

What's New 2014

Attractions

Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, Shakespeare's Globe

Opened 9 January 2014

The brand new Sam Wanamaker Playhouse opened its doors to the public for the first time on 9 January with an eclectic season of early modern drama, opera and exclusive one off performances and concerts. This new Jacobean theatre at Shakespeare's Globe provides an indoor playing space during the winter months and will host a wide variety of events all year round. It is completely unique amongst London venues, with a handmade oak structure and pit seating, lit by hundreds of candles during performances. The Playhouse seats 340 people. For more information contact Phoebe Gardiner on 020 7902 1468 / phoebe.g@shakespearesglobe.com.

Michael Edwards Studio Theatre

Cutty Sark, opened 29 January 2014

Cutty Sark, the world's sole remaining tea clipper and major London landmark, launched a brand new performance space in January. The lower hold, where precious cargoes of tea and wool were stacked over a century ago on Cutty Sark's famous voyages, now features a remarkable studio theatre. During the daytime, the hold contains displays of tea chests and other artefacts relating to the ship's extraordinary history. In the evening, the central section is transformed into an eclectic 85-seat studio theatre, which is totally unique and provides the perfect platform for cabaret, comedy, music, special lectures and small scale-drama. The brand new theatre welcomes renowned performers and personalities, whilst also nurturing the talent of the local area. For more information contact Royal Museums Greenwich Press Office on 020 8312 6545 / press@rmg.co.uk

Chocolate Kitchen

Hampton Court Palace, from 14 February 2014

Visitors are in for a sweet treat as King George I's royal hot chocolate is once again being served in the newly restored Chocolate Kitchen. This was the first of many experiences that Historic Royal Palaces will unveil in the Baroque palace to commemorate 300 years since George I's accession to the throne. The 18th century 'Chocolate Kitchen' combines the re-creation of historic interiors with live interpretation and an innovative audio visual display which shows visitors how this royal beverage was made by Thomas Tosier-personal chocolate maker to George I and George II. Visitors will discover how royal hot chocolate was prepared but also have the chance to sample this royal Georgian delicacy. For more information contact the press team on 020 3166 6166 / press@hrp.org.uk

Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre

Opened Spring 2014

Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre is a world class venue offering premier facilities in two sports, located at Eton Manor, in the north of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. At its heart is the £30 million state-of-the art clubhouse with changing facilities, bar and social areas to establish Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre as a valuable sporting and community asset. This is a unique venue that will host a range of community, club and elite events, giving all abilities and communities the chance to take part in hockey and tennis, two increasingly popular sports. For more information contact Si-Ling Pang on 01992 709 933 / spang@leevalleypark.org.uk

Lee Valley VeloPark

Opened 4 March 2014

Lee Valley VeloPark, the world's premier cycling venue and home to the iconic London 2012 Velodrome and Olympic BMX track, opened earlier this year, with sessions from £2 for club riders and £4 for individuals. The outstanding venue features everything from learn-to-ride programmes for children who have never been on a bike before, coaching, major championships bringing the world's best riders back to the venue, all ability sessions for people with additional needs, and programmes for schools, clubs and leagues. For more information contact Si-Ling Pang on 01992 709 933 / spanq@leevalleypark.org.uk

Sutton Hoo and Europe AD 300–1100

British Museum opened 27 March 2014

A new display of the British Museum's unparalleled early medieval collections includes the famous Sutton Hoo treasure can be found in Room 41. It is the first full refurbishment of the gallery since 1985, involving replacement of the flooring and roof, and renovation of the internal architecture. Marking 75 years since their discovery, the gallery's centrepiece is the finds from the Sutton Hoo ship burial in Suffolk, one of the most spectacular and important discoveries in British archaeology. Excavated in 1939, this grave inside a 27m-long ship may have commemorated an Anglo-Saxon king who died in the early AD 600s. It remains the richest intact burial to survive from Europe. For more information contact the Press Office on 020 7323 8583 / communications@britishmuseum.org

Phyllida Barlow Tate Britain Commission 2014

Tate Britain, 31 March - 2 November 2014

Sculptor Phyllida Barlow unveiled her largest and most ambitious work in London to date for the Tate Britain Commission 2014. The annual commission invites artists to make work in response to Tate's collection of British and international art and to the grand spaces of the Duveen Galleries at the heart of Tate Britain. For over four decades Phyllida Barlow has made imposing, large scale sculptural installations using inexpensive, everyday materials such as cardboard, fabric, timber, polystyrene, plaster, scrim and cement. Her distinctive work is focused on her experimentation with these materials, to create bold and colourful three-dimensional collages. For more information contact Kate Moores on 020 7887 4906 / pressoffice@tate.org.uk

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park: South Park Opening

Opened, 5 April 2014

Visitors will be able to explore more of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park as the newly landscaped south of the Park opened to the public for the first time since the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Visitors can now enjoy beautiful parklands, fountains and waterways, world-class sporting venues, arts and events and children's play areas. For more information contact the press team on 020 3288 1777 / press@queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk

ArcelorMittal Orbit

Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, opened 5 April 2014

Design by Turner Prize winning artist Sir Anish Kapoor and structural designer Cecil Balmond, the ArcelorMittal Orbit is the UK's tallest sculpture, offering a totally new perspective of London with unrivalled views of its newest, must-see destination – Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. At 114.5 metres high, the ArcelorMittal Orbit gives visitors views of over 20 miles across London from two spacious viewing galleries. For more information contact Victoria Coombes on 020 7421 2505 / victoria.coombes@mangopr.com

Heritage Gallery

Guildhall Art Gallery, opening 12 September 2014

The heritage gallery will display treasures from the Corporation's archives such as the Magna Carta and Shakespeare's Deed, and help to tell the City's story in the development of London and the nation. For more information contact City of London Press Team on 020 7332 1452 / andrew.buckingham@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Bludgers, Board Games and Broomsticks

Warner Bros. Studio Tour: The Making of Harry Potter, 18 July - 1 September 2014

Learn how magical sports and wizarding games came to life on screen at the Studio Tour this summer. Authentic costumes from Quidditch scenes will be on display as well as the rattling ball crate from Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. Visitors will discover how a combination of special and visual effects were used to make cast members fly and chess pieces move – as well as getting the chance to test green screen technology for themselves! For more information contact Sarah Mitchell on 020 7148 3770 / sarah.l.mitchell@warnerbros.com

Imperial War Museum (IWM) London's new First World War Galleries

19 July 2014

The new ground-breaking Galleries will open at IWM London this summer, as part of a transformed museum and IWM's programme for the First World War Centenary. The immersive and interactive galleries will draw upon the latest historical analysis of the war and will enable IWM to display more of the exceptional collections and tell the stories of those who lived, contributed, fought and died. For more information contact Bryony Phillips on 020 7416 5316 / bphillips@iwm.org.uk

Forgotten Fighters: the First World War at Sea

National Maritime Museum, opens August 2014

As part of the National Maritime Museum's commemoration of World War One this new gallery explores the naval and maritime dimensions of that conflict. The horrors of the Western Front have long dominated our understanding of those years, and yet the war at sea was fought on an epic scale and with terrible human loss. Forgotten Fighters foregrounds the personal stories of those who participated through a wide range of objects including weaponry, photographs, medals and ship models; in a gallery which takes visitors from the heroism of merchant mariners to the shattering realities of naval battle, and from the Falkland Islands and the Mediterranean to the Atlantic and the North Sea. For more information contact 020 8312 6790 / press@rmg.co.uk

New galleries at the Wellcome Collection

Autumn 2014

Wellcome Collection has started work on a £17.5m redevelopment, with new galleries and spaces due to open in autumn 2014. The building will remain open throughout the works with an exciting and experimental programme of exhibitions and events held inside and out. For more information contact Tim Morley on 020 7611 8612 / t.morley@wellcome.ac.uk

Information Age

Science Museum, opening September 2014

A new £15.6m permanent gallery that will use sophisticated interactive displays and engaging participative experiences to reveal personal stories about how our lives have been transformed by communication innovations over the last 200 years. The gallery will occupy the largest exhibition space in the Museum, and will feature hundreds of unique objects from the Science Museum's world class collections, many of which have never been seen before. For more information contact the press team on 020 7942 4353/ pressoffice@sciencemuseum.org.uk

The Weston Cast Court

V&A, 29 November 2014

The V&A will open the newly refurbished Italian Cast Court this November as the first phase in the renovation of the Museum's vast, day-lit courts. First opened in 1873, the Cast Courts were purpose built to house one of the most comprehensive collections of casts of post-classical European sculpture. Featuring some of the V&A's largest objects, the two galleries are among the most popular in the Museum. For more information contact the V&A Press Office on 0207 942 2500 / press.office@vam.ac.uk

KidZania

Westfield London, launching late 2014

KidZania, the international and award-winning interactive experience for children, and world's fastest growing edutainment brand, is set to open its first site in the UK and Northern Europe at Westfield London. KidZania takes interactive entertainment and learning to a new level by combining role-playing with real life. At Westfield London, it will provide children and their parents with a safe, unique, and realistic educational environment that allows children between the ages of four and 14 to role-play by imitating grown-up jobs. The indoor venue is a city built to scale for children - at two-thirds of their actual size all facilities are designed for youngsters. Parents will have the option to relax in KidZania lounge facilities or leave their children in a secure environment for up to four hours while they shop. For more information contact Will Scawn on 020 7636 7366 / wscawn@camarquepr.com

Exhibitions

Britain: One Million Years of the Human Story

Natural History Museum, 13 February - 28 September 2014

This new exhibition tells the enchanting story of the changing faces and spaces of prehistoric Britain. The latest scientific techniques and life-size models bring rarely seen specimens to life so you can look back, long before the Romans, Saxons and Vikings, to piece together how humans came and went in Britain over the last million years. See amazing objects unearthed from beneath our feet, many of which have never been on public display before. Come face to face with life-size Neanderthal models and see some of the astonishing creatures that were hunted by early human pioneers, including rhinos and giant deer. For more information contact the Natural History Museum Press Office on 020 7942 5654 / press@nhm.ac.uk

Images of Nature

Natural History Museum, from March 2014

Women artists are the theme for this year's temporary exhibition in Images of Nature, showcasing botanical and zoological artworks from the Museum's extensive collection. Many of the artworks include watercolours dating from the eighteenth century as well as works by some of the most outstanding botanical and zoological women artists of our time. From detailed scientific studies to bold and beautiful botanicals, all the works displayed demonstrate the skill, motivation and determination of women in their visual portrayal of the wonders of the natural world. For more information contact the press team on 020 7942 5654 / press@nhm.ac.uk

William Kent: Designing Georgian Britain

V&A, 22 March -13 July 2014

This new exhibition at the V&A will examine the life and work of William Kent (1685-1748), the leading architect and designer of early Georgian Britain. The exhibition will celebrate Kent's oeuvre over four decades (1709-48) when Britain defined itself as a new nation with the accession of a new Hanoverian Royal Family. The exhibition will bring together nearly 200 examples of William Kent's work including architectural drawings, paintings and illustrated books, demonstrating the versatility of the 'Kentian' style. For more information contact V&A Press Office on 0207 942 2502/ press.office@vam.ac.uk.

