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"Park Residences" is an exclusive housing estate located in a pine park at the seaside.

The estate consists of 3 buildings, each of which offers a wide choice of 3- and 4-room apartments with grey finishing. Panoramic windows, spacious balconies and terraces will allow to enjoy beautiful views over a rich surrounding landscape.

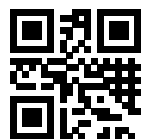
The housing estate has an underground car park, in the territory of which there are also utility rooms for each apartment owner.

Проспект Дзинтару 28, Юрмала, Латвия
Площадь квартир: от 115 м² до 178 м²
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www.park28.lv



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MARTIN ALEXANDER GAUSS
Chief Executive Officer *airBaltic*

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Second, a new and smarter approach to our seat reservation system is designed to optimise your personal space in the cabin. Choose your preferred seat either while booking your ticket, or while checking in, or while deciding your favourite pre-order meal for the flight. You can even secure additional personal space by booking the seat that is next to you (subject to availability).

Third, we are gradually phasing in our brand new *Bombardier CS300* jets

this travel season. These state-of-the-art aircraft will offer more cabin space than before, as the middle seats are wider. The five-abreast seat layout is more convenient and there is additional room for hand luggage. Furthermore, the ceiling is higher than in comparable aircraft for the benefit of taller passengers. These features, combined with more natural light from 30% larger windows, along with better and more quiet engines, will make your flight all the more pleasant.

We hope that these enhancements will further improve our customer satisfaction, which was higher this summer than at any other time in the past three years. We always welcome your suggestions on how we can make your flying experience more enjoyable, be it through the smarter use of state-of-the-art technology or even better service.

Did you know that the first of our all-new *Bombardier CS300* has already been painted in our updated *airBaltic* livery, and will soon land at our home base in Riga?

Yours,
Martin Alexander Gauss





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baltic
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Frank's House

Baltic Outlook is published by SIA Frank's House
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Printed at *Poligrāfijas grupa Mūkusalā*, Latvia, phone
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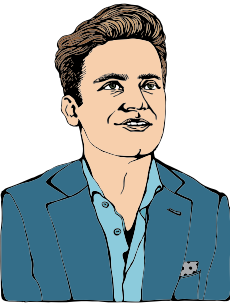
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Want to live better? Do more complicated stuff

I had an interesting exchange of thoughts with my colleagues the other day. One of them suggested that, in order to achieve higher economic growth, Latvia and other relatively small countries should specialise in certain sectors of the economy. They should select the most promising fields of activity like IT, finance or pharmaceuticals and support the ecosystems that these sectors require.

An ecosystem includes education and research as well as innovation-sharing among similar companies. One difficulty with that approach is deciding which sectors to support. Such a decision can hardly be left to those who are active in a particular sector, because everyone will just lobby for their own self-interest – bankers for finance, IT companies for start-ups and drug-producers for pharmaceuticals.

Since investment in education and research largely depends on governments, the latter come out as natural judges on which sectors to support. This is highly problematic, because there are plenty of risks of incompetent or even corrupt decisions being made.

Perhaps the idea of “priority industries” being chosen by governments is wrong in itself. As my other colleague put it, let’s suppose that the government declares pharmaceuticals to be our number-one priority. Does this mean that fashion designers, software engineers, political scientists and airline pilots should return to college and study medicine to embark on a second career in the pharmaceutical industry? That does not seem reasonable, because people have different talents and it is undemocratic to assume that everybody should become a specialist of a particular kind.

If you look at a successful and relatively small country like Sweden, then you will notice some brands of international stature, such as *IKEA*, *Volvo* and *ABBA*. A more detailed look will reveal that the economy of Sweden is not focused on one particular sector, but is in fact a diverse combination of various industries like motor vehicles, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, industrial machines, finance and chemical goods, to name just a few. Small, mid-sized and big companies compete at an international level in each of these industries and produce sophisticated products.

So, let us not assign somebody else to choose the one and only thing to which we should devote our talents. A much better strategy is to do what we do best and try to create more sophisticated products and services. In other words, if you want to live better, then you have to produce more sophisticated things and do more complicated stuff. **BO**

Text by **MĀRTIŅŠ VANAGS**
Illustration by **INGA BRIEDE**

Mārtiņš Vanags has served as an advisor to Latvian ministers of the economy, foreign affairs and culture, and as a consultant to leading Latvian companies. He is the chairman of the executive board of the National Alliance of Real Estate Developers and the managing director of the Skanste Development Agency in Riga. He holds degrees from the University of Latvia and the University of Chicago.



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SPOTLIGHT ON THE LATE AUTUMN

Five things that you should do in Latvia in November

- 1/ Enjoy superb coffee in the cafés of Riga
- 2/ Light a candle on the evening of November 11 and place it by the wall of the Riga Castle by the Daugava River, together with thousands of other people who will be paying tribute to those who fought for Latvia's independence
- 3/ Try a restaurant dish with lamprey
- 4/ Hike along the shores of the Amata River
- 5/ See Elton John perform at the Arena Riga on November 15

ON THIS MONTH'S MENU

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

Beauty Have you ever wondered why people put oats into soap bars? It's because the cereal's flakes help to cleanse, moisturise and keep the skin well-nourished. Latvian organic cosmetics manufacturer *Madara Cosmetics* now offers a botanical soap, shampoo and moisturizing lotion with oats as one of the main ingredients.



Design The glow of rose gold, copper and bronze has been a dominating feature of interior design and decoration for the past several years. An easy way to incorporate these warm metallic colours into your room is with a lamp. We liked the copper lamps by Dutch designer David Derksen. Pair them with dark green and navy shades for a more vibrant look.



Music Over the past decade, Latvian mezzo-soprano Elina Garanča has emerged as one of opera's brightest stars. Her new album, *Revive* under the *Deutsche Grammophon* label, features excerpts from Pietro Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana* (with which Garanča will debut this season at the Opéra National de Paris) and Camille Saint-Saëns's *Henri VIII*. Among the other compositions that reveal the wide range of Garanča's voice are arias from Ruggero Leoncavallo's *La Bohème* and Jules Massenet's *Hérodiade*.



PERFECT HYGGE HOME

As fall turns into winter, there's no better time to start thinking about your home's sense of *hygge*. This Danish concept is gaining a lot of attention, and your home interior can play a big part in achieving it. *Hygge* has no direct translation, but is associated with cosiness, warmth, enjoying simple things and time with friends and family. The idea is to relax, forget about life's worries for a while and just feel good.

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

READING LIST



Fredrik Sjöberg.
The Fly Trap

This Swedish bestseller is about islands, freedom and finding happiness in little things. The story, which could easily fit into the writing genres of travel, natural history, popular science, biography, autobiography and poetry, tells of Sjöberg's decision to start collecting flies on his home island of Runmarö in Sweden.

Lars Mytting.
Norwegian Wood: Chopping, Stacking, and Drying Wood the Scandinavian Way

A practical guide on how to chop, stack and burn wood like the Scandis do, along with reflections about humans' relationship with nature and renewable energy sources. A great reminder of the importance of living life simply and on your own terms. Somehow, in learning about wood, you also learn about life.

INSTAFASHION



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① [instagram.com/dacebahmann](https://www.instagram.com/dacebahmann)



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

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

www.montblanc.com



Text by
DOVYDAS KIAULEIKIS,
LIINA KARO and **ZANE NIKODEMUSA**
Publicity photos

Edīte Pauls-Vignere (1939).
Corrida. 1978. Wool and
linen, mixed technique

NOVEMBER 2016

SCANORAMA FILM FESTIVAL

Forum Cinemas, Vilnius
November 3-13

A collection of gems from some of Europe's main film festivals are shown at *Scanorama*, the main autumnal cinema event in Lithuania. You don't need to travel to Cannes, Berlin and Venice to experience the best of today's cinema. If you choose only one film to watch, then see *Things to Come* (French title: *L'Avenir*) with Isabelle Huppert. The film won a Silver Bear Award in Berlin for best director (Mia Hansen-Løve).

Tickets at forumcinemas.lt
Savānoriq prospektas 7



**Various cinemas in
Riga and elsewhere
From November 1**

The new feature film *Chronicles of Melanie* by Latvian director Viesturs Kairiņš is based on the true story of Melānija Vanaga (1905-1997), a writer who was deported to Siberia together with her son in 1941. The film depicts some of the hardships that Vanaga and many other deportees had to endure during years of forced exile in inhospitable parts of the USSR. Acclaimed Swiss actress Sabine Timoteo is cast as Vanaga, with well-known Latvian actors playing supporting roles.

Tickets at melanijashronika.lv

CARNIVAL YOUTH CONCERT

Palladium concert hall, Riga
November 26

The Latvian indie rock group *Carnival Youth* is one of the most successful new-generation bands from the Baltic region, winning the European Border Breakers award at *Eurosonic 2016*. The sound of the four-member ensemble blends the energy of rock music with catchy melodies. The group's evident talent comes forth both in its CD recordings and dynamic live performances.

Tickets at bilesuserviss.lv
Marijas iela 21

SUITSUPPLY





BRING ME THE HORIZON CONCERT

**Saku Suurhall, Tallinn
November 23**

British rock band *Bring Me the Horizon* has chosen Tallinn as its only stop in the Baltics during its *That's The Spirit* tour. This summer, the band played at many big festivals such as Roskilde, Glastonbury, Hellfest, Pinkpop and Rock Werchter.

Tickets at piletilevi.ee
Paldiski maantee 104B



THE NINE DAY WEEK exhibition by Gabriel Lester Contemporary Art Centre, Vilnius

November 24 – January 15

Gabriel Lester (b. 1972) is an inventor, visual artist and film director from Amsterdam. *The Nine Day Week* is set within a

nocturnal fairground, where Lester and his accomplices govern a night filled with things that appear, disappear and reappear. The exhibition features an assortment of Lester's artworks, films, installations and sculptures.

Tickets at the door
① cac.lt
Vokiečių gatvė 2

CHRISTMAS JAZZ FESTIVAL

**Various locations in Tallinn
and elsewhere**

November 23 – December 8

This year's *Christmas Jazz* festival line-up is quite impressive, with 10-time Grammy Award-winner *Take 6* (USA) being the main act. Other performers include guitarist Wayne Krantz (USA), singer Kristin Asbjørnsen (Norway) and local talents such as Lenna Kuurmaa and Anna Põldvee-Erki Pärnoja. The large variety of top-quality shows will suit different tastes, so pick a concert and let the beautiful jazz vibes soothe your soul and inspire your mind.

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① jazzkaar.ee



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LA GALANIA /baroque ensemble, Spain/, **Raquel Andueza** /soprano/
16/11 at 19:00, Small Guild Hall
Daumants Liepiņš /piano/, **Madara Liepiņa** /violin/
19/11 at 19:00, St. Saviour Anglican Church
Bach Chambermusic Festival Choir - singers from the best Latvian choirs! **Christopher Walsh** /conductor, USA/
24/11 at 19:00, Small Guild Hall
Georgijs Osokins /piano, Latvia/
30/11 at 19:00, Small Guild Hall
MUSICA ANTIQUA ROMA /baroque ensemble, Italy/, **Riccardo Minasi** /violin/
13/12 at 19:00, Small Guild Hall
ARTE DE SOUNATORI /baroque orchestras, Poland/
Aina Kalnciema /harpsichord, Latvia/, **Marcin Świątkiewicz** /harpsichord, Poland/

New Talents



Phoenix rising

Restored Riga Castle treasures

Nearly 700 years have passed since the laying of the Riga Castle's foundation stone in 1330. Following a major fire in 2013, the building was reconstructed at a cost of 36 million euros and has now regained its former splendour. About 250 workers were on site during the reconstruction, while another 60–70 craftsmen completed various assignments in workshops across the country.

The castle is not usually open to the public, as it is the seat of the president of Latvia. Its ornate rooms and halls are where the president usually receives dignitaries, holds receptions and celebrates Latvia's Independence Day on November 18.

During the castle's reconstruction, workers discovered the remains of one of Riga's oldest buildings under the foundations. It dates from the early 13th century, shortly after the founding of Riga. Several contemporary elements have been added to the refurbished castle interior, such as a carpet restored by famous German designer Jan Kath in the Ambassador Accreditation Hall. Measuring 66 square metres, the carpet was originally designed by Latvian artist Ansis Cīrulis, but was lost during the Second World War. Kath had a faithful replica made on the basis of a prewar black-and-white photograph. The massive carpet was woven in one piece on



The massive carpet was woven in one piece on the world's largest loom

the world's largest loom, which is located in Kath's workshop in Nepal.

The restored wall and ceiling paintings in the Accreditation Hall are cultural treasures and also by Ansis Cīrulis, who painted them in 1929.

The reconstruction of the White Hall presented one of the most difficult

Text by **LIENE PĀLĒNA**
Photos by **EDMUNDS BRENCIS**
(Picture Agency)



challenges, as it suffered the most during the castle fire of 2013. Now the opulent room is adorned with approximately 100 grams of gold and 11 antique chandeliers. The hall looks even better now than it did in 1860, when it was built in great haste so that visiting Russian Tsar Alexander II could view it.

Another highlight is the State Festival Hall, which was designed by Latvian architect Eižens Laube and inaugurated in 1938. Various interior elements, including the gold-framed paintings on the ceiling, furniture, wooden details and chandeliers, have been painstakingly restored. From one side of the room, a view unfolds of the courtyard, where one of the two oak trees planted by prewar president Kārlis Ulmanis during the 1930s is still standing. **BO**

This article was written in consultation with archivist Sarmīte Fogle of the Chancery of the President of Latvia.





