



NIGHT+DAY LONDON

Ins and Outs

The Top 50 Noteworthy Additions plus Changes and Closures

from publication date through March 31, 2009

The Night+Day promise

Night+Day writers and editors use the same high standards in selecting and researching venues to be included in our Ins and Outs updates as we do for our books. Our local correspondents determine which new hot spots are the real deal and which are simply hype—just as you'd expect from **Night+Day**—to provide the kind of reliable information you need to make the best possible choices.

NightandDayGuides.com

Key to Night+Day Symbols

Restaurants

Singles-friendly

- Communal table
- Food served at bar

(G) Gourmet destination

Nightlife

Includes bars, clubs, and entertainment

- Cover or ticket charge
(otherwise, entry is free)

Restaurants + Nightlife

Prime-time noise levels

- Quiet
- A buzz, but still conversational
- Loud

Venues followed by an asterisk (*) are those we recommend as both a restaurant and a destination bar.

Key to Pricing

Hotels

Best deluxe room

- £ £100–£199
- ££ £200–£299
- £££ £300–£399
- ££££ £400 and up

Restaurants

Main course

- £– less than £10
- £ £10–£19
- ££ £20–£29
- £££ £30–£39
- ££££ £40 and up

Attractions

Entry or service

- £– less than £10
- £ £10–£19
- ££ £20–£29
- £££ £30–£39
- ££££ £40 and up

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Underline indicates recommendation made in most recent calendar quarter.
Venues with asterisk (*) have descriptions in both restaurant and nightlife categories.

Nightlife (cont.)

NAME TYPE	ADDRESS (CROSS STREET) WEBSITE	N'HOOD COVER	PHONE NOISE	EXPERIENCE
Rockwell Hotel Bar	2 Spring Gardens, SW1A (Embankment) thetrafaigar.com	WE	020.7870.2959 =	Hot & Cool
The Roundhouse Arts Venue	Chalk Farm Rd., NW 1 (Chalk Farm) roundhouse.org.uk	PR C	084.4482.8008 =	Hip
Shoreditch House Members' Club	Ebor St., E1 (Liverpool St.) shoreditchhouse.com	HX C	020.7739.5040 =	Hot & Cool
Shunt Vaults Bar	20 Stainer St., SE1 (London Bridge) shunt.co.uk	BA C	020.7378.7776 =	Hip
Tabernacle* Bar	55–61 Tabernacle St., EC2 (Old St.) tabernacleshoreditch.com	HX	020.7253.5555 =	Hot & Cool
Water Poet* Pub/Tavern	9–11 Folgate St., E1 (Liverpool St.) waterpoet.co.uk	SP	087.1971.4489 =	Hip
York and Albany* Bar	127–129 Parkway, NW1 (Camden Town) gordonramsay.com/yorkandalbany	PR	020.7388.3344 =	Hot & Cool

Attractions

NAME TYPE	ADDRESS (CROSS STREET) WEBSITE	N'HOOD PRICE	PHONE	EXPERIENCE
The Convenience Store Store	1a Hazelwood Tower, Golborne Gardens, W10 (Westbourne Park)	NH	020.8968.9095	Hip
Georgina Goodman Store	44 Old Bond St., W1S (Green Park) georginagoodman.com	MY	020.7493.7673	Hot & Cool
Kew Gardens Garden	Kew, Richmond (Kew Gardens) kew.org	OC £	020.8332.5655	Classic
Neroli Spa	43 Honor Oak Park, SE23 (Honor Oak Park Rail) neroli-skincare.co.uk	OS ££££	020.8699.9496	Classic
The Organic Pharmacy Spa/Shop	169 Kensington High St., W8 (High Street Kensington) theorganicpharmacy.com	KE	020.7376.9200	Hot & Cool
Unconditional Store	16 Monmouth St., W2 (Royal Oak) unconditional.uk.com	CO	020.7836.6933	Hot & Cool

Neighborhood Key

BA = Bankside	HO = Holborn	OS = Outskirts
BL = Bloomsbury	HP = Hyde Park	PR = Primrose Hill
CH = Chelsea	HX = Hoxton	SB = South Bank
CL = Clerkenwell	IL = Islington	SJ = St. James's
CO = Covent Garden	KE = Kensington	SK = South Kensington
CT = The City	KN = Knightsbridge	SO = Soho
DO = Docklands	MA = Marylebone	SP = Spitalfields
FI = Fitzrovia	MY = Mayfair	WE = Westminster
FU = Fulham	NH = Notting Hill	
HA = Hampstead	OC = Out-of-City	

Restaurants (cont.)

NAME TYPE	ADDRESS (CROSS STREET) WEBSITE	N'HOOD PRICE	PHONE NOISE/SINGLES	EXPERIENCE
Murano Italian	20 Queen St., W1J (Green Park) gordonramsay.com/murano	MY ££	020.7592.1222 —	Classic
Tabernacle* Italian	55–61 Tabernacle St., EC2 (Old St.) tabernacleshoreditch.com	HX £	020.7253.5555 = B	Cool
Tierra Brindisa Tapas	46 Broadwick St., W1 (Oxford Circus) tierrabrindisa.com	SO £££	020.7534.1690 = B	Hot & Cool
Water Poet* Pub Grub	9–11 Folgate St., E1 (Liverpool St.) waterpoet.co.uk	SP ££	087.1971.4489 = B	Hip
Wild Honey Modern European	12 St. George St., W1S (Green Park) wildhoneyrestaurant.co.uk	MY £	020.7758.9160 =	Classic
York and Albany* European	127–129 Parkway, NW1 (Camden Town) gordonramsay.com/yorkandalbany	PR £	020.7388.3344 =	Hot & Cool
Yum Cha Chinese	28 Chalk Farm Rd., NW1 (Chalk Farm)	PR £	020.7482.2228 —	Hot & Cool

