

Don't rock the boat

Come aboard a floating haven for some good old fashioned luxury and romance, says Fiona Keating

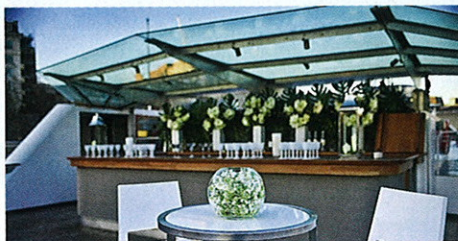


If you think a City cruise on the river is just for tourists, think again. An increasing number of local residents and City businesses are flocking to take to the waters to enjoy an evening of luxury, fine wine and dining, just a stone's throw from home. We forget how beautiful the city of London is, with world-famous landmarks such as St Paul's, The Gherkin and the buildings around Bankside. The view from the river gives us a new perspective on our home town. It's a view we don't often pay attention to, unlike previous generations, who regularly used the river.

From September, Woods' Silver Fleet is joining forces with Jamie Oliver, who has recently opened a Jamie's Italian branch at the Angel Building in Islington. The chef said: "Myself and my events food team are so happy to be working with the Woods family on their beautiful fleet of boats. The family have been running this business on the Thames for five generations now, and they're as passionate about their fleet as I am about the food we'll be serving on-board. Of course, we'll be using loads of great British produce, and taking inspiration from around the world for our exciting dishes and on-deck barbecues."

The Silver Sturgeon is the 61-metre flagship vessel of the Silver Fleet, and regularly travels from the Savoy Pier through London's landmarks to the East End of the city. This sleek super yacht had a multi-million pound refurbishment by Bere: architects, based in Islington.

It was their first yacht commission although Justin Bere has known Kate Woods, the creative director of the Woods'



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Silver Fleet for a few years. The inspiration came from the elegant Riva boats in Venice. "We shared the idea of creating a sense of luxury in a kind of calm, understated way," he explained. "Kate was prepared to spend a lot of money on the re-fit as long as the design would stand the test of time.

"So we concentrated on the fundamentals of creating a relaxing and comfortable atmosphere. An important part of this was to create colours and lighting that make people look their best. We also used high quality materials that look good and feel really sensual."

DUCK TOURS

www.londonducktours.co.uk

LONDON RIB TOURS

www.londonribvoyages.com

SILVER FLEET

www.silverfleet.co.uk

THAMES LUXURY CHARTERS

www.thamesluxurycharters.co.uk

THAMES TEASERS

There are plenty of alternative ways to enjoy the river, so see what takes your fancy.

THRILL SEEKERS

Adrenalin junkies will have a heart-pounding moment or two with the London Rib Tours, a 50-minute thrill ride with speeds up to 30 knots. You'll cruise from central London, Festival pier with a professional guide pointing out all the best sights and famous landmarks along the way. All safety gear including life jackets wet weather jackets and trousers will be available on arrival.

CELEBRITY CRUISE

'Hollywood on Thames' is a celebration of Film and TV locations in, on and around the Thames. The whole event takes place more often than not on the *Golden Salamander*, herself scene of eight individual episodes of the TV series *The Bill*. As you walk to the boat you will pass through the historic cobbled streets of Shad Thames where the actor John Hurt appeared as the *Elephant Man*.

D-DAY DUCKS

Sun 4th September

From London Duck Tours, view London's most important Second World War sights including St Paul's Cathedral and find out the DUCK's vital role in the Normandy beach landings.