

# baltic outlook

DECEMBER 2012

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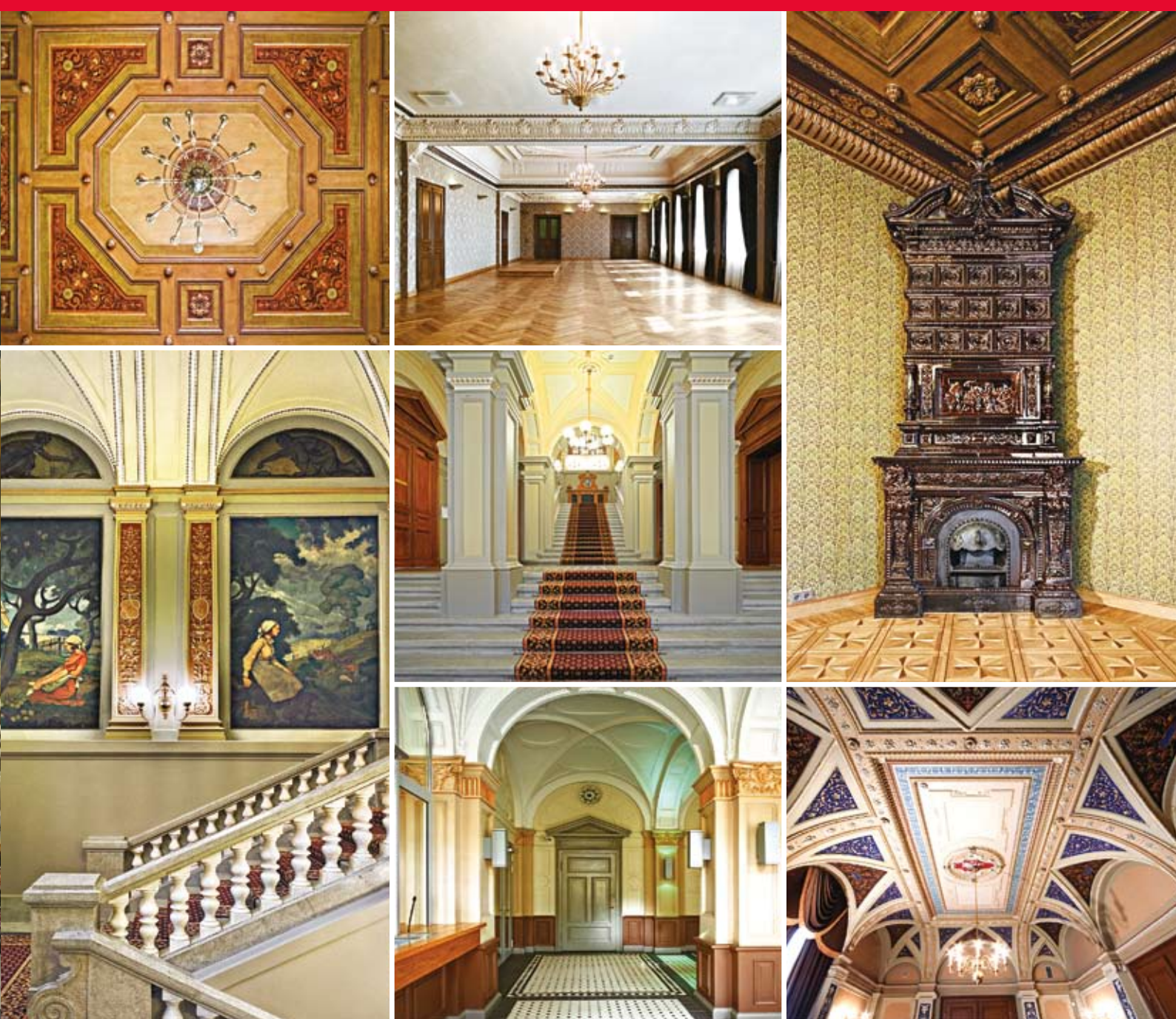
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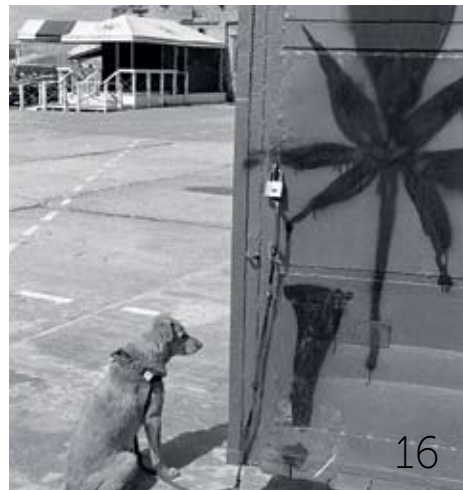
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**baltic**<sup>outlook</sup>

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Martin Alexander Gauss  
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## Dear Customer,

Over the past decade, airlines have demonstrated a high adaptability to changes in the marketplace. This capability is critical not only for the transportation sector, but also for the European economies as a whole, as aviation contributes 359 billion EUR to the European Union's gross domestic product. If aviation were a nation in Europe, then its GDP would place it 10<sup>th</sup> among the EU's 27 member states.

As turbulence in the euro zone continues and fuel prices remain high, airlines have to draw on their power to innovate and evolve for a more vibrant future business. We at *airBaltic* took a lead in this process by launching our ReShape business plan earlier this year. We are delighted that the plan has been a success and that we have consistently achieved better-than-planned results. We also achieved a net profit of 4.8 million LVL in the third quarter of 2012 and expect to close the year with a better result than our target.

At the same time, we are looking for more ways to innovate and improve what we do. *airBaltic* has launched a new project to operate Europe's first green flights for turboprop aircraft. We will use our

state-of-the-art *Bombardier Q400 Next Gen*. We will cooperate with our partners to establish satellite-based approaches to the Riga airport and thus practice greener flying. We will shorten the distances flown, improve flight trajectories to avoid residential areas and reduce people's exposure to noise, as well as cut fuel consumption and emissions. The new green procedures that we have established with the *Bombardier Q400 Next Gen* turboprops will eventually be available to any carrier flying to Riga with the relevant aircraft equipment. The procedures will also be suitable for our brand new *Bombardier CSeries* jets, which we will introduce into service in 2015, and will provide further benefits for operations out of Riga, on top of their unmatched fuel efficiency.

And... did you know that back in 2002, Riga's airport served around 500 000 passengers? Thanks to *airBaltic*, the volume of passenger traffic at the Riga airport has since grown tenfold: in 2012, it will have served about 5 million passengers.

Thank you for flying *airBaltic*,

Yours,

Martin Alexander Gauss



DECEMBER

# On happiness

It's a funny thing, happiness. You never know where you're going to find it. Or when it's going to find you. It may come to you in a snatch of familiar music overheard by chance on the street. Or when you're allocated a middle seat on the plane and the seats on either side of you turn out to be empty.

There must, I think, be a large element of chance in happiness. Because if we knew how to make ourselves happy, then surely we would do exactly that, and we would be happy all the time, which we aren't. In terms of political arrangements, the American constitution has it about right when it provides for "the pursuit of happiness".

Everybody has the right to chase happiness, but with no guarantee of finding it.

I draw these points to your attention, because the time of year is now upon us when we go around wishing one another a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and good cheer to all mankind. In general, telling people to cheer up is something you do when they are clearly sad, and in my experience the effect is usually to deepen their depression. Here's another tip: If you really want to get somebody more upset, then tell them to calm down.

No doubt if you are already miserable for some reason, then the sound of Jingle Bells echoing wearily through the local shopping centre is not going to do much to lift your



**STILL – AND I SAY THIS AS PROBABLY THE GROUCHIEST PERSON YOU’RE LIKELY TO MEET WITHIN A HUNDRED MILES OF THE BALTIC COAST – THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT CHRISTMAS THAT WORKS A BIT OF MAGIC ON ALL OF US**

mood. But still – and I say this as probably the grouchiest person you're likely to meet within a hundred miles of the Baltic coast – there is something about Christmas that works a bit of magic on all of us.

It's not so much the presents or the carols or the cards. It's the general sense that we can

let ourselves go a bit. For two weeks of the year, we are licensed to eat and drink more than is good for us, get up late, watch television, put work on hold, play with the kids, have the neighbours over, and wish one another health and happiness. What's not to like?

Grouchy people like me find that Christmas gives us even more to grouch about, which makes us happier still. And happy people can feel happier still at the sight of other people being happy around them, for once. Christmas does work, which is why we are still celebrating it a couple of thousand years later.

But hang on. To go back to my earlier point. If Christmas does indeed hold the secret of human happiness, then why don't we declare the whole year a holiday season and be happier all the year round? To that I have no answer, except that work has to be done and the human body can only support so much fruit cake. We need to be solemn and sober 50 weeks of the year, so that we have some standards to let slip during the other two weeks.

Come to think of it, I suppose that if we did carouse and sleep in for 50 weeks of the year, then we would start to find that rather a bore, and we would look forward to our two weeks of sobriety at Christmas. I don't know. But I'm willing to give it a try. **BO**

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# Wooden wonderland



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TEXT BY LAURA KENINS | PHOTO BY ALEXEI PODLIPSKI

**Although** the neighbourhood's name means "fish house" in Estonian, there's nothing fishy these days about Tallinn's Kalamaja quarter. The area was home to Tallinn's fishing families from the 14<sup>th</sup> century until late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when a railway connection between Tallinn and St. Petersburg was built. It was gradually transformed into a factory district, and the wooden homes that the area is now known for were built to house local factory workers. Situated to the northwest of the old town, Kalamaja is close to the city centre and to the Gulf of Finland. During the Soviet period, this working-class neighbourhood wasn't considered to be the safest area, but from the late 1980s, young artists and other bohemians began buying property, attracted by the low prices and convenient location.

Kalamaja's wooden houses give the neighbourhood an old-fashioned charm.

Many are freshly painted in bright colours, while others have their allure in faded metal trim and worn wooden accents. One iconic building type is a wooden apartment house of two or three storeys, with two symmetrical wooden sections flanking a stone entryway and staircase, unique to the area and built in the 1920s and 1930s.

The factory district still lies close by. Some factories remain in operation, while others sit empty and still others have been reclaimed by the neighbourhood's creative class. The *Telliskivi Loomelinnak* complex is one of these, a former Soviet military electronics factory, where parts for the Soviet Sputnik satellite were allegedly manufactured. Today, it creates culture instead, with various galleries, studios and small businesses in the buildings, as well as the *F-Hoone* restaurant – a registered heritage property site and a great stopping

spot for a tour of the Kalamaja district.

The restaurant is both grown-up and family-friendly, with a playroom for kids, as well as evening diversions for adults, such as concerts and DJ nights. Within a cool factory atmosphere, *F-Hoone* aims to offer good value for money, with main courses costing between 4.50 and 9 EUR. Consequently, it's become popular among everyone "from cabinet ministers to broke students," manager Merly Mändla says.

The popular spicy coconut fish soup or pumpkin soup are good choices for warming up on a winter's day. Other warming main dishes include stews, pasta and fish cakes. Salads are also on offer and in the evening, a wide selection of appetizers and snacks can accompany drinks. But do arrive early, as the 150-seat space is known to see up to 800 visitors pass through on busy days. **BO**



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# DECEMBER / 2012



Elīna Garanča

## ▲ Garanča & Chichon. Latvian National Symphony Orchestra New Year's Gala Concerts

Latvian National Opera, Riga / December 28  
Great Guild Hall, Riga / December 30

The most successful and famous opera singer from Latvia, mezzo-soprano Elīna Garanča, returns to her native city to perform in the Latvian National Symphony Orchestra's (LNSO) traditional New Year's Concert. The varied programme includes several arias that she has never performed in Riga. To make this event even more special, Garanča is joined by the LNSO's chief conductor Karel Mark Chichon, with whom she has produced her best and most memorable performances in Riga and throughout the world. The programme includes works by Mozart, Rossini, Donizetti, Tchaikovsky, Massenet and Saint-Saëns.

📍 [www.ticketparadise.lv](http://www.ticketparadise.lv)

## ▼ Rādīt prieks exhibition/auction Kalnciema Quarter Gallery, Riga / Until December 15

An unprecedented event for Latvian photo art will take place at 3 PM on December 15 at the Kalnciema Quarter Gallery – an auction of the works of 29 talented Latvian photographers. Each of the photographers will participate with just one work, which will be exhibited at the Kalnciema Quarter Gallery from December 1. Among the authors, such pillars of Latvian art photography as Māra Brašmane and Andrejs Grants should be mentioned. The younger generation features Aleksandrs Gronskis, who took 3<sup>rd</sup> place this year at the World Press Photo Contest, and Alnis Stakle, who obtained 1<sup>st</sup> place at the Sony World Photography Awards in 2011 in the architecture category.



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Visitors will be able to see both classic analogue photographs and museum-standard ink pigment prints by FineArtPrint.lv. Since the concept emphasizes the importance of single photographs, each work offered up for auction will be prepared as a one-off.

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King Charles, a darling of Latvia's *Positivus* festival, will celebrate New Year's Eve at the *Palladium* concert hall with a performance of majestic proportions. The extravagant musician, whose real name is Charles Costa, is one of the most intriguing alternative, indie and folk rock representatives of the British music scene. Best known for his singles "Bam Bam", "Love Lust" and "Lady Percy", King Charles is a natural when it comes to interacting with his audience. His music is dynamic, light-hearted and genuinely sincere, making his live performances all the more appealing.

📍 Tickets at [www.ticketservice.lv](http://www.ticketservice.lv)

▶ **Miķelis Fišers, Lielviela [MegaMatter] art exhibition**

Arsenāls Exhibition Hall, Riga / Until January 20

Miķelis Fišers' (1970) exhibition of art works shows us the author's latest paintings and objects, which were created specially for this exhibition, as well as works from the *Kosmoss kļūdas nepiedod* [Space doesn't forgive mistakes – 2009-2012], *Pie jauniem vārtiem* [In Front of New Gates – 2008], *Pārdaba* [Sur-Nature – 2007] and *Bez cilvēkiem* [Without People – 2006] projects. Fišers has created installations,

objects, paintings and stage designs for theatre performances in Latvia. During the 1990s, the artist pursued a counter culture strategy, rebelling against society's conventions, hypocrisy and materialism. Breaching taboos on themes like sex, drugs and death, his creative biography includes provocative works of art. Fišers continues to be interested in the unknown and the supernatural, including UFOs, conspiracy theories, mystical zones of power, esoteric processes and people's disposition to believe in them.

📍 [www.lnmm.lv/en/arsenals](http://www.lnmm.lv/en/arsenals)



The Strange Relations of Konstantīns Raudive, 2010

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Although we can't guarantee you a white Christmas this year, the holiday season in Riga will definitely be a festive affair, regardless of the weather. After all, the best presents are not always wrapped in rustling gift paper

Unless your presents are already wrapped and stored on top of the cupboard, you can buy all kinds of gifts while getting to know brightly lit Riga, which has plenty of Christmas markets. Every December, both Dome Square in the heart of Old Town and Esplanade Square turn into Christmas markets, which will remain open until January 15. During the festival *The way through the Christmas trees* (*Ziemassvētku egļu ceļš*), *LiveRiga* invites you to walk through the city centre while following a route adorned with a number of richly decorated Christmas trees ([www.egulfestivals.lv](http://www.egulfestivals.lv)).

This year, the *Jarmarka* exhibition and annual fair celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Latvian Academy of Art. Here visitors can purchase the works of new artists and academy teachers, many of whom are well-known both in Latvia and abroad. Who knows, you might end up buying an early work of a rising star, which one day will be worth even more. Around 25 000 visitors attend *Jarmarka* each year, including artists, art critics, collectors, embassy representatives, foreign guests and gallery owners. *Jarmarka* also offers a unique opportunity to buy one-off designs, Christmas gifts and souvenirs from Latvia ([www.jarmarka.org](http://www.jarmarka.org)).

Christmas in Riga is unimaginable without festive music in the city's churches and concert halls. For those who enjoy brass instruments, we recommend the Advent concert at St. Peter's Church on December 18, with a performance by the Riga Youth Brass Band. On the same day, the legendary *Terem* quartet from St. Petersburg will perform a two-hour long programme of popular film scores at the Riga Congress Hall (*Kongresu nams*).

In turn, throughout December, the *European Christmas* festival, which has become a tradition, will take us on a journey from joyful chamber music to Handel's well-known *Messiah*, which will be performed at St. John's Church in Riga on December 21. For the first time, Andris Poga, assistant conductor at the *Orchestre de Paris* and Boston Symphony Orchestra, will conduct the *Sinfonietta Riga* chamber orchestra on December 7 at the Great Guild Hall (*Lielā Gilde*). The programme will include piano compositions by Maurice Ravel and feature Latvian piano soloist Elīna Bērtiņa. On December 14, the Great Guild Hall will also host a concert of Bach and Vivaldi compositions. On December 30 at St. John's Church, the festival will close with Handel's *Solomon* oratorio, performed by Estonian specialists of medieval and Renaissance music, with Risto Joost conducting.



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Valentino Garavani and Natalia Vodianova, 2012

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## London

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### Valentino: Master of Couture Somerset House / November 29 – March 3

The new exhibition at London's Somerset House by Italian fashion designer Valentino Garavani is his first comprehensive retrospective since the sensational *Valentino a Roma. 45 years of style* (2007) at Rome's Ara Pacis Museum. It featured about 400 costumes created by Valentino, along with photographs, sketches and archive materials, and concluded with a special supper at the famous *Villa Borghese*. Soon afterwards, Valentino announced his retirement from the fashion business, marking the end of an era. In this sense, the exhibition at Somerset House is a wonderful story about fashion in its purest sense. More than 130 high fashion costumes once worn by Valentino's most faithful customers – including Grace Kelly, Jackie Kennedy, Sophia Loren and Gwyneth Paltrow – are exhibited there. The exhibition is divided into three parts: the first depicts Valentino's own story. The second is the fashion experience turned on its head, allowing viewers to walk along the catwalk, and in this way see some of the costumes. The third part lets one peer into the very heart of the dream world and see how high fashion costumes are created.

Embankment Galleries, South Wing  
[www.somerset-house.org.uk](http://www.somerset-house.org.uk)

\* Price available for bookings at least 2 months in advance \*\* Price available for bookings at least 5 months in advance



© SALVADOR DALÍ, FUNDACIÓ GALA-SALVADOR DALÍ, FIGUERES, 2004

## Paris

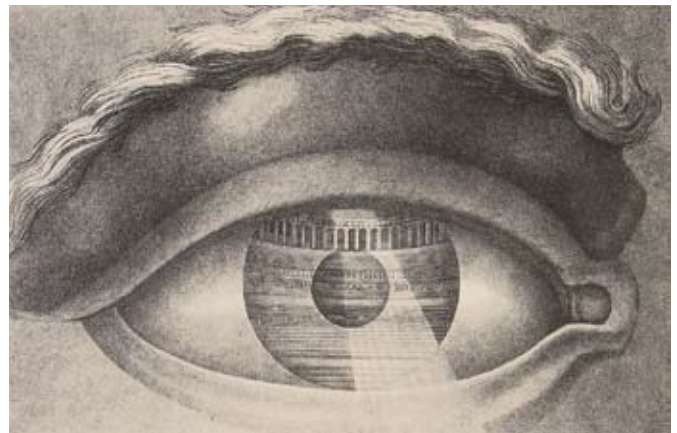
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### Salvador Dalí, Pompidou Centre / Until March 25

The previous Paris retrospective of classic surrealist artist Salvador Dalí, which took place in 1979, is still considered to be the most visited exhibition in the entire history of the Pompidou Centre. The museum has chosen the same path again this winter with another comprehensive Dalí retrospective, where more than 200 of his works will be shown. Special attention has also been dedicated to Dalí as a pioneer of the performance genre, as well as

to his participation in theatre and cinema. Melting clocks, unending landscapes sinking in the sunset, lips so big that they transform into a sofa – these motifs that Dalí loved so much are presented with such a masterful professionalism that they continue to draw the world to his obsessions. "There is only one difference between a madman and me. The madman thinks he is sane. I know I am mad," said Dalí at one time.

Place Georges Pompidou  
[www.centrepompidou.fr](http://www.centrepompidou.fr)



## Munich

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### The Architect – History and Present of a Profession Pinakothek der Moderne Architekturmuseum / Until February 3

The exhibition now on view at the Munich Architecture Museum focuses on the architect's profession and analyzes one of the world's oldest professions in the context of different periods in history,

from ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome until today. Emphasis is also placed on the creative process of architecture and its analysis, the architect's relationships with the customer (from former palace courts to today's corporate giants), the architect as a theorist and creator of myths, and architecture's interaction with other areas of culture, such as art, music and cinema.

Arcisstraße 21  
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Damien Hirst  
Three Parrots with Rabbit and Scissors, 2010

## Kiev

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### Damien Hirst. Two Weeks One Summer / Future Generation Art Prize Pinchuk Art Centre / Until January 6

Two comprehensive exhibitions can now be seen together at the Pinchuk Art Centre, Kyiv's most important art space. One of them features works by 26 short-listed nominees of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Future Generation Art Prize. The award was established in 2009 with the aim of discovering, promoting and supporting new phenomena in visual art. One of the mentors for the award is contemporary art's most scandalous showman Damien Hirst, whose exhibition *Two Weeks One Summer* is also on view at

the art centre. In it, Hirst presents a new series of works that he began working on in the summer of 2010. The works were painted at his Devon studio and can be classified as still lifes, in which practically all of Hirst's well-known signature elements are shown, including birds, butterflies, flowers, shark jaws and skulls.

Victor Pinchuk, the founder of the Pinchuk Art Centre, is considered to be one of the most successful businessmen in Ukraine. In 2010, he was also included in *Time Magazine's* list of the world's 100 most influential people.

1/3-2, "A" Block, Velyka Vasylkivska / Baseyna vul.

[www.pinchukartcentre.org](http://www.pinchukartcentre.org)

## Milan

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### Kama Sex and Design Triennale di Milano

/ December 5 – March 10

\* Price available for bookings at least 2 months in advance  
The Mae West sofa created by Salvador Dali in 1936 is one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century's most iconic and sensual design items, and is one of the exhibits in the *Kama Sex and Design* exhibition at the Milan Design Museum. The showing's mysterious title (Kama is the Hindu god of sexual pleasure) only partially reveals its contents, which reflect a study into the relationship between design and the erotic. The

analysis is conducted in a historical, mythological, anthropological and contemporary context. More than 200 artefacts can be viewed, including archaeological finds, drawings, objects and contemporary art works. From Etruscan vases to phallic Roman amulets; from Piero Fornasetti's drawings to "The Great Wall of Vagina", which incorporates plaster imprints of the vaginas of 400 different women by scandalous British sculptor Jamie McCartney.

