

balticoutlook

JULY 2015

airBaltic
inflight magazine

The Wild Wild West,
or another side of

ZURICH

Plus:

THE BEST OF THE AMALFI COAST

ALTAUSSEE: A PLACE FOR ALL
WALKS OF LIFE

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THE NETHERLANDS

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Юрмала, Лиелупе, проспект Булдуру
Площадь земли 2136 м²
Площадь здания 441 м²
3 этажа, 5 комнат
Цена по запросу

Просторный, светлый, скрытый от посторонних глаз дом в тихом районе Юрмалы – Лиелупе. На первом этаже гостиная объединенная со столовой, кухня, 2 санузла, терраса, бассейн, сауна, вместительный гараж. На втором этаже: 2 спальни, гардеробные, гостевая спальня, 3 ванных комнаты, 2 детские. Так же есть цокольный этаж, где находятся зона отдыха и технические помещения. Вокруг красивая, благоустроенная территория.



Юрмала, Булдури, проспект Булдуру
Площадь квартиры 180,5 м²
4 этаж, 4 комнаты
Цена по запросу

Квартира в четырехэтажном жилом доме в Юрмале, в 280 м от пляжа Рижского залива. Дом находится рядом с дюнами и сосновым бором, что обеспечивает прекрасный вид и всегда свежий воздух. Квартира состоит из зала, кухни, гостиной с камином, объединенного санитарно технического помещения, туалета, кабинета, двух комнат, коридора и двух террас. Общая площадь наружной части квартиры – 39,80 м². 3 парковочных места на подземной стоянке. Территория вокруг дома благоустроена и ограждена.



Латвия, Рига, Републикас Лаукумс
Общая площадь: 228 м²
7-ой этаж, 5 комнат
Цена: по запросу

Эксклюзивный двухэтажный пентхаус общей площадью 228 м² с огромными панорамными окнами и видом на Даугаву и Старую Ригу. В квартире 5 комнат, просторный холл соединен с полностью оборудованной кухней и гостиной 60 м², 2 спальни, 15 м² гардеробная с окном, кабинет, 2 санузла, сауна. Эксклюзивная отделка. В гостиной установлен камин. Терраса площадью 53 м² покрыта террасной доской и оборудована летней мебелью. Подземный паркинг на 2 машины.



Латвия, Рига, улица Лиелирбес
Площадь квартиры 158 м²
24 этаж, 3 комнаты
Цена 650 000 EUR

Просторная трехкомнатная квартира DE-LUXE класса с панорамным видом в сторону Юрмалы (на горизонте видно море). Общая площадь квартиры 158 м², из которых 28 м² составляет просторная терраса. Квартира с двумя спальнями, двумя санузлами, со встроенной мебелью и встроенной техникой А-класса. На этаже расположены только 2 квартиры. В доме 2 скоростных лифта, круглосуточная охрана. Во дворе детская площадка. 2 парковочных места на подземной парковке включены.



Недвижимость в Юрмале и Риге

Агентство Ordo осуществляет сделки по продаже и аренде недвижимости в престижных районах Юрмалы и Риги. Мы поможем вам сориентироваться и принять оптимальное решение с учетом ваших пожеланий, а также возьмем на себя заботы о формальностях.

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MARTIN ALEXANDER GAUSS
Chief Executive Officer *airBaltic*

Dear Customer,

Modern aircraft are the backbone of air travel, permitting passengers to enjoy better onboard comfort offered by the latest technology. The improved fuel burn and range performance of all-new aircraft make new destinations become accessible, generating additional business opportunities and creating a new circle of travellers that didn't exist before. It is always exciting when a new aircraft joins an airline fleet, as this invariably results in better service, smoother operations, greater fuel-efficiency and lower costs.

airBaltic's future aircraft – the *Bombardier CS300* – made its historic air show debut last month in Paris, as numerous analysts, engineers and other industry specialists stood watching in admiration. The flight demonstrated once again that this state-of-the-art model can go even beyond its expected performance in many areas, burning 20% less fuel than similar aircraft and resulting in economic gains of up to 15% in operations. The CS300 also boasts an unmatched environmental footprint, with carbon emissions slashed by one fifth and noise levels four times quieter compared to currently operating aircraft.

These and numerous other aspects induced our experts to opt for a fleet modernisation that best suits *airBaltic* and you, our customers. We are very much looking forward to seeing the *Bombardier CS300* join our operations in 2016.

Did you know that we have announced 15 new destinations for this summer season – the highest number since we started our restructuring and returned to profitability?

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

Yours,
Martin Alexander Gauss



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THE WILD WILD
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SIDE OF ZÜRICH,
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THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS



ELĪNA RUKA
 Old-time charm in modern-day Jūrmala (p. 54)

Career: I have been a freelance writer for over ten years, contributing to a range of magazines, primarily about photography and travel. Writing is as much a passion and hobby as my other profession – being an artist. One adds to other, letting me meet people whom I might have never met otherwise.
Proud of: Winning the Fulbright Scholarship and pursuing my dream of studying photography at the highest level at a prominent art school in the USA.
Must-visit city: Paris for the charming picnics in its parks and on the banks of the Seine, Ålesund for its proximity to nature and the opportunity to enjoy its white nights in the summer.
Life motto: "The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page," wrote Saint Augustine of Hippo. That and going to places that are not always on my to-do list.



ANDA KĀRKLĪŅA
 The optimist who bends spoons (p. 72)

Career: Writing is both my work and my hobby. An incessant desire to write induced me to create my own blog andasstuff.wordpress.lv, in which I publish my thoughts about travel, literature, food and creative personalities.
Proud of: The ability to smile and to make other people happy. I am an incurable optimist and lover of life. If I had to describe myself in one sentence, then I would say that I am a bit of a crazy girl with a big heart and an infinite love for the world.
Must-visit place: The turquoise Côte d'Azur and the romantic towns and cities of Provence, which are already being infused with the scent of lavender from the surrounding fields at this time of year.
Life motto: Give happiness to others and receive it in return!



DACE VAIVARA
 The best of the Amalfi coast (p. 82)

Career: After studying fashion design at the Art Academy of Latvia, I gained a fantastic opportunity to further my education for another year at the Fashion and Costume Design Academy of Rome. While in Italy, I was invited to write about fashion for a newly created magazine in Latvia. Since then I have worked as a fashion correspondent for *Latvian Television* and as an editor at various fashion magazines.
Proud of: I am the only accredited fashion journalist from Latvia who has attended every *Milan Fashion Week* and *Rome Haute Couture Fashion Week* since 1997.
Must-visit city: All roads lead to Rome, even in the heat of July. I visit Rome as my second home several times a year, and this summer I plan to spend my vacation there as well, attending fashion shows and concerts and relaxing by the sea.
Life motto: Do what you enjoy doing and you will never have to work. Fashion is my passion, as is travelling around the world. Both activities have given me a huge dose of positive emotions and inspiration for my creative work.

baltic Outlook

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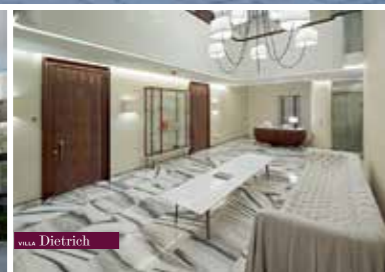


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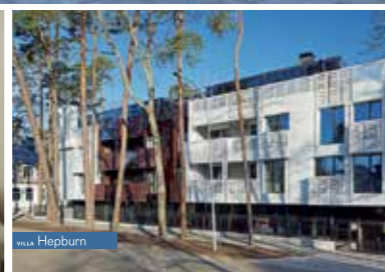
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Фасад Villa Churchill



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Главный фасад здания, вид с ул. Элизабетес

ЖИЛОЙ КВАРТАЛ, КОТОРЫЙ СТАЛ ЛЕГЕНДОЙ

В Латвии, в Юрмале, на первой линии моря, в центре «золотой мили» построен жилой квартал, уникальный по своей сути. Всего полтора часа полета от шумной Москвы - и вы в своем загородном доме в Европе. Здесь все продумано: от элегантно-го пляжа до прогулочных велосипедов с логотипом LEGEND., дизайнерских холлов и безупречного сервиса. Квартал LEGEND. – это три многоквартирных жилых дома: Villa Churchill, Villa Hepburn, Villa Dietrich, частная вилла Villa Hemingway, клубный дом Villa Tiffany и инфраструктура, не

имеющая аналогов на юрмальском побережье. Для идеального отдыха и комфорта жителей предлагаются детская площадка, ресторан Philippe с винным погребом и летней террасой, спа-комплекс Moon River с плавательным бассейном, паровой баней, сауной, джакузи, комнатами отдыха и массажными кабинетами, кардио тренажерным залом, залом для занятий йогой и комфортабельный пляж LEGEND. Beach.

В ЯНВАРЕ 2015 ГОДА КВАРТАЛ СДАН В ЭКСПЛУАТАЦИЮ

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В красивейшей части тихого центра Риги, в окружении жемчужин югендстиля, занесенных в культурный фонд UNESCO, возведено здание TAL RESIDENCE – будущий памятник архитектуры XXI века. TAL RESIDENCE – дань уважения великому гению, шахматисту, рижанину Михаилу Талю, традициям и истории города Риги. Исключительность месторасположения и архитектурных решений, подземный паркинг – уникальные преимущества проекта. Авантюризм, бескомпромиссность в принятии решений, неиссякаемый оптимизм и энергия, которые сопровождали Михаила Талья на его жизненном пути, стали источником вдохновения для создателей TAL RESIDENCE и нашли отражение в архитектурных решениях. Современная архитектура здания с ее открытостью и прозрачностью позволяет жителям TAL RESIDENCE из панорамных окон и с просторных террас наслаждаться изумительными видами на исторические здания квартала.

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

Enjoying Provence in the Slow Lane

In April of this year, we caught the tail end of the annual migration of snowbirds (i.e. retirees like myself) to southerly climes, shortly before their return to the north in the spring. The relatively warm winter had been a letdown for lovers of snow and ice in Latvia, but cool temperatures dragged on for a long time afterward. Since my lady friend and I love French culture, and Provence in particular, we chose the town of Saint-Paul de Vence to visit, staying for a week at an apartment about ten minutes by foot above this medieval hill town.

Upon our arrival on the bus from Nice, we realised that we would have trouble locating the house where we were staying. Eventually, we found it nestled on an oddly shaped side alley and settled into a charming two-storey garden apartment attached to a small chapel. The interior was modern, while the exterior walls were made of irregular old masonry, some of which may have been quarried from a Roman ruin. This was perfect for our stay in Provence. The garden terrace, for its part, contained orange, mandarin and lemon trees, with lavender and rosemary bushes along its inside wall. The *pièce de résistance* was the garden view of Saint-Paul de Vence lit up against the evening sky. The water in the swimming pool was still too cold for a dip, but we swam in it anyway.



*In Saint-Paul de Vence,
Provence*

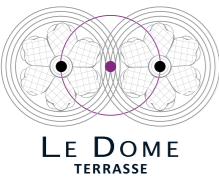
I love French culture, and Provence in particular

Since the town was once a popular hangout for artists and celebrities, we knew that it would be picturesque. We were surprised at the light pastel pavements that had been carefully laid in various artistic patterns on a few of the narrow streets. Similar stone constructions can be encountered in various Mediterranean locations, but they are usually not applied with such meticulous care and artistry. Some of the pavements here had floral

themes, while others were geometric. The round manhole covers were perhaps the most interesting, providing an unending variety of tactile feelings underfoot.

The people of the town were friendly and easy-going. We spent many hours at a café just outside the main gate to the city, watching games of *boules* in the adjacent dusty square. In this game, shiny metal balls are rolled or thrown, with the object of knocking out the opponents' *boules* that are closer to the smaller target ball. An older woman in flowing black robes also watched the games, smoking a long, thin pipe and fascinating us to no end.

One day, we chanced upon a magical treasure corner by the south-facing wall of the town. It is a tiny walled triangle, just big enough for a couple of potted plants, a blanket with a black Labrador on it and a metal chair. Neither of us could stop photographing this special little place and being photographed there. A small plaque on the wall above identified this building as the wartime abode of popular French poet and film script writer Jacques Prévert, who was working on the production of one of the most influential French movies of all time, *Children of Paradise* (*Les Enfants du Paradis* – 1945). This unexpected discovery enhanced our pleasant memories of the quiet and charming town. **BO**



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SPOTLIGHT ON THE SUMMER

Five things that you should do in Latvia in July

- 1/ Attend a colourful lavender festival on July 18, 19 and 25. The festival is being organised by a young family-run enterprise that is now the largest lavender grower in the country. (lillaslavender.com)
- 2/ Enjoy freshly picked raspberries, which are rich in vitamin C and very nutritious.
- 3/ See electropop diva Roisin Murphy (IR) perform on July 23 at the magnificent open-air stage by the ruins of Sigulda Castle. (Tickets at bilesuserviss.lv)
- 4/ Attend the events at the renowned Cēsis Art Festival, which are focusing this year on the Nordic countries and Nordic identity. (cesufestivals.lv)
- 5/ Go out on a day hike along Latvia's beautiful seacoast.

ON THIS MONTH'S MENU

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

THE TREND:

Design The internationally awarded Latvian *an&angel* design brand has launched its new *MOON* collection of glassware, which continues in the traditions of the popular and award-winning *DECO* collection, yet introduces new accents and a fresh outline. A perfect way to highlight the colours of summer fruits and berries.

① angel.lv



Beauty The new *Mercedes-Benz Rose* fragrance for women contains a cocktail of black currant and lemon splashed by rose petals and magnolia. Fresh, unobtrusive and ladylike.

Music As Latvia's entrant at this year's Eurovision song contest, Aminata Savadogo enchanted millions of viewers with her emotional song *Love Injected*, finishing in sixth place. Other beautiful and sensual melodies can be heard on the singer's new debut album, *Inner Voice*. Savadogo is the sole author of both the words and the music in these songs.



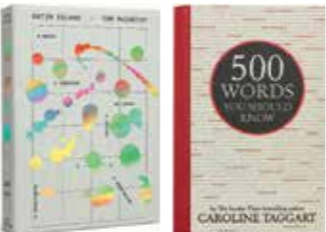
SEA AND FISHERMEN'S FESTIVAL

Coastal cities and towns all across Latvia will be celebrating the Sea and Fishermen's Festival on July 11. It is the country's second largest summer festival after *Jāņi* (St. John's Day). The festival has taken place every year on the second Saturday of July since 1936. Colourful parades, open-air concerts, sporting competitions and other events provide an ideal excuse to get away for the weekend, relax by the sea and taste some freshly smoked fish from the Baltic Sea.



Text by **ZANE NIKODEMUSA**
Publicity photos and
by **GINTS IVUŠKĀNS, F64**

READING LIST



Tom McCarthy. *Satin Island*

British author Tom McCarthy's ability to write literature that is largely unclassifiable has made him a dark horse favourite and "the author of a generation", according to a number of critics. His latest book concerns a "corporate anthropologist" who is assigned to write up a mega-report on the state of society. Lots of food for thought about conspiracies, corporatism and the daydreaming insights of an unexpectedly loveable protagonist.

EUR 18, ① randomhouse.com

Caroline Taggart. *500 Words You Should Know*

Callipygian? Truculent? Perspicacious? Thought not. This refreshing, engaging book will improve your English vocabulary and teach you to bring uncommon, unique words into everyday use – in the appropriate way and in the correct context. The book also clears up a number of common lexical misunderstandings with words that everyone thinks they know, but commonly use mistakenly. Not just for language geeks.

EUR 13, ① mombooks.com

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OPENING OF THE FESTIVAL. ITALIAN BAROQUE ARIAS AND EARLY ENGLISH SONGS
- Thursday, 9 July, 8 PM, Riga Cathedral
GREGORIAN CHANTS AND BAGPIPES
- Friday, 10 July, 7 PM, St. Peter's Church
FROM INDIA THROUGH THE MILLENNIA
- Friday, 10 July, 10 PM, St. Peter's Church
LATVIAN RADIO CHOIR. HENRY PURCELL
- Saturday, 11 July, 1 PM, Rundale Palace White Hall
A CONCERT PERFORMANCE FOR CHILDREN "THE STORY OF KING THRUSHBEARD"
- Saturday, 11 July, 4 PM, Rundale Palace White Hall
SERGEJS JĒGERS AND ELĪNA ŠIMKUS. JEWELS OF BAROQUE MUSIC
- Saturday, 11 July, 6 PM, Rundale Palace Golden Hall
BACH, HANDEL AND VIVALDI
- Saturday, 11 July, 8 PM, Rundale Palace White Hall
MOZART, BACH AND VIVALDI
- Saturday, 11 July, 10 PM, Rundale Palace garden
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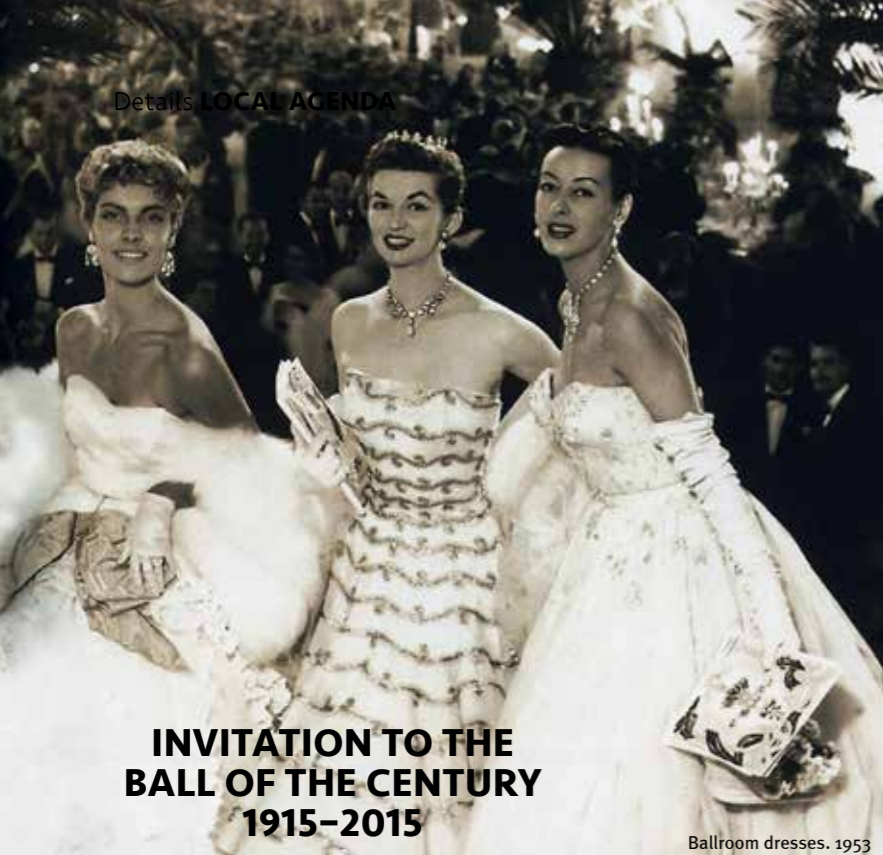
LATVIJAS RĀDĪO



LATVIJAS RĀDĪO 3



MŪZIKAS SAULE



INVITATION TO THE BALL OF THE CENTURY 1915-2015

Ballroom dresses. 1953

Ielūgums uz gadsimta balli.
1915-2015

**EXHIBITION OF
EVENING DRESSES
FROM THE
COLLECTION OF
FASHION HISTORIAN
ALEKSANDR VASILYEV**
Museum of Decorative Arts and Design,
Riga / July 16 – October 25

This exhibition is devoted to dresses that embody women's dreams of happiness, as what could be more desirable than an invitation to a ball? The ballroom and evening dresses on display are from the collection of world-famous Russian-French fashion historian Aleksandr Vasilyev and cover the last century, from 1915 to 2015.

① Inmm.lv
Skārņu iela 10/20



Laima Vaikule

LAIMA VAIKULE RENDEZ- VOUS MUSIC FESTIVAL

**Dzintari concert hall,
Jūrmala
July 8 and 9**

Latvian singer Laima Vaikule will be performing together with a local and international cast of friends for two days at one of her home country's most beautiful concert halls. She will be joined onstage by Latvian performers Intars Busulis, Linda Leen and Jānis Stibelis as well as a number of popular performers from the CIS, including Aleksandr Buynov and Verka Serdutchka. "Europe has no lack of sunny resorts with larger and more grandiose concert halls, but it is here where I feel most at home," says Vaikule of her decision to hold the festival in Jūrmala.

Tickets at bilesuserviss.lv
Turaidas iela 1

Text by **ZANE NIKODEMUSA**
Publicity photos and
by **ROMĀNS KOKŠAROVs**, F64

Various places in Riga July 24 and 25

This year's main jazz event in Riga will treat music lovers to several notable performances. The opening concert will take place on July 24 underneath the summer sky at Dom Square in the Old Town, while

jazz legends will give two concerts at the Arena Riga on the 24th and 25th. Among them is one of the most exciting contemporary composers and jazz musicians, Stanley Clarke. He has received numerous awards, including a *Grammy* and *Emmy* award.

Tickets at bilesuserviss.lv



Stanley Clarke

JULY 2015

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP **MXGP** AND **MX2** MOTOCROSS RACES



**Zelta Zirgs sports and recreation
complex, Ķegums
July 11 and 12**

The Latvian stage of the MXGP and MX2 world championship will see the planet's best motocross racers competing head to head, including the talented young Latvian Pauls Jonass, whose meteoric rise to fame is being followed by thousands of fans across the world. One month later, on August 8 and 9, the race circuit at Ķegums will host another world championship motocross race in the sidecar and quadricycle classes.

Tickets at bilesuserviss.lv

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Edward Steichen. *Actress Pola Negri*. 1925 (copy after 1953). Silver gelatine copy. From the collection of the National Museum of History and Art, Luxembourg © 2014 Estate of Edward Steichen / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

LMT SUMMER SOUND MUSIC FESTIVAL

Liepāja beach / July 10 and 11

The festival will feature performances by *Mumiy Troll* (RU), *Apocaliptyca* (FI), *Nico & Vinz* (NO) and many local bands as well as a parachute-jumping show, an amusement park area and sports competitions. Choose your wardrobe in accordance with the recommended sailor-style dress code.

① summersound.lv

Tickets at bilesuserviss.lv (price for a two-day pass: EUR 28)



Mumiy Troll

EDWARD STEICHEN. PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

Arsenāls exhibition hall, Riga
Until September 6

For the first time ever, Riga's inhabitants will have the chance to see original works by outstanding 20th-century photographer Edward Steichen (1879–1973) in an exhibition that is part of the cultural programme of Latvia's presidency of the EU Council. Born in Luxembourg, Steichen immigrated to the United States and became one of the world's most recognised portrait photographers. He also excelled in advertising and documentary photography. The exhibition in Riga features portraits of such famous actors as Greta Garbo, Charlie Chaplin and Myrna Loy, historically significant politicians Winston Churchill and Theodore Roosevelt and many more celebrities.

① Inmm.lv

Torņa iela 1

WIZARD TROPHY INTERNATIONAL MAGIC FESTIVAL



Dzintari concert hall, Jūrmala

July 31-August 2

This festival will gather some of the world's most talented magicians and includes three evening concerts at the *Dzintari* concert hall as well as day programmes that will be open to the public in different parts of Jūrmala. The international cast of performers is set to amaze audiences and test the minds of even the most diehard sceptics!

Tickets at bilesuserviss.lv

Turaidas iela 1

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Mark Rothko Art Centre is a multi-functional contemporary art and culture centre located in the former Artillery Arsenal building (1833) of the Dinaburg Fortress. Visitors will see Mark Rothko's artwork and digital exposition dedicated to his life and art, other exhibitions will include artwork of recognized Latvian and International artists. We offer guided tours of the Art Centre exhibitions and Daugavpils Fortress.

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Untamed Andrejsala

A creative district close to Riga's city centre

Text by **LIENE PĀLĒNA**
Photos by **ANDREJS TERENTJEVS, F64**



Along with stately Art Nouveau buildings, charming wooden houses and historical medieval structures, Riga is home to areas where industrial territories harmoniously coexist with parks, canals and other waterways. Andrejsala is one such place. While the district is right next to the city centre, it obstinately continues to retain an untamed nature.

No one knows when this parcel of land rose from the depths of the Daugava, but like other islands, it probably arose from changes in the course of the river. Andrejsala

appears as an uninhabited territory belonging to the City of Riga in 19th-century maps and technically is no longer an island, its eastern side now firmly merged with the mainland.

Aside from its current revival, Andrejsala's golden age was in the years before the First World War, when it was a hub of economic activity as part of the Port of Riga. Regardless of the regime changes that followed, Andrejsala continued to serve as a cargo port, as evidenced by the numerous warehouses and dockworkers' dormitories on the former island.

Today Andrejsala is being transformed into a

vibrant creative district. It now houses several top-rated restaurants whose terraces provide breathtaking views of the Riga skyline and Daugava River, along with architectural, advertising and other firms. Young entrepreneurs, for their part, are renting office and residential space in a number of restored buildings. The people who live in Andrejsala say that life is good there, and they are probably right in saying so. After all, they have their own breakwater with a secluded view of the sunset, decades-old apple orchards and a glamorous yachting pier at their disposal. **BO**



TOP 3

Must-do's at Andrejsala

CYCLE through the island – the best way to explore this unique territory.

HAVE a picnic and watch the sunset over the pier at Andrejsala – a truly unforgettable experience.

PLAY paintball or rent a kayak and take a tour of the Daugava River – perfect activities for adventurous types.

**DZINTARU
KONCERTZĀLE**

**Jurmala
Festival**

**20.-26.jūlijs
2015**

www.jumalasfestivals.lv

20.07.2015	18:00	"Jūrmalas festivāla" atklāšana Aleksandrs Antonenko, Latvijas Radio koris "Jurmala Festival" opening Aleksandrs Antonenko, Latvian Radio Choir Открытие "Юрмальского фестиваля" Александр Антоненко, хор Латвийского радио
20.07.2015	20:00	K. Raikins, monoizrāde koncerts - Viss, ko es milu Konstantin Raikin. Everything I love. Константин Райкин. «Самое любимое»
21.07.2015	20:00	Teatro di Milano. Viva Verdi. Milānas operas un baleta teātra trupa, Jūrmalas festivāla orķestris, diriģents Valters Borins Teatro di Milano. Viva Verdi. Ballet of Milan, Jurmala Festival Orchestra, conductor Valters Borins Teatro di Milano. Viva Verdi. Труппа Миланского театра оперы и балета, оркестр Юрмальского фестиваля, дирижер Вальтер Борин (Valters Borins)
23.07.2015	20:00	Brodvejas mūziklu zelta izlase, solisti: Deborah Myers, Adrian der Gregorian, diriģents Roberts Purvis, Jūrmalas festivāla orķestris Broadway night, soloists: Deborah Myers, Adrian der Gregorian, conductor Robert Purvis, Jurmala Festival Orchestra Золотой фонд Бродвейских мюзиклов, солисты: Дебора Майерс (Deborah Myers), Адриан дер Грегорин (Adrian der Gregorian), дирижер Роберт Пуравис (Robert Purvis), оркестр Юрмальского фестиваля
24.07.2015	18:00	Tbilisi Big Band/ Tbilisi Big Band/ Tbilisi Big Band
24.07.2015	20:00	Koncerts "BB King" piemiņai. Latvijas Radio bigbends, soliste Diane Schuur "Tribute to BB King". Latvian Radio Big Band, soloist Diane Schuur Концерт памяти "BB King". Биг-бэнд Латвийского радио, солистка Дайан Шуур (Diane Schuur)
25.07.2015	19:30	Mākslas projekts XXI. Gadsimta tenori - Zelta šļāgeri par mīlestību The Tenors of the XXI century. "Golden hits about love" Арт-проект "Теноры 21 века". "Золотые шлягеры о любви"
26.07.2015	20:00	"Jūrmalas festivāla" noslēguma koncerts – Vīnes valši un operu ārijas. Soloists: Aleksandrs Antonenko, Rebecca Teem, Egils Silins, Alisa Zinovjeva, diriģents Vello Pahn, Jūrmalas festivāla orķestris „Jurmala Festival” closing night – Viennese waltzes and opera arias. Soloists: Aleksandrs Antonenko, Rebecca Teem, Egils Silins, Alisa Zinovjeva, conductor Vello Pahn, Jurmala Festival Orchestra Заключительный концерт "Юрмальского фестиваля" – венские вальсы и оперные арии. Солисты: Александр Антоненко, Ребекка Тим (Rebecca Teem), Эгилс Силиньш (Egils Silins), Алиса Зиновьева, дирижер Велло Пайн (Vello Pahn), оркестр Юрмальского фестиваля



Jurmala

www.dzintarukonzertzale.lv



Hotel Henriette



Chess Hotel



Les Bains

Text by **UNA MEISTERE**,
anothertravelguide.com
Publicity photos and
by **AINARS ERGLIS**

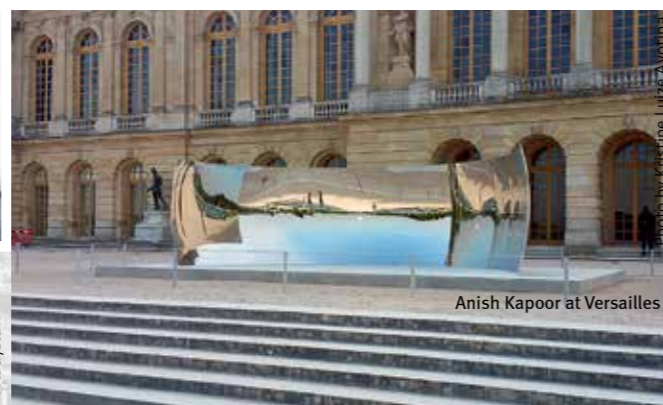
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The Palace of Versailles is continuing a summer tradition that began two years ago of installing contemporary artworks in its ornate halls and legendary gardens. This time, Bombay-born and London-based sculptor **Anish Kapoor** will be the featured artist (June 16 - November 1; chateauversailles.fr). Known for gigantic and simple sculptures that unite a contemporary feel with mythological elements, Kapoor is one of the world's best-known modern-day sculptors. His artworks are said to be both material and immaterial, destroying preconceptions about time and space and drawing the viewer into an emotional abyss worthy of Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass*, and *What Alice Found There*. The famous artist's works will be shown in the palace gardens and in the Hall of Mirrors, which is considered to be the heart of the stately edifice.

Paris' hotel scene, for its part, has been supplemented this season by three no less provocative and noteworthy newcomers. The **Chess Hotel** (6 rue du Helder; thechesshotel.com) has a classically elegant interior with an emphasis on black and white. The vestibule looks like a giant chessboard – choose a square on the black-and-white floor and make your move forward. Elegant and with panache. The *Chess Hotel* is located in the 9th arrondissement, not far from the opera and the *Printemps* and *Galleries Lafayette* fashion department stores. The establishment has 50 rooms, with other interior colours added to a similar extent as the bright red lipstick on the faces of Alfred Hitchcock's fabled *femmes fatales*.

The **Hotel Henriette** (9 rue des Gobelins; hotelheriette.com) offers a completely different atmosphere set up by fashion journalist Vanessa Scoffier. The small 32-room hotel can be found in the bohemian Rive Gauche area, its interior reflecting a mix of contemporary design and flea-market finds, design classics and personally chosen trinkets from fashion outings to Paris, Berlin and Copenhagen.

