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outlook

DECEMBER 2014

airBaltic
inflight magazine

EXCLUSIVE:
ACTRESS LIV ULLMANN

PARTY IN THE SKY

TEN EUROPEAN
MOVIE TREASURES

NEWEST SPOTS
IN AMSTERDAM

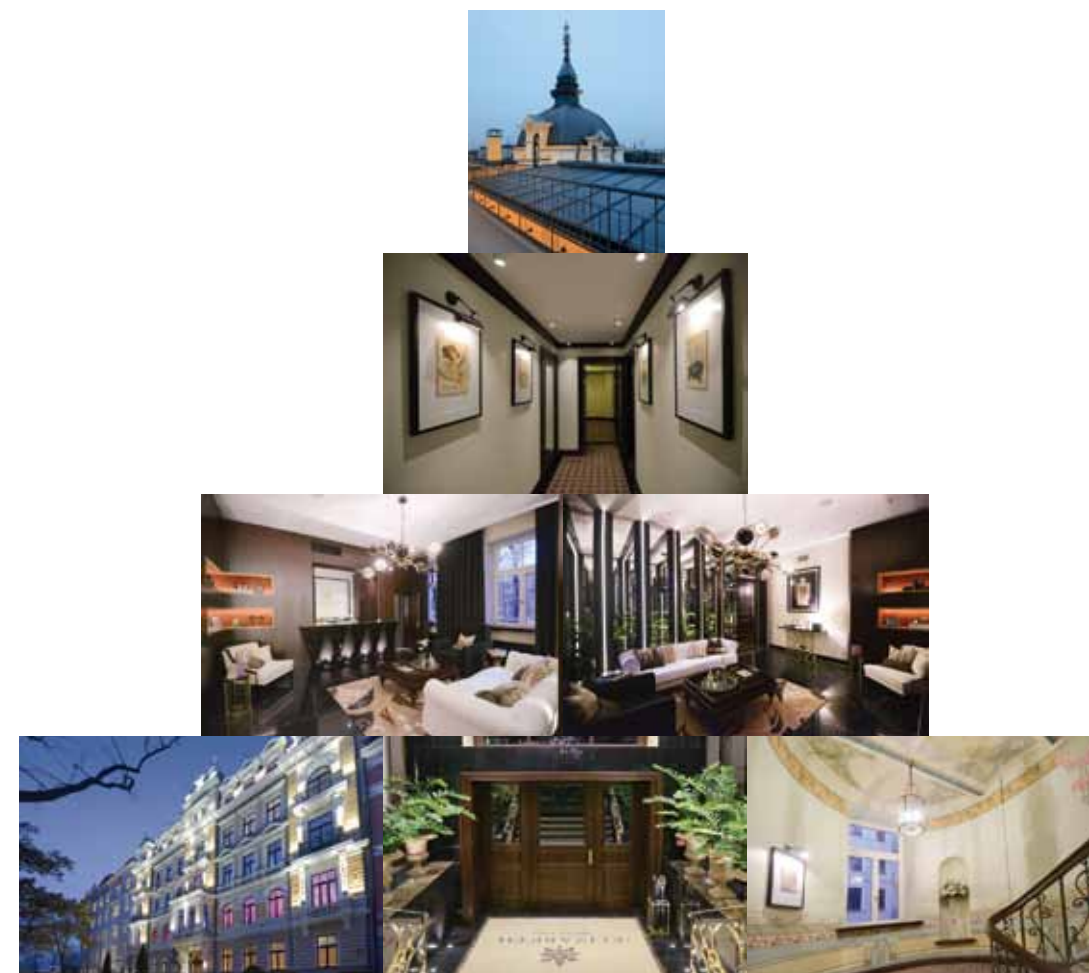




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VERTU

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MARTIN ALEXANDER GAUSS

Chief Executive Officer *airBaltic*

Dear Customer,

Latvia is currently in the spotlight of Europe. Firstly, Riga as a European Capital of Culture has received a great deal of attention throughout the year. It has drawn thousands of visitors to numerous cultural events, including music, cinema and theatre performances, as well as art exhibitions and shows.

Secondly, Latvia will assume the presidency of the European Council on January 1 and thus will be in the driving seat of the 28-country European Union for the first half of next year. This will bring an extra dose of vitality to both Brussels and Riga, which will host numerous gatherings, conferences, meetings, workshops and cultural events aimed at giving new perspectives for Europeans.

We at *airBaltic* are delighted to support the Latvian presidency as an official carrier, serving the Riga-Brussels route up to three times daily in cooperation with our code-share partner *Brussels Airlines*. Along with a more convenient schedule to the capital of the European Union, we have also introduced further improvements in our network. Our new Vilnius-Amsterdam and Tallinn-Paris routes have strengthened the connectivity of the Baltic region with Western Europe and worldwide

destinations, which can be conveniently reached through our long-term code-share partners from these hubs.

The new Riga-Moscow Vnukovo route in cooperation with *Transaero* will complement *airBaltic's* existing Sheremetyevo and Domodedovo services, offering additional travel options to the Russian capital or onwards with our partner airlines.

Poprad is our new, affordable ski destination in Slovakia. We have also placed larger aircraft on high-demand winter holiday destinations and scheduled more convenient departure times on established winter routes that link Riga with Zurich, Vienna and Munich, among other cities.

Furthermore, by moving our westbound departures to earlier morning hours, we have made more time available for travellers to enjoy European cities and their abundant Christmas markets and celebrations.

Did you know that the first historically documented Christmas tree was decorated in Riga exactly 504 years ago?

I warmly wish you a Merry Christmas and a memorable time with your families and loved ones. Thank you for flying *airBaltic* and have a great trip!

Yours,

Martin Alexander Gauss



YOUR NEXT DESTINATION:
NEWEST SPOTS IN AMSTERDAM



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DAVID NIKEL

Party in the sky (p. 104)

Career: Since giving up a lucrative IT career to focus on writing, my happiness levels have rocketed!
Proud of: Blogging consistently about Norway for over three years at lifeinnorway.net.
Travelling around: My work takes me all over northern Europe at least a couple of times per month. I try to head south for some sun a few times per year and back to the UK to visit family as often as I can. All in all, I'd say that I travel about 100 days per year.
Must-visit city: Helsinki, the capital of cool. The Finnish speak excellent English and it's one of the most underrated capitals in Europe.



SANTA KRISTIĀNA ZĀMUELE

Transforming the classics in Bordeaux (p. 56)

Career: Journalist since the age of 14, when I started as a radio DJ and reporter. I then freelanced for newspapers and later for magazines.
Proud of: My personal relationships with people. I love to meet people and my ability to make friends helps me to get the best out of my interviews.
Travelling around: 140+ days per year.
Must-visit city: Paris, Paris. Paris! And of course Riga's absolutely beautiful neighbour, Stockholm, with its breath-taking Christmas decorations and world-famous Swedish Christmas buffet!
Life motto: The power of NOW.



DAIRA ĀBOLIŅA

Even happiness hurts (p. 74)

Career: I started in radio at the age of 22 because it seemed like an ideal means of communication, with both official and personal forms of conversation.
Proud of: My meeting with actress Liv Ullmann at the end of last year. It left a deep and lasting impression on me and has been one of the most beautiful events in my professional career, regardless of what awaits me in the future. The chance to interview her a second time was a true gift of fate.
Must-visit city: Eze. I really like to travel and attend the film festivals in Cannes, Venice and Berlin every year as a part of my work.



GUESS WHERE?

Guess where this picture was taken. Be the first to post the right answer on our [Facebook](#) page and get two tickets to the performance of your choice at the Latvian National Opera in December or January! Thanks to #annloveslife

baltic outlook

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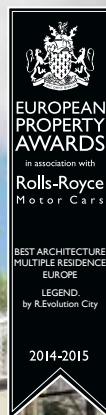
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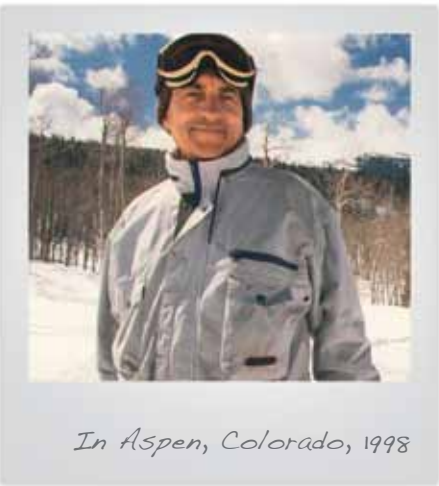
Nuances of winter

Winter is my favourite season, if it is a true winter. If the rivers, lakes and sea freeze over. If there is a lot of snow that does not melt for months. If it is cold enough to hear Old Man Lauskis, a mythical figure in Latvian folklore, fling his axe at a tree or a wooden house on very cold winter nights. I have heard the pistol-shot-like sound of his axe striking trees on such nights.

At times like that, it is easy for me to feel a connection with the lives of my ancestors in Latvia. If the snow is deep and powdery, then on clear Latvian nights I like to go for walks in the forest or across a field without a flashlight. I have also done this at alpine ski resorts. I feel overcome with a feeling of freedom and safety in nature that bears no explanation.

Winters are unpredictable in Latvia. They can be as mild as in Amsterdam or as long and hard as in Helsinki. It all depends on how far the warm Atlantic air masses manage to reach inland in their encounter with the opposing (and bone-chilling) continental systems that seek to block them off.

Last winter, the temperatures stayed at around zero degrees Celsius, with the exception of a brief colder period. The lake by which I live froze for over a month, but the land stayed practically free of snow. We call it *kailsals* – literally, naked freezeup. Without snow cover, the earth was dark, adding to the already black and long



Awaking to the first snow in childhood is unforgettable

nights. My Norwegian friends in Trondheim complained about the same condition. The previous two winters were long, cold and white. The Gulf of Riga was frozen to the horizon. From a high seaside sand dune, the scene looked Arctic and satisfied

my long-standing fascination with the challenges of polar exploration.

My childhood dream was to become the captain of an icebreaker. That did not happen, but Ernest Shackleton and Roald Amundsen were heroes of mine – Shackleton for saving his crew after his ship *Endurance* was crushed in the ice, and Amundsen for his brilliant conquest of the South Pole. Even though Robert Scott's expedition ended with his untimely death, he displayed admirable courage and bravery, as did the men of Franklin's lost expedition in search of the Northwest Passage in Canada.

Awaking to the first snow in childhood is unforgettable. The fresh white covering makes daylight seem unusually bright. It also muffles outdoor sounds through its acoustic properties and instils a sense of quiet. Blowing a hole into the ice flowers that had formed on the windows allowed me to watch the snowflakes coming from above. They kept falling endlessly from a mysterious nowhere, none in the exact same shape as the other.

I have enjoyed watching the snowflakes fall for as far back as I can remember. Mindful about my health, my mother didn't let me go outside if the temperature was less than minus ten degrees. But watching snowflakes was never boring, no matter how cold the weather was. **BO**



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SPOTLIGHT ON WINTER

Five things that you should do in Latvia in December

1/ Press on the paw of a hand-knitted *HUGU* bear and leave a message to someone you love. The recording will remain safe in the bear's tummy for life. Makes a great Christmas gift (hugu.lv).
2/ Spend part of your holidays at a design spa hotel in the serene Latvian countryside (annashotel.com, jonathanspahotel.com).

3/ See a ballet performance of Peter Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* at the Latvian National Opera (opera.lv).
4/ Check out the fabulous artworks that students of the Art Academy of Latvia have put on sale at the *Jarmarka* market, which is held every year at the end of December (jarmarka.org).
5/ See in the New Year at an opulent ball at the Small Guild in Riga (gilde.lv).

ON THIS MONTH'S MENU

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

Design Latvia has a strong *pirts* (sauna) tradition, but this bathing practice is gradually losing its hold among those with a fast-paced urban lifestyle. To illustrate just how insignificant the tradition risks becoming, talented designer Mārcis Ziemniņš has created a miniature tabletop version of a *pirts*, resulting in the "smallest sauna on earth".



© Design Academy Eindhoven

THE TREND: **Beauty** "Jewellery takes people's minds off your wrinkles," said famous Norwegian figure skater and film star Sonja Henie. This historic quote can be aptly applied to the finely crafted pieces by Latvian jeweller Pēteris Ripa. What's more, their seductive glamour fits in well with the holiday season.

① peter-ripa.com



Music Argentine jazz singer Karen Souza possesses a warm and inviting voice, seducing listeners with her gentleness and whisper-to-the-mic sultriness. Her new album, *Essentials II*, features smooth and intimate versions of well-known songs. Just perfect for those chilly winter evenings.

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

READING LIST



Jeffrey Bowman, Sven Ehmann and Robert Klanten. **The Outsiders: New Outdoor Creativity**

This big and beautiful book features innovative and original products for people who love the great outdoors, tips on what to bring along for an outdoor trip or hike, as well as interviews with key players from across the outdoor sector. Stuff this present into a thick stocking.

EUR 39, ① gestalten.com

Lena Dunham. **Not That Kind of Girl: A Young Woman Tells You What She's Learned**

Dunham is the acclaimed writer, director and star of the *Girls* TV series. Her long-awaited first book provides wise and hilarious insight into her fascinatingly normal life. The title is meant to be something of a self-help book, but even if you don't need help, you should read this book – if only to renew your faith in the ability of prose to make you laugh your head off.

EUR 21, ① 4thestate.co.uk

INSTAFASHION



Katya Katya Shehurina

① instagram.com/shehurina

COFFEE IN THE PARK

Riga's inhabitants have become quite discriminating when it comes to good coffee, because for the past several years the city's cafés have been fiercely competing to serve the tastiest coffee in town. The *Coffee Tower* kiosk on Tērbatas iela by Vērmānes Garden (Tērbatas iela 2F) is a favourite coffee-drinking spot for those in a rush. Occupying a mere 2.62 square metres of space, the kiosk is run by charismatic barista Reinis Silovs, who grew a moustache and beard for half a year to fit in with the male fashion trends of 1927, when the small park tower was built. Riga's smallest café is now so popular that Silovs and his business partners have opened other cosy coffee kiosks in the city.

① coffeetower.lv



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L'ARPEGGIATA BAROQUE ENSEMBLE CONCERT

**Great Guild Hall
December 9**

The International Bach Chamber Music Festival, which brings together the most outstanding players of Baroque music from various European countries, will host the world-famous *L'Arpeggiata* ensemble from France for the festival's 14th edition in Riga. The group will treat viewers to lively traditional music from the Mediterranean region and Fados from Portugal enriched by colourful dances.

Tickets at ① bilesuparadize.lv
Price: EUR 10-40
Amatu iela 6

DECEMBER 2014

The Amber of **TUTANKHAMUN** exhibition
**Art Museum Riga Bourse
Until January 25**

According to legend, when British archaeologists opened the sarcophagus of Tutankhamun in the candlelit semi-darkness of his tomb, they were surprised to find a glinting piece of amber on the chest of the deceased Egyptian pharaoh. Egypt was indeed the end point of ancient trade routes that brought amber south from the shores of the Baltic Sea, and amber is the connecting theme for this international exhibition project. For the first time in Riga, visitors will be able to view numerous Ancient Egyptian artefacts assembled from various world museums, including objects that accompanied the dead for their next life in the afterworld.

More information at ① Inmm.lv | Doma laukums 6



QUIET LIFE
exhibition of paintings
by Jānis Kalniņš
**Daugava art gallery
December 3-January 10**



Talented Latvian artist Jānis Kalniņš (b.1976), whose works are reminiscent of 17th-century Dutch painting, is coming forth with his first solo exhibition. The artist is known for brightly coloured and realistic works in which he devotes meticulous attention to the finest details.

More information at ① galerijadaugava.lv
Alksnāja ielā 10/12

LA LUNA MUSICAL SHOW

**Palladium concert hall
December 12, 20, 21, 23, 26, 27, 28**

This year, the *Cabaret* team invites you to sense the magic and mystery of the full moon. *La Luna*, a musical show rooted in cabaret traditions, will continue well after the official programme has ended, with talented singers performing some of the worlds most popular songs – including tango and jazz pieces – and spectators taking to the dance floor until as late as 3 AM.

Tickets at ① bilesuparadize.lv
Price: EUR 60–80 (admission includes a seat at a table, a glass of wine and snacks)
Marijas iela 21



Don't miss the unique exhibition in Riga by one of the world's most provocative artists, French contemporary art icon ORLAN. As a long-standing and controversial personality on the contemporary arts scene, ORLAN has been expressing herself loudly since the late 1960s. The unique exhibition in Riga features the artist's unconventional quests for transformation in visual art and cinema, involving still and moving images, reality and fiction, as well as a jab at the double standards in the advertising and marketing world.

More information at ① Inmm.lv
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ENRIQUE IGLESIAS

CONCERT

Arena Riga
December 7

Enrique Iglesias is one of the most-successful Spanish-speaking musical artists of all time. This month he will visit Riga on a concert tour to promote his latest album, *Sex and Love*. Those who have already seen the show say that it promises to be among the best of the year in terms of entertainment. As always, the performer will be delivering sensual Spanish ballads intermixed with pop songs and funky dance grooves.

Tickets at ① [ticketpro.lv](#)
Price: EUR 39-69
Skanstes iela 12



Latvian opera singer Inga Šubovska will be presenting a romantic musical programme on December 16

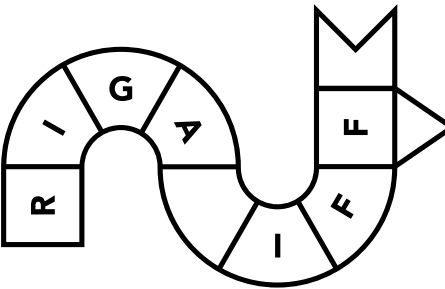
© Aiga Rēdmane

EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS (EIROPAS ZIEMASSVĒTKI) MUSIC FESTIVAL

Various churches and concert halls in Riga
December 6-30

Every year during the Advent and Christmas season, the *European Christmas* music festival showcases top-rated local musicians who perform works by Bach, Haydn, Mozart, Vivaldi and other classical music composers. This year, Gregorian chants, Christmas songs in jazz rhythms and lively New Year's concerts are also on the programme.

More information at ① [eiropasziemassvetki.lv](#)
Tickets at ① [bilesuparadize.lv](#)



RIGA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL



© Aiga Rēdmane

Various movie theatres in Riga
December 2-12

During this eagerly awaited 11-day film festival, viewers will be able to see more than 120 movies, including a number of recently made Latvian productions. One of the central events will be on December 12, when Norwegian Film Institute executive editor Jan Erik Holst presents his new book, *Stork Flying Over Pinewood*, which chronicles the most notable Nordic and Baltic joint film projects of the past 25 years.

More information at ① [rigaiff.lv](#)

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Style and attitude

Catch a movie at the Splendid Palace – the most beautiful cinema in the Baltic States



Yes, it is a movie theatre and no, one is not allowed inside with a box of popcorn. However, this prohibition seems quite appropriate for Riga's most majestic cinema house. Sulky popcorn lovers can take heart in the fact that you can enjoy a glass of wine instead – not only in the lovely downstairs cafeteria, but also while sitting in one the velvet-covered armchairs in the lobby, and sometimes even while watching a premiere following a celebratory introduction. Talk about special treatment! Since opening its doors in 1923, the *Splendid Palace* has been the most luxurious movie theatre in Riga and the central hub of Latvian national cinema. Built in a mere 10 months in Neo-Baroque style, the theatre displays beautiful sculptures by artist Rihards Maurs at the entrance, adding to the sense of wonder as to what awaits within... certainly no popcorn and *Coca-Cola* stands!

The interior clearly meets the expectations brought on by looking at the exterior. Interior is designed in Neo-Rococo style, it has noteworthy paintings by Hermanis Grīnbergs covering the ceiling and adornments by Rihards Maurs and Jēkabs Legzdīņš gracing the walls of the Main Hall. During the era of silent films, the *Splendid Palace* even had an orchestra playing, along with the occasional corps-de-ballet and vaudeville performances.

Today, the *Splendid Palace* continues to host high-quality art house films, documentaries and other movies directed both locally and abroad, bypassing the more mainstream Hollywood blockbusters and romantic comedies. The movie theatre is a member of the *Association des Cinémathèques Européennes*, which aims to show high-quality European movies outside of their country of origin as well as art house films from elsewhere in the world. **BO**

TOP 3 must-do's at the Splendid Palace cinema

Take a look at the decorations entwining the screen of the main hall and the paintings on the ceiling.

Have a glass of wine. Yes, simply because you can and because it fits the occasion.

Find out what they're showing in the tiny little screening hall downstairs. It will most likely be a documentary – perhaps something that none of your friends has heard of, but it will be worth it.

① splendidpalace.lv



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Brivibas bulvaris 21, Riga



Located in the heart of Riga, this prestigious and historic building, along with the land property, is up for sale. A beautiful view of the park is revealed from its windows. The building is located at the intersection of Brivibas and Kalpaka Boulevards, and is just a few minutes away from the Old Town. The Freedom Monument - one of the most important national symbols of Latvia, is located nearby. The premises are best suited for either a hospitality business or premium-class apartments.
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AINĀRS ĒRGLIS

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There is hardly a better European destination for Christmas shopping than Paris. However, as with any activity that empties your wallet, it is best to do so with a cool head. Before joining the mass year-end shopping frenzy, consider a visit to Paris' legendary **La Monnaie** mint, which is hosting *Chocolate Factory*, an exhibition by American artist Paul McCarthy (11 Quai de Conti, lamonnaiedeparis.fr) until January 4. In the ornate 18th-century hall decorated with crystal chandeliers, McCarthy has erected an adobe-style pavilion where – as in a stylised Willy Wonka production room – an operational chocolate factory is manufacturing hollow Christmas trees that look like sex toys and Santas holding similar devices.

Those who have not been able to resist giving in to consumer temptation can then head over to the new **Caffè Stern** (47 Passage des Panoramas, caffestern.fr), their arms loaded with brand-name shopping bags. The Italian-style café is located in the Passage des Panoramas, its interior created by the French enfant terrible of design, Philippe Starck. After you have satisfied your aesthetic curiosity and posted a selfie of yourself posing with the stuffed wolf and lynx in the window, try a classic aperitif with Venetian-style tapas. The *Caffè Stern* is also a great place for breakfast and dinner. For a real dinner adventure, go to **Pierre Sang Boyer** (55 rue Oberkampf, pierresangboyer.com), a small eating establishment in the Oberkampf neighbourhood that bears the name of its chef. Boyer doesn't accept reservations and doesn't offer a menu to choose from. You just have to trust him and enjoy his six-course improvisation for the day. There aren't very many seats; just a few tables in the basement and a long table by the open kitchen, which of course is the most desirable place to sit. You will be treated to true gastronomy in a rock'n'roll atmosphere, and you won't be charged an arm and a leg – the fixed dinner menu costs a moderate 39 euros, not including wine. As an added inducement to visit the place, French star chef Alain Ducasse recently recommended the small restaurant in a review for *Le Figaro*.

Paul McCarthy, The Chocolate Factory

Paris

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Vienna



Sans Souci
Wien



Hotel Wien



Along with Vienna's legendary Christmas markets, winter celebrations in the city's **Museum Quarter** have become an established tradition. *Winter im MQ* (Museumsplatz 1; leopoldmuseum.org) is being held this year from mid-November until December 23, during which time the whole quarter is transformed into an outdoor holiday venue. Concerts and other performances are held, while cafés and designer shops operate in specially constructed "ice" pavilions.

The courtyard of one museum has been transformed into the Snow Queen's labyrinth, while the ZOOM Children's Museum offers various activities for kids. Meanwhile, their parents can step into the Leopold Museum and see the exhibition *A Visual Memory of "Viennese Society": Franz Xaver Setzer's Portrait Photographs* from December 18 to January 12.

An ideal hotel for promoting a slightly elated and off-the-wall mood is the new **25hours Hotel Wien** (Lerchenfelder Straße 1-3; 25hours-hotels.com/wien), member of Design Hotels™, and which stands right next to the Museum Quarter. It is the latest branch of the expanding German 25hours Hotels chain, with an interior décor that could be described as stylish and casual. The inspiration for this hotel stems from the golden age of the circus during the early 20th century. The walls of hotel rooms have been illustrated by Olaf Hajek, one of Germany's best-known cartoonists. Therefore, don't be surprised to see a female tightrope walker doing a juggling act on the wall behind your pillow, or to find her dress as a design object on the towel rack in the bathroom.

Those who want to celebrate the Christmas holidays in style might consider the nearby **Sans Souci Wien** (Burggasse 2; sanssouci-wien.com), a glamorous 63-room luxury hotel whose interior was created in cooperation with yoo, a hotel and apartment design company managed by Philippe Starck. Along with an incredibly comfortable bed, the rooms elegantly incorporate all kinds of playful Stark design objects; a mirror is transformed into a TV set and pillows double as faces. However, one of the hotel's greatest assets is its spa.



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Berlin



David Chipperfield, The Neue Nationalgalerie, Ansicht Potsdamer Straße, 1968

Photo by REINHARD FRIEDRICH/ Nationalgalerie

As always, everything in Berlin is in a constant state of flux.

The Neue Nationalgalerie (Potsdamer Straße 50; smb.museum), designed by modernist classic and 20th-century architecture legend Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, is counting down the days before its closure for an extensive reconstruction. To mark this significant event, an art installation has been set up by famous British architect David Chipperfield, who will also oversee the building's reconstruction. Describing his installation as "a metaphor for a temporary construction site," Chipperfield has turned the glazed hall of the museum into a room of 144 columns, which are made of eight-metre-high spruce tree trunks. The installation will be open for viewing until December 31.

Meanwhile, the well-known photography exhibition centre **C/O Berlin** (Hardenbergstraße 22-24; co-berlin.org) has moved into a new home. Now *C/O Berlin* operates from the historic *Amerika Haus*, which was erected after the Second World War for ideological reasons, mainly to familiarise the people of Germany with American culture and politics.

In 2006, when the US embassy moved to its new quarters on the Brandenburger Tor, the *Amerika Haus* was given to the municipal government of Berlin and stood empty for a long time. In celebration of the relocation of *C/O Berlin* to the *Amerika Haus*, the *Magnum Contact Sheets* exhibition offers a unique insight into the creative laboratory of the legendary *Magnum* photo agency. The exhibition showcases more than 100 contact sheets taken over the course of seven decades by some of the world's most famous photographers. No longer used in modern-day digital photography, contact sheets reveal the sequence of images that a photographer has taken both before and after a defining shot. The exhibition is on view until January 16.

Regarding Berlin's ever-changing gastronomic scene, some features look like they may actually become permanent. Currently if you want to be "in" in Berlin, then you shouldn't eat out at a restaurant, but rather at an "eating hall". Right now, all roads lead to **Markthalle Neun** (Eisenbahnstraße 42/43; markthalleneun.de) in the Kreuzberg district. Firstly, it is one of the few historical Berlin market halls still in operation. Secondly, it was recently restored and turned into an epicentre of gastronomy. Stalls selling local produce stand side by side with a whole slew of affordable eateries that have become destinations in themselves. **BO**



David Chipperfield, Sticks and Stones, an Intervention, installation

Photo by SIMON MENIGES



Cafe at C/O Berlin




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HOTEL: **MONDRIAN LONDON**

The new *Mondrian Hotel* is one of the most stylish places of accommodation in London. It can be found in the iconic Sea Containers House, which was designed by American architect Warren Platner and built in 1978 in the Southbank district of London. With guest rooms designed by Tom Dixon along with an elegant rooftop bar and spa, the hotel meets all of the demands of modern-day travellers.

20 Upper Ground

① morganshotelgroup.com



December glamour of London



BAR: **AQUA SHARD**

If you want to escape from the bustle of the city, then leave all of the noise behind at street level and take the lift up to the 31st floor of the majestic Shard building, where the cosmopolitan *Aqua Shard* bar offers a magnificent view of London. Make sure to try one of the skilled bartenders' tasty cocktails.

The Shard, 31 St. Thomas Street

① aquashard.co.uk



MARKET: **BOROUGH MARKET**

As one of the liveliest culinary markets in London, this place will quickly draw you in and bewilder you with its vast diversity of sights, tastes and smells. To settle down a bit before you go shopping, order yourself a dozen fresh oysters and a glass of wine, and enjoy a delectable meal right there in the midst of the fray. Then dive into a sea of gourmet delights and take the opportunity to taste various cheeses and homemade breads.

8 Southwark Street

① boroughmarket.org.uk

RESTAURANT: **THE MAGAZINE RESTAURANT**

Designed by famous Iraqi-born architect Zaha Hadid, *The Magazine* restaurant in Kensington Gardens is bound to take your breath away. The interior's irregular shapes create the impression of endless waves that transport restaurant guests to another reality. The expert chef has spent more than ten years in Japan, skilfully combining traditional cooking with a modern-day touch, and drawing particular praise for his creative sushi-based variations.