Viale Emilio Alemagna  
[www.triennale.it](http://www.triennale.it)



Design Behind Desire, 2011  
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# Suggested holiday distractions

## BIG BOYS



### Big Boys' Lullabies

This is the 18<sup>th</sup> compilation of lullabies by legendary Latvian music journalist Klāss Vāvere, joining a series of wonderful CD selections that include *Lullabies from Paris* and *Diva Lullabies* – all of which sold out almost as quickly as they appeared on Latvian music store shelves. The latest CD,

*Big Boys' Lullabies*, is actually meant to be enjoyed by both grownup boys and girls and will make for great listening during December's long winter evenings and festive holidays. Among the tracks included are *It's a man's, man's, man's world* by James Brown, *Brompton oratory* by

Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds, and *I'll be gone* by Tom Waits. You can listen to our favourite track, *Les Feuilles Mortes* by Iggy Pop, on *Baltic Outlook's* Facebook profile. *Big Boys' Lullabies* is available at the *Upe* music store on Valņu iela 26 in Old Riga and other music shops.

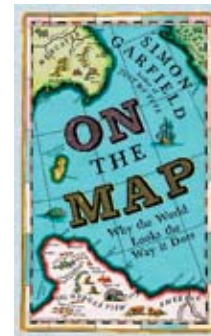
### A Possible Life by Sebastian Faulks



Faulks' newest book is more a collection of half-a-dozen longish, inter-related stories, with narratives that span epochs, continents and themes. But never mind: his delicate writing continues to unsettle, challenge and inspire readers.

Hutchinson  
[www.randomhouse.com](http://www.randomhouse.com)  
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### On the Map by Simon Garfield



surveyors, guesswork philosophers, profligate collectors, unreliable navigators, whistling rambles, inexperienced globe-makers, nervous curators, hot neuroscientists and lusting conquistadors" of the map-making world, shedding light on our early conceptions of how the world was organised geographically. A brilliant gift for anyone with antsy feet and an armchair.

This deftly-researched, engagingly-written history of Western cartography may well change how you look at maps. Garfield writes with amazing detail about the "boastful dealers, finicky

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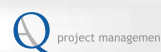
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# Word of the month

TEXT BY ADAM JACOT DE BOINOD, AUTHOR OF *THE MEANING OF TINGO AND OTHER EXTRAORDINARY WORDS FROM AROUND THE WORLD*, PUBLISHED BY PENGUIN BOOKS | ILLUSTRATION BY INGA BRIEDE

**dynke** (Norwegian) — the act of dunking somebody's face in the snow



*The Meaning of Tingo* is a compilation of extraordinary words and expressions from around the world that have no equivalent in English. Adam Jacot de Boinod's passion is scouring the planet for language oddities and every month, *Baltic Outlook* features one of the many amusing terms that he has come across in his travels.

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Exhibition Visions by Albert Watson

▲ Deichtorhallen

Two hangars from a century-old market have now been converted into an art headquarters, saving Hamburg's reputation among contemporary art aficionados. The 5600 square metres of space incorporate an exhibition hall for contemporary art and a House of Photography. *Visions*, a comprehensive exhibition by Scottish fashion and art photographer Albert Watson, is on view through January 6, featuring numerous iconic shots of such well-known personalities as Kate Moss, Jack Nicholson and Alfred Hitchcock.

Steinstraße station on the U1 line

Deichtorstraße 1–2; ① [www.deichtorhallen.de](http://www.deichtorhallen.de)

▶ Die Bullerei

A former butchery in the previously remote (but increasingly hip) Sternschanze neighbourhood now serves as the headquarters of Germany's Jamie Oliver, chef Tim Mälzer. The axes in the lampshades and the rough industrial interior are well-suited to the chef's robust nature, say those who know him. As for the food, the restaurant part of *Bullerei* is one of Hamburg's best gourmet experiences. If you pass by the restaurant without booking, then there should still be a free table in the deli section.

Lagerstraße 34b

① [www.bullerei.com](http://www.bullerei.com)



PHOTO: WWW.MEDIASERVER.HAMBURG.DE/R.K.HEGELER

▲ Blankenese

While the construction of Hamburg's most scandalous architectural marvel – the Elb Philharmonic Hall with the luxurious *Westin Hamburg* hotel atop – has been frozen until various technical glitches are sorted out (boosting the building's costs to 500 million EUR), probably the best view over the city's "gold" (or Elbe River) is from the picturesque Süllberg Hill. The S line will bring you towards the western end of this port city, where the river is 3 km wide, allowing the majestic water traffic to appear in all its beauty. Celebrate the view with a drink at the cosy *Kajüte SB 12* pub (Strandweg 79).

Blankenese stop on the S1 line



◀ St. Pauli

Hamburg is a workhorse. With the advantage of old money (think as far back as 1321, when the city joined the Hansaetic League), it now has an annual GDP of 88 billion EUR, ranks as Germany's second largest city and houses one of the world's leading container ports. One of its districts St. Pauli is also renowned for its "Red light" district known as the Reeperbahn. The Reeperbahn has been in an existence since the 19<sup>th</sup> century where nowadays the ladies have skinned off any aura of mystery and temptation regarding their profession, on the streets that belong to the "sinful mile". Meanwhile, the same neighborhood presents some of the city's most atmospheric and creative spots during the daylight hours, housing young design companies like *Lockengelöt*, with its lamps made of vinyl records and key hooks fashioned from old books.

Reeperbahn station on the S1 and S3 line,

St. Pauli station on the U3

*Lockengelöt* on Wohlwillstraße 20,

① [www.lockengeloet.com](http://www.lockengeloet.com)



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PLACE THE DOUGH INTO A ROUND, GREASED TIN (18CM DIAMETER X 9CM DEEP). LEAVE TO PROVE UNTIL DOUBLE IN SIZE THEN GLAZE WITH THE BEATEN EGGS. BAKE AT 190°C FOR 30 MINUTES.  
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# Discreetly charming

TEXT BY IEVA NORA FIRERE | PUBLICITY PHOTO

*Duchess* is the fifth work to be released by the Latvian *Mammalampa* (Mother Lamp) lighting brand. Its prototype was created during last year's Nordic Baltic Designers Events. However, the idea itself is older, arising from a day spent on the sea shore, letting the sand run through one's fingers and observing how the sun flashes in them as it catches a particular edge.

The outcome is just magnificent. *Duchess* has something of a reserved, "blue blooded" nature, something absolutely regal. At the same time, the newest achievement by *Mammalampa* plays upon the contrasts seen in previous works. As with its *Queen* predecessor, the exterior is made of corroding steel, while the inside is covered in 23.75 carat gold. Thus, the cheapest and the most expensive metals are joined in one piece. The same goes for *Duchess*, where rough marble pieces meet refined *Swarovski* crystals on the lamp's outer shell.

*Duchess* is a solid lamp and this can be understood in the most direct sense of the word. However, despite its hefty weight of 23 kilograms, the interior of a *Duchess* lamp leaves a light and cheerful feel. Just like the rest of *Mammalampa*'s products, *Duchess* lamps are also

handcrafted in Latvia. Some of them have already found their way to the most diverse interiors, from the design-obsessed Benelux nations to Saudi Arabia and Taiwan.

One family stands behind the brand, with designer Ieva Kalēja at the centre. The Masters degree that Ieva obtained four years ago in Milan pushed her towards making lamps. She'd been attracted to lamps since her studies at the Latvian Academy of Art, but Milan gave her the courage to create her own brand.

"We spent some time at several of Italy's design greats and I had the chance to discover that they weren't all monolithic behemoths. In many cases, they were simple businesses on a very human scale".

Ieva gets a scare from the scale and pace that various niche designs often assume, such as fashion, with its massive manufacturing apparatus that demands new designs and solutions twice a year. The more relaxed lamp creation process is much dearer to her. The sector's main exhibitions take place every few years, with the creation process for each lamp, from an idea through to a prototype and a sale, being just as long. **BO**

📍 [www.mammalampa.lv](http://www.mammalampa.lv)



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# Still life with a couple of bears

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*"Ghosts' Castle" (Spoku pils) painting by* Sabine Vekmane, *Paviljons*, 117 LVL

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*June 9 shoes, Paviljons*, 81 LVL

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*Zaraman ties, Zara*, 18.95 LVL each

*Camel Active hat, Camel Active*, 51.99 LVL

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*Woolings shoes, Riija*, 154 LVL

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*Camel Active chequered shirt, Camel Active*, 58.99 LVL

*Three pairs of socks, 100% wool, by Paviljons, Paviljons*, 7 LVL each

*Leather suspenders by Ritvars Caunitis, Paviljons*, 24 LVL

*Cecina teddy bear, Paviljons*, 32 LVL

Addresses in Riga: *Paviljons* at *Domina Shopping*, Ieriku iela 3 | *Riija*, Tērbatas iela 6/8 | *Camel Active*, Kr. Barona iela 51a | *Zara*, Tērbatas iela 30 | *Lornete*, Dzirnauju iela 84 | *Spice*, Lielirbes iela 29



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# Grey graphite

There's something about that grey graphite colour on a white piece of paper. As you lightly slide your hand across the sheet, sketches and designs appear, ideas get jotted down and drawn. That's how we spent our time one afternoon, watching her drawing.

Anna Heinrichsone is one of the best known costume designers in

Latvia. She has created costumes for theatre performances and the opera. There are piles of drawings and sketches in her work room, including sketches that are just developing and have to be shown to the theatre director soon. Right there on the table are boxes of pencils, with some that are worn down to the stubs. At Riga's *Galerija XO*,

one could even see Anna's installations with her little pencils in little coffins.

"I can't bear to throw them out; you get so close to the pencils while drawing," she says.

"At times, when I need to draw a great deal, the joy of it subsides. Drawing is the real, physical work that has to be done until I get what I've imagined down on paper. I sit and I draw; my back hurts, my hands hurt.

"I draw costume sketches for theatre performances very often, and at one point I understood that I have to change my approach. Otherwise, it's like working in a factory. Earlier, I used only coloured pencils, but now I use water colours as well and then pencils over the top, to give the sharp lines that are required in a drawing, to show what is actually meant by the sketch."

This season, Anna is already drawing for her fourth show. Her costumes will also be on display in Moscow's MHAT theatre for a Latvian production by Viesturs Meikšāns.

Anna's favourite coloured pencils are by *Prismacolor*: "so soft that they seem to be drawing by themselves," says Anna, "although the soft ones quickly wear out. I don't like the hard pencils at all." She also appreciates the British *Derwent* graphite pencils for their fantastic black and grey nuanced

tones, as well as graphite blocks, which you could almost take a bite of when you pick them up.

"The blocks are so soft and oily, and they have such an incredibly fine, silvery colour," she says. "One can draw with these graphite blocks as well. They won't be fine lines, but grey, robust fields. You can also pour graphite powder onto paper and smear it with a brush.

"I can't stand blunt pencils. Others don't like the sound of foam plastic, while I get the same sensation from seeing blunt pencils. The only thing I use to sharpen them is this knife, which is like a scalpel."

Anna also uses a pencil instead of a pen for writing and keeps it in a case. "If a pencil falls on the floor, then the graphite rod in the middle breaks and it's like the death of a pencil," she says, tidying up her pencils around a drawing that she has just created. **BO**



Anna Heinrichsone



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# Magic healer

Heather-blossom honey is Latvia’s final farewell to summer. It’s darker and richer in colour, with a unique and almost bitter flavour

Its strong taste is not appreciated by many, which is why beekeeper Artūrs Grudovskis of the Latvian district of Auce regards it as a connoisseur’s honey. The honey produced on his farm, named Lielvaicēni, is served with tea at several hotel restaurants and cafés in Riga.

Artūrs moves his bee colonies to richer pastures for the first time at the end of April or in early May, and transfers the beehives to fields of heather for the final phase of the honey-producing season at the end of July or in early August. In September, the bees return home with full honeycombs. To reach the nectar-rich fields of heather in Ādaži, not far from Riga, Artūrs’ bee colonies travel 175 kilometres. The fields where the honey is collected are located on a Latvian

military base, 6000 hectares of which have been declared as a protected natural area in the European Union’s *NATURA 2000* network.

Heather-blossom honey gels quickly, which is why collecting it is more complicated than other types. This also makes the product more expensive. Heather-blossom honey contains more protein than other types of honey, along with a wide range of B-vitamins and minerals essential for the heart, blood vessels and nervous system, including magnesium, manganese and copper, as well as ambrosia and a small amount of wax. Its colour ranges from a light golden colour to red, reddish-brown and even dark brown. This all depends on the place of collection: honey gathered from sandy or pine forest lands

is lighter and more translucent, but darker when collected from peat marshlands.

“There is peat honey and pine forest honey, and often either one type of territory or the other provides nectar for the honey. During some years, both provide nectar of good quality, but during other years neither one of them provides much nectar. This year wasn’t quite warm enough, which is why the honey crop is smaller than usual – both for the summer and autumn heather-blossom honey”, explains Artūrs.

The other honey of late summer is buckwheat honey – more floury in texture and with a specific scent. In Latvia, the most popular is forest-blossom honey, which has a reddish tinge and is slightly jam-like, with a sour flavour. Light or early summer blossom honey is also popular, usually made from clover, sweet clover and dandelions. It is widely appreciated by children, as it is very sweet, and women often add it to their tea. People with no preferences tend to buy a slightly stronger forest-blossom honey, but connoisseurs choose heather-blossom or buckwheat honey. Moreover, they buy it regardless of the price and eat it not just as a snack, but use it in meat marinades, salads, stews, cakes and healthy cocktails.

Lighter honeys are more popular in Lithuania, where there is more farmland but fewer forests, and therefore fewer clearings with raspberries, willowherb and heather. The Swedes, Finns and other northern peoples also collect polar honey beyond the Arctic Circle, mostly from marsh lingonberries, blackberries, bilberries and heather, which flower for a comparatively short period. However, this honey is very aromatic, bittersweet and at least five times more expensive than the more common varieties. In Germany it is sold for high prices as Santa Claus honey. **BO**



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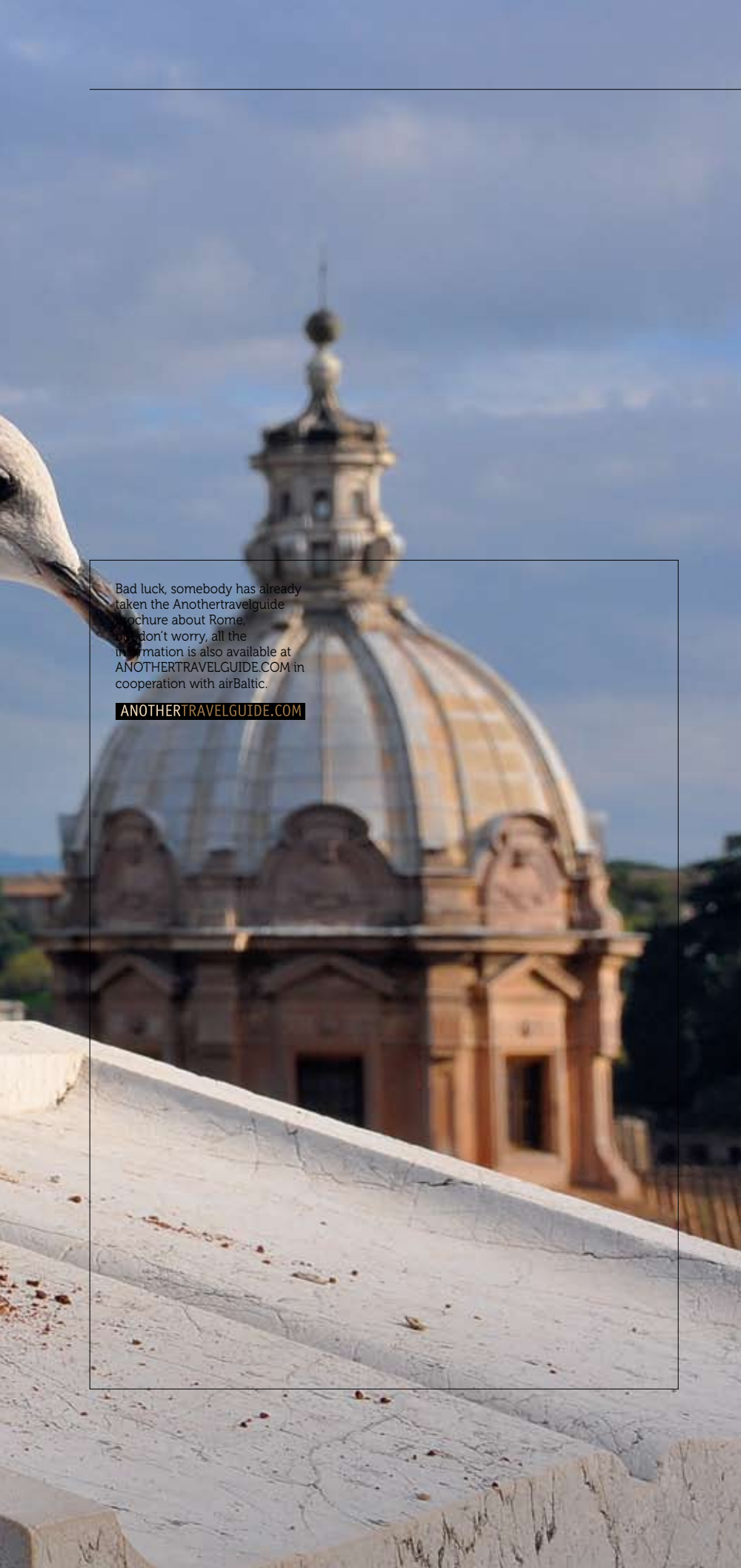
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# Rome: city of eternal surprise

TEXT BY UNA MEISTERE, [WWW.ANOTHERTRAVELGUIDE.COM](http://WWW.ANOTHERTRAVELGUIDE.COM) | PHOTOS BY AINARS ERGLIS







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I chose to stay in a totally different part of Rome on this visit, and if I didn't want to make use of public transportation to reach the centre, I had to walk through the Borghese Gardens every morning. The zoo was directly opposite my hotel, and the first thing I heard upon entering the park was the calls of the elephants, or at least they sounded like elephants. In the meadow, dogs of different breeds scurried about and played, and bicycles could be rented nearby.

My walk took me along a majestic path lined with magnolia trees that I'd never noticed prior to my recent visit. Like many visitors to the Eternal City, I hadn't often dallied in the park. I'd visited it only briefly, on my way to the legendary Galleria Borghese, eager to see masterworks like Bernini's *Apollo and Daphne* with my own eyes; thirsting for a view of Correggio's *Danaë* (though it was once considered nothing more than thinly veiled pornography) and Raphael's *Deposition*, as well as other highlights of the museum, which dates back to the collection of Cardinal Scipione Borghese (1576-1633). Now the wind blew autumn leaves through the lovely park, the space suffused with an unbelievably welcoming tranquillity.

### A brutal age meets the gods

Every time I return to Rome, my sense that life is much too short to fully explore it merely increases. I always get the feeling that I've only managed to touch a thin layer of dust covering an enormous depth, stepping on only a few cobblestones in a sea of millions. More than any other city I've been to, Rome is always ready to surprise the visitor. The last time I peeked through the legendary 'secret' keyhole on Aventine Hill (Piazza dei Cavalieri di Malta, 3) and stood in awe at the dome of Saint Peter's, it seemed that there couldn't be a more wondrous place in the Eternal City. The morning mist provided a thrilling illusion, giving the impression that the basilica was right before me, just beyond the tree-lined avenue, only an arm's reach away.

## YOUR NEXT DESTINATION



Tiber Island



Spanish Steps

The zoo was directly opposite my hotel, and the first thing I heard upon entering the park was the calls of the elephants, or at least they sounded like elephants

This time, however, I had a no less surprising experience at a museum I'd heard of, but had never had the time to visit. It's quite out of the way, located in Ostiense Marconi, once Rome's industrial district, and therefore off the beaten path. Officially, the *Centrale Montemartini* is a branch of the renowned Capitoline Museum – a place to display the Capitoline's recently acquired sculptures. The *Centrale Montemartini* makes its home in what was once Rome's first electric power plant, which began operation at the very beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It provided the city with electricity until 1970. The effect of the vast space is immediate. As soon as you cross the threshold, you're confronted with two

huge diesel engines that date to 1933, and across from them, sculptures from antiquity – the statues' marble garb made ethereal by their elegantly wrinkled, delicate details. You're seeing a robust monument to the era of industrialization at the same time as you are witnessing a lost, fragile world created with a lapidary precision. The harsh appearance of the oiled, black machines serves to strengthen the sense of eternal beauty that has endured for countless generations. The machinery makes you feel as though there's still the smell of industry in the air, though the scent wafts only from the strength of the visual impression.

The *Centrale Montemartini* has an interesting history. When the Capitoline Museum was undergoing renovations in 1997, hundreds of sculptures were brought there. Initially, the intention was to borrow the power station's space only temporarily, but the first exhibit – *Machines and Gods* – was so successful that the branch became a permanent fixture in 2005. Although some complained that only the leftovers from the Capitoline Museum are on display there, such an accusation seems ridiculous if you actually visit the place. Not many museums anywhere in the world offer this sense of drama. It feels as though you're caught in a freeze-frame from a movie.

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Centrale Montemartini, a branch of the renowned Capitoline Museum

The *Centrale Montemartini* isn't merely a home for art or a stage for its endless interpretation; it's a work of art in itself. The interplay of industrial relics and great works of art is somehow organic and strangely inspiring. It's so bewitching that you can even forget you're in a museum. The interior also preserves the historic architecture of the power plant, with massive iron steps leading to an upper platform that was once used to oversee the generators, but is now another element in the cinematic scene. You can mount the stairs to look down upon the ancient mosaic floor with its hunting scenes, for instance. The vast windows of the former plant allow for natural light to flood the space, and the clouds in the sky seem to be another artwork. Wandering through the exhibit, you can get as engrossed in the motors and gauges and other mysterious industrial equipment as you are in the sculptures. Bereft of their function, the relics seem to be meant for design's sake, whilst the statues really do appear to be guardian angels if not gods. All of this is so harmonious that you could have the sense of intruding. Perhaps that's why the footfalls of visitors are eerily soft, as though we're tiptoeing through this rarefied atmosphere despite its industrial origin.

There are more than 400 sculptures at the *Centrale Montemartini*, including classical works and Roman copies of Greek art that once graced the temples of the city, along with its luxurious aristocratic and imperial villas. These works were mostly unearthed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and in the 1930s. Many come from the site of the

ancient Forum. Among the remarkable pieces dating to the Roman Republic is a sculpture by Togato Barberini depicting a highborn Roman carrying a bust of a no less exalted personage in each hand. The work represents a tradition popular in the sculptor's time – casting the effigies of one's ancestors to carry them at various ceremonies, thereby showing respect for one's forebears.

The entire Ostiense Marconi district is undergoing a renaissance. The transformation has engaged luminaries like Massimiliano Fuksas and his *Studio Fuksas*, along with Rem Koolhaas' *OMA*.

### Chocolate paradise

On the other side of the city, in the San Lorenzo district, there's another industrial site that's a destination of its own. Built in the 1920s as a chocolate factory, it's now a chocolate shop and restaurant whose owner is the grandson of its founder. The district itself is quite colourful, beginning behind the Termini railway station and the historic Aurelian wall. Having developed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was once the railway workers' ghetto. During the Second World War, the district was heavily bombed with the intent of destroying the railroad network's terminus. More than 1500 people died in these air raids. In the last ten years, however, San Lorenzo has become Rome's epicentre for alternative culture, thanks to the nearby La Sapienza University and a thriving student atmosphere.