Of Paris' three newest hotels, **Les Bains** (7 rue du Bourg l'Abbé; lesbains-paris.com) has definitely made the biggest splash. It is housed in a legendary late-19th-century building that once served as a public bathhouse and that was a favourite haunt of such celebrities as writer Marcel Proust. During the 1970s the bathhouse was transformed into the famous *Les Bains Douches* nightclub, which was frequented by numerous celebrities and was known for its wild parties. Its rebirth as a hotel was overseen by French movie director and producer Jean-Pierre Marois. The hotel has 39 rooms and a special hall in the basement for concerts and performances, thus paying tribute to the edifice's tumultuous past.



Anish Kapoor at Versailles



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Yayoi Kusama, *Dots Obsession*, 2013
Mixed media
Courtesy of Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo/
Singapore, Victoria Miro, London,
David Zwirner, New York/London,
KUSAMA Enterprise

Moscow



Restaurant Dr. Zhivago



Restaurant White Rabbit

Cultural tourists can now add a new destination to visit in the Russian capital. Last month, the **Garage Museum of Contemporary Art** opened to the public in its new home in Gorky Park (garageccc.com/en). Designed by Dutch starchitect Rem Koolhaas, the building was financed by art collector Dasha Zhukova, who is also known as the wife of Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich. The 5400-m² edifice stands in the place of the *Vremena Goda*, a restaurant that was built in the 1960s and was closed in the 1990s, standing empty and neglected for 20 years.

Some of the restaurant's Soviet-era tiles, bricks and mosaics have been preserved, while the building itself was raised 2.25 metres above the ground and encapsulated in a transparent double polycarbonate casing. Divided into two levels, the *Garage* space houses five exhibition galleries, a store, a café, an auditorium and – since one of the museum's priorities is education – a creative centre for children.

Russian artist Erik Bulatov created a gigantic installation especially for the museum atrium, which opened with the launching of two major exhibitions: one by Argentinian artist Rirkrit Tiravanija and one by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama (both showing until August 23). This is Kusama's first exhibition in Russia, which she has marked by creating an outdoor installation named *Ascension of Polka Dots on the Trees* and which leads visitors through Gorky Park.

One of the most talked-about new restaurants in Moscow is **Dr. Zhivago** (15/1 ulitsa Mokhovaya, Hotel National Moscow). The latest addition to Alexander Rappoport's growing gastronomic empire, it is located not far from the Kremlin in the legendary *Hotel National*. Built in 1902, the hotel was once frequented by ill-fated communist politician Leon Trotsky, who enjoyed dining there. Named after the most famous novel by Nobel-prize-winning author Boris Pasternak, the restaurant pays tribute to Russia's revolutionary past with an interior that is dominated by three colours: white, red and black. A five-pointed ruby star adorns the gilded ceiling, while the murals and other decorative elements have been inspired by the works of various early 20th-century Russian artists, including Kazimir Malevich, Aleksandr Deyeneka and Kuzma Petrov-Vodkin. The bold contemporary menu provides modern gastronomic interpretations of classical Russian dishes.

The **White Rabbit** restaurant (Smolenskaya ploshchad, bld. 3, 16th floor; whiterabbitmoscow.com) is also a prime gourmet destination, ranking a respectable 23rd in a recently released list of the world's top restaurants. Its splendid location, for one, is pretty hard to beat – on the 16th floor of the Smolenskiy Passage, under a glass cupola that offers a 360-degree panoramic view of the city below. The bewitching sight is complemented by no less magical pleasures to the taste buds, thanks to the outstanding culinary skills of young award-winning chef Vladimir Mukhin. The restaurant's cuisine can be described as a virtuous mix of classical Russian recipes and foreign flavours – just like the city of Moscow itself. Bear in mind that a meal at this establishment will not come cheap!

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Philos Athens concept store

Terrapolis exhibition

'Selfie spot' at the hotel *Grande Bretagne*

Leonidas Kourgiantakis, from
the series *Drawer XXII*, 2005

Athens is currently a hotbed of unusual ideas. The **Ametria** exhibition (Pireos St., deste.gr; until October 11) at the Benaki Museum serves as a reminder of how beneficial it can be to look at the world outside of one's usual frame of view. The exhibition is set up like a labyrinth, with a defined entry and exit, but with no set order for viewing the works. Therefore, it is easy to lose one's orientation and to seemingly return to the same spot again and again, discovering something new and unexpected each time. In addition, the works lack the usual accompanying labels that denote their year of creation and authors' names. To find this information, one has to consult a map. Along with oeuvres by contemporary artists, the museum also exposes artefacts from its extensive collection. The exhibition is based on an idea by Italian artist Roberto Cuoghi and its name comes from the Greek word *ametros*, which refers to something that cannot be measured, or, in this case, an effect that is similar to when the eye's reflective functions are hindered, resulting in impaired vision.

The **Terrapolis** exhibition, for its part, can be seen as a series of reflections on man's essence and mission in the world. The exhibition is being shown until July 26 in the garden of the French School at Athens (Didotou 6; neon.org.gr), which is being opened to the general public for the first time since the school's construction in 1846. More than 30 sculptures have been placed in the oasis-like garden – including works by Ugo Rondinone, Sarah Lucas and Yayoi Kusama – symbolically recalling man's connection to nature and the animal world. Many of these sculptures incorporate mythological motifs from the times of antiquity.

Another unconventional place to visit is the **Philos Athens** concept store (32 Solonos Str.; philosathens.com), which is located in a Neoclassical house dating from 1937 in the upscale Kolonaki district. The house was originally commissioned by Greek art collector E. Koutlidis, who donated it to the Athens National Gallery shortly before his death, together with an impressive collection of more than 1400 artworks. The monumental wood stairs, tiled floors and time-worn walls in the interior have remained practically intact and one can almost smell the scents that emanated in the household during the time when it was still occupied by its previous owners.

Nowadays, contemporary design objects can be found in the former kitchen together with a rusty furnace, and if your eye catches something appealing from the carefully selected niche clothing brands, then a changing cubicle can be found right among the old sinks. The ground floor also houses a small café where the main menu item is eggs – one of the most protein-rich grocery items. In any case, few other stores in Europe have opted to forsake 21st-century conveniences to this extent. Chipped plaster and peeling wallpaper remain untouched in a milieu where old historical details authentically coexist with contemporary sales items.

If you can't resist taking a selfie of yourself with the Acropolis in the background, then one of the best places to visit is the rooftop bar in the legendary **Hotel Grande Bretagne** (Constitution Square; grandebretagne.gr). Built in 1874, this venerable establishment has greeted numerous illustrious guests, including members of the Kennedy family and singer Maria Callas. The hotel continues to keep up with the times to this day, installing a special "selfie spot" on a small glass platform behind the bar. However, be prepared to wait in a "selfie queue" if sundown is approaching. **BO**



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Text by **TREVOR BAKER**
Photo courtesy of **PETER KNAB**



Salade niçoise from
Alex Mackay's book *Cooking In
Provence* (Ebury Press, 2008)

Salade niçoise: a taste of the Riviera

The story behind the most famous French salad

As anybody from Nice can tell you, there's a right way and a wrong way to make the classic *salade niçoise*. Unfortunately, you'll be lucky if you get the same recipe twice. This dish has managed to become an undisputed classic despite, or because of, the fact that chefs cannot agree on what it actually contains.

At different restaurants, even within Nice itself, you'll find the salad served with or without tuna, anchovies, radishes, lettuce and even potatoes.

The man who has done the most to defend the salad's lost purity is the city's former long-term mayor, Jacques Médecin, who wrote the book *Cuisine Niçoise: Recipes from a Mediterranean Kitchen* in 1983. In it he railed against feeble imitations of the salad and other dishes. He even went so far as to say that his motivation for writing the book was his disgust at seeing "the remains of other people's meals being served under the name *salade niçoise*."

"Whatever you do," he implored, "if you want to be a worthy exponent of *niçoise* cookery, never, never, I beg you, include boiled potato or any other boiled vegetable."

Sadly, this sound advice was drowned out by the controversy that later surrounded Médecin's friendship with National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen and his imprisonment on corruption charges in 1993.

Despite this setback, certain rules do apply to the legendary salad. The first is that it's "composed" rather than "tossed". This means that the ingredients are arranged onto the plate nicely, to the best advantage of their colours and textures, not just thrown together. The salad should contain just the summer flavours of Southern France (so no potatoes, then). It always includes olives, very ripe tomatoes, cucumbers, anchovies and/or tuna, olive oil, garlic and herbs (usually chives and tarragon). Other common ingredients include lettuce, wine vinegar, French beans, hard-boiled eggs and artichoke hearts.

Within these parameters, there's still a huge amount of discussion. Some say that tuna, pretty much ubiquitous outside Nice, is an imposter and that anchovies should provide the salad's fishy kick. Others eschew the garlic, despite the fact that, in France, leaving it out is unthinkable. In any case, if the salad is made to taste great, then you should instantly be transported to a beachside café on the Côte d'Azur.

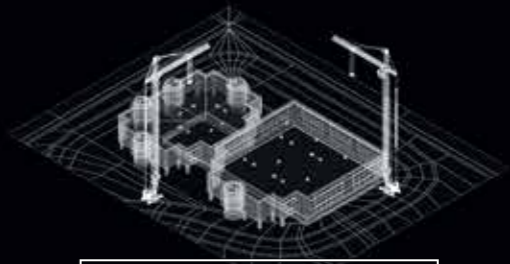
In the comfort of your own kitchen, of course, you can include whatever you like, just as long as you call it a "mixed salad" and not a *niçoise*, which means "in Nice style." While Jacques Médecin was discredited and died in 1998, his legacy continues to live on in Nice – at least where salad is concerned. **BO**

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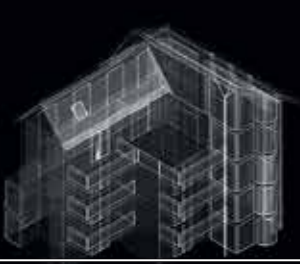
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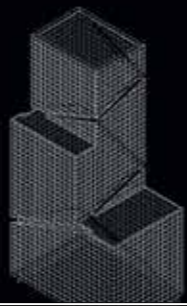
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для жилого проекта класса
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логистического центра



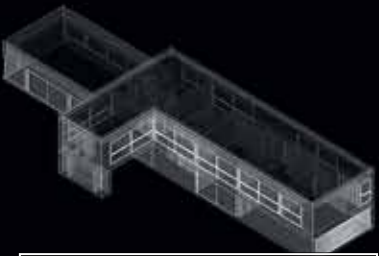
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The rise of poshtels

A new wave of cheap but stylish hospitality

Text by **TREVOR BAKER**
Photos Courtesy of *Safestay*



Safestay hostels in London offer chic and fashionable places to stay



There are few things that the travel industry likes more than a nice portmanteau. Although this might sound like a fancy piece of luggage (and indeed it may also refer to a French suitcase with two compartments), the term *portmanteau* is now more often used to denote the combination of two words such as *motor* and *hotel* to create *motel*, or the more paradoxical *glamour* and *camping* to create *glamping*.

Perhaps the most paradoxical term yet is the *poshtel*, which has been growing in popularity for the last year or so. Poshtel is derived from *posh* and *hostel*, two words that seemingly go together like expensive virgin olive oil and a jug of tap water. Hostels used to be the places where you stayed when you were young, poor and liable to be going out all night, so you weren't particularly bothered about where you laid your head.

However, as the recent economic crisis forced a whole generation of late twenty- and thirty-somethings to – shall we say – downsize their holiday plans, a gap in the market was created for hostels with a touch of style and an implicit guarantee that they would be clean and comfortable at the very least.

Groups such as *Generator* and *Safestay* have opened “poshtels” in some of the best locations in Rome, Paris, Barcelona and London, with perks that you might not expect when you are paying just 20 euros per night. The 916-bed *Generator Paris*, for example, has a rooftop terrace offering a fine view of the Sacré-Cœur basilica (generatorhostels.com). The bar of the poshtel in Camden (London) houses a DJ booth in an imitation red double-decker bus. For those who want a little more serenity, the *Safestay Holland Park* (safestay.co.uk) in West London opened this August in a 17th-century listed building with its own gardens.

To get the real bargains, you still have to share a dorm room, of course. En-suite doubles at *Safestay Holland Park* will, at the time of writing, set you back 122 euros per room during the weekend and 114 euros on weekdays, which are pretty standard “budget” prices for London, while a bed in the enormous 33-person mixed dorm is only 19.98 euros per guest during the week.

Some might think of all this as clever marketing to offer a faint sprinkle of something “cool”, while cleanliness and a pleasant environment are rebranded as “posh” in place of the minimum that you should expect in the first place. However, anything that raises the standards of the hostel industry or pushes down the prices of decent hotel rooms has to be a great thing – or, as travel PRs would probably put it, a *gring*. **BO**

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Festival season

Making the summer happen

When I think of summer music festivals, I think of flowers woven into women’s hair, feathered earrings, bright colours and happy people. Since the legendary festival in Woodstock in 1969, such events have not only been about music and other forms of art. They are also a means for like-minded people to meet, have a great time and sometimes even feel like tourists in their own country.

Nowadays, festivals of different kinds are held all over the world, including Latvia. This summer, the Baltic country has opera, jazz, pop music, art, yoga and even a colour festival in its line-up, much to the pleasure of city-dwellers seeking to take a break from long months at their office desks. Festivals provide a means for participants to recharge their batteries and return home full of positive emotions.

One could therefore hardly think of a more appropriate name than *Positivus* for the largest annual pop music festival in the Baltic countries, which will be held this year from July 17-19 in the northern Latvian port city of Salacgrīva. In the nine years that have passed since the first festival took place, *Positivus* has grown into a hugely popular event that is attended by music fans from all over the world.

Positivus owes its success to several factors, including a beautiful seaside backdrop at the edge of a pine forest and a strong cast of talented local and international performers. In addition, the organisers have tried

Text by **LIENE PĀLĒNA**
Photos Courtesy of
Positivus festival

to ensure that the festival’s guests have access to comfortable accommodations (or at least appropriate spaces for setting up their tents) and that good food is available on the festival grounds. Various entertainment events are also held between concerts to suit visitors of all ages, which is why families with small children can also be seen at the festival in large numbers.

Ģirts Majors, the founder and man in charge of the *Positivus* festival, admits that running such an event takes a lot of hard work. Among the challenges are unpredictable weather conditions, trying to gauge what the public would like to see, and drawing at least 30 well-known world-class acts to perform at the event. Another goal is to maintain the interest of festival-goers so that they keep returning year after year.

“Our main mission is to bring the world’s top acts to Latvia. Music is the main thing and we want to make sure that it remains at a higher level than fast food,” he says.

Numerous well-known performers have taken to the *Positivus* stage in the past, including Sinéad O’Connor (IE), Kraftwerk (DE), Moby (US), Sigur Rós (IS), Keane (UK), the Manic Street Preachers (UK), Fatboy Slim (UK) and Malcolm McLaren (UK). This month, Robert Plant (UK), Kasabian (UK) and Placebo (UK) will be among the many acts featured in what look to be three positively unforgettable days. **BO**

positivusfestival.com



HOUSING ESTATE FOR SALE

Brīvības bulvāris 21, Rīga

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

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

Price: **EUR 7 300 000**

COMMERCIAL PREMISES FOR SALE

201 Brīvības gatve, Rīga



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

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

Price: **EUR 8 900 000**

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

Utilities: electricity supply, water supply, central heating.

Land area: 63500 m²

Price: **EUR 4 900 000**



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

Details **STYLE**

Text by **DACE VAIVARA**
Publicity photos
by **DACE VAIVARA** and
FABIO SARTORI

ATHENS

Ancient Greek style

Greek culture dating back to the times of Antiquity continues to influence modern-day fashion, as can be seen in the reserved elegance of clothing by contemporary Greek fashion designers. In Ancient Greece, beauty entailed a harmonious relationship between one's body and spirit. Clothes were made in accordance with the physique of the wearer, highlighting the best attributes and emphasising simplicity, clean lines and symmetry.

The hit of the season: gladiator-style sandals. Incidentally, the English word "sandal" derives from the Greek *sandalon*. Two types of sandals were commonly worn in Ancient Greece. Intellectuals and comedy theatre actors usually wore the short *baxa*, while hunters, horsemen and tragedy theatre actors favoured the *cothurnus*, which extended up to the knees. According to the Ancient Greek mythology, a craftsman on the island of Crete fashioned sandals with magical powers for a number of deities. Now the famous *Ancient Greek Sandals* brand is offering authentic sandal models with wings and modern interpretations of Ancient Greek footwear. The sandals are all made by hand in accordance with traditional techniques.

One of the best-known fashion designers of his day, the late Gianni Versace had been an avid reader of Ancient Greek mythology since his childhood. Years later, Versace chose the head of the mythical gorgon Medusa as the symbol of his fashion house.

The founder of the famous Italian *Bulgari* jewellery company, for his part, was actually a Greek businessman named Sotirios Voulgaris. One of the company's latest collections, *Mvsa*, is inspired by the nine mythical Ancient Greek muses, who are associated with knowledge, art, poetry and music. **BO**

Acropolis

Eros Pour Femme eau de parfum by Versace, 50 ml, EUR 90, douglas.lv



Sunglasses by Marc by Marc Jacobs, EUR 158, pasaulesoptika.lv



Monete ring by Bulgari, EUR 3075, bulgari.com

Necklace by Zara, EUR 29.95, zara.com



SHOPPING IN ATHENS

Forget Me Not

This fine store in Athens' Plaka district offers clothing and accessories by some of the best contemporary Greek designers, including *Ancient Greek Sandals*, *Angelos Bratis*, *Zeus and Dione*, *Join Clothes*, *Katerina Psoma*, *Salty Bags* and *Redo*, *Zylo*. Here one will also find a wide array of design objects, gifts, books and souvenirs.
100 Adrianou
① forgetmenot-athens.gr

Orsalia Parthenis

An elegant boutique for modern women with high-quality, sporty chic and ascetic unisex-style clothing by Greek fashion designer

Orsalia Parthenis. The designer is successfully following in the footsteps of her father, who opened his first clothing store in Athens in 1970.
20 Dimokritou & Tsakalof
① orsalia-parthenis.gr

Yiorgos Eleftheriades

The flagship store of a popular Greek fashion designer, with original men's and women's clothing and accessories in an urban minimalist style from natural materials. *Yiorgos Eleftheriades* also makes unusual wedding wear and theatre costumes for Greek actors.
29 Tsakalof & Voukourestiou
① yorgoseleftheriades.gr



Dress by Sea, EUR 455, net-a-porter.com



Bikini by Monton, EUR 25.95



Bag by Dolce & Gabbana, EUR 1350, net-a-porter.com

Sandals by Ancient Greek Sandals, EUR 535, ancient-greek-sandals.com

Store address in Riga: Monton, Galleria Riga shopping centre, Dzirnau iela 67



LARUS
mēbeļu salons



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Summer attacks

Strawberry body sorbet, EUR 15, *The Body Shop*
Mango lip balm, *Kiehl's*, EUR 9.90, *Stockmann*
Mandarin-scented eau de toilette, EUR 16.20, *The Body Shop*

Papaya and pineapple facial scrub, *Kiehl's*, EUR 29.50, *Stockmann*
Eau de toilette with pronounced fruity and floral notes, *Escada Turquoise*

Summer, 50 ml EdT, EUR 61, *KristiAna*
Hand cream with lemon and ginger, *Durance*, EUR 19.90, *KristiAna*
Creamy eye treatment with

avocado extract, *Kiehl's*, EUR 28.50, *Stockmann*
Mango body butter, EUR 18.80, *The Body Shop*
Moisturising face mask with apricot extract, *Durance*,

EUR 13.96, *KristiAna*
Mango hand cream, EUR 6.40, *The Body Shop*
Fruit-scented home perfume, *Durance*, EUR 18.50, *Kristiana*

Style by **KATRĪNA REMESA-VANAGA**
Photo by **ANDREJS TERENTJEVS, F64**

Store addresses in Riga: Stockmann department store (13. janvāra iela 8) | The Body Shop: Galerija Centrs shopping centre (Audēju iela 16) and Galleria Rīga shopping centre (Dzirnavu iela 67) | KristiAna: Galleria Rīga shopping centre (Dzirnavu iela 67)

Orangerie
HOMMAGE À CLAUDE MONET



PURE ART – now available online.

Online Boutique shop.FREYWILLE.COM

Summer rainbow in glass

Rather than the customary icy blues and greens emitted by glass, Patricia Urquiola's *Shimmer* collection of furniture exudes warm colour tones.

Text by **KRISTĪNE BUDŽE**, *Pastaiga*
Publicity photos

WHAT IS IT?

A collection of tables, shelves and mirrors manufactured by *Glas Italia*. The brainchild of Spanish-born and Italian-based designer Patricia Urquiola, this furniture is made entirely of glass, including the surfaces and support constructions. The collection's items are rendered most expressive not by their shape or material, but by an iridescent multi-chromatic finish. As a result, the glass objects appear to change colour depending on the angle from which they are viewed and generate a rainbow effect.

WHY IS IT SPECIAL?

Although *Glas Italia* is not among the largest and best-known Italian furniture companies, it has cooperated with a

number of illustrious designers and attracted the attention of various media. Among those who have created glass furniture for the company are long-time Italian stalwarts Alessandro Mendini and Ettore Sottsass, contemporary design pop star Philippe Starck, aesthetes *Nendo* and Claudio Silvestrin, and respectable modern-day professionals Jasper Morrison and Naoto Fukasawa.

Initially, the ultimately successful project faced a major obstacle. Urquiola dislikes glass as a material for furniture, and this aversion goes very deep. However, having obtained complete artistic freedom from *Glas Italia*, the temperamental designer managed to overcome her disdain and create an outstanding collection. Her

other recent projects prompted the British *Wallpaper* magazine to name her as Designer of the Year for 2014.

HOW DOES IT FIT INTO INTERIORS?

Patricia Urquiola's rainbow-coloured objects from *Glas Italia*'s *Shimmer* series will look best as the only colour accents in a snow-white interior. They will cast colourful shadows on white surfaces and will make a monochrome room look bright and lively. While their rounded edges and luminous colours might tempt one to install them in a children's room, the glass furniture items' subtle tones would be eclipsed in such a multi-coloured space and would not convey the magical impression that comes forth so resiliently in a white interior. **BO**



© glasiatlta.com

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Samsōnite

BALDESSARINI

FLAIBACH

ANNARITA N

CC

ELISABETTA FRANCHI

Façonnable
FRENCH RIVIERA

TAKESHY KUROSAWA

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www.skyandmore.lv





Text by **ILZE POLE**
Photos courtesy of
JONAS JONIKAS

JONAS JONIKAS (48),

captain of *Boeing 737* aircraft,
from Lithuania
Hours flown: 14,200

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

HOW IT ALL **BEGAN**

I started putting together small model aircraft from the age of 12. At 17 I built a full-scale motorised glider together with a classmate. It had two engines and 20 hp. The design was based on the Lithuanian *Zylė* glider. Later I entered the Krasny Kut Civil Aviation Flight School in Saratov, Russia, followed by studies at the Kiev Institute of Civil Aviation and the Antanas Gustaitis Aviation Institute in Vilnius. My first training flight was 30 years ago, in May of 1985. We flew over the Saratov steppes with a beautiful *Yak-18T* aerobatic plane. I've now been with *airBaltic* for 10 years.



The motorised
glider that
Jonikas built
together with his
classmate. Here it
is still unfinished

SNAPSHOT TO SHARE

The beautiful colours of sunset in July. I took this picture a few years ago on a night flight from Vilnius to London.



HOBBIES

Photography, old
maps and cartography,
programming with C#.

LAST **DESTINATION** FLOWN TO AS A PASSENGER

Larnaca, Cyprus, with my family on a holiday. I can relax easily as a passenger. I've spent a lot of time in my career as an instructor and I am confident of airline pilots' qualifications, as I know the selection, training and examination process inside out. There are no incompetent people on the flight deck.

THE **BEST THING** ABOUT BEING A PILOT

One can never become old or tired as a plane captain, as one always needs to move forward together with technological advancements. From time to time one also needs to follow up on changes in aviation legislation. There are always new colleagues on the flight deck and I like the constantly changing environment.

FAVOURITE **BOOK**

Animal Farm and *1984* by
George Orwell (Eric Arthur
Blair).

FAVOURITE **RUNWAY**

Any runway with a long
night stop.

THREE THINGS THAT I NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT

My *Bose A20*
aviation headset,
sunglasses and
Nikon camera.

FAVOURITE **RESTAURANT**

Markus ir Ko in the Old Town
of Vilnius. I'm particularly fond
of Markus' famous filet mignon
steak.

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

People are always surprised at how many switches, levers and lights there are on the flight deck. They wonder how we can remember what all these things are for.



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**HARD GRAFT CLASSIC
HG LAPTOP FOLIO**
Business holdings

A simple and sleek design for holding your laptop and much, much more. The slim folio sleeve is handmade in Italy of gorgeous cognac leather and asphalt-dyed wool felt. It is also remarkably spacious: the easy-access outer pocket can fit a Moleskine notebook or calendar as well as a mobile device and charging cables, together with a few pens. Ideal for professorial types.
EUR 215 | ① hardgraft.com

Case in point

Text by **ROGER NORUM**
Publicity photos

FABRIX LAPTOP CARRIER BAG

Brief case

Whether you're a banker or a new-media entrepreneur, if you have a penchant for the traditional, then these are for you. The extremely lightweight (under 200 g) fabric cases have a super slim profile in spite of their smart, padded interior, leather handles and industrial grade snap button closure. They would work just as well for an IPO closing as for a day out on the beaches at Jürmala or Cannes.



Available in multiple colours: Midnight Herringbone and Grey Tweed are two of the most fetching.
EUR 64 | ① madebyfabrix.com

THULE STRAVAN

Ultima Thule

One of the sleekest things that you can fit your laptop into. The densely-padded and water-resistant (yet lightweight) case has an extremely soft interior and additional foam padding around the edges, keeping your computer relatively safe from falls and drops. A zipped pocket will hold any mobile device as well as accessories such as cables. The dark, woven grey exterior fabric is great for urbanites and people who like going undercover. For more protection, try the Deluxe Attaché.

EUR 56 | ① thule.com



FOOF POUCH

Stop foofing about

Australian company Foof sells a sizeable range of ethically handmade, CO₂-free laptop sleeves and cases. You could fall asleep in the snug-fitting and softly padded sherpa fleece lining, which,

as luck would have it, is reversible and very easy to clean should it ever get dirty. The cases can also function as a placemat for your laptop and come in a range of sizes. The Tsunami and Nishikigoi (a black Japanese cotton with traditional koi motif) patterns are our favourites.

EUR 36
① foofshop.com

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Sleekly designed from durable magnesium-lithium alloys, the stunning new HP EliteBook Folio 1020 packs in up to 9 hours of battery life.¹ Exceptionally secure with industry-leading HP security software and built-in PC features to protect your device, data, and identity. Stay confident and secure with Windows 8.1 Pro, which is over 6 times more secure than Windows XP. Plus, Solid State Drives and Intel® Core™ processors with optional Intel® vPro™ technology are designed to give you power and performance for your most important work.



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HP EliteBook Folio 1020

• Only 15.7 mm thin and 1 kg weight
• 12.5" diagonal Quad HD screen

Based on business class notebooks as of January 9, 2015 with >1 million unit annual sales having pre-installed encryption, authentication, malware protection and BIOS-level protection, passing MIL-STD-810G tests, with optional docking incorporating power delivery. ¹ Windows 8 MM12 battery life will vary depending on various factors including product model, configuration, loaded applications, features, use, wireless functionality, and power management settings. The maximum capacity of the battery will naturally decrease with time and usage. See bapco.com for additional details. Intel, the Intel Logo, Intel Inside, Intel Core, and Core Inside are trademarks of Intel Corporation in the U.S. and/or other countries. Microsoft and Windows are U.S. registered trademarks of the Microsoft group of companies.

This mom-and-pop designer shop is inspired by the sunlight and seaside of California, which is evident in the darling collection of handmade cases. The designs range from cute elephants and dandelions to evocative damask block prints and will fit any laptop

up to 15.6 inches. The lightweight denton and linen fabrics are padded with foam, featuring sturdy string and wood button closures on top. Also check out the slightly more durable Herringbone laptop bags with straps.
EUR 32 | ① bertiescloset.com



Chasing the stars

Introducing Latvia's new rallycross sensation, Reinis Nitišs

"It was absolutely unbelievable. Two rally racing legends – Petter Solberg and Ken Block – climbed onto the podium on Sunday afternoon, but I was standing in between them on the highest step!" says 19-year-old Reinis Nitišs, Latvia's rising rallycross star, recalling his first race victory at last year's FIA World Rallycross Championship. Nitišs placed third overall for the season – a fantastic performance for a rookie who had just joined the *Ford Olsbergs MSE* team.

In many ways, Nitišs is a typical teenager, but unlike most of his peers, he has been forging a path to world championship sports since the age of six. That has involved much more than driving at full speed around one racecourse after the other. "Some would say that I am living a dream. But in order to make your dreams come true, you have to put in a lot of energy. My daily routine is similar to juggling with crystal balls. I spend most of my time either studying for school, racing,

training or intensively working to attract new sponsors."

Nitišs seems quiet and a bit shy when I first meet him. However, after a while, he opens up and recounts a funny event from his illustrious racing career.

"One day my godfather jokingly said that if I won the European championship, then he would give me his car as a present. I won the title not long after, and on my 18th birthday he gave me the keys to his *BMW*. Now that's a guy who keeps his word!" says Nitišs with a broad smile on his face.

Nitišs has done a lot of travelling over the years.

"The rallycross championship takes place on four continents. I have been flying all over the world since the age of ten. I have come across something new at every airport, on every plane and in every country that I've visited – new foods, new cultures, new environments, new people. All of this really makes me appreciate my own

country. It's always great to return home to a climate that I'm used to, to see my friends and to eat simple foods," says the young racing champion. Among his favourite dishes, Nitišs mentions home-stewed game, potatoes, cottage cheese and fresh lettuce with sour cream.

This season, Nitišs hopes to better last year's bronze medal performance at the rallycross world championship. "The competition is much stronger, but I also feel more confident about my abilities," says Nitišs in a calm and self-assured tone. Let's see what happens over the next few months. **BO**

UPCOMING RALLYCROSS RACES WHERE REINIS NITIŠS WILL BE COMPETING

July 4-5	Höljes, Sweden
August 7-8	Trois-Rivières, Canada
August 22-23	Hell, Norway
September 4-5	Lohéac, France
September 19-20	Barcelona, Spain

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saliena

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

Strawberry dream

Aromatic goat milk panna
cotta with strawberries
and almond crumble

INGREDIENTS (4 servings)

Panna cotta:

250 ml pasteurised goat milk
250 ml whipping cream
2 tbsp. honey
Peel of ½ orange, sliced into
thin strips (orange part only –
no white pith)
1 cinnamon stick
10 g (~2 tsp.) gelatine +
4 tbsp. water

Strawberries in syrup:

1 ½ cup strawberries
1 ½ tbsp. brown sugar

Almond crumble:

100 g almonds
1 tbsp. brown sugar
30 g cold butter

PREPARATION

Soak the gelatine in the water.

Pour the goat milk and
whipping cream into a kettle. Mix
in the honey, orange peel and
cinnamon stick. Heat to boiling,
remove from the stove, place
a lid over the top and let sit for
5 minutes. Strain the mixture into
a pitcher; remove the orange
peel and cinnamon stick. Add the
gelatine, stirring until the gelatine
dissolves. Pour the mixture into
dessert cups or glasses and chill
for at least 4-5 hours.

