



Christmas 2017 - The Egerton House Hotel Concierge Corner

Christmas is traditionally a time to be spoilt and pampered. Celebrate the holiday with us at **The Egerton House Hotel** and enjoy fine food, friendly personal service and luxurious surroundings. We are truly delighted to welcome you during the festive period and want you to discover your home in Knightsbridge which offers the discreet and luxurious comforts of a private residence, with uncompromising levels of service that quietly anticipate, even exceed your expectations in every possible way. Whether you have stayed with us before or it is your first time at the hotel, we hope that you will have time to experience the wealth of the Capital's attractions and award winning restaurants that await you. Alternatively, if you have already done all of the conventional touristic activities and feel like some off-the-beaten-track fun and interesting places to visit in the city this December, this is the section for you!

Jacques Conradie – Concierge Manager

Festive Retail Therapy at...The Conran Shop - Have you been very good this year? Are you expecting a bountiful bundle under the Christmas tree and hoping for a warm and fuzzy feeling of joy at the sight of shiny wrapping paper and ribbons. If the answer is yes, then you may be lucky enough to get a visit from Father Christmas following his latest furtive mission to The Conran Shop. It is not surprising that the Chelsea store was high on the list of places visit as there has been quite a bit of hubbub there recently. Bursting with colour, punch and pizzazz, The Conran Shop has attended to your seasonal shopping needs most attentively. You only have to see the windows to see that Christmas preparations are in full swing and the stops have been firmly pulled out to make it a year to remember. From incredible gifts that you would love to give and be given, to a wealth of knick-knacks that make perfect stocking fillers or secret Santa presents; there really is something to suit everyone. The Chelsea store is also treating you to a novel local delivery service whereby your goodies will arrive by a traditional pushbike and cart, so you need not fear your arms falling off at the weight of your shopping.



Christmas and New Year Opening Hours: Christmas Eve: 10.00 - 16.00, Christmas Day: CLOSED, Boxing Day: 11.00 - 18.00, 27th December: 10.00 - 18.30, 28th December: 12.00 - 18.00, 29th December: 10.00 - 18.00, 30th December: 10.00 - 18.00, New Year's Eve: 10.00 - 17.00 and New Year's Day: 12.00 - 18.00



Dolce & Gabbana Christmas Market Harrods - While only a few can enjoy the privilege of dining in famiglia with Dolce & Gabbana, this holiday season, shoppers in London can at least get a little taste. From November 2 until December 28, the designers are setting up an Italian Christmas Market inside the lacquered walls of Harrods. There will be a tree out front, decorated not like a flea market but in gold ribbons and colourful lights. The windows will be designed in the style of a Sicilian puppet theatre, with Dolce and Gabbana appearing in marionette form to introduce passersby to the story of the house. On the fourth floor, visitors will walk into a replica Italian piazza strung with coloured lights. Booths will display a variety of goods, many designed exclusively for the department store, including floral and sequin-embroidered women's evening dresses, festive men's suits in



striped lurex and silk shantung, and children's ready-to-wear. Those on the hunt for gifts will find displays full of toys, fragrance, fine jewellery, shoes, handbags and other accessories. Dolce and Gabbana have even engaged a painter to personalise any Sicily bags purchased on site.

Christmas and New Year Opening Hours: 24th December (Christmas Eve): 10:00am – 5:00pm, 25th December (Christmas Day): **CLOSED**, From 26th December (Boxing Day) until 30th December: Monday to Saturday: 10:00am - 8:00pm, Sunday: 11:30am* - 6:00pm and 31st December (New Year's Eve): 10:00am – 7:00pm

Harvey Nichols - London is home to the flagship store of Harvey Nichols in Knightsbridge. Harvey Nichols' flagship department store opened in its present form on the corner of Knightsbridge and Sloane Street in the 1880s. There are a total of eight floors of fashion, beauty and lifestyle collections with the fifth floor dedicated to food, a bar and restaurant. Harvey Nichols makes the ideal department store to do that last minute Christmas Shopping.

