



Fine whining and dining

M, the coolest new restaurant in the City, already famous for its Kobe steaks, has just announced its first ever dog-friendly Saturday brunch. Will we be seeing you there?

If so, perhaps we should all brush up on the correct petiquette for doggie dining. Is it terribly bad form to drool, for example?



A couple of issues ago (February), we featured the very sophisticated Cockapoo Miss Darcy and asked her owner, May Wong, for her views on dog-friendly locations for eating out.

"Very often, you just need to ask the question," says May. "Ring ahead and ask if they will let you dine with your well-behaved dog. They are unlikely to have a sign to tell you they welcome dogs, but if they don't have a 'no dogs' sign, it's a start!"

May found her first dog-friendly restaurant in London quite by chance.

"It was a very hot day and a kind man came out of a smart Italian restaurant in the Fulham Road to ask if Darcy might be thirsty," May recalls. "This was Lucio, who used to be at the famous San Lorenzo restaurant

in Knightsbridge (Princess Diana's favourite eaterie). We got talking and discovered he'd be delighted if we brought Darcy to eat at his restaurant, too. He now has his own Cockapoo, Coco, who welcomes all the guests from her sofa! Lucio's restaurant is very smart, with white table cloths and the best food, and it is dog-friendly every day of the week."

Thrilled by this discovery, May started asking elsewhere and has been overjoyed to find another five dog-friendly places in the same road.

Miss Darcy doesn't just eat out in London; she is a trail-blazing international doggie jet-setter.

"Germany is by far the most dog-friendly place we've visited; even the smartest, trendiest restaurants in Berlin expect you to bring your dog with you, it's normal. I started writing a blog to encourage others that you can

spend time with your dogs – you can travel with them in comfort and eat with them. You don't have to be apart.

"Dogs want to share their lives with us and I know I'm happier when I am with my dogs. I hope I have shown others how to do it."

Meet and eat Miss Darcy has attended several of the famous dog-friendly Sundays at the Gaucho restaurant in Hampstead. She helped organise a Cockapoo takeover where more than 40 dogs dined together with their owners.

Dogs Today has been a big supporter of the Gaucho events and there is such a friendly atmosphere when like-minded people eat together. Normal reserve is parked and people talk to each other freely like old friends.

However, doggie dining en

"Doggie dining isn't the place to socialise your dog; your dog needs to already be bombproof for this kind of experience. If they are a super-social canine without any issues, they will love it!"

Words:
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