



THE
NATIONAL
GALLERY

Entertaining at
the National Gallery



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The National Gallery houses one of the greatest collections of Western European paintings in the world from the 13th to the 19th centuries. It is a beautiful and extraordinarily varied collection, containing many famous works. No other collection better tells the story of Western European painting. Located within the heart of central London, where better to entertain your guests than Trafalgar Square?

Within the Gallery there are a range of elegant event spaces which can accommodate everything from a private breakfast tour or intimate lunch through to a drinks reception or magnificent dinner alongside some of the world's most iconic works of art.



Portico Terrace and Foyer

With unrivalled views overlooking the iconic Trafalgar Square, the Portico Entrance is an extraordinary event space. It is ideal for a summer drinks reception or alfresco dining on the exquisite black and white mosaic floor.

In inclement weather Central Hall can be used as the wet weather option.

History

During the construction of the Trafalgar Square building, its architect, William Wilkins, recycled masonry and statuary from other projects. The relief above the Portico Entrance was originally intended for John Nash's Marble Arch, but was used for the Gallery instead. Designed by Charles Rossi, it shows two young women symbolising Europe and Asia.

Reception capacity: 250 (external terrace and internal foyer)

Reception capacity: 100 (external terrace only)

Dinner capacity: 60



Mosaic Terrace

Regally elevated above the Portico Entrance, the Mosaic Terrace is ideal for a drinks reception or intimate dinner on its exquisite tiled floor. Beautifully lit by a glass ceiling and muted turquoise walls, the light delicately compliments the vibrant colours of the mosaic. With its intricate illustration of celebrated people of 1930's Britain, this unique artwork captures the charming versatility of the National Gallery.

History

The first picture that greets visitors to the National Gallery is set into the floor of the Mosaic Terrace, *The Awakening of the Muses*. A marble mosaic was laid in 1933 by the Russian-born artist Boris Anrep, who was an associate of the Bloomsbury Group. His Muses and famous friends are depicted within the mosaic, including the film star Greta Garbo as Melpomene, writer Virginia Woolf wielding an elegant pen as Clio and Sir Winston Churchill as Defiance.



Reception capacity: 60

Dinner & Breakfast capacity: 40



Central Hall

This spectacular room, beautifully lit by an elevated glass rooftop, showcases Northern Italian paintings from the 16th-century. The striking marble entrance way leads up to an intricately decorated ceiling of golden leaves, making it a truly regal setting. Located just off the Portico entrance, Central Hall is perfectly situated to accommodate exceptional receptions and dinners.

History

The display includes works from Northern Italy dating 1500–1580, by well-known artists such as Gaudenzio Ferrari, Moretto da Brescia, Girolamo Romanino and Garofalo. The collection displays how portraits were once the preserve of the cities' elites at the beginning of the century; however, by the end, the market for portraiture was enormously expanded.

Reception capacity: 200

Dinner & Breakfast capacity: 100



Room 30

Room 30 houses some of the Gallery's most iconic Spanish paintings from Velázquez to Zurbarán including *The Rokeby Venus* seen below. Situated just beyond Central Hall, Room 30 is a perfect space for an elegant reception for 300, as well as a dinner for 220 guests.



History

The evolution of a Counter-Reformation religiosity in Spain is revealed in a variety of powerful, individual styles hanging around Room 30. To make religion more personally relevant, the artists used naturalistic light to convey divine presence and they depicted the saints as ordinary people, with a vivid physicality and facial expressions.



Reception capacity: 300

Dinner & Breakfast capacity: 220



Barry Rooms

The Barry Rooms are an impressive setting for any event with a spectacular domed roof, ornamental marble pillars and British portraits lining the walls. This space is perfect for both intimate and larger scale dinners and receptions.

History

Also referred to as the Dome Room, the Barry Rooms opened in 1876 as part of the Edward Middleton Barry extensions. The five main 'Barry Rooms' (35–38 & 40) are arranged in the form of a Greek cross with the octagonal Room 36 at the centre. A variety of paintings by Canaletto (1697–1768) hang within this room including *A Regatta on the Grand Canal* shown below.



Reception capacity: 300

Dinner & Breakfast capacity: 150



Gallery A

Gallery A is located within the main Wilkins Building and has a contemporary feel. This space has recently been rehung and explores a different way of experiencing the nation's collection of European paintings. Hung in broadly chronological order, Gallery A tells the entire story of 400 years of painting in a single space. This venue is available for breakfasts, lunches, drinks receptions or dinner, as it is currently only open to the public on Wednesdays and the first Sunday of every month.



History

The display includes paintings by well-known artists, such as Delacroix, Guardi, and Tiepolo, as well as high-quality anonymous works that tell an interesting story. The display begins with paintings from the Middle Ages to the High Renaissance, with the earliest work, *The Virgin and Child with Six Angels*, by the Master of the Albertini dating about 1310–15.

Reception capacity: 350

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner capacity: 108



Yves Saint Laurent Room (Room 18)

The Yves Saint Laurent Room is an elegant gallery housing a selection of French 17th-century paintings. The opulent colouring of fabric on the walls contributes to the atmospheric setting for a stylish dinner party or canapé reception.

History

Most of the paintings in this room were made in Paris around the middle of the 17th century. Increasing French power and self-confidence are qualities evident in Philippe de Champaigne's full-length portrait of ruthless and fascinating Cardinal de Richelieu of 1633–40. The political ambition to make Paris a new Rome resulted in more French-born painters making their careers in the French capital. This trend was encouraged by the founding in 1648 of a royal academy of the arts, and by many wealthy individuals refurbishing their homes.

