

# baltic outlook

MARCH 2012

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A city of and between worlds



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# НЕДВИЖИМОСТЬ В ЮРМАЛЕ И РИГЕ



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JŪRMALĀ UN RĪGĀ

# ВАШ НОВЫЙ ДОМ ВМЕСТЕ С ORDO



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**Юрмала, Булдури,  
проспект Булдуру 52**

- продажа инвестиционного проекта
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- общая площадь трёх зданий 6957 м<sup>2</sup>
- общая полезная площадь 4176 м<sup>2</sup>
- 47 мест подземного паркинга

**Цена 3 950 000 EUR**



**Юрмала, Дзинтари,  
улица Авоту 16а, 18**

- продажа инвестиционного проекта
- общая площадь земли 2807 м<sup>2</sup>
- общая площадь строений (два рядных дома) 1259 м<sup>2</sup>
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улица Капу 66**

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**Цена 1 350 000 EUR**



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Давья 106**

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**baltic** Outlook

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# 190 ЛЕТ НАЗАД

ЧЕЛОВЕК ДЕЛАЛ СТАВКИ НА ЛОШАДЕЙ  
И НАВСЕГДА ИЗМЕНИЛ ЧАСОВОЕ ДЕЛО.



В 1821 году на лошадиных бегах в Париже Николя Рюссак успешно протестировал своё революционное изобретение, которое позволило засечь время с точностью до пятой доли секунды. Так родился хронограф. Дань уважения человеку с даром предвидения, *Montblanc Nicolas Rieussec Chronograph Anniversary Edition* создан, опираясь на сущность изобретения: принцип двух вращающихся дисков. Однокнопочный хронограф, калибра *MB R110* с механизмом ручного завода. Корпус из белого золота 18К. 30 мин. и 60 сек. счётчики с вращающимися дисками. Ограниченный выпуск из 90 экземпляров. Создано на Мануфактуре Montblanc, в Ле Локле, Швейцария. **MONTBLANC. ПОВЕДАТЬ ИСТОРИЮ.**

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Martin Alexander Gauss  
Chief Executive Officer

Dear customer,

March is the month when spring starts in the Northern Hemisphere. It also marks the beginning of the busiest travel period, as airlines formally enter the summer season on Sunday, March 25.

We have already announced that spring will bring additional flight frequencies on a number of routes in Western Europe, Scandinavia and the CIS. These will offer more convenient travel schedules for business and leisure travellers alike. We are delighted to increase the number of cities where passengers can make single day trips. In our summer schedule you will also see a number of beautiful destinations coming back from hibernation, including Venice, Athens, Budapest, Nice and Chisinau, along with other cities on the Mediterranean, Caspian and Black Sea coast.

Our home airport at North Hub Riga entered a new level of development and served more than 5 million passengers in 2011 for the first time, or almost 10% more than the previous year. This result was achieved with *airBaltic* carrying almost seven out of every ten passengers in Riga. The Riga airport is by far the largest in the Baltic region, three times the size of other capital airports in the neighbourhood. Because it is a large passenger hub with numerous customers, Riga attracts new airlines that enter the market and launch new routes. Thus *airBaltic*, as the largest carrier in Riga and the price leader in the region, encourages competition and drives improvements to air infrastructure in the Baltics. Moreover, better connections make Riga a regional hub in the North not only for aviation, but also for a wide array of other industries. This stimulates business and cultural exchange, increases the number of travellers who spend their money in the local economy, and supports jobs in hotels, restaurants, shops, taxi companies and other businesses.

We thank you for making your flight on *airBaltic* and being part of our development!

Yours,

Martin Alexander Gauss





**How** do you know when you are grown up? Some people seem to hit middle age at 16. Others stay frivolous into their fifties. I know one economist who says that adult life begins when your expenditure on Christmas presents for others exceeds the value of the presents that you expect to receive from others. For me, the litmus test is birthdays. So long as you are enjoying your birthdays and sharing the fun of them with others, you are young. When you want to keep birthdays to yourself, when you wish they would just go away altogether, you have grown up.

I am happy to say that I stayed young for a very long time on that measure. But even so, adulthood eventually caught up with me, some time around forty. First, I stopped celebrating my birthdays. Then I stopped acknowledging their existence. After a while, I decided to take the offensive. Whenever a birthday came round, I would subtract a year from my published age, instead of adding it. (I will thus be marking my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in a couple of years' time.)

Since moving to Latvia a few years back, I've discovered the best strategy of all. The anti-birthday, if you like. It takes the form of a happy device familiar to almost every European except the Brits: the Name Day. As far as I can tell, Name Days are a feature of almost every European and North American country except Britain and the United States – hence my ignorance.

The joy of a Name Day lies in its public celebration. Unless you can contrive to

go through life without having a name at all, your Name Day is public property. You don't have to draw it to anybody's attention. People just know.

Even if your parents gifted you with a truly unusual name – Hogwart, say, or Windowbrush – the designers of the system have provided a safety net. There is at least one day of the year reserved for people who would not have a Name Day otherwise. In Latvia, that day falls on May 22. And, frankly, one special day is enough for anyone.

**SO LONG AS YOU ARE ENJOYING YOUR BIRTHDAYS, YOU ARE YOUNG**

So here is my proposal. Each year, everybody should be allowed to claim in *either* their Name Day *or* birthday, but not both. And, since a Name Day is so much more sociable and so much less selfish, surely everybody is going to opt for a Name Day. We can do away with birthdays entirely, thereby ensuring perpetual happiness to those, like me, who hate to grow old.

I'm not pretending this is a perfect answer. There are still a few details to be worked out. For example, if I apply for a new passport and write in "Robert" where it says *Date of birth* on the form, some confusion may occur.

Another objection might be that the Name Day calendars vary among different countries. This strikes me as more of a feature than a bug. By travelling judiciously from country to country with a Name Day calendar in hand, you can celebrate your Day several times in a single year. So: Will you join me in Poland on April 29 and in Estonia on June 7? Just listen for the party and ask for Robert. **BO**

# Happy anti-birthday!

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We would like to introduce ourselves. It is very likely that you have not yet heard of our **law firm**. We have been busy with client matters since the firm was founded by Professor Paul Varul in Tallinn in 1994. We work with **business law** and have offices in **Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania** and **Belarus**. We are **highly ranked** by the international legal directory Legal500 and our lawyers have a **strong** academic background. Our track record includes assistance to over **3,000 clients** from more than 30 industries and more than 30 countries. Our team of 65 lawyers provides services in **23 areas** of legal practice. We believe in quality, **practical solutions** and reasonable fees. Our advice focuses on the business objectives of our clients. We adopt a personal approach with each case and each client in the interests of lasting and successful **client** relationships. We guarantee unlimited availability and efficiency in everything we do.

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# RA. Europe's epicentre of new fashion

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RA Antwerp – Kloosterstraat 13  
RA Paris – 14 rue de la Corderie  
[www.ra13.be](http://www.ra13.be)



In 1969, Norwegian scientist and adventurer Thor Heyerdahl attempted to cross the Atlantic with an eight-member crew on the *Ra*, a boat made of papyrus reeds. Although he was not successful the first time, he did reach the coast of Barbados a year later on a similar craft, the *Ra II*, completing the 6400-km journey from Morocco in just 57-days. While inspired by ancient Egyptian boat designs and named after the sun-god of the pharaohs, the *Ra II* was designed to prove that boats of this sort were seaworthy and capable of transporting people across great distances.

In 2009, two students at the Antwerp Royal Academy of Fine Arts – Anna Kushnerova

of Russia and Romain Brau of France, opened the *RA* concept store in Antwerp, the epicentre of Belgian fashion. Their bold and daring project was launched not into the ocean, but in the turbulent waters of the global fashion industry.

*RA* was created as a platform for energetic young designers, bringing together some of the world's brightest talents with the craziest of ideas. It is a place where almost anything is possible, where the most audacious concepts and the ability to realize them with conviction are the main criteria for being presented on this alternative stage. With few exceptions, most aspiring young designers lack the might and the resources to

break through the industry's barriers of snobbish arrogance; to create an impression and to make a lasting name for themselves. Hence, from its very first days, *RA* has sought to serve as both a stage and a trampoline, helping creative minds at the beginning of their careers (including financially), and bringing new talents out into the open waters.

At the beginning of 2012, *RA* also unveiled an experimental space in Paris. As one would expect in Europe's fashion mecca, *RA's* concept is decadently refined; the interior looks like a 1920s Surrealist salon with Russian film influences.

**AS ONE WOULD EXPECT RA'S CONCEPT IS DECADENTLY REFINED**

A monumental front door sculpted with symbolic carvings in heavy bronze leads into a stage-like space, furnished with a theatre curtain at one end to add to the mystique.

Here one will find clothing by designers who have already acquired a degree of recognition (such as *Bernhard Willhelm* and *Rodarte*), as well as new talents and young couturiers, including *Meadham Kirchhoff* and *Serkan Cura* – not to mention the original works of largely unknown young designers whom Kushnerova and Brau have met in various places across the world as roving scouts in search of new talents. **BO**



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# Copenhagen collectables

In Copenhagen, a bread bowl is much more than just a bread bowl: it's a whole engineering project. Although liquorice and schnapps do feature in the suitcase we've put together, it's the avant-garde slickness of quality Danish design that stands out when considering what makes a true souvenir



**1 / Ole Jensen dustpan and brush**  
A slick, innovative dustpan and brush set; available at *Normann's Copenhagen*, Østerbrogade  
23 EUR

**2 / Original Bornholm Bitter**  
Bornholm herbal snaps; available at *Bornholmer Buttiken*, Torvehallerne indoor market, Israel Plads  
11 EUR

**3 and 4 / Thy Økologisk Humle beer and Hancock Old Gambrinus Dark Beer**  
Micro-brewed beer from Jutland in the west of Denmark, difficult to

find amongst the Carlsberg and Tuborg; available at the *Black Swan Bar*, Borgergade  
4.40 EUR each

**5 / Moneyphant elephant money box**  
Silver-plated personal money bank; available at *Georg Jensen Copenhagen*  
80 EUR

**6 / Sealskin gloves**  
Sealskin gloves with lamb and fox fur trimming; available at *Margit Pels*, Store Kongensgade  
120 EUR

**7 / Moomin children's lunchbox;**  
These Finnish children's creations have been immortalized in a range of quality products, including this compact sandwich case; available at *Zane*, Bredgade  
13 EUR

**8 / Silk screen-print sack dress**  
A brightly-coloured dress with boat neck, kimono sleeves and pockets in the side seams; available at the *Bruuns Bazaar*, Silkegade  
215 EUR

**9 / Ceramic cup and saucer set**  
Prestigious ceramic work from the company that supplies the Danish royal family  
Available at *Royal Copenhagen*, Amagertorv  
109.45 EUR (with a lifetime warranty)

**10 / Johan Below salt liquorice**  
Original Danish salt liquorice; available at the *Magasin du Nord* food hall  
7 EUR

**11 / Rustikki knækbrød**  
Roasted bread crackers with

poppy and sesame seeds; available at the *Magasin* food hall  
5 EUR

**12 / Stelton Classic bread bowl**  
Foldable, fabric bread bowl; available at *Illurns Bolighus*, Amagertorv  
22 EUR

**13 / Norse Project Daniel Frost t-shirt**  
Nordic design t-shirt; available at the *Norse Projects* store, Pilestræde  
47 EUR

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# MARCH / 2012



Umi Garrett

## Opening concert of the *International Piano Stars Festival*

Great Guild Hall (*Lielā Ģilde*), Riga / March 9, 19:00

This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Piano Stars Festival. The opening concert on March 9 in Riga will provide listeners with the unique opportunity to hear three outstanding pianists: Brigitte Engerer from France, Anton Lyakhovsky from Russia and the little genius – 11-year-old Umi Garrett from the USA – the youngest participant in the history of this festival. During this concert, both youth and maturity, along with a rich past and a hopeful future, will meet in the music of Mozart, Sen-Sans and Tchaikovsky.

Atvars Lakstīgala will conduct the Liepāja Symphony Amber Sound Orchestra. Two days later, on March 11, this concert will also take place in the main location of the festival – the Liepāja Theatre. Then on March 14, the wonderful Belarussian duet of Natalia Kotova and Valery Borovikov will perform under the aegis of the programme *Theatre. Love. Jazz (Teātris. Mīlestība.Džezs)* at the *Gates to the Sea (Jūras vārti)* theatre house in Ventspils.

**i** Tickets at [www.ticketparadise.lv](http://www.ticketparadise.lv) and [www.iso.lv](http://www.iso.lv)



## New production of Giacomo Puccini's *La bohème*

Latvian National Opera, Riga  
Premiere on February 17, additional showings on March 11 and April 7

Following a hiatus of several years, *La bohème* returns to the repertoire of the Latvian National Opera (LNO). Puccini's lyrical masterpiece brings love, art, friendship and joie-de-vivre to the forefront of the stage, with the LNO's new, young opera stars in the leading roles.

*La bohème's* protagonists are a lively group of

19<sup>th</sup>-century Parisians: the poet Rodolfo, the musician Schaunard, the philosopher Colline and the artist Marcello. Although they are far from rich, the youths lead a happy-go-lucky, bohemian lifestyle. Rodolfo falls in love with the seamstress Mimi, but even his love cannot save her from the ravages of tuberculosis, or "consumption", as it was then called. She dies in the final scenes of the opera, with Rodolfo weeping helplessly by her side.

**i** Tickets at [www.ticketparadise.lv](http://www.ticketparadise.lv) and [www.opera.lv](http://www.opera.lv)



RIGA Professional Symphonic Band

## SPRING FESTIVAL

# Windstream

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listen, enjoy!

March 20, at 7 p.m.

**OPENING CONCERT** at the Small Guild Hall. Programme: compositions for wind ensembles and orchestra by I. Stravinsky, J. Francaix, W. A. Mozart, R. Strauss, J. Vitolis.

March 25, at 4 p.m.

Concert **"DUM SPIRO..."** at the Riga Dome Cathedral. Programme: J. S. Bach, M. Einfeldt, V. Smidbergs. Soloist Ilze Reine (organ), conductor Andris Poga, Winner of the 2nd International Yevgeny Svetlanov Conductors Competition.

April 1, at 7 p.m.

**JOKE CONCERT** at the Great Guild Concert Hall. RIGA Professional Symphonic Band will give a humorous programme with jokes in music.

April 6, at 7 p.m.

Good Friday Concert at the Riga St. John's Church. The State Academic Choir "Latvia", Riga Chamber Choir "Ave Sol", RIGA Professional Symphonic Band, soloists Sonora Voice and Ingus Petersons, conductor Martins Ozolins. Programme: **REQUIEM** by I. Brege.

April 9, at 7 p.m.

Closing Concert at the Riga St. Peter's Church. Riga Dome Cathedral Boys Choir, The Boys' Choir of Jazeps Medins 1st Music School of Riga, RIGA Professional Symphonic Band, soloists Gunta Davidcuka, Viesturs Jansons, Krisjanis Norvelis, conductor Romans Vanags. Programme: **SAINT CECILIA MASS** by Ch. Gounod.

from March 20 to April 9  
[www.music.lv/riga](http://www.music.lv/riga) [orkestris@riga.lv](mailto:orkestris@riga.lv)



**Mikēlis Fišers**  
**El Cosmos No Perdona Las Faltas**  
*Formula gallery, Saint Petersburg*  
 / March 16-June 12

Latvian artist Mikēlis Fišers (b. 1970) has always been drawn by the unknown and the supernatural – UFOs, mystical places of power and esoteric processes. The *Formula* gallery at the prestigious *Loft Project Etagi* art space in Saint Petersburg is set to host a personal exhibition by Fišers, in which these themes are reflected, along with musings on the difficult daily lives of scientists who study the universe and on the capitulation of modern technologies in the face of the great Unknown.

In this series of paintings, which Fišers began to produce in 2009, the artist brings attention to the world's ecological and energy crisis, providing a dim outlook on the prospects for new discoveries in the study of the universe. Fišers has held exhibitions since the mid 1990s, displaying installations, objects, paintings and stage sets for theatre performances in Latvia.

Ligovsky prospekt 74  
 i [www.loftprojectetagi.ru](http://www.loftprojectetagi.ru)



A Friend is Leaving. Oil on canvas

**Undiscovered masterpieces. Russian art from the collections of the Baltic countries**  
 KUMU Art Museum of Estonia, Tallinn  
 / March 22 -August 12

*Undiscovered Masterpieces* is the fruit of a cooperative venture between the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian national art museums. The exhibition displays a valuable overview of various Russian art trends from the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century until the 1930s. A large part of the paintings on display date from the late 1800s and feature the works of the Peredvizhniki artists, including Perov, Repin, Shishkin, Kramskoi, Kassatkin and Levitan.

Later this year, on November 11, the Riga Bourse Art Museum will take over from KUMU, focusing on the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Entitled *The Silver Age in Russian art. Painting, graphic arts and sculpture from Baltic museum collections* (*Sudraba laikmets krievu mākslā. Glezniecība, grafika un tēlniecība no Baltijas muzeju kolekcijām*), this exhibition will be held until January 20, 2013.

Weizenbergi 34 / Valge 1  
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 Email: [vilnius@lt.maqs.com](mailto:vilnius@lt.maqs.com)



Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775–1851)  
*Banks of the Loire, 1829* / Oil on canvas / 71.3 x 53.3 cm  
 © Worcester Art Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts  
 Bequest of Theodore T and Mary G. Ellis 1940.59

# London

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## Turner Inspired: In the Light of Claude National Gallery / March 14 - June 5

When the famous British Romanticist artist Joseph Mallord William Turner (1775-1851) donated two of his paintings - *Dido Building Carthage* and *Sun Rising through Vapour* - to the National Gallery in London, his only condition was for the art works to be exposed alongside two other oeuvres - *The Seaport* and *The Mill* - by 17th-century French painter Claude (c.1600-1682, full name Claude Gellée, also known as Claude Lorrain).

The latest exhibition - on view at the National Gallery from mid March - features a body of watercolours, paintings and sketches known as the *Turner Bequest*, which the artist donated to his people and country before his death. Here one can also witness Turner's fascination with the works of Claude, who is widely seen as the father of European landscape painting and who inspired numerous followers, mainly from the British Isles. One notable English landscape painter, John Constable, even referred to Claude as the greatest landscape artist ever.

Trafalgar Square  
 ⓘ [www.nationalgallery.org.uk](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk)

# Barcelona

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## Goya: Lights and Shadows CaixaForum / March 16 - June 24

Approximately 100 works by Spanish painter Francisco Goya (1746-1828) will be shown at the *Lights and Shadows* exhibition, which is one of the central events marking the tenth anniversary of the *CaixaForum Barcelona*, and which has been put together with the support of the Prado Museum in Madrid.

Goya is known as the temperamental court artist of King Carlos IV, who painted numerous (sometimes unflattering) portraits of the Spanish nobility. He became withdrawn and introspective following a serious illness in 1793, which left him deaf. However, Goya

was outspoken in his art, and did not hesitate to use it as a platform to criticize various shortcomings in Spanish society. One of his best-known and most scandalous bodies of work is the *Capricho* series of 80 aquatint prints, which he began to produce in 1798 and whose distribution was subsequently banned for a time. The portraits that Goya painted of the Duchess of Alba - with whom some believe he had an affair - remain popular to this day. One of his most famous paintings, the legendary *Clothed Maja (La maja vestida)* will also be featured at the exhibition in Barcelona.

Av. de Francesc Ferrer i Guàrdia, 6-8  
 ⓘ <http://obrasocial.lacaixa.es>

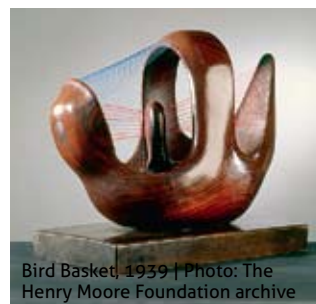


Francisco de Goya y Lucientes.  
*La maja vestida, 1797 - 1798.*  
 Museo Nacional del Prado

# Moscow

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## Henry Moore Kremlin Museums / Until May 10



Bird Basket, 1939 | Photo: The Henry Moore Foundation archive

Russia's capital city is hosting a large retrospective of works by legendary 20th-century British sculptor Henry Moore (1898-1986), spanning his entire artistic career from the 1930s until his death in 1986. A selection of early carvings in wood, stone and marble, as well as drawings and tapestries - including several

of Moore's later iconic sculptures of the 1980s - are on display at the Kremlin's Assumption Belltower and Patriarch's Palace.

Henry Moore was a unique personality, who introduced a new form of modernist sculpture to the United Kingdom. He is best known for his semi-abstract monumental bronze sculptures, which can be found at numerous city parks and public buildings all around the world. The exhibition is an assembly of oeuvres from various public and private collections and is the result of a cooperative venture between the Kremlin Museums, the British Council and the Henry Moore Foundation.

Moscow Kremlin  
 ⓘ [www.kreml.ru/en/museums/](http://www.kreml.ru/en/museums/)



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Alexandre-Gabriel Decamps, *Le singe peintre, dit aussi Intérieur d'atelier, ca.1833*

## Paris

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### Animal Beauty: From Dürer to Jeff Koons Galeries Nationales du Grand Palais / March 21 - July 16

The expositions at the *Grand Palais* have always been among the most significant events in the Parisian arts calendar, and this spring's *Animal Beauty* showing looks set to become another "must see". The focus of this show is on man's relationship with the animal kingdom – something that people have considered at least since the Stone Age, when our ancestors produced cave drawings of various creatures.

The starting point for this exhibition is the Renaissance and one of its most prominent representatives – Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528), who painted animals precisely and realistically. The closing exhibit piece is by Jeff Koons (b.1955), whose bright, stainless steel "balloon dogs" have already become icons of contemporary art.

Visitors will be treated to a variety of paintings, drawings, photographs and sculptures by famous and lesser-known artists, including Leonardo da Vinci, Eugène Delacroix, Vincent van Gogh, Mark Chagall, Rembrandt, Louise Bourgeois and Andy Warhol.

Avenue Winston-Churchill | <http://www.grandpalais.fr/visite/en/>

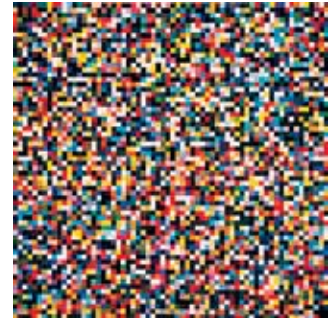
## Berlin

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### Gerhard Richter Neue Nationalgalerie / Until May 13

In honour of German artist Gerhard Richter's 80th birthday, Berlin's *Neue Nationalgalerie* is currently hosting the largest retrospective of his works to date. The exhibition features highlights of Richter's 50-year career in chronological order, including photographically based portraits, abstractions and landscapes, as well as works on paper and his legendary "mirror" paintings.

