

Waiter, there's a rat in my burger! Rodents go on the menu in a Russian restaurant (and they're considered quite the delicacy)

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It may not be everybody's idea of haute cuisine but a Russian restaurant is serving rat burgers and they're going down a treat.

The Krasnodar Bistro in southern Russia serves up the furry rodents in a soft bun with lashings of relish and salad.

The so-called nutria burger is pale and succulent but rather bland, somewhere between turkey and pork.

Costing 550 roubles (£6.90), the burger is also available in some Moscow cafes. Chef and restaurateur Takhir Kholikberdiev, 35, came up with concept. He believes people shouldn't be squeamish about eating rat.

'It's a really clean animal; not only is it a herbivore but it washes all its food before it eats. And it's very high in omega-3 acids. A lot of doctors and dietitians recommend it,' he told the Guardian's Sean Walker.

The concept has received glowing reviews from customers and critics.

One reads: 'just to reiterate this: it's 2016 and you can eat a rat burger just a few hundred metres from the Kremlin!'

Kholikberdiev explained that the rat burger has spread throughout the country.

'I have it here and at one of my other restaurants. Other chefs have started to use it here,' he said.

'And now, if you go to the market in Moscow, they might not have nutria available every day, but they'll get it in for you within a week if you ask.'

His cafe also serves rat hotdogs, dumplings and rat wrapped in cabbage leaves.