

Shelf life *Hampstead Butcher & Providore*



Food & Drink

Picnic time *Just the place to order a takeaway to eat on Hampstead Heath*

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Rosslyn Deli revamped

Hampstead is an area proud of its local institutions. Opening up on the site of the much-loved Rosslyn Deli, this new deli and butcher is therefore facing a tough challenge. The new owners have introduced a long meat counter to the shop, and given it a facelift. Big blackboards display the provenance of the day's cuts. All of it hails from a few select farms, mainly in Kent and Sussex, that raise free-range traditional breeds, though not all organic.

The deli has a plethora of salted and smoked meats, with all the pâtés, pies and terrines made in-house, as well as marinated and pickled products galore. Fridges and freezers are stacked with ready meals of the smarter persuasion, slow roasts and confits.

Fans of the Rosslyn Deli's extensive range of dried goods from the US will find that they're still catered to, albeit with a smaller collection. At the back of the shop, past the breads, veg and preserves, is the wine and cheese room, with an emphasis on Italian wines, and wine tastings on Saturdays noon-4pm.

Many of the enthusiastic staff worked here in its previous ownership, and are on hand to help navigate the options. Picnic hampers for the nearby heath can be pre-ordered. All this convenience can come at a price, but with the ease of one-stop shopping that this friendly deli provides, it's sure to retain the loyalty of locals. *Zoe Kamen Hampstead Butcher & Providore, 56 Rosslyn Hill, NW3 1ND (7794 9210/ www.hampsteadbutcher.com). Hampstead tube or 46, 268 bus. 9am-6pm Mon-Wed; 9am-8pm Thur; 9am-7pm Fri, Sat; 10am-6pm Sun.*