Born in 1932 in Dresden, Richter's life was indelibly marked by Nazi rule and the Second World War, leading him to abhor any form of ideology for the rest of his life. After the war, Richter was one of the first German artists who dared to recall the Nazi era in his works. The portraits that he made of his own family members represented a unique mirror of the nation itself, in which one



could distinguish both victims and supporters of the regime.

Richter is known for portraying historical personalities and events, and has not refrained from depicting figures that are loathed by society, including four members of the notorious Red Army Faction, a West German left-wing terrorist group.

Potsdamer Strasse 50  
10785 Berlin  
[www.smb.museum](http://www.smb.museum)



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➤ **Live Happenings**  
**Dead Can Dance**

Founded in Melbourne, Australia in 1982, the music group *Dead Can Dance* has acquired a legendary, cult status among its followers. The group's music has been variously classified as neo-classical, neo-pagan, ethereal and ethnically post-modern, among others. The participation of

co-founder Lisa Gerrard in the creation of numerous movie soundtracks further influenced this eclectic musical genre, leading to the formation of copycat groups, as well as to the derogatory description of Gerrard's atypical singing as "ethnic whining". From the very beginning, *Dead Can Dance* has been known for using various languages in its songs, and sometimes, for singing in non-existent tongues. Last September, the group announced the release of a 30-year anniversary album, of which the first part was accessible for free on the group's internet home page. Then in December, the second part of the album came out. Both parts include recordings from the group's 2005 concert tour.

➤ [deadcandance.com](http://deadcandance.com)

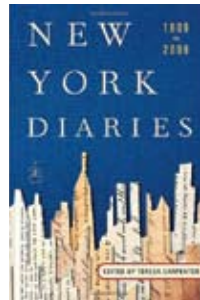


➤ **Mattebox**

Since the installation of photo and video cameras as a standard feature in cellular phones, technology has advanced so rapidly that in some cases, the quality of pictures taken with a phone is comparable to that of DSLR mirror cameras. The only drawback until now has been the phone itself, whose

primary function is usually audio communication, rather than photography. The controls for regulating a phone's camera are normally not that easily accessible, and the opportunity to regulate exposure, depth of field and other aspects of the shot are fairly minimal. Now, the *Mattebox* programme for iPhones, which can also be used in the internet, is truly a revolutionary attempt to make taking pictures easier. Inspired by the design of a real camera – the *Konica Hexar* – *Mattebox* finally eliminates any feelings of inadequacy that might result from not having a "real" photo camera.

➤ [mattebox.com](http://mattebox.com)



➤ **New York Diaries. 1609 to 2009**  
**Edited by Teresa Carpenter**  
**Modern Library, 2012**

The fact that Simone de Beauvoir, the French icon of Existentialism, first smoked marijuana in New York in the spring of 1947 is probably not the best-known event of her life. However, it has now caught the attention of various reviewers of the newly released *New York Diaries*. The publication is the brainchild of Teresa Carpenter, a long-time contributor to the New York newspaper the *Village Voice*, and consists of diary excerpts from various well-known and lesser-known personalities during their stays in New York at various time periods. The colourful collection of personal notes features Mark Twain's reflections on Russian bathhouses and Edgar Allan Poe's ravings against the city, which he hated. With a panoramic scope that extends across four centuries, the pens of diverse authors bring the history of this great American city to life in a truly captivating manner.



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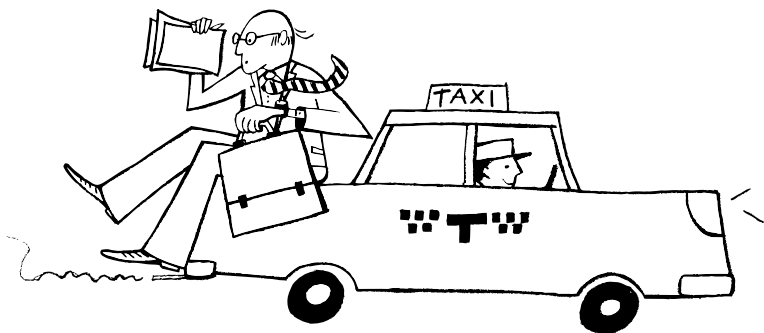
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# Word of the month

TEXT BY ADAM JACOT DE BOINOD, AUTHOR OF *THE MEANING OF TINGO*, PUBLISHED BY PENGUIN BOOKS | ILLUSTRATION BY INGA BRIEDE

**profesores taximetros** (Columbian Spanish) part-time professors who hold a number of teaching positions at various institutions, from and to which they rush by taxi (literally, taxicab professors)



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



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# Charles Dickens' London

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London has changed quite a bit since the days when Charles Dickens walked its streets in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, but you can still see many of the great writer's favourite places

## > 1 Middle Temple Inn

The Inns of Court were ancient, even when Dickens lived in the now demolished Furnival's Inn as a young court reporter. The first ones were built in the Middle Ages as a kind of giant commune for lawyers. Four now remain: Lincoln's Inn, Gray's Inn, the Inner Temple and the Middle Temple. It's free to walk around the Gothic alleys and courtyards, although you'll need to book a tour to go inside the buildings of all but the Middle Temple.

Middle Temple Lane  
Open Mon.-Fri. 10:00-11:30 and 15:00-16:00 | Entrance free  
[www.middletemple.org.uk](http://www.middletemple.org.uk)

## > 2 Dickens Museum

After Dickens had made a name for himself as a writer, he moved out of the Inns of Court to 48 Doughty

Street, which is now the Dickens Museum. This is where, in a two-year blaze of creativity between 1837 and 1839, he knocked out *Oliver Twist* and *Nicholas Nickleby*, while his equally prolific wife had three children. Here you can see Dickens's letters and the first editions of his books. To complete modern writers' sense of inferiority, you can also learn how to write with the kind of quill pen that Dickens had to use.

Open: daily 10:00-17:00, adults 7 GBP, children 3 GBP (under-tens free)  
[www.dickensmuseum.com](http://www.dickensmuseum.com)

## > 3 Rules Restaurant

From his favourite table at what is now London's oldest restaurant, Charles Dickens could look across towards Chandos Street and see the factory where he was forced to work as a child after his father was

sent to prison for non-payment of debts. Later in life, Dickens could savour roast pheasant and oysters at the restaurant, with his difficult childhood experiences perhaps making them taste all the more delectable.

35 Maiden Lane | (+44) 20 7836 5314  
[www.rules.co.uk](http://www.rules.co.uk)

## > 4 Westminster Abbey

Westminster Abbey is arguably the most important church in England. Every English monarch since 1065 has been crowned here and it's also been the site of many royal weddings (including William and Kate's recent nuptials). That might be why Dickens modestly requested that he be laid to rest at his local church in Kent. However, by the time of his death in 1870, he'd been a literary superstar for over 30 years. There was no question that a spot

would be found at the abbey for his tomb, alongside the resting places of many other writers in Poets' Corner.

20 Dean's Yard  
Open: Mon. Tue. Thu. Fri. 9:30-15:30; Wed. 9:30-19:00 and Sat. 9:30-14:00. Sun. open for worship only. Entrance 16 GBP for adults, 6 GBP for children (free for under-11s)  
[www.westminster-abbey.org](http://www.westminster-abbey.org)

## > 5 Lamb & Flag Pub

The *Lamb & Flag* was Dickens' favourite pub, despite the fact that at the time, it was called the *Bucket of Blood*. First licensed in 1623, it was partially rebuilt in Victorian times, but some of the original 17<sup>th</sup>-century building still remains. Look around and even now, you may spot some thoroughly Dickensian characters.

33 Rose Street | (+44) 20 7497 9504

# The Harmony of *Nature* and *Divine Serenity*

Drawing inspiration from several of Gustav Klimt's amazing artworks, the new Design Attersee from the "Hommage à Gustav Klimt" Collection by FREYWILLE combines elements of Klimt's work: water, the natural landscape and strong architecture to create a colourful and serene design. The Attersee, where Klimt spent many of his holidays was painted in a gentle and calm light to reflect his love of the landscape.

Springtime tones of orange, violet and green are complimented by the soothing blue of the lakeside and shimmering golden accents. Geometric shapes are juxtaposed with free flowing forms, representing the differences between the natural landscape, architecture, and the harmony in which they merge seamlessly together. With yellow gold plated mountings, the signature FREYWILLE jewel-enamel is brought to life; interacting with the light and creating an interesting organic dynamic to this beautiful set.

## Collection 'Hommage à Gustav Klimt', DESIGN 'ATTERSEE':

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2. Bordered Bangle Miss
3. Clasp Bangle Regina
4. Ring Diva
5. Ring Miss
6. Ring Ultra

- Reflecting the joy of Klimt's holidays and merging many of the thought processes behind his artwork in one graceful design
- The artistic designed enamel reminds us of lovely days spent at a peaceful lake
- Available in selected FREYWILLE boutiques





# Riga-born Roman hip-hop

Simone Brugnoli (33) is an *airBaltic* first officer on *Bombardier Dash 8 Q400* aircraft. His love of hip hop culture has lasted nearly as long as his passion for aviation. This spring, Brugnoli's third hip hop album is about to become "airborne"

**Brugnoli** loves the sunshine, there is no doubt about that. Stepping into his cosy apartment from the winter cold, one is greeted in the doorway by a pair of bright yellow *Nike* sneakers. Dressed in a similarly bright T-shirt, Brugnoli slides past the yellow and green flag of Brasil on the wall to brew up a portion of Italian espresso coffee in a little yellow – yes, correct – yellow espresso can.

He is no fan of cold weather, but admits that Latvia's long winter has been good for his creativity. Brugnoli, also known as *Clan 21*, is three songs short of finishing his latest album. The minus-20-degree weather outside keeps the Roman *signor* mostly indoors, where he fills up his black *Moleskin* pages with lyrics and chords. Brugnoli says that he never writes or listens to hip hop while on work duty. For him, piloting and music are two different worlds, each equally demanding.

During his childhood, Brugnoli was quite a handful. His mother and three babysitters were practically at wit's end, trying to cope with the antics of this *bambino iperattivo*, who often woke up in the middle of the night and demanded as much attention from his carers as during the daytime. Brugnoli's mother sought to keep him busy by sending him to piano lessons, and that turned out to be a propitious choice. Then, at the age of 19, he first became acquainted with hip hop music. That was in Los Angeles, where Brugnoli was training to obtain a pilot's licence.

"In Los Angeles, hip hop is not just a music genre, but lifestyle. In Rome, on the other hand, nobody knew much about it. When I returned home two years later, I kept improvising and doing free style, borrowing a microphone and cassette recorder from my neighbour."

For Brugnoli, hip hop is a direct way of speaking – about love, political issues and the big disappointments and aims of one's life. Only now, more than 10 years later, he is convinced that you don't have to swear to make powerful lyrics for a song. "You've got to be true and have a message. People will instantly feel if your song was created for commercial purposes only," he says.

It was not until recently that Brugnoli started writing in English, which means that a lot of America's old West Coast rap – including Snoop Dogg, Eminem and Kanye West – can be heard playing in the background of his apartment. "I try to catch the words, get the metrics and feel the energy within a song," he says, adding that switching to English will let his music cross the Alps. His aim is the European hip hop market.

The new album entitled *2112*, will also reveal the influences of other musical styles. *Bounce to my Song*, featuring professional Latvian singer Diāna Pirāgs, has a heavy touch of R&B, while *No More Fake* with Italian singer Amins is a fusion between pop and rap. "It took 25 recorded songs and two albums to find my own signature, which is a fusion of hip hop with other styles in a mix of various cultures. This album will be something refreshing."

Although produced by *Faro Productions*, an Italian record label, Brugnoli reveals that *Warner* has also shown an interest in his work. "Things are getting bigger and I'm more happy," he smiles. His March plans include gigs in Los Angeles and Detroit. However, don't you worry – Brugnoli remains just as passionate about aviation, and it might even be him who is piloting your plane at this very moment. **BO**

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# Reincarnation

Born and then quietly expired under the Soviet regime, the first-generation model of the classic *Latvija* van – the *RAF 977 DM* – is seeing a stunning rebirth this spring



## History

The ubiquitous *Latvija* van (*RAF 2203*), with its robust lines and box-like shape, was a design success story of the late 1970s and 1980s. Formerly manufactured at the *RAF* plant, or Riga Bus Factory (*Rīgas Autobusu fabrika*), *Latvija* vans served as ambulances and public transport vehicles all across the USSR. While practically every former Soviet resident remembers these *Latvija* vans, far fewer people are familiar with the first *Latvija* model – the *RAF 977* – with its round contours that already presaged the hippy era when it first rolled off the assembly line in 1958.

Over the next 18 years, about 19 000 exemplars were produced, incorporating various design improvements until the model's discontinuation in 1976. Interestingly enough, hardly any original *RAF 977* vans remain, and practically all of them are in the form of rusty scrap metal carcasses. This can be explained by the fact that the Soviet regime forbade the private ownership of these vehicles. The first *Latvija* vans were meant for the sole use of state-owned establishments, which didn't take the best care of their property.

## Design

On the face of it, the *RAF 977* looks very similar to the legendary 1950 *Volkswagen Transporter*. The Soviets were impressed by this Western capitalist product and had a van brought from Germany to the Riga factory, where it was taken apart and studied in detail. Hence, the strong resemblance between the two models, whose roofs were of similar shape, and whose windows and passenger door were unusually small. However, the *Latvija* also differed from its German cousin in many respects, notably by the placement of the engine in the front, rather than the back of the vehicle. Although much of the design and manufacturing work was done in Riga, certain parts of the *RAF 977* were based on components of the

*GAZ 21 Volga*, which was produced at the monumental automobile factory in Nizhny Novgorod.

## On the road

Initially, only about 800-1000 vans were manufactured every year and since they were shipped out all across the vast territory of the Soviet Union, not too many of them could be seen on the roads. That began to change in 1962, when production more than doubled with the

establishment of a conveyer line.

Many of the small *Latvija* vans, which could seat 7-12 people, were upgraded to a "luxury class" level, with better seats, a radio, a sunroof and a grate on the roof for the transport of additional cargo. The vehicle could reach a top speed of 110 km/h, with a 75 hp, 2445 cm<sup>3</sup> motor that revved up to 4000 rpms.

## Rebirth

When a group of retro car enthusiasts from Latvia began to research the *RAF 977* several years ago, they could not find a singled restored model of this van anywhere in the former Soviet bloc of countries. In fact, they had trouble finding any forms of the van at all. Through a great deal of effort, they managed to salvage nine rusty old vans, none of them in driveable condition.

Now, a six-man team led by Latvian auto industry legend Andris Dambis has been set up to reconstruct a sparkling and squeaky clean *RAF 977 Latvija* vehicle. The entire process should take about two years and three months, and the cost is expected to equal that of a brand new contemporary van. Meanwhile, the same team is renovating a slightly different tourist version of the *RAF 977* at the Riga Motor Museum (S. Eizenšteina iela 6). It should be on display at the museum by the fall of this year. **BO**

**THE ENTIRE RENOVATION COST EQUALS THAT OF A BRAND NEW CONTEMPORARY VAN**

Special thanks to retro car enthusiast Valdis Ģiliis, race car driver and engineer Andris Dambis, *RAF 977* restoration lead specialist Zigfrīds Rullis and the team at OSC (*Ogres Servīsa centrs*)



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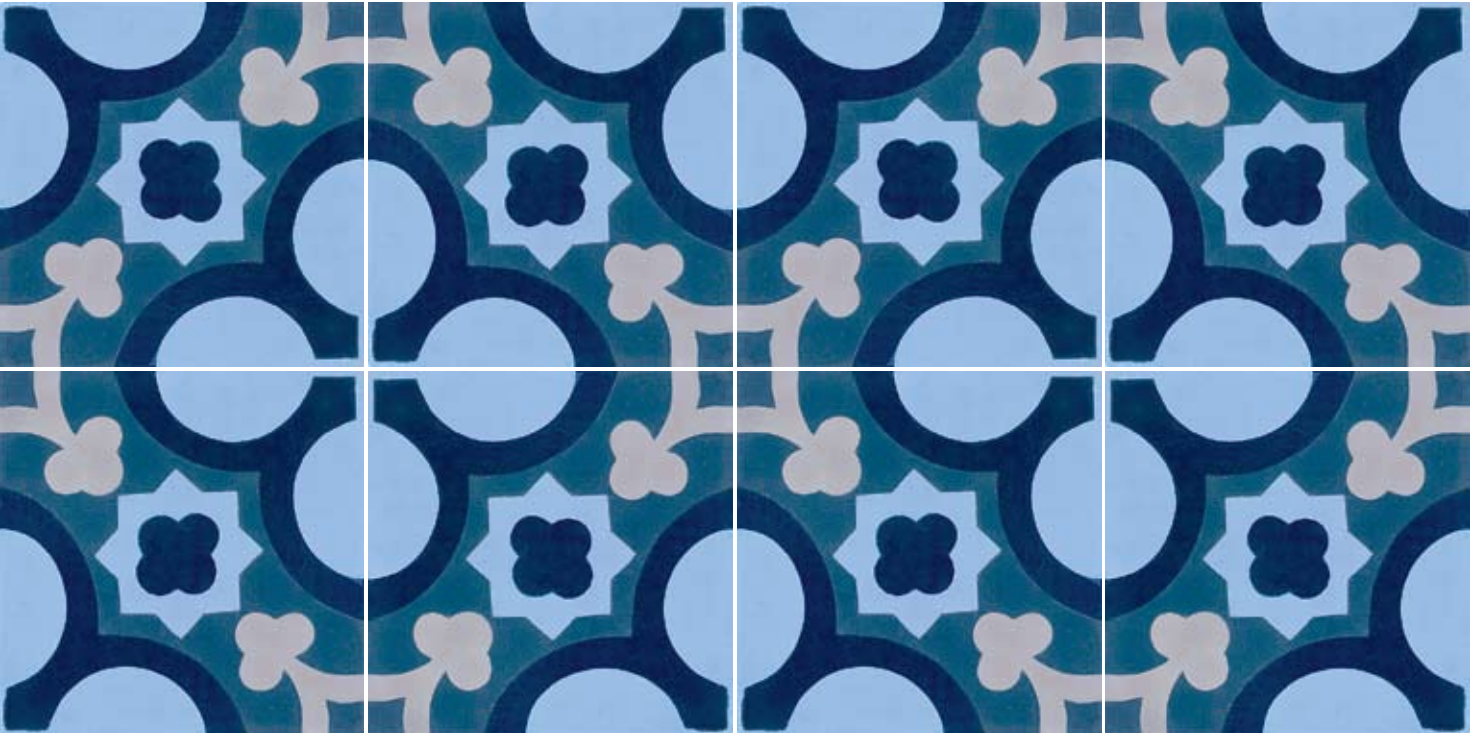
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*Far-Far* tiles unite the Norwegian attention to detail with the lively colours of Morocco. Since coming onto the market last year, they have found their way into an increasing number of Scandinavian homes



[www.far-far.no](http://www.far-far.no)

**Even** if one doesn't know what *Far-Far* means, the name sounds somewhat magical, like a mantra. In Norwegian it refers to one's "father's father", and is usually associated with the oldest and wisest member of the family, who always finds time for his loved ones. An aura of this time-honoured wisdom can also be found in the recently created *Far-Far* tiles. Inspired by patterns from centuries past, two Norwegian lads founded a design company in the vibrant Grünerløkka borough of Oslo, and despite the quickly growing popularity of their products, they still hope to keep their operations small-scale and easy-going.

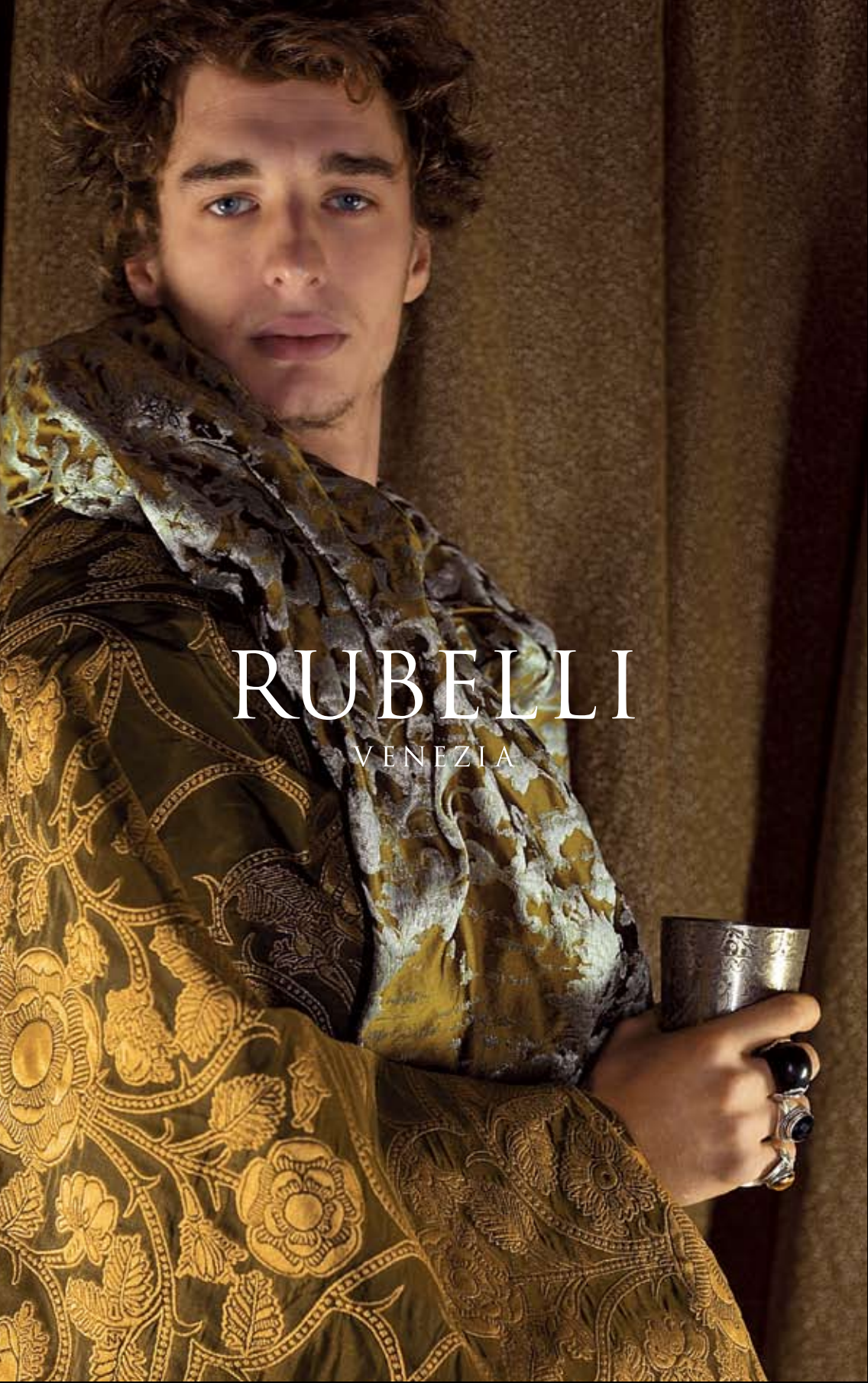
**"I WOULD RATHER QUIT THAN LET FAR-FAR BECOME AN ORDINARY TILE STORE"**

Lasse Koxvold got the idea to found *Far-Far* when removing the floorboards of his home, which had been erected in 1885 and which he was in the process of renovating. He was astounded to find that the floor was covering a colourful array of fading tiles. The tiles' ancient pattern inspired Koxvold and his business partner Joachim Sandvik to start the production of similar tiles, partly because the two could not find tiles that they liked in the stores that they visited. Now, every month, an average of 100 square metres of handmade cement tiles are sent from the Moroccan city of Meknes to the Norwegian capital. Out of about 80 patterns, most are Moroccan, while some are European, including six from Norway.