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Lunch at... The Curry Room at The Rubens at the Palace Hotel – The newly launched Curry Room at the Rubens Hotel serves an inspired three course menu created by Chef Arun Kumar. Working closely with Head Chef Kevin Joseph at another RCH property, The Oyster Box Hotel in Durban, the menu celebrates authentic flavours made with the finest ingredients and exclusively imported spices from India. **(39 Buckingham Palace Rd, Victoria, London, SW1W 0PS)**

OR

Lunch at... Hoppers St Christophers – Since opening back in 2015, Sri Lankan street-food restaurant Hoppers has become a cult London favourite, even winning our Best New Restaurant Award. Now, it's birthed a considerably larger sibling in Marylebone, which is spread across two floors and comes complete with an outdoor terrace. The menu features signature Hoppers dishes from the original site in Soho, but there are still plenty of new plates on offer. 'Short eats' include jaffna beef rib fry and tuna and tapioca cutlets with avocado sambol, while larger sharing dishes see claypot baby chicken kukul maas, and black pork ribs with fennel and turmeric sambol, alongside a daily-changing lunchtime rice and kari plate. Meanwhile, the new cocktail list takes inspiration from the exotic flora, vegetation and fruits of Sri Lanka focusing on genever and the south Asian spirit arrack. **(77 Wigmore St, Marylebone, London, W1U 1QE)**



OR

Dinner at... The English Grill at The Rubens at the Palace Hotel – The restaurant is opulently designed with a rich royal theme of grandeur with polished silver, beautiful chandeliers and tailcoat waiters offering traditional service at its most welcoming. Experience the finest of dining with a glass wall which allows guests to catch some of the action taking place in the kitchen. Top quality cuts of meat will be grilled to perfection in the kitchen's brand new charcoal-fired Jospier grill.

OR



Dinner at...Claude Bosi at Bibendum - This latest iteration of the iconic Michelin House unites two legends of the London restaurant scene. Bibendum was founded in 1987 by Sir Terence Conran, publisher Paul Hamlyn and chef Simon Hopkinson and helped kick-start the British restaurant revolution. Claude Bosi, meanwhile, won two Michelin stars for Hibiscus in Ludlow, transferred the restaurant to Mayfair and closed it after 10 years last autumn. Here in Chelsea, Bosi's cooking is a little more relaxed, although the style is definitely more Hibiscus than Bibendum. So you'll find amuse bouches of pissaladière fashioned into lifelike 'olives', a tiny cornetto of frozen foie gras, and an eggshell filled with mushroom duxelles, coconut foam and curry powder: all very clever. But you'll also encounter two whopping stalks of intensely flavoured green and white asparagus, chicken that tastes of a life well lived and, best of all, a Staub pan brimming with chunky, funky tripe and cuttlefish, two hefty slices of pig ear and ham cake on the side: simple dishes elevated to the sublime by a kitchen versed in skilful technique. Prices, whether on the à la carte or tasting menu, are as unremittingly high as ever, although a set lunch for £35.50 and forthcoming Sunday roasts carved from a trolley are an attempt to make what is undoubtedly a special-occasion destination work for locals as well. But Bibendum's food has only ever been half the story; there are few rooms in London that are as much of a pleasure to spend time in as this one, when light filtered through the stained glass depictions of the Michelin man and streaming through the huge windows makes a meal here a life-affirming experience on even the rainiest of days. **(Michelin House, 81 Fulham Road, Chelsea, London SW3 6RD)**



The Victoria and Albert Museum presents "Winnie-the Pooh: Exploring a Classic" - The V&A invites visitors to experience the timeless and universal appeal of Winnie-the-Pooh with its new exhibition, Winnie-the-Pooh: Exploring a Classic. The exhibition will look at how the much-loved bear has retained its popularity through countless generations and delve into the story behind the creative partnership of A.A. Milne and E.H. Shepherd. Visitors will be able to look through sketches, letters, photographs, cartoons, ceramics and fashion that all contribute to the story of everyone's favourite honey-guzzling bear. **(From the 9th December 2017 until the 8th April 2018)**

The National Portrait Gallery presents "Cézanne Portraits" - Survey some of the French artist's most important works, many of which are on show in the UK for the first time, at the National Portrait Gallery's Cézanne Portraits exhibition. The exhibition celebrates Paul Cézanne as one of the most influential artists of the 19th century, demonstrating his unique portraiture style, as well as his huge influence on successive generations of artists. Trace the development of the artist that both Matisse and Picasso described as "the father of us all" through more than 50 works on display. Highlights include Self Portrait in a Bowler Hat, Madame Cézanne in a Yellow Chair, and many more intimate portraits drawn from collections from around the world. **(Until 11th February 2018)**