The Glamour of Italian Fashion 1945 - 2014

V&A, 5 April - 27 July 2014

The Glamour of Italian Fashion 1945 - 2014 will be the first major exhibition to explore Italy's rich contribution to modern fashion from the end of the Second World War to the present. It will examine the craftsmanship, luxurious materials and expertise for which Italy has become renowned across couture, fine tailoring, innovative ready-to-wear and accessories. On display will be around 100 ensembles by the leading Italian fashion houses including Dolce and Gabbana, Giorgio Armani, Gucci, Missoni, Prada, Valentino and Versace alongside the work of forgotten post-war designers as well as garments by the emerging Italian fashion talent of today. For more information contact V&A Press Office on 0207 942 2502 / press.office@vam.ac.uk

The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier: From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk

Barbican, 9 April - 17 August 2014

The theatrically-staged exhibition will bring together more than 140 cutting-edge couture and ready-to-wear garments including iconic costumes for film and performance from the early 1970s to the present day. The infamous conical bra and corsets Madonna wore during her 1990 Blonde Ambition World Tour are showcased alongside stage costumes designed for Kylie Minogue. For more information contact Ann Berni on 020 7382 7169 / ann.berni@barbican.org.uk

Henri Matisse: The Cut-Outs

Tate Modern, 17 April - 7 September 2014

Henri-Émile-Benoît Matisse (1869 – 1954) is one of the leading figures of modern art and one of the most significant colourists of all time. This major exhibition is the most comprehensive exhibition ever devoted to the artist's paper cut-outs made between 1943 and 1954. It brings

together around 120 works, many seen together for the first time, in a ground-breaking reassessment of Matisse's colourful and innovative final works. The show will include the largest number of Matisse's Blue Nudes ever exhibited together. For more information contact Jeanette Ward on 020 7887 8730 / pressoffice@tate.org.uk

Architecture in Italian Renaissance Painting

National Gallery, 30 April - 21 September 2014

This exhibition is the first in Britain to explore architecture in Italian Renaissance painting. It considers the ways in which Italian painters of the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries including Duccio, Botticelli and Crivelli represented architecture. It will also examine how architecture was used to frame figures and to construct the illusion of space. Architecture in Italian Renaissance Painting is focused upon pictures in the National Gallery, with a few loans from other collections in the UK including the National Galleries of Scotland. For more information contact the press office on 020 7747 2865 / press@ng-london.org.uk

Kenneth Clark: Looking for Civilisation

Tate Britain, 20 May - 10 August 2014

The career and impact of Kenneth Clark (1903–1983), one of the most influential figures in British art, will be explored in Kenneth Clark: Looking for Civilisation. The exhibition will explore Clark's role as patron, collector, art historian, public servant, and broadcasting impresario, the first to bring the art of the 20th century to a mass television audience. From work by the British artists he championed to highlights from his own eclectic collection, the exhibition of around 200 objects will include works by Henry Moore and Graham Sutherland, drawings by Leonardo da Vinci, prints by Hokusai, and paintings by Constable, Degas, Seurat and Cézanne. For more information contact Kate Moores on 020 7887 4906 / kate.moores@tate.org.uk

British Folk Art

Tate Britain, 10 June - 30 August 2014

Nearly 200 paintings, sculptures, textiles and objects have been drawn together from collections across the country in an exhibition that will celebrate folk art in the UK. This show will unite an extraordinary selection of objects, exploring the threshold between art and artefact and challenging perceptions of 'high art'. British Folk Art will include surprising and diverse examples of British folk art, from rustic leather Toby jugs to brightly coloured ships' figureheads. The exhibition is an opportunity to discover the astonishing wealth of the nation's regional collections, including works rarely seen in public, many of which will have never been on display before in an art gallery. For more information contact Alexandra Jacobs on 020 7887 8730 / pressoffice@tate.org.uk

Colour

National Gallery, 18 June - 7 September 2014

The first of its kind in Britain – this exhibition offers visitors an exceptional opportunity to take a journey through the history of colour by exploring the wide-ranging materials used to create colour in paintings and other works of art. Using the Gallery's own spectacular paintings across the breadth of the collection, and the world-class expertise of the National Gallery's scientific department, visitors will understand not only the history of the use of colour, but also the origins and developments of the physical materials themselves. For more information contact the press office on 020 7747 2865 / press@ng-london.org.uk

Bridge

Museum of London Docklands, 27 June - 2 November 2014

This summer, the largest art exhibition ever to be staged at the Museum of London Docklands opens - which will be free of charge for all visitors. Drawing on the museum's significant art collections, the exhibition will feature rarely seen contemporary and historical artworks, alongside photography, film and maquettes to consider the significance of bridges within London's landscape. For more information, contact Laura Mitchell on 020 7814 5502 / lmitchell@museumoflondon.org.uk

Digital Revolution

Barbican Centre, 3 July - 14 September 2014

Digital Revolution explores and celebrates the transformation of the arts through digital technology since the 1970s. The exhibition brings together for the first time a range of artists, filmmakers, architects, designers, musicians and game developers pushing the boundaries of their fields using digital media. It also looks to the future considering the impact of creative coding, DIY culture, digital communities and the creative possibilities offered by technologies including augmented reality, artificial intelligence, wearable technologies, robotics and 3D printing. The exhibition builds on the Barbican's rich history of championing pioneering artists across all art forms that use digital technology within their work. For more information contact Ann Berni on 020 7382 7169 / ann.berni@barbican.org.uk

Louis Kahn: The Power of Architecture

Design Museum, 9 July - 12 October 2014

The American architect Louis Kahn (1901-1974) is regarded as one of the great master builders of the twentieth century. Kahn created buildings of monumental beauty with powerful universal symbolism. This exhibition encompasses an unprecedented and diverse range of architectural models, original drawings, travel sketches, photographs and films. Highlights of the exhibition include a four-metre-high model of the spectacular City Tower designed for Philadelphia (1952-57), as well as previously unseen film footage shot by Kahn's son Nathaniel Kahn, director of the film 'My Architect'. The exhibition also includes interviews with leading architects including Frank Gehry, Renzo Piano and Sou Fujimoto who discuss the significance and legacy of Kahn's work. For more information contact the press team on 020 7940 8787 / media@designmuseum.org

Virginia Woolf: Art, Life and Vision

National Portrait Gallery, 10 July - 26 October 2014

Virginia Woolf: Art, Life and Vision will be a significant exhibition exploring the life and achievements of Virginia Woolf, one of the most important and celebrated writers of the twentieth century. The exhibition will feature painted portraits, photographs, drawings and rare archival material, including a letter to her sister, Vanessa Bell, written shortly before her suicide. Guest curated by biographer Frances Spalding, Virginia Woolf: Art, Life and Vision will explore Woolf as a novelist, intellectual, campaigner and public figure. For more information contact Sylvia Ross on 020 7 321 6620 / sross@npg.org.uk

Ships, Clocks & Stars: The Quest for Longitude

National Maritime Museum, 11 July 2014 - 4 January 2015

The race to determine longitude at sea gripped Europe during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, becoming a focus for serious debate, popular ridicule and single-minded scientific endeavour. Valuable rewards were on offer for whoever could crack the puzzle and Ships, Clocks & Stars presents the ingenious methods and instruments designed to scoop the Board of Longitude's prize and transform seafaring navigation forever. The exhibition takes visitors from the coffee houses of London to the tropical climes of Cook's Pacific voyages, exploring the industry, imagination, relationships and rivalries that shaped one of the largest scientific and technical accomplishments in history; and showing that this world-changing tale does not begin and end with Harrison's famous timekeepers. For more information contact 020 8312 6790 / press@rmg.co.uk

Truth and Memory

IWM London, 19 July 2014 – 8 March 2015

Truth and Memory will be the largest exhibition and first major retrospective of British First World War art for almost 100 years and will include work by some of Britain's most important artists of the twentieth century. Using artworks drawn mainly from IWM's national collection this exhibition will assess the immediate impact and enduring legacy of British art of the First World War. Truth will explore how artists encountering the front lines experimented with new forms of art to capture the unfamiliar experience of the First World War. Memory will move on to look at works produced at the end of the war and in its immediate aftermath. For more information contact Bryony Phillips on 020 7416 5316 / bphillips@iwm.org.uk

Royal Childhood

Buckingham Palace, 26 July - 28 September 2014

From well-loved toys and treasured family gifts to tiny childhood outfits, a special exhibition at Buckingham Palace will give an unprecedented glimpse into life as a young member of the royal family growing up at Buckingham Palace. Spanning more than 250 years, Royal Childhood brings together objects from the Royal Collection, the Royal Archives and the private collections of members of the Royal Family, as well as previously unseen photographs and film footage. The exhibition will bring together both family and official gifts presented to royal children. A number of The Queen's childhood toys will go on display, including a pink tea set in the shape of a rabbit, a set of 'Knockemdown Ninepins' and a wicker pram that the two-year-old Princess Elizabeth enjoyed pushing around the gardens of 145 Piccadilly, her family home until the age of ten. For more information contact the Royal Collection Trust press office on 020 7839 1377 / press@royalcollection.org.uk

Disobedient Objects

V&A, 26 July 2014 - 1 February 2015.

