baltic outlook

AUGUST 2015

airBaltic
inflight magazine

VIENNA

The best metropolis for summer

Plus:

Exclusive. VISITING COCO CHANEL'S PARIS APARTMENT

AZURE PARADISE

DREAM WEDDING IN VENICE

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Латвия, Юрмала, проспект Дзинтару
Проект «Sun Terraces»
Площадь квартиры 123,3 м²
2 этаж, 3 комнаты
Цена 839 000 EUR

Современный жилой комплекс «Sun Terraces»– 3-этажное здание, состоящие из двух корпусов, спроектировано таким образом, чтобы максимальное количество солнечного света попадало на открытые террасы, детскую игровую площадку и внутренний двор. В отделке фасада зданий использованы только натуральные материалы: травертин и канадский кедр.

Универсальная планировка квартиры (гостиная, объединенная с кухней и столовой, две спальни, две гардеробных, две ванных комнаты и гостевой санузел), панорамные окна, высокие потолки и просторная терраса с садовой мебелью, являются одним из ключевых моментов в пользу выбора комплекса «Sun Terraces» в качестве своего дома в Юрмале.

Latvia, Jurmala, Dzintaru Prospect
Project «Sun Terraces»
Apartment area 123,3 m²
2nd floor, 3 rooms
Price EUR 839 000

The modern residential estate "Sun Terraces" is a 3-storey complex consisting of two buildings. It is designed in a way, which allows the maximum amount of sunlight to access its open terraces, playground and inner courtyard. The finishof the buildings' facades is made with the use of natural materials only: travertine and Canadian cedar.

The apartment's versatile layout (featuring a living room combined with a kitchen and a dining room, two bedrooms, two dressing rooms, two bathrooms and a guest lavatory), panoramic windows, high ceilings and spacious terrace with garden furniture are only some of the key factors in choosing "Sun Terraces" residential estate to become your home in Jurmala.

Латвия, Рига, улица Элизабетес
Проект «Elizabeth»
Площадь квартир от 31 м² до 460 м²
Цена от 5 500 до 9 000 евро/м²

В тихом центре Риги располагается один из значимых памятников архитектуры, в котором появилась возможность приобрести квартиру высокого класса и сделать это уникальное историческое здание своим домом.

В доме предусмотрено 19 квартир разной площади, в том числе – 2 двухуровневые квартиры большой площади с террасами на крыше. На цокольном этаже устроен спортивный зал.

Latvia, Riga, Elizabetes Street
Project "Elizabeth"
Apartment areas from 31 m² to 460 m²
Prices from EUR 5 500 /m² to 9 000 /m²

Located in the quite centre of Riga, the house is one of the outstanding pieces of architecture, where it is now possible to buy high-class apartment and make this unique, historic building your home.

The house has 19 apartments of various sizes, including a pair of two-storey apartments with roof terraces. The basement level has a fully equipped gym room.

Real Estate in Jurmala and Riga

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Office in Riga: Valnu street 1
Office in Jurmala: Jomas street 86
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MARTIN ALEXANDER GAUSS
Chief Executive Officer *airBaltic*

Dear Customer,

As you enjoy the vacation month of August and savour a cocktail at one of our summer destinations, we are making careful preparations to ensure that your future travel is even more convenient.

Our main focus is to make Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia better connected to other destinations with direct flights. This summer alone we announced 14 new routes for the Baltic Sea region – the largest expansion for us since completing our restructuring and achieving profitability. We have strengthened our services from Riga, our main hub, by adding warm-weather destinations, and by improving our flight schedules to Scandinavian and Western airports. Vilnius has grown tremendously – from just one direct route a year ago, we have now evolved to offer seven direct services to key airports in Western and Northern Europe and will gradually introduce additional destinations if Lithuania-bound travellers demonstrate strong demand.

For Tallinn, we recently announced two new direct services to Amsterdam and Stockholm Bromma, complementing the current Paris, Berlin, Vienna and Riga flights. Aside from improving Tallinn's connectivity, these new routes are creating new access to airports globally via the Amsterdam hub, while the new Bromma link is welcome news for the business communities in both Sweden and Estonia. The developments in Estonia and Lithuania are part of our five-year *Horizon 2021* business plan, which envisages 11 direct routes out of both Tallinn and Vilnius.

Our all-new jet – the *Bombardier CS300* – is scheduled to enter service with *airBaltic* in late 2016, and we recently welcomed its first major debut at the Paris Air Show. The strengthening of direct services in the Baltic Sea region will also involve a continual re-evaluation of the *airBaltic* fleet for the coming years, especially our regional aircraft.

Did you know that the Baltic States are a superb region for those who enjoy being by the water? With over 1,000 kilometres of coastline, over 5,000 lakes and over 10,000 rivers and streams, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania are perfect destinations for all kinds of water sports, including canoeing, fishing and sailing.

Thank you for flying *airBaltic* and have a great trip!

Yours,
Martin Alexander Gauss

Parker Knoll

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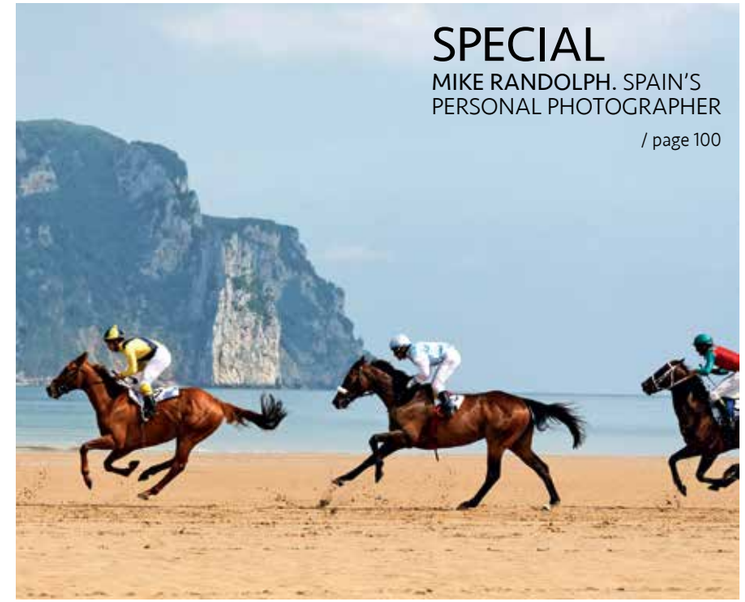

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MIKE RANDOLPH. SPAIN'S PERSONAL PHOTOGRAPHER

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THIS MONTH'S **CONTRIBUTORS**

ZANE JANSONE
Stay cool (page 48)

Career: I have spent the last four years busily tasting and testing all kinds of new things. Each year has brought new offers and experiences that I am thankful for – from editorial jobs to creating inspirational recipes and photos to food catalogues and advert stylings, writing my beloved blog and seeking and selling stylish kitchen goods in my web shop studioza.lv.
Proud of: My three daughters, definitely.
Must-visit city: My all-time favourite European destination is Copenhagen because of the exceptional food and Scandinavian design. I also love to visit western Norway, including the colourful cities of Ålesund and Bergen along the Atlantic coast and the surrounding fjords. The country's wild and unspoiled beauty is especially thrilling in the summertime.
Life motto: Do it with passion or not at all.

ILZE POLE
31 rue Cambon (page 52)

Career: I've always known what I want to do. That's the way it's been for practically all of my life. Starting from short articles in my school newspaper and continuing with interviews in Latvia's leading magazines, like *Santa* and *Klubs*. I've always liked people. One might think that conducting interviews is the easiest job possible, but it's not. You really have to focus and devote all of your attention to your conversation partner in order to get a good interview.
Proud of: Together with *airBaltic* and my team, to be able to create an inflight magazine that is considered one of the best in Europe. You are the best!
Must-visit city: Riga. I always try to stay at home in August because of my city's beautiful crispy mornings, hot days and calm evenings, which I enjoy spending on rooftop terraces or Latvia's sandy beaches. I love the feeling of autumn creeping in and knowing that it is just around the corner.
Life motto: I don't have one. If only...what comes around, goes around.

KATRĪNA REMESA-VANAGA
The best of August (page 38)

Career: I have worked as a stylist for more than 10 years. My work is my life, as I derive an immense amount of happiness and satisfaction from it. Every new project is a creative challenge, which is why I travel a lot to gain extra inspiration.
Proud of: My ability to professionally arrive at new and surprising solutions. I like to surprise people and make them happy by presenting simple things in an unusual manner.
Must-visit city: If you want to feel the throbbing pulse of a big city, then Rome. If you want to immerse yourself in an artistic atmosphere, then Florence. But if you want to enjoy an absolute sense of peace, then Provence in southern France, where I will be returning again later this month.
Life motto: There are no right or wrong things. There are just as many opinions as there are people, and this is where our uniqueness lies.

baltic Outlook

Editorial Staff
Chief Editor: Ilze Pole / e: ilze@frankshouse.lv
Deputy editor: Zane Nikodemusa / e: zane.nikodemusa@frankshouse.lv
Copy editor: Kārlis Roberts Freibergs
Design: Marika Kossatz
Layout: Inta Kraukle
Cover picture: *Alamy*

Frank's House

Baltic Outlook is published by SIA Frank's House
Stabu 17, Riga, LV 1011, Latvia / ph: (+371) 67293970
/ w: frankshouse.lv / e: franks@frankshouse.lv
Director: Eva Dandzberga / e: eva@frankshouse.lv
Advertising managers:
Indra Indraše / e: indra@frankshouse.lv / m: (+371) 29496966
Ieva Birzniece / e: ieva.birzniece@frankshouse.lv / m: (+371) 26416866
Inta Veinšteina / e: inta.veinsteina@frankshouse.lv / m: (+371) 29263692
Advertising manager in Lithuania:
Renata Olisova / e: renata@frankshouse.lv / m: (+370) 60623762

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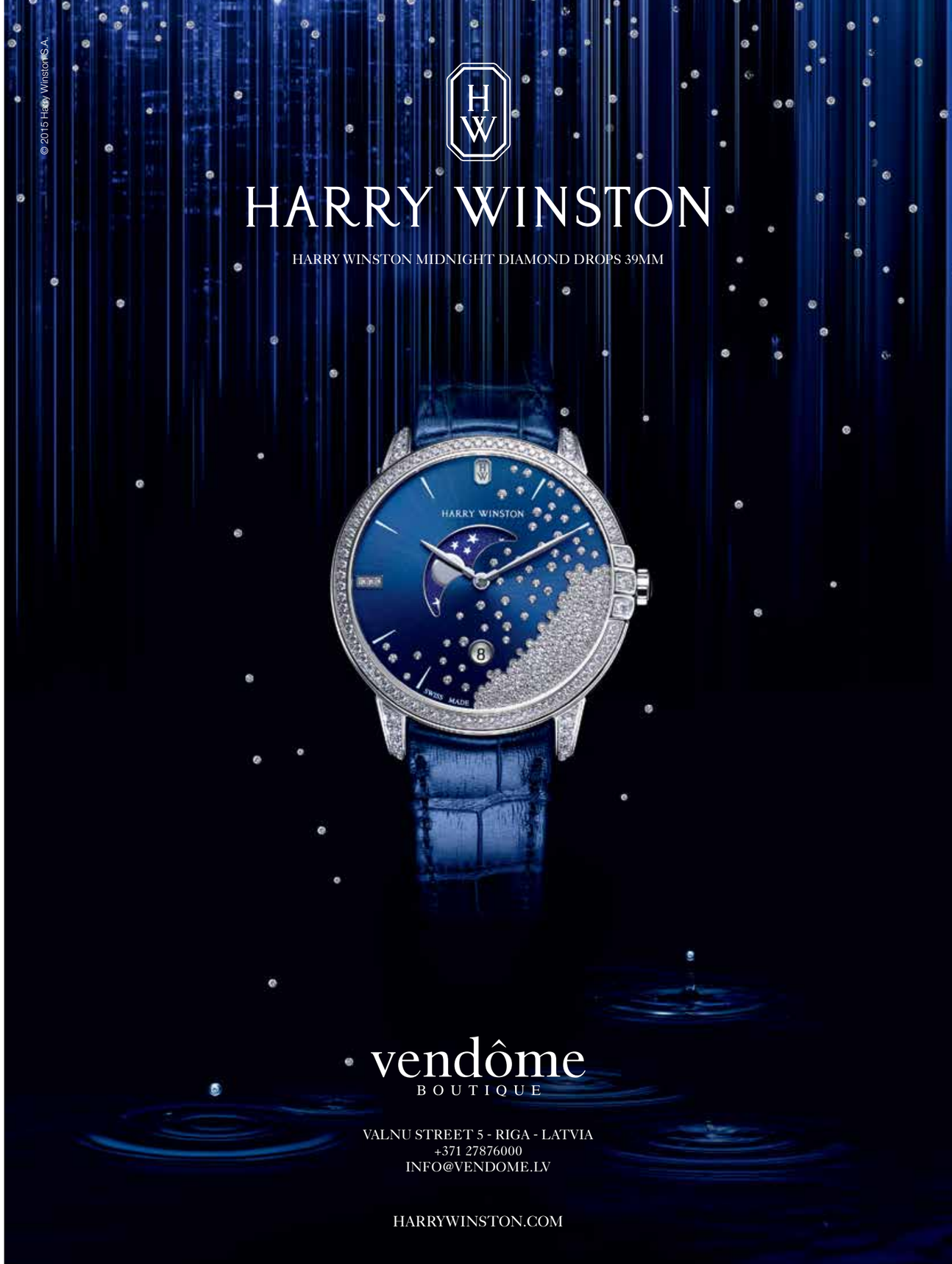

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Text by **EDMUNDS VALDEMĀRS BUNKŠE,**
professor emeritus and geographer
Photo courtesy of **EDMUNDS VALDEMĀRS BUNKŠE**

Magic mountains

My first experience of "magic mountains" was in the sublime Bernese Oberland Alps of Switzerland. Later in my youth, I answered the "call of the wild" at South Pass in the State of Wyoming. Pioneer settlers had once used this pass to cross the Rocky Mountains. The tracks that their wagons made are still visible to this day. From there, I saw the snow-capped peaks of the Wind River Range to the north-northwest. The "Winds" would soon become a favourite place for several long backpacking journeys. Located south of Yellowstone and Teton national parks, the range is isolated, with about 40 peaks reaching close to 4,000 metres in height. Elevated flat desert plains border the mountains. This high country is reached by a long day's hike.

My Scottish companion Elizabeth and I chose to go by the steeper northern route, carefully packing food for a ten-day outing. Argie, our Alsatian, was also saddled with his own food pack. We went uphill at a slow, rhythmic pace to make sure that we didn't get out of breath, in the sweet anticipation of reaching the heights once again. At our lunch stop, our *Svea* white gas stove for brewing tea flamed like a blowtorch. It was either flight from a potential explosion or risk getting burned. I gambled and took the risk. Fortunately, I didn't get burned.

Wind River Range, Wyoming, August 1982

> I gambled and took the risk

We slogged on upwards along an excellent trail with frequent switchbacks. Gradually, alpine firs and aspen replaced the pines. One stand of firs had been burnt dead – a sign of frequent lightning strikes. By late afternoon, we were climbing a steep slope well above the timberline. A cold wind and drizzle arose over the barren granite landscape. Eventually, a shallow basin appeared, with a lake at the bottom. It was ringed to the northwest by the highest and roughest peaks of the range. The basin felt as desolate as the Andes. We pitched our tent just above the lake.

It was a strange night. As we were falling asleep, the roar of a thousand airplanes came up the range from the south. Stupidly, I exclaimed: "Hang on!" The roar passed overhead harmlessly. Had it been a tornado? Later, I got out of the tent and walked a small distance away. The moonless night was so dark that I couldn't see the way back. I crouched down to look for a silhouette. Nothing. Near panic by a mountain void!

The next day, we climbed over Knapsack Col, which leads to the heavenly Titcomb Lakes Basin. The upper part of the trail was covered with large jagged rocks, which our agile Argie could not climb. With darkness fast approaching, I picked up the big dog and carried him over a couloir without removing my pack. That was pure adrenalin at work. We tarried for a bit too long in the Shangri-La valley and later had to hike some 45 kilometres in a single day so that Elizabeth could catch her flight from Jackson Hole. Driving north at dusk to the airport, there was one more surprise: a group of moose holding a meeting in the middle of the road. **BO**

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SPOTLIGHT ON THE SUMMER

Five things that you should do in Latvia in August

1/ Rent a room in a guest house by the sea and add some seashells to your collection.
2/ Try out a restaurant dish with local chanterelles. Aside from being tasty, these nutritious mushrooms contain vitamins C and D.
3/ Enjoy some unforgettable musical performances at the *Sansusī* open-air alternative chamber music festival on August 8-10. (suseja.lv)
4/ See (or take part in) the Latvian Open golf championship at the Ozo Golf Club on August 21-23. (golf.lv)
5/ Attend the events of the annual Riga City Festival, which will be held this year on August 14-16 and will conclude with a grandiose fireworks display. (rigassvetki.lv)

ON THIS MONTH'S MENU

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

THE TREND:

Beauty This month, *Calvin Klein* is expanding its collection of masculine fragrances with the launch of *Euphoria Essence*, a new eau de toilette with an elegant and seductive spirit. The nose behind the new olfactory composition is perfumer Jean-Marc Chaillan, who created a bright amber-like composition with Italian bergamot, ivy leaves and mineral accords.

Travel The small and light *Salsa Air* suitcase by *RIMOWA* (a brand favoured by celebrities) is an ideal travel companion for small children, as it weighs only 1.6 kg and is easy to carry. Will there be room in it for your child's favourite cuddly toy? Definitely, as the suitcase's capacity is 20 litres.

Design One of the world's leading home textile brands, *Valeron* shapes trends with original styles. Try something from the *Accessories Collection* for the decoration of your home. If you don't wish to implement radical changes in your interior but still want to see something new, then start with decorative pillows. The collection is currently on display at the *Moduls Interior Showroom* in Riga.
ⓘ modulsinterjers.lv

© Viesturs Kančs, @oposumi

CRAYFISH TIME

Latvia's cleanest waters are inhabited by crayfish, which taste just as good as lobster. Some gourmets may settle on savouring these delicacies at a local restaurant, while the more adventurous can gather a group of friends and go out on a crayfish-catching expedition. The hunt for these clawed critters takes place after dark, in the light of a flashlight or lantern at specially designated lakes or streams, whose owners will issue you with a crayfish-catching license. Once you have caught the permitted amount (which can vary from 20 to 50 crayfish), set up a campfire and cook them on the spot. The crayfish taste even better when dill and garlic are added during the cooking process.

Text by **ZANE NIKODEMUSA** and **ROGER NORUM**
Photos by **VIESTURS KANČS, DMITRIJS SUĻŽICS** (*F64*) and publicity

READING LIST

Walter Isaacson.
The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution
Written by the bestselling biographer of Steve Jobs, this action-packed book is an inspiring investigation of genius. The author traces the roots of the computer revolution beyond obvious influencers Alan Turing and Bill Gates to look at lesser known figures such as Lord Byron's daughter. Evidently a closet anthropologist, Isaacson thankfully does it by explaining the digital as evolutionary over revolutionary – and with as little compu-jargon as possible.
EUR 18, ⓘ simonandschuster.com

George Solt.
The Untold History of Ramen: How Political Crisis in Japan Spawned a Global Food Craze
Though it might sound odd, this fascinating book shows how international policy can have a huge effect on everyday foods around the world. Solt looks at the ascent of ramen from a low-brow, quick fuel to a cultural icon, tracing Japanese geopolitics and national identity through the cultural rise of the country's national cuisine.
EUR 30, ⓘ ucpress.edu

INSTAFASHION

Julia Janus
ⓘ instagram.com/juliajanus

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INTARS BUSULIS AND *ABONEMENTS* ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Daugava Concert Hall (*Daugavas Koncertzāle*), Riga
August 27

Nearly every Thursday, the Daugava Concert Hall treats viewers to concerts by some of Latvia's best musicians and international stars. At the end of this month, charismatic local singer and trombonist Intars Busulis will also perform there. Earlier this year, he displayed a surprising ability to impersonate iconic music artists on the Russian TV show *Toch v Toch*, becoming an even more accomplished entertainment star in the process.

Tickets at bilesuparadize.lv
11. novembra krastmala 17

Text by **ZANE NIKODEMUSA**
Photos by **ROMĀNS KOKŠAROVS** (F64), **GINTS IVUŠKĀNS** (F64) and publicity

THE LINE OF SHAPE (FORMAS LĪNIJA)
SOLO EXHIBITION BY ROLANDS GROSS

***Daugava* art gallery, Riga**
August 5-29

Rolands Gross. *A Study*. 2015. Pastel on canvas

Rolands Gross is a skilled master of academic drawing, and his longtime teaching experience makes him one of Latvia's most knowledgeable specialists in the field. During the past few years, the artist has taken an intense liking to pastel drawing and has discovered ever new forms of expression in the process. The works on view at the exhibition can be seen as challenges to the limits of patience and concentration that can be achieved in this drawing technique.

Ausekļa iela 1

AUGUST 2015

SUMMERTIME INESE GALANTE & FRIENDS MUSIC FESTIVAL

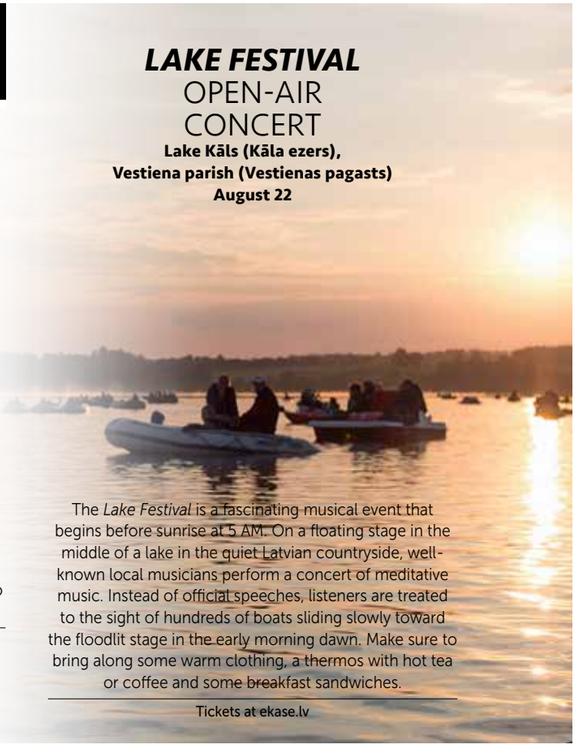
Dzintari Concert Hall, Jūrmala
August 10-16

For the 11th 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.

Tickets at bilesuparadize.lv
Turaidas iela 1

LAKE FESTIVAL OPEN-AIR CONCERT

Lake Kāls (Kāla ezers), Vestiena parish (Vestienas pagasts)
August 22



The *Lake Festival* is a fascinating musical event that begins before sunrise at 5 AM. On a floating stage in the middle of a lake in the quiet Latvian countryside, well-known local musicians perform a concert of meditative music. Instead of official speeches, listeners are treated to the sight of hundreds of boats sliding slowly toward the floodlit stage in the early morning dawn. Make sure to bring along some warm clothing, a thermos with hot tea or coffee and some breakfast sandwiches.

Tickets at ekase.lv

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Ieva Epnere. *This Was a Paradise for the Young Person* (Tā bija paradīze jaunam cilvēkam)

PYRAMIDEN (*PIRAMĪDA*)
SOLO EXHIBITION BY IEVA EPNERE

Contemporary Art Centre *kim?*, Riga
August 14 - September 29

Latvian artist Ieva Epnere engages in photography, video and filmmaking, through which she examines issues concerning identity, traditions and rituals. The artist's latest personal exhibition features cherished photographic memories of a trip to the former Soviet coal-mining community of Pyramiden, which is located on the Norwegian island of Spitzbergen. The town was hastily abandoned in 1998, its inhabitants leaving behind a library full of books, a cultural centre and the world's northernmost grand piano.

Maskavas iela 12/1

Indriķis Ģelzis. *We Have Something In Common. Feet Bent On 9 Tippy Toes* (*Mums ir kaut kas kopīgs. 9 pirkstgalos saliektas pēdas*). Fragment. 2015

TWO UNEXPECTED VISITORS (*DIVI NEGAIDĪTI APMEKLĒTĀJI*)
SOLO EXHIBITION BY INDRIĶIS ĢELZIS

Creative workshop at the *Arsenāls* art exhibition hall of the Latvian National Museum of Art, Riga
Until September 6

The mutual relativity of the object, subject and space is a theme that preoccupies Latvian artist Indriķis Ģelzis. Since 2011, Ģelzis has actively displayed his works at various group and solo exhibitions, presenting himself as a follower of the Contemporary Modernism school of art. Although his works display a witty sense of irony, the artist simultaneously makes a serious effort of visualising his observations of the peculiarities of people's sense of perception.

Torņa iela 1

DINAMO RIGA
HOCKEY GAMES

Arena Riga, Riga
August 25 and 27

It's time to return to the ice arenas, where the teams of Europe's best hockey league – the Kontinental Hockey League (KHL) – begin a new championship season. Most of the players on the *Dinamo Riga* team also represented Latvia at last year's Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia, where they finished in 8th place. This year, the *Dinamo Riga* squad is being joined by Swedish goaltender Joacim Eriksson and Canadian defenceman Steven Seigo.

Tickets at bilesuserviss.lv
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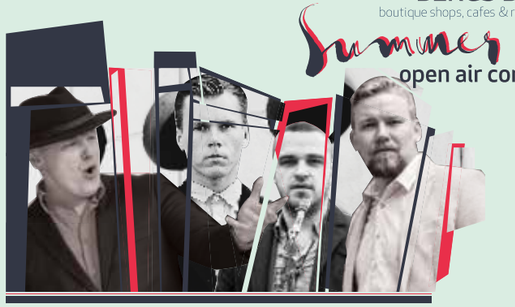

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The most beautiful garden in Riga

A place to take refuge in the August heat

Text by **LIENE PĀLĒNA**
Photos by **EDMUNDS BRENCIS**, *F64*

I am very fond of cities that harbour verdant spaces where one can feel like a child of Nature and where one can escape from the bustle of the traffic, the crowds, the skyscrapers, the asphalt and the concrete. With its numerous parks and location by the Daugava River and the Baltic Sea, Riga is one such European capital. And within Riga itself, a special place is located a mere 15-minute drive from the dusty cobblestones of the city centre – the Botanical Garden of the University of Latvia.

The summer is a perfect time to visit the garden, when the grounds are lush with blooming flowers and other forms of greenery. Visitors can be seen taking leisurely walks along the footpaths, practicing yoga, reading books, playing badminton, having picnics and simply enjoying the bright colours of the varied plant life.

The Palm House (*Palmu māja*) houses various tropical trees and bushes, including a stately palm tree that is nearly 100 years old, as well as an extensive cactus collection. It is the tallest greenhouse in the Baltic countries and has had its roof raised several times to accommodate the growing trees. The Palm House also harbours one of the Earth's most ancient and rarest plants, the coniferous *Wollemia nobilis*. Scientists believe that this plant dates back to the age of the dinosaurs. The only place where it grows naturally is at Wollemi National Park in Australia.

The Butterfly House (*Tauriņu māja*) is another popular attraction. Here, about 200 tropical butterflies flutter about in a hot and humid jungle atmosphere, sometimes even alighting on the visitors and generating a truly exotic atmosphere. The largest butterfly species in this special greenhouse has a wingspan of nearly 30 cm. **BO**

TOP 3

things to do at the Botanical Garden in Riga

See how many different species of butterfly you can count in the Butterfly House.

Celebrate life at the *Šķūnis* café, which is a popular place for vintage-style wedding celebrations.

Relax, bring a good book and enjoy a picnic lunch.

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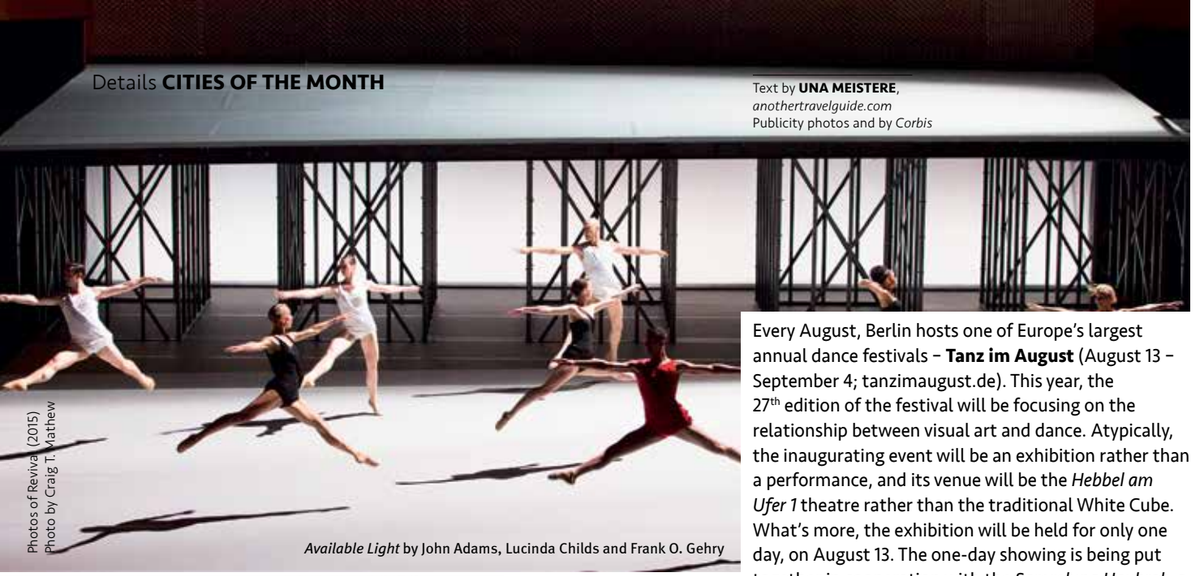

Photos of Reviva (2015)
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Berlin

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The Store

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Every August, Berlin hosts one of Europe's largest annual dance festivals – **Tanz im August** (August 13 – September 4; tanzimaugust.de). This year, the 27th edition of the festival will be focusing on the relationship between visual art and dance. Atypically, the inaugurating event will be an exhibition rather than a performance, and its venue will be the *Hebbel am Ufer 1* theatre rather than the traditional White Cube. What's more, the exhibition will be held for only one day, on August 13. The one-day showing is being put together in cooperation with the *Sammlung Haubrok*, a foundation set up by German conceptual art collectors Axel and Barbara Haubrok. Works by many illustrious artists will be represented, including Elmgreen and Dragset, Philippe Parreno, Willem de Rooij, Andreas Slominski, Carol Bove and Christopher Williams.

One of the festival's accents will be on Asian dance, and one of the highlights will be a performance directed by rising young Chinese choreographer Tao Ye. The trance-like movements displayed by the dancers of his *TAO Dance Theatre* are inspired by meditative monastic drones and the martial arts, resulting in a captivating presentation.

