

SPRING 2026

STAGE FRIGHT
Ursula the sea witch steals the show



EGGCELLENT
Easter treats from local shops



SPA HEAVEN
The best spots to relax and unwind

Victoria

LONDON STARTS HERE



**VOICES FROM
THE PIAZZA**
Local people share
their stories



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VICTORIA

4 News

The latest local happenings

6 What's on

Things to do on your doorstep

8 What's on

Easter dates for your diary

10 People

Voices from the Piazza

14 Food

Where to eat and drink this spring

18 Food

Our Sunday roast round-up



18

Cover image of Sonia, one of the Voices from the Piazza, by Amahli Vidal.

20 Food

Quilon celebrates 19 years of Michelin stars

22 Art

Whistler goes on show at Tate Britain

24 Mother's Day

Perfect presents from local shops

28 Social

Festive fun at Victoria Station

30 Health & beauty

Get away from it all with these soothing spa experiences

32 Health

World-class care at the Cleveland Clinic's new cancer centre

34 Insiders' guide

Hotel manager
Natasha

Ludlow's top local tips

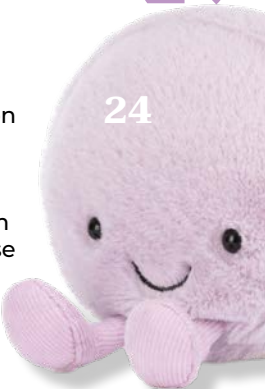
10



8

SPRING

24



Know your onions

Did you know that the Onion Garden has its own book club? The Order of the Literary Onion meets monthly in Victoria's quirkiest secret garden to "peel back the layers" of a book of the group's choice, with recent picks including works of non-fiction, spy thrillers and crime. You can attend for free, although donations are welcome to keep the events open to all. For information on the next meeting, visit theoniongarden.org.
5 Seaforth Place



From award-winning hotels to brilliant book clubs, here's the latest local news

BY ALICE CAIRNS



World-class hospitality

St Ermin's Hotel was recently voted the UK's top hotel in the annual Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice Awards, recognising the excellent reviews it has received in 2025. The hotel was also ranked the second-best hotel in Europe and the sixth-best hotel in the world. General manager Douglas McHugh said: "Our team is truly deserving of this award. Each and every one of them worked tirelessly to provide the best, most attentive hospitality within a relaxed atmosphere – creating a welcoming and homely environment that visitors want to return to time and time again."
2 Caxton Street

Secret Santa

This Christmas, volunteers helped the Sir Simon Milton Foundation, London Heritage Quarter and Westminster Connects to deliver hampers to more than 800 local residents with care and support needs. The hampers were filled with festive treats, giving vulnerable people in the area a moment of Christmas cheer and connection.



Wonderful Wicked

Wicked celebrated another milestone at the Apollo Victoria Theatre, becoming the ninth longest-running show in West End history. Since opening in 2006, it has been seen by more than 13 million people in London and has played over 7,000 performances. The musical is now booking until January 2027.
17 Wilton Road



Garden gurus

London Heritage Quarter recently invited local young people aged between 16 and 25 to apply for a paid opportunity to reimagine Upper Grosvenor Gardens. Those selected will take part in five workshops alongside industry experts, brainstorming ideas to improve the gardens in ways that support the wellbeing of local people and the environment. Along the way they will gain valuable experience in urban planning and environmental design.

A helping hand

Local charities and businesses came together at The Clermont hotel on Buckingham Palace Road for a homelessness education event. The aim was to provide insight into the experiences of rough sleepers and to discuss the different services available to those in need. Participants included The Passage, St Mungo's and The Connection at St Martin's, with teams from each organisation sharing their expertise in an effort to improve support for those experiencing homelessness in the area.





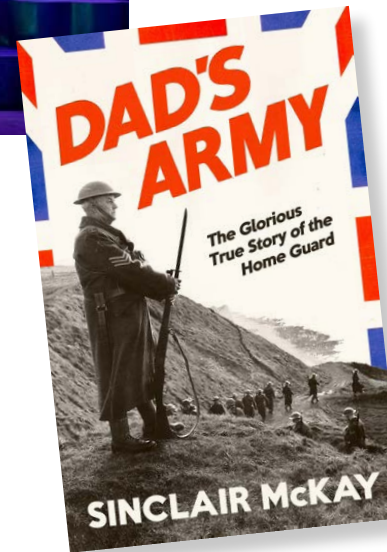
Make Mother's Day

Forget flowers – treat mum to something truly unusual this Mother's Day. On March 15 you can visit Bam Karaoke Box for a *Mamma Mia!* themed brunch, with non-stop Abba classics to sing along to, 60 minutes of bottomless prosecco (or Nozeco) and a selection of tasty brunch foods. You'll leave feeling uplifted!
74 Victoria Street



Disney diva

Everyone knows that the real star of *The Little Mermaid* is the flamboyantly evil Ursula, gleefully stealing voices and snatching souls in high camp style. *Unfortunate*, a parody musical at The Other Palace theatre, tells the fairytale from her perspective – asking how we draw the line between heroes and villains.
Until April 5, 12 Palace Street



From Abba singalongs to groundbreaking exhibitions, fill your spring diary with fun events

BY ALICE CAIRNS

New perspectives

Explore the colourful world of artist Hurvin Anderson, whose vivid and colour-drenched paintings focus on life in Britain and the Caribbean, reflecting on his family's decision to move to Birmingham from Jamaica. His work explores nostalgia, with remembered landscapes sometimes layered one on top of the other, asking questions about the unreliability of memory and the meaning of our cultural heritage. From March 26 until August 23.
Tate Britain, Millbank

In defence of Dad's Army

Bestselling author Sinclair McKay is visiting the Churchill War Rooms on May 27 for the launch of his new book, *Dad's Army: The Glorious True Story of the Home Guard*. The force was made up of men who were too young or too old to join the regular army during the second world war and was a last line of defence in case of invasion. Although it is remembered as a comic collection of incompetent volunteers, the Home Guard was a well-trained force well versed in guerilla fighting and resistance. After the talk, you can enjoy an after-hours tour of the Churchill War Rooms.
King Charles Street

WHAT'S ON



Fashion queen

Queen Elizabeth II was known for her colourful and classic style. This exhibition at the King's Gallery celebrates the 10 decades of her life through her clothing, with more than 200 outfits, hats, shoes, accessories and pieces of jewellery on display. From her wedding dress to her coronation gown, you'll discover spectacular pieces and learn more about the designers who helped to define her style. The Royal Collection Trust has also published a lavishly illustrated accompanying book, with a foreword by Anna Wintour.
From April 12, Buckingham Palace

