



SPOTLIGHT LONDON

What's moving and shaking in London this season ...



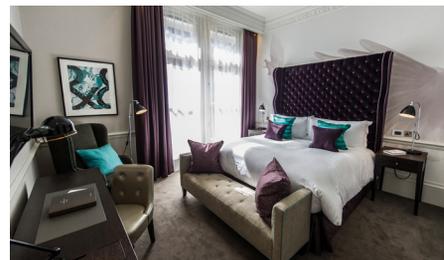
TOP TABLE Six months after it opened, chef and restaurateur Jason Atherton, *left*, bagged Mayfair's Pollen Street Social a Michelin star. He has since turned his hand to **Berners Tavern** at the new London EDITION hotel of Ian "Studio 54" Schrager fame. Purveying a "contemporary British menu" - sample dish: Orkney scallop carpaccio served with avocado, radish, jalapeño and lime - the all-day eatery complements the hotel's urban take on an English country manor. edition-hotels.marriott.com

3 first-class hotels ...



BUDGET Z Victoria

Beside Victoria Station, the Z hotel offers a lot of bang for its buck. There's no lobby, just an area where breakfast appears at a large communal table, and drinks and nibbles are served in the evening. Snug rooms are well-kitted out with wet room and 40-inch TVs. Rooms from £75. +44 20 3551 3700; thezhotels.com/victoria



MID-PRICE The Ampersand Hotel

A Victorian property in South Kensington, all 111 rooms were inspired by astronomy, ornithology and botany. There's nothing fuddy-duddy about Ampersand however; trendy eatery Aperò serves casual bites, and The Drawing Rooms offers high tea with champagne Rooms from £194. +44 20 7589 5895; ampersandhotel.com



SPLURGE London Belgraves

Minutes away from Hyde Park, the Belgraves echoes its upmarket neighbourhood. A chic colour palette runs throughout its 85 rooms, with accents of jewel-coloured upholstery offering a colour pop. In winter, curl up in the Library Bar and, in summer, take to the outdoor terrace. Rooms from £376. +44 20 7858 0100; thompsonhotels.com

3 seasonal event highlights ...



CINEMA BFI London Film Fest makes a 57th outing this October 9-20, the opening movie, *Captain Phillips* - the true story of a US ship hijacked by Somali pirates in 2009 - starring Tom Hanks. Ireland is represented by Michael Fassbender in Steve McQueen's *12 Years a Slave* and Alan Gilson's doc on *Eliza Lynch*, the Cork-born lover of 19th-century dictator Francisco Solano López. bfi.org.uk/lff



FAMILY SKATE Somerset House will be transformed into a winter wonderland this November 14 to January 5, with ice-skating for all ages, late-night DJs from Moshi Moshi and Ministry of Sound, Wayne and Geraldine Hemingway's Vintage Festival, a pop-up shopping arcade, festive soirées, Michelin-starred nibbles and cocktails devised by Tom Aikens, and more. somersehouse.org.uk/skate



POP-UP LQ @ Chateau Marmot LA pop-up pioneer and chef Laurent Quenieux makes his UK debut with London whippersnappers Danielle Treanor and Theo Cooper aka Chateau Marmot. Their six-course taster dinner costs £45, wine flights from £27; four-course brunch at £24. As is the pop-up way, its East London location is top secret, tickets for October/November sittings available at grubclub.com.

AERLINGUS FLIES FROM DUBLIN, CORK, SHANNON AND BELFAST TO LONDON DAILY.