

balticoutlook

AUGUST 2016

airBaltic
inflight magazine

ROME

a frieze of impressions

Plus:

Exclusive: OLYMPIC BMX CHAMPION MĀRIS ŠTROMBERGS
INSIDER'S GUIDE TO ST. PETERSBURG
BALTIC ATHLETES HEAD FOR RIO

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"SUN TERRACES"

Юрмала, проспект Дзинтари 36
Площадь квартир: 111 м² – 262 м²
Цена по запросу

Современный жилой комплекс Sun Terraces – это два 3-этажных здания, расположенных в одном из престижных районов Юрмалы – Дзинтари, в непосредственной близости от моря. Комплекс включает в себя 42 квартиры, в том числе пентхаусы на верхних этажах. Тщательно продуманная планировка каждой из квартир предусматривает от 2 до 4 спален, большие светлые комнаты, широкие панорамные окна, просторные террасы. Огороженная территория с детской площадкой.

Jurmala, 36 Dzintaru prospect
Apartment spaces: 111 m² – 262 m²
Price upon request

Sun Terraces is a residential complex of two buildings located in Dzintari, the very heart of the Jurmala. The Baltic seashore with its vast sand beach line located nearby to the complex. The complex consist of 42 apartments, including spacious penthouses on the upper floors. The meticulously-developed design of each apartment has two-to-four bedrooms, spacious, bright living space, large panoramic windows and open terraces. The complex has a gated territory with children`s playground.



www.suntterraces.lv



"ELIZABETH"

Рига, улица Элизабетес 3
Площадь офисов: 60 м² – 320 м²
Площадь квартир: 31 м² – 460 м²
Цена по запросу

"Elizabeth" - жемчужина югендстиля, один из значимых памятников архитектуры, в тихом центре Риги. Для продажи доступны несколько квартир разных площадей и планировок, в том числе – 2-уровневые квартиры с террасами на крыше, а также – аренда офисных помещений с полной отделкой. Здание находится в лучшей части города, в окружении скверов и парков, в непосредственной близости сосредоточены главные рижские достопримечательности.

Riga, Elizabetes Street 3
Office spaces: 60 m² – 320 m²
Apartment spaces: 31 m² – 460 m²
Price upon request

"Elizabeth" is a Art Nouveau pearl, and one of the significant architectural monuments, in the silent centre of Riga. A few apartments with different areas and layouts are available for sale, including 2-level apartments with roof terraces, as well as fully finished office premises for rent. The building is in the one of the best parts of the city, surrounded by garden squares and parks.



www.elizabeth.lv



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our achievement as the world's most punctual airline for two years straight. Furthermore, our flight regularity is averaging at 99.4% this year. Although highly technical, this term means that we operate 994 out of every 1000 flights and are forced to cancel flights very rarely.

We are very delighted that *airBaltic* travellers appreciate our efforts, with customer satisfaction also being at its peak over the past three-year period.

Did you know that *airBaltic* is the first airline in the world to have commissioned the all-new *Bombardier CSeries* jets? The state-of-the-art aircraft has seen over 100 new orders this year, the *CS100* has started commercial flights, and the *CS300* has been awarded Type Certification; which means the new jet will be coming soon to an airport near you!

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

Yours,
Martin Alexander Gauss





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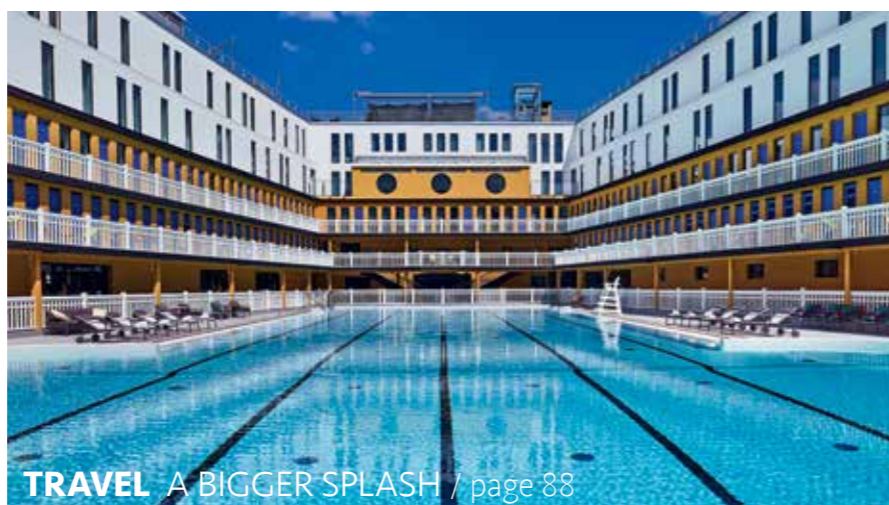
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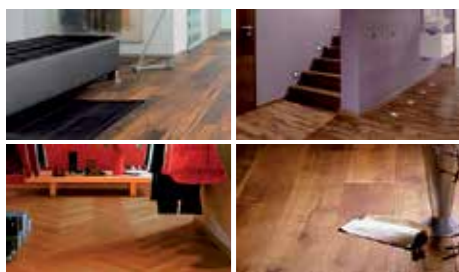
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Contents **AUGUST**



ABOUT THE AUGUST ISSUE

A photo session for *Baltic Outlook* with two-time Olympic champion Māris Štrombergs was also captured in one of the many TV documentaries about him.

August is Olympic month and accordingly, *Baltic Outlook* is paying special tribute in this issue to some of the best athletes from the Baltic countries. Among them is Latvian BMX racer and two-time Olympic gold medal winner Māris Štrombergs (page 64). He will have the honour of bearing Latvia's flag at the opening ceremonies of the Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. Our correspondent Ilmārs Līkums met up with the champion in the Latvian village of Rubene, where the Latvian BMX racing team is training on a replica of the Olympic BMX track that will be used in Rio.

Līkums managed to catch Štrombergs during a training lunch break for a longer interview, and also to entertain him at a separate photo session with questions that fans had asked the BMX star through *Facebook*. Asked what he thinks about not eating after 6 PM, Štrombergs replied:

"If the goal is to lose weight, then that's probably not a bad idea, but for us athletes it wouldn't be possible due to our training programme. I try not to eat after eight in the evening. One would need to be really determined not to eat after 6 PM, and I wouldn't be able to do it," the racer told Līkums as the photographer sought out the best lighting conditions for the interview's photo session.

During the same pause in the photo shoot, Štrombergs revealed that he usually doesn't travel by bicycle on a daily basis, because the distances that he would have to cover are simply too great in California, where he now lives. He also admitted that he sometimes gets tired of the training routine that athletes like him have to go through, and which demands a hearty breakfast and healthy dose of vitamins every morning.

baltic^{outlook}

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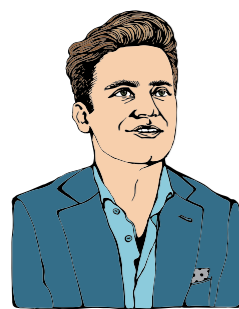


Montblanc 1858 Watches Collection

The 1858 collection is inspired by the heritage of Minerva, one of Switzerland's most revered timekeeping specialists. With this collection, Montblanc revives the spirit of the legendary watches Minerva has been creating since 1858 and gives them a new, contemporary vintage expression. On the historical side, a fluted crown is reminiscent of early crowns while the elegant dial is also typical of the period with its large white luminescent Arabic numerals and a railway track. The small seconds at 6 o'clock, the retro Montblanc emblem and the large "cathedral" hands with their cloisonné design filled with white Super-LumiNova® also stay faithful to the original design. Taking the timepiece into the present day, Montblanc has chosen a large 44 mm stainless steel case, a deep blue dial and a Milanese steel bracelet that brings this vintage look a modern dimension.

Visit Montblanc Boutique Riga, 69 Elizabetes str., tel.: +371 67506677

www.montblanc.com



Stability of the Baltic- Nordic region

On a sunny and very warm July weekend, I visited the LAMPA “conversation festival” in the picturesque Latvian city of Cēsis. Modelled after the democracy festivals of Almedalen in Sweden and Folkemødet in Denmark, LAMPA featured more than 150 debates, discussions, intellectual games and performances that drew an active audience of almost 10,000 people this year. The idea of conversation festivals like these is to encourage people to become more involved in social and political processes.

I can already hear sceptics grumbling that these events attract people who enjoy talking about what should be done, but don’t act upon their words. Instead of accomplishing something real – like

starting a company and initiating actual changes – the sceptics claim, there is a class of people that revels in criticising everything and everybody. In reality, nothing could be further from the truth. For starters, many participants of LAMPA were business owners and entrepreneurs with a clearly positive agenda. But, more importantly, I detected a real wish to find common ground and solve more and less pressing issues that concern the sustainable development of Latvia and our part of Europe.

Mayors of mid-sized cities in Latvia, Sweden, Finland and Denmark talked about smart solutions in city development. A businessman discussed the future of Europe with a Catholic archbishop and a scholar of international relations. Politicians of various stripes debated with refugees about the fate of refugees. Entrepreneurs and scientists explored how artificial intelligence might change our lives. Experts argued about whether social networks promote or restrict freedom of speech. Parents spoke frankly with teachers about the quality of education. And so on.

I would not rush to claim how many specific problems were solved in these discussions. But the culture of discussing pressing issues and looking for solutions in a peaceful and intelligent manner signals that

our society is maturing. If instead of Molotov cocktails, people throw arguments at each other, then the population has reached a kind of adulthood. And this in turn leads to stability, which, quite rationally, is a precondition for investment and growth.

Look, for instance, at how Latvia and its Baltic neighbours overcame the financial crisis of 2008-2009. The government, trade unions and even pensioners’ federations discussed and agreed that budget cuts were unavoidable and “fiscal adjustments” were frontloaded. In turn, the economy has shown a robust recovery and growth ever since. It is rather hard to imagine such a scenario taking place in the southern parts of Europe, where post-crisis structural problems persist.

So, my feeling is that the Baltic societies are moving towards a rational and responsible way of governing themselves. Discussion and peaceful deliberation is at the core of this approach. I think that the stability and predictability that has long been associated with the Nordic countries is taking ground in the Baltics. This means that the Baltic countries, hopefully, will not generate unpleasant surprises in their political and business development and are in the right stage to receive substantial long-term investments. **BO**

Text by
MĀRTIŅŠ VANAGS
Illustration by
INGA BRIEDE

Mārtiņš Vanags is the managing director of the Skanste Development Agency in Riga. He has served as an advisor to Latvian ministers of the economy, foreign affairs and culture, and as a consultant to leading Latvian companies. He holds a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from the University of Latvia and a master’s degree in social and political thought from the University of Chicago.



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SPOTLIGHT ON THE SUMMER
Five things that you should do in Latvia in August

- 1/ Take a seaside holiday
- 2/ Attend the concerts of the *Inese Galante Summertime 2016* music festival in Jūrmala (August 8-14, festivalsummertime.com)
- 3/ Catch crayfish in a pristine river or lake
- 4/ Have a late dinner on a rooftop terrace at one of Riga's restaurants
- 5/ Go on a boating trip along the Gauja or Salaca rivers

ON THIS MONTH'S MENU

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



THE TREND:

Jewellery This summer, the *Anita Sondore* jewellery design brand from Latvia received a Silver A' Design Award for its Royale Fire Stone Brooch in the category of jewellery, eyewear and watch design. The A' Design Awards are the world's most influential and largest design awards, presented each year in Italy. True jewellery lovers will appreciate the refined aesthetics of this award-winning brooch and other *Anita Sondore* products.



Interiors Botanicals are not going away from our interiors any time soon! Delicate drawings and paintings of tender flowers and leaves are very much in vogue right now. Incidentally, courses in botanical art are also becoming increasingly popular. Perhaps it's worth taking on a new artistic challenge?



Beauty The air by the seaside along Latvia's pine-fringed beaches has a particular aroma. It seems that the Latvian *Stenders*

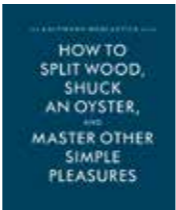
cosmetics brand has managed to capture this unforgettable fragrance in a bottle. *Evergreen Eau de Toilette* gives the feeling that you get when you're wandering through the forest to clear your mind and a soft carpet of moss is rustling under your bare feet.

TIME TO CELEBRATE

For three days this month, Riga will be filled with a festive atmosphere, live music and plenty of surprises. The annual *Riga City Festival*, which takes place this year on August 12-14, presents an unforgettable kaleidoscope of concerts, dances, athletic competitions, an air show, a channel regatta, fairs, taste-testing and magnificent fireworks. And don't forsake the outskirts of the Latvian capital, which will also be celebrating along with the city centre and hosting all kinds of exciting events. More information at rigassvetki.lv.

Text by **ZANE NIKODEMUSA**
and **ROGER NORUM**
Publicity photos

READING LIST



Alexandra Redgrave and Jessica Hundley. *The Kaufmann Mercantile Guide: How to Split Wood, Shuck an Oyster, and Master Other Simple Pleasures*

This comprehensive field guide explains how to conduct a huge range of basic tasks, from brewing coffee and frying an egg to building a fire and making your own soap. Organised into five sections – Kitchen, Outdoors, Home, Gardening and Grooming – the detailed instructions and illustrations make this an essential reference tool for living well in the 21st century. Enables even the most useless technophobes to become DIY mavens.

Another Travel Guide Riga. Fifth revised version

Another Travel Guide Riga is a splendid guide to Riga's capital, presenting a true insiders' Riga as experienced by artists, architects, entrepreneurs, journalists, photographers and other impromptu tour guides who love their city and will happily share its secrets with you. More information at anothertravelguide.com.

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Details LOCAL AGENDA



Léon Bakst. Costume sketch of the Firebird for the *Firebird* ballet. 1922. Pencil, watercolour, gouache, silver and gold on paper. From the collection of the Belgazprombank, Minsk (Belarus)

THE TIMES AND WORKS OF LÉON BAKST EXHIBITION

**Art Museum Riga Bourse, Riga
Until August 28**

This grandiose exhibition – which has delighted many visitors since its opening last month – is dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the birth of prominent Russian painter, scenographer, book illustrator, costume artist and designer Léon Bakst (1866–1924). While the prolific artist worked mainly in Saint Petersburg and Paris, he inspired modernists throughout Western Europe for the first decades of the 20th century.

📞 Inmm.lv
Doma laukums 6



BIRGITTA MUSICAL THEATRE FESTIVAL

**Pirita Convent,
Tallinn
August 13-21**

For a few nights in August, the imposing ruins of the Pirita Convent will serve as a modern opera venue, where various genres of musical theatre will be performed, including classical opera, ballet, oratorios, contemporary dance and musical comedy. Rain won't be a problem, as the premises will be covered by a protecting roof.

Tickets at piletilevi.ee
Merivälja tee 18



Simeon Shomov. *Expanses*. Ring made of silver, synthetic grass and 24-karat gold plate

Putti art gallery, Riga Until September 15

This impressive exhibition of contemporary jewellery includes works by both Latvian and foreign artists. Their skilled hands have masterfully combined gold and silver with steel, wood and plastic as well as gemstones like topaz, garnet and citrine. A must-see for modern art lovers!

📞 putti.lv / Peitavas iela 5

Conversation with a Cloud contemporary jewellery exhibition

AUGUST 2016

WE LOVE THE 90s MUSIC FESTIVAL

**Tallinn Song Festival Grounds
August 26-27**

This huge retro music festival will bring together Scooter, Vengaboys, E-Type, London Beat, Army of Lovers, Dr. Alban and many more hit-makers from the 1990s. For two days, the stage will be occupied by 20 artists whose songs reached the top spots in music charts all over the world. Last year showed that 1990s music is still loved by many, and this year's event is even bigger.

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TRANSITION (PĀREJA)
SOLO EXHIBITION
by painter Andris Eglītis
Daugava art gallery, Riga
August 17 – October 1



Andris Eglītis. *Transition*.
2016. Oil on canvas

Andris Eglītis (b. 1981) has been one of Latvia's most successful young artists. He received the country's most prestigious arts award, the Purvītis Prize, in 2013, and his works were displayed in the Latvian pavilion at last year's

Venice Biennale. In his latest paintings, he has sought to resolve the transition from a flat surface to a three-dimensional space and from concrete subjects to the abstract.
📍 galerijadaugava.lv
Ausekļa iela 1



American singer Børns is bringing the freedom of festivals, the breeze of light electronica and a touch of summertime sadness to Vilnius. Discovered at this year's Coachella festival in California, Børns is creating waves in the

indie/pop music world and is on tour to present his new album, *Dopamine*. Recommended for Mika and Katy Perry fans.

Tickets at bilietupasaulis.lt
Trakų gatvė 9/1



CINEMA UNDER THE STARS
Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania, Vilnius
Until August 26
Summer usually involves the presentation of uninspiring

blockbusters by major film producers at movie theatres, but for a unique experience, see the open-air screenings in the courtyard of the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania. Every week from Wednesday to Saturday, the *Pasaka* (Fairytale) cinema boutique is showing the past season's favourites and classics like Krzysztof Kieślowski's *Three Colour* trilogy. The season will close with the Lithuanian premiere of Toni Erdmann, a hit comedy drama at this year's Cannes Film Festival.
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This is a man’s world

The latest addition to Riga’s street culture is barber shops, which have hit the scene by storm.



Text by **ILZE VĪTOLA**
Photos courtesy of Wood Religion

Wood Religion Barber Shop was the first barber shop in Riga, opening three years ago in the heart of the Old Town. It seemed like quite a risky venture at the time, as barber shops are not an established tradition in northern Europe. In southern Europe, on the other hand, a visit to a barber is part of men’s daily routine. There, the barber shop is the centre of social life, being not only a place to get a shave, but also a place to catch the latest gossip. Fortunately for the owners of the *Wood Religion Barber Shop* and those that followed in its wake, there has been plenty of interest in barbers’ services and, the chairs in the city’s barber shops are rarely unoccupied.

It must be said that barber shops aren’t complete newcomers to the Latvian capital – they were quite popular before the Second World War. After the war came the Soviet period, and hair salons focused on a far more reliable market – women.

Like hair salons, barber shops offer both haircuts and hair styling services. However, unlike hair salons, barber shops’ main business is trimming, styling, colouring and shaving beards. Master barbers work with specialised instruments, and clients are seated in special leather chairs that allow the barbers to get at the beards from every angle. The tools and conditioners for beards are completely different from those used in hair styling.

“A client who comes into a barber shop should feel as if he’s walked into a classic film, or at least into an episode of *Mad Men*,” says Edgars Rozenvalds of the atmosphere at *Wood Religion*, the groundbreaking barber shop that he founded. Rozenvalds teaches the master barbers who work under him that the client’s satisfaction is the most important element in their work.



After six in the evening, for example, *Wood Religion* plays jazz records, and after their shave or beard styling, clients are invited to linger over a gentlemanly cocktail, coffee and cigars. Rozenvalds holds to the principle that the men’s loved ones really shouldn’t accompany them to the barber shop.

“It’s like a gentlemen’s club, a place for men to relax and feel free.” Rozenvalds has observed that women have a tendency to argue with their men – and

with the barbers – about matters of taste and style, and even to interfere with the work at hand. Once they see the final result, however – a handsome and well-kempt man – they are very pleased and only return to buy gift certificates.

Speaking of the latest trends in men’s appearance, Rozenvalds emphasises that beards must be carefully tended, and that the choice of styles is partially determined by genetics.

“Some men look best with a moustache, others with a beard, but the main thing is to take good care of one’s facial hair.” As to hairstyles, the classic elegance of the early 20th century is now in vogue. **BO**

Barber shops in Riga:
Wood Religion (woodreligion.com) / *Knockout Barbershop* (knockout.lv)
Lumberjack (lumberjack.lv) / *Rīgas bārdzinis* (shave.lv).



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London's party weekend

Notting Hill Carnival turns 50

Although natives of Great Britain are usually seen to be polite and reserved, carnivals provide the opportunity to release pent-up emotions in loud and colourful festivities.

The erstwhile Bartholomew and Southwark fairs, for example, were eagerly awaited events, even though along with juggling and masquerading, they were also accompanied by such undesirable activities as pickpocketing, excessive drinking, debauchery and public disorder.

The Notting Hill Carnival, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this month, has taken place every August since 1966 on the streets of one of London's poshest neighbourhoods. Led by members of the British West Indian community, the carnival attracts around one million people

each year, making it one of the largest street festivals in the world. Unlike the traditional festivals of the global carnival season that precedes Lent in February, the Notting Hill Carnival arose from two separate yet connected causes.

The carnival attracts around one million people each year

One is a Caribbean carnival that was held in 1959 in response to the problematic state of race relations at the time – a civilised way for a disaffected minority to voice its grievances out on the street. The other was a festival in Notting Hill to promote

cultural unity, which morphed into the Notting Hill Carnival that we know today. Thus, aside from the joyful and carefree atmosphere that is associated with such events, the Notting Hill Carnival also has an element of social involvement, where numerous people come together to celebrate the diversity of humankind. This is perhaps a more valuable asset than all of the colours, costumes and merriment that take over the streets for two days every summer.

In any case, the lively celebrations – which continue to be led by London's Caribbean community – include floats, steel bands, live music, plenty of jerk chicken and fried plantain, and a whole lot more to stimulate all of the five senses. **BO**

① thenottinghillcarnival.com

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The Coco-Mat Hotel

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



In applying an altered version of the old adage “tell me who your friends are and I will tell you who you are” to a metropolis, one could say: “if you want to understand the life of a city, then look at its walls.” This is certainly the case with Athens, which has become the undisputable European capital of street art. While graffiti in Athens has ancient roots, the current economic crisis has caused it to flourish in unprecedented ways. The façades of the city’s buildings have become a canvas for spontaneous, political and sarcastic art that extends to cars, fences, walls and anything else that can be painted. Graffiti has become a media with which the Greeks express their views. It isn’t discouraged, either. In some cases, property developers even invite graffiti artists to decorate the walls of their buildings. Such commissions could suggest the onset of some stabilisation within the current economic crisis. Even the word “graffiti” is Greek in origin, as *graphein* means “to scratch, draw, write”. “We have to protect humanity. Through my art I’m trying to give a voice to people who might be never heard,” said scandal-prone Chinese artist **Ai Weiwei** regarding his most recent and perhaps most thrilling solo exhibition, on view at the Museum of Cycladic Art (4, Neophytou Douka Street, until October 30; cycladic.gr). When creating the works currently on view, Ai Weiwei was living on the Greek island of Lesbos, which has lately become a landing point for refugees crossing over by sea from Turkey. The first part of the show is devoted to emotionally powerful photographs documenting the refugee crisis at a human level – images of weary and desperate men, women and children who have managed to reach European shores. Some of the photos were taken by amateurs, while others were shot with Ai Weiwei’s *iPhone*. The artist later combined them as wallpaper.

The exhibition thematically shows works that address the arrogance and hypocrisy of politicians, exploring the almost limitless forms of power and control that they can use. In one space is a snow-white sculpture of a surveillance camera surrounded by golden wallpaper with such cameras and contemporary symbols of free expression – Instagram and Twitter. Ten percent of the income from the exhibition is being donated to NGOs that work with refugees in Greece.

Nearly every traveller would agree with the saying that “home is where your bed lies”. Most travellers also know that the most important thing about your temporary home is a great bed and a good pillow. From this vantage point, you won’t find a better place to stay in Athens than the **Coco-Mat Hotel Athens** (36 Patriarchou Ioakeim Street; cocomatathens.com) in the Kolonaki district. The hotel is owned by the internationally renowned producer of beds, pillows and everything else you need for a good night’s sleep – *Coco-Mat*. A shop sells *Coco-Mat* brand products on the ground floor, and guests can use stylish bicycles decorated with light-coloured wood for their urban explorations.