Spark joy

An inspiring talk by Kate Bowler, a bestselling author and award-winning podcaster, is taking place on April 28. After surviving a stage four cancer diagnosis, Kate made it her mission to seek out joy in the everyday. Her latest book, *Joyful, Anyway: Finding Delight in Impossible Times*, is published in April. She'll be in conversation at St Martin-in-the-Fields, followed by a Q&A and book signing.
Trafalgar Square



WHAT'S ON

**April 5
Singalong Sunday**

Visit Bam Karaoke Box for a musical celebration on Easter Sunday. The theme is "old school", inspired by the 1980s and 90s, with retro gaming, classic tunes and plenty of tasty food and drink to get the party started.
74 Victoria Street



Celebrate Easter with these eggcellent events

BY ALICE CAIRNS

**March 30 – April 4
Easter Festival**

Enjoy a week of classical music inspired by Easter. Highlights include a guitar concert by candlelight on April 1 and a rousing performance by three gospel choirs on April 4. On March 31, violinist Rachel Podger will perform Bach at a late-night concert in which the audience are encouraged to sit on the stage, getting close to the music.
Sinfonia Smith Square



**April 3
The Passion of Jesus**

A cast of 100 (including horses and donkeys) will perform *The Passion of Jesus* in Trafalgar Square on Good Friday. It's an immersive retelling of the Easter story brought to life by the Wintershall players, following Jesus from arrest to crucifixion. The 90-minute show will be performed twice, at 12pm and 3.15pm, with sign language interpretation available.

Trafalgar Square



EMMA BRIDGEWATER

This mini-egg teapot pays homage to everyone's favourite Easter snack.
£50, John Lewis, click and collect from Waitrose, 62 Victoria Street



LUSH

What came first, the chicken or the egg? This bath bomb will fill your water with sweet-smelling swirls of orange and red.
£6.50, unit 42b, Buckingham Palace Road



HOTEL CHOCOLAT

One half of this extra-thick egg is brownie-flavoured and the other is cookies and cream. It's filled with patisserie-inspired chocolates, too.
£90, 133 Victoria Street



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PEOPLE POWER

Voices from the Piazza is an audiovisual exhibition celebrating 50 years of Westminster Cathedral Piazza. We find out more

BY ALICE CAIRNS. QUOTES GATHERED BY CAROLINE DYER FROM HEARD STORYTELLING

Westminster Cathedral Piazza is celebrating half a century at the centre of Victoria's hustle and bustle. Bridging the busy pace of Victoria Street and the quieter and more residential streets beyond, and anchored by Westminster Cathedral, it's an important public space that most Victoria residents will cross regularly as part of their day-to-day lives. As a new exhibition reveals, it's also at the heart of many exciting community initiatives.

"The piazza is a really special public space," says Oliver Barden, head of placemaking at London Heritage Quarter. "It has so much footfall and is well-loved by many. As we celebrate its 50th birthday, we wanted to have a celebration that would reflect the kind of future we wanted for it, which is to be

used regularly for all the good things that public spaces should be used for. That's how we came up with the idea for an audiovisual exhibition that would be very community driven, celebrating the people who use the piazza as part of their daily lives."

The result is Voices from the Piazza, a free storytelling exhibition that allows passersby to listen to the stories of 10 local people who have made a positive impact on the community.

London Heritage Quarter partnered with Heard Storytelling to create an interactive experience: by scanning a QR code, you can listen to and watch each of the ten participants tell their story in their own words, from the two local women who built a secret garden to the 15-year-old immigrant whose art was shown at Saatchi Gallery.

One participant is Colin Wiseman, community

engagement and outreach service manager at homelessness charity The Passage.

"At first, I was nervous to take part," Colin says. "But then I met the team, and they were the loveliest people. I hope that when people hear my story, they learn that homelessness isn't just about bricks and mortar. It's about relationships and support networks, things that we might think are solid but that can vanish very quickly.

"I also hope that when people hear my story, they know that I'm nothing special, really. If I can go from sleeping in a stairwell to being a manager at The Passage, then there's hope for anyone."

So far, reaction to Voices from the Piazza have been overwhelmingly positive.

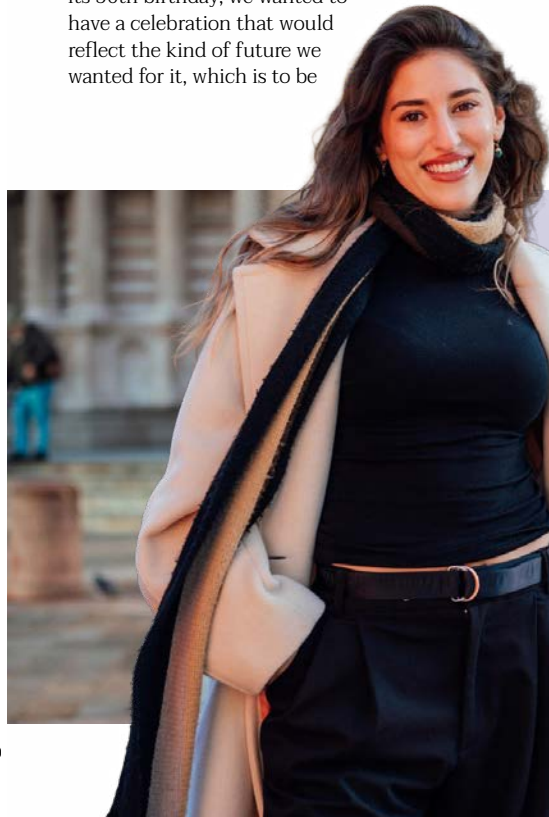
"We wanted to hold the exhibition in winter because those are the colder, greyer months when we most need positive and enlightening stories," explains Oliver. "We've had a lot of people approach us from other local groups in other parts of London, saying they loved the exhibition and have now been inspired to do something similar in their own community. If we can encourage more people to celebrate their community spaces, we'll be very happy."

Visit *Voices from the Piazza* in Westminster Cathedral Piazza until the end of March or scan the QR code to hear first-hand the Voices from the Piazza.



SUE'S STORY

A local resident who discovered the power of community when she joined South Westminster Community Choir "Suddenly I realise that tears are running down my cheeks. What I'm seeing has moved me to tears. I've spotted a young mother with a very small baby, I'm guessing a newborn, in her arms. She has stopped by to listen, is looking tenderly at her baby and knowing this is the first time her baby is hearing carols being sung. How will this young life turn out, I'm wondering."



