



Visit London What's New Press Briefing

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February sees a variety of new openings, including an exhibition at the V&A documenting the changing image of Kylie Minogue (photo right, © Darenote Ltd), the Lee Valley Birdwatching and Wildlife Fair, plus the re-opening of Grosvenor House's Park Room and Red Bar.

February 2007



Hotels

Blissful babybooming at Renaissance Chancery Court

This package has been created for expecting couples looking for a relaxing and luxurious treat together before the life-changing arrival of their child. It includes hotel valet parking, a 55 minute Musical Energy Balance treatment together at the Spa at Chancery Court, a Beauty Box in the room containing ESPA products, foodie treats plus unlimited movies throughout the couple's stay. The package, which includes one night's accommodation, costs £445 and is valid for Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights only.

For further information contact [Clementine Hancox](#) on +44 (0) 20 7829 7085.

Attractions

Meet the Ancestors' i-Pods

Tune in to the music that set Victorian feet tapping as the Tower Bridge Exhibition displays and plays the mechanical marvels that pioneered the art of easy listening. From 10-25 February the high level walkways of Tower Bridge will reverberate to the tunes of automatic instruments that first brought the sound of music to the parlours and street corners of Victorian London. Mechanical Music at Tower Bridge is included in the usual price of admission to The Tower Bridge Exhibition. Adult tickets are £5.50 and children £3.50.

For further information contact Jessica Rees on +44 (0) 20 7940 3969.

Family and children events at the Jewish Museum

On Tuesday 20 February the Jewish Museum hosts a Tree of Life Family Workshop where children over the age of six can learn why trees are so important and what they have to do with religion. They'll learn facts about the environment and have the chance to make up their own family tree. Admission of £5 per person.

For further information contact [Dina Wosner](#) on +44 (0) 20 7284 1997.

SS Robin Guided Heritage Tour

From 2pm on Saturday 3 February the general public will have an opportunity to go behind the scenes onboard the world's last remaining steamcoaster, the SS Robin at Canary Wharf. The tours include areas usually off-limits to the public, including cabins, engine rooms, former crews' quarters, and the recently restored cargo hold, guided by the SS Robin restoration crew. For further information [click here](#).

Exhibitions

Kylie - The exhibition

The changing image of Kylie Minogue, one of the most popular contemporary style icons, will be the focus of a new exhibition at the V&A, taking place from 8 February to 10 June. The exhibition will feature performance costumes, accessories, album covers, photographs, music and videos. It will look at how Kylie, as a performer, has used her wardrobe to create an image that is known worldwide. Entrance is free.

For further information contact [Meera Hindocha](#) on +44 (0) 20 7942 2500.

Citizens and Kings

From 3 February to April 20 the Royal Academy of Arts will host Citizens and Kings: Portraits in the age of revolution, 1760-1830. The exhibition will give an in-depth view, through sculptured and painted portraits, of an era characterised by sweeping political and social changes. The exhibition will consist of 145 works drawn from some of the finest collections in the world, depicting not only kings and queens but also the new revolutionary heroes and rising bourgeoisie, and enlightenment thinkers, writer and artists. Entrance costs £10, £7 for students, £3 for 12-18 year olds, £2 for 8-11 year olds and under 7s go free.

For further information contact [Catherine Mason](#) on +44 (0) 20 7300 8000.

Face of Fashion

From 15 February to 28 May the National Portrait Gallery will host Face of Fashion, a major exhibition focusing on the portraits of five fashion photographers from Europe and America; Mert Alas & Marcus Piggott, Corinne Day, Steven Klein, Paulo Roversi and Mario Sorrenti. It is the first exhibition of its kind, celebrating the innovation and diversity of current fashion portraiture. Face of Fashion will be in the Wolfson Gallery and entrance is £8 or £6 concession.

For further information contact [Neil Evans](#) on +44 (0)20 7312 2452.

