

europa

THE NEW CLASSICS



Barcelona, London, Paris, and Rome:

If you're honeymooning across the pond, chances are your grand tour will include at least one of these iconic cities. And while much of their appeal lies in the rich history and old-world romance, they're all brimming with buzzy restaurants, stylish new hotels, and emerging neighborhoods. Consider this your crash course to the latest and greatest—plus tips from in-the-know locals and nearby day trips to the country, the beach, and dreamy towns.

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The entrance to the Casa Bonay hotel, in Barcelona. Opposite: A picturesque corner in Rome.

NICOLE FRANZEN (ROME); NACHO ALLEGRE (BARCELONA)



PARIS

From left: Place Dauphine, in the First Arrondissement; a room at the newly renovated Hôtel de Crillon, A Rosewood Hotel.

Boutique hotels are the new grandes dames.

Hôtel National des Arts et Métiers: This new property on the edge of the Marais, a trendy Right Bank district, has 70 sharply appointed rooms with an emphasis on raw, natural materials and made-to-measure furnishings. Have a drink on the rooftop for unmatched views. From \$200 per night, hotelnational.paris.

Hôtel de Crillon, A Rosewood Hotel: After a four-year

renovation, the historic 124-room hotel facing the Place de la Concorde is grander than ever. It's got a new skylit pool, a spa, and sumptuous updated suites. From \$1,315 per night, rosewoodhotels.com.

Le Roch Hôtel & Spa: There's finally a luxe place to bed down in the First Arrondissement, thanks to this Sarah Lavoine-designed spot. The of-the-minute restaurant is a place to be seen,

but guests can slip into anonymity in the spacious rooms (the smallest is 237 square feet, well above average for Paris). From \$355 per night, leroch-hotel.com.

Hôtel Eiffel Blomet: The art-deco property strikes a winning balance between convenience—easy access to the Eiffel Tower and legendary cabaret Bal Blomet—and sleek design. From \$260 per night, hoteleiffelblomet.com.



Taste the globe at foodie hot spots.

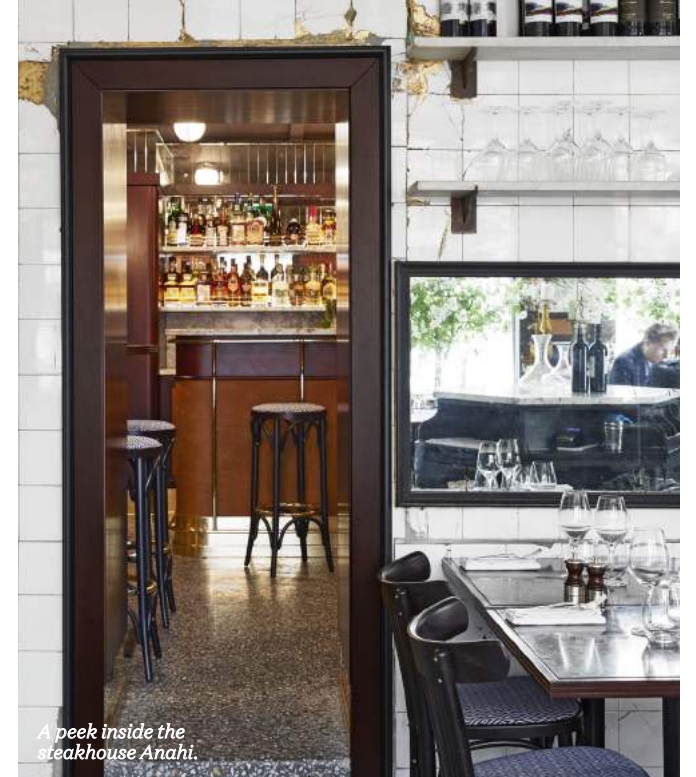
Les Grands Verres: Set inside the Palais de Tokyo, this grand Mediterranean brasserie is museum dining at its finest. There's a focus on reducing waste—e.g., transforming excess steamed milk into cheese—and on dishes that stand out for their simplicity, like the daily catch with dried herbs and an artichoke served in its own vinegar. palaisdetokyo.com.

Anahi: A cult destination among the fashion set for nearly 20 years, this tiny steakhouse is thriving again, thanks to a new owner who

is focusing on quality cuts from Japan, Australia, France, and the U.S. The good-time vibes from the past, however, remain. anahi-paris.com.