Take one cup of strawberries,
slice the berries in half and boil
together with the brown sugar
in a kettle at low heat until the

strawberries become soft and
break up. Strain through a sieve
and cool. Mix the rest of the
strawberries into the syrup.

Grind the almonds together
with the brown sugar in a
blender or coffee grinder. Grate
the butter with a coarse grater
and work it into the ground
almonds with your fingers to
make moist crumbs. Spread
evenly over a baking pan that
has been covered with baking
paper and bake at 200°C for
5 minutes. Cool.

Once the panna cotta is firm,
pour the strawberries in syrup
over it and sprinkle with the
almond crumble. Enjoy. **BO**

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Summer juice recipes (2 servings)

Sunshine breakfast

6 young carrots
2 apples
1 celery stick
1 orange
1 small slice of ginger root

Vitamin booster

1 beet
4 young carrots
2 apples
1 handful spinach

Seed milk

4 handfuls seed mixture
(sunflower, pumpkin, sesame
seeds), steeped overnight
in water
0.5 l water
1 pinch salt
Preparation of the seed milk:
Place a small amount of the
seed mixture into the opening
of an operating blender and
add a bit of water, repeating
this process several times until
the seed milk is ready. Seed
milk is a healthy alternative
to cow milk and a suitable
accompaniment to breakfast
cereals or porridges.

Text, style and photo
by **ANDA KÄRKLIŅA**,
andasstuff.wordpress.lv

Best enjoyed slowly

The new standard for real juicers

Slow food. Slow life. *Slow* is the trendy word for a healthy lifestyle. It means thinking about the origin of the vegetables that you are grilling at your barbeque lunch, and going to the market or specialised store to buy organic products. Now the manufacturers of kitchen appliances are also jumping in on the bandwagon.

Lately, we have been seeing “slow juicers” or “cold-pressed juicers” coming onto the market. How do they differ from their traditional centrifugal counterparts? The answer lies in the slower rotation speed of the juicers’ blade shafts, which means that the cutting blades spin around more slowly. As a result, it will take longer for you to obtain your glass of juice, but the vibration level will be lower and the process will make less noise. Therefore, you won’t have to shout over the

noise of the juicer when talking to your family members in the kitchen. The maintenance of slow juicers is also comparatively easier, which might induce more people to have fresh fruit juice for breakfast on a regular basis. Does the slow juicing technique result in fruit juice that is more nutritious and better for your health? According to various research studies, the answer is no, as the juices obtained from both types of juicers share similar nutritional values. Basically, the slow juicer is a statement of espousing a “slow” lifestyle. You start the morning slowly and don’t rush into breakfast. Your peace isn’t disturbed by noisy kitchen appliances. As you mix various fruits with vegetables, nuts and seeds in a slow juicer, you discover new and simple recipes and adopt a creative and leisurely approach to juice-making. **BO**

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ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION MAY HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS

Old-time charm in modern-day Jūrmala

Latvian journalist and cultural worker Diāna Jance took *Baltic Outlook* on a tour of her historical wooden family house in Jūrmala.

Text by **ELĪNA RUKA**
Photos by **LAURIS VĪKSNE, F64**

Built in the early 1900s, this house was built as a residence for workers who picked strawberries in the nearby fields, placed them into boxes and piled the boxes in stacks inside the house. The strawberries were then sent by train to St. Petersburg. For a time, the house also served as a store belonging to a Jewish family.

Diāna Jance bought the house 12 years ago and restored it with her own two hands, respecting the building's historical legacy and creatively adding her own aesthetic touches. Located a bit less than an hour by car from Riga, the house exudes a warm and pleasant atmosphere. Having spent her childhood in another old wooden house in Jūrmala, Diāna appreciates her current home's past history. Together with her family, Diāna has breathed new life into the edifice, which is a listed European historical site.



Diāna painted the house with a paint that she boiled up and mixed herself. The paint contains flour, linseed oil, blue vitriol and natural black and white pigments. Her goal was to create a similar tone to that of fishermen's wood sheds. Diāna also painted the walls, floors and doors of the interior with milk-, flour- and lime-based paints.

► All of Diāna's family members like to read, which is perhaps no surprise, as Diāna is the great-granddaughter of Latvian writer Edvarts Virza and poet Elza Stērste. There is an appropriate spot for reading in practically every room, including the small tower where the store entrance was once located and the sun porch, as well as by the large windows on the top floor (which offer a scenic view of the pine forest). The shelves are filled with books in various languages, including centuries-old literature in which Diāna learned a great deal about boiling and mixing natural paints.



▲ Diāna painted the walls of the sun porch in their original tone with rapeseed oil. Her art collection includes works by relatives and friends, including Latvian artists Vija Spekke and Kurts Fridrihsons. She obtained some of Fridrihsons' works as a child when she beat him in a board game.

► The grand piano in the kitchen is a gift of the late Latvian pianist Valdis Jancis, who played Chopin on it while visiting the house. Diāna's daughter also enjoys playing the instrument and is a passionate chess player.



▲ The entry door handle and lock come from the house where Diāna first lived. The owner was not very rich, so he also used details from other houses that were falling apart to fix up his own residence. This inspired Diāna to do the same years later, when she restored her own house. She says that she managed to salvage valuable doors, windows and stairs from 17 different historical houses in the process.



◀ When she restored her house, Diāna had to replace various worn details with their equivalents from other old buildings. She bought her wooden staircase from the owner of another house in Jūrmala that was being torn down.

“By the time I had returned to the owner’s house with my camera and some money, the stairs had already been dismantled. Luckily all of the parts were numbered,” says Diāna.

▼ “The old windows in the sun porch catch the daylight in a different manner than modern windows,” Diāna explains. She spent a lot of time driving around to find replacements for her worn windows as well.

“I’m happy that I could give new life to objects that might otherwise have been tossed into a landfill,” she says.



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Details **LIVING**



Diāna's bathroom is like a small stage. To look into the mirror, you either have to put on or remove a mask. A small fragment of old Belgian lace is displayed in one picture frame.



▲ "When I step into a room, I try to imagine what it was like and what kind of people lived in it a century ago. Somehow, the things that I need just come to me." Diāna wanted to buy an old wardrobe for a space that is 119 cm wide. She eventually found a wardrobe that was just 1 cm narrower and that fit her space perfectly.

◀ During the 1930s, the house had two addresses. **BO**

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

THE WILD WILD WEST, OR ANOTHER **SIDE OF ZURICH**

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Before heading to Zurich, I read an article in *CNN* about new discoveries regarding the holes in the famous Emmental Swiss cheese. Apparently, the holes have become noticeably smaller in recent years because cheese-making facilities have become increasingly sterile and eliminate the possibility of tiny pieces of hay entering the milk, which are responsible for the hole-producing carbon dioxide in the cheeses. To me, this seemed a fairly precise depiction of Switzerland as an epicentre of prosperity. For years, the country's largest city, Zurich, has been at the top of all the global quality-of-life indices, and the city's postcard-like panorama (with the mountains on one side and a lake on the other) seems so perfect that surely not a single blade of grass is crooked or out of place.

But stereotypes are made to be broken, and that's one of the beauties of travelling, as I recall every time I step off a train; this time not in Zurich's centre, but in its so-called Wild West. On one side of the road is Zurich's tallest skyscraper, the 125-metre glass Prime Tower, while on the other side are graffiti-covered hulks of old factories. In other words, there's no glamour to be found here. I have arrived at Kreis 5 (one of Zurich's 12 districts), which everyone is calling the city's new hotbed of creative life; some even compare it to London's Shoreditch.

In any case, one cannot call this former industrial area between the Limmat River and the railway very picturesque. It was established in the early 19th century along with the construction of a railway line, a water turbine, motor plants and even shipyards. However, with the construction of a highway in the second half of the 20th century and the decline of manufacturing in the late 1980s, Kreis 5 became Zurich's "uncomfortable" district where, among other things, illegal drugs replaced the former industries.

This is also the location of the infamous Needle Park, where drug addicts shot up

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New Galerie Bruno Bischofberger building



Im Viadukt, located in a former 19th-century railway viaduct, is Zurich's trendiest shopping spot



Walter Vintage Möbel & Accessoires



Guardian angel by French-Swiss artist Niki de Saint Phalle in Zurich's main station

and which police managed to get under control only in the early 1990s. The district's renaissance began soon afterwards, as abandoned factories were turned into artists' studios, cafés, bars, shops and apartments. At first the area had a distinct alternative aura, but following the opening of a movie theatre in 1993, it slowly began to attract a broader and more mainstream audience as well.

Switzerland's first hotel in the *25hours Hotels* chain of boutique hotels opened in Kreis 5 in 2012. With a ping-pong table in the entry hall, a style that cleverly reflects the district's industrial past and design details displaying a humorous irony regarding stereotypes of Switzerland (rooms are classified in three categories: silver, gold and platinum), *25hours Hotel Zurich West* is the ideal place to begin a tour of the city's Wild West. The interior of the hotel was designed by local architect Alfredo Häberli, who has also designed for *Volvo*, *Camper* and *Vitra*.

"Almost home" is embroidered in red on white pillows, a sign in the light-blue elevator indicates that there are "no surveillance cameras", the small gym has wooden fitness equipment, each Platinum room has its own terrace resembling a miniature meadow in the middle of the industrial jungle, and – best of all – *25hours Hotel Zurich West* also

The most comfortable means of transportation in Zurich is a bicycle. Follow the marked bicycle routes that cross most of the city and, if you wish to precisely plan your route from A to Z, use the special bicycle route planner found at stadt-zuerich.ch/routenplaner. However, be careful when crossing tram tracks. As one tour guide jokingly remarked, "If your wheels get caught, then you have only two options: drop sideways and experience pain, or ride to the final station." Bicycles can be rented – year-round and for free – across from the Swiss National Museum or by the Postbrücke bridge. The only thing necessary for this service is to show an ID and leave a CHF 20 deposit, which is returned after bringing the bicycle back to any rental site. Keeping a bicycle overnight costs CHF 10.

Zurich is located at the northwestern edge of

has its own bicycle depot. Hotel guests may use the bicycles for free, but they cannot be reserved ahead of time and are available only on a first-come-first-served basis.

If you'd like to take a longer tour of the area, then the hotel even offers its guests a few hours' use of two *Mini Coopers*, completely free of charge (in Switzerland, no less!). Hop into a *Cooper* and drive 55 kilometres to Lucerne to visit the Swiss Museum of Transport, one of the most impressive museums of its kind in the world. You won't even have to pay for gas, which is included in the free car rental service.

In any case, the most appropriate form of transportation to get to know Zurich's Wild West is a bicycle. Begin by cycling to the Im Viadukt, one of Europe's most unique shopping streets. Stretching for several hundred metres, at least 30 stylish shops have been installed under the concrete arches of the former 19th-century railway viaduct, thereby offering a trendy alternative to glamorous Bahnhofstrasse in the Old Town. Zurich's first covered market hall is located at one end of the Im Viadukt; its *Markthalle* restaurant is popular among tourists and locals alike. The restaurant's prices are reasonable, the servings are large, and almost everything on the menu is made of seasonal, organic produce.

Five minutes away is the 26-metre-tall "tower" built by famous Swiss recycled brand *Freitag*. The tower houses a bag and accessory store in a construction made of 19 rusty freight containers. *Freitag* was established by two brothers who realised that waste from the automobile industry contains much usable material, starting with tyre inner tubes and ending with the tarps used to cover trucks. Today, *Freitag* stores have spread all over the world, and special samples of the brand's design can even be found in the collections of New York's Museum of Modern Art and Zurich's Museum of Design.

Another interesting address lies just around the corner – *Frau Gerolds Garten*, cleverly described as "an urban Garden of Eden". The place feels like a cross between a beer garden and a beach bar, except that instead of a beach, railway tracks are nearby. It's the absolute quintessence of surrealism, especially if you choose to sit at one of the tables on the upper terrace. With the sun shining overhead, chill out to the unceasing rhythm of train wheels chugging by. After a while, it all starts to sound like industrial waves crashing onto a concrete beach. Along with wooden plant boxes and various industrial trappings, you'll also come across a number of concept stores and stylish shops.

If you're looking for a place to have a truly sumptuous dinner, then head to *Josef*, a small restaurant on Josefstrasse that is known for two things: innovative cuisine and very affordable prices. The menu changes every day and, depending on your level of hunger, you can choose between two and five dishes, which correspondingly cost from CHF 38 to CHF 75. The restaurant's interior does not lack humour; its dark, wood-panelled walls are covered with black-and-white photographs of iconic faces in the



Kronenhalle restaurant



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Windows by Sigmar Polke in the Grossmünster



Frau Gerolds Garten

fashion and rock-music worlds, including a modern stylisation of Yves Saint Laurent.

Kreis 5 is also the home of several significant cultural institutions. For example, the former shipyard now known as *Schiffbau* has become a theatre, restaurant and jazz club. And the defunct *Löwenbräu Areal* brewery, built in 1897, now contains almost all of Zurich's most prestigious art galleries and a number of other cultural institutions under one roof, including *Hauser & Wirth*, the LUMA Foundation, *Galerie Bob van Orsouw*, *Galerie Eva Presenhuber*, the Migros Museum and the *Kunsthalle Zürich*. Exhibitions at the many galleries change frequently, so *Löwenbräu Areal* is a great place to get a concise idea of what's current in the art scene.

Cradle of Dadaism

Switzerland has long been a significant hub of European culture. Composer Richard Wagner spent nine years there and wrote most of the libretto for *Der Ring des Nibelungen* in Zurich. Writer James Joyce also sought refuge in Zurich, and many of his admirers head to the city on pilgrimages to his gravesite in the Fluntern Cemetery. In addition, Zurich prides itself as a prime destination in the European art market. The city has at least 50 museums and more than 100 art galleries, and Basel, the site of *Art Basel*, the world's most prestigious art show, is only an hour's drive away.

Zurich is also the cradle of Dadaism. One of the first true international art movements, Dadaism began in the small *Cabaret Voltaire* café/bar located in the Old Town. The café was founded in 1916 by Hugo Ball, a German poet and playwright living in

42-kilometre-long Lake Zurich. Boats are an essential form of transportation as well as a way to see the city from a different angle. All you need to do is choose how much time you want to spend on your cruise: one-and-a-half, three, four or seven hours. (zsg.ch)

The Heidi Weber Museum (Hoeschgasse 8) is the last building designed by Swiss architect Le Corbusier. It was built in 1967, two years after the Modernist architect's death, and is located in an unbelievably beautiful place – Zürichhorn Park on the banks of Lake Zurich. The building is like a poem or a three-dimensional Mondrian painting, with multi-coloured enamel panels and a free-floating roof that protects the edifice from the sun and rain. Interior designer Heidi Weber commissioned the project, and her ambition was to exhibit Le Corbusier's works in an environment designed by the architect himself. In this sense, the building, which regularly hosts exhibitions linked with Le Corbusier's work, can be considered his *Gesamtkunstwerk* – the entirety of his work, or his *pièce de résistance*.

exile in Switzerland, together with a group of like-minded artists and writers. Later, artists and other exiles from across Europe gathered at the café, and *Cabaret Voltaire* served as the centre of a new art movement that arose as a protest against the First World War, proclaiming a renouncement of all previous ideas about art. At the *Cabaret Voltaire's* height, it hosted nightly poetry readings, dances, plays and the like. The upper floor still features a Dada-style bar where guests can enjoy a glass of absinthe if they wish. A small exhibition hall is on the lower floor.

Art can be found in the most extraordinary places in Zurich. In the central train station, which is always full of people rushing here and there (it's one of the busiest train stations in the world), a guardian angel – Swiss-French artist Niki de Saint Phalle's gigantic and colourful *Nana* – looks down from the ceiling upon the crowds of people. De Saint Phalle gave the sculpture to the station on its 150th anniversary. The huge doll holds a blinking red wand in her hands as if warning passengers of approaching trains.

However, the most unusual site for art in Zurich is the police headquarters. The monumental building (Bahnhofquai 3) on the banks of the Limmat River was built as an orphanage, but in the early 20th century, city architect Gustav Gull allocated it to the police. The basement – now used as the police station's waiting room – was fairly dark, so in 1923 Swiss painter Augusto Giacometti (the nephew of legendary sculptor Alberto Giacometti) was commissioned to paint its walls and vaulted ceiling. Now named Giacometti Hall, it is a point of national pride and a destination for



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Cabaret Voltaire

cultural tourists, making this the most unusual police headquarters in the world.

Moreover, the hall has retained the aura of being a “secret address” precisely because it is in a police headquarters and most people would rather stay further away from such an institution. It is also open to the public daily, but only from 9:00 to 11:00 and again from 14:00 to 16:00. All visitors are required to show an ID. They are only allowed to spend ten minutes in the hall, and photography is strictly forbidden. In other words, you must follow the police’s rigid rules. The massive and seemingly anonymous wooden outer door gives no hint of what lies beyond, namely, stern uniformed policemen and Giacometti’s fiery red-yellow-orange explosion of colour. The fact that visitors are not allowed to immortalise the experience (which may be a blessing in this age of the selfie) actually lets them soak up the energy of the colours without other distractions.

Located about a ten-minute walk from the police headquarters is another Giacometti masterpiece, the stained-glass choir windows in the

If you wish to bring home a meaningful souvenir from Zurich, we suggest visiting *Manu Propria* (Josefstrasse 50). The small eyewear store in the fashionable Kreis 5 district was opened by two opticians. All of the store’s optical eyeglass frames and sunglasses have been designed by the two owners, and all you need to do is choose your favourite material – from traditional bone to modern Perspex. The store also has a small eyeglass frame museum, where you can see unique eyewear from a variety of eras.

For a most unforgettable view of Zurich, head to the *Jules Verne Panoramabau* (Uraniastrasse 9; jules-verne.ch) located in the Urania observatory.

Grossmünster. Translated as “the great cathedral”, the Grossmünster was built in the 13th and early 14th centuries and is one of Zurich’s grandest Romanesque-style churches. Its three towers can be seen from everywhere in the Old Town, and the northern tower provides a magnificent view of the city (200 steps to the top).

Since 2009, the cathedral has also served as a unique home to a contemporary art project, with twelve stained-glass windows made by German artist Sigmar Polke. Seven windows on the west side of the church contain mosaics made of thin slices of agate; the sunlight shining through the semi-precious stones gives bright colour to the otherwise ascetic interior of the sanctuary. According to the Bible, semi-precious stones were created in the very first days of the world. They were used as decoration in churches as far back as Late Antiquity and the Early Medieval period.

On the east side of the Grossmünster are five images from the Old Testament – the Scapegoat, Isaac, the Son of Man, Elijah and David – which can be interpreted as precursors of Christ and thereby

correlate to Giacometti’s stained-glass windows, which depict the Three Magi bearing gifts for the Virgin and Child.

Dinner with Chagall

On the opposite side of the river, another genius of his era – Russian-born Jewish artist Marc Chagall – created five stained-glass windows for the Fraumünster church (Church of Our Lady). The church allegedly searched for over seven years before it found an appropriate artist to make the windows. Chagall was chosen because of a fateful coincidence – an ambitious retrospective of the artist’s work took place in Zurich in 1967. He was already over 80 years old at the time, and before he accepted the invitation to make the windows, he is said to have sat in the church in silence for a long time, studying and admiring its architecture.

Fraumünster, however, was not the artist’s first experience with stained glass. In 1964, he created the legendary *Peace Window* at the United Nations building in New York City. Later, he worked on the sketches of the Fraumünster’s windows for a whole year and then spent another three years making and installing the windows in the church. Chagall’s windows can be found in the so-called wooden wing of the church. They are ten metres high and each features a different palette of colour.

The blue and green windows symbolise the earth, while the red and yellow symbolise heaven. The central window is titled *Christ* and depicts His family tree, with the Virgin and Child at the top. A meditative stillness reigns inside the church, interrupted only by the footsteps of visitors, who often sit down on the benches opposite Chagall’s masterpieces. The best time to visit the church is in the morning, when the sun shines directly through the windows and floods the interior with a mirage of Chagall’s otherworldly colours.

Legend has it that Chagall made the *Kronenhalle* restaurant next door his second home while working on the windows. Now it’s another of Zurich’s legendary institutions. There are few other places in the world where one can enjoy a meal while sitting next to, or even under, original pieces of artwork by Chagall, Joan Miró, Georges Braque, Paul Klee, Pablo Picasso, Wassily Kandinsky, Robert

Rauschenberg and Pierre Bonnard, all valued in the millions. There are so many paintings at the *Kronenhalle* that one could easily mistake it for a museum that has been transformed into a temporary restaurant. No wonder some of the guests, having finished their first glass of wine, cannot refrain from pushing the lamp on the table a bit closer to the wall in order to better inspect a genius’ signature.

The site of the *Kronenhalle* was originally a beer hall. In the early 1920s, a married couple named Gottlieb and Hulda Zumsteg bought the hall and turned it into a restaurant, which quickly became a favourite meeting place for writers, philosophers and artists. As so often happens with such places, a number of legends relating to the restaurant evolved over the years. One may doubt its accuracy, but according to one of those legends, Hulda (who had risen from being a simple shoemaker’s daughter to the grande dame of Zurich’s restaurant scene) often helped financially strapped artists by feeding them for free but then never refusing “gifts of thanks” from them in the form of artwork. The *Kronenhalle*’s heyday was in the mid-1930s, on the eve of the Second World War. Sigmund Freud, Coco Chanel and Albert Einstein all dropped in, and James Joyce is said to have written a fair chunk of his *Ulysses* there, at table No. 17 in the corner of the large hall, above which his portrait now hangs. Thanks to Switzerland’s neutrality, many an international spy narrative was also played out during the war at the restaurant’s tables, under the watchful eyes of the artworks.

Although the *Kronenhalle*’s art collection was quite eclectic at first, it gained a completely new scope after Hulda and Gottlieb’s son, Gustav, took over management of the restaurant. Gustav Zumsteg, who was also the director of the Swiss textile legend *Abraham Silk*, was known as the “silk magnate” in the social circles of the day. Christian Dior, Hubert de Givenchy, Yves Saint Laurent and others from the highest rungs of the fashion world were among *Abraham*’s clients in the 1950s and 1960s, and thus Zumsteg turned the traditional silk business into a cult fashion brand.

Art was his passion and also his instrument; it served as his inspiration,

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which he later transformed into fabulous printed silks. Zumsteg built his art collection with passion and found a home for many of his pieces at his family's restaurant. He also lived on the third floor of the same building until his death in 2005 at the age of 85. Zumsteg had no children, so most of his private collection was sold at *Christie's* auction a year after his death for approximately ten million dollars. Quite some time before his death, though, he established a foundation to safeguard the restaurant's artwork from unpredictable fates; today the foundation manages both the restaurant and its art collection.

Today, the *Kronenhalle* has lost none of its status and remains a popular address on Zurich's social scene, both among locals and visitors to the city. Don't be surprised if you see *Monocle* editor Tyler Brûlé (who has often named the *Kronenhalle* among his personal favourites) or opera star Plácido Domingo at the restaurant. People still dress up to go to the *Kronenhalle*, and guests are sized up as they enter, just like the artwork on the walls. Age-old rituals are maintained. Even the Jack Russell terrier sitting on a separate chair next to his owner at the neighbouring table watches my plate with a cool, aristocratic air, as if he's been a regular here since birth.

The *Kronenhalle* serves classic German-Swiss cuisine. Don't expect innovative tastes, but everything is wonderfully prepared, substantial and authentic. The restaurant does know its worth, and a meal here is not cheap. But the menu has plenty of variety and, if you don't order wine (glasses begin at CHF 17), you can stay within a reasonable budget. The only thing the *Kronenhalle* categorically prohibits is taking photographs. It thereby avoids throngs of tourists just wishing to tick the I-was-here box and maintains a timeless, discrete and trustworthy reputation.

Life is grand

The *Kronenhalle* also serves as the informational epicentre of Zurich's cultural life, with posters in its entryway advertising the newest exhibitions. On one of these I notice the gallery of Swiss art dealer and collector Bruno Bischofberger, which just opened in early June. In terms of scope, the impressive gallery can almost be deemed

a museum. The road to the gallery in the eastern part of the city leads along the lakeshore and lets visitors fully enjoy Zurich's famous landscape. The gallery is in a former automobile factory on a hill, and its wavy concrete façade resembles futuristic lace.

Bischofberger is a legend in the art world. In the 1960s, he was the first to introduce Europe to American pop art. He was not only a close friend of Andy Warhol, but also his dealer. He was also one of the founders of *Interview* magazine. The new gallery has separate spaces devoted to Warhol and Jean-Michel Basquiat as well as spaces for Bischofberger's own private collection. The manner in which art (including Francesco Clemente, Julian Schnabel and others) is exhibited here reminds one not so much of a gallery or museum as a sanctuary.

Another vivid reminder that today's Zurich is no grande dame encapsulated in conservative comfort can be seen at the *Kameha Grand Zürich* hotel, which recently opened in the westernmost part of the city, now the home to many prestigious companies. Dutch design showman Marcel Wanders created the hotel's interior. This is Wanders' second hotel project, following the *Andaz Amsterdam Prinsengracht Hotel* that opened in 2013. There, he let loose his hooligan nature to create an interior that could just as well be a 21st-century reincarnation of Surrealism's granddaddy Salvador Dalí or *Alice in Wonderland*.

Wanders continued his virtuoso juggling act at *Kameha Grand*, humorously playing around with all of Switzerland's iconic symbols, including money, milk and watches. The inscription above the bar reads "If you drink to forget, then please pay in advance"; a gigantic upside-down dinner plate hangs from the ceiling of the Italian restaurant on the first floor; the daily menu is printed on milk-bottle-shaped columns; and the dark wood pepper mill is the size of a ten-year-old child.

I cannot resist temptation and discover that the pepper mill also weighs as much as a child. By using the pepper mill on a daily basis (combined with morning runs around Lake Zurich), the waiters and waitresses surely need not waste time going to a gym. "Life is grand" is *Kameha's* motto, and it seems hard to find a better-suited slogan for what Zurich currently has to offer.

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Marie Remandet (*soprano*)
Program: Bach, Scarlatti, Monteverdi

Monday, 2015 August 3rd, 7 PM
Dzintari Concert Hall
Barbara Hendricks & her Blues Band
"Blues Everywhere I Go"

Tuesday, 2015 August 4th, 6 PM
Dzintari Chamber Music Hall
The Pearls of Russian Songs. *Tchaikovsky* - 175
Irina Dolzhenko (*mezzo soprano*),
Rihard Machanovskis (*baritone*),
Inna Davidova (*piano*)
Program: Tchaikovsky romances

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Insider's view



Sweet Zurich

While most of the world's inhabitants consider chocolate to be a sinful treat, for the Swiss it's almost like bread and water. In other words, chocolate is an integral part of their daily diet. No wonder that Switzerland has long topped the list of countries in chocolate consumption, with the average citizen enjoying nine kilograms or 209 bars of chocolate per year. Zurich is a genuine chocolate-lover's paradise; it is also the city that captured the heart of food and travel writer Kerrin Rousset. Originally from New York, Rousset has lived in Zurich for the past seven years, where she founded *Sweet Zurich* (mykugelhoppf.ch). The enterprise offers chocolate tours of the city and lets visitors see Zurich from a completely different vantage point. Rousset's two-and-a-half-hour tours stop at all of the city's sweetest destinations. Along the way, visitors roam through labyrinths of small streets that a tourist might otherwise not discover.

What is the sweetest place in Zurich?

The sweetest place for me is *Honold* in the Old Town. A family-run candy store since 1905, it's the place I go to for *Zopf* (Sunday bread) on the weekend, a cream-filled pastry for my husband and high-quality handmade artisanal chocolates for me (including my very favourite, *Lotti's Best*).

What do you love most about living in Zurich?

When you live in Zurich, you truly experience what is so often said about the city – that the quality of life is so high. Downtown you have the charming Old Town, the lake, the river, the mountains

in the distance; it's safe and clean and everything just works. So many of the city's stereotypes, from the impeccably timed public transportation to bankers swimming or skiing on their lunch breaks, ring true.

What should one definitely do to feel the vibe of Zurich in all its diversity?

Take a stroll through the cobblestone streets of the Old Town, walk up and down the luxury Bahnhofstrasse and also through Zürich West, a more artsy and trendy neighbourhood. All three are very different vibes, all three very Zurich. And during the summertime, hang out by the lake, where everyone is realising.

What is your favourite Zurich neighbourhood and why?

I just love Lindenhof, the oldest part of Zurich. It feels like a village set in the big city. So much history, architectural gems and fantastic little shops sprinkled throughout.

Could you name your five favourite restaurants/café's in Zurich?

Hiltl – unparalleled vegetarian buffet (it's the oldest vegetarian restaurant in Europe).

Piazzetta – fantastic salads, pastas and the best bread.

Juice Market – great salads and freshly squeezed juices.

Markthalle at the Viadukt – for the market ambience and the mussels.

Schwarzenbach Teecafé – natural syrups and hot chocolate.

Which are your favourite shops in Zurich and why?

Schwarzenbach – a heaven for lovers of dried fruit and nuts.

Sibler – culinary objects galore.

Pastorini Spielzeug – an all-wooden toy store. My favourite place to buy presents for friends' children (and my little girl, too!).

What have you never done in Zurich but would still like to do?

I've always wanted to spend time on the Observation Deck at the Zurich Airport, but haven't yet got the chance. **BO**

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THE OPTIMIST

WHO BENDS SPOONS

Having created a storm on the global literary scene two years ago with a best-selling novel on the adventures of a travelling fakir, French author Romain Puértolas' next publications are no less intriguing.

The child of a Spanish army colonel (his father) and French army administrator (his mother), Romain Puértolas (b. 1975) has a contagious smile and a mischievous glint that doesn't leave his eyes for a moment. His satirical debut novel titled *The Extraordinary Journey of the Fakir Who Got Trapped in an Ikea Wardrobe* has already been translated from French into 36 languages and over 100,000 copies have been sold in France alone. Despite the dizzying success that his book has enjoyed, the author remains self-deprecating and down-to-earth. In an exclusive interview with *Baltic Outlook*, he openly talks about his unusual path to the status of a world-renown writer and demonstrates a magic trick by seemingly bending a spoon with the mere look of his eyes.

You wrote *The Extraordinary Journey of the Fakir Who Got Trapped in an Ikea Wardrobe* on your mobile phone between shifts as a French border guard. That's quite an interesting way to launch a writing career!

I've led a pretty diverse life and have held all kinds of jobs, including as a car washer and DJ. I've also studied linguistics and taken flying lessons. I began working as a policeman at the French border at the age of 33. I'll be frank by saying that sometimes the work days were not very intensive at all. That was partly due to the fact that I had two bosses. The first boss gave out an assignment to the second boss, who passed the assignment on to me. Sometimes the assignments got lost in the communications process and I had free time on my hands. I wrote out one page on my mobile phone, then three more, then another two. At one point I realised that I was creating an interesting story. It took about three weeks for me to write the novel.

So one could say that you were a policeman by profession but a writer deep down in your heart?
 Actually, I have been writing since the age of six, but started putting my thoughts down on paper more

seriously when I was 20 years old. Before the *Fakir* was published, I had submitted seven short stories to various publishing houses, but they were rejected every time. In total I received 22 rejections. It was my eighth writing attempt that proved fateful and turned my life around by 180 degrees. That's why I keep on telling aspiring young writers: keep on writing and don't give up, even after your third or fourth effort is unsuccessful.

What was your reaction when you finally received a positive answer for the *Fakir*?

