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AUGUST 2013

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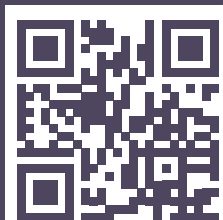
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Many of you who are travelling this month with *airBaltic* purchased your tickets already last winter to enjoy our lowest prices. Likewise, seasoned travellers are making arrangements already now to enjoy bargain rates for their winter getaways. To reward early planners, this month we will offer more value-for-money tickets to destinations in Europe, the Middle East, Russia and the CIS. We encourage you to visit our recently improved website to seek inspiration for your next trip, view our low-fare calendar, explore thousands of destinations around the globe that we offer in code-share partnerships with major carriers, and pick one that sparks you up for travel. While you await your travel date and enjoy the rest of summer and autumn, we are continuing to upgrade our service to give you the best experience as a valuable customer.

And, did you know that Latvian exports have increased by 20 percent over the past five years, being among the key drivers behind the country's current economic growth? Last month, *airBaltic* was recognized as one of the TOP exporting brands in the country. Thank you for flying *airBaltic*.

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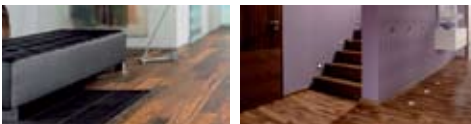
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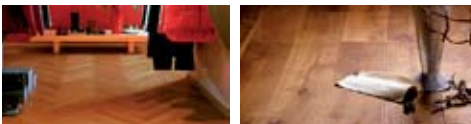


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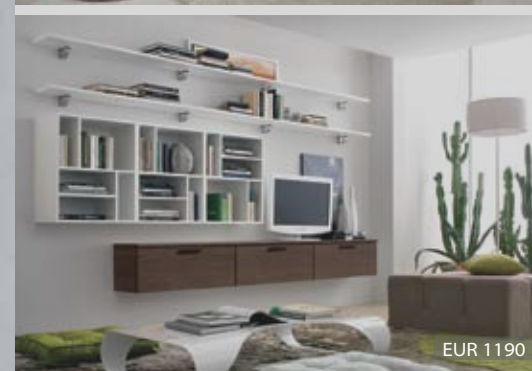
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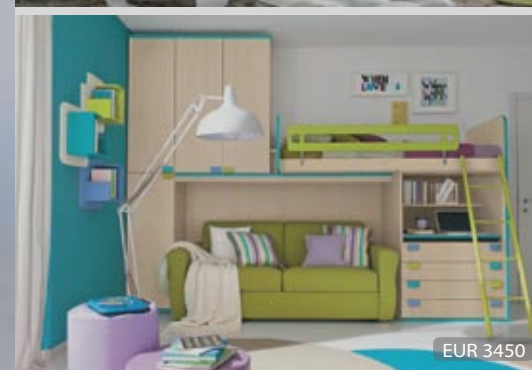
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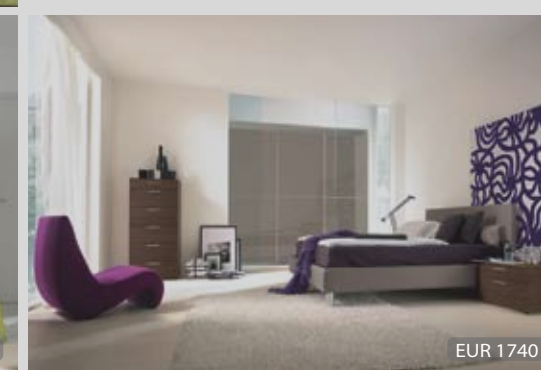
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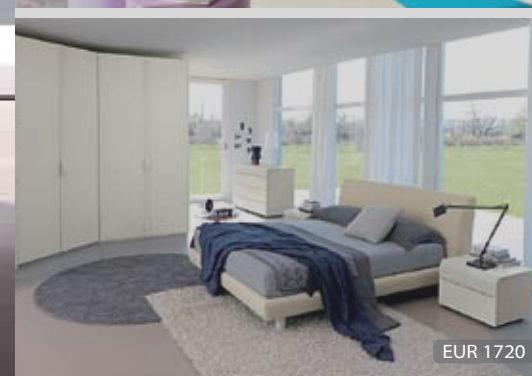
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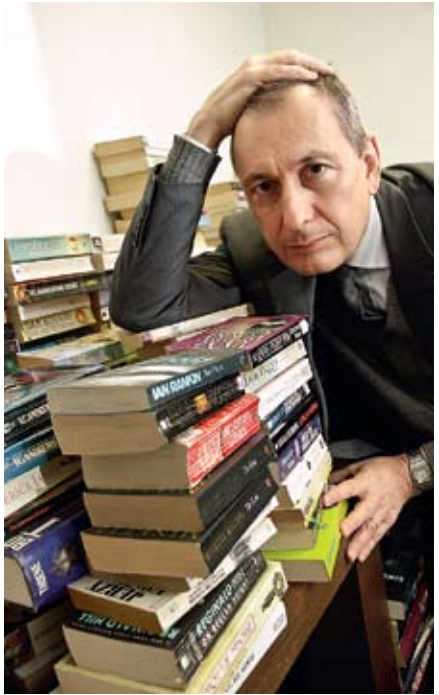
AUGUST

# Two sides of everything

You know what my problem is? I can't make up my mind. Then again, I'm not sure that's a problem. Maybe it's a good thing. But you see what I mean? I can't make up my mind.

In most jobs and walks of life, certainty is almost a requirement. If I get in a taxi, I want the taxi driver to know exactly where he's going. If I go to the doctor, I want to feel that the doctor knows what he's doing. With the taxi driver, that's a reasonable expectation, even if it's not always met. Over time, a driver can build up a mental map of the city that's just plain right. With the doctor, it's different. Unless my problem is something painfully obvious (not to say obviously painful) like a broken leg, he is going to be at best about 70 % sure of his diagnosis. But I want him to sound 100 % sure. I want him to be right.

In the absence of certainty, the appearance of certainty is the next best thing. The extreme case is that of the politician. A politician can never say: "I don't know". If that's not the first rule of politics (the first rule is: get elected) it has to be the second or third. If somebody asks a politician a question that he or she can't answer, the politician answers a different question, the one they wanted to be asked. I'd like to think, however, that we're



**UNCERTAINTY IS A LUXURY  
FOR PEOPLE WHO DON'T  
HAVE TO MAKE DECISIONS**

all human underneath, which is to say that we're all squirming bundles of uncertainty – just like I am. I can see two

sides to every question and agree with both of them, even when they're both wrong. As for decisions, don't come to me for one, unless the answer that you want is "possibly".

If I was trying to put a positive spin on it, I'd call myself "open-minded". But that sounds a bit old-fashioned these days, and dangerously close to "empty-headed". After all, if you've got room for lots of new ideas, what's filling your head right now?

I was lucky, with my sort of mind, to find a career in journalism, where standard operating procedure is to ask other people what they think and then write it down. Best of all, you find one person with a strongly-held view, another person with the opposite view, put them together in the name of balance, and you're done.

I do worry that we have a bit too much certainty in the world. I blame Google. It teaches us to assume that there must be a right answer to every question. Instantly. And if there isn't a right answer available, we just need more data, bigger data, to find it. But that's how the world works. Uncertainty is a luxury for people who don't have to make decisions. If you make decisions, you have to believe in them.

At least, I think that's the case. I'll give it some thought. **BO**

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During the summer, you'll find Londoners cooling off in the city's outdoor pools, otherwise known as "lidos"

**Calling** something an "oasis" is a terrible cliché. At the Brockwell Lido, though, the word is unavoidable. And not just because, on a sunny day in South London, this outdoor swimming pool provides a respite from city life. For anyone who's seen a nature documentary, there's something familiar about the way that very different characters gather around the water's edge.

There are kids and mums of all social classes, of course, but also hipsters with brightly coloured shades, pale elderly gentlemen in speedos who haven't missed their morning swim for years, teenagers who'll come here every day throughout the summer, and all of the subcultures, nationalities and ethnic groups that make this part of South London one of the most diverse places in the world.

The Londoners who love the "lidos" symbolise the more democratic side of their city. There's something unavoidably egalitarian about pools. Whether swimming

in the water or sunbathing around the edges, all people are equal at these communal spaces, where the city's class distinctions fade into oblivion.

The story of the lido begins in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, when bathing stopped being what you did once a year on your birthday, whether you were dirty or not, and suddenly became fashionable.

The original lido, a long sandbank in Venice, was one of the first resorts where bathing was cool.

This fashion was taken back to England, where the Victorians decided that, despite the unreliable weather, swimming was not just fun, but also good exercise and a morally upright practice. Any inappropriate thoughts that might be occasioned by the flash of an ankle beneath a woollen swimsuit would be dampened as soon as one's

skin came into contact with the cold waters of the English Channel.

During the 1930s, spirited social reformers began constructing outdoor

pools, soon to be known as lidos, throughout London and the rest of the country. Their popularity lasted through most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, by the 1980s, in response to budget cuts, these pools had started to disappear in alarming numbers. Indeed, the Brockwell Lido was closed between 1990 and 1994, until a local campaign brought it back to life.

Now London's remaining outdoor pools are fiercely defended by their local communities. Each one has its own distinct identity. In posh Hampstead in North London, for example, locals swim in ponds alongside the ducks. At the Serpentine in central London's Hyde Park, a hardy band of club members swim all year round, despite the fact that, like most lidos, it's unheated. There's even an annual race every year on Christmas Day.

Meanwhile, the Brockwell Lido has learned to adapt to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It boasts an award-winning café, a gym, and this summer, it's showing films once a month starting from July 24. Fans of nature films will be pleased to hear that, appropriately, the first showing is of Steven Spielberg's classic tale of marine fauna: *Jaws*. **BO**

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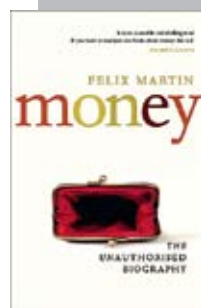
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## SPOTLIGHT ON THE SUMMER

### Five things that you should do in Latvia in August

- Observe the Perseid meteor shower on the nights of August 10-13
- Catch crayfish in a pristine river or lake
- Listen to grasshoppers chirping in the meadows during the evening hours
- Attend a traditional summer cemetery festival, during which Latvians gather to remember their deceased ancestors
- Go on a boating trip along the Gauja or Salaca rivers

## READING LIST



### Felix Martin, *Money: The Unauthorised Biography* (15 EUR, [www.randomhouse.co.uk](http://www.randomhouse.co.uk))

Arguing that our conventional understandings of what money is and what it means are flawed, Martin draws on numerous historical case studies to explain the nitty-gritty of how money actually functions today.

### Jaron Lanier, *Who Owns the Future?* (28.70 EUR, [www.penguin.com](http://www.penguin.com))

Written by the philosopher, computer scientist and techno-critic

who coined the term 'virtual reality', this revolutionary book walks readers through some of the darker sides of the digital revolution.

### Another Travel Guide Rīga. Fourth revised edition (17 EUR, [www.anothertravelguide.com](http://www.anothertravelguide.com))

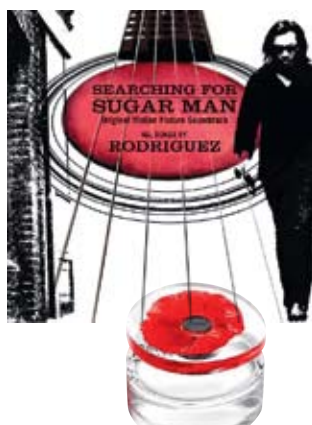
Another Travel Guide Rīga is the key to Latvia's capital. It presents a true insider's Rīga as experienced by artists, architects, entrepreneurs, journalists, photographers and other impromptu tour guides who love their city and will happily share its secrets with you.



## THE TREND:

### Design

The refined but functional DECO bowls from the latest of collection of the Latvian design company *an&angel* have come out just in time for the first plums and apples of the summer harvest. **Price from 96 - 139 EUR.** | [www.angel.lv](http://www.angel.lv)



### Music

American folk musician Rodriguez, also known as Sugar Man, has captivated many with his soulful music and with the unusual story of his return to the stage. He is touring Europe in August. [www.rodriguez-music.com](http://www.rodriguez-music.com)

### Beauty

The legendary *Flower* perfume by Kenzo is coming out in a new version this month: *Flower in the Air*. Its top notes of raspberry and pink pepper are set on a heart of rose, magnolia and gardenia. [www.kenzoparfums.com](http://www.kenzoparfums.com)



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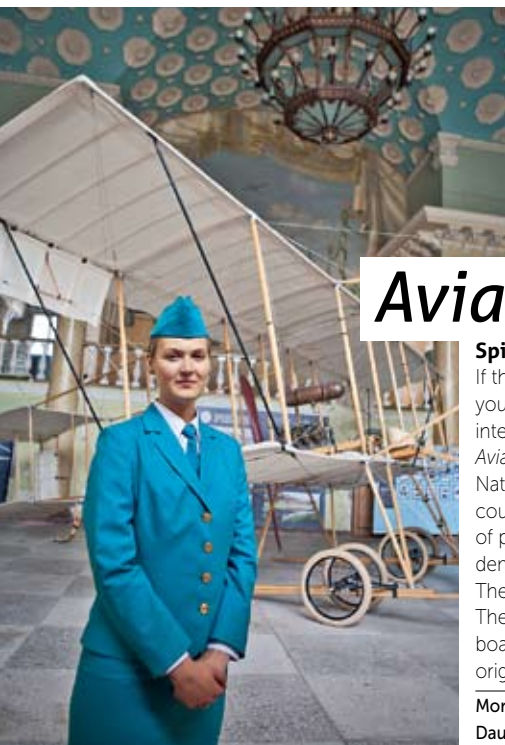
Every evening, the onset of darkness marks the start of a new movie showing at *Kinopagalms*. Along with art house films, the courtyard of Blaumaņa iela 20 in downtown Rīga provides a charming venue for cinema classics, cult and freak films, humour and fresh releases. The pleasant settings also house a lovely café. **Ticket prices from 5 – 7 EUR.** Programme: [www.kinopagalms.lv](http://www.kinopagalms.lv).



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## Aviation Festival

**Spilve Airport, Riga / August 18**

If there's one event at the Riga Festival that you definitely shouldn't miss and that will be interesting for people of all ages, then it's the *Aviation Festival*. Visitors will be able to see National Armed Forces helicopters and cross-country vehicles up close, examine a variety of planes and see top-class acrobatic pilots demonstrating their flying skills.

The venue of the festival is noteworthy in itself. The Spilve Airport is the oldest airport in Riga, boasting a terminal building that has retained its original architecture and magnificent design.

More information at [www.rigassvetki.lv](http://www.rigassvetki.lv)  
Daugavgrīvas iela 140

# AUGUST 2013

*Ilmārs Blumbergs, Esnemiršu (I won't die) solo exhibition*

**Arsenāls Exhibition Hall, Riga  
August 16 – October 6**

Ilmārs Blumbergs is conceptually one of the most imposing and most recognized artists in Latvia. In recent years he has surprised the public with his magnificent stage designs for performances at the Latvian National Opera. He also works in graphics, painting and sculpture, has created the design of books and coins, set up art installations and experimented



in photography and cinema. The artist has received numerous awards and gained international recognition in all fields of his creative work. The *Esnemiršu* exhibition is autobiographical. It is full of painted self-portraits depicting him in various situations: together with his grandfather who was a cobbler, in Siberia with his mother, visiting his condemned father. Blumbergs doesn't just stop at the obvious. In other series of paintings at the exhibition, he looks at himself and his era with a cosmic breadth and philosophical curiosity. "In the end, you remain alone," he concludes.

More information at [www.lnmm.lv](http://www.lnmm.lv) and [www.blumbergs.lv](http://www.blumbergs.lv)  
Torņa iela 1



**Concert by  
Inese Galante**

**Dzintari Concert Hall, Jūmala  
August 15**

For the ninth year in a row, world famous soprano Inese Galante is returning to her native Latvia at the height of the summer, bringing joy to listeners at the large open-air concert hall on Jūmala's seacoast. The evening of August 15 will be dedicated to popular classical music works that Galante will sing together with virile tenor Ingus Pētersons and world famous contratenor Sergejs Jēgers.

This won't be the only concert taking place as part of Inese Galante's Summertime Festival. Each evening from August 12 to 18, the Dzintari Concert Hall will resound with high-quality classical, jazz and Latino music performed by such stars as Aleksandrs Antoņenko, Egils Siliņš and Plácido Domingo Junior.

More information at [www.festivalsummertime.com](http://www.festivalsummertime.com)  
Tickets at [www.bilesuparadize.lv](http://www.bilesuparadize.lv)  
Turaidas iela 1

**Exhibition From War to Peace. Fashion of the 1940s – 1950s**

**Museum of Decorative Arts and Design, Riga  
Until September 29**

For the fifth time, world famous fashion historian and collector Alexandre Vassiliev is offering the people of Riga the opportunity to view an impressive collection of original costumes. This time, the Paris-based fashion expert has created an exhibition devoted to 1940s and 1950s fashion. Clothing items by fashion houses that were able to survive the occupation period – including *Lanvin*, *Nina Ricci*, *Balenciaga* and *Schiaparelli* – are on show at the exhibition.

More information at [www.lnmm.lv](http://www.lnmm.lv)  
Skārņu iela 10/20



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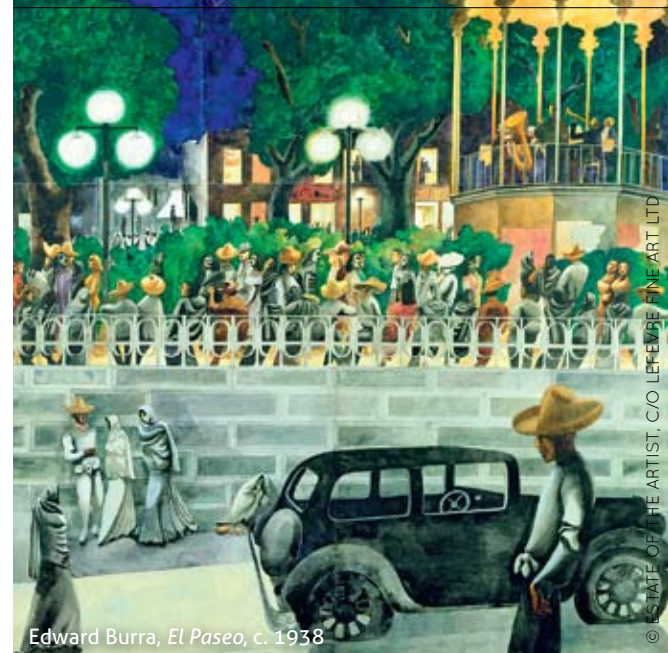
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Edward Burra, *El Paseo*, c. 1938

## London

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### Mexico: A Revolution in Art, 1910-1940

Royal Academy of Art / Until September 29

The exhibition at the Royal Academy of Art reflects a 30-year long and significant period in Mexico's cultural landscape, featuring both locally and internationally known artists.

The Mexican Revolution began in 1910 and lasted an entire decade, causing tremendous turbulence that pushed art to the centre of attention. Art became a public tribune for propagating the ideas of the revolution. Muralism became the most striking phenomenon in the cultural landscape of the post-revolutionary period. It represented the focal point of activity for such legendary artists as Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco and David Alfaro Siqueiros, who created large-format wall paintings with social and political themes. These murals decorated the façades of many significant buildings and made free art widely accessible to the nation.

The exhibition also contains works by Frenchman Henri Cartier-Bresson, whose passion for photography grew during his stay in Mexico. He spent a whole year there after the opening of a solo exhibition in 1934.

Burlington House, Piccadilly

[www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk)

## Berlin

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from **€99\*** ROUND  
TRIP

### Musikfest Berlin

August 30 – September 18

This festival is one of Berlin's most cherished cultural traditions, featuring a wide array of outstanding singers, conductors and orchestras. For nearly three weeks, the works of 25 composers will be performed at Berlin's great concert halls, including the Philharmonic and *Konzerthaus am Gendarmenmarkt*, as well as at other venues. This year's programme emphasises

Eastern European modernism, celebrating Polish composer Witold Lutoslawski's centenary, and highlighting the work of Czech composer Leoš Janáček and Hungarian composer Béla Bartók. One of the festival's most commanding musical experiences will be the Berlin Philharmonic's interpretation of Lutoslawski's *2nd Symphony* and Leoš Janáček's *Glagolitic Mass*, under the artistic direction of Sir Simon Rattle.

Programme: [www.musikfest-berlin.de](http://www.musikfest-berlin.de)



Still from *Gravity*, 2007

© NEZAKET EKICI

## Vienna

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### Faceless part 1 freiraum quartier21 INTERNATIONAL / Until September 1

The *Faceless part 1* exhibition, which can currently be viewed at the Vienna museum quarter, is ironic, explorative and at the same time a quite awful story about a new 21<sup>st</sup>-century malaise – the addiction to exhibitionism, which is briskly stimulated every day by the media and social networks. The name of the exhibition – *Faceless* – also serves as an ironic paraphrasing of *Facebook* or "face book," which makes us all easy to locate and identify; not just our faces, but also our desires, delicately masked passions and weaknesses.

According to the exhibition's curator

and artist Bogomir Doring: "Our unstable identity longs for the return of the mask. Just like in the past, we are attracted by the carrying of masks as a form of defence or camouflage, as an escape or simply for fun."

The works of German artist Thorsten Brinkmann, in which he always portrays himself without a face in his self-portraits, can also be seen in the exhibition. A particular branch of avant-garde fashion (*Maison Martin Margiela*, *UNDERCOVER*, *Bernhard Willhelm* and others), which often uses the mask as away of eliminating a model's individuality in designer collections, is also represented.

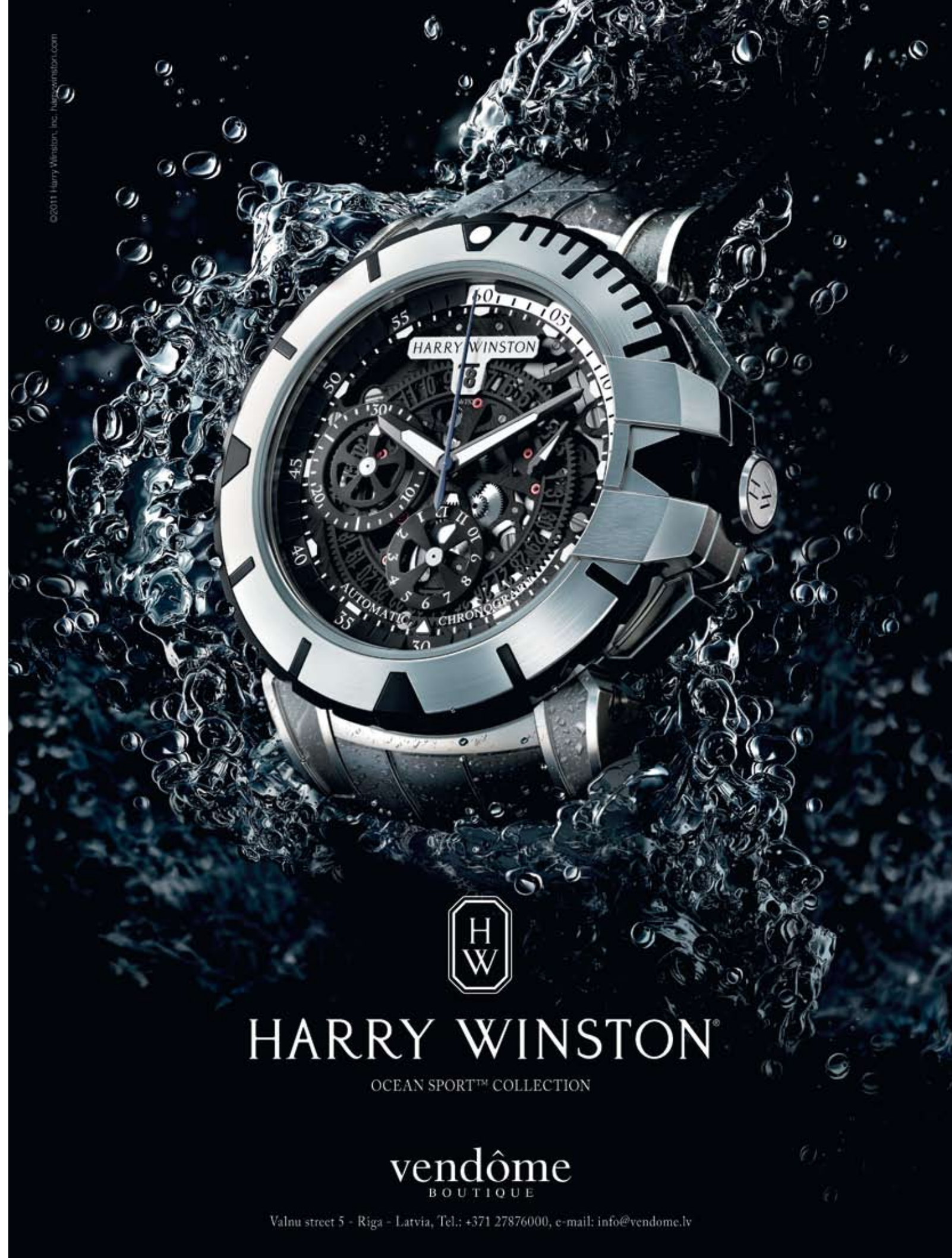
Museums Quartier Wien

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Anna Sophie Mutter

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# Munich

**Lenbachhaus reopens after extensive reconstruction**

Munich's legendary Lenbachhaus has reopened its doors this summer, after four years of reconstruction work. The Tuscan-style villa built at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century for painter Franz von Lenbach and was transformed into a museum in 1929, when the city purchased the building from the artist's widow. The pride of the museum is an extensive collection of works by the German Expressionist *Blaue Reiter* group, which was active in Munich before the First World War. Here one can view paintings from this period by Wassily Kandinsky, Franz Marc, Gabriele Münter, Paul Klee, August Macke and other artists. Names like Joseph Beuys, Anselm

Kiefer, Christian Boltanski, Ellsworth Kelly, Gerhard Richter, Andy Warhol and others are represented in the museum's contemporary art collection. Sir Norman Foster was the author of the reconstruction project, which involved the restoration of the historical museum building and the construction of a brand new annex, whose façade of gilded copper and aluminium pipes contrasts sharply with the ochre yellow of the historical villa. The museum's impressive atrium forms its architectonic centrepiece, decorated with Olafur Eliasson's installation *Whirlwind*.

