

June 2009



The Gardens refurbishment at The Roof Gardens

The Roof Gardens in Kensington has long been one of London's most spectacular and extraordinary landmarks. This spring, the three themed gardens underwent a three month extensive refurbishment led by Head Gardener David Lewis, and the results are stunning!

Originally designed as an escape from London rather than a pedestal above it, The Roof Gardens comprises three themed gardens spanning across one and a half acres, six floors up in the heart of Kensington.

The Spanish Garden has gone back to its roots, influenced by classic Spanish gardens and the Alhambra. It now features olive trees and bright planting of yellow, red, orange and pink summer flowers, as well as a late burst by the Dahlias harking back to the 1950s. In addition, the gorgeous original walling has been given a dash of pink which should keep the four resident flamingos happy!

The new planting in the Tudor courtyard takes a sideways glance to the times of Biba from the 1970s with black and white varieties being prominent. Also featured is the scented climbers, perfect for those heady summer evening club nights and BBQs.

The English Woodland Garden features native woodland and hedgerow plants, helping to bring more wildlife into the garden. The lawn has been extended towards the stream giving more space for the wildlife to roam and making it more appealing for landing birds and encouraging nesting. Resident wildlife include the Mandarin ducks, fish and of course the famous four flamingos, Bill and Ben, and recent arrivals, Splosh and Pecks, who roam the gardens freely. London's wider wildlife visit on regular occasions, including birds of prey, herons, ducks and of course the familiar London Pigeon.

The Roof Gardens is available for private events, weddings, corporate functions and parties, as well as the famous club nights on a Friday and Saturday night where the gardens come alive with live music and dancing. In addition to the delights of the 6th floor, Babylon Restaurant one floor above (also refurbished in late 2008), is the culinary heart of



The Roof Gardens offering delicious BBQ and A La Carte menus for lunch and dinner, served both inside and on the south facing terrace.

The Babylon Planters situated on the Babylon terrace are now full of edible plants and herbs including mint, thyme, rosemary, tomatoes, chillies and runner beans, which are all used by the Head Chef in the kitchen.

- Ends -

Notes for Editors –

- The Roof Gardens is part of the Virgin Limited Edition – Sir Richard Branson’s private collection of award-winning retreats
- To organise a meeting with David Lewis, Head Gardener at The Roof Gardens, please contact Gavin Kimble @ EdenCancan on 020 7395 0516

The Roof Gardens

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For Secret Barbecue Lunch reservations please call Babylon on 020 7368 3993 or email

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www.virginlimitededition.com

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For further information please visit www.virginlimitededition.com

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