

SQUARE MEAL VENUES & EVENTS

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VENUES WITH A VIEW

YOU'VE GOT TO LOVE THE VIEW FROM THE RESTAURANT IN THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY'

LONDON LANDMARKS

Entertain against the backdrop of the capital's iconic skyline

It's hard to beat the panoramas served up by the skyscrapers on p.114 but you don't have to scale dizzy heights to enjoy landmark views. For instance, just around the corner from Altitude 360, you'll find the City Inn Westminster (tel: 020 7630 1000, squaremeal.co.uk/cityinn-west) and its intimate 14th-floor Sky Lounge, which brings the Parliament vistas up close. We hear the same chain is planning a similar space for its new City hotel, due to launch later this year.

You've got to love the view from the restaurant in The National Portrait Gallery (tel: 020 7321 6643), which takes in Nelson's Column and Big Ben as it sweeps across Trafalgar Square to Whitehall. In-house caterer Searcy's offers a suitably British menu and there's room to entertain up to 200 guests.

Fancy a butcher's at Boris' office? After years of in-house and charity events City Hall (tel: 020 7983 4000) has recently opened its doors to the wider events market. The top spot for views is London's Living Room on the ninth floor, a 250-capacity space with floor-to-ceiling windows and a wrap-around balcony, both serving up generous slices of the City & Docklands skyline, alongside



up-close views of Tower Bridge.

Thespians will love the Balcony Room at Shakespeare's Globe (tel: 020 7902 1451, squaremeal.co.uk/balcony). As the name suggests, there is outside space and, with two balconies, the 120-capacity room not only overlooks the theatre itself but there's also a gorgeous head-on view of St Paul's. Catering is overseen by Mark Sargeant. Similar vistas are served up at the OXO Tower (tel: 020 7803 3888) and Tate Modern (tel: 020 7887 8689).

Heading west across the Thames, views from the Riverside Room at IET Savoy Place



1 National Portrait Gallery; 2 IET Savoy Place; 3 Tate Modern; 4 Cannon Bridge Roof Gardens

(tel: 020 7344 5479, squaremeal.co.uk/rr-savoy) take in a busy stretch of river including Hungerford footbridge, Big Ben and the London Eye. The venue is currently offering a 'Pimm's & Panorama' package for £50 per guest, which covers exclusive hire, bowl food and, of course, a Pimm's reception. For more riverside options, just turn the page. >>