

Dining Under the Noontday Sun

Ruth Chan rounds up some of the best outdoor brunches Hong Kong has to offer.



Top Deck

The staff mahjong parlor once stood atop the famous Jumbo Floating Restaurant, which is docked in Aberdeen's harbor. But now the Chinese restaurant's roof is taken over by Top Deck, a stylish restaurant complete with a vast cocktail menu, a sushi bar and a chilled-out lounge. Chic and modern, its deck has ample seating that allows guests to overlook the pier and watch the yachts go by. An extensive outdoor brunch buffet is served every Sunday, with a large variety of different dishes and an emphasis on seafood. For \$398 (\$168 for children), eat your way through the spread—and drink to your heart's content, because the price includes unlimited beverages: coffee, tea, soda, house wine and beer. If you're looking to spend a summer day on the water and satisfy your inner glutton, Top Deck is the perfect destination. **Shum Wan Pier Drive, Wong Chuk Hang, Aberdeen, 2552-3331.**



Scirocco



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Scirocco occupies a prime location just above Staunton's wine bar, with an eclectic crowd enjoying the relaxed patio—a welcome change of pace from the packed area below. With its terrace overlooking trendy SoHo, Scirocco serves up Mediterranean fare like tapas, mezes and antipasti. Brunch is served on weekends and public holidays until 5pm. The menu is full of typical favorites, such as omelettes, French toast and eggs Florentine, all for around \$85 dollars a pop. Wash it down with a cup of coffee as you people-watch. **1/F, 10-12 Staunton St., Central, 2973-6605, 2973-6611.**



The Parlour at Hullett House

Take a seat out on The Parlour's long white porch for a taste of a bygone era. Not for the budget-conscious, a spectacular weekend brunch buffet here will cost you \$528 (\$358 for children). Hullett House is the revamped site of the former marine police station—those enormous trees in the courtyard were conserved from the original land. There's unlimited coffee and tea, plus all-you-can-drink champagne during brunch on Saturdays and Sundays; this summer the menu is inspired by the cuisine of the Mediterranean Riviera. If you're worried about the heat, air-conditioned indoor seating is available in rooms decorated with wall murals of old Canton. **Hullett House, 1881 Heritage, 2 Canton Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui, 3988-0101.**

The Verandah

The Verandah is one of the most famous colonial-style dining outposts left in Hong Kong, and the service retains a slightly snobbish yet friendly efficiency that suits its mahogany décor and manicured lawns. If you're in the mood for waterfront sophistication, partake in the Sunday lunch. With its bright dining room and the nearby lush outdoor terrace of (also incredible) sister restaurant Spices, The Verandah is perfect for sun-soaked weekends. At \$498 (\$249 for children) with coffee and tea, The Verandah's buffet may not be the cheapest brunch in town, but it is certainly one of the most decadent. Crunchy Caesar salads and daily fresh seafood vie for attention next to black ink pasta, Alaskan lobster, marinated scallops and milk-fed lamb. The only way to approach this Hong Kong institution is to starve yourself for the entire week beforehand—because the innovative dishes demand at least two hours of solid eating. **1/F, The Repulse Bay, 109 Repulse Bay Rd, 2292-2822.**

