



Visit London What's New Press Briefing

November 2006

[Hotels](#) | [Attractions](#) | [Exhibitions](#) | [Events](#)
[Bars & Restaurants](#) | [Theatre & Film](#)

The Christmas period is nearly upon us, November sees the opening of outdoor ice rinks such as the one at the Natural History Museum (see image) plus the Christmas fairs- The Frost Fair and the Spirit of Christmas Fair both take place this month. New openings include the May Fair Hotel, Curve restaurant at the Marriott hotel, West India Quay and Babylon Lounge at Gilgamesh in Camden.



Hotels

May Fair Hotel

An extensive refurbishment has seen the May Fair Hotel re-born to reclaim its traditional place as one of the most stylish addresses in London. The transformation will be completed in November with 80 new bedrooms and an extra floor added over Berkeley Street, with a completely new wing at the rear of the hotel. There are 10 new individually- designed signature suites, 11 new 'al fresco rooms' with external decking, television and private dining facilities, eight studios and the largest deluxe and superior bedrooms in London (35 square metres).

For further information contact [Anna Reid](#) on +44 (0) 20 7812 7326.

InterContinental London Park Lane

Opening on 6 November after a £60 million investment, the newly renamed InterContinental London Park Lane will provide guests with a truly authentic and luxurious London experience. Through a designed opening, the first phase will unveil 150 elegant guest rooms, complemented by a vibrant lobby, dedicated events and meetings floor and exciting new destination restaurant, Theo Randall at The InterContinental.

For further information contact [Claire White](#) on +44 (0) 20 7409 3131.

Jumeirah Lowndes Hotel

The Jumeirah Lowndes Hotel in Knightsbridge launches on the 14 November following an £8 million renovation project. Each of the 87 bedrooms and suites will be finished to the highest specification. All are designed to suit the needs of both leisure and business travellers - each featuring a flat screen TV, DVD, high speed internet and telephone line and an iPod dock.

For further information contact [Beth Cooper](#) on +44 (0) 1483 222 676.

Attractions

Natural History Museum Ice Rink

The Natural History Museum's hugely successful first year attracted more than 120,000 ice skaters. This year it returns for the second time from 9 November to 21 January, 2007. Alongside the rink will be a newly-designed and more extensive Christmas Fair providing shoppers with thirty-six chalets of gifts, handmade crafts and decorations. Skaters will also be invited to relax in the new mini British Airways Travel Spa Experience, offering a selection of complimentary treatments. For further information contact [Anna Lusser](#) on +44 (0) 20 7436 3633.

Grizzly Ghost Tours

From the end of October, Hampton Court Palace launches its winter season of ghost tours. Guests get the chance to experience Hampton Court Palace by night and learn more about its eerie past through tales retold as the tour makes its way through the Palace. Tours last for just over an hour and include a presentation and coffee and cakes in Queen Elizabeth I's Privy Kitchen. Tickets cost £25 per person. Tours run every Monday, Friday and Sunday up until 6 March 2007. For further information contact [Sarah Watson](#) on +44 (0) 20 3166 6166.

Friday late: Invent

November's Friday Late at the V&A takes place on 24 November, from 6.30pm to 9.45pm and is inspired by the V&A's major exhibition Leonardo: Experience, Experiment and Design, which explores the mind of one of the greatest ever thinkers. The evening will include workshops, performances and debates and will feature some of the most successful inventions as well as some of the most famous flops. Visitors will also be able to enjoy the usual late evening bars and live DJs. For further information contact the [V&A Press Office](#) on +44 (0) 20 7942 2502.

Vinopolis launches new wine tour packages

Vinopolis will be launching three newly designed wine tour packages on 8 November. These self-guided packages offer a variety of options according to people's tastes and interests in wine, beer and spirits. Prices start from just £16 per person and every tour includes the opportunity to explore and experience the world's wine regions, five wine tastings, a specially prepared Bombay Sapphire cocktail and a Vinopolis Tasting Notebook. For further information contact [Lucie Clark](#) on +44 (0) 20 7490 8320.

Exhibitions

Journey to the New World: London 1606 to Virginia 1607

A new exhibition at the Museum in Docklands, Journey to the New World, marks the 400th anniversary of the first permanent English settlement in Jamestown, Virginia. The exhibition tells the story of hope and despair, conflict and failure, tragedy and triumph, and shows how ordinary and extraordinary men, women and children helped to create an emerging nation - a New World for the English and the American Indians. The exhibition runs from 23 November to 13 May 2007. Admission is free. For further information contact [Marian Williams](#) on +44 (0) 20 7814 5502.

Exceptional Youth: photographs by Emma Hardy

A collection of new photographs by Emma Hardy will be exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery from 2 November to 8 April. The images represent a group of exceptional and inspiring young Britons. Chosen from a variety of fields including sport, cinema, politics and fashion, among the top teens depicted are Daniel Radcliffe, Lily Cole, Nicola Benedetti and Dizzie Rascal. Admission is free. For further information contact [Neil Evans](#) on +44 (0) 20 7312 2452.