Serpentine Galleries, Kensington Gardens
① magazine-restaurant.co.uk



PAUSE FOR TEA: **ST. PANCRAS RENAISSANCE HOTEL**

For a tea break in the midst of your holiday shopping marathon, head to the vicinity of King's Cross, where a former train station has been transformed into the luxury *St. Pancras Renaissance London Hotel*. The grandiose Neo-Gothic style building is said to be one of the most romantic buildings in the city, with an interior that is no less impressive than its exterior. Here you almost expect Harry Potter to pop up around the next corner, hurriedly making his way to catch the next Hogwarts Express.

Euston Road

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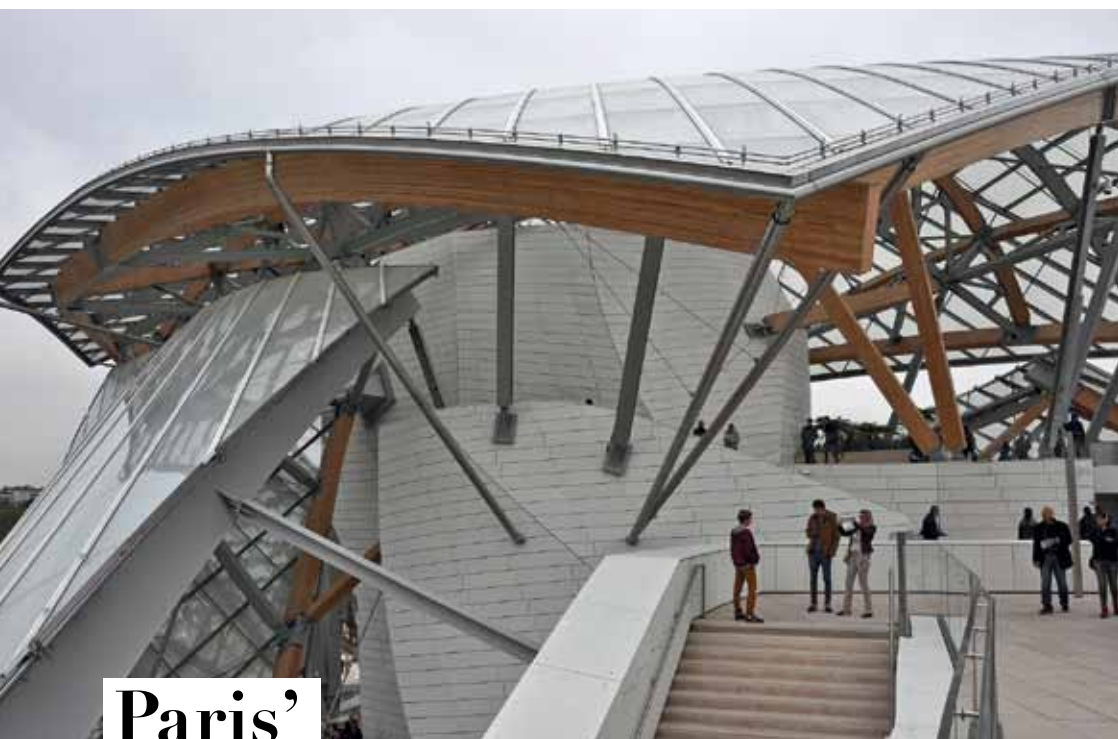


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Paris' monument to madness



Wow! No matter how sceptical one might be of architect Frank Gehry's luxury projects, which many see as an embodiment of excess, the new *Louis Vuitton* art foundation building disarms you the moment that you spot it protruding from behind the trees of the Bois de Boulogne.

The building has been compared with an iceberg, a tulip, a ghost ship and even an alien from outer space. It looks completely crazy in the literal sense of the word and is the fulfilment of the lofty dreams of two ambitious men – the aforementioned

85-year-old Gehry and 65-year-old Bernard Arnault, who heads the *LVMH* luxury concern and is one of the world's foremost collectors of contemporary art. The museum can be seen as a monument to human extravagance, with 12 glass "sails" enclosing and showcasing the most prominent luxury good of the 21st century – art. However, without bold new ventures such as this one, the world would certainly be much drabber and less exciting.

It is already being said that with this project Gehry has surpassed another iconic building that he designed, the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain. The location for the new *Fondation Louis Vuitton* building is appropriate for the imposing hulk that it represents – a children's amusement park and zoo established by Emperor Napoleon III in 1860. At one point, an aquarium and a palmarium that housed numerous exotic plants also stood on the grounds. The glass structures of the latter served as an inspiration for Gehry in the design of the new edifice, which Arnault has agreed to bequeath to the French Republic in 50 years' time.

The museum covers 11,000 m², with 11 halls for showcasing both the permanent and temporary exhibitions. Also within the complex is a concert auditorium that can seat 350 guests. About 200 engineers worked to complete the project and 30 new patents were created in the implementation

of Gehry's outlandish ideas, some of which seemed to defy rational logic. This can all be seen on the ground floor in an exhibition devoted to the construction of the complex.

Sooner or later, every visitor will end up at one of the museum's four terraces and marvel at the gigantic constructions of curved glass, which are criss-crossed by robust wooden support beams. One vantage point offers a view of the Eiffel Tower in the distance, while another faces the skyscrapers of the La Défense complex. Further down below, a huge cascade of water rushes into a grotto made by Danish-Icelandic artist Olafur Eliasson, providing a visual show of colour, lights and reflection in a vaguely similar manner to the optical illusions generated by the Potemkin Stairs in Odessa. Eliasson is one of only seven artists who created works specifically for the new museum.

Standing on the central terrace of the museum, one briefly feels that one really has boarded some kind of ghost ship, whose construction elements are somehow being held together in an incomprehensible manner. Like candy that is given to a child, visitors are fed with impulses, mirages of light and intangible imagery. You just drink it all in with your eyes and other senses until you feel sated. The aftertaste is a broad smile on your face. **BO**

8 Avenue du Mahatma Gandhi, Paris
① fondationlouisvuitton.fr

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Text by **FLORIAN MAAB**
Publicity photos

Women only

A growing number of hotels are introducing women-only floors, lounges and amenities.



More and more women are travelling, and female business travellers are among the fastest-growing groups in tourism. The hotel industry is trying to court women, leading to the comeback of women-friendly hotel offers.

While safety and comfort may be important for male business travellers as well, those are often crucial concerns for women. Most men don't require a big cosmetic mirror in the bedroom or a good selection of women's magazines on the table. But catering to female guests without seeming to patronise them is a thin line to walk. An attentive listen to what women want seems long overdue in the industry, as in about 80% of cases it's the women who decide about the hotel choice, regardless of whether they are travelling alone or with their families, friends and colleagues, or whether they are on business or vacation.

Hotel groups such as the German *Leonardo Hotels* or giant *Hyatt* have

conducted surveys of their female clients. *Hyatt* added some women-friendly features to all of its rooms, opting against women-only quarters. *Leonardo* introduced some female-friendly rooms in its luxury Royal class in Munich, Frankfurt, Dusseldorf and Berlin. The chain asked a renowned interior architect to design airy and contemporary rooms in bright colours and with more storage space. The bathrooms offer perfect lightning, a powerful hair dryer and quality toiletry products. And yes, a cosmetic mirror is in every bedroom.

The *Grand Hotel Oslo* was the first hotel in Europe to offer rooms specifically for women. Each of the 13 rooms is dedicated to a Norwegian female personality, from jazz singers to scientists. Queen-size beds, a large assortment of magazines, toiletries from *L'Occitane*, a yoga mat, free access to the spa, as well as a doorbell and a peephole for additional safety are among the little extras.

Other female-friendly features would be the choice to have female room-

service. Twenty-five years ago, the first era of women-friendly rooms ended because many women saw the practice as patronising. Now some members of the opposite sex have a problem with the concept. Two Danish men successfully sued Copenhagen's *Bella Sky Comwell* on the grounds that it discriminated against men by offering 20 women-only rooms (out of 814 in total). The hotel is still offering the rooms, but now these must also be made available to male guests.

In Hamburg, London or Berlin, hotels that accept only women generally aren't seen as inappropriate. Of course, one might ask why more hotels aren't illuminated, safe and well-equipped, cosy and stylish, so that women don't have to ask for specific products. In any case, one is advised to use the proper terms when searching for women-friendly hotel rooms. Googling "girl-friendly hotels" leads one to establishments that welcome discrete male guests and their hired female escorts. **BO**



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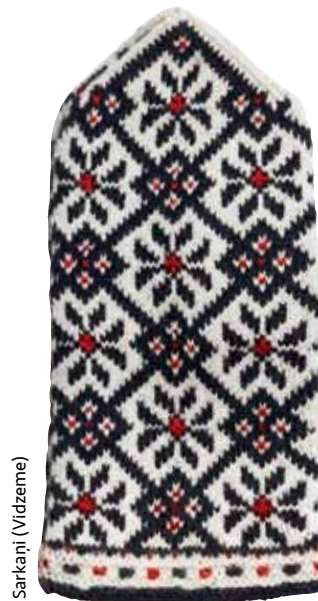
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Nīca (Kurzeme)

Text by **AGRA LIEĢE**
Photos by **EDMUNDS BRENCIS, F64**
Special thanks to the National Costume Centre **SENĀ KLĒTS**

Latvian ethnographic mittens

In times of old, Latvians didn't wear mittens just to keep their hands warm. These traditional woollen garments were also a fashion statement and remain popular gifts to this day.

Latvia is divided into five regions when it comes to folk dress and mittens – Vidzeme, Kurzeme, Latgale, Zemgale and Augšzeme. The patterns and colours vary from region to region and from town to town. Mittens originating from Augšzeme are generally less intricate, while those from Latgale and Kurzeme usually demonstrate bright and daring colour combinations.

For the proud and relatively prosperous people of Kurzeme, the proximity of the sea and the development of seafaring fostered trade with other parts of Europe. New trends often expressed themselves earlier in this region than in the rest of Latvia. The women of Kurzeme frequently chose bright and striking colours not typical of the country, further expressing their fiery temperament by knitting mittens with rich and ornate patterns. Many ornaments and symbols carried a deeper underlying meaning, including some that were designed to protect the wearer and bring good fortune.

Hundreds of patterns have been preserved and are exhibited in Latvia's National History Museum, while numerous published books feature many of these patterns for modern-day knitters to emulate. **BO**



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Text by **DACE VAIVARA**
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Roman holiday

The Christmas and New Year's season is a great time to enjoy the beauty, fashion and *dolce vita* of Italy's Eternal City.

Most Romans don't dress in accordance with the latest fashion trends. However, some elderly Italian ladies wearing fur coats and elegant shoes can still be seen riding through the city on their scooters, while well-dressed respectable gentlemen enjoy leisurely walks through the streets (*passeggiata*) along with the sweetness of doing nothing (*la dolce far niente*).

Sunglasses
by *Prada*,
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Shoes by *Lella Baldi*,
EUR 225, *Stiletto*



Gucci

SHOPPING IN ROME

Palazzo Fendi

Belonging to the family that founded the legendary *Fendi* fashion house, the 17th-century *Palazzo Fendi* offers luxury clothing and accessories for women, men and children. Largo Goldoni, store-en.fendi.com

Bulgari Flagship Store

Run by *Bulgari*, the jewellery, watch, perfume and accessory manufacturer with 130 years of history, this store has been located on Rome's most famous shopping street since 1905. Via dei Condotti 10, bulgari.com

① bulgari.com

White Gallery

This innovative luxury lifestyle store can be found in the *Palazzo dell'Arte Moderna* in the modern EUR neighbourhood, offering clothing collections by the best Italian brands. Piazza Marconi 18, whitegallery.it

① whitegallery.it

Nia

The boutique for this new and promising clothing brand is housed in a historical building with a modern interior not far from the Piazza di Spagna. Via Vittoria 48, niaroma.it



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net-a-porter.com

Handbag
by *Emporio Armani*, EUR 714,
armani.com

Bracelet by *Bulgari*,
EUR 385, bulgari.com

Dress by *Max Mara*, EUR 675,
lv.maxmara.com



Coat by *Pietro Filippi*, EUR 379,
Galerija Centrs shopping centre

Store addresses in Riga: *Pietro Filippi*, *Galerija Centrs* shopping centre, Audēju iela 16 | *Stiletto*, Tērbatās iela 34 | *Optika Italiana*, *Spice* shopping centre, Lielirbes iela 29

After you've done some shopping, step into the *Caffè Greco*, which has been located on Via dei Condotti 86 since 1760. Among its famous former clients are Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Lord Byron and Stendhal. Then, to really get a feel of the carefree atmosphere portrayed in Federico Fellini's film *La Dolce Vita* (1960), take a walk down the Via Veneto and stop for an evening aperitif at the legendary *Harry's Bar*, where film stars came to party during the 1960s. **BO**

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Style by **KATRĪNA REMESA- VANAGA**
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Aromatic bath bag, *Munio*
Candela Green Bath Therapy,
EUR 6.83, *Riija*
Vanilla bath milk, *Anna Liepa*,
EUR 11.30, *Pop Up Store*
Aromatic candle, *Riga Candles*,
EUR 7.90, *Riija*
Aromatic candle, *Riga Candles*,
EUR 11.90, *Riija*
Rose facial butter, *Anna Liepa*,

EUR 10.20, *Pop Up Store*
Mandarin facial butter, *Anna*
Liepa, EUR 10.20, *Pop Up Store*
Linen towel, EUR 6.50, *Riija*
Clay soap dish, 6.90 EUR, *Riija*
Soap, peppermint in goat's milk,
EUR 7.50, *Pop Up Store*
Wooden coasters, EUR 2.42, *Riija*
Dried plant decorations,
EUR 4,50 (100 gr), *Stenders*

Store addresses in Riga: *Pop Up Store*, Šķūņu iela 15, Doma laukums | *Riija*, Tērbatas iela 6/8 | *Stenders*, *Galerija Centrs* shopping centre, Audēju iela 16.



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EUR 955 | ① theairwheel.com

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EUR 28 | ① knowroaming.com



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You've already gifted someone with a tablet, but didn't you forget something? This expressive, gorgeously-designed and well-balanced *Bluetooth* stylus gives your *iPad* extra creative juice, allowing you to write, draw and paint from any angle. The 14-carat gold-plated tip enables fine detail and broad strokes (as well as pressure sensitivity), while the other end has a built-in digital eraser. Optimised for the company's free *iOS Paper* drawing app. Charges via USB in 90 minutes and lasts for up to a month on one charge. Available in graphite or walnut.
EUR 63 | ① fiftythree.com/pencil



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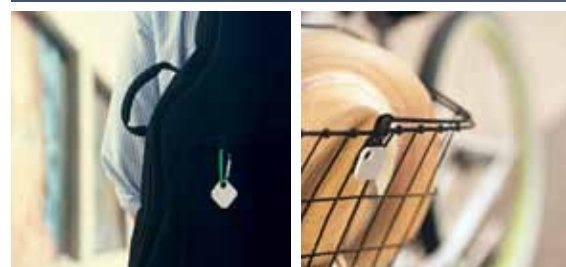
These carry cases organise your chargers, cords, headphones and other small gadgets, holding items firmly in place and preventing damage or scratching. The customisable rubberised woven elastic system permits infinite configurations for storing your digital devices and personal effects, making travelling with your techno stuff that much less of a hassle. The bundle comes with three different sizes of grids.
EUR 39 | ① cocooninnovations.com



TILE

Once lost, now found

Just released after nearly a year-long wait, this small, crowdsourced *Bluetooth* device attaches to key rings, purses and even hyperactive children to make sure that you can always find them when necessary. Once paired, the device can be tracked with a free *iOS* app, which displays on a map where your treasured item or person was last seen. Note that you (or another member of the 'community' who has the app installed) need to be within 50-150 feet of your *Tile* in order for it to be traceable.
EUR 16 | ① thetileapp.com



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Text by **KRISTĪNE BUDŽE**, *Pastaiga*
Photo Courtesy of Ilkka Suppanen

Fire on the table

This Nordic design item
is perfect for 21st-century
urban interiors, bringing
fire straight to the home.

WHAT IS IT?

A portable table fireplace whose flame comes forth from a stainless steel base and is surrounded by tempered glass. The fireplace is fuelled by ethanol, a resource that is considered to be renewable and environmentally friendly. The fireplace looks like a large glass vessel and can be placed on a stable table or shelf top without the need for a chimney or ventilation shaft.

WHY IS IT SPECIAL?

The fireplace is made by the Finnish company *Iittala* and was designed by Ilkka Suppanen, who also hails from Finland. *Iittala* is best known for its glass vessels, which have sold consistently well for decades and which remain in high demand across the world. The company's most famous

creation is the *Savoy vase* – a modern design classic designed by architect and designer Alvar Aalto.

While *Iittala* could probably do just fine by continuing to sell the items that have brought it fame and fortune, the company is developing new products as well. A couple of years ago, for example, the plates, bowls and spoons created by young graphic designer Klaus Haapaniemi for the *Taika* collection were the most widely demanded Christmas gifts in the country. *Iittala* is gradually diversifying its range of products from cookware and tableware to household items that include small shelves and lamps. The portable table fireplaces are also a step in that direction.

Most Nordic designers design laconic and modernist items to suit the cool and reserved

temperament of their own countrymen. That is why they cooperate almost exclusively with local manufacturing firms or perhaps the odd company from Japan, which is the largest foreign market of Scandinavian design items. Ilkka Suppanen, however, has been one of the first Finnish designers to cooperate with Italian companies as well. Traditionally, the southern European sense of aesthetics has been considered to be more expansive than that which predominates in Scandinavia. Suppanen has been able to adapt to the playful approach of the Italians, a fact that has garnered him praise at home in his native Finland as well. The design of the table fireplace combines the reserved detachment of the North with striking visual elements more characteristic of the South.

HOW DOES IT FIT INTO YOUR INTERIOR?

The table fireplace lets those who live in colder climes enjoy the sight of genuine open flames in their homes and is particularly suitable for city dwellings that lack chimneys and flues to accommodate traditional fireplaces. Now urban residents can sit by a genuine fire on cold winter evenings, like their ancestors once did. When unlit, the fireplace is unobtrusive and serves well as a background interior object, but once it is ignited and gives off its flame, it becomes the hearth of the home. Although the fireplace has been simply designed to fit in with various interior styles, it looks best in homes that have been modelled in the reserved and laconic Nordic style. **BO**

① iittala.com

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JĀNIS KRIŠTOPS (41)

captain and flight safety officer with *Bombardier DASH8 Q400* aircraft, hours flown: 3200

**FAVOURITE RESTAURANT**

I spent several years of my childhood in the beautiful city of Kuldīga, which is located in Kurzeme and of which I have fond memories. From time to time I return there to visit friends or just to walk across the arched brick bridge over the Venta River. The city still has a historic feel to it, like going back in time to the 16th or 17th century.

In the centre of Kuldīga, next to the small Alekšupīte River, is a restaurant named *Pagrabiņš*. Its outside terrace has been built right over the river. During the summer it looks like a Latvian Venice, while during the winter, when enjoying a meal inside, I feel like one of Duke Jacob's knights who has stopped to enjoy some rest time between battles. The restaurant has a large menu, tasty food, nice service and a calm atmosphere – the best combination to recharge your batteries!

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Running, playing tennis, participating in running competitions. Cross-country skiing during the wintertime.

LAST DESTINATION FLOWN TO AS A PASSENGER

Stockholm's Arlanda airport. I was travelling there to do some recurrent flight training in a simulator.

This is your captain speaking

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

**SNAPSHOT TO SHARE**

I took this picture in March of 2012. The sun was going down and Riga looked like it was being painted in such beautiful colours! During the landings we often see the beauty of the Riga seaport and the Daugava River flowing into the Baltic Sea.

HOBBIES

Long-distance running, cycling, tennis, water sports, going out to the theatre.

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

Like most other boys, during my childhood I looked up in fascination at the airplanes flying high in the sky. One time I went together with my family to visit my brother's godfather, who lived close to Riga's Spilve Airport [now used locally for small aircraft – ed.]. We went to watch the planes take off and land on the runway. My childhood dream about flying was postponed for a long time, but was finally fulfilled in 2009, when I joined *airBaltic*.

THE BEST THING ABOUT BEING A PILOT

During rainy days, when the sky is covered with clouds, you take off, break through the cloud cover and enjoy the sunshine! My fascination with flight can't be expressed in words. Once you've experienced it, you never lose it.

FAVOURITE BOOK

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince*. I love that book. One can read it several times and always find something new.

FAVOURITE RUNWAY

My hometown runway at the Riga airport. Nothing can be better than coming back home.

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

When passengers start a conversation with members of the flight crew, they see that the pilots are friendly and more than happy to talk about flying with curious travellers

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Text by **KOREN HELBIG**
Photos courtesy of **ARNO PRONK**

Ice master

Dutch architect Arno Pronk is on the verge of establishing a world record by building a model of Barcelona's Sagrada Familia basilica from ice and sawdust.



The towering spires of Antoni Gaudí's famed Sagrada Familia will be temporarily on view in Finland this winter, as an ambitious team of architects attempts to build a replica of the emblematic Barcelona church entirely from ice. The 40-metre high model, built on

a 1:4 scale, is set to become the highest ice dome in the world. It will take shape over the course of three weeks starting from December 28 in the small town of Juuka, as a series of inflated membranes and suspended chains are sprayed with a special ice and wooden fibre composite named pykrete,

which is three times as strong as plain ice.

Around 60 volunteers are ready to brave freezing temperatures and work around the clock. Stopping isn't an option, otherwise the snow cannons will freeze over, says Dutch architect Arno Pronk, who is leading the project alongside Eindhoven University students Teun Verberne and Jordy Kern.

Pronk and his team will draw on the experience gained last winter, when they built another ice dome at the same location. They're hoping for frosty weather this year, because the construction of the previous 30-metre dome was delayed for about a week last year due to unusually mild weather.

"It has to be at least minus 8 degrees Celsius in order for us to build," Pronk says.

While the ice basilica is sure to be a tourist attraction, Pronk also hopes to demonstrate how pykrete can be used as a cheap and environmentally friendly building material for temporary structures such as seasonal agricultural storage and ice hotels.

Oddly, the ice Sagrada Familia will be finished well before its real-life inspiration in Barcelona, which is likely to be completed only around 2026, more than 140 years after it was started.

So, what would the famed Gaudí himself think of the replica?

"I think he would like it," Pronk says. "He was quite experimental and liked trying new things, making interesting forms with materials. We're doing the same." **BO**

① structuralice.com/sagrada-familia-in-ice.html

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WELCOME TO LIDO!

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

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+371 67700000

LIDO SPICE
Spice Shopping Centre
Lielirbes iela 29, Riga

LIDO AIRPORT
Riga International Airport,
Upper level, Departures
area

LIDO DOMINA
Domina Shopping Centre
Ieriķu iela 3, Riga

Cookies with a taste of Christmas

Aromatic and crunchy, these gingerbread treats will make a lovely gift.



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

Ingredients

100 g soft butter
6 tbsp. brown sugar
3 tbsp. agave syrup (or liquid honey)
1 ½ - 2 cups flour
½ tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. vanilla sugar
½ tsp. cinnamon
¼ tsp. ground ginger
¼ tsp. ground allspice
(a ready-made gingerbread spice mix can also be used in the place of the aforementioned spices)
1/3 cup chopped almonds
½ cup dried cranberries
½ cup dried apricots (chopped)
½ cup pecans
1 bar dark chocolate
1 bar white chocolate

Preparation

Beat the butter together with the brown sugar and agave syrup. Add the baking powder, spices, almonds, cranberries, apricots and flour according to need (starting from 1 ½ cups), making sure that the dough does not become too dry and that it keeps together. Roll the dough into a ball, wrap it into a plastic cling film and place in the fridge for an hour.

Once the dough has set, roll it out to a thickness of about 3 mm. Cut out circles of the desired size with a round cookie cutter and place onto a pan that has been covered with baking paper. Gently squeeze a couple of pecans onto the top of each cookie. Place the pan with the unbaked cookies in a cool place for another hour. Meanwhile, heat up the oven to 200°C. Then bake the cookies for 8-10 minutes until they are golden brown.

While the cookies are baking, break up the chocolate into a deep and heat-resistant vessel (such as a metal cup or kettle) and place over a hot water bath. Mix until the chocolate has melted. Place half of each cookie into the chocolate and let the cookies cool until the chocolate has hardened. **BO**

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Text by **LIENE PĀLĒNA**
Photo by **DMITRIJS SUĻŽICS**, F64

Gourmet pleasures

The latest “in” food is aged black garlic. Why so?



Developed in Korea, black garlic has been gaining popularity among Western foodies for several years, but recently it has also caught the eye of health-minded individuals in the wake of studies revealing its impressive nutritional properties. Black garlic is obtained by fermenting or “ripening” regular garlic. As a result, the garlic obtains a hot, sweet taste with a pleasant syrupy tinge and soy sauce flavour. In addition, the concentration of antioxidants is three times higher in black garlic than in regular garlic, according to research studies. That is appealing to those who wish to delay the aging process and strengthen their immunity. During the bleak winter months, black garlic can be a useful aid in combating the symptoms of a cold. According to one study, drinking a tincture of black garlic can reduce the

number of days with cold symptoms by as much as 61 percent. Jordi Ferri of Spain set up a black garlic business in Latvia several years ago and established his own fermenting technique. He calls his product “super garlic” and says

Those who have tasted black garlic generally don’t object to its price

that it gives foods a much deeper taste. That may be one reason why black garlic is becoming increasingly popular in the Baltic countries. The preparation of this food product is a lengthy process. For the first month, regular garlic is subject to high temperatures and humidity, while during the following month

it dries and is put to rest. No chemicals, colouring agents or preservatives are used in the garlic’s transformation. The final product is soft, with the consistency of firm jelly and without the typical garlic aroma. As a culinary delicacy, black garlic also costs a pretty penny: about 50 euros / kg (or 75-80 euros / kg for peeled garlic). However, those who have tasted black garlic generally don’t object to its price; the aftertaste is fantastic, which is why restaurant chefs use black garlic in the preparation of various sauces. The upscale food item goes well with mushrooms, tomatoes, cheese, chilli peppers, ginger, basil, coriander, truffles and sesame oil. It also imparts a special taste to smoked meat, fish and other seafood. Black garlic is applied in small portions for the preparation of meals. In most cases, no more than five cloves are used per dish. **BO**



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Transforming the classics in Bordeaux

Jean Guyon, owner of the Château Rollan de By, gives *Baltic Outlook* a tour of his residence in Bordeaux.

Bordeaux was a leading city in the 18th century in terms of interiors, because much of the material used for nice furniture in Europe arrived there by ship. Bordeaux then sold mahogany and other precious wood all over Europe, gaining rapid prosperity as a city of trade. Many people became wealthy, building beautiful houses and other buildings. Bordeaux looked like a small Saint Petersburg. For a long time, Aquitaine was a rich region with an elegant and chic population. Many people from Britain visited the area, which was known for its wines already at that time. Today, Bordeaux continues to be associated mainly with winemaking and less with other activities.



CHARACTER OF THE REGION

People in Bordeaux are mostly Protestant and generally don't show off their wealth. Living spaces are bourgeois but not flashy and lavish. Many people have inherited their furniture from their grandmothers. It's very traditional and a bit dusty. Unfortunately, modern art is not so popular here. That's difficult for me because I come from Paris, where modern art is held in high regard. On the positive side, Bordeaux is like a big family. People do everything together and they are very friendly and kind.



ABOUT THE OWNER

Born in 1949 – one of the best wine vintages of the 20th century – Jean Guyon is charismatic, ambitious and enjoys new challenges. He started his career as an interior designer for *Jansen* and created his own company not long after, designing interiors for the richest emirs of the Gulf States. During the 1980s he expanded into the real estate business. Later, he invested in a sturgeon farm for the production of caviar and in a cigar manufacturer in the Dominican Republic. In 1989, he fell under the charm of the hamlet of By in Northern Médoc, where he bought a small two-hectare vineyard. Gradually, he increased his holdings to 185 hectares and stepped from the status of amateur winemaker to being a leader in the wine business of Bordeaux.



REBUILD AND PRESERVE

When I bought this place, I just kept the walls. I razed the entire house and built a completely new interior. I wanted to keep a bit of the traditional ornamentation, as this house is from the 19th century. I like to mix things together, putting some sculptures outside and keeping furniture from 18th century inside, along with some contemporary sculptures from Thailand. So here you have one piece from the 18th century, two or three paintings from the 17th century and then modern stuff. That's my style. I love to mix things, it's my signature.





FOOD, WINE AND MORE

I prefer to have my breakfast in my dining room. I enjoy eggs from our own chickens, fruit and fresh bread. Almost everything comes from my garden, where we have vegetables, apples, pears and figs. I love traditional food such as *magret de canard* (grilled duck breast), oysters, fish and lamprey à la Bordelaise as well as sheep, beef and mushrooms. Bordeaux is known for its cep mushrooms. We go to the forest to pick them. We also love to hunt and drink a lot of champagne. My favourite is *Cuvée Femme* from Duval-Leroy, vintage 1998 in a magnum. Fantastic!



