

Savour, Share And Vote For Your Secret Food Hangouts With The Return Of Dubai Food Festival's Hidden Gems

21 Feb 2020, Dubai, UAE



Annual celebration of Dubai's unsung hero eateries returns, showcasing 40 "Hidden Gems" – independent, authentic treasures on the city's foodie map

- Vote for your favourite Hidden Gems restaurant between 16 February – 11 March, with winners announced at Etisalat Beach Canteen on 14 March
- 20 lucky voters will each win an AED500 gift card plus a Zomato Gold membership

The seventh edition of Dubai Food Festival (DFF) promises to deliver more food related fun than ever before. A central part of the 18-day gastronomic extravaganza is DFF's Hidden Gems, which is open for voting from 16 February to 11 March, with winners announced at Etisalat Beach Canteen on 14 March.

Hidden Gems highlights the unsung heroes of Dubai's ever-growing food scene. A shortlist of 40 restaurants, cafes and food outlets has been selected by users of food app Zomato representing the city's diverse dining options – and this year's lip-smacking list includes truly global cuisine, from Emirati to Japanese, Hawaiian to Uzbek and Ethiopian.

A key point of the Hidden Gems restaurants is that they all offer authentic tasty food at affordable prices - every outlet on the list offers an individual meal for no more than AED100 – with some feeding two people for as little as AED30. From Indian to American and Indonesian to Lebanese, the variety of cuisines waiting to be discovered in the 2020 Hidden Gems list will provide more than food for thought!

Through a partnership with Zomato, DFF's Hidden Gems gives foodie residents and visitors the opportunity to vote for their favourite 'hidden gem' from the list. Restaurants with the highest number of votes will then secure a place on the coveted 2020 Top 10 Hidden Gems list. There's also a chance for those voting to win, with 20 lucky voters each receiving an AED500 gift card plus a Zomato Gold Membership (winners will be selected at random).

Ahmed Al Khaja, CEO of Dubai Festivals and Retail Establishment (DFRE) says: "Every year, the DFF Hidden Gems creates such excitement, with many people going to try venues for the very first time, and restaurant owners thrilled to have made the list. Dubai's culturally diverse society is fuelled by these small, popular restaurants and cafes. They stand as testament to our belief that in Dubai, anything is possible. Some of these restaurants were opened by individuals who came to Dubai with little more than a dream. Hidden Gems is a chance for them to achieve even greater status and popularity, and we salute all of the small businesses who work so very hard to feed the city night and day."

This year's shortlist reflects Dubai's creative cuisine options, and all outlets have no more than two branches. Often homegrown, always satisfying, the 2020 Hidden Gems reflect Dubai's society. Voters are invited to explore fresh dining options in different areas of the city, from Mandi in Garhoud to Bosnian in Umm Suqeim.

Hidden Gems highlights the chance to try out a Hawaiian poke bowl in Studio City or taste Malaysian soto ayam in Al Safa, and don't forget the homegrown Emirati outlets offering classic local dishes, from the simple comfort food of ragag to a hearty machboos.

Votes can be cast at www.dubaihidden gems.com and through the Zomato website and app. In order to take part, users must be registered on Zomato. While only one vote can be submitted per restaurant, voters can revisit the Hidden Gems page and vote for other shortlisted restaurants.

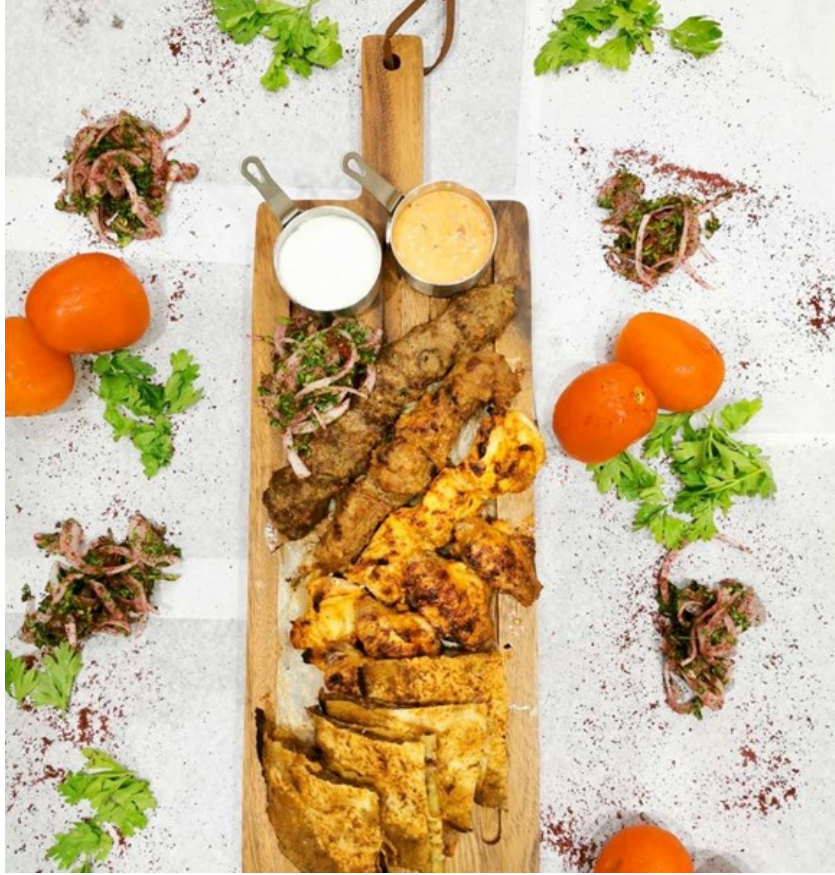
The complete Hidden Gems shortlist is below:

