

**Client:** Enterprise Inns Coverage  
**Source:** The Observer (Summer Pubs)  
**Date:** 14 June 2009  
**Page:** 25  
**Circulation:** 429651  
**Size:** 649cm2  
**AVE:** 7184.43

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## 50 Princess Victoria *Shepherd's Bush, London*

### Why it makes the grade

This has barely been open a year, but the pub's diverse wine list and refined pub grub has already been declared by one newspaper critic as making him "jump for joy". No surprise to learn then that the two owners have such temples of gastronomic pleasure as The Capital and The Greenhouse on their CVs.

### Signature fare

There are more than 400 bins on the wine list, and emphasis is given to riesling and pinot noir from across the globe, as well as boutique wine makers and small Rhône valley estates. There are 36 wines by the glass (£3.50-£7.50) and bottles range anywhere from £16.90 to a burgundy at £365. The cooking is just as well-honed, with dishes including roasted rump of lamb served with creamed white beans, pickled mushrooms, rosemary, roasted courgette and new season garlic (all mains £11.50-£17.50).

### We love the landlord because...

There is no skimping here, and the landlord ensures that there are a fair number of real ales and classic cocktails on offer, too.

### Meet the locals

The crowd is a mix of gentrified locals, office workers and staff from the nearby BBC TV centre.

### Pub trivia

There are regular wine tastings, and a wine and cigar shop, while every Saturday (10am-2.30pm) the pub's artisan suppliers set up shop for the Princess Victoria Artisan Market. **HH**



Open 11.30am-midnight - Food Mon-Sat 12-3pm, 6.30-10.30pm, Sun 12-4.30pm, 6.30-9.30pm - Dogs in bar area only - Enterprise Inns - 217 Uxbridge Road, W12 9DH - 020-8749 5886, princessvictoria.co.uk

## 51 The Cumberland Bar *Edinburgh*

Nestling in a basement among the imposing Georgian buildings of New Town, arrive early in the summer months to grab a table in its lush, sunken garden. Away from the drone of traffic, post-office punters knock elbows with affluent, artistic locals and tourists-in-the-know. To remind yourself you're in Edinburgh not Eden, get stuck into the house whisky list. There are precarious rows of rare blends and single malts behind the bar, and you

## 52 The Ship *Wandsworth, London*

The perfect "Pimm's o'clock" venue, with room for 400 thirsty punters on the decking overlooking the Thames. Swap your pint of Young's (which is brewed around the corner) for a frothy, fruit-laden jug of Pimm's pumped from the tap to ensure that perfect, heady balance of one-part Pimm's to three parts lemonade (2.5 pints for £15.55). If the sun's out, the chefs hit the deck and fire-up a monster barbecue. We're not talking just burgers here

## 53 The Spotted Cow *Bristol*

This spacious downtown gastropub oozes unpretentious sophistication, from the candle-lit minimalism of the decor to the chilled Sunday jazz DJ sets. Mover and shaker Gary commands the impressive back bar, expertly knocking up any cocktail you desire. We recommend the West Country Iced Tea, a Bristolian take on the Long Island classic. Take yours out to the spacious garden at sunset (this used to be a county

can embark on a distillery tour from vibrant Aberlour to smoky Talisker (from about £2.50) without leaving the comfort of your stool. Food is unfussy and crowd-pleasing, with haggis, neeps and tatties for £6.50. The genuinely friendly, knowledgeable staff are happy to help you find the dram of your dreams. **RM**



Open Mon-Sat 11-1am, Sun 12.30pm-1am - Food Mon-Fri 12-2.30pm, 5-9pm, Sat-Sun 12-9pm - Children welcome until 7pm - 1-3 Cumberland Street, EH3 6RT - 0131-558 3134, cumberlandbar.co.uk

(although, it has to be said, the "pimp your burger" option does sound tempting). Succulent king prawns, tuna steak, surf and turf, monkfish and halibut skewers all vie for space over the hot coals. And, to complete the scene, they now have live jazz on Saturday afternoons by the river from 4.30pm. Get your shades on. **CT-B**



Open Mon-Thu 11am-11pm, Fri-Sat 11am-midnight, Sun 11am-11pm - Food 12-10pm - Dogs not allowed in the restaurant - Young's - 41 Jews Row, SW18 1TB - 020-8870 9667, theship.co.uk

pub, before the city swallowed it) for the ultimate sundowner experience. Food is also a big deal here. You'll find classic pub grub brilliantly reinvented with locally sourced and organic ingredients whenever possible, including line-caught trout (£9) and an ever-changing choice of handmade bangers and mash (£7.50). **TB**



Open 12-midnight, Thu-Fri 12pm-1am, Sat 11-1am, Sun 11am-midnight - Food 12-9pm - 139 North Street, BS3 2EZ - 0117-963 4433, thespottedcowbristol.com