Balagan: This modern Israeli restaurant and bar steps from the Tuileries Garden serves up French ingredients and Middle Eastern spices in dishes like seafood shakshuka. It's a rollicking good time—and don't be surprised to see the chefs out in the dining room. balagan-paris.com.

Café Méricourt: Consider this your go-to neighborhood coffee shop. In addition to breakfast staples like ricotta pancakes, the kitchen turns out lamb sandwiches and quinoa bowls at lunch and a short, veggie-friendly menu (and natural wines) for dinner. cafe-mericourt.com.



A peek inside the steakhouse Anahi.

ON THE MAP: NORTH MARAIS

With its constellation of small boutiques and destination wining and dining, this has become the hottest neighborhood to hang in.



1. Empreintes

This four-story temple to crafts features more than a thousand unique and limited-edition pieces of art, jewelry, and home items, including ceramic pots and porcelain bowls. empreintes-paris.com.

2. Cuisse de Grenouille

Parisian surf style with a 1960s bent was born with this brand in 2010, but it just rolled out womenswear—every bit as preppy and timeless as the original. cuissedegrenouille.com.

3. Wild & the Moon

This vegan café has introduced locals to nut milks, vitality shots, and cold-pressed juices. It's worth a stop for something nutritious to nosh on as you wander the picturesque streets. wildandthemoon.com.

4. Bisou

There's no menu at this new craft cocktail bar—just tell them what flavors and spirits you like, and they'll concoct something special. We'll toast to that. facebook.com/bisoubar.



LOCAL TAKE AMÉLIE VIAENE

The award-winning jewelry designer reveals her favorite haunts in the City of Light.

Morning Coffee

lafontaine.cafes-belleville.com
“La Fontaine de Belleville, for the beautifully roasted coffee, zen vibe, and sun-soaked terrace seating.”

Shop Till You Drop

24sevres.com
“Nowhere compares to Le Bon Marché on the Left Bank. It's gorgeous. I have a particular weakness for the shoe department (recently redesigned!).”

Date Night

+33 1 48 06 54 59
“Achille has an intimate vibe and an inventive menu with a mix of Japanese and Italian flavors. I took my husband for his birthday, and we loved it.”

GETTY IMAGES/JORG GRUEL (PLACE DAUPHINE); COURTESY OF ROSEWOOD HOTELS AND RESORTS (HOTEL DE CRILLON); CHRISTOPHER JENEY (VIAENE); COURTESY OF ANAHI (ANAH)



Day-tripping

Vaux-le-Vicomte

This is the most expansive (and privately owned) historic château in France—yet it's exponentially more intimate than Versailles. Just 35 minutes from Paris by train, it's known for its majestic manor house and 82 acres of 17th-century French formal gardens, where you can stroll, picnic, and feel like royalty. vaux-le-vicomte.com.

Domaine de Chantilly

This leafy, historic town, 25 minutes away by train, has long been considered the country's horse-riding capital (and hosts the high-profile French Oaks race). Its other drawing card: a stately château whose art galleries are home to the second-largest collection of antique paintings from the 14th to 17th centuries (after the Louvre). domaine-dechantilly.com.



From left: The rooftop at the Palazzo Dama hotel; the Colosseum. Below: A classic room at the Hotel Eden.

ROME

The latest hotels marry the old and the new.

Hotel Eden: This Belle Époque icon steps from Via Veneto just emerged from a top-to-bottom redo. With Italian marble, gold accents, and pastoral frescoes, the lobby is made for a grand entrance, and the two rooftop restaurants from acclaimed chef Fabio Ciervo win the prize for unbeatable views. From \$650 per night, [dorchestercollection.com](#).

H'All Tailor Suite: Riccardo di Giacinto and his wife, Ramona, recently debuted 14 jewel-box rooms above his Michelin-starred Ristorante All'Oro. Parquet floors, dark boiserie, and art curated by a local gallery create an elevated residential vibe. Breakfast is made by the chef himself. From \$230 per night, [thehallroma.com](#).

Hotel Le Meridien Visconti: Head across the Tiber to the neighborhood of Prati for a stay



that evokes midcentury glam, with a sleek lobby lounge, 240 clean-lined rooms and suites, and marble bathrooms. From here, it's an easy 10-minute cab ride to the Vatican. From \$239 per night, [lemeridienviscontirome.com](#).

Palazzo Dama: Just off Piazza del Popolo, this 29-room spot occupies an aristocratic mansion replete with velvet divans and chandeliers. And it's the only hotel in the city center with a pool. From \$417 per night, [palazzodama.com](#).