The National Gallery presents "Monochrome: Painting in Black and White" - Look at the world in a different light with Monochrome: Painting in Black and White at the National Gallery. The exhibition contains works spanning 700 years, with paintings by Old Masters including Rembrandt and Albrecht Dürer, as well as contemporary pieces by Bridget Riley, Gerhard Richter and Chuck Close. Through more than 50 painted objects and an immersive light installation by Olafur Eliasson, discover how artists have continued to experiment with grisaille from the Middle Ages to today. **(Until 18th February 2018)**



The Victoria and Albert Museum presents “Opera: Passion, Power and Politics” - Immerse yourself in a 400-year exploration of opera at the Victoria and Albert Museum with the vivid *Opera: Passion, Power and Politics* exhibition, in partnership with the Royal Opera House. More than 300 objects take you through highlights of European operatic history, from opera’s early days in Renaissance Italy right up to its 21st-century form. It is the first exhibition staged in the V&A’s new Sainsbury Gallery and features spectacular opera performances heard through headphones as you explore the exhibition. See Salvador Dali’s costume design for Peter Brook’s 1949 production of *Salome*, the original score of Verdi’s *Nabucco* and original pieces from the 1934 premier of *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, on display outside Russia for the first time. **(Until 25th February 2018)**

The Dulwich Picture Gallery presents “Tove Jansson (1914 -2011)” - Look beyond Moominvalley with the Tove Jansson (1914-2001) retrospective at Dulwich Picture Gallery. Meet the talented artist behind the lovable characters: follow her development during the 1940s and her wider artistic output throughout her career. Journey through the stages of Tove Jansson’s remarkable life and gain an insight into the inspirations that shaped her work, from teenage satirical cartoonist, to wartime painter depicting the horror of combat, and finally witness how the much-loved children’s classic, the *Moomins*, was created. See her self-portraits of the 1940s, alongside still-lives, landscapes and even a selection of drawings that were only discovered in 2017. **(Until 28th January 2018)**

The Tate Britain presents “EY Exhibition: Impressionists in London” - Browse a stunning collection of works by leading French impressionists in *The EY Exhibition: Impressionists in London, French Artists in Exile (1870-1904)* at Tate Britain. See London through the eyes of the famous artists, including Monet, Tissot and Pissarro, with more than 100 paintings inspired by their time in the city during the Franco-Prussian war. Learn how the river Thames became a recurring theme in the artists’ work, with an extensive range of cityscapes featuring the iconic landmark, including the largest collection of Claude Monet’s *Houses of Parliament* series seen in Europe for more than 40 years. **(Until 7th May 2018)**

The Tate Modern presents “Modigliani” - Discover a collection of iconic artworks and lesser-known pieces by Modigliani at Tate Modern. Trace the development of Amedeo Modigliani’s career through an array of experimental portraits, sculptures and nude paintings, from the influences of his early life in Paris to the close friends depicted in the Italian artist’s greatest works during his final years. The exhibition displays almost 100 objects, including the largest collection of nude portraits, which revolutionised the 20th-century world of figurative painting, to ever be shown in the UK. You can also step inside the virtual-reality room for a closer look at the life and creations of the ground-breaking artist. **(Until 2nd April 2018)**

The Royal Academy of Arts presents “Dali/Duchamp” - Explore the lives and artistic talents of two conceptual and surrealist art masters in the *Dalí / Duchamp* exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts. Discover the friendship, mutual admiration and inspiration shared by Salvador Dalí and Marcel Duchamp and observe each artist’s ability to play with the viewer’s sense of perspective in more than 80 paintings, sculptures and films. Using the three key themes of *Identities, The Body and the Object and Experimenting with Reality*, learn more about the artists’ personal lives and public personas, as well as their innovative points of view about time and space. **(Until 3rd January 2018)**



The Courtauld Institute of Art presents “Soutine’s Portraits: Cooks, Waiters and Bellboys” - New exhibition Soutine's Portraits: Cooks, Waiters and Bellboys looks at the artist's fascination with the staff of French hotels and restaurants, attired in boldly coloured uniforms. Over a decade, the humble models sat for him in Paris and the south of France, resulting in a powerful series of images that put the spotlight on the overlooked figures who move through aristocratic households and luxury hotels and restaurants. The images played a key role in transforming Soutine from a struggling painter into a wealthy one and established his reputation. This exhibition will be the first time Soutine has been exhibited in the UK for 35 years. **(Until 21st January 2018)**