SEASONAL TRADITIONS FOR WINTER

Meat is very important in Médoc, people eat a lot of it here. In addition, everybody hunts. Often this is a problem during harvest time, when people call in sick and don't go to work because they want to hunt! Christmas is always a big family event, with long dinners by the fireplace and plenty of nice Bordeaux wine. That being said, we also enjoy wines from Burgundy, Sauternes and even Napa Valley.

When we party at home, we often have oysters or seafood for the starter. Then we come to the table for some *magret de canard*, lamprey and small potatoes in fat. That is, of course, followed by cheese and a *tarte aux pommes* (apple pie) with apples from my garden. After that we have cognac and cigars. The tradition here is to start dinner at about 8:30 PM with an aperitif and sit down at the table at 9 PM. At around midnight we leave the table and have some cognac. By 1 AM we are done.



ART INSIDE THE HOUSE

Jean Guyon owns a collection of old paintings and contemporary art. He is particularly fond of a bronze faun holding a bunch of grapes.

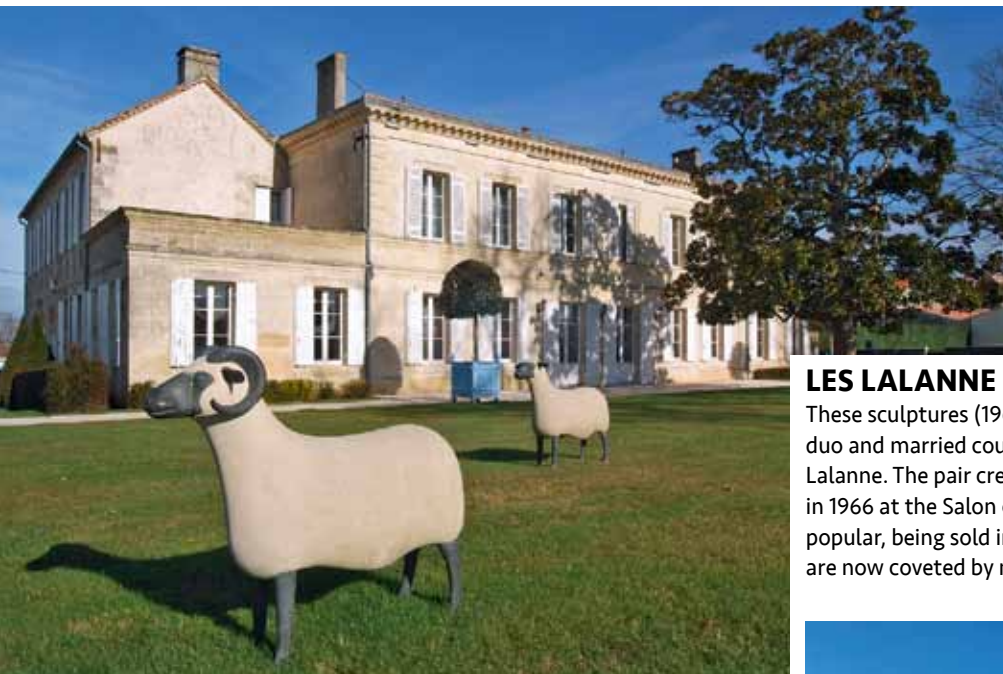
"It symbolizes the love of the grape before the love of wine. Wine is a work of art and, like all masterpieces, what counts is to enjoy it rather than talk about it."



A PASSION
TO DREAM

BOSCA

ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION MAY HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS



LES LALANNE HERITAGE

These sculptures (1965) were born from the imagination of an artist duo and married couple named François-Xavier Lalanne and Claude Lalanne. The pair created a sensation with their first exhibition in 1966 at the Salon of Young Painters. Their works became very popular, being sold in Paris, New York and other sales rooms, and are now coveted by major collectors.

ARTWORKS OUTSIDE THE HOUSE



MARATHON RUNNER
This monumental work by Philip Hiquily incorporates movement, balance and suggested eroticism.



LES BONBONS DE JENKELL

This collection of 20 “bonbons” decorated the promenade in Cannes during the G20 summit in 2011. Laurence Jenkell wanted to add a bit of sweetness to the summit and soften the world crisis in the hope that the decisions made would help to restore happiness to the people. **BO**

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Text by **UMA MEISTERE**
anothertravelguide.com
Photos by **AINĀRS ĒROLIS**

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WAY

The feeling of being on a journey is a fairly elusive state of mind. Sometimes you fail to achieve it even when travelling quite far, but other times it strikes completely unexpectedly. This feeling recently caught me unawares in Amsterdam as I climbed onto the ferry that takes passengers from the Central Station across the IJ to the Noord district. The ferry ride is free, follows a bus-like schedule and completes its route in about five minutes. But there is nevertheless something magical about the whole process, in the way that everyone rushes to get on board with or without their bicycles, despite the fact that there's actually nothing to miss, since the next ferry leaves in ten minutes.

It's a cloudy day, there are small waves on the IJ and the salty air is refreshing. The lunchtime traffic is quite heavy; a gigantic barge-like vessel slides by on the water. As the ferry pulls away from the pier, the view of the old city centre and the new apartment and office buildings lets you feel the all-embracing expanse of water in the city. On the other side, the EYE Film Institute – one of the locals' favourite examples of new architecture – looms like the eye of a lonely Cyclops.

Unlike the Stedelijk Museum, which Amsterdamers call the “bathtub” and have only unwillingly accepted, everyone loves the EYE. And what's not to love about it? The building is so futuristically strange that it immediately catches one's eye and does not let go. It's like a film in itself. The Film Institute, which opened its doors to the public in 2012 and was designed by the Vienna-based architectural firm *Delugan Meissl*, is the new home of the former Amsterdam Film Museum. Although the museum had long ago become a legendary inhabitant of Vondelpark, its film archive (begun in the 1940s and now containing 37,000 units) had outgrown its space and desperately needed a new facility.

Cinema is an illusion, and the EYE is also a type of optical illusion – its façade, clad in white aluminium tiles, looks quite varied, depending on the direction from which it is seen. The wooden steps resemble a gigantic ramp and lead the visitor straight into the depths of the “eye”. The establishment is like a cinema kaleidoscope. On the lower level several bright yellow futuristic “pods” provide seating for up to three people and the opportunity to watch classic films for free...if you can find a free spot.



Museumplein (Museum Square) is where the Rijksmuseum, Van Gogh Museum, Stedelijk Museum and Coster Diamonds are all located

On a huge screen on one of the nearby walls, visitors can experience the wonder of art for themselves, boisterously and expansively splashing about paint like Jackson Pollock. Except that here the painting takes place virtually and it is the visitors’ shadows that “pour” the paint onto the screen. Don’t ask me how it works – it’s the magic of technology that turns adults into kids, with parents competing with their own children to see who is the true virtuoso of colour. EYE also has an exhibition hall, movie theatre and café that resembles the deck of a ship. From its windows one sees Old Amsterdam in the distance, while in the foreground life calmly slides by on the water, just like in a silent movie.

It’s the magic of technology that turns adults into kids, with parents competing with their own children

The north end of town is currently the “must-be” part of Amsterdam. It’s an area that is still developing but already offers a series of unusual projects. A research centre for the oil giant *Shell* was once located there, but really the only object that reminds one of the past is *Overhoeks Tower*, also known as *Shell Tower*, built in the 1970s. Its name was changed to *A’DAM* in January of this year. The tower is still under reconstruction, however, and is planned to open to the public next year as office space. The tower will also have a hotel and a panorama restaurant. In the more distant past – the late 19th century and early 20th century – the north part of Amsterdam was where the city’s homeless and criminals congregated. Today, however, the district is aptly called Amsterdam’s “New Berlin”.

Printed buildings

The *3D Print Canal House*, another interesting inhabitant of the Noord district, is located near the EYE. Simultaneously a museum and experimental laboratory, it was initiated by the

Dutch architectural firm *DUS*, whose ambition it is to study how 3D technologies can be used in construction. To that end, *DUS* is currently building a 3D canal house – a real, authentic, full-scale house. The project is anticipated to continue for another three years, but visitors can already watch the building take shape – layer by layer – in the small, improvised exhibition hall. The completed exterior wall panels, interior details and two chairs can already be viewed. You can even sit on the chairs and try them out – one chair is black, the other gold. The feeling is a little like being in a science fiction film. On the one hand, the chairs are comfortable, but on the other hand they seem more like stage props than the real thing.

The main “factory” can also be seen in the middle of the yard. It is, in fact, a large container that holds the *Kamermarker*, a gigantic 3D printer that is the main instrument used for the building of the house. Bio-plastic granules are the principal building material, heated to 170° C during the manufacturing process. Countless layers of this material are then printed, which hardens into a durable and unified mass. There is something miraculous, fascinating and even slightly terrifying in this whole process – a feeling of human progress and absurdity at the same time.

A small 3D printer in the exhibition hall “manufactures” a miniature version of the same house, room by room, tower by tower. By the time you’ve curiously wandered into the yard, half of a roof tower is already finished. In addition, there’s no construction waste, transportation costs or need to relegate part of the manufacturing, say, to Bangladesh in the hopes of saving money. The most fascinating thing is that you can decorate your dream house in any way you like at no extra cost. The printer simply reads the digital file and dispassionately implements all of the design plans.

While jewellery and design objects created with 3D printing technologies are no longer anything new, the 3D Canal House is undeniably a precedent – for the first time, a whole house is being constructed in this way. This type of building was chosen

because canal houses have been instrumental in Amsterdam’s development and canals are the main symbol of the city. Just over 400 years ago in the late 16th century, canal houses were among the most innovative projects of their day. Back then, Amsterdam was bursting at the seams as the result of a boom in trade and commerce. It was a city full of traders, craftsmen and immigrants as well as illnesses and all sorts of other troubles.

In the search for solutions to the city’s problems, an urban planning design was developed in the early 17th century that anticipated the creation of a fan-shaped network of canals around the old city centre. Construction on the canals began in 1613 and lasted more than 40 years. With Amsterdam sitting below sea level – actually, in a marsh – millions of wooden piles were driven into the ground, which then served as foundations for the canal houses so admired today. The houses had various functions; some were places of commerce, others were used as residences.

The 3D Canal House is also located on a canal that flows right in front of its doorsteps. The finished house will most likely be open to the public and serve as a platform for further irrational creative ideas. Of course, the greatest challenge will be its durability and compliance with such essential criteria of sustainable construction as fire safety, heat insulation, resistance to extreme weather conditions and so on. Only time will tell whether the 3D Canal House will pass this test and we will each soon be able to simply print out our own dream home. In any case, the small museum is definitely one of the places currently worth seeing in Amsterdam, if only just to get a feel for the present moment, and even if it eventually turns out to have been only a 21st-century utopia. The project is supported by the City of Amsterdam and the

Amsterdam Fund for the Arts as well as by visitors to the museum who pay a EUR 2.50 admission fee.

One of the locals’ favourite spots for gastronomy can be found a 10-minute walk from the EYE and the 3D Canal House. Located in a former bank, the restaurant slightly resembles an East Berlin eatery, with original elements from the building’s proletarian past serving as design features. Pale green wall tiles, old refrigerators and a piece of modern art here and there – in other words, a real hipster joint. The toilets are located in the bank’s former safe room, where the actual safes can still be seen, empty and abandoned like relics of the past. Here, the *Jacques Jour* café is open for lunch and meals are served on tablecloths of light brown parchment paper. In the evenings, however, white tablecloths replace the parchment paper and the eatery turns into the *Café Modern* restaurant. It belongs to the same owners of the *Hotel de Goudfazant*, a pioneer in Amsterdam’s Noord district.

Cult establishment

If you’ve made it this far and have a bicycle, then the *Hotel de Goudfazant* is definitely worth pedalling your way over to. The name, however, is misleading, because the establishment is a restaurant instead of a hotel; the name is from Jacques Brel’s song *De Burgerij* (Les Bourgeois). For the past six years the *Hotel de Goudfazant* has held on to its status as a cult restaurant in Amsterdam, which, it must be said, is a considerable amount of time for an establishment of this kind. It is located in a 1200-square-metre former factory hangar and was one of the pioneers of Amsterdam’s “wild north”.



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The industrial chic style is played up to the max, with the central element being a giant chandelier made of glass bottles; the old factory walls and rusty pillars have seemingly been left as they were found. Like a giant labyrinth, one space flows into the next, separated by huge wine shelves and multi-storey platforms displaying retro *Porsche* and *Chrysler* automobiles. The red café-style chairs and white linen tablecloths serve as a contemporary and robust contrasting design element.

However, the interior design is not the only reason to visit *Hotel de Goudfazant*. The unpretentious menu focuses on easily-understood tastes and perfect preparation techniques, offering a practically ideal union of price and quality. Still, it's important to not make any mistakes when ordering. For example, if you choose grilled chicken, know that you will receive a whole chicken, perfectly grilled and served with lightly cooked vegetables. If you choose the duck breast, it will be a hearty, real duck breast served with orange sauce, which – it's no secret – is the best sauce for duck in terms of taste combinations.

Microbe museum and palm house restaurant

Even though turning former industrial areas into stylish districts and cultural initiatives is nothing new, the impressive scope with which Amsterdam has done and continues to do so is fascinating. Just a few metres from the *Artis Royal Zoo*, the *Plantage* restaurant recently opened in a former 19th-century palm house. Its historical metal interior and old greenhouse feel have been preserved, thereby creating an absolutely surreal mood that seems apart from time and space. Right next to *Plantage* is Amsterdam's newest museum – *Micropia*, which just opened in October and is dedicated not to art but to...microbes. Needless to say, it is the only museum of its kind in the world.

The *Micropia* project, which cost 10 million euros, is an initiative by Haig Balian, the director of *Artis*, who is said to have fostered the idea for 12 years. He likes to call it an “interactive microbe



zoo” and believes that, as opposed to the world of animals and plants, the world of microbes, which also plays an essential role in the survival of our planet as well as ourselves, has been undeservedly short-changed. Even though the words “microbe”

The place is a self-sufficient microcosm in which to spend an entire day and even the night

and “bacteria” are stereotypically associated with illnesses, the creators of the museum wish to show the positive side of these beings and their integral part in the chain of life. Equipped with countless microscopes, projectors and interactive installations, the museum feels more like a scientific research lab.

Visitors are even scanned in the elevator and told how many microbes live on their eyelashes. It turns out that each of us, on a daily basis, carries not only a certain amount of clothing relative to the weather conditions and our social status but also 1.5 kilograms of microbes. If that were not the case, we would have little chance of survival. For those wishing more detailed information, the museum has a special scanner that can determine exactly how

many microbes live on their skin. And, for those who do not shy away from public displays (which, in this age of social networks, is less and less of an issue), the museum also has a *Kiss-o-Meter* where you can find out how many microbes travel between two partners when they kiss. If you take into account that there are at least 700 types of microbes in the mouth, then you'd better think twice before trying this experiment out on your own.

Gastronomy centre in a tram depot

Continuing with the new life of industrial areas, Amsterdam has recently gotten another new centre of gastronomy. *Foodhallen* is located in a former tram depot at the western end of the city. In addition to countless eateries of all sorts and styles, the huge industrial hangar also has a movie theatre (*Filmhallen*) and hotel as well as several design studios, a library/reading room and the ubiquitous bicycle repair shop. The place is a self-sufficient microcosm in which to spend an entire day and even the night if one's feet have given out. One next to the other, *Foodhallen* has all variety of eateries, from Amsterdam's well known *The Butcher* (serving outstanding burgers) to *Pink Flamingo* pizza and *Việt View* Vietnamese cuisine. The prices are friendly, the food is good and wine and beer are available at the bar. No white tablecloths or stiff



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Your **NEXT DESTINATION**

Amsterdam is home to one of the oldest botanical gardens in the world, the Hortus Botanicus



Located in the Hortus Botanicus, the *Orangerie* is one of the most popular cafés in the city and also one of the most romantic



Meat West restaurant at the newly opened *Foodhallen*

welcomes, and seating is at simple, small wooden tables or long, large tables. In other words, hipsters of all ages, families with young children and office workers all gather shoulder to shoulder. If you visit in the evening – say, around 7 o'clock – *Foodhallen* is so crowded that there's no doubt it's Amsterdam's epicentre of the moment. The place is similar to New York's Chelsea Market, Oslo's Mathallen Food Hall or Berlin's Markthalle 9.

If you're looking for something a little more formal but still stylish, *Foodhallen* has a restaurant named *Meat West*. As evidenced by the name, its speciality is meat dishes. In the corner is a special cupboard where meat is cured; a little further is the open kitchen where everything is grilled and cooked. *Meat West's* interior features the best in Dutch design; the space is large and the scope is expansive. True, the prices are slightly higher (you're paying for design and service, which is truly good here), but the food is also good. The entrance to *Foodhallen* is from Bellamyplein, a bustling shopping street by day and wonderful prelude to a *Foodhallen* visit.

Cultural giants

Last year – the 400th anniversary of Amsterdam's canals – two giants of Dutch culture, Amsterdam's National Museum (Rijksmuseum) and Van Gogh Museum reopened after renovation in the museum quarter. Together with the Stedelijk Museum of contemporary art right nearby, they form the epicentre of the city's cultural life.

The Rijksmuseum had three million visitors last year, far exceeding the one million visitors it had

The best view of Amsterdam is from the terrace of the *Hilton Hotel*, which is not far from Central Station. On one side is the Old Town, while the Eastern Docks beckon on the other. An amazing panorama.

The stores are all open on Sundays in Amsterdam, and the streets are just as full of people as any other day of the week. In that sense, there is no such thing as a peaceful Sunday in Amsterdam. Even the big museums are open every day of the week.

Visit the Prinseneiland, on the other side of Central Station. It's a wonderful small quarter surrounded by water and still very much like an ancient, self-sufficient village – a typical piece of old Amsterdam. Many warehouses from the 16th and 17th centuries still stand there. Twenty years ago, nobody wanted to live there, as it was the dock workers' area. Now the houses there are priceless. It's a real island, five minutes from the centre, where people say hello to each other!

Do the biggest cliché of all and get yourself on a canal cruise. True, this is the main

before renovation. It owns an outstanding collection of 17th-century works from the Golden Age of Dutch art. It is similar to the Louvre in Paris and a pilgrimage site for cultural travellers, of whom there is no shortage. The Rijksmuseum is the first museum in the world to be open 365 days a year, and its exhibition halls are full practically every one of those days. The renovation project, which cost 385 million euros, is one of the largest in Europe in recent years. In the sense of grandiosity, it could only be compared to the renovation of Berlin's Neues Museum, for which architect David Chipperfield received the prestigious *Mies van der Rohe* architecture award in 2011. In the literal sense of the word, the Rijksmuseum has received a completely new breath of life, where history lives harmoniously with a contemporary, 21st-century experience of museum enjoyment.

The Rijksmuseum is 126 years old and the building in which it currently resides was built in 1885 under the direction of architect Pierre Cuypers. Over time, however, the museum has been re-planned several times, walls have been moved and wooden floors have been replaced. All of these former layers were cleared away during this most recent renovation (designed by the Spanish architecture firm *Cruz y Ortiz*), thereby giving the museum back its soul and at the same time equipping it with 21st-century technologies.

The exhibition is set up chronologically. Ceramics and interior design elements are displayed alongside paintings, which allows visitors to feel the changes in historical periods as they move from room to

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YUOR NEXT DESTINATION



New annex of the Stedelijk Museum, which locals have already nicknamed the Bath Tub



Rijksmuseum



Stedelijk Museum

tourist attraction, but for good reason, as it remains a magnificent way to see the city.

De Pijp, which also began life as a proletarian district, is now the Latin Quarter of Amsterdam. The residents are an international mix of artists, students and hipsters. Amsterdam's kitschiest bakery, *De Taart Van M'n Tante*, is there, with diverse restaurants, coffee shops, ethnic and trendy cafés lining the streets. Albert Cuypstraat sports the city's best-known market.

If you're in the mood for shopping, then there's no better place to do it than the legendary Nine Streets (De Negen Straatjes). Nine small parallel streets line the canal between Singel and Prinsengracht, the water spanned by postcard-perfect bridges. The area is awash in bicycles, with shops or cafés in nearly every building. Anything you might be looking for can be found there. De Negen Straatjes have been around for 300 years. Originally they served as a centre for the fur trade, which is why the names of the streets are most often connected to animals – Wolvenstraat (Wolf Street), Barenstraat (Bear Street) and so on.

room. The museum's library holds 5.4 kilometres of books and is now open to visitors for the first time in the museum's history. A new addition is the stone and glass Asian Pavilion. The only thing that has remained in its old spot at the heart of the museum is the establishment's greatest point of pride, Rembrandt's masterpiece *The Night Watch*. The famous painting is located in the Gallery of Honour, where – as you walk towards it through the long hallway-like space containing niches full of masterpieces of Dutch art – it seems to fulfil the role of an altar painting. To become convinced of this fact, one need only look into the faces of those gazing at the painting.

Famous artist Vincent van Gogh himself once stood in front of *The Night Watch* with presumably the same facial expression, although in clothing belonging to a completely different time period. At that time, the Rijksmuseum had only just opened and visitors did not have any technological aids such as interactive guides and other explanatory materials. Van Gogh and Rembrandt had a special relationship. Van Gogh simultaneously admired and competed with the old master, albeit from his own time period and with a new generation of art materials and methods. Later, in one of his many letters to his brother Theo, Van Gogh wrote:

"I've been to Amsterdam this week. I hardly had time to see anything but the museum. Rembrandt goes so deep into the mysterious that he says things for which no words exist in any language. It is his justice that I call Rembrandt a magician. That's no easy occupation."

Today, Van Gogh's legendary *Sunflowers* and *Wheat Field with Crows*, which is considered his last work, can be seen next door at the Van Gogh Museum, another art pilgrimage site in Amsterdam.

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YUOR **NEXT DESTINATION**

INSIDER'S VIEW



Marlene Dumas, whose solo exhibition can currently be seen at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam, once said in an interview that Amsterdam is a wonderful place for artists. What do you think?

That's hard to say. On the one hand, Amsterdam is not an easy city to inhabit. However, compared to other European metropolises, it is of a manageable size. I also like the fact that you can be fairly anonymous here. Rotterdam is a much more challenging place to live in.

Amsterdam is complicated in that it's so concentrated. You have to search for your own little spaces and ways of travelling. I almost never go to the centre of the city, because as a local inhabitant, I no longer consider the centre to be a part of my daily route. Nothing in my daily life binds me to it and I just drive right past it. On the other hand, there are a lot of interesting neighbourhoods in Amsterdam that blend into one another and that are easy to get to. The city is built on a very human scale, both its architecture and the urban atmosphere.

Many of Amsterdam's inhabitants live in small apartments, because the rental prices anywhere close to the centre are very high. Anybody who needs more than one or two rooms moves to another city or town. The locals make very good use of Amsterdam's public spaces and parks. I live between two parks – Vondelpark and Rembrandt Park. The first is a very active place, while the second is just a large space. Amsterdam definitely has magnetism. Everyone here is from somewhere. It feels like a mini New York City.

What are the real Amsterdamers like?

Interestingly, even though there are a lot of Dutch people in Amsterdam, most of them have come from other cities in the Netherlands. I sing in a choir here, so I also know some true Amsterdamers who were born here and whose families have lived here for generations. The typical Amsterdamer thinks he knows best and that no one can tell him anything that he doesn't already know. You can also see it in the way people ride their bicycles. A red light doesn't mean stop; it's more like a red cloth to a bull and makes people ride even faster to get across. Kind of like, "I'm now riding on this road and the rest of you get out of the way". Amsterdamers have never taken well to authority and they still don't today. "I do what I want" is the typical Amsterdam attitude. They're born with it in

AMSTERDAM IS LIKE A MINI NEW YORK CITY

Latvian designer Māra Skujeniece, who graduated from the prestigious Eindhoven Design Academy and is currently a teacher there, has lived in Amsterdam for over ten years and operates her own design studio there. She works in the fields of ceramics, textiles and interior design. Her works, which have already received international recognition, embody a refined sense of style and the warmth of handmade products. Skujeniece's interior design objects can be bought in 11 cities across Europe, including two design stores in Amsterdam, *The Frozen Fountain* and *Vivian Hann*. She gladly agreed to talk about her adopted home city with *Baltic Outlook*.

their genes and if you want to achieve anything here, then you have to learn to move around a bit differently. You can't go around saying "I'm sorry!" At first this might be difficult to accept. The Dutch are quite self-confident and that's undeniably a positive characteristic.

What's your favourite neighbourhood?

Even though I don't live there anymore, I'm very fond of the East. It has open spaces and the Amstel River. When I lived there, my café was *De Ysbreeker* (*The Icebreaker*). It's not a particularly stylish place, but it's big and always full of people. The Hortus Botanicus (Botanical Garden) was near my home, too, with a wonderful café right next to the palm house. I had a season ticket to the garden and I always went there to drink coffee. Even now, if I want to hide out for a bit, I head to the Botanical Garden. Even though it's relatively small, it has charm.

What are your favourite cafés and restaurants in Amsterdam?

I very much like the *Café het Blauwe Theehuis* (Vondelpark 5; blauwetheehuis.nl), which is located in Vondelpark. I often meet friends and clients there. The café is very unique architecturally, and the locals call it the "flying saucer". It's been there since 1937.

I also like *Tolhuistuin* (Tolhuisweg 5) in Amsterdam's northern district, which is currently quite popular. It's next to the new *EYE* cinema museum. If you take the ferry from the central station, it's right across from the pier. A fantastic panorama.

Worst Wijn Café (Barentszstraat 171; deworst.nl) is an interesting place that serves wine and sausage. The wine collection is simply outstanding and they have a big variety of sausages, made both in-house and elsewhere. The owner also has a very good Italian restaurant, *Marius*, right next door.

For a special gastronomical experience, go to *Kas* (Kamerlingh Onneslaan 3; restaurantdekas.nl). The restaurant is located in a former greenhouse built in 1926 in the middle of Frankendael Park. It doesn't have a menu, so it's a surprise every day. In addition, everything takes place without a hurry. This means that while your food is slowly being prepared, you can take a walk through the rest of the greenhouses, where many of the restaurant's ingredients grow lush and green. **BO**

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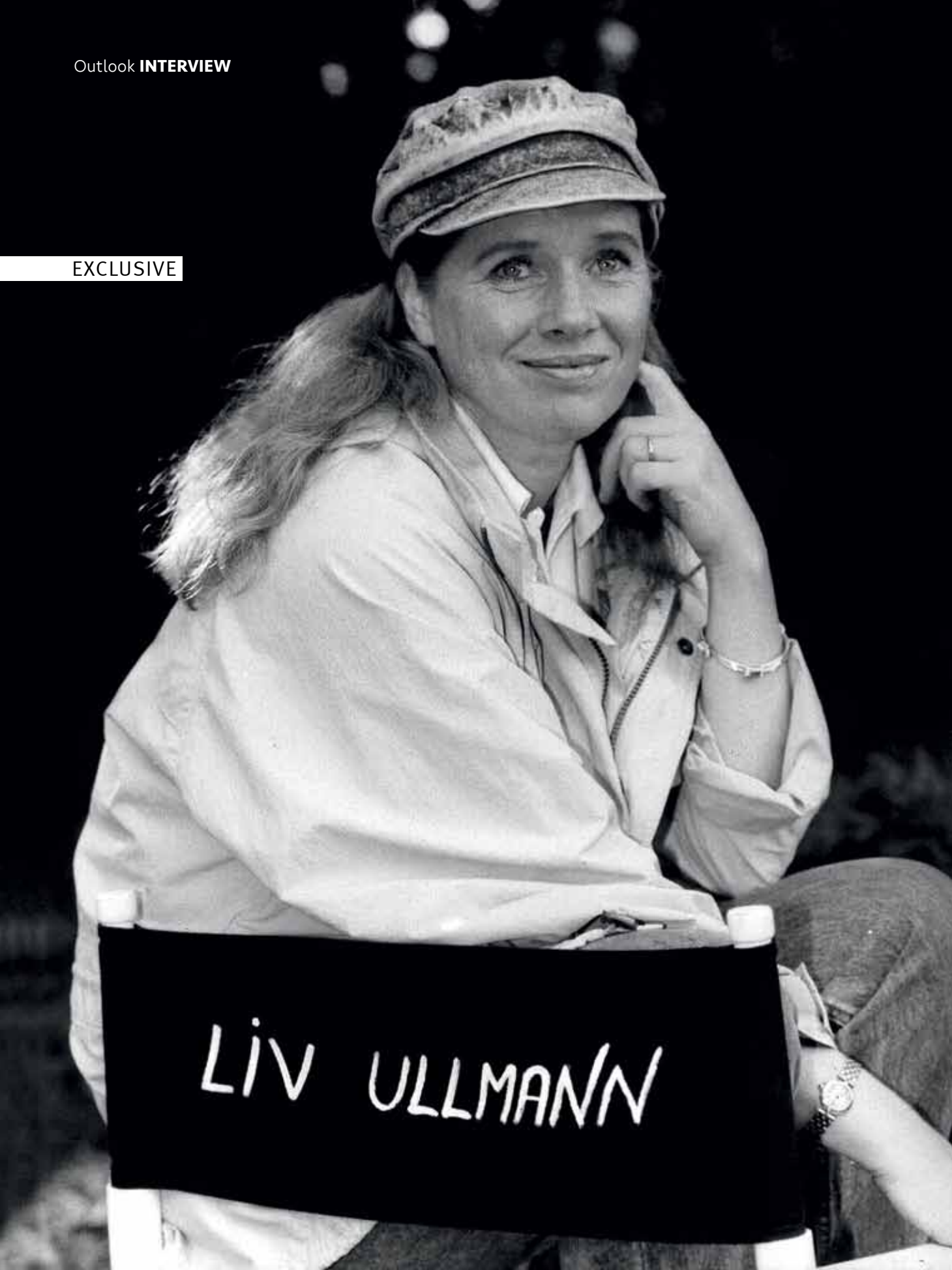
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EXCLUSIVE



Text by **DAIRA ĀBOLIŅA**
Publicity photos, Courtesy of
Norwegian Film Institute and by Corbis

EVEN **HAPPINESS HURTS**

Norwegian actress Liv Ullmann

The first time that I met Liv Ullmann, I was about 14 or 15 years old. That was a chance meeting in a dark and run-down movie theatre, a long time ago. She was up on the silver screen, wearing small round glasses, her hair done in braids. A grownup woman with a childlike face. No longer young. At least that's what I thought at the time. For almost two hours, she was arguing with her mother, who was portrayed by the angry, majestic and superb actress Ingrid Bergman. They were throwing accusations at each other, again and again, their eyes conveying a desperate sense of loneliness. It was painful to watch. The film in question was *Autumn Sonata* (1978). I hadn't heard about its director Ingmar Bergman until then, and I didn't know who I had just met on the screen. But I did know that this encounter was something important and maybe even fateful for me.

