

The Definitive Guide To Chelsea's Best Pubs

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Superior drinking spots in SW3



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Chelsea is one of London's most upscale neighbourhoods, and its pubs follow suit. You won't find many crumbling dive bars here: instead the area is filled with polished inns with pretty gardens and standout food offerings. That doesn't mean Chelsea's pubs aren't characterful though – in fact, quite the opposite, they're brimming with quintessentially British charm. Luckily for us, the C&TH offices are located just down the road from the heart of SW3, meaning the team have been able to sample them all to sort the wheat from the chaff. Read on for our pick of the very best pubs in Chelsea, from long-standing traditional boozers to secret gems hidden just off the King's Road (and if you're after Chelsea restaurants, [click here \(https://www.countryandtownhouse.com/food-and-drink/best-restaurants-chelsea/\)](https://www.countryandtownhouse.com/food-and-drink/best-restaurants-chelsea/)).

7 Best Pubs In Chelsea 2025

At A Glance:

- The Cross Keys
- The Cadogan Arms
- The Surprise
- The Fox & Pheasant
- The Phene
- The Hollywood Arms
- The Pig's Ear

1. The Cross Keys

Widely believed to be Chelsea's oldest pub, The Cross Keys was built all the way back in 1708 – though it reopened with a fresh look in 2015 after being acquired by new owners. Tucked away on quiet Lawrence Street, the pub has a rich history: it was frequented by writers Agatha Christie and Dylan Thomas back in the day, and Bob Marley was reportedly a fan. Today, it's known for its impressive food offering which focuses on seasonal fare, serving both pub classics (pies, fish and chips) alongside creative veg-forward mains, plus a stellar [Sunday roast \(https://www.countryandtownhouse.com/food-and-drink/best-roasts-london/\)](https://www.countryandtownhouse.com/food-and-drink/best-roasts-london/). Drinks-wise, there's an extensive selection of beer from Butcombe Brewery, as well as fine wines and cocktails like the signature Hugo Royale Spritz, made with Tanqueray gin, elderflower and prosecco.

1 Lawrence St, London SW3 5NB, [butcombe.com \(http://butcombe.com\)](http://butcombe.com)





4. The Surprise

Tucked away on a quiet terrace near the King's Road, [The Surprise](https://www.countryandtownhouse.com/food-and-drink/reviews/restaurant-review-the-surprise-chelsea/) (<https://www.countryandtownhouse.com/food-and-drink/reviews/restaurant-review-the-surprise-chelsea/>) is one of Chelsea's worst-kept secrets. With its terracotta walls, leather banquettes and reclaimed furniture – plus the red-and-white striped facade – it's one of London's most aesthetic pubs. But it's not style over substance: there's also an excellent culinary offering designed to spotlight the best of British produce. Forget boring pub grub, the menu here includes dishes like beetroot and gin cured salmon with crostini, pea and shallot tortellini, and Cornish cod with grilled asparagus. If you're just popping in for a pint, choose from an array of beers, from London ales to the pub's own brand, Surprise Ale.

6 Christchurch Terrace, London SW3 4AJ, thesurprise-chelsea.co.uk (<http://thesurprise-chelsea.co.uk>)

5. The Fox & Pheasant

He might be best-known for his acoustic pop hits, but did you know James Blunt also owns a pub? Perched in the no-man's land between Chelsea and Fulham, The Fox & Pheasant was on the brink of closure before being bought by the singer and his wife Sofia Wellesley in 2017, who lived just down the road. Together they revived the space, bringing a touch of countryside cosiness with rustic furnishings and fireplaces, and enlisting chef Toby Milne to head up the food side of things. Blunt spends most of his time in Ibiza nowadays, so although you might not find him pulling a pint at the bar, you can order the You're Beautiful cocktail in his honour – a refreshing gin and elderflower tipple perfect for summer afternoons.

1 Billing Rd, London SW10 9UJ, thefoxandpheasant.com (<http://thefoxandpheasant.com>)

6. The Hollywood Arms

Perched on a residential street between the King's Road and Fulham Road sits The Hollywood Arms, a chic pub which feels right at home in its SW10 neighbourhood. During the warmer months, crowds of pub goers spill out onto the street sipping pints of Guinness and Strawberry Negronis. Inside is equally charming though, with high