LOCAL TAKE
MARIA PASQUALE
The author of the popular blog Heart Rome shares her essential recs.

Pastry for Breakfast
[rosciolicaffe.com](#)
“The maritozzo (a whipped cream-filled bun) from Roscioli Caffè & Pasticceria is to die for!”

Museum Moment
[museicapitolini.org](#)
“The Capitoline Museum is considered the oldest public museum in the world. It has incredible terrace views over the Roman Forum ruins.”

Shop for Shoes
[martaray.it](#)
“Young designer Marta Anna Ratajczak makes the prettiest leather ballet flats at Marta Ray, her Trastevere boutique. They're elegant and functional, and come in a rainbow of colors.”

COURTESY OF PALAZZO DAMA (IMAGE (DAMA)); GETTY IMAGES/MAREMAGNUM (COLOSSEUM); DORCHESTER COLLECTION (HOTEL EDEN); ANDREA FEDERICI (PASQUALE); FEDERICA DI GIOVANNI (MERCATO CENTRALE)

ON THE MAP: PIGNETO

With Metro Line C finally up and (mostly) running, this up-and-coming neighborhood is hipper and more accessible than ever.



1. Scooteroma
Hop on the back of a vintage Vespa driven by a local guide for a street-art tour. He'll bring the area's murals to life, explaining details about the neighborhood's evolution along the way. [scooteroma.com](#).

2. Mackie Messer
To fit in with the cool crowd that congregates around Via Pigneto, buy some vintage duds here. You might find fedoras, army jackets, and other covetable items. [Via Braccio da Montone 54](#).

3. Co.So
Massimo d'Addezio, who earned his stripes at the Hotel de Russie's Stravinskij Bar, serves cutting-edge cocktails. Try the carbonara sour, made with fat-washed vodka, lemon, and black pepper. [Via Braccio da Montone 80](#).

4. Spirito
The refrigerator door in the Panineria Premiata sandwich shop leads to this speakeasy, which serves burgers and other pub grub, as well as cocktails shaken at a custom roulette table. [club-spirito.com](#).

Dig into the finest local flavors.

Casa Coppelle: For a sultry date-night dinner, look no further than this Franco-Italian fantasy, tucked away near the Pantheon. Opulent interiors by renowned designer Jacques Garcia set the mood, and chef Fabio Rossi offers both a tasting menu and à la carte dishes. [casa.coppelle.com](#).

Caffè Propaganda: The place that brought subway-tiled bistro style to Rome has relaunched with an updated look and a new chef. Stop by after visiting the Colosseum for craft cocktails and Roman specialties like tortello liquido di carbonara and tiramisù in a meringue egg cup. [caffe.propaganda.it](#).

Giulietta: No need to choose between thin-crust pizza Romana and doughier pizza Napoletana. Cristina Bowerman (of Michelin-starred Glass Hostaria) serves up excellent versions of both in her new Testaccio spot. [giulietta.pizzeria.it](#).

Mercato Centrale Roma: There's now a reason to visit Termini Station even if you're not catching a train. This food hall from the team behind the Florence location brings together Italy's best artisanal food purveyors under one roof, from the popular street food Trapizzino to renowned cheese monger Beppe Giovane e I Suoi Formaggi. [mercatocentrale.it](#).



Mercato Centrale Roma, at Termini Station.



Day-tripping

Sperlonga

This seaside town was a hangout for celebrities like Brigitte Bardot, Arthur Miller, and Cy Twombly in the 1950s and '60s. Its timeless charm remains intact, with whitewashed houses perched above a tranquil beach. The best part: It's two hours by car—or a 75-minute train ride—down the coast toward Naples.

Tivoli

In this picturesque town less than an hour east of Rome, you'll find the majestic Villa d'Este. The UNESCO World Heritage site is a romantic spot for an afternoon stroll through manicured gardens filled with grottoes and fountains sculpted to resemble ships and nymphs. You'll also find the ruins of Villa Adriana, constructed for the emperor Hadrian in the second century A.D.

BARCELONA

These hotels are small in size but big on style.

Almanac Barcelona: Since opening in September, this 91-room hotel has raised the city's glam factor, with interiors by Jaime Beriestain that use gold leaf and mirrors abundantly throughout the lobby and public spaces. For something more low-key, head to the cozy cocktail bar or chilled-out spa. From \$542 per night, [almanachotels.com](#).

