

FEEDING THE COCOONER'S

Gallery

La Bucca's motto has always been 'Serving our Community'. So when the Government first announced 'lockdown' on 27th March I decided to come up with a plan to do our bit for the community through this difficult period.

I knew that Councillor Nick Killian would have knowledge of the most needy in the area so I contacted him with my idea. Nick then approached Barbara Kelly, our Community Engagement officer in Ashbourne Garda station & by Sunday 29th March 'Feed the Cocooners' had been formed & we were delivering the first of 800 meals to over 40 different elderly & disabled housebound people over an 11 week period.

The chefs in La Bucca Ratoath were brilliant. Initially they supplied 'La Bucca' menu food, but as the saying goes 'you can get too much of a good thing'. So they mixed it up with more 'homely' dishes like Shepherd's Pie, Fish & Chips, Lamb

Goulash, Chicken Stroganoff and even the occasional curry. We also got to know the cocooner's likes & dislikes so on occasions we even tailored meals to their individual requests.

We were humbled with some amazing financial donations from local clubs, businesses & regular customers to help support the cost of the meals. It's so reassuring to know that the support we have given to local organisations & the community as a whole over the years has been recognised & is reciprocated with support in return.

Life is slowly getting back to normality and we are preparing for June 29th when we hope to see many familiar faces back in the restaurants. We hope that you have been safe and are all in good health & look forward to welcoming you back into our Socially Distancing restaurants in the very near future.



Winner of our 'Friday Fancy Dress competition' - Robert Harvey and Son



Beginning of our 'Feed The Cocooners' Campaign



'The Genie' aka Kevin Hartnett claiming his fancy dress prize!



Getting ready for takeaways

'FEED THE COCOONERS' INITIATIVE IN CONJUNCTION WITH ASHBOURNE GARDA STATION AND NICK KILLIAN

Thank you to the following for their support:



Pat Gleeson & Associates



Main Street, Ashbourne, Co. Meath
Corballis Demesne, Ratoath, Co. Meath
The Green Centre, Dunboyne, Co. Meath

Tel: 01 835 7763
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www.labucca.ie

BOOKING SYSTEMS



Short term guidelines when social distancing is still in place:

- No online bookings
- No walk-ins, you must book
- Phone bookings only
- Time slots must be adhere to
- Maximum covers tables of x6
- Children's Menu available until 6pm

We are about to re-open our restaurants into a world of the unknown. We will continue to run our takeaway service as always, alongside our reduced capacity, social distancing restaurants. As I write this, there is still no confirmed legislation on certain issues, most critically the 1m vs 2m debate.

We have based our new table plans on 1m social distancing and unless it is illegal to implement, this will be our 'yard-stick'. Even at one metre we will lose over 50% of our previous seating capacity.

As a result of this, we have had to make a number of policy changes to the way we operate our restaurants. We have taken advice from the Restaurant Association of Ireland, Bord Failte and the H.S.E. and devised a plan that we hope will work for us.

ADVANCED PHONE BOOKINGS ONLY, NO ONLINE BOOKINGS OR WALK-IN CUSTOMERS

In order for us to control the volume of customers coming in and out of our restaurants in any given time period we have temporarily cancelled our ResDiary bookings facility and resorted back to a manual diary system.

Although we will not turn away walk-in customers if we have availability, we would strongly encourage everyone to book ahead in order to avoid disappointment. The few tables that we have to offer will hopefully be taken by advance phone bookings most nights of the week.

TIME SLOTS MUST BE ADHERED TO

Unless you are booked for the last sitting, normally after 7pm, you will be given a 'back-time' for your booking which we kindly ask you to keep to. As well as giving us the opportunity to turn over a table and achieve two sittings, it also means that there aren't excess people accumulating at the front door waiting on their table to become available.

MAXIMUM 'CONSENTING UNIT' OF 6 PEOPLE PER TABLE

The rule on this only changed 15th June from all members of a booking having to come from the same household, to being a 'consenting unit'. All recommendations and legislation throughout this Pandemic are constantly evolving. By the time 29th June comes around, this may well be increased to 8, 10 or 50. Please bear with us, we can only plan our re-opening within current guidelines not hypothetical ones.

CHILDREN'S MENU AVAILABLE UNTIL 6PM

La Bucca is a family friendly restaurant and we would like to continue in this vein. However in order to optimise seating capacity for all of our customers we have decided to limit the availability of the children's menu to the earlier time slots.

TENNERFEST MENU AND SUNDAY 20% DISCOUNT FOR LOYALTY CLUB MEMBERS

We will reintroduce the Tennerfest menu and Sunday 20% discount once our seating capacity returns to normal. In the meantime we will be launching a new A la Carte menu with a few changes and our daily specials boards will be back from the day we re-open.