"We often get inspired by looking through traditional clothing patterns, and during visits to old factories and houses. As a result, new *Far-Far* designs are occasionally born," says Koxvold.

Getting Scandinavians, with their calm and reserved temperament, to adorn their plain, white kitchen walls with bright orange tiles is no small feat. That demands a certain sense of boldness and courage, and surprisingly, an increasing number of homeowners are willing to add some additional colour to their living spaces. In fact, most of *Far-Far's* orders are for private dwellings. This year, the company plans to continue expanding, but without losing its small and novel status.

"I would rather quit than let *Far-Far* become an ordinary tile store," Koxvold says emphatically. **BO**



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# Truly British

Here is a list of some fine British shoemakers who make top-of-the-line footwear, ensuring that you will leave the very best impression everywhere you go



### Oliver Sweeney

Since its foundation in 1989, this company has been creating stylish and comfortable footwear. According to legend, Oliver Sweeney ran away from home at the age of 16 and lived in the London Underground. One day he passed the window of a shoemaker who was advertising a vacancy for an apprentice and, as he later said, "that advert saved my life." Today Sweeney is one of Britain's leading designers and manufacturers of shoes, accessories and outerwear.

[www.oliversweeney.com](http://www.oliversweeney.com)



### Abrahams Gaucha

Comes in subtle, natural shades with a feather light EVA sole that is hard-wearing, but lighter and softer than its counterparts. 260 GBP \*



### Bennett

A subtle wedge sole and casual 'pull up' leather uppers make this model that much more interesting.

**Bennett Tan 225 GBP \* / Bennett Stone 225 GBP \***

\*price at [www.oliversweeney.com](http://www.oliversweeney.com)

### Loakes

The Loake family has been producing fine, handmade men's footwear for more than 130 years. Its *Goodyear Weltd* shoes continue to be made in England and take eight weeks to produce.

[www.loakes.co.uk](http://www.loakes.co.uk)



### Epsom

Brown waxy leather Goodyear welted commando rubber soles and leather insoles.



### 526

Dark brown nubuck and stone nubuck, cemented pump rubber soles.



### 805

Black polished leather Goodyear welted stud rubber soles, fully leather-lined, leather insoles.

### Crockett & Jones

Founded in 1879, Crockett & Jones specializes in the manufacture of high quality Goodyear-welted footwear. The process remains labour-intensive, requiring a skilled workforce to carry out more than 200 separate operations during an 8-week period.

[www.crockettandjones.com](http://www.crockettandjones.com)



### Dover 2

A 'saddle shoe inspired', modern, single leather sole Oxford lace-up. Approximately 300 GBP



### Petersham

A new addition to the luxurious Hand Grade Collection, which represents some of the finest 'ready-to-wear' footwear in the UK today. Available in tan burnished calf with oak bark soles. Approximately 450 GBP



### Modena

A casual, inter-laced driving shoe available in taupe suede or bracken calf – both with cleated soles. Approximately 185 GBP

Prices for the whole Loakes collection range from: £85 to £199

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### PARSLEY

Most commonly known for its leaves, another type, root parsley, is grown as a vegetable. Root parsley has a light sweetness, making it a delicious addition to soups and mashed potatoes, or roasted on its own with honey and mustard

### LEEKS

Many gourmands don't know that the world-famous French cold soup – *vichyssoise* – is based on leeks

### BASIL

A classic feature of Italian cuisine that actually comes from India. This herb looks a bit like peppermint and can be used in teas just like peppermint. Take some chopped basil leaves and infuse them in boiling water for eight minutes

### ROSEMARY

At southern latitudes, rosemary is grown in hedges. The herb is renowned for its abilities to improve memory and emotional well-being

### GREEN ONIONS

The first harbingers of spring, full of vitamin C and carotene

### ASPARAGUS

Composed of 95% water, these veggies still contain many valuable vitamins and minerals – a great choice for those seeking to lose weight





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TEXT BY PETERIS CEDRINS AND UNA MEISTERE | PHOTOS CORBIS, ALAMY

# Istanbul.

## A city of and between worlds

As a child I was fascinated by maps, atlases and encyclopaedias. One of my earliest vivid memories is of lying on the wooden floor in the house I grew up in, in Chicago, leafing through the “World Book Encyclopedia” and coming upon the article about Hagia Sophia, which was the largest cathedral on earth for almost a millennium. I had a boyish certainty that one day I would get to it

Bad luck, somebody has already taken the Anothertravelguide brochure about Istanbul, but don't worry, all the information is also available at [ANOTHERTRAVELGUIDE.COM](http://ANOTHERTRAVELGUIDE.COM) in cooperation with airBaltic.

[ANOTHERTRAVELGUIDE.COM](http://ANOTHERTRAVELGUIDE.COM)



Galata Bridge



The Basilica Cistern

You're making a big mistake, though, if you stick to the well-trodden paths and try to take in every "must-see" – there are too many "must-sees" in Istanbul

The current structure dates to 537. It has been repeatedly altered since then, of course, but no alterations can rob it of the awe it inspires. In a work that follows a walking tour of Istanbul, the poet Stephen Ellis brings together images of the "wide, inverted / scooped-out interior dome of / Hagia Sophia / the well of souls" and of the nearby harbour, where the Bosphorus joins the Golden Horn, being dredged as he walked. I first entered Ayasofya, as it is known in Turkish, seven years ago. At the time, the sense of being in a well of souls was partly obscured by scaffolding, as it had been for years. Even then, it was unbelievably overwhelming. Now, with the scaffolding finally gone, gazing up at the dome in "Ayasofya Müzesi" is an indescribably breathtaking experience (the cathedral was converted into a mosque in 1453, after Constantinople fell to the Turks; Atatürk, the founder of the modern Republic – whose likeness is inescapable in Turkey, as you will discover upon arrival, probably landing at the airport named after him – turned it into a museum in 1935). Try to arrive before it opens at 9 a.m. (it's closed on Mondays). There are outdoor cafés where you can get coffee and freshly squeezed orange juice before 8 a.m. – you can stroll through the gardens between Ayasofya and the Blue Mosque (also definitely a "must-see" – though it isn't yet technically open to tourists at that hour, you can still enter; seeing it before the hordes arrive is far more magical), but busses bearing throngs of tourists begin to cough their way toward Ayasofya even before it opens. Once admitted, visitors pour into the space below the dome and the cameras begin clicking away, so you may want to evade them and make a beeline for the Upper Gallery whilst it's still empty. The stone floors of the ramps that lead upward have been worn away by innumerable worshippers, invaders, crusaders,

empresses, sultans and gawkers. The sense of time when climbing the eroded stone is stunning. The nearby Hippodrome, once the centre of Byzantine life, bears other fragments from the distant past – the Serpentine Column, for instance, one of the most storied objects in ancient history, is nearly 2,500 years old. It was brought to Byzantium from Delphi by Constantine the Great in 324 AD. The Greeks had settled in what is now Istanbul (which means simply "in the city" or "to the city") long before what became the Roman and then the Byzantine capital bore Constantine's name; Byzantium was founded by Greek colonists from Megara in 667 BC. But human habitation here dates back far, far longer – work on the Marmaray railway tunnel revealed Neolithic remains – the area around Yenikapi has been populated for about 8,500 years. Digging in what amounts to layers of history and prehistory inevitably brings up wondrous things – besides skeletons from the Stone Age, 34 sunken ships from as far back as the 7<sup>th</sup> century were also discovered due to that single, delayed construction project. You might also visit the Istanbul Archaeology Museums, not far from Topkapi (what's left of the three serpents' heads that once adorned the Serpentine Column can be found there, too). The Sultanahmet area alone, where many of Turkey's greatest treasures are – Hagia Sophia, Topkapi, the Blue Mosque, the marble pillar from which all distances in the Byzantine Empire were measured – would take days to fully explore, though it is fairly compact. You're making a big mistake, though, if you stick to the well-trodden paths and try to take in every "must-see" – there are too many "must-sees" in Istanbul, and some of the places tourists are less likely to visit are at least as amazing as the most touristed sites.

### Timelessness

Istanbul does not dwell in the past. Not at all – it is the third largest city proper on the planet, and the only one to straddle two continents... and unlike in other European megacities, the population is still growing. Atatürk moved the capital to Ankara in 1923, but most honest travellers can tell you that with the exception of the Museum of Anatolian Civilisations and a smattering of archaeological sites and other museums, the current Turkish capital offers little to draw the traveller that far unless he or she is en route to a yet further point... unless, that is, the imposing



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Sultan mausoleum ceiling, Aya Sofia (Haghia Sofia) museum

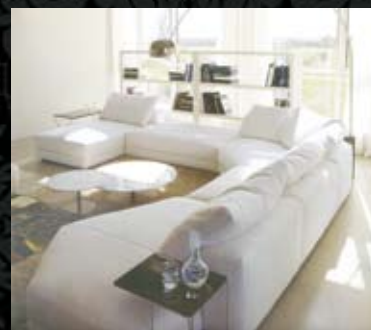


Topkapi Palace

mausoleum where Atatürk's is buried beckons you. Istanbul, however, offers worlds, in the plural, and many of its worlds are radically different. Eyüp, for example, is one of the holiest sites in Islam; the spiritual advisor to Sultan Mehmet II had a dream in which he saw the burial place of Abu Ayyub al-Ansari, a close companion of the Prophet Muhammad, here. The 15th-century mosque complex next to the tomb is worth seeing, and afterwards you can take a cable car up to the Pierre Loti Café, named after the nom-de-plume of a French orientalist officer and writer who adored cafés with views of the Golden Horn, from where there's indeed a wonderful view of the Golden Horn. Eyüp attracts many Muslim pilgrims, and the neighbourhood stands out as quite conservative – most women wear at least a headscarf, and some are veiled.

The contrast with parts of the Beyoğlu district on the other side of the Golden Horn couldn't be greater – in and around neighbourhoods like Cihangir or Çukurcuma, lesbian punk bands can be found jostling for space with the horse-drawn carts of melon sellers, the outlets of global brands like the Gap, galleries displaying European and American street art, the remnants of Genoese fortifications (Galata, also known as Pera – from the Greek "Peran en Sykais", "the fig field on the other side", meaning on the other side of the Golden Horn from old Constantinople, which centres on Seraglio Point, where Topkapi is located). Galata, dominated by the Galata Tower ([www.galatatower.net/english](http://www.galatatower.net/english)), its current version built in

1348 (though again, as with many sites, the tower has changed considerably and repeatedly), was a colony of Genoa between 1273 and 1453. I will have to drop shallow delvings into the vicissitudes of an indescribably complex history, since many a pocket of Istanbul is a kind of microclimate that still reflects the past, many times refracted – but suffice it to say that if not a few great cities are obviously patchworks, with as many layers as "börek", Istanbul is so in the extreme. You really should try to read a history before you visit the city (Philip Mansel's *City of the World's Desire* is superb and reads like a page-turner). Even the local cuisine can change depending upon what part of the city you are in. Do try "börek". Besides having layers, it can be anything – "saray böreği" has butter between the layers, "paçanga böreği" has pastrami and tomatoes, "hamsi böreği" consists of fried breaded anchovies and rice... and there are sweet versions, and different neighbourhoods have their own twist. The possibilities for nocturnal wanderings in Istanbul, even on a weekday night, are manifold – you can find places off İstiklal Caddesi still packed when dawn arrives (this pedestrian street was for a while called the "Grande Rue de Péra" – "istiklal" means "independence"; the street got its current name in 1923). If you need a place to recover from drinking "raki" at an ungodly hour, find a "börek salonu". Look at what's on offer, guess what might be in it, and point. Many of the cheaper places to eat in Turkey are "look and point" places even for the locals.



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My highest recommendation in the area, if not in all Istanbul, goes to Holy Coffee. It has some of the best coffee I have ever tasted anywhere

And now a word about ugliness. My Beloved, visiting for a few days during the month I most recently spent in Istanbul, my third time there, remarked that the beauty of Istanbul is really in its past. My best friend in the city once commented, gazing down upon it (there are so many places with breathtaking panoramas that they're probably not worth listing, as they're easily found, but Londra Hotel [[www.londrahotel.net](http://www.londrahotel.net)] offers one of the best), that "it's still beautiful, isn't it, no matter what's been done to it." Indeed, much of the city is just plain ugly architecturally. Topography and lots of water (the Bosphorus meeting the Sea of Marmara meeting the Golden Horn) make it spectacular, but decent architecture, as well as appealing interior design, is sorely

lacking in most parts of this unimaginably vast and diverse city. You can come upon terrific food most anywhere, even in a cheap Formica hole-in-the-wall, however – try, for instance, Çukurcuma Köftecisi (on the corner of Hacıoğlu Sokak and Faik Paşa Sokak; [www.cukurcumakoftecisi.com](http://www.cukurcumakoftecisi.com)).

**For body and spirit**

Çukurcuma is the place to be – an "up and coming" area packed with antique shops and wildly diverse galleries strung out along narrow and strangely quasi-Parisian streets – if you seek the avant-garde, hurry; wait a few years and this neighbourhood will be far hotter than the proximate, pretty boringly gentrified districts (in terms of rents, Çukurcuma is already unaffordable). My highest recommendation in the area,



if not in all Istanbul, goes to Holy Coffee, next to Çukurcuma Köftecisi – it's a freshly opened café I wandered into by accident, thinking I would get the aforementioned famous "köfte" the place next door, also with outdoor tables, sells. If you say you found the café through *Baltic Outlook*, you'll get a substantial discount. As Ola, the Swedish musician who owns the café together with Arzu, his gracious Turkish girlfriend, jokes – at Holy Coffee, they try to capitalize on friendship. The owners (perfectly fluent in English; Arzu studied film in South Africa) will give you advice and may even show you around, and they will do so with a grace you will rarely encounter elsewhere. The café has some of the best coffee I have ever tasted anywhere, the lemonade is real, minty, icy, and perfect on a sultry day, and you will meet fascinating and friendly people here without fail. The ambience is informal and totally relaxed, and if you are sick of Turkish food (which, though frequently fantastic, starts to seem monotonous after a while),

Ola prepares tremendous ravioli and makes delicious sandwiches. Arzu bakes terrific desserts – try the cheesecake!

If you are looking for authentic and creative Ottoman home cooking, however, you should head for Dai Pera (Yeni Çarşı Caddesi 54; [www.dairerestaurant.com](http://www.dairerestaurant.com)). The owner is an affable avid motorcyclist who often attends to the customers personally, if she's not cooking. The staff is friendly, there is occasionally music (nearly indescribable live "world music" on Thursdays), and some of the recipes are the owner's grandmother's. There are different appetizers for wine drinkers and raki drinkers. After lunch, walk downhill to the Bosphorus (ask the waiter which street to take) to reach the Modern Art Museum. On the way, on the right, you will see one of the cheap, ugly Formica eateries I've mentioned – one with mussels displayed in the street. They are absolutely heavenly, if a bit spicy, and cost almost nothing. The owner will squeeze a lemon and spoon-feed you.

Of all the wonders of Istanbul – and even after three prolonged visits, I am quite convinced that I have found only a fraction of them – the one I would say you mustn't miss under any circumstances is the Chora Museum ([www.choramuseum.com](http://www.choramuseum.com)). Fortunately, the vast majority of tourists never heard of it – and neither have many taxi drivers, unfortunately. It's out of the way, so it's best to go by cab (taxis in the Turkish metropolis aren't expensive, and I have never heard of a dishonest driver there). Find a cabbie who knows where it is and be flabbergasted – it's quite small, but you'll feel as if you've shrunk and entered a jewel-box. An ancient church that was converted into a mosque, fell on hard times, and was restored by American lovers of Byzantine art, it is one of the most awe-inspiringly beautiful places I have ever been in anywhere on earth. There is a pleasant crafts market across the street, and next door there's a nice restaurant with a terrace where you can get fine, if pricey, food cooked according to ancient recipes. After seeing the frescoes in the Chora Museum, and perhaps sitting in the rose garden outside it, you can take a cab back to the well-trodden paths, maybe making a discovery or two of your own along the way.

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# One day in Istanbul



Four Seasons Hotel at Sultanahmet

Sip your morning coffee in the garden at the Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at Sultanahmet (Tevkifhane Sokak 1, Sultanahmet; [www.fourseasons.com/istanbul](http://www.fourseasons.com/istanbul)). The hotel with its 347 windows was built as a prison and served as such until 1970. Among its former prisoners were numerous intellectual dissidents, including the famous poet Nazim Hikmet. It was converted into a luxury hotel in 1996, and its garden is a true oasis for a perfect beginning for your day.

Being in Istanbul without visiting the Grand Bazaar would be pretty unimaginable. It's the largest covered market in Turkey, with its own streets, mosques, banks, cafés, and stores. You could lose yourself here for a few hours, or even a day. You can find pretty much everything here – jewels, textiles, leather, cotton, water pipes, ashtrays, ceramics, carpets... you name it! Should you wander in, it's worth visiting Elora Shawl (Kapalı Çarşı Yağlıklar Caddesi

No: 35)– here you can augment your wardrobe with shawls of the finest silk or cashmere.

The must-see list in Istanbul is so thick that it would take you many weeks just to check off the main sites. In Sultanahmet alone, besides Hagia Sophia, Topkapi, the Blue Mosque... do go to the Basilica Cistern, which is not always on the not-to-be-missed list. Even if you're in Istanbul for only a day, it's worth dropping in or down. The place belongs to those places where all your senses are whittled down to sharpness. In Turkish, it's Yerebatan Sarnici – the underground palace. Basilica Cistern is a 6<sup>th</sup> century reservoir, from the time of the Emperor Justinian. Meant to quaff thirst in a siege, it held 100,000 tonnes of water and went on working until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The huge space is upheld by 336 nine-metre columns in 12 rows, each with 28 columns. It was opened to the public in 1987; a modern ramp allows you to tour it. Classical music is played somewhat quietly, so that you can hear the drops of water. In this massive city, it offers a strange sort of peace. You will also find the head of Medusa down here, accentuating the pervasive surrealism. The cistern was featured in a James Bond movie, too – From Russia With Love. Yerebatan Caddesi 13, Sultanahmet; [www.yerebatan.com](http://www.yerebatan.com).

Along the Bosphorus, ships glide like buses, but far more romantically. Criss-crossing this essential and unimaginably lovely strait can be done in a day. All you need to do is choose a route. You could catch a water taxi in Beşiktaş, for example, and head for Emirgan. The views along the route will thrill you. One of the richest Turkish families had a villa here, the Sabancı, nowadays a museum. Its history extends to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, connected to both the last sultan of the Ottoman Empire and the prince Mehmed Ali Hasan – the latter had the building rebuilt by the Italian architect Eduardo de Neri in 1923. In 1951, the industrialist Haci Omer Sabancı bought the place. He lived here until his death. As a museum, the house opened its doors in 2002. Along with the permanent exhibition, mostly devoted to Ottoman art (especially calligraphy), the museum hosts important contemporary work. The garden will draw you in – olive trees and pines call. The



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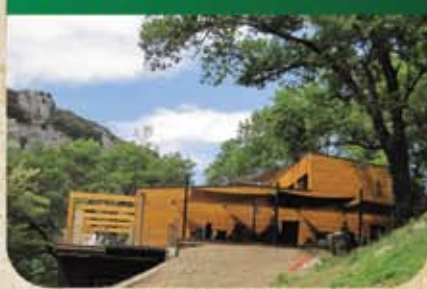
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nearby cafés are so inviting that you could hang out all day. Sakıp Sabancı Cad. 22, muze.sabanciuniv.edu

One of the best places to sip a sunset cocktail is the Mikla Restaurant (Meşrutiyet Caddesi Tepebaşı, The Marmara Pera; www.themarmarahotels.com). It's on the roof of the Marmara Pera Hotel. The view is

you can soak in the sunset and dance all night to fantastic music – the entire area turns into a gigantic disco.

### Beyond the metropolis

The Princes' Islands are an ideal getaway if the density gets to you. The largest is Büyükada, about an hour and a half away



utterly breathtaking, taking in the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn, and all that lies between. At night, when the bridges and mosques are lit, it could be set design for a surrealist movie. The greenery extend into the scene, and the barman will bring a perfect drink, and whilst sipping it you'll watch the planes land and take off, and after a while it may seem that is the very city where time gets lost.

A city that is mostly water, despite its density, can also be a place to take pleasure at waterside. Try a branch of the stylish chain The House Cafe – Cafe Ortaköy (Salhane Sokak Nr.1; www.thehousecafe.com.tr), with two terraces looking out on the Bosphorus. Seafood dominates the menu. Saturdays

by ferry. Older people still call it by its Greek name, Prinkipo. A bygone era can still be palpable here – there are no cars, which are strictly forbidden. If you can't climb on foot, you can resort to a horse-drawn carriage. If you have the stamina, climb past the gingerbread cottages to the summit, where there is a monastery and an unassuming restaurant. It has absolutely fabulous food, though, and in the evenings guitarists gather. The history of the island is quite rich – Trotsky spent a few years of his exile here. So did a whole chain of writers and artists. If you have spare time, explore the other islands – only four of the nine are inhabited, mostly only in the summer. This is where the rich have a quick escape. The best time to visit is in late spring or early autumn. **BO**

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# From the tropics to the high Arctic

Latvian painter Kristīne Luīze Avotiņa

TEXT BY ILZE POLE | PHOTOS FROM THE PERSONAL ARCHIVES OF KRISTINE LUIZE AVOTINA

My host lives right in the centre of Riga, on the sixth floor. The windows of her apartment look out onto a wonderful Art Nouveau building across the street, which teems with activity during the work week, but is still and quiet on Sundays. On hot summer days, the sizzling cobblestones and tramway rails emanate vapours of steam after each cooling rain.