Having worked for years as a journalist and movie critic in Latvia, I got to know more about the film star and her work. Liv Ullmann is a monumental European movie personality who exudes a warm, personal charm. An actress and a director. A woman. She began her career on theatre stages in Norway. She has played more than 50 movie roles in Europe, including, of course, Scandinavia, and has also worked in Hollywood. She directed her first feature movie when she was 54, and this year she completed her sixth. She has written two autobiographies: *Changing* (1977) and *Choices* (1985).

During the year that has almost passed since Ullmann celebrated her 75th birthday, I have been privileged to interview her twice. The first time was in person last December in Oslo, while the second time was just recently in writing, in anticipation of the Latvian premiere of her latest film as a director, *Miss Julie* (2014). She will also be present at the presentation of this year's European Film Academy awards, which mark the culmination of Riga's tenure as a European Capital of Culture for the year 2014.

Do you like watching the movies in which you have performed?

No, I don't watch them, even if they are shown on TV. I see no reason to watch them again. I have no interest.

Well, sometimes I might watch them a bit, just to meet up with my friends again at a time when we were all still young – Bibi Andersson or Max von Sydow. My favourite film, *The Emigrants*, was directed by Jan Troell. I played a woman who had everything that I would have wanted in my real life. She was still a virgin when she married and stayed together with her one true love for the rest of her life. She had lots of children, she lived at home and took care of them all. They didn't say "I love you" to each other every day, but at the same time they did say "You are the closest person that I have". That was one of my most important films and it *wasn't* shot by Ingmar Bergman. I like the fact that the relationship between the man and the woman in this film was like a relationship between friends, and that's exactly the way things were between me and Ingmar Bergman. That is the highest thing that you can expect from a man.

Liv Ullmann conquered the screen with her naturalness and started a small, aesthetic revolution in the movies. The Norwegian girl with wavy strawberry blonde hair made her appearance in Norwegian movies in the late 1950s and captivated viewers with her open but simultaneously serious and concentrated gaze. She stopped smiling only in the movies that Ingmar Bergman directed, but that was only because it was part of her screen assignment. She was completely mute for the entire length of the legendary *Persona* (1966), save for one scream and only uttered word.

Her meeting with Swedish director Ingmar Bergman was a fateful one for both of them. They experienced immense passion and desperation, which may have been one and the same thing. They made ten movies together and conceived a daughter, Linn Ullmann, who is an author and journalist in Norway. Bergman made Liv Ullmann his muse. He trusted her more than anybody else and made her suffer like no other. In moviemaking history from the 1960s and 1970s, Liv Ullmann and Ingmar Bergman are an inseparable concept. She played many young women on screen, all of them at a point of deep emotional crisis, in such movies as *Hour of the Wolf* (1968), *Shame* (1968), *Cries and Whispers* (1972) and *The Serpent's Egg* (1977).



Ung Flukt, 1959



People wouldn't have that gloomy impression of me if it weren't for Ingmar Bergman's films

The roles that you played in Ingmar Bergman's films are darker and carry more desperation than in previous movies under other directors. How did this affect you at that time?

You're right. It was like that already with the first movies that we made together. But actually I am not gloomy at all as a person. After all of those heavy roles, when I went to Hollywood, everybody was surprised to see me without my makeup and said: "Oh, she's so cute, nice and cheerful!" People wouldn't have that gloomy impression of me if it weren't for Ingmar Bergman's films.

But he as a person wasn't so dark; that was merely his outlook on life. He wasn't depressed because he placed all of his darkness into his films. Sometimes he did get scared. He was like a little boy, he had nightmares. But I also experienced a man who was a genius and content with himself, like many men are. And narcissistic, like many men are, and very interested in women, like many men are. But unlike other men, he was especially interested in the souls of the women he met. He really wanted to understand them and he was successful at that. And he loved female actresses. More than anything else.

Do you remember seeing him laugh?

Of course! He was like a child and laughed a lot! Being together in a team with Ingmar Bergman was like being in a kindergarten. We had a really fun time. Sometimes we had play fights and wondered what other people would think of us. We laughed about that, too. One day he might decide to wear one blue sock and one red sock. He felt happy and loved by the fact that others also enjoyed being together with him on his team. He was a child; he was happy like a 14-year-old boy. You can look at pictures of him when he was 14, standing by himself with pimples on his face. The Ingmar Bergman who filmed all of those movies that are full of suffering is the same 14-year-old boy. I played that same boy on the screen. I didn't play a woman in his films; I was his inner voice. For example in *Persona*, I didn't even know what the movie was about. I was 25 years old. But I did understand the person who was filming it and I also understood that I was playing him – Ingmar Bergman.

Did Ingmar Bergman know that you knew that you were Ingmar Bergman?

Yes, I think so, although we never talked about that. But I think he knew everything. We had a deep understanding with each other. I understood him at the level of feelings. That helped me later when I was filming together with him. Almost 50 years of memories... That's been such a wonderful part of my life! I met Ingmar during that time. He changed my life.

Bergman shot *Scenes From a Marriage* with Ullmann in the main role in 1973. He did not hide the fact that this story about a marriage that breaks up due to the unfaithfulness of the husband was strongly autobiographical. A story about Liv and Ingmar. Ullmann didn't take it to heart. Twenty-five years later, she directed the movie *Faithless* (2000), based on Bergman's screenplay about the



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Liv Ullmann and Ingmar Bergman, 1968

continuation of that relationship. He agreed not to look at the result of her work until the film was completed. Bergman kept his word and the film testified to the fact that Ullmann is a skilled director and open woman. That signalled the rebirth of Ullmann as a creative personality. At the end of Bergman's career, they made one last film together as an actress and director, *Saraband* (2003).

In the autobiography *Changing* you say that you and Ingmar Bergman were revolutionaries for each other. What did you learn about each other in this relationship?

I think the main thing was openness. He never stressed his talent and never said, "Look at me, I'm a genius!", because none of us is a genius. We are all human. He was simply Ingmar. For the first time in my life, I had someone who listened to what I said.

I was beautiful and men were interested in me, but I didn't talk

Did you talk with each other a lot?

We talked, but we also listened to each other. Until the age of 25 I was very shy, I couldn't say a word. I was beautiful and men were interested in me, but I didn't talk. But with Ingmar, when I talked, he knew how to listen. He was interested, even in silly things: "Oh, yes Liv, that's interesting. I want to know more!" We also talked about ordinary, everyday things, but he always spoke like Ingmar Bergman.

Wasn't it complicated to be together so closely and intensely at home, and then to be together on the film set?

It wasn't easy. During the time that we lived together, we made only two films. Sometimes things weren't so harmonious at all, because the *private* Ingmar occasionally punished me a bit. For example, one day during the shooting of *Shame*, I lay all day in a lifeboat in the cold. Max von Sydow was also in the boat and it was snowing,

and it was terrible. Ingmar was standing up on the bridge dressed warmly and wrapped in knitted scarves, while we were absolutely freezing. He said: "You can't come up for lunch, we don't have the time for that!" and they threw sandwiches down to us. That was just a whim of his, because he was very mad at me that day.

Did he have a reason to be angry with you?

No! People who live together don't need a reason to be angry with each other. We are angry because we are not satisfied with our own selves. When we no longer lived together, what do you think I talked about with my woman friends? About Ingmar Bergman, of course, like we are doing now. When you love someone, it's not like what they write in the books. It's when you accept the other person as he is and when he also accepts you. It's not like a poem, and violins aren't playing anywhere.

Does love always hurt?

Yes, of course. Even happiness hurts.

In a sense, you two never really separated to the end. You were always together in your thoughts. Is that right?

Yes, I think that's true. Even my husband – I have been married to him for 32 years – he speaks of Ingmar as a family member. When I started to shoot *Miss Julie*, my husband was far away in Florida. He was surprised by a bird that tried to fly into the house through a window. My husband sent me a fax that said: "Oh, I think that Ingmar is here in the form of a bird and wants to pass on a message!" I was so moved and showed the fax to everybody on the film set. Not only did my husband think that Ingmar Bergman was sending us a message from the afterworld, he also felt that he definitely had to tell me. That's how much he respected this situation. After the making of the movie *Liv & Ingmar*, my husband didn't feel jealous or pushed aside. In a sense, he even felt proud of us.

Because that is a part of your life?

Yes, that's a part of my life. For example, we used to write diaries to each other on the doorframe in Ingmar's study, with happy faces and tears, and he kept those handwritten messages intact for the rest of his life. His wife didn't object. I was told that every spring Ingmar renewed the writing that had faded in the sun by going over it again with his pen. Recently I saw that these messages are becoming fainter... There's nobody to renew them. Just like he has gone, maybe my time to go will also come soon.

In the introduction of her autobiography *Changing*, Ullmann writes: "I would like to write about love... about loneliness, about a woman's life... I would like to write about a transformation that took place by chance, and about a transformation that took place on purpose... I would like to write about moments that I see as a gift of fate. I don't think that my knowledge or life experience is richer than anybody else's. I have fulfilled a dream, but gained dozens of others in the process. I have seen what hides behind the bright façade..."



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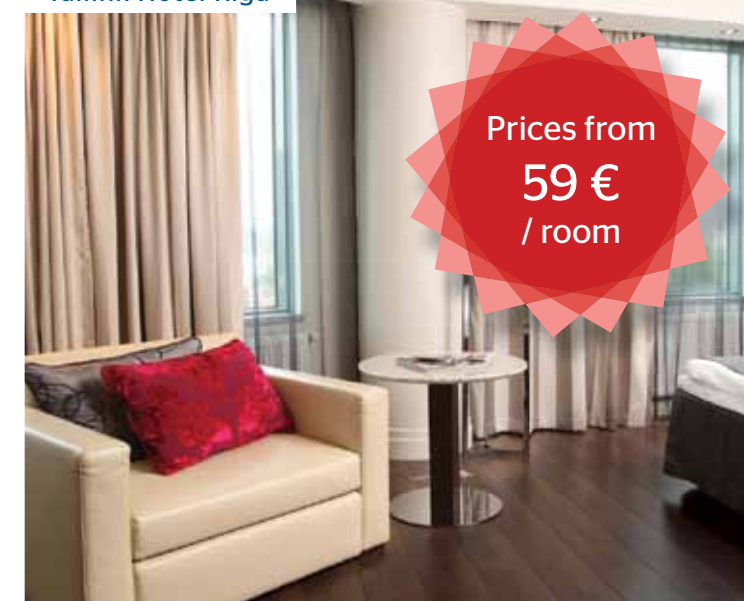


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This book, which reveals the strength and frailty of a woman, an actress and a mother of a small child, was published in the Latvian language several decades ago. Many copies, their covers a bit worn, can still be found on personal bookshelves that have been cleared of Soviet-era publications. But that book has remained. Over the years, it has no doubt raised the self-confidence of many women and spared them the odd visit to a psychotherapist.

***Changing* is one of the first books to be published in Latvia by an actress who writes so openly about her experiences.**
Yes, I wrote that 35 years ago!

Almost every woman in Latvia of my generation still has it on her bookshelf.
That makes me happy. I wrote the book thinking about what was most important in my life. That's why I wrote it in my native

language. It ended up reaching so many people. At the time this all seemed so 'normal' to me.

In a sense, you were revealing a very private message.
It's not private. It's also about you! You recognise yourself in it. Many people do. Even now, at the age of 75, I play, I live a wonderful life, I have a daughter. I am living my life and I am happy to be a human being.

Liv Ullmann has just finished directing her latest movie, *Miss Julie*, based on the play of the same name by August Strindberg, with red-haired American actress Jessica Chastain in the title role. Its world premiere was well-received earlier this year at the Toronto Film Festival. Ullmann will also attend the film's first showing in Latvia on December 12. Judging by the previous films that she has directed, movie adaptations of Scandinavian literature and nuanced work with actors are her strong point. Incidentally, when one looks into the faces of *Kristin Lavrandsdatter*, which Ullmann directed in 1995, and now *Miss Julie*, one sees a reflection of Liv Ullmann's youth and beauty. That is probably no coincidence.

Are you satisfied with the performance of the actors in your latest movie?
I am not only satisfied but profoundly moved! I had never seen such an interplay between three actors before. It created the effect of a whole orchestra. It's unbelievable. They were so creative and I am proud that I could give them the opportunity to express themselves, to put the right words in their mouths. I feel really happy about *Miss Julie*. It will be a movie in the classical sense, and with a lot of August Strindberg texts.

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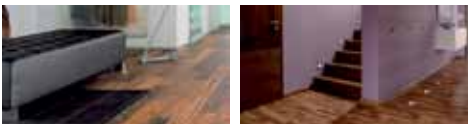
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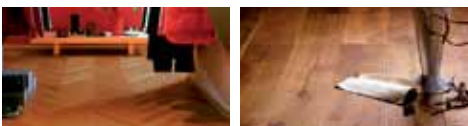


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Outlook INTERVIEW



I gave her Strindberg and my adaptation and my thoughts on the whole play and its time, and our time

Audiences here in Latvia know this Strindberg drama well. It has been played often in theatres here. People are excitedly waiting for the premiere of your latest movie at the oldest and the most ornate cinema in Riga, *Splendid Palace*. What was your motivation to not only bring the film to Latvia, but also to honour the premiere in Riga with your presence?

One reason is very personal. My close friend Jan Erik Holst, the former director of the Norwegian Film Institute, will also be releasing his new book about Nordic-Baltic film cooperation at the same time in Riga. And my husband's family comes from Riga. He has never been there before.

Do you feel that, to some degree, you also played the role of Julie from behind the scenes when working together with actress Jessica Chastein?

Of course not. She is tremendously creative. No good director asks to be copied. I gave her Strindberg and my adaptation and my thoughts on the whole play and its time, and our time. The shooting of a film is full of professional and personal moments. It was a creative three months, with close relationships between all participants.

As an actress, how would you define a perfect director?

It is someone who will allow the actress to create. Someone who will not stamp on the fantasy and experience and the understanding of an actress who is about to create. Someone who understands what inspiration means and has the decency and compassion to allow freedom.

From your point of view, what has changed in the relationships between genders since Strindberg wrote his masterpiece in the 19th century?

Nothing.

How do you preserve the personality of the actor when the result of his creative work is affected by many things, such as the genius (or lack thereof) of the director, along with the work of a variety of other people involved in the process?

I don't know. Life is full of choices. Sometimes you are not part of choices that affect you. But this is life. However, never forget to be true to yourself. Like someone said: "To thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man."

What do you value the most in your life?

Spirituality. Truth. Creativity. Love. And connection. **BO**

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TEN EUROPEAN MOVIE TREASURES

As the host city of this year's prestigious European Film Academy awards, Riga has become a true European capital of cinema during the month of December. *Baltic Outlook* is spotlighting ten of the most significant European films to have been released during the past decade.

Text by **KRISTĪNE GILUCE**, movie critic
Publicity photos

MELANCHOLIA (2011)

Director: Lars von Trier

The beauty of this movie failed to be fittingly celebrated due to Lars von Trier's ill-placed jokes about Nazism during a press conference that followed the film's premiere at the Cannes Film Festival three years ago. The director was quickly proclaimed a *persona non grata* for the duration of the festival and forbidden to go within 100

metres of the Festival Palace. Nevertheless, this visually flawless work is one of the most striking entries in the filmography of the Danish *enfant terrible* of cinema. Mistakenly viewed as an apocalyptic film about the collision of Earth with another planet, *Melancholia* is actually a symphonic allegory about depression. In it, the director skilfully manipulates the viewer into empathising

with the protagonists and fearing the unknown together with them.

Like all of von Trier's other works, *Melancholia* is not easy to watch, but the viewing experience is a powerful one. For the actors who perform in his movies, the filming experience is often even more profound. This was Charlotte Gainsbourg's second role in a film by the Danish director, making her the

first and only actress to stay on and work with him for more than one production. Like all of the other women who have played leading roles in von Trier's movies, Kirsten Dunst (who was asked to portray Justine in *Melancholia* after a simple video conference through *Skype*) emphatically asserted that she would never again star in a movie made by the controversial director.



HIDDEN

(French: *CACHÉ* – 2005)

Director: Michael Haneke

It is hard to imagine a director capable of portraying people's character, psychology and demeanour in a more unforgiving and refined manner than Austrian genius Michael Haneke. *Hidden* is a tension-filled thriller about betrayal and a guilty conscience, hammering home the realisation that a seemingly harmless lie can bring tumultuous change and ruin to another person's life. As is customary

in films by Haneke, an electrifying and slightly paranoid atmosphere reigns; the lives of two of the protagonists are turned upside down by the fact that an unknown person is observing them and filming their activities. The film is also worth seeing to recall the power of the pure and unadulterated language of cinema. *Hidden* was filmed with a simple reality-enhancing HD camera (rather than a professional film camera) and has no score to accompany it.



BAD EDUCATION

(Spanish: *LA MALA EDUCACIÓN* – 2004)

Director: Pedro Almodóvar

Spanish director Pedro Almodóvar is a true master at putting viewers on their seats. This bold and simultaneously romantic criminal drama is one of the best films that he has made so far. It was also the first Spanish film to inaugurate the world's most

prestigious film festival at Cannes. In this story about the reunification of two childhood friends and their involvement in a murder mystery, Almodóvar demonstrates his directing prowess and turns the movie into a showpiece *film noir*, weaving in a multi-layered drama of personal relationships. However, unlike most *films noirs*, this story – which took the director ten years to write up – was not filmed in black-and-white, but could be compared to a bright, juicy, contemporary Spanish fresco. Almodóvar paid close attention to the finest of details, wanting to make everything in the movie appear as authentically Spanish as possible. As a result, Mexican actor Gael García Bernal, who played one of the main roles, had to master the local Spanish dialect and learn Spanish body language in special flamenco classes.



THE LIVES OF OTHERS

(German: *DAS LEBEN DER ANDEREN* – 2006)

Director: Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck

This German Oscar-winner astutely depicts the devastating effect that Europe's tumultuous 20th-century history has had on many people's lives, portraying a message about the triumph of humanity in adverse times. Shortly before the fall of the Berlin Wall, a devoted agent of the East German secret service (*Stasi*) begins to question his agency's intrusion into the lives of his fellow citizens and its pervasive practice of spying. Paradoxically, East-German-born actor Ulrich Mühe, who plays the chief *Stasi* officer in the movie, underwent a similar experience to that of

one of the movie's main protagonists. Following the release of the *Stasi*'s archives to the general public, Mühe found documents indicating that his wife and four of his fellow actors had spied on him and reported on his activities to the East German authorities. His wife vehemently denied the allegations and later contested them in court. Sadly, that did not prevent their marriage from ending in a divorce. In any case, the bitter and haunting portrayal of the *Stasi* officer's struggle to maintain a sense of morality while serving as a pawn of an oppressive regime seems all the more authentic due to the fact that most of the film's props were genuine items borrowed from museums devoted to the *Stasi* or loaned by private collectors.



HUNGER (2008)

Director: Steve McQueen

This directorial debut by British filmmaker Steve McQueen (not to be confused with his namesake, the legendary American actor) provides a poignant look at a controversial hunger strike undertaken by Irish Republican Army (IRA) prisoners at HM Prison Maze in Northern Ireland. The political context of the 1981 events is barely addressed, with the film focusing on imprisonment in inhumane conditions and on the nefarious consequences to both the striking inmates and the staff who are guarding them. The electrifying account seems starkly realistic in its portrayal of prison life. Actor Michael Fassbender lost more than 17 kg during the filming of his role as IRA inmate Bobby Sands, who died on the 66th day of his hunger strike. Another highlight is the unbroken 17-minute scene in which a Catholic priest played by Liam Cunningham attempts to convince Sands to call off his hunger strike. The camera remains in the same position for the entire duration of the shot, which was filmed in only four takes. To prepare for the scene, Cunningham moved into Fassbender's apartment for a while so that the actors could practice the conversation 12 to 15 times a day before the shooting. The result is impressive, and the scene is deservedly hailed as one of the most powerful dialogues in recent cinema history.

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4 MONTHS, 3 WEEKS AND 2 DAYS
(Romanian: *4 LUNI, 3 SAPTAMĂNI ȘI 2 ZILE* – 2007)

Director: Cristian Mungiu

This harsh and realistic Romanian drama received two of Europe’s most prestigious film awards during the year of its release – the *Palme d’Or* at the Cannes Film Festival and the title of Best European Film at the European Film Awards. It also heralded a new era of filmmaking in the film director’s native country. Mungiu (who was relatively unknown until his film’s triumph at Cannes) sets his story at the end of the 1980s in Romania, when abortions were forbidden under the Ceausescu regime. The film

revolves around two female college students and dormitory roommates. When one of them becomes pregnant, she enlists the help of the other to obtain an illegal abortion. Merciless in its directness, *4 Months, 2 Weeks and 2 Days* starkly portrays the individual tragedies that result in the stark Ceausescu era. The film’s laconic and slow-moving visual style was later emulated in a whole host of European films. Based on a true story, the film was initially meant to be a satire of communist rule in a series of short vignettes named *Memories from the Golden Age*.



A PROHPET
(French: *UN PROPHÈTE* – 2009)

Director: Jacques Audiard

The inspiration for this movie came when director Jacques Audiard attended the screening of one of his films in a French prison and was shocked by the conditions that he saw. This prompted him to make his following film about life in a prison setting. To ensure an added sense of authenticity, Audiard hired former prison convicts as advisors and extras in the film. Tahar Rahim stars as a boy of Algerian descent who is imprisoned and comes into the crossfire of the Muslim and Corsican subcultures. Although many viewers see parallels in the film with the state of ethnic relations in France, Audiard has repeatedly stressed that the film is a work of fiction that has nothing to do with his vision of society.



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ELENA (2011)

Director: Andrei Zvyagintsev
Andrei Zvyagintsev is one of the most prominent current-day Russian film directors. His works incorporate powerful elements of social drama with aesthetically refined visual shots, a combination that is rarely seen in current films. Although all of Zvyagintsev's stories take place in Russia, their subject matter extends beyond the country's borders. That is also the case with *Elena*, a criminal drama and psychological thriller in which the motivation for a crime has several facets, including social inequality and a mother's unconditional

love for her children. Actress Nadezhda Markina's superb portrayal of the title role got her a European Film Awards nomination for best performance by an actress. Zvyagintsev later said that he was so impressed by her work that he regretted not having assigned her a larger part in the film. In any case, the movie's Hitchcock-like tension and dynamism is perfectly complemented with music by Philip Glass. Viewers will take pleasure in how the film turned out; one can only guess at how different *Elena* would be if it had been filmed in English as originally intended.



THE GREAT BEAUTY (Italian: *LA GRANDE BELEZZA* – 2013)

Director: Paolo Sorrentino
Italian film director Paolo Sorrentino has been displaying a surge of vibrant creativity over the past few years, and nowhere has this been more evident than in his most recent movie, *The Great Beauty*. Last year it won the Oscar as best foreign language film and was also deemed the best film at the European Film Awards. The beautifully filmed work recounts how an aging socialite and former author (played by long-time Sorrentino collaborator Toni Servillo) attempts to find true beauty

in his unfulfilled life of luxury and hedonism.

The film is a must-see for those who admire the golden age of Italian cinema (1950s and 1960s), being an acutely observant portrayal of its times, much as Federico Fellini's *Dolce Vita* and *8^{1/2}* were in their day. Although *The Great Beauty* might seem like an aesthetic philosophical treatise about modern-day society with no connection to reality, the film makes several references to real-life people, such as the "grandmother" of performance art Marina Abramović and the world's most wanted mafia boss Mateo Mesinu Denaro.







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IDA (2014)

Director: Pawel Pawlikowski

Filmed in ascetic black-and-white elegance, this Polish drama is set in the 1960s and tells the story of an orphan girl named Anna who has become a novice nun. At the behest of the convent's prioress, she goes to visit her distant aunt Wanda before taking her lifetime vows. Wanda reveals that Anna's real name is Ida Lebenstein, that her parents were Jewish and that they perished in the Holocaust.

Both women set off to find the gravesites of Ida's parents, learning about horrifying wartime secrets along the way.

Ida has already received a host of prizes and has been nominated in four categories for the European Film Academy awards. It has also been submitted for an Oscar nomination in the Best Foreign Language Film category. However, the main value of the movie lies not in its awards and nominations, but in its portrayal of a

woman seeking to establish her place and identity in a complicated time. Expertly shot in a crystal-clear visual style, the film marks the screen debut of Agata Trzebuchowska, who renders an outstanding performance as Anna/Ida. Trzebuchowska was discovered by chance in a Warsaw café by a friend of the director's, who urged her to contact him even though she had no previous acting experience. **BO**



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Restaurant "1221" is located in the very centre of the historical part of Riga, right by the Dome Cathedral in the Old Town. The restaurant features a rooftop terrace with a magnificent view over the Old Town. Here you can really feel the aura of the 300-year-old building, a true oasis of calmness right in the centre of the city. "1221" is a high-end restaurant with gourmet European cuisine and a great wine collection. Guests will find it is not easy to remain indifferent towards the skillful creations of the master chef of "1221", Roberts Smilga.



Ресторан "1221" находится в самом сердце исторической части Риги, рядом с Домским собором. На крыше здания расположена терраса с великолепным видом на жемчужины Старого города. Здесь можно ощутить ауру 300-летнего строения и почувствовать себя как в оазисе уюта и спокойствия в самом центре города. "1221" – это ресторан высокого уровня с эксклюзивной авторской кухней и шикарной коллекцией вин. Каждого гостя очарует мастерство шеф-повара ресторана Роберта Смилга и его авторский взгляд на традиционные блюда.



Text and photos by
JIMMY PETTERSON

SPEED AND GLAMOUR: **THE KITZBÜHEL ALPS**

Celebrities, glamour, long-standing winter sports traditions and magnificent ski slopes are what people associate with the Austrian resort of Kitzbühel.

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Kitzbühel is to skiing what Paris is to high fashion or what Hollywood is to the film industry. While skiing may not have been invented in Kitzbühel, the inhabitants of this quaint Tyrolean village have played a significant role in developing, promoting and refining the sport.

Making history

Kitzbühel is not the highest ski resort in the world. In fact, at an altitude of only 800 metres, it is one of the lowest major ski towns. Nor is Kitzbühel the largest resort. With 53 lifts and 170 kilometres of ski trails it is by no means small, but in terms of size it cannot compare with the likes of Trois Vallées or Paradiski in France, the Dolomiti Superski region in Italy, the Portes du Soleil that extend across the border from France into Switzerland or even Ski Welt in Austria.