CONFIRMATION AND COMMUNION BOOKINGS

Prior to the pandemic our three restaurants were fully booked on certain important dates for confirmations and communions. These bookings were taken when we had more than double the seating capacity that we currently have under social distancing.

As the rescheduled dates are announced for these celebratory occasions we will try to honour as many outstanding bookings as possible. However it is impossible to cater for everyone that was previously booked whilst we operate at reduced capacity and with the guidelines currently standing at a 'consenting unit' of a maximum of 6 people per table.

We will accept bookings on a first come first serve basis based on the guidelines that are in place on the day of your enquiry, unless we have been given absolute confirmation of a change to them before the date of your booking.

We apologise for the undoubted inconvenience that this will cause, but we can only follow the guidelines that are given to us by the relevant bodies to our industry.

VIEW FROM THE BOTTOM OF A WINE GLASS

by Russell Bailey



Before we entered lockdown I was in the process of my annual review of our wine list and was carefully sampling potential new additions to the list. During lockdown I've been less careful and have been sampling anything I can get my hands on.

One of the new additions for when we eventually re-open, which has now been carefully sampled many times is a stunning Primitivo from Puglia, the sunny, heel of Southern Italy produced by Salento called 'Doppio Passo'.

The Primitivo grape is better known outside of Italy as the black-skinned, robust Zinfandel varietal. The name

Doppio Passo is based on the wine making method of passing the juice from the first press of the wine back through the pomace that's left behind, this gives the wine a deeper colour and more complex aromas.

A small percentage of the harvest is left to wither and dry on the vines for 3-4 weeks, the juice from these grapes are added to the blend to create a slight sweetness to the wine.

It's fruity, fresh and a perfect match for your favourite pizza or pasta.

Salute!



NEW OPENING TIMES

From Monday 29th June



Dine In and Takeaway

4pm - 8pm Monday - Thursday

2pm - 9pm Saturday

4pm - 9pm Friday

2pm - 8pm Sunday

*Note - La Bucca Ratoath closes on Mondays

A PERSONAL INSIGHT

by Russell Bailey

September 11th 1985

I awoke on Perpignan beach 'hidden' in the dunes where I had spent the night, after hitch hiking along the south coast of France. I'd spent the last two months working on a farm in Switzerland and had a couple of weeks with which to amuse myself before starting a job that I'd secured earlier that summer, picking grapes at Maison Blanche in Montagne, a small village in the Bordeaux region of France.

It was my 20th birthday and I intended to treat myself to lunch, a bottle of local wine and possibly even go to the expense of a hostel for the night. It took a few seconds before I realised that something was

wrong. Instead of my head resting on my ruc-sac, which I used as a pillow when I slept under the stars, it was laying directly on the sand.

I unzipped my sleeping bag, jumped up and looked around. The beach was empty, my ruc-sac and all my belongings, other than the clothes I had slept in were gone.

I spent most of the morning at the local Gendarmerie speaking broken French and filling in forms. After a while they grew bored of me and sent me to a charity shop with a note explaining that I could take a few items of clothing and more importantly a pair of shoes!

They also told me that if I went to a plaza opposite Libourne train station at 1pm

each day I could avail of a free food bag supplied by a local Catholic charity. I lived on these food bags for about a week and slept in empty cargo trucks in the station.

I decided to head to Maison Blanche a week earlier than I was due to start. I explained my situation to Mssr Despagne, the vineyard owner, was promptly taken into the family home and given odd jobs to do before the harvest or 'vendage' started.

We have received many compliments about the meals that we have provided for the cocooners in our community. My thoughts on this concur with Albert Einstein who said: *"It is every man's obligation to put back into the world at least the equivalent of what he takes out of it"*

LA BUCCA TAKEAWAY OFFERS

All current takeaway offers are available until 31st July

Takeaways are
PHONE ORDERS ONLY

MONDAY & TUESDAY

€5



€5 WINGS

Just €5 for a regular portion (10) of our 'Best in Ireland' Peri-Peri wings

WEDNESDAY

€18.95

HAMBURGER HEAVEN

Choose any two of our burgers with a portion of skinny fries and receive two bottles of complimentary Peroni lager.

THURSDAY & FRIDAY

€17.95

2 x Cod
1 x Chips

FISH & CHIPS

Two fresh beer battered cod, skinny chips, wedge of lemon and homemade tartare.

Single Fish & Chips €10.95

OFFERS AVAILABLE ALL WEEK

BOX OF BIRDS

€20.95

Two portions of our 'BEST IN IRELAND' 'peri-peri' wings (10), one portion of chips, one portion of natural onion rings and two extra homemade dips.

2 PIZZAS OR PASTAS

€20.95

Purchase any TWO pizza or pasta dishes from our takeaway menu for €20.95

PHONE YOUR LOCAL
LA BUCCA TO ORDER

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Gluten Free options available for pizza, pasta and peroni.