Luisenstraße 33  
80333 Munich  
www.lenbachhaus.de



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# Helsinki

**Helsinki Festival**  
August 16 – September 1

The Helsinki Festival programme traditionally offers theatre, dance, circus, classical music and jazz performances, combining the works of internationally known artists along with the newest compositions by local stars. For many years, the circus as a visual and multilayered storyteller has been a particularly powerful part of the programme. This time, one of the festival magnets is circus art megastar James Thiérée. In his surreal performances, Thiérée is simultaneously an acrobat,

comedian, poet and magician. He will be a guest at the festival with his performance of *Raoul*. This Helsinki Festival will place particular attention on American minimalist composer Philip Glass. The programme includes a retrospective of the composer's work, which will be performed by the *Philip Glass Ensemble* and the author himself. Philip Glass will also hold a piano concert and take part in the live performance of his music during a showing of the legendary 1982 film *Koyaanisqatsi* (Director: Godfrey Reggio).

Programme: [www.helsinginjuhlaviikot.fi](http://www.helsinginjuhlaviikot.fi)

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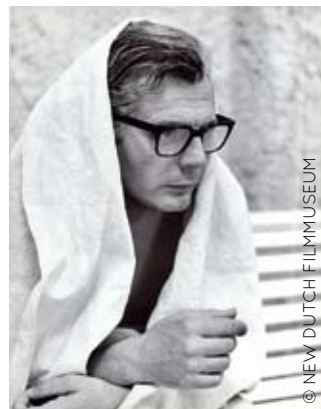
Amsterdam,  
the Netherlands

## Little Black Book

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This year, Amsterdam is celebrating a whole string of anniversaries. Four hundred years for the city's legendary canal network, 125 for the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, 175 for the Artis Royal Zoo and 90 for the NEMO Science Centre. Exactly 150 years have passed since the abolition of slavery, and 400 since the beginning of a trading relationship between Russia and Amsterdam. The range of anniversary and cultural events will be consistently colourful throughout the year. Here are just a few of them in August



© NEW DUTCH FILM MUSEUM

### ▲ Fellini at the Netherlands Film Institute

Futuristic and a little unearthly, the Netherlands' new Eye Film Institute (2012) is one of Amsterdam's brightest architectural gems of recent years. It has dedicated its space until September 29 to Italian cinema classic Federico Fellini, providing a unique exhibition and cross section relating to the creation of Fellini's work. Specific events, historical facts, anecdotes, biographical testimonies, strong characters, dreams and fantasies – Fellini's work-creation mechanism is no less fascinating than his films. The exhibition also features a retrospective of the Italian director's films.

Eye Film Institute | IJpromenade 1  
① [www.eyefilm.nl](http://www.eyefilm.nl)

### ▼ Van Gogh's double anniversary

This year marks the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Dutch genius Vincent van Gogh, and his museum in Amsterdam is celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as well. It boasts the world's largest collection of the artist's work. In May, the museum opened its doors after a reconstruction that took a number of months, celebrating the double anniversary with an exhibition *Van Gogh at Work* (until January 12). More than 200 of the artist's works and artefacts connected with his life are on show at the exhibition – paintings, drawings, sketch books, letters, even tubes of paint and the only surviving palette. During his lifetime, Van Gogh created more than 2,000 works, but allegedly sold only one.

Paulus Potterstraat 7  
① [www.vangoghmuseum.nl](http://www.vangoghmuseum.nl)



© MARTIJN VAN DEN DOBBELSTEEN



### ▲ Henry Moore at the Rijksmuseum Open-air Gallery

This spring, after extensive reconstruction, the Rijksmuseum has reopened its doors and commenced a grandiose five-year public sculpture project with an exhibition of twelve works by legendary 20<sup>th</sup>-century British sculptor Henry Moore. The sculptures' home is the museum's new open-air gallery – a 14,500-m<sup>2</sup> garden located opposite the museum's 19<sup>th</sup>-century façade. The exhibition can be viewed until September 29. Among other things, the Rijksmuseum is the first museum in the world to be open 365 days a year.

Museumstraat 1  
① [www.rijksmuseum.nl](http://www.rijksmuseum.nl)



### ◀ Summer sculpture trail

What city is more suited to enjoying art on a bicycle than Amsterdam? The sculpture trail created as part of the annual *ArtZuid* programme features 70 works by 61 artists from 20 countries. These will be on show at various places (including Minervalaan, Zuides, Vondelpark and Museumplein) until September 22. Among the artists represented are Ai Weiwei, Frank Stella and Richard Long. There are also four works by American sculptor John Chamberlain, one of which can be found at Museum Square, opposite the Rijksmuseum.

① [www.artzuid.nl](http://www.artzuid.nl)

### ◀ Grachtenfestival (Canal Festival)

The legendary Amsterdam Canal Festival (August 16–24) will be taking place for the 16<sup>th</sup> time, and bearing in mind the noteworthy canal network anniversary (400 years isn't just a trifle!), the festival programme will also be special. At the main or *Prinsengracht* concert (August 24), another anniversary celebrant – the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra – will be performing a specially prepared programme for this event. There will be 80 classical music and jazz concerts over the ten-day festival, with many non-traditional spots serving as stages – including canal pontoons, boats, museums, hotels, gardens and historic buildings, where the residents will provide their daily living spaces to the musicians.

① [www.grachtenfestival.nl](http://www.grachtenfestival.nl)



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# Five must-visit beaches in Kurzeme



Cape Kolka is a bird watcher's paradise

Latvia's sea coast is as diverse as the prices at a stock exchange and surprises you at every step, but the beaches along the Kurzeme region's open sea are especially surprising. There you can find desolated landscapes similar to those on the moon, as well as orchid meadows. Here are the most significant places to stop on your trek along Kurzeme's beaches

1 If you love a harsh sea, then you should definitely visit **Ziemupe**, which is located between Liepāja and Pāvilosta. There, alongside the strong sea currents (beginners are better off not swimming here!) and steep dunes you'll find one of the most impressive stands of junipers in Latvia. Plus, this is one of the few Latvian beaches where you can find flowering orchids. Of course you have to search carefully, just as you do for amber. However, if you do come across some orchids, then don't pick them, as orchids are a protected plant in Latvia.

2 You can continue your journey further to **Pāvilosta**, a paradise for Latvia's kite boarders and surfers. The largest number of sunny days in Latvia has been recorded at Pāvilosta, and nearly every street in the city leads to the sea. The harbour, the wind, the

untouched environment, the opportunity to go fishing and the elegant guest houses are what attract creative minds to Pāvilosta.

3 **Užava** is located north of Pāvilosta and boasts a wide, grey dune landscape similar to a pebble desert. It is so unusual that it surprises anyone who sees it for the first time, and makes you feel like you've landed on the moon. The pebble fields are many kilometres long and several hundred metres wide, providing a sanctuary for such environmental rarities as the sand pink flower (*dianthus arenarius*) and the small pasqueflower.

4 **Mīķeltornis** on the Livonian coast has the tallest lighthouse in the Baltics. It also boasts a high-class beach that is not fenced off by exclusive five-star hotels. The fine, white sand stretches out for miles along

a clean and quiet beachfront, providing an outstanding backdrop for meditation and contemplation. Hardly a surprise that Latvia's best-known meditation venue, *Elījas nams*, has been opened near Mīķeltornis.

5 The legendary **Kolkasrags** is the place where the open Baltic Sea (known in Latvian as the Great Sea) and the more sheltered Gulf of Riga (the Small Sea) meet. During storms, seven-metre-high waves can be seen there. That's one reason why countless ships and boats lie wrecked off the coastline, attracting numerous treasure hunters. However, the beach at Kolka isn't just a magnet for seekers of sunken treasure. It attracts those with romance in their hearts and provides the rare opportunity to view both the sunrise and the sunset at Kolkasrags. **BO**

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The pictures of this celebrated canoe might make you want reach out onto your bookshelf for a novel by Ernest Hemmingway. What better time to enjoy the sun, the sea, the rivers and the lakes than the late summer month of August?

The American company *Merrimack Canoes* started making canoes because its founder L. H. Beach did not like the sudden popularity of fiberglass hulls in the 1960s. He decided that combining age-old traditions with modern fiberglass is the best solution. Thus, he created a very thin fiberglass hull that was reinforced by wooden ribs. This original union of the traditional and the modern also gave birth to the company's slogan: *The fiberglass canoe that looks like a canoe.*

Later in the 1970s, the family-run business moved from Merrimack, New Hampshire to Tennessee. It continued to build canoes with artisan precision and with an intimate understanding of the shapes and materials needed to create a perfect canoe. The third generation of the company now uses modern composite materials, but still employs the original building techniques and abides by the founding philosophy behind the superior craftsmanship.

It is not hard to recreate iconic moments of classic Hollywood-style vacations by the water with *Merrimack* canoes, which are easy to handle and which have united classic design cues with modern technology. These water craft are reliable, light, sleek and versatile, making a journey with a *Merrimack* canoe that much more special.

The beauty of *Merrimack* canoes shines through each and every hand-crafted model – the mahogany coloured *Prospector*, the agile *Traveler* in a tone of *café au lait*, the adventurous *Baboosic* solo paddler, the popular *Tennesean* choice for two, the spacious *Souhegan* and, of course, the original *Merrimack* canoe named *Osprey*.

The freedom of natural waterways is best experienced with a partner as reliable as a *Merrimack* canoe. It takes courage to stand face to face with the water, and it took the Beach family immense courage and hard work to create a timeless product employing the latest technologies. **BO**

**www.merrimackcanoes.com**

# Off into the sunset



Юрмала, Латвия.

«The Home» – жемчужина элитного района Юрмалы. Настоящий архитектурный шедевр для истинных коллекционеров искусства и надежных инвестиций.



## Архитектура

В «The Home» ведущий латвийский архитектор Угис Заберс соединил три разных по архитектурному стилю здания, сложив их в единый ансамбль. Блистательное ар-деко с фасадной мозаикой, играющей на солнце всеми оттенками янтара. Классическая архитектура Юрмалы с кружевной резьбой. И современный стиль с его минимализмом, открытостью и прозрачностью. Деревянные детали фасада здания изготовлены из сибирской лиственницы, обработанной по немецкой технологии. Торжественное настроение создает главный вход в здание, украшенный уникальными резными деревянными дверьми ручной работы – настоящим произведением искусства.

## Расположение

15 минут до международного аэропорта Рига, 100 метров до пляжа, 500 метров до концертного зала «Дзинтари», 100 метров до Юрмальского парка.

## Дизайн интерьеров

Звезда латвийского дизайна Зане Тетере использует в отделке только природные материалы: камень, дерево, много стекла. В создании атмосферы в холле «The Home» первую скрипку играет дизайнерский камин. Модель Gala длиной 2,5 метра изготовлена специально для «The Home» голландской компанией «Vero design». 3D деревянные ореховые панели для интерьеров общественных холлов (впервые представленные на выставке Salone Milano в 2011 году). Пол и лестницы – мраморные плиты «White Snow».

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# Aiming for the Olympics

Positive, hard-working and goal-oriented - Kristaps Neretnieks (24) is the rising star of Latvian equestrian sport. While he currently ranks 78<sup>th</sup> in the world rankings of show jumping, he is determined to become one of the world's best riders.

Kristaps is continually on the move, training almost every day in either Russia, Germany or Latvia. On those days when he is not training, he is likely taking part in a championship. This month, for example, will find him competing in a different country each week. Due to his tight training and championship timetable, Kristaps spends a large part of his life in a lorry - a special wagon in which he lives and which also has room for six horses. Each horse is used for competitions only once or twice a month, because "they're like athletes who need time to recuperate, not cars that you can constantly thrash."

Kristaps speaks in the plural throughout the interview, asserting that he couldn't achieve anything in this sport by himself - he needs horses, as well as a team that

consists of an assistant and a veterinarian. Furthermore, equestrian sport, in terms of the price of horses, is considered to be among the most expensive in the world. One dressage Olympic champion, for example, was bought for 15 million EUR. That is why Kristaps feels lucky to have found sponsors, thanks to whom he can now ride with good horses in championships and show his mastery.

**GOOD HORSES JUMP WELL, BUT ONLY THE CRAZY ONES FLY**

Kristaps Neretnieks' main partner is the Russian stud farm *Westfalen-Swit*, which has provided the sportsman with two Grand Prix horses - ten-year-old *Conte Bellini* and eight-year-old *Caramsin*. The rider explains that a horse develops until the age of eight years, reaching a career high at 12 to 14 years of age. Therefore, he expects the achievements of both horses to increase with time.

Interestingly, there is no set limit on the age of a rider. One former Olympic silver medallist, Hugo Simon of Austria, is still competing to this very day at the age of 70. In order to achieve good results, both the horse and the rider have to be extremely

talented and be able to work as a pair. On some rare occasions, a rider and a horse may prove to be ill-matched and have to part company. To complicate things a bit, the more outstanding the horse, the more complex is its character. "Good horses jump well, but only the crazy ones fly," adds Kristaps.

Kristaps himself is quite stubborn and never gives up after experiencing difficulties. Last year, he decided that he had to reach the World Cup final, where only the 39 best riders in the world compete, and reached his goal, finishing in a respectable 21<sup>st</sup> place. Now Kristaps' next goal is to compete at the Olympic Games. Considering that he now has Olympic champion Susanne Behring as his coach in Germany, that goal may not be far off at all. **BO**

## Event

Latvian Warmblood horse show will take place at Mušķi in Latvia from August 31 to September 1. The Warmbloods are a locally grown breed known for their grace and strength. Further information at: [www.ljf.lv](http://www.ljf.lv)

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# A taste of the wild



Raimonds Zommers, head chef at the *Kalku vārti* restaurant in Old Riga



Marinated chanterelles with summer greens frame a chicken roulette with thyme and hazelnuts; pan-fried in bacon powder and beautifully prepared by Raimonds Zommers. Further delicate accents of taste come from the cream, which has been prepared with basil juice and new goat's cheese. By the word new, Raimonds really means *new*. It takes just four of five days from the milking of the goat on the farm to the arrival of the fresh cheese at the restaurant

August is a time when chanterelles grow in forests throughout the Baltics, spurring the locals into yet another annual foraging frenzy

Chanterelles are one of the summer flavours that chef Raimonds Zommers remembers from his childhood. At that time, he was more interested in mushrooms as a way of earning money than in their culinary attributes.

"If you were familiar with the local forests and weren't afraid of getting lost, then picking chanterelles was a good way for a lad to earn some pocket money during the summer. Maybe not quite enough for a new bike, but enough to buy your mates some ice-cream," says Raimonds, who comes from Kurzeme in western Latvia, where there are many great mushrooming spots.

The chanterelle is one of the most photogenic forest mushrooms. Raimonds loves them fresh as well, but cooks them for his customers. "The main principle, as

in all cooking, is don't overdo it! During the winter you can eat them in a preserved form, but with fresh chanterelles, a few seconds in the pan is enough". Looking through his notes for a moment, the chef finds a quick and simple marinade: olive oil, lemon juice and salt, into which you place uncooked chanterelles torn lengthwise along their grain, along with fresh onions. After two or three hours, they'll be ready to become the main ingredient in a salad or to be eaten with a lamb skewer.

Even if they're placed in a pie, chanterelles don't require extensive cooking. You can sprinkle them with salt and pepper and cover them with dough. It's enough to heat them for a mere 15 minutes in a stove at 180 degrees Celsius. You can then decorate the pie with bits of camembert cheese and placed it in the stove for a few more minutes, until the cheese begins to melt.

Berry- and mushroom-picking are exotic activities in the Western world, but for Latvians and other Northern Europeans, this type of foraging continues to be practiced on a very wide scale. "I just returned from a cooking competition in Germany, a large

event with competitors from 34 countries. Once again, the event reminded me that Latvia has not yet become so urbanised as to make foraging seem something special or fashionable. Those who can't make it to the forest simply buy their chanterelles at the market from someone who can. We are a step ahead of other European countries through the fact that we never really forgot about harvesting the bounty of the woods. It comes naturally to us," Raimonds explains.

The chanterelle season, which can extend until October under favourable autumn conditions, can be also be enjoyed at *Kalku vārti* in Old Riga. The restaurant has had a good relationship for years with suppliers at the Riga Central Market, one of the largest city markets in Europe. During good harvest months, the wild delicacies also arrive in the *Kalku vārti* kitchen from the woods near the country houses of the restaurant's own cooking team.

"Chanterelles should be eaten as fresh as possible. Then they're also good for the mind," says the chef, who loves to eat them along with other mushrooms from the Baltics in a very simple way – fresh, cut upon bread and sprinkled with salt. **BO**

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# Art and cinema in Venice

TEXT BY UNA MEISTERE AND AGNESE CIVLE,  
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It is often said that one only needs a reason to return to Venice, and right now there are plenty of reasons to do so. The 70<sup>th</sup> International Venice Film Festival begins on August 28 and will last the usual ten days, until September 7. The event traditionally marks the beginning of the European film season, and since 1932 it has taken place on Lido Island, which divides the Venice Lagoon from the Adriatic Sea. Venice does not lack red carpets or stars, but unlike its counterpart in Cannes, the Venice Film Festival is open to the public, just like the Berlin Film Festival. This means that everybody – not only professionals in the business – can buy tickets. As the festival audiences like to say with irony, the beach in Venice is also better than the one in Cannes.

This year's Venice festival will open with the film *Gravity* by Mexican director Alfonso Cuarón. Sandra Bullock and George Clooney star in the 3D science fiction thriller that realises, among other things, the director's childhood dream of becoming an astronaut. Bullock plays a medical engineer on her first mission to space; she travels together with veteran astronaut Matt Kowalsky, played by Clooney. In typical thriller fashion, their space ship is destroyed and both characters are left alone in space.

The chairman of this year's festival jury for the main prize will be the legendary Italian director Bernardo Bertolucci. The jury for the second-most coveted prize – awarded in the *Orizzonti* (Horizons Sidebar) section and focusing on new directors and new languages of film – will be led by American film director Paul Schrader. Schrader's newest film, *The Canyons*, will also be screened at the festival outside of competition. An erotic noir-style thriller, *Canyons* features actress and singer Lindsay Lohan, producer and director Gus Van Sant, and porn star James Deen. The script was written by Bret Easton Ellis, who also portrayed the neurosis of 1980s Wall Street and consumer culture in the novel and later the film *American Psycho* (2000).





It is easy to forget oneself in Venice – to let go, get lost in another era and immerse yourself in new sensations



Not Vital's installation *700 Snowballs* at the Abbazia di San Giorgio; a work of art that just blows your mind away...



*Lost in Translation.*  
A large-scale exhibition of contemporary Russian art at the Università Ca' Foscari



For the first time ever, the Palazzo Grassi has devoted its entire space to the work of one person, the American conceptual artist Rudolf Stingel

The exhibition resembles Venice itself; first of all with its completely disorienting labyrinths, and secondly with the absolute saturation of colour and texture in each centimetre

The city as a huge exhibition

August and September are also a good time to enjoy the 55<sup>th</sup> Venice Art Biennale, the year's largest art event. Crowds die down by the end of the summer, allowing art aficionados to enjoy the exhibitions at a leisurely pace. However, even though the Biennale officially runs until November 24, some of the exhibitions close already at the end of September. Most of these are the so-called satellite events (*eventi collaterali*) in the parallel programme of the Biennale. However, these venues provide no less of an experience than the traditional Biennale epicentres of *Giardini* and *Arsenale*, where the national pavilions are located, along with an exhibition curated by art critic Massimiliano Gioni, the main curator for this year's Biennale.

Venice becomes one big exhibition during the Biennale, with art taking over the city's ornate palazzos, museums, hotels and even

churches, thereby giving visitors the chance to not only enjoy art, but also the whole city itself from a completely different viewpoint. A special *Vaporetto dell'Arte* on the Grand Canal even takes art lovers from one exhibition to the next. True, a 12-hour ticket on this unique water bus costs ten euros more than it does on the regular *vaporetto*, but the *Vaporetto dell'Arte* travels faster and is more comfortable.

The list of exhibitions for this year's Biennale is quite diverse, including such names as the king of American pop art Roy Lichtenstein, Chinese dissident artist Ai Weiwei and British sculptors Sir Anthony Caro and Marc Quinn. The latter's gigantic installation *Breath* (2012) on San Giorgio Maggiore Island across from the Piazza San Marco can be seen from nearly everywhere and is one of the most photographed objects at the Biennale. It took the place of the scandalous snow-white sculpture *Boy With Frog* by Charles Ray, which was commissioned by François Pinault, the head of the luxury company PPR and France's most influential art collector, and which had stood by the *Punta della Dogana* contemporary art space established by Pinault.

For four years, *Boy With Frog* stood right at the centre of the lagoon, where the Grand Canal meets the Giudecca Canal. Finally, following enduring protests by local inhabitants and plots within the local government, a decision was made this spring to take the sculpture down and eventually replace it with a reproduction of a 19<sup>th</sup>-century lamppost that once stood on the site.

Marc Quinn's gigantic female figure has also managed to stir up a whirlwind of protest and dispute. The installation is a new version

of the artist's 3.55-metre-high and 15-ton-heavy marble sculpture *Alison Lapper Pregnant*, originally created in 2005 for the Fourth Plinth in London's Trafalgar Square. *Breath*, an 11-metre-high inflated piece of art, changes colour depending on the angle of natural light – from bluish to greyish to purplish pink. Called "a monument to the resilience of the human spirit" by Quinn, the giant installation depicts the handicapped artist Alison Lapper in her eighth month of pregnancy and is a part of a broad retrospective of Quinn's work that can be seen in the *Fondazione Giorgio Cini* right next door until September 29. However, since the installation is being displayed just metres from the *San Giorgio Maggiore* church, the Catholic Church has spoken out against the sculpture's "inappropriate location".

In an effort to prove that art stands above the intrigues of daily life, one work has been displayed right in the *San Giorgio Maggiore* church itself. British artist John Pawson's installation *Perspectives* stands under the church's cupola, which was designed by the legendary Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio. A sculptural, minimalistic, meditative object, *Perspectives* consists of a huge metal bowl with a Swarovski crystal lens at its centre that reflects the finely decorated Palladio cupola.

"My design is essentially a tool for viewing," says Pawson in an interview. "It uses the largest ever concave meniscus crystal lens ever to have been commissioned from Swarovski's optical division. This lens sits on the flat surface of a metal hemisphere, which is so highly polished that when you look down into it, it is like staring into a pool of mercury." The day I enter the church, almost the only other being I encounter is the person in white gloves who makes sure that no one touches the work of art. I am glad she is there, because gazing into the reflection in the lens feels like being pulled through a door into inexplicable labyrinths of emotion.

Another exposition that plays on the emotions is that by the Moscow Museum of Modern Art (MMOMA; Fondamenta delle Zattere, Dorsoduro 417, 30123; open until September 15). As a rule, lighting plays a large role in the scenography of the exhibitions at the Biennale. But *Bart Dorsa. Katya* does not use any lighting at all. Instead, the space is completely dark and silent. All of Venice's colour, along with the water and noise of the Giudecca Canal, remains outside its doors. Visitors are asked to remove their shoes upon entering the exposition. The black fabric used in the installation is pleasant to the touch, and as you trustingly enter


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the blind darkness, you may feel you have found the peace and intimacy required to escape the thousands of faces encountered on the outside and finally look deeply into the depths of your own soul.

Katya is a real Russian girl who spent the first 13 years of her life in an Orthodox women's monastery, but later ended up in the big-city reality of Moscow. There she became involved in an extreme underground subculture preoccupied with games of skin and body modification. The story of Katya's life can now be read on her body and face. American artist Bart Dorsa has revealed this story in a series of photo compilations that capture the points of contact between two very different worlds.

Visitors enchanted by the power of fire should definitely not miss the exhibition *Glasstress, White Light / White Heat* (Istituto Veneto di Scienze Lettere ed Arti, Palazzo Cavalli Franchetti, Campo S. Stefano 2847; open until November 24). Fire can transform a solid into a liquid; it can change the substance's molecular structure and then create it anew as a transformed solid. Possibly the most beautiful result of these fiery games is glass. The element of chance, colour, surfaces, transparency and reflections all conjure up a world of fantasy that simultaneously seems cool and icy, but also warm and even tasty. Glass is both deceptive and mutable, depending on the position and angle from which it is viewed. Besides, where better to appreciate the stories told by glass than Venice, the home of the Murano glass workshops.

One of François Pinault's art spaces, the *Palazzo Grassi*, has for the first time devoted its entire space (over 5000 sq. metres) to the work of one person, American conceptual artist Rudolf Stingel (San Marco, Campo San Samuele 3231; open until December 31). In a sense, this exhibition resembles Venice itself; first of all with its completely disorienting labyrinths, and secondly with the absolute saturation of colour and texture in each centimetre. All three floors of the *Palazzo Grassi* have been completely transformed; oriental rugs cover all possible surfaces, including stairs and walls, thereby making the whole museum one homogenous surface, upon which Stingel has then exhibited 40 of his conceptual paintings. Some of the paintings were created specifically for this exhibition and were inspired by the cultural context of Venice.

The Natural History Museum of Venice has likewise been transformed during the Biennale. In fact, one wonders whether



After 15 months of restoration work, one of Venice's most legendary hotels, the *Gritti Palace*, reopened its doors this summer

visitors would even know about this museum were it not for the Biennale. After all, who would think to look for a natural history museum in Venice? The museum is located in a 13<sup>th</sup>-century Byzantine-style palace that once served as a warehouse for trade with the East. The museum was established in 1923 and has a collection of over 2 million objects representing 700 million years of the Earth's history. This year's modern art exhibition is interspersed between the museum's permanent collection. While the placement of art work amid stuffed animals, insect and plant collections, fossils and anatomical specimens brings to mind an unusual game of orienteering, the objects fit well together. After all, animals and plants have been an inspiration for art and science since time immemorial. Among the artists participating in the exhibition are Maurizio Cattelan (whose famous *Bremen Town Musicians* can be seen in the museum), Francesco Vezzoli, Vanessa Beecroft and Paola Pivi (Museo di Storia Naturale, Santa Croce 1730). Open until October 24, this exhibition will appeal to both adults and children.

