New Drake’s Island owner to expand hotel plans
Drake’s Island in Plymouth Sound has been sold to local businessman Morgan Phillips. Phillips’ development company Guardian Industrial UK bought the island for an undisclosed fee off a guide price of £6 million, from Dan McCauley, founder of Rotolok, who acquired the island for £384,000 in 1995. Plans to build a 25-bedroom hotel with a 120-cover fine dining restaurant, bar, conference facilities, spa and gym were given the green light by Plymouth City Council two years ago. Phillips intends to increase the hotel capacity to 43 keys, along with the development of a heritage centre, and will invest up to £22 million in the project.

Chester Zoo’s hotel and restaurant plan gets the go-ahead
Chester Zoo is delighted after getting the go-ahead for plans to create an African savannah habitat overlooked by a large restaurant and overnight accommodation. The project, named Grasslands, will be home to rare and endangered species including Rothschild’s giraffe, Grevy’s zebra, ostrich and antelope, all living alongside one another. Plans were approved by Cheshire West and Chester Council planning committee, subject to final confirmation that a drainage issue has been fully resolved.

Islay hotel eyes growth through expansion plan
An award-winning hotel on Islay is targeting an increase in revenue after securing bank support for its expansion plans. The five-star Glenegedale House, which has received prestigious accolades from awarding bodies such as the AA, aims to add four bedrooms, upgrade existing rooms and develop a new bar and restaurant. The plans are being supported by a banking package worth £410,000 from Royal Bank of Scotland.

Approval sought to convert historic bank house into boutique hotel
Warrington Borough Council is planning to sell a Grade II listed building as part of plans to bring a town centre site back into economic use. Approval is being sought from the cabinet to convert the existing buildings at Garven Place into a boutique hotel, restaurant, spa and swimming pool, along with the development of residential apartments and public car park.

Boutique hotel plan for Barnard Castle’s listed former HSBC bank
A Grade II listed former bank could be converted into a hotel under a new proposal. Plans to turn the old HSBC on Barnard Castle Market Place into a boutique hotel were revealed in a planning application submitted to Durham County Council last month. A couple from Whorlton seeks consent to change the use of the building, which is a prominent feature on the high street and within the town conservation area and has been empty since HSBC shut the branch in early 2017.

Leisureplex picks up Torquay Cavendish
Leisureplex Hotels has bought the Cavendish hotel in Torquay from the Ryder family, taking the total number of properties in its portfolio to 22. Of the hotel’s 95 bedrooms, 48 will be refurbished with new bathrooms installed as part of a 12-month work schedule to renovate the property.

Ruby Hotels’ first UK property to open in 2020
The 76-room Ruby Lucy is to open in London’s Southbank in January next year. Munich-based hotel brand, Ruby Hotels, was founded in 2013 by CEO Michael Struck. The brand’s UK launch with Ruby Lucy forms part of an expansion plan for the company to have 20 properties across the UK by 2022.
expansion plan to see eleven new hotels unveiled by 2022. Located on Southbank's Lower Marsh, Ruby Lucy is set within the area's entertainment and theatre scene. As a result, the hotel will adopt a carnival-inspired interior and be decorated with props including circus drums and juggling pins. *Boutique Hotel News, 9.9.2019*

**Owner of Georgian House Hotel snaps up second property in the Lake District**
Serena Von Der Heyde, owner of Georgian House Hotel, has acquired her second property in the Lake District. Heyde, whose family built the London boutique in 1851, has snapped up the Oak Bank Hotel in Grasmere from Glynis and Simon Wood, who have owned and operated the business for the past 12 years. She purchased the freehold of the hotel off an asking price of £1.5m. Heyde is now planning ‘substantial investment’ into the hotel alongside employee development, relaunching the hotel in spring 2020. *Boutique Hotelier, 10.9.2019*

**The Pig at Harlyn Bay sets June 2020 opening date**
The Pig at Harlyn Bay will open its doors in June 2020, marking the boutique brand’s seven hotel and first in Cornwall. The new hotel is part of a £30m expansion programme being rolled out by owners Robin and Judy Hutson, and follows the launch of The Pig at Bridge Place earlier this year. The Pig at Harlyn Bay will be set within a Grade-II listed mansion dating back to the 16th century, surrounded by almost five acres of gardens. *Boutique Hotelier, 10.9.2019*

**Glasgow approves hotel plans for Wellington House**
3DReid has gained planning consent to transform Glasgow’s B-listed Wellington House into a boutique hotel. The practice is working with developer Henley Homes Group on the sensitive conversion of the listed building into a 98-bed boutique hotel known as The Wellington as well as serviced apartments. A prominent building on the corner of two important city centre streets, Wellington House has been used as office space and a tribunal, and since it was first built in the late 1800s, it has maintained its historic external facade and contributes to the distinctive character of the area. *Scottish Construction Now, 11.9.2019*

