

PRESS RELEASE

FIRST LOOK AT THE DORCHESTER'S NEW  
VESPER BAR OPENING JANUARY 23, 2023



**London, January 20, 2023** - The Dorchester unveils new cocktail destination Vesper Bar, launching Monday 23 January, 2023, designed by renowned designer Martin Brudnizki and set to become one of Mayfair's finest bars. To coincide with the launch, The Dorchester has enlisted the expertise of Scott Gavin who joins as bar manager, having established an impressive career at Scarfes Bar, Tom Kerridge, and Fitz Bar.

The name, Vesper Bar, honours The Dorchester's many connections with James Bond throughout the years. Bond author, Ian Fleming, who invented the Vesper Martini, stayed and dined at The Dorchester in the 1940s and throughout his life until he died in 1964 and when William Boyd continued the Bond series with the novel 'Solo', Bond wakes up in a suite at The Dorchester on his 45th birthday. During the 60s and 70s the production company for the James Bond films, EON, had an office at the hotel and throughout the decades The Dorchester has hosted many press junkets for the films and welcomed all six James Bonds, 14 Bond Girls, four M's and nine Bond villains as guests of the hotel.

Serving up an illustrious history, Vesper Bar will be London's ultimate destination for cocktail sipping, deal making and legend creating. Stepping into this atmospheric hideaway reveals the award-winning team of cocktail alchemists, ready to serve classic or experimental cocktails, concoctions from rare and forgotten recipes or just a glass of the 'usual'. Every drink is poured into beautifully unique glassware, ready to be savoured alongside a cool soundtrack and globally-inspired bites from the eclectic bar menu.

At Vesper Bar, guests will encounter a bar with movie star looks and a supporting cast of talented bartenders, with the cocktail menu showcasing both timeless and signature cocktails inspired by The Dorchester, curated by award-winning drinks connoisseur and head bartender Lucia Montanelli. Signature cocktails are inspired by moments of The Dorchester from *The Gilded Three* motivated by the new artwork by Sophie Coryndon hanging within the lobby, to the *Busterkeys* cocktail named after Liberace's first show name, whose piano now proudly sits within The Dorchester's Artists' Bar. To honour one of the hotel's most loved guests, Elizabeth Taylor - who stayed at the hotel 37 times throughout her life and signed her contract for 'Cleopatra' in the bath within the Harlequin Suite - the *Bessie Mae* cocktail affectionately recalls Taylor's nickname and comes complete with 'bath bubbles' floating on top.

The bar's new interior is inspired by the spirit and elegance of the 30s, a time when manners were still important and yet mayhem was celebrated. The new layout allows for a dedicated Park Lane entrance and an outside terrace with views towards Hyde Park. Ornate design runs throughout the bar, including a 1930s Palladium leaf ceiling creating a warm effect as Martini hour transitions into the evening. An upper area of the bar and cosy 'snug' provide more privacy without compromising on the atmosphere.

A series of Cecil Beaton pieces will adorn the bar walls to honour a long-standing connection between the celebrated photographer/designer and the hotel, and to remind guests of this glamorous decade. Some of Beaton's original drawings and celebrity photography will be brought together with work by contemporary artists, such as Rosie Emmerson, who were inspired by both Beaton and the energy of that time. *The Glass of Fashion* cocktail sits proudly on the menu to represent Beaton's work, and was the namesake of one his most famed books.

The Dorchester reveals its new interiors on the ground floor as of Monday 23 January 2023 with rooms and suites to follow from March 2023.

<https://www.dorchestercollection.com/en/london/the-dorchester/restaurants-bars/vesper-bar/>

## Notes to the editor

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### COCKTAILS OF VESPER BAR



#### Bessie Mae

To honour one of The Dorchester's most loved guests, Elizabeth Taylor who stayed at the hotel 37 times throughout her life and signed her contract for 'Cleopatra' in the bath within the Harlequin Suite. Bessie Mae was Taylor's nickname.

Ingredients: *Ceylon Arrack, Aluna Coconut rum, Amaro Santoni, guava and kumquat cordial, wild fennel, 'bath bubbles'*



#### First Impressions

Celebrating the first thing you see at The Dorchester, the famous façade with yellow and white awnings including above the Vesper Bar entrance on Park Lane.

Ingredients: *Seatrus gin, Safflower Galliano, Melomel, Bob's Lavender Bitters, Veuve Cliquot Yellow Label, orange essence*



#### The Gilded Three

This golden cocktail is inspired by artist Sophie Coryndon's commissioned piece, which hangs in the new lobby of the hotel. The stunning wall sculpture has been created by casting real honeycomb in plaster, then gilding and joining it to create a tapestry of golden fragments that glisten in the light of the newly renovated lobby.

Ingredients: *Roasted pineapple-infused Flor de Cana 12, Siete Misterios Doba-Yej mezcal, Noe Pedro Ximénez sherry, carob honey, pepita horchata*



#### Strawberry Fizz Forever

This cocktail references music as the constant soundtrack to The Dorchester, having a very strong musical history dating back to the 1930s including: Louis Armstrong, The Beatles, Dusty Springfield, the Beach Boys, ABBA and many many more.

Ingredients: *Dalmore 12, Amaro Montenegro, Acqua di Cedro, Power Pops tomato cordial, strawberry wine, eucalyptus sorbet*

## THE DORCHESTER

Since 1931, The Dorchester has stood tall amongst the world's most recognised and acclaimed hotels. Perfectly situated in the heart of Mayfair, with one of London's finest parks on the doorstep, The Dorchester is the legendary address where sophistication and inspiration thrive. For here we celebrate a culture of bold discovery with our incredible guests – in everything from the beautifully refined and spacious rooms and suites to the exceptional dining destinations ranging from three Michelin-star Alain Ducasse to China Tang, The Grill and, of course, our legendary afternoon tea. Topped off with a spa of serene luxury, and elegant event spaces to suit every occasion, The Dorchester's remarkable legacy awaits.  
[dorchestercollection.com/the-dorchester](https://dorchestercollection.com/the-dorchester)

## DORCHESTER COLLECTION

Dorchester Collection is a portfolio of the world's foremost luxury hotels and residences. The unique properties are all legendary in their own right, with rich heritages and worldwide reputations as places offering the most sought-after experiences of good living, charm, elegance, and unparalleled standards of service.

**The current portfolio includes the following hotels:**

**THE DORCHESTER LONDON, 45 PARK LANE LONDON, COWORTH PARK ASCOT  
LE MEURICE PARIS, HÔTEL PLAZA ATHÉNÉE PARIS, HOTEL PRINCIPE DI SAVOIA MILAN, HOTEL EDEN ROME  
THE BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL BEVERLY HILLS, HOTEL BEL-AIR LOS ANGELES, THE LANA DUBAI (opening 2023)**

**Luxury residences include:**

**MAYFAIR PARK RESIDENCES LONDON, AVA AT PALM JUMEIRAH DUBAI,  
THE RESIDENCES DUBAI, ONE AT PALM JUMEIRAH DUBAI**

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