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One of the most pleasurable aspects of working on a magazine that endeavours to capture the essence of luxury in London is that its team of writers and I are afforded an endless source of inspiration. The city we inhabit never ceases to amaze us with the stories it offers up and there is nothing we like more than championing individuals or companies, whether undiscovered or well known, who are the very best at what they do.

In recognition of the extraordinary body of luminaries that has gravitated towards the capital, Lois Bryson-Edmett, IN London's very own arbiter of taste (I urge you to view her posts on both our website and Instagram to see exactly what I mean), has put together an in-depth profile piece that delves into the lives of the city's top tastemakers. It is a celebration of individuals such as Gieves & Hawkes' chairman Mark Henderson, restaurateurs Chris Corbin and Jeremy King and design expert Ben Evans who, through their work or personal zeal, have changed the very way luxury is viewed here.

I've also been fortunate enough to spend some time with another trailblazing Londoner, actor Henry Lloyd-Hughes. With the second series of the epic drama Indian Summers about to air on Channel 4 (Lloyd-Hughes stars as its dashingly wily protagonist), now seemed the perfect time to feature him as our cover star. As a Londoner born and bred, not only is Lloyd-Hughes passionate about the city he loves coming home to after filming, but he also displays an innate sartorial flair thanks to his own personal love of fashion – a fact clearly on show in our exclusive fashion story in which he models. Full of charm and enthusiasm for his craft, this is a star who is very much in the ascendancy.

Finally, this edition has also managed to find space to bring you not one but two tales of passion born of friendship and family. Pentreath & Hall is a stunning interiors boutique run by friends of 10 years Ben and Bridie, while Serapian is an Italian family firm crafting some of the most beautiful bags I have had the pleasure of stumbling across in a long time. Each company's dedication to the creation of objects of beauty, which in Serapian's case stretches back to 1945, is what separates true luxury brands from the pretenders. That Serapian has at last seen fit to make its leather creations available in the capital is proof that leaders in their field will always be found in this city.

I hope you have a very pleasant stay.

Karrys Conway

Kathryn Conway, Group Editor



















### Jo Caird

London enjoys an envied reputation when it comes to arts and culture. The city's galleries provide permanent homes to some of the world's best works, while the rolling calendar of shows and events ensures there's always something new to see. But how do some of the capital's best exhibitions come to fruition? On page 68, this is the very question Jo Caird seeks to answer. Her conversations with



a number of notable curators provide a fascinating insight into the decision processes that go into ensuring London's influential art scene maintains its status.

### Jo Fernandez

Jo Fernandez is a leading travel journalist and was most recently travel editor on the *London Evening Standard* newspaper. Now freelance, her work has



appeared in National Geographic Traveller, The Spectator and AOL Travel. In this edition, Fernandez took on IN London's new year challenge and explored a clutch of Europe's luxury wellness retreats to uncover where's best to unwind this season (page 86). She also explored what Kirker Holidays has to offer those looking for a more tailored approach to their break. Turn to page 80 and be inspired.

### David G. Taylor

Having spent 13 years as the London correspondent for Australian publisher Studio Magazines, where he contributed to its large-format luxury arts and fashion titles, David G. Taylor certainly knows his Derbies from his Oxfords. That made him the perfect candidate to research this edition's feature on wardrobe management (see page 16). The art of personal style can be a frightening business, but as Taylor reveals, there is more than



enough help at hand – you just have to know who to contact.
Other titles Taylor has written for include *Dazed, The Advocate* and *The Independent*.

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THE OFFICIAL LUXURY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE FOR LONDON











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### **COVERS**

Henry Lloyd-Hughes was photographed by Ben Harries with styling by Thea Lewis-Yates and hair and grooming by Marcia Lee.

Henry wears a shirt by Paul Smith, braces by Hackett and trousers by Christopher Raeburn.

Lisa Louis was photographed by Andrew O'Toole with styling by Thea Lewis-Yates, make-up by Angela Davis Deacon and hair by Joey Scandizzo.

Lisa wears a top and trousers by Erdem and sandals by Valentino.

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With six co-ordinated collections available in over 200 refined mono-brand and 700 multi-brand stores worldwide, Marina Rinaldi, a label of Max Mara Fashion Group, is where real women can find the contemporary elegance and style they desire. July 2014 saw the opening of the new flagship store in a splendid Georgian Townhouse located in Albemarle Street of London's Mayfair. The store's luxurious interior is the perfect backdrop for the Marina Rinaldi fashion and accessories, and the ideal British setting displaying the best of Made In Italy.

# IMAGE: PORTRAIT OF PETER LAYTON @ ESTER SEGARRA

## AHOTBED OF CREATIVITY

Peter Layton explains how London inspires the beautiful works of art he forges in his studio and why the city is the perfect base for his business

originally trained as a potter at London's Central School of Art and Design, so it wasn't until I travelled to America in the mid-60s and saw for the first time the magic of glassblowing that I was bewitched by the craft. Before then, decorative glass had largely been mass-produced in factories, but American glass artist Harvey Littleton inspired me to believe that beautiful glass could be created in a studio by an individual.

I opened my first workshop in Rotherhithe in 1976, moving 15 years later to London Bridge and finally settling on Bermondsey Street. I believe that London's thriving art scene has been a crucial factor in the success of my studio. All the glassblowers who work here, like me, want to be in London because it draws the best audience. We benefit from a lot of passing trade and this broad customer base is a source of constant inspiration.

I love being able to meet our customers because chatting to them can trigger some brilliant ideas – such as our series of miniatures, created specifically for those whose homes might be a little bijoux, as city dwellings often are. In addition, being based in London also provides me with the chance to work on some exciting projects. In the past I've been commissioned by the Royal Academy to create pieces inspired by a David Hockney exhibition and I'm currently developing a new collection with The National Gallery based on Monet's lily pad motif.

London is a flourishing hotbed of creativity. We have some of the best museums in the world, as well as one of the best art colleges - the Royal College of Art - of which a number of our glassblowers are graduates. As a result, London continues to generate world-leading artistic talent. We also have some great architects such as Richard Rogers and Norman Foster. The Gherkin (30 St. Mary Axe) is a brilliant example of what can be achieved. I also greatly admire Prince Charles for his work with the Royal Drawing School, which is helping to preserve creative skills for the next generation. On top of this, the Crafts Council is doing a great job of raising the status of glass and encouraging talent, while London Craft Week in May is also extremely important for promoting craftsmanship. With so much going on, I simply wouldn't want to be anywhere else.



London Glassblowing will mark its 40th anniversary this year with a major exhibition featuring new pieces that revisit past projects with a fresh perspective. From February 12-27, the studio will also host a retrospective of the work of the late Karen Lawrence, whose exceptionally delicate pieces earned her widespread acclaim. 62-66 Bermondsey Street, SE1 3UD. 020 7403 2800. www.londonglassblowing.co.uk







# SOMBTHING NEW THING

Tucked between a row of Georgian houses on Rugby Street in Bloomsbury, Pentreath & Hall is a much-loved interiors shop stuffed with eclectic delights curated by owners Ben and Bridie. Lois Bryson-Edmett meets the tastemakers who are creating a new tradition

espite the dominance of big names on the high street, there still remains the opportunity to stumble across a brilliant independent gem in a hidden corner of London. At first glance. a tiny side street in Bloomsbury could seem like just another unassuming row of townhouses, but it is in fact hiding Pentreath & Hall, one of the city's best-loved interiors shops. Every inch of this cosy store is packed full of colourful, unique home accessories and furniture, where vibrant cushions made from Asian Suzani fabrics sit next to antique Wedgwood candlesticks and prints of 19th-century maps. "We only sell things that make us happy and that we want to own ourselves," explains co-owner Bridie Hall. "We have a core product range of staples that we adore and are known for, such as Marianna Kennedy lamps and colourful linens. Our own homes are filled with them."

The shop's eclectic aesthetic is the perfect blend of Ben Pentreath and Bridie Hall's backgrounds. Pentreath trained as an architectural and interior designer, while Hall found success as a decorative artist and maker, selling her Bridie Hall at Home line of candles, decoupage and decorative objects in the shop. The two were introduced 10 years ago by mutual friend Thomas Heatherwick when Pentreath admired a painting created by Hall. "It was clear that we shared a similar design aesthetic and appreciation for beautiful products," says Hall. "I've always been fascinated with how objects and their surroundings affect people. I love that people find such joy in a cushion or print or lamp for their home." Similarly, Pentreath has always harboured a passion for interior design: "I loved my grandparents' house when I was a child," he explains. "The dining room ceiling was painted a rich purple and my grandfather's study was lined with books and coloured a deep Pompeian red."

This passion for beautifully finished interiors influences the Rugby Street store's distinctive aesthetic, which the owners enjoy playing with. "It's exciting to reinvent the look of the shop regularly and keep it feeling fresh, so we often change the wall colour and move artwork around,"

says Pentreath, "We recently installed an antique shop counter and painted the walls pumpkin. Who knows what colour we'll choose next year?" Pentreath and Hall's talent for marrying bold contemporary touches such as vibrant colour with more traditional details is an enviable one, and something that Pentreath puts down to instinct. "It just feels right," he says. "If pieces are well made, they should sit well together, regardless of their age or provenance."

### A PERSONAL VISION

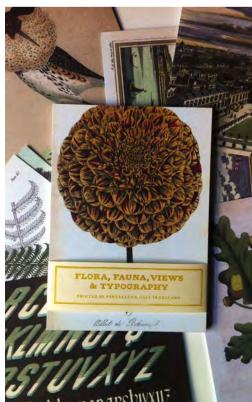
True to this ethos, the Rugby Street shop is indeed a reflection of both Pentreath and Hall's personalities and interests, informed by travel, books and a love of detail. Both owners curate their stock, handpicking pieces from the UK and beyond. "Our antiques come from dealers all over the country, although often the antiques bought by Bridie get snapped up by me as soon as they come in," explains Pentreath. "We do a couple of buying trips a year, and we always visit Maison & Objet in Paris in September." For new pieces, Pentreath and Hall support homegrown makers: "We like to work with UK-based printers for our paper goods, and British craftsmen for our furniture and lamps," says Pentreath, who has designed some pieces himself, such as the popular Bloomsbury Library chair.

As a result, Pentreath & Hall is a distinctively personal shop, with the DNA of its owners woven into it, reminiscent of a time when shopkeeping was much more hands-on. Pentreath's architectural business sits just over the road, so he can often be found in store chatting to customers. Meanwhile, Bridie's miniature poodle Max serves as the unofficial face of the brand, often found in store begging for cuddles from customers. For unique homewares with a side order of personal charm, Pentreath & Hall is one of London's best destinations.

17 Rugby Street, WC1N 3QT. 020 7430 2526. www.pentreath-hall.com











e have plans in place to make shopping a thing of the past for our clients," says elite personal stylist Daniel Johnson. "Imagine arriving at your hotel, holiday home or yacht and finding a fully furnished wardrobe with garments altered to fit," he says. An ambitious notion for sure, but one in step with the zeitgeist: an upsurge in demand for bespoke fashion services such as wardrobe consultancy, personal shopping

and tailor-made styling.

Once the preserve of A-list celebrities vying to outshine Jennifer Lawrence, Lupita Nyong'o and David Gandy at red-carpet events, people from many walks of life have woken up to the importance of the image they project; in the process realising that getting it consistently right takes a set of organisational skills, industry connections and fashion know-how that few of us possess. Quickly accustomed to the many in-store personal shopping services on offer, fashion lovers want to take that next step up – their own Rachel Zoe.

Recently featured in the BBC documentary The Millionaire's Gift Guide, Daniel Johnson was drawn to his profession seven years ago after dramatically transforming his own image from clueless scruffy student to dapper style influencer. "I learned the hard way at first," he says, "by making lots of mistakes. Now I offer a unique service that makes finding and wearing the right clothes as simple as possible." A specialist in luxury menswear, Johnson's services start at

£325 for personal styling, with his most requested service being a wardrobe consultation. "This is where we organise the wardrobe for the client and photograph the outfit combinations, so that they can spend less time deciding what to wear," says Johnson. "We also place garments in the wardrobe according to the occasions the clients find themselves attending – and we may even suggest lighting and storage solutions."

In the documentary, unflappable Johnson is seen showing an exquisite Vicuna suiting fabric to one moneyed client hoping to create a unique gift for her fiancé. Said to be the most expensive cloth on earth and costing £6,000 per metre, it came from revered Savile Row tailor, Scabal. With his eye for quality, Johnson is a big supporter of British-manufactured goods. "We have such skill and talent here but the costs often put people off," he says. "Personally, I would rather pay more knowing jobs have been created as a result."

### STYLE COUNSEL

Arguably, it's never been more important to look good. From friends and colleagues posting impromptu snaps of us on Facebook and Instagram, to formal LinkedIn profiles, our image is captured and distributed more often and more widely than ever before. "How we dress can reflect everything – our work, our tastes, our aspirations and our status within society," says Thea Lewis-Yates, IN London's own fashion editor-at-large.

"Looking a certain way is crucial for success, both in business and for pleasure," she adds. Yet, at the same time, the range of choices, fabrics, fits and styles has never been quite so complex. Lewis-Yates continues, "Some major luxury houses now show in excess of 10 times a year. There's Fall, Spring, Pre-Fall, Resort, plus bi-annual menswear shows, diffusion lines, etc. As the fashion seasons speed up, keeping track of trends, let alone pinpointing the ones that suit us, can become a full-time job. So it seems only natural to outsource to a professional."

British former fashion editors, Petronella Stofberg and Laura Fantacci, have built a loyal following of fanatical fashionistas with their curated shopping site, Wardrobe Icons. The duo's services range from ICONS Update – an accessible online style bible packed with essential tips – to their elite Personal Shopping consultancy offering bespoke guidance, where prices start at £1,000 for services such as home-wardrobe consultations and edits, personal styling and shopping expeditions.

"The women we meet are no longer interested in buying pieces that don't complement their wardrobe and they don't get real use out of," says Stofberg. "However, finding those building-block items – or 'icons', as we call them – and making your wardrobe work effectively can be a daunting task, especially if you have been collecting for 10 years. Having access to a service like ours means you get a fresh eye – to not only detox your existing wardrobe, but to also look at those key pieces that can make it work harder for you long-term."

### **WARDROBE MANAGEMENT**

If you've already detoxed and your wardrobe is still pushed for space, you can avoid drowning in a sea of garments by using Vault Couture, an exclusive wardrobe storage and management service. Launched six years ago by Kazakhstan-born businesswoman and entrepreneur Mounissa Chodieva, it has dragged the walk-in wardrobe into the digital age.

"Vault Couture was created in 2010," says Chodieva, "and was formed out of a personal need, driven by lack of wardrobe space, lack of time and the heavy travel schedule required by a demanding corporate position and leisure travel. As a result it became increasingly difficult to balance a hectic lifestyle and a highly cultivated wardrobe."