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Helsinki's new public sauna

The latest architectural hotspot in the Finnish capital is *Löyly*, a multimillion-euro sauna complex with a bar and restaurant designed by *Avanto Architects*.

Text by **ILZE VĪTOLA**
Publicity photos

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Finland's sauna traditions go back many centuries. In a country with bitterly cold winters, the sauna was a place where people could warm their bodies at least for a while, and bathe with hot water. While heated premises and hot water are now standard features in Finnish residences, the Finns continue to see the sauna as a necessity of life. The country is home to 3.3 million saunas and 5.4 million inhabitants, which amounts to an average of one sauna per household.

The opening of a new public sauna in Helsinki will please those who seek an authentic Finnish sauna experience. The edifice cost approximately 6 million euros, and its name – *Löyly* – designates the Finnish word for steam that rises from hot stones when water is poured on them in a sauna.

The new complex was built in the best Finnish design traditions and incorporates three saunas that can accommodate up to 52 bathers. Like other genuine Finnish saunas, these are heated with wood. The facilities also

The new complex was built in the best Finnish design traditions and incorporates three saunas

house an elegant spa area with a cold water basin and fireplace as well as an open-air terrace. For those who fancy an ice-cold dip after heating up their bodies, steps have been built right up to the edge of the sea. When the weather gets really cold, a hole is carved into the sea ice for winter swimming.

The sauna's seaside location offers great views of the Gulf of Finland from a softly minimalist interior, in which the main materials are black concrete, light Scandinavian



birch wood, blackened steel and wool. Incidentally, *Löyly* is the first building in Finland to be certified by the *Forest Stewardship Council*, which attests that the edifice was built with wood sourced from responsibly managed forests.

Although the Finns traditionally go naked to the sauna in segregated groups, at *Löyly* only the shower and changing facilities are separate for men and women. The saunas and other public areas are accessible to both sexes, which is why users are asked to wear swim suits in these parts of the complex.

Following your sauna procedure, you might consider dining upon a tender portion of reindeer meat or freshly caught whitefish at the restaurant on the other side of the building. The restaurant menu boasts a wide selection of organic meals.

Aside from serving as a new place to socialise, *Löyly* is part of the "new Helsinki" on the Hernesaari Peninsula – an industrial district that is experiencing a revival and that is scheduled to be developed over the next few years into a residential and leisure area. **BO**



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

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CitizenM Tower of London

London



Glass Tears (Les Larmes), Man Ray, 1932

Collection Elton John
© Man Ray Trust/ADAGP, Paris and DACS, London 2016

Sir Elton John owns one of the most remarkable and extensive private collections of modernist photographs in the world – more than 2,500 works, which he began collecting during the 1990s. Until this year, this amazing collection could only be enjoyed by visitors to the star's many residences, but the exhibition **The Radical Eye: Modernist Photographs from the Sir Elton John Collection** (Tate Modern, Bankside, November 10 – May 7; tate.org.uk) allows mere mortals who appreciate fine art and fans of the famed singer to view the fruits of his passion for photography. Sir Elton John has called the collection a source of inspiration and one of his greatest treasures. It includes works by great modernist masters of photography, including Man Ray, Alexander Rodchenko and Edward Steichen.

Those who are concerned about what is or is not in good taste should arm themselves with a healthy smile and head for **The Vulgar: Fashion Redefined** at the Barbican Art Gallery (Silk Street, until February 5; barbican.org.uk). Tastes in fashion have been constantly shifting for centuries, and this is manifestly evident in retrospectives like this one. At times, even fashion itself has been accused of being vulgar, with practically every taboo having been broken by now. The London exhibition showcases over 120 outfits and historic costumes, including iconic clothing by Christian Dior, Coco Chanel, Louis Vuitton, Miuccia Prada and Vivienne Westwood.

Finding lodgings with the best views at a friendly price was an impossible dream in London until recently. Times have changed, though – the newly opened **CitizenM Tower of London** (40 Trinity Square; citizenm.com) offers you a chance to savour the lap of luxury whilst surrounded by cutting-edge design objects (think *Vitra*, *Verner Panton*, Charles and Ray Eames, etc.), and you can do this without leaving a gaping hole in your wallet. This is one of the flagship branches of the popular and affordable *CitizenM* Dutch design hotel chain. There are 370 rooms and, depending on the location of your window, you can see one or more landmarks, including the Tower of London, the Shard, the Gherkin and Canary Wharf. The interior by the *Concrete* architectural firm playfully brings together classically British icons such as miniature mailboxes, Union Jack flags and Morris Minor models with contemporary art. The atrium harbours gigantic, kinetic metal flowers by the *Studio Drift* Dutch design duo.

Walter van Beirendonck,
Fall/ Winter
2010/11
Hat by Stephen Jones



Photo by Ronald Sjoops

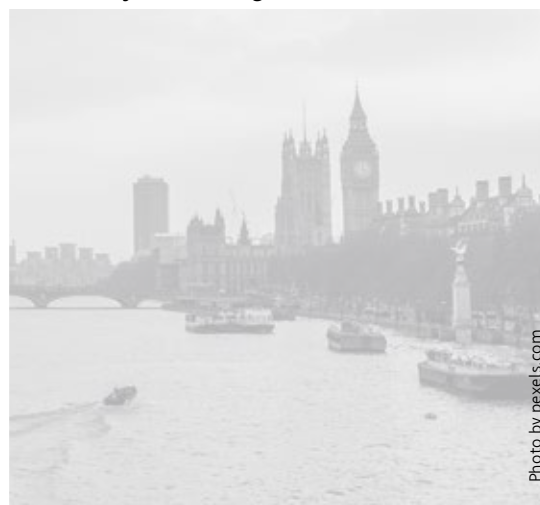


Photo by pexels.com



“The gull sees farthest
who flies highest.”

Richard Bach, *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*



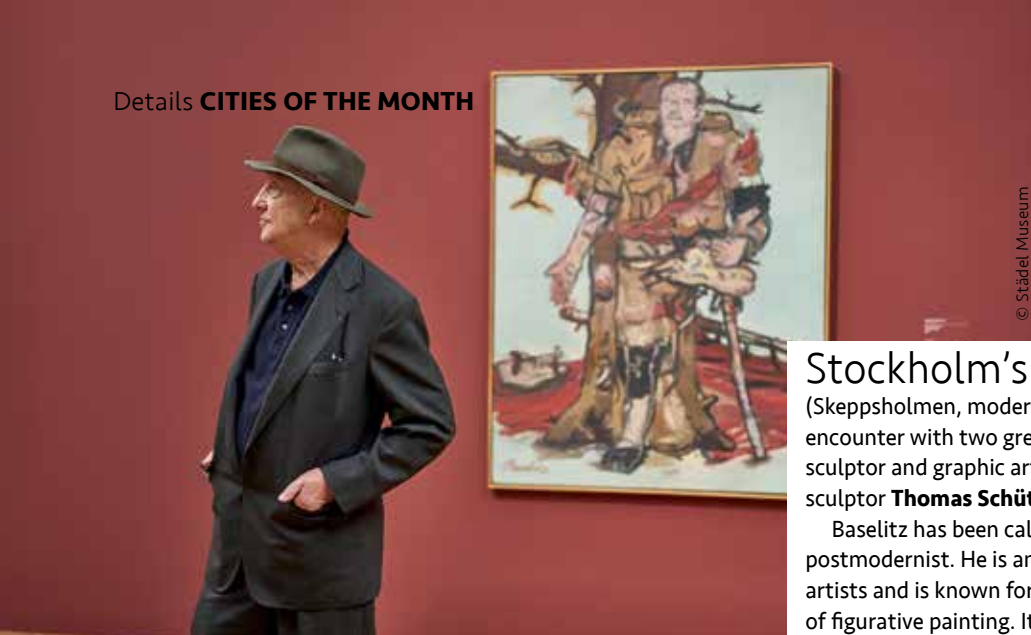
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Stockholm's Moderna Museet, or modern art museum (Skeppsholmen, modernamuseet.se), is offering an autumnal encounter with two great German artists: 78-year-old painter, sculptor and graphic artist **Georg Baselitz** and 62-year-old sculptor **Thomas Schütte**.

Baselitz has been called both a neo-expressionist and a postmodernist. He is among the most admired living contemporary artists and is known for his profound influence on the development of figurative painting. It's impossible to confuse his work with that of any other painter, as the world that he paints is quite literally turned upside down. The exhibition at the Moderna Museet (November 11 – February 19) is devoted to two early series, *Heroes* and *New Types*, painted between 1965 and 1966. They reflect a revised view of the concept of heroism in the aftermath of the Second World War, as well as identity and the then 27-year-old artist's relationship to society.

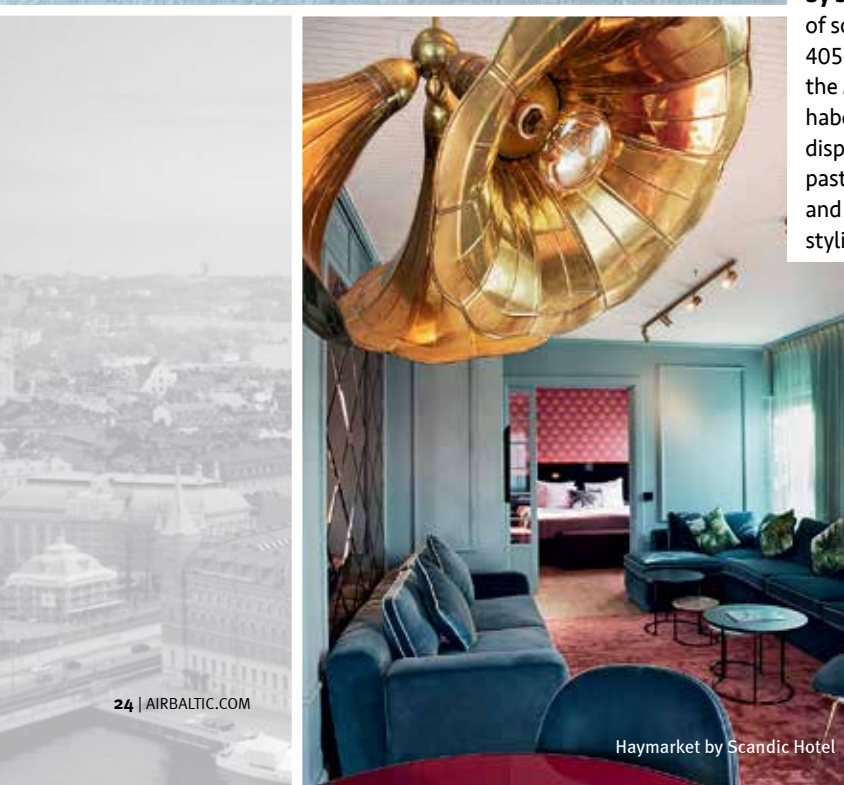
Schütte's art also focuses on today's tumultuous and distorted world. His works often join disturbingly gloomy images with a sense of irony, posing provocative questions but providing no answers. He experiments with scale, transforming doll figures into giants. *United Enemies*, the Schütte retrospective at the Moderna Museet (until January 15), covers the last two decades of the artist's career. One of his gigantic sculptures, the four-metre-high *Valter Staat* (2010), stands at the entrance of the museum, watching over those who have come to see the exhibition. The distant and cold-blooded bronze figure is the artist's meditation on the state, power and personality – on the weaknesses and Achilles' heels of authority figures and their place in history. Schütte's work consists of series; he likes to return and develop certain themes, working with different shapes and materials.

The latest addition to Stockholm's hotel scene is **Haymarket by Scandic Hotel** (Hötorget 13-15, scandichotels.com), a memorial of sorts to Swedish-born Hollywood legend Greta Garbo. The 405-room hotel is located in Hötorget Square, in what was once the *PUB* department store – Garbo once worked in the store's haberdashery department. Designed by *Koncept*, the hotel's interior displays the influence of 1920s Hollywood with Art Deco motifs, pastel tones and geometric designs as well as textiles with palm tree and flamingo prints. The entrance has massive chandeliers and a stylised red carpet, so that anyone can make a Hollywood entrance.

Stockholm



Thomas Schütte, *United Enemies*, 2010



Haymarket by Scandic Hotel

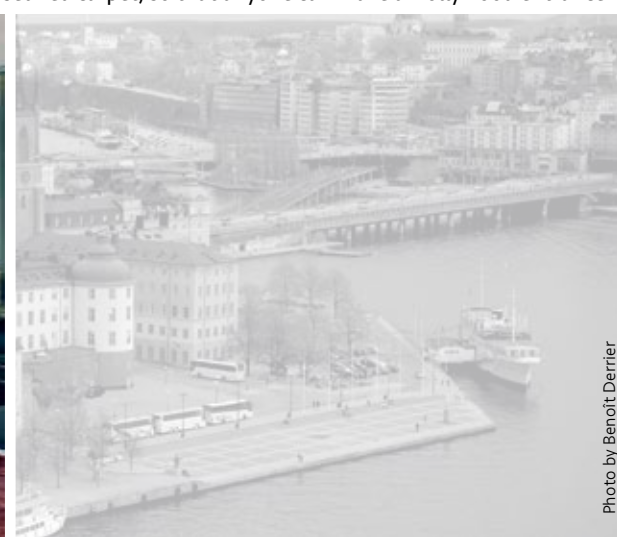


Photo by Benoît Derrier



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Moscow

Garage Museum



Voronezh



Dizengof 99

Proof: Francisco Goya, Sergei Eisenstein, Robert Longo is an unusual exhibition now on view at the Garage Museum of Contemporary Art (Krymsky Val 9/32, until February 5; garagemca.org).

