

A WORLD OF STYLE  
WHERE TO SEE IT, SHOP IT, LIVE IT

▼  
**BEST  
IN BUSINESS  
TRAVEL**  
55 TOP HOTELS  
& AIRLINES

# Condé Nast Traveler

TRUTH IN TRAVEL // OCTOBER 2011

## ITALY

SECRET, SEXY MILAN

## ENGLAND

GREAT HOUSES,  
GORGEOUS GARDENS,  
MAD HATTERS

## MEXICO

OAXACA'S MARVELOUS  
MARKETS

## LOS ANGELES

THE COOLEST TOUR IN TOWN

## PARIS

CONFESSIONS OF  
A SHOE FETISHIST

**+120**

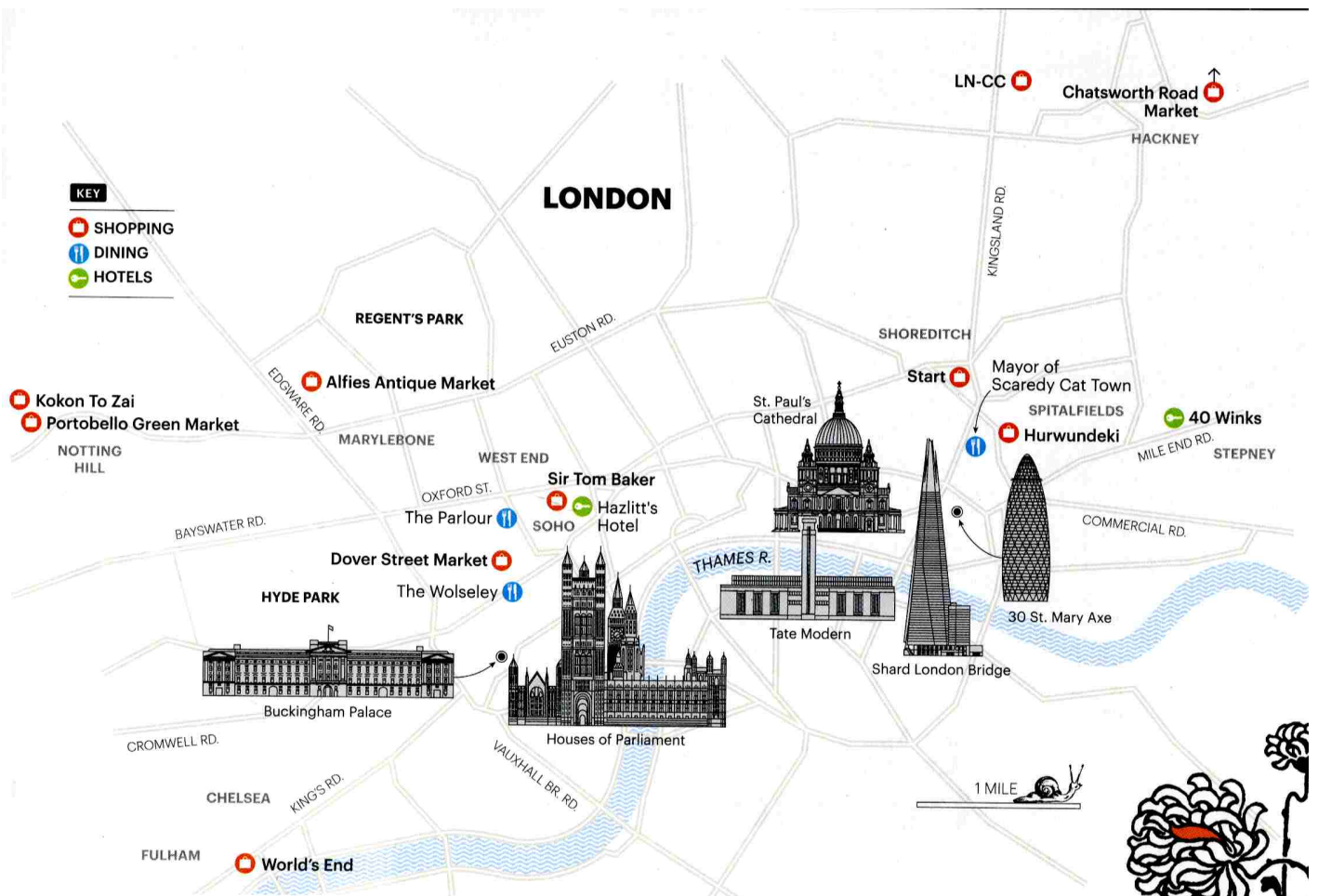
FABULOUS HOTELS,  
RESTAURANTS,  
GALLERIES, BARS, AND  
SHOPS WORLDWIDE

7-PAGE SPECIAL

WHERE TO BUY  
**GEMS**  
A GLOBAL GUIDE  
TO EMERALDS, SAPPHIRES,  
RUBIES, AND MORE

At the Villa d'Este, a  
classic grand hotel on the  
shores of Lake Como.





with the Manchester band The Fall, which gives her legitimate street cred (40, 42-44, and 59 Rivington St.; 20-7739-8071).

