

Neighbourhood Watch

Put On The Fine Heel

We've found the right address for you in Knightsbridge, London's ritzy neighbourhood that lies within a stone's throw from chic bars, exclusive salons, and designer fashion houses.

The Franklin London is your happy prologue to the city diary.



Clockwise: All the rooms at The Franklin London feature wrought-iron four-poster beds; try Michelin Star Chef Alfredo Russo's rack of lamb casserole at The Franklin Restaurant; the Franklin London sits pretty in Knightsbridge.



T+L PICK

For an unforgettable experience, allow the Les Clefs d'Or concierge curate an itinerary for you. The Guest Experience Team can even provide access to a behind-the-scenes visit of the Victoria & Albert Museum or Hamley's toy shop, on request.

and walk-in closet. On a leisurely afternoon, indulge in a hammam, and follow it up with pre-dinner drinks at The Franklin Bar—you can choose from seven different champagnes available by the glass and 22 varieties of gin. The Franklin Restaurant by Michelin Star Chef Alfredo Russo is perfect for intimate dinners and has space for 30 diners every evening. Chef Russo brings his culinary expertise to create a menu with a bold approach to Italian

cuisine. Treat your tastebuds to signature dishes, such as Polpo Tiepido—steamed octopus with Piedmont potato foam, capers, and olive iced powder. Pick from an extensive wine list that includes some of Piedmont's most interesting wines, including Barolo and Barbaresco.

On a slow Saturday, walk down to the Saatchi Gallery that showcases contemporary art and comes highly recommended by the concierge. starhotelscollezione.com

—RADHIKA SIKARIA



When summer hits London, the most glamorous hotels in Knightsbridge would have been booked out, including The Franklin London. This swanky hotel and iconic landmark spans four early-Victorian buildings from the 1840s, in a sweet spot overlooking the charming, private Egerton Gardens. Pear trees and flowerbeds are espaliered in the serene greenery behind the hotel—an enviable view to have from your room—while the bustling shopping street beyond the entrance in front strikes quite the contrast. The interior is a vision in

grey and is furnished with floor-to-ceiling windows, silk *ikat* hangings from Istanbul, and wrought iron balustrades. Renowned designer Anouska Hempel invokes a refined aesthetic to the lobby that befits the Art Deco and Belle Époque eras, and masterfully combines Eastern influences with those of Italy and Morocco.

Stellar services include a personalised turndown service, express checkout, and the Clefs d'Or Concierge. For the ultimate indulgence, book the Presidential Suite that comes with a cosy private lounge, a plush living room, large bath,