Dutch Winter Scenes from the National Gallery Collection

In the 17th Century, North-Western Europe suffered a series of unusually severe winters known as the 'Little Ice Age'. Dutch landscape painters grappled with the aesthetic possibilities and practical problems of capturing these icy conditions. The paintings in this small exhibition at the National Gallery celebrate the resilience of the Dutch people as they go about their daily business, even finding joy in the winter weather. Admission to the exhibition is free.

For further information contact [Louise Butler](#) on +44 (0) 20 7747 2596.

Events

Laughing Boy Comedy Club

Leading comedy promoter Off The Kerb, which represents names including Lee Evans, Jack Dee and Phill Jupitus, will be holding its first Laughing Boy Comedy club, on Friday 10 November at Soho cabaret venue Too2Much. As well as the headliners, the club also features a regular open mic slot, providing a showcase for the hottest new comic talent. Tickets are £10 and £8 concession. Doors open from 7pm.

For further information contact [Walt Utz](#) on +44 (0) 20 7439 4089.

The Insomniacs Ball 2

The Insomniacs Ball 2 takes place on 25 November at the SeOne Club, SE1. With 5 arenas, over 17 bands and numerous DJ's, this event is set to be a sell-out. Doors open at 7.30pm when the live music begins and entertainment will continue until 6am the following day. Tickets cost £21.50.

For further information contact [Laura Martin](#) on +44 (0) 20 7931 7990.

Good Food Show

The BBC Good Food Show comes to Olympia from 10-12 November. The show will bring together an array of produce from some of the country's most innovative food entrepreneurs combined with kitchen gadgets and accessories. In addition some of the country's top chefs including Gordon Ramsay, Antony Worrall Thompson and Jean-Christophe Novelli will be entertaining visitors and showcasing their seasonal recipes.

Tickets cost £14.50 in advance and £16.50 on the door. Under 12s are admitted for free on the Saturday and Sunday.

For further information contact [Sue Lister](#) on +44 (0) 1296 326 123.

London Caravan and Outdoor Show

From Thursday 16 to Sunday 19 November, the London Caravan and Outdoor Show will take place at ExCel. Yurts, tipis, canoes, kayaks, and top of the range caravans, including the new silver Airstream Europe, will be on display for visitors to have a browse around.

For further information contact [Nick Moulton](#) on +44 (0) 870 7300 112.

Up at Turnmills

Up is a new club night at Turnmills nightclub. Starting on Saturday 18 November, Up promises to be a night to remember and has already held two parties this year featuring artists such as Shapeshifters, Full Intention, StoneBridge, Herd & Fitz, Knee Deep and the Trophy Twins. Expect the best in progressive underground house and a party atmosphere. Entrance is £12 advance tickets, £15 on the door before midnight and more after.

For further information contact [Paul Stix](#) on +44 (0) 20 7250 3409.

Sicily: The Flavours of the Sun

Sicily: The Flavours of the Sun is a gastronomic and cultural event taking place at the Jolly Hotel St Ermin from the end of October until 9 November. The hotel's chefs will be preparing a collection of Sicilian specialities, to be served alongside a careful selection of the island's wines. The Sicilian theme will continue with a display of photographs on canvas by Maestro Paolo Barone and an exhibition of ceramics from the Sicilian School.

For further information call +44 (0) 20 7227 7719.

Spirit of Christmas Fair

The Spirit of Christmas Fair comes to Olympia from 1-5 November. The fair has thousands of gift ideas and some of the world's most innovative and luxurious items and also an extensive food hall. Tickets cost £17 per adult when bought on the door or advanced tickets are £15 for adults and £6 for children.

For further information contact [Sarah Spencer](#) on +44 (0) 7534 6080.

Shadow 54 returns to the Shadow Lounge

The Shadow Lounge in Soho has launched a new weekly club night taking place every Monday. Shadow 54 is a night of unrivalled disco, when the club is transformed into scenes reminiscent of Studio 54. Top DJs such as Andrew Elmore and Mark Bambach will be playing classic disco hits. For further information contact [Jacinta Francis](#) on +44 (0) 20 7439 4089.

Frost Fair

Bankside's annual Frost Fair will take place outside Tate Modern and Shakespeare's Globe on Friday 15 to Sunday 17 November. The Frost Fair is London's largest free winter event, which attracts over 100,000 visitors over the weekend. At this year's event, guests can expect to find husky dog sledding rides, a winter market with over 40 stalls, ice sculptures, children and adult workshops, street theatre and music.

For further information contact [Lisa Holmes](#) on +44 (0) 20 7525 2296.

