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NEW PRIVATE MEMBERS' CLUB FOR CITY CHIEFS SETS UP SHOP IN SKYFALL'S MI6 HEADQUARTERS



Silver service: Ten Trinity Square stood in for MI6 HQ in Skyfall, starring Daniel Craig and Bérénice Marlohe. The private members' club will sell a £44,500 double magnum of Chateau Latour

Jonathan Pryor
Consumer Business Editor

We've been expecting you, Mr Bond Trader

A PRIVATE members' club for the City's "masters of the universe" where a bottle of wine can cost up to £44,500 is opening in one of the Square Mile's most imposing buildings next month.

Ten Trinity Square, a Grade II* listed edifice overlooking the Tower of London and Tower Bridge, stood in as the headquarters of MI6 in 2012's Skyfall, starring Daniel Craig as James Bond.

The £3,000-a-year Ten Trinity Square Private Club will have its rooms in the building. Its owners hope to reinvent the traditional gentlemen's clubs that once drew "City genies" west across town to St James's and Mayfair after a day at the bank or on the floor of the Stock Exchange.

It is the second private members' club to open in London's ancient financial district this year following the launch of The Ned by Soho House founder Nick Jones in April.

General manager Nigel Stowe, who previously worked at The Ivy Club, the Arts Club and Bulgari, said the planned membership of between 500

and 1,000 would include many of the City's most senior executives. He said: "The Ned and us both bring something to the City. The difference is that you probably send your board to this club and your staff to The Ned. The bread and butter membership will be the chief executive in the City."

Ten Trinity Square, designed by Sir Edwin Cooper, was formerly the HQ of the Port of London Authority. The club's rooms, with interiors designed by French architect Bruno Moïnard, occupy the walnut- and oak-panelled former offices of the chairman and directors.

Applicants who are accepted by the membership com-

Chef: Anne-Sophie Pic will oversee the club's dining room

mittee and pay the £5,000 joining fee will be able to access a Chateau Latour "discovery room" stocked with bottles of the famous Premier Cru Classé claret from vintages as far back as 1939. It is the first time that the celebrated Bordeaux wine maker has lent its name to a commercial venture outside the vineyard.

The most expensive wine is a double magnum of Grand Vin de Chateau

Latour 1961 with a price tag of £44,500. A large glass of the 1982 will cost £680.

Other facilities include a dining room overseen by fourth-generation French chef Anne-Sophie Pic of three Michelin-starred Maison Pic.

Mr Stowe said he hoped the club – jointly run by the building's owner, Chinese-Thai conglomerate Reignwood, the Four Seasons Hotel, which occupies much of Ten Trinity Square,

and Chateau Latour, would attract a range of high-achievers as well as City bosses. He said: "Being in the City lends it a sort of feel of power, but we also want a fun element. I also want to bring a bit of the entertainment world to the City. People want a laugh at the end of the day. What we don't want is just a load of 55-year-old men."

Mr Stowe said the club would also try to promote responsible capitalism. Honorary founding members include Lord Mandelson, the Chinese ambassador to Britain, Liu Xiaoming, and the tenor Plácido Domingo. He said that despite the "relaxed" dress code – only sportswear and shorts are likely to be banned outright – he does not expect a rush of members from the tieless digital high-flyers of Shoreditch. "I don't think they will come here," he added.



Mayfair wine without the price tag

Lizzie Edmonds

A TAPAS restaurant in Mayfair is selling bottles of wine for £20 to challenge the idea that the area is an expensive place to drink.

El Pirata, in Down Street, is stocking four bottles from Spain which cost £19.95. Prices start at £34 a bottle at some restaurants in nearby Maddox Street, £37 in Grosvenor Square and £44 in Berkeley Street.

General manager Jose Rodrigues

picked the wines – two white and two rosé – for their summery flavours. They include Colegiata Malvasia Blanco, a white wine with "a distinct flavour of green apples and a touch of peach", and La Tremenda Tinto, a rosé with "expressive notes of fresh black cherries and red berries".

Mr Rodrigues said: "Good wine doesn't need to cost the earth and we hope our customers will enjoy these bottles at great prices." The wines will be on the menu until September 16.

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