

# FOOD magazine

Digesting London

Including The Official  
Guide to the London  
Restaurant Festival 2012

Openings, happenings,  
Twe@ting Out  
and chef recipes



Fay Maschler's  
Restaurant Guide

Sous-vide or not sous-vide?  
Heston B vs Jeremy Lee

Travel: Getting the  
beef on Buenos Aires

Over 600 restaurants creating  
Festival Menus. See Inside

## The Plate

# Royal Academy of food and frolics

The renegade Pret A Diner pop-up dining club rears its head at its grandest location to date

The roving restaurant initiative Pret a Diner last appeared at 50 St James where Giorgio Locatelli, amongst others, cooked amid the grand architecture. Last year they showed up at The Old Vic Tunnels. If three makes a trend then the next outing confirms their place on the London restaurant scene.

Opening this week The Burlington Social Club, aka Pret a Diner 9.0, will be located in the fabulous Senate Rooms of London's Royal Academy at Burlington Gardens. The aim, say the organisers, is "to achieve a light, playful and provocative atmosphere, conducive to bringing like-minded individuals together for an exceptional drinking and dining experience". Have fun in other words. They do 'fun' well these guys.

The Senate Rooms are on the first floor, the main room will



Pret a Diner: where art meets food.

feature a central island on an elevated platform which serves as a cockpit for food and drinks. Guests will be seated around the four sides of the bar, where they can watch the chefs at work and be served by them and mixologists.

The main feature of the room is the centre stage. A grand scaffold structure with exposed poles and aged wood and glass will act as an amphitheatre and allow guests to observe the chefs at work.

"Consider it an elegant and intimate attempt to marry the hunter and the hunted," they claim. Quite.

Opening from 13 September The Burlington Social Club (daily from 6.30pm to 12.30am) is a pop-up private members' club by Pret A Diner at the Senate Rooms of The Royal Academy - until 17 November 2012



## Shopping List Fruit and veg

We're spoilt for choice with the range and abundance of fruit and veg available in London, but if you're looking for something a little bit unusual or out-of-the-way, or just a consistently damned good selection these are five of the best, says **Caro McAdam**

### CRUSON

62 Camberwell Church St SE5  
An Aladdin's cave where rare goodies sit alongside the usual staples. I've been in love with this place since I found luscious green figs there one cold rainy May and knew that somewhere in the world a warm sun was shining. Don't be fooled by the slightly unpromising exterior; look closer and you'll be rewarded by

all sorts of interesting stuff - fresh dates, custard apples, recently-picked porcini and fresh Greek oregano.

### NEWINGTON GREEN FRUIT & VEGETABLES NI

Its eye-catching, colourful displays lift the spirits and set the mouth watering. Piled high with great quality, seasonal produce at sub-supermarket prices, devotees bring their own bags from all over North and East London to carry off their swag. Much more fun than a veg box.

### ANDREAS

35 Turnham Green W4  
& 4 Cale St SW3  
Cathedral for the cognoscenti, unsurpassed for range and



quality, the displays in Andreas' two shops are arranged with a painter's eye and the passion of a true connoisseur. Prized for his selection of foraged plants, on a summer's day, gaze at the peaches and massive bulbs of fennel and you could be on holiday in Italy.

### LA FROMAGERIE

Moxon St W7  
Enter this food-lover's paradise by running the gauntlet of its relatively small but elegant selection of esoteric items and unusual varieties sourced from small producers in the UK, France and Italy. Always has sweet chestnuts before anyone else.

### FORTNUM'S

Piccadilly, W1  
Sashay down the central spiral staircase to the lower ground food hall and feast your eyes on the sort of perfect specimens you'd expect from the Queen's grocers. The best of the everyday, together with exclusive crops of traditionally British and more exotic items - with prices to match.