

APRIL 2015

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Светлый дом с современным интерьером в тихой части Юрмалы – Меллужи. На первом этаже находится просторная гостиная с камином, кухня, столовая, ванная комната, сауна и гараж. На втором этаже расположены 3 спальни, большая гардеробная и ванная. На первом этаже терраса с навесом. Море находится в 5 минутах пешей прогулки.



Латвия, Рига, Межапарк, Стокхолмас  
 Площадь земли: 1020 м<sup>2</sup> ;  
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Уютный дом в тихом районе частных домов в Межапарке. Подвальный этаж: гараж, хозяйственные помещения, бильярдный зал, баня, туалет. На двух наземных этажах: гостиная, кухня и обеденный зал, кабинет, три спальни, гардероб, две ваннные комнаты и туалет. На третьем этаже находится стеклянное помещение с камином и выходом на озелененную крышу с террасой. Вокруг дома благоустроенная территория.



Латвия, Юрмала, Дубулты, Рудолфа Блауманя  
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 Площадь здания: 178 м<sup>2</sup>  
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 Цена: 800 000 EUR

Дом в Юрмале, Дубулты, всего в нескольких шагах от моря. Построен в 1840 году, отреставрирован в 2007 году. В доме есть гостиная с камином, 4 спальни, большая кухня, 2 ваннные комнаты - одна с душем, одна с джакузи. Терраса 28 м<sup>2</sup>. Автоматические ворота и домофон.



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 Цена: 1 480 000 EUR

Одноэтажный дом с панорамной террасой на крыше и террасами по всему периметру дома, гараж на 2 автомобиля, автоматические ворота, прихожая, блок технических помещений, кухня объединена со столовой и имеет общее панорамное окно, гостиная, 2 спальни с ванными комнатами, кабинет. Эксклюзивные отделочные материалы итальянских производителей, подвесной вращающийся камин, система умного дома, домашний кинозал, 3 встроенных в стену водопада.



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universities abroad to bring back new skills. All of this activity adds significant value to the economy and creates jobs. In Latvia alone, aviation contributes to well over 2% of the gross domestic product and supports 2% of all jobs available in the market.

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Martin Alexander Gauss



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Contents APRIL

## THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS



Photo by Karīna Vitoliņa

**UNA MEISTERE**  
The bard of the  
hospitality industry  
(p. 72)

**Career:** I was the first person in Latvia to professionally

take up fashion journalism in the early 1990s. As an inveterate traveller, I got together eight years ago with my good friend, opera director Andrejs Žagars – who is just as passionate about travelling as I am – and founded anothertravelguide.com, an Internet portal for independent travellers. Four years ago, I co-founded the arts and culture portal arterritory.com. That spawned a regularly printed issue, *Arterritory Conversations with Collectors*, which

features interviews with some of the world's most influential collectors of contemporary art. **Proud of:** Professionally, of the alternative-style travel book *Another Travel Guide Riga*, which has been published in four languages (English, Russian, German and Japanese) and which will be released in its ninth revised print version next month.

**Must-visit city:** Milan. From April 14-19, the city will be hosting the *Salone del Mobile*, which is the most significant annual design event in Europe. And we should not forget *Expo 2015*, which is just around the corner.

**Life motto:** Life is like a wonderfully written novel, which I am continuing to read with great enthusiasm. It is important for me to feel and to be present in the most varied and colourful episodes.



**DOVYDAS KIAULEIKIS**  
Letting it all hang  
out (p. 46)

**Career:** I have been writing about

culture and lifestyle for various Lithuanian magazines since 2007.

I co-founded *N WIND*, a magazine about creativity in northern Europe, in 2015.

**Proud of:** It must be *N WIND*. Who wouldn't be proud to have their own magazine?

**Must-visit city:** Rome. It's already warm, but there are not too many tourists yet, so one can enjoy this magnificent museum under the sky in peace.

**Life motto:** Have no regrets.



**AGRA LIEĶE**  
Five breathtaking  
nature escapes  
(p. 84)

**Career:** I have been working as a journalist for two

years. I started by writing a teeny restaurant review for *Baltic Outlook*, and this developed into a beautiful and rich collaboration that has allowed me to travel, explore and meet with amazing and vastly different people – from the captain of a brig in Sweden to airplane pilots with over 30 years of flying experience.

**Proud of:** My experience in preparing an article about "old school" tailors in Rome. I ended up organising and running four interviews with tailors (including the Pope's tailor!) in one day in Rome (which I hadn't been to before, so I was running around with a map), and, incredibly, it all worked out! After that I knew that there's more in me than I thought!

**Must-visit city:** Hardly original, but still – Amsterdam! The waterways in the city, the laid-back atmosphere and the tulips, of course... If you want to sense spring in the city air, then this is the place to go to!

**Life motto:** To learn from others and to equip myself as best I can to live peacefully and freely – without confusion and illusions.

**baltic**<sup>outlook</sup>

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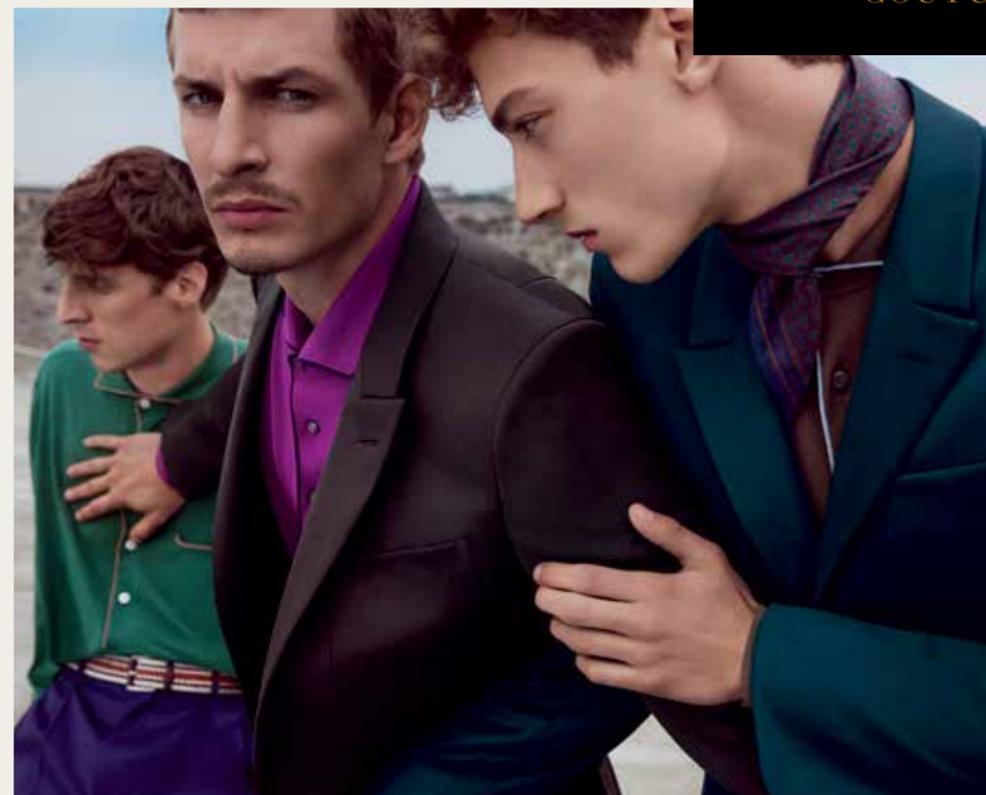
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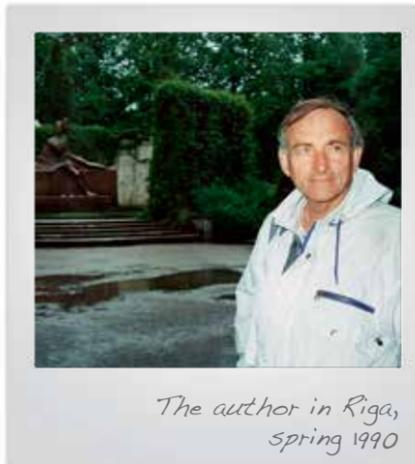
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## Rise up to the sun

Seldom do I agree to be photographed in front of a sculpture. This one is an exception. The statue is a memorial to Latvia's most revered poet Rainis, who lived between 1865 and 1929. He participated in the country's struggle for independence and lived long enough to partake of life in an independent Latvia.

For me the sculpture in the Riga cemetery that bears the writer's name is emblematic of Rainis' complex spirit, of the longing that he expressed in his plays and poems. Many years ago, the sculpture also embodied my own longing for my homeland and for modern Latvian culture. This special photograph, taken in the spring of 1990, captures an emotional exchange that I had with several Danish visitors at the foot of the sculpture.

When attending graduate school at Berkeley, California, during the 1960s, I lived in an international atmosphere that was intellectually creative and emotionally challenging. It was a rich cultural scene, with Bob Dylan and Joan Baez giving frequent performances (for free!) at local venues where we ate our lunch sandwiches. Back in those days, I had another photograph of the Riga memorial to Rainis on my desk. Most of my friends were English, Scottish, American and French.



*The author in Riga,  
Spring 1990*

The sculpture also embodied my own longing for my homeland and for modern Latvian culture

Some of them admired the sculpture in the photograph, which served to soften the nighttime bouts of homesickness that occasionally overcame me, in spite of the rich and nourishing atmosphere at Berkeley.

However, there is more to my link with Rainis than the aforementioned sculpture. The illustrious author and poet had riveted my attention to higher altitudes with the poem *Climber of Mountains*, which I had to recite in front of class in second or third grade. I was particularly moved by the lines that the higher you go "from year to year, the more lonesome you'll be. Friend after friend will leave you. Few flowers will be companions along your path." I did not take the words to refer to mountaineering in a literal sense. They were about the experience of life when one strives to rise above mediocrity.

Nonetheless, when a few years later I saw Friedrich Schiller's *William Tell* on a stage evoking a lake in the Alps, I began to long for mountains and to spend a lifetime going into them. Writing about Rainis today, I know that he strived to embrace the entire cosmos. Inscribed in the robust plinth under the refined sculpture of Finnish granite is a simple sentence that he wrote:

"With all of my strength I shall rise up to the sun." Drawing inspiration from these words, slowly and step by step, I was able to reach my climbing destinations up in the mountains and to complete heavy portages to wilderness lakes. **BO**



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\* На фото – свет от Bocci



### SPOTLIGHT ON THE SPRING Five things that you should do in Latvia in April

- 1/ Post an Instagram photo of marsh marigolds.
- 2/ Take a tour of Riga's art galleries.
- 3/ Try out some wood sorrel salad.
- 4/ Open the golf season.
- 5/ See the scenic castle ruins in Koknese at the confluence of the Daugava and Pērse rivers.

## ON THIS MONTH'S MENU

Celebrate life in all of its splendour with some tips from *Baltic Outlook*

**Jewellery** This year, floral patterns didn't bloom only on the runways of spring/summer fashion shows; the trendiest fine jewellery is also full of floral fantasy. Look for sterling silver, platinum and gold pieces with modern, solid floral shapes or repetitive abstract patterns. Check out the *Princesse Grace de Monaco* collection by the luxury goods company *Montblanc*, for example.



**Home** Finish your spring cleaning by changing your bedsheets. The Latvian home textile brand *Orgamint Home* has just released a new set of tasteful bed linen collections made with 100% organic cotton, linen and bamboo textiles. We took a particular liking to the unpretentious but beautiful *Vinta* collection. [① orgaminthome.com](http://orgaminthome.com)



### THE TREND:



MARK RONSON  
UPTOWN  
SPECIAL

**Music** Mark Ronson's new *Uptown Special* recording took the music world by storm upon its release this January and quickly rose to Number 1 on the UK album charts. It turns out that the album's lively and energetic tracks offer an added fringe benefit. If you enjoy good funk and dance music played by great musicians and have started jogging again with the return of the spring season, then there is hardly a better accompanying recording to listen to as you pound the pavement together with your faithful music player.

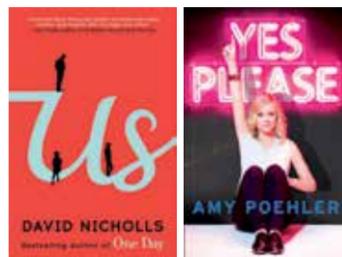
### BIRCH SAP CURE



April was traditionally known as "sap month" or "juice month" (*sulu mēnesis*) among the ancient Latvians, for along with the arrival of warmer spring weather, the life-giving sap of the trees flows upward from their roots to their branches. Latvians have been tapping maple and birch trees for centuries in the early spring, and this tradition continues to be passed on from generation to generation. If previously drinking tree sap was merely an intuitive method for strengthening the winter-weary, modern science has proven that tree sap boosts the metabolism and cleanses the body. In order to feel the benefits of a birch sap cure, it is advisable to drink at least one litre of birch sap per day for a minimum of 10 days. This is the time when fresh birch sap can be bought from farmers at markets throughout Latvia.

Text by **ZANE NIKODEMUSA** and **ROGER NORUM**  
Photos by **EVIIJA SĪLE** (F64), **DIDZIS GRODZS** (F64) and publicity

### READING LIST



David Nicholls. **Us: A Novel**

Long-listed for the 2014 Man Booker Prize, this intelligent and witty novel follows a suburban London family's grand tour of Europe just before 18-year-old son Albie heads off to college. Set on the streets of Paris, Amsterdam, Venice and Barcelona, this meditation on travel, youth and what holds marriages and families together is a wonderful read. EUR 7, [① hodder.co.uk](http://hodder.co.uk)

Amy Poehler. **Yes Please**

American comedian and actress Amy Poehler's collection of essays presents her musings and words of wisdom on everything from childhood to childbirth, Hollywood to how to be productive (her easy answer: don't sleep). Though somewhat incoherent in its narrative structure, this inspirational pep talk of a book is as funny as we would expect from one of the world's best-known comedians.

EUR 17, [① harpercollins.com](http://harpercollins.com)

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Alise Mediņa. Tērbatas iela

Text by **ZANE NIKODEMUSA**  
Publicity photos

## ASPECTS OF THE CITY

(PILSĒTAS NIANSES) SOLO EXHIBITION BY ALISE MEDIŅA

**Antonija classical art gallery**

Until April 18

Alise Mediņa (b. 1984) is one of the most talented young landscape artists in Latvia. This time, she has chosen to focus on her native city of Riga. With an admirably astute grasp of colour and plays of light and shadow, the artist provides a new vision of Riga and its architecture.

More information at [antonia.lv](http://antonia.lv)

Brīvības iela 157, Riga

## ROBBIE WILLIAMS CONCERT

**Arena Riga**

April 6

The new *Let Me Entertain You* concert tour by illustrious British musician and entertainer Robbie Williams is like a trip through his extensive catalogue of hits, featuring all of the artist's classic favourites. Those in the know say that Williams' long-awaited performance will be similar to a Las Vegas variety and stand-up comedy show,



as lately the musician has been more interested in jazz and swing than in current pop music styles.

Tickets at [ticketpro.lv](http://ticketpro.lv)

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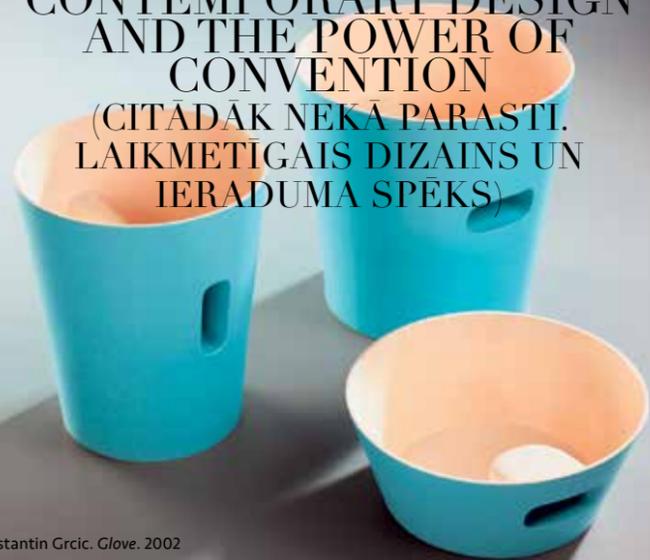
The *Green Bridge Forum* will be the most important event in 2015 for enhancing cooperation between the EU and several Central Asian countries (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan) in clean technologies (water and waste management, energy efficiency, renewable and alternative energies). A broad array of high-level politicians and representatives of global corporations, VC investors and service providers will be participating.

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Konstantin Grcic. *Glove*. 2002

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### Museum of Decorative Arts and Design

April 11-June 7

The German Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (*Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen – ifa*) and curator Volker Albus have created a wide-ranging exhibition to illustrate a contemporary design phenomenon – the ability to look at everyday things from a different perspective. Nearly 150 objects created by more than 60 outstanding European designers and designer groups will be on display.

More information at [lnmm.lv](http://lnmm.lv)

Skārņu iela 10/20, Riga

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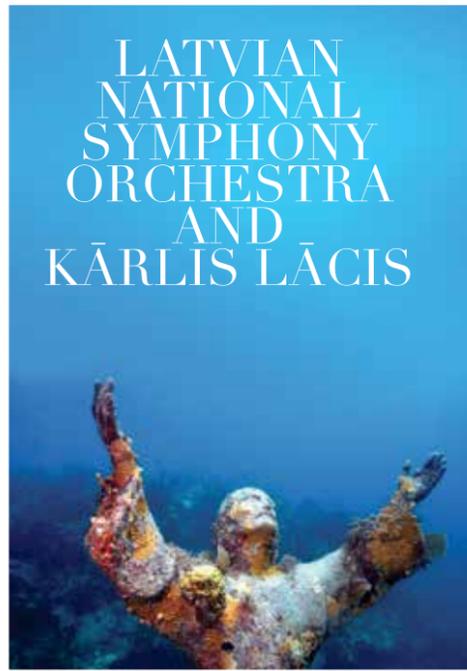
Details **LOCAL AGENDA**

## **BORIS GREBENSHCHIKOV CONCERT**

**Riga Congress Centre (Rīgas Kongresu nams) April 30**

As he is accustomed to doing every spring, Russian rock musician Boris Grebenshchikov will treat Rigans to a concert together with his group Aquarium. Grebenshchikov is a powerful personality with an interest in various cultures and whose songs are both musically and textually profound. If you would like to experience an emotional event with an intellectual aftertaste, then this is definitely a performance to see.

Tickets at [bilesuparadize.lv](http://bilesuparadize.lv)  
Price: EUR 28-70  
Kr. Valdemāra iela 5, Rīga



### **Vidzeme Concert Hall Cēsis**

April 4

To see so many of Latvia's most talented musicians in one place is a must. The newly opened concert hall in the city of Cēsis is hosting a grand performance of *The Way of the Cross (Krusta ceļš)*, Latvian composer Kārlis Lācis' musical interpretation of the Passion of Christ. This will be the second public performance of the new symphony, whose premiere will be held a day earlier at the Great Guild Hall (*Lielā gilde*) in Riga. The new work will be performed by the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra together with the internationally renowned *Latvija* choir, saxophonist Gints Pabērzs, soloist Jolanta Strikaite and conductor Māris Sirmāis.

Tickets at [bilesuparadize.lv](http://bilesuparadize.lv)  
Price: EUR 10-25  
Raunas iela 12, Cēsis

Imants Vecozols. *Building on Water*. 2007



## **OTHER CONTRASTS (CITI KONTRASTI) SOLO EXHIBITION BY IMANTS VECOZOLS**

**Daugava art gallery**

Until April 18

Art professor Imants Vecozols (b. 1933) is one of Latvia's most eminent living artists. Known for his undying love of classical oil painting, the master has also worked with collages over the past 10 years. The result has turned out to be so interesting and attractive that the artist and the *Daugava* art gallery have decided to display these works to the public.

More information at [galerijadaugava.lv](http://galerijadaugava.lv)  
Alksnāja iela 12/12, Rīga

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Text by LIENE PĀLENA  
Photos by EDMUNDS BRENCIS, F64

# Wooden charm

A walk through Riga's most untamed neighbourhood

**A**rchitect Pēteris Blūms once said: "If Riga's elegant Art Nouveau buildings are like the salt of the city, then what are its old wooden houses? Maybe they can be compared to pepper, as they add a bit of extra spice to the urban landscape and invite a comparison of the city's various architectural styles."

One of the city's spiciest collections of "pepper" can be found in the historical working-class district of Grīziņkalns, which is named after a merchant named Griesen, who owned a wooden manor house in the neighbourhood. Nearly 20 factories were built in the area at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, while close to their towering smokestacks and high brick walls simple two-storey wooden apartment buildings arose to house the workers and their families. The street names in the neighbourhood also attest to the trades of their occupants, such as Mūrnieku iela (Masons' Street) and Krāsotāju iela (Painters' Street).

Bordered by a network of historical wooden buildings on the corner of Krāsotāju iela and Lienes iela, the *Wooden Riga (Koka Rīga)* wooden building renovation centre proudly demonstrates the degree to which one can faithfully restore long-neglected treasures. Four authentically refurbished one-room apartments on the second floor, each with a walk-through kitchen, demonstrate the lifestyle of their former occupants, whose only source of lighting consisted of portable candleholders. One of the most interesting streets in Grīziņkalns is Mūrnieku iela, a protected UNESCO world heritage site. Only 210 metres long, it boasts relatively well-preserved 19<sup>th</sup>-century wooden houses, a rounded cobblestone surface and sheltered inner courtyards. The houses and lanterns that line the street bring one back to a long-gone era. Some of the buildings have retained their original Latin inscriptions as well as carvings of parrots (symbolising prosperity and the freedom to travel) and owls (as symbolic protectors of each household). **BO**

## TOP 3

must-do's in Grīziņkalns

**GRAB** a take-away coffee and stroll through the streets while examining the doors, windows and façades of the neighbourhood's proletarian residences.

**STOP** at the green square on the corner of Mūrnieku iela and Matīsa iela and check out *The Mason and the Chimneysweep (Mūrnieks un skurstenšlauķis)*, a bronze and brick sculpture that was visually inspired by Varis Vilcāns, the oldest working chimneysweep in Latvia.

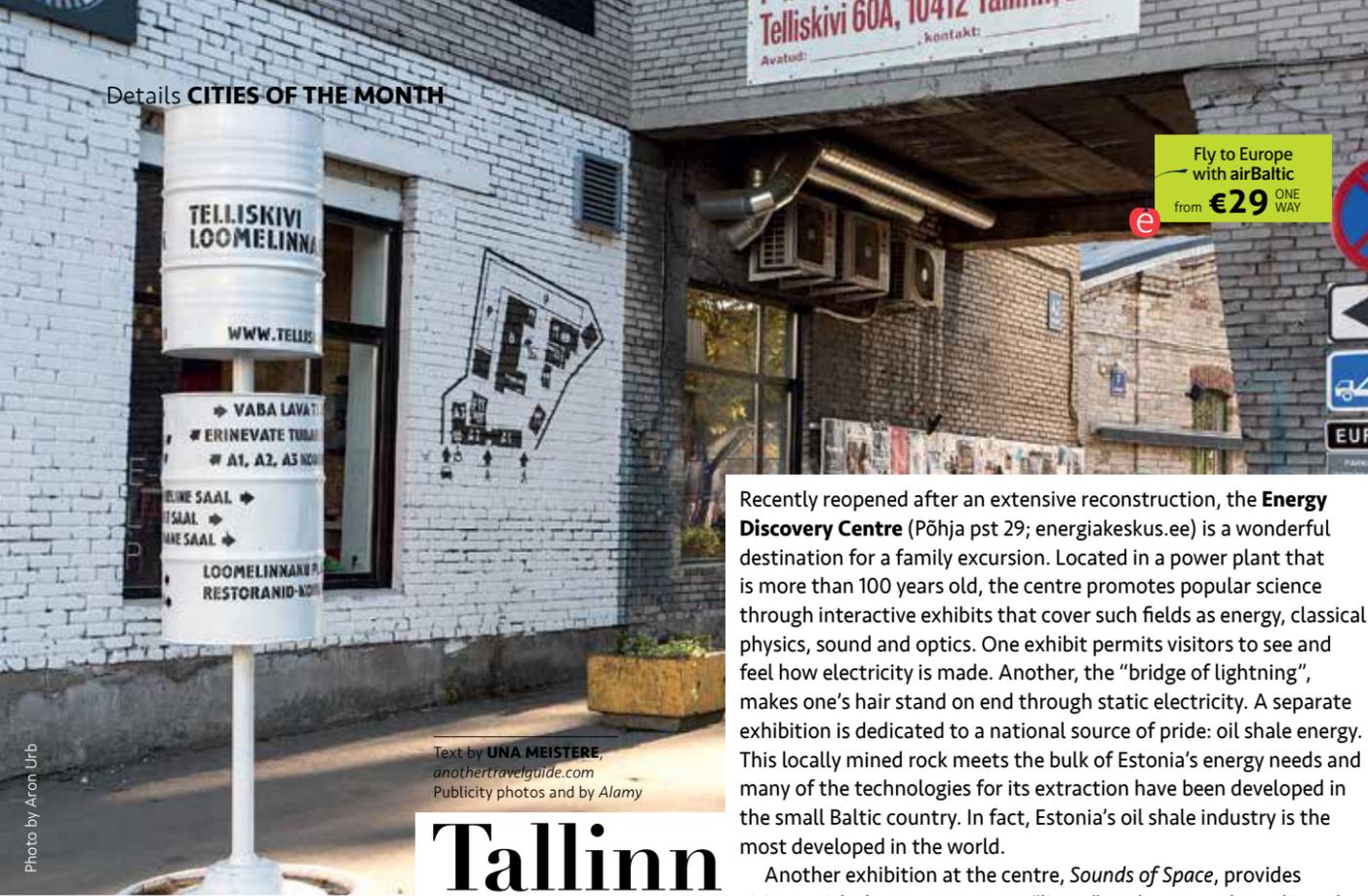
**SEE** a photo exhibition dedicated to Grīziņkalns' historical inhabitants at the *Wooden Riga (Koka Rīga)* wooden building renovation centre. In some photographs, the expression "don't judge a man by his hat" does not apply, as the hats worn by the workers clearly demonstrate their professions and hierarchy.



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Recently reopened after an extensive reconstruction, the **Energy Discovery Centre** (Põhja pst 29; energiakeskus.ee) is a wonderful destination for a family excursion. Located in a power plant that is more than 100 years old, the centre promotes popular science through interactive exhibits that cover such fields as energy, classical physics, sound and optics. One exhibit permits visitors to see and feel how electricity is made. Another, the “bridge of lightning”, makes one’s hair stand on end through static electricity. A separate exhibition is dedicated to a national source of pride: oil shale energy. This locally mined rock meets the bulk of Estonia’s energy needs and many of the technologies for its extraction have been developed in the small Baltic country. In fact, Estonia’s oil shale industry is the most developed in the world.

Another exhibition at the centre, *Sounds of Space*, provides visitors with the opportunity to “listen” to the aurora borealis and to other “sounds” in outer space. It turns out that although space is a virtual vacuum, sound does exist in the form of electromagnetic vibrations. Thus, the black abyss above our heads is teeming with “noises”, some of which have been recorded in audible form. The Energy Discovery Centre is the first such establishment in the Baltic countries and a visit there is sure to captivate both adults and children.

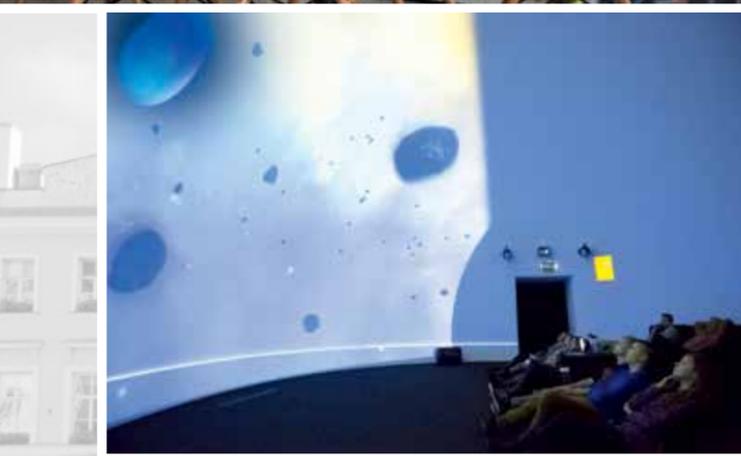
Afterwards, for an added sense of the Estonian capital’s scintillating, bubbling and electrifying creative energy in concentrated form, check out the **Telliskivi Creative City** (Telliskivi 60A; telliskivi.eu). The former industrial factory complex in the Kalamaja district has been transformed into what is now the epicentre of Tallinn’s cultural and entertainment scene. Here one will come across all kinds of creative initiatives, from art galleries and art studios to restaurants, design stores and flea markets, not to mention street festivals, concerts and theatre performances.