### Luxury and ladies of pleasure

Even though Venice is one of the very few cities in the world for which the question "What's new?" seems almost improper, Venice is not completely immune to current trends and new things. This July, the Asian über-luxury hotel group *Aman Resorts* opened its first hotel in Old Europe, on the banks of Venice's Grand Canal in a historical 16<sup>th</sup> century *palazzo* whose upper floor is

still home to a family of nobility. The *Aman Canal Grande* is located in the San Polo district and has only 22 rooms. Its interior reflects the classic *Aman Resorts* style, with the *palazzo's* ornate history blending with 21<sup>st</sup>-century minimalism, and with Rococo artist Michelangelo Guggenheim's frescos sharing the space with wenge wood furniture by luxury manufacturer *B&B Italia*. The most exclusive apartment, the *Canal Grande Suite*, is furnished with frescoes painted by Venetian artist Giovanni Battista Tiepolo in 1790, as well as antique hand-painted Chinese furniture. In other words, the discrete smell of money emanates from every square metre of the *Aman Canal Grande*, and the establishment is oriented towards a similarly glamorous, largely Eastern and "new money" clientele (room prices at the hotel begin at 1000 EUR per night).

After 15 months of restoration work, one of Venice's most legendary hotels, the *Gritti Palace*, also reopened its doors this summer. Built in 1475 for the aristocratic Pisani family, the *palazzo* later belonged to doge Andrea Gritti. It served as a private residence for 350 years before being transformed into a hotel in 1948. According to legend, Ernest Hemingway was one of the hotel's first guests, and he was followed by a whole string of celebrities, including Charlie Chaplin, Greta Garbo, Somerset Maugham, Grace Kelly, Orson Wells, Bob Dylan and Robert de Niro. At first glance, it seems that nothing has changed at the hotel following its restoration; only the marble floor seems to have possibly been polished. However, the restoration mainly

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targeted the hotel's impressive collection of artefacts: its ornate chandeliers, art works, mirrors and furniture.

The hotel's antique chandeliers were taken apart like *Lego* blocks and sent to the master glass workshops on Murano Island, where they were carefully restored. On the ground floor and bar, three 18<sup>th</sup>-century paintings by Venetian master Pietro Longhi were also restored. As one of the barmen at the *Gritti Palace* told us, ground-floor rooms in Venice usually command the lowest rents because such spaces are most threatened by flooding. Furthermore, since most of Venice's *palazzos* are built on wooden piles, the water not only comes in through the doors, but tends to seep in through the floors as well. When the winds were unfavourable, the *Gritti Palace* also suffered this problem. Therefore, the palazzo's floor was deepened and a waterproof membrane of steel and concrete was constructed under it during the most recent restoration in order to prevent water from entering the building. Following the current trend in making hotels more personal and intimate, the number of rooms was also reduced from 91 to 82. Otherwise, everything else has stayed the same at the *Gritti Palace*, which has maintained the same charming, well-seasoned patina and atmosphere of a true Venetian institute. Even if you do not spend the night here, a *Bellini* at the hotel terrace bar, with its view of the *Santa Maria della Salute* church, tastes just as good as it did years ago.

No matter how many times a person visits Venice, a lifetime is still not enough to really get to know the city. Maybe that is its magic, curse and mystery all at once. Every place here has its own story, and therefore sometimes a simple walk down the length of a street or an otherwise ordinary dinner at a restaurant may turn into



The gigantic installation named *Breath* by British sculptor Marc Quinn was one of the most photographed objects at the 55<sup>th</sup> Venice Art Biennale



Rialto Fish Market

a whole journey within a journey. In case you have not yet heard, one of the favourite Venetian restaurants, recommended by almost any native of the city (of which there are but a few left), is *Antiche Carampane*, which in literary translation means “old whores”.

The part of San Polo where *Antiche Carampane* is located was once frequented by prostitutes. Venice had more than 11,000 such women in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and they are said to have hung around the nearby *Ponte della Tette* with their breasts bared, hence the name of the bridge. Interestingly, the local government accepted such behaviour in its effort to fight the rising trend of homosexuality in the city at the time; prostitutes seemed the lesser of the two evils.

The term “carampane” to describe the women, however, has an amusing origin. In the early 15<sup>th</sup> century, the municipal government wished to limit prostitutes to one area and thus allocated a building to them. This *palazzo* had belonged to the Rampani family, which had been left with no heirs, and therefore the building became the property of the city. As is typical in Venice, the *palazzo* had been named for its owners, *Ca' Rampani*, and this name also came to describe the prostitutes.

In every other sense, though, *Antiche Carampane* is a classic Venetian restaurant; its menu including practically all the creatures in the sea, including razor clams. For a perfect dessert, I recommend *sgroppino*, the classic Venetian cocktail that consists of a glass of cold *prosecco*, two tablespoons of vodka and lemon sorbet.

Cold and white, it is a tasty but deceitful drink, especially considering that one refill is rarely enough to satisfy the drinker.

Hemingway's oasis

Speaking of gastronomy, if you wish to make an unforgettable trip to Venice even more unforgettable, then go to Torcello. Today, the small island with a population of less than 30 was once (around the year 450) the first island in the lagoon to which the people living on the “big island” fled to escape Barbarian invasions. During the 10<sup>th</sup> century, Torcello was much more influential economically and politically than Venice. Changing river currents and sea channels, however, eventually made access to the island more difficult for ships and most of the population moved to Venice. Today, only a few local souls and some medieval buildings remain on the island. The *Santa Maria Assunta* cathedral is definitely worth a visit. The walls of this church are covered with Byzantine mosaics and paintings, and its bell tower offers a majestic view of the whole lagoon. Actually, the church is so large – and the island so small – that the cathedral can be seen from anywhere on the island.

Another mythical stop, the *Locanda Cipriani*, is located very close to the cathedral. For almost 80 years, this family restaurant has belonged to the dynasty known for Venice's famous *Harry's Bar* and *Hotel Cipriani*. It all started when Giuseppe Cipriani bought a wine and oil store on the solitary island of Torcello and transformed it into a restaurant and guest house, opening the *Locanda Cipriani* in 1935. One

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of its most legendary guests was the above-mentioned Ernest Hemingway, who wrote part of his novel *Across the River and into the Trees* here and included Torcello in the story. Hemingway spent a whole month at the *Locanda Cipriani* in 1948, during which time he combined writing with duck hunting. Maria Callas, Queen Elizabeth II, Max Ernst, Marc Chagall and Peggy Guggenheim are among other stars who have visited the restaurant. Somerset Maugham also returned here several times and did not hide that he was a “grateful victim” of the *Locanda Cipriani*, calling it “a blessed place of peace and meditation”.

In Italian *la locanda* means “country guest house”, and the charming simplicity implied by the name is embodied in the interior, with its carefully polished wooden tables, old door handles and copper kettles. However, the house also possesses an aristocratic charm. Silver-plated *Christofle* flatware is used for meals, there is a hook for your suit coat in the entryway to the washroom and the waitstaff are as unobtrusive as one would expect in the best restaurants.

Windows in the two spacious restaurant rooms open onto views of a large garden that is saturated with colour and fruit. Tables have also been placed outside in the garden, where for a moment, as you sit amidst the flowers, aromas and colours, you may wonder whether there can possibly be a more beautiful place in the world. Time moves at a completely different pace as it loses its way in the colours and paths and corners of the luscious green space. The feeling is a bit surreal, as if you have entered a self-sufficient world, an oasis removed from reality, and are tempted to sink into a slightly sinful swoon. No wonder that Hemingway became “stranded” here.

If you wish to really savour the magic of Torcello, then you must spent at least one night here and wake up the next morning along with the first rays of the sun that shine on the church crosses, have breakfast, and then enjoy the wonderful ride back across the lagoon. In the tradition of *La-dolce-vita*-like illusions, this is best done on a water taxi, with the waters of the lagoon spraying in all directions. Finally, after about a 40-minute ride, you see Venice rise in the distance above the waters like a mirage...

Insider’s view



Mauro Lorenzon  
Legendary restaurateur  
Mauro Lorenzon on Venetians,  
wine and gastronomy

Wearing different-coloured sneakers on each foot, a work apron, a red bow tie and sporting a moustache, the owner of the *Enoteca Mascareta* restaurant and wine bar is a sincere and convivial fellow. Actually, his face seems to be vaguely familiar from movies and illustrations. Mauro Lorenzon seems to be well aware of the prototypical image of his face, which has indeed been used in a number of publicity materials. His genuine smile has become the trademark of *Enoteca Mascareta* and Lorenzon himself has become a true icon of Venice.

Mauro was born in the town of Jesolo just north of Venice. From the age of 14, he and his brothers spent their summers working in the Lorenzon family restaurant, wine bar

and wine-selling business. During the cooler seasons, they worked in the vineyards in the Triveneto and Pramaggiore wine-growing regions of Veneto. If you’re ever on the golden beach of Jesolo, enjoy a meal at *Ristorante Alla Grigliata* (Via Michelangelo Buonarroti 17, Jesolo; [www.ristoranteallagrigliata.it](http://www.ristoranteallagrigliata.it)), the grill restaurant that Lorenzon’s father, Bruno Lorenzon, founded almost 40 years ago.

Today, Mauro Lorenzon is the vice president of the Italian Wine Bar Association (*Vinarius – Associazione Enotecche Italiane*), as well as a regular contributor to the *Papageno* gourmet magazine and the *Venezia News* local newspaper. Since the publication of the *Guida alle Enotecche* travel guide in 2005, he has also contributed to a variety of other publications associated with Italian wine and restaurant culture.

Of course, it is difficult to find anybody more in tune with the “haemogram” of Venice’s restaurants than Mauro. He only leaves his always full-to-capacity 16-seat restaurant at four in the morning and returns again at six the next evening. Having found a rare free moment for a conversation with [Anothertravelguide.com](http://Anothertravelguide.com), he pours glasses of his own *prosecco* from a bottle adorned with an image of his own face, unloads a stack of Italian-English dictionaries onto the table, and is ready to talk.

“The leisurely pace and quietness of Venice is wonderful. Slow food, slow life, and no cars!” begins Mauro. Even the nightlife in Venice is calm, as there are only a couple

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of discotheques in the city. One of these is the legendary *Piccolo Mondo* (Accademia D.D. 1056/a; [www.piccolomondo.biz](http://www.piccolomondo.biz)), opened in 1963 under the name *El Souk* and known in its earlier years as a hangout for famous artists and their patroness Peggy Guggenheim. The other nightclub is *B-Bar* (S. Marco 1459; [www.bauervenezia.com](http://www.bauervenezia.com)) with its excellent piano bar.

Because most bars and restaurants in Venice close at 11 in the evening, the eclectic *Enoteca Mascareta* – part restaurant, part tavern, part wine bar open until two in the morning – can also be considered an option for nightlife. “See,” Mauro points to a faded little sign just outside the restaurant’s door, “we ask guests to tone down the volume of their conversations after midnight.” Most of Venice’s population is elderly. Many live on the upper floors and Mauro does not want the noise of his guests’ parties disturb their sleep.

Mauro explains that most young people do not stay in Venice. Instead, they head to Jesolo or Mesti. The older people who have lived their whole lives in Venice, however, can take pride in their healthy hearts and general good health. Due to the fact that walking, which includes crossing Venice’s many bridges and climbing countless steps, is the main means of transport in the city, Venice has the lowest rate of heart attacks and heart disease in all of Italy.

It is said that the people living in the Venetian lagoon are different from mainlanders in other ways as well. The best way to describe a true Venetian is *pantalone-brontolone*. The word *pantalone* refers to a city dweller in a traditional Venetian carnival mask – pleasant but double-faced. *Brontolone*, on the other hand, means a grumbling grouch of a person. In the manner of a *brontolone*, true Venetians have the habit of complaining about the packs of tourists crowding the city’s streets day in and day out. But Mauro accepts the fact that Venice is a global city and no longer belongs to the Venetians themselves.

Today, the majority of the city’s inhabitants are newcomers who have decided to make Venice their home. Very few native Venetians are left. This situation has also left its mark on the reputation of Venice’s culinary and hospitality sectors. For example, in recent years Asians and Africans have received commercial licenses to open businesses in the city, but unfortunately this has also led to a significant decline in the quality of the sector, according to Mauro.

That said, Venice has experienced a recent deluge of fine restaurateurs, chefs and sommeliers. Those interested in experiencing the best authentic Venetian cuisine should pay attention to the 14 restaurants recommended by the *Associazione dei Ristoranti della Buona Accoglienza* ([www.veneziaristoranti.it](http://www.veneziaristoranti.it)). From typical *trattorias* to internationally acclaimed restaurants, the association has highlighted establishments that remain loyal to farmers from the Veneto region, the local lagoon fishing industry and market gardeners from the nearby islands and towns of Sant’ Erasmo, Burano, Cavallino and Chioggia.

The *Alajmo* group in Venice and *Gran Café Quadri* (Piazza San Marco, 121; [www.alajmo.it](http://www.alajmo.it)) are known for excellent food and wines. Likewise, Francesco and Andrea, Mauro’s colleagues at the *Enoteca la Cantina* (Cannaregio 3689, Campo San Felice), also offer superb meals made from the freshest vegetables and fish and accompanied by exceptional wines and cheeses.

Actually, anybody who has the time can discover something special in Venice. For example, at his restaurant *Il Ridotto* (Campo SS Filippo e Giacomo, Castello 4509; [www.ilridotto.com](http://www.ilridotto.com)), master chef Gianni Bonaccorsi serves small versions of classic Italian meals. The restaurant, whose name means “reduced”, is known for its fantastic and innovatively developed essences of taste. This is the place to enjoy an almost complete overview of Italian cuisine.

However, if you believe that a great location is essential to a great meal, then head to *Linea d’Ombre* (Dorsoduro 19, [www.ristorantelineadombra.com](http://www.ristorantelineadombra.com)) near the *Punta della Dogana* contemporary art space. Take delight in a beautiful panorama of Venice while enjoying a meal on the restaurant’s terrace.

Back to descriptions of the Venetian character, Mauro can undoubtedly affirm that the locals will never refuse a good meal, no matter the circumstances. “Whether we have money or not, we will continue to fortify ourselves beautifully, amply and diversely.”

When asked about the most beautiful places in the city – places where one can stop for a moment and just breathe in the atmosphere – Mauro admits that Venetians usually try to spend their free time on one of the other nearby islands. And they do not use the water taxi to get there; that’s way too expensive. Nor do they travel by gondola. “Having consulted various sources,” says Mauro, “I am inclined to believe that historically, gondolas were used as catafalques for transporting the dead through the canals of the city.” Although the traditional Venetian *mascareta* rowboat was commonly used in earlier days, today the *vaporetto* form of public transportation has taken precedence.

In response to my question about which movie filmed in or about Venice one should definitely watch, Mauro does not hesitate and recommends Luchino Visconti’s 1971 film *Morte a Venezia* (Death in Venice), which addresses the topics of beauty, youth and love.

Speaking of love, Mauro admits that it is one of the Venice’s greatest mysteries. The city somehow manages to bring people together: “I have seen two people eat at my restaurant one year, and return the following year as a married couple.” Mauro met his wife in Venice as well, at a dance evening by a piano bar.

Mauro is positive about Venice’s future and foresees an economic boom in 2015 along with the 56<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale international art exhibition, the *World Expo* (which takes place in Milan that year) and the completion of the MOSE flood barrier. **BO**

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TEXT BY ZANE NIKODEMUSA  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF DANDY MODEL MANAGEMENT

Nine years have passed since the day that a local model scout spotted a strikingly beautiful teenager on a Riga trolleybus. Now that Latvian teenager is a grown-up supermodel who works with the world's best-known fashion houses and fashion magazines

*Baltic Outlook* arranged its interview with Ginta Lapiņa (24) several months in advance, as she is currently one of the most coveted models in the business. Her daily agenda is planned almost to the minute for weeks ahead, with numerous activities set in New York – where she is currently residing – as well as in other world fashion capitals, including Milan, Paris and London.

Ginta is currently listed as 27<sup>th</sup> in the authoritative list of top models created by [www.models.com](http://www.models.com), which can be seen as an indicator of the high esteem in which she is held. Nowadays, sculpted cheekbones, gorgeous eyes and a slim figure are not enough to make it to the top of the modelling world. Models need to convey their own individual spirit and personality.

"It's a very tough business. You succeed if you're intelligent. Family, friendships... All that goes out of the window. You're usually very young, you're earning in a week what your father maybe earns in a year," said Lucinda Chambers, *Vogue's* fashion director, in a recent interview with British *Vogue* magazine. She added that in order to be successful, you have to be a performer. You have to change from a smoky-eyed glamazon to a naive ingénue. You have to work hard. You have to know exactly how to move your face, hands, toes and everything else, all at once.

It appears that Ginta is endowed with all of these attributes. She takes part in the largest and most prestigious fashion shows and is regularly featured on the covers of such fashion magazines as *Vogue*, *Marie Claire* and *Harper's Bazaar*. She has come to the personal attention of several influential fashion giants. This spring, famous designer Marc Jacobs invited Ginta to collaborate in a project to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Diet Coke* soft drink. The result was a witty and inspiring photo series that has been very well received. During the past few years, Ginta has been the face of

*Yves Saint Laurent* cosmetics and a favourite model of the *Versace* fashion house. In fact, at her recent wedding with American entrepreneur Adam Hock, Ginta wore a striking *Versace* dress.

Ginta's legendary Cinderella story began in the Latvian capital on a cold and grey spring morning in 2005. "A stunning girl stepped onto the trolleybus. When I saw her, I literally felt shivers go down my spine. I didn't want to strike up a conversation with her there, but decided to take a chance and get off at the same stop she did, wherever that might be. Ginta got off near the bus station," recounts Nils Raumanis, who had just established a new modelling agency named DANDY and who is now one of the most influential modelling agents in Latvia.

"I was looking for new talent and introduced myself to Ginta. I told her who I was and what I do for a living. I asked her to tell her parents about our conversation, so Ginta left me her mother's phone number and went home. The next day I called Ginta's mother. We arranged for Ginta to come to a photo session. It quickly became clear during the shooting that we had a real star on our hands." Ginta was only 15 at the time, exuding a youthful enthusiasm and charm that still comes forth in her dazzling smile.

Today, despite her busy schedule in one of America's most fast-paced cities, Ginta has lost none of her naturally open and friendly demeanour. Our conversation is taking place through the wonderful technological marvel known as e-mail. Even though the vastness of the Atlantic Ocean separates us, I can sense genuine warmth and emotional intelligence in each of her answers. When asked what she would do if she suddenly had a free day, Ginta said that she would probably relax at home, or perhaps visit the zoo in the Bronx.

# Cinderella in the big city

Latvian supermodel Ginta Lapiņa





Ginta is regularly featured on the covers of *Vogue*

To give us an idea of how a top model lives, what did you do today?

Today I got up earlier than usual, at 6 AM. I packed up my suitcase, because later this evening I'll be flying to Paris. I spent the rest of the morning and early afternoon working in Brooklyn, until 2:30. Then I went home to have a light lunch, followed by a workout at the gym. Once I arrive in Paris tomorrow, I'll go straight from the airport to fit the clothes that I will have to wear for a photo shoot the following day. I plan on having dinner with some friends tomorrow evening.

You currently live in New York. Is this the city that you now call home?

Models have the advantage of being able to live in several cities. You never know when your plans might change and where you might have to be the following week. But yes, I consider New York to be my home. I've grown attached to the city and strangely enough, here I feel closest to my first and most meaningful home, the city of Aizkraukle in Latvia.

How many days a month do you usually spend on the road?

There are some months when I don't leave New York at all,



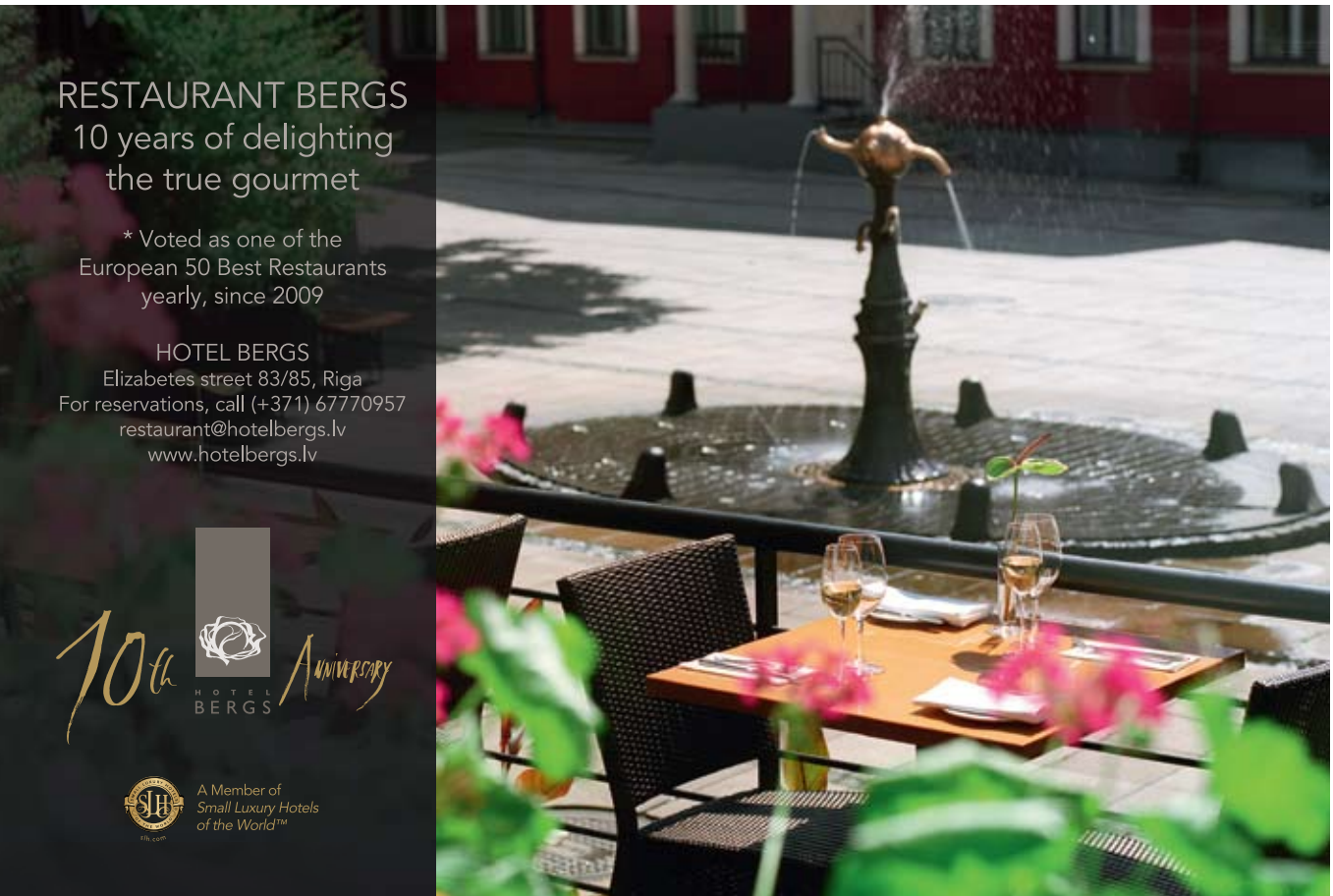
New York is the city that Ginta now calls home

and there are periods when I am away on assignments for at least 10 or 12 days per month. I usually fly somewhere an average of once or twice per week. My personal record is flying to three different cities in one single day.

What do you do to combat the fatigue that comes with long flights?

I try to go to the gym before each flight, and I try to sleep while I am on the plane. That's the only place where my phone isn't ringing and where I can be alone with my thoughts. Speaking about beauty

treatments, I always take care of the skin on my face before each flight. The air on airplane flights is dry, so I use various oils to keep my skin moist, such as *Nuxe* and *Claudalie* products, as well as a facial serum and cream by *Ling*. I also enjoy using a face mask by *Shu Uemura*. My favourite hangout in the airport is the business lounge, and I wear loose and comfortable clothing, such as leggings or pants made of light materials. And I always bring the warm woollen socks that my grandmother has knitted for me.



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## OUTLOOK / INTERVIEW



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**A continual life on the road probably takes its emotional toll. What do you do to maintain a sense of internal harmony?**

Well, I'm not on the road all of the time. And after awhile, one gets used to it. I've accepted the fact that my job involves travel and that I have to assume various roles in my work, like an actress. I know that I wouldn't be happy if I had an office job and every day was the same. I feel happy almost every time that I step onto a plane, because I know that I'll soon be experiencing a new adventure and perhaps be visiting a city that I have never seen before. My main source of strength is my family and my friends. I always feel happy whenever I get the chance to return and

visit them in Latvia. I also like going out on nature trips and enjoy painting as a hobby. I studied as a teenager at the Riga Secondary School of Design and Art, and art remains an inseparable part of my life to this day.

**Lately the *slow living* or *downshifting* philosophy has become trendy. That involves eschewing stressful and well-paying jobs in order to live a more laid-back lifestyle, even if you earn less money. Would you like your schedule to be less busy?**

No, right now I feel very happy with my lifestyle. Of course, I realise that in the future I will have to slow down my pace. I could see myself living on a sparsely inhabited island later in life and selling coconuts by the seashore. That would really be taking it easy!

**What have you gained the most as a model?**

Experience! I've gone through some pretty rigorous training in the school of life, so to speak. I had to mature very quickly and take on serious responsibilities. I had to learn how to communicate with people in foreign countries while finding a harmonious balance within myself. I've earned the opportunity to travel around the world and to meet a lot of new people, some of whom have become very good friends.

**And what have you lost?**

Hmm... I hadn't really thought about that up until now. The most difficult thing is spending so little time together with my family and friends in Latvia. No matter where I am, I always miss them.

**If you had to choose three projects that best describe you, which ones would they be?**

The opportunity to be the face for *Yves Saint Laurent* cosmetics highlights my femininity, Marc Jacob's *Diet Coke* ad campaign brings out my sense of humour, and the *Versace* runway shows represent the essence of my very being.

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## OUTLOOK / INTERVIEW



Latvian girls are full of determination.  
We are not the type to give up easily

**How did you react when you learned that you had been chosen for the Diet Coke campaign? What was it like to work with Marc Jacobs?**

How did I react? The first thing I said was: "When and where is the job?" I was absolutely thrilled, because Marc Jacobs is one of my favourite designers. He could have easily chosen somebody else. I felt particularly honoured by the fact that he picked me, and doubly so because this was a special advertising campaign to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Diet Coke's entry onto the market.

**What comes easier to you? Photo shootings or runway shows?**

Doing the catwalk sounds easier than posing for pictures, but you have to go through a lot of steps before you reach the runway, starting with castings and fittings, and ending with the fact that you have to show up three hours before the show to get your hair and makeup done, as well as take part in practice runs. Photo shoots are entirely different; you usually spend the entire day on the set. It's pretty hard to compare the two.