The district is home to unusual bars and restaurants, walls covered with colourful graffiti and throngs of hipsters. You'll feel



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## YOUR NEXT DESTINATION



like you're in a different city. The *Said* chocolate factory can be found on the main street, Via Tiburtina, and it's indeed a place where Willy Wonka's dreams would run wild. Even if you think you're jaded, you might feel fairy tales coming alive here. Remnants of the old factory are retained in the interior, including huge mills for the cacao beans and massive mixers for the chocolate, with black-and-white photographs illustrating how the equipment was once used.

The walls of the restaurant are decorated with the old metal moulds that were used to create chocolate bunnies, chicks, eggs and countless other sweet little wonders. You might at first be uncertain as to where you really are – in a museum devoted to chocolate, a workshop, or a temple dedicated to confections. The shop sells every type of chocolate – more than 60 different kinds – all made by hand and carrying the savour of time gone by. There's white chocolate dressed in lace and bonbons in elegant paper sacks sporting old photographs from the factory's past. Chocolate only appeared in Italy in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and at first it was used not as a sweet, but with a peppery accent. Meat stews were often spiced with cacao by hunters, for example. With Christmas approaching, *Said* is the perfect place to visit for some hedonistic pleasures as well as the purchase of unique gifts to take home.

The Eternal City also offers another terrific opportunity for unusual shopping.

The ancient traditions of made-to-measure clothing are still alive here. In fact, with growing nostalgia for authenticity in an era when globalized fast-fashion has eaten away at craftsmanship everywhere you travel, the old art is experiencing a renaissance in Rome. Two new guides came out last year – one for women and one for men: *The Women's* (and the *Men's*) *Tailor-Made Guidebook Rome*. They provide information on the more than 220 establishments in the Italian capital where you can order a wardrobe and accessories made especially for you. This is also a nice insider's source for fashion terminology, illustrating different collar styles, the silhouettes of various outfits, and diverse fabrics.

One featured tailor is worth visiting even if you're only there to gawk – *Battistoni*, the legendary shirt-maker. The manufacturer is spread through two whole buildings in a courtyard off the unutterably elegant Via dei Condotti. It's been at this location since 1946, when Guglielmo Battistoni, the family patriarch, founded the enterprise. At the time, Milan had not yet overtaken Rome as Italy's fashion capital. The politicians, aristocrats and writers who developed an addiction to *Battistoni* shirts are the stuff of legend. The interior, with its marble floors, discreet wooden panelling and impressive art collection (including Picasso, Modigliani and Cocteau), hasn't changed since Marc Chagall, Marlon Brando and the Duke of Windsor came here to be fitted.

View from the Terrazza  
delle Quadrighe



The ambience is that of a refined gentlemen's club. Certain mythic details can't be proven; who knows if Humphrey Bogart really kept a bottle of whisky here, for instance. If you plan to do more than look, then the pleasure won't come cheaply. Custom-made shirts start at 390 EUR, and you'll have to be patient, too, since the wait is about a month. You only need to come once, though, to be measured. Even if you don't order a shirt, do ask to be shown the fabrics. The cotton that *Battistoni* uses is unforgettable, with a silken softness and a slight shine. It's the essence of the sensuality for which Italian fashion is famous.

### A restaurant where only old men serve

The joy of travel, as most travellers realize, is composed of tiny surprises. Rome is ideal for encountering astonishing little things. You might think that it's completely impossible to seek the essence of the city where flocks of tourists have gathered for generations. For instance, you wouldn't expect a restaurant near the Trevi Fountain to cater mostly to locals, but Rome is never predictable. *Al Moro* bears witness to that fact. Open since 1929, it's only a hop, skip and a jump from the fountain, but has hidden itself on a small side street, its sign barely noticeable. Tourists do come in, of course, but the secret is guarded nonetheless. You won't be spurned, but you may feel a slight chill of arrogance masked in politeness. Accept that as the rules of the game, or pretend that you're acting in a movie. *Al Moro* attracts politicians, but it's also the haunt of stars and honchos from the legendary *Cinecittà*, the heart of the Italian film industry. They still dine here, so uninvited guests are interlopers, at least to a degree, like unknown visitors who've wandered into a private ball. The ambience is colourful, though.

All of the waiters are ancient, not particularly attentive, and somewhat loud. They maintain their self-esteem, if anything. There are a great many of them and they move like jugglers bearing dishes to the tables, presided over by the proprietor – Moro's son, who is also advanced in years. The menu is traditional and homey, with fantastic artichokes *alla Romana* and one of the best spaghetti *alla vongole* in the Eternal City. The interior is that of a home owned by someone who doesn't want to part with anything.

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I've always felt that a trip to Rome would be one of the most beautiful things one could give anyone – even oneself – for Christmas

All kinds of paintings and drawings blend with photographs of past diners, from statesmen and giants of literature and art to film director Federico Fellini. Add the awards that the restaurant has received over the years and you can't see the walls. The cabinetry is from the old days and the foyer is fabulous. During mushroom season it's filled with fungi in lovely wooden boxes, along with the requisite artichokes and meats, a gourmet's dream.

A similar feeling of being off in a different world pervades the Via Margutta, only a couple of minutes from the Spanish Steps. The small, charming street is famous around the world because it was featured in the 1953 film *Roman Holiday*, starring Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck. Peck's character, the reporter, lived at No. 51, though that's by no means the building's only claim to fame. It once held artists' studios and sculptors' workshops. In 1917, freshly arrived in Rome, Pablo Picasso worked here, albeit briefly. He designed the costumes and sets for the *Parade* ballet by Jean Cocteau and

Erik Satie, which was created especially for Diaghilev's Russian dancers.

This is where Picasso's affair with the Russian ballerina Olga Khokhlova began. In fact, she later became his first wife. During the 1950s, Truman Capote resided here. One winter, the inimitable luminary of American expressionism, Willem de Kooning, worked here, too. And at No. 110, a man who made Rome immortal on the screen, Federico Fellini, lived with the love of his life, Giulietta Masina. The Via Margutta has its own art festival, held every fall since 1953. Local artists bring their works here.

However, despite its famous past and the proximity of the Spanish Steps, the Via Margutta is rather tranquil. Art galleries, the *Art Hotel* and some well-known restaurants don't disturb the peaceful atmosphere. One of the most attractive eateries is the *Osteria Margutta*. It was once a metal workshop. Supposedly, the horse on which Victor Emmanuel sits in the Piazza Venezia was cast there. The café has been at this location since the 1970s. Its owner was

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once a famous rugby player, but later he managed a theatre. The lampshades reflect that past by their colours: white, blue, and red. The *Osteria Margutta* has attracted artists and writers ever since it opened. The walls are covered with old photographs, the worn wooden floor seems to be from the days when the horse was theoretically cast, and jazz plays in the background. On Thursdays in winter, it's love. The atmosphere is quite welcoming.

A great source for reaching the conclusion that one life will really not be enough to get to know Rome is *The Keys to 99 Secret Places in Rome*, published last year. It describes places that normally aren't open to the public, but to which you can gain access by making an appointment. Even then, you might not succeed. The book includes private palaces, Vatican residences, monasteries, churches, underground treasure houses and libraries. The Villa Albani, for instance, holds one of the world's most precious collections of Greek and Etruscan frescoes. It's also one of the least accessible such collections. Then there's Aurora Pallavinci's Casino, a palace in the same family for three centuries. Or the Palazzo Koch, built for the Bank of Italy and concealing the national trove of gold, as well as fine art that was partly acquired from clients who paid off their debts with their treasures.

I've always felt that a trip to Rome would be one of the most beautiful things one could give anyone – even oneself – for Christmas. Not the usual tour of the Vatican and the Caravaggio paintings in the churches, but the Rome that is always springing sweet surprises upon its innumerable visitors. Rome and miracles go together. There is always something unexpected here, so that the Eternal City has to be rediscovered anew every time you come.



Massimiliano Leonardi di Casalino and Jennifer Howard

## Insider's view Keys to Rome

The *Casa Howard* is a small, charming collection of lodgings in Rome and Florence. As its motto states, "this isn't a hotel, but rather an elegant residence for special guests". The owners are Italian businessman Massimiliano Leonardi di Casalino and his wife, fashion designer Jennifer Howard. Their goal was to create lodgings with personality, a home away from home, and at a reasonable price; a place that becomes a journey within a journey and at the same time a key to the city. In the interior, antique furniture is mixed with contemporary design objects and native

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## YOUR NEXT DESTINATION

art that the couple has found during various travels. Each room is different, creating the impression that you are a guest at a good friend's house.

The *Casa Howard's* home page also contains a travel guide created by Massimiliano and Jennifer: real insider recommendations for those who want to experience Roman – not tourist – Rome. Massimiliano regularly writes a blog there, sharing discoveries from his travels. So, here are some of his “keys to Rome”.

### What do you love most about Rome?

The feeling of contrast between the old monarchical, imperial, wartime and expansionist periods, compared to the mess that we have today. The heart-rending beauty of the various different landscapes and views.

### What do you hate about Rome?

The mayor of Rome – the worst we have ever had. The rudeness and the bad manners of the Romans who drive (taxi drivers are the worst). The potholes in the roads.

### Which is your favourite Roman neighbourhood and why?

Santa Maria di Galeria, a medieval village that was abandoned in haste by its inhabitants hundreds of years ago. It lies on the road to Lake Bracciano, one of the most important natural reservoirs of antiquity.

### Please describe a perfect day in the city.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of August the light is not always ideal (in May or September and above all, in October, the light is absolutely exceptional), but to feel that you are the master of the city is a great experience.

### What have you not yet done in Rome that you would like to do?

To go by horse-drawn carriage for a couple of hours on a winter Sunday as far as the the Appia Antica (the ancient Appian Way), then walk for at least three kilometres and return by car.

### Which are your favourite shops and why?

I prefer shopping in Florence. It has many more different, unconventional and elegant shops.

### What should a visitor to Rome be sure to do?

Go for a walk on the Aventine. Cross the Villa Borghese.

### Which are your favourite restaurants and cafés? Why?

Look at our online *Casa Howard* guide. Two tips only here: Roman food at fair prices behind the Colosseum/Via de' Serpenti area at the *trattoria La Vecchia Roma* (Via Leonina, 10 – not to be confused with the *restaurant La Vecchia Roma* in the piazza Campitelli); Roman food plus some more sophisticated recipes at fair prices behind the Spanish Steps at the restaurant *AL 34* (via Mario de' Fiori, 34).

### Which are your favourite architecture landmarks in Rome?

Above ground, the thermal baths of Diocletian; and underground, the Domus Aurea (Nero's Golden House). In the water, the Tivoli hot baths ('Acque Albule').

### Do you have a favourite view of the city?

From Trajan's Market.

### Can you tell us a secret about Rome?

Visit the bachelor flat of the Fascist party leaders inside the ancient Roman walls.

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We thank you for fruitful cooperation, wish you a merry Christmas and great health, happiness and welfare to you and your close ones in the coming year!

Elīna Garanča,  
Latvian mezzo-soprano



# In a new light

TEXT BY ILZE POLE,  
WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO GUNDA VAIVODE,  
RADIO LATVIA 3 CLASSIC PROGRAMME  
PHOTOS: PUBLICITY AND CORBIS / SCANPIX

It started with her CD *Bel Canto*. I can't say that I was especially interested in classical music before then. It was springtime and everyone was talking about the record. Like a bolt out of the blue, Elīna Garanča's voice had just struck its first victims all around the globe, earning such epithets as "astounding" and "a voice in a million". If I wanted to consider myself as up to date, I had to listen to the recording.

I remember I bought it and I liked her casual pose and dark blue dress on the CD's cover photograph. It was late in the afternoon. I layed back on my couch, looked up to the high ceiling and listened to her voice, which filled the wide room. I didn't move at all. Then came Bellini's *Dopo l'oscuro nembo* and that did it. I was hooked. Back then, I didn't know that I would later have a chance to meet with Elīna personally and that classics would become my secret addiction, passion, salvation and joy; that instead of queuing up with my friend at the Eiffel Tower, I would be searching among the subterranean labyrinths of the Père Lachaise columbarium for the ashes of Maria Callas.

As we speak over the phone, I deduce that Elīna is very close to an airport, for I can hear the thundering din of jet airliners in the background. She pauses for awhile whenever a plane passes overhead, before continuing our conversation. "The best thing to do is to go out and buy a CD," she says, regarding the usual preconceptions of opera music as being dull and boring. "Listen to the recording in a relaxed setting, either at home on your couch, in the car, in the kitchen, or through the earphones of your mp3 player in the gym. Make sure you are in a pleasant environment and immerse yourself into the music."

While Elīna is always friendly during interviews, she never crosses the fine line of becoming overly chummy and familiar. I remember a photo session in Riga two years ago, when she said that she has to continually shield herself, for there are so many people who, "despite being motivated by the best of intentions, sometimes want to plug into you like a battery charger and unwittingly drain you of your energy".

In August of this year, *Deutsche Grammophon* released Elīna's latest album, *Romantique*, which was graced with another attractive CD cover.

"The decision to make it in black and white was actually an accident of sorts," she says laughingly in an interview with Gunda Vaivode of *Radio Latvia*. "Every time we put out a new recording, *Deutsche Grammophon* asks me what I'd like to see on the album cover. Usually I photograph some ideas from books or magazine covers, but up until then I hadn't thought about the colour scheme. I happened to have a book with black-and-white photographs that I liked and sent them to the company. They were thrilled and suggested that we make a black-and-white CD cover. I wanted it to have a feminine touch. We had set up the repertoire for the album while I was pregnant with my daughter. That was a very special and emotional time for me. I felt extremely feminine and we accordingly chose arias about love, about suffering and jealousy, about strong and independent women."

Elīna's latest recording has a fair number of works that she had never sung before, most of them in French. As she explains, when a lyrical mezzo-soprano stops singing roles for boys, then the French repertoire offers the widest opportunities for *bel canto* singing. There aren't many arias of that type by Vincenzo Bellini; those by Gaetano Donizetti aren't performed very often, and aside from the French, one is left mainly with dramatic German and Italian compositions to choose from.

This month at New York's Metropolitan Opera, Elīna will be performing in Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's opera *La Clemenza di Tito*.

"New York has been an interesting place for me. That is where I sang my final performances in two operas by [Gioachino] Rossini, the *Barber of Seville* and *Cinderella* [*La Cenerentola*], and now it looks like I will sing my last performance of Sesto [in Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito*]. It's an odd sensation. I feel that my voice has changed and developed in another direction. I no longer acquire a sense of fulfilment and satisfaction when I sing Mozart or Rossini. Sometimes, when I sing something by Rossini, I feel like I am running a marathon with my legs tied. I also feel constricted with Mozart; I'd like to spread my wings a little wider. I have had offers to sing in operas by Verdi, but up until now I have always refused, either because the opera house seemed inappropriate or because of the cast. I'd prefer to make a Verdi debut with a cast that is approximately my age and where I am not paired with someone



who has 20 years of experience singing his arias. I sometimes take very long to mature and don't want to take unnecessary risks. Nobody knows my voice as well as I do, which means that if I am not confident of being able to sing an opera role to perfection, then nobody else can convince me."

Returning to my conversation with Elina about her new CD, the soloist admits that several of the French tracks on the recording are not very well known.

"For some reason, these operas are almost never performed onstage, perhaps because they require very strong singers and parts of them might seem boring to the listener. Once, when I was in America, I bought a large book with the notes of little-known arias. I leafed through it and thought: 'Oh my, this is a nice piece!' That is how I put together my latest CD. I also have a German-language book at home, which depicts 2300 opera themes and which I consulted to learn more about these arias."

For each CD recording, Elina initially compiles about 90 minutes of

music, sometimes conveying an idea to the producers and asking them to find an appropriate aria.

"When we recorded *Bel Canto* in 2009, I was given 27 piano excerpts from operas by Bellini and Donizetti, which hardly anybody had heard before. I studied them and looked for arias that suited my voice. It was similar with the latest release. In the end, I always have the final say about what will be recorded. I have sung the tracks in *Romantique* at various concerts. I chose some of the works because they are well-known, so that the listeners don't feel like they are buying something completely unfamiliar, but I have also included little-known works to intrigue them and induce them to give an ear to something new. I think that *O ma lyre immortelle* from Charles Gounod's *Sapho* is a really emotional and powerful piece. The theme is extremely dramatic and I was apprehensive about singing it because it is vocally very challenging."

Elina has already been to Paris, Berlin, Madrid and other cities to promote her latest CD. She admits that selling and promoting recordings is not as easy as before, due to the advent of modern

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Elīna Garanča as Carmen in Georges Bizet's opera *Carmen* at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden in London

technologies. Some people record concert performances on their cellular phones and upload them onto the internet a few hours later for everyone to hear.

"I recently got up at 4:30 AM to go to Paris. I met with journalists and other people, gave interviews all day long and returned home just before midnight. It's hard work and it takes a lot out of you, including the radio and TV interviews. You might end up with a heavy schedule like that for several days in a row," says Elīna, who also feels a bit saddened by the fact that "audiences seem to have lost the sense of an opera being primarily about singing. It's become a much more visual experience, especially with all of those DVDs and movies coming out." However, Elīna is confident that the opera still has a promising future as an art form. "People were saying a hundred years ago that the opera's days are numbered, but it's still here."

And although CDs can now be recorded and put together in a matter of days, Elīna is pleased that her latest release has a live feel to it.

"I'd like the listener to appreciate the recording's feminine nuances. My voice has acquired new tones and I wanted to present myself in a new light."

Elīna says that her professional career started off ordinarily enough at the

*Südthüringisches Staatstheater* in the low-profile German town of Meiningen. She didn't know any German when she arrived, and initially there were times when she called up her mother, crying over the phone and wishing she could go home. Elīna was born in Riga to musical parents. Her mother is still a well-known vocal music teacher, while her father is a choir director. Elīna entered the Latvian Academy of Music in Riga in 1996 and two years later, while still a student and with only ten days' notice, she performed the role of Giovanna Seymour in Donizetti's *Anna Bolena*, discovering her deep affinity with the *bel canto* repertoire. Later, she studied in Austria and the United States.

In Meiningen, she appeared in such roles as Octavian in *Der Rosenkavalier*, which is one of her best-known and with which she triumphed a few years later (2006) at the Vienna State Opera. Her first international breakthrough was in 2003 at the *Salzburger Festspiele*, where she sang the role of Annio in a production of Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito*. After that, many roads opened up. She was soon singling the role of Charlotte in *Werther* and Dorabella in *Così fan tutte* in Vienna. In January of 2008, Elīna made her house debut at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. She sang Rosina in Rossini's *Barber of Seville* and immediately became a sensation. An even bigger surprise followed when she sang *Carmen* at the Met in 2010, leaving the city of New York





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in awe. Local reviewers gushed with praise, writing that “the Met has got its Carmen back” and calling Elīna “the best Carmen in the last 25 years”. The *Wall Street Journal* described her performance as electrifying.

Elīna has very fond memories of that period. “The rehearsals for *Carmen* were emotionally charged. All of us wanted to add something new. The process was immensely satisfying and our team was fantastic. I enjoy challenges, I enjoy studying and discovering each new role, but I also like working fast. I’ve performed at opera houses where the rehearsals have been tortuous for everyone, where nothing seems to be clear – not to us and not to the director.”

Richard Eyre, the man who directed Garanča’s memorable performance of *Carmen* at the Met, said at that time that one of the biggest challenges of staging such a performance is that everybody knows it. “And even if they don’t, they *think* they do. It’s like a fable: people’s knowledge of it actually precedes seeing the opera.”

In another interview, Elīna says that sensuality, not sexuality, was important for her in *Carmen*. “Sexuality means different things to different people,” she says. “Some are into sado-masochism, while others prefer white sheets and candles. Neither is wrong or right – to each his own. But in *Carmen*, sensuality and femininity often get lost.”

At the end of this month, Elīna will perform twice in Riga together with her husband, conductor Karel Mark Chichon, at *Garanča & Chichon. The Latvian National Symphony Orchestra’s New Year’s Gala Concerts*. On December 28 they will be at the Latvian National Opera, while on the 30<sup>th</sup> you will be able to hear them at the Great Guild Hall. Although the programme has already been announced, Elīna might yet make some last-minute changes, “depending on my inclinations,” she says light-heartedly.

Speaking of new ideas, Elīna is already thinking about her next recording:

“The music in it will be more serious and spiritual. We’re still working on a repertoire, but we’d like to record it in Riga together with a choir and include a Latvian work. Riga is set to be a European Capital of Culture in 2014 and we would also like to underscore Latvia’s choir-singing traditions.”

Among Elīna’s highlights this season is her debut in a new role at the *Deutsche Oper Berlin*, in Hector Berlioz’s opera *Les Troyens*, where she will be singing the role of Didon.

“It is a long, difficult and heavy piece, but quite beautiful at the same time,” says Elīna. “Before the end of the season I will return to Vienna with *Werther*, which I haven’t sung for several years, and will finally get to sing *Carmen* there. That will be followed by several concerts. The grand finale of the season will be a requiem by [Giuseppe] Verdi with Ricardo Muti conducting. That is a long-held dream of mine, which might come true in August of next year.”

Together with her husband, Elīna is involved in organising the *Garanča and friends (Garanča un draugi)* festival in Göttweig, Austria.

