

OUT & ABOUT

SHOPPING, DINING, EVENTS AND PLACES TO STAY IN AND AROUND LONDON

3 OF THE BEST EXHIBITIONS



1 | ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM

Exploring the energy and vibrancy of 1950s New York's abstract movement, with works by Kline, Pollock, Gorky (above), de Kooning and Rothko among many others.

24 September to 2 January 2017; £17. Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1J 0BD, 020 7300 8000, royalacademy.org.uk.

2 | MASTER STROKES: DUTCH & FLEMISH DRAWINGS FROM THE GOLDEN AGE

A carefully curated exhibition of 70 works from the 17th-century, including paintings by Rubens, Rembrandt and van Dyck.

Until 13 November; free. Victoria & Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7 2RL, 020 7942 2000, vam.ac.uk.

3 | FIRE! FIRE!

Revealing the capital before, during and after the Great Fire of London, with first-hand personal records from the 17th-century. **Until 17 April 2017; from £8.** Museum of London, 150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN, 020 7001 9844, museumoflondon.org.uk.



HOME SWEDE HOME

Sola's new Hampstead store showcases the latest range of contemporary and classic kitchens from Denmark's Multiform and Sweden's Lidhults. Look out for rustic finishes, warm brass elements, integrated inductions and ingenious storage ideas. **Sola Kitchens, 83 Heath Street, NW3 6UG, 020 3405 6799, solakitchens.com.**



HIGH TEA

To honour the centenary of his birth, the wacky and wonderful books of Roald Dahl are being celebrated with a creative afternoon tea at Aqua Shard. Appealing to children and adults alike, the tea offers a nostalgic romp through the author's most popular works, with a menu of sweet and savoury treats served on crockery depicting Quentin Blake's famous illustrations. Mr Twit's very own bird pie is encased in buttery puff pastry complete with "birds' legs" poking out of the top and there are no prizes for guessing the inspiration behind the giant peach meringue. **Until 30 September, Mondays to Fridays, 1 to 5pm; £45 per person, or £58 with a glass of champagne.** Aqua Shard, Level 31, The Shard, 31 St Thomas Street, SE1 9RY, 020 3011 1256, aquashard.co.uk.



JOIN THE KEW

Now in its second year, the Write on Kew literary festival sees luminaries from the worlds of fiction, history, nature and science appear in a series of events in the historic gardens and its listed buildings. Highlights include politician Alan Johnson, children's author Michael Rosen and novelists Rose Tremain and Alexander McCall Smith. **22 to 25 September; from £16.** Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB, 020 8332 5655, kew.org.



FLOOR SHOW

Rug designer Jennifer Manners has opened her first standalone store. The studio-boutique shows the full range of her contemporary designs including a brand-new collection. We love Chrysanthemum (above left), which sees the flower's round shape given a more graphic edge, and the soft beauty of the oriental-feel Lotus (above right). *Jennifer Manners, 52 Pembroke Road, W8 6NX, 020 3648 6865, jennifermanners.co.uk.*



SOCIAL CLUB

With the aim of bringing the laid-back lifestyle of her native Sydney to south-west London, Sommer Pyne has thrown open the doors of her home. Aptly titled House Curious, the social workshopping venture offers a way to learn, dine, drink and make new friends over informal shared experiences. In partnership with local artisans and makers, classes include a Celebratory Cake and Floral Decoration workshop. *3 September, 11am to 3.30pm; £96 including lunch and a glass of prosecco; housecurious.co.uk.*



LOSE YOURSELF IN HARRODS

With a huge selection of established and niche brands under one roof, Harrods' home department is a must-visit for design inspiration



