



THE WALMER CASTLE

CULTURE > FOOD & DRINK

The most stylish London pubs

Five of our favourite public houses in the capital

BY MARIE-CLAIRE CHAPPET PUBLISHED: 27 MARCH 2024

Nothing beats a good old fashioned boozier. Whether it is a languorous Sunday lunch with friends or a cosy candlelit dinner for two, nestled in a wood-paneled booth in the corner of a 19th-century watering hole, the pub is always a good idea.

But far from sticky floors, grubby carpets and blinking arcade games, the pub can be as stylish an option as any upscale bar. As the bank holiday weekend approaches, we round up five of the capital's chicest offerings for casual dining,

romantic moments and family gatherings, from old favourites and historic institutions to the hottest new tables in town.

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The Walmer Castle, Notting Hill



THE WALMER CASTLE

West London design studio Isabella Worsley reimagined this Notting Hill institution late last year, breathing some ineffable, understated glamour into an already well-regarded watering hole. Established in 1845, The Walmer Castle has undergone several reinventions (as well as brief celebrity ownership by a certain footballer) and has settled into its new era – under the stewardship of revered publican Jack Greenall – with unflappable charm and an easy sense of cool. The atmosphere is buzzy and warm and the interiors lean heavily on tradition, with a sprinkling of modern irreverence and a fair few iconic pieces of British art, by Yinka Shonibare and Cornelia Parker. The delicious menu is spearheaded by Ondrej Hula and champions British seasonal produce; the chef works closely with cult butchers The Ginger Pig and seafood suppliers Flying Fish. A dreamier pub date one could not imagine.

The Walmer Castle, 58 Ledbury Rd, London W11 2AJ