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AUGUST 2014

outlook

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inflight magazine

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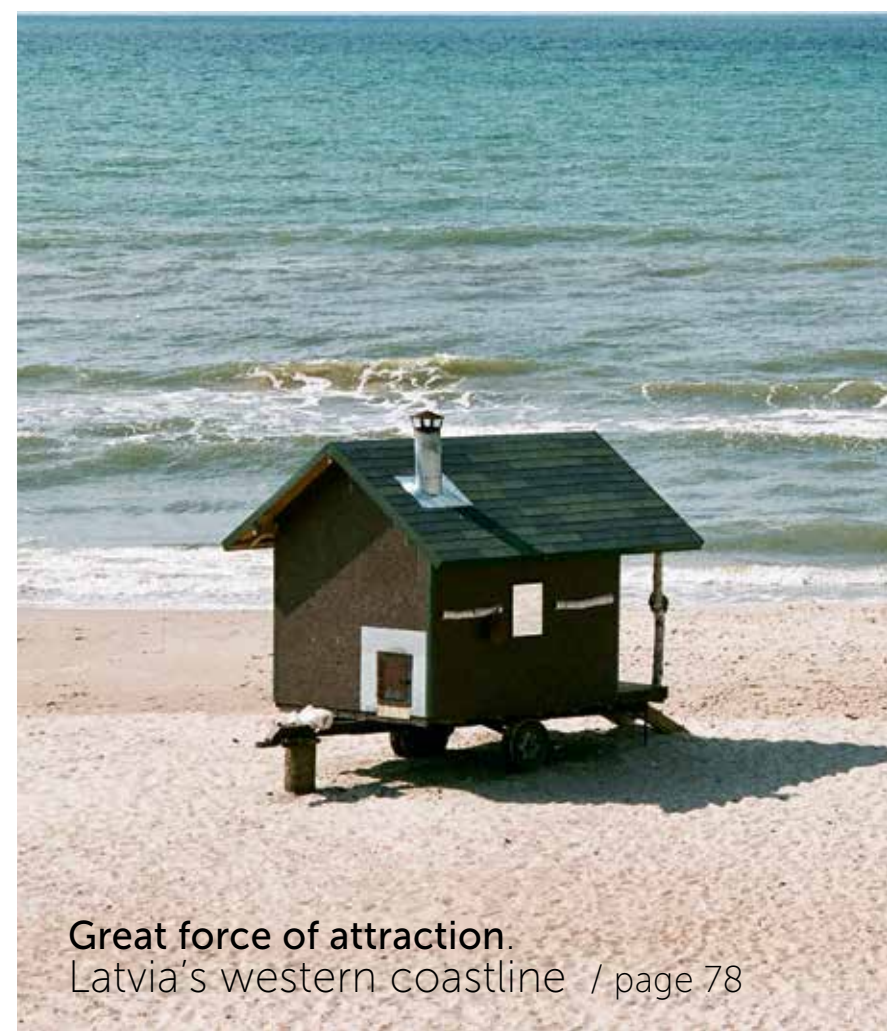
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Уже этим летом в Латвии, в Юрмале, на первой линии моря, в центре «золотой мили» откроет двери жилой квартал, уникальный по своей сути. Всего полтора часа полета от шумной Москвы - и вы в своем загородном доме в Европе. Здесь все продуманно, от прогулочных велосипедов с логотипом LEGEND., дизайнерских холлов и безупречного сервиса, до элегантного пляжа.

Квартал LEGEND. – это три многоквартирных жилых дома Villa Churchill, Villa Herburn, Villa Dietrich, частная вила Villa Hemingway, клубный дом Villa Tiffany и инфраструктура, не имеющая аналогов на юрмальском побережье. Для идеального отдыха и комфорта жителей предлагаются детская площадка, ресторан atTiffany's с винным погребом и летней террасой, спа-комплекс Moon River с плавательным бассейном, паровой баней, сауной, джакузи, комнатами отдыха и массажными кабинетами, кардиотренажерным залом, залом для занятий йогой и комфортабельный пляж LEGEND. Beach.

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Открытие LEGEND. Beach, пожалуй, станет самым обсуждаемым и запомнившимся мероприятием этого лета. Среди гостей был латвийский бомонд и знаменитости из Москвы: Ксения Соловьева, Наталья Туровникова, Ида Лоло, Анастасия Рябцова, Анна Попова, Илья Лагутенко, Игорь Григорьев, Федор Фомин, Михаил Друян и многие другие.



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Hiking to the heights

August is my favourite month for journeys into the wilderness. It is when winter evening dreams inspired by topographic maps become reality. Nightly campfires high on a mountainside, next to a lake or at the bank of a stream are a major part of such travel. I often go with my Alsatian – not for protection, but to be with a companion who has a different take on nature.

My love of mountains began in the Swiss Alps. I have fond memories of a little hotel in Mürren, where morning coffee could be had with magnificent views of Mounts Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau. However, it was the Sierra Nevada, Cascade Mountains and Canadian Rockies that captured my heart. That's not to say that I didn't experience any misadventures during these trips. A number of blunders taken in my youth led me to conclude that August is the preferable month for nature outings in the Northern Hemisphere.

During the first misadventure, my friend Edgar and I knew nothing about hypothermia – the condition when a person's body temperature drops to a dangerously low level. In hindsight, it was foolish to make a summit attempt on Mount Lyell, a nearly 4000-metre peak in California's Sierra Nevada, in October. The mildness of the weather in Berkeley beguiled us. We set out with no climbing experience, no equipment, and only a cheap tent for shelter. Even on



EVEN ON A DETAILED MAP, THE MOUNTAIN APPEARED LIKE AN EASY WALK

a detailed map, the mountain appeared like an easy walk. We ran into trouble when a sudden, furious and wet snowstorm hit us on the Lyell Glacier. We retreated to our tent, but found it inadequate for the wintery weather conditions, so we quickly struck camp and spent half the night on a relatively easy but wet 20-kilometer hike out. Eventually, we bedded down on the porch of a small cabin, drenched and shivering. At daylight, a young warden drove us to his cottage. Once we got there, he made us strip and dance by a roaring fire. We were in a state of hypothermia.

TEXT BY EDMUNDS VALDEMARS BUNKŠE, PROFESSOR EMERITUS AND GEOGRAPHER
PHOTO BY EMILS DESJATNIKOV, F64

Undaunted, the following June, I set out with my Alsatian up to the Canadian Rockies from Berkeley. It was a youthful longing to conquer the fear of being alone that had developed during my childhood in the Second World War. How delightful it was to drive in my VW Beetle cabriolet with the top down in the sunshine! The first sight of the forest-clad coastal mountains of British Columbia was magical. Later, driving through Fraser River Canyon was high adventure. Several tunnels were being carved out of nearly vertical rock faces, while far below the river ran white.

In Banff National Park, I donned my backpack in excited anticipation and headed up to Sunshine Meadows on the Continental Divide. A dramatic sight awaited: big drifts of white snow and range after range of mountains, with horizontal rock layers accentuated by layers of snow. A dark storm covered the entire western horizon. I sat there blissfully, the dog leaning against me. The storm came fast and we scrambled down, with lightning flashing dangerously around us. A narrow stream of icy chest-high water had to be crossed. While the storm raged all night, the two of us sat in a water-logged tent, listening for grizzly bears. Finally, when hiking out, we had to cross a large mud slide. From these and other experiences, I learned that August is the best month to be in the mountains, and that one should be equipped with excellent climbing gear. BO



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with a manifestation and proof almost as large as... the firewall of the house number 19!

Strēlnieku is one of the streets in the heart of the quiet centre, blessed with the touch of Art Nouveau, but it is not the appealing elements of the architectural style which Riga is famous for that attract the attention of the curious ones visiting the number 19 on this particular street. It is a massive reproduction of the painting of the Doge's Palace in Venice by Ludolfs Liberts, the Latvian painter and stage designer of the first half of the 20th century. The reproduction is said to have been created approximately 12 years ago and to have been meant as a present for the landlord's lover. She, in turn, is said to have lived across the street, such

NO WOMAN LIVING IN THE BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET HAS ANNOUNCED HERSELF TO BE THE OBJECT OF THIS PASSIONATE LOVE

that she would have been able to observe the massive tribute of affection towards her from her window whenever she pleased.

The painting, which was done on a massive canvas, rather than on the wall itself, is still there – for everyone to see. The architect Vents Vīnbergs has looked at the painting several times. "It was shown to me by two acquaintances – each in their turn. Both knew to tell the story about an entrepreneur who had had it put up on the wall across from his missus' window, but the timeframes they referred to were wildly different," he laughs. "One said it was done in the 1990's, but the other one – that is was put up as early as 1930's! I lean towards the first option, especially upon observing the technique and material which were used in the work. But that's how urban legends go..."

The painting, pleasing to the eye, quietly remains on the wall, and both the romantic entrepreneur and his lady-love remain anonymous – owner of the house does not reveal his name, and no woman living in the house across the street has announced herself to be the object of this passionate love. But the courtyard whispers... "I wish someone treated me to such a present," says a neighbour. "I think they might even be married and went to Venice for their honeymoon – that's why this particular view!" says another. "This must have cost a fortune!" **BO**

Venice on the wall

TEXT BY AGRA LIEGE
PHOTO BY ANDREJS TERENTJEVS, F64

Courtyard is a spot for chatter, whispers and rumours, it guards secrets, but sometimes it reveals them in all their slippery glory... which is exactly what the courtyard of 19 Strēlnieku Street has done... There was once a woman (possibly, allegedly living in the house number 6 – one across the road from number 19 on Strēlnieku Street) and there was a man (possibly, allegedly the owner of the house number 19) who (apparently) loved the woman from house number 6. We don't know "ifs" and "whethers" of their romance (Had there been one? Or was it love from afar?), but we know that for once this is a story of love



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SPOTLIGHT ON SUMMER

Five things that you should do in Latvia in August

- Take a seaside holiday. Latvia's unspoiled sandy beaches are ideal for a brief escape. The beautiful seaside villages of Bernāti, Kolka, Miķeltornis and Ģipka are just some of the many places where one can stay.
- Visit Cēsis. The town was founded in 1206 and is considered the most picturesque town in Vidzeme.
- Enjoy the pleasures of summer in the city. Have a late dinner with your friends on a rooftop terrace at one of Riga's restaurants, such as *Le Dome* in the Old Town. www.domehotel.lv
- Go to one of Riga's main markets (Central Market, Vidzeme Market) or visit a Saturday morning market in a smaller Latvian town such as Saldus and take in the fragrance of fresh flowers, fruits and vegetables.
- Dine at one of Riga's many fine restaurants and cafés during the Gastronomy Festival, which takes place during the last week of August. www.gastrofest.lv

ON THIS MONTH'S MENU

THE TREND:

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

Beauty *Santal, Eau de Toilette, Floris*

This elegant eau de toilette opens with a zest of crisp bergamot and lemon, cut through with fresh notes of green grass and a blend of spices. The base notes consist of amber, sandalwood and vetiver, imbuing the fragrance with a warm, sensual aroma. It can't get more classical than this. *Santal* is now available in Riga as well. *Floris* was founded in 1730, when Juan Famenias Floris and his wife Elizabeth began selling perfume, combs and shaving products in London at 89 Jermyn Street, which still remains the heart of the business. EUR 98 Spots, Riga, Miesnieku iela 14 www.spotsriga.com www.florislondon.com



Design *Vessel bathtub, Splinter Works*

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Symphony No. 1 Low. From the music of David Bowie and Brian Eno (2014)

It's hard to even say how hard it can be to do nothing, but we found a perfect record to help you do that. This 1992 composition by American composer Philip Glass is based on music by David Bowie and Brian Eno and has just been released again on vinyl. Glass took melodies from the two artists to make a symphony in three parts that makes for nice and unobtrusive background music. The composer was born in Maryland, where his father owned a record store, and built up a collection of records that his dad didn't manage to sell. This influenced his musical evolution as a child and teenager. The rest, as they say, is history. www.philipglass.com

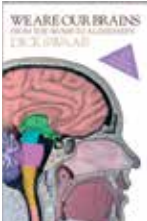
TEXT BY ILZE POLE AND ROGER NORUM
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READING LIST



Colin McDowell. *The Anatomy of Fashion: Why We Dress the Way We Do*

In looking innovatively at how humans have clothed 13 different parts of the body, McDowell goes beyond couture to show how clothes have served over the centuries as symbols for power and sex, covering a range of cultures and societies. The book's 500 revealing photographs showcase everything from the regal gowns of Elizabeth I to Marlon Brando's tight T-shirts. EUR 79.95, www.phaidon.com



Dick Swaab. *We Are Our Brains*

This popular account of the human body's largest and most complex organ discusses how everything behind who we are is wired into our grey matter before we are even born. Swaab's work uses compelling (and often outlandish) historical case studies to follow what is going on in our brain throughout our lives. Great for pop-science lovers. EUR 20.30, www.penguin.com



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TEXT BY ZANE NIKODEMUSA
PUBLICITY PHOTOS



17th International Sacred Music Festival Churches and concert halls all across Latvia, August 21-September 11

This noteworthy music festival is traditionally organized by the *Latvija* State Academic Choir, which has become one of the country's best and most internationally renowned professional choirs under the artistic direction of conductor Māris Sirmāis. As at previous festivals, the choir will perform together with the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra and the Liepāja Symphony

Orchestra, and premiere new works written by Latvian composers specifically for the festival.

One of the highlights will be a concert of two works by famous Polish composer Krzysztof Penderecki, who will also be an honoured guest at the performance in Riga's Dome Cathedral on August 30 at 19:00. The festival's closing concert will feature the Latvian premiere of *Ikon of Eros*, an opus by outstanding British composer John Tavener (1944-2013). It will take place on September 11 in the Large Hall of the University of Latvia.

More information at www.koris.lv
Tickets at www.bilesuparadize.lv

Drawings by Italian old masters Art Museum Riga Bourse, Riga Until August 31

For the first time, visitors have the opportunity to see outstanding and significant 16th-18th-century works of Italian graphic art from the collection of the Latvian National Museum of Art. In terms of their artistic value and significance, these 50 + examples of Italian Renaissance, Baroque, Neo-classicist and Mannerist art are considered to be among the most valuable works in the museum's collection. Among the highlights of the High Renaissance period are works by Florentine painter Pietro di Cosimo, while the Late Renaissance is represented by Tintoretto, a renowned artist of the Venetian school.

More information at www.lnmm.lv
Doma laukums 6



Giovanni Battista Trotti (known as Malasso, 1555-1619).
St. John the Evangelist with Cup and Book.
Undated. Ink with pen and brush on paper.

FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE LATVIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART. PUBLICITY PHOTO

AUGUST 2014



Inese Galante and countertenor Sergejs Jēgers

Summertime – Inese Galante & Friends music festival Dzintari Concert Hall, Jūrmala August 11-17

For the tenth year in a row, the Dzintari Concert Hall in Jūrmala will be the venue for one of the most eagerly awaited musical events of the summer.

Over the course of an entire week, brilliant Latvian-born soprano Inese Galante will team up with other talented

performers from Latvia and abroad to offer a wide-ranging programme that ranges from classic to popular music. Among the participants will be Ivory Coast native and *Grammy* award winner Dobet Gnahoré, opera theatre star Aleksandrs Antošenko (Latvia) and distinguished countertenor Sergejs Jēgers (Latvia). The concerts' venue on an open-air stage by the sea should make these performances particularly memorable.

More information at
www.festivalsummertime.com
Tickets at www.bilesuparadize.lv
Turaidas iela 1

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VIBRANT MOMENTS



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The show *Lento* by visual theater and contemporary circus company *NUUA*

Re Re Rīga!
art festival
Riga
August 6-9

For four days at the beginning of August, circus acts are set to liven up the streets of Riga together with music, dance and street theatre performances. As the largest international street art and world music festival in the Baltic countries, *Re Re Rīga!* will bring together more than

60 artists from 12 countries. This year, the spotlight is on modern circuses from the Nordic countries, whose unique sense of aesthetics and particular Scandinavian juggling style have become trademark features. While most of the festival's events will be held at the Riga Congress Centre and Esplanade, a number of exciting street artist performances will take place in various places across the city.

More information at www.rereriga.lv
Tickets at www.bilesuserviss.lv

Riga Open
European
snooker
championship
Arena Riga, Riga
August 7-10

Latvia will host a professional snooker tournament for the first time with the *Riga Open* from August 7 to 10. As the first of eight European Tour events of the 2014/15

season, the tournament is expected to attract 128 professional players seeking a spot in the Grand Final of the season. The matches will be played on 11 professional snooker tables in the Arena Riga and starting from August 8, *Eurosport* will transmit live TV broadcasts of the event.

More information at www.worldsnooker.com
Tickets at www.bilesuserviss.lv
Price: 20-70 EUR
Skanstes iela 21



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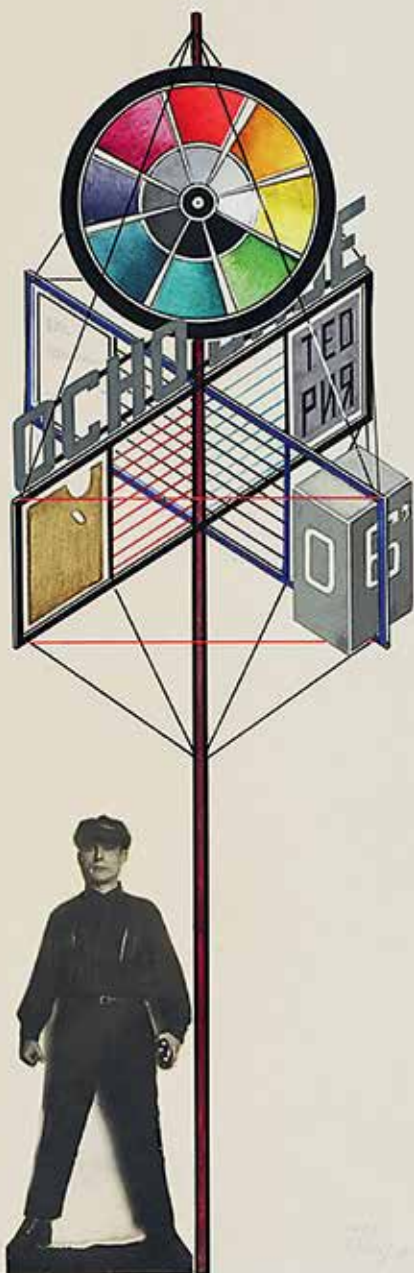
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Vhutemas. Sketch for a stand. 1924-1926

RĪGA 2014

EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE

TEXT BY ELINA RUKA
PUBLICITY PHOTOS



Gustavs Klucis, Soviet propaganda master and victim

World-famous Latvian artist Gustavs Klucis was the preeminent virtuoso of political photomontage in the Soviet Union, designing emblematic and iconic posters to inspire the communist cause throughout the 1920s and 1930s.

Gustavs Klucis (also Gustav Klutsis, 1895-1938) is a well-known name among European museum curators, but the world-famous constructivist's relation to Latvia is often left unmentioned. Klucis' diverse creative heritage has never been sufficiently evaluated, because the ideological context of his artworks has overshadowed his contributions to the aesthetics of Constructivism.

Klucis was born in Latvia, but spent his creative years in the 1920s and 1930s in Moscow, where he worked as a poster designer and pioneer of Soviet propaganda photomontage. He was a leading member of the Russian Constructivist avant-garde movement in the early 20th century and discovered photomontage in 1919, which he later described as a new

KLUCIS CAME UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE TO DEVOTE HIS ARTISTIC TALENTS TO THE CAUSE OF SOVIET PROPAGANDA

kind of art for the masses: the art of the Socialist revolution.

From this time on, Klucis came under increasing pressure to devote his artistic talents to the cause of Soviet propaganda. He was offered a series of prestigious design commissions, including one for the 1928 Spartakiade (the Soviet Union's alternative to the Olympic Games). Accordingly, Klucis designed a poster and a series of postcards that stressed the link between sports and the revolution. In all, he produced over a hundred poster designs, many of them relating to the victory of communism or hailing the collectivization of agriculture and the large-scale industrialisation of the Soviet Union. The artist supported the idealistic goals propounded by the government and apparently did not see any risks for society or his creative freedom.

Despite his loyal service to the Communist Party, Klucis was arrested in

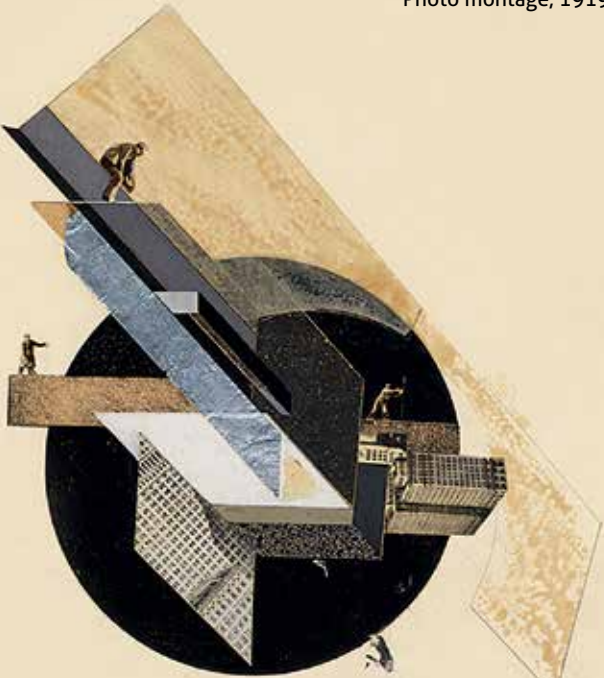


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GAISMAS MAGIJA



Dynamic City.
Photo montage, 1919

Moscow in 1938 and accused of belonging to a Latvian terrorist organisation at a time when Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin was conducting one of his most notorious political purges. For many years, his wife, artist Valentina Kulagina (1902-1987), knew nothing of his fate. In 1956, his family heard that he had died of heart failure in a labour camp in 1944. It was not until 1989 that they learned the truth. In fact, he had been shot in Moscow a month after his arrest.

Gustavs Klucis: The Anatomy of an Experiment will be the largest exhibition of works by this artist to be shown in his native land. Alongside the unique collection of Klucis oeuvres held by the Latvian National Museum of Art, the exhibition will also feature dozens of artworks from other museums in Europe. The organisers say that they would like viewers to avoid the temptation of denouncing the artist's work and to view it primarily on the basis of its artistic merits rather than the political messages that it conveys. **BO**

Arsenāls exhibition hall of the
Latvian National Museum of Art
Torņa iela 1, Riga
August 23 – October 26
① www.lnmm.lv



AUGUST 2014

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15	ballet	SWAN LAKE
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22	opera	THE LOVE FOR THREE ORANGES
23	ballet	THE SLEEPING BEAUTY
24	opera	IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA
27	ballet	ANNA KARENINA
28	opera	NABUCCO
29	ballet	LA BAYADÈRE
30	opera	IL TROVATORE

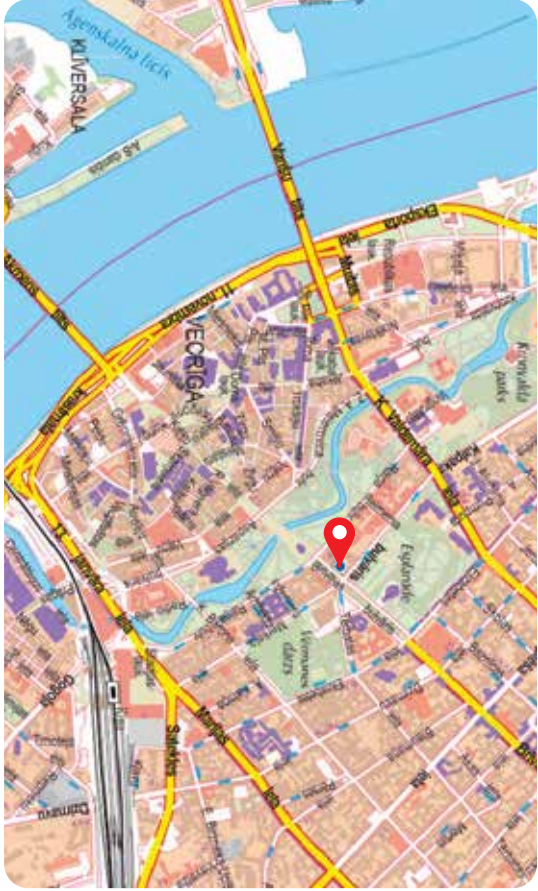
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London

Making Colour

National Gallery
Until September 7

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Hillside in Provence, Paul Cézanne

As one of the most inspiring exhibitions of the season, *Making Colour* provides a fascinating insight into art history through the colours and pigments that artists have used over the ages. From sparkling minerals to crushed insects, artists used surprising materials to create pigments in the pursuit of new hues. Along with various works of art, samples of mineral specimens, textiles, ceramics and glass are also on display. Each of the exposition rooms is devoted to a specific colour, in a journey from lapis lazuli to cobalt blue, through yellow, orange, purple and other colours. A special section is also devoted to ultramarine, the purest and richest but most expensive blue that was once made from lazurite obtained at the remote *Sar-i-Sang* mines in Afghanistan. It was more valuable than gold during the Renaissance and was thus used with a sense of veneration by that period's best-known painters. Only in the 19th century did synthetic ultramarine become commercially available, permitting artists to experiment with colour more freely and avoid pawning all of their possessions to obtain costly pigments.

Indeed, it was the advent of the Industrial Revolution and the mass production of synthetic paints that made Impressionist art possible. As artist Pierre-Auguste Renoir once said: "Without colours in tubes, there would be no Cézanne, no Monet, no Pissarro and no Impressionism." In other words, Cézanne would never have been able to produce his legendary landscapes if it had not been for synthetically produced green colours. And who knows, without the technological advancements of the past two centuries, modern art may have developed in a completely different manner, or – as a critic writes in a review of the exhibition in *The Guardian* – "it may not have happened at all."

Trafalgar Square
① www.nationalgallery.org.uk



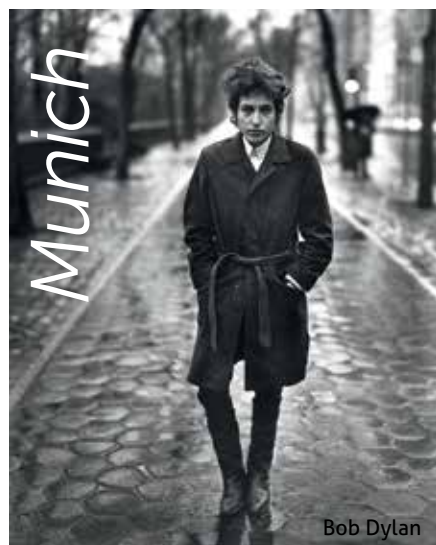
Au Panthéon

Panthéon
Until October 5

Paris' venerable Panthéon has become a veritable showcase for contemporary art. The imposing mausoleum, which houses the remains of such illustrious French personalities as Voltaire, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Jean-Paul Marat, Victor Hugo and Emile Zola, is currently hosting a photo installation by French photographer and street artist JR. In a tribute to universal values

and ordinary people, JR has assembled 4160 anonymous black-and-white portraits into a huge mosaic that covers the dome, cupola and floor of the Panthéon from both the inside and the outside. The project began in March of this year, when people from all over the world were invited to submit poster-sized portraits of themselves. A number of the pictures were also taken by JR himself in his portable photo booth.

Place du Panthéon
① www.au-pantheon.fr



Bob Dylan

Richard Avedon, Murals and Portraits

Brandhorst Museum
Until November 9

Twentieth-century photography legend Richard Avedon (1923-2004) had the unique ability to capture the spirit of his times. Although he is best known for the fashion photography that provided his main source of income, a

number of magazines also asked him to photograph their interview subjects. Hence, it is his portraits of various political and cultural celebrities that are highlighted at this exhibition, along with a portrait series of anonymous patients at a psychiatric hospital in Louisiana in 1963. The latter series of mentally ill individuals illustrates a segment of society that lives alongside us, but that we often choose to ignore, lest we leave our established comfort zone. Last but not least, four photographic murals that Avedon created between 1969 and 1971 are also being featured.

Theresienstraße 35
① www.museum-brandhorst.de



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DETAILS / EUROPEAN EVENTS

Berlin

Tanz im August

August 15-30

Tanz im August is one of the largest dance festivals in Europe, with an emphasis on the latest trends in modern dance while highlighting notable choreographers from the 20th century as well. This year, the spotlight is on the legendary Stockholm-based *Cullberg Ballet*, which was founded in 1967 and made famous by the choreography of Swedish enfant terrible Mats Ek. However, rather than presenting one of Ek's well-known works, the troupe is showcasing *Plateau Effect* by the young Jefta van Dinther, whose choreography is said to be just as wild and physical as Ek's. The festival's opening performance will be *Antigone Sr./Twenty Looks or Paris is Burning at the Judson Church* by New York-based choreographer Trajal Harrell. Fused in an extravagant stream of images, this work combines elements from Ancient Greece with Harlem's voguing ball scene and the early postmodern dance movement that stemmed from New York's Judson Church in the late 1960s – making the past, the present and the future all come together in one performance.

① www.tanzimaugust.de



Nudo sdraiato, Modigliani

Rome

The Form of Seduction – The Female Body in Art of the 1900s

Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna
Until October 5

Few places are more ideal than the Eternal City for an exhibition that hails the seductive power of women in 20th-century art. The sun's plays of light on the ornate facades of the historic Renaissance buildings in Rome's ancient streets provide a perfect backdrop for inducing sensuous outflows of romance among couples. Among the approximately 130 works of art on display are suggestive portraits by Man Ray, iconic nudes by Amedeo Modigliani, and many other well-known and lesser-known oeuvres representing all currents and forms of art from the 1900s. The exhibition is divided into five sections devoted to different aspects of seduction exerted by the female body, from seemingly childish and naïve flirtations to conscious and almost brutal provocations replete with sexual energy of the type that have clouded minds and inflamed passions like raging wildfires.

Viale delle Belle Arti 131

① www.gnam.beniculturali.it



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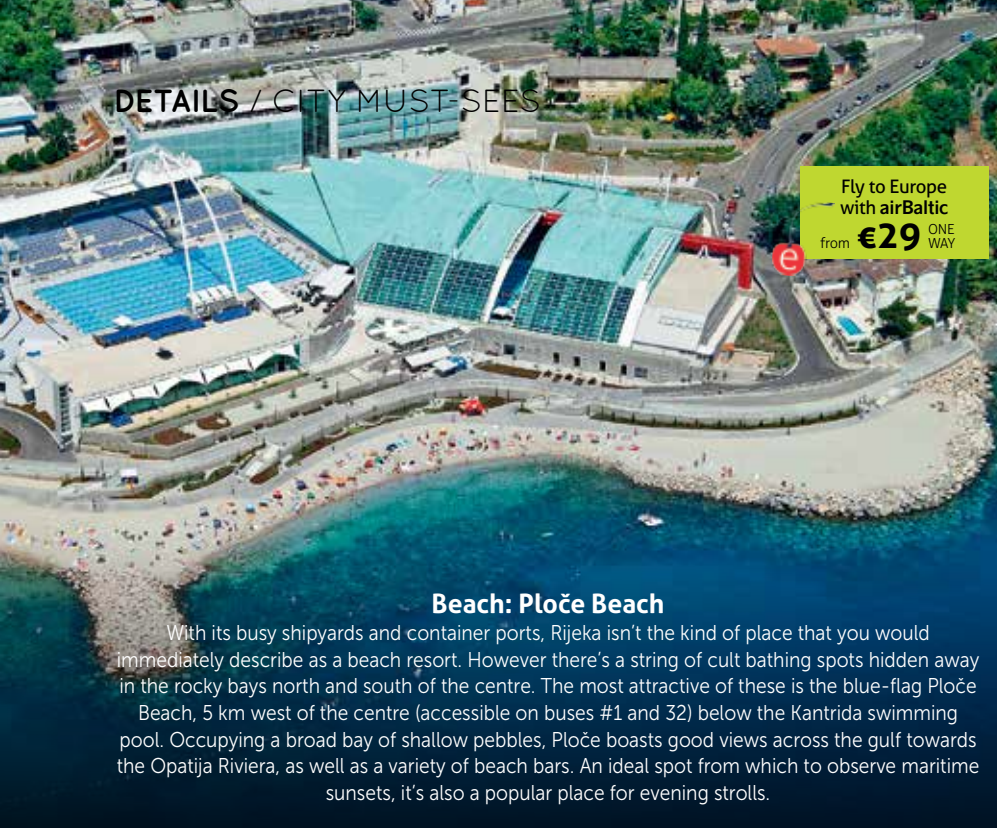
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Beach: Ploče Beach

With its busy shipyards and container ports, Rijeka isn't the kind of place that you would immediately describe as a beach resort. However there's a string of cult bathing spots hidden away in the rocky bays north and south of the centre. The most attractive of these is the blue-flag Ploče Beach, 5 km west of the centre (accessible on buses #1 and 32) below the Kantrida swimming pool. Occupying a broad bay of shallow pebbles, Ploče boasts good views across the gulf towards the Opatija Riviera, as well as a variety of beach bars. An ideal spot from which to observe maritime sunsets, it's also a popular place for evening strolls.