Of course, a ski resort is more than just a town, its lifts and its pistes. It also draws from the people who lived there in the past and who reside there today. Kitzbühel's history is just about as illustrious as can be. It all started when Franz Reisch first descended the Kitzbüheler Horn on skis in 1893. That was followed by the construction of the original Hahnenkamm lift between 1926 and 1928, at a time when Europe's future mega-resorts were nothing more than snow and rocks. Three years later, in 1931, the historic annual race that has come to define Kitzbühel was inaugurated.

While today's skiers are inspired by racers, freeriders or even ski acrobats who perform their skills in fun parks around the globe, Kitzbühel painter Alfons Walde was pivotal in helping to popularise skiing during the 1930s. At a time when other painters and artists were depicting nudes, landscapes, still lifes or religious themes, Walde was one of the first to use skiing as a subject in his works. His paintings of skiers and winter landscapes attracted a great number of people to Kitzbühel during the sport's infancy.

By the 1950s, the Kitzbühel Ski Club had become the main promotional arm of the resort. For an entire decade, the local ski club faced off against the rest of the world and often came out on top. Yes, the Wunderteam was that good. Christian Pravda, Fritz Huber, Hias Leitner, Anderl Molterer, Ernst Hinterseer and the irrepressible Toni Sailer took 27 Olympic or World Championship medals back to Kitzbühel during their decade of dominance. In their own home town, members of the Wunderteam took seven first place finishes on the treacherous Hahnenkamm downhill run from 1951-1959.



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Racing and nightlife

I have visited Kitzbühel on numerous occasions and each visit has been special. I have been there during the annual Hahnenkamm weekend. That is a crazy occasion, with 85,000 people, many blowing horns and waving national flags, packed into a small mountain village for a long weekend. It is like the Super Bowl or the World Series of skiing. Each year, the winner of the race attains legendary status within the skiing community, while the course's most famous sections – such as the Mausefalle and Steilhang, which are taken at speeds of about 90 mph – have become bywords in the Austrian lexicon.

In front of us lay broad meadows of
untouched snow interspersed with
patches of forest

When I was there for the event, it snowed more than 30 centimetres the night after the race. I tried to ski the Streif the next day and could not hold an edge for even one proper turn, as no amount of new snow could bond well with the ice on the racecourse. My feeble attempts at skiing gave me a new respect for the racers.

Last winter, I returned to Kitzbühel with my friend Klaus Arpia for yet another visit. The resort had not lost any of its *Gemütlichkeit* or glamour since my previous trip. A stroll along Josef Pirchlstraße is akin to a walk along Beverly Hills' Rodeo Drive, where various shops vie for the attention and money of each passing tourist. *Bogner*, *Tommy Hilfiger*, *Luis Vuitton*, *Peak Performance*, *Benetton*, *Lacoste*, *Swarovski* and many other brands are all represented.

However, one can also leave all of these fancy trappings in the hotel room and head out for some beer and schnapps with the

down-home foot-stomping crowd. Kitzbühel is known for its lively and sophisticated nightlife at many restaurants, bars and discothèques. Among the most popular bars are *The Londoner* on Franz Reisch Straße, the *Goldene Gams* on Vorderstadt and *Flannigans* on Jochbergerstraße. Other popular evening activities include bowling, tobogganing, sleigh rides and movies at the local cinema.

At the beginning of the 20th century, Kitzbühel invested heavily in its tourism infrastructure, building state-of-the-art lifts and the *Grand Hotel*, the most luxurious Alpine hotel outside of St. Moritz. The former Prince of Wales (you might remember him better as the Duke of Windsor) and his true love, American divorcee Wallis Simpson, discovered a town with modest guesthouses. Soon a steady stream of rich Brits and Americans followed and became regular guests. Practically everyone involved in Kitzbühel's tourism industry has thus spoken English since the 1930s.

Powder fields

The resort's lifts and pistes connect it with a whole slew of small villages that are similar to the Kitzbühel of olden times, such as Hollersbach, Jochberg, Kirchberg and Aschau. Klaus and I had the luxury of being accompanied by Beppo Hechenberger of *Alpin Experts* to show us around on our first day.

From the top of the Hahnenkamm, Beppo led us through a variety of blue and red cruisers mixed with some challenging black terrain. Of particular interest was the 900-vertical-meter black piste from atop the Hieslegg lift down to Aschau.

We were at the far end of the lift system and hiked for less than an hour until we were in position to enter the Saukasergraben. In front of us lay broad meadows of untouched snow interspersed with patches of forest. Immersed in a silent world of white, we could see the village far below. We bounced and glided almost effortlessly over the rolling terrain, ending our journey seemingly in the middle of nowhere. Then, like a lighthouse on a dark night,

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Ibex can be spotted in the nearby mountains and are also depicted in Kitzbühel's coat-of-arms



the warming lights of the Saukaserstube led us to a refreshing beer.

Our second day offered a new adventure with a snow cat that takes skiers up to about 1800 metres on the Bichlalm next to the Kitzbüheler Horn. The cat dropped us into another winter wonderland and we converted to manpower, hiking to reach a number of virgin lines. Our guide for the day, Markus Dagn, knew this pocket of the Alps like the back of his hand.

We skied a short run from the Brunnerkogel to the Beerenbrandalm and then climbed about

Most tourists live in Kitzbühel itself and it takes them quite some time to ski over to Pass Thurn

400 meters up the Gaisberg. From there, we enjoyed a lovely descent over the Lengfilzenalm into the Pletzergraben toward Fieberbrunn.

In the afternoon, we returned to the pistes, this time skiing on the Kitzbüheler Horn. The Horn is not connected with the rest of the lift system and therein is the advantage of this smaller ski area. Most of the tourists stay on the Hahnenkamm side of the valley. We particularly enjoyed the red run down the back to the Raintal lift.

The following day, we began the ski day by driving to Pass Thurn, the highest section of the Kitzbühel Alps, about eighteen kilometres from the resort. This is yet another way of beating the crowds. Most tourists live in Kitzbühel itself and it takes them quite some time to ski over to Pass Thurn. By driving there, we had perfectly prepared pistes virtually to ourselves for a few hours before the first skiers arrived from the town. We did a few laps from the Resterhöhe to the Panoramabahn, carving into the corduroy like a hot knife through margarine. We didn't hit Hahnenkamm speeds, but with few other skiers on the slopes, we could shift comfortably into fifth gear without much worry.

Following a morning of cruising, it was time to taste a bit of the powder once again. Our guide Markus led us to the top of the Zweitausender Lift and once more, we put our touring equipment into use. We passed a few bashful ibex in the shadow of the Kleiner Rettenstein on our ascent, but they paid us little mind as we set three tracks in pristine powder back to the base of the Zweitausender Lift.



Tyrolean fashion storefront window



Kitzbühel's medieval charm



The average daytime temperature in December is +2°C



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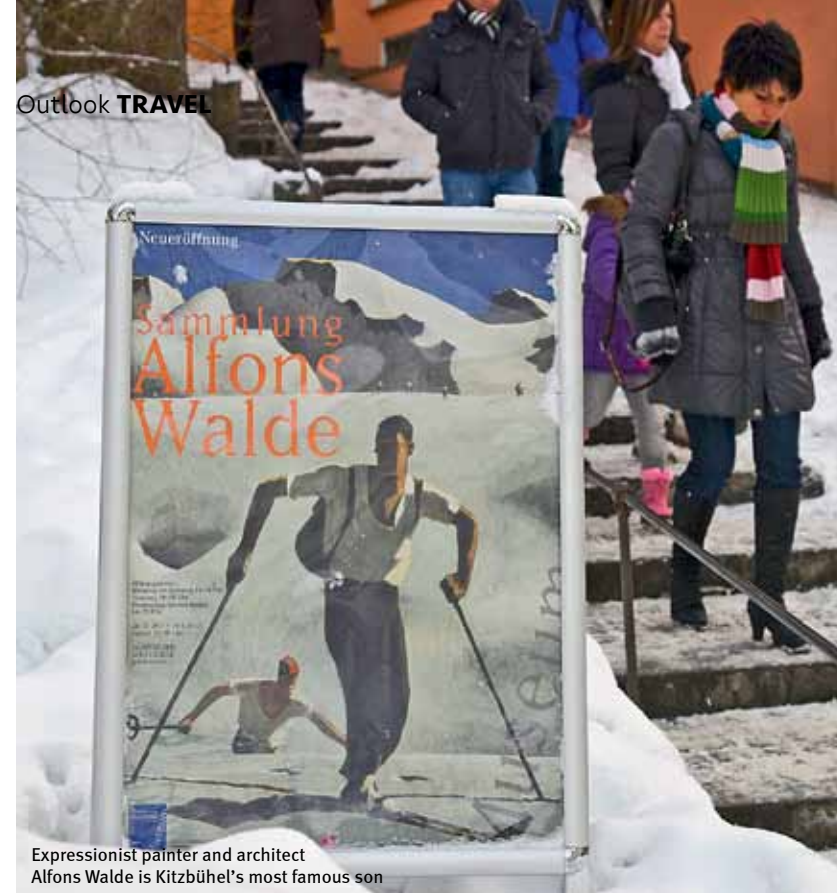
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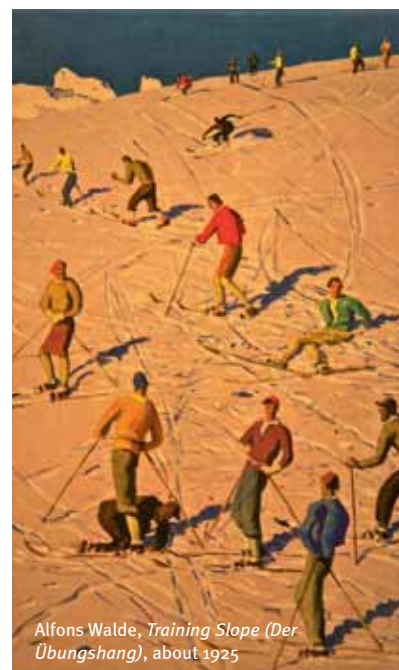




Expressionist painter and architect
Alfons Walde is Kitzbühel's most famous son



Alfons Walde, *Ski Jumper at Kitzbühel*
(*Grubschanze bei Kitzbühel*), 1925



Alfons Walde, *Training Slope (Der Übungshang)*, about 1925



Legendary sports and film star Toni Sailer was born and raised in Kitzbühel

Next, we again walked a ways from the top of that lift in the direction of the Stangenjoch until we were in place for our final descent. Only two tracks had already been engraved into the snow before us as we bounced our turns gently over the rolling alms. Far below was a cluster of three small snow-covered huts that could have come straight from one of Walde's oil paintings.

The sun had long since dropped behind the mountains by the time we glided out of the long Oberer Grund valley and slid into the little hamlet of Aschau. With a church, a tavern and

Kitzbühel was transformed into a glamour spot of skiing where the rich and famous came to ski and be seen

a few farms and barns, Aschau also looked like a scene from a vintage Walde painting. Markus led us right to a seat by the fireplace in the *Gasthof Gredwirt*. Soon, a *Gulaschsuppe* was steaming in front of me.

I couldn't help but feel how Kitzbühel had taken a circular trail back home. The pristine powder fields and authentic peasant houses that Walde portrayed in his paintings from the 1920s and 1930s are where it all started. The legend continued to grow around the Hahnenkamm and the long line of Kitzbühel crazies who risked everything for a wild run down the Streif, while the ski world crowded into the little village and turned it into a glitzy world of spotlights and clinking champagne glasses for one weekend every January. From its peasant roots, Kitzbühel was transformed into a glamour spot of skiing where the rich and famous came to ski and be seen.

Today, much of the ski world has turned away from racing somewhat, with a greater focus on freeriding. Of course, the Hahnenkamm will always have its faithful followers, and the rich and famous will continue to clink glasses long into the night. However, in the retro environment that puts ski touring, powder skiing and the nature experience back into the forefront of skiing, Kitzbühel is still a place where skiers can turn their backs on the glitz of Josef Pirchlstraße, head for the hills and cut a line into some pristine virgin snow. **BO**

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Text by **DAVID NIKEL**
Photos courtesy of **TRINE RISVIK** and
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IN THE SKY

Searching for the aurora
borealis in northern Norway

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Marcela Cardenas, nordnorge.com



Kvaløya (Whale Island) provides wonderful views of the aurora borealis

Gaute Bruvik, nordnorge.com

Standing on a chilly beach in darkness, miles from civilisation, I struggled to see why my enthusiastic guide was so excited. "Just let your eyes adjust!" she shouted.

I can't deny that my very first sighting of the northern lights was a touch disappointing. The faint strip of pale green light peeking over the mountains was not the party in the sky that I had been told to expect. It more resembled a searchlight, or perhaps the glow from a town in the next valley. But as is often the case with a northern lights hunt, patience would eventually pay off.

I had driven to Tromsø in northern Norway to catch the northern lights during the solar maximum, the strongest display of the aurora borealis for ten years. Despite last year being the peak time to see the lights, displays at the beginning of the 2014/15 observing season have been some of the best in years.

When I was young, my mother told me a story from her time growing up in the Scottish Hebrides. She took a walk along the beach with her grandfather and saw a green glow on the distant horizon. It's the only time that she saw the lights, and the story stuck with me for decades. I'd dreamed of seeing the northern lights ever since.

I'm not the only one for whom the lights have a special meaning. British TV personality Joanna

Lumley filmed a 2008 documentary in Norway about her personal search for the lights. Her story made reference to a children's book full of trolls, snow queens and ice palaces, with a character named Polly the Penguin being captivated by the aurora. Of course, being a penguin, the lights Polly saw were the aurora australis – the southern equivalent of our northern lights – but we won't let that get in the way of a good story!

Elusive sight

Even after a couple of years living in Oslo, Norway's capital, a sighting of the northern lights had eluded me, which is why I was now shivering in the remote Norwegian Arctic. My guide smiled and said:

"Give it time. The Tricky Lady will appear when she's ready."

We took refuge from the cold in an adapted *lavvu* (traditional Sami tent) to enjoy some reindeer stew, toasted marshmallows and hot coffee, spending over an hour chatting about local myths, legends and the lights.

Our guide, Trine Risvik, and her father had previously run a family farm, but when the economics no longer worked, they began to offer northern lights safaris.

"We built a *lavvu* so that people could not just look for the lights, but have somewhere to visit, sit in a

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The northern lights seen from the Vesterålen archipelago

cosy environment and learn about the local culture," she recounted.

The weather at Risvik's farm is clear on most evenings. She does take visitors on driving trips as far as Finland when there is cloud cover, but the farm remains her base. Having founded her business on the northern lights, Risvik now works year-round, offering boat trips to see the midnight sun in the summer and to watch whales in the winter. Reindeer sleigh rides allow her to show visitors the Sami culture and way of life.

"Despite the allure of the lights, this is not a glamorous place to live. It can be a tough lifestyle," she says, adding:

"Most people come from big cities around the world. It's so nice to introduce them to real Norwegian

I was the first outside the tent and didn't even have to look upwards. The lights left me breathless

inhabitants in a cosy atmosphere and to offer them traditional local food. We in the north are different from the rest of Norway, and we want to show people that. We don't want them to just visit Tromsø, our farm and see the lights. We want them to remember the people they meet and the stories they hear. City dwellers usually can't find the time to visit their neighbours and have deeper conversations. The personal touch is at the heart of what we do."

As I looked around the cosy *lavvu*, Trine's words resonated with me. Sitting around the fire with me were a Singaporean couple on their honeymoon, an Italian father and son and several backpackers from a variety of European cities. Such is the international draw of the northern lights that not a single Scandinavian was in the group.

Worth the wait

A glance at my watch revealed that over an hour had passed and, just as I began to wonder what was happening up above, Trine's colleague burst into the *lavvu* and urged us outside.

"Hurry, it's right overhead!"

I didn't need asking twice. I was the first outside the tent and didn't even have to look upwards. The lights filled the sky and left me breathless. Vivid bands of green with purple and pink highlights tossed and turned above my head. At one point I reached up into the sky to try and touch them, such was the feeling of intimacy.

It's hard to find the right words for such a beautiful moment. It really did feel like the lights were dancing across the sky just for me, sometimes as a delicately

Magical evening on Kvaløya (Whale Island)



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Traditional Sami tents adapted for modern-day northern lights hunters



Northern lights safari guide Trine Risvik



A perfect place for taking refuge from the cold

twisting ribbon and other times leaping from one side of the valley to the other in the blink of an eye. There was a childlike playfulness to their movement that captivated me and my fellow aurora hunters. Trine was giddy with excitement as she encouraged her guests to line up for photographs. Even after all this time, her love affair with the lights hadn't dampened. The moment had a romantic quality to it. For me, standing on a beach as my mother had done all those years ago brought a tear to my eye. The

Traditionally the Sami tried not to look directly at the lights, as they feared making them angry

honeymooners must have felt the emotion of the moment too, as they strolled along the beach hand-in-hand. Given the atmosphere, I asked Trine if anyone had proposed under the lights. "Yes, it's happened here a few times now," she said, her face lighting up with happy memories. "One couple had been reindeer-sledding in the daytime and stayed here with us in the evening. They went up onto the rocks alone and I watched as he bent down on one knee and proposed with the reindeer ring he had bought earlier that day, just as the lights burst into the sky. It was so symbolic, so beautiful, and so heart-warming." As the night continued and everyone had their pictures taken under the spectacular light show overhead, Trine told me about some of the myths and legends surrounding the lights, particularly for the local Sami population. "They have an enormous respect for the lights, almost as if they are a bit scared of them. Traditionally the Sami tried not to look directly at the lights, as they feared making them angry. They believed in nature-related gods and spent their lives outside. This was a phenomenon that they couldn't control or trigger and it held a higher meaning for them," she added.

Streaming electrons
As much as I'd love to believe the myths and legends, there is a scientific explanation for the phenomenon. Asgeir Brekke, author of *Physics of the Upper Polar*

Atmosphere and emeritus professor at the Institute of Physics and Technology at the Arctic University of Norway, has spent his career studying the skies. "The northern lights are caused mainly by electrons streaming out from the sun in the solar wind. When they are caught by the Earth's magnetic field, they are forced into the polar atmosphere, where they collide with atoms and molecules. This collision creates tiny emissions of light. When that happens billions of times, it adds up to the northern lights that we see

from ground. If you monitor the sun and observe strong disruptions, you can expect a display of northern lights a couple of days later," he explained. Although predicting the lights sounds rather technical, thanks to modern technology it's no more difficult than checking the weather forecast. In fact, that's exactly what one does: one checks the sun's surface weather to look for solar winds. Several websites predict the light displays and, although it's not an exact science, it does give you a realistic idea of whether you can expect a light show over the coming few nights. Trine shows me some smartphone apps that help her to decide whether to stay put or jump into the minibus and head inland. I won't deny that such planning does take some of the magic out of the trip, but if it increases the chances of seeing the aurora, then it can only be a good thing. Despite the solar maximum being over and the sun's activity beginning a cyclic decline (at least in theory), Doug Biesecke of the NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center in Colorado, USA, recently said there is "likely to be a sustained period of heightened lights activity into 2015". It was 1 AM when we returned to Tromsø. And the lights were still visible above the city when we disembarked. As I strolled back to my hotel, I was the only one looking up. The people of Arctic Norway are used to seeing the aurora borealis. But to me, this was a night that I will remember for the rest of my life.



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Visitors enjoy the party in the sky at Kvaløya (Whale Island)

Shigeru Ohki, nordnorge.com

NORTHERN LIGHTS: A HOW-TO GUIDE

Our experts reveal the best places to see one of the planet's greatest natural shows and give important tips that every traveller should know.

WHERE TO GO

- Anywhere above the Arctic Circle, which makes northern Scandinavia a prime choice.
- Since the northern lights are a natural phenomenon and can never be guaranteed, many head for Tromsø, the biggest city in the Norwegian Arctic, to combine their trip with other activities. A husky-pulled sled ride, a day out with reindeer, cross-country skiing, taking the cable car up Mount Storsteinen for a terrific view across Tromsø and even whale-watching are all potential highlights.
- The *Tromsø Friluftssenter* (tromso-friluftssenter.no) offers a northern lights safari from the island of Kvaløya with free pickup from the *Rica Ishavshotel* in the centre of Tromsø.
- For an exciting DIY alternative, spend the night in a snow hotel. Choose from the *Kirkenes Snow Hotel* in Norway (kirkenessnowhotel.com), the *Icehotel of Jukkasjärvi* in Sweden (icehotel.com) or the *Arctic Snow Hotel* of Rovaniemi in Finland (arcticsnowhotel.fi).

WHEN TO GO

- Contrary to popular belief, the northern lights are active all year round. The human eye requires darkness to see them, so because of the lengthy summer days, they can only be seen during the darker months.
- Although December and January are the darkest months in the Arctic (the sun doesn't even rise!), they also coincide with the worst weather and therefore likely cloud cover. Clear skies are required to see the aurora, as the lights appear high above the clouds. February and March offer the best chances, so now is the ideal time to plan your trip.

WHAT TO PACK

- Pick function over fashion! Warm clothes are essential, and several thin layers will insulate you better than one thick sweater. Merino wool is the best material for your base layer, but any lightweight fabric will do a good job. A thick winter coat, ski pants, gloves and hat are all wise choices. Your outer layer is the most important one – be sure that it's waterproof and windproof.
- If you pack a spare battery for your camera and/or phone, wrap it up to insulate it from the cold. Otherwise it may not function when you need it most! Even if the forecast temperature doesn't look very low, remember that you will be standing outside for hours and may travel up to 50 km inland, where the weather can be much colder. By layering your clothing you will be prepared for all eventualities.
- Organised tours will provide coffee and a snack at the very least. It's important to stay hydrated, so taking your own bottle of water is a good idea.

HOW TO MAKE A PERFECT PHOTO

- No matter how good you think your smartphone camera is, it is unlikely to be good enough to capture the lights. A good quality camera that allows manual adjustment is essential. Typically this means a mid-range SLR camera or better. To capture the intensity of the colours, you must set a long shutter speed and a low aperture. A compact camera is unlikely to give you a great picture, but if it has a "fireworks" mode, then give that a try. A tripod is essential for serious photography. If you don't have a good quality camera, then it's not worth your while trying to capture the lights. Use the time to look with your eyes instead. It's a memory that will last a lifetime! **BO**



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CARS



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Publicity photos

Driven: the Porsche Macan

Luxury SUV meets sports
car in a compact package

This is "a *Porsche* through and through". That's how the *Macan* was introduced to journalists, as if there was any question that a 4x4 could also be capable of being a *Porsche*; as if the past decade and a bit hadn't occurred, and as if we had never seen what a *Cayenne* can do.

It goes without saying, then, that the *Porsche Macan* is an SUV designed to be the class benchmark in terms of its driving experience. It has definitely upset other rivals such as the powerful versions of the *BMW X3* and *Audi Q5*.

There are four flavours of *Macan*. The first is just '*Macan*', powered by a 2.0-litre petrol four-pot and only available through special order at a dealership, where they'll probably talk you into choosing one of the other three: the *Macan S* (340 hp V6), *Macan S Diesel* (258 hp V6) and the 400-hp *Macan Turbo*. Prices start at 58,685 euros, but you have to be quick, as the allocation of cars for 2014 was already almost sold out in the summer.

The car certainly lives up to expectations. Both the driver and front passenger have comfortable, supportive and electrically adjustable seats. A sense of a defined space is created by the high console running down the centre of the cabin, on which the gear lever and switchgear are positioned. The fit and finish are as exacting and solid-feeling as in any other *Porsche* model.

That being said, the best thing about any *Macan* is the driving experience. The 3.0-litre diesel model is the biggest seller and certainly no slouch.

It pulls strongly and cleanly from below 1,500 rpm to ensure that overtaking is done with confidence. It's quieter at low speeds than the equivalent *Cayenne* diesel, too, but emits the same gravelly six-cylinder note when worked hard.

The 3.0-litre petrol *S* is even faster on paper,

but its character means that the margin is barely noticeable in real-world use. That's because the petrol engine's best work is done at higher revs, so you need to push it hard before it really starts to pick up speed. The good news is that should you do so, the petrol is smoother in power delivery than the diesel, and it emits a more addictive howl when pushed.

There's a noticeable step up in performance when it comes to the *Turbo*, though. Like the other two engines, it





suffers no turbo lag and is always smooth, but the greater ferocity of its 3.6-litre engine's power delivery and the growl from its exhaust (it even gurgles as you lift off the throttle) make it feel more like you're driving a sports car than an SUV.

Suspension Management (PASM) – a 1,173-euro option on S models and standard on the *Turbo* – also have their suspension stiffened. With all of this in action, there's no doubt that *Porsche* has succeeded in making its *Macan*

resounding yes. Dynamically, in all guises, it is superior to its closest rivals, the *BMW X3* and *Audi Q5*, and it has a better-quality cabin.

However, space and practicality have to be taken into consideration, and in that sense the *Macan* lags behind. Although those with small children will be happy enough in the *Macan*, teenagers and adults will welcome the greater rear space offered by a *BMW X3*.

The *Macan* doesn't come cheap, either. An *X3 xDrive35d M Sport* and *Audi SQ5* cost less after putting either of the *Macan S* models to the same equipment level, and both are significantly faster, too.

Of course, if you're prepared to fork out for the far pricier *Turbo*, then you'll enjoy unrivalled performance. For most buyers, though, the cheaper S models will make far more sense. **BO**

PORSCHE MACAN: QUICK FACTS

- 1 The *Macan*'s big brother, the *Cayenne*, arrived in 2002 and its financial success has turned Porsche from a niche sports car maker into an industry heavyweight.
- 2 Porsche would prefer you to think of the *Macan* as a high-rise, super practical 911, not a downsized *Cayenne*.
- 3 The *Macan* is loosely based on the *Audi Q5* but both cars share only 30 per cent of their componentry, most of it unseen, including multi-link front and rear suspension.
- 4 It can be equipped with air springs, but the standard version comes with the steel springs preferred by *Porsche*'s engineers.
- 5 A premium audio system by *Bose*, with 14 speakers and 545 watts, is standard, but on the options list you'll find a *Burmester* high-end audio system that costs almost 4,000 euros.
- 6 The *Porsche Macan* can even handle the odd off-road trip if the need arises.
- 7 The name *Macan* is derived from the Javanese word for tiger.
- 8 Base price starts at 58,685 euros in the Baltics.

New 'junior Cayenne' promises to be the most sporting SUV yet

Whichever engine is fitted, the handling is similarly impressive. In town, the steering is light enough to make parking easy, but head out on to twisting country roads and the *Macan* is just as capable, helped by its precise steering and impressive grip.

Every *Macan* comes with a "Sport" button that sharpens the steering, gear change and throttle response. Cars fitted with *Porsche Active*

the best-handling SUV on the market.

Aside from its agility, the *Macan* makes a relaxing cruiser when you need it to be; every engine settles nicely on the motorway and wind and road noise are well suppressed.

Should I buy one?

If you're attracted to the *Macan* primarily for its promise of performance, handling and luxury, then the answer is a

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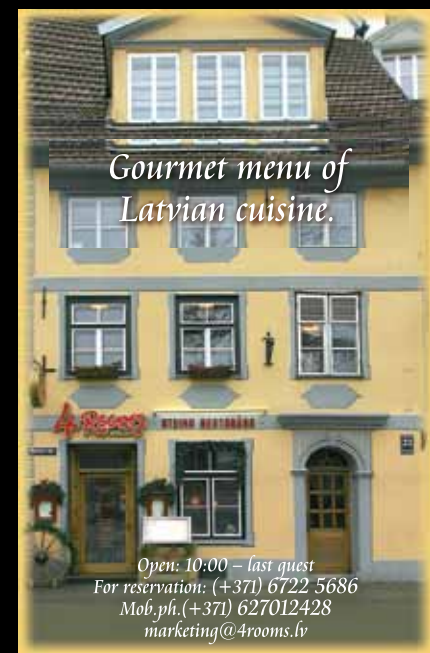
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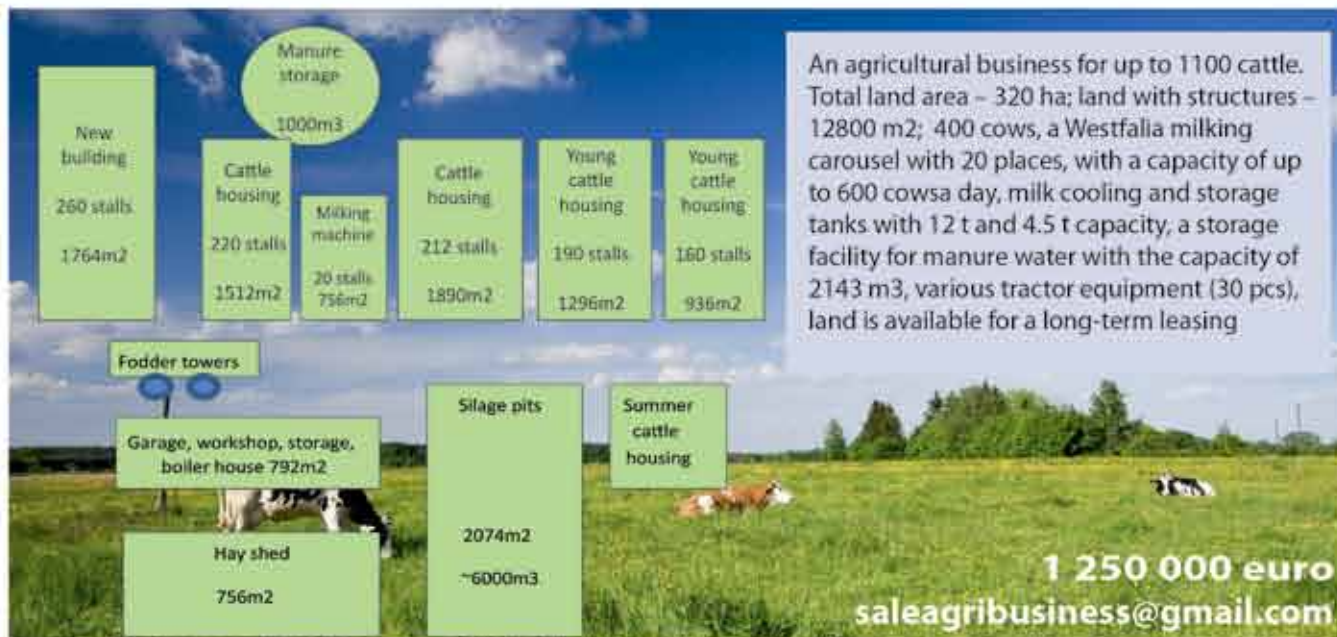


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Architectural gem in the Latvian capital

Merķeļa iela in downtown Riga could just as well have been named after Latvian architect Jānis Baumanis, as this street is lined by ten buildings that Baumanis designed, including the stately edifice at Merķeļa iela 2, which is now up for sale.