The V&A will this summer present the first exhibition to explore objects of art and design from around the world that have been created by grassroots social movements as tools of social change. From Chilean folk art textiles that document political violence to a graffiti-writing robot, Disobedient Objects will demonstrate how political activism drives a wealth of design ingenuity. The exhibition will showcase forms of making that defy standard definitions of art and design. The objects that will be on display are mostly produced by non-professional makers, collectively and with limited resources as effective responses to complex situations. For more information contact Zoe Franklin on 020 7942 2497 / z.franklin@vam.ac.uk

Horst: Photographer of Style

V&A, 6 September 2014 - 4 January 2015

This autumn, the V&A will present the definitive retrospective exhibition of the work of master photographer Horst P. Horst (1906-1999) – one of the leading photographers of the 20th century. Horst: Photographer of Style will display 250 photographs, alongside haute couture garments, magazines, film footage and ephemera. The exhibition explores Horst's collaborations and friendships with leading couturiers such as Coco Chanel and Elsa Schiaparelli in Paris; stars including Marlene Dietrich and Noël Coward; and artists and designers such as Salvador Dalí and Jean-Michel Frank. For more information, contact Julie Chan on 020 7942 2701 / j.chan@vam.ac.uk

Designers in Residence

10 September - 1 February 2015

The Design Museum's annual Designers in Residence programme provides a platform to celebrate emerging designers at an early stage in their career. Now in its seventh year, Designers in Residence is a core part of the exhibition calendar, demonstrating the Design Museum's commitment to support and encourage new design talent. Recent alumni have included Giles Miller, Asif Khan, Bethan Laura Wood and Simon Hasan. The programme offers the designers the opportunity to interact and engage with the design and business community, using this platform to test-bed ideas, innovations and future projects. For more information contact the press team on 020 7940 8787 / media@designmuseum.org

Ming: 50 years that changed China

British Museum, 18 September 2014 - 5 January 2015

Extraordinarily beautiful and rare loans tell the story of a critical period in Chinese history (1400 – 1450) when China became a global superpower. The exhibition will include rare loans of some of the finest objects ever made in China, shedding light on this important part of world history that is little known in Europe. Loans will be coming from 10 Chinese institutions and 21 international lenders. For more information contact the Press Office on 020 7323 8583 / communications@britishmuseum.org

Constable: The Making of a Master

V&A, 20 September 2014 - 11 January 2015

This exhibition will reveal the hidden stories of how Constable created some of his most loved and well-known paintings. It will present Constable's work for the first time alongside the old masters of classical landscape such as Ruisdael and Claude whose compositional ideas and formal values he revered and studied in great depth. The exhibition will also examine Constable's collection of over 5000 etchings, a vital resource for his own image making, as well as the mezzotints of his paintings made in the last decade of his life to secure his lasting legacy. For more information contact V&A Press Office on 0207 942 2502 / press.office@vam.ac.uk.

Rembrandt: The Final Years

National Gallery, 15 October 2014 - 18 January 2015

The exhibition, in collaboration with the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, is the first ever in-depth, focused exploration of Rembrandt's late works across all media. Rembrandt: The Final Years will bring together approximately 40 paintings, 20 drawings and 30 prints by the master, to offer visitors a once in lifetime opportunity to experience the passion and innovation of Rembrandt's late works. The exhibition will highlight the formal and iconographic concerns that occupied Rembrandt during the later years and inspired unprecedented creativity that defines our image of Rembrandt. The display will include key works lent by European and American museums. For more information contact the press office on 020 7747 2865 / press@ng-london.org.uk

Anarchy & Beauty: William Morris and His Legacy, 1860-1960

National Portrait Gallery, 16 Oct 2014 - 11 Jan 2015

From the Pre-Raphaelites to Terence Conran, the first exhibition devoted to William Morris and his influence on twentieth-century life, is to open at the National Portrait Gallery this autumn. Anarchy & Beauty will focus on Morris's far-reaching politics, thought and design. With portraits, furniture, books, banners, textiles and jewellery, this exhibition will include many extraordinary loans that will be brought together in London for the first time. Key exhibits include William Morris's own handwritten Socialist Diary from the British Library, his gold-tooled hand bound copy of Karl Marx's *Le Capital* and Burne-Jones's spectacular hand painted Prioresses Tale wardrobe. For more information contact Neil Evans on 020 7312 2452 / nevans@npg.org.uk

Sherlock Holmes Under the Microscope

Museum of London, 17 October 2014 - 12 April 2015

The Museum of London studies the world's greatest detective with Sherlock Holmes Under the Microscope. The exhibition delves into the mind of the genius sleuth, created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. With a particular emphasis on Holmes' relationship with London, visitors can dissect the traits that define the detective and learn more about his literary beginnings more than 125 years ago. The first major exhibition devoted to Holmes in more than 60 years, this is a chance to look beyond the familiar deerstalker, pipe and cape and discover the complex character beneath. For more information contact Andrew Marcus on 020 7814 5503 / amarcus@museumoflondon.org.uk

Women Fashion Power

Design Museum, 29 October 2014 - May 2015

A major exhibition exploring the politics of dressing for power and success. The show presents exceptional women on the world stage and their wardrobes, to show how fashion can be used as a powerful tool to build reputation, enhance careers and express modernity. Women that see clothes not as a frivolous indulgence, but as an important way to attract attention, announce presence, assert authority and guarantee notoriety. The exhibition will feature contemporary women working in politics, business, the creative arts and fashion from around the world, as well as looking back at influential women throughout history. Archive footage, interviews and photographs reveal each woman's love of fashion, their favourite designers and stand out fashion moments. For more information contact the press team on 020 7940 8787 / media@designmuseum.org

Cairo to Constantinople: Early Photographs of the Middle East

The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, 31 October 2014 - 22 February 2015

In 1862, the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) was sent on an educational tour of the Middle East, accompanied by the British photographer Francis Bedford. This exhibition documents the journey through the work of Bedford, the first photographer to join a royal tour, and explores the cultural and political significance Victorian Britain attached to the region. The display includes archaeological material brought back to Britain by the Prince, including an Egyptian papyrus inscribed with the Amduat, a memorial text which describes the journey through the Underworld of Re, the Egyptian sun god. For more information contact Royal Collection Trust Press Office on 020 7839 1377 / press@royalcollection.org.uk

Global City: On the Streets of Renaissance Lisbon

The Wallace Collection, 6 November 2014 - 15 February 2015

This will be the first exhibition in Britain to focus on Renaissance Portugal and its pivotal role as a centre for global trade and will highlight the cross-cultural influences between Lisbon, Africa, Asia and the Far East. The exhibition will show a stunning selection of luxury objects including ivories, rock crystal carvings and silver, on loan from the Wallace Collection and other leading collections in the United Kingdom and in Portugal. For more information contact Natasha Plowright on 020 7734 4800 / natasha@theresasimon.com

Events

Prudential RideLondon

9 - 10 August 2014

The mass-participation cycling event is back in London in 2014 after a brilliantly successful first year. The two-day cycling festival will allow families and amateur riders to take part, as well as attracting the world's best elite cyclists. There will be fun rides for cyclists of all ages and abilities who want to enjoy the fun of cycling in a traffic-free environment. The route will pass many of Central London's famous landmarks, including the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace. The 100 mile race will appeal to the world's top elite cyclists and amateur cyclists alike, starting at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, taking in roads in London and Surrey and finishing in Central London. For more information contact Penny Dain on pennyd@ridelondon.co.uk

Notting Hill Carnival

25 - 26 August 2014

The award winning and internationally renowned annual London Carnival rooted in the Caribbean tradition includes a series of linked events from July to August that culminate in the major event on the streets of Notting Hill on August Bank Holiday. For more information contact NK Media on 020 7096 8888 / info@nkmedia.co.uk

Open Streets

Bankside, 30 August 2014

For the first time in London this global movement closes Southwark Street to traffic in Bankside to celebrate the area as an open community space. For more contact Lisa Henshaw on 020 7403 4411 / lisa@fourthday.co.uk

Totally Thames 2014

Across London, 1 - 30 September 2014

Throughout September, Totally Thames festival will celebrate the River Thames with a 30-day programme of river-inspired events. These will include arts, music and community festivals, colourful regattas, river rallies and races, foreshore archaeology, exploration, environmental and educational activities, not to mention plenty of opportunities to walk and eat beside the river. Totally Thames events to look forward to this year include: The Mayor's Thames Festival throughout September, Royal Greenwich Tall Ships Festival (5-9), Handel's Fireworks Music and Illuminations at Hampton Court Palace (14 Sept) and many more. For more information contact Una Devine on 020 7928 8998 / una@unadevine.com

London Design Festival 2014

Across London, 3 - 21 September 2014

See the latest in design trends during the 12th London Design Festival at venues across the capital. Leading the way in innovation, this festival celebrates the best creative talents with over 300 events and exhibitions covering a broad spectrum of design innovation. Events can be found everywhere from the Victoria and Albert Museum to small local studios, with a select few taking place at some iconic London landmarks. Always highly original, design enthusiasts should brace themselves for some thought-provoking works in the most unexpected of places. For more information contact Camron PR on 020 7420 1700 / ldfteam@camronpr.com

