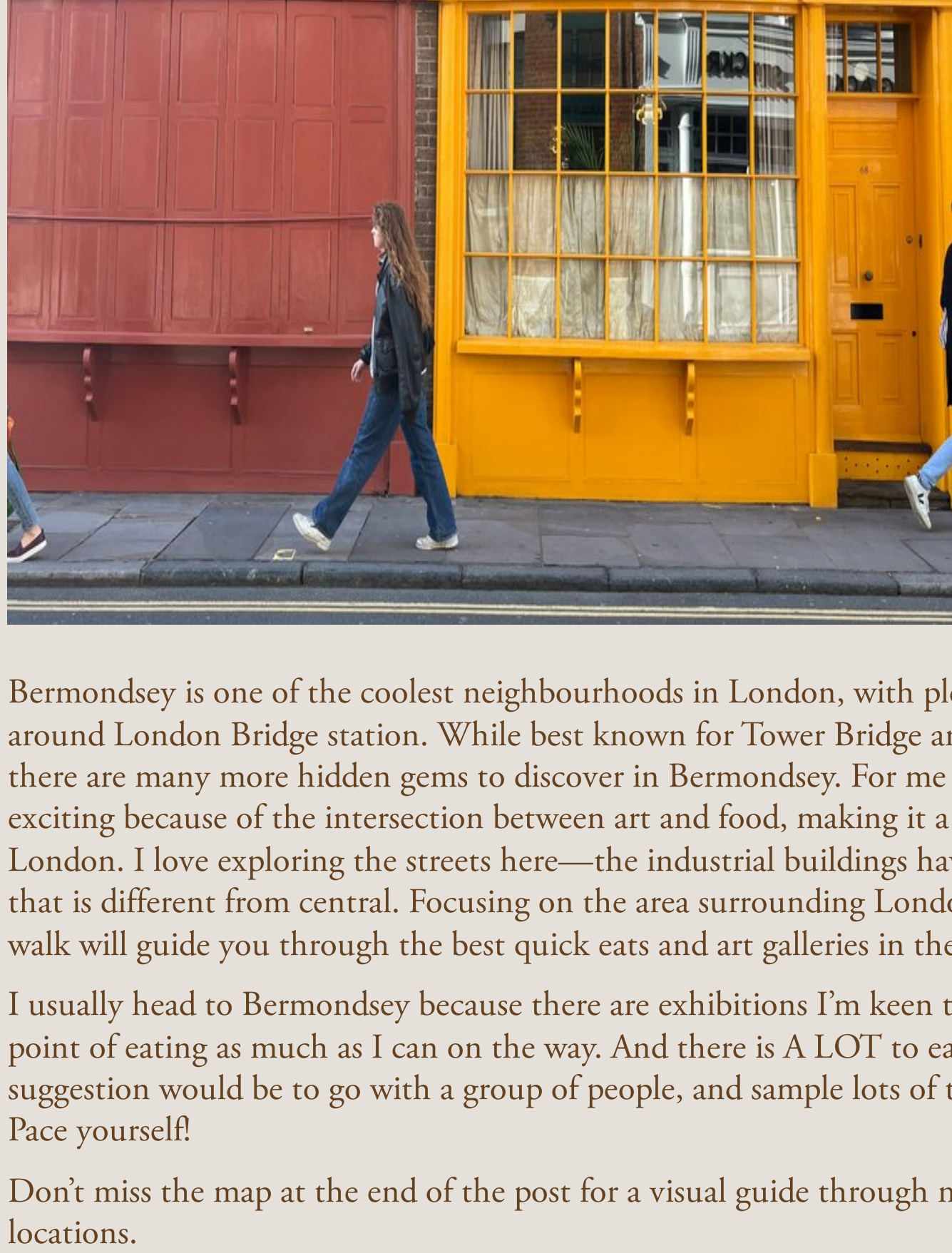


From the White Cube to Maltby Street Market: A guide to art and food in Bermondsey and London Bridge



Bermondsey is one of the coolest neighbourhoods in London, with plenty of things to do around London Bridge station. While best known for Tower Bridge and Borough Market, there are many more hidden gems to discover in Bermondsey. For me personally, the area is exciting because of the intersection between art and food, making it a perfect day out in London. I love exploring the streets here—the industrial buildings have a very London vibe that is different from central. Focusing on the area surrounding London Bridge station, this walk will guide you through the best quick eats and art galleries in the area.

I usually head to Bermondsey because there are exhibitions I'm keen to see, and I make a point of eating as much as I can on the way. And there is A LOT to eat on the way. My suggestion would be to go with a group of people, and sample lots of things in small bites. Pace yourself!

Don't miss the map at the end of the post for a visual guide through my favourite specific locations.



Start the day at Spa Terminus

Located near Maltby Street Market, Spa Terminus is a collection of independent food and drink producers. The market features a range of vendors selling everything from artisanal bread to craft spirits, and visitors can sample and purchase products directly from the makers. The market is open on Saturdays, and offers a unique opportunity to meet and support local food entrepreneurs.