The showing brings together three very different artists – Francisco Goya (1746-1828), Sergei Eisenstein (1898-1948) and Robert Longo (1953) – and outlines their visions of the political, cultural, social and economic turbulence of their time. Goya served the Church and the monarch, while Eisenstein served the state. American artist Robert Longo has seen the art market grow into a veritable behemoth. His works transcend media boundaries, extending from painting and sculpture to film and performance. Longo is also one of the curators of the exhibition and says that he has long been inspired by Goya and Eisenstein. There are 50 Goya aquatints on display, along with 40 Eisenstein sketches that have never before been exhibited, seven Eisenstein films and more than 35 works by Longo himself.

Cultural references also abound at the latest addition to Moscow's fine dining scene, **Dizengof 99** (1-y Goncharnyy pereulok 4c2). The name is borrowed from a 1970s Israeli cult film about the life of three brothers in Tel Aviv. The façade's white rectangles on a black background hearken to the work of the legendary Italian design group *Memphis*, which was founded in Milan by postmodernist star Ettore Sottsass. The interior is inspired by Florentin, the district of Tel Aviv favoured by creative types. Natural light flows in through the large windows, while warm tones of wood contrast with exposed brick and concrete, and the textures of the past intertwine with those of the present. The restaurant menu is printed on A4 paper and features traditional Israeli food, including hummus and falafel.

Those who adore meat dishes should visit the latest restaurant by Paul Rappaport, a star of Moscow's dining scene. **Voronezh** (Ulitsa Prechistenka 4; voronej.com) combines a butcher shop, a café that serves burgers and homemade sausages, and a restaurant with a view of the Christ the Saviour Cathedral. The restaurant offers approximately 30 different variations of steak, and since this is Moscow, you'll dine to the accompaniment of live piano music. The cold-blooded and elegant interior of the café might not be to the taste of some meat eaters – the chairs and salt and pepper shakers are blood-red, while the lamps above the tables hang from massive hooks. The ceiling, for its part, has a stained glass window depicting perfectly carved meat cuts. **BO**



Photo by Alvesgaspar

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**ABETTER
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Location agnostic – the nomadic lifestyle of Latvia’s startup genius



Uldis Leiterts

Text by
CHRISTOPHER WALSH
Photo courtesy of
ULDIS LEITERTS and F64

Tech companies are booming across the Baltics, with startup communities thriving in Riga, Tallinn and Vilnius. Uldis Leiterts is one of the region’s rising stars. He is chairman of the board of *infogr.am*, a popular free app that allows users to create their own charts and infographics. He’s also at the forefront of this month’s Digital Freedom Festival (November 27-29), which aims to unite entrepreneurs, investors and politicians in conversation about startups and other topics.



Since leaving full-time work at *infogr.am*, the Latvian entrepreneur has become what he calls a “digital nomad”. Rather than establishing a permanent residence, he travels regularly and works from anywhere with a reliable Wi-Fi signal. He’s visited 30 countries so far in 2016 and is currently working on a new project in San Francisco. Leiterts calls his company “location agnostic”, as employees can work and report in from anywhere in the world.

Leiterts’ nomadic lifestyle goes against the typical stereotype of a startup founder – someone stuck in an office and hunched over a laptop screen. According to Leiterts, the passion and work ethic associated with startup entrepreneurs is often matched by an equal passion for hobbies and adventure. In his case, that passion is hiking and trekking, and he has climbed mountains all around the world.

Leiterts says that being “location agnostic” hasn’t detracted from the effectiveness of his work and that he is “religious about quality rather than deadlines”. Regardless of whether a task is completed during regular business hours in San Francisco or in the middle of the night

in the mountains of West Asia, Leiterts tries to ensure that the job is done well.

With so much travel involved in his work and leisure, Leiterts spends a lot of time in airports and on airplanes. However, instead of adopting the workaholic tendencies of some regular travellers, Leiterts leaves his job worries at the gate.

“It’s such a luxurious moment to not have internet access, and I enjoy being offline for a little while,” he says.

The upcoming Digital Freedom Festival will be one of the rare events that brings Leiterts back to his home in Riga, Latvia. Leiterts and his colleagues have worked to draw influential politicians and investors to this year’s conference, with previous Estonian president Toomas Hendrik Ilves among the slated participants. As its title implies, the event will focus on issues related to digital freedom, such as how it differs from country to country and how this affects people’s lives. Leiterts hopes that the festival’s discussions will result in meaningful policy changes. And of course, he’s excited to show off his home town.

“Riga is an amazing place for this event. It’s easy to get to, and it’s a really beautiful city.” **BO**

① digitalfreedomfestival.com

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Text by **UNA MEISTERE**
Publicity photos

Vladimir Tatlin, *Nu*, 1913
courtesy of the State
Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow

Exhibition of the century

It would probably not be a great exaggeration to term the current display of paintings at the Fondation Louis Vuitton in Paris as “the exhibition of the century”.

Icons of Modern Art. The Shchukin Collection. Hermitage Museum – Pushkin Museum is showcasing 130 works from the famous art collection of Sergei Shchukin (1854-1936).

This is the first time in nearly 100 years that the paintings from Shchukin’s treasure trove of early 20th-century art are being displayed outside of Russia.

The story of the collection is just as captivating as Europe’s tumultuous history. Born into a family of Russian textile merchants, Shchukin himself became an adept businessman. In accordance with his status as a well-to-do citizen, he began to collect art, revealing himself to be a visionary with outstanding intuition. He purchased his first two paintings (by Camille Pissarro) during a business trip to Paris in 1897. A bit more than a decade later, Shchukin had amassed a collection of 275 Impressionist, Post-Impressionist and Modernist paintings, going down in history as one of the first collectors to appreciate these artistic styles.

Shchukin’s art collection includes 50 paintings by Pablo Picasso, 38 by Henri Matisse, 16 by Paul Gauguin, 13 by Claude Monet, eight by Paul Cézanne, five by Edgar Degas and four by Vincent van Gogh. Shchukin housed these works at his residence in Moscow, the Trubetskoy Palace. In 1908, he took another revolutionary step

and began to display his collection to the public – initially only on Sundays, then three times a week.

Shchukin wished to bequeath his collection to a public institution, but he fled Russia following the outbreak of the October Revolution in 1917. The Bolshevik government expropriated his collection a year later and merged it with that of Shchukin’s friend, Ivan Morozov, to create the first museum of modern art in Moscow. Shchukin spent the rest of his days in Paris and never got to see his collection again.



Shchukin’s cabinet at home – the Picasso Room.
The small room with white walls and a domed
ceiling was crowded with Picasso’s work.

Henri Matisse,
*The Dessert:
Harmony in Red*, 1908



© The Pushkin Museum

During the 1930s, Shchukin’s paintings were divided between the Pushkin Museum in Moscow and the Hermitage in Leningrad. When Germany attacked the Soviet Union in 1941, they were hastily evacuated to the Siberian city of Novosibirsk, where they were kept in boxes for four years, suffering damage as a result. Then, following the end of the Second World War, the paintings were deemed ideologically unacceptable by Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin and placed into storage until 1970, when they gradually began to be exposed to the public once again.

Now, the Fondation Louis Vuitton has assigned its entire exhibition space (2400 m² on four floors) to the Shchukin collection. As was previously the case at the Trubetskoy Palace, separate “rooms” are dedicated to works of various artists, including Gauguin, Matisse and Picasso. One section is devoted to *La Danse* and *La Musique*, two monumental works by Henri Matisse that Schuchkin commissioned in 1909 for the grand staircase of his palace. A video installation about the history of these two paintings has been made by directors Peter Greenaway and Saskia Boddeke. **80**

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JAEGER-LECOULTRE

Details **STYLE**

Text by **DACE VAIVARA**
Photos by **DARIA RATINER**
and from publicity materials

Tel Aviv, the restored
Neve Tsedek quarter

Necklace by
Noritamy,
EUR 275,
noritamy.com

Jacket by *Pioo*
Pioo, EUR 52.58,
shopylina.com

Dress by
Maya Negri,
EUR 141.27,
mayanegri.com

Clutch by
MeDusa,
EUR 102.83,
me-dusa.com

Bag by *MeDusa*,
EUR 129.65,
me-dusa.com

Bracelet by
Noritamy,
EUR 112.50,
noritamy.com

SHOPPING IN TEL AVIV

Comme il Faut

This alternative concept store is a real find for fashionistas, offering designer clothes and accessories for men and women as well as art and design objects and books. Along with collections by *Comme il Faut*, the store carries items by other Israeli and foreign designers. A spa centre for women is also located on the premises. Hangar 26
① comme-il-faut.com

MeDusa

Locals shop at *MeDusa* for urban chic-style purses and clutch bags as well as plastic wallets that have been made in a special technique. The colourful purses with embossed flower patterns are like works

of art in themselves. The brand was founded by Gili Rozin Tamam and Adi Gal, who have studied jewellery making and who create fashion accessories of common materials in an innovative manner. Dizengoff Street 110
① me-dusa.com

Maya Bash

The androgynous unisex clothing collections for women by *Maya Bash* come in natural colour tones, reflecting a refined minimalist aesthetic with clean cuts and no superfluous details. Most of the hand-crafted clothes are made in Tel Aviv with Japanese fabrics, while the knitwear is of natural cotton, linen and merino wool from Lithuania. Barzilay Street 13
① mayabash.com

TEL AVIV

fashion and jewellery

Tel Aviv's inhabitants dress to impress, with a penchant for modern and original clothing. The city offers many wonderful shopping opportunities to suit all tastes, from independent fashion boutiques and authentic open-air markets (such as the flea market in Jaffa or the Carmel Market) to huge shopping malls (such as *Azrieli* and *Dizengoff*).

Tel Aviv is Israel's undisputed fashion capital, which is reflected in the stores that feature clothes by local fashion designers on popular shopping streets like Dizengoff, Allenby, Shenkin and Burgashov. Locals also like to shop at Basel Square, a yuppie and hip place in the northern part of the city, and in the colourful Gan Hahashmal and Naga districts in the south.

The younger generation of local fashion designers has firmly established itself on Tel Aviv's fashion scene, continually creating new items with high artistic value. *Alef Alef*, *Stella* and *Lori*, *Maya Bash*, *Pioo*, *Sister M*, *Tres* and *Naftul* are just some of the clothing brands that have been set up by young and innovative local talents. Original handbags by *MeDusa* and footwear by *Arama* and *Olive Thomas* are also worth purchasing.

Israel is additionally known for the superior craftsmanship of its jewellery makers. The *Israel Diamond Exchange* district is located in Ramat Gan just east of Tel Aviv, while the city itself hosts numerous high-end stores and boutiques that offer jewellery by local designers.

Maya Geller uses traditional artisanal techniques to make refined jewellery from silver, gold, diamonds and other

gemstones. Her works are worn by local celebrities and fashion stars like Cara Delevingne and Alexa Chung. The *Ruby Star* brand by Tel Aviv-based designer Shirley Itzik showcases modern and eclectic jewellery, while *Keren Wolf* specialises in vintage-style jewellery that has been inspired by early 20th-century artistic styles. Among those who have bought her creations are supermodel Bar Refaeli and actress Vanessa Paradis. **BO**

Danit Peleg
Photo by Daria Ratiner

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Maximalist mood

This fall is all about sublime accessories

Style by **ANNA KUSTIKOVA**
Photo by **EDMUNDS BRENCIS**
(Picture Agency)

Sparkly sunglasses by Jimmy Choo, EUR 288, Pasaules Optika
Leather and spotted velvet Berry Lolita ankle boots by SAZ, EUR 390, Madam BonBon
New Vintage bracelet by Kriss, EUR 99, Madam BonBon
Fur scarf by Nastasya Fey, EUR 360, [instagram.com/nastasyafey](https://www.instagram.com/nastasyafey)
Handbag with pattern by iBlues, EUR 125, iBlues

TIPS

Velvet, fur, faux fur and lots of metallics and gold are all trending this fall.

When you are wearing black or neutral colours, accessories in any shade will dress up the most casual outfits.

When you are wearing playful prints, simple accessories are the best option for imparting sensual opulence to your outfit.

Store addresses in Riga:
Pasaules Optika – Raiņa bulvāris 27
Madam BonBon – Alberta iela 1
iBlues – Galleria Riga shopping centre, Dzirnavu iela 67



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The bookshelf that looks like a ship's sail

For years, the *Veliero* bookshelf remained a prototype, with only one of its kind in existence. Nevertheless, it is one of the 20th century's most famous furniture items and is included in most anthologies of furniture from that period. Now a newer version of the bookshelf is being manufactured and sold by *Cassina* of Italy.

Text by
KRISTĪNE BUDŽE, *Pastaiga*
Publicity photo (*Cassina*)



WHAT IS IT?

Veliero means "sailing ship" in Italian, and the bookshelf reminds one of sails and their rigging. Two ash pillars form the bookshelf's V-shaped base, with stainless steel rods and brass fastenings holding the horizontal glass book supports in place. As a result, the books in a *Veliero* bookshelf look like they are floating in mid-air.

WHY IS IT SPECIAL?

Italian architect and designer Franco Albini constructed the *Veliero* in 1940 for his family apartment in Milan. A year later, the bookshelf appeared on the cover of the famous Italian *Domus* magazine. It was praised as an outstanding example of experimental engineering, even though it was never put into production and

the prototype was seen only by visitors to Albini's home. The shelf served the designer's family for 15 years before collapsing when Albini's son Marco turned up the speakers of his stereo system so loud that the bass vibrations shattered the glass in the bookshelf. That incident didn't detract from the bookshelf's reputation, and the *Veliero* continues to be mentioned as a remarkable showpiece of Italian design. It was popularly known as the "phantom shelf" that few had seen, but everybody had heard about.

