no avail for a good espresso vendor. Parramatta is home to a string of excellent cafés offering quality coffee on par with the rest of Sydney.

Horwood Place has become a café hotspot, with popular Paper Plane Café setting up shop to sell coffee made with Numero Uno beans. Just across the road is St Drogo’s, with Toby’s Estate concoctions. Not far away, Harvest Nourishing Food offers coffee and clean eating.

On Macquarie Street, you can also find Double Mac, making brews with Double Roasters coffee plus simple takeaway snacks. And the café at the heart of Parramatta’s coffee makeover is Circa Espresso on Wentworth Street, one of the city’s first boutique coffee houses.

For a more traditional experience, the Gatehouse in Parramatta Park and the café at Elizabeth Farm offer a high tea experience in gorgeous heritage surrounds.



“There’s a lot happening in this part of the world. Parramatta has a strong heritage of restaurants that have been here for a long time, and there are quite a few little hideaways. It’s not all on the surface, so you have to look behind the scenes a little bit. But I think that’s all about to change!

“There’s absolutely no doubt that with the increase in population, in workers, students and residents, the growth in the hospitality scene here is going to be phenomenal. It’s already happening, with some of the early ventures including Bourke Street Bakery, Gelato Messina and Jamie’s Italian, branches of well-respected Sydney restaurants. There’s an enormous opportunity for people who want to open venues in Parramatta.

“Like everywhere in Australia, people here are really keen on eating and on hunting down interesting and delicious places to do it. People of all backgrounds love going out at lunch time, dinner time, breakfast time... it’s definitely a hungry population here.”

– Joanna Savill, food journalist and former editor of the Sydney Morning Herald Good Food Guide

TASTE #PARRAMATTA



@eatingwithyoureyes_
Dessert at The Emporium



@cafepinkflamingo
Lunch time at Pink Flamingo



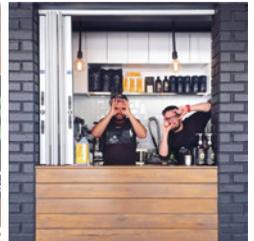
@parrafarmersmarket
Parramatta Farmers’ Market



@fraisivoine
Gelato Messina treats



@katie.larobina
Kanzo Fresh Sushi



@sweetandyummie
Coffee time at St Drogo’s

Follow the City of Parramatta on social media for regular updates. Hashtag your Instagram shots with #discoverparramatta to be reposted!



CITY OF FOOD

Jeremy Cho cooks
Temasek's renowned
laksa. Here's his city

Interview by Alice Wasley

Our restaurant Temasek has been open for 26 years, so I've seen how the dining scene in Parramatta has evolved. We are family run - my mother and her family opened it during a time when there weren't many dining options here. Now, there're a lot of varieties of food. I think it's mainly based on the change of the cultures in the area and the demand for different tastes, because people travel more and have become more adventurous.

These days there is more Thai, Lebanese, Indian, Chinese and Italian food. The best Thai would be M&J Thai at the Woolpack Hotel for their mussel pancake. For Lebanese, I would eat at Sahara by the River - they offer a great banquet at reasonable prices. For Indian and Italian, I like Chatkazz in Harris Park, which



has a standard of Indian that you don't get further into the city, and Nonna Maria's for Italian. As for Chinese, I've recently taken a liking to Chefs Gallery because of their fresh handmade noodles and dumplings.

The nightlife is more vibrant today due to more restaurants offering food and outdoor seating, especially on Church Street. For us, and other local restaurants, the location is advantageous because of the closeness to source ingredients, which allows us to keep our cooking at a consistent taste level. We're supplied by local markets and are close to bigger markets in Cabramatta and Flemington. We tend to be discovered by word of mouth and attract people from all over. In Sydney, if there's good food, people will travel!

One of the great things about Parramatta is that venue owners can open a small place with low rent and see how they go. I've seen coffee shops and lunch places pop up, like Circa, that started out experimenting and are now very popular.

Over the next five years I see there being more eateries in the area due to the expected growth of Parramatta as a CBD, residential hub and education centre. This increase will not only encourage more independent restaurants to open in the area, but it will also attract higher-end franchises.



JEREMY CHO'S THREE FAVOURITE PLACES



CHATKAZZ

Casual vegetarian Indian

Specialising in vegetarian Indian street food, Chatkazz is buzzing, vibrant and almost always full, with a long line for takeaway. The appeal is simple: "It's a place you go for authentic Indian street food," says Cho.