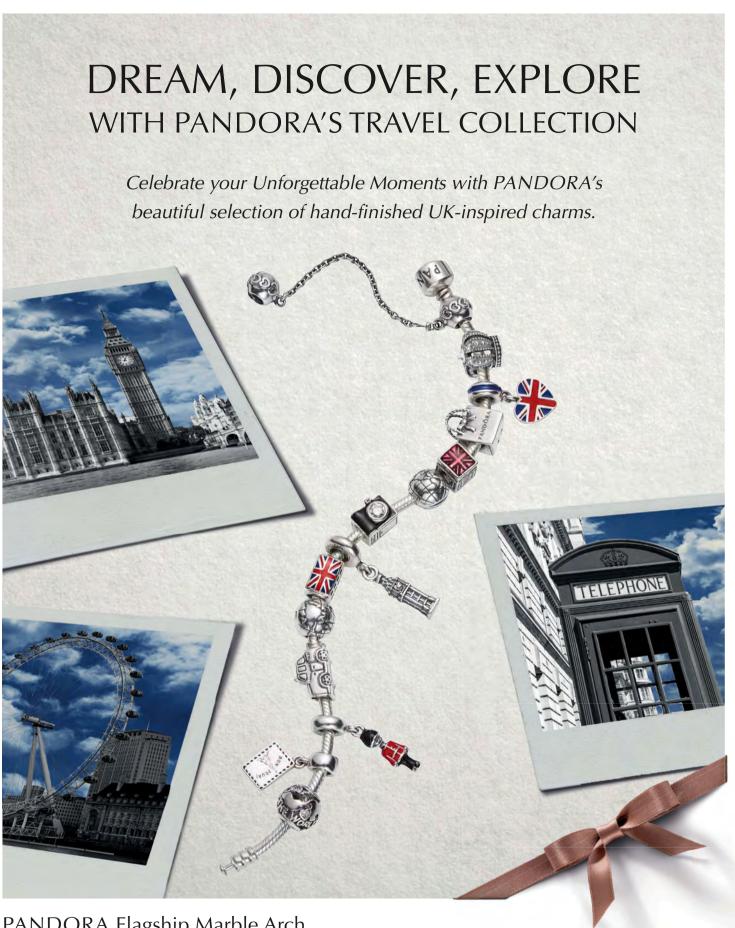
Clients of the service not only have their fashion collection photographed, catalogued and stored in museum-quality conditions, but the images can be accessed online 24/7 and items can be shipped to wherever they happen to be working – or holidaying – in the world. Imagine the relief to regular travellers of being able to breeze through the security gates lugging nothing bulkier than a passport and phone. Additional services include a legion of seamstresses and tailors who are on hand for alterations and



repairs, and expert stylists who can help put together a look or advise on future purchases.

For those now thinking of hiring a fashion consultant, Lewis-Yates offers these tips, "Rapport is key. Personal shopping is about finding what works for you. Do you travel frequently? How do you spend weekends and leisure time? What does your job entail? These are all questions that need to be asked. The more someone understands you, your life and your style, the better they can shop for you. Fashion editors on several major publications moonlight as ultra high-end personal shoppers and this makes perfect sense." She adds, "Travelling to the shows, being on friendly terms with designers and building a database of the forthcoming trends make for the perfect skill-set. Who doesn't want someone who sits in the front row at Dior curating their wardrobe?'

www.daniel-johnson.com www.scabal.com www.thealewisyates.com www.vaultcouture.com www.wardrobeicons.com



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# FOX



# SQUIRREL

Jo Caird steps away from the city's beaten tourist track to explore a company that offers curated, creative walks for visitors and Londoners alike







he Lady Guide Association was born at a meeting of The Royal Society of British Artists in December 1888. Its aim was to hire unemployed middle-class women as tour guides in London, opening up the capital to culturally inclined tourists and shoppers who might otherwise have found it difficult to access.

Fast forward 122 years and Penelope Sacorafou – jobless at the time, having just completed a master's degree at prestigious King's College London – realised that the model could be replicated today. It didn't take long to come up with Fox & Squirrel, a company offering "creative walks for the culturally curious". Sacorafou was in business.

It all began with fashion and art walks but has since expanded to cover food and street photography too. Fox & Squirrel also tailors bespoke walks to suit clients' interests, focusing on particular areas of London or topics including film and architecture.

What makes the walks "creative", says Sacorafou, is Fox & Squirrel's team, all of whom are "creative individuals passionate about their respective industries and city".

### LOCAL KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

It's the guides – the likes of Julia Langbein, a research fellow in history of art at Oxford University; Duncan Nicholls, a commercial photographer with clients including Nike; and food writer Lindsay Faller, who now leads the company alongside Sacorafou – who inspired this modern-day 'lady guide' to add to her initial portfolio of walks. "We'd get to know an expert in a certain creative field who had a passion for London, they'd pitch to us or we'd suggest a theme, and we'd take it from there," Sacorafou explains. Not just any subject makes the cut, however: "We try to make sure that all walks respond to a question that the public may currently be asking."

The creative approach extends to the stops on the walks, too. "We will always feature individuals with creative businesses and dedicate time to a live demonstration of their skill," Sacorafou says. On the fashion walks, which take place in Mayfair, you'll be able to see artisans at work across a range of different crafts. And when it comes to food, Fox & Squirrel runs regular walks that explore the culinary landscapes of Bloomsbury, Brixton, Camden and the Strand – this means plenty of tastings.

Sacorafou and Faller are both keen to showcase the ethnic diversity that makes London such a fascinating place to visit. Their food walks, in particular, shine a light on communities and cuisines that might otherwise pass visitors by. The capital has enough Michelin-starred restaurants to keep a gourmand busy for a lifetime of breakfasts, lunches and dinners, but London's less ritzy

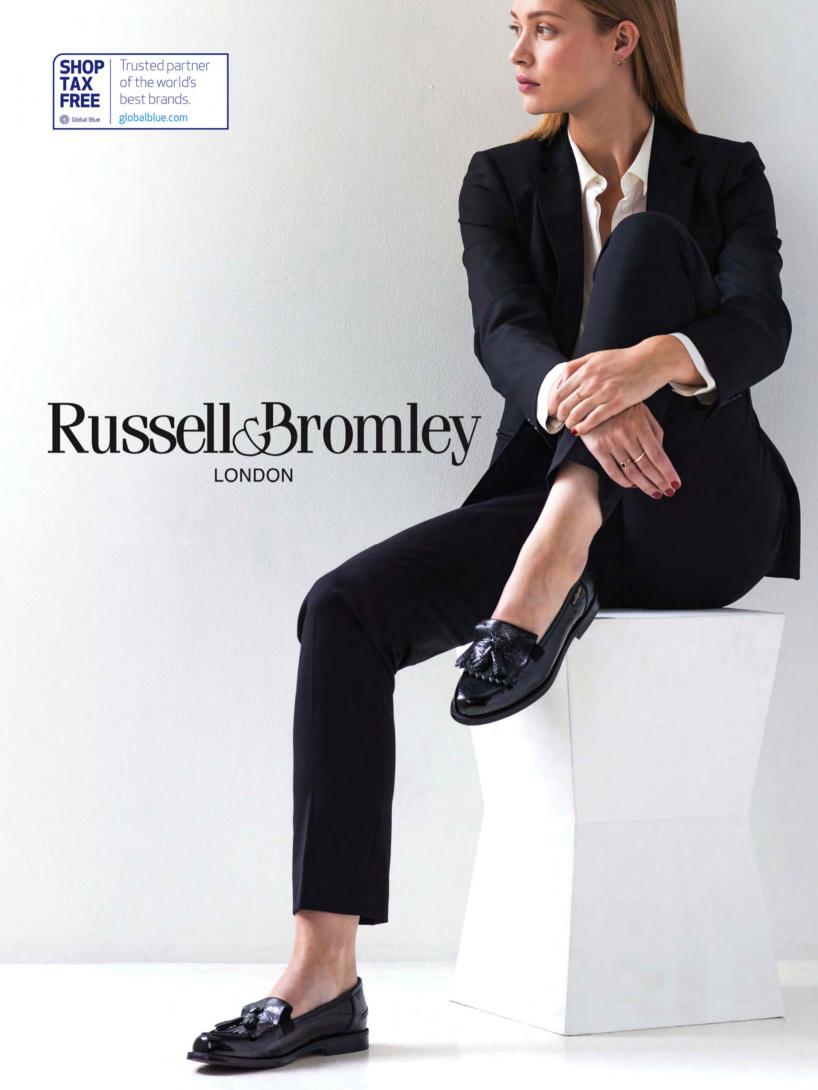
spots are well worth exploring too, from Ethiopian coffee joints to Columbian butchers to cafés frequented by cabbies.

### A MODERN CONTEXT

Alongside the walks, Fox & Squirrel runs monthly talks giving visitors and Londoners an even more in-depth look at particular aspects of cultural life in the capital. Recent speakers have included bespoke shoemaker Caroline Groves; antiques dealer Mark Hill, famous for his appearances on BBC TV's Antiques Roadshow; and jewellery designer Andrew Prince, who has created pieces for the likes of Downton Abbey. The aim of the events, says Sacorafou, is to "bring together like-minded individuals in intimate spaces".

Intelligent, engaging discussion is at the heart of what Fox & Squirrel offers, with Sacorafou and Faller unashamedly drawing on their postgraduate studies – Sacorafou in the cultural and creative industries, Faller in history of art and connoisseurship – to curate a rich conversation around every topic they tackle. "The walks aren't a oneway experience, with only the tour guide allowed to speak and the guests there purely for listening," says Faller. "The walks are meant to be a conversation and a thoughtful journey through an area of London."

www.foxandsquirrel.com



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## TASTEMAKERS

From photographers and perfumers to design experts and world-renowned chefs, London is bursting with talented contributors to the city's luxury industry. We celebrate 20 of the most important names to know right now



Northamptonshire, is also in expansion mode, having

The success of London's luxury scene also attracts talent from overseas. "Nourbel & Le Cavelier, owned by a Swiss and Lebanese duo, has a beautiful boutique in Mayfair's Burlington Arcade, and Star Diamond, founded by partners from Belgium and Armenia, also owns a discreet appointment-only

opened a boutique in New York last year."

### CHRIS CORBIN & JEREMY KING

In an arena as competitive as London dining, where countless venues open and shut within a year, Chris Corbin and Jeremy King's hugely successful 35-year career masterminding restaurants is even more remarkable. Having first met in 1981, the pair forged their partnership with the purchase of their first acquisition Le Caprice, followed by The Ivy in 1990, transforming the run-down Theatreland favourite into one of London's most famous restaurants. After Harden's Guide voted The Ivy Favourite London Restaurant for nine consecutive years, the pair sensed the need for a new challenge, selling off their company Caprice Holdings and transforming a former bank into The Wolseley - which went on to achieve the highest-grossing turnover of any individual restaurant in the UK.

Several decades on, Corbin and King's ambitious portfolio continues to expand, with popular restaurants such as Viennese-style Fischer's, all-day café The Delaunay and, most recently, Alsatian-style brasserie Bellanger. The pair's recipe for success is simple but effective: "A flexible, interesting menu of well-cooked food with wide appeal, a democratic approach to pricing that creates a mix of customers and an environment that people feel recognised and

comfortable in," says King. For the restaurateurs, the capital is also the key contributor to their success: "London is a city of immigrants and this has so many positive benefits," explains King. "It opens us up to different cultures and cuisines and it means we attract chefs from all over the world who bring new ideas and different ways of working. We also have a sophisticated customer base that is used to going out and wants to try new things – meaning London has a vibrant, sustainable, enduring restaurant scene."

The city's changing landscape also informs the direction of Corbin and King's portfolio: "As the centre of London becomes more expensive for the people who live and work full time in the city, local restaurants are becoming increasingly important," explains King. "We have echoed this in our moves to Chelsea, Marylebone village and now Islington. The quality of local restaurants is improving all the time - customers want personal connections with the restaurants they frequent." Despite the fast pace of change in London's dining scene, King believes the best can endure. "Over the past 30 years, famous chefs have come and gone and restaurants have opened and closed," he explains. "What I am most interested in and what continues to endure, is those restaurants run by the truly passionate - the people who aim to give the customer a good time and do not view them as merely a source of income."





As director of the London Design Festival (LDF) and executive director of September's inaugural London Design Biennale, Ben Evans is one of the most powerful voices on London's design scene. Having studied history of design at the Royal College of Art, Evans took a detour into political speech writing, helping pen the UK's first design policy, before teaming up with Sir John Sorrell to create the LDF. What started as a few unofficial events across the city has developed, 13 years later, into one of the world's most influential design festivals, "London is a leader in this field," explains Evans. "Since we started, more than 100 cities have created their own design-related events, but we and Milan are still by far the biggest and best design events in the world."

For Evans, London's rich history makes it the perfect host: "Ever since The Great Exhibition of 1851, we've had a presence in design," he says. "However, in the past couple of generations, the creative industries have become an important part of the London economy and design has been at the centre of that." Evans has also noticed that the public has become more design-literate. "When we started the festival, we assumed our core audience would be design professionals, but I quickly realised that the

works or take on projects are enlightened members of the public - not just companies."

With increased interest from the public, some interesting developments have emerged on the design scene: "I think a broader interest in materials is remaining very popular in design," he says. "Another trend is the integration of new technologies. Material companies are changing how technology is available to us." Several London-based designers are spearheading this innovation: "Barber & Osgerby is one of the most important design companies in the UK because it has an increasing influence on our daily lives," explains Evans. "Max Lamb is also producing some great work - he's very interested in nature and materials and he created a circle of chairs that was the best thing in Milan last year."

For Evans, this strong wave of design innovation links closely to the luxury market. "Luxury for me is a refined view - a mixture of craftsmanship and quality materials," he says. "My personal preference is for a much simpler aesthetic, which is quite hard to do. If you can get that right, with the highest level of craftsmanship and materials, then that is the height of luxury. I don't think something can be luxurious if design isn't integrated within it."



For the fashion industry, the tragic Rana Plaza factory collapse in Bangladesh in 2013 represented a turning point in the spending habits of consumers. Following the shocking disaster, customers started to ask questions about where products are made and their ethical and sustainable credentials. Leading this new wave of conscious consumerism is Livia Firth - wife of actor Colin, Oxfam Global Ambassador and founder of Eco-Age, a brand consultancy helping luxury labels add value to their products by becoming more sustainably minded. So far Eco-Age has worked on a number of prestigious projects with well-known brands such as Chopard, collaborating to create the Palme Verte collection – Chopard's first diffusion line made with 18-carat Fairmined gold bought from artisanal and small-scale miners certified under the Fairmined standard.

In September 2015, Eco-Age also collaborated with fashion house Erdem to create a Green Carpet Collection made from reused, surplus or sustainably certified materials, while Livia and her husband continue to promote sustainable fashion by sporting it themselves at red-carpet events, as well as encouraging celebrity friends to do the same. For Firth, those in the luxury sector play a key role in the growth of sustainable fashion. "The luxury market can lead the way, showing examples of how to work at supply-chain level," she explains. "What the Kering group has achieved is particularly impressive – my hat goes off to CEO Mr François-Henri Pinault. The fact that Kering recently published its environmental profit-and-loss report is groundbreaking."

On top of the environmental and ethical benefits, Firth believes that buying sustainably fits well with the luxury ethos, which promotes buying well-made, high-quality items in a considered way. "The problem is that today we buy at an ever faster pace because fashion is so cheap," says Firth. "We don't think twice about buying something which we then discard quickly. Sustainable fashion is about buying things we care about, instead of on impulse." Eco-Age's 30 Wears campaign reflects this philosophy, encouraging fashion lovers to only purchase pieces they will want to wear at least 30 times. "There is a beautiful concept that Amanda Harlech (muse to Karl Lagerfeld) uses called 'fashion memory'," explains Firth. "It means that everything we have in our wardrobes should have a memory of when we bought it and why, of when we wore it for the first time - was it that first kiss? Or when I danced all night at that beautiful party?" Firth believes that with a wardrobe full of treasured purchases, we can begin to value the hard work and resources that are required to create the luxury fashion we love.



Chairman of Gieves & Hawkes and instrumental in the founding of Savile Row Bespoke – an organisation that promotes and protects the handcrafting skills of the tailors of Savile Row – Mark Henderson is a proud proponent of handcrafted luxury. "London has been one of the world's great luxury markets for a long time," he explains. "Bond Street, Savile Row and the reputation of Mayfair and St. James's go right back to the 18th century. For me, Mayfair is the epicentre – there's nowhere else that offers the same excitement, beauty and choice in a sophisticated urban environment."

Alongside its heritage, Henderson considers the talent of London's highly-skilled craftspeople to be one of the city's greatest strengths. "London boasts some exceptional craftsmanship, witnessed by the City Livery Companies that are rooted in craft," he says. "The Goldsmiths, The Merchant Taylors, The Cordwainers, all retain links that go back in some cases for a thousand years."