If you have made it this far, then a lunch or a dinner are definitely in order, either at **F-Hoone** (60A Telliskivi) – which has already established a solid name for itself at the Telliskivi Creative City and which is housed in Block F of the former Kalinin Electronics Factory – or in one of the relative newcomers, such as **Foody Allen** (Vaba Lava Theatre, C1 Building), which is considered to be Estonia’s first street food restaurant. The menu offers a bouquet of tastes from all over the world and the prices are very reasonable, with dishes costing between 5 and 12 euros.

Not far away is **Frenchy** (B Building), a conceptually French restaurant to the very core. The products from which the dishes are made (in the best French traditions, of course) have been personally selected in France by the owner and the chef. That includes the cheese, the meat, the delicacies and, naturally, the wine. *Très français* and very stylish. The service is wonderful, giving you the added opportunity to brush up on your French....

Text by **UNA MEISTERE**, anothertravelguide.com  
Publicity photos and by Alamy

# Tallinn



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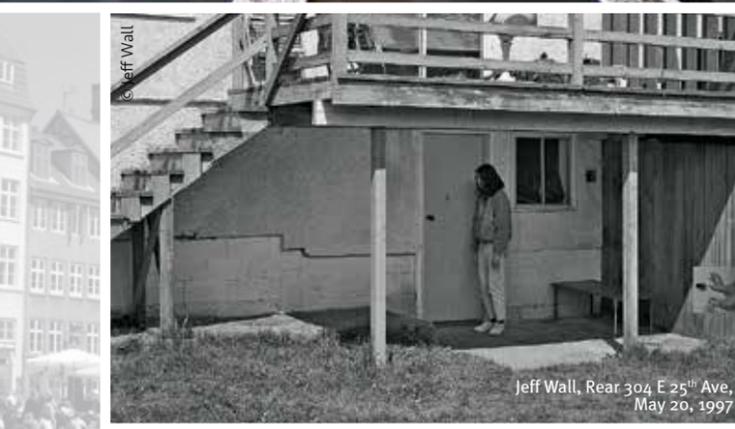


Hotel SP34

# Copenhagen



Kul restaurant



Jeff Wall, Rear 304 E 25<sup>th</sup> Ave, May 20, 1997



Hotel SP34

The **Hotel SP34** (Sankt Peders Stræde 34; brochner-hotels.dk) is currently the trendy spot for spending the night in Copenhagen. It can be found in the bohemian Latin quarter of the Danish capital, on the site of the former *Hotel Fox*. Its minimalistic old-school interior is set in grey tones, with touches of warmth and hominess added by mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century Danish furniture, along with a whole series of amusing details such as a padded leather chair backrest at the end of the bed, brass lamps and bicycles as art objects. Nothing excessive here, but with everything that one needs for a comfortable stay, including free Wi-Fi and a small library with design and architecture books. The 118-room hotel is just 100 metres from Town Hall Square and is quite moderately priced in comparison with other hotels in the city.

If you are seeking the gastronomic equivalent to the *Hotel SP34*, then the recently opened **Kul** restaurant (Høkerboderne 16B; restaurantkul.dk) in the trendy Kødbyen district is the place to go. *Kul* is the Danish word for "charcoal", which is the main inspiration for the interior and which is used extensively in the kitchen. Much of the food is prepared on a grill over an open fire in an open kitchen. You won't find any *New Nordic* and *Noma* concept imitators here, which until recently had oversaturated Copenhagen's gastronomy scene. The restaurant is located in a former abbatoir, its interior created by the Danish *Space* design office. Inside, the original brick floor and other historical details are complemented with contemporary design accents. The appetiser-sized portions offer diners the opportunity to taste more than one dish, and the prices are quite reasonable; most of the items on the menu do not cost more than 100 Danish crowns.

If you have a bit of time on your hands, then it would be a sin not to take the short trip to the **Louisiana Museum of Modern Art** (Gl Strandvej 13, Humlebæk; louisiana.dk), which is one of the most magnificent museums in all of Scandinavia. Located only 40 kilometres from Copenhagen, the museum boasts a superb collection of modern art and hosts top notch exhibitions. Until June 21, the *Louisiana* is hosting a showing of works by Canadian photographer Jeff Wall, who has already attained legendary status in the contemporary art world. Wall's signature installations are "boxes of light", or large-format slides that he prepares with scrupulous care, as if each was a theatre piece developing in several acts, thus turning seemingly impossible life situations into reality.

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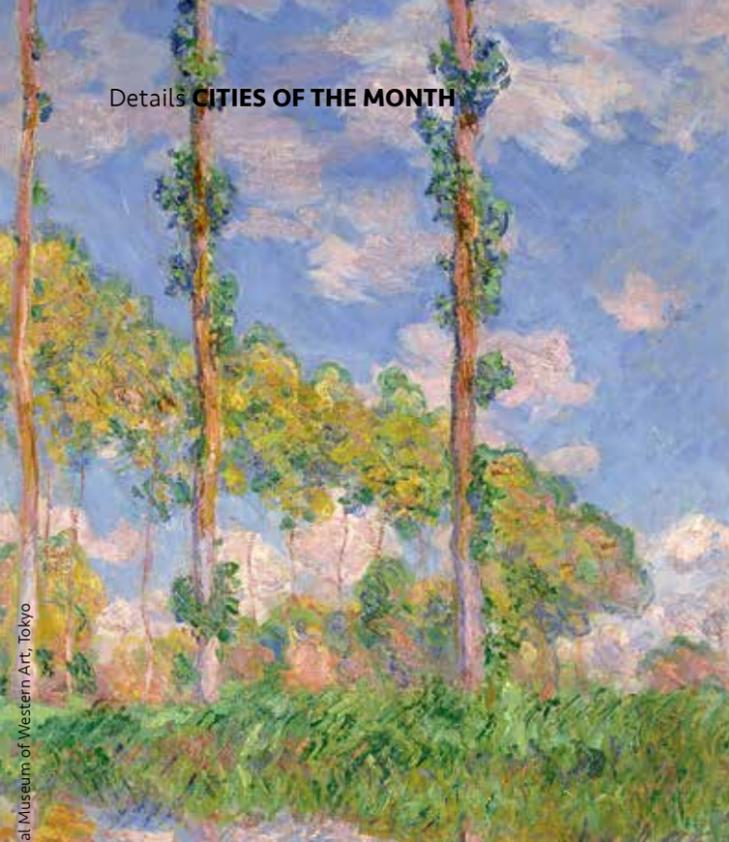
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Claude Monet, Poplars in the Sun, 1891

# London



Photo of Paul Durand-Ruel in his gallery, taken by Dornac, about 1910

The boom of new hotels is continuing in London at a frenetic pace. Take the *Ham Yard Hotel*, *The Beaumont*, *The Hoxton*, the *Conrad London St. James*, *Mondrian London* and *Shangri-La*, which are just a few of the establishments that opened their doors in the British capital last year. These are now being joined by **The Hospital Club** (24 Endell Street; [thehospitalclub.com](http://thehospitalclub.com)) and *M by Montcalm*. As one can gather by its name, *The Hospital Club* is located in a former 18<sup>th</sup>-century hospital, which today unites a member's club, a television studio, an art gallery and a whole slew of other creative ventures – all under one roof. In any case, the 15-room hotel provides ideal accommodations for those who are seeking not just a comfortable bed but also a healthy dose of visual impressions. The rooms come in four different sizes – small, medium, large and suite, all in an elegant British club-style interior decorated with plenty of wood and soft, fluffy textures. Various colour accents and contemporary artworks add a playful touch to the atmosphere of self-sufficient luxury and comfort.

Another new hotel, **M by Montcalm**, opens its doors this month in East London's Shoreditch Tech City district, which is fast becoming a major hub for media technology firms. The building itself is a technological wonder, its façade being inspired by Op-Art pioneer Bridget Riley's painting *Nataraja* (1993), which is a part of the Tate collection of artworks. The 18-storey and 269-room *M by Montcalm* is the first luxury hotel in this part of the city, housing a spa and pool lined with *Versace* tiles and a restaurant on the 17<sup>th</sup> floor with a panoramic view of the city.

One thing is clear: regardless of whether it is a stay in a hotel room, a dinner in a restaurant, a work of art or a bottle of shampoo, the product on sale nowadays always comes with a story. And who would know better than the illustrious 19<sup>th</sup>-century storyteller and visionary Paul Durand-Ruel: the first dealer to turn art into a business and to raise his chosen artists to superstardom status. The art dealers of our day are merely his followers, sometimes selling works for unimaginable sums that extend into the millions.

Durand-Ruel was the first dealer to sense the potential of those who would later become known as Impressionist artists. Before his arrival onto the scene, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, Edouard Manet, Alfred Sisley and Camille Pissarro were simply lunatics struggling to survive off of their meagre earnings. The exhibition **Inventing Impressionism** at the National Gallery is devoted to Durand-Ruel, his passion for art and his cold-bloodedly calculating business skills. Significantly, all 85 of the Impressionist paintings on display once went through Durand-Ruel's hands, giving an added sense of value to this showing, which is on view until May 31 ([nationalgallery.org.uk](http://nationalgallery.org.uk)). **BO**



The Hospital Club



M by Montcalm



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Text by **DAVID NIKEL**  
Photos courtesy of VisitDenmark

## Utzon's farewell

The Utzon Center in Aalborg, Denmark, is one of the city's many attractions.

**A**alborg is often ignored by tourists who favour the urban chic of the capital, Copenhagen, but Denmark's fourth largest city has much to entice the curious traveller. The ongoing renovation of the waterfront is bringing out the best of Aalborg's historical buildings alongside more modern architectural projects like the Utzon Center.

If the striking edifice's modern sail-inspired design strikes you as familiar, then that may be because it was designed by architect Jørn Utzon, who was also responsible for the look of the iconic Sydney Opera House. While not as grand as the Southern Hemisphere's most famous building, the Utzon Center is a major landmark of Aalborg, drawing inspiration from the city's shipbuilding heritage. It's also notable as the last building designed by Utzon before his death in 2008. The 90-year-old saw the project

completed just months before his passing.

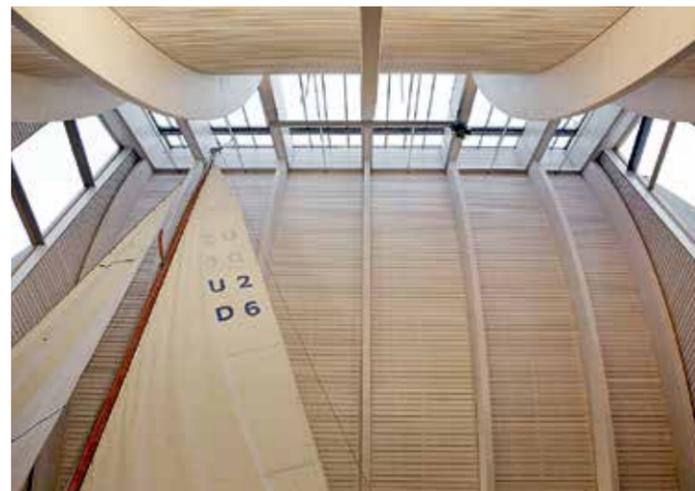
Although dedicated to the architect, the complex actually involves three generations of Utzon's family. His son Kim helped to plan the building, while a 30-year-old yacht designed by Jørn's father Aage Utzon lies within.

The venue is used as a research centre and exhibition space for architecture-related work. Currently on show is *Catalyst Architecture*, an exhibition devoted to such fast-growing cities as New York, Tokyo, Rio de Janeiro and Copenhagen.

Utzon wished to create a public space that made architecture accessible to the masses. He achieved this by designing a building with panoramic windows that let natural daylight flood inside, along with a courtyard sheltered from the wind.

Immediately east of the building is the popular Utzon Park, home to cherry trees – of which the architect was very fond – and further examples of his work.

Before you leave, be sure to visit the nearby solar-powered House of Music, the latest architectural point of interest along the Aalborg waterfront. **BO**



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The 42<sup>nd</sup> BMW Berlin Marathon will take place on Sunday, September 27

Text by DAVID NIKEL  
Publicity photo

## Marathon tourism

With more than 2,000 marathons held across the world every year, you don't have to go very far to test your fitness and stamina – unless you wish to combine the ultimate physical test with a love of travel.

**M**arathon tourism began in the late 1970s, when thousands of amateur runners flocked to take part in the annual New York City marathon. NYC has always had the largest international participation of any marathon. Other marathon majors include London, Berlin and Paris. These grand events all run International Tour Partner (ITP) programs, which guarantee approved travel companies a block of marathon entries.

As Thom Gilligan, president and founder of *Marathon Tours & Travel* (marathontours.com) explains, an increasing number of runners now want to combine a marathon with travel:

"After runners have completed a major marathon, they look for events in the place that interests them. The marathon has become a catalyst for their travel

decision. For example, if a runner is interested in wine, then *Le Marathon du Médoc*, which winds through the vineyards near Bordeaux, France, is an attractive race to enter. Many are also drawn to the Athens marathon, as it is located where the original course was run."

Another good example of a smaller race with tourist appeal is in the Arctic city of Tromsø, Norway. The *Midnight Sun Marathon*, the world's northernmost AIMS-certified marathon, attracts an international field for the novelty of running late into the evening under bright sunlight. Agnete Ryeng, event tourism manager at *Visit Tromsø*, believes the event is key for the region:

"Of the 5,000 participants last year, over 1,000 came from outside Norway. We know from surveys that many visitors stay for up to a week afterwards and visit the region's attractions while they're here."

By the way, marathon tourism is not limited to full marathons but is also a great and motivational way for runners to build up towards the grueling race by running half marathons in new places, for example, as part of their training schedule. **BO**

### UPCOMING MARATHON RACES

Paris, France / April 12

London, UK / April 26

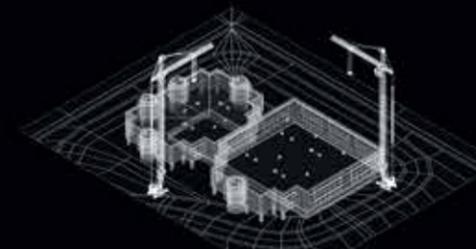
Riga, Latvia / May 17

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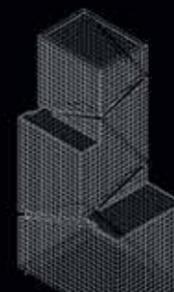
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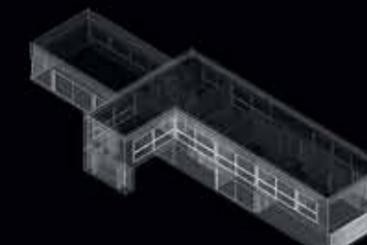
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Text by **DACE VAIVARA**  
Publicity photos

**Get the look!**

Max&Co

**B**esides protecting the eyes from glaring sunlight, sunglasses are extremely effective style accessories and can work wonders to change the wearer's image – even more so than shoes and jewellery.

Choose sunglasses that go well with the complexion of your face and hair colour. Stylists say that you shouldn't look at how the sunglasses appear on your face, but rather at how your face appears in the sunglasses, regardless of how modern, stylish and expensive they are. Frames with geometrically cornered shapes make a face look more masculine and strict, while rounded shapes make it look milder.

Large sunglasses do not suit round faces, nor do they look good on small faces with fine features. Small and round retro-style sunglasses with fine frames, for their part, add a

touch of extravagance and suit those who like to dress provocatively. It is worth noting, however, that small glasses will make a large and round face look even rounder. The main thing is to match the sunglasses with your overall style and to feel good while wearing them.

This season, expect to see round and large square shapes with massive metal and acetate frames, feminine cat-eye designs, three-dimensional textures, bright rainbow-spectre colours, graphic prints, futuristic shapes and details, as well as elegant retro styles. The frames of the newest glamour sunglasses are made from original materials with added valuable decorative elements such as crystals, natural horn, crocodile effects, leather inserts and polished metal surfaces, all of which serve to enhance the luxury appeal. **BO**

## Details **THING OF THE MONTH**

### CLASSIC ROUND

Round-shaped 1960s-style sunglasses in bright or nuanced colours with massive frames and geometric lenses.



Oxydo, EUR 138,  
edel-optics.lv

Prada, EUR 232, Fielmann

### SQUARED OVERSIZE

Maximally large and square butterfly-shaped 1970s-style sunglasses with artistically patterned frames and colour accents promise to be a veritable hit this season.



Fendi, EUR 313,  
Lornete

Dolce & Gabbana,  
EUR 177, Fielmann

### CAT-EYE

A must-have for a glamorous feminine image are cat-eye sunglasses in 1950s style with innovative geometric constructions, colour contrasts and fine silhouettes.



Oxydo, EUR 138,  
edel-optics.lv

MIU MIU,  
EUR 348,  
pasaulesoptika.lv

### ELEGANT RETRO

1950s retro-style unisex sunglasses in the shapes and colours of that era provide a stylish vintage accent and consistently appealing look.



Fendi, EUR 288,  
Lornete

Emporio Armani, EUR 236,  
Fielmann

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## HOUSING ESTATE FOR SALE

### Brivibas bulvaris 21, Riga

Located in the heart of Riga, this prestigious and historical building, including land property, is up for sale. A beautiful view of the park opens up from its windows. The building is located at the intersection of Brivibas and Kalpaka Boulevards, and is just a few minutes away from the Old Town. The Freedom Monument – one of the most important national symbols of Latvia, is located nearby. The premises are best suited for either a hospitality business or premium-class apartments.

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Site area – 1 148 m<sup>2</sup>.  
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## COMMERCIAL PREMISES FOR SALE

### 201 Brivibas gatve, Riga



For sale: property with an active luxury department store at 201 Brivibas gatve in Riga, located near VEF. It's an excellent choice for a good investment – the object can be sold including cash flow (EUR 50000 per month excluding VAT) or without. Brivibas gatve is the main street of Riga, and this area is surrounded by a well-developed infrastructure and public transport, ensuring a large flow of people on a daily basis. The five-story building is fully equipped with everything required for a retail business, including storage facilities in the basement. Included is a parking lot for up to 60 cars. The exterior of the building can be redesigned in glass, and the inside can be adapted for office use.

Land area: 4343 m<sup>2</sup>  
Gross site area: 10648 m<sup>2</sup>  
Site area: 2274 m<sup>2</sup>  
Commercial area: 7945 m<sup>2</sup>

Price: **EUR 8 900 000**

For sale: property with an area of 62210 m<sup>2</sup> at 201 Brīvības gatve in Riga, located near VEF. The land is suitable for a mixed development, including housing. Maximum building intensity – 220%. The property is strategically well-placed near the Elkor Plaza department store, a hotel, and the offices of various companies. Brīvības gatve is located nearby. The property is suitable for various business activities, including the construction of offices and housing.

Utilities: electricity supply, water supply, central heating.

Land area: 62210 m<sup>2</sup>

Price: **EUR 4 900 000**



Phone: +371 20040769. E-mail: o.citok@elkor.lv



# FRANKFURT

## business style

The Germans have long been hailed for their sense of order, which manifests itself in the way that they do business, live their daily lives and dress. Superior German quality and ascetic chic can be seen in such fashion brands as *Hugo Boss*, *Jil Sander*, *Escada* and *Strenesse* as well as in items by global sports brands *Adidas* and *Puma*. As Germany's leading business and finance centre, dynamic Frankfurt is a place where the punctual Germans like to dress neatly and modestly.

In the business milieu, Germans place great importance on conveying a proper visual image, which should be taken into account when meeting with business partners in Germany. An unkempt and slovenly look is not acceptable in a business environment. Germans abide by a strict business dress code, which means wearing conservatively classic and unpretentious clothing, regardless of the position that one holds.

For men, standard etiquette requires wearing a two- or a three-piece suit of a single cloth, ideally grey, and with a modern tie. The shirt should be lighter than the suit, while the shoes should be darker. German businessmen most often choose conservative dark-coloured suits, white shirts and classic ties, adhering to this style of dress in all seasons of the year.

For women, a business casual grey suit with a jacket and skirt or pants would be the perfect choice. In accordance with prevailing business etiquette, women should avoid colours that are too light or bright as well as overly prominent makeup, flashy jewellery and accessories. German women tend to opt for traditional elegance, giving preference to dark suits with white blouses or conservative-style dresses. **BO**



Hugo Boss



Blazer by *Bastion*,  
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bastion.andmorefashion.com

Trousers by *Bastion*,  
EUR 79.90,  
bastion.andmorefashion.com

Earrings by  
*Thomas Sabo*,  
EUR 149

Glasses by *Hugo  
Boss*, EUR 241,  
pasalesoptika.lv

Bag by *Hugo  
Boss*, EUR 745,  
hugoboss.com

*Charm Rose Summer*  
eau de parfum (50 ml) by  
*Thomas Sabo*, EUR 49.90

*Salsa Air  
Luggage* by  
*Rimowa*,  
EUR 329

### SHOPPING IN FRANKFURT

#### Ichwareindirndl

This is where German designer Jutta Heeg sells her original vintage-style clothing made from 1950s and 1960s textile patterns. Translated into English, the name of the cosy store is *I was a dirndl*, in reference to one of the first modern skirts that Heeg made from the traditional German dress in the early 2000s. Brückenstraße 52  
① ichwareindirndl.de

#### MyZeil

A modern and imposing shopping mall on the famous *Zeil* pedestrian shopping street. Designed in a futuristic style by Roman architect Massimiliano Fuksas, the mall boasts one of Europe's longest escalators (46 metres), numerous stores and restaurants and an impressive fitness centre on the top floor. Next door, the *Zeilgalerie* beckons with a large rooftop observation deck that offers a wonderful panoramic view of the city. Zeil 106 | ① myzeil.de

#### Kreis zu Quadrat

A stylish store in which local designers have creatively upcycled handbags, interior items, jewellery and accessories from other objects. Here you will find teddy bears fashioned from jeans, candleholders created from wine bottles and cufflinks made of bottle caps. Berger Strasse 214  
① kreiszuquadrat.de

Store addresses in Riga: *Rimowa*, Stockmann department store, 13. janvāra iela 8; *Thomas Sabo*, Spice shopping centre, Lielirbes iela 29.

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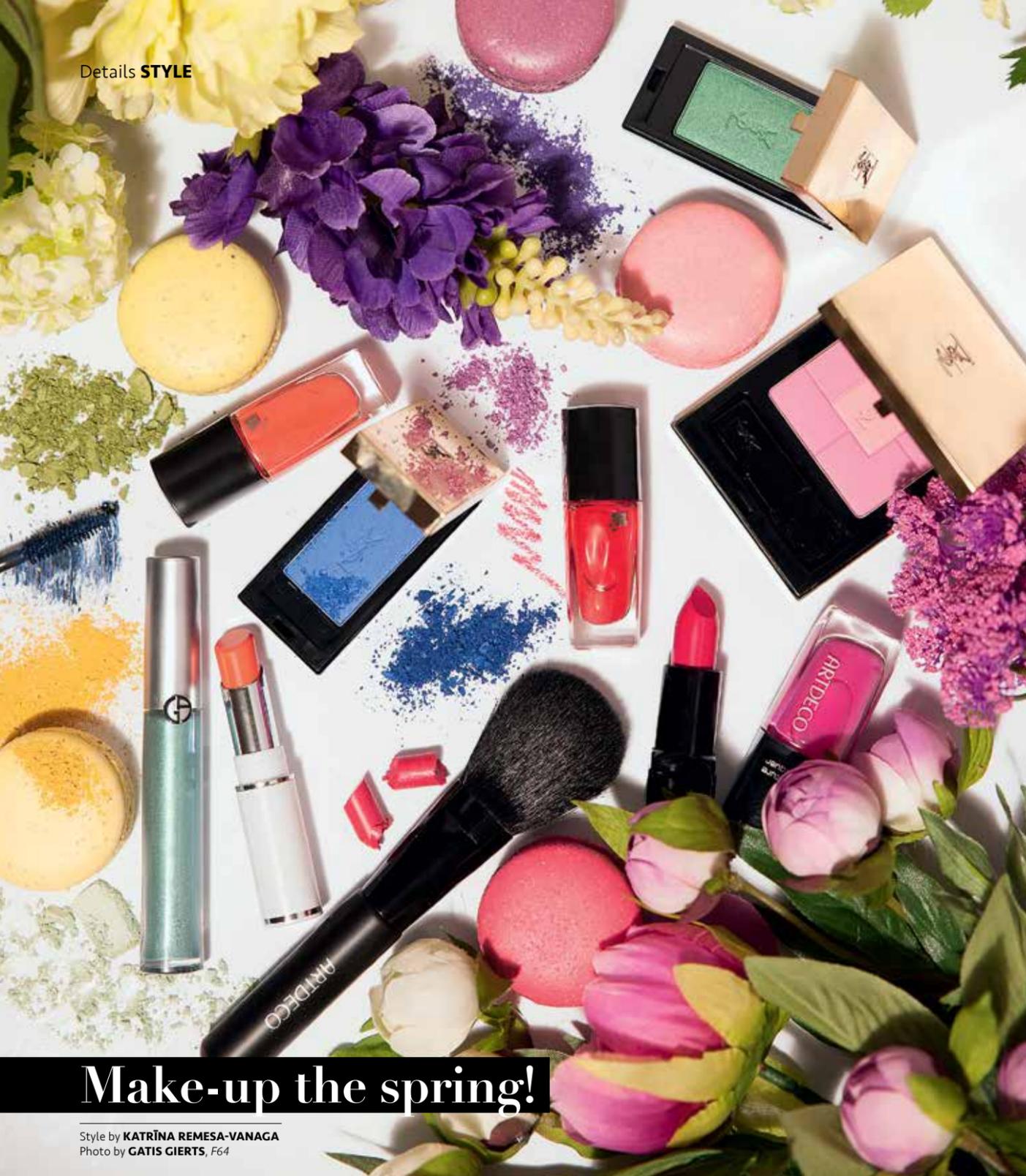
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## Make-up the spring!

Style by **KATRĪNA REMESA-VANAGA**  
Photo by **GATIS GIERTS, F64**

Green eye shadow, *YSL Couture Mono Nr. 8*, EUR 30.95, *Douglas*

*YSL Blush Volupté Nr.3*, EUR 47, *Douglas*

Purple eye shadow, *Artdeco Nr. 90*, EUR 5.45, *Douglas*

Nail polish, *Lancôme Le Vernis Nr. 152 and 136B*, EUR 21.50 each, *KristiAna*

Pink nail polish, *Artdeco Art Couture Nr.721*, EUR 8.95, *Douglas*

Pink lipstick, *Artdeco Nr. 51S*, EUR 15.95, *Douglas*

Blue eye shadow, *YSL Couture Mono Nr. 9*, EUR 30.95, *Douglas*

Powder brush, *Artdeco*, EUR 11.95, *Douglas*

*Artdeco Mineral Lip Styler Nr.9*, EUR 9.45, *Douglas*

Red lipstick, *Shiseido Shimmering Rouge Nr. RD 406*, EUR 19.14, *Douglas*

Orange lipstick, *Lancome Shine Lover Nr.136*, EUR 27, *Douglas*

Light green eye shadow, *Artdeco Nr.60*, EUR 5.45, *Douglas*

*Giorgio Armani Eye Tint Nr. 3*, EUR 35, *Stockmann*

*Artdeco All in One Mascara Nr. 05*, EUR 14.95, *Douglas*

Green eye shadow, *Artdeco Nr.243*, EUR 5.45, *Douglas*

Store addresses in Riga: *Douglas*, *Galerija Centrs* shopping centre, *Audēju iela 16*; *KristiAna*, *Galleria Riga* shopping centre, *Dzimumu iela 67*; *Stockmann* department store, *13.janvāra iela 8*.

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# Oasis of peace

Expansive Spanish designer Jaime Hayon has created a new armchair named *Ro*, which means “rest” in Danish.