Nightlife

NAME TYPE	ADDRESS (CROSS STREET) WEBSITE	N'HOOD COVER	PHONE NOISE	EXPERIENCE
Amuse Bouche Champagne Bar	21–22 Poland St., W1F (Oxford Circus) abcb.co.uk	SO	020.7287.1661 =	Hot & Cool
Boundary Restaurant* Hotel Bar	2–4 Boundary St., E2 (Old St.) theboundary.co.uk	HX	020.7729.1051 =	Hot & Cool
The Coburg Bar Hotel Bar	16 Carlos Pl., W1K (Bond St.) the-connaught.co.uk	MY	020.7499.7070 —	Hot & Cool
The Connaught Bar Hotel Bar	16 Carlos Pl., W1K (Bond St.) the-connaught.co.uk	MY	020.7499.7070 —	Hot & Cool
Cube at the Tabernacle Nightclub	55–61 Tabernacle St., EC2A (Old St.) tabernacleshoreditch.com	HX	020.7253.5555 =	Hot & Cool
Dex* Members' Club	467–469 Brixton Rd., SW9 (Brixton) dexclub.co.uk	OS C	020.7326.4455 =	Hip
The Eagle Pub/Tavern	349 Kennington Ln., SE11 (Vauxhall) eaglelondon.com	CL C	020.7793.0903 =	Hip
The East Room* Lounge	2a Tabernacle St., EC2A (Old St.) thstrm.com	HX C	020.7374.9570 =	Hot & Cool
The Horse and Groom Pub/Tavern	26 Curtain Rd., EC2 (Liverpool St.)	HX	020.7503.9421 =	Hip
The Island Nightclub	180–182 Hungerford Ln., WC2N (Charing Cross) theisland-london.com	CO	020.7389.6622 =	Hot & Cool
The Joiners Arms Pub/Tavern	116–118 Hackney Rd., E2 (Old St.)	HX	020.7739.9397 =	Hip
Matter Nightclub	The O2, 1 Millenium Way, SE10 (North Greenwich) matterlondon.com	DO C	020.7549.6686 =	Hot & Cool

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Hot & Cool London Restaurants

Albion Café at Boundary • Hoxton • Cafe

The crisp décor of white tiles and blond wood here are straight from the pages of *Wallpaper* magazine, and have owner Terence Conran's mark of good taste throughout. And while it's not quite a "cafe" as we imagine the word, the food on offer is unfussy, with perfect English breakfasts, fish 'n' chips, and fruit cru m-bles delivered without the "twists" more pretentious eateries insist on. There's also a charming little store full of teas, fruit and veg, condiments, and bakes that hints at a postwar village grocer. But as the casually dressed diners average about 35, the nostalgia for most of them is surely inherited. *Daily 8am–midnight*. £– □ 2–4 Boundary St., E2 (Old St.), 020.7729.1051, albioncaff.com

Bob Bob Ricard • Soho • Brasserie

After all the hype that preceded its opening, this David Collins–designed brasserie certainly lives up to expectations—indeed defies them, with a curious collision of Edwardian charm and Willy Wonka–esque eccentricity that succeeds in conveying a sense of glamour all the same. The food has its quirky moments too. Well-executed takes on British hotel classics—egg mayonnaise, lobster thermidor, and so on—receive novel twists in their presentation and delivery that give a tongue-in-cheek nod to quainter times. Whether the entertaining gimmickry will guarantee continued success or not, it's clearly proving popular with Soho's media types for the moment. *Daily 7am–3am*. £ □ □ 1 Upper James St., W1 (Picadilly Circus), 020.3145.1000, bobbobricard.com

Bocca di Lupo • Soho • Italian

Fear not—the "wolf's mouth" of the name is merely an Italian good-luck proverb. And lucky indeed we are to have this new restaurant in the heart of Soho, especially as former Moro chef Jacob Kenedy is in the kitchen. His menu is a vigorous romp around Italy, with gutsy and utterly delicious combinations of regional produce available as small or large degustation dishes. The fish is especially good—whether eel, mullet roe, or baccalà, Italian dried cod. Smartly turned out with neutral tones, a terrazzo floor, and a contemporary chandelier, the dining room is permanently full of well-heeled diners, so be sure to book ahead. *Mon–Sat 12:30–3pm and 5:30pm–midnight*. £ □ □ 12 Archer St., W1 (Picadilly Circus), 020.7734.2223, boccadilupo.com

The Botanist • Chelsea • British

The Botanist is imbued with that rare essence of a perfect English summer. The soft greens and creams, natural wood, and botanical and zoological prints combine for contemporary elegance with a nod to the past. The menu succeeds in achieving the same: top-notch ingredients from across the country, such as Aberdeen Angus or Irish rock oysters, get a little continental treatment without detracting too much from tradition. With breakfast running into lunch, and lunch to dinner via afternoon tea, there's a steady flow of well-heeled West Londoners and discerning tourists throughout the day, although midweek dinners are quieter. *Mon–Fri 8am–11:30pm, Sat–Sun 9am–11:30pm*. ££ □ □ 7 Sloane Square, SW1 (Sloane Square), 020.7730.0077, thebotanistonsloanesquare.com

Black Book London

Hotels

NAME	ADDRESS (CROSS STREET)	N'HOOD	PHONE	EXPERIENCE
TYPE (ROOMS)	WEBSITE	PRICE	800 NUMBER	
Andaz Trendy (267)	40 Liverpool St., EC2 (Liverpool St.) london.liverpoolstreet.andaz.com	CT £££	020.7961.1234	Hip
The Rockwell Timeless (40)	181 Cromwell Rd., SW5 (Earl's Court Rd.) therockwellhotel.com	SK £	020.7244.2000	Classic