Falmouth-Royal Greenwich Tall Ships Regatta 2014

Queen's Wharf, 5 - 9 September 2014

The annual event, which is led by STI, the international voice of Sail Training, attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors from across the globe. It will see around fifty of the world's most spectacular Tall Ships berthed and open to the public in the historic Queen's Wharf in Falmouth Docks. From there the race is on, with the Tall Ships setting sail and navigating a series of waypoints to a finish line off the Isle of Wight. The final leg of the journey sees them cruise into Royal Greenwich, where they will be stationed between 5-9 September, marking the first time in 25 years that London has played host to a major International Tall Ships Regatta. For more

information contact Stephanie Basten on 020 8921 8458 / stephanie.basten@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Merge Festival

Bankside, 18 September - 19 October 2014

The annual arts, music and performance festival draws upon the contemporary culture and rich heritage of London's Bankside. A programme of exhibitions, interactive installations and live performances will take place in unusual venues throughout the area. For more contact Lisa Henshaw on 020 7403 4411 / lisa@fourthday.co.uk

Vodafone London Fashion Weekend

Somerset House, 18 - 21 September 2014

Vodafone London Fashion Weekend follows London Fashion Week, which is one of the "big four" fashion trade shows in the world. London Fashion Weekend is a fashionista extravaganza, letting everyone in on this fabulous world. Somerset House is transformed into an exclusive fashion experience, brimming with designer catwalk shows, pop-up shops, hair and beauty, and educational panels. Fashion lovers can get their seasonal wardrobe fix from designer brands including Issa London, French Sole and Linda Farrow. For more information contact Chloe Fosbrook on 0207 886 3006 / chloe@single-market.co.uk

Open House London

Across London, 20 - 21 September 2014

Celebrate London's architectural wonders as Open House London throws open the doors to hundreds of buildings in and around the capital. Last year, Open House London offered a chance to visit more than 700 buildings, including 30 St Mary Axe (known by Londoners as The Gherkin), Battersea Power Station, 10 Downing Street and 100 private homes. There were also architecture-themed walks, cycle rides and debates. For more information contact Matthew Turtle on 0207 383 2131 / press@open-city.org.uk

Pearly Kings and Queens Harvest Festival 2014

Guildhall, 28 September 2014

Celebrate the harvest with the Pearly Kings and Queens, who will be wearing their traditional pearl-button suits as they parade from Guildhall to St Mary-le-Bow church. Wearing dark suits that are covered in hundreds of bright pearl buttons, the Pearly Kings and Queens of London are a charming and unforgettable sight. At this festival, which celebrates the bounty of the autumn harvest, they will be staging traditional entertainment at Guildhall before parading to St Mary-le-Bow church for a service of thanksgiving. For more information visit www.pearlyociety.co.uk

London Literature Festival

Southbank Centre, 30 September - 3 October 2014

London Literature Festival, now in its eighth year, will take place in the autumn. It will feature the world's best writers, poets, performers and thinkers, and celebrate some of the best new writing - including reading from both the Forward Prizes for Poetry and the Man Booker Prize. For more information contact Rachel Dakin on 020 7921 0604 / rachel.dakin@southbankcentre.co.uk

London Restaurant Festival

Across London, 8 - 27 October 2014

If you love food, don't miss the London Restaurant Festival, three weeks of fabulous foodie events and special menus at London restaurants. Now in its sixth year, the London Restaurant Festival is a city-wide celebration of London restaurants and chefs. There's something for every taste and budget, from great-value festival restaurant-hopping menus to amazing one-off chef-led events. Some of the best restaurants in London will create special fixed-priced taster menus as a way for food lovers to sample their dishes. There will also be a range of tours gathered by culinary theme as well as food-focused activities running throughout the festival. For more information contact Catherine Donegan on 020 7233 6425 / catherine@dundascommunications.com

Frieze Art Fair 2014

Regent's Park, 16 - 19 October 2014

Frieze Art Fair is one of the world's most influential contemporary art fairs. Set in the beautiful surroundings of Regent's Park, Frieze Art Fair attracts more than 150 of the most exciting contemporary art galleries in the world. After browsing the stalls, you can enjoy guided tours, talks, films and performances. This year sees the introduction of two new features: Live and Focus. Live aims to involve visitors with participatory works; while Focus looks into works from solo and communities of artists, with new art from first-time exhibitors and significant contributions from familiar faces. For more information contact Nora Foster on 020 3372 6100 / nora.foster@frieze.com

Diwali in London 2014

23 October 2014

Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is celebrated by many communities across London. Every year, Trafalgar Square hosts a Diwali celebration that attracts thousands of people to central London. This year's packed programme of free entertainment includes music and dance from community groups and professional artists, food stalls and a range of activities for children. You'll also find smaller festivals and family events across London, as well as special menus in some London restaurants. For more information visit www.diwaliinlondon.com

Halloween in London 2014

31 October 2014

There are loads of horrifying Halloween events, spooky venues and restaurants, Halloween parties, scary attractions and opportunities to don your most chilling fancy dress costumes during Halloween in London on and around 31 October. For more information visit www.visitlondon.com/halloween

Lord Mayor's Show

Between Mansion House and the Royal Courts of Justice, 8 November 2014

The Lord Mayor's Show is the one of the world's oldest and best-loved pageants. Having survived eight centuries, the procession fills the streets from Mansion House to the Royal Courts of Justice in Aldwych. In 2014 the show will be celebrating the 800th year of the Mayoral Charter and Magna Carta. For more information contact the City of London Press Office on 020 7332 1754 / john.park@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Remembrance in London 2014

Across London, 9 - 11 November 2014

Each year in November, the United Kingdom remembers the men and women who gave their lives in the two World Wars and subsequent conflicts. 11 November is known as Armistice Day, Remembrance Day or Poppy Day. During the First World War, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, the guns of the Western Front fell silent after more than four years of continuous warfare. In many parts of the world, people observe a two-minute of silence at 11am on 11 November. Remembrance Sunday takes place on 9 November in 2014 and sees special events and services relating to remembrance. This year will be extra special as 2014 marks the hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War, and there will be a whole programme of cultural events taking place across the capital. For more information visit www.visitlondon.com/first-world-war-centenary

Theatre, Music & Film

Fatal Attraction

Theatre Royal Haymarket, from 8 March 2014

The timeless thriller dramatically re-interpreted for the stage by original screen writer James Dearden, in this compelling production directed by Trevor Nunn. The famous story of obsession and revenge explores how a chance meeting in a bar and a casual encounter quickly becomes a living nightmare for Dan Gallagher, a successful New York lawyer, and his young family. After spending one weekend with the gorgeous Alex Forrest, he assumes he can just walk away, but Alex is a woman who refuses to be ignored. She pursues Dan and his family with terrifying consequences. For more information contact Jessica McCrorie on 020 7836 4747 / jessicamccrorie@akauk.com

Miss Saigon

Prince Edward Theatre, from 3 May 2014

Miss Saigon will return to the West End in May 2014 to the Prince Edward Theatre. Set in 1975 during the final days of the American occupation of Saigon, Miss Saigon is an epic love story about the relationship between an American GI and a young Vietnamese woman. Since its London premiere in 1989, the show has become one of the most successful musicals in history and has won over 40 awards including two Olivier Awards and three Tony Awards. For more information contact Simon Raw on 020 7637 8866 / simon@rawpr.co.uk

The Elephantom

New London Theatre, 30 June - 6 September 2014

The National Theatre's hugely popular adaptation of Ross Collins' much loved children's picture book The Elephantom, about a little girl who is unexpectedly visited by a giant blue ghost-elephant, will be charging into the New London Theatre for a strictly limited summer season from. Ross Collins' The Elephantom is adapted by Ben Power, and co-directed by Finn Caldwell and Toby Olié with design by Samuel Wyer. For more information contact Nada Zakula on 020 7452 3046 / nzakula@nationaltheatre.org.uk

Brasil Brasileiro

Peacock Theatre, 8 - 27 July 2014

The energy of Brazil comes to London this summer as Brasil Brasileiro returns to Sadler's Wells, featuring 35 performers from Rio de Janeiro, this production brings alive the spirit that makes Brazil so unique. Famed for its euphoric dance heritage, Brazil is a country where the musical culture of Africa and Europe merged in a melting pot of dance forms to create its own national rhythm: the samba. From its beginnings as a ritualistic love dance, to a modern day Rio street carnival, Brasil Brasileiro shows samba in all its forms. For more information contact Rob James on 020 7863 8114 / rob.james@sadlerswells.com

Medea

National Theatre, from 14 July, playing in repertoire until 4 September 2014

Carrie Cracknell directs Euripides' powerful tragedy Medea, in a new version by Ben Power. Medea is a wife and a mother. For the sake of her husband, she has left her home and borne two sons in exile. But when he abandons his family for a new life, Medea faces banishment and separation from her children. Helen McCrory returns to the National to take the title role; the cast also includes Michaela Coel, Danny Sapani and Cath Whitefield. For more information contact Mary Parker on 020 7452 3234 / mparker@nationaltheatre.org.uk

The Proms

Royal Albert Hall, 18 July - 13 September 2014

The BBC Proms, or simply The Proms, is an eight-week summer season of daily classical music concerts and many more other related events. The Proms are held annually mostly in Royal Albert Hall, South Kensington, London, but also in London's Cadogan Hall and several parks throughout the whole country. For more information contact 020 7959 3004 / press@royalalberthall.com

Shakespeare in Love

Noel Coward Theatre, 23 July 2014 - 25 October 2014

The stage premiere of Shakespeare in Love take place at the Noel Coward Theatre. Adapted from the famous screenplay by Lee Hall and Tom Stoppard, it takes an unusual look at the great writer through a fictional love affair. Plagued by debt and suffering writer's block, William Shakespeare is desperate to create another success. The promising young playwright discovers his muse in the form of a young noblewoman who stands out from the crowd. Their affair quickly draws in everyone from Queen Elizabeth to rival writers, inspiring young William to write his great love story, Romeo and Juliet. Packed with clever, knowing jokes, this romantic comedy draws audiences into Shakespeare's London, brimming with colourful characters, music and life. For more information contact Sophie Anderson on SophieAnderson@akauk.com