► Café: Cukarikafé

Ask locals to name one Rijeka café that inspires genuine affection and almost everyone will answer *Cukarikafe* (Sugarandcoffee), set in an old-town piazza uphill from the port. It's certainly unique, containing a jumble of second-hand furnishings that have been almost totally painted white. If the Mad Hatter and the March Hare popped in for tea, then you wouldn't be surprised. The main room looks like an optical illusion, with a bar that billows out at the bottom in synch with the curvy-legged tables placed opposite. Besides serving some of the best coffee in town, *Cukarikafe* hosts exhibitions by local artists, as well as concerts and poetry evenings.

Open Mon-Wed and Sun 07:00-00:00,
Fri and Sat 07:00-02:00.
Trg Jurja Klovica 4



◄ Bistro: Kuća istarskog pršuta (House of Istrian Ham)

Stretching north and west of Rijeka, the Istrian peninsula is famous for its wine and *pršut* or home-cured ham, and this lively shop and bistro on Rijeka's harbourfront is one of the best places to try them both. With a handful of tables and stools squeezed into a cosy interior, it's an informal place to nibble and gossip rather than enjoy a sit-down formal dinner. You can always join the locals at the *Kuća's* after-work parties (from 5pm every Thursday) and plough your way through an all-you-can-eat buffet for Kn 40/ EUR 5.

Open daily 08:00-22:00
Riva boduli 3



TEXT BY JON BOUSFIELD
PUBLICITY PHOTOS

Little Black Book Rijeka

▼ Museum: Peek & Poke

For proof that Croatia was once at the forefront of the IT revolution, look no further than Peek & Poke, the award-winning museum of techno-gadgets established by local enthusiasts in 2007. Here you can gaze in wonder at the *Galeb* and *Orao* computers made by the Croatian firm PEL in the 1980s, along with a whole host of other retro oddities, including early *Nintendo* consoles, *Sinclair Spectrums* and much, much more.

Open: Mon-Fri 11:00-20:00, Sat 11:00-16:00,
Sun 14:00-18:00
Ivana Grahovca 2
www.peekpoke.hr



▲ Main Market (Veliki plac)

A cornucopia of fish, fresh vegetables, oil and wine that draws streams of shoppers every day of the week. Providing a particular feast for the senses is the Art Nouveau fish pavilion, its pillars adorned with reliefs of shrimps and scampi. The pavilion's first-floor gallery offers a perfect view of glistening, rainbow-coloured sea creatures spilling across stone slabs below. Fruit, vegetable and flower stalls spread out onto the surrounding streets, where you will also find numerous traditional *konobe* or taverns, each serving inexpensive seafood dishes that would cost a fortune on the restaurant tables of northern Europe.

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Flying carpets

TEXT BY KRISTINE BUDZE, PASTAIGA
PUBLICITY PHOTO



Flying Carpet, designed by Ana Mir and Emili Padrós, manufactured by *nanimarquina*

Until fairly recently, the word “carpet” sounded almost like a swear word in designer circles. Carpets were considered to be heavy, old-fashioned and inappropriate for contemporary interiors. Now, floor coverings are gradually coming back into fashion and into modern, 21st-century interiors. Spanish designer Nani Marquina was one of the first designers and manufacturers to work at making this happen.

Nani’s father, Rafael Marquina, was a pioneer of Spanish industrial design. His most famous invention is a special bottle that doesn’t drip and become dirty when you pour oil or vinegar from it. First manufactured in 1961, the bottle has since been copied all over the world and become a design classic. Unafraid of remaining under her father’s shadow, Nani decided from an early age to follow in his footsteps and become a designer, just like her dad.

In 1987, Nani founded a carpet-manufacturing company that she named after herself: *nanimarquina*. Her choice of

activity was pragmatic, because during the late 1980s the carpet niche was practically empty. The Spanish designer established a successful business by giving a contemporary touch to carpet-making traditions and experimenting with various

FLYING CARPET DOUBLES AS A PIECE OF FLOOR-LEVEL FURNITURE ON WHICH ONE CAN REST, READ OR WATCH TV

materials and textures. She managed to avoid making her floor coverings into eccentric objects that viewers would be glad to look at in an art gallery, but would never place on the floors of their homes. To this day, *nanimarquina* remains a family-run enterprise, and although Nani has not complained about a lack of creative ideas, she has recruited other illustrious Spanish designers to assist her right from the outset. Their number has grown over the years, and

some of these designers have become increasingly renowned.

One of *nanimarquina*’s most unusual creations is the *Flying Carpet*, which doubles as a piece of floor-level furniture on which one can rest, read or watch TV. The rug is made of hand-loomed wool, with wedges made of polyurethane foam that can be placed under any corner to raise the carpet’s surface. The idea for the unique carpet came to the Spanish designer pair Ana Mir and Emili Padrós. After obtaining Master’s degrees in industrial design at Central Saint Martins College of Arts and Design, they founded their own design studio, which they named *Emiliana Design*. Known for their ability to add an unconventional look to everyday objects, their talent has been appreciated by the likes of *Samsung Electronics*, *Toyota Motors*, German toy manufacturer *Richter Spielgeräte*, Japanese fashion brand *Comme des Garçons* and, of course, Nina’s own *nanimarquina* company. **BO**

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New music sensation Carnival Youth

A fresh sound has arrived on the music scene.

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I don't know what I was expecting from these young 18-year-old lads, but the members of *Carnival Youth* certainly surprised me. Fresh out of high school, these amiable, focused and conscientious boys exude happiness and express their joie-de-vivre through music. I even got the impression that the band members have already lived a full life and have been reincarnated to be with us, displaying a surprising sense of responsibility and wisdom that belies their young age. The boys say that the strict discipline at music school has instilled the sense of responsibility that I detected, permitting them to focus on their goals and not drop what they have started.

Two years ago, twin brothers Emils and Edgars Kaupers started to play music together with their classmate Roberts Vanags. Not long after, schoolmate Aleksis Lauriņš joined them for a concert on stage. Since then, the four have been inseparable. The lads say that they are all equals and thus the group is led collectively. The name for the group came with this thought in mind, as when people wear masks during a carnival they all become equal. That being said, the members of *Carnival Youth*

don't wear masks on stage, at least not yet. They take great pleasure from the positive exchange of energy that results from creating new songs and playing together, and this is reflected in their music.

This summer, *Carnival Youth* could aptly be nicknamed Festival Youth. Having already performed at the *Positivus* and *Summer*



Sound festivals in July in Latvia, as well as at *Open'er* in Poland and *The Great Escape* and *Guilfest* in Great Britain, the band will be continue to tour across Europe until well into the fall. This month they will play at *Galapagai* in Lithuania and *Sziget* in Hungary, followed by performances at the *Reeperbahn*

festival in Germany in September and *Waves Vienna* in Austria in October.

If you are curious about how the group sounds, then you may have already heard the inspiring chorus *I'll never have enough of this*, because this spring the band's debut single *Never Have Enough* became the jingle for a *Carlsberg Nordic* beer advertisement. That created a snowball effect, with the song often playing from loudspeakers at cafés, petrol stations and public beaches across the continent. The band's EP has already sold out in Latvia and is set to be released in Germany, Austria and Switzerland on September 19.

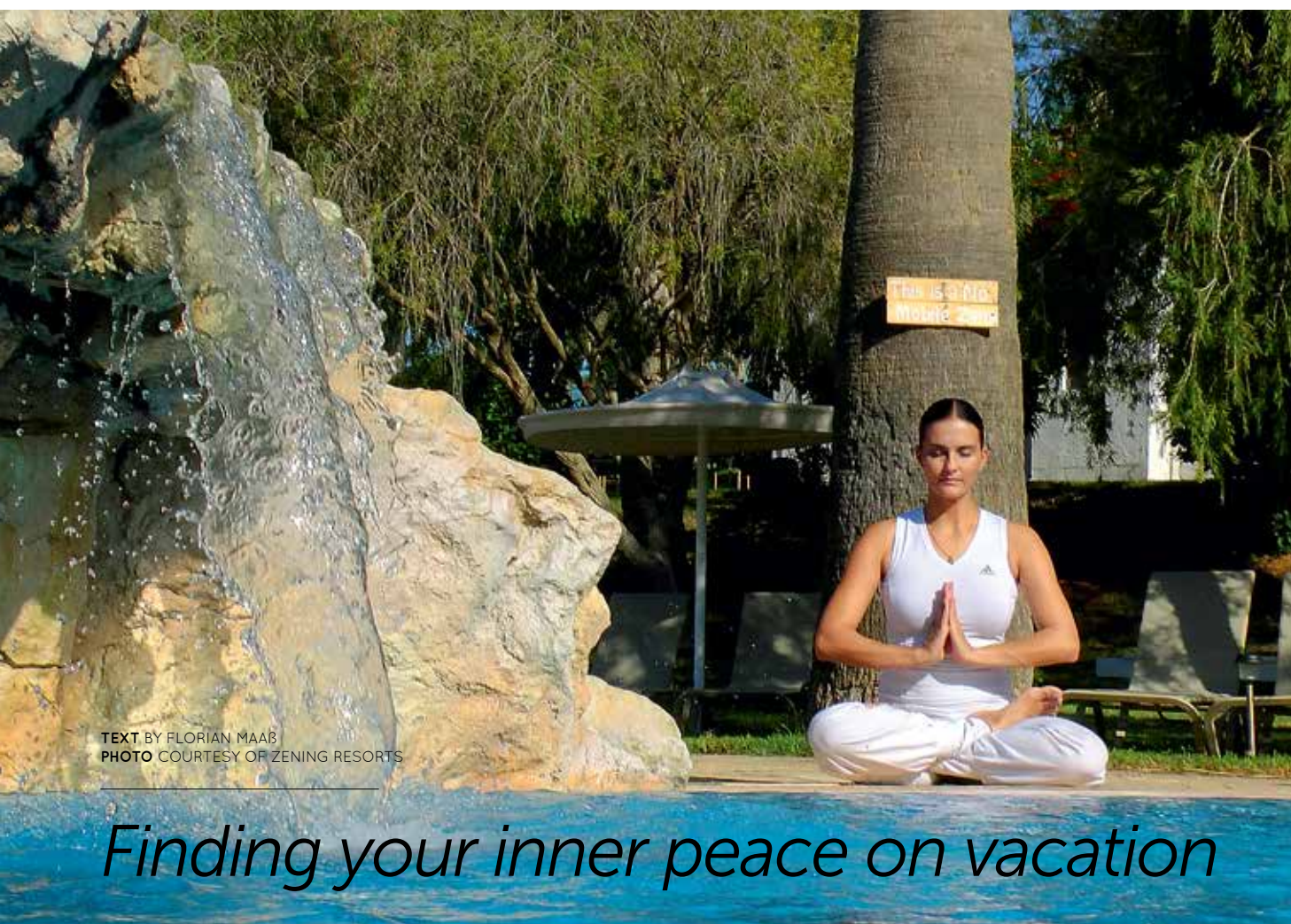
Carnival Youth plans to release its first studio album this fall and, rather than resting on its laurels, the group is already working on its second LP. The band members say that they are glad to have chanced upon meeting the right people at the right time and hope to give their own concert at the Glastonbury Festival, whose founder Michael Eavis saw their well-attended performance at Europe's leading new music festival *The Great Escape*. "In the meantime, we still want to gain some experience before we become even more successful," they say emphatically. **BO**

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TEXT BY FLORIAN MAAB
PHOTO COURTESY OF ZENING RESORTS

Finding your inner peace on vacation

Tired of aimlessly hanging around on overcrowded beaches? Is getting pampered at a spa resort too much relaxation for you? Well then, consider spicing up your upcoming summer vacation with some yoga or meditation. Besides, it's a growing tourist trend.

It might seem a bit hard in the beginning to form the perfect sunbird pose, not to mention the peacock position. But doing so may leave you with a wonderful well-balanced feeling and help you to focus and concentrate. Don't worry: from acrobatic to nidra (sleeping) yoga,

IT MIGHT SEEM A BIT HARD IN THE BEGINNING TO FORM THE PERFECT SUNBIRD POSE, NOT TO MENTION THE PEACOCK POSITION

there is a version of this activity for everybody. The most popular form in Europe is hata yoga, an attractive mix of physical exercise, breathing techniques and meditation. What's more, you don't have to deny yourself a wonderful location and a yummy meal – as long as it's vegetarian and healthy – in your endeavours.

Few places could please both your stomach and your soul more than Tuscany. For centuries, nuns found inner peace through prayer and other spiritual practices at what is now the *Il Convento* retreat. It's in the picturesque village of Casola, with a beautiful panorama of the Apuan Alps in the background. The rooms are simple but cosy, and as at most yoga retreats, this place is "detox", which means no TV, Internet or mobile phones (www.il-convento.net).

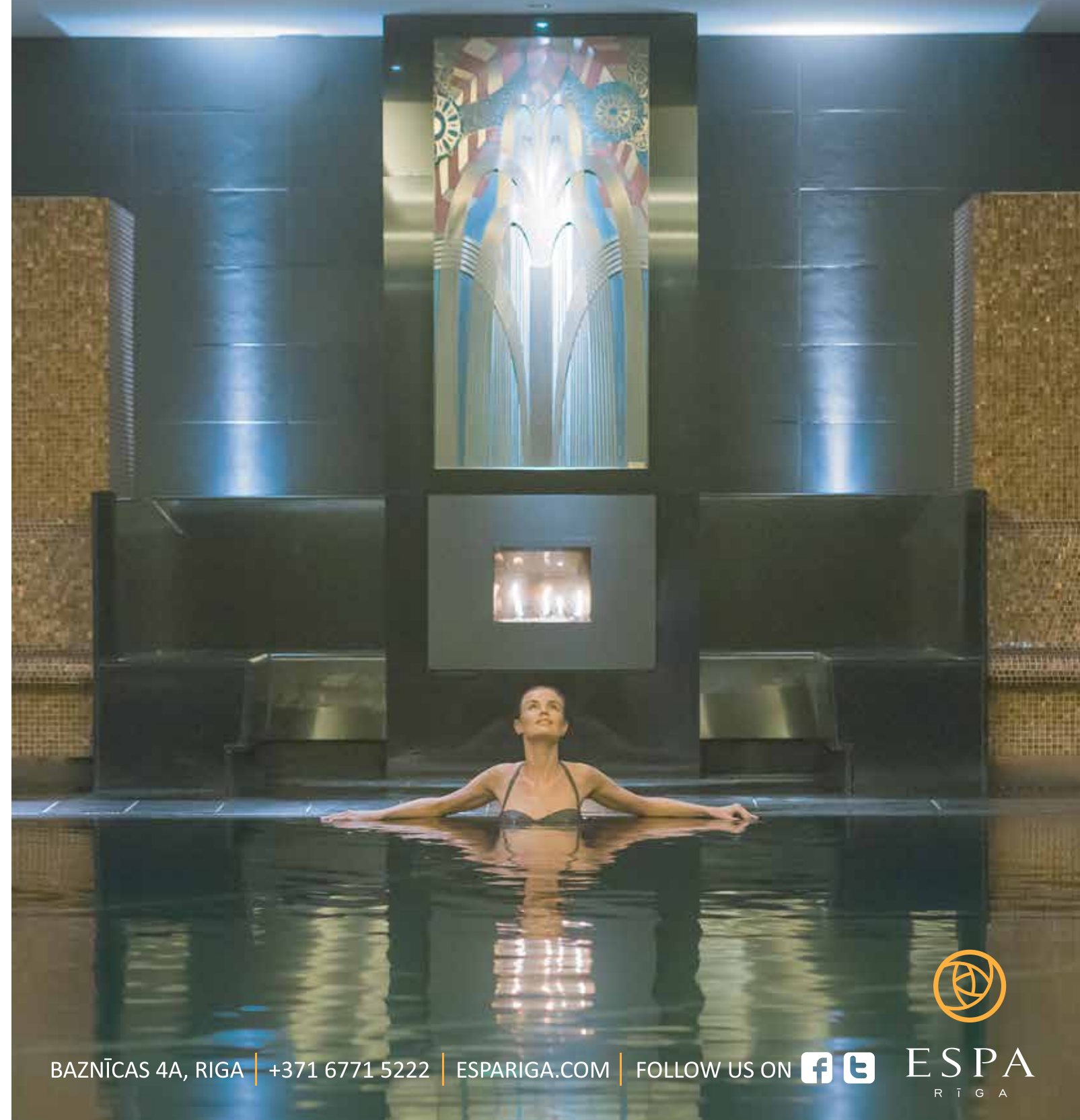
Zening, famed as Europe's first yoga, wellness and meditation resort, offers considerably more luxury. It's beautifully located on a bluff above Latchi Beach at the western end of Cyprus (www.zening.eu).

If you think that you have seen it all, then a stay at the yoga retreat at *Eastern Mangroves Suites* in Abu Dhabi may be the place for you to find harmony.

Back in wonderful Casola in the early evening, you will see locals meeting out on the piazza for a chat or sitting together for a glass of wine. They look so perfectly relaxed and in harmony with themselves that even your yoga teacher might still learn something from them. **BO**

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Rita Hayworth, the legendary Hollywood beauty who rose to international fame in the 1940s and 1950s, enjoyed playing badminton

Before the rules were set in 1877, the upper classes preferred to indulge in ball badminton, which made the sport easier to play in wet and windy conditions. However, time went by and the shuttlecock came back to the fore. This was a unique twist when comparing the game to other aristocratic sports such as tennis. The shuttlecock has specific aerodynamic properties that cause it to fly differently than the balls used in other racquet sports. In particular, the sixteen overlapping feathers embedded into a rounded cork base and covered with thin leather provide much higher drag, causing the shuttlecock to decelerate more rapidly than a ball. However, the shuttlecock has a higher top speed, making badminton the fastest racquet sport in the world. Since wind can influence the trajectory of the shuttlecock, competition badminton is played indoors.

Nowadays, the sport is no longer just a leisure activity for European aristocrats. It has long since crossed social boundaries and

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can be played by anyone. Since badminton was introduced as an Olympic discipline in 1992, it has been dominated by such Asian countries as China, South Korea and Indonesia.

Rules and competitions aside, the August holidays are a great time for bringing recreational badminton out of its stuffy indoor facilities and back to the great outdoors. Europe's sandy beaches and vast meadows take badminton back to its aristocratic roots and provide ideal places for indulging in a fun outdoor workout. Like other racquet sports, badminton improves aerobic stamina, agility, strength, speed and precision. All that's needed is an open field, a partner, a racquet and a shuttlecock.

Wherever your August getaway may be, badminton equipment is light and easily transportable. The sport's rich history and worldwide appeal have brought together many people of different ethnicities, generations and financial standing. **BO**

Aristocratic leisure

The August holidays are a great time for bringing badminton back to the great outdoors

TEXT BY MONTA REINFELDE
PHOTO BY EVERETT COLLECTION

As early as the 17th century, members of the British nobility took to badminton as a recreational activity. Dressed in long-waisted bodices and draped, narrow skirts, aristocratic ladies and finely dressed gentlemen batted the shuttlecock through the blue summer sky in their leisure time. This initial version of badminton was known as "battledore and shuttlecock", played primarily by military officers and their wives. It was only in the 19th century when badminton acquired its conventional name, adopted from Duke of Beaufort's Badminton House in Gloucestershire.

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Summer greens

with blueberry vinaigrette

This easy-to-make salad is perfect for enjoying the produce that's now in season.

RECIPE, STYLE AND PHOTO BY
ZANE JANSONE, WWW.GATAVOZA.LV



Ingredients

(serves two)
50 g baby spinach or other salad greens
1 small summer squash
2 slices prosciutto ham
2 tbsp. goat cheese
2 tbsp. sliced almonds, lightly toasted
6 thin slices of baguette bread
1 pat of butter
100 g blueberries
1 1/2 tbsp. balsamic vinegar
1 1/2 tbsp. Demerara sugar
Sea salt according to taste

Preparation

Prepare the blueberry vinaigrette by adding the balsamic vinegar, sugar and a pinch of sea salt to the blueberries. Blend them together with a blender.
Grate the summer squash into long, thin slices using a mandolin grater (or slice with a sharp knife). Sprinkle the slices with sea salt, mix together and set for about 20 minutes to drain any excess moisture from the squash. Pour off the excess moisture.
Fry the baguette bread in butter on both sides.
Arrange the spinach leaves, summer squash, prosciutto, crumbled goat cheese and baguette slices onto a plate. Drizzle with the blueberry vinaigrette, and sprinkle with sliced almonds and blueberries.

A fashion advertisement for Podium Fashion Department Store. It features a man and a woman in stylish clothing. The woman is wearing a red jacket and holding a black and white clutch bag. The man is wearing a blue suit jacket. The background is a solid light color. The Podium logo is in the top right corner. A list of brands is on the right side. The Podium logo is at the bottom center. The address and phone number are at the bottom right.

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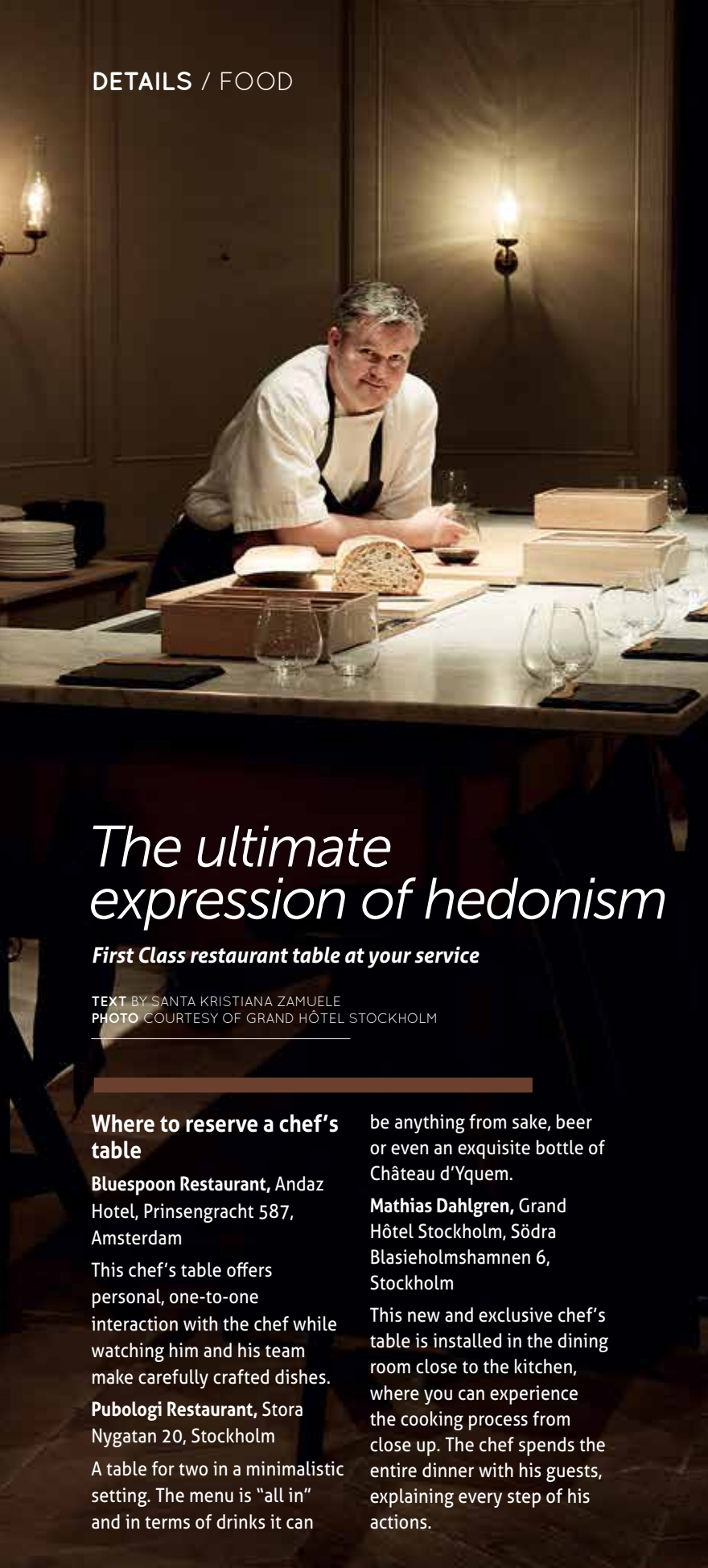
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The ultimate expression of hedonism

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TEXT BY SANTA KRISTIANA ZAMUELE
PHOTO COURTESY OF GRAND HÔTEL STOCKHOLM

Where to reserve a chef's table

Bluespoon Restaurant, Andaz Hotel, Prinsengracht 587, Amsterdam

This chef's table offers personal, one-to-one interaction with the chef while watching him and his team make carefully crafted dishes.

Pubologi Restaurant, Stora Nygatan 20, Stockholm

A table for two in a minimalistic setting. The menu is "all in" and in terms of drinks it can

be anything from sake, beer or even an exquisite bottle of Château d'Yquem.

Mathias Dahlgren, Grand Hôtel Stockholm, Södra Blasieholmshamnen 6, Stockholm

This new and exclusive chef's table is installed in the dining room close to the kitchen, where you can experience the cooking process from close up. The chef spends the entire dinner with his guests, explaining every step of his actions.

If you are a true hedonist and would like to try something new, both in terms of food and drink, or you have become bored with "normal" restaurant dinners, then reserving a seat at a "chef's table" is a must. It gives you the feeling of flying in First Class, of taking one of the few exclusive seats available while the other guests sit in the regular dining room. Chef's tables allow diners to get closer to the action, forget the menu and surrender their choice of food to the chef's professional hands. In exchange for your trust, you will be taken on an unforgettable journey that lasts for up to five hours.

Started roughly a decade ago, the chef's table trend is taking its course in restaurants across the globe, letting diners experience exclusive insights into dining pleasures. If previously a seat near the kitchen was the last place one wanted to be, today it's the most exclusive dining venue. Restaurants now have waiting lists for a first class gastronomy voyage that takes place at the chef's table and gives guests a full front-row view of the best culinary performances.

The kitchen/chef's table experience differs widely from one restaurant to other. Your seats might be located at a counter next to the kitchen, or sometimes right in the centre of the action. Most chef's tables can be found in the kitchen itself and seats must be reserved a few weeks ahead. The table can host from two to more than 20 people, but the golden standard is up to ten guests.

Frequently patrons join in the exclusive dinner preparation together with the chef. Usually clients will have a tasting or other exclusive menu prepared and served by the head chef. This comes at a higher cost than a regular meal. The same goes with booking. If you pull off a last-minute no-show, then you will be charged a cancellation fee due to exclusivity of the offer.

Choose a restaurant that offers a "chef's table" and book ahead. Invite some friends along or go in the company of your significant other. What is so special about dining in the busiest and most stressful place of the whole restaurant? Remember that this is not going to be a regular dinner. It will be a whole different experience, with the exclusivity opportunity to see a chef at work, listen to what he is saying, learn and participate in a dialogue.

Chef's tables are also a creativity platform for the chefs themselves, letting them go into more adventurous territory that would not feature in a standard menu. It's a personal, one-to-one interaction while watching the outstanding performance of talented culinary masters. Using local, seasonal ingredients and taking the best foods from farmers' markets, chefs create authentic dishes right in front of your eyes while letting you taste, smell and participate in the preparation process. **BO**



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Mallorca – island of inspiration

TEXT BY UNA MEISTERE, WWW.ANOTHERTRAVELGUIDE.COM
PHOTOS BY AINARS ERGLIS

Bad luck, somebody has already taken the photograph of the brochure about Mallorca and don't worry, all the information is also on WWW.ANOTHERTRAVELGUIDE.COM in cooperation with

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Standing on the wooden rooftop deck of Es Baluard, Palma's museum of modern art, the sun is almost directly over our heads and the wind whirls around us like a hot fan. The geometry of the deck imitates the old city wall, and nearby in the harbour we see such a collection of expensive yachts that would be difficult to find anywhere else in the world. The yachts rock gently on the water in a comfortable state of Mediterranean self-contentment.

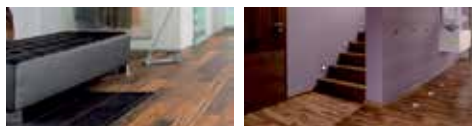
While continental Spain is still struggling with an economic crisis and restaurants in smaller towns outside of Barcelona are open only a couple of days a week, Mallorca seems to have moved beyond the recession. In fact, rent prices in Palma are steadily increasing, and the city is once again considered a stylish place to live by locals who once tried to move away as quickly as possible. Many properties belong to foreigners – Germans, British, Scandinavians, also Russians – and Palma, with its narrow medieval streets and bustling Plaza Major, feels like a pocket-sized international metropolis.

According to the Spanish National Notary Association, real estate sales to foreigners from 2008 to 2012 have doubled. As reported by the *Financial Times* this spring, prices for renovated apartments with views of Palma's prominent yacht clubs, such as the *Royal Yacht Club* or *Club de Mer*, are between 3000 and 6000 euros per square metre. A high quality of life, a strategic location (there are regular flights from Mallorca to almost every European capital) and a good climate are the main draws mentioned by foreigners living on the island.