Most recently, Henderson cemented his commitment to supporting British craftspeople with the launch of The New Craftsmen in 2012 – a Mayfair shop selling furniture, ceramics, home accessories and lighting created by Britain's most talented artisans. "I think craftsmanship is one of the most attractive aspects of the luxury market," Henderson explains. "And by craftsmanship, I mean mastery of material. It offers two things – enormous satisfaction for the customer

and, to me crucially, satisfaction for the maker. London remains one of the world's great craft hubs and London Craft Week in May is a great opportunity to celebrate these talents."

Naturally, Henderson is an authority on London's best luxury makers: "I love Michael Ruh's hand-blown glassware, Sebastian Cox and Gareth Neal's furniture and Ruth Tomlinson's beautiful jewellery," says Henderson. "In terms of brands, I also think what Jason Basmajian has done for Gieves & Hawkes has been world class, and I love that Bremont makes timepieces in England." He continues: "For menswear, James Brown is doing a great job at Hostem, Trunk in Marylebone is fun and I've got great admiration for Nick Ashley and Private White V.C. Patrick Grant is also doing a great job with E. Tautz."

Despite these successes, Henderson still believes that there is room for progress. "I would like to see a real embracing of ethics in luxury. Underlining what we do in the luxury industry should be the concept of beautifully made, carefully designed and ethically sourced products – something of lasting value. I feel the British understand and like that sort of value – and that's why we are very well placed to build on it."









### JASON ATHERTON

One of the hottest names on London's luxury dining scene, Atherton was the first British chef to complete a stage at Spain's prestigious elBulli restaurant. From there he honed his skills under Gordon Ramsay, before opening Pollen Street Social in 2011. Within six months the restaurant had scooped a Michelin star, and a family of celebrated venues followed, including Little Social, Berners Tavern and Typing Room. Atherton's latest project, Sosharu - launching this March - promises casual yet refined Japanese cuisine that incorporates seasonal British ingredients.

### WILLIAM BANKS-BLANEY

Crowned "The Vintage King" by Vogue, Banks-Blaney is the expert behind William Vintage - a world-leading destination for high-end vintage fashion. Banks-Blaney's boutique boasts a diverse stock of vintage gems, featuring everything from a 1970s YSL feather-collared cape to a 1950s Dior cocktail dress. Counting Rihanna and Victoria Beckham among his clientele, Banks-Blaney has recently launched a capsule collection in collaboration with Liberty and plans to move William Vintage to a bigger location this year, with plenty of room for more couture gems.

### TOBY BATEMAN

Recently appointed managing director of Mr. Porter, Toby Bateman is a crucial tastemaker in the world of men's fashion. Having worked for the online retail platform since 2010, Bateman has been responsible for the addition of more than 270 brands to the portal's roster. Earlier this year, Bateman oversaw a popular collaboration with Japanese lifestyle store BEAMS,



featuring six exclusive collections. On top of this, Bateman is heading up plans for a capsule collection to celebrate Mr. Porter's fifth birthday.

### ED BURSTELL

Starting his career as a perfume spritzer at Macy's in New York, Ed Burstell worked at almost every layer of the retail industry before rising to the role of managing director of Liberty. Burstell joined the company in 2008 as buying director and breathed new life into the department store by introducing young British designers such as Peter Pilotto and Mary Katrantzou, as well as spearheading a number of collaborations with brands such as Levi's, Barbour and Nike. Having celebrated its 140th anniversary in 2015, Liberty continues to champion dynamic contemporary designers and set a benchmark for retail in the city.

### **ROJA DOVE**

Having clocked up 35 years in the industry, Roja Dove is one of London's leading fragrance specialists. Dove began his career with a 20-year stint at Guerlain, before opening his own Haute Parfumerie in Harrods. Before long, customers were requesting bespoke perfumes from Dove himself, which soon evolved into Dove's own fragrance range, Roja Parfums. Dove recently achieved a brand milestone, opening his first standalone boutique in Mayfair's Burlington Arcade, featuring two floors of fragrances and a private consultation space.

### LORD BRUCE DUNDAS

An expert in luxury brands, Dundas has 35 years' experience in the industry, working in roles such as managing director of Harry Winston and Asprey, as well as co-founding jewellery brand Theo Fennell. Currently, Dundas serves as managing director of Buccellati as well as chairman of the Bond Street Association – a crucial voice on London's luxury scene, founded to represent the interests of high-end retailers and businesses in Bond Street. Lately, Dundas has been working with the association to bring important improvements to the street, as well as overseeing sponsorship of Brown's London Art Weekend.

### MARC HARE

Born and bred in London, Marc Hare enjoyed a successful career in marketing for brands such as Nike, Adidas and Levi's before the idea for his own shoe brand struck him in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Just one year later, Mr. Hare shoes debuted on the shopfloor of Dover Street Market, and the brand has since become a benchmark for quality footwear with character. Hare now plans further growth for the brand, with the opening of a West London HQ and design studio for private appointments.

### NICK KNIGHT OBE

Photographer Nick Knight has been at the cutting edge of the fashion industry for three decades, producing award-winning editorials for magazines including Vogue, Dazed and i-D, as well as iconic images for brands such as Christian Dior, Saint Laurent and Tom Ford. In 2000, Knight launched fashion website SHOWstudio with the aim of "showing the entire creative process from conception to completion". In October last year, Knight announced that 2016 would mark the launch of the inaugural SHOWstudio Fashion Film Awards, open to filmmakers across the globe. Most recently, Knight received the Isabella Blow Award for Fashion Creator at the British Fashion Awards.

### NATALIE MASSENET MBE

Founder of fashion giant Net-A-Porter and chairman of the British Fashion Council, Natalie Massenet is a hugely influential voice in retail. Starting out working as a journalist at *Tatler*, Massenet hit upon the idea of a magazine-style website offering designer fashion and founded her now famous e-tailer in 2000. Having recently set up Imaginary Ventures Ltd following Net-A-Porter's merger with YOOX Group, Massenet continues her work with the British Fashion Council, bringing homegrown fashion talent to the global stage.

### **MUNIRA MIRZA**

Prior to her appointment as London's deputy mayor for education and culture, Mirza worked for a range of cultural and charitable organisations including the Royal Society of Arts, independent think-tank Policy Exchange and Tate. Since then she has played a crucial role in shaping the city's cultural landscape, writing extensively about cultural and social policy in the UK. Mirza also sits on the board of the Institute of Contemporary Art and led the Cultural Olympiad as part of the London 2012 Summer Olympic Games.



















### SAM PRATT AND VALERIO CAPO

Established in 2008 by Pratt and Capo, Gallery FUMI is an appointment-only design emporium selling high-end contemporary pieces with unique flair. Limited-edition and one-off pieces make up much of the stock, snapped up by interior designers and members of the public alike. This year promises to be a busy one for Gallery FUMI, with a trip to PAD Paris at the start of the year followed by Design Miami and Basel in June as well as the London Design Festival in September, with plenty more in between.

### MARTIN ROTH

Martin Roth has worked as director of the Victoria and Albert Museum since 2011 and is closely involved in spearheading solutions to make the V&A's world-class reserve collections as accessible as possible. In addition to this, Roth is also heading up several groundbreaking new projects including the creation of a V&A museum in Scotland, and another in the capital's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

### CAROLINE RUSH CBE

Following a successful career in marketing and PR, and five years managing her own business, Caroline Rush was appointed chief executive of the British Fashion Council (BFC) in 2009. Under her guidance, the BFC has undertaken a number of groundbreaking projects, including the launch of London Collections Men – Britain's only biannual menswear showcase – as well

as various initiatives to support outstanding talent in the fields of millinery, jewellery and fashion design.

### SIR JOHN SORRELL

From humble beginnings as the son of a London milkman, Sir John Sorrell has built an impressive career in design, working as chair of the Design Council as well as founding the London Design Festival and The Sorrell Foundation – which inspires creativity in young people through classes in everything from architecture to glassblowing and photography. Sorrell has recently been appointed president of the inaugural London Design Biennale, launching at Somerset House this September. The theme Utopia by Design will offer the chance to view installations and exhibitions from 40 different nations.

### **GILES TAYLOR**

As one of the world's most famous motoring brands, Rolls-Royce sets a precedent for motoring innovation in the luxury market. Design director Giles Taylor clocked up 20 years' design experience in the automotive field before taking up the mantle at Rolls-Royce, and today he spearheads the brand's artistic development. So far he has been responsible for the launch of Wraith, featuring the brand's most powerful engine, as well as Dawn – an open-top model with an interior handcrafted from wood and leather.

## COMING SOON

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Michael Petry, the new creative director of Tumi, meets Kathryn Conway and reveals that he's ready to make his mark

itting on the pretty roof terrace of London's Ham Yard Hotel, Michael Petry is positively brimming with excitement. Six months into his role as creative director of Tumi, a brand which many consider to be the hallmark of quality luggage, Petry is in town to preside over the company's latest collaboration – the TUMI x WIRED Innovation in Travel Awards. Celebrated with a Champagne and cocktail reception at Tumi's Regent Street flagship store on December 15, the awards recognised innovation in travel and honoured companies such as Emirates, which took top spot in the Best Inflight Experience category for its Ice Digital Widescreen entertainment system, and London's Shangri-La Hotel, which was honoured as the Best Travel Destination or Experience.

Joining forces with WIRED to recognise technological innovation in travel makes complete sense for Tumi, a company which already has more than 125 patents to its name for its own product innovation. But there is something about the twinkle in Petry's eyes that reveals he is ready to push the creative envelope just that little bit further. His current mission is to ramp up the style and aesthetic of the brand – "We're trying to get a lot more stylish and fashion forward in what we do," acknowledges

Petry – to bring about that cool factor that brands such as Apple exude in a way that will appeal to new fans of Tumi without alienating the loyal old guard.

"I'm keen to explore how we can help someone perfect their daily journey," says Petry. "I don't think there's a demographic that isn't interested in that, right? Whether it's our core customer or a new customer, everyone seems to be winding up having the same basic problems. They have too many cellphones, too many tablets, there are headphones and power cords, and everyone is trying to compartmentalise their lives. I think Tumi's product range already addresses many of these issues and I think making the offering more stylish benefits everybody."

### **COLLABORATION IS KEY**

If anyone has the credentials to forge this rather more modish vibe, it's Petry. Formerly senior vice president and creative director of US shoe label The Frye Company, Petry has also served at Adidas, Ralph Lauren and Prada. Indeed, it is the Prada Group's co-founder and CEO Patrizio Bertelli whom Petry credits with his own self-confessed obsession with detail. "You can never

We're trying to get a lot more stylish and fashion forward in what we do



go too far in obsessing over a product," says Petry. "At Prada, we would work on products that looked fantastic and Mr Bertelli would come by and say that it just wasn't quite right yet. I've learnt that it's important to dwell, to let something marinate, to get obsessive about how you edit the brand and how you can put the best products forward. It's one of the things I've now learnt to do very well and it's something I want to continue doing at Tumi."

For anyone inclined to mistake this confidence for arrogance, Petry is quick to point out that he doesn't operate a design dictatorship. "I think the team we have in place is phenomenal. I love my team, I really do," says Petry with passion. And you believe him when he says his is a wholly collaborative approach, an open-door policy where "no idea is a bad idea" and "where everyone, no matter what level they might be, has a voice". Petry has taken a leaf out of Nike CEO Mark Parker's book and believes his role is to "edit and amplify" the best ideas around the table. "This is just the most fantastic gift and something that

every single person in creative design should be able to do," Petry asserts.

Sadly, it's a gift Tumi's customers won't be able to see in action until Petry's first collection launches this autumn. Naturally, Tumi's new creative director is rather coy when asked what can be expected, frightened perhaps of giving away too much, but he does reveal that the collection has already had an internal review and has received resounding praise. "The best thing I've heard someone say about it is that 'it looks like Tumi but cooler' - that's a really great compliment. Because, essentially, you want to change the way the brand looks right underneath people's noses. So when someone looks at the brand five years from now, they'll believe it's still the same old Tumi they know and love, but when you line up the products they do actually look radically different," Petry reveals. And it is this courage of his convictions that signifies that not only is one of the world's favourite luxury luggage and lifestyle brands in very safe hands, but a thrilling future lies ahead.

211-213 Regent Street, W1B 4NF. 020 7292 2810

170 Piccadilly, W1J 9EJ. 020 7493 4138

London City Airport, Hartmann Road, E16 2PX. 020 3203 2570

uk.tumi.com



# SEASON STYLE

The latest looks from L.K.Bennett

L.K.Bennett has been offering luxurious British style at accessible prices since it was founded in Wimbledon Village in 1990. Beginning life as a footwear brand, L.K.Bennett initially found fame with its designer shoes which were renowned for bridging the gap between Bond Street and the high street. Its kitten heels proved particularly popular, quickly gaining a celebrity following and earning founder Linda Bennett the nickname 'queen of the kitten heel'.

Today, there is a style for every occasion and the designs go way beyond those kitten-heel pumps that L.K.Bennett was first synonymous with. You only have to look at the Spring 2016 collection currently available in-store to see a blaze of technicolour and excitement, with patchwork suede ankle boots and block-heeled mirror metallic Mary Janes proving to be this season's headturners.

While shoes remain at the heart of the business, the ready-to-wear collections, which were introduced in 1998, have established L.K.Bennett as a luxury lifestyle brand and fashion house. The unique aesthetic is a modern blend of colour and print, and has won an army

of fans across the globe including stylish women such as Amal Clooney, Felicity Jones, Emily Blunt, Meryl Streep, Olivia Palermo and Nicole Kidman.

The design team, based at the brand's HQ in Shoreditch, caters to every element of a woman's life, with an equal emphasis on daywear and eventwear and an increased casual offering to meet the growing demand for a contemporary, everyday wardrobe. For Spring 2016, luxurious textures and fabrics take centre stage and there's a strong focus on dresses and versatile separates. The brand's coveted handbag collection, crafted from the finest leathers, has grown significantly in recent years. The hero from the Spring 2016 collection is the stunning Seventies-inspired saddle bag, Hilda, which is available in snakeskin, alongside classic black, tan and orange.

With 120 locations across the globe, including 80 in the UK, L.K.Bennett's customer base continues to grow. Discover the brand at L.K.Bennett's flagship store in Mayfair.

