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by Alexander Jones Ellis

FOOD

The best Greek restaurants in Berlin: Tavernas, délis and more

Dreaming of sunny Athens, Santorini or Crete? If you're missing the mediterranean, check out our list of the best Greek restaurants in Berlin.

Pala

Pala's Greek-inspired meatballs, traditionally called 'keftes', at Pala. Photo: Bettina Grätz

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This hip café-bis is an unlikely location the courtyard of the Karstadt at Hermannplatz. But while the development of this historic location continues to ignite controversy, this ramshackle spot with a sunny rooftop terrace and outdoor garden feels like an oasis of calm.

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You can stop in for a frappé or a flat white, or try one of their family recipes, delivered with a light, modern spin. Try our lotus-flower, slow-cooked vegetable stew (or gemista) (stuffed tomatoes and bell peppers). Another great choice is the roasted aubergine, served in Greek yogurt and topped with pico de gallo, tahini and pine nuts. It looks great, tastes great, and everything costs less than €10.

- **Pala** Carpark Innenhof, Hasenheide 54, Kreuzberg, Mon-Thu 11-18, Fri-Sat 11:00-00:00, pala-berlin.de

Oazesi Angelíki

The Fish Plateau are very fancy, in Greek context. Photo: Jack Silver

This restaurant's bright blue interior recalls the Greek seaside, and the seafood platters served up will make you feel like you're on holiday, too. Since late 2011, Angelíki "Ngeliki" Falsaci has been serving up some great seafood in her new spot in Charlottenburg. For £20, get a seasonally changing platter that may include fried sardines, anchovies, mussels, shrimp, calamari and octopus – and wash it down with a cold Mythos beer. Angelíki has a loyal following, she used to cook for a caterer next to Greek Orthodox church in Steglitz. Visit on a Sunday for the legendary £13 Sunday brunch.

- **Oazesi Angelíki** Dresponster 3, Charlottenburg, Mon-Wed-Fri 14:30-22:00, Tue-Sat 12:30-22:00, 10:00-22:00 Breakfast buffet, www.instagram.com/oazesi.angeliki/

Taverna Platia

Platia's Tzatziki, Pita, Gyros and Souvlaki platter. Photo: Jack Silver

Platia means square in Greek – and in summer this Schöneberg Taverna fills up the entire Bricks Grill's 50 former pan-office!) to make a Greek village square in the middle of the city. The space is big, and so are the plates. Sharing is recommended for dishes such as the enormous platter of Meze, lamb chops sides of potato cigarettes, or cheese-topped fried potato discs. The tzatziki is delicious and creamy, while the lamb, meats and squid are grilled to perfection.

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Prices aren't cheap – it's easy to pay over €40 per person – but that's the price of quality.

- **Platia** Hauptstraße 21, Schöneberg, Tue-Sun 17:00-00:00, summer holidays until 08.8.2011, taverne-platia.de

Cretan and Nip: Myra

The legendary Cretan dessert: Cretan yoghurt, honey and walnuts. Photo: Myra

Out in Neukölln, Myra has for years been a meeting place for young Greek expats in Berlin. The small café is fairly unassuming, but beneath its humble decor you'll find an exciting menu which combines classics like flat whites, ajacha and caramel brownies with Greek treats like the mocha, frappé or spanakopita. In particular, try the Cretan starter Dakos which combines juicy tomatoes and feta. Wash it down with a Greek inspired cocktail!

- **Myra** Lenzstraße 24, Neukölln, daily 11:00-22:00, myraberlin.de

Rizes Delicacies

Gyrosplatte between a Greek restaurant and a deli. Photo: EXBERLINER, Photo: Instagram.com/rizesdelicacies

Restaurant, or delicatessen? This friendly spot looking out over Weinbergspark is a bit of both. Rather than a big menu, three or four dishes are cooked each day and served alongside Rizes' own homemade bread. If you'd rather try your hand at Greek cuisine yourself, stock up on quality Greek ingredients and prepare a feast at home. Sometimes, the simple things are the best.

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- **Rizes Delicacies** Weserstraßenstraße 25, Mitte, Tue-Sat 11:00-22:00, instagram.com/rizesdelicacies/

Taverna Ousia

Taverna Ousia is one of the best known Greek restaurants in the city, and it's ever for nothing. This place is crammed every evening because it does a great job, has a warm atmosphere and serves tasty little bites ranging from taramas to kefteides to gardes, all to share. There's a great wine list, too.

- **Taverna Ousia** Grossweidenstieg 24, Schöneberg, Wed-Mon from 17:00, taverna-ousia.de

Inoflios

Spanakopita and Greek Meatballs at Inoflios. Photo: Jack Silver, Photo: Inoflios

Speaking of Greek wine, Inoflios up in Prenzlauer Berg is a specialist wine shop and online store run by Andreas and Sofia Raubaum. They know the winegrowers personalitys and this extensive knowledge allows them to bring a new generation of Greek quality and natural wines to Berlin. On top of their range of wines and spirits, they stock a range of German and Austrian wines, plus brandies, olive oil and other goods.

- **Inoflios** Schönhauserallee 36, Prenzlauer Berg, Mon 15:00-20:00, Tue-Thu, Sat 10:00-19:00, Fri 10:00-20:00, inoflios.de

Apíti

Apíti's Greek salad. Photo: Apíti

After living abroad for years, Alex Kirgiannakis was missing one thing: fresh, juicy Greek street food, served with lots of vegetables. Apíti on Kreuzbergkiez Platz is his attempt to recreate the taste of Athens and Thessaloniki in Berlin. Many of the ingredients are organic, or imported directly from Greece. The meat falls into this latter category: cuts specifically tailored for gyros and souvlaki skewers make a perfect meal, and there are excellent vegan and vegetarian options, too.

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- **Apíti** Torstraße 118, Mitte, Mon-Sat 12:00-22:00, Sun 12:00-20:00, apiti.de

Philia

This Zehlendorf Taverna serves upscale Greek cuisine. It sources its produce from select Greek farms, as well as getting fresh local ingredients from the surrounding area. Not sure what to order? Take a clue from the name: Philia is a mixed starter plate to be shared with friends. Once you've had that, try the wild boar filet or grilled octopus.

- **Philia** Spanische Allee 34, Zehlendorf, Mon-Fri 16:00-00:00, Sat&Sun 12:00-00:00

To Pasta Ri

The four Cypriot restaurant in Berlin, now at home in Wilmersdorf for over 30 years. To Pasta Ri. Photo: To Pasta Ri

Technically speaking, To Pasta Ri isn't Greek, but Cypriot. Either way, the food is great and you'll see a lot of familiar dishes. Start with the meze and small starters, stuff like tzatziki, tarama, aubergine salad, garlic bread, olives and stuffed vine leaves. For your main course, try the lamb or gyros.

- **To Pasta Ri** Düsseldorfer Straße 75, Wilmersdorf, Mon-Sat 18:00-00:00, topastari.de

Kouzina

Kouzina is exactly the kind of neighborhood eatery that everyone wants to have in their neighborhood. Photo: Zachariou Residential

At Kouzina, lunchtime means gyros and felafel served with tzaziki and french fries. The felafel is made with high quality meat, meaning it can be crafted to a shorter time and retain its juices. Calamari and octopus are also on offer served straight from the grill. In short: Kouzina is warm, relaxed, modern Greek restaurant, suitable for any occasion.

- **Kouzina** Schlüterstraße 18a/ Grüntaler Straße 37, Charlottenburg, daily 12:00-22:00, kouzina-berlin.de

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