



Beckford Canteen Bath, UK

Forget the Roman ruins, abbey or Royal Crescent; the best reason to visit Bath this weekend is nestled in a Georgian greenhouse halfway up Bartlett Street. Opened in January, Beckford Canteen is a beautiful addition to an English city whose culinary star is rising.

The new restaurant sits a few tipsy steps from its beloved sister bistro, the Beckford Bottle Shop. However, the new space from Dan Brod, Charlie Luxton and Matt Greenlees (whose Beckford Group also includes four rural inns) feels like a step up. That's thanks in part to head chef George Barson, whose culinary alchemy transforms simple-sounding dishes, such as rarebit with

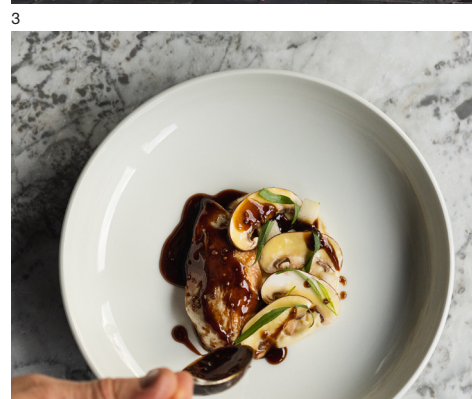


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pickled onions or sardines on toast, into something worth travelling for. Barson's combination of simplicity, rich flavours and a guileless reliance on good produce makes the regional ingredients sing. Likewise the smoked eel with leeks and egg yolk and the ham hock and jowl terrine served with a feather-light brioche bun feel like the work of an artful conductor bringing great things together in harmony.

The mains riff on a similar theme; the monkfish with cauliflower purée and curried butter and the sole with harissa are subtle but sumptuous. Sides-wise, the buttery kalettes and crisp confit potatoes are a treat so complete that they threaten to outshine the mains. You may need a break before tackling the chocolate, hazelnut and brown butter dessert: a fight between a tiramisu and a giant Ferrero Rocher (both sort of win).

Looks aren't everything but this single-storey former sushi shop has been spruced up with marble counters, brass edgings, dark oak furniture and green accents, from the leather trim and salvaged Czech lighting to a wall display of Wedgwood cabbage plates. Beckford Canteen currently has a modest 40 covers inside but a similar number are set to open in a garden to the rear. Roman Baths, eat their heart out. — JAF beckfordcanteen.com



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Bath weekend guide

Shop 8 Holland Street

Tobias Vernon's gallery specialises in art, design and interiors. A new hotel – his first – will open above the shop before summer 2023. 8hollandstreet.com

Berdoulat

Patrick and Neri Williams' homeware shop is brimming with bric-a-brac. It's impossible not to be bowled over by the interiors; the pair run a nearby design studio too. berdoulat.co.uk

Topping & Company Booksellers

This family-owned bookshop is located over two floors (and a mezzanine) of a grand neoclassical building close to the abbey. This is how books should be sold. toppingbooks.co.uk

Eat

Upstairs at Landrace

After stints at top London restaurants, Rob Sachdev and Jules Copperman relocated to Bath to open a teeny but terrific restaurant above the equally appealing Landrace Bakery. landrace.co.uk

Stay

The Yard in Bath

A contemporary inn huddled around an atmospheric little courtyard and opened in a one-time pub. There might be grander places to stay in Bath but there's nowhere cosier. theyardinbath.co.uk



1. Head chef George Barson
2. Operations director Ollie Sutton
3. Beckford Canteen is set in a Georgian greenhouse
4. Simple, rich flavours
5. Local produce on the menu

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Casa Polanco Mexico City

The Casa Polanco project started when Octavio Aguilar happened upon a permit to open a hotel. He had just bought the building with the intention of turning it into a shop. "I knew that I had to do this project," he says of the 1940s whitewashed mansion.

The hotel is near the lively Chapultepec Park and the Roma and Condesa districts.



