

THE PUB

The Oliver Plunkett, Cork, Ireland

Embrace the Irish spirit at a traditional taproom crammed with charm, character and craic



IN the rebel city of Cork – to some, the real capital of Ireland and the birthplace of Graham Norton and Roy Keane – you are never more than a couple metres from a watering hole. The pubs here are rich in their adherence to clichés, and we mean that in the very best sense. The Oliver Plunkett, based in the heart of the city centre, is a great example. Under the watchful eye of Paul Montgomery, it has become a go-to establishment for live



music, from proper good trad sessions and Irish dancing to contemporary pop and jazz.

But its true strength lies in its rich food and drink offerings. While the Irish stew is delicious (and comes with a suggested pairing of Murphy's Irish Stout), *GQ* recommends the hearty beef and Beamish Stout pie, made from locally sourced McCarthy's beef, stewed in stout sauce and served with mixed root vegetables and creamy mash. For the full Irish experience, tuck into a boozy dessert of Jameson affogato (local whiskey ice-cream with a shot of hot espresso) before heading upstairs to The Frisky Irish Whiskey Bar for, well, more whiskey.

With inviting interiors reminiscent of an old-time rural Irish home – complete with genuine



Bar o' plenty: Old-time interiors at The Oliver Plunkett



TASTE

old Irish instruments – and walls lined with poems, songs and photos of everyone from Rory Gallagher to President John F Kennedy

on his visit to the city in 1963, you'll be hard-pressed to find a more genuine Irish joint that fully embodies *céad míle fáilte* – a hundred thousand welcomes. *Sláinte*. **Kevin Long**

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