**£50m Buxton Crescent hotel project to be launched in 2020 under new health spa brand**
With the multi-million pound redevelopment of Buxton Crescent well underway, it’s been announced that the new hotel will be launched under new brand Ensana Health Spa Hotels in 2020. Plans were revealed in December 2015 for the transformation of the Grade-I historic building into a new hotel and spa at a cost of £50m, to be operated by Hungarian operator Danubius Hotel Group. Now it’s emerged that the five-star hotel will fall under the breakaway brand Ensana Health Spa Hotels, made up of the 26 spa hotels across Europe formerly part of Danubius Hotel Group. *Boutique Hotelier, 13.9.2019*

**New concept hotel breaks ground in Birmingham**
BLOC Hotels’ third location, located opposite Birmingham’s Grand Central and New Street Station, will open in 2021. With work now onsite, the building will comprise 227 bedrooms spread across 22 floors, bringing a contemporary new structure to Birmingham’s developing city centre skyline. *Commercial News Media, 25.9.2019*

**Hotel’s £500K plan to expand facilities**
A family run hotel is planning a half-a-million pound expansion after enjoying its best ever year. The owners of Camelia Hotel, Eastern Esplanade, Southend, want to increase the size of its bar and restaurant complete with a new glass front. The family also plan a new entrance, reception and a two storey extension. *Southend Echo, 25.9.2019*

**Ruby Hotels announces second London site to open in Q1 2021**
Munich-based hotel chain Ruby Hotels is looking to bring its unique take on the luxury hotel experience to London’s Clerkenwell. The new hotel will be called Ruby Stella and is due to open in Q1 of 2021. It will follow in the footsteps of Ruby Lucy, which will open on the Southbank in January next year. The company is planning to unveil a total of 12 hotels by 2022. *Boutique Hotelier, 26.9.2019*

**Hotel Gotham to open in Glasgow**
Bespoke Hotels is set to open a second Hotel Gotham in Glasgow
in spring 2021. Located at 5-7 Blythswood Square, the new 57-key hotel will be developed in partnership with construction company Marshall CDP and Bespoke Hotels. Hotel Gotham Glasgow will join brands including Malmaison, Kimpton and Dakota, all of which are already operating in the surrounding area. Additional Gotham hotels are expected to open in Bath, Birmingham, Brighton and London.

Crow Wood Group braces to open new hotel and spa resort in Lancashire this autumn
A resort operator in Lancashire is preparing to launch its latest property to market, with the opening of Crow Wood Hotel & Spa this autumn. The team behind The Woodland Spa, Bertram’s Restaurant and Crow Wood health club is to open the doors to the new venture within the next few months, and is bidding for the business to become ‘one of the best hotels in Lancashire’. The luxury property, set in 40 acres of parkland in Burnley within the Crow Wood resort, will comprise 76 bedrooms and suites, wedding and conference facilities and a restaurant headed up by chef director Spencer Burge.

Bredos and Belzan founders unite for Liverpool taquera
The founders of Liverpool restaurants, Belzan and Volpi, and London’s Bredos Tacos will launch a new Mexican taquera at Royal Albert Dock Liverpool as a joint venture in November 2019. Madre, a 100 cover restaurant, will open at the Grade I-listed site on the Atlantic Pavilion, offering seating across two floors as well as a dedicated bar area and a large outside courtyard.

Beza, Tasty Jerk and Pot & Rice sign up to Elephant Park
Beza, Tasty Jerk and Pot & Rice have signed to open at Elephant Park in the London borough of Southwark. Ethiopian vegan restaurant Beza and Caribbean concept Tasty Jerk were previously tenants at Artworks Elephant, Lendlease’s pop-up retail park at Elephant Park ahead of its recent £2.3b redevelopment. Pan-Asian operator Pot & Rice will serve rice pots, mochi, yuzu cheesecake and teas. The news follows the launch of the leasing of the next phase of Elephant Park, which comprises 16 food and beverage units totalling 37,000 sq ft, for which Lendlease is seeking to attract further local independent businesses.

London’s Favourite Pasta Restaurant Is Officially Opening in Shoreditch
Padella — London’s favourite fresh pasta restaurant and sister to Trullo, the essential restaurant and Islington neighbourhood spot — has confirmed it will open a second restaurant: on Phipp Street, in Shoreditch. After rumours that the fresh pasta specialists from Borough Market would open in east London, it is now confirmed that the restaurant, which is owned by chef Tim Siadatan and front-of-house Jordan Frieda, will arrive early 2020. It will also house Padella’s bakery and open for lunch and dinner seven days a week.

