

# Making an entrance in the Capital!

The Cavendish describe themselves rather modestly as "The Ultimate Contemporary British Hotel". Few hotels can claim such a wonderfully central London location, right behind Fortnum & Masons in Piccadilly, and a few steps from such delights as the Burlington Arcade, Regent Street, and right on world famous Jermyn Street, offering such high standards of service and accommodation.

In 2002 The Cavendish underwent a complete refurbishment, and although there are 230 bedrooms, it has the atmosphere of 'boutique' style hotel with very well appointed rooms and excellent facilities from reception onwards, combined with a high standard of service.

In the Edwardian era The Cavendish London was run by non other than the famous (infamous!) Rosa Lewis, better known as the 'Duchess of Duke Street'. She was famed throughout London society for her hospitality and cooking. This down



to earth cockney girl started out as a kitchen maid, and worked her way up to become manageress of this very stylish hotel. The Cavendish is still strong on hos-

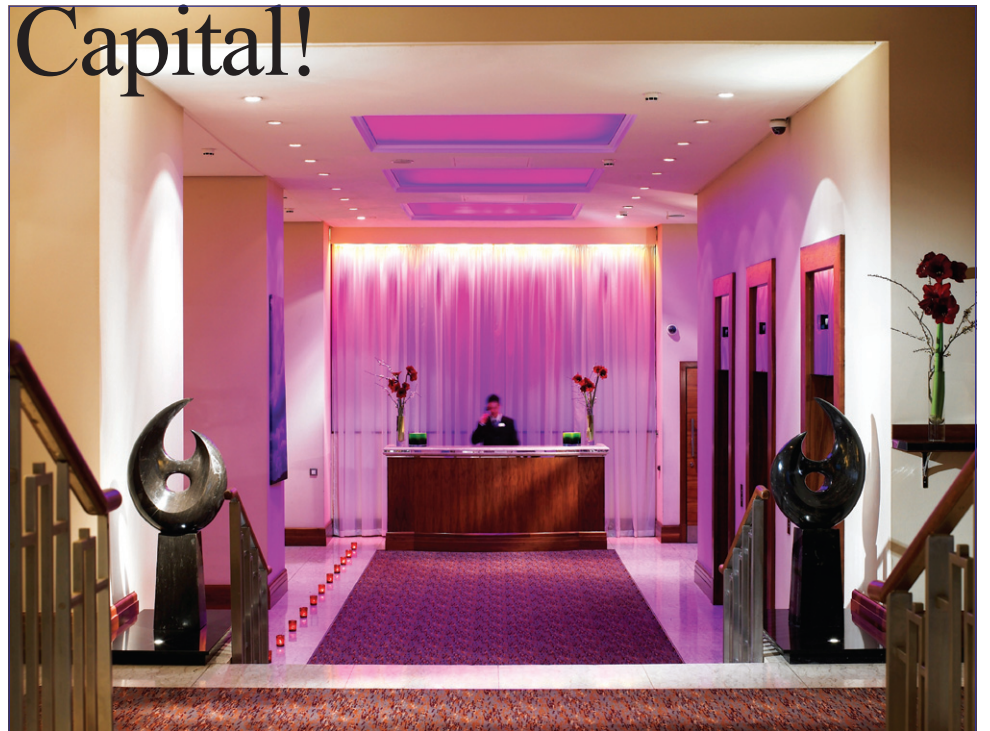


A bedroom in The Cavendish.

pitality and cooking today. I had to check the hotel information sheet a couple of times; I just couldn't believe that it has over 200 rooms, the service standards are those of a much smaller, more personal, 'boutique' hotel.

Our room was on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor, and as our bags were delivered, it was pointed out that Wi-Fi was free in reception and in the first floor lounge, though there was a charge for using Internet in our room. What refreshing honesty, and it became typical of the sort of approach the hotel takes to its guests, far from the all too frequent attitude of making as much additional income as possible from the client.

The room was medium size, good for a city centre hotel, and well appointed. The interior design by Noel Pierce (he also designed the world famous Peninsular Hotel in Hong Kong) gives the effect of a very relaxing and welcoming feeling. Large beds, crisp white duvets and soft comfortable pillows give you a great night's sleep. Rooms have large flat screen TV's and a wide range of English satellite channels available, rather than just the 5 terrestrial UK channels. Bathrooms are not large, but luxurious and well



The stunning entrance of The Cavendish Hotel, London.

appointed.

The general approach to being 'green' can be seen in many ways, including the 'Fair Trade' tea and coffee, and the Duchy Original organic highland shortbread in the room. This has led to The Cavendish being awarded a Gold Accreditation by the Green Tourism for London board. This is indicative of the attention to small details throughout the hotel.

Breakfast included such delicious dishes as Pork & Cumberland Sausages and free range eggs cooked to order, Poached Haddock, Smoked Salmon or even a Scotch Breakfast Kipper. The view from the charming restaurant on the first

floor overlooks Duke Street on one side and Fortnum and Masons on the other. You could well believe all the food came from what must be the world's most famous grocery store (with a Royal warrant) but it probably didn't.

We also took a light lunch which was well prepared and presented at very reasonable prices. We didn't have the opportunity to try the hotel restaurant for dinner, but the pre-theatre menus looked very good and affordably priced.

I believe that if the 'Duchess of Duke Street' revisited, she would be proud that the standards she set in place almost 200 years ago are still being main-

tained.

Accommodation is very reasonably priced for a four star deluxe hotel in such a central location. The Cavendish offers a weekend special, for two people in a Classic Double room with full English Breakfast for £139 (incl. VAT)/€154. For other rates check the hotels website at [www.thecavendishlondon.com](http://www.thecavendishlondon.com)

We stayed over the weekend, and some of London's most famous stores were all within a few minutes walk. With air fares to London so low, and the exchange rate so good, give yourself a treat, and go for a shopping weekend, staying in the superb Cavendish. Go on, indulge yourself...

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