

Also open this month

1 London

Pharmacy 2

Damien Hirst has ordered a repeat prescription of his Pharmacy restaurant, which can now be found at the Newport Street Gallery in Vauxhall. The restaurant-cum-art installation launched in Notting Hill in 1998 and closed in 2003. Mark Hix is overseeing the food offer - presumably returning the favour for Hirst's formaldehyde 'Cock and Bull' piece, which dominates his Shoreditch restaurant in Shoreditch - and has created an eclectic menu that happily does not reference the restaurant's over-arching concept. Pharmacy 2 features site-specific pieces from a number of the artist's own series, including his famous Medicine Cabinets and butterfly Kaleidoscope paintings. *Newport Street, Vauxhall*

pharmacyrestaurant.com



2 London

Mr Bao

Peckham's reputation has been boosted in recent years with a surge of trendy bars and restaurants causing rents to rocket. Restaurateurs Frank Yeung and Nick Birkett opted for an empty shop at the still-neglected and somewhat shabbier east end of Rye Lane for their debut bao joint. The simple Taiwanese menu lists a small selection of savoury steamed buns and a s'more inspired dessert of fried bao with toasted marshmallow. *293 Rye Lane, Peckham*

mrbao.co.uk

Hotel Indigo, Theo's Simply Italian is a casual-dining restaurant, offering a straightforward, but carefully considered, menu of rustic dishes overseen by Randall (whose title is creative director) and William Leoni, whose upscale Italian-heavy CV includes Randall's Mayfair flagship. *34-44 Barkston Gardens, Kensington*

theosimpleitalian.co.uk

curry and grilled meats and the restaurant will continue to sell good value thalis. MW-Eat directors Ranjit Mathrani, Namita Panjabi and Camellia Panjabi plan to overhaul the entirety of the casual-dining chain's seven-strong estate during the next few years. *9 Marshall Street, Soho*

masalazone.com

Allen, Mustard also serves burgers and a small selection of steaks. *98-100 Shepherd's Bush Road*

mustardrestaurants.co.uk

3 London

Theo's Simple Italian

Theo Randall has been busy with the relaunch of his highly regarded eponymous restaurant at the Intercontinental Hotel, a consultancy project at a hotel in Bangkok and now another joint venture closer to home in Kensington. On the ground floor of

London

Masala Zone

MW-Eat has relaunched its original Masala Zone site in Soho. Every aspect of the 140-cover restaurant has been revamped from the interior and furniture right through to the tableware and staff uniforms. The overall offer is now more sophisticated and the company has also installed a bar and a 22-cover private dining room. Prices have risen slightly but the menu - which has also been overhauled - is still competitively priced. The kitchen specialises in

London

Mustard

The owners of Covent Garden stalwart Joe Allen have launched a British-style brasserie in a former Café Rouge in Shepherd's Bush, which they eventually hope to turn into a small group. Lawrence Hartley and Tim Healy have partnered with chef Jason Wild (Daphne's, Joe Allen), who has penned a simple menu that includes gin-soaked cured salmon with sour cream and pickles as well as lamb hotpot with baby turnips and broad beans. As sister restaurant to the US-themed Joe

4 London

Zima

High-profile Russian chef, journalist and TV presenter Alexei Zimin has opened what's being described as a Russian street food bar in Soho. Zima serves a menu of small plates that includes veal stroganoff; lamb shank in mint broth; salmon tartare with cucumber, dill, sour cream and horseradish and forshmak - AKA Jewish-style herring - with pear. Zimin, who runs a restaurant and cookery school in Moscow called Ragout, wants drinking to be central and has developed a long list of house-made flavoured vodkas that includes lingonberry and apple with curry leaves. The design of the restaurant blends utilitarian Soho chic with the *ryumochnaya* (vodka bar). *45 Frith Street, Soho*

Coming soon

Santa Maria

London

The vaunted Ealing pizzeria is opening a restaurant in Chelsea later this month

Sardine

London

Stevie Parle protégé Alex Jackson's southern European restaurant opens near Old Street next month

The Harcourt

London

The Marylebone pub reopens as a restaurant and bar with Nordic influences early this month

Grand Union

London

The chain has chosen Wapping for a new site that incorporates a barbers and coffeehouse