In 2007, Albini's former apprentice Renzo Piano, one of the architects of the Pompidou Centre in Paris, reconstructed the *Veliero* for a retrospective of Albini's works at the Triennale museum in Milan. However, this exemplar also collapsed after being

loaded with 200 kg of books. *Cassina* then enlisted the help of various engineers to make the bookshelf more stable. The model that's now on sale can take up to 600 kg and is part of the company's *Franco Albini / Maestri* collection.

HOW DOES IT FIT INTO INTERIORS?

In designing the *Veliero* bookshelf, Albini wanted to convey a sense of lightness and transparency, as the shelf was installed to separate the living room from the dining room in his apartment. To make sure that his bookshelf retained a transparent air about it, Albini never stuffed it completely full with books. In modern-day interiors as well, the bookshelf looks best when it is only partially filled. **BO**

① cassina.com

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Text by **ILZE POLE**
Photos courtesy of
ALEKSANDRS GORBUNOVS

This is your captain speaking

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

ALEKSANDRS GORBUNOVS (56),

from Latvia, captain of
Boeing 737 aircraft
Hours flown: 18,000

FAVOURITE BOOK

Definitely *12 Chairs* by Ilf and Petrov. I know it by heart, but I still read it from time to time with great pleasure.

HOW IT ALL **BEGAN**

As a child, I had many opportunities to fly across the Soviet Union and visit my relatives in different parts of the country. I was always impressed by the pilots, who wore splendid blue uniforms, and by the pretty, smiling stewardesses. Since that time, I had a dream of someday becoming part of a team in that fantastic profession.

SNAPSHOT TO SHARE

An amazing view of a valley with a waterfall in Iceland. Reykjavik is one of our newest destinations, which we began flying to this summer.

THREE THINGS THAT I **NEVER** **LEAVE** HOME WITHOUT

Kissing my wife and son for the road, my precise hand watch, and my big duty bag. It has everything that I need to live a few days away from home in case of unforeseen delays, which can happen at any time. One of the inconveniences of a pilot's job is that one cannot plan things in advance.

LAST DESTINATION FLOWN TO AS A PASSENGER

Palma de Mallorca, with the full service and hospitality of *airBaltic*.

FAVOURITE RESTAURANT

I like some restaurants on Jomas iela in Jūrmala, but the best cuisine that I know is a meal cooked by my wife.

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

The sun that is always shining during the day, irrespective of the weather below the aircraft.

BEST THING ABOUT BEING **A PILOT**

Having limitless possibilities to see the world without leaving your workplace.

HOBBIES

I cannot imagine my life without sports. I've played table tennis and volleyball for such a long time that it seems I will never stop. In addition, the *Atletika* gym in Riga has become my second home for the last few years. It helps me to stay fit for flights at all times.

FAVOURITE **RUNWAY**

The one that I have never landed on before.

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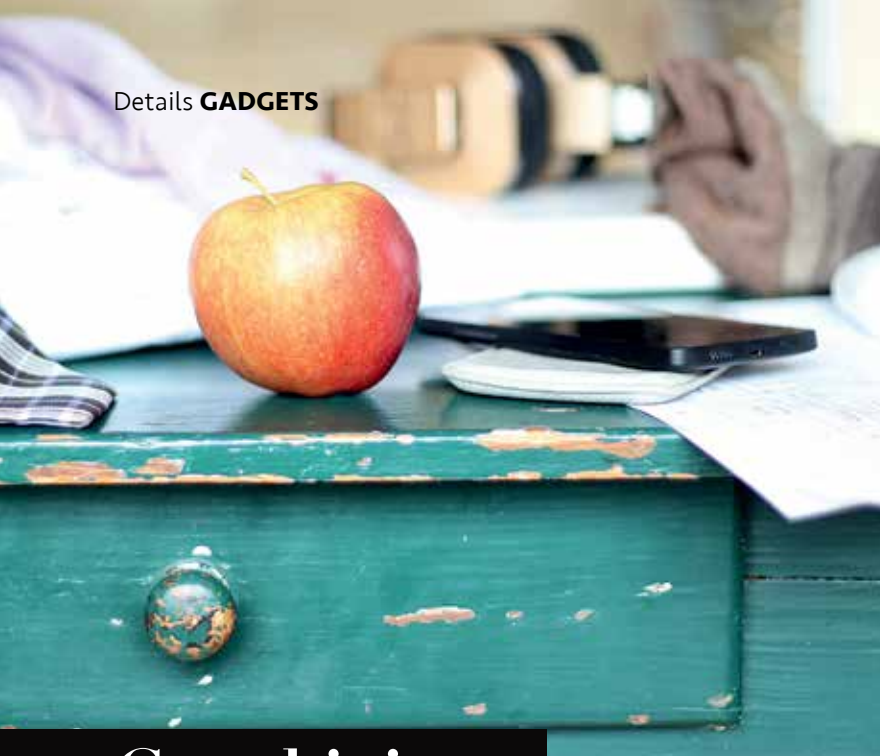
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EUR 97 | ① grovemade.com

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Tailor-made for hardcore runners and athletes, this armband's water- and sweat-resistant material keeps moisture away from your phone. A reflective strip surrounds the edges for high visibility, while a handy pocket on the inside lets you store a credit card or ID. Two different sizes allow a fit to most Android and iPhone models, and the model comes in eight different colours.

EUR 7 | mokodirect.com



RHINOSHIELD GUARD

Breakproof of champions

Barely 2.5 mm thick and weighing only 12 grams, this crash-resistant bumper offers high-impact protection with minimal bulk. Absorbs falls of at least

11.5 feet, although online videos show phones with this case surviving drops of over 20 feet! Fits on most Android and iPhone models. Also available with a front impact screen protector. EUR 22 | ① rhinoshield.io

HARD GRAFT WILD IPHONE CASE

No phoney baloney



This is the case to top all cases. Gorgeous and meticulously designed, the Italian-made leather case is lined with felted wool, with two pockets that fit about

four credit cards. Fits iPhone 7 Plus and 6 Plus only, but other Hard Graft cases suit Android and previous iPhone models. EUR 121 | ① hardgraft.com

Text by **ROGER NORUM**
Publicity photos



CALICASE ULTRA THIN CASE

Thin different

The stylish polypropylene CaliCase is just 0.35 mm thick. Although it won't protect much against a drop, it will prevent scratches and scuffs. Great protection against fingerprints, while the case's subtle texture helps with grip. Comes in three different colours for most Android and iPhone models.

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Butter goes bold

A traditional dairy product is making a comeback among foodies and restaurant chefs

Text by **ANDA KĀRKLIŅA**, *andasstuff.lv*
Photo by *Alamy*

According to one legend, the first batch of butter was accidentally created by a wandering nomad. He hung a sheepskin bag filled with milk on his horse's back, and after riding for a day, he discovered that part of the milk had been transformed into a tasty, fatty substance.

Butter continues to be a staple food for many nomadic people to this day. In Western societies, however, butter was frowned upon for decades by millions of health-conscious people on the advice of dietologists, who recommended using margarine instead. The reasoning went that plant oils, from which margarine is made, are more healthy because they have less "bad" cholesterol than butter, which is an animal product made of milk fat.

Nowadays, however, butter is making a comeback in European homes, as meals prepared with this food have a special taste that is hard to beat. In addition, dietologists are now saying that the saturated fats in natural butter aren't so bad after all, and that it's OK to eat butter in moderation.

Now foodies and restaurant chefs around the world are rushing to make their own tasty butter. This rich dairy product contains between 120 and 150 different notes of flavour – some of which are activated only at high temperatures. That's why butter tastes so good on freshly baked bread and potatoes. For similar reasons, it's worth taking some butter out of the fridge and leaving it at room temperature for several hours before using it, as that will bring out a richer bouquet of flavours.

A premium European-style butter should have a fat content of at least 82%. A butter of this consistency is very filling, and one new trend is to spread it onto a slice of bread like cheese, then sprinkle a dash of salt and thyme on top. This combination goes very well together with champagne, by the way!

A particularly exclusive butter comes from the village of Échiré in western France. It costs two to three times more than other premium butters, and leading world chefs affirm that its delicate and creamy flavour is like no other. Even non-specialists can notice the difference in taste compared to regular butter. **BO**

LEGEND.

JURMALA

Жилой квартал, который стал легендой

В Латвии, в Юрмале, на первой линии моря, в центре «золотой мили» построен жилой квартал, уникальный по своей сути. Один из самых титулованных проектов мира – *LEGEND.* за 2014 год получил награды от *FIABCI*, журнала *SPEAR'S*, конкурса *Luxury Lifestyle*, ассоциации строителей Латвии и приз «Лучшая архитектура в мире» от *International Property Awards*.

Квартал *LEGEND.* – это три многоквартирных жилых дома: *Villa Churchill*, *Villa Hepburn*, *Villa Dietrich*, частная вилла *Villa Hemingway*, клубный дом *Villa Tiffany* и инфраструктура, не имеющая аналогов на юрмальском побережье. Жителям квартала предлагаются детская площадка, ресторан *Philippe* с летней террасой, спа-комплекс *Moon River* с плавательным бассейном, паровой баней, сауной, джакузи, массажными кабинетами, кардиотренажерным залом, залом для занятий йогой и комфортабельный пляж *LEGEND. Beach*.



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

TAL RESIDENCE – дань уважения великому гению, шахматисту, рижанину Михаилу Талю, традициям и истории города Риги. Современная архитектура здания с ее открытостью и прозрачностью позволяет жителям *TAL RESIDENCE* из панорамных окон и с просторных террас наслаждаться изумительными видами на исторические здания квартала. Подземный паркинг, исключительность месторасположения и архитектурных решений – уникальные преимущества проекта.



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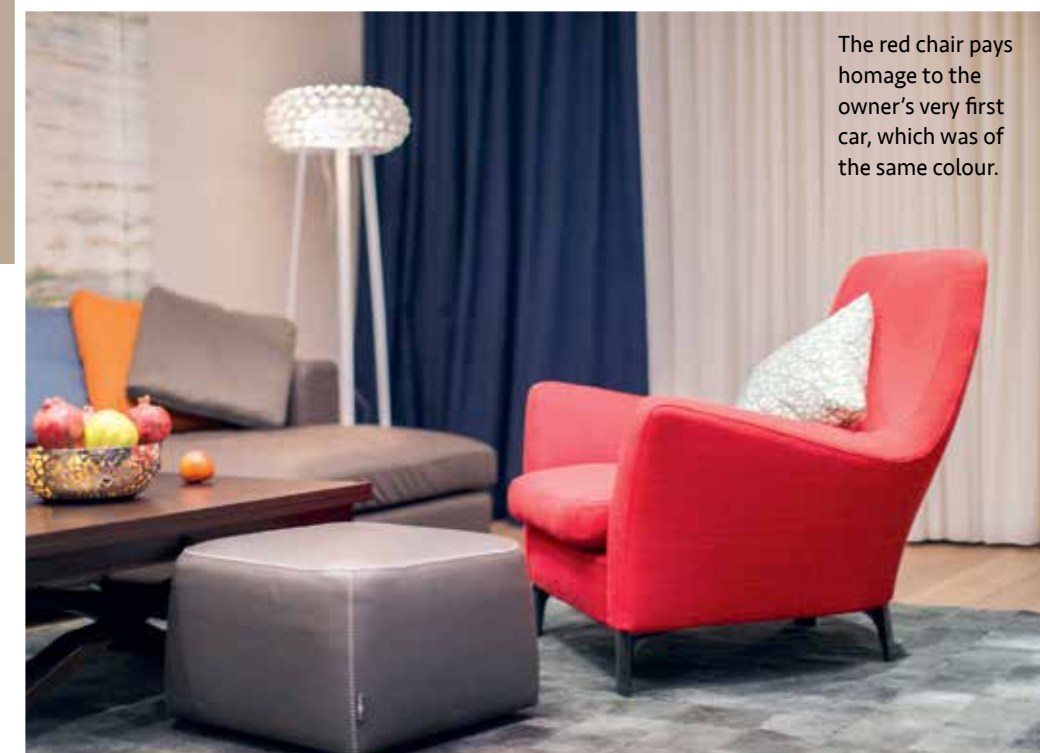
Фотография фасада в Villa Dietrich



Фотография холла в Villa Dietrich



The green wall in the living room came to life as the result of a curious memory of the owner. He owned a green suit when he was around 18 years old and remembers feeling like the branch of a tree whenever he walked around the city while wearing the suit. Thus, aside from serving as a beautiful and calming design element, the wall reminds the owner of his early youth.



The red chair pays homage to the owner's very first car, which was of the same colour.

Baku vibrations

We said “no” to the November blues and found inspiration in a very sunny place. *Baltic Outlook* takes you on a tour of a warm and welcoming apartment in Baku. Let the culture speak for itself!

Text by **AGRA LIEGE**
Publicity photos

Despite being located in a new and modern building in the centre of the Azerbaijani capital, the *Green Suit* apartment is a haven of tradition and culture. The occupant wanted the space to be welcoming and to radiate the hospitality that Azerbaijanis are known for.

The project was a collaboration between Leyla Ibrahimova and Elvin Aliyev, the two partners who run *CHALK Studio*, and their client. The design ideas were largely an amalgamation of the client's wishes. Despite his reserved and business-like demeanour, working in a team with the

studio members helped him to uncover a side that was highly imaginative, resulting in original and daring ideas for the interior.

A number of local design elements were incorporated into the apartment, such as a *shabaka* stained glass window made by Azerbaijani artists, Islamic calligraphy and various other ornaments that relate to Azerbaijani culture and the Eastern world. While the city is becoming increasingly westernised both by way of architecture and lifestyle, residents are finding new artistic ways to preserve their traditional values and heritage.

