



HAZLITT'S

SOHO, W1

Hazlitt's is the real deal: as genuine, amusing and revealing a hotel as you could hope for, especially in seething Soho. It's named after the great radical essayist and master of English prose, William Hazlitt. He died in poverty, in 1830, at No. 6 Frith Street, one of three adjoining town houses that the owners, experts on the Georgian era, fashioned into Hazlitt's in 1986. A fourth building behind has been converted to create a sitting room with honesty bar and an additional eight bedrooms, reached by a lift.

As befits an establishment with such literary connections, the hotel is popular with authors, who leave signed copies of their works when they depart. The sloping, creaking floorboards have been retained and the rooms, decorated with antiques, busts and prints, are all individually furnished, with freestanding bathtubs and Victorian fittings in the bathrooms. They are delightfully different, not just from other hotels in Soho, but in all of London.

WHATEVER YOU DO... Pay a visit to St Anne's Churchyard, where William Hazlitt was finally laid to rest in 1830.

Doubles from £288

020 7434 1771; hazlittshotel.com

THE LEVIN

KNIGHTSBRIDGE, SW3

Here's a well-kept secret, one that combines the luxury of a top hotel with the intimacy of a guesthouse. Ladies, solo or otherwise, love it.

Why wouldn't they when it's a designer bag's swing from Harrods and Harvey Nichols? The Levin is the baby sister of The Capital, almost next door (see page 77). If The Capital is small,

The Levin is tiny: 12 bedrooms arranged around a staircase that spirals through five floors, with a dramatic, shimmering installation, mimicking a chandelier, that cascades down the stairwell. The lobby has beautiful duck-egg blue walls, with a feel of the 1930s, and the minute lift is a nostalgic throwback. The bedrooms are the sort you may never want to leave: suave, with particularly good lighting, a selection of interesting paperbacks and – best of all – the champagne bar, with all the ingredients, including recipes, for the perfect champagne cocktail. Tucked away in the basement is The Metro, the hotel's elegant little bistro/wine bar.

WHATEVER YOU DO... Lose yourself at the V&A Museum, a short stroll down the road. Don't forget to stop in the treasure trove of a gift shop on the way out.

Doubles from £275

020 7589 6286; thelevinhotel.co.uk

