

LONDON CALLING

It's not dubbed the world's capital for nothing. England's most powerful city is home to the best of culture, food, drink, and menswear. There's never been a better time to experience it. Here's your insider's guide.





CASINO ROYALE

London's gambling establishments are worthy of 007 himself

Text by KEITH GORDON

Sure, James Bond has played high-stakes hands in posh casinos from Monte Carlo to Montenegro, but there's no reason the fictional spy couldn't find the same level of extravagance in his hometown. London is famous for its gambling culture and is home to some of the most exclusive casinos in Europe. Forget Vegas' pool parties and Macau's unrelenting flood of international money; it's pure class that distinguishes London's casinos from their global competitors.

The Ritz Club evokes Gilded Age glamour with design and decor worthy of the grand ballroom of the *Titanic*. The club is a spot to see and be seen by the global elite that regularly visit its gaming tables. The true power players are provided with *salles privées*: private gaming rooms where you can win or lose millions of pounds (or the equivalent in dollars or euros or rubles) without worrying about prying eyes. Enjoy standards like roulette or blackjack, or channel your inner 007 for a round of baccarat.

Perhaps more elite is Crockfords, which takes its exclusivity seriously. This grande dame of gaming has a history dating to 1828, and while a bespoke tux isn't required for entry, it is highly recommended.

The Ritz Club in London maintains an exclusivity and level of service tailored to the global elite

KEEP CALM & RIDE ON

The Bike Shed is the easygoing epicenter of London's motorcycle scene

Text by KEITH GORDON



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The Bike Shed began as a moto-enthusiast blog in 2011; the group is planning to expand to L.A. and elsewhere in the U.S.



Starting as a moto-enthusiast blog back in 2011, the Bike Shed (thebikeshed.cc) has become a cornerstone of its Shoreditch neighborhood. Founded by Anthony "Dutch" van Someren, the site began as a community of like-minded riders, customizers, and mechanics, progressed into an annual custom bike exhibition, and has developed into a motorcycle mecca, complete with a retail store, gallery, restaurant, lounge, event space, and even a barbershop. The Shed hosts raucous, sold-out gatherings for every MotoGP race and serves as a meeting spot for moto-crazed Londoners seven days a week.

"London has such a rich heritage in motorcycleing," says Ross Sharp, the Bike Shed's editor. "It seems barely a week goes by where there isn't a ride-out event, product launch, or just some form of get-together." The group is planning to expand to Los Angeles and elsewhere in the U.S., offering a welcome respite from the exclusiveness common in the motorcycle community. "To enjoy the Bike Shed, you don't have to be a member," Sharp says. "You're just as welcome turning up on a Vespa as you would on a Desmosedici or home-built custom."



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TEARING UP THE COUNTRYSIDE

Text by KEITH GORDON



Most of the time, the Goodwood Estate is a working estate, complete with an organic meat and dairy farm. But once a year the private grounds are transformed into a raceway for the Festival of Speed, known around the globe colloquially as simply Goodwood. What began as a small gathering of motoring enthusiasts in 1993 has transformed into a “garden party for the gods,” featuring automotive masterpieces both current and classic.

The main event is the Hillclimb, a narrow, winding 1.6-mile course confined by hay bales, cattle fencing, and crowds that line the route. Everything from vintage Mercedes-Benz models pattering along at a few miles an hour to the newest speed demons from the Koenigsegg, Ferrari, and Le Mans racing teams participate in the Hillclimb. A McLaren Formula 1 car driven by Nick Heidfeld still holds the record of 41.6 seconds, but in recent years, the current king of the Hillclimb is Kenny Bräck, who finished the climb in 47.07 seconds in a McLaren P1 LM.

Charles Gordon-Lennox, 11th Duke of Richmond, founded the Festival of Speed in 1993. Above: The Goodwood Revival, a separate three-day event, focuses on classic vehicles and racecars from the circuit's original era, 1948–1966.



Opposite: The Festival of Speed includes racing, special events, and exhibitions that cover the entire automotive and motorcycle spectrum. Goodwood draws celebrities and regular motoring enthusiasts, hypercars and daily drivers, one-of-a-kind classics and the newest releases from the world's top racing teams and supercar manufacturers. This page: Sculptural work by artist Gerry Judah has served as a centerpiece for the festival, including The Five Ages of Ecclestone, 2017's enormous homage to former F1 boss Bernie Ecclestone.

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