



## WORD OF MOUTH

RECOMMENDATIONS  
FROM FOODIES

### MEG MATHEWS

Born in Guernsey and brought up in South Africa, the rock chick-turned-interior designer now lives in London's Primrose Hill, with her daughter Anais.



Restaurant L'Avenue, Paris; *Bill's Food*, by Bill Granger

#### What's your signature dish?

I am loving my recreation of the mouthwatering salmon-packed fish cakes served at The Ivy with a peppery spinach and creamy sorrel sauce. I've made them so often recently that I suspect my friends might be getting a little bored of them, but I adore the taste combinations and I think I cook them really well.

#### Where is your favourite restaurant?

Wow, it's hard to choose a favourite as living in London means I'm surrounded by so many fantastic places. If I were pushed, I'd have to opt for Locanda Locatelli, as Italian food is definitely a weakness of mine. The food there is amazing, especially their pasta sauces – the richer the better, for me.

#### Where do you take your family for Sunday lunch?

On Sundays we rarely leave the Pop Box (a pet name for our house) as the traditional lunch is a speciality of mine. I always make a huge roast, complete with stuffing and gravy, plus loads of cauliflower cheese, braised cabbage and green veg. It's my idea of heaven. And I always make an apple crumble to finish it off!

#### Favourite place in Scotland to visit?

When I'm in Scotland I always visit Rogano in Glasgow city centre. The seafood is amazing there, and the atmosphere is great too.

#### Pre-dinner cocktail?

I don't drink alcohol any more, so I would go for sparkling spring water with a few muddled lime wedges, loads of mint and a dash of elderflower cordial. I never start a meal with anything too sweet as it can alter the palate – I prefer something sour and refreshing instead.

#### Do you have a guilty pleasure?

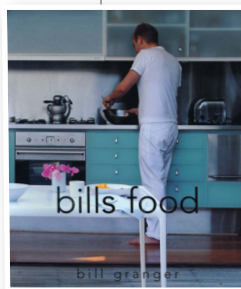
I just adore bread. Any bread will do, although a loaf of Sunblest white is a real guilty pleasure. It's simply the best bread for toasting – I love it with lashings of butter. Not very healthy, perhaps, but sometimes nothing else will do.

#### What's your top curry?

When it comes to curries, I usually prefer Thai to Indian. My favourite is a spicy Thai red vegetable curry.

#### Failsafe party meal?

I reckon you can't go wrong with a simple Niçoise salad. I make mine with flaked salmon, fresh new potatoes, green beans, boiled egg, capers and anchovies. And I enjoy it every single time.



#### What is your go-to cookbook?

*Bill's Food* (£17.99, Murdoch Books) by the legendary Australian chef Bill Granger, is packed full of some of my favourite recipes, especially those for simple but effective weekend brunches to enjoy at home. I love his Lobster Sandwich – it's so tasty. No one does brunch like Bill.

#### Where is your far-flung food heaven?

I'd have to say L'Avenue restaurant on avenue Montaigne in Paris. It's a special place for me and my daughter Anais. It's her favourite restaurant in Paris and we always go there after a girly shopping day together and we catch up with Anais's godfather, John Galliano, for dinner. I have never been disappointed with the food. ■

*Meg Mathews' wallpaper prints are sold exclusively at Liberty, and this season she has created a selection of luxury print scarves.*

[www.megmathews.co.uk](http://www.megmathews.co.uk)