**How do you feel when you see your picture on a magazine cover?**

Generally, I feel just great! I'm happy with the way I look and wouldn't want to change anything in my appearance.

**Do you feel a sense of responsibility about the fact that you could be a role model for younger girls? What would you like to teach them through your example?**

Yes, I do feel responsible. Lately I've been receiving a lot of feedback through *twitter*. I regularly read the tweets that are sent to me and that makes me acutely aware of the fact that there are girls all over the world who follow my agenda and who feel inspired by what I write or photograph. I feel very happy about that. Through my example, I'd like to encourage young girls to be self-confident and goal-oriented, and to approach things with a positive attitude. Then everything will work out just fine!

**Another Latvian model named Karlina Caune is also on the world's Top 50 Models list. It seems that Latvian models are beginning to take the world by storm.**

You bet they are! Latvian girls are full of determination and are willing to work very hard. We are not the type to give up easily. These character traits make us very special.



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**Ginta's personal top 3**

Each of the following three projects reveals a particular aspect of Ginta's personality.

*Yves Saint Laurent* cosmetics advertisements

*Diet Coke* anniversary campaign

*Versace* fashion shows

How do fashion and style differ among such well-known fashion metropolises as Milan, New York, London and Paris? Which city do you feel closest to in that sense?

These cities are very different from each other. New York's fashion and style is like a kaleidoscope, incorporating a little bit of everything. London places more emphasis on street style. Milan and Paris are the most similar to each other. You will see high fashion even on the streets in both cities. Milan is more feminine, while Paris is more glamorous. From a professional point of view, I prefer the Paris fashion shows, because Paris is the city where it all began and where fashion is firmly imprinted in the genetic code of the city. These traits make Paris a very special city. I feel immensely privileged to represent designers there and to play even a small role on the high fashion stage.

Does your wardrobe have clothing items from well-known high fashion brands?

Yes, quite a large number, in fact. That's because I occasionally receive gifts from the designers. I have a particular weakness for handbags and shoes, which means that my collection of these two items is pretty substantial.

Where do you see yourself in ten years' time?

Ten years seems very far off into the future... I find it hard to answer that question, because I'm the type of person who is more tended to live things day-by-day.

Why do you shun publicity concerning your personal relationships?

Because they are a part of my private life.

What is the nicest surprise that you have received by a man?

Being taken to the Eiffel Tower in Paris and receiving a marriage proposal.

What would you definitely still like to do this summer?

I've been waiting for August to arrive all summer long, because that is the only month when I can take a vacation. July can be seen as the last month of the year in the fashion calendar. August is an empty month for models, work-wise. I plan to spend my holidays this year at the beach in Biarritz, France, and learn how to surf. I'll also make a trip to Latvia, and at the end of the month I plan to go to Geneva to celebrate a friend's wedding. **BO**



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# A dozen shades of blue

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TEXT BY IEVA NORA FIRERE  
PUBLICITY PHOTOS AND BY ZANE NIKODEMUSA

There is no month more beautiful than August in which to head to Latgale, the land of blue lakes. Straddling the borders of Russia, Belarus and a tiny bit of Lithuania, this part of Latvia is different. The undulating land is filled with rivers and lakes, strong people and churches that are just as strong – if only for having survived the state-enforced atheism of the Soviet era. And since this year, Latgale is also home to several new buildings brimming with art of all kinds.

An indulgent and leisurely pace best suits a trip to Latgale, as strict schedules are not adhered to there. Although we were sure that everything had been pre-arranged, again and again the locals received us with surprise, expecting us at a different time or on another day. Nevertheless, they took us in with open arms, making our visits longer and more heartfelt than we could have hoped for.

We decided to begin with the “new” Latgale and headed to Daugavpils, which is where the Mark Rothko Art Centre opened in April of this year. A true sensation both locally and in the international art world, it has already seen about 20,000 visitors in its first few months. Like Riga, Daugavpils is located on the

banks of the Daugava River, which has been a busy trade and transportation route since ancient times. This was also true of multi-ethnic Daugavpils, known as Dvinsk at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when Marcus Rothkowitz was born there.

Later known as the abstract expressionist painter Mark Rothko he lived in the city until the age of ten. His family, like half of the city’s inhabitants, was Jewish; the other half of Daugavpils’ population was made up of a mix of Latvians, Russians, Belarusians, Lithuanians, Ukrainians and Poles.

Rothko was one of those artists who got to enjoy his fame during his lifetime, although it is quite unlikely that he could have imagined the record-breaking sums that his works now garner at auctions. Just last year, his timeless *Orange, Red, Yellow* (1961) fetched 87 million USD at *Christie’s*. As Rothko’s daughter, Kate Rothko says, there are two things that she simply doesn’t understand: the wages earned by NBA basketball players, and the prices of her father’s works. The astronomical prices are also a curse, as the lion’s share of Rothko’s works are in private collections, making it very difficult to gather several of them

together for exhibitions. In addition, insurance and shipping costs are extremely expensive, no matter who the owners of the works may be. Now, as in a chapel, six Rothko originals are on display in the very depths of Daugavpils old fortress, where the Mark Rothko Art Centre is located. The rest of the centre’s 2000 square metres contain well-made reproductions of Rothko’s works and an excellent digital exhibition. Other rooms of the centre display works by artists with links to Latgale.

Upriver of Daugavpils is Vitebsk, now in Belarus. At the time, it was the seat of the Russian governorate that also incorporated most of present-day Latgale, including Daugavpils. Vitebsk is also known as the birthplace of one of Rothko’s contemporaries – Marc Chagall. However, we do not go that far, but head to Piedruja, a seemingly small and quiet village on Latvia’s border with Belarus. It turns out that Piedruja once was a very important place, as the St. Petersburg – Warsaw highway used to pass right through it. Yevgeny, the owner of a local guest-house, takes us on a tour of the village, which includes a short stretch of road covered with cobblestones, along which horse-drawn carriages once travelled to and from St. Petersburg. Before Napoleon’s invasion of Russia in 1812, Russian tsar Alexander I sent a commission to Piedruja to select a spot for the building of a fortress. For some reason or another, the fortress was erected instead in Daugavpils, and one can only guess how Piedruja would have developed had the fortress been built there. The new Vitebsk Highway was routed in the 1960s, and now passes just a couple of kilometres north of Piedruja.

Two impressive houses of worship, built literally right next to each other, bear witness to the glory of times past in Piedruja: St. Mary’s Catholic Church and St. Nicholas’ Orthodox Church, the latter of which is even larger than the Orthodox church in the nearby city of Krāslava. When asked how people of differing confessions

manage to live side-by-side so peacefully, Yevgeny doesn’t fully comprehend our question. The ethnic and religious mixture of the region has been a fact of life for so long that the locals can’t even imagine things being any different.

In Piedruja’s Catholic church, for example, mass begins in the Latvian language, then continues with the liturgy in Polish and the sermon in Russian. An hour’s drive from Piedruja is the city of Aglona, which becomes a European centre of Catholicism every August during the annual festival celebrating the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Of course, Latgale has also provided a similarly favourable environment for Old Believers, Orthodox and Jewish residents. Due to its many synagogues in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the city of Ludza was known as “Europe’s Jerusalem”.

The dark blue waters of the Daugava River flow through Piedruja, separating it from the Belarusian town of Druya on the opposite bank. This part of the Daugava also represents part of the European Union’s external border. Without a passport and a special permit that can be received from the State Border Guard (more info at [www.rs.gov.lv](http://www.rs.gov.lv)), you shouldn’t even be here, but if your documents are in order, then you can even swim across the river to the very borderline – your “papers” clenched between your teeth – jokes Yevgeny.

## Protection from evil spirits

On the road from Piedruja to Krāslava, taking a left turn at the sign pointing to Lielindrica will lead you to a unique architectural monument – the oldest wooden church in Latvia. The greyish-blue, 315-year-old St. John the Baptist’s Roman Catholic Church stands on the high banks of the Daugava River, and the beautiful scenic view overlooking the valley had us leaving on a doubly happy note. To get inside the church, you will have to do as with most houses of worship in remote parts of Latgale – call the head of the congregation (+371 26263061).



Roman Catholic Church of St. Ludovic  
in Krāslava



Lake Rāzna



Daugavpils Fortress



Mark Rothko Art Centre





Roman Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist in Indrica

## OUTLOOK / TRAVEL

In the nearby village of Slutišķi, an Old Believers' prayer house has been preserved and is open to the public. First mentioned in Latvia in historical documents dating from 1785, this religious denomination was known to be very reclusive. Their common roots notwithstanding, the Old Believers – who refused to accept the 17<sup>th</sup>-century reforms in the Russian Orthodox Church – were repressed by their pro-reform Orthodox kinsmen, leading them to flee to the more remote regions of Latgale, which was under Polish rule at the time. This need to hide can be seen in the location of Slutišķi, which is protected on one side by the Daugava River, and on the other by hillocks and forests.

Being skilled craftsmen, Old Believers were readily accepted by the hard-working people of Latgale. They formed whole communes that managed to preserve their religion with all of its visible differences from the Orthodox Church.

Even today, the Old Believers have reason to be wary of the outside world. A second wave of troubles began about five years ago, when an economic crisis hit Latvia. The fact that their prayer houses (Old Believers don't have churches) are located in remote areas and are filled with ancient icons made these the targets of break-ins and looting. Thus, the ethnographic homestead in Slutišķi may well be your only chance to peer into the blue-painted, intricately-carved windows of the Old Believers. Both the Old Believers and the Orthodox tend to paint not only their window frames blue, but also their door frames, roofs and even whole house façades in a bright shade of blue. This is not a question of taste, but rather, as we were told by our tour guide, because Old



Džeina Lubāne, wearing faithfully replicated ancient Latgalian dress

Believers thought that this colour protected them from evil spirits.

### Temperamental sincerity

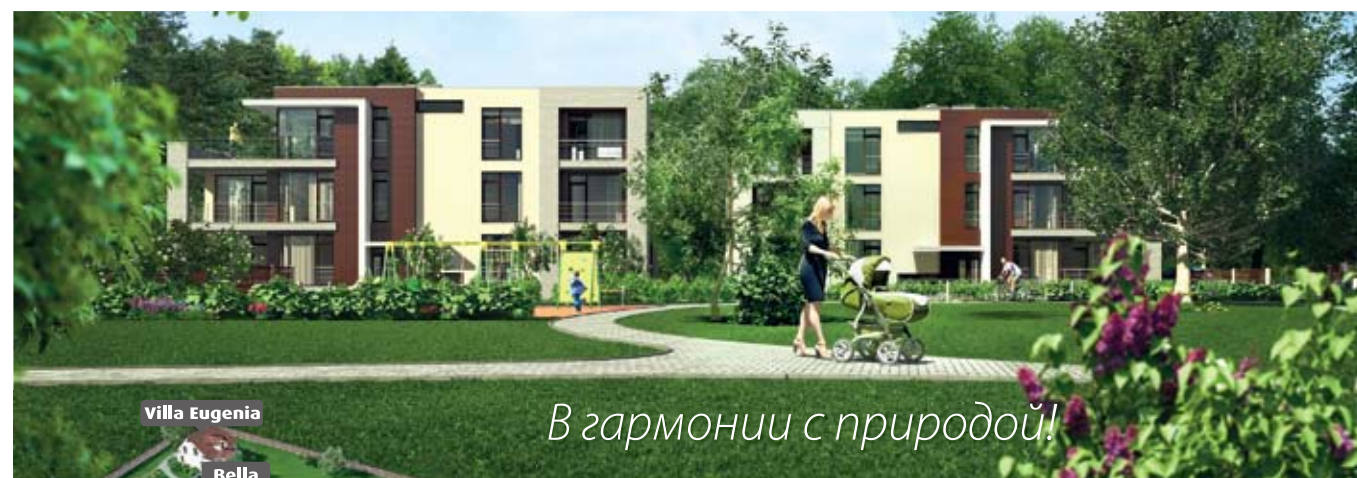
The more churches we visit, the clearer it becomes that the duties of a country priest may far exceed those of his urban counterparts. The suntanned shepherd of Ludza's Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary meets us at his place of work, pail of spackling paste in hand. The differences are also regional in nature. In the Latvian regions of Kurzeme and Vidzeme, where Lutherans are traditionally more widespread, Catholic priests might also take on missionary work. In Latgale, however, where Catholic congregations are generally larger, the daily life of a priest focuses more on caring for his flock, we are told by Dean Eduards Vorončeks of the Roman Catholic Church of St. Ludovic in Krāslava. The church under his care is a gem of 18<sup>th</sup>-century Baroque architecture and has been very well maintained – its impressive size and, unfortunately, shrinking congregation, notwithstanding.

Without the past, there is no future, the dean stresses as he shows us the church's renovated altarpiece and frescoes. Our visit, which started out on a formal note, turns out to be one of the most heart-warming of our trip. After mass, the dean invites us into his office, which is equipped with old wooden furniture and smells of the church's lilies. We spend a good hour talking about his congregation when the conversation turns towards much deeper

subjects. The phrase that sticks the most in my mind after our meeting is: 'You know, God isn't always to blame.' Later, the dean graciously offers to wait and hold the candles, postcards and calendars that he has thoughtfully assembled for us as souvenirs, while we go down to explore the church's crypt – where the counts of Plater, one of the largest land-owning families in Latgale, are buried.

The history and cultural legacy of this region explains why the people of Latgale are so open, temperamental and enterprising. In Ludza we are met by Līga Kondrāte, head of the Tourism Information Centre, who takes us on an excursion around the city. She tells us about Ludza's history and daily life, as well as regaling us with various tales and legends, of which there are many. For almost 900 years in a row, the longest period of complete peace in the whole region lasted no longer than 50 days. Consequently, the people of Latgale know how to seize the day, not bothering with saving, putting by, or planning for the future. The folk songs and dances of Latgale are also livelier than elsewhere in Latvia.

Ludza is the oldest town in Latvia, its first historical mention recorded in 1177. The town's geographical location was a crossroads. Merchants from various parts of the world travelled through Ludza along the roads, rivers and lakes that surround it. In turn, Ludza's citizens raked in taxes from these merchants. Some ancient Latgalian jewellery from the 8<sup>th</sup> century even



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Ludza contains seashells originating from the Indian Ocean; it makes one wonder about how they ended up in Latgale.

Līga also tells us about the great fire of June 11, 1938, when half of the town burned down because a coal-heated iron had been left untended. The flames spread quickly from one wooden house to the next. Most of the potentially flammable dwellings had been built very close to each other and were separated by wooden fences. The conflagration quickly laid waste to the town, even burning down Ludza’s Catholic Church, which had stood on top of a hill. The church was rebuilt only after Latvia regained independence in the 1990s.

Right next to the church are the remnants of the oldest Livonian Order castle in Latvia. The castle mound offers a great view of the surrounding lakes, which are just as beautiful from above as they are at ground level while taking a boat ride (ask at the Ludza Tourist Information Centre (+371 65707203) about the latter).

The town lies on the Moscow–Riga Highway, just 35 km from the border with Russia. The quiet Ludza of today cannot compare with the beehive of activity it once was (350 businesses were registered in Ludza at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century). As things stand,

Latvia’s oldest city is and most likely will continue to remain a small town. However, it would be no exaggeration to say that Ludza is the most beautiful town in Latgale. Līga and other local enthusiasts are actively working to save and restore the city’s old wooden buildings. Hopefully, they will succeed in preserving the delicate woodwork and architecture that makes this city so beautiful.

Most likely, the characteristic productiveness of Latgale comes from its glory days in the 9<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> centuries, when in the kingdom of Tālava it was forbidden to buy something and then sell it at a higher price – a decree that led to the flourishing of craftsmanship. Today there is no shortage of people in Latgale who have thought up of ways to use yet another large resource of the region – its virtually untouched natural environment. Not far from Latvia’s border with Belarus, you’ll find the *Kļajumi* horse ranch, owned by Ilze Stabulniece. With her red hair flowing freely and nicely manicured nails, Ilze runs not only a large horse farm, but also two guest houses (a third is currently being renovated). While her two boys were still small, Ilze got a Master’s degree in geography.

As old as the world

We’re not sure how Ilze from *Kļajumi* does it, but somehow she can squeeze out more from a 24-hour-day than the rest of us put together. Possibly, she gathers strength and inspiration from the blue waters and skies of Latgale, which she so skilfully promotes. Latgale is home to Latvia’s largest lake – Lubāns, (80.7 km²), as well as the country’s deepest lake – Drīdzs (65.1 metres), and the lake with the most islands on it – Ežezers (more than 35 islands). There’s no point in heading to Latgale if you don’t take in the view from its three highest points – Sauleskalns (211 m), Mākoņkalns (247 m) and Liepu kalns (290 m, which with its viewing tower makes it the highest publicly accessible point in all of Latvia).

Latgalians are proud of their eventful history, and during our trip we happen to meet some people who can practically carry you away with their zeal about this legacy. At Kroma kalns (Kroma Hill, *Priežukalni*, Dagdas novads, +371 26352522), we are met by Džeina, who is dressed in a blue cloak interwoven with around 2,000 brass



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## OUTLOOK / TRAVEL



Traditional Latgalian clay vase

Here there are good deposits of clay, as well as skilled master potters from which to learn the craft

rings. Džeina is the daughter of Aleksandrs Lubāns, a forest ranger whose interest in history and the fortress mounds of the ancient Latgalians has outgrown the label of "hobby". Aleksandrs is reconstructing the ancient Latgalian fortress that used to cover the top of Kroma kalns. Unfortunately, only about 3% of all ancient Latgalian archaeological artefacts are still in Latvia. Right in front of the noses of the people of Ludza, at Odu kalns, the graves of around 400 wealthy ancient Latgalians were found. During the Soviet occupation, the uncovered riches were distributed amongst museums in Vitebsk, St. Petersburg, Moscow and Hamburg.

The most splendid form of dressing occurred shortly before the arrival of the knights of the Livonian Order in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. The jewellery of a well-dressed woman could weigh as much as 25 kg, and Aleksandrs' group of enthusiasts also take this aspect of restoration seriously. Aleksandrs came to understand how expensive it was to be the father of daughters when he started to reproduce the ancient costumes for his own children. In order to save some

money, he learned how to make the brass rings for the cloaks himself. And Aleksandrs has only three daughters, whereas ancient Latgalian families had eight children on average. That is also why childhood ended quite quickly back then – at about 12 years of age. This, and more, can all be learned from enthusiastic guides at the Craft Centre (*Amatniecības centrs*) in Ludza. There you can also practice skills at which ancient Latgalian boys and girls had to prove their adeptness during a five-day-long test. Only the successful ones received the attributes necessary for life as an adult – linen trousers for boys and copper crowns for girls.

From these times and even more ancient ones (as we would later be told – from an era as old as the world itself) comes the tradition of Latgalian pottery. Having achieved almost cult-like status in the fancy souvenir shops of Riga, the style of blackened pottery has been most developed in Latgale. Here there are good deposits of clay, as well as skilled master potters from which to learn the craft. During the second half of our trip, we arrive at the house of star ceramicist Evalds Vasilevskis, located 5 km away from the town of Kaunata. Having established his pottery school *Pūdņiku skūla* 23 years ago, he has educated numerous master potters at his wheel.

Evalds fires his pottery in the old way – in an open, fire-heated kiln. Clay that he has quarried himself, simple shapes and a natural process all combine in timeless pieces that beautifully fit into any kind of interior. We must, however, warn you that it's not always that simple when it comes to Evalds; he may not be in the mood to sell, or he may not even have anything to sell. Even though he fires his kiln three times a month, his works are sought out by many. In place of a ceramic pitcher, we get to have a two-and-a-half-hour conversation while lounging in the shade of an apple tree. Evalds works at his wheel while he tells us about his view of the world, and the sun-filled, lazy afternoon ends with us having the luck to listen-in on a chat between two Latgalians. This just may be the best way to enjoy Latgale at the peak of summer – leisurely dawdling in the shade and eavesdropping on the conversations of others. **BO**

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Tel. (+371) 29467925  
Tālavijas 27a, Ludza

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Special thanks to Līga Kondrāte from the Ludza Tourism Information Centre, Inga Goldberga of the Mark Rothko Art Centre.



**Stop-over for art: the *Gors* cultural centre in Rēzekne**  
Opened just this spring, Gors houses Latvia's newest and largest concert hall. Six years ago, when the idea for Gors (Spirit) came about, this spot was just an empty and boggy city lot. About 12 million lats were invested in constructing this splendid new glass-walled building. The Latgalian Cultural Centre's new season starts in September with jazz concerts under the program *Autumn of Jazz in Latgale*, followed by *Baroque Days* and many other events.  
Atbrīvošanas aleja 93, Rēzekne | [www.latgalesgors.lv](http://www.latgalesgors.lv)



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# Greece lightning



TEXT BY ROGER NORUM

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE GREEK NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANISATION AND BY ROGER NORUM

Athens, once rightfully known as the city at the centre of the world, is well on its way to cosmopolis stardom – a second time around

There is this classic scene in the original 1968 version of *The Thomas Crown Affair*, when Steve McQueen's debonair caperer is playing Faye Dunaway's coquettish investigator in a long, drawn-out game of chess. The palpable on-screen anticipation that saturates each cutaway shot makes it one of the most melodramatic and gripping scenes in film history.

But there I was recently watching this riveting film on a balmy summer's eve, sitting in a comfy chair in a lovely open-air theatre in the heart of one of the world's oldest cities, standard cinema accoutrements of *Pepsi* and popcorn at the ready, and yet I could not for the life of me focus on the movie. Despite the sexual tension between leggy Dunaway and dashing McQueen up on the screen, there was a whole lot more drama going on further behind it. In the distance stood the Acropolis, a dramatic outcrop of limestone bedrock perched high above the city, its edge crowned with the Parthenon – a rectangular temple of supreme Doric columns and pillars; the entire mountaintop plateau aglow in amber light.

Thucydides himself was probably eyeing this Athenian landmark when he wrote, "Mighty indeed are the marks and monuments of our empire.... Future ages will wonder at us, as the present age wonders at us now." He may have been slightly drunk on hubris, but he was spot on. Classical Athens thrived like nowhere else before or since. Its citizens decorated their beloved city with temple upon symmetrical temple to honour the gods and celebrate Athens' influence, power and achievements. They formed institutions of education, government and literature that are now canonised as the foundations of modern Western society.

However, Greece went into a steep decline during centuries of oppressive Ottoman rule. Then came the scourges of the modern era. By the 1950s, Athens had become a busy, begrimed, blistering and bureaucratically Byzantine Mediterranean megacity. Its out-of-control industrial development produced an insufferable cloud of *nefos*, the noxious black pollution that lingered about and threatened to permanently tarnish even the buildings atop the Acropolis themselves – to say nothing of the city's reputation as a destination for visitors.

## Procrastinators

During the rush to modernize and industrialize, reverence for Athens' past was negligible at best. At one point, city residents were encouraged to raze their charming old homes and raise up soulless apartment blocks. But with the advent of a new millennium, the city changed its tune and deftly capitalised on its third hosting of the Olympic Games to complete a spate of long-overdue, multi-billion-euro urban renewal projects. These ventures included a regional superhighway, an extensive metro and tram network and a 4-km-long pedestrian promenade that winds its way along the city's major classical sites. No small feat, considering that Greeks are self-admittedly among the world's best last-minute artists (read: procrastinators).

And let's be honest: the Greeks have been drawing some pretty short straws over the past few years. Devastating economic projections; rioting in the centre of Athens; fires in the suburbs; continued strained relations with Britain over the yet-to-be-returned Elgin Marbles. But to this seemingly gloomy forecast of things to come, the Greeks would probably say "*Όλα θα πάνε καλά*" (*Ola tha pane kala*) – everything is going to be fine, so stop worrying.

After spending a few summer days in Athens, I would readily agree. After all, this wonderful, wondrous country has had 5,000 years of experience in dealing with ups and downs. Few other places have been dealt such disparate hands of fate over the years, from the vaunted grandeur of classical, democratic Greece to the downward cultural spiral during Ottoman rule; from the overwhelming enthusiasm (and public works projects) that overtook the country around the 2004 Summer Olympics to the much-publicised and dilapidated morals of a number of modern Greek statesmen-in-charge.

## A solid history lesson

The fact is that magical, multi-faceted Athens now blazes with rejuvenation, optimism and a palpable energetic spirit known in Greek as *enthousiasmos*, a classical Greek term meaning, quite simply, "inspired by the gods".

Because central Athens is effectively an open-air museum masquerading as a downtown, taking to the





streets – even if just to pop into a shop for a brick of feta – invariably means a good solid history lesson. On a path trodden by Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, Turks, Albanians and Venetians, I descended from chaotic, central Syntagma Square, home to the stoic military *evzone* guards who patrol the Greek parliament, passing Hadrian’s Arch and the 15 remaining Corinthian columns that front the ruins of the Temple of Zeus. I ambled into the chaos of Plaka, a fetching collection of steep, tiered cobblestone streets of trinket shops and tavernas. This part of town is populated by flocks of bronzed, beshorted tourists getting their fix of pastel postcards, blue eye amulets and Roman-style sandals. With its lovely 19<sup>th</sup>-century homes, ironwork balconies and traditional Bouzouki music wafting around every corner, Plaka is an irresistible study in “quaint”.

Further on is the slightly less touristy Monastiraki, where Athens’ cardinal sites begin to unfold and the real history lessons begin. From Hadrian’s Library, where scholars once read the works of Homer and Herodotus on papyrus scrolls in an atrium garden, I walked to the Roman Forum and its Tower of the Winds effigy. Just opposite stands one of the city’s few remaining Ottoman relics: the 1458 Fethiye Tzami mosque. Once elided from the history books in a multi-century fit of revisionism, the mosque is now a store for archaeological remains. Further on is the ancient Agora, the hub of ancient Greek political, commercial, religious, administrative and social life, where Socrates once paced about and engaged passers-by in his signature question-and-answer sessions. The Agora’s columned and colonnaded arcade, the Stoa of Attalus, has since been gorgeously restored by American archaeologists.

In some ways, local archaeologists have been the most effected by the city’s recent changes. In a challenge to municipal technocrats and to the modernisation of Athens, they opposed the construction of a metro at every possible juncture for decades, arguing that it might obliterate an impossibly priceless collection of yet-to-be-discovered classical underground relics. In the end, progress won out over preservation, but with a compromise: a clean and efficient, Moscow-esque train network whose stations, adorned with modern art and archaeological artefacts discovered during the construction process, have virtually become museums in and of themselves. The trains now rush past local families, couples and teenagers taking in their *volta*, or evening promenade, along the new tree-lined cobblestone pedestrian causeway that skirts the Acropolis and its Parthenon.

