

LONDON LIFE • AUGUST 2019

# LONDON'S HOTTEST NEIGHBOURHOODS RIGHT NOW



You've heard of the big hitters – Westminster, Soho, Notting Hill et al – but what about the local-loved spots that embody London's trendy spirit? *The Club* team heads into the capital to bring you the neighbourhoods that deserve your downtime

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## 1 Dulwich Village

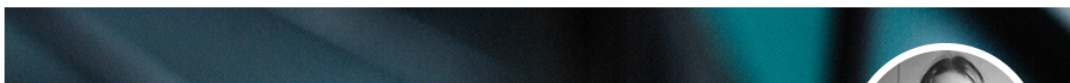
**Says who:** [Charlotte Swift](#), *The Club* editor

**The vibe:** Grand Georgian mansions, clap-board cottages, ancient almshouses, brilliant bookshops and neighbourhood pubs – Dulwich Village is like a quaint bit of countryside beyond the Zone 1 madness.

**Food and drink:** A pint of craft beer in the revamped [Crown and Greyhound](#) (known locally as the Dog) is a must. The Grade II-listed public house has a wonderful old interior and lovely beer garden. Although, to watch village life, sit out front.

**Culture spot:** Marvel at an impressive collection of Old Masters at [Dulwich Picture Gallery](#) (*pictured*). Founded in 1811, it was the world's first purpose-built public art gallery. Summer sees plenty of [regular and free installations](#).

**In the know:** While the park is wonderful for a stroll, venture down College Road and up a winding lane into Dulwich Woods for a country ramble. It was once part of the Great North Wood, an ancient swathe of forest.





## 2 Hackney Wick

**Says who:** [Rebecca Naylor](#), *The Club* picture editor

**The vibe:** A living, breathing art exhibition alive with neon graffiti, highbrow coffee bars, impromptu festivals and canalside studios.

**Food and drink:** Divinely tasty and worth every penny, [Cornerstone](#) - the debut from Nathan Outlaw prodigy, chef Tom Brown - is no joke. Seafood is cooked with pin-point precision and bagfuls of flavour; you won't eat finer scallops (served soft and succulent in a shell of coral butter) while the desserts (*pictured above*) make for a delicate finale. Speaking of pennies, for those trying to save them, go for the tasting menu (£45 a head), which works out better on the wallet.

**Culture spot:** Check out the area's studio-style shops at on-trend menswear brand [Percival](#), furniture emporium [Béton Brut](#), and [Cheeky Tiki](#), which specialises in Polynesian-inspired homeware.

**In the know:** Ethically conscious and popular with the Hackney-ites, [Grow](#) is *the* place to party. Sip organic wines and homemade rums, and enjoy a seasonal tasting menu full of vegan delights on its open deck – all to the tune of live music.

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### 3 Stoke Newington

**Says who:** [Hannah Ralph](#), *The Club* content editor

**The vibe:** On-the-go mums wiewling yoga mats, fashionistas musing over jumpsuits in shop windows, locals picking up pints in rustic pubs, and families excitedly heading for a day in Clissold Park.

**Food and drink:** Arrive at Church Street hungry – you could spend a whole day feasting on Stokey's chicest street. Pick up cake and cacti at [The Green Room](#), an artisan espresso at [Sapid Coffee](#) and freshly baked sourdough at [Spence Bakery](#). [Slab and Tipple](#) has the best chocolate in town, while [The Good Egg](#) (*pictured*) boasts one of the best shakshuka's in London.

**Culture spot:** Mark the [Stoke Newington Literary Festival](#) on your calendar – it's jam-packed with talks from leading literary figures every June.

**In the know:** Split from the action at Church Street by turning down Bouverie Road, where, in a unassuming courtyard, you'll find [BOLT](#), a haven for motorbike lovers who peruse the shop's vintage offerings and bikes out on display.



### 4 Marylebone

**Says who:** Rob Ball, *Club* account manager

**The vibe:** On the one hand, well-heeled sophistication and five-star hotels. On the other? A close-knit community bound by russet-red townhouses, park strolls and weekly farmers' markets.

**Food and drink:** Sure, [Chiltern Firehouse](#) is iconic, [Pachamama](#) hip and delicious and [L'angolo Bianco](#) the locals' favourite, but for a simple slice of perfection, put your trust in Simon Rogan at his Marylebone outpost, [Roganic](#). You won't forget the tasting menu any time soon.

**Culture spot:** Marylebone is a bibliophile's dream. Edwardian bookshop [Daunt](#)

[Books](#) (*pictured*) in particular is something of an institution, with oak balconies and a revered travel section. Or, discover literary history in the [Sherlock Holmes Museum](#) at, you guessed it, 221B Baker Street.

**In the know:** There's a rather [lovely market](#) every Sunday that perfectly sums up the area's blend of traditional meets trendy. Scout out [The London Bee Company](#), [Miriam's Munchies](#) and [The Garlic Farm](#) for some top-notch foodie souvenirs.



## 5 Bermondsey

**Says who:** [Ross Clarke](#), food writer and *Club* contributing editor

**The vibe:** A former industrial hub between London and [Tower](#) bridges that's been making gains in the cultural and gastronomic stakes. Think warehouse-turned-galleries, independent stores and dining spots aplenty.

**Food and drink:** Thanks to [Borough Market](#) and the increasingly gourmet Bermondsey Street, there's no shortage of places to grab a bite. Try [Tom Simmons](#) (*pictured*) near Tower Bridge – the young [Welsh](#) chef cooks up the best of British in a [French](#) style – before catching a show at one of London's youngest theatres, the [Bridge](#).

**Culture spot:** One word: markets. The area is awash with 'barrow boys' selling everything from antiques at [Bermondsey Square Market](#) (Fridays), to fine food at [Maltby Street Market](#) (weekends) – birthplace of many of London's street-food success stories.

**In the know:** Founded by renowned British designer Zandra Rhodes, the [Fashion and Textile Museum](#) has a carousel of exhibitions showcasing the industry's finest and fledgling designers.



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