



The London hotel in West Hollywood has earned celebrity status in Los Angeles with swanky rooftop pool parties, palatial new suites and gourmet cuisine by celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay. *THE LONDON WEST HOLLYWOOD*

A LITTLE LONDON RIGHT IN L.A.

West Hollywood hotel has a distinctly British flair and attracts A-list guests



ROCHELLE LASH
Checking In

The chi-chi London West Hollywood is ready for its close-up. The London has earned celebrity status in Los Angeles with swanky rooftop pool parties, palatial new suites and gourmet cuisine by celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay. It also has a full beauty salon so you can primp for your big moment and a boutique for that extra shimmer of bling. West Hollywood, a.k.a. WeHo, is a hub of La La Land's film and recording studios and talent agencies, so The London's A-listers sparkle with stars such as Jennifer Lawrence, Justin Bieber, Al Pacino, Julia Roberts, Jane Fonda, Kevin Spacey, Lupita Nyong'o, the Olsen twins, Zooey Deschanel — and of course, several Kardashians. Neil Patrick Harris, host of the February 2015 Academy Awards, also has been spotted at The London. I met up with former Montrealer Elizabeth Paterson, a.k.a. La Liz, a legal beagle and celebrity magnet who lives nearby in Bev-

erly Hills — the famous 90210. La Liz has been to the Oscars and the Emmys countless times and keeps The London on her radar. We took breaks from celebrity-spotting to power-shop through the West Hollywood Design District, Melrose Avenue, Robertson Boulevard and Sunset Plaza. Boutiques abound, notably the starlet-style Kitson and Haute Hippie, plus big-time designers such as Balenciaga, Christian Louboutin and Stella McCartney. **STRONG BRITISH ACCENT** The London West Hollywood is a glamorous anglophile haven that flies Britain's Union Jack as well as the U.S.A.'s Stars and Stripes. The telephone operator answers in the Queen's English, a British Bulldog — or at least a startlingly lifelike statuette — greets you at the entrance and phone calls to London, England, are free. The hotel is a blend of 1940s-inspired Hollywood decor, relaxed California cool and the polish of a posh Mayfair townhouse. The lobby, a soigné space of lustrous glamour, is graced with sensual curved velvet sofas, glossy metallic accents and an intricate cream and black marble mosaic floor. Under the culinary direction of the Michelin-starred British bad boy, Gordon Ramsay at The

London West Hollywood is a sophisticated dinner spot. Ramsay — he plans the menus and pops in occasionally to supervise — goes global with herb-crusted filet mignon, roast lamb with fettuccine and basil, miso-broiled sea bass, Spanish octopus, duck confit and lobster risotto. Divine desserts include frothy pistachio crème brûlée and decadent chocolate creux. Ramsay also does tributes to Mother England with Beef Wellington, Stilton salad and toffee pudding. **GLAMOUR GALORE** The London's rooftop pool has been named the most exciting in town by Los Angeles Magazine for its sexy social scene, tasty pool menu of shrimp and mango salads and wasabi tuna wraps, and private cabanas equipped with flat-screen TVs — the perfect loges for a broadcast of the Academy Awards or a big NFL game. Most impressive are the 360-degree views through the glass walls: the towers of downtown, verdant Beverly Hills, the cliff-hanging mansions of Hollywood Hills and, on a clear day, the sparkling blue Pacific Ocean. As the sun sets, the beautiful people gather around the firepit and fuel up on hibiscus mojitos and tequila sours. Victoria's Secret photographed a swimwear edition at The London's pool starring Behati Prinsloo, model and wife of Maroon 5's pop-rock-er Adam Levine. I wasn't there, but they say the wrap party was out of sight.

While we're livin' large, I like The London's bar, too, which sometimes offers deals such as Perrier-Jouet Champagne at \$13, but also has a connoisseur's selection, such as The Dalmore 1981, a single-malt that costs a ripping \$1,290 for two ounces. **THE SUITE LIFE** The London is an all-suite hotel, with 221 accommodations starting with an open-plan studio, which at about 69 square metres (720 sq. feet) is more than double the size of an upscale room elsewhere. But the pièce de résistance for 2014 is the new floor of ultra-luxurious suites, recently unveiled by Northwood Hospitality, the owners who took over one year ago. "The new suites take the hotel to a higher, more luxurious level," said general manager Jeff Kulek. "The perfect home-away for families from Europe or film stars visiting Los Angeles for a long-term shoot. They're convenient, private and spacious." With regal names such as Elizabeth and Victoria, the one- and two-bedroom suites are done in a residential style that would make a movie mogul feel at home. They are decked out with contemporary furniture, hardwood floors, plush fabrics and granite and marble table tops. The new suites also feature multiple terraces, compact kitchens, dining rooms, dressing areas and bathrooms as big as car washes. *Rochelle@rochellelash.com; twitter.com/rochellelash*

IF YOU GO

Air Canada flies non-stop to Los Angeles from Montreal, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver. **The London West Hollywood Hotel:** 866-282-4560, 310-854-1111, www.thelondonwesthollywood.com; 1020 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood (Los Angeles), California **Price:** Open-plan suites start at \$325 U.S. per night, one-bedroom suites start at \$999, and two-bedrooms at \$1,299; rates include buffet breakfast, courtesy Mercedes, Wi-Fi, access to rooftop pool and firepits, satellite TV. Most suites have terraces, some have kitchens. New ninth-floor suites include one-way airport transportation and private check-in. A state-of-the-art fitness centre opens this month. During Hotel Week LA, Nov. 29-Dec. 14, rates start at \$300 U.S., hotelweekla.com. Extra: pool cabanas, Alex Roldan Salon & Spa, valet parking. **Gordon Ramsay at The London West Hollywood:** 310-358-7788, nightly from 5 p.m. Boxwood Café: buffet and à la carte breakfast, lunch Mon-Sun; afternoon tea, 2:30 to 4:30, Sat.-Sun. Roof-top drinks and casual poolside fare: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. **More info:** 800-368-6020, visitwesthollywood.com; www.eatshopplayweho.com, www.thesunsetstrip.com, www.westhollywooddesigndistrict.com, discoverlosangeles.com.

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