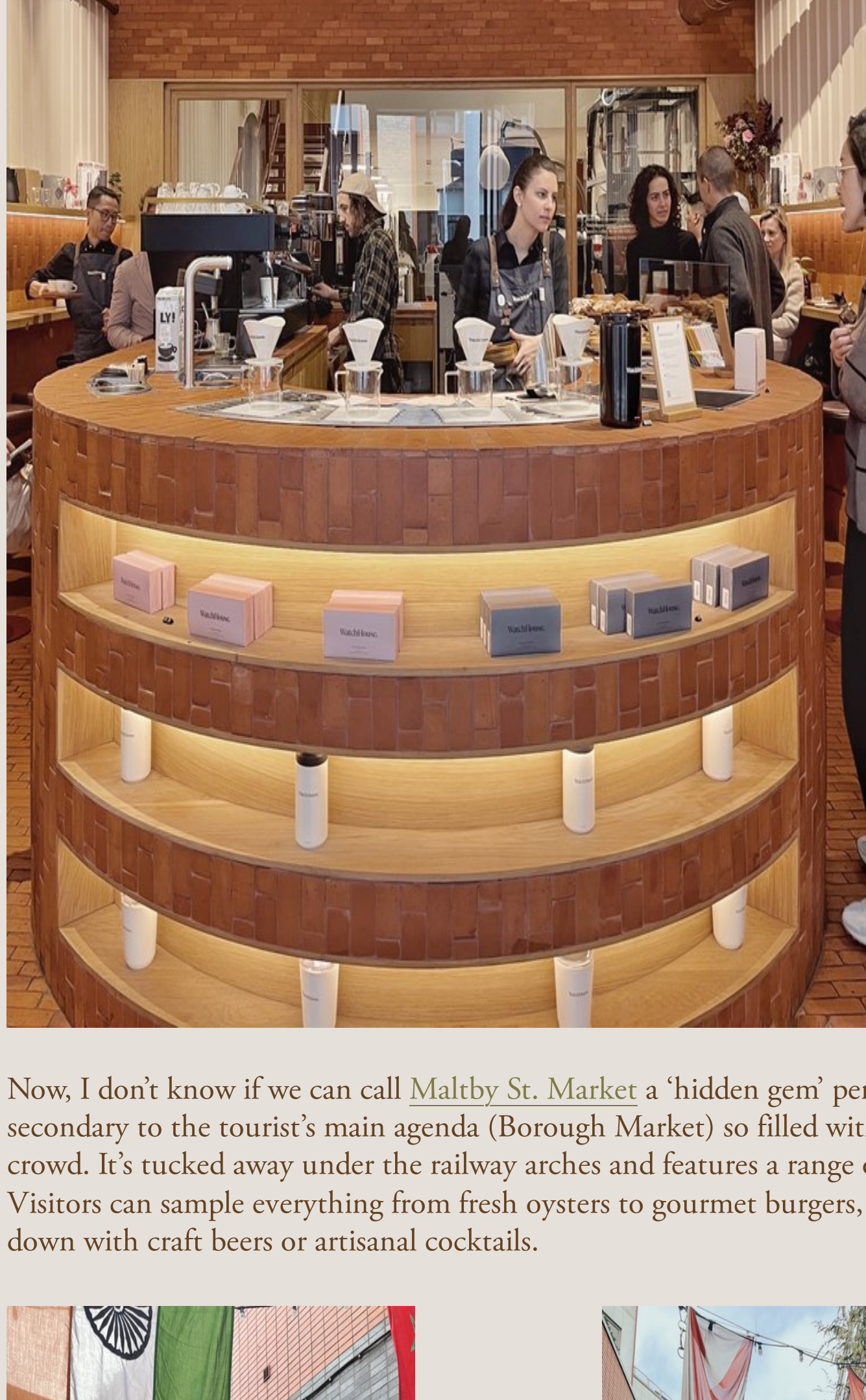
Many are housed in the railway arches, such as the beloved Flor Bakery (RIP! But thankfully Helen Evans will be opening a new project in Dulwich soon). You're already spoilt for choice by the time you're here.