Business card

CHALK Studio was created in 2012 by Leyla Ibrahimova, who was later joined by Elvin Aliyev. The studio has successfully completed ten architecture and design projects, with a number of them featured in local and international industry publications and online design magazines. Ibrahimova and Aliyev worked on the *Green Suit* project together.



▲ The orange elements in the kitchen convey optimism and positivity and were included on the owner's request.

▼ The master bedroom with its warm and soft colours presents the most noticeable tribute to local traditions. It contains artistic elements of Islamic calligraphy and other ornaments that relate to Azerbaijani culture and the Orient, including the patterns on the bedding, the design of the wallpaper and the gracefully carved shapes of the lamps above the bed. **BO**



▲ The furniture in the small children's room is arranged so that all three kids can sleep and play in the room while still feeling comfortable. In fact, a large amount of storage space (most of it out of sight) has been set up in the apartment, despite the flat's relatively small size.



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Text by **UNA MEISTERE**,
anothertravelguide.com
Publicity photos and
by **AINĀRS ĒRGLIS**

NATURE ENTERS MILAN

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Bosco Verticale by Boeri Studio



Porta Nuova area

The more times I visit Milan, the more I agree with the view that the city is like a magic looking glass. It's a city with countless faces, all very different from each other. But, in order to see them, you have to break away from the luxury *quadrilatero della moda* and other stereotypical aspects of Milan. You have to wander around and be open to new impressions. Milan is one of the few major European cities without a river, lake or seaside beach. Throughout its long and turbulent history, it has fanatically tried to regain its lost relationship with nature, which, as the city has grown and developed, has naturally been pushed outside of its walls. But nature keeps managing to return in the most surprising and innovative ways. After all, Milan has always been a flagship of lifestyle trends.

Well known are the legends of Milan's secret gardens, of green spaces hidden behind the outer walls of its buildings. For example, did you know of the vineyard (at Corso Magenta 65) almost directly across from the famous 15th-century Renaissance-style Santa Maria delle Grazie Church? The church houses Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper* (*Il Cenacolo Vinciano*), one of the world's best known works of art. More than 500 years ago,

Just a 10-15 minute walk from the historic Duomo cathedral in central Milan and the luxury shopping on Via Montenapoleone is the so-called **Silent Quadrilateral**. This area is like a jewel box of Old Milan, a concentration of gems all contained within a small quadrant of streets. The highlight of the neighbourhood is the Villa Necchi Campiglio, a Modernist-style mansion built in the 1930s that once belonged to a wealthy manufacturing family from Lombardy. Nestled in a park, the villa is easy to miss. Only the former gatekeeper's house – now the ticket office – can be seen from the street. A narrow garden path leads past a vegetable garden to the villa itself. The home has been open to the public since 2008, and visits are by guided tour only. The tour is one hour long, and if you're lucky, you may even get a private tour and wander through the villa practically on your own.

the vineyard belonged to da Vinci himself. The Renaissance genius lived in Milan for 25 years and is one of the city's most famous residents.

Supposedly, da Vinci was given the vineyard by Ludovico Sforza, the Duke of Milan, in 1498 as payment for the above-mentioned fresco, which took the artist two years to complete (1495–1497). The duke and da Vinci were both approximately 30 years old when Sforza commissioned *The Last Supper*. The rectangular vineyard is relatively small, 175 metres long by 60 metres wide, and holds 16 rows of grapes. We do not know how meticulous a gardener da Vinci was, but it is said that he visited the vineyard every evening after finishing his work on the famous fresco. Considering the fact that he was born in Tuscany (and, according to some sources, into a family of wine makers), there's no reason to doubt that the vineyard meant a lot to him. As he wrote himself, "I believe great happiness awaits those who have been born where one can find good wine."

Rumour has it that Sforza commissioned *The Last Supper* because he hoped that the church would eventually become his own mausoleum. But Sforza's plan fell apart when the French army invaded Milan and arrested him. Da Vinci was also forced to leave the city at that time. The father of Gian Giacomo Caprotti (also known as Salai), da



Duomo Cathedral



Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II



Carlo e Camilla restaurant

Vinci's former student, took over care of the artist's vineyard, but the French soon confiscated it. As the result of various diplomatic twists and turns, da Vinci was able to regain his vineyard in 1507. In 1519, shortly before his death, he bequeathed one half of it to Salai and the other half to his loyal servant, Giovanbattista Villani. Five years later, Salai was killed in a duel near the vineyard, but no one knows the reason for the conflict. After that, the vineyard changed hands countless times, being sold, gifted and eventually forgotten, along with the Casa degli Atellani, the aristocratic residence adjoining it.

The edifice was originally built for the Atellani family, which was known for its skilled diplomats and courtiers to the Sforza family. It is said that the duke's second unfulfilled dream was to create a neighbourhood around the church in which all of his closest friends and colleagues would live. However, not many of the duke's associates, aside from the Atellani family, succeeded in settling there. The family lived in the Casa degli Atellani until the 17th century, after which time the home passed several times from one owner to another.

Finally, in 1919, it came under the management of industrialist Ettore Conti, whose son-in-law was Piero Portaluppi, Milan's most famous architect. On Conti's request, Portaluppi restored the building, bringing the old frescoes and many other ancient artefacts back to life, while supplementing them with historical replicas that he skilfully made himself. This mix of genuine and reproduced items was later named one of the architect's masterpieces. However, the fate of the property continued to be unstable. Da Vinci's vineyard, or, rather, what was left of it,

was destroyed by fire in 1920. Subsequent bombing during the Second World War destroyed any remains of the vineyard.

As time went on, da Vinci's vineyard became a distant memory. Then, in 2014, archaeologists miraculously found fragments of grapevine roots, which permitted them to determine the original layout of the garden. After many scientific tests, they also identified the variety of grape grown there – the Malvasia di Candia Aromatica. New vines were

I always like to take a walk over to Via dei Cappuccini 9, where in the courtyard of an old villa one can see pink amingos walking around undisturbed

planted, and time will tell whether the harvest is eventually used to make wine. But the vineyard and the Casa degli Atellani, which boasts a series of frescoes depicting the signs of the Zodiac, is open to the public via guided tours. Those who yearn for an even more authentic feel and wish to be transported back to Leonardo's day can stay at one of four apartments that the museum rents out, experiencing an extraordinary backdrop for their visit to the city.

In my search for Milan's "Wonderland" on the other side of the looking glass, I always like to take a walk over to Via dei Cappuccini 9, where in the courtyard of an old villa one can see pink flamingos walking around undisturbed. And not just



Erba Brusca restaurant



Garden of the Erba Brusca restaurant



Fiorato Bianchi Caffè



Potapoff restaurant

one or two birds, but a whole flock of them. One coy flamingo holds its head under its wing, while another steps into a pool of water, completely ignoring the passers-by watching the birds through the fence. The courtyard and building are private property and not open to the public (although sometimes the guard may allow a quick peek inside), but the owners have been nice enough to cut large keyhole-shaped gaps into the green shrubbery so that others may share in the joyous sight.

A vertical forest and a restaurant in a florist's shop

Exactly two years ago, in October of 2014, Milan's urban fabric was enhanced by a surreal project that literally brought a forest into the city. In the run-up to Expo 2015, the world's first vertical forest was unveiled in the Porta Nuova district, the city's centre of new architecture. On the balconies of two skyscrapers (80 and 112 metres tall, designed by Italian architect Stefano Boeri), more than 900 trees are growing – as many as in an average hectare of forest – along with about 5,000 bushes and 11,000 flowering plants growing amongst the trees. The forest has expanded during the past two years, making the buildings look like strange, green pillars. However, unless one has friends living in the towers, one can only look at them from afar,

Located in a former grain house, or silo, **Armani/Silos** (Via Bergognone 40, armanisilos.com) is a grandiose temple of fashion opened by legendary Italian designer Giorgio Armani. Built in the 1950s, the four-storey building has 4500 m2 of space. Visually, the structure looks a bit like a bee hive, its shapes highlighted by a zig-zag line of windows along the top. With grey concrete floors, black ceilings and visible "seam-like" wiring, the windows are almost the only decorative element on this otherwise laconically styled project. The permanent exhibition houses a unique selection of the fashion designer's creations from the 1980s until today.

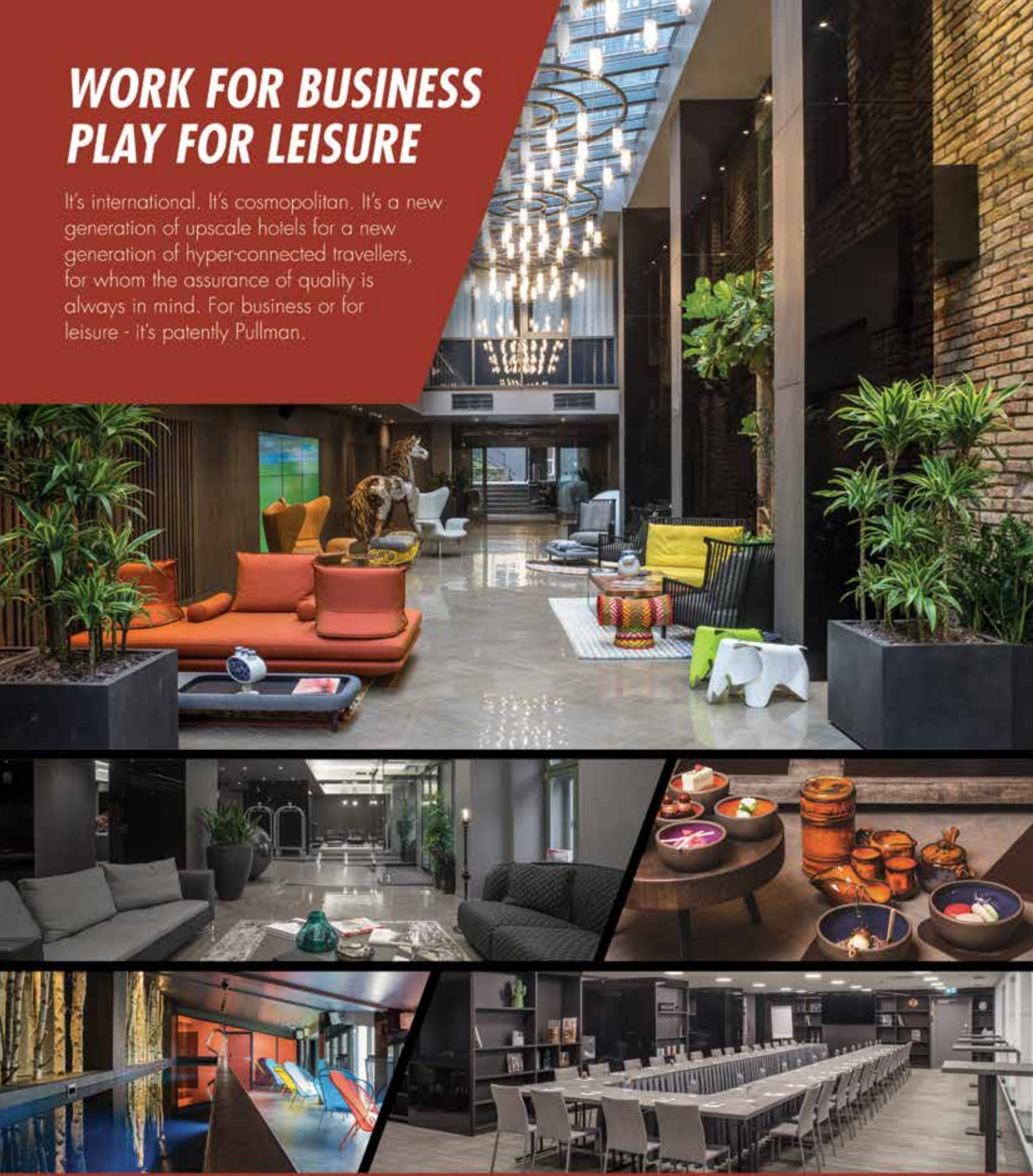
In the Brera district, near the famous Academy of Fine Arts of Brera (Accademia di Belle Arti di Brera), Lucio Fontana's alma mater, one will find the legendary **Cesare Crespi** (Via Brera 28/A), a shop adored by generations of artists.

head tilted upwards, and wonder what it's like to live in a "vertical forest". For example, does this unusual microcosm also include such typical sylvan inhabitants as birds, butterflies and insects? As the design team has said in interviews, the forested towers form a part of the city's lungs, absorbing dust and thereby decreasing pollution. In any case, they must definitely provide their residents a welcome respite from the hot Italian sun in summer and a sense of comfort and hominess in winter. Several more "vertical forests" are planned for Milan. These will form a green corridor and oxygen-rich network that will "lock together" with existing parks and gardens at ground level.

The tearing down of city/countryside boundaries created by urbanisation is also evident in the gastronomy scene. Restaurants are opening up in greenhouses, palm houses and similar places across Europe, and chefs are masterfully manipulating with the ingredients grown on site. The erstwhile flagship of this trend in Milan, *Erba Brusca* (meaning "sharp grass" in Italian), has since become a favourite destination for gourmets. Located in the canal district of southern Milan, about a 20-minute drive from the city centre, the restaurant allows diners to catapult themselves out of the commotion of the city and into the countryside to enjoy a meal made of ingredients grown in the garden beds right next to them.

