THE NATIONAL GALLERY

Photos © The National Gallery, London
Entertaining at the National Gallery

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 magnificent dinner or drinks reception alongside some of the world’s most iconic works of art.
The Portico Entrance

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

**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.

**Capacity**

Reception capacity: 100
Dinner capacity: 30

In inclement weather Central Hall will be used as the wet weather option.
Central Hall showcases Northern Italian paintings from the 16th-century. This spectacular room has an octagonal glass roof, walls clothed with a rich Venetian fabric and a ceiling decorated with gold leaf. Situated just off the Portico entrance, Central Hall is perfectly situated to accommodate exceptional receptions and dinners.

**History**
The first picture that greets visitors to the National Gallery is set into the floor just outside Central Hall, '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.
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 200 guests.

Diego Velázquez (1599 – 1660), ‘The Toilet of Venus (‘The Rokeby Venus’), 1647-51

History
The evolution of a Catholic 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.
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 as it is hung in broadly chronological order, telling 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.

Reception capacity: 250
Breakfast/lunch/dinner capacity: 60

History
The display includes paintings by well-known artists, such as Sandro Botticelli, Titian, Luca Giordano, and Eugène Boudin, 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.

Workshop of Sandro Botticelli (1445 – 1510)
‘The Virgin and Child with Saint John and Two Angels’, probably about 1490-1500
The Annenberg Court

Accessed by the Getty Entrance and located just off Central Hall, The Annenberg Court is the blank canvas of the National Gallery. It is perfect for press or product launches and can be dressed to suit your event. It also has fantastic access to the permanent collection, so is in the perfect location to run tours around the collection.

Located just off the Annenberg Court is the permanent collection which includes Georges Seurat (1859 - 1891), ‘Bathers at Asnières’, 1884
The National Dining Rooms are located within the modern Sainsbury Wing, designed by award winning architects Venturi. This space has incredible views overlooking Trafalgar Square. Running along one wall is an exquisite mural by Paula Rego.

**Reception capacity:** 300

**Dinner/breakfast capacity:** 200

**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 entire early Renaissance collection. The National Dining Rooms sits within this Wing overlooking Trafalgar Square.
The 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 paintings and is lavishly decorated with green damask walls and a spectacular glass roof.

Breakfast capacity (standing): 300 Reception capacity: 400 Dinner capacity: 300

History
Room 9 contains Venetian paintings from 1530 to 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.

Within Room 9 hangs ‘The Family of Darius before Alexander’, 1565-7 by Paolo Veronese (1528 - 1588)
The 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 and 40) are arranged in the form of a Greek cross with the octagonal Room 36 at the centre. A variety of Canalettos (1697 - 1768) hang within this room including ‘A Regatta on the Grand Canal’, about 1740, shown left.
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 painted 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.
The Turner Room (Room 15)

As the only intimate entertaining option the Gallery has to offer, the Turner Room offers an exclusive dining experience in the presence of two iconic artists. Guests can be regaled by both the intellectually inspiring works that are on offer as well as the pure, aesthetic beauty of the room.

Reception Capacity: 50    Dinner & Breakfast Capacity: 36

History
On his death one of England’s most established and well-regarded painters, JMW Turner, bequeathed two paintings to the National Gallery’s collection – ‘Dido building Carthage’ and ‘Sun rising through Vapour’.

These two stunning landscapes were historically important acquisitions to the Gallery due to both their prominence in the history of British art and the artist to which they are attributed. But what remains the most interesting about this Gallery space is the inclusion of two paintings by Claude Lorraine... When Turner made his bequest in 1851, it was under the sole condition that his paintings be displayed alongside two paintings by this 17th century Master. Honouring Turner’s wish to this day, this beautiful room displays the four paintings side by side, offering a wealth of comparative study and insight into the mystery and skill of these two world-class painters.
Sainsbury Wing Exhibitions

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

Reception capacity: 200  Breakfast capacity: 200

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.
## Capacities and contact information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Room 30</th>
<th>Central Hall</th>
<th>Portico (ii)</th>
<th>Gallery A</th>
<th>National Dining Rooms</th>
<th>Annenberg Court</th>
<th>Wohl Room</th>
<th>Barry Rooms</th>
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**Venue hire**
For any enquiries regarding the hire of **Room 30, Central Hall, The Portico, Gallery A, National Dining Rooms** or **Annenberg Court** please contact the Events Team on 020 7747 2860 or via email at venuehire@ng-london.org.uk

**Corporate membership**
For any enquiries regarding the hire of **The Sainsbury Wing Exhibition Space, Wohl Room, Barry Rooms, YSL Room** or **The Turner Room** please contact the Corporate Membership Team on 020 7747 5802 or via email at corporatemembership@ng-london.org.uk
Tours and talks

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

During the day, lecturers can accommodate up to 20 guests per guide and in the evening, 35. Tours will last for up to one hour and can be on a specific artist, theme or a highlight of the collection’s most famous and celebrated paintings.