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HOW TO NAVIGATE BERLIN'S AWESOME UNDERGROUND SUPPER CLUBS

The Red Dit

JACKTHREADS

PUBLISHED ON 10/16/2013 BY <u>KATHERINE SACKS</u>

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LIST

Berlin is now home to a thriving and awesome underground supper-club scene, wherein ordinary Berliners (who happen to be able to cook crazy-well) invite a bunch of peeps to a covert location (frequently their home), and lay out a feast for them in exchange for just a little cash (as low as 25€). Wine flows liberally & most hosts come out to the table after dinner w/ a bottle for shots, and to share their insider tips on Berlin.

So how do you get in? Well, you gotta be in the know: sign up for the newsletters, then wait/pray for an invite. In order to make sure you score a seat at the best ones, here's a comprehensive list of the city's finest home cooking.

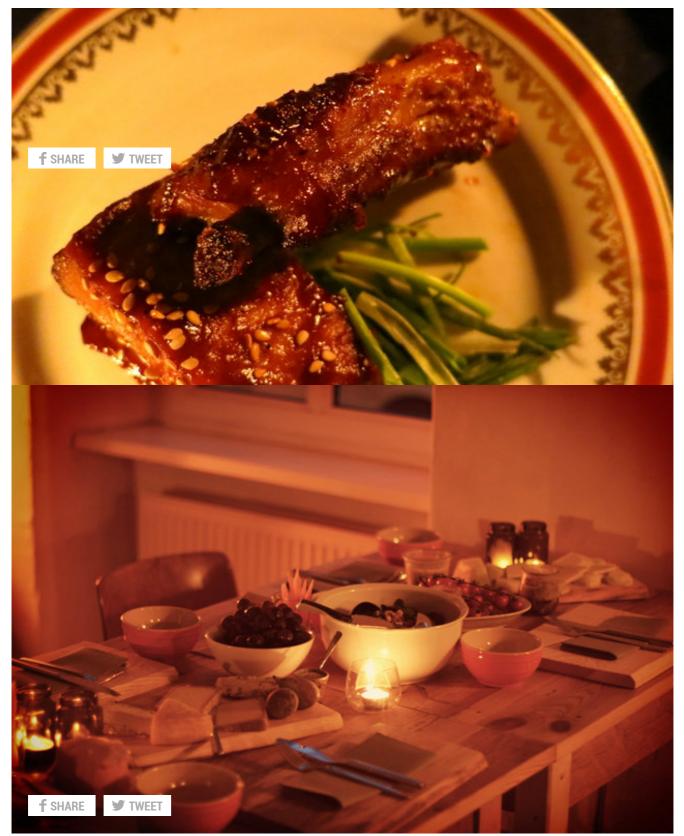


Easing Your Way In

Most supper clubs offer only 10-20 highly sought after seats once a month. These options have a permanent space, which means you just may have a shot at nabbing one.

Muse Berlin

The dual success of <u>Thyme Supper Club</u> and <u>Zuhause</u> led to this cool new Prenzlauer Berg space. It's one part lunchtime restaurant w/ gut-busting sandwiches (like the Berliner Boa w/ maple-glazed pork belly), and also acts as a weekend supper club locale for regular nights, hosted by the German-Brit couple Thyme, Canadian-Irish hosts Zuhause, and a slew of guest chefs.



Brotzeit

LIST

Head to the homey Neuköln restaurant/café/bar <u>List</u> for a modern take on the Southern German tradition of Brotzeit, a feast of organic sourdough bread, sausages, spreads, cheese, fruits, and cold cuts. The grub is served on unique handmade platters to a communal table of 16 at this monthly feast.



<u>Mulax</u>

KATHERINE SACKS

Inside a hidden courtyard off a side street in Kruezberg, this dark, art-covered space looks at first glance like a nightclub. But the avant-garde dishes -- like smoked potato & beet barley or cucumber sorbet w/ pickled gherkins -- by self-taught Chef Kristof Mulack, shout restaurant. Two long communal tables encourage conversation, and the permanent space allows for more regularity in events, making booking a bit easier.



