

used to be part of celebrity chef Jean-Christophe Novelli's empire. Now it is run by rising culinary star Phil Thompson, who combines the best of French cooking with his traditional English roots. So there's a pressed Foie Gras, pineapple and smoked duck terrine, tomato chutney and toasted brioche; roast rump of British excellence beef, potato gratin, wilted garlic leaf and smoked shallot jus; or warm Port and orange poached figs with chocolate brioche and bitter chocolate ice cream. www.aubergedulac.co.uk

A Grelha at the Gun, Docklands, London

A Grelha is an entirely al fresco bar and restaurant attached to the Gun pub on the banks of the Thames, that offers traditional southern Portuguese food. Diners here can soak up the sun all day, while enjoying stunning views over the river and the newly refreshed Dome (now called the O2 Centre). The atmosphere is chilled, so sit back and relax with a glass of wine while your food is cooked to order on the huge open charcoal bbq. www.thegundocklands.com

Five others to consider

- The Pheasant, Cambridgeshire, www.huntsbridge.com, 01832 710241
 - The Sun Inn, Hampshire, www.tailormadepub.co.uk/sun/default.php
 - Inn on the Lake, Godalming, www.theinnonthelake.co.uk, 01483 419997
 - City Café, Bristol, www.cityinn.com/bristol/eating_drinking.htm, 0117 910 2700
 - The Cabinet at Reed, Hertfordshire, www.thecabinetatreed.co.uk, 01763 848 366
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