# Bold Street's transformation: from shopping haven to culinary hotspot



Bold Street in Liverpool has undergone significant changes in the past decade, transforming from a popular shopping hub to a gastronomic destination. Once known for its eclectic mix of unique shops and independent boutiques, the street now reflects a growing emphasis on food outlets, much to the chagrin of some long-time visitors.

Historically, Bold Street was celebrated for its diverse offerings, including Resurrection, an outlet known for unique fashion bargains that appealed to many, particularly students. However, as reported by the Liverpool Echo, recent visits reveal that the shopping experience has diminished, with many former retail spots now occupied by eateries ranging from Vietnamese to Turkish cuisine. The street's character is evolving as it shifts from a retail centre to what is increasingly being termed a foodie street.

Currently, Bold Street boasts a notable selection of dining options, featuring several pizzerias such as Pizza Punks, Rudy's, American Pizza Slice, and Crust, all within close proximity to one another. The presence of these establishments has raised questions regarding the viability of having multiple similar offerings concentrated in one area. The scene is not limited to pizzerias; a plethora of international restaurants has established themselves, with venues like Pho and Elif also having a presence on neighbouring Castle Street.

Among the more recent additions to the street's culinary landscape is So Salsa, which opened its doors this month. Despite these food ventures thriving, the once-vibrant collection of shops has shrunk. Many long-standing businesses have closed, with some being replaced by food outlets, while others stand vacant.

Franco Manca, a pizzeria that opened in December 2024, occupies the former site of the Rennies Art Gallery, an establishment that served the community for decades before its closure in 2022. The gallery, originally founded by Ronald and Jean Rennie in 1965, was a staple for art enthusiasts and served as a unique counterpoint to the emerging food scene that now dominates.

Although a few independent shops like Resurrection and Soho's remain steadfast fixtures, their survival appears increasingly precarious amid the burgeoning food industry. Shared Earth, known for bohemian homeware, and News from Nowhere, a bookshop, also continue to draw customers, but the street has seen a string of closures of notable brands including Greenwoods, Mi Vida, and Giancarlo Ricci. Recent exits have included the fancy dress retailer Smiffys, which closed in November 2022, and The Works, a discount chain that ceased trading this month.

The transformation of Bold Street reflects broader trends in urban landscapes where dining options often outpace traditional retail spaces. As the once bustling shopping street morphs primarily into a food hub, the identity of Bold Street is being reshaped before the eyes of its frequent visitors. While the variety of food available is commendable and a draw for many, the closure of shops that once thrived in the area leaves some questioning if the street will ultimately retain its character or become simply a destination for dining rather than shopping.

The vibrant atmosphere that once encompassed a mixture of culinary and retail experiences may be eclipsed, raising concerns about the long-term implications for local commerce and the diversity of offerings in this once eclectic street.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://explore-liverpool.com/leaf-bold-street-make-historic-food-menu-discovery-dating-from-1913/> - This article highlights Bold Street's rich history and its transformation into a gastronomic destination, making it a precursor to the current emphasis on food outlets.
* <https://liverpoolcityregiondp.com/2024/06/04/liverpool-named-among-worlds-top-food-and-drink-destinations/> - This article supports the notion that Liverpool, including areas like Bold Street, is increasingly recognized for its vibrant culinary scene, reflecting broader trends in urban development.
* <https://explore-liverpool.com/celebrating-castle-street-and-bold-street-full-programme/> - This programme showcases the cultural and gastronomic activities on Bold Street and nearby Castle Street, reinforcing their roles as foodie destinations.
* <https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/bold-street-liverpool-now-foodie-heaven-26846595> - While the specific article from the Liverpool Echo isn't available, similar articles from local news sources like this one often discuss the shift from retail to dining on Bold Street.
* <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/food-and-drink/restaurants/bold-street-liverpool-food-scene-a9689546.html> - Articles from independent sources often highlight the evolution of Bold Street into a significant gastronomic hub, featuring a variety of dining options.