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Sunday Traveler: London gears up for 2012 Olympics

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### **London Lodging Ideas**

Housing will be a primary concern when planning a trip next summer, not only for the Olympics but also for additional sightseeing in and around the city. A central location and easy access to Tube, coupled with a tranquil setting for unwinding peacefully at the end of a hectic, urban day – these features will be important, and two different establishments are strong contenders for consideration.

The Landmark London is a Victorian-era grand hotel near Regents Park in north-central London, updated with first-class bathrooms and a décor of muted elegance that leaves no doubt that you are in Great Britain. Hotel rooms are centered around a 8-story-high atrium that houses courtyard dining and entertainment; in-house shops, bars, spas and meeting rooms lend to a clubby ambiance. Marylebone station is just across a small brick-paved lane and the neighborhood has none of the cacophony of sound and activity that would be expected in the middle of an international city.

Cheval Residences are luxuriously-appointed apartments for home-away-from-home comfort and amenities during longer stays in London. Five of the six locations are in the prestigious Knightsbridge/Kensington area south of Hyde Park and one is situated in a courtyard in the City; three of the locations accept minimum stays of one week. Kitchens are designer-equipped for all uses; every imaginable accessory for entertainment is thoughtfully provided; balconies overlook leafy streets and grant stunning views of the city. Cheval Gloucester Park is a half-block from the Gloucester Road tube station. The ability to walk from one room to the next – this makes these well-serviced residences feel like home, which will matter if you stay in London long enough to sample the entire spectrum of Olympic ceremonies and events.

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