

FREE INSIDE INDIAN OCEAN GUIDE



50 top travel tips for 2014 – where to go, what to look out for and how to do it

Our writers reveal all...





FOOD

Shanghai: big in 2014

Shanghai's cosmopolitan image is increasingly reflected by the city's rapidly evolving restaurant scene. Big-name chefs from the West sit cheekby-jowl with emerging, homegrown talent, as well as the region's street-led cuisine. This year saw Mr & Mrs Bund, an upmarket bistro with French-born chef Paul Pairet at the helm, become the first restaurant in mainland China to make it onto the coveted The World's 50 Best Restaurants list. Diners can feast on signature dishes such as foie gras crumble and 'picnic-chicken aioli' while devouring views of the riverside cityscape. For the more adventurous, Ultraviolet by Paul Pairet is less a conventional restaurant, more a multisensory experience with food at its heart — its 20-course odyssey available to just 10 diners a night at a mystery location.

Back at street level, any visitor to Shanghai has to try the legendary xiao long bao. Filled with either pork, crab or shrimp and a fragrant broth, the best of these steamed buns can be found at Din Tai Fung, which has several branches across the gargantuan metropolis. For dim sum, Crystal Jade (another mini-chain) is hard to beat. But these and other local staples — noodles, dumplings and simple vegetable dishes — can also be picked up from roadside stalls for next to nothing.

But the coolest dining (and drinking) destination in the city right now comes courtesy of Brit Jason Atherton. The former Maze chef has recently opened The Commune Social in a former police station, complete with a cocktail bar and buzzing ground-floor tapas-style restaurant with a dedicated dessert bar. Not a bad place to be locked up for the night. mmbund.com uvbypp.cc dintaifung.com.tw crystaljade.com communesocial.com

Words: William Drew, editor of Restaurant magazine

${\it Clockwise from top left:}$

Scott Melvin, executive chef, The Commune Social; suckling pig, roasted pineapple with spices, peppers and sherry dressing, The Commune Social; courtyard, The Commune Social; Mr & Mrs Bund

2014 FOODIE TREND

Set to hatch across London this year is a brood of chicken restaurants. Head of the flock is Soho House's Chicken Shop in Kentish Town. chickenshop.com

- 1 Kenya
- 2 Uganda
- 3 Ecuador