Epstein: The Man Who Made The Beatles

Leicester Square Theatre, 30 July - 6 September 2014

Epstein: The Man Who Made The Beatles is the untold story and window into the private world of the music entrepreneur whose stellar career as Beatles Manager made him a household name yet whose controversial personal life remained very much in the closet. Acclaimed stage and TV star Andrew Lancel and actor Will Finlason will return to the roles of Brian Epstein and the fictional character 'This Boy' respectively. This is a must-see opportunity to discover a previously unexplored story and celebrate a true icon of 1960's popular culture – a man who shaped music and style across the world. For more information contact Jenny Morgan on 0151 245 0136 / jenny@billelms.com

Kids Week

Various London Theatres, throughout August 2014

The annual London theatre initiative Kids Week returns once again for the whole month of August. Now in its 17th year and run by the Society of London Theatre (SOLT), Kids Week encourages young people to experience the magic of live theatre. During Kids Week one child aged 16 or under can go free to more than 30 participating shows when accompanied by an adult paying full price, and up to two extra children can go for half price. Children can also take part in a fantastic range of free activities and events on stage and backstage at many of the West End's iconic venues, often with the cast and crew of the resident shows. For more information contact Anthony McNeill on Society of London Theatre 020 7557 6727 / Anthony@soltukt.co.uk

To Kill a Mockingbird

Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, 28 August - 13 September 2014

The 2013 production of To Kill a Mockingbird will return to the venue in 2014. Concluding next year's season, the production will then embark on a UK tour. For more information contact Chloe Pritchard-Gordon on 020 7831 7657 / Chloe@thecornershoppr.com

Film4 Summer Screen at Somerset House

7 – 20 August 2014

Celebrating ten years of cinema under the stars, Film4 Summer Screen at Somerset House is back. For 14 nights, classic, cult, contemporary and never-seen-before films will feature on London's largest screen with full surround sound in the spectacular neoclassical setting of Somerset House. As the sun sets, live DJs will spin a soundtrack inspired by the upcoming film and cinema-goers can chill out in the courtyard with picnics and drinks. Selected screenings will also be specially introduced by the film's stars and directors. With an array of anniversary events from industry insider talks to a film poster exhibition, Film4 Summer Screen at Somerset House is one of the UK's favourite summer cinema experiences. For more information contact Stephanie Lilley on 020 7845 4638 / press@somersethouse.org.uk

Northern Light Season

Sadler's Wells, autumn 2014

Dance enthusiasts can enjoy a celebration of Nordic dance culture this Autumn with a season of six works across the main stage of Sadler's Wells and Lilian Baylis Studio, as well as off-site.

Northern Light showcases dance created by established and emerging contemporary artists from Sweden, Finland, Iceland, Denmark and Norway. Highlights include The Artificial Nature Project (18 and 19 September) with dance artist Mette Ingvarsten in a new partnership with the Platform Theatre at Central St Martins, and also the Royal Swedish Ballet's new adaptation of Juliet & Romeo (24 - 27 September). For more information contact Caroline Ansdell on 020 7863 8125 / caroline.ansdell@sadlerswells.com

A Time and Place: Musical Meditations on the First World War

Barbican Hall, 18 September 2014

This new folk collaboration is inspired by the lives and stories of the generation that witnessed the First World War. Featuring Becky Unthank, singer-songwriter Sam Lee, Adrian McNally and other artists to be announced, the event also includes video design by Matt Watkins. A Time and Place is part of the Imperial War Museum's First World War Centenary Commemorations. For more information contact Sabine Kindel on 020 7382 7090 / sabine.kindel@barbican.org.uk

The Five & the Prophecy of Prana

Barbican, 2 - 4 October 2014

Five young troublemakers are drawn into a power struggle that has divided a secret group of warriors. Given a chance to redeem themselves in the ensuing battle to restore peace, their action-packed adventure becomes a celebration of camaraderie and the triumph of the human spirit. Set in modern Tokyo, The Five & the Prophecy of Prana sees dazzling visuals frame a dynamic fusion of hip-hop and martial arts in an explosive tribute to manga – Japan's popular graphic novel form. For more information contact Angela Dias on 020 7382 7168 / angela.dias@barbican.org.uk

The Infidel – The Musical

Theatre Royal Stratford East, 3 October - 2 November 2014

The Infidel – The Musical is an original stage musical-comedy based on the British hit film, and will feature book and lyrics by David Baddiel. The show tells the story of an ordinary British Muslim man, Mahmoud Nassir, who discovers that he is adopted and that his birth parents were in fact Jewish. The resulting cultural and religious chaos leads to an uproarious and insightful comedy of identity, race, prejudice and confusion. The announcement follows a successful Kickstarter crowd-funding campaign that saw members of the public pledge £55,110, enabling the production to go-ahead. For more information contact Felix Mussell on 020 8279 1110 or email press@stratfordeast.com

The BFI London Film Festival

Across London, 8 - 19 October 2014

A two-week showcase of the world's best new films, the BFI London Film Festival is one of the most anticipated events in London's cultural calendar. The 12-day celebration of cinema includes screenings of fiction and documentary features, including world premieres and European premieres. There will also be screenings of live action and animated shorts. A stellar line-up of directors, cast and crew will take part in career interviews, master classes and other special events. For more information contact Premier Comms on lffenquiries@premiercomms.com

Here Lies Love

National Theatre, 13 October - 8 January 2015

The award-winning New York production of David Byrne and Fatboy Slim's musical Here Lies Love will open the new Dorfman Theatre (formerly the Cottesloe), following its complete refurbishment as part of the NT Future project. The Public Theater's production of Here Lies Love, which premiered in New York in 2013 to critical and popular acclaim, traces the astonishing journey of Imelda Marcos, First Lady of the Philippines, from her meteoric rise to power to descent into infamy and disgrace. The theatre is transformed into a pulsating club for an immersive theatrical event which combines heart-pounding beats with adrenaline-fuelled choreography and 360-degree staging. For more information contact Susie Newbery on 020 7452 3061 / snewbery@nationaltheatre.org.uk

Thomas Adès: See The Music, Hear The Dance

Sadler's Wells, 30 October - 1 November 2014

A major event in the theatre's forthcoming Autumn 2014 season, Thomas Adès: See The Music, Hear The Dance features some of his most celebrated works. For this new Sadler's Wells Production, Adès conducts the Britten Sinfonia and performs live on stage, in his only London appearance of 2014. For more information contact Rob James on 020 7863 8114 / rob.james@sadlerswells.com

Dance Proms

Royal Albert Hall, 2 November 2014

Come and see this fantastic celebration of dance as hundreds of young dancers perform an original piece at the Royal Albert Hall. Dance students from around the UK and as far afield as Spain, Malta and Israel will perform pieces of original choreography on the Royal Albert Hall's famous stage. The twenty-four dance acts come from all dance genres, from ballet to hip hop, cheer dance to jazz and even Tahitian national dance. Over 400 young dancers will share the stage with a variety of celebrity guest acts including Matthew Golding and Akane Takada from The Royal Ballet dancing a pas de deux from Don Quixote. For more information contact the press team on 020 7959 3004 / press@royalalberthall.com

Royal Shakespeare Company – Henry IV Parts I and II

Barbican Theatre, 29 November 2014 - 24 January 2015

Continuing the Barbican's three-year collaboration with the RSC, Gregory Doran's productions of Henry IV Parts I and II come to the main stage following their premiere in Stratford-upon-Avon and subsequent national tour. With his crown under threat from enemies both foreign and domestic, Henry IV prepares for war. Having deposed the previous king, he is only too aware how tenuous his position is, and the price to be paid if he falters. For more information contact Angela Dias on 020 7382 7168 / angela.dias@barbican.org.uk

Made In Dagenham

Adelphi Theatre, from 5 November 2014

Gemma Arterton will be starring in this major new musical based on the true life story of the Ford machinists of Dagenham, who went on strike for equal pay in 1968 and led to the equal pay act of 1970. Based on the critically acclaimed film of the same name, this very British musical comedy shows that ordinary people can do extraordinary things when they know what's right. For more information contact Jessica McCrorie on 020 7836 4747 / jessicamccrorie@akauk.com

Riverdance - The 20th Anniversary Tour

Hammersmith Apollo, 10 - 13 December 2014

Riverdance 20th Anniversary Tour will visit 16 venues across the UK including a stint at the Hammersmith Apollo. With an incredible two decades of global success since the show first burst into the public's heart at the Eurovision Song Contest in Dublin in 1994, this is an unmissable chance for UK audiences to reconnect with Riverdance. For more information contact Chris Hewlett on 0845 601 2833 / chris@chrisheylett.com

Hotels for 2014

Chelsea Harbour Hotel

Chelsea, recently opened

The Chelsea Harbour Hotel, London's only 5*, all-suite hotel is situated on the marina at Chelsea Harbour and has Thames views and access to key London attractions including shopping on the renowned and upmarket Kings Road. It is intended to be 'an oasis in the bustling London metropolis'. The development of the hotel's name, branding and collateral reflect the theme of an 'oasis in the city' and the relaxation continues at the Blue Harbour Health Club and Spa. There's The Harbour Bar for drinks, or dining at the Chelsea Riverside Brasserie, with great views across the marina. For more information contact Kathryn Peel or Jonathan Williams, kathryn@ophirpr.co.uk; jonathan@ophirpr.co.uk

The Dog and Fox

Wimbledon, recently opened

Gastropub The Dog & Fox, located in Wimbledon Village, has opened its luxury boutique hotel. Offering 17 rooms, including three feature rooms, the hotel is located next to the high-end shops and restaurants in the Village and is minutes from Wimbledon Common and the Lawn Tennis Championships. Each room features Hypnos beds, Algoterm toiletries, WiFi and Nespresso machines. The Fox Room is the hotel's largest and comes with a four-poster bed and dressing area.