“The festival is one of our trademark activities, which we have undertaken in cooperation with the *Raiffeisenlandesbank* for the past five years,” Elīna explains. “The concerts take place in the courtyard of the Göttweig Abbey. That is an emotionally charged and powerful place. In July, during my vacation, I go there to enjoy the silence. You drive up to the top of a big mountain, where there is such a pervasive silence that you are overcome by a feeling of being extremely close to the Lord Himself.” **BO**

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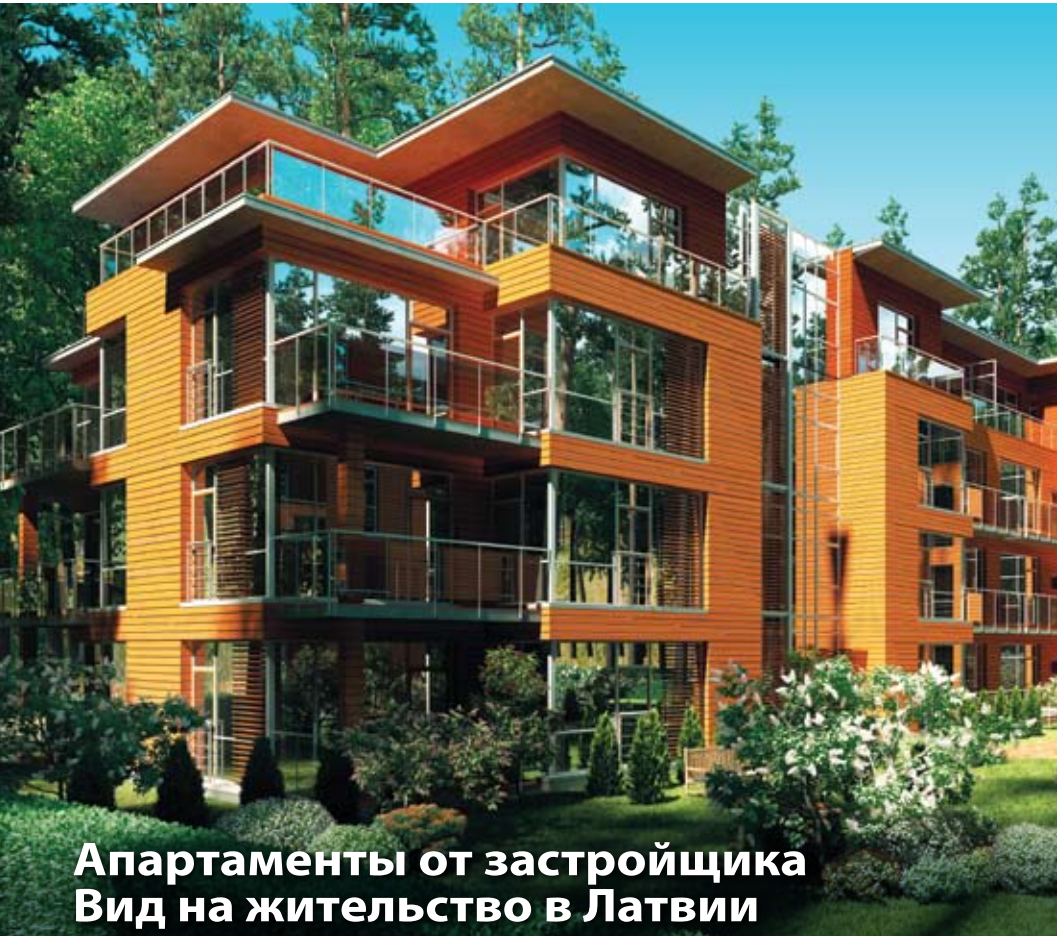
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# Retail therapy at Paris' passages

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY UNA MEISTERE  
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Paris is known for its legendary shopping passages. Starting from the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and on into the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the passages became places where you could spend your money in style and they've maintained this atmosphere to a certain degree even today.

These narrow pedestrian alleyways, which usually join two parallel streets, ensure convenient and quick access from one street to the other. Some have glass roofs and decorative architecture, matching the fine wares offered by the little shops along the way. The Duke of Orleans, who was a cousin of King Louis XVI, developed the first Paris passage, while the initiators of the rest came mainly from the ranks of the bourgeoisie, their professions being just as diverse as the passages themselves, including an engineer (*Passage des Panoramas*), butchers (*Galerie Vero-Dodat*), a notary (*Galerie Vivienne*) and bankers (*Passage Choiseul*). During

the July monarchy or Kingdom of France (1830-1848), more than fifty passages were constructed in Paris, with their glass cupolas, massive iron gates and a variety of details embodying the industrial achievements of that period. Each passage had its own character, like a miniature city within a city. Writers, artists and politicians gathered there, as did pleasure-seekers, prostitutes and illegal traders. In addition, the closed passages were a place to keep your shoes dry amid the muddy streets of 19<sup>th</sup>-century Paris.

Although not all of the city's passages have survived the vagaries of history and time has had its effect on their "little village" feel, they continue to be a way of getting to know a completely different Paris. Your walking speed immediately slows down, encouraging you to savour and enjoy the moment in all of its colourful glory. As Christmas approaches, the passages and their little shops are also a great place for finding that non-traditional gift.



### Cour du Commerce St-André

The *Cour du Commerce St. Andre* contains the essence of Paris' turbulent history. It has been located there since 1776 and its higgledy-piggledy cobblestones, which could easily ensnare the heel of your shoe, have remained since that time. Lord knows what this little street, which joins the *Rue Saint-André des Arts* and the *Rue de l'Ancienne Comédie*, has experienced in its time! Among its inhabitants was one of the leaders of the French Revolution, Georges-Jacques Danton, although the building in which he lived no longer exists. It was demolished during the Haussmann period (1854-1858), when the legendary Boulevard Saint-Germain was built. At house No. 8 was a printing press that published *L'Ami du Peuple*, a newspaper headed by another extremist of the French Revolution – journalist and political theorist Jean-Paul Marat. Calling himself a friend of the poor, he turned against opponents of the revolution in a radical manner. There's a colourful episode associated with his death; he was murdered in his own bath with a kitchen knife by Charlotte Corday, another revolutionary activist, who faced the guillotine soon after. During her trial, she said that by killing one person, she saved 100 000 from death, echoing Maximilien Robespierre's words before the execution of King Louis XVI.

Among other things, the most famous episodes in the history of the *Cour du Commerce* are directly linked with the guillotine. Although Joseph Guillotin didn't invent the device, it was he who promoted what he thought to be the most humane method of implementing the death sentence, which he actually opposed. In 1792, in the cellar of house No.9 in this passage, he began some experiments with the apparatus, lopping off the heads of live sheep. He asserted that the condemned would feel only the breeze of the blade rushing down towards their necks, and no more. The guillotine was used as France's main form of execution until 1977.

Today, the *Cour du Commerce* is the epicentre of both small shops and cafés. The passage also contains the oldest café in Paris, *Le Procope*, which opened its doors in 1686. Among its regulars were Victor Hugo, Voltaire, Oscar Wilde and George Sand. Paris' best chess players gathered there for chess matches, with the other café patrons enthusiastically watching. The café was restored during the 1980s and now looks as it did in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Having lunch here is just like having lunch in a museum. Not far away is the classic *Brasserie Relais-Odéon*, which is always full of customers, and the wonderful chocolate shop/restaurant *Un Dimanche à Paris*, owned by Pierre Cluizel, the member of a famous French family of chocolate masters.

**Rue Saint-André des Arts and Rue de l'Ancienne Comédie**

### Passage Molière

One of Paris' quietest passages is named after the famous 17<sup>th</sup> century French playwright, Molière. At one time the *Théâtre Molière* was located there and many of his plays were performed on its stage. The theatre is now known as *La Maison de la Poésie* and continues to host various cultural events. The *Espace Alaph*, a paradise of cinema buffs, is also located there. It would be hard to find such a select collection of rare cinema posters and publications anywhere. Right next door is the *Jean Bernard* wine bar, where little tables covered with red and white tablecloths are placed outside on the passage's cobblestones on warmer days. The *Passage Molière* is only 45 metres long – a small picturesque oasis with brightly painted historical shop façades and a seeming artistic carelessness, but where every detail has actually been carefully considered. Take the bright pink chair with a verdant flower pot placed on top of it by the white façade of a little shop. One of the most exclusive residents of the passage is the *Tamano* shoe shop, owned by a Japanese shoe designer who lives in Paris. She makes shoes on order for her customers. At the entrance of the passage there is the *Galerie Quinchampoi*, offering both contemporary and historical ceramics objects from a variety of famous manufacturers. Exhibitions are also held there every so often.

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## OUTLOOK / TRAVEL

### Passage du Cerf

One of the entrances to the *Passage du Cerf* is from the *rue Saint-Denis*. It is one of the oldest streets in Paris, built by the Romans during the 1<sup>st</sup> century and famous from the Middle Ages for having representatives of the world's oldest crafts and their associated businesses there. Wandering around this corner of Paris, you'll consider the *Passage du Cerf* (1828) to be a real find. It's 100 metres long and joins the *rue Saint-Denis* with the *rue Dussoubs* (or trendy *Montorgueil* district). Built on the site of a former mail coach base, it stood near the *Hôtel du Grand-Cerf*

in a former industrial district. Thus, its shops initially weren't as grand as those at the *Galerie Vivienne* near the Louvre, as they belonged to local craftsmen rather than affluent shopkeepers. Today, light shines through the glass ceilings, warmly embracing the wooden façades of about 20 little shops that sell doorknobs, jewellery, antiques and soap from all over the world, among other things. There's also a small colourful wine bar, *Le Pas Sage*, which is always crowded. The passage feels as if it has been a little lived-in, giving it an added air of authentic beauty.

145, rue Saint-Denis and 10 rue Dussoubs



### Galerie Vivienne

The *Galerie Vivienne* is one of the most exclusive and ornate of Paris' passages, having opened its doors in 1826. The idea of building the passage belonged to the President of the Chamber of Notaries of the time, Maître Marchoux, and his ambition was for the *Galerie Vivienne* to become the most beautiful passage in the city. He evidently succeeded, as it definitely has no peers in terms of its sophistication.

Today, the *Galerie Vivienne* hosts various art galleries, shops, cafés and restaurants. Among them are the charming little toy shop *Si Tu Veux*, the 20<sup>th</sup> century art bookshop *Lettres et Images* and the stylish *Belize, Odette et Zoe*, which sells accessories from throughout the world. *Le Marelle* is a vintage fashion treasure chest with a truly outstanding collection and with new additions almost daily. There's also the famous wine bar and gourmet shop *Legard Filles et Fils*. While a lot has changed over the years and the atmosphere at the *Galerie Vivienne* may not be quite as relaxed as it was long ago, it still continues to be a wonderful stop-off point for inspiration, as well as a great place for finding unusual gifts.

**Galerie Vivienne** – 4 rue des Petits-Champs, 5, rue de la Banque



### Galerie Colbert

Right next door is another of Paris' passages, the *Galerie Colbert* (1826). It is joined with the *Galerie Vivienne* and thus the two have been competing with each other for the title of the city's most beautiful passage since as long as anybody can remember. As opposed to its neighbour the *Galerie Colbert* has never enjoyed commercial success. It was even closed in 1975 until its ownership was transferred to the National Library, which had it restored and reopened during the 1980s. The passage is now the home of the National Art History Institute, the National Heritage Institute and the legendary *Brasserie du Grand-Colbert*.

**Galerie Colbert** – 6, rue des Petits-Champs, 6, rue Vivienne



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**Passage du Chantier**

The *Passage du Chantier* is located not far from the Bastille and it seems that its 120-metre-long little cobblestone street, which is skewed on one side, hasn't changed much since the Middle Ages. Bearing in mind that *Gap* and other mass producers are located on the adjacent and loud *Faubourg St-Antoine*, the journey back in time is at first truly surprising. Without knowing about its existence, it's doubtful that you'd end up there.

Historically, this district has been associated with furniture manufacturers since the 15<sup>th</sup> century, when King *Louis XI* allocated this area for them to open their workshops and to help deal with local poverty. At one time the workshop of Adam Weisweiler, who, among other things, made furniture for Marie Antoinette, was also located here. The most diverse little furniture shops continue to be the main tenants of the passage – from antique shops to restorers of

antique furniture and replica manufacturers, right up to representatives of contemporary design. For example, *Le Manoir de Gilles* now represents third-generation furniture masters. It's also worth visiting the *Hummel* furniture and accessory shop, as well as the show room of *Xavie Z*, a representative of French contemporary design and manufacturer of kitchens and kitchen accessories.

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TEXT AND PHOTOS BY JIMMY PETTERSON

# The best of the Alps



To attempt to choose the best ski areas in the Alps is a surefire way of making new enemies. Half of the readers will be antagonized and alienated because their favourite resort has been omitted. The other half are equally miffed for fear that their secret powder paradise will be turned into one enormous mogul hill. Recognizing that this article will not win me any popularity contests; here, then, are a few ski resorts where everybody should ski at least once before they die

Into the deep, light powder of Sallbach

### Saalbach-Hinterglemm

If après-ski and nightlife are a high priority, then Saalbach-Hinterglemm might be the right choice for your next ski holiday. This popular destination represents a great combination of excellent cruising runs, good off-piste possibilities and extra-curricular activities until the cows come home.

The pistes here are an intermediate's dream and there is a reasonable amount of beginner terrain, but only four black pistes and almost no moguls to challenge advanced skiers. Instead, better skiers can occupy their time outside the marked pistes. Saalbach has some excellent tree skiing and an abundance of off-piste slopes that are rarely skied by the Bavarian, British, Dutch and Scandinavian beer-guzzling crowd.

The village is a typical Austrian cluster of hotels and pensions gathered around an onion-domed church that dates back to the Middle Ages. The slopes are filled with rustic huts where the schnapps, beer, *Glühwein* and *Jägertee* start being consumed in abundance even before lunchtime. By three o'clock, the slopes are thinning out radically, and the après-ski life in the *Pfefferalm*, *Panorama Alm* and *Goasstahl* is getting into full swing.

The top after-ski venue is the *Hinterhagalm*. It is a United Nations meeting in a steam bath. Many of the customers are too drunk to stand up, but it is impossible to fall down in this room of wall-to-wall people. The dance floor is a throbbing mass of humanity,

bumping and grinding in their ski boots to a steady stream of "evergreens" played by a band situated under the eaves of the hut. All the while, the rafters are full of people dripping sweat and spilling brew onto the dancers below, and an amazing group of waiters bob and weave through the crowd, balancing trays of beverages miraculously above the throng without spilling a drop.

Eventually, the après-skiers move slowly down the mountain and continue the revelling in *Ski Bauer*, *Spitzbub*, *Zum Turm* and *Castello*.

One should reserve an evening to indulge in *Hansi's* famous Felsensteak. At *Haus Peter*, you are served this tender chunk of beef on a hot stone and cook it yourself, while Hansi wanders around the restaurant, seasoning everybody's fare and leading the whole house in humming some bars of the *Blue Danube* while the steaks sizzle. Every Friday night, one can enjoy the added attraction of Hansi's magic show.

The Saalbach night scene is not complete without at least one evening visit to the *Spielberghaus*. A piste machine takes people three kilometres up the mountain to this rollicking hut, from where, after an evening of good food, drink, and song, they can sled back to town... if their alcohol consumption doesn't land them in the creek beside the sledding track.

Between the skiing and the after skiing, Saalbach-Hinterglemm is a complete winter playground, and the only loser is sleep.



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The broad, north-facing Mount Albona, which towers above the village of Stuben, has been providing powder fans a myriad of off-piste possibilities for generations



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### Stuben and the Arlberg ski region

The Arlberg ski area, made up of St. Anton, St. Christoph, Stuben, Zug, Zürs and Lech, is one of the dinosaurs of Alpine skiing. The famous Vallugabahn was built with Marshall Plan money after World War II, but skiing here dates back to long before the war, when the legendary Hannes Schneider did so much to develop ski technique.

While St. Anton has for decades been a headquarters for hundreds of hardcore ski bums and Zürs and Lech are annually frequented by Austria's rich and famous, little Stuben, which gets more snow than almost anywhere in the Alps, often gets lost in the shuffle. Stuben is a powder hole, where the storms,

which invariably blow in from the west, get stuck as they attempt to cross the Arlberg Pass. Here, each storm is compelled to drop the mother lode to lighten its burden enough so that it can rise above the pass and escape eastward. Hence, this little snow magnet pulls down an average of 12 metres of snowfall per year.

Stuben has only three lifts, but with perhaps the best powder mountain in the world, one hardly needs more. From the top of the Albona, miles of open north-facing terrain stretch out in both directions, so that it is almost always possible to traverse just a little further out than the last tracks and then enjoy about 1000 vertical metres of virgin snow. If the

powder does run out, then freeriders can always hike 30-40 minutes up the Maroikopf and ski the well-known run down to Langen.

In springtime, an off-piste corn snow run into the Maroi Valley brings skiers down to the isolated Rasthaus Ferwall, a perfect venue for a long lunch.

The village of Stuben is cosy and quaint, but with absolutely nothing to do after the sun goes down. Don't worry. If the powder is as good as it can be, then you will be too tired to party anyway. The real party animals are advised to stay in St. Anton and catch the morning bus to Stuben. You might miss the first couple of runs in the fresh snow, but the rest of us will be happy to have fewer tracks.

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The clock of the Chamonix train station provides the foreground to some of the most rugged peaks in the Alps

### Chamonix

Chamonix is full of old-world charm that is the result of over a hundred years of being the mountain climbing capital of the world. On the other hand, Cham is also bedevilled by a lift system that is partly antiquated, often inefficient and spread out over a large area, necessitating the need for much bussing.

Chamonix is a town, rather than a village, and perhaps it is the most beautiful town in the world. All around Chamonix is a panorama of steep cliffs and massive seas of glacial seracs, all lorded over by the dome of the Alps, the Mt. Blanc, as well as the spectacular Aiguille du Midi.

For advanced skiers, the best skiing in the lift system is in Argentière, 13 kilometres from town. There are moguls galore on the front face of the Grands Montets and stupendous off-piste tours among the seracs of the glacier off the backside. In addition, one can find steep tree skiing in powder down to the village of Le Lavancher, and classic off-piste tours such as Pas de Chèvre and Rec de Ligne. Many descents from the Grands Montets are over 2000 vertical metres long. The granddaddy of them all when it comes to vertical drop is the 22-kilometre tour from Aiguille du Midi at 3842 metres, which sends the skier around 2800 vertical metres over the Mer du

Glacé to the valley below. This is a spectacular, but not very demanding off-piste tour that begins with a breathtaking walk down a narrow ridge from the top station to the point where you can put on your skis. The run then winds itself gradually among a myriad of crevasses before depositing the skier back in Chamonix.

Novice and intermediate skiers in Chamonix will be most at home either in the Le Tour area or the Les Houches lift system, at opposite ends of the valley, while Le Brévent and La Flégère offer good skiing on south-facing slopes for all ability groups. These two areas are ideal for early morning corn snow in March and April. The corn snow sparkles and beckons, and one can shift into fifth gear and fly, for the crowds are somewhere else. By 11:30, the snow is getting too soft on those spring days and it is time to move on.

Skiing in Chamonix at the right moment can be as good as it gets, but you must be lucky. The high altitude and extreme nature of the terrain puts the upper part of the Grands Montets and the Mer de Glace very much at the mercy of the elements. They can be closed for weeks at a time due to high winds, snowstorms and avalanche danger. If you arrive on the first clear day after a snowstorm, then get up very early to obtain a small taste of heaven.



Near the bottom of the famous  
Vallée Blanche descent,  
the glacier ends  
with an ice cave



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### The Dolomites

While the Dolomite system of ski lifts is not all interconnected, the Super Dolomite lift pass includes passage on a staggering 464 different mechanical contraptions for carrying skiers uphill. This is such a gigantic ski area that the best way to take in all the sights is to drive to a different starting point each day.

The villages in Val Gardena and the 1956 Olympic site of Cortina D'Ampezzo are the most famous ski resorts in this colossal winter amusement park. There are, however, almost as many villages as there are lifts, and the smaller enclaves of Arabba and Corvara are also good central locations in the network of lifts.

The steep, rocky limestone spires and pinnacles that make up the Dolomites provide some of the most sensational mountain views this side of the Himalayas. The jagged peaks and ridges of the Langkofel group and the Sella group flank the picturesque villages of Val Gardena, and the equally rugged cliffs of Cristallo, Sorapis, and Tofana tower over the glitter and glamour of nearby Cortina.

The Dolomite ski region is a virtual paradise for intermediate and low-ability skiers, who can all manage their way through the famous Sella Ronda, a day tour that circumnavigates the Sella massif, providing stunning new angles from which to view this monolith around every corner. Advanced skiers will not find as much suitable terrain among the normal pistes, but will certainly enjoy the black piste between the steep walls of the Cristallo, as well as the famous off-piste route down the Val di Mezdì. In addition, real expert skiers can, with the help of a guide, find their way into a variety of extreme couloirs that snake nefariously among the vertical walls of the Dolomites.

A tour of awe-inspiring beauty that should not be missed by intermediate or advanced skiers is the run from Lagazuoi to Armatarola. Do yourself a favour and stop for a mixed lunch grill at the Refugio Scotona on your way down.



The Dolomites combine spectacular mountain scenery, old picturesque buildings and a ski pass that includes more than 450 lifts



Amongst the limestone cliffs near the top of the Pordoi in the Dolomites



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## OUTLOOK / TRAVEL



Skiers climb along a precarious path in the shadow of one of the world's most beautiful mountains – the Matterhorn

### Zermatt

Zermatt was there, at the forefront, from the very beginning, having built the world famous Gornergrat railway in 1898 and opening its first ski school in 1902. It is the classic ski resort. It has the largest number of high-capacity lifts in the world. It is in the top ten worldwide in vertical drop with 2200 metres of skiing top to bottom. It also has one of the ten longest runs in the world, a 15-kilometre journey from the top of the Klein Matterhorn back to the village.

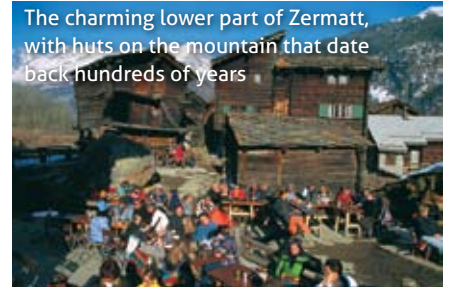
For those who prefer après-ski, Zermatt also ranks among the top ten ski resorts worldwide, with eight nightclubs and well over 100 eateries. To top it all off, it has the highest lift in the Alps, which takes visitors to 3899 metres, and some of the most stunning mountain vistas anywhere in the world. One can view no less than 38 peaks that exceed 4000 metres from here, and the imposing blue ice of glacial seracs and huge crevasses add an additional intensity to the surrounding nature that can be replicated in very few ski areas.

All that, and then, there is the Matterhorn! It stands alone at the end of the valley, like a giant citadel. It is gorgeous, stunning, staggering, stupendous, spectacular, magnificent, awesome and inspirational, but that entire description doesn't really do it justice. It is the perfect mountain!

Zermatt has great skiing for all abilities. Nowhere else in the world can beginners and intermediates cruise along wide boulevards of snow with more beautiful backdrops and vistas than here in Zermatt. The altitude almost guarantees perfect packed powder on the easy upper slopes of the mountains, even late in the season. The entire south side of the Klein Matterhorn ski area, which takes skiers down to Cervinia in Italy, is ideal for intermediates.

Experts will also not be disappointed. Despite its renown, there are plenty of uncrowded trails

The charming lower part of Zermatt, with huts on the mountain that date back hundreds of years



where advanced skiers can get into high gear and imitate Franz Klammer. For example, the black "National" piste under the Blauherd lift, which has served in the past as a venue for FIS giant slalom races, is a great cruiser for good skiers.

Off-piste enthusiasts can lay tracks in the shadow of glacial seracs high on the glaciers of the upper mountain or weave their way through the trees on 40-degree glades underneath the Schwarzsee. Amidst these glades are the Aroleid, Tiefbach, and Momatt pistes. These are narrow couloirs and gullies that would be permanently forbidden terrain in many ski areas of the world, but they are marked pistes in Zermatt.

Everybody should take a ride on the ancient Gornograt, a cog-wheeled train that is, for all intents and purposes, a functioning museum piece. If you ride the train from the bottom, then try, at all costs, to get a seat. But if you are one of the unlucky standing-room passengers, then prepare yourself for a full 40 minutes of standing in your ski boots, with your arm outstretched to hold onto a ceiling strap for support. You might not get your blood circulation back into that arm until lunchtime.

Sitting comfortably in one of the seats, however, is one of the most pleasant ways to ride up a mountain. Bring a beer and a sandwich, enjoy the Swiss scenery unfold outside your window, and imagine what skiing was like a hundred years ago. **BO**



# Декабрь.

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The *Galleria Riga* lies in the centre of Riga, close to the Old Town, the Freedom Monument, several popular hotels, and the Quiet Centre – the Riga neighbourhood with the highest concentration of Art Nouveau architecture. A wide variety of shops line the seven storeys of the building, providing visitors with a broad selection of items. Here you'll find necessities for both daily life and celebrations.

