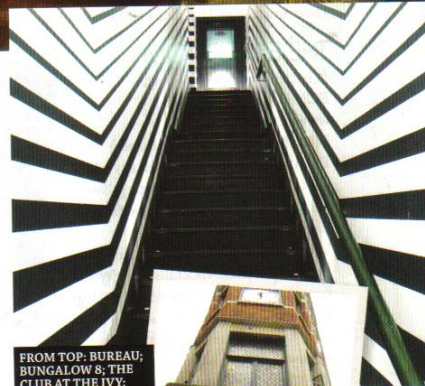


# join the club

Ever signed up to an 'exclusive' new members club, only to realise that you've shelled out a king's ransom to rub shoulders with reality-show rejects and nouveaux riche footballers? **Keith Barker-Main** looks at the Top 10 recent and imminent London openings to help you decide which clubs are worth joining



FROM TOP: BUREAU; BUNGALOW 8; THE CLUB AT THE IVY; BUNGALOW 8 REGULAR. MARK RONSON



## BUREAU

**Where?** 13 Kingly Court, W1B 5PW, 020 7494 4386, [www.bureauclub.com](http://www.bureauclub.com)

**What?** Bespoke, boutique, bijou and by the same architects as Boujis.

**Why?** Cocktail preferences are computer-memorised for custom mixing at members' tables. Dampierre (Champagne of choice at over 40 French embassies). Gourmet bar snacks. Members' music preferences are incorporated into the playlist (hopefully no Westlife, Wombles or Peter Andre fans). Small, intimate and kooky.

**Who?** Fashion, music and media. Mark Ronson, Agnès B, Mary (Queen of Shops) Portas, who knows a good thing when she sees it.

**How much?** £350 per annum, plus £150 joining fee.

## BUNGALOW 8

**Where?** St Martins Lane Hotel, 45 St Martins Lane, WC2N 4HX, 020 7300 5576, [www.bungalow8london.com](http://www.bungalow8london.com)

**What?** An offshoot of one-time undisputed NYC nightlife queen Amy Sacco's Manhattan club. The London version, a designer shoebox, is often compared to the legendary Studio 54 – minus the wholesale debauchery, obviously.

**Why?** Famous faces. Low hassle factor. Hot parties. Great (read very expensive) drinks. Wild disco dancing (after midnight). Complimentary upgrades at Morgans hotels (Royalton NYC, Delano Miami, Mondrian LA).

**Who?** Everybody who's anybody dahling! From George Clooney, Quentin Tarantino and Uma Thurman via Will Young, Paris Hilton and Agnès B (again!) all the way down the celeb food chain to Peaches Geldof. Cynics claim this basement boîte's name suits the crowd, bungalows having nothing going on upstairs.

**How much?** £350 pa.

MARK RONSON PHOTO: REX FEATURES

## THE CLUB AT THE IVY

**Where?** 9 West Street, WC2H 9NE, 020 7494 4386, [www.the-ivyclub.co.uk](http://www.the-ivyclub.co.uk)

**What?** New pile above the venerable Covent Garden nosherie-to-the-stars that cost £10 million to develop. Part of rag trade supremo Richard Caring's burgeoning portfolio that has swallowed up aristo faves Annabel's and Harry's Bar.

**Why?** Three floors of understated taste and discreet service. No need to book two decades in advance for a table in the restaurant.

**Who?** The Ivy Club fiercely guards its members' privacy. But given they have invited regulars who eat here, it's likely to include luvvies and literary luminaries – anyone from Hollywood triple A-list to Stoppard and Rushdie, Jude and Judi or Biggins and Bonnie Langford.

**How much?** (Meryl) Steep, at £1,000 pa.

## DEX

**Where?** 467-469 Brixton Road, SW9 8HH, 020 7326 4455, [www.dexclub.co.uk](http://www.dexclub.co.uk)

**What?** 1930s faded Art Deco hotel reborn. Cocktail bar, restaurant, private dining room, meeting facilities, roof terraces with hot tub and Bedouin-style smoking tent.

**Why?** Members get 20% off any one of the hotel's 10 penthouse rooms, some equipped with DJ decks (Dex, geddit?).

