

MARYLEBONE, LONDON

Le Relais de Venise



What's it like? Packed tables give this restaurant a buzzy atmosphere. They don't take bookings, so there's often a queue, but it moves quickly, so don't despair.

And the food? The point here is the menu,

or rather lack of one. To start, there is a green salad with walnuts, and the main course is perfectly cooked steak and fries, with a secret-recipe sauce. The steak comes from Donald Russell in Aberdeenshire, which supplies beef to the Queen, and the only choice is how you would like it done. There's a short wine list – the Côtes de Bordeaux is good value at £13.95 a bottle – and homemade desserts, such as profiteroles.

What's the highlight? The secret sauce: creamy, with a little heat and a zingy finish.

The bottom line Simplicity is the attraction here: just great French-style steak-frites.

James Wood

17/20 £24

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