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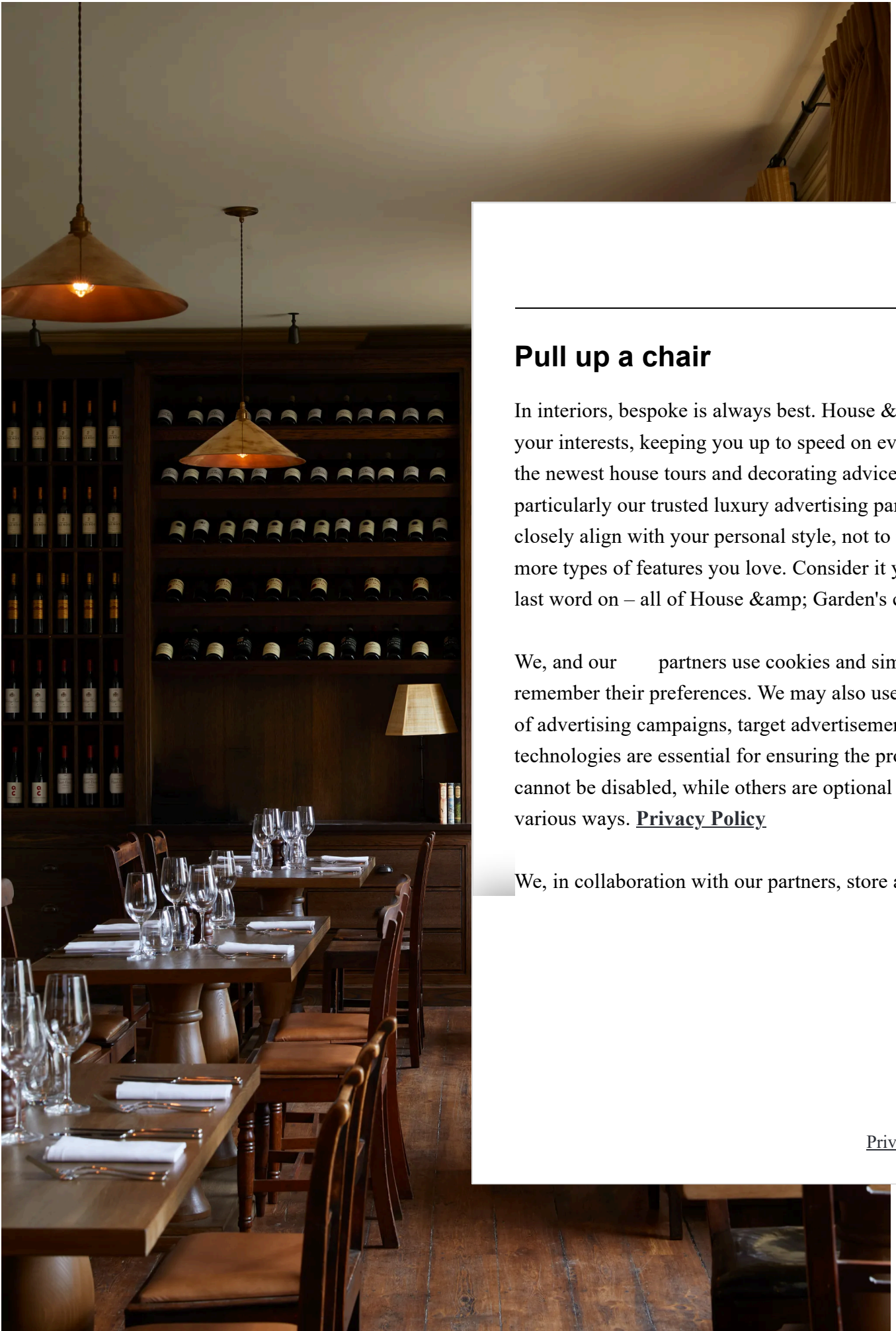
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*The best pubs in London: The Hart is a new opening in London, and one of our favourites.* Dave Watts

Whether you're after a perfectly poured pint, a polished [dining room](#) for a long lunch, or simply a comforting corner to settle into, this list of the best pubs in London delivers it all. Across the [city](#), from Mayfair to Islington, the city's pub scene is wonderfully varied. You'll find historic



Helen Cathcart

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## The Walmer Castle, Notting Hill

Set on the iconic Ledbury Road, the Walmer Castle - in one form or another - has been a fixture of Notting Hill since 1845. It recently reopened under the ownership of husband and wife team Jack and Poppy Greenall, publicans and proprietors of Chelsea's [The Surprise](#), debuting a smart new look. Once a relatively ordinary pub, the Walmer Castle has been transformed into a relaxed. Described by the team as an 'egalitarian meet-up spot', you can expect all the cosiness of a proper pub, but with the sophisticated touches of a restaurant. Come for lunch or dinner, and then take your glass of wine to the bar or relax in each of the rooms. The kitchen is headed up by chef James Greenall, that's typical of a gastropub, but with unexpected twists. [Worsley](#), one of *House & Garden's* 'Rising Stars 2024'.

58 Ledbury Rd, London W11 2AJ | [walmercastle-nottinghill.com](#)



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## Pig and Butcher, Islington

The Pig and Butcher's rustic farmhouse feel suits its reputation for proper hearty, yet elevated cooking, complemented by a list of around 60 bottled beers including local London IPAs and cask

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## Harwood Arms, Fulham

At this handsome Fulham pub, coffee-coloured wooden panelling, soft, fluffy throws and plumed chandeliers evoke the inviting interiors of a countryside lodge. Diners are warmly welcomed with fudgy Guinness soda bread and whipped butter, followed by impressive acts celebrating English game – like crispy, jammy scotch eggs filled with juicy mallard with berries, rich jus and puréed beetroot. The dessert or cheese. Thankfully the unexpected combination of cheese and gingery black-pepper caramel offers the best

Walham Grove, London SW6 1QP | [harwoodarms.co.uk](http://harwoodarms.co.uk)



Helen Cathcart

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## The Surprise, Chelsea

Tucked behind a candy-cane striped awning on a quiet residential street, The Surprise charms with a homely, eccentric warmth. Inside, vermillion-upholstered chairs, filled bookshelves and patterned wallpaper add comfort to the upstairs dining room feel, while flickering candles and a

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miscellany of paintings and sketches evoke a slightly bohemian mood. The wine list is well-considered – I go for a fragrant Beaujolais but you’ll also find classic pub pours. Hearty fare like succulent lamb chops with plush carrot purée and tender kale, or a decadently sticky pecan pie make for a pleasantly cosy evening. - *Toyo Odetunde*

6 Christchurch Terrace, London SW3 4AJ | [thesurprise-chelsea.co.uk](https://thesurprise-chelsea.co.uk)

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