



THE CAPITAL HOTEL LONDON REVIEW

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The Capital Hotel London Review

The Capital Hotel in London, a hotel which seamlessly blends old world charm with modern luxury, nestles snugly between two of London's most prestigious luxury department stores, Harrods and Harvey Nichols. Within an hour's light from Belfast International Airport, it is the perfect location for those looking for the finest of shopping trips, and a weekend of indulgence!

Wherever you decide to go shopping in London, the Capital Hotel provides a central setting as your home in London. Perhaps it was destined to, from the dream of David Levin the Capital is a family run affair with his daughter, Kate, now General Manager. Throughout what was once an unassuming Georgian townhouse, there now exists a forty-nine bedroom oasis for the would be shopper, full of grandeur and those touches that make a stay change from something great to something more.

As you enter the Capital, you are greeted at reception with a welcome that makes you feel as if you have never left. By the time I made those first few steps to the dark wood concierge desk, my bags had been whisked away. With a glass of sherry in hand, provided with my key, I was shown around the ground floor from the bar to the restaurant to the tearoom. It feels meticulously thought out, but at the same time as if it was always there.

When I reached my room a handwritten welcome note from Kate the GM awaited me, a letter that every guest receives on arrival. Speaking of the rooms, there are forty-nine guest bedrooms in total, including eight suites, several deluxe doubles and one two-bedroom suite. For my stay I had the pleasure of staying in one of their suites. Each of

then rooms are individually designed, but if I could have chosen one, this would be it. While its luxurious touches aren't to be overlooked, it was how this was blended with comfort that made me regret even having to leave the room.

While I was thoroughly enjoying my room, the real reason for my stay was to make use of the Capital's truly awesome location on Basil Street, mere steps away from the entrance to Harrods and a tad longer of a walk from Harvey Nichols. The Capital Hotel really is the perfect location for the shopaholic coming from Northern Ireland to London, virtually on the doorstep of all that Knightsbridge has to offer in terms of designer boutiques. For those visiting with their other half, there is still plenty for them to do with the Victoria and Albert museum close by (a personal favourite of Kate's). There is access to a gym close by provided by the Hotel, alongside Hyde Park a short stretch away. And if you are unsure about anything, the staff are always on hand to offer their valuable insights into what to do, just another feature of this fabulous family run hotel. It all adds up to make the experience that little bit more individual and friendly, more than a mere chain hotel can provide.

Unfortunately, as I was staying on a Sunday night the much-lauded Outlaw's run by the several times Michelin star chef Nathan Outlaw (who the restaurant is so named after), was closed. This was a real shame, as both his restaurant in North Cornwall and here in the Capital are extolled for their exceptional food, especially fish. The menu itself had me salivating, so it will be on my list for my next trip to London, even if I wasn't staying at the Capital would make checking out this restaurant a priority. While I didn't get to enjoy the tastes of Outlaw's the staff were once again on hand to offer their suggestions and to organise reservations for me. After I returned from my evening out, I decided I couldn't miss sampling some of the cocktails from their bar, a quaint unassuming haven for the whiskey connoisseur. Their cocktails, while wide ranging, specialise in the sophisticated libations for those whiskey lovers out there. I tried out both a Rusty Nail and an old favourite, a Rob Roy. They were exceptional, and the small bar, really is designed for a quiet drink, which is another welcome retreat from the hustle and bustle of London.

After my whiskey exploring adventure and indulgence in the Capital's offerings, I retired for the night. Surprisingly for the central London location, it was so quiet. The moment I lay my head down in the King Size bed, under the Egyptian sheets, I fell asleep. On waking I made use of the beautiful bathroom and the walk-in waterfall shower. Breakfast was a delight, with the same attention to detail that I had come to expect of the Capital. Cooked to my exact specifications, the service was prompt and courteous.

As I packed my bags, made my way downstairs and then left behind this oasis of tranquillity amid the bustle of metropolitan London, I thought of my meeting with Kate. Etched in my mind was how this hotel is family run. It is easy to appreciate why those who stay here return time and time and time again. It's not just the location, it's everything, from the moment you arrive to the time you depart. It's not just a hotel and another room; it's your own home in London.

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