4/14-20 Station St E, Harris Park
8677 0033

BAVARIAN BIER CAFÉ

German restaurant and beer hall

Cho likes to drop in here to unwind with staff after dinner service for "a crisp mango beer and pork knuckle". Also pay attention to the architecture – it's located in a beautiful restored historic church.

2-8 Phillip St, 8836 1400



NONNA MARIA'S PLACE

Laidback Italian

This is the place to go for a cosy dinner of homestyle Italian cooking, in the traditional style. Cho can't go past the bolognese and says that "when you walk in you can smell the aroma of the kitchen".

56 Phillip St, 9689 1112





Clockwise from main: Tuck in at TABLE:30, Paper Plane Café, dessert at El-Phoenician, Badmanner Thymes Espresso, a BAR:30 cocktail.

PARRAMATTA ON A PLATE

There are countless ways to eat your way through the city – here's just one delicious way to spend a day

By Kate Symons

Breakfast, lunch, dinner and everything in between – Parramatta delivers when it comes to first-rate food experiences. You'd need a lot more than 24 hours to sample the city's best eats, but that's the task ahead of us. So get up early, loosen your belts and dive right in.

8am: Kick-start your day with a scrumptious breakfast courtesy of Badmanner Thymes Espresso on Horwood Place. Morning favourites such as Bircher muesli, breakfast bruschetta, French toast and eggs Benedict are all deliciously covered. Meanwhile, coffee beans are brought to you by the good folk at Tulip Shi. A selection of specialty teas and cold drinks (Tim Tam milkshake, anyone?) is available too.

10am: If you prefer a mid-morning caffeine hit, swing by Double Mac Espresso for a cup of Double Roasters' finest. This hole-in-the-wall is chock-full of character and consistently delivers on the coffee front no matter what your preference – no wonder it enjoys a cult following! There are always plenty of tempting snacks, too (think sandwiches, muffins and friands).

11am: On a Friday, head to the Parramatta Farmers Market in Centenary Square for a wander among the vibrant colours and inviting aromas of fresh produce and artisanal food. Pick up your fruit and vegetables for the week, grab a beautiful loaf of sourdough, collect a few slices of your favourite deli meats and try your best to avoid the many sweet





Clockwise from top: The renowned laksa at Temasek, delicious dishes at the Albion Hotel, a friendly face at the Farmers Markets.

KECAP MANIS SOTONG, TEMASEK

Temasek isn't a small restaurant. In fact, it occupies two separate spaces either side of an alleyway. Still, on any given night, most tables will at some point be adorned by the glistening goodness of kecap manis sotong, a chef's specialty. The calamari is supple and delectably coated in a sweet soy sauce for a perfectly sticky – not to mention moreish – treat.

“TEMASEK IS A PARRAMATTA INSTITUTION THAT HAS BEEN SERVING TRADITIONAL SINGAPOREAN AND MALAYSIAN CUISINE FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES.”

temptations. If it's not market day, Tatra Delicatessen on Victoria Road will do the trick. The popular European deli is a carnivore's delight, with a mouth-watering meat selection as well as enticing cheeses, breads, condiments and Polish sweets and cakes. Pick up some homemade *pierogi* (Polish dumplings) for a quick, easy and oh-so-tasty dinner.

1pm: A great option for lunch is The Hungry Baker on Station Street for fresh sandwiches and baguettes with a variety of delicious fillings. Otherwise, since you've just stocked up on fresh market or deli goodies, why not put them to immediate use with a laidback picnic in Prince Alfred Square? Home to Sydney Festival celebrations and the annual Parramatta Winterlight event (among other things), even when there are no festivities, Prince Alfred Square is just as lovely, and the perfect spot for a casual lunch in the sunshine.

3pm: Meander along Parramatta River. Keep an eye out for the eels that live in the river – they were an important source of food for the Indigenous Burramatta people who called the area home.

5pm: Enough eel-searching, it's time for an aperitif. On the ground floor of the Parkroyal Hotel on Phillip Street is Bar:30, a casual bar with whimsical cocktails and a selection of tasty savoury treats.

7pm: Don't let the unassuming façade fool you – Temasek is a Parramatta institution that has been serving traditional Singaporean and Malaysian cuisine for more than two decades. The *char kway teow* (flat rice noodles with sausage, prawns and bean sprouts in sweet soy sauce) and beef *rendang* (slow-cooked beef with a coconut-milk base) are favourites, as is the kecap manis *sotong* (see breakout). Fast, attentive service and the surrounding chatter help mimic a hawker vibe, which only adds to the Temasek experience.

