

LONDON *notebook*

● SHOPPING ● DINING ● ARTS ● THINGS TO DO ● PLACES TO STAY ●

3 OF THE BEST EXHIBITIONS



1 | ONE AND ALL

Exploring our relationship with the British coastline through poetry, aural effects and visual arts. **4 November to 13 December; free entry.** *New Wing, Somerset House, Strand, WC2R 1LA, 020 7845 4600, somersethouse.org.uk.*

2 | PRESENT AND COLLECT
The best in British craft, with furniture, lighting (Michael Ruh pendants, above), art, ceramics and jewellery from more than 350 makers. **19 November to 24 December; free entry.** *Contemporary Applied Arts, 89 Southwark Street, SE1 0HX, 020 7620 0086, caa.org.uk.*

3 | JULIA MARGARET CAMERON

A celebration of the work of this Victorian photographer, whose experimental portraits helped to shape modern photography. **28 November 2015 to 21 February 2016; free entry.** *V&A, Cromwell Road, SW7 2RL, 020 7942 2000, vam.ac.uk.*

GOOD WOOD

Known for its commitment to ethical sourcing, Raft has opened its eighth store in Richmond. Head here for bedroom and living room furniture made from sustainably sourced reclaimed teak, such as this Hudson chest, from £1,595, as well as stylish accessories including jute baskets and teak bowls. *Raft, 17 Hill Street, Richmond, TW9 1SX, 020 3826 3204, raftfurniture.co.uk.*



STREET EATS

Brett Redman, the chef behind Borough Market restaurant Elliot's, has brought the popular Japanese street food yakitori from Tokyo to Dalston in his new venture, Jidori. Specialising in chicken skewers cooked over open coals, the restaurant is centred on an open kitchen featuring a century-old grill. The simple but authentic dishes are complemented by a minimalist interior. *Jidori, 89 Kingsland High Street, E8 2BP, jidori.co.uk.*

FESTIVE FAMILY FUN

This year, Chartwell, the former home of Sir Winston Churchill, celebrates a Twenties-style Christmas. Dressed in historical green rather than red, Father Christmas will be on hand to greet children in a vintage grotto and there's also a festive garden trail. **6-7 December; adults, £7.15; children, £3.60, plus £7 to visit Father Christmas.** *Chartwell, Mapleton Road, Westerham, Kent TN16 1PS, 01732 868381, nationaltrust.org.uk.*



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SUPER SHAKER

If you're entertaining over the festive period, why not mix it up by investing in a modern cocktail set? We love the sleek lines and luxurious finish of the copper-effect options at London kitchen emporium Divertimenti, including this smart strainer, £20.95, and shaker, H22xdiam9cm, £31.95.

Divertimenti, 227/229 Brompton Road, SW3 2EP. 020 7823 8151, divertimenti.co.uk.



3 OF THE BEST HOTEL CHRISTMAS TREES

Where to see spectacular festive decorations



1 | THE DORCHESTER

In the capable hands of florist Philip Hammond, whose creative displays have been gracing the lobby of this Park Lane stalwart since 2012, the emphasis here is on striking flower work, with abundant yet elegant festive decorations. Expect a 14ft-high English Christmas tree adorned with hand-crafted gingerbread and 16 fresh trees lining the promenade, decorated in rose gold, antique copper and burnt orange. **Until 5 January 2016.**

Park Lane, W1K 1QA, 020 7629 8888, dorchestercollection.com.

2 | MANDARIN ORIENTAL, HYDE PARK

This year, Knightsbridge's landmark hotel partners with Harrods in a creative collaboration that sees its lobby transformed into a seasonal spectacle, with a vibrant red and gold theme. Admire the decorations over a Teddy Bear Tea at The Rosebery, £53, in honour of Benedict, Harrods' 2015 Christmas bear. **Until 10 January 2016.**

66 Knightsbridge, SW1X 7LA, 020 7235 2000, mandarinoriental.com.

3 | CLARIDGE'S

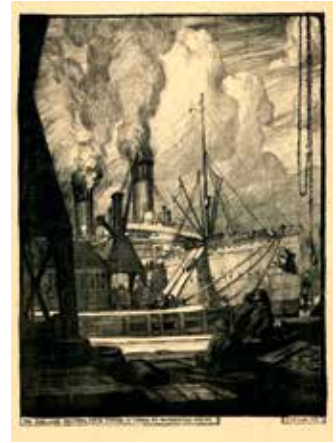
In recent years, Claridge's has collaborated closely with designers including Lanvin and Dolce & Gabbana on its Christmas trees, with some wonderfully unique results (D&G's 2014 creation is shown right). Admire this year's haute couture decorations from the vantage point of The Foyer over afternoon tea or early evening jazz and cocktails. **Until 2 January 2016.**

49 Brook Street, W1K 4HR, 020 7629 8860, claridges.co.uk.



NEW YORK, NEW YORK

Known for its simple, modern aesthetic, US brand Canvas Home brings Manhattan style to London with a range of everyday homewares inspired by hand-crafted beauty. Browse a tempting array of organically shaped ceramics, cutlery and hand-blown glassware in store and online. Selfridges, 400 Oxford Street, W1A 1AB, 0800 123400, selfridges.com.



