

## A NEW LEBANESE BAR AND DINING EXPERIENCE IN THE HEART OF KNIGHTSBRIDGE

Laya'Lina is a bar and restaurant situated in Beauchamp Place, Knightsbridge, SW3. The restaurant specialises in Lebanese dining with a modern twist. Dishes served there include a selection of hot and cold mezzes, with favourites such as fatoush (a salad of mixed leaves, tomato, sumac and roasted Lebanese bread croutons), hummus, baba ghanoush and also chargrilled specialities and unusual main courses, such as Siyyadiyeh, a fish and rice dish that originated in the coastal city of Tripoli, and Aubergine and Cauliflower Kabsa, a popular rice dish that uses a secret blend of spices including saffron, black lime, Cloves and Bay leaves. Other dishes take

inspiration from Middle Eastern herbs and spices, but use them in more contemporary dishes, such as their Braised Lamb Shank with Cinnamon Sauce.

The bar features an extensive cocktail and wine list, with noted Lebanese wineries including Chateau Ksara, Chateau Nakad, Chateau Kefraya and of course Chateau Musar.

Laya'Lina also has a regular calendar of live music events, including belly dancing, and DJs at weekends.

More details can be found at [www.layalina.co.uk/layalina/Events.html](http://www.layalina.co.uk/layalina/Events.html)



### WIN A MEAL FOR TWO AT LAYA'LINA

To be in with a chance of winning a meal for two at the restaurant, simply answer this question:

*What is the dish fatoush made from?*

Answers on a postcard, together with your name, address and telephone number, to Laya'Lina Competition, Taxi Globe, 12 Firs Close, Hatfield, AL10 8NP. Closing date is 20th January 2010.

Laya'Lina -2/3 Beauchamp Place, SW3 1NG. Reservations can be made on 020 7581 4296. Sun-Wed, 11am to 12am, and 11am to 2am, Thur-Sat

## ROB COMPLETES THE NEW YORK MARATHON

Regular readers may recall that taxi driver Rob Woodford was off to New York in November to run the 26-mile New York Marathon. Bob succeeded – and although his time of 6 hours 28 minutes was somewhat slower than the old days when he ran them regularly – thirteen in all including six in New York – it was still 30 minutes faster than he had planned. The route takes in all five Boroughs of NYC – starting at Staten Island, through Brooklyn and Queens, then into Manhattan, briefly into The Bronx and then back into Manhattan to finish in Central Park, very close to the infamous Dakota Buildings.

Rob used to write regular articles for Call Sign, Dial-a-Cab's in house magazine and spoke to Alan Fisher after the race. He pointed out an interesting fact; the parishioners of Holy Trinity Church close to Wall Street part-funded the 12 bells struck by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in 1961, with each having a psalm engraved with the first letter of each bell peeling D W H I T T I N G T O N! Puffing, Bob added one more pertinent fact..."It was very dark when I finished!"

He had been due to meet with New York's famous Gabby Gabby - Peter Franklyn - but when Rob got to his hotel, Peter had left a message that due to family reasons he had to be out of town. However, Rob was still considered as something of a celebrity and was interviewed on a New York radio station. He told the reporter that he was deliberately going to go slow for maximum exposure. He couldn't see the point in admitting that he hadn't done enough training!

Rob completed the race wearing a T-Shirt with the logo [londondonsightseeingtours.co.uk](http://londondonsightseeingtours.co.uk) splashed across its front and back and also had several meetings with travel agencies in Manhattan to promote the UK visitor attraction. Rob and a group of taxi drivers, some of whom have completed The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers Cab Guide Course, plus Graham Woodhouse the course tutor, set up the tour company last year. While Bob was in New York, he met Tunde Adeyemo, one of

Africa's finest long distance athletes. Rob also said hi to Shelley Woods, the Paralympic Silver medallist in the 5,000m wheelchair race at the Beijing Games. Shelley realised her dreams with funding through the charity both she and Bob raise funds for - Get Kids Going! Seb Coe is the President of the charity.

Worn out by then, Bob ended by telling Alan Fisher that he thought this might have been his last Marathon – until a 'friend' mentioned something about the Great Wall of China run next year! We wouldn't bet against it!



Bob Woodford with Shelley Woods at NY marathon



Bob Woodford with Tunde Adeyemo at NY marathon