AMALIA'S STORY

After growing up in foster care, she retrained as a nurse in her mid-20s

"I didn't want a career that was just a job. I wanted to be part of someone else's healing, the way I wished someone had been part of mine. I wanted to sit with people in their worst moments, not as a saviour but as a steady presence, someone who helps them breathe easier, think clearer, feel human again. To be part of helping someone get better feels like the most meaningful thing I could give back to the world."

IMAGES: AMALIA VIDAL



COLIN'S STORY

After experiencing homelessness, he works as outreach officer for The Passage

"I was street homeless in Glasgow when I was young. I had my own battles with substance use, and there were days when I genuinely thought my life was already over. What got me out wasn't anything miraculous. It was the kindness of strangers, people who didn't have to stop but did."

Continued overleaf



SONIA'S STORY

After arriving in London at 15, her art was displayed at Saatchi Gallery through the charity City Lions "I start with sky blue – the colour that felt like breath in the middle of winter. Smooth, cold, almost clinical. Black background, empty... The long open mouth, the raised cheekbone flushed in orange, the sharp teeth, the bruised shadows under the sky-blue skin. It was emotion turned into anatomy."



RASHIDA'S STORY

The loneliness of new motherhood led her to a role as employability officer for Westminster City Council "At one interview the man asks: 'How will you juggle work and motherhood?' Surely he cannot be asking me that. Inside, anger flares. In an out-of-body moment, I imagine shouting: 'Do you have a womb? Do you even have kids?' but I swallow it and simply reply, with a stiff frown: 'I'll be able to manage.'"

BRIDGET'S STORY



BRIDGET'S STORY

A resident who co-founded a community garden in King's Scholars' Passage

"I was very focused on working out how to get hold of plants, compost and pots. What I didn't expect was that I, too, would be changed by the experience. The small comments from random passersby who stop to say a kind word when we're out gardening really means something."

"I've learnt something about myself: when someone tells me it's too difficult or can't be done, I see it as a challenge."



B · A · C · A · A

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Oxford UK - 2026
June 5-10, 2026

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- Five days of Drawing in the Studio with a live model
- End of class group dinner

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Email Linda at: info@bacaa.org
Find more details here:
<https://tinyurl.com/BACAA-Steve-UK-2026>










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BAY AREA CLASSICAL ARTIST ATELIER

BACAA/Steve Forster Image Making/ Portrait Painting in the style of Waterhouse
Chelsea, London, UK - 2026
June 23-28, 2026

Dear Artists and Enthusiasts
Please join us with our esteemed instructor Steve Forster for an epic six-day workshop in a historic Studio, Chelsea, London, UK.

- An Immersive day at the Famed Tate Britain • Lunch at the Tate • Five days of Painting in the Studio with a live model
- End of class group dinner • Optional group meet up
- Evening at the National Gallery

Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/BACAA-Steve-Reg-2026>
Email Linda at: info@bacaa.org
Find more details here:
<https://tinyurl.com/BACAA-Steve-UK-2026>
Come Join us we would love to see you,
Linda Dulaney









BAY AREA CLASSICAL ARTIST ATELIER LLC
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www.BACAA.org

Mediterranean magic

Brother Marcus has opened its doors in Victoria. The menu is inspired by the east Mediterranean, with mezze-style sharing plates and a range of signature cocktails (Greek paloma, anyone?). The star of the show is the relaxed weekend brunch: think smoky shakshuka, sweet potato fritters dipped in a runny poached egg or a smoked feta sausage, washed down with a spicy bloody mary.
81 Buckingham Palace Road



Turkish delight

Smoque has arrived in Victoria. It's a Turkish restaurant and cocktail bar, offering a delicious selection of hot and cold sharing mezze dishes as well as a charcoal grill. Inventive cocktails include the Smoque Snickers, which combines chocolate liqueur with Baileys, peanuts and salted caramel ice cream. If you enjoy shisha, there's also a full menu of flavours.
82 Wilton Road

WORD OF MOUTH

Cocktails, mezze and more... your guide to spring food and drink

BY ALICE CAIRNS



Go under cover

Fancy an afternoon tea with a difference? This offering from Raffles at The OWO is inspired by the building's history of espionage – it was the birthplace of MI9, a Secret Service branch during the Second World War. Each beautifully made cake has a story to tell, from a chocolate cake shaped like the legendary pocket watch used by the British army to the Odette pastry, which pays homage to secret agent Odette Sansom.
57 Whitehall



EMILIA'S CRAFTED PASTA

Fresh, soul-warming pasta; just like Nonna's! At Emilia's we love soul-warming comfort food. Everything we do revolves around the essence of Italian cuisine - freshness and simplicity. We believe Italian pasta should be served in a casual way with the generosity and warm welcome of previous generations. Just as Nonna would have done it. All our pasta is made fresh every morning in each of our restaurants in full view of passers-by and served from our fully open kitchen. Emilia's Victoria is now open for cosy dining and private events.
www.emiliaspasta.com
56 Victoria Street, SW1E 6QW
Tel. 0203 9492777
Nearest stations: Victoria, St. James's park and Westminster.

COMMON BREADS

Our neighbourhood Lebanese bakery Common Breads on Buckingham Palace Road has brand new bakes, just in time for spring. Try the Halva & Carob Molasses Manouche for a sweet, nutty bite, or the Qahwa Croissant which layers buttery pastry with flavours of Arabic coffee. For fans of Lebanese breakfasts, the Sujuk and Eggs Ka'ak combines spiced sausage and softly cooked eggs in their signature bread. These sit alongside their selection of pastries, salads and snacks, all freshly made every day. Visit the website to order for collection or catering, and follow @commonbreads on Instagram for updates.
110 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9SA
commonbreads.com



IRIS & JUNE

Long standing neighbourhood favourite, Iris & June is known for its awesome coffee, deliciously wholesome and filling salads, sandwiches, frittatas and tarts. With the cabinet always stocked full of homemade cakes, slices, freshly baked muffins, scones and pastries there's always something to tempt your taste buds.
Open 7.30am - 4.30pm weekdays.
1 Howick Place, SW1P 1WG
www.irisandjune.com
@irisandjune

THE VINCENT ROOMS

Come join us at The Vincent Rooms, a trio of restaurants nestled away in the heart of Victoria. Step inside and relax as you are served dishes prepared by students training to become the next star chefs in London, following in the footsteps of Jamie Oliver, Ainsley Harriott and multiple MasterChef winners. Start your day in the Café with tea, coffee and pastries made fresh that morning, share classical British fare in the Brasserie, or treat yourself to fine dining at the Escoffier. From exciting events and themed foodie weeks, this is one culinary hotspot you don't want to miss.
The Vincent Rooms
76 Vincent Square
London, SW1P 2PD
0207 8028 391
<https://www.thevincentrooms.co.uk/>



