



~ Bistro Set Menu ~

To start

Leek and Gruyère tarte, pesto and mesclun salad (V)

Terrine de campagne , pain aux figues

Scottish salmon gravadlax with home-made blinis,
crème fraîche and mange-tout salad

To follow

Asparagus and peas risotto, Parmesan (V)

Salmon and cod fish cake with spinach and parsley sauce

Chicken chasseur, wild rice

After

Petit pot au chocolat, single cream and langue de chat

Crème brûlée

Lemon tart with red berries coulis



Café filtre

Some dishes may contain nuts -please tell us if you have any allergies.

VAT is inclusive at current rate. A discretionary 12.5% service charge will be added to your bill

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The Legend of Bleeding Heart

LADY HATTON AND BLEEDING HEART

Lady Elizabeth Hatton was the toast of 17th century London society. The widowed daughter-in-law of the famous merchant Sir Christopher Hatton (one time consort of Queen Elizabeth 1st), Lady Elizabeth was young, beautiful and very wealthy. Her suitors were many and varied, and included a leading London bishop and a prominent European ambassador.

Invitations to her soirées in Hatton Garden were much sought after and her annual winter ball on January 26, 1626 was one of the highlights of the London social season.

Halfway through the evening's festivities, the doors to Lady Hatton's grand ballroom were flung open. In strode a swarthy gentleman, slightly hunched of shoulder, with a clawed right hand. The party hushed, for it was Lady Hatton's most recently jilted lover. He took her by the hand, danced her once around the room and out through the double doors into the garden.

A buzz of gossip arose. Would Lady Elizabeth and the European Ambassador (for it was he) kiss and make up, or would she return alone?
Neither was to be.

The next morning her body was found in the cobblestone courtyard-torn limb from limb, with her heart still pumping blood onto the cobblestones.
And from thenceforth the yard was to be known as *The Bleeding Heart Yard*.

CHARLES DICKENS AND THE BLEEDING HEART

Charles Dickens knew Bleeding Heart well. In "Little Dorritt" he wrote of folks in the yard, saying "*The more practical of the yard's inmates abided by the tradition of the murder*".

But he went on to document another Bleeding Heart story:
"The gentler and more imaginative inhabitants including the whole of the tender sex were loyal to the legend of a young lady imprisoned in her own chamber by a cruel father for remaining true to her own true lover-but it was objected to by the murderous party that this was the invention of a spinster and romantic, still lodging in the yard."