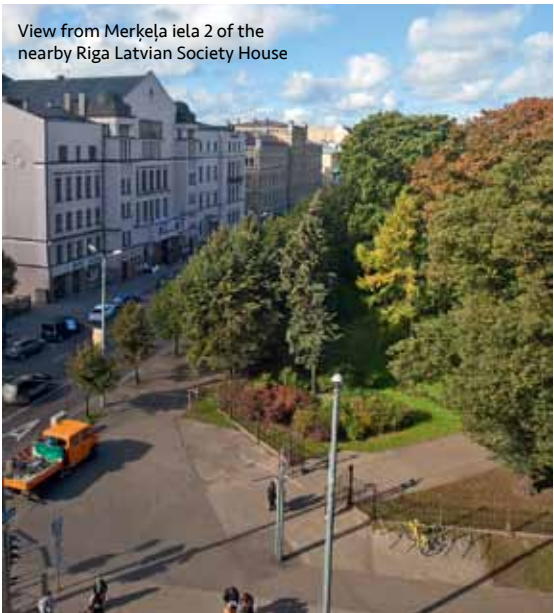
The historical six-storey apartment building at Merķeļa iela 2 was constructed at the end of the 19th century, eight years after the completion of the nearby Riga Latvian Society House, which Baumanis also designed.* Aside from holding the distinction of being the first academically educated Latvian architect and the creator of more than 150 buildings, Baumanis was a founding member of the aforementioned Riga Latvian Society, which sought to promote Latvian culture and identity at a time when the country was part of the Russian empire. Baumanis is thus known as both the designer of numerous architectural gems and as an ardent

Latvian patriot. Among his many activities in support of Latvian culture, Baumanis helped to organise the first Latvian Song Festival in 1873 and designed the outdoor wooden stage for that historical event.

Baumanis first gained recognition in 1863, when he worked out the plans for the building that now houses the Latvian *Saeima*, or parliament. All of the buildings that he designed were built in the Eclectic style, which united various older historical styles in a new manner. Although the symmetric placement of the windows on the façades of the buildings that Baumanis designed on Merķeļa iela might appear monotonous at first glance, together, the buildings convey a peaceful and enclosed atmosphere.

In 1876, Baumanis oversaw the construction of one of the first apartment buildings in Riga at Merķeļa iela 2. This edifice came to be occupied by schoolteachers, merchants and various illustrious personalities, including actors,

artists and musicians. During the 1930s, violinist Arturs Madrevičs lived in the building. He was known as one of the best teachers at the People’s Conservatory in Tukums (the first professional music teaching establishment in Latvia) and as a creative artist who composed music in line with the nationalist spirit of the 19th and early 20th centuries. In 1943, a critic for the



View from Merķeļa iela 2 of the nearby Riga Latvian Society House



Two ornate fireplaces have been preserved to this day



Decorative fireplace ornament

Tēvija (Fatherland) newspaper reviewed a violin concert by Madrevičs:

“He played truly good music, so noble and deep, providing a feeling of community to every Latvian.”

Other former residents include nurses and doctors, including Ella Atemanis, who moved into the building in 1941 and who provided medical assistance to the old and infirm.

During the 1920s, Riga experienced an economic boom, which was accompanied by the appearance of numerous shops, restaurants and hotels. This economic expansion benefited many, including Isidor Friedmann, the owner of the building at Merķeļa iela 2. Friedmann initially worked as a merchant and later as a banker, at one point serving as an employee of the Bank of Latvia.

Friedmann ensured that the building at Merķeļa iela 2 was properly maintained and regularly upgraded. On Friedmann’s initiative, an ornate wooden staircase was installed from the ground floor to the basement, where Pēteris Mežgailis and Otilija Ferliņa established the *Mežgailis and Partner* tailor’s workshop in 1939. The workshop was fairly large, taking up five rooms in all. According to information from the Riga City Construction Board, the last major changes to the edifice were made in 1938, when the façade was reconstructed.

In 1948, the year that the World Health Organisation came into being and three years after the end of Second World War, a dietary products store opened on the ground floor of Merķeļa iela 2. The store’s walls and interior were painted entirely in

white, in a symbolic reference to cleanliness and concern for one’s health.

While the ground floor of the building at Merķeļa iela 2 continues to serve the needs of retail stores, the rest of the premises are unoccupied. Two decorative fireplaces can still be found in the edifice’s spacious rooms as testimony to its venerable past. The historic building at Merķeļa iela 2 thus awaits a new owner who will be able to restore it to its former glory, turning it into a modern apartment building in a prime location, where Riga’s 19th-century architecture meets up with the medieval charm of the Old Town. **BO**

① For more information about this and other Art Nouveau gems owned by *Swedbank Group’s* real estate company *Ektornet*, visit ektornet.lv.



Merķeļa iela in 1984 (photo from the personal archives of J. Krastiņš)

* The original Riga Latvian Society House that Baumanis designed burned down in 1908. The edifice that now stands in its place was built in 1910.

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Теперь о былой роскоши свидетельствует пара декоративных каминов, которые сохранились в просторных комнатах и до сих пор. Здание ждет новых владельцев, которые захотели бы вдохнуть в него новую жизнь и превратить его в современный многоквартирный дом, находящийся на месте встречи Старой Риги и отстроенного в 19 веке рижского центра.

Чтобы получить подробную информацию об этом объекте, свяжитесь с консультантом **Ektornet Андрисом Козловским: (+371) 26 342 333, andris.kozlovskis@ektornet.lv**

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Автор проекта на Меркеля 2 – Я. Ф. Бауманис.

В сотрудничестве с
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Start the New Year in Jūrmala

Publicity photos



Only a 15-minute drive from the Riga airport, Latvia's most beautiful resort city offers a wide array of healthy recreation opportunities.

www.tourism.jurmala.lv

[www.fb.com/Jurmalatourism](https://www.facebook.com/Jurmalatourism)



Photo Maris Plume | © Hotel Jūrmala Spa



Photo Andrejs Strukovs

The end of the year is fast approaching. That is a time when the holiday spirit can be sensed all around; when one wants to leave aside one's troubles and worries, to stop and reflect on the accomplishments of the past year and to replenish one's mind and body. It is a time when new dreams are born and when new commitments are made for the following year.

The end of the year is also a time to gather with family and friends, and Jūrmala is offering a whole array of exciting year-end events for visitors of all ages. See in the New Year together with circus clowns, acrobats and trained animals, or get a feel of Parisian magic with lively artists' performances, stirring French melodies and a gourmet dinner. Special entertainment programmes have also been set up for kids, who,

among many other things, will be able to pose together with Santa Claus and bring home a photo of their encounter with him. Choose the ambience that suits you best and let the professionals take care of the rest for a memorable end-of-the-year celebration.

The festivities continue in Jūrmala on New Year's Day as well. For the third year in a row, Forest Park in Dubulti will be hosting a special event for those who wish to learn more about old-style Latvian Christmas and New Year's festivities. Traditional games, relay races and other activities will keep both adults and children entertained in an outdoor family environment.

Start your morning with a walk along Jūrmala's wintery streets, which are lined with charming turn-of-the-century wood buildings that are a hallmark of the city. Many of these private residences and summer

houses are decorated with stain-glass windows, fine wooden carvings and quaint wooden towers. Stop for a cup of steaming coffee and a wholesome breakfast at one of the many restaurants on Jomas iela, a pedestrian street. Learn more about the most interesting events in Jūrmala's history at one of its museums, which will take you back centuries in time.

Enjoy all kinds of thrills and water-based activities at the *Līvu Akvaparks* water park. Climb up the city's observation tower for a magnificent view of the surroundings above the pine treetops. Take a peaceful walk along one of the lovely nature trails at Ķemeri National Park. Make sure to enjoy the city's charms during the wintertime, for Jūrmala is a place that exudes a different kind of beauty each season.

Don't be in a rush to take in what the city has to offer. Enjoy Jūrmala slowly. Many visitors choose to extend their weekend or holiday stays in Latvia's only official resort town, for it is the ideal place to renew and improve one's health. The city's resort hotels and rehabilitation centres offer special programmes for cleansing the body, losing weight and strengthening the immune system so that you can start the New Year renewed and full of energy. While doing so, don't miss the opportunity to go for a winter stroll along Jūrmala's sandy beach. The fresh seaside air and bright sunlight reflecting off the glinting surface of the Baltic Sea will be sure to lift your spirits even higher.

Make use of the year-end holidays to recharge your batteries, improve your health and return home with pleasant memories of an unforgettable stay in the city. Spoil yourself and your loved ones in Jūrmala! **BO**



Galleria Riga — Riga's newest shopping centre



GALLERIA RIGA shopping centre
Dzirnavu iela 67
Entrances from Dzirnavu iela 67 and
Blaumaņa iela 10 (between Brīvības
bulvāris and Tērbatas iela)
Information centre
Tel. (+371) 67307000
info@galleriariga.lv
① galleriariga.lv/en

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

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

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

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

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

Publicity photos



SUIT
supply

Men's fashion

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

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

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

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EUR 159.95

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EUR 35.95

Ivo Nikkolo, 3rd floor

REFINED HARMONY

This charming ethnic style
combines a sunny yellow
shade with sumptuous furs.



The *Galleria Riga* is located by Riga's key shopping area, Tērbatas Street Quarters.

Only a five-minute walk from Riga's Old Town, the historic cobblestone streets of Tērbatas Street Quarters are easy to reach by any means of transport. The thriving business and commercial area houses numerous stores, restaurants and entertainment venues that offer plenty of shopping and dining opportunities to

suit all tastes (*Zara*, *Hugo Boss*, *Patrizia Pepe*, *Gerry Weber*, etc.).

A stroll through the verdant Vērmānes Park and its adjacent flower market, followed by a movie at the beautiful *Splendid Palace* theatre is just one of the many ways that one can enjoy the sounds and sights of Tērbatas Street Quarters.

See a detailed map of Tērbatas Street Quarters' stores, restaurants and cultural attractions at www.terbataskvartali.lv.

FRii office furniture series

Publicity photos

Made by KATE, Latvia

Freedom, lightness, stability and movement – these key words define the Latvian-made *FRii* office furniture series.

The *FRii* series of office furniture has been designed for those who wish to stand out with a special style, regardless of the profession in which they work. It is perfectly suited for individualists who are open to new ideas and who value personal freedom in everything that they do. That includes the freedom to choose creatively designed furniture for their office.

The very name of this furniture series – *FRii* (i.e. “free”) – is the key word that best defines its essence. The furniture items come in unique shapes, ensuring that they can be freely rearranged in accordance with the needs and mood of the user. This advantageous feature distinguishes *FRii* work desks from classic rectangular tables. *FRii* furniture can be easily combined to create beautiful, flowing lines at each work station while retaining the functionality for which the office space was designed. Users can thus tailor each *FRii* work station in accordance with their aesthetic tastes and practical requirements, as *FRii* furniture items retain their visual appeal no matter

how they are arranged. Customers can also choose their preferred surface covering when placing their order, such as laminate, veneer or furniture linoleum.

The Latvian-made *FRii* designer furniture is ideal for offices with up to four work stations, in which the recommended size for each room is 6 x 6 metres. In larger spaces, as in big open offices with many work stations, the furniture loses its essence and individuality.

The work desk is the central element in the *FRii* furniture series and the focal point around which other peripheral items, such as shelf systems and drawers, are connected. Each *FRii* work desk has three specially designed legs that serve both an aesthetic and practical purpose, providing stability on uneven surfaces if necessary, as a three-point support system is among the most stable in any work environment.

For more information on the advantages of the *FRii* office furniture series, visit the KATE furniture salon in Riga or check out the salon's website. KATE's friendly staff will be happy to help you in your enquiries. **BO**

KATE

Nicgales iela 18a
Rīga, Latvia
① kate.lv



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Splendour of MUUSU

Food connoisseurs should definitely enjoy a meal at one of Riga's two MUUSU restaurants



Photos by
ANDREJS TERENTJEVS,
GINTS IVUŠKĀNS, F64
and publicity materials

One of the first things that you will notice upon stepping into the *MUUSU* restaurant in Old Riga is that Latvian folk saying engraved into the bar counter: "In father's home a crust of bread is tastier than a roast in a stranger's house". The restaurant's Latvian identity is further highlighted by the black-and-white illustrations of farm animals on the walls.

However, these restaurant premises are more than just a tribute to the times of your grandmother's youth. The interior at *MUUSU* is modern and strikes a resonant chord. Elegant wooden drawer chests, laconic linen tablecloths, exposed brick walls and various tones of grey all come together to generate a pleasant atmosphere and make one feel right at home, but not so much as to make you forget that you have gone out to relax and enjoy the evening. The agreeable



ambience is supplemented by the added charm of the historical premises in which the restaurant is located. Of particular note is the 300-year-old restored wooden staircase, which regally winds its way through all three restaurant floors.

The new restaurant on Skārņu iela in the Old Town is the second *MUUSU* establishment to open its doors, following in the heels of its successful namesake on Antonijas iela – one the most beautiful streets in Riga's so-called Quiet Centre. And although *MUUSU* belongs to the same people who founded three other popular Riga restaurant chains – *Steiku Haoss*, *Ribs & Rock* and *KID** – it carries a different message than its kin. Both *MUUSU* restaurants provide gastronomical experiences that will cater to even the most spoiled and pampered gourmets.

The kitchens at both restaurants are run by the skilled duo of master chefs Ainars Volodka and Kaspars Jansons, who have prepared a brand new menu for the winter season. Recently they also began hosting unique degustation evenings on the second Thursday of every month, which take place on the rooftop floor of the new *MUUSU* restaurant in Old Riga. There, in a cosy and relaxed ambience, the chefs demonstrate their knowledge and share their experience while serving up sumptuous six-course meals. Be prepared for some memorable gastronomic surprises and a unique taste experience!

The two *MUUSU* establishments are ideal places for a late weekend breakfast, a business lunch or an informal dinner with family and friends. Once you have visited either one of the *MUUSU* restaurants, you will invariably want to return soon. That was also the intention of the entrepreneurs who created *MUUSU* – a playful spelling variation of *mūsu*, which means "ours" in Latvian. The owners stress that both *MUUSU* establishments are meant to be places for getting together with friends and feeling at home.

Speaking of getting together, Riga's *MUUSU* restaurants are preparing to host festive New Year's celebrations, providing ideal venues for seeing out the old year and bringing in the new. On New Year's Eve, a pianist and a guitarist will be playing live music at both locations and guests will be treated to a delicious six-course dinner. As with the winter menu, seasonal products will dominate, with marzipan, prunes, chestnuts, blue cabbage, deer and roast duck making up just a few of the dishes that evening. Make sure to reserve a table soon at the restaurant of your choice before the venues are sold out. And don't forget to try the restaurants' superb bread, which is baked right on the premises. After all, what can make one feel more at home than the fragrance and smell of freshly baked bread? **BO**



muusu
RESTORĀNS



Skārņu iela 6, Riga
Open:
Mon.-Wed.:
12:00-23:00
Thu.-Sat.: 12:00-24:00
Sun.: 12:00-23:00
(+371) 25772552



Antonijas iela 13, Riga
Open:
Mon.-Wed.:
11:00-23:00
Thu.-Sat.: 11:00-24:00
Sun.: 11:00-23:00
(+371) 26699966

① muusu.lv

facebook.com/muusurestorans
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Hot spot for gourmets

Elkor Food & Wine – a unique three-in-one restaurant, bistro and store

Photos by **ANDREJS TERENTJEVS**, F64

A cup of hot and delicious coffee steams on a table. A student dashes out the door with a take-away grilled panini. A few tables further, an Italian tourist couple watches the changing of the guard at the Freedom Monument through the restaurant's large windows, unhurriedly sipping on glasses of red wine. For the past couple of months, *Elkor Food & Wine* has been offering its guests a splendid view of the monument, the adjacent park and Basteja bulvāris right in the heart of Riga. What's more, the locale unites a restaurant, a bistro and a store under one roof in a perfectly calculated three-in-one concept.

Elkor Food & Wine has placed a great deal of thought in every detail of its operations, with a key emphasis on quality. That is manifestly evident in the modern and laconic interior created by the well-known German design company *Aichinger*, which specialises in contemporary interiors for bistros, restaurants and bars.

The restaurant's menu is another reason to visit this new establishment. Having been meticulously planned out by Helmut Schüller, a German gastronomic consultant with 15 years of experience, the menu is large and extensive. Its huge breakfast section features traditionally filling omelettes, as well as large and small sandwiches, pastries and salads, while the lunch section offers a wide assortment of pizzas, cream soups and homemade noodles. Those with a sweet tooth will be subject to some serious temptation, as all of the treats behind the glass showcases are made right there on the spot. In fact, a mere cup of tasty coffee and a freshly baked croissant are sufficient to make one feel as if one has been transported to the heart of France. However, if you prefer the warm climes of southern Italy, then a glass of wine and a mild tiramisu are also excellent choices.



Brīvības bulvāris 19, Rīga

Hours:

Mon.-Thu. 7:30-22:00

Fri.-Sat. 7:30-24:00

Sun. 7:30-22:00

only for a hearty lunch, but also for a quiet evening in the restaurant's most romantic and refined section. There wine-lovers will be able to try out vintages from both large and small wineries and gain new taste experiences. The large assortment of wine and other alcoholic drinks at *Elkor Food & Wine* will satisfy even the most specialised connoisseurs. Each bottle is carefully selected during visits to international exhibitions and to the world's best wineries and distilleries.

A wide array of wines can also be found at the basement store of *Elkor Food & Wine*, along with specially selected local delicacies that you won't find in any supermarket. In addition, the store is an excellent place to obtain lasting gifts for your business partners, along with tasteful souvenirs for your family and friends. These have been made by some of Latvia's most talented artisans, who have tastefully united long-standing local traditions with a modern perspective on beauty and quality. **BO**

Aside from its plentiful menu, *Elkor Food & Wine* further impresses with the large size of its portions, offering big, healthy and tasty meals. It's definitely worth trying the cream of broccoli soup that is prepared right in front of your eyes and the California chicken with homemade noodles. And don't miss the chance to sink your teeth into one of the restaurant's most delectable pizzas – the Americana. In short, the sumptuous assortment of foods is sure to please and satisfy the taste buds of the most discriminating gourmet.

Another pleasant surprise at *Elkor Food & Wine* is its reasonable prices, with the combined cost for a three-course meal amounting to less than 20 euros. The restaurant is a wonderful spot not



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Outlook **FOOD&DRINK**

Text by **AGRA LIEČE**
Photos by **LAURIS VĪKSNE** and **ANDREJS TERENTJEVS**, F64

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KOLONĀDE: MŪSU STĀSTI, RĪGA (Kolonāde: Our Stories)

LATVIAN FLAG IN THE MENU

If the Italian-to-the-core Naples restaurant is not the least bit concerned with serving local food, then *Kolonāde* sits at the opposite end of the spectrum. That seems quite appropriate in view of *Kolonāde*'s prime location at the edge of the square by the Freedom Monument and next to the renowned *Laima Clock*. (You'd definitely have trouble finding a Rigan who hasn't arranged at least one meeting there: "Let's meet at the *Laima Clock*!", especially before the current era of cellular phones). This little building was previously occupied by one of the many branches of the *Čili Pica/Chili Pizza* chain.

At *Kolonāde* they go all out with patriotic fervour,

decorating the place in colours that match those in the Freedom Monument. Compare that to the worn-out oilcloths, blunt saw-blade knives with wooden handles and chipped pizza plates that were here before... brrr. The new place looks quite nice, very neat and a bit school-like. The dining hall, placed on something of an elevation, is elegant, and you can imagine it being pretty romantic there at night. The windows are large and Riga's city lights shine through in all of their glory. There is not much space here, but if you're in for a romantic evening, then that's a pro rather than a con.

The "coffee & cake" deli part is very welcome and great for the 7am-ers. Those not in such a rush can get a decent sit-in breakfast as well. The place even has *sklandrausi* on offer, and you can't get more Latvian than that. These are pastries made of healthy hard rye and filled with mashed sweetened

carrots (and occasionally potatoes).

It seems strange, however, that a restaurant should also be selling souvenirs – such as books on the Freedom Monument and key rings – at the deli counter. But maybe that is part of the establishment's two-in-one business plan...

I should also mention that the prices are really good. And I mean really good! *Kolonāde* offers good, locally sourced food – traditional for the most part – but also enough classics, too, providing something for everyone. Go for the slowly cooked pork underbelly served in a pan with barley groats and sautéed cabbage in honey-mustard dressing. Or something else with the little Latvian flag next to it in the menu...

Address: Brīvības bulvāris 26
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NAPLES, RIGA

PIZZA ON YOUR YACHT, ANYONE?

Naples is the latest addition to the restaurants that dot the harbour in Andrejsala, not far from the refined and architecturally rich "Quiet Centre" of Riga. Further down

a sermon about local, seasonal and environmentally friendly ingredients for a change!

The hand-made, expensive-looking pizza oven operates partially on firewood, and the dough-cutter also looks like it cost a bundle! Nevertheless, Naples is a fairly small and cheap-looking pizza (baked in a high-tech oven!) and pasta

offer – mainly pizzas, ravioli and pasta *Bolognese*, along with plenty of seafood and classic Italian desserts. A fun page on the menu features hot cocktails – possibly dedicated to those who used the decently sheltered terrace while it lasted (well, at least through the month of October) – such as the *Granny Recipe* (cranberry juice, honey, lemon and spices) and the *Hot Butter Rum* (much the same, but swapping the cranberry juice for rum).

The interior is nothing much to speak of, looking somewhat like the inside of a well-lit barn. But the view of the harbour is nice, so make sure to sit at a window table – unless the view is obstructed by a yacht or two. (Sorry, I couldn't hold back!)

Address: Andrejostas iela 2k-2
Open: Mon.-Sun. 12:00-24:00
(Fri. & Sat. open until last customer)
① facebook.com/restaurantnaples

It was actually refreshing not to hear a sermon about local and environmentally friendly ingredients for a change

the gravel road are *Aqua Luna* and *Koya*. *Aqua Luna* is upscale and glamorous, while *Koya*, though not the cheapest place in town, is cosy and accessible, kid-friendly and a bit more on the local side. At *Naples*, however, the owners take pride in importing pretty much everything for their full-on Italian menu. (It was actually refreshing not to hear

(made of dough that was cut with a super-cool cutter!) extension of the club *First Dacha*, a popular summertime hang-out place conveniently located so that you can park your yacht right outside. Small wonder that *Naples* does the occasional yacht pizza delivery as well.

I did appreciate the simplicity of the food on

Eternal summer of Jūrmala

Rain, and snow, and wind – all that may be outside the window, but at Līvu Akvaparks, Jūrmala, everything reminds you of delights of tropical health resorts even in winter.

The first thing everybody sees approaching Jūrmala from Riga is the odd structure on the bank of River Lielupe. Airplanes flying up to Riga International Airport also reveal view of sophisticated web of entwined motley pipes, which create remarkable architectonic form. To some it reminds road interchanges, to others – bundle of wires magnified a thousand times. But in fact it is favourite modern place of recreation for many people – Līvu Akvaparks.

It's the biggest in the Northern Europe and is open the whole year round. There are 40 different rides and amusements on the three floors of Līvu Akvaparks, in summer add another dozen and an outdoor beach. Water recreation always attracts people, especially if water is warm and clean.

Līvu Akvaparks, spreading for almost a hectare, combines three zones for people of different age and temperament. Active amusements, e. g., slides and diving, are located on upper floors. This is where Tornado Lasens ride, third biggest in the world and the only European amusement of such type, is located.

Heart of Līvu Akvaparks is Paradise Beach at wave pool. From one side of it lies Captain Kid Land, from another – Spa Resort, place for relaxation. Have no doubt – Līvu Akvaparks is the place where you will quickly be in good mood. Because by organizing trip to this Kingdom of Eternal Summer for yourself, your kids or your friends, you actually organize great holiday for your family.

This can give you optimism, confidence and goodwill – things you lack sometimes for everything to be the way it ought to be.

Don't miss the opportunity to visit Līvu Akvaparks, where summer doesn't end even in winter, when you come to Latvia.

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LOCALE

RESTORĀNS  BĀRS

WHERE LOCAL INGREDIENTS MEET INTERNATIONAL CUISINE

Locale Restaurant is a new gem on the gastronomic map of Riga: a place for gourmets, connoisseurs of outstanding culinary art, and lovers of seasonal food.

The Locale Restaurant features:
an affordable dining hall on the first floor;
a fine-dining hall with a wine room and a magnificent view of the tower of St Peter's Church on the second floor; a separate conference hall; a room for personal masterclasses given by the co-owner and Chef of the Locale Restaurant, Andrea Bressan; and a shop selling amazing confectionery and pastries, as well as products made by Latvian producers from original recipes.

NEW YEAR'S EVE 2014/15 AT LOCALE RESTAURANT

Welcome drink & tapas;
6-course menu;
glass of sparkling wine at midnight

Price: 100.00 EUR per person;
children under 7 years of age: free of charge;
up to 14 years: 50% discount

December 31st, 21:00

More info on web site, or call the restaurant directly

 GRĒCINIEKU 8, VECRĪGA

www.locale.lv

 /localeriga

Reservation: +371 66 11 96 77; info@locale.lv

Welcome aboard airBaltic!

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Aalborg

© VisitAalborg, photo by MICHAEL DAMSCAARD

2/ The perfect gift for the holiday season

With the holidays quickly approaching, *airBaltic* has prepared something special. The airline's travel gift e-vouchers are the perfect present for fulfilling the travel dreams of your parents, children, friends and other loved ones. Gift e-vouchers are available on all *airBaltic* flights for only EUR 35 and through *airbaltic.com* for any other desired amount. *airBaltic* gift e-vouchers can be used to book flights together with additional services, and they can be spent as either the sole means of payment or as partial payment for a larger sum.



Purchase *airBaltic* gift e-vouchers through our onboard Sky Shop, at *airbaltic.com* and at the *airBaltic* ticket office at the Riga International Airport.



3/ New connections through Moscow's Vnukovo airport

airBaltic has just launched a new direct route to one of Moscow's major airports – Vnukovo.

The new Riga - Moscow Vnukovo route will complement *airBaltic*'s existing Sheremetyevo and Domodedovo services, offering additional travel options to the Russian capital or onwards with our partner airlines. Passengers from Latvia will be able to use *Transaero*'s and *UTair*'s wide network to destinations in Siberia, the Russian Far East, Asia, North and Latin America. At the same time, passengers arriving in Riga will be able to continue their trip to their final destination on board *airBaltic* to cities in Scandinavia, Western and Southern Europe, the Baltic States and the Middle East.

Flights on the new Riga - Moscow Vnukovo route operate five times per week, with ticket prices starting from EUR 99 in Economy Class and EUR 555 in Business Class.

4/ Two brand new routes to look forward to in the summer of 2015!