Here are some highlights:

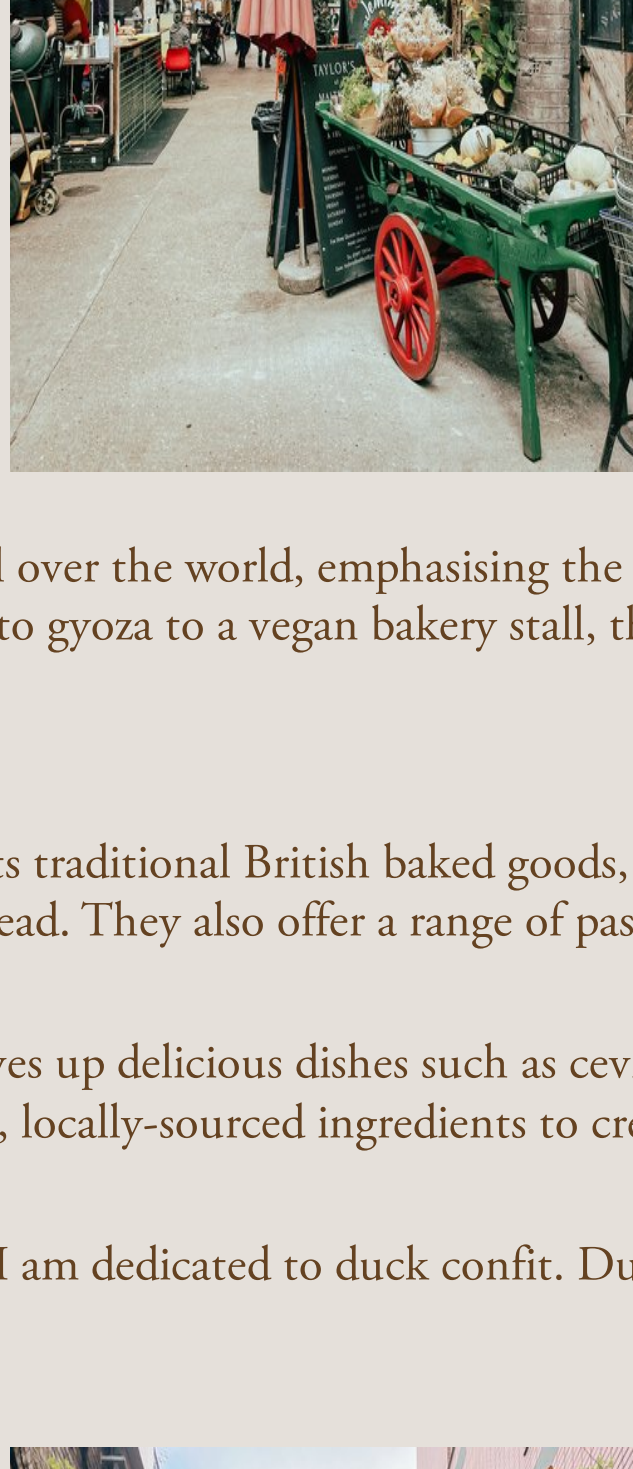
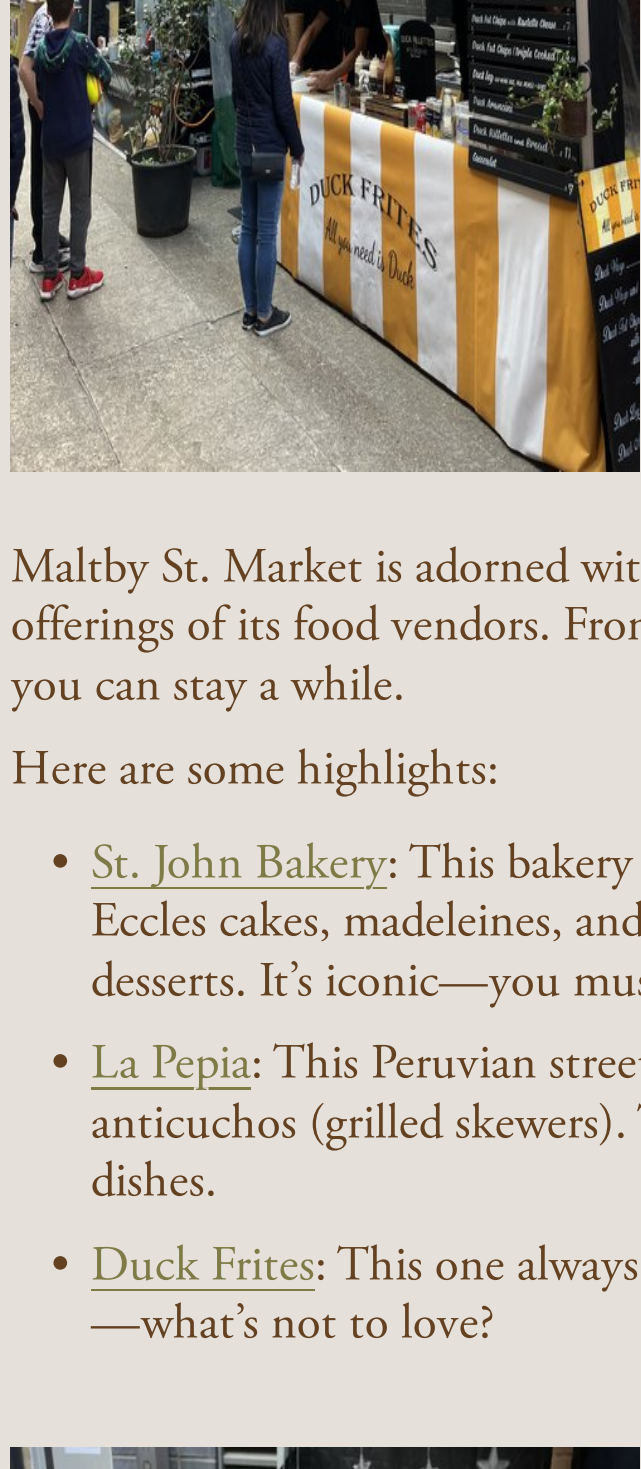
- **The Ham and Cheese Company:** This family-run business offers a range of artisanal cured meats, including prosciutto, chorizo, and salami. The meats are made using traditional methods, with no artificial preservatives or additives.
- **Little Bread Pedlar:** This bakery specializes in sourdough bread, made using organic flour and a long fermentation process. The breads come in a range of flavors, from classic white to rye and caraway.
- **Mons Cheesemongers:** This French-inspired cheese shop offers a range of artisanal cheeses from around Europe, including Comté, Roquefort, and Tomme de Savoie. They also offer a selection of charcuterie and other accompaniments.
- **The Kernel Brewery:** This microbrewery produces a range of craft beers, from hoppy IPAs to rich stouts. They use traditional methods and natural ingredients, and their beers are often available in limited batches.
- **Neal's Yard Dairy:** This cheese shop is one of the most well-known in London, and offers a range of British and Irish cheeses, including Stilton, Cheddar, and Red Leicester. They also offer cheese accompaniments such as crackers, chutneys, and pickles.