The Barbican Art Gallery presents “Basquiat: Boom for Real” - Explore the raw imagery of the New York artist at Basquiat: Boom for Real at the Barbican Art Gallery. Jean-Michel Basquiat made waves in the art world in 1978 with his graffiti statements around the city, created with classmate Al Diaz under the name SAMO©. From there, the self-taught artist moved on to painting clothing, collaging baseball cards, creating murals and working on increasingly larger canvases and spaces. See more than 100 pieces by Basquiat, from paintings and photography to films and notebooks, many on display for the first time in the UK. Plus, explore the artist’s wider cultural inspirations, including his relationship with music, text, film, television and collaborations with other artists such as Andy Warhol. **(Until 28th January 2018)**

The National History Museum Ice Rink 2017 - Set against the backdrop of Hintze Hall, the Ice Rink is one of the most magical places to be this winter. Experience the thrill of skating surrounded by fairy lights nestled in frost-covered trees, with the smell of mulled wine and toasted marshmallows in the air. Whether you can dance on ice like Torvill and Dean, or your skating moves are more akin to Bambi, a visit to the Museum’s Ice Rink is a must this festive season. Soak up the atmosphere from our new Café Bar and balcony The Café Bar has a bird's-eye view of the rink and is open daily until the Ice Rink closes. Non-skaters are welcome. Make it an essential stop during your visit to meet friends and warm up with tea, coffee, hot chocolate and mulled wine. Or take your pick from a range of delicious meals and a variety of wines, beers and soft drinks. **(Until the 7th January 2018) (Closed on Christmas Day)**

Entertainment from...Dennis Kelly’s “Pinocchio” at National Theatre’s Lyttelton’s Theatre - After co-writing Matilda the Musical, Dennis Kelly now brings Pinocchio to life at the National Theatre. The new production will be directed by John Tiffany, former director of Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, and will feature songs and score from the Walt Disney film, including I've Got No Strings, Give a Little Whistle and When You Wish Upon a Star. Audiences will take a journey with Pinocchio as he leaves Geppetto's workshop and embarks on an exciting adventure through alpine forests and Pleasure Island with Jiminy Cricket in tow. **(From the 1st December 2017 until the 7th April 2018)**

Entertainment from...John Masefield’s “The Box of Delights” at Wilton’s Music Hall - National treasure Matthew Kelly and West End star Josefina Gabrielle appear in an enchanting reworking of The Box of Delights, the Christmas classic by John Masefield, staged in the gloriously Christmassy surroundings of Wilton’s Music Hall. This brand new stage show, written by children's author Piers Torday (whose behind the bestselling Last Wild trilogy and new novel There May Be A Castle), tells the story of young orphan Kay Harker, the boy who must save Christmas. On the train home for the holidays he encounters an old magician who tasks him with protecting his Box of Delights, a wondrous device with time travelling powers. An exciting time-travel adventure brought to life with Justin Audibert directing and Olivier award-winning Tom Piper designing. **(From the 1st December 2017 until the 6th January 2018)**

Entertainment from...The Royal Ballet’s “The Nutcracker” at The Royal Opera House - That great seasonal stalwart The Nutcracker starts playing at the Royal Opera House on the 5th December, offering families a fun and festive treat



watching Clara dance in front of the Christmas tree. It's hard to imagine a production more indulgently sumptuous than Peter Wright's restaging of Lev Ivanov's choreography to Tchaikovsky's famous score. From the heart-warming family party of the opening scene to the appearance of the magical kingdom, the action beckons you in, helped every ballet step of the way by Julie Trevelyan Oman's gorgeous, nostalgic designs out of the late 1800s. This is pure spectacle but The Royal Ballet pulls it off with such beauty and style that it's a Christmas cracker... **(From the 5th December 2017 until the 10th January 2018)**

