

BOISDALE

15 Eccleston Street, SW1

(020 7730 6922)

This is the spiritual home of McSloanes who speak English but hanker after their Scots' roots; it's named after a loch in the Hebrides. Ranald Macdonald fulfils their wildest Jacobite fantasies with this tartan extravaganza and celebration of Scottish food and whisky. Gimmicks apart, it has a terrific atmosphere and different areas to eat, drink, smoke fine cigars and listen to live music in. The Auld restaurant is the original and most elegant part, and beyond that is the clubby wood-panelled back bar, and the courtyard garden. A newer addition is the handsome Macdonald's Bar, with substantial bar food, its own restaurant and live jazz from Monday to Saturday. Eat your way through Scotland's finest: crayfish, smoked salmon, Rannoch Moor venison, hand-harvested scallops and exceptional beef. There's also haggis with bashed neeps and cullen skink to remind you that not everyone is a laird.

● *Two-course lunch, £14; two-course dinner, £17.80; à la carte, £120 for two; sandwiches and bar snacks, a lot less.*