Restaurants

NAME	ADDRESS (CROSS STREET)	N'HOOD	PHONE	EXPERIENCE
TYPE	WEBSITE	PRICE	NOISE/SINGLES	
Albion Café at Boundary Cafe	2–4 Boundary St., E2 (Old St.) albioncaff.com	HX £–	020.7729.1051	Hot & Cool
Bob Bob Ricard Brasserie	1 Upper James St., W1 (Picadilly Circus) bobbobricard.com	SO £	020.3145.1000	Hot & Cool
Bocca di Lupo Italian	12 Archer St., W1 (Picadilly Circus) boccadilupo.com	SO £	020.7734.2223	Hot & Cool
The Botanist British	7 Sloane Square, SW1 (Sloane Square) thebotanistonsloanesquare.com	CH ££	020.7730.0077	Hot & Cool
Boundary Restaurant* French/British	2–4 Boundary St., E2 (Old St.) theboundary.co.uk	HX ££	020.7729.1051	Hot & Cool
Bull & Last Gastropub	168 Highgate Rd., NW5 (Kentish Town) thebullandlast.co.uk	HA £	020.7267.3641	Classic
Cah-Chi Korean	394 Garratt Ln., SW18 (Earlsfield) cahchi.com	OS £	020.8946.8811	Classic
Cha Cha Moon Asian	15–21 Ganton St., W1 (Oxford Circus) chachamoon.com	SO £–	020.7297.9800	Hip
Dans le Noir? French	30–31 Clerkenwell Green, EC1 (Farringdon) danslenoir.com/london	CL £££	020.7253.1100	Hip
Dex* British	467–469 Brixton Rd., SW9 (Brixton) dexclub.co.uk	OS £	020.7326.4455	Hip
The East Room* International	2a Tabernacle St., EC2A (Old St.) thstrm.com	HX £	020.7374.9570	Hot & Cool
The Fountain Modern British	181 Piccadilly, W1A (Green Park) fortunamandmason.com	SJ ££	020.7734.8040	Classic
Great Queen Street British	32 Great Queen St., WC2B (Drury Lane)	HO £££	020.7242.0622	Hip
The Green Room Continental	182 Broadhurst Gardens, NW6 (West Hampstead)	HA ££	020.7372.8188	Classic
La Giaconda Dining Room European	9 Denmark St., WC2 (Tottenham Court Rd.) giacondadining.com	SO £	020.7240.3334	Hip
Lola Rojo Spanish	78 Northcote Rd., SW11 (Clapham Junction) lolarojo.net	OS £–	020.7350.2262	Hot & Cool

foliage. *Apr–Aug: Mon–Fri 9:30am–6pm, Sat–Sun and public holidays 9:30am–7pm. Early Sep–Mar: Daily 9:30am–3:45pm.* £ [Kew, Richmond TW9 \(Kew Gardens\), 020.8332.5655, kew.org](#)

Neroli • Outskirts • Spa

Definitely off the beaten track, this spa nonetheless warrants a trip out to this quiet corner of South East London for its excellent treatments and products. Increasingly hip holistic methods and organic ingredients are the name of the game here, as well as the usual pedicures, hair removal, and tanning. The intimate décor, with muted floral motifs, soft lighting, and an ethnic feel, strike the perfect balance of understated chic. Due to its location, the clientele are mostly 30-something local women, but men are not forgotten—there are a number of treatments available for the modern male. *Tue–Thu 9:30am–9pm, Fri 9:30am–7pm, Sat 9:30am–5pm, Sun 10am–4pm.* ££££ [43 Honor Oak Park, SE23 \(Honor Oak Park Rail\), 020.8699.9496, neroli-skincare.co.uk](#)

Closures (Please make a note in your Black Book.)

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Boundary Restaurant* • Hoxton • French/British

Part of a grand project with the venerable Sir Terence Conran at its helm, this restaurant is an island of unquestionable good taste in a grungy yet hip corner of Shoreditch. The cuisine is down-to-earth, focusing on French classics with a British spin, and is all the better for its lack of pretense. Whether it's a pile of langoustines or a roast pheasant, the quality of the seasonal ingredients means they need little more than their judicious cooking and simple accompaniments to shine. The elongated dining room and adjoining bar are also an exercise in understatement—the smart brick walls and marble floor are as conventionally chic as the 30-something clientele. *Mon and Sat 6:30–10:30pm, Tue–Fri noon–3pm and 6:30–10:30pm, Sun noon–4pm.* ££ [2–4 Boundary St., E2 \(Old St.\), 020.7729.1051, theboundary.co.uk](#)

The East Room* • Hoxton • International

The East Room's restaurant, unlike its bar, is open to nonmembers. The food is fresh and healthy, with a big emphasis on fresh fish. The midweek buffets are a great alternative to sit-down power lunches. *Mon–Wed 11am–1am, Thu–Fri 11am–3am, Sat 7pm–3am.* £ [2a Tabernacle St., EC2A \(Old St.\), 020.7374.9570, thstrm.com](#)

Lola Rojo • Outskirts • Spanish

Any color is allowed as long as it's red—from the Jordi Labanda prints and tablecloths that liven up the pristine white of the dining room to its terrace's funky stools and cheerful geraniums. The décor alone suggests Barcelona, but the cuisine, featuring modern Catalan classics, screams it. Tapas of the customary jamón ibérico, tortillas, and pulpo share menu space with more elaborate and innovative dishes. All in all, the flavors are punchy and well married. The clientele are mostly local, dressed down but smart nonetheless. Best of all, there's a little store where you can take a bit of the magic home with you. *Mon–Thu noon–3pm and 6–10:30pm, Fri–Sun noon–10:30pm.* £– [78 Northcote Rd., SW11 \(Clapham Junction\), 020.7350.2262, lolarojo.net](#)

Tabernacle* • Hoxton • Italian

Multitasking venue Tabernacle features a modern Italian restaurant, whose Tuscan-inspired dishes are credibly authentic and source excellent ingredients. Sleek, New York-style surroundings and the neighboring bar and club attract snappily dressed Shoreditch socialites. *Mon–Sat noon–3pm and 6–10:30pm.* £ [55–61 Tabernacle St., EC2 \(Old St.\), 020.7253.5555, tabernacleshoreditch.com](#)

Tierra Brindisa • Soho • Tapas

Soho's not short on Spanish restaurants, but it was lacking a respectable tapas bar. Tierra Brindisa fits both bills, with fully fledged sit-down meals and tapas served either at its lively bar with a view of the kitchen or in the more sedate dining room. Flavors are intense and authentic, with the ubiquitous jamón ibérico sharing menu space with delightfully fresh fish. The décor is slightly lackluster in comparison; the plain white walls and simple furnishings feel more Scandinavian than Mediterranean. It's all proving to be a big hit with Soho's lunching media types and weekend revelers, so be sure to book ahead. *Mon–Sat 11am–11pm.* £££ [46 Broadwick St., W1 \(Oxford Circus\), 020.7534.1690, tierabrindisa.com](#)