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The herbs and vegetables at *Erba Brusca* are all grown on site, while everything else on the menu comes from nearby farms. The menu changes with the seasons, and the atmosphere in the small restaurant feels like the country home of a young, creative family. When the weather is warm, tables are set up outside on the terrace across from the garden. After your meal, you can enjoy a leisurely glass of wine on the colourful chairs set up among the garden beds. In cooler weather, everything moves inside, where the bounty of summer has been skilfully preserved and finds its way onto the table. Even though *Erba Brusca*’s main focus is freshness and simplicity, it is also very creative and gambles on some unusual flavour experiments now and then. In any case, even well-seasoned gourmets will find pleasant surprises there.

Rosalba Piccinni, for her part, has turned the above-mentioned culinary trend into an experience for all senses. A jazz singer and florist with fiery red hair, Piccinni has set up a restaurant in a florist’s shop. *Potafiori* opened last year, and since then, no seat has been available without a reservation. If you do manage to get a table, then you’ll hear only Italian spoken by the staff, because Piccinni speaks almost no English. But that’s nothing to worry about, as her charisma knows no bounds and every guest is welcomed like a best friend.

The tables are arranged between the flower pots and extravagant floral arrangements, where everything blooms, grows and imparts a beautiful fragrance even between the plates on the tables. the The waitstaff are dressed as one would expect in the metropolis of fashion, dirty dishes are bussed stylishly in metal garden buckets, and Piccinni’s bicycle rests against the wall amidst it all. Jazz plays in the background, and, as the evening heats up,

It’s filled to the gills with paints, papers, pencils, canvases and other art supplies. The store opened in 1880 and has been in the same family for four generations. Some of the best artists have bought supplies here, and *Cesare Crespi* stocks only the best. The owner has a story to tell about many of the items on sale, from the paints to the pencils.

The location of the **Giacomo Arengario** (Piazza del Duome 14) restaurant is remarkable in itself – in the Museo del Novecento, which opened its doors in 2010. The space was designed by architects Italo Rota and Fabio Fornasari, who spent three years transforming the Mussolini-era Palazzo dell’Arengario into a place that provides an enchanting voyage through time and space, not to mention through 20th-century art. The restaurant is on the museum’s third floor, and the view beyond the windows has no equal in Milan. The whole Piazza del Duomo is at your feet, with the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II opposite, and the great cathedral’s silhouette a bit further beyond.

one part of the space becomes an improvised stage for the most intriguing jam session in all of Milan. Emotions run high, and Piccinni’s voice brings the feeling of umami to true catharsis.

But *Potafiori* is not the only restaurant in Milan to be situated in a florist’s shop. Not far from the Piazza San Marco, in the bohemian Brera district, is a small florist’s shop with a dining room the size of a postage stamp – the *Fioraio Bianchi Caffè*. Although the floral arrangements and design are more humble, all of the tables are reserved for lunch well ahead of time. And it’s no surprise, because the gastronomic flower arrangements on your plate will be full of clean, fresh flavours (after all, the San Marco farmers’ market is right next door) and served in unusual combinations. The cuisine has a definite French note combined with a dose of the Mediterranean. The florist’s shop opened 40 years ago, and its owner, florist Raimondo Bianchi, has spent his life creating floral arrangements and experimenting with various uncommon compositions. The idea of starting a café began as such things often do – one evening while enjoying wine with friends. The menu at *Fioraio Bianchi Caffè* changes as often as the flowers in the vases and is distinctly seasonal in nature.

A hotel as a nod to the history of design

A feel for design is in Milan’s genes. After all, the city is Europe’s design capital. And a brilliant nod to its history of design can be found at the *Room Mate Giulia* hotel, the newest addition to the Spanish *Room Mate Hotels* network in Milan. Located in a former bank just around the corner from the Duomo di Milano (Milan Cathedral), the hotel’s



interior was designed by Spanish-born, Milan-based designer Patricia Urquiola, who is also the current art director of the iconic Milan design brand *Cassina*.

Cassina is a definite “Made in Italy” symbol, and next year the company – founded by the brothers Cesare and Umberto Cassina in 1927 and boasting a list of designers that includes Le Corbusier, Gio Ponti, Piero Lissoni, Philippe Starck, Konstantin Grcic and others – will celebrate its 90th birthday. *Room Mate Giulia*, for its part, acts as a sort of cheerleader for *Cassina*. The hotel has 85 rooms that offer guests a journey through time, featuring elements from more than half a century of Milan’s design and history, from the 1950s to today, with each period illustrated by the icons of its day.

Some of the furniture was created especially for the hotel and made under the guidance of *Cassina*, with each detail reflecting a different aspect of Milan. The pink of the hotel’s stone walls is the same tone as that of the marble used for the Duomo, while the chequered floor tiles bring to mind Milan’s old cafés, and the grid motif on the ceilings and elsewhere reflects the city’s industrial past. The hotel’s interior features all of the city’s colours and a joyfully ironic combination of the new and the old, the classic and the avant-garde. Each room is different and feels more like a private apartment than a traditional hotel. In addition, despite *Room*

Mate Giulia’s democratic and affordable character, it offers a luxury you’ll find nowhere else in the city – a penthouse with a terrace that overlooks the glass dome of the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II.

However, the most exclusive spot to view Milan’s panorama is currently the 39th-floor terrace of the Palazzo Lombardia. The 161.3-metre-tall skyscraper, which opened in 2010 and won the 2012 International Architecture Award for best new global design, is the seat of Lombardy’s government. The terrace is only open to the public from 10:00 to 18:00 on Sundays, but the wait is worth it. From the top, it seems as if all of the Porta Nuova skyscrapers, including Bosco Verticale’s green balconies, are just an arm’s length away. And, if it’s a very clear and sunny day, you’ll even see the snowy summits of the Alps in the distance.

Symbiosis of art and nature on the outskirts of Milan

For those who yearn to extend the combination of nature and other aesthetic enjoyments for a while longer, the town of Varese lies a half-hour’s ride from Malpensa Airport (36 km) and about an hour from central Milan. There you’ll find one of the most beautiful villas in the area, the 18th-century Baroque-style Villa Menafoglio Litta Panza. For many years, it was the family home of Giuseppe Panza (1923–2010), a legendary Italian art





GALLERY

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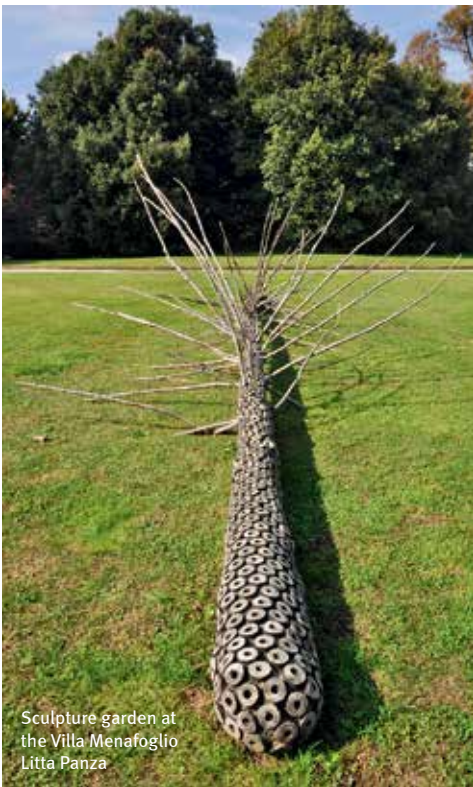


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collector. The villa is located at the top of a hill, and an idyllic, secluded panorama opens from practically every corner of the building and its large English-style garden.

Panza lived in the villa for almost 60 years and called it his monument to a happy marriage. All of his five children grew up there. The site served as a stage for the small joys and worries of daily life as well as a home for his greatest passion in life – art – which Panza began collecting in 1956. With more than 2,500 works of art, his collection rivalled those of many well-known museums. Panza had a particular love for American art and collected works by artists who were young and still unknown, which surprised and puzzled many of his associates. Today, however, the names of these artists need no additional comment: Richard Long, Donald Judd, Dan Flavin, Mark Rothko, Richard Serra, Sol LeWitt and others. Many art historians still wonder how one person could have been so blessed with such an exquisite intuition and feel for art trends.

With more than 2,500 works of art, Panza’s collection rivalled those of many well-known museums



Sculpture garden at the Villa Menafoglio Litta Panza



Villa Menafoglio Litta Panza

Much of the artwork in Panza’s collection was made especially for the villa. His obsession was so great that over the years he and his family moved to ever smaller quarters, leaving more and more space for art and only art. Towards the end of his life, Panza wished to give his impressive collection to the Italian state, but this did not happen. Currently, a part of it (650 works of art) can be found in New York’s Guggenheim Museum, while another part is at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles. A third part remains at the Panza residence. Both the villa and the art within it have been bequeathed to the FAI (Italian National Trust), an organisation that safeguards Italy’s art and cultural heritage.

The permanent exposition, consisting of more than 150 works of art, is located in the villa proper as well as its former stables, outbuildings and garden. Armed with maps of the grounds, visitors begin their tour in the private apartment where the Panza family once lived. Old 15th- and 19th-century furniture coexists with conceptual art from the 1980s and 1990s in the ornate Baroque interior. You’ll enter the yellow, pink, green, fireplace and billiards rooms, while one of the most impressive rooms of all is the Empire-style dining room created in 1829–1830 on the orders of Duke Pompeo Litta Visconti, the owner of the villa at the time, who wanted an appropriate space to entertain Italy’s political elite. The room exudes a

genuine feeling of imperial splendour, especially if you’re lucky enough to be there all alone, the curtains blowing in the wind, conjuring images from the past and creating magical games of light and shadow. Its decorative ceiling frescos are a masterpiece, as is the marble floor, which is made of many pieces in various colours. Everything in the room, including the monumental crystal chandeliers, was made especially for the space, and only two monochromatic works of art by David Simpson represent the 20th century.

Panza began using the former servants’ house and stables for displaying art in the late 1960s. The old stables were already empty by then, and their walls were painted white and given over to artists. In fact, one of the world’s largest permanent collections of American artist Dan Flavin’s (1933–1996) fluorescent light installations can be seen there. The lighting and the mood change as you wander from one room to the next. Flavin was one of the first artists to work with light, highlighting and revealing its mystery, which had already been scientifically explained but which remains an almost metaphysical phenomenon to this day. Light as a secret, an enigma, an experience, a delight, a form of therapy – Flavin’s installations draw out the whole gamut of emotions. One of the rooms is full of desperately screaming red light; the artist dedicated it to his brother, who died in the Vietnam War.

The more time you spend at the Villa Menafoglio Litta Panza, the more you’ll find that it’s not really a building – it’s a poem. A poem written in the language of architecture, art and nature. And, as is often the case with good literature, it must be enjoyed at leisure. Best therefore to plan at least half a day for a visit to the villa. To balance the intense impressions, stay for lunch at the great restaurant on the villa’s grounds.



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Paola Mirai is a 21st-century alchemist of jewellery. In the search for a new ideal of beauty, the Italian jewellery designer has even created her own material, Orotrasparente, which is so light and transparent that one could almost compare it to air and water. Mirai's studio is located in Milan, and she gladly shared her secrets of the city with *Baltic Outlook*.

What do you like most about living in Milan?

I like the fact that you can find everything that could interest you; every kind of activity, from those of the past up to the present and the future. Do you need an old barber shop? You can find one in most of the city's districts. You'll find shoemakers and old haberdashery shops, but there are also places (from universities to startups) that create trends and anticipate the future, in technology as well as in fashion. They are deeply Italian and strongly international at the same time.

What should one definitely do to capture the atmosphere of Milan in all of its diversity?

It depends on the sensitivity of the beholder. My advice is to walk around. Slip through the streets into courtyards and beautiful hidden gardens, where you can find the most secret soul of this metropolis.

What is your favourite neighbourhood in Milan and why?

The Darsena (ancient dock) area, where I have my own workshop, is certainly a symbolic place in Milan – the Milan as it once was, full of a hard-working spirit – the true Milan that has a *cor in man* (literally, “heart in hand”). I also like the Piazza Gae Aulenti and the recent things that have sprouted up all around it, the symbols of contemporary Milan. And finally, I like the Brera Academy of Fine Arts, its art gallery and its beautiful botanical gardens.

People born in Italy sometimes say that there is no such nationality as Italians. There are Romans, Milanese, Venetians and so on. Do you agree, and how do you characterise the true, native Milanese?

It's true! I'm from Bologna, but I've been living here for 30 years. From my personal experience, I can confirm that each region has some unique

characteristics, in food, in the dialects, in the pace of work and also in the way in which you establish interpersonal relationships. Then there is the Italian – a kaleidoscope that shows different images, but with the same origin. After all, our diversity is often our strong point.

A real Milanese, in my experience, is a private person who passes unnoticed, has a certain sophistication and still speaks the Milanese dialect. But there are few real Milanese left – natives who have lived here for several generations. This is because since the war, in the years of the economic boom, Milan was an internal migration destination, with very many people moving here, mainly from southern Italy.

Could you name five of your favourite restaurants in Milan? And why are they your favourites?

Il Luogo di Aimo e Nadia, a historical restaurant of the highest level, where each meal is memorable.

L'Antica Trattoria della Pesa, an expression of the great Lombard culinary tradition, in the heart of the Garibaldi district, a stone's throw from the nightlife of Corso Como. It's a refined place, but at the same time, it's linked to the rural traditions of the city.

Giacomo Arengario, with a wonderful view of the Duomo.

And then there is the beautiful *Bar Magenta*, an Art Nouveau pub. If you go there, take a trip also to the historical *Libreria dello Spettacolo* (Performing Arts Bookshop).

And for a pizza, I would recommend *L'Altra Taverna*, because its makes one of the best pizzas in Milan.

Where would you recommend staying in Milan?