Commonwealth creations

Westminster Abbey has launched a foodie competition. Participants have been asked to submit their favourite recipe from any Commonwealth country, whether that's a fragrant Malaysian laksa or a delicate cassava cake from Fiji. The winning dish, which will be selected based on taste, appearance and cultural significance, will be served at the Cellarium Café and Terrace throughout the summer. The winner will also receive a £200 voucher to visit Westminster Abbey and try their dish.
Dean's Yard



A taste of China

Shan Shui Social is celebrating its one-year anniversary in Victoria. The restaurant promises to transport diners back in time to 1920s Shanghai, with subtle art deco design and a speakeasy feel. The cocktail menu features a lychee manhattan and a chilli-infused firecracker margarita, and food options include wok-fried noodles, Cantonese roasts and braised tofu.
14 Buckingham Palace Road

In season

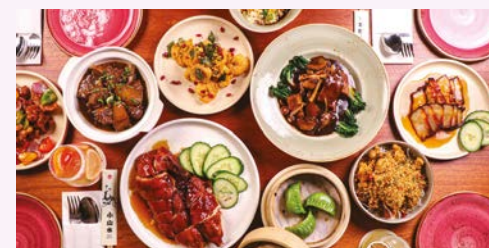
Asparagus season is here! To celebrate, Maurilio Molteni, head chef of Tozi, has devised a spring menu that puts the asparagus front and centre. You'll find it in a salad with quail's eggs and black truffle, served with peas and pecorino as part of a pasta dish and even presented on its own with a simple garnish of brown butter and parmesan. "I've noticed people appreciate the asparagus more," said Maurilio. "They're healthy, very versatile and full of flavour."
8 Gillingham Street



THE JONES FAMILY KITCHEN

The award-winning Jones Family Kitchen is one of London's leading steakhouses, serving grass fed dry-aged steak from Yorkshire alongside that from its own farm in Devon. The large menu doesn't just cater to the steak lover however, with fish arriving daily from Cornwall and the South Coast from small day boats. Situated in lovely Eccleston Yards, with a large and peaceful outdoor terrace. Jones Family Kitchen also offers a pre-theatre set menu till 6pm.
The Jones Family Kitchen
Restaurant & Bar
7-8 Eccleston Yards
London
SW1W 9AZ
020 3929 6000
www.jonesfamilykitchen.co.uk

BLUE BOAR PUB
Nestled in the heart of Westminster, Blue Boar Pub invites guests to savour its signature Sunday Beef Wellington Roast, a quintessential spring indulgence. The golden, flaky pastry encases tender beef, complemented by seasonal vegetables, rich gravy, and traditional accompaniments. Perfect for leisurely Sundays, this celebrated dish reflects the pub's warm hospitality and classic British culinary heritage. As spring unfolds, gather friends and family to enjoy comforting flavours and timeless pub dining.
Blue Boar Pub at Conrad London St. James
45 Tothill Street
London SW1H 9LQ
0203 301 8080
Nearest station: St James's Park; Victoria and Westminster
blueboarlondon.com



SHAN SHUI SOCIAL

Step into the glamorous 1920s Shanghai at Shan Shui Social, a captivating gem just moments from bustling Victoria station. This playful haven transports you with its neon-lit, retro-chic vibe and authentic regional Chinese cuisine. Savour exquisite dim sum, succulent Cantonese roast duck, fiery Sichuan specialties and wok-tossed delicacies - all crafted with premium, locally-sourced ingredients and timeless techniques. Then, unwind with innovative Asian-inspired cocktails featuring baijiu, lychee, calamansi and chillies from our Art Deco-themed bar. Perfect for lunch, dinner or happy-hour cocktails. Discover a sophisticated yet fun escape - book now and journey through China's flavours!
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www.c-h-w.com/wesleys-cafe/





BEST FOR... CULINARY ADVENTURERS
Ekstedt at the Yard

For a roast with a twist, head to Ekstedt at the Yard, which is known for its Scandinavian wood-fired cooking using seasonal British ingredients. The Sunday roast includes fire-cooked leg of lamb, birch-fired trout and wood-braised beef short rib. Every plate comes with sides of Yorkshire pudding, roast hasselback potatoes, wood-oven roast apple with spices and a fresh green salad with a fermented dressing. A vegetarian roast is available upon request. *Two courses £49, three courses £59, 3-5 Great Scotland Yard*

BEST FOR... LOVEBIRDS
The Blue Boar Pub

Celebrating Easter as a couple? The chef's special Sunday roast at the Blue Boar is designed for two to share (and it's in high demand, so pre-booking is encouraged!). You'll be treated to a beef fillet with mushroom duxelles and Parma ham encased in golden puff pastry, served with truffle mash, broccolini, asparagus and a red-wine jus. If you're veggie, the regular roast menu features a roasted onion and goat's cheese tartlet with a black garlic jus. *£89 for two, 45 Tothill Street*



Where to find a delicious Sunday roast

BY ALICE CAIRNS

RIPPING ROASTS

BEST FOR... TRADITIONALISTS
The Clarence

A classic Sunday roast with all the trimmings: crispy roast potatoes, maple-roasted carrots, crushed celeriac and Yorkshire pudding. Choose from options such as West Country rump of beef, lemon and thyme roast chicken and Dingley Dell belly of pork. If you can, you'll want to save space for the jam roly poly and custard for pudding. *From £20.50, 53 Whitehall*



If you're looking for another fun Easter-themed dining experience, The Ivy Victoria Brasserie is offering Breakfast with the Bunny from April 3-5. Children will meet the Easter bunny and will be gifted activity sheets and themed accessories while the whole family enjoy the set breakfast. *66 Victoria Street*



ALOO TAMA NEPALESE RESTAURANT

Nestled in a quiet nook of Westminster, our family-friendly restaurant invites you to experience the rich flavors of Nepal. Indulge in authentic Nepalese delicacies made with fresh, locally sourced ingredients, and savor the unique taste of our signature dishes. Enjoy warm hospitality and a cozy ambiance. Embark on a culinary journey that will delight your senses and create unforgettable memories. Think Curry, Think Healthy! www.alootama.com | @alootamaofficial
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MAISON GIGI – DELI & CATERING

