

# LUSO

UNNECESSARY THINGS ARE OUR ONLY NECESSITIES

OSCAR WILDE



## SNOW BLIND

Night skiing made uneasy  
in the BCV 24 hour at Villars

## SOLITARY REFINEMENT

Leaving behind  
civilisation for civility

## CLASS ACT

Discovering Victoria's  
secret in Australia



9 771745 602002

LUSO • ISSUE 22 • 2011 • £10



## Death of the Kitchenette

The mini-kettle on the bed side table with the UHT milk cup may suit some hotel guests. For the rest of us...

### THE DETAILS

51 Buckingham Gate  
Taj Suites & Residences  
Tel. 020 7769 7776  
51-buckinghamgate.com

Rightly or wrongly (well, if we're honest, rightly) so, the serviced apartment has long been considered the dowdier cousin of the more illustrious Grand Hotel. They were usually only contemplated for their suite-like space, not, one suspects, for the ability to rustle up a meal in the confines of a closet-like kitchen.

In recent years, however, the distinction between the two has become increasingly blurred, with both hotels and serviced apartments converging on the centre ground. So while hotels have expanded their appeal with more apartment like suites, serviced apartments, or 'residences' as they are increasingly known, have begun to offer the sort of luxurious amenities more usually associated with the five star hotel; the destination bars and designer restaurants, the spas and the gyms. Nowhere is this metamorphosis more apparent than at the Taj Suites and Residences at 51 Buckingham Gate.

Located a stone's throw from Buckingham Palace (not that we're inciting revolution, here), the Taj inhabits an enclosed courtyard, an 'inner sanctum' blissfully screened from the city's constant drone. Its 86 suites boast not only five star luxury and design, but with an average size of 51 metres (squared) they are also by far the largest suites available in Central London. And if, heaven forbid, you should chose to forego the use of their fully-fitted and spacious kitchens, the Residences are more than capable of satisfying the most demanding of culinary requirements from one of four on-site restaurants, including the Michelin-starred, Quilon.

### THE DETAILS

The Royal Residences  
theroyalresidences@  
kensingtonpalace.com

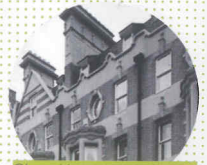
According to our well placed sources at the Palace rumors are emanating that due to government pressure to reduce expenditure the Crown is looking into developing new revenue streams. Currently several options are being explored but

the front-runner appears to be the conversion of the currently unoccupied Kensington Palace into 'Royal Residences'.

Spacious and historic these residences will come stocked with a range of Duchy products and Clarence House staff will be on hand to tend to guests

every whim, including use of the Royal horse drawn carriages to get around town, helicopter flights piloted by a member of the Royal Household and use of a fully-liveried toothbrush holder. The proposed launch date for these 'exceptional state services' is April 1st.

## Full Service Record



Cheval have properties in Knightsbridge, Hyde Park Gate and Gloucester Park to name just three. Perhaps the most desirable is at Phoenix House, off Sloane Street which, in addition to the kitchen, has its own entrance to the Michelin-starred Le Cercle. [chevalresidences.com](http://chevalresidences.com)



Kensington's Milestone Hotel is famed for its subtle luxury, a mood that continues to its six self-contained two bedroom apartments, which range from 750 to 1100 square feet, which offer private dwelling but with hotel amenities. [milestonehotel.com/apartments](http://milestonehotel.com/apartments)



For those headed to The City, Marlin's serviced apartments are mostly located to the east, making them ideal for visitors to the financial district, from Lower Bridge to Canary Wharf. [marlinapartments.com](http://marlinapartments.com)



Central London Apartments also cover large swathes of London, particularly to the West, such as this Notting Hill bedroom, Bayswater, Hammersmith and Paddington. [central-london-apartments.com](http://central-london-apartments.com)