

THE PERFECT RENDEZVOUS

With its infinite variety – 66 Michelin star restaurants, 230 theatres, hundreds of galleries and museums and thousands of licensed establishments – choosing where to go out in London can be pretty daunting. So we ask **Ranald Macdonald**, owner of Boisdale Restaurants, where he would choose to go for an ideal date.

What are your favourite things about London?

Varied and beautiful architecture and the parkland, rarely too hot or too cold, always civilised and on the whole creating trends rather than following fashion.



Your favourite aspects of London's culture?

Restaurants, bars and live music.

What's the best part of its nightlife?

Everything pretty much does close eventually, so not going to bed too late.

Is London romantic enough for an ideal date?

Of course....but not since 1985 for me!

Have you ever sent flowers before a date?

Er...no



Your favourite flower of choice.

A heavenly scented purple-pink rose like the jacaranda rose or Lilies of the Valley

What would be the main event – art, theatre, dance, music?

Live music

Best of these you have seen recently

TJ Johnson and His Band at Boisdale of Belgravia

What would you have in mind if the date was tonight?

Geoff Haves Blues Band at Boisdale of Canary Wharf

Where would you go for an early tippie?

A glass of Tio Pepe at Boisdale of Mayfair

Anywhere you haven't been yet that you'd like to try?

Not really

What's your favourite aperitif?

Either Tio Pepe sherry or Campari and soda.

Do you have any favourites amongst all the new boutique spirits that are jostling for shelf-space in London's trendiest bars?

Snow Queen Vodka snowqueenvodka.com

Eat before or after the main event? Or is the eating the main event? Before and dinner and wine is the main thing

Would you choose an old favourite, new favourite or try somewhere new? Old favourite

Name an old favourite

Andrew Edmunds

Name a new favourite

Barafina

Favourite wine with dinner

Claret and in a perfect world Pomerol

Tobacco. Pleasure, poison or both?

Love it all especially Cuban cigars



Favourite after dinner club.

I only go to Boisdale late at night

What do you think about the latest developments in the War on Tobacco?

Appalling

Favourite cigar.

Hoyo de Monteray Epicure No 2

Do you like to discuss Realpolitik over dinner or prefer to keep it light?

Yes and yes

Favourite conversation topics over dinner

Clan history, politics, economics, religion and Elvis



What are your main sources of information online?

Google

Have the recent political shakeups and increasing dis/misinformation made you want to pay more or less attention to current affairs?

About the same. I don't read news papers

The poet George Herbert insisted that 'Living well is the best revenge'. What do you think he meant by that and do you concur?

Who knows, but it sounds about right to me.

Boisdale Jazz and Cigar Club are offering Rendezvous London a £25% discount on annual membership.

Membership costs £240 per year (T&C's apply)

www.boisdale.co.uk/membership E. events@boisdale.co.uk