Make your way towards Maltby St. Market

And on the way, don't forget to stop at Watch House Roastery. It has blown up in London recently, and the location at the end of Maltby St. Market is such a good aesthetic.



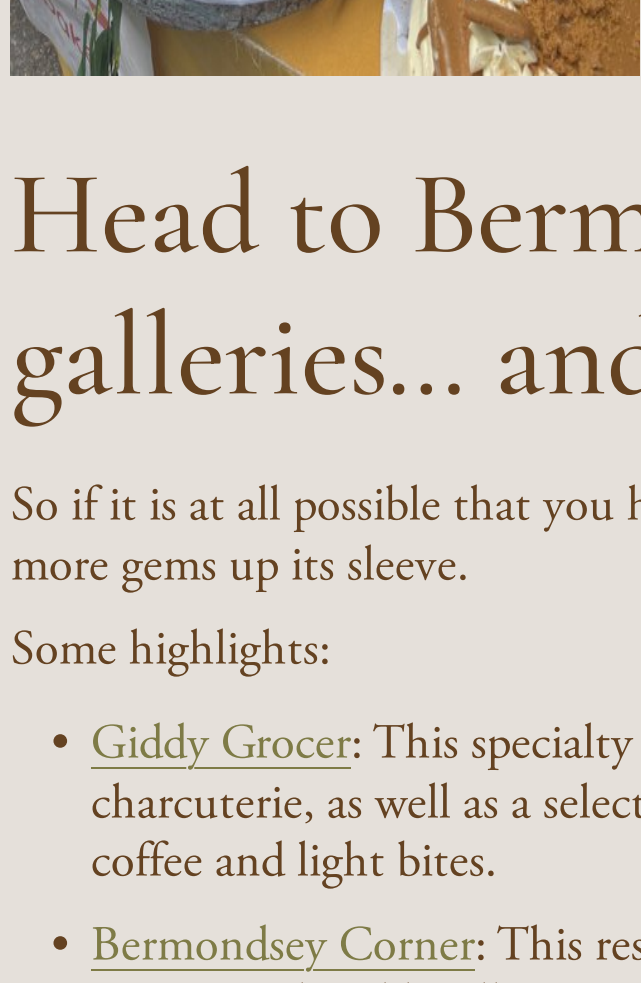
Now, I don't know if we can call Maltby St. Market a 'hidden gem' per se, but it is definitely secondary to the tourist's main agenda (Borough Market) so filled with a more clued-in crowd. It's tucked away under the railway arches and features a range of artisanal food stalls. Visitors can sample everything from fresh oysters to gourmet burgers, and can wash it all down with craft beers or artisanal cocktails.



Maltby St. Market is adorned with flags from all over the world, emphasising the global offerings of its food vendors. From Duck Frites to gozys to a vegan bakery stall, this is a place you can stay a while.

Here are some highlights:

- **St. John Bakery:** This bakery is known for its traditional British baked goods, such as Eccles cakes, madeleines, and sourdough bread. They also offer a range of pastries and desserts. It's iconic—you must pop in.
- **La Pepita:** This Peruvian street food stall serves up delicious dishes such as ceviche and anticuchos (grilled skewers). They use fresh, locally-sourced ingredients to create their dishes.
- **Duck Frites:** This one always tempts me as I am dedicated to duck confit. Duck + frites —what's not to love?



