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# The Best Restaurants for a Business Lunch in Toronto

Posted by Robyn Urback / FEBRUARY 11, 2013

28 Comments



The best restaurants for a business lunch in Toronto have you covered when it comes to ambiance. These spots are pros when it comes to serving business patrons, leaving screaming babies and hokey dish names to the guys next door. Many of these restaurants offer smart wine lists and sophisticated seasonal menu options (allowing you to show off your food and drink savvy, of course) and let you book a lunch table ahead of time to avoid a last-minute business lunch scramble.

Here is the list of the best restaurants for a business lunch in Toronto.

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The Chase Toronto

Brock Sandwich

Kung Fu Tea Shop

### 1 Canoe

This place just feels like big business. Maybe it's the view off the 54th floor or the company of the professional and smartly dressed, but it's clear that many a deal has been signed over a lobster clubhouse or roasted Alberta lamb. Just hope you're not the one unfortunate patron who shows up in jeans during the lunch hour. [MORE »](#)



### 2 Reds Wine Tavern

Sleek but certainly not stuffy, Reds Wine Tavern has revealed itself anew after a recent renovation. A shuffleboard area, bare tables, and eclectic furniture tell you it's ok to undo your top button, while pads and pencils on the tables and premium options on the menu serve to remind of that handshake you're after. [MORE »](#)



### 3 Buca

Buca on King West boasts an impressive wine list, allowing you to woo your dining partners with your recently Googled knowledge of Italian wines. Many Toronto chefs rank this as one of their favourite places to eat in the city and after sampling Rob Gentile's innovative rustic Italian menu you're bound to see why. [MORE »](#)



### 4 Bymark

Excellent service and a winning patio make Bymark an easy call for movers and shakers on Wellington. The infamous \$35 Bymark burger might serve well as an icebreaker, while the extensive wine list will surely help lubricate the conversation. The décor speaks to a more sophisticated crowd, while the lobster grilled cheese offers a (jazzed up) take on nostalgia. [MORE »](#)

### 5 Nota Bene

Nota Bene during lunch is not uniformly made up of Bay Street banker types, allowing for some ladies-who-lunch comic relief and artsy professional types to break up the scene. The menu of seasonal, familiar options offers a little something for everyone, while the \$20 mains ensure that Queen West teens playing hookey generally saunter on by. Steps from Osgoode Station is an accessibility boon. [MORE »](#)

### 6 Hawthorne Food +

#### Drink

Innovation was built into the plans for Hawthorne Food + Drink, so it's no wonder that Richmond Street business types dine here to break bread over a little innovation of their own. Designed by Chef Eric Wood and with a mandate for incubating local chef talent, the not-too-pricey menu here includes plenty of sharing plates and Chef Wood's signature "four square" meal. [MORE »](#)



### 7 Lucien

For a lunch that feels like an intimate dinner head to Lucien on Wellington St. East just steps from the Financial District. Dim and cozy, even at noon, this is the place to whisper about office politics over a shared charcuterie board or housemade pasta. Prices here aren't wallet friendly so this is probably a

### 8 Strada 241

A bit of an anomaly in the heart of Chinatown, Strada 241 offers a more casual (entry-level, budget-friendly) option for a downtown business meeting. With a long communal table for groups and a simple menu of rustic Italian favourites, Strada keeps the atmosphere laid-back in a way that

### 9 Origin Liberty Village

Swarmed with Liberty Village startups, media powerhouses and forlorn Liberty Noodle fans during the week, Origin began introducing the area to its take on tapas in the middle of 2012. The generous square footage means you're more than likely to run into an adversary in accounting when the flock heads over

#### More than Pies

Destingo

United Coffee

Bero

King Palace

Foodbenders

Early Bird Espresso

meal for the company card.