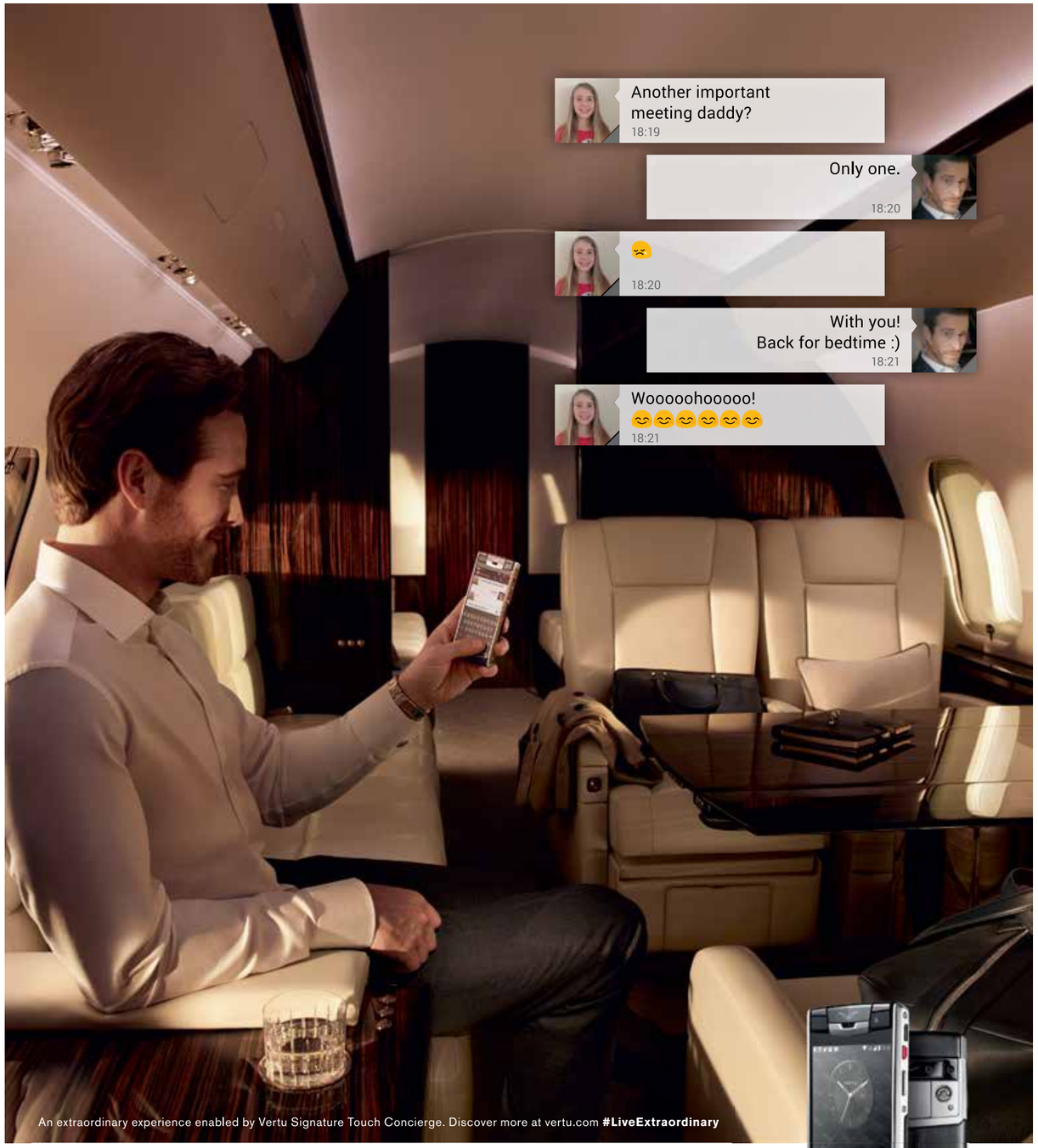
The Jewish Museum Berlin (Lindenstraße 9-14; jmberlin.de), for its part, is showcasing **Obedience** (*Gehörsam*), an installation by British film director Peter Greenaway and his wife, multimedia artist Saskia Boddeke. On view until September 13, the installation focuses on one of the most enigmatic events in the Bible – Abraham's willingness to obey God's command and sacrifice his son Isaac – and provides an emotional voyage through 2,000 years of history through ancient writings, paintings, sculptures, film projections and music.

One must-visit lifestyle destination is **The Store** (Torstraße 1; thestore-berlin.com) – a 2,800 m² multifaceted space for shopping, eating and meeting people, among other things. Located in the private Soho House member's club but open to the public, the gigantic premises serve simultaneously as a store, a restaurant and a bar in a friendly loft atmosphere. The place doesn't feel like a store in the traditional sense, but almost everything within it can be purchased, including the chair on which you are sitting, the book that you are leafing through and the lamp that is hanging from the ceiling.

© Jüdisches Museum Berlin
Photo by Yves Sucksdorff

God and the Angel by Saskia Boddeke and Peter Greenaway

Photo by Cezary Piwowarski



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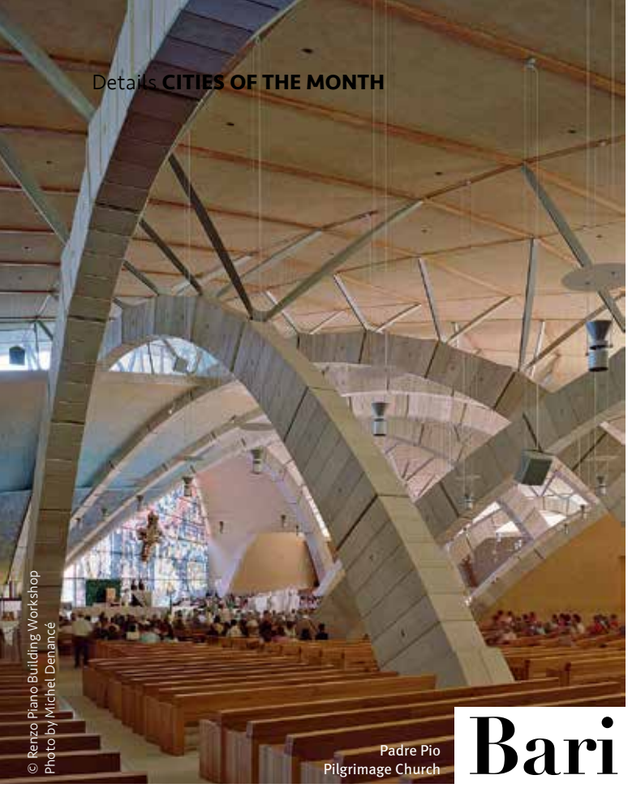

© Renzo Piano Building Workshop
Photo by Michel Denancé

Padre Pio Pilgrimage Church

Bari

Courtesy of www.pixels.com

Woman preparing orecchiette

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Bari is the main gateway to Puglia (Apulia), otherwise known as the "heel of Italy's boot" and a region that is less frequented by tourists than other parts of the country. Here, colourful traditions continue to be passed on over the generations, especially when it comes to gastronomy, which enjoys near cult status in Puglia – and in a visible manner. Take a walk through the narrow cobblestone streets of the Old Town, or Bari Vecchia, which retains elements of Roman, Byzantine, medieval and Baroque architecture and is slightly reminiscent of a Moroccan medina.

There, you will probably see grey-haired women with time-worn faces preparing **orecchiette** – the favourite pasta of the region – right at their doorsteps. To avoid making life needlessly complicated, the dough might be kneaded on the same chairs that the women will sit on later that evening to chat with their neighbours. And that is not all. Bari Vecchia also houses public ovens, where the city's inhabitants and their guests can come in to bake their dinner bread, thus avoiding the need to heat their own houses even more at the height of the Italian summer. Make sure to visit the *Panificio Fiore* (Strada Palazzo di Città 38), which is said to make the best focaccia in town and which is Bari's most famous bakery. It is located in a medieval church, one of about 30 houses of worship in the Old Town.

About two hours north of Bari is San Giovanni Rotondo, home of the **Padre Pio Pilgrimage Church**, a shell-shaped edifice designed by famous Italian architect Renzo Piano and completed in 2004. The town is where the Capuchin friar Padre Pio (Pio of Pietrelcina, 1887-1968) lived, prayed and preached. Padre Pio was posthumously declared a saint by Pope John Paul II, and several spiritual gifts have been attributed to him, including those of prophesy, soul-reading, healing and even bilocation (being in two places at the same time). According to one account, every time that Allied planes attempted to bomb a German arms depot in San Giovanni Rotondo during the Second World War, they were confronted by the image of a flying friar with outstretched wounded hands who prevented them from dropping their bombs on the town. Today, the modern stone church dedicated to Padre Pio is a veritable architectural masterpiece. The main span that supports the church's dome is more than 50 metres long and is considered to be one of the longest stone arches of its type. More than 1,000 years after the construction of Europe's legendary Gothic cathedrals, Piano said that he wanted to replicate a similar contemporary architectural feat in stone.

The town of Polignano a Mare, for its part, is located about a half-hour drive south of Bari. Perched atop a 20-metre limestone cliff overlooking the Adriatic Sea, Polignano a Mare is also known as a local ice cream mecca. In any case, it would be a greater sin not to try out a couple of divine-tasting scoops of fig, lemon or coffee-flavoured *gelato* than to break one's dietary health commitments at **Il Super Mago del Gelo**, which has brought joy to ice cream lovers since 1935 (Piazza Garibaldi 22; mariocampanellailsupermagodelgelo.it). To lessen your feelings of guilt, Italian film star Monica Vitti regularly falls into temptation and indulges in a gelato at the famed ice cream parlour every time that she visits the town.

Photo by Alabama / Martin Künzel

Tuula Pöyhönen, Onni, Takkitakki, 2010, Duvet Coat
Photo by Timo Junttila

Northern Kunqu Opera Theatre

Helsinki

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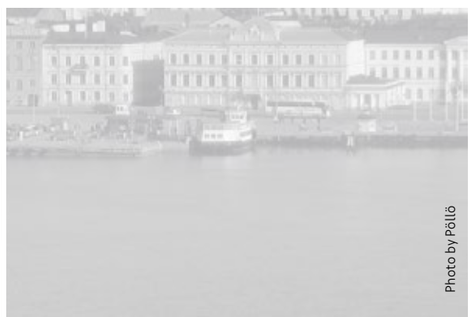
In terms of breadth and scope, the **Helsinki Festival** (August 14-30; helsinginjuhlaviikot.fi) has no parallel in the Nordic countries. For two whole weeks, dance, theatre, music, circus and numerous other creative media performances will be held at various venues throughout the Finnish capital. Among the expected highlights are the guest performances by *teatr.doc* of Moscow, which is one of the few Russian theatres to analyse events in the country in a directly documental manner and without censorship. *teatr.doc* will be putting on two shows in Helsinki: *150 Reasons Not to Defend the Motherland* and *Bolotnaya Square Case*, the latter concerning a criminal case regarding a mass demonstration in Moscow in 2012. The festival also provides a unique insight into modern Chinese art, with performances of one of the country's most popular ballets, *The Red Detachment of Women*, a kite festival and a 25-hour underground art marathon titled *25x25 – Close Encounter*.

The Helsinki Design Museum, for its part, is hailing Finnish fashion from an unusual standpoint. While the sources of inspiration for many designers around the world are practically endless, in Finnish design the main inspiration has traditionally been... winter. The **Anthology of Finnish Fashion** is thus offering a wintry look at the history of Finnish fashion from the 1950s to the present (until September 20; Korkeavuorenkatu 23; designmuseum.fi).

Those who wish to experience a special aspect of Helsinki's vibrancy should head straight to the city port. With its ferries, ships, yachts, fishing boats, seafood market and throngs of both locals and tourists mixing together in a sea of colour, the port is a destination in itself. If at one point you wish to take refuge from the screeching and perpetually hungry seagulls overhead – who seem to know nothing about reserved Scandinavian manners – then there is hardly a better place to go than **Block by Dylan** (Eteläranta 18; dylan.fi/block), which recently opened its doors in the port territory. Owned by well-known Finnish restaurateur Kim Heiniö, it is the fifth branch of this growing chain of restaurants offering affordable fare. The design is laconically Scandinavian, with the ascetic atmosphere being punctuated by a few bright accents of colour and amusing interior details. **BO**

Photo by Paulina Salonen
Block by Dylan



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Time for tea

Text by **TREVOR BAKER**
Photos courtesy of the *Ritz London*

Nothing could be more British than afternoon tea in London. Now there are all sorts of fun alternatives that attract the crowds.

It's surprising how many people, even today, think that in England everything stops at some unspecified but universally understood time in the afternoon so that everybody can drink their afternoon tea. That, of course, is a myth. It's certainly true that the British consume a lot of tea, but that's not quite the same thing as having the whole country come to a standstill every day.

The "nice cup of tea" – commonly held to be the solution to all problems, from romantic heartbreak to the outbreak of one armed conflict or another – can be taken at any time and needs no culinary accompaniment.

That being said, there is an institution called Afternoon Tea, which is a great late-day complement to the wonderful English breakfast. Afternoon Tea is said to have been invented by a duchess who suffered from a "sinking feeling" around about 4 PM and, although absent from the daily life of most Britons, it's still going strong at posh hotels in London and chintzy tea-shops in seaside towns. Afternoon Tea usually includes small, delicate sandwiches (cucumber or salmon being a favourite) and little cakes and scones that can be laden with cream and/or jam.

Interestingly, Afternoon Tea doesn't even have to contain tea. The extravagant or louche often like to take it with champagne. At the *Ritz London* (theritzlondon.com), which has been serving Afternoon Tea since 1906, you'll be offered finger sandwiches of smoked salmon alongside fresh raisin and apple scones and cakes elegantly arranged on a tiered stand for GBP 50. A glass of champagne takes the bill up to GBP 66.

At the *Ritz's* great rival, *Claridges* (claridges.co.uk), they serve similarly refined sandwiches along with pastries that ooze chocolate and crème brûlée. This will set you back GBP 55, while adding champagne will increase the tab to between GBP 65 and 80.

Perhaps the heftiest afternoon tea of them all is the Gent's Afternoon Tea at the *Sanctum Soho Hotel* (sanctumsoho.com/restaurant-and-bar). Aimed at the tough kind of man who rides a *Harley Davidson* (or, more likely, would once have liked to ride one), it includes a seared steak on sourdough and comes with a tankard of *Jack Daniels' Gentleman Jack* whiskey. Guests who choose this option are accordingly seated on rock star-style snakeskin upholstered seats (GBP 50).

For more traditional tea-lovers, London's best bet might be the *The Tea Rooms* (thetearooms.org) in Stoke Newington. For only GBP 23, you'll be served delicate, crumbly fruit scones together with your tea.

This year, Afternoon Tea Week is taking place from August 10 to 16 to celebrate the great heritage of afternoon tea in the UK. It involves a whole week of activities, themed menus and special offers presented at hotels, restaurants and tearooms across the country. **BO**

ⓘ afternoonteaweek.com

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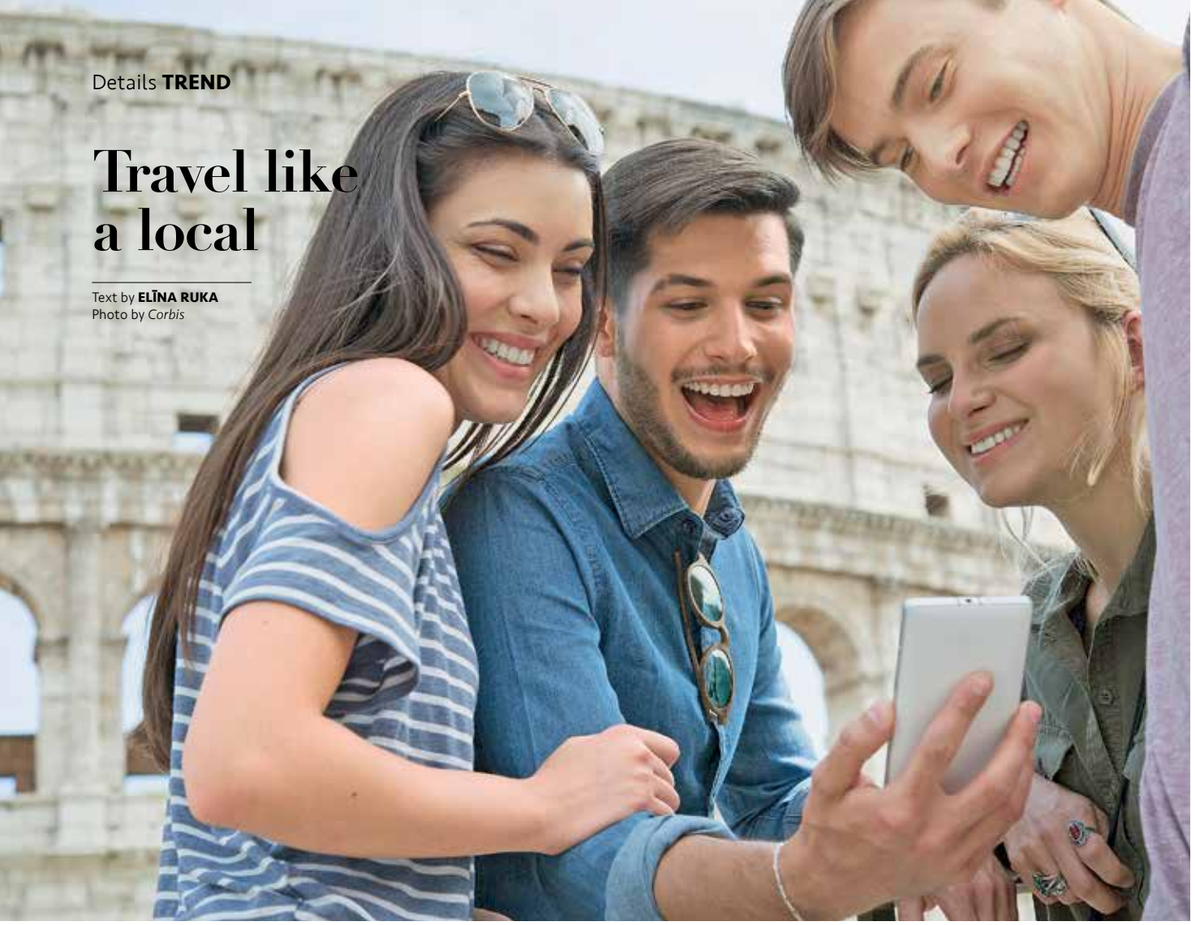
Travel like a local

Text by **ELĪNA RUKA**
Photo by *Corbis*



Picture this: a charming Frenchwoman named Charlotte is taking a Spaniard named Carlos and an Italian named Luca out for a drive in her antique *Citroën*. She is showing them around her native city of Paris and taking them to her favourite spots, many of which are off the beaten tourist track.

Contrast this with the traditional scene of tourists clambering out of a huge bus and following a guide carrying an umbrella over his head. The trendy traveller no longer waits in long queues at the Parthenon in Athens, the Eiffel Tower in Paris or the Colosseum in Rome, but looks for alternative experiences that go beyond the postcard.

Hence, an increasing number of tourists are turning to the locals for advice, rather than the pages of a travel guide or excursions organised by travel companies. Aside from seeking a genuine experience, some travellers aim to practice what they call responsible and caring tourism by following the recommendations of local inhabitants on how to best spend their stay – and to do so in appreciation of local traditions.

A number of websites are following up on this trend with routes designed to make sure that visitors get to see the sites from a more local perspective. Some websites, for example, offer insider tips on where to get the best coffee in town, or on the most convenient way to travel if the public transport system isn't working, or on things and places that can be enjoyed for free. The websites provide long lists of recommended cafés, restaurants and entertainment spots, while their lists of excursions are sometimes so diverse that considerable time is needed to find the most suitable one for each traveller.

Aside from traditional walking tours, some local tourist guides also offer to provide tours of their city on roller skates, by bicycle or even while jogging. Of course, many of these excursions incorporate the usual aspects – including architecture, nature, food, photography and shopping – but with an interesting twist, with the option of taking a traditional cooking class or going out on alternative nightlife or artistic photo tours. One might also choose to have dinner with a local family and try out the area's traditional foods while spending a leisurely evening learning about the host's native city.

One way to select an appropriate excursion is to read about the tour providers and find one who shares the same interests as you. Therefore, before this trend goes viral and is replaced by a new one, go out for a novel experience rather than a bargain package deal! **BO**

Here are a few websites worth checking out:

- vayable.com
- likealocalguide.com
- spottedbylocals.com
- toursbylocals.com
- responsibletravel.com
- cookening.com

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Brooch *Winter in France*, from the *Café Society* collection

Mademoiselle Chanel at her house *La Pausa* on the French riviera with her dog Gigot, 1930

The legendary fisherman's sweater

Text by **DACE VAIVARA**
Photos courtesy of *Maison CHANEL*

How did the fisherman's sweater make the transition from an unpretentious work garment to a 20th-century fashion icon and symbol of classical elegance?

Thanks to Mademoiselle Chanel and subsequent fashion designers, the fisherman's sweater has come to represent French style and remains an indispensable garment in women's wardrobes, regardless of changing fashion trends. At the turn of the 20th century, when high society dames strode about in corsets, long flowing dresses and flowered hats, Chanel dared to be different, occasionally sporting men's outfits – including the clothes of her boyfriend and masculine boots when she went horseback riding. Chanel can be credited for introducing pants, ascetic dresses with white collars and fisherman's sweaters into women's fashion.

In 1913, Chanel opened her first clothing boutique at the seaside resort of Deauville, Normandy. There, she offered a novelty – nautical-style striped shirts for women, similar to those worn by Breton fishermen. The shirts were an immediate hit and appeared in the British and American editions of *Vogue* magazine.

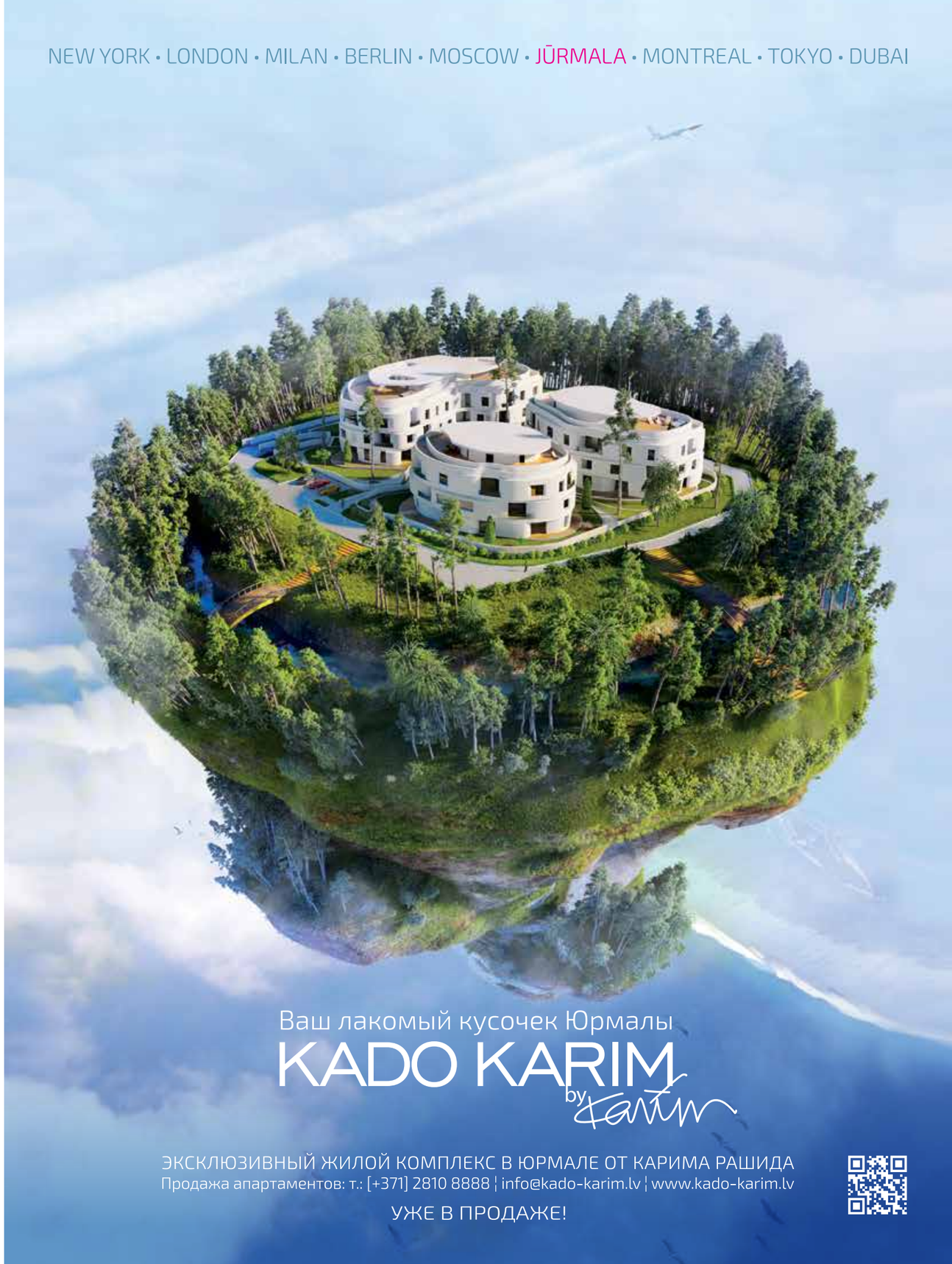
An entertaining insight into the designer's unusual and mysterious personality, as well as her drive and talent, can be found in the biographical movie drama *Coco Before Chanel* (2009), which covers the short period of the designer's youth and initial breakthrough on the fashion scene. Chanel is portrayed in the film by French actress Audrey Tautou. In one unforgettable scene, Chanel is moved at her first sight of the sea and of fishermen bringing in their catch. The fishermen seem so noble and beautiful to her in their simplicity. In the next scene of the film, the designer is also wearing an identical striped fisherman's sweater.

Les Beiges, 2015, harmonie poudre Belle Mine *Marinière* N°1

Les Beiges, 2015, harmonie poudre Belle Mine *Marinière* N°2

The history of the fisherman's sweater dates back to the 18th century, when onion merchants from Brittany travelled to England to sell their produce. The striped fisherman's sweaters that they wore made them easily recognisable from a distance. The French called these merchants *marchands d'ail* (garlic merchants), which was shortened to *chandail* and came to refer to this unique item of clothing. The real fisherman's sweater was a practical and durable garment made of sheep's wool. It effectively retained heat, repelled water and protected the wearer from the cold and the wind.

For decades, the fisherman's sweater has been a popular item of clothing among artists, actors and musicians. Among those who have had it in their wardrobes are artists Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol, film stars James Dean, Audrey Hepburn and Brigitte Bardot, and musicians Iggy Pop and Kurt Cobain. From a bohemian Riviera style to a pirate look, the sweater has been manufactured in various interpretations by such fashion designers as Karl Lagerfeld, Vivienne Westwood, *Comme des Garçons*, John Galliano, Alexander McQueen and Jean Paul Gaultier. **BO**



Text by **DACE VAIVARA**
Photos courtesy of the *Aman Canal Grande Venice* hotel, Marc Litvyakoff, from the Riga Fashion Week archives and publicity pictures

Hotel Aman Canal Grande Venice

Wedding dress by *Marchesa*, EUR 6723, net-a-porter.com

Bridal bouquet, EUR 54, zieduveikals.lv

Katya Katya Shehurina

Engagement ring from white gold and diamonds for her (EUR 3775) by *Giorgio Visconti, SHINE*

Wedding rings for her (EUR 2570) and him (EUR 1900), and engagement ring for her from white gold and diamonds (EUR 2765) by *Meister, SHINE*

Shoes by *René Caovilla*, EUR 835, net-a-porter.com

VENICE

Dream wedding

Built on a marshy lagoon, Venice is one of the world's most enchanting cities and an ideal location for a wedding ceremony or honeymoon vacation. With about 100 churches and numerous palazzos and castellos, there is no lack of venues to choose from for one's nuptials. A romantic ride on a gondola along the Grand Canal takes one through the heart of a city that is teeming with ornate and colourful historical buildings. Among them is the Palazzo Papadopoli, which was constructed in 1550 and now houses the exclusive seven-star luxury *Aman Canal Grande Venice* hotel. This is where Hollywood actor George Clooney and British barrister Amal Alamuddin held their wedding last year.

The choice of a bridal dress should be based on the place where the bride has decided to have her wedding. A classic bridal or full princess-style dress would create the necessary romantic look for a lavish ceremony in a palazzo, while a light, airy and flowing dress would be appropriate for a more intimate celebration at the edge of the sea under the open sky. An Empire-style dress with a higher waistline will be perfect for a cheerful and summery look. In that case, elegant hair adornments or a garland of flowers should be worn in the place of a veil. A laconic straight-cut lace dress revealing a bare back or with lengthened sleeves will also look marvellous.

Currently, glamorous and sensual tattoo dresses with a nude-look effect are all the rage, complete with lace decorations, embroidery or applications on transparent cloth with a fine skin-coloured lining. **BO**

SHOPPING IN VENICE

Fausto Sari Atelier
An elegant wedding wear salon not far from Venice with bridal dresses and accessories designed by Fausto Sari, along with a wide assortment of other products by such bridal wear brands as *Pronovias*, *St. Patrick*, *Rosa Clara*, *Atelier Aimée*, *Luna* and *Coletto*. There is plenty to choose from for grooms as well, including chic wedding suits by the prestigious Italian brand *Pal Zileri Sposo*.
Via Postumia 103, Ponte di Piave, Treviso
ⓘ faustosari.com

Marialuisa Benetti Sposa
Brides will feel like real princesses when wearing romantic bridal dresses by Italian designer Marialuisa Benetti, who also fashions original bespoke bridal wear. In addition, the salon carries bridal dresses by other Italian brands, including *Domo Adami*, *Lorenzo Riva*, *Anna Ceruti*, *Giuseppe Papini* and *Renati Savi Couture*.
Riviera Magellano 7, Venice
ⓘ marialuisabenetti.com

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San Marco 1296, Venice
ⓘ renecaovilla.com

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Здание ELIZABETES REZIDENCE находится в самом сердце Риги, где на расстоянии вытянутой руки доступно все необходимое для наслаждения комфортной жизнью. Все апартаменты оснащены технологией Smart House. В апартаментах использована бытовая техника от Siemens и мебель таких брендов, как Molteni, Colombini, Bonaldo и Catellan. В апартаментах сохранены исторические камины начала 20 века.

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The best of August

Style by **KATRĪNA REMESA-VANAGA**
Photo by **ANDREJS TERENTJEVS** *(P64)*

Sunglasses by *MARA*, EUR 99, *Riija*
Candied cranberries, 100 gr., EUR 2.40, *Abra*
Skirt by *Qoo Qoo*, EUR 150, *Paviljons*
Wooden cutting board by *Jakspeter Wood*, EUR 68, *Riija*
Black ceramic bowl, EUR 9.90, *Riija*
Apple water cleansing facial tonic by *Dabba*, EUR 9.50, *Paviljons*
Linen top by *AGNESSAGA*, EUR 79.90, *Paviljons*
Leather belt by *Eightcrafts*, EUR 80, *Paviljons*
Linen towel with lace, EUR 9, *Riija*
Yellow bowl, EUR 23, *Abra*
Earrings by Liene Zeiliša, EUR 12.75, *Paviljons*
Linen blanket, EUR 98, *Riija*
Shoes, EUR 270, *INCH2*

Store addresses in Riga: *Abra*, Kr.Valdemāra iela 17A; *Riija*, Tērbatas iela 6/8; *Paviljons*, Tērbatas iela 55; *INCH2*, inch2.com.

F & MORE

i/c Sky&More | 2. stāvā | Duntes iela 19 a | Rīga.
www.skyandmore.lv

Electric kettle of the future

Recently the London Design Museum announced the winner of its *Design of the Year 2015* award – a microchip manufactured by Harvard University's Wyss Institute. The chip is lined with human cells and permits the execution of research experiments that cannot be conducted on living people for ethical reasons. Other award nominations included a driverless car by *Google* and the *Miito* electric kettle, which was designed by the young German-Latvian duo *Chudy and Grase*. Both the award-winning and nominated products are on display at the museum until August 23.

Text by **KRISTĪNE BUDŽE,** *Pastaiga*
Photo courtesy of *Chudy and Grase*

WHAT IS IT?

Miito could be called an electric kettle without the kettle. It consists of an induction base on which a non-ferrous cup, bowl or teapot of water can be placed. The liquid is then heated through induction by immersing a heating rod directly inside the vessel. This convenient procedure saves both water and electricity, as only the amount of liquid that one intends to consume is heated.

WHY IS IT SPECIAL?

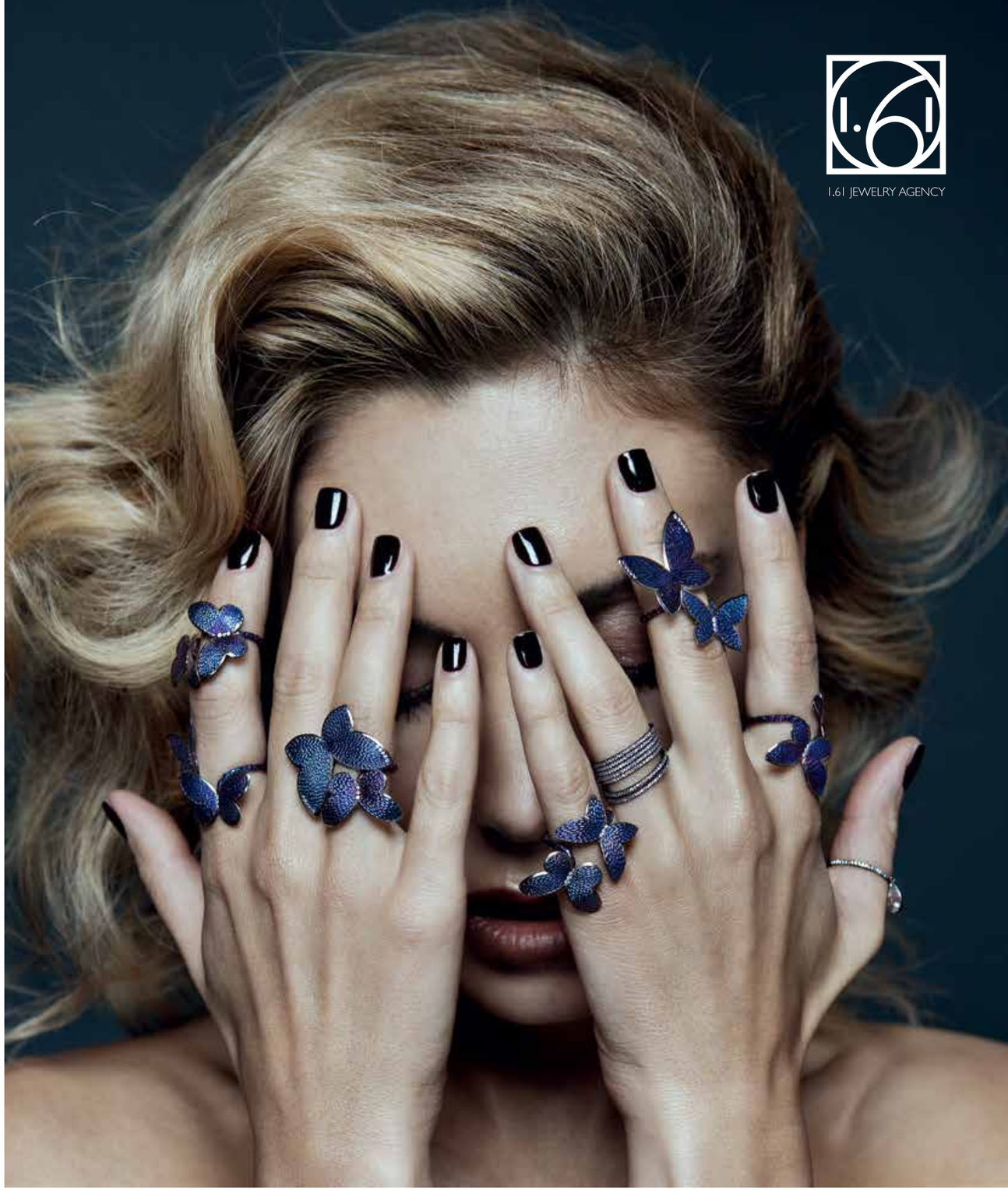
The experts who nominated the *Miito* electric kettle for the *Design of the Year 2015* award recognised it as an innovative and high-quality product, placing it in the product design category, which is subject to some of the fiercest competition. The kettle will soon be produced on a commercial scale and was designed by *Chudy and Grase*, aka Nils Chudy (Germany) and Jasmīna Grase (Latvia). Having graduated last year from the Design Academy Eindhoven in the Netherlands, the two designers wasted no time in founding their own design studio. Interestingly, they had travelled to the British capital during their studies and admired a number of objects exhibited at the London Design Museum. Now their own creation is on display there.