Text by KRISTINE BUDŽE, *Pastaiga*  
Photos from Fritz Hansen  
publicity materials



## WHAT IS IT?

An armchair that Jaime Hayon has designed for *Fritz Hansen*, one of Denmark’s best-known furniture companies. The chair comes in nine different colour options, with one tone for the shell and another for the fabric pillows. The entire chair can also be purchased in a single uniform colour and is available in a leather-covered version. The legs, for their part, are made of either polished aluminium or oak wood, with an accompanying footrest for added comfort. The chair was designed as a place of relaxation and oasis of peace – perfect for taking a break from one’s stressful work routine.

## WHY IS IT SPECIAL?

*Fritz Hansen* is named after its founder, a cabinet-maker who established a carpentry shop in Copenhagen in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Since then, Hansen’s enterprise has grown to become a renowned furniture manufacturer. Over the years, *Fritz Hansen* has successfully cooperated with practically all of Denmark’s most famous modern designers. The company experienced its heyday during the 1950s,

which were marked by a creative symbiosis between *Fritz Hansen* and designer Arne Jacobsen. This was the time when the company began to manufacture its renowned *Ant*, *Swan* and *Egg* chairs, which can still be purchased through *Fritz Hansen’s* website.

Although *Fritz Hansen* is known as a quintessential representative of Scandinavian design values, lately the enterprise has been cooperating with an increasing number of designers from outside of the region. One of these is the flamboyant Jaime Hayon, an unusual choice for the restrained Nordic company. Known for his playful approach to design, Hayon had a passion for skateboarding and graffiti during his youth. The designer says that he pays no heed to market research studies and recommendations by marketing specialists, as in order to create something truly surprising, one has to refrain from the desire to design a money-making product. Hayon’s use of bright colours mixed with complicated and playfully rounded shapes might seem at odds with the restrained Scandinavian design aesthetic. However, with the *Ro* chair, the designer has

successfully reigned in his more flashy side and provided a breath of fresh air to Nordic-style furniture.

## HOW DOES IT FIT INTO INTERIORS?

At the end of the 1950s, Arne Jacobsen designed the *SAS Royal Hotel*, which was the first skyscraper in Copenhagen. The architect also designed all of the furniture in the hotel, including the *Swan* and *Egg* chairs, which *Fritz Hansen* later manufactured on an industrial scale. The hotel later changed its furniture during the 1970s, leaving only one room with its original furnishings. Last year the establishment, which is now known as the *Radisson Blu Royal Hotel*, asked Hayon to create a new set of furniture for the hotel. All of the furniture in room 506, for example, was designed by Hayon in cooperation with *Fritz Hansen*. One of the items in that room is a *Ro* chair, which blends perfectly into mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century Modernist architecture. However, the *Ro* chair also fits quite well into interiors designed in older historical styles. **BO**

① [fritzhansen.com](http://fritzhansen.com)

# A PASSION TO DREAM

# BOSCA



ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION MAY HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS



This is your captain speaking

Details **CREW**

Text by **ILZE POLE**  
Photos Courtesy of **NORMUNDS DREIMANIS**

## NORMUNDS DREIMANIS (38),

from Latvia, captain on **Boeing 737** aircraft.  
Hours flown: **10,600**

*Baltic Outlook* introduces you to some of the most important people at *airBaltic* – its flight crew members.



### SNAPSHOT TO SHARE

I took this photo of the Pacific Ocean on the afternoon of July 18, 2012, during a flight from Palau to Taipei. The ocean was so calm and smooth that the clouds reflected off of it like a mirror. However, later in the trip we had to face the winds of a typhoon, so this was like the calm before a storm. That was during the time that *airBaltic* rented out some of its aircraft and crew to *Palau Airways*.

### THREE THINGS THAT I NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT

My wristwatch, my tie clip and a pen, but these aren't talismans or anything like that.

### HOBBY

Windsurfing. The feelings are similar to those of flying, but with less mental stress and far more physical exertion.

### THINGS THAT MIGHT SURPRISE A PASSENGER WHO STEPS INTO THE PILOT'S CABIN

Usually people are surprised at the small size of the cockpit and at the large number of buttons inside of it. They are particularly surprised at the view that unfolds from the flight deck.

### HOW IT ALL BEGAN

My dad took me out on my first flight when I was four years old. It was from the flying club in Cēsis and was enough to get me hooked on flying. Ten years later, I had my first flight in a glider at the age of 14. Then at the age of 18 I was in the cockpit for my first plane flight, which might even have been in the same aircraft that I was flown in when I was four.

Dreimanis' first flight with a glider in 1990.



### LAST DESTINATION FLOWN TO AS A PASSENGER

Four months ago, we had to fly an airplane to Tallinn for maintenance. After that, we flew as passengers from Tallinn to Riga. It's extremely rare for me to fly as a passenger.

### FAVOURITE RUNWAY

The runway of the Riga airport. It's always nice to return home.

### FAVOURITE BOOK

I have been a fan of Jules Verne's books and tales since my childhood. I also enjoy folk tales from Latvia and other countries. Later I had to read specialised aviation literature, which can be interesting at times, but in general I am not too fond of it.

### THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING A PILOT

The sensation that you get when you are up in the air, feeling the speed and movement in a way that is impossible on the ground.

### FAVOURITE RESTAURANT

There's a place called *Kipītis* in the Latvian seaside town of Roja. Although I wouldn't call it a restaurant, it serves the best sauerkraut that I've ever eaten. Whenever I'm in that part of the country, I stop there for a meal.



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# (High)Life Savers

These simple travel gadgets will make your next *airBaltic* trip a breeze

Text by **ROGER NORUM**  
Publicity photos



## TUGO PLUS

### Hot stuff in the airport lounge

Frivolous? Perhaps. But we've all been there: scrambling around the airport while trying to juggle a cup of scalding hot coffee or tea. This ingenious little gizmo – a pliable cup holder that securely suspends your drink in between your rolling luggage's upright handles – will save you both on embarrassment and skin grafts. The *Tugo* is simple to attach and collapses to easily fit inside a luggage pocket. Dishwasher safe. EUR 12 | [goodtugo.com](http://goodtugo.com)



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Ever wanted to boogie to Beyoncé while in the airport hotel pool? These sporty earbuds can now be completely submerged under water to up to two metres, as a thin membrane prevents water from penetrating the snug, lightweight headset. The buds store either 4GB or 8GB of songs and work for up to eight hours on battery power. There is even a three-minute Quick Charge function. EUR 83 | [sony.com](http://sony.com)

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## SULAN BAG TAG

### Bag it, tag it

Why do our smartphone batteries die on us when we don't happen to have a charger around? This portable phone charger will cure many a traveller's woes, including those who use mobile boarding passes. Designed to attach to a suitcase or tote bag's handles, the device sports a 3000mAh rechargeable battery that provides most smartphones with a full charge. (*Apple* devices require a micro USB adapter.) Retains a charge for up to six months when not in use. Available in several finishes, including the rather blingy saffiano and crocodile leather. From EUR 50 | [cuckooland.com](http://cuckooland.com)



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Details **PEOPLE**

Text by **DOVYDAS KIAULEIKIS**  
Photos courtesy of **TADAO CERN**

# Letting it all hang out

Lithuanian-based photographer Tadao Cern (Tadas Cerniauskas) captures sunbathers in all of their glory



Cern's latest series *Paintography* and *Comfort Zone* are currently on display at the *nhow* gallery in Berlin until April 24.

Once we find ourselves on a beach, we forget about everything and start acting in an absolutely different manner," says Lithuanian photographer and former architect Tadao Cern about *Comfort Zone*, a project in which he took pictures of people asleep on the beach.

It all started one summer weekend, when Cern observed sunbathers resting by the seaside. He was so inspired by what he saw that he decided to return the following week with a camera. The *Comfort Zone* photo series is the result. The pictures are not staged and the subjects do not realise that they are being photographed from above. Hence, certain otherwise hidden vacationers' assets are on full display, be they bulging bellies or inner playboys showing off on zebra-print mats.

*Comfort Zone* took the international media by storm and was reprinted in some of the world's biggest newspapers, including the *Guardian* and *The New York Times*. Many viewers recognise themselves in these exposed moments.

"During our everyday lives, we attempt to hide our deficiencies, both physical and psychological. But not on the beach," explains Cern about the idea behind *Comfort Zone*.

The beach series is not the only project by Cern that has caught the attention of the world press. A few years ago, the photographer had fun creating another series, titled *Blow Job*, under which blasts of air were blown into models' faces, creating some incredibly funny facial expressions. After terminating his previous career as an architect, Cern had just turned to photography and *Blow Job* was his first proper photographic attempt.

"I wanted to do something fun for myself and the participants, just to laugh and have a good time. I was surprised when this took off. So many people wanted to participate and the project got so much interest from the world's media," says Cern, whose newfound fame has led to collaborations with companies such as *Samsung* and *BMW*. **BO**



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**LIDO AIRPORT**  
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**LIDO DOMINA**  
Domina Shopping Centre  
Ieriķu iela 3, Riga



[www.lido.lv](http://www.lido.lv)



## Pizza with asparagus

April marks the beginning of the asparagus season in Europe. Asparagus are nutritious and contain a great deal of vitamins and minerals, so now is the time to place them on your kitchen table.

Recipe, style and photo by  
**ZANE JANSONE,**  
gatavoza.lv

### INGREDIENTS

For two 30-cm pizzas

#### Dough

300 g wheat flour  
1 pinch sea salt  
2 1/2 tsp. dry yeast  
1 1/2 glass warm water  
1 1/2 tbsp. grape seed oil

1 pinch freshly ground pepper  
1/2 tsp. dried basil  
1 glass water  
Vegetable oil

#### Garnish

6-8 green asparagus  
1 tbsp. grape seed oil  
1 mozzarella cheese ball  
100 g goat cheese  
Chives  
Pea, cabbage, mustard and other sprouts

#### Tomato sauce

1/2 kg plum tomatoes  
1 tbsp. brown sugar  
1 tsp. sea salt  
400 g canned tomatoes (1 tin)  
2 cloves garlic, sliced

### PREPARATION

Begin by preparing the pizza dough. Mix the flour, sea salt and yeast in a bowl. Add the water and a bit of grape seed oil. Knead the dough. Add more flour if necessary, but make sure that the dough remains a bit sticky and is not too firm. Once the dough is ready, place into an oiled bowl. Rub a bit more oil over the dough, cover with a towel and allow the dough to rise for an hour.

Prepare the tomato sauce while the dough is rising. Slice the plum tomatoes in half and place them onto a baking tray that has been covered with baking paper, the sliced sides facing up. Sprinkle with vegetable oil, sugar and salt. Bake in the oven at 200°C for 30 minutes. Place the baked tomatoes into a kettle and add the canned tomatoes, garlic, basil, pepper and water. Heat over a low fire for 30-40 minutes until the sauce has thickened. Then blend all of the ingredients in a blender and cool. If you plan to save the sauce for another day, then pour the hot sauce into a sterilised cup jar, screw the lid shut and cool.

After the dough has risen, knead it again and divide into two even parts. Roll out each part into a maximally thin circle. Place onto a baking pan or special pizza stone and smear with tomato sauce, leaving the edges clean.

Slice the asparagus lengthwise into four parts, smear with grape seed oil and arrange onto the pizza circles. Place the pizzas into a hot oven (210-220°C) for 5-7 minutes. After removing the pizzas from the oven, evenly sprinkle both cheeses and the dried basil over them. Put the pizzas back into the oven for 3-4 minutes. Sprinkle with chives, sprouts and a bit of vegetable oil once the pizzas are ready. **BO**

# Best restaurants in Riga & Jurmala!

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Bühner in "his" kitchen garden

One of Europe's best chefs  
Thomas Bühner in his kitchen garden

"The cauliflower doesn't become any more delicious if it travels around the globe," says Thomas Bühner, one of Europe's best chefs, who works at the three-*Michelin*-starred *La Vie* restaurant in Osnabrück, Germany. That statement could very well serve as the slogan of the locavore movement, which aims to reduce the farm-to-plate gap by encouraging chefs to grow their own food. Indeed, an increasing number of chefs are turning to homegrown ingredients for their flavour and freshness, while consumers appreciate knowing where these ingredients come from. Environmentalists, for their part, praise the absence of preservatives, along with the small "ecological footprint" left by locally grown foods.

Bühner has the privilege of using Germany's largest kitchen garden at *Schloss Ippenbüren* as if it were his own and appreciates the immense variety of plants, of which there are more than 1,000. He has also taken a liking to plant parts that are not generally used in the kitchen, such as radish leaves and sugar snap blossoms.

French chef Alain Passard is widely seen as a forerunner to the locavore movement, using ingredients from his own farm in Bretagne to cater to his Parisian restaurant *L'Arpège*. However, the most influential role model has been Danish chef René Redzepi. Before he founded *Noma* in Copenhagen in 2003, gourmet cuisine was associated with extravagant imported dishes. Redzepi turned instead to regional ingredients, serving homegrown cloudberries in place of foie gras, and became the world's best chef. Now you can find numerous top notch restaurants that grow their own food, such as *Pied à Terre*, which operates a private 200 plant-garden on a rooftop in the middle of London.

In Stockholm, several eminent chefs share a patch at the public *Rosendals Trädgård* gardens. Among them are Jacob Holmström and Anton Bjuhr of *Gastrologik*, whose 10+ courses are made strictly from the daily harvest or fish catch. The menu is blank, as these two chefs abide by their grandparents' lesson that nothing tastes as good as freshly picked garden ingredients, and that you should simply eat what the host puts on your plate.

Sometimes, placing your trust in the chef can be a bit of an adventure. At the aforementioned *Noma* (which has been named the world's best restaurant for four of the past five years), Redzepi has been known to serve "edible dirt" made from dried malt and beer. How's that for whetting your appetite? **BO**

① [gastrologik.se](http://gastrologik.se)  
① [restaurant-lavie.de](http://restaurant-lavie.de)

## Chefs with a green thumb

Having your own vegetable garden is the hottest new restaurant trend

Text by **FLORIAN MAAP**  
Photo courtesy of **THOMAS BÜHNER**



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СТАРТ ПРОДАЖ - АПРЕЛЬ 2015



# The islanders and the sea

*Baltic Outlook* takes a tour inside a gorgeous islanders' house on Vlieland, the Netherlands.

Text by **AGRA LIEĖE**  
Photos courtesy of  
**MIRJAM BLEEKER**



**V**lieland is one of a chain of islands in the North Sea off the Dutch coast. The quiet haven is 12 kilometres long and two kilometres wide, being covered mostly with sand dunes as well as some wooded areas and meadows. A small municipality named Oost-Vlieland is the only village on the island. Tourists who wish to visit Vlieland usually take the ferry, but they are not allowed to bring their cars with them. Thus, apart from a single bus that links the ferry terminal to the tiny village, the most common way to get around on Vlieland is by bicycle.

Although the 42-metre dune with a red lighthouse on top of it is the main eye-catcher for those who arrive with the ferry, the house belonging to Anja de Groot and Frits Jeukens is the first building that visitors will see. It stands on the edge of the island, where the North Sea and the Wadden Sea merge.



## STRAIGHT TO HEAVEN

The owners had a clear idea of how their house should be from the very beginning, and the architects who worked with them – Marieke Rombout and Sander Rutgers – came up with a design that matched their aspirations fully.

“We live in the old harbour district of Vlieland and wanted a house that fitted in with the surroundings: something sober and solid but also modern and made of wood, with a pitched roof. We decided not to do additional work on the ceilings inside and chose a rough wooden floor.”

The central feature of the house is the staircase in the middle, along with an 8.5-metre-high bookcase that ascends gracefully from the cellar to the top of the house.



**SEA VIEW**

The couple can enjoy a view of the sea from every side of the house except the back, which leads out onto the dunes. The yacht harbour can also be seen from the living room window. The *chaises longues* next to the large dormer window are perfect places to retreat and get cosy with a good book.

**MIX OF OLD AND NEW**

The decorations are a mix of the old and the new: an Eames lounge chair has found a place alongside a restrained sofa, while the tables and chairs in the dining room are Swedish antiques.

“There is already a lot of colour because of our books, art pieces and kilim rugs, which is why I chose a white background.”

Anja has been coming to Vlieland on holidays ever since her childhood, as she has always been drawn to the sea. The same goes for her husband, Frits, whom she met on the nearby island of Terschelling.

“It’s purely by chance that we now live here. This beautiful house simply came up for sale,” says Anja.

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КЛУБНЫЕ ДОМА В ИСТОРИЧЕСКОМ ЦЕНТРЕ РИГИ

КЛУБНЫЕ ДОМА — ПАМЯТНИКИ АРХИТЕКТУРЫ

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IXI



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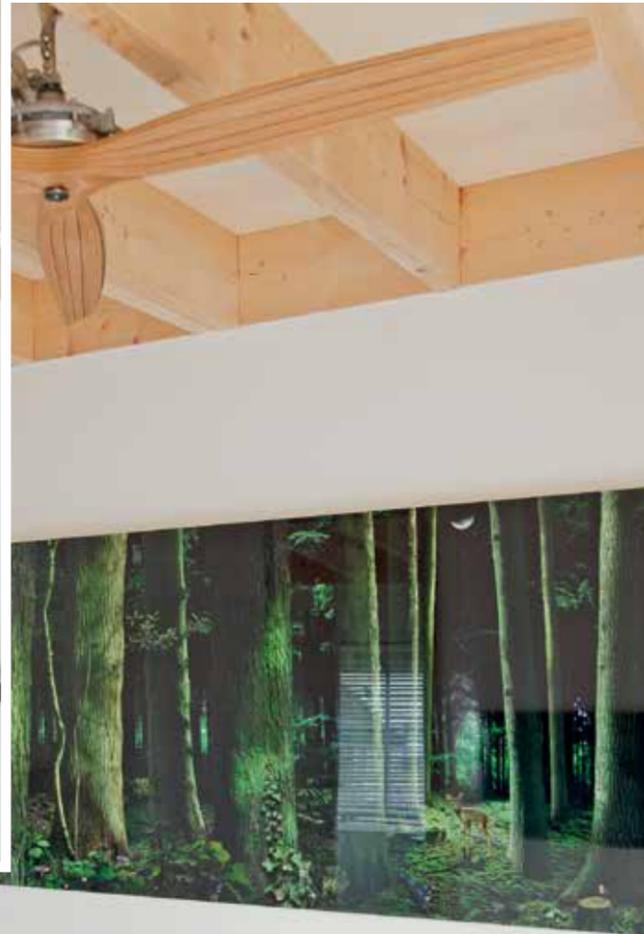
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### ARCHITECTS' MASTERPIECE

The ladder in the bathroom leads up to a lookout tower that offers a panoramic view of the island.

"It was our architects who came up with this idea and it fit our needs perfectly!" Anja says with glee.



More inspirational seaside architectural and interior design projects can be found in the interior book *North Sea Living* (EUR 39.95, lusterweb.com, authors: Sigrid Vandensavel, Diane Hendriks and Mirjam Bleeker). It contains 15 photo reports made in houses and apartments along the North Sea coastline, from the northern reaches of the Netherlands to the Atlantic Ocean. This tribute to the way of life on the seacoast can also serve as a source of ideas for other homes.

### OASIS OF CALM

Frits works in Alkmaar on the mainland three days a week, while Anja works fully from home. The ferry takes an hour and a half to reach the mainland, but the couple is happy with that.

"Once we have boarded the ferry on our way back home, we feel like we are already here, so we arrive on the island feeling totally relaxed," says Frits.

The couple's bedroom provides comfort and relaxation, with beautiful, functional furniture and organised, easy-to-use storage space. When decorating with white, it's important to incorporate a variety of textures or patterns to prevent the scheme from looking cold and uninviting. This sunny bedroom benefits from various subtle wood tones and natural textures. It is ultimately designed for sleeping and dreaming. **BO**



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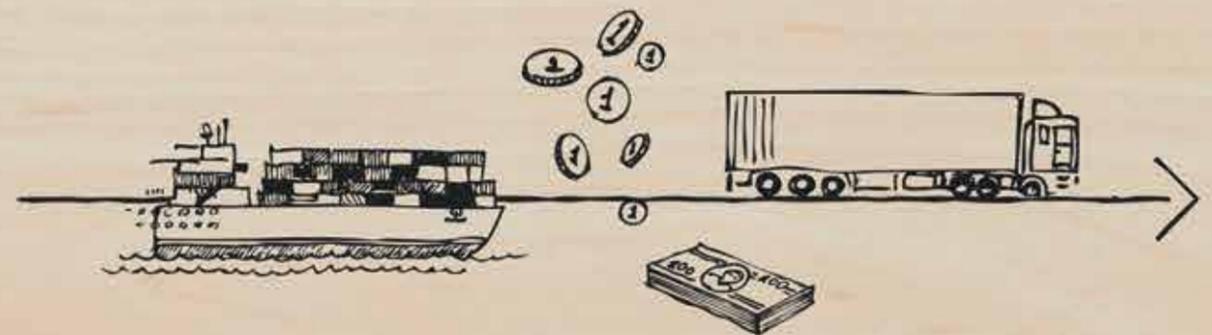
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Text by **UNA MEISTERE**, [anothertravelguide.com](http://anothertravelguide.com)  
Photos by **AINĀRS ĒRGLIS**

# DUBROVNIK –

## IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE *GAME OF THRONES*



Bad luck, somebody has already taken the AnotherTravelGuide brochure about Dubrovnik, but don't worry, all the information is also available at [ANOTHERTRAVELGUIDE.COM](http://ANOTHERTRAVELGUIDE.COM) in cooperation with airBaltic.

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**E**ven though I've travelled Sicily in the footsteps of Francis Ford Coppola's *The Godfather* and Vienna in the footsteps of Carol Reed's *The Third Man*, I'm not a passionate cinema tourist. For example, I have yet to travel to New Zealand under the spell of *The Lord of the Rings*. So, when I received an invitation to get to know Dubrovnik through the eyes of the American television series *Game of Thrones*, I was a bit sceptical. I admit I am not a fan of the series or the novels by George R. R. Martin on which it's based. Too much blood and brutality and, besides, I've never been too excited by historical dramas. But, seeing as the series' fifth season opens this month, curiosity prevailed. Because, after all, any slightly unconventional tour is simultaneously an opportunity to see a place from a completely different viewpoint.

The American production company *HBO* began filming in Dubrovnik in 2011 for the second season of *Games of Thrones*. Since then, King's Landing (the capital of Westeros, or the Seven Kingdoms) has been located here. During the first season, the city had been located in Malta, but after that the film crew decided to move to Croatia. Dubrovnik has all the right characteristics for King's Landing; over its long history, the capital of the former Republic of Ragusa has served as the backdrop for great passions as well as chilling battles.

Dubrovnik was an important trade centre from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and a stiff rival of Venice and Genoa. While the rest of the areas in present-day Croatia were under Venetian, Hungarian, Austrian or Ottoman rule, Dubrovnik remained an independent and flourishing domain. It was a city of art, culture, science, diplomacy and seafaring. In addition, the Republic of Ragusa was wealthy enough to build a superbly planned medieval city with spacious squares, churches and castles. Dubrovnik retained its status as a prosperous citadel until 1806, when Napoleon invaded. Since then, whenever they hear bad news, the locals say "the French are coming."



Dubrovnik's old city port

Dubrovnik's old city centre (just like the fantasy city of King's Landing) is surrounded by a stone wall. Immediately inland are the mountains and the Bosnian border; on the other side of the city is the bright blue Adriatic Sea. The climate here is also excellent, aside from the sharp and cold *bura* winds, which typically batter the city in March and reached a record-breaking 220 km/h this winter, causing floods and paralysing local air travel as well as life in the city. Croatians, however, have respect for this wind and even ascribe it life-giving properties, claiming that it blows away

### A Games of Thrones tour provides a different view of Dubrovnik, one in which the city's history intertwines and overlaps with fantasy

negative energy. The *bura* usually blows for three or four days, and the day that we arrive in Dubrovnik is Day #3. The strong wind has not yet let up. To be honest, though, it lends authenticity to our *Game of Thrones* tour.

#### Dubrovnik vs King's Landing

The tour begins at Pil Gate, the city's main gate. About 95% of Dubrovnik's inhabitants and guests pass through this gate every day. Sometimes during the tourist season, when large cruise ships stop here, it's impossible to even see the cobblestones under all the feet, laughs Ivana Radic, a young archaeologist who is also a big *Game of Thrones* fan. In fact, she was the person who began the *Game of Thrones*-themed tours of Dubrovnik, which have in the meantime become a popular tourist attraction.

"I began in 2013 and was the only one back then. No one believed anybody would be interested in something like this," she

says. Today, there is no lack of tour guides or fans. Although it's difficult to tell how many people visit Dubrovnik just because of the series, *Game of Thrones* tourism is big business in the city. Americans, British, Koreans...fans come from all over the world.

Armed with a rich array of scenes from the series, Radic stands at the foot of Lovrijenac Fort and demonstrates them one after the other. Once used to cunningly repulse the Venetians, the ancient fortress on a cliff just outside the city walls is now a symbol of the city. In the television series, this is where the Blackwater sea battle took place, in which Stannis Baratheon tried to attack King's Landing and dethrone King Joffrey. Except for a few touches of deft computer graphics, the view in front of us is practically the same as it is on screen. On television, however, the site has been cleared of layers of modern life and thus made even more authentic, laughs Radic.

Actually, that which most separates Dubrovnik from King's Landing is the number of inhabitants. The fantasy capital is stuffed with people, while the real Dubrovnik officially has a population of only 800. Locals believe that number may be even lower. In one sense, Dubrovnik has suffered a fate similar to that of Venice, its great rival for many centuries. In earlier times, the competition took place in the realm of trade, while nowadays it's about tourism. Both cities have become like open-air museums.

"Up until 1990, there were about 5,000 residents in the old city centre," explains Radic. "But the reason the population has shrunk so drastically isn't just because of the rapid increase in real estate prices in recent years and the resulting difficulties in selling or renting out properties. It's also because living in the old city centre is so uncomfortable. The infrastructure is still medieval, and due to the fact that the old city centre was added to the UNESCO list of world heritage sites in 1979, there are very strict construction and reconstruction regulations. Most people simply don't have the money to adhere to these regulations. For the most part, the few



Cobbled streets of Dubrovnik

people who still remain there live 'on the second level' – literally, on the second floor, while the first floors of their buildings are completely given over to tourism. The old city centre is closed to all automobiles, which also makes life more complicated. If you need to buy a refrigerator, for example, someone will have to carry it to your house. And so everything costs more. But those who live inside the city walls still consider those living outside the walls to be mere farmers. They're not real residents of Dubrovnik."

The first filming for *Games of Thrones* took place in August, the hottest time of the year and right in the middle of the tourist season. To create the effect of a densely populated city, local residents were invited to participate as extras. Costumes were aged for two weeks before filming so they wouldn't look too new. Women were not allowed to tweeze their eyebrows or wear brassieres during filming. Because, as we know, there was no such article of clothing in the Middle Ages. Radic, who was also an extra, tells how little was actually necessary to return to the Middle Ages.

"You just have to stop taking showers, dress half of the people as peasants and the other half as nobles, and within five minutes everybody's already in character. The last time, the crew needed

about 500 extras. Some of us dressed as peasants, some as noblemen. The noblemen shouted, 'You, you peasants – go away! You smell!' The 'peasants', on the other hand, complained that the 'noblemen' got better places in the shade and better food. It wasn't true, of course, but it was fun to see how people's thinking changed."

Because much of the television series was filmed on the so-called "second level" of the city, which traditional tourists seldom see, a *Games of Thrones* tour provides a different view of Dubrovnik, one in which the city's history intertwines and overlaps with fantasy. In fact, much about Dubrovnik's history is not etched in stone. For example, there are still debates about which year the city was founded. Almost every source states a different date, and every new archaeological excavation offers new evidence.

#### A building devoted to remembering

On the former outskirts of the city, an ultra-modern panoramic cable car now leads up the mountainside. This was once the location of leather tanning workshops as well as the so-called "red quarter". The hardened residents of Dubrovnik were street-wise people: "The city was small, but sailors and merchants from around

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A walk along Dubrovnik's famous city walls provides a magnificent view of the old city and the sublime blue waters of the Adriatic Sea

the world gathered here. Some of them stayed all winter. The residents needed to ensure that they were happy and content and wouldn't approach their wives and sisters," says Radic.