Daniel's Eatery

KATHERINE SACKS

Former marketing executive Daniel Grothues started his supper club two years ago as a way to try out new recipes and cook for others. Inside his very cool Prenzlauer Berg apartment, his meals cover everything from nostalgic inspirations, like a Lego-themed cake, to top chef recipes, to plays on flavors he tries on travels abroad, such as his take

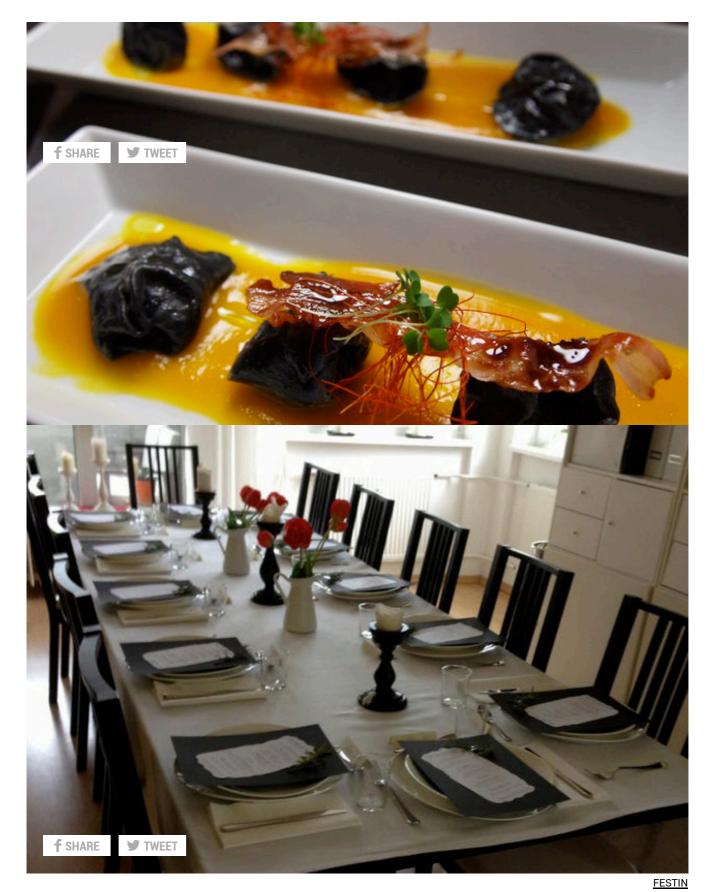
on the Cronut.



Norden Berlin

ROLLINRESTAURANT

Fresh off the heels of their final dinner, the bow tied hosts of RollinRestaurant bring this one-month event. Because Nordic food is so-hot-right-now, go get a taste when this popup takes over <u>Mulax</u> every weekend in November w/ their menu of all things smoked, pickled & cured. And these adventurous dudes are likely to cook up another exciting project after the Mulax dinners wrap, too, so if you can't make it this Autumn, get on their list & stay tuned.



<u>Festin</u>

New Yorker Deborah Tomassini-Buechner started this event last summer in homage to the flavors she was missing from back home, w/ dishes like seared cod with hazelnut sauce, black truffle custard, and chipotle guacamole. She hosts up to 12 in her

Schöneberg home, but really specializes in romantic dinners for two, so if you want to go all out, this is the place to do it. Get on the mailing list stat to book for her upcoming baller truffle dinner.



<u>Voi</u>

One of the newest supper clubs to hit the Berlin scene, this dinner launched in late September after being inspired by friends Thyme Supper Club and Fisk & Gröönsaken. Their name is taken from the Finnish word for butter, and you'll find plenty of it in dishes like Oxtail Celeriac Lasagna and the Finnish Mämmi muffins with vanilla creme, along with wines from Languedoc (FYI, that's in France). Semi-monthly dinners of five courses are planned for up to 10 diners in their Wedding apartment.

Fisk & Gröönsaken

Husband-wife Jan and Melanie grew up together in a tiny Northwest German town, where they both developed a love for food. This is a real passion project for the couple, who work as a biologist (Jan) and librarian (Melanie) in their "day" jobs. They share their foodie love through semi-monthly five-course dinners, often spiked with ingredients made from their family's garden, like preserved black walnuts.