[MORE »](#)

housemade crunchy peanut  
caramel corn often can. [MORE](#)  
»

during lunch, but the  
constant chatter humming  
throughout the space means  
you can probably get away  
with gossip without being  
overheard. [MORE »](#)



### **10 Asuka**

If you're in the mood for  
sushi and don't think your  
dining partner will be  
impressed with soy sauce  
stains on the menu, Asuka is  
a great choice. Enveloped in a  
sea of suits during the  
weekday lunch, this always  
packed spot is the place to go  
for Sexy Rolls and Rainbow  
Rolls before returning to the  
office. Better yet – they take  
reservations and there's  
always a tatami room if you  
need a bit of privacy. [MORE »](#)



### **11 Terroni Bar Centrale**

Steps from Summerhill  
Station, this Terroni caters to  
a more upscale crowd over its  
Queen West sister, but the  
Panino Vincenzino is delicious  
all the same. Terroni Bar  
Centrale does take  
reservations, allowing you to  
avoid that awkward business-  
meeting-shuffle when you  
show up to find the lineup  
out the door. And nothing says  
"let's make a deal" like  
mascarpone crème brûlée split  
between acquaintances, right?  
[MORE »](#)



### **12 E11even**

Leaf fans will surely feel at  
home hashing out business at  
the MLSE owned E11even. The  
drink list arrives on an iPad  
(because paper is very 2005),  
the service is prompt and  
attentive, and the screens  
showing game recaps will  
surely help to lubricate the  
conversation. The business  
diner wanting to convey  
seriousness, however, should  
probably steer clear of the  
\$16 Kosher frank. [MORE »](#)



### **13 Tutti Matti**

If you want to seduce your  
acquaintances with a  
charming Tuscan-style lunch,  
Tutti Matti is your best bet.  
Right in the midst of the  
Entertainment District, those  
in the know opt for Tutti  
Matti's \$17 prix fixe lunch,  
which offers three courses of  
insalata mista, pasta al ragu,  
and other restaurant  
favourites. Good value and  
great quality. [MORE »](#)



### **14 John & Sons Oyster**

#### **House**

For an upbeat business lunch  
that can tolerate a little noise.  
John & Sons on Temperance  
(formerly Rodney's by Bay) is  
a little more intimate than its  
midtown counterpart, but it  
seems to garner the same  
lively atmosphere that  
accompanies lobster poutine  
and shared cheese plates. Just  
off Richmond and Bay,  
reservations here are  
welcome. [MORE »](#)



### **15 Swan Restaurant**

Swan is not just for brunch!  
Granted, Swan Restaurant is a  
far cry from the sleek  
sophistication of some of the  
other spots on the list, but if  
your business lunch is casual  
enough to call for booth  
seating and braised short  
ribs, you won't be  
disappointed. Its spot right by  
Trinity Bellwoods Park means  
you're apt to encounter a  
pretty diverse crowd.  
Reservations accepted. [MORE »](#)



DISCUSSION 28 Comments

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sean / FEBRUARY 11, 2013 AT 02:23 PM



How about a couple of places where you won't have to mortgage your house?



Ryan replying to a comment from sean / FEBRUARY 11, 2013 AT 02:33 PM



What difference do prices make? These are business lunches, which get expensed.



O. / FEBRUARY 11, 2013 AT 02:52 PM



The link for John & Sons Oyster House is wrong.



Oh No / FEBRUARY 11, 2013 AT 03:03 PM



Why does everyone put Canoe as number one?? Have you eaten there? One of the worst meals I have had in Toronto, with a huge price!! Service was amazing... but come on, number 1??



**Tim** replying to a **comment from O.** / FEBRUARY 11, 2013 AT 03:18 PM



This has been fixed.



**bobby** / FEBRUARY 11, 2013 AT 03:45 PM



JaBistro should be on this list



**kirsten** / FEBRUARY 11, 2013 AT 06:57 PM



I would add Jump to this list as well as Pangaea and One if the lunch were to take place in Yorkville.



**what** / FEBRUARY 11, 2013 AT 07:17 PM



michael's on simcoe should be on this list seeing as it is filled with those types and actually in the financial/entertainment district..



**Colin** / FEBRUARY 11, 2013 AT 07:18 PM



I never understand how these 'best of' lists are determined?? Swan restaurant is cool, don't get me wrong – Queen St. brunch on a Sunday with the hipsters, for sure. But how is this relevant for Business Lunches?



**Gabe** replying to a **comment from sean** / FEBRUARY 11, 2013 AT 08:09 PM



If you need to mortgage your house for a business lunch you definitely aren't that good at business. Your business and house are two different entities.



**Jonathan** replying to a **comment from sean** / FEBRUARY 11, 2013 AT 08:15 PM



Sure if you want to catch a freelance gig you can take a client out to a pub for a chat but if you're talking big business multi-million dollar deals we need these places in the city. Always be closing, always be showing...