Even though the population of Palma is only around 400,000, each year Mallorca hosts an average of nine million tourists. And those tourists are no longer just on cruise ship outings or guests at all-inclusive hotels seeking cheap entertainment, which still recently made Mallorca a classic mass tourism destination. Undeniably, this stereotype still exists, but Palma has expertly changed its image in the past few years. As some locals assert, this change can largely be attributed to the foreigners

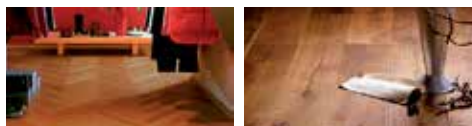


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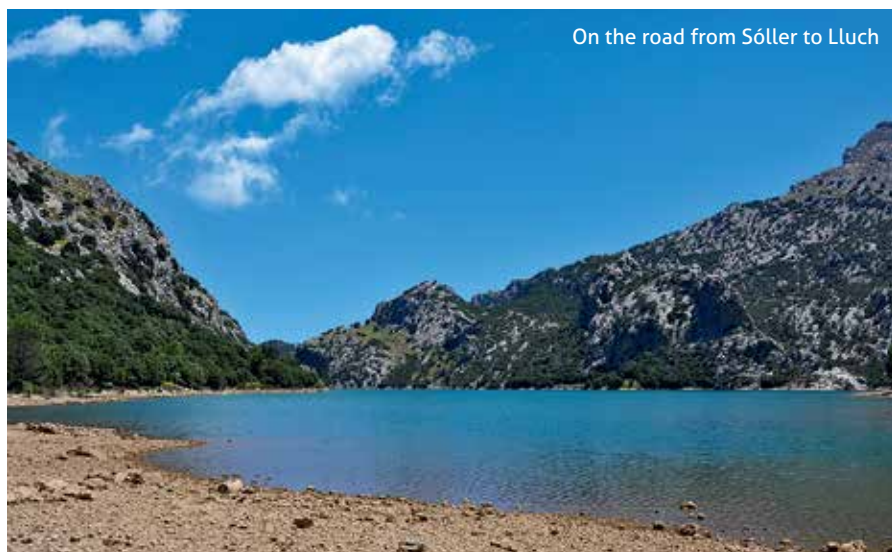
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EVEN SOME OF THOSE SO-CALLED "HIDDEN BEACHES" ARE NO LONGER COMPLETELY HIDDEN, BUT AT LEAST COMPARATIVELY SECLUDED

who have moved to the island and have wished to create an environment suited to their own ambitions for quality of life, a place where they themselves enjoy being and, hopefully, a place for their children as well.

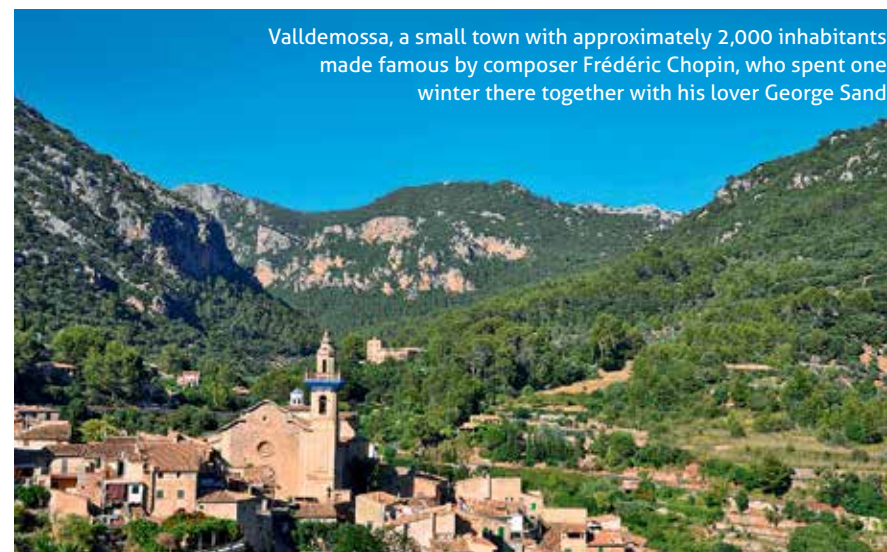
"Mallorca is currently the new Ibiza," said my friend in London, whose acquaintances have in recent years been heading to the island every summer. True, these acquaintances usually go to the north or northwest side of the island, where one can still find marvellous places untouched by global tourism. Yes, even some of those so-called "hidden beaches" are no longer completely hidden, but at least comparatively secluded.

A street called La Fabrica runs through the former fisherman's quarter of Santa Catalina, located right behind the Es Baluard museum and currently considered the epicentre of the city's alternative scene. A wide variety of restaurants and eating establishments can be found along the whole length of La Fabrica. The street simmers with a hipster-like life force in the evenings, feeling a bit like an anthill. But in the middle of the day, when the city settles down for its traditional siesta, only the *Ziva* eco-bar remains open, offering an infinite variety of tasty cocktails made of freshly squeezed juices. Hidden at the far end of La Fabrica is *Patrón Lunares*, one of the trendiest eateries of the moment.

In recent years, stylish boutique hotels have also sprung up in Palma like mushrooms after a rain. One of the most exciting of the new hotels is *Brondo Architect*. The hotel-cum-design-showroom spans two adjacent buildings, and the interior combines reminiscences of the 17th century with a sense of industrial chic. *Brondo Architect* has only 14 rooms, which are decorated in a thematic arch that includes music, travel, architecture and the sea as well as a light shot of bohemia. The hotel, designed by a Spanish architect, also serves as an art gallery and platform for a variety of events.

A city of courtyards

If you turn off of Passeig Born, Palma's main shopping street featuring the whole spectrum of familiar consumer brands from *Louis Vuitton* to the Spanish *Loewe*, you'll find yourself on the small and relatively quiet street called Sant Feliu. Unlike its neighbour, Sant Feliu has a distinctly artistic aura about it. The best-known inhabitant of this street is *Rialto Living*, the 800-square-metre lifestyle megastore selling all sorts of design, fashion and art items as well as books and other things. Everything here has been carefully chosen with a skilful curator's hand by the store's owners, a Scandinavian couple who have chosen Mallorca as their home.



The store's name has been taken from the building's past, when it was known as the Rialto Theatre. The theatre was built in 1928 and redesigned as Palma's first cinema in the 1950s. *Rialto Living* is the first lifestyle concept store in Palma and, as the owners have stated in interviews, it came into being from a desire to have a space with all of the things that they themselves had not been able to find in Palma before. Today, *Rialto Living* is a real find for design-loving tourists and for foreigners who are furnishing their new properties in Palma.

Nearby is the art gallery of German-born art dealer Gerhardt Braun, who has brought the works of several internationally known artists to Palma. The gallery is located in one of Palma's historical houses of the nobility, a truly majestic building with iron-clad steps and original wooden interior doors that form a charming interplay with the most extreme expressions of contemporary art. A little further is Braun's fashion concept store, the design of which also deserves mention among gourmands of that niche.

A few steps further is a completely different Palma, with unbelievably quiet, empty, narrow, cobbled streets full of prominent buildings that were or still are home to the descendants of old aristocratic families. At the heart of these buildings is a courtyard that was once the setting for all the inhabitants' daily rituals. At one time Palma had about 500 such courtyards, and it was known as a city of courtyards. Now only about 150 of them are left. The history of these courtyards stretches back

to ancient times, when the Romans built their villas around courtyards that provided shade and a space to be outdoors, yet shielded them from the gaze of others.

When Mallorca was invaded by the Arabs in 902, the new conquerors also left their mark on the city's architecture, as did the Christians in the 13th century, who brought Gothic elements to the city. Courtyard design and building façades were influenced by the Renaissance and Baroque styles in the 15th and 16th centuries, when wealthy neighbours competed with each other in the decorative aspects of their homes. Buildings became symbols of social prosperity, and courtyards also became larger and more ornate.

Today, the courtyards still retain a reflection of that era. Some of the old palaces have now been turned into museums, such as Palau March, which was once the residence of a banker named March and now prides itself in its impressive collection of 20th-century art. However, not all of Palma's courtyards are open to the public; some can only be glimpsed through iron gates. In one of the courtyards we see two women descending a staircase past majestic columns, just like in a Fellini film. One is an older, elegantly dressed woman; the other is her younger companion, possibly her daughter. There is something so surreal in this scene, as if two parallel lives have momentarily met – one on either side of the gate – but shall never come into contact with each other.

In a way, Mallorca resembles this scene, too – a relatively small island that

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YOUR NEXT DESTINATION



Palma from the roof of the
Es Baluard museum

allows one to experience practically the whole spectrum of possible impressions. From fabulous cliffs along the coast and 20-minute hikes to small bays with beaches, to olive and lemon tree plantations, fragrant pine forests and small villages consisting of only a few houses. But Mallorca also has crowded beaches, water parks and all the other standard entertainment attractions. Yet, despite existing so near to each other, these two worlds do not meet, if you so wish. In recent years, Mallorca has also been popularised as a gastronomy destination with several *Michelin*-starred restaurants. One of those stars has been earned by a female, Macarena de Castro, whose family owns the *Jardín* restaurant located in the island's northern tourist hub of Puerto de Alcúdia and is famous throughout the region.

But, no matter how expert the cuisine, everyone agrees that what vacationers on an island most crave is to feast on fish. And for this, it would be hard to find a better place (at least in the Palma area) than *Casa Fernando*, a small seafood bistro located in the fisherman's neighbourhood of Ciudad Jardín. There is hardly a menu to speak of; instead, guests choose their meal from the four-metre-long glass counter where all manner of seafood is displayed on ice. The seafood is prepared in only one way – grilled – and the whole process, which has been perfected to the highest degree, takes place right there behind the counter. Unbelievably tasty meals are prepared in mere minutes, and the only thing to keep in mind is a sense of moderation, otherwise you may end up like the men in the film *La grande bouffe*.

Miró, Nadal and others captivated by Mallorca

Who's to say whether it's the sun, sea, mountains, people or blue sky, but there's something about Mallorca that pulls a person in and doesn't let go. After all, even tennis star Rafael Nadal, who has travelled half the world and could afford to live anywhere he wanted to, returns again and again to the island where he was born. He doesn't hide the fact that Mallorca is where he feels most comfortable. In addition, Mallorcans are said to be very family-oriented.

The island also fascinated the Catalan icon of modernism and surrealism Joan Miró (1893-1983) to the point where he spent the rest of his life there. His foundation, which is located on the



Palma's narrow and cobbled streets are full of prominent buildings that were or still are home to descendants of venerable aristocratic families

EVEN TENNIS STAR RAFAEL NADAL, WHO COULD AFFORD TO LIVE ANYWHERE HE WANTED TO, RETURNS AGAIN AND AGAIN TO THE ISLAND WHERE HE WAS BORN

outskirts of Palma about a 15-minute drive from the city centre, is not only one of the most inspiring places on the island, but also one of the most beautiful small museums in Europe. It consists of three separate buildings: the main building, designed by Spanish architect Rafaela Moneo and which houses the Miró collection; and two artist's studios, one of which was designed by the well-known Catalan architect Josep Lluís Sert.

Even though Miró was born in Barcelona, his whole life was intertwined with Mallorca. His mother and grandparents were born there, and later he married a woman from the island as well. Miró spent a large part of his life in Paris, where he befriended Pablo Picasso, André Breton and Ernest Hemingway and became an integral part of that era's art world. He called Paris a "spiritual effervescence", but Mallorca was the place where he could enjoy peace and quiet and passionately devote himself to his work. The island also became a refuge for him during the Second World War.

In 1954, already an internationally recognised Spanish artist but disliked by the Franco regime, he decided to move to Mallorca permanently, thereby also fulfilling his dream of having his own studio. The white concrete building designed by Sert literally sparkles in the Mediterranean sun. It has a seemingly undulating, curved roof and geometric bright yellow, blue and

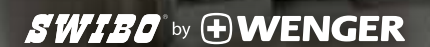
red accents and is a true masterpiece of modernism. It is a sort of supplement to Miró's work, celebrating life as heatedly and colourfully as the artist himself did in his paintings, which he painted with a passion until the age of 90.

Miró's studio still looks the same as the artist left it when he died. There are unfinished canvases on the easels; a rag full of paint lies on the corner of the table; newspaper clippings, paint tubes, brushes and various objects found during his wanderings through the mountains and beaches of Mallorca, such as rocks, seashells, dried palm leaves and clay figurines, litter the studio.

In 1981, seeing the chaotic construction all around them (nearby Cala Major is the home of multi-storey all-inclusive hotels and concrete apartment buildings) resulting from the mass tourism boom, Miró and his wife far-sightedly bequeathed both studios, a part of his artwork, his library and his personal documents to the city. Miró's wish was that, by preserving the environment and studio he had created, he could stimulate a continuation of the artistic process. But, because there was no appropriate building in which to display the artist's impressive collection, it was decided that the foundation needed a new building. This project was brought to fruition after Miró's death, thanks to his widow, who not only donated the land for



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the construction but also collected the necessary funds by selling several of her husband's paintings at a *Sotheby's* auction in 1986.

In a way, the *Fundació Pilar i Joan Miró* building designed by architect Rafael Moneo heightens the already existing feeling of the property as an oasis amid the urban jungle, with its curved concrete façade serving as a wall between beauty and ugliness, or between the Miró Foundation and the surrounding architecture stimulated by cheap consumer culture. The building is slightly star-shaped (the star was also a favourite motif in Miró's works), and the roof is covered with water, thereby symbolising the presence of the sea nearby. The foundation's collection currently has about 2000 works by Miró that together reflect the great variety found in the artist's creative process.

Another person captivated by Mallorca was the English poet and writer Robert Graves. He first arrived on the island in 1929 together with his lover at the time, and the two found their way to the small village of Deià at the foot of the Serra Tramuntana mountains on Mallorca's western coast. And that's where he stayed. Graves did later return to England for a short time, only to come back to Mallorca, now with his second wife and a crowd of friends and fans in tow.

"I found everything I wanted as a writer: sun, sea, mountains, spring-water, shady trees, no politics and a few civilised luxuries such as electric light," he wrote. Graves lived in Deià until his death in 1985, and his house, where the likes of Gabriel García Márquez, Peter Ustinov and Ava Gardner (to whom he even dedicated the poem *Not to Sleep*) used to pay him visits, is now a museum. Anaïs Nin, the virtuoso of erotic stories, also spent a summer in Deià; she lived not in Graves' house, but down in the village itself, and every morning she is said to have ridden on the back of a mule to the secluded beach. Later, she devoted a story to her time in Deià, a story about the young fisherman's daughter Maria who enjoyed her first sexual encounter with a foreign couple on that very same beach.

The name Deià dates back to the 10th-13th century, when the Moors conquered Mallorca. The Moors also invented the unique terrace-type irrigation systems that allowed the steep mountainsides to be cultivated. These are now full of olive groves stretching almost the whole length of the coast. Since the 19th century, Deià has attracted artists and all types of bohemians, including Archduke Luis Salvador of Austria who, captivated by the beauty of the area's natural environment, bought two properties near Deià: Miramar and Son Marroig. It is believed that his first guests also became some of the first tourists to the island. However, it was Graves and his entourage that Deià's popularity really increased, thereby permanently inscribing the name of this small mountain village on the global map of tourism.

The main road along Mallorca's western coast runs through Deià. On one side of the road is *La Residencia*, one of the most legendary and beautiful luxury hotels on the island. At one time the hotel belonged to Richard Branson, but now it is a part of the *Orient Express* chain of hotels. On the other side of the road is Carreres Puig, the only other street in the village, where you can find a couple of ceramics shops and art galleries. The curvy street leads uphill to a small mountaintop church and cemetery containing Graves' grave. It would be difficult to wish for a more splendid

final resting place – blooming mountainsides on one side, and the sea on the other side. And there is little more to the village of Deià. Later, when we step into a ceramics shop, I ask the resident artist, whose plates can be found at *La Residencia's* restaurant *El Olivo*, whether that's really all there is to Deià. She laughs and answers in very good English, "Deià is down there." Down the steep mountainside, in the jumble of small streets and paths that run up onto blooming trees, olive groves and the mountain panorama.

The hot midday air is literally a riot of aromas and colours. The gates leading to the small, light-coloured houses are covered with vines, and the lemon trees in their gardens are full of bright yellow fruit. There are hardly any people about; having spilled out of their tour busses, the tourists mostly head to the Graves museum and don't go any further than the cafés along the main road. As a result of its global fame, people predicted that much of Deià's charm would be destroyed, both in the 1960s and 1970s, when it was pillaged by hippies, and also later, when Michael Douglas, Andrew Lloyd Webber and a string of the likewise rich and famous established summer homes here for their families.

However, nothing of the sort has happened. Maybe only the fact that a glass of freshly squeezed orange juice at a lonely little roadside shop costs an alarming 2.50 euros. But otherwise it seems that nothing can undermine Deià's charm. One of the area's most beautiful beaches, Cala Deià, is also located nearby. The beach is a one-and-a-half-hour walk down the mountain (up which one must later climb) from the centre of the village. If going by car, turn off right after Graves' house. The terraces along the small bay are still a favourite destination for artists. There are no comforts here – no

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lounge chairs, no showers, etc. – just an unbelievably beautiful view and the clear blue-green waters of the Mediterranean Sea.

Meeting point of the winds

One of the most beautiful coastal roads on Mallorca leads from Deià in the direction of Andratx, a mountain serpentine carriageway. On one side is the majestic Serra de Tramuntana mountain range, while on the other side is the Mediterranean Sea. The road is definitely worth the drive, but it is slow. There are breathtaking viewpoints every few kilometres, and it's a sin not to stop for a look. One such scenic point, Sa Foradada, is very close to Deià and also hosts a restaurant with a wonderful terrace for sunset hedonists. The place is made even more special by the cliff under it, which resembles the frightful head of a beast with a hole for an eye. The "eye" is 18 metres wide and, as the sun sets, a bright path of light can be seen stretching across the water.

Further ahead is Valldemossa, a small town with approximately 2000 inhabitants, narrow streets and light-coloured stone houses made famous by the Polish-born composer Frédéric Chopin, who spent one winter (1838-1839) here together with his lover George Sand and her two children. Their accommodations – two cells at Valldemossa's 13th-century monastery – are the main tourist attraction in the town. The site is now a museum but, unfortunately, the traces of these old times and the couple's relationship have almost completely vanished; the museum consists of only a few artefacts associated with the couple, CDs of Chopin's music and Sand's book *Winter in Mallorca*.

Unlike the case for Robert Graves, Mallorca never became the land of Chopin's and Sands' dreams, even though both of them hoped that it would be an oasis where they could devote themselves completely to their love affair, away from prying eyes in Paris. In reality, things turned out differently than planned. Mallorca's winter was no gift for Chopin's health (he suffered from tuberculosis); the weather was cold and windy. In addition, having found out about his illness, the locals avoided him as if he had leprosy, and, to top it all off, his piano did not arrive from the continent as planned.



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"As the winter advanced, the gloom froze all my attempts at gaiety and calm.... We felt like prisoners, far from any enlightened help or productive sympathy," later wrote Sand in her book, which is hard to describe as a panegyric to Mallorca. The only thing she could not find fault with was the unbelievably beautiful views from the windows of their cells.

"It is one of those views that completely overwhelms one, for it leaves nothing to be desired and nothing to the imagination. All that a poet or a painter might dream of, Nature has created here." In large part, Mallorca spelled the end of their relationship. According to legend, Sand's daughter, Solange, who was not in the least pleased by the affair between her mother and Chopin, once put on nun's clothing and appeared to Chopin as a ghost in the night. The composer was later so distressed that he went to confession and asked for forgiveness. He was granted forgiveness on the condition that he never again make love to Sand. It is said that the couple never spent another night together.

On one side of the abbey is a small, shady garden surrounded by hundred-year-old trees that is definitely worth a visit...even if you're unlikely to meet Chopin's shadow there. Valldemossa is less mountainous than Deià and has the feel of a small, charming town full of cafés,

galleries and souvenir stores. *Ca'n Molinas* restaurant is one of the places to enjoy Mallorca's legendary *coca de patata*, or potato cake.

Local mythology tells that even Agatha Christie was in Mallorca for a brief time in 1932, following a long journey through the Middle East. Having arrived in Palma, she was shocked at the large number of British and American tourists who flocked to the island already back then. All three of the best hotels were full, and Christie decided to stay at the *Hotel Formentor*, another of the island's legendary hotels, opened in 1929 by Adan Diehl, an Argentinian millionaire who was fascinated by Mallorca. But Christie never made it to the hotel, because along the way she became excited by the views at Port de Pollença and decided to stay at the *Hotel Illa d'Or*, which was later immortalised in her story *Problem at Pollensa Bay*. The *Hotel Formentor* was later frequented by Peter Ustinov, Winston Churchill, Charlie Chaplin, Grace Kelly, Audrey Hepburn and many other famous people have stayed there as well.

Actually, it is only natural that this region pulled celebrities in like a magnet. Twenty kilometres from Port de Pollença is Cap de Formentor, Mallorca's northernmost point. The serpentine uphill road leading to it winds through forests one moment and right along the edge of the cliff the

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La Residencia, one of the most legendary and beautiful luxury hotels in Mallorca

next moment, while breathtaking views move in front of one's eyes like scenes in a movie. The cape's highest point is Fumat Hill (384 m), and the road was built by Italian engineer Antonio Paretti, who also planned another nerve-wracking route on the island that leads to Sa Calobra Bay on the western coast.

At the very end of Cap de Formentor, at the top of the cliff, is a lighthouse built in 1892. The viewpoint half-way to the top was long ago used to monitor the approach of pirate ships. The locals call this "the meeting point of the winds". And it's true, the wind here is of the sort that tears at the seams and blows all thoughts from the mind.

All one can do is stand there and surrender to it, while eagerly drinking in the views that intoxicate a person in the same way as the serpentine curves down below.

According to legend, a local priest and a bus driver once arrived at the gates of Heaven. But only the bus driver was allowed into Heaven, because he had made many more people pray to God than the priest had. And this feeling of still being able to experience two extremes – the glowing remains of ancient legends as well as contemporary life in all its exciting manifestations – is also one of the main reasons for visiting this island.

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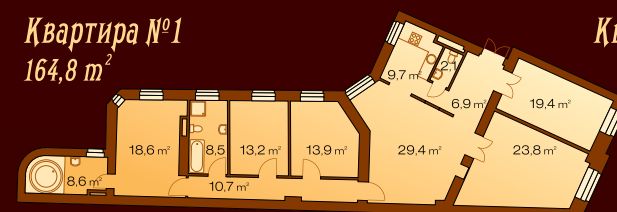
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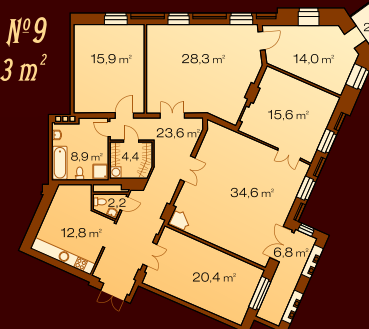
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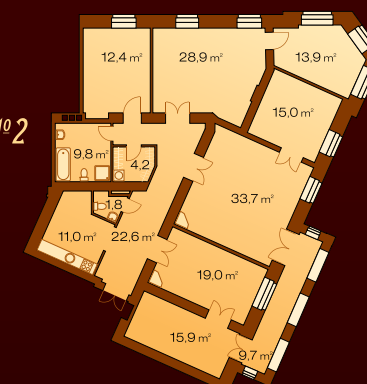
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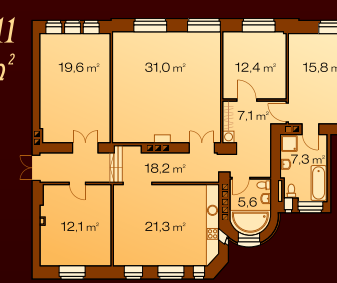
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INSIDER'S VIEW

The peculiarities of island life



Catalina Gibert Nadal is a Spanish contemporary jewellery designer who was born in Palma and still lives there today. She studied architecture, but then realised that she can best express herself through jewellery. Her 2012 collection *Llimona* was inspired by Mallorca's legendary lemon trees, after which Nadal was instantly referred to as the Lemon Girl of the jewellery world. The people, nature and colours of Mallorca continue to serve as her main sources of

inspiration. As she popularises the island through her jewellery, she gladly shares some of its secrets with *Baltic Outlook*.

Why do you like living in Palma?

This is where I was born. And besides, when you're born in a place that's near the sea, you form such a close relationship with it that you simply require the presence of water. When I went to study in Barcelona, that was near the sea, too, but I wasn't able to see it so well every day. And also, Barcelona is very big. In Palma everything is easy to get a grasp of, and it's easy to get around on foot. If I want, I can take my camera and find a small, out-of-the-way street with no people on it. Or just the opposite, I can go enjoy the commotion of restaurants and cafés by the market. Palma is a wonderful place to live. The presence of light is also very important to me. I spent some time in a small city in Germany, where it was even colder than Frankfurt in the winter. When I opened the window to my room in the mornings, it was grey, cloudy and rainy outside. I couldn't stand the fact that not a single sliver of blue sky could be seen between the clouds.

Don't you sometimes feel too far from the continent and quite isolated while living on an island?

Yes, life on an island is different. I know quite a few people living on this island who have never been to the continent. They've never had the desire to leave, just like there are families living in small villages in the interior of the island who have never been to the sea. Those are mostly old people who have lived their entire lives in a single village, socialising with the neighbours and working on the farm and in the fields.

But even people who live in Palma think twice about whether to go to Pollença, which is located at the other end of the island, about an hour-and-a-half drive from Palma. It feels like an immense journey for them. An hour-and-a-half there, and then another hour-and-a-half back – that's a lot for a Mallorcan. A big waste of time. Because they're used to the dimensions of the island. And, the smaller the place where you live, the smaller it seems you yourself become;

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you tend to withdraw more into your own shell. I think people who have moved to Mallorca from the continent help the locals very much to become more open. I've lived on the outside for long periods of time, so it's not a problem for me anymore. But I remember the first time I went to Barcelona, I was shocked that, for example, I could climb on the train and be in Valencia in three hours' time. It seemed impossible for me, because here three hours is a very long time.

Does this mean that there's a completely different sense of time on the island?

Yes, both of time and of distance. It's as if we've adapted them to the dimensions of the island, however strange that may sound. Every once in a while, though, I feel the need to get away. Because if you're with one and the same people all of the time, it's very important to feel that there's also a world on the outside. Mallorcans are very introverted; they're not as open as, for example, the people of Barcelona.

Is that also a characteristic of people who live on islands?

Definitely, I think all people who live on islands have this in common. On the other hand, each society has its own specific characteristics. There are still very many high society people living in Mallorca, families descended from the contemporaries of the Medicis, who have always lived in their own closed circle, not mixing with other islanders. And it's still the same today. The class differences are very pronounced on Mallorca. Personally, I think it's a bunch of nonsense. Most of these people live in Palma, but almost every family has a house in the interior, their own *finca* (a Spanish term for a rural estate, property) in the middle of nowhere. To survive in today's climate, the younger generations have often turned these homes into hotels or restaurants, because it takes a lot of money to maintain a property like that. The heirs of high-born families often have a lot of properties, but not much cash. And they need to earn cash in order to continue the family traditions and hold on to their properties.

Five or ten years ago, Mallorca had the reputation of being a classic mass tourism destination, and it was not considered stylish to come here. But now things have

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changed. Why do you think people should come to Mallorca?

In Germany, when I told people I was from Mallorca, there was always someone who said his godmother lived there and he had been there to visit one time, and that our beaches are full of beer drinkers, etc. This stereotype still exists, but if you come here and avoid the mass tourism places, you'll see a completely different Mallorca. In addition, everything is together here if you wish, like beaches and discos. Very exclusive places and also completely rural areas in the interior of the island. You can be all by yourself at some remote spot on the island and at the next moment be in a crowd of people in the city. Palma isn't really that small, but it is nevertheless easy to grasp and take in.

What are your favourite places in Mallorca?

I was born into an artistic family. My grandfather was a painter, and as a child I often accompanied him when he went to paint. His favourite place was the Serra de Tramuntana area in Pollença. And still, every time I go there I can spend hours just gazing at the views. For me, the most beautiful is the road that leads from Andratx to Valldemossa and Deià. Port des Canonge is a wonderful place that is usually not crowded with people. Deià is the town I love the most. The panorama from the Sa Foradada cliffs is simply breathtaking. And so is Cap de Formentor – a serpentine road leads to the cliffs on the northern cape of the island. At the end there is a lighthouse.

What places would you suggest avoiding?

El Arenal, Palma Nova, Cala Major – those places are crowded with people. In addition, they're close to Palma and are favourites of the all-inclusive hotel tourists. Alcudia, too.

Where do the creative and artistic types go?

To Deià, Valldemossa, Soller and Artà.

And for those who like to search for "hidden beaches", where do you suggest they go?

Platja Formentor is a very beautiful beach, and you can combine it with a trip to the Cap de Formentor lighthouse. Cala Deià, Sa Calobra and Cala Tuent, where the great restaurant *Es Vergeret* is located. Cala Estellencs is also a small and very nice place. **BO**



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TEXT BY ZANE NIKODEMUSA
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THE KALKU VĀRTI RESTAURANT, © KASPARS GARDĀ

My kitchen rules

When Raimonds Zommers – the head chef at the Kalku vārti restaurant in Riga – speaks out, people listen. Even though his pronouncements may be sharp and unflattering, they are often insightful and accurate. The winner of numerous local and international cooking competitions, Zommers has organised banquets for kings and queens, while propounding his passion for Latvian cuisine, which he calls “a taste of Latvia”.



Several years ago, when Riga was caught up in a wave of enthusiasm over Italian and French cuisine, you were one of the first chefs in Latvia who dared to present dishes based on local cooking traditions and ingredients. Why so?

That was our restaurant's new concept. During the Soviet occupation, Latvia was cut off from the rest of the world by the Iron Curtain, and the opportunity for people to acquaint themselves with the cuisines of other cultures was extremely limited. As soon as the curtain fell, we got carried away with every new type of cuisine that we came across. Only now, more than 20 years after the renewal of our independence, are we starting to evaluate what suits us and what doesn't. That's happening in various other fields as well, not only gastronomy. Of course, the emphasis on local cooking traditions and products is nothing new. In Scandinavia and France, for example, local and seasonal products have been the leading trend at restaurants for quite some time.

What is your favourite Latvian dish? And how would you describe what you call “a taste of Latvia”?

Currently I am a member of the board of the Latvian Chefs' Association, which is better known as the Chefs' Club (*Pavāru klubs*). Together, we are seeking to create national dishes that we ourselves find tasty and that we can be proud of. One problem is that many traditional Latvian dishes were actually brought in from abroad, by ethnic groups that have historically lived in the country for centuries. Cooked pickled cabbage, pig's snouts and layered rye bread desserts, which we view as our own creations, can also be found in the cuisine of other lands. For that reason, I prefer to talk about “a taste of Latvia”, which I would describe as food that grows well in our climate. I really love the taste of wood sorrel. Nothing is tastier than freshly picked wood sorrel leaves! In August you can still eat great-tasting cherries and shrub berries such as blackcurrants, redcurrants and gooseberries. Then there are vegetables like beets and carrots, which you can buy at local markets, fresh from people's gardens and still covered with earth. Fantastic!

Have you personally ever got caught up with the cuisine of other countries or regions, such as Italy or Asia?

No, that hasn't happened to me. I have travelled quite a bit, and over the years it has become harder to surprise me, although I must admit that I do enjoy French cuisine. At first one gets the impression that French cuisine is uncomplicated, but then one discovers that in order to

capture a particularly delectable taste, one might have to cure a piece of meat in a special manner and prepare an accompanying sauce over the course of several days. A seemingly simple dish in French cuisine might actually have been carefully prepared over a lengthy period of time. I like that ideology and I try to implement it in my work.

Does this mean that for you, a restaurant dish should be a work of art and that a half an hour is insufficient for preparing a really good meal?

Of course. I try to generate positive emotions for my customers. I want to appeal not only to their taste buds, but also to make something that pleases the eyes and that gives off a wonderful aroma. I like to highlight my ideas with the finest nuances. Naturally, I don't create a three-hour-long supershow at lunchtime when I see that someone has come in just for a quick bite to eat. However, I do think out everything to the finest detail for dinner meals, when people concentrate more on what they are eating and come to enjoy the whole evening.

I HAVE TRAVELLED QUITE A BIT, AND OVER THE YEARS IT HAS BECOME HARDER TO SURPRISE ME

It seems that in order to stay afloat, restaurants are coming up with all kinds of new ways to attract clients, such as reservations at the chef's table or dining in the dark. What do you have to say about that?

I don't have an unequivocal answer to that question. If I knew what it takes to be successful in the restaurant business, then I would already be the owner of my own eating establishment. Actually, it's quite interesting to see new restaurants coming onto the scene all of the time and to observe how some of them survive, while others go bankrupt. Admittedly, the entertainment aspect is pretty important. I recently went to a world chocolate exhibition in Cologne and realised that, in fact, the main focus of the competition was on the packaging. Nobody seemed to be interested in the content. Originality is really important in our work and I think that soon we will start to evaluate the content as well, not only the shiny wrapper on the outside.