9pm: Ready to kick on? The Commercial Hotel is a popular Parramatta spot. There are plenty of screens for live sport, a good selection of beers, and a great vibe. Alternatively, the Albion Hotel is a good spot for a quiet drink and debrief in a beer garden.





**BADMANNER
THYMES
ESPRESSO**

2/1 Horwood Pl
0410 406 889

BAR:30

The Parkroyal,
30 Phillip St
9689 3333

**COMMERCIAL
HOTEL**

2 Hassall St
9635 8342
thecommercialhotel.
net.au

DOUBLE MAC

8/186 Macquarie St

**THE HUNGRY
BAKER**

60 Station St
9633 9088

**PARRAMATTA
FARMERS
MARKETS**

Centenary Square
Fridays 8am to 3pm

**PRINCE ALFRED
SQUARE**

Cnr Church St and
Victoria Rd

**TATRA
DELICATESSEN**

5/20 Victoria Rd
9630 7109
tatradeli.com.au

TEMASEK

Shop 2, The Roxy
Arcade, 71 George St
9633 9926

Turn to page 22 for
the itinerary route.



INDIAN NIGHTS

Take a trip into the sweet, the savoury and the saris of Harris Park, also known as Parramatta's Little India

By Jac Taylor

Night and day, Parramatta's seemingly endless dining options fill its streets with crowds. Some of the biggest names in the Australian food scene are here – Bourke Street Bakery, Jamie's Italian, Harry's Café de Wheels – but the city hasn't forgotten its roots. After all, this western hub of Sydney is the ultimate melting pot, with nearly half of its residents born outside Australia. That makes for a culinary wonderland where both locals and visitors can literally choose a different cuisine every night.

There are also hotspots for particular cultures, one of which is Harris Park, close to Parramatta's CBD. With a history as a Greek community hub, then the same for the Lebanese, now Harris Park is widely known as Little India. Night after night, the sun goes down and the fairy lights come up, strung across many restaurants along a golden mile of Indian food, fashion and fun.

Wigram Street is the epicentre, where the restaurants are almost



Left, and above: The colourful dishes and décor of Harris Park eateries like Chatkazz and Taj Indian sweets; a statue of the Hindu god Ganesha.

exclusively Indian – but that's where the similarities end. Some are formal eateries, some are brightly lit takeaways; some serve steaming dishes of meat, many others are vegetarian. In fact, vegetarians and vegans in Sydney can enjoy a great range of choice here, considering many of Harris Park's residents and visitors attend the nearby Hindu temples and thus lead a strict vegetarian diet.

Wigram Street's first Indian restaurateur, Ramesh Sharma, remembers when he decided to set up shop in this once unremarkable suburban street back in 2003, people thought he was a little crazy.

"People really laughed at me and said, 'Why are you taking that risk?'" he remembers. "But I had a feeling it was going to work." Sharma set up Taj Indian Sweets & Restaurant at number 91, and indeed the many migrants living along the railway line around Parramatta came from the first day. The eatery now boasts Australia's largest selection of Indian sweets. Trays heaped with sweet pastries sprinkled with pistachios sit beside green and red cornflour, ghee and sugar creations, and the constant parade of customers in and out the door attests to the steady turnover. There are regular recipes but also special sweets for different parts of the festival year – and they're all made in a strictly vegetarian kitchen.

“STATUES OF ELEPHANT-HEADED GOD GANESHA WATCH PEOPLE STROLL PAST AND COMPARE THE COLOURFUL DISHES ON THE MENUS OF MANY RESTAURANTS.”

Heading south along Wigram Street, past Indian Chopsticks, one of Sydney's few Indo-Chinese restaurants (think fragrant chicken *momo* dumplings or curries with Manchurian spices), you'll find Sharma's second restaurant, Taj Bhavan. Housed in two of Harris Park's archetypal verandah homes, it offers a much wider selection of dishes than the original Taj, yet still with no meat, seafood or egg on the premises. Guests can take a 'tour' of India through the menu here, from north to south, Punjab to Sri Lanka. But for a try-everything experience, order the *thali*, a daily special tray with a selection of curries, breads, pickles and *raita*.