Graffiti in Athens

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Ai Weiwei exhibition



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Olafur Eliasson. *The curious museum*, 2010
Installation view, Palace of Versailles, 2016



Adriana Varejão, *Passarinhos*, 2012

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Photo by Dámlen

Panoramic view of inside the Musée des Arts Décoratifs

The **Great Animal Orchestra** exhibition at the Fondation Cartier (Boulevard Raspail 261; until January 8th, 2017; fondation.cartier.com) is sure to thrill lovers of both nature and art. Its source of inspiration is animal sounds, which have enthralled musician and master of bio-acoustics Bernie Krause for decades. Over nearly half a century, he has assembled a collection of the sounds of Nature's creatures that's about 5,000 hours long. It's the music of the planet's living animals on land, in the air and under the sea. The British group United Visual Artists (UVA) has put together a multi-dimensional light show for the occasion, while Chinese artist Cai Guo-Qiang has created an 18-metre-long drawing in which diverse animals drink at the same watering hole. Brazilian artist Adriana Varejão, for her part, has made a ceramic wall depicting birds that live along the banks of the Amazon River. The wall links the exhibition hall with the Fondation Cartier gardens, which are hosting an installation by French film director Agnès Varda. Her "temple to pets" is dedicated to her late and beloved cat Zgougou.

Another exhibition at Versailles is no less moving. Iceland-born Danish artist **Ólafur Eliásson** is among the stars of the art world (past luminaries include Jeff Koons, Takashi Murakami, Bernar Venet, Lee Ufan and Anish Kapoor) who have been entrusted with the royal apartments and gardens of the renowned palace for a summer (until October 30th; chateauversailles.fr). Eliásson has conjured a wondrous world of sensations in the extravagant former residence of the Sun King, Louis XIV, using his favourite tools: mirrors, water, stone, light and shadow. The artist once again demonstrates his remarkable ability to transform seemingly familiar settings by showing things from a different perspective. Eliásson is a master at revealing the hidden beauty of objects and phenomena that we take for granted, always surprising those who behold his work. The most loved and photographed creation is his waterfall, which when viewed from the steps of the palace seems to emerge from the sky and flow into the Grand Canal.

The Museum of Decorative Arts (Musée des Arts Décoratifs) is celebrating its 30th anniversary and has finally opened a restaurant worthy of its fine collection. **Loulou** (107 Rue de Rivoli) was created by the same team that came up with *Monsieur Bleu*, the restaurant in the Palais de Tokyo that is frequented by stylish folk. The restaurant has two storeys, and its interior looks like the dining room of a passionate collector of decorative art who has displayed the entire spectrum of his obsession, with works ranging from the 18th century to Art Deco and the 1970s. As an added bonus, the restaurant offers a view of the Tuileries Gardens and the glass pyramid of the Louvre Museum. The menu combines foods from both French and Italian cuisines.



JP Mika, *Les Bruits de la nature*, 2012

Photo by André Morin; © JP Mika

Photo by Eric Chan



NAUJIENA
RIBOTO LEIDIMO SERIJA

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Emil Nolde, Jägers Haus (auf Aussen), 1909



Emil Nolde, Holzfigur, 1912



Photo by Ursula Kaufmann

Monument 0.1: Valda & Gus, Valda Setterfield

Tanz im August (August 12–September 14; tanzimaugust.de) is one of the largest European dance festivals and the main cultural event in Berlin that month. This year, the focus is on artists whose work investigates different forms of hatred in human relationships – such as racism, sexism and homophobia – and the way that these take root in Western cultures and institutions. The festival offers the perfect venue for brilliant and legendary artists.

The headline event this year is choreographer Eszter Salamon's work *Monument 0.1: Valda & Gus*, bringing Valda Setterfield, a diva of postmodern dance, to the stage at 81 years of age. Hailing from the UK, Setterfield was a soloist with the famous Merce Cunningham Dance Company in the 1960s, 70s and 80s, having begun her career in 1958 and still going strong. Her American dance partner Gus Solomons Jr. is a few years younger. Solomons experimented with deconstruction in dance forms in New York in the 1960s and was a fervent promoter of technical dance. Along with Setterfield's centrepiece, there will be an opportunity to view an extensive archive documenting the 1960s New York dance scene.

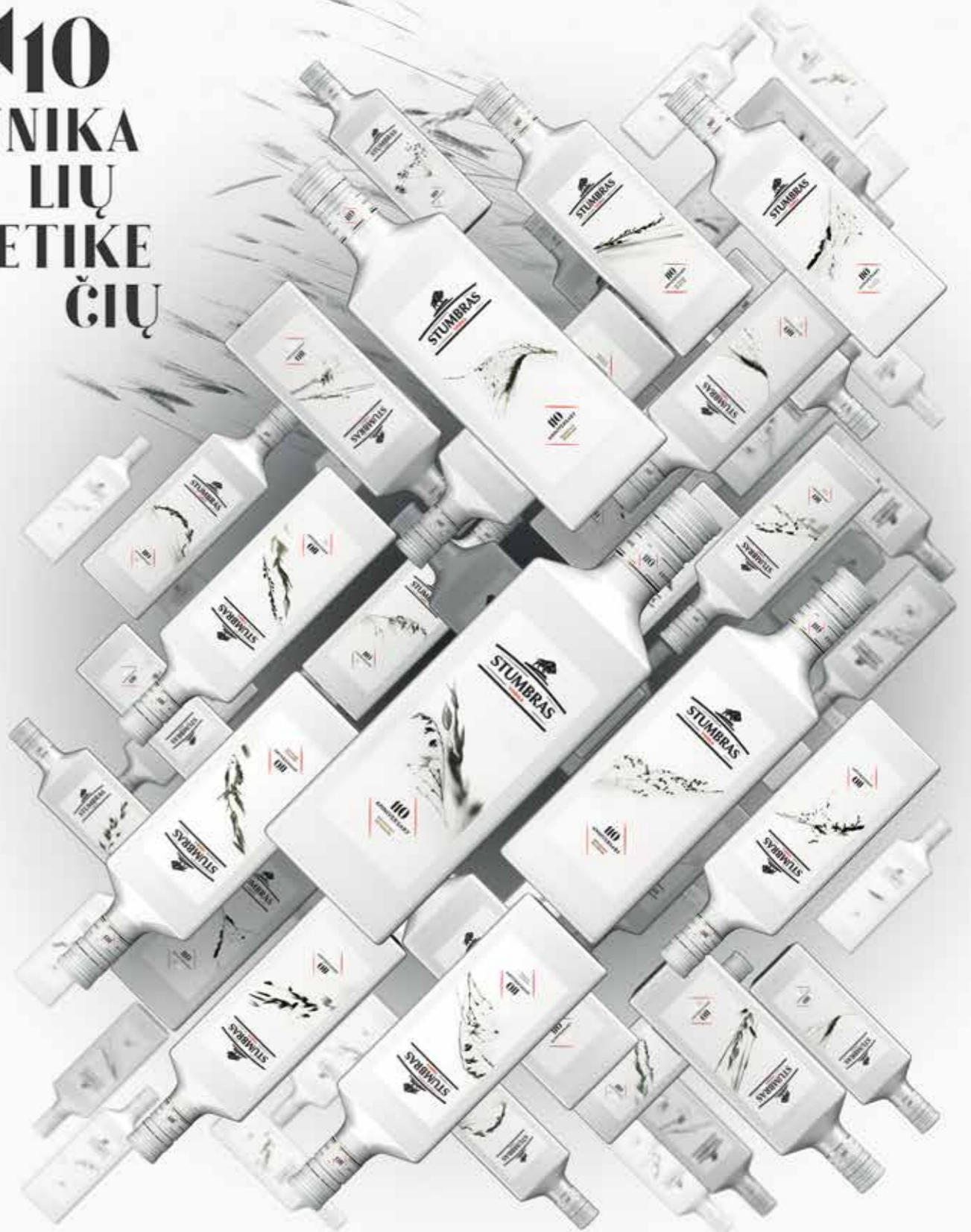
The Brücke Museum, for its part, is presenting *Emil Nolde: The Painter* a retrospective of works by the famous German expressionist (1867-1956), who was a leading figure in the *Die Brücke* art movement. From the very outset, Nolde's work was marked by an expressionistic sense of colour and strong, raw brushstrokes. Travel was one of his primary inspirations – he loved to visit distant and unexplored places, voyaging to Russia, the Far East and tropical islands to gain impetus for his paintings.

Meanwhile, a new hotel has enriched the Berlin tourist scene. **The Hotel Zoe** (Große Präsidentenstraße 6-7; amanogroup.de) is the fifth hotel by the *Amano Group* in the German capital and is located in Mitte, a district in the city centre. The hotel has 88 rooms and 12 apartments, all offering what modern-day travellers love – contemporary design and reasonable prices. The interior is dominated by grey and brown tones, the grey concrete walls warmed by parquet floors and brown suede recliners. A special feature is the rooftop terrace with a view of the iconic TV Tower and Alexanderplatz. **BO**



Photo by Böhm

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„STUMBRAS“ ŠVENČIA 110 METŲ JUBILIEJŲ. ŠIA PROGA IŠLEIDŽIAME RIBOTO LEIDIMO „STUMBRAS VODKA“ DEGTINIŲ KOLEKCIJĄ. JI IŠSKIRTINĖ, NES SUKŪREME 110 SAVITŲ ETIKETĖS DIZAINŲ. JUOSE LIETUVOS GAMTOS ANTSPAUDAI, KURIUOS PERTEIKIA LAUKŲ IR PIEVŲ AUGALŲ FOTOGRAFIJOS.

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The rise of multigenerational holidays

Text by **ZANE NIKODEMUSA**
Photo by *Alamy*

A travel trend for an unforgettable summer

Although psychologists are concerned at how little time family members spend together these days, the travel industry is experiencing an unprecedented boom in intergenerational travel – trips involving at least three generations.

There are various reasons why such vacations are increasingly popular. One is that senior citizens from affluent countries are healthier (both emotionally and physically), live longer and are more financially secure than they

were in the past. Also, the growth of spiritual disciplines such as mind and body practices is making people want to enjoy life in diverse ways and improve its quality. Enriching oneself and savouring life in the company of one's family go together.

Various studies suggest that about one in three grandparents have taken trips with their children and grandchildren. Of course, intergenerational travel has its pluses and minuses. A definite plus is that it gives relatives who live far apart and may only

see each other at weddings and funerals the chance to get together. Travel offers an atmosphere of freedom that lets relatives get to know each other better, hand down experience and create strong new memories as a family. Swimming in a scenic alpine lake with your grandmother or gathering firewood with your grandfather are moments to be cherished and fondly remembered. Another plus is that grandparents can share responsibility for the children, giving the parents a chance to find precious time alone together.

Intergenerational travel also has its challenges. If very young children and/or very elderly grandparents are in the travel group, then your mobility will be restricted. You must also discuss the financial aspects. Such as who will be paying for the meals, car rental and hotels. It's no secret that financial

disagreements can bring about stormy arguments in even the most harmonious of families.

One of the most serious challenges comes when the interests of those on an intergenerational holiday simply do not coincide. You can avoid conflicts by planning carefully, taking into account the different interests of everybody on holiday. Families can go to a classical music concert that Grandmother might enjoy, then hit the beach with the kids the next day, and perhaps see some ancient ruins to please Granddad.

It is even more important to spend a few days ensconced in pleasant lodgings together. Relaxed, pre-planned dinners by the pool in a Tuscan villa will surely please everybody, while racing from one sight to the next will doubtless cause stress. At times, we all need to slow down to enjoy life. **BO**



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Text by **DACE VAIVARA**
Photos by *Alamy*

Nowadays, we take light and durable suitcases for granted. Indeed, the suitcase is the most widely used symbol of trips and vacations.



Departure lounge at Berlin's Schönefeld Airport in 1963

Some modern travellers travel with only a piece of hand baggage on short trips. That's quite a contrast with the aristocrats of the 18th century, who transported several dozen travel bags and trunks in numerous carriages when on the road. But even that is nothing compared to the 16,500 kilograms of luggage that accompanied Hungarian count Sámuel Teleki during a trip to Kenya in 1888!

A more recent record holder in the realm of baggage pieces was Hollywood star Elizabeth Taylor, who brought 110 bags with her on a single trip to France. Some of her exclusive *Louis Vuitton* suitcases fetched 245,000 US dollars at a *Christie's* auction in 2011.

The history of Taylor's chosen brand goes back to 1854, when Louis Vuitton founded a workshop in Paris to produce bags and luggage. Among his revolutionary inventions was the garment bag. Another innovation belongs to his son Georges Vuitton, who introduced an unpickable (or almost) tumbler lock in 1886. Every lock had its own serial number, and the proud owner could use a single key to unlock any number of trunks. Vuitton opened the



world's largest shop for luggage and travel accessories on the Champs-Élysées in 1913, accepting only custom orders at first.

The very beginnings of travel cases go at least as far back as Ancient Egypt and Pharaoh Tutankhamun. The ancient Greeks and Romans, for their part, undertook arduous journeys by land and sea with huge coffers of wood or bronze, often decorated with ivory or precious metals. These were packed like shipping containers, and this was the standard that survived past the Middle Ages.

It was only in the 18th century that luggage began to take on the forms more familiar to us today. This was the era of "grand tours", or voyages lasting many months, which became the fashion among English and German aristocrats.

With the advent of railways and speedier ships in the 19th century, the modern travel agency made its appearance. One

Robert Plath, a former pilot, is considered to be the father of rolling luggage

of the first was *Thomas Cook & Son*, opening in England in 1841. The first excursion that it offered was a train ride from Leicester to Loughborough, and each passenger was limited to 90 kg of luggage.

The suitcase with wheels is a relative newcomer. A former pilot for *Northwest Airlines* in the United States, Robert Plath, patented his invention in 1988. Working in his garage on ideas to make travel between airports easier, he came up with the *Rollaboard*, a vertical suitcase with two wheels, and is thus considered to be the father of rolling luggage.

These days, one of the leading brands in luggage is *RIMOWA*. Founded in Germany in 1898, the company specialises in innovative designs. Its latest innovation is the electronic tag. This makes digital check-in for your bags possible from any location. You can register your bags at home or in your hotel, for example, and hand them over at the airport desk without a hitch before heading off on another fabulous adventure! **BO**



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SHOPPING IN BUDAPEST Mono Fashion

Showcasing various brands by local fashion designers, *Mono Fashion* is one of the most popular stores of its kind in Budapest. Here one will find stylish and eclectic clothing items, as well as jewellery and accessories for men and women by such well-known Hungarian brands as *Anh Tuan*, *Nanushka*, *USE Unused* and *Je Suis Belle*. Young fashion designers display their latest creations in the shop windows and small-scale exhibitions are also hosted. Kossuth Lajos utca 20

Retrock

One of the most stylish fashion retail spaces in Budapest and the largest vintage and designer store in Hungary. The 300-m² retro-style interior features specially selected vintage-style one-piece exemplars

from all over the world, as well as authentic ethno-style clothing and fashion collections by various Hungarian brands, including *Blind Chic* clothes for an active lifestyle, *Urban Legend* cycling apparel and streetwear, *Dora Mojzes* gothic romanticism and dark glamour items, funky clothes by *Acid & Zorro* and accessories by *Derszu* and *Ms.Herskin*. Anker köz 2
① retrock.com

Nanushka

Fashion designer Szandra Sándor's flagship store has been open since 2011 and is a must-visit destination for fashion and design aficionados. Named *Nanushka* in honour of Sándor's childhood nickname, it carries cosmopolitan clothing collections in a striking white interior that was inspired by wedding tents. Rich cloth draperies extend from the floor to the ceiling, contrasting markedly with the store's wood and steel elements. Fashion Street – Deák Ferenc utca 17
① nanushka.hu

BUDAPEST fashion meets tradition

The Hungarian capital's young and talented fashion designers, fabulous showrooms and hip brand stores are sure to leave an impression on those who follow contemporary fashion trends. Founded by creative duo Dalma Dévényi and Tibor Kiss in 2005, *Je Suis Belle* is one of Hungary's leading fashion brands, standing out with joyful collections and innovative techniques. Its designers have presented their collections in New York and made clothes for the likes of actress Tilda Swinton.

USE Unused is another successful and popular Hungarian brand. Set up in 2004 by Eszter Fűzes, Attila Godena-Juhász and András Tóth, it is known for its minimalist style and ascetic cuts.

The refined collections by award-winning fashion designer Dóra Konsánszky, for their part, display the influence of French haute couture.

The local wear and folk fashion brand *Matyodesign* has successfully combined Hungary's traditional needlework, embroidery and lace-making techniques with contemporary design, issuing tasteful clothing and accessories that include white folk-style blouses with Matyó floral patterns.

Traditional Matyó embroidery features intricate hand-sewn flower patterns (mainly roses) on white or black cloth. The best-known Matyó settlements are Mezőkövesd, Tard and Szentistván in northeastern Hungary. This region has been famous since the 15th century for its rich cultural heritage and folk traditions. **BO**

Angelo Marani
Photo by Fabio Sartori



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Tom Dixon's *Pylon* table

Tom Dixon is one of the most influential contemporary British designers. His work retains a rebellious youthful spirit and the magic of a genius garage mechanic. *Baltic Outlook* readers may be interested to know that one of his grandparents was born in Latvia.

WHAT IS IT?

A table from Tim Dixon's *Pylon* collection. The surface is tinted glass, while the legs are a copper-plated steel structure. The inspiration for the sculpture-like design comes from the architecture of bridges and towers. Both coffee and dining table versions have been created.

WHY IS IT SPECIAL?

Tom Dixon was among the first designers to engage in the entire cycle of producing, manufacturing and marketing his creations, emphasizing that "Tom Dixon" represents not only his name, but also a brand. Dixon is considered to be an iconoclast and a man who goes his own way. He has often adapted to trends that he has been among the first to perceive. Dixon has won the Order of the British Empire for his designs, yet his education was limited to a pottery course at Holland Park and a couple of months at the Chelsea College of Arts. In Latvia he's known as a British designer who is one quarter Latvian. His grandfather was

from the Baltic country, immigrating to America during the Second World War.

Although Dixon rarely saw his grandfather, he has heard many stories about the land of his ancestors. The designer was born in Tunisia, but his family moved to Britain when he was four years old. Nowadays, he is considered to be among the most English of British designers – a man who was caught up in the punk movement like a native Londoner, speeding about on his motorcycle and playing bass in the disco-punk group *Funkapolitan*. The garage where he worked on his bike became his first workshop, in which he began to create something between furniture and decorative objects.

Despite his success, subtle tweed suits and muted personal style, something of the garage mechanic still lives within him, as witnessed in the sense of industrial charm that suffuses the current *Pylon* collection. The designer still likes to speed about on his motorcycle and on special occasions will play the bass guitar in public.

A consummate businessman, Dixon has done all kinds of things to bring in revenue, like presenting his designs in an abandoned movie theatre in Milan and creating an improvised restaurant in a former church.

HOW DOES IT FIT INTO INTERIORS?

Tom Dixon's furniture is the perfect fit for a stylish interior, such as a loft in an old London factory. The interior doesn't have to be in London, of course. If your home is in a late 19th-century or early 20th-century building and the walls are painted white, then a *Pylon* table will add a fresh accent, bringing some refined punk into a space that would otherwise be bourgeois. **BO**

© tomdixon.net

Text by
KRISTĪNE BUDŽE, *Pastaiga*
Publicity photos



Главный фасад здания, вид с ул. Элизабетес



Интерьер холла



Лифтовой холл



Интерьер главного холла



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по своей стремительности восхождения*

В красивейшей части тихого центра Риги, в окружении жемчужин югендстиля, занесенных в культурный фонд UNESCO, возведено здание TAL RESIDENCE – будущий памятник архитектуры XXI века.

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

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



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Text by **ILZE POLE**
Photos courtesy of
TAAVI OJASALU

This is your captain speaking

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

TAAVI OJASALU (29),
from Estonia, captain
of *Dash-8 Q400* aircraft
Hours flown: **3,500**

THINGS THAT MIGHT **SURPRISE** SOMEONE WHO STEPS INTO THE COCKPIT

These days in aviation, pilots start their careers at a very early age, so people are usually surprised at how young we are here on the flight deck. It's normal that both the captain and the first officer are still in their twenties.

FAVOURITE **RESTAURANT**

Nothing beats my grandmother's home/restaurant, but here in Riga I do like *Rossini* in the embassy area with its delicious pizzas.

SNAPSHOT TO SHARE

This snapshot was taken a couple of months ago in Helsinki on a beautiful morning. During a routine walk-around inspection of an airplane, I noticed two fighter jets flying over the airport and making these two white stripes in the sky.



HOBBIES I like spending a lot of time with my friends here in Riga and in Tallinn. I'm quite fond of group activities, so when I meet up with my friends, we often play board games or go visit an escape room in Riga and Tallinn or do something else together. Dinners at somebody's home are frequent. My girlfriend and I are both big fans of orienteering, so whenever we have the time, we take part in Magnets orienteering competitions around Riga. I'm also a big fan of the countryside. I visit my small country home in Kadrina, northern Estonia, as much as possible and also my girlfriend's parents' house close to Sigulda with its amazing sauna and lake.

FAVOURITE **RUNWAY**

I'm fond of small airports. Tartu is still close to my heart as that's where it all started for me.

THREE THINGS THAT I NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT

My shoes, my pants and my T-shirt.



HOW IT ALL **BEGAN**

I had not dreamt of becoming a pilot, but like many other high school students, in the 12th grade before graduation we all had to start thinking about where we want to study next and what we want to become. I got the idea that it would be very interesting and profitable to be a pilot, so I applied to a flight school in Tartu and was accepted. That was one of the best decisions in my life. I am so happy with my job! It's my seventh year working as a professional pilot and, to this day, I go to work full of enthusiasm.

BEST THING ABOUT BEING A PILOT

The fact that I work in a special industry and that many of my colleagues are highly motivated and positively charged professionals, making the whole working environment very good.

FAVOURITE **BOOK**

I'm not much of a book reader, but about eight years ago, when I was serving as a sergeant in the Estonian Defence Forces, I had a lot of free time on my hands and very limited options for what to do with that free time. Then I stumbled upon the Harry Potter books. I read them all and loved them.

LAST DESTINATION FLOWN TO AS A PASSENGER

I fly several times a month as a passenger due to the nature of my work, but the last very special destination as a passenger was definitely the mysterious Easter Island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, which I visited last autumn together with my girlfriend.