Guercino: Mind to Paper

Guercino: Mind to Paper will be on view at the Courtauld Institute of Art Gallery in Somerset House from 22 February to 13 May. Guercino is regarded as one of the most significant Italian artists of the Baroque period. This display of drawings celebrates the freedom and spontaneity of Guercino's draughtsmanship. Entrance to the exhibition costs £5 for adults and £4 for concessions.

For further information contact [Sue Bond](#) on +44 (0) 1359 271085.

Events

Sweet treats at La Cucina Caldes

Chocoholics can join Patisserie Chef Stefano Borella at Italian cookery school La Cucina Caldesi for his Chocolate Box Workshop on Sunday 11 February. Pupils will learn the qualities and secrets of the ingredient, make their own hand rolled chocolates, truffles and more, as well as taking home a box of their creations which they can enjoy later. The course will run from 10am to 1pm and costs £100 per person.

For further information contact [Gaby Riley](#) on +44 (0) 20 7722 5466.

World Wetlands Day celebrations

Friday 2 February is World Wetlands Day, which highlights the nationally important role of wetlands. To celebrate their importance the London Wetland Centre will have a special programme of activities which includes guided tours, birdwatching walks, pond dipping for children and art and craft

activities. Entrance to the centre will be free on Friday 2 and Saturday 3 February. For further information contact [Catheine Worswick](#) on +44 (0) 20 8409 4412.

Walking Weekend

17-18 February is the Blue Badge Guides' Walking Weekend. This is when eight free walking tours are put on each day, around and through central London. Each of the walks starts on the hour, 11am to 3pm.

For further information contact [Simon Rodway](#).

Lil' Rocker rock star breakfast

On Saturday 17 February, Hard Rock Cafe will be hosting a Rockin' breakfast party. From 10am to midday guests can enjoy an authentic American breakfast buffet, competitions and lots of fun for all the family. There will also be a fancy dress competition where kids can dress as their favourite rock or pop star to win prizes. Tickets are £6.95 for kids and £9.95 for adults.

For further information contact [Kath Grimster](#) on +44 (0) 20 7514 1700.

The Supper Society at Aurora

The Supper Society is a monthly gathering at the Great Eastern Hotel's Aurora Restaurant. It is a fine dining experience coupled with sparkling conversation on anything from D&G to H&M, Big Brother to the Big Apple and Gilbert and George to Gauguin. At each event guests are invited to book a table with friends, more intimately with a partner, or if dining alone to join the large centre-piece banquet table (seats 15). Each event features a specific wine region accompanied by the chefs tasting menu of six courses. The next event will take place on 16 February and is billed as rioja night.

For further information contact [Simon Warrington](#) on +44 (0) 20 7618 5616.

Lee Valley Birdwatching and Wildlife Fair

The Lee Valley Birdwatching and Wildlife Fair will take place from 17-18 February at Fishers Green, next to the Lee Valley Park Farm. The weekend is packed with a full lecture programme hosted by a range of celebrities and experts. A variety of childrens' activities will be taking place including badge making, board games, quizzes and puzzles.

For further information contact [Jenny Plested](#) on +44 (0) 1992 709 830.

Bars & Restaurants

Park Room and Red Bar launch

February sees the reopening of Grosvenor House's Park Room and Red Bar. The Park Room will offer a range of light snacks from 7am to 2pm and will be the only place in the world to feature a Charles Heidsieck oenoteque (wine library) allowing guests to savour the different vintages from the 1970s to the present day. The hotel's iconic Red Bar will be launching a new Red Cocktail to celebrate it's reopening.

For further information contact [Charlotte Heath-Bullock](#) on +44 (0) 20 7631 1000.

Martini afternoon tea at the Intercontinental London Park Lane

Stuart Rosenblatt, Bar Manager at Intercontinental London Park Lane, has collaborated with Martin Miller's Gin and created a selection of tea infused martinis - The Afternoon Martini, The Earl and The Miller's Mini Martini. The martinis are served with a selection of food including oysters with triple deck Pumpernickel, Coriander Dill Scone, Crab Salad, pastries and macarons. The Martin Miller's Afternoon Tea costs £30 per person.

