

(More) Drinking &



DINING

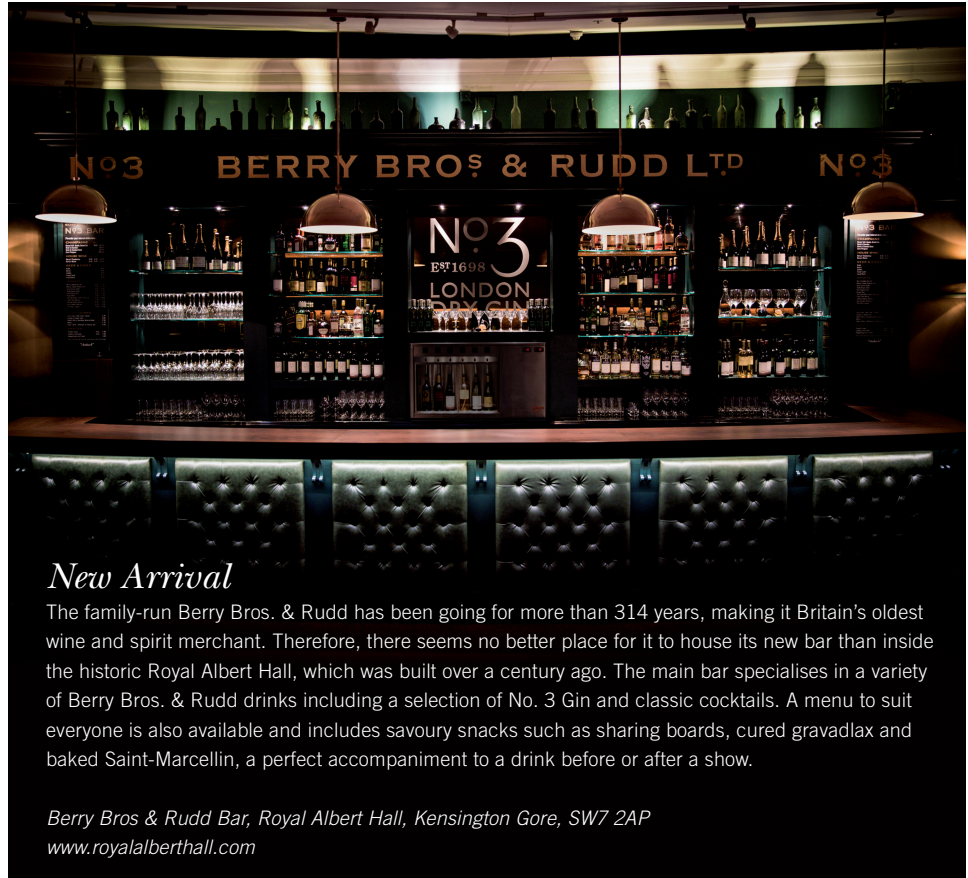


Electric Diner

Like a phoenix from the flames, the Electric Diner has returned from its fiery demise with a menu and atmosphere reminiscent of New York's Lower East Side. Open brickwork, distressed white tiles and large claret leather bench seats line the length of the tunnel shaped restaurant. The conspiratorial cosiness is only interrupted by friendly and informed waiters who talk us through the unusual French-American menu which includes fried bologna sandwich and roasted bone marrow with beef cheek marmalade. The raw vegetable, apple, blue cheese and walnut salad was delicate and refreshing and complemented the salty and authentically rustic hash browns. Generous portions and an extensive beer and wine list keeps everyone happy for hours, from groups of hungover partygoers to couples reading the papers at their tables. Combine with a perambulation of Portobello Road's quirky antique shops.

Electric Diner

191 Portobello Road, W11 2ED
020 7908 9696; www.electricdiner.com



New Arrival

The family-run Berry Bros. & Rudd has been going for more than 314 years, making it Britain's oldest wine and spirit merchant. Therefore, there seems no better place for it to house its new bar than inside the historic Royal Albert Hall, which was built over a century ago. The main bar specialises in a variety of Berry Bros. & Rudd drinks including a selection of No. 3 Gin and classic cocktails. A menu to suit everyone is also available and includes savoury snacks such as sharing boards, cured gravadlax and baked Saint-Marcellin, a perfect accompaniment to a drink before or after a show.

Berry Bros & Rudd Bar, Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 2AP
www.royalalberthall.com



The Mexican

Santo's Mexican restaurant on Portobello Road serves authentic Mexican cuisine with a matching lively atmosphere. The restaurant has a popular and highly recommended dinner club, held once a month by a famous guest chef including Jan Ostle, who is head chef at Portobello House, and Angus Henderson who worked alongside Raymond Blanc for many years. The authenticity runs the whole way through the menu with traditional Tapatio tequila even being used in all of their margaritas, ensuring that the true taste of Mexico is present in every aspect.

Santo, 299 Portobello Road, W10 5TD
020 8968 4590; www.santovillage.com