31 Brook Street, W1K 4HF.
020 7629 3923. www.lkbennett.com





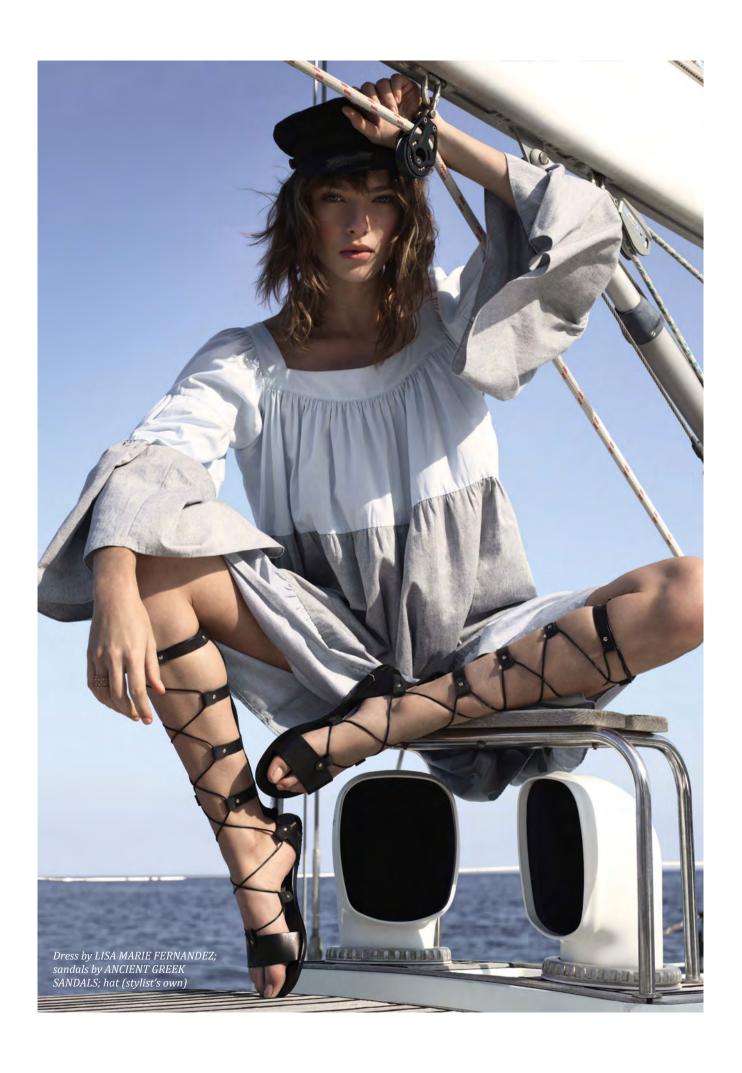


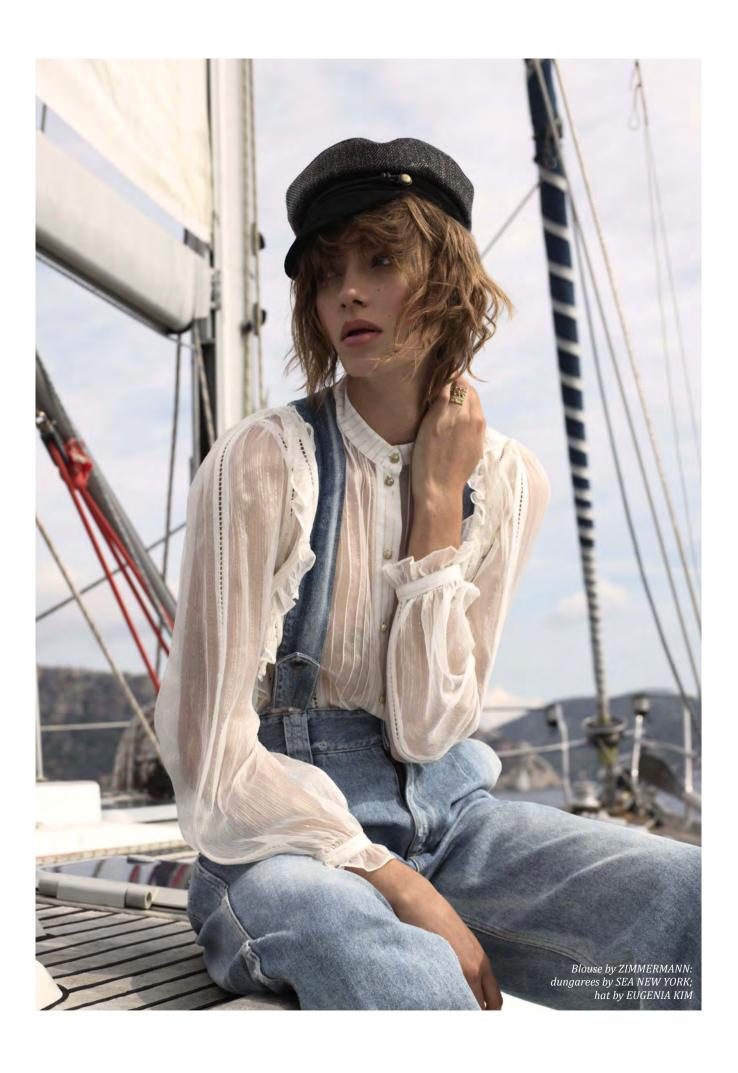






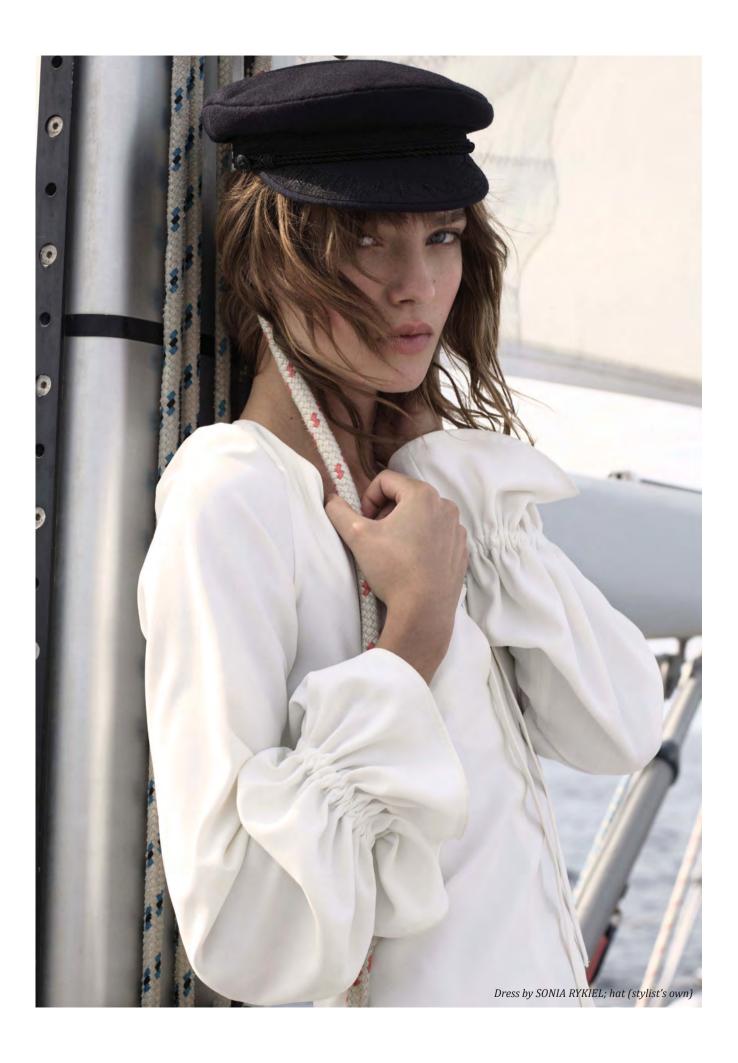














rom the moment you clap eyes on Serapian's exquisitely crafted bags, it's difficult not to be overcome with extraordinary feelings of covetousness. Your gaze lingers greedily on the no-nonsense geometry of the designs, the elegant hardware and the penny logo, the brand's signature detail on its zip pulls formed of founder Stefano Serapian's initials. And then there's the label's finely crafted leathers - they take your breath away.

No one does leather quite like the Italians, and one would wager that no one uses the material quite as well as Serapian. It has had more than 70 years to perfect its approach, its honed artistry and craftsmanship evident immediately in the nuances of the leathers it has created - the bold weave of the Mosaico, the subtlety of the Stepan with its interlinking S design, and the unbridled elegance of the Evolution calfskin. That all three still form the cornerstone of Serapian's current collections despite having been created more than half a century ago is a credit to the vision of founders Stefano and his wife Gina.

That their love story began in a country indelibly linked with romance is rather fitting. Having emigrated to Italy with his brother from Armenia in the 1920s, Stepan, as he was known then, was taken in by an order of Benedictine monks, given the Italianate name of Stefano and sent to work alongside two artisans who were producing shoe uppers in Milan. It was here that Stefano Serapian's first great love affair began. He was enchanted not just by the craftsmen's artistry but also by the leather they used, so much so that he couldn't resist the urge to take the leftover offcuts and fashion them into small leather accessories. His first creations delighted the Milanese market and it was while on a selling trip to Montecatini, a few hours south of the city, that Stefano and Gina's paths crossed.

### WHEN THE STARS ALIGN

Finding a mutual appreciation not just for business but also each other, the pair forged an alliance that would underpin the very ethics by which Serapian operates today. This is a business with passion at its heart and with Stefano and Gina's son Ardavast now at the helm, the unwavering dedication to quality, to detail and to handcrafted techniques is preserved.

As Ardavast notes, he was captivated by the business from an early age. "As a child, I remember running in between the craftsmen's workbenches; to me they looked tall and huge, and I used to stare at them with the utmost curiosity," reveals Ardavast. "I was fascinated to see what they were able to construct with their hands and strange tools." What they did create were bags that stand in the lexicon of fashion history as a status symbol in the era of Hollywood glamour, renowned for an understated elegance that is now being rediscovered and appreciated by a new generation.

It is fascinating to look back through the archives and see that Frank Sinatra commissioned his own bespoke creation or learn that Bette Davis, Ingrid Bergman and Humphrey Bogart were all avid fans. Most famously, perhaps, Serapian had its own moment as the star of





the show when one of its bags was featured on the arm of Audrey Hepburn in the 1966 film How to Steal a Million. Today, as Ardavast points out, "Our brand is mostly known and appreciated within a niche group of people whose primary concerns are quality and functionality... it is something that goes far beyond mere fashion." He adds, "Our customers are very affectionate; once they choose us they stick with us forever."

### FINDING A NEW AUDIENCE

With the weight of such heritage to uphold, one wonders whether it is difficult for Ardavast and his team of maestri to innovate and move forward. "This is a very delicate issue indeed," Ardavast admits, "not least because our loyal customers expect those traditional styles they have known a lifetime. However, in recent years, I think we have been able to achieve a correct balance between our traditions and innovation. Of course, we'll never introduce revolutionary designs, but I think we have chosen items that appeal to the vounger generations, too."

Serapian's spring/summer 2016 collection, with its energetic pops of colour, is proof that the brand is far from stuck in its ways. Plus, with a new generation of discerning consumer around, one that appreciates fine craftsmanship and the luxury of having something created just for them (Serapian's bespoke service is quite something), it comes as no surprise to see that Serapian is in the spotlight once again.

Find the Serapian collections at: Harrods, 87-135 Brompton Road, SW1X 7XL. 020 7730 1234. www.harrods.com

Case, 170 Piccadilly, W1J 9EJ. 020 7493 4138. www.case luggage.com

www.serapian.com





Every generation offers voices who want to stand up and be counted, but among today's tech-savvy consumers it is the opinions of the stars of the blogosphere that are increasingly attracting attention. Among the countless online alter egos gracing the internet, however, only a handful have truly mastered the art of blogging with authority. Kathryn Conway celebrates five of the best

# THE BEAUTY GURU British Beauty Blogger

Jane Cunningham has long been a voice of authority on beauty, with her print-journalism clout morphing and blossoming online into a well-established blog. As the British Beauty Blogger, Cunningham takes a no-holds-barred approach to her work, delivering honest thoughts and opinions on the latest products and treatments



You write about beauty in an age-neutral way in your blog. Do you feel that the beauty industry is becoming more age positive?

At the moment, there are little droplets of realisation within the industry that older women really don't want to be bullied into feeling they have to look younger than they really are. I'm seeing signs of an attitude change but, despite all the talk, I think it will be rather a slow one. Beauty brands are very much after the older woman's cash so they're going to have to find a way, and fast.

# How greatly is the beauty industry in the UK affected by influences and trends from around the world?

Hugely – think of things like BB creams, which until a few years ago were unknown in the UK. We're currently being strongly influenced in the cleansing market by Japan and Korea, where a cleansing ritual or double cleanse is very much the norm. While it used to be France that drove our

beauty influences, it's now the eastern countries that are doing so. Cushion foundations, sheet masks and gel formulas come directly from Korea or Japan.

What are your thoughts on cosmeceuticals and aesthetic beauty?

It's a tricky one. I think that if a woman chooses to have Botox or fillers or anything similar, it's her business. People can get very judgemental about it, but I think you should do exactly as you please. I know that a lot of women 'ease' into ageing with light treatments and I'm one of them. You actually don't know what the years are going to do to your face; for example, collagen can break down in different parts of the face at different rates, often on the lip line. I don't see any issue at all with straightening up an uneven lip that bothers you every day. We have choices and we should use them how we see fit.

What brought you to London and what do you love most about the city? I'm originally from Scotland and I could

not wait to get to London! My mum always said I was only happy if I had a pavement under my feet, not grass. I love so many things about London that it's impossible to list them all, but I think the hustle and bustle and the vibrancy of it is addictive.

# Can you recommend any London-based beauty experts?

Funnily enough, I really don't go to very many – it's a big chunk of time out of my day and I enjoy doing all those things myself. I go to Aveda in Covent Garden occasionally to see Zak and have my hair cut. The last facial that I had was epic – a proper workout for my skin – at The Face Place at the Rosewood hotel in Holborn. I've had a very good manicure at the House of Elemis spa in Mayfair recently, too.

## Which beauty products would we find on your dressing table?

You'd find a lot of bath products on my dressing table; everything from Chanel No. 5 The Foaming Bath to Mio Liquid Yoga, which is heavenly. I've also just discovered Olverum Bath Oil – proper bath bliss. I change my skincare routines all the time; currently I'm using Institut Esthederm Intensif Vitamin A Serum and Erborian Duo de Camellia, a rich, hydrating cream that can double up as a mask.

Where do you socialise in the capital? I like Mews of Mayfair or Hush; they both have outside seating and in the summer, it's a joy to sip a glass of rosé wine and watch the world go by.

# Is there anywhere in the city that holds particular significance for you?

Both my children were born at Guy's Hospital at London Bridge, so whenever I pass it on the train (before The Shard got in the way!) I always feel quite wistful for those newborn days.



# THE FASHION QUEEN La Petite Anglaise

The thoughts and opinions posted by Ella Catliff on her hugely popular fashion, beauty and lifestyle blog are followed by readers in more than 100 different countries. Courted by all the major names in fashion, Catliff is a regular on the Fashion Week circuit

### Can you tell me about a typical day?

It sounds very clichéd, I know, but there really is no such thing as a typical day. Some days I'll be at my desk writing posts, planning content, setting up meetings and catching up on emails. On others I could be shooting projects and outfits, running around to meetings and events or travelling anywhere in the world. I'm the type of person who gets bored incredibly easily and handles boredom embarrassingly badly so having this kind of constant diversity and unpredictability in work life is fantastic.

### Which shows are you most looking forward to attending during the AW16 season at London Fashion Week?

That's such a difficult question! Burberry is always a major highlight and personal favourites include Erdem, Holly Fulton, House of Holland, Roksanda Ilincic and Markus Lupfer. McQueen recently announced that it will be showing in London rather than Paris this season, which I'm very excited about.

### How would you describe your own personal style and do you have a favourite item in your wardrobe?

I would describe my style as preppy, colourful, feminine and eclectic, I like to mix and match bright colours, prints and embellishments, so I'm basically every minimalist's worst nightmare. It's impossible to pick one favourite item in my wardrobe but a few things that spring to mind include my Valentino Logo Go bag, pink Shrimps coat and bespoke Penelope Chilvers velvet dandy slippers.

### What are your thoughts on fashion in London?

Fashion in London is hugely diverse, expressive and varied. There is definitely an openness to freedom of self-expression here that you wouldn't see in, say, Paris. I think that the city is at a point where commerce and creativity are increasingly in balance, which is crucial for the future of the fashion industry and independent designers here. As a destination for luxury, it continues to be one of the most coveted and visited cities by people from all over the world. Basically, fashion in London is awesome.

### Which area of London do you like best and why?

I'm a west London girl through and through. I like to be near green spaces and I have an aversion to venturing east of Shoreditch.

### Do you have any favourite haunts in the capital? Any hidden gems you can tell us about?

I wish I could, but I'm definitely a bit boring in that respect and tend to stick to Soho House, Electric House etc. While not exactly 'hidden', one of my other favourite spots would definitely be Holland Park, especially the Kyoto Garden.

### Which restaurants and bars do you like to frequent?

West Thirty Six on Goldborne Road, The Ivy Chelsea Garden and Mondrian London or The London EDITION for a staycation.

### How would you describe your approach to shopping?

I would describe my approach to shopping as either militant or totally impulsive. I don't shop very often but when I do, it's either a focused mission with my mother (my all-time favourite shopping partner) or a no-doubt massively overpriced and impractical online purchase of something I've fallen in love with... Hence the size-toosmall Saint Laurent boots that give me intense pain but I would never part with.