The Porta Romana neighbourhood, where the range of local restaurants is increasingly varied and interesting. You can make a trip to the Terme Porta Romana or go to the Teatro Franco Parenti, which reopened this year next to a swimming resort dating from the 1930s. Of course, the Navigli area is good for its nightlife, while the historic Brera district is elegant, esoteric and dreamlike.

What is the biggest stereotype about Milan, and it is true?

Milan is said to be a city of great employees who create, organise and engage 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It was not by chance that Claes Oldenburg, the Swedish sculptor, created *Ago, Filo, Nodo* (Needle, Thread and Knot) in Piazza Cadorna as a tribute to Milanese industriousness.

What is your favourite place for a panoramic view of Milan?

The Torre Branca (Branca Tower) – 110 meters above Sempione Park and just a few steps from the Milan Triennale, the Italian institution for design. And, of course, the roof of the Duomo.

If you could cast Milan in jewellery, how do you imagine it would look?

Thinking at the “urban level” and starting from the Duomo, Milan has three circular rings that surround the centre of the city. To me, this is like a great mandala. Maybe I'd cast a pin. **BO**

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Text by **ILMĀRS LĪKUMS**
Publicity photos

CHAMPION RACER

Last month, *Baltic Outlook* met up with French motorsports legend Sébastien Loeb on the day before the Latvian round of the FIA World Rallycross Championship (World RX) in Riga. Loeb went on to win that competition, in his first victory of the driving season.

As I stand at the starting line of the Bīķernieki Sports Complex in Riga, thoughts are speeding through my head like race cars. I feel proud that several Latvians are making names for themselves in the world of motorsports. Reinis Nitišs and Jānis Baumanis are competing in the highest league of the World Rallycross Championship, while Baumanis' younger brother Artis finished 5th in his debut at the European Rallycross Championship this year.

Latvia's fastest rally racers, Ralfs Sirmācis and Artūrs Šimins, brought home bronze medals during their first season in the highest echelon of the European Rally Championship.

Haralds Šlegelmilhs has shown good results in the Lamborghini Blancpain Super Trofeo PRO-AM series.

This year, Edgars Menģelis won the European Quadricycle Championship for the second year in a row, while KTM team rider Pauls Jonass is ranked 5th in the MX2 Motocross World Championship, despite experiencing several falls and injuries.

And that is not all! Raimonds Strokšs and his team, which organised the Latvian race at this year's European Rally Championship, have obtained the right to organise the Latvian round of the World Rallycross Championship for the next three years.

The Bīķernieki Sports Complex, where my interview with Loeb is about to take place, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Less than a half-hour from the Riga city centre, it faced an uncertain future just a few years ago. Now it is the location of one of the newest and best rallycross tracks in the world.

(If your head has started to spin from all of this information, I haven't veered off the subject of this article, believe me!)

It's hard for me to grasp that a world championship race is due to take place here the following day, with the participation of World Rally Champion and two-time Rallycross Champion Petter Solberg, two-time DTM Champion Mattias Ekström and *YouTube* star Ken Block, to name just a few.

However, the most illustrious participant of them all is Sébastien Loeb, one of the best race car drivers of the 21st century and perhaps of all time.

He was the World Rally Champion (WRC) nine times in a row and holds several other World Rally Championship records, including most wins, most podium finishes and most points. Loeb holds the world record time for the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb, finished 2nd at the 24 Hours of LeMans in 2006 and 9th at the Dakar Rally earlier this year. And these are just a few of his accomplishments.

Now, I will be meeting with him in person in just a few minutes. I arrive at the Team Peugeot-Hansen hospitality tent a bit early, but Loeb walks in right at the time that we have agreed to. He slides past the snacks table and seems to be a bit uneasy.

The race car driver is of medium height, and I can see that he still bears the graceful poise of a gymnast (his previous profession). He nervously checks his cellular phone a few times and I detect a sense of reluctance in his body language. Will our interview take place at all? Yes, it will. Loeb's PR management gives us 15 minutes. Our conversation can begin. What should I ask someone who has already given thousands of interviews?



I’d like to start our interview with the following question: How would you describe the current phase of your career? You don’t plan on retiring from sports, but your situation has changed from the time when you started your first World Rally Championship season, which was more than ten years ago.

Yes, the situation definitely is different. I’ve always wanted to try something new and that’s always been my main motivation. I stopped participating in rally championships because I wanted to try my hand at other disciplines. Right now, I’m enjoying rallycross racing very much. Although the most significant part of my career may have been in rally racing, the popularity of rallycross is growing and the Dakar rally raid is also drawing more attention than before.

You won nine World Rally Championships in a row. Looking back on that accomplishment, what does it mean to you now?

I’m definitely very proud of it. I’m happy to have done things that I could never have dreamed about as a child. Yet I don’t think about my victories every day when I wake up. I lead a normal life and try to enjoy it to the fullest. I’m proud of my achievements, but I am looking at the future – not at the past.

Although you are no longer participating in the World Rally Championship, you are continuing to race actively in other disciplines such as the rallycross. Have you ever thought of where you place alongside other motorsports legends like Ari Vatanen, Walter Röhrl, Marcus Grönholm, Carlos Sainz and your French compatriots – namely, Alain Prost, Didier Auriol and Michèle Mouton?

I’m happy to be among those who have written the history of motorsports. But I’d like to stress again that I don’t think about my titles or other achievements every morning. I simply try to prepare for my next races as well as possible.

Over the years, you have had the opportunity to prove yourself in a variety of motorsports disciplines. How would you rate them in terms of the pleasure that they have given you? I assume that rally racing would come in first place, but what about the other forms of racing that you have tried?

It would be very hard for me to compile a list of my top racing sports, because each one is so different from the other! For example, Dakar is an incredible experience. It’s a very long race that demands a great deal of endurance. Pikes Peak was also a wonderful race, because the car that I used was simply amazing.

[Although rallycross cars look like regular sports cars, they have much more powerful engines. In rallycross competitions, the competing cars sprint together on extremely short race courses. The rallycross track in Riga, for example, is only 1,294 metres long. Rallycross race course surfaces are mixed, with 60% of the track in Riga being asphalt-covered and 40% being loose-surface. Rallycross race courses also have jumps – the one in Riga has three. The races are very brief, with qualifying runs lasting only four laps, while the semi-final and final races run for six laps. Loeb completed the six-lap circuit of the final race in Riga in a victory time of only 5:27. According to FIA rules, the driver with the most championship points at the end of the racing season wins the World RX Championship. There are 12 rounds in a rallycross racing season, of which the race in Riga was the tenth. Ed.]

[Rally cars also look like regular sports cars, but are stripped to their outer frames and then modified to withstand the rigours of rally races. Rally car races are driven on closed road surfaces ranging from gravel and tarmac to snow and ice. Each rally race is split into 15-25 special stages, which the drivers and their co-drivers (i.e. navigators) try to complete individually in races against the clock. The stages are relatively short, usually up to 50 kilometres long. The driver with the lowest overall time for the sum of a rally’s special stages is the winner of that rally race. FIA rally races usually take place over a three-day period. The 2016 World Rally Championship (WRC) has 14 rounds and uses a points system, as do other motorsports like rallycross and Formula 1. Ed.]

Rallycross races are very intense and more dynamic than touring car races [which take place on a longer asphalt circuit and involve a greater number of laps – Ed.]. It’s true that rallycross races are shorter, but they’re quite eventful and the automobiles are very powerful.

So yes, it’s really hard for me to rank these various disciplines, because I’ve enjoyed almost everything that I’ve done in my racing career, regardless of the sport.

What would you still definitely like to do before leaving motorsports? I mean, you might like to try out Formula E racing [with electrically powered cars – Ed.] or take another shot at winning the Dakar Rally.

Right now, I’m taking part in the World Rallycross Championship. I also intend to take part in the Dakar rally raid again. My goal is to fight for victory in both of these competitions. I’d be happy if I could win the Dakar race. Aside from the rallycross and Dakar, I have no other plans.

Motorsports is a very vast field. Some disciplines are becoming more popular, while the popularity of others is declining. Where would you place rallycross in terms of popularity?

I think that rallycross is a rapidly growing motorsports discipline, and that it is completely different from what it was

even a short time ago. It has become very professional. Several car manufacturers have become involved and serious money is being invested into this sport. Extremely skilled drivers are taking part in the championship and the competition is very fierce. Rallycross is also exciting from the spectator’s point of view. It’s interesting to watch not only at the track itself, but also on TV, which isn’t always the case with other motorsports disciplines. For example, a car rally offers speed and impressive sliding turns, but most people will have trouble understanding who is in the lead. It’s easier to organise a rallycross race and show it to the public, and I think that is great!

In comparing rallycross to rally racing, which has a brighter future in your opinion?

I’m not a media person. I’m a race car driver, so I won’t make any predictions.

On the one hand, the World Rally Championship is definitely more firmly established than the World Rallycross Championship, but the rallycross sport is growing and we have some very skilled and well-known drivers. Rallycross is gradually gaining increased exposure.

How did you think that you might fare against other drivers before you entered the World Rallycross Championship?



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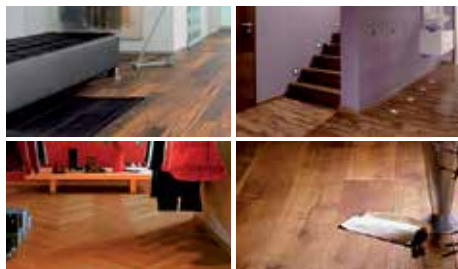
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Loeb is widely viewed as one of the best race car drivers of the 21st century

Sometimes I do get frustrated, because right now we are not succeeding in making the best racing starts

I knew right from the start that things wouldn't be easy. We're talking about the world championship here, and the competition is at a very high level. Before I started competing in the rallycross, I already knew Petter Solberg and I knew how strong he is. I also knew Mattias Ekström. My teammate Timmy Hansen, who finished second at last year's world championship, is also a very good driver. Although it's not easy at all, I'm happy to be competing for a good result. I need speed for that. Sometimes I do get frustrated, because right now we are not succeeding in making the best racing starts. When you're not at the head of the pack right from the beginning, it's very hard to compete for a victory, but that's life. We'll see how things go for us here in Riga this weekend.

What do you still need to improve this season in order to obtain a high result?

As I just mentioned, one of the things that we need to work on is the start. At the championship's previous round in Barcelona, we were in a competitive position for the first time this season and could really fight for a victory. We found some new solutions during our trial runs, and I hope that we'll be able to show the same form in Riga as we did in Barcelona. We still need to improve some things so that we can be strong next season – right from the very first round. I really hope that we succeed.

What aspect of rallycross racing do you enjoy the most?

I'd say it's the adrenaline rush at the starting line and during the race itself. In

terms of intensity, no other competition can compare to rallycross racing. As you wait for the start signal, you understand that you can win or lose that race already in the first curve. The battle for victory during a rallycross race is very fierce, and there can be actual physical contact between the cars. If one compares rallycross with rally racing, then I feel more comfortable in a rally race, because I can compete for a victory not just in the short space of a single, quick curve, but over the course of an entire weekend.

When you compete in motorsports, how important is it for your car to be equipped with the latest technologies?

If you mean features like ABS, traction and launch control, then our rallycross cars are pretty rudimentary. They don't have any of these systems, and all of the controls are manually operated. So no, I wouldn't say that technologies are the deciding factor for me.

You turned 42 this year. Has the physical aging process affected your driving in any way? Some athletes have told me that as they age, they learn to appreciate and enjoy sports even more than they did in their youth.

For me, that is because there is less pressure to show top results, although this pressure has not disappeared completely. I still want to prove myself and to perform well. Right now, I don't feel as if I have lost any of my driving abilities because I have become older, but it's possible that this type of decline comes gradually and that you don't immediately feel it. So far, I don't feel as if anything has changed for the worse.

What do you do to keep yourself in good physical shape?

I practice some sports. I ride my bike, I run a bit, and I think about what I am eating. In other words, I do completely normal things. I don't feel like I have to pay



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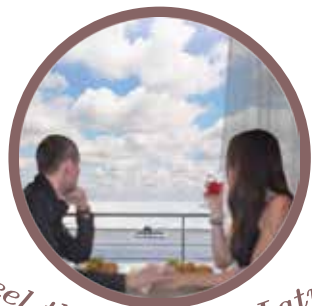
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Outlook **INTERVIEW**

special attention to keeping in shape. I
do these things quite naturally.

**What are your first impressions of
the new rallycross race course here at
Bīķernieki in Riga?**

I think that it will be very difficult to
pass other cars because there aren't any
long straights where you can do that
before braking. The course is interesting
and very technical, with several curves
and jumps. The loose surface is also
different than on other courses and is

similar to asphalt, but I like it because
there is no dust.

**And finally, what are your
expectations from this weekend,
and have you set up a special
strategy for beating our local boys,
Reinis Nitišs and Jānis Baumanis?**

I don't have a special strategy, but
I do have a fantastic local mechanic
[Latvian mechanic Mārtiņš Zūlis works
for Team Peugeot-Hansen – Ed.] and
the very best car. That's about it! **BO**



Celebrating his rallycross race
victory in Riga last month

EPILOGUE

As I leave the Team Peugeot-
Hansen tent, I feel a bit
disoriented. Did I ask all
of the right questions? Is
15 minutes enough to have a
decent conversation?

Looking back on that weekend
now, I'd like to think that perhaps
the brevity of our interview
helped Loeb to save his strength
for the following two days, which
treated about 17,000 spectators
to action-packed qualification
runs, gorgeous sunny weather
on the first day and torrential
rain on the second, impressive
sideslips and jumps, overly

daring manoeuvres, crashes, a
soap-opera-style drama in the
settlement of a racing dispute,
two Latvians in the semi-final
(with the cheers of local fans
being so loud that they could
probably be heard all the way
to the city centre), an event
organised at the highest level
and an exciting final race, which
saw Loeb win his first rallycross
race of the season.