This summer, the store has added more artisan brands to its stable, as well as reinventing its own line Harrods of London bedlinen. The new bedding range, launching in September, focuses on crisp, classic designs, and includes Pavilion (above left) and Montrose (above right). You'll find a selection of 300 thread count Egyptian cotton percale and sumptuous 600 thread count sateen, in plains as well as classic lace, all made in Portugal. To layer the look, silk and velvet bedspreads from India, as well as cashmere throws and blankets, add luxurious texture. Elsewhere, the lighting collection has been expanded. Handmade ceramic designs come from family business Lyngard, whose studio is based in the heart of the Potteries in Stoke-on-Trent. There are plenty of highlights among the furniture collection, too: witty, colourful pieces come from Jonathan Adler, while French collective Petite Friture and Danish design house Gubi have launched capsule collections. And if hard-working and stylish children's furniture is on your list, make a beeline for a new range of sleek and colourful options from Italian modular furniture specialist Lago. *Harrods, 87/135 Brompton Road, SW1X 7XL, 020 7730 1234, harrods.com.*

DON'T MISS

- Penrose, which creates luxury duvets, toppers and pillows from alpaca wool, launches with a philosophy of sourcing only from the UK and limiting waste.
- **Look out for new colours in the Cookshop. Le Creuset has launched its iconic**

enamelled cast-iron cookware in an understated, modern shade, Mist Grey, exclusively in store.

- Recharge your batteries at pop-up Juice Smith, with raw, vegan and vegetarian juices, salads, desserts and snacks located in the Food Halls.



STACKS OF STYLE

Part of the emerging design district between Clerkenwell and Islington, 39 Amwell Street is a new lifestyle store that marks the collaboration between British lighting designer Curiousa & Curiousa and fabric specialist Blackpop. Featuring contemporary handblown glass lighting, such as the Dine pendant (above left) and Triptych Orb (above right), and elegantly distressed wallpaper, furniture and fabrics, the store is a paean to homegrown craftsmanship and offbeat design. While you're there, visit the street's other interiors hotspots. 39 Amwell Street, EC1R 1UR, 01629 826284, curiousa.co.uk.



DON'T MISS PETERSHAM NURSERIES' SCHOOL OF GARDENING INSPIRATION

Perennial favourite Petersham Nurseries has launched a programme of workshops for both beginners and the green fingered. Set in the nursery grounds, the classes are devised by head of horticulture Thomas Broom-Hughes and promise to show how to grow your own wild flower garden, create seasonal bouquets, sow successful salads and plant late-summer containers, all using Petersham's favourite blooms and foliage. September workshops include Kitchen Garden Planning for Autumn, 13 September, 11am to 4.30pm, £95; and Bulb Planting in the Garden, 27 September, 11am to 12.30pm, £20. Church Lane, off Petersham Road, Surrey TW10 7AG, 020 8940 5230, petershamnurseries.com.



SAY CHEESE

Bath's renowned Fine Cheese Company has opened its doors in the capital with a store in Belgravia's Motcomb Street. Head here for a plethora of treats, including new season Vacherin Mont d'Or, or linger over wine and cheese pairings at the shop's casual dining concept, À Table. Choose from a variety of artisan products sliced to order, as well as charcuterie and inspirational classics such as cheese soufflé. *The Fine Cheese Company*, 17 Motcomb Street, SW1X 8LT, 020 7536 2109, finecheese.co.uk.



PETAL POWER

The penny dropped for florist Florence Kennedy when she realised she could harness the power of the pedal via her husband James's bicycle business. So from a former tram depot in east London, Petalon, a business that delivers bouquets procured at the local flower market by pushbike, was born. Simply choose from two hand-tied bouquets, £28, before midday for same-day delivery or order in advance online or by phone. Florence also offers a regular flower subscription as well as hosting workshops from her Clapton base. *Petalon Flowers*, 07514 178746, petalon.co.uk.

ON THE TILES

The design-led wall and floor tiles produced by British Ceramic Tile in Devon are now available to view and buy in a contemporary Clerkenwell showroom. The maker produces more than 10 million square metres of tiles each year and we love its finger-on-the-pulse designs, including Illusion, a striking geometric. *British Ceramic Tile*, Seward Street, EC1V 3PA, 020 7384 2476, britishceramictile.com.

