



## Visit London What's New Press Briefing

January 2005

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The New Year brings a host of fantastic new additions to London, from the newly re-opened Brown's Hotel, re-designed by the renowned Rocco Forte family, to new events such as the incredible Cirque Du Soleil's Alegria (see image), London has something to keep all the family entertained.



## Hotels

### Brown's Hotel re-opens

Brown's Hotel in Mayfair has re-opened following a £19 million renovation. The new design, overseen by Rocco Forte's sister, Olga Polizzi, maintains the refined English charm for which the Brown's Hotel has always been known, but combining it with a more contemporary and comfortable style.

For further information contact [Victoria Charles](#) on +44 (0) 20 7518 4169.

### The ParkCity Hotel opens

The four star ParkCity hotel has opened in Lexham Gardens, Kensington. The hotel boasts 62 guestrooms combining spacious comfort and up-to-date technology. Facilities include broadband internet access, interactive TVs with 26" LCD screens, Bose radio and CD players and 24 hour room service as standard.

Further information from [Sophy Geering](#) on +44 (0) 20 7483 0030.

### A winter warmer at Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park

Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park is offering a saving of 30% on all suites during winter. Rates are from £695 per night, based on two adults sharing. The package includes a seasonal treat of a selection of pastries, nuts and berries, English cheeses and a bottle of red wine placed in their suite on arrival. This package is available until April 30 and is subject to availability.

Further information from [Rosanna Crawley](#).

### My body is a temple

The Great Eastern Hotel is holding a month long health initiative, where guests and visitors can take part in various classes including nutrition advice, city running, boxing, 'self defence' and quit smoking hypnosis. Click here to book a session.

Further information from [Simon Warrington](#) on +44 (0) 20 7618 5616.

### The Capital launches its luxurious two bedroom suite

The Capital Hotel has launched a brand new fully serviced two bedroom suite to add to its portfolio of 49 rooms and apartments. The suite is centrally located in Knightsbridge and is ideal for families and those requiring a little more space, or for corporate clients who need an area to hold a small meeting. Rates start from around £850 per night, excluding VAT, including full English breakfast. Weekend rates are also available.

Further information from [Natascia Vivaldi](#) on +44 (0) 20 7808 0654.

### **The Royal Opera House suite experience at the Savoy**

In January, The Savoy launches a programme especially created for lovers of ballet and opera. By partnering with The Royal Opera and Bose, The Savoy is able to offer a luxurious two-day programme. This includes transfers to the Savoy in a chauffeur driven limousine, two nights stay in a deluxe river side suite, a candlelit dinner with fine wines on the first night, traditional English breakfast on both mornings, a backstage tour of The Royal Opera House and two tickets for a performance. The Royal Opera House Suite Experience costs from £2,999 for two people for two nights, excluding VAT.

Further information from [Pam Carter](#) on +44 (0) 207420 2329.

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## **Attractions**

### **Geffrye Museum's Farewell to Christmas**

Join the museum in its own tradition of burning the holly and the ivy, followed by a taste of mulled wine and Twelfth Night cake. Takes place in the museum garden on January 6, so wrap up warm! Further information from [Nancy Loader](#) on +44 (0) 20 7739 9893.

### **Chinese New Year celebrations**

An afternoon celebrating the Chinese New Year of the Dog will take place at the National Maritime Museum on January 22. This will include Zen Wu Dance performance, ribbon dance, pop-up toy workshop and Chinese story telling.

Further information from [Sheryl Twigg](#) on +44 (0)20 8312 6790.

### **Design Mart**

The Design Mart will be celebrating new talent from January 14 to February 19 2006. A guerrilla exhibition of emerging designers' work is presented over four days during the London Design Festival every September. A selection of this work has been brought back to be featured in the Design Mart exhibition.

Further information from [Olivia Colling](#) on +44 (0) 20 7940 8787.

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## **Exhibitions & Events**

### **Get Carter! The music of Elliott Carter**

Elliott Carter, who turns 97 in December, remains one of the most influential and celebrated composers of the past eight decades. He is also the subject of the BBC Symphony Orchestra's annual January Composer Weekend at the Barbican, taking place Friday 13 - Sunday 15 January. The weekend aims to give an overview of a career which started more than seventy years ago and continues unabated today and is the largest survey of his music to take place in the UK in recent decades.

Further information from [Victoria Bevan](#) on +44 (0) 20 7765 4717.

### **Chinese New Year celebrations**

The Chinese Year of the Dog begins with a parade on Sunday January 29 along Charing Cross Road to Trafalgar Square. The parade starts at 11am and the celebrations continue until 6pm, consisting of dragon and lion dances and the best of Chinese arts and entertainments on stage. Firework displays take place at 2pm and 5pm in Leicester Square.