Aside from evident talent, *Chudy and Grase* have also displayed considerable foresight in planning their career. For example, the two designers presented their *Meet the Wicker* furniture collection as their graduation work at the Academy. Rather than being a mere artistic curiosity, the collection consists of items that are of practical use and thus served as the first line of products to be released by the newly founded studio. Made in cooperation with wicker craftsmen from Latvia, the furniture collection tastefully sets traditional wicker material into contemporary black metal frames.

The three items in the *Meet the Wicker* collection also caught the attention of the British *Wallpaper* magazine, which described them as among the best works to be created by design school graduates in 2014. Currently *Chudy and Grase* are busy completing the final stages for the commercial release of the *Miito* electric kettle and have moved to Berlin to facilitate the organisation of the new product's manufacture and distribution. The two designers successfully raised the required funding for this project through *Kickstarter* and plan to deliver the first *Miito* kettles in the spring of 2016 to their main financial backers.

HOW DOES IT FIT INTO INTERIORS?

The *Miito* electric kettle's laconic design does not dictate any particular aesthetic requirements on the premises where it is used. It will look sufficiently elegant in lavish country villas and modestly unpretentious in small student apartments, and serve as a useful addition to office kitchen corners. **BO**



1.61 JEWELRY AGENCY
Miesnieku iela 14 | **www.161agency.com** | tel. +371 27873333

This is your captain speaking

Text by **ILZE POLE**
Photos courtesy of **ASKO MANDRE**

ASKO MANDRE (40),

captain with *Boeing 737-300/500* aircraft, from Estonia
Hours flown: 14,000

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

HOW IT ALL **BEGAN**

The place where our family lived in Elva, Estonia, was relatively close to a military aerodrome. Big transportation planes flying at low altitude always made of all of the kids look up at the sky. The same thing happened in Hiiumaa, an island of the West Estonian Archipelago, where our family spent its summer vacations. One could see jet fighters flying at supersonic speed and at a very low altitude. These were my first impressions.

FAVOURITE **RESTAURANT**

My favourite restaurant is at home, as my wife is the best cook in the world.

THE BEST THING ABOUT **BEING A PILOT**

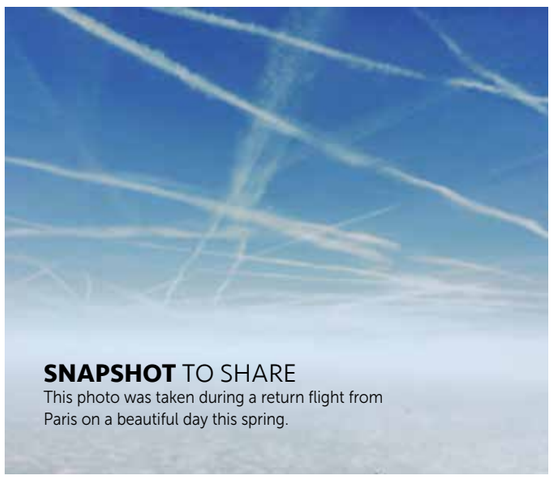
The lifestyle itself. If you want to fly, then you need to keep yourself up-to-date all of the time. At *airBaltic* we have a very high-level training department. Experienced instructors make sure that the pilots are properly trained and checked. You need to maintain your physical condition as well. And every pilot loves to fly! Flying takes you to many places; you see a lot of things that you would not with a stationary job.

FAVOURITE **BOOK**

The Master and Margarita by Mikhail Bulgakov.

HOBBIES

Travelling and reading historical and technical books. And flying planes, of course.



SNAPSHOT TO SHARE

This photo was taken during a return flight from Paris on a beautiful day this spring.

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

In *Boeing 737s* they are often surprised at the small size of the cockpit and how two persons can sit together in such a small space for such a long time. They are also surprised at the great view that we have. Then they notice all of those switches, levers, lights and so on.

FAVOURITE **RUNWAY**

The runway at Lennart Meri Tallinn Airport.

LAST DESTINATION FLOWN TO AS A PASSENGER

Moscow Sheremetyevo, where I went for holidays with my family. I was flying with *airBaltic*. Although the flight was full, we nevertheless departed on time. As it is known, our company is the most punctual airline in the world.

THREE THINGS THAT I **NEVER LEAVE HOME** WITHOUT

My passport, flight crew license and medical certificate.

HOUSING ESTATE FOR SALE

Brivibas bulvaris 21, Riga

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

Land area – 1 467 m².
Site area – 1 148 m².
Gross site area – 5 625 m².

Price: **EUR 7 300 000**

COMMERCIAL PREMISES FOR SALE

201 Brivibas gatve, Riga

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

Land area: 4343 m²
Gross site area: 10648 m²
Site area: 2274 m²
Commercial area: 7945 m²

Price: **EUR 8 900 000**

For sale: property with an area of 63500 m² at 201 Brīvības gatve in Riga, located near VEF. The land is suitable for a mixed development, including housing. Maximum building intensity – 220%. The property is strategically well-placed near the Elkor Plaza department store, a hotel, and the offices of various companies. Brīvības gatve is located nearby. The property is suitable for various business activities, including the construction of offices and housing.

Utilities: electricity supply, water supply, central heating.

Land area: 63500 m²

Price: **EUR 4 900 000**

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

Home and a Way

These new tech inventions are getting you out of your dreams and into your car (or airplane).

Text by **ROGER NORUM**
Publicity photos

GOPRO **HERO4** SESSION

Look ma, no cams!
The latest alternative to the selfie-stick is also the next generation in wearable action cameras. This brand new release is 40% lighter and 50% smaller than previous models, and there's just one button to press: once to shoot the video and again to stop recording. Videos can be viewed on a remote control device (sold separately) or downloaded straight to your computer. Image quality isn't quite as good as the larger *Hero4 Silver* or *Hero+ LCD*, but the size means that you'll have it with you much more often. And it's waterproof, too!
EUR 360 | ⓘ gopro.com

NEURIO

Power to the people
Now you can head off on a round-the-world trip and not worry about your electronic bird-feeder breaking down while you're away. This small Wi-Fi power monitor plugs straight into your circuit breaker panel (installation by a professional advised!) to monitor all of your energy use and display your power consumption in real-time. You can see a detailed view of appliance usage and check on electrical faults. The easy-to-read energy consumption stats also make you aware of the environmental (and financial) impact of running your air conditioning all summer.
EUR 225 | ⓘ neur.io

NIXIE

More death to selfie sticks
A wearable camera that can fly? Surely you jest. Nope, and it's almost here – straight off of 22nd-century Spiderman's wrist and into your life. Co-designed by a Stanford researcher and a Google alumnus, this mini drone clips right onto your wrist. Whenever you're ready, the drone will launch, fly off and take photos of you – whether you're eating, playing football, bungee jumping or saving the world. Though the *Nixie* is still in the prototype phase, it will be working its way to the market soon.
ⓘ flynixie.com

ZUTA LABS' **POCKET PRINTER**

Roomba on your A4
Another *Kickstarter* success story, this seriously smart printer lays down greyscale ink while running around the page. The little wireless robot printer is just 10 cm in diameter, meaning that you can pack it in your check-in luggage – or your toiletries bag, for that matter. Recharges via micro USB and can print straight from smartphones as well as laptops. The refillable print cartridges last for around 100 A4 prints. Starts shipping in September but is selling out fast!
EUR 224 | ⓘ zutalabs.com

PRYNT

From smartphone back to Polaroid
This ingenious smartphone case doubles as a mini photo printer, letting you instantly print out pictures of the memories that you've just created. Once you take a shot, send it straight to *Prynt* and a printed image will emerge in about 30 seconds. An interesting added feature is an augmented reality app that lets you record a video of the moments around the time when you click the shutter button. When you hold up the physical photo to your phone's camera, an app recognises the photo and will automatically play that video. Ships this autumn.
EUR 116 | ⓘ pryntcases.com

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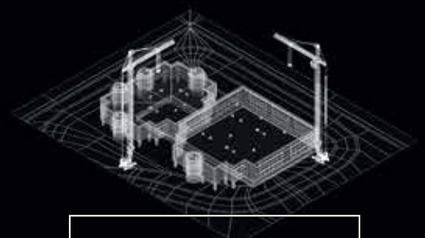

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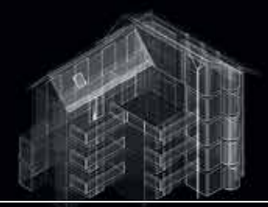
в индустриальной зоне:
с проектом строительства логистического центра



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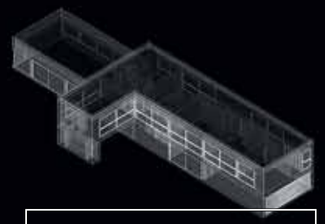

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© Tajana Vlasova

Text by **LIENE PĀLĒNA**
Publicity photo

Storm on the stage

A stunning concert tour by Latvia's best-known pop group, *Prāta Vētra* (*Brainstorm*), will rekindle your love of live music.

We are practically of the same age, *Prāta Vētra* and I. The pop group is 26 years old, while I am 27. Back in 1989, the five high school kids from Jelgava who created the band – Renārs Kaupers (lead vocals), Jānis Jubalts (guitar), Māris Mihelsons (keyboards), Kaspars Roga (drums) and Gundars Mauševics (bass guitar) – could not have imagined that they would one day perform at the Glastonbury Festival and finish third in the Eurovision song competition [*Mauševics didn't witness all of the group's successes, as he died in a car accident in 2004 – ed.*]. The five musicians also couldn't have imagined that their concerts would regularly break attendance records in Latvia. In 2008, for example, *Prāta Vētra* drew 45,000 spectators to the Mežaparks open-air stage in Riga, a record that has yet to be beaten for a pop concert in the country.

This month, *Prāta Vētra* is back on stage with a national concert tour to promote its new album, *7 Steps of Fresh Air* (*7 soļi svaiga gaisa*). The grandiose tour began in July and will conclude with spectacular shows in Valmiera (August 15) and Riga (August 29). The final concert is set to take place for the first time on a specially built stage on the grounds of the future *New Hanza City* finance and recreation centre. Up until now, Rigans had known this area as an empty green space close to the centre of the city.

Prāta Vētra spent two months recording its latest studio album at the legendary *Hansa Studio* in Berlin. During that time, the band members got to know the German capital quite well, riding around the city on bicycles and discovering it from a local perspective. By the time they returned to Latvia, they had established a list of favourite places for relaxing strolls, weekend brunches and street food French fries.

Due to their international commitments, the band members have to travel quite frequently, but they try to maintain a healthy sense of curiosity about every place that they visit, regardless of how weary they feel. They agree that we live in a beautiful world and each of them still has some places that he would like to visit. Thus, Jānis Jubalts dreams of taking a vacation on the tropical island of Bora Bora, Renārs Kaupers hopes to revisit Asia and travel extensively across that continent, Kaspars Roga continues to imagine what a lengthy sea voyage would be like, and Māris Mihelsons is set on making a trip to distant Niue Island, which is located in the South Pacific and which issues coins depicting cartoon characters and film heroes. **BO**

THREE THINGS TO DO IN BERLIN, AS RECOMMENDED BY *PRĀTA VĒTRA*:

- Have a weekend brunch at the *Café am Neuen See*. The café is located at a scenic lakeside spot, with live music and a wood stove that doubles as a fireplace on cooler evenings. The band members are especially fond of the café's interior, which reminds them of a boat. cafeamneuensee.de
- There is no shortage of great spas, saunas and bathhouses in Berlin. One of the group's favourites is *Liquidrom*. liquidrom-berlin.de
- Berlin Tempelhof Airport no longer fulfils its original function and has now become a popular public park. A great place for a relaxing day outdoors.

***Prāta Vētra's* new album, *7 Steps of Fresh Air* and tickets to the group's concert performances are available at ekase.lv.**

Stay cool

Refreshing summer drinks for every occasion

PINEAPPLE AND PEPPERMINT SODA

Ingredients (2 servings)
1/4 small pineapple
6-8 peppermint leaves
2 tbsp. liquid honey
1/5 cup water
1 cup lightly carbonated mineral water (such as *San Pellegrino*)
ice

Preparation
Place the pineapple, peppermint leaves, honey and water into a blender and blend the ingredients together. Fill in half of two tall cocktail glasses with ice, pour in the pineapple mixture and add the mineral water.

LEMONGRASS, LIME AND CUCUMBER SODA

Ingredients (2 servings):
2-3 lemongrass stems (without the leaves)
juice of 3 limes
3 tbsp. water
5 tbsp. sugar
1 small cucumber, thinly sliced
300 ml soda water
ice
lime slices for garnishing

Preparation
Slice the lemongrass stems into smaller pieces and heat in a kettle together with the lime juice, water and sugar until the sugar has dissolved. Cool and remove the lemongrass pieces. Fill in half of two cocktail glasses with ice, add the cucumber slices and a couple of lime slices. Cover with the prepared syrup mixture and soda water.

BLUEBERRY SODA WITH THYME

Ingredients (2 servings):
1 cup blueberries
4 tbsp. brown demerara sugar
1/3 cup water
2 thyme stems
juice of 1 lemon
2 cups soda water
ice

Preparation
Place the blueberries, sugar, thyme and water into a kettle and bring to a boil. Simmer for about 5 minutes over a low flame. Cool and strain through a sieve. Divide the blueberry syrup into two glasses, add the lemon juice and ice. Fill the rest of the glasses with soda water.

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

Restaurant Day

Food revolution from Finland

Text by **KOREN HELBIG**
Publicity photo

A few months ago, on a nippy spring morning in Finland, some friends and I popped down to Helsinki's "Plague Park". We walked past the headstones of citizens long since departed to feast on homemade food. The dishes had been prepared by living locals who had set up mini restaurants there for just one day.

However, munching on food from pop-up eateries scattered throughout a centuries-old cemetery wasn't the weirdest thing about that day. Every seller there was technically breaking the law, but the authorities weren't even batting an eyelid. In fact, Helsinki officials have become an unlikely champion of Restaurant Day, which has grown into an international food festival held all around the world four times a year.

It all began in 2011 with three twenty-something friends who, frustrated with the raft of restrictive regulations that seem to characterise modern cities, decided to act as if they didn't exist.

"We wanted to create a positive example, a positive utopia of what the world would be like if we just did something differently for a day," says Timo Santala, one of the founding trio.

They gathered a bunch of friends and descended upon public spaces, selling homemade food and drinks from 45 stalls without bothering to obtain a single license or permit. Three months later, a second event attracted 200 stalls. Pretty soon, city officials were publicly pledging to turn a blind eye to future infringements, with Helsinki Mayor Jussi Pajunen declaring Restaurant Day "exactly the sort of project that will define our future." The event, he said in 2012, "has inspired the city's population to question how things are run."

According to Santala, the real power of Restaurant Day lies in its ability to open people's minds.

"One of the problems of our society is that we are never asked: 'If you could do anything, what would you do?' We are just told: 'You can't do this and you can't do that.' I think the real consequence of Restaurant Day is that people truly realise they can have an effect on the society that they live in," he says.

The concept has now been embraced globally, with temporary restaurants popping up in countries from Canada to China and from Russia to Rwanda. Santala hopes the concept eventually spreads across the whole world.

"The most effective way to change the rules is to challenge them, and not in a negative way but by showing an alternative," he says.

The next Restaurant Day will be held in many places around the globe on August 16. See restaurantday.org to find the closest pop-up restaurants to your location. **BO**

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION MAY HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS

EXCLUSIVE

31 rue Cambon

In the birthday month of Mademoiselle Chanel (1883-1971), *Baltic Outlook* takes you to a very special address in Paris – her former apartment at 31 rue Cambon.

Text by **ILZE POLE**
Photos courtesy of the *Maison CHANEL*

Coco Chanel bought the building in 1918 and set up a boutique there. Her first Parisian boutique was just down the street at No. 21, which she purchased in 1910 and where she started selling hats. After that, Chanel bought boutiques in Deauville and Biarritz, before settling in Paris at 31 rue Cambon to start her adventure with haute couture.

The whole building is orientated to produce and present haute couture. A boutique beckons on the ground floor by the entryway, while the salon on the first floor is where Chanel presented her collections. The *atelier* stands two floors above the apartment and still produces haute couture.

Coco Chanel's apartment was an intimate space where she came to relax and to invite her friends for dinner parties. Not that many people were allowed to enter her private world. The apartment reveals two sides of Chanel's personality. One was modern, forward-looking and revolutionary, while the other was complex, mysterious and secretive. As a superstitious and spiritual person, Chanel was attached to various symbols. It is interesting to see the links between the symbols that she used in her work and the symbols in her apartment's decorations.

▲ This is where Coco Chanel traditionally presented her collections on a daily basis at 15:30. Her clients were mostly society ladies. Sometimes she held two presentations a day, with an additional showing at 11:00. The room was completely redone in 2002 by Karl Lagerfeld, who used black-and-white colours and geometric shapes as a reminder of the packaging of *Chanel N°5* perfume.

Coco Chanel didn't sleep in her apartment, but at the *Ritz* hotel across the street. According to one anecdote, every morning when she left the hotel, its concierge called the boutique to say that the designer was on her way to work. It was somebody's job to spray *Chanel N°5* perfume in the entrance lobby and above the stairs so that she would be greeted by her favourite fragrance.

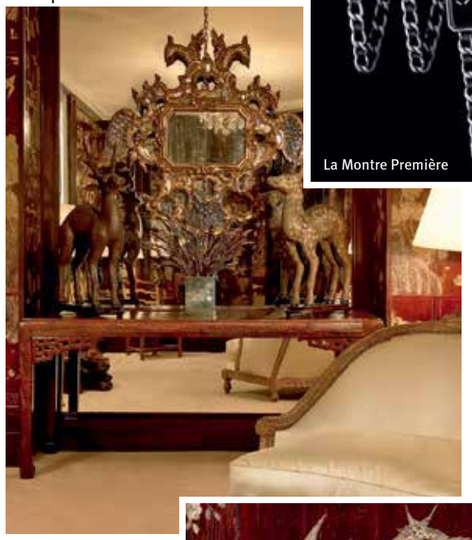
◄ This staircase was first mentioned in 1929. Built in a minimalistic style, its glass and mirror panels leave an amazing impression. While the staircase is quite aesthetic, it also had a strategic function. When Chanel sat at the top of the staircase, she could see what was going on downstairs (including the reactions of the audience) during fashion shows, but no one could see her.

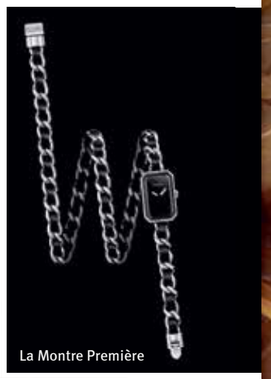
▲ Coco Chanel wanted her apartment to be warm and welcoming. The entry room is rich and decorated with mirrors, like a jewellery box. One blackamoor statue welcomes you inside, while the other one ceremonially ushers you further onwards.

The walls are decorated with beautiful Chinese Coromandel lacquer screens, which Chanel adored. She discovered them through Arthur "Boy" Capel, perhaps the only true love of her life, who had also decorated his apartment with such screens. These valuable exemplars date from the 17th-18th centuries. The audacious designer had no scruples about cutting out fragments of such works of art, flattening them and nailing them onto the walls of her apartment, thus hiding one side, as the screens are actually decorated from both sides.

▼ The German mirror on the wall dates from the 19th century. The shape in the middle of the mirror is the same shape that Coco Chanel used for the stopper of the *Chanel N°5* perfume bottle in 1924. This is also the shape of the Place Vendôme, a place that she was very fond of, and the shape of the *La Montre Première* watch, which was designed and produced in 1987.

▼ This late 18th-century *bergère* armchair is one of the few objects in the apartment that didn't actually belong to Coco Chanel. The story goes that photographer Horst P. Horst used it as a prop when he photographed her in 1937. Karl Lagerfeld later recognised the armchair at an auction and asked the *Maison CHANEL* to buy it and place it in the apartment.





La Montre Première

Coat from Fall / Winter 2015-16 collection

◄ ► Here some of Coco Chanel's favourite symbols can be seen, including the camellia, her favourite flower, which she integrated into her textiles and cosmetics. Modern-day designers continue to be inspired in this space and to create works in a style that is reminiscent of Chanel's, such as this watch (left) from the *Mademoiselle Privé* collection (2012). The dial is made in enamel, and a very delicate painting technique called *Grand Feu* is used on the face, which is surrounded by diamonds. The same pattern can be seen on the walls of the apartment's entrance room.

◄ Coco Chanel loved to read, and her apartment houses a large collection of books. She developed her passion for reading together with Arthur "Boy" Capel, who was interested in esoteric literature, including themes concerning reincarnation, spiritualism and Hinduism. This may have fuelled her interest in the power of symbols, which she integrated in many of her creations.

Wheat is one of the symbols that Chanel used and is present everywhere in her apartment, including this coffee table. It was designed by Goossens, a precious metal worker who worked for Chanel. His company still cooperates with the *Maison CHANEL* to this very day. Sheaves of wheat can also be seen on both sides and on top of the fireplace. The word in French for wheat is *blé*, a slang word for money. To Chanel, wheat represented success and material security, which she lacked when she was a child.

Bracelet from the *Sous le Signe du Lion* collection

▲ A pair of lions represents Leo, Coco Chanel's horoscope sign, which was worked into this bracelet from the *Sous le Signe du Lion* collection.

► Another sign of abundance is this frog leg, which corresponds to an Asian legend about a three-legged frog holding a coin in his mouth. In this case, a piece of crystal from the magnificent chandelier in the salon has been placed into the frog's mouth. It got there because Hubert de Givenchy, a good friend of Chanel's, was quite tall and accidentally knocked off the piece of crystal from the chandelier. He was very embarrassed, but Chanel told him not to worry and to place it wherever he wanted. He decided that the most appropriate place was in the frog's mouth.

▲ ► Decorated with natural rock crystals, smoky quartz and amethyst, this beautiful chandelier is full of symbols, including number fives (Chanel's favourite number), the letter G (the first letter of her name, Gabrielle) and others.

▲ A couch in the living room. If one looks closely, one will notice a criss-cross striped pattern on its pillows. It comes from the horseback riding that Coco Chanel loved so much and that she discovered through her first love, Etienne Balsan, who owned a stud farm about an hour away from Paris next to Compiègne. The blankets that he placed under the saddles were decorated with this criss-crossed motif, and this is where Chanel saw it for the first time. She later integrated the motif in her handbags.

▲ Chanel's apartment is decorated in neutral beige and light brown tones, black, white and light gold. Beige, for example, reminded her of the sunny beaches of Biarritz, where she had a boutique in the early days of her career. Chanel maintained that a dress should not distract attention away from the wearer but should instead reveal her personality. She also abided by this principle in decorating her apartment.

► A bird cage given to Coco Chanel by one of her *ouvrières,* or ladies who worked for her. Inside are two pearls, Chanel's favourite jewels. Almost everything in the apartment is symmetrically organised in twos or couples, such as a lion and a lioness or a stag and a deer. The designer was frequently somebody's mistress, but she never managed to become part of a stable couple herself. She never got married and didn't have any children. This bird cage inspired Jean-Paul Goude to produce an advert for *Coco* perfume featuring French actress Vanessa Paradis as a bird in a cage.

▲ This pair of deer belonged to Coco Chanel's friend, pianist Misia Sert, who doubled as a muse to painters Auguste Renoir and Toulouse Lautrec. Thanks to Sert, Chanel befriended painter Pablo Picasso, composer Igor Stravinsky, writer Jean Cocteau and others. She also worked together with Picasso and Cocteau on the *Ballets Russes* performance of *Le train bleu*, for which she designed the costumes. These and other avant-garde personalities became visitors to her apartment on the rue Cambon. Misia Sert owned this bronze pair of Japanese deer and hung her handbags on their horns. Eventually, the deer ended up in Chanel's apartment. In tribute to the pianist, a new perfume named *Misia* was recently launched to complement the *Les Exclusifs* series.

▼ A table in Coco Chanel's study from her first boutique. It's made in a modern and minimalist style and was designed by Jean-Michel Frank, a well-known Art Deco designer.

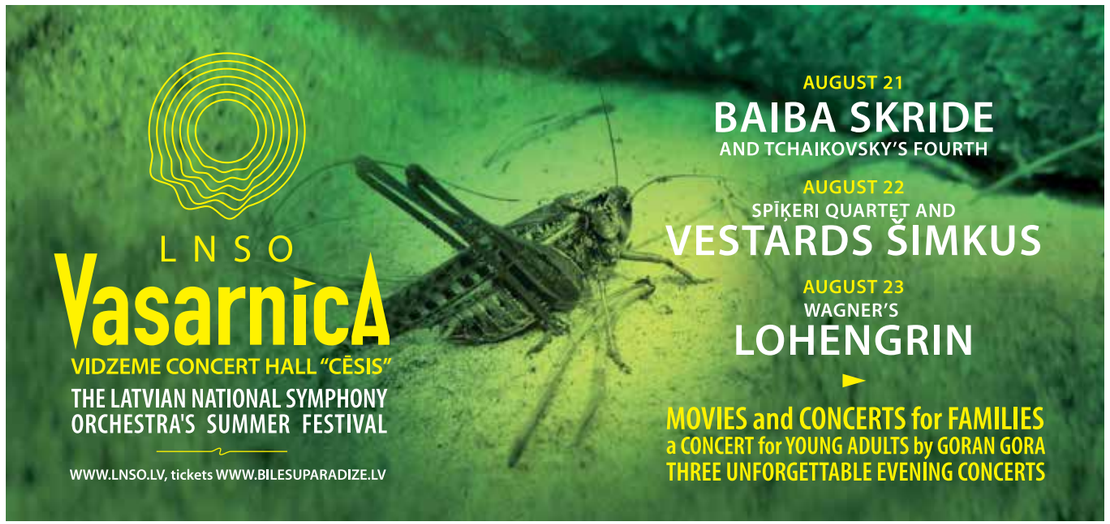
▲ This pair of console tables belonged to La Casati. One of them has a motif of grapes representing autumn. Coco Chanel had the tables' original marble surface removed and replaced with black lacquer, which reflects the light beautifully. *Chanel* makeup products are also packaged in material looking similar to black lacquer.

The 19th-century mirror is in the shape of the Place Vendôme and is decorated with camellias. Chanel quickly fell in love with objects that reminded her of her favourite things or places and didn't hesitate to buy them.

The bust is the only man in Chanel's apartment. It's been identified as that of the uncle of Arthur "Boy" Capel. In an apartment where everything has a particular significance, perhaps this was a way for Coco Chanel to maintain a link with her lost love.

▲ The dining room. Coco Chanel sometimes closed off this space with Coromandel screens to hide the door, because she allegedly hated doors and wanted to be a free spirit. She also felt lonely at times and talked about these feelings quite a bit. She said that if she was surrounded by friends who didn't see the doors, then perhaps they would forget to leave.

This rustic table corresponds with Chanel's taste in the sense that she usually had simple meals when she dined by herself. The chef at her disposal cooked simple fare – nothing too sophisticated. However, Chanel always served very good wine and champagne to her friends. She also smoked a lot and put out her cigarettes in these seashells, placing cloves in the salt and pepper holders as breath fresheners. There is also a set of lions on the table.



Text by **UNA MEISTERE**,
anothertravelguide.com
Photos by **AINĀRS ĒRGLIS**

VIENNA: THE BEST METROPOLIS FOR SUMMER

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The annual Quality of Living index created by the American company *Mercer* has again placed Vienna at the top of its ranking, followed closely by Zurich, Auckland and Munich. The prominent lifestyle magazine *Monocle*, for its part, ranked Vienna in second place on its Top 25 Liveable Cities list this year, just behind Tokyo. This represented a jump of four places from last year for the Austrian capital. *Monocle's* rating criteria include objective, measurable quantities such as apartment rental rates, public transportation, crime levels, environmental factors, restaurant prices and so on, as well as the completely subjective observations of tolerance, personal freedom, joy of life, nightlife diversity, etc.

As *Monocle* states, "over the past decade Vienna has blossomed like edelweiss, or risen like a phoenix." The city earned its high rating in part for its effective and affordable public transportation (EUR 48 for a monthly travel pass) and its comparatively friendly restaurant prices (according to the magazine, a good lunch in the Austrian metropolis can be found for about EUR 15).

Of course, other indicators of Vienna's high quality of life are its 39 public libraries, its more than 100 museums, its 113 bookstores and its average of 15,000 cultural events per year. Thanks to the city's many parks, about 200 square kilometres of Vienna are green territory. In addition, the sun shines there for an average of 2,204 hours a year.

Also, despite the swift turn towards the contemporary in recent years (several skyscrapers over 100 meters tall have been built in Vienna in a relatively short time period, most noticeably the DC Tower 1, a 220-metre building designed by Dominique Perrault that is currently the tallest building in Austria), tradition still runs strong in Austria's largest city. In other words, you'll find *Wiener Schnitzel* on the menu at the hippest of cafés. Superbly prepared, at that.

Art History Museum at Maria Theresa Square

Baroque park at the Belvedere Castle

St. Stephen's Square

However, neither of the above-mentioned lists of best cities considers one very essential criterion, namely, a city's suitability to summer. Especially considering that, as the thermometer reaches 30°C and higher, daily life in many metropolises begins to resemble an unendurable hell (take, for example, Moscow and its heated smog). The heat is even more difficult for tourists to bear, as they try to rush from site to site and take in all that a city has to offer. In this sense, too, Vienna would rightfully earn its ranking at the top of the lists as one of the cities best suited for summer. In any case, it would definitely beat Paris, likewise a favourite among tourists.

Swimming in Vienna

In addition to having many parks, the breeze off the Danube River and countless fountains – or at least lawn sprinklers used on the hottest days – Vienna is also an epicentre of urban beach culture. In fact, swimming in the Danube is a part of daily life for the Viennese. As the locals say, "ten minutes by bicycle and you're ready to dive into the Danube." Even though the colour of the water is not Mediterranean, at public beaches it is clean and refreshing. An Internet site even provides information about water quality and temperature at all the city's beaches, including the smallest and most remote.

Start your day with a visit to a café, as cafés are the soul of the city. Depending on where you are, try either the *Café Hawelka* (Dorotheergasse 6, hawelka.at) or the *Café Pruckel* (Stubenring 24). The first was a famous watering hole for writers and artists after the Second World War. Its interior has barely changed since, and even the unavoidable tourists who flock there cannot take away from the *Hawelka's* charm. The *Pruckel*, for its part, has a 1950s interior, and going there has become a ritual for many Viennese. The lampshades are at the proper height for the leisurely reading of a newspaper.

It's worth taking a tram around the ring boulevard (Ringstrasse) to gain an all-embracing picture of Vienna's diverse architecture. Ringstrasse marks the perimeter of the Innere Stadt district and was built along the lines of the former city fortification walls. It takes

Beach culture in Vienna began during the so-called "Red Vienna" period (1918-1934), when, following the collapse of the Habsburg monarchy and the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Social Democrats gained an absolute majority in the city government. During that time, many public swimming and recreation areas were built in the interests of the working classes. The best known of these areas is Gänsehäufel, established by the eccentric local nudist Florian Berndl and translating to "a pile of geese".

