

## A special restaurant

Listen to Jo talking about a very special restaurant she visited recently in Catalonia.

### Before listening

Do the preparation task first. Then listen to the audio and do the exercises.

### Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

#### Vocabulary

1. .... to get dressed up
2. .... an olive
3. .... the staff
4. .... a heatwave
5. .... wool
6. .... to book a table
7. .... a dish
8. .... a once-in-a-lifetime experience

#### Definition

- a. to arrange to eat in a restaurant at a particular time
- b. a period of time when the weather is much hotter than usual
- c. to put on formal clothes for a special occasion
- d. the group of people who work in a particular place
- e. a small green or black fruit that is often used to make oil
- f. something that you do which is very special as you will probably only do it once
- g. food prepared in a particular way, as part of a meal
- h. soft, thick hair that grows on sheep and other animals

### Tasks

#### Task 1

Write a number (1–6) to put the items in the order that they are mentioned.

\_\_\_\_\_ The weather on the day she went to the restaurant

\_\_\_\_\_ Getting ready to go to the restaurant

\_\_\_\_\_ One of the desserts that she had

\_\_\_\_\_ The amazing dishes that she saw being prepared

\_\_\_\_\_ Booking the table online

\_\_\_\_\_ The staff and the kitchen

**Task 2**

Complete the sentences with words from the box.

dish	stressed	book	heatwave
wool	sheep	got dressed up	staff
olive	in advance		

1. Jo had to ..... the table at the restaurant a year .....
2. The weather was very hot – there was a .....
3. Jo ..... before she went to the restaurant.
4. The ..... were really friendly and they didn't seem .....
5. The kitchen staff were making amazing things with little ..... trees.
6. For Jo, the best ..... was one of the desserts.
7. Jo's dessert looked like a .....
8. She had something to smell that smelled like a sheep's .....

**Discussion**

Do you often go to restaurants? What's your favourite restaurant?

## Transcript

**Interviewer:** Hi, Jo.

**Jo:** Hello.

**Interviewer:** Thank you for talking to me today. What would you like to talk about?

**Jo:** So, I'm going to tell you about my recent visit to, erm, a very well-known restaurant and a very special restaurant.

**Interviewer:** OK – great.

**Jo:** It's called El Cellar de Can Roca and it's in Girona in Spain and, erm, it often comes in the, like, top two or three restaurants in the world.

**Interviewer:** Wow!

**Jo:** And I went last week. And, well, the first thing that was exciting for us was to even get a table 'cause, erm, we booked a year ago and we had to go, you have to go, 'cause you can book a year in advance, so you have to go online at one minute to midnight a year before you think you could go and keep refreshing, refreshing the page until places become available and just go immediately and get the table. So, we were really excited to have the table and we were kind of nervous on Friday because we waited a whole year, so expectations were really high. And it was also, by chance, boiling hot in Girona and it was in the middle of a heatwave. It was 44 degrees.

**Interviewer:** Oh my goodness.

**Jo:** So, we were just waiting in our hotel room, couldn't go outside 'cause it was too hot, erm, kind of wondering what this dinner was going to be like, er, and getting all dressed up. So, yeah, we went and, well, the place is beautiful, all ... I thought it would be quite, erm, it didn't really feel formal though. The staff were all really friendly and they showed us inside the kitchen first. And it's amazing 'cause no one is stressed in the kitchen – or they did a good job of pretending that they weren't. And they were making amazing things that looked like Charlie and the Chocolate Factory for adults – little olive trees with amazing, like, erm, er, olive kind of confections hanging from them. And, yeah, the whole thing was amazing – a once-in-a-lifetime experience of lots of different courses of tiny, beautiful, surprising things, erm ...

**Interviewer:** What was the best dish that you had?

**Jo:** It was all amazing but I think the best thing for me was one of the desserts. I had a sheep-themed pudding ...

**Interviewer:** Wow!

**Jo:** So, it was all, erm – So, it was like a woolly sheep. It was like candy floss, like, made with, erm, like, sort of white sugar like you have at the fair. Erm, and that was supposed to represent the wool, and the sound of the spoon on the bowl made the sound of the bell on the sheep in the field. And then separately I had this thing to smell that smelled of wool. So I was, like, eating this sheep wool and smelling the smell of wool at the same time which, it sounds really weird, but it was actually delicious.

**Interviewer:** Sounds incredible!

**Jo:** It really was! It really was amazing.

**Interviewer:** Wow. Thank you for telling us about it.

**Jo:** It's a pleasure.

## Answers

### Preparation task

1. c
2. e
3. d
4. b
5. h
6. a
7. g
8. f

### Task 1

- 2 The weather on the day she went to the restaurant
- 3 Getting ready to go to the restaurant
- 6 One of the desserts that she had
- 5 The amazing dishes that she saw being prepared
- 1 Booking the table online
- 4 The staff and the kitchen

### Task 2

1. book; in advance
2. heatwave
3. got dressed up
4. staff; stressed
5. olive
6. dish
7. sheep
8. wool