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Text by **ROGER NORUM**
Publicity photos

BQ **ZOWI**

Best robot dance ever

This cute, perambulating robot is an educational tech ecosystem. The robot can walk, listen, dance (it has four legs) and make noises and gestures – even avoid obstacles with its ultrasound sensor eyes. Zowi communicates and is controlled via *Bluetooth* through the app. Kids can also program actions in the order that they want them performed.
EUR 99 | ① bq.com



Child's play

Kids will fall in love with these fun, educational gadgets

CUBETTO
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inspired
playset



This *Kickstarter*-funded learning system – an adorable wooden robot and programming console with 16 colourful

coding blocks – will prepare your youngsters for success in the digital world by teaching them basic programming skills. The goal is to get the robot to move from one side of the console to the other via rudimentary logic and sliding different colour blocks into the board, each of which is linked to a different command. Montessori and LOGO Turtle-inspired. Ages 3 and up.
EUR 200 | ① primotoys.com

LG **GIZMOPAL** Simplest kiddie phone



When a child goes missing – even for a few seconds – parents are distressed. This simple GPS-enabled wrist phone is a godsend. The chunky wristband has no display – just two buttons that let kids place or receive phone calls from up to four caregivers, automatically providing the location information of the wearer. Works with both iOS and Android, is waterproof and comes in pink and blue. Ages 3-7. The GizmoPal 2 is a slightly more advanced version, best for older kids.
EUR 72 | ① lg.com

LITTLEBITS GIZMOS & GADGETS KIT

Do it themselves

Develop skills for careers that haven't been invented yet. This kit gives kids all the materials that they need to build their own

little electronic doodad or gizmo. The clearly written guide and companion app walks young ones through the process for building a dozen different projects, including pinball games, a bubble machine and an RC car. The gadget is built around a *LEGO*-style board with electronic parts that snap together with magnets. For those aged 8 years and up.
EUR 180 | ① littlebits.cc



MECCANO **MECCANOID G15 KS**
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With a brain, LED eyes and 8 motors, this genius 4-foot-tall robot can be taught to respond to voice commands or the associated app. Best of all is that kids actually get to build the entire thing on their own, with 1,200 parts. These include re-usable polycarbonate strips, plates, angle girders, wheels, axles and gears. The toy is designed to teach programming and building basics to young tinkerers. It can tell jokes, offer fun facts, play games, initiate conversations and even remember your name and birthday.
EUR 159 | ① meccano.com

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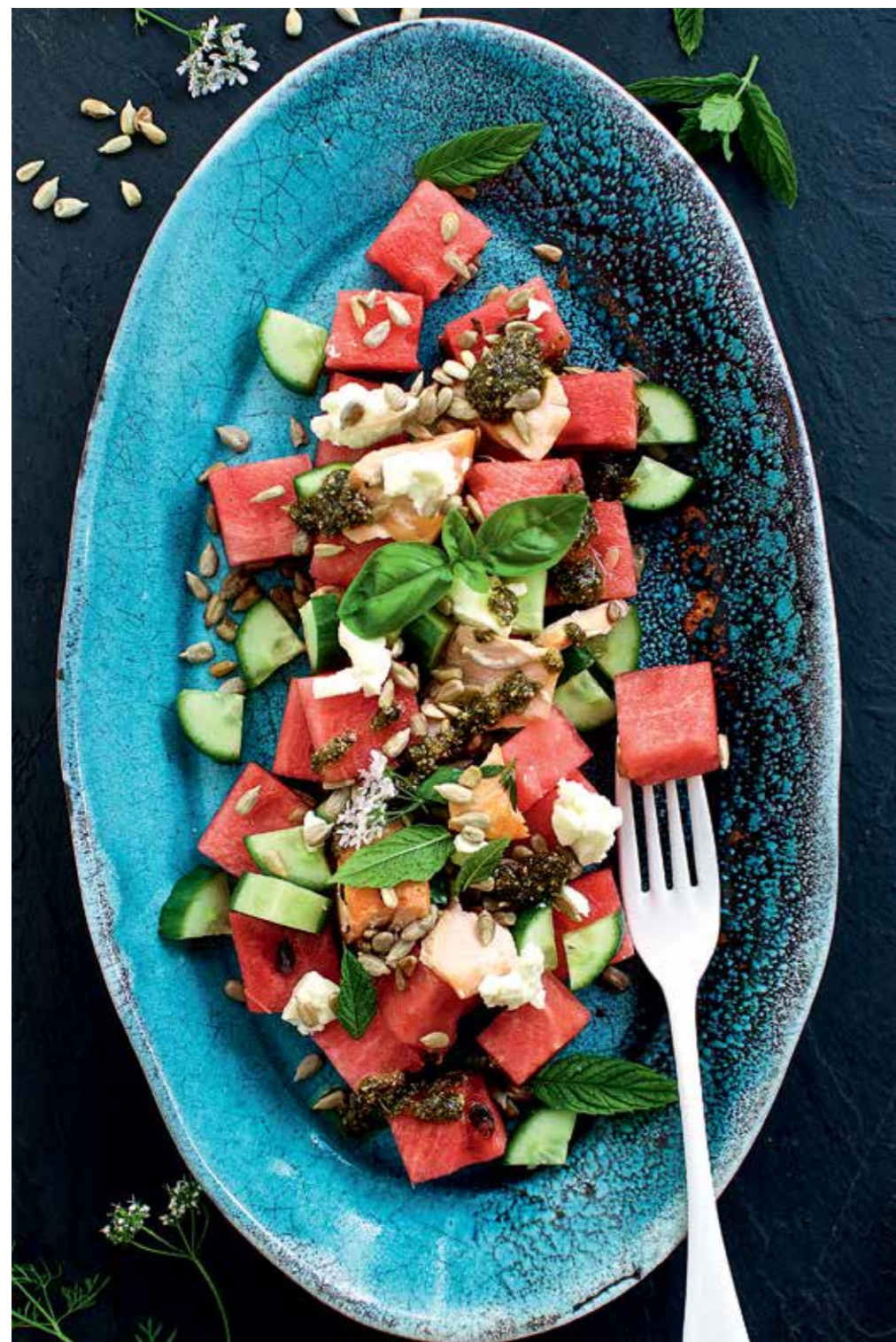
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ABETTER
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Refresh your summer

Try out this tasty watermelon and salmon salad on a hot August afternoon



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

INGREDIENTS

(makes two portions)

Salad

2 thick slices watermelon
1 cucumber
2 tbsp. feta cheese
200 g salmon fillet
2 tsp. butter
1 pinch salt and freshly ground pepper
3 small branches fresh thyme
2 tbsp. sunflower seeds

Pesto

1 handful basil leaves
~10 peppermint leaves
2 tbsp. sunflower seeds
1 tbsp. lemon juice
1 tsp. honey
1 pinch sea salt
2 tbsp. olive oil

PREPARATION

Roast 2 tbsp. sunflower seeds in a dry pan. Cool.

Place the salmon on a baking pan that has been covered with baking paper. Sprinkle with salt, black pepper and thyme. Cover with thinly sliced butter. Bake in the oven at 200°C for about 20-25 minutes or grill in aluminium foil until soft.

Prepare the pesto while the salmon is baking. Place the basil and peppermint leaves, 2 tbsp. sunflower seeds, lemon juice, honey, olive oil and sea salt into a blender and blend to a smooth consistency.

Remove the seeds from the watermelon, slice off the rind and cut the fruit into cubes. Cut the cucumber into slices.

Arrange the watermelon, cucumber, salmon flakes and feta cheese onto a plate. Garnish with roasted sunflower seeds and fresh basil and peppermint leaves. Sprinkle with your homemade pesto. **BO**

THE TREASURES OF ITALIAN HISTORY

BOSCA



Since 1831 **Bosca** secrets are being guarded in the *Cattedrali Sotterranee* wine cellars, that stretch under the Canelli town in Italy and are inscribed on UNESCO cultural heritage list.

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IS HARMFUL TO ONE'S HEALTH.
THE SALE, SUPPLY AND PROCUREMENT OF ALCOHOLIC
BEVERAGES TO MINORS ARE AGAINST THE LAW.

Text by **LIENE PĀLĒNA**
Photos by **GATIS GIERTS**
(Picture Agency)

Cocktail madness

We asked one of the best bartenders in Riga to tell us what cocktails are on everyone's mind this summer



For some people, imbibing evening cocktails is a classic summer ritual. The mojito, the cosmopolitan and the Aperol Spritz are just three of many drink recipes that have stood the test of time. If you are into cocktails, then perhaps this summer is the right time to leave your comfort zone and try something new. Rolands Burtņieks, a barman at the *XIII* cocktail bar in Riga, says that any cocktail by definition is the result of an experiment in the search for new tastes. Although cocktail trends don't change as often as fashion styles, he points to a number of interesting developments this summer.

Part of a cocktail's appeal lies in its appearance and presentation, but the best barmen are able to surprise their customers with a rich bouquet of tastes. True masters can prepare cocktails that will reveal three different nuances of taste when drunk from three different parts of the drinking glass. These are cases in which creativity merges with science. You might see smoky effects created by dry ice and homemade cotton candy, the latter of which Burtņieks adds to his famed *Chinese Funfair Smash*.

Another trend is the substitution of alcoholic beverages such as gin with non-alcoholic drinks like apple juice, for example, and the addition of more sugar syrup to achieve an optimal acidic balance. **BO**

COCKTAILS WORTH TRYING

<i>Drunk Healer</i>	<i>1941 Punch</i>	<i>Chinese Funfair Smash</i>
Three-year-old rum, ginger-honey-lemon syrup, apple juice and lime juice.	Vodka, grapefruit, lime juice, angostura bitters and elderflower syrup.	Gin, fresh kiwi fruit, lime juice, sugar syrup, apple juice and thyme syrup.

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Easy living

Text by **AGRA LIEGE**
Publicity photos

Aside from being Greece's fourth largest island, Rhodes is one of the sunniest locations in all of Europe, with an average of 300 sunny days per year. *Baltic Outlook* takes a tour inside a sun-drenched coastal residence that reflects the true charm of this wonderful holiday destination.

The captivating home designed by successful

Greek architect Andreas Chadzis sits close to an area known as the Great Land in Gennadi, Rhodes. Gennadi is a tiny medieval village in the southern part of the island, with only 700 inhabitants. Rhodes' population has been decreasing, while the foreign interest in vacation homes has been growing exponentially. The mix of locals and foreign residents has proven to be a harmonious one, with newcomers blending in well and acknowledging the island's long-standing traditions. They also seek to build homes that fit in with the surrounding architecture.

Traditionally, houses were built of white stone, with internal courtyards

designed to protect the inhabitants from pirate attacks. The layout of entire villages still bears resemblance to this old building style.

The endless pebble beaches of Rhodes offer space for both commercial and isolated havens, both of which are within walking distance of Gennadi. This home sits two kilometres away from the village centre and blends traditional aspects with contemporary conveniences.

Intertwined black and white elements form the central design feature, spiralling around each other to create volume, gaps and shadings. Mediterranean plants dominate in the garden, as they require little watering and are well-suited to the seaside weather conditions on Rhodes.

◀▼ The basement level is for the house's auxiliary rooms, while the ground floor consists of a living room, a dining room and a kitchen. Beautiful vistas of the sea in the distance and an enticing view of the outdoor terrace and swimming pool beckon from each of these areas. Like the exterior of the house, the interior also plays with the contrast of white and black. The sharpness of this contrast is softened with lots of warm wood and soft grey, which lightens up the dark floor. Warm, sandy wood plays a central role in the furnishings and architectural details, and soft grey is used in materials and fabrics. White is the dominant colour, allowing for sharp black details such as window and door frames.



The bedroom for the homeowners' two children, who sleep in a bunk bed, is located one floor above ground level and has a separate bathroom. The bedroom's stylish, narrow windows draw inspiration from marine functionality, but plenty of natural daylight comes in through the wide glass balcony door. The balcony outside the room extends it further, giving more space and access to beautiful sea views. The bathroom is located just outside the bedroom. on the left side. ▼▶



ABOUT ARCHITECT **Andreas Chadzis**

Andreas Chadzis is an architect, engineer and urbanist. He holds a professional degree in architecture and engineering from the National Technical University of Athens and a master's degree from the Architectural Association School of Architecture in London. He has won numerous international competitions in various fields, including kinetic art, industrial design and robotics. His work has been exhibited in several countries and his writings have been published worldwide.

Chadzis now runs a five-person architecture practice in Rhodes and the Greek mainland. He has presided over more than 650 projects during the past decade, chiefly housing complexes and hotels.



The asymmetrically shaped pool has an elongated section for swimming and a square section for play. The beach can be accessed through the sandy area behind the pool and through a corridor below.

Following a good swim in the pool, one can sunbathe on the terrace platform, which is partially covered by a roof, making it suitable for both sunny and rainy weather. Meals are served at a table under the roofed area. The platform also has an outdoor shower for use after swimming.



The parents' bedroom with en suite bathroom is located in the attic area. Its furnishings and design details are like those in the rest of the house: soft grey bedding and warm wooden furniture are apposed on a white background with black contrasts. **BO**



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



Bad luck, somebody has already taken the Anothertravelguide brochure about Rome. But don't worry, all the information is also available at ANOTHERTRAVELGUIDE.COM in cooperation with airBaltic.

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WAY

Most of the people reading this article probably know that the Tiber River, Italy's second-longest river after the Po, flows through Rome. But how many, while running from one legendary site to the next in the Eternal City, have ever taken a moment to step down to the river's waters? Probably very few. Then again, it's never been a very inviting stroll – enveloped in layers upon layers of civilisation and smells, the grey concrete steps that lead down to it sadly remind us that, even though we've changed our garb, modes of transport and acquired 21st-century gadgets, modern-day *Homo sapiens* haven't really progressed that far from their medieval ancestors.

Unlike other European metropolises that have modernised and colonised their waterfronts, Rome had largely ignored the banks of the Tiber. That is, until this past spring, when one of the grandest art projects in a European urban environment was unveiled on the Tiber's left bank (between the Ponte Sisto and the Ponte Mazzini) on April 21st, the city's birthday. The monumental frieze, titled *Triumphs and Laments*, was devised by William Kentridge, a South African artist now living in London. In fact, the mural is the largest public work of art in Rome since Michelangelo's painting of the Sistine Chapel. At 550 metres in length, it depicts more than 80 characters and events linked with Rome's history. Together, these artworks narrate the city's history from its very origins to the present day, and some of them even reach ten metres in height.

Among other things, Kentridge sought inspiration from Trajan's Column, almost the only structure miraculously still standing from Trajan's Forum, built in Rome by the emperor in the 2nd century. The famous column is a part of the largest Ancient Roman architectural ensemble, built to commemorate the empire's conquest of wealthy Dacia (now known as Romania). Trajan was known as one

Your **NEXT DESTINATION**

of Rome’s “five good emperors”, and during his rule the Roman Empire reached its maximum geographical size by invading and annexing ever new territories.

The entry to the forum was marked by a triumphal arch, and the grandiose 38-metre-high marble column, thought to have been built in the year 114, stood in the middle of the forum. A 200-metre-long decorative band of images spirals up the column, depicting 2,500 figures involved in the Roman military campaign

One gets the feeling that Kentridge’s mural has been there forever, perhaps recently revealed by some archaeological dig

against the Dacians. The intricate bas-relief portrays practically every fold of clothing and facial expression with almost hyper-realistic detail, from the wild thirst for victory of the conquerors to the lines of pain in the faces of the captives and injured.

Unlike the artists in Trajan’s day, however, Kentridge consciously ignored the chronological order of historical events and freely interpreted the timeline of Roman history. He also paid just as much attention to losses as he did to successes, because every victory carries a price, and – as history shows – exalted triumphs are often followed by destructive falls. The string of historical episodes depicted in the mural are arranged like a person’s emotional memory, in which all sorts of images and symbols linked to recent or not so recent events pop up at chaotic and

haphazard intervals. They therefore leave room for the viewers’ imagination to form ever new interpretations, thereby revealing the fragmentary nature of each person’s individual memory and collective memory as a whole.

Kentridge’s constellation of images includes busts of Cicero and Marcus Aurelius, and the origins of it all – namely, the legendary she-wolf and the killing of Remus by Romulus. It also includes the firefighters who tried to save what remained of the San Lorenzo district after the bombings of 1943, and the body of Aldo Moro, the Italian prime minister kidnapped and murdered by the Red Brigades in 1978. There’s also Benito Mussolini, publicly hanged after being shot to death in 1945. And Pier Paolo Pasolini, the legendary Italian director, poet, author, thinker and artist, for whom Rome was not only home and a film location, but also an extravagant love story encompassing the whole spectre of emotions, from immense passion to outright hatred, from gentleness to violence. Pasolini’s life ended tragically on November 2, 1975, when he was murdered and his body was found on a beach in Ostia near Rome.

For a small dose of humour among the various tragic events, the mural also features an episode from Federico Fellini’s iconic film *La Dolce Vita* (1960). But Kentridge has ironically placed the film’s most famous scene – that of Anita Ekberg and Marcello Mastroianni in the Trevi Fountain, which has since attracted millions of tourists to the site – in an antique bath tub, complete with lion’s feet and an old-fashioned shower head. It turns out that Kentridge first saw the film only in 1979, and it reminded him of his first trip to Rome at the age of six, when the Italian capital was so very different from Johannesburg, where he had grown up.

Kentridge shows the goddess of Victory in three symbolic forms: at first stately and powerful, then racked by loss, and finally reduced to a pile of rubble. He has not prettified his heroes, thereby accenting the fact that everything, including history, has two sides to it, if not more. The Trojan horses look gaunt and trip over their own legs. Marcus Aurelius, too, is shown battered by the vagaries of history. Even the she-wolf of lore, who nursed the empire’s first leader, is depicted as almost a skeleton.

The technique in which Kentridge created the mural is also symbolic of the Eternal City. Despite its gigantic size, the work has a temporal character. The images are not painted or spray-painted on the wall like graffiti; instead, the colour and material used is the very same greyish black layer of grime formed on the river embankments by countless years of Roman life. The technique is called “reverse graffiti” and uses immense stencils and high-pressure jets of water to clean off the grime around the stencils. The grime will inevitably return. Maybe already in three or four years’ time it will cover the mural, leaving no trace of it. It will, in the most literal sense of the phrase, wipe away time.

The mural “is an ephemeral project, because that is the nature of it. It is making a drawing by erasing the dirt on the wall, not by adding anything to it. The wall starts off black, and then you wash around the drawings, and what is left is the image in the rock. After four or five years, the rock will get dirty again from pollution and from growth. So the rock will come out and meet and swallow the image with its own darkness,” Kentridge has said in an interview.

Kentridge’s choice of working with a material that cannot really be controlled characterises the life of the ancient city’s contemporary inhabitants in a harsh and precise way, depicting the city’s fickleness, unpredictability and inescapable destruction. The mural emphasises a cycle of life and death, for which Rome has provided a stage since ancient times and continues to do so today. One can only admire how organically this slightly faded work of art, with its chaotic tufts of grass and moss, fits into the rest of the Tiber River landscape. One gets the feeling that the mural has been there forever, perhaps recently revealed by some archaeological dig, like so much else that this city still manages to lift from the oblivion of history.

In fact, the mural itself has a relatively long history as well. The idea was first brought up 15 years ago, and Kentridge finished the drawings on which the stencils were based already in 2011. However, surmounting the considerable layer of Roman bureaucracy in order to realise the project took another five years.

To learn more about the mural’s actual creation, visit the Museum of Contemporary Art of Rome (MACRO). An exhibition there contains Kentridge’s original drawings, collages and models made in his favourite animation technique. Six of the artist’s works are also on display at the MAXXI National Museum of 21st-Century Arts in Rome.

Start the morning by going to the **Campo de’Fiori** market. It’s the most colourful market for groceries, spices, fruits and vegetables and all imaginable foodstuffs in the city. The market has been there since 1869. In the centre is a statue of Giordano Bruno, who was burned at the stake there in 1600.

Feed your soul by making a brief pilgrimage to some of **Rome’s renowned domes** and holy places. The Pantheon is the oldest, St. Peter’s Basilica the most famous and Sant’Andrea Delle Valle is the second highest. Santa Maria della Vittoria Church at Via XX Settembre 17 holds Bernini’s *Ecstasy of Saint Theresa* in its Cornaro Chapel. It’s emotionally the most striking of Gian Lorenzo Bernini’s (1598-1680) works and an extreme example of Baroque sensuality in sculpture.

Although paintings by the great **Renaissance artist Caravaggio** (1571-1610) can be found in a few museums in Rome, the Eternal City also offers the opportunity to see his work for free, and not in a museum atmosphere. The Contarelli Chapel of the San Luigi dei Francesi Church (on Via Santa Giovanna d’Arco) houses a dramatic cycle of paintings by Caravaggio that depict the life of Saint Matthew: the *Calling of Saint Matthew*, the *Inspiration of Saint Matthew* and the *Martyrdom of Saint Matthew*. The Cerasi Chapel of the Santa Maria del Popolo Church (at Piazza del Popolo 12) holds two famous canvases painted by Caravaggio – the *Crucifixion of St. Peter* and *Conversion on the Way to Damascus*. The church dome is decorated with Raphael’s mosaics, titled the *Creation of the World*.

From time immemorial, Romans have taken special pride in their unique, slightly **sweet-tasting water**. It has even been said that this might be the real secret of the world-famous Roman *gelato* ice cream. The ancient Romans built 11 aqueducts, and innumerable metal fountains are still being actively used.

In Italy, **cappuccino is considered a food**, and it is deemed uncouth to drink it after 11:00 AM. If you do, then you’ll make it clear to everyone that you are an uninformed tourist.

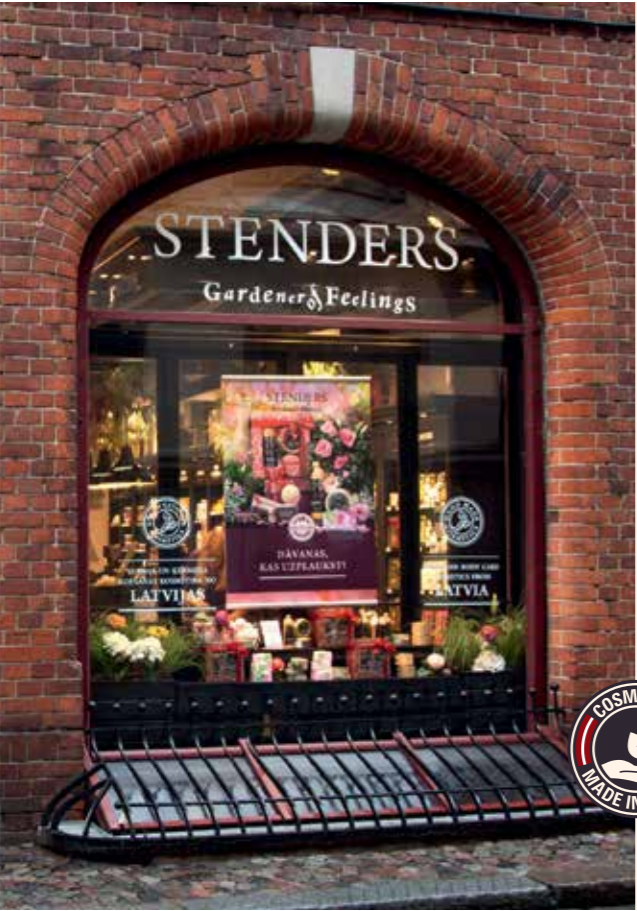
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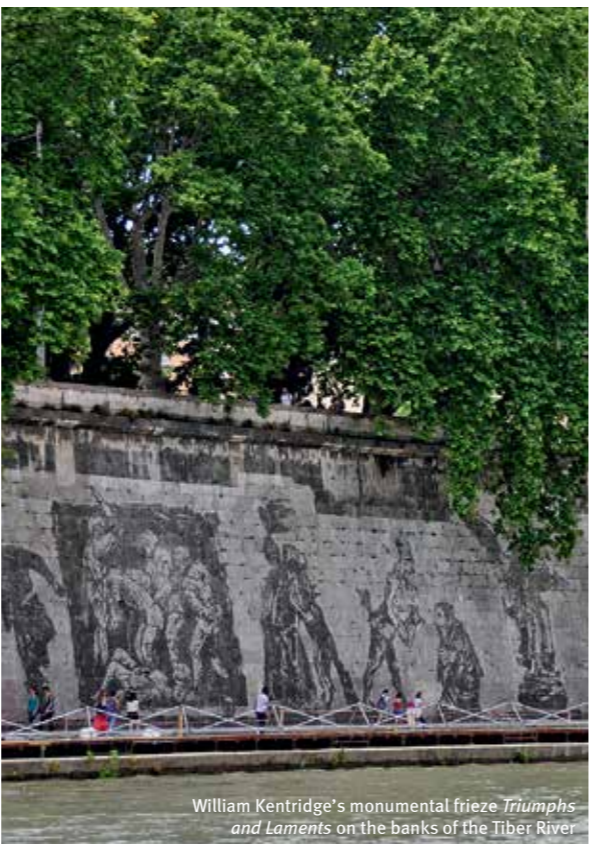
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Via Giulia



Artworks from William Kentridge's exhibition currently on view at the MACRO museum



William Kentridge's monumental frieze *Triumphs and Laments* on the banks of the Tiber River

Rome's most ornate street

Rome's best feature is the fact that no matter how many times one visits it, one will probably never be able to assert that one knows the city completely. A single lifetime is not enough to fully know the Eternal City. But that's nothing to fret about. On the contrary, every visit to Rome is an opportunity to discover it again and again. The only bit of homework required to make the process more intriguing is to choose an itinerary. After that, just let the route carry you. Rome is like an onion, with one layer always leading to the next.

The city's streets are entire stories onto themselves. Each street has its own pulse, its own constellation of inhabitants and its own countless layers of patina – almost like a small, independent republic of its own. For example, near Kentridge's mural and the Ponte Sisto is the Via Giulia, one of the city's most special streets. After wandering the small cross streets nearby, the Via Giulia feels like a completely different city. Cobbled and straight as an arrow, on the surface it looks almost like a boulevard, but with none of the hustle and bustle of a typical boulevard.

Life there resembles a film in slow motion, and one wonders whether the few people out on the street aren't all on permanent vacation. No one even tries to rush past on a *Vespa*. Pope Julius II (1503-1513) ordered the construction of the Via Giulia, and the street's name is to his credit as well. It was built to connect the Vatican with the Ponte Sisto as a part of a revolutionary urban planning project that was never fully realised. In the early 16th century, however, the Via Giulia was Rome's longest (500 metres), widest and straightest street. So, it's no wonder that many of the city's aristocrats and also artists chose to make their homes there, and the palazzos on the Via Giulia reflect some of the most extravagant ideas of their day.

