



RESTAURANTS TAKE TOP SPOT AS BRITS' FAVOURITE DATE SPOT - AS TGI FRIDAYS SUPERFANS RECREATE THE FIRST DATE THAT LED THEM DOWN THE AISLE

- Research conducted by TGI Fridays reveals that nearly half (44%) of Brits prefer to keep it traditional and go to a restaurant for a first date
- Despite this, 43% admit to catching the 'ick' from witnessing a food-related mishap, like their date having food stuck in their teeth or chewing loudly
- TGI Fridays superfans Josh and Rachel Harris, embarked on their first date at TGI Fridays nearly a decade ago – and after inviting the brand to their wedding in July last year, they return this Valentine's Day to create their first date

13 February 2024: With Valentine's Day around the corner, new research commissioned by American-inspired cocktail bar and restaurant chain (and the original singles bar), [TGI Fridays](#) reveals that nearly half (44%) of Brits favour restaurants for a first date spot, proving that wining and dining will always be a classic choice for those looking to impress.

But picking a restaurant for your first date doesn't come without its risks. More than two in five (43%) people say a food related mishap, like their date getting food stuck in their teeth or eating too loudly, would put them off. Equally, 39% of people are worried about their own table manners and fear a foodie faux pas like spitting by accident when eating.

What's more, singles should consider what their food order says about them, as a third (33%) of the nation say someone's first date food order would impact their opinion of their date.

So, what to avoid? For those looking to avoid food flops on their first date at a restaurant, the research uncovered the foods people vote trickiest to eat on a first date, with spaghetti (39%), BBQ ribs (36%) and chicken wings (25%) taking the top spots.

And once the menu has been navigated, there are a few other things to consider in order to nail the first date. Brits shared the biggest dating no-nos as their date being on their phone (43%), saying something offensive (32%), eating with their mouth open (32%). And while you may want mum, dad or besties approval, inviting friends or family along to a date came out as a top faux pas for nearly a third of people (28%), along with arriving late (21%).

Josh and Rachel Harris are a now-happily-married couple who successfully navigated the dating stages after their first date ten years ago at TGI Fridays.

Commenting on their first date night as a couple, TGI Fridays superfan Rachel Harris said: *“Our first date night as a couple just had to be TGI Fridays because it has always been my favourite place. And it quickly became Josh’s too.*

“We chose TGIs because no matter what occasion it is, quick meal or celebrating, it’s a great relaxed environment because you can go in casual dress or smart and never feel put of place. The team always go out of their way to celebrate with you. It’s always a great atmosphere that makes you feel at ease. We have celebrated many life milestones with them as a couple but also with family and friends.

“After being together for nearly a decade, we always knew we wanted to get married, but I don’t think we could ever have imagined having TGI Fridays at our wedding reception serving our favourite dishes to all of our wedding guests, so the TGI Fridays Junction 27 crew now proudly feature in our wedding photos and video too.

“We would say we have had over 100 meals at TGI Fridays’ restaurants all over the country, it is and will continue to be our favourite date night.”

For those who are team restaurant when it comes to picking a perfect date spot, download the TGI Fridays Stripes Reward app for a free Prosecco when ordered with a stack of three pancakes. The perfect dessert choice this Valentine’s.

To book a table, visit: www.tgifridays.co.uk/book-a-table

ENDS

Notes to editor:

** TGI Fridays surveyed 1000 respondents during the week commencing 5th February to gather their views on first dates, using research partner, Censuswide. The survey is nationally representative.*

Terms and conditions

A complimentary 125ml glass of Prosecco on Thursdays (UK) Limited (trading as TGI Fridays UK) (“TGI Fridays”, “us” or “our”) is available with the purchase of any of our three pancake stacks from our Pancakes Menu in any of TGI Fridays’ participating restaurants, and is included in the price of the meal between Friday 9th and Sunday 18th February 2024 (inclusive). A non-alcoholic alternative of one Mocktail from our Refresh & Revive menu may be selected.

1. This offer:

1.1. is only available to TGI Fridays’ Rewards members who have signed up for the TGI Fridays’ Rewards programme by downloading the TGI Fridays Rewards App. Proof of membership will need to be shown to your server in order to redeem this offer;

1.2. is available during opening hours Friday 9th to Sunday 18th February 2024 (inclusive) in participating TGI Fridays’ restaurants;

1.3. is not available at TGI Fridays Jersey restaurant. TGI Fridays may add to or amend this list in its sole discretion;

1.4. is only open to persons aged 18 years or older and appropriate proof of age may be required;

1.5. is only available with the purchase of any of our three pancake stacks from our Pancakes Menu;

1.6. cannot be exchanged for anything else or used in conjunction with any other offers, promotions or set menus, including TGI Fridays' Rewards offers and/or any Stripes Rewards that discount the price of any dish;

1.7. is limited to one redemption per Member; and

1.8. is subject to availability.

2. TGI Fridays' management reserves the right to withdraw this offer without notice or change these terms and conditions at any point. TGI Fridays' management's decision is final in relation to all matters relating to this offer and these terms and conditions.

3. These terms and conditions are subject to the laws of England, Wales and Scotland.

4. Please drink responsibly. Please see bedrinkaware.co.uk

About TGI Fridays™:

TGI Fridays™ first opened in New York in 1965 with flowing cocktails and charismatic bartenders making every night feel like a Friday. Over 55 years later, we're making TGI Fridays™ famous again and proudly celebrating our heritage with simple, freshly made-to-order dishes with top-quality ingredients, vibrant new and classic cocktails full of energy and theatre, all handcrafted by our expert bartenders. All of which is complemented by consistently brilliant and iconic TGI Fridays™ service and spirit of generosity, while in keeping with its heritage as one of the original singles bars.

Whether you're out for a date, girls' night or a family dinner, TGI's™ is here to help bring That Fridays™ Feeling, no matter what day of the week or time of day.

Follow @TGIFridaysUK on social media to get That Fridays™ Feeling all day, every day.

About Hostmore plc:

We're the sharers. The carers. The business-builders and the entertainers.

Hostmore plc is a UK hospitality business which runs the American-inspired casual bar and dining brand, 'TGI Fridays' the cocktail-led bar and restaurant brand, '63rd+1st', and the fast casual dining brand, 'Fridays and Go'.

Established in 2021, Hostmore has been created to provide a platform for the development of hospitality brands under the leadership of an experienced team that has a track record of building businesses in the hospitality and leisure sectors.

Hostmore's businesses are defined by iconic brand experience, vibrant heritage and sector-leading technology. Its strategic focus is on optimising its brands, aligning those brands with evolving consumer demands and delivering personalised customer engagement – all backed up by a redesigned digital platform.

Find out more - www.hostmoregroup.com