At the heart of the hotel is a neighbourhood gastropub (the hotel is soundproofed – guests won't hear any noise coming from the pub or the street), and serves a menu using local and seasonal ingredients, as well as London craft beers and cask ales. For more information contact Francesca Smalley at Roche Communications, francesca@rochecom.com

Generator London

Bloomsbury, recently opened

Generator London is located in London's Bloomsbury and first opened in 1995. Originally a police section house, the property features 872 beds across 212 rooms, including 20 new en-suite twins.

The impressive interiors 'bring together London's industrial past with the modern energy the city has today'. There's a customised Generator piano in the café and a hand drawn map of London that decorates the travel shop.

There are chill-out areas with tiered lounge seating; a screening room with state of the art cinema screen; game tables and a café serving up freshly roasted coffee and artisan sandwiches. The bar hosts a programme of daily events for in house guests, is home to a replica Routemaster London bus and the lighting has been designed using recycled fire extinguishers. For more information contact Rachael@purplepr.com or Kate.Bell@purplepr.com

Shangri-La Hotel London opening at The Shard

London Bridge, recently opened

Asia Pacific's leading luxury hotel group, Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts, will open a new 18-floor high-end hotel at The Shard, London. The 202 deluxe guestrooms will be amongst the largest in London with highlights including the Shangri-La Bed, featuring patented body-contouring technology. Food and beverage outlets will include a lobby lounge and bar, a gourmet lounge café with artisan crafted foods and a themed bar situated on level 52 with spectacular views across London. For more information contact Virginia Webb on 020 7637 3220 / virginia.webb@massey.co.uk

Ham Yard Hotel, Soho

Recently opened

The Ham Yard hotel is situated on a ¾ acre vacant site off Great Windmill Street in Soho that is being constructed from the ground up and is due to open in May 2014. Its 90 bedrooms and suites are individually designed by Kit Kemp, plus it will offer 24 residential apartments, 13 speciality retail stores, two drawing rooms, a restaurant and bar all centred around a leafy garden. There will be a small spa and several private event rooms including a 175-seat theatre/cinema with a stage and VIP balcony, plus a four-lane 1960s-style bowling alley along with a bar and dance floor. Up on the roof will be a Kitchen Garden growing seasonal produce including tomatoes, melons and blueberries, as well as a chicken coop! for more information contact Jodie Tice on JodieTice@firmdalehotels.com

Cheval Three Quays

The City, recently opened

A collection of new luxury serviced apartments located next to the Tower of London, Cheval Three Quays will afford incredible views across the Thames towards Tower Bridge and City Hall. Designed for both short and extended stays, there will be a choice of 159 serviced and residential luxury apartments and penthouses. For more information contact Sarah White sarah.white@fourbgb.com

Dorsett Shepherd's Bush

Shepherd's Bush, recently opened

The Shepherd's Bush Pavilion is a Grade II-listed red brick landmark which opened as a cinema in 1923 but which has been unoccupied since 2001 and now just the original facade remains. Located next to the rather noisy Walkabout pub, the pavilion was being used for one-off events, such as club nights, private parties and one-off screenings before being re-developed. The hotel will be run by Asian group Dorsett Hospitality International and is expected to become part of its mid-priced business Dorsett Regency brand when it opens in 2014. <http://www.dorsethotels.com/unitedkingdom/london/shepherdsbush/>

The Hoxton Hotel Holborn

Holborn, opening late Summer 2014

The award-winning Hoxton Hotel in east London is heading central to High Holborn, where the Hoxton Holborn will open its doors in late Summer 2014. The new site, located within a Grade II-listed building, will house 174 bedrooms over five floors in three different categories; comfy, cosy and tiny. Every guest can take advantage of the complimentary healthy breakfast bags by hanging a special paper bag outside the room door, filled over night with a granola yoghurt, banana and OJ. Its restaurants will include the Hoxton Grill, serving American classics, and the Chicken Shop. Hox Holborn will adhere to the brand's "no rip-off" policy with free WiFi throughout, one hour of free phone calls to landlines (and US mobiles) in Britain, USA, Australia and most of Europe, a supermarket-priced lobby shop for everything from confectionery to champagne while fresh milk and mineral water will be free. Room rates are priced from £69. For more information contact Julia Pearson on Jules@thehox.com

The Beaumont Hotel

Mayfair, Opening Autumn 2014

Restaurateurs Jeremy King and Chris Corbin are to open their first hotel overlooking Brown Hart Gardens in Mayfair. The 75-room hotel will feature an inhabitable sculpture of a crouching man, called Room, by artist Antony Gormley which is predicted to become a landmark for the area. King and Corbin, who have made their name with top restaurants such as The Wolseley, The Ivy and Le Caprice have developed the project in partnership with property firm Grosvenor to a design by ReardonSmith architects who have previously worked on the Four Seasons on Park Lane, The Savoy, and Claridge's. The Beaumont will also comprise a Presidential suite, a 100-seater classic New York-style restaurant, a private dining room, spa and leisure facilities. For more information contact martine.degeus@CorbinKing.com

M by Montcalm

Shoreditch London Tech City, opening Autumn 2014

One of two new hotels from the Montcalm group set to open in 2014, the M by Montcalm at 151 City Road, close to Old Street roundabout and opposite the Moorfields Eye Hospital, is part of a cluster of towers beginning to form on City Road. The new build 200-room hotel is part of a 23-storey tower development which fuses large scale art, sculpture and architecture in a futuristic looking tower. The building will include retail and bars, self-storage, business centre, fitness centre and the hotel which has an exceptional roof top bar overlooking London. Level 42 of the building is given over to a public bar and viewing gallery creating "an exceptional roof top bar overlooking London". The pioneering new building which tapers and twists to allow daylight penetration at street level has been created by architect Will Alsop. He has described the project as "an artwork" which includes a striking 15-storey work by artist Bruce McLean. The Montcalm already operates several hotels in London, The Montcalm at The Brewery London City with the London City Suites By Montcalm nearby, and The Montcalm London Marble Arch with The Marble Arch By Montcalm London just a stone's throw away. As well as the new City Tower By Montcalm a second new Montcalm hotel, The Royal London House By Montcalm in Finsbury Square, also opens in 2014.

<http://mbymontcalm.co.uk/>

The Lanesborough

Knightsbridge, opening fourth quarter 2014

One of London's most iconic five-star hotels is closing on 20 December for renovations. It will be auctioning every piece from its public spaces and 93 rooms in early December and is due to reopen in nine months. The new designs by interior designer, Alberto Pinto, will enhance all guest rooms and public areas and integrate the latest innovations while honouring the building's architectural heritage as one of London's most well-regarded Regency landmarks. For more information contact Clare Gillespie on Clare.Gillespie@luchfordapm.com

The Mondrian Sea Containers House

Southbank, opening 2014

Sea Containers House, on the South Bank, is being developed into the Mondrian London by the Morgans Hotel Group. Situated on the banks of the River Thames, Sea Containers House holds a striking presence between the OXO Tower and Blackfriars Bridge. The building was built in the 1970s and intended as a luxury hotel, but ended up being used as offices instead. The hotel will embody the elegance of a transatlantic 1920s' liner, combined with a healthy dose of 1980s post-modernism reference. The main lobby will feature a giant, external and internal copper-clad wall, inspired by the hull of a ship that will run from outside the building and glamorously lead guests to the entrance hall within. The vast, 1500 m², ground floor area includes two river-side restaurants and a breakfast bar. For more information contact Stevie King on

stevie@purplepr.com

Gansevoort Hotel Shoreditch

Shoreditch, opening 2015

Gansevoort Hotels (famous for their NY hotel in the Meatpacking district) are coming to Curtain Road with this new 120 room hotel. There will definitely be a rooftop bar and pool, just like the NYC version - but a restaurant is still TBC.

Nobu Hotel

Shoreditch, opening first quarter 2016

Master sushi chef Nobu Matsuhisa is planning his first European hotel, the Willow Street Hotel in London's Shoreditch.. The new hotel has been designed by Ron Arad Associates and will house 143 bedrooms and a statement restaurant: a dramatic 5 metre high space in the basement. The five storey hotel includes its own garden, while rooms are clustered around a central bathroom screened off by a full-height curved unit. This will be the first UK building by Ron Arad, the designer responsible for the stunning design museum in Holon, Israel. For more information visit

<http://nobuhospitality.com>

Pod Hotel, Trocadero

West End, in planning stages

Floors 3 – 7 of the Trocadero will be turned into Tokyo-style 'pod' hotel. The 495 bed 'pod' hotel will provide windowless rooms emulating those of a luxury cruise ship and will occupy floors three to seven. Each room will be beautifully styled with high quality finishes; include a full double sized bed; en-suite high tech bathroom and more. The hotel will feature a destination rooftop bar and restaurant for the exclusive use of guests providing breathtaking views of the London skyline.

Zetter Seymour Street

Marylebone, opening date TBC

Mark Sainsbury and Michael Benyon's Zetter Group - which owns the [Zetter](#) and Zetter Townhouse in Clerkenwell - opens a new hotel on Seymour Street, Marylebone, in September 2014. The 6 storey townhouse hotel will have interiors by Russell Sage Studios, a spectacular suite on the top floor and a cool cocktail bar on the ground floor. The project entailed the demolition of a Grade II listed building in poor structural condition and a brand new building which includes 24 bedrooms and a roof terrace. While the original Zetter was home to fictional hostess Wilhelmina, who travelled the world collecting art and curios for her London home, the latest addition to the Zetter family is the home of wicked uncle Seymour. We can't wait to meet him.