One of the best known sites on the Via Giulia is an ivy-covered arch that connects both sides of the street and resembles a surreal entry gate. Michelangelo, that genius of the Renaissance, designed the arch, which was a part of Pope Paul III's ambitious project to connect his residence, the Palazzo Farnese, with the Villa Farnesina on the other side of the Tiber River. That project was also never fully completed, and the arch stands alone on the street, like a brooch with no practical function.

Other notable inhabitants of the Via Giulia include the many churches along its length, such as the Santa Maria dell'Orazione e Morta Church, whose façade features skulls and other bones. In the Middle Ages, one of this church's responsibilities included the provision of burials to the city's unknown dead. In earlier times, the members of each ethnic group living in Rome, as well as the natives of other Italian cities, had their own churches. The Via Giulia, for instance, had churches serving populations from Armenia, Spain, Siena and Florence.

The Florentine church is of special note – here one can bask in the scope of the Medici family, whose residence was also located on this same street. The San Giovanni Battista dei Fiorentini church is still the largest church in the area. Several architects were involved in the construction of the church, which took 200 years to finish. The Medici family initially also invited Michelangelo to work on the project, but his designs did not gain sufficient support. Francesco Borromini, a later architect, was buried under the dome of the church.

Next to the church stands another ornate palazzo, built in the 16th century as a residence for the Falconieris, a well-known family of that era. Since 1927, the palazzo has been the home of the Hungarian Academy, but its courtyard is open to the



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Piazza Navona



Via dei Banchi Vecchi

public and definitely worth a visit. The Via Giulia's most ornate palazzo is the Palazzo Sacchetti, the mid-16th-century residence of the Renaissance architect Antonio Sangallo. Ownership of the building later passed to the Sacchetti family of Florence, who still owns it today. The palazzo was featured in the Oscar Award-winning film *La Grande Bellezza* (The Great Beauty, 2013).

However, the Via Giulia also has a dark side, and the ornate façades of its buildings occasionally hide some not so glamorous truths. A prison was established on this street in the 17th century, which did not help the street's reputation but did, according to historians, help the Renaissance-era building survive to the present day almost completely unharmed. The former prison now houses the Italian anti-mafia commission, its door guarded by discreet men sporting stern expressions and dressed in full military gear.

Hat-makers and master woodcarvers

Also in the same area, although closer to the Piazza Navona and running almost parallel to the Via Giulia, is the Via dei Banchi Vecchi. Formerly called the Via Peregrinorum, in the Middle Ages streams of pilgrims on their way to Saint Peter's Basilica passed along this small, cobbled street. Today, the Via dei Banchi Vecchi is a favourite destination for antique hunters and wine connoisseurs.

This is also where you'll find *Il Gocetto*, one of the city's most famous wine bars. Located in a medieval bishop's residence, the original paintwork on the ceiling and the dark wood on the walls add to the cosy atmosphere. *Il Gocetto* offers over 1,000 wines from small Italian wineries, most of which can be ordered by the glass (provided that you also order some appetisers). Also nearby is *Escosazio*, a juice bar with a great variety of freshly squeezed,



Italian sculptor
Ferdinando Codognotto

organic juices that can be enjoyed while lazily lounging in one of the old wooden swings hanging by the window.

As you continue along the narrow streets, don't be surprised if you encounter something quite unbelievable – located at Via dei Pianellari 14 is the workshop of Italian sculptor and woodcarver Ferdinando Codognotto. The master himself can often be seen in the doorway, sitting on a small bench hidden in the ivy, smoking a cigar, listening to opera arias and watching passers-by with a kind-hearted and wise eye.

Now old and grey, Codognotto was once the director of the Vatican Museums. The wall of his shop is covered with photographs of him together with Rome's elite. The master woodcarver speaks only Italian, but that doesn't interfere with communication. He gladly shows visitors his creatively chaotic artist's studio as well as the gallery next door, which, for those who have seen the wonderful children's film *Hugo* (2011), calls to mind the famous French silent film director and illusionist Georges Méliès and his workshop of wonders, as well as Méliès' classic film *A Trip to the Moon* from 1902.

Codognotto's gallery contains a gigantic wooden sun, moon and his legendary rendering of Halley's Comet – a counterpart to the one he gave to Pope John Paul II. Around his neck Codognotto also wears a large wooden pendant in the shape of a sun. He has always been interested in the complex and mysterious relationship between nature, man and technology, and his works resemble surreal fairy tales full of technological virtuosity.

If you head just a little further in the direction of Campo de' Fiori, you'll literally find yourself back in the Middle Ages. The small, narrow and slightly dark Via dei Cappellari feels more like a film set than modern-day Rome. The street is named for

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The Eternal City

Of course, the legendary Via Margutta. Despite its location just a few minutes' walk from the Spanish Steps, the street is a world of its own

the profession of its historical inhabitants, namely, hat-makers. Nearby is the Via dei Baullari (trunk-makers' street), Largo dei Librai (booksellers' square) and other similarly named streets.

And, of course, the legendary Via Margutta. Despite its location just a few minutes' walk from the Spanish Steps (which are currently under reconstruction), the street is a world of its own. In the 17th century this was the home of Rome's best-known craftspeople, as well as stables and blacksmiths' workshops. But the charming, vine-covered street worthy of a postcard became known worldwide in 1953, thanks to *Roman Holiday*, the film starring Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck. The apartment of Joe Bradley, the reporter played by Peck, was located on this street at No. 51.

There have been many more unforgettable scenes linked with the Via Margutta over the years. For example, the street has always attracted artists and other creative personalities, not only from Italy, but much further afield as well. Claude Debussy, Franz Liszt and Richard Wagner all worked there for a time. Even Pablo Picasso worked on the Via Margutta for a short while after arriving in Rome for the first time in 1917. There he designed the costumes and sets for *Parade*, the ballet by Jean Cocteau and Erik Satie that was staged specially for Sergei Diaghilev's *Ballets Russes*. This was where Picasso began his affair with the Russian ballerina Olga Khokhlova, who later became his first wife.

Truman Capote lived on the Via Margutta in the 1950s, and American expressionist artist Willem de Kooning also spent one winter here. Federico Fellini, one of the most lustrous glorifiers of Rome, lived in the house at No. 110 with the love of his life, Giulietta Masina. The street has a thematic fountain, the Fontana delle Arti, designed in 1927 by architect Pietro Lombardi in honour of the Via Margutta's history and artistic aura.

Despite hosting many celebrities and its proximity to the Spanish Steps, the Via Margutta is almost always remarkably quiet. It is home to many art galleries, the *Hotel Art* and a few eateries well known on Rome's gastronomy scene. One such establishment is the *Osteria Margutta*, located in a former smithy. According to local lore, the horse upon which Victor Emmanuel II sits in the Piazza Venezia was forged there. The *Osteria Margutta* has been there since the 1970s, and its owner was once a well-known rugby player who later became a theatre manager. In fact, the lampshades in the restaurant still feature the traditional theatre colours of white, blue and red.

The restaurant has always been a hangout for artists and literary types. The walls are covered in photographs, the old wooden floor seems to have survived from the building's previous life, jazz plays in the background, and the atmosphere is downright homey. In the summer, tables are set up outside the front door, so don't be surprised in this Roman holiday atmosphere if, its tongue hanging out as it leans over the edge of a cabriolet, a fancy purebred dog gazes upon your plate with curiosity. It's all a part of daily life on the Via Margutta. And it only goes to show that not only cities, but sometimes even single streets, can be so self-sufficient and independent that they warrant a separate journey.



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GOING FOR A HAT TRICK IN RIO

World-class BMX bicycle racer Māris Štrombergs (29) is a national hero in Latvia. Since winning the World Challenge for nine-year-olds 20 years ago (effectively becoming the world champion in that age group), Štrombergs hasn't looked back. He has been crowned European champion three times, world champion twice, and has won two Olympic gold medals in succession (the first in Beijing in 2008 and the second in London in 2012). Will he manage to clinch a third gold in Rio later this summer?

Text by **ILMĀRS LĪKUMS**
Photos by **GATIS GIERTS**
(Picture Agency)

If you paid even the scantest of attention to the recent Euro 2016 football tournament, then you probably got a feel of the immense pride that fans feel for their national teams. It wouldn't be fair to say that the accomplishments of athletes from large countries are less significant than those of their counterparts from smaller nations, but one can certainly say that for tiny countries like Latvia, any world championship or Olympic sports victory is a monumental event and cause for a nationwide celebration. Sports is an international language and has often raised the self-esteem of many nations with world-class athletes. It also brings otherwise little-known countries into the international spotlight, and in a positive manner at that.

Since regaining its independence 25 years ago, Latvia has struggled to forge a new identity for itself, and the country's sports accomplishments have done a great deal to give average citizens added confidence in their abilities. This increased sense of self-worth has been compounded by the fact that for the most part, Latvia's athletes have trained with very limited financial and other resources at their disposal. In some cases, sports victories have been achieved despite – rather than because of – the prevailing state of affairs in the country, as Latvia continues to lack a sound system to promote the continued progress of its sports talents.

At first glance, Latvia's Olympic medal statistics seem far from impressive, particularly in comparison to the usual medal-earning powerhouse countries. Since the 1992 Olympic Games, when Latvia returned to the international sports scene as a sovereign country, it has been represented by an average of nearly 50 athletes at each summer Olympic event and earned a total of 14 medals. Three of these medals have been gold. The first Latvian gold was won by men's gymnast Igors Vihrovs in Sidney in 2000. Māris Štrombergs has won the other two. He stepped onto the victor's podium in Beijing in 2008, when BMX racing became an Olympic sport for the first time, and repeated the feat in London in 2012, creating an exciting precedent and making him the only BMX racer to win two Olympic gold medals in succession. This month, Štrombergs will be participating in his third Olympiad and will fight to obtain yet another gold medal. It's not hard to imagine that the athlete's past Olympic successes have also placed the heavy burden of high expectations onto his shoulders.

Aside from Štrombergs' back-to-back Olympic victories, he has been crowned world champion twice (in 2008 and 2010) and European champion three times (in 2008, 2103 and 2014). He is also a two-time champion of the US National Bicycle League (in 2009 and 2010) and was the runner-up at the American Bicycle Association championship in 2009.

Every legend has its beginning. Thus, I have headed out for Rubene, a village in central Latvia, about 100 kilometres northeast of Riga on the way to Štrombergs' native town of Valmiera, which is ten kilometres further. My interview with the BMX star takes place just a few days after the conferral of a gold medal to him at

the Latvian Olympics, which are held every year in Valmiera. The village of Rubene is quite small and located on top of a hill beside an artificial lake. The forested countryside is typical for this part of Latvia, with the exception of one relatively recent addition: a BMX racing course that was built shortly before the 2012 London Olympic Games. Now it has been converted to be as similar as possible to the race course that Štrombergs and other BMX racers will have to navigate in Rio this month.

Although the visor of Štrombergs' helmet casts a shadow over his face, the first time that I see the Olympic champion close up, he appears older than his actual age. Looking somewhere off in the distance with a steely expression on his face, his slowly pushes his racing bike up the last metres of the starting ramp.



At the sounding of the start signal, the barrier falls and the cyclists race down at full speed

It turns out that I am not the only journalist who has been allowed to watch Štrombergs train today. A TV cameraman is walking along the BMX course with a film camera mounted on his shoulder, accompanied by Dāvids Ernštreits, one of Latvia's best-known sports journalists. He is gathering material for a TV film about Štrombergs.

At one end of the starting ramp sits Ivo Lakučs, Latvia's foremost BMX coach, who gives out instructions to Štrombergs and three other BMX racers. At the sounding of the start signal, the barrier falls and the cyclists race down at full speed, only to soar off another ramp a couple of seconds later and fly through the air for an amazingly long distance. They follow that feat with yet another ramp jump and then brake at the end of a straight before a turn.

The racers' performance looks almost routine, but if they don't approach the first ramp with sufficient speed, or about 60 km/h,



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Outlook **INTERVIEW**

then they won't reach the proper landing point, from which they must resume pedalling furiously before making the second jump.

There is no room for slacking off here, and nothing less than the maximum effort will do for completing the course. When you have eight racers on the starting line, out of whom at least four are qualified to achieve a victory, everything is determined by one's ability to concentrate and to precisely implement the racing skills that one has learned through years and years of training.

After coach Lakučs announces a lunch break for the athletes, Štrombergs drinks a sports cocktail and walks over to sit on the open boot of his car. This is where *Baltic Outlook's* interview with him takes place.

What makes BMX racing so exciting in your opinion?

For us athletes it is the excitement of the race itself, the riders against whom we are competing, the big jumps and other obstacles. From a fan's standpoint, it is probably the increased speed that came into BMX racing when they raised the height of the starting ramps. I think that the additional speed and action on the course have created an added interest in the sport among people who didn't closely follow BMX racing before.

At the time of this interview, only one month remains until the Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. Have you started to feel anxious or nervous?

Honestly, no. That's probably due to my experience. Of course, when the time comes to race, I will certainly be nervous. When I won my first Olympic gold at the age of 21, I was concentrating more on what others might think about me and on their expectations. Now I am confident in my abilities and satisfied with the environment around me. I know that very few athletes have had the chance to compete for a third Olympic gold medal, so I am looking ahead with a positive frame of mind. I'll try to enjoy this pre-competition month as much as possible, because if we look at things realistically, then these will be my last Olympic Games.

How are you preparing for the Olympics, and what's on your daily agenda?

We laid the foundations for this racing season already at the beginning of the year, when I trained with a road racing bicycle and worked out in the gym. I trained to be in top form during the most important sports competitions, which are inevitably followed by dips in one's performance. Timing your training to be in optimal physical and mental shape right during an Olympic competition is a great art. Well, that's actually my coach's job. I just follow orders and do what he says! [*Laughs.*]

Now, with only one month left before the Olympics, I get up at eight in the morning, make myself some porridge, drink a coffee and am out on the track by 10 AM. We train until noon, then we stretch out our muscles. After that, we have lunch and then I try to have a nap, even if it might only be for 20 minutes. We hold our second training session at four in the afternoon. Here in Rubene, we are concentrating on speed and on honing various racing skills.

I'm not doing much apart from sports right now. On some evenings I might go out with friends. I also spend time on the Internet, as I have to communicate with my girlfriend, who is in America at the moment. Then before I know it, the day is already done. Time flies incredibly quickly.

I'd like to ask you to let us enter your head for a while, so that we can understand how you are thinking about reaching your goal. Are you actively visualising a victory, or just the opposite, are you trying to block everything out of your mind?

I was 21 years old at the Beijing Olympics. Everything was completely new and exciting to me – China, the Olympic village, the free meals. I was one of the youngest participants, and although I had already won the world championship that year, everybody thought that a young upstart like me would not be able to withstand the stress of the games and that I would drop out at some point. Instead, everything worked out very well for me. It wasn't as if I didn't have confidence in my abilities, but at that time I wasn't facing much external pressure.

The following Olympics in London were much more difficult for me. It is much harder to defend a title than to earn it

the first time. All kinds of thoughts entered my head and had a very negative effect on my peace of mind. "I really have to win that medal again! What will happen if I don't? How can I avoid getting injured?" Foolish thoughts like that were floating in my head and preventing me from putting everything that I had into the pre-Olympic training sessions. I couldn't even complete elementary assignments that my coach had given me. Whenever something went wrong, I blamed the race course or other factors. The year before the London Olympics was very stressful, and I was sick a lot.

When I arrived in London for the Games, I was physically strong but psychologically unprepared. The final race turned out very well, but there are seven races in the competition, and my performance was satisfactory in only three of them, at least in terms of my own personal standards. I started to smile only after the sixth race. The coach's assistant asked me what was up, and I answered: "Shit's going down!" I like to compare BMX racing with surfing. I felt that I had finally caught the big wave. The final race in London went beautifully, but that also ended up being an extremely hard-earned gold medal.

And now, Rio. The last four years have passed even more quickly than the previous four, but this time I feel very confident in my abilities. I just have to make sure that I do all of my homework, although that's sometimes easier said than done. In any case, the atmosphere at the Olympics is really special. The climate that reigns among the riders is also different than usual. The Olympic Games feel especially important to everyone who takes part in them.

What distinguishes the Māris Štrombergs who won a gold medal at the Olympics in 2008 from the present-day Māris Štrombergs in 2016?

You grow up and mature as the years pass. You start wanting to establish a solid base for yourself. You might want to buy a house, and you assume all kinds of financial responsibilities. I wouldn't say that this bothers me; it's the natural course of things. There's no longer the care-free attitude of one's early youth, when one has

I like to compare BMX racing with surfing. I felt that I had finally caught the big wave

hardly any responsibilities to shoulder. When you're young, you don't think about how to pay your electricity bills and you know that somebody will always be there to make a meal for you and put it on your table. At that time in my life, everything that had to do with sports came easily and naturally. At my current age, I have to pay more attention to various details, like making sure that I have stretched out my muscles properly and preparing myself psychologically for each training session.

How would you characterise your relationship with your coach Ivo Lakučs?

We started working together when I was nine years old. At the time, Ivo was Latvia's best BMX racer and my idol. When Ivo took me under his wing and started to train me, I felt especially



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privileged. That was followed by a time when I started to beat him in races, but he continued to train me and nothing changed in our relationship. You'd have to ask Ivo how he got over being dethroned by one of his disciples. Not everyone is capable of accepting that. We have been really good buddies for many years. In any case, Ivo is someone I can trust. I know that I can call him up and tell him what I am really thinking and feeling. Then we sit down at the table and try to figure out what we can do better and differently.

Have you experienced any crises in your relationship with Ivo? If so, then how did you get over them?

Yes, there have been crises. The year after the London Olympics could be called my "hangover year". The higher you climb, the harder you fall. I slacked off quite a bit, and that showed in my attitude. Ivo wasn't happy at all. It was a classic case of burnout – for both of us. But just as every computer needs to be shut down and restarted from time to time, we took a break and



The year after the London Olympics could be called my "hangover year"

began the year 2014 with a clean slate. That ended up being a successful year!

Can you tell us about the team that works together with you?

Our BMX team is small and tight-knit. I think that's for the better – both in terms of results and our personal relationships. Aside from coach Ivo Lakučs, we have riders Edžus Treimanis (the other BMX racer who will represent Latvia at the Rio Olympics) and Rihards Veide. Today, Helvijs Babris and Kristens Krīgers were also on the track with me. We all train together, work out in the weight room, and drive to training camps.

Oh, I should also mention our mechanic, Gundars Osis. When I am in America, I put my bike together myself, because it isn't that complicated. However, Gundars always helps me out before the big competitions. Then I can be sure that my bike is 120% ready.

You are a first-class sports star. You've been the European, world and Olympic champion. In 2008, you held all three titles simultaneously. Who helps you out on the business side?

At first I had a team manager in America, but as the years went by, I hooked up with *Free Agent* and other sponsors in the USA. Now my relationships are at a stage where I don't need a middle man. The BMX industry isn't big. Everybody knows everybody else. It's like living in Valmiera.

Speaking about business, it seems that various cycling disciplines have become pretty popular all across the world. Where do you see BMX in this kaleidoscope?

BMX can't really be compared with road racing or downhill mountain bike racing, because BMX is a pretty specific sport that not everyone can practice. Let's take the example of basketball, which just about anyone can play. You can take a ball in your hands, throw it at a hoop and pretend that you are LeBron James. If people without any previous experience climbed onto a BMX bike and tried to ride a BMX race circuit, then they would probably hurt themselves pretty badly and end up with some broken bones.

You have to start at a very young age to get into BMX racing, and that's the main impediment to this sport's expansion. Those who try out BMX racing later on in their life are astounded at how difficult it is to practice.

Then there's another commercial aspect. Nobody is going to buy a BMX competition bike just to ride about town. Nevertheless, interest in the sport is growing, and the Olympic Games have done quite a lot to give it extra visibility.

Returning back to Latvia's athletes and speaking in metaphors, you are like a road racer who has pulled away from the rest of the pack in a surging sprint, leaving a vast, empty field behind you. What needs to happen for other Latvian BMX racers to attain your level in the sport?

Well, I wouldn't say that the others are very far back, not at all! They are pretty close behind me. But one has to admit that we have very limited resources in Latvia. We don't have a large reserve pool of athletes. We have to work with those who are ready to practice the sport. Not all of them are fantastic opening straight sprinters, which is why we have to work on each athlete's strongest points. Then things will work out. For example, Kristens Krīgers is a good sparring partner for me right now, and internal competition is very important. In any case, the other Latvian team members are showing promising potential.

You said that the Olympics in Rio will be your last. Aside from a shot at a third gold medal, do you feel as if you have already accomplished everything that you can in BMX racing? Or do you plan on retiring because of the inevitable physical decline that takes place as one ages?

It's a psychological issue. I've already said that after the Olympics, I might take part in the BMX world championships that will be held next year in the USA. But I will have to feel the spark of competition within me. Otherwise, it won't be worth making the effort.



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Outlook **INTERVIEW**

Officially, I haven't promised anything to anyone. The first step is competing in Rio and then taking things from there. As I mentioned earlier, right now I feel a sense of inner peace and I'm satisfied with the situation around me. I don't have to worry about proving myself, about surviving and about finding sponsors. I can look at everything from an athlete's point of view. If I still feel a thrill from racing and the urge to put younger riders in their place, then you'll continue to see me on the track for a while longer. If not, then I'll leave the circuit at the appropriate time.

I don't really want to ask you this question, but have you thought about what you'd like to do after you retire from sports? You have been living in California for the past seven years due to the demands of your BMX racing career. Would you consider returning to live in Latvia? I suppose that you also plan on marrying your girlfriend.

A family and children are the natural progression of things. After that, I don't know. I'm not worrying about the future right now. How do I see my future in sports? It's hard to answer that question as well.

I've said that I'd like to keep all of the beautiful memories that I have of racing from 5 to 30 years of age, then turn a page and start something new. But that's easy to say. Maybe Ivo [Lakučs] also had plans to do something else, but he ended up becoming a very knowledgeable specialist. If he had pursued another path, then he'd become an amateur in a new field and would have to learn everything from scratch. Now, he's the absolute best in his field.

Time will tell what turns my life takes. Right now there's Rio and post-Olympic races to take part in. My immediate goal is to collect more victories!

And my last question: will you be wearing white socks in Rio?

Yes, maybe that's a foolish superstition, but why change it now? Black socks look better than white ones, especially with a black uniform, but I suffered a major injury while racing with black socks. I was in great shape and felt invincible at

the time. I had put on a very comfortable pair of black socks, and then – bam! I was thrown off the circuit for six months. So, in Rio I'll be wearing white socks!

Thanks very much! I'm sure that you'll do very well in Rio!

EPILOGUE

Following the interview, we arrange to meet with Štrombergs again and take some additional photographs in Valmiera. There's no doubt that even though he now lives in the USA, the BMX racer still feels very much at home in his native city – as if he'd never even left it.

We step into a café for lunch. It's strange to see how the Olympic champion just blends in with the other customers and goes about his business completely unnoticed. Well, that's not entirely true. Latvians are known for being polite and unobtrusive when famous people suddenly show up in their midst. Some of the people in the café have likely noted his presence, but simply don't want to disturb him while he's eating, sending him good wishes in their thoughts instead.

We head on to the Valmiera Olympic Centre for a photo session beside a bronze replica of Štrombergs' bicycle, which was unveiled there a week earlier. As the photographer waits for the clouds to arrange themselves into the proper configuration, the racing champion patiently answers questions that people have sent him earlier that morning through Facebook. To be honest, some of the questions are foolish, some are provocative, but some are also interesting.

As if we hadn't obtained enough proof that Štrombergs tries to act like a gentleman in fulfilling his PR duties, I ask him if I can try out his championship bike. It goes without saying that this is a presumptuous request, but he graciously agrees, and I ride around nearby as the photographer snaps his pictures. My bike ride lasts about a minute, but that's long enough to remind me that BMX racing really is an extreme sport. The tiny bicycle with rock-hard tires feels unnatural in so many different ways that it's not even worth listing them.