According to legend, Berndl leased a part of Gänsehäufel Island in the early 20th century with the intent of beginning a commercial willow plantation there. In reality, though, he wanted the trees there as a screen for a nudist lifestyle. Berndl was later joined by other nudists, but his "wild beach" did not last long. The local authorities eventually turned it into a more "proper" beach. Gänsehäufel gained its status as an official public beach in 1907, after which Berndl demonstratively leased a section along the banks of the Danube River exactly opposite the official beach.

Gänsehäufel was bombed during the Second World War but restored afterwards, with the changing cabins restored to their original appearance. In reverence towards the past, the site still has a separate nudist zone, and in 2007, the Vienna Museum even devoted a special exhibition to the beach in honour of its 100-year anniversary. With several swimming pools, three natural beaches and 266 showers, Gänsehäufel today occupies 300,000 square metres and is one of the largest urban beach complexes in Europe. Another popular swimming spot is 21-kilometre-long Danube Island, which is easily accessed from the city centre by the U1 metro line.

Including indoor swimming pools, there are currently more than 30 places to swim in Vienna. And, if you have a particular itch to dive into the water right in the city centre, a 30-metre-long floating pool called the *Badeschiff* is anchored between Schwedenplatz and Urania and is open until 8 PM. However, if you wish to relax in style – as befits a city known also for its decades-long café culture – swimming and social life are strictly separated in Vienna. The most popular beach cafés are located on the banks of the Danube between the 1st and 2nd districts. The concrete beach wall is covered in colourful graffiti, and nearby is a line of colourful beach chairs and bars that host the occasional concert. However, despite the leisurely urban entourage, swimming there is not recommended.

A *Spritz* on the summer terrace

An integral part of Vienna's summer rituals are an *Apfel gespritzt*, *Aperol Spritz*, *Weißwein gespritzt*, *Campari Spritz* or any other refreshing alcoholic or non-alcoholic drink enjoyed on a summer terrace at one of the city's many cafés. Located right on the banks of the Danube Canal where the 1st and 2nd districts meet, *Motto am Fluss* is one of the current favourites. At first glance, the glass building (which also serves as the Wien-City ferry terminal) resembles a boat, while the restaurant on the lower floor is decorated in a 1950s style. At lunchtime, the terrace at *Motto am Fluss* provides lazy views of life on the urban beach across the Danube, while in the evenings the setting sun brings beautiful colour to the river and the majestic panorama of Vienna in the distance.

The *Sofitel Stephansdom*, designed by French starchitect Jean Nouvel, also stands on the other side of the river. Nouvel was practically given carte blanche to design the extravagant 18-floor tower. The entire interior of the hotel is decorated in a simple three-colour palette: white, grey and black. The rooms on the north side of the hotel are dazzlingly white – from the ceiling to the floor and even the furniture. The rooms on the south side are grey, and the rooms on the west side are black. In the evenings, thanks to the light installations designed by Swiss artist Pipilotti Rist, three planes of psychedelic colour cut horizontally across the monumental tower. Rist also created the psychedelic explosion of colour on the ceiling of the hotel's rooftop restaurant, *Le Loft*, which makes the roof look like it is floating on air.

Another favourite among Vienna's creative set is the terrace of the *Heuer am Karlsplatz* café. Located on Karlsplatz, on the border between the 1st and 4th districts, this is one of the city's most central points. Here, five different avenues of traffic come together, which then lead outward to the four corners of Vienna. More than 200,000 people pass in and out of the Karlsplatz metro station alone during a single day. It is therefore natural that *Heuer am Karlsplatz* is a great meeting place, whether it be for breakfast, lunch, an afternoon cocktail or dinner.

The café is located right next to the Kunsthalle Wien project

Karmelitermarkt district

Motto am Fluss café and restaurant

A city beach along the Danube Canal between the 1st and 2nd districts

space, and last year it underwent a renovation both inside and out. The café is basically a glass cube whose laconic and elegant interior space centres around a bar, behind which are large wooden shelves holding glass containers full of colourful ingredients (such as sliced strawberries, lemons, apple slices in syrup and stewed fruit) for the house-made drinks so popular in Vienna's restaurants. Some of the containers even hold homemade sauerkraut and marinated mushrooms and vegetables.

In other words, *Heuer am Karlsplatz* houses a veritable chest of gastronomic treasures, most of which have been prepared by *Heuer's* chef, Peter Fallnbügl. The *Thonet* curved-wood chairs at the café's tables are a nod to tradition. After all, Michael Thonet (1796-1871), although born in Germany, spent much of his life in Vienna and passed away in the Austrian capital. In appreciation of the master cabinetmaker, in the mid-19th century the Austrian court granted him the right "to bend any type of wood, even the most brittle, into the desired forms and curves by chemical and mechanical means."

The *Palmenhaus* café-bar, located in the former greenhouse of the Imperial Palace in the middle of the Burggarten park, has also long been known for its legendary terrace. The glass Art-Nouveau-style roof of the building, designed by Habsburg court architect Friedrich Ohmann and built between 1901 and 1904, is considered to be one of the most beautiful in Austria. The 15-metre-tall glass and steel construction, which protects the white columns, red leather couches and lush green plants inside, conjures a truly surreal feeling. During the daytime, sunlight fills the space, but in the evenings, contemporary light installations enliven the bar area. The terrace serves as a stage from which to observe the relaxed atmosphere of the park, once more confirming the fact that Vienna's slow pace is not a historical relic but instead a special part of the city's contemporary character, immune to the many temptations of the modern age.

Meanwhile, Vienna's most shaded – and possibly also most secret – terrace is found, surprisingly, in one of the city's most talked-about sites, namely, the museum quarter located in the former Habsburg Imperial Stables. You probably won't find *Glacis Beisl* merely by passing by, because the café is hidden away at the foot of the former city wall, away from all the hustle and bustle. Most of the tables are nestled between the trees in the café's green garden, which provide shade on even the hottest summer days. The place feels more like the countryside than the heart of a metropolis; the small wooden tables are set right upon the gravel

45 minutes for the legendary Tram Number 1 to cover its circular route while giving a glimpse of the Vienna Opera House, Hofburg Palace, parliament building, theatres, museums and Mölker Bastei (a remaining part of the old fortifications).

It's also worth attending a theatre performance at the Burgtheater, which is the second oldest national theatre in Europe. The building is stunning, and an early work by Gustav Klimt adorns the ceiling. It depicts the final scene in *Romeo and Juliet* and should be a destination in itself (Dr. Karl-Lueger Ring 2). The Burgtheater takes great pride in its actors, and past stars can be seen in photographs in the lobby.

The Wiener Prater Park is a huge park in Vienna's Leopoldstadt district. Famous Habsburg emperor Maximilian II used it as a hunting field for aristocrats from 1560. Two centuries

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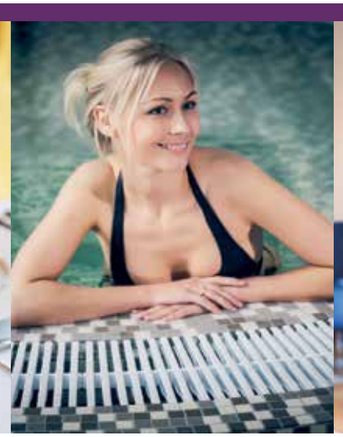

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TBA21-Augarten is showing one of this summer's most spiritual art projects, *Aru Kuxipa / Sacred Secret*, created by Ernesto Neto in cooperation with the Huni Kuin people living along the border between Brazil and Peru

later (in 1766), Joseph II turned this green area into a public recreation park, yet hunting continued until the beginning of the 20th century. Today, Prater is a place where people love to have picnics, play Frisbee and football, allow their dogs to run free, and simply spend time in the outdoor playground with their friends and families.

The Liliputbahn narrow gauge railway still operates in the park today, while the Wurstelprater amusement park also stands in a corner of the Wiener Prater. There, you can find old-fashioned wooden roundabouts side by side with modern-day roller-coasters. The Prater Museum (Oswald -Thomas Platz 1) gives a deeper insight into the history of Vienna's famous amusement park, which reached the peak of its splendour during the Vienna World Fair in 1873 but was destroyed during the Second World War.

There are few better ways to end an ideal day in Vienna then by having a drink at the *Loos Bar* (Kaertner Durchgang 10). Designed by brilliant architect Adolf Loos in 1908, its full name is the *Loos American Bar*. Occupying a mere 27 square metres, the place is tiny, but its interior is a true Modernist gem. The tables are lit from within, glowing in the otherwise dark premises.

in the courtyard. The menu is inspired by classic Austrian cuisine (and includes the ubiquitous *Wiener Schnitzel* and goulash) but is supplemented with healthy contemporary accents.

The food is tasty, the prices are friendly, and there are no unnecessary eccentricities. If, after enjoying your meal, you wish to sit in the sun or just relax surrounded by prominent cultural institutions and contemplate some philosophical matter or other, the gigantic blue couch-benches in the museum quarter square are the perfect place. Vienna's museum quarter is the world's eighth largest cultural space, covering an area of 60,000 square meters.

The two massive, contrasting "cubes" are the most noticeable objects in the square. The white cube houses the prestigious Leopold Museum and its superb collection of 19th- and 20th-century Vienna modernist and Austrian expressionist art. The black cube houses Mumok, otherwise known as Vienna's museum of contemporary art, which is also known for its unique collection of 20th-century art. Depending on which direction you come from, one of the cubes will be straight in front of you. And, as long as you've made it this far, it would be a shame to not visit at least one of them.

The *Tracey Emin/Egon Schiele: Where I Want to Go* exhibition, which can currently be seen at the Leopold Museum, provides a meeting of two unique enfants terribles from different eras. Emin is one of the brightest stars of the British contemporary art scene and was formerly linked with the scandalous Young British Artists group. Egon Schiele (1890–1918), for his part, is a legend of Austrian expressionism, an elegiac portrayer of the starkness of reality and unpolished, sometimes disfigured beauty. According to legend, Schiele has been one of Emin's artistic heroes since the age of 15, when she discovered that David Bowie's *Lodger* and *Heroes* album covers were in fact inspired by Schiele's paintings.

Emin calls the artistic dialogue between herself and Schiele that the exhibition addresses "a dream come true". In all, the exhibition features more than 80 works by Emin that are displayed together with drawings by Schiele that she herself selected. Meanwhile, the *Ludwig Goes Pop* exhibition at Mumok celebrates one of the most magnificent collections of pop art, that of Germany industrialist Peter and Irene Ludwig. The extensive exhibition includes almost 100 works of art that have been lent to the museum by six European art institutions.

The market and shamanistic rituals

Vienna's logical layout makes getting around in the city comfortable and actually quite a joy. Compared with some other large cities, the distances in Vienna are relatively small, so the best way to get to know the Austrian capital is by foot. One can thus also best experience the different energies of each district. Each district (*Bezirk*) in Vienna is numbered and has a specific name, like a reference to a paragraph in a historical document. Currently, everyone is talking about the 2nd District, where a number of Vienna's most stylish restaurants have popped up in the area around Karmelitermarkt. Located opposite the elegant city centre, the Karmeliterviertel, or Carmelite Quarter (named after a Carmelite monastery that has not survived to the present day), was the centre of Vienna's Jewish community and remains so to this day. Whereas the other side of the river had the opera, this side of the river had cafés and vaudeville theatres. After the war, however, this became a poor and forgotten area of the city, and it began its revival only fairly recently.

At the heart of the 2nd District is Karmelitermarkt, which was established in 1671 and is one of Vienna's oldest markets. It is almost 100 years older than the famous Naschmarkt, which, due to its ever exuberant crowds and distinct multicultural character, is often called "the city's stomach". Naschmarkt stretches almost half a kilometre long, and each day more than 60,000 people, tourists and locals alike, pass through its countless market stalls and eateries (about 120 in all).

Karmelitermarkt, on the other hand, is much quieter and more compact. It is frequented mostly by locals and the atmosphere resembles a small-town marketplace rather than a large city. This is, for example, where Hasidic Jews come to shop for kosher products from familiar sellers. But, like any true market, here you can find whatever you may need... including, of course, lunch at one of the many market cafés. Nearby is one of the currently most popular restaurants, *Skopik & Lohn*. In contrast to its otherwise laconic interior design, an expressive black-and-white network of lines created by Austrian artist Otto Zitko is featured on the restaurant's ceiling.

Nearby is also *Pizza Mari*, considered by locals to be the best pizza joint in town. And that's all this unassuming eatery has on the menu – only pizza. The owner, Maria, brought all of the best Neapolitan pizza recipes with her when she moved to Vienna from her native Naples. In short, *Pizza Mari* is 100% authentic and sinfully tasty.

Continuing past Karmelitermarkt and through the 2nd District on Leopoldgasse, in about 10 to 15 minutes one arrives at the Augarten, a 52.2-hectare territory that includes Vienna's oldest Baroque-style park. The park was designed by French landscape architect Jean Trehet and created in 1712. During a hot summer, the 100-year-old chestnut, ash and maple avenues provide welcome shade, while the colourful flower beds and Baroque sculptures give the landscape a noble elegance. Like the majority of Vienna's fenced parks, the Augarten is open only during the daytime and the gates close at sunset.

The Augarten includes the Palais Augarten, the Filmarchiv Austria, the Augarten porcelain factory and a museum as well as two fairly ghostly inhabitants – 50-metre-tall concrete flak towers built during the Third Reich. Today they look like eerie mausoleums to the fairly recent past. Adolf Hitler himself is said to have come up with the idea of the towers as a strategic way of repulsing air attacks. The project cost a ton of money but later turned out to be completely pointless, because the Allied forces soon learned to avoid the towers.

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Healing art by Ernesto Neto at TBA21

In one of the corners of the Augarten you'll also find TBA21-Augarten, one of the most unique art spaces in Vienna. Established by Francesca von Habsburg, the daughter of Baron Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza and already the fourth generation of philanthropists and art collectors in her family, TBA21 is devoted to the most ambitious, most unusual and most experimental of art initiatives. All of the projects exhibited there have been created especially for the space, thereby providing a unique artistic, environmental, informational and emotional experience.

Until October 25, TBA21 is showing one of this summer's most spiritual art projects – *Aru Kuxipa | Sacred Secret*, created by Ernesto Neto (the best-known name on Brazil's contemporary art scene) in cooperation with the Huni Kuin people living on the border between Brazil and Peru. The project is a poetic and almost hallucinogenic story about the human relationship with nature; appealing to all of the senses, it is a kind of journey back in time to humanity's roots, ancient knowledge and the proverbial soul we've lost to the march of progress.

The Huni Kuin tribe are 5964 people living in five towns on the banks of the Amazon River. The shaman and chief of the tribe are still the leaders of the people in this microcosm so isolated from the rest of the world, and ancient rituals still have a large hold on life there. The opening of the art exhibition coincided with the publishing of the *Book of Healing*, a compilation of 109 plants that the Huni Kuin use in their traditional medicine. Neto, who has the ability to break down the barriers between a piece of artwork and its viewers, bringing them into a dream-like land of phantasmagorical visions, worked together with Huni Kuin shamans so that visitors in Austria could experience just such an event.

Before entering the exhibition, visitors must remove their shoes. As their feet sink into the light blue carpet, they experience Neto's futuristic canopy of smells and forms in which transparent polyamide "stockings" filled with lavender, basil and chamomile stretch from the ceiling to the floor, like the feelers of a gigantic insect in a strange fairy-tale forest. At the centre of the room stands a flower-shaped table with objects used in Huni Kuin shamanistic rituals. None of the objects are reproductions, and visitors are encouraged to touch them, because, according to the ancient knowledge, distancing oneself lessens the strength of the ritual objects.

Step by step, Neto leads the visitor further and further into the secrets of the Huni Kuin, conjuring a space of offering, celebration and contemplation from knowledge, music, symbols and words originating in a time-out-of-time, in which the visitor seemingly travels back in time and to a different culture in order to feel his or her own time and space more powerfully and more authentically. The exhibition is free of charge. In fact, it is worth planning a trip to Vienna this summer for this exhibition alone.

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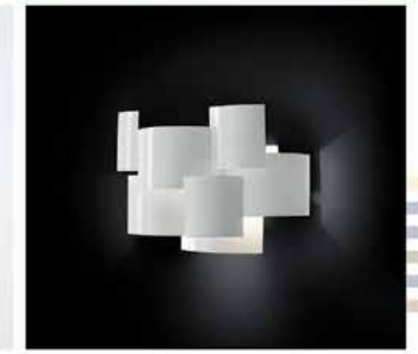

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GAISMAS MAĢIJA

A METROPOLIS WITH THE CHARACTER OF A VILLAGE

Insider's view

Mia Legenstein

Katharina Abpurg

Vienna has always been famous for its vibrant cultural scene and continues to be so today. Due to its strategic location in Central Europe, the city serves as a bridge between the East and the West and is a crossroads of cultures, including the arts. A fine example of this is the *Viennacontemporary* art fair, which will be held this year from September 24 to 27.

The fair's new home – the recently renovated 20,000 m² Marx Halle – was built in the 19th century. The *Viennacontemporary* art fair is unique in being the only fair to unite both Central European and Eastern European art under one roof, drawing galleries, artists and art aficionados from both the East and the West.

The fair also has a VIP programme for its special guests, among whom one can find a number of prominent art collectors from all corners of the world. Aware of the fact that this event provides visitors with arguably the most exclusive key to the city, *Baltic Outlook* met with Katharina Abpurg and Mia Legenstein from the fair's VIP relations team.

Upon returning to a city, one usually wonders what's new and what has happened since one's last visit. What have been the most visible changes in Vienna in recent years?

Mia: Vienna is now more international. For many years, we've been at the top of the list of world cities in terms of quality of life.

Katharina: It's still a very good life balance for your income and what you get for it. Even a student can get a really nice flat inside the city.

M: New areas are emerging, like the 2nd District around Karmelitermarkt.

K: Before, the bohemian scene with all the artists' studios was in the 7th District. This has now moved to the 2nd District, which is much larger. The 7th is already too expensive.

M: The 16th is also up-and-coming. It's very mixed. It's multicultural and a lot of artists are living there, and it's still much cheaper than the 2nd District. But districts aren't so important in Vienna, because in ten minutes you can be in the next district.

What do you love most about living in Vienna?

M: The public transport system. That's really important for me. It works so well, and getting from point A to point B is so fast and never too stressful. It's absolutely a sign of the high quality of life here.

K: We have great culture on offer, whether it's opera or a pop concert. You can do everything here for a normal price. Anybody can have a good time here, and it's not a fast city. Life here is quite slow and comfortable. That makes people want to stay in Vienna.

M: I think it's really about the pace of life. Living in Vienna still feels a little bit like a village, but you can have everything here. Everything that you want.

Which are the must-sees at the moment for someone interested in contemporary art?

K: The Biennale (Vienna's first art biennale is running through October 4th – BO) is going on right now, and the *viennacontemporary* fair in September is a must.

M: And a tour through the best Viennese galleries. They are really worth seeing. Furthermore, there are always interesting exhibitions at TBA21, 21er Haus and Museumquartier, for example, at the Leopold Museum. There is a great online magazine that shows the cool art events every week: viennacontemporarymag.com

K: We have many great galleries working on an international level and showing lively up-to-date programmes:
In the 1st District there are, for example: Galerie Krinzinger, Galerie Charim, Galerie Emanuel Layr, Galerie nächst St. Stephan Rosemarie Schwarzwälderand and Thoman. At Schleifmühlgasse there are Christine Koenig Galerie, Gabriele Senn, Kerstin Engholm, Andreas Huber and Georg Kargl. Finally, at Eschenbachgasse you'll find Galerie Crone, Meyer Kainer, Steinek, Martin Janda and Krobath.

How would you describe the true Viennese people?

M: They can be difficult. Viennese people have the image of being a bit arrogant, but when you get to know them, they are sweet.

K: It's hard to capture their hearts, but when you do, you have them forever. It's not on a superficial level. That's not possible here. Small talk doesn't work in Vienna.

Could you name your favourite restaurants/bars in Vienna?

Mia&Katharina: ***Albertina Passage*** (Opernring/Opergasse; albertinapassage.at) – the most exciting dinner club in Vienna; ***Skopik & Lohn*** (Leopoldsgasse 17; skopikundlohn.at) – one of the most famous restaurants in the currently stylish 2nd District. The ceiling was painted by Austrian artist Otto Zitko. ***Ulrich*** (St. Ulrichsplatz 1; ulrichwien.at) – the best wild boar schnitzel in town at the foot of the magnificent Baroque-style St. Ulrich's Church. ***Zur Herknerin*** (Wiedner Hauptstrasse 36) – Austrian retro-style cuisine. ***Kleines Café*** (Franziskanerplatz 3) – super-secret, super-small, super-charming. Serves the world's best hot chocolate. ***Café Hawelka*** (Dorotheergasse 6; hawelka.at) – an institution. Try the legendary *Buchteln*. ***Loos Bar*** (Kärntner Durchgang 10; loosbar.at) – an architectural masterpiece by Adolf Loos, still popular with locals and tourists alike. ***Roberto Bar*** (Bauernmarkt 11-13) – oddly enough, this bar was opened by one of the former bartenders at the *Loos Bar*. Many young people go there and it's always crowded. **BO**

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Text by **ZANE NIKODEMUSA**
Photos courtesy of
EVITA DOKĀNE and
Triumph International

TRIUMPH OF WOMANHOOD

Baltic Outlook sat down with Latvian lingerie designer Evita Dokāne (37) to talk about her worldwide success and, of course, lingerie.

Before becoming the head of the fashion team at *Triumph International*, Evita Dokāne set and predicted lingerie fashion trends for brands across the world from her office in London. During the past six years, Dokāne's career has advanced at a dizzying pace, her employment position changing four different times due to a never-ending stream of job offers, each more challenging than the previous one. Dokāne has worked as a lingerie designer for the major British retailer *Marks and Spencer* and currently is under the employ of *Triumph*, one of the world's leading lingerie companies with a history that stretches back almost 130 years.

Although *Triumph International* was founded in the southern German state of Baden-Württemberg and still has an office there, I meet with the Latvian designer at the company's London office. This is the city that Dokāne calls home. There is no sense of the frenetic urban rat race within the confines of these peaceful office premises, despite their location on busy Oxford Street in the UK's foremost metropolis. Sporting a healthy tan and dark berry-coloured lipstick, Dokāne demonstrates some of the lingerie collections that she has designed, all of them arranged neatly on clothes hangers. The designer smiles broadly and says that she has just returned from a trip to South America. It isn't unusual for her to take business flights three or four times a week to various destinations across the world, to such an extent that planes have become places for her to rest and compose her thoughts.

What are your days at work like?
They are quite varied. Over the course of a year, our team's main task is to create new lingerie collections for the following two fashion seasons: fall/winter and spring/summer. We always have to do this with a look to the future. For example, now we are already working on the design of the fall/winter collection for 2016/2017. First we work out the design concepts and then we create the first lingerie samples. The creation of each collection is a long and complicated process. You are continually improving the designs and fine-tuning the details. On top of that, you have to find the perfect fitting for each piece of lingerie. That's one of the most important preconditions in the design of this type of clothing. Each piece must fit extremely well and be comfortable to wear.

Aside from designing new collections, I also take business trips to Europe, North and South America to meet with regional *Triumph* representatives and to learn about the needs and desires of women in various countries. In addition, I regularly attend lingerie trade shows for professional designers.

How much creative freedom do you have?
Here at *Triumph* we have quite a bit of freedom. We devote a lot of resources to promote a creative spirit at the workplace. We have large moodboards in our office on which we place inspiring visual illustrations or photos. We also look for inspiration at exhibitions, in art, in music and at lingerie trade shows. Anyone in the company can present an idea for evaluation.

Your main place of employment is in Germany, but you consider London to be your home.
Yes, it may sound strange, but even though I work in Germany, London is the place where I am used to living and where my social life is. Last year when I agreed to work at *Triumph*, I never even considered changing my place of residence. I fly every week to Germany and am at the company office there from Monday to Thursday. Then on weekends I am back in London. Actually, there is a positive sense of balance in this constant change of scene. Germany's green hills are beautiful and calming, in complete contrast to the throbbing city of London.

Returning to the design of lingerie, do you have enough influence to ensure that your initial design

The new fall/winter *Amourette Spotlight* collection by *Triumph International*

It's a high-level engineering job. I like preciseness and fineness in details

ideas are retained and make their way to the final product?
Of course, at a large company like *Triumph* an initial design concept might change and become completely unrecognisable. My job is to make sure that the idea behind the initial design concept is not changed. Other departments may submit recommendations that are worth following, but I have to follow the course of any new model that my team has created, from the first phases of the design process to the final product that reaches the store shelves. That involves continual small battles and communication with other departments.

Does that mean that you have honed your cooperation skills?
Definitely. I have previously also worked for international companies where you have to understand your colleagues while simultaneously defending your own ideas. I don't create any new collection individually. Every new lingerie collection that you see in a store is the result of a huge amount of teamwork – both within my department and together with other departments, such as the commercial department. This all involves close cooperation between many talented individuals.

Could you see yourself working as a fashion designer for individual clients?
No. From the very beginning when I was studying at the Textiles and Design Department of the Riga Technical University, I knew that I wanted to design clothes that would interest a wide range of people. I have no interest in creating products that only one woman will like.

Is designing lingerie more like being an engineer or an artist?
I think it is a combination of both aspects. For example, there is a much greater variety of shapes and patterns for women's outerwear than for lingerie. As lingerie designers, we are concentrating more on innovations such as new combinations between different materials. That's a high-level engineering job. I like preciseness and fineness in details. Every

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millimetre is important in this field of work. I have the required amount of patience for that.

I once read that a bra is made of at least 26 different parts.
That's entirely possible, because the manufacture of lingerie is a very complicated process, and the end product has to offer the same level of comfort to wearers of different sizes. It takes as long as three years for us to adjust and perfect our newest innovations.

Do you remember the first design sketch that you drew?
I don't remember the precise sketch, but I do remember that I have liked working with textiles from the very beginning. Every day I feel the need to touch the products that I work with. After three years of predicting lingerie fashion trends, I started to become restless, because I wanted to go back to working with real textiles and patterns. Most of those three years were spent in an office following the lingerie business in Europe, America and Asia and viewing the latest collections and innovations at various fashion weeks. After analysing and compiling this information, I published it on the website of *WGSN Fashion Trend Forecasting* and predicted the colours, textiles and silhouettes that would be in fashion a year or two later. This was a very specific job that isn't taught at any school.

How do fashion trends come about? Why do all the major fashion designers suddenly fall in love with suede, for example?
Fashion trends are cyclical. They come back into style years or even decades later. I think this is connected with the information that designers receive in a given time period. We are all interconnected and are influenced by what we feel, see and hear. That includes musical performances, movies, art exhibitions, history and politics. For example, right now the Victoria and Albert Museum in London is hosting a huge retrospective of works by the late British fashion designer Alexander McQueen [*on view until August 2 – ed.*]. Most of the designers who are in London will go and see the exhibition and will be influenced by it, either consciously or unconsciously. The influences sublimate, and in the collections of the following fashion weeks we will be able to spot some common traits. The fact that these traits can then be seen in the collections of retail clothing companies is another story. Fashion trends usually last at least two years in the market.

I also saw the Alexander McQueen exhibition and experienced a wonderful little episode: two respectable British ladies began discussing which part of the woman's body is the sexiest. McQueen thought that it is the bottom of the spine. What do you think?
Her cleavage, but not completely uncovered. Even when it is covered with an item of clothing, one should be able to read the beautiful lines of the bra and the breasts. A beautiful décolletage is always one of the most enticing parts of a woman's body.

What do you think of the trend of lingerie almost becoming outerwear and of the fact that many women are not shy about displaying it in public?
Just recently I was discussing with a colleague about how female pop stars can no longer perform on stage without revealing their underwear. I think that women can reveal some small parts of their lingerie in some cases, but that it should remain something special and intimate. A woman should retain some secrets that are known only to her. One of these is her beautiful lingerie, which she wears to keep herself in a good mood.

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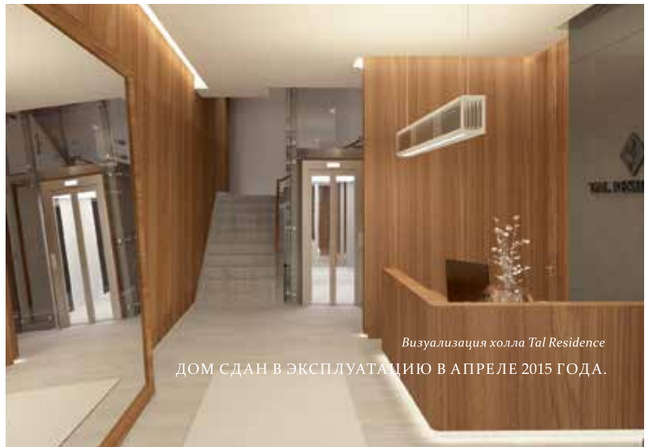
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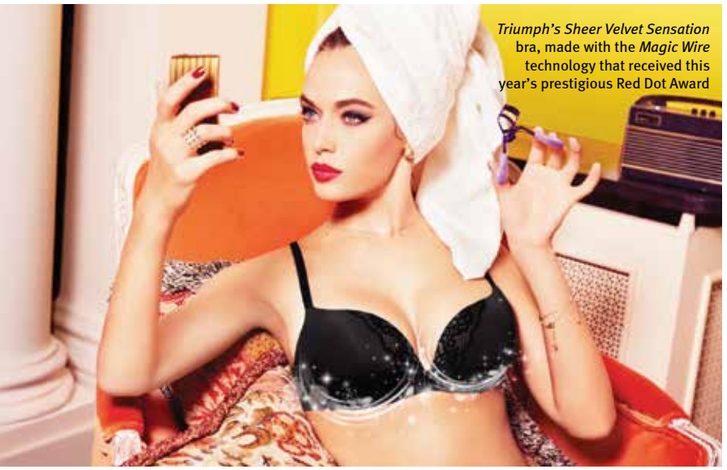

Triumph's Sheer Velvet Sensation bra, made with the *Magic Wire* technology that received this year's prestigious Red Dot Award

> In fashion there are still two opposing camps: refreshing gemstone tones versus calm and subdued tones

It's great to know that you harbour a secret that fits you well and looks great on you, and that you want to reveal only to that very special someone.

Yes, men and lingerie are a story in itself. Does their choice of lingerie differ from that of women?
When I think about the design of lingerie, my thoughts remain focused primarily on the women who will wear these items: their feelings and their choices. Men usually buy lingerie on special occasions such as Christmas or Valentine's Day. These items are usually more extravagant. They choose flashier and sexier styles, while women think of the items' practicality and comfort, regardless of the season.

I read that the average number of bras owned by a woman is nine, and that women wear only a third of the bras that they own. Do you think this is true?
Yes, because women will wear the bras in which they feel the most comfortable. I can also say so based on my own experience. Buying lingerie is my passion. I regularly go out to see what's on the market, and at the end of the working day, I often return home with a set of lingerie that I have bought at one store or another. My boyfriend has asked me why I buy so much lingerie if I already have more than enough in my wardrobe. Yes, in a practical sense I do have enough, but I am also a collector. A beautiful set of lingerie after a hard day at work is a wonderful way to make yourself happy.

What is your favourite material?
Regarding lingerie, I like lace as a decorative element.

What has surprised you regarding the development of fabrics for lingerie?
They are becoming increasingly comfortable, soft and breathable. Incidentally, along with this development, corrective underwear is also becoming more beautiful and makes up our company's largest and most successful sales segment. We are making corrective underwear that is decorated with lace, satin ribbons and other fine details, while simultaneously maintaining a high degree of functionality, which lets women hide what they need to hide and highlight what they want to highlight.

Have women's bodies changed a lot over the past decade?
No, they haven't. What has changed is the ability to find the most appropriate underwear for one's body, both in regards to the pattern and the size. Unfortunately, many women still wear underwear that doesn't correspond to their size. The best thing is to ask for advice from a professional who is familiar with the nuances of fitting underwear. A lot of stores now offer this service. One can also try to find the right set of underwear on one's own, but then there is one important precondition: you have to try the underwear on. It may fit well, but it may not suit your skin tone. There is no rule of thumb that light-haired women should wear such and such a colour, and that dark-haired women should wear another. The tone of the skin differs for each woman and can be a very important factor.

What styles will be in fashion during the upcoming fall/winter season?
This is the season when stores are beginning to display lingerie styles that I myself have worked on. In fashion there are still two opposing camps: refreshing gemstone tones versus calm and subdued tones. Among the new arrivals is a chocolate brown tone that hasn't been seen for a while in lingerie collections, and a green khaki tone. I predict that these tones will last two or three seasons. Incidentally, although colours and details can change from season to season, some lingerie styles have sold consistently well for decades on end. *Triumph's* legendary *Doreen* bra was introduced in 1967 and, despite its vintage look, is still one of the company's best-selling products. Another bestseller is the *Amourette* bra.