Reception capacity: 100

Dinner & Breakfast capacity: 60



Turner Room (Room 15)

A wonderful intimate entertaining option in the heart of the Gallery, the Turner Room offers an exclusive dining experience in the ambience of two iconic artists like Claude Lorraine and J.M.W. Turner. Guests can be regaled by both the intellectually inspiring works on show as well as the pure aesthetic beauty of the room.

History

When British painter J.M.W. Turner (1775-1851) died, he bequeathed to the nation a large number of his paintings, including *Dido building Carthage* and *Sun Rising through Vapour*. These two paintings came with the condition that they should be displayed alongside Claude's *Landscape with the Marriage of Isaac and Rebecca* and *Seaport with the Embarkation of the Queen of Sheba*. Honouring Turner's wish to this day, this beautiful room displays the four paintings side by side offering an intimate insight into the skill of these two world-class painters.

Reception capacity: 50

Dinner & Breakfast capacity: 36



Annenberg Court

Accessed by the Getty Entrance and located just off Central Hall, the Annenberg Court is the blank canvas of the National Gallery. Suitable for any event, this space is ideal for press or product launches. It is also perfectly located for tours of the Gallery's most iconic paintings.



Located just off the Annenberg Court is the permanent collection which includes Georges Seurat's (1859–1891) *Bathers at Asnières* painted in 1884.

Reception capacity: 300



National Dining Rooms

The National Dining Rooms are located within the modern Sainsbury Wing, designed by the award-winning architect Robert Venturi. This space has incredible views overlooking Trafalgar Square. Running along one wall is an exquisite mural by Paula Rego.

History

In 1985 Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover and his brothers The Hon. Simon Sainsbury and Sir Timothy Sainsbury generously agreed to finance the construction of a new wing for the Gallery. A site next to the main National Gallery had been vacant since the Second World War, when a furniture shop was destroyed by bombing. The new Sainsbury Wing was opened in 1991, to display the Gallery's entire Early Renaissance collection. The National Dining Rooms sits within this Wing offering guests a fabulous view of Trafalgar Square.

Reception capacity: 300

Dinner capacity: 200

Breakfast capacity: 150



National Café

The National Café is one of the largest event spaces in the Gallery and has its own private Entrance overlooking St Martin-in-the-Fields. The space has the feel of a 1920's Parisian café with its marble floors, high windows and beautiful hexagonal lights, a modern contrast compared to the Picture Galleries. With built-in marble topped bars and dancing space the National Café is ideal for a drinks reception, sit down dinner or evening celebration.



History

The National Café was transformed, under the instruction of the Trustees, into a dining area in 1980; the Trustees were inspired by its popularity as a temporary canteen and exhibition space during the Second World War. Originally, the National Café space was inhabited by Dutch cabinet paintings from the collections of the National Gallery and the Royal Academy.

Reception capacity: 500

Dinner capacity: 100



Wohl Room (Room 9)

The Wohl Room is the largest event space within the National Gallery and bridges the elegant 1838 building with the magnificent Sainsbury Wing (1991). The Room contains the Gallery's fantastic gold-framed collection of Venetian Renaissance paintings and is lavishly decorated with green damask walls and a spectacular glass roof.

History

Room 9 contains Venetian paintings from 1530–1600. This period was dominated by Titian and three family workshops, active both locally and internationally: those of Jacopo Tintoretto, Paolo Veronese and Jacopo Bassano. The paintings within the room were painted to be hung in the *palazzos* of the famously hospitable Venetians, making this a natural location to entertain your guests.

Reception capacity: 450

Dinner & Breakfast capacity: 310



Sainsbury Wing Exhibitions

From Leonardo to Rembrandt, the National Gallery's temporary exhibitions are internationally acclaimed and so highly anticipated that queues to visit them cross Trafalgar Square. With the popularity that these exhibitions receive, the opportunity to hire these galleries for an exciting and exclusive event has never been more alluring.

History

Opened by Queen Elizabeth II in 1991, the Sainsbury Wing offers a more contemporary space for the National Gallery's highly regarded exhibition programme. Made possible by a donation from the Sainsbury brothers, this wing of the Gallery also offers a fitting space in which to contemplate the National Gallery's outstanding collection of Early Renaissance paintings.

Reception capacity: 200

Breakfast capacity: 200



Tours and talks

Depending on the timing of your event and space used, tours of the permanent collection and temporary exhibition can be arranged for your guests with a lecturer.

Lecturers can accommodate up to 30 guests per tour. Tours will last for up to one hour and can be on specific artists, themes or highlights of the collection's most famous and celebrated paintings.

Capacities and contact information

	Portico Terrace and Foyer	Mosaic Terrace	Central Hall	Room 30	Barry Rooms	Gallery A	YSL Room	Turner Room	Annenberg Court	National Dining Rooms	National Café	Wohl Room	Sainsbury Wing Exhibitions
Breakfast	N/A	N/A	100	220	150	108	60	36	N/A	150	N/A	310	200
Lunch	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	108	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Reception	100–250	60	200	300	300	350	100	50	300	300	500	450	200
Dinner	60	40	100	220	150	108	60	36	N/A	200	100	310	N/A
Dancing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	300	300	310	N/A	N/A

Venue Hire

For any enquiries regarding venue hire please contact the Events team on 0207 747 5931 or via email at venuehire@ng-london.org.uk

Corporate Membership

For any enquiries regarding the hire of the **Sainsbury Wing Exhibitions**, please contact the Corporate Membership team on 020 7747 5802 or via email at corporatemembership@ng-london.org.uk

Gallery Floor Plan

- Sainsbury Wing and West Galleries
- Portico Entrance and East Galleries
- National Café
- Gallery A