Garfield, they've put on a variety of fun cross-cultural menus in the past -- old-school American w/ bagels, lox & pastrami, and a *One Thousand and One Nights*-inspired feast w/ slow-cooked duck. Keep your eye on their site to catch news of an upcoming fall dinner.

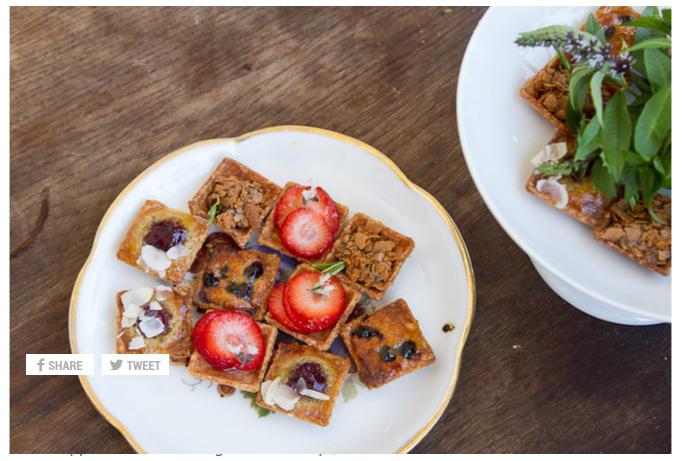


Chi Fàn

Host Ashlee has already built up a reputation in Berlin as the "Dumpling Diva", so we know she knows a thing or two when it comes to Chinese eats. Her new supper club, which means "to eat a meal" in her native Chinese, offers a monthly 12-course menu of the flavors of her childhood – braised pork belly, Chinese dumplings – for up to 20 peeps

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<u>CHI FÀN</u>



supper club structure into even more awesomeness.

Sophiencafé

This new-ish club focuses on high-end tea parties. It sounds rather pinky up, but former pastry chef-turned lawyer Astrid Sophie Fleisch is an insanely skilled sweets maker, giving more than enough reason to get your butt to her parties. Pull out your bow tie and think *Great Gatsby*-type affairs, with fine china and fancy cakes, often hosted in parks, her Wedding apartment, or an upcoming art exhibition.



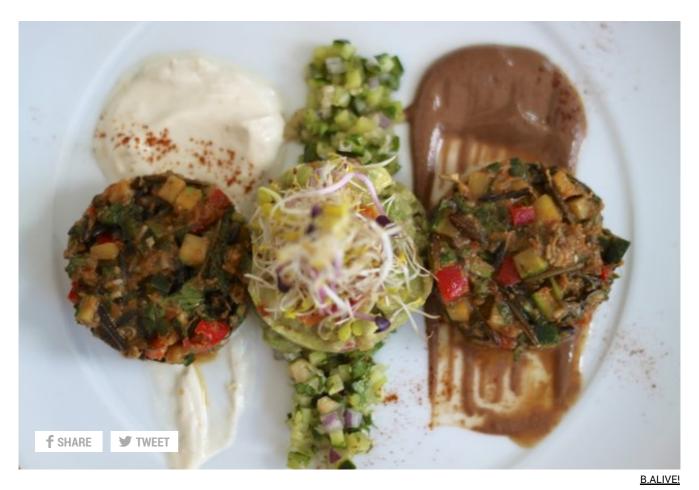
Going Veggie

We love a rare steak like the next guy, but Berlin's got a great veggie scene going on, and

a supper club is a damn fine way to get a taste. Just... just trust us.

Daily Happa

Former DJ Sophia spun her successful blog <u>Oh Sophia</u> into this supper club in 2012, serving up to 40 people her vegetarian/vegan cuisine. The meals also work around playful themes like monochrome colors (red bread w/ dried tomatoes), Herbalized (rosemary crème brulee w/ sweet pesto) & Fake It Easy! (pineapple "fries" w/ raspberry "ketchup"). This Munich transplant regularly spends time back at home and in Vienna, hosting dinners in these cities as well, so keep your eye on her site if you like to supper club while traveling.



b.alive!

There is veggie and then there is raw, and this Kreuzberg supper club is raw. Native German Boris is a US-trained raw chef & he knows how to perfectly not cook a meal. But this isn't hippie-fueling bean sprouts, no, instead it's innovative dishes like sushi, where parsnip & celery root create a rice-like texture.

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