One day I came home from work and saw an envelope from the publisher in my mailbox. "Ah, probably another rejection letter," I thought. However, when I took the letter out of the envelope, I noticed that, unlike the previous computer-written rejections that I had received, this note was written by hand and personally signed by the head of the publishing house himself. I was really happy until I reached the paragraph in which he wrote that they don't plan on publishing my book, but at the end of the letter the publisher invited me to meet with him in person. Of course, my heart was racing wildly. It turned out that they were actually ready to publish the novel, but they didn't want me to get prematurely enthusiastic about its success. At that time, I really thought that, in the best case, maybe 10 or perhaps up to 100 people might be interested in reading it. One could say that I encoded the book's success in an unusual way, for in the *Fakir* as well, the protagonist Ajatashatru manages to get a short story published.

Did you also get a 100,000-euro advance payment for your first novel?

[Laughs.] No, I wasn't as fortunate as Ajatashatru. In truth, I had become very tired of receiving negative answers from the publishers, so I decided that at least the hero in my fictional book would get to publish a short story and receive a substantial cash advance in



The Latvian translation of Romain Puértolas' satirical debut novel titled *The Extraordinary Journey of the Fakir Who Got Trapped in an Ikea Wardrobe* was released this May

The *Fakir* is like a dedication to all of us who have at least once in our lives tried to put a piece of *IKEA* furniture together

the process! The story that Ajatashatru writes [about a blind man who asks his cellmate to tell him what he sees out of the window every day – ed.] is a strange legend and nobody knows its source. My father recounted it to me when I was a child; others have read it in books and now it is also circulating in the social media. Even a film was made about that story. And so I decided to make Ajatashatru the author of the story in my book.

Have you ever tried to write on a shirt in complete darkness, like Ajatashatru does in the *Fakir*?

No, I haven't. And I'm sure that in the real world, nobody would be able to do so with an *IKEA* pencil either. [Laughs.]

What is your relationship with *IKEA*? You poke fun at the brand, especially in the episode where the fakir lays his eyes on a bed with 15,000 nails, which is cheaper than the model

with only 200 nails, because with the first model you have to drive the nails in yourself.

Of course, they didn't greet the publication of the book with open arms. I had a serious dispute with them. *IKEA* representatives wanted me to remove the *IKEA* logo from the book cover and write a disclaimer stating that I have no connection with the store chain. But I like to stir up hornets' nests. Famous magician David Copperfield also got very angry with me when I revealed some of the secrets behind his magic tricks in a *You Tube* video clip. He tried to shut down the video several times. The *Fakir* is like a dedication to all of us who have at least once in our lives tried to put a piece of *IKEA* furniture together and found an important screw missing. I'm sure that many people know what I'm talking about! [Laughs.]

The protagonist of your first novel is an Indian fakir, and you personally have revealed to the public how some magic tricks work. What made you become interested in the tricks that magicians practice?

Logic is my strong side, and my critical mind refuses to believe in optical illusions. When I discovered already as a child that "magic" tricks are actually based on skilfully masked manipulations and not on real magic, I wanted to explain this to others. Of course, one could say that I robbed people of a belief in seemingly miraculous events. On the other hand, do we all believe in Santa Claus until we reach old age? No, at one point we simply accept the fact that our parents have propagated this myth to make us happy in our early childhood.

Magicians make a lot of money, and there is a very fine line between watching a magician perform amazing tricks in awe and wonder, and being duped by a swindler who takes advantage of your gullibility. I invite everyone one to turn on their critical minds and keep their eyes wide open. The *Fakir* is a way for me to show this all through the prism of a convinced optimist. Although the hero of the book arrives in Paris with money donated by the naïve inhabitants of his village, a forged 100-euro banknote and a whole set of tricks up his sleeve, his character changes as the story progresses. Of course, as an all-powerful author who can play God, I make the poor chap travel locked in a wardrobe and contorted in a Louis Vuitton suitcase within a plane's baggage compartment. Then I get him embroiled in terrible misunderstandings with the immigration services. On the other hand, I succeed in getting Ajatashatru to change for the better through these experiences.

Excuse me for asking, but are you capable of coherently pronouncing the fakir's name?

Ashak shautru! [Laughs.] Actually, the story of how I came upon this name is very simple. Since the hero of my book was going to come from India, I found a register on the Internet of Indian first names written in alphabetical order. Ten minutes later, I was still poring over first names starting with the letter A until I stopped at Ajatashatru. My inner voice told me that this should be the name of my protagonist. Or perhaps I was just too lazy to go on to the letter B. [Laughs.]



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Puértolas' famous debut work has already been translated from French into 36 languages, including Latvian (not included in the photo)

I have always been an optimist by nature and don't let negative things affect me too much

You seem to enjoy tormenting your readers. The title of your second novel is also interminably long: *The Little Girl Who Swallowed a Cloud as Big as the Eiffel Tower*.

I wanted to stimulate the readers' imagination right from the start with the title. And of course, to incite their curiosity as to what happens further in the book. However, already this September, my third novel will be published in France and its title will have only two words. In this new book I revive Napoleon, who turns out not to have died, but to have gotten frozen in a block of ice and drifted off to the North Pole. After a fishing trawler accidentally comes upon the block of ice, the leader is slowly thawed out together with his horse, and the authorities decide to deport him to Corsica. However, upon flying into Paris, Napoleon learns what terrorists are and

about the evils that they are committing. Instead of going into a well-deserved retirement, he starts a global struggle against the bad guys in an effort to save the world.

You intersperse humour amid the serious and tragic themes in your books. You have written a lot about the hard life and poverty that illegal immigrants have to face. Now you also just mentioned terrorism. Do you think that by looking at these themes from a different angle, you can get people to think about them in greater depth?

Working as a policeman and later in the immigration service, I saw the extent to which this work affects people. Seriously speaking, if you don't perceive the world in an easy-going manner and if you don't have strong nerves, then that job is not for

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you, because every day you see so much hopelessness and despair. It's pretty tough to handle. But I have always been an optimist by nature and don't let negative things affect me too much. Otherwise I would go crazy.

I channelled my experiences in the immigration service into another direction and used what I observed as inspiration for my stories. I have witnessed the most incredible means that migrants employ to cross the border. I have listened to heart-breaking stories, but I haven't let the heavy emotions destroy me. I believe in the positive – in laughter and joy. The more we smile, the more positive our impressions and attitudes become. I am an optimist from head to toe! I can never correctly remember the saying about the glass of water, but in any case, for me the glass is half-full rather than half-empty.

I am crossing my fingers in the hope that Javier Bardem will agree to play the role of the gypsy taxi driver

The heroes in your stories travel quite a bit. The fakir crosses half of the world in your unusual story. What does travelling mean to you?

On the one hand, I have visited countless countries. On the other hand, I am often away from home. In truth, whenever my wife suggests that we go somewhere on vacation, I don't jump up and clap my hands with joy. Lately I've been travelling a lot to promote my book and sometimes I feel as if I am spending most of my life on airplane flights. However, flying does offer the advantage of writing in peace without being interrupted. And as you see, my writing career has now brought me to Riga for the first time.

I might not have thought of coming here otherwise. However, I have to admit that I've only managed to catch a few brief glimpses of this beautiful city, as I have several interviews to give. But even as I rush through from one appointment to the next, I can feel Riga's attractiveness and pleasant aura.

Will there also be a screen version of *The Extraordinary Journey of the Fakir Who Got Trapped in an Ikea Wardrobe*?

Yes, that was officially announced at this year's film festival in Cannes. Indian film star Danush has been confirmed for the main role, and I think that he will be able to play Ajatashatru's part perfectly. Scarlett Johansson and Cate Blanchett have both been approached to play his love object Maria. And I am crossing my fingers in the hope that Javier Bardem will agree to play the role of the gypsy taxi driver. The second option is Antonio Banderas. As you can gather, this promises to be quite an eclectic cast of characters.

What gets you going again during those moments when you lose inspiration?

New stories are being born in my mind all of the time. The biggest problem is actually being able to write them down. To be honest, I haven't yet experienced moments when I am sitting behind a piece of paper and don't know what to write. I write a lot and in all kinds of places: on my phone, my computer, by hand on a napkin in a café.... I've been lucky that a muse seems to have been sticking with me all this time. [Laughs.] It's so easy to be inspired if we look and listen and pay close attention to the things that are going on around us. Something unusual and unpredictable is taking place at every moment. You just have to capture it and let a story come into being.





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You say that you don't believe in magic tricks, but do you believe in miracles?

It's hard to define a miracle, because the mind can always find a rational explanation. I'll show you right now!

[At that moment, Puértolas asks me to concentrate on bending the teaspoon in his hand with my thoughts. Soon after, the middle of the spoon that he is holding really does bend.]

Was that a miracle or an illusion? If you didn't know that I don't believe in magic, then you might really believe that a spoon can be bent through the power of thought alone.

Many writers become captivated by literature already in their childhood. Was that also the case with you?

Oh, yes! Books were an indispensable part of my daily menu, so to speak. I can still enthusiastically read works by Jules Verne over and over again, and that can be seen in my writing. It's not for nothing that I send my book

heroes out on faraway journeys. One of my favourite authors continues to be Umberto Eco. I really respect and admire him. During my book tours, I sometimes buy the translated works of local authors and have come across some absolute gems! At times like these, I remember my dream of having my work translated into another language – particularly Spanish, as Spain is my father's homeland and I am also now living there, although I am continuing to write in French. Now the *Fakir* has already been published in 36 languages and that dream has come true.

If somebody wrote a book about you, would it be interesting?

[Laughs.] Writers are boring, which is why it wouldn't be advisable to write a book about me. We should simply be allowed to create. Once you have caught the writer's bug, it's impossible not to write, no matter what you do! **BO**

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Il San Pietro di Positano hotel

Picturesque coastal villages, dizzying panoramic views and mountain serpentine, terraces of lemon trees, storybook villas and exotic gardens, colourful beaches and turquoise blue seawater – these are just some of the reasons why the Amalfi coast in southern Italy is considered to be one of the world’s most beautiful locations and well worth savouring.

The Amalfi coast, with 55 kilometres of jagged cliffs and 13 mountain villages, is located between Sorrento and Salerno. The most popular towns are Positano, Amalfi and Ravello, with each harbouring wonderful treasures. Even a visit to a beach on the Amalfi coast can turn into a special experience. About 100 beaches are hidden among the cliffs. Most are covered with small pebbles, and most are furnished with little *lettini* lounge beds and *ombrelloni* umbrellas. Some of the beaches are very hard to reach. You’ll have to climb down 800 steps from the top of a hill to get to one of them, with the smallest beaches accessible only by boat. The beaches of some private hotels, for their part, can be reached by lifts that have been cut into the cliffs and that bring you straight down to the sea.

The easiest way to reach the Amalfi coast is to travel from Rome to Naples by train, then from Naples or Sorrento to Amalfi. One can take a ferry to the islands of Positano, Capri and Ischia and unhurriedly enjoy beautiful coastal views of vertically constructed mountain villages from the

sea. If you prefer to travel by car, then you can hire one straight from the airport in Rome and head to Amalfi. It takes about four hours to drive the 300 kilometres, but during the summer you should also consider the heavy traffic when driving on the panoramic SS163 Amalfi Coastal Route.

The region’s narrow, winding roads can be a test for even the most experienced driver, but the drive is worth it. Captivating scenery opens up around every bend, and every so often the desire to stop and take a photo of the view from the edge of the road will prove to be irresistible. On a hot summer’s day, one can cool down at roadside fruit and drinks bars (a travelling bar on wheels in the shape of a lemon being the most amusing), drinking freshly squeezed juice from huge sweet, juicy lemons that sometimes grow to the size of a melon.

The local variety of lemons called *sfusato amalfitano* is grown from February until October on lemon-tree terraces carved into the steep mountain cliffs. One of the most characteristic products from the Amalfi coast is *limoncello* lemon liqueur, which, according to Italian tradition, should be savoured ice cold after dinner. The fresh Mediterranean seafood at refined *Michelin*-star restaurants or at simple *trattorias* will bring a smile to the face of even the fussiest gourmand.

The best time for visiting the Amalfi coast is before or after the blistering hot tourist season – from early April to June and from September until early October, when one can still swim and sunbathe.



AMALFI – A MEDITERRANEAN TREASURE

This wonderful little town lies at the heart of the Amalfi coast. It boasts a wealthy heritage of history, architecture and tradition.

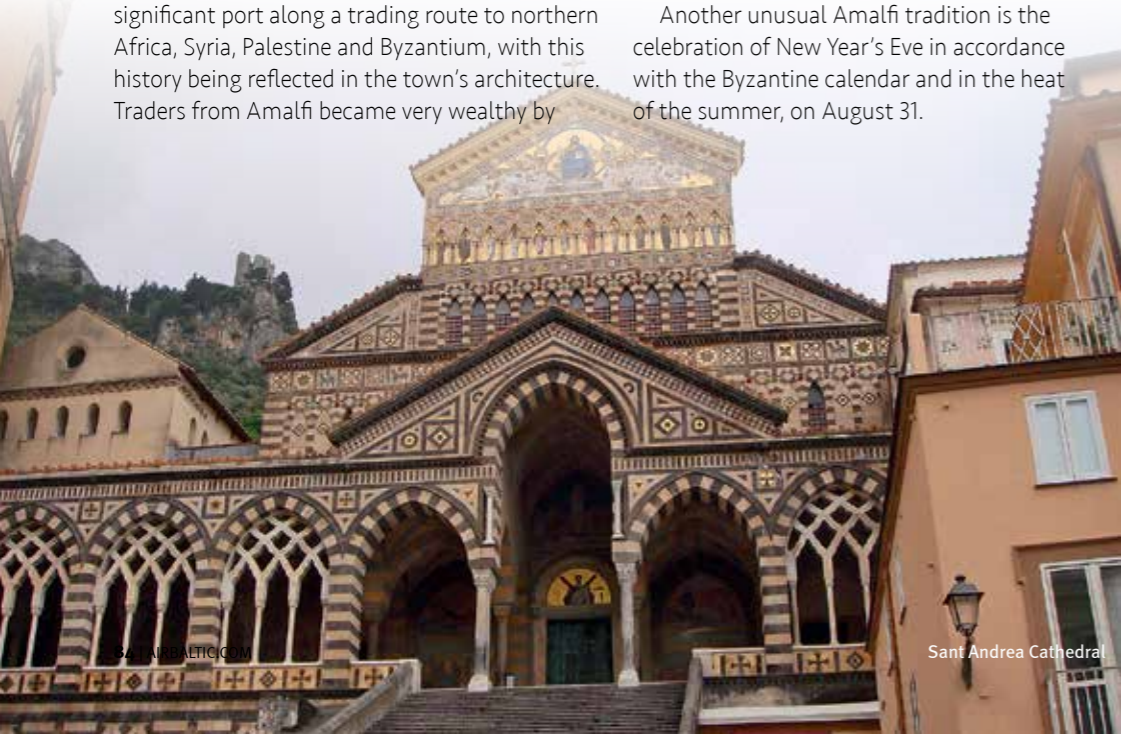


Amalfi, the oldest of Italy's four maritime republics – along with Venice, Genoa and Pisa – was already mentioned during the reign of Roman Emperor Tiberius (14-37 AD). In the year 839, the town regained its independence from the Byzantine Empire and became a significant port along a trading route to northern Africa, Syria, Palestine and Byzantium, with this history being reflected in the town's architecture. Traders from Amalfi became very wealthy by

sending ships with timber to the east in exchange for gold, spices, precious stones, perfume, fabrics and oriental rugs.

The construction of the imposing Sant Andrea Cathedral with its Arabian elements commenced in the 13th century. It is located in the town's central square, the Piazza Duomo, and is the most impressive architectural monument. The Paradise Cloister, or Chiostro del Paradiso, hugs the side of the cathedral. If you are superstitious, then don't climb up the steep steps of the Sant Andrea Cathedral arm in arm with your loved one, as local legend has it that if you do so, you will never marry. If you do end up getting married, then you can use a special fine paper that has been hand-crafted by Amalfi artisans for the wedding invitations. Amalfi's paper-making traditions began in the 12th century and more can be learned about them at the Museo della Carta.

Another unusual Amalfi tradition is the celebration of New Year's Eve in accordance with the Byzantine calendar and in the heat of the summer, on August 31.



Getting there

The town is located right in the middle of the Amalfi coast and one can reach it within 40 minutes by car from both ends – Sorrento or Salerno. Intercity buses and boats run regularly from Naples and Salerno.

Where to stay

The historical *Hotel Luna Convento* is located in a former monastery that dates from the year 1200. Composer Richard Wagner, writers Henrik Ibsen and Tennessee Williams, and state leaders Otto von Bismarck and Benito Mussolini all stayed there at one time or other. The hotel has a wonderful inner courtyard with a flowering garden. Each room, along with the restaurant terrace and swimming pool, offers superb views of the turquoise blue sea and the Amalfi coast.

📍 lunahotel.it

Dining

The *Da Gemma* restaurant is more than a century old and a favourite among both locals and visitors. One can enjoy its outstanding cuisine and local wines on the rooftop terrace. The restaurant was named after the owner's mother, and the *zuppa di pesce*, or fish soup, which is made according to his mother's recipe, will satisfy true gourmets.

📍 trattoriadagemma.com

Must-see

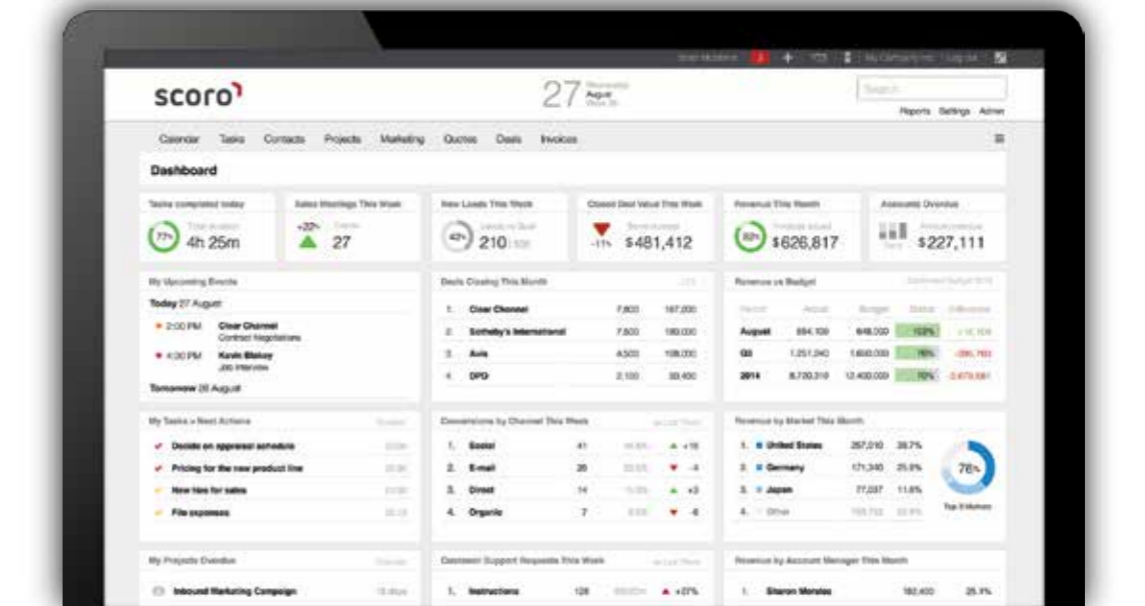
The historical Regatta of Ancient Maritime Republics takes place between four historical participants: Amalfi, Genoa, Pisa and Venice. It is held in one of the four towns each year, and the president of Italy is the patron of the event.

Shopping

Bearing in mind Amalfi's centuries-old paper-making traditions, one should make the effort to purchase high-quality handmade products from the small, old *L'Arco Antico* shop. Among the unique products are wonderful paper for writing letters, original note blocks in leather covers and impressive photo albums.

📍 cartadiamalfi.it

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POSITANO – A DOLCE VITA RESORT

On entering Positano, a beautiful view presents itself. Colourful buildings in fine pastel tones of yellow, pink, terracotta, peach and white have been built vertically into the cliffs of the mountain town, giving this unique place a surreal and theatrical aura. The once quiet fishing village of Positano became a popular destination in the mid-1950s, competing with the Isle of Capri for affluent visitors, and the *dolce vita* lifestyle of that time can still be felt there.

Writer Patricia Highsmith took vacations in the resort and used Positano as the prototype for the fictional port town of Mongibello, which features in her novel *The Talented Mr. Ripley*. The novel later formed the basis of an Oscar-nominated film (1999). Positano is a popular destination for couples and honeymooning newlyweds as

well as for poets, artists and writers. It is easy to fall in love with the place from the first visit and you will feel an irresistible desire to return there again. Painters Pablo Picasso and Paul Klee, film director Franco Zeffirelli and movie diva Elizabeth Taylor were among the many creative personalities who became enchanted by the beauty of Positano, admitting that they were “willing prisoners of a legendary landscape”.

Positano is also a favourite of beach-lovers and renowned as an elegant resort town. Spiaggia Grande is one of the most fashionable and largest beaches on the Amalfi coast – a place “to see and to be seen”. Fornillo Beach, for its part, is favoured by those who long for rest and relaxation by the sea. It can be reached by foot and is not far from the main beach. A sea taxi service is available from Spiaggia Grande and will take you to the small Rémese, Clavel and Cavone beaches, which are accessible only by boat.

After lounging about on the beach, it will be time to head to the Monti Lattari mountains and the nearby village of Montepertuso for a nature walk to the oasis of Vallone Porto and its waterfalls.



Getting there

Positano is about one hour and 15 minutes by car from Naples or a 20-minute drive from Sorrento. It can be easily reached by inter-city bus or boat from Naples.

Where to stay

Il San Pietro di Positano is a historical luxury hotel with an exotic garden and elegant terrace that provides a splendid panoramic view. The hotel is an icon of Positano and worth visiting even if you are not staying there. Each of the hotel's majestic apartments has its own private terrace. You can reach the *Michelin*-starred *Zass* restaurant, private beach, swimming pool, bar and tennis court by lift.
① ilsanpietro.it

Dining

One of the town's best seafood restaurants, *La Sponda* – as confirmed by its *Michelin* star – is located at the elegant *Le Sirenuse* hotel. Romantics will appreciate dinner by candlelight on the terrace with live mandolin and guitar music. Imperial prawns with lemon marmalade prepared by chef Matteo Temperini will provide a real festival for your taste buds.
① sirenuse.it

Must-see

The island of the Sirens, Li Galli, is actually a three-island archipelago not far from Positano. Legend states that the mythical Sirens, who lured passing ships onto the rocks with their songs, lived on these islands. Famous ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev was also enchanted by the islands' mystical beauty and lived the final years of his life there in a villa designed by architect Le Corbusier.

Shopping

Visit *La Bottega di Giovanni*, a little shop where master Giovanni himself makes hand-made sandals characteristic of Positano. The most popular ones, favoured by Italian *dolce vita* film stars, are decorated with seashells. Another Positano master named Antonello creates original fine silk scarves printed with Roman fresco motifs, which can be purchased at the *Antonello della Mura* boutique (Via del Saracino 36).
① labottegucciapositano.it

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Moto Festival “Seeburg Bikerland”

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September 1–20

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Liepaja events calendar:
kalendars.liepaja.lv





Ravello Music Festival at the Belvedere di Villa Rufolo



Gardens of the Villa Rufolo

RAVELLO – AN OASIS OF MUSIC AND GARDENS

As one of the most wonderful little towns in the area, Ravello has long been frequented by artists and travellers. Once you reach the top of a hill, a quiet, pocket-sized paradise with 2,500 permanent residents appears before you. There are no traffic jams and no noise typical of a city, as only foot traffic is permitted on the little stone streets of the Old Town, allowing one to view medieval churches, historical villas with romantic gardens and stunning panoramic views at an unhurried pace.

Ravello is well-known by lovers of classical music, as the international Ravello Music Festival is held there each summer and this close connection with music has great significance on the cultural life of the town. Attending a symphony orchestra concert is an unforgettable experience; imagine listening to classical music at the *Belvedere di Villa Rufolo* under a clear sky in a flowering garden, with the mountains, the sea and the sunset in the background.

The 11th-century Villa Rufolo residence, with a Gothic tower at the entrance and a splendid garden, inspired Richard Wagner to compose his opera *Parsifal*, and the annual Ravello Festival in July is dedicated specifically to him. Ravello has been visited by many famous musical personalities in its time, including Giuseppe Verdi, Edvard Grieg, Enrico Caruso, Leonard Bernstein and Mstislav Rostropovich. This magical place inspired Italian renaissance writer Giovanni Boccaccio to write *Decameron*, his classical prose masterpiece.

A true treasure of Ravello is the 12th-century *Villa Cimbrone*, one of the most prestigious luxury hotels of the Amalfi coast. Its exotic botanical garden was created in the early 1900s by architect Baron Grimthorpe, who is also known as the designer of London's Big Ben tower. The English aristocracy and intelligentsia gathered at the villa in the early 20th century. The Duke and Duchess of Kent as well as the Churchill, Agnelli and Clinton families are among the distinguished visitors who have been there at different times. Hollywood diva Greta Garbo also vacationed at the villa with British conductor Leopold Stokowski, as confirmed by a marble plaque next to the entrance.

From the villa, walk through a shady avenue of cypress trees to the *Terazzo dell'Infinito* and its 18th-century marble sculptures. A breath-taking panoramic view of the Salerno coast and the unbelievably blue Tyrrhenian Sea opens up from there. This moment should be captured, retained in memory and celebrated with a cool glass of prosecco and some juicy olives in the adjacent garden café.



Junior suite at the *Villa Maria* hotel

Getting there

Travelling from Amalfi towards Salento, the mountain serpentine will take you uphill to Ravello, which is only 5 km from Amalfi. Buses run frequently between the two towns.

Where to stay

The *Villa Maria* is an elegant and refined hotel with Art Deco and Liberty elements, antique furniture, marble floors and ornate Murano glass chandeliers. An ideal spot for a quiet holiday with wonderful gardens all around, along with a swimming pool, a tennis court and a great restaurant on the terrace.

① villamaria.it

Dining

Il Flauto di Pan, a Michelin-starred restaurant located in the *Villa Cimbrone*, will provide unforgettable culinary and aesthetic pleasures through meals prepared by chef Giovanni De Vivo from products that are also grown at the villa. The perfect place for a romantic dinner for two on the wonderful terrace with a panoramic view of the mountains.

① villacimbrone.com

Must-see

The Ravello Music Festival's concerts of classical, jazz, ethno and other music take place at the Villa Rufolo and Auditorium Oscar Niemeyer from May to October. The dress code is elegant casual wear, and evening dress is not required.

① ravelloarts.org, ravellofestival.com

Shopping

The largest selection of hand-painted ceramic items typical of the Amalfi coast and made by local artisans is available at *Ceramiche d'Arte*. Decorative plates, antique-style services, vases, tiles, interior decorations and other items are created in limited series by more than 70 masters.

① ceramichedarte.com

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CAPRI – ISLAND OF DREAMS

Dizzying aromas, brilliant flowers, an extensive historical legacy, quiet charm and a captivating natural environment are only a small part of the magic of this island.

Roman emperor Caesar Augustus was among the first to discover the magic of Capri in 29 BC. His successor Tiberius then began the impressive construction of villas there. During the early 19th century, European painters and writers found inspiration on the Isle of Capri, which enjoys a mild Mediterranean climate. The island became famous as a refuge and meeting place for artists, philosophers and aristocrats. Many visitors also purchased or built residences there.

Swedish doctor and writer Axel Munthe built his dream home, the Villa San Michele, on the quieter side of the island, which is known as Anacapri. He later penned *The Story of San Michele*.

German industrialist Alfred Krupp built his residence, the Augustus Gardens, on Capri. An unforgettable view of the Faraglioni Rocks – a group of lonely cliffs out in the sea – opens up from the villa's exotic gardens. The nearby Villa Krupp hotel once catered to Maxim Gorky, Lenin and other Russian revolutionaries.

Capri is also popular with Hollywood stars and fashion designers. For example, last summer, the design duo *Dolce & Gabbana* chose Capri for a high fashion evening gown parade, inviting only 250 guests – mainly rich clients from all over the world – to the fashion show. Models in voluminous, luxuriously embroidered evening gowns worthy of a queen – and wearing crowns decorated with gold, rubies and sapphires – strutted past the red drapes, candelabras and sofas of the open-air setting by the cliffs, with the sea and the sunset in the background. The gowns were inspired by such film and music divas as Elizabeth Taylor, Brigitte Bardot and Maria Callas, who once vacationed on the Isle of Capri.



Getting there

Passenger ferries travel frequently from the harbours of Naples, Sorrento, Amalfi and Positano. Of course, one can also berth one's yacht at Capri's Porta Grande harbour or arrive there by helicopter. The central square of the town on Mount Piazzetta can be reached most conveniently from the port by the funicular.

Where to stay

The quiet *Luna Capri* boutique hotel, with its wonderful panoramic view of the sea and Faraglioni Rocks, is a real find. A garden with exotic flowers and pomegranate trees, a sunny terrace and a swimming pool lie next to the hotel.

① lunahotel.com



Faraglioni Rocks

Dining

Enjoy a romantic dinner in an aromatic lemon tree orchard at the *Da Paolino Lemon Trees Restaurant*. Try the outstanding Mediterranean cuisine and the dessert that is typical of Capri, the *Torta Caprese* – the island's traditional chocolate cake with almonds – or a lemon dessert and the local lemon liqueur, *limoncello*.

① paolinocapri.com

Must-see

The Grotta Azzurra (Blue Grotto) – a 25-metre-wide and 60-metre long natural cliff cave – can only be accessed by small boat through a very narrow entrance, lower than a metre in height. An unbelievable view opens up in the cave's interior of the water's striking blue colour.

Shopping

Like Milan, the Isle of Capri has its own shopping golden triangle. Boutiques selling the most famous brands start at the Piazzetta central square and extend right up to the Via Camerelle and Via Le Botteghe. It's worth visiting the *Canfora* historical boutique, which is famous for its high-quality Capri-style leather sandals. There are hand made by local masters and were favourites of Jacqueline Kennedy.

① canfora.com



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ALTAUSSEE:

A SUMMER PLACE FOR ALL WALKS OF LIFE

What was your favourite summer memory or family activity? *Baltic Outlook* journalist Jimmy Petterson shares a personal summer story about his uncle Edi, who continued to hike through the mountains of Austria past the age of 90.

Text and photos by
JIMMY PETTERSON

Many of us have a special place in our lives, where the innocence of childhood summers is preserved forever. This “summer place” is set in an idyllic location far from the bustle of city life. Its fragrance is that of freshly cut hay mingled with the scent of the forest after a summer cloudburst. Or perhaps it offers the sweet stale smell of a summer house that has sat idly for nine or ten months, waiting to once again be brought to life by the ringing of children’s laughter. The gentle patter of summer rain on the roof, the early morning chirping of birds and the evening orchestra of crickets each add a melodic background to my childhood hideaway.

Rustic beauty

Many years ago, my great-grandfather discovered such a summer place deep in the Salzkammergut of Austria. He bought a nice little home in the village of Altaussee, which was actually a group of small hamlets with 1300-1400 peasants. The village is nestled in a valley of pastoral meadows alongside a dark lake that bares the same name. Across the lake, the dramatic Trisselwand – more a wall than a mountain – rises straight up from the lakeshore. The nearer north flank of the lake is decorated by the unique-looking Loser, a mountain whose sloping lower sections of forests give way to grassy alms topped by a crown of limestone cliffs. To the south, the perpetual ice of the spectacular Dachstein looks close enough to touch, adding the icing on the cake to a village that seems to have leapt out of the pages of a fairy tale.