At the *Galleria Riga* you can purchase items made by such famous labels as *women'ssecret*, *Cortefiel*, *Springfield*, *Karen Millen*, *Oasis*, *Parfois*, *Ecco*, *Mango*, *Marella*, *Gino Rossi*, *Suitsupply*, *Baltman*, *Triumph*, *Ioanna Kourbella*, *John Galliano*, *Alexander McQueen* (at *Mon Cheri* store), *Crocs*, *Piazza Italia*, *Liviana Conti* and many more.

To better serve its customers, the shopping centre has a built-in parking garage and special stands for bicycles. Guests have use of free Wi-Fi and can take full advantage of *Global Blue* benefits. Those who are short on time, or who would rather place their trust in a professional, can shop with a personal stylist who will help find the most appropriate outfits, taking into account your style and needs, as well as the trends of the season. Other useful services available at *Galleria Riga* include a post office, dry-cleaning, currency exchange and beauty salons. A favourite spot for guests to stop for a moment's rest is the centre's fountain, from which there's a great view of the building's elegant architecture.



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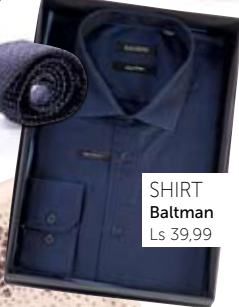
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**The biggest news** this autumn is the arrival of Europe's fifth largest textile group, the Grupo Cortefiel, in Latvia. As a result, three of the group's stores – women'secret, Springfield and Cortefiel were opened in November.

In other news, the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of the Galleria Riga has been home to Blue Wonders (*Zili brinumi*), a knowledge-stimulation centre for children, since the month of September. The new children's centre stems from a book of the same name, which was designed to stimulate young people's curiosity and thirst for knowledge about nature, science and each person's particular place in our technologically advanced world. The centre's founders hope that visiting schoolchildren will acquire an even greater motivation to excel in their studies. In fact, the centre is a great place to visit and learn new things not only for children, but also for their parents.

The *Galleria Riga* is the perfect place for a hearty meal during the holiday season, with numerous restaurants on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor to suit all tastes, including Italian, Japanese and Indian establishments, as well as a new Italian bistro that is set to open in December.

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# A Romanticist pearl in Vidzeme

PUBLICITY PHOTOS

On its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Mālpils Manor in central Latvia, which experienced a variety of owners over the centuries, has received its best present by being returned to its former glory.

Once upon a time, the Mālpils Manor estate had 38 buildings. The central manor house has served various functions over the years, including as a primary school, a sanatorium, a technical college and museum. Today, the Mālpils Manor has had its original Classicism style restored and is now a luxury hotel with 24 bedrooms. Located just 52 km from Riga, it offers a beautiful setting for all kinds of festivities.

The history of Mālpils reaches as far back as the Stone Age, when the Livonians lived in this area. They are thought to have given the place a name that stems from two Livonian words: *lembit* (chief) and *urga* (river), or *chief river*, which the invading Germans called *Lehmburg* or *clay castle*. Translated

into Latvian, *clay castle* is *Mālpils*. The Mālpils Manor is first mentioned in historical documents dating from 1413. It is not known what the manor looked like at the time of its commissioning by Robin von Eltz, the Master of the Livonian Order, as it was subsequently destroyed during the Polish-Swedish War (1600-1629).

Following the war, the management of the Mālpils Manor was taken over by Baron Gustav Wilhelm von Taube, who built the manor house that is the focal point of today's estate. He also created a park with a pond that is known by the locals as the Siberian Pond, as Taube was ruthless against his serfs and forced them to perform hard labour. Taube used to sit in the middle of the pond with a whip in his hands to punish those who did not work quickly enough. He died of a snake bite and his children buried him in the park grounds, but his restless soul was said to

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haunt the manor house. He was later reburied in a nearby graveyard and those who passed his gravesite customarily threw a stone at it, creating a small pile of stones that is still evident today.

When the manor was purchased by the von Grote family of Bremen in 1820, the estate was enlarged to 38 buildings, of which 18 remain today. The buildings included the manor house, stables and a barn, as well as a summer house, a winery and even a prison. The memoirs of Dr. Otto Huhn about the Mālpils Manor, written in 1821 and stored in the Latvian State Archives, read as follows:

“The manor house is large, tastefully styled and built of stone. It has a large orchard. An alley has been cut through the woods, but overall it has a natural landscape. The other buildings, including the taverns,



are solid and in good condition. In good weather, the towers of Riga can be seen from the balcony of the manor house.”

The manor house was burned down during the Revolution of 1905, but its restoration was carried out by master builder Pēteris Menģelis of Cēsis, in accordance with plans by architect Wilhelm Bockslaff. By 1911, the building had been completely restored in the Classicism style that we know today, making the manor more ornate and presentable.

During the agrarian reforms in Latvia in the 1920s, the park and estate were managed for six years by the Mālpils Primary School. The grounds were then assigned to the veterans' society of the Latvian army, which established a sanatorium there. Due to a lack of funds, the estate was sold in 1935 to a local man, Theodore Kessel. It was nationalised in 1940 and until 2002, when the manor was purchased by its current owner, Aldis Plaudis, the premises housed a variety of exhibitions, occupied for the longest period of time by the Mālpils Museum of Agriculture and Amelioration.

Following thorough restoration work, during which time the historic original details were retained, the

manor house was re-opened to the public in 2008 to coincide with the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of its architect, Wilhelm Bockslaff. The manor house is adorned with restored fireplaces and tiled hearths, dark oak-panelled ceilings, a stary parquet floor in the ballroom, oak staircases, 19<sup>th</sup>-century vaulting and original wooden beams. The interior has been supplemented with antique Classicist and Biedermeier-style furniture and Latvian old master paintings. Above the fireplace in the restaurant hangs a parquet shield designed by Bockslaff with a still life painted on it. A large collection of antlers is exhibited in the Hunters' Hall.

Within the estate, one can take a trip on the pond in a wooden boat, enjoy drinks in the Tea House, take walks around the park grounds or go cycling on old-fashioned bicycles. In cooler weather, one can stay warm indoors, reading a book from the manor's vast library collection.

Specialists of *WP Construction Ltd.* contributed greatly to the manor house's restoration, which was completed in 2008 and carried out in accordance with the requirements and recommendations of the Latvian State Inspection for Heritage Protection. **BO**



# Sophisticated Living – An elegant lifestyle with contemporary flair



Ralf Hüllemann

In our daily lives, we rarely realize how important it is to have good furniture. Specifically, furniture for resting, relaxing and recharging – such as a good sofa to sink into after a long day at work; or a comfortable bed, which is a basic necessity for getting a good night’s sleep. Without good furniture, sitting or sleeping can become uncomfortable for your body and negatively affect your posture. However, you may very well find just the right thing for you in *Sophisticated Living’s* furniture collections

Although the first collection from *Sophisticated Living* appeared on the scene just a few years ago, the label has developed rapidly. In Germany alone, net sales have increased by 20 to 25 percent per year. Having blown a fresh breeze into the established furniture market, *Sophisticated Living's* collections are a hot commodity in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, and now in Latvia as well. The company's chic furnishings can be found in such prestigious salons as *Mobitare* (Zurich), *Casaluna* (Cologne), *Ikarus* (Frankfurt), *Möbelkolonie* (Munich), *Spectroom* (Mellen), and *Andreas Benz Design* (Vienna).

Success stories don't just come out of the blue; there's an explanation behind them. The furniture made by *Sophisticated Living* adheres to the highest European standards, setting itself apart with elegant design, comfort and practicality. Buyers are also attracted to the line's favourable correlation between price and quality, which has assured *Sophisticated Living* a stable spot among the leading Italian and German producers of upholstered furniture. The co-creator of the collection, and main designer behind most of the furniture models, is German architect Ralf Hüllemann. Energetic and adventurous in nature, Hüllemann successfully engages himself in various aspects of the field: in addition to designing interiors, rugs and furniture, he has several art degrees and is highly regarded by his colleagues in the business.

*Sophisticated Living's* collections contain both modern and classic furniture designs, and are suitable for living rooms, offices, bedrooms and public spaces. The new collection stands out with multifunctional elements that can be combined in a myriad of ways. Every model has several modular pieces that allow customers to put together their own customized sets, rendering the traditional "sofa and side chairs" set a thing of the past. Unlike many top-level producers, who don't allow for deviations from their standards,

*Sophisticated Living* gladly accepts custom orders. For interior designers, this quality alone is a dream come true.

*Sophisticated Living* uses the latest European technologies in the production of its materials and structural components. Considering the amount of goods being imported from Southeastern Asia, this is an important factor for many consumers. *Sophisticated Living* stuffs its furniture with elastic polyuretane, multi-pocket springs and memory foam, which has the ability to completely conform to the contours of the body. These materials make the furniture both comfortable and durable. Another company advantage is its wide selection of upholstery fabrics and natural leathers from Italy, France and Belgium. All of these opportunities for individuality and variety make *Sophisticated Living* stand out in the often homogenous and mundane world of furniture salons.

*Sophisticated Living* encourages its customers to create what they really want, as their requests and wishes induce the company find new solutions and ideas. By being in close contact with its customers and studying their preferences, *Sophisticated Living* can better understand and translate the latest trends in furniture styles. Together with you, we wish to look to the future as we plan on developing the best new ideas; and we'd like to thank you for choosing furniture by *Sophisticated Living*. **BO**

From January 14–20, you are welcome to visit the *Sophisticated Living* stand at the *IMM Cologne Furniture Fair*, Hall 3.1, Stand C031, Pure Village c 14



In Latvia, *Sophisticated Living* collections can be seen at *ELĪZA – K* furniture salons, located in the *Spice Home* shopping centre and at Deglava iela 50 in Riga  
 ⓘ [www.sophisticated-living.de](http://www.sophisticated-living.de)



Miss Germany Doris Schmidts



# Sharing a passion for creativity and design

## *ID Design* – a solid partner of *Marchetti* in the Baltics

*ID Design* is delighted to introduce its long-standing partner *Marchetti* and to share the two companies' common love of design, creation and style. In 1968, master craftsman Gianni Marchetti founded the *Marchetti* artistic furniture firm, based on his profound knowledge of wood, refined aesthetic sense and original approach – attributes that have been handed down through several generations and that continue to drive the family today. Here the fragrance of wood blends with the charm of an ancient craft, giving rise to exclusive pieces that combine the flavour of a traditional occupation with innovation and design.

"I have inherited my father's love of traditional craft techniques, passion for detail and enthusiastic approach to research," says company director Giordana Marchetti. "The fresh, novel touch that characterizes our furniture treads a fine line between tradition and innovation, enhancing the essence of wood and shaping pieces with a truly inimitable appearance. During the past years, we have strongly felt the need to push our products into new trends. The solid wood grain taught us to use pure lines that remain timeless, while creating unique items. For us, design is the meeting point between the past and the future, between shapes and materials, between beauty and functionality. Here we can freely express our artisanal origins, aiming at outstanding craftsmanship with an original approach and freshness."

Giordana Marchetti



Giordana Marchetti

**ID**  
interior design

SIA ID design  
Riga, Latvia  
Tel. (+371) 67118449  
Fax (+371) 67167670  
office@interiordesign.lv  
📍 www.interiordesign.lv





Ekaterina Andersone and Tatyana Ovsyannikova

For the past 10 years, *ID Design* has satisfied customers' needs and desires by creating comfortable homes in accordance with their specifications. In caring for its customers, *ID Design* collaborates with many European manufacturers, but feels a closest affinity with the Italian *Marchetti* company, whose understanding of beauty and elegance, along with its high level of responsibility and quality, corresponds to *ID Design's* philosophy. The Latvian company finds *Marchetti* products captivating due to their simplicity and most of all, because of their durability. As company's creative director Ekaterina Andersone admits, a *Marchetti* table is an asset in itself, created with love by many hands, and should be passed on from generation to generation. Natural wood creates a cosy feel in the home and a desire to get together with those close to you.

*ID Design* has also been in the role of a customer in the past. That's why its personnel fully understand the needs of the customer and can put themselves in the customer's position. The company team, on receipt of the customer's vision and available budget, can use its knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to create an individualized and suitable home from A to Z – starting from sketches of the interior, details of the technical equipment, 3D visualization and, of course, the full interior installation. *ID Design* takes responsibility for product quality and offers attractive prices, as it obtains the goods directly from the manufacturer. *ID Design* pays attention to detail, modern simplicity and captivating design. **BO**



ID © 2008



ID © 2009

*ID Design* offers:

- customized design;
- 3D visualisation;
- full project implementation, including furnishings and interiors;
- direct deliveries from Europe;
- project supervision;
- legal support.



ID © 2010

# Spirit of Africa

A tribute to mankind and the continent of our common origins, FREYWILLE's latest collection *Spirit of Africa*, launched this autumn, takes you on a colourful and wild journey. Inspired by the continent's ancient cultures, lavish nature and unique wildlife, the Vienna-based artists at FREYWILLE have created two designs – *Safari* and *Kilimanjaro*, both radiating Africa's boundless energy

In Swahili "safari" means journey. *Safari's* gorgeous colours are about a magical journey through the savannah's untamed wildlife. Impressive animal designs of leopards, cheetahs, zebras and giraffes combined with ethnic prints served as inspiration to the artists of the Viennese company. Metallic shades of bronze and mother-of-pearl let the warm tones shine especially bright.

Shining just as brightly is the snow-covered peak of Africa's highest mountain, Kilimanjaro, Africa's other source of inspiration to FREYWILLE's Austrian artists, who have turned the Kilimanjaro region's tribal art into rough-textured prints on their precious bracelets, earrings, pendants, rings and watches.

Starting out as an artisans' workshop in 1951, FREYWILLE has grown immensely and acquired a global reputation. Today the brand is represented in about 90 boutiques all across the world. To avoid piracy, its items are sold exclusively through FREYWILLE stores. The fine jewellery and the recently added watch and accessories line are still hand-crafted in Vienna. **BO**



Design Safari  
Waterdrops earrings



Design Kilimanjaro  
Cabochon earrings



Design Safari  
Diva Ring



Design Kilimanjaro  
Diva bangle



Design Safari  
Diva bangle



Design Safari  
Luna Piena pendant with  
anchor chain



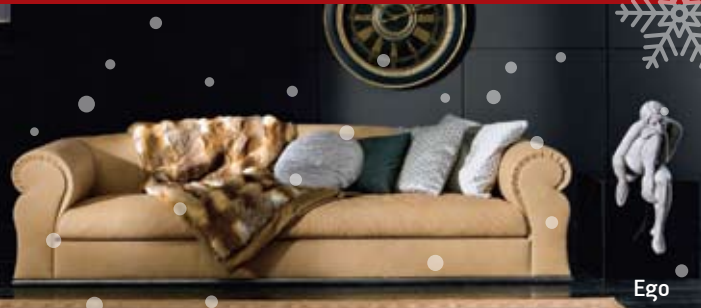
Design Kilimanjaro  
Oblong watch



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Ipe Cavalli



Ego



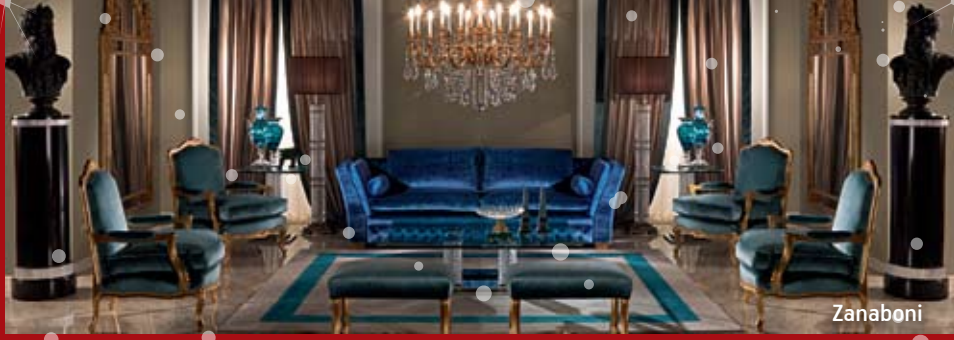
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# Gift list for those worth spoiling



If a woman was to write a letter to Santa Claus, it would probably be very short: spa. *Baltic Outlook* has compiled a dream gift list together with *Taka Spa* and the British skincare brand *Elemis*. Named by the *Wall Street Journal* as one of the most luxurious additions to Latvia's spa scene, *Taka Spa* keeps earning international acknowledgments, such as getting included in the *Taschen* and *New York Times* travel guide *36 Hours: 125 Weekends in Europe*

**1/ Duchess of Spa gift set, 70 LVL**

This Exotic Bodycare Royal Collection is a blend of four bathtime musts: *Frangipani Monoï* body oil and shower cream along with *Tranquil Touch* creamy body wash and polish. Pricewise, clients eagerly look forward to *Elemis* gift sets. This Christmas quartet is no exception, as you pay for two full items and get two extra ones for free.

**4/ Spa gift card for two**

A married couple, a mother and her daughter or just two friends – people can be paired in different ways and *Taka Spa* will be glad to accommodate. Select the procedure of your choice from the menu and enjoy it together as a pair. On weekends *Taka Spa* becomes a paradise for pairs and couples of all kinds, where the synchronous work of its spa masters is topped off with tea and light snacks for you and your special friend or loved one.

**2/ Lively feet: learn how to give a foot massage for your loved one, 55 LVL**

Foot massages work wonders to help the body regulate its own processes. The good news is that one session is sufficient to learn the basics. An ideal gift for those who appreciate the tender loving care of a skilful pair of hands. The course is given to three pairs over a period of 2.5 hours.

**5/ Pro-Intense Lift Effect, 76 LVL**

This daily lotion, the newest addition to the *Pro-Intense* range, is no showman. Instead of a brilliant one-night performance for a special event, the lotion has a long-term effect and should be used daily. An ageing skin is a thinning skin that sags and slacks, looking tired. It took three years of research before *Elemis* came up with this unique bio-complex of high-tech nature and plant stem cells that improve tone and texture, giving the appearance of a firmer jawline and taut cheeks.

**3/ Elemis Tahiti Flower ritual, 57 LVL (regular price 74 LVL)**

Special Christmas offer for the readers of *Baltic Outlook* – buy a gift card to treat your loved one with three hours of heavenly pleasure, that begins with cleansing procedures in pools and saunas, followed by a relaxing back, face and head massage, body wrapping in an exotic *Elemis* milk mixture, and mask for the face and hair. The session ends with healthy herbal infusions and spa snacks.

**6/ Royal Candle, 30 LVL**

Let the fragrance of lily, jasmine and vanilla add to the festive atmosphere at your home. Contains 100% natural essential oils and premium wax.

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# Medicinal mud – the gold of Jūrmala



## How to get there

From the airport *Rīga* by taxi (apr. 15 min.)  
From Riga Central Station: by train or minibus.  
If you want to explore the centre of Jūrmala, ask for a ticket to Majori Station

Located just 25 km from Riga, Jūrmala is a unique, elegant seaside town offering century-old traditions of SPA and medical resort treatments based on muds and mineral waters. Take your time and enjoy walking along the 30-km-long fine sandy beach, breathing the fresh sea air and exploring the wonderful wooden architecture ensconced by pine trees

Latvia's largest resort city offers natural treatment and spa services at reasonable prices. Surrounded by pine-tree forests, Jūrmala has been known as a health resort town since the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Jūrmala is a unique site endowed with three main resort assets: a healthy maritime climate, thermal mineral waters and medicinal mud.

Resort rehabilitation centre Jaunkemeri

Jūrmala's history as a resort town began in Ķemeri (a district of the City of Jūrmala), in a special location 6 km from the sea among lakes and bogs, where sulphur springs rise up from the depths of the earth. Its ideal location – along with the medicinal properties of the local mineral waters and mud – spawned the development of the first health resorts at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Today, Ķemeri has more than 30 mineral water springs and rich resources of peat and sapropel mud that continue to be used in spa and health treatments.

Thanks to its temperate climate, Jūrmala is an appropriate vacation spot for children and the elderly, who may find it difficult to adjust to a hot southern climate. The resort therapies in Jūrmala's sanatoriums and spa hotels strengthen the metabolism and help visitors to overcome various disorders, including those of the heart and blood system, central and peripheral nerve system, spine and joints, digestive, gynaecological and urological systems. Unique recreation programs have also been set up for patients with motion system disorders.

Two types of mud are collected in Ķemeri: peat (bog) and sapropel (lake) mud, both of which are rich in organic substances, as well as sulphur and other minerals. The mud has very good detoxifying, anti-cellulite and healing properties. Ķemeri mud is also used in the treatment of chronic diseases and disorders of the spine, joints, nervous system, lungs and respiratory system, as well various skin problems, scar tissue and trophic ulcers. In addition, the mud effectively treats the after-effects of children's cerebral apoplexy and poliomyelitis. Sometimes the mud is also used as a local anaesthetic.

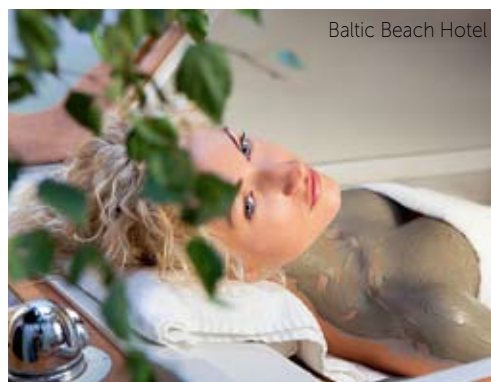
**While mud therapy is a wonderful curative remedy, please consult your doctor before undergoing a mud treatment.**



Resort rehabilitation centre Jaunķemeri



Baltic Beach Hotel



Baltic Beach Hotel



Baltic Beach Hotel

## LOCAL ĶEMERI MUD THERAPIES

Lying on a couch, the patient is covered from the neck down with a layer of medicinal mud (prepared at a certain temperature, thickness and consistency). The mud can be used both generally (covering the whole body) and locally (for a certain part of the body), depending on the localization of the problem spot and the extent of its activity. Thermo-therapy packets of Ķemeri peat mud are used in the treatment and prevention of joint ailments, following injuries and surgeries, and to treat disorders of the nervous system. The applications are beneficial to the health and reduce emotional stress. For best results in medical rehabilitation, the mud is applied in a complex treatment in combination with other therapies.

### Amber Spa Boutique Hotel

Mud applications from 15 EUR

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

### Jaunķemeri resort and rehabilitation centre

Mud applications from 10 EUR;

Mud bath from 15 EUR.

The centre offers several medical rehabilitation programs that include accommodation, full board and a general package of treatments.

Healthy Back 7-day treatment from 260 EUR;

Harmony 7-day treatment from 285 EUR;

Joy of Motion 7-day treatment from 260 EUR;

Sugar Diabetes 7-day treatment from 307 EUR;

Chronic Skin Diseases 10-day treatment from 442 EUR.

