



**For Immediate Release**

## **The Doyle Collection launches:**

### **THE KENSINGTON HOTEL *Contemporary Town House Living***

*7th April 2009* – The Kensington Hotel officially opened its doors today following a nine-month, twenty-million pound renovation. The new incarnation is a stylish pied-à-terre offering 150 rooms and suites in South Kensington, one of London's most exclusive enclaves.

Located on the corner of Queen's Gate and Old Brompton Road, The Kensington Hotel is an amalgamation of four grand Victorian townhouses. The design team, led by the Designer, Dennis Looby, have followed a brief which was as much about restoration as it was about renovation.

The buildings' original ceiling heights and volumes have been brought back to life, as have the period mouldings and details. The decorative treatment, however, is more eclectic. The design team has used a combination of finds from antique shops on London's Pimlico Road, intermixed with other British and global brands, such as; George Smith Furniture, B&B Italia, GP & J Baker and Colefax & Fowler.

Walking past the large Bay trees and across the wide flag-stone floored entrance from Queen's Gate, visitors have the impression of entering a private home or club. The Hall houses a "jewel-box" like reception, where red wine coloured velvet lines the alcove and a 1950's Dejerres metal sculpture hangs on the wall. A vintage 1960's Murano glass and brass light fitting hangs centrally, lighting up an imaginative mural on all four walls, which depicts French formal gardens in muted sepia tones.

Walking on through to the Morning Room, guests will find French-inspired interiors, where monochrome silk damask curtains frame the bay windows and oak herringbone parquet covers the floor. In contrast, 20<sup>th</sup> Century contemporary art pieces line the panelled walls and a large 1960's Murano glass chandelier gives a vintage twist to the overall design.

This leads on to the Drawing Room which takes its influence from the traditional British drawing room where guests can sink into oversized distressed leather furniture. Large Persian rugs sit on the original oak parquet flooring, giving a feeling of warmth. This is further amplified by the 'Dutch Pink' painted walls by Farrow & Ball, 1930's silver and gilt chandeliers and the traditionally framed Victorian landscapes.

Floor to ceiling 1930's glass and bronze double doors lead through from The Drawing Room to The Bar. Lying at the centre of the ground floor, it will have a more intimate feel, with slate flooring, distressed mirrors, walls lined with raw oak panels and a deep-blue Yves Klein inspired glass ceiling, that will reflect light from six circular chandeliers. Velvet and soft mohair fabrics will provide an atmosphere of warmth and comfort.

The Bar leads through to 'Aubrey', a British inspired restaurant, catering for 96 covers in a relaxed, club-like atmosphere. Textured walls, combined with leather banquette seating and chrome lighting fixtures evoke 1930's glamour.

The rooms and suites at The Kensington Hotel will feature a combination of luxurious fabrics and wallpapers alongside 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century furniture and artwork. All the rooms have a different style and colour scheme, in keeping with the individuality of each of the bedrooms. The corner rooms benefit from floor to ceiling windows on three sides which lead out on to the balconies. Large cosy bedspreads lie on contemporary four-poster beds, surrounded by textured wallpapers and lush rugs. The lavishly wallpapered bathrooms have flat screen TV's built into the wall, for guests to watch whilst relaxing in the freestanding claw footed bathtubs.

The hotel also offers free wireless Internet access through-out the hotel as well as a comprehensive gym and spa room.

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**Note to Editors:**

The Kensington Hotel is a member of The Doyle Collection, a brand new and upscale hotel group that comprises eleven hotels in six cities around the world. These design-led properties will provide chic boltholes for modern day travellers, as well as stylish bars and restaurants for local consumers. The unveiling of the UK collection commenced with the opening of The Marylebone Hotel, London, and The Bristol Hotel in February 2009. Following the opening of The Kensington Hotel in April 2009, The Bloomsbury Hotel, London, will open in May 2009.

**The Doyle Collection comprises:**

The Westbury, Dublin

Croke Park Hotel, Dublin

Cork Hotel, Cork

The Marylebone Hotel, The Kensington Hotel & The Bloomsbury Hotel, London

The Bristol Hotel, Bristol

The Back Bay Hotel, Boston USA

The Dupont Hotel, The Normandy Hotel & The Courtyard by Marriot, Washington DC USA

For more information please visit: [www.doylecollection.com](http://www.doylecollection.com)

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**Media Contacts:**

Sophie Henson / Amanda Gore-Booth

Amber Greenwood / Cara Chapman

ZFL PRCo

Tel: 020 7259 1114 / Email: [cchapman@prco.com](mailto:cchapman@prco.com)