



## BURJ BITES

Great views and scrumptious food. Now, this is the life

By Gabrielle Doman

**T**here's no avoiding Downtown Burj. It's arguably the new centre of Dubai, housing the enormous Dubai Mall, some of the plushiest hotels in the city, a low-key more traditional shopping venue Souk Al Bahar and, of course, Burj Khalifa and the spectacular fountains that surround it. There's also no shortage of dining options to keep you fed and watered throughout the day. Here's a guide to a few venues that are sure to tick all the boxes, whether you're after the best views, the tastiest dishes or the quietest spot to enjoy your dinner.

### HUKAMA

Going for Chinese will never be the same again. Unobstructed views of Burj Khalifa, but a fair distance from the crowds and the droplets from the fountains, make the terrace one of the best places to dine in Downtown. But, even if it weren't for the staggering views, Hukama would still be a stunning place to spend the evening. Slick service, imaginative meals and more than an air of authenticity make it a very pleasant way to while away the hours. The menu is extensive, but the staff is happy to talk you through it. If you don't mind the hefty price tag, place your trust



Carluccio's

Image: Supplied

in the 8 or 11 course taster menus for a selection that includes smoked honey glazed tuna, seared goose liver and seafood and spinach dumplings in golden broth.

**THE ADDRESS, DOWNTOWN  
BURJ KHALIFA**  
Tel: 04 436 8888

### CARLUCCIO'S

While dining out in Downtown with your family can be an expensive affair, Carluccio's makes for an affordable option with everything going for it. You may pick it for its excellent views of the Burj Khalifa fountains — both from inside and on the terrace — and the tasty Italian fare that will please your entire family. Prices are reasonable and the restaurant is conveniently located in Dubai Mall.

**DUBAI MALL**  
Tel: 04 434 1320

### RIVINGTON GRILL

There has been a lot of hype about the British cuisine in Rivington Grill. Despite a barrage of new restaurants opening over the past few years, there are very few serving hearty British food. Rivington Grill has changed all of that, serving various steaks (with HP sauce and Heinz tomato ketchup, of course), fish and chips and desserts such as the waistline-enhancing Hazelnut Eton Mess. Washed down with some of the UK's famous bitters and you could be in a gastro pub in >>>

the countryside. Rivington Grill is bustling in the evenings, and it's easy to see why. The open kitchen, top quality ingredients and attention to detail that has gone into the menu showcase traditional British food at its best.

**SOUK AL BAHAR**  
Tel: 04 423 0903

### MARGAUX

Taking the best of Italy (crisp vegetables, fragrant herbs and plump olives), and the best of France (warm, crusty breads, to-die-for cheeses and French caviar), Margaux is a foodie's dream. The staff are passionate about both the food and the beverages, and it shows. The 800-bottle wine menu features helpful hints on wine pairing, but if you're still not sure, the sommelier would be glad to assist.

The venue makes an excellent lunchtime location. Hidden away from Dubai Mall's weekend crowds, you can enjoy a leisurely lunch of beef fillet, cooked 'Margaux style' with Perigieux sauce and truffle mash and seared hammour fillet with fennel salad, or the divine Margaux wild mushroom risotto. One could get used to living like this.

**SOUK AL BAHAR**  
Tel: 04 439 7555

### BICE MARE

Dubai is great at over-the-top elegance but often not as good in understated chic, but Bice Mare has this by the



Hukama

bucket load. Lighting is low, the ambience intimate but lively, and the music live — a pianist plays jazzy numbers near the bar. While fountain views are superb, it seems a shame to sit outside and miss the buzz inside the venue.

This Italian restaurant specialises in seafood, so do try the signature seafood linguine (recommended by the staff). If you're not in the mood for fish,



Margaux

Images: Supplied

the pizzas, meat and vegetarian dishes will make sure you don't go hungry.

**SOUK AL BAHAR**  
Tel: 04 423 0982

### CAFÉ BLANC

Café Blanc specialises in Arabic food. The Lebanese fare is good and covers a wide spectrum, be it spicy meats, light salads or chunky sandwiches. Café Blanc is one of the better options on the Dubai Mall side of the bridge. Take in the sights while sampling mezze dishes such as grilled haloumi, zesty humus and bread.

**DUBAI MALL**  
Tel: 04 423 0982

### THIPTARA

Of all the restaurants that surround the fountains (and that's a lot), Thiptara possibly has the best views. Its terrace sits at the very foot of the fountains — if they seemed big from afar, from up close they are extraordinary. But it's not just the view.

Thiptara serves some of the most inspired Thai food in the city. The restaurant is a sensual delight from the moment you step into the fragrant lobby to tasting the delicately fragrant coconut and herb salad (served inside a fresh coconut) while taking in the sights and sounds of the fountains playing *Time To Say Goodbye*.

**THE PALACE HOTEL**  
Tel: 04 428 7888

### LEFT BANK

Its fountain views may not be the best but you'll barely notice this once inside Left Bank's plush, boudoir interior. The menu is mostly bar food, revamped fairly regularly. Sandwiches, salads and bar food classics such as battered fish and chips are a delight, but the real appeal is its extensive cocktail menu. It may not be fine dining, but for decent grub in stylish surroundings, a visit is worth your while.

**SOUK AL BAHAR**  
Tel: 04 368 4501

