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Jared Green – traveller, aesthete and esteemed food blogger – reveals the latest entries in his little black book.



As an Australian native, I'm often asked why I chose the UK as home when I could spend my days basking in the Antipodean sunshine. The truth is, I find the availability of culture and creativity in London so awesome, and the beauty of the English countryside so outstanding, that the idea of leaving is a struggle.

I'm an obsessive foodie so I'm in a great city. For fine dining, you can't go past the **Chiltern Firehouse** for exquisite food, stunning desserts and celebrity spotting. **Sexy Fish** is making waves with an interior fit out that's rumoured to have cost £20 million. The flashy dining room isn't the only drawcard, the food is to die for: expect smoked eel, rock lobster tempura and beef and foie gras gyoza.

But my most prized London eats are further east. **Paradise Garage** in Bethnal Green serves up inventive, creative and finessed food – the whole rabbit platter is my dish of the year. Paradise also boasts triumphant service, a great wine list and delicate, artful desserts. **Lyles** in Shoreditch offers a refined, simple yet stunning tasting menu that chef James Lowe keeps reinventing – barely two nights are the same. **Ellory** in London Fields, is a new curiosity, serving small plates and a tasting menu. Expect the likes of puntarelle, anchovies and spenwood, or turbot, chestnuts and pumpkin. Drooling yet?

For art, London also spoils for choice, and as well as the more mainstream galleries I like to explore a more contemporary, edgy scene. **The Gagosian** on Britannia Street is an epic space that is often filled with hauntingly beautiful, bold sculpture. In February there's a Warhol exhibition I can't wait to see. **Kristin Hjellegjerde** has an eye for emerging talent, and her Wandsworth gallery is going from strength to strength. In late January, emerging performers are showcased at the **Vault Festival** at Waterloo.

I'm looking forward to seeing the Shady Dolls return in **252AM (After Man)**, a sci-fi thriller that imagines a future where men are all but extinct.

When the quick burst of nature Hampstead Heath provides proves insufficient, I snuggle up with a book and a sneaky weekend first class upgrade on a Great Western train, ending up somewhere more richly endowed with nature's blessings. The Cotswolds is a lovely escape. I go to visit friends but of late there's a wider choice of creature comforts. **Daylesford Organic Farm** in Kingham has excellent organic food, much of it farmed on site. The attached Haybarn Spa has a decadent day spa. If the countryside doesn't relax enough, Haybarn's massages will. **Soho Farmhouse** has opened recently at Chipping Norton – it's quite spectacular in terms of scale and celebrity spotting. Midway between Daylesford and the Farmhouse is the lovely **Wild Rabbit Inn**, serving wonderful seasonal food with a focus on artisanal producers in a cosy yet upscale atmosphere.

When my hunger for nature is greatest, I venture somewhere more remote. The obvious choice, with epic vistas and a few challenging routes (if required), is Dartmoor. In between walks, when refreshment is required, the **Ring of Bells Inn** in North Bovey is worth a visit for the down-to-earth but delicious pub fare or the cream tea, with proper scones and clotted cream. If you're particularly hungry, perhaps both. Then, if I'm really blessed with time, I'd head a little further afield. The rugged cliffs and moody skies at **Land's**

End are one of my favourite views in all of England. My favourite hotel is **The Scarlet** at Mawgan Porth. Nothing makes me feel like I've arrived in Cornwall like a brisk dip in the natural pond, followed by a sunset Negroni on the rooftop bar. **M**



Chiltern Firehouse



Ellory



Vault Festival