

SQUARE MEAL VENUES & EVENTS

Square Meal Magazine
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VENUES WITH A VIEW



'IF YOU CAN'T DECIDE ON A SINGLE VIEW, THE SIMPLE SOLUTION IS TO CATCH A RIVER BOAT'

THAMES VISTAS

More great London views, with a focus on the river



The hottest news for summer is that Michelin-starred chef Tom Aikens has opened an alfresco restaurant on The River Terrace at Somerset House (tel: 020 7845 4618, squaremeal.co.uk/terrace). The terrace, when combined with the function rooms above, holds up to 500 guests and hire costs start at £12,000.

Across the river on the roof of the National Theatre is The Deck (tel: 020 7452 3796, squaremeal.co.uk/deck), a dedicated function space for parties of up to 120. With retractable walls opening up to a large balcony area, it comes into its own on warm summer days but will also offer shelter if the weather's not playing ball.

Indoor options with lovely Thameside views include the 650-capacity River Room London (tel: 0845 500 3500, squaremeal.co.uk/river-alt) on the second floor of the Millbank Tower, which can be used in conjunction with sister venue Altitude 360 (see p. 114); the River Rooms at The Mermaid (tel: 0870 780 9480, squaremeal.co.uk/mermaid-rr); and the River Room at Glazier's Hall (tel: 020 7403 3300, squaremeal.co.uk/rgh).

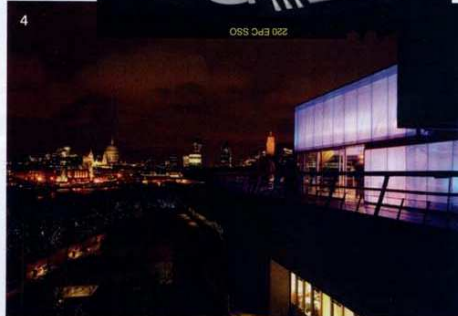
Combining alfresco lawns with a sizable marquee above Cannon Street station, Cannon Bridge Roof Garden (tel: 0845 230 3899,

squaremeal.co.uk/cannon) can host 500 guests for outside receptions, while offering shelter for 400 indoors. Views include St Paul's Cathedral and Tate Modern, plus – of course – the river in between, and party packages start at £105+VAT.

Those looking for a 'Thames Riviera' feel, should try Battersea newcomer Rafayel on the Left Bank (tel: 020 7801 3600, squaremeal.co.uk/rafayel), where you can watch the jet-set come and go via the London Heliport. Its Japanese Garden Terrace takes 200 and connects to an indoor event space with the same capacity.

If you can't decide on a single view, the simple solution is to catch a river boat from either Woods River Cruises (tel: 020 7759 1900, squaremeal.co.uk/woods) or Bateaux London (tel: 020 7695 1800, squaremeal.co.uk/bateaux), which both operate luxury vessels on the Thames.

For a complete list of riverside venues, click on 'Thames Riverside' under 'Top Venue Menus' in the left-hand column of the V&E home page: [>>](http://squaremeal.co.uk/venues/news)



1 Silver Sturgeon; 2 Hotel Rafayel on the Left Bank; 3 River Room London at Altitude 360; 4 The Deck at the National Theatre