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the old Jewish quarter; after the Ghetto Uprising, the heroic month-long fight to the death of the remaining ghetto population in 1943, the area was flattened by the Nazis. (For the filming of *The Pianist*, Roman Polanski's Oscar-winning portrait of that time, the largely untouched tenements of the east bank had to be used.) There is still a small section of the ghetto wall at ulica Sienna 55 (19). The Jewish Ghetto Memorial (20) — ironically built with granite blocks ordered by Hitler for his victory monument — is at Plac Bohaterow Getta, where the heaviest fighting took place, surrounded by trees and tower blocks.

DINING: GO TO CHURCH

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photographs show the church in 1935 and then 1945, when it was mostly destroyed. The whitewashed baroque St Casimir's (26), round the corner on Rynek Nowego Miasto, served as a Polish field hospital in 1944; and from the rococo St Anna's (27) on Krakowskie Przedmiescie, a pilgrimage begins every year to the Black Madonna of Czestochowa, 250km away, in time for the feast of the Assumption.

ONS Gemma O'Doherty

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nights and test all aspects of their services, from breakfast, dinner and afternoon tea to the wines on offer and any spa, golf course or gym facilities. After their stay, inspectors are required to fill out a comprehensive 26-page report, which covers everything from the welcome they received to the service and state of the rooms.

All expenses incurred during the stay will be reimbursed with the exception of travel. Interested? Send your applications to inspectors@slh.com and explain in 50 words or less details of your previous travels.

►Still waiting around for that elusive New Year's Eve invite? Chances are at this stage it's not coming, so the most sensible thing to do is take yourself off

to a country hotel for the festivities and pamper yourself into 2004.

Knockranny House Hotel in Westport, Co. Mayo, has a special two-night B&B package for the New Year, which includes a six-course banquet, live music and a mulled wine reception on arrival, for €295. A four-star hotel that has the feel of a five-star, Knockranny is the sort of place where you can put in a whole day by the fire admiring the spectacular views of Croagh Patrick and Clew Bay. There are nooks and crannies scattered around the hotel, like the plush drawing room and library, where you can while away the hours in peace. If you really want to spoil yourself, book an executive suite which features four-poster beds, sunken lounges and spa baths, as well as complimentary robes

and DVD players. For bookings, contact Knockranny on 09-828600 or www.khh.ie.

►London's Lord Mayor Ken Livingstone has announced that tubes, buses and trains will operate a free 24-hour service this New Year's Eve. Tubes will run all night for the first time since the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations last year.

Critics have complained that one of the world's most high-profile cities has had no New Year's Eve celebrations for the last three years, largely due to road works in Trafalgar Square. Last year, New York, Sydney and Paris staged firework spectacles and giant parties which left London in the shade. Londoners have yet to hear what the city authorities have planned for this year.

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A WALK IN THE PARK

There's no shortage of green spaces in Warsaw, but the most elegant has to be the former royal gardens of Lazienki (4). Red squirrels feed from your hand, peacocks perch in trees and ducks waddle across lawns. The

gardens are criss-crossed with tree-lined avenues; there's a miniature island palace, a quasi-Greek amphitheatre and a statue of Chopin. In summer, there are concerts here among the red rose bushes.

DINNER WITH THE LOCALS

The hottest new place in town is Sense (24), Nowy Swiat 19 (00 48 22 826 6570), a fashionable fusion restaurant — although the menu plays on a rather dubious Thai massage-parlour theme. Starters are listed

under the heading Foreplay; mains under Wild, Hot and Hardcore; and side dishes are Brief Affairs. For posh Polish fare, try Polska, on the same street at Nowy Swiat 21 (00 48 22 826 3877).

Relaxing: Th