Head to Bermondsey Street for art galleries... and more food

So if it is at all possible that you haven't eaten enough already, Bermondsey Street has got more gems up its sleeve.

Some highlights:

- **Giddy Grocer:** This specialty food store offers a range of fresh produce, cheeses, and charcuterie, as well as a selection of wines and craft beers. They also have a cafe serving coffee and light bites.
- **Bermondsey Corner:** This restaurant and bar offers modern British cuisine, with a focus on seasonal and locally-sourced ingredients. They also have a selection of craft beers and cocktails.
- **Flour & Grape:** This Italian-inspired restaurant and wine bar serves up delicious homemade pasta dishes, alongside a carefully curated selection of Italian wines.
- **Comptoir Gourmand:** This French patisserie offers a range of beautiful and delicious pastries, cakes, and desserts. Their macarons are especially popular.
- **Fuckoffee:** This quirky coffee shop offers a range of specialty coffees, teas, and cakes, as well as a unique and colorful interior.
- **Losé:** This tapas bar is a favorite among locals, offering a range of traditional Spanish dishes such as jamón ibérico, tortilla española, and croquetas. They also have a selection of Spanish wines and sherries.



And now the art: White Cube Mason's Yard

The White Cube's outpost in Bermondsey is astoundingly cavernous, and does what it says on the tin: provides a blank canvas for contemporary art. Exhibitions are frequently changing, so there is always something new and interesting to see. Recent exhibition artists have included Michael Armitage, Rachel Knecbone, Liu Wei, and Iimi Knoebel whose abstract paintings are currently on show.

