



Russian New Year goes Roman

The hottest ticket for Russian New Year on 14 January is an invitation-only event at Harvey Nicks' Fifth Floor. Not just because Stolichnaya is laying on the vodka and there will be plenty of zakuski – Russian canapes – but because of the hosts.

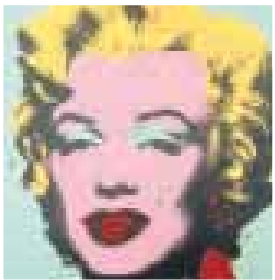
Alexandra Tolstoy is the great-granddaughter of *War and Peace* author Leo and **Gabriel Prokofiev** is the grandson of famed composer Sergei.

Their guest list includes a Russian who is even more of a household name these days, Chelsea owner **Roman Abramovich**.

Members' club is in the frame

If you're looking for a late-night drinking den, One Alfred Place won't be the place for you. The new private members' club – launched early next month by **Sir Richard Branson's** brother-in-law **Richard Devereux** – is

really a hang-out for businessmen looking for somewhere for lunch and meetings during daylight hours and closes at 9pm. But it is worth joining for the art. Devereux and his wife have a valuable collection including works by Warhol, Pollock and Freud, and a number of paintings are to be hung at the club.



A Tang of Italian in the air

Hong Kong socialite and businessman **David Tang** is known to be the proprietor of **Kate Moss's** favourite Chinese restaurant, China Tang at the Dorchester Hotel. But a browse through ownership records at

Companies House reveals he is also a shareholder in Cipriani, the celebrity hang-out opened in 2004 by F1 team boss and QPR co-owner, **Flavio Briatore**.

James 'Two Dinners' Martin

Celebrity chef **James Martin** is a busy man. Apart from cooking on TV, keeping an eye on his deli in Winchester and running his restaurant interests, he committed himself to cooking two dinners for ten at a charity auction before Christmas.

He had initially offered to cook dinner for one group but when two competing bids reached £19,000 and £20,000 respectively, he agreed to cook for both. As a result, children's cancer charity CLIC Sargent benefited to the tune of £39,000.

Rick Stein starts something sushi



TV chef **Rick Stein**, who has four fish restaurants in Padstow, Cornwall, is moving into sushi. "I've employed a chef who's been in Japan the last seven years," he says. "I did a programme in Japan last year and got really taken with the whole thing. We'll start this summer. We're redoing the Seafood resto and opening a seafood bar inside and we'll do the sushi from there."

Stein is such a dominant force in Padstow these days that locals have renamed it Padstein.

dominic.midgley@thelondonpaper.com