**Sir Tom Baker (Soho)** Tom Baker, the Savile Row-trained tailor beloved by Rhys Ifans, Robert Plant, David Hasselhoff, and sartorial-savvy businessmen the world over, can conjure a bespoke two-piece suit in four to six weeks. "I'm known for being able to interpret as well as make," he explains. "Part of the pleasure is taking people's ideas and punking them up." To that end, he just outfitted The Prodigy's lead singer, Keith Flint: "I gave him a great stage costume that's a twist on the red-coated Master of the Hunt" (4 D'Arbury St.; 20-7437-3366; two-piece suits from \$3,680).

**Portobello Green Market (Notting Hill)** It may be beneath a busy highway in an otherwise humble market, but the Portobello Green Market continues to host a bumper crop of independent designers. In particular, there's the tiny flagship of Preen, the deconstructed label worn by the likes of Madonna. A trip to the bric-a-brac market requires a stop at the amazing *parfumerie* Zarvis, as well (281 Portobello Rd.; 7967-198-985).

**Alfies Antique Market (Marylebone)** The narrow, mazelike passageways of this indoor antiques mall overflow—literally—with everything from iconic mid-century furniture and precious Victorian mourning jewelry to pristine flapper dresses and handwoven West African textiles. Meanwhile,

the "caff" up on the roof—purveyors of tea and white-bread sandwiches—is one of London's best-kept secrets. What it lacks in grace it more than makes up for in panoramic views of the skyline (13-25 Church St.; 20-7723-6066).

**Chatsworth Road Market (Hackney)** Nowhere is it more apparent that one man's junk is another man's treasure than at the weird and wonderful Chatsworth Road Market, which was revived in fall 2010. It's a major hit with East End hipsters not only for its shopping pleasures but also for the days-of-yore snacks at What the Dickens, a gourmet coffee stand that's manned by Victoriana-clad chaps who serve treats like deviled kidneys.

**Hurwundeki (Spitalfields)** The thrift emporiums of Brick Lane have long been a shopping destination for visionaries-to-be. Rokit, Blondie, Beyond Retro, and House of Vintage get their fame from secondhand thrills, while Hurwundeki wins its cult status for contemporary black leather jackets and a mean line of affordable monochromatic clothing with an '80s vibe (98 Commercial St.; 20-7392-9194).

**World's End (Fulham)** Vivienne Westwood's single-floored mothership—born in 1971 out of her relationship with Malcolm McLaren—is still the most poignant and original temple of punk in London. The Mohawks may have long moved on from this '70s stomping ground, but the wacky backwards-ticking clock spins on (430 King's Rd.; 20-7352-6551).

## LODGING

Models and stylists flock to interior designer David Carter's decadent boutique bed-and-breakfast **40 Winks**, situated on the eastern edge of the city (109 Mile End Rd.; 20-7790-0259; doubles, \$222). Over in the west, the refined and charming **Hazlitt's Hotel** sprawls over three historic houses in the heart of Soho (6 Frith St.; 20-7434-1771; doubles, \$326-\$469).

## DINING

Perennially fashionable, **The Wolseley** runneth over with skinny-limbed glamour girls. It's particularly good for brunch—thanks to its proximity to great shopping (160 Piccadilly; 20-7499-6996; entrées, \$12-\$48). Curious and curiouser interiors, pop art-lined walls, and a clientele fit for a magazine shoot make the aptly named tea room **The Parlour** a great pit stop (9 Conduit St.; 20-7659-4500; afternoon tea, \$17-\$61 per person). Dalston, a neighborhood beloved by creative scenesters, is the spiritual home of the roaming dining event the **Clove Club**. Isaac McHale, half of London's Young Turks, is just one flavor-of-the-night guest chef: He's been known to turn out muscade pumpkin polenta to a sound track set by his music-producer pals (theloveclub.com). For the ultimate nightcap, step through a Smeg fridge (literally) to find the quirky, word-of-mouth, New York-esque speakeasy the **Mayor of Scaredy Cat Town** (12-16 Artillery Lane). —J.K.

PLACES & PRICES

## Visit the Bohemians

The ménages of the Bloomsbury group were primarily confined to a circuit from the western edge of Kent to East Sussex. At **Sissinghurst Castle**, Vita Sackville-West shaped the sprawling patchwork of gardens, many of which are plundered for the on-site restaurant (1580-710-701). Vita's childhood home, **Knole**—a rambling pile rumored to have once had 365 rooms, 52 staircases, and 7 courtyards—is also worth a visit (1732-450-608). The 16th-century **Smallhythe Place** was home to actress Ellen Terry from 1899 to 1928; you can visit her half-timbered cottage (and see the dress crafted from beetle wings that she wore when she played Lady Macbeth), or take in a performance at the on-site **Barn Theatre** (1580-762-334). Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell's home and studio, **Charleston**, is open April through October (1323-811-626).

The country code for the United Kingdom is 44. Prices quoted are for October 2011.