I also get a strong sense of the well-known fact that time waits for no one, and that the Rio Olympics are drawing closer every second. It's time for us to say goodbye and for the champion racer to go back to Rubene for another training session. **BO**

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AN INSIDER'S CULTURAL GUIDE TO ST. PETERSBURG

Text by **DOVYDAS KIAULEIKIS**
Photos by *Alamy*,
OLESYA BOGACH and from
publicity materials

Despite its relatively young age (by European standards), St. Petersburg harbours many layers of history and culture, yet the historic sits quite comfortably next to the contemporary. Old façades hide new cultural developments as the locals shift between established traditions and current trends, changing the city's character along the way.

"I like to compare St. Petersburg to Venice for its combination of majestic classical architecture and run-down buildings, magnitude of thought and scarcity of action. Yes, this is a city of contrasts," says local video artist Veronika Topychkanova about St. Petersburg's cultural life.

On one side there is a plethora of heavyweight traditional institutions. St. Petersburg's main cultural attraction – the Hermitage – houses over 3 million items, including the largest collection of paintings in the world. Being one of the largest and oldest museums on the planet, the museum is the city's main tourist attraction.

Add countless bridges, canals, elegant architecture, a turbulent history and all of the artists who have created something in St. Petersburg, and you have a truly artistic atmosphere in Europe's third largest city.

But that is all a legacy of the past. Like any great city, St. Petersburg hasn't stopped developing and looking to the future.

"St. Petersburg had an avant-garde cultural underground in the 1980s and 1990s, which was opposed to the authoritarian regime," says Topychkanova, adding that rebellion is written in the city's DNA.

This rebellious spirit can also be seen in the contemporary art scene, where artists are very bold in their forms of expression.

"For artists from St. Petersburg, it makes sense to stand out in Moscow in order to be noticed," Topychkanova says of her city's complicated relationship with the Russian capital.

Where do the old and new meet in St. Petersburg? What places are of cultural importance today? Here are four highlights for a contemporary cultural experience recommended by locals.

For the 300 years since its founding in 1703, St. Petersburg has had many different faces. *Baltic Outlook* offers a mini guide to help you navigate this fascinating city. These are places where the locals go for culture, arts and history.

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Angleterre Hotel

Centre of culture then and now

One of the first hotels in St. Petersburg, the *Angleterre* has been a centre of cultural activities since it first opened its doors in the 19th century. During the 1920s, the hotel was favoured by poets. Today it remains a cultural institution as much as a hotel, housing the city's leading art house cinema and an art gallery. It's also a perfect setting for people-watching.

Built on St. Isaac's Square, the *Angleterre Hotel* neighbours some of St. Petersburg's main attractions, including St. Isaac's Cathedral, whose golden dome dominates the city skyline. The cathedral's interior is lavishly decorated with marble and mosaic tiles, and you can climb its 43-metre colonnade for breathtaking views of the city.

Over the years, the *Angleterre Hotel* has attracted many celebrated guests. American writer John Reed, the author of *Ten Days that Shook the World* (the famous eyewitness account of the Russian Revolution), stayed there when the Bolsheviks seized power in 1917. Another well-known guest was Sergei Yesenin, a celebrated Russian poet. He frequently enjoyed the hospitality of the hotel until 1925, when he allegedly committed suicide in one of the rooms by hanging himself.

One of the last buildings to be erected on St. Isaac's Square was the trapezoidal

red granite German Embassy (1911-12). The building is a reference point in the history of Western architecture, as it was the first specimen of Stripped Classicism, a style that enjoyed immense popularity in Stalinist Russia and Nazi Germany. Perhaps because the hotel is so close to the embassy, German dictator Adolf Hitler planned on hosting a victory banquet in the *Angleterre's* winter garden in 1942, with the full confidence that he would soon conquer the city. He never did, and the party was never held.

This historical context provides a perfect setting for the hotel to serve as a culture centre today, mainly as the home of the *Angleterre Cinema Lounge*, which is on the ground floor of the building. The cinema is the go-to destination for cinephiles in St. Petersburg, as it has a strong repertoire of festival and art house films, and screenings of ballet and opera performances. Whereas in the past, the *Angleterre* was a meeting point for the literature community, today the hotel is strongly associated with art, as the hotel's art gallery showcases contemporary conceptual works by local artists.

Add the *Borsalino* restaurant, which specialises in contemporary Italian cuisine, and it's clear why locals enjoy spending their time at the *Angleterre Hotel*.

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Erarta

Contemporary art in the historic city

In a city teeming with history, culture and museums, opening a new grand museum for contemporary art might seem like a risky plan. However, Erarta's opening in 2010 proved that such an institution was indeed necessary.

Erarta is the biggest project in Russian contemporary art, a must-see attraction for gaining an insight into modern Russia. Its 10,000-m² building brings under one roof the Erarta Museum – the largest private museum in Russia, with a collection of 2,300 works by more than 250 artists from various regions of the country – and a commercial art gallery.

The museum is located in a late Stalinist Classicist building originally built in 1951 to serve as the headquarters of the Communist Party. The last tenant was the Synthetic Rubber Research Institute of the USSR. However, a complete renovation erased any traces of the edifice's communist past. The museum looks on par with any similar international institution, with white walls, good lighting, wide staircases, video installations and an elegant café.

The person behind Erarta is Marina Varvarina, a low-profile businesswoman who built its collection from visits to artists' studios over the last 20 years. One of the museum's goals is to release contemporary Russian art from the grips of the Moscow art scene and give a voice to artists from all corners of the giant country. Curators are constantly updating Erarta's collection by travelling across Russia to find unknown future stars and track down old favourites from all periods and streams of the Russian contemporary movement.

Another aim is to get the general public to start appreciating contemporary art. Hence, the museum contains many *artainment* additions that range from theatre performances, concerts and lectures to shopping and eating venues. Interactive displays and installations try to catch visitors' attention, while "U-spaces" house themed installations such as a replica of a country log cabin or of a Soviet kommunalka apartment. Visitors can book these spaces for a contemplative 15 minutes. There is also an "adults only" corner, where suggestive paintings are displayed to a sexy soundtrack, and a section where minute-long cartoon animations bring works of art wittily to life.

In an interview following Erarta's opening, Mikhail Ovchinnikov, the museum's director, said that it was time for St. Petersburg's "contemporary component to become as valuable and elaborate as its classical one." A visit to Erarta easily proves this point.

29 Lin. Vasilievskogo Ostrova 2
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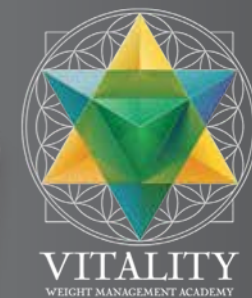
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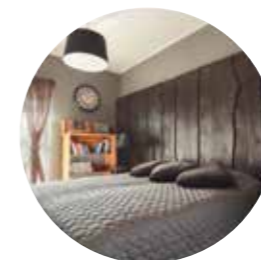
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Lumiere Hall

Let there be light!

A relatively new edition to St. Petersburg's cultural landscape, the Lumiere Hall is seeking to reinvent the way that we see paintings – and art in general. During your visit to this museum and creative space, you will find yourself lost in a labyrinth of light and immersed in a sea of sound.

The Lumiere Hall is a perfect example of how art can rejuvenate disused buildings and even whole neighbourhoods. Take the largest natural gas reservoir of the 19th century, with its 27-metre-high ceiling and 1,200-m² area on the edge of central St Petersburg. This building had long been abandoned, but has now been turned into a projection museum that is designed to show art in a different way.

For example, the current exhibition of art by Vincent van Gogh doesn't contain a single painting. All of the artworks by the great master are presented through 30 digital screens and more than 40 projectors. The images are transmitted in 3D animation in full HD, and the surrounding sound of 20 kV makes your heart release an extra beat.

This way of displaying great masterpieces lets locals experience world-class art without travelling to Amsterdam, Madrid or London. Moreover, the colours

on display are so vivid and rich that it seems as if the characters in the paintings are about to descend from the screens.

After walking through the exhibition, visitors can join a special workshop, where those who feel inspired can create their own masterpieces under the guidance of talented artists. That is one of the reasons why the Lumiere Hall has been favoured by families since its opening last year – the educational part of the visit is as important as the cultural one.

The spherical space of colossal dimensions is presenting a few shows throughout this summer. The aforementioned multimedia exhibition of van Gogh paintings is accompanied by displays of artworks by Ivan Aivazovsky (1817-1900) and Nicholas Roerich (1874-1947). Aivazovsky is considered to be one of the greatest marine artists in history – experiencing his paintings in the Lumiere Hall transports you straight to the middle of the ocean. Roerich, a child of St. Petersburg, was a dedicated activist for the cause of preserving art and architecture during times of war. During his lifetime, he painted many coloured landscapes of the Russian Empire's exotic locations. Again, these paintings come to life when shown as light projections.

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EM restaurant

Food as art

EM is the latest brainchild of Eduard Muradyan, a restaurateur who has set up more than 20 establishments in St. Petersburg. It quickly became a headliner after opening in 2012 and is open for only 15 hours per week: from Tuesday to Saturday for a three-hour dinner. Everything from the bread to the coffee is prepared on an AGA cooker in an open kitchen by the dining room. This openness creates a feeling that you are visiting friends and waiting for them to finish cooking as you chat with them. However, the difference is that here you are served an eight-course dinner of unusual taste combinations made from seasonal foods. In short, at *EM* even a humble cabbage is turned into a masterpiece on your plate.

"I wanted to create a place where we could talk with the guests in a small dining space. The set menu is an intentional thing, as I also wanted to dispense with a huge menu from

which visitors would have to choose. Instead, I wanted to make them feel like they are going to a friend's house and to surprise them. They see the dish, smell it and taste it. Having a sensory experience before the intellectual one sort of changes the whole idea of dining," Muradyan explains the idea behind *EM*.

Aside from *EM*'s unusual cooking and seating arrangements, the restaurant also sets up vegan menus, which is another uncommon feature for establishments of this type.

"It is very interesting and challenging to create a full vegan menu while maintaining *EM*'s unique style of cuisine. There is actually quite a big demand for vegan food, and we are probably the only place that offers gourmet vegan dishes in St. Petersburg," Muradyan says.

Indeed, art and haute cuisine go hand in hand, so a visit to *EM* will feed not only your body, but also your imagination. **BO**

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BALTIC ATHLETES HEAD FOR

RIO

We are keeping our fingers crossed for the Olympic athletes from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and wish them the best of luck in Rio de Janeiro this August. Let's find out what's on the mind of some top Baltic athletes just before the start of the Summer Olympic Games in Brazil!



Text by **LIINA KARO**, **AGRA LIEĢE** and **DOVYDAS KIAULEIKIS**
Photos by **RIO 2016**, **ROMĀNS KOKŠAROVS** (F64), **SIIM SEMISKAR**, *Alamy* and from the archives of the National Olympic Committee of Lithuania and the National Olympic Committee of Estonia



Magnus Kirt (26),
Estonian javelin thrower

Magnus Kirt's progress over the past few years has been remarkable. In 2014, his personal best was 79.70 metres, while last year, he threw the javelin 86.65 metres, which is the second best all-time Estonian result. His success hasn't come overnight, and he says that the main thing behind his accomplishments has been hard work and patience.

WHICH SPORTS COULD YOU NEVER IMAGINE YOURSELF PRACTICING?

I've never really thought about that before. I believe that there is something interesting in all sports. For example, I like to play basketball in the off season.

WHAT WOULD YOU PURCHASE FOR YOUR COACH IF YOU WON A GOLD MEDAL IN RIO?

If we won a gold, then that would be a very big gift for both of us, so I think my medal would be my gift to him.

DO YOU CARRY OUT ANY RITUALS BEFORE AN IMPORTANT COMPETITION?

Before a competition, I like to read a book or watch a movie. That helps me to

stay calm and lets me focus only on the competition when it takes place. I think every athlete has some rituals before competitions. It's important to concentrate once the moment comes.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE COMPETITION IN YOUR LIFE?

There are many good competitions that will stay in my mind forever. The first one was in Viljandi in my native country, where I threw over 80 metres for the first time and qualified for the World Championships. The second one was the World Championships in Beijing last year and competing in front of 30,000 people. That really felt very nice. The most memorable moment was at the end of last season, when I threw 86 metres in Kohila, Estonia, and qualified for the Rio Olympics.

WHAT IS THE MOST BORING THING ABOUT YOUR DAILY TRAINING?

The hardest part is the whole autumn and winter, when we have very long and tough training sessions. But I still like it, because the work that you put in during those seasons pays off in the summer.



Liina, Lily and Leila Luik (30), Estonian long-distance runners

These three women are making history before the Olympic Games in Rio have even begun, as they are set to become the first triplets to compete in a women's marathon in the history of the Olympic Games. The sisters started running only at the age of 24 and now, six years later, they are all fulfilling their dream of taking part in the Olympics. Liina, Lily and Leila are proof that practically anything is possible when you're ready to work for it!

WHICH SPORTS COULD YOU NEVER IMAGINE YOURSELF PRACTICING?

Lily: Weightlifting, as I don't have the strength that it requires.
Leila: Sumo wrestling, because I'm way too small for that.
Liina: Racewalking. Running is much easier – you can go faster!

WHAT WOULD YOU PURCHASE FOR YOUR COACH IF YOU WON A GOLD MEDAL IN RIO?

A trip to somewhere nice.
A holiday is necessary once in a while!

DO YOU CARRY OUT ANY RITUALS BEFORE AN IMPORTANT COMPETITION?

We do some exercises in the morning and have either a nice swim or a cold shower. Good music and a proper pep-talk also help.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE COMPETITION IN YOUR LIFE?

Lily: The Beijing World Championships in 2015, when I ran my first marathon at such an advanced level of competition. The most important marathon so far was also last year in Valencia, Spain, where I qualified for the Rio Olympics.
Leila: The Shanghai marathon in 2013 was unforgettable for me, as it was where I ran my personal best. The Hamburg marathon this April was also crucial, because I qualified for the Olympics there.
Liina: For me, it's the Beijing World Championship as well. I ran my personal best there and qualified for Rio.

WHAT IS THE MOST BORING THING ABOUT YOUR DAILY TRAINING?

Training that doesn't involve running – when you have to do alternative training during an injury. In terms of running distances, the hardest are the short runs – 400 metres, for example.



Airinė Palšytė (24), Lithuanian high jumper

This young athlete is hungry for victories. Aside from being a rising star on the track, she is also a media darling. She has the talent, the persistence, the youth, the looks, the intelligence and some important awards to her name. She may very well complete the picture in Rio with an Olympic medal.

WHICH SPORTS COULD YOU NEVER IMAGINE YOURSELF PRACTICING?

All of the fighting sports. Since I don't accept any behaviour involving physical force that is intended to hurt someone, boxing, karate and similar sports are just not for me.

WHAT WOULD YOU PURCHASE FOR YOUR COACH IF YOU WON A GOLD MEDAL IN RIO?

Something meaningful and long-lasting. We have an unwritten tradition of giving each other jewellery for special occasions like birthdays, Christmas, achieved records or new victories. In this context, it might be a necklace, a bracelet or a ring.

DO YOU CARRY OUT ANY RITUALS BEFORE AN IMPORTANT COMPETITION?

I usually paint my nails to match the competition uniform, prepare all of the details and the uniform the day before the finals and simply try to think of nice things. It is important for me to have everything ready the day before an important competition, because then I can sleep better and don't have to worry if I'm missing something.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE COMPETITION IN YOUR LIFE?

My first Olympic Games in London, with such a huge crowd cheering and shouting. And all of those competitions and championships where I improved my personal best or won a medal. It's a great experience full of the nicest emotions and feelings. That's why athletes cannot forget it so quickly.

WHAT IS THE MOST BORING THING ABOUT YOUR DAILY TRAINING?

The routine of waking up, preparing for a training session,

going to the track, coming home, resting, eating and repeating it all over again. Sometimes it's nice to have a plan for several months ahead, but from time to time I do get bored. Fortunately, the training system for high jumping is improving quite quickly, and a lot of exercises have been changing from one year to the next, adding a breath of fresh air to the daily routine. In addition, all of those new destinations, nice people and great competition venues really help a lot to avoid boredom.



Saulius Ritter (27), Lithuanian rower

Lithuania expects good results from its water sports athletes in Rio. The country's swimming and rowing teams are particularly strong. Saulius Ritter and his rowing partner Rolandas Maščinskas have a number of awards from the European and World Championships under their belt, but not long before the Olympics, Maščinskas was injured and will be replaced by Mindaugas Griškonis.

WHICH SPORTS COULD YOU NEVER IMAGINE YOURSELF PRACTICING?

I probably wouldn't be very good at athletics, as I'm too tall and heavy. My body is of a different structure.

WHAT WOULD YOU PURCHASE FOR YOUR COACH IF YOU WON A GOLD MEDAL IN RIO?

The medal itself would be the best present. It would be a reward for his hard work and patience, as we have put in a

WHICH SPORTS COULD YOU NEVER IMAGINE YOURSELF PRACTICING?

Boxing. As my dad [*Gints Palameiks, who is also her coach – Ed.*] jokes sometimes, I have zero reaction time! Besides, I would really hate taking the hits, and I think that I would also feel guilty for giving a blow to an opponent. I guess I'm too emotional for that!

WHAT WOULD YOU PURCHASE FOR YOUR COACH IF YOU WON A GOLD MEDAL IN RIO?

A motorcycle. I know that he's been dreaming of one from a young age.

DO YOU CARRY OUT ANY RITUALS BEFORE AN IMPORTANT COMPETITION?

great deal of effort as a team to get to where we are now.

DO YOU CARRY OUT ANY RITUALS BEFORE AN IMPORTANT COMPETITION?

I'm not superstitious and don't have any rituals. It's important to get ready physically and psychologically, so that the whole body is ready to fight.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE COMPETITION IN YOUR LIFE?

Every new competition is the most difficult, and I don't look to the past. The races are very thrilling because you release your potential. The most exciting time probably was at the last Olympics in London.

WHAT IS THE MOST BORING THING ABOUT YOUR DAILY TRAINING?

All training is interesting, because we work to achieve our goals. There's more monotony in the winter, though, when the training takes place indoors. In contrast, the summer is pure bliss, as we train on lakes.



Madara Palameika (29), Latvian javelin thrower

Madara Palameika holds the Latvian record in women's javelin throwing (66.15 metres) and currently ranks third in the world standings. She says that she wants to demonstrate the stability of her performance in Rio and to prove that she can achieve top results at the right time.

I like to dress up nicely and put on perfume before an important competition, as would be customary for a celebration. I believe this gives my profession the beauty and femininity that it deserves.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE COMPETITION IN YOUR LIFE?

Without a doubt my first Olympics in 2012 in London! That event gave me the goose bumps and was a dream come true!

WHAT IS THE MOST BORING THING ABOUT YOUR DAILY TRAINING?

To be honest, I always wince at extra speed intervals in my training runs.



Aleksandrs Samoilovs (right) and Jānis Šmēdiņš (left) are world-class beach volleyball players from Latvia

Aleksandrs Samoilovs (31) and Jānis Šmēdiņš (29), Latvian beach volleyball players

Aleksandrs Samoilovs and Jānis Šmēdiņš are Latvia's top beach volleyball players. Samoilovs and his previous volleyball partner Mārtiņš Pļaviņš represented Latvia at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, where they defeated the top-seeded American team (Phil Dalhausser and Todd Rogers) in their first game. This is remembered as "the biggest upset in Olympic beach volleyball history". (The American duo rallied after that humiliating loss and went on to win the gold medal in the Chinese capital.) Among Samoilovs' victories are the World Tour in 2013 and 2014 and the European Championship in 2015. Šmēdiņš and his previous partner (also Mārtiņš Pļaviņš) took part in the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, where they won the bronze medal. Šmēdiņš also won the bronze at the European Championship in 2010.

WHICH SPORTS COULD YOU NEVER IMAGINE YOURSELF PRACTICING?

Aleksandrs: Any of the winter sports. I've practiced only summer sports, and the whole idea of sports as such is linked to the sun and good weather for me. During the winter, summer sports players like me go on holidays to sunny places.

Jānis: Doing any kind of long distance or single-player sports, such as marathon running or racewalking. I cannot imagine anything more boring for myself than running for four or five hours in one go. I think that I could do any team sport involving balls, like basketball or football, but not any of the single-player ones.

WHAT WOULD YOU PURCHASE FOR YOUR COACH IF YOU WON A GOLD MEDAL IN RIO?

Aleksandrs: I might give him another grandchild as a present! [*Aleksandrs' coach is his dad, Genadijs Samoilovs. – Ed.*] But really, I think that the medal itself would be the best present for him.

Jānis: Half of my medal! He could keep it in his home for half of the year!

DO YOU CARRY OUT ANY RITUALS BEFORE AN IMPORTANT COMPETITION?

Aleksandrs: It is important for me to sit in silence for some time and relax. I might read a book. It is also important not to think too much about the upcoming game just before it.

Jānis: I don't have any special rituals as such, but I do go to the gym and lift some weights the day before, and I try to nap for a couple of hours on the same day, if possible.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST UNFORGETTABLE COMPETITION IN YOUR LIFE?

Aleksandrs: The Durban Open in South Africa in 2013. Nelson Mandela had just passed away, and the date of the semi-final and final games coincided with his memorial service. Thus, the games were pushed back one day to Saturday, December 14. Therefore, instead of two games each day, we had to play four games on the same day! We started at 6 AM and got to it, playing in 32-degree-Celsius heat, and we won!

Jānis: The London Olympics, where I got the bronze medal.

WHAT IS THE MOST BORING THING ABOUT YOUR DAILY TRAINING?

Aleksandrs: I don't like getting up early in the morning for my training sessions! That's why I really enjoy sleeping in on my days off and holidays.

Jānis: I don't really mind anything that the training involves, as long as the weather is warm and it's not raining. During the volleyball season there is less training and more games to play. The activities are quite diverse, so there is not much boredom at that time of year. Just give me sunny weather! **BO**

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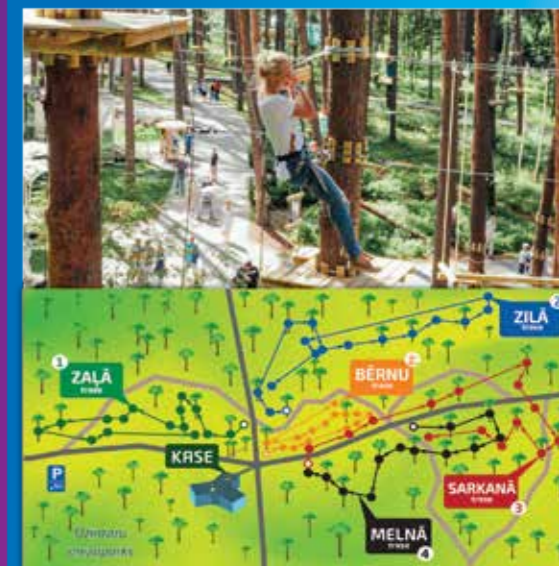
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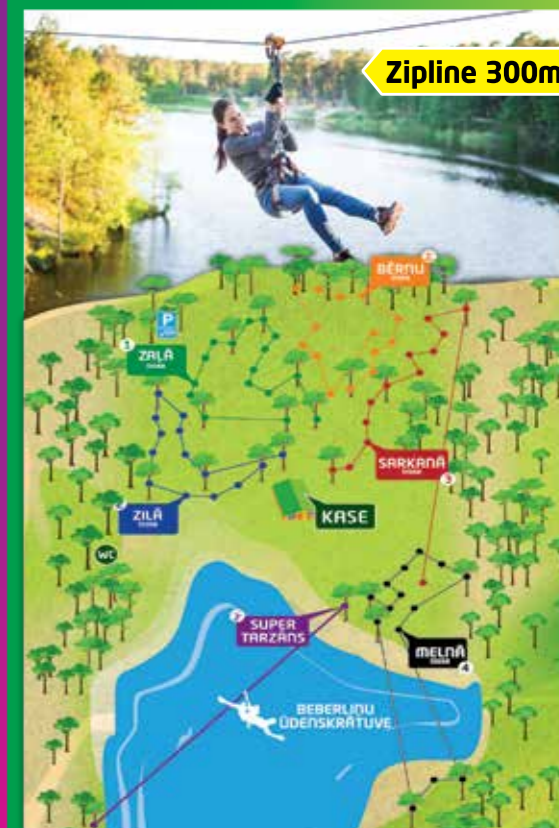
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Text by **AGRA LIEGE**
Photos by *Alamy* and from
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A BIGGER SPLASH

Whether you’re in Paris, London, Budapest or Reykjavík, summer means that it’s time to hit some swimming pools. We’ve compiled a list of some of the best places to swim in Europe.



