

A Hedonist Guide to...

Lead Article

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TO THE YARD

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Coloured Shakespearean terracotta, patterned mosaic pavement and a gurgling fountain; the setting was already magical at the urban oasis that is **Courtyard 51**, found at *London's 51 Buckingham Gate* hotel, and now they've gone and made paradise even more comfortable – with a new veranda from which to admire the view, as you sip on your Champagne or suitably chilled cocktail. The range is extensive, with bottles ranging from £49.50 to £325, and, unusually, an excellent rosé selection. Open from afternoon until late (Sun-Thurs 3-10pm), those partial to unwinding with a quality Cuban will also find their whims satisfied by the knowledgeable cigar butler. The Courtyard itself is open for dinner throughout the week, with Lebanese, Moroccan, Turkish, American or Indian classics served depending on the day; food becomes available at the veranda's thirty tables Fridays and Saturday. Even more exciting are the scheduled opera dining nights on the 30th and 31st of this month, and 20th and 21st of next month; the perfect chance for some culture beneath the stars!

Written by Nicola Di Luzio

SITE: www.51-buckinghamgate.com/courtyard_51

Photos courtesy of Taj Suites and Residences