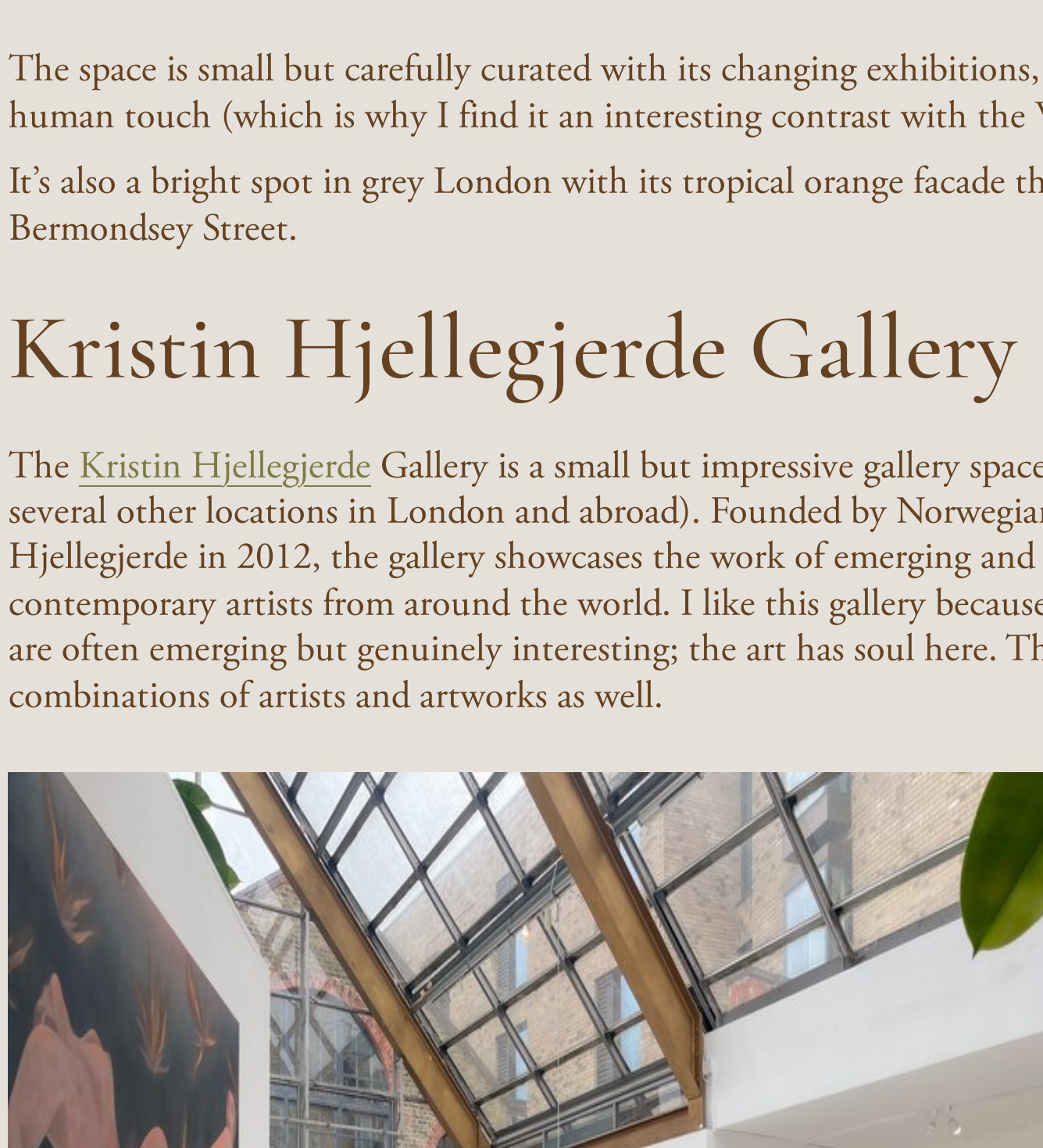


The White Cube is criticised for its clinical approach to art viewing and the commercialisation of the work shown. It's an interesting contrast to the warmth of the Fashion and Textile Museum, just a few steps down the road.

Fashion and Textile Museum

The **Fashion and Textile Museum** was founded in 2003 by fashion designer Zandra Rhodes and has since become a major destination for fashion enthusiasts and students.

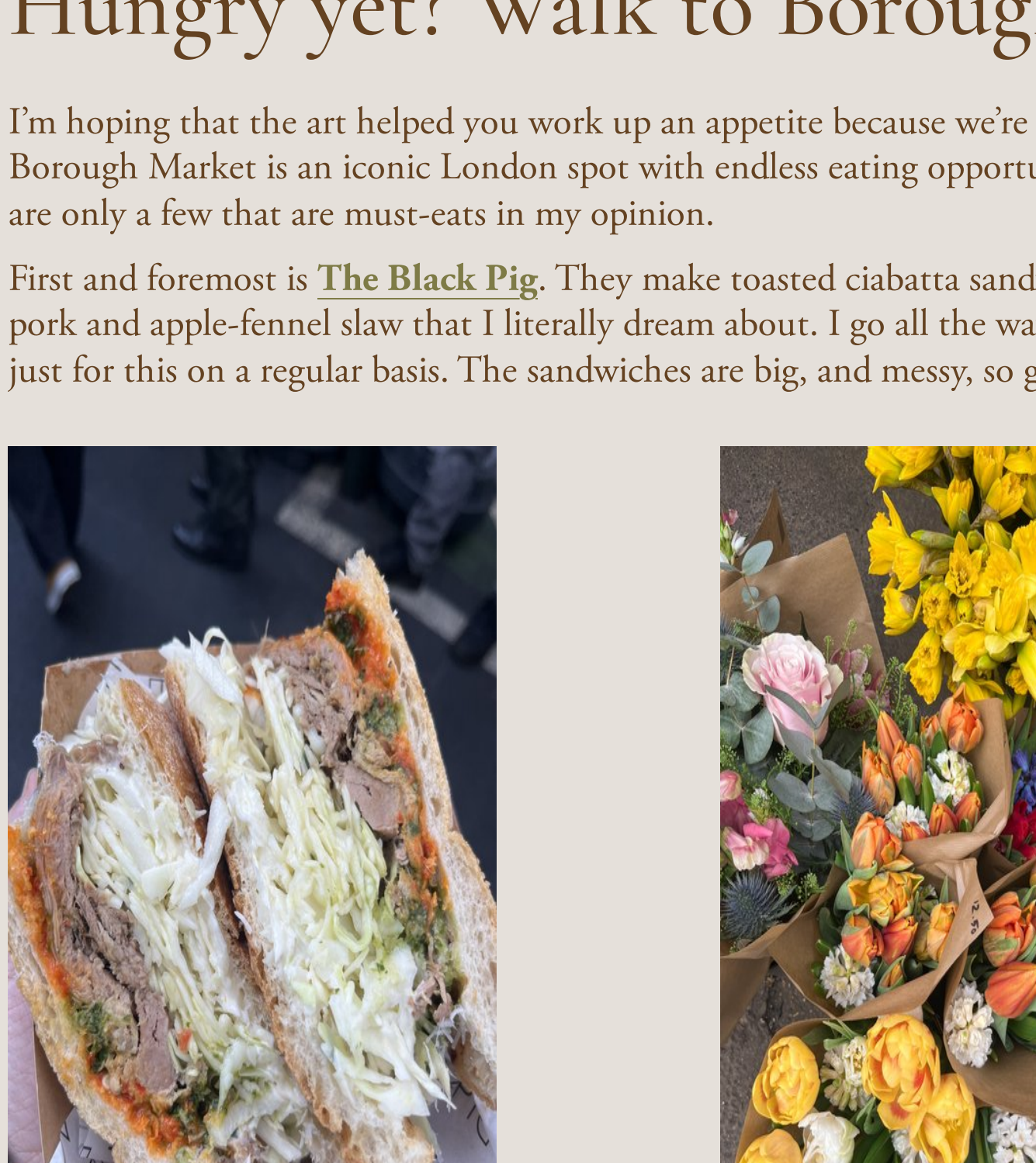
The museum's permanent collection features a range of clothing, accessories, and textiles from the 20th and 21st centuries, showcasing the development of fashion and textile design over the past century. In addition to its permanent collection, the museum hosts a range of temporary exhibitions, which explore specific themes, designers, or historical periods.