In the June issue of *Baltic Outlook* we had an interesting article on activists from Spain who are seeking to safeguard the original recipe for paella. They accused many popular chefs, including Jamie



FOR ME, A MENU SHOULD SERVE THE FOODS OF THE CURRENT SEASON

Oliver, of killing off traditional recipes with their creative approach.

This is a very relevant and meaningful issue for me. I have always proclaimed that original recipes shouldn't be changed or, more precisely, that if they are changed, then the dish should go by a different name. This means that we can be as creative as we want in preparing a paella-style meal and refrain from using saffron or rice, for example, but it also means that we shouldn't call such a dish paella. I approach such issues with the utmost seriousness.

How do you come up with ideas for new recipes?

Sometimes they come to me in dreams, and sometimes I experiment. Since we are also one of Latvia's leading catering establishments, I often make up new recipes based on the foods that our clients want to see on the dinner table during their banquets. Another source of inspiration is food markets. First I decide what my main ingredient for a meal will be, and then I walk around the market looking for other foods to accompany it. It's always a struggle to come up with a new recipe that I can put onto my menu with a high degree of confidence.

How often do you think that restaurants should change their menus?

Four times a year. For me, a menu should serve the foods of the current season. I don't think that strawberries should be served in the wintertime. Of course, if a customer really insists, then I'll serve him strawberries in January as well, but in my opinion one should make

use of the fact that seasonal products have the most pronounced taste. While I have included some dishes in my menus for two years in a row, most of the time I try to add completely new recipes. I want to keep moving forward. I don't want to rest on old laurels.

What about your personal eating habits? Do you watch what you eat?

I haven't developed the habit of eating breakfast. My first meal will be an early lunch at work, at about 11 or 12 o'clock. I eat everything when I'm at work, including meat, fish and cheese, while on my free days I try to eat vegetarian dishes. People tell me that I'm pretty skinny for a restaurant chef. I prepare meals for myself every day with the highest quality products and with care.

You come from the town of Kuldiga in western Latvia. Your parents own a farm, which is why you know how potatoes are grown and how milk is obtained. However, a lot of chefs have never even been on a farm.

Yes, that's true. However, as an active member of Latvia's Chef's Club, I also teach young chefs. I've been the member of various juries; I've presided over exams and given lectures. Nowadays, many young people have grown up in the cities and are not interested in learning about milk-producing animals like cows or in seeing what they look like in real life.

But does it actually help you to know that milk is produced by cows?

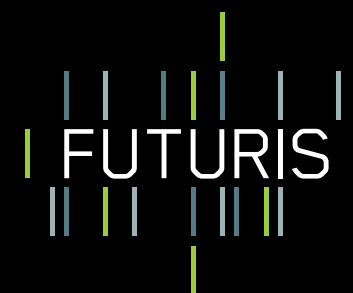
Yes, of course, because such a seemingly understandable link is the primary basis for any recipe. You can put any ingredients that you fancy together onto a plate, but if there is no logic to your choice, then the tastes won't complement each other. My knowledge about plants and animals helps me to create new recipes. Let's say that we have deer on the menu, for example. I know that deer live in the forest, so I will serve the deer together with a forest mushroom and a forest berry. I might also prepare it with juniper and alder, which also grow in the forest and which will make the taste of the deer meat stand out even more. What do deer like to eat? They eat roots and vegetables. Therefore, I can serve the meat with a vegetable purée. Perfect! That type of formula always works.

You often organise banquets for visiting dignitaries and have served the royal couples of Sweden and Spain. How do you find out what foods they are fond of, and how do you set up your menu in such cases?

First of all, I make an effort to offer local products. Secondly, we receive instructions about the wishes of our guests, which also includes information about what they don't eat or drink. That makes it both easier and harder to set up a menu. Together with my team, I put in everything that I have for such occasions. That's



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Raimonds Zommers and his culinary team

I HAVE HAD TO REALLY FIGHT FOR MY PLACE AMONG PROFESSIONAL CHEFS, BECAUSE I LOOK YOUNGER THAN MY AGE

why it is always pleasing to receive positive reviews and compliments. The fact that I have been asked to organise such banquets on a repeated basis can also be perceived as a compliment for my efforts.

You are 32 years old. Is that a mature age for a chef?
It's merely a beginning. The world's best chefs are men who have reached a venerable age. For this reason, I have had to really fight for my place among professional

OUTLOOK / INTERVIEW

chefs, because I look younger than my age. When they first saw me, many people wondered if I knew how to cook anything at all. Now my dossier has become impressive enough for me not to have to prove myself as much as I did three or four years ago. But in any case, this is still just a beginning.

I have been working at the *Kaļķu vārti* restaurant from the start of my career, already for the past 14 years. For the first ten years I worked simply as a cook. Soon I will mark my fifth year as a full-fledged restaurant chef. The next step is becoming the owner of my own restaurant. There is nothing higher up after that.

I also have other goals. For one, I would like the chef's profession to be honoured in society. Fifteen years ago, chefs in Latvia felt almost ashamed of revealing their profession to others. Luckily, things have improved since then. In addition, I would like to be successful abroad. I have already been appointed to represent Latvia at several international chefs' competitions and Olympiads, including *Euroskill* and *Worldskill*. In that sense, things are really looking up for me. And since I won't be alive forever, I definitely want to leave a testimony of my work for future generations – a recipe book about the taste of Latvia – something enduring. It's the same with interviews for magazines. I think they are very useful because they chronicle people's thoughts and customs at a particular time period.

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OUTLOOK / INTERVIEW

Which of your professional accomplishments lies closest to your heart?

Probably my victory in the *Contemporary Taste of Latvia* TV competition, because it took place fairly recently. I have also been named the best chef in Latvia for two years in succession, but that was a while back. So far, nobody has been able to repeat that feat. As opposed to other competitions in which I have participated, the *Contemporary Taste of Latvia* TV competition featured only chefs from Riga, the capital city. I knew a bit about each one of my opponents, and I can say that they were very strong and skilful adversaries. This time I ended up being one step ahead of my colleagues, and that was important for me.

What character traits permit you to be a good chef?

Persistence and stubbornness. If I do something, then I do it with care and carry it through to the end. I don't do things superficially. Of course, that affects my private life and my ability to branch out in other fields. I devote practically all of my time and resources to my work, but I also derive a great sense of satisfaction from it. If somebody says something positive, then even if I have spent three hard days toiling and struggling over a recipe, I will leave the restaurant at night with a happy feeling. Naturally, I also remember that tomorrow is another day and that I have to keep moving forward. A never-ending story.

Do you remember the first meal that you prepared and that gave you a real sense of satisfaction?

I don't remember if it was the very first meal that I made, but it was certainly one of the first. One of the country's most outstanding chefs, Mārtiņš Rītiņš, was the first to host his own TV cooking show in Latvia. I recall watching an episode in which he baked freshly picked potatoes, unpeeled, together with eggs, dill and other herbs. I

followed his instructions to the letter and did everything exactly the same way that he had done. The meal ended up being scandalously delicious! At that time, I was still a pupil at elementary school. I wasn't thinking about a career as a chef at all.

How did you end up as a chef? Did your delicious creation with potatoes and dill have something to do with it?

I had two options in mind: either carpentry or cooking, because I like to do things precisely and pay attention to the finer details. At that time, we didn't have a lot of money, so when I talked with my family about what to do after graduating from elementary school [*Grade 9 – ed.*], we came to the conclusion that the most important thing is getting a job in a field where there is a demand. People will always need to eat, so I decided to go into cooking.

Did things turn out well right from the start?

What can a teenager do well if he isn't sure about what he wants in life? After finishing elementary school, I enrolled in the Kandava Technical School, where I spent the first three years mostly having fun and not studying very seriously. Then in my fourth year I was offered the chance to take part in a nationwide cooking competition. I finished sixth, and that's when I finally started to get serious. The competitive spirit within me kicked in. I decided that I wanted to be first, to be better than the others.

However, at that time cooking wasn't a popular profession. Now some chefs have become superstars.

Yes. I remember feeling uncomfortable when I said that I was a cook. Now it's the exact opposite and we've gone to another extreme. Even mechanics are starting to prepare meals and pretend that they know something about the

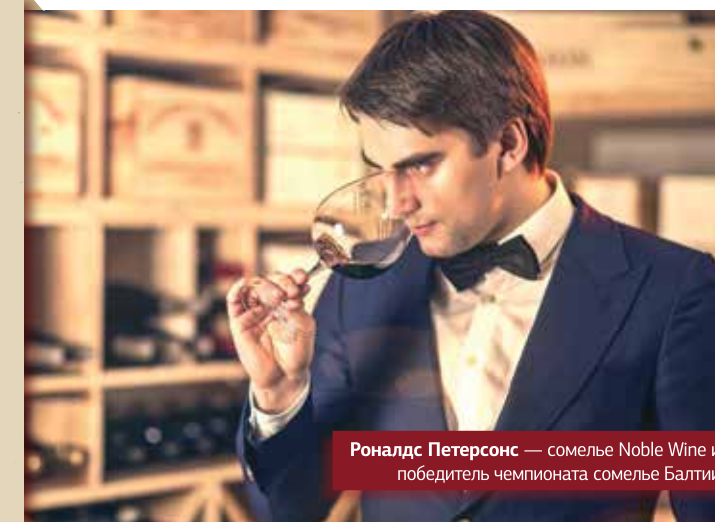


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art of cooking. More and more people for whom cooking is merely a hobby are giving advice on TV and in magazines. They are not professionals! I don't like it when a chap who has been screwing machines together all his life suddenly claims to be a chef. I am against people claiming to be experts in fields that they know little about. Professionalism is professionalism. Aside from that, everything else is OK. Instagram pictures of food are fine! *(Laughs.)*

What tools are must-haves in the kitchen? A sharp knife and a cutting board?

Actually, this question has been discussed a great deal among chefs, particularly in the last few years, and there are two different camps. The conservative camp views that a knife and cutting board are sufficient for cooking good meals. The other camp, or people like me, consider that if new technologies have become available, then they should also be used. If I have the opportunity to use vacuum and freezing apparatuses, then why not? Food can take on a completely different structure and taste with the aid of new technologies, which make life a lot easier. I support innovations in the kitchen. There was a time when people used flint tools to light fires. Does that mean that we all have to continue using only stone-age tools to light up our fires?

Which element can transform any dish into a heavenly meal?

Salt. Nowadays, this elementary ingredient is often touted

as being unhealthy. However, in the right proportions salt concentrates and correctly balances the taste of a food. Another process that I like is dehydration, or the removal of unnecessary moisture from a product. For example, when you dehydrate a tomato, excess water evaporates from it and its taste becomes much more concentrated.

You mentioned that you have travelled a lot. What has been your best culinary adventure?

The older I get, the harder it is to surprise me. Two years ago at the *Lumu* restaurant in Finland, I was surprised by an idea, not a taste. There they served milk in little balls – blueberry jam with milk balls. Soon after the plates were put onto the table, the milk took on its usual appearance. Fantastic. What a creative idea!

What would you put onto the table for your own last supper?

Crayfish. They taste great even when they are just simply boiled in a pot. I also love the taste of eel – smoke-dried, smoke-cured or sautéed. Then I would like to see lots of wood sorrel on the table, along with copious amounts of greens – not salad leaves, but rather bunches of basil, dill and rosemary, so that I could tear off as much as I needed for myself. It looks like I would end up holding a barbecue evening. *(Laughs.)* For the main course I would have eel wrapped in baking paper and grilled over hot coals, accompanied by a large plate covered with bunches of herbs. For dessert I would eat handfuls of forest strawberries. **BO**

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Great force of attraction. Latvia's western coastline

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Baltic Outlook journalist Ance Krievina spent three weeks walking along the coastline in Latvia's westernmost region of Kurzeme, acquiring a feel for the area's port cities, fishing villages and unspoiled beaches.

Latvians tend to divide their 500-kilometre-long coastline into two separate parts. The first part consists of the open shores along the Baltic Sea in western Kurzeme. Making up almost half of the country's seacoast, these shores extend northward from the town of Nida at the Lithuanian border to Cape Kolka (*Kolkasrags*). Latvians have a name for this open part of the Baltic Sea, which they refer to as *Dižjūra*, a term that could loosely be translated as the Great Sea, the Stately Sea or the Grand Sea. Another term that Latvians use is *Lielā jūra* or *Lieljūra* (the Big Sea). The more sheltered waters of the Gulf of Riga are called *Mazjūra* or the Little Sea.

Indeed, the Latvian coastline along western Kurzeme truly is great, grand and stately. Some of the white sandy beaches are completely deserted for kilometres on end and bordered

by unspoiled pine forests. Other urban beaches are equipped with all of the amenities and creature comforts demanded by 21st-century urban dwellers. In between are quiet fishing villages, making this part of the country an attractive place for extended summer hikes along the shoreline.

Many Latvians have harboured the quiet wish to walk from one end of the Great Sea to the other. Some manage to do so, either as a means to regain a sense of internal harmony or as a physically active way to spend a vacation. I first got to know the Great Sea last summer, and my expedition along its shores lasted three weeks. However, I returned again this summer, because the Great Sea exerts a great and powerful force of attraction. Here are some stopping off points and historical references for those who might also wish to experience some of the magic of Latvia's western coastline.

1

The brightest skirts in Latvia

The people who live by the shores of the Great Sea have always been known for their pride and obstinacy, as demonstrated in the bright traditional skirts once worn by women in this part of Latvia. The red and orange tones of these skirts contrast markedly with the grey and earthy hues that women wore in the rest of the country. Why so? It's true that the proximity of the Great Sea gave Courlanders (as the inhabitants of Kurzeme were known) a good opportunity to explore near and distant lands, and to bring back influences from abroad. As a result, the women of Kurzeme wore vestments of the brightest coloured cloths, along with the most ornate jewellery in Latvia.

Courlanders have inherited a strong spirit of endurance over the generations. Starting from the 1500s, they helped the Duchy of Courland and Semigallia to rise into a noteworthy local power. The duchy's huge shipyards and first-rate sailing ships formed an important chapter in Europe's seafaring

history. As these grandiose ships travelled around the world, skilled local craftsmen from the duchy cast metal bells, wove hemp ropes, manufactured soap, and even raised falcons and Spanish sheep.

Today as well, Courlanders stand out with their stately gait, quiet self-confidence and individuality, as well as with the vowels that they tend to leave out in their speech. After all, what's the point of speaking clearly if the mighty wind of the open sea drowns out what you are saying and carries off your words? Both the men and women of Kurzeme display a strong backbone and don't mince their words when they speak, talking directly and to the point. Here, women have historically enjoyed an equal status with men. While the men went out fishing at sea, the women, with booming voices and bright kerchiefs on their heads, ran the show on the farmstead. Although most of the women Kurzeme are simple folk, with no blood ties to the European aristocracy, on festive occasions they wear the traditional bright skirts and elaborate jewellery of the region with evidently noble pride.



2

The city with its own currency

The port city of Ventspils was once the home base for the legendary trade ships of Duke Jacob Ketler (1610-1682), who had established small colonies for his duchy in the Gambia and Tobago. Even today, one still gets the feeling of visiting another realm in Ventspils. The city boasts its own currency, the *vent*, which can be used at its most popular tourist spots, as well as decoratively cobbled streets. A recent pride and joy is the new Pārventa Library, an acclaimed modern architectural masterpiece.

For a further insight into the spirit of Kurzeme, visit the city's House of Crafts (*Amatu māja*) on Skolas iela 3. The restored 18th-century edifice is the former duchy's oldest schoolhouse, where one can learn about the area's 19th-century traditions and see how geography, mathematics, physics, logic, handwriting and even singing were once taught. A schoolteacher assigns male visitors to school desks on one side of the room and women on the other, asks the "pupils" to straighten out their backs and listen to the "lesson".

This retro-style experience left me with a pleasant aftertaste and speaking of aftertastes, the main reason why Latvia's coastline along the Great Sea remains so pristine is due to the fact that during the Soviet occupation, much of it lay within a restricted military zone until 1991, when Latvia regained its independence. Only a few former Soviet army structures still stand in places, deserted and in ruins.

For an unusual trip back in time to the 1980s, step into the *Liedags* eatery on Medņu iela 40, not far from Ventspils' Blue Flag beach, complete with a Soviet-style interior and menu. I chanced upon an English-speaking group of tourists during my visit, who were unfamiliar with some of the menu's Soviet-era staples as *kotlete* (minced meat patty), *plov* (risotto with lamb's meat) and *kefir* (a fermented milk drink similar to yoghurt). They were fascinated by their dining experience and so was I.



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3

Sailing and kiteboarding paradise

About 53 km north of Liepāja on the road to Ventspils is Pāvilosta, a charming fishermen's town with a relaxed atmosphere like one would find in southern Europe. A century ago, it was a place where craftsmen built small and beautiful sailboats. The town has not lost its appeal, with small narrow streets and a bit less than 1,000 inhabitants who know each other by name. They say that Pāvilosta also has the most sunny days per year in Latvia. And that's not all. Cut in half by the small Saka River and lashed by surging waves, the windy town is a paradise for sailing, kiteboarding and other water sports enthusiasts.

Hence, at the beach on the left bank of the river by the breakwater, the multi-coloured fabrics of countless kiteboards sail past the shore, as surfers of all skill levels ride the sea waves, which are among the best in Latvia for this activity. The beach on the right bank of the river is more subdued and family-oriented. In the shelter of the opposite breakwater not far from the city centre, people stroll along the shoreline while two young parents give their toddler his first swimming lessons. Looking out at the Big Rock (*Lielais akmens*) about 50 metres into the sea, a local woman named Guna tells me that in order not to be considered a loser when she was a kid, she had to climb the 3.5-metre tall and 15-metre wide stone and dive into the water. After succeeding in that endeavour, she had to climb up the nearby Grey Dune with tin cans tied to her feet.

One of the best cafés in Pāvilosta is named *Laiva* (Boat). Located in a white building that used to house a pharmacy, it draws a hip crowd from both near and far. That's not surprising, since the ice coffee that the café serves is close to divine. Sometimes Ģirts, the café owner, also drops by for a cup, having taken a short trip along the river in a homemade boat. Together with a small group of enthusiasts, Ģirts has been making traditional wooden boats since 2010. During the warmer months, he offers trips along the river in these unique watercraft, to which he assigns women's names, as well as short hops into the sea to view the sunset. I heartily recommend such an outing from the nearby yacht harbour on a beautiful summer evening. The boat that I rode in was named *Brigita*, and the trip was one that I will not soon forget.

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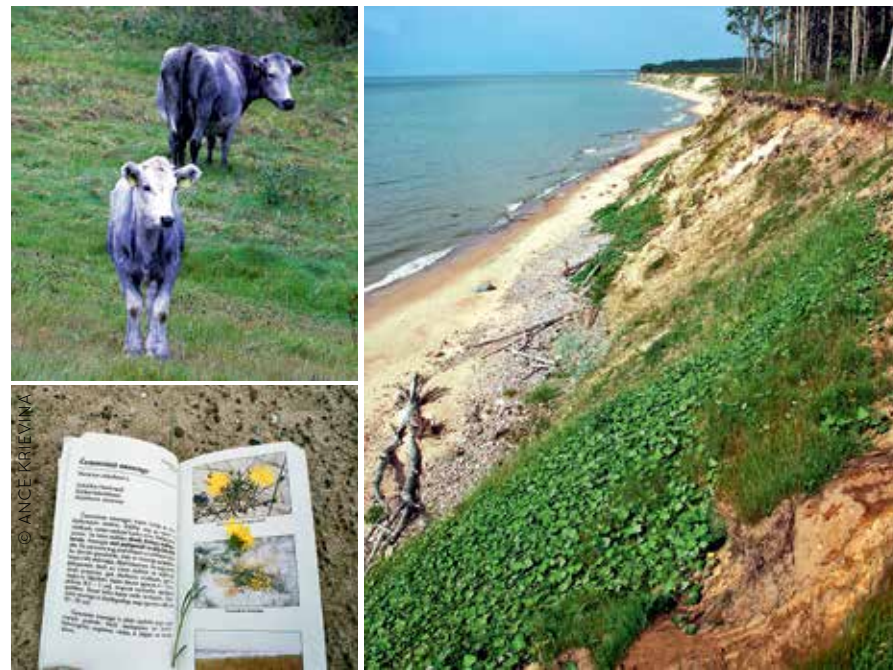
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OUTLOOK / TRAVEL



4

Blue cows in the Grey Dune

“I’ll slip into some more comfortable shoes,” said Vaira Viķe-Freiberga, the former president of Latvia, while on a visit to Pāvilosta and its famous Grey Dune (*Pelēkā kāpa*), which is now a protected nature area. Previously, during the period when the Kurzeme coastline was a restricted military area, one could reach the dune if one didn’t leave footprints on the beach. To get around that problem, Guna says that locals wore tin cans under their shoes. At that time, watchful soldiers in observation towers scanned the shoreline, but now most of these towers are gone as the sea has advanced further inland. However, Latvia’s widest grey dune has remained, together with various protected species of plants, birds and insects.

Back in the days of old, fishermen kept their boats and dried their nets on the Grey Dune, while their wives picked wild thyme leaves and blossoms. This summer I also violet-pink thyme flowers blooming on the dune.

The Pape Nature Reserve is another spectacular place with unspoilt scenery along the Kurzeme coast. It is located south of Liepāja, not far from the Lithuanian

border. The main attraction is a 12 square-kilometre lagoon-like lake, which is very shallow and which lies next to four diverse types of territory within a relatively small space: a swamp, an open meadow, a forest and coastal dunes. Wild horses, bison and wild oxen roam through the park, providing additional photo opportunities.

For those who enjoy nature hikes along the shore, I recommend a particularly peaceful 20-kilometre route along a deserted stretch of clean white sand. Start at the *Zaķi* camping ground by the 20-metre-high sand cliffs of Jūrkalne and head northward to the lighthouse at Užava. The only sounds that you will hear are the wind and the waves of the sea. You will pass the Užava Dune, which is a most unusual site. Looking very much like a desert landscape, it is covered with pebbles of various shapes and sizes. The sun-bleached pebbles, worn smooth by the sea waves, are decorated with lacework patterns of yellow, green, grey and black lichen – 11 species in all.

And you will not be dreaming if you happen to come across a blue cow, also known in Latvia as a moon cow. Jūrkalne is one of the few places in the world that is home to this rare species of bovine, which is a native of Kurzeme.



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OUTLOOK / TRAVEL



5

Climb the highest lighthouse

There are seven lighthouses along the shores of the Great Sea in Latvia between Nida and Kolka. Going from south to north, one will find them in Pape, Akmeņrags, Užava, Oviši, Miķeļtornis, Slītere and Kolka. The latter is actually on a man-made island about five kilometres offshore.

After climbing the red 35-metre-high lighthouse at Akmeņrags near Pāvilosta, one is treated to a magnificent view of clear white sand stretching along the coast on both sides, with not a soul to be seen for miles around. Further north, the snow-coloured lighthouse at Užava, which dates from the late 19th century, can easily be spotted from the beach, thanks to a pile of concrete blocks that was placed at the sea edge to strengthen the shore during the 1970s. Latvia's oldest lighthouse at Oviši, a bit north of Ventspils, also has a lighthouse museum with displays of various lighting and other navigation equipment. The 62-metre-high lighthouse in the Livonian village of Miķeļtornis, for its part, is the highest in the Baltics. It is named "Michael's tower" after a dangerous shoal of the same name off the coast.

The lighthouse at Slītere near Dundaga is equipped with an observation tower and museum, and its location in the Slītere Nature Reserve has made it a particularly

popular destination. During the spring and fall, migrating birds flock through the park's territory, which houses a particularly large forest of deciduous trees.

The small fishing villages with their low wooden houses and boats were once populated by Livonians or Livs, a Finno-Ugric people related to the Estonians and Finns. Now only about 170 Livonians remain and their language is on the verge of extinction. Interestingly, the Latvian language has borrowed about 280 words from Livonian. The village of Mazirbe (19 km southwest of Kolka) is the last remaining bastion of Livonian culture. Its Liv People's House, built in 1939, holds a collection of household objects and photographs depicting the history of this industrious and tenacious people.

The Livonian shoreline extends a bit into the Gulf of Riga as well, where Cape Kolka and a village of the same name are located. Kolka provides either an ideal beginning or end to a trip along Latvia's Kurzeme coastline. Here, the Great Sea meets up with the Little Sea, making it a dangerous place for shipping but an ideal spot for bird-watching. The large waves on the left side of the cape crash against the smaller waves of the gulf on the right, creating an impressive sight. This is also the only place in Latvia that offers a seaside view of both the sunrise and the sunset – a truly unique nature spot.



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Top three activities for discovering the Kurzeme seacoast

Baking sklandraušī pies in Kolka

The sklandraušis or žogu rausis is Kurzeme's most famous local delicacy. Its dough is made without using any yeast, and the recipe for this flat rye bread pie stuffed with potatoes and carrots goes back several centuries. At the Ūši guest house in Kolka, owner Dženeta Marinska will be glad to reveal the secrets for making this Livonian dish in an open-air cooking session, to the pleasure of both refined gourmets and fans of authentic cuisine.

www.kolka.info



Exploring the old military fortress in Liepāja

Liepāja's northern military port, known as Karosta, houses a former prison that has been converted into one of the world's top ten prison hotels. At least that's what various world-famous travel guides say. However, it is also worth visiting Karosta to see its Orthodox cathedral and old military fortress. Paradoxically, this late 19th-century military complex, which took 13 years to build, never ended up fulfilling its intended function. Now one can explore the ruins of the massive structure in the company of a guide and try to "digest" century-old historical facts from a 21st-century viewpoint. While that's not an easy task, the tour is quite captivating.

www.karostascietums.lv



Spending the night in Bernāti

In 1924, when the president of Latvia was visiting the small town of Bernāti in southern Latvia, he said: "A resort should be built here!" Now, 90 years later, only old postcards and tales by the locals attest to the town's past splendour

and glorious plans. Nevertheless, the town's open coastline and unrealised dream still draw visitors who wish to take a break from the hustle and bustle of city life. This summer, a married couple opened the Sipoli guest house, a design residence that they built and set up with their own hands.

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A trip to paradise

With some 6,000 sun havens scattered across the Mediterranean Sea, the Greek islands are an earthly paradise of sugar-white sandy beaches and crystal-clear turquoise waters, where time stands still and sweltering, and hazy afternoons are punctuated by the chirping of cicadas. Here is a guide to four of the best Greek islands to visit.

TEXT BY NATALI LEKKA
PHOTOS BY ALL OVER PRESS, Y. SKOULAS, THE GREEK NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANISATION AND PUBLICITY



Santorini, the black diamond of the Aegean

A volcanic island in the southern Cyclades, Santorini – so named by the Venetians in honour of Saint Irene – is always present on lists of the world's most beautiful islands. And this should come as no surprise. The island will captivate you with its stunning sunsets and picturesque towns perched on the edge of volcanic cliffs. The capital, Fira, and the village of Oia offer captivating views of the island's caldera, while their narrow stepped streets, whitewashed houses and blue-domed churches are among the most photographed in the entire country.

It was some 4,000 years ago when the volcano of Santorini exploded, devastating much of the Eastern Mediterranean region, including the flourishing Minoan civilisation of Crete. Today, the crescent-shaped island of Santorini is what remains after this violent eruption. Archaeological excavations in 1967 unearthed the site of Akrotiri, an entire town that had been hidden under the volcanic ash for over 4,000 years. Smaller eruptions have followed, the most recent in 1950.

Today, the volcano of Santorini, with its 390-metre-deep caldera, is considered to be still active. However, it is highly unlikely to erupt while you are there. Santorini would not have been what it is today had it not been for its breathtaking volcanic formations. Where else do you get to bathe in warm volcanic springs or swim off some of the most spectacular beaches in the entire country? The Red Beach is the most impressive of them all. Only a few metres away from the

archaeological site of Akrotiri, this volcanic stretch of sand really is red, with spectacular red rock formations in the background. Kamari, one of the busiest beaches on the island, has a 4.5-km-long section of black volcanic sand.

For fantastic views of the caldera and the Aegean Sea, treat yourself to a romantic candlelit dinner at the *White Cave Dinner Restaurant* in the *Kirini Suites & Spa*. Located in the iconic town of Oia and famed for offering the best views in Santorini, this gourmet restaurant will spoil you with its ceremonial wine-tasting and wide selection of eclectic dishes. A great wine-making place with 3,500 years of tradition, Santorini is particularly famous for its *Vinsanto* wine, made from sun-drenched grapes.

Among the traditional dishes that you can savour on the island are the local *fava* (yellow split peas), moussaka made from local

white aubergines, and *tomatokeftedes* (tomato balls) with mint sauce made from local cherry tomatoes. Once you are in Oia, walk down the 235 steps from Oia Castle or ride a donkey to reach Ammoudi Beach and the Agios Nikolaos chapel. For an intimate experience in a secluded location overlooking the entire Aegean Sea, book a suite at the luxurious *Perivolos* cave hotel within walking distance from Oia. A unique *al fresco*, or open-air, dining experience awaits you.

You can reach Santorini either by plane from Athens or by boat from the port of Piraeus. As with most of the Cycladic islands, it is better to rent your own car if you want to move around freely. Alternatively, you can make use of the island's not-always-so-reliable public transport (KTEL buses) and for short distances, ride a donkey or jump on a *caiique*.





Mykonos, the island of the winds

Although renowned as an international party island, Mykonos offers a lot more than meets the eye. A beach paradise by day and a cosmopolitan party place by night, this island will win your heart and mind with its whitewashed houses, blue doors and windows smothered in blooming bougainvilleas, hand-painted streets, picture-perfect labyrinths of roads, charming windmills and 365 chapels – one for every day of the year.

The nickname “island of the winds” comes from the constant *meltemi* wind that blows from mid-May to mid-September, offering welcome relief in the sweltering days of July and August. Mykonos first made headlines as a glamorous destination for the international jet set back in the 1960s, when it attracted the likes of Aristotle and Jackie Onassis, but perhaps its most lovable resident and oldest celebrity is Petros the Pelican. Petros, often to be found at the town’s waterfront, has been the island’s mascot for over 60 years.

Legend has it that in 1954, a fisherman found a wounded pelican at sea, brought him to shore and nursed him back to health. The pelican took residence at the island and lived there for 30 long years, before it was accidentally run over by a car in the 1980s. Such was the love of the locals for their pelican that the entire island went into mourning. Rumour also has it that Jackie Onassis donated a new pelican to Mykonos. Nowadays there are three



A BEACH PARADISE BY DAY AND A COSMOPOLITAN PARTY PLACE BY NIGHT, THIS ISLAND WILL WIN YOUR HEART

pelicans prancing about and one of them has been honorifically named Petros.

Today, Mykonos continues to be the island where one goes “to see and be seen”, especially for a large number of the Athenian elite who have bought their summer houses there. The island is peppered with designer boutiques, luxury hotels and gourmet restaurants. Prices are, not surprisingly, notoriously high. The island also prides itself for being a gay holiday destination with a vibrant nightlife that caters to all tastes.

While in town, don’t forget to visit Little Venice, an impressive part of the island’s capital featuring rows of fishing houses right at the waterfront, with their balconies hanging over the sea. Many of these houses, which once belonged to rich merchants and sea captains of the mid-18th century, have now been converted into

bars, cafés and galleries. Little Venice is considered to be the most romantic spot on the island and is very popular among tourists and artists, who flock there every day at sunset to admire the purple-clad coastline. Escape the crowds by staying at *Bill & Co Suites and Lounge*, a mere 10-minute walk from the centre of town.