York and Albany* • Primrose Hill • European

The latest addition to the Ramsay empire features not only the expected restaurant but also 10 beautifully decorated rooms, a sleek bar, and a charming little deli. With Angela Hartnett on board, it's guaranteed success on publicity alone, but the cuisine definitely delivers. The excellent ingredients and no-nonsense recipes make for wholesomely delicious dishes that borrow influences from all over Europe. We liked the autumnal feel of the menu when we visited, with its comforting root vegetables and tasty game. The clientele here aren't really a true representation of the area, as the smart West London types would look quite out of place in Camden, but they blend in perfectly with the décor's refined chic. *Mon–Sat noon–3pm and 6–11pm, Sun noon–4pm and 7–10pm.* £ ☎ 127–129 Parkway, NW1 (Camden Town), 020.7388.3344, gordonramsay.com/yorkandalbany

Yum Cha • Primrose Hill • Chinese

Eating dim sum on a weekend morning, China's answer to brunch, also invariably involves drinking copious amounts of tea—*yum cha* literally means “drink tea.” Both activities are clearly popular with native Londoners and Chinese diners in this smart little restaurant, a few miles away from Soho's China Town, but no less authentic for it. The à la carte menu makes its way around the classics of Southeast Asia, but it's the dim sum that puts Yum Cha on the map. Whether steamed or deep-fried, these little morsels are simultaneously light and sumptuous, the only complaint being that they are irresistibly moreish. *Sun–Thu noon–11pm, Fri–Sat noon–midnight.* £ ☎ 28 Chalk Farm Rd., NW1 (Chalk Farm), 020.7482.2228

Hot & Cool London Nightlife

Amuse Bouche • Soho • Champagne Bar

Sister to its well-established twin in Parsons Green, this smart champagne bar brings a splash of elegance to raucous Soho. The décor may be quite plain, with rustic tables and white walls, but the drinks menu is anything but. As far as the bottles go, the whole spectrum is covered, from your Cristal and Krug, to more “everyday” fizz. The ever popular Bellini rubs shoulders with more-innovative creations, such as a champagne mojito or an elderflower sling. Expect a 30-something after-work group 7–9pm in the week and a lively crowd making the most of the weekend's DJs. *Mon–Thu 4–11:30pm, Fri 4pm–midnight, Saturday 5pm–midnight.* ☎ 21–22 Poland St., W1F (Oxford Circus), 020.7287.1661, abcb.co.uk

Boundary Restaurant* • Hoxton • Hotel Bar

The basement bar at Terence Conran's Boundary offers an elegant spot to sample the forgotten gems on the cocktail list, or enjoy a digestif after dining in the adjoining restaurant. *Mon–Fri noon–midnight, Sat 6pm–midnight, Sun noon–5pm.* ☎ 2–4 Boundary St., E2 (Old St.), 020.7729.1051, theboundary.co.uk

The Coburg Bar • Mayfair • Hotel Bar

While the Connaught's several bars have always been of impeccable standards, they weren't ever destinations in themselves. That has changed with the beautifully refurbished Coburg Bar, first in the line of transformations set to turn Carlos Place into a smart nightspot. With the building's refined country-house

The Green Room • Hampstead • Continental

Booking a table at the Green Room is like being invited to a friend's house for dinner. The first thing to give this impression is the warm welcome from the bubbly owners—regardless of where you are from, you are treated like a neighbor. The place itself is a home away from home with its cozy blend of rusticity and elegance: Simple wooden tables and chairs share the space with smart flocked wallpaper and a chandelier. The food is unfussy, with lighthearted takes on various European dishes. While the menu is never the same twice, firm favorites, like the surprisingly hearty fish pie, replete with mussels and langoustines, or the rich boeuf bourguignon, are set to stay. *Tue–Fri 6:30–11:30pm, Sat 2:30pm–midnight, Sun 10:30am–5pm.* ££ ☎ 182 Broadhurst Gardens, NW6 (West Hampstead), 020.7372.8188

Murano • Mayfair • Italian

Backed by Gordon Ramsay, top female chef Angela Hartnett returns to the scene with her own restaurant. Murano, despite the hype, is remarkably unpretentious, the calm interior of creams very conservatively embellished with soft green and gold trim, and only the most demure of chandeliers. As with all great Italian cuisine, the flavors and quality of the ingredients steal the show: no fads here, just perfectly executed cooking. There's great use of regional produce, from Cornish red mullet to Scottish beef, all served with flavor-packed vegetables and judicious use of sauce and seasoning. It's enormously popular with refined lunching ladies and media types, so a reservation is essential. *Mon–Sat noon–2:30pm and 6:30–10:30pm.* ££ ☎ 20 Queen St., W1J (Green Park), 020.7592.1222, gordonramsay.com/murano

Wild Honey • Mayfair • Modern European

With its wood-paneled walls, this new Mayfair arrival has a cozy, clubby feel without being old-fashioned, thanks to contemporary white-and-eggplant-colored furniture and splashes of modern art. It's not the location alone that brings the locals in droves: impeccable asset managers, art dealers, and leisured types. The sensibly priced food is imaginative—think mackerel tartare or wild rabbit with foie gras boudin blanc—and just as much care has gone into the wine list, much of which is available in small carafes. If you haven't reserved, your best chance of snapping a coveted booth is Sunday. *Mon–Sat noon–2:30pm and 6–11pm, Sun noon–3pm and 6–10:30pm.* £ ☎ 12 St. George St., W1S (Green Park), 020.7758.9160, wildhoneyrestaurant.co.uk

Classic London Attractions

Kew Gardens • Out-of-City • Garden

The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew date from the 18th century, with both remarkable flora and listed greenhouses, follies, and bridges. Of more recent interest, however, is the breathtaking Xstrata Treetop Walkway, whose meandering path through the canopies gives a true bird's-eye view of things. For the worm's-eye view, the Rhizotron display delves below the roots. Other highlights include the steamy Palm House and its new aquarium and the impressive pagoda. Best of all, however, are the stunning year-round displays of flower and

ral prints, share a clean, muted aesthetic and absolute quiet. Kitted out with all the usual mod cons, White Company toiletries, and broadband, their only shortcoming may be the absence of bathtubs, but we guess the largely business clientele wouldn't find the time for a soak anyway. Of worthy mention are the top floor's mezzanine suites with huge windows, and the ground floor room's private patios. The latter back on to a secluded terrace: Catching the sun for lunch, and fashionably lit for dinner and cocktails by huge glowing pots of bamboo, it adds a definite USP to the hotel's restaurant and bar. £ 181 Cromwell Rd., SW5 (Earl's Court Rd.), 020.7244.2000, theockwellhotel.com