However, it was still winter when we met. The old and beautiful door to her flat can no longer keep out all of the cold and the wind. It will have to be replaced at some point. Maybe. While the art studio of Kristīne Luīze Avotiņa takes up just one of the rooms in the flat, her paintings are everywhere. The deep and vibrant colours have such a hypnotizing effect that the seasons, the times and the places begin to mingle and merge. I think to myself: that's the way it should be – when you see good art, you should be shaken up a bit.

Kristīne's colourful exhibition, *Ball – the Garden of Eden*, has just closed at the *Arsenāls* exhibition hall. Another solo show, *North Star*, has been on view at *Vīna Studija* on Elizabetes iela in Riga since February. In April, her work will be exhibited at Helsinki's *Gallery Kadieff*. When commenting on Kristīne's work, art critics mention its pronounced refinement and, of course, the bright and juicy colours. The artist says that painting appeals to her because anything becomes possible – the grass can be blue, the sky can be green and the water can be orange. On the plane of the canvas, you can combine all kinds of things, events, colours and feelings.

"I look for beautiful colour relationships that make the work literally shine and when I've found them, I get

this feeling of utter happiness," she says.

Kristīne's works can be found in *Swedbank's* collection of modern art, as well as in private collections in Luxembourg, Russia, Norway, Latvia and France. The artist paints prodigiously and quickly.

"Well, not that quickly," she says. "I started my last paintings of Lapland only on January 1<sup>st</sup>, as soon as I returned home. I paint for about ten hours a day. I begin early in the morning and then take a break. I continue in the afternoon and evening, but the evening often lasts until 2 AM. I remember one scene as I skied down a mountain: the snow was blue and the sky was pink. The trees were covered in dollops of white that looked like whipped cream. I knew I had to paint it. Since I really like my craft, painting is no trouble for me. I don't believe that good art is born only through pain." (*Laughs*)

The bright colours in her works are also something that people mention as being unusual for Latvian painters. Kristīne counters that colours help her to live her life in full.

"When painting under the influence of colours, I become happier and more satisfied, because colours diffuse power, which they give off in their relationships with each other – such as the colour green when it is coupled with red."

Kristīne's artworks are inspired by her frequent travels. Going somewhere for the first time is like meeting herself again. After every trip, she puts her impressions onto the canvas.



Nectar, 170x150cm, oil on canvas

I really like to paint, it's no trouble for me.  
I don't believe that good art can only  
come into being with pain

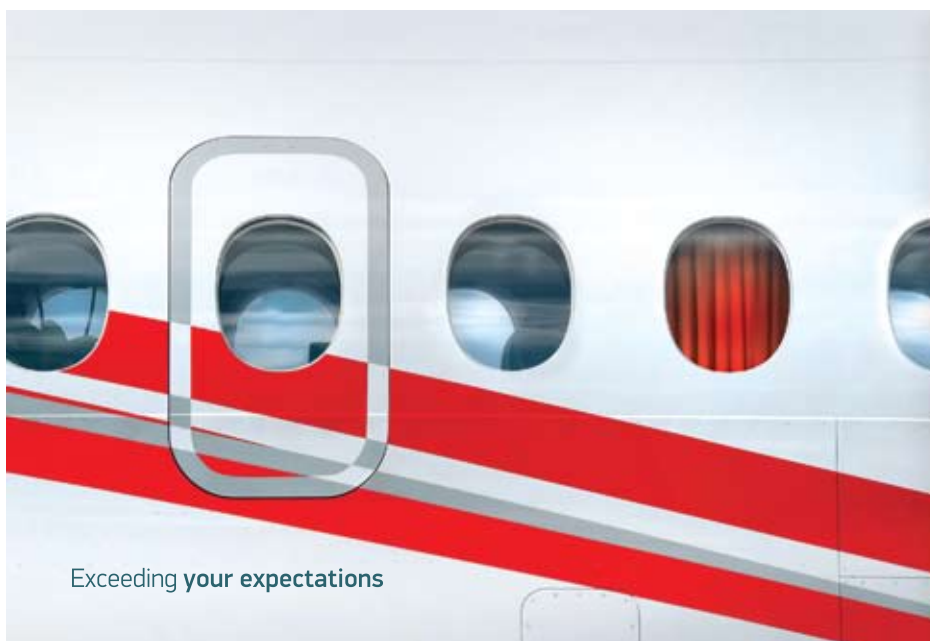
"I particularly love nature. Everything seems so beautiful, so perfectly proportioned, so right. It's fascinating."

The exhibition *Ball – the Garden of Eden* came about after Kristīne's trip to Bali, Indonesia in 2011. The show made quite a splash on Riga's art scene.

"When I leave a place, I want to paint the feeling that was there. Upon my return, both my feelings and consciousness become sharper."

That's the way things happened in *Ball – the green island known as the 'land of the gods'*. A whole exhibition arose from that trip, and a special story lies behind the first painting:

"I was swimming in a dangerous spot where swimming was not advised and for the first time, I felt the tremendous power that water has. The power of the sea. Back home, I tried to paint that – the wave and the strength of the water. While I was painting, I felt as if I wasn't there, but at the same time, as if someone was standing beside me. It was very strange. I painted the picture in one day, working straight through from morning to night. When I stepped back from the picture, I said 'Wow! That's exactly what I felt at the time.' The other paintings for the exhibition followed quickly and came easily."



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Kristīne knew that she was going to be an artist in her early childhood. She grew up in a family of artists (Kristīne Luīze's mother is the Latvian painter Ilze Avotiņa) and that obviously left a strong influence on her. The shelves in her mother's studio were full of books on Italian Renaissance painters. While her mother painted, Kristīne leafed through the books and studied the pictures in them.

"My mother didn't specifically instruct me in any way. What can you tell a little girl about Italian painting? Yet it all stayed with me," Kristīne says. "I really liked to draw, but I didn't know how to do it in the academically correct way. I went to school at the French Lycée in Riga, but to get into a visual arts high school, I had to learn how to draw correctly within a year. Once I was accepted, I saw that everybody else drew better than me and that I was very far behind. I had to do something. So, when we were assigned to draw a composition, I decided not to draw just

work and she was invited to participate in a group exhibition with other artists.

"I was the only one who sold a painting," she says about the exhibition *Regards from Barcelona* at the *Montcada* gallery. "Not long before that, I had been on a holiday in Spain with my family. We also spent a few days in Barcelona and our hotel was on La Rambla, right across from a market. I told my father how nice it would be if we could return someday for a longer time, perhaps a month or so, and go to the market each morning to buy fish. A few months later, I got the scholarship! What's more, the school is located right by the market. I returned to Barcelona with my parents. Everyone said I was crazy. 'They'll ruin all the fun!' However, it wasn't like that at all. I wanted to share this with them."

I ask Kristīne if she would be able to lead a tour around Barcelona. "Yes!" she says. "We'd meet at the Parc Güell, which offers a wonderful view of the city. It was

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I ask Kristīne if she would be able to lead a tour around Barcelona. "Yes!" she says. "We'd meet at Gaudi Park."

one, but five different works to improve my skills."

After graduating from high school, Kristīne enrolled at the Art Academy of Latvia, where she held her first exhibition as a student.

"My whole class was worried about how it would turn out and so was I, but everything ended well. This experience taught me that I had to work as a full-fledged artist already before graduating from the Academy, rather than waiting for my diploma."

Kristīne spent seven months in Barcelona as an exchange student at the *Escola Massana*, which is housed in a former hospital. There, people noticed her

designed by Barcelona's own native son, Antoni Gaudí. Initially, I wasn't a big fan of his work, but now I appreciate it. We would walk through the park and look at his creations, then stroll through Little Gracia, which is how the Barcelonians call Carrer de les Carolines. It has fantastic Art Nouveau buildings, including Casa Vicens at number 24, the first building that Gaudí designed, at age 26. This beautiful house is made of dark red brick, with dandelion-decorated tiles on them. It's also quite small, which is why people have trouble finding it. Then suddenly – wow! What a sight to behold! The street is very popular with the locals and has lots of good bars.

"We'd continue down the main



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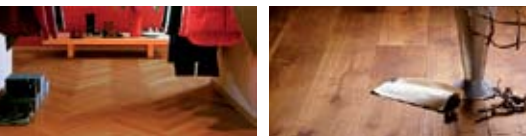
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I really like the feeling I get when I see where my time has gone – that it has gone into work. That's why discipline is very important to artists

street, Passeig de Gracia, which has one of Gaudí's most famous buildings on it – the Casa Batlló, an apartment house commissioned by a rich aristocrat. The street also has tiles designed by Gaudí on them. Then onward along La Rambla to the beach; the market is on the way. There's also a beautiful church in Ribera – Santa Maria del Mar, which was built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and dedicated to the

sea. The rich families of captains and merchants collected the funds to build it. Barcelona is a city in which you can just walk and walk. There's Montjuïc, Plaça d'Espanya, the Picasso museum in El Born. Barcelona also has its own Arc of Triumph – the *Arch dl Triomp*."

Turning back to painting, Kristine explains that the technique she uses requires her to work quickly. "I work with






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Heaven on Earth,  
180x200cm, oil  
on canvas

rubber brushes. Somebody once gave my mother a rubber brush as an amusing souvenir. One day, when I was going through a rough time at school, I took the brush out of interest and realized that I could make really good shapes with it. I apply the paint onto the canvas and then use a wet rubber brush to take some of the colour out, making transitions and half-tones. The only paints with which I can do this are by the Dutch brand *Old Holland*. They have very intense pigments. The colours dry in a couple of days, which means that I must work quickly. I have to paint everything in one go and that takes a lot of concentration. It may look fast and easy, but it's actually hard, because there is no room for error. After I finished painting the huge wave of water I mentioned earlier, I was exhausted. I had stood at the easel for seven hours, non-stop, putting everything that I had into it."

Kristine learned to discipline herself while at the French Lycée in Riga.

"You can spend an eternity making excuses not to paint and looking for inspiration. I'm not saying that I never slack off. Sometimes I feel very lazy. I like to go out with friends. I like sitting at dinners that stretch long into the night, but I also like the feeling of a day well spent at work. Discipline is very important. When you read the biographies of great artists, you see that many of them have spent their lives painting intensively and regularly. Only then will you get the results that you want.

"I like to see how my work changes over time. I also like to challenge myself. This may sound funny, but it was very important for me to be able to paint a penguin well - so that his black tuxedo hangs as it should and so that it looks like black velvet, as in real life. Recently when I returned from Lapland, I painted the Northern Lights. That was a great challenge, very complex. It was agonizing, but when I succeeded I felt such relief - I can hardly describe it." **BO**

 [www.cristinaluisa.com](http://www.cristinaluisa.com)

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# WINDMIL

## Spring in full bloom

April showers bring May flowers, they say. *Baltic Outlook* meets slightly ahead of time with floral designers in six *airBaltic* destinations to plant some spring-is-in-the-air feeling



# L FLOWERS

## London

TEXT BY CLAIRE GERVAT | PHOTO BY NICOL VIZIOLI

Mary Woolcot was a reluctant legal secretary until a chance decision led her to change her life completely.

"It was a complete accident. I went along to a flower-arranging evening class with a friend in Crystal Palace [in south London] just as something to do. Soon, I became hooked. I've always appreciated flowers, their beauty and scent, but then I began to think that flower arranging was something I could do for a living".

Woolcot launched a bespoke floral decorations business, *Mary Woolcot Flowers*, in 2008. Last November, she also opened her first shop, *Windmill Flowers*, housed in an appealingly crooked 18<sup>th</sup>-century terrace in Kennington. Its classic and clean-cut interior – think pale walls

and refined botanical stencils – is a perfect backdrop for an immaculately chosen selection of blooms.

The popular florist has no hesitation when asked to name her favourite spring flowers. "I love ranunculus, especially the cappuccino ones, which are a mixture of soft pinks. They're feminine, delicate and look like miniature peonies," she says. "Hyacinths, too – they always make me think of this time of year; they emerge with such a heady scent from window-boxes and pots all around London."

Windmill Flowers  
4A Windmill Row  
London SE11 5DW  
www.marywoolcotflowers.co.uk



# Paris

TEXT AND PHOTO BY  
AIGA OZOLINA |  
WWW.AIGAPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

The romantic vintage and Baroque interior design of the *L'Arrosoir* flower boutique dazzles the eye with its wide array of beautiful wild flowers. The boutique can be found on the lengthy Rue Oberkampf, which joins the trendy Mare area with the creative Belleville district in the northeastern part of central Paris.

*L'Arrosoir* is run by Alain and Christine Bousquet, whose love story with flowers and with each other began more than ten years ago. "I used to walk by the shop every day, until one morning Alain noticed me and we started a beautiful relationship. Since then I have everything – love and a job that continues to fascinate me," says Christine.

Both agree on their favourite spring flowers – fruit trees in bloom. "I especially like the bursting buds and blossoms of plum, peach, cherry, apple and many other trees",

adds Alain. They also love peonies, sweet peas and all small bulbs, including daffodils and grape hyacinths.

For Christine, spring means the rebirth of nature, the sweetness of the air and the lightness of life after a long winter. The interior decorations and lamps made of crystal and plant pots suggest a germinating sky. When asked about the creation of the atypical interior details, Christine laughs and says:

"I like to find things on the street, such as old mirrors, paintings, even a vintage photo camera and a Baroque-style chair – and mix them in a romantic way". She puts on the latest album by *Massive Attack*, offers me a black coffee and exits the shop with the family dog, followed by the smiling Alain, as they leave for a sunny Parisian stroll.

*L'Arrosoir* | 80, Rue Oberkampf (Parmentier metro stop)





# Barcelona

TEXT BY VERA CIRIA | PHOTO BY ANA MOGO,  
[WWW.ANAMOGO.COM](http://WWW.ANAMOGO.COM)

*Urban Plant* is a mother-daughter duo based in Barcelona, with a special penchant for creating bespoke floral arrangements. Puri (at left in the photo) and Tatiana are a bundle of smiles, working to make dreams come true through their romantic perception of floral design in urban environments.

"We are passionate about plants and flowers. We tend towards a romantic style, as it showcases the sensitivity of nature. We love working with seasonal flora and always try to include Mediterranean elements in our arrangements, such as olive, magnolia, laurel and rosemary branches with sprigs of delicious lavender," says Tatiana.

Surrounded by their beloved plants and flowers, Tatiana and Puri created two special bouquets. Tatiana's inspiration was a young gypsy bride, filling her bunch with hyacinths, ranunculus, anemones, brassica and carnations, then fastening everything with tie-dyed, recycled cotton and cream tulle.

Puri decided on a bouquet meant to surprise someone special. Using carnations, freesias and tulips, the colours blend and merge, from juicy peach to deep garnet. *Urban Plant* is continually adding new colour to Barcelona, one bouquet at a time.

📍 [www.urbanplant.es](http://www.urbanplant.es)



# Amsterdam

TEXT AND PHOTO BY BARBARA KERKHOF

Set between two quiet canals in the heart of the city, proudly stands the *Sofitel Legend the Grand Amsterdam*, a luxurious option for your stay in the Dutch capital, where a king-sized bed will cost 520 EUR, while a night in the Imperial Suite will exceed 4000 EUR.

In the peaceful courtyard of the hotel lies the *Floral Boutique Amsterdam*, established in the former city hall since last spring. This shop offers so much more than just flowers; it is a place where flowers meet design.

"Here we design floral creations for the entire hotel, which is located in one of the most historical buildings in Amsterdam," says the boutique's creator and owner, Anton van Baalen. You can see (and smell) the fresh Dutch flowers everywhere. Each of them picked carefully, perfectly matching the interior.

"We show the flowers to full advantage by selecting the best ones and combine the right colours. They're part of the experience of visiting the hotel. They are distinguished, luxurious, precious and Dutch."

Van Baalen's personal favourite is the gloriosa or flame lily for its ability to brighten up any bouquet. Recently, he used thousands of the gloriosa for an event of the Dutch Royal family, where he often works. The shop, also accessible for passers-by, offers flowers, tulip bulbs and lovely vases to take (or have sent) home.

**Floral Boutique Amsterdam**  
at *Sofitel Legend the Grand Amsterdam*  
Oudezijds Voorburgwal 197  
📍 [www.thefloraldesigners.com](http://www.thefloraldesigners.com)

# Riga

"If I wasn't able to overcome my feelings and throw flowers into the wastebasket when they have just begun to wilt, then I would never be able to do this job," explains florist Valters Ozoliņš. Similarly to Buddhist monks, this florist has likely trained hard to avoid becoming attached – to beauty, to happiness and to the sweet sensation that arises when both of these sentiments meld into one.

"Flowers are not like paintings, which can still be viewed 20, 30 and many more years after they were created," he says. "Flowers are transient. There is a brief moment of splendour, and that's it. However, I feel particularly attracted to the temporary beauty of the moment, which flowers embody so well."

Ozoliņš' first forays into art were in the advertising department of a publishing house, where he was occasionally asked to set up the layout design for various magazines. Through painstaking and deliberate work, Ozoliņš perfected his sense of colour and style.

"I place great importance on form, colours and the materials used, for even a whole shipment of flowers will have little effect if it is not arranged in an appropriate manner. Establishing the right composition is the most complicated part of my work."

Ozoliņš enjoys making flower arrangements and decorating interior spaces to create a special and festive atmosphere. Ultimately, it is the participants themselves who generate the final ambience. If the spirit of spring is already within their hearts, then their event will turn out fine – with Ozoliņš' tastefully arranged tulips, daffodils and coltsfoot flowers announcing the long-awaited arrival of a new season, like the first batch of freshly tapped birch sap.

Lakstos | Brīvības iela 165

i [www.lakstos.lv](http://www.lakstos.lv)





# MOSCOW

TEXT BY MARA JANSONE | PHOTO BY MATVEY TROSHINKIN

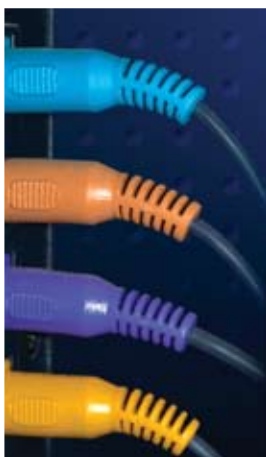
Florist Tatyana Bobkova came to her calling in floral art on a gradual basis. With an education in the arts, she started out as a drawing teacher and folk crafts artisan, painting flowers on traditional curio boxes. In time, the miniature painted blossoms transformed into real flowers, and Bobkova became a professional florist.

She now creates her artistic bouquets in a flower shop whimsically called *Salvador's Gardens*, on Moscow's famous Tsvetnoy Boulevard. The street received its verdant name – derived from the Russian word for flowers – in the 19<sup>th</sup> century from the

prominent flower market nearby. Muscovites flocked to the market in Soviet times as well, but sadly, the flower market is now gone.

No need to fret however, because today, *Salvador's Gardens* stand in its stead. For Bobkova, spring means tulips and daffodils, hyacinths and lilacs. She says that in Moscow, the first breath of spring can already be felt at the end of February, in spite of the fact that the city is often still bitterly cold. Yet the air has a certain smell that can only mean one thing – spring is on its way.

*Sadi Salvadora (Salvador's Gardens) flower shop | Tsvetnoy Boulevard 9*



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TEXT BY ROGER NORUM | PHOTOS CORBIS, GETTY IMAGES AND ALAMY

# Pray and work

Huldrych Zwingli, the Zurich-born humanist Reformation leader, urged his countrymen to pray and work. Evidently, the inhabitants of his native city took his words to heart, turning it into the main commercial and financial centre of Switzerland and, later, Europe itself

Originally settled in 15 BC, Zurich (or, locally, *Züri*) has since become synonymous with international banking. It boasts an economic, commercial and cultural importance that belies its diminutive size. Located in the very middle of Switzerland, with gentle lake breezes, panoramic views of the Alps and a lifestyle centred around the great outdoors, Zurich draws business movers and shakers from all over the world.

These days, the city's most important economic sectors include IT and communications, medical and biotechnologies and, of course, financial and business services. Zurich is best known as a city of bankers in a country of banks – 120 at last count – the majority of which maintain their headquarters along the quaint, tree-lined Bahnhofstrasse. As home to Switzerland's stock market, main financial service firms and large insurance companies, as well as thousands of venerated Swiss bank accounts, Zurich easily ranks in the top ten of leading global financial centres. Almost one fifth of Switzerland's 413-billion-euro GDP is based in the financial sector (compared to seven percent in the UK and five in the US).

The more than 160 000 companies located in the greater Zurich region make full use of its efficient international airport – a zippy 10-minute train ride from

the city centre and voted Europe's best in 2007 (in 2011, the airport could also boast the world's best airport baggage delivery and best airport bar). Zurich has a highly developed railway, tram, bus and road network – the most comprehensive in the world, in fact. And given that the Swiss bureaucracy is, for all intents and purposes, a non-bureaucracy, conducting business is a breeze. It takes, for example, just a few days to establish a company; work permits may be often be obtained online and bilateral agreements with the EU guarantee free access for EU and EFTA citizens.

Zurich has three main areas for commercial activity: the financial district, located downtown; Zurich West, a modern city development; and Zurich Nord, a newly-created business district set out towards the airport to accommodate newcomers. In addition to a number of excellent hotels with ample conference facilities – including the *Radisson Blu*, *Swissôtel* and *Marriott* – the Maag event hall ([www.maaghalle.ch](http://www.maaghalle.ch)) is one of the most popular spots for hosting corporate events, located just one kilometre from the city centre.

## Swiss watch industry

Switzerland is responsible for about half of the world's watch production, and the industry is the country's third largest





Zurich's stock exchange

The Swiss watch and clock industry was founded in the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when Calvinist reforms banned the flaunting of jewellery

exporter. Small wonder that Zurich is one of the best places in the world to buy a timepiece.

The Swiss watch and clock industry was founded in the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, when Calvinist reforms banned the flaunting of jewellery. This forced goldsmiths and other craftsmen to find a new way of earning a living. Back then, watches were made in the wintertime, when there was less work to do on the farms. Even today, many luxury watches are still produced in rural areas such as the Vallée de Joux. By 1790, Switzerland was exporting more than 60 000 watches a year. During the era of mass production in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the interchangeability of parts and standardisation of production techniques led the Swiss watch industry to maintain its world supremacy. In 1926, the first self-winding wristwatch was produced in Grenchen, Switzerland; the first electrical watches were introduced in 1952.

