

Dearest Reader, The Lanesborough is having a *Bridgerton* moment...

With season two on its way, for those bewitched by the drama and the costumes, from the elegant sway of Lady Whistledown in taffeta and brocade to Jonathan Bailey's wet shirt exit, to stay at The Lanesborough is one way to instantly imbibe the Regency magic of that time

By Delilah Khomo
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Nowhere beats The Lanesborough when it comes to four posters and the hotel's signature smoky afternoon tea so delicately flavoured with rose petals. Standing in the hand-painted trompe-l'oeil walls of The Lanesborough's Great Hall is straight from a *Bridgerton* set. You can't help but relish the supreme glamour of this lynchpin of the Belgravia scene. Originally built for the 2nd Viscount Lanesborough as his London residence, this landmark Hyde Park Corner hotel is resplendent in Regency-style where flames flicker in fireplaces, crystal chandeliers twinkle and silver pots of tea are served in the drawing room.

And so to celebrate the new series, on 25 March The Lanesborough has partnered with Netflix and Shondaland to launch London's first *Bridgerton*-themed tea. Tea will be served in The Lanesborough's richly decorated dining room, beneath the original sky dome where there is bas-relief artwork meticulously cast from 250 different mouldings, and Wedgwood china mounted on the walls - some of the finest expressions of the Romantic picturesque ideal.



Head Pastry Chef, Kevin Miller, has a unique eye for detail and has created some desserts with such poignant evocation of *Bridgerton* life and characters that you cannot fail to be fascinated. Take *The Queen's Diamond* (dedicated to the star of the season), which Miller has imagined as a hand-crafted chocolate blended with honey, green cardamom and white chocolate ganache.

Equally imaginative is his creation of *A True Love Match*, a British staple inspired by Queen Charlotte, which has been translated into a classic layered Charlotte sponge cake constructed from a delicious light vanilla sponge, so elegantly layered with strawberry jam and vanilla twisted cream. Or the masterpiece that crowns the cake stand, which is a rosewater cheesecake filled with raspberry jelly and coated in a fabulous chocolate in a shade of the palest blue.

And bar the *Bridgerton* element and extraordinarily inventive food, if you love tea and hate tourists, come here. There's a slightly off-grid quality to The Lanesborough, even though it's bang in the middle of the Great Grande Dames of London triangle, it's discreet and chic. Lady Whistledown would have been in her element.

The Lanesborough Bridgerton Afternoon will run from 25 March, for more information visit: lanesborough.com/afternoontea or call +44 (0)20 7259 5599.