

Holland Park Cafe
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Holland Park Cafe

Our rating ★★★★★

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The ViewLondon Review



21/03/2011

Review by [Rebecca Wynter](#)

A toasty haven for brisk winter mornings or a pleasant retreat for sunny afternoon sit downs; the Holland Park Café is a friendly sanctuary for park strollers.

The Venue

Incorporating the stone arches of the viaduct, the café extends off the curved sides. The bare bricks of the viaduct make up one side of the café walls with hanging wall plants trailing ivy vines. The pea-green counter snuggles at the front end, whilst the roof lighting stretches the entire length of the venue ensuring plenty of daylight streams in. Marble flooring, beechwood tables and big windows all add to a greenhouse-fresh ambiance. A disabled ramp connects the two levels inside – passing stone statues of nudes and monkeys – and outside patio seating can be found on both sides of the rectangular café, so you can catch the sun at any stage of the day.

The Atmosphere

Dog-walkers rest their welly-booted feet and warm their hands with a steamy cuppa, book readers and afternoon regulars nibble sandwiches, and Kensington mummies swap baby stories over coffee and cake. The cheery staff are on first name terms with regular lunchers and are well-versed in shooing the odd cheeky pigeon.

The Food

Along with the homemade soup of the day (£3.65), a standard selection of sandwiches (£2.95–£3.95), panini (£3.95–£4.10) and toasties (£3.65) are available, with fillings that change monthly. Hot dishes are also on offer for the 11.30am - 3pm [lunchtime](#). The basil and tomato chicken (£7.95) is recommended; the tender chicken oozing mozzarella cheese, served with boiled broccoli and creamy mash. Fresh fruit, sausage rolls, and mouthwatering cakes (all around the £2 mark) are displayed on the counter and Beechdeam Farmhouse ice-cream (£2.20) is on hand for the kiddies. Look out for themed cakes and goodies on special occasions; making a trip on Valentine's, St. Patrick's Day, Easter and the like all the more interesting.

The Drink

Teas, coffees and other hot beverages are served in big white mugs, with prices ranging from the £1.25 breakfast tea to the £2.40 hot chocolate. The typical selection of soft drink cans, bottles and [fruit juice](#) cartoons are available from the fridge.

The Last Word

Perfect for a morning coffee or afternoon tea, the Holland Park Café welcomes children and provides tasty bites for lunchtime [snacks](#).