

hot tickets

INSIDE

NANA MOUSKOURI

bars & pubs

bar code

Oblivion

7-8 Cavendish Parade, Clapham Common Southside, SW4 (0181-772 0303). Pub hours.

Bliss! Not just the thinking toper's general reaction to the arrival of this bar-eatery but also the name of the woman behind it. Dee Bliss and her cohort, designer Jo Laurie (of Ny:Lon and Babushka fame), worked flat out for six weeks transforming a rather dull Italian restaurant into this palatial, visually stimulating, up-market bar which opens on to a large sun terrace opposite Clapham Common. A large, well stocked bar of premium spirits, beers and wines is tended by people who know how to pour decent drinks (Andrew makes a mean Bloody Mary). And, joy of joys, they do table service. Confusingly, the food moves between the bar menu and the main menu depending on when you go – but it's good, extremely well presented, creative in design and generally inexpensive. The cellar bar (referred to as the 'womb') may be small but it houses a couch – excellent for more laid-back customers.

EDWARD SULLIVAN



THE CITY

Filthy McNasty

Fun Irish theme bar with Aztec influence. Live Irish music at weekends. 68 Amwell Street, EC1 (0171-837 6067). Pub hours.

La Grande Marque

Elegant and gentlemanly. Strictly for wine- and champagne-lovers. 47 Ludgate Hill, EC4 (0171-329 6709). 11.30am-9.30pm Mon-Fri. Closed Sat & Sun.

Vic Naylor

Young, crowded, after-work bar. Jazz background music. 38-40 St John Street, EC1 (0171-608 2181). Noon-midnight Mon-Fri, 7pm-1am Sat.

SOUTH OF THE RIVER

Babushka

Essential pit-stop for Ministry Of Sound. Terrific lunches. 173 Blackfriars Road, SE1 (0171-928 3693). Noon-11pm Mon-Wed, noon-midnight Thur & Fri, 8pm-midnight Sat, 9.30am-4pm Sun.

The Fridge Bar

Small, split-level bar next to the club. 1 Town Hall Parade, Brixton Hill, SW2 (0171-326 5100). 11am-2am Mon-Sat, noon-10.30pm Sun.

Oxo Tower Bar

Harvey Nicks elegance, great views. Pricey. 8th Floor, Oxo Tower Wharf, Barge House Street, SE1 (0171-803 3888). Pub hours.

R Bar

Tatty but trendy basement bar useful for a night on the pull. 4 Sydney Street, SW3 (0171-352 3433). 5.30pm-midnight Mon-Sat.

KENSINGTON

190

Up-market singles bar for thirtysomethings. Expensive. Members only after 11pm. 190 Queensgate, SW7 (0171-581 5666). 11am-1am Mon-Sat, 11am-midnight Sun.

Le Shaker

Possibly the best and most expensive cocktails in London. Shares its site with Nam Long Vietnamese restaurant. 159 Old Brompton Road, SW5 (0171-373 1926). 6.30pm-11.30pm Mon-Sat.

NOTTING HILL

AWE

(Avenue West Eleven)

Jolly, boozy crowd later on. North African/Middle Eastern food. Jazz on Sundays. 157 Notting Hill Gate, W11 (0171-221 8144). 6pm-11pm Mon-Sat, 6pm-10.30pm Sun.

Beach Blanket Babylon

Over-designed trendy bar. Decent food. 45 Ledbury Road, W11 (0171-229 2907). Noon-11.30pm Mon-Sat, noon-10.30pm Sun.

Ground Floor Bar

Serious sound system pumps out acid

HOW JACKIE CHAN IS TAKING ON HOLLYWOOD by Anwar Brett

THE HOTTEST THINGS TO DO IN THE WORLD'S COOLEST CITY