Return of the headless Iris

Of course, it’s not just the Athenians who have capitalised on their classical past. Thomas Bruce, seventh Earl of Elgin and British ambassador to the



Ottoman Empire in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, so yearned for the riches of antiquity that he obtained permission from the ruling Turks to remove sculptures and friezes of gods, giants and centaurs – taking them straight off the Parthenon and surrounding buildings, and eventually installing them in the British Museum, where they still reside today.

This “last poor plunder from a bleeding land” (Byron) even dismembered singular works of art: one figure, the goddess Iris, has her body in London and her head in Athens. The long-awaited modern Acropolis Museum opened in the Greek capital several years ago, its reconstructed frieze conspicuously revealing gaps where the marbles originally rested – a pragmatic and symbolic gesture in the hope that they might one day be returned. As Agiati Benardou, a local archaeologist told me, “The marbles need the joy and spirit of the Greek sun”. Visit this moving museum and you’ll be hard-pressed to disagree with her.

Still, while the vaunted, glorious past of Ancient Greece has become a burden for many modern Greeks – casting into relief a present that has thus far proven rather less than glorious – many Athenians are keen to move beyond their antecedents and into the contemporary. Make the effort to get out of the city centre and you’ll learn that Athens is about much more than the classics. The city’s modern renaissance can be found in pretty lawned suburbs such as working-class Ambelokipoi and Drapetsona, or more glamorous Politeia and Kifissia; in scores of hip new design hotels and trendy bars; and in an inspired collection of innovative *nouveau grec* restaurants – it’s hardly a coincidence that one of the world’s first cookbooks was penned by a gourmand named Athenaeus.

Either dance well or quit the ballroom

Come nighttime, the city feels anything but caught in the past. Athenians, after all, have had 5,000 years to perfect the art of painting the town red. Pay a visit to any number of city



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It's a place where old men sip coffees at corner tavernas and mules slog along dirt paths carrying provisions – and occasionally, the odd tourist

neighbourhoods – post-grunge Psyrri, über-cool Gazi, boho-gritty Exarchia or la-di-da-I'm-the-daughter-of-a-magnate Kolonaki – and you'll find throngs of pretty young Athenians putting to the test another famous cultural institution we got from the Greeks: hedonism.

Well after dark one night, I hopped on a tram out to the beaches at Glyfada, Voula and Vouliagmeni, where armies of tanned, olive bodies were strutting past suited doormen straight onto the dance floor. I met up with Agiati the archaeologist and her friends Eleni and Despina – a trio of twenty-something demoiselles partying hard in a dark corner of the pulsing megaclub known as *Island*. "Either dance well or quit the ballroom," Eleni cautioned me with a popular Greek proverb, before breaking into a wide grin and then instructing me – ostensibly to better my dancing – in the delicate art of doing shots of *mastiha*, a sweet, syrupy extract from the lentisk trees on Hios Island. *Ouzo*, my friends, is for tourists.

Athens will suit night owls just fine: restaurants only really start serving tables after 10 PM, and locals begin dancing on them well after midnight. And if the

city centre should at some point feel empty – highly unlikely – just pack your bags for the beaches of the Attic coast, where Athenians can be found lapping up life in the sand. After hours of hard dancing, I abandoned the still-teeming club at dawn in search of peace and quiet. I hailed a taxi as the Greeks do, by shouting out my destination to a passing car. Half an hour later, with no grasp of the Greek language, no guidebook, no map, no watch and no plans, I was zooming ahead for the sun-soaked island of Aegina.

### Sampling the simple life

An hour away from Athens' port of Piraeus, a chaotic mass of loitering ferries, gleaming white cruise ships and monstrous container freighters – themselves the size of small islands – the half-dozen stubby Saronic isles offer a taste of another Greece. Aegina is best known for its pistachio orchards and domed, white-washed Agios Nikolaos church. I spent a day there sampling the simple life, lingering on *psari plaki* (the catch of the day roasted with tomatoes and herbs) and going for swims at Klima – a quiet beach at the end of the road with a few straw umbrellas and warm, blue

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THE CURRENT SITUATION

Despite the news about riots, strikes and political unrest that have beset the country since the 2009 crisis, political stability has been restored in Greece since 2012, when Antonis Samaras took charge as prime minister. Despite the country's economic difficulties, tourism revenues in Greece are expected to bounce back this year to pre-crisis levels, with bookings now estimated to exceed 17 million travellers. This is an all-time record, which includes a 30% increase in arrivals from Russia, and is up by more than one million from last year. These record numbers could mean an influx of 1 billion EUR in hard currency – a key to firing up the Greek economy, creating some 50,000 new jobs during the summer months and providing a much-needed boost to tax

revenue. Tourism accounts for nearly 20 % of the country's GDP. Aside from its recent stability and time-honoured draws of sun, sea and sand, Greece now is luring visitors with some extremely low prices. Hotel rates in central Athens and the suburbs, for example, have dropped by nearly 50 percent on average over the past three years. And enjoying the good life is not hard to do here. While there might be the occasional small demonstration in Syntagma Square, you're nearly guaranteed to find people having drinks a few hundred metres away in Plaka or Gazi. For information on the current situation, it's worth checking out the Living in Greece website ([www.livingingreece.gr/strikes](http://www.livingingreece.gr/strikes)), which is regularly updated.

waters – the perfect respite from cosmopolitan life. In recent years, a number of wise Athenians have caught on and relocated permanently to Aegina, commuting to their city jobs by sea. Slightly further away is Hydra, whose air of exclusivity and ban on motorised vehicles made it a popular stop with jet setters, artsy types and A-listers such as Audrey Hepburn and Brigitte Bardot. It's a place where old men sip coffees at corner tavernas and mules slog along dirt paths carrying provisions – and occasionally, the odd tourist. I found exhilaratingly little to do there other than snorkel, swim and squint at the dazzling Greek island light that so intoxicates the senses. Later that evening in my island guesthouse, I discovered a musty old Oxford English Dictionary on the shelf. Just for kicks, I looked up a word:



**mel-o-dra-ma** Gr. noun. A romantic and sensational dramatic work with exaggerated characters and exciting events intended to appeal to the emotions, often with colourful alternations of pathos and humour.

It seemed a perfectly appropriate description of Athens that the Athenians –ancient or latter-day, downtown denizen or idle islander, young or old – couldn't have articulated better themselves. The city is one of the best places in Europe to spend some time drinking, dancing, laughing, sunning and letting loose – getting far enough away from the cares of the world to enjoy a day or two forgetting about them. **BO**



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# Five best kitesurfing spots in Europe



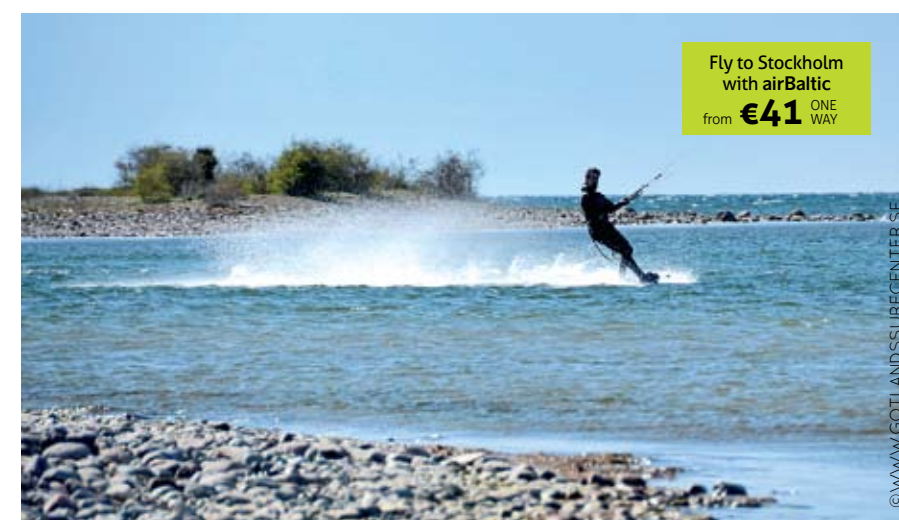
Do you have a free weekend on your hands for honing up your kitesurfing skills? If so, then Europe's top kitesurfing destinations are practically within arm's reach

TEXT BY ZANE NIKODEMUSA  
PHOTOS CORBIS/SCANPIX AND COURTESY OF WWW.PARACADEMYEXTREME.CO.UK AND WWW.GOTLANDSSURFCENTER.SE



## Wild Gotland

The Swedish island of Gotland is the largest island in the Baltic Sea, offering visitors beautiful sunsets, wild juniper stands, windswept cliffs and a medieval atmosphere. Perhaps the greatest impression is left by the islanders themselves, who – like the wind- and sea-battered forests on the island – are tough and hardy. This distinctive, seemingly other-worldly territory even hosts creative retreats, which are attended by numerous well-known European authors who gather there to write and draw inspiration for their next bestsellers. And any yachtsman who sails the Baltic Sea will make it a point of honour to call upon one of the Gotland's ports, celebrating his arrival with a dinner of roast lamb, saffron pancakes and blackberry jam. Gotland's propitious location and the island's prevailing winds provide the perfect backdrop for various water sports year-round, including wind- and kitesurfing, fishing, diving and canoeing. How can that be possible at such northern latitudes? It turns out that Gotland has various beaches where the water never freezes over in the wintertime, even when the temperature is below zero. One such place is Ljugarn, on the island's east coast. Its wide, sandy beach draws the best and most daring kitesurfers, who are only too glad to show off their skills all year round. The coastal waters at Ljugarn are shallow, offering a surprisingly large degree of wave action. During the summer months, the water temperature can even reach 22 degrees Celsius. The second most popular kitesurfing spot in Gotland is Tjurudden, which means Cape of Bulls in Swedish. It is only a 30-minute drive south from the island's capital of Visby. The steady winds and shallow, flat waters provide the perfect conditions for beginners to learn the basics of kitesurfing. Advanced kitesurfers will also feel at home here, with specially built kickers for jumping off that will help the most seasoned pros to maintain their form.



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Scheveningen: a fun-filled beach

The Hague is one of the most extraordinary cities in Holland; not only because it is the Netherlands` city of government, but also due to its many monuments, historic districts and prime location near the beautiful North Sea coastline. The Hague is known as "the city of peace and justice" and is called "the residence city" because many members of the Dutch Royal Family reside in its chic neighbourhoods.

Scheveningen – pronounced as s`CHay-fuh-ninger – is the best-known seaside resort on the Dutch coast, as well as a great place for sunbathing and water sports. Its sandy beach is only a 15-minute tram ride from the centre of The Hague. It attracts nine million visitors per year and is extremely developed. Apart from the beach, Scheveningen offers many forms of leisure and entertainment, including a cinema, a theatre, a casino, museums, a bowling alley, a shopping promenade, surf schools, sports events and numerous restaurants, beach pavilions, beach clubs and beach parties. It's a bit tacky, but nevertheless, you will probably still enjoy the carnival atmosphere.

Amid all this ruckous is a great kitesurfing spot on the beach, with excellent water conditions and waves of 0 - 3 metres in height, depending on the wind direction and strength. The sandy beach offers lots of space, but on a nice summer day it might get too busy for kitesurfing. Professionals say that Scheveningen is best-suited for



intermediate and advanced kitesurfers. From September 26 to September 29 of this year, the third leg of the official European Championship for Freestyle Kitesurfing will take a place in lively Scheveningen, providing a great opportunity for you to meet the top European kiteboarders.



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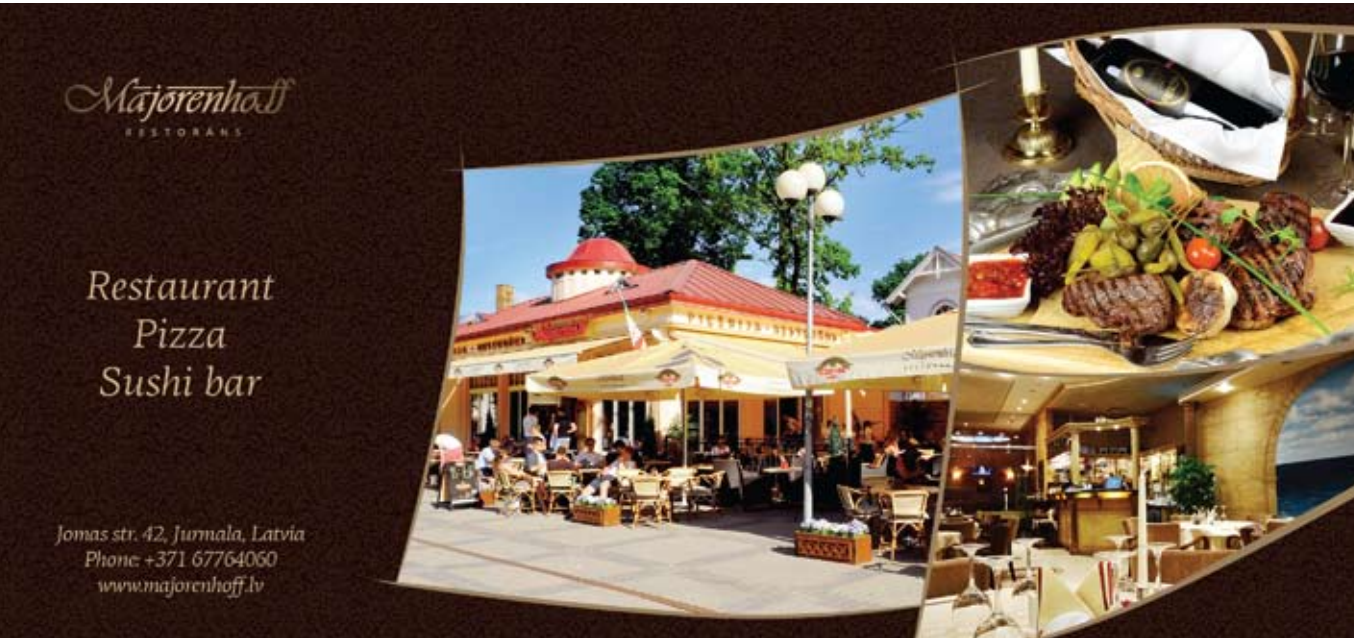
**Cold Hawaii**

At first sight, the Danish town of Klitmøller appears to be a drowsy municipality in a peripheral region. It is located on the west coast of the Jutland peninsula, about 17 km northwest of Thisted. Streetlights are not a common sight on Klitmøller's smaller roads, which meander among summer cottages and sand dunes. However, due to the strong winds and great waves, Klitmøller has become a popular tourist destination, especially

among surfers. The harsh weather provides great conditions for wind- and kitesurfing, and the destination is commonly known as Cold Hawaii. Klitmøller is internationally recognized as one of the best windsurfing and kitesurfing destinations in Europe, with several great surfing spots within a short distance of each other. The sleepy fishing village of Klitmøller became Northern Europe's windsurfing mecca in the mid 1990s. This was the place

to go when someone wanted to do serious wave sailing in the North Sea. The reef and the bend in the coastline provide one of the rare opportunities in Denmark to sail westerly winds side-shore. Now Klitmøller, with a population at about 800, has also become a centre of European surfing and kitesurfing culture. The atmosphere in Cold Hawaii is thus a characteristic mixture of local residents and international influences, just as it was in the

heydays of the shipping trade. Wind conditions for water sports here are best from March until May and from September to November. The town has a couple of camping sites and you will find plenty of cafés, restaurants and fast food outlets. However, a lot of them are closed during the winter. The people who continue to live here year-round have a deep love for Cold Hawaii and a fantastic level of tolerance for surfing in cold and windy conditions.



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### Great Dorset

Dorset is a county in southern England, about 130 miles southwest of London. The county has had a long history of human habitation that dates from the Iron Age, with cliffside fossils of the Jurassic era telling a story that goes back hundreds of millions of years. Dorset is home to both bustling seaside resorts and grassy rolling hills. Its location on the English Channel means that it has seen its share of invaders, from the Romans to the Normans, all of whom have left their mark on the area. This rich history gives Dorset a huge range of tourist attractions. Dorset's coastline is undeniably varied and beautiful, with numerous stunning sandy bays and rocky coves, as well as a long stretch that has UNESCO World Heritage Site status. While the county's sheltered south-facing coast and

protected waters make it an unlikely surf hub, Dorset is home to the largest population of surfers in Great Britain and will soon be home to the first artificial surf reef in the Northern Hemisphere. Dorset is one of the best places to kitesurf on the south coast of the United Kingdom, its clean waters and diverse coastline providing lots of spots for kitesurfers of all abilities to get in the water. The British Kite Surfing Association says that anyone from the ages of 7-70 can safely learn to ride on their own after an average of just 15 hours of tuition. If you fancy trying out the sport, or if you already have some experience but want to learn how to do those amazing kitesurfing tricks safely, then there are over ten kitesurfing schools along the coast.

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### Golden Almanarre

The town of Hyères and the adjacent beach at Almanarre became one of the first health resorts on the Côte d'Azur at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Since then, many celebrities have visited, including Queen Victoria, legendary Scottish writer Robert Louis Stevenson (the author of *Treasure Island*) and American novelist Edith Wharton. Today, a Belle Epoque atmosphere still reigns at Hyères, drawing experimental film directors, discriminating hedonists and many others. The oldest nudist resort in France – the

legendary Héliopolis – can be found on the Île du Levant near Almanarre. It was established in 1931. The only damper on the warm and sunny weather Hyères and its surroundings is the Mistral, a strong northerly wind that occasionally blows in from the mountains. Accustomed to its bluster, the inhabitants of the area are just as hardy as the stalwart olive trees that grow there. The locals are known to display a love of bright colours and spicy aromas like pepper and

garlic. The waves generated by the Mistral and the area's vivid surroundings also draw practisers of water sports like kitesurfing. With two long sandy beaches, Almanarre is regarded as one of the top windsurfing destinations in France and is now popular with kitesurfers seeking exceptional conditions. Even if it is a cloudy day, you can see lots of colourful kites and happy people. Don't be afraid to partake in the pleasure of kitesurfing yourself! **BO**



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# A couple of bottles of wine, some oysters and... 42 kilometres

TEXT BY MARTA RIBELE  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRENKS KUKS  
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There's not much time left before runners from all over the world begin to gather for the *Marathon du Médoc*, which will be held on September 7 this year. Also known as the Médoc Wine Marathon, it really is a serious challenge for the participants. After all, there are more than 50 other distractions alongside the race, including 22 refreshment stands, 21 food stands, and special gourmet stands with oysters, ham, steak, cheese, ice cream and other delicacies



Surprisingly enough, it is precisely in the Bordeaux region's *Marathon du Médoc* that Frenks Kuks, a businessman from Latvia, has achieved his personal record in marathon-running. "A wonderfully fun and delicious event," is how Frenks describes the atmosphere, conjuring up the image of running through the vineyards of Bordeaux while enjoying the best that local vintners have to offer. Having participated in the Médoc Wine Marathon



(along with friends and family) three times already, he is definitely going to run again next year. Frenks and his friends first ran the *Marathon du Médoc* in 2006. "We enjoy drinking wine. Running through the vineyards and tasting wines along the way seemed like the perfect thing to do," is how the businessman explains the reasoning behind that first trip. Decidedly sporty in his teens, Frenks didn't do anything athletic for years, until he began to run again in 2003. He has high regard for the *Marathon du Médoc* precisely because of its uniqueness: "It's not a real sporting event, which is why it is perfect for a slow runner like me. It doesn't make me feel uncomfortable to cross the finish line several hours later."

Almost a school of wine

The city of Pauillac has been at the core of the *Marathon du Médoc* for 29 years now. According to Frenks, the idea for the marathon came to city residents who were unhappy about the fact that for most of the year, nothing special happens in their city. As a result, they created an event to which at least 10,000 people now flock every year, and most of them are from France. Even though a Russian, a Belgian or an American wins the race every so often, French names dominate the list of winners that have accumulated over the years. The best running time achieved at Médoc actually matches a world record, although admittedly, that would be the record for running a marathon back in the 1950s. Here the emphasis is on other things.

The marathon's course is C-shaped and winds through wineries, with about 30 wine-tastings and live music along the way. "The vintners don't simply set out wines that they want to get rid of. They actually give out really good wine for tasting," says Frenks. And if you like what you've tasted, you can paste the wine bottle's label onto your number, as a reminder. Three years of participating in the *Marathon du Médoc* has greatly improved Frenks' knowledge of the red wines of the Bordeaux region, and some favourites have emerged from the pack. "I wasn't a big wine drinker before 2006. If there was a horse on the label, then I figured it was drinkable; if there was a house on it, then even better."

A test run beforehand

What is it like to run such a long distance while simultaneously doing wine-tasting? "We made a test run beforehand – in the name of science – and drank a bottle of wine while on a run, to see what it's like. And it was really good," Frenks reveals, admitting that if one were to go "by the book", then it would be proper to rinse one's mouth with the wine, enjoy its aroma and then spit it out. But as Frenks says, "I was born before the Moscow Olympics, and it is just not possible for me to spit out wine". During the length of the marathon – which for Frenks has fluctuated from six hours and 37 minutes (his first year) to three hours and 40 minutes (in 2009) – he drinks anywhere from one-and-a-half to two bottles of wine. Frenks has an interesting story to tell about the marathon that took place in the very hot September of 2006. "We are running



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along. Actually, I am closer to limping than running by this time, due to a leg injury. We notice a farmer who has come out to support the runners. He has set up a plastic table with a sunshade and is handing out – now, what do you think an athlete needs most on a hot day? Gin and tonics, *Pernod*, whiskey and house wine. That was so touching!”

"If it's not too hot, there are tables with oysters following the 37<sup>th</sup> kilometre. After a while, you run through the roast beef tent," Frenks says as he continues to recount the fabulous event. In two of the races there were "Greek gods and goddesses" (dressed in togas and laurel wreaths) standing at the 38<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> kilometres. One of the goddesses held a mug of cool beer in one hand and an ice cream in the other. As in all marathons, there are also numerous water stops throughout the course.

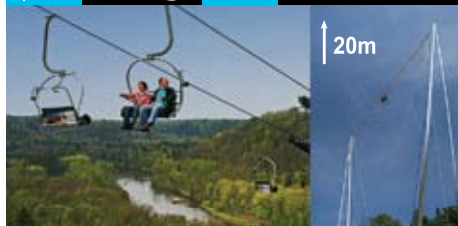
All of these side attractions and embellishments make this marathon a joyful event. There's an open-air market featuring oysters and cheeses, and the organizers always arrange for a surprise at the starting line, such as acrobats. The runners also take part in creating a fun mood by dressing up in imaginative get-ups: from the most primitive (like men cross-dressing as women), to monks. One runner even came as Jesus Christ with a styrofoam cross on his back. Every year, the *Marathon du Médoc* has a theme to serve as inspiration; this year's is science fiction. Frenks admits that he himself has never dressed up – he just shows up as a regular runner.

The temperature during the marathon is usually around 20 degrees Celsius during the day, but in some years it's gone up to 30 degrees; you definitely need to properly plan your choice of clothing. Frenks says he dressed too warmly in his first race; he usually runs in pants that reach below the knee. Since the mornings in Médoc are cool, you will likely need a jacket at first. If you don't have anyone at the starting line to whom you can give it, then Frenks recommends wearing something that you

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## OUTLOOK / TRAVEL



won't mind throwing to the side of the road during the race.

Spectators have been completely integrated into the process, and they may also visit all of the wineries that open up to the runners. Since the course is quite long, only the closest wineries are formally open to the spectators, but you can easily support your runner the whole length of the race by riding along on a bicycle. We should mention that bike riding is not allowed on the day of the event, but that's never hindered a substantial number of bicyclists from following the pack of runners anyway; you can even rent a bicycle at the local information centre. Supportive on-lookers are always important to runners, and due to their slight state of inebriation, the ones in Médoc are among the best.

### Getting there

The *Marathon du Médoc* takes place in September, but if you wish to participate as a runner, you need to start thinking about signing up at the start of the year. Begin by studying the event's webpage ([www.marathondumedoc.com](http://www.marathondumedoc.com)). Frenks points out that international runners must theoretically go to a tourism agency and get a package tour. Frenks and his group of friends did this for their first Médoc marathon.

"But this method is meant for lazy people. In addition, you greatly overpay for

accommodations that way," explains the businessman. During their first marathon, they stayed at the luxury *Sofitel Hotel* in the city of Bordeaux and ended up paying 200 EUR per night. For their second race, they came up with ideas of how to get around this expensive hurdle, such as registering with an e-mail address ending in ".fr" so that they would be given a "French" start-number. However, that didn't pan out and they were forced to get a package tour once again.

There is, however, one way left to still get into this year's marathon. On the official *Marathon du Médoc* webpage, there's a forum for people who already have start numbers, but who for some reason (such as an injury) cannot run this year. That explains why Frenks ran in his third marathon as "Monsieur Didier", even though in the organizational database he was listed under his real name, as Frenks Kuks. "So, you're running and running, and you forget what it says on the number, and then you hear people shouting: 'Courage, Monsieur Didier!'"

You can also take a risk and go to the annual sports equipment sale that is traditionally held before most marathons, including Médoc's. There, you can try to buy a start number from local scalpers who sell them at a slightly increased price – around 70-80 EUR. In terms of accommodations, many of the small wineries in Médoc have



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## OUTLOOK / TRAVEL



their own guesthouses. If you can't find anything there, then you can always stay in one of the coastal towns (the ocean is 25-30 km away), which are closer than the city of Bordeaux; or, look for places on the opposite side of the Gironde estuary, advises Frenks. He recommends taking a train from Paris, then renting a car in Bordeaux.

To Frenks and his family and friends, the *Marathon du Médoc* is like an anchor that justifies heading to this part of the world. "It's a lovely break, like a small holiday." Frenks and his troop usually stay on for a few days after the marathon. The ocean and its sandy beaches are nearby, as are some medieval-era towns. One can also continue with excursions to other vineyards and wineries.

### I'll run for as long as I can

According to Frenks, there are many races that are just as exciting, such as the annual cognac marathon that is held in November. But in Frenks' opinion, there are two problems with that one. First of all, November, even in France, is too cold for a pleasant running experience. Secondly, Frenks doubts that he could stand to sample that much cognac.

