

'No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another,' wrote Charles Dickens in 1865's *Doctor Marigold's Prescriptions*. And while his words may be referring to the adventures of Victorian life, they are equally relevant today.

It's something you can imagine the founders of Ruby Hotels had front of mind when launching back in 2013. Its "Lean Luxury" philosophy on hospitality is simple but incredibly effective. All its hotels (in 11 years, it has opened 20 Ruby hotels and eight Ruby workspaces across Europe) have carefully selected city-centre locations, each one with its own unique story of wit and character reminiscent of the city it calls home.

With hotels in cities including Amsterdam, Vienna, Hamburg and Dublin, the latest in the group's roster of award-winning hotels, Ruby Stella, opened in November 2024 in London's Farringdon. As the third London outpost for Ruby Hotels, Stella is an homage to the great Charles Dickens – who lived in the area from 1837 to 1839 with his family – and the vibrant spirit of Farringdon – an area that has been populated by bookbinders and jewellers for centuries.

Step into Ruby Stella and you'll discover a world inspired by these historical references, including the novelist's ability to capture the contrasts of London and its spirit of opulence, grit, whimsy and depth. Whether you're enjoying a peaceful, alfresco breakfast on the beautiful ground-floor courtyard terrace, or an expertly crafted cocktail and pizza at the lively bar, you'll find decorative nods to the historical charm of the area. Think jauntily monocled foxes, dark wood shelves stacked with vintage tomes, burnished brass and deep-hued tweeds that bring an old-world ambience everywhere you turn.

Signs of the area's Victorian bookbinding heritage can also be found in the rooms where you'll discover a quirky selection of quills, inkwells and marbled endpapers hung over the bed. As the first Ruby Hotel to offer the option of windowless rooms, Stella has a variety of room sizes to accommodate every traveller. Nest



Great expectations

Inspired by local literary icon and one of the Victorian era's greatest novelists, Charles Dickens, Ruby Hotels' latest London outpost exudes heritage and charm

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rooms are the smallest while Lovely rooms are the largest – complete with comfy armchairs and stunning city views – via the medium-sized Cosy room. Each soundproofed bedroom combines a vintage vibe (like Chesterfield leather upholstery and wood panelling) with modern amenities. These include rainfall showers, Marshall speakers and fluffy towels for the ultimate in comfort and relaxation away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

Ruby Hotels has a unique charm that ensures all who visit have everything they need for a home away from home when in a strange and exciting city – and Ruby Stella is no exception.

Blending historical aesthetics with a raft of contemporary comforts, all in a characterful yet relaxed and convenient setting, you feel it would definitely have Dickens' seal of approval. ●

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Above Ruby Stella's rooms blend modern amenities with historic charm.
Left the bar oozes old-world ambience