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

### Baltic Beach Hotel

Ķemeri mud applications from 7 EUR

(for problem areas, for the whole body, for adults and for kids)

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

### Siva resort and rehabilitation centre

Ķemeri mud applications from 5 EUR

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

### Belorusija sanatorium

Mud applications from 5 EUR

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

# Yule go gadget-crazy

Five of the year's most innovative Christmas gift ideas to put in your loved ones' stockings



**Bose SoundLink Bluetooth Mobile Speaker II**  
The bee's knees of portable sound

Having built the most elegant mobile speaker you'll probably ever come across, our friends at Bose have just updated the original *SoundLink* model with deeper, clearer acoustics and memory for up to six paired devices. Compact and lightweight, the new model connects via Bluetooth to any device, and will last for eight hours on one charge. There's also a new, sleeker AirPlay version, which connects over Wi-Fi.  
249.95 EUR | [bose.com](http://bose.com)

**Vinturi Wine Aerator**  
Decant in a minute flat

This breakthrough dinner table accessory may well change how you drink wine. Pour a bottle through the aerating filter, which empties right into your wine glass. The contraption effectively decants your wine in the time it takes to pour a glass, allowing the wine to properly breathe and giving you a better bouquet and smoother finish. Available in red and white wine versions. Also comes in a smaller travel size.  
50 EUR | [vinturi.com](http://vinturi.com)



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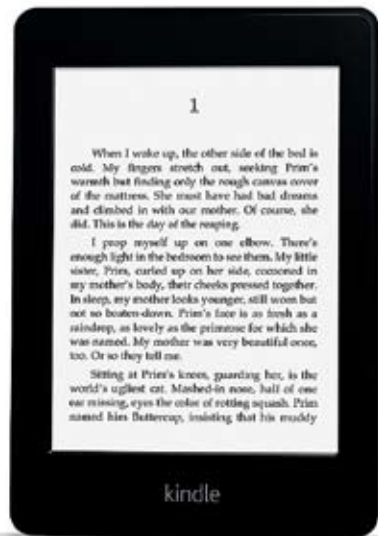
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**Kindle Paperwhite**  
Late-night e-reading

Amazon's new *Kindle* gives e-books what weary-eyed readers the world over have been waiting on for years: an internal nightlight. The most advanced e-reader yet has 62% more pixels and 25% higher contrast, plus a built-in front light for reading in all lighting conditions. None of this takes a second off the battery life, which still provides up to eight weeks of reading in one charge. A 3G wireless version (which costs 60 EUR more) allows for unlimited global download of e-books. 129 EUR | [amazon.com/kindlefamily](http://amazon.com/kindlefamily)

**Midland Subzero Music Headphones**

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44 EUR | [nevadaradio.co.uk](http://nevadaradio.co.uk)



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# First drive: the Opel Mokka

The *Opel Mokka* is a new small SUV that's designed to steal sales from the *Nissan Juke* and *Škoda Yeti*. So the question is – will it really? Whatcar.lv had the opportunity to drive the car in Germany, well before the official sales launch in the Baltic States

## What's it like?

Small soft-roaders are booming like nothing else; they already take 2.5 per cent of European sales and are fast heading for three per cent. The *Mokka* is one of the more practical small SUVs, with plenty of head- and legroom in the front and back. Four people will easily be able to travel in comfort, and even five won't be too cramped on short trips.

The luggage compartment impresses, too. It's not quite as big as a *Nissan Qashqai's* or a *Škoda Yeti's*, but is well shaped, while the rear seats fold down almost flat if you flip up the bases before dropping the backrests. The boot floor is also level with the entrance, so there's no big load lip to negotiate when lifting in heavy items. The *Mokka's* dashboard layout is



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very similar to that of the *Astra* hatchback, which means there are a lot of buttons that may seem a bit confusing at first glance. On the plus side, the cabin has lots of cubbyholes for small items, which helps to keep things organized.

Forward visibility is good thanks to the *Mokka's* high driving position. However, thick rear

pillars and side windows that rise towards the rear of the car restrict over-the-shoulder vision. We would recommend opting for a rear-view camera.

#### What's it like to drive?

A fairly taut suspension setup has the advantage of keeping the *Opel Mokka* upright through tight twists and turns.

However, keen drivers would notice that the steering is a bit slow to load up when you turn in to a bend and is inconsistently weighted when it finally does so.

The *Mokka* has a fairly stiff suspension that was not a problem on German roads, but we suspect it could raise some issues on less-than-perfect surfaces.

We tried two of the three engines – the 130-hp 1.7-litre diesel and the 140-hp 1.4-litre turbo petrol.

The diesel is a bit gruff under acceleration and grumbles even when cruising at motorway speeds. You need to get the revs above 2000rpm before it really starts to pull.

The turbocharged 1.4-litre petrol is much better. It pulls hard from low revs, and is smoother and quieter than the diesel. That said, it's still fairly boomy when worked hard.

We haven't yet tried the third option – a 1.6-litre gasoline engine that will also be available at launch. At higher speeds you may notice the

wind noise, but the refinement in general is no worse than in a *Juke* or *Yeti*.

The *Mokka* will be available in front-wheel drive and four-wheel drive forms, with the lower-spec models having five-speed manual gearboxes, while higher-spec versions and 4x4s have six-speeders. Several automatic models will be available, but with 2WD only.

The *Mokka* has a "smart" 4x4 system that maintains 100 per cent drive at the front wheels until the system detects slips, fast starts or tight cornering. Then it directs up to 50 per cent of torque rearwards.

#### Should I buy one?

The people at *Opel* think that the *Mokka* has terrific prospects: it is larger than a *Juke* and not much smaller than *Nissan's* even more successful *Qashqai* in the class above. Plus, it has a lot more options than the *Škoda Yeti*.

Certainly, the *Mokka* isn't without appeal. It looks good, is fairly practical and – as long as you choose the right version – it's reasonably priced, too. **BO**

### THE MOKKA IS OPEL'S FIRST STEP INTO THE MINI SUV MARKET



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# Looking for that Christmas feeling?

Ring in the holiday season at the Berga Bazārs

The first modern shopping centre in Riga – the *Berga Bazārs* (Bergs Bazaar) – was originally built by Latvian entrepreneur Kristaps Bergs over a 13-year period, between 1887 and 1900. The historic complex was designed by architect Konstantīns Pēkšēns, who used the shopping arcades of Western Europe and St. Petersburg as inspiration, along with the *souks* of the Middle East – the echoes of which can still be seen in the bazaar's arched passageways.

Just off to the side of the five-star boutique *Hotel Bergs* stands the "Little Pump", a sculptural fountain made by artist Ilmārs Blumbergs. The name of the piece alludes to the site's original function: this is where Riga's first private petrol pump was installed, and where the ladies of the Bergs Family filled up their motorcars. The cars, in turn, were kept in the nearby garage, which is now the location of the *Garage* wine bar.

The *Berga Bazārs* was already trimmed with its strings of Christmas lights back in November, thereby taking its place as the most sparkling quarter in all of Riga. To

make your Christmas shopping an even more pleasurable experience, the friendly staff at the *Gourmet Studio* will gladly wrap your gifts in charmingly clever ways.

Wonderful gifts can be found throughout the *Berga Bazārs*, including at the *Gourmet Studio* itself, which carries culinary delicacies, wines and Armagnac. For a wide selection of French champagne, head to the *Ervin's & Filles* wine shop. The renowned *RITO* store, for its part, offers a wide choice of high quality table and kitchenware. For original fashion created by Latvian designers, check out the *Klase* boutique, which carries the choicest gift items, including clothing and accessories made from fur, wool, silk, mohair and other natural fibres. In the three years since *Klase* opened its doors at the *Berga Bazārs*, the store has amassed a loyal clientele that appreciates both quality and creativity. Another good place for gifts is the *Arte* gallery, which deals in both *objets d'art* and antiques. And finally, some of the best Latvian-made linen textiles can be found at the *Nakts Mēbeles* (Night Furniture) shop.

On December 8 and 22, everyone is invited to experience the bazaar's traditional farmer's market, which also features crafts and antiques (opened from 10 to 3 p.m.). Held on the second and fourth Saturday of every month, it's the best place in town to sample local produce and foods, featuring everything from meats to baked goods. The various handmade sweetmeats, biscuits, jams and candies on sale are perfect for presenting as gifts. Over time, the market has developed an ardent local following, and some hard-core customers have even struck up friendships with the farmers, heading out to help with the harvest every autumn.

With nine restaurants and cafés catering to different tastes and inclinations, the *Berga Bazārs* is also known as one of the best places in Riga for going out. Now is the perfect time to experience the joy and excitement of the approaching holiday season at the *Berga Bazārs*. **BO**

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Vladimir and Helena Aleksandrov, owners of the company, and creative director Madara Stefane

# All Inclusive – simplifying life in Latvia



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 Mobile: (+371) 29425010  
 santmarco@inbox.lv  
 www.santmarco.lv  
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 www.allinclusive.lv



📍 Kiev, Ukraine  
 Družbi Narodov buliev. 7  
 Phone: (+380) 44 522 81 22  
 Mobile: (+380) 97 111 51 21  
 santmarco.ukraine@gmail.com

**Created** to help expats obtain whatever they need during their stay in Latvia, *All Inclusive* is the offshoot of the family-run *Sant Marco* interior design firm, which began its activities as a local consulting business specializing in house remodeling. Along with the rearrangement of floor plans, the family operation continues to provide interior design services and to procure furniture, accessories, lighting, and other home items for its clients. The company's founders liked the Italian traditions of keeping the business in the family and having different generations working together. Under such a unified vision and healthy work environment, the family decided to branch out with *All Inclusive* and to provide even more services to Latvia's expat community.

After years of setting up the living quarters of various clients, the company saw that a comfortable home is not the only thing that people need for a pleasant sojourn in Latvia. Foreigners who visit the country, either on holiday or for a prolonged stay, need a trustworthy partner to help them deal with not only the finer points of everyday life, but to advise them on larger issues as well. By providing these services, *All Inclusive* aims not only to help Latvia's visitors, but also to encourage the economic development of the country. *All Inclusive* believes that there is no obstacle that cannot be overcome – all you need is the will to do something and a helping hand. *All Inclusive* works with reliable business partners who are dependable and exact, and always settles for only the best.

People often have unfulfilled hopes and dreams, some of

which may seem virtually impossible to realise. Over the years, *All Inclusive* has amassed the necessary experience to make dreams come true. Upon arriving in Latvia, tourists, entrepreneurs or entire families can turn to *All Inclusive* as they would to a personal assistant. They can learn about holiday and recreational activities, find a place to live, and get partnered with service providers suited to their needs and tastes. Once settled in, *All Inclusive* can help Latvia's expats find a language teacher, a nanny, a personal masseuse or fitness trainer – as well as assist in acquiring real estate, starting a business or organizing a celebratory event.

***All Inclusive's* "Living in Latvia" package includes:**

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In addition to the above services, *All Inclusive* can also provide various other forms of customized assistance that might be necessary before you begin living in Latvia. Clients are given access to a comprehensive data base, as well as authorization to reserve services through the company's homepage. And with the *All Inclusive* client card, customers can receive services from the company's business associates in Riga and Jūrmala. **BO**



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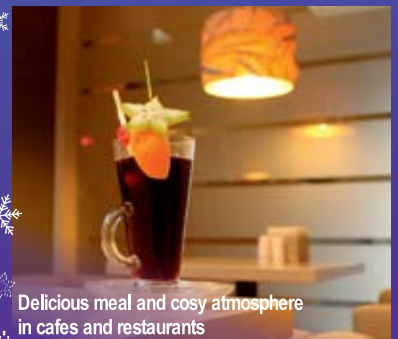
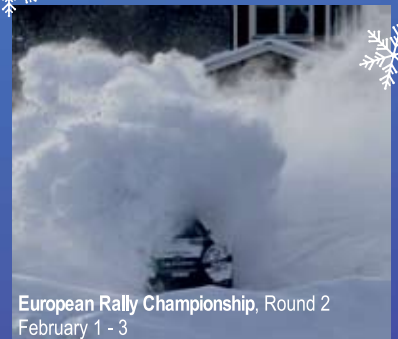
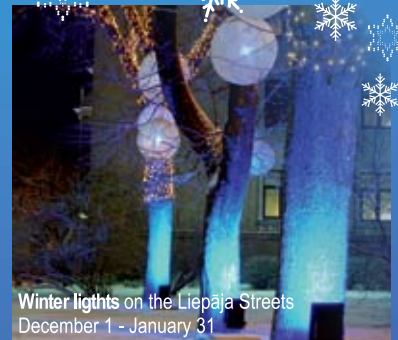


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When steak is at stake, it's better to leave things to the experts – to those with an established history and an impeccable reputation. In that regard, *Steiku Haoss* easily serves as the ultimate destination for the hungry traveller, faithfully on duty all through the holiday season

*Steiku Haoss* (*Steak Chaos*, in English) knows how to keep Christmas holiday goes happy. There's something very cosy and family-like about this Latvian-born chain of Wild West restaurants. Perhaps it's the wooden décor, the memorabilia-covered walls, the candle and the huge sizzling grill. Or perhaps the reason is even more simple – the hearty food.

Steak is the chefs' passion and they take it seriously here. Having started nearly ten years ago, *Steiku Haoss* set the standard for the juiciest and most tender cuts in the city. The restaurant chain has its own meat processing plant, which treats prime beef not only from the Baltics and Scandinavia, but also from suppliers in more distant countries like Spain, New Zealand and Argentina. In the world of steaks, buying the best meat that you can is over half the success. The rest lies in perfect cutting, seasoning and cooking. Since that is all done in-house, *Steiku Haoss* can ensure the same consistent quality, no matter which of its restaurants in Riga you decide to visit.

The menu, a true gift to any carnivore, does vary slightly, as each of the restaurants has tailored its dishes in accordance with the favourites of its clients. These are minor adjustments, so don't worry – the classics like grand buffalo or flambé steaks, or the beef fillet matured for 20 days, or that amazingly filling oven-baked stuffed potato, are all going to be there.

And like all grand steakhouses, *Steiku Haoss* is not only a bastion of beef. Its extensive range of steaks also includes pork, lamb and fish. Certain inspirations, mostly among the appetizers, soups, salad and sides – as they like to make their 20 types of steak the classic way – are due to the

fact that two of *Steiku Haoss'* chefs have completed an internship at *Noma*, the renowned double Michelin-star restaurant in Copenhagen. Having worked 90 hours a week and seen up close the tough discipline and high creativity in one of the world's finest eating establishments, the chefs at *Steiku Haoss* have added a serious dose of inspiration to their home restaurants in Riga.

**LIKE ALL GRAND STEAKHOUSES, STEIKU HAOSS IS NOT ONLY A BASTION OF BEEF. ITS EXTENSIVE RANGE OF STEAKS ALSO INCLUDES PORK, LAMB AND FISH**

For those who are not crazy about a rare piece of tenderloin, there's a wide selection of soups, salads and light starters. Enjoy your meal at its best with a good bottle of Italian, French or Chilean red wine. The house wine here is Spanish, while other reds and whites start from about 12 LVL per bottle.

As for seasonal inspirations, *Steiku Haoss* never misses to create an atmosphere of celebration. Christmas trees, candles and freshly baked gingerbread cookies for free on each Sunday of the Advent are a must. This year, the restaurant chain has also thought

of another way to brighten up the dark December evenings. As part of the light festival *Staro Riga* (Glow Riga), *Steiku Haoss* is featuring its own installations. Three glowing bulls will greet you by *Steiku Haoss'* restaurants until the New Year, which, as a traditionally grand celebration, will be marked in style at all three establishments. Food, drinks, live music and fun, including a surprise present and a lottery, will be the norm, whichever *Steiku Haoss* you pick. On New Year's Eve, *Nothing Personal & Marchello* will be playing live at the restaurant on Meistaru iela, the *Blues Gang* will be on Audēju iela, while Valdis Indrišonoks and Gints Žilinskis will be singing at the restaurant on Tērbatas iela. Head to [www.ticketservice.lv](http://www.ticketservice.lv) for your entrance ticket or ask for one at any of the restaurants. **BO**



*Steiku Haoss* is a chain of three steak restaurants with a total capacity of 500 diners (50 at Tērbatas iela, 150 at Audēju iela and 300 at Meistaru iela)



# Land of the Blue Cow



made wooden tables and iron chandeliers. The stone walls have been covered with a layer of white plaster and decorated with painted designs. These embellishments combine to brighten the space and conjure an aura of old-fashioned charm.

However, the main focus at the *Blue Cow* is on the food, which the chef calls “modern interpretations of traditional Latvian cuisine.” Not surprisingly for a restaurant with a cow as its mascot, the main dish is steak, consisting of the finest prime beef that has been dry aged for 25-40 days in the restaurant’s onsite meat locker. Thankfully, the menu keeps the selection process as simple as possible, by presenting each cut of steak with its weight and thickness alongside the price, as well as a handy ruler underneath to give diners a sense of proportion.

Although steak is the focal point of the menu, it certainly isn’t the only dish. As the sign above the door announces, the restaurant also specializes in fish. Therefore, the menu offers such delicacies as sturgeon fillet with black vegetable lentils in a champagne caviar sauce. An entire

section is devoted exclusively to dishes that use locally grown and organic products, such as lamb tenderloin with garlic potatoes and cherry sauce. The ingredients are purchased directly from Latvian farmers and producers, including a family farm in the parish of Aizpute, which is close to the native home

of the blue cows on the Kurzeme coast. The *Blue Cow* is also a perfect spot for banquets and private parties, as the restaurant can seat up to 80 people in its large back room, with a

**NOT SURPRISINGLY FOR A RESTAURANT WITH A COW AS ITS MASCOT, THE MAIN DISH IS STEAK**

view of the castle-like Small Guild next door. The front room, for its part, has a pair of cozy banquettes beside the windows looking out onto the bustling *Līvu laukums*. **BO**



**Restaurant** *Blue Cow* is housed in an architectural landmark that was completed in 1823. Some of the building’s original structural elements have been preserved, including its wooden ceilings and stone walls, parts of which date back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The interior itself was designed by a local artist, who added custom-

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of a photo. If you retrace your steps a little along the intersecting Krāmu iela, then behind a building with a flowery blue façade (which looks like a real treat), you'll see the tower of the legendary Dome Cathedral. This beautiful building now houses 1221, one of the city's best restaurants. A wooden edifice once stood on this same site some 800 years ago, serving as the home of the founder of Riga, Bishop Albert.

No matter how rich the presence of history in the three floors of the restaurant, which is visited every so often by guide-led tourist groups, 1221 puts its focus on the art of fine food. During the two years since it was founded, 1221 has achieved high rankings among Riga's restaurants in *Tripadvisor*, earning the praise of local Riga residents, tourists and celebrities from both Latvia and abroad.

Receiving VIPs isn't always simple. When 1221 began its operations, its staff didn't know a great deal about the protocol for receiving important officials. Now, after having hosted such prominences as Herman van Rompuy, the President of the European Council, 1221 has learned all the tricks of the trade.

1221's head chef Roberts Smilga has had the honour of serving numerous politicians, show business stars and other illustrious personalities. One of his observations is that unlike what people might think, famous people are often not overly choosy when coming in for a private meal. That's one of the reasons why Smilga doesn't overcomplicate his menu. It features a simple but thorough introduction to Latvian national specialties, and the same principles apply to 1221's versions of Russian, Italian, French and other cuisines, featuring simple textures and flavours without overdone twists.

1221 has already announced its biggest news for the festive season: the opening of a second restaurant, *Albert's 1221*, in the quiet centre of Riga. It is located on Antonijas iela 13 (entrance from Alberta iela) at one of the city's main Art Nouveau arteries. When *Baltic Outlook* ran into Smilga, he was tossing ideas around for the menu of the new restaurant. Whether in Old Riga or in the quiet centre, at 1221 you can be sure of a special atmosphere, invariably high quality and friendly service at any time, including on public holidays. **BO**

# Pretty darling of a historic street

Restorāns  


Jauniela 16, Riga  
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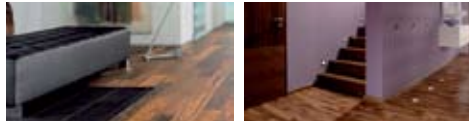
Jauniela, one of Riga's oldest streets, has never lacked in beauty. It has even "acted" in a number of films, doubling as London's Baker Street, the home of Sherlock Holmes; as the Rue Dante in German-occupied Paris or as the fateful Blumenstrasse in Bern in a serial about Stierlitz, the fictional Soviet spy.

From whatever angle you catch it, the cobble-stoned Jauniela nearly never misses making a postcard out



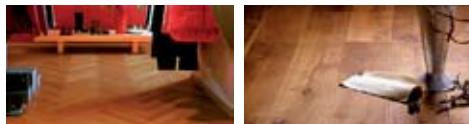


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## FOOD&DRINK

TEXT BY EVA LADVA AND KATE KRUMINA | PUBLICITY PHOTOS

## Restaurants, bars and cafés

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### Bang Bang, Riga

Concepts are merging, we realized after deciding that *Bang Bang* qualifies for our *Food & Drink* section. This fashion store features something that could most precisely be described as a coffee corner, with delicious cookies and cakes to eat on the spot or as takeaway, and has been a hottie in Riga for over half a year. It's a rare mix (fashion + good coffee and cakes) for Latvia's capital, but a tried and tested formula in other major European cities. That's why foreigners feel right at home at *Bang Bang*, and there is no lack of them here. Together with Riga's artsy types, they make for a very special blend in a place that might nicely warm you up for a Friday or Saturday night out.

Although the brands lined on coat hangers in the industrial interior are mainly from the surf and skate niche, *Bang Bang* is by no means a sporting goods store. Most of the clothing lines represented are from Scandinavia – such as *Makia* (Finland) and *Cheap Monday* (Sweden) – as well as the United States (*Volcom*, *Nixon*, *Circa*, *Supra*), together with some young and emerging local designers like *Blank Blank*. Regarding coffee, the brand of



choice here is *illy*, a favourite among Riga's alternative crowd. *Bang Bang's* coffee corner also serves cakes and cookies from *Kūkotava*, a bakery that doesn't require further comment among the city's gourmets. Although the space for enjoying a coffee and sweets is quite small (the three tables and cosy chairs around them can host up

to 20 people), one is likely to linger there for awhile, as there's something in the aura of the place that makes one feel in no hurry to leave any time soon.