Classic London Restaurants

Bull & Last • Hampstead • Gastropub

There's something comfortingly countrified about the Bull & Last. The proximity to Hampstead Heath and the appeal of the eccentric mismatch of furniture and furnishings certainly has something to do with it, but the real rustic charm comes from the hearty fare and proper regional English ales. Native meaty dishes, such as roast beef or ox cheek, jostle for popularity with a few French classics such as the bolstering cassoulet. All the ingredients are regionally sourced from respectable farms and chalked up on a blackboard for all to see: This is not your average pub grub. The place is packed with down-to-earth locals and Heath visitors on the weekends, so come by midday if you're after a table for lunch. *Food served Mon–Fri noon–3pm and 6:30–10pm, Sat noon–10pm, Sun noon–9:30pm (pub open Mon–Sat 11am–11pm, Sun 11am–10:30pm).* £ ☎ 168 Highgate Rd., NW5 (Kentish Town), 020.7267.3641, thebullandlast.co.uk

Cah-Chi • Outskirts • Korean

Like its same-name sibling in Raynes Park, the Garratt Lane Cah-Chi delivers a delightful dining experience. It boasts a modest-size dining room, simply furnished with rustic wooden tables, plain white walls, and Korean artifacts. It's the cuisine that does the talking here—the ubiquitous barbecues and kim chee (pickles) are delicious, and provide a foil to a diverse menu of lesser-known dishes, where the emphasis is on simply cooked, quality ingredients. Vegetable dishes, such as the miso-anointed grilled eggplant, are particularly good. The friendly service and low-key locals further the pleasant homeliness of the experience. *Mon–Fri 6pm–midnight, Sat–Sun noon–3pm and 6pm–midnight.* £ ☎ 394 Garratt Ln., SW18 (Earlsfield), 020.8946.8811, cahchi.com

The Fountain • St. James's • Modern British

Fortnum's regulars can relax. David Collins' restrained makeover of the venerable store's Fountain restaurant is wittily pretty, with its clean lines softened by crystal chandeliers, antique mirror columns, and judicious amounts of pink, from the marble bar to the leather seats. The menu of updated British classics doesn't disappoint, either: ham-hock terrine, steak-and-mushroom pie, and fruit crumble are immaculate, pulling off the tricky task of pleasing the old guard of clients while creating new fans among the gilded Mayfair youth. Lunch early or late to miss the worst of the crowds. *Mon–Sat 7:30am–11pm, Sun noon–4pm.* £ £ ☎ Fortnum & Mason, 181 Piccadilly, W1A (Green Park), 020.7734.8040, fortnumandmason.com

style, it wouldn't do to give the bar the usual Starck-esque makeover. Thankfully, a few contemporary accents that befit the hotel's traditions have done the trick, such as the eye-catching cameo portraits by Julian Opie. The cocktail list echoes this, with a combination of classics and more modern concoctions. There's also an incredible wine list, including vintage Krug if the sky's the limit. *Daily noon–1am.* ☎ The Connaught, 16 Carlos Pl., W1K (Bond St.), 020.7499.7070, the-connaught.co.uk

The Connaught Bar • Mayfair • Hotel Bar

The second phase in the rejuvenation of the Connaught hotel is the transformation of its eponymous bar by designer David Collins. The end result is adventurously contemporary with black leather and silver leaf woodwork, while still preserving the classic elegance that is the signature of this stately address. Although the majority of the clientele are still the moneyed, mature lot you would expect, a racier breed of drinkers do seem to be catching on. The drinks list reflects this trend with cocktails receiving an innovative dash, such as the popular mint julep and its unusual herbal accent of Fernet Branca or the myriad-flavored Connaught martinis, faultlessly made to order at your table. *Mon–Sat 4pm–1am.* ☎ The Connaught, 16 Carlos Pl., W1K (Bond St.), 020.7499.7070, the-connaught.co.uk

Cube at the Tabernacle • Hoxton • Nightclub

The basement of the recently refurbished Tabernacle has been kitted out with an impressive array of technology. From the *Saturday Night Fever*-style LED dance floor and matching, jewel-like wall lights to the Dyson Airblade hand dryers in the restrooms, the feeling is '70s meets sci-fi. The feast for the eyes here is a serious draw, but the aural pleasures on offer are equally appealing: The sharp sound system delivers a variety of sounds from hot DJs, including local favorites. Expect a snappily dressed, youngish crowd to filter down after dinner and drinks upstairs, with the place packed by 11pm on Saturdays. *Thu–Sat 9pm–2am.* ☎ 55–61 Tabernacle St., EC2A (Old St.), 020.7253.5555, tabernaclehoreditch.com

The East Room* • Hoxton • Lounge

Part of the trend of members-only bars, The East Room comes from the people who gave us Milk and Honey and has a similar concept: While anyone lucky enough to find the easily missed entrance can drop in for lunch, it's strictly members-only in the evening. For an annual fee you get unlimited access for yourself and up to four guests. This gives the *Sex and the City*-style bar and lounge a vaguely clandestine feel, and allows you to enjoy the innovative wine and cocktail list assured that your conversation won't be interrupted by slurring strangers. Stylish tapas and bar snacks can be had any time, and a more elaborate sit-down dinner is available with a reservation. *Mon–Wed 11am–1am, Thu–Fri 11am–3am, Sat 7pm–3am.* ☎ 2a Tabernacle St., EC2A (Old St.), 020.7374.9570, thstrm.com