The space is small but carefully curated with its changing exhibitions, and has a distinctly human touch (which is why I find it an interesting contrast with the White Cube). It's also a bright spot in grey London with its tropical orange facade that stands out on Bermondsey Street.

Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery

The **Kristin Hjellegjerde Gallery** is a small but impressive gallery space in Bermondsey (with several other locations in London and abroad). Founded by Norwegian gallerist Kristin Hjellegjerde in 2012, the gallery showcases the work of emerging and established contemporary artists from around the world. I like this gallery because the artists represented are often emerging but genuinely interesting; the art has soul here. There's always interesting combinations of artists and artworks as well.

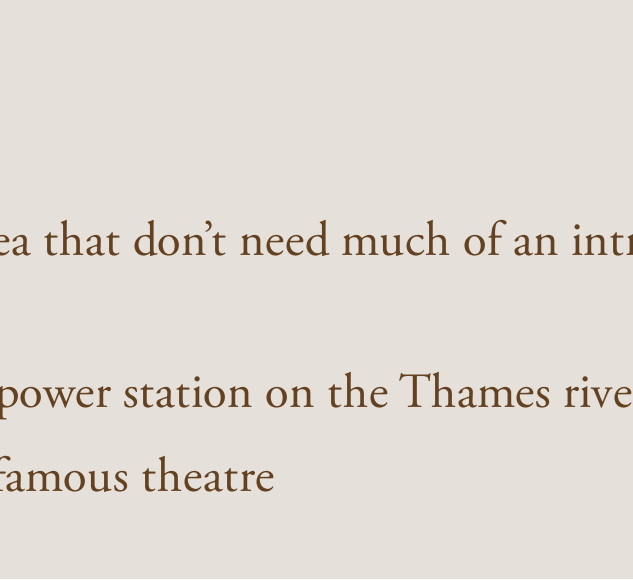
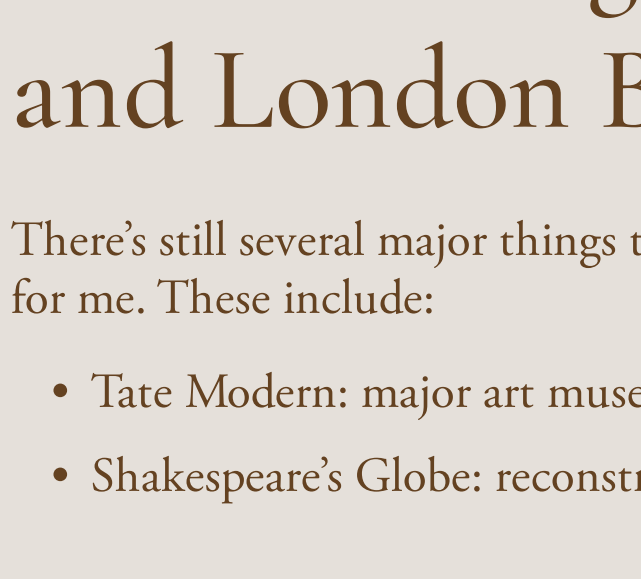


The exhibition space in Bermondsey is great; there is an upstairs atrium filled with natural light and it feels like a secret hidden space to explore. There are a lot of galleries in London that can feel quite intimidating and unwelcoming to the casual viewer (not buyer) but this is a welcoming place. There's even a cat that lives inside!

Hungry yet? Walk to Borough Market

I'm hoping that the art helped you work up an appetite because we're not done eating today. Borough Market is an iconic London spot with endless eating opportunities. However, there are only a few that are must-eats in my opinion.

First and foremost is **The Black Pig**. They make toasted ciabatta sandwiches with pulled pork and apple-fennel slaw that I literally dream about. I go all the way to Borough Market just for this on a regular basis. The sandwiches are big, and messy, so get one to share.



