

Tired of cooking at home? ...

Fancy a bit of a change? ...

As a couple of sad old bachelors living alone in Riyadh, Luke & I often dine out together but our tastes can be quite different. We asked you to tell us of your own experiences, so here's a bit of advice on where you might go from a few of our readers.



Mondo

Jim Kavanagh has obviously shared our experience by writing to tell us that his favorite choice is the poolside restaurant at the InterContinental Hotel. "Great service, quality and quantity, you may have to skip the starter if you want dessert!" he says. Features a menu of Asian and western fusion dishes such as Grilled Jumbo Prawns which can be served inside or on the outdoor terrace. Great lunch venue if you want to impress. It's a good place for mixed dining in the evening as well and quite relaxed.

Al-Bustan

Another Hotel venue that's great for lunch is the all-day dining on the ground floor of the Sheraton Hotel. Had lunch with a Saudi colleague there the other day and the selection available was just immense. Since it's a help yourself set-up you can eat at your own pace which is great if you've got business to discuss between mouthfuls.

Al Khozama Hotel

Staying with the five star facilities for a moment, every meal we've ever had at any of the restaurants in the Al Khozama has always been great. From the Italiana Da Pino to the up market Windrose the food and service remains excellent.

But what of the non-hotel venues?

Assaraya Turkish Restaurant, Thaletine Street

Dee Evans writes in to tell us that she and her friends have had several visits to Assaraya (Turkish) and were all very impressed with the quality of food that is served there.

She continues, "We are always greeted and seated straight away, drinks orders taken - normally Saudi champagne and served promptly. Usually we just order starters of dips of taboulli, hummus and moutaba with a huge piece of bread which almost covers the table. On the last occasion we visited, there were more of us so we added some chicken, lamb and beef kebabs to fill our hungry mouths,

Restaurant Review

by Andrew Mead
& Luke Bowen

plus a couple of salads. The food is delicious and very plentiful and always arrives very quickly. The prices are so cheap – our taxis normally cost more than the meal. I would recommend a visit.

Dee also wrote in to tell us what we had heard from Rita Dadzis who advised us to try the next place on our list.

DUO

"DUO is a delightful Italian restaurant located on the North Ring Road. It has a family friendly atmosphere" she writes "... offers the option of either tables or booths in the open central area. In the next room there are a number of very private booths that can be enclosed with curtains for women wanting complete privacy." The food is prepared in the traditional a la dente style for the pasta dishes "their spinach ravioli is melt-in-your mouth tender and delicious" says Rita. "There is a broad selection of fresh veggies at the salad bar. But the best part is the staff who have a sense of humour and are very attentive in anticipating your needs. "The meals were well priced and they do a weekday lunchtime special for SR45." adds Dee.

If travelling on the ring road from the DQ direction towards the airport, come off at junction 5 and cross the junction in the slip road. It's about 500m east of the junction next to the new Steakhouse.

Yo Sushi

Newly opened at the Old Airport Road end of Tahlia Street is a sort of 'fast food' Japanese. Ate there recently with a bunch of guys so can't comment on the family facilities- they do have them - but the sushi, maki & saimi were up to the mark. It's rather more cafe than restaurant but in Luke's opinion the sushi is better than my favourite, Tokyo up on Aruba Street. You'll probably need to budget around SR150 per head but it's well worth a visit if you want quick bright and casual.