My great-grandfather was not the only one to fall in love with this location. The region received notoriety among the Austrian aristocracy when, in 1819, Archduke Johann fell in love with the daughter of the postmaster of neighbouring Grundlsee, ten kilometres away. From that day on, the higher classes of Vienna began annual pilgrimages to this region with increasing frequency.

The sudden new interest in the region caught the area without a proper transportation infrastructure in place, and Altaussee also offered nothing much in the way of hotel accommodation. Therefore, the local peasants moved their entire families into tool sheds or barns for part of the summer, while renting out their own residences to the nobles from the east. Gradually, word of this paradise spread and the Ausseerland began to attract an elite group of composers and other intellectuals.

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Spectacular view of Lake Altaussee and the Dachstein glacier



Uncle Edi
still went hiking even when he
was more than 90 years old



Flower-growing secrets are passed on
from generation to generation

Eventually, writers Friedrich Torberg, Jakob Wassermann, Rainer Maria Rilke and Arthur Schnitzler; composers Gustav Mahler, Richard Strauss and Johannes Brahms; and the father of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud, visited Altaussee regularly for peace and inspiration. Some of these visitors bought land and built beautiful villas, while others continued to use the existing system and rented the homes of local peasants.

Classless society

My great-grandfather's house has passed down through a few generations in my family. My grandmother was born in that house in 1883, and my mother rode her bicycle through the surrounding meadows, picking narcissus every summer by the *Blaa-Alm* guesthouse in the 1930s. I, too, have spent enough lazy summer days in that house by the lake to claim Altaussee as my childhood summer idyll.

Altaussee was and still is a paradise for hikers, with hundreds of paths and trails for people of all abilities to enjoy. It is also a wonderful spot for biking, both with on-road and mountain bikes. Thirdly, it is an ideal place for families who wish to spend time together in the same leisurely manner that suited the aristocracy more than a century ago, for the slow pace of life here has not really changed in all those years.

Each time I make my annual, nostalgic journey back to this enchanted land, I rejoice at its ability to resist change. The sad tendency of meadows and playgrounds being paved over by parking lots and gas stations has somehow been avoided. The pestilence of mass tourism, which has turned many parts of Austria into a big fair, has been kept out of this pastoral valley.

Large open areas of grazing land still stand right along the main street that winds through the village. While a small market, a bakery, a handful of small restaurants and a few other shops do exist, Altaussee is still a town without a business district. To do any real shopping, the inhabitants drive five kilometres away to Bad Aussee. Altaussee is a celebration of multi-coloured flowers, as every house is decked with geraniums, fuchsias and a dozen other varieties of blossoms hanging from every windowsill.

Altaussee is a place where the rich and famous come to feel like normal people. Differences of class and culture, so prevalent in other parts of Austria, are neutralised by a mutual respect that has been cultivated here for so many years. Europe's aristocrats still pay visits to this magical milieu and wealthy Viennese still own summerhouses here. Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands arrived incognito on her honeymoon in the 1960s. Race car driver Nicky Lauda's family and actor Klaus Maria Brandauer are among the well-known names with property in the area.

These regular visitors all pay respect to the traditions and habits of the region, trying to communicate in the



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The Pinnacle is a well-known hiking destination

For his 90th birthday, my sister and I gave him a tandem flight with a local instructor

almost incomprehensible dialect of the area and dressing up more often than not in the local *Dirndls* and *Lederhosen* of the Ausseerland. Here, the wealthier classes are proud to fit in and be accepted by the descendants of simple peasants.

Uncle Edi

My current visits to Altaussee have been enhanced by the fact that I had the opportunity to stay in our longtime family summerhouse with my old Uncle Edi for about ten years when he was in his eighties and nineties. Through Edi's eyes, I was able to experience Altaussee in a manner like no other. Edi began his own love affair with Altaussee at the age of six, and in subsequent years he climbed, hiked and skied the surrounding mountains innumerable times.

Like Altaussee, Edi, too, stubbornly resisted change. He steered the course of the old family house in the same way that the community guided the village through a century of turmoil. The bathtub sits on four small legs and is fed by a small wood-heated water tank. Old tile wood-heated ovens are still responsible for providing much of the heat, and while the kitchen is outfitted with a "modern" 1960s stove, an old wood burner still occupies a place in the corner of the room.

Numerous factors have contributed to Altaussee's ability to maintain its charm, but Edi theorised that the real saviour is the weather. He kept a diary of his hikes and excursions, noting the

weather for each, and calculated that on average, nearly half of the summer days from June through August are sunny.

Edi had hiked and skied numerous times on the local mountain, the Loser, but now many people were paragliding from there and that looked interesting. For his 90th birthday, my sister and I gave him a tandem flight with a local instructor so that he could take in the views of his beloved Altaussee from the air.

Day out with my girlfriend

A few years back, my then-girlfriend Minna and I arrived in mid-June for our annual visit with Edi. One early morning, sunshine beamed into our little room under the eaves of the house. This was a perfect day to spend some time at the lake. Minna and I packed a small picnic and went to borrow a *Plätte* from some friends. The *Plätte* is a narrow gondola-shaped boat, steered and propelled by one oar on the rear port side of the vessel. It is indigenous to only a few lakes in this small region of Austria, and I had learned the rather difficult technique of guiding this kind of boat from my mother. We went across the width of the lake to the Kahlseneck, a small, sloped, grassy beach with a superb view of the glaciated Dachstein. There, a swim, a picnic and some *Marillen Kuchen* (apricot cake) from the small restaurant at the beach left us invigorated for an additional afternoon excursion.

We returned the *Plätte* and decided to go cycling. While a small bicycle shop in Altaussee caters to the needs of today's sophisticated biking public, my penchant for tradition runs deep, and Minna and I extricated two old family bikes that date back to the 1930s. We began cycling up the Obertressen, a rather steep road that goes over the hill between Altaussee and Grundlsee, having to dismount and walk our one-gear bikes on a couple of

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During the 19th century, Altaussee evolved into a popular summer resort for writers and intellectuals



On hot summer days, grazing cows also take advantage of the resort's cool lake waters



Traditional wooden house with flower-filled windows

occasions. Thereafter, we rode along the road that follows the shoreline of Grundlsee and continued on the flat trail that connects Grundlsee with the small Toplitzsee.

We took a longer route back, riding along the river through Bad Aussee to the excellent *Lewandofsky Konditorei*, where we rewarded our hard-working bodies with *Sachertorte* and *Wilde Erdbeer Schnitte* (wild strawberry cake).

Spectacular vistas

The following morning, we arose to another sunny day, and despite some muscle aches, decided to take advantage of the weather and proceeded right downstairs. We had breakfast and drove up the serpentine road with our guide Edi to the Loser parking lot, at 1600 metres. That road is one of the few major changes since Edi's childhood. Before its construction in the 1970s, about a four-hour hike was required to reach this point on the mountain. From the parking lot, many hiking options are available. The most frequented hikes are to the peak of the Loser and to the sub peaks of the Hochanger and the Greimut. We decide to visit the main peak.

Just a few minutes' walk from the starting point is the Augstsee, an austere mountain lake that often is still partially covered with ice throughout the month of June. The lake was surrounded by meadows full of bluebells, buttercups, forget-me-nots and countless other flowers that Edi identified in German. As we continued upward, the meadow flowers gave way to gentian (*Enzian*) and rhododendron (*Alpenrose*).

The hike to the peak takes one-and-a-half hours, not including stops for photographs of the breathtaking scenery. The Loser is laden with oddly-shaped pinnacles, pillars and precipices, not unlike the Dolomites of northern Italy. We hiked for a short while very close to the cliff, where around every corner a new view beckoned us to edge our way to the brink for yet another spectacular panorama.

In the distance, we could see the Wolfgangsee and half a dozen ridges of mountains, one rising slightly above the preceding one, all tinted with a mesmerising blue haze. When we finally reached the peak, the views again were stunning, but this time with the lake and village directly below, as if we were viewing them through an elevator shaft.

On our return hike, the sweat was dripping off my face and, despite its icy appearance, I could not resist a dip in the Augstsee. Minna shuddered at the thought and Edi claimed he was "too old" for that kind of activity.

Our excursion was capped by lunch on the veranda of the *Loser Hütte*. Here we indulged in some local *Saibling* (a kind of trout native to the nearby lakes) smothered in melted butter. During lunch, we gazed





Flower-rich meadows and clear water combine to make the perfect alpine holiday

I teased my mother that Altaussee was not far removed from the days of the ox-cart and the horse and carriage

out at the Dachstein glacier. Shimmering in the afternoon sun, it looked close enough to touch.

"That is a bad sign," claimed Edi. "When the Dachstein appears very close, it indicates that we will get bad weather," he said with the certainty that inferred years of experience.

Cherished heritage

Sure enough, the musical rhythm of rain was our wakeup call on the following morning. The classic rainy day excursion in Altaussee is a relaxing seven-kilometre walk around the lake, and we began this activity in the afternoon. This stroll requires no concentration and offers the chance to chat while ambling at a leisurely pace. As we walked the section of lakeshore close to the steep wall of the Trisselwand, Edi reminisced about his own uncle, Paul Preuss, possibly the world's best mountain climber in the early 1900s, who also spent his summers in Altaussee.

Preuss, whose life story has been described in a biography by famous climber Reinhold Messner, was an inspiration to Edi as well as Messner. Edi told us how Preuss used to scale the walls of the Trisselwand as practice for the first ascents that he made in other parts of the Alps.

Edi, too, had climbed the steep wall of the Trisselwand at least half a dozen times in his youth. In more recent years, he satisfied himself by hiking up the east-facing shoulder to the top, a steep and arduous hike, but not an excursion that

requires any climbing skills. This was Edi's favourite hike, which he did close to 50 times after turning 70.

"It is a four-hour effort to the top from the lake or about three hours from the Tressensattel, an alternate starting point," explained Edi. "The peak is about 1000 vertical metres above the lake and affords a superb panorama. I haven't done this hike since I turned 90," he added, sadly. "I'm afraid it is a little too much for me these days."

Near the end of our walk, we visited the small local cemetery, situated along the path around the lake. It is not like other graveyards I have visited, for it seems a happy place – as rich with flowers as the local gardens. Amidst the edelweiss, roses, fuchsia and other plants that cover the graves are small lanterns on almost every plot. It was dusk, and the flickering of candlelight through the red, orange and yellow glass of the lamps created a special ambiance as we made a short visit to our family plot. Here lay Paul Preuss and his mother, Lina Preuss, and my own mother as well.

I became nostalgic and misty-eyed as I thought of this special summer place and of my first visit as a young boy in 1959. I came from modern Los Angeles and teased my mother that Altaussee was not far removed from the days of the ox-cart and the horse and carriage. Little did I realise how true that was and that therein lay the charm of this little valley lost in time. Only after many years of traversing all the continents of the world and visiting more than 90 countries can I come back with the travel experience to know that little Altaussee, a summer place of eternal beauty that transcends time, is, perhaps, the greatest gift of my heritage. Edi Schaar passed away in Altaussee at the age of 96. He still hiked and skied in the last year of his life. **BO**

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PICTURESQUE BIKE TOURS IN THE NETHERLANDS

Text by **AGRA LIEGE**
Photos by **ANU ANTILLA** and
Alamy, courtesy of Tulip Cycling

If one had to name a land that is best explored and appreciated by bicycle, then that land would be the Netherlands. While the country may not be very large, its beautiful landscapes appear vast as one pedals through them on an extended network of safe and bicycle-friendly roads.

Travelling by bicycle through the Netherlands, one gets the privilege of enjoying ever-changing scenery. City centres turn into suburbs, which give way to desert-like landscapes of dunes. The Netherlands are full of picturesque cities and towns filled with beautiful bridges, churches and, of course, millions of bicycles. The harmonious and serene atmosphere that reigns in many places stems from the inhabitants' true concern with the environment, cleanliness and tranquility. Added to that, unending fields of flowers of all colours of the rainbow spread practically to the horizon in the springtime.

During my four-day bicycle trip through some of the most appealing and remarkable areas of the

Netherlands, I really came to appreciate this two-wheeled form of transportation. While walking is certainly an enjoyable way of exploring new areas of interest, cycling is less restrictive, because it allows one to travel further and thus get a better feeling of a place – especially if one has only a few days at one's disposal. A car will take you even further, but can you really relate to what you see through the window, even when driving at slow speed? The bicycle, I found, was the ultimate form of travel, and with the help of the *Tulip Cycling* team, I experienced the magic of getting to know a new country.

Tulip Cycling is the brainchild of Peter Vos, who left behind a successful career in land surveying to embrace two passions – cycling and maps – and to create his own bicycle touring company. He is said to know nearly every street and road in the Netherlands and designs most of the tours himself, providing all that is needed for a flawless and unforgettable experience during an active holiday.

DAY 1

Delft – The Hague (Den Haag) – sand dunes – Leiden

I arrive early in the morning in Amsterdam. Peter is waiting for me and together we drive to Leiden to leave my luggage at the hotel where I will be staying for the night. We then drive on to Delft and start our trip at the *Hotel de Plantaan*. I get a clear and thorough briefing from Peter over a cup of coffee on first aid and equipment (including the GPS system with route maps uploaded onto it) and we are ready to set out.

After a tasty lunch in The Hague at one of the many cute places on the edge of the central square, we head out for a look at the beautiful parliament buildings and the Noordeinde Palace. On the way out of the city, one should also see the *Panorama Mesdag*, a panoramic cylindrical painting by Hendrik Willem Mesdag that is more than 14 metres high and about 40 metres in diameter. The cylindrical perspective creates the illusion that the viewer is standing on a high sand dune that overlooks the sea, the beaches and the village of Scheveningen in the late 19th century.

While cycling through the lively and well-kept outskirts of The Hague, I hardly notice the moment when we suddenly enter a dune area. The landscape changes completely, from pretty streets and houses to a striking desert panorama with the sun shining down on

the sand dunes. Here the route becomes more challenging. We stop at a clearing to go look at the sea below, which is wild and stormy, offering a stark and magnificent contrast to the calm and well-organised city life. As I find out later, this is not yet the hardest part of my journey, but the path going up and down the steep slopes through the dunes is challenging enough for a non-Dutch weekend cyclist like myself. The Dutch people I meet, however, seem to cycle as easily as they breathe.

In any case, I feel proud and a bit relieved when we emerge at a small seaside village near Leiden, our final destination for the day. The sea here is calm and the villages, though new and modern, give off a vibe of past times, inviting one to stop, sit on a bench and watch the sea. This cannot be said about Leiden – a little kingdom of canals lined with beautiful houses and criss-crossed with small, picturesque bridges. There are plenty of museums to visit in this city, including the *Museum Boerhaave* (science and medicine museum), the Dutch National Museum of Antiquities, the windmill museum and more. I settle in the lovely *Huys van Leyden* hotel and ponder the 40-something kilometres that we have covered and that have left me feeling pleasantly tired in the evening.



Typical early morning view towards a canal in small and cozy Leiden



Square by the houses of Parliament in The Hague



Cycling through the dunes between The Hague and Katwijk, near a coastal village at the entrance to Leiden



Huys van Leyden boutique hotel



DAY 2

Leiden – tulip fields – Keukenhof gardens – Haarlem

Peter joins me for another day of cycling. We leave the welcoming city of Leiden and set out to experience the roads of Holland, feasting our eyes on amazing flower fields of a multitude of colours. Flowers are undeniably one of the main tourist attractions in the Netherlands, but there is more to the landscape of this country than that. The terrain is fairly flat, quite vivid and very well-kept. It conveys a calm beauty and gives one a feeling of heartfelt contentment when surrounded by it.

We stop at the Keukenhof gardens, which are open only in April and May. Inside, one is surrounded by more than seven million flowers in full bloom, encompassing about 800 varieties of tulips. The 32 hectares house many gardens and pavilions where unique works of art can be seen and where flower shows and other beauty-inspired events are held. This has been a special year at Keukenhof, which is paying tribute to famous painter Vincent van Gogh. The remarkable artist has been the inspiration for the flower shows

at the park as well as the object of a spectacular “self-portrait” mosaic of the artist’s profile made from thousands of blooming tulips. At the end of this day’s journey, Haarlem awaits.

Peter informs me that according to a nationwide poll, Haarlem was voted as the best Dutch city to live in, and I fully believe him! Upon our arrival, we settle into the chairs of a cosy and smart little café that serves us delicious food. Baby carriages are parked outside, their little occupants in the arms of their relaxed mothers beside us. Haarlem harmoniously unites the worlds of a big city and a small town. It is vibrant, stylish and equipped to suit the most demanding big-city dwellers. At the same time, it is peaceful and navigable by foot, with a small and delightful church square as its central point. I have a wonderful stay at *The Ambassador* hotel, a couple of steps away from the main square, after a wonderful walk around the dimming, charmingly lit town centre.



On the way to Haarlem



At Keukenhof, the world-famous spring garden also known as the Garden of Europe, in the pavilion dedicated to painter Vincent van Gogh

Photo by Anu Anttila

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DAY 3

Haarlem – windmills – Edam



Windmills at the famous Zaanse Schans village just outside Amsterdam

This is my third day on a bicycle and I bravely set out on a solo journey, ready to test the power of the pre-programmed GPS over my own geographical confusion. I spend the last two days travelling with panniers – two waterproof bags hung over the rear wheel of my bike, which, when packed to have approximately the same weight in each, are surprisingly unnoticeable while riding. However, you do have to remember about them and keep your balance when you stop.

Although I did get acquainted with the GPS settings during the first two days, I had let myself follow Peter's guidance most of the time so that I could just take in the wonderful vistas. Thus, I am now preparing for a harder task ahead. To my surprise, the hardship is short-lived and the convenient GPS sound setting reminds me to peek at the map only at the necessary moments.

I am able to enjoy the journey just as much as before, without having to pay too much attention to the technicalities of getting around.

The famous Zaanse Schans windmills just outside Amsterdam form the highlight of the route from Haarlem to Edam. They are part of a museum-village complex that incorporates well-preserved windmills and homes from the entire Zaanstreek region. Starting from 1961, the buildings were taken apart at their original sites and relocated to their present location piece by piece. The tourist attraction provides a great deal to see and do. One can walk among the attractive buildings and meadows, watch traditional crafts being practiced (such as clog- and cheese-making), see the windmills, take boat trips, visit the shops and boutiques, and dine in one of the restaurants at the complex.



Store selling the world-famous Edam cheese in the village of the same name

Windmills can be spotted all over the Netherlands. Even today, they take one back to a different time and world. Fittingly, my "windmill day" is also my windiest day in the country, providing an additional challenge. That doesn't seem to be the case for an elderly gentleman, whose bicycle looks even older than the rider himself and who passes me effortlessly on a path. I count down the last eight kilometres to the village of Edam with sweat on my brow, reaching the town in the afternoon. I'm glad to settle in the *Hotel de Fortuna*, which boasts a welcoming garden terrace and an indoor

restaurant in which you actually want to linger, rather than look for a dining spot elsewhere.

The obvious association with the name "Edam" is, of course, cheese, and for centuries the well-known round Edam cheese spheres have been sent out from the little town to all corners of the globe. Edam is home to well-preserved and authentic 17th-century architecture – including gables, squares, bridges and monuments – as well as the Museum of Edam and the Edam Cheese Market (*Kaasmarkt Edam*), which takes place on Wednesdays in July and August.



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DAY 4

**Edam –Volendam – Monnickendam –
Marken – Weesp**



Green meadows surrounding
the village of Monnickendam

With the daily route length increasing, I start to worry about the number of kilometres of my final day – 53. The journey will take me from Edam to the historical town of Weesp, which, coincidentally, is hosting a cycling competition on the day of my arrival. First along the way is Volendam, an old fishing village on Lake IJsselmeer. It is built in typical Volendam-style architecture and its cosy harbour is home to boats, restaurants and bars alike.

From Volendam I continue to Monnickendam, best known for its four marinas and traditionally built houses dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries. The village also houses many monumental buildings, such as St. Nicholas Church, whose construction began in the 14th century but was not completed until

250 years later. Another landmark of the culturally rich village is the Waterlands Museum of Speeltoren – a national treasure that artfully presents the history of Monnickendam and the surrounding area. The museum also hosts art exhibitions and is home to 500-year-old carillon bells, the oldest still functioning bells of their type in the world.

From Monnickendam I catch the ferry to the former island of Marken, which was cut off from the mainland until 1957 but is now a peninsula that can also be visited from land. The picturesque village exudes a special atmosphere, as the presence of water can be felt all around. Many houses have been built on terps, or artificial hills that provide safety when the water level rises. In later years, poles were used instead of terps and some pole-



Monnickendam

supported houses can still be seen in the village. Off Marken I cycle on along the dikes of Lake IJsselmeer and get to experience the bike paths just off the main road. These are higher above the paved road and provide breathtaking views of the water-ridden land below.

I end up in Weesp, a historical town at the foot of Amsterdam and separated from the Dutch capital by the Amsterdam-Rhine Canal, spending two more enjoyable hours riding in the sun. Surprisingly, I complete the 53-kilometre route without

too much trouble at all and enter a café with a fine waterfront view. Weesp lies next to two rivers and to the aforementioned Amsterdam-Rhine Canal. It is truly a small haven next to the busy and most populous city in the Netherlands. Here in Weesp I meet again with Peter and hand over the bicycle that has faithfully led me through the multifaceted, calm and enjoyable country. Indeed, the Netherlands have so much to offer, especially to those who are brave enough to travel with the local king of transportation – the bicycle. **BO**

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ESCAPE TO THE VENETIAN ISLANDS

Text by **NADJA SAYEJ**
Photos by *Corbis, SIME, Alamy, Isopix* and publicity

While you might be tempted to spend your whole visit in magical Venice, do yourself a favour and see some of the other islands in the Venetian Lagoon as well.

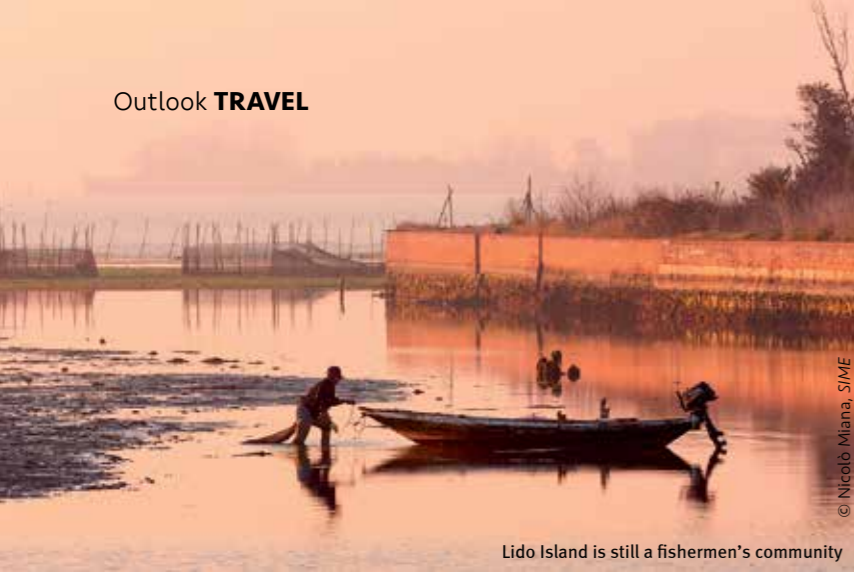
Venice is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful cities in the world, filled with romantic scenery, historic buildings and canals. The “sinking city” provides a captivating journey through Italy’s architectural and cultural history. It was built on wooden platforms and stakes on 118 lagoon islands connected by bridges and canals. Climate change has caused high tides to flood Venice during the winter. Despite the construction of floodgates that separate the lagoon from the ocean during the high-tide season, Venice may one day sink into the sea like the legendary city of Atlantis that Plato famously wrote about.

Venice can also be chaotic. When visiting the city, most tourists get lost in the labyrinth of cobblestone streets, even with their offline map apps and low-battery phones. Why not take a break from the confusion and escape for a while to the Venetian islands? Much unlike the Greek isles or even the Canary Islands, these islands are not filled with resorts and nightclubs. They offer an authentic window into the private, often secret world of artisan crafts, secluded gardens and out-of-the-way corners that inspired some of the greatest thinkers of our time.

As the famed modern art collector Peggy Guggenheim, who lived in Venice, once said: “It is always assumed that Venice is the ideal place for a honeymoon. This is a grave error. To live in Venice or even to visit it means that you fall in love with the city itself. There is nothing left over in your heart for anyone else.”

Read on to find some hotspots that are beyond the map.

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Lido Island is still a fishermen's community

© Nicolò Miana, SIME



Beach huts along the Lungomare Guglielmo Marconi

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Hanging laundry is not hidden from strangers

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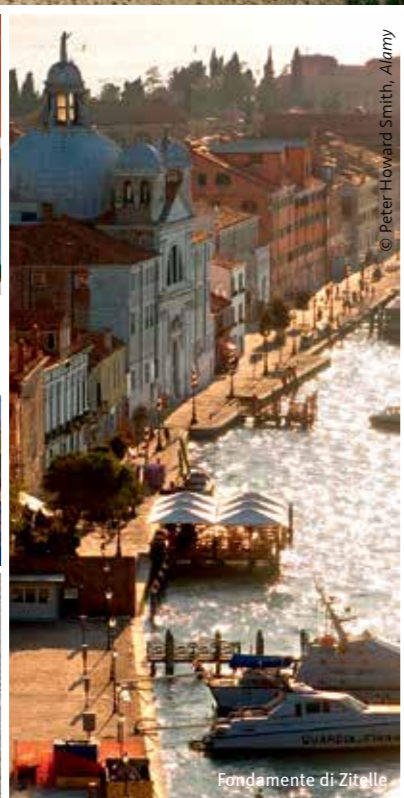
Fondamente di Zitelle

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Colourful boats in Giudecca

© Kevin Galvin, Alamy



Fondamente di Zitelle

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LIDO

Red carpet island

Accessible by most *vaporetto* boat lines, Lido is a 10-minute ride from San Eleni. As you arrive, you can see the *Hotel Riviera* by the shore. The island also has a restaurant strip and is home to 20,000 permanent residents – or one third of Venice's core population – as the result of a real estate boom in the 1960s. There is even a camping spot on the 11-kilometer-long sandbar, and you can ride bicycles on the island through *Bike Rental Lido* – a rarity for Venice.

Home to the annual Venice Film Festival every September, Lido has also been a refuge for great European thinkers such as German writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, English poet Lord Byron and French dramatist Alfred de Musset. The north, which is graced by the former *Grand Hotel des Bains*, is famed for inspiring German writer Thomas Mann's classic 1912 novel *Death in Venice*. Today, the hotel has been converted into a set of luxury apartments.

The eco-friendly Malamocco is one of the oldest parts of Venice, initially a camp at the beginning of the Fourth Crusade in 1202. There, the Gran Viale Santa Maria Elisabetta promenade leads from the *vaporetto* stop to the Adriatic Sea. The first sea bathing areas were established in 1857 at what was then known as the Lido Beach Resort, and private beaches can be found on the island's northern and southern tips. Due to its exclusive summer villas, Lido is also known as the Golden Island. One freely accessible beach is home to the *Blue Moon* bar, where you can order pizza from the sand facing the Adriatic Sea.

GIUDECCA

Island for the locals

It's a 15-minute private boat ride to Giudecca, an island for the locals. Formerly home to a film studio and industrial factories in the early 20th century, the island has retained some of its older architecture, such as the Church of the Redeemer (Chiesa del Redentore), which hosts the *Festa del Redentore* on the third Saturday and Sunday of July.

The five-star *Bauer Palladio Hotel*, for its part, is set in a 17th-century building and has a church in its centre, which is still active. The hotel also harbours four "secret" gardens that tourists can visit if they stop for lunch or dinner. White and yellow roses line the serene gardens, while large swaths of manicured greenery are dotted with yellow umbrellas. Giudecca is known as a quiet and peaceful island for "real" Venetians, offering a retreat and a different kind of life.



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Idyllic canal scene in Murano



Glasses are the most popular souvenir

BURANO

Island of rainbow homes

This island is a dream, filled with canals and summery rainbow homes painted in purple, yellow and red. Actually an archipelago of four islands linked by bridges, Burano may look like a beach destination, but it's best known for handmade lace. The trip takes roughly 40 minutes from the Fondamenta Nuove *vaporetto* stop. At the historic Palace of Podestà of Torcello in the Piazza Galuppi, the Venice Lace Museum (Museo del Merletto) outlines the city's intricate lace history. Previously, the building served as a renowned lace school from 1872 to 1970.

Leonardo da Vinci visited the island in 1481, purchasing a cloth for the main altar of his masterpiece, the Duomo di Milano. While Pisa is the Italian city with the leaning tower, the famous Church of San Martino in Burano has a leaning campanile. Pass the 13th-century church of Santa Caterina to check out local restaurants like the *Trattoria Al Gatto Nero*, which serves fresh lagoon seafood and homemade pasta (just look for the blue building). Try the *antipasto misto* for marinated and broiled fish, with the specialty being fried local crabs. Follow this with old-style Burano cookies for dessert.

MURANO

Island of glass

Known as the Glass Island, Murano is indeed a glass-production centre. In fact, the locals have been blowing glass there since 1291. While glassblowing originally began on the mainland, Venice's glassblowers were sent to Murano, as their glassworks were a fire hazard to the city, which at the time was built of wood. As the only Europeans who knew how to make glass mirrors, they further honed their skills to develop enamel glass, multi-colored glass and *lattimo* milk glass.

Still famed for its export of mirrors and glassware, including chandeliers and lampshades, the island is also known for its glass jewellery. The Murano Glass Museum (Museo del Vetro) digs deeper into the island's glass history. It is located in the 15th-century Venetian Gothic Palazzo Giustinian and displays various examples of glassmaking techniques used on the island.

