

LONDON LUXURY

Galleries and gardens, spas and shops, high style and high tea – London is an endless stream of effortless cool, a vibrant mix of tradition and trends. Make your experience as extravagant as those you read about in the society pages by embracing one of these sumptuous scenarios.

LET ONE OF THESE HAUTE HOTELS IN CENTRAL LONDON, FROM KENSINGTON TO COVENT GARDEN, PLAY HOME BASE FOR THE PERFECT POST-WEDDING WEEKEND.



Covent Garden ME LONDON

THE SCENE: This sleek, modern and minimal urban refuge blends futuristic design with warm hospitality right on the Strand, just steps from the Thames.

THE CHARACTER: The front desk is housed in a 30-metre-high, white marble pyramid Atrium. From there, guests float through black marble hallways to 157 pure-white rooms. Indulge in cool technology, sumptuous bathrooms and soft linens. Sliding opaque-glass panels sub in for curtains and blinds. The exclusive Radio Rooftop, one of the hottest patios in town, sports a panoramic 360-degree view.

NEARBY: At the foot of the theatre district, ME is steps away from Covent Garden Market and the Royal Opera House, and just opposite Waterloo Bridge and the south bank. Trafalgar Square and The National Gallery are a 10-minute walk away.

COST: From \$450

melondonhotel.com



Green Park BROWN'S HOTEL

THE SCENE: Star-studded heritage mixes with modern British luxury in the heart of elegant Mayfair, one of London's most posh postal codes.

THE CHARACTER: Enjoy an extremely high standard of service in what is billed as the oldest hotel in London, established in 1837. Since then, royalty, politicians, literary giants and movie stars have called this spot home, its now 117 rooms well-appointed, spacious and bright. Beck at Brown's, helmed by Heinz Beck, executes classic Italian in a sexy room and Donovan Bar is one of London's top cocktail lounges.

NEARBY: Green Park is just a few minutes away, as are dozens of fashion boutiques and jewellers, many holding Royal Warrants. The Victorian-era Royal Arcade is right across the street. Buckingham Palace is a 15-minute walk away.

COST: From \$750

roccofortehotels.com/hotels-and-resorts/browns-hotel



Knightsbridge BULGARI HOTEL LONDON

THE SCENE: The timeless glamour of the Italian jewelry brand is well represented in this new build at the edge of Hyde Park, opened in 2012.

THE CHARACTER: The 85 rooms exude understated Italian design – great swaths of mahogany and stone, silk curtains and black marble bathtubs. Bulgari silver is everywhere, from the bedside lamps to the ballroom chandeliers. The 2,000-square-metre spa is a haven of onyx and oak with a 25-metre pool of Vincenza stone. Dining options include Sette, the first London location of New York's Scarpetta Restaurants.

NEARBY: Both Harrods and Harvey Nichols department stores are a five-minute walk away. The shops of Sloane Square and the Victoria and Albert Museum are just 15 minutes away.

COST: From \$800

bulgarihotels.com/london





Kensington
THE MILESTONE

THE SCENE: Find old-style service and charm at this quiet haven across the street from Kensington Palace.

THE CHARACTER: Built as a Victorian-era home before becoming a hotel in 1922, the well-maintained Milestone radiates comfort and coziness, with 56 ornate rooms over five floors across two townhouses. Take afternoon tea in the charming Park Lounge or grab the perfect martini at the tiny Stables Bar. The Oratory, once the chapel of the house, is London's smallest wedding venue, with room for just eight people.

NEARBY: Hit the shops of Kensington High Street or the antique stores of Church Street, or take a picnic to Kensington Gardens. Royal Albert Hall is 10 minutes down the road. Harrods and Harvey Nichols are a 25-minute walk away.

COST: From \$520

milestonehotel.com

Piccadilly
HOTEL CAFÉ ROYAL

THE SCENE: Five-star luxury on the corner of Regent Street and Piccadilly Circus in what was a high-society gathering place for more than 100 years.

THE CHARACTER: This elegant 160-room hotel redefines modern grand. Butlers are assigned to all rooms, which are filled with modern art and kitted out with gorgeous Italian marble bathrooms. Escape to the basement spa for a visit to the 18-metre pool, hot tub, hammam and sauna. Champagne in the Green Room off the lobby is a late-afternoon must-do.

NEARBY: Love is in the air at the famed statue of Eros right outside. Find some of the best shopping in the world in the shops of Old and New Bond Streets and at department stores Liberty and Fortnum & Mason, all within walking distance.

COST: From \$720

hotelcaferoyal.com