Frenks is also a big fan of the Big Sur Marathon in Northern California, its course winding along the picturesque Pacific

coast. Nevertheless, he takes heed of his age and doesn't want to run too much, or he might end up with an injury. "I run for my own joy right now," Frenks says. His running season lasts from mid-March to mid-November: "It's just not a pleasant experience beyond those dates."

Avoiding injuries is also why he only runs the 21-kilometre section of the annual Nordea Riga Marathon. In May he is still not physically fit enough to run a whole marathon. Frenks' story can serve as inspiration for beginning runners. After long years of virtual inactivity, he had become overweight and beset with health problems. So, Frenks began to run. Initially, he ran just one kilometre at a time, then slowly increased the distance until he was regularly pounding out 15-20 kilometres per run.

"I thought to myself: OK, I'm running and I really like it, but maybe I should set another goal for myself. If I can run 15-20 kilometres, maybe I could also run a marathon!" Having won a spot in the New York Marathon through a lottery, he began to train seriously. "I didn't run it very fast – a bit over four hours – but I was very surprised at how easy it was, and I didn't get any injuries. The weather was wonderful and pleasantly cool. When I finished, instead of feeling satisfied, I cried because I didn't get as good a time as I wanted. At that moment, I understood that I would definitely keep on running."

Frenks also ran in the Riga Marathon while it was still under its former name and had different owners, and there he experienced a full spectrum of negative emotions. For one, there weren't many spectators at that time. In addition, the city's inhabitants weren't happy and complained about the street closures. During the race, the water stops ran out of water. At the 25<sup>th</sup> kilometre, Frenks got a terrible leg cramp and fell into a ditch without anybody noticing. He eventually climbed out and then hobbled his way to the finish line.

"I'm definitely going to run for as long as I can," Frenks says determinedly, using the well-being that he feels while running, and which lasts for a long time afterwards, as motivation. "Quite possibly, it is while I am running that my mind and body are closest to each other." **BO**



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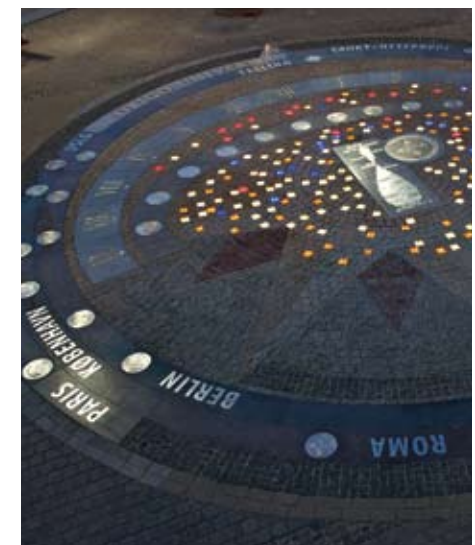
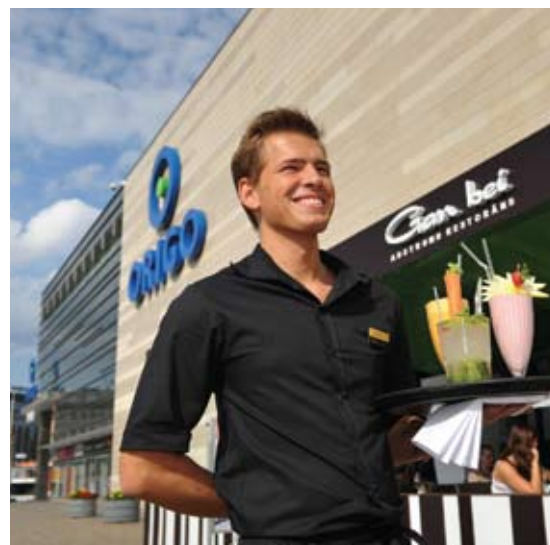
Origo has also provided for your enjoyment a 450 square-metre open-air photo gallery, filled



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### Design object Sundial – Origo Universi

A new feature is the meeting place called The Sundial – Origo Universi, which lies in front of the Origo shopping centre. It is a 9 metre-large interactive and educational design object that invites one to determine what time it is, as well as encourages exploration of Latvia's medieval castles and major sights found in other European cities.





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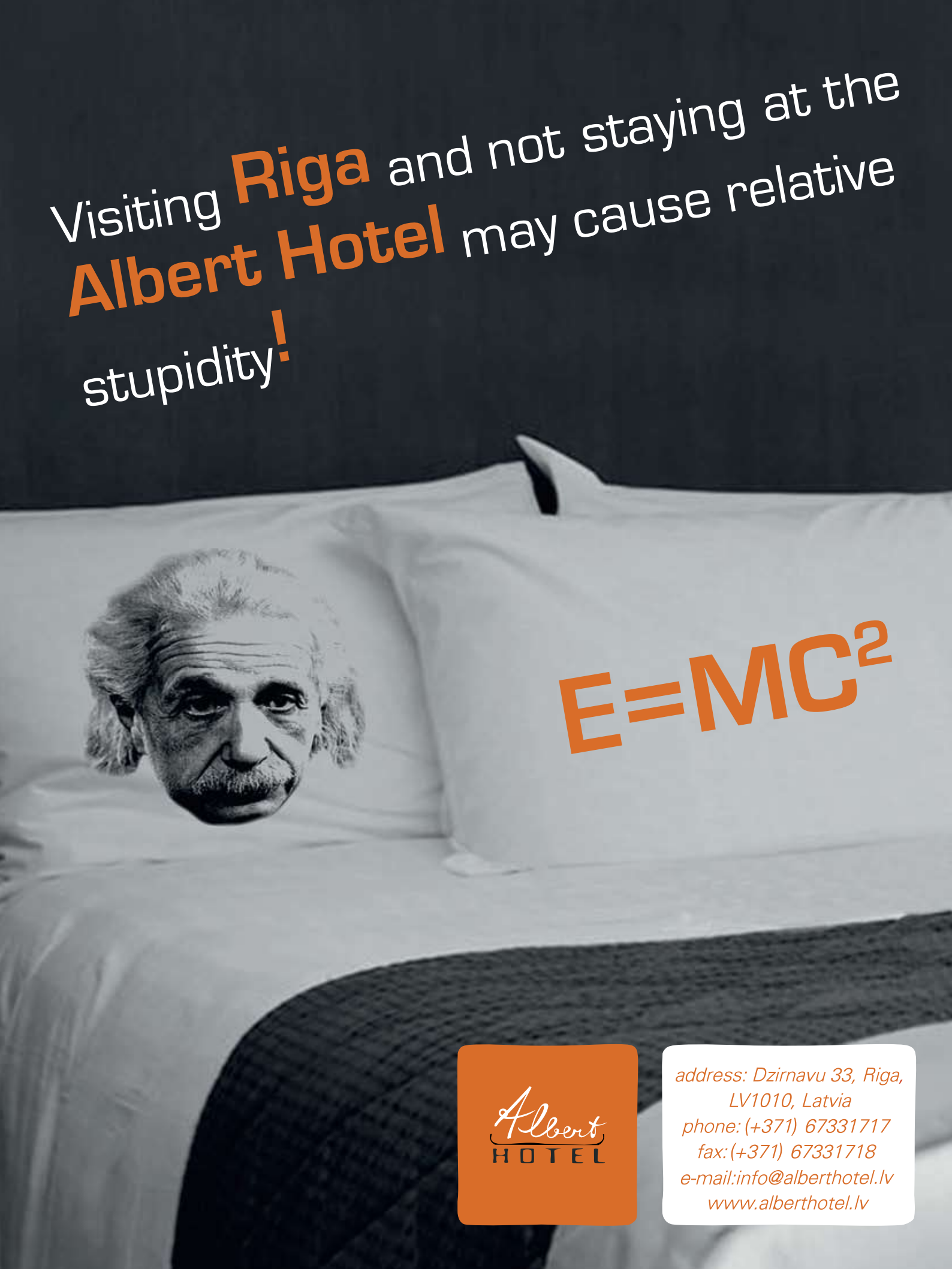
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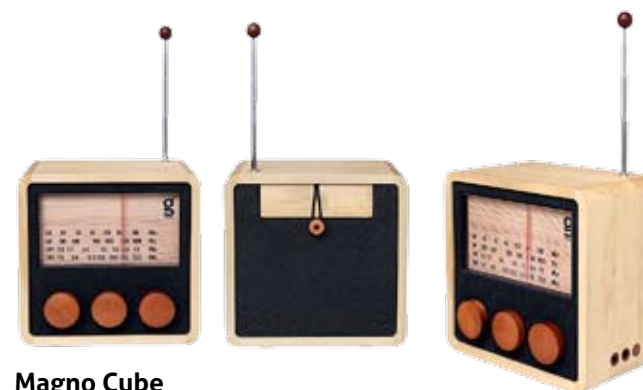
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# Real Estate Expert – инвестиционные проекты для Вашего роста



Инара Вилкасте  
председатель совета Real Estate Expert

Медицинский туризм – одна из наиболее перспективных отраслей в Европе, и у Латвии уже сейчас имеются все предпосылки для того, чтобы стать значительным центром этой отрасли туризма.

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## „Medical park” – будущее уже сегодня

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## Современный мультифункциональный проект на расстоянии вытянутой руки от центра Риги

Мультифункциональный проект, полностью отвечающий актуальнейшим требованиям рынка. На участке 54 тысячи квадратных метров планируется построить: многоквартирные здания, детсад, центр здоровья и офисные комплексы.

Доступная и упорядоченная инфраструктура, одинаковая близость как к центру Риги, так и к Юрмале – этот проект подойдёт даже самым требовательным покупателям.

## Уникальное историческое здание с большим потенциалом в самом сердце Риги

Уникальное здание, построенное в конце XIX века в стиле эклектики, спроектированное Фридрихом Бауманисом, первым латышом, получившим академическое архитектурное образование.

Строение находится в самом сердце Риги. Интенсивное пешеходное движение, близость Старой Риги и центра города, а также архитектура здания открывают широкие возможности для его использования. Гостиница и бутики или шикарные апартаменты – всё это можно развивать в Риге, по ул. Меркеля, 7.

Вас заинтересовал какой-нибудь из этих проектов? Хотите узнать больше о наших предложениях? Тогда мы приглашаем Вас связаться с Real Estate Expert, позвонив по тел. +371 67 376 621, моб. тел. +371 29 286 557 или пишите на э-почта [r.expert@latnet.lv](mailto:r.expert@latnet.lv)



Рига, ул, Меркеля, 7

## Элитарные апартаменты в Юрмале и Риге – место для наслаждения жизнью!

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Больше информации на [www.jurmalasperle.lv](http://www.jurmalasperle.lv)



## „Волна Межапарка» – высококачественные квартиры в престижнейшем районе

Межапарк – один из самых престижных и благоустроенных районов латвийской столицы. А в начале XIX века это место было известно под названием «Царский лес». Достаточно всего 15 минут, чтобы, не покидая Ригу, оказаться в Царском лесу, въезд в который открывается сияющим в солнечных лучах 12-этажным домом-мечтой «Волна Межапарка»

32 благоустроенные квартиры с полной внутренней отделкой высокого качества; паркетные полы, итальянская сантехника. Имеется удобная двухуровневая автостоянка. К дому прилегает благоустроенная детская площадка.

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## IMAGEHOUSE

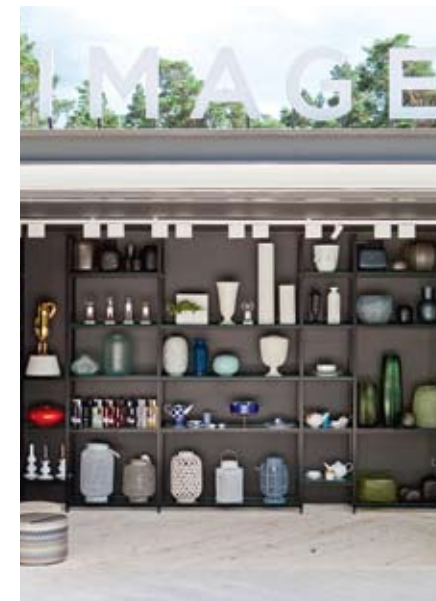
Imagehouse interior showroom  
Brīvības iela 40  
Rīga, LV1050  
www.imagehouse.lv

All of the design objects and interior accessories at *Imagehouse* reflect the concept of extending one's boundaries. They speak a common language and represent such European design companies as *Extremis* (Belgium), *Dedon* (Germany), *Missoni Home* (Italy), *Ivano Redaelli* (Italy), *Guaxs* (Germany), *Bosa* (Italy), *Sieger by Theresienthal* (Germany), *Sieger* (Germany), *Sieger by Furstenberg* (Germany) and *Linari* (Germany).

As you step onto the store's wide terrace, you will likely notice the white wooden floor, which fits in so well with Jūrmala's alluring milieu of quaint wooden houses. It provides the perfect setting for an outdoor furniture collection by *Extremis*, which features a comfortable *Gargantua* chair in the shade of a large white sunshade umbrella. Feel free to plop down into it and relax. *Extremis* was founded in Belgium in 1994, its creator and chief designer Dirk Wynants representing a shining example of how to follow one's dreams with the help of a thirst for knowledge and a healthy dose of daring. Along with lounge furniture, the collection also offers solutions for outdoor showers or campfire sites, as well as illuminated ice boxes, dividing modules and other creative ideas under the common mission *Tools for Togetherness* ([www.extremis.be](http://www.extremis.be)).

Right nearby, with a no less inspiring story, is a series of woven furniture by the German *Dedon* brand. Through its 20 years in operation, *Dedon* has become known for its famous collections and hand-woven technique, which companies everywhere are now trying to copy ([www.dedon.de](http://www.dedon.de)).

No dessert is complete without the icing on the cake, and specifically, the wide array of elegant glass vases by *Guaxs*. Their



pleasing colours perfectly complement the beige tones of Jūrmala's fading seaside grasses, the grey of the sea waves and the nuanced orange shades of the sunset ([www.guaxs.com](http://www.guaxs.com)).

Cheerfully and playfully, breaking all stereotypes about generally accepted values, potted cacti dance on the shelves, while a 24-carat gold-covered *Hope Bird* sparkles in royal glory. This amusing interior item is rapidly becoming an increasingly popular talisman. All of these tasteful items have been designed with a sense of humour and a smile by *Bosa* ([www.bosatrade.com](http://www.bosatrade.com)).

How about a glass of champagne to end the evening? Put your daily routine behind you in a fresh outdoor breeze and take a sip of gold, so to speak. The insides of the drinking glasses of the *Desire* collection by *Sieger by Furstenberg* are coated with 24-carat gold, reflecting each bubble in a magical yellow hue and adding a further sense of delight to your summer social gatherings ([www.sieger.org](http://www.sieger.org)). **BO**



# OUT OF THE BOX

The OUT OF THE BOX summer concept store of the *Imagehouse* interior salon, right in the heart of Jūrmala on Dzintaru prospekts 28, has just come forth with a new take on design and elegance. Its message is unequivocal – getting people to think beyond their usual frame of mind and world view









# Excellence in creating smiles

Dr. A. Butkēviča's  
Dental Practice  
Dzirnavu 45/47, Riga  
(+371) 67 242470  
www.drbutkevica.eu

Even if it's not the first reason that most people give, a beautiful smile is what every dental patient wants most of all. *Dr. A. Butkēviča's Dental Practice* in Riga sees around 75 first-time patients every month, many from the USA, Canada, Israel and Western Europe. They are not in the search of cheap prices, but of proven expertise in solving bone and tooth-loss problems, as well as superb aesthetic results – which is exactly what this full dental treatment clinic has to offer

The clinic is a veritable international dental hub. In the waiting room – with Dr. Alēna Butkēviča's diploma for Doctor of Science in Dentistry from Boston University displayed on the wall – one hears Latvian, Russian and English. A UPS courier arrives with a dental prosthesis manufactured in Boston. Every so often, an appointment is made to see Dr. Laurent Guyllop from France or Dr. Kareem Akly from Greece.

"In this sense, I am like a dog in search of truffles and am glad to have found some of the best specialists in Europe to work with. In addition to providing full dental services, we specialize in restoring bone mass to missing teeth, always placing great importance on function and aesthetics. Complicated four- and five-hour-long surgeries are a daily occurrence, which is why our specialists and materials have to be the best," says Dr. Butkēviča.

The method of bone tissue regrowth used by *Dr. A. Butkēviča's Dental Practice* has been officially approved for the past four years. "You can, of course, do 'pure' science that is completely removed from everyday reality, but I'm interested in doing things that can make a real difference in life. Our method of operations stimulates natural bone growth. In many cases it is sufficient to stabilize compromised teeth that would otherwise have to be extracted. Nowadays, people are more and more aware of the value of natural teeth and want to keep them if at all possible," says the doctor.

For the last 15 years, dentists have been studying and developing the branch method of healing, which is necessary if dental implants are to integrate into the body and be viable for the long term.

Many patients coming to the clinic have experienced complete dental bone loss, severe jaw atrophy or periodontitis and loose teeth. "The once-popular solution of pulling teeth and replacing them with implants has proven to be lacking in durability. In today's method of restoring missing teeth so that they can serve for decades, the patient's own bone serves as the base. Frequently, this base is missing, which is why we grow new bone tissue in its place," explains the founder of the clinic. Among other advantages of her missing-bone-and-teeth restoration methods, Dr. Butkēviča mentions lower levels of pain because the new implant is accepted by the

body, as well as a shorter healing time.

Dr. Butkēviča's research in bone tissue is rooted in her scientific work on implant biomechanics, and the USA was an ideal place to expand upon it. "The School of Dental Medicine at Boston University is one of the most strongly developed in the USA, which is itself one of the most important players in the field of scientific dentistry," she explains. Her latest methodological presentation in the USA took place in Tampa, Florida, during an annual meeting of the Academy of Osseointegration, of

## Dr. Alēna Butkēviča

**Education:** Riga Medical College, Boston University  
DScD in Prosthodontics and Implantology  
Has done more than 15,000 surgical procedures  
Dr. A. Butkēviča's Dental Practice was founded in 1992. The team currently consists of six doctors and three hygienists



which *Dr. A. Butkēviča's Dental Practice* is an honorary member and the only one hailing from the Baltic States. Similar steps in dental science are being taken in Switzerland and especially Israel.

The greatest daily challenge is finding the perfect balance between running a dental practice and doing hard science. "In a way, it almost feels like a handicap. As a practicing dentist, I sometimes have to leave the healing arts to the wayside while I do the paper chase: defending and substantiating scientific ideas, working with an attorney on securing patents and so on," Dr. Butkēviča reveals. Roughly calculating, she spends about every fourth week devoted entirely to science – reading the latest research and documenting her own research, as well as communicating with other scientists

and the teaching staff who instructed her in Boston.

The doctor's biggest scientific revelations usually come to her as she walks the one-and-a-half-kilometre pathway from her horse stables to her house. Horses are what clear her head after work, which sometimes stretches into twelve-hour-long workdays. Two of her favourite horses are currently being ridden by Benjamin Robert – France's 10<sup>th</sup> best jockey – and are vying for top placings in international competitions. Sitting among the spectators aids the doctor in decompressing from her daily routine and gives her fresh inspiration for further work. "Watching a horse push itself to go faster and the jockey fighting for position really gives me a shot of energy," she says with evident enthusiasm. **BO**



# Caimi acoustic panels

**KATE**  
20  
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www.kate.lv

In the refurbishment of office spaces, the need for acoustic solutions to reduce noise levels and ensure acoustic comfort is often the number one concern for a variety of reasons:

- The pace of life and work has become faster, while communication has become more intense and varied. However, in order to concentrate on one's work assignments in an open office space, the surrounding noise and sounds need to be reduced to a minimum;
- In order to save money, open office spaces are becoming increasingly popular. In some cases, that involves the installation of a higher density of work stations than dictated by regulations and norms. Under such conditions, the noise level is high, with a negative effect on work productivity and quality;
- In the refurbishment, renovation and construction of office buildings, the materials and methods for ensuring optimal acoustic comfort at the workplace are not always used.

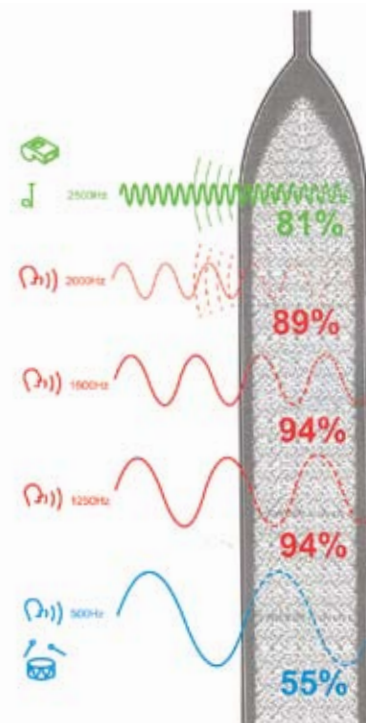
A new solution to office acoustic problems is now available in the form of simple, easy-to-use acoustic panels and fasteners – a completely new acoustic concept created by architect Michele De Lucchi in cooperation with the Caimi company. De Lucchi has managed to forego the commonly used practice of installing complicated and expensive systems that are built in already during the construction process and that are not always acoustically effective. Mitesco acoustic panels by Caimi can be easily installed in all sorts of spaces, including offices, conference rooms and hallways, working wonders to improve the acoustic climate wherever they are used.

Although each panel is only 35 mm thick at its centre, the patented *Snowdown*® technology enables the selective absorbance of different frequencies, creating an optimal acoustic environment. The panels consist of one single material, polyester, which has been specially put together at various densities: the structure is denser at the outer edges of the panels and looser in the middle, while the surfaces are coated with *Trevira CS*® polyester fabric. The fact that the panels are made of a single substance ensures their quality and has precluded the need to put together several materials in the final product.

Mitesco acoustic panels can be installed practically anywhere:

- fastened to walls;
- fastened to ceilings;
- strengthened with cables as interior construction elements;
- fastened near office desks to serve as stationary dividing walls between work stations;
- placed on office desks as portable dividing walls;
- fastened to glass dividing walls;
- placed in rooms as free-standing shields.

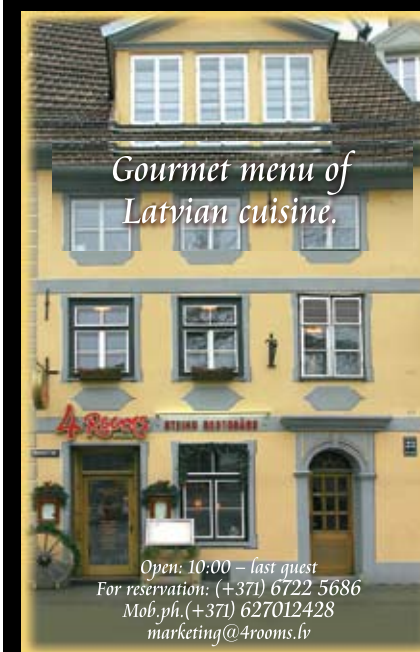
Mitesco acoustic panels can be seen and tried out at the KATE salon in Riga, where the friendly staff will demonstrate first-hand how effective the panels really are at reducing acoustic discomfort in a room with poor sound quality. The staff will also be glad help you to find the optimal sound solution for your individual office needs. BO



Queens is a British pub and restaurant with a gorgeous Victorian atmosphere and delicious food. More than 18 draught beers to choose from, including local and imported brands, a wide range of steaks, burgers and other meat dishes.

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PUBLICITY PHOTOS

# Ribs that really rock

Preparing excellent ribs is laborious – that's one good reason to leave it to the experts. At *Ribs & Rock*, two spots located right in the heart of Riga, Michelin restaurant-trained head chef treats ribs at a state-of-the-art level

Rock and roll is what they play, and ribs are what you'll get. *Ribs & Rock* is the tempting blend of an American-style restaurant with a Latvian heart and staff. Having opened their second edition a year ago (which, just like the first one, is also located in the Old Town), the daring promoters of the *Ribs & Rock* chain have once again proved their expertise in the business. They also own *KID* and *Steiku Haoss*, two equally celebrated Riga brand names. However, *Ribs & Rock* is different, not only menu-wise, but also judging by the interior. Its signature is a special American-style décor. Jim Morrison, the former leader of *The Doors*, features prominently in one of many posters and paintings that hang from the walls. Photos of numerous rock bands and singers abound, along with vintage electric guitars, drum sets and plenty of rock and roll memorabilia.

Being the only restaurants in Latvia that specialize in lamb, beef and pork ribs, *Ribs & Rock* knows how to make its customers' mouths water right from the start. Sometimes the aroma emanating into the dining hall is so irresistible that it's easy to overrate one's hunger when choosing from an order of either 400 or 800 grams of ribs.

The two restaurants offer not only great meat, but also a large menu with a wide range of choices for every palate. When the first *Ribs & Rock* opened in 2011, head chef Andris Jugāns turned his kitchen into a veritable laboratory. After a great deal of work and numerous experiments, he figured out the perfect process for marinating and cooking ribs in order to make them particularly soft. In fact, he found a dozen different combinations of flavours to offer. In all cases, the meat must be marinated for 24 hours and then steamed, then marinated once more and put into the oven before it goes to the grill with plenty of gravy. Even though the total preparation process after you order it takes only about 15 minutes, the method for preparing excellent ribs is laborious. When leaving it to *Ribs & Rock*, you can be sure that you've addressed the city's best experts, as Jugāns has been trained in London under the wing of Michelin star-winning British head chef Tom Aikens.

Among the restaurants' specialties are *Dark side of the moon*, prepared with the renowned *Riga Black Balsam*, as well as *Red Hot Chili Peppers* and *U2*. The ribs are featured in a separate menu and are served with different side dishes like variously filled baked potatoes, as well as with diverse sauces such as Béarnaise, guacamole, yoghurt or spicy dried plum – all freshly made in the restaurants' kitchen.

To whet your appetite, the menu offers six different kinds of salads, along with various cold or hot appetizers, including beef

fillet tartar, fried goat cheese, *vitello tonnato* and tiger prawn tails in tempura.

If you don't fancy ribs, then there are great soups, pastas or fish to choose from, as well as a wide range of steaks, including an Argentinean one. Don't forget to spoil yourself with a sweet treat before you leave. Try the chocolate *Sacher* cake or the Philadelphia cheesecake, or perhaps a homemade sorbet and you will leave completely satisfied.