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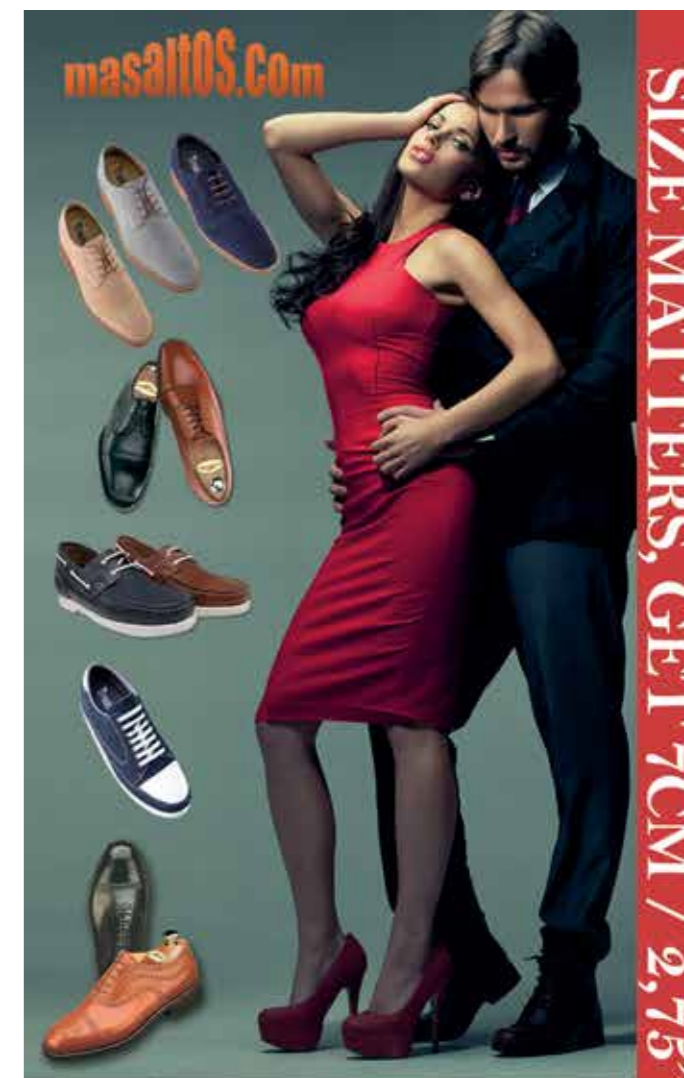
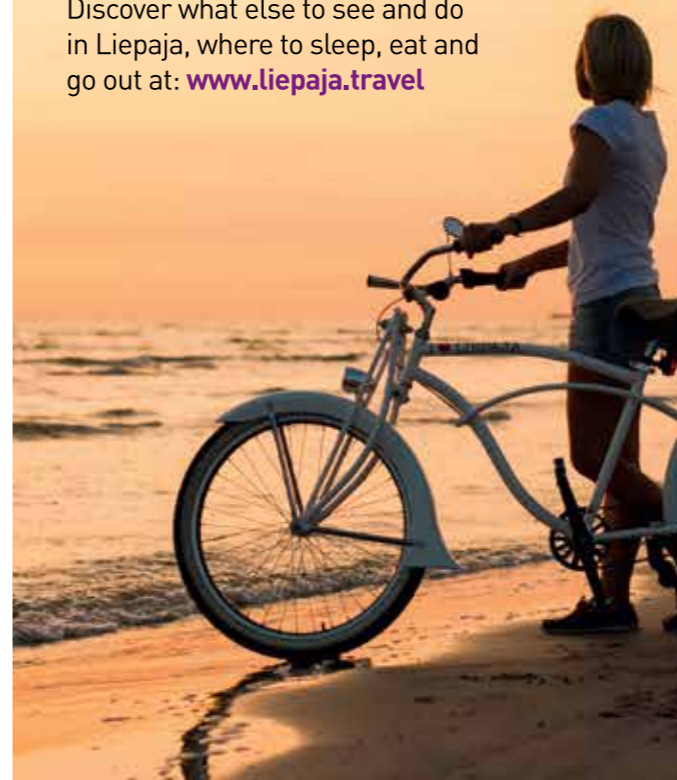
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The Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta on the island of Torcello



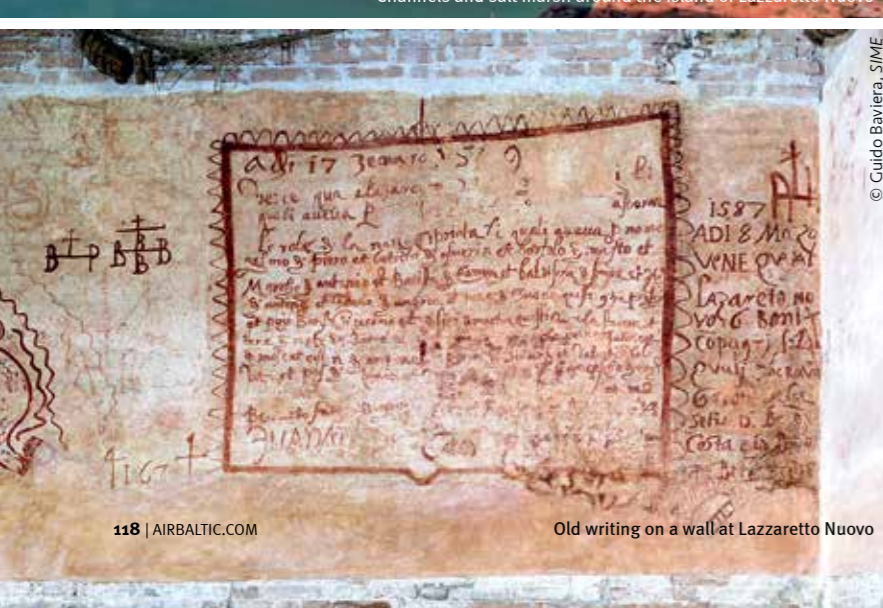
Statues in a garden



Bas-relief in Santa Fosca Church



Channels and salt marsh around the island of Lazzaretto Nuovo



TORCELLO

Island of ancestors

Torcello takes a long time to reach by *vaporetto* (roughly one hour) and is the oldest part of Venice. After the fall of the Roman Empire in the 5th century, the first Venetians took hold there during foreign invasions of the mainland. The Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, founded in 639, still stands today. It houses 11th- and 12th-century Byzantine artworks, including a mosaic of the Last Judgment.

Ernest Hemingway spent time on Torcello in 1948 while writing *Across the River and Into the Trees* during a stay at the *Locanda Hotel*. Today, the celebrity-filled hotel is still owned by the Cipriani family, who established it in 1934. Nearby, the *Locanda Cipriani* restaurant serves traditional Venetian cuisine. The world-renowned Bellini cocktail – prosecco and peach nectar – was invented in the 1930s by Giuseppe Cipriani.

LAZZARETTO NUOVO

Island of salt

Starting at the channel of St. Erasmus, this island was a monastery during the Middle Ages and a religious site in the 11th century, when the Benedictine monks of San Giorgio Maggiore took over and built a church dedicated to St. Bartholomew. Surrounded by salt marshes, Lazzaretto Nuovo was also a commercial source of sea salt.

The main building on the island is named Tezon Grande, which is the largest public building in Venice after the Corderie. It has the feeling of a castle without the pomp and glitz. Drawings and writings on the walls tell much about the merchants and guards who documented the import and export of products through seals and symbols that included the names of sailors.

The island was later used by the Italian army until 1975, when it was largely abandoned. Archaeological summer camps have been held on Lazzaretto Nuovo since 1987, and temporary “on request” *vaporetto* stops can be taken to the island (Line 13, New Fondamente-S.Erasmo-Treporti). The *EKOS CLUB* is also working towards the revival of Lazzaretto Nuovo, which sees about 15,000 visitors a year.

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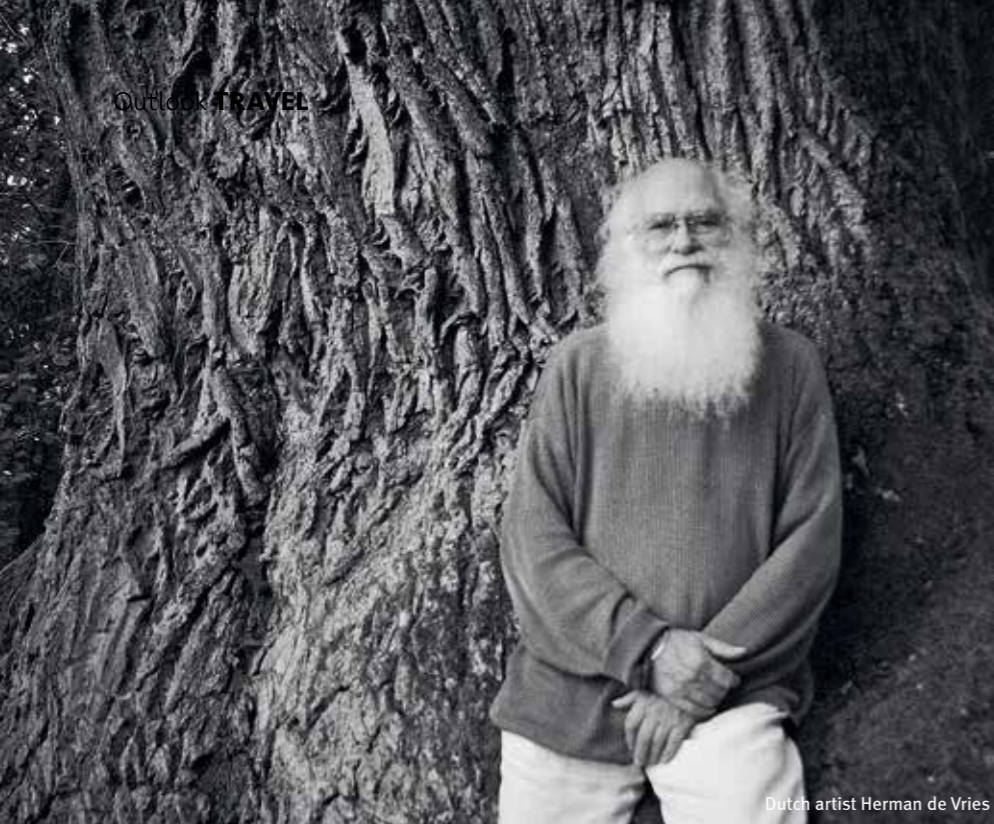
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Dutch artist Herman de Vries



Island of Lazzaretto Vecchio from the air



LAZZARETTO VECCHIO Abandoned island

The latest city project is Lazzaretto Vecchio, an abandoned island with a bright future. Its enormous 14th-century former hospital nursed patients during plague epidemics and also served as a monastery named Santa Maria di Nazareth. Scrawled with Latin phrases over the doorways and on the walls, the hospital was additionally used as a quarantine for ships entering and leaving Venice. It later served as a military post for the Italian Army and was used as a scene for film sets in the 1980s. The site had been abandoned for over 20 years until recently.

Now the local non-profit *Ekos Club* is renovating Lazzaretto Vecchio with the hope of building Venice's very first city museum. Ugo Del Corso, a half-Italian and half-Australian photographer, is helping to clean out the island's former hospital as a volunteer.

"Most Venetians have never been to this island," says Del Corso. "It's not private or public; it's abandoned."

The group is offering unadvertised, donation-based tours through an art project at the 56th International Art Exhibition at the Venice Biennale. The tours are presented by Dutch artist Herman de Vries, who is known for making artworks based on nature and who created an exhibition called *to be all ways to be at*

the Dutch Pavilion, which runs until November 22.

From the first moment that De Vries visited the lagoon, he was fascinated by the deserted islands and the remnants of culture found on them. The former hospital on this island is overgrown with trees poking through the windows and ivy bushes climbing the brick walls. De Vries sees the hospital as "a sanctuary" where Nature has been doing her work undisturbed.

"Nature is the Mother who reabsorbs and transforms everything," he explains. The artist has placed a number of marble stones with short poetic phrases in a number of places as personal reflections on the island's history.

The tours of Lazzaretto Vecchio, organised through the Dutch Pavilion, fit only 20 people in a Venetian *bragozzo* boat that takes 15 minutes to cross the rocky lagoon. Once ashore, guests are ushered through the hospital's vast brick corridors, some of which are home to old Venetian boats. A history lecture takes up 30 minutes of the two-hour trip. Del Corso hopes that one day, Venice's history will be elegantly presented through multimedia exhibitions and that the future Venice city museum will become a centre of study and archaeology, together with a university and culture centre. **BO**

WHERE TO STAY

Seated at the main docks of San Zaccaria, the *Hotel Savoia & Jolanda* is an appropriate gateway to the Venetian islands. Overlooking the Grand Canal, this classy hotspot is filled with traditional charm. Sophisticated touches include chocolates laid on bed pillows the night before you leave, silk mats laid down on both sides of the bed, and the shutters of your room windows being closed at dusk. Even the junior suites have balconies that overlook the Rialto Bridge and intersecting rivers below as motorboats and gondolas pass by. The sight is a waking dream from which you don't want to wake up.

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

Riga – Olbia

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

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

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

Olbia – Riga

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

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

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

🌊 **Gulf of Orosei**. If you have more time to spend and want the combination of wild

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

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

BARI Italy

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WAY

Riga – Bari

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

Bari – Riga

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

The capital of the Puglia region in southern Italy beckons with its historic architecture and lively cultural scene. Start your visit by exploring Bari Vecchia (the old part of the city) and see the Basilica di San Nicola. Take a stroll along the two main shopping

streets, Corso Cavour and Via Sparano. Walk along the Lungomare Imperatore Augusto – where you will find restaurants that serve the local dish *Pane di Altamura* – and enjoy the picturesque sunsets.



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

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

🌊 **Bisceglie** is the most popular spot for a beach vacation, not only because of its

location, but also due to such seaside resorts as the *Hotel Salsello* and *Hotel Villa*. ➔30

► Don't miss out on the monthly **food festivals** in Puglia. July is the month of *anguria* (watermelon – the sweetest you will ever taste), and August heralds the Sagra della Polpetta food festival in Fellingine.

VENICE

Italy

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

🌊 Lido.

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

🌊 **Caorle.** An attractive seaside village divided between the

Ponente and Levante sides. It is over 15 kilometres long and offers both private and public beaches. → 40 km

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

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

Riga – Venice

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

Venice – Riga

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



PISA

Italy

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

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

🌊 **Marina di Vecchiano.** A four-

kilometre-long sandy beach surrounded by golden dunes and pine woods. Makes for a great day trip. → 26 km

🌊 Tirrenia Beach.

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

Riga – Pisa

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

Pisa – Riga

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



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🌊 Cala Mayor Beach.

A Blue Flag beach where the water is calm most of the time, though when conditions are right, surfable waves also beckon. The *Luabay Beach Club* is right on the shorefront for cocktails, DJ music, lunch and dinner. →18 km

🌊 Port de Soller is a

wonderful little village situated in one of Mallorca's most beautiful horseshoe harbours. Surrounded by the Tramuntana Mountains, this town has the best of both worlds, offering magnificent mountain scenery together with a sea view. →35 km

🌊 S'Amarador. A quiet and

peaceful spot surrounded by pine trees with a magnificent view. →35 km

► **Nit de Foc.** Translated as "Night of Fire", this event takes place on Midsummer's Eve, when bonfires are lit to mark the beginning of Mallorca's summer fiestas. June 23rd

MALTA

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

🌊 Mellieha Bay. Laze

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



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

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

► **Malta Jazz Festival** July

► **Malta Arts Festival** July 1-15

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DUBROVNIK Croatia

Riga – Dubrovnik

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

Dubrovnik – Riga

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



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

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

🌊 **Plaža President** (President Beach). The name says it all. As a bonus, the picturesque

island of Daksa is nearby. → 21 km

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

🌊 **Lokrum Island.** A wildlife reserve and

botanical garden covered in thick Mediterranean flora that includes cypress, laurel, olive, magnolia and palm trees as well as agave plants. → 21 km

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

LARNACA Cyprus

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Riga – Larnaca

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

Larnaca – Riga

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

Enjoy the countryside near Larnaca in an alternative way by riding a camel in *Mazotos*

Camel Park or a donkey at the *Golden Donkey Farm* in Skarinou. Take a dive at the Zenobia Wreck, which is considered to be one of the best wreck-diving sites in the Mediterranean, and rejuvenate yourself by experiencing sea yoga.

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

🌊 **CTO Beach.** Also known as *Pyla Beach*, it is a favourite among families, with a playground area for children, as well as volleyball, handball,



water sports and other facilities. Numerous seaside restaurants offer great Cypriot cuisine. → 23 km

🌊 **McKenzie Beach.** Lie down in the fine grey sand of this Blue Flag beach or bathe in the water and watch the planes

as they come in to land at the airport. This is also a lovely place for a meal, with a long line of restaurants parallel to the beach that offer great views and fine dining. → 5 km

▶ **Larnaca Summer Festival.** This annual festival provides

both outdoor and indoor concerts and lots of other entertainment at various town venues, including the courtyard of Larnaca's medieval fort and the *Pattichion Municipal Amphitheatre*. July



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NICE
France

Riga – Nice

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

Nice – Riga

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

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

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

🌊 **Cap d'Antibes.** This famous cape features many

sandy beaches. The most chic is **La Garoupe**, where F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night* is set. →21 km

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

🌊 **Cap Ferrat.** This indented peninsula is studded with idyllic coves that look like private playgrounds for the cape's famous inhabitants, but they



Courtesy of Médias OTC NICE

are mostly open to the public. The most spectacular is Paloma Beach, a stretch of sand and gravel on the southeast side of the peninsula that opens onto

the bay of Beaulieu-sur-Mer. As the beach faces east, it's perfect for early sunbathing. →11 km

▶ **Nice Jazz Festival** July 7-12



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RHODES Greece

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

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

🌊 **Kallithea.** A cosmopolitan holiday resort bustling with hotels lining Faliraki Beach. The

main attraction is the Roman Baths, a unique example of orientalist Art Deco from 1929. →16 km

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

Riga – Rhodes

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

Rhodes – Riga

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



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THESSALONIKI Greece

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Riga – Thessaloniki

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

Thessaloniki – Riga

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



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

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

🌊 **Aretsou Beach.** A recommended stretch of sand close to Thessaloniki and edged with cafés, bars and good facilities. A marina is close by, so

there are often boats to watch sailing by while you take in the sun. →8 km

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

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

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▶ **Info: Crop farm FOR SALE | Total area: 1250 ha | ID: 33**

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▶ **Info: Organic Beef Cattle farm FOR SALE | Total area: 395.66 ha | ID: 4404**

Description: Property consists of 263.91 ha of agricultural land, 86.45 ha of forestland, and 45.30 ha other land.

▶ **Info: Agriculture land FOR SALE | Total area: 983.56 ha | ID: 3443**

Description: Properties consists of 827.91 ha of agricultural land, 110.76 ha of forest land, and 47.83 ha of other land.

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The historical capital of European civilisation offers a journey through Ancient Greece with splendid monuments such as the Acropolis, as well as breathtaking views. Psyri and Gazi Squares are famed for artists' spaces, galleries, fashionable bars and cosy restaurants with delicious food.

🌊 **Fálio, Flisvos Marina.** An amazing view of the Saronic Gulf and plenty of water activities are why Fálio is the ultimate summer hot spot for Athenians. → 40 km

🌊 **Vouliagmeni.** One of the best-organised beaches, Vouliagmeni offers all types of beach facilities, including tennis and volleyball courts, a play area for children, a water slide, individual cabins and a restaurant. → 20 km

▶ **Hellenic Festival and Epidaurus Festival.** Open-air theatre, opera, classical music and dance. July, August

Riga – Athens

Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 611	31.03. – 24.10.2015	-2---6-	15:30	18:50
BT 611	01.04. – 21.10.2015	--3---	09:30	12:50

Athens – Riga

Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 612	31.03. – 24.10.2015	-2---6-	19:25	22:45
BT 612	01.04. – 21.10.2015	--3---	13:25	16:45



RIJEKA Croatia

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WAY

Rijeka means "river" in Croatian, so it is no surprise that this is a fluid and active place, waiting to be discovered by visitors from around the globe. Rijeka's airport is actually located on the nearby island of Krk. With numerous marvellous beaches, Rijeka is a place for magical sunsets, preferably enjoyed together with a glass of local Malvazija wine.

🌊 **Ploce.** An award-winning Blue flag beach. → 33km

🌊 **Kostanj.** One of the oldest beaches in Croatia, beside a promenade in Kostanj Bay filled with dazzling shops and cafés. → 25 km

🌊 **Preluk.** Due to the early morning wind, this beach is a real paradise for windsurfers and sailors. → 39 km

🌊 Opatija Riviera.

A 12-kilometre-long seaside promenade with rich architecture that includes buildings in Renaissance, Gothic and Baroque styles. → 39 km

▶ **The Summer Nights Festival** features classical music concerts, plays and street theatre performances. June, July



Riga – Rijeka

Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 495	03.06. – 25.09.2015	--3-5--	17:05	18:30

Rijeka – Riga

Flight No	Period	Days	Departure	Arrival
BT 496	03.06. – 25.09.2015	--3-5--	19:05	22:30



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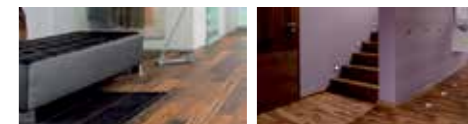
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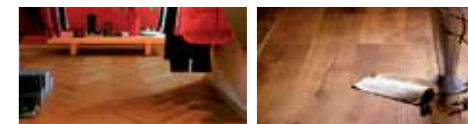


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Driven: the *Fiat 500X*



The *Fiat 500X* is the Italian brand's belated answer to the likes of the *Citroën C4 Cactus*, *Kia Soul* and *Nissan Juke*. In other words, it's a stylish and relatively low-priced SUV with a similar footprint to a *VW Golf*.

On sale now, the *500X* is available with a choice of petrol and diesel engines, both two- and four-wheel drive and manual and automatic gearboxes.

The *500X*'s chunky SUV proportions give it a lofty driving position and a commanding view of the road ahead. Supportive seats with plenty of adjustment make it easy to get comfortable behind the wheel, and even tall drivers will fit easily enough thanks to a high roofline.

The dashboard is fairly logical in all versions. Probably most impressive, though, is the smart interior. As you'd expect from a *Fiat*, there's plenty of design flair, but this time with a real sense of quality and lots of soft, dense-feeling plastics. This represents a real step forward for *Fiat*, making the *500X* a match even for such rivals as the *Kia Soul*.

However, you have to be a bit careful not to bash your head when getting into the back, due to the shape of the rear-door openings, but once inside you'll find enough space for a couple of tall adults.

Things are certainly less cramped than in the back of a *C4 Cactus*, for example, although the *Soul* is a roomier choice.

All three cars have similar-sized boots (about 350 litres), which is plenty for a big food shop or a pushchair. For an extra fee, *Fiat* will also fit a height-adjustable boot floor. This add-on is handy because it allows you to divide the load area into two and irons out the big lip at the entrance of the boot. It also means that there's no annoying step in the floor when you fold down the rear seats to extend the load bay.

The *500X* copes well with city life. It's quick enough from one set of traffic lights to the next, and the light steering – which can be made even lighter by pressing a button on the dash – makes manoeuvring and parking easy.

Out of town, though, the steering feels rather remote and disconnected, which doesn't inspire much confidence through faster corners. There's plenty of body sway, too, due to the soft suspension, although the *500X* never lurches around uncontrollably.

That soft suspension has its upside, helping to take the sting out of bigger bumps around town, so you won't be wincing every time you tackle a speedbump or an unavoidable pothole.

Things do get more unsettled as you pick up the pace. The *Fiat*'s body bobs up and down over higher frequency ripples, which can get annoying on long motorway jaunts. However, you could level the same criticism at many rivals.

We've criticised the refinement of *Fiat*'s 1.6 Multijet diesel engine in the *500L*, but there is a marked improvement here, where the engine is both smoother and quieter. It's a shame that the gear-shift remains a bit vague.

Should I buy one?

Assuming that your heart is set on a small SUV rather than a conventional hatchback, the new *500X* deserves serious consideration. It's stylish, practical,



QUICK FACTS:

- 1** The *500X* is the SUV version of *Fiat*'s popular city car, the *500*.

2 The *500X* shares the platform and mechanical hardware
- of the *Jeep Renegade*, although the *Jeep* carries an extra strengthening cross-member to support its potentially more arduous off-roading duties.

3 There is a choice of 12 exterior colours
- and eight designs of alloy wheels, as well as a variety of decals and interior finishes.

4 The entry-level *500X* costs 16 990 euros and the most expensive is 29 490 euros (prices in Latvia with VAT).

decent to drive and with a far smarter inside than any of *Fiat*'s other models.

The cheaper versions make the most sense because the pricier trims and more powerful engines push the *500X* squarely into *Nissan Qashqai* territory. As long as you keep the price at around 20 to 23 thousand euros, the *500X* should be on your shortlist alongside the *Kia Soul*, *Citroën C4 Cactus* and less expensive versions of the *Škoda Yeti*. **BO**

**BIGGEST AND BEST
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IN THE BALTICS**



Healthy chocolate



Publicity photos

If you thought that chocolate is best avoided for maintaining your health, then think again. A team of leading Latvian scientists, cardiologists and chocolate-makers have created innovative dietary supplements in the form of “healthy chocolate”.

As a result of this three-way cooperative effort, the team has combined plant extracts, vitamins and microelements together with Belgian dark chocolate to create a range of new products that promote the functioning of the heart, eyes and brain and that are designed to strengthen the organism's overall health. These unique food supplements are made only in Latvia by *Purified* and no analogous products

are manufactured anywhere elsewhere in the world. The chocolates also represent an admirable example of science being successfully combined with entrepreneurial activity.

The emphasis of *Purified's* new products is on natural ingredients, with chocolate replacing the cellulose, anti-caking agents and other artificial substances in the capsules of many other dietary supplements. Sugar has been substituted by a natural sweetener and, aside from being healthy, the products really do taste good.

The manufacture of *Purified's* health products is based on studies conducted in Latvia and abroad regarding the effect of active agents on the organism. Currently the effect of natural ingredients and

chocolate on *in vitro* cell cultures and human health is being studied at the Research Institute of Cardiology of the University of Latvia, in cooperation with the EU's European Regional Development Fund.

Initially, the idea was to manufacture chocolate that is healthy for the heart. Following studies by scientists and physicians to establish the positive interaction of chocolate with other active ingredients, *Purified* is now making products that are also beneficial to other organs and human health.

Along with *Cardio Chocolate*, which is designed to improve the functioning of the heart, *Purified* has launched *Neuro Chocolate* for the brain, *Vision Chocolate* for the eyes and *Beauty Chocolate* to strengthen the organism's overall health. *Purified* doesn't plan to rest on its laurels, and scientists are busy working at the creation of still more food supplements.

Dark chocolate contains flavonoids with beneficial anti-oxidant properties. Aside from the cacao products that are used to make chocolate, flavonoids can also be found in a number of fruits, vegetables, green tea and red wine. A balanced diet supplemented with qualitative cacao products can help to maintain and even improve cardiovascular health, according to a number of research studies. Of course, one shouldn't consume too much chocolate, either. Cardiologists recommend a dose of seven to eight grams of dark chocolate per day.

According to a study by the Stockholm Heart Epidemiology Program, a mathematical correlation can be found between flavanol (a type of flavonoid) consumption and reduced mortality due to cardiovascular illness. In the study, the long-term effect of chocolate consumption on cardiovascular health was analysed. The study revealed that the risk of dying from cardiovascular disease was reduced not only for those who ate chocolate one or more times per week, but even for those who ate it only once a month.

That being said, it is worth remembering that food supplements should be used only to complement an already healthy lifestyle. No health product will be effective if its user doesn't follow the basic formula for a happy and healthy life: eating a balanced diet and exercising regularly. This entails eating more fruit and vegetables, but consuming less flour, fatty foods, salt and sugar, and having a positive outlook on life.

“I am pleased that an internationally competitive product with high added value has been created in Latvia. Thanks to the support of the Latvian



The *Purified* team: Professor Andrejs Ērglis together with innovative product development work group members Kristaps Ērglis and Mārtiņš Ērglis

Photo by Ieva Andersone

Investment and Development Agency, the Research Institute of Cardiology of the University of Latvia and *Silvanols Ltd.* have successfully joined forces to research and patent various combinations of flavonoids that appear in natural ingredients. Based on this research, they have been able to commercially manufacture a range of healthy products in dark Belgian chocolate,” says Andrejs Ērglis. **BO**

The new health products made by *Purified* are the result of a pilot project by the Baltic Institute of Research, Technology and Innovation (BIRTI). The institute is seeking to create favourable conditions for innovative processes through cooperation between scientists, engineers, designers and entrepreneurs with the goal of developing and manufacturing competitive, knowledge-based, world-class products. Professor and cardiologist Andrejs Ērglis is a member of BIRTI and one of those responsible for creating the new healthy chocolates.

Purified health products are available at Latvia's largest pharmacy chains.

① purified.eu

A new jewel in fine dining in Jūrmala



After spending several years gaining valuable experience in the kitchens of some of France's best restaurants, Latvian chef Jānis Zvirbulis has returned to apply his skills in his native country at the *Philippe* restaurant in Jūrmala.

Philippe publicity photos and by **KASPARS KRAFTS**, F64

Nestled in the exclusive *Legend* building complex of Latvia's famous resort town is a newly opened French restaurant named *Philippe*, which can be found right by the seaside in a beautiful white wooden house that has been restored to its former splendour. There, talented chef Jānis Zvirbulis is pleasing gourmets from near and far with the highest quality dishes in the land.

Zvirbulis started his career as an intern at *Vincents*, the Riga restaurant founded by Latvia's best-known chef, Mārtiņš Rītiņš. That was followed by studies at a culinary school in the *Lycée d'Hôtellerie et de Tourisme* in Saint Quentin, France. Zvirbulis then obtained a diploma at the prestigious *Paul Bocuse* institute, where he says he would like to return to further his education in cooking.

The Latvian chef continued to hone his skills at the top-rated *La Table des Blot* restaurant in France, where he interned

under such experienced masters as Pierre Yves Lorgeoux, Franck Ferigutti, Florent Boivin and Jérôme Langillier. On returning to Latvia, Zvirbulis didn't sit by idly, but immediately took part in planning and setting up the premises at *Philippe*, where he fulfilled a dream of installing his own kitchen, rather than adapting an existing space to suit his needs.

The building that houses the *Philippe* restaurant is a protected historical site and is first mentioned as a summer house in archives dating from 1886. The edifice was then home to a pharmacy for more than a century, from 1906 until 2008. Subsequently, archival photographs were used to ensure that the building was restored to its erstwhile historical beauty. The modern yet unobtrusive interior was created by Zane Tetere, one of Latvia's most illustrious designers and architects. Tetere decorated the interior with ornamental floor tiles and wallpaper, while preserving the original doors and staircases. The

charming wooden building has many windows that let in ample natural light during the daytime hours, while the electric lighting emanates from interesting fixtures that are different in every room.

Incidentally, the restaurant is named after the Riga-born American photographer Philippe Halsman, who created iconic portraits of such celebrities as Alfred Hitchcock, Marilyn Monroe and Winston Churchill. Reproductions of Halsman's captivating black-and-white works also grace the walls of the interior, which will soon be joined by a couple of genuine originals.

The cosmopolitan feel and creative aura of Halsman's photos also manifests itself in other restaurant details. For example, the ceramic tableware at *Philippe* has been hand made by craftsmen in both Latvia and Germany. The decorative textiles were imported from the Czech Republic, while the aprons of the waitstaff were created by Latvian designers and tailors.



Boudin rabbit saddle of roasted rabbit rack, rabbit kidney confit and rainbow beets



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① philippe.lv

which is why the menu changes regularly. He also tries to ensure that the main properties of each ingredient stand out and that his dishes are presented in style. One of the summer menu's most popular dishes is steak, which Zvirbulis prepares together with caramelised shallots, watercress salad, and lobster béarnaise. The steak comes in a number of varieties from several exotic locations, including Wagyu from Japan and Australia, Simgus from Gotland and Black Angus from Ireland. The traditional French *mille feuille* dessert, for its part, is transformed by Zvirbulis into a delicate construction that incorporates raspberries, pistachios and white cream and is decorated with a pansy blossom.

Philippe's sommelier, Artūrs Ambainis, is always glad to help visitors choose an appropriate wine for their meal. The young professional seeks out limited-edition wines from small wineries for the restaurant's wine cellar and can impart a great deal of knowledge about the legendary drink. Among the wines that he has amassed for the restaurant's collection, one might mention the *Hamilton Russell* Pinot Noir from South Africa – which is among the highest-rated Burgundy-style wines outside of Burgundy itself – and the *Chevalier Montrachet* from a small French producer. This wine is invariably sold out every year, even before the grapes have been harvested from their vines! Other premium-class alcoholic beverages are served from the restaurant's bar trolley.

