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Ruinart's pop-up bar at The Goring Hotel

DRINKING & DINING

Straight Up: Ruinart's pop-up bar at The Goring Hotel

Ruinart pop-up bar celebrates 250 years since the creation of the first rosé champagne

BY ELLIE PITHERS
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London's Victoria is a passing place for tourists and commuters, so it's easy to forget that there are pockets of tranquillity away from the hustle of wheelie suitcases and bustle of backpackers. [The Goring Hotel](#) occupies one such pocket, screened by a façade of topiary and creamy hydrangeas.

Doormen in straw boaters greet you by name and direct you to your usual table. Look out for the smiling bust of the late Queen Mother (once a regular guest, initially because of its proximity to Buckingham Palace; later, because she had become hooked on the Eggs Drumkilbo), as you glide through the dark panelled bar and out onto the terrace overlooking the lush garden.

The Goring is where the Duchess of Cambridge chose to spend her final night as Kate Middleton, and one stroll around the lawn will tell you why: it feels more like an English family garden than the overly primped grounds of a hotel. The atmosphere pervading the bar follows the homely-rather-than-

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stuffy pattern, presided over by the bar manager Brian Kinsella, who takes on the role of a kindly uncle on the humid evening when I visit.

The Goring's lawn is currently furnished with antique cast iron tables and chairs and a rose-festooned bar made of whitewashed champagne crates. This is the Ruinart pop-up Rosé Salon 1764. Running until July 3, the Salon celebrates the 250th anniversary of the champagne house's rosé in suitably refined fashion. Each glass of coppery pink rosé champagne – fragrant and strawberry-sweet, with none of the mineral aftertaste that can blight some rosés – is served with a raspberry macaron from [L'Orchidée](#), the boutique west London pâtisserie. There is the requisite tinkling piano music, and an in-bar artist to draw your picture as you quaff, although he is not in evidence when I visit.

I took my sister, which turned out to be a wise choice – the table next to us housed an MP loudly enjoying a bowl of olives and a conversation about communism in South Korea, which may or may not have killed the heat of a date. As a location for a measured catch-up with a friend, or a felicitous toast to a new house or job, however, you will find no more tranquil a location than the Goring.

THE GORING

Beeston Place
London
SW1W 0JW
www.thegoring.com
[Map](#)



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