

readerreports

Executive PA knows no boundaries when searching for new, exciting, yet practical venues for corporate events

Inspiring venue

VENUE: SOUTHBANK CENTRE, LONDON

"I'm going to get married here" exclaimed an Executive PA reader at one of the two events at the Southbank Centre last month. The fact that she wasn't engaged yet didn't seem to be too much of an issue. And we can see her point – this venue is the kind of awe-inspiring, show-stopping venue that would be the perfect place for a wedding... or any event for that matter.

The event on 17 September was held on the exclusive 7th floor of The Royal Festival Hall. Until recently this area was only for use by sponsors but now it's available for private hire and it's sure to be huge hit. The first thing you notice about this space are the fantastic views



looking across the Thames which was certainly a talking point amongst our guests.

PAs who attended were similarly impressed with the first class catering – all laid on by Lettice – particularly of interest to readers were the multi-coloured quails' eggs and the mouth-

In our last issue
(Aug/Sept 2009) we invited readers to experience a wealth of venues as ideal for meetings, private dinners, conferences and exhibitions as for incentives, congresses, accommodation and training. Our reader reports give you a flavour of the tremendous hospitality shown by the venues as well as the opportunity to network. All our readers who are responsible for sourcing, recommending or booking venues are welcome to our venue events (see this issue for further invitations) so to guarantee a place, make sure you complete the coupons as soon as possible. We look forward to meeting you!

watering mini banoffee pies! Receiving equally welcome praise were the plentiful wines, provided by Justerini & Brooks, and the beautiful floral decorations courtesy of JW Florists.

Many of the PAs were unaware of the variety of event spaces available in the Centre and so Head of Development Events, Froniga Creissen was on hand with guided tours: "It was a great opportunity for us to introduce Southbank Centre to a key audience. Many of the guests had come to the Royal Festival Hall before to attend concerts or visit the restaurants, but few knew we had so many different spaces available to hire. We look forward to welcoming some of them back in a business capacity soon."

Further information: www.southbankcentre.co.uk

Best of British showcase in London



VENUE: ONE GREAT GEORGE STREET

Britain was well and truly in the spotlight at the One Great George Street event, on 9th

September. The venue had opted for a nostalgic 'Best of British' theme which kept our readers entertained. One Great George Street is a conference, banqueting, meeting and exhibition space which seamlessly fuses modern and traditional styles. And our PAs certainly had a jaw-dropping entrance – thanks to the grand reception area and the sweeping staircase on their way up to the Grand Hall.

There were old English-style stands with traditional red and white striped roofs sheltering stands ranging from Guess the Weight of the Cake and Hook a Duck through to stands enabling you to sample cheeses, miniature fish

and chips, scrummy scones with cream and Scotch eggs and sausage rolls. There was even a real life bobby on the beat, walking around, taking down everyone's particulars!

All of the PAs at the event agreed that One Great George Street had really gone to town for this event: "What a wonderful building you have to offer and so interesting" said Carol Burnett, PA at The Oakwood Partnership. "No wonder you are all so happy and cheery working in such wonderful surroundings. Thank you for a pleasant and interesting event with very generous hospitality."

Further information: www.onegreatgeorgestreet.com

Indian feast to tempt all of your senses

VENUE: MELA RESTAURANT, LONDON

When it came to this event we were overwhelmed by readers wanting to attend – Mela Restaurant has received many culinary awards over its 10 year history – the restaurant was founded by Executive Chef Kuldeep Singh, who in 2006 was voted runner-up to Gordon Ramsey himself as Restaurateur of the Year.

The culinary experience that awaited PAs on September 29th was worth the wait: authentic Indian dishes that were guaranteed to get your taste buds tingling! Mela Restaurant prides

itself on traditional recipes handed down through the generations, with exciting, robust flavours that are truly unique. "I thoroughly enjoyed my evening at Mela Restaurant" commented Katherine Pugh, PA at Project Centre Ltd. "The food was exquisite and the staff were extremely hospitable. I will definitely be recommending this restaurant."

In fact, we didn't hear one single piece of bad feedback during the entire event. "Mela really pushed the boat out that night, and we felt that Mela staff were courteous, polite and generous" praised Laila Vijayan from Norgine



Limited. "The whole intention was to seek out a suitable London venue, and I would have no reticence in recommending Mela."

Further information: www.melarestaurant.co.uk