BY THE SEA

Head to the port town of Lymington to catch this fascinating exhibition, *Shorelines – Artists on the South Coast*, which explores how artists from the 18th-century to the present have drawn inspiration from the cliffs, harbours and beaches of the Channel coast. It will showcase works by Constable, Turner and Ravilious, as well as Leslie Ward (above) and Fred Mitchell (below). **Until 9 January 2016, adults, £6.** St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery, New Street, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 9BH, 01590 676969, stbarbe-museum.org.uk.



BRANCHING OUT West Midlands-based family kitchen company **Broadway Kitchens** opens its first London store at the end of November, showcasing the traditional, handmade wooden kitchens that have been its trademark since 1974. Pop in to browse a selection of fitted options, from classic Shaker styles to modern handleless units. *Broadway Kitchens, Harbour Yard, Chelsea Harbour, SW10 OXE, 020 7118 8822, kitchensbybroadway.co.uk.*

CHALK AND CHEESE

Calling all cheese lovers: this set of Slate Cheese Markers, £12, from London artisan cheesemonger Paxton & Whitfield, is an excellent stocking filler. Each set of three slate labels comes with a piece of soapstone chalk, so that the names of the varieties can be written on the markers before serving, then easily wiped off after use. *Paxton & Whitfield, 93 Jermyn Street, SW1Y 6JE, 020 7930 0259, paxtonandwhitfield.co.uk.*



A SPOT OF LUNCH

Mealtimes have become a little bit more special since the opening of Covent Garden's Lundenwic, with its all-day offering of fresh salads, sandwiches and toasties, alongside Workshop espresso blends. Conceived by university friends Dominic Hamdy and Oliver Hiam, the café offers honest, healthy food with dishes including pickled peach, green bean, feta and hazelnut salad and beer-braised onion, kale and Montgomery cheddar toastie, all served in a Scandinavian-inspired setting. *Lundenwic, 45 Aldwych, WC2B 4DR, lundenwic.com.*



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THIS MONTH

Exciting activities and special treats in town



WHAT TO MAKE

Christmas baking course. Gail's Artisan Bakery, 3 Blackheath Village, SE3 9LA, 020 8852 3127, gailsbread.co.uk.

Learn how to make gingerbread biscuits, mince pies, Christmas cakes and cheese biscuits at the Blackheath branch of this popular artisan baker. In the expert hands of head baker Roz Bado, classes of up to eight students are guided through the creation of a variety of festive treats, while gaining insight into the inner workings of a professional bakery. Enjoy mulled wine and nibbles afterwards and take home what you've made. *5 and 10 December, 4-7.30pm; £80 per person.*

WHERE TO DINE

Afternoon tea at the National Theatre. Upper Ground, South Bank, SE1 9PX, 020 7452 3600, nationaltheatre.org.uk.

Inspired by its celebrated performances, the National Theatre's themed afternoon tea adds a fun twist to a classic repast, with a Curtain Up bellini, an Interval ice-cream course and two grand Acts, the first of sandwiches, the second of cakes, all served in its new restaurant, House. Treats include *A Taste of Honey* layer cake, made with honey from the theatre's own beehives and hummus sandwiches with French beans and roasted peppers, taking their cue from *One Man, Two Guvnors*. A selection of organic Birchall teas and freshly ground Mozzo coffee complete the offering. *From £26.50 per person.*

WHAT TO DO

Christmas at Kew, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, TW9 3AB, 020 8332 5655, kew.org.

Nothing heralds the start of the festive season quite like a visit to beautiful Kew Gardens at dusk. This year, there is a host of special events for adults and children alike, including its annual winter trail. A mile long and winding through a breathtaking landscape, the walk is a magical after-dark experience. Amble through the twinkling canopy of Kew's Christmas favourite, the pea-light tunnel, and feast your eyes on a flickering fire garden and 15m-tall tree. *25 November 2015 to 2 January 2016; adults, £15; children, £10; under-fours, free.*