

DETAILS NIGHTLIFE

LONDON'S THREE BEST NEW MEMBER'S CLUBS

Because it's not who you know,
it's where you go...

There are people who will tell you the age of the private member's club is over. Things are less exclusive in the 21st century. No one wants to deal with application systems and rules and regulations, they say. These people know nothing. Ask **Nick Jones**, Soho House proprietor, how tough it is to get membership for his original private club off London's Old Compton Street, and he'll tell you a macabre story of a recently widowed woman who telephoned to try to take over her late husband's membership. "Her husband died in an accident on a Friday," he'll say, grimacing, "and she called us on the Monday." But, if Jones' brand of ghoulish, star-studded carousing isn't your idea of fun, try these, our pick of the finest new member's clubs opening up in the capital.



WHO? PIERS ADAM, NICK HOUSE

**LATEST VENTURE
WHISKY MIST AT ZETA**

The Hilton, 35 Hertford Street, London W1

Track record House and Adam (above) are two London nightclub veterans. The duo's most recent success has been the raucous, bamboo-lined tiki bar, Mahiki. Although more sophisticated, the "sexy and chi-chi" Whisky Mist is proving to be just as popular with tabloid photographers.

Who's it for? House explains: "Whisky Mist is highly aspirational, and a bit more serious than Mahiki." Adam adds: "The market we're going for is very international." It's already proved popular with Noel Fielding (right), Dave Grohl, Chelsy Davy, Kate Middleton, both Princes, Princess Bea and Guy Ritchie, as well as those high-rolling, free-spending hedge funders. Membership is available via the internet.

Clincher? Members get a silver Jade Jagger key ring and access to the exclusive "Luxe" room (with a bar designed by Burberry's creative director Christopher Bailey). 020-7208 4067. www.whiskymist.com



WHO? RICHARD CARING

**LATEST VENTURE
THE CLUB AT THE IVY**

1-5 West Street, London WC2

Track record Dubbed by the *Times* as "the man who controls your social life", Caring (above) owns the Ivy, Annabel's, Le Caprice, Mark's Club, George etc and is the majority shareholder in the Soho House group.

Who's it for? If you haven't been asked to join yet, forget it. If it's anything like the infamous restaurant, a favourite with Sir Michael Caine (right), it will be a honey pot for A-list actors, media celebrity and luvvies.



Clincher? The 11,000sqft of bar, restaurant and private room were designed by Martin Brudnizki who kitted out Scott's in Mayfair. 020-7836 4751. www.the-ivyclub.co.uk



WHO? MICHAEL NEWTON

**LATEST VENTURE
BUREAU**

13 Kingly Court, London W1

Track record Not as high profile as Nick Jones or Richard Caring, Michael Newton (above) prefers to remain a back-room character. His previous establishments include Bar Red, in Kingly Street.

Who's it for? The chosen few. Membership is "by invitation" and the club is a compact, boutique affair with a capacity of 80. Mark Ronson (right) has already checked it out.



Clincher? The personal cocktail menu concept. Members' personal tincture profiles are stored on a system, with all their liquid variations and peccadilloes available to staff. 020-7494 4386. www.bureauclub.co.uk SM

The mega-Michelin starred meal

Ever had a nine-Michelin star meal? On 24 September at the Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park (right), Michel Roux is hosting a fundraiser for the Nicholls Foundation that features the a trio of three-star Michelin chefs – Jean-Michel Lorain from Joigny, Annie Féolde from Florence and Alain Roux (yes, Michel's son) from Bray. And if your appetite still isn't sated at the end of the night, there will be an auction with the opportunity to bid for a private dinner party for six cooked by GQ resident chef Heston Blumenthal. 24 September, Mandarin Oriental, Hyde Park, London SW1. £500. 020-7823 9988. tanyahamilton@nichollsfoundation.org.uk