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## FOOD&DRINK

### Neh, Tallinn

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In October 2012 the new menu was launched which will pleasantly delight even most spoiled gourmands presenting such an exclusive dishes as Salt crust roasted Wood Pigeon fillet, Pan fried foie gras with duck confit salad & sea buckthorn and D'vine famous „Surf'n'turf” — roasted fillet of beef and ¼ of lobster. There is one more thing which makes the new menu very special one — it's designed based on recommendations of bar's loyal customer suggestions and recommendations

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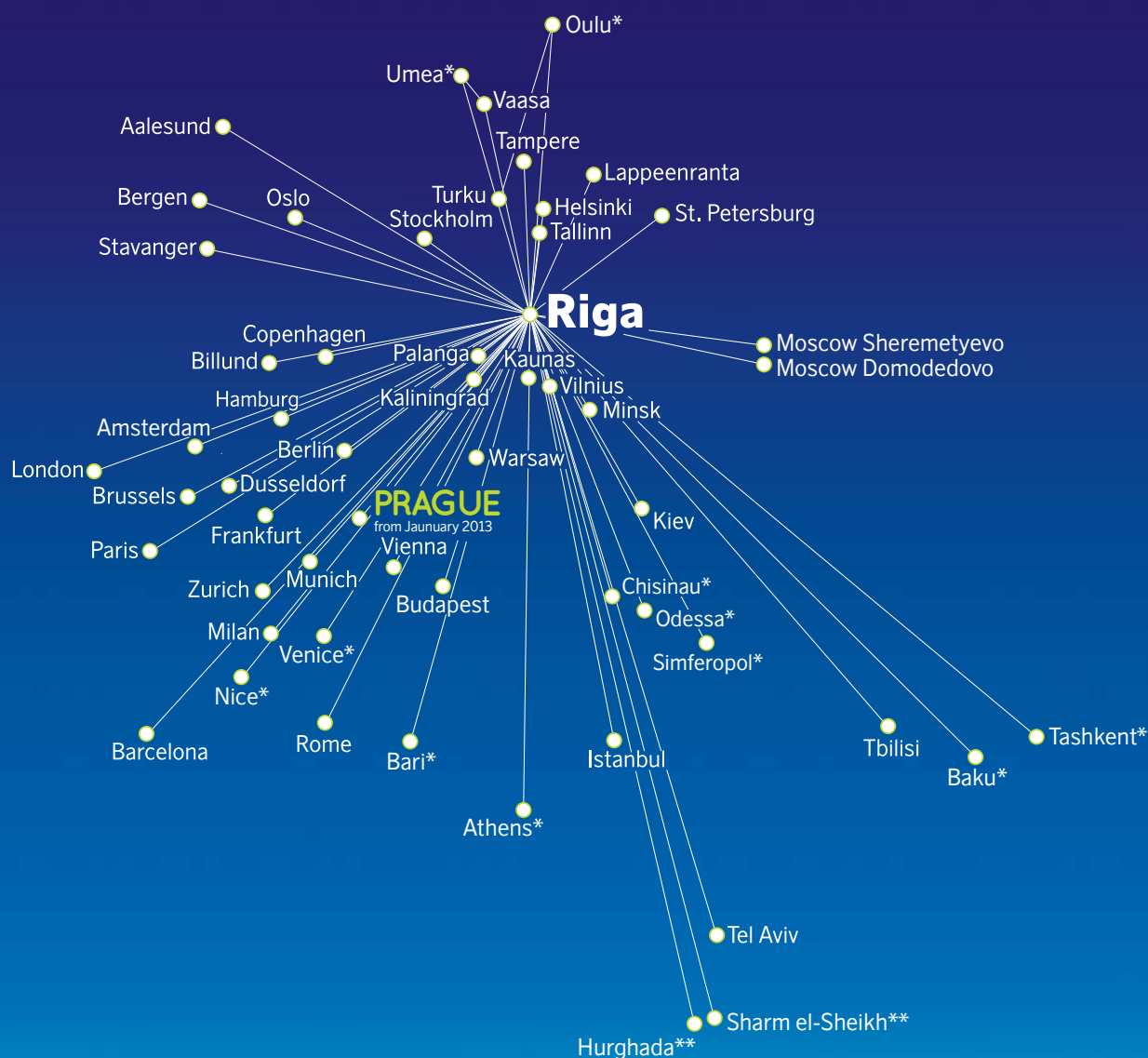
LIVE MUSIC ON WEEKENDS

### BEST STEAK IN TOWN

MEISTARU STR. 25 | AUDĒJU STR. 2 | TĒRBATAS STR. 41/43  
[WWW.STEIKUHAOSS.LV](http://WWW.STEIKUHAOSS.LV) | [TWITTER.COM/STEIKUHAOSS](https://twitter.com/steikuhaoss)

### BEST RIBS IN TOWN

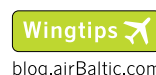
GRĒCINIEKU STR. 8 | KAĻĶU STR. 8  
[WWW.RIBSRESTAURANT.LV](http://WWW.RIBSRESTAURANT.LV) | [TWITTER.COM/RIBSRESTAURANT](https://twitter.com/ribsrestaurant)



# Welcome aboard airBaltic!

108 airBaltic news / 110 Behind the scenes / 112 Training / 113 BalticMiles  
118 Booking classes / 119 Meals / 120 Fleet / 121 Flight map / 124 Contacts

Follow us on:





Fjord skiing in Norway

## IN BRIEF

- 1/ Fly airBaltic to the the best ski slopes!
- 2/ Freeze that price with a new payment option
- 3/ Tuesday happy hours at airBaltic.com
- 4/ New flights to Prague starting in January
- 5/ Charters to sunny Egypt with Tez Tour

### 1/ Fly airBaltic to the best ski slopes!

This winter *airBaltic* can take you to practically all of Europe's top ski resorts.

There are up to double daily flights to **Munich**, Germany's gateway to the Alps. From Munich you can easily reach a wide range of resorts including Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Kitzbühel and Spitzingsee.

Up to double daily flights to **Vienna** make it easy to reach Austria's skiing hotspots too, such as Semmering, Annaberg and Otscher near the capital itself, or the famous Kitzbühel and St. Anton further afield.

On the other side of the Alps, you can fly daily to **Milan**, which lies within striking distance of the sunny southern slopes. The Aosta Valley is rated as one of the most beautiful ski areas in Italy, but there is also Sestriere, home to many prestigious skiing competitions and Bardonechia, along with several low-cost resorts.

If your budget is a bit bigger, then **Zurich** could be your point of arrival to access some of the classiest Swiss resorts, including St. Moritz, Zermatt and Davos. *airBaltic* flies to Zurich four times per week.

For anyone tired of the often crowded Alps, why not try an alternative destination? *airBaltic* flies three times per week to **Tbilisi**, from which it is a short ride to the up-and-coming Caucasus mountain ski resort of Gudauri.

Or try skiing in the Norwegian fjords with flights to **Oslo**, **Bergen**, **Stavanger** and **Aalesund** operating up to three times per day.

---

**One-way tickets from Riga to these destinations start from 45 EUR if booked well in advance. Flights from the Baltics, Scandinavia and Russia via Riga start from 59 EUR.**

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## 2/ Freeze that price with a new payment option

An innovative new service is now available at the *airBaltic* website! If you search for flight tickets at [www.airbaltic.com](http://www.airbaltic.com) and find a great price, but still need time to think or consult your friends about your travel plans, then you can select a "Freeze My Price" option that will make the flight available to you at that price for the next 24 or 48 hours.

The service works as follows: find the flight you are interested in, add the additional services you require (meals, baggage, insurance, etc.) and fill in all the passenger information.

The next step offers a payment option, where you can choose the period you wish to save the price and pay a small fee to ensure it is kept available (9.99 EUR for 24 hours or 14.99 EUR for 48 hours).

During the selected time period, return to the "Manage booking" section of the *airBaltic* website and finalize the purchase of your tickets.

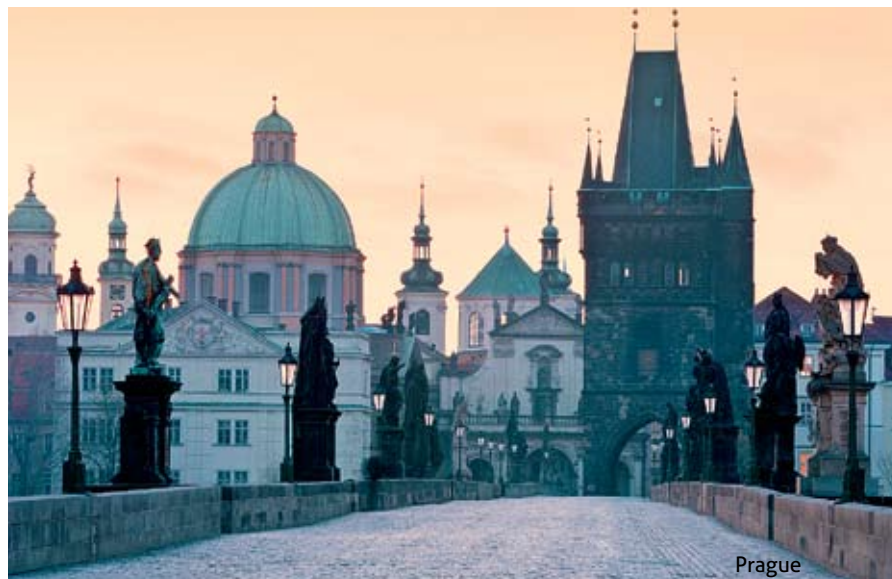
The "Freeze My Price" service is available up to 168 hours before departure.

## 3/ Tuesday happy hours at airBaltic.com

On Tuesdays from 12:00 to 17:00 Riga time, *airBaltic* offers especially low fares on flights to selected destinations at [www.airbaltic.com](http://www.airbaltic.com).

Destinations and travel periods for these Happy Hour deals change every week and are revealed only on Tuesday morning, so check the website each week for the best of the new deals!

## 4/ New flights to Prague starting in January



Prague

*airBaltic* is opening a new route from Riga to **Prague** starting from **January 1**.

Prague is one of the most beautiful and picturesque cities in Central Europe, with a vibrant cultural scene and great restaurants.

The flights will operate three times per week and one-way ticket prices will start from EUR 41.

## 5/ Charters to sunny Egypt with Tez Tour

This winter, *airBaltic* is continuing its longstanding cooperation with leading tour operator *Tez Tour* and offering charter flights to **Sharm el-Sheikh**. Until the end of April, flights to the sunny resorts by the Red Sea are operated every Sunday. From middle of February till end of April there will be also flights to another Egyptian destination **Hurghada** operating every Saturday.

To book a charter holiday, contact *Tez Tour*: [www.teztour.lv](http://www.teztour.lv), [info@teztour.lv](mailto:info@teztour.lv)





Buy Christmas gift on board!

**airBaltic flight voucher EUR 50**

**Pay only EUR 39**

**airBaltic.com**

Voucher valid for booking any flight at [www.airbaltic.com](http://www.airbaltic.com) till January 16 for travel till June 30.



PHOTOGRAPHED AT 3 PAVARU RESTORANS

**David Griffiths,**  
First Officer on  
Boeing 737 aircraft

# I can't believe you, David Griffiths!

That's what she said afterwards, but when boarding a passenger plane in London, CJ didn't have the slightest idea about what would happen during an otherwise normal *airBaltic* flight to Riga.

I happened to be one of the passengers on that flight. It started out normally enough. Everything was calm and quiet. We enjoyed our meals and had our drinks. Somebody nearby dozed off to sleep, letting the newspaper slip out of his hands – like a calm

before a storm, you might say. Yes, exactly. The storm started with a slight feeling of excitement building up. The cabin crew darted around with iPhones and cameras, smiling mysteriously. One flight attendant pulled back the curtains behind Business Class, while another took a strategic position at the end of the aisle. David, from the flight deck, started to speak, saying something about “being together for quite a long time” and “love”... The dozers woke up, magazines and books were put away, ear plugs taken out, eyes raised from laptops and iPads. The passengers turned to each other, asking: “What? What did he say?”

The flight attendant asked a woman in a row 19 to kindly stand up, which she did, all confused, and then David stepped out from the cockpit. He walked down the aisle and asked the bewildered passenger to marry him. No one had expected anything like that. We were witnessing a beautiful and moving moment. The plane broke out in applause. “Wows” and “congratulations” rang out in the air. Cameras flashed and cellular phones dutifully recorded the event. I think this flight will always remain in the memories of those who were on it.

## So, David, what's behind this story?

CJ and I had been together for 8 years, and I had been hatching this idea for quite some time. In my view, everything else has been done – in the Eiffel Tower, in restaurants and other beautiful places. They've been given during flights as well, by pilots and by traffic controllers over the radio. However, I didn't know if anyone had done it like this in *airBaltic* and was trying to work out a way to make it possible. In fact, *airBaltic's* planning department unknowingly gave me the opportunity to carry out my plan. They had put me on a flight to London and back on the Sunday, and then again the following Friday. I booked CJ a return trip to Riga, picked her up in London, spent a few days together with her in the Latvian capital and then flew her back to London the following week. Of course she had nowhere to run during the proposal! (*Laughs.*) However, I was sure she would say yes.

In fact, I didn't even have an engagement ring until two days before the flight to Riga, and spent an entire day trying to find a place to resize it. Nobody could do it at such short notice and so quickly, so I decided to give her the ring anyway and resize it later.

In the morning during our pre-flight briefing I asked for the Captain's permission, which I got, then briefed the cabin crew, who were all very nice and supportive and frankly very excited.

I'm sorry for making CJ feel a bit embarrassed in front of all the other passengers, but in another sense I'm not sorry at all. (*Laughs.*) It was a very special moment for her.

TEXT BY ILZE POLE  
PHOTO BY  
GATIS GIERTS, F64



**You obviously chose the unusual setting due to the fact you are an airline pilot. How long has flying been your dream?**

As almost every airline pilot will tell you, flying was a boyhood dream probably since the age of four. Although I'm from England, my family lived in South Africa for many years. We moved back to the UK in 1993, but then I subsequently returned to Africa in 2001. While I was growing up in South Africa, we lived along the flight path of local military airbase. Pretoria is one of the capitals of South Africa, and the president was based primarily in that city. His presidential jet, a *Boeing 747*, regularly flew over our house. Whenever I heard the rumble as it approached overhead, I ran outside, looked up and marvelled in amazement at this huge thing, with its landing gear and flaps set down. My first flight was at the age of 9 in an old German JU52 and a couple of years later, my father took me to see a commercial airliner up close at an air show and that really sparked my interest. I was amazed that something so big and so heavy could stay in the air. It seemed miraculous. That was really the initial spark. Furthermore, my brother was in the South African air force, while my father's stepfather was a Concorde flight engineer, so there always has been a family tie to aviation.

A friend of mine was a flying instructor there in South Africa, and he provided me with the opportunity to start flying. It was very affordable at the time and I completed a training course in 2001.

Before becoming an airline pilot, I initially found employment in accountancy, then progressed to become a finance analyst and spent four years in Institutional Trust Banking. During that time I went through a divorce, sold my house in London and moved back in with my parents in West Sussex. It was then that I met CJ.

CJ and I took a holiday together in 2008 and within a month after the flight home I firmly decided to go back into flying, left my job and I enrolled in a flight training academy. My original pilot's licence had lapsed by this point and I had no valid pilot medical certificate but within a few short weeks, I had a new pilot's license in hand. Six months later had also completed the theoretical Airline Transport Pilot Licence examinations. I acquired my professional flying qualifications and began a brief stint flying for flight calibration service. Although that job didn't last a long time, it gave me some very good experience.

**How did you end up at airBaltic?**

Well, I applied twice to join *airBaltic*, but both of my applications were rejected, so I had to try to find a back door in. That back door was through *airBaltic Training*, where I paid my tuition fees, went through the *Boeing 737* type rating course in very early 2011 and worked my first summer as a line training first officer. I left in October with the other contract workers, but then in late January of this year I received a call from

*airBaltic's* human resources department asking if I would be interested in another summer contract. Of course, I jumped at the opportunity! To my amazement, later I was offered a permanent contract. All that hard work during the previous two summers had paid off in the end.

**Do you feel like you've fulfilled your dream?**

Yes, I have. However, there is always a further path to take. For me the next step is to work even harder, get recognised by the company and perhaps command my own aircraft in a few years. That won't happen overnight by any means, but first things first – I need the experience (can never have too much), I need the flying hours and *airBaltic* has been instrumental in providing me with the chance to obtain all of this.

There are a lot of things to do here in Riga and the people are great. *airBaltic's* expat community regularly gets together. We have particular places where we like to go to. I love this city and don't have any plans to leave. I've even started to learn a bit of Latvian. I have made friends with a number of locals, who have showed me places where tourists and holidaymakers wouldn't think of going. Riga is a beautiful city with a specific mix of history and modernism. *airBaltic* is a fantastic company. I work with a large mix of very nice people from many different walks of life. **BO**

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**Promotion  
Code:  
9848219**

**The best gift for the winter holidays in Baltics comes from Sixt.**

(Between 1 Dec 2012 and 31 Jan 2013 rent eg. a VW Golf (or similar) in Latvia, Lithuania or Estonia for only 29€/day.  
For more information and bookings, please visit [www.sixt.com/airbaltic](http://www.sixt.com/airbaltic))

# Soft skills training

airBaltic Training is pleased to offer a range of behavioural training courses that complement its existing technical programme. These courses are suitable for anyone working in the aviation or travel and hospitality industries. The courses are designed and delivered by a training professional with 'hands-on' experience of the airline and travel industry, in accordance with the high standards of airBaltic.

The following courses are available at airBaltic Training:

## Fundamentals of Selling and Account Management (2 days)

Overall purpose: to equip sales people with the skills, knowledge and confidence to manage their accounts and prioritise opportunities effectively; to understand and engage customers in effective meetings, using consultative selling techniques that are results-focused. Introduction of models that help to structure sales conversations; questioning and listening techniques that participants will get to practice during the workshop.

Course dates: January 22 - 23, February 26 - 27, March 19 - 20

## Fundamentals of Customer Service (1 day)

Overall purpose: to help participants define what high-quality customer service is and why it is important; to provide them with the confidence, commitment and skill to deliver it consistently; practical tips and techniques that participants can use at the workplace.

Course dates: January 24, February 28, March 21

## Coaching for Performance (1 day)

Overall purpose: to help managers understand the vital role that they play in the development of their staff members; to hone managers' skills and techniques, as well as stimulate their desire to improve the performance of their staff through recognition, feedback and coaching.

Course dates: January 25, March 1, March 22

Tel: (+371) 67668512, (+371) 26116606

skype: airbaltictraining

e-mail: training@airbaltictraining.com

www.airbaltictraining.com



## IATA instructor-led classroom courses in 2013

- International Air Cargo Law	January 17 – 18
- Security Management Systems	January 21 – 25
- Air Crew Security – Train the Trainer	February 11 – 15
- Civil Aviation Management	February 18 – 22
- Cargo Skills and Procedures	February 25 – March 01
- DGR INITIAL	March 4 – 8
- CRM – Threat and Error Management	March 5 – 8
- Document Control Systems	March 11 – 14
- Crisis Communication and Media Response	March 12 – 13
- Advanced Airline Sales Strategies	March 19 – 22
- Customer Service	April 3 – 5
- SMS for Airlines	April 8 – 11
- SMS Implementation and Control	April 15 – 17
- Managing People Performance	April 22 – 26
- Quality Management Systems	May 14 – 17
- Human Factors in Aviation	May 20 – 24
- Aviation Law for Managers	May 27 – 31
- Cargo Quality Management	May 29 – 31
- DGR RECURRENT	June 13 – 16
- Aircraft Loading Supervision	September 3 – 5
- Airline Passenger Services	September 9 – 13
- DGR INITIAL	September 16 – 20
- Cargo Proration	September 25 – 27
- Aircraft Weight and Balance	September 30 – October 4
- Airline Route Profitability	October 2 – 3
- EU Aviation Law	October 16 – 18
- Advanced – Train the Trainer	November 6 – 8
- Managing Air Cargo Operations	November 19 – 22
- IOSA SMS Requirements	November 20 – 22
- Emergency Planning and Response Management	November 25 – 29
- DGR RECURRENT	December 4 – 6
- International Cargo Operations and Documentation	December 9 – 13

## Ask the flight attendant for your BalticMiles card and start earning straight away!



Register your card online after the flight at **register.balticmiles.com** and **get 50 bonus Points**. Keep earning Points for everyday things like travelling, shopping, eating out and having fun and **spend them on free flights** and other great rewards – **that easy!**

BalticMiles is the airBaltic frequent flyer programme and the leading multipartner loyalty programme in the Nordics.

### Fly *airBaltic* and earn

- **10 Points** for each EUR spent on a Business Class ticket
- **5 Points** for each EUR spent on an Economy Class ticket
- **1 Point** for each EUR spent on a Basic Class ticket

#### Claim Points later

If you have forgotten to show your card, or maybe didn't know that you've shopped at a *BalticMiles* partner, *BalticMiles* offers you the option to retroactively claim your Points – even get Points for flights you've flown up to 30 days before becoming a member! Just contact a *BalticMiles* Member Service and we'll sort everything out.

### Membership levels

- **Basic**
- **Executive**
- **VIP**

The more you fly, the greater the privileges, which include a free luggage allowance, no queues, reserved seats and much more to make travelling easier.

Earn Status Points and enjoy a whole new world of comfort and convenience!

### Spend Points on *airBaltic* flights

- Exchange your Points for **free flights** from just **4200 Points**
- Upgrade your ticket to **Business Class** from just **8000 Points**

**i** BalticMiles Member Service  
In Latvia: (+371) 6728 0280  
In Estonia: (+372) 630 6660  
In Lithuania: (+370) 7005 5665  
info@balticmiles.com  
www.balticmiles.com



КАРТА СМП  
BalticMiles ↗

**ЗА ДЕНЬГИ  
МОЖЕТ КАЖДЫЙ.  
ПОПРОБУЙ БЕЗ!**

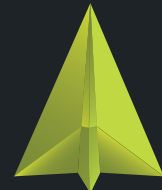
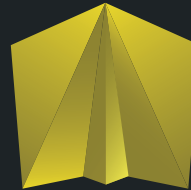
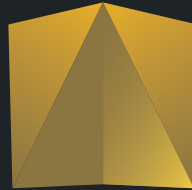


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Visa «СМП BalticMiles»! Оформи сейчас!**

- **Получите до 3000 приветственных баллов**
- **Накапливайте баллы, расплачиваясь картой Visa «СМП BalticMiles» в любых магазинах**
- **Используйте баллы для оплаты путешествий, товаров и услуг в интернет-магазине [www.balticmiles.ru](http://www.balticmiles.ru)**
- **Получите в подарок страховой полис**
- **Пользуйтесь доступом в бизнес-зал аэропорта в Риге**

**8 (800) 555 2 555  
[www.smpbank.ru](http://www.smpbank.ru)**

good buy

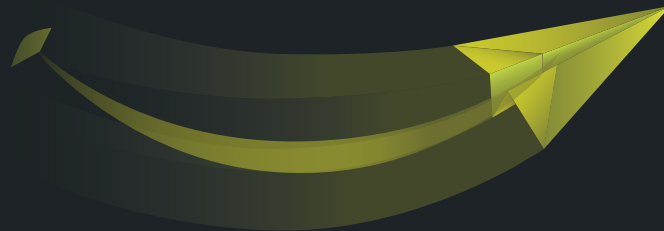


good fly


# this shopping makes you fly


**1 Euro = 1 Point**

Shop at ATU Duty Free's Riga stores and earn BalticMiles Points




www.atu.com.tr

**New** Dzintars 



Established in 1849, Dzintars is the largest manufacturer of perfumery and cosmetics in the Baltics with a network of brand stores all over Latvia. Earn Points for a wide range of organic skincare, make-up products, fragrances and much more! Welcome to Dzintars shops!