# THE ROCK STAR Gemologue

As a writer, stylist and luxury consultant with a gemology degree in diamonds and coloured stones, Liza Urla created GEMOLOGUE as an outlet for her innate passion for jewellery and eye for detail. Spanning the globe, her blog discusses her exciting discoveries, be they in fine, costume or vintage jewels, alongside exclusive interviews and insightful reviews

### What brought you to London?

I was born in the Russian Far East, and spent my childhood between Russia and Asia because my family travelled a lot for business. When I was choosing a college to attend, I thought that the cosmopolitan atmosphere of London would be absolutely perfect for a fun-loving and curious young woman like me. I enjoyed living in this buzzing metropolis so much that I decided to stay here.

### What has been the best discovery you've made while living here?

London is an epicurean paradise. The food scene here is one of the best in the world, with endless exciting new openings and infallible classics across both casual and fine dining. Among my favourite places are Amaya, Kikuchi, Ottolenghi, The Ivy Chelsea Garden and Oliveto.

### Where do you shop in the capital?

My favourite places to shop are Selfridges and Harvey Nichols, since I love having everything in one place.

### Who inspired your passion for beautiful jewellery?

The families of old-generation jewellers, whose youngest offspring I made friends with while grading diamonds in New York in 2009. In my free time, I visited their houses and saw some exceptional jewels - pieces that were pure works of art. I am also inspired by Laurence Graff, an east Londoner who, over the past 55 years, has created a diamond empire.

### What are your thoughts on London as a city in which to buy jewellery?

London is an amazing and very versatile place to shop for jewellery, be it fine, antique or costume. There are countless showrooms and boutiques, jewellery fairs and workshops to enjoy.

### Is there anyone on your radar in the city that you feel our readers should be investing in?

Sandra Cronan's beautiful showroom hidden on Mayfair's Albemarle Street is a jewellery box brimming with exceptional antique and rare jewels and objets d'art, some of them dating back to the 17th century. It's one of London's best-kept jewellery secrets and a perfect place to visit if you are after something exceptional or simply want to feast your eyes on some stunning jewels.

### What makes a piece collectable?

When you are looking to buy a collectable piece of jewellery, think about it as you would an investment in art. Consider the aspects that make it a collector's item, such as whether it is unique, its provenance and the cut and quality of the stone.

### Do you have a piece of jewellery in your collection that you treasure most?

I highly treasure all the pieces that have been gifted to me! A bespoke bracelet from Sardinia made by a local craftsman from pearls, gold and jade and a pair of natural pearl earrings that were given to me by Al Mahmood Pearls on a work trip to the Kingdom of Bahrain are two that spring to mind.

### How easy do you find it to juggle both **GEMOLOGUE** and your other business venture, WatchTheSpace?

It is not that easy, but when you love what you do you don't really see it as work, but more as your way of life.



# THE GASTRONOME

# The London Foodie

As a Le Cordon Bleu-trained chef and cookbook author, Luiz Hara shares his love of epicureanism in his blog, The London Foodie. From a comprehensive list of restaurant reviews covering all manner of cuisines to recipes and pieces on Hara's globetrotting, this is the go-to blog for food lovers

# What brought you to London and what drove you to set up your website/blog?

I came to London aged 19 as part of my degree in hotel management. I was meant to return to Brazil the following year to continue my studies, but I met my British partner and I never left. After taking a business degree at a London university, I spent more than 10 years working in finance and investment banking. It was during this time that I started writing my blog as a creative platform for my foodie cravings. The blog led me to quit my job, to retrain at Le Cordon Bleu, launch the Japanese and Nikkei Supper Club in my London home in 2012 and, more recently, publish my cookbook Nikkei Cuisine: Japanese Food the South American Way.

# Where does your passion for food stem from?

As a child, I was lucky enough to be raised

by my Japanese father, and his mother and sister, who were all excellent cooks. My father was an incredible foodie and would take us to many restaurants in São Paulo. It was from this time that my appreciation for good cooking started.

### You travel a great deal - how does London compare as a food capital?

London is one of the most desirable cities in the world, and people from almost every nation on the planet live here. Because of the City of London and the many international businesses that are located here, there are many discerning food lovers who want to eat a wide variety of international cuisines. This means there is a huge amount of competition, which drives up the quality. There are few capital cities in my experience that offer the sheer variety and quality of restaurants in London.

## What excites you about the food scene here?

The possibility of having a three-Michelin-starred dinner if I feel like it, or a salt-beef bagel at 4am on Brick Lane. The option of a magnificent Champagne dim sum on a Sunday morning at Michelin-starred Hakkasan, or great cocktails and food at Oblix at the top of The Shard with stunning London views, or getting down and dirty with a portion of vinegary, battered fish and chips at Sutton and Sons round the corner from my house on Essex Road, Islington. There's always a new restaurant opening to look forward to, and a lot of creative energy. You would struggle to be bored, gastronomically speaking, in London.

Nikkei Cuisine: Japanese Food the South American Way by Luiz Hara is published by Jacqui Small and costs £25. For further details of Hara's supper clubs and cooking classes, as well as his restaurant reviews and recipes, head to his website.

# Which restaurants would you recommend in the capital?

There are dozens to choose from, but at the moment, my top five restaurants are: HKK for its fantastic Roederer Champagne and Peking duck Saturday lunch menu; Brasserie Chavot for the cassoulet, and classic French cooking by Eric Chavot; Lobos, which recently opened in London Bridge, is my latest discovery for its outstanding tapas and sherry; as a treat, I love the two-Michelin-starred Hélène Darroze at The Connaught for her faultless cooking; and for a delicious fix of top-quality Indian nosh in Piccadilly, I love Gymkhana.

### Where do you socialise?

One of the best things about hosting my Nikkei supper club events is the huge number of interesting people I have met during the four years I have been running them. Today, most of my friends are people that I met through the supper club. So, oddly enough, I tend to do most of my socialising at home!

# What's been the best discovery you've made during your time in London?

I found love and a family in London – my partner Dr G. and our two babies, Tofu and Truffle, who are Shih Tzu dogs. I can't imagine my life without them.

### Is there a chef you particularly admire?

Yotam Ottolenghi – I love his use of bold flavours, vibrant colours, his accessibility and fresh, no-frills approach to cooking.

# What do you enjoy most about hosting your supper club and cookery classes?

I'm a feeder by nature, and I love to share my cooking and passion. I take huge satisfaction from the many repeat diners who attend month after month and both events are also a great vehicle for me to expand my cooking repertoire. More importantly, though, it provides an opportunity to meet some amazing people.

# THE MEN'S STYLE CONNOISSEUR

# Garçon Jon

Jonathan Daniel Pryce is a Scottish photographer, author and creative consultant and the talent behind the hugely popular menswear style blog GarçonJon. Described as Pryce's "journey discovering men's style", his website is a visual treat peppered with captivating images of fashionable men about town. The mix of sartorial flair and street style, as well as Pryce's interviews with notable tastemakers via his GarçonJon Meets series, makes it a compelling read

# How would you describe your personal style, and what's the one item from your wardrobe that you treasure most?

My personal style is classic British workwear. I love practical, hardwearing clothing that works for my profession, yet looks relatively smart. Brands such as Nigel Cabourn and Margaret Howell are my favourites. My most treasured item is my great grandfather's gold wedding ring.

### Can you sum up the menswear scene in the capital? What difference has London Collections Men (LCM) made?

London has an energy that no other city has. It focuses on new talent, so there's a real support structure for young designers. Since LCM was founded a few years ago, there's been a huge push in menswear – you only have to look at the new stores cropping up on Henrietta Street in Covent Garden and Lamb's Conduit Street in Bloomsbury to see how that's translating to real people.

## Are there any menswear designers that you particularly admire?

I really love what Patrick Grant does at E. Tautz – everything in its store is desirable. I also love to see the Oliver Spencer shows during LCM, as they're real and relatable and I always leave with an idea of what I want to wear in the next season.

### Where do you shop and how do you shop?

I enjoy shopping in smaller boutiques because you tend to have a better experience. The Real McCoy's on Henrietta Street is fantastic, as is The Vintage Showroom on Earlham Street in Covent Garden. I tend to make a list of items that I want and slowly collect them over the following months. The list never seems to be completed because I keep adding to it!

## What are your little luxuries and indulgences?

I love a good haircut at my barbershop Ruffians on Maiden Lane. The service is impeccable, so it's a proper treat even though it is good value for money. I try to get there every couple of weeks to stay looking sharp.

## Is there a piece you're coveting at the moment?

I'd love to get my hands on a navy-blue cashmere sweater. It's something quite simple but finding the perfect one is tricky.

# Do you think being behind the camera gives you a unique perspective on individual style?

It certainly makes you more considered in the way you look at the world. I take in my surroundings and what people wear constantly. It's non-judgemental, though; I just love to absorb.

## Who have you enjoyed shooting with in particular?

One of my best memories was shooting David Gant. He's a Scottish actor who has appeared in films such as *Braveheart*, *Brazil* and *Gandhi*. I shot him for my latest book, *Gentlemen*, created in partnership with Penhaligon's. He has got an incredible character and I think that really showed on camera.

Gentlemen, a photobook featuring more than 60 portraits, was published in collaboration with Penhaligon's in June. Pryce's latest project is Manufacturing Menswear, a book focusing on British craftsmanship, which is due to be published soon.

www.garconjon.com





Kathryn Conway sits down to lunch with actor Henry Lloyd-Hughes to chat about why, despite loving the set of his latest TV drama, London will always be home

ositioned between model David Gandy and Neil Amin-Smith of the band Clean Bandit, actor Henry Lloyd-Hughes cut a dashing figure on the front row of Oliver Spencer's autumn/winter 2016 show at London Collections Men in January. Something of a regular on the fashion circuit, having already walked for Hackett at LCM during the AW14 season, it comes as no surprise to hear that Lloyd-Hughes doesn't have a stylist running around pulling outfits together for him left, right and centre. While sympathising with anyone who feels that dressing for the red carpet is their own version of hell, Lloyd-Hughes rather pragmatically acknowledges that, "I've had a lot of practice knowing what looks good on me; I feel it would be counterintuitive to employ someone else."

Lloyd-Hughes reveals that his was a childhood where pocket money was spent on glossy fashion magazines and where going out with the feeling that he'd worn the wrong T-shirt "would kill me the entire evening". But there is no hint of pomposity or vanity here – far from it. "The thing that I would struggle with most is the idea that someone would think that I only wear particularly fancy clothes, because that's not really the case at all," Lloyd-Hughes reveals. "Most of my clothes, especially the ones I have held on to from when I was younger, come from markets or second-hand shops and I'm definitely not averse to mixing the incredibly expensive with

the incredibly cheap. In fact, that's almost my favourite combination."

Studying Lloyd-Hughes while he tucks into his lunch, dressed in what appears to be a YSL suit (double-breasted, naturally), everything about him speaks of another time (*IN London*'s shoot with Lloyd-Hughes which follows is all you'll need to be convinced of this point). His voice is rich in tone, animated and authoritative in equal measure; it's easy to see why roles in *Anna Karenina* (2012) and *Madame Bovary* (2014) sit on his CV. And it's undoubtedly why he was cast as Ralph Whelan in Channel 4's epic historical drama, *Indian Summers*.

The second series, due to air here mid-March, continues the web of intrigue, treachery, adultery and murder that was so pivotal to series one. "When you watch the second series, you will realise how much the first series teed up everything that's going to happen," reveals Lloyd-Hughes. "You're like 'aahh'; things were placed in particular avenues so they could be explained or exploded or revealed." The beautifully shot production charts the waning years of the British Raj and the tensions surrounding the birth of an independent India, all set against the backdrop of Simla, the area at the foot of the Himalayan hills where the Brits decamped to during the heat of the summer.

Henry Lloyd-Hughes's Ralph, the private secretary to the Viceroy of India, is played with guilefully





Machiavellian tendencies and we find a man who is desperately suppressing his web of secrets whatever the cost. Lloyd-Hughes's casting against Julie Walters, who plays Cynthia Coffin, doyenne of Simla's British Club and with whom Ralph has a decidedly complex relationship, is one of the highlights of the show. "Ralph is ambitious and he is capable of forging his own path," says Lloyd-Hughes. "However, he's also an orphan and he can't remember a time in his life when Cynthia wasn't there. So they're forged together like gnarled bits of metal... there's lots of good stuff between them in the second series." There's one particular scene in the first series, however - where Ralph throws the overbearing Cynthia up against a wall - that Walters has revealed is one of the reasons she wanted to take the part. So, did Lloyd-Hughes feel any pressure filming it?

"On this job particularly, I've got a lot of scenes and they're often in close proximity to each other so I'm rarely in a scenario where I've got an excess of time or confidence," Lloyd-Hughes explains. "And Julie Walters is always so good. It's not as if you have a scene where you're like 'oh, I see, there's a sliding scale of Julie', as she's always so brilliant. And not in an 'I'll save the best stuff for my close up' way, either; she's just always at that consistent level." He adds, "She provides so much and gives so much – it's a treat. You've just got to try to keep up because it feels like you're playing basketball with Michael Jordan. Not that Julie brings that kind of pressure; you're just determined to try and match her level."

Interestingly, on the morning of this interview, news breaks that a number of actors are thinking of boycotting the Oscars due to the lack of diversity among this year's nominees. Working on a show which by its very nature is incredibly diverse, it seems pertinent to get Lloyd-Hughes's opinion on the debate. "Art should reflect life, so people should always make the truest version of real life," he says. "What I love about *Indian Summers* is, here is a show that has a literally ever increasing circle of amazing parts for all sorts of ethnicities; you have the full gamut of cultural artistic approaches, which is just really cool." He adds, "But, ultimately, it's about the writing. I mean, take Julie's character, for example. How many times do you get a trailblazing character like hers, someone who just breaks all the rules of parts that are written for women in their sixties?"

Indian Summers is shot in Penang, Malaysia, and one wonders how much of a cultural shift Lloyd-Hughes experienced as a Londoner born and bred returning to his home in Hackney at the end of each series. "There's a period when I come back and I just feel gaga, like my eyes are out on stalks, and I'm so in love with London again," the actor reveals. "One of the exciting things about filming a show in Penang is that there's not a single thing you'd see, a sound that you'd hear or a smell that you'd smell that would remind you of home. It's very transformative and it's not entirely unhelpful for doing acting. It's like going into a submarine. Or it might as well be, because there's nothing that will remind you of Hackney. And, therefore, the reverse is also true, so when I come back here I end up falling in love with the city all over again." It's perhaps why when Lloyd-Hughes is abroad, as he says, "I don't say I'm from England, I say I'm from London... nothing beats the path back to your own front door."



The second series of *Indian Summers* airs on Channel 4 in mid-March.

www.channel4.com

Photographer: Ben Harries Stylist: Thea Lewis-Yates
Model: Henry Lloyd-Hughes
Hair & grooming: Marcia Lee at Caren using L'Oréal Professionnel Tecni Art *Photographer's assistant:* Julian Mährlein Stylist's assistant: Kate Sinclair

*Production:* Blood & Co.



















of the matter

London may be home to some of the best galleries in the world, but it is their curators who help maintain the capital's envied reputation in the arts. Jo Caird discusses the impact of the work of some of the brightest names in the business

t's about people coming in and making that instant impact; getting them to connect with it." For Jo Baring, the curator of The Ingram Collection of modern British and contemporary art, instinct is all-important when it comes to putting together an exhibition. Making an impact with a show is first and foremost about the works. Advertising magnate Chris Ingram's private collection includes more than 650 pieces, spanning paintings, drawings, sculpture, installation and video, so there are plenty for Baring to choose from. In addition, she is acquiring new works all the time, these days mainly with a view to upcoming exhibitions at The Lightbox, the collection's home in Woking, just outside London. She and Ingram love buying the work of emerging artists, and regularly attend art college degree shows to find bright young things with the potential for real longevity.