The Island • Covent Garden • Nightclub

What used to be a rather grungy annex to the legendary Heaven club has metamorphosed into a swanky late-night bar and nightclub. Two levels accommodate a dance floor, two bars, and an overlooking VIP lounge, while the separate Vault offers a more secluded dance floor. The décor is a slightly quirky but stylish mix

of brick and vinyl walls, lit in vibrant colors and illustrated with vegetal designs. Hedonistic club nights on Saturdays attract a young, edgy crowd that filters down from Soho for the electro and house beats, while Friday and Sunday nights tend to have a slightly older, more sophisticated following and a chilled-out soundtrack. *Fri–Sun 11pm–6pm.* ☒ [180–182 Hungerford Ln., WC2N \(Charing Cross\)](#), 020.7389.6622, [theisland-london.com](#)

Matter • Docklands • Nightclub

Cut from the same cloth as the much-loved Fabric, this new venue housed in the O2 Arena, 2007's resurrection of the Millennium Dome, is London's biggest club to date. With a 2,600 capacity and more high-tech equipment and facilities than you can shake a light stick at, it has rocked the capital's clubbing scene. As such, it's getting all the best names in dance music—Carl Cox, Mylo, and UNKLE, to name a few. The diverse, smiley crowd is evidence that the music is hitting the right spots, which is literally what's happening: The club is equipped with a BodyKinetic dance floor that sends the music vibrating through your body. The sensation alone is worth coming here for. *Fri–Sat 10pm–6am (check website for details).* ☒ [The O2, 1 Millenium Way SE10 \(North Greenwich\)](#), 020.7549.6686, [matterlondon.com](#)

Rockwell • Westminster • Hotel Bar

Not to be confused with the Rockwell Hotel, this elegant bar is housed on two floors of the Trafalgar Hilton, with a commanding view of the square and beyond. The décor is a sleek, minimalist vision in black leather, white lacquer, and high-gloss walnut, all suffused with lighting as mellow as the specialty whiskeys on the drinks list. Attracting as many outsiders as residents, the demographic is well heeled and surprisingly sedate for the area. Sharing platters, sandwiches, and bar snacks can be had, but lack the wow factor of the drinks and décor. *Mon–Sat 8am–1am, Sun 9am–11pm.* ☐ [The Trafalgar Hilton Hotel, 2 Spring Gardens, SW1A \(Embankment\)](#), 020.7870.2959, [thetrafalgar.com](#)

Shoreditch House • Hoxton • Members' Club

Yet another members-only venue from Nick Jones of Soho House fame, this so-called "house" has had a huge impact on this corner of Shoreditch. What used to be the playground of young Soho hipsters has gone distinctly upmarket since the influx of the house's moneyed media moguls. Rather like a luxury hotel without the rooms, this multistory club has several bars and restaurants, a gym, a spa, a bowling alley, and a fantastic heated rooftop swimming pool that is the talk of the town. Unfortunately, you'll have to hope for an invite, as memberships are apparently sold out, although we suspect that exceptions may be made for a certain few. *Daily 7am–3am.* ☒ [Ebor St., E1 \(Liverpool St.\)](#), 020.7739.5040, [shoreditchhouse.com](#)

Tabernacle* • Hoxton • Bar

A "one-stop shop" is hardly a new idea to London, and neither is Tabernacle. Since its grand refurbishment, however, this bar, restaurant, and club is pushing all the right buttons. Awash with a honey-colored glow that spills out enticingly onto the street corner, the ground floor bar's exposed brickwork and black leather borrow New York loft style. The crowd is typical of Shoreditch—hip young things, dressed up and with money to burn. The bar's neighboring restaurant and basement club make for a fabulous, self-contained evening at

Shunt Vaults • Bankside • Bar

Shunt is a bar quite unlike any other in the whole of the capital or dare we say the world over. It's located deep in a warren of arched vaults and passages beneath London Bridge Station—the atmosphere alone is unique. The décor is virtually nonexistent, with bare brick walls left untouched since Victorian times. More extraordinary still, the staff at Shunt are a madcap troupe of performers who put on various contemporary vaudeville pieces that involve the bar's somewhat bewildered drinkers. Expect anything from finding yourself aboard a transatlantic flight to taking part in a Dickensian reenactment. It's a thoroughly thrilling experience for those who are prepared to step a little outside their comfort zone. *Wed–Fri 6–11pm, Sat 8pm–midnight (bar open later).* ☒ [20 Stainer St., SE1 \(London Bridge\)](#), 020.7378.7776, [shunt.co.uk](#)

Water Poet* • Spitalfields • Pub/Tavern

At first glance, the Water Poet seems like just another traditional boozier, albeit a smart one, tucked between corporate life in the city and trendier goings-on in Spitalfields and Shoreditch. But inside, it's a thoroughly modern gastropub with a beer garden, pool room, and theatre, no less, and even live cabaret on Saturday nights. Weekdays mean a suited after-work crowd, while weekends see market shoppers dropping in for a bite of lunch, and the trendy denizens of the Ditch kicking off nights out with a pint or two: There's everything from blond Hoegaarden to Brit brew Flowers on tap. The grub's typically pubbish, with platters to share and a lovely roast on Sunday. *Mon–Fri 11am–11pm, Sat noon–11pm, Sun noon–10:30pm.* ☒ [9–11 Folgate St., E1 \(Liverpool St.\)](#), 087.1971.4489, [waterpoet.co.uk](#)

Hip London Attractions

The Convenience Store • Notting Hill • Store

The rather facetiously named Convenience Store brings a dash of avant-garde style to the sartorial retro of nearby Portobello Road and its surroundings. The interior itself is uncompromisingly modern, if a little bleak, entirely clad as it is in concrete. The women's clothes here add the color, along with some seriously sharp tailoring from the likes of AF Vandervorst, Rick Owens, Veronique Branquinho, and plenty of other of-the-moment designers. The vibe, however, as the name would suggest, is refreshingly unpretentious and accessible for such cutting-edge fashion. *Mon–Sat 10am–6pm.* [1a Hazelwood Tower, Golborne Gardens, W10 \(Westbourne Park\)](#), 020.8968.9095

Classic London Hotels

The Rockwell • South Kensington • Timeless (40 rms)