Entertainment from...Lin-Manuel Miranda's "Hamilton" at Victoria Palace Theatre - National treasure Matthew Kelly and West End star Josefina Gabrielle appear in an enchanting reworking of *The Box of Delights*, the Christmas classic by John Masefield, staged in the gloriously Christmassy surroundings of Wilton's Music Hall. This brand new stage show, written by children's author Piers Torday (whose behind the bestselling *Last Wild* trilogy and new novel *There May Be A Castle*), tells the story of young orphan Kay Harker, the boy who must save Christmas. On the train home for the holidays he encounters an old magician who tasks him with protecting his *Box of Delights*, a wondrous device with time travelling powers. An exciting time-travel adventure brought to life with Justin Audibert directing and Olivier award-winning Tom Piper designing. **(From the 6th December 2017 until the 30th June 2018)**

Entertainment from...Matthew Bourne's "Cinderella" at Sadler's Wells Theatre - Matthew Bourne commemorates the 70th anniversary of the Blitz with a revised production of his sweeping wartime romance set to Prokofiev's score, which charts Cinderella's dalliances with a young RAF pilot. Set in London during the Second World War, Bourne's unique interpretation of Prokofiev's haunting score has, at its heart, a true wartime romance and his storytelling has never been more passionate and touching. A chance meeting results in a magical night for our heroine Cinderella and her dashing young RAF pilot, together just long enough to fall in love before being parted by the Blitz. "A dazzling spectacle. Fresh and vital, hilarious, profound and stunningly original," says The Times. **(From the 9th December 2017 until the 27th January 2018)**

Entertainment from...The English National Ballet's "Nutcracker" at London Coliseum - A very traditional interpretation of E.T.A. Hoffman's *Nutcracker*, English National Ballet's version was first performed in 2010 to celebrate the company's 60th birthday and was seen by a record breaking 79,000 people in 2016. This glittering production was created by Wayne Eagling (artistic director of the company from 2005 to 2012), and with its Edwardian setting created by Peter Farmer, it cannot fail to get you in the Christmas spirit. As sure as putting up fairy lights, filling Christmas stockings and having too much mulled wine at the office party, watching Clara dance in front of the Christmas tree is a truly festive thing to do. Wayne Eagling's choreography to Tchaikovsky's famous score is continuously heart-warming and every beautiful scene, from the family party to the appearance of the magical kingdom, lures you in. **(From the 13th December 2017 until the 27th January 2018)**

Entertainment from...Hans Christian Andersen's "The Little Match Girl" at London Coliseum - A snowy stage sets the scene for an icy cold Christmas Eve, where the Little Match Girl paces the emptying streets, shivering and desperate, trying to sell her matches. This magical production based on Hans Christian Andersen's classic story, adapted by celebrated director and choreographer Arthur Pita, returns following a sell-out season last year as the Sadler's Wells Christmas show at the Lilian Baylis theatre. Classically based dance moves are performed against a clever set by Yann Seabra and a score by Frank Moon which uses pre-recorded and live sound. The story may not be the most cheerful but a trip to the moon prompts a fun-filled episode with an astronaut and a miniature space shuttle - more than enough to keep the over 5s enthralled. *The Little Match Girl* is one of three Christmas shows presented by Sadler's Wells this festive season, along with the record-breaking return of *The Snowman* and Matthew Bourne's *Cinderella*. **(From the 13th - 24th December 2017)**



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Find in My London...

Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park - Get into the festive spirit as family favourite Winter Wonderland returns to London's Hyde Park. This free-to-enter event includes a host of Christmas-themed fun and activities, including big top shows, an observation wheel and a huge Christmas market. Winter Wonderland provides fun, laughter and excitement for both adults and children. Skate around the stunning ice rink which circles the Victorian bandstand, enter the Magical Ice Kingdom with its 'ice forest' of frozen sculptures and gleaming ice castle, and enjoy the acrobatic wonders of shows at Zippos Circus and Cirque Beserk. If you're a thrill-seeker, there are plenty of rides to try. Younger children can enjoy gentle activities such as carousels, helter skelters and funhouses. Older children and adults, meanwhile, will love the adrenaline-fuelled roller coasters. Tokens for these rides can be purchased at dedicated token booths. For something more sedate, take a seat on the observation wheel for a flight 60m above London, offering stunning views of the city's skyline. Enjoy perusing the Christmas markets full of arts and crafts trinkets, jewellery and decorations that make perfect presents for friends and family. Explore the Angels and Yuletide market, where charming wooden chalets are overflowing with festive goods. If you're feeling peckish or are in need of a warming drink, head to the various restaurants, bars and food stalls. Try some churros, sip mulled wine or keep warm with a frothy hot chocolate. There's also the chance to try some festive German fare, such as German sausage and glühwein in the Bavarian Village. **(Until 1st January 2018 – Open daily from 10:00am – 22:00pm – Closed on Christmas Day)**