Restaurants for 2014

House of Ho

Soho, opened January 2014

Bobby Chinn opened his new London restaurant, The House of Ho, in January on Soho's Old Compton Street. The modern Vietnamese menu echos Chinn's 18 years living and working in both Hanoi and Saigon. Known for his quirky, contemporary approach to Vietnamese cookery, diners can expect a combination of authentic and adventurous. Signature small dishes on the menu include Smokey aubergine and crispy shallots with warm scallion vinaigrette, Apple-smoked pork belly with braised cabbage, Lemongrass monkfish, Duck "a la banana" (shredded confit duck banana blossom salad), Seafood ceviche with mangosteen truffle vinaigrette, "Shaking Beef" and Molton Marou chocolate cake and Sweet Corn Che for dessert.

www.houseofho.co.uk/

Canvas

Marylebone, opened in January

The first restaurant in London where you can create your own tasting menu, Canvas opened on 14 Jan with Swiss chef Michael Riemenschneider at the reins. The Handbook says "Guests at the tiny 20-seater venue, will be invited to construct their own tasting menu – a minimum of three courses up to 9 courses at lunch, or 15 courses at dinner – from a selection of 16 dishes. They can build their menu as they see fit – choosing as many starters, mains or desserts, as they prefer. The chef will then determine the most appropriate sequence in which these dishes are delivered... For a more traditional tasting menu experience, there's the Menu Surprise – a five-course bespoke menu of the chef's choosing, comprising of new and off-menu items.

www.canvasmr.com/

London House in Battersea (new Gordon Ramsay)

Battersea, opened February 2014

After a three month long refurbishment, London House in Battersea Square is set to open at the start of February. The latest offering from the Gordon Ramsay Group, London House, will be headed up by Anna Haugh-Kelly. The Irish Head Chef has created a menu influenced by her experience of working in international kitchens, so expect to see dishes such as crab and scallop tortellini and frozen nougatine with rhubarb puree. The interior of the restaurant is elegant yet understated the sitting room where guests can sip on cocktails and beer takes on an indulgent, relaxed atmosphere with sapphire velvet and burgundy leather furniture, bespoke cathedral glass windows, wooden panelling and a fireplace. www.gordonramsay.com

Big Easy Covent Garden

Covent Garden, opened February 2014

Taking inspiration from their ever-busy King's Road barbecue and crabshack, Big Eat Covent Garden will be serving authentic American barbeque and seafood. Spread over three floors in a former electrical power station, the West End site will feature an impressive 'wall of fire' made up of two Argentinean-style parilla charcoal grills, a huge rotisserie spit, and a wood-burning oven. A BBQ pit area will house two wood-burning smokers where prime cuts of meat will be smoked over woods like oak, hickory and cherry for up to 18 hours. A vast lobster tank will house nearly 2,000 live Nova Scotia lobsters. <http://bigeasy.co.uk>

The Fable

Farringdon, opened February 2014

Once upon a time there was an all-day restaurant and bar in Farringdon inspired by fairy tales and Aesop's fables. It was owned by Drake and Morgan and was set in a former 15th century house. It had floor to ceiling windows, wishing wells, Mulberry duck print chairs and all sorts of intriguing decorations. It served a wonderful all day menu including dishes such as the Borough Market flatbread and crab linguine, all the princesses sipped on skinny cocktails, and all the guests lived happily ever after. www.thefablebar.co.uk

Holborn Dining Room

Holborn, opened February 2014

Opening on the ground floor of the Rosewood London hotel, the Holborn Dining Room is the creation of renowned restaurateur Des McDonald. The restaurant will be serving up traditional British dishes such as highland partridge, steak and 'Camden Ink' suet pudding, along with McDonald's signature London fritters and nostalgic favourites such as steamed jam sponge with banana custard. The guys behind the restaurant include Steve Collins, previously Head Chef of Quaglino's, and David Burke, former Executive Chef of Le Pont De La Tour and The Wolseley.

www.rosewoodhotels.com

Boom Burger

Portobello Road, opened February 2014

Boom Burger, the Jamaican influenced burger company, is settling down on Portobello Road with its first permanent restaurant. Influenced by Head Chef, Josh de Lisser's Jamaican background, the restaurant is lined with banana leaf and reggae LPs, and diners will be lulled with a Jamaican soundtrack. Alongside classic fries expect to find plantain fries and forget your chicken burger, theirs will be a jerk burger with papaya, mango sauce and fried plantain – all washed down with a couple of rum cocktails of course. www.boomburger.co.uk

Poppy's Place

Fulham, opened in March

The opening of Poppy's Place this month looks to make an interesting addition to Fulham's restaurant scene. Working around a 'farm to table' ethos, head chef Alastair Pritchard has created a changing seasonal menu that will serve up informal brunch dishes before being transformed to a cosy candle lit dinner venue at night. With dishes including hash browns and hot smoked salmon with horseradish and a special focus on steak in the evening this is sure to quickly become your new favourite weekend hang out. www.poppysplacesw6.co.uk

The Wright Brothers Soho

Soho, opened in March

The Wright Brothers Soho has been given a bit of a makeover and this month sees the relaunch. Shayne Brady of Brady Williams has redesigned the interior to include banquet seating an upstairs restaurant, standalone bar and private dining area. They are also unveiling a semi-private dining room, 'The Cage' and before you get any ideas, it refers to a supersized structure modeled on a lobster trap which the Wright Brothers use on their oyster farm. The clever bit is that the cage walls can be folded into different configurations depending on whether you want an intimate booth or open dining space – nifty huh? The menu has also been given a bit of a shakeup by the newly appointed chef Sasha Ziverts, and they are expanding the meat section with dishes such as chargrilled Wagyu beef bavette steak with half a grilled lobster and fries. Sounds good to us! www.thewrightbrothers.co.uk

Workshop Coffee Co

Holborn, opened in March

Coffee lovers rejoice at the news that the Workshop Coffee Co are opening their third London store! Continuing to reflect the company's mission to provide clean, fresh and ethically sourced coffee to the public, their new Holborn location is set to be as popular as their other outlets. The minimalist interior designed by Ink Associates in this shop means all attention is focused on the coffee that's freshly roasted on the site. The Holborn branch will also sell the chain's trademark coffee and grinders for those who want to take their cup home with them. www.workshopcoffee.com

Fera at Claridge's

Mayfair, opened recently

Simon Rogan, one of the most creative and exciting chefs in the UK today, will be taking the helm Claridge's new restaurant opening in Spring 2014. Rogan's creativity and inventive techniques are rooted in his belief in using local British produce of exceptional quality, all sourced from his own farm in Cumbria. His trail blazing use of seasonal ingredients will be a

defining element for his new restaurant at Claridge's. Rogan currently holds two Michelin stars at his flagship restaurant, L'Enclume in Cartmel, Cumbria. www.claridges.co.uk/simonrogan/

Hill and Szrok Master Butcher

Broadway Market, opened in March

Coming to East London's Broadway Market in March is a new 2 in 1 establishment - butchers by day and restaurant - or "cookshop" - by night. The man behind it is Luca Mathiszig-Lee (from The Eagle and The 3 Crowns by Old Street) and he's got Butcher Tom Richardson Hill and head chef Alex Szrok working with him. By day - the butcher takes the lead. Tom Richardson Hill (who's previously been at Frank Godfrey's in Highbury and Allens of Mayfair) is working with small farmers specialising in rare breeds, free range and organic meat. He'll also be curing his own bacon and gammon, making his own sausages, salami and selling these alongside terrines, pates and sauces. By night (from 7pm) the cookshop will take over. Head chef Alex Szrok, also previously at The Eagle, is in charge. You'll be able to buy the very best cuts of meat from the shop and have him prepare them for you. www.hot-dinners.com/Gastroblog/Latest-news/hill-szrok-master-butcher-cookshop-opening-on-broadway-market

Brindisa Food Rooms

Brixton, opened recently

Brindisa continues to expand all over London. Having recently gone east with Tramontana Brindisa in Shoreditch, they're now heading south to Brixton for a new shop and bar - the Brindisa Food Rooms. This new opening won't have a fully fledged restaurant attached - it's much more similar to their Borough Market offering. They'll be set up under two railway arches just around the corner from Brixton Market - with one being the bar and the other the shop (where anything offered in the bar can be bought). The food in the bar will centre around the idea of the Catalan Llesquerias that Brindisa founder Monika Linton (that's her on the right) ate at in Barcelona when she lived there in the 80s. www.brindisa.com/our-shops/brindisa-food-rooms/

Verdi Italian Kitchen

Royal Albert Hall, opened in April

This is the sixth restaurant in the Royal Albert Hall, which has just had a £1mil refurbishment. It'll be open to the public as well as concert-goers for lunch, dinner and weekend brunch. Taking into account its location, there will be live music every Friday evening and Saturday lunch from up and coming talent. www.royalalberthall.com/visit/food-drink/verdi.aspx

Mode

Notting Hill, opened in April

Billed as "a restaurant, cocktail bar and destination venue" they're planning to relaunch every six months as a series of "chapters". Each of these chapters will be united by a single concept, and they're starting things with "Future Vintage", as the venue will be converted into a setting inspired by the industrial revolution. Drinks-wise, the cocktail list will feature different signature cocktails for each chapter and there will be different art installations and live music all best suited to the current focus of the venue. Also sounding interesting is starting decor with - a "six-metre sculpture of a mutant Spitfire by infamous art car artist and sculptor Ruby Soho" and a "floor to ceiling flame-throwing pipe organ".

