

Cultural Daily

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California Cool Meets British Elegance at The London West Hollywood

R. Daniel Foster · Friday, August 29th, 2025

[The London West Hollywood](#) occupies a singular space in the history of Los Angeles hospitality—a hotel that has reinvented itself from 1980s excess to modern sophistication. The transformation of the Bel Age Hotel has been achieved while preserving the kind of glamour that attracts celebrities.



A smart design for the hotel's elevators. Photo: R. Daniel Foster

Known for its “big rooms and faded décor,” according to a [2007 *Los Angeles Times* story](#), the Bel Age Hotel of the 1980s and ‘90s had a lobby paneled in pine wood bordered by muted pink accents.

Some of that décor was not so much faded as priceless. The hotel’s walls were hung with 1,100 artworks, including those created by Joan Miró, Erté, and Salvador Dalí. The Bel Age was favored by celebrities and the music industry, and served as a shooting location for the television series, *Beverly Hills, 90210*.



The charming elevators at the London West Hollywood / Photo: R. Daniel Foster

After a closure and extensive renovation, the Bel Age reopened as the London West Hollywood in 2008. Another \$27 million renovation in 2015 added more suites, bringing the total to 226. A [penthouse](#), billed as the largest in Los Angeles, was also added—a “villa in the sky” with interiors by designer Vivienne Westwood. The redo also added a new fitness center and screening room.

At, Architecture, and Bulldogs

The property now embodies California cool married to a British elegance. In short, the property is urbane and chic. David Collins Studio mastered the recent design, which includes a rooftop pool and dining area surrounded by views of mountains and distant skyscrapers.

The hotel is dog-friendly, naturally, since its mascot is the British bulldog.



The British bulldog is the hotel's mascot. Photo: R. Daniel Foster

Inside, the lobby's mirrors and a clocks are inspired by Cartier. A custom tapestry behind the front desk is a nod to vintage star maps.

This summer, the hotel has partnered with [LVE Wines by John Legend](#) to host its second annual [rooftop dining experience](#), through October 31. The service, available from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. each evening, is offered at tables with expansive views or inside private cabanas.

The View from the Top

My guest and I were seated at a rooftop table and greeted by Beatrice, who has worked at the London for four years. She introduced us to the three-course prix-fixe menu, created by executive chef Anthony Keene with dishes inspired by selections from Chrissy Teigen's cookbook *Cravings*. The menu is paired with a curated wine list of LVE and Boisset favorites.



Rooftop dining has wrap-around views. Photo: R. Daniel Foster

We decided to choose from the larger menu. We began with a Caesar salad, a towering assemblage (of romaine hearts, pane fritto, and grana padano) that paired crunch with satisfying flavors. The burrata with wild flower honey was good, but not a standout, and the scallops were expertly cooked. My guest's oxtail pasta was not her favorite, but I found the taste to be rich and deeply satisfying.



A towering Caesar salad. Photo: R. Daniel Foster

For dessert, we chose English toffee pudding bathed in toffee sauce and served with brown butter ice cream. The textures and warm-cool combination were perfect for a summer night.



The burrata with wild flower honey. Photo: R. Daniel Foster

The hotel's [Boxwood restaurant](#) serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner. [Afternoon tea](#) service is available between 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. (last reservation) on weekends.

The London West Hollywood, 1020 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90069

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