After more than four centuries, superior tradition, craftsmanship and innovation have kept Swiss watchmaking at the forefront of the industry. Swiss watchmakers invented the first wristwatch, the first quartz watch, the first water-resistant watch, the world's thinnest wristwatch and the most complex watch in the world – the *Patek Philippe Calibre 89*, which contains 1728 parts and required the work of four people over a nine-year period. The best known Swiss luxury watch brands, whose houses you can find in downtown Zurich, include *TAG Heuer* (founded in 1860), which produces sports watches and chronographs; *Breitling* (1884), pioneers in aviation timekeeping and the leading choice for pilots; and *Rolex* (1903), which makes luxury watches for extreme activities such as deep-sea diving and mountain climbing.

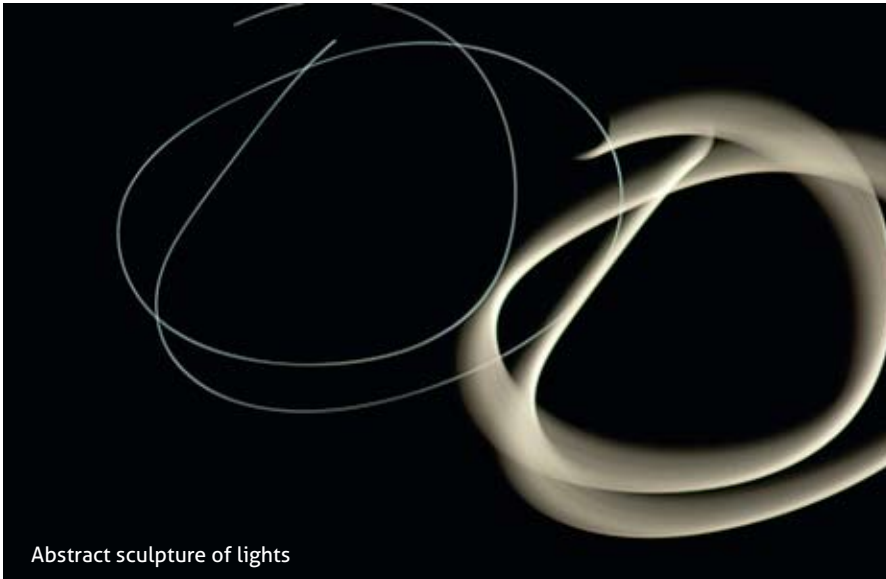
Today, you can find watches sold along the Bahnhofstrasse, and you can pick up a beautiful classical timepiece from the world's best known brands, including *Les Ambassadeurs*, *Beyer*, *Bucherer*, *Christ*, *Gübelin*, *Gut*, *IWC*, *Majo Fruithof*, *Meister*, *Türler* and *Zett Meyer*. The branded stores of *Chopard*, *Bulgari*, *Cartier*, *Montblanc*, *Omega*, *Swarovski*, *Swatch* and *Tiffany* also have large outposts in Zurich.

## Art market

Zurich is extremely rich in cultural highlights, with booming institutions such as the Opera House, the Tonhalle Orchestra and the Schauspielhaus Theater. With more than 50 museums and 100 galleries, Zurich also is one of the world's great centres of the art world and the best place to appreciate the flourishing Swiss art trade – experts rank Zurich among the top ten gallery cities in the world. The city's high concentration of art galleries is based in several neighbourhoods: around Rämistrasse, in the Aussersihl quarter, around Bahnhofstrasse and in the former grounds of the *Löwenbräu* brewery.

is in the buying and selling of art. This wealthy country's tax legislation famously exempts sellers from capital gains taxes when selling private (non-business related) tangible assets such as works of art – this rule extends to the purchase and sale of artworks, so long as collecting art can be considered a "hobby" of the collector. While Switzerland is well known for *Art Basel*, the art world's most prestigious annual art fair, a growing number of art fairs based in Zurich are now attracting the world's most important galleries and collectors.

*Art Show Zurich*, held in the trendy Puls 5 district in October, is one of the important and well-established events of the Zurich



Abstract sculpture of lights

Zurich itself is home to several art movements, including Constructivism and Dadaism, the latter founded at the Cabaret Voltaire in 1916. During the late 1990s, a new Swiss arts scene grew with major contemporary artists such as Jean Tinguely, Niele Toroni and Felice Varini – innovators who experiment with new materials that meld art with life, playing with and broadening our fields of perception. Video and multimedia artists have also arrived on the scene, reflecting a corresponding change in the attitudes of art collectors. A regular city campaign organized by the municipal chamber of commerce consists of decorated sculptures distributed over the city centre in public places – it was here that the concept of the CowParade originated.

Where Zurich really excels, however,

art scene. Last year some 80 artists – many cutting-edge producers of new art without gallery representation – came from 20 different countries to participate. Artists without a gallery have few possibilities to exhibit and sell their work, but fairs such as the *Art Show* can help to showcase international, emerging and young artists, bringing a fresh approach to international art collecting.

*Kunst Zurich*, meanwhile, is a November international contemporary fair that combines the most recent and youngest art with the works of well-established artists. Also in October is the 14th *Art International*, held at the Kongresshaus Zurich, where contemporary art is set in an interdisciplinary exhibition space for artists, gallery owners, collectors and the art-minded public. Held annually, the relaxed

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Zurich's Art museum (Kunsthaus Zürich)

show focuses on modern and young art, and stays well away from some of the less savoury conventions of the international art market.

### How business is done

James Sharkey, an eminent historian and Irish ambassador to Switzerland from 2007 to 2009, has long held a soft spot for Zurich and Switzerland. "I say this with some envy, but it is one of the most beautiful countries in the world. To go on even a short train journey anywhere in Switzerland is to see something beautiful within ten minutes." Sharkey is also a Zurich lover for its history: James Joyce lived in the city on three separate occasions and is buried there, and – in something of a cultural anomaly – Switzerland holds

the largest single repository of early Irish manuscripts in the world.

Joyce's fascination for the city is easy to understand. "People have a stereotype of the Swiss," Sharkey says. "Stiff back, stolid, hard-working – and building cuckoo clocks all the time. But in practice they're much more sophisticated and light-hearted than that. The Swiss work extremely productively and efficiently during working hours, but can definitely relax over a meal and a drink as well, which is very important. They are easy to get on with, polite and deferential."

After hours, most business people head out to the Kreis 1 area around the Paradeplatz. Here some of the best bars include *Kaufleuten* ([www.kaufleuten.ch](http://www.kaufleuten.ch)) and *Carlton* ([www.carlton.ch](http://www.carlton.ch)), or the *Onyx Bar* at the renowned *Park Hyatt* ([zurich.park.hyatt.ch](http://zurich.park.hyatt.ch)). But since more and more companies have offices outside of the city centre – in Zurich Nord or Zurich West (i.e. at the Prime Tower) – the popularity of these districts is growing as well.

Zurich's comfortable but active lifestyle means there's nary a commercial city in the world to surpass this grand Swiss burg. It's just as well we update Zwingli's 16<sup>th</sup>-century mantra to fit the ethos of present-day Zurich: *work, but play*.

### Local etiquette

The Swiss are renowned for getting the most out of business situations – and doing so with a reserve and forthrightness that doesn't make them seem demanding or aggressive. Bear in mind that they are fairly formal, and that for them it is important to be punctual: arriving even five minutes late is a big no-no. On the whole, business meetings are kept short: you state your business, your Swiss partners will answer and once the discussion of the business is complete, the meeting is closed: no pussyfooting around. **BO**

An advertisement for RIIJA, a Latvian design and lifestyle concept store. The background is a photograph of a bed with a white duvet and a dark blue skirt. In the foreground, two white porcelain bowls are shown. The text on the left lists product categories: DESIGN ARTICLES, FURNITURE, HOME TEXTILES, PORCELAIN, POTTERY, GLASS, and BOOKS. The RIIJA logo, consisting of a stylized 'X' shape, is in the top right. Below the logo, the name 'RIIJA' is written in a large, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, the store's location and website are provided: LATVIAN DESIGN AND LIFESTYLE CONCEPT STORE, ADDRESS: RIGA, TĒRBATAS IELA 6/8 AND RIGA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, LOCATED IN THE DEPARTURE ZONE, WWW.RIJA.LV. At the bottom left, a small caption reads: Porcelain bowls / designer Mara Skujeniece.

## HOTELS

### ALDEN Hotel Splügenschloss

A gorgeous, intimate and refined boutique hotel in a *fin-de-siècle* building that dates back to 1895. Its 22 rooms meld contemporary Italian design with antique furnishings – think 16<sup>th</sup>-century Baroque chests and Louis XV vanity tables. The on-site restaurant is outstanding.

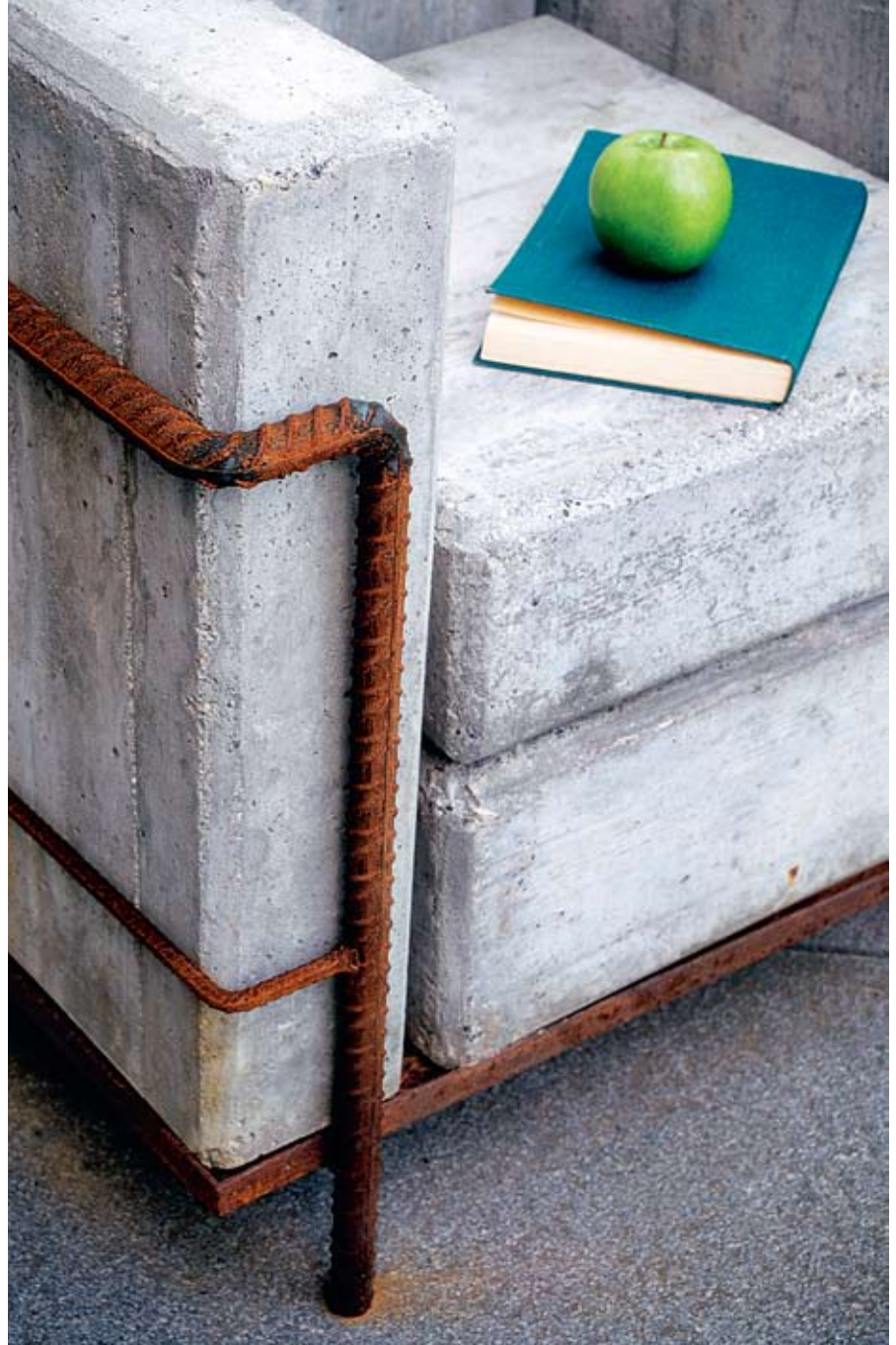
📍 [www.alden.ch](http://www.alden.ch)



### Widder Hotel

Considered to be Switzerland's best hotel, this labyrinthine collection of 49 modern courtyard-facing rooms offers an array of *trompe-l'œil* frames, leather bedspreads, *Bang & Olufsen* stereos and other design surprises – a *Le Corbusier* lounge chair here, an *Eileen Gray* glass-top table there.

📍 [www.widderhotel.ch](http://www.widderhotel.ch)



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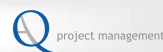
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## RESTAURANTS

### Peter Mann's Kunststuben

Set 10 km south of the city, this is regularly heralded as the best restaurant in Switzerland. *Haute* dishes are served in a refined, terraced edifice built in 1873 and include unique concoctions such as *foie gras* with black truffles, lobster with a celery purée and young hen stuffed with shrimp. No client would leave here unimpressed.

[www.petermanns.grandestables.ch](http://www.petermanns.grandestables.ch)

### Sternen

This bustling grill restaurant at the Bellevueplatz riverside quays is perfect for a casual business lunch. Try the two-course *tagesmenu* or select from the *à la carte* list of soups, salads, meats, fish and fondues.

[www.belgrill.ch](http://www.belgrill.ch)



#### Further information

For more information on Zurich, visit [www.zuerich.com](http://www.zuerich.com) or [www.switzerland.com](http://www.switzerland.com).

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TEXT BY ROGER NORUM | PUBLICITY PHOTOS

# Dining with the Danes

There's plenty more to the Danish capital than the much-celebrated *Noma*. Copenhagen boasts a total of eleven Michelin stars – more than anywhere else in the Nordic countries

The foodie world entered a state of shock in 2009, when *Noma* was named the world's top restaurant by a panel of 800 chefs and critics. Working behind a jet-black, exposed-beam dining room in an 18<sup>th</sup>-century warehouse in Christianshavn, Copenhagen, *Noma's* provocative head chef René Redzepi has made waves with his strict dogma of seemingly simple Nordic dishes made from seasonal, locally-sourced ingredients. The restaurant's El Bulli-like status (and the 1500-DKK or 200-EUR price on its tasting

menu) now draws VIPs, celebrities, the beautiful set and people who can pull strings – as well as consummate foodies. These days, however, bookings for lunch or dinner at *Noma* need to be made months in advance to secure a table. So what to do if you find yourself in Copenhagen without a reservation?

We'll there's plenty more to the city than *Noma*. The Danish capital now boasts a total of eleven Michelin stars – more than anywhere else in the Nordic countries. Whether it's at a five-star restaurant or a

harbourside smokehouse (*røgeri*), the huge variety of locally caught fish and seafood is one of Danish cuisine's strongest suits, and classic fish dishes such as fresh fried plaice served with new potatoes and a buttery parsley sauce are always surefire winners.

*Baltic Outlook* looks at half a dozen other great local restaurants – some tried and true, some brand new – to see how the city is capitalising on *Noma's* uber-celeb status as *resto du jour*. (Strandgade 93, (+45) 32 96 32 97, [www.noma.dk](http://www.noma.dk))



**The spot: *Formel B***

**The deal:** A starred gem of a white-tablecloth restaurant, where you'll find the freshest fusion meals in the city.

**The specs:** *Formel B* received its Michelin star back in 2004, and has managed to remain one of the city's most exclusive restaurants, as well as a gastro-snob's favourite. The cuisine here is innovative Nordic rooted in classic French, with an affordable menu that changes every fortnight, featuring exclusively fresh and local products (mains start from 125 DKK or 17 EUR). The restaurant runs its own vegetable

farm in Lammefjorden, sources dairy products from Grambogård and even has a private mushroom grower, who regularly hauls in the freshest chanterelles and cèpes you'll taste in Scandinavia. The tasting menu of six honed dishes should sate even the most demanding foodie. To top it all off, *Formel B* has an excellent wine list. The range of vintages here ranges from perfectly affordable Tuscans and Californians to an exquisite 1992 *Romanée-Conti Grand Cru*, which goes for a cool 25 000 DKK (3360 EUR) a bottle.

Vesterbrogade 182  
 (+45) 33 25 10 66

[www.formel-b.dk](http://www.formel-b.dk)



**The spot: *Aamanns Etablissement***

**The deal:** At this unique rustic-urban find, the humble Danish *smørrebrød* – a rye bread open sandwich – is raised to new gastronomic heights.

**The specs:** Avoid the mackerel and cheeses at Denmark’s ubiquitous bland buffet breakfasts. Instead, visit this contemporary Danish spot, which has been stirring things up for some time by completely reinventing the concept of *smørrebrød*. *Smørrebrød* is the quintessentially Danish open sandwich, and quite different in style and flavour to its Swedish cousin, *smörgåsbord*. Delicious and utterly addictive, it consists of a thin slice of dark, dense rye bread (*rugbrød*), loaded up with delectable combinations of hot or cold meat or fish and garnished with dollops of sauce and thin slices of fresh or pickled vegetables.

A *smørrebrød* meal is usually served in three courses –

a herring starter, a hot and cold meat option, and a cheese board at the end. Traditionally, each course is washed down with a shot of ice-cold *snaps* – a strong, clear spirit typically flavoured with caraway or aniseed and intended to cleanse the palate.

At *Aamanns*, though, things are done much more professionally and inventively. Led by head chef Adam Aamanns, everything here is sourced from local Danish farmers, with exclusively free-range meat (315 DKK or 42 EUR for a three-course menu). It’s the perfect choice for a visit with friends or even children, who love the bite-sized meals. When things get busy inside – and they do almost all the time – ask them to pack your meal; then take it to a neighbourhood park to enjoy.

The details:  
 Øster Farimagsgade 10  
 (+45) 3555 3344  
 www.aamanns.dk



**The spot: *Kødbyens Fiskebar***

**The deal:** A must for shellfish snobs. Perfect for a fresh, casual meal in hipville.

**The specs:** This butchery-chic restaurant arrived a few years ago, when Copenhagen was transforming its image into Europe’s gastro dark horse. Located deep within the trendy Meatpacking district, *Kødbyens* prides itself with the freshest ingredients and with inventive main courses such as Southern Jutland tartare of trout (95 DKK or 13 EUR), served with pearl barley, herbs, mustard and capers. Smoked herring is also a good bet. Caught, salted, dried and smoked here for centuries – often in white two-chimney coastal smokehouses (*røgeri*) in the rural locations of

Bornholm and Dragør – herring is central to Danish cuisine. The large variety of locally caught fish and seafood is one of the strongest suits of Danish cuisine; classic fish dishes such as fresh fried plaice served with new potatoes and a buttery parsley sauce are always winners. *Kødbyen’s* fish bar serves up a simple but regularly changing menu of shellfish and seafood that includes local caviar, the Baltic catch of the day and oysters – either from nearby Limfjord or the Marennes-Oléron oyster beds. Come to dine here in the evening and you’ll see the spot turn into a dance party before you can say grace (only the tragically hip need apply).

Flæsketorvet 100  
 (+45) 32155656  
 www.fiskebaren.dk

### The spot: **Geist**

**The deal:** The latest kid on Copenhagen's gourmet block, with local ingredients, a hip location and inoffensive prices.

**The specs:** Ex-*Paustian Restaurant* chef Bo Bech has opened this low profile spot, which should appeal to unpretentious foodies and those seeking out Copenhagen's new gastronomic heritage without any snobbish accoutrements. The 30-dish menu of simple fare eschews tasting menus in favour of great stand-alone fusion plates. In the centre, the open kitchen has stools around it for diners' observation, and though service is prompt, this doesn't mean the food is any less well thought-out. Don't be afraid to experiment, but if you're feeling shy, try perennial hits such as the avocado and caviar starter (155 DKK or 21 EUR), the potato brown stone crab main (135 DKK or 18 EUR) and the vanilla ice cream dessert (80 DKK or 11 EUR), served with olives, liquorice and cinnamon – all musts.

Kongens Nytorv 8

(+45) 3313 3713

[www.restaurantgeist.dk](http://www.restaurantgeist.dk)



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**The spot: *Kokkeriet***

**The deal:** A cool but unpretentious Michelin-starred modern Danish restaurant.

**The specs:** This innovative little spot runs a catering company and a cooking school – which means that you get a great amalgam of fresh-minded modern European cooking and reliable service. Prices tend to be lower than at other gourmet or starred restaurants – 550 DKK or 75 EUR for three courses; 750 DKK or 100 EUR for six. Since wine pairings will double the cost, *Kokkeriet* generally draws diners who are more interested in great dining than in showing off their wallets. The restaurant is located in the cosy Nyboder district, where the Danish navy had its home four centuries ago. Try the lamb and lobster with carrots and *vadouvan* – every gourmand’s new favourite spice.

Kronprinsessegade 64  
(+45) 33152777

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## OUTLOOK / GOURMET



### The spot: **Bang & Jensen**

**The deal:** A great place to while away the day, offering excellent brunches, affordable beer and unbeatable people-watching.

**The specs:** A Vesterbro standby that will probably never go out of fashion, this former pharmacy-turned-hip-café-bar features high stucco ceilings, a mahogany counter and plenty of aloof hipster swagger. Standard dishes include winners such as the *croque monsieur* (73 DKK or 10 EUR), though the brunches (60-90 DKK or 8-12 EUR), ordered by filling out a scrap of paper with a pencil, are what most people come for. If you're here early, then try a light and flaky Danish pastry, the perfect accompaniment to a cup of coffee and a shot of herby, spicy Gammel Dansk bitters – a combination traditionally enjoyed by office workers during their Friday morning break.

In Denmark, "a Danish" is known as *wienerbrød* ("Viennese bread"), since the

recipe was introduced by a Viennese baker in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. *Bang & Jensen* has long been drawing local musicians, artists, social entrepreneurs and ne'er-do-wells, who come to enjoy pints and sandwiches at all hours of the day. It tends to pack out before evening concerts at the nearby *Vega*, when it turns into a simmering bar. Though less hardcore than the Finns, Danes have always been big beer drinkers, and the arrival of many small independent breweries, including a number of microbreweries, means that there's never been a better time to sample the country's locally made brews. Try to visit *Bang & Jensen* with someone who is tied into the Copenhagen arts or music scene. He or she will point out the Danish celebrities – otherwise unrecognisable to the untrained eye – who may be dining right next to you.