Right across from the city's old harbour – where today yachts sway on the small bay and the popular eatery *Lokanda Peskarija* serves meals in small black pots, just like in an old-fashioned fisherman's home – is the former quarantine building. In its day, this was one of the first quarantine buildings in the world for the simple reason that Dubrovnik could not afford to close its harbour. The city depended on imports, so, upon the arrival of a new ship, everything on board – people and goods alike – were placed in this building for 40 days. The word "quarantine" comes from the Italian "quaranta", meaning forty. Back then, 40 days wasn't a lot, because life happened much more slowly than it does today.

As we wander the narrow streets of the old city centre, we are suddenly interrupted by the voice of an old, grey-haired man. "That's my house," he says. Ivo Grbić is a local legend, an artist whose mission is to not let the past be forgotten. His house at ul. Od Puča 16 was one of the first to suffer damage in the most recent war, in the Serbian and Montenegrin attack on December 6, 1991 – St. Nicholas' Day. His workshop is still inside, and the Baroque façade of its walls is covered in large photographs of the burning house during the war, next to which Ivo himself is seen crouching in a blanket.

The text under one poster reads: "Already at 7:10 AM, a shell, one of the first to hit the city, hit our house. At 7:20 the third fateful one set our house on fire! I tried to extinguish it in the attic

with a few buckets of water, but I failed. Shells kept falling and we had to abandon the burning house! I carried my old mother (aged 88) to the ground floor and then to the neighbourhood..." Radic tells us that Grbić's house and the Homeland War Museum are almost the only evidence that remains of that time. The locals have done everything possible to forget the war, which has included rebuilding the city to make it look like it was before. "No one wanted to leave anything that might remind them of these events," she explains.

About 70% of the city's roofs were destroyed during the war. The bright orange roofs that are now such an integral part of Dubrovnik's silhouette and its romantic appeal are actually newly built. The old roofs were a light ochre colour.

During the Siege of Dubrovnik (1991-1992), the city was without electricity and water for five months. "We were saved by our ancestors, who, in their efforts to procure drinking water in the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century, built not only an aqueduct in the middle of the city but also a special system that diverted rainwater from building roofs and stored it in underground cisterns," says Radic. Called the Great Onofrio Fountain, the aqueduct is located right by the Pil Gate and is the main meeting place in the city today. "When I was a child, it took me a long time to understand that fountains actually spray water outwards," Radic continues.

Dubrovnik's famous Jesuit Staircase, built in 1738 right across from St. Ignatius Church, has also been immortalised in the *Game of Thrones*. When we visit it, the tourist season has not yet begun, and the square in front of the staircase – usually filled

with murmuring throngs of people – is empty. Only a couple of cats and a group of young Dominican monks approach us, their robes flowing in the wind. The boundary between real life and the film screen continues to blur....

Every visitor to Dubrovnik ought to take a walk along the city walls. Depending on how often you stop and gaze at the view, the walk takes about an hour and serves not only as an opportunity to see the city from a bird's-eye view, but also as inspiration for further exploration of the area. It doesn't matter whether you plan to continue on the mainland or Croatia's legendary islands, from here all of your destinations are laid out as plainly as on the palm of your hand.

### Salt and oysters

Ston, a small town with a population of just over 400 whose past stretches back into the 14<sup>th</sup> century, is located about an hour's drive (59 km) from Dubrovnik. Ston is famous for two things: the longest stone defensive wall in Europe (5.5 km, the second longest in the world after the Great Wall of China) and the oldest salt factory (*Ston Saltworks*) in Europe, where about 1,500 tonnes of salt are still obtained annually using traditional methods. The salt – one of this region's largest exports – also used to be this town's "gold" and was the reason the

In 1929, George Bernard Shaw, the famous Irish writer, wrote: "Those who wish to see heaven on earth should come to Dubrovnik."

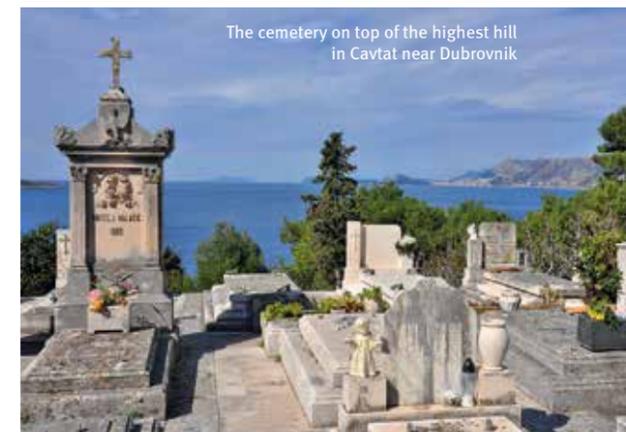
Dubrovnik enjoys a mild, warm and dry Mediterranean climate. During the summer, the average daytime high is about 27°C, while the nighttime low descends to a comfortable 20°C. The city is blessed by more than 2,500 hours of sunlight per year and sunless days are very rare.

If you are visiting Dubrovnik during the summer, then do not miss the world-renowned Dubrovnik Summer Festival from July 10 to August 25, with music, theatre and dance performances.

The highest point of Dubrovnik's city walls is the large circular Minčeta Tower. It is also a symbol of the city's resistance to foreign rule.



The famous Jesuit Staircase in the old city of Dubrovnik



The cemetery on top of the highest hill in Cavtat near Dubrovnik

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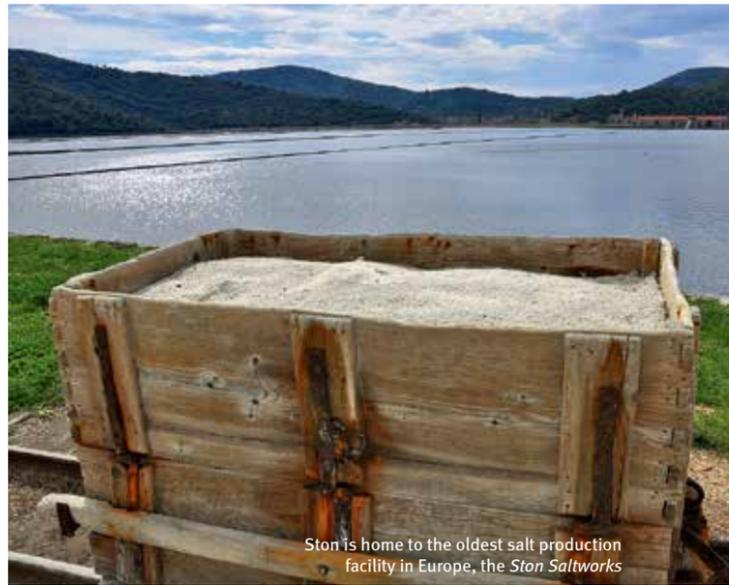


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Mali Ston



Ston is home to the oldest salt production facility in Europe, the *Ston Saltworks*



# Prefabricated Houses Design and Production

townspeople built the massive defensive wall, which includes three fortresses and 41 observation towers.

The ancient saltworks are now private property and only employ three people, whereas before the last war they supported 25 permanent employees. Salt is manufactured only in the summer (usually from July to September), when there has been a long period of warm and dry weather. During salt season, additional temporary workers are hired, but volunteers from around the world interested in trying something new also help out. The saltworks have nine large pools of water, each named after a different saint. Work begins at six in the morning, and each day salt is obtained from only one pool. Needless to say, all of the work is done by hand and, just like in a movie, wooden trolleys full of salt roll along old railway tracks. A small museum and souvenir shop are also nearby.

Ston was one of the Croatian coastal towns to suffer the most damage in the 1996 earthquake. Almost 90% of the town's buildings were destroyed or deemed uninhabitable by the quake. It took almost ten years for the town to recover, and one can still find evidence of the earthquake here and there. The locals do not hide the fact that their town is gradually getting older. It has only one school, which provides education only to the eighth grade; after that, students must continue their schooling in Dubrovnik. Hardly any of them return to Ston after finishing school.

A walk along the ramparts of Ston's defensive wall brings one to Mali Ston, a small harbour village located about one kilometre from Ston. Mali Ston is also one of this region's best gastronomic destinations. Mali Ston Bay is the only place in the world where *ostrea edulis* oysters are still farmed. The small, round molluscs were once also raised in

HERE ARE A FEW OF THE WINERIES IN THE DUBROVNIK REGION THAT ARE WORTH VISITING:

**Karaman Malvasia** (Pridvorje, 20217 Pridvorje) is especially famous for its dessert wines.

**Pošip Čara** on the island of Korčula – one of the oldest inhabited islands in the Adriatic and, according to legend, the birthplace of Marco Polo. Čara is in the middle of the island and this is where the world-famous Pošip (PO-zhip) wine is crafted.

**Korta Katarina** (Bana J. Jelacica 3 20250 Orebic; kortakatarinawinery.com) not only produces excellent and multiple-award-winning wines (Plavac Mali, Pošip and Reuben's Reserve Plavac Mali), but is also located in an unbelievably beautiful spot right on the Adriatic coast.

**Matuško Vina** (Potomje 5A, HR-20442, Potomje; matusko-vina.hr) is on the Pelješac peninsula. A popular place for wine-tasting, it is also known for having the largest wine cellar in the region.

**Saints Hills** (Zagruda bb, Pelješac; saintshills.com) is one of the most modern wineries in Pelješac. It is headed by the French winemaker Michel Rolland.

France, California and Japan, but disease wiped out those populations in 1930.

Now the oysters grow only in Mali Ston, thanks mainly to the unique ecological conditions, namely, saltwater supplemented by a freshwater spring and the constant wind mixing it all up. Croatian institutions have even banned all large construction in this area in the name of preserving the oysters. One of the most famous places in Mali Ston to taste the oysters is *Kapetanova Kuća*, a restaurant that has been in the same family for several generations. Those who wish can later take a boat tour and see with their own eyes how the oysters are farmed.

## The monks' curse and Romeo and Juliet

Four kilometres from Ston is the harbour village of Prapatno, from where a ferry takes visitors to one of the greenest islands in the area, Mljet. The ferry ride takes about 45 minutes. Part of Mljet is covered in a thick forest; one side of the island is a national park, while sandy beaches lie on the other side. The island has only one hotel, a campground and a few rental apartments. Croats see Mljet as a quiet island favoured by families with children. It has two saltwater lakes – Veliko and Malo Jezero – and one of its attractions is Odysseus' Cave, where, according to legend, Odysseus was once shipwrecked. Spellbound by the nymph Calypso, he spent seven years there. This same legend, however, has also been attributed to Malta. Who knows what really happened. In any case, if you come to the cave at noon on a summer day, the sun colours the water with such magical hues that mythological visions arise completely of their own accord.

This area does not lack for legends. A ten-minute ferry ride away, only 600 metres from the Dubrovnik coast, is Lokrum Island. Now a favourite beach



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destination, Lokrum has been inhabited since the 9<sup>th</sup> century, when Benedictine monks settled there and, among other things, grew a variety of exotic fruits. All was well until the French invasion in 1798, when Napoleon ordered the monastery to be closed.

According to legend, before leaving the island, the irritated monks held a special mass in which they placed a curse on the island, under which every future owner would die a horrible death. Believe it or not, but when ownership of the island was transferred to the Hapsburg dynasty in 1859, the family began to be afflicted by horrifying misfortunes. Maximilian Ferdinand, the younger brother of Austrian emperor Franz Joseph I, who established a botanical garden on Lokrum and was later crowned the emperor of Mexico, was killed very soon after. And that was only the beginning....

Dubrovnik also has its share of legends. As befits any postcard-perfect town, one of its most romantic tales is about the local Romeo and Juliet. Their story took place in the distant past, when Slavs lived inside the city walls and Romans lived on the peninsula. The two groups did not enjoy a friendly relationship, and the only time they tolerated each other was at Christmas Midnight Mass in St. Nicholas Church. Two youths used this moment to fall hopelessly in love with each other. The young man was the son of a Slavic nobleman, while the young woman was the daughter of a prominent Roman family.

When the young couple's parents found out about the secret love affair, the young woman's father locked her in an abbey until a suitable husband could be found. The young man, for his part, became a sailor in order to earn money and eventually steal his love away from the abbey. But when he returned, she had already been engaged to someone else. Shortly before her wedding, the young man decided to send her a beautiful and expensive pearl as a symbol of their love and a signal for her to run away with him. Unfortunately, he chose the wrong messenger – an old woman whose son had been killed by the Romans. As revenge, she wrapped the pearl in a cloth that had been infected with the plague.

The illness had cut short the lives of many Romans and now spread to the Slavs as well. According to the legend, the few people who remained alive no longer had any choice – Slavs and Romans founded a city together in order to survive.

This old story is symbolically played upon in one of Dubrovnik's newest accommodations, *Prijeko Palace*, which opened to the public last summer. The hotel is located in a beautiful building built by a family of local noblemen in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and designed by Giorgio da Sebenico, a famous Dalmatian architect and sculptor. Over time, a variety of tribulations have befallen the building, including fires, wars and pillaging. The most damaging was the earthquake of 1667, during which two whole storeys of the palace collapsed. Dubrovnik is located on a junction of tectonic plates and regularly experiences earthquakes.

The 1667 quake, however, was the most powerful in the city's history, killing 3,000 inhabitants. Before then, many houses had balconies, but the construction of balconies was prohibited after the quake in the name of residents' safety. Due to its location on a cliff, an earthquake would do less damage to *Prijeko Palace* than it might elsewhere, and the palace is therefore one of the rare buildings in Dubrovnik to still have a balcony. It curves around the building's corner in an "L" shape; on one side sits a figure of a girl, while on the other sits a boy. The two figures gaze across the surrounding panorama of orange roofs. Below, clothes have been hung out to dry above a street on a line between two houses, in the distance a church bell rings and gulls fly over the sea. Both sculptures were made by the Belgian artist Bea van Dorpe and are two of the countless works of art filling the interior of *Prijeko Palace*.

The owners of the hotel are Dutch – some of the many people that Dubrovnik has managed to enchant for life. *Prijeko Palace* is not their first project; they also own several rental apartments as well as an art gallery. In any case, *Prijeko Palace* is undoubtedly the most extravagant of the bunch. The restoration of the building took almost ten years, during which modern amenities were added.



St. Joseph's hotel in Dubrovnik

Each of the palace's nine hotel rooms is different, and each of them is dedicated to a contemporary artist whose works are displayed in the room.

Art is only one of the elements of this hotel. The interior design balances between bohemian chic and kitsch with a slight shot of Gothic style. Half-dressed mannequins, antiques, fabrics of all possible textures, plaster busts, real and artificial flowers and the ubiquitous image of Saint Blaise can be found in each room. Blaise was both a doctor and bishop who arrived in Dubrovnik in 971. According to legend, he met with the priest of St. Stephen's Cathedral and warned him of an upcoming Venetian attack. Since then, he has been considered the guard and patron saint of the city. Blaise is celebrated every year with a festival on February 3.

Despite its grandeur, *Prijeko Palace* may not be the best accommodation for those who are superstitious. Guests often put the mannequins and busts in their rooms in a corner or turn them around to face the wall.... But for those who enjoy unusual expressions of creativity, a night at *Prijeko Palace* may be full of the most wonderful and unbelievable dreams. The hotel also has a gourmet restaurant that aims to earn a *Michelin* star in the near future. It's called *Stara Loza*, in honour of the grape vine growing along the façade of the building that's more than a century old and still produces vigorously.

Small, charming boutique hotels are recent newcomers to Dubrovnik's old city centre. Up until now there were two main

options: one of the large hotels outside the city walls or a rental apartment inside. Last summer – only a couple of months after the opening of *Prijeko Palace* – a guest house called *St. Joseph's* opened in the old city centre. The 16<sup>th</sup>-century building on a narrow, quiet street is a superb example of Baroque architecture that has been restored very finely.

*St. Joseph's* has only six rooms, its historical wooden ceilings, stone walls and Baroque details combining extremely well with contemporary design details. Together they create a feeling of continuity – it's as if you've arrived at the home of an old aristocratic family that has, without losing its link to the past, evolved along with the times. *St. Joseph's* does not have a restaurant, and breakfast is brought to your room by a waitress dressed in an elegant black-and-white uniform and starched white apron. With a quiet smile, she sets a fruit smoothie and a plate of freshly baked croissants on the table. The white curtains billow in the morning breeze, letting milky sunlight flood the room through the open window. Church bells ring in the distance and for a moment it seems that this scene has been experienced somewhere before. Probably in some movie. There is no doubt that Dubrovnik knows how to erase the boundary between reality and fiction just as powerfully as its ever formidable rival, Venice.

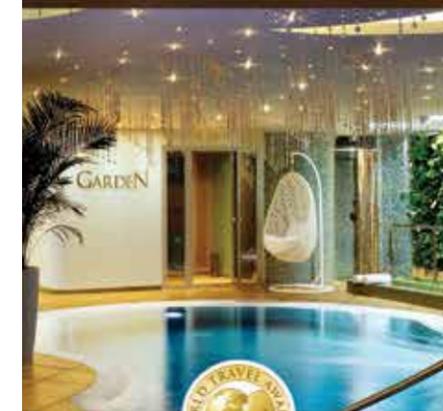
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Insider's view "TAKE THE TIME TO GET THE RHYTHM OF THE CITY"



Zeljko Knezevic is the general manager of one of Dubrovnik's newest places of accommodation, St. Joseph's hotel. The hotel has only six rooms and is located in an aristocratic 16<sup>th</sup>-century building that Knezevic's family acquired in 2012. St. Joseph's was actually one of the reasons why Knezevic decided to return to Croatia after living in London for 11 years.

"London is a fantastic city. During my time there, I worked for five-star hotels and for big finance companies and learned a lot. However, when the idea for St. Joseph's began to take shape, it felt like the perfect time to bring my experience back to my home country and build something special."

Knezevic is at St. Joseph's practically every day, talking with every guest and sharing his recommendations. He has a bit of the old-time concierge in him – the personal touch and dignity that unwittingly calls to mind Monsieur Gustave H in the film *The Grand Budapest Hotel*.

What should one do to spend an ideal day in Dubrovnik?

For an ideal day, I always recommend getting up early and heading to the walls of the Old Town before they get crowded. The light is beautiful in the morning for photographs as well. If you're a *Game of Thrones* fan, then obviously nothing can beat taking one of the excellent tours available. If you're not, then I would recommend a leisurely walk to Sv. Jakov Beach. It's a bit further than the main town beach but really lovely for sun-lounging and swimming. Lunch is available there, but start making your way back by mid-afternoon. Two lovely little bars set on the cliffs outside the city walls are perfect for watching the sun set. For dinner, there is a lot of variety available, but the classic choice is something *al fresco*. After dinner, just wander around the streets and see what you stumble upon. If you're very lucky, then at around midnight you may find Ibrica Jusić, a brilliant local musician, giving a free concert on the steps of one of the churches.

What are your favourite restaurants and cafés in Dubrovnik?

It's amazing how vibrant the restaurant scene is in Dubrovnik, but perhaps this is not surprising, given the abundance of high-quality natural ingredients. Of course, the traditional cuisine is well-represented. One of my favourite dishes is roast lamb prepared under an iron bell (*sač*), which typically needs

to be specially ordered. More contemporary menus are also to be found in the Old Town. You may not realise that the Adriatic coast of Croatia is one of the biggest producers of bluefin tuna for the Japanese sashimi market. In addition to the wealth of choice in the Old Town (such as the *Restaurant Dubrovnik, Bota and Taj Mahal*), I would advise taking the time to discover the excellent restaurants in the Lapad and Gruz areas of the city (for example, *Amfora* and *Porat*) and also further into the nearby villages (such as *Konavoski Dvori*) and even the mountains.

What is the most special place (emotionally, spiritually) for you in Dubrovnik?

There's something special about Dubrovnik during the Summer Festival, particularly when the square in front of St. Blaise Church is converted to a concert venue. Sitting there in the crowd on a concert night, you get the very real sense that people have been meeting in this place for hundreds of years, for happy occasions and sad ones. It's an amazing location for these events.

What is the biggest stereotype about Dubrovnik? And is it true?

I think the biggest stereotype is that because the Old Town of the city is so compact, you can experience everything the city and the region has to offer in two or three days. There's so much that travellers miss out on when they try to pack everything into a few days. There are a number of

islands to visit on day trips; many wonderful restaurants outside of the Old Town and along the coast are benefiting from a developing local wine scene; not to mention historic museums, churches and one of the oldest pharmacies in Europe.

Where are the so-called "tourist traps" that you would recommend avoiding?

I don't think there are any major "tourist trap" areas in Dubrovnik. Being such a popular destination, there are places to suit all budgets around the city. Apart from getting recommendations from the place where you're staying, I would also suggest exploring the streets further away from Stradun (the main street of the Old Town).

How do you characterise the Croatian people?

Dubrovnik residents are justifiably proud of their city, and in them you can detect the character that defended the city-state's independence long ago. But, in common with all Croats, they share a love of life – good food, good music, good company. You'll find lots of this in Dubrovnik.

Where do you head to when you want to escape from Dubrovnik?

I love heading back to my family's town in Hercegovina. It's much smaller than Dubrovnik, and we have a very fertile garden with organic fruits and vegetables. The calm and open green spaces are a nice contrast to the city life. **BO**

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## THE BARD OF THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

Claus Sendlinger, founder of *Design Hotels*

Some people are more in tune with the groove of the times than others. They are called visionaries. In the hotel industry, one such visionary is Claus Sendlinger, the founder of *Design Hotels* as well as a contemporary of such business geniuses as *Apple* co-founder Steve Jobs and “democratic design” concept leader Philippe Starck. Sendlinger astutely detected the changes in the lifestyle habits of a generation that was outgrowing the turbulent night club culture of the 1980s and experiencing the advent of a new technological marvel – the Internet – during the mid-1990s. Many members of this generation were orienting their lives in accordance with the recommendations of the *Wallpaper* style magazine.

According to Sendlinger, it was *Wallpaper’s* founding editor Tyler Brûlé who created the term “lifestyle”, a concept to which everyone can add their own content. And design hotels are one of this concept’s core elements.

Founded in 1993, *Design Hotels* now incorporates a collection of more than 270 independent hotels in over 50 countries. The hotels are united by a concept which dictates that along with design and architecture, other factors are equally significant for running a hotel, such as the story behind it and the people who created it, the hotel’s functionality, location, sustainability, service and the people who choose to stay there during their travels. *Design Hotels* works simultaneously as a curator, a consultant and a marketing guru for the hotels in its network.

In 2012, Sendlinger was honoured at the European Hotel Design Awards for outstanding contributions to the industry. Our conversation takes place at the *Design Hotels* headquarters in

Berlin. Facing me is a relaxed, smiling and disarmingly simple man. At the same time, his fine-tuned inner antenna is adjusted to capture every nuance in our conversation.

**You were the first to unite the words “design” and “hotels” into a single concept. That was over 20 years ago. How do you feel now, when the term “design hotels” has become almost mainstream?**

I shouldn’t have come up with that concept! [Laughs.] Before we decided to use the term “design hotels”, we had different names floating around, but in the end we were down to two potential candidates: “design hotels” and “boutique hotels”. Since [American entrepreneur and hotelier – ed.] Ian Schrager was already talking about “boutique hotels”, we thought that the word “design” would be a better choice, because it wasn’t yet taken.

Back in those days, Ian was undoubtedly a guy who most people recognised. Together with Steve Rubell, he was the key initiator of the new “boutique” trend in hotels. During the 1970s, Ian and Steve had already redefined the concept of night clubs with the legendary *Studio 54* in New York. However, after mentioning in a TV show how easy it was to avoid paying taxes, they both ended up in prison for a couple of years.

In 1981, MTV came onto the scene and launched a completely new youth culture. People went out to party in a different way and they were looking for completely different experiences. Ian and Steve were aware of this and turned their attention to hotels. In 1984, they opened *Morgans* in New York, which had been designed by the French *grande dame* Andrée Putman. That was the beginning of the boutique



25h hotel in Hamburg

## Because the customer I'm talking to couldn't care less about stars. He is just looking for an experience

hotel movement. It was Putman who introduced Ian and Steve to Philippe Starck, who was still a young and unknown designer at the time. Back then, Starck had created just one public space, the Paris night club *Les Bains Douches* [now converted into a hotel – ed.]. One of Starck's missions was to "democratise" design and make it accessible to everyone. The *Paramount Hotel* became the first cooperation project between Ian and Philippe, as Steve unfortunately died before its opening in 1990. It became the hottest thing on this planet. It was a new grand hotel in which rooms went for 99 dollars a night. I worked together with them one time. In 1999, the *Paramount* hosted an alternative music trade show and my small travel agency was responsible for getting the German delegation there.

**You have a quite an interesting background. During the 1980s you organised rave music events. You owned your own PR company and a small travel agency.**

I wanted to become a soccer player, actually. That was what I really wanted to be. But in Germany in those days, once you turned 18 you had to go in the military. So, I ended up in a public relations office of the military. I really liked that job. First they sent me to an officers' school and then transferred me to a division that was in charge of the events at our airport. At that time,

we had the most modern flight simulator in the whole Western world. So people came, mostly professionals and students. There were about three visitor groups every week.

And after a year of training, I become responsible for protocol. It was military protocol, very hard-core, because we had presidents and prime ministers coming, people from all over the world. I learned everything that you need to know for organising a good event. That was when *Top Gun* was in, the movie with Tom Cruise. I was working with all of these people. I started when I was only 18 years old and never imagined that I would be doing this, but it was fun. I really liked it and signed on for four years. On top of that, it was a super well-paid job. I couldn't imagine making this much money in a normal apprenticeship.

After four years, we finished the reconstruction of the airport and our last gig was a flight show for 450,000 people, on which we worked for a year. Then I left and started my own event business. Since I really enjoyed travelling, I also opened up a small travel agency, *Travel Trends*. It was not really business-driven, but more for me to have the freedom to write myself out a plane ticket. I was 23 and started organising raves. By then I knew that I would not become a professional soccer player, so I also worked at organising soccer training camps.

Between 1997 and 1999, my businesses developed swiftly and allowed me to live a relatively independent life at a very young age. At that time, I shared a house with a very close friend who had been in a music band before turning to furniture design. He was working together with *Driade*, a family-owned Italian company that made all of the furniture that Philippe Starck had

designed for the *Paramount*. My friend had been invited to a private dinner with Philippe Starck and he was allowed to bring one person along.

**And that person was you? That's how the next phase of your career started.**

Exactly. We went to the dinner. Starck was just at the beginning of his career. He was such a phenomenal and charismatic person. I immediately knew that he would change the world of design. I decided to place all of the money that I had made in my other businesses into the creation of "design hotels". For the first ten years, it was really, really difficult.

**At that time, there weren't too many hotels that could fit this description, were there?**

There were about 40 to 60 in the world, not more. We said that we were going to work as a vertical brand. Everybody who was in the industry and even those who appreciated what we were doing tried to convince me that it wasn't going to work. "You can't do it vertically, you need to do it horizontally. You need to have a separate brand for four stars, for three and for five stars."

I replied: "No, because the customer I'm talking to couldn't care less about stars. He is just looking for an experience." We took hotels that had a really good vibe, a really good crowd, and sometimes at the beginning were not perfectly designed. We turned them into design hotels. We encouraged our client hotels to not go to the traditional tourism trade shows, but rather to the MTV Video Music Awards in the United States, the Premiere Vision fashion show in Paris and the Salone Mobile furniture fair in Milan.

In 1998, *Starwood* opened its first *W* hotel in New York. Barry Sternlicht [the founder of *Starwood* – ed.] did a great job of copying what Schragger had done with the *Paramount* eight years earlier. Sternlicht was well-respected in investor circles and opened doors for a whole lot of other hoteliers as well. Quite a lot of people were running nightclubs and restaurants and wanted to make hotel rooms. It was like an avalanche. Every year, 30-40 new hotels opened. Now we have 300-400 hotels applying to join our group every year. However, most of them are just contemporary hotels without the full concept that we are looking for. In 2000 and 2001, we came over the critical edge, having 90 hotels in our network. Before that, we could have gone out of business literally any day.