Greenwich Winter Time Festival - This December, the Greenwich Winter Time Festival will bring Martine McCutcheon, *The Snowman* and a covered ice rink, set against the beautiful backdrop of Christopher Wren's Old Royal Naval College, to the Royal Borough. Spend three hours at the festival and you'll encounter actors, musicians, jugglers, magicians, wandering performers and a stage adaptation of Nicholas Allan's *The Giant's Loo Roll*. A special treat for families, the East London Brass perform live to *The Snowman*, and young ones can meet Father Christmas on his magical 'launch pad' at the beginning of his Christmas journey. On the ice, under a canopy of sparkling lights, freestyle ice-skaters show us how it's done, performing at the start of each session. The Mirror Stage is the place to go for live music from Martine McCutcheon, the Puppini Sisters and The Magnets as well as festival favourites Uncle Funk and Boogie Wonderband, DJs and choirs. Alongside artisan food stalls there's a wonderful Christmas market. On throughout December, the festival culminates in a spectacular closing night gala on New Year's Eve. **(From the 1st – 31st December 2017)**

Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree and Carols - London's Trafalgar Square has received a majestic Norwegian Christmas Tree as an annual gift from the people of Oslo, thanking Britain for its support and friendship during World War Two ever since 1947. The enormous tree is a popular seasonal tourist attraction, particularly in the fortnight leading up to Christmas, when each evening (from 4pm to 8pm on weekdays, and from 2pm to 6pm at weekends) a different choir gathers there to sing carols and raise money for a range of voluntary or charitable organisations. Passers-by are welcome



to come and listen to the carols in the square and join in the festive cheer. Nelson's Column is decorated with Norwegian white lights and the tree is illuminated from noon until midnight until the Twelfth Night of Christmas in early January. A few days after the official lighting of the tree there's a torch-lit procession on the steps of St Martin-in-the-Fields, as the choir and clergy bless the Crib in a special ceremony in Trafalgar Square. The tree actually goes up in late November if you want to see it in all its naked evergreen glory. **(From the 7th December 2017 until the 4th January 2018)**

London Illustration Fair - The London Illustration Fair returns this December to the Bargehouse, a four-storey warehouse by the Oxo Tower on the South Bank. The fair will showcase the work of illustrators, designers, print makers, publishers and crafty businesses for a three-day illustration extravaganza. Exhibiting alongside the artist-led stands will also be a line-up of handpicked creative partners and a packed programme of workshops, artist-led talks and workshops, live DJs and a fully stocked winter-warming bar. **(From the 1st – 3rd December 2017)**

The Shard Lights - Shining like a beacon over London, the tallest building in town puts on a festive light show throughout December as the top 20 storeys of The Shard are lit up, illuminating the city's skyline. With a very special theme, unveiled on the first night, Shard Lights makes us look up and enjoy the night sky, illuminated from dusk until early morning with one of five colours each day, on rotation. There will be an array of visual effects including gradients, patterns and sparkles throughout the evening. The show builds to a crescendo at midnight and features special one-off displays to mark the first night, on Monday 4th December, and New Year's Eve. Returning for a fifth year, the Shard Lights are an alternative to the traditional Christmas Lights in the capital. **(From the 4th – 31st December 2017)**

ABBA: Super Troupers - This December, the Southbank Centre presents major new exhibition Abba: Super Troupers. Created in association with ABBA The Museum in Stockholm, the immersive event brings to life the world of the chart-topping Swedish pop sensation, who infiltrated the popular consciousness with their optimism and seemingly carefree pop during the tumultuous 1970s. Original costumes, handwritten notes and sketches, personal photographs, music, album artwork, and more will take visitors on a journey through their successful career, with many of the private archives being shown in the UK for the first time. **(From the 14th December 2017 until the 29th April 2018)**