Istedgade 130

(+45) 33255318

[blog.bangogjensen.dk](http://blog.bangogjensen.dk)

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With its all-new 3 Series, BMW has taken a great car and replaced it with an even better one. The 3 Series is not only more efficient, economical and affordable to run than its predecessor, it's also the most enjoyable car in its class to drive. And we can prove it



### What's it like to drive?

BMW has certainly succeeded in its aim of creating a great driver's car. The steering is fantastically responsive and consistently well-weighted, giving you confidence on twisty back roads and motorways alike.

Given that the most common complaint about the previous car was its firm ride, it's no surprise that the phrase you hear most often bandied around by happy BMW engineers is 'more compliant'.

To cut a long story short, the new 3 Series does have a more comfortable ride, albeit still with a slightly firm feel at low speeds. The suspension deals with most of the challenges a pockmarked road can throw at it. Even the firmer settings of the optional *M Sport* suspension don't make life too

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328i	1997	180/245	6.4	5.9	250	38480
335i	2979	225/306	7.9	5.5	250	46490
320d	1995	135/184	4.5	7.5	235	35990
320d Efficient Dynamics	1995	120/163	4.1	8	230	35990

Base model prices and specs

uncomfortable, and they improve body control through corners.

As part of our test drive, we were let loose on the racetrack, and even in the pouring rain that accompanied our session, the car was wonderfully well-balanced. It turned into corners keenly, the nose gently running wide if you went too fast but coming back into line when you came off the power. Then, as you eased back on, you could feel the rear end lightening up as the driven wheels started to lose grip.

The *3 Series* is available with the usual choice of petrol and diesel engines and our pick is the *320d*. It offers a fantastic combination of pace, power and economy. It's recognisably a diesel at standstill, but the engine noise seems to melt away on the

information about the car's status, as well as (where fitted) the sat-nav, all of which is controlled by the fine *iDrive* system that will be standard across the range.

Fit and finish were excellent, as were (for the most part) the materials used. Our only reservations centre on the odd contoured wood used in the *Modern*-trim car and the fact that there are a lot of similar-looking buttons on the centre console.

Otherwise, there's little to complain about up front. The driver has plenty of room, as well as a wide range of adjustment on both the seat and wheel, and a decent view out.

The real improvement is in the back, where you can easily fit a couple of adults. During our test we were able to complete



move; there's even an enjoyable growl from under the bonnet at times.

The wind noise from the door mirrors is more of an issue, but it is never intrusive enough to be irritating.

While the *320d* should be capable of an impressive fuel economy, it has plenty of pace when asked to accelerate at speed, with no obvious delay in the power delivery.

### What's it like inside?

Evolution is the watchword in the new *3 Series*. Although it doesn't look markedly different from the older model, it's still a decent cabin, with the controls and console neatly angled towards the driver.

Dominating the top of the centre console is a 6.5-inch screen, which displays

a long journey with four adult passengers on board – something that would have been impossible in the old car. True, a *Volkswagen Passat* is a more spacious family car, but for the first time, a *3 Series* is a genuine proposition for a family.

It even has a decent boot, with split/fold seats available – although the sedan body limits its versatility.

### Should I buy one?

The only car that the new *3 Series* has to beat is its predecessor – and that it does. In short, if you're in the market for a compact executive, the new *3 Series* should be at the top of your list. A luxurious interior, fantastic handling and supremely refined engines make it a great all-round proposition. **BO**

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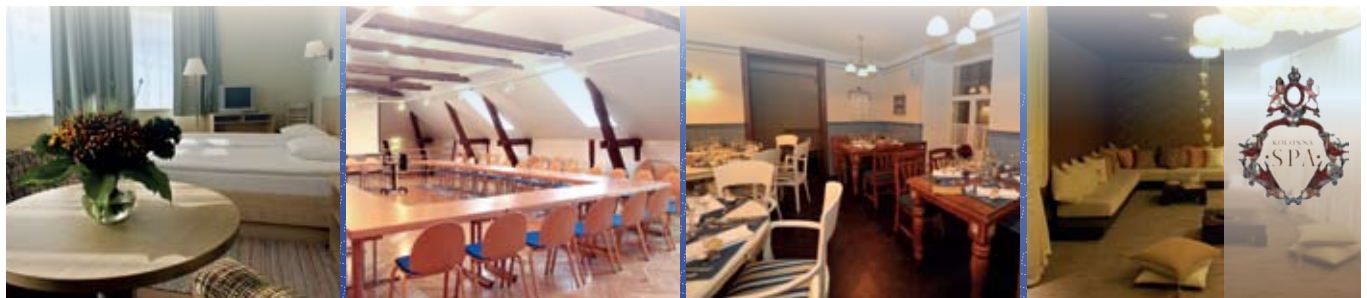
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Elena is currently working in both London and Riga. She is qualified as an Acupuncturist and Herbalist and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Chinese Medicine.

She has also gained a post-graduate Diploma in Oriental Herbal Medicine and certification in Toyohari, a unique method of Japanese, pain-free acupuncture.

Elena now widely practices pain-free Japanese style acupuncture, which she sometimes blends with the traditional Chinese method and other techniques such as moxibustion, guasha, electro-acupuncture and cupping.

Elena Gerasimova is a Member of the British Acupuncture Council and Toyohari UK Association.



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Gadget aficionados should pencil in a trip to Birmingham from April 10-15 (fly to London or Manchester, then take a train) for the Gadget Show Live, the UK's biggest and best consumer tech event ([www.gadgetshowlive.net](http://www.gadgetshowlive.net)).

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# Audio Bottega's vintage collection

**Known** by locals as the only place in Riga to feature *VIVA Audio* acoustic systems and tube amplifiers – which are individually manufactured by hand in Italy – *Audio Bottega* is currently displaying an unusual assortment of reel-to-reel tape recorders.

These 30- and 40-year-old pieces of audio equipment have a magnetic aura to them, which does not leave one indifferent. Some visitors will experience nostalgic memories of their youth, when reel-to-reel tapes were played at dance halls and parties; others will feel a purely technical interest about an era long past, while still others will be drawn by the urge to add yet another vintage item to their collection of 20<sup>th</sup>-century memorabilia.

Upon entering the salon, one's ears are soothed by pleasant-sounding instrumental jazz music, the source of which is hard to detect at first. Eventually, one discovers that the sound is coming from an odd-looking *Quad* electrostatic acoustic system – made nearly

60 years ago, in 1957! Hooked up with a much more recent *VIVA Audio* integrated tube stereo amplifier, the system produces music that sounds practically divine.

Most music fans probably consider reel-to-reel technology to be outdated, especially if compared to modern, digital CD players. However, the experts at the *Audio Bottega* salon are firmly convinced that as of the year 2012, nothing can quite match up against the good old reel-to-reel tape recorder. True, not everything that glitters is gold, and not all vintage products are top-notch. There are plenty of cheap and low-quality recorders from the 1970s and 1980s on the market – with the notable exception of such prime exemplars as the *Revox G36* and *Akai GX-635D* reel-to-reels.

If you are a music specialist, then you might object and point out that tapes are prone to higher levels of

background noise than modern CD players. In that case, head down to the *Audio Bottega* salon, where you will be in for quite a revelation. There, you can listen to a *Tascam BR-20* recorder connected to a top-

**THESE 30- AND 40-YEAR-OLD PIECES OF AUDIO EQUIPMENT HAVE A MAGNETIC AURA TO THEM**

of-the-line *VIVA Credenza* acoustic system. You'll be surprised at how natural and alive the music sounds – without any background noise.

*Audio Bottega* is showcasing a number of other vintage pearls, including the *Otari-MTR12* studio tape

recorder, the *Bruel & Kjaer* scientific measurement recorder, the *Studer A727* (one of the first studio CD players) and the *Teac AN-180* *Dolby Noise Reduction* system. The staff at *Audio Bottega* will tell you everything that you wish to know about the items on display and will show you how they work. If you wish, they can also set up a premium, made-to-order sound system for the needs of your home or office. **BO**

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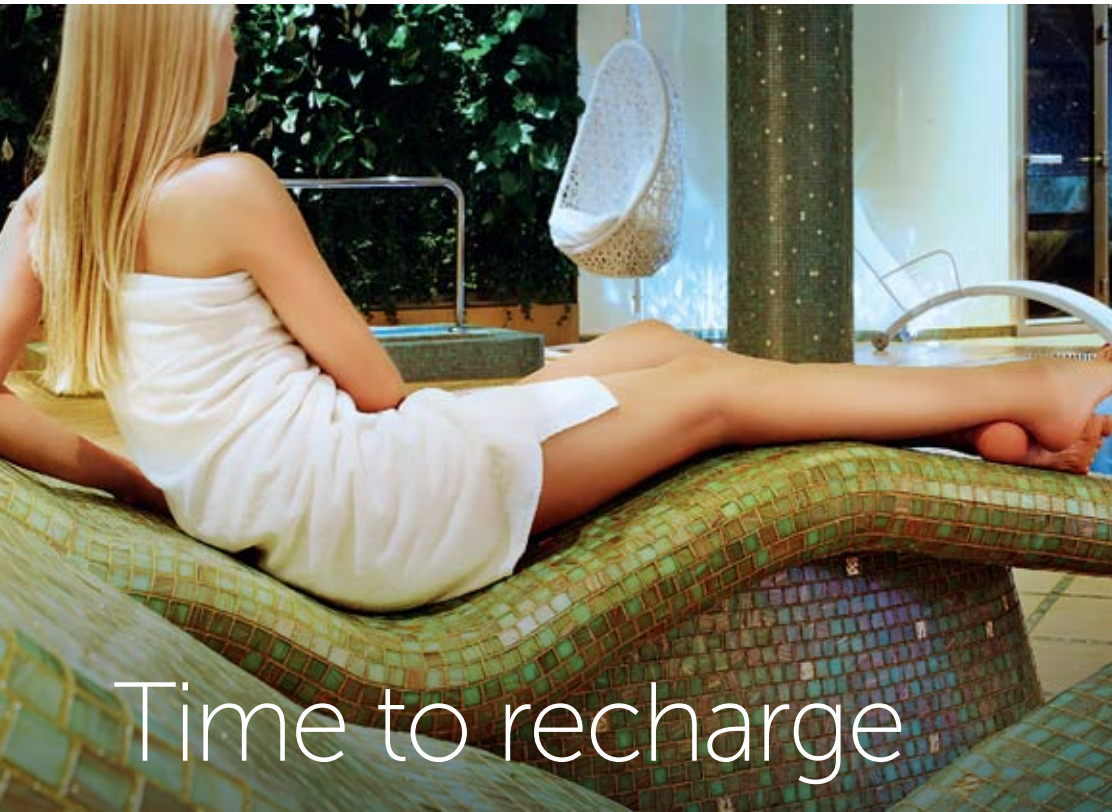
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# Time to recharge

March is perfect timing for a spring detox. Most likely you will agree, while sitting on a terrace just a stone's throw away from the beach, embraced by a fresh pine-scented breeze in one of Europe's largest spa and wellness centres

From a distance, the *Baltic Beach Hotel* looks like a grand cruise ship that has docked by the seashore in Jūrmala, Latvia's Riviera. Booking a spa break there will indeed leave you feeling you are at an exclusive resort that is dedicated solely to the well-being of your body and mind. The spa experts at the *Baltic Beach Hotel* are already masters at pampering their guests. However, the recent opening of *The Garden* relaxation area has doubled their ability to spoil even the most avid spa-goer.

For a perfect beginning, book a room with a view of the Baltic Sea. The fine vista in itself offers a calming effect, and is surely one of the greatest assets of the *Baltic Beach Hotel*. Take your time to enjoy it. The sun, the horizon and the gentle sound of the waves lapping the shore are in themselves a valuable therapy for winter-weary guests. The sea has a magnetic appeal, particularly at sunset, when you might wish to go out for a stroll, a short jog, or a Nordic walk along the sandy beach and experience the beauty first hand, becoming as one with the meditative scenery around you.

However, by the end of the day, the spa specialists at the *Baltic Beach Hotel* will likely have brought you to such heights of sheer bliss that you will probably not want to do much more than marvel at the view of the sea through the window of one of the resort's two restaurants – the *Caviar Club* and *Il Sole*. Both are well-equipped to serve as great companions for a healthy getaway, featuring sumptuous spring menus that offer such delicacies as asparagus-spinach cream soup with truffle oil, salmon tartar with tiger shrimps, as well as strawberries and rocket salad covered with lemon-olive oil dressing.

At the *Baltic Beach Hotel*, you will have plenty to do in between your meals. Book a solid two hours at *The Garden* and immerse yourself in a world of tranquillity and relaxation. Warm up your body in the 38-degree Jacuzzi and in the Amber Sauna, where you will feel cleansed and invigorated by the fresh aroma of citrus fruits in a room that has three columns lined with genuine amber stones. The 85-degree Old Wood Sauna, a favourite amongst Scandinavians, will draw out any remaining

toxins and negative emotions accumulated over the long winter months. Its open flames will add an extra calming effect. Then take a swim in a pool that is equipped with underwater massage jets, a flowing cascade and other therapeutic elements. Fifteen minutes there will pass by in a flash and your body will be grateful for it.

Don't miss the opportunity to visit the Turkish *Hamam* bath, where guests of *The Garden* are given a vitamin-enriched soap-sud cocktail, which they can apply as a peeling treatment. Continue with a nourishing clay treatment from the Austrian Alps in the *Rasul* Oriental ritual room, and wrap up your spa experience for the day with an aromatic oil shower, which will leave you refreshed and make your skin feel silky smooth. Many clients treat this pleasure marathon as a mere introduction and carry on with various treatments from the point where the rituals included in a standard visit to *The Garden* end. Whether it's *Amber Gold*, a full body massage or any other form of pampering, you will surely call it a proper icing to your wellness dessert. **BO**

  
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TEXT BY ROBERT COTTRELL | PHOTO BY JANIS SALINS, F64

## With a bourgeois-bohemian touch



Tomass Godiņš

Since first moving to Riga a decade ago, the only thing I've found to complain about is the Baltic winter. It goes on too long. About six months too long.

But now I've found the cure. You go to the *Neiburgs* restaurant, right in the heart of the Old Town about fifty yards from Dome Square, and you order a mug of ginger tea. It's as simple as that. They call it tea, but it is really a magic potion straight from the pages of Harry Potter. I won't pretend to guess what all of the ingredients are, but the ones I detected include large lumps of fresh ginger; mint leaves; honey; slices of lime; lemon juice and steaming hot water. Apply in judiciously large quantities to the human frame, and somewhere deep inside you the sun comes out, however cold and damp the day.

As a fallback – it was in the depths of February – I also ordered a measure of *Jameson's* Irish whisky, with water but no ice. Fine stuff, too. But with all due respect to Mr Jameson, the ginger tea was by far the more potent. Drink it responsibly.

It was the first time I'd been back to *Neiburgs* in two or three months, and I'm happy to say that chef Tomass Godiņš is still cooking up a storm in the kitchen there. Or whatever the calming equivalent of a storm is. Because his gift is to make dishes that somehow work just perfectly. No stress, no fuss, no deep internal contradictions. Always logic and harmony. He is the chamber musician of chefs.

# NEIBURGS

HOTEL / RESTAURANT

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 www.neiburgs.com



I'm not going to go too far with the musical analogy, but soups definitely come in distinct registers. The fish soup (5.90 LVL) is somewhere at the top end of the keyboard. The broth is light and lemony, almost as clear as the Baltic Sea, and filled with salmon, octopus and clams, all jostling with flavour. It's a classic. The sort of thing that looks so deceptively simple that you think you could do at home. But when you try, you realize that you need about ten years of practice to pull it off perfectly every time. In a dish this simple, there is nowhere to hide your mistakes.

My other favourite on the winter menu is the chestnut soup (5.50 LVL), which rumbles around somewhere much deeper in the bass notes. It's thick but not heavy; there's a bit of duck confit chopped into it for extra surprise and delight; and it's finished with a dash of the most gorgeous sour cream, which pairs with the puréed chestnut like Laurel does with Hardy, or Holmes with Watson. A soup so noble that it should be eaten to the sound of trumpets.

For the main courses, I have just one word to say to you – well, two words strictly speaking, and they are, "wild boar" (9.50 LVL). If you're not familiar with wild boars directly, hang around the forests of Latvia and Estonia, and they will soon make your acquaintance. I'm not sure that Godiņš hunts them himself, but it's certainly his idea to team them up with persimmon, honey marmalade and red wine sauce, which for my money is the biggest advance in boar-cookery since the invention of the open fire.

If you're a carnivore who prefers the field to the forest, there's a fillet of Latvian beef with lentils, mushrooms and lingonberry sauce (13.50 LVL). Or try my personal favourite: a leg of lamb with swede and chicory (8.90 LVL).

I'd steer any fish-lover towards the catfish with risotto and mussels (7.90 LVL), or the fried sea-bass with celery and beetroots (8.60 LVL). Vegetarians can have plenty of fun too – which is not always so easy in Latvia. The

options marked "V" at *Neiburgs* include a cream of butternut squash soup with pistachios (4.20 LVL); and main course of steamed and fried vegetables with goat's cheese and coconut sauce (6.50 LVL).

As for the desserts, I will just about forgive you for skipping them at lunch. But pudding is what dinner was invented for: so no excuses in the evening, please. You do want the *crème brûlée* with vodka and blackcurrant sorbet (3.50 LVL). And you want somebody else to order the three kinds of mousse with citrus and lemon balm salad (4.50 LVL), so that you can have a forkful there too.

If your plan is to eat and drink yourself into happy daze over dinner at the *Neiburgs* restaurant, and then drift upstairs to the hotel for a good night's sleep, then my only advice is: make you sure you remembered to book a room in advance. The regular hotel guests just keep on coming back, and it's far from unknown for the *Neiburgs* to have a full house even mid-week in the depths of winter.



Have a look upstairs, and you can see why. The *Neiburgs* was built as an upscale apartment house in 1903, the early days of Riga's Art Nouveau boom. The high bourgeois-bohemian character of the day still runs through its bones. The rooms are big and airy, with lots of Art Nouveau touches in the contemporary décor, and views out over the old town. Every one of them has a small but perfectly formed kitchenette. And the prices, as you can see by browsing the hotel's own website, are far from injurious.

My advice: go for 305, 405, or 505. These are junior suites with oriel windows. Or, if you want to feel like a president for the night, hold out for the duplex suite on the sixth floor which cannot, to my untutored eye, be much short of 60 square metres. Ring down in the morning for a bottle of *Taittinger Brut Champagne* (50 LVL), scrambled eggs with salmon (3.80 LVL), and pancakes with honey (3.00 LVL) and you have the makings of a decent breakfast with which to face the day ahead. **BO**

# Restaurants, bars and cafés

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## Trattoria La Bottega, Tallinn


*La Bottega* is a fine Italian wine restaurant of a moderate price range, situated in the heart of Tallinn's Old Town. Interestingly enough, it is located right beside the embassy of Italy. The atmosphere is defined by the historical architecture of the building, as well as by the restaurant's talented chef Nicolò Tanda, who is of Sicilian origin. The massive stone walls, high ceilings and interesting historical architectural elements are skilfully integrated with the noble Italian country style that is so close to Tanda's heart. Heavy wooden furniture accompanied with simple linen and black-and-white photos serve to provide a homey and relaxed feeling. Wine is certainly an important element of the restaurant's interior. The bottles are not hidden away from the eyes of the patrons, but are displayed on the high shelves in their entire splendour for everyone to admire.

Needless to say, wine is also a significant element of restaurant's menu – it is not without reason that *La Bottega* was deemed to be the Best Food and Wine Matching Restaurant in Estonia in 2009. One might even claim that *La Bottega* offers the largest selection of Italian wines in Estonia. The rest of the menu reflects Tanda's warm feelings towards his country of origin, featuring classical Italian dishes made of the highest quality ingredients. Some of the recipes come from the chef's childhood, an obvious source of many a warm memory.

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### airBaltic hot spots in Riga

Dace Bērziņa Zalpētere,  
Assistant to the CEO

Riga has been a meeting point for people of numerous backgrounds throughout its 800-year history. Today, the city remains a true culture hub, and this is reflected in the diverse menus of Riga's eating establishments. Here are three of my favourite gourmet spots, each of which has drawn inspiration from Western European cuisine.



#### Ottella restaurant

A wonderful restaurant with fine Italian cuisine. If you wish to treat yourself or your friends with something special, then book a table at *Ottella*, an ideal location for a romantic event as well as a

business lunch. Here you will find a great selection of Italian wines, delicious food and a very pleasant atmosphere. Definitely one of my favourites.

Alunāna iela 2  
[www.ottella.lv](http://www.ottella.lv)



#### Medusa oyster bar

Located on the upper floor of the *Galleria Riga* shopping centre, this is a great place for oyster gourmants, offering fresh and delicious oysters, as well as other seafood snacks. A friendly staff, a good choice of wine and champagne, and a stylized undersea world in the details of interior are just a few features of the *Medusa*. Enjoy!

*Galleria Riga* shopping centre, 7<sup>th</sup> floor  
Dzirnavu iela 67,  
[www.oysterbar.lv](http://www.oysterbar.lv)

#### Bon Vivant Belgian beer café

If you love beer, then make your way to *Bon Vivant* in the heart of Riga's Old Town. Besides offering about 40 different kinds of Belgian beer, the café has a varied and delicious menu. Try the house sausage, which is served by length (0.5, 1.0 or 1.5 metres). Here you will also find practically the best hot chocolate



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# A new royal pub in town

TEXT BY ISABEL OVALLE  
PHOTOS BY  
JANIS SALINS, F64

Situated right in the heart of Riga's Old Town, *Queens* opened its doors after a complete renovation in the month of August. This cosy spot is an excellent choice not only to have a beer (with 18 different local and foreign brands on offer) or a cocktail, but also to enjoy a delicious meal in a friendly atmosphere.

The new public house, informally and universally called a pub, provides an authentic British setting in the Latvian capital, with a brand new and carefully selected Victorian-style décor. Located on Kaļķu iela number 2, *Queens* can serve 100 people, not counting the outside terrace set from May to September, with space for another 50 diners. The pub is open on work days from 10:00 to 01:00 and on weekends from 10:00 until the last client leaves. Good music and good company are two essential ingredients for any pleasant evening; a scenario that is guaranteed in *Queens*, which differs from other spots in Riga thanks to its refined interior. When the time came to name the new establishment, the owners thought: what could be more British than the Queen?