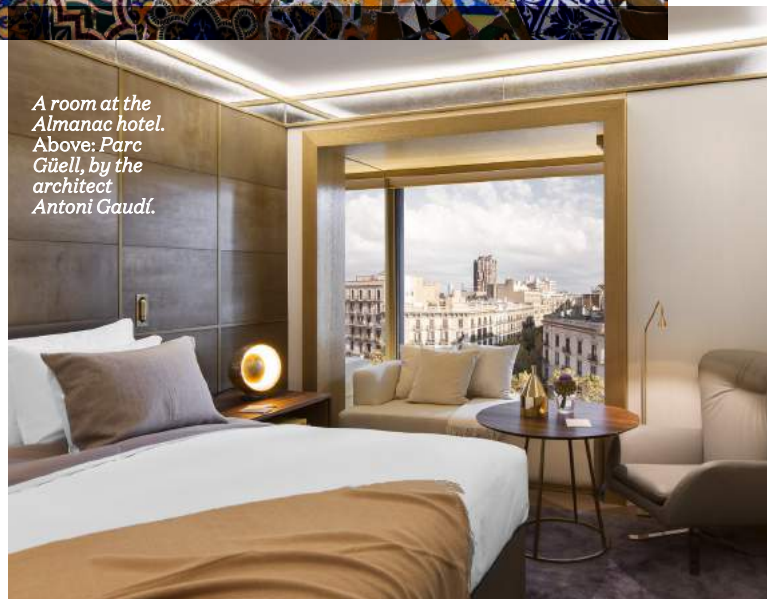
The Serras: Local entrepreneur Jordi Serras took copious notes during decades of business travel before opening his dream hotel in 2015. Expect 28 super-spacious rooms with plush fabrics and views of the city's newly improved marina. The boats, beaches, museums, and shops of the Gothic Quarter are just steps away. From \$355 per night, [hoteltheserrasbarcelona.com](#).

Casa Bonay: With its groovy vibe, the vast lobby-bar is the buzzing heart of the hotel, which

has 68 rooms featuring original 19th-century tile floors. Three restaurants, including one on the breezy rooftop, are helmed by Argentinean chef Estanislao Careno, an organic and bio-dynamic enthusiast. From \$157 per night, [casabonay.com](#).

Soho House Barcelona: Locals were as excited as visitors when this private-club outpost opened (complete with Cecconi's Italian restaurant) in 2016. Nonmembers can book any of the 57 rooms and take advantage of the screening room, gym, and rooftop and indoor pools. From \$313 per night, [sohohousebarcelona.com](#).

A room at the Almanac hotel. Above: Parc Güell, by the architect Antoni Gaudí.



Settle in for creative tasting menus and tapas.

Disfrutar: Overseen by three alums of Ferran Adrià's legendary El Bulli, this is the spot to sample the current state of molecular gastronomy. The chic but casual dining room is the perfect setting to enjoy—*disfrutar*, in Spanish—one of the extensive tasting menus and splurge on the equally creative wine pairings. [disfrutarbarcelona.com](#).

Enigma: Albert Adrià (Ferran's brother) recently opened this otherworldly restaurant designed by 2017 Pritzker Architecture Prize winners RCR Architects; think metal-mesh cloud ceilings and floating, translucent walls.

Diners move to different areas as they make their way through a 40-to-50-course menu full of surprising combinations of tastes, textures, and temperatures. [enigmaconcept.es](#).

Gresca: Rafa Peña's tiny, unpretentious restaurant has been a cult favorite of local chefs for years. Now he's added a wine bar with an astonishing range of natural wines and small plates like a grilled "bikini" sandwich with Iberian pork loin and Comté cheese. [bcnrestaurantes.com](#).

Pez Vela: Step off the sand and into this upscale *chinguito*, or



Inside Disfrutar, which means "to enjoy" in Spanish.

beach bar, tucked beneath the resort-like W Hotel on San Sebastian beach. It's known for outstanding paellas, like the one flecked with succulent bits of

squid, prawns, and clams, as well as tapas, such as grilled asparagus with zesty romesco sauce. Wash it all down with chilled sangria. [grupotragaluz.com](#).



Day-tripping

Sitges

About 20 miles south of Barcelona and easily accessible by train, bus, or taxi, this charming town is usually cited as a beach resort. (Picasso used to spend summers here.) But it also has a thriving art scene, home to medieval architecture and cutting-edge contemporary galleries. Don't miss the Museu Maricel and Museu Cau Ferrat ([museusdesitges.cat](#)).