For further information contact [Octavia Coates](#) on +44 (0) 1483 222676.

Cheers Bar hosts the UK's official NFL Super Bowl Party

On Sunday 4 February, Cheers Bar on Regent Street will be showing live coverage of this major sporting event, from South Florida, supported by the National Football League. The bar will be dressed in official NFL Super Bowl merchandise. Customers will have the chance to win a variety of Super Bowl goodies. Tickets are £12 each and includes entry and a bottled beer.

For further information contact [Jacinta Francis](#) on +44 (0) 20 7255 8611.

Chutney Mary Winter Warmer Menu

Chutney Mary on the King's Road, has introduced a Winter Warmer Menu. Head chef Nagarajan Rubinath has devised a special Winter Warmer Menu, which he has put together to incorporate all the elements necessary to warm the body to the core and fend off the winter chill. Traditionally, Indian food originating from the Northern Frontier and Kashmir is prepared with spices which heat the body and combined with the method of slow cooking, Rubinath can achieve a 'Winter Warming' effect. Dishes from this menu, which will be available until 12 March will include lamb trotter soup, goose galouti, venison casserole slow cooked with garlic, mace and cardamom and Lamb osso bucco slow cooked with walnut and royal black cumin.

For further information contact [Lucy Carver](#) on +44 (0) 20 7751 1000.

Thai cookery classes at Nahm Halkin Hotel

Chefs at Nahm have created a series of masterclasses covering different aspects of Thai food, designed to be taken individually or as a complete course of seven classes. Some will include a wine tasting and matching wines to Thai cuisine. Morning hands on classes will take place in the kitchen at Nahm with fantastic ingredients flown over from Bangkok exclusively for the restaurant. Lunch will be served in the hotel dining room. On 3 February the first class will focus on curries. Tickets for the class cost £135.

For further information contact [Jo James](#).

Locale Restaurant reopens

Locale, an Italian neighbourhood restaurant in Fulham has recently reopened following a refurbishment, re-branding and is now under new management. The intimate eatery will serve authentic Italian dishes and boast two dining areas, an outside terrace and a private dining room, seating a total of 147 people. The cocktail bar will also seat 20 covers where customers can enjoy stuzzichini - small Italian dishes perfect for accompanying drinks.

For further information contact [Leanne Baker](#) on +44 (0) 1276 63598.

Langtry's Restaurant

Langtry's restaurant recently opened in the heart of Knightsbridge, offering British dishes with unique and inventive flavour combinations. The decor has been subtly modernised to enhance the historic grandeur of this elegant and sophisticated dining room. The new menu includes starters such as Beef Tea; and Thick Cut Smoked Salmon with Potato Cakes and a Shot of Lemonade. The restaurant's signature starter is Langtry's Prawn Cocktail, which comes with prawn tempura and marie rose ice cream. Main dishes include Toad In The Hole and Crackling; and Rosemary Marsh Lamb 'Rack and Shank'.

For further information contact [Emma Thomas](#) on +44 (0) 20 7837 8808.

Theatre & Film

Beatrix Potter at the Unicorn Theatre

Adapted by Adrian Mitchell, one of the UK's foremost poets and adaptors of children's work for the stage, this is a Beatrix Potter for modern children, preserving the richness of the stories whilst avoiding sentimentality. The score is performed by a cast of actor-musicians who use everyday objects to create the world of Beatrix Potter. The show will run from 9 February to April. Tickets cost £14.50 for adults and £9.50 for children.

For further information contact [Sally Wrench](#) on +44 (0) 20 7645 0560.

The Chinese State Circus

From 20-25 February the Chinese State Circus, featuring the Shaolin Warriors will performing at the Hackney Empire. For the first time outside China, the 2-hour show combines the martial arts warriors from the Shaolin Temple, artists from Peking Opera and acrobatic stars of the Chinese State Circus. Tickets cost from £10.

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