Speaking of innovations, we are quite proud of our *Magic Wire* bra, which received the prestigious Red Dot Award this year. Inspired by women's complaints about underwire bras, this piece's metal support has been replaced with a sealed silicon wire, making the bra much more comfortable to wear. The brisk sales of this item are also showing that we have created

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> Getting to know the tastes and aromas of wines is something that I find truly fascinating

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What has been the most difficult challenge for you?
When I began working in the design of women's underwear, it was hard for me to understand the construction of a bra and how to make a proper pattern. It took at least two years until I felt capable of designing a bra. There are so many details and materials that all have to be combined so that they not only stay together, but also fit comfortably over the breasts and support them

What inspires you to design complicated constructions like bras?
I get the most inspiration from the opportunity to see *Interfilière*, the leading lingerie trade show in Paris. It takes place twice a year and brings together professionals who work in the business, starting with lingerie designers and ending with fabric manufacturers. These are three very intensive but inspiring days.

But privately... What inspires you?
Outside of work, I am inspired by wine studios. Yesterday I completed the third level of studies at the *Wine & Spirit Education Trust* in London. Getting to know the tastes and aromas of wines is something that I find truly fascinating, because you have to combine rational knowledge with your subjective perception of the nuances of taste and smell. That is my main hobby, and I also devote time to it when I travel.

What is your favourite city?
London is a wonderful city. I am enchanted by its multicultural nature and by the colourful mix that can be found here. You can try out all kinds of different foods and see different types of art. The museums alone are worth seeing and very accessible, as many of them don't have an entry fee. I also like Italy and especially Tuscany, but am also interested in seeing new places. I really enjoy travelling and quickly adapt in any new location. I remember having a special feeling of anticipation before we went on trips already during my childhood. Even now, every week when I head for the airport to fly to my workplace in Germany, I get that feeling; admittedly to a lesser extent than before, but I still get it. Travelling is something special. **BO**

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AZURE PARADISE

A personal guide to the most beautiful spots on the Côte d'Azur

Text and photos by **ANDA KĀRKLIŅA,**
andasstuff.wordpress.lv

As the plane descended toward the airport at Nice, my eyes were dazzled by the brilliant turquoise-coloured waters of the Mediterranean Sea, in which luxury yachts of various sizes could be seen. That alone was enough to induce a calm sense of relaxation through my body, while giving rise to thoughts about enjoying life to the fullest. The French Riviera is like a delectable dessert, with a thick dose of creamy glamour on the surface (which might perhaps seem too sweet in large amounts) covering gentle and unforgettable flavours underneath.

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The bay at Villefranche-sur-Mer is like an amphitheatre that showcases some of the French Riviera's most impressive *mises-en-scènes*

Champagne on tender nights

What is the best thing to do once you have landed at Nice Côte d'Azur International Airport? After you have retrieved your luggage, take a look around. Not far from the baggage carousels is a shop with a surprisingly wide choice of champagne. It would be a sin not to enjoy this wonderful drink in the country of its origin, so treat yourself to a chilled bottle and pour yourself a glass later as you watch the sunset over the sea. Celebrate your arrival to a region that has inspired countless artists, writers and other luminaries. Raise one glass to the late artist Pablo Picasso and another to writer F. Scott Fitzgerald, both of whom paid tribute to life in the Riviera, each in his own way.

Champagne, sunglasses and gladiator sandals are just some of the essentials for a summer holiday in southern France. What else? A good car for freedom of movement and, ideally, a convertible so that nothing obstructs your view of the picturesque coast and scenic mountain roads. The car rental companies at the airport in Nice offer a plentiful choice of models (it's worth reserving a car beforehand through rentalcars.com) and practically everyone should be able to find the right car for their needs.

Those with thicker wallets might opt for an *Aston Martin*, while the latest generation of electrically powered cars is sure to please the environmentally conscious. If you arrive at the height of the summer heat, then it is worth taking a car with some vital upgrades, which actually don't cost that much more. However, nothing beats driving around in a convertible, with the wind flowing freely in your hair and the sun gently warming your shoulders.

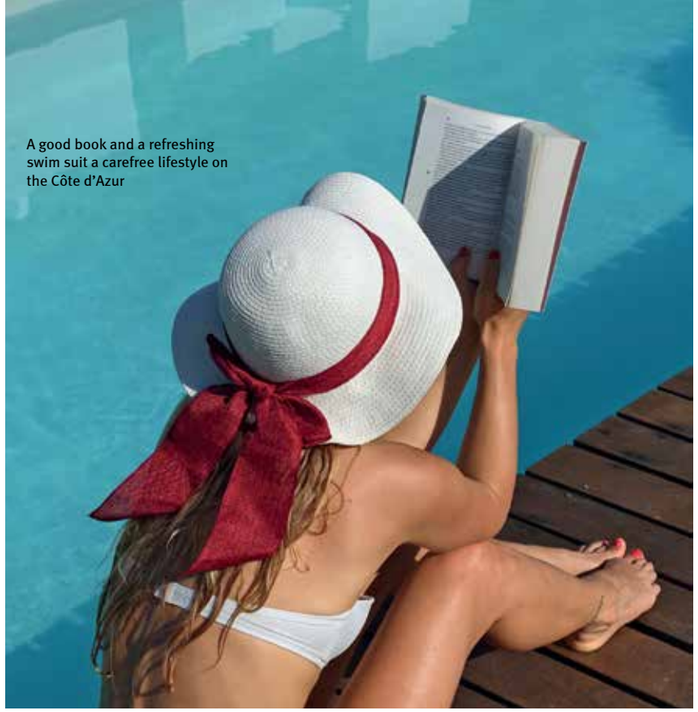
Where should you make your first stop? Most definitely at the stylish *Toile Blanche* hotel (826, chemin de la Pounchounière, Saint-Paul de Vence, toileblanche.com), with which you will immediately fall in love. Only a 15-minute drive northwest of the airport, the hotel is like a small corner of paradise at the edge of the medieval town of Saint-Paul de Vence. The hotel is owned by the Leroy Family, which is passionate about contemporary art, and this is reflected in the hotel's interior details. *Toile Blanche* is an oasis of peace and tranquillity where time seems to slow down considerably. Here, it's hard to believe that the crowded and busy city of Nice is such a short drive away.

This is a place where birds chirp away undisturbed as you enjoy a breathtaking view of the hills and of the villages nestled onto their summits. It is worth spending a quiet day sunbathing by the pool and breathing in the intoxicating fragrance of blooming rose bushes, then moving on to the terrace during the evening, where the proprietors – three charming brothers – will spoil you with culinary masterpieces. Enjoy your meal with a cool glass of rosé wine and engage in friendly conversation until the late night hours, as the cicadas and grasshoppers sing their mating tunes on a warm summer evening. "Tender is the night," wrote Fitzgerald, and the significance of these words suddenly becomes clear at this beautiful spot.

> Celebrate your arrival to a region that has inspired countless artists

What could be better than a glass of cool champagne in the land of its birth?

You will awake in the morning to the sound of roosters crowing, the sight of brilliant sunshine and the smell of fragrant coffee wafting up from the kitchen. The breakfast served at the *Toile Blanche* is close to divine, with fresh warm bread from the nearby bakery, homemade apricot marmalade, country eggs from a neighbouring farm, fresh fruit and great-tasting coffee. Once again, the guests are pampered by the same family trio. The brothers' philosophy is to be present and to do everything on their own, from greeting the guests on their arrival to cooking up their meals. One feels as if one is staying with old friends at a cozy home where one would be glad to spend the entire summer. The *Toile Blanche* is also an ideal base for exploring the seaside towns and cities of the Riviera during the first part of the day, before returning to enjoy a warm and lazy afternoon of rest and relaxation.



A good book and a refreshing swim suit a carefree lifestyle on the Côte d'Azur

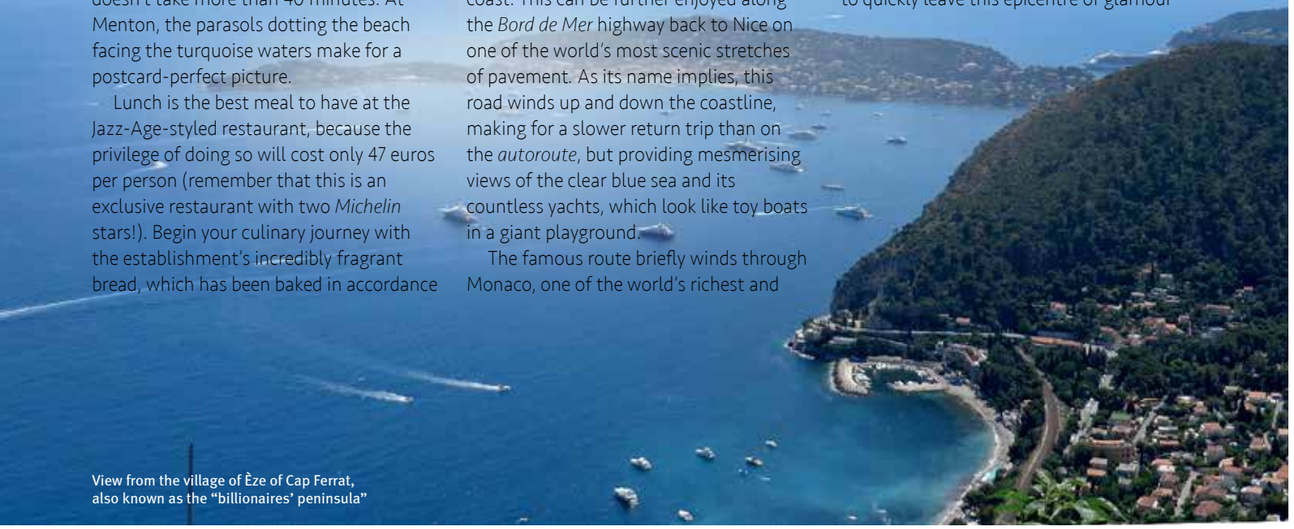
Coastal jewels

The word "France" is synonymous with "outstanding cuisine", and one should not miss the opportunity to savour an exceptional lunch at the two-*Michelin*-starred *Mirazur* restaurant (30 avenue Aristide Briand, Menton, mirazur.fr), which is headed by Argentinean chef Mauro Colagreco. Head eastward along the coast to Menton, a charming city that lies only 1 km from the Italian border. The trip from the hotel along the high-speed *autoroute* doesn't take more than 40 minutes. At Menton, the parasols dotting the beach facing the turquoise waters make for a postcard-perfect picture.

Lunch is the best meal to have at the Jazz-Age-styled restaurant, because the privilege of doing so will cost only 47 euros per person (remember that this is an exclusive restaurant with two *Michelin* stars!). Begin your culinary journey with the establishment's incredibly fragrant bread, which has been baked in accordance with a recipe handed down by the chef's Italian grandmother. Dip a piece into some olive oil and you will understand why this bread has obtained near legendary status throughout the region. Follow that with seasonal products that the chef has grown in his own garden, fresh seafood caught earlier that morning and meat from the best local butchers.

A full stomach makes for a happy heart, but possibly the best "dessert" of all is the panoramic view of the Mediterranean coast. This can be further enjoyed along the *Bord de Mer* highway back to Nice on one of the world's most scenic stretches of pavement. As its name implies, this road winds up and down the coastline, making for a slower return trip than on the *autoroute*, but providing mesmerising views of the clear blue sea and its countless yachts, which look like toy boats in a giant playground.

The famous route briefly winds through Monaco, one of the world's richest and smallest countries. Like a magnet, Monaco draws the fast, the famous, the rich and those who like to take risks. Millions of euros continue to be won and lost at the legendary casino in Monte Carlo, and once a year, the central streets of the city are converted into a *Formula 1* car race course. Adrenaline, speed, luxury, flashiness and glitz are the words that best describe this place. Some visitors are drawn by the tiny nation's extravagant lifestyle, while others choose to quickly leave this epicentre of glamour



View from the village of Èze of Cap Ferrat, also known as the "billionaires' peninsula"

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*) **Chef Raimonds Zommers** is the author of ***Zommers. Contemporary Latvian Cuisine*** and a consulting expert at the prestigious *World Skills* and *Euro Skills* international competitions for young professional chefs.

The panorama of the Port de Fontvieille in Monaco is best viewed from the top of the cliff by the prince's palace

The vivid colours in the gardens of the *Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild*, and especially the vast diversity of rose plants, literally take one's breath away

after satisfying their curiosity with a brief visit.

Before returning to France, it is worth walking along the small and narrow Ruelle Sainte-Barbe, which leads downward along the seaside promontory from the crowded Place du Palais by the 13th-century prince's palace. Take a stroll along this street in surprising silence and enjoy the magnificent vista of the water craft moored at the Port de Fontvieille. Then head a short distance southwest to the port at Cap d'Ail in France and sip on an apéritif at *A'Trego* (Port de Plaisance, restaurantatrego.com), a beachside club and restaurant that is bathed by the sea on two sides, about 200 metres from the border with Monaco. The pleasant interior by French designer Philippe Starck makes one feel like one is on the deck of a luxury cruise ship rather than a restaurant – a great spot for a glass of champagne or late afternoon sunbathing.

> The grounds are home to plants that have been thematically arranged to represent various parts of the world

Continue your coastal journey westward to the amphitheatre-like Villefranche-sur-Mer at the edge of a deep blue bay. Aside from having a great beach, the town also harbours historical medieval buildings and narrow cobblestone streets as well as miniature courtyards with cats taking midday siestas. It's worth taking a leisurely walk up the streets to a higher level and marvelling at the view of the natural harbour below. In the Old Town, the medieval rue Obscure (Dark Street) is entirely covered by vaulted arcades. At the end of the Second World War, this street sheltered the people of Villefranche from a German artillery bombardment and saved many lives. Stepping back out into the sunshine at the end of the 130-metre-long passageway and recalling this dramatic event, one is happy to breathe in the refreshing seaside air and feels grateful for the peace and beauty of the surroundings.

The serpentine road to the medieval village of Èze draws one away from existential reflections on the past. Perched on a narrow rocky peak, the village offers a stunning view of the Mediterranean Sea. The best time to visit is in the late afternoon, when the narrow streets are quieter and when one can easily enter a meditative state observing the marvellous painting created by Nature herself at various vantage points.

Make sure to drive into Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat to see the enchanting gardens of the *Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild* (or *Villa Île de France*). Looking like they could have come straight out of the tales of the *One Thousand and One Nights*, the grounds are home to plants that have been thematically arranged to represent various parts of the world, including Spain and Japan. Baronness Béatrice Ephrussi de Rothschild created the impressive gardens during the early 20th century with mathematical precision. To get a better grasp of the proportions, the baroness asked some of her servants to wear pyramids of green cardboard and act as cypress trees, or to move around with other props and simulate ponds, pathways and flowerbeds. The soft salmon-coloured tone of the villa's exterior, for its part, harmoniously blends in with the sky and the sea.

Following your excursions among the towns of the Côte d'Azur and your return to the *Toile Blanche*, take a walk to the adjacent village of Saint-Paul de Vence. Although that involves an approximately 20-minute uphill climb, the view of the sun setting over the hilltops to the west is well worth the effort! The narrow streets and medieval buildings will make you feel like you have travelled back in time, while numerous art galleries will remind you of the present, as Saint-Paul de Vence is a well-known platform for various forms of artistic expression, thanks to the presence of the *Fondation Maeght*, one of the most beautiful contemporary art museums in Europe. The museum's collection

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includes works by many well-known 20th-century artists, including Joan Miró and Marc Chagall.

Cap your evening with an unforgettable Provençal-style meal at the famous *Colombe d'Or* restaurant (place Général de Gaulle, Saint-Paul de Vence), which for decades has been drawing both Cannes film festival stars and those who simply wish to savour an exceptional meal. Regular mortals need not worry, however, as there is no trace of snobbery here. You may come across French actor Vincent Cassel dining on a leg of lamb at the table next to yours, but you might not even notice, for the restaurant's wonderful atmosphere, delectable food and quiet chatter at the other tables will envelop you like a silk cocoon. After your meal, step into the lobby of the *Colombe d'Or* hotel in the same building to look at original works by Pablo Picasso and Henri Matisse. At the beginning of their careers, when they were not as well known, both artists paid for their lodgings at the hotel with their paintings instead of in cash.

At Gourdon one can enjoy a truly exceptional panoramic view over more than 80 kilometres of coastline

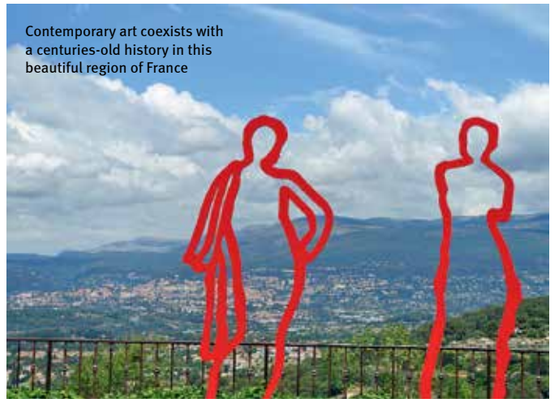
The small and quiet village of Coursegoules

A touch of Provence

If you start to feel that the panoramas can't get any more breathtaking than those that you've already seen, then head to the villages on the nearby mountain summits. The village of Coursegoules, for example, stands at the foot of the Cheiron cliff face and is a mere 20-minute drive north of Saint-Paul de Vence. Established in the 13th century, the village will really let you feel the charm of Provence. Few travellers pass through it, and even the local inhabitants disappear from view at midday. A cat can be heard meowing, pigeons coo nearby, and people's steps echo in a courtyard, but nobody is to be seen and it seems like the entire village has fallen into an afternoon slumber.

The road continues further up along mountain serpentines to Gourdon. Leave your car at the closest spot where you can find a parking space, and you will not even be able to imagine the stupendous view that awaits you after a five-minute walk

The village of Mougins regularly hosts impressive open-air exhibitions



Contemporary art coexists with a centuries-old history in this beautiful region of France

Gourdon is one of the most picturesque perched villages in Provence

from the village's central square. It seems as if the whole Côte d'Azur coastline can be seen below, with gigantic cruise ships looking like tiny dots on an infinite carpet of blue. Stretch your legs out onto a bench and soak in the view while cooling your mind with a lavender-flavoured ice cream.

> Stretch your legs out onto a bench and soak in the view while cooling your mind with a lavender-flavoured ice cream

Take the serpentine back toward the coast to Tourrettes-sur-Loup, where one should stop not just to walk through the medieval streets, but also to savour some of the best crêpes in the region at the tiny *Crêperie Piccolo Mondo*. The owner doesn't speak English, which somehow makes the place seem all the more charming. Sit down at one of the three outside tables, order either sweet or salty crêpes along with a glass of apple cider and enjoy!

On another day, I recommend driving in the opposite direction from the *Toile Blanche* to the art and gastronomy mecca of Mougins. Perched atop a 300-metre-high mountain, the town offers a scenic view of nearby Grasse and its surroundings. Even in the summer, the high peaks in the distance remain snow-capped. Mougins is a veritable platform for the arts, with sculptures and installations set up in many places for added inspiration, while numerous small restaurants favoured by gourmets are hidden among the olive and cypress trees.

One restaurant not to miss is the Michelin-starred *La Place de Mougins* (41 place du Commandant Lamy, laplacedemougins.fr), which is run by culinary star Denis Fétisson. Make sure to try the risotto with octopus ink and the chef's own *Bellini* cocktail, which he is likely to mix for you in person. Fétisson can often be found joking with his guests at the small restaurant tables. Did I mention that the lunchtime special costs only 27 euros per person (look for *Le midi de la place* on the menu)? With its surprising mix of art and gastronomy, Mougins lures one in so subtly that a couple of hours after arriving, one finds that one is still at the same place where one started off and that one doesn't really feel like leaving.

A trip along the Côte d'Azur should be enjoyed slowly, like a good wine. You should not make a detailed plan of what to visit in Southern France, with a long list of boxes to check off. It's sufficient to see three or four places a day, even though the distances covered are not very large. No need to rush anywhere! You might wake up one morning and not feel like doing anything else except for lying on the sandy beach at Juan-les-Pins next to Antibes, or lounging around by the pool at the *Toile Blanche*. Don't be afraid to do so, and *carpe diem* (seize the day), as the sunniest part of southern France is worth returning to again and again. **BO**

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FAMILY FUN

ON THE NORWEGIAN RIVIERA

How to spend summer with your kids and not lose your mind

When dreaming of a sunny European coastline, most people's thoughts naturally turn to Italy's beautiful Amalfi Coast, Spain's sun-drenched Andalusia or the wonderful diversity of the Greek islands. Be honest. You've probably never considered Scandinavia.

Yet the white wooden houses, small fishing villages, child-friendly attractions, outdoor lifestyle and surprisingly good weather along Norway's southern coast pull in large numbers of holidaymakers every year, making this part of the country especially popular with families. Read on to find some hotspots.

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Tip: Don't forget to pick up an ice cream at one of the many kiosks. The family-owned *Hennig-Olsen* ice cream business is located in the city, ensuring an endless supply even on the hottest days!

Kristiansand – a Nordic treasure

Although it is located at the same latitude as Anchorage, Alaska, Norway's fifth-largest city of Kristiansand is kept warm by the Gulf Stream. Winters can be surprisingly mild and, while snow is not exactly rare, it doesn't stick around for long when it does fall. In contrast, the summers can be stunning. The region experienced a record hot month in July 2014, when daily highs regularly exceeded 25°C.

Kristiansand itself dates back to 1641. To explore the city's history, look no further than the Old Town (Posebyen), which sports Europe's longest street of connected wooden houses. As luck would have it, the fire of 1892 that destroyed much of Kristiansand left this area untouched. The Posebyen of today now hosts frequent lively markets and is well worth a stroll at any time of year. The residents who occupy the former commercial area are proud of their homes, so expect well-tended flower boxes and a friendly welcome!

The grid-like structure of modern Kristiansand means it's easy to navigate and get around on foot. The popular canal-side development around the bustling fish market links the city to the island of Odderøya. The heavily forested island is great for outdoor strolls, swimming and fishing from the rocks, despite being just a short walk from the city centre.

The modern architecture of the Kilden Performing Arts Centre, home to the Kristiansand Symphony Orchestra and Agder Theatre, is the symbol of modern Odderøya, yet the island also hides a grim past, being home to a quarantine station and cholera cemetery during the 19th century. Traces of military activity, including cannon garrisons and other fortifications are also a common sight, but nowadays there are no restrictions to exploring Kristiansand's outdoor playground.

> The biggest surprise for visitors to southern Norway is the quality and quantity of the beaches

Perhaps the biggest surprise for visitors to southern Norway is the quality and quantity of the beaches, which are among the country's best. Like the great European city of Barcelona, Kristiansand sports a beach at the very heart of the city.

Bystranda (City Beach) is surrounded by desirable residences, a marina, a *Scandic* hotel, a skatepark and a swimming complex with both indoor and outdoor pools. During the summer, the beach is transformed into a music venue as it plays host to the *Palmesus* music festival. Further afield – and conveniently located between the city and the airport – is the 3.5-km-long sandy beach at Hamresanden. Despite being favoured by the locals when the sun shines, there is always plenty of room.

Back in the city centre, the hugely popular boardwalk (Strandpromenaden) links the city beach to the fish market with a slice of history in the form of the Christiansholm Fortress. Dating back to 1672, the fortress was built to defend the city, but the only time that it was used in battle was against an English fleet force during the Napoleonic Wars. The impressive rotunda with its 5-metre-thick walls is open to visitors from May to September, while the surrounding waterside park plays host to various cultural events throughout the year.

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TOP FIVE PLACES TO EAT IN KRISTIANSAND

Måltid – Expect simple seasonal ingredients used in creative ways at this highly regarded restaurant a short distance from the port. Tasting menus feature up to eight dishes (five are recommended) along with paired wines. (Tollbodgata 2B, maltid.no)

Food Asylum - A modern sushi restaurant with a surprisingly cosmopolitan atmosphere. The combination plates offer the best value if you're not sure what to order. Save room for the green tea lava cake! (Markensgate 9, foodasylum.com)

Indian Ocean - New to the city dining scene, this restaurant's authentic Indian cuisine in the large suburb of Lund has been a quick hit with locals. Unlike many Indian restaurants, *Indian Ocean* has an outside terrace and a kids' menu. Takeout available. (Marviksveien 2B)

Kick - This gastropub serves meats, fish, salads and hamburgers with a stylish twist, alongside a wide selection of beers. The three-course fixed menu changes monthly and is always a highlight. (Dronningensgate 8, gastropuben.no)

Håndverkeren - Situated on the picturesque city square, *Håndverkeren* is a great place to meet locals. Suitable for a big meal or a quick beer, the atmosphere will likely draw you in to play a game of darts, billiards or shuffleboard. (Rådhusgaten 15)

Fun for the whole family at Dyreparken

Explore the Nordic wilderness and see animals such as wolves, lynxes and moose up close at the most visited family attraction in Norway, the Kristiansand Zoo and Amusement Park. Dyreparken is actually made up of several parks including a zoo, a theme park and a water park. Open all year round, the zoo is also home to lions, tigers and the endangered red panda. Themed zones include an African savannah and a rainforest.

In 1995, a Captain Sabertooth themed section of the park was opened. The area has a pirate village and contains various attractions, restaurants and shops that centre on the adventures of Captain Sabertooth and the other characters in the stories.

Who is Captain Sabertooth? In a world where the impossible happens every day and the adventures never end, Captain Sabertooth (Kaptein Sabeltann) stands apart as the fiercest pirate of them all! The pirate lends his name to a series of Norwegian musical plays, films, TV shows, cartoons and books aimed at small children. Together with his band of pirates, he sails off for adventures in *The Dark Lady* (*Den Sorte Dame*). Although the stories are recounted in Norwegian, the colourful characters and catchy songs will entertain your children no matter what language they speak.

It all began with the play *Captain Sabertooth and the Treasure in Luna Bay* back in 1990. Since then, several new plays and over 25 books have been released, while movies have premiered at the renowned Tribeca Film Festival in New York and the International Animation Film Festival in Hiroshima, Japan.

Cardamom Town *(Kardemomme by)* is another section of the park based on a beloved children's story. Opened in 1991, the park was built to look exactly like the illustrations in the 1951 book *When the Robbers Came to Cardamom Town*. The book tells the story of three robbers, Casper, Jasper and Jonathan, who live outside the town and regularly enter to steal the things they need. Visitors can ride a tram, visit a functioning post office with its own postal code, meet Commissioner Bastian and Aunt Sophia and explore Tobias' Tower and the town prison.

If that doesn't provide enough excitement for you, then the new 23-acre *Badelandet* aqua park offers 11 water slides, including one that is over 230 metres long. An indoor facility keeps the fun going even on rainy days.

As there's so much to see and do at Dyreparken, it's a good idea to stay at one of the hotels close to the park. The *Quality Hotel & Resort* is the biggest and even has an outdoor swimming pool, a rare sight at a Norwegian hotel. Even closer to the park entrance is the *Scandic Dyreparken*, where, if you listen carefully, you may hear the wolves howling while you dine!

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Exciting ride through fishermen's villages

Leave the region's capital, and you'll soon see that Norway's southern coastline is dotted with fishing villages, picturesque market towns and islands galore.

Scenic Lillesand is a terrific base for exploring Skjærgårdsparken, one of Norway's national parks that is made up of countless islands and skerries. You could spend days exploring the archipelago, sunbathing on sand beaches or fishing from a boat. A trip on either of the tourist boats *MB Øya* or *MS Brekkestø* is guaranteed to leave you dreaming of a slow-paced island lifestyle.

While the town is home to just 10,000 people, it nevertheless offers many shops, museums, galleries and places to eat amongst its narrow streets. The Lillesand Town and Maritime Museum and the delightful neo-Gothic church are also worth a look. To while away the evenings, nothing beats people-watching along the cosy waterfront with a glass of wine in hand.

Further up the coast, Arendal is similarly charming but offers more to keep you occupied during a longer stay due to its larger size. At the town's heart is Pollen, the quayside meeting place for locals young and old. Restaurants line the waterfront and, if you want the freshest seafood, you can buy it directly from the boats. As you marvel at the old fishing craft, don't forget to try *munker*, the regional pastry served at the *Strand Café*.

It's impossible to fully appreciate the stunning coastline of southern Norway unless you venture out onto the water. From Arendal, take a boat trip along the Nidelva River and around Hisøy Island. In the skerries the boat passes the Torungene lighthouses, the Havsøy sound and the island of Merdø.

The latter offers an easy hike along narrow paths from the north past the museum, wooden houses and sandy beaches up to the rocky shore of the south. It's an easy way to spend an hour or two, but remember to bring a picnic!

Further out of town you'll find the Lyngør island community, once voted Europe's best-preserved village. Another popular beach is situated at Tvedestrand, which is also home to the Næs Ironworks Museum, the romantic park of Lunden and still more hiking trails.

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Nīcgales iela 18a, Riga, Latvia / www.kate.lv

Something for the grown-ups

As family-focused as this region of Norway is, there's plenty to interest adults, too. Hidden away amid the beautiful scenery and wooden houses is the *Nøgne Ø* brewery, Norway's largest supplier of bottle-conditioned ale. The name *Nøgne Ø* means "naked island", a poetic term used by famous Norwegian playwright and poet Henrik Ibsen to describe the countless islands that are visible off Norway's southern coast.

Norwegian home brewers Gunnar Wiig and Kjetil Jikiun founded the brewery, whose production has grown from 300 hl in 2003 to an estimated 20,000 hl in 2015. The beers are exported to more than 40 markets around the world.

The brewery's most popular beer on the *Untappd* beer review website is the India Pale Ale (IPA), a rich, malty and bitter drink ideal for sampling alongside barbecued meats. Another favourite is the Imperial Stout, an exceptionally dark, rich ale that provides the perfect accompaniment to dark chocolate or vanilla ice-cream.

The brewery offers site visits and tasting days when you can learn about the history and experience the entire brewing process. Contact it in advance for enquiries.

You don't need to visit the brewery to sample its beers, though. The whole region is proud of *Nøgne Ø*, so you will find a selection of beers at most establishments, especially since the brewery makes a point of pairing its beers to food. Cheers! **BO**

GETTING THERE

The easiest way to reach Kristiansand is with a connecting flight from the *airBaltic* destination of Oslo, but why not make the journey part of your holiday? Driving a rental car from Oslo Airport can take just four hours, but extending the trip with stops in Horten, Sandefjord or Oslo itself is highly recommended. Alternatively, take a train or bus from Oslo.

LIDO Leisure Centre is one of the largest and most beautiful log buildings in Europe, constructed of specially selected, more than 100-year-old Latvian fir trees. It is home to a bistro, restaurant, pub, the LIDO Brewery and the Family Amusement Park.

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A fun day out for the whole family at the LIDO Leisure Centre! Welcome to the Family Garden, the biggest amusement park in Riga with 30 different attractions, including the biggest inflatable maze in the Baltics, artillery room, hippodrome and shooting range, bungee jumping and children's play town

WELCOME TO LIDO!

Ask for directions to the nearest LIDO at tourist information centres or your hotel. The largest ones are:

LIDO LEISURE CENTRE
Krasta iela 76
+371 67700000

LIDO SPICE
Spice Shopping Centre
Lielirbes iela 29, Riga

LIDO AIRPORT
Riga International Airport, Upper level, Departures area

LIDO DOMINA
Domina Shopping Centre
Ieriķu iela 3, Riga

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www.lido.lv

HORSE RACE IN LAREDO, Cantabria

"That was just pure dumb luck. I was driving along to catch the sight of a huge, beautiful beach and saw a commotion going on. As I got closer, I realised it was a horse race. These were English Thoroughbreds, very expensive animals. I looked for the right background, framed my shot and then waited for the horses to come through. They were going round and round, so I had a number of cracks at it, but this is the only one in which they all look good."

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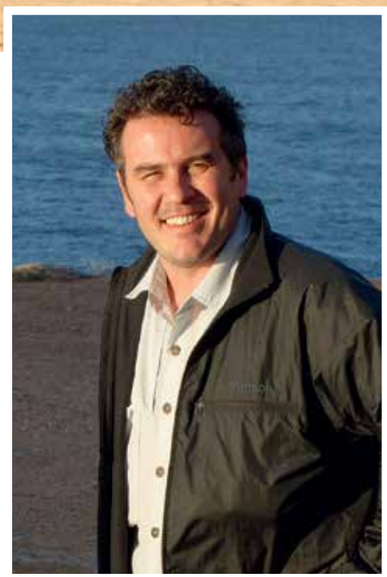

Text by **TREVOR BAKER**
Photos courtesy of **MIKE RANDOLPH**

MIKE RANDOLPH

SPAIN'S PERSONAL PHOTOGRAPHER

Mike Randolph grew up in Toronto, Canada, but was born in the south of Spain, and his photo book *Spain By Mike Randolph* is a love letter to a country that he adored on his regular summer visits. The photographer returned to live there in 2007, and these are some of his favourite shots, but Randolph's project of capturing the country in all of its diverse, fascinating colours is not over yet.