Moomin Winter Weekend - In celebration of its major retrospective of Tove Jansson the Dulwich Picture Gallery hosts a special Moomin Winter Weekend in mid December with a Friday Late for adults and fun-filled family weekend. On Friday night you can take a Moomin personality test with Moomin expert, Sirke Happonen, lecturer at University of Helsinki, create a Moominvalley-inspired landscape in the photo booth and hear stories, lit by candlelight. It's also an excuse to drink whisky (Moominpappa's favourite tippie) and eat traditional Finnish dishes. Over the weekend, families can enjoy Moomin-themed drop-in activities, meet Polka Theatre puppets and join a glass bauble-making workshop. **(From the 15th – 17th December 2017)**

Slava's Snowshow - After taking a break last year, the multi-award-winning sensation Slava's Snowshow is back for 2017. The show has delighted audiences in over 80 cities around the world including New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Hong Kong and Moscow. And now this visual masterpiece returns to London for another Christmas season at the Southbank Centre this December. Loved by children and adults alike, Slava's Snowshow is a combination of theatrical clowning and stunning spectacle performed by the internationally renowned company of clowns lead by Slava Polunin. Experience a unique dream-like world which culminates in a breathtaking blizzard leaving you (literally) knee deep in snow! The Independent was moved to describe it as "simply thrilling - an unmissable comedy masterpiece." Recommended for ages 8 and above, this is definitely one not to miss. **(From the 18th December 2017 until the 4th January 2018)**

Peter Pan Cup Swimming Race - This lot are a hardy bunch but tradition is tradition and members of the Serpentine Swimming Club have been plunging themselves into the Serpentine lake's icy waters every Christmas Day since 1864. At



temperatures of below four degrees Celsius in winter, the swimmers will want to get a wiggle on so it's lucky that they are all in hot pursuit of the prestigious Peter Pan Cup. The name of the 100-yard race dates back to 1904 when J.M Barrie, the creator of the boy who refused to grow up, presented the first cup. While most of us are still tucked up in bed or delving into our stocking the competitors line up (and pretend not to shiver) for their 9am start, a jolly crowd gathers to witness the spectacle. It's a great way to get some fresh air on Christmas morning and you'll feel like you've earned your post-lunch snooze. Behind you, Hyde Park offers a wonderful wintry landscape and, if you want to continue the Peter Pan theme, why not nip across to see the famous statue in Kensington Gardens. It was so cold and snowy in 2010 that the race had to be cancelled - although some intrepid souls still broke holes in the ice in order to have a quick dip. **(From the 25th December 2017)**

A Vintage New Year's Party - Following five sell-out years, A Vintage New Year's Eve Party is back. The huge party sees the Royal Festival Hall transformed into five floors of set-dressed entertainment including seven pop-up vintage nightclubs, stylish dining, a hair and beauty salon, photo studios and a private terrace overlooking London's world-famous New Year's Eve fireworks. Entertainment will come from The Torch Club, celebrating the '20's, '30's and '40's big band sound, Alex Meedham and his 18 piece orchestra and Mark & Hoc, on hand to guide guests through the steps of some period party dances. The Tiki Bar serves colourful cocktails and samba and after midnight the Clore Ballroom transforms into an intimate cabaret club. With disco dancing, musical bingo and karaoke thrown in for good measure, it's a hell of a way to see in 2018. **(Sunday, 31st December 2017)**

London New Year's Eve Fireworks 2017 - The annual New Year's Eve Fireworks display is an impressive sight. They cram enough firepower for an hour-long display into 12 explosive minutes, lighting up the sky for miles around. Watched by 100,000 people, the build-up includes DJs spinning some great tracks from around 9pm. But the big event begins after Big Ben chimes midnight (it will still bong for New Year's despite being silenced for a major renovation) when the dazzling 12-minute show of world-class pyrotechnics is set off to a special soundtrack of the year's top tunes. DJs keep playing until the crowds head home. If you can't get tickets, it's worth noting that hotels within the ticketed area have entry passes for their guests. **(Sunday, 31st December 2017)**

Transport on Christmas Day:

Please keep in mind that there is **no** public transport, therefore **no** underground, **no** bus service and **no** black taxis on **Monday, 25th December 2017 (Christmas Day)**. The only way that you would be able to get around the city is by a private car or registered minicab service which we can arrange on your behalf. Please ask the front desk for assistance.

Laundry Service during the festive period:

Please also keep in mind that there will be **no** laundry service on the 25th, 26th December 2017 and 1st January 2018.

On behalf of Michelle Devlin, our General Manager, and every member of staff we want to wish all of our guests a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year!