The outdoor swimming pool at the *Hôtel Molitor* in Paris is a listed Art Deco historical monument



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PISCINE MOLITOR in Paris

Opened in 1929, the Molitor was the most popular swimming complex in Paris for six decades. Built with two pools, it regularly hosted gala events and had an unmistakable avant-garde vibe. The Molitor was closed in 1989 and listed as a historical site, but then turned into a monument of free expression, with graffiti artists converting the dilapidated premises into a massive urban art venue.

In 2014, the Molitor was given a second chance to perform its original function and once again became the number one in its field. It might not be as avant-garde as before, but it certainly is princely, and visitors to the winter and summer pools can continue to view art in the lavish MGallery collection rooms. A luxurious spa by *Clarins*, a restaurant developed by Yannick Alleno, a bar and terraces, along with sports halls and rooms for private hire are all within arm's reach, especially if you are a member of the Molitor's private club.

Bertrand Delanoë, the mayor of Paris from 2001 to 2014, undertook the commitment to reopen the Molitor. His office launched a call for projects in 2007, and *Colony Capital's* bid was selected a couple of months later. The architectural



team, lead by Sébastien Bazin, was amazed at the stunning building, in which Art Deco remnants had entwined with some of the great names of urban graffiti art. The Molitor required full reconstruction, and to preserve its authenticity as much as possible, the complex was rebuilt much as architect Lucien Pollen had imagined it in 1929.

The feeling of expanded space, light, life and holidays is brought about by the



Molitor's *raison d'être* – its pools. The 46-metre summer pool and the 33-metre winter pool are a rarity in Paris for their size alone, but there is more to them than their dimensions. The winter pool is sheltered by a huge glass roof and surrounded by blue booths on three levels, while the outdoor summer pool is heated all year round to 28°C and permits one to slip into happy oblivion all year round, regardless of the weather.

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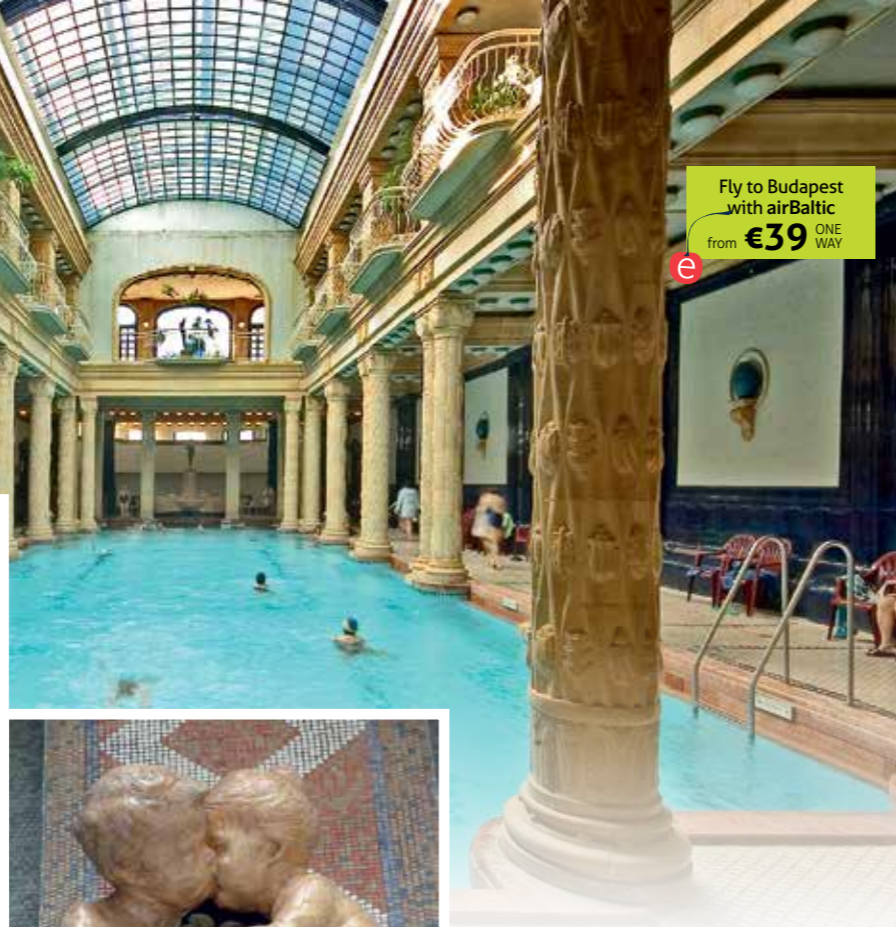
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GELLÉRT THERMAL BATHS AND SWIMMING POOLS in Budapest

The Gellért thermal bath and hotel opened its doors in 1918 and was expanded twice before the Second World War to accommodate additional facilities. A winter garden was built at the time of the hotel's opening, only to be transformed into a swimming pool later on. The complex was built in an Art Nouveau style and the pool areas are decorated with world-famous Hungarian Zsolnay ceramics and tiles, while the ten windows of the great hall are made out of stained glass from the atelier of Miksa Róth. Whenever the weather allowed it, the glass roof above the indoor swimming pool could be opened for the enjoyment of visitors.

To this day, the Gellért complex is one of the most popular thermal baths in Budapest. It has been highly favoured by foreigners and had 500,000 visitors last year. Before the Second World War, it hosted a truly exclusive clientele, including Dutch queen Juliana (who spent her honeymoon there), famous Indian author Rabindranath Tagore, American-born violinist Yehudi Menuhin, German theoretical physicist Werner Heisenberg and subsequent US president Richard Nixon. It was also a popular meeting place for Hungarian artists, actors and politicians.

Records of "miraculous" springs spurting up in Gellért extend back to the 1400s. There are approximately 1,000 natural spring water sources in Hungary, but these particular springs were a popular visiting spot for the Ottoman Turks in centuries past, since they were larger and hotter than most other hot springs popular in Budapest at that time. The site was named Sárszfűdő (Mud Bath) in the 17th century due to the fine silt that was pushed up



together with the spring water and settled at the bottom of the pools.

The Gellért complex has been upgraded over the years and adjusted to suit modern-day requirements. The swimming pools have been renovated and equipped with state-of-the-art water filtering and circulation devices, for example. Almost all the healing facilities can be used, and a separate department operates like a daytime outpatient hospital. The complex also has an inhalatorium, or room in which vapours are breathed in.



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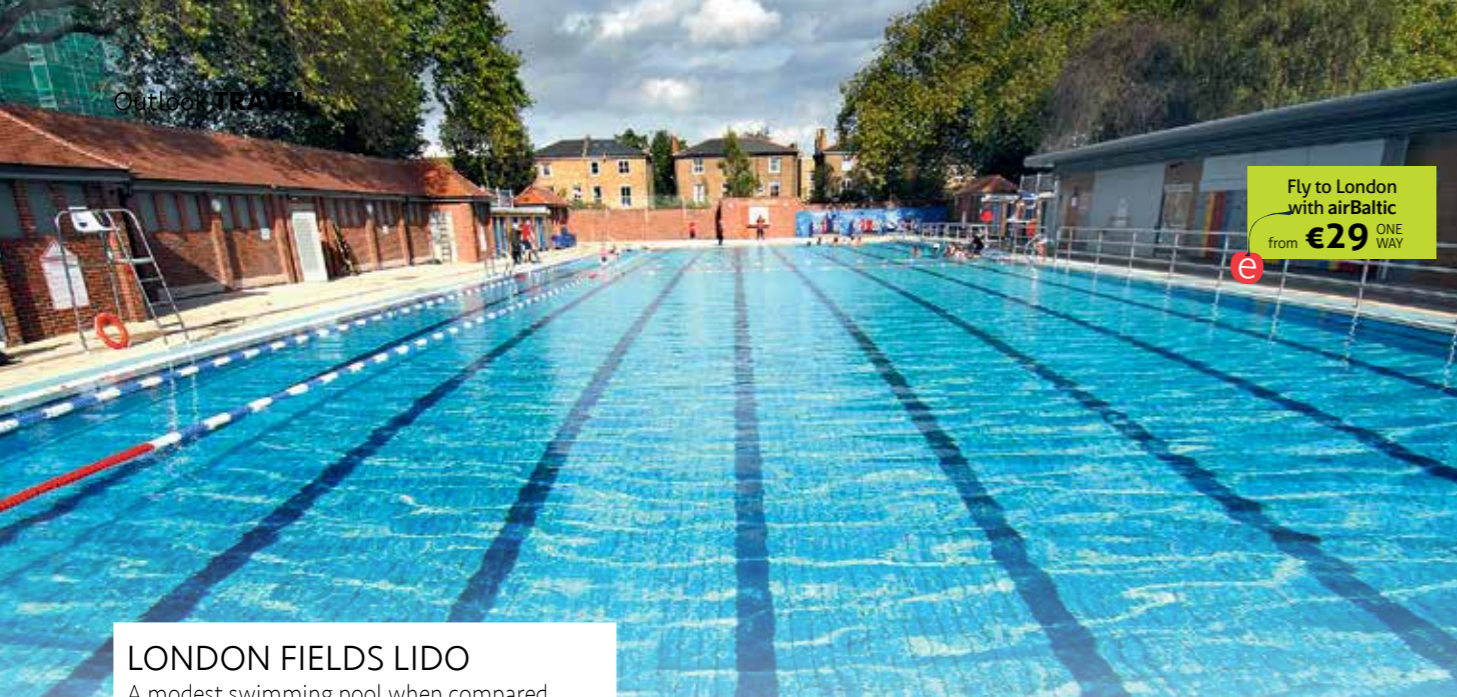


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LONDON FIELDS LIDO

A modest swimming pool when compared with its aggrandised peers, the London Fields Lido nevertheless offers a vast array of luxurious treats on top of just swimming around and is a masterpiece in its own right. Located in Hackney, East London, the Lido was originally opened in 1932 and closed in 1988. After 18 years of campaigning by the local community, the Lido reopened in 2006, with the municipal government investing 3 million pounds to restore the pool and preserve its original architectural style and feel.

The London Fields Lido is one of the few outdoor Olympic-sized swimming pools (50 metres) in the UK capital. It is heated and open to the public all year round, seven days a week, from 6:30 AM until 9 PM. Aside from lane swimming throughout the day, the facility offers swimming lessons for children and adults (including one-on-one swimming lessons) and swimfit sessions. The facilities include a café, a large sundeck and a sunbathing area.

The complex is strongly appreciated by the local community, being extensively used every month of the year. Group exercise classes at the Lido include yoga, water workouts and buggy-a-cise workouts for mothers with newborn babies. In 2014, floodlights were installed to allow for evening swimming and a special under-the-stars warm-water experience in the middle of one of the busiest and most hectic cities in Europe.

The London Fields Lido has been successful in helping to preserve a strong community vibe in an otherwise immense and scattered city by strengthening the neighbourhood's location-based identity. Older and younger generations bond together as they enjoy relaxing and health-improving quality time off in a tastefully rebuilt facility. **BO**



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BLUE LAGOON in Iceland

Named one of the 25 Wonders of the World in 2012 by *National Geographic*, Iceland's Blue Lagoon has evolved from a reservoir of geothermal runoff water into a wonder that is accessible to the whole world. The Blue Lagoon is located in a sprawling 800-year-old lava field in the heart of the Reykjanes Peninsula. The UNESCO Global Geopark is 20 minutes away from Keflavík International Airport and 50 minutes from Reykjavík, being easily accessible and remote at the same time. The unique properties of the waters offer an exclusive lagoon experience, while the silica, algae and minerals therein are used in skin care products that can be bought on site.

The history of the Blue Lagoon's development is as unique as the location itself. Within a short period of time, it has grown out of obscurity into the upper reaches of Icelandic tourism. In 1974, a local geothermal power company established the Svartsengi Geothermal Power Plant and began harnessing geothermal energy. A reservoir of steaming, milky blue seawater formed in the shadow of the plant and soon after, people suffering from psoriasis went there to bathe.



Word of the water's comforting powers spread, leading to the arrival of visitors who simply wanted to enjoy a nice swim in an exotic outdoor setting. The origins of the modern-day Blue Lagoon are to be found in 1987, when access to the waters was regulated and a bathhouse was built, topped with the launch of the *Blue Lagoon* skincare product line in 1995. In 1999, the lagoon

was moved from its original location by the power plant to its present spot in the heart of a nearby lava field. In 2005, the Blue Lagoon Clinic Hotel was opened, followed by another redesign and expansion of the facilities.

Today, the Blue Lagoon holds 9 million litres of geothermal seawater and covers 8,700 square metres. The average water depth is 1.2 metres, reaching a maximum depth of 1.6 metres. The water of the lagoon is sourced directly from the Svartsengi geothermal field, and its recirculation interval is 40 hours. On top of the pleasures of bathing in geothermal seawater, the lagoon also offers a sauna, a steam room, a waterfall, a luxury lounge, a café, an in-water silica bar and an in-water beverage bar as well as a tantalising selection of in-water massages and treatments.



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Driven: the new Porsche 911 Turbo S

Porsche's ballistic 911 Turbo S range-topper comes with a tweaked engine and turbos to deliver yet crazier performance. We drove it on the track at the Porsche Media Driving Academy in Istanbul.



Porsche and its turbochargers have been a contentious subject of late, but we'll leave that alone here. Whatever your standpoint, you'll know that since 1975, it's been possible to buy a 911 with forced induction. Ever since then, the Turbo has occupied the 911 range's top spot. Up until now, the T Turbo has been the pinnacle model, but now this S model is the cherry on top of that. The Turbo S has matured to produce some insane performance figures over the years. To give you an idea, Porsche's 1975 3.0 930 Turbo produced 260 hp and achieved 0-100 km/h in 5.5 seconds. Today's S puts out 580 hp and rips to 100 km/h from a standstill in just 2.9 seconds.

For 2016, the Turbo's 3.8-litre flat six has received modified inlet ports in its cylinder heads, new injection nozzles and higher fuel pressure, all to help it produce 20 hp more than it did before. The S then got new turbochargers to give it a further 40-hp power hike over the "standard" Turbo. The Turbo S has a price to go with its high-ranking status, too: more than 170,000 euros before options and taxes. It's a price that puts it in the same league as the similarly savage McLaren 570S and Audi R8, even if the way that the three cars go about their business differs markedly.

What's it like?

Little can prepare you for a 911 Turbo S launch control. Getting the car to top speed is as easy to do as playing a computer game. Sitting there with its flat six engine howling and turbos spooling with the knowledge that a simple twitch of the left foot will unleash hypercar performance is one thing, but actually experiencing it in the driver's seat is quite another.

There's a devastating amount of rear-wheel traction as the weight of the engine squats down and fires the Turbo S forward with brutal force. Turbo lag has been further reduced during spirited driving in the car's

Sport modes as well, because during short periods off the throttle, the turbochargers' thrust is maintained more effectively than before, meaning that the engine's response is more instant when jumping back on the gas.

A new 918-inspired rotary dial on the steering wheel allows you to choose between four driving modes, while at the centre of the dial is a Sport Response button. Press this, and regardless of what drive mode you are in, you get 20 seconds of maximum response from the engine and gearbox for overtaking. This button is also the most vivid expression of the Turbo S's Jekyll and Hyde characteristics, instantly transforming it from serene cruiser to a frothing-mouthed Mad Hatter.

Porsche's faithful PDK dual-clutch automatic gearbox remains standard fit and brilliantly executed. With Sport mode switched off and the car left to do its own thing, the engine is keen to change up and rely on the Turbo's large torque reserves. When sharpened up in racier driving modes, the car reacts staggeringly quickly to manual paddle pulls.

Standard, too, is all-wheel drive. Porsche's PASM adjustable suspension and PDCC chassis control system are part of the package, and the Turbo S benefits from standard ceramic-composite brakes. It all adds up to an immensely capable car on both road and track, although not necessarily the most invigorating.



PORSCHE 911 TURBO S FACTS

- 1 Price:** EUR 170,300 (without VAT)
- 2 Engine:** Six cylinders horizontally opposed, 3800 cc, turbocharged, petrol
- 3 Power:** 580 hp at 6,750 rpm
- 4 Acceleration:** 0-100 km/h: 2.9 seconds
- 5 Top speed:** 330 km/h
- 6 Gearbox:** Seven-speed dual-clutch automatic
- 7 Economy:** 9.1 l/100km (combined)

That sort of depends on how you like things. The Turbo S is, as we've said, missile-quick. It also steers with typically delicious Porsche-like precision, rides firmly but compliantly and stays nicely refined at all speeds if that's what you want. In short, it plays the comfortable cruiser and stable, assured soggy B-road blaster extremely well in equal measure.

However, this model's monumental grip doesn't allow for quite the same rear-drive adjustability that the best Porsches possess, and its performance is so great that you rarely get to enjoy its full capabilities on the road. Even so, for the many 911 Turbo buyers who use their cars daily in all types of weather, that will be just fine.

Just fine, too, will be the Turbo's interior, which is every bit as high-quality as that of any other 911 and slightly practical as well, with its two small rear seats. The front seats provide brilliant lateral support but are also comfortable on a long stint, while Porsche's latest PCM infotainment system was a much-needed addition that works very well in practice.

Should I buy one?

Porsche has once again created a staggeringly complete car in the Turbo S. It goes, stops and corners with amazing capability and goads you to try harder to catch it out – which is extremely hard to do. It manages to be fast, agile, comfortable and pleasingly luxurious, which is quite a feat. It truly is a svelte supercar that can be used every day – even more so than a 570S, and definitely more so than an R8.

Whether you save yourself around 25,000 euros and stick with the lesser Turbo is down to personal choice, because both are stupidly fast cars. However, we'd guess that most will spend the extra cash, given the genuine dynamic enhancements from which they'll benefit.

Is it the purest driver's car that Porsche makes? No, probably not. It's a marvellous point-and-shoot rocket ship without quite the involvement of Porsche's own rear-driven heroes or McLaren's efforts, but it would be ludicrous to deny that the Turbo S isn't anything other than a breathtaking experience in most other respects. **BO**

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Le Mans. Welcome to the league of top performers

Every year since 1999, *Audi* has taken up one of the greatest challenges in motor sports – the *24 Hours of Le Mans* car race. This June, the brand with the four rings took its place on the starting grid for the 18th time with the most powerful *Audi* race car ever built.

Photos by **BENNE OCHS**
and from publicity materials

The *24 Hours of Le Mans* might look like just

another car race at first glance, but it's not. On the stroke of three, the starting light flicks to green. This year, 56 cars surged down the start-finish straight in a closely packed group before disappearing over the crest of the Dunlop curve. Two hundred and fifty thousand spectators burst into frenetic cheers, making the air literally vibrate. As the field came back into view after the first lap, the preliminary race positions had been established.

From this point on, the focus was on full throttle, tactics, experience and skill. Each year, all of those involved in the race are taken to their absolute limit for 24 hours straight. The drivers hurtle down the Mulsanne straight at speeds of up to 340 kilometres per hour and must endure the most brutal braking deceleration five times per lap. The pit crew must perform a precisely choreographed ballet involving impact wrenches, fuel nozzles and polishing cloths during every tire change and must be wide awake in the event of unscheduled pit stops.

The engineers in the pit lanes are connected directly to the cars by means of telemetry links and monitor all vehicle data in meticulous detail. This demands the highest level of concentration, around the clock. Of course, everyone takes a break from time to time, but it's virtually impossible to get any proper sleep. Adrenaline levels take longer to wind down, which means that there's time for a brief snooze at most.

By the halfway point in the race at the latest, when the cars' headlights reach like fingers through the darkness and the glow of the hot brake disks is clearly visible as the cars approach the tight curves, most faces will be gray and deeply lined. It seems inconceivable that this could possibly continue for another twelve hours. But continue it does.

Veterans of Le Mans love the stint at sunrise above all. By this time, the field has thinned and there is a sense of the race being reset, both for the drivers and the pit crew. At the same time, the gnawing fear of a fault starts to grow. For the drivers and the team, there is no greater nightmare than fighting tirelessly for 20 hours to stay at the head of the field, only to then fall by the wayside. Engine noises are monitored with an increasing sense of unease, and the tires are checked with growing vigilance during fuel stops. Those who ultimately manage to cross the finish line after 24 hours are overwhelmed with a sense of joy that they find hard to put into words.

Own chapter in history

Audi has written its own chapter in the history of the *24 Hours of Le Mans*. The company's cars first competed at the event in 1999 and have been crowned overall winners 13 times to date. Since the classic race was first held in 1923, no other manufacturer has won so many titles over such a short period. Yet it's not just the company's sporting achievements that make for impressive reading. Time and again, *Audi* has also demonstrated its quintessential *Vorsprung durch Technik* (Progress through Technology) edge at Le Mans. That's because the 24-hour event doubles as a development and test lab. TFSI gasoline direct injection made its Le Mans debut in 2001, shortly before it entered series production at *Audi*.

Five years later came the next engine revolution, when *Audi* took to the starting grid at Le Mans with a diesel-powered car. Could an old-school diesel engine possibly hope to become the overall winner of what is probably the world's most gruelling race? The *Audi R10 TDI* with its mighty 5.5-litre and 12-cylinder engine proved beyond all doubt just how powerful and efficient diesel engines can be in motor sports. With substantially fewer refuelling stops than the gasoline-powered competition, *Audi* won not only in 2006, but also repeated the feat in the two following years.

In 2010, the successor model, the *Audi R15 TDI*, covered 5,410 kilometres in 24 hours, eclipsing the endurance classic's

39-year-old distance record. And it's a record that stands to this day. To put this in context, the total distance covered during the entire 2015 Formula One season was around 5,700 kilometres.

In addition to the physical challenge that the 24-hour event imposes on the competing teams, the endurance race along the Sarthe River has been closely associated with pioneering technological endeavours. Indeed, major changes to the LMP1 regulations in 2011, which reduced the 5.5-litre displacement permitted up until then to a maximum of just 3.7 litres, called for just such an endeavour and marked the beginning of a new era – also in visual terms – at *Audi Sport*.

To optimise aerodynamic efficiency, *Audi* replaced the previously used open race car with the *Audi R18 TDI*, which featured an enclosed cockpit. In so doing, it pulled off a masterstroke by achieving better lap times than with the preceding model despite the lower engine output, and once again it secured overall victory. Since then, all *Audi* LMP1 cars have borne the R18 code, to which a suffix was added soon after in 2012. The *Audi R18 e-tron quattro*, which used a V6 TDI power unit to drive the rear axle and a hybrid system to generate propulsion at the front axle, was the first hybrid sports car to win at Le Mans.

Fundamentally redesigned *Audi R18*

Audi Sport has fundamentally redesigned the *Audi R18* for the 2016 season. With more than 1,000 horsepower from the combination of TDI and hybrid drive, it is the most powerful race car that *Audi* has ever built – yet it uses less fuel than any of its predecessors. This was achieved by further optimising all the assemblies on this road-going rocket. The striking thin nose and heavily revised proportions of the front section and cabin reduce undesirable turbulence. The drive system has been significantly reorganised: On the new model, the rotating mass storage device previously used for energy recuperation has been replaced by a lithium-ion accumulator with a much higher energy storage capacity. Compared with the first hybrid race car

ENTER THE ENTHRALLING WORLD OF *AUDI*

The exclusive *Audi* sports car experience will take place in Latvia this year at the Bīķernieki race track and Riga Motor Museum for two weeks in August. Due to the track's historical heritage and local interest in the programme, Bīķernieki was one of the first places in the world where the *Audi* sports car experience was held 10 years ago. The pilot event launched the development of other *Audi* driving experiences all across the planet. Now, 10 years later, *Audi* sports cars are back in Riga with more than 15,000 hp. Thus, invited guests will get to experience *Vorsprung durch Technik* first hand and try out some of the company's sleekest sports cars in the company of instructors on the Bīķernieki race track.
#AudiSportRiga



FURTHER INFORMATION

LMP stands for Le Mans Prototype. The vehicles entered into this classic endurance event are the fastest closed-wheel race cars currently in use in WEC circuit racing. The *LMP1* represents the pinnacle of this vehicle class. Le Mans is the highlight of every WEC season, during which the world endurance championship crown is contested over a total of nine races. *Audi* has the most successful track record of any manufacturer competing in this series.