While it's hardly rare to find a four-star hotel in South Kensington, the Rockwell is one of few that it is independently owned. The décor may not have the wow factor of more palatial residences, but the pleasing mismatch of different styles gives it the relaxed feel of a decadent home, which presumably the Victorian building once was. All the rooms are unique and, with the exception of occasional loud flo-

skyline. *Mon–Thu noon–midnight, Fri noon–4am, Sat 11am–4am, Sun 11am–midnight (members 24/7 access 365 days a year).* ☎ 467–469 Brixton Rd., SW9 (Brixton), 020.7326.4455, dexclub.co.uk

The Eagle • Clerkenwell • Pub/Tavern

The Eagle has had a long-running reputation as a cruisy yet decent gay pub for years, basking as it does in the pink glow from nearby Vauxhall. The leather and uniform parties have been relegated to weeknights these days, making way for a more casually attired and truly mixed crowd on weekends. Sunday's famed Horse Meat Disco and once-a-month Saturday night Carpet Burn see geeky hipsters, straight couples, and outrageous drag queens tearing up the dance floor to anything from indie to disco and clearly loving it. Special mention must go to the terrace out back, as it's the perfect chill-out spot throughout the year, thanks to its funky gas-flame heaters. *Mon–Thu 9pm–2am, Fri 9pm–3am, Sat 4pm–4am, Sun 6pm–2am.* ☎ 349 Kennington Ln., SE11 (Vauxhall), 020.7793.0903, eaglelondon.com

The Horse and Groom • Hoxton • Pub/Tavern

Hailing from the stable of what has become a new breed of pub, the Horse and Groom is typical of a modern Shoreditch “boozier.” The interior evokes a classic gentlemen's club, with dark walls, mahogany, and lustrous leather chesterfields creating an elegantly louche air. The music and crowd, however, are far edgier, with weekend DJ slots packing the place with hip, youngish locals. Popular events have ranged from drag queen–hosted disco to all-day electro tea dances. To top it all, it has a great range of real ales on draught, and serves a mean Sunday lunch. *Mon–Wed 11:30am–midnight, Thu 11:30am–2am, Fri 11:30am–4am, Sat 7:30pm–4am, Sun 3pm–midnight.* ☎ 26 Curtain Rd., EC2 (Liverpool St.), 020.7503.9421

The Joiners Arms • Hoxton • Pub/Tavern

If there is one bar in the whole of Shoreditch, if not London, that can feasibly be described as a melting pot, this is it. Although predominantly gay on most nights of the week, this is not your usual haunt of muscled clones; here, fashionistas and pub-crawlers of all persuasions party under one roof. And while it has come a long way from its rather run-down beginnings, it's certainly not a glamorous affair—the mismatched décor and artfully dressed-down, beer-drinking crowd prove that. Dance, drink, and cruise is the ethos here, and evidently a very popular one, so avoid weekend nights if you have an aversion to sweaty crowds. *Daily 9pm–2am.* ☎ 116–118 Hackney Rd., E2 (Old St.), 020.7739.9397

The Roundhouse • Primrose Hill • Arts Venue

True to its name, the Roundhouse is a fantastic 19th-century building, listed on the Historic Register, which formerly served as a railway turntable where steam locomotives were redirected and housed. In the late '60s it was redeveloped as a music venue, which saw the likes of Bowie, Hendrix, and the Stones in the '70s. Today, it has a shining reputation for the performance arts and rock and pop concerts it hosts, and it is often the first to showcase cutting-edge newcomers such as the visionary dance troupe De La Guarda. The interior is in stark (though not Starck) contrast to the architecture, with a clean contemporary look flooded with natural light. *Hours vary with performances; see website.* ☎ Chalk Farm Rd., NW1 (Chalk Farm), 084.4482.8008, roundhouse.org.uk

Tabernacle, although they certainly warrant a visit in their own right. *Mon–Wed 9am–midnight, Thu–Sat 9am–2am.* ☎ 55–61 Tabernacle St., EC2 (Old St.), 020.7253.5555, tabernacleshoreditch.com

York and Albany* • Primrose Hill • Bar

Angela Hartnett and Gordon Ramsay's latest restaurant boasts a sleek bar for predinner cocktails as well as wines, beers, and champagnes. *Mon–Thu noon–midnight, Fri–Sat noon–12:30am, Sun noon–10:30pm.* ☎ 127–129 Parkway, NW1 (Camden Town), 020.7388.3344, gordonramsay.com/yorkandalbany

Hot & Cool London Attractions

Georgina Goodman • Mayfair • Store

Rising star of the London fashion scene, the Manolo Blahnik–lauded shoe designer has opened her own boutique on prestigious Bond Street. The funky little boutique, adorned in gold furnishings and Georgina's signature painted stripes, showcases her gorgeous footwear as well as a few accessories. The look is at once sophisticated and edgy, with fruity colors, metallics, and appliqué details transforming flats and killer heels alike into serious fashion statements. One pair will not suffice. *Mon–Wed and Fri–Sat 11am–7pm, Thu 11am–8pm, Sun 12:30–6:30pm.* 44 Old Bond St., W1S (Green Park), 020.7493.7673, georginagoodman.com

The Organic Pharmacy • Kensington • Spa/Shop

Just stepping into this sweet-scented chemical-free zone is enough to lower your stress levels several notches. Lining the pale walls are enticing bottles of the spa's own-label organic creams, potions, and serums, loved by everyone from Madonna and Kylie to Gwyneth and Reese. Snap up a pot of heavenly Double Rose Rejuvenating Cream at the very least, then head for the basement. Why? That's where you'll find two compact treatment rooms with a short but well-chosen list of therapies. Opt for the wonderfully restorative Japanese Detox Foot Massage, the perfect pick-me-up after a hard day or a long-haul flight. *Mon–Sat 9:30am–6:30pm, Sun noon–6pm.* 169 Kensington High St., W8 (High Street Kensington), 020.7376.9200, theorganicpharmacy.com

