

Londres

We can't even remember when or how we discovered our base restaurant in Funchal; you could walk past and not even notice it. But what we *did* notice, once inside, was that most of the clients were local. Now that it appears in several guides, tourists fill half the seats. Arrive early (before 7.30pm), book ahead, or wait for a table.

You can expect value for money, fresh food, fairly unremarkable meat dishes, and *simply superb fresh grilled fish*. The atmosphere is homely, the staff always friendly and helpful, never fussed by the bustle. On arrival you'll be greeted with a plate of marinated broad beans — just perfect with a dry white wine, *vinho verde*, beer or *sercial* aperitif. Whichever meal we choose, we often change our minds at the last minute and have the grilled *cherne*, our favourite. A word of warning: one serving is enough for two — especially if you have a first course — and they don't mind if you share.



Early evening at Londres; later on it will be throbbing!

LONDRES

Rua da Carreira 64A ☎ 235 329
Mon-Sat lunch and dinner €€

daily **main-course specials**; this menu is only printed in Portuguese, so ask them to translate for you; the grilled fresh fish dishes are highly recommended.

ten different **entrées**, from the obligatory tomato and onion soup to the exotically translated 'cockle duck style' (see page 28)!

wide range of **omelettes**

meats (usually grilled or fried), including beef (also *espetada*), liver, pork, lamb, chicken, turkey
simple **sweets** and ice creams

Over the years we've visited many of the restaurants in the capital, including those in the western 'tourist zone'. And you will be very unlucky if you have a bad meal.

One of the most pleasant places to make for is the Old Town, with many excellent restaurants, some with outside tables. Our only complaint there is that some of the busier ones are happy to lure you in, but then even happier to see you go so they can take another seating.

We don't like to be rushed (you will *never* be rushed at Londres, no matter how busy).

Another idyllic setting (and it will be more so in future, when the commercial port moves east to the Porto Novo Valley) is the marina, with a string of very pleasant settings by the water's edge. If you start at the pier opposite Avenida Zarco and walk west, ignoring the blandishments of all the touts, we'll be surprised if you make it past Fernandes, who will lure you into the **Marina Terrace**. You won't regret it! The food is superb. Try their special steak — a very thick fillet served sizzling on a hot stone; they will slice it for you. The menu is huge, with fish and shellfish of all kinds and dishes to appeal to the kids as well — like pastas and excellent crunchy-crustured pizzas.



Grilled *cherne* at Londres — each tray holds a serving for one! Below: the Marina Terrace restaurant



restaurants

eat