GHOST TOWN OF FINESTRAS, Aragon

"I was living in Zaragoza and had seen a picture of the ruins of a 16th-century monastery. It looked like an unbelievably cool place, but there was hardly any information about it. I had a map and it seemed like only one road went to the area, so I started driving along a dirt road full of potholes. I had to cross a bridge that *looked* like it might support the weight of a car. Then things got worse and worse. It took me almost three hours to drive 25 kilometres. I was astonished at the remoteness of the place, even in today's Spain. You can only imagine what it must have been like in the 16th century."

NUN IN THE GOTHIC QUARTER, Barcelona

"I wanted to take a picture of this arch, but when I got there the light was all wrong for it. I figured that at some time in the morning the rising sun would shine through the arch. I was very pleased with myself but, just before the sun rose, a whole bunch of other photographers appeared and started setting up their gear. I wasn't the only one. In any case, the nun suits the picture, with those 'God beams' of light coming through the arch."

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Description: Agricultural land for sale in the most fertile region of Latvia – Zemgale. Offer includes 87.9 ha of agricultural land and 15.3 ha of forest land.

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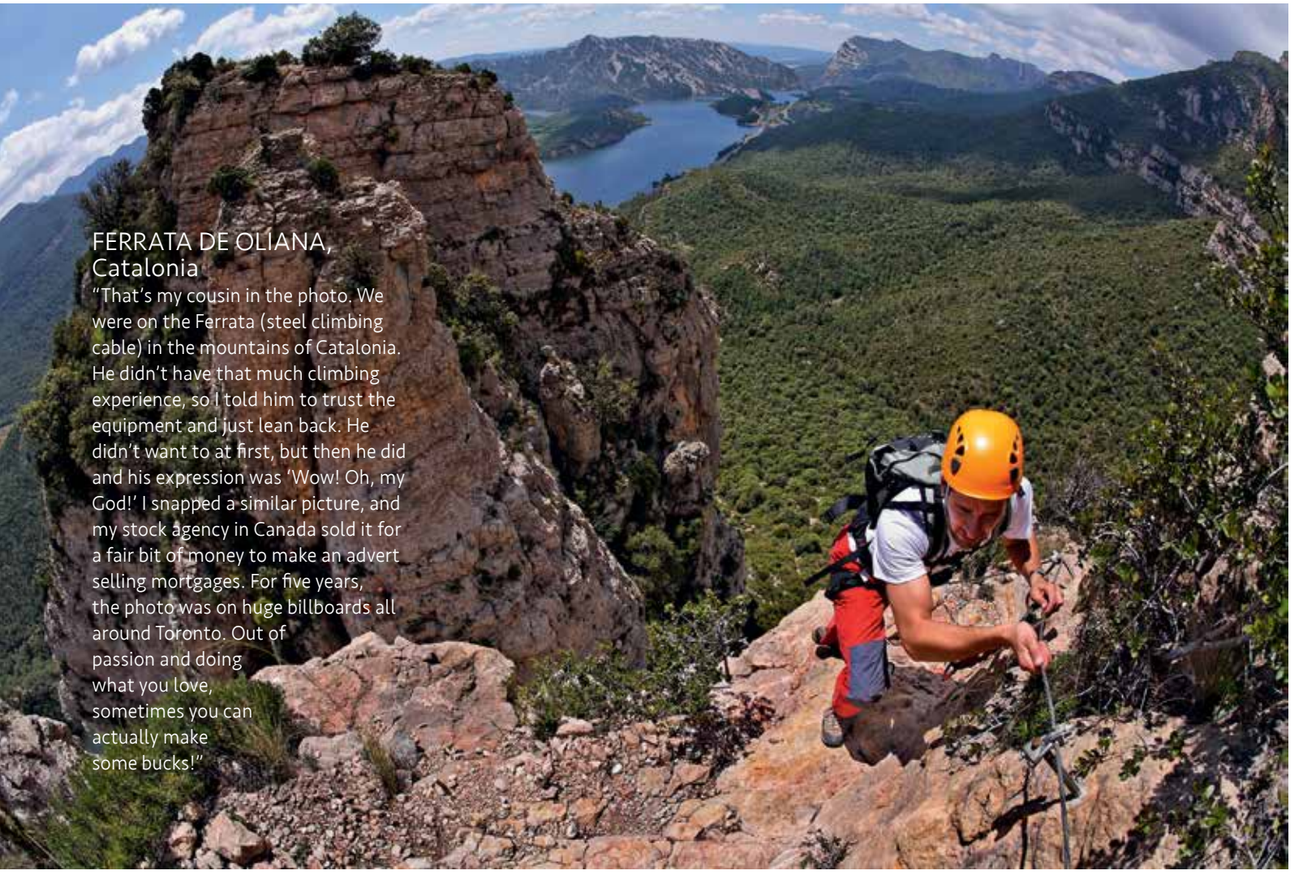
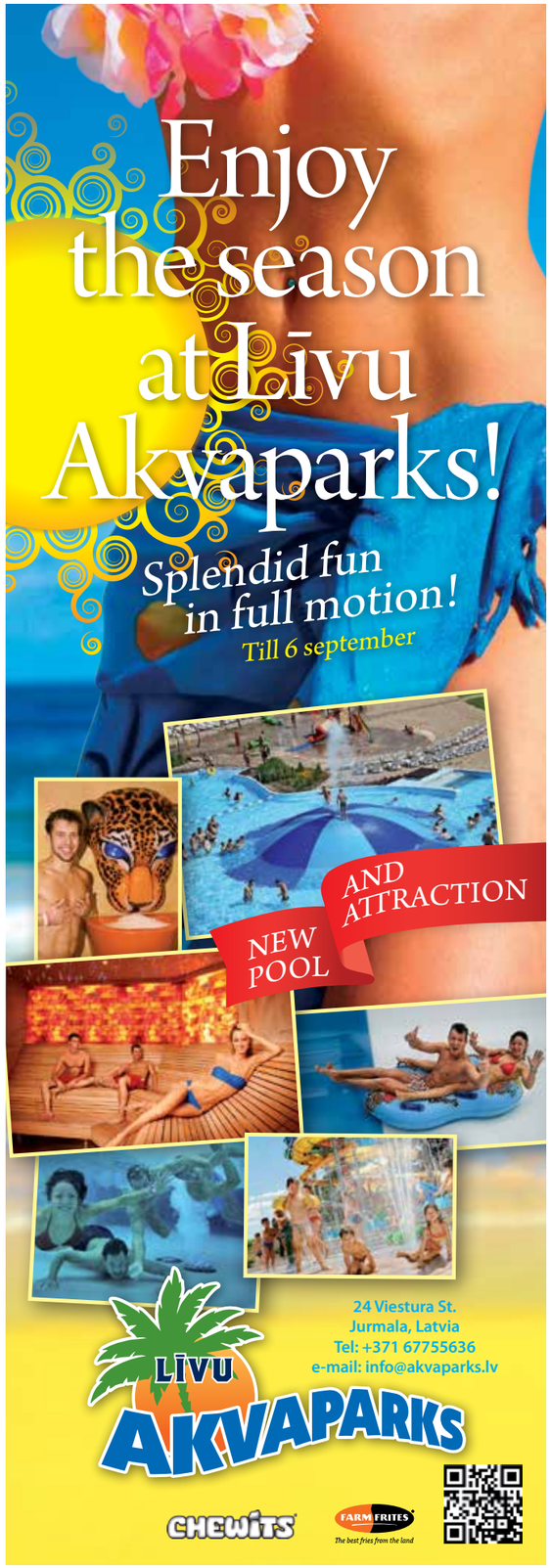
SHEEP IN THE PUERTA DEL SOL, Madrid

"This is right in the middle of Madrid, where shepherds have been allowed to walk through with their sheep since the Middle Ages. Even now, they come right down the Calle Alcalá (a central Madrid avenue) past the Puerta de Alcalá (an 18th-century arch). There are 2,000 sheep there every year and it's a huge celebration of the countryside, although the shepherds don't actually walk all the way anymore. They bring the sheep to Madrid in trucks, parade them through the centre of the city and then put them back into the trucks again."



FERRATA DE OLIANA, Catalonia

"That's my cousin in the photo. We were on the Ferrata (steel climbing cable) in the mountains of Catalonia. He didn't have that much climbing experience, so I told him to trust the equipment and just lean back. He didn't want to at first, but then he did and his expression was 'Wow! Oh, my God!' I snapped a similar picture, and my stock agency in Canada sold it for a fair bit of money to make an advert selling mortgages. For five years, the photo was on huge billboards all around Toronto. Out of passion and doing what you love, sometimes you can actually make some bucks!"



CASTELLS IN TARRAGONA, Catalonia

"I took this at the castell (human tower) world championships, which are held every two years in Tarragona. It was very moving. I found myself welling up and getting emotional. They're teetering and still holding on to each other, and there's a kid trying to clamber up to the top. Your heart is thumping. It's unbelievable – definitely one of the most spectacular things that I've seen."

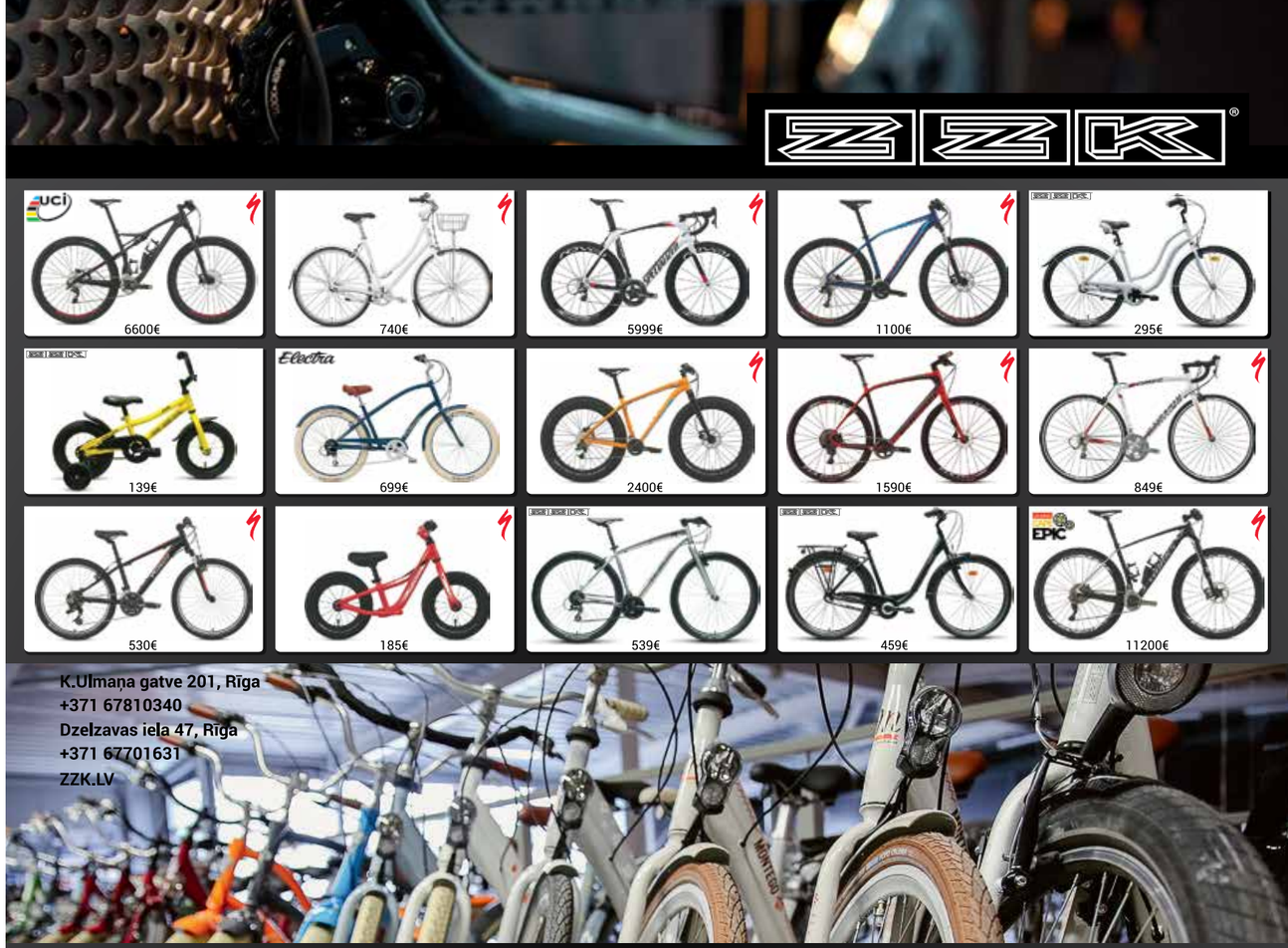
ALHAMBRA, Granada

"It was a horrible, grey day and it was raining. This was the most rain that Granada had had for years and there was flooding. I thought: 'Why am I bothering? I should just turn around and go home.' But I stayed and staked out a spot. Just at sunset, the sun dipped below the clouds and the Alhambra was bathed in this nice, orange light. With the contrast of the bright sunset, the sky was dark and dramatic. So I was pleased that I stuck with it and got something decent."

TWO OLD LADIES in La Alberca

"There's a town called La Alberca in Salamanca, and I had been there over 20 years ago with my uncle. I travelled with him a lot in the summers when I came to visit. It had a completely different feeling from other villages I'd been to. This village felt authentic, like something from 50 years ago. People with donkeys and carts of hay were going right through the Plaza Mayor. An old lady started showing me her town, and she was delightful. It was like a movie set! I went back last year, and the place had hardly changed. I even found the old lady, Cruz. She was 96 but still very spry and bright-eyed." **BO**

Mike Randolph blogs about Spain at spainbymikerandolph.com and about travel photography at randolphimages.com.



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First drive: the new Volvo XC90

The new *XC90* is the culmination of a remarkable period in *Volvo's* history. Just six years ago, the company was perched on the edge of uncertainty. A nose-diving global economy, falling sales and the desperation of then-owner *Ford* to extricate itself from European concerns left *Volvo* adrift on the same perilous waters that eventually pulled *Saab* under.

Even *Volvo's* acquisition by the Chinese company *Geely* seemed to be a precarious solution to the carmaker's woes. However, the clouds have parted spectacularly. *Geely* has apparently been content to sit back and let the Swedes do what they do best: come up with neat solutions to the multitude of challenges that face comparatively small European manufacturers.

The new *XC90* is a tweaked translation of the original brief: a big, squarish and high-shouldered seven-seater in the *Volvo* mould. While visually the new model is quite similar to its predecessor, the underpinnings are novel indeed. The *XC90* is the first car to sit on *Volvo's* new modular platform, dubbed SPAR (Scaleable Product Architecture). This involves the use of a higher percentage of hot-formed boron steel than any other manufacturer and allows the *XC90* to be larger, lighter, safer and better balanced than previously.

The new *XC90* will initially be four-wheel drive only. Its on-demand system is based on a fifth-generation Haldex coupling that's capable of sending 100% of torque to the rear but generally taxes the front alone.

The entry-level *D5* model is likely to be the most popular, so that's what we'll focus on here. The new 2.0-litre four-cylinder turbodiesel's 225 hp is above average for this sector and enough to give the *Volvo* a 0-100 km/h time of slightly over eight seconds in our hands.

That brisk performance, though, is slightly at odds with the slow feel that you get from the gearbox. In most cases, the *XC90's* eight-speed automatic is easy to get along with; you stick it in 'D' and leave it at that. But when you ask for quicker performance, the gearbox can be a little too slow to respond unless you're extremely firm with your demands. There's no immediate 'S' alternative, so you have to head into the drive menus and ask for the car's responses to be sharpened, by which time the opportunity to overtake or that short stretch of enjoyable road has probably passed.

The air springs offer improved high-speed and secondary town rides over the version with steel springs. The *Volvo* is also competitive when it comes to body control. It feels like a large passenger car rather than a 4x4, absorbing bumps and crests without float or wallow. The car steers consistently and, at three turns lock to lock, has a steering speed that is similar to that of an estate car or a *BMW X5*. Its responses are also dependable, and its agility and handling will make those who drive family cars feel right at home. The new *XC90* grips well and changes direction without fuss. It remains safe and predictable closer to its limit, exactly as a *Volvo* should be. There's no great enjoyment to be had here, but there is plenty of security and maturity.

QUICK **FACTS:**

❶ *Volvo* calls its tail lights tattoo-like.

❷ The radiator grille is part of *Volvo's* bolder, smarter corporate face.

❸ The headlights are all-LED, with active bending and dipping being standard.

❹ The boot is a practical 314 litres with all seven seats raised, offering 1868 litres of space when the car is configured as a two-seater.

❺ The *XC90* is the first car to sit on *Volvo's* new modular platform.

Verdict

The original *XC90* catapulted Volvo's brand values – safety, practicality and clear-headedness – into new territory. This concept worked and buyers grasped it immediately. The replacement is similar, but better. The improved performance, spaciousness, efficiency, styling and pleasant cabin ambience stand out as evidently as lacquer on pine. There are niggles, certainly, but no more than you would expect from a car that has been upgraded briskly, on a budget and bulging with new features. **BO**

BIGGEST AND BEST
CAR BUYERS GUIDE
IN THE BALTICS

Hot summer Spice with an Italian heart and soul

Iveta Lāce
Managing Director/
Board Member at *Spice*
shopping complex

Expressive fashion and design items by famous Italian designers, Mediterranean tastes and pleasant emotions are just some of the great things in store this summer at Little Italy in *Spice*, one of the largest shopping complexes in Latvia.

La bella figura*

The care and attention that Italian manufacturers devote to the creation of new garments can be compared to the pampering of a cherished child. Clothes don't merely reflect our personality, they also complement and highlight it. Anyone who enters the *Spice* shopping centre will immediately see that *Spice* is serious about making its visitors happy, with a wide array of clothing available to suit all tastes and desires. At *Marella*, *Max&Co*, *Liu Jo* and other stores, you will draw the inspiration to be bold and to treat yourself to the very best.

Regardless of whether you are in Riga to relax by the beach, go out for a sumptuous dinner or meet your loved ones, or all three for that matter, you will find everything that you need at *Spice*. Gentlemen, watch over your ladies, because after a shopping spree at *Weekend Max Mara* and *Love Moschino*, they are likely to look even more ravishing! Take further note of such clothing stores as *iBlues*, *Guess* and *Pennyblack*, where you can refresh your wardrobe with both business-style and casual wear for summer music festivals.

At *Conte of Florence*, men can choose from a large assortment of elegant suits and outdoor clothing. And then, of course, there is *Armani Jeans*, where you will find stylish garments that are sure to boost your image. Once you've got all of your shopping done, then do as they do in Italy and head out for a night on the town – the Old Town, to be precise, with its stunning architecture from various historical periods.

** The beautiful figure (Italian)*

Fai come se fossi a casa tua*

Italy's special ambience is generated not only by the country's bright sunshine and outgoing people, but also by its stunning scenery and architecture. Few things create a more romantic feeling at home than an old-style dresser or coffee table, or a wine rack decorated with metal flowers.

At *Spice Home* you will have no problem finding just the right furnishings for your home. *Alan Deko* and *Otilie Home* offer everything from chairs and sofas to the smallest decorative items. An Italian summer should be spent as much as possible in the sunshine and fresh air, which is why *The Pier* is the right place to go for outdoor furniture. If you have something more exclusive in mind, then *Nest studija* carries products from some of Italy's leading furniture manufacturers and concerns. You can be sure that the items in this store will help to create a cosy atmosphere in the household, which will be appreciated by your close friends and family members as well.

** Make yourself at home (Italian)*

Vivi la vita al massimo*

A leisurely lunch on a sunny terrace in the company of friends together with a glass of wine that harbours a unique bouquet of tastes... Italians are known across the world for their joie de vivre. It's hard to explain why, but Italy somehow seems to be blessed by a particular kind of sunlight that gives rise to unbridled feelings of passion and joy. As composer Giuseppe Verdi once said: "You can have the universe, but leave Italy for me."

As soon as you walk into the *Spice* shopping centre, your nose will likely detect the subtle aroma of inviting Italian cuisine. Patrons of the *Vairāk Saules* restaurant will be in for a gastronomic treat with outstanding Italian starters, crunchy pizzas and delectable pastas. If traditional pastas aren't your thing, then the *Lido* restaurant offers an outstanding Latvian lasagne! The fine food stands at the *Rimi* hypermarket, for their part, are full of delicacies, including olives, mussels and everything else for a great home-cooked dinner with friends.

Cheese lovers will be thrilled at the variety of cow's-milk and goat's-milk cheeses – some of which have been aged for as long as five years – at *Siera Karaļi*.

The *Illy* store and *Lavazza* coffee bar at *Spice's* Little Italy are ideal places for relaxed conversations over a cup of steaming aromatic coffee. The *Gourmet* store, for its part, carries specially selected wines for a quiet end to the day, while many other alcoholic drinks can be found at the *Spirits & Wine* store. For ice cream, ice cream cocktails or vitamin-rich smoothies, head straight to *Manhattan*.

Aside from fashion and leisure, Italians also love to be entertained, and Spice is a place where various family-oriented events are regularly held. For this reason, it is worth bringing the entire family to *Spice's* Little Italy. Speed freaks will get a hefty dose of adrenaline on the carting track, which is located on the 5th floor of *Spice's* multi-storey parking lot. Meanwhile, the needs of the little ones have also not been forgotten. Children have loads of fun at the 2000 m² + children's area, where along with the usual attractions they can also take an enjoyable train ride, visit a 5D movie theatre and even attend a children's driving school.

** Live life to the fullest (Italian)*

Fun for the whole family – *Spice* and its brand-name stores offer a genuinely inspirational taste of Italy!

The *Spice* shopping centre is only a five-minute drive from the Riga International Airport and only ten minutes away from the historical city centre.

Three musketeers

Riga is a steak-lover's city. Meet three top chefs whose masterful cooking is irresistible.

Photos by **EDMUNDS BRENCIS** (*F64*) and publicity

Meat is only meat and nothing more if one prepares it simply. However, if it is cooked up by true masters, then it becomes a culinary work of art. When it comes to preparing outstanding steak and ribs, one doesn't have to look far in Riga. The kitchens at the *Steiku Haoss* and *Ribs&Rock* restaurants are run by talented young chefs who don't look at food as a mere means to satisfy one's hunger. The dishes they cook up are masterpieces that are made to be enjoyed with relish.

Steiku Haoss and *Ribs&Rock* are part of a significant Riga restaurant empire that also includes the *KID** and *MUUSU* establishments, each with its own specialty and message to deliver. The *Steiku Haoss* chain is the oldest of the four, and the oldest *Steiku Haoss* restaurant on Meistaru iela is already 12 years old. Aside from serving outstanding steaks, the *Steiku Haoss* establishments in Riga also stand out with pleasing interiors that could come straight out of the best Western movies.

While *Steiku Haoss* conveys a Wild West and American First Nations atmosphere, *Ribs&Rock* is the place to go if you like first-rate rock music. At *Ribs&Rock* you will hear old-school favourites like Jimi Hendrix and Led Zeppelin as well as newer classics such as REM and U2. Being the only restaurant in Latvia to specialise in lamb, beef and pork ribs, *Ribs&Rock* knows how to make its customers' mouths water right from the start.

At both the *Steiku Haoss* and *Ribs&Rock* restaurants, guests will be treated to exceptional food and a wide selection of dishes to choose from, thanks to three talented local chefs. Having perfected their trade alongside the world's finest culinary masters, the chefs have a firm grasp of the potential in each product, be it a tender piece of beef or venison, a tangy chunk of cheese or an intensely flavoured seasonal root vegetable.

Kristaps Sīlis is the head chef at the *Steiku Haoss* restaurant on Tērbatas iela. His colleague Kristaps Jauja runs the kitchens at the *Steiku Haoss* on Audēju iela and the *Ribs&Rock* on Kaļķu iela. And, last but not least, Andrejs Bojarčenko is the master at the *Steiku Haoss* restaurant on Meistaru iela. He performed quite well at this year's *Sanpellegrino Young Chef* competition and is determined to fare even better at future cooking events.

Two of the chefs – Kristaps Jauja and Kristaps Sīlis – 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 the *Michelin*-starred *Tom Aikens Restaurant* and *Texture Restaurant* in London, bringing home innovative ideas and a more powerful wish to deliver the absolute best. They say that their experience abroad has enabled them

Ribs&Rock

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instagram.com/SteikuHaoss

to bring the world's best cooking traditions back home to the restaurants that they run in Riga. Kristaps Sīlis of the *Steiku Haoss* restaurant on Tērbatas iela adds that while working at world-class restaurants abroad, he became convinced that every dish and ingredient within it has to tell a story:

"At premium eating establishments, food is more than just something to eat. When you prepare a meal, you have to know where each ingredient comes from and what nuances of flavour it will create together with the other constituents in the dish."

Chef Andrejs Bojarčenko agrees: "Food is like an art, because every dish can be prepared a thousand different ways and can be presented in so many different manners."

The three culinary masters stress that their profession involves much more than wearing a chef's hat and chatting with the restaurant patrons. Masterful cooking demands persistence, hard work and creativity. Above all, it demands that the chefs love the work that they do.

"If you don't prepare a meal with love, then it won't taste as good as it should. And cooking is a never-ending process, because one can never learn everything that there is to know about this profession, not even 10 percent. Something new is created each second, which is why one can never say that one's knowledge is complete," stresses Sīlis. To be a good chef, it also helps if you are a kind-hearted and happy person, and all three men say that they derive a great deal of strength and inspiration for new recipes from being with their families at home.

August is one of the most abundant harvest months in Latvia, and a time when the chefs at *Steiku Haoss* and *Ribs&Rock* present traditional Latvian dishes with a modern touch. That's why currently a special plate with Latvian cherries, catfish and cloudberries is available at these restaurants as an accompaniment to their regular menus. The restaurants' chefs are creating recipes with everything that is available in Latvia's forests, fields and waters, including fresh mushrooms, berries, sorrel and other garden delicacies, along with a popular Latvian classic – the first new potatoes of this season. **BO**

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Restaurants, bars and cafés

Culinary hotspots in Riga

A guide to the best restaurants, cafés and eateries

Text by **LIENE PĀLĒNA**
Photos by **ARTŪRS PAVLOVS** and **GATIS GIERTS** (*F64*)

PAGALMS

Inner courtyard charm

Riga doesn't cease to surprise gourmet eaters with its wide array of fine restaurants and cafés to choose from. One of the most recent additions is *Pagalms*, which can be found between the Latvian National Theatre and the city canal, in a verdant park next to the tennis courts right in the city centre. The name of the café (which means *Courtyard* in English) hasn't been chosen for nothing, as the place really does harbour a special type of charm that is shared only by courtyard establishments.

I visited the café the day after its official opening and was prepared for a menu that might not yet be fully up and running. However, I was pleasantly surprised at the wide choice of dishes available. The first thing I noticed was that the menu seemed meticulously planned out and that it served international dishes with a Latvian touch. In any case, the pearl barley in oyster sauce with caramelised beets, sheep cheese and poached egg salad was worth every cent of the 7 euros that I paid for it. Its bouquet of tastes was fantastic and the ingredients complemented each other splendidly.

Pagalms is also bound to be appreciated by raw food fans. The raw avocado cake with fresh berries was a new discovery even to me, a seasoned raw cake connoisseur. I predict that this cake will become one of the café's most popular items, even among those who are used to eating more traditional fare.

Although the food and the atmosphere are superb, I was even more impressed with the details in the interior, including the plates that are custom-made in Latvia, the brilliant, shiny cutlery that reflects the trees of the park, the outstanding designer chairs and lamps, and the string garlands of coloured light bulbs. *Pagalms* has the potential to become a very popular café, which will happen even sooner once the establishment speeds up the pace of its service.

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ZIVJU LETE

Seafood hotspot

I really like places that tell a story and that know their target audience. I am also very fond of fish, which is why visiting the *Zivju lete* (*Fish Counter*) seafood restaurant was at the top of my list of things to do.

One immediately notices two things on entering the premises: the first is the strong aroma of fresh seafood, as the chefs prepare the meals in an open kitchen right behind the counter. The second is the industrial vintage interior that skilfully combines natural wood with cool metal in a pleasing synergy of materials.

Zivju lete does not have a traditional menu, as the food on offer changes every day, which is why the choice of dishes is written out on special blackboards by the counter. Furthermore, *Fish Counter* is not merely a name, as the actual fish counter fulfils an important function: it is where customers place their orders before choosing a table to sit at.

The food on offer is quite varied and includes pastas, salads, burgers, soups and tartares as part of the numerous variations on fish and seafood. While I was waiting for my salmon burger, a friendly waitress brought me a carafe of water and offered me some freshly baked bread. At 6.50 euros, the burger was a great deal, served together with French fries and a fragrant sauce smelling vaguely of freshly cooked fish.

Zivju lete gives seafood lovers exactly what they are looking for and in sufficiently generous portions. Covering a wide range of sea products ranging from mussels to fish, this establishment will suit the tastes of true gourmets.

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FLY *airBaltic* TO THE BEST BEACHES!

OLBIA
Italy

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

Riga – Olbia

Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 655	11.04. – 24.10.2015	-2-----	16:00	18:10
BT 655	11.04. – 24.10.2015	-----6-	15:45	17:55

Olbia – Riga

Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 656	11.04. – 24.10.2015	-2---6-	18:45	23:00
BT 656	01.07. – 26.08.2015	--3----	18:45	23:00

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

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

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

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

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

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

BARI
Italy

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Riga – Bari

Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 623	19.05. – 29.09.2015	-2-----	08:00	09:55

Bari – Riga

Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 624	19.05. – 29.09.2015	-2-----	10:30	14:25

The capital of the Puglia region in southern Italy beckons with its historic architecture and lively cultural scene. Start your visit by exploring Bari Vecchia (the old part of the city) and see the Basilica di San Nicola. Take a stroll along the two main shopping streets, Corso Cavour and Via Sparano. Walk along the Lungomare Imperatore Augusto – where you will find restaurants that serve the local dish *Pane di Altamura* – and enjoy the picturesque sunsets.

Pane e Pomodoro Beach. A pleasant city beach that is great for picnics and relaxing afternoons. ✈24km

Trani. A picturesque coastal town with well-preserved medieval architecture, a sandy beach and a great view of the sea. ✈40km

Bisceglie is the most popular spot for a beach vacation, not only because of its location, but also due to such seaside resorts as the *Hotel Salsello* and *Hotel Villa*. ✈30

VENICE
Italy

Riga – Venice				
Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 627	01.06. – 07.09.2015	1--4---	17:05	18:45

Venice – Riga				
Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 628	01.06. – 07.09.2015	1--4---	19:30	23:05

Venice's maze of canals makes it a truly unique city. Try afternoon *aperativi* and *cicheti* (the city's answer to tapas) on colourful Murano or Burano islands.

Lido. A 12-kilometre-long stretch of beach with a marina and numerous other attractions, including restaurants, shops and kids' playgrounds. ✈27 km

Caorle. An attractive seaside village divided between the Ponente and Levante sides. It is over 15 kilometres long and offers both private and public beaches. ✈40 km

▸ **72nd Venice International Film Festival.** August

▸ **56th International Art Exhibition *La Biennale*.** May-November

PISA
Italy

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Riga – Pisa				
Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 637	13.06. – 12.09.2015	-----6-	09:00	10:50

Pisa – Riga				
Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 638	13.06. – 13.06.2015	------7	16:55	20:45
BT 638	21.06. – 19.07.2015	------7	08:00	11:50
BT 638	26.07. – 06.09.2015	------7	19:10	23:00
BT 638	13.09. – 13.09.2015	------7	08:00	11:50

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

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

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

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

NICE
France

Fly to Nice with airBaltic from €95 ONE WAY

Riga – Nice				
Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 695	31.03. – 29.09.2015	-2-4-6-	16:30	18:35
BT 695	03.10. – 24.10.2015	-----6-	16:30	18:35

Nice – Riga				
Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 696	31.03. – 29.09.2015	-2-4-6-	19:10	23:10
BT 696	03.10. – 24.10.2015	-----6-	19:10	23:10

The French Riviera, or Côte d'Azur, is known for its unique flair, which comes from the close proximity of snow-capped mountains, the clear blue sea and the famous French *joie de vivre*. Famous artists such as Henri Matisse and Pablo Picasso made the region their home and drew inspiration there. When you watch Alfred Hitchcock's *To Catch a Thief* starring Grace Kelly or *Anthony Zimmer* starring Sophie Marceau, look at the background for a glimpse of Nice's city vibe!

Nice's beaches stretch 12 km along the Baie des Anges (Bay of Angels) right from the airport past the Old Town to the foot of Mont Boron. The beaches are composed of large pebbles called *galets*, which over the centuries have been brought down from the mountains by three rivers. After a day in the sun, walk along the beachside Promenade des Anglais and enjoy seafood and cocktails in the Old Town.