Bars & Restaurants

New restaurant for fish lovers

Curve Restaurant and Bar, set within the Marriott West India Quay, has been transformed to create a whole new dining experience. The restaurant now offers a wide selection of market fresh fish and seafood sourced from the neighbouring Billingsgate Market. There is also a selection of meat and poultry dishes available from the grill.

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

Babylon Lounge at Gilgamesh

Gilgamesh in Camden has recently launched its VIP Babylon Lounge. The Babylon Lounge is an extension of the Gilgamesh main restaurant and boasts similar style interiors. The Babylon Lounge offers a supreme cocktail list and is one of the few places in London where visitors can dine past midnight. Head chef Ian Pengelly serves dishes such as Oriental Bacon and Egg Toasted Sandwich, Japanese Fish and Chips and the Wagyu and Foie Gras Burger up until 2.30am.

For further information contact [Tanya Gerber](#) on +44 (0) 20 7287 7711.

An evening of Argentinean Food and Wine

The Zetter restaurant will be holding an evening to celebrate all things Argentinean. From 7.30pm on November 7, guests will be invited to try a selection of wines from the country's premier producers, and a feast of Argentine dishes specially produced by the Zetter's head chef and resident Argentinean, Diego Jacquet.

For further information contact [Renay Logan](#) on +44 (0) 20 7324 4422.

Montgomery Place

From the team that brought the multi-award winning Dusk in Battersea, comes Montgomery Place, a bar that promises to be an exciting addition to Notting Hill's eating and drinking scene. The cocktail list reproduces many drinks from past years, including The White Lady, Peggu and Martinez. The food is designed for sharing and offers a varied selection which includes the Agave Tails, a combination of Fantail shrimp, reposado tequilam agave necter and citrus zests, or pan fried duck served with honey and ginger.

For further information contact [Katrina Kutchinsky](#) on +44 (0) 20 7287 7711.

Club Bar and Dining

Traditional Sunday Lunch has arrived at The Club Bar and Dining in Soho. The Sunday set lunch is priced at £17.50 for adults and £9.50 for kids for two courses. The set menu offers a selection of roasts, seafood, steak, salads and pasta. Once a month The Club will be screening movies for children in the downstairs lounge keeping them entertained whilst parents can relax upstairs with the Sunday papers.

For further information contact [Tanya Gerber](#) on +44 (0) 20 7287 7711.

Langtry's restaurant launches in Knightsbridge

Langtry's Restaurant has opened in the heart of Knightsbridge, offering British dishes with unique and inventive flavour combinations. The menu, created by Langtry's head chef Robert Lyons includes starters such as beef tea and thick cut smoked salmon with potato cakes and a shot of lemonade. Main courses feature dishes such as Toad in the Hole with Crackling and Romney Marsh Lamb 'Rack and Shank'.
For further information call [Alison Hull](tel:+442078378808) +44 (0) 20 7837 8808.

Roast launches Afternoon Tea

In the heart of London's cultural quarter, Roast has launched an Afternoon Tea service. The restaurant and bar in the heart of Borough Market serves the classic English invention from Monday to Saturday from 3-5pm. Afternoon Tea costs £15 per person or £24 per person with champagne.
For further information contact [Chisato Nishiyori](tel:+442070151863) on +44 (0) 20 7015 1863.

Theatre & Film

New production of Gilbert and Sullivan's The Gondoliers

This November the English National Opera revitalizes its lighter repertory with the addition of The Gondoliers, one of Sullivan's most exuberant scores and never previously performed by the company. Creating a fresh staging of The Gondoliers for the London Coliseum are director Martin Duncan and conductor Richard Balcombe, both making English National Opera debuts. The production welcomes the return of two great singers after an absence of some years. Ann Murray sings The Duchess of Plaza-Toro and Donald Maxwell sings Don Alhambra del Bolero.
For further information contact [Anthony McNeill](tel:+442078459233) on +44 (0) 20 7845 9233.

New Mary Poppins

Lisa O'Hare will star as Mary Poppins in Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's smash hit West End musical Mary Poppins at the Prince Edward Theatre from Monday 6 November. Her theatre work includes Acorn Antiques, Anything Goes and starring as Eliza Doolittle in the UK national tour of My Fair Lady. Tickets for Mary Poppins are priced from £15 - £55.
For further information contact [Simon Raw](tel:+442076378866) on +44 (0) 20 7637 8866.

Avenue Q

Avenue Q will be extending its run at the Noel Coward Theatre until 28 July 2007. Plus, the star of the forthcoming TV series Torchwood, Naoko Mori will take the role of Christmas Eve from 20 November. Tickets start from £17.50.
For further information contact [Ben Chamberlain](tel:+442072405220) on +44 (0) 20 7240 5220.



© Visit London 2007. All Rights Reserved.

[Feedback](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Become a Visit London Partner](#)