<http://crackmagazine.net/2014/04/new-notting-hill-bar-mode-set-to-open-this-friday/>

Kurobuta

Marble Arch, opened in April

This is an izakaya or traditional Japanese style pub this September just by Marble Arch, from the former head chef of Nobu and most recently Wabi London. Open all day from early morning to late evening Kurobuta will have room for 80 and also serve up a range of dishes to go. A pop-up in Chelsea has been a big hit, so expect this to be huge too. <http://kurobuta-london.com/>

The Cat and Mutton

Broadway Market, opened in April

The Cat and Mutton is a historic East London pub sat on the corner of London Fields and Broadway Market. In 2014 the pub was carefully restored accentuating its rich history whilst giving it a contemporary feel. Set over 2 floors the cat and mutton offers an atmospheric setting, inventive food offering and an extensive drinks selection throughout. www.catandmutton.com/

Beast

Marylebone, opened in May

Beast will open in Marylebone in early May selling a fixed menu focusing around King Crab and Steak for £75 a head. That'll include starters, sides, both crab and steak for mains and dessert. There'll be two huge medieval-style tables of around 30 seats and two of 15 and yes, each one can be potentially be booked as a whole. Wine-wise you can expect around 150 bins on offer. But the spirits list will be strictly limited to one gin, one vodka etc - only the best but at a price Strauss says will be very competitive. <http://www.beastrestaurant.co.uk/>

Primeur

Islington, opened in May

The two floored restaurant on Petherton Road occupies a building that began life as a grocery and was a garage in the 1930s. The ground floor will be made up of communal tables and a dining counter sitting a total of 40 guests. And there's also a private dining room in the cellars which can host 14 diners. The chef will be making up between 8 and 10 dishes daily to allow the offering to remain on point. Expect: duck rilette with pickled cucumber; sea bass & seaweed tartare; roast turbot, chicken wings; fish stew; rump steak with snails & garlic. And while cellar holds about 70 bins, only 8/10 wines will be selected daily not only to complement the menu but to also to encourage a real sense of discovery of wines and the people who make them. <http://primeurn5.co.uk/>

The Palomar

Soho, opened in May

The chefs from Jerusalem's coolest restaurant Machneyuda are heading to London to help open their first UK restaurant. The Palomar, which will open this Spring on Soho's Rupert Street sees Layo and Zoe Paskin, the siblings behind The End and AKA teaming up with Machneyuda's Yossi Elad, Uri Navon & Asaf Granit. Full-time in the kitchen at The Palomar will be Moroccan chef Tomer Amedi who used to work at Yudale, the Jerusalem bar also owned by Machneyuda. His menu will specialise in food from Jerusalem with influences from Southern Spain and Italy, North Africa through to the Levant. <http://thepalomar.co.uk/>

Rivea

Knightsbridge, opened in May

With a three Michelin starred restaurant over at the Dorchester, this will be Alain Ducasse's second London restaurant. It'll be an informal affair and based on Ducasse's existing restaurant of the same name at Hôtel Byblos in St Tropez with a mixture of French and Italian dishes inspired by Mediterranean cuisine. We understand that while the menu will be similar to the one in France, the London RIVEA will feature new dishes too and be adapted to a London audience. RIVEA will take over the restaurant space at the Bulgari currently occupied by Il Ristorante and, as you'd expect, there is going to be a major redo of the room. That dining room will close on 23 March for a full refurbishment. www.bulgarihotels.com/en-us/london/bar-and-restaurant/rivea/rivea

City Social at Tower 42

City of London, opened in May

Jason Atherton goes high rise with City Social taking over the area vacated by Gary Rhodes' Rhodes 24 in Tower 42. He plans to transform it into an opulent, glamorous destination restaurant, expanding the bar area to equal the dining room in size, and making the most of the venue's outstanding view. 'It's Pollen Street Social meets The Great Gatsby – art-deco in style, very glamorous and very beautiful,' said Atherton. <http://citysociallondon.com/>

Restaurants at the Shangri-La

The Shard, opened in May

LÁNG

Deriving from the Chinese word for 'pathway', LÁNG, the hotel's artisan deli and cafe on the ground floor features an inviting selection of Shangri-La's renowned signature cakes, home-made chocolates and pastries as well as freshly prepared seasonal hampers, classic savouries and sandwiches for eat-in or take-away. LÁNG provides a warm and welcoming feel to locals and hotel guests looking for a relaxing place to have lunch or enjoy a variety of creative beverages. www.shangri-la.com/london/shangrila/dining/restaurants/lang/

TĪNG

TĪNG, derived from the Chinese word for a living room, is the collective name for the main restaurant and lounge on level 35. Both areas offer unsurpassed views of St Paul's Cathedral, The City of London, The Tower of London, Tower Bridge, Canary Wharf and other famous London landmarks. TĪNG restaurant offers a sumptuous array of locally inspired dishes with an Asian twist, made using some of the freshest produce from the nearby local food markets and crafted with meticulous attention www.shangri-la.com/london/shangrila/dining/restaurants/ting/

Pitt Cue

Soho, opened recently

The Pitt Cue-ers honed their craft under a bridge on the South Bank, selling to a demanding, social media-savvy, twentysomething audience – and their cooking rarely misses a beat.

www.pittcue.co.uk/home/

Villers Coffee Company & Dining Room

Charing Cross, opened in June

One of the most trusted old favourites in London is Gordon's Wine Bar on Villiers Street. Now the people behind Gordon's are branching out with Villiers, on the same street. It's being billed as an all-day dining room, coming from the younger generation of the Gordon family. The whole operation really brings home how much of a family business it is. www.hot-dinners.com/villivers

Opso

Marylebone, opened in June

This new all day restaurant is taking over the site that used to be Ping Pong on Paddington Street. Over two floors they'll be serving up both traditional and modern Greek dishes. They've got the former Head Chef of Princi in the kitchen and Georgianna Hiliadaki and Nikos Roussos, founders of the two-Michelin starred restaurant Funky Gourmet in Athens as Consultant Chefs. Space-wise, the upstairs room will seat 45 - 18 people along one large communal table. Downstairs will be room for 30 more as well as two private dining booths with seating for 8 each. There'll also be tables outside as the weather warms up. www.opso.co.uk/

Arabica Bar & Kitchen

Borough Market, opened in June

Arabica Food & Spice Company is moving on from its market stall to open a permanent base on Rochester Walk in Borough Market. The 80-cover bar and restaurant will serve a Levantine-inspired menu, featuring dishes such as beef and bone marrow kofta, salt marsh lamb ribs with wild mint, and Istanbul-style mussel rolls. The venue's cocktail list is overseen by Geoff Robinson of Happiness Forgets and the Experimental Cocktail Club.

www.arabicabarandkitchen.com/

Comensal

Clapham, opened in June

Opening in Clapham, Comensal aims to be the best Mexican restaurant in London so diners should expect great things. Mexican head chef Eduardo Santiago has developed a menu that will offer sophisticated rather than simple fare – expect sharp ceviche dishes rather than plates of nachos. The menu itself concentrates on Mexico City-specific dishes, such as pistachio-

crusted lamb chops. The restaurant opens officially on June 6, but those who visit during its soft-opening phase, from May 31 to June 5, will be offered 50 per cent off their total food bill.

www.comensal.co.uk/

T.E.D (Think.Drink.Eat)

King's Cross, opening 4 July

T.E.D. (Think Eat Drink) restaurant is a "sustainable venture", serving an all-day menu of responsibly sourced and seasonal foods, and a range of biodynamic, carbon-neutral and traditional wines. The interior will play its part in promoting that ethos too, with salvaged furniture and fittings used throughout. www.tedrestaurants.co.uk/

Bayou

Camden, opening 10 July

Opening in Camden, Bayou will serve Creole cuisine and dishes that fuse European and South American elements – crayfish gumbo, crisply buttermilk chicken and Creole banana pie are all on the menu. Evenings should be particularly busy, with live music performances scheduled to take place during dinner sittings. <https://twitter.com/BayouCamden>

StreetXo

Mayfair, opening late 2014

This is the first London restaurant from David Muñoz, chef and creator of Madrid's three Michelin starred DiverXo. He's bringing over his street-food inspired restaurant from Madrid and plans to oversee it at least twice a week. The London StreetXo will be open 14 hours each day. The dining room will have a central open-kitchen with chefs front and centre, interacting directly with diners. As for the food, the menu will change often, featuring 12-14 dishes. But we rather like the sound of the trolley that'll be wheeled through the restaurant serving one-off creations.

www.catererandhotelkeeper.co.uk/streetxo

20 Fenchurch Street (Walkie Talkie)

City of London, opening late 2014

The Sky Garden at 20 Fenchurch Street will span three floors and offer uninterrupted views across the City of London. Served by two express lifts, visitors arrive to a beautiful landscaped garden at level 35, a bar and viewing area at level 36 and finally a public terrace, restaurant and café at level 37. The Sky Garden will be a truly unique space and has been designed to create an open and vibrant place of leisure offering visitors a rare chance to experience London from a different viewpoint. www.20fenchurchstreet.co.uk/sky-garden.html

Duck & Rice

Soho, opening 2014

The latest from Alan Yau, who has taken over the site of the old Endurance pub, right next door to his restaurant Yauatcha in London. Yau plans to reinvent it as a Chinese gastropub. Some say that this will spur on pubs to offer more Asian food, noting 'Where Yau leads, others follow.'

<http://alanyau.cn>

Goodman Lobster Roll Deli

Mayfair, opening 2014

Coming from the people behind the hugely popular Burger and Lobster, their next restaurant on Duke Street in Mayfair will focus on lobster rolls, serving them to eat in or takeaway. There are other menu items planned, but the main draw will be the rolls which we're presuming are along the lines of those they currently serve up in Burger & Lobster. www.hot-dinners.com/goodman-lobster

Smith & Wollensky

Covent Garden, opening 2014

Smith & Wollensky, the classic American steakhouse, opens its first UK brand in Covent Garden this year. Since its establishment in 1977 as America's premier fine dining steakhouse, Smith & Wollensky has been committed to delivering unparalleled hospitality and the best USDA Prime

steaks, dry-aged for tenderness and flavor and hand cut on-premise daily. Smith & Wollensky Restaurant Group is headquartered in Boston and owns and operates nine iconic Smith & Wollensky locations in Miami Beach; Chicago; Las Vegas; Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia; Columbus, Ohio; Houston; and two restaurants in Boston. The acclaimed wine list, rich ambiance and exceptional service are designed to provide guests with a truly memorable steakhouse experience. www.smithandwollensky.com

Fatty Crab London

Address TBC, opening 2014

There are three Fatty Crabs - one in New York's West Village, one in Hong Kong and one in the US Virgin Isles. They're the older, not necessarily wiser, sibling restaurant to the popular Williamsburg barbecue spot Fatty Cue. "Fatty Crab, in all its non-fusion, food-focused glory, is a bone-gnawing, crab-leg-sucking kind of place," said New York magazine when it reviewed it. www.fattycrab.com

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