Deborah Clarke, senior curator at the Royal Collection Trust, which is responsible for the works in the Royal Collection, rarely deals with modern and contemporary art, but the drive to showcase the best of the best is the same for her as it is for Baring. There are various motivations behind the exhibitions at The Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace and its sister venue at Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh, explains Clarke. "Often it's a curator's enthusiasm, or a painting has been conserved and we think it would be good to have an exhibition round it, or we feel that an aspect of the collection should have a showing."

In the case of *Scottish Artists* 1750-1900: From *Caledonia to the Continent*, which opens at The Queen's Gallery on March 18, it was a matter of offering the public access to a fine collection of Scottish art that had never before been seen as a group. Great works alone are not enough. "We look for strong stories to tell," says Clarke. "As well as showcasing the art, we can draw out the story of the development of Scottish art."

The personal element of the Royal Collection can also make for an interesting angle, she says. "Most of the pieces in the collection reflect the taste of various monarchs. Not only does it show their likes, but you can also ask 'why are there certain gaps?' It's a story in itself."

### THE ROLE OF THE CURATOR

Putting together an art exhibition can take years, particularly if the institutions involved are large ones. Curator Rosalind Polly Blakesley approached the National Portrait Gallery (NPG) about five years ago with the idea for an exhibition of works from Moscow's State Tretyakov Gallery. What followed were several visits to Moscow by Blakesley, along with the then director of the NPG Sandy Nairne and







other members of the gallery team, as well as negotiations about the desired artworks, and a lot of back and forth regarding practicalities.

The resulting show, *Russia* and the Arts: The Age of Tolstoy and Tchaikovsky, opens on March 17. When it comes to big international collaborations like this one, the curator's role becomes part-art historian, part-diplomat, says Blakesley, who has lived in Russia, and speaks the language fluently. "It's not a straightforward time to be curating exhibitions with Russian institutions because of political tensions," she admits. "But in fact we met nothing but enthusiasm and generosity.



It's been the most extraordinary and happy relationship. That shows that these collaborations can carry on possibly slightly more quietly and make sure that lines of communication don't totally stop when the political field gets tense."

Communication is essential closer to home, too. When Lesley Miller, lead curator for the new Europe 1600-1815 Galleries at the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A), was thinking about what to include, she asked colleagues across the museum for their "must-have objects", led round-table discussions with experts in the field and conducted audience research. Almost all of the 1,100 items selected came from the V&A's vast collection, but Miller was able to make the case for a couple of new acquisitions "because they completed part of the jigsaw", she says. A table from the late 17th century, for example, was acquired partly because it is splendidly carved and decorated, but also because the marquetry on its surface depicts a particularly important battle between Venice and the Ottoman Empire, telling the story of this period in European history in a unique way.

### SAFEGUARDING THE FUTURE

This attention to detail can be found all over the new galleries. Wandering through them with Miller, it becomes clear that absolutely nothing has been left to chance, from the direction a portrait is facing, to the placement of some seating at just the moment a visitor might begin to feel weary. "You're playing with objects, with stories, with space – because if it's going to be chronological, how are you going to divide up the chronology? That's the point at which the architects start," she says.

The curator and her team had to consider the long-term success of the galleries, too, which meant taking into account how art-historical attitudes to the period might change over the 25 years the displays will be in situ, as well as conservation issues. "Not everything will stay exactly the same," Miller explains, pointing to light-sensitive pieces such as drawings and textiles, but the idea is that a visitor to the V&A in 2036 will get just as much out of the galleries as someone who pops in tomorrow.

When it comes to catering to those visitors, attitudes in curating today are a world away from what they were when the previous incarnation of the Europe Galleries was put together. "In the past you would have assumed that people coming to the V&A would know about the Bible, about classical myths and legends, religion, basic art-historical labels such as Baroque, Rococo etc. But we don't assume that any more," says Miller. "I think our main role is to engage people so that they want to learn more."

www.thelightbox.org.uk www.npg.org.uk www.royalcollection.org.uk www.vam.ac.uk

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# STRIKE A POSE

Lois Bryson-Edmett explores the exhibition commemorating British Vogue's century at the forefront of fashion

cross its lifetime, British *Vogue* has seen two world wars, four monarchs, the birth of both television and the internet and the rise and fall of countless fashion trends. Despite all this change, the glossy magazine has remained the undisputed fashion bible, still read by more than one million people each month. Over its long history, *Vogue* has sought to challenge the boundaries of traditional fashion journalism, commissioning features from writers as varied as Virginia Woolf and Aldous Huxley, as well as making cover stars of everyone from Diana, Princess of Wales to a naked Robbie Williams, whose bare bottom caused quite a stir on the October 2000 cover.

However, the magazine is probably best known for its iconic photography – images that have singlehandedly launched global fashion trends and made the names of supermodels including Cara Delevingne and Erin O'Connor. To celebrate British *Vogue*'s century at the cutting edge of fashion journalism, more than 280 prints from the Condé Nast archive have been unearthed for a landmark retrospective at the National Portrait Gallery.

On display are prints from world-class photographers including Cecil Beaton, Irving Penn, David Bailey and Mario Testino, who captured the glamour of the most important faces of their eras. Also included in the line-up is Peter Lindbergh's iconic 1990 cover featuring the five most famous supermodels of the day – Naomi Campbell, Linda Evangelista, Christy Turlington, Tatjana Patitz and Cindy Crawford.

A particular highlight promises to be Corinne Day's game-changing grunge-era portraits of a 19-year-old Kate Moss. Photographed without the polished glamour of *Vogue*'s traditional shoots, Moss was captured in the west London flat she shared with her then boyfriend following a tearful argument, downbeat with messy hair and crumpled clothes. The images ignited a furious public debate, but later became iconic images of a British generation characterised by Tracey Emin, Sarah Lucas, Britpop and *Trainspotting*. This rare chance to see such exciting works up close is an unmissable treat.

Vogue 100: A Century of Style runs until May 22. National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, WC2H 0HE. 020 7306 0055. www.npg.org.uk

### THE CULTURE DIARY

Lois Bryson-Edmett provides her guide to the best of this season's cultural scene

### **CHAMPAGNE LIFE**

### To March 9

The Saatchi Gallery is marking its 30th birthday with a pioneering exhibition featuring exclusively female artists. On display is some of the most influential work created by women in the past three decades, including Julia Wachtel, whose photographs overlayed with cartoon characters critique celebrity-obsessed culture, and Soheila Sokhanvari, who uses taxidermy creatures placed in surreal contexts to offer political commentary on the Iranian state.

Duke of York's HQ, King's Road, SW3 4RY. 020 7811 3070. www.saatchigallery.com

### **HANDEL & HENDRIX IN LONDON** From February 10

For decades, 25 Brook Street, the home of Baroque composer George Frideric Handel, has served as a pilgrimage site for classical music fans. Meanwhile, the former home of another musical legend, Jimi Hendrix, sat next door. Now the two spaces have been knocked together to create a dual museum dedicated to these two titans of music. See Hendrix's old bedroom, complete with his beloved Epiphone FT79 acoustic guitar and an exhibition about his life.

23 & 25 Brook Street, W1K 4HB. 0871 220 0260.

www.handelhendrix.org

### LEONARDO DA VINCI: THE MECHANICS OF GENIUS

From February 10

Leonardo da Vinci might be famed for paintings such as the *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*, but he was also a talented draughtsman. It is his mechanical drawings that are the focus of this exhibition, where da Vinci's workings are reinterpreted into 39 historical models. These flying machines, diving apparatus and weapons were originally created for a 500th anniversary exhibition of the polymath's birth held in Milan in 1952. These pieces will join objects curated by the Royal Academy for its 500th anniversary celebration of da Vinci's birthday the same year.

Science Museum, Exhibition Road, SW7 2DD. 0333 241 4000. www.sciencemuseum.org.uk

### **BOTTICELLI REIMAGINED**

### From March 5

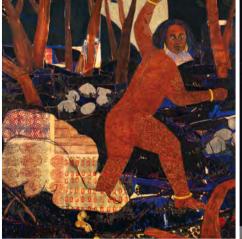
As one of history's most revered painters, the influence of Sandro Botticelli's work can be found in almost every creative discipline. Celebrated in his lifetime, the artist's work was almost completely forgotten for more than 300 years before being rediscovered in the 19th century. This landmark exhibition looks at his canon of work, alongside photography, tapestry, sculpture and much more, created by artists inspired by the painter's oeuvre including William Morris and René Magritte.

Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 2RL. 020 7942 2000. www.vam.ac.uk











Images, from top to bottom: Leonardo da Vinci: The Mechanics of Genius; Botticelli Reimagined; Jimi Hendrix at 23 Brook Street, 1969; Rhyme Sequence: Wiggle Waggle by Mequitta Ahuja; Venus, 1490s, by Sandro Botticelli







### LIQUID GOLD

Oenophiles will delight in the treasures of the world's terroirs available at Les 100 de Taillevent, says Beatrice Squires

ust off Bond Street and a stone's throw from Oxford Circus, Cavendish Square is one of the city's most sophisticated addresses, providing a serene haven from the bustling streets nearby. This is the new home of Les 110 de Taillevent, an appropriately stylish French brasserie that, true to its name, offers 110 wines by the glass. The 70-seat restaurant is the younger relative of the acclaimed, two-Michelin-starred Les 110 de Taillevent in Paris, owned by the famous Gardinier family.

Set in a beautiful listed building, the brasserie is a lofty space with high ceilings and vast windows, while low lighting, earthy tones and an illuminated bar brimming with wine bottles add to the grandiose atmosphere. The interior is the work of Pierre-Yves Rochon, who is renowned for numerous prestigious projects including the Savoy hotel and the Four Seasons Hotel London at Park Lane.

Rather than giving the food precedence, diners are encouraged to first focus on the wine with the help of a sommelier who will guide them through an extensive list of international labels that have been selected by Taillevent Paris's wine department

director, Pierre Bérot. The four glasses recommended for each dish are categorised by price, so that the customer can match their food with a choice that suits them. As for the cuisine, the à la carte menu is traditionally French, made with high-quality seasonal produce and interpreted from its parent site's menu by head chef Robert Panek. Dishes include sirloin with marrowbone and pepper sauce and whole seabass with lemon and olive oil dressing. For those who want a light meal, there's a less formal Wine Time menu served between 5pm and 7pm. Simple plates of charcuterie, seafood such as tempura prawns, vegetables and cheese are served at the bar with suggested Champagne and wine pairings.

Les 110 de Taillevent is even open for breakfast, though you may not be keen on the hard stuff at that time of day. With a price-ascending matching menu including hot and mostly non-alcoholic drinks such as Italian Mocha and Virgin Mary, this is the place to start your day in style.

Les 110 de Taillevent, 16 Cavendish Square, W1G 9DD. 020 3141 6016. www.les-110-taillevent-london.com

### RIGHT NOW

Beatrice Squires explores what's on the menu this spring

### **SEXY FISH**

Once in a while, a restaurant comes along that is as hotly anticipated for its cool factor as for its food. With a sumptuous interior of shimmering golds, deep reds and striking artworks by artists including Damien Hirst, Sexy Fish is open until 2am, with a resident DJ from Thursday to Saturday. It's also home to two of the world's largest coral reef tanks. Hot dishes range from prawn soldiers and rock lobster tempura, to robata-grilled sesame seed sea bream. Oh, and check out the whisky list, one of the world's most extensive. Berkeley Square House, Berkeley Square, W1J 6BR. 020 3764 2000. www.sexyfish.com

### **PIQUET**

Acclaimed chef Allan Pickett heads up his first solo venture with Piquet, located in Fitzrovia. Piquet caters to both casual walk-ins and formal diners, with a sophisticated restaurant situated below the more relaxed Fir Room, a no-bookings dining space serving a daily-changing menu of small plates including casserole of cod cheeks, baby squid and haricot blanc. Combining both French and English cuisine, Pickett's approach is summed up as classic food using only the finest seasonal ingredients.

92-94 Newman Street, W1T 3EZ. 020 3826 4500.

www.piquet-restaurant.co.uk

### **GERMAN GYMNASIUM**

King's Cross underwent a huge regeneration some years back, but one of the few buildings to remain was the vast old redbrick that was once London's first purpose-built gym, designed by Edward Gruning in 1865. Now the German Gymnasium restaurant, the space is outstanding – spectacular vaulted ceilings flank the interior and there is a beautiful backlit bar. The all-day grand café offers casual dishes such as beef goulash soup, while the first-floor restaurant boasts more upmarket Mittel-European food.

1 King's Boulevard, N1C 4BU. 020 7287 8000. www.germangymnasium.com

### **URBAN COTERIE**

When the only thing that separates your dinner table from the clouds is a pane of glass, you may as well call it dining in the sky. On the 17th floor of east London's M by Montcalm hotel, Urban Coterie is a restaurant, bar and members' club from Searcys and Anthony Demetre, of Wild Honey restaurant. Seasonal British fare at its best is on the monthly-changing restaurant menu, while the bar serves smaller British tapas. A particularly nice touch is the hole in the wall to the kitchen, where you can watch head chef Martin Zahumensky cooking up menu favourites such as grilled monkfish with cockles, kale, rosemary and anchovy vinaigrette.

M by Montcalm, 151-157 City Road, EC1V 1JH.

020 3837 3108. www.urbancoterie.co.uk







Images, from top to bottom: the bar at Sexy Fish; rice crispy green tea ice cream at Sexy Fish; scallop dish at Piquet; the interior of German Gymnasium; a dish at Urban Coterie

# Setting the ACTIONA

Throughout the centuries, London has always attracted and inspired incredibly talented people. Often leaving an indelible mark on the city they inhabited, their enduring legacy not only influenced the generations that followed but also impacts on the cultural agenda of the capital today. Nowhere is this more true than in this spring's exciting calendar of exhibitions and events, where the city's important figures past and present are being celebrated in style

### VISITLOND®N.COM



### **VOGUE 100:** A CENTURY OF STYLE

### National Portrait Gallery February 11-May 22

This fascinating exhibition showcases the remarkable range of photography that has been commissioned by British *Vogue* since it was founded in 1916. Prints from the Condé Nast archive and international collections will be shown together for the first time to tell the story of one of the most influential fashion magazines in the world.

### SUNSET BOULEVARD

### London Coliseum April 1-May 7

Multi-award-winning actress Glenn Close makes her West End debut at the London Coliseum this season. *Sunset Boulevard* is a compelling story of romance and obsession and, though set in California, the much-loved score is composed by London's very own Andrew Lloyd Webber and performed by the English National Opera's orchestra.

### EXHIBITIONISM: THE ROLLING STONES

### Saatchi Gallery April 5-September 4

The first international exhibition on The Rolling Stones will take over both floors of the Saatchi Gallery with nine thematic galleries. *EXHIBITIONISM* combines more than 500 original Stones' artefacts with cinematic and interactive technologies in this immersive exhibition.

### SHAKESPEARE 400 CELEBRATIONS

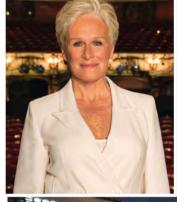
### All year long

This year marks the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death and London plays host to a plethora of events marking the occasion. Here are a few of our top picks this spring:

### SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE

The Globe theatre is the perfect place to begin your exploration of Shakespeare. The Globe's season, the first under new artistic director Emma Rice, kicks off on April 30 with *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (until September 11). Open all year round, meanwhile, the exhibition and tour give unparalleled insight into the unique Globe theatre. Round off your trip with a bite to eat at the theatre's Swan restaurant.







### THE CITY OF LONDON

The City of London - the historic square mile that is home to some of the city's best-loved attractions such as Tower Bridge - celebrates the country's most famous playwright with a Son et Lumière in his honour on March 4-5. The historic façade of Guildhall will be brought to life with 3D projection-mapping technology accompanied by a special music composition by the Guildhall School of Music & Drama. The City of London is also home to a rare example of Shakespeare's signature, on his mortgage deed, which can be viewed alongside Guildhall Library's copy of the First Folio - considered one of the five best in the world. Find them at the Guildhall Art Gallery and City of London Heritage Gallery.