Of course, the activities in Mykonos do not revolve solely around Chora, the capital. Life is a beach on this island and, with 25 of them to visit, you will definitely be spoilt for choice. Paradise Beach and Super Paradise Beach, which lie next to each other, are the island’s most famous and busiest beaches, with Super Paradise Beach being especially popular among the hip, trendy, gay and celebrity crowds for its round-the-clock party atmosphere.

Platis Gialos, Elia and Psarou (with its popular beach bar-restaurant *Nammos*),

are also busy, cosmopolitan beaches. For a quieter alternative, beaches on the northern coast of the island have fewer amenities and are ideal for calmer moments.

Those seeking a slightly different experience can visit the exquisite *Interni* restaurant and bar, which is favoured by locals and Greek celebrities alike. It is located in Matogiannia, in the heart of the island. Among Mykonos’ local delicacies are its great variety of cheeses and especially the peppery *kopanisti*, along with local sausages and *louza* (a dish made from local pork). A mere 40-minute hop by plane from Athens’ airport, the best ways to move around the island are by car, scooter, local buses and boats, or on foot.



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OUTLOOK / TRAVEL



Crete, *the mother of all islands*

Crete, the largest island in Greece and southernmost in Europe, has it all: pristine blue seas and gorgeous sandy beaches, cities brimming with culture, the healthiest diet in Europe and an ancient history that goes back to the illustrious Minoan civilisation.

Crete has given birth to a number of distinguished personalities over the years. Domenikos Theotokopoulos, the 16th century painter, sculptor and architect of the Spanish Renaissance or *El Greco*, as he is better known, was born there. Nikos Kazantzakis, one of the greatest Greek writers of the 20th century and famous for his novel *Zorba the Greek*, was from Crete, as are international singer Nana Mouskouri and Nobel Prize poet Odysseas Elytis.

Heraklion, the island's capital, is the first port of call for anyone flying by plane or arriving by boat from Athens or other islands. Renting a vehicle is perhaps the best way to move around in this place where driving from one part of the island all the way to the other takes no less than four full hours.

Before heading west to the picturesque Venetian towns of Chania and Rethymnon, satisfy the archaeologist within you by visiting the famous archaeological site of Knossos, with its imposing Minoan palace situated 5 km east of Heraklion. Discovered only in 1900, these ruins are of the largest and most impressive palace of the Minoan civilisation and date back to 1700 BC. They inspired one of the most fascinating myths of the Greek mythology, that of Theseus and the Minotaur. For purists, there is also the nearby Palace of Phaistos.

Chania, a city with its own airport, is a fascinating blend of Byzantine, Venetian and Ottoman architecture. Much of the city's daily life takes place around the old port or Venetian harbour, with its shopping alleyways and waterfront restaurants, buildings of Venetian and Ottoman style, museums, churches and local craft shops. Stay at the wonderfully refurbished 17th-century Venetian mansion of *Casa Delfino*, a mere 20 steps away from the Venetian harbour.

Eat at the award-winning *Chrisostomos* taverna at the marina end of the harbour for a truly authentic culinary adventure. If you are feeling particularly bold, then go

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hiking at Samaria Gorge, a major tourist attraction and biosphere reserve 43 km south of Chania. You may even catch a glimpse of the rare horned kri-kri (Cretan wild goat) there.

To add an exotic, almost Caribbean touch to your holiday, visit the blue flag beach in Vai, at the far east of the island. Surrounded by the largest palm forest in Europe, you will be excused for thinking that you have landed on a Caribbean island with fine, sugary sand and crystal-clear turquoise waters. It is no wonder that the location was also used for a *Bounty* chocolate bar advert.

Cretans are particularly proud of their fertile land, temperate climate, high-quality local produce and award-winning olive oil. Over 1700 different species of plants grow in Crete, of which around 150 are purely endemic. The Cretan diet, which has been found to be the healthiest in Europe, is said to date back to the Minoan Age. Don't leave the island without trying some of the local delicacies: fried snails or *hohli boubouristi*, cheese and honey pies from the region of Sfakia, steamed *stamnagathi* salad or the famous *dakos* salad made from grated tomato, aromatic spices, traditional Cretan cheeses and olive oil on a large barley rusk. For the strong at heart, a glass of the fragrant *tsikoudia* spirit is a must.



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***Ikaria,
the island of Icarus***

The island of Ikaria is named after Icarus, the young man from Greek mythology who flew too close to the sun and plunged to his death in the sea near the island when his wings made out of wax and feathers melted in the heat. Ikaria made headlines a few years ago when doctors in Athens claimed to have discovered the secret to longevity after studying the diet and lifestyle of the locals. This soon attracted interest from abroad and the island, located in the far east of the Aegean Sea, received visits from scientists, journalists and Dan Buettner, who wrote a book called *Blue Zones* about five small areas in the world where the population outlives Americans and Europeans by a decade. Ikaria is one of those five areas. So what is the secret to the Ikarians' longevity?

Nearly everything that the population eats is grown locally. In a geographically isolated location like Ikaria, this ensures healthy, organic production with no trace of chemicals or pesticides. The



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island's rich and fertile soil, as well as the high concentration of radium in the water, are also thought to be factors in the inhabitants' long and healthy lives.

Locals swear by their afternoon naps and never worry about time. If they catch you wearing a watch, then this will be pointed out and in extreme cases they will even ask you to take it off. They are warm-hearted, hospitable individuals who will open their house to you and make you feel like one of the family. Good, strong red wine, known by Homer as *Pramneios*, is never missing from the table. And how could it? Ikaria, after all, is proud to be the birthplace of Dionysus, the Ancient Greek god of wine.

With its rocky cliffs and beautiful coves, prehistoric forests and healing hot springs, Ikaria may look at first like any other island, yet visitors choose it for its alternative laid-back lifestyle and wild beauty – a far cry from the organised paradises of Mykonos and Santorini. Here, time comes to a standstill, less is more, and life is better spent lounging insouciantly at the beach.

As a visitor, you are likely to visit cosmopolitan Armenistis on the north-west of the island, with its few good hotels and restaurants, as well as the long, sandy beach of Messakti, voted as one of the most beautiful beaches in Greece and home to the famous *Messakti* beach bar and surf school.

For peace and tranquillity, visit Akamatra, one of Ikaria's most picturesque villages, right in the middle of the island, with quaint little square and shops. Enjoy traditional, home-style gourmet food at the village's *Sta Perix* restaurant.

The best way to get to Ikaria is by plane from Athens, as the boat trip from the port of Piraeus usually takes between seven and nine hours and schedules are unreliable. It is also possible to fly there from Mykonos. Ikaria's airport is about 1 ½ hours by car from the village of Armenistis. Rent your own vehicle while you are there, as public transport is less than trustworthy.



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Ice cream

Visit the *Gelarte* ice-cream café in Chora, Mykonos, for great *gelato* in a variety of flavours. Everything, including the waffles, crêpes and *loukoumades* (Greek honeyed donuts), is made with the finest ingredients. The café is right next to the town hall, in a perfect location for admiring the beautiful harbour by night.

Museum

Delos, an open-air museum with 5,000 years of history, is a short 20-minute journey by *caïque* from Mykonos. The island, which boasts impressive

monuments and mosaics, is one of the most important mythological, archaeological and historical sites in Greece. An uninhabited island, it was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1990.

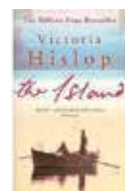
Beauty and olive oil

Olive's secret makes a wide variety of organic beauty products for the face, body and hair, based on the beneficial cosmetic properties of olive oil. These can be found at supermarkets and tourist shops all across Crete. The company was founded in Heraklion in 2005. www.olivesecret.gr



Honey

Honey is Ikaria's most precious product. *Anama* is an organic honey of high viscosity, produced with nectar from a bush called *reyki*. It is high in nutritional value and allegedly has anti-cancer and anti-inflammatory properties. www.ikariahoney.com



Book

Victoria Hislop's first novel, *The Island*, is an acclaimed best-seller about the deserted island of Spinaloga, a former leper colony with a tragic history, off the coast of Lasithi, in Crete. www.victoriahislop.com

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TEXT BY AGRA LIEGE
PUBLICITY PHOTOS

The splendour of edible gardening

When edible gardens are this pretty, it seems a shame to hide them away

What is the attraction of Europe's most famous edible gardens? It might be in the historical value and evidence of days gone by, as at the Chelsea Physic Garden, where medicinal plants are grown in much the same layout as they were centuries ago; or in the air of the future, as at the Eden Project and Rosendal's gardens, which are about marrying nature, technology and sustainability. The garden at Versailles was created for a king who wanted to eat fresh vegetables every day. It still stands in its former glory, while the gardens of La Chatonnière are characterised by their breathtaking magnificence and geometrical beauty. Equally magnificent is the methodical and constructive approach taken at the Gaasbeek Museum Garden, which, while designed as a historical tribute, also serves practical needs perfectly. At the end of the day, hardly anything is more satisfying than growing edible plants, right?

Gardens of La Chatonnière (Les Jardins de la Chatonnière), France

The Gardens of La Chatonnière are something out of a dream. Hidden away in a secluded valley across from the forest of Chinon and the Indre River, they are a carefully guarded secret. There are a staggering 14 of them, named Garden of Chance, Garden of Intelligence, Garden of Botanical Sciences, Garden of Romance, Garden of Luxuriance, Garden of France, Garden of Fragrances, Garden of Silence, Garden of Delights, Vale of Elegance, Garden of Dance, Garden of Senses, Garden of Abundance and Impertinence Theatre.

Owner Béatrice de Andia recruited the help of award-winning gardener Ahmed Azéroual to create these enchanting terraced gardens, which are now open to public. In 1986, the gardens were still just an idea in de Andia's head, but one by one they were created around a castle over a period of 24 years.

The gardens vary greatly in style and atmosphere, from the Garden of France – an ocean of wild-flowering poppies and cornflowers scattered over 18 acres of land – to the Garden of Intelligence, which consists of roses and clematis-covered pergolas arranged in strictly geometrical box patterns. The secret Garden of Dance remains underground for 10 months of the year, to explode upward in March and disappear in May beneath a wide velvet lawn – a choreography of 40,000 narcissi forming specially designed shapes.

Crowned by a brightly-hued display of Joseph Coats' rosebushes is the Garden of Abundance, a vegetable garden created in the year 2000. In perfect symmetry when viewed from above, it is arranged in a leaf shape. The different segments of the leaf are inhabited by ornamental cabbages, scallions, eggplants, basil, chives, parsley, tomatoes, celery, red chard and strawberries.

© www.lachatonniere.fr



King's Kitchen Garden of Versailles (Potager du Roi), France

Only a couple of steps from the Palace of Versailles, the Potager du Roi is open to visitors throughout the year. It offers a fascinating insight into 17th-century fruit and vegetable production, including long-forgotten gardening techniques and food varieties.

In 1670, Jean-Baptiste de La Quintinie, who initially trained as a lawyer but turned to plants during a trip to Italy, was named the director of the gardens after successfully experimenting with the forced growing of fruits and vegetables and with various pruning techniques. King Louis XIV, who wanted fresh food on his table every day, asked de La Quintinie to create an orchard and vegetable garden on unwelcoming marshlands. This was an incredible honour for a son of bourgeois parents from the Charente region, and the King's Kitchen Garden turned into a true

masterpiece. As a reward for his efforts, the king had de La Quintinie ennobled in 1687. The King's Kitchen Garden covers approximately 22 acres and is now larger than originally intended since the addition of an asparagus patch (now called the Duhamel du Monceau Garden) in the early 18th century.

The garden is divided by high walls that present several advantages in terms of cultivation. The espalier fruit trees along the garden walls were placed there to produce larger and more colourful fruits, while the walls themselves create a succession of sheltered 'rooms' that maximise exposition to the sun and permit the juxtaposition of diverse plant species. The walls absorb the heat of the day while lessening the severity of cooler night-time temperatures. Because of this, climate-sensitive fruit trees like apricots, peaches and figs can be grown in the garden. Terraced promenades and theatrical settings with ever-changing views are intimately linked to the layout of the walls.

Ten gardeners divided into three groups work in the garden, aided by seasonal workers during the peak periods. The 'fruit tree group' manages around 5000 espalier trees growing against the walls as well as a diverse collection of fruit trees grown in pots. The gardeners in charge of vegetable plants see their work get particularly intense from April through October, while those responsible for ornamental plants maintain the boxwood hedges. They also embellish the site by planting and maintaining a collection of annual and perennial plants. The professional gardeners are assisted in the pruning and cultivation of roses and at the rockery by volunteers.

Since 2007, a parcel of trees has been dedicated to experiments in organic gardening. The garden was listed as a historical monument in 1926 and is on the UNESCO World Heritage List. It was opened to the general public in 1991 and cultural events, including dances, exhibitions and plays, take place in it throughout the year.

① www.potager-du-roi.fr

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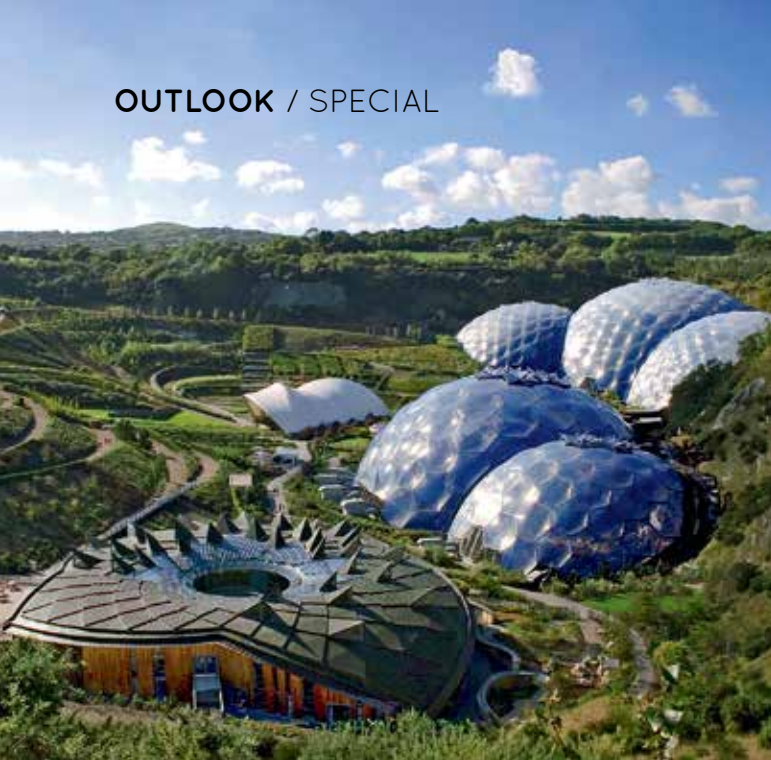
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Eden Project, UK

The Eden Project was built in 2000 as a Landmark Millennium Project in a 160-year-old exhausted china clay quarry near St. Austell, in Cornwall, UK. The project was conceived by Tim Smith, who had restored the Lost Gardens of Heiligen in the early 1990s with the help of Philip McMillan Browse and Peter Thoday. The three then assembled a team of expert horticulturalists.

The complex consists of artificial biomes in which plants collected from all around the world are grown. Two massive enclosures of adjoining domes dominate the complex, and each one of them emulates a natural biome. In one of them a rainforest environment is imitated, while in the other a Mediterranean environment persists.

The Rainforest Biome – the world’s largest rainforest in captivity and consisting of steamy jungles and waterfalls – is large enough to fit in the Tower of London. Building the two biomes on an uneven surface was tricky. Special soil was created for the project with the help of Reading University – over 83,000 tonnes of it!

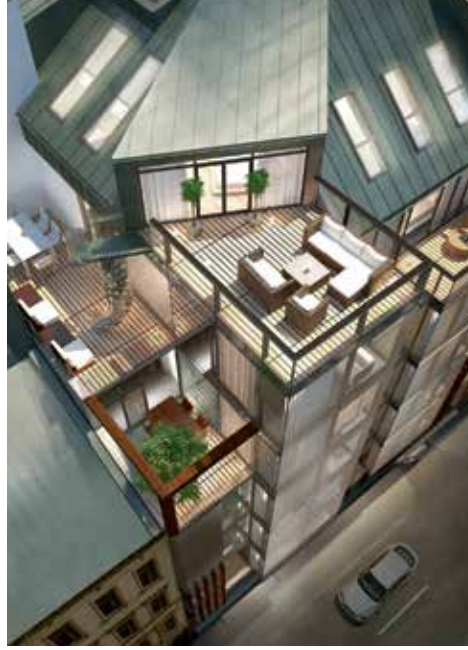
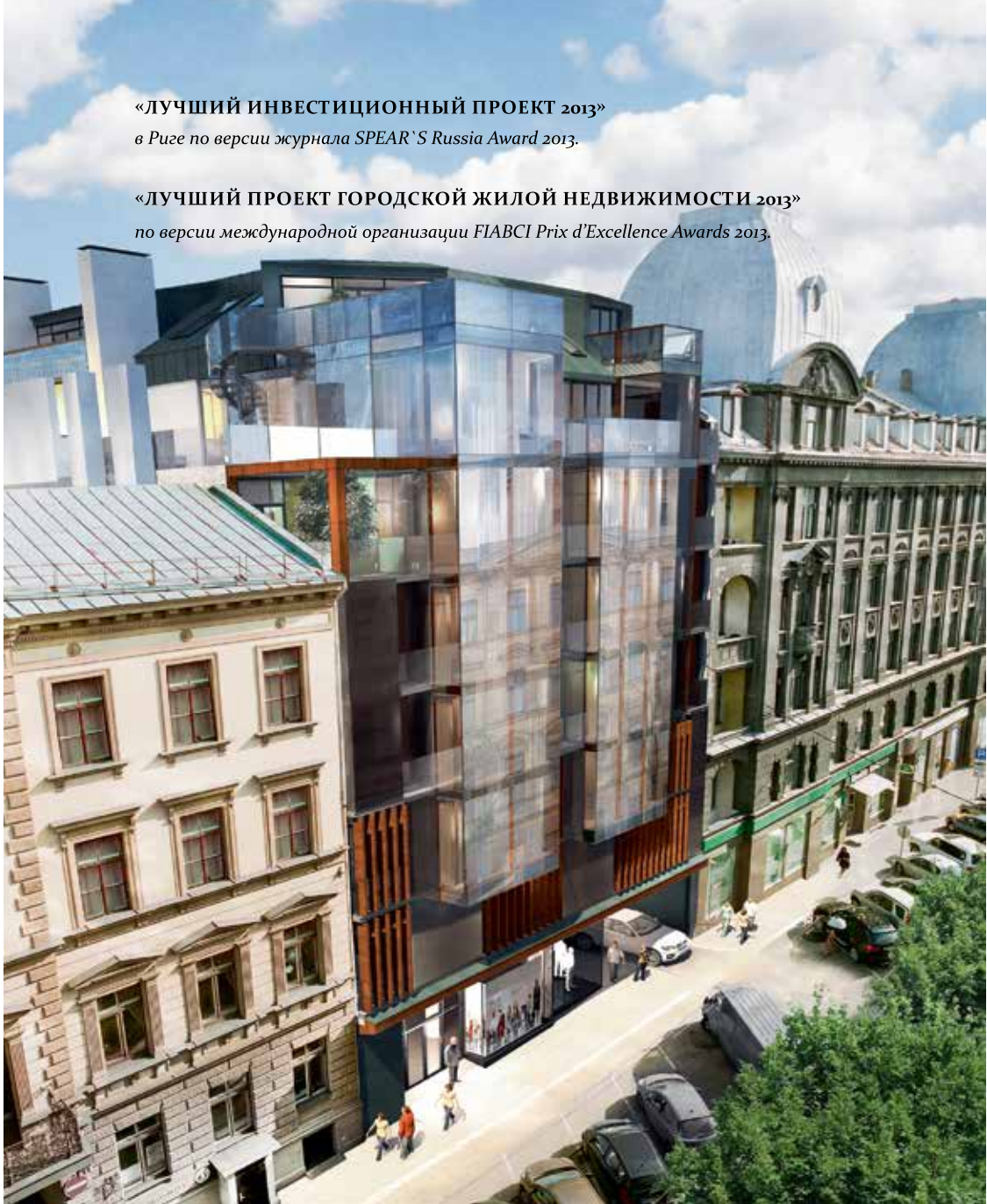
Around one million plants of just under 4,000 species have been planted in the biomes. Most are not rare, except for a few that tell stories of the need for conservation, and none have been taken from the wild. Many have been grown from seed in the project’s nursery, while others have come from botanical gardens, research stations and supporters in Europe and the UK. The biomes also house some birds and lizards, which are not just a pleasure to look at, because they eat their fill of pests. A number of UV lightboxes also catch pests and monitor their numbers.

Visitors are welcome to the futuristic-looking complex, which is a living example of regeneration and sustainable living. It includes cutting-edge buildings, stunning garden displays and world-class sculptures. The operators even host evening gigs and concerts, and an ice rink is installed in the winter. An educational centre features exhibitions for all ages to enjoy, while restaurants and cafés offer dishes made of locally grown produce.

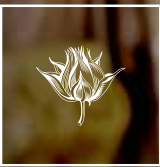
① www.edenproject.com

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TAL RESIDENCE – дань уважения великому гению, шахматисту, рижанину – Михаилу Талю, традициям и истории города Риги. Исключительность месторасположения и архитектурных решений, подземный паркинг – уникальные преимущества проекта.

Авантюризм, бескомпромиссность в принятии решений, неиссякаемый оптимизм и энергия, которые сопровождали Михаила Талю на его жизненном пути, стали источником вдохновения для создателей TAL RESIDENCE и нашли отражение в архитектурных решениях. Современная архитектура здания с ее открытостью и прозрачностью позволяет жителям TAL RESIDENCE из панорамных окон и с просторных террас наслаждаться изумительными видами на исторические здания квартала.

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OUTLOOK / SPECIAL



Medicinal gardening at Chelsea Physic Garden, UK

The Chelsea Physic Garden was founded in 1673 by the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries so that apprentices could learn to grow medicinal plants and study their uses. At the time when the Apothecaries chose the four-acre site for their garden by the River Thames, the location was already known for its market gardens, orchards and properties belonging to King Henry VIII, Chancellor Sir Thomas More and Sir John Danvers. The riverside location was practical, as the plant enthusiasts could use a brightly painted barge for their plant-collecting expeditions.

After an initial struggle to find a first-rate gardener (which lasted for the first ten years of the garden's existence), an apothecary named John Watts was appointed. He made contact with Paul Herman, a professor of botany at Leiden University in the Netherlands, and the two began exchanging plants and seeds, thus setting a tradition still practiced to this day, with the list of partner botanical gardens now extending all around the world.

The north end of the garden houses the offices, lecture rooms, curator's house and most greenhouses, while the remaining space is divided into 16 quadrants that are

further subdivided into narrow, rectilinear beds – a feature of the original design of the garden.

Medicinal and other types of useful plants are grown at the northern end, while systematic order beds are set out to demonstrate the botanical relationships of plants. Most of the plants have labels detailing their botanical classification and origin. A former student at the garden, Sir Hans Sloane, became its patron on 1712, at a time when the Apothecaries were struggling with upkeep. His statue was created by Michael Rysbrack in 1733. A replica of the original statue now has a pride of place at the centre of the garden, while the original, damaged by pollution, is now in the British Museum.

Chelsea Physic Garden is dedicated to the promotion of education, conservation and scientific research. For example, the Botany Department of the Natural History Museum is growing a large collection of asplenium ferns for taxonomic research at the garden. The garden is also involved in a joint initiative, the Ethnomedica Project, with medical herbalists, the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew, the Eden Project, the Botanic Garden at Edinburgh and the Natural History Museum. In addition, the garden provides an idyllic setting for functions and wedding receptions.

① www.chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk

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Rosendal's Garden, Sweden

Rosendal's Garden, situated in Djurgården, the greenest part of Stockholm, is an oasis for growth and sustainability. Its soil has been nurtured by gardeners for centuries and, since 1982, the Rosendal Garden Foundation has been running a garden market there.

The garden has vegetable fields, greenhouses, a rose garden, an orchard, countless flowerbeds, compost areas, a vineyard, a playground, an educational garden for children, a bakery, a nursery, a shop and a café. At Rosendal's the workers follow nature's composting cycle and conduct crop rotation in accordance with biodynamic gardening practices, using only natural fertilisers such as manure. The plants grown in the gardens are used in the café and bakery and sold in the shop. Some of the best restaurants in Stockholm are supplied with fresh produce coming from Rosendal's.

At the plant shop one can find a carefully selected assortment of plants, seeds, flowers and tools for the urban gardener. During the summer season, visitors can pick their own flowers and pay for them by weight. The artisanal bakery produces organic bread and pastries baked in a wood-fired oven on a daily basis. These are sold at the shop along with vegetables, homemade preserves, books and crafts.

The organically certified garden café uses the vegetables grown in the garden whenever possible, while the greenhouses can be booked for weddings, parties, dinners and other private functions.

① www.rosendalstradgard.se

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OUTLOOK / SPECIAL



Museum Garden at Gaasbeek, Belgium

Modelled on an early 20th-century chateau garden, this site is a tribute to Flemish horticulturalists who successfully pruned and hybridised fruit trees to produce higher quality flowers and fruit. Here vegetables, herbs, flowers, shrubs and trees are brought together to create a living, working museum.

The show garden consists of four large sections, each emphasising a different aspect of Flemish horticultural history. In the first section plum trees have been planted to re-establish them as a local specialty, whereas the second section holds the majority of the fruit trees. The section is like a traditional Flemish kitchen-garden – not a charming little vegetable patch, but rather of the kind that used to be grown on castle grounds and sometimes even provided whole villages with vegetables, while supplying the local church with flowers all year round.

The layout of the vegetable garden is determined by considerations for

productivity and aesthetic value. Four large areas for growing vegetables are intersected by narrow beds of flowers for cutting. As well as being pleasing to the eye, the division into four plots has a functional purpose, providing the perfect way to implement a crop rotation system that prevents diseases in vegetables and promotes growth. The vegetable plots in the garden are enclosed by box wedges.

The kitchen garden also fulfils the role of a museum where the visitors can observe not only familiar vegetables like cabbages, pumpkins, tomatoes and onions, but also more unusual ones such as the Jerusalem artichoke, woundwort, regular artichoke, purslane, paprika and sorrel.

The kitchen garden is a delight and will make many a vegetable gardener's mouth water. Each year a different vegetable is given prominence. Recently the onion took the stage and 42 varieties of all shapes, colours and flavours were brought together. In older days, each dish required a specific variety of onion to be used in it! **BO**
① www.kasteelvangaasbeek.be/en/park-and-gardens



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TEXT BY AGRA LIEGE
PHOTOS COURTESY OF IVARS KRUTAINIS

Snoozing cities

Latvian photographer Ivars Krūtainis has travelled all around the world and documented his journey.

In 2009, he set out to visit 100 countries by the time he reached the age of 30. Three years later, Krūtainis accomplished this goal. Now he has 112 countries in his account and hopes travel to all 193 countries in the world by his 40th birthday.

Krūtainis is not someone who merely ticks away foreign lands on a long to-do list. He often travels through them by using the public transport systems and visits the local markets. Krūtainis guides us through some summery moments in faraway and not so distant places, revealing dashes of uniquely local flavour on lazy August afternoons.

Malta

Located close to Africa, Malta is almost always warm and sunny; well, at least for 340 days a year. The country is actually a cluster of islands, but you'll have seen pretty much everything if you just navigate between the largest two. Traditional fishing boats are still in use and the old town is beautiful. In addition, the food is extraordinarily good. That's really about it, so a long weekend in Malta should satisfy most visitors' curiosity. Take note of the crazy drivers who bear some similarity to southern Italian folk, and perhaps stick to the smoothly floating and soothing boats for transport.

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Egypt

On the way from Taba to Sharm el-Sheikh, you will find huts like these on the side of the highway, right beside the Red Sea. They are favoured by backpackers and all kinds of other budget travellers for spending the night. The huts are equipped only with the most basic of facilities but embody the true feel of the road. Here, time ceases to exist as another lazy summer evening sets in. Although Egypt hosts many little havens for tired travellers, it also sports well-known all-inclusive Red Sea resorts. In Egypt you should not limit yourself to the main tourist sites, as the country offers much more to see. Cairo is a massive metropolis with over 10 million inhabitants, so once you've seen the compulsory pyramids, you should immerse yourself in the streets of the city. There you can order tea sitting outside a street café and calmly observe the swarming life of true Egyptians.



Centre of Baku, Azerbaijan

The centre of Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, is extremely modern and many of its buildings sprang up fairly recently. On the day that Krūtainis visited, the harbourfront was quiet and somnolent. While the older areas of the city are less posh, they have a certain charm that the more modern centre has not yet acquired. That being said, the newer part of the city is still worth seeing. As in many other capital cities in Central Asia, the new projects in Baku have a characteristic style and almost showy sense of taste to them. Krūtainis believes that, much like in Yerevan or Tbilisi, most visitors will experience a “love it or hate it” relationship with Baku. “The city won’t leave anyone indifferent. It’s like the legendary British condiment *Marmite*.”



Cannes, French Riviera

In this morning photo, the sun is already high up in the sky, but holidaymakers have not yet reached the seaside folding chairs to spend yet another day under parasols while slowly sipping cool drinks. The sand is evened out in neat patterns and not a footprint is evident, with yachts in the clear blue water offering a serene backdrop. For the most part of the year, this modestly-sized French Riviera town is a charming and quiet place – a state of affairs that changes radically when it turns into a splendid jewel of fame and glory for a few days each year. The world’s largest annual awards show for the creative communication industry, the Cannes Lions, takes place here, along with the famous Cannes Film festival. Then Cannes becomes the focus of the world’s attention. A few days after the festivals have ended, the best way to spend your time in Cannes is to take another stroll down La Croisette, the main promenade, and contentedly sip glasses of good wine at a seaside café.

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Brighton, UK

A Mecca for students and artists, Brighton is a relaxed seaside city 80 km south of London (and a mere 40 kilometres from Gatwick Airport, by the way). Brighton offers the perfect contrast to London's crowds and bustle. It is also the closest beach to Britain's capital, which is why many Londoners make it their habitual weekend commute. Thus, on Saturdays and Sundays, Brighton's beaches swarm with urban sun-seekers. However, if you travel there midweek, then you're almost guaranteed exclusive access to your own private beach, with no other soul in sight for miles around.

First-timers should fully embrace Brighton's easy-going atmosphere by ordering the quintessentially British-dish fish and chips at a take-away, and enjoying the meal while sitting on Brighton Pier. Beware of the audacious seagulls, though. These impudent birds won't miss the chance to steal a piece of French fries right out of your hands!



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Train station in Brussels, Belgium

Brussels' main train station is old-fashioned, beautiful and full of life. It is like New York's Grand Central Terminal, but more intimate and friendly. Nothing depicts the concept of daily life quite like this place, with people in constant movement yet in an overall atmosphere of calm. Both visitors of the city and even the Belgians themselves find amusement in declaring that Brussels is extremely boring and in saying that there is nothing at all to do. It turns out, though (perhaps partly because people's expectations have been lowered over the years), that the city is full of fun little surprises for the traveller. For one, it has many authentic restaurants. Krūtainis claims that Brussels is where he's had the best sushi outside of Japan. The architecture is pleasantly surprising, mixing ultra-modern skyscrapers with buildings that are centuries old in a calm and harmonious manner. If you do get bored walking the beautiful little streets of Brussels, then Antwerp is only an hour's train ride away.