Joël Robuchon International to open two new London sites
Joël Robuchon International is to launch two London restaurants this year, continuing the legacy of the French legend who died last year aged 73 with a portfolio of 13 restaurants and 24 Michelin stars. Le Comptoir Robuchon will open in Clarges Street, Mayfair, in October while Le Deli Robuchon on Piccadilly will welcome guests from November. The openings follow the closure of L’Atelier de Joël Robuchon in London’s Covent Garden in April.

Birmingham’s Brindleyplace lands latest restaurant from renowned chef
Renowned Birmingham chef and restaurateur Aktar Islam is to open his latest restaurant Pulperia at the city’s Brindleyplace estate. Pulperia will serve Argentine food inspired by Islam’s time in the country, drawing on the tradition of the asado; starting a meal with small plates before moving on to smoky steaks cooked on the traditional Parilla.

Dim sum concept to replace Wild Honey in Mayfair
A dim sum concept from a new company backed by the co-founder of Burger & Lobster is to replace Wild Honey in Mayfair, Propel has learned. Novators
Hospitality, which is backed by Misha Zelman and led by Tim Mills, former operations director at Pho and head of operations at Paul UK, plans to open the yet to be named concept on the site in St George Street at the start of next year. Agent Seb Howard Property acted on the deal. *Propel*, 16.9.2019

**Buzzy Soho Pasta Restaurant Will Open at Westfield London Shopping Centre**

Chef-restaurateur Stevie Parle is opening Pastaio in White City, and hints at citywide expansion in the near future Modern Italian restaurant diversifier and owner of Palatino and Craft, Stevie Parle has told Eater that his second Pastaio restaurant will open at the Westfield Shopping Centre in White City this November. *London Eater*, 16.9.2019

**Influential London restaurateur returns with 'Chinese River Cafe' for Canary Wharf**

One of London’s most influential restaurateurs, Alan Yau, is to make a spectacular return to the capital next year with a Docklands restaurant he likens to a “Chinese River Cafe”. The Hong Kong-born founder of the Wagamama chain, and fine dining landmarks such as HakkaSan and Yauatcha, has not been directly involved in London’s dining scene since he pulled out of Chinese restaurants Park Chinois and Duck + Rice and Middle Eastern restaurant concept Babaji Pide in 2017. However, Yau, 56, told the Evening Standard he is planning a big comeback in 2020 with three launches: two in Canary Wharf and one at the Westfield London shopping centre in Shepherd’s Bush. *Evening Standard*, 18.9.2019

**Two of Central London’s Most Popular Restaurants Are Opening in King’s Cross**

Bao, the Taiwanese bun shop and essential London restaurant, is planning to open its fifth location, alongside Hoppers — at the base of the Universal Music headquarters in Pancras Square, King’s Cross. MCA reports that Bao will open at the new development, following a licensing application for a two-floor site. Documents seen by Eater, however, indicate that in addition to Bao, its parent company JKS Restaurants will also open a third Hoppers restaurant, the Sri Lankan brand, in one of the location’s two discrete spaces. *London Eater*, 19.9.2019

**Le Cordon Bleu: World’s most famous cookery school launches second London site in Fleet Street**

The world’s most famous cookery school Le Cordon Bleu, which counts Mary Berry and Yotam Ottolenghi among its alumni, is to open a huge new French gastro-hub in the City. The 124-year-old Parisian institution is taking a long lease on two storeys of a building in Fleet Street where it will launch a new restaurant, cafe and cooking school. The Grade II listed building was designed for the Press Association in 1935 and was later occupied by fellow news agency Reuters until the mid-Nineties. *Evening Standard*, 23.9.2019

**Michelin-Starred Spanish Restaurant Sabor Wants to Open in Soho**

Sabor, the Michelin-starred Spanish restaurant from ex-Barrafina head chef Nieves Barragán Mohacho and José Etura, could open a second restaurant in Soho. Planning documents submitted to Westminster Council name both empire builder JKS Restaurants and Sabor in a proposed opening at 49 Lexington Street, adding to the original site on Heddon Street in Mayfair. There is no timeline for the opening to date. *Eater London*, 25.9.2019

**Star of Istanbul’s Dining Scene Moves Forward on Debut London Restaurant in Soho**

Esra Muslu, a star of Istanbul’s dining scene, is closer than ever to opening her debut London restaurant. Mooted since March 2018 after a residency at Marylebone’s Carousel, Zahter will open at 30 — 32 Foubert’s Place in the heart of Carnaby. Detailed restaurant drawings submitted to Westminster Council present an intriguing picture of an intimate, varied dining experience — as far as drawings can. Muslu later told Eater that the restaurant will open in 2020. *Eater London*, 26.9.2019

**What Does Central London Want More Of? Fresh Pasta, Of Course**

Popular Covent Garden fresh pasta restaurant Bancone is opening second site in Soho Bancone, one of central London’s finest fresh pasta restaurants, is planning to open a second restaurant — in Soho. Eater has
learned that the brand, which debuted on William IV Street in Covent Garden in April 2018, has made moves to expand to 10 Lower James Street, south of Golden Square.