### THE COMPLETE WALK

Over the spring weekend of April 23-24, the banks of the River Thames will come alive with an extraordinary celebration as Shakespeare's Globe invites the world to join The Complete Walk, comprising 37 screens along a 2.5-mile route between

Westminster and Tower Bridge playing a series of specially made short films. At the heart of each film, some of the world's finest actors will perform scenes from Shakespeare's plays, shot in the place hovering in his imagination when he wrote them.

### **ROMEO AND JULIET**

### Garrick Theatre May 12-August 13

Reuniting the stars of his celebrated film *Cinderella*, Kenneth Branagh directs Richard Madden as Romeo, Lily James as Juliet and Derek Jacobi as Mercutio in Shakespeare's heartbreaking tale of forbidden love. One of the Bard's most famous and performed plays, *Romeo and Juliet* is the story of young love and the devastating tragedy that unfolds when tenderness and naivety are met with violence and pride.

For more information on what to do in London this spring, please go to visitlondon.com

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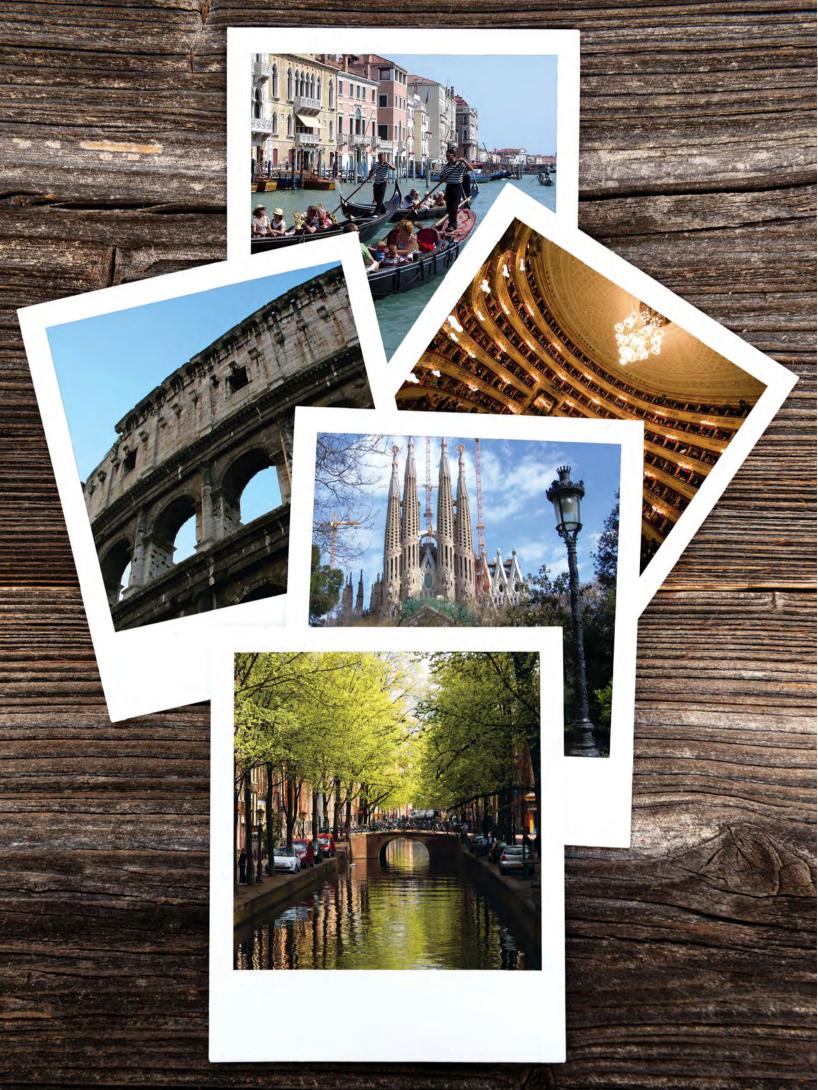
Calls cost 7p per minute plus your phone company's access charge

## INSPIRE

INCREDIBLE JOURNEYS AND LUXURIOUS ESCAPES



As we enter the season of renewal, now is the time to get a different perspective on life. Whether you want to recharge your batteries in one of Europe's best wellness retreats, start afresh with a new pad in the heart of the capital, or book a break that's tailored just for you, we show you how to get away from it all



# ailor-made

When time is precious, a company that goes above and beyond the call of duty is just the ticket, says Jo Fernandez

hen you've perused as many travel brochures or websites as I have, you can tire of the same old glossy shots of perfect hotel rooms and sea views. With its use of gentle hand-drawn watercolour illustrations depicting gondolas resting in the waters surrounding Venice, and the pretty, boat-laden bay at Cadaqués in Catalonia, Kirker Holidays really stands out. To me, the imagery implies both a certain quality and thoughtfulness - two qualities that Kirker Holidays emanates with its select range of tailor-made short breaks.

Launched 30 years ago to provide trips to the great European cities for discerning travellers, Kirker's first brochure featured just one shortbreak destination - Paris - with Spain following in 1991. Fittingly, this year the company will expand the existing France and Spain collections with some new and inspiring hotels, from urban eco-retreats with Japanese gardens in Barcelona to a Corsican five-star hotel set in Italian gardens with a two-Michelin-starred restaurant.

### **EXPERTISE ON HAND**

Although the company offers trips to South Africa, North Africa, the Middle East, India and North America, its most popular itineraries remain firmly in Europe. What is interesting is that Kirker's customers aren't purely looking for luxury, as director of sales and marketing

Ted Wake explains: "They prefer expert advice and an authentic experience. It is relatively simple to find 'luxury' online, but there are sophisticated travellers who prefer to speak to our consultants about their very specific needs." Although great service is the cornerstone of Kirker, the busier lifestyles of its clients mean that having someone on board to ensure the smooth running of a trip has become all the more important.

Cue the Kirker Concierge, seen as one of the most important elements of its holidays, enabling guests to enhance their travel experience, whether that be securing a table at a recommended restaurant or pre-booking tickets to a museum. Kirker also provides its own Guide Notes to restaurants, museums and sightseeing (where available). You can see how this stress-free approach makes for a smoother and ultimately relaxing break. As Wake sums up: "A great holiday experience for a Kirker client is not about finding the most expensive restaurant, or the most luxurious hotel; they prefer to use Kirker to help them seek out the finest local cuisine, with a stay in a characterful hotel."

With such a long-standing reputation, expect Kirker to be going strong with more destinations and itineraries in another 30 years.

4 Waterloo Court, 10 Theed Street, SE1 8ST. 020 7593 2283 www.kirkerholidays.com

### IN ITS PRIME

Lois Bryson-Edmett uncovers the city's best new property developments

### 19 BUCKINGHAM STREET

Built in 1797 and Grade II-listed, 19 Buckingham Street offers the opportunity to live in a classic piece of London history in the heart of the city. Situated close to Charing Cross and Embankment, of the 11 newly developed apartments, only one remains – marketed by Jackson-Stops & Staff for £2,750,000. The two-bedroom apartment on the first floor boasts a bespoke interior created by design company Linley, and includes walnut and fine leather details, a marble-topped bathroom and exquisite parquet flooring. 19 Buckingham Street, WC2N 9EF. 020 7664 6644. www.19buckinghamstreet.co.uk

### **BURLINGTON GATE**

Due to be completed in spring 2017, Burlington Gate is shaping up to be one of the city's most exciting new developments, bringing 42 apartments, several art galleries and the first public arcade to be built in central London since the 1930s, to the heart of Mayfair. Just seconds from Bond Street and Piccadilly, the apartments boast spectacular views over one of London's most historic areas. Amenities include a gym, spa and 24-hour concierge.

Burlington Gate, W1. 020 7016 3860. www.burlingtongate.com

### **ONE TOWER BRIDGE**

Situated at the foot of Tower Bridge, just across the river from the Tower of London, this development has one of the city's most striking and iconic views. Prices for one-bedroom apartments start at £1,275,000 and go up to £3,775,000 for a penthouse, which includes a 24-hour Harrods' concierge service and luxury spa and gym facilities. The 376 apartments are split into eight buildings, making use of the British-made Smeed Dean bricks used in Tower Bridge. A public realm will boast shops, restaurants and cafés as well as a 900-seat theatre. The development is due for completion in 2017. **One Tower Bridge, SE1 2AA. 020 7871 0011. www.berkeleygroup.co.uk** 

### **SOUTH BANK TOWER**

Positioned between the Oxo Tower and Tate Modern art gallery, the South Bank Tower occupies a prestigious position in the heart of the city's most popular cultural hub, close to Shakespeare's Globe, the National Theatre and the Southbank Centre. Rising 41 storeys above the River Thames, the South Bank Tower offers unrivalled views across the city, taking in landmarks such as the London Eye. Floor-to-ceiling windows make the most of the spectacular panorama and a number of the properties also offer winter gardens, as well as access to luxury facilities including a 20-metre pool lit by natural daylight, sauna, gym and private cinema. However, the jewel in the tower's crown is one of the capital's largest private roof gardens with residents' lounge. Prices start at £2,450,000.

South Bank Tower, SE1. 020 3267 1048. www.southbanktower.com







Images, from top to bottom: CGI of the roof terrace at South Bank Tower; CGI of the penthouse master en-suite at Burlington Gate; 19 Buckingham Street; an apartment at 19 Buckingham Street; One Tower Bridge



## LIVE YOUR LIFE IN MOUNTY









Kicking off the social Summer Season in style with three exclusive events across two beautiful venues, IN London previews The London Yacht, Jet & Prestige Car Show

hether you want to cruise the gentle waters of the Med, take flight in a private jet or put a pedal to the metal in a flamboyant supercar, Old Billingsgate and St. Katharine Docks are the places to head to this season to make your dreams a reality. Following the inaugural event last year, The London Yacht, Jet & Prestige Car Show returns this May, promising to help high net worth individuals treat themselves to the latest in luxury playthings and exclusive goods.

This year, the event has joined forces with the Prestige London and London On-Water Yacht & Boat shows to offer visitors three exciting showcases of the best from the world of luxury. London On-Water will present a range of yachts, sports boats and luxury RIBs, both new and used, to create an exciting yachting and boating extravaganza in the best environment possible – on water. Vessels of between 10 and 40 metres will be found in St Katharine Docks, while a number of superyacht berths for larger crafts have also been secured along the River Thames.

Some of the world's best yacht brokers and dealers will be on hand to offer all the necessary advice, whether you are looking to buy or to charter your own watery wonder, and across all three shows nearly all of the world's top superyacht builders – names such as Azimut, Blohm + Voss, Lomond Yachts, Lürssen Yachts, Princess and Westport – will be participating. Naturally, no self-respecting boating enthusiast would be without a suitably stylish supercar, and with Lamborghini, McLaren and Tesla facing off against Ferrari, which will be showing off its exclusive LaFerrari production car, the event is sure to get petrolheads' pulses racing.

But this isn't just an experience for those who like to get from A to B in style – although, the private jet and helicopter charter companies exhibiting might make you think otherwise. Exquisitely crafted furniture, watches and fine jewellery, audio-visual technology, objets d'art, fine wines and fashion will also be on show, and there will be fashion shows and a seminar programme to enjoy, too. Best clear your diary...

The London Yacht, Jet & Prestige Car Show, London On-Water Yacht & Boat Show and Prestige London all take place at Old Billingsgate & St. Katharine Docks from May 4-6. The London On-Water event will extend to May 7.

www.lyjapcs.com www.londononwater.com www.prestigelondon.org



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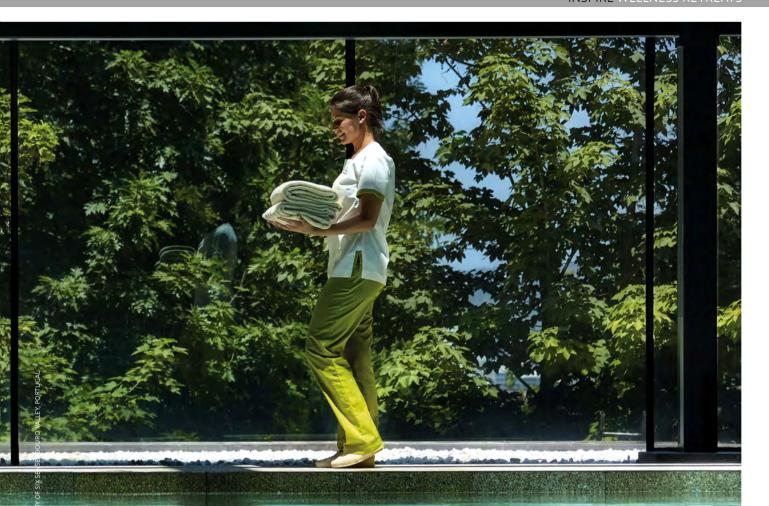


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should emerge feeling as good as new from the detox massages and Chinese medicine treatments. Cost: £3,323 full board (accommodation extra; Mountain View Deluxe Suite from £256) with full treatment programme.

5 Verderol El Albir, 03581, Alicante, Spain. 00 34 966 811 199. www.shawellnessclinic.com

### Six Senses Douro Valley, Portugal

Opened last summer, the first Six Senses resort in Europe (pictured) sits in a 19th-century manor house overlooking the vine-clad hills of Portugal's Douro Valley. The hotel boats contemporary, sleek rooms and suites, a wine library, swimming pools and an organic garden complete with a spa offering local grape-based therapies. Addressing the age-old issue of an unsatisfactory night's sleep, a key trend in health advice this year, new three-to-10-night Six Senses Integrated Wellness retreats are designed to boost relaxation and therefore our sleep quality. Fittingly, yoga nidra (yogic sleep) is taught lying down with the aim of inducing relaxation and a deep meditative state of consciousness – all the better to address deep-seated psychological and neurological needs. Cost: Three-night programme, including individual screening, specific spa and fitness

treatments and nutritional guidelines, start at £360 per person.

Quinta Vale de Abraão, 5100-758 Samodães, Lamego, Portugal. 00 351 254 660 600. www.sixsenses.com

### Villa Stephanie, Baden-Baden, Germany

Set within the spectacular grounds of the five-star Brenners Park-Hotel & Spa in Baden-Baden – home to healing waters since the Roman times – Villa Stephanie is a 15-room haven for health and wellbeing. The former residence of a German duchess, made over with pared-back interiors in muted tones with plenty of art, is a soothing space in which to detox in sheer luxury. Nutritional consultation, personalised menu plans, body analysis, body scrubs, alkaline baths and a spot of personal training should do the trick. If you feel like going further, Haus Julius, located just next door, is dedicated solely to Brenners Medical Care (including nips and tucks). Cost: Seven-day Vitality Detox package from £5,445 for double occupancy (£4,031 for single occupancy), full board with all treatments. Schillerstrasse 4/6, 76530, Baden-Baden, Germany. 00 49 7221 9000. www.villastephanie.com





### LUXURY FASHION



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### **CHANEL**

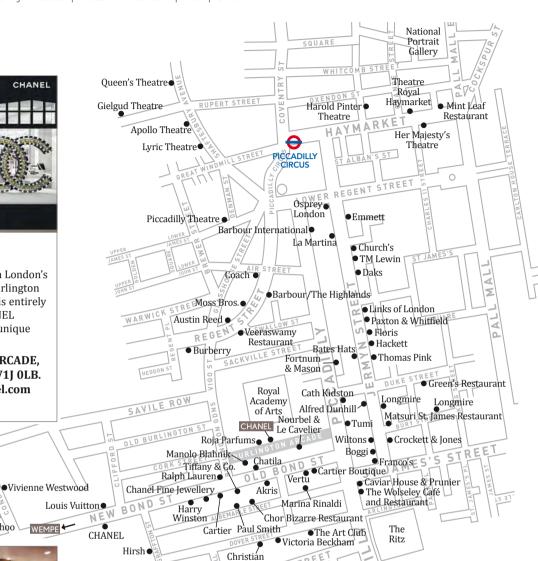
CHANEL has opened its doors in London's prestigious shopping venue: Burlington Arcade. The intimate boutique is entirely dedicated to the world of CHANEL Fragrance & Beauty, offering a unique and personalised experience.