Restaurant Name	Cuisine	Location
Al Damyati & Iskandaron	Arabian, Middle Eastern	Qusais
Al Fareej Restaurant & Bakery	Middle Eastern, Kebab	Qusais
Al Romansiah	Mandi	Al Barsha
Aroos Al Bahar	Seafood, Arabian, Middle Eastern	Dubai Marina
Bharna	Seafood, Arabian, Middle Eastern	Al Warqa
Bosnian House	European, Grill	Umm Suqeim
Bulwagang Filipino Restaurant	Filipino	Al Karama
Daikan Restaurant	Japanese	Jumeirah Lake Towers
Durban Curry Cafe	African	Dubai Marina
FEL	American	Trade Centre Area
Hako Sushi	Japanese, Sushi	Business Bay
Harput	Turkish	Al Barsha
Haru Robotayaki & Sushi	Japanese, Sushi	Dubai Silicon Oasis
Himalaya Restaurant	Street Food, Indian, North Indian	Oud Metha
Indian Summer	Indian, North Indian	Umm Suqeim
Khair Darbar	Pakistani, Chinese, Indian	Al Quoz
Khaleej Tacos	Fast Food, Mexican, Tex-Mex	Umm Suqeim
Lan Kwai Fong	Chinese	Oud Metha
Magic Shrimp Cafeteria	Seafood, Burger, Fast Food	Al Quoz
Mamak	Malaysian, Indonesian	Al Safa
Mana'esho	Lebanese	Dubai Investment Park
Manoushe W Nos	Lebanese, Mediterranean, Bakery	Dubai Marina
Mantoushe	Lebanese, Mediterranean	Jumeirah Lake Towers
Mazaree Al Sham	Arabian, Middle Eastern	Umm Suqeim
Picnic Home	Arabian, Middle Eastern	Meena Bazaar
Red Box Restaurant	Sri Lankan	Qusais
Rossovivo	Pizza	Dubai Media City
Saudi Kitchen	Arabian, Middle Eastern	Jumeirah 2
Seedology	Cafe, Healthy Food, Salad	Al Safa
Shabu Shabu	Japanese, Filipino, Thai, Chinese	Al Hudaiba

Single Fin	Cafe, International	Umm Suqeim
South St. Burger Co.	American, Fast Food, Burger	Dubai Media City
Special Kabab	Kebab, Iranian	Al Hudaiba
Thushanis	Sri Lankan, Chinese	Discovery Gardens
Urban Bistro	Healthy Food, Bakery, Mediterranean	Dubai Media City
UZB Avenue	Uzbek, Russian	Al Barsha
Vietnamese Foodies	Vietnamese, Healthy Food, Asian	Downtown Dubai
Wadi Doan Restaurant	Mandi	Al Garhoud
Wildflower	Healthy Food, poké	Dubai Studio City
Wise Kwai	Thai	Barsha Heights

For more information and a full update on DFF activities, visit <https://www.visitdubai.com/en/dff> or @DubaiFoodFest and #DubaiFoodFest. For more about the Etisalat Beach Canteen - where the Hidden Gems Top Ten will be announced, visit @beachcanteenofficial on social media.





About Dubai Food Festival

Dubai Food Festival is a citywide culinary celebration that showcases the Emirate's emergence as the gastronomy capital of the region through a packed 18-day programme of food-related events, activities, promotions and appearances by food celebrities all across the city. The Festival promotes the diversity, creativity and multicultural nature of Dubai's culinary offering – from its five-star gourmet dining to its unique Hidden Gems. Dubai Food Festival is organised by Dubai Festivals and Retail Establishment (DFRE), an agency of Dubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (Dubai Tourism). In its 7th edition, Dubai Food Festival 2020, which runs from 26 February till 14 March, continues to position the emirate as a global tourism destination offering unique culinary experiences, giving residents and visitors a flavour of the very best of Dubai's food scene.

For more information, visit:

- Website: www.dubaifoodfestival.com
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/dubaifoodfest
- Twitter: www.twitter.com/dubaifoodfest
- Instagram: www.instagram.com/dubaifoodfest
- Hashtag: #DubaiFoodFest

About Dubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (Dubai Tourism)

With the ultimate vision of positioning Dubai as the world's leading tourism destination and commercial hub, Dubai Tourism's mission is to increase the awareness of Dubai among global audiences and to attract tourists and inward investment into the emirate. Dubai Tourism is the principal authority for the planning, supervision, development and marketing of Dubai's tourism sector. It markets and promotes the Emirate's commerce sector and is responsible for the licensing and classification of all tourism services, including hotels, tour operators and travel agents. Brands and departments within the Dubai Tourism portfolio include Dubai Business Events, Dubai Calendar, and Dubai Festivals and Retail Establishment.

About Dubai Festivals and Retail Establishment

The Dubai Festivals and Retail Establishment (DFRE), an agency of Dubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing, is responsible for developing Dubai's retail and festival sectors and supporting the positioning of Dubai as a world-class tourism destination with year-round family entertainment, shopping and events.