Clos de l'Obac Winery

The area is surrounded by grape-growing areas that produce some of Spain's best-loved wines, from crisp whites to the bold reds of the Priorat region. That's where you'll find this welcoming vineyard owned by the Pastrana Jarque family. Reserve a visit online for a chance to sip four of their beloved bottles ([obac.es](#)).

ON THE MAP: CARRER SÈNECA

A tiny one-stop-shopping street at the tippy-top of the grand boulevard Passeig de Gràcia offers a microcosm of the latest style trends.



1. Antique Boutique

Pick up a few things to fill up your home, including vintage ceramic Manises lamps, porcelain tea sets, and other decorative objets. [antiqueboutiquebcn.com](#).

2. Roig Robí

Book a table in the pretty garden at this seasonal spot, which is popular with the publishing crowd and arty types. The three-course prix-fixe menu is a bargain at \$41. [roigrobi.com](#).

3. Paralello

Whatever you're craving, you can find a flavor of artisanal gelato to suit your palate. A few to try: pineapple and basil, coconut and chocolate, and Parmesan and balsamic vinegar. [parallelogelato.com](#).

4. Galeria Miquel Alzueta

An old factory has been transformed into a space that hosts rotating exhibits of contemporary art, plus 20th-century architecture and design. [miquellazueta.net](#).



LOCAL TAKE
LÁZARO ROSA-VIOLÁN
The in-demand interior designer of hotels and restaurants knows Barcelona inside and out.

Romantic Meal

[restaurantestimar.com](#)
"I love the intimate *Estimar*, hidden behind the Santa Maria del Mar church. The chef prepares simple, fresh seafood with a touch of modernity."

Shop Till You Drop

"The neighborhood of *El Born* is my favorite for window-shopping. It's like a medina—you can wander through small streets and get lost in boutiques and wine bars."

Staycation Spot

[hotelcottonhouse.com](#)
"I revamped the Cotton Textile Foundation headquarters into the modern *Cotton House Hotel*. One step inside and you'll escape your hectic life."



Clockwise from top left: in front of the Lanesborough Hotel; Big Ben Bridge over the River Thames; a room at The Ned.

LONDON



It's not just about the stay—it's about the spa.

The Ned: This revamped 1920s bank building in the City of London—a joint venture from Soho House and the Sydell Group—is the hottest game in town. It has nine restaurants and bars and two pools, plus next-level fitness-spa facilities, with a spin studio, a yoga room, a boxing gym, a hammam, and hair and nail salons. From \$321 per night, [thened.com](#).

Four Seasons Hotel London at Ten Trinity Square: Set just

behind the Tower of London, this grand property has a neoclassical colonnade that'll stop you in your tracks. Inside, the minimalist spa is done up in grays, silvers, and glittery gold tiles, and offers blissful steams, scrubs, facials, and massages. From \$569 per night, [fourseasons.com](#)

The Lanesborough: The classic boutique property recently debuted a holistic oasis, where you'll find spa butlers, a health-conscious menu, a hydrotherapy

pool, and private mani-pedi suites. Don't miss the caviar lift facial, featuring La Prairie products. From \$648 per night, [lanesborough.com](#).

The Curtain: The latest addition to funky Shoreditch embraces the area's artistic side. The spa takes a pop-up approach, inviting wellness and skin-care brands to set up six-month "residencies" with products and treatments. From \$318 per night, [thecurtain.com](#).



LOCAL TAKE SARAH BARBER

Here's how the *Hotel Café Royal* pastry chef savors her downtime.

After-Work Drink
[londoncocktailclub.co.uk](#)
"The dimly lit **London Cocktail Club** has graffiti-inspired décor and a vast menu. It's a little bit edgy, and the bartenders are amazing."

Celebratory Dinner
[alainducasse-dorchester.com](#)
"The **Dorchester** is an old-fashioned hotel, but the Alain Ducasse restaurant is contemporary and stunning. The rum baba cake is the most refined I've ever had."

Lunch of Leisure
[the-connaught.co.uk](#)
"Hélène Darroze at the **Connaught** always feels like an indulgence. It's three courses with canapés, wine, and petits-fours."

THE LANESBOROUGH/OETIKER COLLECTION (LANESBOROUGH); GETTY IMAGES/BUREE LALITATHADA/EYEEM (BRIDGE); COURTESY OF THE NED (THE NED); HOTEL CAFE ROYAL (BARBER); CAROL SACHS (XU)



Day-tripping

Brighton

England's beaches may not get as much recognition as others in western Europe—but this local favorite should. A 60-minute train ride south, Brighton has everything you could possibly want in a sea-side escape, including a Victorian-era pleasure pier, restaurants that serve fish in every form, and a stunning 18th-century palace with Mughal and Islamic influences.