Petersburg / Peter

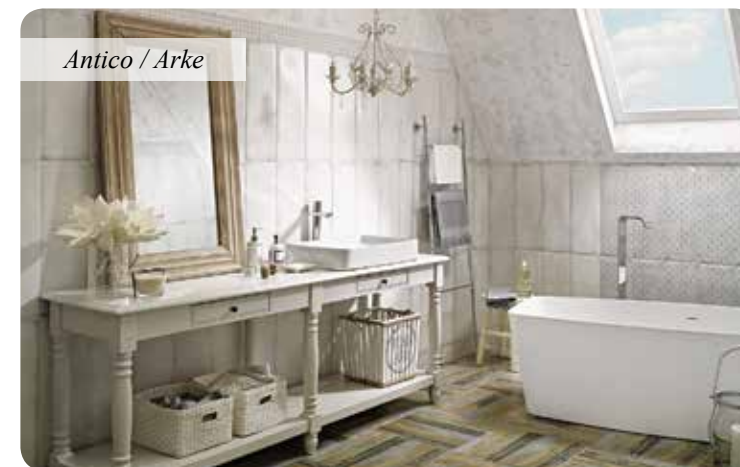


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St. Michael's Golden-Domed Monastery in Kiev, Ukraine

The modern often meets the traditional in Kiev, as shown in this scene by St. Michael's Golden-Domed Monastery, where the saints painted on the wall and the patient priest let present-day necessities run their course. The people are friendly, open and helpful towards visitors, so don't be surprised if you are taken to a hidden away spot known only to the locals for the evening. The

metro system is well-organised and in good condition, allowing one to commute between different areas of the city quickly and efficiently. While there aren't many famous tourist "must-sees" to visit, the "real Kiev" is well worth a closer look nonetheless. If you happen to have an extra day to spend in the area, Krūtainis suggests that you visit Chernobyl and the adjacent ghost town of Pripyat. The site of the 1986 nuclear accident is located only 110 km away from Kiev and guided tours are held almost every day.

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Zurich, Switzerland

While summers in Zurich tend to be greyer and colder than one might wish, the same cannot be said of the people, who are mostly warm and open. The environment is fairly multicultural and reminds one of such Scandinavian countries as Norway. A couple of days will do to get a reasonable grasp of the city and, most likely,

a couple of days will be enough if you don't want to empty all of your pockets of money before your trip is over. To be fair, what you pay for is normally of very high quality, from food to services. The city has a great transportation infrastructure where bicycles are naturally integrated, which means that cyclists form a substantial proportion of the people you see on the streets. **BO**




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First drive: the Porsche 911 Targa

The Porsche 911 Targa is the open-air 911 for people who don't want the fully fledged Cabriolet. This new edition retains the original Targa's characteristic silver B-pillar just behind the seats, but while older versions required you to remove the central roof panel manually, the latest generation can complete the entire operation with electric motors.

It's a complex operation that requires the entire rear window section to lift up before the fabric roof can be stowed behind the rear seats. The whole process takes 19 seconds and the car has to be stationary.

The Targa is available in four-wheel-drive Targa 4 and Targa 4S form, so it gets the wider body that comes on all four-wheel-drive 911s. The standard transmission on both models is a seven-speed manual, although a seven-speed PDK auto is available as an option.

What's it like to drive?

Most 911s are sold with an optional PDK auto gearbox, and we tried that transmission in both the smaller-engined Targa 4 model and the more powerful 4S version.

The Targa 4 has the 911's 3.4-litre naturally aspirated six-cylinder engine, producing 350 hp that's enough to take the car from 0-100 km/h in 5.2 seconds, or 4.8 seconds if you choose the PDK gearbox and the optional Sports Chrono performance pack.

The vast majority of the key 911 characteristics are present and clear-cut. The steering is direct, sharp and precise (although undeniably less communicative than in previous generations of the car), the gearbox has ultra-quick shifts and is beautifully smooth in automatic mode, and the car's astonishing grip means that you'd need to be doing crazy speeds to get it properly out of shape.

However, the Targa models are around 110 kg heavier than conventional 911s, and that's enough to make a difference to the way the 'lesser' edition drives. The 3.4-litre is our pick in regular 911s, but in the Targa, you will be aware that you're driving a heavier car. It's not exactly slow, but you'll notice that you're well beyond 4000 rpm before the motor really starts to pull like a genuine sports car's.

For many Targa owners this will be perfectly acceptable, but the Targa 4 does feel like it's becoming a relaxing and swift GT. It is also worth noting that the 4S is 90 kgs heavier than a Carrera S Cabriolet – and the rear-drive car is quicker from 0-100 km/h.

The ride quality and roof refinement were fine. Our Targa 4S was fitted with the optional Porsche Active Suspension Management (PASM) system, which allows you to vary the stiffness of the dampers at the touch of a button. With this system, the Targa deals fairly well with pock-marked roads, even at low speeds around town. PASM is standard on the Targa 4S.

High-frequency bumps will catch it out though, and the rear axle works busily away with a noticeable thump when you drive over potholes or motorway expansion joints. These sudden jolts also send a shudder through the steering wheel, and you can feel the extra flex in the chassis over the Coupe.

On the plus side, the roof is impressively well insulated from wind noise at speed. Even when you tuck the fabric behind the rear seats, it's possible to have a conversation at around 90 km/h before you have to start shouting at each other. There is also very little buffeting, even at motorway speeds.

The Targa 4S gets a 3.8-litre engine with 400 hp, enough for a 0-100 km/h time of 4.8 seconds or 4.4 seconds with PDK and Sport Chrono. There's a fair chunk more low-end punch from the engine, too, and that's enough to make the 4S feel like

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CARS



WHILE THE ORIGINAL TARGA'S ROOF PANEL HAD TO BE REMOVED MANUALLY, THE LATEST VERSION CAN BE OPERATED AT THE PRESS OF A BUTTON

a proper sports car, despite the extra ballast on board.

There's no need for the optional sports exhaust, either, because the *Targa's* configuration allows you to hear the motor roaring behind you without additional assistance. Still, on a car with a price tag of more than 100,000 euros, the added aural drama of the louder optional pipes is very welcome.

What's it like inside?

The *Targa's* cabin feels very similar to a regular *911's*, but that's no bad thing, because it means plenty of high-quality materials in the right areas and an excellent driver-focused layout with good visibility. It's just a shame that the standard touch-screen sat-nav is a little fiddly to use on the move.

The sports seats are extremely supportive and there's plenty of adjustment for both the driver's seat and the steering wheel, so you should be able to find a comfortable position.

It's not quite so accomplished in the rear. True, the fact that there are rear seats at all in a car like this is a plus, but they're so small that they'll do only for small children or for grown-ups in an emergency.

The boot space is divided into two areas; there's 125 litres of capacity under the bonnet and a further 160 litres available behind the rear seats. That's still enough for a couple of decent overnight bags, but a week's luggage may prove a challenge.

Should I buy one?

The *Targa* is an interesting proposition. In fact, it has the all-round accomplishments to be one of the more appealing options in an already attractive line-up, with decent refinement, a trick roof mechanism and a driving experience that's not too far behind the *911 Coupe's*.

Bear in mind, though, that in 3.4-litre form you're buying perhaps one of the heaviest and therefore least sporting of this generation of *911s*. The Cabriolet is cheaper, faster in rear-drive form and the roof is easier to use on the go, with the only trade-off being a slight loss of roof-up refinement.

On this evidence, if you want the model that still feels like a sports car as well as a GT, then you'll need to stick with the regular coupe or fork out the extra for the excellent *Targa 4S*. However, the *Carrera S Cabriolet* remains our pick of the open-air *911s*. **BO**

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Park and Riga Doms Cathedral

20th-century Riga

At the beginning of the 20th century, Riga was blossoming as a prosperous city, with a whole array of new multi-storey edifices being built in earnest. Many of these were fully equipped with electrical lighting, plumbing and sewage systems. Their construction was carried out in accordance with building regulations approved by George Armitstead, the renowned mayor of Riga.

In 1913, following the death of merchant Dāvids Ezītis, his widow, Anna and son, Kārlis, began to oversee the construction of a five-storey building at Tērbatas iela 4. The edifice was designed to be furnished with facilities that were considered modern and atypical for their day and age, including an elevator and central heating, as well as such novelties as an electrical installation under the exterior plaster and a centralised garbage chute connected to each apartment.

Poet Pēteris Ērmanis, in describing Riga during the 1930s, wrote that Tērbatas iela had a rural charm to it, mainly due to the frequent presence of farmers' carts. This was one of the rare streets in the city centre that was not cleared of snow and ice, so that country residents could freely ride into and out of Riga on their horse-drawn sleighs.

More than a century has passed, and Tērbatas iela remains one of the most beautiful streets in Riga. Accordingly, many of the street's residents hope that it will one day become a pedestrian promenade. Already back in 1977, news reports on Soviet Latvian radio stated that the street was to be converted for pedestrian use. Although this idea did not come to fruition, discussions about implementing it continue to this day.

A unique architectural monument

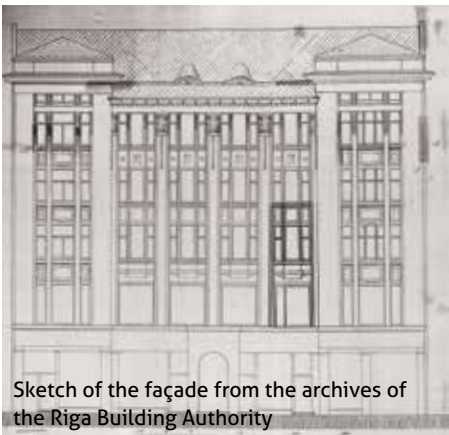
One hundred years ago, European building façades were built with pronounced vertical partitions, which can be seen on more than a third of Riga's diverse Art Nouveau edifices. As Art Nouveau expert Jānis Krastiņš explains, the monumental façade at Tērbatas iela 4 is a prominent example of vertical Art Nouveau architecture. While the design of the courtyard is less intricate, the building's overall architectural style is maintained there as well.

The interior is adorned by ornaments and specially crafted details that were new and modern for their time. These include door and window casements as well as panelling on the walls of the main stairwell, which is particularly ornate and houses colourful stained-glass windows that were renewed in 1997 by artist Jānis Rozenbergs. The building's true uniqueness lies in the attractive composition that occupies the entire ceiling space and that adorns all of the residential quarters. For the most part, the ceilings are decorated with plants and woven lines. The original parquet floor, elaborate stairwell, ceiling ornaments and unique Art Nouveau elements have survived to this day and can be seen on all five floors.

Awaiting new owners and residents

The building at Tērbatas iela 4 was formerly occupied by well-to-do residents, including Augusts Lielpēters, the owner of the *Astorija* hotel. In 1937, his apartment was robbed, but a watchful policeman succeeded in apprehending the culprit. To thank him for this fine deed, the Latvian Interior Ministry awarded him with a 100-lats bonus.

The edifice also housed a popular furniture store owned by acclaimed furniture maker Jānis Skultāns, who created Latvian-style chairs based on artists' drawings. In 1939, parts of the building were remodelled and the store's premises were expanded.



Sketch of the façade from the archives of the Riga Building Authority



Many of the building's apartments still have their original outer doors

Every house has its own story to tell, and the edifice at Tērbatas iela 4 has a history that goes back for more than a century. Originally designed to be an apartment complex, the building was later modified on the side facing the street to accommodate the needs of a bank. Now this historical Art Nouveau edifice is waiting for a new owner to restore it to its former glory and implement an already approved apartment reconstruction project, after which the building will once again be able to house prominent personalities for future generations to write about. **BO**



The main stairwell is adorned by bright stained-glass windows on every floor

For more information about this and other Art Nouveau gems owned by Swedbank Grupa's real estate company Ektornet, visit www.ektornet.lv.

Ektornet

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Неподалеку от Верманского парка, во внушительном массиве зданий югендстиля на ул. Тербатас особенно выделяется монументальный проект архитектора Агејса Кратса — жилое здание в стиле модерн на ул. Тербатас 4.

Богатая история дома на Тербатас 4, насчитывает уже сто лет. Она начинается с замысла архитектора, который строил это здание как жилой дом. С течением времени, часть фасада была перестроена для нужд банка. Теперь же для этого здания, которое является частью наследия югендстиля, нужен новый хозяин, который будет заинтересован в возвращении ему былого блеска и выполнении уже утвержденного проекта перестройки квартир — чтобы дом вновь наполнился важными в обществе и интересными жителями, о которых можно будет рассказать будущим поколениям!

Чтоб получить подробную информацию об этом объекте, свяжитесь с консультантом Ektornet Микус Фрейманис: Т. (+371) 27 070 023 • mikus.freimanis@ektornet.lv

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Swedbank

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Galleria Riga – Shopping. Dining. Relaxation.



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Blaumaņa iela 10 (between Brīvības
bulvāris and Tērbatas iela)
Information centre
Tel. (+371) 67307000
info@galleriariga.lv
www.galleriariga.lv/en

Since opening in 2010, the *Galleria Riga* has found its place in the hearts of Riga's residents and visitors as a convenient shopping centre that also happens to provide opportunities for relaxation and entertainment.

The *Galleria Riga* is located in a thriving business area in the centre of the Latvian capital. A wide variety of shops line the seven storeys of the building, providing visitors with a broad selection of items. Here you'll find necessities for both daily life and celebrations.

At the *Galleria Riga* you can purchase items by such famous brands as *Mango*, *Tommy Hilfiger (Moskito)*, *Guess (Denim Dream)*, *MAX&Co*, *Diesel*, *Stefanel*, *Only (Moskito)*, *Marella* and many more. In addition, a number of talented Latvian designers are also making their mark on the fashion scene. Thanks to their refined sense of style, good taste, lively imagination and high-quality craftsmanship, they have gained international recognition in a short period of time. The latest collections of clothing and accessories by some of Latvia's best designers are available at *8 rooms*, *OT Ogres Trikotāža* and other shops in the *Galleria Riga*.

To better serve its customers, the shopping centre has a built-in parking garage (free parking for two hours on Sundays) and special stands for bicycles. Guests have use of free Wi-Fi and can take full advantage of *Global Blue* tax-free benefits.

Other useful services at the *Galleria Riga* include umbrella rental for up to seven days, free stylist's services, a post office, dry-cleaning, currency exchange and beauty salons. A favourite spot for guests to stop for a moment's rest is the centre's fountain, which offers a great view of the building's elegant architecture.

PUBLICITY PHOTOS



SUIT
supply

Men's fashion

The European brand *Suitsupply* has created an entirely new market in men's fashion that sets it apart from other boutique retailers. Its use of only the finest Italian fabrics, combined with European styling and unbeatable in-store service – all within an attainable price bracket – represents a revolutionary approach to menswear and leaves retailers asking: "How do they do that?" Small wonder that customers keep coming back for more.

In a time when off-the-rack suits have invaded men's closets the world over, *Suitsupply* is introducing a better option: real suits for real men that really fit. No attention to detail is ever spared, and tailoring is done on-site while you wait, ensuring that no one leaves with anything less than a perfect fit. *Suitsupply* was founded by Fokke de Jong in 2000, and in 14 years it has grown to over 45 stores in Europe, Asia and the United States.

Suitsupply Riga, *Galleria Riga*, 2nd floor, Dzirnavu iela 67





The venue for one of the summer's largest most eagerly awaited sports competitions in Latvia is the beachfront by the *Baltic Beach Hotel*. Set to take place from August 28-31, *CEV Satellite Jūrmala* will give fans the opportunity to see the best European beach volleyball men's pairs in action at a stadium with more than 2000 seats that has been specially built for the tournament.

Jūrmala city council chairman Gatis Truksnis notes that Jūrmala has one of the finest beaches of pristine white quartz sand in the world, stretching for more than 30 kilometres along Latvia's Baltic coastline. To take full advantage of this natural asset, the municipal government has set the ambitious goal of turning Jūrmala into an important regional centre for beach volleyball and a venue for *Masters* and *Grand Slam* tournaments in the near future. Accordingly, the city council is financing the *CEV Satellite Jūrmala* competition as part of its plans to promote beach volleyball as a sports priority.

"Every year, Jūrmala hosts about 400 different sporting events, but there are some specific market niches that we want to develop," says Truksnis. "Taking into consideration our city's assets – a wonderful beach, an advanced infrastructure and the status of a health resort – beach volleyball is definitely a priority. The city is also planning considerable investments into the establishment of a modern centre for beach sports in Dubulti. We have also held discussions with the Latvian Volleyball Federation on the opening of a volleyball section at our sports boarding school in Lielupe," he adds.

Aleksandrs Samoilovs, one of the world's best beach volleyball players, also lives in Jūrmala. Like the city's mayor, Truksnis, he views the city's sandy coastline as an ideal setting for beach volleyball and a valuable asset that many athletes have yet to discover.

"Jūrmala's beach is even better than that of the famed Copacabana in Rio de Janeiro," says Samoilovs, who is convinced that the upcoming tournament will help to place Jūrmala on the list of destinations for regular world-class competitions.



A scene from the *Jūrmala Open* Latvian beach volleyball championship in 2013

World's best beach volleyball players to compete in Jūrmala

Latvia's beautiful resort town of Jūrmala is gearing up for a top-level international beach volleyball competition at the end of this month, marking the first time that the city is hosting such a high-profile event in that discipline. Some of the world's best male volleyball players will take part in the CEV Satellite Jūrmala competition, which is on this year's European Volleyball Federation (CEV) official event calendar and which will provide athletes the opportunity to earn valuable International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) ranking points.

"The fact that Jūrmala will be hosting an international beach volleyball competition is a dream that has come true for me. I have spoken with many of my colleagues and have invited them to come to Jūrmala and see where some of the world's best players come from," he adds with evident pride.

The *CEV Satellite Jūrmala* tournament will be the most noteworthy beach volleyball event to have taken place in the Baltic countries in the past five years, with more than 40 of Europe's best men's pairs set to compete, including Latvia's top four players: Aleksandrs Samoilovs, Jānis Šmēdiņš, Mārtiņš Pļaviņš and Ruslans Sorokins.

Although Latvia is a relatively small country, it has become a major force to be reckoned with in beach volleyball. Aleksandrs Samoilovs and Jānis Šmēdiņš were ranked as the world's best players in 2013 and named as the best men's pairs team that same year by the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB), even though they garnered only a silver medal at the 2013 European championships. So far this year, they have a gold and a silver medal to their credit in the FIVB World Cup circuit.

Aleksandrs Samoilovs has finished ninth in two Olympic Games – first in Peking in 2008 (with Mārtiņš Pļaviņš) and then in 2012 in London (with Ruslans Sorokins).

Jānis Šmēdiņš was the FIVB's *Athlete of the Year* in 2013 and named the best hitter, best attacker and best setter. He won a bronze medal at the Olympic Games in London in 2012 together with his partner Mārtiņš Pļaviņš.

Mārtiņš Pļaviņš was named as the best blocker by the FIVB in 2012, winning a silver medal together with Aleksandrs Solovejs at the last World Cup tournament in Durban in 2013. This year, he has won a gold medal together with Aleksandrs Solovejs at the 2014 *CEV Satellite Antalya* competition.

Ruslans Sorokins is one of the world's best beach volleyball players and a long-time partner of Aleksandrs Samoilovs in pairs competitions. This year, together with his new partner Edvarts Buivids, he won a gold medal in the first round of the Eastern European Volleyball Zonal Association (EEVZA) tournament in Belarus.

Don't miss your chance to view an exciting sports event, as various surprises are also in store for sports fans and Jūrmala's guests during the *CEV Satellite Jūrmala* tournament. **BO**

www.jurmala.beachvolley.lv



Jānis Šmēdiņš on his way to a silver medal at the European championship finals in 2014 in Italy



Latvian beach volleyball champions Aleksandrs Samoilovs and Jānis Šmēdiņš finish second at the European championship finals in 2014 in Italy



Mārtiņš Pļaviņš (R) and Jānis Šmēdiņš display their bronze medals at the London Olympic Games in 2012

Development of beach volleyball in Latvia:

- Beach volleyball was first practiced as a recreational sport in Jūrmala in the early 1900s.
- Genādijs Samoilovs, the father of top-ranking player Aleksandrs Samoilovs, pioneered the revival and development of beach volleyball as a sport in Latvia during the 1980s.
- Jūrmala hosted the European junior championships in beach volleyball in 1996.
- The current competition system for beach volleyball in Latvia was established in 2002, when the organiser of this year's *CEV Satellite Jūrmala 2014* tournament began to hold beach volleyball tournaments in Riga. It was at these tournaments that Latvia's best beach volleyball players, including Aleksandrs Samoilovs, Mārtiņš Pļaviņš and Jānis Šmēdiņš, experienced their first international sports victories.



The whole world under two roofs

Great food, quality fashion and enjoyment for all the senses are the secrets behind the success of the Spice shopping complex in Riga, one of the largest in Latvia. Spice is a mere five-minute drive from the Riga airport and only 10 minutes from the city centre.



Iveta Lāce,
director of Spice shopping mall

Opening hours

Spice: Daily 10:00-22:00

Spice Home: Mon.-Sat. 10:00-21:00,

Sun. 10:00-20:00

RIMI Hypermarket: Daily 08:00-23:00

Farmers' market: Fri. and Sun.

12:00-19:00, Sat. 10:00-19:00

① www.spice.lv / ② www.spicehome.lv

Regardless of whether you are on your way to or from the airport, or if your flight leaves in a few hours and you have some time to spare, or if you are visiting Latvia on vacation, or if you are travelling on business; it is worth paying a visit to the Spice shopping complex for some enjoyable shopping. At Spice you will find the widest array of international and local clothing brands in Latvia for both adults and children at dozens of stores to suit all tastes, ranging from designer fashion to casual wear.

You may have arrived to enjoy the magic of Latvia in the summer, with plans for a stroll by the seaside in Jūrmala, or an open-air concert on a warm evening in Riga, or a trip to a quiet and secluded nature area. If it turns out that you have forgotten to bring something important along for your trip, then Spice is the place to get what you need.

As the largest of two adjacent shopping centres, Spice carries clothing and footwear for all weather conditions and terrain. At Sportland, Citysport and Camel Active you will find sandals, swimsuits and light sportswear for sunny days by the sea, along with comfortable hiking boots and raincoats for forest walks on rainy days. If you are seeking shoes, clothing and accessories for a dinner party or a concert, then you will

find these on offer at more than 50 stores in the shopping complex.

Earlier this year, one of the world's most popular clothing brands, H&M, opened a store at Spice. Also this spring, the elegant British Debenhams brand opened its first and only retail store in Latvia. Other quality fashion brands that have opened new stores at Spice include Weekend MaxMara, Pierre Cardin, Liu Jo, Wolford, Esprit and Armani Jeans as well as the Reserved concept store.

However, there is another feature that distinguishes Spice from other shopping centres in Latvia and in Europe. That is the presence of fashionable clothing by Latvian designers. As Iveta Lāce, the director of the Spice shopping complex has noted, "Clothes by Latvian designers have a special feel to them. They stand out and attract people who want something unique."

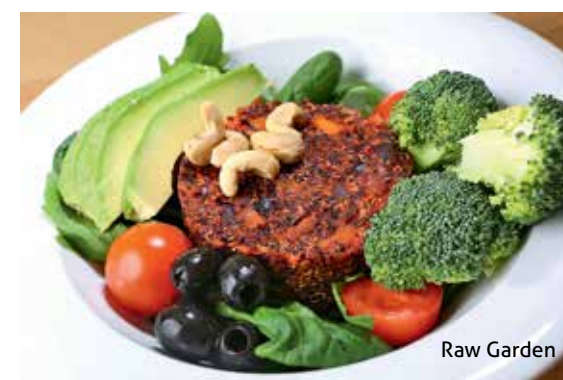
Fine examples of Latvian fashion can be found at the Taste Latvia and Nóló concept stores. Nóló is a vivid and quaint Latvian brand with a high level of experience and rich traditions in the production of women's clothing. Taste Latvia, for its part, retails the latest clothing items and accessories for adults and children by such established Latvian designers as Natalija Jansone, Aleksandrs Pavlovs, Keita, Salt,

Recycled.lv, Narciss, One Wolf, Paiya, QooQoo, Baiba Ripa and Sonita Pavulīņa.

Spice is also home to a whole range of leading fashion brand stores, including Massimo Dutti, Tommy Hilfiger, United Colors of Benetton, PENNYBLACK, ALDO, Next, Zara, iBlues, MAX&Co, Marella, Ivo Nikkolo, Timberland, Nike, Desigual, Marc Cain, Hogg, Ecco, Thomas Sabo, Gerry Weber, Triumph, Guess and women'secret.

Customers appreciate this, which is why every year over eight million people visit Spice. To put this in perspective, it could be said that the entire population of Switzerland goes shopping at Spice over the course of a calendar year.

A good place for a lunch or dinner break at Spice is the popular Lido restaurant/cafe/terrace, which features Latvian and other dishes. Spice also offers a wide choice of other cafes and restaurants, including the Oriental-style Gan Bei or Kabuki and raw food at Raw Garden. Modern European dishes can be enjoyed at the Kuk Buk restaurant in the Jānis Roze bookstore. For fast-food addicts, Spice also hosts a McDonald's restaurant. In fact, there are



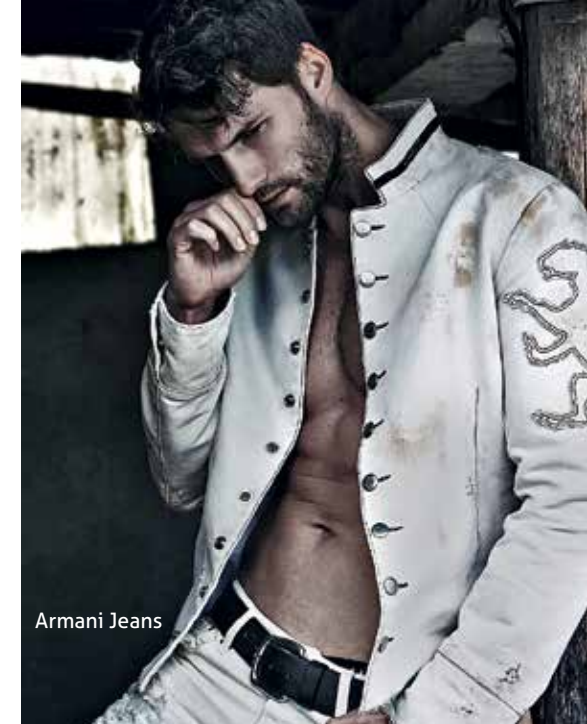
Raw Garden

enough eating establishments at Spice to simultaneously accommodate the passengers of four Boeing 737 jumbo jets.

On weekends, a Latvian farmers' market abounds with freshly picked strawberries, new potatoes and other rural delicacies brought to the capital city by farmers from all over the country.

Right across the parking lot from Spice is Spice Home, the largest shopping centre in the Baltics to specialise in items for the home, including household goods, interior accessories, lighting and electronics.

If you are travelling together with your family, then don't forget about leisure activities during the evening hours. Plenty of sports and household article stores offer inventory for such classic outdoor sports as badminton as well as less traditional



Armani Jeans



Liu Jo



Debenhams



Taste Latvia

outdoor activities. Perhaps the time has come to try out a new and exciting form of active leisure?

In addition, a whole slew of interesting board games can be found at the Jānis Roze bookstore and at Elkor Kids. Some of these games are so captivating that your children might even forget about their cellular phones and tablet computers for awhile.

If you go shopping to Spice together with your kids, then they will be in for a treat at Lido Playland (Lido Rotājzeme), the largest children's playground in the Baltics. Spice also hosts a whole range of stores

specialising in children's clothing, toys and gifts.

In other words, while Spice covers a very large space (the equivalent of 11 football fields), it is nevertheless like a compact world for the whole family within the wider world outside. Just draw up a list of what you need, make your way to Spice and purchase it there. And if you haven't thought of the things that you need beforehand, then you will certainly come across them on the shelves of the stores that you pass.

Don't miss the opportunity to shop at Spice! BO



Centrus – a gem in central Riga

PUBLICITY PHOTOS



CENTRUS

Centrus sales office
Pēteris Grieze
Tel. (+371) 266 996 06
peteris@centrus.lv

The Centrus residential complex will be located in the part of Riga that once gave rise to the city's nickname of "Little Paris". Riga has changed since those times, but the magic and special feel of central Riga still remains.

The new Centrus project is planned for the city block nestled between Tērbatas, Dzirnāvu, Blaumaņa and Barona streets. Surrounded by historical Art Nouveau buildings, this area feels like a harbour of peace, just beyond which lies a bustling, dynamic capital city. Centrus is planned as a completely secluded living space developed to meet the individual needs of its inhabitants, at the same time providing immediate access to all the advantages of living in central Riga.

Centrus has been designed by Zane Kalinka, an internationally known Latvian architect whose work is characterised by a superb feel for location, surroundings and lifestyle; respect for people's comfort and environmental aesthetics; and open and clean spaces that are made special by carefully chosen details. Corresponding with Kalinka's vision, the Centrus residential buildings and environment will respect the dynamic life of Riga's central district, at the same time providing a large dose of privacy for its inhabitants. The environment will be supplemented with details that are not so common in other centrally-located residential buildings, such as a specially designed and handsomely landscaped courtyard, a children's playground, broad terraces and balconies. Large windows in apartments will accent a connection to nature.

Two seven-storey buildings are being built in the Centrus quarter, which together will have 84 living units. The project offers clients large, very comfortable apartments appropriate for dynamic city-dwellers as well as lovers of a distinctly private lifestyle.

One of the Centrus buildings directly faces Dzirnāvu iela, while the other is in the courtyard. They differ in their façades and architectural details, but equally high-quality decorative finishes and lighting have been used in the common spaces.

Buyers may choose from two-, three- and four-room apartments measuring from 47 to 118 square metres. The rational and comfortable layout of each apartment will make life in central Riga pleasant and homey. Owners of seventh-storey apartments have the option of having a fireplace. For an additional cost, each apartment can be outfitted with an individual air-conditioning system. Apartment owners will enjoy the spacious terraces and balconies. For the convenience of apartment owners, the property will feature a large two-level underground parking ramp with lifts providing access to all floors.

Centrus is located near most of Riga's noteworthy historical and modern buildings and sites. Just a few minutes' walk away is Vērmanes Park with its greenery and fountains as well as the Latvian National Opera, Esplanāde, the Freedom Monument and Old Riga, a unique district listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Riga's "Quiet Centre" with its high concentration of Art Nouveau architecture is also nearby. Art and culture lovers will enjoy living in close proximity to Riga's theatres, art galleries, concert halls and cinemas. Just as significant are the many restaurants in the immediate and nearby neighbourhoods featuring a variety of ethnic and fine cuisines to delight even the most refined palates.

Convenient public transportation, taxis, bicycle paths and proximity to main roads mean that Riga International Airport, Riga Central Station, Riga Bus Station, Riga Passenger Terminal and the marina are all within easy reach. The seaside town of Jūrmala, offering total relaxation, spas, summer concerts and entertainment along the Gulf of Riga coast, is only a half hour's drive from Centrus.

Centrus ensures high-quality building management and a 24/7 amenities service providing assistance with daily needs as well as emergencies. **BO**

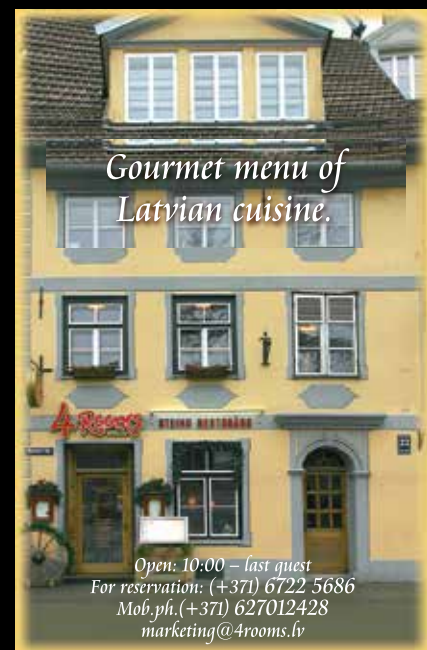


Queens is a British pub and restaurant with a gorgeous Victorian atmosphere and delicious food. More than 18 draught beers to choose from, including local and imported brands, a wide range of steaks, burgers and other meat dishes.

