THROWBACK
TIME WARP ON THE THAMES

Fans of 1975's Rocky Horror Picture Show know Oakley Court as the phoneless castle where the overly lip-glossed Tim Curry thrilled Susan Sarandon in the B-movie musical.

"Half the roof was missing, and the other half was leaking," Sarandon recalls. "It was freezing cold, and I got pneumonia."

Forty years later, the Oakley Court Hotel in Windsor, England, is anything but chilling. Situated along the River Thames, the Gothic manor features 118 modern rooms (starting at $200) with wingback chairs and king-size beds fit for a queen—specifically when Queen Elizabeth II paid a visit in 2009—while elaborate Victorian mantels reign over sitting rooms. The French-inspired restaurant looks onto the formerly eerie estate's 35 manicured acres that include a golf course, croquet lawn, and tennis courts. Plus, the castle now has telephones. —Steve Larese

LOCAL FLAVOR
A Classic Comes Home

Brennan Foster brings its spark back to the Big Easy

BRENNAN'S HAS RECONNECTED with an old flame. Brennan Foster was invented at this New Orleans institution in 1981, and, after the restaurant's 2013 closure and expansive refurbishing, the flammable, rum-soaked dessert will once again light up the French Quarter. "It was the first tableside dish I nervously prepared when I was a boy," says Ralph Brennan, Brennan's new owner and nephew of the original proprietor. "The smell of butter and sugar caramelizing always brings me back to my childhood." The main ingredient of the signature dish—bananas—now grows in the updated courtyard, along with jasmine and orange trees. And the booze isn't limited to dessert, either—Brennan's was one of the early supporters of the brunch trend. "We served more wine at breakfast than dinner," says Brennan. With that late-morning tradition resumed, this year's Mardi Gras weekend revelers will be in especially high spirits. —Hannah Steinberg