

New openings: the September edit

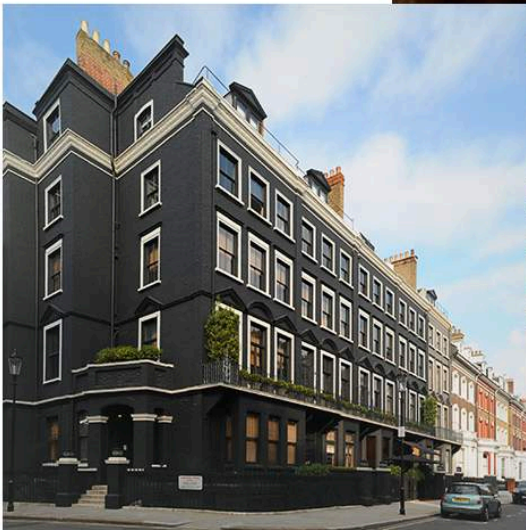


Summer's been and gone in the proverbial jiffy, but it's not all bad news. September sun is only a plane away and a couple of cosy new corners closer to home look particularly tempting



Svatma

Famed for its Dravidian-style Hindu temples and otherworldly architecture, Tanjavur in Tamil Nadu, southern India has long been a hotspot for discerning Indophiles, but slightly difficult to reach for the average tourist. Lately however, Trichy airport has become far more connected and as a result, a number of new outposts have opened. Svatma, a century-old traditional family mansion has been restored and turned into a 38-room boutique hotel – the first luxury offering in the area. The site's Soukyam spa will feature treatment rooms, yoga and meditation, but the main draw is the programme of eight signature experiences including Vedic chanting, a Carnatic chamber concert, cooking, painting and weaving classes. svatma.in



Blakes Below

Perhaps we're forcing the issue but there's definitely something Bond-like about Anouska Hempel's new interior design at Blakes Below. Tucked underneath London's Blakes Hotel entrance, the new bar and lounge will continue the legacy of its predecessor with intimate, late-night parties famous for attracting an impressive A-list clientele. A glamorous bar-menu featuring caviar and charcuterie will compliment a host of fusion cocktails, although unfortunately there's no sign of a Vodka Martini. blakeshotels.com



Yoo2
 Yoo2 Rio de Janeiro marks the second Brazilian opening for John Hitchcox's Yoo brand, but more importantly their first under the urban, design-led imprint Yoo2. Showcasing the brand's acclaimed design ethic, the hotel's 143 rooms, suites and interiors offer spectacular views of the beach, Sugar Loaf Mountain and Corcovado. Expect street art, organically designed furniture and plenty of parquet flooring. yoo2.com



Palé Hall
 Under the stewardship of two Michelin-star chef Michael Caines, Palé Hall, the grade-2 listed building on the edge of Snowdonia National Park, has returned to its former glory, and then some. In its new chapter as a hotel, 18 guest bedrooms and suites have been individually designed – a particular highlight being the wood panelled Churchill Suite, where the venerable statesman is alleged to have played snooker on his many visits to the Hall. Elsewhere, three dining areas showcase the best produce Wales has to offer with chef Gareth Stevenson at the helm. palehall.co.uk

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