_Eater London, 26.9.2019_

**PUBS and BARS**

One of London’s Most Famous Bakeries Announces New Wine Bar in Hackney

East London’s cult cake shop — and one of London’s best bakeries — Violet will open a second bakery in Hackney next year. Clare Ptak told Eater that the as-yet-unnamed site, which will double as an evening wine bar, will open on the site of The Corner, at the intersection of Westgate Street and Mare Street in January 2020.

_Eater London, 2.9.2019_

Lender stumps up £900,000 for two North West pubs

A specialist lender has provided almost £1m worth of funds for the refurbishment of two pubs in the North West. Manchester-based developer, Henry Skipton, secured £675,000 funding to support the acquisition of Molly House, an established pub and restaurant located near Manchester’s Canal Street. Assetz Capital has also provided over £900,000 to the two pubs. Manchester-based developer, Henry Skipton, secured £675,000 funding to support the acquisition of Molly House, an established pub and restaurant located near Manchester’s Canal Street. Assetz Capital has also provided over £900,000 to the two pubs. Manchester-based developer, Henry Skipton, secured £675,000 funding to support the acquisition of Molly House, an established pub and restaurant located near Manchester’s Canal Street. Assetz Capital has also provided over £900,000 to the two pubs. Manchester-based developer, Henry Skipton, secured £675,000 funding to support the acquisition of Molly House, an established pub and restaurant located near Manchester’s Canal Street. Assetz Capital has also provided over £900,000 to the two pubs.

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_Eater London, 2.9.2019_

Co-working offices and rooftop bar planned for city centre

Sheffield City Council has announced that a vacant office building at 38 Carver Street is set to be transformed into serviced offices and a stylish rooftop bar. Following a marketing exercise in the summer, property management specialist Staton Young, has been selected by the council as operators for 38 Carver Street. It is set for completion in 2020.

_The Business Desk, 18.9.2019_

Michelin star chef to collaborate with boutique hotel to launch ‘tiny farm-to-table’ restaurant

One of the UK’s youngest chefs to have a coveted Michelin star is to collaborate with a boutique hotel in Somerset to open a ‘tiny farm-to-table’ restaurant, as part of a new venture. Merlin Labron-Johnson, who was awarded a Michelin star in 2015 at his first London restaurant, Portland, when he was 24 years old, is to launch Osip in Bruton in November in partnership with Number 1 Bruton, a new boutique hotel due to open its doors around the same time.

_Boutique Hoteller, 23.9.2019_

**CONTRACT CATERING**

Independents by Sodexo continues growth in Belfast

Independents by Sodexo has been awarded two contracts in Belfast – a brand new catering contract with Victoria College and a cleaning contract addition to existing services at Rathmore Grammar School – continuing its business growth in the region. The new, previously self-operated, contract at Victoria College will see Independents by Sodexo provide catering and hospitality services to the 870 pupils at its Cranmore Park and Richmond campuses. The contract, launched in August 2019, is transforming the existing food offer by introducing a wide range of dishes with a focus on fresh, nutritious and seasonal food.

_Sodexo, 11.9.2019_

Lender plays up sporting contract wins worth £3m

Amadeus’ events team has won several sports catering contracts worth £3 million across golf, tennis and cycling. The caterer has added five golf events to its portfolio. These include the retention of the Aberdeen Asset Management Scottish Open for three years, the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship and AIG Women’s British Open for a further two years each and the 2019 Solheim Cup. The company’s wins in the tennis world include the retention of the Nature Valley International Eastbourne and Nature Valley Open Nottingham for a further three-years each. It also secured a contract to deliver the catering services at the Nature Valley Classic Birmingham until 2021. Amadeus has also secured a cycling contract with Yorkshire 2019 UCI Road World Championships later this month.

_Facilitate, 18.9.2019_

Elior UK keeps the ball at BT Murrayfield

Elior UK, the UK subsidiary of Elior Group, has extended its
contract to manage catering and hospitality services at BT Murrayfield, the largest stadium in Scotland. The collaboration has already been extended by five years and will now run for another 12 years.

Facilitate, 25.9.2019