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Soho House's smokey poultry specialists go south of the river

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By James Mullinger | 03 December 13



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I've been a happy resident of Tooting for over five years but it's only in the past few months that it's become cool. Properly cool. Perhaps even a directional haircut away from the discreet charms of New Cross. This is partly due to magnificent venues like [The Little Bar](#), with their SW17 champagne cocktail and ultra-easy vibe, but it's mainly down to Soho House supremo Nick Jones opening Chicken Shop on Tooting High Street. Previously all of my chicken purchases came from Chicken Cottage at the end of my road (don't judge - if you kept [standup hours](#), you'd realise that after midnight Nando's isn't an option). Jones' Chicken Shop is predictably enough a cut above from both.



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The menu is beautifully simple - whole chicken, half a chicken or quarter of a chicken, with the option of either having it prepared hot or smokey. What makes the food so unique is that the chicken manages to be healthily prepared but has all the taste of a guilty pleasure takeaway. Sides include some of the best fries I've ever eaten and coleslaw that compels you to gobble it by the spoonful. It is of course all free range but surprisingly, very competitively priced. A quarter chicken is less than a Zinger burger meal from KFC at £4 (a comparison that could conceivably be the equivalent of the *Economist's* [Big Mac Index](#) for 2014).

It's no wonder the *Evening Standard* recently proclaimed that "[Tooting is official rooting](#)". It used to be that people who lived there didn't go out there (except to the delightful Wheatsheaf pub by Tooting Bec tube). Now hipsters are actually travelling to the area to hang out. But now it's finally happened, I kind of want the place to myself again.

From £20 per person (including a drink). chickenshop.com



James Mullinger

James Mullinger is GQ's Comedy Editor as well as a critically acclaimed stand-up in his own right. Follow him on Twitter @jamesmullinger.

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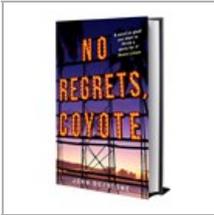
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