Bath

Although just 90 minutes from London (via regular trains throughout the day), this UNESCO World Heritage site feels worlds away. It's the countryside at its best, replete with verdant hillsides, centuries-old architecture, and natural hot springs (hence the name). One of its most famous residents is Manolo Blahnik, whose house is reportedly filled with thousands of (what else?) shoes.

Get comfy in convivial, Instagram-ready restaurants.

Perilla: Chef Ben Marks puts an inventive twist on the farm-to-table ethos—and the prices will make you wonder if zeros are missing from the menu. The \$50 chef's-choice tasting starts with seaweed bread and roasted-seaweed butter, and ends with a dessert that uses the best fruit in season. [perilladining.co.uk](#).

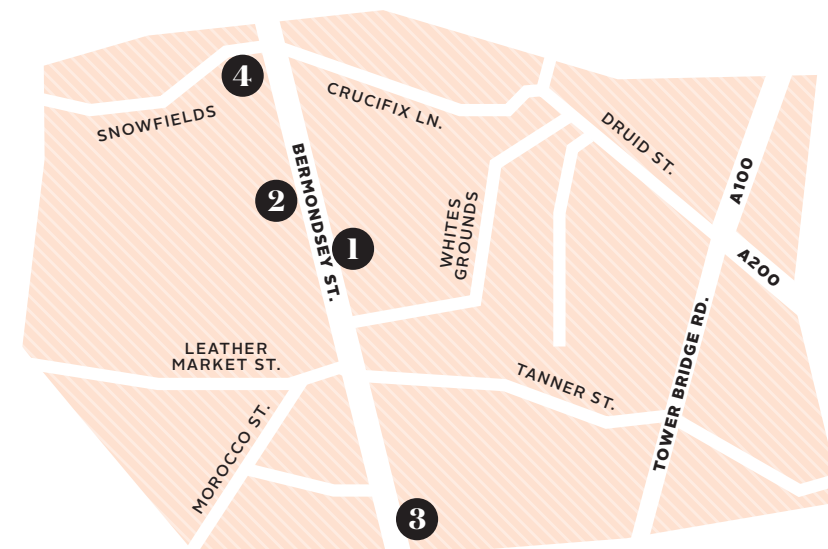
Xu: This bi-level spot playfully nods to the dining clubs of 1930s Taipei, thanks to an emerald-green bar, painted murals, and pink-leather banquettes. On the ground floor, sip from a tea menu that reads like a wine list. Upstairs, fill up on Taiwanese dishes like chili-egg-drop crab stew. [xulondon.com](#).

Henrietta Hotel & Restaurant: Everything about this Covent Garden spot is glamorous, from the leopard-print bathroom wallpaper to the bar's honeycomb floor tiles. Dishes like beef tartare with edible flowers and a green-apple sorbet served in a hollowed-out apple are almost too pretty to eat. [henriettahotel.com](#).

Tamarind Kitchen: Skip the curry houses on Brick Lane and check out this more casual sibling of Michelin-starred Tamarind of Mayfair. The generous list of kebabs encourages sharing—but you may want the lamb biryani all to yourself. [tamarindkitchen.co.uk](#).

ON THE MAP: BERMONDSEY

On the south bank of the Thames, once-abandoned warehouses and lofts live on as upscale boutiques, restaurants, and galleries.



1. Fashion and Textile Museum

This small-but-mighty museum delivers on the inside—with vibrant exhibits showcasing the likes of Anna Sui and Louise Dahl-Wolfe—and out, with its striking orange exterior. [ftmlondon.org](#).

2. London Glassblowing

At Peter Layton's studio, watch artisans in action, then pick up a souvenir from the sea of dazzling colors and forms, including tiny ovular vases and large conceptual objets d'art. [londonglassblowing.co.uk](#).

3. Bermondsey 167

Browse handmade clothes by one of the boutique's owners, semiprecious stone jewelry, decorative barware, and furniture made from reclaimed materials in a space that feels like an old-school curiosity shop. [167bermondsey.com](#).

4. The Bermondsey Yard Cafe

Exposed brick and industrial lighting hint at the building's past life as a parking lot, while the menu (quinoa granola at breakfast, small plates for dinner) attracts a fashionable crowd. [bermondseyyardcafe.co.uk](#).



A sunlit spread at the Taiwanese restaurant Xu.