

BY KATE HAMILTON

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2015

THE HOSPITAL CLUB ROOMS ARE REALLY, REALLY COOL

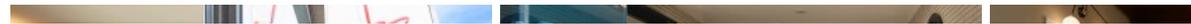


HOTEL NAME: The Hospital Club Rooms(<http://www.thehospitalclub.com/>)

CITY, COUNTRY: London, England.

BEST FOR: Media types, young couples and members visiting London.

ATMOSPHERE: Formerly the site of St. Paul's hospital, there is now nothing clinical about this place. Super cool but without a hint of pretension, the vibe is intimate and relaxed, and the staff are incredibly friendly.



DESIGN: Each of the bars, lounges and meeting rooms has a distinctive retro-chic feel. Contemporary art hangs on the walls and is regularly updated to keep up with the club's clientele. There are a whole host of workspaces, furnished with distressed chairs and tables and scattered with a selection of independent magazines; this is where creative types come to mix business with pleasure.

ROOMS: Think American Hustle meets African safari. Curved velvet sofas and vintage Roberts radios evoke more than a hint of the seventies, but are complemented by an exotic colour scheme and dark wooden fixtures. The bathrooms have freestanding tubs and come stocked with R.E.N. products, while the seriously cosy rooms feature a host of charming extras. We especially appreciated the ready-made cocktails (labelled as 'creative juices'), the insider guides to London and the piles of books selected by celebrated artists. Open your wardrobe for an alternative erotic mini bar; a paddle will set you back £150, in case you were wondering. Rooms from **£189**(<http://www.thehospitalclub.com/bedrooms>).

WHAT'S FOR BREAKFAST? 'Mind-fuelling' healthy breakfasts such as Greek yoghurt with blueberries and a good selection of green juices.

AND HOW ABOUT LUNCH AND DINNER? The club's approach to dining is relaxed and refreshing; we were told there was no need to book and that we should wander down whenever we got hungry. The menu showcases small plates, salads and deli choices as well as main dishes and a grill section. We fell for the hanger steak with béarnaise sauce and a side of sweet potato chips – simple and delicious.

IS THERE A BAR? Every twist and turn of The Hospital Club seems to reveal a different bar or lounge. The martini bar features a balcony with views over the London skyline, the second floor bar is a favourite amongst members and offers an all-day menu, while the Bellini bar is the most intimate option.

SUITABLE FOR SOLO TRAVELLERS? Yes. The club's friendly atmosphere means you could easily end up swapping stories with other members and guests.

WITHIN A SHORT WALK, YOU CAN FIND: The Covent Garden piazza, Holborn and Bloomsbury.

THE SERVICES OFFERED ARE. Hospital Rooms guests automatically enjoy members' privileges such as live music, comedy shows and cabaret in the Oak Room. There is also a screening room and a working TV studio in the basement.

EASIEST FORM OF TRANSPORT TO AND FROM HOTEL: It's a 5-minute walk from Covent Garden or Holborn station.

OVERALL IMPRESSION: The Covent Garden private members' club for the creative industries has just opened its doors to non-members for the first time. The resulting 15 guestrooms are cosy, sophisticated and really, really cool.

FUN/WEIRD FACT: The club was once a stained glass workshop and then a sexual health clinic.

ADDRESS: 24 Endell Street, London WC2H 9HQ, 020 7170 9100

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