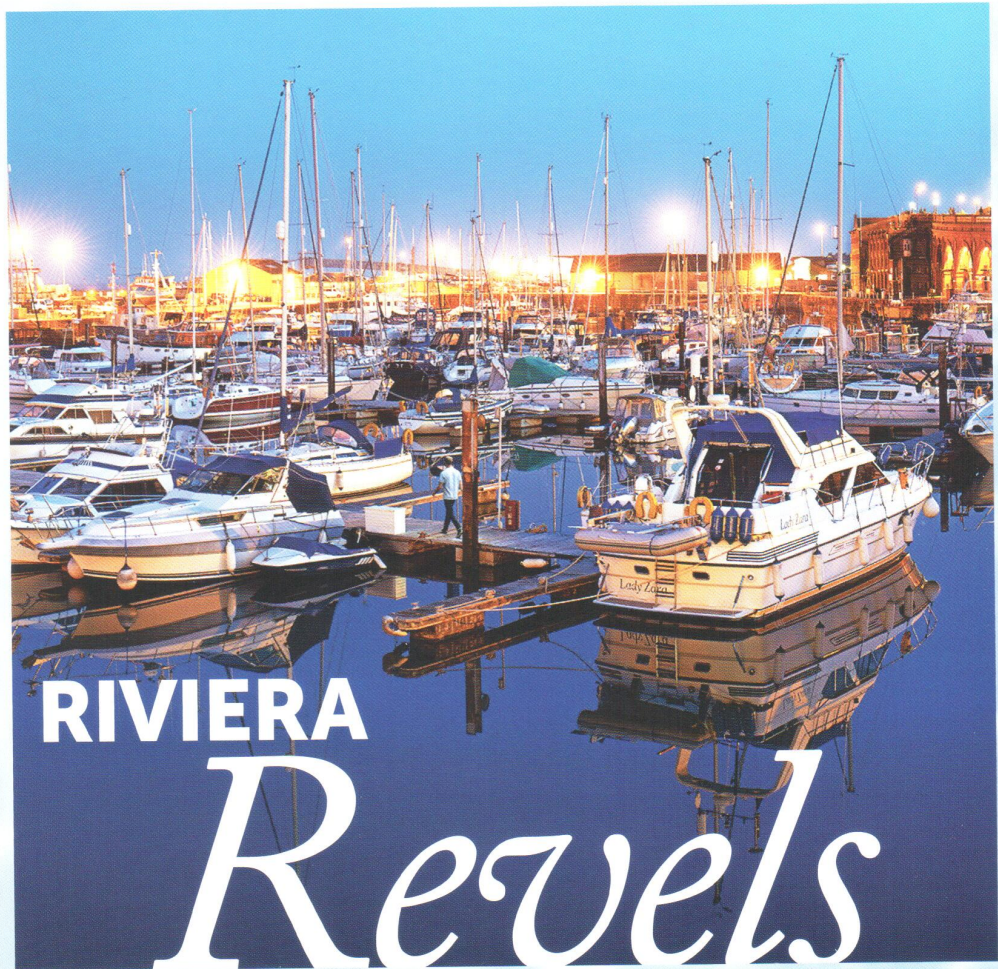


GOING OUT

AS DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS: THE MUSICAL SETS OFF ON TOUR FOLLOWING A HIT WEST END RUN,

it's time to make like a millionaire with our round-up of the UK's most glitzy drinking, dining and shopping destinations. Get Riviera ready with these five-star experiences - right on your doorstep.



Ramsgate Harbour, Kent

DINING

Only three British restaurants currently hold three Michelin stars, the highest accolade in the food world, and two of them specialise in French cuisine. So for possibly the best meal of your life, head to Alain Ducasse at the Dorchester in London, or the Waterside Inn in Bray, set up by the Roux brothers in 1972 and now run by Michel Sr.'s son Alain. Alain Ducasse offer French food with a contemporary twist - think Dorset

crab 'gelée' with caviar - while things are more traditional at the Waterside Inn, the menu full of mouthwatering dishes such as roasted Gressingham duck breast with cherries and wine. For a meal with regional accents, try Number One at The Balmoral, Edinburgh, where executive chef Jeff Bland expertly blends Scottish and French cuisine.

NIGHTLIFE

There's nothing like bubbly to make an evening feel special, and where better than a bar dedicated to the wonderful stuff? Located on the 25th floor of Birmingham's striking Cube building, the Champagne Bar boasts some of the best views in the city.

