

January 2010

Privately owned London hotels: four of the best



The Capital

A genuine family affair, the Capital hotel in the heart of Knightsbridge – you couldn't get closer to Harrods if you tried – is owned by David Levin (who also owns London's Levin Hotel, the London Bakery and vineyards in the Loire Valley) and, as of last month, managed by his daughter, Kate. The 50-room hotel has just celebrated its 40th birthday.

When it opened in 1969 it was the only small London hotel to combine luxurious accommodation and a fine dining restaurant and it has been scooping awards for both ever since. The restaurant at the Capital has nurtured the talents of many a young chef, including Richard Shepherd, Brian Turner and Gary Rhodes – it was awarded its first Michelin star in 1974 and its second in 2001.

The current cause for excitement is the arrival of the brilliant Jérôme Ponchalle, most recently at Wilton's in Mayfair. The restaurant is one of the first in London to cap the mark-up on its wine sales. This year will also see the rolling refurbishment of its guest rooms.

- Executive doubles from £255 (020-7589 5171; thecapitalgroup.co.uk)