

Words by Ilze Pole  
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# MY LONDON

‘For me, it’s about creating things of the highest quality that will grow with you and become treasures,’ says **Bernie de Le Cuona**, the founder of a *de Le Cuona*, a British luxury brand that has from its start in 1992 been a purveyor of unique and innovative home textiles crafted from the finest natural fibres: flax, hemp, silk, cashmere, alpaca, and wool. What’s more, *de Le Cuona* works with local artisans all around the world, keeping traditions alive. Now her creations can be found in Latvia as well in *Krassky* showroom. Born in South Africa, she’s an adventurous spirit herself. Based in Windsor in the UK, with a flagship store on the Pimlico Road in London, here she shares her favourite spots and places of inspiration in the city.

Fly to  
**London**  
from €29\*  
one way



Photo by James Bellorini / © 2021 ROH



## Spitalfields Market

The original East London market – and one of the oldest in the city – is steeped in history. It has an eclectic mix of stalls run by life-long traders as well as exciting new brands, featuring jewellery, vintage fashion, homewares, art, crafts, and more. Explore the antiques market on Thursdays, when traders bring their finds from around the country and Europe. There’s also always a lot going on in terms of events, entertainment, and music. Enjoy the local street food, unique bars, and restaurants, too.  
30 Spital Square; [spitalfields.co.uk](http://spitalfields.co.uk)

## Royal Ballet and Opera House

I love all of London’s old theatres, but the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Royal Opera House in the heart of Covent Garden is my favourite. It’s amazing that there has been an opera house on this site at the heart of British cultural life for three centuries. It occasionally offers special behind-the-scenes tours exploring areas normally off limits to the public, including the costume and production workshops. I also love the ballet, and I’m looking forward to seeing *Romeo and Juliet* in March.  
Bow Street, [rbo.org.uk](http://rbo.org.uk)

## Elystan Street

Located in Chelsea, this *Michelin*-starred restaurant on Elystan Street is a great place to go for a relaxing atmosphere. It’s also got superb, friendly service and an impressive wine list. Chef Phil Howard’s cooking is classic modern European, and there’s always something really surprising on the menu.  
43 Elystan Street;  
[elystanstreet.com](http://elystanstreet.com)

## Summerill and Bishop

This kitchen shop is known for its beautiful table linens, but it also offers elegant ceramics, glassware, cutlery, and accessories. Here you can source artisan pieces for the table and also find special gifts. I love the Merino glass items, the quirky table linens, and the statement crockery. I recently bought a glass decanter shaped like a starfish. The company has a few shops in London, but my favourite location is on Elizabeth Street in Belgravia, which is one of London’s prettiest and most elegant streets and just a ten-minute stroll from Sloane Square.  
58 Elizabeth Street;  
[summerillandbishop.com](http://summerillandbishop.com)

\* airBaltic flies to London from Riga and Tallinn. Prices may differ when departing from different airports.