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*Modern
Romance*

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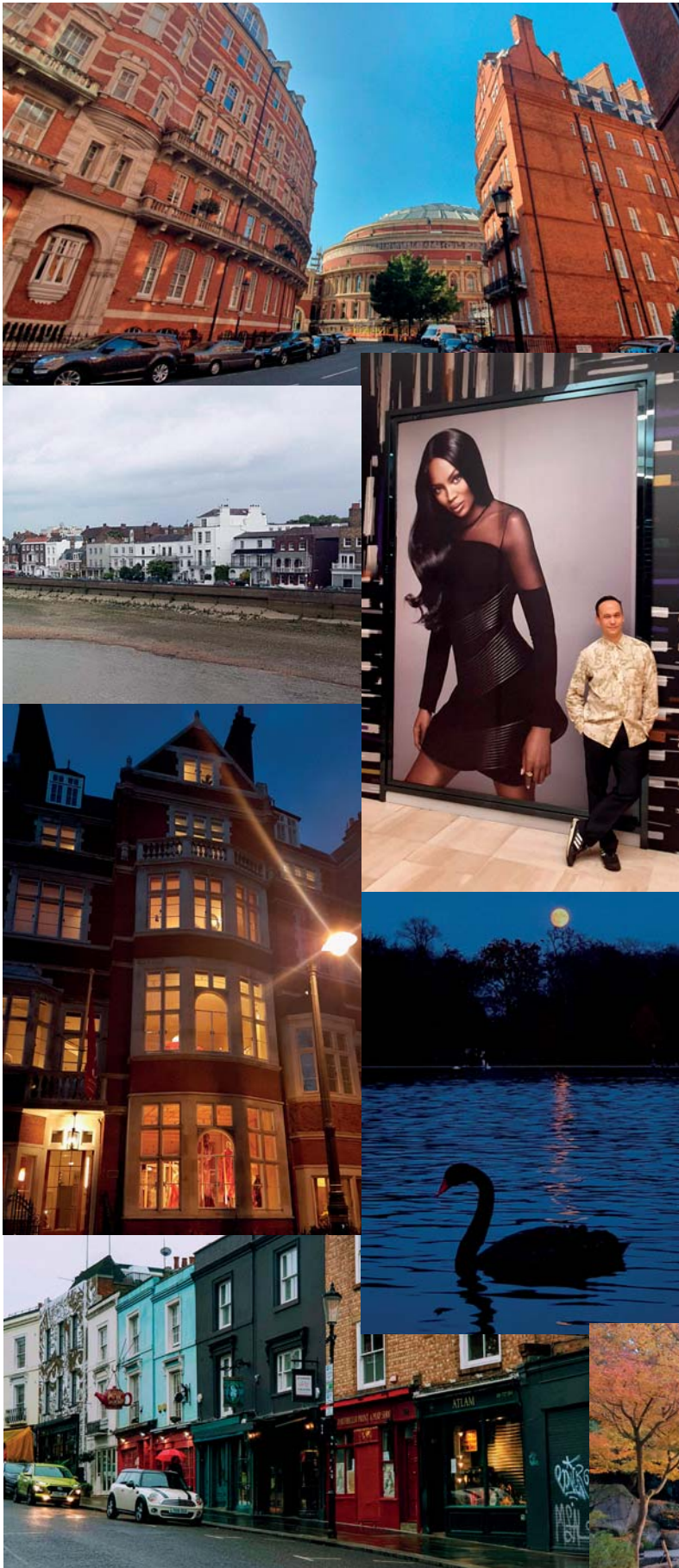