Start your day with homemade pastries like pain au chocolat, croissant, or canelé, paired with your morning coffee or ceremonial-grade matcha. With spring in bloom, it's also the ideal spot for a quick, delicious French lunch, from fresh sandwiches and vibrant salads to quiches and daily homemade specials. And yes, you can even enjoy it all with your team, delivered straight to your office! And when afternoon cravings strike, a fruit tart, a slice of cake loaf, or a gooey cookie makes the perfect pick-me-up. **Monday to Friday 7am-5pm**
143 Victoria Street, London SW1E 5NH
bonjour@maisongigi.co.uk



We publish 25,000 copies of *Victoria* magazine every issue. A very conservative estimate is that between four and eight people will look at each magazine. **To be a part of the Food & Drink Directory please email Julie@pubbiz.com**

CELLARIUM CAFÉ & TERRACE

Enjoy a beautifully crafted Afternoon Tea at Westminster Abbey's Cellarium Café & Terrace. Set within the Abbey's stunning medieval cloisters, savour a selection of delicate savouries, indulgent sweets, and unlimited tea or coffee - all served in an unforgettable historic setting. Priced at £36.50 per person, with the option to elevate your experience with a glass of English sparkling wine. **Cellarium Café and Terrace at Westminster Abbey Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey, London, SW1P 3PA**
www.cellariumcafe.com



Quilon has retained its Michelin star for a 19th consecutive year. We spoke to chef Sriram Aylur about what it means to him...

How does it feel to retain your star?

It's a big feeling, and it's something the team has worked so hard for. We've been around since 1999, so having 26 years of satisfied customers is something we're very proud of. So much of our business is through repeat visits and recommendations, people returning year after year.

The star must be a source of pressure, too?

This business is all pressure! We want to ensure that every guest who comes in leaves happy. That's a pressure that every good restaurant experiences. The star encourages us to do even better and also acknowledges that we are doing the right kind of things.

Why did you decide to become a chef?

My father was in the restaurant business, and I used to work with him in my student days. I've been in the business since I was 20. That's a long time! I love meeting people from different walks of life – it exposes you to a lot of information, knowledge, and allows you to learn and grow as a person. It's not just food you learn about – it's also technology, history... all sorts of things.



STAR TURN

What food excites you the most?

Regional cuisine is very exciting. When you look at the different regions of India, they're almost like totally different countries. There is so much to learn and experiment with. You can never get bored!

What do you love about London?

London is a melting pot of cuisines. You can experience almost any cuisine in the world here – wonderful Italian, Chinese and Spanish dishes, made with techniques that we can use to improve the food that we make. London is, I believe, the best place in the world by far to cook, because of the amazing variety of ingredients you can get. It is such an interesting city to spend time in as a chef.

41 Buckingham Gate



Eat & drink
Directory
out & in



BROWNS BRASSERIE & BAR

Browns Brasserie & Bar offers the best of seasonal British brasserie classics with menus celebrating fresh, quality ingredients, from comforting favourites to lighter dishes. Fresh fish is delivered daily, ensuring our seafood dishes are always exceptional. Start your day with a leisurely brunch, choosing from a selection of delicious dishes alongside fresh juices and coffees, or for pre-show dining, our specially crafted theatre menu provides perfect two or three course options, served with efficiency so you won't miss a curtain call. Whether you're meeting friends, enjoying a family gathering, or celebrating a special occasion, Browns Victoria is the ideal setting.

2 Cardinal Walk, Greater, London SW1E 5JE
020 7821 1450
<https://www.browns-restaurants.co.uk>

THE IVY VICTORIA

The Ivy Victoria is a favourite among regulars and visitors alike, pairing timeless British classics with warm, attentive service. From the much-loved £19.17 two-course menu to the seasonal Taste of Spring menu, every dish is crafted to make each moment feel like a celebration. Whether you're joining us for a midweek indulgence, a leisurely lunch, or dinner with friends, every visit offers something to savour.

02039712404
The Ivy Victoria, 66 Victoria Street,
London SW1E 6SQ, UK
ivycollection.com/restaurants/the-ivy-victoria/



KEEP IN THE KNOW



We know that these days you might not be in the area every day – or you may just visit us occasionally – but you still want to keep up-to-date with what's happening locally

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Tate Britain is staging a major exhibition of the work of James McNeill Whistler. Curator Isobel Muir tells us more

AS TOLD TO ALICE CAIRNS



JAMES McNEILL WHISTLER, SYMPHONY IN WHITE, NO. 2: THE LITTLE WHITE GIRL (1864), TATE



JAMES McNEILL WHISTLER, WAPPING, 1860-4, NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART, WASHINGTON

WHISTLER PAINTED the Thames from end to end, from Wapping to Battersea, so he knew every inch of the river really well. His best friends were the two Greaves brothers, who were boatmen on the river. They taught him how to man a boat and steer it safely across the Thames, and in exchange, he taught them how to paint.

Whistler was born in Massachusetts, but he was a lifelong traveller, venturing as far afield as Chile and north Africa and living and working across four continents.

Something I find quite magical but also frustrating about Whistler's work is that he never finished anything. At the end of his life, there were pieces in his studio that he'd been

Victorian audiences. John Ruskin famously said it was like he'd flung a pot of paint in the public's face.

Whistler was very supportive of female artists and believed their creative lives shouldn't end when they had children. He kept his studio open to artists, thinkers and critics of all kinds. He was famous for serving his friends elaborate Sunday breakfasts of pancakes with maple syrup, which would have shocked British palates.

What I admire most about Whistler is that he held his beliefs very strongly. He really believed that artists had a message that they were uniquely qualified to transmit, but that the message didn't have to be a moral one.

WHISTLER'S WORKS

working on for a decade or more to achieve this ultimate, elusive finish.

He was a very forward-thinking painter. In many ways he was looking towards abstraction in the way he'd physically rub down his canvases, leaving the raw canvas exposed in places. It was a radical way to work and shocked

Visitors will be able to see the largest group of Whistler's *Nocturnes* to be collected together since his death. These are views of the river at night, but they're not about topographical accuracy – they're about the feeling of wandering along the Thames after dark. Perhaps that's something that local visitors can relate to.

FLEMINGS

MAYFAIR



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t: +44 (0) 20 7499 0000 | e: reservations@flemings.co.uk



See James McNeill Whistler at the Tate Britain from May 21 to September 27

GIFT GUIDE

Lush

The Mother of Dragons shower gel is packed with dragon fruit, which is rich in brightening vitamins C and E, hydrating glycerine and dragon fruit seeds for exfoliation.