Earn **2 Points** for each LVL spent



**New** Burusports 





With two easily reached locations in Riga, Burusports is the place for all extreme and fun sports – cycling, skiing, snowboarding, windsurfing, kiteboarding and much more. Profoundly enthusiastic staff will help pick the best gear for your perfect season.

Special offer – earn **4 Points** for each 1 LVL spent from 1.12.2012. – 15.01.2013.

Earn **2 Points** for each LVL spent




**New** Absalon City Hotel 



Situated in the bustling and trendy Vesterbro neighbourhood in Copenhagen next to Tivoli, Absalon City Hotel gives you Danish hospitality at its very best. Enjoy a relaxed atmosphere and 24-hour check-in and check-out at this unique family owned hotel.

Earn **500 Points** for each stay



**New** Andersen Boutique Hotel 



The Andersen Boutique Hotel in Copenhagen impresses with a young and hip design and decoration by the Designers Guild. Choose from Mermaid, Princess or Royal theme, each with a selected colour scheme, and enjoy a spectacular atmosphere and a unique hotel experience!

Earn **500 Points** for each stay



**New** **Crocs** 



Unique innovative casual footwear for men, women and children, Crocs are made of revolutionary Croslite material giving each pair of shoes soft, comfortable, lightweight and odour-resistant qualities. Buy them at Spice and Domina in Riga and earn Points!

**Earn 5 Points**  
for each LVL spent



**New** **Geox** 



Waterproof and breathable at the same time, Geox shoes combine Italian style and innovative technologies – the special membranes in the soles and the entire shoe upper make them perfect for Latvian weather. Geox store in Riga is located at Domina shopping centre.

**Earn 5 Points**  
for each LVL spent




**New** **Merrild** 




High quality rich taste coffee for every day – choose Merrild beans and earn Points! Carefully ripened and selected coffee beans from the finest coffee districts, roasted according to old traditions to give deep, full and round coffee taste – that's Merrild.

**Earn 20 Points**  
for each kg of Merrild  
Whole Beans or Merrild  
Espresso Whole Beans





**New** **The Shoes Store** 




The Shoes Store has all the must-have footwear brands, including United Nude, Lacoste, UGG and Hunter. Most of the brands at The Shoes Store are not available anywhere else in Riga. Find The Shoes Store at Galerija Centrs and Domina.

**Earn 5 Points**  
for each LVL spent




**New** **Lindo** 



Earn Points for excellent dry cleaning and washing services at Lindo network with nine convenient locations in Riga!

**Earn 10 Points**  
for each LVL spent



**New** **Babilonas** 



Located in the quiet central district of Kaunas, Žaliakalnis, Babilonas 3 star hotel offers 24 European style rooms with city panorama views from hilltop, an in-house organic food store and a bicycle rental.

**Earn 1 Point**  
for each LTL spent on hotel accommodation  
**Earn 2 Points**  
for each LTL spent on bicycle rental



**New** **Palangos žuvėdra** 



Located in the beautiful seaside resort Palanga, Palangos žuvėdra 3 star hotel, one of the largest hotels in town, offers 90 newly renovated rooms, a spa centre, two conference halls, a restaurant open throughout the year, sauna complex and cycling tours.

Special offer – Earn 2500 Points for New Year's dinner and whole festive weekend.

**Earn 2 Points**  
for each LTL spent



**New** **Happy Pushkin Hotel** 



Grand interiors with high ceilings, antique furniture and ornamental tiles, breakfast at Pushkin cafe, the Hermitage within walking distance – find all that and more at Happy Pushkin Hotel in St. Petersburg.

**Earn 500 Points**  
for each night



## Palīdzēsim.lv — Let's help children in Latvia

We have invited our charity partner *Palīdzēsim.lv* for an interview to encourage continued good deeds by everyone. The options are many and include financial support, other types of donations, voluntary work and even the donation of BalticMiles Points.



Ilze Skuja, the Head of *Palīdzēsim.lv*, tells us about the charity organization's daily work, about how its staff members reach out to help those in need and about the joy that they receive in return.



Ilze Skuja,  
Head of  
charity  
organization  
*Palīdzēsim.lv*

### What are the goals of *Palīdzēsim.lv*?

*Palīdzēsim.lv* is a non-governmental charity organization that has been operating since 2009, with the goal of helping children living in Latvia who face health problems and other pressing issues such as poverty.

The organization's activities are carried out in three areas: 1) Support in solving children's health problems; 2) Organization of social integration events for children; 3) Provision of basic necessities when needed (food, household items, furniture, etc.).

All three areas require daily work in order to attract contributor support and public attention, but most importantly, in order to directly help children and youths who need various forms of assistance. That includes planning, organizing and participating in activities designed to decrease these people's social risks and providing basic necessities.

### How do you help children and youths?

We prepare photo reports about concrete children or youths in need of help. These can be read on our home page, and contributors can choose their preferred form of assistance (financial support, other types of donations or voluntary work). Well-known Latvian photographers help us prepare the photo reports by investing their time and talent. For children with health problems, we help to raise money for medications, rehabilitation, operations or other medical procedures.

We organize educational and motivational programs for children and youths who are subject

to social risks by involving them in various cultural and sports activities, creative workshops, seminars, events and summer camps. We want to acquaint them with a different social environment; we want to motivate them to further their own education and to improve their quality of life. The involvement of children and youth in various social activities often changes their perceptions. They begin to think more about their future education, professional careers and personal development. They gain self-confidence and faith in their abilities. They are induced to act and change their circumstances, without waiting for external help. We are establishing long-term relationships with families in need of assistance.

### How can members of the public reach out and help those in need through *Palīdzēsim.lv*?

Visit our home page at [www.palīdzesim.lv](http://www.palīdzesim.lv), where you will find instructions on how to help the children and youth under our supervision, as well as information on some of our success stories. We also invite you to follow our activities on various social networks (*Facebook*, *Twitter*, *draugiem.lv*).

### The BalticMiles online shop provides the option to donate BalticMiles Points. How does that work?

Anyone can spend their BalticMiles Points as they wish. One can exchange them for free flights, bus rides, cinema tickets, music or a great variety of items from the BalticMiles Shop. However, there is also an opportunity that many people are unaware of – to do a good deed by donating BalticMiles Points to charity!

All Points donated during the year are collected in the account of a particular organization. The Points are then "converted" into money and transferred to that organization's account at year's end.

All Points will be of high importance to any charity orga-

nization asking for the support for their activities, and the target groups that they assist (children, elderly people, animals, victims of natural disasters, etc.).

*Palīdzēsim.lv* uses BalticMiles donation Points for specific projects or for solving the problems of a particular child.

### Are you a BalticMiles member? How do you earn and spend your Points?

Yes, I own a BalticMiles card. I earn Points by either flying or using the offers of Baltic Miles' cooperation partners. I'm not a frequent flyer and therefore don't have many Points, but I will definitely donate some of them.

### Christmas time is approaching. What activities have you planned for this time of giving?

For the fourth year in a row, *Palīdzēsim.lv* is organizing a photography exhibition of the children and youths that the organization helps on a daily basis. It is designed to draw people's attention to the problems faced by children and youths subject to social risks in Latvia. The opening of the exhibition is on December 13.

A number of activities (including creative master classes and charity concerts) are planned from December 13 to 22 December at the *Origo* shopping centre and at *Latvian Railways (Latvijas Dzelzceļš)*, where everyone is invited to share the joy of Christmas with the children under our care and to receive the joy of helping someone in need.

Our charity fair offers items handcrafted by children, youths and their parents.

We usually visit children across Latvia at the end of December. It is always a pleasure to visit foster families in Latvia's eastern region of Latgale, some of which are providing new homes for up to 12 children. Last year we managed to cheer up more than 400 children with lovely presents and trips to the *Līvu Aqvaparks* water park, and hopefully we will do so this year as well.

## Great to spend

There are more than 3000 rewards to choose from the [shop.balticmiles.com](http://shop.balticmiles.com) – all payable in Points or with combination of Points and money. **Worldwide delivery.**

DKNY Ladies  
Fashion Watch

**35 149  
Points**



Lanvin COUTURE  
EDP 30ml

**5 433  
Points**



Canon EOS  
1100D Digital  
Camera

**86 403  
Points**



BIG Lightning  
McQueen  
"Cars 2"

**14 501  
Points**



Philips Docking  
Speaker DS7530  
with Bluetooth

**23 496  
Points**



**i** All the prices displayed include shipping costs to Latvia. Prices and availability of rewards are subject to change and may vary by delivery country.

# A class to suit your needs

Each passenger is unique and each has different demands. In order to help you better design a trip that suits your individual needs, we are now offering five different ticket types on airBaltic flights. Compare the travel conditions and services offered and choose the class that suits you best.



	Business Flex	Business	Economy Flex	Economy	Basic
<b>One-way ticket price example Riga – Frankfurt</b>	from EUR 505	from EUR 395 (available no later than 10 days before departure)	from EUR 335	from EUR 85	from EUR 45*
<b>Travel date/time change</b>	✓	✗	✓	EUR 50 per direction	✗
<b>Cancellation with refund</b>	✓	✗	✓	EUR 100 per direction	✗
<b>Advance seat reservation</b>	✓	✓	✓	from EUR 3	from EUR 3
<b>Hand baggage</b>	✓ 2 pieces	✓ 2 pieces	✓ 1 piece	✓ 1 piece	✓ 1 piece
<b>Checked-in baggage</b>	✓ 3 pieces, 30 kg total	✓ 3 pieces, 30 kg total	✓ 1 piece, 20 kg	✓ 1 piece, 20 kg	EUR 19,99 per piece per direction if purchased together with flight ticket at <a href="http://www.airbaltic.com">www.airbaltic.com</a>
<b>Sports equipment</b>	✓ 1 piece	✓ 1 piece	EUR 30 per piece per direction if purchased at <a href="http://www.airbaltic.com">www.airbaltic.com</a>	EUR 30 per piece per direction if purchased at <a href="http://www.airbaltic.com">www.airbaltic.com</a>	EUR 30 per piece per direction if purchased at <a href="http://www.airbaltic.com">www.airbaltic.com</a>
<b>Priority check-in</b>	✓	✓	EUR 10	EUR 10	EUR 10
<b>Security Fast track</b>	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
<b>Business lounge</b>	✓	✓	EUR 36 access to lounge in Riga Airport	EUR 36 access to lounge in Riga Airport	EUR 36 access to lounge in Riga Airport
<b>Meals and drinks</b>	✓	✓	from 9 EUR for hot meal, preorder or buy on board	from 9 EUR for hot meal, preorder or buy on board	from 9 EUR for hot meal, preorder or buy on board
<b>International press</b>	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
<b>Seating</b>	Front cabin	Front cabin	Economy cabin	Economy cabin	Economy cabin
<b>Free seat next to you</b>	✓	✓	from EUR 50	from EUR 50	from EUR 50
<b>BalticMiles Points earned from ticket purchase</b>	10 Points for each EUR spent	10 Points for each EUR spent	5 Points for each EUR spent	5 Points for each EUR spent	1 Point for each EUR spent

✓ Available free of charge

✗ Not available



# Onboard menu

## Business Class

On *airBaltic* flights, Business Class customers enjoy a complimentary full meal that includes an appetizer, a main course, dessert, and a wide range of beverages and alcoholic drinks.

On flights from/to Barcelona, Istanbul, Helsinki, Lappeenranta, Palanga, Turku, Tallinn, Vilnius, Kaunas, Tampere, Vaasa, Bergen, Billund, Aalesund, Stavanger and Chisinau Business Class customers are offered food and beverages from a special menu.

## Economy Class

Economy Class customers can purchase a selection of snacks, sandwiches, paninis, croissants and drinks (soft and alcoholic) from the *airBaltic* Cafe. Hot meals are also available on flights longer than two hours.



## Order your meal before the flight

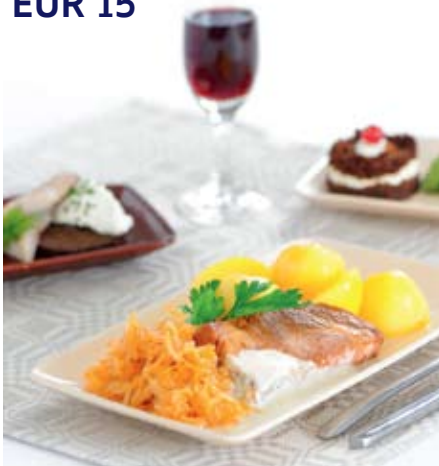
If you would like to choose from a much wider selection of meals than available on board, then order your meal before your flight.

Our extensive pre-order menu offers more than 20 different meals, including

special dietary and kids' dishes.

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

### Traditional Latvian winter meal EUR 15



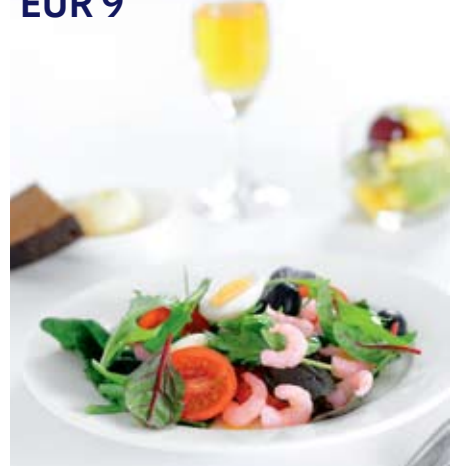
- Herring with cottage cheese
- Roast pork with braised cabbage, potatoes and cream sauce
- Rye bread dessert
- Red wine or orange juice

### Kids meal EUR 10



- Chicken nuggets with potato croquettes and ketchup
- Barni biscuit
- Yogurt
- Drink

### Cold meal EUR 9

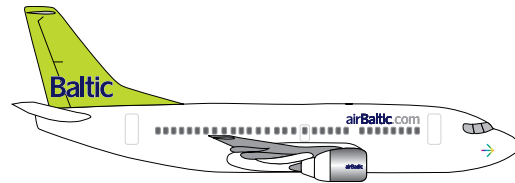


- Shrimp salad with cherry tomatoes and quail eggs
- Dessert
- White wine or orange juice



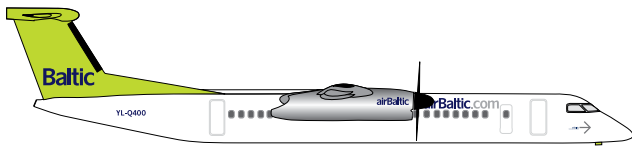
## Boeing 737-300

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



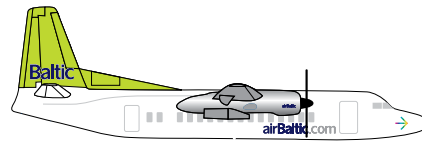
## Boeing 737-500

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



## Q400 NextGen

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



## Fokker 50

<b>Number of seats</b>	46/50/52
<b>Max take-off weight</b>	20.8 metric tons
<b>Max payload</b>	4.9 metric tons
<b>Length</b>	25.3 m
<b>Wing span</b>	29.0 m
<b>Cruising speed</b>	520 km/h
<b>Commercial range</b>	1300 km
<b>Fuel consumption</b>	800 l/h
<b>Engine</b>	P&W 125 B

## airBaltic codeshare partners







- Norylsk
- Naryan Mar
- Irkutsk

- Beijing
- Tokyo
- Shanghai
- Bangkok
- Singapore

- Perm
- Tyumen
- Yekaterinburg
- Ufa
- Magnitogorsk
- Samara
- Buzuluk
- Orenburg
- Orsk
- Astrakhan'
- Kzyl Orda
- Nukus
- Khiva
- Bukhara
- Samarkand
- Karshi
- Termez
- Dushanbe
- Namangan
- Andizhan
- Tashkent\*
- Fergana
- Shimkent
- Bishkek
- Almaty
- Karaganda
- Astana
- Pavlodar
- Omsk
- Ust Kamenogorsk
- Vladivostok
- Ulan Bator
- Kemerovo
- Novosibirsk
- Krasnojarsk
- Yuzhno Sakhalinsk
- Khabarovsk
- Petropavlovsk Kam

- City served by airBaltic
- City served by airBaltic partner airline
- Route operated by airBaltic
- Route operated by airBaltic codeshare partner

0 170 km

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



Country/City Ticket offices	Airport Ticket Offices	Country/City Ticket offices	Airport Ticket Offices	Country/City Ticket offices	Airport Ticket Offices		
<b>AUSTRIA</b>							
Vienna airBaltic Germany Hauptstrasse 117, D-10827 Berlin ☎ 0820600830 local calls (EUR 0.17/min) service@airbaltic.de	Airport Schwechat Terminal 2 Airport Ticket Office Celebi Ground Handling ☎ +431 700736394	<b>GREECE</b>					
Athens Tal Aviation 44 Ihouc str. 17564 - P Faliro ☎ +30 210 9341500 F: +30 210 9341620 airbaltic@tal-aviation.gr							
<b>HUNGARY</b>							
Budapest Tensi Aviation Kft. Komjadi Bela utca 1. ☎ +36 1 3451526 F: +36 1 9991466 aviation@tensi.hu		Budapest Airport Airport Ticket Office Celebi Ground Handling Hungary					
<b>ISRAEL</b>							
Tel Aviv Caspi Aviation Ltd 1 Ben Yehuda st. Tel-Aviv 63801 ☎ +972 3 5100213 /4 F: +972 (3) 5108365 bt@caspi-aviation.co.il		Ben-Gurion International Airport Airport Ticket Office Lauer Aviation GHI Level 3, Terminal 3 ☎ +972 39754076					
<b>ITALY</b>							
Milan		Linate Airport Airport Ticket Office A.R.E. SRL					
Rome		Leonardo de Vinci – Fiumicino Airport Terminal 3, Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office A.R.E. SRL					
<b>LATVIA</b>							
Riga ☎ 90001100 (0.37 LVL/min, local calls only)		Riga International Airport Main Terminal Airport Ticket Office airBaltic / Havas					
<b>LITHUANIA</b>							
Vilnius ☎ 990015004 (2.12 LTL/min, local calls only) vnoreservations@airbaltic.com		Vilnius International Airport Airport Ticket Office Litcargus ticketing@litcargus.lt					
Palanga		Palanga Airport Airport Ticket Office Orlaiviu Aptarnavimo Agentura ☎ +370 46052300 F: +370 46056401					
Kaunas		Kaunas Airport Airport Ticket Office Litcargus ☎ +370 37750195					
<b>MOLDOVA</b>							
Chisinau Moldavian SRL - AirService Bd. Stefan cel Mare 3, MD-2001 Chisinau ☎ +373 22 549339 ☎ +549340, 549342 F: +373 22549341 agency@airservice.md		Chisinau Airport Airport Ticket Office Moldavian Airlines Departure Hall ☎ +373 22525506					
<b>NETHERLANDS</b>							
Amsterdam		Amsterdam Schiphol Airport Air Agencies Holland Ticketdesk Departure Hall 3, opposite checkin 22 ☎ +31 20 3161945 / 46 Fax: +31 20 316 1998					
<b>NORWAY</b>							
Oslo		Oslo Airport Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office SAS					
Aalesund		Aalesund Airport Airport Ticket Office Roros Flyservice 6040 Vigra ☎ +47 70 30 25 60					
Bergen/Stavanger		Bergen Airport – Flesland Stavanger Airport Airport Ticket Office Aviator					
<b>POLAND</b>							
Warsaw		Warsaw Airport Airport Ticket Office BGS					
<b>RUSSIA</b>							
Moscow airBaltic Russia 28 Tverskaya Str., Building 2 Business Center "Amerop" 125009 Moscow ☎ +7 (495) 2217213 moscow@airbaltic.com		International Airport Sheremetjevo Terminal E Airport Ticket Office DAVS ☎ +7 (495) 9564661		International Airport Domodedovo Airport Ticket Office DAVS Ticketing counters no: 177, 185			
<b>ST.PETERSBURG</b>							
airBaltic Bolshaya Morskaya Str. 53/8 190000 St.Petersburg ☎ +7 (812) 5700597 F: +7 (812) 5718654 zam@airbaltic.com		Airport Pulkovo Terminal 2 Airport Ticket Office LTD North-West Transport Agency					
<b>Kaliningrad</b>							
		Airport Khrabravo Airport Ticket Office airBaltic / Aviapartner					
<b>SPAIN</b>							
Barcelona		Airport El Prat de Llobregat Terminal 1 Airport Ticket Office Lufthansa Ticket Desk					
<b>SWEDEN</b>							
Stockholm		Stockholm Arlanda Airport AirBaltic / Havas International Terminal 5 ☎ +46 (0)8 797 93 23					
<b>SWITZERLAND</b>							
Zurich airBaltic Germany Hauptstrasse 117, D-10827 Berlin ☎ 0840600830 local calls service@airbaltic.de		Airport Zurich (Kloten) Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office CGS Terminal 2 ☎ +41 438166739					
<b>TURKEY</b>							
Istanbul Airmark Gumussuyu Is Merkezi No:11/4, TR-34437 Taksim ☎ + 90 212 444 1472 F: + 90 212 245 4486 Btreservations@air-mark.com		Airport Istanbul Ataturk International Terminal Departure Floor ☎ +90 212 5797951					
<b>UKRAINE</b>							
Kiev airBaltic Ukraine 52 Bohdana Khmelnytskykhoho Str. 01030 Kiev ☎ +380 442382649/68 kiev@airbaltic.com		Airport Borispol Terminal D Airport Ticket Office Swissport Ukraine LL ☎ +380 445 916 902					
<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>							
London		Airport Gatwick Airport Ticket Office Skybreak Terminal 5					
<b>USA</b>							
New York airBaltic USA 1 Penn Plaza, Suite 1416 NY 10119 ☎ +1 - 877 359 2258 ☎ +1 - 646 300 7727 nyc@aviaworldna.com		Chicago 101 N Wacker Dr Suite 350 Chicago, IL 60606 ☎ +1 - 877 359 2258 ☎ +1 - 312 269 9333 F: +1 - 312 269 0222 chi@aviaworldna.com		Los Angeles 16250 Ventura Blvd Suite 115 Encino, CA 91436 ☎ +1 - 818 990 9215 ☎ +1 - 855 284 2967 F: +1 - 818 501 2098 lax@aviaworldna.com			
Houston 3050 Post Oak Boulevard Suite 1320 Houston, TX 77056, USA ☎ +1 - 713 626 0134 ☎ +1 - 855 284 2967 F: +1 - 713 626 1905 hou@aviaworldna.com							
<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>							
Tashkent APG CENTRAL ASIA Kichik Beshagach str.,104 A Tashkent 100015 ☎ + 998 71 1209012							

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

# upb energy

## "TURN-KEY" POWER SUPPLY PROJECT

from 31 October, 2011  
to 28 September, 2012

- DESIGNING
- CONSTRUCTION
- INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING  
OF ORC TURBOGENERATOR AND THERMAL  
OIL BOILER COMPLEX

**NEW**  
11 MONTHS  
PROJECT

▶ BIOCOGENERATION STATION  
**2.3 MWe<sub>e</sub>, 12 MW<sub>th</sub>**  
SIA LIEPAJAS ENERGIJA  
LIEPAJA, LATVIA



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