Cap d'Antibes. This famous cape features many sandy beaches. The most chic is **La Garoupe**, where F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night* is set. ✈21 km

The glittering bay at **Villefranche-sur-Mer** is one of the world's most majestic sights. The entire beachfront is open to the public and free of charge. ✈8 km

Cap Ferrat. This indented peninsula is studded with idyllic coves that look like private playgrounds for the cape's famous inhabitants, but they are mostly open to the public. The most spectacular is Paloma Beach, a stretch of sand and gravel on the southeast side of the peninsula that opens onto the bay of Beaulieu-sur-Mer. As the beach faces east, it's perfect for early sunbathing. ✈11 km

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MALTA

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

Malta – Riga				
Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 740	30.03. – 19.10.2015	1------	02:50	07:30

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

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

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

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

DUBROVNIK
Croatia

Riga – Dubrovnik

Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 497	26.05. – 22.09.2015	-2-----	16:35	18:15
BT 497	18.06. – 17.09.2015	---4---	09:20	11:00

Dubrovnik – Riga

Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 498	26.05. – 22.09.2015	-2-----	18:55	22:40
BT 498	18.06. – 17.09.2015	---4---	11:40	15:25

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

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

Plaža President (President Beach). The name says it all. As a bonus, the picturesque island of Daksa is nearby. ✈21 km

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

Lokrum Island. A wildlife reserve and botanical garden covered in thick Mediterranean flora that includes cypress, laurel, olive, magnolia and palm trees as well as agave plants. ✈21 km

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

LARNACA
Cyprus

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Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 657	31.03. – 24.10.2015	-----6-	23:55	03:45+1
BT 657	02.06. – 25.08.2015	-23----	23:55	03:45+1

Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 658	29.03. – 18.10.2015	--3---7	04:30	08:30
BT 658	02.06. – 25.08.2015	-23----	04:30	08:30

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

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

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

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

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RHODES
Greece

Riga – Rhodes

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

Rhodes – Riga

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

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

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

Kallithea. A cosmopolitan holiday resort bustling with hotels lining Faliraki Beach. The main attraction is the Roman Baths, a unique example of orientalised Art Deco from 1929. ✈16 km

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

THESSALONIKI
Greece

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Riga – Thessaloniki

Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 595	05.06. – 27.09.2015	----5-7	23:55	02:50+1

Thessaloniki – Riga

Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 596	06.06. – 28.09.2015	1----6-	03:45	06:40

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

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

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

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

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

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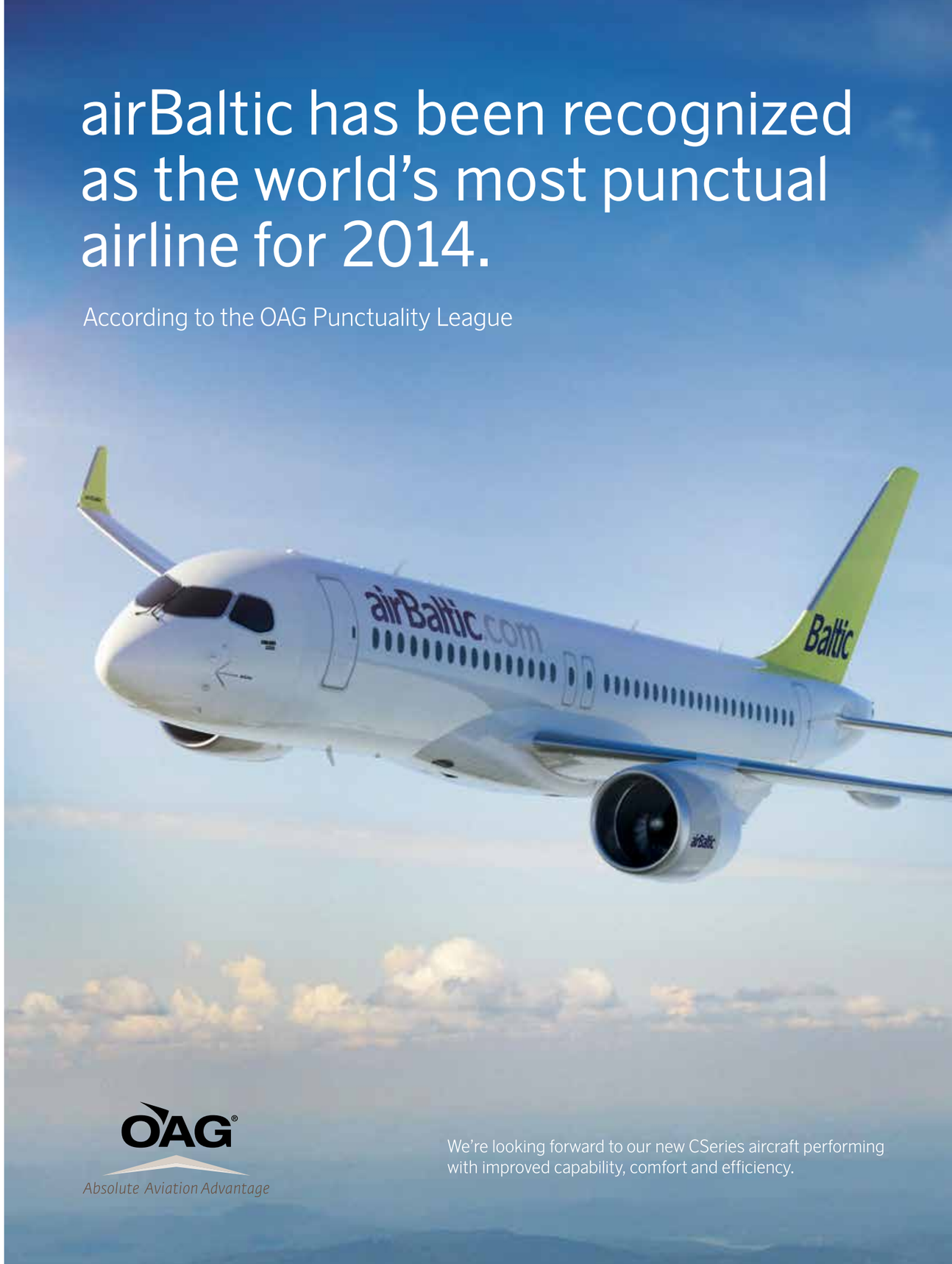

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The legendary Latvian film The Devil's Servants, which was produced by the Riga Film studio in the 1970s, served as the inspiration for the restaurant. The Key to Riga was an essential part of this cinema classic and an exact replica now holds a place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

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Seven direct routes from Vilnius!

As of September 3, *airBaltic* will launch new direct flights from Vilnius, Lithuania, to five European capitals. In addition to the existing routes to Amsterdam and Riga, the airline will operate five flights per week to Stockholm and Helsinki, and three flights per week to Berlin, Brussels and Paris.

As of now, the new flights are available for booking at airbaltic.com, with one-way ticket prices to these destinations starting from EUR 59. You will always get the best offers at airbaltic.com

Berlin

While you can still view Berlin's older history in the surviving medieval buildings at Alexander Platz, there are many diverse architectural styles to keep your eyes aglow. Pass by the Mauermuseum at Checkpoint Charlie, the infamous meeting point for spies and would-be traitors, where one can still see a sign stating that "You are leaving the American sector".

Brussels

For foodies, Brussels is the place for delicious chocolate, sugar-dusted *gauffres* (waffles) and a staggering selection of beer. Head to the Grand Place for the best waffles sold hot on the street, or settle down at one of the many brasseries, bars and *salons de thé* (similar to cafés) for a glass of lambic-style beer, which is made from yeast grown strictly in the Senne Valley.

Paris

Paris offers charming city breaks to suit every possible taste. See the Eiffel Tower at night with its lights ablaze and the city glinting below, the Notre Dame Cathedral and the endless beauty enclosed within the Louvre museum. You might also want to explore a Roman bathhouse in the Quartier Latin or take part in the revelry of a street performance outside the Centre Pompidou.

Amsterdam

For starters, rent a bicycle and pay a visit to the Van Gogh museum, which boasts the world's largest collection of early paintings by Van Gogh. Then be charmed at the Rijksmuseum, which gives homage to Rembrandt, one of the Netherlands' most treasured artists. For a bold collection of modern art, check out the Stedelijk Museum. Music lovers can adore the critically acclaimed acoustics at the Concertgebouw, court of Amsterdam's Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra.

Helsinki

Leave your hotel behind and explore the city on foot with a self-led walking tour of the city. See the mix of architectural styles, with plenty of Art Nouveau and Neoclassical structures to enjoy, especially in Senate Square. At Market Square, join the bustle and the fun, where nearly anything Finnish can be bought, including reindeer products such as jewellery made from antlers and hunting knives, as well as plenty of seafood.

Stockholm

Stockholm offers an impressive number of sights. Head off to the Old Town at Gamla Stan, the beating heart of Stockholm. Here, narrow and twisting streets whisk one back to the Middle Ages, complete with the Riddarholmskyrkan, a classic medieval church. To the east of Gamla Stan stands the Royal Palace, which is open to the public and includes access to the Royal Apartments, the Tre Kronor Museum and the Treasury.

AIRBALTIC IS INTRODUCING NEW TICKET TYPES

airBaltic is offering a new concept of three clear and simple ticket types to suit the needs of a greater variety of passengers. Now, when booking your flight at airbaltic.com, you will be able to choose between the following plane ticket types:

BASIC – THE LOWEST-PRICE
A straightforward choice for those who are travelling with hand baggage only.

PREMIUM – MORE OPTIONS INCLUDED
Choose Premium and get the most popular services included in your ticket price: checked baggage, seat reservation, airport check-in and fast-track security at the Riga airport.

BUSINESS – THE BEST CHOICE FOR COMFORT AND FLEXIBILITY
The most exclusive travel option with exceptional service, great comfort and fully flexible ticket conditions.

Compare the travel services offered in each ticket class and choose the one that suits you best.

NEW ticket types		ECONOMY CLASS		BUSINESS CLASS
		BASIC	PREMIUM	BUSINESS
BAGGAGE	Hand baggage	✓ 1 bag (max 8 kg, 55x40x20 cm)	✓ 1 bag (max 8 kg, 55x40x20 cm)	✓ 2 bags (55x40x20 cm)
	Checked baggage	€29.99 per 1 bag (20 kg) if booked online	✓ 1 bag (20 kg)	✓ 2 bags (total 40 kg)
	Sports equipment	€34.99	€34.99	✓
CHECK-IN/ AT AIRPORT	Web check-in	✓	✓	✓
	Airport check-in	€10	✓	✓
	Priority check-in + Security fast track at Riga airport	€20	✓	✓
	Priority check-in outside Riga	€14.99	✓	✓
	Business lounge	⊘	⊘	✓
ON BOARD	Advance seat reservation	from €2.99	✓	✓
	Meal and drinks	Pre-order at airbalticmeal.com or buy on board	Pre-order at airbalticmeal.com or buy on board	✓
	Free seat next to you	⊘**	⊘**	✓
TICKETS	Flight date/time change	⊘	€50*	✓
	Name change	⊘	€50*	✓
	Cancellation with refund	⊘	€100	✓
	Date change warranty	€49.99*	⊘	✓
LOYALTY PROGRAM	pins Collect PINS	1 PIN per €	2 PINS per €	3 PINS per €

* If there are no tickets left in the original booking class, the passenger must cover the costs of the upgrade to the next available booking class.

** Limited availability, please request service at Riga Airport check-in staff or confirmed extra seat via call centre staff.

Stockholm

Improved schedule from Riga and Vilnius to Stockholm

As of September, *airBaltic* is opening new flights from Riga and Vilnius to Stockholm Bromma Airport. The flights will operate on working days and will complement the existing four daily connections between Riga and Stockholm Arlanda.

Bromma is only 7 km from Stockholm's city centre and can be reached easily by public transport.

With a total of six daily flights to both of Stockholm's airports, *airBaltic* is proud to offer the best schedule for business trips between the Swedish and Baltic capitals.

One-way ticket prices to Stockholm start at EUR 35. Those travelling regularly on business are welcome to join our corporate customer program and benefit from more flexible conditions and personalised service. More information at www.airbaltic.com/corporate.

RIGA – STOCKHOLM		
daily	07:50-08:05	Arlanda
daily	14:15-14:30	Arlanda
12345	18:35-18:45	Bromma
daily	19:30-19:45	Arlanda
daily	23:35-23:50	Arlanda
STOCKHOLM – RIGA		
daily	06:20-08:35	Arlanda
daily	08:40-10:55	Arlanda
12345	09:30-11:35	Bromma
daily	15:00-17:15	Arlanda
daily	20:15-22:30	Arlanda
VILNIUS – STOCKHOLM		
daily	06:00-08:05	Arlanda (one stop)
12345	08:20-09:00	Bromma (direct)
daily	10:55-14:30	Arlanda (one stop)
12345	16:55-18:45	Bromma (one stop)
daily	16:55-19:45	Arlanda (one stop)
daily	20:25-23:50	Arlanda (one stop)
STOCKHOLM - VILNIUS		
daily	06:20-08:10	Arlanda (one stop)
daily	08:40-14:45	Arlanda (one stop)
12345	09:30-14:45	Bromma (one stop)
daily	15:00-19:55	Arlanda (one stop)
12345	19:15-21:50	Bromma (direct)
daily	20:15-00:25	Arlanda (one stop)

New flights between Riga and Radom, Poland

Starting on September 1, *airBaltic* will launch new flights between Riga and the Polish city of Radom three times per week. Radom is situated 100 km south of Warsaw and is famous for a huge air show that it hosts once every two years. The new *airBaltic* flights will offer passengers from Poland convenient and affordable transit possibilities through Riga to other Baltic and Scandinavian capitals as well as to Russia and Ukraine.

Tickets are already available at airBaltic.com. One-way flight prices from Riga to Radom start at EUR 69.

Perfect winter getaway in Salzburg

For the winter season, *airBaltic* is introducing new flights to Salzburg, Austria. Holidays in the Austrian Alps are surprisingly diverse, with skiing trails, toboggan runs, ice skating, Bavarian curling and much more on offer. Accommodation ranges from cosy chalets and inns to modern hotels. The choice is yours!

Flights from Riga to Salzburg will operate once a week starting December 26. Check out the joint *airBaltic* and *TezTour* offers at teztour.lv.

About the program

PINS is the **airBaltic frequent flyer loyalty program**, which uses the loyalty currency "PINS".

You can collect PINS while flying with airBaltic, shopping in airports, staying in hotels, renting cars, dining out and even by using the **airBaltic Payment Card** or the **PINS MasterCard**. It is also possible to collect PINS by doing your everyday shopping, with more than 700 local, global and online partners represented.

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

If you aren't a PINS program member yet

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

airBaltic PINS card

airBaltic PINS Executive card

airBaltic PINS VIP card

airBaltic PINS Young Pilot card

Benefits for Executive- and VIP-level members of *airBaltic's* PINS program

Those who travel regularly with airBaltic are entitled to receive a wide array of **extra privileges** as members of our PINS frequent flyer program.

For instance, **airBaltic VIP members** travelling with a Basic-type flight ticket can bring **two carry-on pieces of hand baggage on board at no extra charge**. This means that our VIP customers – who often fly quick business journeys that last just one or two days – **do not need to choose between bringing their laptop computer or their compact suitcase into the flight cabin**.

airBaltic's most loyal customers at the Executive and VIP levels can **receive various benefits**, including **priority check-in, reserved seats, and fast track security screening**, to name just a few. For a complete list of privileges offered, please check the table below.

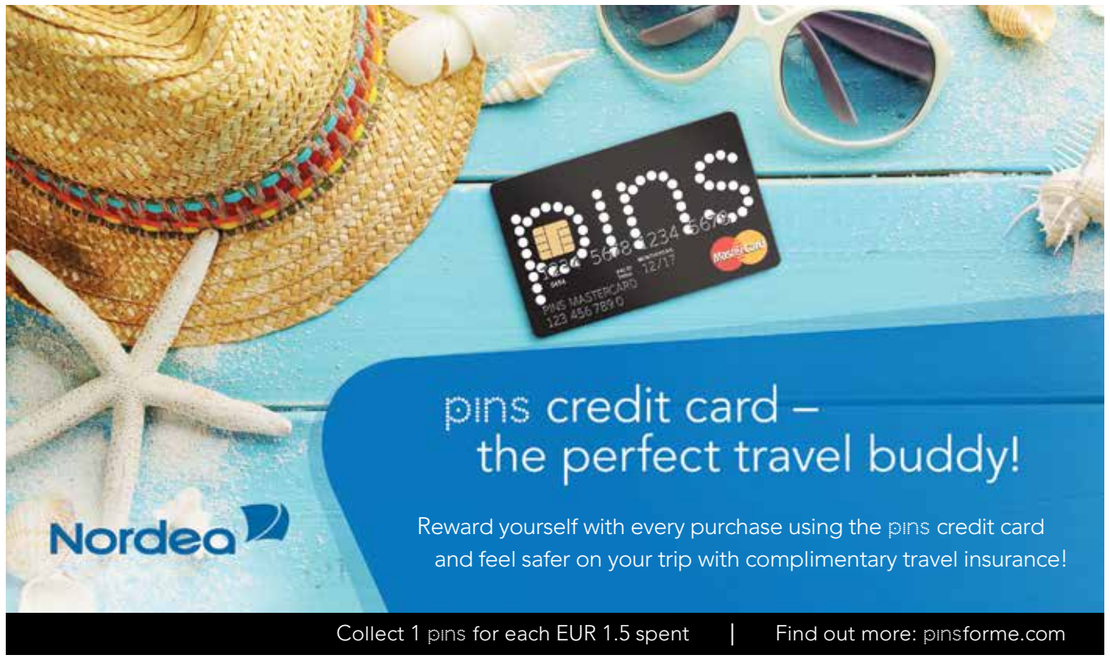
Rules and benefits	Status level		
	BASIC	EXECUTIVE	VIP
QUALIFICATION			
Based on Status PINS	registration	25,000 Status PINS	50,000 Status PINS
Based on number of airBaltic segments flown	⊘	30 (or 15 round trips)	60 (or 30 round trips)
Qualification duration	⊘	1 year	1 year
Status PINS expiration	after 12 months	after 12 months	after 12 months
Reward PINS expiration	after 36 months	no expiration	no expiration
THRESHOLD FOR RE-QUALIFICATION			
Based on Status PINS	⊘	20,000 Status PINS	40,000 Status PINS
Based on number of airBaltic segments flown	⊘	25	50
ADDITIONAL BENEFITS			
Advance seat request online	⊘	⊘	free
Seat Selection during online check-in	⊘	⊘	free
Business class check-in with basic class ticket type	⊘	✓	✓
Security Fast Track	⊘	in Riga	in Riga
Lounge access	⊘	⊘	✓ (plus one guest and children)
Flight segment upgrade	⊘	⊘	2 upgrade vouchers per year
BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE			
Total free checked-in baggage allowance (free bags and total baggage weight)			
Basic class ticket type – Free second piece of hand baggage	⊘	⊘	✓
Premium class ticket type	1 item up to 20kg	2 items up to 40kg	3 items up to 60kg; 1 piece of sports equipment with maximum weight 20 kg free of charge
Business class ticket type	2 items up to 40kg	3 items up to 60kg	4 items up to 80kg 1 piece of sports equipment with maximum weight 20 kg free of charge

airBaltic / pins

Offers for collecting PINS

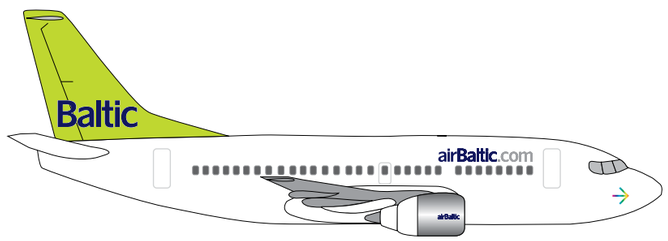
Collect PINS every time you travel! Get rewarded when you book your holiday or business trip with our program partners! Check out our partners' latest offers to collect more PINS to spend on your upcoming dream trip.

Offers may contain limited amount of available products or limited types of goods and/or services may be included. Details about each of the offers can be found at pinsforme.com.



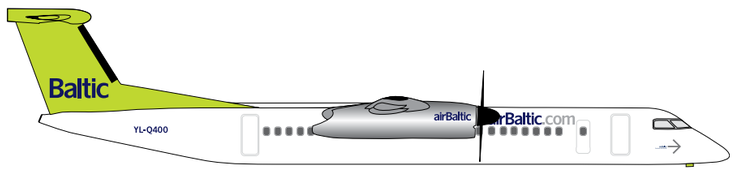
Boeing 737–300

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



Boeing 737–500

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



Q400 NextGen Bombardier

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

Flights from RIGA

Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure	Arrival
AALBORG					
BT 149	RIX	AAL	-----6-	12:35	13:15
ALESUND					
BT 175	RIX	AES	----5-7	13:20	14:45
AMSTERDAM					
BT 617	RIX	AMS	-2-4---	08:30	09:55
BT 619	RIX	AMS	1-3-567	08:35	10:00
BT 619	RIX	AMS	12345-7	17:10	18:35
AMSTERDAM flights from **VILNIUS**					
BT 609	VNO	AMS	12-4567	08:35	10:35
ATHENS					
BT 611	RIX	ATH	--3----	09:30	12:50
BT 611	RIX	ATH	-2---6-	15:30	18:50
BAKU					
BT 732	RIX	GYD	------7	21:30	03:25+1
BT 732	RIX	GYD	--3----	23:45	05:40+1
BARCELONA					
BT 1681	RIX	BCN	------7 Aug 30	06:05	8:50
BT 683	RIX	BCN	12-4-6-	14:40	17:25
BT 683	RIX	BCN	----5--	14:45	17:30
BARI					
BT 623	RIX	BRI	-2-----	08:00	09:55
BERLIN Tegel					
BT 211	RIX	TXL	123456-	07:50	08:45
BT 217	RIX	TXL	1-34567	14:00	14:55
BT 213	RIX	TXL	12345-7	18:15	19:10
BERLIN Tegel flights from **TALLINN**					
BT 201	TLL	TXL	1--4---	05:50	07:10
BT 203	TLL	TXL	--3-5--	18:20	19:40
BILLUND					
BT 145	RIX	BLL	12345-7	23:45	00:45+1
BRUSSELS					
BT 601	RIX	BRU	12345-- Aug 17–31	06:15	08:10
BT 601	RIX	BRU	12345-- Aug 3–14	06:45	08:40
BT 607	RIX	BRU	-----6-	12:25	14:20
BT 603	RIX	BRU	1--4--7	16:35	18:30
BUCHAREST					
BT 503	RIX	OTP	1--4-6-	23:45	02:30+1
BUDAPEST					
BT 491	RIX	BUD	1-3-5-- Aug 3–7	13:00	14:25
BT 491	RIX	BUD	1-345-- Aug 10–26	13:00	14:25
BT 491	RIX	BUD	1---5--- Aug 28–31	13:00	14:25
BURGAS					
BT 755	RIX	BOJ	--3----	09:30	12:10
BT 755	RIX	BOJ	------6-	17:10	19:50
BT 755	RIX	BOJ	1------ Aug 3, 17-24	17:20	20:00
CHISINAU					
BT 420	RIX	KIV	-2-4-6-	12:40	15:05
COPENHAGEN					
BT 133	RIX	CPH	1234--- Aug 3–13	06:45	07:25
BT 133	RIX	CPH	12345-- Aug 17–31	06:45	07:25
BT 131	RIX	CPH	1234567	09:40	10:20
BT 139	RIX	CPH	1234567	19:00	19:40
BT 137	RIX	CPH	1234---	21:40	22:20
BT 137	RIX	CPH	------7 Aug 30	21:40	22:20
BT 141	RIX	CPH	----5-- Aug 14	23:45	00:25+1
DUBROVNIK					
BT 497	RIX	DBV	---4--- Aug 13–27	09:15	10:55
BT 497	RIX	DBV	---4--- Aug 6	09:20	11:00
BT 497	RIX	DBV	-2-----	16:35	18:15
DUSSELDORF					
BT 235	RIX	DUS	1234567	12:30	14:10
FRANKFURT					
BT 243	RIX	FRA	-----6-	07:50	09:35
BT 241	RIX	FRA	12345-7	12:40	14:25
GOTHENBURG					
BT 121	RIX	GOT	1--4--7	23:45	00:30+1
HAMBURG					
BT 251	RIX	HAM	12345--	07:50	08:55
BT 253	RIX	HAM	-----6-	13:15	14:20
BT 255	RIX	HAM	12345-7 Aug 2–16	17:55	19:00
BT 253	RIX	HAM	1-345-7 Aug 17–31	17:55	19:00
HELSINKI					
BT 301	RIX	HEL	1234567	09:20	10:25
BT 303	RIX	HEL	------7 Aug 2	13:05	14:10
BT 303	RIX	HEL	------6- Aug 1	13:15	14:20
BT 303	RIX	HEL	----5-- Aug 14–28	13:25	14:30
BT 303	RIX	HEL	-2----- Aug 11–25	13:40	14:45
BT 303	RIX	HEL	---4--- Aug 13–27	13:55	15:00
BT 303	RIX	HEL	1234567 Aug 3–9	14:00	15:05
BT 303	RIX	HEL	1-3--67 Aug 10–31	14:00	15:05
BT 307	RIX	HEL	1234567	19:00	20:05
BT 325	RIX	HEL	1234567	23:35	00:35+1
KIEV Borispol					
BT 400	RIX	KBP	123456-	09:15	11:05
BT 404	RIX	KBP	12345-7	18:40	20:30
LARNACA					
BT 657	RIX	LCA	-2---6-	23:55	03:45+1
LONDON Gatwick					
BT 651	RIX	LGW	12-456-	08:35	09:25
BT 653	RIX	LGW	---45--	16:00	16:50
BT 653	RIX	LGW	1-3---7	16:30	17:20
MALTA					
BT 739	RIX	MLA	------7	23:30	02:10+1
MILAN Malpensa					
BT 629	RIX	MXP	-----6-	09:20	11:05
BT 629	RIX	MXP	1-345--	12:20	14:05
MINSK					
BT 412	RIX	MSQ	1-3---7	13:55	15:05
MOSCOW Sheremetyevo					
BT 424	RIX	SVO	123456-	07:55	09:35
BT 422	RIX	SVO	1234567 Aug 2–9	18:45	20:25
BT 422	RIX	SVO	12345-7 Aug 10–31	18:45	20:25

Flights to RIGA

Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure	Arrival
AALBORG					
BT 150	AAL	RIX	------7	15:00	17:30
ALESUND					
BT 176	AES	RIX	----5-7	15:15	18:30
AMSTERDAM					
BT 618	AMS	RIX	1234567	11:30	14:45
BT 620	AMS	RIX	12345-7	19:55	23:10
AMSTERDAM flights to **VILNIUS**					
BT 610	AMS	VNO	12-4567	12:30	16:15
ATHENS					
BT 612	ATH	RIX	--3----	13:25	16:45
BT 612	ATH	RIX	-2---6-	19:25	22:45
BAKU					
BT 212	GYD	RIX	1------	04:20	06:30
BT 218	GYD	RIX	---4---	06:30	08:40
BARCELONA					
BT 1682	BCN	RIX	------7 Aug 30	09:30	14:10
BT 684	BCN	RIX	12-456-	18:10	22:50
BARI					
BT 624	BRI	RIX	-2-----	10:30	14:25
BERLIN Tegel					
BT 212	TXL	RIX	123456-	09:40	12:30
BT 218	TXL	RIX	1-34567	15:25	18:15
BT 214	TXL	RIX	12345-7	19:45	22:35
BERLIN Tegel flights to **TALLINN**					
BT 202	TXL	TLL	1--4---	08:00	11:15
BT 204	TXL	TLL	--3-5--	21:55	01:10+1
BILLUND					
BT 146	BLL	RIX	123456-	05:50	08:40
BRUSSELS					
BT 602	BRU	RIX	12345-- Aug 17–31	08:45	12:30
BT 602	BRU	RIX	12345-- Aug 3–14	09:40	13:25
BT 608	BRU	RIX	-----6-	14:50	18:35
BT 604	BRU	RIX	1--4--7	19:05	22:50
BUCHAREST					
BT 504	OTP	RIX	-2--5-7	03:50	06:40
BUDAPEST					
BT 492	BUD	RIX	1-3-5-- Aug 3–7	14:55	18:10
BT 492	BUD	RIX	1-345-- Aug 10–26	14:55	18:10
BT 492	BUD	RIX	1---5--- Aug 28–31	14:55	18:10
BURGAS					
BT 756	BOJ	RIX	--3----	12:50	15:25
BT 756	BOJ	RIX	------6-	20:35	23:10
BT 756	BOJ	RIX	1------ Aug 3, 17-24	20:50	23:25
CHISINAU					
BT 421	KIV	RIX	-2-4-6-	15:40	18:10
COPENHAGEN					
BT 142	CPH	RIX	-----6- Aug 15	06:05	08:40
BT 134	CPH	RIX	1234--- Aug 3–13	08:05	10:40
BT 134	CPH	RIX	12345-- Aug 17–31	08:05	10:40
BT 132	CPH	RIX	1234567	10:55	13:30
BT 140	CPH	RIX	1234567	20:15	22:50
BT 138	CPH	RIX	1234---	23:00	01:35
BT 138	CPH	RIX	------7 Aug 30	23:00	01:35
DUBROVNIK					
BT 498	DBV	RIX	---4--- Aug 13–27	11:35	15:20
BT 498	DBV	RIX	---4--- Aug 6	11:40	15:25
BT 498	DBV	RIX	-2-----	18:55	22:40
DUSSELDORF					
BT 236	DUS	RIX	-234567	14:45	18:15
BT 236	DUS	RIX	1------	15:00	18:30
FRANKFURT					
BT 242	FRA	RIX	12345-7	15:00	18:35
BT 246	FRA	RIX	-----6-	19:35	23:10
GOTHENBURG					
BT 125	GOT	RIX	12--5--	06:00	08:35
HAMBURG					
BT 252	HAM	RIX	12345--	09:25	12:20
BT 256	HAM	RIX	-----6-	14:50	17:45
BT 254	HAM	RIX	12345-7 Aug 2–16	19:40	22:35
BT 254	HAM	RIX	1-345-7 Aug 17–31	19:40	22:35
HELSINKI					
BT 326	HEL	RIX	1234567	06:00	06:55
BT 302	HEL	RIX	1234567	10:55	11:55
BT 304	HEL	RIX	1234567	15:35	16:35
BT 308	HEL	RIX	1234567	21:30	22:30
KIEV Borispol					
BT 401	KBP	RIX	123456-	11:35	13:30
BT 405	KBP	RIX	12345-7	21:00	22:55
LARNACA					
BT 658	LCA	RIX	--3---7	04:30	08:30
LONDON Gatwick					
BT 652	LGW	RIX	12-456-	10:10	14:55
BT 654	LGW	RIX	---4---	17:35	22:20
BT 654	LGW	RIX	----5--	17:55	22:40
BT 654	LGW	RIX	------7	18:05	22:50
BT 654	LGW	RIX	1-3----	18:10	22:55
MALTA					
BT 740	MLA	RIX	1------	02:50	07:30
MILAN Malpensa					
BT 1630	MXP	RIX	1-345--	14:45	18:25
BT 630	MXP	RIX	------7	19:25	23:05
MINSK					
BT 413	MSQ	RIX	1-3---7	15:45	16:55
MOSCOW Sheremetyevo					
BT 425	SVO	RIX	123456-	10:25	12:10
BT 423	SVO	RIX	1234567 Aug 2–9	21:10	22:55
BT 423	SVO	RIX	12345-7 Aug 10–31	21:10	22:55