**It's hard to believe that only 20 years have passed, but we're already talking about these events like they're ancient history. What has changed in the hotel scene? How have people's needs and desires evolved? At one point it seemed that Starck was everywhere and that design hotels had become like boxes, which all looked similar to each other and which could be installed in any place in the world.**

The end of the 1990s and the beginning of the 2000s was a period when more countries got more comfortable with a more contemporary look. Lots of people call it minimalism. In order not to overdo it with their interiors, many properties went for the beige-brownish look. There was only one kind of design language out there. Now it's different. Now everything goes. Now you can

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After September 11, people started to look at luxury differently, for various reasons. Until then, people were talking a lot about emerging markets, but more from a scientific economist point of view. Affluent consumers from the richer Western countries who had been spending lots of money on stuff began to question their own values: "Is this mass consumption? How much more do I really need?" And then the emerging markets came in, with people from China and other countries saying: "Finally, I can buy something." That shook up the whole consumer world.

This is when the five stages of luxury came into place. [Sendlinger is referring to the Five Stages of Luxury as defined by the Future Laboratory with regard to the trends and values of the luxury market. In the first stage, named Acquisition & Value, luxury products are used to show off one's affluence and social standing. The Old World has in large part gone through this stage, which is now being occupied by consumers from the so-called emerging markets. In the second stage of Discernment & Worth, customers choose brands with a history behind them in the wish to articulate a higher level of taste and acumen. In the third stage, Emotion & Experience, people are less interested in the values of the brand but more concerned with the uniqueness of the experience and its emotional impact. The fourth stage, Responsible & Aware, centres on the brand's adherence to sustainable practices and socially responsible behaviour. The fifth and final stage, Intellectual & Poetic, is one of passions, journeys, adventures and deep-rooted meaningful experiences. It affects many modern-day travellers who have gotten trapped in an IT dependency and who spend a great deal of their waking hours staring into the screens of computers, laptops and smartphones. These people then try to regain a sense of balance and inner peace by visiting alternative destinations that offer yoga, meditation and other therapeutic activities. – ed.]

I love these five stages. If you want to build a successful brand – no matter if it is a shampoo, a telephone or a car – then you must think about which stage you wish to occupy. I don't think that stage one is better or worse than stage five. I think that any each us might be driven by any one of these five stages when we go shopping. It just depends on your state of mind and what you are looking for on a particular day. When I travel with my buddies from my hometown, it's different than when I travel with my wife. Design has become so multifaceted that you can't speak of only one trendy design language. You have Dixon doing one thing, the Campagne brothers doing something else, etc.

More than ten years ago, I told our team that design will be just our minimum requirement, not a competitive advantage. There has never been any reason to build an ugly hotel and I don't know why so many ugly hotels have already been built. In the future, the design aspect will be very important for any new hotel, regardless of whether it is an offshoot of the Peninsula or the Belmont. It might be contemporary minimal or it might be opulent, but the space will have to tell a story while being sufficiently functional. Every year, about 100 hotels that abide by this premise are opened worldwide.



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## Outlook INTERVIEW



### Is 100 hotels a lot or a little?

I think that number is still a small drop in the ocean. Let's look at the hotel business as a whole. According to industry analysts, the boutique segment makes up only three percent of the global hospitality market, and if you take purely design hotels, then these compose less than one percent. The people who make up the foundation of our hotel collection have the competence to curate a space and to equip it with everything that a modern traveller expects. Right now only a small handful of people in the world are up to this unbelievably fantastic task. And finding such people, who have travelled enough, who have seen enough and can then orchestrate and lead lots of other creators – architects, designers, service staff and cooks, while having an in-depth knowledge of their city and neighbourhood, and while thinking about the environment and sustainability – is a really complex thing.

### Who are currently the best in this field?

In the States I think that Shrager's understanding of things is really particular. It's really, really good. André Balazs is possibly the hotel industry's most prominent intellectual. He understands the impact of buildings on their neighbourhoods. He is very skilled in the choice of designers and architects, in mixing and creating an experience. Carlos Couturier and Moises Micha work in a similar manner in Mexico. Then you have people like Kit and Tim Kemp of

*Firmdale Hotels*. They don't spend too much time on reinventing themselves, but they have their own particular style, and it's geared to last in the long term. The hotel industry has a large diversity of people with a large diversity of talents and we try to help them out. If someone is stronger on the brand side but not so strong in distribution, then we try to help them in distribution, or vice versa.

**Once the popularity of design hotels had taken off, they popped up all over the world like mushrooms after the rain. Many hotels tried to create a design effect through inexpensive means. It's very hard to create a good hotel. Have you helped hoteliers as consultants?**

Yes, we used to do so. Especially in the early days, when we were happy to find people who wanted to go in the right direction. Then we spent time and helped them. We didn't get paid for it. Even if we charged them, it wouldn't cover the time that we spent and the intellect. However, by doing so we gained new members and that was important. Now we don't do this anymore.

**When you go to check out a new hotel and see if it fits in with the design hotel concept, what is the first thing that you look for?**

We don't have a standard book, but we do have a standard application process. The most important thing is the concept, and this is where most of the hotels fail right



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## Outlook INTERVIEW

from the start. They say: "We are design hotels" and that's where it ends. A good concept is made up of a whole series of elements. Is the hotel in an existing building or is it a new building? Who are the architect and the designer? Are they newcomers or already established people? What is the size of the rooms? What is the ratio of rooms versus public space? And what is the public space like? Is it a place where nobody is standing at the door? Is it quiet and discrete, designed to serve as a secret haven of sorts? Or is the public space the most popular restaurant in the neighbourhood? How does the hotel fit in with the vibe of its surroundings? This is all part of the concept. If we look at a city as a destination, then the hotel within it is a microdestination. It's also important to see if the hotel is in demand. Sooner or later in the application process, you get down to the owner. If I sit down with a hotel owner for an hour, I can tell you if the guy is going to do this job or not.

### I think in a fluid market it has a lot to do with word of mouth

**How have your customers changed since the days when you started? Have they become more knowledgeable?**

Travellers have become more and more fluid. Either they are faithful to a very good loyalty programme or they are completely unpredictable. In the latter case, someone might go to Hong Kong and stay at the *Mandarin Oriental*, then spend a night at the *Metropolitan* in Bangkok and then choose the *Ritz* in Madrid.

**In essence, people go to a hotel for an experience and for something that fits their mood, especially if they are on vacation.**

Yes. I think in a fluid market it has a lot to do with word of mouth. It also depends on how familiar you are with your destination and with the impressions you get of your destination. I think the only way to overcome this is through a really strong loyalty programme.

**How do you feel about the new tools in the industry, like *airbnb*, *My Plus One* or *One Fine Stay*? Are they your competitors?**

I think everybody who offers a hospitality space is in one way or another our competitor. I don't know if you have been following what Richard Branson is doing with *Virgin Hotels*. He just opened a new hotel in Chicago. He is really bending over backwards to make everything as simple as possible. No add-on fees for anything, from Wi-Fi to room service. The drinks in the mini bars have the same price as they would if you bought them in a store. I think that's pretty smart, because he's not trying to be too fancy. It's actually the opposite. I think the main challenge today is to leave things out and to not overdo it. Speaking of the competition, *One Fine Stay* is maybe a more potential competitor to us than *airbnb*, because whenever I look at *airbnb*, I see nothing. Sorry, but personally I will never become an *airbnb* customer.

**Do you get the feeling that your clients are aging together with you?**

Absolutely. On the other hand, if you talk about affluence, my oldest son is seven years old and he already has his third passport. By the time they reach the age of 18, our children will have seen the whole world. I took my first commercial flight only after establishing my own travel agency. I was 23. It was a flight to New York.

**Looking at your children, what do you think their priorities will be in choosing a hotel?**

I believe that, in general, those who are willing to pay a premium price are looking for something exclusive and artisanal. This is the way things have always been and will be. I feel super comfortable in my niche of finding and picking very special hotels, because I think that the future of travel will be right in that niche when you look for a luxury and premium product. One challenge is competing with all of those companies like *airbnb*, which have the latest technology in search engines and visuals. Their budgets run in the hundreds of millions, while ours is in the hundreds



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of thousands. How can we compete on that level with *booking.com*, *expedia.com*, etc.? What do we need to do when it comes to loyalty issues? It's a never-ending story about innovation, inventing things, making them visible, etc.

You're referring mainly to your business, but I want to know more about the generation that is 20 to 25 years old. Many people in that age group choose *airbnb* and *One Fine Stay* and place pictures in *Instagram*. What will they expect from hotels when they are 35 to 40 years old? Maybe some of your current clients will switch and choose to stay at the *Ritz* when they hit 70. We are also seeing a downgrade trend in both the restaurant and hotel segments. You have good design and high quality, but at an affordable price.

I think it's not always the case that cheaper accommodations are for younger people. Things that are cheap and not done well

might attract the wrong clients. And when you have the wrong client, then you are not creating a holistic experience. And if you don't have a holistic experience, then there is no reason for premium rates.

If you do something affordable but with great style, it might also attract older people who normally would spend a lot of money elsewhere, but who choose to stay at your hotel because they want to mix with young people. Unfortunately, a lot of hotels have design elements and are more affordable, but they are not necessarily very cool places. If you look at *Ace Hotel*, they are doing a really great job. Let's see what happens after Alex's death. [Ace Hotel owner Alexander Calderwood was known for his turbulent lifestyle. In 2013, he was found dead in a room of his newest hotel, the Ace Hotel Shoreditch - ed.].

However, I wouldn't compare *Ace Hotels* with *Standard Hotels* or *Standard* with *25 Hours* or *MamaShelter*. All four brands are like branches from the same tree. Yet if you look at the *Standard* in West Hollywood, it's completely different from the *Standard* in the East Village or the *Standard* in the Meatpacking District. And the *Ace* in Palm Springs is a different *Ace* from the one in Shoreditch. What I want to say is that it's hard to keep loyal customers within a single hotel brand. Those who stay at the *MamaShelter* in Paris maybe will never stay at a *MamaShelter* elsewhere. Only a phenomenal curator, someone whom people genuinely trust, can catch these people and turn them into loyal followers.

At the beginning of the design hotel business, many truly smart people tried to challenge me. They said that if you use a generic name, then you will not be able to stop others from calling themselves design hotels. I said: "Look, if we are still in the business and if others start to call themselves design hotels, then we had better be smart enough to have the right resources to make a difference. Otherwise, we don't deserve anything." Right now we want to build a community that loves architecture, design and culture. And we want to do this by finding the most interesting people around the world who can curate their destinations. This is our vision. This is what we stand for and live for, what we think about when we get up in the morning and go to bed at night.

**After being in the hotel industry for so long, is there anything that can still surprise you?**

Yes. Recently I visited the *Eremito*, which [hotelier and fashion designer - ed.] Marcello Murzilli opened a year ago in Umbria. The hotel is located halfway between Rome and Florence and is kind of a convent. There are only single rooms with silent dinners, a meditation space and hundreds of hectares of pure green space. No connection to civilisation in the centre of Europe. Fantastic!

**Have you ever thought of opening your own hotel?**

I've helped so many people during these past 20 years, although nobody has done absolutely everything that I have told them to do. I have had the privilege to visit many hotels and to think: "Wow, these guys are phenomenal!" I suppose that eventually I will do my own thing. **BO**

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### Royal Greenhouses of Laeken Brussels, Belgium

The Royal Greenhouses of Laeken are a vast complex of monumental heated greenhouses in the park of the Royal Palace of Laeken in the north of Brussels. Back in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when construction techniques progressed greatly – especially where the use of metal and glass was concerned – this type of building became possible for the first time. In 1873, architect Alphonse Balat designed these greenhouses for King Leopold II to complement the palace. The greenhouses were built in a classical style and bear the appearance of a glass city set in an undulating landscape.

The monumental pavilions, glass cupolas and wide arcades that cross the site like covered streets are a brilliant example of Belgian 19<sup>th</sup>-century architecture, depicting a practically ideal glass palace. They represent the culmination of various meetings, letters, sketches and plans exchanged between the architect and the king.

The present-day plant collection at the greenhouses is considered valuable for various reasons. First of all, some of the plants grown in the greenhouses belong to the original collections of Leopold II. Secondly, the current collections are created in accordance with the style and spirit that prevailed when the original collections were

created. And furthermore, the Royal Greenhouses still are the hub of a large number of rare and highly valuable plants. Among these are a special collection of camellias.

The greenhouses were also built to receive guests when the king held court. The Winter Garden was the

time of Leopold II. As soon as the construction of this greenhouse was completed, it was used for royal receptions.

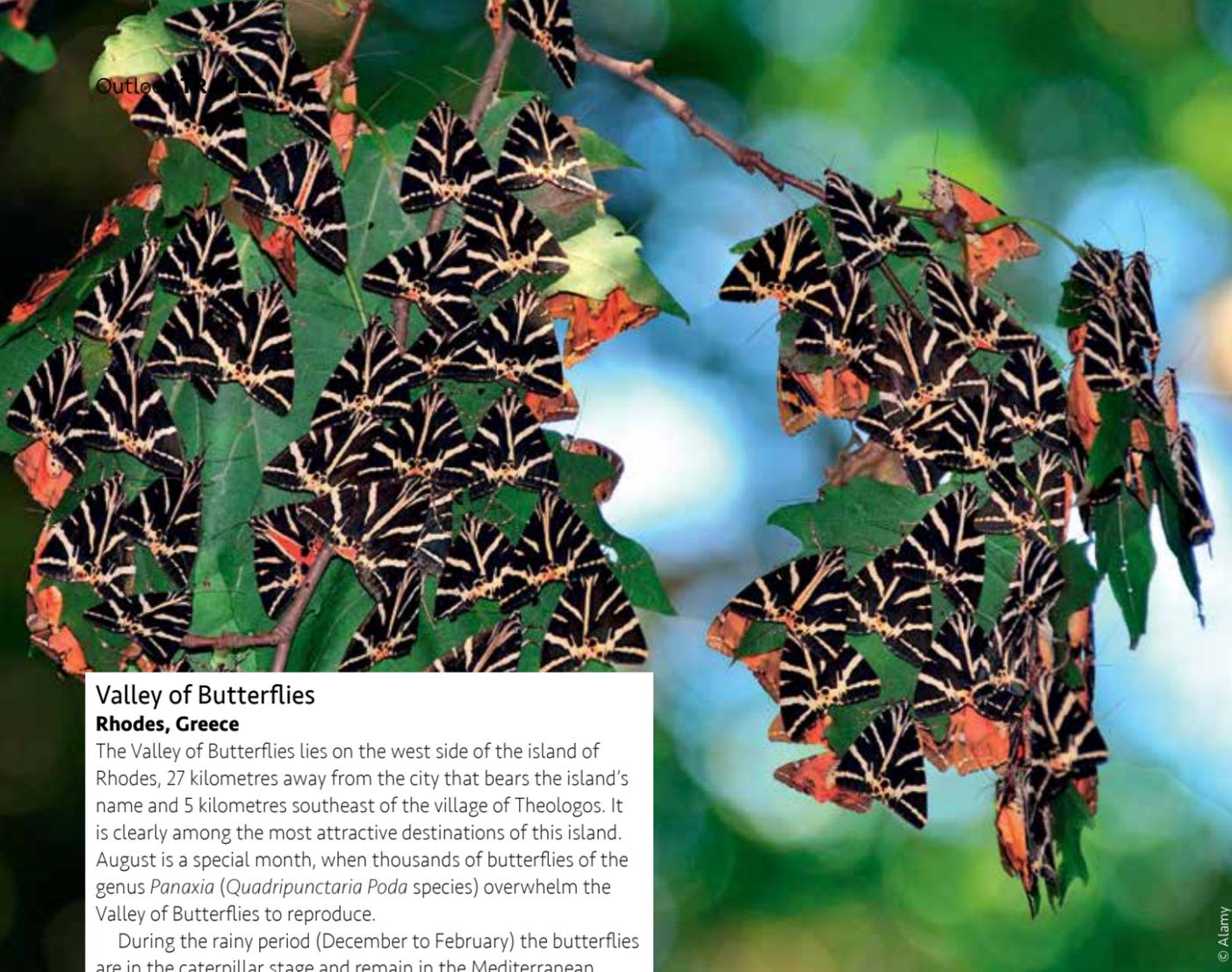
Every spring, the Greenhouses of Laeken open to the general public for almost three weeks. This tradition has been carried out for a century as



first greenhouse to be built, its large dimensions allowing for tall palm trees, the majority of which date back to the

a manifestation of the sovereigns' desire to share their love for plants and flowers with their fellow citizens.

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**Valley of Butterflies**  
**Rhodes, Greece**

The Valley of Butterflies lies on the west side of the island of Rhodes, 27 kilometres away from the city that bears the island's name and 5 kilometres southeast of the village of Theologos. It is clearly among the most attractive destinations of this island. August is a special month, when thousands of butterflies of the genus *Panaxia* (*Quadripunctaria Poda* species) overwhelm the Valley of Butterflies to reproduce.

During the rainy period (December to February) the butterflies are in the caterpillar stage and remain in the Mediterranean thicket to feed on the leaves of arbutus, myrtle and rush. Towards the end of May, the butterflies reach the final stages in their development and make an appearance in their breathtakingly beautiful form. This is when the weather becomes increasingly dry. The butterflies are on a constant move towards areas where the humidity is greatest, and by August they always arrive in the valley that now bears their name. The Valley of Butterflies is also the site of the only natural forest of Oriental sweetgum trees in Europe.

Visitors can take a peaceful walk through the shaded, green valley with a beautiful small river and waterfalls. At the top of the valley stands a monastery, with welcoming wooden benches providing convenient places of rest along the way up. All around, butterflies camouflage themselves against the tree trunks.

When visiting the Valley of Butterflies, one has to take into account that during the final stages in their life cycle, the *Panaxia* butterflies have no stomach and do not feed. They survive on the energy stored from their previous lives as caterpillars, needing rest to preserve their strength for reproduction. Disturbances caused by visitors sometimes force the butterflies to fly all day long and consume their valuable energy.

Thus, to enjoy viewing the butterflies as they rest, visitors should never disturb them in any way and should avoid making loud noises like clapping or whistling. The "sleeping" butterflies look well-camouflaged in black and yellow. Sometimes during rare flights, their wings flash in a cherry red colour. If you stay quiet and still, a butterfly might even land on your arm.

Complete your tour of the Valley of Butterflies with a visit to the Museum of Natural History, which is housed in a beautifully restored Italian-style house built in the 1930s. Here, extensive information concerning the flora and fauna of the reserve can be found. The museum also has a hatchery where butterflies reproduce in a protected area with stable climate conditions and a perfectly adjusted environment.



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Cabin

**Treehotel**  
**Harads, Sweden**

*Treehotel* is located in Harads, a village with a population of around 600, approximately 70 km from Luleå airport and 40 km upstream from Boden, Sweden. The idea behind *Treehotel* comes from *The Tree Lovers*, a movie by Jonas Selberg Augustsén. It is a tale of three men from the city who rediscover their roots by building a tree house together. The concept of *Treehotel* is to offer high-standard accommodations in a harmonious setting where daily stress fades away like melting snow, permitting those who stay there to enjoy the peace and purity of unspoiled nature.

The hotel's tree rooms were designed by owners Kent and Britta Lindwall in collaboration with some of Scandinavia's leading architects. The rooms are located four to six metres above the ground, all with spectacular views of the Luleå River. The owners have placed high importance on reducing the hotel's carbon footprint as much as possible and have invested substantial resources into finding sustainable construction and energy solutions.

There are six tree rooms at *Treehotel*: the Mirror Cube (a room with a double bed), the Cabin (another room with a double bed), the Bird's Nest (a room with a double bed and two single bunk beds), the UFO (a room with a double bed and three single beds), the Blue Cone (a room with a double bed and two single loft beds) and the Dragonfly (two bedrooms with two beds in each). All tree rooms are equipped with a bathroom, a fridge, a tea kettle and a basic water supply. The rooms have electric floor heating and showers are available in two sauna houses.

*Treehotel* is a manifestation of both the contrast and the interrelation between the indoor and outdoor environments. The Bird's Nest is a true example of that, as its exterior looks like a giant bird's nest, camouflaging it and blending it in with its surroundings. At the same time, the interior is both cosy and exclusive. Within its spacious environment, a couple with two children can all comfortably spread out. The walls are clad in wooden panelling and the windows almost disappear in the exterior network of branches. You enter the Bird's Nest through a retractable staircase.



Interior of the Cabin



Blue Cone

The UFO, on the other hand, looks completely "out of place". (After all, what could be more conspicuous in a forest than a UFO?) Its room was made from durable composite materials to be lightweight, yet strong and long-lasting. The interior has a modern bedroom, bathroom and lounge and can comfortably host five people – two adults and three children, for example. *Treehotel* is a wonderful escape to childhood dreams as well as a comfortable and peaceful holiday spot.

# Pranamat Eco: The Key to Relaxation and Rejuvenation

Pranamat ECO is an innovative new wellness product designed and produced in the EU, primarily in Latvia and Lithuania. The designers are health and wellness experts, yoga professionals and entrepreneurs who have a passion for designing unique and effective health products that combine ancient wisdom, cutting-edge science and elegant aesthetics.

Pranamat ECO is a therapeutic mat that provides the user with an acupressure massage as they lie upon it. The mat is made from eco-friendly materials, and is hypo-allergenic and recyclable. The pure, untreated raw linen outer cover features an array of eco-friendly medical-grade plastic lotus flowers arranged in a honeycomb pattern. These little flowers are as effective as they are beautiful, for it is their pointed petals that deliver the acupressure massage to the body.

This clinically-proven therapy uses the principles of the ancient art of acupressure to stimulate the nervous system, improve circulation, remove toxins and relax muscle tissue, thus promoting an enhanced state of physical and mental well-being. While you are relaxing on Pranamat ECO, the lotus flower massage-heads evoke thousands of tiny stimulations to the nervous system, which then releases endorphins and neurotransmitters that relax and rebalance the body whilst also regulating the heart rate and relaxing muscles. This is why this treatment is so wonderful for the relieving of stress and promoting relaxation. In addition, it is also proven to bring fast, natural and lasting relief from many medical conditions such as back pain, headaches, insomnia and more.

Pranamat ECO is an effective, life-enhancing product that will help the health-conscious individual to maintain optimal physical and mental well-being, as well as provide relief from everyday stress and tension. In addition, it is also a valuable tool for providing effective pain relief and enhancing and accelerating the healing of many medical conditions. It is a truly natural and universal holistic therapy. Please visit our website to find out more: [www.pranamat.com](http://www.pranamat.com).





### Neptune's Grotto Alghero, Sardinia, Italy

Neptune's Grotto (*Grotta di Nettuno*) is a stalactite cave near the town of Alghero on the island of Sardinia. It was discovered in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by local fishermen. Named after Neptune, the Roman god of the sea, the grotto has since developed into a star tourist attraction.

The entrance to Neptune's Grotto lies only a metre above sea level and thus the cave can only be visited when the waters are calm at the foot of the 110-metre-high Capo Caccia cliffs in which the grotto was formed. The site can be accessed via a short boat trip from the port of Alghero or by a stairway cut into the cliff wall over half a century ago. The stairway leads from a car park at the top of Capo Caccia down to the grotto's entrance.

All around Neptune's Grotto are many large underwater caves, which are perfect for scuba divers. The most famous of these is the Nereo Cave, which hundreds of people visit every year.

Neptune's Grotto is around 4 kilometres in length, of which only a few hundred metres are publicly accessible. At sea level is a 120-metre-long saltwater lake, once inhabited by the Mediterranean monk seal, which is now extinct in the area. Inside are passages of lit stalactite and stalagmite formations, which tourists visiting the grotto are led through.



In 1978, Neptune's Grotto was transformed into a gigantic set for the science fiction movie *Island of Mutations*.

Boat trips from the port of Alghero to Neptune's Grotto depart at regular intervals in the summer and last about two and a half hours. The scenery during the trip is beautiful and includes the tranquil blue bay of Porto Conte as well as the cliffs of Capo Caccia, which tower above the grotto.

Equally exciting is the 45-minute drive from Alghero to the grotto. The road winds around the Capo Caccia cliffs and halts at a small car park near the lighthouse. From there, 656 steps lead down to the grotto. Named Escala del Cabirol (*Goat's Steps*), the steps zigzag along the cliff face down to the entrance to the grotto. The descent and climb back up might not be for the faint of heart, but on days of less tranquil weather, the view of the sea crashing into the cliffs is a truly magnificent sight.



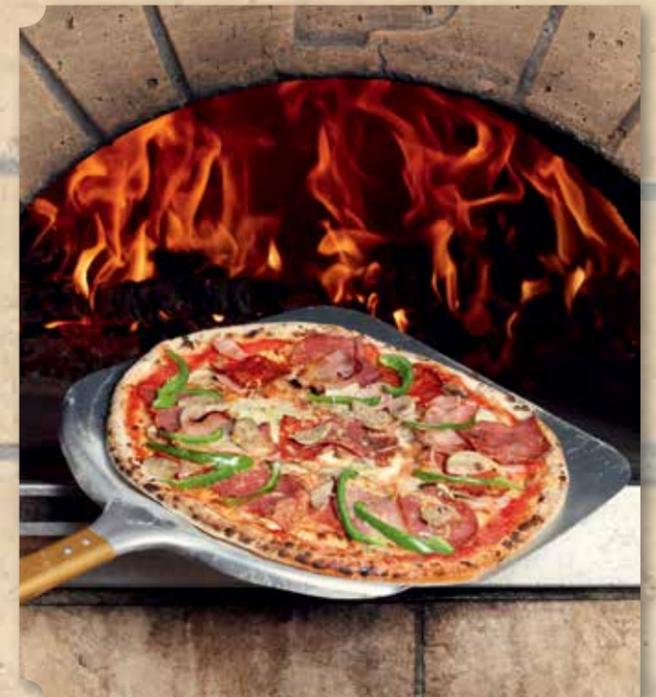
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**Benvenuto IL Patio!**





**Metéora monasteries  
Near Kalambaka, Greece**

Metéora is one of the largest and most significant complexes of Greek Orthodox monasteries in the country. The UNESCO World Heritage Site has not earned its name for nothing, as *metéora* in Greek means “suspended in the air” or “in the heavens above”. The six surviving monasteries were built on natural sandstone rock pillars near the town of Kalambaka and the Pineios River at the northwestern edge of the Plain of Thessaly.

The exact date when the monasteries were established is unknown, but by the beginning of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, rudimentary facilities that still stand today had been built around the Church of Theotokos. An ascetic community established itself in Metéora at the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and during the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Athanasios Koinovitis founded the great Metéoron monastery on Broad Rock, bringing a group of followers from Mount Athos.

Metéora was perfect for the monks – they were isolated from political upheavals and were in a secure place. The only way to reach their complex was by climbing a long rope ladder, which could be drawn up in times of danger.

At the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, Turkish raiders became a threat to the Byzantine Empire, which had enjoyed an 800-year-long reign over northern Greece. Metéora remained the perfect refuge for the hermit monks as the Turks occupied the surrounding territories. In all, 24 monasteries were built, of which six remain today. Thus, for centuries the steep cliffs of Metéora were a place of solitude, where the monks endeavoured to achieve peace, harmony and a state of spiritual elevation.

Today Metéora offers a breathtaking experience that combines nature’s grandeur with a rich history and magnificent architecture. It is also a pilgrimage site for Christians from all around the world. The massive rocks of Metéora are truly impressive, in some places towering 400 metres above the town of Kalambaka. The area is suitable for all kinds of outdoor sports, including hiking and rock climbing for the more adventurous as well as “lightweight” activities for those seeking to peacefully connect with nature. **BO**

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Text by **LIENE PĀLĒNA**  
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**VALTERS PELNS**

# SPRING AWAKENING



© Valters Pelns

Photographer and biologist Dāvis Drazdovskis can spend hours at a time waiting in cramped hideouts to capture that perfect shot and reveal the mysterious world of Latvia's wildlife.

**D**āvis Drazdovskis is a renowned nature photographer with a passion for travel. Although he has visited many countries and lived for a time in New Zealand, few things give him more pleasure than photographing a sunrise on a foggy morning in his own native country. When asked what led him to choose nature photography as a career path, he answers succinctly: "That's just the way things turned out."

Drazdovskis' keen childhood interest and love of nature led him to study biology at university while pursuing photography as a hobby. Presently, the photographer is involved with various nature protection projects and films nature documentaries as a video cameraman on the side.