From £8.50, Victoria Place, 115 Buckingham Palace Road

M&S

You can't go wrong with roses. The red and pink mixed rose bouquet offers a stunning array of blooms.
£65, Cardinal Place



Polarbox

As the weather warms, this retro cooler box will become your outdoorsy mum's go-to, with a comfortable leather shoulder strap and 12-litre capacity for gatherings in the park with friends and family. The reversible tray lid is what makes this piece a winner.
£29.99, Robert Dyas, 15-17 Artillery Row

Sweaty Betty

The 2lb ankle weights, great for the fitness-conscious and exercise newbies, are made with sweat-proof silicone-wrapped steel to add that extra burn to your leg lifts.
£35, Unit 10, Cardinal Place



MUM'S THE WORD

Mother's Day gifts from local shops

BY SOPHIA CHARALAMBOUS

L'Occitane

The Nérolí Orchidée range marries orange blossom and soft orchid. The fragrance collection, featuring eau de toilette, shower gel and hand cream in a signature gift box, is the ultimate sensory experience.

£80, 2 Cathedral Walk, Cardinal Place



Hermanos

The latest coffee bean from the Colombian coffee roaster is Domingo's Gesha. With its taste of jasmine offset by lemon, vanilla, honey, nectarine and oolong, it's the perfect Mother's Day gift for coffee-loving mums.

£38 for 250g, Unit 21, Terminus Place



Shepherds

For the crafty mums, the one-day Japanese stab binding course for beginners is ideal. They will master this versatile bind to use for sketchbooks, photo albums and diaries, while also learning how to cover with book cloth, board and decorative papers.

£110, March 28 and April 27, 30 Gillingham Street



Hotel Chocolat

Mother's Day Everything Luxe contains 44 favourites, from batons to truffles, boozy treats and ganache. A chocolate lover's delight.

£44.95, 133 Victoria Street



Tate Britain Shop

Tate Britain honey from London Honey Company is produced by the bees from the rooftop hive at Tate Britain, overseen by urban beekeeper Steve Benbow. A great gift for the environmentally conscious foodie.

£9.99, Millbank

The Rubens at the Palace

Is it even Mother's Day if you haven't gone somewhere for afternoon tea? Not to worry, the English afternoon tea experience at The Rubens at the Palace has you covered. Alongside fluffy hot scones, there are truffle egg and mayo sandwiches and an apple and pecan dacquoise crown.

From £70, 39 Buckingham Palace Road



Jellycat

One for the cuddly toy collector, the May Macaron is the sweetest gift to give, with its smiling face and signature corduroy boots.

£20, Scribbler, 125 Victoria Street



GIFT GUIDE

Oliver Bonas
From the latest spring collection, the Café speckled ceramic mug is just the piece to elevate a spring morning breakfast spread.
£12.50, Unit 49, Victoria Station



Buckingham Palace Shop
As we approach the centenary of our late queen this April, the royalist mother will appreciate a Queen Elizabeth II centenary tea towel to commemorate the occasion, featuring the EIIR cypher that appeared on her coronation robe of estate.
£16, 7 Buckingham Palace Road



A Nature Poem for Every Night of the Year
Compiled by Jane McMorland Hunter and published by Batsford, this collection of poetry is updated with a collectible cover featuring 10 new poets.
£25, 88 Victoria Street

The Yves Saint Laurent Revolution: The Story of Le Smoking

For the fashion mum, this part non-fiction, part comic coffee-table book is the story of a designer, his muse and an iconic design that together contributed to second-wave feminism in the late 1960s.
£19.99, Waterstones, 88 Victoria Street



Accessorize

The embroidered floral-check weekender bag gives her luggage a fresh, floral update and is large enough to fit all the essentials for a mini-break or short work trip.
£45, 92 Victoria Street



MARY SUMNER HOUSE

Venue space that transforms lives

Nestled in the heart of Westminster lies a hidden gem - Mary Sumner House, a Grade-II listed venue - home to the international charity, Mothers' Union.

Mary Sumner House offers 8 meeting rooms and a Conference Hall, ideal for small conferences, senior management meetings, board meetings, AGMs, away days, workshops, training sessions, and interviews.



Rooms vary in size from 6 in a boardroom layout up to 120 in a theatre-style layout, with flexible catering options available.

Booking a meeting room at Mary Sumner House helps support the Mothers' Union's work of empowering women and transforming their lives.

For more information, or to book a room, either call or visit our website at:

0207 222 5533
www.mothersunion.org/conference-rooms/





**Festive magic
Victoria Station at
Christmas**

Victoria Station had a sparkling makeover last Christmas with the arrival of an enormous snow globe. Commuters could enjoy a festive photo opportunity, receive a prize from roaming actors or see a performance of *The Nutcracker*.



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While January is the traditional time for diets, gym subscriptions and juice cleanses, spring is when we crave a gentler reset. As the days grow longer, this could be your sign to visit a spa and treat yourself to a restorative massage, a cleansing facial or a few hours of relaxing me-time

BY ALICE CAIRNS

For when city life is wearing you down...

Corinthia London has launched Biome, a fresh new spa experience designed for city living. We all know that life in central London can feel fast-paced and frantic, rarely allowing space to decompress or spend time in nature. Biome is designed to bring us back into contact with a slower-paced, more intuitive way of life, using grounding botanicals and rhythmic massage techniques.

Aysun Mut, director of spa at Corinthia London, says: "Our vision is to create a deeply immersive, nature-rooted and scientifically backed experience that aims to help individuals feel both grounded and renewed. Biome is about stripping away the complexities of modern life to reconnect with nature and one's own body."