A few other highlights:

- **Bread Ahead** bakery: famous for its doughnuts, there will be a queue.
- **Rambutan:** in the warm months they sell amazing soft-serve from a window.
- **Bao:** just yummy bao buns!
- **Kappacaseini:** over the top grilled cheese sandwiches.
- **Padella:** extremely popular small plates pasta

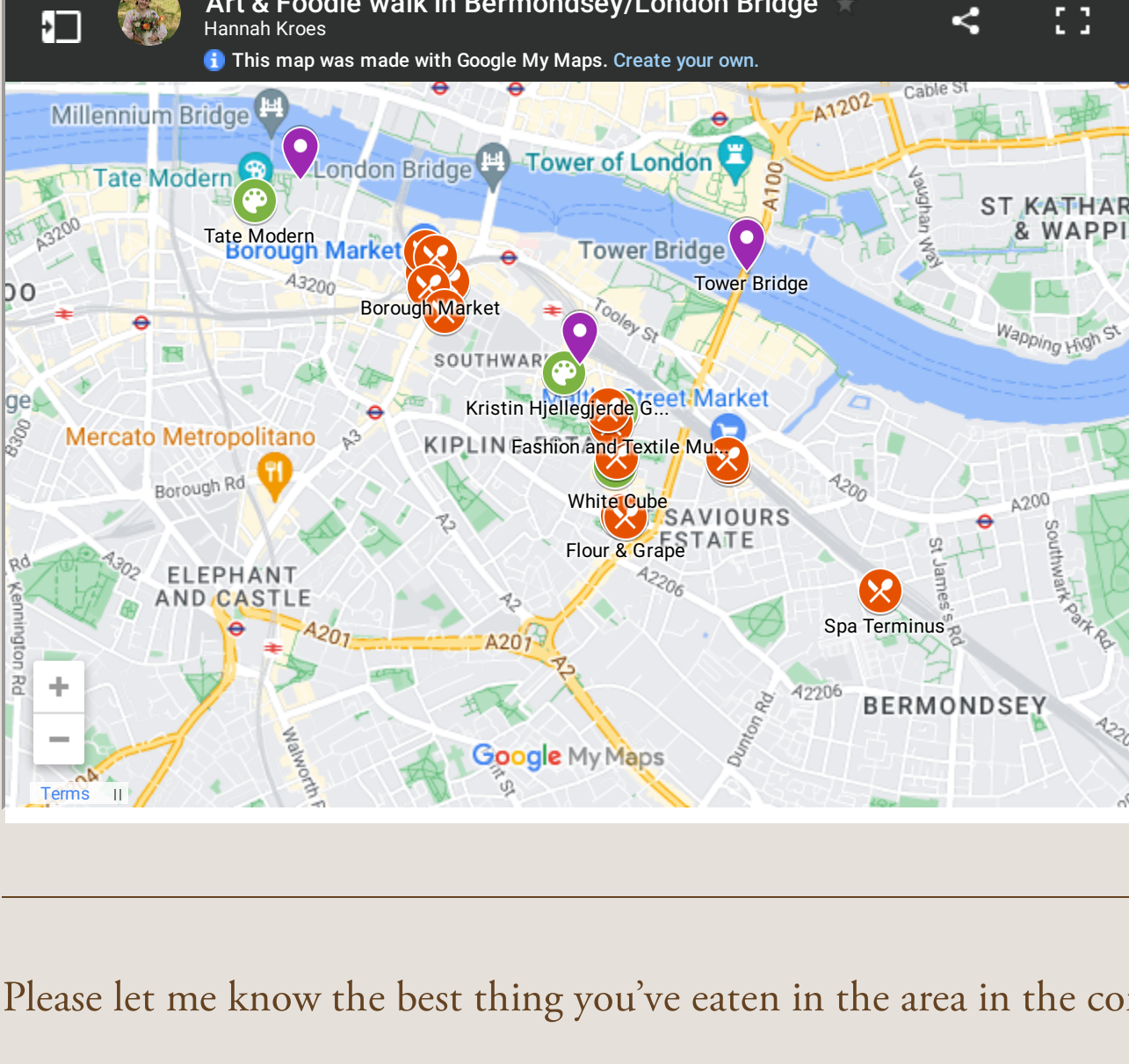
The market is fun to explore but also very busy and a little overwhelming. The Black Pig makes it worth it, but other than that I think the previous food recommendations in this post are a better shout.

Further things to do in Bermondsey and London Bridge

There's still several major things to see in the area that don't need much of an introduction for me. These include:

- **Tate Modern:** major art museum in former power station on the Thames riverbank
- **Shakespeare's Globe:** reconstruction of the famous theatre

- Tower Bridge: The iconic London bridge, but not 'London Bridge' — tourists often get this confused
- The George Inn: 17th-century pub near Borough Market with a rich history and under care of National Trust
- A walk around Rotherhithe: historic neighbourhood with docklands buildings and heritage sites like the Mayflower Pub and Brunel Museum



Please let me know the best thing you've eaten in the area in the comments!

Read - art in London - London literature - neighbourhood guide - south London

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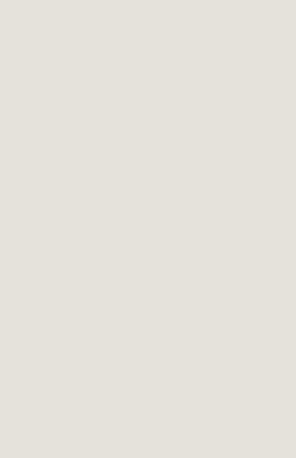
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