"I am able to maintain a sound mind and to feel physically and psychologically healthy only when I am outside in a natural setting. Nature has a calming and soothing effect. Perhaps that is why people are so drawn to nature photography," says Drazdovskis, who agreed to show the readers of *Baltic Outlook* eight photos of nature reawakening in Latvia.



## Birds and sky

No, this is not a painting, but a real photograph of thousands of birds flying against the backdrop of a pink sky. A magical moment conveying a magical feeling. The Svēte floodplain is a significant stopping point for migrating birds, whose number can reach 20,000 at this location in the spring.

"The number of birds in this photograph still hasn't reached its maximum point, when all of the empty spots in the sky would be completely filled in. The geese cry out to each other as they fly, immersing you in their cries and drowning out all other sounds from one end of the horizon to the other. That truly is a wondrous event and I must admit that it doesn't happen very often. Despite the fact that every spring I spend at least 5-10 days on this floodplain, I have only experienced special moments like this twice in my lifetime," Drazdovskis recalls.



### Morning on a floodplain

This picture was taken at the end of April on the Dviete floodplain, which experiences annual flooding during the spring thaws. This is also a time when birds migrate northwards.

"I was spending the night in a photo hide on a small island, dozing in my sleeping bag on a small mat. At one point I felt something crawling over me, so I turned on my headlamp. I discovered that my sleeping bag was covered

with spiders, beetles and other insects that had crawled up to seek refuge from the rising floodwaters, as the island where I was sleeping was practically the highest point on the floodplain," Drazdovskis recalls. At about three AM, the nature enthusiast moved his gear to a nearby island in the hopes of spotting some greater white-fronted geese the following morning. He was rewarded with this foggy scene after awakening.

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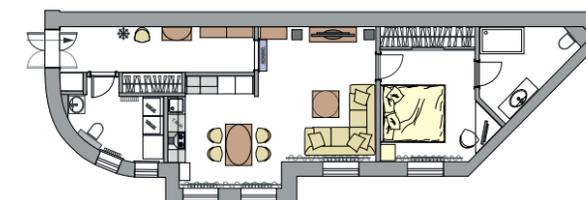


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### Harbingers of spring

This artistic photo depicts whooper swans flying at a very low altitude. Every spring, about 200 pairs return to nest in Latvia.

"The first whooper swans appear when almost all of the snow has melted and can be seen as a harbinger of spring," Drazdovskis explains. In order to get this shot, the photographer spent about 10 days at the Svēte Floodplain Nature Park.

### Baby seal

Drazdovskis took this photograph at the end of March, 2012, when Latvia was experiencing the final days of an unusually harsh winter. The photographer had driven with some colleagues to a jetty in order to photograph huge mounds of packed sea ice. Through his binoculars he spotted a group of seals further in the distance, including this dozing baby pup. Gingerly, Drazdovskis and his fellow photographers approached the seals on the ice.

"We spent about an hour trying to get closer to the pup, during which time it mostly slept soundly. It did wake up on several occasions but didn't seem very worried and didn't look like it was going to flee. The moments when it raised its head and sniffed the air to sense what was going on around it produced the best photos. We managed to get pretty close to the pup and were only about 10 metres away from it, when its mother saw us and made it clear that we were no longer welcome, so we headed back towards the shore," recounts Drazdovskis.



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### Crane love dance

The beautiful cranes in this shot are one of Drazdovskis' greatest artistic successes and were photographed on the same magical morning that followed the previous night's bug invasion on the Dviete floodplain.

"I was really lucky with this picture. I had set up my photo hide and turned my head back briefly when I spotted a pair of cranes behind me. Their mating ritual was very brief, which could be explained by the fact that they might be a longtime couple or at the end of their seasonal reproductive activities. Most of the time, cranes devote the greater part of a day to their spring love dance, which involves singing and other activities, sometimes with the participation of more than two birds," says Drazdovskis.



### Portrait of a badger

Drazdovskis had set his sights on this badger not far from the city of Limbaži some time before he actually managed to photograph it. More precisely, he had seen its tracks leading past his country home in the morning hours. It took a long time for Drazdovskis to discover that the badger's network of tunnels was located right next to his house. And so, every morning and every evening, the photographer set out in a camouflage jacket, camera in hand, to meet the animal. After about a week, he finally spotted the badger and snapped this photograph.

"Although it looks like he is staring straight at me, badgers actually have very poor vision and hunt for their food mostly by smell. The animal did hear the sound of my camera shutter clicking, though," says Drazdovskis.



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### Lekking magic

Dāvis Drazdovskis enjoys photographing birds and animals in their natural setting most of all. Before taking this unique shot, he had spent three days concealed in a hideout that he had constructed half a year earlier.

"The early spring is lekking season for the black grouse and the capercaillie. The black grouse usually gather in the moorlands and bogs, while the capercaillie prefer the forests. The males compete by singing, flapping their wings and doing whatever else is necessary to attract the attention of their female counterparts," Drazdovskis explains. In this case, the photographer snapped a picture of a capercaillie in black grouse territory.

"The result of their mating is a hybrid species of capercaillie and black grouse [known in English by the German name *Rackelhahn* and unable to produce offspring in the wild - ed]."



### April sunrise

Some photographers prefer to capture sunrises, while others have a penchant for sunsets. Dāvis Drazdovskis falls into the first category and has risen many times at four AM to catch the first morning rays on the horizon. This picture was taken on a bright April morning at 5:39 AM, while Drazdovskis was out counting birds for a monitoring study. After walking for about a kilometre, the photographer felt the back of his head getting warm. He turned around, saw the sun rising and snapped this picture. The shot was taken at the Ādaži military base, which is simultaneously a protected nature site. To date, the Latvian army and nature conservationists have managed to cooperate successfully, ensuring the maintenance of the forest area's biological diversity and the preservation of rare plant and animal species. **80**



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Text by **UNA MEISTERE**,  
anothertravelguide.com  
Publicity photos, by **AINĀRS ĒRGLIS**  
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*Baltic Outlook* offers you a selection of some of the best weekend getaways, whether you are travelling together with children, looking for the best restaurants, keen to go shopping or seeking to visit exhibitions and museums.



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PARIS MUSEES 

# JEANNE LANVIN

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## AMSTERDAM WITH THE KIDS

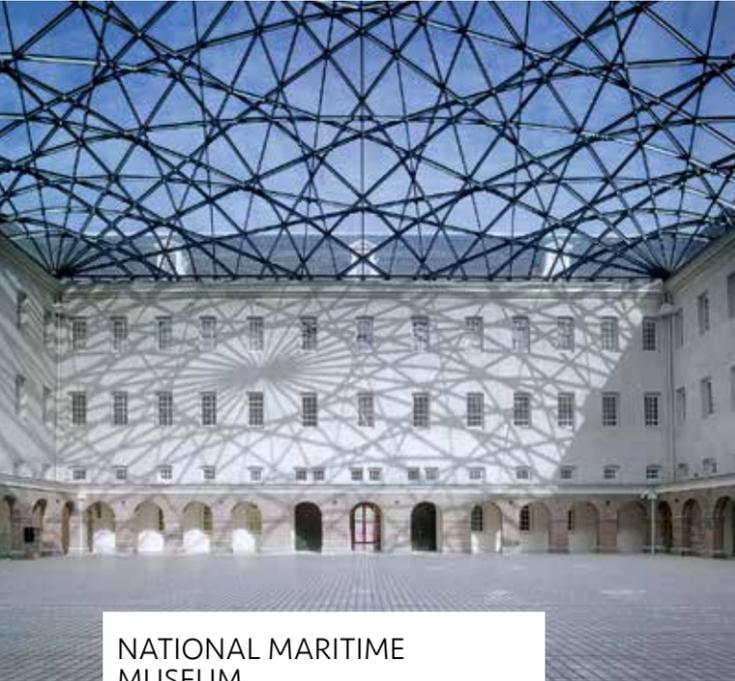
Amsterdam is a great weekend destination for outdoor and otherwise explorative family activities. One would be hard-pressed to find any other city in Europe with such a high concentration of small and unusually themed museums.



### MICROPIA

Last year the world's first and so far only museum devoted to microbes opened its doors in Amsterdam. Along with countless microscopes, projectors and interactive installations, the museum is equipped with a microbe zoo that reminds one of a scientific research laboratory. After stepping into the lift, visitors are scanned and informed about the number of microbes living on their eyelids. While the words "microbe" and "bacteria" are usually associated with illnesses, this museum trip also demonstrates the positive side of these microscopic organisms and their irreplaceable role in the chain of life.

Artisplein, Plantage Kerklaan 38-40  
① micropia.nl



### NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

The National Maritime Museum is located a bit outside of the city centre, in the Eastern Docklands district.

The building itself is also a gem of its genre. In order to erect it on an artificial island, 1,800 wooden piles were driven into the ground. Following a recent reconstruction, its inner courtyard is now covered by a roof made of 1,200 glass plates.

Moored by the museum is a replica of the three-masted *Amsterdam*, a trade ship that sank off the coast of England during its maiden voyage to the Spice Islands (now Indonesia) in 1749. The shipwreck was discovered 220 years later, in 1969. Visitors can clamber all over the rebuilt ship and see how small its cabins used to be. The museum houses numerous artefacts connected with shipping, including navigation instruments and one of the world's largest collections of globes.

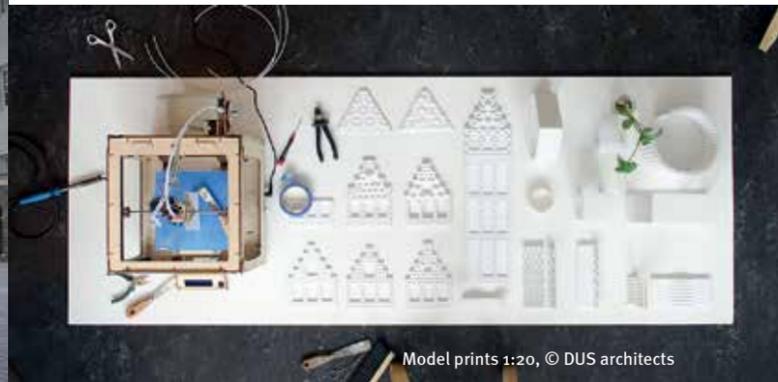
Kattenburgerplein 1 | ① hetscheepvaartmuseum.nl



### HET GRACHTENHUIS

The Dutch capital's canal network extends for 75 kilometres and in 2011 it celebrated its 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary. *Het Grachtenhuis* is dedicated to this network, offering a fantastic exhibition about the history of Amsterdam's canals in five interactive rooms. Another room has doll-house-style exhibitions. Learn about some of the city's legendary inhabitants and catch glimpses of hidden inner courtyard gardens.

Herengracht 386 | ① hetgrachtenhuis.nl



Model prints 1:20, © DUS architects

### 3D PRINT CANAL HOUSE

To see what Amsterdam's houses of the future might look like, check out the 3D Print Canal House, which doubles as a museum and experimental laboratory. Located in the trendy northern part of the city, it can be conveniently reached by cycling to the ferry stop right behind the central train station. A free five-minute ferry trip will take you to the vicinity of the 3D Print Canal House, which was designed by the Dutch *DUS* architects' bureau. The house is still being built with 3D printing technologies, whose applications in construction are being closely studied through this project. An improvised exhibition room and a small courtyard display the "parts" that have already been made for the continued expansion of the house.

Tolhuisweg  
① 3dprintcanalhouse.com

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## STYLE IN BERLIN

Milan and Florence are the best-known locations for designer outlets and London is a city of vintage shops, but Berlin is also an alluring destination for the style-conscious.

### DAS NEUE SCHWARZ

Meaning *The New Black* in English, this store is a treasure trove for collectors of vintage items. Although it may be small, the shop is nicely set with wooden shelves suspended by ropes. Its owners cooperate with a variety of stylists and showrooms, thereby gaining access to veritable finds from fashion runways and designers' collections of previous seasons. As an added plus, some of the clothing and accessories have never been worn before. The brands on offer range from *Louis Vuitton*, *Chanel* and *Yves Saint Laurent* (even going back to the times of *Tom Ford*) to *Raf Simons* and *Helmut Lang*.

Mulackstraße 38  
① [dasneueschwarz.de](http://dasneueschwarz.de)



### YUU

*Yuu* is a veritable mother lode for intellectual and conceptual design fans, and particularly for those who appreciate Belgian and Japanese fashion. At this small shop in the Mitte district you will find *Dries Van Noten*, *Ann Demeulemeester*, *Martin Margiela*, *Bernhard Willhelm*, *Hussein Chalayan*, *Yohji Yamamoto* and other avant-garde brands. Although the clothing and accessories are from previous years' collections (at a 50% discount from the retail price), every item has been chosen with the special care of a collector. The store reminds one of a warehouse, with a wooden floor, a mirror leaning against a concrete wall, a shoe shelf made of wooden steps and a changing booth crafted of recycled materials in the shape

of an industrial egg, which stands like a design object in the middle of the room. The owner of the store has personally selected every item on the premises, and it must be said that her sense of style is impeccable.

Steinstraße 26  
① [yuu-shop.de](http://yuu-shop.de)

### GARMENTS

Those who like vintage clothing should visit this store, which was founded by former costume designers who once worked in the TV industry. The owners have set up the store practically like their own clothes closet, with everything arranged according to style, mood and colour. A whole array of clothing and accessories by well-known brands such as *Stella McCartney* and *Burberry* is on offer,

with some of these items possibly serving on the set of one TV series or another in their previous incarnation.

Linienstraße 204-205  
① [garments-vintage.de](http://garments-vintage.de)

### CLASS OF BERLIN

If you are looking for something really unusual, then this is the place to visit. *Class of Berlin* is located in one of the oldest historical buildings in the Hackescher Markt district and specialises in items from the 1930s to the 1960s. It offers practically everything under the sun, including clothing, accessories, musical recordings and books. The premises are also home to a 1950s-style hair salon, where men can get their beards shaved by a classic barber.

Grosse Hamburger Straße 19A  
① [classofberlin.com](http://classofberlin.com)

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/Henrik Pedersen, Designer/



Nīcgaļes iela 18a, Rīga, Latvija / [www.kate.lv](http://www.kate.lv)

## CULTURAL EXCURSION IN PARIS

This spring, Paris is experiencing a veritable cultural explosion in the arts, fashion, design and concert scenes. However, in Paris it is not appropriate to frantically grasp at the latest events like a butterfly catcher with a net. Paris is a city to be relished.

### JEAN-PAUL GAULTIER RETROSPECTIVE

A large-scale retrospective devoted to Jean-Paul Gaultier, the eternal enfant terrible of French fashion, has finally returned "home" to the fashion mecca of Paris following a grandiose world tour. Gaultier is a one-man show and one of the most influential contemporary fashion designers, whose clothes continually challenge perceptions about what is generally acceptable. Like a prickly cactus of inspiration, his current exhibition will needle viewers at the Grand Palais from April 1-August 3.

3 avenue du Général Eisenhower  
 ① grandpalais.fr



Jeanne Lanvin with a model © Katerina Jebb

### JEANNE LANVIN

Paris' fashion museum at the Palais Galliera is currently paying tribute to Jeanne Lanvin (1867-1946), a *grande dame* of French fashion. She founded what is now the oldest continually running fashion house and was known for her strict and uncompromising work ethic. The exhibition dedicated to Lanvin is on view until August 23.

10 avenue Pierre 1er de Serbie, Rue de Galliera  
 ① palaisgalliera.paris.fr



© D. Messina/AMU/ Paris Musées

### MUSÉE DE LA VIE ROMANTIQUE

Hidden in an inner courtyard and surrounded by trees, the light green pistachio-coloured Italian-style villa was built in 1830 as a private residence for the legendary Dutch/French Romantic painter Ary Scheffer. Two of the villa's rooms once served as the artist's studios and as venues for intellectually bohemian parties attended by the likes of Charles Dickens, George Sand, Franz Liszt, Frédéric Chopin, Eugène Delacroix, Hector Berlioz and Ivan Turgenev. Indeed, the building's slightly creaking wooden floorboards were once walked upon by the *crème de la crème* of Paris' intelligentsia.

The villa was opened to the public in 1987, and the author of its reconstruction project was the well-known French interior designer and grand master of decadent décor Jacques Garcia. The small tea salon in the museum garden is without a doubt one of the most charming cafés in Paris. There, in the shade of the trees and in atypically peaceful surroundings for such a big metropolis, you can snack on a choice of more than a dozen teas and sweets.

16, rue Chaptal | ① musees.paris.fr



Nicolas Ruel, Tanel Bedrossiantz, 325, rue Saint-Martin, Paris, 2013  
 L'Homme moderne Collection  
 Prêt-à-porter for Men Fall-Winter 1996-1997 © Nicolas Ruel

### DIEGO VELÁZQUEZ RETROSPECTIVE

Currently the prominent Grand Palais exhibition space is hosting a retrospective of works by the great Spanish painting master Diego Velázquez (1599-1660). On view until June 13, this is one of the largest expositions of Velázquez's works to have ever been held in France.

3 Avenue du Général Eisenhower | ① grandpalais.fr



Diego Velazquez, Venus at her Mirror (1649 - 1651)



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## GOURMET PARADISE IN BARCELONA

Few, if any, other European metropolises can boast of such a dynamic and intense gastronomic scene as Barcelona. As Albert Adrià, one of the Iberian Peninsula's most renowned culinary geniuses, once said in an interview with *Baltic Outlook*: "In Spain you can sow seeds even on the sidewalk and something green will sprout up."



### GALLITO

For a culinary outing right by the edge of the sea, head for *Gallito* at the foot of the prominent *W Hotel*, which was designed by Ricardo Bofill and which looks like a giant sail. It can be found at the far end of Barceloneta Beach, along with a wide assortment of other bars and restaurants by the promenade. The atmosphere and interior are carefree and informally stylish, just like the public, while the delectable home-cooked meals are made with the best possible ingredients. Passeig del Mare Nostrum 19-21 [encompaniadelobos.com](http://encompaniadelobos.com)



### EL QUIM

To get oneself in the right mood for a true gourmet feast, one should start with a trip to the city's best-known market, the *Mercat de la Boqueria*. At its centre are several attractive restaurants, of which the most acclaimed is *El Quim*. Of course, you can also choose to eat at any one of the establishments here. All of the ingredients are as fresh as can be, having been purchased from neighbouring market stalls. The public is a motley crew of locals and tourists, with scant attention paid to ceremonial niceties in a noisy, simple and informal atmosphere. Somehow, it seems that the more uncomfortable the stool and the more crowded it gets at the bar counter, the tastier the food. Rambles 91 [elquimdelaboqueria.com](http://elquimdelaboqueria.com)



### TICKETS

To put the final icing on the cake, save your last evening in Barcelona for a visit to the *Tickets* tapas bar. Founded by Albert Adrià, the man behind the menu at the legendary *El Bulli* restaurant (which ranked five times as the world's best restaurant, but which closed down in 2011), this is an adventure for all five senses – Carmen, flamenco and the lights of Broadway in the language of gastronomy. Incidentally, *Tickets* was recently awarded a *Michelin* star. Avinguda del Paral·lel 164 [ticketsbar.es](http://ticketsbar.es)



### LA PARADETA

If you would like to gorge on superb seafood in a similar manner to the protagonists in the movie *La Grande Bouffe* (1973), then head out to *La Paradeta*. It is a cross between a market and a fast-food eatery, where for friendly prices in the literal sense of the word you can stuff yourself full to the brim. There are three *La Paradeta* establishments in the city, one of which stands behind the *Mercat del Born* market. Stand in line and point to what you would like: one scoop or two? Fried in oil or grilled? Your order is then placed into a paper bag, weighed and dispatched to the chefs, while you are given a number. Then grab a free spot at a table and wait for your number to be called out – in Spanish, of course. As you savour your meal in the densely packed eatery, with animated conversations all around you and cutlery clanking loudly against serving plates, you'll feel somewhat like at a fisherman's restaurant by the sea. C/ Comercial 7 | [laparadeta.com](http://laparadeta.com)

Giacomo Puccini TOSCA

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## Driven: the new Opel Corsa

City cars and superminis offer relatively affordable motoring, along with dinky proportions that make them quite appropriate for manoeuvring into tight parking spots. The *Corsa* has always been among the most popular models and one of the most profitable in *Opel's* lineup, so the pressure is on for this new version to take the fight to its bitterest sales rivals: the agile *Ford Fiesta* and the more luxurious *Volkswagen Polo*.

The new *Corsa* has the same silhouette as before, but its styling and interior have been given a thorough overhaul. New petrol engines have also been added, including a three-cylinder 1.0-litre with either 90 or 115 hp, and a 100-hp 1.4-litre turbo.

In terms of driving, the new 1.0-litre is the best engine in the range. It revs smoothly and happily patters around at low speed. The 115-hp version feels particularly zingy and even entertaining when you rev it harder, with an even spread of power across the rev range.

Confusingly, the new 1.4-litre turbo is cheaper than the less powerful and smaller 1.0-litre three-cylinder. The bigger engine suits the *Corsa* rather well, pulling eagerly from around 1800 rpm and without the delayed surge in power that sometimes characterises small turbocharged engines.

It's less willing to rev than the 1.0-litre, so there's little point in pushing it much beyond 4500 rpm, but it performs strongly in the mid-range and still feels relatively quick on country roads.



The new six-speed manual gearbox – fitted to the 1.0 and 1.4 turbo models – is another big improvement over the old *Corsa*, being lighter and more accurate in its action and making the new model easier to drive around town. The clutch pedal is a bit springy, but once you adjust to its high biting point it's not too much of an issue.

Most of the time the *Corsa* rides well, cushioning those inside from bumpy roads and fidgeting less at low speed than a *VW Polo*. However, despite its new steering rack and front suspension, the *Corsa* still doesn't change direction with the verve of a *Ford Fiesta*,

and the front tyres surrender their grip quicker than in many rivals.

As for the steering, it's preferable to the old car's, which was vague and slow to respond to driver inputs. Still, the self-centring action is quite strong and feels very unnatural, making it difficult to place the *Corsa* accurately on the road, particularly when exiting corners.

On a positive note, engine refinement is great in the 1.0, regardless of power output. The engine

The new *Corsa* is more refined, stylish and practical than ever before

is impressively quiet most of the time, and even when revved fairly hard, it emits an inoffensive and smooth thrum, sending little mechanical vibration through the steering wheel or pedals.

The 1.4 turbo has a coarser-sounding engine, particularly when pushed, but its refinement is still reasonable by class standards.

None of the *Corsa's* key dimensions have changed and, at four metres in length, the *Corsa* has always been fairly large for a small car, so it feels as roomy as ever inside. The main change is in the cabin's quality. The dashboard is now covered in a swathe of glossy plastic finished in a variety of colours, depending on the trim. At its centre is the same seven-inch touch-screen infotainment system from the *Adam* city car. It features a *Bluetooth* connection with music streaming and you can add several apps, including *BringGo*, sat-nav and Internet radio.

The touch screen itself is a mixed bag. It's well placed and easy to read even in bright sunlight, and it keeps the dash free from buttons, but it's neither as quick nor as intuitive as other systems we've tried, like the *VW Polo's*.

The new steering wheel and gearknob feel robust, while a smarter set of dials and a clearer driver's information display modernise the cabin, which feels a cut above the cluttered, fussy dash in the *Fiesta*.

Getting comfortable is easy because the steering wheel adjusts for height and reach, the seats are fairly supportive and the backrest adjusts with a



### QUICK FACTS:

- 1 In fine-tuning the *Corsa's* suspension setup, *Opel* engineers targeted the competing *Ford Fiesta*.
- 2 Every panel on the new *Opel Corsa* differs from that of its predecessor.
- 3 As with the previous *Corsa*, three- and five-door models are available.
- 4 Pricing for the new *Corsa* is competitive, starting at little over 10,000 euros for a three-door 1.2-litre *Selection* model.

handy scroll wheel, so there's no need to shift your weight about to find the optimal driving position.

### Should I buy one?

As before, the new *Corsa* majors on comfort and practicality. Its revised interior is a big step forward, with more standard kit and better build quality, making it more desirable than the previous model.

Nippy performance from the new turbocharged engines along with tweaked suspension mean that the *Corsa* drives better, too, but still falls well short of challenging the *Ford Fiesta* when it comes to ride comfort or handling.

Even so, the *Corsa* is easy to drive in town and comfortable where it counts. The keen pricing will make it attractive to both private and company buyers alike, and most *Corsa* models present great value for money. However, choosing the model that best suits your needs might be tricky. Our pick of the range is any of the 1.0-litre engines, which all offer a good balance of price versus equipment.

While the 1.4-litre turbo's swift performance and lower price will appeal, it is not as refined, so be sure that you can live with this if you're considering it. In any case, on initial impression the new *Corsa* looks to be a seriously strong contender in its hard-fought class. **BO**

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steikuhaoss.lv  
 twitter.com/SteikuHaoss  
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 instagram.com/SteikuHaoss

they hold to the established truth that if you want to prepare a good steak, then you need to make friends with a first-rate butcher. This wise precept has not let them down so far.

The restaurant chain even has its own meat processing plant, securing complete independence when it comes to setting one's own standards of quality. The same goes for *Steiku Haoss'* suppliers. They provide the restaurant with the highest quality meat from both near and far – starting with the pastures of the Baltics and Scandinavia and ending with the meadows of more distant locations like Spain, New Zealand and Argentina. With almost 12 years of experience in pleasing the most demanding steak lovers, *Steiku Haoss* has shown that by paying premium prices for the best quality meat, it has already secured half of its success.

The menu does vary slightly among *Steiku Haoss'* three restaurants, for each has customised some of its more popular dishes in accordance with the wishes of its regular guests. The menus also have useful information about each meat cut to help diners in their choice. For many years, beef fillet steaks have been the most popular dishes, including the Flambé Steak flambéed in rum and served on a hot stone. Also in high demand are beef strip loin steaks and steaks prepared from beef that has been specially cured for 28 days.

However, beef is not the only food that *Steiku Haoss* offers to its meat-loving guests. One can also choose from a variety of other dishes that celebrate the great taste of meat, be it the more traditional poultry or the likes of venison and veal, not to mention succulent mains and starters prepared with fish.

Having perfected their trade alongside the world's finest culinary masters, the chefs at *Steiku Haoss* have a firm grasp of the potential in each product, be it a tender piece of beef or venison, a tangy chunk of cheese or an intensely-flavoured seasonal root vegetable. Kristaps Silis is the head chef at the *Steiku Haoss* restaurant on Tērbatas iela, while his namesake Kristaps Jauja runs the show on Audēju iela. The third restaurant on Meistaru iela is headed by Andrejs Bojarčenko, who has just returned to the Latvian capital after doing quite well at the *Sanpellegrino Young Chef 2015* competition. *Steiku Haoss* chefs have spent substantial periods interning at Noma, the Copenhagen establishment with two *Michelin* stars that is considered to be the world's best restaurant, as well as at the *Michelin*-starred *Tom Aikens Restaurant* and *Texture Restaurant* in London,



bringing home innovative ideas and an even more powerful wish to deliver the absolute best.

Aside from serving the best steak in town, Riga's *Steiku Haoss* restaurants also provide great musical entertainment. Visitors can enjoy tasty dinners together with live music performances at the *Steiku Haoss* restaurant on Tērbatas iela from Tuesday to Thursday, and from Thursday to Saturday at the other two establishments on Audēju iela and Meistaru iela in Old Riga.

Good news is also in store for those who have grown weary of the winter. Since April 1, the two *Steiku Haoss* restaurants in Old Riga (on Meistaru iela and Audēju iela) have reopened their outdoor terraces, which will be kept warm with special heating lamps on cooler days and evenings. These cosy terraces will be central rendez-vous points for steak lovers from both near and far throughout the spring and summer. **BO**

## The best steak in town

Publicity photos and by  
**LAURIS VĪKSNE, F64**

**T**he name *Steiku Haoss* is a play on words. Phonetically, the name sounds similar to *steak house*, but means *steak chaos* in Latvian. However, the *Steiku Haoss* restaurant chain in Riga is actually quite well organised, for all three establishments together can serve up to 500 people at a time. That being said, the wide assortment of available steaks might seem a bit bewildering to visitors.