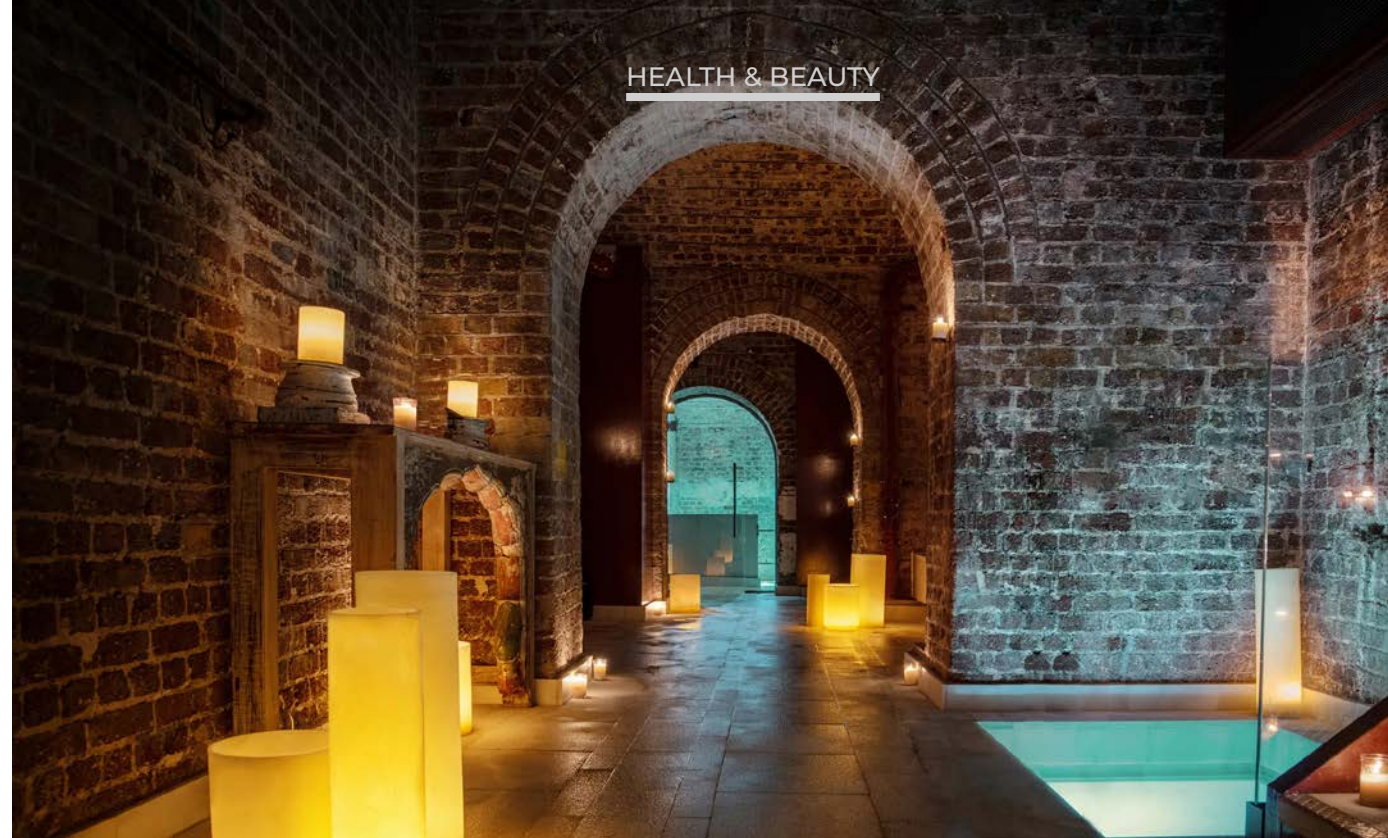
If you only have time for one treatment, we're craving the rebalancing massage (£300), an hour and a half of customised massage using scented oils to represent the states of vitality, purity and stillness.

Whitehall Place

THE RITES OF SPRING



HEALTH & BEAUTY



For when you're sick of the modern world...

Non-stop emails, endless screen time and constant demands on our time and attention – it's natural to want to get away from it all. For those who'd truly like to wind back the clock to a simpler (or at least, pre-digital!) age, the Aire Ancient Baths are the natural choice.

Inspired by the rituals and traditions of Roman thermal baths, this candlelit spa is softly scented with orange blossom and contains plunge pools of various temperatures, from ice cold to toasty warm.

If you're looking for an unforgettable experience, you and a loved one could enjoy the signature wine experience (£1,020 for two people).

You'll be bathed in a wine bath while receiving a honey hair mask and a head massage, then enjoy a wine and cheese selection. Why? Because the polyphenols from red grapes are natural antioxidants, resulting in softened, smoothed and brightened skin.

2-3 Robert Street

For when you want to boost your fitness...

Gyms come in all shapes and sizes, but few are as glamorous as the fitness facilities at the Guerlain Spa. Based in Raffles London at the OWO, this luxurious spa also has a state-of-the-art gym and movement studio.

Members of Pillar Wellbeing (£6,250 a year) can enjoy access to all the pools and facilities, as well as unlimited group exercise classes, two personal coaching sessions and a wearable tracker. Platinum members of Pillar Wellbeing (£25,000 a year) have access to unlimited personal

coaching sessions and complimentary gym kit laundering.

If you'd rather skip the workout and go straight to the relaxation, the spa is offering a decadent Easter escape for two, beginning with two hours in the spa and thermal suite before a cacao-infused bath to be enjoyed with champagne and fine chocolates. Next, you'll have a 75-minute facial, followed by a perfect blow-dry to leave you looking fresh.

57 Whitehall



WORLD CLASS CARE

A state-of-the-art cancer treatment centre is coming to 40 Grosvenor Place

BY ALICE CAIRNS

The Cleveland Clinic had a rocky start to life. When it opened in 1921, it was a small medical centre founded by four Ohio doctors. Just eight years later a devastating toxic fire began in the basement of the clinic, which was thought to have started when a stray cigarette or discarded match ignited the hospital's store of X-ray films. Poisonous gases spread through the building, killing 123 patients, visitors, nurses and doctors.

No sooner had the three surviving founders rebuilt the clinic than the Great Depression and Second World War posed overwhelming new challenges to the practice. In the face of staff shortages and global turmoil, the Cleveland Clinic continued to develop its pioneering treatments, from the world's first "stopped heart" operation in 1956 to the early use of MRI machines in the 1980s.

Today the Cleveland Clinic is one of the biggest healthcare providers in the United States and the wider world, with 23 hospitals, more than 3 million patients and an operating revenue that was reported at \$15.94 billion (£11.94 billion) in 2024. It has locations as far afield as Abu Dhabi and Toronto, and operates a hospital at 33 Grosvenor Place offering everything from critical care to multi-organ transplants.

Now the clinic is planning to open a purpose-built, state-of-the-art cancer treatment centre at 40 Grosvenor Place by the end of 2027. The 81,000 square foot facility will offer many kinds of cancer treatment, including immunotherapy, chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Patients will benefit from



"The new centre will provide the most comprehensive cancer programmes in the UK independent market"

Robert Lorenz

highly tailored care, drawing on the latest global research, new therapies and clinical trials.

Robert Lorenz, president of the Cleveland Clinic London, promises that the new centre will "provide the most comprehensive cancer programmes in the UK independent market".