① audi-motorsport.com

of 2012, the electric output of the motor generator unit (MGU) has more than doubled from 150 to 350 kilowatts.

This year, Audi Sport Team Joest competed at Le Mans with two *Audi R18* cars. The two cockpits were operated by Marcel Fässler (Switzerland), André Lotterer (Germany) and Benoît Tréluyer (France) in car number seven and by Lucas di Grassi (Brazil), Loïc Duval (France) and Oliver Jarvis (UK) in car number eight. Between them, this year's drivers hold four world championship titles and ten Le Mans victories. To date, *Audi* has already claimed eight overall victories with TDI technology alone. On June 19, *Audi* placed third and fourth in the 24-hour race at Le Mans in front of 263,500 spectators, continuing its string of podium finishes in the iconic French endurance race.



AUDI SPORT RACING ACADEMY

This is where today's young talents are being moulded into tomorrow's bona fide racing drivers. The process of selecting the most promising young guns involves assessments and tests overseen by a jury that includes Sepp Haider, the head of the *Audi* race team, Dirk Spohr of *Audi Sport* customer racing, and sports car pilot Pierre Kaffer. The training programme covers basic aerodynamics, driving physics and personal fitness as well as how to deal with the media and sponsors. Naturally, the practical side of things is taken care of with plenty of time behind the wheel, tackling icy surfaces and taking test drives at the *Audi* driving experience centre in Neuburg an der Donau and on racetracks.

Alongside Vivien Keszthelyi, some of the academy's first students include 17-year-old South African Sheldon van der Linde and Nicklas Nielsen from Denmark. Racing runs in the van der Linde family. Sheldon entered his first kart race at the age of five and won the South African Junior Championships at nine. Over the last two years, he has dominated the national *VW Polo Cup*. In the medium term, he aims to use the *Audi TT Cup* as a springboard to get where his brother Kelvin already is – in the cockpit of an *Audi R8 LMS*.

Nineteen-year-old Nicklas Nielsen has no fewer than 16 years' karting experience under his belt and has won the *WSK Euro Series* and the *WSK Champions Cup*. Both van der Linde and Nielsen will be entering the *Audi Sport TT Cup* this year – the *Audi Sport* brand cup that forms part of the DTM ancillary programme.

① audi-motorsport.com

Three continents, 11 nations

The *Audi Sport TT Cup 2016* is part of the supporting programme for the DTM – Germany's most popular motor sports platform and one of the world's most prestigious racing series. A total of 125 male and female drivers representing

36 nations applied for a starting place. Sixteen international talents were selected and now receive the chance to demonstrate their skills in the *Audi* one-make cup. On top of this at every race come a maximum of eight changing guest starters, including

national and international celebrities.

The next competitions will be held from September 9-11 in Nürburgring (Germany), September 23-25 in Budapest (Hungary) and from October 14-16 in Hockenheim (Germany).



© Benne Ochs

HARDER. FASTER. BETTER. VIVIEN

HUNGARIAN VIVIEN KESZTHELYI IS YOUNG, AMBITIOUS AND BLISTERINGLY FAST. THE *AUDI SPORT* RACING ACADEMY AIMS TO HELP YOUNG GUNS LIKE HER VENTURE INTO PROFESSIONAL MOTOR SPORTS.

Karting was never Vivien's thing. At the tender age of 12, she saw her first motor car race. By 13, she was already behind the start line in a race car. At 14, she took third place in the overall rankings at the Salzburgring race track despite rolling the car eight times. Now 15 years old, Vivien Keszthelyi finds it "pretty weird" that she's still not allowed to drive on public roads. But she takes comfort that her parents are behind her every step of the way, and at least on the track she can really put the pedal to the metal.

"At my first race, I was the only girl among all these men. It felt a bit odd. In the end, I came fourth, and that's when I knew that this is my thing," recalls Vivien. "Last year on the Salzburgring circuit, I rolled the car eight times. At the very next race a week later, I won."

This year, Vivien is competing in the *Audi Sport TT Cup* race, going head-to-head with *Lamborghinis*. The racing version of the new *Audi TT*, with a weight of only 1,125 kilograms, delivers 228 kW (310 hp). By means of the push-to-pass function, the engine's output can be boosted by 22 kW (30 hp). The engine displacement is 1984 cc, whereas the torque is 420 nm.



© Benne Ochs

"It is a fantastic feeling to drive the *TT* race car. I got used to it quickly, but this season is still about preparing for long-term goals," says Vivien.

Thanks to the *Audi Sport* racing academy, she's confident that by being "faster through the corners," she'll make it onto the podium.

Sepp Haider, the *Audi* race team boss, adds: "Vivien surprised me the most. She's only 15, but unbelievably smart and totally cool. She has the *Audi TT Cup* firmly within her grasp." **BO**

To find out more about Vivien Keszthelyi, go to vivienkeszthelyi.com.

Army Economic Store,
February 1943. View from
Valņu iela

III GALERIJA CENTRS

FASHION SHOPPING CENTRE
SINCE 1938

Audēju iela 16, Old Riga
Opening hours: 10:00-21:00
① galerijacentrs.lv

The site where the *GALERIJA CENTRS* is located has historically hosted active trade. From the 13th to the 16th century, a commercial port was located there on the banks of the Rīdzene River, which is now covered by the cobblestones of the Old Town. The shopping centre's own origins date back to the autumn of 1919, when the *Army Economic Store* was established to supply goods to Latvia's soldiers, who were still fighting to consolidate the country's newly won independence. Another goal was to help combat rampant speculation.

Following the cessation of hostilities in 1920, the store's popularity soared. Its turnover increased rapidly, and eventually it

GALERIJA CENTRS – a shopping palace

The *GALERIJA CENTRS* is the only shopping centre in Riga that boasts a tradition-rich history and a location in the very heart of the Latvian capital – the Old Town. For almost a century, this has been a place to indulge in the elegance and charm of the latest fashions. The *GALERIJA CENTRS* regularly hosts exhibitions and also houses a permanent photo display on its history.



Historic
grand
staircase



View of the main entry and façade of
the *GALERIJA CENTRS* from the corner
of Audēju iela and Valņu iela

outgrew its premises. Thus, in 1936, construction commenced on a new and larger building. Since that store's opening in 1938, the *GALERIJA CENTRS* – which has borne various other names over the past decades – has not just been frequented by residents of Riga, but has also become a shopping mecca for visitors from all over Latvia and other countries.

LITTLE OLD TOWN MARKET

**RĪDZENES
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are welcome!

Most modern store in the Baltics

By 1940, the building housed the most extensive and modern department store in the Baltic States, with the first escalator in Riga, climate control, heated floors and many other innovations. In terms of contemporary architecture and fittings, the store ranked among the best in Europe. Even back then, visitors could avail themselves of beauty treatments in addition to everyday goods, and the upscale *Astoria* restaurant occupied the top floor. The store employed more than 800 people, for whose convenience a canteen, a dispensary, a sick bay and even a dental clinic had been set up. The store was so ahead of its time that even in the 1950s, a Czech trade delegation, seeking an appropriate socialist equivalent to the main department store in Prague, travelled throughout the European part of the Soviet Union without finding anything better.

Shortages and queues

During the postwar Soviet era (1945-1991), large numbers of people from other parts of the USSR flowed into Latvia and Riga became an economic tourism destination. This situation led to discontent among the local population, which faced a shortage of goods that were being bought by visitors. Queues formed at the store's entrance early in the morning and lists of customers were even drawn up. Struggles to obtain coveted products almost descended into brawls. Even though people had money, there were not enough goods to go around. There were also restrictions – the cheapest products were sold in limited numbers, while more expensive items gathered dust on the shelves.

Development for the future

In 1997, *Linstow Centre Management* took over as operator and developer of the store. In 2006, after extensive reconstruction



Portal of a former building
on Rīdzenes iela 15/17,
dating from 1902



Riga Central Department
Store. Women's hats and
perfume department, 1972



A view of Rīdzenes iela from the
third-floor passage, 2016



Pilaster capital with a caduceus, symbol
of Hermes, protector of merchants

works, Rīdzenes iela became the unifying axis of both new and historic buildings, and the *GALERIJA CENTRS* became the first shopping gallery in the Baltics with a glass roof.

A unique photo exhibition that presents events over a period of more than 75 years can be seen on the four flights of the original building's historic stairs. The exhibition features photographs from both private and public archives, starting from the laying of the building's foundation stone to the present day. The exhibition devotes particular attention to the building's architectural and interior elements. This gem of Riga's retail trade sector remains a significant historical landmark, and the fact that it is still open continues to delight numerous customers. **BO**

SHOPPING CENTRE TIMELINE

1919

The *Army Economy Store* (AES) – now known as the *Galerija Centrs* shopping centre – is founded by the Latvian army to supply goods to its soldiers.

1928

The AES is opened to the public.

1936

The conversion of the AES to a modern five-storey department store is initiated. Latvian president Kārlis Ulmanis attends the foundation-laying ceremony in September.

1938

Reconstruction works are completed. For a long time, the building houses the largest and most modern store in the Baltics.

1940

The AES is renamed the *Riga Central Department Store*.

1944-91

The *Riga Central Department Store* operates during the Soviet era, with restrictions on the sale of goods and shortages inherent to that period.

1997

Renovations. The lower two floors open their doors to the public in December, while the top three floors open in May of 1998.

2006

The building undergoes another large-scale reconstruction and extension. An annex is built, and Rīdzenes iela is turned into a glass-covered arcade. The complex also gets a new name – the *Galerija Centrs* shopping centre.

2008

The *Galerija Centrs* is recognised as the second-best shopping centre in Europe. It is the first time that a Latvian shopping centre receives a European Shopping Centre Award from the International Council of Shopping Centres.



Eating with the seasons

Feel your taste buds come alive at *KID**

Photos by
EDMUNDS BRENCIS
(Picture Agency)



Chef Kristaps Sīlis

Although one of Riga's most popular restaurants is named *KID**, adults will feel very much at ease there. Located in a stately building on Ģertrūdes iela for the past eight years, the restaurant is an elegant locale that stands out with culinary creativity in which local and seasonal products play a crucial role. *KID** offers sumptuous, leisurely breakfasts and splendid lunches, while during the evening hours, scores of gourmets converge in its inviting environment to chat over glasses of fine wine and enjoy superior European cuisine.

The consistently high quality of the food and the chef's creative approach have ensured that a growing number of regular clients visits the restaurant. *KID** stands for lightness and freshness in the menu, in the interior and in the ambience. Decorated in a refined yet simple Nordic style, *KID** draws local Rigans from nearby apartment blocks for breakfast, office workers for a quick and tasty lunch, lively companies of friends for dinner, and families with children for weekend brunches, during which plenty of entertainment opportunities are available for the kids. *KID** is also a popular destination for art aficionados, as new paintings by local artists regularly appear in the décor. For this reason, even a morning coffee ritual becomes a special event at *KID**.

While *KID** belongs to the same people who founded three other popular Riga restaurant chains – *Steiku Haoss*, *Ribs & Rock* and *MUUSU* – it carries a slightly different message than its kin, offering modern interpretations of classic European cuisine. *KID** is proud of the head of its kitchen, chef Kristaps Sīlis, who has accumulated a great deal of experience at the prestigious *Noma* restaurant in Copenhagen and at *Tom Aikens* in London.

Sīlis makes many of the restaurant ingredients himself on site, including the pasta and the ravioli. While working at world-class restaurants abroad, he became convinced that every dish and ingredient within it has to tell a story.

"Every meal that we serve comes across with a message. We want to create a cuisine that is elegant yet easy to grasp and not overly expensive. Visually, the dishes may look quite simple, but often they require a considerable degree of skill and knowledge to prepare," says the chef.

*KID** is open from 8 AM on weekday mornings and offers a large assortment of breakfast meals at affordable prices. Here one will find various kinds of porridge, salads and egg dishes, to name a few. Those who appreciate a hearty midday meal should try out the *KID** business lunch special, which consists of a delicious three-course meal for 9 euros.

To ensure that clients can enjoy the bounty of each season, Sīlis changes the restaurant menu



Tērbatas iela 41/43, Rīga
(entry from Ģertrūdes iela)
tel. (+371) 20268686
kid@restaurantkid.lv

① restaurantkid.lv
① facebook.com/restaurantKID
① instagram.com/restaurantKID
① twitter.com /restaurantKID

Open:
Mon.-Wed. 8:00-23:00
Thu.-Fri. 8:00-24:00
Sat. 10:00-24:00
Sun. 10:00-23:00



three times per year. This summer the chef recommends trying the chicken liver mousse with marinated rhubarb, chicken skin, marinated onions, pear jelly, sour cherry ice cream and hazelnut crumble. The wonderful taste of summer can also be appreciated in the colourful berry salad and marinated Baltic herring salad. For dessert, Sīlis suggests the cream of Jerusalem artichoke with dried Jerusalem artichokes, caramel milk chocolate mousse, white chocolate ice cream and almond crumble.

"This dessert was made from a tasty local root that had been forgotten and left out of restaurant kitchens for a long time. I can guarantee that this unusual dish will provide a fantastic taste experience to anyone who tries it," says Sīlis.



The food menu is complemented by a large selection of healthy cocktails on the drinks menu, permitting visitors to either personally select the ingredients for specially made vitamin smoothies or to follow the recommendations of the chef. *KID** has also made sure to take the needs of vegetarians into account with a number of dishes prepared especially for them. The kids' menu, for its part, features attractively presented children's meals.

Those who dine regularly at *KID** will be pleased to learn that the restaurant also prepares meals for house parties. If you want to celebrate a special event in your home, then Sīlis and his team can create a delectable array of appetisers, salads, meat and fish dishes and desserts for you and your guests. This option is perfect for those who lack the wherewithal or the



time to prepare a gourmet meal and is priced starting at 19 euros per person.

Although Sīlis' outstanding cuisine may be the restaurant's main trump card, the pleasant interior and relaxed atmosphere at *KID** also draw many visitors. During the summer months, *KID** boasts one of the largest and most beautiful summer terraces in the city.

Starting from the last weekend in August, make sure to try the Sunday brunch. It is a gourmet's dream, due to the large number of mouth-watering dishes that are available, including Mediterranean seafood and cakes baked by Sīlis himself. Furthermore, the brunch is as family-friendly as can be, for it is said that Pippi Longstocking herself has been seen to entertain the kids there. **BO**





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Restaurants, bars and cafés

Text by **AGRA LIEGE**
Photos by **GATIS GIERTS**
(Picture Agency)

Culinary hotspots in Riga

A guide to the best restaurants, cafés and eateries



ENTRESOL

Latvian tapas called "knapas"

The man behind the newly opened *Entresol* restaurant is one of the most award-winning chefs in Latvia, Raimonds Zommers, who finally has his own place to work in. His establishment is in a good location, with seven hotels close by, and is housed in a historical building. In French, *entresol* refers to a low storey between the ground floor and the first floor, and the main hall of this restaurant

really can be found on the entresol floor.

The interior looks pretty good, with white tablecloths and other upper-class stuff in the entresol part, and a less formal ground floor with different kinds of furniture and lamps. The locale seems to exude a slightly pretentious aura, but that is something that one can live with, as the main reason to visit is the food. Zommers and his team have invented a new word in Latvian: *knapas* – a merger between the Spanish *tapas* (appetisers, snacks) and the

Latvian *knapas* (scant, scarce). Hence, *Entresol's* specialty is small starters. The good thing about this is that since the *knapas* are small, you can try out more flavours.

One will cost you EUR 4.00, while the recommended three will rid you of EUR 9.00. If you're up for a flavoursome tasting session, then get six *knapas* for two people and see what the French-style local delicacies are all about. They taste quite good.

Address: Elizabetes iela 22
Open: Mon.-Sun.: 12:00-23:00
① entresol.lv



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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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PER SÉ
Mediterranean classics
One of the best things about *Per sé* is probably its location in the middle of Riga's Old Town. When you have been walking around this jewel of a city and your feet have gotten tired, then *Per sé* is a nice place to step into, and during the summer season, the outdoor terrace is pretty enticing as well.
People sometimes go to places for other reasons than food. For example, I would certainly visit *Per sé* to enjoy a slow glass of red wine on a warm summer evening, or snuggle in a soft blanket at one of the outside tables if the weather gets chilly. Plenty of times, this is a compelling reason to stop at a place in the Old Town – just to enjoy the

view, the chatter, and to watch the people passing by.
Regarding the cuisine, I was a bit disappointed by the mozzarella with tomatoes and pesto genovese sauce, and I couldn't figure out why. You should be fine, though, if you try the grilled venison rack with baked vegetables, forest mushrooms and cranberry sauce for a big hunger (EUR 23.50), or the *foie gras* with caramelised berries for the small pangs (EUR 10.90). For dessert, take the warm chocolate fondant with ice cream (EUR 5.90) or the *pan di Spagna* with wild berries and *francese* cream (EUR 5.90).
Or just go there for the glass of wine that I mentioned before, as the restaurant's carefully selected wines are said to be pretty good. They

come from the Mediterranean, just like most of the time-tested classic dishes on the food menu.
Per sé is a decent and non-pretentious enough place for a romantic dinner, that's for sure. And when it's no longer summer – or if it's gotten a bit too cold to enjoy the outdoor terrace – then grab a table for two by the window, where most of the benefits of the terrace will still be available to you. The staff members are really friendly and unnoticeable too, which these days is not a small thing to ask for. So much so that I'm starting to think that the disappointing mozzarella might have been a one-off...
Address: Smiļšū iela 2
Open: Mon.-Sun.: 10:00-23:00
①perse.lv

Gunārs Kirsons

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Malta

1/ Plan your sunny autumn getaway now

2/ Fly for EUR 69 round-trip this winter

3/ Charter flights to holiday resorts with *Tez Tour*

4/ Get more with a group ticket

5/ We take care of your children if they need to travel alone

1/ Plan your sunny autumn getaway now

Prolong your summer and book a flight to one of our sunny destinations in southern Europe.

Until the end of September, *airBaltic* flights depart from Riga to the Croatian cities of **Dubrovnik** and **Rijeka**, as well as Greece's second largest city **Thessaloniki** and three fantastic holiday islands – **Malta**, **Mallorca** (Palma) and **Sardinia** (Olbia).

You can also catch an *airBaltic* flight to **Nice**, the ever popular city on the French Riviera, until the end of October.

Throughout the winter when it's cold up north, you can warm yourself up in **Tel Aviv**, Israel, and **Larnaca** on the island of Cyprus. In both places, the Mediterranean waters are warm enough to swim in until December! Alternatively, visit **Barcelona** or **Rome** to enjoy a meal in an outdoor restaurant while it's already snowing in the Nordic and Baltic countries.

Book your autumn holidays now through airbaltic.com. One-way ticket prices start at 69 EUR.



Shopping in Berlin, C'est tout

2/ Fly for EUR 69 round-trip this winter

Even if most of us don't look forward to winter, it will arrive anyway, so why not make the most of it and brighten up the cooler months with a nice city break or shopping trip?

airBaltic is offering specially low-priced tickets for travel during the autumn and winter to the biggest European metropolises like **London**, **Berlin**, **Milan**, **Copenhagen** and many more.

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In cooperation with leading tour operator *Tez Tour*, *airBaltic* is offering charter flights until mid-October to sunny holiday destinations like **Rimini** (once per week), **Heraklion** (twice per week) and **Antalya** (three times per week).

Charter passengers are offered a meal on board in Economy Class as well as the opportunity to travel in Business Class with all the inherent privileges, like access to business lounges, additional privacy and exclusive dining and drinks on board.

To find out more and book a charter holiday, visit teztour.lv.



4/ Get more with a group ticket

If you are planning to travel with a group of friends and family members, then consider buying group tickets. The offer applies to groups of eight people or more and provides a lot of privileges.

You can book your group tickets without the passenger names and add these later, up to 24 hours before your departure. And you do not need to pay the whole amount when booking, but can split the payment in parts until one month before your departure. Another advantage is flexibility. If your travel plans change, then you can adjust your flight date and time.

One checked bag is included for each passenger. Bigger groups of at least 20 passengers can request one free flight ticket for the group leader (only airport taxes must be covered).

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airBaltic welcomes the new *Bombardier CS300* aircraft

Only a few months remain until the first new *Bombardier CS300* aircraft join *airBaltic's* fleet.

Captain Gerhard Ramcke, the airline's chief CS300 pilot, and First Officer Javier Camarasa Valiente, an *airBaltic* pilot and Training Centre instructor, visited Mirabel, Canada, in May to meet with *Bombardier* engineers and technicians. As the final touches are added to the first consignment of these ultramodern planes, Ramcke is overseeing their transfer to Riga.

Once all of the 20 new CS300 aircraft are in operation, *airBaltic* will own the youngest fleet amongst Europe's airlines, with the average age of its planes decreasing from a bit less than 12 years to 2.5 years. It's a perfect fit for *airBaltic*.

"The CS300 is a state-of-the-art aircraft. Instead of modifying older designs and upgrading previous models like other manufacturers do, *Bombardier* started from a sketch. That's why the *C Series* has a beautiful design both inside and out, excellent aerodynamics, the newest materials and the most advanced avionics," says Camarasa.

What will the CS300 bring to *airBaltic* passengers? Captain Ramcke emphasises three things that will take their travel experience to a new level:

"First of all, it is a modern and new cabin interior. Secondly, extra space in the cabin in general, in the middle seat and in the overhead luggage bin. Thirdly, the reward of flying in an aircraft that produces less noise and fewer emissions from fuel burn."

The cabin of the new CS300 feels even more spacious than Camarasa had envisioned:

"The seat configuration is in rows of two and three seats, which could seem a little strange in the beginning. However, this permits a wider aisle and small details that I love, like how the middle seat is wider than the two on each side of it. This way, you will never have to worry about being squeezed in between two other people."

The CS300 is a great example of future engineering, in which humans simply oversee the computers that handle the principal operations. Pilots can thus focus on the essentials and monitor the safe and efficient progress of the flight. First Officer Javier Camarasa Valiente explains:

"For me as a pilot, the most important feature is the Fly-by-wire system. The Fly-by-wire computer operates between the pilot controls (side stick in the CS300) and the aerodynamic control surfaces of the wings and tail. This makes flying much easier for the pilots. Even on a beautiful day, the soil heated by the sun creates updraft air currents, and light winds altered by mountains, trees or human constructions can become a bit turbulent. In an airplane with conventional controls, the pilot has to deal constantly with these factors, especially close to the ground when the aircraft is taking off or landing. In the CS300, the Fly-by-wire does this for the pilot, automatically applying all of the small but necessary corrections to maintain the desired flight path and simultaneously monitoring how the pilots are flying, so it will never allow a plane to go inadvertently beyond its limits.

Ramcke agrees that the biggest challenge for pilots will become data processing:

"Since the aircraft is very easy to fly and handle, it is side work like data management that might be challenging for pilots coming from aircraft like *Boeing*, which are two generations older."



Captain Gerhard Ramcke, Chief Pilot of CS300 and the Chief Flight Instructor of CS300, with Captain Artis Riekstins



First Officer Javier Camarasa Valiente

The *C Series* has a beautiful design both inside and out, excellent aerodynamics, the newest materials and the most advanced avionics

Finally, when it comes to where they would take the CS300 on their first flight, Ramcke says:

"I would fly outbound to a place where we could show the world that *airBaltic*, with its green tailfins, is the first company to fly the most modern single-aisle passenger jet in the world."

Camarasa's first flight would be inbound:

"On my first flight, it would be nice to fly back to Riga, the first home base of the CS300 in the world."

This means that we already have a perfect pilot team for the first flights from the new base of the CS300 – Riga, Latvia. **BO**

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Make your travel more enjoyable with our customisable extra services. Save money by booking these options together with your flight ticket or anytime later up to shortly before takeoff.

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Hate waiting in line? Save time with airport priority services that start at just EUR 14.99. Depending on the airport, you may be able to check in at the Business Class counter, use the priority baggage drop-off point or avoid the security lines with fast-track service. Business Premium FREE

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If you need a bit more room to catch up on work or relax comfortably, then consider booking your neighbouring seat for upcoming flights. Block the extra seat in your same flight class for the net fare and save on airport taxes. Book this service through the *airBaltic* Call center or Ticket office. Business FREE

Shop for in-flight surprises

airbalticshop.com offers a wide array of high-end products for your in-flight experience. Celebrate a special occasion on board with roses, cake and champagne, or take advantage of incredible deals on fragrances, jewellery and souvenirs. Your items will be delivered during your flight, allowing you to carry them on to your destination.