Unconditional • Covent Garden • Store

Maverick home-grown label Unconditional, favored by savvy stars and Londoners alike, finally has its own store. It's a stylishly quirky affair with the label's own pieces and a handful of other designers from sister store Concrete sharing the space with an ataxidermist-like collection of animal skulls and stuffed jackalopes (antlered rabbits!). Jewelry, accessories, and various other luxury knick-knacks are on offer here, but the main attraction is the label's sleek, innovative tailoring, gorgeous knits, and splashes of fresh color. *Mon–Wed and Fri–Sat 11am–7pm, Thu 11am–8pm, Sun 12:30–6:30pm.* 16 Monmouth St., W2 (Royal Oak), 020.7836.6933, unconditional.uk.com

Hip London Hotels

Andaz • The City • Trendy (267 rms)

As if the Great Eastern had really had a chance to lose its lead in the fashion stakes in the six years after Terence Conran redid it, new owner Hyatt has given it a serious makeover and reopened it as Andaz. While the location alone, a stone's throw from edgy and happening Hoxton, makes this one of the hippest hotels in the city, the minimal yet luxurious design oozes style without the need to shout it. Where Conran's designs erred on the extravagant, the new look has an unfussy elegance and an eco-conscious attitude that's thoroughly modern. The original hotel was built by the same architects who built the Houses of Parliament and dates from 1884, but the rooms' cons are all mod here: WiFi, in-room movies, fantastically stocked minibars, and local phone calls all come standard. There's a gym, no fewer than five restaurants, four bars, and an original Victorian Masonic lodge, which is available for private hire. Be sure to ask for a room facing out on the fifth and sixth floors, which have giant round port-hole windows overlooking The City. £££ 40 Liverpool St., EC2 (Liverpool St.), 020.7961.1234, london.liverpoolstreet.andaz.com

Hip London Restaurants

Cha Cha Moon • Soho • Asian

Finally, there's an independent restaurant to rival Wagamama. The exciting collision of Southeast Asian cuisine here is quality fast food. The soup noodles and stir-fried noodles are fragrant and flavor-packed, with copious amounts of duck, pork, seafood, or dumplings livened up with unusual combinations of vegetables and flavorings. Side orders are equally tasty: The spring onion pancake is particularly comforting. Communal tables and windows into the kitchen may well be the norm, but the bank of high tables and stools overlooking the dining hall are a welcome addition for single diners. Expect queues consisting of virtually all of London's demographics for lunch and dinner; come 4–6pm to avoid them. *Mon–Thu noon–11pm, Fri–Sat noon–11:30pm, Sun noon–10pm.* £- ☹☹☹ 15–21 Ganton St., W1 (Oxford Circus), 020.7297.9800, chachamoon.com

Dans le Noir? • Clerkenwell • French

Sister to a restaurant by the same name in Paris, this place's borrowed name sums up its concept quite simply: You dine in pitch-black darkness. This may sound like a recipe for disaster, but everything runs smoothly thanks to the staff, who prove that blindness is anything but a handicap. Struggling through your meal is a quite hilarious and, more important, very humbling experience. To get the most out of your meal, choose one of the four surprise menus, indicate any dietary requirements you have, and leave your culinary hang-ups at the bar. The cuisine, though not exceptional, is a cunning mix of flavors and textures that will definitely keep you guessing. *Mon–Sat first sitting 6:45pm and 7:15pm, second sitting 9pm and 9:30pm (lunch for groups of 16 or more by appointment only).* £££ ☹☹☹ 30–31 Clerkenwell Green, EC1 (Farringdon), 020.7253.1100, danslenoir.com/london

Dex* • Outskirts • British

Brixton's very own members-only establishment, Dex, has a restaurant that is open to all. It serves bar snacks and trendy Anglo-European dishes to fun-loving diners who filter in from the bar. *Mon–Thu noon–midnight, Fri noon–4am, Sat 11am–4am, Sun 11am–midnight.* £ ☹☹☹ 467469 Brixton Rd., SW9 (Brixton), 020.7326.4455, dexclub.co.uk

Great Queen Street • Holborn • British

Judging by the name, you'd be forgiven for thinking that the people behind this pub-like restaurant lack imagination. The first glance at the menu threatens to give the same impression. This is certainly no place for culinary pretensions—the stars of the scene are British classics—simple, yet of the best-quality ingredients and well delivered. Crab mayonnaise has never tasted so good this far from the coast. The décor's no-nonsense as well, just solid pine furniture and plain red walls. Considering that it's packed out with a diverse range of contented diners every night of the week, keeping it simple clearly does work. *Mon 6–10:30pm, Tue–Sat noon–2:30pm and 6–10:30pm, Sun noon–2pm.* £££ ☹☹☹ 32 Great Queen St., WC2B (Drury Lane), 020.7242.0622

La Giaconda Dining Room • Soho • European

A little gem of a restaurant that nestles in the no-man's-land between Soho and Covent Garden, La Giaconda is easily overlooked. The tiny dining room is rather dark, and sparsely though smartly decked out, and the menu looks rather unprepossessing at first glance: The honest descriptions of ingredients don't quite do justice to their quality, execution, or presentation. Whether it's good old English pigs' trotters or an Italian vitello tonnato, there's a sense of fun and imagination to the dishes that's clearly a hit with the laid-back diners. *Mon–Fri noon–2:15pm and 6–9:30pm.* £ ☹☹☹ 9 Denmark St., WC2 (Tottenham Court Rd.), 020.7240.3334, giacondadining.com

Water Poet* • Spitalfields • Pub Grub

This multitasking pub with live singing and dancing serves hearty bistro dishes in its restaurant, platters to share at the bar, and a lovely roast on Sundays. *Mon–Fri 11am–11pm, Sat noon–11pm, Sun noon–10:30pm.* ££ ☹☹☹ 9–11 Folgate St., E1 (Liverpool St.), 087.1971.4489, waterpoet.co.uk

Hip London Nightlife

Dex* • Outskirts • Members' Club

Brixton has seen some dramatic changes in the past couple of years, its rather gritty reputation having been softened by the arrival of hip and increasingly smart nightspots and restaurants. Dex has really put Brixton on the map, however, such is the current popularity of members' clubs. While the beautifully renovated Art Deco bar, club, and restaurant are open to guests, signing up for membership gains you access to the rooftop terraces that are the building's trump card. With a Jacuzzi, sun loungers, and a tented, cushion-filled lounge, they make for a rather surreal blend of Balearic beach party and South London