

CONTINENTAL DESIGN

THE DRAYCOTT OFFERS A
TASTE OF LONDON IN SOCAL

BY **JENNIFER BRINGLE**
PHOTOGRAPHED BY **FRANK WONHO**

When restaurateurs Matt and Marissa Hermer relocated from their native London to the Southern California city of Pacific Palisades, they knew they wanted to create an eatery that married their new home with all the things they loved about England. And so, the concept of The Draycott — a European brasserie with a California twist — was born.

While the Hermers had the menu covered, they turned to fellow Brit Tom Parker of Fettle Design — which has offices in London and Los Angeles — to create an aesthetic that captured that same sense of duality.

“Brasseries are so traditional in England, so the key to getting it right was marrying the elements of that to Southern California,” says Tom. “If we did a typical European brasserie, it would be too heavy for Southern California.”

Tom and his team infused the space with warm, vibrant color that complements the sunny California surroundings. And the furnishings — arranged around the curved marble-top bar — recall a more traditional European style in fresh colors and sumptuous fabrics.





(Above) The coral ceiling lightens the overall vibe of the space.

(Far left) Parker used traditional upholstered pieces in fresh colors.

(Left) The bar serves as the focal point of the space, with all seating arranged within view.

“We dressed it with more California-style finishes and feels,” says Tom. “The layout is traditional brasserie with the upholstered seating and banquettes, but all the finishes and fabrics are much lighter.”

Tom used those furnishings — which were custom-made in Ireland — to cultivate an Old World-feel in the space, which is housed in a brand-new building. Many of the materials and finishes were pre-aged to give them a time-worn patina. “To make it very pristine and feel very modern would take away from that European brasserie idea,” he says. “You’ve got a lot of texture, and they feel like they’ve been around a long time.”

That aesthetic carries outside to the terrace, as well, where leather banquettes and woven chairs set the vibe for elegant al fresco dining — a Southern California must-have. “You have these huge openings and this canopy,” says Tom. “So making the transition between the two spaces was something we thought about a lot.” ▶