Continuing south, past Neelam Masala and its extensive menu featuring traditional *chaat* (perhaps best described as Indian tapas), lies Haveli. Its heavy,



Left to right: Resham Singh has run Haveli for seven years, delicious *thali* at Taj Bhavan.

dark furniture and traditional statues hint at its reputation for celebrations, but it's still an atmosphere welcoming to the families buying sweets at the front counter. Of Punjabi origins, Haveli owner Resham Singh has been here almost seven years and has seen Harris Park bloom into a multicultural melange.

“Oh yes, it is not just Indian people here,” he says. “Maybe 60 per cent who eat here are Indian, but the other 40 per cent are Aussie, Chinese, Sri Lankans, tourists... We're very happy. I think it is only getting bigger here.”

The bustle at restaurants on Wigram Street continue into the night and, for most of them, seven



AROUND THE WORLD IN PARRAMATTA

- Enjoy authentic wood-fired pizza at Sicilian on Church Street.
- Try slow-roasted lamb at Kouzina Greco on Phillip Street.
- Immerse yourself in the Arabic world of bellydancers and delicious dishes at Sahara by the River on Phillip Street.
- Be fed and fed some more by the Italian nonna you never had at Nonna Maria's Place on Phillip Street.
- Try traditional Chinese dishes at Taste Gallery on Church Street.
- Breakfast like the Vietnamese do, on fragrant, delicious pho, at Church Street's Pho Pasteur.

days. In between, there is a brisk trade in colourful Indian fashion, with the mirrored bangles at Parampara Fashion winking at passers-by, and mannequins sporting every colour imaginable on the verandah of Shalini's Indian Fashions. The Indian Entertainment Centre is stacked to the rafters with Bollywood classics, while Indian grocery stores such as India Bazaar make for some exotic and delicious browsing.

Statues of elephant-headed god Ganesha watch the passing people that stroll the street and compare the colourful dishes on the menus of Not Just Curries and Billu's, and Chatkazz, a casual diner around the corner on Station Street East. Locals do their last shopping of the day, stocking up on fresh and roasted nuts and dates at Harris Park Foodstore on the corner of Marion Street, or halal meats such as venison, camel and goat

at the Desi Kasai butcher on Wigram. Meanwhile, three Greek gentlemen are finishing up their game of backgammon before dinner, sitting at a plastic table they always bring out for sidewalk catch-ups in the fading light.

Once those fairy lights come on, the social atmosphere takes over, and of course it feels like a holiday – you can travel the world in Harris Park and never even have to leave the City of Parramatta.



BILLU'S

62 Wigram St, Harris Park
9687 7785
billu.com.au

DESI KASAI

53 Wigram St, Harris Park
8810 2021
desikasai.net.au

NEELAM MASALA

69 Wigram St, Harris Park
9633 4455
neelamasala.com.au

TAJ BHAVAN

73 Wigram St, Harris Park
9633 1991
tajbhavan.com.au

CHATKAZZ

4/14-20 Station St E,
Harris Park
8677 0033
chatkazz.com.au

HAVELI RESTAURANT

67 Wigram St, Harris Park
9635 0110
havelirestaurant.com.au

NOT JUST CURRIES

66 Wigram St, Harris Park
9893 8202
notjustcurries.com.au

TAJ INDIAN SWEETS & RESTAURANT

91 Wigram St, Harris Park
9633 2118
tajindianrestaurant.com.au



ON THE TIP OF YOUR TONGUE

Parramatta's medley of options allows diners to dive into a mixed bag of restaurants, cafés, bars and pubs

By **Jasmine O'Donoghue**

Parramatta is brimming with diversity. By day, the city hums with chatter from couples, laughter from children and the grinding of coffee beans. As the sun retreats, the nightlife scene emerges, and the clink of glasses, whisper of romance and lively roar from nearby festivals take over. Whatever the time, diners flock to Parramatta to satiate their cravings and forge lasting memories.



Clockwise from opposite: Popular dining spot The Emporium, dishes at Restaurant 317, locals brunch at Paper Plane Café, seafood dishes at Port Bar, a cake shake at Social Hideout.

1 Dining in daylight

There's a blend of cafés weaved throughout the city, offering the opportunity to bask in the sun and soak up the vibrancy, al-fresco style.

Branching off Church Street lies The Elevation, a specialty coffee bar set in a terrarium-themed space. This artistic café serves cold-drip coffee and creative food dishes; their take on French toast a must-have. Pop

in at lunch for a maple bacon or Reuben's Apprentice sandwich.