**CHEERS!** Beers on tap—and hearty meals—are served at the Griffin Inn, at Fletching in East Sussex.

### LODGING

The **Sissinghurst Castle Farmhouse** is an elegant B&B with seven bedrooms, many with views of the castle's Elizabethan Tower, or rent the National Trust's Priest's House within Sissinghurst's garden to commune with Vita's ghost (1580-720-992; doubles, \$209-\$273; Priest's House, 0844-800-2070, \$1,352-\$2,575 per week). Chase the shadow of John Maynard Keynes and his Russian ballerina wife, Lydia Lopokova, at **Tilton House**, next to Charleston. What the guesthouse lacks in formal frills it makes up for in rural seclusion and indulgent hospitality (1323-811-570; doubles, \$153-\$185). For grander digs, horticulturalists and historians should

head to **Gravetye Manor**, a 17-bedroom mansion fresh from a renovation. Once owned by the Victorian gardener William Robinson, the lovingly tended grounds are reason enough to visit (1342-810-567; doubles, \$382-\$566).

### DINING

In Tenterden, the **Chapel Down Winery** is celebrated for its fizzy rosé—and for its cuisine, care of chef Richard Phillips. Let a tasting menu feed you dishes like the jellied ham hock with warm Scotch egg, black pudding, and piccalilli (Chapel Down Winery, Tenterden Vineyard, Small Hythe Road, Tenterden, Kent; 1580-761-616; entrées, \$23-\$52). In Rye, savor Slow Food and authentic Florentine flavors in the **Tuscan Kitchen Trattoria** (8 Lion St.; 1797-223-269; entrées, \$18-\$31). Foodies flock to the **Jolly Sportsman**, in East Chiltington, for dinners of Ditchling lamb with celery root and truffles (Chapel Lane; 1273-890-400; entrées, \$22-\$30). Local lamb and beef are roasted in a wood-burning oven on the terrace at the **Griffin Inn**, at Fletching in East Sussex, and there are 13 rooms (1825-722-890; entrées, \$18-\$41; doubles, \$139-\$238).

### READING

The relationship between Vita Sackville-West and her husband, Harold Nicolson, is detailed by their son Nigel in **Portrait of a Marriage** (University of Chicago Press, \$18). Another semi-confessional is **Deceived with Kindness: A Bloomsbury Childhood**, by Angelica Garnett, who spent the first years of her life believing Clive Bell, husband to her mother, Vanessa, to be her father when in fact it was Duncan Grant (Pimlico, \$16). **Among the Bohemians: Experiments in Living 1900-1939**, by Virginia Nicholson, granddaughter of Vanessa Bell, is another flamboyant account of this tribe of artistic nonconformists (Penguin Books, \$18). **Orlando: A Biography**, one of Virginia Woolf's most celebrated novels, was inspired partly by her lover Vita Sackville-West (Mariner Books, \$15). John Maynard Keynes's surprising marriage to Lydia Lopokova gets a touching study in **Bloomsbury Ballerina**, by Judith Mackrell (Phoenix, \$15).

—JULIET KINSMAN



## Shop at Ten Wave-Making London Boutiques

London's sprawling retail landscape is just as varied as its general population, and as reliably far-out as the personalities that have dotted its storied past. Here's where to shop, stay, and eat.

### SHOPPING

**Dover Street Market (Mayfair)** Rei Kawakubo—the luminary behind the Japanese label Comme des Garçons—may have pioneered this slick six-floor shop, but the offerings extend way beyond her own brand. There are intricately draped Lanvin gowns, gorgeous renditions of everyday household goods from Labour and Wait, and jewelry cast in the shape of otherworldly bugs. Not only can Daphne Guinness be spotted in the changing rooms, but her clothing line, Daphne, is a collaboration with Dover Street Market (17-18 Dover St.; 20-7518-0680).

**LN-CC (Dalston)** Part boutique, part working atelier, this brand-new appointment-only store stitches together seven wildly different rooms: an array of books situated on triangulated shelves, a barnlike repository for clothing from lines like Maison Martin Margiela and Lauren Manoogian, and an ever-changing music space. The highly ambitious retail project is matched by an equally compendious Web site—ln-cc.com—and an address in one of London's most up-and-coming hoods (18 Shackledwell Lane; 20-3174-0741).

**Kokon To Zai (Soho)** This long-standing favorite continues to set the bar for truly avant-garde style: Not only is the house designer, Marjan Pejovski, responsible for Björk's headline-stealing swan costume at the 2001 Oscars, but Pejovski has been known to outfit Lady Gaga, too (57 Greek St.; 20-7434-1316). The lesser-known **Kokon To Zai** housewares extension on Golborne Road showcases colorful reclaimed-wood pieces (from Bali) alongside Gothic-themed trinkets (86 Golborne Rd.; 20-8960-3736).

**Start (Shoreditch)** These days, there are flashier hangouts on the block, but the three Start stores—including the made-to-measure outpost, Mr. Start—are modern-day institutions. After all, the trailblazing trio injected edgy labels such as Alexander Wang and Helmut Lang into Shoreditch back when it was a boutique desert. The California-born Brix Smith (who owns the stores with her husband, Philip) may now be known as a snooty label-slave on the designer-versus-high-street TV show *Gok's Fashion Fix*, but she actually got her start as a guitarist

