

# THE BERKELEY

LONDON



## **THE BERKELEY UNVEILS NEW BAR WITH THE OPENING OF THE BERKELEY BAR & TERRACE**

In June 2019, The Berkeley revealed a new addition to the landmark five star hotel, with the opening of The Berkeley Bar & Terrace. This is the second bar at the hotel, joining the legendary Blue Bar which opened in 2000. With a rich design story conceived by Irish interior designer Bryan O’Sullivan, The Berkeley Bar offers a finely curated menu of exemplary and rare wines and dark spirits. The bar is intimate and refined, with a sense of old world glamour, with its own terrace for alfresco gatherings, and The Snug for private parties.

The Berkeley Bar & Terrace, is a destination for wine connoisseurs and guests looking for expert, intuitive service. Exquisite wine – spanning a wide range of grape varieties and countries – plus exclusive whisky, cognac, rums and more make up the menu, from both under the radar producers such as Japanese whisky maker Ichiro, tequila producer Fortaleza, rum maker Trois Rivières and notable names such as Sassicaia and Macallan. A capsule menu of nine old time and modern classic cocktails such as the Sazerac and the Corpse Reviver are also being served. To mark the opening, The Berkeley team worked with Scottish whisky producers Gordon and MacPhail on the creation of a rare whisky from 1972, the year the hotel opened. There are only two bottles of this unique spirit sourced.

The menu includes small plates with dishes such as Cornish crab and lobster beignets, Iberico ham toast with manchego, apricot and salsa verde, and camembert chicken tulips, alongside classic caviar and oyster dishes. The bar is also home to an edit of fine cigars.

The space has been created by Irish designer Bryan O’Sullivan, who has recently been named one of House & Garden’s Top 100 interior designers. Key features include a half-moon marble bar, a central

fireplace and a hideaway Snug. Repeat Brutalist-inspired arch forms that run through the space reference the home of the Grenadiers, an infantry regiment of the British Army whose stables were originally located on the Wilton Place grounds where the hotel was built.

The central material in the design story is an exquisite walnut wood. Taken from a 300-year-old tree felled from the Fulbeck Estate, Lincolnshire in the great storm of 2007, the grain is extraordinarily complex and beautiful. The delicate finish of the timber brings out the depth and intricacy of the figuring, the panels of which are used throughout the bar to cocoon the whole space, whilst a colour palette of soft corals, creams and pinks offset its richness. The story of the tree and the Fulbeck Estate has also been romantically depicted by the most expert craftsman in a plasterwork frieze which runs above the wood panels – another example of the artisanal touches in the bar.

The Snug has been designed for more secluded occasions, set away from the main bar and seating up to nine guests. It features a spectacular mural, painted by New York-based artist TM Davy, in a concept developed together with Bryan O’Sullivan. Davy was inspired by original snug spaces in public houses, usually reserved for women and their secret discussions, when men and women did not mix socially. The mural depicts gazing female faces with mysterious and knowing expressions, all connected with rhythmic lines to portray the connection and trusted relationships between them. With its own sound system and call-for-service button, The Snug provides visitors with their own bespoke space.

The bar opens out onto an intimate terrace of only four tables, overlooking the neighbouring St Paul’s Church.

The Berkeley Bar & Terrace has 40 covers and opening hours are 4pm – 1am, Monday to Saturday.

### **ABOUT THE BERKELEY**

In leafy Knightsbridge, The Berkeley, sister hotel to Claridge’s and The Connaught, is the essence of contemporary chic and innovative luxury. With stunning rooms and suites, Michelin-starred cuisine from Marcus Wareing, fashion favourite afternoon tea Prêt-à-Portea in the Collins Room, cocktails in The Blue Bar and The Berkeley Health Club & Spa complete with rooftop pool, The Berkeley provides the ultimate urban retreat in the heart of London.

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