Date: Thursday 23, May 2013

Keyword:

The Montcalm At The Brewery London

City









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A weekend at The Montcalm at The Brewery, London City

Thursday, 23 May 2013 10:24 AM



Esme Fox goes to check out The Montcalm at The Brewery in London City, and finds a quirky hotel with a regal air.

Upon hearing that there was a London hotel built inside an old brewery, I knew I had to check it out, being a fan of the more unusual and unique side of travel and accommodation. I can't think of anything worse than those cookie-cutter hotels that could be anywhere in world.



The first thing that struck me when entering the gates of The Montcalm at The Brewery was how old fashioned and regal it seemed, as if I'd suddenly been transported back to the time when horses and carriages roamed the streets and footmen in tails and top hats greeted you at the door.

Once inside the lobby though, modern glamour prevailed with marble walls, trickling fountains and contemporary glittering chandeliers. Dating back to the 17th century, the layout of the building is somewhat higgledy-

piggledy and walking around the corridors is akin to find yourself navigating a labyrinth – you'd better remember the way to your room. Aside from this fact, the layout gives the hotel a sort of heritage-like charm, reminding you at every turn that you are standing inside a piece of London history.

The hotel was formerly the site of Whitbread & Co., which was Britain's first purpose-built mass production brewery. The original building dates back from as early as 1750 when Samuel Whitbread moved his brewing operations to Chiswell Street on the 'eastern rim of Georgian London'. The last beer to be brewed here was in 1976, when the site was turned into Whitbread PLC's Head Office and the City of London's leading Conference & Banqueting Centre, The Brewery, which still stands today.

Rooms are decked in shades of lime





This week IdealShortBreaks.co.uk is in Amsterdam drinking strong black coffee with local Machteld Ligtvoet, who gives us tips on some of his favourite local haunts - including where you can go to find one of the best views of the city.

A weekend at The Montcalm at The Brewery, London City



Esme Fox goes to check out The Montcalm

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and chocolate and in keeping with the quirky layout of the building, my room had a lounge and bathroom downstairs, with a bedroom upstairs. It being very spacious, my partner and I felt like we had our own mini apartment all to ourselves (older people with mobility issues or those with children may want to request rooms on one level, as the steps are pretty steep). Features include a stylish coffee machine, two flat screen TVs one upstairs and one downstairs and a bathroom with a glass panelled front, so that if you choose, your partner can see what you get up to in the bathroom. Alternatively, press a button and a blind will come down,



at The Brewery in London City, and finds a quirky hotel with a regal

restoring it to a regular and more modest washroom.

The hotel has two dining options, the country-style gastro pub The Jugged Hare and the classy, yet informal Chiswell Street Dining Rooms. Since it was a Friday and the pub was full of city-types going out for after work drinks we decided up on the dining rooms

For starters I opted for the pickled courgette flower, beautifully prepared and laid out like a piece of artwork on a black slate; while my companion chose the crab fettuccine, succulent and perfectly al dente. Although the main menu is very heavily seafood based, I decided to go for the spring pea and ricotta tortellini with sauce vierge and pea tendrils, and my companion, the white wine braised Yorkshire rabbit leg with chervil gnocchi and parmesan, carrying on his Italian theme. Both were delicious with a country organic-like flavour.



A wide choice of classic British puddings feature on the dessert menu, such as lemon tart, apple and rhubarb crumble and vanilla rice pudding. Rhubarb being a particular summer favourite of mine, I decided to go for the rhubarb panna cotta with poached rhubarb, sherbet tuile and liquorice ice cream - a delightful concoction with many flavours to sample, while my partner went for the special of the day - vanilla cheesecake with fresh raspberries and white chocolate. The whole meal came to around £72 not including drinks, which seemed pretty reasonable for a London hotel, considering the quality and presentation of the meals.

The hotel does have a small sauna and steam room and an even smaller gym, but you'll have to let the staff know in advance if you want to use these wellness facilities, so coming here on a whim is not an option. A nice added extra is the Club Lounge, it too in keeping with the heritage theme of the hotel featuring an old $picture\ covering\ one\ wall,\ an\ elegant\ chandelier\ and\ co\ mfy\ seating\ area.\ It\ also\ offers\ a\ free\ computer\ and\ co\ mfy\ seating\ area.\ It\ also\ offers\ a\ free\ computer\ and\ co\ mfy\ seating\ area.\ It\ also\ offers\ a\ free\ co\ mputer\ and\ co\ mfy\ seating\ area.\ It\ also\ offers\ a\ free\ co\ mputer\ and\ co\ mfy\ seating\ area.$ printer for guests' use, a butler service and a flat screen TV.

Breakfast (an added extra) was a modest, yet adequate affair, featuring a selection of mini pastries, toast, fruit salad, cheese and cold cuts of ham and salmon. There was also a selection of teas, coffees and juices.

All in all The Montcalm at The Brewery is a comfortable and friendly place to stay, but is especially best for those who want an old London glamour experience, where they can feel part of the capital's history itself.

Rooms cost from £200 per night for advance booking. Please visit the hotel website for more information.

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Tags: feature, hotel review, london, luxury accommodation

A weekend in London at the



London Coffee Festival returns



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Hotel Indigo

Esme Fox goes on a mini break in her own city – London – to check out the new Hotel Indigo in London's Earl's Court.



to the Old Truman Brewery

Coffee fiends are in for a treat this week as the London Coffee Festival



returns to the Old Truman Brewery on Brick Lane.

Top 5 city views around Europe

With London's The View from The Shard opening to the public tomorrow, February 1, we're taking a look at



some of the best views of some of Europe's best loved cities, and they're not always from where you'd expect.

Our favourite London Underground stations

150 years ago today the London Underground train



made its inaugural journey on the Metropolitan Railway line from Paddington to Farringdon. Today the Tube carries a total of 1,107 million passengers a year 249 miles around the city of London. Here are some of our favourite Tube stations from around the city to celebrate its 150th birthday.

Editor's Blog: Learning to play polo

To mark the launch of this summer's MINT Polo in the Park, Esme Fox decided to try her



Editor's blog: A foodie weekend of brunch and ice cream

With so much always going on in London, you would never need



to go to the same event twice and there is always something new to explore. Having lived here for four years now, I haven't tired of it yet and always take the opportunity to go out and explore something new. Each week I'll be sharing with you some of the things I get up to, both in the capital and further afield.

Top five places to see the spring flowers

Yesterday was the first official day of spring (even though it may not look like it outside), so



we've picked five of our top favourite places to see the spring flowers. From the famous gardens at Kew, to tulip fields near Amsterdam, a cherry blossom festival in Copenhagen and an ancient bluebell wood in Wiltshire, here are our top picks.

Chinese New Year celebrations closer to home

February 10 2013 marks the beginning of the Chinese lunar New Year. This year is the



Year of the Snake and over one billion people around the globe will be celebrating it. While the biggest celebrations are no doubt in China, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia, there are many cities closer to home, where you can witness colourful lion dances, dragon parades and traditional music and dancing.

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