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Choose from over 70 different meal options and pre-order up to 24 hours before departure at airbalticmeal.com. You will be among the first to be served and will get exactly what you want.

Sky Brunch

Pre-order our special offer till the end of August for any of your upcoming flights!



EUR 9.90
~~15.00~~

Breakfast offers

From EUR 8

For morning flights, the breakfast menu offers fresh and nutritious meals. Try pancakes with fresh berries and jam, omelette with ham and goat cheese, fresh seasonal fruit plate or set of hot oatmeal, muesli and pancakes. All of these are served with a croissant and a choice of drink.

Kids' menu

From EUR 8

Our youngest passengers can choose healthy and fun meals such as chicken nuggets in the sky, happy forest or funny pirate fish sticks from the special kids' menu. These are served together with a Barni biscuit, a Kinder Surprise egg, a yoghurt and juice.



Lunch and dinner

From EUR 12

A wide range of wholesome meat and seafood meals is available. Among our passengers' favourites are the Latvian-style chicken breasts, the grilled tiger prawns with pasta, and the pork medallions with potatoes, to name just a few. Once you have selected your preferred main course, you have an option to choose from up to eight different starters and eight delicious deserts, as well as add a drink of your choice (water, juice or wine), with all this included in the price!

Dietary and special meals

From EUR 8

airBaltic offers a wide selection of specially prepared meals for different dietary and religious requirements, including gluten-free, low calorie, diabetic, low cholesterol, raw, vegetarian, Hindu and vegan dishes.

Salads

From EUR 7

Our salads section contains nine fresh and summery choices to suit different tastes, such as the Salade niçoise, the Caesar salad with chicken or prawns, and the countryside salad. These can be combined with water, juice or wine.

Celebrate during the flight

For special occasions, pre-order one of three delicious cakes and add to the festive feeling with sparkling wine or champagne that will be served while you are flying at 800 km/h. Or surprise someone special with a bouquet of roses that will be presented by our flight attendants during the flight.



Take along your sports equipment!

34.99€
per direction

The given price applies to one set of sports equipment per direction if booked together with flight ticket at airBaltic.com.

airBaltic.com





Join *airBaltic's* loyalty program pins

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 at 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.

The 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 two, are issued with a special ***airBaltic* PINS Young Pilot card**, which also allows 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

Let your kids collect pins

Children are welcome to start collecting PINS as soon as they reach two years of age and are enrolled in the program by their parents or legal guardians. The youngest members are issued with a special *airBaltic* PINS Young Pilot card, which allows children to collect PINS in the same way as adults.

airBaltic PINS Young Pilot cards do not have an expiry date. They can be exchanged for a standard PINS card on request when a child reaches 12 years of age.

Young Pilots can exchange their PINS for the same rewards that are available to any PINS member. On behalf of the child, PINS can also be redeemed by a Young Pilot's parents or guardians.

From time to time, Young Pilots will be provided with special exclusive PINS offers.

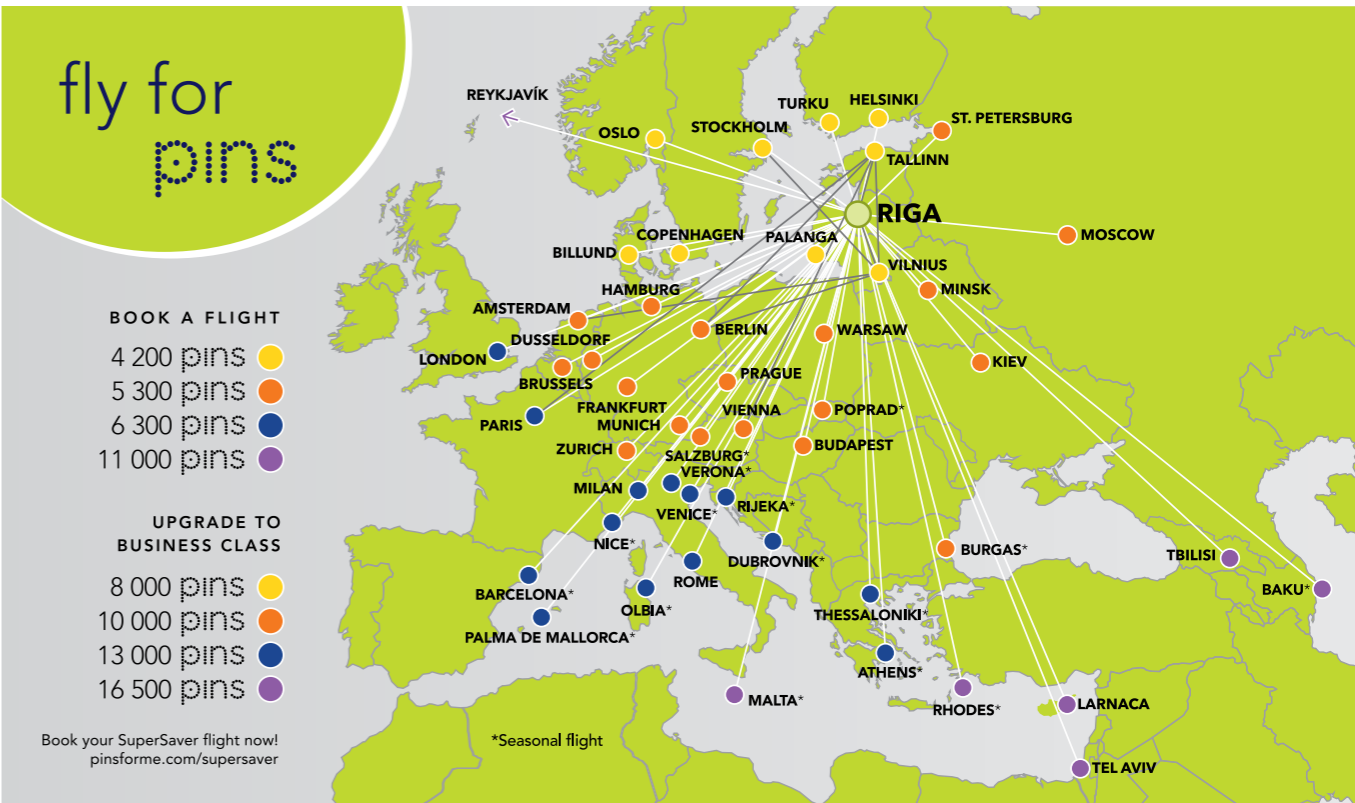


How to spend

Spend PINS on *airBaltic* flights, electronics, gift cards and other rewards from a great selection of products available at the PINS Rewards Shop.

Spend on *airBaltic*

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



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

* Seasonal flight

Offers for collecting pins

5 pins
for € / £ spent

Valid until August 31, 2016

1500 pins
for car rental

Valid until August 31, 2016

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+
500 pins
for hotel stay

Valid until August 31, 2016

up to
30% OFF
book direct
at hilton.com

Valid until September 2, 2016

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.

Tips for spending your pins



Cinema Tickets
from 1020 pins



Water Entertainment
from 1665 pins



airBaltic Flights
from 4200 pins



EK Airbeds
7950 pins

and many more at spend.pinsforme.com

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

Fly to Africa via heart of Europe!



Photo by David Berkowitz
Flickr.com

airBaltic is proud to cooperate with Brussels Airlines, Belgium’s leading airline. Together we offer nine flights per week between Riga and Brussels, and four flights per week between Vilnius and the Belgian capital.

Visit Brussels for its creamy chocolates, scrumptious waffles and tasty mussels. And of course, for its famous comic book characters, which include Tintin, The Smurfs and Lucky Luke. These and other comic book heroes are showcased at the Belgian Comic Strip Centre. At Le Grand Place, one of the most beautiful squares in all of Europe, you can take part in important debates, such as: “Which truffle is better? Godiva or Leonidas?”

From the EU capital, fly further with Brussels Airlines to over 90 fantastic destinations in Europe, North America and Africa. The most popular among Baltic travellers are cities in Spain, France, Portugal, the UK and especially

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It is easy to transfer between airBaltic and Brussels Airlines flights. Just follow the signs for «Connecting flights» and the signs for gates A and B. The standard flight connecting time is 50 minutes.

Two ticket types for your convenience
When booking connecting flights with airBaltic’s partner airlines, you can choose between two ticket types: Premium Economy with one piece of checked luggage, airport check-in and fast-track security control at Riga International Airport; and Business Class with a full range of services and flexibility.

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Founded	2002
Alliance	STAR ALLIANCE
Slogan	We go the extra smile
Hub	Brussels Airport
Fleet	50 aircraft
Destinations	92



Why book connecting flights together?
Booking connecting flights together in one ticket is the safest and most reliable way of air travel. Both airlines assume the responsibility for your connection and for taking you to your final destination, which means that you don’t have to worry about delays, or missing flight connections that are an airline’s fault or getting your luggage from one flight to the other.


Book your journey in one go at airbaltic.com or brusselsairlines.com.

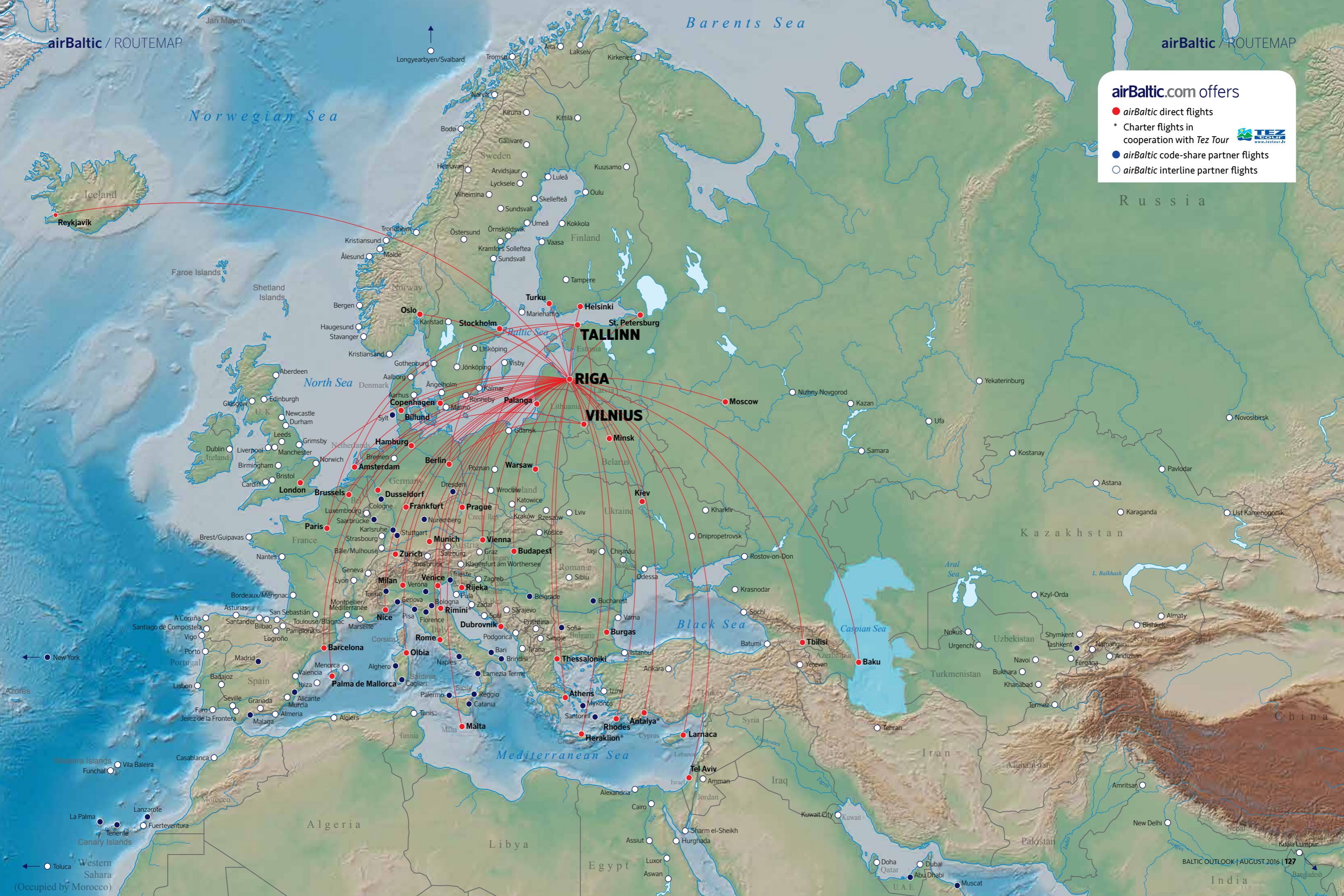
airBaltic codeshare partners

Flights from RIGA						Flights to RIGA					
Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure	Arrival	Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure	Arrival
AMSTERDAM						AMSTERDAM					
BT 617	RIX	AMS	123456-	07:40	09:05	BT 618	AMS	RIX	123456-	10:20	13:35
BT 619	RIX	AMS	12345-7	16:25	17:50	BT 620	AMS	RIX	12345-7	18:55	22:10
ATHENS						ATHENS					
BT 611	RIX	ATH	1--5--	23:15	02:35+1	BT 612	ATH	RIX	-2---6-	03:15	06:35
BAKU						BAKU					
BT 732	RIX	GYD	--3---7	23:55	04:50+1	BT 733	GYD	RIX	1-4---	06:05	09:15
BARCELONA						BARCELONA					
BT 681	RIX	BCN	-----7	06:10	09:00	BT 682	BCN	RIX	-----7	09:35	14:15
BT 683	RIX	BCN	-2-4-6-	12:45	15:30	BT 684	BCN	RIX	-2-4-6-	17:20	22:00
BERLIN Tegel						BERLIN Tegel					
BT 211	RIX	TXL	123456-	07:40	08:35	BT 212	TXL	RIX	123456-	09:40	12:30
BT 213	RIX	TXL	12345-7	18:05	19:00	BT 214	TXL	RIX	12345-7	19:35	22:25
BILLUND						BILLUND					
BT 147	RIX	BLL	12345-7	12:20	13:20	BT 148	BLL	RIX	12345-7	14:40	17:30
BRUSSELS						BRUSSELS					
BT 601	RIX	BRU	12345--	06:25	08:20	BT 602	BRU	RIX	12345--	09:05	12:50
BT 607	RIX	BRU	-----6-	12:10	14:05	BT 608	BRU	RIX	-----6-	14:35	18:20
BT 603	RIX	BRU	1-4--7	16:25	18:20	BT 604	BRU	RIX	1-4--7	18:50	22:35
BUDAPEST						BUDAPEST					
BT 491	RIX	BUD	12-45-7	12:20	13:45	BT 492	BUD	RIX	12-45-7	14:15	17:30
BURGAS						BURGAS					
BT 755	RIX	BOJ	--3--6-	16:00	18:40	BT 756	BOJ	RIX	--3--6-	19:25	22:00
COPENHAGEN						COPENHAGEN					
BT 131	RIX	CPH	123456-	07:30	08:10	BT 132	CPH	RIX	123456-	08:50	11:25
BT 135	RIX	CPH	1234567	12:30	13:10	BT 136	CPH	RIX	1234567	14:55	17:30
BT 139	RIX	CPH	12345-7	18:25	19:05	BT 140	CPH	RIX	12345-7	19:40	22:15
DUBROVNIK						DUBROVNIK					
BT 497	RIX	DBV	-2---6-	15:30	17:10	BT 498	DBV	RIX	-2---6-	18:15	22:00
DUSSELDORF						DUSSELDORF					
BT 233	RIX	DUS	-----7	12:00	13:40	BT 234	DUS	RIX	-----7	14:10	17:40
BT 233	RIX	DUS	12345--	15:10	16:50	BT 234	DUS	RIX	12345--	17:25	20:55
FRANKFURT						FRANKFURT					
BT 243	RIX	FRA	-----6-	08:00	09:25	BT 246	FRA	RIX	1234567	18:45	22:20
BT 245	RIX	FRA	12345-7	16:25	18:10						
HAMBURG						HAMBURG					
BT 251	RIX	HAM	12345--	07:15	08:20	BT 252	HAM	RIX	12345--	08:50	11:45
BT 255	RIX	HAM	-----6-	12:20	13:25	BT 256	HAM	RIX	-----6-	14:25	17:20
BT 253	RIX	HAM	12345-7	18:05	19:10	BT 254	HAM	RIX	12345-7	19:40	22:35
HELSINKI						HELSINKI					
BT 301	RIX	HEL	123456-	07:40	08:45	BT 326	HEL	RIX	123456-	05:40	06:40
BT 303	RIX	HEL	12345-7	14:55	16:00	BT 302	HEL	RIX	1234567	10:20	11:20
BT 307	RIX	HEL	1234567	18:20	19:25	BT 304	HEL	RIX	12345-7	16:30	17:30
BT 325	RIX	HEL	1234567	23:05	00:10+1	BT 308	HEL	RIX	1234567	21:10	22:10
KIEV						KIEV					
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BT 402	RIX	KBP	-----6-	12:30	14:20	BT 403	KBP	RIX	-----6-	15:15	17:10
BT 404	RIX	KBP	12345-7	18:15	20:05	BT 405	KBP	RIX	12345-7	20:35	22:30
LARNACA						LARNACA					
BT 657	RIX	LCA	1---6-	23:55	03:45+1	BT 658	LCA	RIX	-2---7	05:15	09:15
LONDON Gatwick						LONDON Gatwick					
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BT 651	RIX	LGW	---4-6-	07:55	08:45	BT 652	LGW	RIX	12--5--	10:10	14:55
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BT 653	RIX	LGW	12345-7	15:55	16:45						
MALTA						MALTA					
BT 739	RIX	MLA	-----7	22:50	01:30+1	BT 740	MLA	RIX	1-----	02:10	06:50
MILAN Malpensa						MILAN Malpensa					
BT 629	RIX	MXP	123456-	07:30	09:15	BT 630	MXP	RIX	12345--	10:05	13:45
						BT 630	MXP	RIX	-----7	18:20	22:00
MINSK						MINSK					
BT 412	RIX	MSQ	1-3---7	12:50	14:00	BT 413	MSQ	RIX	1-3---7	14:35	15:45
MOSCOW Sheremetyevo						MOSCOW Sheremetyevo					
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BT 428	RIX	SVO	12345-7	13:00	14:40	BT 425	SVO	RIX	123456-	09:50	11:35
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BT 426	RIX	SVO	12345-7	23:15	00:55+1	BT 423	SVO	RIX	12345-7	20:40	22:25
MUNICH						MUNICH					
BT 221	RIX	MUC	123456-	07:45	09:25	BT 222	MUC	RIX	12345--	10:10	13:40
BT 225	RIX	MUC	-----6-	12:15	13:55	BT 226	MUC	RIX	-----6-	14:45	18:15
BT 223	RIX	MUC	12345-7	17:35	18:50	BT 224	MUC	RIX	12345-7	19:30	22:35
NICE						NICE					
BT 695	RIX	NCE	-2-4-6-	15:45	17:50	BT 696	NCE	RIX	-2-4-6-	18:25	22:25
OLBIA						OLBIA					
BT 655	RIX	OLB	-----6-	15:25	17:40	BT 656	OLB	RIX	-----6-	18:20	22:35
OSLO						OSLO					
BT 151	RIX	OSL	123456-	08:05	09:00	BT 152	OSL	RIX	123456-	09:25	12:15
BT 159	RIX	OSL	1234567	12:30	13:25	BT 160	OSL	RIX	1234567	14:30	17:20
BT 153	RIX	OSL	12345-7	18:05	19:00	BT 154	OSL	RIX	12345-7	19:25	22:15
PALANGA						PALANGA					
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BT 033	RIX	PLQ	12345-7	23:05	23:50	BT 036	PLQ	RIX	1-3-5--	13:35	14:20
PALMA DE MALLORCA						PALMA DE MALLORCA					
BT 687	RIX	PMI	-----7	08:00	10:50	BT 688	PMI	RIX	-----7	11:40	16:20
PARIS Charles de Gaulles						PARIS Charles de Gaulles					
BT 691	RIX	CDG	123456-	07:30	09:25	BT 692	CDG	RIX	123456-	10:10	13:55
BT 693	RIX	CDG	1-3-5-7	16:00	17:55	BT 694	CDG	RIX	1-3-5-7	18:40	22:25
PRAGUE						PRAGUE					
BT 481	RIX	PRG	1234567	12:30	13:40	BT 482	PRG	RIX	1234567	14:30	17:35
REYKJAVIK						REYKJAVIK					
BT 169	RIX	KEF	--3--6-	08:30	09:35	BT 170	KEF	RIX	---4--7	08:10	14:55
RHODES						RHODES					
BT 597	RIX	RHO	-----5--	07:25	11:00	BT 598	RHO	RIX	-----5--	11:40	15:20

Flights from Riga						Flights to Riga					
Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure	Arrival	Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure	Arrival
RIJEKA						RIJEKA					
BT 495	RIX	RJK	1-----	08:00	09:25	BT 496	RJK	RIX	1-----	10:05	13:30
BT 495	RIX	RJK	----5--	16:55	18:20	BT 496	RJK	RIX	----5--	19:00	22:25
ROME Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino						ROME Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino					
BT 633	RIX	FCO	1-----	13:00	15:05	BT 634	FCO	RIX	1-3-5--	17:50	22:00
BT 633	RIX	FCO	--3-5--	13:35	15:40						
STOCKHOLM Arlanda						STOCKHOLM Arlanda					
BT 101	RIX	ARN	123456-	07:10	07:25	BT 102	ARN	RIX	123456-	08:00	10:15
BT 105	RIX	ARN	12345--	12:05	12:20	BT 106	ARN	RIX	12345--	12:50	15:00
BT 107	RIX	ARN	1234567	14:50	15:05	BT 108	ARN	RIX	1234567	15:35	17:45

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- * Charter flights in cooperation with Tez Tour 
- airBaltic code-share partner flights
- airBaltic interline partner flights



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airBaltic in 2015

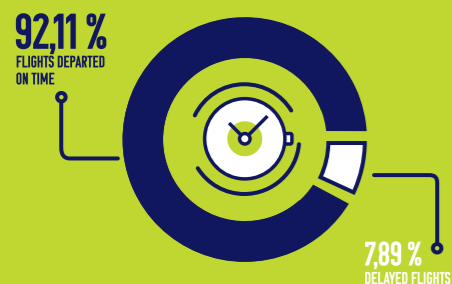
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By post:

Air Baltic Corporation / Tehnikas iela 3 / Rīga LV-1053, Latvia

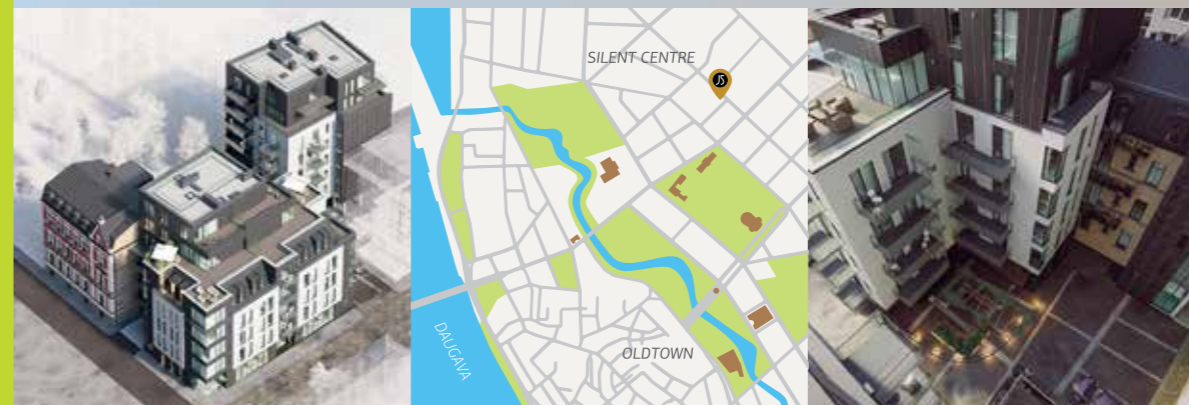
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