→ The Greek island of **Rhodes** is ideal not only for those who want to relax on perfect beaches, but also for those who seek an action-packed holiday. Rhodes is one of the largest and most fertile of the Greek isles. It enjoys a particularly good climate, with sunny weather for eight months straight. Bright green hills, rich valleys and an uninterrupted line of golden beaches make Rhodes a blessed place.

→ "Those who seek paradise on Earth should come to **Dubrovnik**," wrote George Bernard Shaw of this Croatian city, which is also called the Pearl of the Adriatic. Dubrovnik is best known for its breath-taking Old Town, and it is hard not to be impressed by the imposing city walls that have stalwartly protected the town for centuries. Nestled between the Adriatic Sea and the Dinaric Alps, Dubrovnik is an accessible and affordable destination for travellers.

Flights to Rhodes will begin on June 12, 2015, while flights to Dubrovnik will start to operate on May 26, 2015.

1/ New destination – Aalborg, Denmark

2/ The perfect gift for the holiday season

3/ New connections through Moscow's Vnukovo airport

4/ Two brand new routes to look forward to in the summer of 2015!

1/ New destination – Aalborg, Denmark

Let's welcome our first new destination for the summer of 2015 – Aalborg! While Aalborg is only the 4th largest city in Denmark, it is by far the most vibrant and interesting town apart from the capital. You can explore centuries of Danish culture in a city that has developed from a fortified trade post and fisherman's town into a classic manufacturing base and a modern centre of culture and education.

Aalborg is a relatively small town for a city holiday, but it has plenty of offerings to keep you busy and entertained throughout your stay, regardless of whether you like to party, study architecture or simply fancy a nice time in a charming city full of activities and sightseeing attractions.

The Aalborg route will be launched on April 18, 2015. Flights will operate once a week, with ticket prices starting from EUR 69.



Your next hot destination – Larnaca!

Weekly flights from November till March





SVETLANA ABAŠKINA,
vice president
of international
relations at *airBaltic*

Can you describe a typical day at work for us?

I am often abroad on business trips, because my work involves signing agreements with *airBaltic's* foreign partners – mainly airlines and airports in various countries. However, I also spend a lot of time at my Riga office. There are only three people in my department, but the work that we do involves a great deal of responsibility.

What are you and your team responsible for?

I have two partnership managers who work under my direction. One deals with *airBaltic's* cooperation partners in the East, while the other works with our partners in the Western markets. There are about 200 airlines in the world and even more airports. Our department is the place through which *airBaltic* communicates and establishes cooperation links with its partners. As a result, about 20% of our airline's revenues come from *airBaltic* products and services that are sold through partnerships.

I have heard your colleagues say that they are proud of what you and your team have done.

This year we have signed three important cooperation agreements: one with the Romanian airline *TAROM*, through which we opened a new destination in Bucharest; another with *Aegean Airlines* in Greece to service our destinations in Athens and Larnaca; and the third with *British Airways* through its London Gatwick hub. I am particularly pleased about our new partnership with *British Airways*, which is one of the most influential airlines in the world. It doesn't take cooperation agreements lightly and expects its partners to operate in accordance with the highest standards in the industry. I felt immensely satisfied to hear *British Airways* representatives compliment us on our high level of professionalism. That praise applies not only to my department. We also work closely with other *airBaltic* departments, including network planning, revenue management, ground operations, quality, revenue accounting and flight support.

Who gains from *airBaltic's* expanded cooperation network?

Customers obtain an expanded list of worldwide destinations to choose from and business passengers can get more frequent connections to various destinations. Our airline, for its part, gains better access to potential customers in other places. For example, while *airBaltic* is the leading airline in the Baltic countries, it is not very well known in other parts of the world. Cooperation with other

airlines increases our exposure, marketing and distribution power.

What personal characteristic have you developed in this particular work position?

I have always liked to expand my knowledge and learn new things. I also enjoy sharing my experience with others. I have never dreamed about heading a large factory, for example, because my management style is oriented to heading small teams that work hard to fulfil the goals of a company. I view myself as an aviation professional. If I had to name what distinguishes a professional from a non-professional, then aside from competence, I would mention talent and a passion to work.

Incidentally, my first university degree is connected with numbers and the exact sciences. That helped to develop my sense of logical thinking, but after I got into the aviation business I realised that I really like working with people and that is something that I get to do in this position. Every day I meet people from all over the world, each with their own cultural background. That demands the ability to adapt on my part, which hasn't always been easy. This position has helped me to improve as a person and mature, for aside from adaptive skills, partnerships also involve the search for a compromise. If you are unable to reach a compromise, then you can't work effectively and reach your goals.

You must be very well-informed about trends in the aviation industry. What seems of particular interest to you right now?

It's clear that low-cost airlines created a revolution in commercial aviation. Its effects began to be felt in Latvia about ten years ago. As a result, *airBaltic* had to find new ways to develop and be competitive. That led to the hybrid airline concept, which involves taking the best practices both from traditional network airlines and low-cost carriers.

Speaking of the future, the day might come when passengers no longer have to check in for their flights. Unless there are compelling reasons for keeping the current check-in system, I think that in our current digital era it might be feasible to end the practice.

You travel quite a bit. What do you do to feel at home during your flights and business trips?

I like to travel and am a cosmopolitan person, so I don't feel uncomfortable in foreign countries. By the way, aside from the opportunity for further career growth and education, the chance to travel was what made me choose to accept the offer to work at

airBaltic. I have been working for the airline since it was founded, when there were only five or six direct flights from Riga. That means that I had to spend a lot of time in airport transit zones between connecting flights. I have had some of my most interesting meetings with people in transit lounges. There have been times when I have chatted with someone for only a half-hour and realised that this person who lives on the other side of the world thinks a lot like I do. I don't try to create a home environment when I travel. Instead, I try to learn something new about the place that I'm visiting. I might go to an art gallery or learn a new food recipe or buy something from an interesting local fashion brand.

What are your favourite travel destinations?

Above all I am fascinated by people. I like glittering and cosmopolitan personalities who remember their origins and culture. I look for the same traits in cities. Plus I also have another requirement. I like it very much if a city is located beside a body of water – be it a river, a lake or the sea – so I can go for walks along its shores. That's why I like Rome and Paris, Saint Petersburg and Kiev, Nice and Bari. There is another city that I'm always glad to return to: Jūrmala, where I have lived most of my life.

December is a holiday month. What is important for you during this period?

In the hectic pace of everyday life, it's hard to find the time to just spend some quiet moments at home. That's why I like it when people remember their loved ones during the holidays and slow down their pace a bit. It's nice when people become more open, when they take the time to just talk with each other, to visit their friends and relatives and to invite guests over to their homes. The sense of calm that comes when you slow down also helps to bring in a cheery holiday feeling, which is very necessary during this dark time of the year.

It's also important to say thank you, which is why I take this opportunity to thank my colleagues and cooperation partners for all of their support during the year 2014, and to wish everybody a happy 2015!

Have you made any resolutions for the New Year?

There was a time when I did, but then I came to understand that you have to work with yourself every day of the year. Usually at the end of the year I reflect over what went well during the previous 12 months and set myself new goals, which are usually connected with my personal and professional development. **BO**

Art of compromise

Text by
ZANE NIKODEMUSA
Photo by **VLADISLAVS PROŠKINS**, F64

Compromise is the key to success in any relationship, says Svetlana ABAŠKINA. And it is worth listening to what this charming, goal-oriented and knowledgeable woman has to say. Thanks to her efforts, *airBaltic* has expanded its partnership network with some of the world's most influential airlines.



Onboard menu

Business Class

airBaltic's Business Class menu offers superior and healthy meals that blend the tastes of different cuisines from all over the world. It was created by Andris Vasiļonoks of *LSG Sky Chefs*, who uses fresh, seasonal ingredients and adds his own refined flavours to classical, quality dishes. During the Christmas holidays, *airBaltic* will be serving special festive meals to Business Class passengers.

This month also heralds the arrival of the new Business Class breakfast menu,

with delicious and wholesome meals for a pleasant start to the day. Among the main courses are a French omelette with *Comté* cheese and vegetables, frittata with tomatoes and mushrooms, and pancakes with smoked salmon. These can be combined with appetising starters and granola or assorted fruits for dessert. Settle back, relax and enjoy your flight with a gourmet meal. Complement it with an exquisite wine from our carefully selected wine assortment or with another beverage from the drinks menu.

Economy Class

Economy Class passengers can choose their onboard meal from the *airBaltic Café* winter menu, which now offers a new delicious hot meal: grilled chicken fillet with broccoli-potato gratin, grilled zucchini and sweet-and-sour pineapple sauce. Chicken and salmon sandwiches, lasagne, tasty tortilla, healthy porridge and a variety of snacks and drinks are also available. Add to the festive feeling with our special Christmas product: gingerbread hearts made in Latvia!

Heavenly tasty meal selection on the pre-order menu

Passengers who want to have a guaranteed tasty meal and be among the first to be served can use one of our two meal pre-order options. These offer a wide choice of various meals including breakfast, cold and hot dishes, childrens' meals and dishes for special dietary or religious requirements. *airBaltic's* pre-order menu features 16 different meal sets that can be ordered while booking your flight ticket or any time later up to 24 hours before departure. Consult the *Manage My Booking* section at airbaltic.com or call (+371) 67006006 for

international callers or 90001100 for calls within Latvia.

If you want an even more exclusive dining experience on board, then choose from more than 70 dishes at our innovative pre-order website airbalticmeal.com. There you can create your individual meal on a virtual tray up to 24 hours before your flight. Luxurious meats, seafood, dietary and special main courses can be selected together with one of nine salads and nine types of dessert, complemented with a beverage from a wide selection.



About the program

PINS is the **airBaltic frequent flyer loyalty program** (formerly BalticMiles), which uses the loyalty currency "PINS". You can collect PINS while flying with airBaltic, shopping in airports, staying in hotels, renting cars, dining out and even by using the **airBaltic Payment Card** or the **PINS MasterCard**. It is also possible to collect PINS by doing your everyday shopping, with more than 700 local, global and online partners represented.

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

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

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

If you aren't a PINS program member yet

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



airBaltic PINS card



airBaltic PINS Executive card



airBaltic PINS VIP card



airBaltic PINS Young Pilot card

Friends & Family Account

Do you have a dream you share with your closest ones? PINS provides an easy and exciting way to reach it together! Up to nine PINS members can now collect PINS for their purchases together in one Friends & Family account, which means you can save up for your dream rewards much faster! Take your family out for movies, travel together or go shopping with your friends, collect PINS along the way and spend them on your next holiday! The more PINS every member of your joint Friends & Family account collects, the more PINS you have to spend on your dream rewards.

Getting started is easy! You can either create your own Friends & Family account and become the head of the account or join an existing one. If you are the head of the account, you can add new members to your group and spend PINS you have collected together. Other members can only spend PINS in their own accounts. The head of the account can also allow any member of the group to spend PINS from the joint Friends & Family account.

Try it today and see how convenient it is! Just log in to your PINS account at pinsforme.com, go to the section My Account – Friends & Family and add up to eight members. The members you invited will receive an e-mail so they can confirm their membership.

Tell your friends and family about this great opportunity and collect PINS for your dreams faster! And get ready for your next adventure!



How to spend

Spend PINS on airBaltic flights, electronics, gift cards and more than 2000 other rewards available at the PINS Online Rewards Shop. Explore specially selected rewards in the airBaltic PINS Rewards Collection onboard catalogue.

Spend on airBaltic:

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



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



Hotels	Radisson	park inn	HILTON HHONORS	FIRST	Kempinski
Car rentals	SIXT	Hertz	AVIS	Budget	Europcar
At Riga airport	FRIDAYS	APTIEKA	atu DUTY FREE	RIX	red cab
Online	HolidayCheck.com	PointsHound	Booking.com	Hotels.com	Expedia

pins e-Shop To collect PINS an online merchant must be selected through e-Shop section on PINS website pinsforme.com.

Tips for collecting

Anna			The Johnsons			Robert		
	Collected pins			Collected pins			Collected pins	
airBaltic	Economy class ticket	500	airBaltic	4 Basic class tickets	600	airBaltic	Business class ticket	1800
Hertz	Renting 1 car	500	Budget	Renting 1 car	500	SIXT	Renting 1 car	500
Radisson	Staying at the hotel	500	airBaltic	4 meals on board	100	WORLDHOTELS	Staying at the hotel	500
CHIC	Shopping	500	atu	Booking 2 hotel stays	3000	atu	Shopping	50
HolidayCheck	Review about a hotel stay	150	HolidayCheck	2 reviews about hotel stays	300	The Economist	Yearly subscription	3500
pins 2 150			pins 4 500			pins 6 350		

GERMANY

Garmisch-Partenkirchen The two villages of Garmisch and Partenkirchen were merged into one when Germany hosted the Winter Olympic Games in 1936. However, even though they have been officially unified for nearly 80 years, unofficially they still compete with each other, sporting two of practically everything: two fire stations, two schools and so on. Partenkirchen is cute and cosy, with narrow streets and a centre filled with painted houses, while Garmisch's more organised grid of streets is lined with new concrete buildings and upscale shopping stores. This summer, Garmish-Partenkirchen also hosted the *BMW Mottorad days*.

Resort altitude: 720 m	Total piste length: 62 km	Longest run: 4 km	Lift pass prices: Day EUR 38.50 EUR 22.00 (children)	Week (6 days) N/A N/A (children)	Partenkirchen
Highest lift: 2830 m	Black 4 Red 25 Blue 10 Green 3	Snow parks: 1		Resorts accepting lift pass: Garmisch-	Season: December 13 – April 13
		Ski lifts: 33			



Fly to Munich
with airBaltic
from **€85** ONE
WAY

Riga – Munich					Munich – Riga				
Flight No	Days	Departure	Arrival		Flight No	Days	Departure	Arrival	
BT 221	123456-	07:25	09:00		BT 222	123456-	09:35	13:05	
BT 223	1-3-5-7	17:30	18:45		BT 224	1-3-5-7	19:15	22:25	



ITALY

Courmayeur Founded in the 17th century as a spa town located at the very top of the Aosta Valley, Courmayeur is a charming place. Pretty buildings



Fly to Milan
with airBaltic
from **€49** ONE
WAY

Riga – Milan					Milan – Riga				
Flight No	Days	Departure	Arrival		Flight No	Days	Departure	Arrival	
BT 629	----5--	09:40	11:25		BT 630	----5--	12:30	16:10	
BT 629	----6-	12:55	14:40		BT 630	----6-	15:20	19:00	
BT 629	1--4---	15:15	17:00		BT 630	1--4---	17:55	21:35	

with slate roofs line the traffic-free cobbled streets of the old town. The little resort at the foot of the Mont Blanc chain offers outdoor activities, cultural

and entertainment events as well as shopping, relaxation, gastronomy and the opportunity to practice a number of sports all year long.

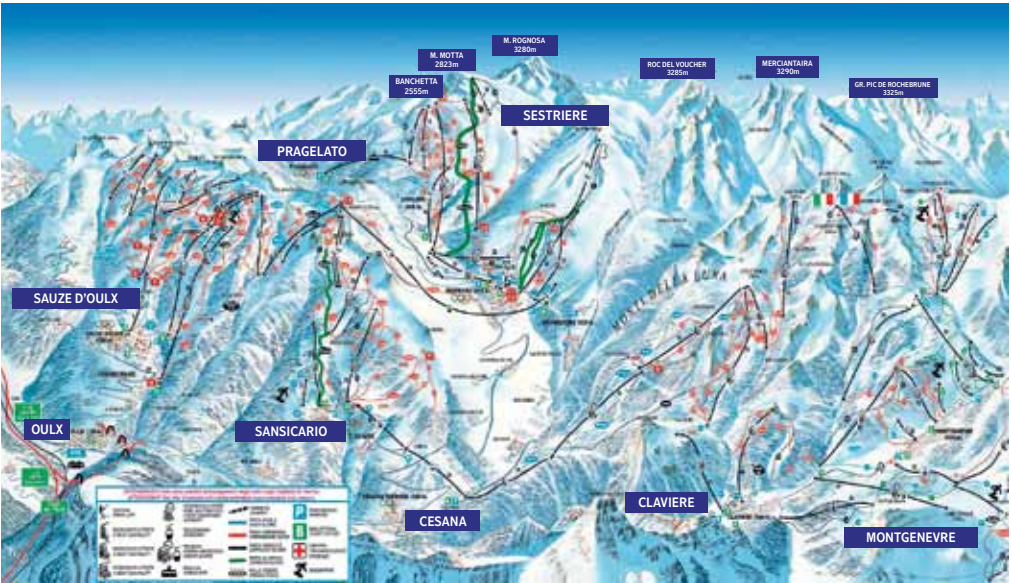


Resort altitude: 1224 m
Highest lift: 2624 m
Total piste length: 36 km
Black 4 Red 14 Blue 6 Green 3
Longest run: 10 km
Snow parks: 1
Ski lifts: 18
Lift pass prices: Day EUR 45 EUR 22.50 (children) Week (6 days) EUR 227 EUR 113.50 (children)
Resorts accepting lift pass: Alagna Valsesia, Breuil-Cervinia, Crévacol, Etroubles, Pila and Saint-Rhémy-en-Bosses
Season: Early December to mid-April

Sestriere Sestriere is the highest ski resort in the extensive Via Lattea (Milky Way) linked ski area, boasting an impressive Alpine winter sports history as one of the world's first purpose-built ski resorts. A good choice for beginners

and intermediates. Sestriere is also one of the few resorts where it is possible to ski at night on a floodlit run. During the summer months, it is a famous starting and arrival point in the *Tour de France* and the *Giro d'Italia* cycling races.

Notably, it was the scene of a definitive moment in cyclist Lance Armstrong's now tarnished career. It regularly hosts FIS Alpine Ski World Cup events, and it was a main venue during the 2006 Winter Olympic Games.



Resort altitude: 2035 m
Highest lift: 2823 m
Total piste length: 200 km
Black 42 Red 118 Blue 54 Green 7
Longest run: 5 km
Snow parks: 1
Ski lifts: 92
Lift pass prices: Day EUR 36.00 EUR 5.00 (children) Week (6 days) EUR 190.00 EUR 30.00 (children)
Resorts accepting lift pass: Milky Way ski resorts of Clavière, Sansicario, Sauze d'Oulx and Montgenèvre
Season: November 29 – April 12

Livigno Families and beginners can enjoy gentle slopes and fun areas suited for acquiring basic techniques and for learning by playing. Furthermore, Livigno

has a special tax status that dates back to Napoleonic times. There's no VAT, which means that drinks, fuel and consumer goods are among the cheapest in Europe.

Apparently, there is even a Latvian-run hotel that serves Latvian cuisine.



Resort altitude: 1816 m
Highest lift: 2800 m
Total piste length: 115 km
Black 13 Red 36 Blue 29
Longest run: 4 km
Snow parks: 10
Ski lifts: 31
Lift pass prices: Day EUR 44.00 EUR 35.50 (children) Week (6 days) EUR 219.00 EUR 150.50 (children)
Resorts accepting lift pass: other Alta Valtellina ski resorts of Bormio and Santa Caterina.
Season: December 19 – April 06

FRANCE



Fly to Paris
with airBaltic
from **€69** ONE WAY

Riga – Paris				
Flight No	Days	Departure	Arrival	
BT 691	1234567	07:30	09:25	
BT 697	-2-4-67	12:35	14:30	
BT 693	1---5--	15:55	17:50	

Paris – Riga				
Flight No	Days	Departure	Arrival	
BT 692	1-3-5--	10:10	13:55	
BT 698	-2-4-67	15:15	19:00	
BT 694	12-4567	18:35	22:20	

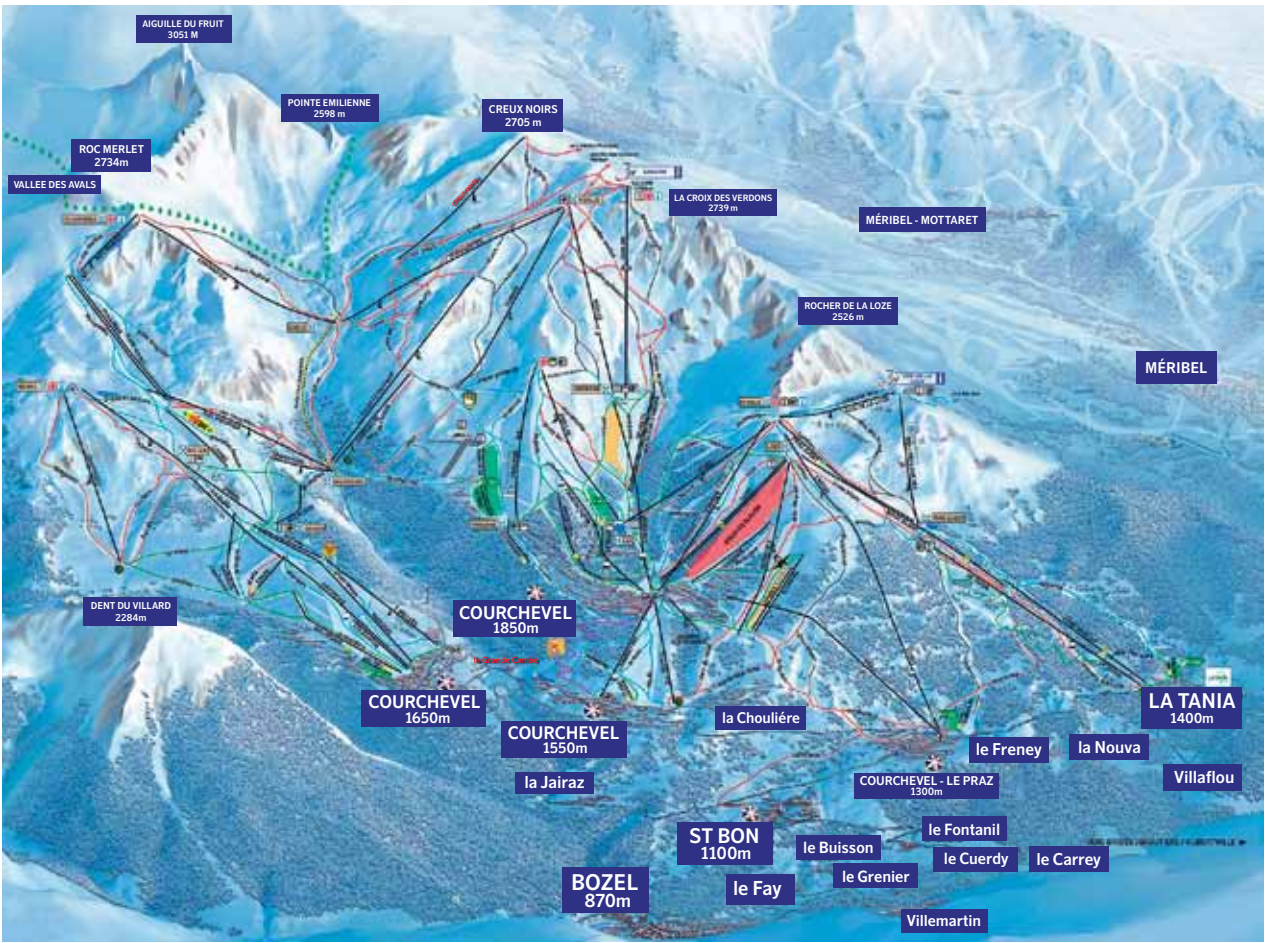
Tignes Compared to its neighbouring resorts, sport comes first here and you’re more likely to find visitors staying on the slopes as long as possible, rather than partying the night away. As for accommodation, Val Claret is the highest village at 2100 metres and has easy access to the

glacier. Together with Tignes-Le-Lac just down the road, it is the most convenient place to stay, with a large choice of hotels, restaurants and shops. Slightly lower lie the cheaper and less convenient apartments of Le Lavachet, which are linked to the lifts by ski bus.



Resort altitude: 2100 m
Highest lift: 3450 m
Total piste length: 300 km
Black 45 | Red 46 | Blue 61 | Green 22
Longest run: 10 km
Snow parks: 2
Ski lifts: 59
Lift pass prices:
Day EUR 52.00 | EUR 41.50 (children)
Week (6 days) EUR 260.00 | EUR 208.00 (children)

Resorts accepting lift pass: Espace Killy ski resorts of Val d’Isère. Tignes is directly linked by Ski Lift to the ski areas of Val d’Isère
Season: December 20 – May 6



SWITZERLAND

Fly to Zurich with airBaltic from €75 ONE WAY

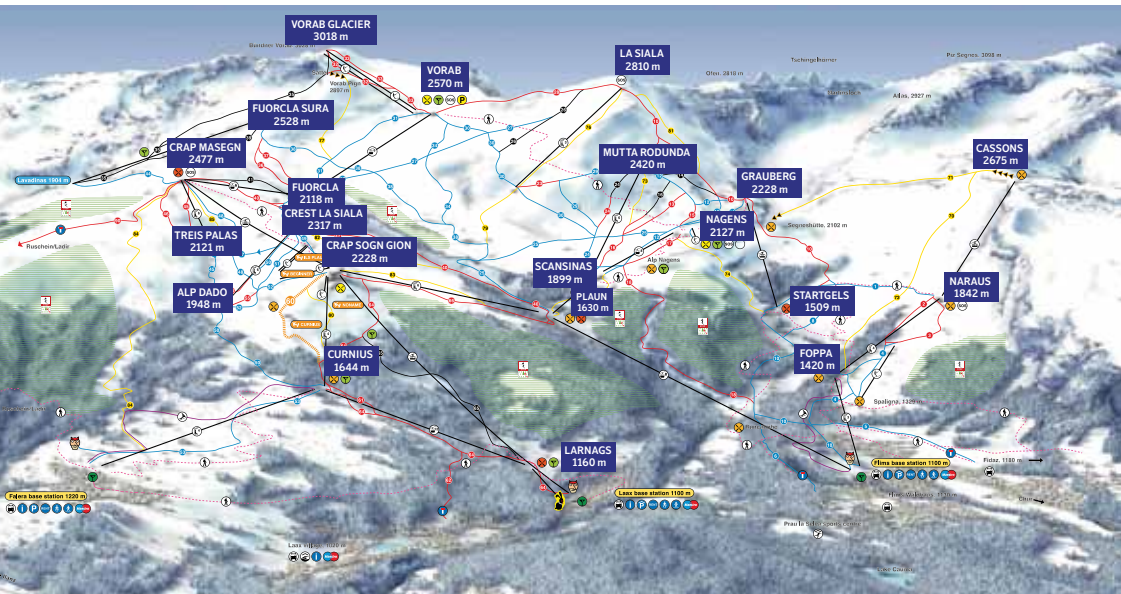
Riga – Zurich				
Flight No	Days	Departure	Arrival	
BT 641	12-4---	07:50	09:20	
BT 641	---5-7	16:55	18:25	

Zurich – Riga				
Flight No	Days	Departure	Arrival	
BT 642	12-4---	10:00	13:30	
BT 642	----5-7	18:55	22:25	

Flims Laax Falera There's something to satisfy just about everyone's wishes here,

with a wide selection of services to choose from, including mountainside restaurants,

places for renting the latest ski gear and accommodation.



Resort altitude: 1100 m
Highest lift: 3018 m
Total piste length: 220 km
Black 18 | Red 40 | Blue 45
Longest run: 14 km
Snow parks: 4
Ski lifts: 27
Lift pass prices:
Day EUR 61.67 | EUR 20.58 (children)
Week (6 days) EUR 346.67 | EUR 115.58 (children)
Resorts accepting lift pass: Flims, Laax, Falera
Season: December 20 – April 6



Davos Davos prides itself on keeping good company. Alongside resorts such as Zermatt, St. Moritz, St. Anton and Kitzbühel, Davos is a member of *The Best of the Alps* association of 12 classic Alpine resorts. The

nearby resort of Klosters has long been a favourite haunt of Prince Charles and sometimes his sons as well. Hence, the main cable car that takes skiers to the top of Gotschnagratt is called the *Prince of Wales*.

Resort altitude: 1560 m
Highest lift: 3146 m
Total piste length: 320 km
Black 12 | Red 39 | Blue 31
Longest run: 12 km

Snow parks: 3
Ski lifts: 50
Lift pass prices:
Day EUR 55.90 | EUR 22.20 (children)
Week (6 days) EUR 272.93 | EUR 109.34 (children)

Resorts accepting lift pass: Parsenn, Pisch, Jakobshorn, Rinerhorn, Madrisa and Gotschna
Season: November 14 - April 19

St. Moritz St. Moritz is Switzerland's most famous exclusive winter resort. There are plenty of designer stores to keep

posh ladies busy after lunch, while other visitors come to watch the annual polo, horse racing and cricket competitions on

the town's frozen lake. You might even run into Ivana Trump!



