

# Secret London

“By seeing London, I have seen as much of life as the world can show,” said Samuel Johnson. Centuries later, the British capital still overflows with boundless creativity and timeless heritage, chic enclaves and quirky hot spots, metropolis majesty and village charm. *Catherine Fairweather* and six London tastemakers from the worlds of fashion, art and gastronomy explore the eternal charms of their beloved hometown...

Photography by Anders Overgaard  
Produced by Delilah Khomo

Then there is **The Laslett**, which opened last year, a hotel and restaurant named after one of the founders of the Notting Hill Carnival, which has all the panache and intimacy of a private club, from its brilliantly edited showcase of eclectic art pieces and furniture curated by local antiques dealers to its art library of London photographers and bedroom collections of vintage Penguin classics, plus informal suppers care of local restaurant doyenne Sally Clarke. On one random sleepover there, I found the creative director of Roberto Cavalli, Peter Dundas, the directors and producers of a new Maria Callas movie and Notting Hill literary fixture Rachel Johnson all drinking or working in the hotel library – the kind of spontaneous gathering that owner Tracy Lowy positively encourages with regular themed nights featuring oysters and caviar.

## WHERE TO STAY

Notting Hill newcomer

**The Laslett's** hip and comfortable 51 rooms champion local Notting Hill design talent  
(from £190 ; [living-rooms.co.uk](http://living-rooms.co.uk))



Amy Gadney cycles past The Laslett hotel in Notting Hill. She wears top by Magda Butrym, £485, and skirt by Sacai, £300, both at Net-A-Porter.com; boots by Tory Burch, £495; jewelry, her own