"I want guests to feel as though they are in a home in Mexico," says Aguilar, who worked on the refit with architect Claudio Gantous. Communal areas include a wood-panelled library, an atrium and four terraces.

The 19 rooms feature furniture and art by Mexican designers and artists. Artful work, especially considering that Aguilar never intended for this to be a hotel at all. — MHO casapolanco.com



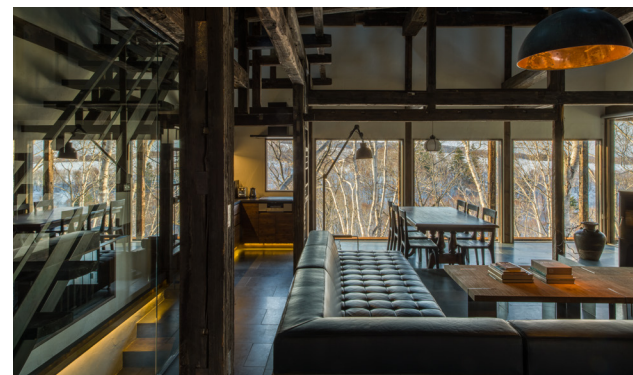
Shiguchi Hokkaido

On the northernmost island of Hokkaido, British designer and photographer Shouya Grigg has opened his take on Japanese hospitality close to the ski slopes of Niseko. Shiguchi pays homage to traditional Japanese construction with hand-carved joinery used instead of nails. "It's not a conventional hotel or a traditional ryokan," says Grigg. "It's about connecting things like the joint that brings together the parts of an old farmhouse, shrine or temple."

Grigg restored a set of old Japanese guesthouses with their original timber frames, *shoji* sliding doors, ceramics,

"Shiguchi is not a conventional hotel or ryokan. It's about connecting things"

wood-burning fireplaces and a mix of vintage and modern furniture: each guesthouse also has access to its own stone onsen. Craft is everywhere too from the washi paper lamps, ink paintings and many handmade objet d'art from across Japan. "By connecting people to things that really matter, from art and craft to nature, we hope to inspire them to live within their means," says Grigg. — SER shiguchi.com



IMAGES: Karyn Miller

INVENTORY: Technology

Selfie improvement Global

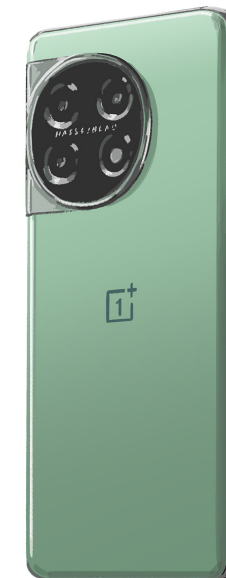
Whether you want to take better portraits, monitor your sleep or just block out noise, these new gadgets can improve your life.

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OnePlus 11 OnePlus

The latest OnePlus smartphone retains the brand's association with camera-maker Hasselblad. Three rear lenses include a 32 megapixel sensor that is dedicated to portraits and aims to mimic a Hasselblad camera fitted with an XCD 30mm or 65mm lens. The improved photo capability is matched by a smart design, available in Eternal Green or standard black. The OnePlus 11 is one of the first smartphones to feature a Qualcomm Snapdragon 8 Gen 2 processor. There is no wireless charging but, as it goes from flat to full in 25 minutes, that might not be a problem. oneplus.com



Oura Ring Horizon Oura

The titanium Oura Ring monitors sleep quality and weighs as little as 4g so you scarcely know that it's there. Horizon is circular, lacking the distinctive bump of earlier models. By measuring heartrate, body temperature and blood oxygen levels, the Oura app can tell you how rested you are when you wake. ouraring.com



QuietComfort Earbuds II Bose

Noise-cancelling headphones are hard to get right; even more so with in-ear buds like the new Bose. These new Earbuds are smaller than the ones that they replace and comfortable in the ear. A smartphone app also lets you know if you've got the right fit for achieving the best sound quality. How does that sound? bose.com