Like any true British or Irish pub, *Queens* carries a great selection of draught beers, including ales, stouts and lagers, both imported and domestic. From *Guinness* to *Boddingtons*, or from *Stella Artois* to *Leffe*, any customer will most likely find their favourite. There are beers not only from the United Kingdom and Latvia, but also from Belgium, the Czech Republic, Ireland or Denmark. All of

these are on tap, along with bottled beers from Mexico and the USA. For foreigners and locals, Latvian beer is the most popular.

Since it is open for most of the day until late in the evening, *Queens* is not quite like most other public houses in the classic sense, given that initially, pubs served mainly as drinking establishments in the social culture of the UK, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand. *Queens* differs in that respect, because it also offers all kinds of meals, starting with an English breakfast, and continuing with tasty snacks to accompany a good beer or noontime cocktail. Don't miss out on the tasty stake-o-fish, and don't feel ashamed to engorge yourself in a splendid dessert, such as an apple pie or cheese cake, accompanied with a broad selection of teas and coffees.

This new pub and restaurant is also a paradise for sports fans, who can watch a wide variety of sports competitions, including football and rugby, on two screen televisions with different satellite channels, *Sky Sports* included, which means that you can choose the sports event that interests you the most. Don't miss the opportunity to take advantage of the various discounts that *Queens* regularly offers, be it a special deal on a particular food and drink combination, or half-priced beer during important sports events, the perfect excuse to relax and unwind after a hard days work. With live music on weekends. **BO**

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# Pop goes the cake!

Small, portable and with fewer calories, it's not hard to see why cake pops are becoming the latest culinary craze in London



Last year, Maria published *Cake Pops by Molly Bakes (Square Peg)*, a book featuring 50 recipes for cakes on lollipop sticks

© NOEL MURPHY

**First** it was cupcakes, then it was whoopie pies. Now, cake pops seem to have taken the English capital by storm. Originally an American idea, these bite-size bits of cake goodness are taking over lifestyle blogs in the UK and have food critics on both sides of the Atlantic raving about this culinary phenomenon. The popular treats are small, portable and have fewer calories than ordinary slices of cake.

In the last couple of years, cake boutiques all around London have tried to create their own versions of the English cake pop, which consists of mashed-up cake and icing rolled into balls, dipped in chocolate or candy, decorated with toppings and served on a stick – just like lollipops. Few, however, have been able to follow successfully in the footsteps of American food blogger Angie Dudley (a.k.a. Bakerella), the woman behind the cake pop phenomenon. Nevertheless, on this side of the Atlantic, Molly Bakes (a.k.a. Maria Michaelides), a fashionista-turned-

baker, rightfully claims the title of cake pop queen.

Back in 2009, Molly Bakes found herself out of a job in London. With plenty of time on her hands, she decided to try baking just for fun. The results far exceeded her expectations. Word spread quickly and she soon found herself managing a stall at Brick Lane Market. The stall became an instant success among foodies, fashion slaves and the hip crowd of East London, who flocked to the market every Sunday. Today, Bakes can be credited with introducing the cake pop craze to the UK. In the few years that she has been in business, she has baked for the likes of Lady Gaga, Justin Bieber and Elle MacPherson, to name but a few. Bakes has also made cakes for the London Fashion Weekend, Teen Vogue, Elizabeth Arden, Britain's Next Top Model, and numerous other brands and events.

The sweet pops are made just like an ordinary cake. They are baked, crumbled, rolled into balls with icing and refrigerated.

Creamy vanilla icing is commonly used for a wonderful flavour. If you try this at home, then take care not to add too much icing to your mixture, as your cake pops will be heavy and will fall off the stick when you try to dip them.

As with everything, practice makes perfect. You can dip your cake pops in candy or chocolate and decorate them with sprinkles of sugar, or go for something a bit more creative. The designs, shapes and colours are endless and you don't have to be an artist to make something that looks good. While cake pops usually require more time and patience than other cakes, the results can be amazing.

From tropical fruits and flowers to characters out of a picture book, Molly Bake's handmade decorations are a labour of love (her brand name is a combined nickname for Maria and her husband's name Olly). It is no wonder that her cake pops are now stocked at *Selfridges*, a chain of English high-end department stores. **BO**

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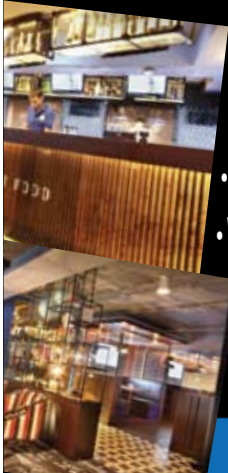
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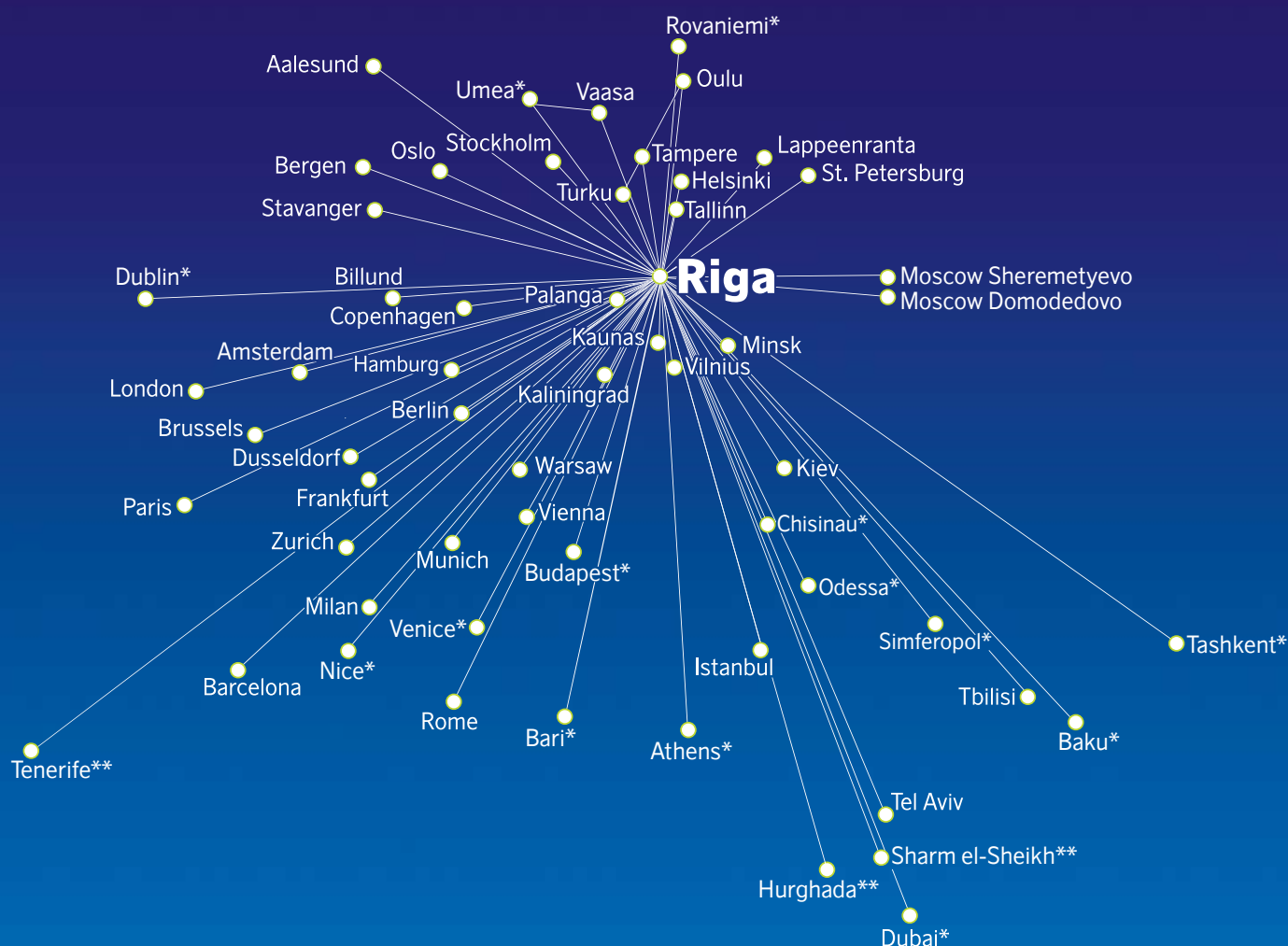


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## IN BRIEF

- 1/ Popular destinations return for the summer
- 2/ Five flights per day to Moscow
- 3/ Cut the queues with Priority Check-in
- 4/ New double daily flights to Munich, Vienna, Brussels and Amsterdam

### 1/ Popular destinations return for the summer

With the arrival of spring, many of *airBaltic's* appealing seasonal destinations return to the schedule and will operate throughout the summer.

From March 27, our ever-popular flights between Riga and **Venice** will be re-launched and operate three times per week.

From April, flights to **Athens** and **Budapest** will take off four times per week and to **Nice** and **Chisinau** three times per week.

In May, flights resume three times every week to **Simferopol**, the popular Crimean holiday destination, to **Baku** on the Caspian Sea twice per week and to **Bari** in southern Italy once a week on Saturdays.

Looking further ahead, from June both **Dublin** and **Odessa** re-join the destination list.

Check the timetables and book early to get the cheapest tickets at [www.airbaltic.com](http://www.airbaltic.com).

## 2/ Five flights per day to Moscow

This spring, *airBaltic* has further increased its number of flights to the Russian capital. There are now four daily flights between Riga and **Moscow Sheremetyevo** airport and – starting from the end of March – a daily connection to **Moscow Domodedovo** (previously two flights per week).

Business travellers in particular will appreciate not only the easy connections, but also our premium Business Class service, which includes a fast-track security lane, access to business lounges, spacious seating and three-course meals, plus a wide selection of free drinks on board.

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Moscow, Domodedovo

## 3/ Cut the queues with Priority Check-in

Skip the check-in and baggage drop queues by choosing our Priority Check-in product. It allows you to check in at Business Class counters while holding an Economy Class ticket.

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Munich Frauenkirche

## 4/ New double daily flights to Munich, Vienna, Brussels and Amsterdam

From April, *airBaltic* is increasing its number of flights to **Munich, Vienna, Brussels and Amsterdam** from 7 to 12 weekly flights. That means double-flight service on weekdays and one flight per day on weekends.

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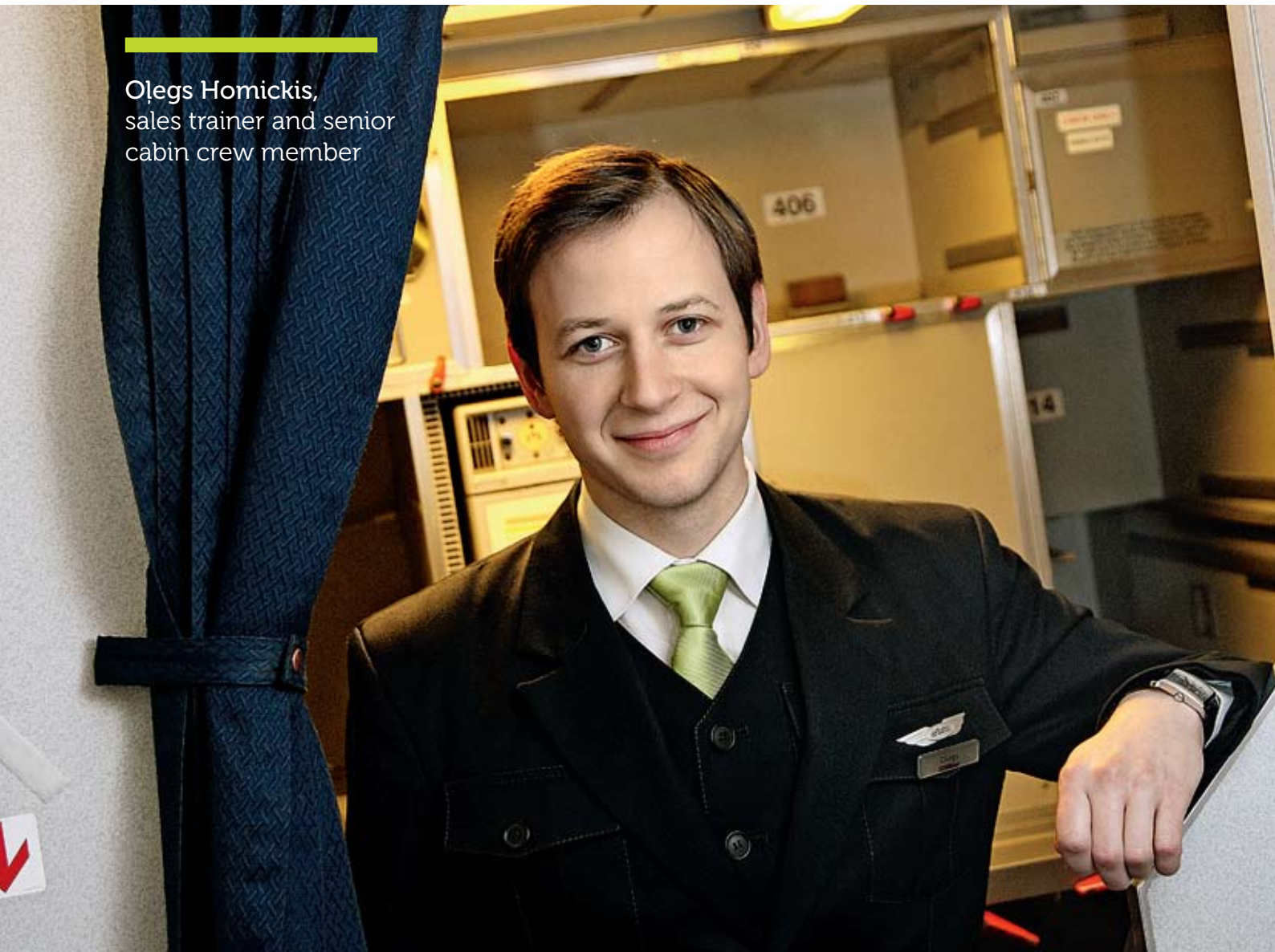
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Oļegs Homickis,  
sales trainer and senior  
cabin crew member



# First-class salesman

TEXT BY ILZE POLE |  
PHOTO BY LAURIS  
VIKSNE, F64

In November of last year, Oļegs Homickis competed with employees from over 40 different airlines at the ISPY 2011 (Inflight Sales Person of the Year) competition and was awarded a silver medal in the category of *Selling with emotional intelligence / maximizing sales techniques*.

For more than ten years, airlines from all around the world have been sending their best cabin crew salespeople to compete for the title of *Best inflight sales person*. While competing, the participants also receive state-of-the-art sales training and participate in activities that improve other useful skills. However, this doesn't

mean that you should become wary at the first sight of Homickis. Actually, he is quite the opposite of what you might expect – he is one of the most sensitive and perceptive salespeople you'll ever meet. And it is precisely this characteristic – the ability to gauge others' wants and recognize the moment that their interest has waned – which separates the best sales people from the rest.

## **How did the competition take place?**

At first we convened in Brighton, England – a very beautiful city – but the schedule was so packed that I didn't really get a chance to see the sights. There were



a lot of workshops for cabin crews, managers and buyers. For instance, during the first couple of days, we learned how to correctly arrange products on the trolleys, about the importance of knowing the product that you are selling, and how to better communicate with our clients. Then the competitions began. The first one was *ISPY's got talent* – although we didn't take part ourselves, it was really fun and cool.

Before the competitions, we spent a lot of time learning about the products that we would be selling. We even had a theoretical exam on our knowledge of the products. For example, one of the questions was: "Which of these brands has been in outer space since 1978?" – *Mars*. To be truthful, I didn't know the answer. But facts like these are valuable and help sell

Feelings leave the strongest impression, and that's the aim of good service

the product, particularly if you are well-versed in its features and benefits. Emotional communication is just as important – how honest we are with the passengers; thinking about their needs and not their money.

We also had to write up an advertisement, a so-called boarding announcement about a new product. Then we had to read it out loud. The announcement had to be connected to the trolley display that we had arranged ourselves, and we were required to give an explanation of our reasoning.

Since Latvia's independence day (November 18) was approaching, I arranged my display with this holiday in mind, creating a festive feeling. I placed a bottle of champagne on top of a pyramid and chose the rest of the products for their connection to the event.

The following day, we had a practical exam. I had ten minutes to acquaint myself with the products and decide how to arrange them on the trolley. Then I was given five minutes to actually do it. All the while, I was being timed with a stopwatch. Afterward, I had to explain the reasoning behind our display. Lastly, I had to enter the mock cabin, where the jury played the role of the passengers.

I read my prepared announcement and then I had five minutes to sell the products. It was essential to establish a link with the customers – to gauge their needs – so that we could offer them the most suitable products. Of course, you can show them everything that you have, but if you don't know what they need, then the whole process will be pointless.

Emotional sensitivity is the second crucial component. We care about the customers and their needs, because what will remain in the passengers' memory is not what they actually bought, but their feelings at the time – how they felt about the flight. Feelings leave the strongest impression, and that's the aim of good service.

**This is the category in which you received a top ranking.**

Yes, but I look at it as an accomplishment by the whole team, and *airBaltic* as well. Another interesting competition among the cabin crews was coming up with a completely new product to sell on board. We made it to the second round, which meant that each group had to pitch its product just like on

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the UK television show *Dragons' Den*. In this competition, the "dragons" were buyers from different airlines. Our product was a brain teaser that passengers can use to pass part of their time on board. The brain teasers are not very expensive to produce, which means that they would be affordable. We worked out the product's features and benefits. That was a really good way to gain experience.

### Why do you think you received such a high evaluation?

For me, the biggest challenge is understanding what the client is thinking and what he needs at that particular moment. When should I offer him something else, and when is the passenger indicating that he or she is no longer interested? Maybe he has a fear of flying and just needs to speak with a flight attendant. Often the passengers don't ask for assistance, because they figure that the cabin crew must be very busy as it is. It's no secret that Northern Europeans are more reserved than people from the south, and establishing their needs is not always easy. We're not raised to be expansive and outgoing. The art of customer service, which was honed in America, has its own dictates. When working in the service industry, you have to overcome a number of barriers. You can't just stand there and think "Oh, what will

When working in the service industry, you have to overcome a number of barriers

they think of me if I come up and offer them something?" You just have to go and ask them. There are all sorts of situations and people, but you have to get your bearings, feel when the moment is right and just do it. This may be hard to understand when it's described on paper, but when it happens in real life, you just know.

### The job of a flight attendant seems difficult – there are so many procedures and regulations, so many do's and don'ts.

In a way, you can liken it to driving a car. The first few times, you're really nervous – there are signs and warnings all over the place, the road has pot-holes, you have to manoeuvre around puddles, etc. But with time and experience, you become used to all of these things. You follow the road signs more easily, but you never lose attention. The procedure is worthless if you don't do it with sensitivity towards the passengers.

### You were chosen to attend this event in Brighton because of your good standing at airBaltic.

Yes, but in this career, success follows ambition, not the other way around. During the six years that I have been at *airBaltic*, my main concerns have always centred on the comfort and well-being of the passenger. **BO**



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- IOSA – SMS Requirements – August 22-24	22 – 24 August

## A young pilot's success story



Anne de Bernardy, a young French pilot at the beginning of her career, recently obtained her Boeing 737-type rating at the airBaltic Training centre in Riga, Latvia.

"I remember watching airplanes as a 5-year-old kid and thinking how amazing they are. Then, when I was 16, a friend who

piloted a small aircraft took me along for a flight. That's when I decided that I want to become an airplane pilot," de Bernardy remembers. At the age of 17, she already began to fly small planes.

While studying economics at university, de Bernardy continued to feel a longing in her heart for flying. After graduating, she turned to what she really wanted to become: a commercial airline pilot.

"Achieving that dream was not easy, as I had no sponsors and had to find the money for my tuition. The first option was to get a loan, but that is always risky, as you never know what the future job market will look like. Eventually, I got a grant from the French government, which covered my type rating studies here at airBaltic Training in Riga.

"I wanted to fly Boeing 737s, so I looked around for a school that is associated with

an airline, as this ensures that the quality of the teaching will be at a high level. airBaltic Training had an offer that seemed appealing in terms of price, quality and logistics," she explains. De Bernardy was also one of a few lucky graduates to be offered a summer flying contract with airBaltic.

Asked if it is easy for a woman to become a pilot, she replies:

"It is probably easier in Europe than in other parts of the world, where women may have less opportunities to engage in professions that have traditionally been carried out by men. Nowadays, a pilot's job no longer requires that much physical exertion, due to the hydraulics and automation in the newer plane models. I'm really glad I stuck to my dream of flying. I just love it! On the ground there might be rain or snow, but in the skies there is always sun above the clouds." **BO**

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**i** BalticMiles Member Service  
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 In Estonia: +372 630 6660  
 In Lithuania: +370 7005 5665  
[info@balticmiles.com](mailto:info@balticmiles.com)  
[www.balticmiles.com](http://www.balticmiles.com)

## How to apply?

**Get your non-personalized card on board** airBaltic flight and start earning Points immediately from meal and souvenir purchases – receive 1 Point for each EUR that you spend. Afterwards, register the card online at [register.balticmiles.com](http://register.balticmiles.com) and **receive 50 bonus Points!**

**Or fill in the online application form** at [www.balticmiles.com](http://www.balticmiles.com) and your membership card will be posted to you.

Follow us:



## Fly cheaper with BalticMiles MasterCard

From March 13 till March 31 we offer special flight deals for BalticMiles MasterCard holders in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

<b>Billund Brussels</b>	<b>Amsterdam, Berlin Dusseldorf, Vienna</b>	<b>Copenhagen Munich</b>
<b>EUR 151</b> round trip	<b>EUR 171</b> round trip	<b>EUR 179</b> round trip

**i** The prices apply to round trip direct airBaltic flights including taxes and ticket issue fee for travel from April 16 till May 31, 2012. Book the tickets at airBaltic city ticket offices in Riga, Tallinn and Vilnius and pay with your BalticMiles MasterCard.



## New BalticMiles partners:

### Ladig's Cafe in Riga



Dishes made from local and seasonal ingredients. A wonderful combination of taste, idea and sincerity.

Find out more at [www.ladigscfe.lv](http://www.ladigscfe.lv)

Earn **10 Points** for each LVL spent



### MAYA in Riga



Fine clothing for ladies - dresses, suits, tunics and more, all designed and made in Latvia.

Find out more and shop online at [www.maya.lv](http://www.maya.lv)

Earn **5 Points** for each LVL spent

# MAYA

### Ostas skati in Riga



Enjoy magnificent food, great atmosphere, nice view of the Daugava, Riga and the harbour.