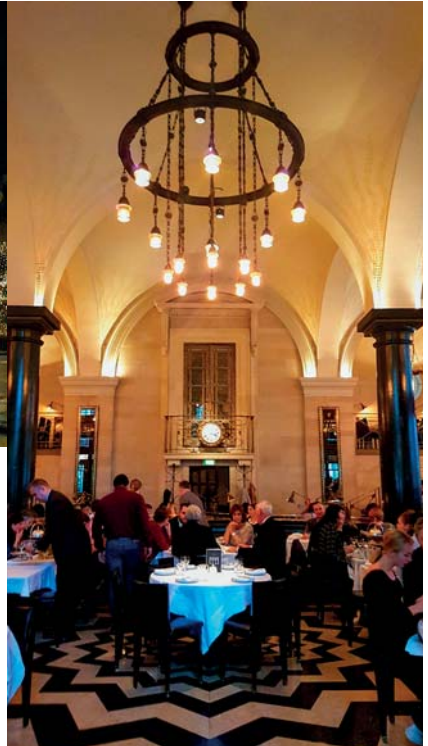
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John-Paul Pietrus on London

IN MY CITY

I live in **Portobello** and it is pretty inspirational; just the buzz of energy in the place is amazing. I have to say it had more **creative energy** before that movie 'Notting Hill' and a lot of creativity moved east to Old Street, Brick Lane and Hackney. I like going over there for a change and blast of youthful energy, but I really like the green calm in my home neighbourhood. Both Hyde and Holland parks are walking distance from my home, and I go to each weekly. I love it in both places: **Holland Park** for the Japanese Gardens and peacock hosts and Hyde Park for a bit more of a walk – and with the beauty of the Serpentine Gallery. A great longer and **quieter walk** would be along the river near Hammersmith, and there are some wonderful pubs right on the river you can stop at for a pint. There are the obvious choices for **museums**, such as the **Tate Modern** and also the **V&A**, but I really adore the **Sir John Soanes Museum**, on Lincoln Fields, which is like entering a vertical and enlarged cabinet of curiosities. I try to get to a museum or gallery every few weeks. My favourite fair of the year is **Masterpiece**, in June, which is an arts and antiques fair, where I can spend a full day or two gazing at the most incredible art, jewellery, and antiques. I treasure attending concerts at **Royal Festival Hall**. I love orchestral music and to experience it





from one of the boxes in RFH is always uplifting. The outdoor life at Southbank is also very vibrant with street food stalls, musicians and **open-air bars** in summer. I love most **music genres**: Classical, country, jazz, Latin... my go-to on a daily basis would be indie rock'n'roll and electronic alternative; bands like Phoenix, Tame Impala, and the Arctic Monkeys. My favourite spots **outdoors** for **photography** is anywhere that has a London urban vibe or conversely, somewhere rural like Richmond Park.

FOOD FIX

There are two places I love to have **breakfast** – the **Electric Brasserie** in my neighbourhood for the chicken and waffles with a side of hash browns and the **Wolseley** on Piccadilly for their Bircher muesli or anything there, really. I adore the Wolseley for **high tea**, which is a real treat. **Sticky toffee pudding** at any gastro pub is also a treat. I like to eat at my favourite local Italian, **Saporo Italia**, and get spoiled by the manager, Francesco, who always gives me a loaf of homemade Italian bread, baked in their stone oven, to take to my parents when I go home to

visit them. A meal there followed by cocktails at buzzy local gin bar, **The Distillery**, makes for a perfect evening in my neighbourhood. I like the Royal China restaurant on Baker Street for **dim sum**, Gold Mine for Chinese on Queensway, OPSO for modern Greek – the thing about London is that there are so many amazing places!

PUB CRAWL

Scarfes Bar (jazz bar) at the Rosewood Hotel is perfect for me. Equivalently, the bars at the **Savoy Hotel** too. There are some incredible **Victorian pubs** all over London such as the Princess Louise, near Holborn, which have the most incredible cut-glass, fireplaces, and individual rooms that are just gorgeous. There are a lot of pop-ups all of the time in London which I enjoy. I often sit down with my laptop and sketchbook in **The Attic** at the MATCHESFASHION townhouse (at 5-Carlos Place). It has rotating **pop-up restaurant** takeovers, which are always delicious. It is a good place to go when I need to get out of my own studio for a change. In my neighbourhood, **The Churchill Arms** pub is great for a pint and, believe it or not, Thai food. ☺