**Sasha** replying to a **comment from Colin** / FEBRUARY 11, 2013 AT 08:29 PM



Business lunches aren't there on Sunday's they're during the week. Nobody's talkin Sunday but you...



**Boo** / FEBRUARY 12, 2013 AT 06:58 AM



Jules is missing from this list!

<http://julesbistrocafe.com/>



**Mathew** / FEBRUARY 12, 2013 AT 07:22 PM



Hi everyone fom [www.refrigeratorrepairs.co](http://www.refrigeratorrepairs.co)  
@Boo ..It says Top Best :))  
Tutti Matti is my favourite ;) great list BTW



**seanm** replying to a **comment from Colin** / FEBRUARY 12, 2013 AT 08:12 PM





This inevitably comes up every time a 'best of' feature is posted, but it's a reader poll. So these lists are determined by popular vote, not the author.

**James** / FEBRUARY 13, 2013 AT 02:08 PM



Not sure what kind of business the writer is in, but the "no changes" policy at Terroni wrecked a meeting for me.

Having my guest patronized by a waiter about his taste set a negative tone for the meeting. Terroni has good food and pleasant looking people, but the service is not reliable enough to take a client you want to keep. Business meals are high stakes negotiations that require efficient service.

Anyway, great for casual fun, but not ready for prime time.

**kirsten** replying to a **comment from James** / FEBRUARY 13, 2013 AT 05:30 PM



Totally with you on that. I would never take a client to a place where I am not sure about the service. Especially Terroni which has a reputation for arrogance and rigidity.

**kirsten** replying to a **comment from James** / FEBRUARY 13, 2013 AT 05:31 PM



That was a response to James' post BTW.

**Nilu** / FEBRUARY 17, 2013 AT 03:00 AM



Are you illegally employing Dilan Chamara Perera?

**Annunci** / MARCH 15, 2013 AT 09:39 AM



Excellent goods from you, man. I have have in mind your stuff prior to and you're just too fantastic. I actually like what you have acquired here, certainly like what you're stating and the way in which in which you are saying it. You're making it enjoyable and you continue to take care of to stay it smart. I can not wait to learn much more from you. This is actually a tremendous site.]

**DIY wind energy** / MARCH 15, 2013 AT 12:56 PM



I don't leave a comment, but I read a few of the remarks here %BLOG\_TITLE%. I do have some questions for you if you tend not to mind. Is it simply me or does it seem like some of these remarks appear as if they are written by brain dead folks? :-P And, if you are writing at additional online sites, I'd like to follow everything new you have to post. Could you post a list of the complete urls of all your social networking sites like your twitter feed, Facebook page or linkedin profile?| DIY wind energy <http://solarandwindenergy.co/solar/>

**Jasa Pembelian** / MARCH 23, 2013 AT 03:26 AM



When someone writes an article he/she maintains the idea of a user in his/her mind that how a user can understand it. Therefore that's why this article is great. Thanks!!

**financial** / MARCH 23, 2013 AT 10:08 AM

Yesterday, while I was at work, my cousin stole my iphone and tested to



see if it can survive a thirty foot drop, just so she can be a youtube sensation. My apple ipad is now broken and she has 83 views. I know this is completely off topic but I had to share it with someone!

**Freight forwarding in Kenya** / MARCH 23, 2013 AT 10:20 AM



Thanks to my father who shared with me on the topic of this website, this website is truly amazing.



**Orlando moving companies** / APRIL 11, 2013 AT 04:12 AM



This site was... how do I say it? Relevant!! Finally I have found something which helped me. Thanks!



**Boyd** / APRIL 19, 2013 AT 01:08 AM



Looking at a very nice table for my dining area currently, but just noticed a near identical table at ikea however. I'm a nightmare with unassembled furniture though



**Ladies-that-lunch** / MAY 24, 2013 AT 09:36 AM



The list needs to be expanded to include lunch places where you don't see all your competitors doing the same thing....nice places that are perhaps not the standard go to list. Challenge is to find same caliber but a little less expensive (most business expense accounts have been reduced) .  
On another note....nice job on the list and descriptions!



**Clamp it** / MAY 24, 2013 AT 09:40 AM



Sneaky Dees.... It just for kids!



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