Resort altitude: 1850 m
Highest lift: 3300 m
Total piste length: 350 km
Black 9 | Red 61 | Blue 18
Longest run: 10 km
Snow parks: 2
Number of ski lifts: 57
Lift pass prices:
Day EUR 64.11 | EUR 19.73 (children)
Week (6 days) EUR 294.27 | EUR 100.28 (children)
Resorts accepting lift pass: Corviglia, Corvatsch above neighbouring Silvaplana and the Diavolezza Glacier area
Season: October 18 – April 6

SLOVAKIA

Fly to Poprad with airBaltic from €55 ONE WAY

Riga – Poprad from 13.12.2014.				
Flight No	Days	Departure	Arrival	
BT 485	-----6-	14:00	14:40	

Poprad – Riga from 13.12.2014.				
Flight No	Days	Departure	Arrival	
BT 486	-----6-	15:15	18:00	

Jasna Low Tatras Jasna Low Tatras is one of the most popular skiing destinations in Slovakia, offering excellent slopes covered with man-made snow for five

months every year. Jasna Low Tatras was given five prestigious quality awards in the international Ski Area Test. The upcoming winter season will offer attractive new

products and innovations, such as a popular daily après-ski programme, night sledging, fresh track skiing, a Fun Zone, a snow park and others.



Resort altitude: 943 m
Highest lift: 2024 m
Total piste length: 46 km
Black 7, Red 18, Blue 9
Longest run: 12 km
Snow parks: 1
Ski lifts: 30
Lift pass prices:
Day: adults EUR 30, children EUR 21
Week (10 days): adults EUR 290, children EUR 203
Resorts accepting lift pass: Jasna Low Tatras
Season: December to late April

Twelve months of beauty with *airBaltic* – the new 2015 calendar is out!

Gorgeous stewardesses and office workers are on hand to welcome you with a warm smile each month of 2015. Yes, our new calendar has just come out! It has become a tradition for *airBaltic* to make an annual calendar, and who could present the company better than its own employees?

The photo shoot for next year's calendar was a great experience for all of the participants and very different from their daily work. The 12 calendar ladies got to be pampered by professional hair stylists and make-up artists who worked under the guidance of famous Latvian stylist Anita Altmane, and they were photographed by professional fashion photographer Polina Viljun. Next year's calendar is also special because all of the models are dressed in Latvian designer clothing, featuring internationally known names like *M-Couture*, *Amoralle*, *Baiba Ladiga* and many more.



Kristīne Jēkabsons / Senior Cabin Crew



Jūta Valdmāne / Cabin Crew



Annijs Alvataer / Cabin Crew



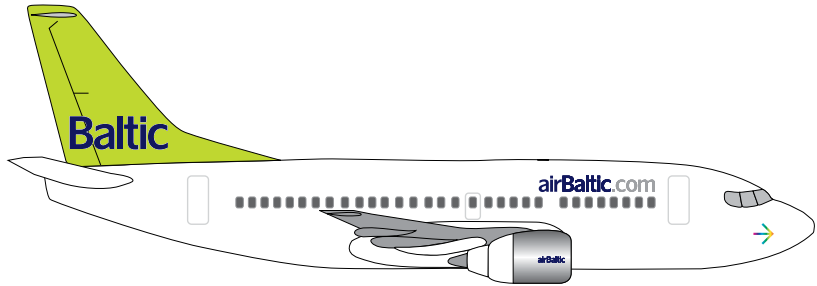
Arta Lūse / Senior Cabin Crew

Don't miss your chance to purchase the new *airBaltic* calendar at our Sky Shop and at airbalticshop.com in either wall or desktop format, as of the middle of December.



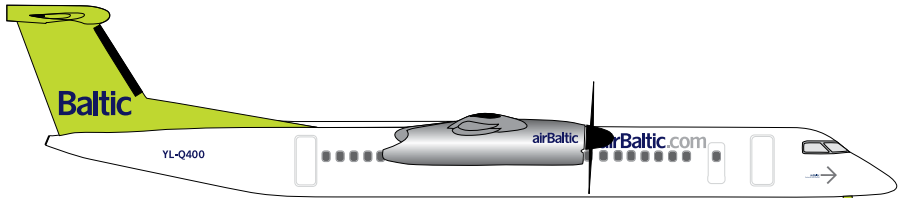
Boeing 737-300

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



Boeing 737-500

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

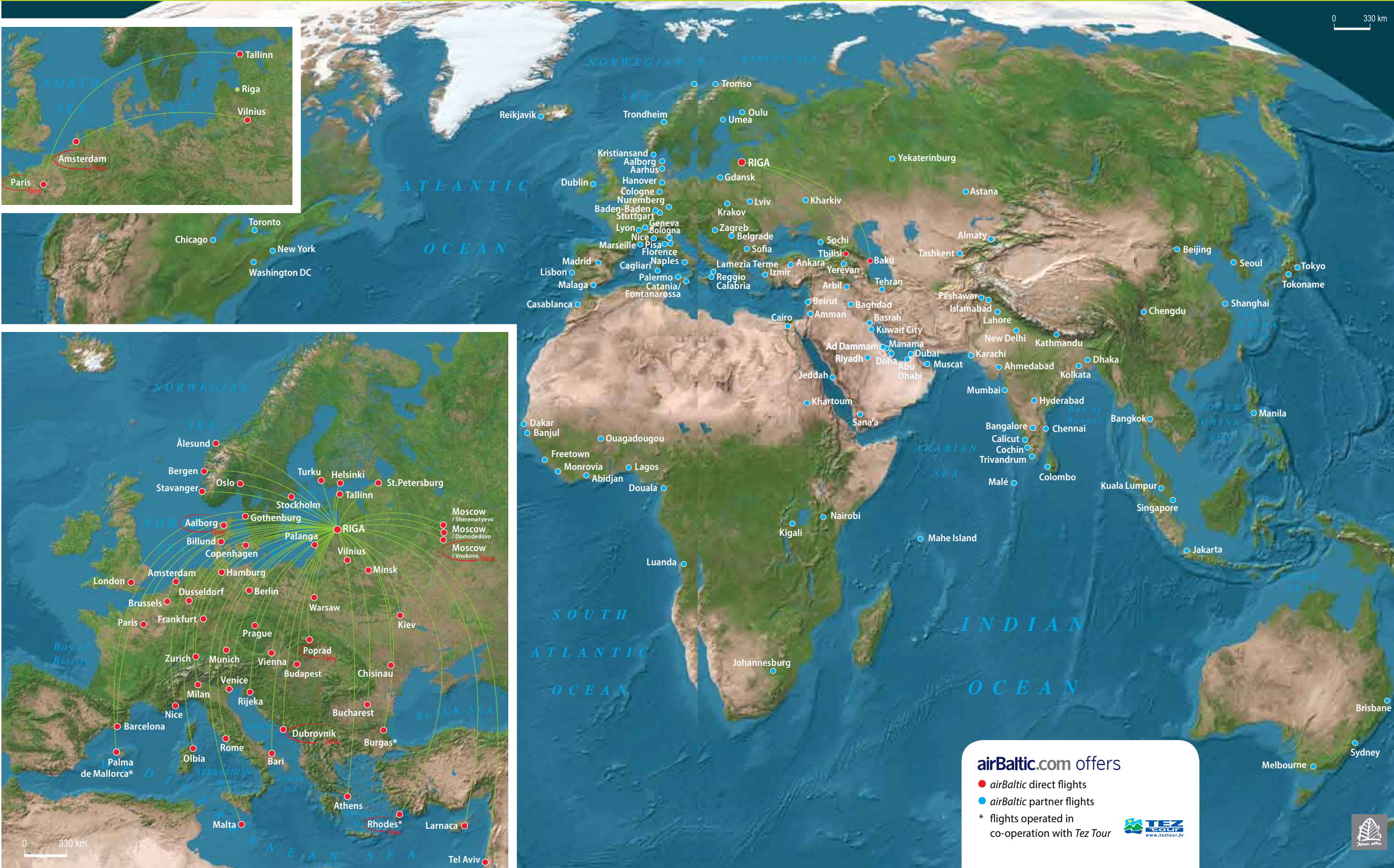


Q400 NextGen Bombardier

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

Flights from Riga					Flights to Riga				
Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure Arrival	Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure Arrival
ALESUND					ALESUND				
BT 175	RIX	AES	-----5--	07:40 09:05	BT 176	AES	RIX	-----5--	10:15 13:30
BT 175	RIX	AES	-----7	13:20 14:45	BT 176	AES	RIX	-----7	15:15 18:30
AMSTERDAM					AMSTERDAM				
BT 617	RIX	AMS	1234567	07:40 09:05	BT 618	AMS	RIX	123-5--	10:20 13:35
BT 615	RIX	AMS	---4-67	12:55 14:20	BT 616	AMS	RIX	---4-67	14:55 18:10
BT 619	RIX	AMS	1-3-5--	16:45 18:10	BT 620	AMS	RIX	1-34567	18:55 22:10
AMSTERDAM flights from VILNIUS					AMSTERDAM flights to VILNIUS				
BT 609	VNO	AMS	---4-67	14:40 16:40	BT 610	AMS	VNO	---4-67	10:20 14:05
BARCELONA					BARCELONA				
BT 681	RIX	BCN	-----5--	09:30 12:15	BT 682	BCN	RIX	-----5--	12:55 17:35
BT 681	RIX	BCN	1-----7	14:00 16:45	BT 682	BCN	RIX	1-----7	17:45 22:25
BERLIN Tegel					BERLIN Tegel				
BT 211	RIX	TXL	123456-	09:20 10:15	BT 212	TXL	RIX	123456-	10:45 13:35
BT 213	RIX	TXL	12345-7	17:45 18:40	BT 214	TXL	RIX	12345-7	19:20 22:10
BILLUND					BILLUND				
BT 145	RIX	BLL	1-3-5-7	22:55 23:55	BT 146	BLL	RIX	12-4-6-	05:50 08:40
BRUSSELS					BRUSSELS				
BT 601	RIX	BRU	12345--	06:20 08:15	BT 602	BRU	RIX	12345--	08:55 12:40
BT 601	RIX	BRU	-----6-	09:40 11:35	BT 602	BRU	RIX	-----6-	12:05 15:50
BT 603	RIX	BRU	12345-7	15:00 16:55	BT 604	BRU	RIX	12345-7	19:20 23:05
BUCHAREST					BUCHAREST				
BT 503	RIX	OTP	1-3-5--	23:15 2:00+1	BT 504	OTP	RIX	-2-4-6-	05:50 08:40
BUDAPEST					BUDAPEST				
BT 491	RIX	BUD	1-3-5--	13:15 14:40	BT 492	BUD	RIX	1-3-5--	15:10 18:25
COPENHAGEN					COPENHAGEN				
BT 131	RIX	CPH	1234---	06:45 07:25	BT 134	CPH	RIX	1234---	08:05 10:40
BT 131	RIX	CPH	1234567	09:30 10:10	BT 132	CPH	RIX	1234567	10:45 13:20
BT 139	RIX	CPH	1234567	18:40 19:20	BT 140	CPH	RIX	1234567	19:50 22:25
DUSSELDORF					DUSSELDORF				
BT 235	RIX	DUS	1--5-7	12:50 14:30	BT 236	DUS	RIX	1--5-7	15:00 18:30
FRANKFURT					FRANKFURT				
BT 241	RIX	FRA	1-34567	12:45 14:30	BT 242	FRA	RIX	1-34567	15:05 18:40
GOTHENBURG Landvetter					GOTHENBURG Landvetter				
BT 121	RIX	GOT	1-3---7	23:05 23:50	BT 122	GOT	RIX	12-4---	06:00 8:35
HAMBURG					HAMBURG				
BT 251	RIX	HAM	12-4---	07:50 08:55	BT 252	HAM	RIX	12-4---	09:25 12:20
BT 253	RIX	HAM	--3-5-7	17:45 18:50	BT 254	HAM	RIX	--3-5-7	19:25 22:20
HELSINKI					HELSINKI				
BT 301	RIX	HEL	123456-	09:25 10:30	BT 326	HEL	RIX	123456-	06:00 7:00
BT 303	RIX	HEL	1234567	13:35 14:40	BT 302	HEL	RIX	1234567	11:00 12:00
BT 307	RIX	HEL	1234567	19:35 20:40	BT 306	HEL	RIX	1234567	15:15 16:15
BT 325	RIX	HEL	12345-7	22:55 23:59	BT 308	HEL	RIX	12345-7	21:20 22:20
KIEV Borispol					KIEV Borispol				
BT 400	RIX	KBP	123456-	09:20 11:10	BT 401	KBP	RIX	123456-	11:40 13:35
BT 404	RIX	KBP	12345-7	16:45 18:35	BT 405	KBP	RIX	12345-7	20:10 22:05
LARNACA					LARNACA				
BT 657	RIX	LCA	-----6-	14:20 18:10	BT 658	LCA	RIX	-----7	12:10 16:10
LONDON Gatwick					LONDON Gatwick				
BT 651	RIX	LGW	12-4-6-	09:30 10:20	BT 652	LGW	RIX	12-4-6-	11:10 15:55
BT 653	RIX	LGW	--3-5-7	15:20 16:10	BT 654	LGW	RIX	--3-5-7	16:50 21:35
MILAN Malpensa					MILAN Malpensa				
BT 629	RIX	MXP	-----5--	09:40 11:25	BT 630	MXP	RIX	-----5--	12:30 16:10
BT 629	RIX	MXP	-----6-	12:55 14:40	BT 1630	MXP	RIX	-----6-	14:50 18:30
BT 1629	RIX	MXP	-----6-	12:55 14:10	BT 630	MXP	RIX	-----6-	15:20 19:00
BT 629	RIX	MXP	1-4----	15:15 17:00	BT 630	MXP	RIX	1-4----	17:55 21:35
MINSK					MINSK				
BT 412	RIX	MSQ	1-3---7	13:35 15:45	BT 413	MSQ	RIX	1-3---7	16:25 16:35
MOSCOW Domodedovo					MOSCOW Domodedovo				
BT 418	RIX	DME	12345--	09:45 12:50	BT 417	DME	RIX	123456-	05:35 06:45
BT 414	RIX	DME	-----7	12:55 16:00	BT 419	DME	RIX	12345--	13:35 14:45
BT 416	RIX	DME	12345-7	23:20 02:25+1	BT 415	DME	RIX	-----7	16:45 17:55

Flights from Riga					Flights to Riga				
Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure Arrival	Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure Arrival
MOSCOW Sheremetyevo					MOSCOW Sheremetyevo				
BT 424	RIX	SVO	12345--	04:25 07:05	BT 425	SVO	RIX	12345--	07:45 08:35
BT 424	RIX	SVO	-----67	09:20 12:00	BT 425	SVO	RIX	-----67	12:45 13:35
BT 422	RIX	SVO	1234567	17:00 19:40	BT 423	SVO	RIX	1234567	20:40 21:30
MOSCOW Vnukovo					MOSCOW Vnukovo				
BT 414	RIX	VKO	12345--	12:55 15:40	BT 415	VKO	RIX	12345--	16:25 17:20
MUNICH					MUNICH				
BT 221	RIX	MUC	123456-	07:25 09:00	BT 222	MUC	RIX	123456-	09:35 13:05
BT 223	RIX	MUC	1-3-5-7	17:30 18:45	BT 224	MUC	RIX	1-3-5-7	19:15 22:25
OSLO					OSLO				
BT 151	RIX	OSL	123456-	09:15 10:10	BT 152	OSL	RIX	123456-	10:45 13:35
BT 153	RIX	OSL	12345-7	17:55 18:50	BT 154	OSL	RIX	12345-7	19:20 22:10
PALANGA					PALANGA				
BT 033	RIX	PLQ	1-3-5-7	23:05 23:50	BT 032	PLQ	RIX	12-4-6-	06:10 6:55
PARIS Charles de Gaulles					PARIS Charles de Gaulles				
BT 691	RIX	CDG	1234567	07:30 09:25	BT 692	CDG	RIX	1-3-5--	10:10 13:55
BT 697	RIX	CDG	-2-4-67	12:35 14:30	BT 698	CDG	RIX	-2-4-67	15:15 19:00
BT 693	RIX	CDG	1--5--	15:55 17:50	BT 694	CDG	RIX	12-4567	18:35 22:20
PARIS flights from TALLIN					PARIS flights to TALLIN				
BT 689	TLL	CDG	-2-4-67	15:10 17:10	BT 690	CDG	TLL	-2-4-67	10:10 14:05
PRAGUE					PRAGUE				
BT 481	RIX	PRG	1-4-6-	07:30 08:40	BT 482	PRG	RIX	1-4-6-	09:15 12:20
BT 481	RIX	PRG	-----7	13:15 14:25	BT 482	PRG	RIX	-----7	14:55 18:00
BT 481	RIX	PRG	----5--	17:45 18:55	BT 482	PRG	RIX	----5--	19:25 22:30
ROME Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino					ROME Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino				
BT 631	RIX	FCO	----5--	09:20 11:25	BT 632	FCO	RIX	-2---6-	12:15 16:25
BT 1633	RIX	FCO	--3----	14:10 16:15	BT 1634	FCO	RIX	--3----	17:30 21:40
BT 633	RIX	FCO	1-----7	14:25 16:30	BT 634	FCO	RIX	1-----7	17:55 22:05
STOCKHOLM Arlanda					STOCKHOLM Arlanda				
BT 101	RIX	ARN	1234567	09:20 09:35	BT 104	ARN	RIX	123456-	06:25 8:40
BT 109	RIX	ARN	1234567	19:10 19:25	BT 102	ARN	RIX	1234567	10:05 12:20
BT 103	RIX	ARN	12345-7	22:55 23:10	BT 110	ARN	RIX	1234567	20:00 22:15
ST-PETERSBURG					ST-PETERSBURG				
BT 442	RIX	LED	123456-	09:30 11:50	BT 447	LED	RIX	12-456-	06:25 06:45
BT 444	RIX	LED	12345-7	19:00 21:20	BT 443	LED	RIX	123456-	12:30 12:50
BT 446	RIX	LED	1-345-7	23:15 01:35+1	BT 445	LED	RIX	12345-7	21:55 22:15
TALLINN					TALLINN				
BT 311	RIX	TLL	123456-	09:30 10:20	BT 362	TLL	RIX	123456-	06:10 07:00
BT 313	RIX	TLL	1234567	14:00 14:50	BT 312	TLL	RIX	1234567	11:10 12:00
BT 317	RIX	TLL	1234567	19:35 20:25	BT 314	TLL	RIX	1234567	15:25 16:15
BT 361	RIX	TLL	12345-7	22:55 23:45	BT 318	TLL	RIX	12345-7	21:25 22:15
TATRY / POPRAD / As of 13 December 2014					TATRY / POPRAD / As of 13 December 2014				
BT 485	RIX	TAT	-----6-	14:00 14:40	BT 486	TAT	RIX	-----6-	15:15 18:00
TURKU					TURKU				
BT 359	RIX	TKU	1-3-5-7	23:05 00:15+1	BT 360	TKU	RIX	12-4-6-	05:55 07:00
TBILISI					TBILISI				
BT 722	RIX	TBS	----5-7	23:10 04:40+1	BT 723	TBS	RIX	1----6-	05:15 06:50
TEL AVIV					TEL AVIV				
BT 771	RIX	TLV	-2---6-	14:40 19:00	BT 772	TLV	RIX	--3---7	11:40 16:10
VIENNA					VIENNA				
BT 431	RIX	VIE	1-3456-	07:35 08:35	BT 432	VIE	RIX	1-3456-	09:30 12:30
BT 433	RIX	VIE	12345-7	16:50 18:15	BT 434	VIE	RIX	12345-7	18:50 22:10
VILNIUS					VILNIUS				
BT 341	RIX	VNO	123456-	09:40 10:30	BT 350	VNO	RIX	123456-	06:10 07:00
BT 343	RIX	VNO	1234567	14:00 14:50	BT 342	VNO	RIX	1234567	11:10 12:00
BT 347	RIX	VNO	1234567	19:35 20:25	BT 344	VNO	RIX	1234567	15:25 16:15
BT 349	RIX	VNO	12345-7	22:55 23:45	BT 348	VNO	RIX	12345-7	21:30 22:20
WARSAW					WARSAW				
BT 463	RIX	WAW	12345-7	23:05 23:35	BT 464	WAW	RIX	123456-	06:15 08:40
ZURICH					ZURICH				
BT 641	RIX	ZRH	12-4----	07:50 09:20	BT 642	ZRH	RIX	12-4----	10:00 13:30
BT 641	RIX	ZRH	----5-7	16:55 18:25	BT 642	ZRH	RIX	----5-7	18:55 22:25



Country/City Ticket offices	Airport Ticket Offices
AUSTRIA	
Vienna Aviareps Ges.m.b.H Argentinierstr. 2/4 ☎ +43 (0) 585 36 30 54 ResBT-Austria@aviareps.com	Airport Schwechat Terminal 2 Airport Ticket Office Celebi Ground Handling ☎ +431 700736394
AZERBAIJAN	
Baku Improtex Travel 16, S. Vurgun Str. Baku AZ1000, Azerbaijan ☎ +994 124989239 info@improtex-travel.com booking@improtex-travel.com	Heydar Aliyev International Airport Airport Ticket Office Silk Way Airlines South Terminal ☎ +994 124972600
BELARUS	
Minsk	Airport Minsk 2 Airport Ticket Office airBaltic
BELGIUM	
	Airport Zaventem Departure Hall ☎ +32 (0) 27230667 Airport Ticket Office Aviapartner
Croatia	
Rijeka	Rijeka Airport Airport Ticket Office Zračna Luka Rijeka ☎ +385 51 841 222
CYPRUS	
Larnaca	Larnaca International Airport Airport Ticket Office airBaltic / LGS Handling
CZECH REPUBLIC	
Prague	Vaclav Havel Prague Airport Terminal T2 Airport Ticket Office CEAS ☎ +420 220117540
DENMARK	
Copenhagen	Airport Copenhagen International Terminal 3 Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office SAS
Billund	Billund Airport Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office F: +45 75338410
ESTONIA	
Tallinn ☎ 17107 (airBaltic RESERVATIONS 0600411015 0.51 EUR/min, local calls only) tallinn@airbaltic.com	Airport Tallinn Main Terminal, Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office airBaltic / Tallinn Airport GH
FINLAND	
Helsinki (airBaltic RESERVATIONS 0600411015 0.64 EUR/min, Mon-Fri 09:00-18:00)	Helsinki Handling NewCo Oy Airport Ticket Office Servisair
Turku	Airport Turku Airport Ticket Office Airpro OY
FRANCE	
Paris APG France 66 avenue des Champs Elysées Building E, 2 nd floor 75008, Paris ☎ +33 153892100 airbaltic@apg.fr	Airport Charles de Gaulles Terminal 2D Airport Ticket Office Swissport Services CDG
Nice	Airport Nice Cote D'azur Terminal 1 Airport Ticket Office Lufthansa Ticket Desk
GEORGIA	
Tbilisi airBaltic ticket office 61 Palashvili str. 0179 Tbilisi ☎ +995 32 2 900900 airbalticgsa@discovery.ge	Airport Tbilisi Airport Ticket Office Discovery Ltd ☎ +995 32 2 900900
GERMANY	
Berlin	Airport Berlin-Tegel Main Terminal Airport Ticket Office GlobeGround Berlin Opposite Gate 4/5
Dusseldorf	Airport Dusseldorf Terminal B Airport Ticket Office HAVAS Germany GmbH ☎ +49 211 421 6271

Country/City Ticket offices	Airport Ticket Offices
Frankfurt c/o AVIAREPS AG Kaiserstrasse 77 ☎ +49 (0) 900 001 227 (EUR 0.49/min from fixed lines, different costs may apply for mobile calls) ResBT-Germany@aviareps.com	Airport Frankfurt Airport Ticket Office Havas Germany GmbH Terminal 2, Hall E, Desk 939
Hamburg	Airport Fuhrsbüttel Terminal 1, Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office Havas Germany GmbH
Munich	Airport Munich Terminal 1 Airport Ticket Office Havas Germany GmbH
GREECE	
Athens Tal Aviation 44 Ilious str. 17564 - P.Falio ☎ +30 210 9341500 F: +30 210 9341620 airbaltic@tal-aviation.gr	Athens International Airport Airport Ticket Office Goldair Handling
HUNGARY	
Budapest Tensi Aviation Kft. Komjádi Béla utca 1. ☎ +36 1 3451526 F: +36 1 9991466 aviation@tensi.hu	Budapest Airport Airport Ticket Office Celebi Ground Handling Hungary
ISRAEL	
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 Laufer Aviation GHI Level 3, Terminal 3 ☎ +972 39754076
ITALY	
Rome Tal Aviation Italy Via Adolfo Rava, 106, 00142, Rome ☎ +39 0654242544 F: +390654242534 airbaltic@italaviation.it	Leonardo da Vinci – Fiumicino Airport Terminal 3, Departure Hall A.R.E. Airline Representative Europe
Bari	Bari Airport Airport Ticket Office Bari Palese
Milan	Milan Malpensa Airport Terminal 1, Departure Level Airport Ticket Office A.R.E. Airline Representative Europe
Olbia	Olbia Geasur S.P.A. International Airport Costa Smeralda
Venice	Airport Venice Marco Polo Airport Ticket Office A.R.E. Airline Representative Europe
LATVIA	
Riga ☎ 90001100 (0.51 EUR/min for local calls +371 67006006 for international calls)	Riga International Airport Main Terminal Airport Ticket Office airBaltic
LITHUANIA	
Vilnius ☎ 890015004 (2.12 LTL/min, local calls only) vnreservations@airbaltic.com	Vilnius International Airport Airport Ticket Office Litcargus ticketing@litcargus.lt
Palanga	Palanga Airport Airport Ticket Office Orlaivių Aptarnavimo Agentūra ☎ +370 46052300 F: +370 46056401
MALTA	
Malta	Malta Airport Airport Ticket Office Air Malta ☎ +356 22999620 mia.airmalta@airmalta.com
MOLDOVA	
Chisinau ☎ +373 22 549339 ☎ +549340, 549342 F: +373 22549341 agency@airservice.md	Chisinau Airport Airport Tickets Office Air Service ☎ + 373 22 525 506
NORWAY	
Oslo	Airport Oslo Gaardemoen Departure hall Area H Menzies Aviation Ticket Office

Country/City Ticket offices	Airport Ticket Offices
POLAND	
Warsaw INTAIR 69 Koszykowa str. apt 5 (2 nd floor) ☎ 0048/22 559 39 32 F: 0048/22 559 39 38 airbaltic@intair.pl	Warsaw Airport Airport Ticket Office BGS
RUSSIA	
Moscow	International Airport Sheremetyevo Terminal E Airport Ticket Office DAVS ☎ +7 (495) 9564661
	International Airport Domodedovo Airport Ticket Office DAVS Ticketing counters no: 177, 185
St. Petersburg	Airport Pulkovo Terminal 2 Airport Ticket Office LTD North-West Transport Agency
SPAIN	
Barcelona	Airport El Prat de Llobregat Terminal 1 Airport Ticket Office Lufthansa Ticket Desk
SWEDEN	
Stockholm	Stockholm Arlanda Airport Airport Ticket Office airBaltic / Nordic Aero International Terminal 5
SWITZERLAND	
Zurich c/o Airline & Tourism Center GmbH ☎ +41 (0) 44 286 99 73 airBaltic-Switzerland@ aviareps.com	Airport Zurich Kloten Airport Ticket Office Swissport Terminal 2
UKRAINE	
Kiev	Airport Borispol Terminal D Airport Ticket Office Interavia ☎ +380 442 817 461 kbp.ticketing@interavia.ua call-center line +380 443 840 120
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	
Abu Dhabi	Abu Dhabi International Airport Airport Ticket Office ADAC
UNITED KINGDOM	
London Aviacircle Building D, 2 nd floor 28-29 The Quadrant Business Centre 135 Salusbury Road, London NW6 6RJ ☎ +44 870 774 2253 Res.AirBaltic@aviacircle.com	Airport Gatwick Airport Ticket Office Skybreak Terminal S
USA	
New York airBaltic USA 147 West 35th Street, Suite 1505 New York, NY 10001 ☎ +1 - 877 359 2258 ☎ +1 - 646 300 7727 nyc@aviaworldna.com	
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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	
UZBEKISTAN	
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.

One-way ticket in Basic Class from Riga to Vilnius/Palanga/Tallinn or other *airBaltic* destinations if booked at least three months before departure only at www.airbaltic.com. Fares are subject to availability and not available for all flights or days. Transaction fee is not included in the price. Special conditions apply.

TIME of ART

ВРЕМЯ ИСКУССТВУ В ВАШЕЙ ЖИЗНИ
ОТ КАРИМА РАШИДА В ЮРМАЛЕ

by *Karim*



KADO KARIM

ЭКСКЛЮЗИВНЫЙ ЖИЛОЙ КОМПЛЕКС В ЮРМАЛЕ
ОТ ВЕДУЩЕГО МИРОВОГО ДИЗАЙНЕРА КАРИМА РАШИДА

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