Find out more at [www.ostasskatirestorans.lv](http://www.ostasskatirestorans.lv)

Earn **10 Points** for each LVL spent

Restorāns  
**OSTASSKATI**

### Tinto in Riga



A lively wine bar and fine dining room, lauded for its upscale, memorable cuisine.

Find out more at [www.tinto.lv](http://www.tinto.lv)

Earn **10 Points** for each LVL spent

**TINTO**  
VĪNA TELPA

## LMT CUSTOMERS EARN UP TO 400 BALTICMILES POINTS WHILE TRAVELLING!



**Taking your mobile phone abroad? Use LMT mobile service Internets ceļojumā (IC), browse the internet and get your Points!**

### Choose the most eligible type of payment:

- **IC** : pay for a certain data limit per day and control your costs (earn **300 Points**);
- **IC+** : pay for the data you have used during the day (earn **400 Points**).

### How to apply for Internets ceļojumā?

If you have registered your BalticMiles card number to LMT:

- send an SMS **IC** or **IC+** to **1642**

### If you haven't registered your BalticMiles card number with LMT:

- send an SMS with your BalticMiles card number and name and surname to **1642** (e.g. 012345678 name surname);
- send an SMS **IC** or **IC+** to **1642**.

Up to **LVL 1** PER DAY for 30 MB In the Baltic States and Nordic countries

Up to **LVL 3** PER DAY for 30 MB In the other European countries and in Turkey

Up to **LVL 3** PER DAY for 30 MB In Russia



# Reward yourself with excellent offers from [shop.balticmiles.com](http://shop.balticmiles.com)

## Easy to **earn**

**Earn Points** for shopping in more than 400 internationally known online stores through [www.balticmiles.com](http://www.balticmiles.com)

StrawberryNET

**Earn 1 Point for each USD spent**



Barnes & Nobel

**Earn 2 Points for each USD spent**



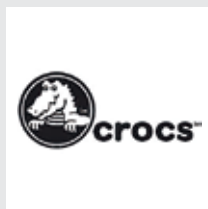
ASOS

**Earn 3 Points for each EUR spent**



CROCS

**Earn 3 Points for each EUR spent**



Puma

**Earn 3 Points for each EUR spent**



## Great to **spend**

There are more than 3000 rewards to choose from the BalticMiles shop – all payable in Points or with combination of Points and money. **Worldwide delivery.**

BIO2YOU Organic Seabuckthorn Body Lotion

**2 736 Points**



ESPA Spa Experience for 2.5h

**4 110 Points**



Ricatech MP3 Player

**8 640 Points**



COBI Boeing 787 "Airport"

**14 974 Points**



Ray-Ban Sunglasses Aviator

**25 680 Points**



**i** Points will be credited to your BalticMiles account within 90 days after the purchase. Points credited for each EUR / GBP / USD / AUD / CAD / CHF spent at a particular merchant are subject to change on a monthly basis.

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



## Onboard menu

### Business Class

On all *airBaltic* flights, Business Class passengers enjoy a complimentary full meal that includes an appetizer, a hot main course (except on flights that are shorter than 1 hour 30 minutes, where a cold meal is served instead), dessert, and a wide range of beverages and alcoholic drinks.

On flights longer than three hours, we offer a double service – first, a full hot meal served with beverages, followed by a snack consisting of coffee or tea and a small dessert. On night flights with early morning

arrival, we provide a “wake-up” service with tea or coffee and a light breakfast.

We also offer freshly made espresso and cappuccino from specially installed *Nespresso* coffee makers on our *Boeing* aircraft.

### Economy Class

Economy Class passengers can purchase a selection of snacks, sandwiches, tortillas, croissants and hot meals (on flights that are longer than two hours) and beverages, which are listed in the onboard menu cards.

### Order your meal before the flight

at [www.airbaltic.com](http://www.airbaltic.com)



## Shop more and spend less



While you enjoy your flight, you can purchase fragrances, cosmetics, jewellery, watches for women and men, as well as various souvenirs at attractive prices. Explore the complete collection from the menu card in your seat pocket.

Alternatively, check out our web shop at [www.airbalticshop.com](http://www.airbalticshop.com) before your flight. There you can order from a much wider selection of items, including *airBaltic* aircraft models and unique design sneakers. If ordered online, your purchase will be delivered to your flight or to your home address.

## Spring Special Offer!

Fragrances for EUR 19.90

- Versace* Woman EDP, 50 ml
- Versace* Dreamer EDT for men, 50 ml
- Moschino* Funny EDT for women, 50 ml
- Moschino* Uomo EDT for men, 75 ml

Purchase on board *airBaltic* flights or at [www.airbalticshop.com](http://www.airbalticshop.com).



[airBalticShop.com](http://airBalticShop.com)



# Inflight entertainment

On flights longer than 2 hours 30 minutes, passengers can rent iPad 2 tablet computers pre-loaded with movies, cartoons, serials, music and games.

TV series: The Office | Desperate Housewives | House | Glee | Top Gear | CSI Miami

Cartoons: Looney Tunes | The Batman | The Simpsons | Family Guy | Puppet animation





## Contagion



### Drama, Thriller

**Director:** Steven Soderberg  
**Cast:** Laurence Fishburne, Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow, Kate Winslet

"Contagion" follows the rapid progress of a lethal virus that kills within days. As the fast-moving epidemic grows, the worldwide medical community races to find a cure and control the panic that spreads faster than the virus itself. At the same time, ordinary people struggle to survive.

13+ 106 min  


## Moneyball



### Biography, Drama

**Director:** Bennett Miller  
**Cast:** Brad Pitt, Jonah Hill, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Robin Wright

Based on a true story, Moneyball is a movie for anybody who has ever dreamed of taking on the system. Billy Beane, the guy who assembles a team, who has an epiphany: all of baseball's conventional wisdom is wrong. Forced to reinvent his team on a tight budget, Beane will have to outsmart the richer clubs.

13+ 133 min 


## Johnny English Reborn



### Comedy, Thriller

**Director:** Oliver Parker  
**Cast:** Rowan Atkinson, Dominic West, Rosamund Pike, Daniel Kaluuya, Tim McInnerny, Gillian Anderson

Johnny English, a secret agent who doesn't know fear. In this adventure, Majesty's Secret Service must stop a group of international assassins before they eliminate a Chinese leader and cause global chaos. Now that the world needs him once again, Johnny English is back in action.

10+ 101 min 



## The Adventures of Tintin



### Animation, Adventure

**Director:** Steven Spielberg  
**Cast:** Jamie Bell, Andy Serkis, Daniel Craig, Nick Frost, Simon Pegg

A young reporter named Tintin and his dog Snowy, travel the world and set off on countless adventures. An old-fashioned epic tale of high seas hijinks and derring-do in distant lands, Tintin is presented in an up-to-the-minute combination of 3-D computer animation and performance-capture technology.

10+ 107 min  



## Immortals



### Fantasy, Action

**Director:** Tarsem Singh  
**Cast:** Mickey Rourke, Henry Cavill, Freida Pinto, John Hurt, Kellan Lutz

King Hyperion and his murderous army are rampaging across Greece in search of the long lost Bow of Epirus, with which he will be able to overthrow the Gods of Olympus and become the master of the world. A stonemason named Theseus vows to avenge the death of his mother, embraces his destiny.

17+ 110 min  



## The Godfather



### Crime, Drama

**Director:** Francis Ford Coppola  
**Cast:** Robert Duvall, James Caan, Diane Keaton, Al Pacino, John Marley

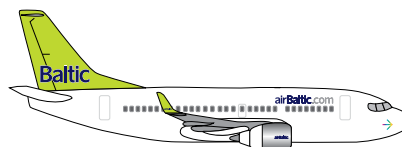
Sicilian clan's rise and near fall from power in America, masterfully balancing the story between the Corleone's family life and the ugly crime business. Brilliant film garnered ten Academy Award® nominations, and won three including Best Picture of 1972.

17+ 175 min  



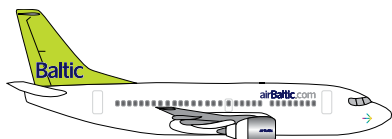
## Boeing 757-200

<b>Number of seats</b>	200
<b>Max take-off weight</b>	115.7 metric tons
<b>Max payload</b>	25 metric tons
<b>Length</b>	47.3 m
<b>Wing span</b>	41.05 m
<b>Cruising speed</b>	850 km/h
<b>Commercial range</b>	6888 km
<b>Fuel consumption</b>	3900 l/h
<b>Engine</b>	ROLLS ROYCE RB211-535E4



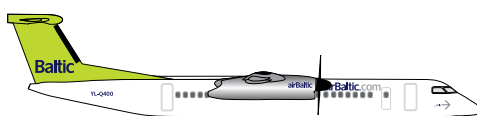
## Boeing 737-300

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



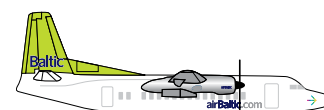
## Boeing 737-500

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



## Q400 NextGen

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



## Fokker 50

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

## airBaltic codeshare partners





- City served by airBaltic
- City served by airBaltic partner airline

- Route operated by airBaltic
- - - Route operated by airBaltic codeshare partner

0 170 km

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

- Reykjavik
- Chicago
- New York
- Seattle
- Washington

- Bodo
- Narvik
- Bardufoss
- Alta
- Lakselv
- Kirkenes
- Kiruna
- Murmansk
- Kirovsk

- Abidjan
- Banjul
- Conakry
- Dakar
- Freetown
- Guinea
- Monrovia
- Doula
- Kigali
- Kinshasa
- Luanda
- Yaounde
- Entebbe/Kampala
- Nairobi

- Tel Aviv
- Amman
- Sharm el-Sheikh
- Hurgada
- Cairo



- Norilsk
- Naryan Mar
- Irkutsk

- Beijing
- Tokyo
- Shanghai
- Bangkok
- Singapore

- Petropavlovsk Kam
- Khabarovsk
- Yuzhno Sakhalinsk
- Krasnojarsk
- Novosibirsk
- Kemerovo
- Ulan Bator
- Vladivostok
- Ust Kamenogorsk

- Pavlodar

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

0 170 km

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



Country/City Ticket offices	Airport Ticket Offices	Country/City Ticket offices	Airport Ticket Offices	Country/City Ticket offices	Airport Ticket Offices
<b>ARMENIA</b>		<b>FRANKFURT</b>		<b>RUSSIA</b>	
Yerevan Baltic Travel 105/1 Teryan str. ☎ + (374) 10 514301		Airport Frankfurt Airport Ticket Office AHS Terminal 2, Hall E, Desk 939 ☎ +49 69 690 61465		Moscow airBaltic Russia 28 Tverskaya Str., Building 2 Business Center "Amerop" 125009 Moscow ☎ +7 (495) 22127213 moscow@airbaltic.com	International Airport Sheremetevo Terminal E Airport Ticket Office DAVS ☎ +7 (495) 9564661
<b>AUSTRIA</b>		<b>HAMBURG</b>		<b>ST. PETERSBURG</b>	
Vienna airBaltic Germany Hauptstrasse 117, D-10827 Berlin ☎ 0820600830 local calls (EUR 0.17/min) res@airbaltic.de	Airport Schwechat Terminal 2 Airport Ticket Office Celebi Ground Handling ☎ +431 700736394	Airport Fuhlsbüttel Terminal 1, Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office AHS ☎ +49 (0) 4050753672		St. Petersburg airBaltic Bolshaya Morskaya Str. 53/8 190000 St. Petersburg ☎ +7 (812) 5700597 F: +7 (812) 5718654 zam@airbaltic.com	International Airport Domodedovo Airport Ticket Office DAVS Ticketing counters no 161; 177 ☎ +7 (495) 2871501, +7 (495) 7871697
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>		<b>MUNICH</b>		<b>KALININGRAD</b>	
Baku Improtex Travel 16 S. Vurgun Str. Baku AZ1000, Azerbaijan ☎ +994 124989239 info@improtex-travel.com booking@improtex-travel.com	Heydar Aliyev International Airport Airport Ticket Office Celebi Ground Handling ☎ +994124972600	Munich Airport Munich Terminal 1 Airport Ticket Office AHS ☎ +49/89 975 92569		Kaliningrad airBaltic Airport Khrabrovo Terminal 2 Airport Ticket Office airBaltic ☎ +7 4012 702 076 ayg@airbaltic.lv	Airport Pulkovo Terminal 2 Airport Ticket Office LTH North-West Transport Agency
<b>BELARUS</b>		<b>GREECE</b>		<b>SPAIN</b>	
Minsk airBaltic Belarus 19 Pobeditelei Ave., 6 ☎ +375 172269043 tat@airbaltic.com	Airport Minsk 2 3rd floor Airport Ticket Office airBaltic ☎ +375 172792568, ☎ +44 77923568	<b>ATHENS</b> Tal Aviation 44 Ilious str 17564 - Pfiailro ☎ +30 210 9341500 F: +30 210 9341620 airbaltic@tal-aviation.gr		Barcelona airBaltic Airport El Prat de Llobregat Terminal 1	
<b>BELGIUM</b>		<b>HUNGARY</b>		<b>SWEDEN</b>	
Brussels Air Agencies Belgium 153 A Vilvoordeaan 1930 Zaventem ☎ +32 (0) 27126427 airbaltic@airagencies.be	Airport Zaventem Departure Hall ☎ +32 (0) 27230667 Airport Ticket Office Avia Partner	<b>BUDAPEST</b> Tensi Aviation Kft. Komjadi Bela utca 1. ☎ +36 1 3451526 F: +36 1 9991466 aviation@tensi.hu		Stockholm airBaltic Stockholm Arlanda Airport Airport Ticket Office airBaltic / Havas International Terminal 5 ☎ +46 (0)8 797 93 23	
<b>DENMARK</b>		<b>ISRAEL</b>		<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	
Copenhagen airBaltic International Terminal 3 Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office SAS	Airport Copenhagen International Terminal 3 Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office SAS	<b>TEL AVIV</b> Caspi Aviation Ltd 1 Ben Yehuda st. Tel-Aviv 63801 ☎ +972 (3) 7962000 F: +972 (3) 5108365 E-Mail: info@caspi-aviation.co.il		Zurich airBaltic Germany Hauptstrasse 117, D-10827 Berlin ☎ 0840600830 local calls res@airbaltic.de	
<b>ESTONIA</b>		<b>ITALY</b>		<b>TAJIKISTAN</b>	
Tallinn airBaltic Estonia 1/3 – 305 Estonia pst. 10143 Tallinn ☎ 17107 (0.51 EUR/min, local calls only) talin@airbaltic.com	Airport Tallinn Main Terminal, Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office airBaltic / Tallinn Airport GH	<b>MILAN</b> Linatè Airport Airport Ticket Office A.R.E. SRL		Dushanbe Global Trans 754013, Lokhuti Str. 16 apt 7 ☎ +992 37 2271055, +992 37 2279444 ☎ +992 42 7800975; +992 42 7800976 (local calls only) F: +992 37 2274887 airbaltic@gmail.com	
<b>FINLAND</b>		<b>KAZAKHSTAN</b>		<b>TURKEY</b>	
Helsinki airBaltic reservations ☎ +358 (0) 600-18 181 (EUR 1.70/min + local costs)	Helsinki-Vantaa Airport Terminal 1 Airport Ticket Office airBaltic / Havas	<b>ALMATY</b> Cross Way Kabanbay Batyr str. 112 ☎ +7-727-2799916 Fax: +7-727-2799919 crossway@aviation.kz		Istanbul Airmark Gumusseyu Is Merkezi No 11/4, TR-34437 Taksim ☎ + 90 212 444 1472 F: + 90 212 245 4486 BReservations@air-mark.com	
Lappeenranta airBaltic reservations ☎ +358 (0) 600-18 181 (EUR 1.70/min + local costs)	Lappeenranta Airport Airport Ticket Office airBaltic ☎ +358 (0) 600-18 181 (EUR 1.70/min + local costs) F: +358 (0) 207 871 805	<b>LATVIA</b>		<b>UKRAINE</b>	
Oulu airBaltic reservations ☎ +358 (0) 600-18 181 (EUR 1.70/min + local costs)	Airport Oulun Lentoasema Airport Ticket Office Airpro OY	<b>RIGA</b> airBaltic Corporation 14 Terbatas Str., Riga ☎ 90001100 (0.37 LVL/min, local calls only) ☎ +371 67006006 (for abroad calls) reservations@airbaltic.lv		Kiev airBaltic Ukraine 52 Bohdana Khmelynshkoho Str. 01030 Kiev ☎ +380 442382649/68 kiev@airbaltic.com	
Rovaniemi airBaltic reservations ☎ +358 (0) 600-18 181 (EUR 1.70/min + local costs)	Rovaniemi Airport Airport Ticket Office Airpro ☎ +358 207107211 / 210	<b>LITHUANIA</b>		<b>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</b>	
Tampere airBaltic reservations ☎ +358 (0) 600-18 181 (EUR 1.70/min + local costs)	Airport Tampere-Pirkkala Airport Ticket Office Airpro OY	<b>VILNIUS</b> airBaltic Corporation 12 A. Vienuoio, Vilnius ☎ 1825 (2.54 LTL/min, local calls only) ☎ +370 70055660 (for abroad calls) vnoreservations@airbaltic.com		Dubai Sharaf Travel Khalid Bin Waid Road, Bur Dubai ☎ +971 4 3976161	
Turku airBaltic reservations ☎ +358 (0) 600-18 181 (EUR 1.70/min + local costs)	Airport Turku Airport Ticket Office Airpro OY	<b>Palanga</b>		<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>	
Vaasa airBaltic reservations ☎ +358 (0) 600-18 181 (EUR 1.70/min + local costs)	Vaasa Airport Airport Ticket Office Airpro OY	Palanga Airport Airport Ticket Office Orlaiuvi Aptarnavimo Agentura ☎ +370 46052300 F: +370 46056401		London airBaltic Airport Gatwick Airport Ticket Office Skybreak Terminal 5	
<b>FRANCE</b>		<b>KAUNAS</b>		<b>USA</b>	
Paris airBaltic Airport Charles de Gaulles Terminal 1 Airport Ticket Office airBaltic/Swissport Roissy Departure Hall	Airport Charles de Gaulles Terminal 1 Airport Ticket Office airBaltic/Swissport Roissy Departure Hall	<b>MOLDOVA</b>		New York airBaltic USA 1 Penn Plaza, Suite 1416 NY 10119 ☎ 877 3592258 ☎ 646 3007727 nyc@aviaworldna.com	
<b>GEORGIA</b>		<b>CHISINAU</b>		Chicago 101 N.Wacker Dr Suite 350 Chicago, IL 60606 ☎ +1 312 269 9333 ☎ +1 - 855 284 2967 F: +1 - 312 269 0222 E-mail: ch@aviaworldna.com	
Tbilisi airBaltic Georgia 72 Paliashvili st. Tbilisi ☎ (+995 32) 15 29 99 / 97 F: (+995 32) 15 29 98	Airport Tbilisi Airport Ticket Office Discovery Ltd ☎ +995 32433155 ☎ +995 32433188	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>		Los Angeles 16250 Ventura Blvd Suite 115 Encino, CA 91436 ☎ +1 818 990 9215 ☎ +1 - 855 284 2967 F: +1 - 818 501 2098 E-mail: la@aviaworldna.com	
<b>GERMANY</b>		<b>AMSTERDAM</b>		<b>HOUSTON</b>	
Berlin airBaltic Germany Hauptstrasse 117, D-10827 Berlin ☎ 0900 124 7225 (EUR 0.69/min German landline – mobile calls may be different) res@airbaltic.de	Airport Berlin-Tegel Main Terminal Airport Ticket Office GlobeGround Berlin Opposite Gate 4/5	Amsterdam Amsterdam Schiphol Airport Air Agencies Holland Ticketdesk Departure Hall 3, opposite checkin 22 ☎ +31 20 3161945 / 46 Fax: +31 20 316 1998		3050 Post Oak Boulevard Suite 1320 Houston, TX 77056, USA ☎ +1 713 626 0134 ☎ +1 - 855 284 2967 F: +1 - 713 626 1303 E-mail: hou@aviaworldna.com	
Düsseldorf airBaltic Airport Düsseldorf Terminal B Airport Ticket Office AHS ☎ +49 (0) 2114216275	Airport Düsseldorf Terminal B Airport Ticket Office AHS ☎ +49 (0) 2114216275	<b>Bergen/Stavanger</b>		<b>UZBEKISTAN</b>	
<b>POLAND</b>		Bergen Airport – Flesland Stavanger Airport Airport Ticket Office Aviator		Tashkent Apex Dolores Network Turkistanstskaya Str. 8 Tashkent 100015 ☎/F: +998 712098980 airbaltic@bcdtravel.uz	
<b>WARSAW</b>		Warsaw Airport Airport Ticket Office BGS			

If there is no local ticket office phone number indicated and you would like to contact airBaltic reservations, please call ☎ +371 67006006; +370 70055660.

# Baltikums Bank – будущее создается сегодня

Baltikums Bank – европейский частный банк, принадлежащий семейному капиталу и традиционно обслуживающий запросы международного бизнеса и частных состоятельных лиц. Обеспечение условий для защиты, сохранности и процветания вашего состояния – наш безусловный приоритет. Узнайте у наших частных банкиров, как мы заботимся о приумножении вашего состояния, гарантируя надежность и качество наших услуг.

## Консультации

- Структурирование состояния
- Услуги по регистрации и управлению международными компаниями
- Создание холдингов, фондов и трастов
- Администрирование офиса предпринимателя
- Налоговые и юридические консультации
- Получение вида на жительство в Латвии – стране ЕС
- Передача состояния по наследству

## Инвестиции

- Разработка стратегий абсолютного дохода
- Брокерские услуги на ключевых мировых площадках
- Индивидуальное доверительное управление активами и частным капиталом
- Оценка и реструктуризация портфелей инвестиций
- Инвестиционные услуги для институциональных клиентов
- Привлечение финансирования для частных компаний
- Привлечение финансовых инвесторов, продажа стратегическим инвесторам

## Банковские услуги

- Индивидуальное банковское обслуживание
- Корпоративно-банковские услуги для средних и крупных предприятий
- Управление частным капиталом (Private Banking & Wealth Management)
- Трастовое банковское обслуживание
- Расчетный сервис и управление счетом через Интернет
- Конвертирование валют по привлекательным ставкам
- Вклады в различных валютах по индивидуальным ставкам
- Платежные карты с возможностью установления кредитного лимита
- Различные виды финансирования

Для частных лиц и предприятий тел.: +371 67 031 409 | +371 67 031 405 | +371 67 031 444

Для институциональных клиентов тел.: +371 67 031 349

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