

# CAPITAL GAINS

The establishments creating ripples on London's vibrant, ever-expanding luxury scene.



Cosmic-religious capers at the new HOFA Gallery on Bruton Street

■ If it's possible for an upmarket department store to reach peak provision—where the full gamut of human whim has been catered for under one vast West London roof—then Harrods never got the memo. Earlier this year, it unveiled a fully revamped interiors department with a more authentically residential feel, designed by Virgile + Partners; then The Tiffany Blue Box Cafe pop-up opened its doors, for an as-yet unconfirmed period, in February.

George Cleverley—the bespoke shoemaker famous for handcrafted excellence, and a client list that includes royalty, heads of state and those at the summit of Hollywood's A-list—has now taken up residence behind London's most famous retail façade (also check out the debut men's collection from Malone Souliers here), and will be joined by fine jewellery house Suzanne Kalan, which

is launching a boutique in Harrods at the end of April. The store is also rumoured to be the setting for one of several new branches of our favourite male grooming atelier, ADAM—which already has premises in Mayfair, Canary Wharf, Fitzrovia, Victoria, The City and London Bridge—set to open this year; another place we gravitate towards when follicle-length demands it is Ted's Grooming Room, which has now opened up a branch on the King's Road.

For oenophiles, the big news is the opening of The Dorchester's new underground Wine Vault at the end of February, featuring over 1,000 bottles of the world's most prestigious wines and champagnes, selected by the hotel's master sommelier Christopher Delonde. Elsewhere on an urban luxury hospitality scene that refuses to lie still for a second,

Page8, a new hotel opening overlooking Trafalgar Square, is positioning itself as a lifestyle brand with the tagline, "Home of the Urban Explorers". The emphasis is on creating a sense of community within the hotel, so that guests share unique insights on hidden gems, unknown lunch spots, great photo spots, museums, art galleries and the like. Another major new hotel opening is The Biltmore Mayfair, located in a prime position on Grosvenor Square and the first European venture for the LXR brand. The contemporary seasonal cuisine, overseen by Michelin-starred Jason Atherton at its on-site all-day dining brasserie The Betterment, is sure to make this a terrific lunch hotspot too.

Elsewhere on the capital's culinary scene, Michelin-starred Gymkhana—a restaurant modelled on the elite clubs of India—has reopened on Mayfair's Albemarle Street following refurbishment; Louie, a brand new restaurant concept in Covent Garden by Guillaume Glipa (of Chiltern Firehouse, Coya, Umu, Zuma and Birley Clubs fame) will see diners enjoy a menu curated by executive head chef Slade Rushing, consisting of classic French gastronomy, New Orleans-tinged creole dishes and a smattering of New York's culinary heritage thrown in; and Budgie Montoya has opened the first stand-alone site for his Sarap restaurant, which reinterprets the rich culinary techniques of the Philippines (try the speciality dish, lechon liempo) in Brixton Village.

The city's high-end health and fitness scene has also received a shot in the arm with the arrival of Lanserhof—the Austrian Alpine health resort and "medical gym"—at the Arts Club in Mayfair, as well as London's first carbon-neutral boutique fitness and wellness studio, Rumble, which has opened its doors in Dalston to offer Londoners a spectrum of training options including spinning, sparring, deadlifts and detoxes.

On the cultural front, HOFA Gallery has opened a new 370-square-metre gallery on Bruton Street while, since February, Ravinder Bhogal has been hosting "Civilised Sundays" at her Marylebone restaurant Jikoni: an aptly named weekly event at which speakers from the worlds of food, literature and the arts (musician Nitin Sawhney CBE and author Salman Rushdie so far, at the time of writing) give talks to diners enjoying a menu which plays tribute to each of her guests' heritage. **Scott Huxley**