A 10-minute walk away, hidden from the street in the Entrada Plaza, is Social Hideout. This open-air café has a homely feel and friendly staff. Bring the young ones along for brunch or catch up with friends over hearty meals and freshly made cold-pressed juices. Those with a sweet tooth will delight in the signature 'cake shakes',

swapping the traditional ice-cream and milk blend for cakes, which results in a creamier, smoother shake.

Paper Plane Café is another gem, tucked away on Horwood Place. This boutique coffee house spills out onto the street through bi-folding doors and boasts on-trend mismatched furniture and a stripped-back industrial look. Peanut-butter lovers absolutely must indulge in the signature

“WHATEVER THE TIME, DINERS FLOCK TO PARRAMATTA TO SATIATE THEIR CRAVINGS AND FORGE LASTING MEMORIES.”

Clockwise from main:
Gelato Messina, seafood
at El-Phoenician, Restaurant
317, Bavarian Bier Café.

burger (a beef patty with bacon, Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato and peanut butter on a brioche bun). For breakfast, the truffled eggs (scrambled eggs with portobello mushrooms and chorizo on sourdough) are a favourite.

Literally a stone's throw from The Elevation is The Emporium, a café and roaster by day and a wine bar and restaurant by night. It has an industrial-size open area that's separated from the street by big wooden barn-style doors and decorated with lush greenery.

Perched on the tree-lined shore

of Parramatta River is Port Bar. An all-day venue, Port Bar caters for casual breakfasts, long lunches and romantic dinners, plating up seafood, steak, pizza and pasta, and pouring cocktails as well as local and international wine and beer.

For a warm, family-owned environment and authentic Greek cuisine, pay Kouzina Greco a visit. Placed right in the heart of Parramatta, diners with a big appetite can dine mezze-style and delight as plate after plate of fresh, colourful dishes arrive at their table.



BAVARIAN BIER CAFÉ

2-8 Phillip St
8836 1400
bavarianbiercafe.com

ELEVATION CAFÉ

Shop 5, 31 Phillip St
8840 9288
theelevation.com.au

THE EMPORIUM

51 Phillip St
9687 1955
theemporiumparramatta.com.au

EL-PHOENICIAN

328 Church St
9633 1611
el-phoenician.com.au

GELATO MESSINA

279 Church St
9635 3064
gelatomessina.com

KOUZINA GRECO

16 Phillip St
9687 3669
kouzinagreco.com.au

PAPER PLANE CAFÉ

5/2 Horwood Pl
0400 888 772
facebook.com/cafeplane

PORT BAR

36 Charles St
9687 8823
portbar.com.au

RESTAURANT 317

317 Church St
1300 317 317
317.com.au

SOCIAL HIDEOUT

2a/20 Victoria Rd
8677 5226
socialhideout.com.au

UNCLE KURT'S

Off Horwood Pl, 0401 585 026

WOOLPACK HOTEL

19 George St
9635 8043
woolpackhotel.com.au

Turn to page 22 for a
detailed dining map.



2 Celebrating by night

Proof of the growth of Parramatta's small-bar scene, Uncle Kurt's is a New York-style deli and bar with delicious cocktail concoctions, located just off Horwood Place. Drop in for a brisket or pastrami sandwich paired with a craft beer.

The city is scattered with pubs, many with a tale to tell. Woolpack Hotel was one of the first 10 hotels licensed in Australia, and more than 200 years later it's the only one of those original licences still pouring beer. Today the hotel is home to Thai restaurant M&J Thai and has been redesigned into a modern hotel.

Diners with a taste for beer should head to the Bavarian Bier Café. With a lively atmosphere, an extensive list of quality beers and authentic Bavarian food, it's sure to satiate that hunger you've worked up exploring the city. To top it off, the venue is in a beautiful historic church with arched windows and wood flooring, giving a great ambience. There's even an outdoor area for dining under the stars on balmy evenings.

Parramatta has the gluten-intolerant and modern Italian food-lovers alike covered at Restaurant 317. This relaxed establishment is so popular that it had to expand next door. Its menu is far from brief, with more than 90 per cent of dishes suitable for the gluten-intolerant.

For a festive Lebanese feast, follow the sound of music and laughter to El-Phoenician. This upscale restaurant has generous servings and sets the standard for fine Middle Eastern and Mediterranean dining.

