

# LONDON PLANNER

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY GUIDE TO LONDON



JUNE 2011

## CITY SAFARI

From guided Big Bus Tours to exploring on foot, discover the best ways to experience London

PLUS

Fabulous festivals  
Historic landmarks  
Hard Rock tales

### Atelier Des Chefs

How about learning new skills, having fun with new people and eating a fantastically good lunch – all for £15? French cooking school Atelier Des Chefs' new concept is Cook Eat & Run, where you'll receive a cooking lesson and eat your finished product, all wrapped up in about 30 minutes. We chose to learn how to do the crisp fillet of sea bream with broad bean, pea and feta pesto (though the many classes include Chinese pork, glazed duck with passion fruit and orange and salmon tartare), and took our places at the Atelier's premises just off Oxford Street.

Chef Sati Weisz showed us our basics, plus the various techniques for making the dish efficiently. As someone who cooks a lot at home I expected all of this to be old news, but I discovered my cutting style was all wrong, and I've used the new way ever since. The finished dish was delicious – the fresh fish and clean tastes of the beans and peas went beautifully with the rich, creamy feta and potato, and it was all the tastier for having cooked it ourselves. How's that for a result? *Helen Cox Crawford*

19 Wigmore Street, W1. ☎ 020 7499 6580. [atelierdeschefs.co.uk](http://atelierdeschefs.co.uk)  
📍 Bond Street. Map B4.



### BEDFORD & STRAND

This charming, attractive and well-located bar and bistro boasts an extensive wine list and a menu which focuses on superbly executed European classics. Try the fillet steak tartare with quail's egg or salad Niçoise. ££  
1a Bedford Street, WC2.  
☎ 020 7836 3033.  
[bedford-strand.com](http://bedford-strand.com)  
📍 Leicester Square. Map C6.

### EL PIRATA

The buzzy atmosphere appeals to the quality and value of the tapas here. Try the chilli prawns, bean stew and patatas bravas. Closed Sun. A second branch, El Pirata de Tapas (115 Westbourne Grove, W2. ☎ 020 7727 5000), has sleeker décor but equally excellent dishes. £  
5-8 Down Street, W1.  
☎ 020 7491 3810.  
[elpirata.co.uk](http://elpirata.co.uk)  
📍 Green Park. Map C4.

### GORDON RAMSAY

Three Michelin-starred restaurant from the famous chef, celebrating ten years with those stars. Dishes from across Europe retain a classic feel with bold, confident twists. It's all superb, but get organised

### as you need to book two months in advance. £££.

68 Royal Hospital Road, SW3. ☎ 020 7352 4441.  
[gordonramsay.com](http://gordonramsay.com)  
📍 Sloane Square. Off map.

### OXO TOWER RESTAURANT, BAR & BRASSERIE

Elegant, iconic riverside restaurant in a landmark building with stunning views and a lovely terrace. The Brasserie is mid-price; the Restaurant, top-end. Good food in a highly romantic setting – book in advance. Great martinis and live jazz every night in the bar. ££-£££.  
Oxo Tower Wharf, Barge House Street, SE1.  
☎ 020 7803 3888.  
[harveynichols.com](http://harveynichols.com)  
📍 Waterloo. Map C3.

### PARAMOUNT

Situated at the top of the Centre Point building, this fabulous restaurant offers awesome vistas. The food competes successfully with the views for your attention: modern classics with a twist like wild sea bass with samphire and caviar cream. £££.  
Centre Point, 101-103 New Oxford Street, WC1. ☎ 020

7420 2900. [paramount.uk.net](http://paramount.uk.net) 📍 Tottenham Court Road. Map B5.

### RS HISPANIOLA

Enjoy Mediterranean cuisine and fantastic views aboard this restaurant ship permanently moored opposite the London Eye. There's an à la carte menu, or fill up on traditional Spanish tapas plates. Lunch set menu is £25. ££.  
Victoria Embankment, WC2. ☎ 020 7839 3011.  
[hispaniola.co.uk](http://hispaniola.co.uk)  
📍 Embankment. Map C6.

### SARASTRO

An unusual evening of entertainment in the heart of Theatreland. Gaze in wonder at the incredible décor and enjoy Mediterranean cuisine from its unique wall-mounted opera boxes, with live performances Sun lunch plus Sun and Mon evenings. ££.  
126 Drury Lane, WC2. ☎ 020 7836 0101.  
[sarastro-restaurant.com](http://sarastro-restaurant.com) 📍 Covent Garden. Map B6.

### TEXTURE

Master sommelier Xavier Roussel and chef Agnès Sverrisson co-own this marvellous Michelin-starred place in Mayfair, which

features wild Atlantic flavours in every bite of food. The champagne bar offers 80 varieties by the bottle. Closed Sun-Mon. £££.  
34 Portman Street, W1. ☎ 020 7224 0028.  
[texture-restaurant.co.uk](http://texture-restaurant.co.uk) 📍 Marble Arch. Map B4.

### South African

#### SHAKA ZULU

Experience something completely different at this absolutely huge and opulent restaurant, lounge and club. Dubbed the 'Theatre of Food', its South African specialities include ostrich carpaccio cooked on the braai (open barbecue) and marinated springbok. ££.  
Stables Market, NW1. ☎ 020 3376 9911.  
[shaka-zulu.com](http://shaka-zulu.com)  
📍 Chalk Farm. Off map.

### Thai & Malay

#### AWANA

One of the few Malaysian restaurants in London, this is a must-try. In elegant environs, the perfect starters feature scallops and prawns, or try delicately spiced sambal and rich curries for mains and order stayays from the Selay Bar. £££.  
85 Sloane Avenue, SW3. ☎ 020 7584 8880.  
[awana.co.uk](http://awana.co.uk) 📍 Sloane Square. Map E3.

#### BALI BALI

A wonderful central London spot offering Balinese cuisine. There's traditional sate on the menu, but be adventurous – Indonesian cooking is a veritable melting pot of cultures. Try the rjastafei set menu for the perfect introduction to the range of tastes on offer. Closed Sun lunch. £.  
150 Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2. ☎ 020 7836 2644.  
[balibalirestaurant.com](http://balibalirestaurant.com) 📍 Covent Garden. Map B6.

#### BLUE ELEPHANT

Housed in an exquisitely decorated indoor garden