Flights from Riga

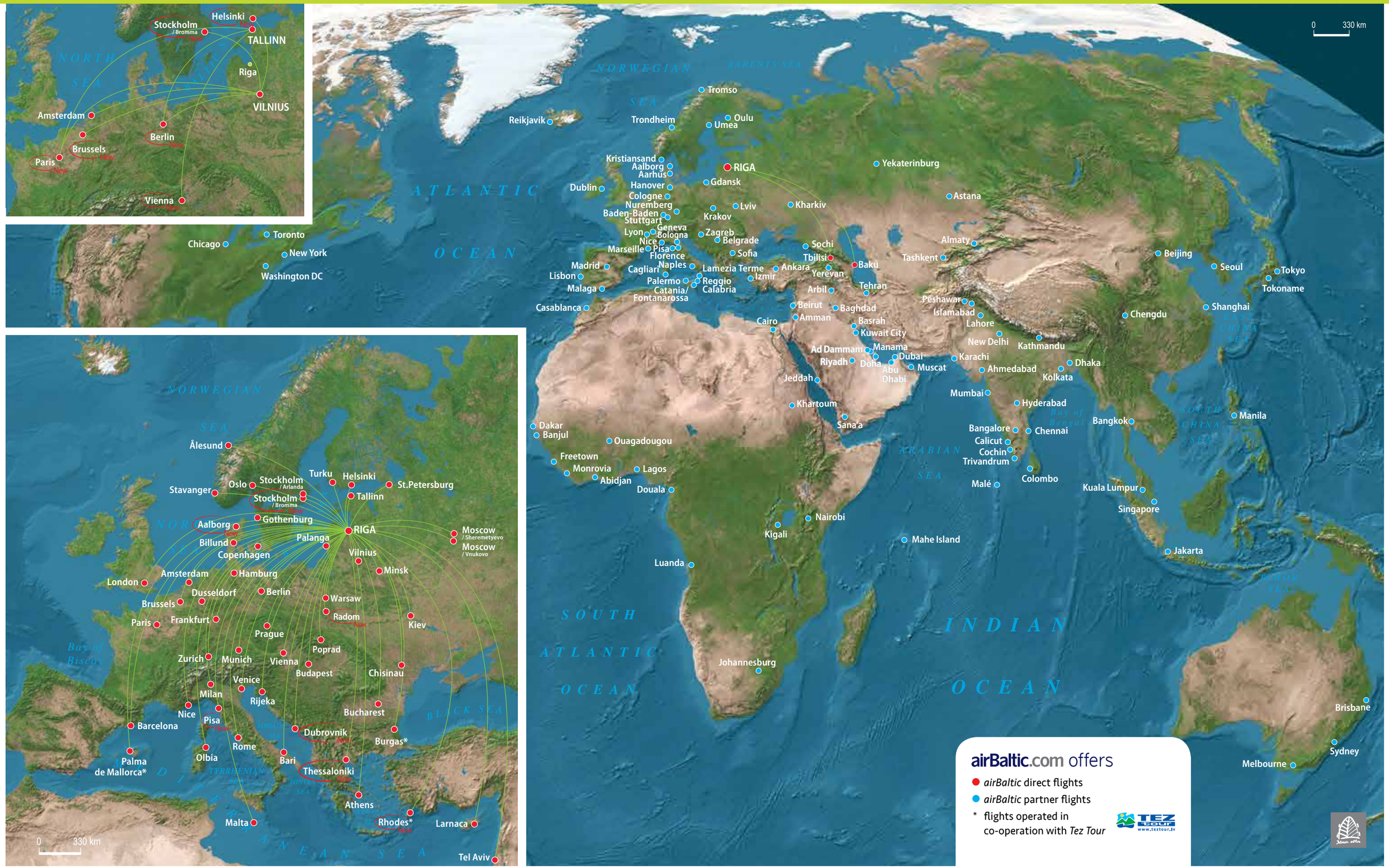
Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure	Arrival
MOSCOW Vnukovo					
BT 416	RIX	VKO	1---5-7	23:55	01:40+1
MUNICH					
BT 221	RIX	MUC	123456-	07:20	09:00
BT 223	RIX	MUC	1-345-7	17:20	19:00
NICE					
BT 695	RIX	NCE	-2-4---	16:30	18:35
BT 695	RIX	NCE	-----6-	16:35	18:40
OLBIA					
BT 655	RIX	OLB	-----6-	15:45	17:55
BT 655	RIX	OLB	-2-----	16:00	18:10
OSLO					
BT 151	RIX	OSL	1234567 Aug 1–9	08:05	09:00
BT 151	RIX	OSL	1-34567 Aug 10–31	08:05	09:00
BT 159	RIX	OSL	----5-- Aug 7–14	13:15	13:50
BT 159	RIX	OSL	1234--- Aug 1–13	13:55	14:50
BT 159	RIX	OSL	12345-7 Aug 17–31	13:55	14:50
BT 153	RIX	OSL	1234567	18:35	19:30
BT 157	RIX	OSL	-23--6-	23:45	00:40+1
PALANGA					
BT 035	RIX	PLQ	1-3-5--	14:25	15:10
BT 033	RIX	PLQ	12345-7	23:45	00:30+1
PALMA DE MALLORCA					
BT 687	RIX	PMI	------7	08:05	10:50
PARIS Charles de Gaulles					
BT 691	RIX	CDG	1234567	07:30	09:25
BT 693	RIX	CDG	12-45-7 Aug 2–10	16:30	18:25
BT 693	RIX	CDG	12345-7 Aug 13–25	16:30	18:25
BT 693	RIX	CDG	1--45-7 Aug 27–31	16:30	18:25
PARIS flights from **TALLINN**					
BT 689	TLL	CDG	1234567	09:35	11:35
PISA					
BT 637	RIX	PSA	-----6-	09:00	10:50
PRAGUE					
BT 481	RIX	PRG	1234567	13:15	14:25
RHODES					
BT 597	RIX	RHO	----5--	07:30	11:05
RIJEKA					
BT 495	RIX	RJK	--3-5--	17:05	18:30
ROME Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino					
BT 631	RIX	FCO	--3-5-7	09:20	11:25
BT 633	RIX	FCO	1--4---	15:50	17:55
STAVANGER					
BT 177	RIX	SVG	------7 Aug 9	23:35	00:55+1
BT 177	RIX	SVG	---4--7 Aug 20–30	23:35	00:55+1
STOCKHOLM Arlanda					
BT 101	RIX	ARN	1234567	07:50	08:05
BT 105	RIX	ARN	1234567	14:15	14:30
BT 109	RIX	ARN	1234567	19:00	19:15
BT 103	RIX	ARN	---45-7 Aug 2–23	23:35	23:50
BT 103	RIX	ARN	--345-7 Aug 26–30	23:35	23:50
BT 103	RIX	ARN	1----6-	23:45	23:59
BT 103	RIX	ARN	--3--- Aug 5–19	23:55	00:15+1
BT 103	RIX	ARN	-2-----	23:55	00:10+1
ST-PETERSBURG					
BT 442	RIX	LED	1-34567	09:20	10:40
BT 444	RIX	LED	12-45-7	19:00	20:20
BT 446	RIX	LED	--3-5-7 Aug 2–9	23:55	01:15+1
BT 446	RIX	LED	--345-7 Aug 12–30	23:55	01:15+1
TALLINN					
BT 319	RIX	TLL	1234567	07:20	08:10
BT 311	RIX	TLL	1234567	09:30	10:20
BT 313	RIX	TLL	1-345--	12:55	13:45
BT 313	RIX	TLL	-2---67	13:55	14:45
BT 315	RIX	TLL	1-345--	14:25	15:15
BT 317	RIX	TLL	1234567	19:05	19:55
BT 321	RIX	TLL	------7	23:00	23:50
BT 361	RIX	TLL	1234567	23:35	00:25+1
TBILISI					
BT 722	RIX	TBS	1--4---	23:25	03:55+1
BT 724	RIX	TBS	--3-5-7	23:25	03:55+1
BT 1724	RIX	TBS	-----6- Aug 1	23:30	04:00+1
TEL AVIV					
BT 771	RIX	TLV	--3--6-	13:00	17:20
THESSALONIKI					
BT 595	RIX	SKG	----5-7	23:55	02:50+1
TURKU					
BT 359	RIX	TKU	12345-7	23:45	00:55+1
VIENNA					
BT 431	RIX	VIE	1-3-5--	07:20	08:45
BT 431	RIX	VIE	-2-4-6-	07:30	08:30
BT 433	RIX	VIE	12345-7	17:40	19:05
VIENNA flights from **TALLINN**					
BT 205	TLL	VIE	-2--5--	06:25	08:20
BT 207	TLL	VIE	1--4---	17:40	19:35
VILNIUS					
BT 351	RIX	VNO	12-4567	07:20	08:10
BT 341	RIX	VNO	1234567	09:30	10:20
BT 343	RIX	VNO	1234567	13:55	14:45
BT 347	RIX	VNO	1234567	19:05	19:55
BT 349	RIX	VNO	1234567	23:35	00:25+1
VENICE					
BT 627	RIX	VCE	1--4---	17:05	18:45
WARSAW					
BT 461	RIX	WAW	1-3-5-- Aug 3–7	07:50	08:20
BT 461	RIX	WAW	123-5-- Aug 10–14	07:50	08:20
BT 461	RIX	WAW	123-56- Aug 17–31	07:50	08:20
BT 467	RIX	WAW	-234--7	19:05	19:35
ZURICH					
BT 641	RIX	ZRH	12-4-6-	07:40	09:10
BT 641	RIX	ZRH	--3-5-7	17:30	19:00

Flights to Riga

Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure	Arrival
MOSCOW Vnukovo					
BT 417	VKO	RIX	12---6-	04:45	06:40
MUNICH					
BT 222	MUC	RIX	123456-	09:35	13:05
BT 224	MUC	RIX	1-345-7	19:35	23:05
NICE					
BT 696	NCE	RIX	-2-4-6-	19:10	23:10
OLBIA					
BT 656	OLB	RIX	-2---6-	18:45	23:00
OSLO					
BT 158	OSL	RIX	--34--7	05:50	08:40
BT 152	OSL	RIX	1234567 Aug 1–9	09:25	12:15
BT 152	OSL	RIX	1-34567 Aug 10–31	09:25	12:15
BT 160	OSL	RIX	1234--- Aug 3–13	15:20	18:10
BT 160	OSL	RIX	12345-7 Aug 17–31	15:20	18:10
BT 160	OSL	RIX	------7 Aug 2–16	17:30	20:00
BT 154	OSL	RIX	1234567	20:00	22:50
PALANGA					
BT 032	PLQ	RIX	123456-	06:05	06:50
BT 036	PLQ	RIX	1-3-5--	15:45	16:30
PALMA DE MALLORCA					
BT 688	PMI	RIX	------7	11:40	16:20
PARIS Charles de Gaulles					
BT 692	CDG	RIX	1234567	10:10	13:55
BT 694	CDG	RIX	12-45-7 Aug 2–10	19:20	23:05
BT 694	CDG	RIX	12345-7 Aug 13–25	19:20	23:05
BT 694	CDG	RIX	1--45-7 Aug 27–31	19:20	23:05
PARIS flights to **TALLINN**					
BT 690	CDG	TLL	1234567	12:30	16:25
PISA					
BT 638	PSA	RIX	------7 Aug 2, 16–30	19:10	23:00
BT 638	PSA	RIX	------7 Aug 9	19:45	23:10
PRAGUE					
BT 482	PRG	RIX	1234567	14:55	18:00
RHODES					
BT 598	RHO	RIX	----5--	11:45	15:25
RIJEKA					
BT 496	RJK	RIX	--3-5--	19:05	22:30
ROME Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino					
BT 632	FCO	RIX	--3-5-7	12:10	16:20
BT 634	FCO	RIX	1--4---	18:50	23:00
STAVANGER					
BT 178	SVG	RIX	1------ Aug 10	05:25	08:40
BT 178	SVG	RIX	1---5-- Aug 21–31	05:25	08:40
STOCKHOLM Arlanda					
BT 104	ARN	RIX	1234567	06:20	08:35
BT 102	ARN	RIX	1234567	08:40	10:55
BT 106	ARN	RIX	1234567	15:00	17:15
BT 110	ARN	RIX	1234567	19:50	22:05
ST-PETERSBURG					
BT 447	LED	RIX	1--4-6- Aug 1–8	05:20	06:40
BT 447	LED	RIX	1--456- Aug 10–31	05:20	06:40
BT 443	LED	RIX	1-34567	11:15	12:35
BT 445	LED	RIX	12-45-7	21:20	22:40
TALLINN					
BT 362	TLL	RIX	1234567	06:00	06:50
BT 322	TLL	RIX	-----6-	07:50	08:40
BT 312	TLL	RIX	1234567	10:55	11:45
BT 314	TLL	RIX	1-345--	14:35	15:25
BT 314	TLL	RIX	-2---67	15:15	16:05
BT 316	TLL	RIX	12-45--	15:50	16:40
BT 320	TLL	RIX	1234567	16:55	17:45
BT 318	TLL	RIX	---4---	20:25	21:15
BT 318	TLL	RIX	123-567	21:40	22:30
TBILISI					
BT 1725	TBS	RIX	------7 Aug 2	04:35	07:10
BT 723	TBS	RIX	-2--5--	04:40	07:15
BT 725	TBS	RIX	1--4-6-	04:40	07:15
TEL AVIV					
BT 772	TLV	RIX	--3--6-	18:20	22:50
THESSALONIKI					
BT 596	SKG	RIX	1----6-	03:45	06:40
TURKU					
BT 360	TKU	RIX	123456-	05:45	06:50
VIENNA					
BT 432	VIE	RIX	1-3-5--	09:25	12:45
BT 432	VIE	RIX	-2-4-6-	09:25	12:25
BT 434	VIE	RIX	12345-7	19:50	23:10
VIENNA flights to **TALLINN**					
BT 206	VIE	TLL	-2--5--	10:40	14:30
BT 208	VIE	TLL	1--4---	20:35	00:25+1
VILNIUS					
BT 350	VNO	RIX	1234567	06:00	06:50
BT 342	VNO	RIX	1234567	10:55	11:45
BT 344	VNO	RIX	1234567	15:15	16:05
BT 352	VNO	RIX	12-4567	16:55	17:45
BT 348	VNO	RIX	1234567	20:25	21:15
VENICE					
BT 628	VCE	RIX	1--4---	19:30	23:05
WARSAW					
BT 462	WAW	RIX	1-3-5-- Aug 3–7	09:20	11:45
BT 462	WAW	RIX	123-5-- Aug 10–14	09:20	11:45
BT 462	WAW	RIX	123-56- Aug 17–31	09:20	11:45
BT 468	WAW	RIX	-234--7	20:05	22:30
ZURICH					
BT 642	ZRH	RIX	12-4-6-	09:45	13:15
BT 642	ZRH	RIX	--3-5-7	19:35	23:05

The given information is a subject to amandements and cancellations taken unilaterally by *airBaltic*.

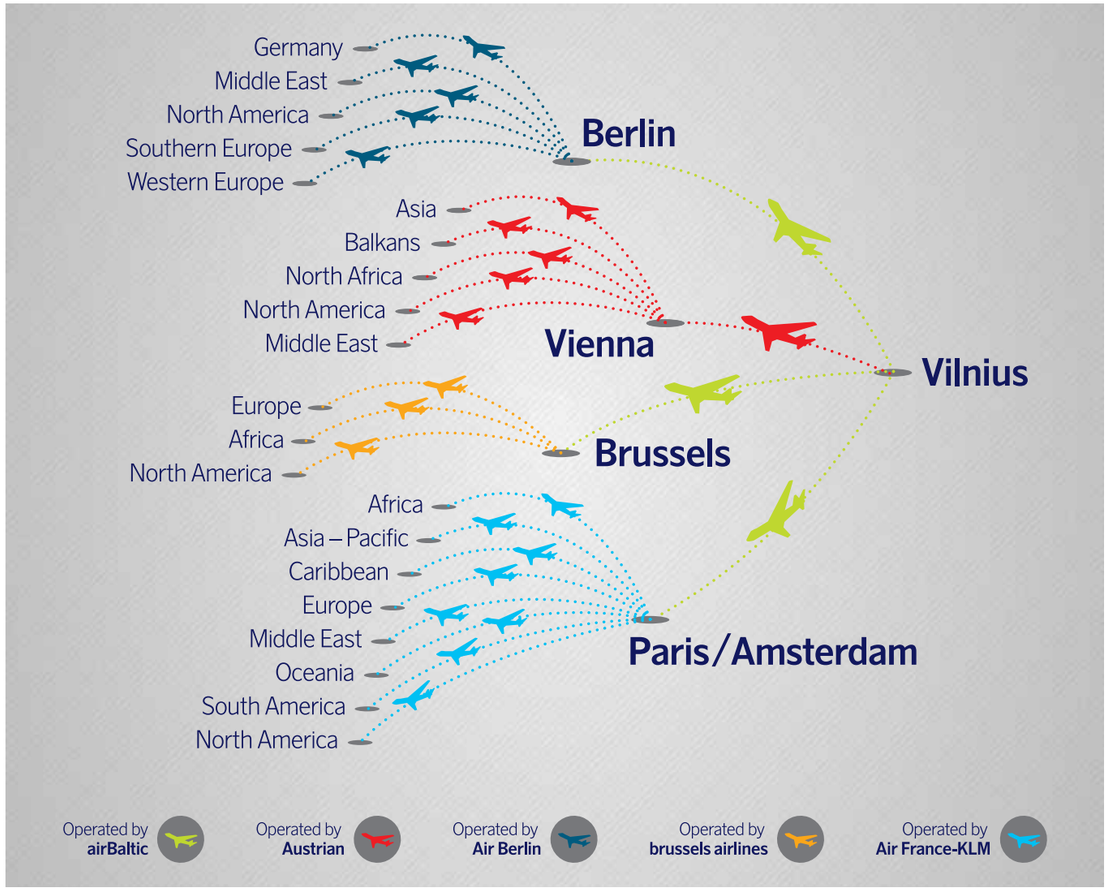
airBaltic / FLIGHTS



Fly worldwide from Vilnius in cooperation with partner airlines

This September *airBaltic* will start operating several new direct flights from the Lithuanian capital to Stockholm, Berlin, Brussels, Paris and Amsterdam, as well as the partner flight to Vienna, operated by *Austrian Airlines*. The flights to Paris and Amsterdam are operated in cooperation with codeshare partners *Air France* and *KLM*, which serves 316 destinations in 115 countries through their hubs at Paris-Charles de Gaulle and Amsterdam Schiphol airport.

The new flights to Berlin are served in cooperation with *Air Berlin*, giving *airBaltic* passengers the chance to explore over 92 further destinations within the partner's network, while *Brussels Airlines* offer convenient connections to 76 destinations in Europe, Africa and USA through their hub in Brussels. The partner for the Vienna flights is *Austrian Airlines*, allowing our passengers to benefit further from great connections and prices to more than 130 worldwide destinations through Vienna.



airBaltic codeshare partners

AEGEAN – A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER
АЭРОФЛОТ
airberlin – Your Airline.
AIRFRANCE
Alitalia
Austrian
AZERBAIJAN AIRLINES
BELAVIA – Belarusian Airlines
BRITISH AIRWAYS
brussels airlines
CZECH AIRLINES
ETIHAD AIRWAYS
GEORGIAN AIRLINES
KLM – SKYTEAM
MAV
SAS – Scandinavian Airlines
TAROM – ROMANIAN AIR TRANSPORT
TRANSAERO AIRLINES
UZBEKISTAN airways

Onboard menu

My favourites

Our colleague Aleksandrs Lazorenko, *airBaltic* cabin crew member of seven years' standing, talks about his favourite onboard meals:

Ever since my first day on board, when I tried our chicken and cheese panini, it has become one of my favourite meals. I eat it quite often when I'm flying, usually together with a *Coke* or a hot drink, and recommend it to our passengers. It has a great, juicy taste, it is served hot, and it is bigger than other sandwiches, therefore completely satisfying one's hunger during long working days.

There is only one other product that I buy even more often, not only for me but also for my nicest colleagues, and that is the muffin – a great dessert to enjoy with tea or coffee. A small token of appreciation that says more than a thousand words. Why not delight the nice passenger sitting next to you with a tasty treat?

Business Class menu

airBaltic's Business Class meal selection is inspired by different cuisines from all over the world. Our menu offers superior and healthy meals prepared with fresh and seasonal ingredients. For breakfast, Business Class passengers can enjoy energising main courses served with granola and yoghurt. On afternoon and evening flights, subtle main courses like fried chicken fillet with grilled vegetables and shiitake mushrooms, baked haddock fillet with spinach and asparagus, and roasted lamb chop with hummus and fresh vegetables are served together with delightful desserts, including various cheesecakes, fruit cakes and panna cotta. Settle back, relax and enjoy your flight with a gourmet meal and an exquisite wine or other beverage from our carefully selected drinks menu.

Order your meal before the flight

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

airBaltic's pre-order menu can be accessed through the **Manage My Booking** section at airBaltic.com. Also available by phone at (+371) 67006006 for international callers or 90001100 within Latvia up to 24 hours before departure.

More than 70 dishes are available at our innovative pre-order website **airbalticmeal.com**, where you can create your individual meal on a virtual tray up to 24 hours before your flight.

Our online check-in system allows passengers to pre-order meals **during online check-in**, from 72 hours up to one hour before departure for flights from Riga.

Now you can also order a meal for your next flight while in the air! Ask the cabin crew about this opportunity on your flight.

Andris Vasiļonoks,
head chef at *airBaltic,*
Airo Catering Services
Latvija

Taking airline cuisine to new heights

Text by **ELINA RUKA**
Photo by **ANDREJS TERENTJEVS,** *F64*

Andris Vasiļonoks heads a team of 40 people who cater to the taste buds of *airBaltic* passengers. He became a chef because he enjoys eating good food, and he is constantly looking for new taste combinations to add to the airline's varied menu.

How long have you been creating flight menus for *airBaltic*?
This is now my seventh year with the airline.

What did you do before joining *LSG Sky Chefs*?
I've gained a great deal of experience working at various places, including for famous Latvian chef Mārtiņš Rītiņš and at a number of restaurants in Old Riga. I also spent ten years working at the *NB Hotel* and helped to set up its catering system from scratch.

What is it like to work as *airBaltic's* head chef, and how does it differ from working at a restaurant?
In some respects, the process of preparing meals for an airline isn't much different from that of working in a restaurant, but there are additional preparation, packaging, delivery and other procedures that need to be followed in order to ensure food safety. Consequently, a meal goes through more steps before it reaches the airline passenger than it would in a restaurant on the ground. I set up the menu in accordance with various specifications that have to do with air travel. Of course, we try to make our meals as close to restaurant quality as possible in our particular circumstances. Our catering service has about 30 people working together during each shift.

airBaltic / BEHIND THE SCENES

How do you prepare the menu for *airBaltic* flights?
I was first invited by Mārtiņš Rītiņš, the head chef at Riga's *Vincents* restaurant, to help set up a premium Business Class menu for *airBaltic* passengers and have now been doing so on my own for the past four years. It's not an easy task. I regularly go through all kinds of literature and Internet websites to get inspiration for offering something new and different. The main menu is based mainly on beef, lamb and various fish dishes, which we prepare with specially made mixtures of spices and marinades. *airBaltic* is also known for its outstanding desserts. We change the menu twice a year, once for the winter and once for the summer season. Passengers can choose between eight hot meals, eight cold meals and eight desserts so that they don't have to eat the same dishes on both their departing and returning flights. During the winter we place greater emphasis on lamb's meat, while during the summer we concentrate more on seasonal vegetables and fish.

Economy Class passengers, for their part, have a very large selection of meals that they can choose from for an extra fee, and up to 24 hours before their flight's departure. Can you tell us more about their options?
Actually, Economy Class passengers who order their meals in advance have an even greater variety of hot and cold meals to choose from in a separate menu. We have special meals for various dietary requirements, including salt-free, gluten-free, low-calorie, diabetic, vegetarian, vegan and kosher meals.

What are the most popular dishes?
The chicken breast and the potato pancakes with salmon.

Are you satisfied with the *airBaltic* menu, or are there things that you would still like to improve?
There is always room for further development. I would really like to add sorbet, which would make for a wonderful addition between meal courses, but I haven't yet figured out how to do that in an airplane environment. Our desserts are excellent, but I would like to make them even better so that our passengers keep them in mind and are more inclined to buy an *airBaltic* ticket the next time they have to fly somewhere.

What products do you like to use in your menu?
My main criterion is that they have to be fresh. Everything that is fresh, quickly and recently prepared tastes better and is healthier because it has lost less nutritional value than a dish that takes a long time to make. I like Chinese cuisine for that reason, because Chinese dishes can be quickly cooked up. My favourite item on the *airBaltic* menu is goat cheese cake – a dessert that I heartily recommend to everyone and is a true work of art. It is also a veteran of sorts, as it is the longest continually running dish on our menu. We don't use frozen products and choose fresh spices in preparing our marinades.

Where do your products come from? Do you support Latvian producers?
When you work for a large airline company, you have to take cost into account. We have cooperated with many great Latvian producers in the past and have continued to keep in touch. I hope to resume a greater degree of cooperation with local producers because their products really are very good and I would like to promote them on a wider scale. I would recommend rye bread or potato pancakes to foreign fliers who wish to get a taste of Latvian cuisine.

Do you often fly with *airBaltic*?
I do, but these flights are mostly related to my work as a chef. I tend to take charter flights for my vacation trips, as I enjoy such active sports as skiing and cycling. I cycle to work each day, about 13 km in each direction.

What travel destinations do you recommend to the readers of *Baltic Outlook*?
I have travelled quite a bit and would love to return to Barcelona and Paris. There is so much to see, and, no matter how often you visit these cities, there will always be something new to discover. **BO**

CHEF ANDRIS VASIĻONOKS RECOMMENDS: GOAT CHEESE CAKE WITH CHERRY SAUCE

(8 servings, or 1 baking dish)

FOR THE GOAT CHEESE MIX:
250 g goat cheese
200 g whipping cream (35%)
50 g sugar
5 egg yolks
Mix the egg yolks with the sugar, add whipping cream and mix further.
Mix the goat cheese to a uniform consistency. Add the egg and cream mixture and mix it in lightly.

FOR THE CRUST:
2 egg yolks
400 g flour
250 g butter
130 g **sugar**
Apply a thin layer of crust (120 g) onto the bottom and sides of a baking tray and bake at 180°C for 15 minutes. Cool.

FOR THE CHERRY SAUCE:
200 g pitted cherries
50 g sugar
Pit the cherries, mix with sugar and boil for about 5 minutes. Set aside and cool.

FINAL STAGES:
Pour the goat cheese mix into the baked crust and bake again at 150°C for about 60 minutes or longer if necessary. Then pour the cherry sauce over the goat cheese cake after it has cooled.

Country/City Ticket offices	Service points
AUSTRIA	
Vienna AVIAREPS Untere Donaustrasse 11/3. OG 1020 Vienna	Vienna International Airport Celebi Ground services
AZERBAIJAN	
Baku Improtex Travel 16. S. Vurgun Str. Baku AZ1000, Azarbaijan ☎ +994 124989239 info@improtex-travel.com booking@improtex-travel.com	Heydar Aliyev International airport Silk way airlines Terminal 1 ☎ +994777008700 ☎ +994777008701
BELARUS	
Minsk	Minsk International Airport Transavia ☎ +375 17 279 1505
BELGIUM	
Brussels TAL Aviation 35 rue du Congres, 1000 Bruxelles ☎ +32 (0) 2 227 1117 Airbaltic-belgium@tal-aviation.be	Airport Zaventem Departure Hall Aviapartner ☎ +32 (0) 27230667
CROATIA	
Rijeka	Rijeka Airport Zračna Luka Rijeka ☎ +385 51 841 222
CYPRUS	
Larnaca	Larnaca International Airport LGS Service desk
CZECH REPUBLIC	
Prague Discover the World pplk. Sochora 30/724, 170 00 Praha 7 ☎ +420 233 931 681 airBaltic-czsk@discovertheworld.biz	Vaclav Havel Prague Airport Terminal T2 CEAS ☎ +420 220117540
DENMARK	
Billund TAL Aviation Nordics AB ☎ +46-8-590 000 90 airbaltic-nordic@talaviation.se	Billund Airport Departure Hall Billund Airport handling F: +45 75338410
ESTONIA	
Tallinn ☎ 17107 (0.51 EUR/min, local calls only) tallinn@airbaltic.com	Airport Tallinn Main Terminal, Departure Hall airBaltic /Tallinn Airport GH
FINLAND	
Helsinki TAL Aviation Insinoorinkatu 7 B, 00880 Helsinki ☎ +35 8 (0) 968778912 airbaltic-nordic@talaviation.se (airBaltic RESERVATIONS ☎ 0600411015 0.64 EUR/min, Mon-Fri 09:00-18:00)	Helsinki Handling NewCo Oy Servisair Service point
Turku	Airport Turku Airpro
FRANCE	
Paris APG France 66 avenue des Champs Elysées Building E, 2nd floor 75008, Paris ☎ +33 153892100 airbaltic@apg.fr	Airport Charles de Gaulles Terminal 2D GH Team
Nice	Airport Nice Cote D'azur
GEORGIA	
Tbilisi airBaltic ticket office 61 Paliashvili str. 0179 Tbilisi ☎ +995 32 2 900900 airbalticgsa@discovery.ge	Airport Tbilisi Discovery Ltd ☎ +995 32 2 900900
GERMANY	
Berlin	Airport Berlin Tegel Main Terminal AHS Opposite gate 4/5
Dusseldorf	Airport Dusseldorf Terminal B HAVAS Germany GmbH ☎ +49 211 421 6271
Frankfurt c/o AVIAREPS AG Kaiserstrasse 77 ☎ +49 (0) 900 001 227 (EUR 0,49/min from fixed lines, different costs may apply for mobile calls) ResBT-Germany@aviareps.com	Airport Frankfurt Havas Germany GmbH Terminal 2, Hall E, Desk 939
Hamburg	Airport Fuhlsbuttel Terminal 1, Departure Hall Havas Germany GmbH
Munich	Airport Munich Terminal 1 Havas Germany GmbH
GREECE	
Athens Tal Aviation 7,Stadiou Str. (8th floor) 105 62 Athens-Greece ☎ +30 210 9341500 F: +30 210 9341620 airbaltic@tal-aviation.gr	Athens International Airport Goldair Handling
HUNGARY	
Budapest Tensi Aviation Kft. Kormjadi Bela utca 1. ☎ +36 1 3451526 F: +36 1 9991466 aviation@tensi.hu	Budapest Airport Celebi Ground handling company
ISRAEL	
Tel Aviv TAL Aviation 29 Ben Yehuda St. Tel Aviv, 63807 ☎ +972 (3) 7952166 F: +972 (3) 5161432 AirBaltic-Israel@TAL-Aviation.com	Tel Aviv Airport Terminal 3 Laufer Aviation GHI ☎ +972 39754076
ITALY	
Rome Tal Aviation Italy Via Adolfo Rava, 106, 00142, Rome ☎ +39 0654242544 F: +390654242534 airbaltic@talaviation.it	Leonardo de Vinci – Fiumicino Airport Terminal 3, Departure Hall A.R.E. Airline Representative Europe
Bari	Bari Airport Bari Palese
Milan	Milan Malpensa Airport Terminal 1, Departure Level A.R.E. Airline Representative Europe
Olbia	International Airport Costa Olbia Geasar S.P.A. Smeralda
Venice	Airport Venice Marco Polo A.R.E. Airline Representative Europe
LATVIA	
Riga ☎ 90001100 (0.51 EUR/min for local calls)	Riga International Airport Main Terminal and transit area airBaltic ticket office
LITHUANIA	
Vilnius ☎ 890015004 (2.12 LTL/min, local calls only) vnoreservations@airbaltic.com	Vilnius International Airport Litcargus ticketing@litcargus.lt
Palanga	Palanga Airport Orlaiviu Aptarnavimo Agentura ☎ +370 46052300 F: +370 46056401
MALTA	
Malta	Malta Airport Air Malta ☎ +356 22999620 mia.airmalta@airmalta.com
MOLDOVA	
Chisinau	Chisinau International Airport Air Service ☎/F: +373 22 52 55 06 ☎ +373 22 54 93 39
NETHERLANDS	
Amsterdam AVIAREPS Beechavenue 104 1119 Pp Schiphol-Rijk ☎ 020-6547928 Res ☎ 020-5200282 Sales F: 020-6230151	
NORWAY	
Oslo TAL Aviation Nordic AB Norway@tal-aviation.com	Oslo Airport Gardermoen
POLAND	
Warsaw INTAIR 69 Koszykowa str. apt 5 (2nd flor) ☎ 0048/22 559 39 32 F: 0048/22 559 39 38 airbaltic@intair.pl	Warsaw Airport BGS Service point
ROMANIA	
Bucharest TAL Aviation Blvd Nicolae Balcescu 21, Sector 1, Bucharest ☎ +40 (0) 21 307 9175 airbaltic-romania@talaviation.ro	GlobeGround Handling Company International Departures Terminal ☎ +40212042194 F: +40212041900
RUSSIA	
Moscow ☎ +007 (495)969-2248 domestic calling rates apply for calls within Russia	Airport Vnukovo Transagenstvo Vnukovo LLC service point Ticketing counters no: 177, 185
St. Petersburg	Airport Pulkovo Terminal 2 LTD North-West Transport Agency
SPAIN	
Barcelona TAL Aviation Paseo de la Castellana, 135 - 7th floor, 28046, Madrid ☎ +34 6555 86889 airbaltic-spain@tal-aviation.com	Airport El Prat de Llobregat Terminal 1 Lufthansa Ticket Desk
SWEDEN	
Stockholm TAL Aviation Kanalvagen 16, 5 fl, 194 61 Upplands Vasby ☎ +46 8 590 000 90 airbaltic-nordic@talaviation.se	Stockholm Arlanda Airport Nordic Aero International Terminal 5
SWITZERLAND	
Zurich c/o Airline & Tourism Center GmbH ☎ +41 (0) 44 286 99 73 airBaltic-Switzerland@aviareps.com	Airport Zurich Kloten Swissport Terminal 2
UKRAINE	
Kiev	Airport Borispol Terminal D Interavia ☎ +380 442 817 461 kbp.ticketing@interavia.ua call-center line +380 443 840 120
UNITED KINGDOM	
London Aviacircle Building D, 2nd floor 28-29 The Quadrant Business Centre 135 Salusbury Road, London NW6 6RJ ☎ +44 870 774 2253 Res.AirBaltic@aviacircle.com	Airport Gatwick Skybreak Terminal S
USA	
New York airBaltic USA 147 West 35th Street, Suite 1505 New York, NY 10001 ☎ +1 - 877 359 2258 ☎ +1 - 646 300 7727 nyc@aviaworldna.com	
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