There's a good champagne list at the Rosylee Restaurant in Manchester, but it's the classic cocktails like the Earl Grey Martini that are the main draw at this bright and classy Northern Quarter joint. For a more traditional feel, it's hard to beat London's classic hotel bars: the Connaught Bar in Mayfair sparkles with old school glamour - you'll feel like a million dollars as you wave over the legendary martini trolley.

LUXURY TRAIN JOURNEYS

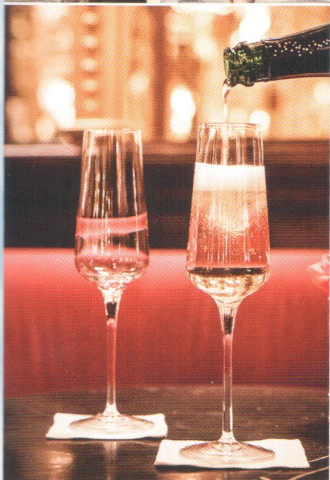
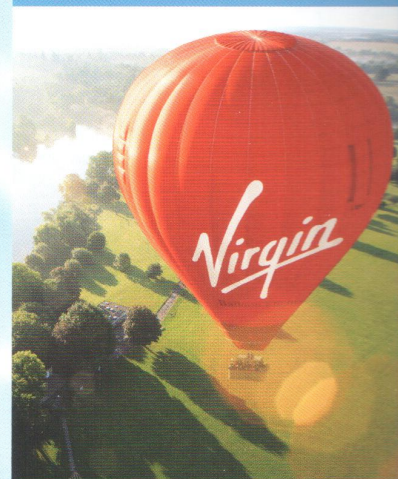
In the age of budget flights and soulless motorway service stations, there's no more glamorous or relaxing way to travel than by luxury train. Take the Belmond British Pullman, for example, whose vintage carriages are pulled by steam engine through some of the most beautiful parts of the UK. The Belmond Royal Scotsman, meanwhile, operates four and five-day round trips exploring the best of Scotland. With the train stabled at night, you're guaranteed a wonderful night's sleep in the richly decorated suites, while classic British cuisine is served in the mahogany-clad dining car.

SHOPPING

Liberty is an iconic London shopping experience - browse for designer clothing, jewellery, homewares and more, or visit the new Private Suite on the second



Couple a jet-set day out with a trip to see *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels - The Musical* to see how it's really done on the Riviera. The tour visits Birmingham, Manchester, Torquay, Edinburgh and more. Atgtickets.com



*The Belmond Royal Scotsman - Waterside Inn, Bray
Café Royal Hotel - Oscar Wilde Room, London - Chatsworth House, Derbyshire*

*Virgin Experience Days
Café Royal Hotel London*

floor for a one-to-one personal shopping service. For the best in luxury shopping outside the capital, try Birmingham's historic Jewellery Quarter, where master jewellers and craftspeople make bespoke pieces at onsite workshops.

EXPERIENCE DAYS

A classic car is a luxury only the most successful gambler can afford, but you don't need to own one to drive one. The Historic and Classic Car Hirers' Guild has an online database listing dozens of vehicles from classic car rental firms across the UK. Take a 1962 Jaguar E Type for a spin around the Cotswolds or roar through Scotland in a 1974 MG MGB - the choice is yours. For real high rollers, however, the sky's the limit: Virgin Experience Days offers 15-minute helicopter flights from 11 locations across England and Wales, as well as a range of hot air ballooning experiences available all over the country.

AFTERNOON TEA

Invented by Anna, 7th Duchess of Bedford, a friend of Queen Victoria who found herself in need of a pick-me-up between lunch and dinner, afternoon tea has always been a ritzy affair. Recent years have seen the UK's most beautiful and luxurious hotels

offering their own twist on the tradition. In London, head to the Oscar Wilde Room at the Café Royal Hotel, where the writer himself could often be found enjoying the lavish surroundings. Visitors to Edinburgh should make a beeline for the Caledonian Hotel, where tea is served in the unique environment of a former station concourse and ticket office. Or make like the Duchess herself with afternoon tea taken over views of the park at historic Chatsworth House in Derbyshire.

MARINAS

While there's nowhere quite like the Côte d'Azur in the UK, those with a penchant for life by the water have plenty to keep them occupied in the shape of the elegant marinas at Brighton, Cowes and Ramsgate. The home of UK sailing, Cowes attracts thousands of professional and amateur sailors to the Isle of Wight for world-famous events such as the Round the Island Race. Ramsgate in Kent, meanwhile, boasts England's only Royal Harbour, a marina with a bustling continental vibe. And Brighton Marina is a south-coast attraction unto itself, featuring a wide range of shopping, food and drink, and leisure activities, including a waterfront casino. ■

alainducasse-dorchester.com

waterside-inn.co.uk

roccofortehotels.com

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