For further information [click here](#).

### **Mozart 250 Festival**

St Martin-in-the-Field celebrates the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth with a week of special concerts that will pay homage to the composer and demonstrate why his music, above all others, has stood the test of time. St Martin-in-the-Field Church, January 24.

For further information contact [Allyson Hargreaves](#) on +44 (0) 20 7766 1114.

### **Together monthly launch party**

Having put on parties at Turnmills nightclub for the past 5 New Years Eve's, the 'Together' night becomes a monthly occurrence at Turnmills as from Saturday January 28. With 4 rooms playing house, techno, electro and everything in between, as well as a new live room with various live acts.

For further information on this and all other nights at Turnmills, contact [Paul Stix](#) on +44 (0) 20 7324

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## Bars & Restaurants

### **Bentley's Oyster Bar and Grill re-opens**

The long established Bentley's Oyster Bar and Grill has been re-opened after the building was restored to its former glory. Situated in an historic building, Bentley's is spread over three floors. On the ground floor is the Oyster and Champagne bar, upstairs is the Grill room, the Rib room and the Crustacean room, and in the basement is the Jameson room.

Further information from [Danielle Proctor](#) on +44 (0) 20 7751 1000.

### **Entrecote Café De Paris opens in London**

The world famous Entrecote Café De Paris, which was founded in Geneva in 1930, has recently opened on Baker Street. The restaurant offers a single menu concept consisting of a green salad, entrecote steak with famous Café de Paris sauce and unlimited French fries, priced at £16.95.

Further information from [Gaby Riley](#) on +44 (0) 20 7722 5466.

### **Veeraswamy relaunches after complete transformation**

The UK's oldest surviving Indian restaurant Veeraswamy has recently relaunched. Family directors of Masala Zone; Ramjit Mathrani, Namita Panjabi and Camellia Panjabi, the trio behind Chutney Mary, Amaya and Masala Zone have restored the restaurant to reflect the glamour and glory it exuded in the 1920's. A new menu of classical dishes from throughout India are served alongside more contemporary creations.

Further information from [Jess Bowden](#) on +44 (0) 20 7751 1000.

### **Cocktail classes at Fifth Floor Bar**

For £45 a group of up to 16 people will be guided through the Harvey Nichols Fifth Floor cocktail bar alchemy with an hour and a half private lesson with bar manager Elias Yiallouris. Elias will talk guests through the classic combinations and the bar tender's tips before letting them loose behind the bar. After the lesson, guests will receive a Cocktail Class Certificate and be invited to enjoy a complimentary lunch from a special menu in the Fifth Floor Restaurant. Lessons are available to book on Saturday mornings from January - March.

Further information from [Susannah Galsworthy](#) on +44 (0) 20 7915 4777.

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## Theatre & Film

### **Cirque Du Soleil's Alegria**

Cirque du Soleil proudly presents Alegria at the Royal Albert Hall. Alegria is a blend of astonishing acrobatics, awe-inspiring aerial acts, spectacular sets and eccentric characters with flamboyant costumes. Performances take place at the Royal Albert Hall between January 5 - February 5.

Further information from [Paul McEntree](#) on +44 (0) 20 7404 3000.

### **Get into London theatre campaign**

From January 9 to March 24 the Get into London campaign runs, enabling people to buy tickets to over 50 London shows from as little as £15 each. The campaign, initiated by the Mayor of London in 2002, has already enabled 250,000 to experience the magic of London theatre.

For further information contact [Samantha Young](#) on +44 (0) 20 7693 6999.

### **The Wild Duck**

A new version by David Eldridge of Ibsen's The Wild Duck appears at the Donmar Warehouse until February 18. The play explores the issue of truth and if it should be pursued whatever the cost. The idealistic son of a wealthy businessman seeks to expose his father's duplicity. In the process freeing his childhood friend from the lies on which his happy home is based.

[Click here](#) for further information.

### **The Producers**

The Producers has extended by 7 months - tickets are now on sale up until the 28 Oct 2006 at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane.

[Click here](#) for further information.

### **Sleeping Beauty**

Continuing its Christmas Season at the Coliseum, English National Ballet presents the London Premiere of Kenneth MacMillan's magnificent production of The Sleeping Beauty from 5 - 21 January 2006. Matinees available some afternoons.

[Click here](#) for further information.

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### **Shopping**

#### **January sales**

For shopoholics January means only one thing and that's sales! Brave the crowds to find some excellent bargains as prices of clothes and consumer goods are slashed. To find out when the sales start in individual stores contact the shops directly. Alternatively just hit the streets from 26 December onwards.

[Click here](#) for further information.



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