As with the food and the interior, the restaurant's overall philosophy focuses on the finer details. Photographer Philippe Halsman was 15 when he caught the photography bug, which stuck to him for the rest of his life. Similarly, at *Philippe* one may very well catch the feeling of wanting to return there again and again, thanks to the pleasant atmosphere and the waitstaff's professional demeanour. Indeed, the restaurant is oriented to establishing long-term relationships with its clients. *Philippe's* passionately dedicated team is devoted to providing the highest quality service and is united by one additional goal – that of obtaining Latvia's first *Michelin* star. **BO**



Photos by
ANDREJS TERENTJEVS, F64
and publicity

A contemporary taste of Latvia

The *Kaļķu Vārti* restaurant in Old Riga is one of the best places for an unforgettable dining experience with exquisite modern Latvian cuisine



Chef Raimonds Zommers



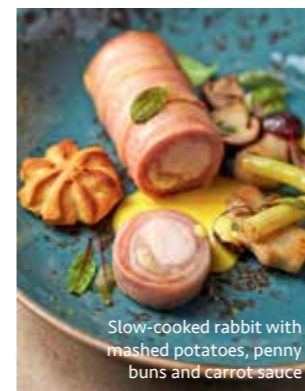
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① kalkuvarti.lv

The opinion of award-winning chef Raimonds Zommers is important to many foodies in Latvia. He runs his own TV cooking show and is regularly interviewed by glossy local magazines that consult him about the latest cooking trends. He serves sumptuous meals to visiting monarchs and other heads of state at Latvian presidential banquets. He is the author of *Zommers. Contemporary Latvian Cuisine* (*Zommers. Mūsdienų latviskā virtuve*) and a consulting expert at the prestigious *WorldSkills* and *EuroSkills* international competitions for young professional chefs. Yet there is one place where Zommers can be found almost every day of the week, despite his local popularity and busy schedule. For the past 15 years, he has been the head chef at *Kaļķu Vārti* – one of Riga's best-known and most highly rated restaurants.

Anyone who goes for a leisurely stroll through the streets of Old Riga is likely to come across the legendary restaurant. *Kaļķu Vārti* has become such a fixture of life in the vibrant

Old Town that some local inhabitants and tourists even see it as a symbol of the city. Over the years, the restaurant has stood out with superb cuisine and outstanding service, along with the ability to change with the times and introduce bold innovations. This is thanks to the staff at *Kaļķu Vārti*, which is known for its professionalism and eagerness to try new things. Zommers has managed to put together a team of some of the most accomplished chefs and confectioners from the Baltic region, all of whom have proven their skills at countless local and international competitions.

Kaļķu Vārti's trademark feature is modern Latvian cuisine, to which Zommers is passionately devoted. He was one of the first chefs who, after familiarising himself with dishes from other nations, began to actively establish what he has called “a contemporary taste of Latvia”. As a result, Zommers continues to surprise and delight even the most spoiled and discriminating gourmets with each new menu that he sets up for *Kaļķu Vārti*.



Slow-cooked rabbit with
mashed potatoes, penny
buns and carrot sauce



Spring vegetables with *Līcīši*
goat cheese, watercress
sprouts and rapeseed oil



Cream of pea soup with stuffed
quail leg, quail egg, thyme
mousse and *Mottra* caviar

“My goal is to be different from other chefs, to see further and think more expansively than usual. I want my dishes to be based on local ingredients as much as possible and to work with foods that are not always widely used, such as various types of grain, escargots and wood sorrel. At the same time, I never permit the level of quality to suffer in my continual experimental quests,” says Zommers.

The chef admits that he also sees an educational mission in his work, which he fulfils by offering new and seemingly unusual dishes to the patrons of *Kaļķu Vārti*. That is one reason why the restaurant's meals rarely repeat themselves in the regularly changing menu. The food on offer, which is based primarily on the highest-quality local ingredients – including those that are organically farmed and come from the forest – will suit the tastes of both refined food connoisseurs and those who are accustomed to classical fare. Among this season's top ingredients are wood sorrel, new fir shoots (yes, they are edible!) and locally farmed fish. The famous *Kaļķu Vārti* cheesecake, for its part, has remained an unchanging classic ever since the restaurant opened its doors 15 years ago. It has become such a popular dessert that many guests drop in on a regular basis specifically to enjoy a tasty slice of the heavenly cheesecake in the restaurant's cosy confines.

Although the interior of *Kaļķu Vārti* is dominated by light beige Nordic tones, it does not convey the coolness and austerity that characterises many Scandinavian rooms. Indeed, the feeling inside is particularly warm, due to the Latvian ethnographic motifs that fill the inner space. *Kaļķu Vārti* is definitely one of the most Latvian restaurants in Riga, as practically everything in the interior has been locally made. Of course, during the summer months, visitors are less liable to pay attention to the tastefully decorated premises, as they will likely be enjoying their meals on the beautiful outdoor terrace. This is a place where, sipping a glass of wine and watching the flow of passers-by, one is overcome by a pleasant sense of peace and by the feeling that time has stood still. **BO**



Photos by **LAURIS VĪKSNE (F64)**
and publicity materials

More than just sushi

If you are in the Latvian capital and in the mood for some superb Japanese-style food, then head straight to the *Planeta Riga* restaurant.



In order to enjoy truly outstanding Japanese cuisine, one doesn't have to travel to Asia. *Planeta Riga* in the heart of the Old Town has become the Latvian leader in Japanese-style casual dining. The restaurant is frequented by business people who appreciate its large lunch selection as well as by tourists seeking the best sushi in town.

The atmosphere at *Planeta Riga* changes with the seasons. During the summer months, patrons enjoy sitting on the beautiful terrace that offers a splendid view of Dom Square, while during the winter, they can dine in a cosy and pleasant interior. Both floors of the restaurant are decorated in light and classical tones highlighted by various historical elements, such as the exposed original brick walls.

The summer season has also arrived with a new menu, and the restaurant is particularly busy on weekdays between 12:00-16:00, when guests can choose from six different lunchtime specials. These will suit practically all tastes, including those of vegetarians, who have not been neglected. The lunchtime specials include miso soup, a main course, salad and sushi, and a choice of tea or coffee. It's worth mentioning that the portions are quite sizeable and that both the salmon and sushi melt right in one's mouth.

On weekends, also between 12:00-16:00, a particularly lazy atmosphere reigns as Rigans and visitors to the city enjoy the opportunity to have a late all-you-can-eat breakfast or brunch, which includes a variety of starters, main courses and desserts along with tea, coffee, homemade lemonade and a complimentary glass of sparkling *Prosecco* – all of this for one fixed price.

Of course, the sushi (classical maki, premium and even hot and tempura-baked rolls) is in a class by itself and parades under an array of impressive names, including famous Japanese manga artists and film directors. Among the most requested are the refined Kanto and Tohoku maki with seafood fillings.

However, *Planeta Riga* offers much more than just outstanding sushi. If the restaurant's menu has a star performer, then it is definitely ramen, the traditional

Japanese soup-like noodle dish. This involves preparing a special broth that is boiled for several hours to achieve an extremely rich taste. Head chef Staņislavs Gurjanovs has gone out of his way to perfect his ramen preparation technique, which he learnt from Japanese master chef Kanji Furukawa (also known as Ramen Boss) at the *Shoryu Ramen* restaurant in London. Not surprisingly, that restaurant has been recommended in the *Michelin Guide 2014*.

This summer, *Planeta Riga* has also set up a special menu that is devoted entirely to scallop. Make sure to try the refreshing De-Livrona Maki with scallop, cream cheese, cucumber, iceberg salad and parsley, or the rich Hotate Grill, which consists of grilled scallop with nut sauce and fresh vegetables. Those who appreciate spicy dishes will love the Yum-Yum Hotate Noodles, which incorporate a perfect bouquet of Oriental tastes with scallop, udon noodles and coconut sauce. Yum Yum!

Another dish worth trying at *Planeta Riga* is dim sum, which Gurjanovs mastered while working under a renowned chef in Moscow. Dim sum is a Chinese delicacy, with little packages of mushrooms, veal, chicken, lamb, Peking duck, salmon and more served in a traditional steamer basket. *Planeta Riga's* dim sum are handmade and offer a truly unique taste experience.

One of the most popular desserts, whose fame has spread to the extent that guests come in specifically to try it, is the Asian Planeta Sphere – a specially made chocolate sphere that the chef has filled with homemade ginger ice cream, cashew nuts and blueberries. When melted chocolate is poured over it, the sphere opens up and releases its contents, just like a lotus blossom – a true delight for the eyes and for the taste buds of the most discriminating gourmet.

Planeta Riga's high standards of quality have ensured that many of the restaurant's guests keep returning on a regular basis. Some have also obtained a *Planeta Special* client card, which gives them extra privileges and the opportunity to enjoy discounts of up to 70 percent as well as special offers. The client card can be obtained at the restaurant from the waitstaff. **BO**



Planeta Riga
Šķūņu iela 16 (entrance
from Tirgoņu iela)
Tel. (+371) 67223855
E-mail: planeta@rrg.lv
① www.planetariga.lv



Restaurants, bars and cafés

Culinary hotspots in Riga

A guide to the best restaurants, cafés and eateries

Text by **LIENE PĀLĒNA**
Photos by **LAURIS VIKSNE, F64**



ANNAS DĀRZS

A green oasis across the river

Not far from Riga's city centre, on the other side of the Daugava River, stands an oasis of peace in the form of a cosy restaurant with a verdant courtyard, providing a pleasant contrast to the hurried pace of the city. On the Sunday afternoon when I drop in at *Annas Dārzs*, practically all of the tables on the outside terrace are occupied. Somebody is celebrating a birthday at one table, a group of women is chatting at another, while families with children relax at several other sunlit tables. It seems that the clients of this restaurant have discovered its greatest asset – the opportunity to take refuge from Riga's concrete jungle and lounge around without leaving the city itself.

The wide-ranging menu is also suitable for a lazy Sunday afternoon in Pārdaugava, with a variety of soups, salads and main courses to choose from. From time to time, I see waitresses bringing the restaurant's popular burgers to one table or another. However, I opt for a lettuce salad with avocado, walnuts and fresh sprouts – a simple dish that leaves no cause for disappointment. My mood receives an additional boost when I look at the prices on the menu. *Annas Dārzs* is a moderately priced restaurant, where a salad costs only five euros.

The only thing that prevents me from enjoying my Sunday afternoon in full is the slow pace of the service. While the waitresses are certainly friendly, they, too, seem to have been

overtaken by the dreamy sense of idleness that reigns among the guests. I write this off to the warm and sunny weather and to the quiet Sunday at the end of a long work week. I head inside to check out the interior and conclude once again that true elegance lies in simplicity. While there is nothing remarkable about the industrial-style interior and the stack of firewood piled beside a stove against the wall, the overall atmosphere is quite pleasant, making one feel as if time has stopped in a place where conversations flow freely.

Address: Mūkusalas iela 44

Open:

Mon.-Thu.: 11:00-22:00

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Sat.: 12:00-23:00

Sun.: 12:00-21:00

① facebook.com/AnnasDarzs



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Mellužu prospect, 9



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Outlook **FOOD & DRINK**



ROCKET BEAN ROASTERY

**Possibly the trendiest café
in the city**

They say that the secret behind the success of any top eating establishment lies in its chefs. If that is the case, then the future of the recently opened *Rocket Bean Roastery* looks quite promising, because the man running the kitchen there is Artūrs Taškāns, one of Latvia's most talented chefs. After gaining valuable experience at a number of *Michelin*-starred restaurants in England, Taškāns returned to set up the menu at the new Riga café, where he has been working for the past two months.

Taškāns' belief in the potential of the *Rocket Bean Roastery* seems to have paid off, for the establishment has become one of the most popular

gastronomic destinations in Riga. Although its name makes one think more about traditional coffee shops, the café's food is prepared in accordance with the best restaurant traditions.

This also happens to be the first modern-day coffee roastery in Latvia, and coffee, of course, is king here. Aside from the usual lattes and cappuccinos, the extensive drinks card features a vast assortment of roasted, filtered, unfiltered and numerous other coffees. I doubt if any another place in Riga is able to surprise and please coffee lovers to this extent.

Word about the *Rocket Bean Roastery* has spread quickly and the place is packed in the early afternoon, partly due to the fact that the lunchtime special offers three courses and a coffee for a mere 10 euros. One can hardly think of a better opportunity

to try chef Artūrs Taškāns' dishes. The cold tomato soup tastes like fresh tomatoes that have just been picked from the greenhouse on a summer day, while the veal cutlet literally melted in my mouth, making me appreciate its tender taste, despite the fact that I am not a meat-lover.

The nuanced flavours of the coffee, the high quality of the food and the appealing industrial interior at the *Rocket Bean Roastery* definitely get my highest rating. However, I would have liked the service to be faster. That being said, every new place deserves a fair chance to grow and establish itself.

Address: Miera iela 29/31
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Fri.: 08:00-23:00
Sat.: 09:00-23:00
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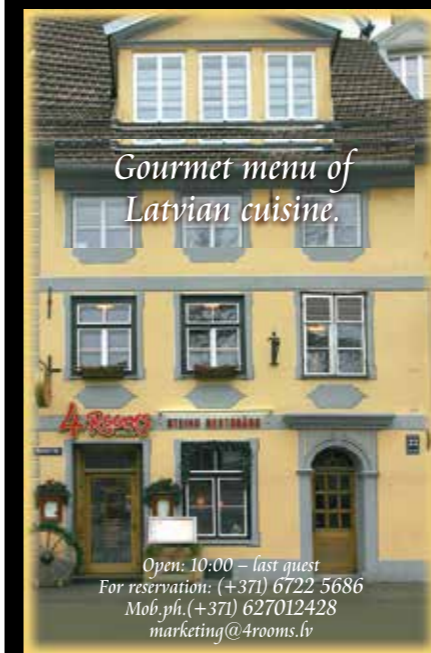


Queens is a British pub and restaurant with a gorgeous Victorian atmosphere and delicious food. More than 18 draught beers to choose from, including local and imported brands, a wide range of steaks, burgers and other meat dishes.

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(+371) 67800001

Antonijas iela 9, Riga
(+371) 67331130

www.queens.lv



A first-rate Latvian restaurant with fine European cuisine. Banquet hall with a perfect view of Līvu Square on the 2nd floor. After your meal, enjoy a hookah in a relaxing atmosphere in one of the basement rooms.

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We extend you a warm welcome and an invitation to Key to Riga where you can experience the atmosphere of ancient Riga, its hospitality and the flavour of its traditional meals. It is located in the very heart of Old Riga at Dome Square. Among our special features are genuine medieval interior decorations, the magnificent twinkling of candlelight and Latvian cuisine served in local clay tableware. In the evenings live medieval music is played by musicians in period costume.

The legendary Latvian film The Devil's Servants, which was produced by the Riga Film studio in the 1970s, served as the inspiration for the restaurant. The Key to Riga was an essential part of this cinema classic and an exact replica now holds a place of honour in the restaurant.

It is said that he who holds the key to Riga will unlock a world of wealth and happiness and we encourage you to pick it up and see what it feels like to hold the key to this ancient city. Take a photograph with the key and capture a timeless moment with one of Riga's most revered symbols!



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Welcome aboard airBaltic!

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Six new direct routes to open from Vilnius

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

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



Berlin

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



Brussels

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



Paris

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



Warsaw

Leave all assumptions behind when visiting this renewed city. Begin in the beautifully restored Old Town at Castle Square and King Sigismund's Column. Then stroll down the so-called Royal Route past various palaces and stop at the leafy Royal Baths Park, which is Warsaw's biggest park and dates to the 17th century. It is also home to the Chopin Monument, where visitors can enjoy outdoor piano concerts during the summer months in honour of the city's native composer.



Helsinki

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



Stockholm

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

AIRBALTIC IS INTRODUCING NEW TICKET TYPES

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



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	Checked baggage	€29.99 per 1 bag (20 kg) if booked online	✓ 1 bag (20 kg)	✓ 2 bags (total 40 kg)
	Sports equipment	€34.99	€34.99	✓
TICKETS	Flight date/time change	⊘	€50*	✓
	Name change	⊘	€50*	✓
	Cancellation with refund	⊘	€100	✓
	Date change warranty	€49.99*	⊘	✓
CHECK-IN/ AT AIRPORT	Web check-in	✓	✓	✓
	Airport check-in	€10	✓	✓
	Priority check-in + Security fast track at Riga airport	€20	✓	✓
	Priority check-in outside Riga	€14.99	✓	✓
	Business lounge	⊘	⊘	✓
ON BOARD	Advance seat reservation	from €2.99	✓	✓
	Meal and drinks	Pre-order at airbalticmeal.com or buy on board	Pre-order at airbalticmeal.com or buy on board	✓
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* If there are no tickets left in the original booking class, the passenger must cover the costs of the upgrade to the next available booking class.

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

Anete Vanaga,
Senior cabin
crew member



Artist on board

Anete Vanaga has worked at *airBaltic* for almost eight years as a senior flight crew member. One of her favourite pastimes is painting beautiful pictures. Recently she held her first solo exhibition at the Kaņepe Culture Centre in Riga. In this interview Vanaga reveals her inspirations and how falling in love has helped her creativity.

Text by **EGITA KRASTIŅA**
Photo by
GATIS GIERTS, F64

How did you begin to work at *airBaltic*?

I hadn't originally planned on becoming a flight attendant. During my studies I was doing an internship at a culture centre and didn't like it at all, so I dropped out of the programme with no other job prospects in sight. My classmate was working as an air traffic controller and advised me to apply for a vacant cabin crew position at *airBaltic*. At first I resisted the idea, but eventually he talked me into applying for the job. Soon after, I was invited to an interview, and one week after that I began my training. I hadn't felt satisfied at my previous places of employment and I guess that was because I hadn't found the right position. Initially, I didn't know how things would turn out here, either. I thought I'd try flying for about a year and then see what happens. Now eight years have already passed since I joined the airline!

What is a typical work day like?

My day starts with a briefing of the cabin crew and an inspection of the cabin equipment. Once that is done, we are ready to take passengers on board and serve them. We have many responsibilities and procedures to carry out, but at the end of the day, the main thing is ensuring the safety and comfort of our fliers.

What do you like most about your job?

My colleagues! I really like working with people. Bad days are good for experience, while good days are a reward for my cares and efforts. I get charged by other people's energy and I also try to give this positive energy back. Although the flight attendants with whom I fly constantly change, a wonderful sense of intimacy develops in aviation when you have to spend all day working together to ensure a successful and satisfying flight for the passengers. You have no way of avoiding each other and you end up developing close working relationships. I also enjoy travelling very much.

Do you get to travel outside of work?

I try to. Last year was practically ideal, as I got to fly somewhere every month! Usually I manage to go on a brief vacation every two or three months. Over the past few years, I've really grown fond of the USA and Israel. I'll never get enough of America and I hope to visit the country again soon. I still haven't discovered Asia. Practically all of my colleagues have been to Thailand on vacation and I hope to go there one day as well.

Being a flight attendant isn't always a bed of roses. What challenges do you face on the job?

I feel a great deal of empathy for the passengers, which means that I really feel bad if something doesn't work out, if misunderstandings or problems arise, if someone misses a connecting flight or loses something. It's hard for me to distance myself and say that it's only a job. On the other hand, that empathy also has a good side. If the flight has gone well, the passengers are happy and all problems have been solved, then I feel extremely happy.

You also have an interesting hobby – painting.

I really love to paint, and this May I held my first solo exhibition. I hope to gain more recognition for my work and eventually to open my own studio and gallery. I definitely want to paint more than I do now.

Is anybody else in your family involved with art?

My aunt enjoys drawing and painting and she's quite good at it. My grandfather's brother Imants Vanags is a poet in Liepāja, the "city of the wind." He regularly publishes books. I have relatives on my father's side who are creative in both the arts and in music. My ten-year-old nephew (my sister's son) is also quite talented for his age.

Have you studied painting?

I applied several times to take preparatory painting classes, but everywhere I went I was told that I don't have what it takes to paint. In my work as a flight attendant, I don't mind following set procedures, as they discipline you. But I've never liked it when people tell me what I should paint and how I should do it. After being rejected several times for the painting classes, there was a period when I lost the desire to paint and decided never to take a paintbrush in my hands again.

What made you change your mind and pursue your passion for painting?

I have liked to draw, colour and paint since my childhood. Believe it or not, but the biggest push came when I fell in love with a composer! [*Laughs.*] I began to spend more time in creative

circles and felt the need to express myself through art. I liked painting the best and was good at it. I was so happy about my first painting! I boasted about it to my colleagues, as if it was a first-born child. The captain heard the commotion and came out of the cockpit to ask what the fuss was all about. When I showed him the photograph of my painting, he immediately offered to buy it. I drove home to pick it up, and he later bought other paintings as well.

My work colleagues have been really supportive. I received so much help, encouragement and recognition! Now I have also realised my long-held dream of holding a solo exhibition.

Where do you draw inspiration for your paintings?

I never paint when I am in a bad mood. I don't think it's right to share one's negative emotions with others. No work that I've

My work colleagues have been really supportive, especially when I decided to hold my first solo exhibition

painted while feeling sad or angry has ever come out well. I always paint something else over such works afterward. I am mostly inspired by love stories. They don't necessarily have to be my own personal experiences. I also get inspired by the people around me, as well as by music, movies or even strangers on the street. I still find it odd that people actually want to buy my paintings. That is a huge compliment to my work, but sometimes I don't yet feel ready to receive all that acclaim.

Can you tell us why images of women dominate in your paintings?

I wouldn't say that this has been a conscious process. Ursula K. Le Guin once wrote that "the creative adult is the child who has survived." When I was a child, I liked to draw paper dolls. Perhaps the child in me has awoken to communicate with the world through the women in my paintings. I grew up in a broken family with my divorced mother and two sisters. There was always a lot of pulsating female energy in our household. Now I also see myself as a strong and empowered woman. Through my works I try to celebrate the power, sensuality and energy of women.

Where can one view your paintings?

Soon another exhibition of my paintings will open at the *airBaltic* Training Centre. Welcome one and all! **BO**

Onboard menu



Business Class cheesecake

This month, chef Andris Vasiļonoks from *LSG Sky Chefs* has agreed to share the recipe of the most summery and delicious dessert on *airBaltic's* Business Class menu – the mango cheesecake.

Ingredients:

140 g *Selga* biscuits
or *Savoardi*
(ladyfingers)
80 g melted butter
2 large ripe mangos
Juice of 2 limes
200 g mascarpone
cheese
125 g sugar
175 ml plain yoghurt
10 g gelatine sheets

Shred the biscuits in a blender or with a rolling pin. Melt the butter and mix with the shredded biscuits until evenly moistened. Lightly butter a spring-form cake tin, tip the mixture in and press down to make a firm layer. Chill.
Peel the mangoes and separate the pits. Pulp the mango fruit in a blender and pour in the lime juice. Keep blending at slow speed, adding the mascarpone cheese, yoghurt and sugar. Mix to a smooth consistency. Place the gelatine sheets into a small bowl of cold water and soak for 10 minutes, then melt in a water bath. Add the melted gelatine to the mango-mascarpone mixture and mix well. Pour the mass onto the biscuit base in the cake tin and chill until firm (about 3 hours).
Cut into pieces, decorate with mango slices and peppermint, and serve yourself a Business Class treat!

Order the meal for your return flight now!

You can choose a tasty meal for your return flight while in the air. Eight different meal sets are available in a special onboard pre-order menu that you will receive from the cabin crew. The delicious hot and cold meals are complemented with orange juice and a dessert or yoghurt and a snack. One novelty on the pre-order menu – the Sky Brunch – includes a selection of cheese, Fuet sausage and ham together with a croissant, olives and sparkling wine.

Four reasons to pre-order your meal

More and more passengers are choosing to pre-order their meals before their flights, as this provides several advantages, including:

- ✓ A wide selection of breakfast offers, hot and cold dishes, kids' meals and dishes for special dietary or religious requirements.
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- ✓ The privilege of being among the first to be served onboard.
- ✓ Different pre-order options from which to choose.

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

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

Our online check-in system allows passengers to pre-order a meal **during online check-in**, from 72 hours up to 1 hour before departure for flights from Riga.



airBaltic frequent flyer loyalty program PINS



About the program

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

PINS program has various card designs from which you can choose, but if you are a frequent flyer, then the most suitable one for you will be the green **airBaltic PINS card**. The more you fly with airBaltic the higher your membership level and the greater the privileges. **Executive** and **VIP** levels are reserved for

the most loyal airBaltic customers and ensure various benefits which include a **free baggage allowance**, **priority check-in**, **reserved seats** and much more to make traveling more pleasant. The youngest members starting from age 2 are issued with a special **airBaltic PINS Young Pilot card** which allows also children to collect PINS.

If you aren't a PINS program member yet

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



airBaltic PINS card



airBaltic PINS Executive card



airBaltic PINS VIP card





airBaltic PINS Young Pilot card

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

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


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

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

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


Collect PINS when traveling

Collect PINS every time you travel! Book your holiday or business trip with program partners and get rewarded! Choose your favorite destination and start enjoying the benefits of your loyalty program! Check out stories of PINS members who have collected PINS to spend on rewards perfect for their upcoming trips.




Anna

Collected pins




Economy class ticket

500




Renting 1 car

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Staying at the hotel

500




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600

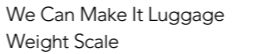


Review about a hotel stay


150



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We Can Make It Luggage Weight Scale




The Johnsons

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4 Basic class tickets

600




Renting 1 car

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4 meals on board

100



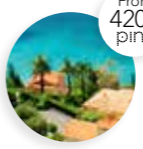
Booking 2 hotel stays

3000

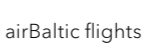


2 reviews about hotel stays


300



From 4200 pins




airBaltic flights




Robert

Collected pins




Business class ticket

1800




Renting 1 car

500




Staying at the hotel

500



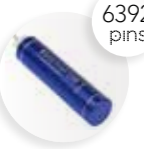
Shopping

50

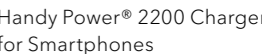


Yearly subscription

3500



6392 pins



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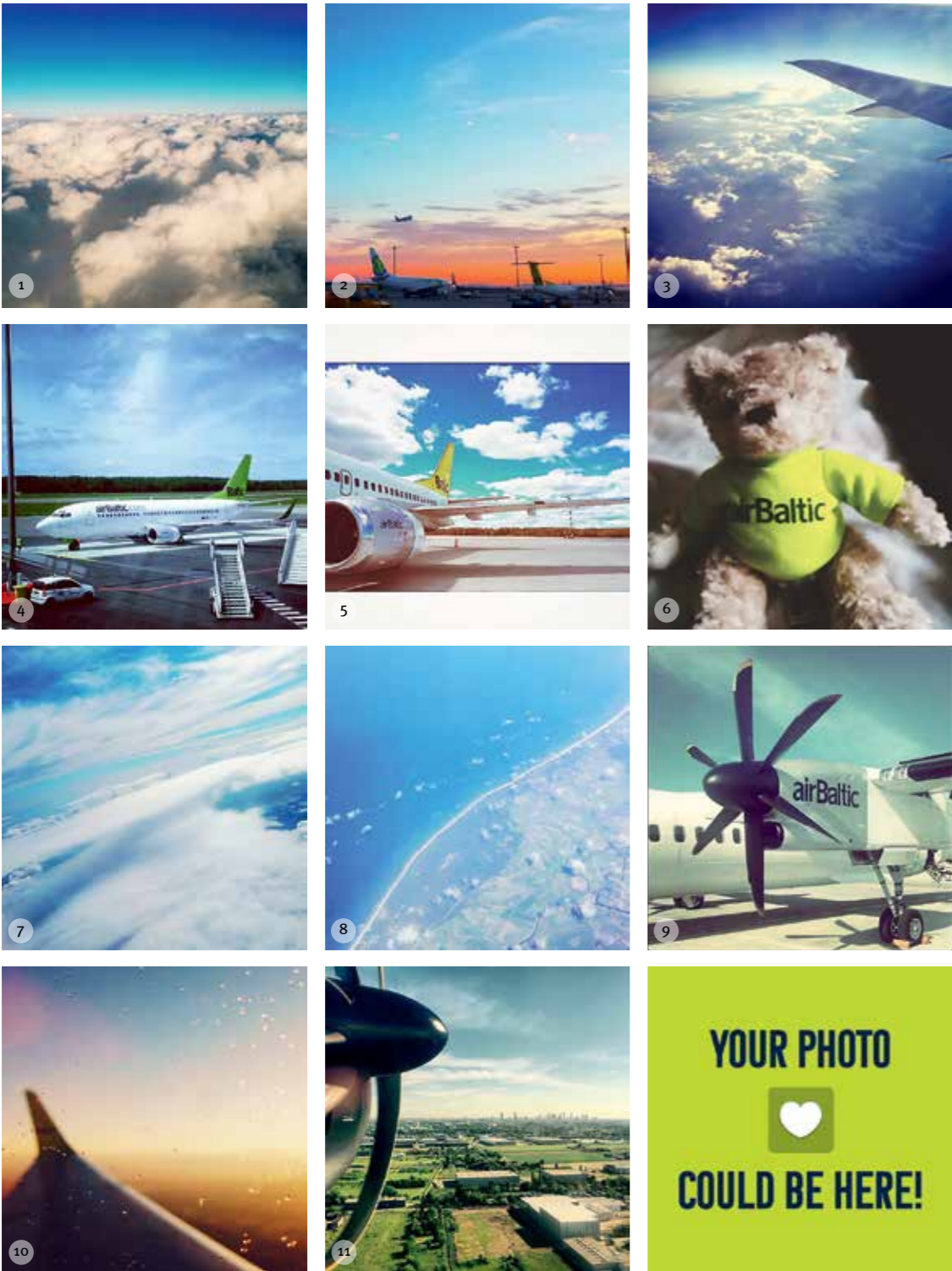




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Tell your travel story via beautiful images captured while travelling with us, in the sky and on our planes. We'd love to share your story!