CHANEL AT BURLINGTON ARCADE, 54-55 Burlington Arcade, W1J 0LB. 020 7629 7621. www.chanel.com → Green Park/Bond Street

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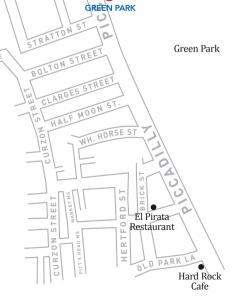
Louboutin



### **WEMPE**

For the best fine jewellery and watches that money can buy, why not visit Wempe's London boutique? The showroom offers an in-house maintenance and repair service across a large number of the watch brands it stocks, as well as plenty of valuable guidance from its team of experts. Look out for the stunning range of cufflinks now in store.

43-44 New Bond Street, W1S 2SA. 020 7493 2299. www.wempe.com ⊕ Bond Street



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### We shouldn't have to tell you that London is the fashion capital of the world, but if you happen to need convincing, this February's London Fashion Week will put paid to any doubts

ondon Fashion Week (LFW) has given rise to many memorable moments over the years: Sophie Dahl's debut in 1997; the robotic arms showering model Shalom Harlow in spray paint at Alexander McQueen's spring/summer 1999 show, No. 13; the cast of only black models at Philip Treacy's show during the spring/summer 2013 season. Fashion Weeks here always feel fresh and exciting; London is a city where innovation thrives and where new names quickly gain worldwide acclaim.

This February's autumn/winter 2016 LFW season, which runs from February 19-23, promises to be a thriller, with the much-anticipated return of Alexander McQueen to the catwalk in the city in which the label was founded. Fashion lovers of a certain age will remember with fondness the famously theatrical masterpieces Lee McQueen staged on the London catwalks during his tenure, so one can only imagine what creative director Sarah Burton has up her

sleeve. After 14 years away on the Paris schedule, this is certainly the hottest ticket in town.

While the buzz of London Fashion Week will be around its official home in Soho's Brewer Street Car Park, those without a ticket to this invitation-only fashion fest can still check out the collections online. Many brands now offer live streaming of their shows, with the British Fashion Council posting a great selection to its London Fashion Week website.

For those more interested in the trends for the current spring/summer 2016 season, a visit to London Fashion Weekend, LFW's sister event, is well worth it. Taking place at the Saatchi Gallery in Chelsea from February 25-28, you can bag your very own front-row seat at the shows of Holly Fulton, Mary Katrantzou, Temperley London and Emilia Wickstead. When you're not busy browsing the fashionable togs from more than 150 brands, you can also enjoy a series of talks from designers, stylists and magazine editors.

Saatchi Gallery, Duke of York's HQ, SW3 4RY. 0871 230 1558. www.londonfashionweekend.co.uk

www.londonfashionweek.co.uk



KNIGHTSBRIDGE | CHELSEA | SOUTH KENSINGTON | SW1 | SW3 | SW7



### **TOM FORD**

The American designer and film director, who revamped Gucci and is known for his simple, stylish elegance, opened his first London store in 2013. At more than 2,400 square metres and a vision in white marble chrome and dark wood, its location on ultra-chic Sloane Street is a fitting home for the designer's womenswear and menswear collections.

201-202 Sloane Street, SW1X 9QX. 020 3141 7800. www.tomford.com

★ Knightsbridge



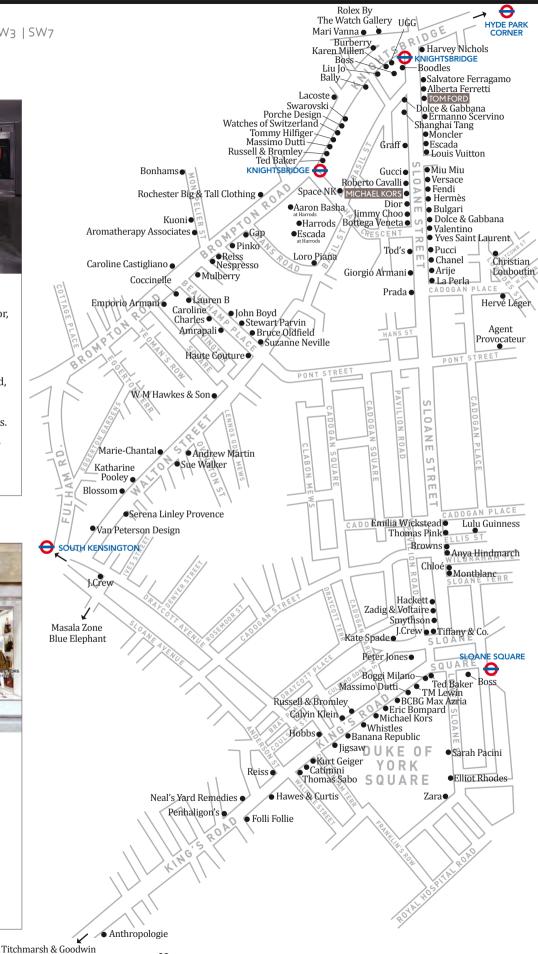
### MICHAEL KORS

Michael Kors is a world-renowned designer of luxury accessories and ready-to-wear, offering a lifestyle for the consummate jetsetter that is as sophisticated as it is indulgent and as glamorous as it is modern.

Mon-Sat 10am-6pm; Sun 12pm-6pm.

29 Sloane Street, SW1X 9NE. 020 7811 5940. www.michaelkors.com → Knightsbridge

> Vivienne Westwood Eskandar







### **CHANEL**

Experience a range of services from leading Makeup Artists, Nail Technicians and Fragrance Experts inside the unique, avant-garde beauty boutique located at the heart of Covent Garden. Discover 58 square metres dedicated entirely to the world of CHANEL fragrance and beauty, with exclusive previews of the latest beauty trends direct from CHANEL.

Unit 6a, Covent Garden Market, WC2E 8RA. 020 3077 1198.

www.chanel.com **⊖** Covent Garden

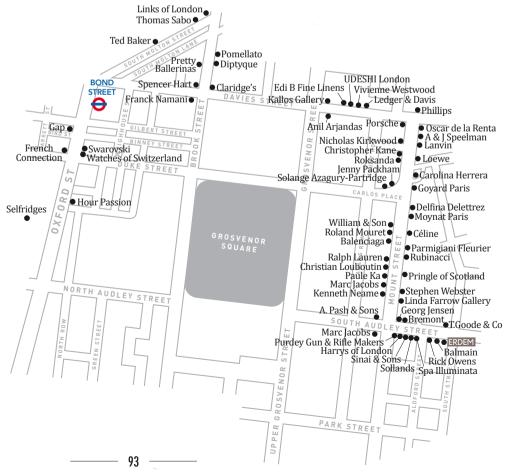
### MOUNT STREET | SOUTH AUDLEY STREET | W1



### **ERDEM**

When Erdem Moralioğlu celebrated his eponymous brand's 10th anniversary last August, he did so in style – by opening his first boutique. Keeping many of the building's original features, the boutique is not only filled with Erdem's luxury ready-to-wear and accessories, but thanks to Sigmar, a mid-century furniture gallery, it houses museum-quality pieces, too.

70 South Audley Street, W1K 2RA. 020 3653 0360. www.erdem.com ⊕ Bond Street



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PERLOTA	www.perlota.com
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	www.russellandbromley.co.uk
	www.scabal.com
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SERAPIAN	uk.serapian.com
SESSÙN	www.sessun.com
SHOWSTUDIO	www.showstudio.com
SONIA RYKIEL	www.soniarykiel.com
	www.stellamccartney.com
	www.superga.co.uk
THEA LEWIS-YATES	www.thealewisyates.com

THE LONDON FOODIE	www.thelondonfoodie.co.uk
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WEMPE	www.wempe.com
WILLIAMVINTAGE	www.williamvintage.com
ZIMMEDMANN	ununu zimmarmannuaar com

### **MIN JIANG**

Situated in the heart of Kensington, Min Jiang Restaurant boasts breathtaking views over London's skyline from the 10th floor of the Royal Garden Hotel.

Offering authentic Chinese cuisine using fresh ingredients, Min Jiang is renowned for its legendary wood-fired Beijing Duck, spicy Sichuan dishes and exquisite range of Dim Sum.

The restaurant's striking design with floor to ceiling mirrors against deep red walls captures all the distinctive angles of the restaurant, resulting in an unforgettable fine dining experience.

The bar at Min Jiang offers a more relaxed and informal surrounding in which to gaze over Hyde Park and enjoy a wide range of Chinese teas, exotic cocktails or Dim Sum platters.

Lunch: Mon-Sun 12pm-3pm, Dinner: Mon-Sun 6pm-10.30pm.

Royal Garden Hotel, 2-24 Kensington High Street, W8 4PT. 020 7361 1988, www.minjiang.co.uk

High Street Kensington



### **CHOR BIZARRE - INDIA'S RESTAURANT**

Capturing the spirit of the 'Chor Bazaar' or 'thieves' market' within its kaleidoscopic interior, Chor Bizarre serves authentic Indian cuisine in a unique atmosphere in Mayfair. The restaurant has been judged as One of the 50 most romantic places in the world and amongst the Top 10 Restaurants in London for Fun and Atmosphere by *The Independent*.

".pan-subcontinent food, which ranges from...Kashmiri to Keralan, is very, very good. The menu is vast.." – *The New York Times,* 'It's a fabulous and magical setting' – *The Economist,* 'The Top Five Restaurant Imports in the World' – *Metro,* 'There is a playfulness about Chor Bizarre...hard to resist when combined with competent cooking and an Aladdin's cave décor... – *Fay Maschler, Evening Standard* 

16 Albemarle Street, W1S 4HW.
020 7629 9802/020 7629 8542, www.chorbizarre.com

→ Green Park/Piccadilly Circus

### **EL PIRATA**

London's finest classic Spanish tapas bar and restaurant. According to two leading restaurant critics: "El Pirata offers me everything I look for in a restaurant. Fine food, excellent choice, comfortable surroundings, marvellous service and a bill at the end that doesn't give me indigestion!"... "A feast of tasty dishes. Starting with cold tapas, we nibbled huge prawns, juicy chorizo and ham, seafood and Russian salad. Then we received an array of hot tapas dishes which kept coming. Mmmm!" Add to this its award-winning wine list, and you will appreciate what makes this one of the capital's finest tapas bars and restaurants, as evidenced by the accolades it has received from three renowned guides, Zagat, Harden's and Square Meal.

Mon-Fri 12pm-11.30pm, Sat 6pm-11.30pm, Sun Closed.

5-6 Down Street, Mayfair, W1J 7AQ. 020 7491 3810/020 7409 1315, www.elpirata.co.uk

Green Park/Hyde Park Corner



### THAI MASSAGE - WONDERFUL WAY TO UNWIND

Exhausted, stressed, jet-lagged? Then why not relax with a traditional therapeutic Thai massage? Jade is a licensed and qualified Thai masseuse whose personalised, high-quality treatment is sure to bring your mind and body back into balance.

In addition to traditional Thai massage, Jade offers an authentic Thai herbal massage with hot herbal compresses sure to induce deep relaxation and relieve fatigue. Other treatments include Swedish massage to improve circulation, a de-stressing and energising aromatherapy massage using essential oils, and deep-tissue massage to alleviate stiffness and aching muscles.

Jade's therapy is not only effective in treating specific conditions but also in maintaining peak health and emotional well-being. Jade can provide a range of other natural therapies including Hopi ear-candling and beauty treatments such as waxing. All her treatments will be tailored to your own particular needs.

Please call to book an appointment at your hotel or you can visit her at her Chelsea studio seven days per week.

07894 700 669

## THREE OF THE VERY BEST INDIAN RESTAURANTS



### $\Delta$ maya

This award winning sophisticated Indian Grill offers intense flavours with an innovative twist, in a theatrical open kitchen setting. Michelin star.

Open for lunch and dinner seven days a week.

Halkin Arcade, Motcomb Street Knightsbridge, London SW1X 8JT T: 020 7823 1166 E: amaya@realindianfood.com

Private dining room seats 14



### CHUTNEY MARY

The rich setting, interesting art and romantic candle lighting are secondary details in London's haven of great Indian contemporary food.

Open for lunch and dinner from Monday to Saturday.

73 St James's Street, London SW1A 1PH T: 020 7629 6688
E: chutneymary@realindianfood.com

Two private dining rooms seat 30 and 16





Classical dishes, lovingly prepared and beautifully served in sumptuous surroundings overlooking Regent Street. The oldest Indian restaurant in the world.

Open for lunch and dinner seven days a week.

Mezzanine Floor, Victory House, 1st floor 99 Regent Street, London W1B 4RS **T: 020 7734 1401** 

E: veeraswamy@realindianfood.com

Private dining room seats 24

## MY SECRET ADDRESS BOOK

Kate Percival's Grace Belgravia is a women-only health club for members of all ages, advising on everything from nutrition and anti-ageing through to life coaching and prenatal care. She explains why London will always be home

### How has your relationship with London developed over the years?

I fell in love with London at the age of 15 when my parents moved from Ealing to Somerset and it made me realise how important the energy of the city was for me. After that I returned every school holiday I could and started working here in 1977.

### What attracted you to building your business in London?

It is the most cosmopolitan city in the world, standing at the forefront of new ideas and trends. London is also a hub for world travellers and because I have lived here for almost 40 years, it is where I have the most contacts and friends. There was no other choice, really.

### Do you have any favourite spots in the city for gathering your thoughts or enjoying a moment of calm?

I love Hyde Park. My two daughters and I speed-walk every Thursday morning, as well as run and chat. It's very bonding and cathartic.

### Do you have any advice for people visiting the city?

If you have friends here, or even just acquaintances, make contact with them. Every major city has special places that are not on the tourist trail and you will get so much more enjoyment from feeling like a resident rather than just a visitor.

### What do you particularly love about the Belgravia area?

I love the shops around Motcomb Street and Elizabeth Street, near where I live. Contrary to popular belief, Belgravia is in fact a very friendly village – shopkeepers will recognise you and because so many of our members live in the area, it is difficult to walk far without bumping into someone I know. It makes one feel loved and a real part of the community. For food, I particularly love Amaya, Zafferano and



Mosimann's, as well as Olivomare and Santini which also serve delicious cuisine.

### What trends in holistic health and beauty do you see developing in 2016 and beyond?

Eating well and healthily is still at the top of my must-adhere-to list on a daily basis – from feeling energised to having good skin to keeping slim, it is the best antiageing treatment of them all. I am very lucky that I can eat every day at the Grace restaurant and Grace-to-Go is available

to non-members. I top this up with varied exercise in the gym, Pilates and circuit training, as well as a regular meso-peel from our resident cosmetic doctor Rabia Malik. She uses Dr Julia T. Hunter skincare products available through our medical clinic, which is also open to men and non-members.

Grace Belgravia 11c West Halkin Street, SW1X 8JL. 020 7235 8900. www.gracebelgravia.com



Clockwise from top left: the front row at the Burberry Prorsum SS2010 womenswear show; Table dress by Hussein Chalayan from his AW2000 Afterwords collection; the Burberry Prorsum AW2014 show; a model at the SS2001 show for Alexander McQueen's VOSS collection; the Temperley London SS2016 womenswear show; Agyness Deyn and Henry Holland at the designer's show during LFW AW2008; the Mary Katrantzou show at LFW SS2014; Christopher Kane's neon hues at LFW SS2007

> **London Fashion Week AW16** February 19-23

www.londonfashionweek.co.uk www.britishfashioncouncil.com

**London Fashion Weekend** February 25-28 Saatchi Gallery (open to the public) www.londonfashionweekend.co.uk



