



lonely planet



Berlin

CITY GUIDE



THE CULINARY INSIDE TRACK

For foodies, visiting a new city can be an exciting yet scary prospect. Where to focus one's culinary attentions? How to avoid – horror of all horrors! – a bad meal? In comes Henrik Tidefjård – a gourmet, raconteur and tour guide all wrapped into one affable package. The multilingual Swede specialises in taking small groups of people (never more than nine) on what he has dubbed a 'Gastro-Rallye'. This involves a lively evening, stopping at three or four of Berlin's hippest restaurants for one course at each. In between, Henrik will give you a crash-course on what makes Berlin tick, peppering you with bits of history, tasty insights and secret tips. You're also free to pick his brain about whatever racy and quirky trivia you've been dying to know about the city. In the end you'll almost feel like an insider yourself; a very well-fed insider, that is.

Tours start at €59 per person, include all food and drink, and must be booked at least one day in advance. For details call ☎ 4372 0701 or check www.berlinagenten.com.

SCHLEUSENKRUG

Map pp338-9

Beer Garden €

☎ 313 9909; Müller-Breslau-Strasse at the Tiergarten locks; breakfast & mains €4.50-10; ☎ 10am-11pm; ☎ Zoologischer Garten

Follow a jog in Tiergarten with breakfast at this classic beer garden, sitting pretty right by a lock on the Landwehrkanal. Later in the day the place starts jumping with people from all walks of life chatting, hoisting mugs of foamy beer and feasting on grilled organic sausages and other hearty fare.

CHEAP EATS

GOSCH Map p346

Fish €

☎ 2529 6820; Alte Potsdamer Strasse; sandwiches €2-3.50, mains €6-13; ☎ Potsdamer Platz Only the brisk North Sea wind is missing from this stylish bistro, a clone of the original branch on the Frisian island of Sylt. Come here for a take-away sandwich or pick your *poisson* (fish) at the counter, then wait while it's turned into a delicious meal. Also in Charlottenburg (Map p344; ☎ 8868 2800; Kurfürstendamm 212; ☎ Umlandstrasse).

SALOMON BAGELS

Map p346

Deli €

☎ 2529 7626; Potsdamer Platz Arkaden; dishes €2-8; ☎ 9am-8pm; ☎ Potsdamer Platz

At this chic shopping mall café, with its extravagant chairs and chandeliers, the lowly bagel goes spiritual – the owners actually regard them as 'wisdom that's fit to eat'. From plain to pumpkin seed, all bagels are made fresh and packaged into delicious sandwiches, including the classic lox and cream cheese version. They serve breakfast too.

CHARLOTTENBURG

While the culinary spotlight remains trained on flashy Mitte, clued-up Berliners know that some of the finest eating is done in subdued Charlottenburg. The crowd is a bit older here, more affluent and discerning, which translates into higher quality – and prices. The most fashionable haunts are around Savignyplatz, while west, along Kantstrasse, is a gaggle of more casual but excellent Asian and Spanish eateries. The residential streets south of Schloss Charlottenburg yield some great off-the-beaten-track finds.

CAFÉ WINTERGARTEN IM LITERATURHAUS

Map p344

Café €€

☎ 882 5414; Fasanenstrasse 23; mains €8-16; ☎ 9.30am-midnight; ☎ Umlandstrasse

Everyone from book rats to artists gather at this lovely Art Nouveau villa. When the weather plays along, the garden is ideal for a light lunch or a leisurely afternoon of coffee, cake and chat. Or come to prepare for your shopping spree with breakfast under the graceful stucco-ornamented ceilings.

CASSAMBALIS

Map p344

Mediterranean €€

☎ 885 4747; Grolmanstrasse 35; mains €9-24; ☎ noon-midnight; ☎ Umlandstrasse

Owner, Costas Cassambalis, pairs his passion for art and food in this congenial brasserie, popular with everyone from Charlottenburg literati to guests of the adjacent Hecker's Hotel (p257). Walls are swathed in his favourite paintings, including some created by patrons. Regulars swear by the grilled sea bream and the tender beef roulade. There's a great antipasti buffet too.