Be sure to match a special wine with your main course, for



**SOMETIMES THE AROMA EMANATING INTO THE DINING HALL IS SO IRRESISTIBLE THAT IT'S EASY TO OVERRATE ONE'S HUNGER**

example, pork ribs. Believe us, the *Ribs & Rock* restaurants are among the most skilled places in Riga for coupling wine and pork perfectly. Savour a glass of red or one of their numerous types of beer, lagers or cocktails on the outdoor terrace, which is a true challenge for any passer-by to overlook. Appetizingly filled plates, relaxed patrons sipping refreshing drinks and listening to live music by Latvian rock groups while soaking up the sun and city charm on the cobbled streets of the Old Town – all this proves very hard to resist during springtime in the Latvian capital. **BO**





of centuries-old rooftops and streets, but also with its *dolce vita* atmosphere, in which even the most serious workaholics manage to unwind for a few relaxing hours.

The miraculous change in the demeanour of restaurant patrons is brought on not only by the terrace's unique view of the Old Town and the historical building's aesthetic appeal. Gourmets know 1221 as a restaurant that serves some of the best wild game in town. Think beaver ragout marinated in champagne, or tender venison loin steak, or baked pheasant with fennel seeds, or dove breast with sweet potato and orange juice sauce. These are just some of the dishes that the prime minister of Latvia and his most prominent guests have been able to choose from on a regular basis. One foreign VIP, after consuming a perfectly prepared steak and not wanting to leave without enjoying a delectable dessert, almost missed his flight home.

If game and desserts are not your thing, then 1221 also offers a wide choice of fantastic seafood dishes. Alongside skilfully prepared salmon, zander and catfish, the owners are proud to offer Osetra black caviar – one of the most prized types in the world – from Latvian-grown sturgeon. The waitstaff will help you to choose the right wine for your meal from exclusive



brands that sommelier Jānis Kalķis has selected himself and that can only be found at premium restaurants.

And 1221 really is an outstanding establishment, not least due to its location in a charming building that is more than 300 years old. Traces of the edifice's venerable history can still be seen in the wooden floors, beams and doors, as well as the original ceramic wood stoves and closed inner courtyard. The light-coloured textiles and tasteful choice of furniture impart a Provençal type of airiness and a Chekovian, relaxed feel to the place. And time will seem to stand still when you imbibe the legendary horseradish, cranberry or cherry liqueur that the wife of the owner has made herself – a practically perfect end to a practically perfect evening of fine dining and leisurely people-watching. **BO**

# A restaurant for bon vivants

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(+371) 67220171  
1221@apollo.lv  
www.1221.lv

**On warm summer** evenings, when the steeples and cobblestones of Riga glow in the orangey hue in the setting sun, those in the know gather at a special spot right in the heart of the Old Town – the cosy rooftop terrace of the 1221 restaurant on Jauniela. Decorated in flowers, the terrace beckons not only with its picture-perfect view



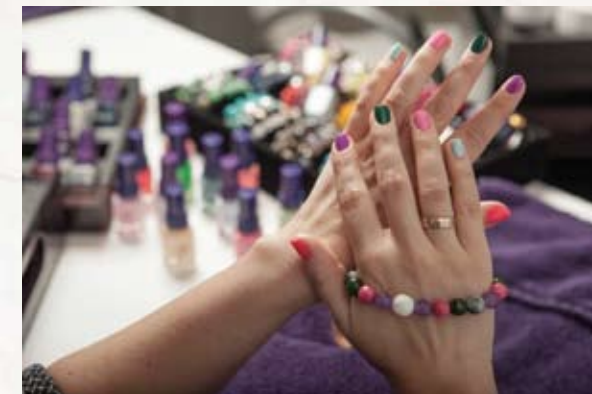
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**White garden** is the first luxurious Master Studio with a dainty finesse in the city of Riga, offering the most sophisticated Christina Fitzgerald hands and feet care treatments and Australian Lycon epilation as well as Baehr German cosmetics for the delight of those who love to indulge in the pleasures of machine pedicure. We also offer assorted manner of face and body care treatments, photo epilation and Starvak vacuum massage. **White Garden**, in the Baltics, is the sole representative of Christina Fitzgerald cosmetics with its enormous range of nail polishes that number up to 67 colours !



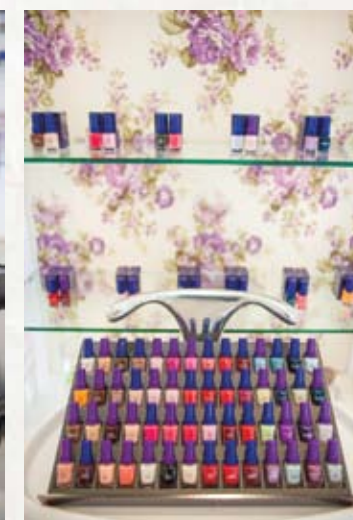
Являясь эксклюзивным представителем косметики и лаков Christina Fitzgerald в странах Балтии, **White Garden** предлагает широчайшую палитру лаков,

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## Alberta 1221: Proven values meet bold ideas in the heart of Art Nouveau Riga

*Alberta 1221*, the recently opened sister restaurant to the well-known 1221 in Riga's Old Town, should not make you think 'twin sisters'. A more appropriate term would be 'second cousins', with familiar traits but refreshing differences among the two establishments. *Alberta 1221* is appropriately situated on Alberta iela, which fully reflects the ambience of Riga's 'quiet centre', and is romantically hidden away from your typical tourist tracks. The interior is faithful to the Art Nouveau style, one of Riga's greatest claims to fame, and which is widespread in the architecture of this elegant part of the city. The restaurant's interior also benefits from modern and chic elements in its design. These agree with the general conception of *Alberta 1221* – to be flexible and up-beat, while not compromising on quality and proven values.

The restaurant's relation to the 1221 on Jauniela assures customers that equally high quality standards are maintained and that the meals at *Alberta 1221* are no less exquisite than in the Old Town. Surprisingly, head chef Roberts Smilga admits that one of his goals upon opening *Alberta 1221* was to have customers not realize that the same chef operates at both locations. This restaurant's menu is bolder. Every month, several

items get exchanged for new creative masterpieces by Smilga, who admits to being especially intolerant of boredom.

The head chef listens closely to his customers' feedback and combines it with his own likings for more enticing and extraordinary flavours. He has created such delectable dishes as stewed veal tails, fried lamb with tuna-nut cream and ground coffee beans, lamb confit with seaweed, and even pigeon, which is making its way to the upcoming spring menu.

All of the meat and fish on the menu at *Alberta 1221* comes from abroad, mostly France. As Smilga admits, the quality of these products is so high and has had such long-standing tradition that he does not mind the extra cost and effort to get a hold of them. Smilga does use locally-grown cod, however, which has quickly become a local favourite. The dessert menu has benefited from a new type of technology that Smilga uses to prepare chilled sweet treats. One can now savour a tangy and refreshing cucumber sorbet or chicory ice cream with crushed sugarplums, and we can certainly look forward to the fresh fruit and berry season! **BO**

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## Restaurants, bars and cafés

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**Tvaiks café, Riga**

Kārlis Roberts Celms, a familiar name on the Latvian dining scene, is the head chef, owner and man behind the overflowing energy pot at the Tvaiks café, which serves restaurant-quality food in – of all places – the premises of a public sauna.

The building has housed saunas of one name or another since 1908, receiving a colourful addition last year in the form of Tvaiks (the word for steam in Latvian). The café is accessible to the sauna-goers and to all others willing to follow Celms – a man with a bit of a fan base – to wherever he's taking the party next.

Celms is a proponent of what he calls the New American food movement, offering comfort food. By "comfort", he means immigrant cuisine and food traditions brought to America from all over the world – a fusion of flavours and histories, with very little fuss about the quirks of fine dining. Celms has now brought these ideas to Latvia,

"reinventing the middle class of food" and proudly serving what he says is junk food, but prepared from scratch. This means that his burger is a lamb burger with nettle cheese, while his sauna snacks include the likes of salmon marinated in vodka and beetroot, and served with pickled onions on rye bread.

This place and the man behind it can truly shake one's convictions when it comes to the apparent contrast between fine dining and fast food establishments, between refined dishes and what is commonly perceived as junk, bringing it all together in high-quality no-fuss comfort food. And he can even serve it to you in the sauna. Sit back, relax, bathe and eat up a storm...

Tallinas iela 71

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технология не используется ни одним современным производителем элитных алкогольных напитков. Все, кто пробовал Полугар, высоко отзываются о его хлебном вкусе, аромате и мягкости.

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Kaļķu iela 15



Jūrmala  
36 linija



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Come brunch with us and stay for the music:

Have you met them? The people who are so enthusiastic and believe in their cause so firmly that you are certain they will start preaching and try to convert you – which in the end they never do, but you still find yourself smiling sincerely and nodding your head in agreement. That's them, the members of the EcoCatering team, who shower you with positivism, friendliness, music and heart-warmingly delicious food that is healthy to boot and locally grown.

While eco might seem like a term that is being used too often these days, here at *Telpa* (meaning "room" or "space" in Latvian), it is quite apropos and here you really do get the space and the room to breathe and make up your own mind about what to choose. They say that you can catch more flies with honey, and that is certainly the case at *Telpa*... or maybe I should give it away already and say "with raspberry onions" instead; mouth-watering and tangy, these are an almost legendary delicacy at the establishment.

One might expect the place to be full-on alternative, given that it is sits off the tourist trail and is located in the premises of a former factory. And the staircase that you must climb to get to *Telpa* after passing through a spacious courtyard does make you wonder where you will end up. Well, you emerge in a romantic and arty room, from which you can step outside onto a terrace that is beautifully lit with rows of fairytale lights.

During the day, the buffet-style brunch table offers a selection of salads, soups and mains, along with freshly baked bread and whole-grain pancakes that are prepared on the terrace and served with strawberry, raspberry and black-currant sauce. The set price of 5 LVL will have you appreciate the owners' generosity, for you can refill your plate as many times as you please.

In the evening, the buffet features the likes of pearl-barley with rucola pesto and quail eggs, Jerusalem artichokes with beetroot and feta, fusilli pasta with chicken from the Langali household; and one cannot emphasize enough the heavenly presence of the onions pickled in raspberry jam on the table. All this serves as a mere compliment to the grill menu of the evening, from which one can choose between the specialty beef burger, barbecued chicken or grilled cheese, which are also prepared on the terrace.

Courtyard of Matisa iela 8, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (above the bike shop)

Hours: Mon.–Thu. 11:00–22:00, Fri.–Sat. 11:00–23:00, closed on Sundays

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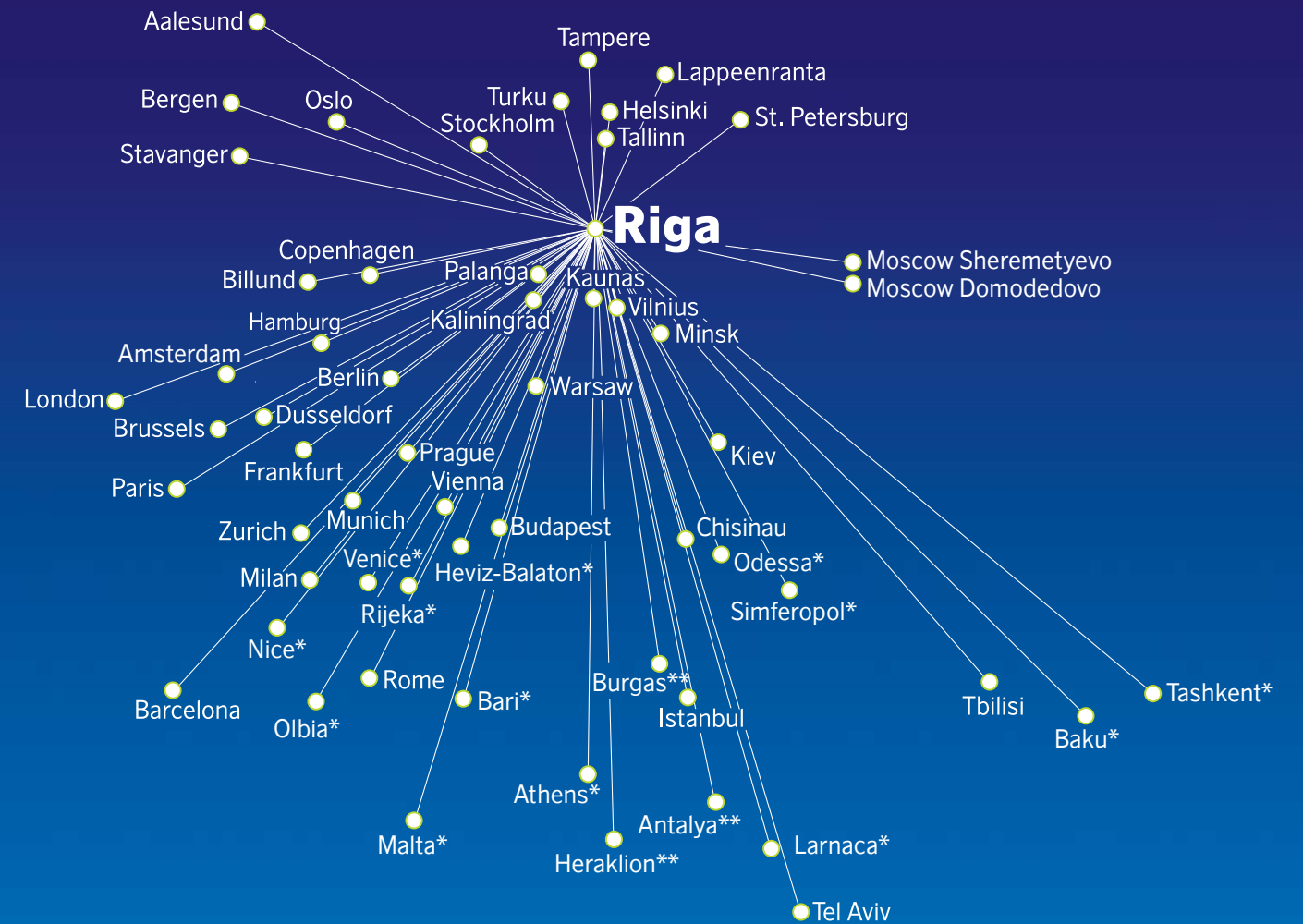
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airBaltic



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\* Seasonal flights.

\*\* Operated in cooperation with tour operator Tez Tour.

## Welcome aboard airBaltic!

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136 Flight schedule / 138 Flight map / 139 Fleet / 140 Contacts

Follow us on:







## IN BRIEF

- 1/ Warm and sunny destinations for your autumn break
- 2/ More flights to Brussels
- 3/ New design at airBaltic.com

### 1/ Warm and sunny destinations for your autumn break

Stretch the summer out for as long as possible by booking your autumn break to one of our warm and sunny southern destinations.

Choose from any of five cities in Italy. *airBaltic* flights to **Rome** and **Milan** operate throughout the year, with flights to **Venice** (until the end of September), **Bari** (until October 19) and **Olbia** in Sardinia (until October 26) extending into the fall.

Alternatively, you might consider the ever-popular **Athens** (until October 1), **Barcelona**, **Istanbul** or **Tel Aviv**, all of which are available year-round.

Plenty of resorts with the best autumn beaches are still open well into the second half of the year. *airBaltic* will continue flights to **Nice** (until October 26), **Malta** (until October 20), **Larnaca** in Cyprus (until October 19), **Rijeka** in Croatia (until end of September) and **Heviz-Balaton** in Hungary (until October 12).

Those looking for something exotic can visit the Ukrainian Black Sea resorts of **Odessa** (until October 8) and **Simferopol** (until October 11).

One-way ticket prices to these cities during the autumn start from 85 EUR. Book your tickets at [www.airbaltic.com](http://www.airbaltic.com).



### 2/ More flights to Brussels

To coincide with the new business season, we will increase our flight frequencies between Riga and **Brussels** starting from September.

Now there will be up to three daily flights on this route, giving business travellers, diplomats and other visitors from the Baltics and Scandinavia more convenient options for their travel.

Early morning flights will take place every day except Sundays, while afternoon flights will be available daily except Saturdays. A third midday flight will also take place from Monday to Thursday.

Round trip tickets to Brussels start from 99 EUR. Check the full flight schedule and book your flight at [www.airbaltic.com](http://www.airbaltic.com).

### 3/ New design at airBaltic.com

*airBaltic* has introduced a brand new website design that not only looks better, but also has improved functionality to make your booking process easier and quicker. The result is a more intuitive, engaging and innovative travel site.

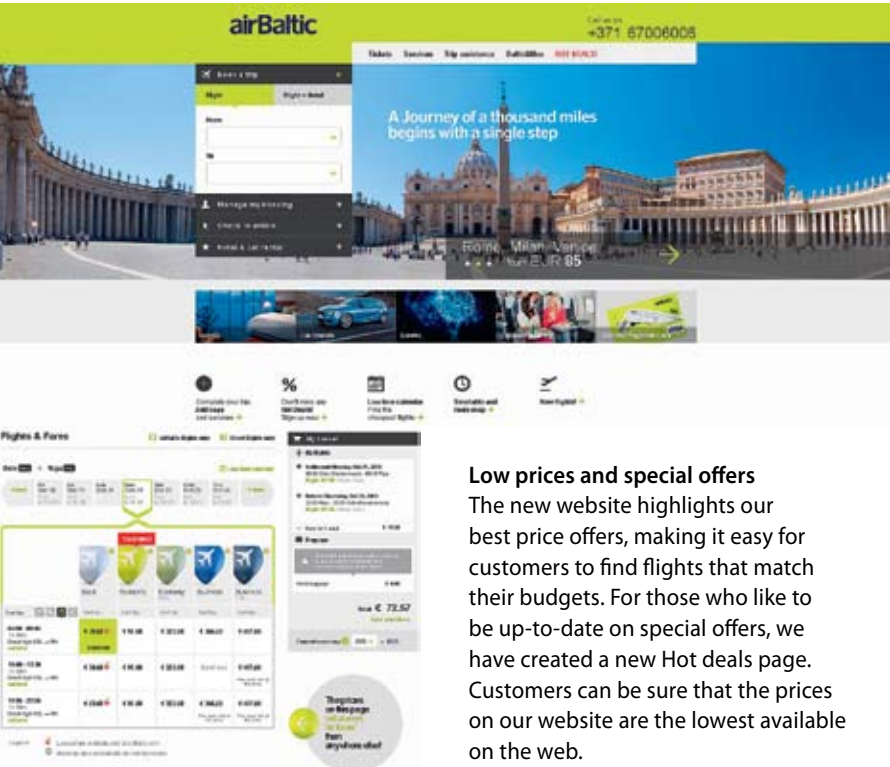
The refurbished website offers several key benefits that were identified by our customers as important features when booking flights online.

#### Better booking

The online booking process is now smoother, faster and more organised. We have made sure that booking a flight and adding extra services takes as few clicks as possible.

#### Easier navigation

The new website is easier to navigate, with simple icons and a new layout, providing customers with quick and easy access to their most important travel information. Items that are most searched for and used are now accessible directly from our front page.



#### Low prices and special offers

The new website highlights our best price offers, making it easy for customers to find flights that match their budgets. For those who like to be up-to-date on special offers, we have created a new Hot deals page. Customers can be sure that the prices on our website are the lowest available on the web.

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# June 26<sup>th</sup>, 5:13 AM

**Andis Drengers,**  
Head of products and  
distribution

TEXT BY ILZE POLE  
PHOTO BY EMILS DESJATNIKOV, F64

airBaltic's new website has been up and running since June 26. It now boasts a completely new, clean and modern design, making it much easier to use than before. Work on the website's redesign began almost year ago, with Andis taking over as the project's manager last October. He will continue working on it until... "Well, until I feel that the page is truly the way it has to be", he says with a sigh.

When we go out onto the terrace to take some pictures for the magazine, Andis laughs and says that he has been working at airBaltic for so long that he has sat in almost every office at the company. During the past 12 years, Andis has held various positions at the airline, but his main interest has always centred around Commercial Department. Previously, he was also responsible for another important projects, like implementation of electronic plane tickets and loyalty program *BalticMiles*.

## You say that it took a whole year to redesign airBaltic's website. Why did it take so long?

People ask me that question quite often. It's one thing to set up a page with a purely informational function, and quite another if you also want to sell tickets online. Especially if you do so on the scale of our airline, where we sell on average 3,000 seats per day through our website.

We can make a modern and beautifully designed web page, but we also have to make sure that it fulfils all of its assigned functions and that it is easy to use. That's the main reason we decided to improve our website. Many things now happen automatically in the new version. For example, on the home page, you no longer have to press *Enter* after you have typed in your origin and destination. You will automatically be directed to the next field.

That means less mouse clicks and more convenience for the user. As a result, reserving plane tickets and conducting other business is much easier than before.

The pages in the previous version had too many sections and tiny details, which made it harder for the user to get main messages that we wanted to convey. The website's new version not only looks smart, but is also straightforward and easy to grasp.

## How big was the team that worked on the new version of the website?

About 20 people from *airBaltic* participated actively, along with designers from the advertising agency that we work with and three or four people from the German partner company that maintains our reservation system.

My main tasks were to oversee the whole process, to coordinate all of the parties involved, to make sure that all of the assignments were carried out properly and on time, to plan out the steps to be taken, to chair our meetings, and occasionally, to help people open up so that new ideas could be created. Once we agreed on an idea, our team had to work together to find the technical means for implementing it. Sometimes that is more difficult than one might think. My work involved full, hands-on project management.

## And then June 26 arrived...

Not too many people visit our website during the night, and from 3 to 5 AM things are really quiet. We got things rolling at about midnight with the goal of launching the new webpage latest by 6 AM. We managed to get it running even earlier, shortly after 4 AM, and the first online reservation was

made about an hour later, at 5:13. We had run the page countless times before in various test regimes, but this was the moment when we were finally certain that everything is working properly...and that we could go home and get some sleep. (*Laughs*)

## For what flight was the first reservation made?

It was a ticket from Vienna to Riga. We were glued to our screens, waiting impatiently for the first booking and then when that passenger purchased the ticket, we gained the confirmation that we had done everything correctly. We have received lots of positive feedback and that is very pleasing. However, we have only finished the first phase of the project, which concerned the main page of our website and booking process. Other pages on the site have a mixture of the old and the new design, so during the second phase we will complete the transformation of the entire website within the framework of our new design concept.

## You have worked at airBaltic for more than ten years.

Yes, 13 full years will come in September. I began working in the sales department as business systems administrator. I was responsible for ensuring that people can buy airBaltic anywhere in the world and that our staff could sell tickets through the reservation system.

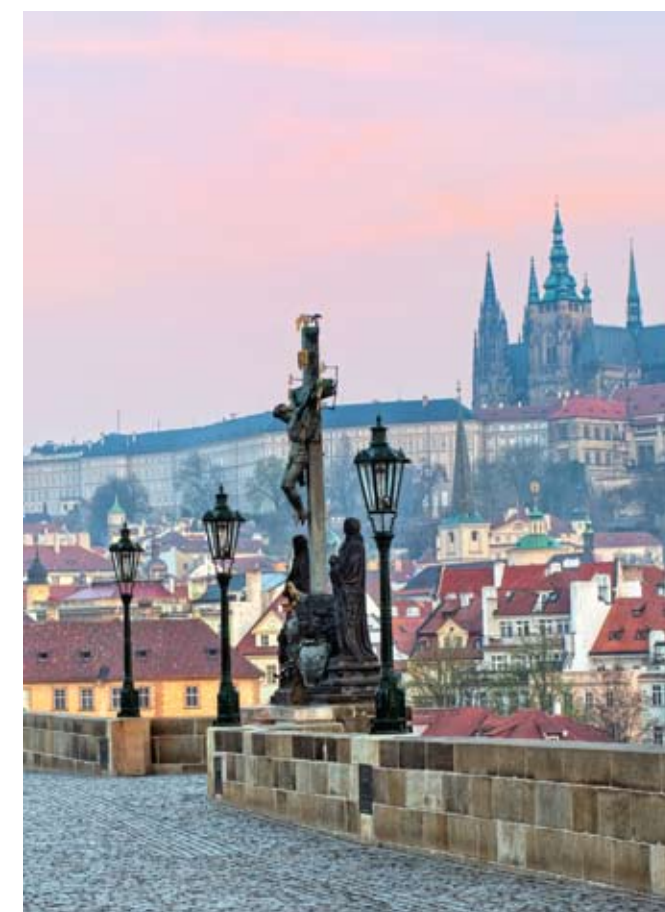
## Does that mean that you obtained your education in the sphere of IT?

No, I got my Bachelor's degree in economics and business administration at the Ventspils University College, and my Master's at the Riga International School of Economics and Business Administration. I have always been interested in sales. When I worked in the IT department, for example, I wanted to work on projects which involved sales part – to make transactions easier and more simple for both the clients and our employees, which would in return create more opportunities for the company to generate revenue. That is my calling and that gives me satisfaction. It is important for me to see that my work is contributing to the airline's earnings.

Thirteen years at one company might sound like a long time, but I have worked here in various positions and that has prevented me from getting bored. Something always changes from time to time, something new happens. Naturally, I have a comfort zone that I like to work in, but I also enjoy new challenges.

## What gives you the most satisfaction when you are not at work?

Outdoor activities – water in the summertime and snow in the wintertime. That means that I am either out in the water, on skis or on skates whenever possible. Last fall I realized that due to the preparations for the new website, I wouldn't be able to take a vacation any time soon. I'm happy to say that my next vacation begins tomorrow, the day after this interview. It will last less than a month, though, since by the middle of the second week I am usually already asking my colleagues how things are going at work. (*Smiles*) **BO**



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**New** Miss Kamille LAT

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**New** Weyergans High Care Center LAT

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**New** National Golf Resort LIT

National Golf Resort is a golf resort in Western Lithuania, situated between the two seaside resorts Klaipėda and Palanga. Golf game, golf lessons, green card courses, children golf summer school, spacious accommodations, modern conference room – find it all at National Golf Resort.