If you have tickets to a show or movie at the Riverside Theatres, stop by Novotel's 350 Restaurant & Lounge and enjoy the fixed-price theatre menu of two or three courses. Sample the confit pork belly to start and order the Tasmanian salmon for your main.

Post-theatre, once your stomach has had time to settle, make a beeline for dessert at Gelato Messina, which has an ever-changing specials board of 'surely they don't go together' flavours in a way that simply works.



WHAT'S ON

Parramatta is a hub of activity all year round. Head to the city for a fun day out at these major events throughout 2017

By Alana Young

JANUARY Sydney Festival

7-29 January

The festival showcases the best of Sydney culture, including the wonders of Parramatta. See circus events, concerts, exhibitions and film screenings and take part in craft events and the Summer Nights project – a free hub of music, food and drink.

sydneyfestival.org.au

Australia Day

26 January

Witness a hot air balloon sky display, with rides if you register ahead. At the Hottest 100 stage, listen to the countdown in between live performances. Also check out hundreds of vintage cars on display, and everyone will love the Big BBQ, featuring food stalls and cook-offs.

cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au

FOMO

8 January

One stage; endless entertainment. This summer, the unique natural amphitheatre will play host to music festival FOMO, bringing acts like Empire of the Sun, Slumberjack and Peking Duk to Parramatta. Keep an eye out for more unforgettable performances coming to the park too.

thecrescentlive.com

FEBRUARY Lunar New Year

3 February

Celebrate this Lunar New Year in multicultural Parramatta. Play Mahjong and ping pong, practice calligraphy, and explore the city as lanterns are hung to welcome the new year.

cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au

OCTOBER Parramatta Lanes Festival

Check website
for dates



Explore the laneways and secret spaces tucked away in the Parramatta CBD with a festival of food, drink, music and art installations. Make the most of tech with an exclusive Snapchat geo-filter so you can get the best pics, rock out to the Spotify playlist curated especially for the night, and get there and back with a special Uber discount for all attendees. cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au

Tropfest

10-11 February

Tropfest is moving to Parramatta! Add a sprinkle of cinema to your summer while you help the short film festival celebrate its 25th year. This year's theme is pineapple. Check out Trop Junior as well to spot the next big film legend.

tropfest.org.au

APRIL

Anzac Day programs

25 April

Centenary Square hosts a program of activities to commemorate the locals who served and educational activities are held all month. Attending a local Anzac Day dawn services is a must.

cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au



Celebrate the cultures that make up Parramatta through music, dance, film and food. Held in Prince Alfred Square and beyond, Parramasala is one of the state's biggest multicultural festivals, with dozens of cultures being represented. Take delight in everything from yoga and chanting to film screenings and Bollywood dance with audience participation.

parramasala.com

MARCH
Parramasala
Festival
10-12 March



Clockwise from left: Parramatta Lanes, Parramasala, Winterlight Festival, Lunar New Year, Kidtopia, Burramatta NAIDOC Festival.

OCTOBER
Kidtopia Festival

6-8 October

Keep the kids happy with hands-on science, entertainment and an animal farm. There's also a circus school and carnival rides.

kidtopiafestival.com.au

released onto the river wishing for good fortune. cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au

Christmas in Parramatta

November to December
Church Street is lit up, and community concerts, special guests and fireworks will be waiting to help the city celebrate. Catch a glimpse of the huge Christmas tree, too. cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au



JULY
Winterlight Festival

Check website for dates
Gather around a huge ice rink and 'alpine village' offering everything you need to satisfy winter cravings, complete with a life-sized snow globe that's perfect for selfies. cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au



Burramatta NAIDOC Festival

Check websites for dates
Celebrate Parramatta's rich Aboriginal culture and heritage through storytelling, art, and performance. cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au; naidoc.org.au

NOVEMBER
Parramatta Day

Check website for dates
Treat yourself to a picnic to celebrate Parramatta, with food stalls, farmers markets, tours, art and the Parravision talent show. cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au

DECEMBER
New Year's Eve

31 December
This family friendly party is the perfect start to 2018. Music, fireworks and performances will round out a thrilling night. cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au



Loy Krathong Thai Water Festival

Check website for dates
Head to the river foreshore to celebrate Thai culture. Performances, craft exhibitions and food stalls make this fun for families. Watch the lanterns





POINTS OF INTEREST

Discover these foodie hotpots in Parramatta.

