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# 'World's most expensive restaurant' Sublimotion charges eye-watering £1,210 a head for a futuristic feast

Jun 17, 2014 06:00 By **Tom Bryant**

Tom Bryant takes one for the team and dines on foie gras doughnuts and floating macaroons at Ibiza's £1,210-a-head restaurant

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Table at Ibiza restaurant Sublimotion

Standing in complete darkness in what appears to be a goods lift, it suddenly occurs to me perhaps I'm the victim of an elaborate practical joke.

I'm here as one of the first journalists ever to dine at Sublimotion, a new

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restaurant dubbed the most expensive in the world and which sets you back an eye-watering £1,210 a head.

Yet stuck in the pitch black with a Spanish member of staff imploring me to "push the white button" to crank the lift into action, I half expect Ant and Dec to jump out from the gloom as part of a TV prank.

Just moments before I had found myself outside a non-descript, all-white building moments from the bustling Playa d'en Bossa in Ibiza wondering whether I'd taken a wrong-turn.

And ushered through an unmarked door into a tiny ante-room full of crates and a random nitrogen tank, I wonder what on earth is going on.



Paco Roncero chef at Ibiza restaurant Sublimotion

After all, this is the new much-hyped new restaurant in the island's new Hard Rock Hotel by two-starred chef Paco Roncero - dubbed a Spanish version of **Heston Blumenthal** and one of the world's greatest culinary talents.

My hardy fellow diners are equally baffled. I swear one even yelps as a foot is stood on in the darkness.

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But after I duly press the white button and the goods lift starts noisily shuddering into life – so too does the restaurant.

The temperature suddenly drops. It feels like we are descending deep into the ground with the earth rushing past us.

It is so realistic that it's only a few minutes later when I realise the whole descent has been a carefully-staged illusion comprised of video footage.

A waitress – dressed for reasons I can't quite fathom as an air hostess – greets us to escort the group into what I assume is the dining room.

She oddly doesn't talk. Nor do we. In fact, it all so eery, it feels like I'm being indoctrinated into some weird cult.

Through the bleakness stands a 12-seater table with our names lit up on the surface in lights instructing us where to sit.



Only we don't sit. We stand like lemons – still in slightly stunned silence – not quite knowing what to do next.

Then – finally! – a small Willy Wonka-esque man emerges from a previously hidden door, who appears is our compere for the evening.

When he talks in a hushed Spanish dialect, the room is transfixed.

I don't even notice a small box placed in front of me.

In it, he explains are three test-tubes – each with the components for a Bloody Mary.

We are asked to pour the liquids into a measuring beaker and suddenly our self-made concoction inexplicably begins bubbling before our eyes.

As the air hostesses pour us the delicious liquid into martini glasses, the previously gloomy room suddenly turns bright white as it becomes a virtual 360 degree cinema

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Honeymoon hell of

in our 300 degree cinema.

It's not unlike walking out of a cinema matinee into the sunshine.



Tables and dining at Ibiza restaurant Sublimotion

Just as quickly and without rhyme or reason, we're transported to what appears is a ancient library, with books and gothic architecture projected around us.

It is thrilling stuff. A bit like Disneyland on acid.

And then there's the food. Oh, the food!

Nitrogen-frozen olive oil parcels come suspended on a mini washing line complete with wooden pegs.

It sounds dubious but each morsel is mouth-wateringly delicious.

Then the table morphs into what appears to be a DJ booth as some sort of macaroon-type cake levitates - yes, levitates - in front of you on a spinning CD.

It's so bonkers, it's hard to do it justice.

As well as individually matching the food with the jaw-dropping visas, chef Paco even alters the temperature and humidity to enhance the experience.

In total, I was treated to a total of six dishes - lasting over an hour - and not all 20 courses that paying customers will have.

Other dishes are said to include a foie gras doughnut that enters the room by balloon (correct, a balloon) and a clam dish which you eat "under the sea" with jellyfish floating around you.

McDonalds it isn't.

So is it worth the price? I don't think any meal, however lavish, is worth

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£1,210.

or, put another way, £14,520 per sitting.

Even with 28, hugely talented, staff working behind the scenes for just a handful of diners.

But for the sheer theatre and sense of occasion, this so-called "gastro sensory adventure" was unrivalled.

And with the restaurant booked up for all manner of un-named celebrities, Russian oligarchs and multi-millionaires, it seems people are prepared to part with their cash to experience something truly unique.

Even with that goods lift.

- Sublimotion is at the new Hard Rock Hotel, Ibiza ( [hrhibiza.com](http://hrhibiza.com) ). B&B doubles from £194 per night. Get there with British Airways ( [ba.com](http://ba.com) ).

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