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## Onboard menu

### Business Class

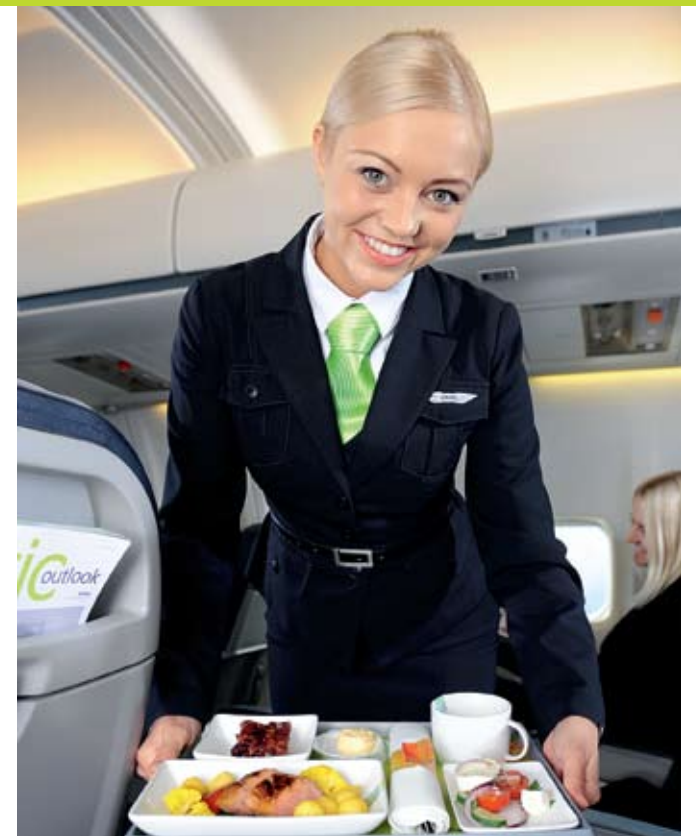
We aspire to provide individual service and an excellent dining experience on all *airBaltic* flights. Our Business Class menu features traditional and seasonal dishes, blending Latvian and international cuisine. Business Class customers enjoy a complimentary full meal tailored for the time of day when they are flying, together with carefully selected beverages.

Passengers with particular religious, health or dietary preferences may order special meals up to 24 hours before departure.

On *airBaltic* flights to and from Barcelona, Istanbul, Helsinki, Lappeenranta, Palanga, Turku, Tallinn, Vilnius, Kaunas, Tampere, Bergen, Billund, Aalesund, Stavanger and Chisinau, customers are offered food and drinks from a special menu.

### Economy Class

Economy Class passengers can choose from our *airBaltic* café menu, which offers hot meals, sandwiches, paninis, croissants and sweet snacks, as well as a broad selection of hot and cold drinks – including soft drinks, juices, wine, champagne, beer, coffee and tea.



## Order your meal before the flight

If you wish to enjoy a gourmet meal or have special dietary requirements, then take a look at our special pre-order menu. By ordering meal before your flight, you will save money and will be served first on board.

You can pre-order your meal while you book your flight ticket or anytime later, up to 24 hours before departure, under the *Manage booking* section at [www.airbaltic.com](http://www.airbaltic.com).

### Asian cuisine EUR 12



- Beef and mushroom salad
- Fried chicken filet with sesame sauce and rice noodles
- Assorted fruits
- Orange juice

### Seasonal meal EUR 9



- Pork medallions with mushrooms, fried potatoes, cherry tomatoes and demi-glace sauce,
- Dessert
- Orange juice

### Kids' meal EUR 10



- Octopus sausages with mashed potatoes and cherry tomatoes
- Barni biscuit
- Yogurt
- Drink



Flights from Riga						Flights to Riga					
Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure	Arrival	Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure	Arrival
VILNIUS						VILNIUS					
BT 341	RIX	VNO	1234567	09:45	10:40	BT 350	VNO	RIX	1234567	06:55	07:50
BT 343	RIX	VNO	1234567	13:05	14:00	BT 342	VNO	RIX	1234567	11:20	12:15
BT 345	RIX	VNO	1234567	16:25	17:20	BT 344	VNO	RIX	1234567	14:25	15:20
BT 347	RIX	VNO	1234567	19:30	20:25	BT 346	VNO	RIX	1234567	17:45	18:40
BT 349	RIX	VNO	1234567	23:05	23:59	BT 348	VNO	RIX	1234567	21:05	22:00
PALANGA						PALANGA					
BT 033	RIX	PLQ	1234567	23:05	23:50	BT 032	PLQ	RIX	1234567	07:00	07:45
KAUNAS						KAUNAS					
BT 041	RIX	KUN	12-4-~7	23:15	00:05+1	BT 042	KUN	RIX	123-5--	06:55	07:45
TALLINN						TALLINN					
BT 311	RIX	TLL	1234567	09:45	10:40	BT 362	TLL	RIX	1234567	06:55	07:50
BT 313	RIX	TLL	1234567	13:05	14:00	BT 312	TLL	RIX	1234567	11:20	12:15
BT 315	RIX	TLL	1234567	16:25	17:20	BT 314	TLL	RIX	1234567	14:25	15:20
BT 317	RIX	TLL	1234567	19:30	20:25	BT 316	TLL	RIX	1234567	17:45	18:40
BT 361	RIX	TLL	1234567	23:05	23:59	BT 318	TLL	RIX	1234567	21:05	22:00
STOCKHOLM Arlanda						STOCKHOLM Arlanda					
BT 101	RIX	ARN	1234567	09:10	09:25	BT 104	ARN	RIX	1234567	06:25	08:40
BT 105	RIX	ARN	1234567	14:30	14:45	BT 102	ARN	RIX	1234567	09:55	12:10
BT 109	RIX	ARN	1234567	19:10	19:25	BT 106	ARN	RIX	1234567	15:10	17:25
BT 103	RIX	ARN	1234567	23:05	23:20	BT 110	ARN	RIX	1234567	19:55	22:10
COPENHAGEN						COPENHAGEN					
BT 133	RIX	CPH	12345--	06:25	07:25	BT 142	CPH	RIX	-----7	06:15	08:55
BT 131	RIX	CPH	1234567	09:40	10:25	BT 134	CPH	RIX	12345--	08:05	11:05
BT 139	RIX	CPH	1234567	18:20	19:05	BT 132	CPH	RIX	1234567	10:50	13:30
BT 141	RIX	CPH	-----6-	22:45	23:30	BT 140	CPH	RIX	1234567	19:30	22:10
BILLUND						BILLUND					
BT 145	RIX	BLL	1-34567	22:40	23:40	BT 146	BLL	RIX	12-4567	06:00	08:55
OSLO						OSLO					
BT 151	RIX	OSL	123456-	09:10	10:05	BT 158	OSL	RIX	1234567	06:00	08:45
BT 153	RIX	OSL	1234567	17:55	18:50	BT 152	OSL	RIX	123456-	10:40	13:30
BT 157	RIX	OSL	1234567	23:00	23:50	BT 154	OSL	RIX	1234567	19:15	22:05
BERGEN						BERGEN					
BT 171/3	RIX	BGO	12345-7	22:45	00:05+1	BT 172	BGO	RIX	123456-	05:35	08:55
STAVANGER						STAVANGER					
BT 177/9	RIX	SVG	-234567	22:45	00:05+1	BT 178	SVG	RIX	1-34567	05:40	08:55
ALESUND						ALESUND					
BT 175	RIX	AES	1---5-7	12:45	14:10	BT 176	AES	RIX	1---5-7	14:35	17:50
HELSINKI						HELSINKI					
BT 301	RIX	HEL	1234567	09:40	10:45	BT 326	HEL	RIX	1234567	07:45	08:40
BT 303	RIX	HEL	1234567	12:40	13:50	BT 302	HEL	RIX	1234567	11:15	12:15
BT 305	RIX	HEL	1234567	16:20	17:30	BT 304	HEL	RIX	1234567	14:15	15:20
BT 307	RIX	HEL	1234567	19:40	20:40	BT 306	HEL	RIX	1234567	17:55	19:00
BT 325	RIX	HEL	1234567	22:55	23:59	BT 308	HEL	RIX	1234567	21:15	22:10
TURKU						TURKU					
BT 355	RIX	TKU	-234567	22:55	00:05+1	BT 356	TKU	RIX	1-34567	07:25	08:30
TAMPERE						TAMPERE					
BT 357	RIX	TMP	1-34567	22:55	00:15+1	BT 358	TMP	RIX	12-4567	07:15	08:30
LAPPEENRANTA						LAPPEENRANTA					
BT 387	RIX	LPP	12345-7	22:45	23:59	BT 388	LPP	RIX	123456-	07:10	08:30
BERLIN Tegel						BERLIN Tegel					
BT 211	RIX	TXL	12345-7	09:20	10:15	BT 212	TXL	RIX	12345-7	10:40	13:35
BT 217	RIX	TXL	123456-	13:05	14:00	BT 218	TXL	RIX	123456-	14:30	17:25
BT 213	RIX	TXL	1234567	17:55	18:50	BT 214	TXL	RIX	1234567	19:15	22:10
HAMBURG						HAMBURG					
BT 251	RIX	HAM	1--456-	09:10	10:15	BT 252	HAM	RIX	1--456-	10:40	13:35
BT 253	RIX	HAM	123-5-7	17:30	18:45	BT 254	HAM	RIX	123-5-7	19:10	22:10
MUNICH						MUNICH					
BT 221	RIX	MUC	12-45--	09:25	11:00	BT 222	MUC	RIX	12-45--	11:50	15:15
BT 223	RIX	MUC	-----6-	16:15	17:50	BT 224	MUC	RIX	--3456-	18:45	22:10
BT 223	RIX	MUC	-----7	17:05	18:20	BT 224	MUC	RIX	-----7	19:00	22:10
FRANKFURT						FRANKFURT					
BT 243	RIX	FRA	1-3----	09:10	10:25	BT 244	FRA	RIX	1-3----	11:15	14:20
BT 243	RIX	FRA	-----7	09:30	10:45	BT 244	FRA	RIX	-----7	11:20	14:25
BT 245 <sup>From August 6</sup>	RIX	FRA	-2-4-6-	16:15	17:55	BT 244	FRA	RIX	---5--	18:30	22:00
BT 243	RIX	FRA	---5--	16:15	17:55	BT 246 <sup>From August 6</sup>	FRA	RIX	-2-4-6-	18:30	22:00
DUSSELDORF						DUSSELDORF					
BT 231	RIX	DUS	-2-4-6-	09:50	11:25	BT 232	DUS	RIX	-2-4-6-	12:00	15:40
BT 233	RIX	DUS	1-3--~7	16:00	17:45	BT 234	DUS	RIX	1-3--~7	18:20	22:00
BT 233	RIX	DUS	-----5--	16:30	17:45	BT 234	DUS	RIX	-----5--	18:50	21:55
VIENNA						VIENNA					
BT 431	RIX	VIE	123456-	09:35	11:10	BT 432	VIE	RIX	123456-	11:45	15:15
BT 433	RIX	VIE	1-3-5-7	16:35	18:10	BT 434	VIE	RIX	1-3-5-7	18:45	22:15
ZURICH						ZURICH					
BT 641	RIX	ZRH	1-4--~7	11:10	12:40	BT 642	ZRH	RIX	1-4--~7	13:30	17:10
BT 641	RIX	ZRH	-23-56-	16:10	17:40	BT 642	ZRH	RIX	-23-56-	18:20	22:00
MOSCOW Domodedovo						MOSCOW Domodedovo					
BT 416	RIX	DME	1-34567	22:45	01:55+1	BT 417	DME	RIX	12-4567	07:25	08:35
BT 418	RIX	DME	12345--	09:35	12:15	BT 419	DME	RIX	12345--	13:00	13:45
MOSCOW Sheremetyevo						MOSCOW Sheremetyevo					
BT 424	RIX	SVO	12345--	06:00	08:30	BT 425	SVO	RIX	12345--	09:20	10:05
BT 424	RIX	SVO	-----67	09:25	12:00	BT 425	SVO	RIX	-----67	12:45	13:30
BT 422	RIX	SVO	1234567	17:55	20:30	BT 423	SVO	RIX	1234567	21:15	22:00
ST-PETERSBURG						ST-PETERSBURG					
BT 442	RIX	LED	123456-	09:30	11:50	BT 443	LED	RIX	123456-	12:20	12:40
BT 444	RIX	LED	12345-7	18:50	21:10	BT 445	LED	RIX	12345-7	21:40	22:00

Flights from Riga						Flights to Riga					
Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure	Arrival	Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure	Arrival
KALININGRAD						KALININGRAD					
BT 428	RIX	KGD	1234567	22:50	23:50	BT 429	KGD	RIX	1234567	08:00	08:55
MINSK						MINSK					
BT 412	RIX	MSQ	1-34--7	14:10	15:20	BT 413	MSQ	RIX	1-34--7	15:55	17:05
KIEV Borispol						KIEV Borispol					
BT 400	RIX	KBP	1234567	09:20	11:15	BT 401	KBP	RIX	1234567	11:45	13:40
BT 404	RIX	KBP	1234567	18:00	19:55	BT 405	KBP	RIX	1234567	20:20	22:15
ODESSA						ODESSA					
BT 410	RIX	ODS	-2-456-	22:55	01:30+1	BT 411	ODS	RIX	--3-567	06:00	08:45
SIMFEROPOL						SIMFEROPOL					
BT 452	RIX	SIP	1-3-5--	23:10	01:35+1	BT 453	SIP	RIX	-2-4-6-	06:00	08:30
CHISINAU						CHISINAU					
BT 420	RIX	KIV	-2-4-6-	12:55	15:25	BT 421	KIV	RIX	-2-4-6-	15:55	18:35
WARSAW						WARSAW					
BT 461	RIX	WAW	-2345--	14:00	14:35	BT 464	WAW	RIX	1-4-6-	06:30	08:55
BT 463	RIX	WAW	--3-5-7	22:45	23:20	BT 462	WAW	RIX	-2345--	15:00	17:30
PRAGUE						PRAGUE					
BT 481	RIX	PRG	1-4----	09:20	10:25	BT 482	PRG	RIX	1-4----	10:55	14:00
BT 481	RIX	PRG	-----7	13:05	14:15	BT 482	PRG	RIX	-----7	14:45	17:50
BT 481	RIX	PRG	-----5	14:10	15:20	BT 482	PRG	RIX	-----5	15:50	18:55
BT 481	RIX	PRG	-3-----	16:40	17:50	BT 482	PRG	RIX	-3-----	18:25	21:30
BUDAPEST						BUDAPEST					
BT 491	RIX	BUD	1-345-7	13:05	14:35	BT 492	BUD	RIX	1-345-7	15:00	18:20
BT 491	<small>From August 17</small> RIX	BUD	-----6-	16:00	17:30	BT 492	<small>August 17</small> BUD	RIX	-----6-	17:55	21:15
HEVIZ-BALATON						HEVIZ-BALATON					
BT 493	RIX	SOB	-----6-	15:45	17:50	BT 494	SOB	RIX	-----6-	18:15	22:20
RIJEKA						RIJEKA					
BT 495	RIX	RJK	-----7	10:00	11:25	BT 496	RJK	RIX	-----7	12:00	15:25
BT 495	RIX	RJK	--4----	16:25	17:50	BT 496	RJK	RIX	--4----	18:25	21:50
BRUSSELS						BRUSSELS					
BT 601	RIX	BRU	1-3-5--	06:05	08:00	BT 602	BRU	RIX	1-3-5--	08:30	12:15
BT 601	RIX	BRU	-----6-	09:20	11:15	BT 602	BRU	RIX	-----6-	11:55	15:40
BT 603	RIX	BRU	-----7	15:50	17:45	BT 604	BRU	RIX	-----7	18:15	22:00
BT 603	RIX	BRU	12-4----	17:05	19:00	BT 604	BRU	RIX	12-4----	19:30	23:15
AMSTERDAM						AMSTERDAM					
BT 617	RIX	AMS	123456-	10:10	10:35	BT 618	AMS	RIX	123456-	11:20	14:35
BT 619	RIX	AMS	123456-7	16:50	18:15	BT 620	AMS	RIX	123456-7	18:50	22:05
LONDON Gatwick						LONDON Gatwick					
BT 651	RIX	LGW	123456-	09:20	10:10	BT 652	LGW	RIX	12-456-	10:50	15:30
BT 653	RIX	LGW	---45-7	16:00	16:50	BT 654	LGW	RIX	--34--7	17:00	21:40
						BT 654	LGW	RIX	-----5-	18:10	22:50
PARIS Charles de Gaulles						PARIS Charles de Gaulles					
BT 691	RIX	CDG	-23-6-	09:05	10:55	BT 692	CDG	RIX	-23-567	11:55	15:35
BT 691	RIX	CDG	---5-7	09:30	11:20	BT 692	CDG	RIX	---4----	17:35	21:15
BT 691	RIX	CDG	---4----	10:00	11:35	BT 694	CDG	RIX	123-567	18:35	22:15
BT 693	RIX	CDG	123-567	16:00	17:50						
NICE						NICE					
BT 695	RIX	NCE	-23----	10:40	12:50	BT 696	NCE	RIX	-23----	13:25	17:30
BT 695	RIX	NCE	---4-6-	15:10	17:20	BT 696	NCE	RIX	---4-6-	17:55	22:00
ROME Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino						ROME Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino					
BT 631	RIX	FCO	-23-567	09:20	11:25	BT 632	FCO	RIX	-23-567	12:10	16:20
BT 633	RIX	FCO	12-4-6-	15:05	17:10	BT 634	FCO	RIX	12-4-6-	17:55	22:05
MILAN Malpensa						MILAN Malpensa					
BT 629	RIX	MXP	-2-4-6-	09:35	11:20	BT 630	MXP	RIX	-2-4-6-	12:00	15:40
BT 629	RIX	MXP	1-3-5-7	15:50	17:35	BT 630	MXP	RIX	1-3-5-7	18:20	22:00
VENICE						VENICE					
BT 627	RIX	VCE	-2---6-	16:10	17:50	BT 628	VCE	RIX	-2---6-	18:25	22:05
BARI						BARI					
BT 623	RIX	BRI	-3-----	09:20	11:15	BT 624	BRI	RIX	-3-----	11:50	15:45
BT 623	RIX	BRI	-----6-	15:55	17:50	BT 624	BRI	RIX	-----6-	18:25	22:20
OLBIA						OLBIA					
BT 655	RIX	OLB	-----6-	09:30	11:40	BT 656	OLB	RIX	-----6-	12:15	16:30
BT 655	RIX	OLB	-3-----	15:10	17:20	BT 656	OLB	RIX	-3-----	17:55	22:10
ATHENS						ATHENS					
BT 611	RIX	ATH	---4----	09:35	13:00	BT 612	ATH	RIX	---4----	13:35	17:00
BT 611	RIX	ATH	-2--6-	14:35	18:00	BT 612	ATH	RIX	-2--6-	18:35	22:00
ISTANBUL Sabiha Gokcen						ISTANBUL Sabiha Gokcen					
BT 711	RIX	SAW	1-3-5-7	09:30	12:25	BT 712	SAW	RIX	1-3-5-7	13:00	15:55
BT 711	RIX	SAW	-2-4-6-	15:45	18:40	BT 712	SAW	RIX	-2-4-6-	19:15	22:10
LARNACA						LARNACA					
BT 657	RIX	LCA	-----6-	22:40	02:30+1	BT 658	LCA	RIX	-----7	04:35	08:40
BARCELONA						BARCELONA					
BT 681	RIX	BCN	-2-5--	09:25	12:10	BT 682	BCN	RIX	-2-5--	12:50	17:30
BT 681	RIX	BCN	-----6-	10:05	12:50	BT 682	BCN	RIX	-----6-	16:35	21:15
BT 681	RIX	BCN	1234--7	14:00	16:45	BT 684	BCN	RIX	1234--7	17:25	22:05
MALTA						MALTA					
BT 739	RIX	MLA	-----7	09:20	12:00	BT 740	MLA	RIX	-----7	12:45	17:25
TBILISI						TBILISI					
BT 722/724	RIX	TBS	-23-5-7	22:55	03:25+1	BT 723/725	TBS	RIX	1-34-6-	06:00	08:35
BAKU						BAKU					
BT 732	RIX	GYP	-3--7	22:55	04:50+1	BT 733	GYP	RIX	1-4----	06:00	08:10
TASHKENT						TASHKENT					
BT 742	RIX	TAS	1-----	19:10	02:10+1	BT 743	TAS	RIX	-2-----	05:20	08:40
BT 742	RIX	TAS	-----5	23:05	06:05+1	BT 743	TAS	RIX	-----6-	09:10	12:30
TEL AVIV						TEL AVIV					
BT 771	<small>Til August 17</small> RIX	TLV	1234-6-	09:30	13:45	BT 772	<small>August 17</small> TLV	RIX	1234-6-	14:35	19:05
BT 771	<small>August 17</small> RIX	TLV	123-56-	09:30	13:45	BT 772	<small>August 17</small> TLV	RIX	123-56-	14:35	19:05







Country/City Ticket offices	Airport Ticket Offices
<b>AUSTRIA</b>	
Vienna airBaltic Germany Hauptstrasse 117, D-10827 Berlin ☎ 0620600830 local calls (EUR 0.17/min) service@airbaltic.de	Airport Schwechat Terminal 2 Airport Ticket Office Celebi Ground Handling ☎ +431 700736394
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	
Baku Improtex Travel 16. S. Vurgun Str. Baku AZ1000, Azerbaijan ☎ +994 124989239 info@improtex-travel.com booking@improtex-travel.com	Heydar Aliyev International Airport Airport Ticket Office Silk Way Airlines South Terminal ☎ +994 124972600
<b>BELARUS</b>	
Minsk	Airport Minsk 2 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor Airport Ticket Office airBaltic ☎ +375 172792568,
<b>BELGIUM</b>	
Brussels Air Agencies Belgium 153 A Vilvoordeaan 1930 Zaventem ☎ +32 (0) 27126427 airbaltic@airagencies.be	Airport Zaventem Departure Hall ☎ +32 (0) 27230667 Airport Ticket Office Aviapartner
<b>Croatia</b>	
Rijeka	Rijeka Airport Airport Ticket Office Zračna Luka Rijeka ☎ +385 51 841 222
<b>CYPRUS</b>	
Larnaca	Larnaca International Airport Airport Ticket Office airBaltic / LGS Handling
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	
Prague	Vaclav Havel Prague Airport Terminal T2 Airport Ticket Office CEAS ☎ +420 220117540
<b>DENMARK</b>	
Copenhagen	Airport Copenhagen International Terminal 3 Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office SAS
<b>Billund</b>	Billund Airport Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office ☎ +45 76505205
<b>ESTONIA</b>	
Tallinn ☎ 17107 (0.51 EUR/min, local calls only) tallinn@airbaltic.com	Airport Tallinn Main Terminal, Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office airBaltic / Tallinn Airport GH
<b>FINLAND</b>	
Helsinki	Helsinki-Vantaa Airport Terminal 1 Airport Ticket Office Servisair
Lappeenranta	Lappeenranta Airport
Tampere	Airport Tampere-Pirkkala Airport Ticket Office Airpro OY
Turku	Airport Turku Airport Ticket Office Airpro OY
<b>FRANCE</b>	
Paris APG France 66 avenue des Champs Elysées Building E, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor 75008, Paris ☎ +33 153892100 airbaltic@apg.fr	Airport Charles de Gaulles Terminal 2D Airport Ticket Office Swissport Services CDG
Nice	Airport Nice Cote D'azur Terminal 1 Airport Ticket Office Lufthansa Ticket Desk
<b>GEORGIA</b>	
Tbilisi Discovery Travel Ltd/airBaltic GSA 72 Palashvili st. Tbilisi ☎ +995 32 2 900900 airbalticgsa@discovery.ge	Airport Tbilisi Airport Ticket Office Discovery Ltd ☎ +995 32 2 900900
<b>GERMANY</b>	
Berlin airBaltic Germany Hauptstrasse 117, D-10827 Berlin ☎ 0900 124 7225 (EUR 0.69/min German landline – mobile calls may be different) service@airbaltic.de	Airport Berlin-Tegel Main Terminal Airport Ticket Office GlobeGround Berlin Opposite Gate 4/5
Dusseldorf	Airport Dusseldorf Terminal B Airport Ticket Office AHS ☎ +49 (0) 2114216275
Frankfurt	Airport Frankfurt Airport Ticket Office AHS Terminal 2, Hall E, Desk 939 ☎ +49 69 690 61464

If there is no local ticket office phone number indicated and you would like to contact airBaltic reservations, please call ☎ +371 67006006.

Country/City Ticket offices	Airport Ticket Offices
<b>Hamburg</b>	Airport Fuhlsbüttel Terminal 1, Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office AHS ☎ +49 (0) 4050753672
<b>Munich</b>	Airport Munich Terminal 1 Airport Ticket Office AHS ☎ +49/89 975 92553
<b>GREECE</b>	
Athens Tal Aviation 44 Ithous str. 17564 – P.Faliro ☎ +30 210 9341500 F: +30 210 9341620 airbaltic@tal-aviation.gr	Athens International Airport Airport Ticket Office Goldair Handling
<b>HUNGARY</b>	
Budapest Tensi Aviation Kft. Komjáti Béla utca 1. ☎ +36 1 3451526 F: +36 1 9991466 aviation@tensi.hu	Budapest Airport Airport Ticket Office Celebi Ground Handling Hungary
<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 Airport Ticket Office Lauter Aviation GHL 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 Airport Ticket Office Bari Palese
Milan	Milan Malpensa Airport Terminal 1, Departure Level Airport Ticket Office A.R.E. Airline Representative Europe
Venice	Airport Venice Marco Polo Airport Ticket Office A.R.E. Airline Representative Europe
<b>LATVIA</b>	
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<b>LITHUANIA</b>	
Vilnius ☎ 890015004 (2.12 LTL/min, local calls only) vnoreservations@airbaltic.com	Vilnius International Airport Airport Ticket Office Litcargus ticketing@litcargus.lt
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Aalesund	Aalesund Airport Airport Ticket Office Roros Flyservice 6040 Vigra ☎ +47 70 30 25 60
Bergen/Stavanger	Bergen Airport – Flesland Stavanger Airport Airport Ticket Office Aviator
<b>POLAND</b>	
Warsaw	Warsaw Airport Airport Ticket Office BGS

Country/City Ticket offices	Airport Ticket Offices
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Moscow	International Airport Sheremetjevo Terminal E Airport Ticket Office DAVS ☎ +7 (495) 9564661  International Airport Domodedovo Airport Ticket Office DAVS Ticketing counters no: 177, 185
St. Petersburg	Airport Pulkovo Terminal 2 Airport Ticket Office LTD North-West Transport Agency
Kaliningrad	Airport Khrabrovo Airport Ticket Office airBaltic / Aviapartner
<b>SPAIN</b>	
Barcelona	Airport El Prat de Llobregat Terminal 1 Airport Ticket Office Lufthansa Ticket Desk
<b>SWEDEN</b>	
Stockholm	Stockholm Arlanda Airport Airport Ticket Office airBaltic / Nordic Aero International Terminal 5
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