

TOP ROMANTIC RESTAURANTS in Dubai

By Hafsa Lodi

BRUNCH

TRAITEUR AT PARK HYATT

Venues known to attract the city's most classy and sophisticated often seem to be suited for the stiff and the snooty of Dubai's stylish society, but at Traiteur, the environment is unexpectedly relaxed, service is superb and the staff is exceptionally warm and engaging.

If you're working fulltime or overtime, and want to postpone your Valentine's Day to the weekend, Traiteur at Park Hyatt is the place to be on an early Friday afternoon. Taking place from 12:30pm to 4pm, the French themed brunch is produced by an outstanding team of chefs, headed by Chef de Cuisine Franck, and has gained the restaurant the Time Out Dubai "Best Brunch" award amongst others.

You and your date have the option of sitting in the dining room, the Cave Privee, or outdoors, on a terrace overlooking the scenic creek marina, while enjoying the live jazz music and cooking stations. Feast on fresh lobster, shrimp and salmon, Finde de Claire oysters and Eggs Benedict, amid a plethora of

other delectable delicacies—But don't fill up, because there is an entire room housing a diverse assortment of delicious desserts! Homemade ice creams, crepes, waffles, pralines, Opera Cake, Éclairs, Crème Brulee, Saint Honore and a mouth-watering chocolate station will taunt your taste buds until you give in and have a taste (or two!) of each.

If Friday brunch doesn't suit your schedule, head over to Traiteur with your Valentine's date for dinner on Tuesday—ladies may even leave with a rose if they're lucky! For reservations and more information, call +971 4 317 2222.



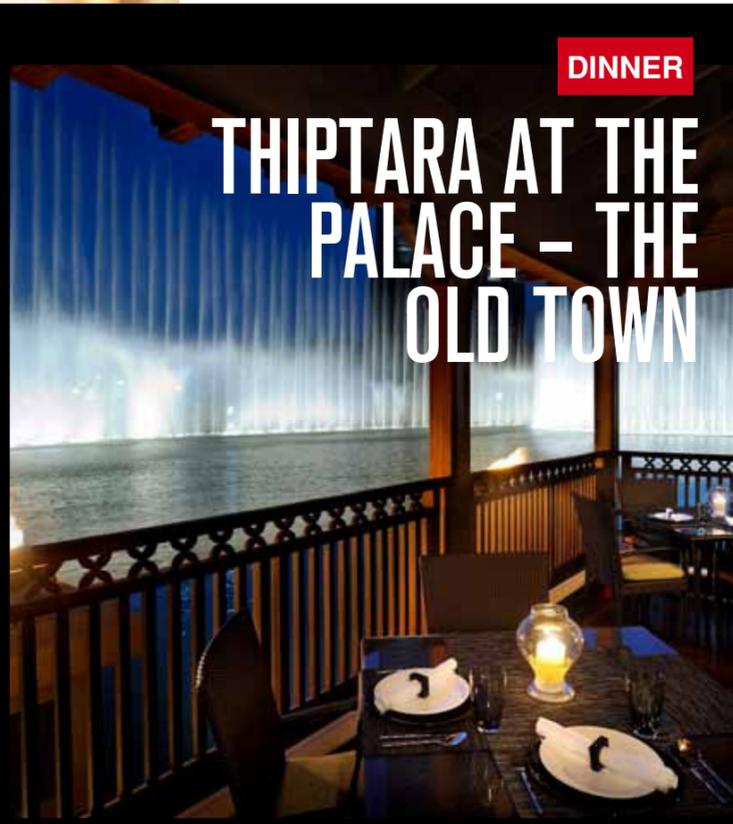
DINNER

EAU ZONE AT THE ONE & ONLY ROYAL MIRAGE

You'll feel miles away from Dubai's bustling city life when seated under the covered *majlis* at Eau Zone; a blissful site for a dinner date, in the Arabian Court of The One & Only Royal Mirage hotel. Surrounded by clear blue pools, luscious green gardens and rows of blooming palm trees, the restaurant faces the beach, and if you're lucky, your table could overlook the ocean.

During the day, the poolside restaurant may be a casual spot for families and friends, but after the sun sets, not a glimmer or shadow of the days' activity is present. Music is kept low and in the background, and underwater pool lights and candles on the tables serve as the only lighting, making the environment even more romantic.

DINNER



THIPTARA AT THE PALACE – THE OLD TOWN

In Thai, "Thiptara" means "The magic at the water" –and with its central location at a 5-star hotel, overlooking the Burj Lake and the majestic Burj Khalifa, the experience is magical indeed.

The restaurant's architectural features are ornate but warm and welcoming. Contemporary furniture is juxtaposed with the restaurant's high ceilings, dark wood carvings and traditional Thai soundtrack. Indulge in tasty Thai cuisine and speciality Bangkok-style seafood, prepared directly from the live aquarium in Thiptara. Try out the signature Pla Nuang Manow dish, a steamed fish glazed with herbs and topped with a spicy garlic and lemon sauce. Vegetarians will love the Tow Hu Phad Kraphow Krob, a stir-fried bean curd dish with basil leaves and chilli. Unlike many other authentic Asian restaurants, food portions at Thiptara are large and filling—you won't leave feeling that your stomach is as light as your wallet!

A romantic dinner in Dubai really does not get better than this—with a one-of-a-kind view of the grand fountain show from your table on the restaurant's outdoor wooden terrace, along with first-rate genuine Thai dishes, you'll have a luxurious and extremely boast-worthy experience. Call +9714 888 3444 to make a reservation, or to find out about the Valentine's Day special at Thiptara.