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(+371) 67331130

www.queens.lv

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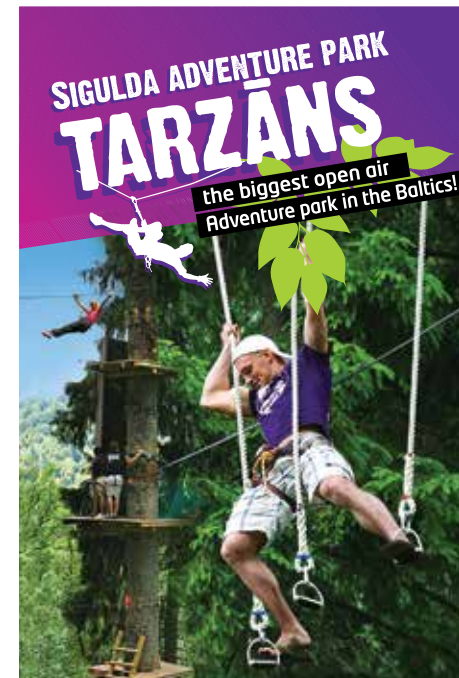
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E-mail: magnolica1997@inbox.lv



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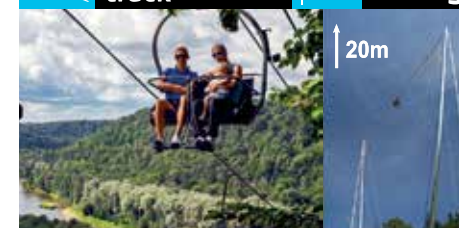
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Born to move



Here are some recommendations for working at a table of adjustable height:

- Spend 75% of your work time seated and about 25% standing;
- Change your work posture two to four times per hour;
- Standing up frequently for short periods is healthier than standing up rarely for long periods;
- Don't work standing for more than 20 minutes per hour.



Jānis Mežulis,
SIA KATE architect –
product manager

The continued development of technology has led to major changes in our work and rest habits. Many office workers now sit at their desks for lengthy periods of eight to 10 hours per day, which can eventually lead to problems with posture and health.

The fact that many of us work as “sitters” rather than “standers” has led some employers to seek out the best possible office conditions so that their employees stay healthy and productive. For years, the world's leading furniture manufacturers have sought to create ergonomic work stations. At first they designed tables of a standard height, but since people's heights vary, these tables weren't suitable for everyone.

Then came advice on how to sit properly at one's work station, including the correct angle of one's body, arms and legs against the work desk and chair. However, no matter how correctly one sits – and particularly if one does so for eight or more hours a day – nothing beats regular physical activity for maintaining one's health.

Actually, there is no such thing as a “correct body posture”. The right thing to do is move around from time to time and regularly change one's sitting or standing position. Static sitting can lead to back pain and cut blood circulation to the legs and feet. The result is a feeling of discomfort that makes us want to change our sitting position. While that temporarily improves blood circulation, the best thing to do is stand up

and walk around from time to time, which invigorates the muscles.

One of the best solutions is a height-adjustable sit-stand table, which can be raised or lowered to any height between 65 and 130 cm as often as needed. The table's adjustable legs serve to raise or lower the table surface, thus permitting the user to sit or stand in various positions throughout the working day. The resulting freedom of movement is one of the main features of quality ergonomic furniture.

The table legs can be regulated either mechanically or with the assistance of an electric motor, which is the optimal solution. Changing the table height electrically is quite simple: all you have to do is choose the button with the up or down symbol on the control panel, and the desk will either rise or descend within an accuracy range of one centimetre. The costs of this solution compared with earlier baseline models have gone down considerably, making the desk accessible to a wide range of consumers.

The height-adjustable tables at SIA KATE have been ergonomically designed for maximum comfort. The main advantage of height-adjustable tables lies in the fact that their users can alternate between sitting and standing work positions and thus be in movement during the working day. Employees don't have to cater to the demands of a standardised piece of furniture. Rather, it is the table that adjusts to the comfort and needs of the user. **BO**



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PUBLICITY PHOTOS AND BY LAURIS VIKSNE, F64

World-class steakhouse

When steak is at stake, it's better to leave things to the experts. In that regard, *Steiku Haoss*, with its established history and impeccable reputation, easily serves as the ultimate destination for the hungry traveller.



STEIKU HAOSS

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 Tērbatas iela 41/43, Rīga | (+371) 67272707
 Audēju iela 2, Rīga | (+371) 67225699
 i www.steikuhaoss.lv
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Steiku Haoss is a chain of three steak restaurants in Riga with a total capacity of 500 diners (50 at Tērbatas iela, 150 at Audēju iela and 300 at Meistaru iela).

The witty word play is no coincidence, as the name *Steiku Haoss* is phonetically similar to the phrase *steak house*, while its direct meaning is *steak chaos*. Why so? On the one hand, this haven for carnivores is cosy and familial with its solid wooden furniture and warm lighting, making it a fortress of comfort on hot summer nights. Yet it is also young and vibrant with its outdoor terrace and live music, introducing a dash of creative chaos when it comes to the earnest quest for meaty excellence.

Steiku Haoss has not acquired an excellent reputation for nothing. The guys running the show are passionate about steak, their *magnum opus*, and know exactly how to bring the best out of meat. First of all, they hold to the established truth that if you want to prepare a good steak, then you need to make friends with a first-rate butcher. This wise precept has not let them down so far.

The restaurant chain even has its own meat processing plant, securing complete independence when it comes to setting one's own standards of quality. The same goes for *Steiku Haoss*' suppliers. They provide

the restaurant with the highest quality meat from both near and far – starting with the pastures of the Baltics and Scandinavia and ending with the meadows of more distant locations like Spain, New Zealand and Argentina. With over ten years of experience in pleasing the most demanding steak lovers, *Steiku Haoss* has shown that by paying premium prices for the best quality meat, it has already secured half of its success.

Of course, steak could not become a signature dish without the sparkling element of creative chaos added by a skilful chef. Yet you won't see any overly complicated and exotic flavour formulas here. A quintessentially simple and hearty dish like steak doesn't need to be spoiled by excessive additives, and the sufficiently generous selection of 17 types of steak will assure you of that. Take, for example, a medium-rare olive-oil-matured beef tenderloin steak – a simple juicy piece of fillet with a vigorous and powerful flavour. Or select the flamboyant *Flambée* – a beef fillet steak singed in rum and served on a hot stone. Such straightforward and mighty flavours can be mouth-watering, thanks to the skilful combination of perfectly matured meat with simple and fitting ingredients.

For a spiced-up dining experience, one might choose the *Cowboy Pepper* – a tender beef chop marinated in a hot jalapeño glaze and best ordered medium rare. A courtesy to those with a more delicate stomach will come in the form of *Lady* – the most tender slice of beef fillet available.

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

The menu does vary slightly among *Steiku Haoss*' three restaurants, for each has customised some of its more popular dishes in accordance with the wishes of its regular guests. However, the adjustments are small and the absolute classics – including the ultimate side order of oven-baked stuffed potato served with either cheese-garlic paste, green herb butter or tender penny bun sauce – will always be there, whichever of the locations you choose to visit.

Despite being a fortress of melt-in-your-mouth meaty dishes, *Steiku Haoss* has always shown a keen regard for the needs of guests who prefer lighter dishes or those who just happen to be

having a light day. The focus on quality steaks does not mean that meatless dishes are treated solely as sides. The wide selection of soups, salads and starters indicates a loving attention to vegetable flavours as well. Take the salad leaves with goat cheese, blueberries, plucked peppermint leaves and walnuts. You will find them in the menu of the restaurant on Meistaru iela, along with many more treats.



Having perfected their trade alongside the world's finest culinary masters, the chefs at *Steiku Haoss* have a firm grasp of the potential in each product, be it a tender piece of beef or venison, a tangy chunk of cheese or an intensely-flavoured seasonal root vegetable. They have spent substantial periods interning at *Noma*, the Copenhagen establishment with two *Michelin* stars that is considered to be one of the world's best restaurants, as well as at *Michelin*-starred *Tom Aikens Restaurant* in London, bringing home both innovative ideas and an even more powerful wish to deliver the absolute best. **BO**

PHOTO BY GATIS GIERTS, F64

Composing for himself



What do Chris Norman, Janet Jackson, Alain Delon, Montserrat Caballé, Nikita Mikhalkov, U.S. senator John McCain and the whole Boney M. crew have in common? They have all been served by Roberts Smilga, the head chef at the 1221 restaurant in Riga. An *enfant terrible* in the world of cooking, he considers himself to be an artist of sorts.

While trying to ensure that his clients feel at ease, Smilga doesn't shy from nudging them out of their comfort zone either. Take the horse steak, for example, which led the parade of new dishes on offer for the summer season. While it was surely met by incredulity and disdain by some patrons, its popularity skyrocketed at the restaurant. The same can be said for the less controversial but still unusual cow's tail stew and pigeon.

"It seems that I haven't had a miss with any of these," Smilga admits modestly.

Step by step, the ordinary and the common are being replaced at 1221 by new and daring foods that can be hard to come by. Always eager to experiment, Smilga is currently looking into the possibilities offered by African dishes. Therefore, don't be surprised to see an antelope steak on the menu soon.

"I wouldn't have it delivered just to be made *à la lettonne*. No, one needs to bring the local tradition along with each dish," he says.

Smilga has noticed that composers and artists become more daring as they mature, and he says that he is no exception.

"Things that until then they had done for the public, they now do for themselves, they play around," he smiles. "They still care, but they don't care desperately. They practice their craft as much for themselves as for others, and somehow, that's when the best results are achieved. And there comes the freedom." BO

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Double Coffee – double success



Sergey Plotnikov,
Double Coffee, CEO



www.doublecoffee.com

The *Double Coffee* chain of restaurants, which has been successfully operating in Latvia since 2002, is now setting its sights abroad and is quickly gaining popularity within the markets of Russia and other CIS countries.

Since *Double Coffee* launched a franchising system in 2005, the chain has been rapidly expanding to other nations. While placing a significant focus on Russia and its CIS neighbours, the company is keeping an eye on Europe as well. There is a considerable interest in the *Double Coffee* brand in Poland, for example. Overall, the company plans to open up to 50 new *Double Coffee* restaurants in the next three to four years.

Recently *Double Coffee* signed an agreement to open a restaurant in Kazakhstan. The new *Double Coffee* branch in Almaty is conveniently located in the very heart of the city and close to two universities, with every reason to believe that customers will appreciate the establishment. Since 2010, two successful restaurants have been operating in Sochi, along with one in Pskov and one in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky. Other outlets have recently opened in Tomsk, Novorossiysk (Russia) and in Baku (Azerbaijan), among other places.

Double Coffee's consistent success in Latvia has provided it with a solid basis for further expansion to neighbouring European and CIS countries. Currently the company's main target is Russia,

where the franchise is booming. It has received many inquiries from Russian regions and from such major cities as Krasnodar, Rostov-on-Don, Tyumen and Novosibirsk, to name a few.

Compared to local Russian chains, *Double Coffee* represents a truly European brand. This includes a European way of doing business, along with a European way of dealing with partners and advertising, not to mention a superior product. At the same time, *Double Coffee's* partners in the CIS countries find it easy to work with the company due to a common way of thinking and a common Russian language. However, it is the economics of the business that appeals most to them: the cost of a *Double Coffee* franchise is three to four times lower than for comparable European brands.

The company is also very flexible in the purchase of local produce and other necessities. This sets *Double Coffee* apart from federal chains, which often insist on their own supplies. Advanced technologies enable the smooth operation of a restaurant in every town or city that uses local produce. Whenever the need arises, though, *Double Coffee* is always happy to help with supplies. Similarly, it can provide assistance in building and launching a franchise for partners who lack sufficient experience in this sort of business.

Everyone interested is welcome to visit *Double Coffee's* head office in Riga and to inspect the ingredients of our success. **BO**

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Buddha, Riga Vegetarian coolness

Ayurvedic chic is perhaps not what one might expect to experience when arriving at this strictly Hindu lacto-vegetarian (no meat, no seafood, no eggs) establishment. Too often have eateries featuring the Hindu deity Ganesh in their drapery patterns given patrons reason to lower their "style & ambience" expectations, but not so with *Buddha*.

Ganesh is here as well, both in the drapes and in teensy figurine form. The light interior is almost ceremonious, with bits of gold here and there. The premises are small, meaning that you won't be slipping in and out unnoticed. (The servers are very attentive, too, so perhaps you wouldn't be able to anyway.)

Head chef Oļegs Serafinovs practiced Ayurvedic cooking for over 10 years before opening *Buddha*, which was his response to the 'poor offer of high-quality vegetarian food in Riga'. Such places are

indeed few and far between, and clearly some are afflicted with a certain degree of uncoolness, not to mention the lack of a renowned culinary master at the wheel. Serafinovs has managed to take the vegetarian experience in Riga centre to the next level, both in terms of variety and flavour.

"We are vegetarian, we are fully organic and we are all about a better life," says Serafinovs. "Everyone has heard the phrase 'you are what you eat'. I fully agree, therefore at *Buddha* everyone eats well. We offer food that's made of good, organic ingredients in a pleasant atmosphere and served by good people!"

Here you will find *popodum* with avocado pâté and pumpkin seed oil, and *malai kofta* in tomato and coconut dressing served with Basmati and wild rice.

But, returning to Ganesh, it has to be said that not all of the menu consists of Ayurvedic cuisine. There are also hearty European-style

vegetarian dishes like black lentil croquettes with vegetables in aubergine chutney, and borsch with quinoa and rosemary as well as a versatile breakfast offer. Come for a later breakfast and you'll be munching on a vegetable tortilla baked in ghee butter and served with falafel in a cheese-sour cream dressing, or the cottage cheese and avocado pâté with coriander and crunchy vegetable bread.

Of course, the main principles of the Ayurvedic philosophy remain throughout. For example, Serafinovs always fries the spices a little bit before using them "so that they open up and spread energy".

While the restaurant is located on the basement floor, on a nice day your ultimate veggie experience can be had on the terrace just outside.

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FOOD&DRINK



Kasha Gourmet, Riga Marrying the mismatched

Kasha means 'porridge' in Russian and also refers to buckwheat porridge eaten mostly in Central and Eastern Europe. But who could possibly have thought to use it in a restaurant name, especially coupled with the term 'gourmet'?

Well, there is a saying in Russian that goes *polnaya kasha*, which means something like 'total mess' and the *Kasha Gourmet* team does not shy away from the implications. "We have a sense of humour," says one of the two co-owners of the place, Olga Linde. "A tasty mess is what we are all about, and we love the improvisation."

Head chef Dennis Ivankovs is not a stranger to the gourmet world. Ever since he and Linde opened Riga's *Planēta Sushi* 12 years ago, he's travelled to serve the likes of the *Manchester United* football team under Jamie Oliver's wing. He also catered to athletes during the Olympic Games in London and even prepared a dinner held at Westminster Abbey.

Although *Kasha* opened only in February of this year and does not identify as a high-class restaurant, the place is displaying a great deal of self-confidence. At the risk of being misunderstood by those seeking only the 'gourmet' part and in refusing to offer the customary weekend brunch,

Kasha is going its own way, which is kind of endearing.

Of course, due respect is obviously paid to *kasha*. Besides an extensive range of breakfast porridges, dishes throughout the whole menu contain what the owners call 'the porridge element'. The wine platter has oatmeal crunch in it, and the best-selling buckwheat caramels consist of caramelized buckwheat pasta with mushroom stuffing and cheese dressing.

Regarding the sense of humour in which the *Kasha* team takes pride, they play around with crockery a lot

and their serving style is pretty unique. It's refreshing enough to receive the *Special Latvian Breakfast Pallet* along with the pan in which the eggs were fried, but perhaps the most fun is to be had with the *Cold Soup in Kasha Gourmet Style*. It's earned such nicknames as 'puzzle' and 'constructor', and you should come round to find out why.

Address: Stabu iela 14
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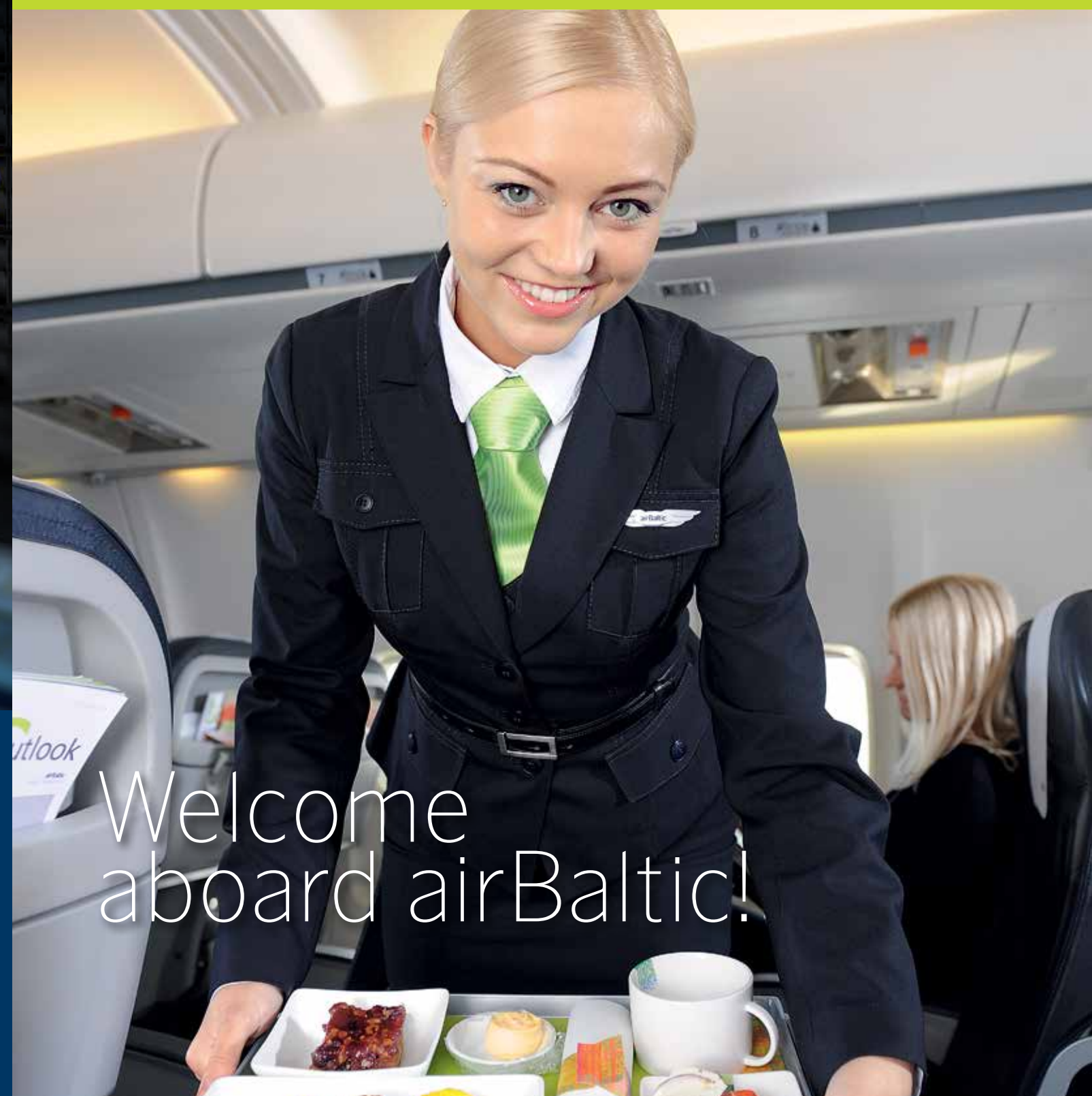
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1/ *airBaltic* expands into the Baltics with new direct routes from Lithuania and Estonia

Good news to those who wish to explore the Baltics – *airBaltic* is expanding with new direct flight routes from Estonia and Lithuania in collaboration with code share partners *Air France* and *KLM*. Due to increasing demand, we are launching two new direct routes from Vilnius to Amsterdam and from Tallinn to Paris, covering more of Baltics with direct flights to popular European destinations. For residents of the Baltic countries, this means even more accessible flights to stunning Paris and intriguing Amsterdam as well as convenient leisure and business travel connections.

airBaltic's expanded route map and new direct flights from Lithuania and Estonia will start operating from October.

Direct flights from Vilnius to Amsterdam and from Tallinn to Paris will be held every week on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays and tickets will be available starting EUR 69. A full schedule of *airBaltic* flights can be found at www.airBaltic.com.



Corfu

2/ New codeshare partner – *Aegean Airlines*

We're happy to announce that from now on, you can easily access such sunny destinations as Heraklion, Rhodes, Corfu, Santorini and Thessaloniki all-year-long through our new codeshare partner *Aegean Airlines*. With its main hub in Athens, *Aegean Airlines* is the largest Greek airline, providing convenient connections between northern Europe and Greece's sunny southern islands. *Aegean Airlines* is also a proud member of *Star Alliance*, the leading global airline alliance. The Greek airline's fleet consists of 25 Airbus A320s, 4 Airbus A321s and one Airbus A319.

3/ Venice, city of romance

Whether you have been to Venice twice or 20 times, there's always more to discover, but if you have never been there before, than now is the time to book your flight to this magic Italian paradise of romance. Don't miss your chance to explore the city in a fairy-tale-like gondola ride while enjoying the one-and-only Venetian gelato (ice-cream). Wander through the narrow streets and experience the inspiring aura of centuries past.

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Venice

4/ Meetings and events at the *airBaltic Training Centre*

Whether you are seeking a convenient place for your business meeting, a large hall for a presentation or a new and interesting location for your corporate event, the *airBaltic Training Centre* has it covered. This modern facility near the Riga International Airport offers meeting rooms of various sizes with full technical equipment for your presentations, all-round administrative help, free Wi-Fi and guest parking, and in-house catering. We organise team-building activities and flight experiences in the simulator that can be incorporated into your event. Contact us and we will find the best solution!

airBaltic Training is an aviation training organisation that offers a broad range of courses starting from flight crew to IATA classroom courses for professionals in the field. To see the full offers and schedule, visit our website at www.airBalticTraining.com or contact us directly via training@airbaltictraining.com.



5/ Use online check-in to save time and money

Since summer is one of the busiest travel periods, we recommend avoiding the long queues and saving money by taking advantage of *airBaltic's* online check-in system. You can check in online from your computer or mobile device up to one hour before departure. The online check-in system takes just two minutes to use and sends a boarding pass straight to your e-mail account. You can either print it out or open it on your mobile device desktop and head straight to security control.

Not only does online check-in save you time, it also saves you money, as checking in at the airport costs an additional 10 EUR.



Linda Ziverte,
area station manager at airBaltic

TEXT BY ELINA RUKA
PHOTO BY ANDREJS TERENTJEVS, F64

A pinch of charm

In talking about her work responsibilities, Linda Ziverte laughs and compares herself to a one-man orchestra, owing to the multiple nature of duties that she has to fulfil on a daily basis. Having been with airBaltic for the past 15 years, Linda Ziverte admits that even when she is on vacation, she looks at the airport service in foreign destinations with the critical eyes of a professional. Energetic and feminine, she sees lots of opportunities for expanding her skills and knowledge in her line of work.

What does your job entail?

The department where I work is directly connected with the servicing of aircraft on the ground. As an area station manager, I am responsible for *airBaltic's* cooperation with the German airports to which our airline flies. When, after careful consideration, *airBaltic* opens a new flight route, someone from my department is assigned to find trustworthy partners at the airport of our new destination. These partners are responsible for ground operations in accordance with *airBaltic* standards. That includes attending to the aircraft once it lands, unloading its cargo and loading it up again for the flight back, along with apron service. In other words, everything that has to do with serving the needs of the aircraft and its passengers while the plane is on the ground. This is all strictly regulated. Other departments of the airline are also involved, and together with them we organise training for the airport workers so that our flights are safe and depart on time, and so that our passengers arrive at their destination according to plan. I am like a boss to these airport employees as well as a source of support. I explain their tasks and address any problems that they might come across.

Does that involve frequent working visits to these cities?

I am responsible for the five German destinations that *airBaltic* services: Berlin, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Munich and Dusseldorf. I have to meet with our partners at each of these airports at least once a year and conduct an inspection, so as to ensure that all of the ground operations are being conducted in accordance with our set procedures. For example, once an aircraft has landed, I have to see if it has been attended to in a timely manner, if the staff who attend to it are properly equipped and if they observe the required safety procedures. Then we discuss what went well and what could still be improved. We also hold quality meetings and discuss all outstanding issues or complaints, as aviation is a field where safety and precision are of paramount importance. It's essential to meet with our partners face to face from time to time. That makes all discussions much more fruitful.

How has your career evolved at airBaltic?

I joined the airline in 1999 as a check-in agent, together with about 15 other people. Now, only two of us are left: me and *airBaltic's* corporate sales manager Liene Kundecka. (*Laughs.*) After three years in my initial position, I was promoted to ticket sales, first in a junior and then a senior position. That was followed by a position as outstation ticket office service control

supervisor and outstation ticket desk manager. Finally, last fall I was offered my current position. Thanks to my previous experience at the airline, I also oversee *airBaltic's* ticket sales in Germany. As an added bonus, I look for baggage that has gone astray as the "lost and found" contact for that country! (*Laughs.*) That's why I compare my job with that of a one-man orchestra. *airBaltic* is an important part of my life, not only due to the number of years that I have worked here, but also because one of my colleagues has now become my husband and together we have established a new family.

I learned about the vacant check-in position at *airBaltic* through a friend of mine, and if my memory doesn't fail me, then she also sent in my application! Of course, I went to the job interview myself. (*Laughs.*) I actually wanted to become a flight attendant, but there weren't any free positions in that field, so I started working as a check-in agent and took on part-time studies at university, from which I later graduated.

It seems that your work days are far from routine.

While I do more or less the same things every day, each outstanding issue that arises is different from the previous one. And of course, everything that comes up has to be resolved quickly. There are times when an excess amount of cargo has been assigned to our aircraft, which is simply too small to accommodate it all. (*Laughs.*) On other occasions, a hockey team might be travelling and, as you know, hockey players' bags take up a large amount of space! Things never become routine in my position.

What has kept you working at airBaltic for such a long time?

During my 15 years with the airline, the company has grown a great deal. There is no stagnation here and the staff is receptive to new changes. *airBaltic* has a lot of potential for further development and is an attractive place for young professionals. When I travelled on *airBaltic* flights in the early 2000s, I knew the name of practically every captain and flight attendant. Now the chances of meeting a colleague that I know are much smaller, but that's a good thing for it means that the airline is growing. When I worked at our ticket office in Old Riga, we had four staff members. Now we have 15 staff members per shift working at our call centre. When you work in a dynamic environment that is developing quickly, you have big goals, but these can also be more easily reached. We are really looking forward to the arrival of our new *Bombardier* aircraft fleet. That will also entail big changes at my department, as we will have to watch very closely how our partners service the new airplanes. The field of aviation is very international. In my department alone we also have staff members from Lithuania, Estonia and Russia. You get various cultures, mentalities and styles of work coming together in one workplace, but that's quite interesting as we can all learn a great deal from each other.

What would you call a successful work day?

If all of the flights at the airports that I am responsible for have left

safely and on time, then that is a successful work day. It's also been a good day if I don't find any shortcomings in our partners' work during my inspection trips to Germany.

What assets or skills would you be looking for in a candidate for a vacancy in your department? How do men and women differ in this regard?

Men are usually quite adept at technical issues, and this job is quite technical. However, women are usually better at leading discussions or negotiations, because they can use their female charm and approach to things. Most of the partners whom I deal with are men. At a recent meeting in Berlin, two female representatives from Latvia (my colleague and I) were greeted by eight men and only one woman. Having an educational background in aviation would also be a plus, although that is not the most important thing. Most of the knowledge that I have gained has been through direct experience on the job, and if you need to get some information about something, then it is usually easy to come by. The experience that I have gained in my previous positions now lets me solve problems very quickly on my own, without having to seek the assistance of others. If I need some extra help, then I can also ask for advice from my colleagues in the Technical Department, many of whom have also been with the airline for a long time, and who are always ready to assist me.

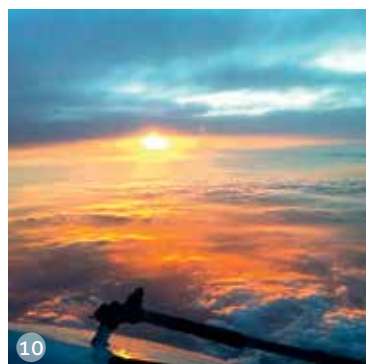
I assume that people who work in the field of aviation like to travel a lot. What type of traveller are you and what has been your most exciting travel destination?

Yes, I do enjoy travelling, but I think that most of my colleagues travel more than I do. One of my most memorable trips was to Thailand, but during my next vacation I plan to visit Croatia. A good thing about aviation is that one can be spontaneous. If I get the urge to spend the weekend in another city, then I can easily do that, also together with my family. Even just a couple of days outside of my usual environment are enough to clear my head. Then I can return to work with renewed energy and look at outstanding work issues from a different perspective. I must admit that whenever I fly to a destination, regardless of whether or not it is under my responsibility, I look at things from a critical standpoint and size out the situation. It takes me a while to switch my mind to "rest" mode.

When you are not travelling abroad on vacation, what other pastimes do you have?

Sometimes I just like to relax and do nothing! (*Laughs.*) Since I have two children at home, my schedule outside of work is pretty tight as well. I'm happy if I get a spare moment to read a magazine out on the terrace. Sometimes, my fellow colleague, with whom I have been working together for the past 15 years, suggests that we take some time off after work. She calls up my husband, tells him that I will be home later and takes me out to the movies. **BO**

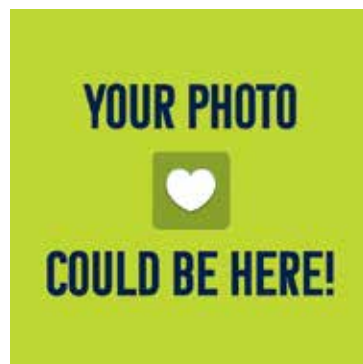
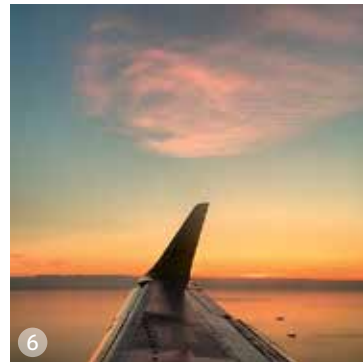
airBaltic Travellers' Social Stories



There's nothing more beautiful than being up in the sky. So why don't you share the joy of travelling and inspire others to fly! Tag your



photos with #airBaltic when posting on Instagram or Twitter, or post them to airBaltic's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/airBaltic.



Tell your travel story via beautiful images captured in the sky and on our planes! We'd love to share your story!

1 Ruslan Mirzlykov: Noctilucent clouds over Norway seen from plane on flight from Riga to Bergen | 2 Levan Usenashvili: Tbilisi, before the flight | 3 @kiwizaza: Fly, baby fly! | 4 @sanitav: Do you love your job as much as our cabin crew does? | 5 @airBaltic: Morning in the sky – Monday's never bad up there! | 6 @annisbananis: The view you can find only when flying! | 7 @q400driver: Incoming storms over Poland | 8 @anaanama: The best part of the day! | 9 @lidandule: Beautiful Netherlands from above! | 10 @ruud7: Up and to Milan | 11 @oposumi: Dreamy landing!



