



Evening Standard, January 2013

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All aboard the double-deck bus for top-tier cocktails

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Two old Routemaster buses are getting a new lease of life by being reincarnated as mobile private members clubs.

Restaurant expert Simon Davis bought his first Routemaster two years ago from a garage in Hemel Hempstead. It was converted at a cost of £150,000 into The Rosebery, a Thirties-style mobile restaurant complete with bar, dining area and extendable roof to allow generous standing room.

It has been so successful that Mr Davis bought a second 1966 Routemaster that is currently being renovated.

He said: "I thought it was an exciting idea, something that I hadn't seen anywhere before. A private members club on wheels. I love the design of the Routemasters so I wanted to do it properly."

The Rosebery seats 22 people upstairs, or can accommodate 40 for a cocktail party, costing £3,000 for the night. Mr Davis said guests can choose to have the bus parked near one of many top-class restaurants in London, or else use its own barbecue grill. ■

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