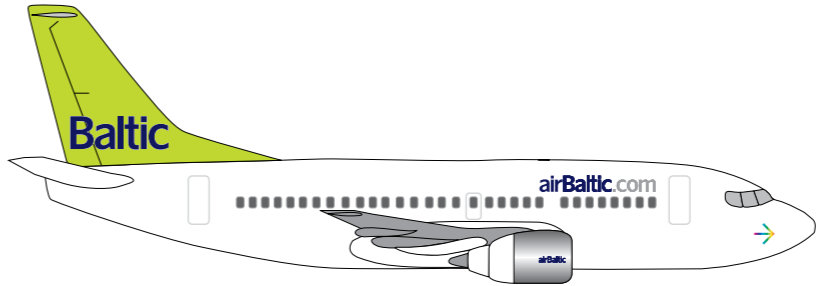


1 @airBaltic | 2 @alpha_oscar_uniform | 3 @annavouri_ | 4 @dehsrc | 5 @leldemelko | 6 @luk_kristaps | 7 @marisilepa | 8 @marrwd | 9 @moeraki56 | 10 @oopusumi | 11 @rafaekphotography



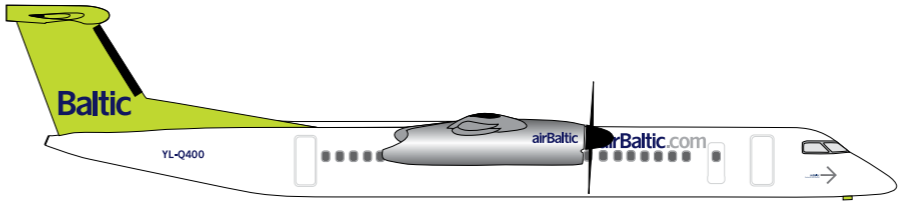
Boeing 737-300

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

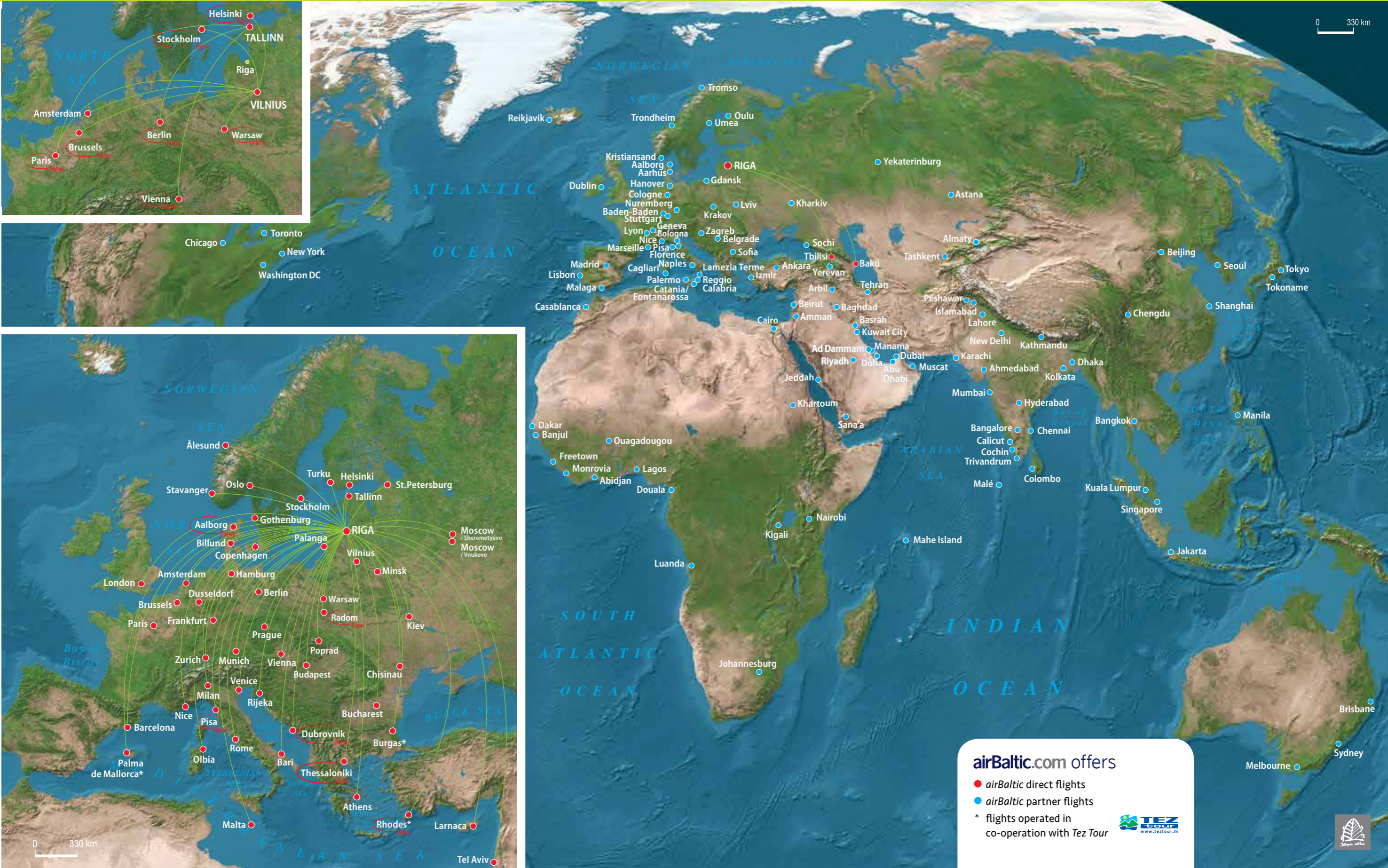


Q400 NextGen
Bombardier

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
AALBORG					AALBORG				
BT 149	RIX	AAL	-----6-	12:35 13:15	BT 150	AAL	RIX	-----7	15:00 17:30
ALESUND					ALESUND				
BT 175	RIX	AES	-----5-7	13:20 14:45	BT 176	AES	RIX	-----5-7	15:15 18:30
AMSTERDAM					AMSTERDAM				
BT 617	RIX	AMS	-2-4----	08:30 09:55	BT 618	AMS	RIX	1234567	11:30 14:45
BT 619	RIX	AMS	1-3-567	08:35 10:00	BT 620	AMS	RIX	12345-7	19:55 23:10
BT 619	RIX	AMS	12345-7	17:10 18:35					
AMSTERDAM flights from VILNIUS					AMSTERDAM flights to VILNIUS				
BT 609	VNO	AMS	12-4567	08:35 10:35	BT 610	AMS	VNO	12-4567	12:30 16:15
ATHENS					ATHENS				
BT 611	RIX	ATH	--3----	09:30 12:50	BT 612	ATH	RIX	-----7 July 12-39	03:30 6:50
BT 611	RIX	ATH	-2-----	15:30 18:50	BT 612	ATH	RIX	--3----	13:25 16:45
BT 611	RIX	ATH	-----6- July 4	15:30 18:50	BT 612	ATH	RIX	-2-----	19:25 22:45
BT 611	RIX	ATH	-----6- July 25	15:30 18:50	BT 612	ATH	RIX	-----6- July 4	19:25 22:45
BT 611	RIX	ATH	-----6- July 11-38	23:35 02:55+1	BT 612	ATH	RIX	-----6- July 25	19:25 22:45
BAKU					BAKU				
BT 732	RIX	GYD	-----7	21:30 03:25+1	BT 212	GYD	RIX	1-----	04:20 06:30
BT 732	RIX	GYD	--3----	23:45 05:40+1	BT 218	GYD	RIX	--4----	06:30 08:40
BARCELONA					BARCELONA				
BT 683	RIX	BCN	12-4-6-	14:40 17:25	BT 684	BCN	RIX	12-456-	18:10 22:50
BT 683	RIX	BCN	-----5-	14:45 17:30					
BARI					BARI				
BT 623	RIX	BRI	-2-----	08:00 09:55	BT 624	BRI	RIX	-2-----	10:30 14:25
BERLIN Tegel					BERLIN Tegel				
BT 211	RIX	TXL	1234567	07:50 08:45	BT 212	TXL	RIX	1234567	09:40 12:30
BT 217	RIX	TXL	1-34567	14:00 14:55	BT 218	TXL	RIX	1-34567	15:25 18:15
BT 213	RIX	TXL	12345-7	18:15 19:10	BT 214	TXL	RIX	12345-7	19:45 22:35
BERLIN Tegel flights from TALLINN					BERLIN Tegel flights to TALLINN				
BT 201	TLL	TXL	1-4----	05:50 07:10	BT 202	TXL	TLL	1-4----	08:00 11:15
BT 203	TLL	TXL	--3-5--	18:20 19:40	BT 204	TXL	TLL	--3-5--	21:55 01:10+1
BILLUND					BILLUND				
BT 145	RIX	BLL	12345-7	23:45 00:45+1	BT 146	BLL	RIX	123456-	05:50 08:40
BRUSSELS					BRUSSELS				
BT 601	RIX	BRU	12345--	05:45 07:40	BT 602	BRU	RIX	12345--	05:45 12:00
BT 607	RIX	BRU	-----6-	12:25 14:20	BT 608	BRU	RIX	-----6-	14:50 18:35
BT 603	RIX	BRU	1-4--7	16:35 18:30	BT 604	BRU	RIX	1-4--7	19:05 22:50
BUCHAREST					BUCHAREST				
BT 503	RIX	OTP	1-4-6-	23:45 02:30+1	BT 504	OTP	RIX	-2-5-7	03:50 06:40
BUDAPEST					BUDAPEST				
BT 491	RIX	BUD	1-3-5--	13:00 14:25	BT 492	BUD	RIX	1-3-5--	14:55 18:10
BT 491	RIX	BUD	--4----- July 23	13:00 14:25	BT 492	BUD	RIX	--4----- July 23	14:55 18:10
BURGAS					BURGAS				
BT 755	RIX	BOJ	--3----	09:30 12:10	BT 756	BOJ	RIX	--3----	12:50 15:25
BT 755	RIX	BOJ	-----6-	17:10 19:50	BT 756	BOJ	RIX	-----6-	20:35 23:10
CHISINAU					CHISINAU				
BT 420	RIX	KIV	-2-4-6-	12:40 15:05	BT 421	KIV	RIX	-2-4-6-	15:40 18:10
COPENHAGEN					COPENHAGEN				
BT 133	RIX	CPH	1234---	06:45 07:25	BT 142	CPH	RIX	-----6- July 18	06:05 08:40
BT 131	RIX	CPH	1234567	09:40 10:20	BT 134	CPH	RIX	1234---	08:05 10:40
BT 139	RIX	CPH	1234567	19:00 19:40	BT 132	CPH	RIX	1234567	10:55 13:30
BT 137	RIX	CPH	1234---	21:40 22:20	BT 140	CPH	RIX	1234567	20:15 22:50
BT 137	RIX	CPH	-----7 July 12	21:40 22:20	BT 138	CPH	RIX	1234---	23:00 01:35+1
BT 137	RIX	CPH	-----5- July 17	21:40 22:20	BT 138	CPH	RIX	-----7 July 12	23:00 01:35+1
BT 141	RIX	CPH	-----5- July 17	23:45 00:25+1	BT 138	CPH	RIX	-----5- July 17	23:00 01:35+1
DUBROVNIK					DUBROVNIK				
BT 497	RIX	DBV	---4----	09:20 11:00	BT 498	DBV	RIX	---4----	11:40 15:25
BT 497	RIX	DBV	-2-----	16:35 18:15	BT 498	DBV	RIX	-2-----	18:55 22:40
DUSSELDORF					DUSSELDORF				
BT 235	RIX	DUS	1234567	12:30 14:10	BT 236	DUS	RIX	-234567	14:45 18:15
					BT 236	DUS	RIX	1-----	15:00 18:30
FRANKFURT					FRANKFURT				
BT 243	RIX	FRA	-----6-	07:50 09:35	BT 242	FRA	RIX	12345-7	15:00 18:35
BT 241	RIX	FRA	12345-7	12:40 14:25	BT 246	FRA	RIX	-----6-	19:35 23:10
GOTHENBURG					GOTHENBURG				
BT 121	RIX	GOT	1-4--7	23:45 00:30+1	BT 125	GOT	RIX	12-5--	06:00 08:35
HAMBURG					HAMBURG				
BT 251	RIX	HAM	12345--	07:50 08:55	BT 252	HAM	RIX	12345--	09:25 12:20
BT 253	RIX	HAM	1-345-7	17:55 19:00	BT 256	HAM	RIX	-----6-	14:50 17:45
BT 255	RIX	HAM	-----6-	13:15 14:20	BT 254	HAM	RIX	1-345-7	19:40 22:35
BT 253	RIX	HAM	-2----- July 28	17:55 19:00	BT 254	HAM	RIX	-2----- July 28	19:40 22:35
HELSINKI					HELSINKI				
BT 301	RIX	HEL	1234567	09:20 10:25	BT 326	HEL	RIX	1234567	06:00 06:55
BT 303	RIX	HEL	-23--7 July 1-29	13:05 14:10	BT 302	HEL	RIX	1234567	10:55 11:55
BT 303	RIX	HEL	1--5-- July 3-31	13:00 14:05	BT 304	HEL	RIX	--4----	15:25 16:25
BT 303	RIX	HEL	---4-6- July 2-9	13:15 14:20	BT 304	HEL	RIX	--3-567	15:35 16:35
BT 303	RIX	HEL	---4-6- July 16-30	13:15 14:20	BT 304	HEL	RIX	1234567	15:35 16:35
BT 303	RIX	HEL	-----6- July 11	13:40 14:45	BT 308	HEL	RIX	1234567	21:30 22:30
BT 307	RIX	HEL	1234567	19:00 20:05					
BT 325	RIX	HEL	1234567	23:35 00:35+1					
KIEV Borispol					KIEV Borispol				
BT 400	RIX	KBP	123456-	09:15 11:05	BT 401	KBP	RIX	123456-	11:35 13:30
BT 404	RIX	KBP	12345-7	18:40 20:30	BT 405	KBP	RIX	12345-7	21:00 22:55
LARNACA					LARNACA				
BT 657	RIX	LCA	-2--6-	23:55 03:45+1	BT 658	LCA	RIX	--3--7	04:30 08:30
LONDON Gatwick					LONDON Gatwick				
BT 651	RIX	LGW	12-456-	08:35 09:25	BT 652	LGW	RIX	12-456-	10:10 14:55
BT 653	RIX	LGW	---45--	16:00 16:50	BT 654	LGW	RIX	---4----	17:35 22:20
BT 653	RIX	LGW	1-3--7	16:30 17:20	BT 654	LGW	RIX	---5----	17:55 22:40
					BT 654	LGW	RIX	-----7	18:05 22:50
					BT 654	LGW	RIX	1-3----	18:10 22:55
MALTA					MALTA				
BT 739	RIX	MLA	-----7	23:30 02:10+1	BT 740	MLA	RIX	1-----	02:50 07:30
MILAN Malpensa					MILAN Malpensa				
BT 629	RIX	MPX	---4-6- July 2-11	09:20 11:05	BT 1630	MPX	RIX	-----7 July 5	12:55 16:35
BT 629	RIX	MPX	-----6- July 18-25	09:20 11:05	BT 630	MPX	RIX	1-3-5-- July 1-30	14:45 18:25
BT 629	RIX	MPX	-----7 July 5	10:30 12:15	BT 630	MPX	RIX	1-345-- July 13-31	14:45 18:25
BT 629	RIX	MPX	1-3-5-- July 1-10	12:20 14:05	BT 630	MPX	RIX	---4----- July 2-11	16:50 20:30
BT 629	RIX	MPX	1-345-- July 13-31	12:20 14:05	BT 630	MPX	RIX	-----7 July 5-26	19:25 23:05

Flights from Riga						Flights to Riga					
Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure	Arrival	Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure	Arrival
MINSK						MINSK					
BT 412	RIX	MSQ	1-3--7	13:55	15:05	BT 413	MSQ	RIX	1-3--7	15:45	16:55
MOSCOW Sheremetyevo						MOSCOW Sheremetyevo					
BT 424	RIX	SVO	123456-	07:55	09:35	BT 425	SVO	RIX	123456-	10:25	12:10
BT 422	RIX	SVO	12345-7	18:45	20:25	BT 423	SVO	RIX	12345-7	21:10	22:55
MOSCOW Vnukovo						MOSCOW Vnukovo					
BT 416	RIX	VKO	1--5-7	23:55	01:40+1	BT 417	VKO	RIX	12--6-	04:45	06:40
MUNICH						MUNICH					
BT 221	RIX	MUC	123456-	07:20	09:00	BT 222	MUC	RIX	123456-	09:35	13:05
BT 223	RIX	MUC	1-345-7	17:20	19:00	BT 224	MUC	RIX	1-345-7	19:35	23:05
NICE						NICE					
BT 695	RIX	NCE	-2-4----	16:30	18:35	BT 696	NCE	RIX	-2-4-6-	19:10	23:10
BT 695	RIX	NCE	-----6-	16:35	18:40						
OLBIA						OLBIA					
BT 655	RIX	OLB	-----6-	15:45	17:55	BT 656	OLB	RIX	-23-6-	18:45	23:00
BT 655	RIX	OLB	-23----	16:00	18:10						
OSLO						OSLO					
BT 151	RIX	OSL	1234567	08:05	09:00	BT 158	OSL	RIX	--3-7	05:50	08:40
BT 159	RIX	OSL	1234----	13:55	14:50	BT 152	OSL	RIX	1234567	09:25	12:15
BT 159	RIX	OSL	-----5-	13:15	13:50	BT 160	OSL	RIX	1234----	15:20	18:10
BT 153	RIX	OSL	1234567	18:35	19:30	BT 160	OSL	RIX	-----7	17:30	20:00
BT 157	RIX	OSL	-23--6-	23:45	00:40+1	BT 154	OSL	RIX	1234567	20:00	22:50
PALANGA						PALANGA					
BT 035	RIX	PLQ	1-3-5--	14:25	15:10	BT 032	PLQ	RIX	123456-	06:05	06:50
BT 033	RIX	PLQ	12345-7	23:45	00:30+1	BT 036	PLQ	RIX	1-3-5--	15:45	16:30
PALMA DE MALLORCA						PALMA DE MALLORCA					
BT 687	RIX	PMI	-----7	08:05	10:50	BT 688	PMI	RIX	-----7	11:40	16:20
PARIS Charles de Gaulles						PARIS Charles de Gaulles					
BT 691	RIX	CDG	1234567	07:30	09:25	BT 692	CDG	RIX	1234567	10:10	13:55
BT 693	RIX	CDG	12345-7	16:30	18:25	BT 694	CDG	RIX	12345-7	19:20	23:05
BT 693	RIX	CDG	1-4-5-7 July 16-31	16:30	18:25	BT 694	CDG	RIX	1-4-5-7 July 16-31	19:20	23:05
PARIS flights to TALLINN						PARIS flights to TALLINN					
BT 689	TLL	CDG	1234567	09:35	11:35	BT 690	CDG	TLL	1234567	12:30	16:25
PISA						PISA					
BT 637	RIX	PSA	-----6-	09:00	10:50	BT 638	PSA	RIX	-----7 July 5-19	08:00	11:50
BT 638	RIX	PSA	-----7 July 2-14			BT 638	PSA	RIX	-----7 July 2-14	19:10	23:00
PRAGUE						PRAGUE					
BT 481	RIX	PRG	1234567	13:15	14:25	BT 482	PRG	RIX	1234567	14:55	18:00
RHODES						RHODES					
BT 597	RIX	RHO	-----5-	07:25	11:00	BT 598	RHO	RIX	-----5-	11:40	15:20
RIJEKA						RIJEKA					
BT 495	RIX	RJK	-3-5--	17:05	18:30	BT 496	RJK	RIX	-3-5--	19:05	22:30
ROME Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino						ROME Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino					
BT 631	RIX	FCO	-3-5-7	09:20	11:25	BT 632	FCO	RIX	-3-5-7	12:10	16:20
BT 633	RIX	FCO	1-4----	15:50	17:55	BT 634	FCO	RIX	1-4----	18:50	23:00
STAVANGER / July 30						STAVANGER / July 31					
BT 177	RIX	SVG	---4----	23:35	00:55+1	BT 178	SVG	RIX	---5----	05:25	08:40
STOCKHOLM Arlanda						STOCKHOLM Arlanda					
BT 101	RIX	ARN	1234567	07:50	08:05	BT 104	ARN	RIX	1234567	06:20	08:35
BT 105	RIX	ARN	1234567	14:15	14:30	BT 102	ARN	RIX	1234567	08:40	10:55
BT 109	RIX	ARN	1234567	19:00	19:15	BT 106	ARN	RIX	1234567	15:00	17:15
BT 103	RIX	ARN	1234567	23:35	23:50	BT 108	ARN	RIX	1234567	19:50	22:05
ST-PETERSBURG						ST-PETERSBURG					
BT 442	RIX	LED	134567	09:20	10:40	BT 447	LED	RIX	1-456-	05:20	06:40
BT 444	RIX	LED	12-45-7	19:00	20:20	BT 443	LED	RIX	1-34567	11:15	12:35
BT 446	RIX	LED	-345-7	23:55	01:15+1	BT 445	LED	RIX	12-45-7	21:20	22:40
TALLINN						TALLINN					
BT 319	RIX	TLL	1234567	07:20	08:10	BT 362	TLL	RIX	1234567	06:00	06:50
BT 311	RIX	TLL	1234567	09:30	10:20	BT 322	TLL	RIX	-----6-	07:50	08:40
BT 313	RIX	TLL	1-345--	12:55	13:45	BT 312	TLL	RIX	1234567	10:55	11:45
BT 313	RIX	TLL	-2--67	13:55	14:45	BT 314	TLL	RIX	1-345-	14:35	15:25
BT 315	RIX	TLL	1-345-	14:25	15:15	BT 314	TLL	RIX	-2--67	15:15	16:05
BT 317	RIX	TLL	1234567	19:05	19:55	BT 316	TLL	RIX	12-45-	15:50	16:40
BT 321	RIX	TLL	-----7	23:00	23:50	BT 320	TLL	RIX	1234567	16:55	17:45
BT 361	RIX	TLL	1234567	23:35	00:25+1	BT 318	TLL	RIX	-----4-	20:25	21:15
						BT 318	TLL	RIX	123-567	21:40	22:30
TBILISI						TBILISI					
BT 722	RIX	TBS	1-4----	23:25	03:55+1	BT 723	TBS	RIX	-----6- July 25	04:35	07:10
BT 724	RIX	TBS	-3-5-7	23:25	03:55+1	BT 723	TBS	RIX	-2-5--	04:40	07:15
BT 1724	RIX	TBS	-----5- July 24	23:30	04:00+1	BT 725	TBS	RIX	1-4-6-	04:40	07:15
TEL AVIV						TEL AVIV					
BT 771	RIX	TLV	-3--6-	13:00	17:20	BT 772	TLV	RIX	-3--6-	18:20	22:50
THESSALONIKI						THESSALONIKI					
BT 595	RIX	SKG	-----5-7	23:55	02:50+1	BT 596	SKG	RIX	1-1--6-	03:45	06:40
TURKU						TURKU					
BT 359	RIX	TKU	12345-7	23:45	00:55+1	BT 360	TKU	RIX	123456-	06:45	06:50
VIENNA						VIENNA					
BT 431	RIX	VIE	1-3-5--	07:20	08:45	BT 432	VIE	RIX	1-3-5--	09:25	12:45
BT 431	RIX	VIE	-2-4-6-	07:30	08:30	BT 432	VIE	RIX	-2-4-6-	09:25	12:25
BT 433	RIX	VIE	12345-7	17:40	19:05	BT 434	VIE	RIX	12345-7	19:50	23:10
VIENNA flights from TALLINN						VIENNA flights to TALLINN					
BT 205	TLL	VIE	-2-5--	06:25	8:20	BT 206	VIE	TLL	-2-5--	10:40	14:30
BT 207	TLL	VIE	1-4----	17:40	19:35	BT 208	VIE	TLL	1-4----	20:35	00:25+1
VILNIUS						VILNIUS					
BT 351	RIX	VNO	12-4567	07:20	8:10	BT 350	VNO	RIX	1234567	06:00	6:50
BT 351	RIX	VNO	-3----- July 29	07:20	8:10	BT 342	VNO	RIX	1234567	10:55	11:45
BT 341	RIX	VNO	1234567	09:30	10:20	BT 344	VNO	RIX	1234567	15:15	16:05
BT 343	RIX	VNO	1234567	13:55	14:45	BT 352	VNO	RIX	12-4567	16:55	17:45
BT 347	RIX	VNO	1234567	19:05	19:55	BT 352	VNO	RIX	-----3- July 29	16:55	17:45
BT 349	RIX	VNO	1234567	23:35	00:25+1	BT 348	VNO	RIX	1234567	20:25	21:15
VENICE						VENICE					
BT 627	RIX	VCE	1-4----	17:05	18:45	BT 628	VCE	RIX	1-4----	19:30	23:05
WARSAW						WARSAW					
BT 461	RIX	WAW	1-3-56-	07:50	08:20	BT 462	WAW	RIX	1-3-56-	09:20	11:45
BT 467	RIX	WAW	-234-7	19:05	19:35	BT 468	WAW	RIX	-234-7	20:05	22:30
ZURICH						ZURICH					
BT 641	RIX	ZRH	12-4-6- July 2-9	07:40	09:10	BT 642	ZRH	RIX	12-4-6- July 2-9	09:45	13:15
BT 641	RIX	ZRH	12-4----- July 13-16	07:40	09:10	BT 642	ZRH	RIX	12-4----- July 13-16	09:45	13:15
BT 641	RIX	ZRH	12-4-6- July 20-30	07:40	09:10	BT 642	ZRH	RIX	12-4-6- July 20-30	09:45	13:15
BT 641	RIX	ZRH	-3-5-7 July 1-5	17:30	19:00	BT 642	ZRH	RIX	-3-5-7 July 1-5	19:35	23:05
BT 641	RIX	ZRH	-3-567 July 8-19	17:30	19:00	BT 642	ZRH	RIX	-3-567 July 8-19	19:35	23:05
BT 641	RIX	ZRH	-3-5-7 July 22-31	17:30	19:00	BT 642	ZRH	RIX	-3-5-7 July 22-31	19:35	23:05



Country/City Ticket offices	Service points
AUSTRIA	
Vienna AVIAREPS Untere Donaustrasse 11/3. OG 1020 Vienna	Vienna International Airport Celebi Ground services
AZERBAIJAN	
Baku Improtex Travel 16. S. Vurgun Str. Baku AZ1000, Azarbaijan ☎ +994 124989239 info@improtex-travel.com booking@improtex-travel.com	Heydar Aliyev International airport Silk way airlines Terminal 1 ☎ +994777008700 ☎ +994777008701
BELARUS	
Minsk	Minsk International Airport Transavia ☎ +375 17 279 1505
BELGIUM	
Brussels TAL Aviation 35 rue du Congres, 1000 Bruxelles ☎ +32 (0) 2 227 1117 Airbaltic-belgium@tal-aviation.be	Airport Zaventem Departure Hall Aviapartner ☎ +32 (0) 27230667
CROATIA	
Rijeka	Rijeka Airport Zračna Luka Rijeka ☎ +385 51 841 222
CYPRUS	
Larnaca	Larnaca International Airport LGS Service desk
CZECH REPUBLIC	
Prague Discover the World pplk. Sochora 30/724, 170 00 Praha 7 ☎ +420 233 931 681 airBaltic-czsk@discovertheworld.biz	Vaclav Havel Prague Airport Terminal T2 CEAS ☎ +420 220117540
DENMARK	
Billund TAL Aviation Nordics AB ☎ +46-8-590 000 90 airbaltic-nordic@talaviation.se	Billund Airport Departure Hall Billund Airport handling F: +45 75338410
ESTONIA	
Tallinn ☎ 17107 (0.51 EUR/min, local calls only) tallinn@airbaltic.com	Airport Tallinn Main Terminal, Departure Hall airBaltic / Tallinn Airport GH
FINLAND	
Helsinki TAL Aviation Insinoorinkatu 7 B, 00880 Helsinki ☎ +35 8 (0) 968778912 airbaltic-nordic@talaviation.se (airBaltic RESERVATIONS ☎ 0600411015 0.64 EUR/min, Mon-Fri 09:00-18:00)	Helsinki Handling NewCo Oy Servisair Service point
Turku	Airport Turku Airpro
FRANCE	
Paris APG France 66 avenue des Champs Elysées Building E, 2 nd floor 75008, Paris ☎ +33 153892100 airbaltic@apg.fr	Airport Charles de Gaulles Terminal 2D GH Team
Nice	Airport Nice Cote D'azur
GEORGIA	
Tbilisi airBaltic ticket office 61 Paliashvili str. 0179 Tbilisi ☎ +995 32 2 900900 airbalticgsa@discovery.ge	Airport Tbilisi Discovery Ltd ☎ +995 32 2 900900
GERMANY	
Berlin	Airport Berlin Tegel Main Terminal AHS Opposite gate 4/5
Dusseldorf	Airport Dusseldorf Terminal B HAWAS Germany GmbH ☎ +49 211 421 6271

Country/City Ticket offices	Service point
Frankfurt c/o AVIAREPS AG Kaiserstrasse 77 ☎ +49 (0) 900 001 227 (EUR 0,49/min from fixed lines, different costs may apply for mobile calls) ResBT-Germany@aviareps.com	Airport Frankfurt Havas Germany GmbH Terminal 2, Hall E, Desk 939
Hamburg	Airport Fuhlsbüttel Terminal 1, Departure Hall Havas Germany GmbH
Munich	Airport Munich Terminal 1 Havas Germany GmbH
GREECE	
Athens TAL Aviation 7,Stadiou Str. (8 th floor) 105 62 Athens-Greece ☎ +30 210 9341500 F: +30 210 9341620 airbaltic@tal-aviation.gr	Athens International Airport Goldair Handling
HUNGARY	
Budapest Tensi Aviation Kft. Komjádi Béla utca 1. ☎ +36 1 3451526 F: +36 1 9991466 aviation@tensi.hu	Budapest Airport Celebi Ground handling company
ISRAEL	
Tel Aviv TAL Aviation 29 Ben Yehuda St. Tel Aviv, 63807 ☎ +972 (3) 7952166 F: +972 (3) 5161432 AirBaltic-Israel@TAL-Aviation.com	Tel Aviv Airport Terminal 3 Laufer Aviation GHI ☎ +972 39754076
ITALY	
Rome TAL Aviation Italy Via Adolfo Rava, 106, 00142, Rome ☎ +39 0654242544 F: +390654242534 airbaltic@talaviation.it	Leonardo de Vinci – Fiumicino Airport Terminal 3, Departure Hall A.R.E. Airline Representative Europe
Bari	Bari Airport Bari Palese
Milan	Milan Malpensa Airport Terminal 1, Departure Level A.R.E. Airline Representative Europe
Olbia	International Airport Costa Olbia Geasar S.P.A. Smeralda
Venice	Airport Venice Marco Polo A.R.E. Airline Representative Europe
LATVIA	
Riga ☎ 90001100 (0.51 EUR/min for local calls)	Riga International Airport Main Terminal and transit area airBaltic ticket office
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Vilnius ☎ 890015004 (2.12 LTL/min, local calls only) vnoreservations@airbaltic.com	Vilnius International Airport Litcargus ticketing@litcargus.lt
Palanga	Palanga Airport Orlaivių Aptarnavimo Agentūra ☎ +370 46052300 F: +370 46056401
MALTA	
Malta	Malta Airport Air Malta ☎ +356 22999620 mia.airmalta@airmalta.com
MOLDOVA	
Chisinau	Chisinau International Airport Air Service ☎/F: +373 22 52 55 06 ☎ +373 22 54 93 39
NORWAY	
Oslo TAL Aviation Nordic AB Norway@tal-aviation.com	Oslo Airport Gardermoen

Country/City Ticket offices	Service point
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 BGS Service point
ROMANIA	
Bucharest TAL Aviation Bldv Nicolae Balcescu 21, Sector 1, Bucharest ☎ +40 (0) 21 307 9175 airbaltic-romania@talaviation.ro	GlobeGround Handling Company International Departures Terminal ☎ +40212042194 F: +40212041900
RUSSIA	
Moscow ☎ +007 (495)969-2248 domestic calling rates apply for calls within Russia	Airport Vnukovo Transagenstvo Vnukovo LLC service point Ticketing counters no: 177, 185
St. Petersburg	Airport Pulkovo Terminal 2 LTD North-West Transport Agency
SPAIN	
Barcelona TAL Aviation Paseo de la Castellana, 135 - 7th floor, 28046, Madrid ☎ +34 6555 86889 airbaltic-spain@tal-aviation.com	Airport El Prat de Llobregat Terminal 1 Lufthansa Ticket Desk
SWEDEN	
Stockholm TAL Aviation Kanalvägen 16, 5 fl, 194 61 Upplands Vasby ☎ +46 8 590 000 90 airbaltic-nordic@talaviation.se	Stockholm Arlanda Airport Nordic Aero International Terminal 5
SWITZERLAND	
Zurich c/o Airline & Tourism Center GmbH ☎ +41 (0) 44 286 99 73 airBaltic-Switzerland@aviareps.com	Airport Zurich Kloten Swissport Terminal 2
UKRAINE	
Kiev	Airport Borispol Terminal D Interavia ☎ +380 442 817 461 kbp.ticketing@interavia.ua call-center line +380 443 840 120
UNITED KINGDOM	
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