- 1 Gatehouse Café
- 2 Social Hideout
- 3 Tatra Delicatessen
- 4 Parramatta Heritage & Visitor Information Centre
- 5 350 Restaurant & Lounge, Novotel
- 6 Restaurant 317
- 7 El-Phoenician Restaurant
- 8 Kouzina Greco
- 9 Bavarian Bier Café
- 10 Gelato Messina
- 11 Elevation Café
- 12 The Emporium
- 13 BAR:30
- 14 Adventageous Bike Hire
- 15 Nonna Maria's Place
- 16 Badmanner Thymes Espresso
- 17 Paper Plane Café
- 18 Woolpack Hotel
- 19 Temasek
- 20 Parramatta Farmers Markets
- 21 Double Mac
- 22 Uncle Kurt's
- 23 Courtney's Brasserie
- 24 Hong Fu North East Chinese
- 25 Hungry Baker
- 26 Chatkazz
- 27 Not Just Curries
- 28 Taj Indian Sweets & Restaurant
- 29 Taj Bhavan
- 30 Haveli Indian Restaurant

MAP KEY

- TASTE
- EXPLORE
- Free shuttle stop one way loop
- Train station
- Bus interchange
- Ferry wharf
- Taste walk
- Visitor information centre

For more info about what to see, do and sample in Parramatta, visit the Parramatta Heritage and Visitor Information Centre at 350 Church St or call 8839 3311.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

GETTING TO PARRAMATTA

There are so many ways to get to Parramatta, a city served by bus, train and ferry



CATCH THE BUS

The city is served by buses to the interchange near Parramatta Station. Bus routes connect Parramatta with other Sydney destinations like Castle Hill, Hornsby, Ryde, Strathfield and the Sydney city centre.

CITY SHUTTLE BUS

It's easy to get around on the free CBD shuttle bus route that runs from 8am to 4pm. Highlights along the route include Church Street, the ferry wharf, Phillip Street and Westfield.

RIDE THE TRAIN

Parramatta Station connects to locations all around metro Sydney. It's a 30-minute ride from Sydney's Town Hall to Parramatta. There are stations at nearby Harris Park and Westmead, too.

HOP ON THE FERRY

Ferries run from Circular Quay to Parramatta Wharf, departing every day between 7am and 7pm. The ferry arrives at the end of Charles Street, a short walk from the centre of the city. Note that low tides occasionally mean buses replace ferries for part of the journey.

DRIVE IN

Parramatta is well serviced by major road connections. There are parking stations around Parramatta, many of which offer pre-booking discounts. There are also paid and free street parking spots in the city.

FIND YOUR WAY

To find public transport routes to Parramatta, visit the Transport for NSW website at transportnsw.info

You can also call the Transport Infoline at any time on 131 500 for help and information. City of Parramatta Council has useful transport information on its website: cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au

WALK AND CYCLE

Parramatta is an easy city to cycle and walk around, with many of the best highlights within walking distance. One of the best ways to discover those little gems in the city is by exploring on foot or by bike, and by taking your time to find new experiences.

Bicycle hire is available from the below location (or bring your own bike!). Look out for *Explore*, the companion map to this guide, for walking and cycling routes.

ADVENTAGEOUS

Weekend bicycle hire between 10am-2pm from \$10/hour with a helmet. Barry Wilde Bridge Fountain 0430 130 670 adventageous.com

SHOWING YOU AROUND

Our friendly hosts and guides are located in the Parramatta Heritage and Visitor Information Centre overlooking the Parramatta River. Roaming the city's CBD, they also provide a meet-and-greet service at the ferry wharf.



THE BEST WAY TO DISCOVER PARRAMATTA

See the best of the City of Parramatta with food, activity and heritage guides. Look out in information centres, hotels and transit points for locally produced guides to the city called *Taste and Discover Parramatta*. Also find the handy activity map called *Explore Parramatta*. Together, the guides and map show you everything you need to know for an extraordinary time in the city, with excellent dining options, incredible heritage to uncover and fun activities to do. Come and explore Sydney's Central City, and let it surprise you.



EXPLORE TASTE DISCOVER PARRAMATTA

visit-parramatta.com



[visitparramatta](https://www.facebook.com/visitparramatta)



[@visitparramatta](https://www.instagram.com/visitparramatta)

PARRAMATTA
MEET • DISCOVER • EXPLORE AUSTRALIA'S NEXT GREAT CITY