Onboard menu

Customised meal pre-order system



Stewed rabbit with wild rice

Passengers who want to create their own meal set or who have special dietary requirements can use our customised in-flight meal pre-order system to make combinations from more than 70 dishes on a virtual tray. You can choose from a variety of breakfast meals, cold starters,

salads or kids' menu as well as a wide range of drinks. Delicious meat, seafood, dietary and special meals can be selected together with one of nine salads and nine types of dessert. **Now it is possible to order your meal up to 24 hours prior your departure time at www.airbalticmeal.com.**



Happiness breakfast



Seasonal fresh vegetables

Business Class

airBaltic's menu offers a light and healthy summer meals with a wide choice of recipes from all over the world. Business Class passengers can enjoy dainty appetisers and main courses like roasted beef tenderloin with rucola and cherry tomatoes, salmon escalope served with spinach and velouté sauce, or fried chicken fillet with tabbouleh salad, as well as delicious and summery desserts – lemon posset, apple cake with vanilla sauce or cardamom panna cotta with lingonberry sauce.

Business class breakfast menu has meals for a great start of the day, including oven-baked eggs with smoked beef and roasted peppers, marinated mozzarella and goat cheese with smoked beef and vegetables and omelette with grilled chicken and cream cheese. These meals are served together with an appetiser and granola or assorted fruits.

Economy Class

Economy Class passengers can choose their onboard meal from the *airBaltic Café* menu. The summer menu offers light and healthy chicken salad with Parmesan cheese, a delicious hot meal, a chicken tortilla with vegetables and mushrooms as well as a new chicken sandwich and a variety of snacks and drinks.

Considering our customer requests, beef lasagne and the Scandinavian-style salmon sandwich are back on offer!

Order your meal before the flight

Make your flight experience even more exciting! Order a gourmet meal while booking your flight ticket or any time later, up to 24 hours before departure, under the Manage My Booking section at www.airbaltic.com.



About the programme

PINS is the airBaltic frequent flyer loyalty programme (previously BalticMiles) with the loyalty currency **PINS**. The more you fly, the greater the privileges, which include a free luggage allowance, no queues, reserved seats and much more to make travelling easier. The PINS programme has different card designs to your choosing, but if you are a frequent flyer, than most suitable one for you will be the airBaltic PINS card.

Membership levels of airBaltic PINS cards

- Fly 30 one way flights or collect 25 000 Status PINS within a 12 month period to reach **Executive level**.
- Fly 60 one way flights or collect 50 000 Status PINS within a 12 month period to reach **VIP level**.



airBaltic PINS card



airBaltic PINS Executive card



airBaltic PINS VIP card

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

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

If you aren't a PINS programme member yet

Join the programme right away – just ask a flight attendant for your card. Register your card online after the flight at register.pinsforme.com and get **10 bonus PINS**.



How to collect

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

Collect with airBaltic:

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

How to spend

Spend PINS on airBaltic flights, gift cards, donations, music downloads or online shopping with more than 3000 rewards available. When spending on Online Rewards, you can also use PINS in combination with money.

Spend on airBaltic:

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



Prices are reflected for airBaltic economy class, one way flight tickets departing from Riga. Airport taxes and fees are not included, seat availability is not confirmed, restricted and subject for changes. Please read full terms and conditions at pinsforme.com

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pins

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in Europe!

Travel to
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or Munich
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shopping
unforgettable!

Various offers contain a limited amount of products available or limited types of goods and/or services are included in this campaign. Details about each of the offers can be found at pinsforme.com in the Offers section.



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for each
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spent

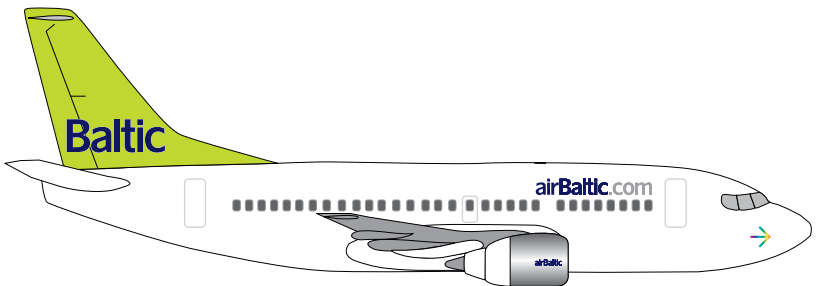
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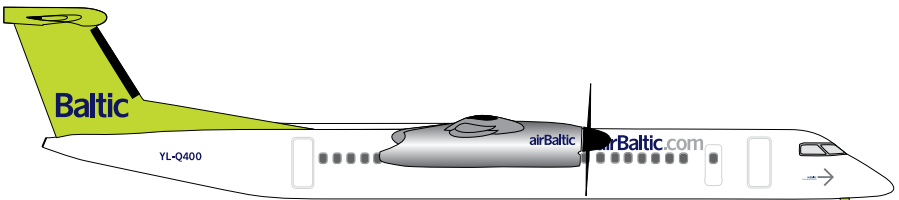
Boeing 737-300

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



Boeing 737-500

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



Q400 NextGen
Bombardier

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

NEW SERVICE!

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airBaltic Bus is a free bus service offered to airBaltic passengers travelling to or from Riga International Airport. Detailed information at www.airBaltic.com/bus



→ Riga

Route nr	Departs	Arrives	Departs	Arrives	Departs	Arrives	Duration
BT001	Daugavpils 03:45	Jekabpils 04:55	05:00			Riga 07:10	03:25
BT002	Tartu 03:55	Valmiera 05:45	05:50			Riga 07:30	03:35
BT004	Kaunas 03:30	Panevėžys 05:10	05:15	Bauska 06:35	06:40	Riga 07:50	04:20

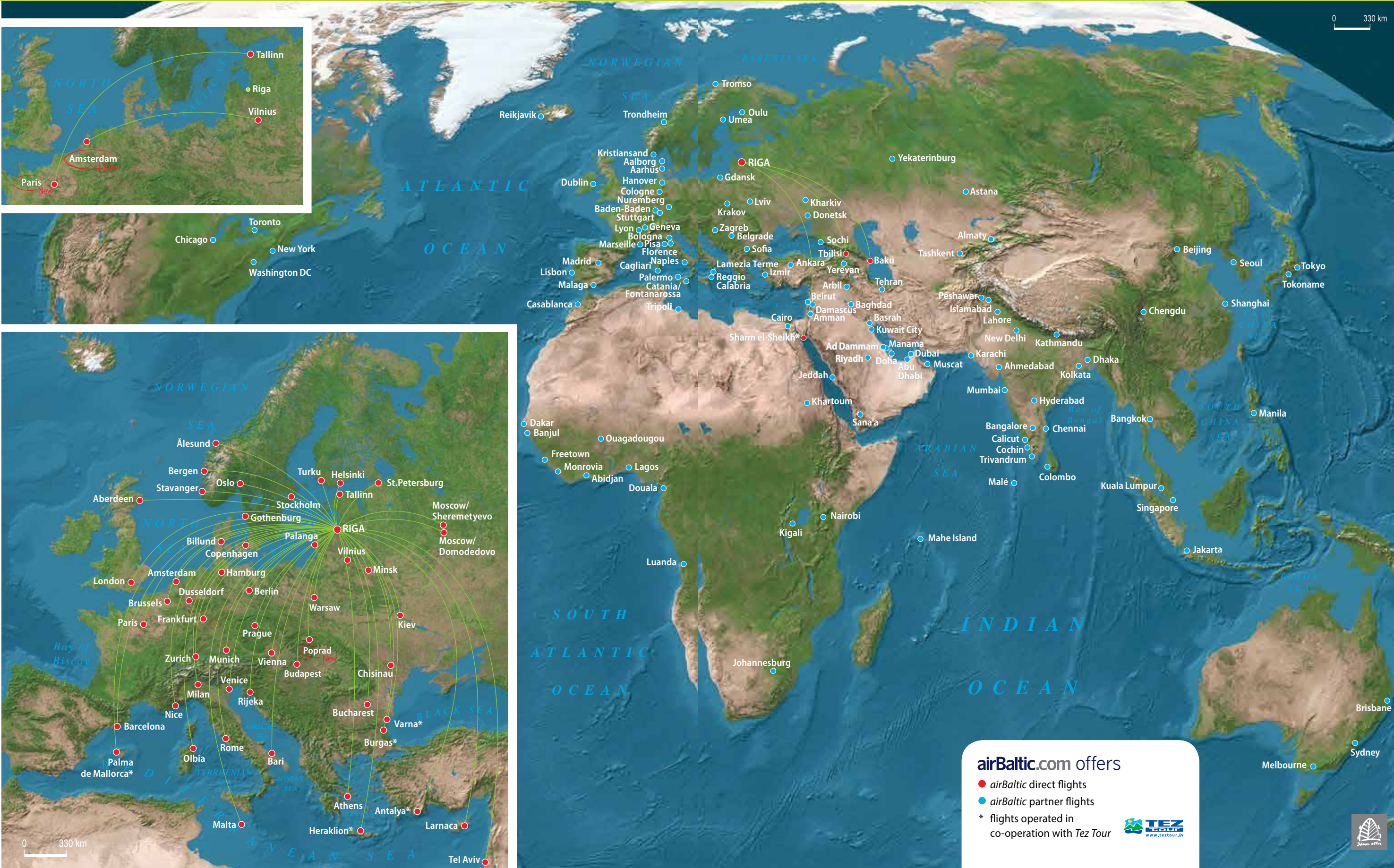
Riga →

Route nr	Departs	Arrives	Departs	Arrives	Departs	Arrives	Duration
BT001	Riga 23:30	Jekabpils 01:40	01:45			Daugavpils 02:55	03:25
BT002	Riga 23:20	Valmiera 01:00	01:05			Tartu 02:55	03:35
BT004	Riga 23:00	Bauska 00:10	00:15	Panevėžys 01:35	01:40	Kaunas 03:20	04:20

airBalticBus

Flights from Riga					Flights to Riga				
Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure Arrival	Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure Arrival
ABERDEEN Dyce					ABERDEEN Dyce				
BT 659	RIX	ABZ	1-4---	09:20 10:00	BT 660	ABZ	RIX	1-4---	10:35 15:05
BT 659	RIX	ABZ	--3--7	16:20 17:00	BT 660	ABZ	RIX	--3--7	17:35 22:05
ALESUND					ALESUND				
BT 175	RIX	AES	-----5--	09:50 11:15	BT 176	AES	RIX	-----5--	11:45 15:00
BT 175	RIX	AES	-----7	12:45 14:10	BT 176	AES	RIX	-----7	14:40 17:55
AMSTERDAM					AMSTERDAM				
BT 617	RIX	AMS	1234567	09:10 10:35	BT 618	AMS	RIX	12-45-7	11:20 14:35
BT 619	RIX	AMS	1234567	16:35 18:00	BT 618	AMS	RIX	--3--6-	11:40 14:55
					BT 620	AMS	RIX	1234567	18:45 22:00
ATHENS					ATHENS				
BT 611	RIX	ATH	--3-5--	10:55 14:15	BT 612	ATH	RIX	--3-5--	14:50 18:10
BT 611	RIX	ATH	-----6-	14:40 18:00	BT 612	ATH	RIX	-----6-	18:35 21:55
BAKU					BAKU				
BT 732	RIX	GYD	--3--7	23:05 05:00+1	BT 733	GYD	RIX	1-4----	06:00 08:10
BARCELONA					BARCELONA				
BT 681	RIX	BCN	-23-56-	09:30 12:15	BT 682	BCN	RIX	-23-56-	12:55 17:35
BT 683	RIX	BCN	1-34--7	14:10 16:55	BT 684	BCN	RIX	1-34--7	17:40 22:20
BARI					BARI				
BT 623	RIX	BRI	-----7	09:30 11:25	BT 624	BRI	RIX	-----7	12:00 15:55
BERGEN					BERGEN				
BT 171	RIX	BGO	---4--7	22:45 00:10+1	BT 172	BGO	RIX	1..5--	05:20 08:40
BERLIN Tegel					BERLIN Tegel				
BT 211	RIX	TXL	12345-7	09:20 10:15	BT 212	TXL	RIX	12345-7	10:45 13:35
BT 217	RIX	TXL	123456-	13:10 14:05	BT 218	TXL	RIX	123456-	14:35 17:25
BT 213	RIX	TXL	1234567	17:55 18:50	BT 214	TXL	RIX	1234567	19:25 22:15
BILLUND					BILLUND				
BT 145	RIX	BLL	1234567	22:45 23:45	BT 146	BLL	RIX	1234567	05:50 08:40
BRUSSELS					BRUSSELS				
BT 601	RIX	BRU	12345--	06:05 08:00	BT 602	BRU	RIX	12345--	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	15:55 17:50	BT 604	BRU	RIX	-----7	18:20 22:05
BT 603	RIX	BRU	1-4----	17:30 19:25	BT 604	BRU	RIX	1-4----	19:50 23:35
BUCHAREST					BUCHAREST				
BT 503/505	RIX	OTP	1-3-5-7	23:15 02:00+1	BT 504/506	OTP	RIX	12-4-6-	05:40 08:30
BUDAPEST					BUDAPEST				
BT 491	RIX	BUD	1-345-7	13:10 14:35	BT 492	BUD	RIX	1-345-7	15:05 18:20
BURGAS					BURGAS				
BT 755	RIX	BOJ	-----7	09:45 12:25	BT 756	BOJ	RIX	-----7	13:00 15:35
BT 755	RIX	BOJ	---4---	16:05 18:45	BT 756	BOJ	RIX	---4---	19:20 21:55
CHISINAU					CHISINAU				
BT 420	RIX	KIV	-2-4-6-	12:55 15:20	BT 421	KIV	RIX	-2-4-6-	15:55 18:25
COPENHAGEN					COPENHAGEN				
BT 133	RIX	CPH	1234---	06:45 07:25	BT 142	CPH	RIX	--3-567	06:00 08:35
BT 131	RIX	CPH	1234567	09:40 10:20	BT 134	CPH	RIX	1234---	08:05 10:40
BT 139	RIX	CPH	1234567	18:10 18:50	BT 132	CPH	RIX	1234567	12:35 15:10
BT 141	RIX	CPH	-2-456-	22:55 23:35	BT 140	CPH	RIX	1234567	19:20 21:55
DUSSELDORF					DUSSELDORF				
BT 231	RIX	DUS	-2-4-67	09:45 11:25	BT 232	DUS	RIX	-2-4-67	11:55 15:25
BT 233	RIX	DUS	1-3--7	16:05 17:45	BT 234	DUS	RIX	1-3--7	18:15 21:45
FRANKFURT					FRANKFURT				
BT 243	RIX	FRA	1-3--7	09:30 11:15	BT 244	FRA	RIX	1-3--7	11:45 15:20
BT 245	RIX	FRA	-2-456-	16:15 18:00	BT 246	FRA	RIX	-2-456-	18:35 22:10
GOTHENBURG Landvetter					GOTHENBURG Landvetter				
BT 121	RIX	GOT	12-4-6-	22:55 23:40	BT 122	GOT	RIX	-23-5-7	06:00 08:35
HAMBURG					HAMBURG				
BT 251	RIX	HAM	123456-	09:10 10:15	BT 252	HAM	RIX	123456-	10:45 13:40
BT 253	RIX	HAM	--3-5-7	17:30 18:35	BT 254	HAM	RIX	--3-5-7	19:05 22:00
HELSINKI					HELSINKI				
BT 301	RIX	HEL	1234567	09:40 10:45	BT 326	HEL	RIX	1234567	07:40 08:35
BT 303	RIX	HEL	1234567	12:50 13:55	BT 302	HEL	RIX	1234567	11:15 12:15
BT 305	RIX	HEL	1234567	16:25 17:30	BT 304	HEL	RIX	1234567	14:25 15:25
BT 307	RIX	HEL	1234567	19:45 20:50	BT 306	HEL	RIX	1234567	18:00 19:00
BT 325	RIX	HEL	1234567	22:55 23:55	BT 308	HEL	RIX	1234567	21:20 22:20
KIEV Borispol					KIEV Borispol				
BT 400	RIX	KBP	1234567	09:25 11:15	BT 401	KBP	RIX	1234567	11:45 13:40
BT 404	RIX	KBP	123456-	16:40 18:30	BT 405	KBP	RIX	1234567	20:10 22:05
BT 404	RIX	KBP	-----7	17:50 19:40					
LARNACA					LARNACA				
BT 657	RIX	LCA	-2--6-	22:45 02:35+1	BT 658	LCA	RIX	--3--7	04:30 08:30
LONDON Gatwick					LONDON Gatwick				
BT 651	RIX	LGW	1-3-56-	09:20 10:10	BT 652	LGW	RIX	1-3-56-	10:50 15:35
BT 653	RIX	LGW	12-4--7	15:55 16:45	BT 654	LGW	RIX	12-4--7	17:30 22:15
BT 653	RIX	LGW	-----5--	16:00 16:50	BT 654	LGW	RIX	-----5--	18:10 22:55
MALTA					MALTA				
BT 739	RIX	MLA	-----7	09:15 11:55	BT 740	MLA	RIX	-----7	12:40 17:20
BT 739	RIX	MLA	-2-----	13:50 16:30	BT 740	MLA	RIX	-2-----	17:15 21:55
MILAN Malpensa					MILAN Malpensa				
BT 629	RIX	MXP	---4-6-	09:30 11:15	BT 630	MXP	RIX	---4-6-	12:00 15:40
BT 629	RIX	MXP	1-3-5-7	16:00 17:45	BT 630	MXP	RIX	1-3-5-7	18:30 22:10
MINSK					MINSK				
BT 412	RIX	MSQ	1-34--7	14:10 15:20	BT 413	MSQ	RIX	1-34--7	15:55 17:05

Flights from Riga					Flights to Riga				
Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure Arrival	Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure Arrival
MOSCOW Domodedovo					MOSCOW Domodedovo				
BT 418	RIX	DME	-2345--	09:30 12:15	BT 417	DME	RIX	1234-67	07:10 08:20
BT 416	RIX	DME	123-567	23:05 02:15+1	BT 419	DME	RIX	-2345--	13:00 13:45
MOSCOW Sheremetyevo					MOSCOW Sheremetyevo				
BT 424	RIX	SVO	12345--	05:50 08:30	BT 425	SVO	RIX	12345--	09:20 10:05
BT 424	RIX	SVO	-----67	09:20 12:00	BT 425	SVO	RIX	-----67	12:45 13:30
BT 422	RIX	SVO	1234567	17:50 20:30	BT 423	SVO	RIX	1234567	21:15 22:00
MUNICH					MUNICH				
BT 221	RIX	MUC	12--56-	09:20 11:00	BT 222	MUC	RIX	12--5--	11:35 15:05
BT 223	RIX	MUC	1-345-7	16:35 18:15	BT 222	MUC	RIX	-----6-	12:10 15:40
					BT 224	MUC	RIX	1-345-7	18:45 22:15
NICE					NICE				
BT 695	RIX	NCE	-----7	09:25 11:30	BT 696	NCE	RIX	-----7	12:05 16:05
BT 695	RIX	NCE	---4---	10:55 13:00	BT 696	NCE	RIX	---4---	13:35 17:35
BT 695	RIX	NCE	-2---6-	15:25 17:30	BT 696	NCE	RIX	-2---6-	18:15 22:15
OLBIA					OLBIA				
BT 655	RIX	OLB	-----6-	09:30 11:40	BT 656	OLB	RIX	-----6-	12:15 16:30
BT 655	RIX	OLB	-2-----	15:00 17:10	BT 656	OLB	RIX	-2-----	17:55 22:10
OSLO					OSLO				
BT 151	RIX	OSL	123456-	09:10 10:05	BT 158	OSL	RIX	1234567	05:50 08:40
BT 153	RIX	OSL	1234567	18:00 18:55	BT 152	OSL	RIX	123456-	10:35 13:25
BT 157	RIX	OSL	1234567	22:45 23:40	BT 154	OSL	RIX	1234567	19:25 22:15
PALANGA					PALANGA				
BT 033	RIX	PLQ	1234567	23:30 00:15+1	BT 032	PLQ	RIX	1234567	07:00 07:45
PALMA DE MALLORCA					PALMA DE MALLORCA				
BT 687	RIX	PMI	-----7	09:10 11:55	BT 688	PMI	RIX	-----7	12:45 17:25
PARIS Charles de Gaulles					PARIS Charles de Gaulles				
BT 691	RIX	CDG	123456-	09:05 11:00	BT 692	CDG	RIX	123456-	11:55 15:40
BT 693	RIX	CDG	12345-7	15:55 17:50	BT 694	CDG	RIX	12345-7	18:35 22:20
PRAGUE					PRAGUE				
BT 481	RIX	PRG	1-3----	09:40 10:50	BT 482	PRG	RIX	1-3----	11:15 14:20
BT 481	RIX	PRG	---5-7	12:55 14:05	BT 482	PRG	RIX	---5-7	14:35 17:40
BT 481	RIX	PRG	-2-4-6-	17:15 18:25	BT 482	PRG	RIX	-2-4-6-	18:50 21:55
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
ROME Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino					ROME Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino				
BT 631	RIX	FCO	-2---7-	09:20 11:25	BT 632	FCO	RIX	-2---7-	12:10 16:20
BT 633	RIX	FCO	1-3-56-	15:05 17:10	BT 634	FCO	RIX	1-3-56-	18:00 22:10
STAVANGER					STAVANGER				
BT 177/179 RIX SVG	--34567	22:45	00:05+1		BT 178	SVG	RIX	1-4567	05:25 08:40
STOCKHOLM Arlanda					STOCKHOLM Arlanda				
BT 101	RIX	ARN	1234567	09:15 09:30	BT 104	ARN	RIX	1234567	06:15 08:30
BT 105	RIX	ARN	1234567	14:25 14:40	BT 102	ARN	RIX	1234567	10:05 12:20
BT 109	RIX	ARN	1234567	19:10 19:25	BT 106	ARN	RIX	1234567	15:10 17:25
BT 103	RIX	ARN	1234567	22:55 23:10	BT 110	ARN	RIX	1234567	19:55 22:10
ST-PETERSBURG					ST-PETERSBURG				
BT 442	RIX	LED	123456-	09:30 11:50	BT 447	LED	RIX	123-5-7	07:55 08:15
BT 444	RIX	LED	12345-7	18:50 21:10	BT 443	LED	RIX	123456-	12:25 12:45
BT 446	RIX	LED	12-4-67	23:05 01:25+1	BT 445	LED	RIX	12345-7	21:45 22:05
TALLINN					TALLINN				
BT 311	RIX	TLL	1234567	09:55 10:45	BT 362	TLL	RIX	1234567	07:40 08:30
BT 313	RIX	TLL	1234567	13:15 14:05	BT 312	RIX	TLL	1234567	11:15 12:05
BT 315	RIX	TLL	1234567	16:30 17:20	BT 314	TLL	RIX	1234567	14:35 15:25
BT 317	RIX	TLL	1234567	20:05 20:55	BT 316	TLL	RIX	1234567	17:50 18:40
BT 361	RIX	TLL	1234567	22:55 23:45	BT 318	TLL	RIX	1234567	21:30 22:20
TURKU					TURKU				
BT 359	RIX	TKU	1234567	23:15 00:25+1	BT 360	TKU	RIX	1234567	07:25 08:30
TBILISI					TBILISI				
BT 722/724RIX TBS	-23-5-7	23:05	03:35+1		BT 723/725TBS	RIX	1-34-6-	05:45	08:20
TEL AVIV					TEL AVIV				
BT 771	RIX	TLV	--3--6-	09:35 13:55	BT 772	TLV	RIX	1-3--6-	17:10 21:40
BT 771	RIX	TLV	1-----	10:40 14:55					
VARNA					VARNA				
BT 753	RIX	VAR	----5--	09:20 12:00	BT 754	VAR	RIX	----5--	12:45 15:20
BT 753	RIX	VAR	-2-----	16:15 18:55	BT 754	VAR	RIX	-2-----	19:30 22:05
VENICE Marco Polo					VENICE Marco Polo				
BT 627	RIX	VCE	-2-----	09:05 10:45	BT 628	VCE	RIX	-2-----	11:25 15:00
BT 627	RIX	VCE	-----6-	16:15 17:55	BT 628	VCE	RIX	-----6-	18:35 22:10
VIENNA					VIENNA				
BT 431	RIX	VIE	123456-	09:40 11:05	BT 432	VIE	RIX	123456-	11:40 15:00
BT 433	RIX	VIE	12345-7	16:40 18:05	BT 434	VIE	RIX	12345-7	18:40 22:00
VILNIUS					VILNIUS				
BT 341	RIX	VNO	1234567	09:55 10:45	BT 350	VNO	RIX	1234567	07:40 08:30
BT 343	RIX	VNO	1234567	13:15 14:05	BT 342	VNO	RIX	1234567	11:15 12:05
BT 345	RIX	VNO	1234567	16:30 17:20	BT 344	VNO	RIX	1234567	14:35 15:25
BT 347	RIX	VNO	1234567	19:35 20:25	BT 346	VNO	RIX	1234567	17:50 18:40
BT 349	RIX	VNO	1234567	23:05 23:55	BT 348	VNO	RIX	1234567	21:05 21:55
WARSAW					WARSAW				
BT 463	RIX	WAW	1234567	22:45 23:15	BT 464	WAW	RIX	1234567	06:10 08:35
ZURICH					ZURICH				
BT 641	RIX	ZRH	1-4--7	09:10 10:40	BT 642	ZRH	RIX	1-4--7	11:40 15:10
BT 641	RIX	ZRH	-2--56-	16:10 17:40	BT 642	ZRH	RIX	-2--56-	18:20 21:50



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AZERBAIJAN	
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
BELARUS	
Minsk	Airport Minsk 2 Airport Ticket Office airBaltic
BELGIUM	
	Airport Zaventem Departure Hall ☎ +32 (0) 27230667 Airport Ticket Office Aviapartner
Croatia	
Rijeka	Rijeka Airport Airport Ticket Office Zračna Luka Rijeka ☎ +385 51 841 222
CYPRUS	
Larnaca	Larnaca International Airport Airport Ticket Office airBaltic / LGS Handling
CZECH REPUBLIC	
Prague	Vaclav Havel Prague Airport Terminal T2 Airport Ticket Office CEAS ☎ +420 220117540
DENMARK	
Copenhagen	Airport Copenhagen International Terminal 3 Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office SAS
Billund	Billund Airport Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office ☎ +45 76505205
ESTONIA	
Tallinn ☎ 17107 (airBaltic RESERVATIONS 0600411015 0.51 EUR/min, local calls only) tallinn@airbaltic.com	Airport Tallinn Main Terminal, Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office airBaltic / Tallinn Airport GH
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Nice	Airport Nice Cote D'azur Terminal 1 Airport Ticket Office Lufthansa Ticket Desk
GEORGIA	
Tbilisi airBaltic ticket office 61 Paliashvili str. 0179 Tbilisi ☎ +995 32 2 900900 airbalticgsa@discovery.ge	Airport Tbilisi Airport Ticket Office Discovery Ltd ☎ +995 32 2 900900
GERMANY	
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 HAVAS Germany GmbH ☎ +49 211 421 6271

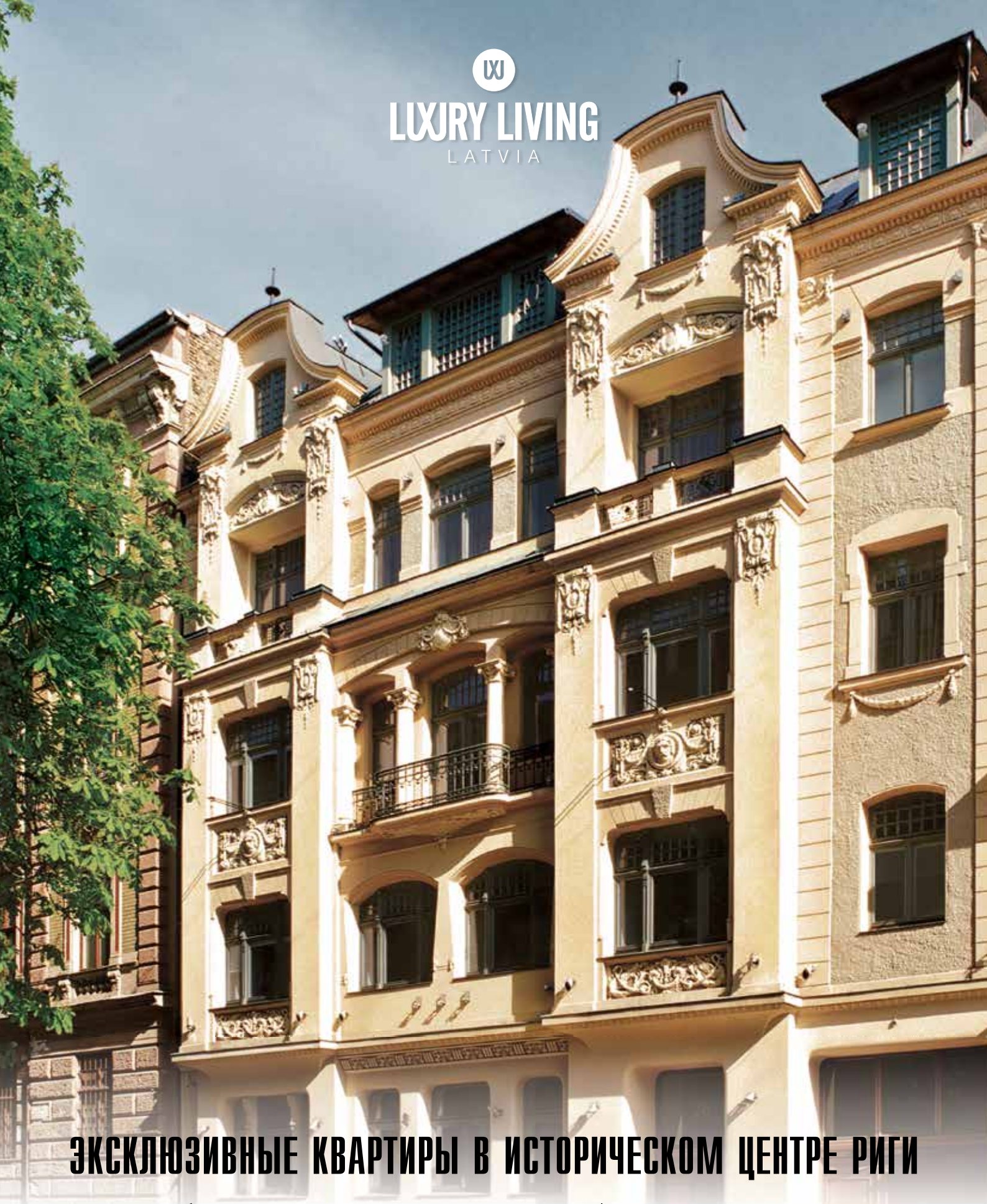
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Frankfurt	Airport Frankfurt Airport Ticket Office Havas Germany GmbH Terminal 2, Hall E, Desk 939
Hamburg	Airport Fuhlsbuttel Terminal 1, Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office Havas Germany GmbH
Munich	Airport Munich Terminal 1 Airport Ticket Office Havas Germany GmbH
GREECE	
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ITALY	
Rome Tal Aviation Italy Via Adolfo Rava, 106, 00142, Rome ☎ +39 0654242544 F: +39 0654242534 airbaltic@talaviation.it	Leonardo de Vinci – Fiumicino Airport Terminal 3, Departure Hall A.R.E. Airline Representative Europe
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Milan	Milan Malpensa Airport Terminal 1, Departure Level Airport Ticket Office A.R.E. Airline Representative Europe
Olbia	Olbia Geasar S.P.A. International Airport Costa Smeralda
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NETHERLANDS	
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NORWAY	
Oslo	Oslo Airport Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office SAS

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RUSSIA	
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SWEDEN	
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