Although *Steiku Haoss* belongs to the same people who founded three other popular Riga restaurant chains – *Ribs & Rock*, *KID\** and *MUUSU* – it carries a different message than its kin. The *Steiku Haoss* chain is the oldest of the four, and the oldest *Steiku Haoss* restaurant on Meistaru iela is already 11 years old. It is also one of the most visited establishments in this extensive restaurant family.

Enter any one of the three *Steiku Haoss* restaurants and you'll feel like you have walked onto the set of a first-rate Western movie. The dark tones of the old wooden panels along with authentic barn elements like saddles, horseshoes, stirrups, lassos and animal skins provide for a pleasing interior. Every item has a story to tell – some have been handpicked from old farmhouses and antique stores, while others have been made or restored specifically for the restaurants. Among the different rooms within each *Steiku Haoss* restaurant, you will find a front room with a large grill, a bar and a dining room with set tables for lunch and dinner.

*Steiku Haoss* has not acquired an excellent reputation for nothing. The guys running the show are passionate about steak, their *magnum opus*, and know exactly how to bring the best out of meat. First of all,



## Gourmet paradise

For Riga's inhabitants, 1221 isn't just a random number, but the name of a popular restaurant that offers a memorable gastronomic experience in the heart of the Old Town. The establishment is known not only for its top-quality food and friendly service, but also for the magical aura that stems from its location in a venerable building that is more than 300 years old. The charming wooden terrace with a view of Old Riga's narrow streets, the historic wooden staircase, and the garlic and onion strings on the walls demonstrate that not only the menu but also the interior conveys a fine balance between the traditional and the modern.

The expertise of internationally renowned Latvian chef Roberts Smilga can be sensed in every dish that the menu offers. Smilga readily admits that he likes to experiment and try new things – both inside the kitchen and outside of it. That is exactly why the menu at 1221 features both traditional Latvian foods and more adventurous main courses, such as veal tails stewed in red wine, pigeon breasts and even horse fillet steak. While the latter dish took a while to be accepted by both the restaurant's staff and its patrons, it has kept its place in the menu due to the steady demand for this superb delicacy.

One outstanding culinary delight has been prepared in accordance with a recipe from the court of the Tsar of Russia: sturgeon and salmon borsch with herb and garlic sour cream. For those who are used to eating borsch with meat, this will be a pleasant discovery. The soup is accompanied by freshly baked bread with mild truffle butter that literally melts in your mouth, adding an additional note of pleasure to this gastronomic delight.

The diverse and creative menu at 1221 is one of the main reasons that the restaurant's regular clients return there again and again. After all, there aren't too many places in Latvia that serve smoked beaver salad or entrecote that has been cured for 28 days on a slab of salt. There are even fewer establishments where the chef compares his kitchen to a sandbox "in which one should play as creatively as possible". True gourmards appreciate this perfect mix of inspiration and professionalism, which is why the number of the restaurant's regular customers is continuing to grow. If you haven't already done so, then get ready to join their ranks! **BO**

Restorāns  
**1221**  
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## Restaurants, bars and cafés

Text by **LIINA KARO**  
Publicity photos

**Culinary hotspots in Tallinn**  
A guide to the best restaurants, cafés and eateries



### **PÖÖBEL, TALLINN** Estonian food, international atmosphere

Visiting Pööbel on a Thursday evening turned out to be a much more lively experience than I initially expected. The large dining area in this new establishment was buzzing with people, some

celebrating birthdays, others having a relaxing drink after work. I chose a table in a smaller and more intimate room at the back of the restaurant and fell for the cosy and stylish interior right away. Its walls partly covered with firewood for the chimney, the place makes you want to linger for much longer than it takes just to finish your meal.

Starting the dinner with potato skins (EUR 2.90) was a wonderful idea – a perfectly flavoured snack to ease the hunger. The main course of fried Baltic herring, potatoes, cottage cheese and cucumber (EUR 7.80) might sound very simple and traditional, but it brings back a whole lot of memories to anyone who has spent a summer in Estonia. Oh, those sunny days by the sea between junipers at Saaremaa...

The perfect ending note to the dinner was the dessert – kama foam with raspberry sauce (EUR 3.50). Kama is a traditional finely milled flour mixture that can be eaten with different additions or made into various desserts, and I sincerely believe that the kama foam at Pööbel is among the tastiest of them all!

As for drinks, there are many interesting local and foreign beers, which is one of the reasons why many people go to Pööbel for an after-work drink.

Pööbel is situated just a short walk away from the Old Town over Toompea Hill. The restaurant is popular among both foreigners and Estonians who enjoy traditional food in a nice atmosphere.

Address: Toompuiestee 16  
Open: Mon.-Thu.: 12:00-23:00  
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**KIVI PABER KÄÄRID, TALLINN**

Trendy and healthy

One of the newest additions to the Telliskivi area, an industrial creative centre in Kalamaja, is *Kivi Paber Käärid* (KPK) – the first restaurant in Tallinn with a gluten-free menu. Although it opened only in December of 2014, the stories about its amazing burgers (EUR 12.95) spread quickly, so I decided to go and try one out. I was not disappointed! The local beef and onion jam added up to a perfect combination and *Fritz Cola* (straight from Germany, EUR 3.50) matched the burger really nicely. I have not tried the vegetarian burger yet, but I have heard that the portobello mushrooms that replace the meat are to die for.

The banana cake with banana cream on top for dessert (EUR 3.95) was absolutely delicious. Those who are lactose-intolerant can order the

cake without cream, and it is just as tasty!

What I really like about *Kivi Paber Käärid* is its attempts to meet every customer's needs. Apart from dishes for people who are allergic to gluten, *KPK* also offers a variety of lactose- and casein-free foods, so it is a safe choice for practically everyone. Furthermore, most of the restaurant's ingredients are bought from local Estonian farmers.

Along with great food, *KPK* offers a lovely entertainment programme on weekends, hosting the hottest Estonian bands and musical artists. Just keep an eye on the restaurant's *Facebook* page.

Address: Telliskivi 60A C4  
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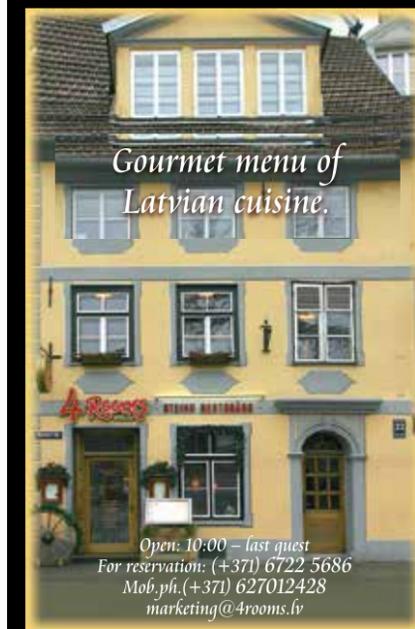
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We extend you a warm welcome and an invitation to Key to Riga where you can experience the atmosphere of ancient Riga, its hospitality and the flavour of its traditional meals. It is located in the very heart of Old Riga at Dome Square. Among our special features are genuine medieval interior decorations, the magnificent twinkling of candlelight and Latvian cuisine served in local clay tableware. In the evenings live medieval music is played by musicians in period costume.

The legendary Latvian film 'The Devil's Servants', which was produced by the Riga Film studio in the 1970s, served as the inspiration for the restaurant. The Key to Riga was an essential part of this cinema classic and an exact replica now holds a place of honour in the restaurant. It is said that he who holds the key to Riga will unlock a world of wealth and happiness and we encourage you to pick it up and see what it feels like to hold the key to this ancient city. Take a photograph with the key and capture a timeless moment with one of Riga's most revered symbols!



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Thessaloniki, Greece

## 1/ New flights to Croatia, Italy and Greece

### 1/ New flights to Croatia, Italy and Greece

This summer, *airBaltic* is launching new flights to four exciting summer destinations in the Mediterranean.

Weekly flights to the Croatian resort town of **Dubrovnik** will start on May 26, increasing in June to two flights per week until the end of September. With its breath-taking Old Town and imposing city walls along the shores of the Adriatic Sea, Dubrovnik is one of Europe's top summer destinations.

Flights to **Thessaloniki**, Greece's second largest city, will be launched on June 5 and operate twice a week until the end of September. The city boasts a glorious Byzantine history, fine restaurants with excellent Greek cuisine, a hip nightlife scene and many beautiful beaches in the vicinity.

Flights to the Greek island of **Rhodes** will operate from June 12 until September 18 once per week, in cooperation with tour operator *Tez Tour*. With eight months of sunshine, stunning beaches and green hills, Rhodes is an ideal place for a summer seaside vacation.

The world-famous Italian city of **Pisa** will become a new *airBaltic* destination on June 13 and flights from Riga will operate once per week until mid-September. These flights will offer Baltic travellers the chance to spend their summer holidays in the heart of Tuscany and enjoy high culture, visit historical cities such as Florence and Siena, and, of course, indulge in renowned Tuscan wines and food.

**One-way ticket prices to these great holiday spots start from EUR 75.**

## 2/ Gothenburg and Aalborg enhance the summer schedule

### 2/ Gothenburg and Aalborg enhance the summer schedule

From April 18, *airBaltic* is opening a new route between Riga and the Danish city of **Aalborg**. This is our third destination in Denmark besides Copenhagen and Billund and will operate once a week.

Aalborg is a lively university city situated in the north of Denmark. The Aalborg Carnival at the end of May is one of the largest festivals in Scandinavia.

Another Nordic gem reopened for the summer is **Gothenburg**. Flights to Sweden's second largest city will start on May 3 and continue until the end of September, three times per week.

Gourmet travellers will be especially delighted, as Gothenburg is home to Sweden's largest port and has many fine restaurants that serve freshly caught seafood from the North Sea. The city is also known for its exciting cultural scene, large number of museums and vibrant nightlife.

Travellers from Sweden who would like to visit Riga for a weekend will appreciate the perfect schedule, with flights departing from Gothenburg on Friday morning and returning from Riga on Sunday evening, giving visitors the opportunity to make the most of the weekend in the beautiful Baltic capital.

**One-way ticket prices from Riga to Aalborg start from EUR 69, and to Gothenburg from EUR 59.**

## 3/ Improved service to Stockholm

### 3/ Improved service to Stockholm

*airBaltic* is proud to be the airline with the most flight frequencies and the best product on the Riga-Stockholm route.

There are four daily flights in each direction, with improved timing for business travellers from both ends. A morning flight arrives in Stockholm at 8:05 and two flights arrive in Riga at 08:35 and 10:55. Evening flights leave Riga at 19:00 and 23:35 and depart from Stockholm at 19:50, making one-day travel smooth and convenient.

*airBaltic's* morning and evening flights on the route are operated with jet aircraft, while midday and late evening/early morning flights are flown with our new *Dash Q400* turboprops.

**One-way ticket prices from Riga to Stockholm start from EUR 35.**

## 4/ Freeze the price on summer flights

### 4/ Freeze the price on summer flights

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### 5/ New payment options at *airBaltic.com*

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Customers from Germany, the Netherlands and Finland can also use other new payment options at the *airBaltic* website, including *SofortBanking*, *iDeal* and the *Nordea* bank link.



Stockholm

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**Vilmantas Mažonas,**  
vice president of the  
*airBaltic* Training Centre,  
captain and instructor on  
*Boeing 737* aircraft

## Up in the air

Text by **EGITA KRASIŅA**  
Photo by  
**LAURIS VĪKSNE, F64**

**Vilmantas Mažonas is doing his dream job and has helped many other people to fulfil their dreams of flying commercial aircraft. Always with a smile on his face, but simultaneously serious and professional as an instructor. Level-headed, smart and with an analytical mind, say his former students. Although he is a man of few words, Mažonas can speak four languages and admires the universal language of music and art. In this interview he plays down the glorification of pilots, shares his passions and reveals his visions of the future.**

### What drew you to aviation?

I was six years old when my parents went to work in Africa for some time and left me with my uncle, who was a flying instructor. He took me with him when he was training new pilots and I sat there observing everything that he did. We would fly someplace, have lunch and then head back home. Many other ideas popped up about what I should do when I grow up, but nothing as serious as flying. Aviation was something major in my life starting already from a very early age.

### How long have you been working in aviation?

I have been flying *Boeing* aircraft for 23 years. I started in 1992, when *Lithuanian Airlines* received its first *Boeing* airplanes. Eight years ago, I began working as a pilot for *airBaltic* in Vilnius. Later, I moved to work in Riga. I have also been involved in the business aspect of the Training Centre and now for the last five years I have been training pilots.

### Which part of your job do you enjoy the most?

I get a lot of positive emotions out of flying. That is the most beautiful part of my work. I like challenges that turn into success stories. I can say that my job is my hobby.

### Confucius once said: "Choose a job that you love and you will never have to work a day in your life."

That is absolutely true! I enjoy flying from beginning to end and I have the most beautiful view outside of my "office" window. Of course, I am not only a captain, but also an instructor and vice president of crew training at *airBaltic*. I enjoy sharing my knowledge, I like teaching and coaching. Plus there is the Training Centre managing part, where I have a great team that helps me to "push the rock loads ahead".

### As a flight instructor, what kind of qualities do you think are necessary for becoming a pilot?

I have a motto, which is that everyone can fly! But while just about anyone can be taught to fly, not everyone can do it nicely. Or similarly, anyone can drive a car, but not everyone can drive it perfectly. Some qualities you acquire during your lifetime, while others are built-in. Of course, there are limits that can't be exceeded, but most people are trainable. This is not a popular opinion, because pilots are seen almost as superheroes, but actually they are not. Everyone can fly as long as they receive good training and have the motivation to learn. Pilots need to have a high level of intelligence, strong nerves and the ability to observe and analyse information very quickly. There is a lot of information to remember and process.

### Are there many pilots from the Baltic countries at *airBaltic*?

I would say it is about 50/50. The Baltic States, and particularly Latvia and Lithuania, are quite advanced in pilot training. We have a very sophisticated

selection process and not everybody can squeeze through. The pilots whom we recently have hired are very good, capable and well-trained. They are bringing a new vibe and a positive influence to the organisation. About two and a half years ago, we started a new project and co-financed the training of eight pilots. They are now operating our *Dash Q400* aircraft. Recently ten new captains completed their training and started to fly with our airline. There are also about 60 new cabin crew members. The volume of people training at the Training Centre is about 1,000 for *airBaltic* alone and another 500 for other companies.

### How has aviation changed and what could the future hold?

I wouldn't say that it has changed that much, but I think that it will in the near future as technologies continue to advance. Now driverless cars are being tested and, who knows, maybe after 20 years there will be pilotless planes! We have seen a lot of safety improvements for planes during the past two decades. However, during the last ten years, the hottest topic has been efficiency. There have been a lot of improvements in this sphere as well. You can't make a plane or its fuselage dramatically different from its predecessors, but you can invent new, more efficient and nature-friendly ways and materials. Engines now are 20 to 50 percent more efficient than they were 20 years ago. Hopefully, this percentage will continue to grow.

### How do you evaluate the AMBER project?

We started the Arrival Modernisation for Better Efficiency in Riga project some years ago to improve Riga's airspace by making it more efficient and less noisy. With shorter travel routes, less pollution is also produced. The results have been very encouraging and we are very proud of the project's success. Now we will no longer fly over the heads of those who live in Jūrmala or Riga's Mārupe district

and disturb their good night's sleep or Sunday barbecues!

### Sounds like *airBaltic* is placing quite a bit of emphasis on going "green"!

*airBaltic* is always trying to invent something new and implement improvements. We are a very modern and organised company that is open to innovations.

### What do you like to do in your free time?

I enjoy cycling, cross-country skiing and golf, as sporting activities recharge me. Sometimes I play tennis, but I am not very good at it yet. I really enjoy music – jazz, hard rock and everything else in between, including classical music (Chopin's works sound so majestic!) and going to the opera. I have finished a musical school myself, played the clarinet and even had a band, but that was a long time ago. When you are travelling around, you can't learn every language, but music is a universal language that doesn't need a vocabulary. The same applies when you go to art exhibitions; you can observe the art in any country without knowing the local language.

### Do you like to travel in your free time and what is your favourite destination?

Yes, though I would like to do it more. My favourite destinations still are in Old Europe. I don't like travelling far away because my time is always limited, and jet lag places an added burden on you. However, it is quite easy to go on weekend getaways in Europe. Any travel is good travel. After this interview, for example, I will travel back home to Vilnius for a weekend.

### Are you still living in Vilnius?

Yes, for weekends and holidays I go back to Vilnius. Some might say: "Oh, you are living in Vilnius and working in Riga; that is so far!" But it is not far at all! It takes more time to get from one end of Vilnius to the other than it does to fly from Riga to Vilnius. Riga is a perfect location for me. It has a similar culture to my own and it makes me feel like I really belong here. **BO**

## New Business Class menu

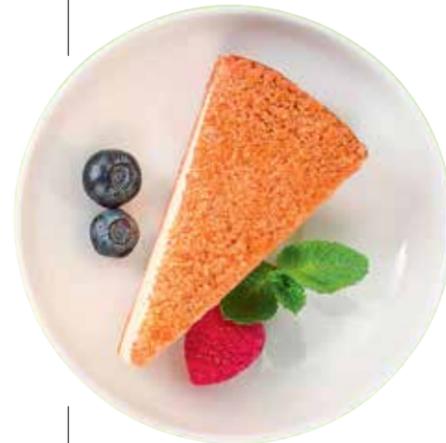
This spring, *airBaltic* is delighted to offer new culinary treats for Business Class passengers.

Our chef Andris Vasiļonoks of *LSG Sky Chefs* has prepared a new breakfast, lunch and dinner meal selection using fresh and seasonal ingredients and blending the tastes of different cuisines from all over the world.

For breakfast, our passengers can enjoy such energising meals as roast beef with celeriac remoulade, quiche Lorraine with chicken and vegetables or omelette with spinach and cream cheese.

On afternoon and evening flights, subtle main courses like roasted duck with black currant sauce and vegetables, grilled salmon with potato gratin and sugar snap peas or lamb chop with hummus and fresh vegetables are served together with delightful dessert cheese cakes, fruit cakes or panna cotta.

Settle back, relax and enjoy your flight with a gourmet meal and an exquisite wine or other beverage from our carefully selected drinks menu.



### We prefer

Our colleague, *airBaltic* web marketing manager Agija Kola-Kanča, tells about her flight experiences:



*I love travelling and I'm lucky to be doing it quite often. To me the journey starts when the plane takes off, so without a doubt the food that I get to eat while on my way sets the tone for the trip. I like to pre-order my food from [airbalticmeal.com](http://airbalticmeal.com), where my favourite is the Italian breakfast and cheese plate. During a recent trip, I tried the new cheesecake from the Food & Drinks spring menu and it was a real delight - very creamy and not overly sweet, with just the right crunchy bite on the top. I definitely recommend it with a cup of coffee!*



## Order your meal before the flight

Use one of our meal pre-order options to have a guaranteed tasty meal on your next flight and to be among the first to be served!

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For more exquisite dining experience, you can create your individual meal from over 70 options on a virtual tray at our innovative pre-order website [airbalticmeal.com](http://airbalticmeal.com) up to 24 hours before your flight.

You can also pre-order a meal during the online check-in from 72 hours up to one hour before departure for flights from Riga (see pre-order deadline from other destinations at [airbaltic.com](http://airbaltic.com)).

On some designated flights, a new service allows you to order the meal for your next flight while in the air! Ask the cabin crew about this opportunity on your flight.



### About the program

PINS is the *airBaltic* frequent flyer loyalty program (formerly BalticMiles), which uses the loyalty currency "PINS". You can collect PINS while flying with *airBaltic*, shopping in airports, staying in hotels, renting cars, dining out and even by using the *airBaltic* Payment Card or the PINS MasterCard. It is also possible to collect PINS by doing your everyday shopping, with more than 700 local, global and online partners represented.

PINS program has various card designs from which you can choose, but if you are a frequent flyer, then the most suitable one for you will be the green *airBaltic* PINS card. The more you fly with *airBaltic* the higher your membership level and the greater the privileges. **Executive** and **VIP** levels are reserved for the most loyal *airBaltic* customers and ensure various benefits which include a **free baggage allowance, priority check-in, reserved seats** and much more to make traveling more pleasant. The youngest members starting from age 2 are issued with a special *airBaltic* PINS Young Pilot card which allows also children to collect PINS.

### If you still have a BalticMiles card and haven't got your PINS card yet

Order your PINS card at [pinsforme.com](http://pinsforme.com) or contact PINS Member Service by writing an e-mail to [info@pinsforme.com](mailto:info@pinsforme.com). While waiting for your brand new card to arrive, you can still use your BalticMiles card, which will still be accepted for the next few months.

### If you aren't a PINS program member yet

Join the program right away – just ask a flight attendant for your card. Register your card online after the flight at [register.pinsforme.com](http://register.pinsforme.com) and get **10 bonus PINS**.



airBaltic PINS card



airBaltic PINS Executive card



airBaltic PINS VIP card



airBaltic PINS Young Pilot card



### How to collect

Collect PINS for flying with airBaltic, staying in hotels, renting cars, shopping, eating out and much more. The program also offers collecting PINS at a wide range of well-known international online shops for travel, home, sports, beauty and more.

### Collect with airBaltic:

- 3 PINS for each EUR spent on a Business Class ticket
- 2 PINS for each EUR spent on an Economy Class ticket
- 1 PINS for each EUR spent on a Basic Class ticket

### How to spend

Spend PINS on airBaltic flights, electronics, gift cards and more than 2000 other rewards available at the PINS Online Rewards Shop. When spending on Online Rewards, you can also use PINS in combination with money.

### Spend on airBaltic:

- Exchange your PINS for flights from just 4 200 PINS.
- Upgrade your ticket to Business Class from just 8 000 PINS.



Prices are reflected for airBaltic economy class, one-way flight tickets. Airport taxes and fees are not included, seat availability is not confirmed, restricted and subject to change. Please read full terms and conditions at pinsforme.com  
\*Seasonal flight

## Collect PINS when traveling

Collect PINS every time you travel! Book your holiday or business trip with program partners and get rewarded! Choose your favorite destination and start enjoying the benefits of your loyalty program!

Check out stories of PINS members who have collected PINS to spend on rewards perfect for their upcoming trips.

Member	Activity	PINS Collected	Total PINS	Reward
Anna	airBaltic Economy class ticket	500	pins 2 250	We Can Make It Luggage Weight Scale
	AVIS Renting 1 car	500		
	Radisson Staying at the hotel	500		
	CHIC OUTLET SHOPPING Shopping	600		
	HolidayCheck.com Review about a hotel stay	150		
The Johnsons	airBaltic 4 Basic class tickets	600	pins 4 500	airBaltic flight
	Budget Renting 1 car	500		
	airBaltic 4 meals on board	100		
	Points4Travel Booking 2 hotel stays	3000		
	HolidayCheck.com 2 reviews about hotel stays	300		
	From 4200 pins			
Robert	airBaltic Business class ticket	1800	pins 6 350	Belkin Charge and Sync Dock for iPhone/iPod
	SIXT Renting 1 car	500		
	WORLDHOTELS Staying at the hotel	500		
	atc Shopping	50		
	The Economist Yearly subscription	3500		
5982 pins				

All prices include delivery to Latvia and are subject to change. The product assortment may change. Products are subject to availability.

One successful year together – let's celebrate pins 1st birthday!

- 1 700 000 members
- 700 partners for collecting pins
- 175 000 rewards received by members
- PINS - No.1 Google search word in Finland among brands over the year 2014
- 75 pins card swipes per minute

pinsforme.com



# Fly airBaltic to the best beaches!

## OLBIA Italy

Fly to Olbia with airBaltic from **€115** ONE WAY

### Riga – Olbia

Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 655	11.04. – 24.10.2015	-2---6-	16:00	18:10

### Olbia – Riga

Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 656	11.04. – 24.10.2015	-2---6-	18:45	23:00

Olbia is located in the northeastern part of Sardinia. The island is a paradise for gourmets and the seafood is particularly special. We recommend the *malloreddus* (Sardinian gnocchi) and *fregula* (a small pasta-like couscous) together with prawns and mussels in a fish sauce. Besides, Sardinia's northeastern coast is said to be the secret vacation getaway among world-class celebrities.

🌊 **Spiaggia del Principe** (Principe Beach). Situated within the **Costa Smeralda** which is known as a holiday spot for the international jet-set. It stands out with a turquoise sea and a sandy beach with few rocks, along with shallow water that is suitable for children. →26 km

🌊 **Cala Corsara**. Located south of **Spargi Island** and reachable only by sea, this is definitely one of the most spectacular beaches on the island. →52 km

🌊 **Porto Istana Beach** lies on a stretch of coast that is one of the most beautiful in Sardinia and that is lapped by an emerald-green sea opposite the Island of Tavolara. →11 km

🌊 **Cala Brandinchi**. Nicknamed Tahiti due to the bright colours of the sea, this beach is surrounded by dunes and pine forests. →21 km

🌊 **Gulf of Orosei**. If you have more time to spend and want the combination of wild

nature and picturesque beaches, then head south to the **province of Nuoro**, where you will find the Gennargentu Massif (highest point 1834 m). Many pristine stretches of coastal sand can be reached only by hiking in or by boat. The best-known beaches are **Berchida, Cala Luna, Cala Goloritze, Cala Sisine** and **Cala Biriola**. →75 km

▶ **L'Estate Olbiese**. A cultural festival that includes concerts, performances, readings and cabarets. June-August

## LARNACA Cyprus

Fly to Larnaca with airBaltic from **€125** ONE WAY

Enjoy the countryside near Larnaca in an alternative way by riding a camel in *Mazotos Camel Park* or a donkey at the *Golden Donkey Farm* in Skarinou. Take a dive at the *Zenobia Wreck*, which is considered to be one of the best wreck-diving sites in the Mediterranean, and rejuvenate yourself by experiencing sea yoga.

### Riga – Larnaca

Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 657	31.03. – 24.10.2015	-2---6-	23:55	03:45+1

### Larnaca – Riga

Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 658	29.03. – 18.10.2015	--3---7	04:30	08:30



🌊 **Phinikoudes**. One of the most famous beaches in Cyprus. The main road, Athenon Avenue, is lined with palm trees, green areas and colourful flowers that add to the magnificent scenery. →8 km

🌊 **McKenzie Beach**. Lie down in the fine grey sand of this Blue Flag beach or bathe in the water and watch the planes as they come in to land at the airport. This is also a lovely place for a meal, with a long line of restaurants parallel to the beach that offer great views and fine dining. →5 km

🌊 **CTO Beach**. Also known as Pyla Beach, it is a favourite among families, with a playground area for children, as well as volleyball, handball, water sports and other facilities. Numerous seaside restaurants offer great Cypriot cuisine. →23 km

▶ **Larnaca Summer Festival**. This annual festival provides both outdoor and indoor concerts and lots of other entertainment at various town venues, including the courtyard of Larnaca's medieval fort and the Pattichion Municipal Amphitheatre. July



## DUBROVNIK Croatia

Fly to Dubrovnik with airBaltic from **€99** ONE WAY

Riga – Dubrovnik						Dubrovnik – Riga					
Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival		Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival	
BT 497	26.05. – 22.09.2015	-2----	16:35	18:15		BT 498	26.05. – 22.09.2015	-2----	18:55	22:40	
BT 497	18.06. – 17.09.2015	---4---	09:20	11:00		BT 498	18.06. – 17.09.2015	---4---	11:40	15:25	



Also known as the Pearl of the Adriatic, Dubrovnik is a city of marble streets, shimmering waters and street performers on the Dalmatian coast. Yes, this is also the place where the famous dogs originate. If you're a fan of the TV show *Game of Thrones*, then Dubrovnik should be your summer destination of choice, because its city walls are among the main filming locations.

🌊 **Neptun Beach.** A Blue Flag beach with the most beautiful views of the Elafiti Islands, the open sea and Lapad Bay. →24 km

🌊 **Banje Beach.** This divine pebble and sandy beach is conveniently located right by the city. →9 km

🌊 **Plaža President (President Beach).** The name says it all. As a bonus, the picturesque island of Daksia is nearby. →21 km

🌊 **Lokrum Island.** A wildlife reserve and botanical garden covered in thick Mediterranean

flora that includes cypress, laurel, olive, magnolia and palm trees as well as agave plants. →21 km

▶ **Dubrovnik Summer Festival**  
July 10 -August 25



## THESSALONIKI Greece

Fly to Thessaloniki with airBaltic from **€89** ONE WAY

Riga – Thessaloniki						Thessaloniki – Riga					
Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival		Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival	
BT 595	05.06. – 27.09.2015	----5-7	23:55	02:50+1		BT 596	06.06. – 28.09.2015	1----6-	03:45	06:40	

Explore the Byzantine age and other historical periods in this Greek coastal city. Enjoy lazy days strolling around Tsimiski, the main shopping street, and end the day with romantic views that extend as far as Mount Olympus.

