

HOT HOTELS

Review: Princess Royal Notting Hill

Wii's newest secret is out.

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Located in the heart of Notting Hill, The Princess Royal is the latest addition to the Cubitt House pub portfolio. The setting is historic (the pub itself dates back to the Victorian era), but Chef Director Ben Tish has brought things bang up to date, reviving this gem to the highest standard. It's retained all the heart and soul of a local, but there's also formal dining on offer, plus a garden terrace and four palatial bedrooms. Glorious.

The Food and Drink



Sunny Sicily has arrived in Hereford Street via the delicious cuisine of Ben Tish. The gastropub grub is a perfect blend of Mediterranean cooking and seasonal British produce. *V.F.* started with a margarita to whet the appetite while perusing the moreish menu. There's heaps of choice, so be guided by your waiter, but start at the Raw Bar for oysters, wild bream crudo, aged beef tartare—all of which is fresh as f*ck. Chubby English burrata with blood orange, radicchio and fennel takes centre stage during *primi*, alongside some fluffy focaccia and whipped 'nduja with fennel biscuits. The mains are hearty (it's a pub after all) but all are zingy and balanced with an array of tasty sides. Wash it down with champagne, fine wine, a classic cocktail (or cocktails-on-tap), craft beers or ales. If you find yourself getting too merry at dinner, you can stumble up to one of their four bedrooms and fall into a food-induced slumber with effortless ease.

The Rooms



With a design aesthetic as elegantly refined as this, you could easily think you're in a plush country house hotel. Each of the four rooms is individually curated and makes clever use of space, with the interiors paying homage to the pub's original Victorian roots. Think plush bedding, moodily dark paintwork, antique touches and colourfully abstract artwork adorning the walls, plus a freestanding bath at the end of your bed to add that extra bit of va-va-voom. Somehow it strikes the perfect balance of quaintly old-fashioned and thoroughly modern, with the welcome option to watch Netflix and Amazon Prime.

The Vibe



There is something super comforting about a place that is dog-friendly, whether it's the chance to chinwag with strangers and their fluffy friends, or the relaxed vibe it instils. And all canine visitors get the royal treatment too; in-room treats and toys as well as a dog bed and water bowl are provided, ensuring that their stay is as lovely as yours. This pub is well and truly on the way to being the favourite not only of loyal locals, but also those who travel from afar—and you don't have to pay through the nose for it. 10/10.