## LONDON CALLING ${\it It's not dubbed the world's capital for nothing.}$ 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. MAXIM.COM JAN/FEB 2018 43





## KEEP CALM & RIDE ON

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

Text by KEITH GORDON

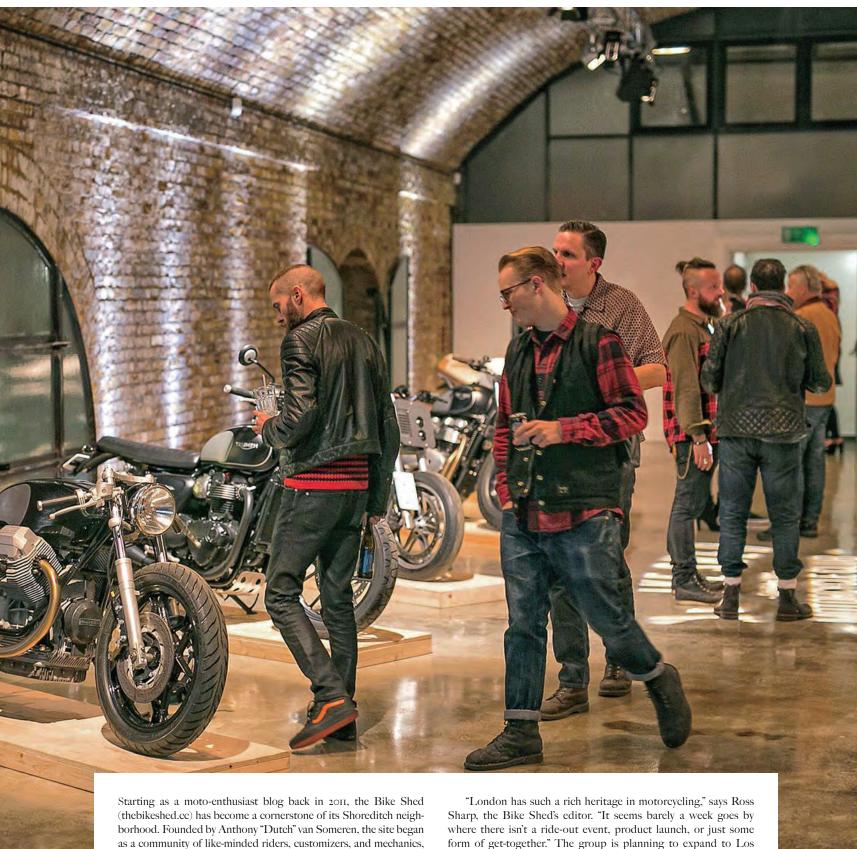








The Bike Shed began as a moto-enthusiast blog in 2011; the group is planning to expand to L.A. and elsewhere in the U.S.



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.

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."





## 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 1.16-mile course confined by hay bales, cattle fencing, and crowds that line the route. Everything from vintage Mercedes-Benz models puttering 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.