🌊 **Perea Beach.** Very well organised, with great nightlife and lovely nature all around. →10 km

🌊 **Aretsou Beach.** A recommended stretch of sand close to Thessaloniki and edged with cafés, bars and good facilities. A marina is close by, so there are often boats to watch sailing by while you take in the sun. →8 km



🌊 **Galaxias Beach.** This popular Blue Flag beach is in a four-star resort alongside the villages of Agia Triada and Nei Epivates. →14 km

▶ **Reworks International Music Festival.** Over three days, different venues host DJs from various countries, with electronic music playing in public squares and clubs. September

## MALTA

Fly to Malta with airBaltic from **€99** ONE WAY

Riga – Malta						Malta – Riga					
Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival		Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival	
BT 739	29.03. – 18.10.2015	-----7	23:30	02:10+1		BT 740	30.03. – 19.10.2015	1-----	02:50	07:30	

Seven thousand years of intriguing history, Rococo architecture and the Valleta Baroque Festival are only a few of Malta's highlights. In addition, plenty of wellness and luxury spa facilities provide a whole array of affordable beauty, body and physiotherapy treatments.

🌊 **Mellieha Bay.** Laze on a sun lounger or go water skiing, sailing and windsurfing if you feel more active. There's a diving school up the road in Paradise Bay. →28 km



🌊 **Ghajn Tuffieha** is the beach for you if you are seeking beautiful and untouched locations. The bay has unusual reddish sand. →20 km

🌊 **Golden Bay.** One of Malta's most popular sandy beaches. The spectacular sunsets that can be seen from here have made it a popular spot for evening barbecues and romantic dates. →20 km

▶ **Malta Jazz Festival** July  
▶ **Malta Arts Festival** July 1-15

## PISA Italy

Fly to Pisa with airBaltic from **€75** ONE WAY

Riga – Pisa						Pisa – Riga					
Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival		Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival	
BT 637	13.06. – 12.09.2015	----6-	09:00	10:50		BT 638	21.06. – 19.07.2015	-----7	08:00	11:50	
						BT 638	26.07. – 06.09.2015	-----7	19:10	23:00	
						BT 638	13.09. – 13.09.2015	-----7	08:00	11:50	

Pisa, of course, is known for its famous leaning tower, but there is much more to see besides the Campo dei Miracoli. For example, only a stone's throw away is the Botanical Garden, one of the oldest in Europe and the perfect place for a relaxing lunch. Pisa is also a gateway to Tuscany, one of the world's great regions for wine and food lovers.

🌊 **Marina di Vecchiano.** A four-kilometre-long sandy beach surrounded by golden dunes and pine woods. Makes for a great day trip. →26 km

🌊 **Tirrenia Beach.** A splendid beach with all sorts of facilities for water and land sports, including sailing, snorkel fishing, horse-riding, golf and beach volleyball. →15 km

🌊 **Viareggio Beach.** Play beach volleyball, make sand castles, grab a *gelato* (ice cream) and then, of course, do the evening *passeggiata* along the Belle Époque promenade together with everyone else. →29 km

▶ **Luminara di San Ranieri festival.** Around 70,000 wax candles illuminate many of Pisa's most notable buildings and structures, culminating with a fireworks display at 11 PM from the Cittadella Vecchia. June 16<sup>th</sup>



RHODES  
Greece

Fly to Rhodes with airBaltic from **€125** ONE WAY

Riga – Rhodes

Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 597	12.06.–04.09.2015	----5--	07:25	11:00

Rhodes – Riga

Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 598	12.06.–11.09.2015	----5--	11:40	15:20

Rhodes is the largest of the Dodecanese Islands, covered in a web of sugar-cube houses spilling down to turquoise bays. The atmospheric Old Town of Rhodes is a maze of cobbled streets that spirit you back to the days of the Byzantine Empire. While strolling through history, make sure to visit the Valley of Butterflies and see the local breed of fallow deer.

🌊 **Anthony Quinn Beach.** The crystal-clear sea and gorgeous underwater scenery makes this one of the best places for snorkelling. →18 km

hotels lining Faliraki Beach. The main attraction is the Roman Baths, a unique example of orientalist Art Deco from 1929. →16 km

🌊 **Faliraki Beach.** Covered in golden sands, it offers dozens of colourful sunbeds, umbrellas and water sports facilities. →17 km

▶ **Medieval Rose Festival.** Throw yourself back in time and participate in the Witches' and Fairies' Dance while watching fire-eaters, jugglers and jesters, all dressed in medieval costumes. June



PALMA DE MALLORCA  
Spain

Riga – Palma de Mallorca

Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 687	31.05.–27.09.2015	-----7	08:05	10:50

Palma de Mallorca – Riga

Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 688	31.05.–27.09.2015	-----7	11:40	16:20



Fly to Palma de Mallorca with airBaltic from **€115** ONE WAY

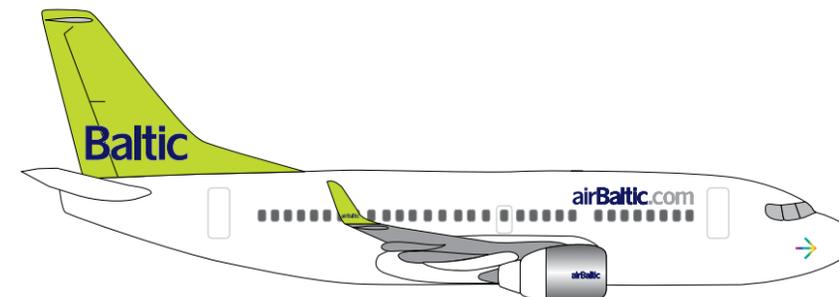
Pure sand and crystal-clear water plus never-ending nightlife. The city's vast cathedral is a major architectural landmark and a must-see. Enjoy boat trips, wine-tasting at local vineyards and visit the *Palma Aquarium*, which boasts the deepest shark tank in Europe.

🌊 **Cala Mayor Beach.** A Blue Flag beach where the water is calm most of the time, though when conditions are right, surfable waves also beckon. The *Luabay Beach Club* is right on the shorefront for cocktails, DJ music, lunch and dinner. →18 km

🌊 **Port de Soller** is a wonderful little village situated in one of Mallorca's most beautiful horseshoe harbours. Surrounded by the Tramuntana Mountains, this town has the best of both worlds, offering magnificent mountain scenery together with a sea view. →35 km

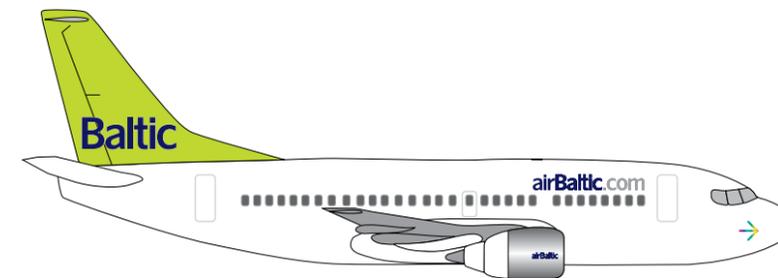
🌊 **S'Amarador.** A quiet and peaceful spot surrounded by pine trees with a magnificent view. →35 km

▶ **Nit de Foc.** Translated as "Night of Fire", this event takes place on Midsummer's Eve, when bonfires are lit to mark the beginning of Mallorca's summer fiestas. June 23<sup>rd</sup>



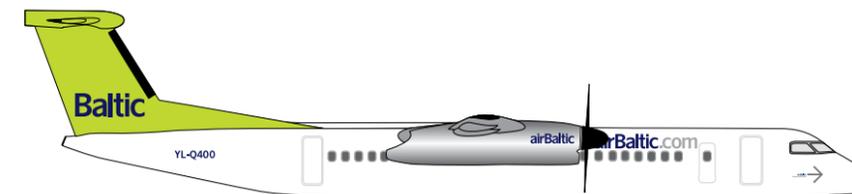
Boeing 737-300

Number of seats	142/144/146
Max take-off weight	63 metric tons
Max payload	14.2 metric tons
Length	32.18 m
Wing span	31.22 m
Cruising speed	800 km/h
Commercial range	3500 km
Fuel consumption	3000 l/h
Engine	CFM56-3C-1



Boeing 737-500

Number of seats	120
Max take-off weight	58 metric tons
Max payload	13.5 metric tons
Length	29.79 m
Wing span	28.9 m
Cruising speed	800 km/h
Commercial range	3500 km
Fuel consumption	3000 l/h
Engine	CFM56-3



Q400 NextGen  
Bombardier

Number of seats	76
Max take-off weight	29.6 metric tons
Max payload	8.6 metric tons
Length	32.83 m
Wing span	28.42
Cruising speed	667 km/h
Commercial range	2084 km
Fuel consumption	1074 l/h
Engine	P&W 150A

Flights from Riga					Flights to Riga				
Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure Arrival	Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure Arrival
<b>AALBORG</b>					<b>AALBORG</b>				
BT 149	RIX	AAL	-----6- From Apr 18	12:35 13:15	BT 150	AAL	RIX	-----7 From Apr 19	15:10 17:40
<b>ALESUND</b>					<b>ALESUND</b>				
BT 175	RIX	AES	-----5-7	13:20 14:45	BT 176	AES	RIX	-----5-7	15:15 18:30
<b>AMSTERDAM</b>					<b>AMSTERDAM</b>				
BT 617	RIX	AMS	1-34567	08:30 09:55	BT 618	AMS	RIX	1234567	11:30 14:45
BT 619	RIX	AMS	12345-7	17:10 18:35	BT 620	AMS	RIX	12345-7	19:55 23:10
<b>AMSTERDAM flights from VILNIUS</b>					<b>AMSTERDAM flights to VILNIUS</b>				
BT 609	VNO	AMS	1-34567	08:35 10:35	BT 610	AMS	VNO	1-34567	12:30 16:15
BT 609	VNO	AMS	-2----- April 07	08:35 10:35	BT 610	AMS	VNO	-2----- April 07	12:30 16:15
<b>ATHENS</b>					<b>ATHENS</b>				
BT 611	RIX	ATH	--3----	09:30 12:50	BT 612	ATH	RIX	--3----	13:25 16:45
BT 611	RIX	ATH	-2---6-	15:30 18:50	BT 612	ATH	RIX	-2---6-	19:25 22:45
<b>BARCELONA</b>					<b>BARCELONA</b>				
BT 683	RIX	BCN	12-456-	14:40 17:25	BT 684	BCN	RIX	1--456-	18:10 22:50
BT 683	RIX	BCN	-----7 April 05	14:15 17:00	BT 684	BCN	RIX	-----7 April 05	17:45 22:25
<b>BERLIN Tegel</b>					<b>BERLIN Tegel</b>				
BT 211	RIX	TXL	123456-	07:50 8:45	BT 212	TXL	RIX	123456-	09:40 12:30
BT 217	RIX	TXL	1234567	14:00 14:55	BT 214	TXL	RIX	1234567	15:25 18:15
BT 213	RIX	TXL	12345-7	18:15 19:10	BT 214	TXL	RIX	12345-7	19:45 22:35
<b>BILLUND</b>					<b>BILLUND</b>				
BT 145	RIX	BLL	12345-7	23:45 00:45+1	BT 146	BLL	RIX	12345-7	05:50 08:40
<b>BRUSSELS</b>					<b>BRUSSELS</b>				
BT 601	RIX	BRU	12345--	06:15 08:10	BT 602	BRU	RIX	12345--	08:45 12:30
BT 607	RIX	BRU	-----6-	12:25 14:20	BT 608	BRU	RIX	-----6-	14:50 18:35
BT 603	RIX	BRU	12345-7	16:35 18:30	BT 604	BRU	RIX	12345-7	19:05 22:50
<b>BUCHAREST</b>					<b>BUCHAREST</b>				
BT 503	RIX	OTP	1-345--	12:30 15:15	BT 504	OTP	RIX	1-345--	15:45 18:35
<b>BUDAPEST</b>					<b>BUDAPEST</b>				
BT 491	RIX	BUD	1-3-5--	13:00 14:25	BT 492	BUD	RIX	1-3-5--	14:55 18:10
<b>CHISINAU</b>					<b>CHISINAU</b>				
BT 420	RIX	KIV	-2---6-	12:40 15:05	BT 421	KIV	RIX	-2---6-	15:40 18:10
<b>COPENHAGEN</b>					<b>COPENHAGEN</b>				
BT 133	RIX	CPH	12345--	06:45 07:25	BT 134	CPH	RIX	12345--	08:05 10:40
BT 131	RIX	CPH	1234567	09:40 10:20	BT 132	CPH	RIX	1234567	10:55 13:30
BT 139	RIX	CPH	1234567	19:00 19:40	BT 140	CPH	RIX	1234567	20:15 22:50
BT 137	RIX	CPH	12345-7	21:40 22:20	BT 138	CPH	RIX	12345-7	23:00 01:35+1
<b>DUSSELDORF</b>					<b>DUSSELDORF</b>				
BT 235	RIX	DUS	1234567	12:30 14:10	BT 236	DUS	RIX	1234567	14:45 18:15
<b>FRANKFURT</b>					<b>FRANKFURT</b>				
BT 243	RIX	FRA	-----6- April 18	07:50 09:35	BT 244	FRA	RIX	-----6- April 18	11:05 14:40
BT 241	RIX	FRA	12345-7	12:40 14:25	BT 242	FRA	RIX	12345-7	15:00 18:35
<b>HAMBURG</b>					<b>HAMBURG</b>				
BT 251	RIX	HAM	12345--	07:50 08:55	BT 252	HAM	RIX	12345--	09:25 12:20
BT 255	RIX	HAM	-----6-	13:15 14:20	BT 256	HAM	RIX	-----6-	14:50 17:45
BT 253	RIX	HAM	12345-7	17:55 19:00	BT 254	HAM	RIX	12345-7	19:40 22:35
<b>HELSINKI</b>					<b>HELSINKI</b>				
BT 301	RIX	HEL	1234567	09:30 10:35	BT 326	HEL	RIX	1234567	06:00 06:55
BT 303	RIX	HEL	1234567	14:00 15:05	BT 302	HEL	RIX	1234567	11:05 12:05
BT 307	RIX	HEL	1234567	19:00 20:05	BT 304	HEL	RIX	1234567	15:35 16:35
BT 325	RIX	HEL	1234567	23:35 00:35+1	BT 308	HEL	RIX	1234567	21:30 22:30
<b>KIEV Borispol</b>					<b>KIEV Borispol</b>				
BT 400	RIX	KBP	1234567	09:15 11:05	BT 401	KBP	RIX	1234567	11:35 13:30
BT 404	RIX	KBP	1234567	18:40 20:30	BT 405	KBP	RIX	1234567	21:00 22:55
<b>LARNACA</b>					<b>LARNACA</b>				
BT 657	RIX	LCA	-2---6-	23:55 03:45+1	BT 658	LCA	RIX	--3---7	04:30 08:30
<b>LONDON Gatwick</b>					<b>LONDON Gatwick</b>				
BT 651	RIX	LGW	12-456-	08:35 09:25	BT 652	LGW	RIX	12-456-	10:10 14:55
BT 653	RIX	LGW	-----45--	16:00 16:50	BT 654	LGW	RIX	-----45--	17:35 22:20
BT 653	RIX	LGW	1-3---7	16:30 17:20	BT 654	LGW	RIX	1-3---7	18:10 22:55
<b>MALTA</b>					<b>MALTA</b>				
BT 739	RIX	MLA	-----7	23:30 02:10+1	BT 740	MLA	RIX	1-----	02:50 07:30
<b>MILAN Malpensa</b>					<b>MILAN Malpensa</b>				
BT 629	RIX	MXP	-----5--	09:20 11:05	BT 630	MXP	RIX	-----5--	11:45 15:25
BT 629	RIX	MXP	1-3---7	17:00 18:45	BT 630	MXP	RIX	1-3---7	19:25 23:05

Flights from Riga					Flights to Riga				
Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure Arrival	Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure Arrival
<b>MINSK</b>					<b>MINSK</b>				
BT 412	RIX	MSQ	1-3---7	13:55 15:05	BT 413	MSQ	RIX	1-3---7	15:45 16:55
<b>MOSCOW Sheremetyevo</b>					<b>MOSCOW Sheremetyevo</b>				
BT 424	RIX	SVO	1234567	07:55 09:35	BT 425	SVO	RIX	1234567	10:25 12:10
BT 422	RIX	SVO	1234567	18:45 20:25	BT 423	SVO	RIX	1234567	21:10 22:55
<b>MOSCOW Vnukovo</b>					<b>MOSCOW Vnukovo</b>				
BT 416	RIX	VKO	1-345-7	23:55 01:40+1	BT 417	VKO	RIX	12-456-	04:45 06:40
<b>MUNICH</b>					<b>MUNICH</b>				
BT 221	RIX	MUC	123456-	07:20 09:00	BT 222	MUC	RIX	123456-	09:35 13:05
BT 223	RIX	MUC	1-345-7	17:20 19:00	BT 224	MUC	RIX	1-345-7	19:35 23:05
<b>NICE</b>					<b>NICE</b>				
BT 695	RIX	NCE	--3----	09:40 11:45	BT 696	NCE	RIX	--3----	12:20 16:20
BT 695	RIX	NCE	-2-4-6-	16:30 18:35	BT 696	NCE	RIX	-2-4-6-	19:10 23:10
<b>OSLO</b>					<b>OSLO</b>				
BT 151	RIX	OSL	1234567	08:05 09:00	BT 158	OSL	RIX	--34---7 April 01-09	05:50 08:40
BT 159	RIX	OSL	12345-7	13:55 14:50	BT 152	OSL	RIX	1234567	09:25 12:15
BT 153	RIX	OSL	1234567	18:35 19:30	BT 160	OSL	RIX	12345-7	15:20 18:10
BT 157	RIX	OSL	-23--6- April 01-08	23:45 00:40+1	BT 154	OSL	RIX	1234567	20:00 22:50
<b>PALANGA</b>					<b>PALANGA</b>				
BT 033	RIX	PLQ	123-5-7	23:45 00:30+1	BT 032	PLQ	RIX	1234-6-	06:05 06:50
<b>PARIS Charles de Gaulles</b>					<b>PARIS Charles de Gaulles</b>				
BT 691	RIX	CDG	1234567	07:30 09:25	BT 692	CDG	RIX	1234567	10:10 13:55
BT 693	RIX	CDG	12345-7	16:30 18:25	BT 694	CDG	RIX	12345-7	19:20 23:05
<b>PARIS flights from TALLINN</b>					<b>PARIS flights to TALLINN</b>				
BT 689	TLL	CDG	1234567	09:35 11:35	BT 690	CDG	TLL	1234567	12:30 16:25
<b>PRAGUE</b>					<b>PRAGUE</b>				
BT 481	RIX	PRG	12-4567	13:15 14:25	BT 482	PRG	RIX	12-4567	14:55 18:00
BT 481	RIX	PRG	--3---- April 29	13:15 14:25	BT 482	PRG	RIX	--3---- April 29	14:55 18:00
<b>ROME Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino</b>					<b>ROME Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino</b>				
BT 631	RIX	FCO	--3-5-7	09:20 11:25	BT 632	FCO	RIX	--3-5-7	12:10 16:20
BT 633	RIX	FCO	1-4---	15:50 17:55	BT 634	FCO	RIX	1-4---	18:50 23:00
<b>STAVANGER</b>					<b>STAVANGER</b>				
BT 177	RIX	SVG	---4--7	23:35 00:55+1	BT 178	SVG	RIX	1---5--	05:25 08:40
<b>STOCKHOLM Arlanda</b>					<b>STOCKHOLM Arlanda</b>				
BT 101	RIX	ARN	1234567	07:50 08:05	BT 104	ARN	RIX	12345--	06:20 08:35
BT 105	RIX	ARN	1234567	14:15 14:30	BT 102	ARN	RIX	1234567	08:40 10:55
BT 109	RIX	ARN	1234567	19:00 19:15	BT 106	ARN	RIX	1234567	15:00 17:15
BT 103	RIX	ARN	1234--7	23:35 23:50	BT 110	ARN	RIX	1234567	19:50 22:05
<b>ST-PETERSBURG</b>					<b>ST-PETERSBURG</b>				
BT 442	RIX	LED	1234567	09:20 10:40	BT 447	LED	RIX	123456-	05:20 06:40
BT 444	RIX	LED	1234567	19:00 20:20	BT 443	LED	RIX	1234567	11:15 12:35
BT 446	RIX	LED	12345-7	23:55 01:15+1	BT 445	LED	RIX	1234567	21:20 22:40
<b>TALLINN</b>					<b>TALLINN</b>				
BT 319	RIX	TLL	1234567	07:20 08:10	BT 362	TLL	RIX	1234567	06:00 06:50
BT 311	RIX	TLL	1234567	09:30 10:20	BT 312	TLL	RIX	1234567	11:10 12:00
BT 313	RIX	TLL	1234567	13:55 14:45	BT 314	TLL	RIX	1234567	15:15 16:05
BT 317	RIX	TLL	1234567	19:05 19:55	BT 320	TLL	RIX	1234567	16:55 17:45
BT 361	RIX	TLL	1234567	23:35 00:25+1	BT 318	TLL	RIX	1234567	21:40 22:30
<b>TBILISI</b>					<b>TBILISI</b>				
BT 722	RIX	TBS	--3-5-7	23:25 03:55+1	BT 725	TBS	RIX	1-4-6-	04:40 07:15
<b>TEL AVIV</b>					<b>TEL AVIV</b>				
BT 771	RIX	TLV	--3-6-	13:00 17:20	BT 772	TLV	RIX	--3--7	18:20 22:50
<b>VIENNA</b>					<b>VIENNA</b>				
BT 431	RIX	VIE	123456-	07:20 08:45	BT 432	VIE	RIX	123456-	09:25 12:45
BT 433	RIX	VIE	12345-7	17:40 19:05	BT 434	VIE	RIX	12345-7	19:50 23:10
<b>VILNIUS</b>					<b>VILNIUS</b>				
BT 351	RIX	VNO	1234567	07:20 08:10	BT 350	VNO	RIX	1234567	06:00 06:50
BT 341	RIX	VNO	1234567	09:30 10:20	BT 342	VNO	RIX	1234567	11:10 12:00
BT 343	RIX	VNO	1234567	13:55 14:45	BT 344	VNO	RIX	1234567	15:15 16:05
BT 347	RIX	VNO	1234567	19:05 19:55	BT 352	VNO	RIX	1234567	16:55 17:45
BT 349	RIX	VNO	1234567	23:35 00:25+1	BT 348	VNO	RIX	1234567	21:40 22:30
<b>WARSAW</b>					<b>WARSAW</b>				
BT 461	RIX	WAW	123456-	07:50 08:20	BT 462	WAW	RIX	123456-	09:20 11:45
BT 467	RIX	WAW	-2-4-5-7	19:05 19:35	BT 468	WAW	RIX	-2-4-5-7	20:05 22:30
<b>ZURICH</b>					<b>ZURICH</b>				
BT 641	RIX	ZRH	12-4-6-	07:40 09:10	BT 642	ZRH	RIX	12-4-6-	



Country/City Ticket offices	Service points
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Vienna AVIAREPS Untere Donaustrasse 11/3. OG 1020 Vienna	Vienna International Airport Celebi Ground services
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	
Baku Improtex Travel 16. S. Vurgun Str. Baku AZ1000, Azarbaijan ☎ +994 124989239 info@improtex-travel.com booking@improtex-travel.com	Heydar Aliyev International airport Silk way airlines Terminal 1 ☎ +994777008700 ☎ +994777008701
<b>BELARUS</b>	
Minsk	Minsk International Airport Transavia ☎ +375 17 279 1505
<b>BELGIUM</b>	
Brussels TAL Aviation 35 rue du Congres, 1000 Bruxelles ☎ +32 (0) 2 227 1117 airbaltic-belgium@tal-aviation.be	Airport Zaventem Departure Hall Aviapartner ☎ +32 (0) 27230667
<b>CROATIA</b>	
Rijeka	Rijeka Airport Zračna Luka Rijeka ☎ +385 51 841 222
<b>CYPRUS</b>	
Larnaca	Larnaca International Airport LGS Service desk
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	
Prague Discover the World ppik. Sochora 30/724, 170 00 Praha 7 ☎ +420 233 931 681 airBaltic-czsk@discovertheworld.biz	Vaclav Havel Prague Airport Terminal T2 CEAS ☎ +420 220117540
<b>DENMARK</b>	
Billund TAL Aviation Nordics AB ☎ +46-8-590 000 90 airbaltic-nordic@talaviation.se	Billund Airport Departure Hall Billund Airport handling F: +45 75338410
<b>ESTONIA</b>	
Tallinn ☎ 17107 (0.51 EUR/min, local calls only) tallinn@airbaltic.com	Airport Tallinn Main Terminal, Departure Hall airBaltic /Tallinn Airport GH
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Helsinki TAL Aviation Insinoorinkatu 7 B, 00880 Helsinki ☎ +35 8 (0) 968778912 airbaltic-nordic@talaviation.se (airBaltic RESERVATIONS ☎ 0600411015 0.64 EUR/min, Mon-Fri 09:00-18:00)	Helsinki Handling NewCo Oy Servisair Service point
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Tbilisi airBaltic ticket office 61 Palashvili str. 0179 Tbilisi ☎ +995 32 2 900900 airbalticgsa@discovery.ge	Airport Tbilisi Discovery Ltd ☎ +995 32 2 900900
<b>GERMANY</b>	
Berlin	Airport Berlin Tegel Main Terminal AHS Opposite gate 4/5
Dusseldorf	Airport Dusseldorf Terminal B HAVAS Germany GmbH ☎ +49 211 421 6271

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Hamburg	Airport Fuhlsbuttel Terminal 1, Departure Hall Havas Germany GmbH
Munich	Airport Munich Terminal 1 Havas Germany GmbH
<b>GREECE</b>	
Athens TAL Aviation 7,Stadiou Str. (8 <sup>th</sup> floor) 105 62 Athens-Greece ☎ +30 210 9341500 F: +30 210 9341620 airbaltic@tal-aviation.gr	Athens International Airport Goldair Handling
<b>HUNGARY</b>	
Budapest Tensi Aviation Kft. Kornjadi Bela utca 1 ☎ +36 1 3451526 F: +36 1 9991466 aviation@tensi.hu	Budapest Airport Celebi Ground handling company
<b>ISRAEL</b>	
Tel Aviv Caspi Aviation Ltd 1 Ben Yehuda st. Tel-Aviv 63801 ☎ +972 3 5100213 /4 F: +972 (3) 5108365 bt@caspi-aviation.co.il	Ben-Gurion International Airport Laufer Aviation GHI Level 3, Terminal 3 ☎ +972 39754076
<b>ITALY</b>	
Rome TAL Aviation Italy Via Adolfo Rava, 106, 00142, Rome ☎ +39 0654242544 F: +390654242534 airbaltic@talaviation.it	Leonardo de Vinci – Fiumicino Airport Terminal 3, Departure Hall A.R.E. Airline Representative Europe
Bari	Bari Airport Bari Palese
Milan	Milan Malpensa Airport Terminal 1, Departure Level A.R.E. Airline Representative Europe
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<b>MALTA</b>	
Malta	Malta Airport Air Malta ☎ +356 22999620 mia.airmalta@airmalta.com
<b>MOLDOVA</b>	
Chisinau	Chisinau International Airport Air Service ☎/F: +373 22 52 55 06 ☎ +373 22 54 93 39
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<b>POLAND</b>	
Warsaw INTAIR 69 Koszykowa str. apt 5 (2 <sup>nd</sup> floor) ☎ 0048/22 559 39 32 F: 0048/22 559 39 38 airbaltic@intair.pl	Warsaw Airport BGS Service point

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St. Petersburg	Airport Pulkovo Terminal 2 LTD North-West Transport Agency
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