



A first date

You are going to read an article about a restaurant. Look at the words in the box below, what do you think the article is about?

Blind date

upside-down

shoulder-led

darkness

guess

Read the article and see if you were right.

Dans Le Noir is a new restaurant in London with a difference.

Diners eat (or attempt to) in darkness - mobile phones and even digital watches must be left outside - and are physically guided around and served by blind staff. The idea is to raise awareness about blindness and attitudes to disability. Visitors must trust the staff who are seen as disadvantaged in the outside world, but have the upper hand in the restaurant.

After placing our order and locking up our coats, bags and phones in the fully lit bar area, we were led, holding each other's shoulders through the black curtains to our table.

I wondered what it would be like to have a true blind date here. As we attempted to pour out the water and find the bread we began to feel better.

We chose the surprise menu, so had to guess what each dish was. The starters were easy - lovely crunchy asparagus, which could be picked up. I tried to use a fork, but kept getting it upside down. Then I picked up the wrong wine glass.

I was beginning to relax but it still felt strange to be talking about the usual gossip in such unfamiliar surroundings. Staff say that one phenomenon is that diners feel more confident and start conversations with strangers.

We survived without too much spillage and it was time to go - but how would we get out? The answer was to call one of the waiters for a shoulder-led exit.