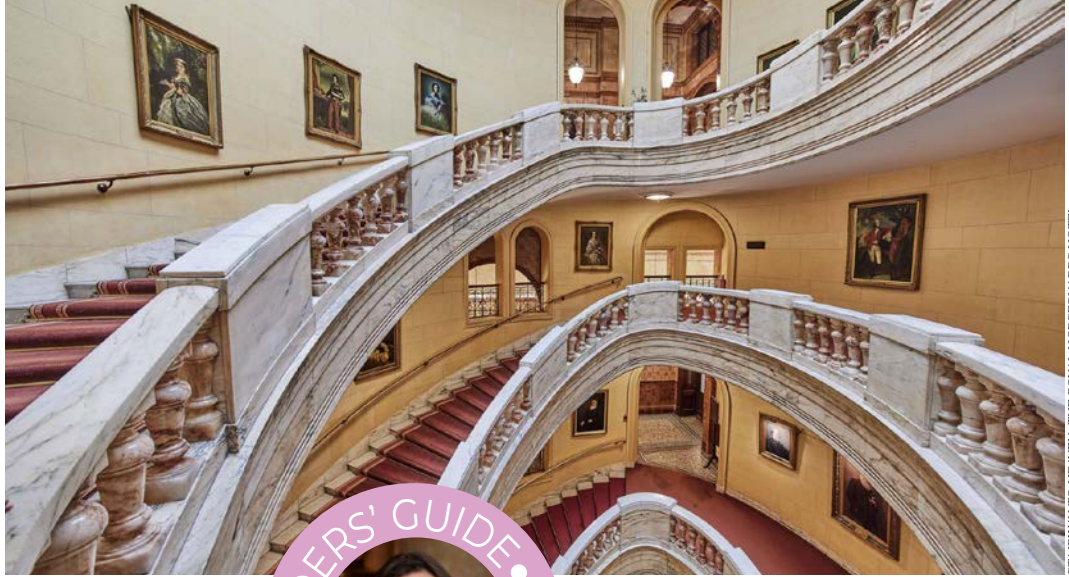
"The centre will focus on delivering multidisciplinary, patient-centred cancer care," he says. "We will bring together specialists across multiple oncology disciplines to tailor treatment to each individual patient."

The "central, highly accessible" London location will allow local people to access world-leading care, and is also a convenient location for patients in Europe and further afield. According to Robert, the central address "strengthens collaboration between Cleveland Clinic teams in London and colleagues in the US and Abu Dhabi, ensuring patients benefit from global expertise and innovation".

In the UK alone, more than 375,000 new cancer cases are diagnosed annually – a figure that's expected to rise as the population ages. Robert hopes that the new location will prove "a major milestone, enabling the organisation to expand cancer services in response to growing demand for advanced cancer care in the UK".

With construction due to begin this autumn, watch this space for updates.

Visit clevelandcliniclondon.uk for more information



STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN: THE ROYAL HORSEGUARDS HOTEL



What do you love about this area?

I love our part of Whitehall because it's right in the middle of everything. You're a few minutes away from Covent Garden, Downing Street and Horse Guards Parade, but you're in your own little bubble of peace and tranquillity.

Natasha Ludlow is the new general manager of The Royal Horseguards Hotel and has spent her career working in the local area

BY ALICE CAIRNS

What makes the Royal Horseguards Hotel so special?

It was built in 1884 and the building is full of so much history. It also has



IMAGE: WIKIMEDIA

an amazing location: on the river, with a terrace that overlooks the London Eye.

What local spots do you recommend to people who visit?

Blues & Royals [19 Embankment Place] does the best coffee – it's just amazing. The Clarence [53 Whitehall] is my favourite pub in the area – it's a traditional English pub, which our guests love.

Where do you like to eat and drink locally?

I love Bbar [43 Buckingham Palace Road] for cocktails – the team there are amazing. More recently, I've loved eating at Harry's [52 Grosvenor Gardens], which is a brilliant Italian. During the almost 10 years I worked at The Clermont hotel in Victoria, I saw the area completely

transform with the Nova complex and the arrival of so many fantastic bars and restaurants. I really feel that Victoria has been put on the map.

Any other favourite spots?

I always get my nails done in Townhouse [129 Victoria Street]. It's very relaxing.

We recently celebrated International Women's Day. Do you have any advice for women in leadership?

Be your authentic self. Don't try to be someone else when you're called upon to lead – bring yourself to that role. I've always been a little bit outspoken, open and honest, but I think people appreciate that honesty.

The Royal Horseguards Hotel, 2 Whitehall Court



BBAR

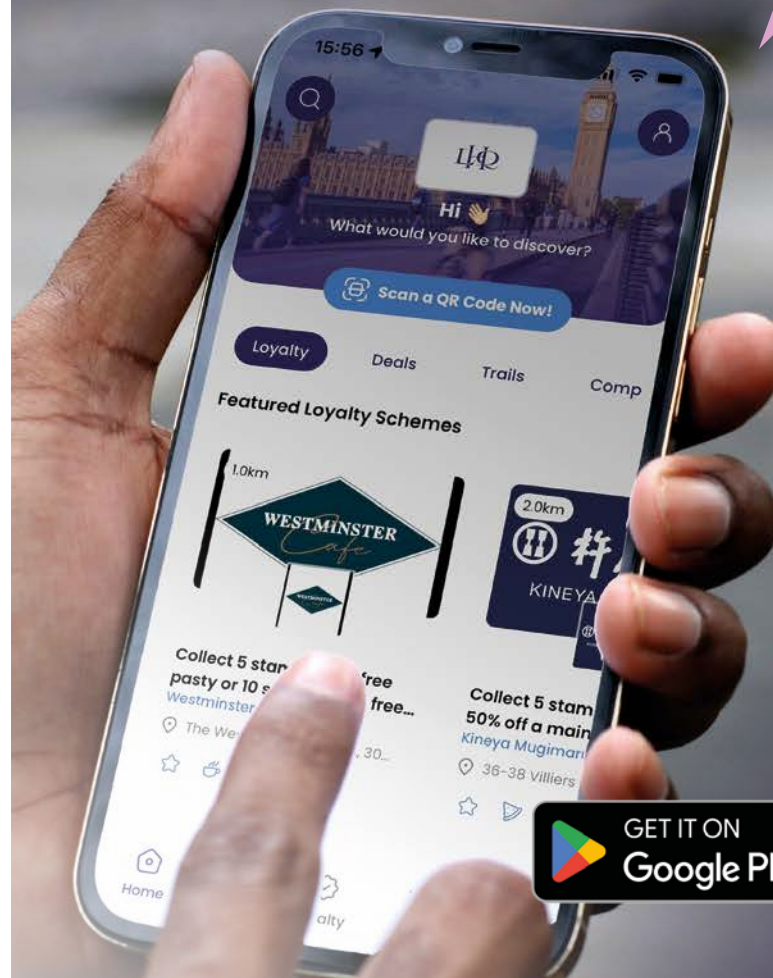


THE CLARENCE



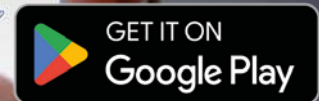
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