In so doing, Loeb became the
first race car driver in history to
win events in three different FIA
world championships (World
RX, WRC and World Touring
Car Championship).

With only one round left
in the World RX racing season
(on November 25 in Rosario,
Argentina), Loeb is fifth in the
overall standings, which means
that he will probably try to do
even better next year.

Incidentally, the Latvian
round of the 2017 World
Rallycross Championship will
take place once again at Riga's
Bīķernieki Sports Complex on
September 16 and 17 of next year.
Loeb will surely want to achieve
a repeat victory there, so don't
miss the chance to see what
promises to be another exciting
racing weekend!



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Text by **FLORIAN MAAß**
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Are you planning a winter vacation? Here are some fantastic relaxed and family-friendly ski and snowboard resorts, regardless of whether you're craving the mountain slopes or just a big lounge chair.





Foggy dreamland

Looking out of my hotel window early one morning, I feel like I am still dreaming. A group of girls appears to be skating weightlessly through candyfloss-like fog on the ice-covered Lake Štrbské Pleso, while the High Tatras mountaintops above look reddish in the morning sun.

At 1,346 metres above sea level, the village that shares the same name as the glacier lake is a perfect place to stay. Štrbské Pleso is not only a winter sports hub but, due to its air and water quality, a health resort as well.

Another sublime view awaits at the slope down nearby Mount Solisko, with the summits of Ostra to the left and Mount Gerlach (at 2,654 metres, the highest peak in the Tatras) to the right. Through a layer of feather-like clouds, I can see Poprad Valley below and the range of the Lower Tatra Mountains like a wallpaper pattern in the background. The mostly red (intermediate) slopes allow for elegant carving as you enjoy the splendid natural scenery all around.

More demanding is the 7-kilometre-long run down Lomnické Sedlo at nearby Tatranska Lomnica, Slovakia's steepest slope. Better to focus on my skiing here.

Otherwise, the *Vysoké Tatry* (or High Tatras range, the highest in the Carpathian Mountains), is more about beautiful scenery than skiing challenges.

Fly to Poprad with airBaltic from €35 ONE WAY



Ski touring (travelling both uphill and downhill off-piste without removing one's skis) is popular as well, while Štrbské Pleso is a paradise for cross-country skiers, snowshoe hiking and skijoring (wearing skis and being pulled forward by an animal or motor vehicle).

I hike through the snowy woods to the oldest of the legendary *chatas*, or mountain lodges, Rainerova Chata. It's again foggy, snow is falling, and shafts of sunlight illuminate the idyllic scenery in a milky light. Suddenly, the clouds give way and the sun shines like a spotlight on Mount Gerlach.

Fly to: Poprad
Ski pass: Tatry Ski Pass online tickets for the High and Low Tatras – EUR 29 (low season) or EUR 34 (high season) per day. Approximately 24 km of ski slopes. gopass.sk.
Food to try: *bryndzové*, or gnocchi with sheep cheese
Drink to try: Tatranský Cay Outlaw (black tea, herbs, natural fruits, 72% alcohol).
Selfie option not to miss: On top of Mount Solisko or whenever you meet a friendly forest animal.
Where to stay: *Grand Hotel Kempinski High Tatras*. Located by the lake, it adds Austro-Hungarian grandeur to Štrbské Pleso's rustic charm. vt.sk.
Special gear: Bear whistle, aspirin (the latter for the morning after trying Tatranský Cay).

Another dreamlike sensation can be obtained during dinner at the *START* mountain restaurant, halfway up Lomnické Sedlo. The upward trip with a snow groomer adds to the fun of the subsequent candlelight gourmet dinner under the Milky Way, with a panoramic night view of the valley below.

Good spa offers, simple but yummy cuisine, lots of activities for children (including a baby care station in Tatranska Lomnica) and beautiful grand hotels make the Slovak High Tatras an attractive alternative to the Alps for a three- to four-day holiday.



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Imperial wedel fun

On a clear, sunny day – and there are a lot of these – you can catch your first glimpse of the Wilder Kaiser's majestic and powerful limestone silhouette shortly after leaving Munich airport on the highway near Rosenheim.

Ellmau, one of the four villages at the foot of the Wilder Kaiser mountain range, is a welcoming hub to the *Skiwelt* ski area, with nice little shops and cosy cafés, pubs and restaurants. Locals will greet you with a friendly and informal "Grüß Di, wie geht's?"

Adding to the warm welcome by the locals, the skiing infrastructure at *Skiwelt* is just about perfect, with the world's fastest eight-seater chairlift and a 10-person XL gondola. The signs that mark the ski routes could be clearer, though.

However, the landscape and fantastic views make you forget about any minor drawbacks, with the Großvenediger (3,657 m) and Großglockner (3,798 m) visible further south. Time for *Brotzeit*, or lunch. All 70 *Skiwelt* huts are still family-run and offer good Tyrolean home cooking. The restaurant on top of Hohe Salve has Austria's only 360° rotating terrace and

Tyrol's best panoramic view, along with good traditional food.

While most slopes are for moderate skiers, there are some black slopes to entertain the experts with bumps, jumps and narrow curves in all of the right places. On three slopes, radar systems measure your speed and cameras record your descent. The most beautiful run is the long slope down to Scheffau, especially in the morning, when the snow is still pristine.

The big offer of lifts, cable trains and slopes allows for a relaxed skiing experience, even at the season's peak, making the region perfect for families. Special carpet lifts, ski schools and restaurants cater specifically to children, so that parents can drop off their kids in the morning and pick them up again in the evening.

In addition, the ski area's 197 km of cross-country ski trails offer a nice alternative to alpine skiing. Meanwhile, three fun parks in Ellmau, Söll and Westendorf offer flatrails, wallride spines, rainbow boxes, kinked boxes and picnic tables for the lords of the boards.

① skiwelt.at
① wilderkaiser.info



Fly to: Munich. The car trip from there takes 1.5 hours. The *Four Seasons* shuttle service costs EUR 49, or one can take the train to Kufstein and shuttle from there for EUR 14.
Ski pass: Ski Pass NS Tag – EUR 42.50 (low season) or EUR 47 (high season) per day for 284 km of ski slopes.
Food to try: *Kaiserschmarrn* (shredded pancake)
Drink to try: *Willy* peach schnapps
Selfie option not to miss: At the Hohe Salve self-service restaurant with a turning 360° terrace and views of Großglockner and Großvenediger. If you're lucky, then you might catch the star of the popular German-Austrian series *Bergdoktor* in breaks between filming in the surrounding villages.
Where to stay: *Café & Pension Bettina*. It has nice rooms, a sauna, panoramic views and a good *à la carte* menu with organic meat from the owner family's farm. Located between Ellmau and the Hartkaiser station. bettina-ellmau.at
Special gear: Good sunglasses, GPS.



Fly to Zurich
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WAY

Fly to: Zurich. From there, it's a beautiful 250 km car ride
Ski pass: Les Portes du Soleil – EUR 51 per day, EUR 255 for 6 days; Les Gets/Morzine alone – EUR 39 per day, EUR 196 for 6 days; Le Grand-Bornand (32 lifts, 44 slopes, 83 km) EUR 35.50 per day, EUR 178 for 6 days.
Food to try: Everything with local cheeses, such as the *croute*, a tasty casserole of bread, reblochon cheese, eggs and white wine.
Drink to try: *Le Vipère* snake spirit
Selfie option not to miss: At the top of Mont Chéry, with the full panorama of the Mont Blanc massif behind you.
Where to stay: *Hôtel les Ecreuils* (Hotel-les-ecureuils.com) at Le Grand Bornand, *Crychar* (crychar.com.fr) at Les Gets, the latter being a wonderful lounge-style gourmet hotel.
Special gear: A half-empty bag for the cheese and wine that you will bring home, snowshoes and binoculars to enjoy the views.



Skiing in style

Skiing in style in France? Mais oui! Forget about those concrete, modernist 1960s ski resorts. In the Savoy region near Lake Geneva and on the Swiss border, you can still find old chocolate-box villages with traditional wooden chalets, a lot of savoir-vivre and no rush. I jaunt between three of them. Le Grand-Bornand is the quietest and best-preserved Savoyard village, while Châtel offers the most nightlife and best slopes. Les Gets has the nicest mix of both and the most stylish accommodations and restaurants.

Sitting at a fireplace in the small and cosy *La Ferme de Lormay* restaurant outside Le Grand-Bornand, I feel as if I am in a place where time has stopped, as owner Albert Bonamy prepares lamb for dinner. Many of the dishes also include the local reblochon cheese.

Les Gets and Châtel are part of the huge Portes du Soleil skiing area, which consists of twelve French and Swiss ski resorts and 650 km of slopes! Chrystelle of the tourism office at Les

Gets takes me out on a skiing tour. After she makes some extremely nice wedel moves, I get suspicious about her amateur status.

"No, I was only the 20th best downhill skier in the world," she says, playing down her evident proficiency at the sport. Chrystelle's favourite slope is the black and fairly steep *Gazelle* route down Mont Chéry, with sensational views of the entire Mont Blanc range, the Dents du Midi, Dent Blanche and Roc d'Enfer.

The next day, we're still 20 kilometres away from Lake Geneva, but going down from the Super-Châtel lift station to Torgon, it seems like you might fly directly into the lake if you miss the next curve.

It's worth noting that the Portes du Soleil is not only about downhill skiing. Dog sledding, ski biking, snowshoe hiking, cross-country skiing, mountaintop zip lines, skijoring and luge snake gliss rides are fun alternatives.

And finally, the level of the local cuisine is about as high as Mont Blanc, not to forget the exquisite regional wines.

① legrandbornand.com

① portesdusoleil.com/winter.html



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Fly to: Milan and take a rental car or use the shuttle from there.

Ski pass: EUR 34 to EUR 46 (daily), depending on the season, for 115 km of slopes, six cabin lifts, 13 chair lifts and 11 ski lifts.

Food to try: Pizza

Drink to try: *Bombardino* (advocaat, black coffee and whisky).

Selfie option not to miss: Jumping out of a helicopter. Heli-skiing prices start at EUR 180; EUR 95 for each additional descent.

Where to stay: *Hotel Sonne* – family-friendly and stylish.

Special gear: ABS backpack, avalanche transceiver, shovel and probe (rent for EUR 10).

Ultimate heli-skiing

Nicknamed Little Tibet due to its remote and high location, Livigno is probably the Alps' most easy-going ski resort and a nice contrast to nearby St. Moritz and Klosters. The locals in Livigno are less elitist than elsewhere and, thanks to the resort's VAT- and duty-free status, the prices for many goods are surprisingly low.

At an altitude of 1,816 metres, Livigno offers a nice variety of pistes, with gentle slopes on both sides of the Valtellina Valley, in which the resort is nestled. The Carosello and Costaccia side is higher, wider and sunnier – perfect for morning runs. The snow tends to melt in the afternoon, when it's worth heading to the shady Mottolino side with its steep woody flanks.

Most of the pistes cater to intermediate skiers, with plenty of free ride routes available for an extra dose of adrenalin. As opposed to many other resorts, Livigno provides many opportunities for skiers to leave the groomed slopes. A team of geologists keeps you updated about avalanche risks and guides will tell you where it's safe to go. The usual safety gear is obligatory.

In case off-piste skiing doesn't provide enough of a thrill, try the ultimate kick – heli-skiing. It's like a drug for those who have already tried jumping out of a helicopter and skiing through the powdery snow of untouched slopes. If people stare at you later in the bar, it's not because they've heard of your heroic stunts, but rather because of the happy smile that you can't get off your face.

The après-ski meals and drinks are also very reasonably priced due to Livigno's VAT-free status. Although this Italian resort seems to be in a rather relaxed mode compared to the Alps' party capital Ischgl, it has by far the most bars – 140 – of any ski resort in the world. Dozens of additional pizzerias and restaurants will provide real treats, both for your stomach and your wallet, leaving you with some money left over for the obligatory shopping tour. At Livigno, there are so many different *Ray-Ban* sunglasses on offer that even the company itself may not know all of them, since many of them are fake.

① livigno.eu



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Text by **ILZE VĪTOLA**
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BRIGHT NOVEMBER

Although November takes Latvia into the darkest time of the year, the month is full of events that bring brightness and cheer – the Republic's birthday among them.



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Independence Day

Walking around Riga this month, you may notice people with ribbons in the colours of the Latvian flag on their coats and jackets. That's because November has two days that are significant in Latvia's history. The first is November 11, 1919, when Latvian forces expelled Pavel Bermond-Avalov's West Russian Volunteer Army (which was actually composed primarily of Germans) from Riga. This date is commemorated as Bear Slayer's Day (*Lāčplēša diena*) in honour of Lāčplēšis, the mythical hero of an epic Latvian poem.

The essence of the commemoration can best be experienced in the evening along the Daugava River – on the embankment that is named after the November 11 victory (*11. novembra krastmala*). Thousands of people bring candles to the walls

of the Riga Castle in tribute to those who fought for the country's independence. In fact, concerts and torchlight processions take place all across the country.

Latvian Independence Day is celebrated a week later and marks November 18 of the previous year (1918), when a group of patriots officially declared the country's independence in Riga's National Theatre building. The Republic's birthday is a holiday, of course, and celebratory events begin with the laying of flowers at the Freedom Monument by the president and government officials. The afternoon brings a military parade along the November 11th Embankment, and there are fireworks above the river in the evening.

Those aren't the only dates worth noting in November. Throughout the month, a number of

events will lend light to the dark season. This year's schedule offers a preview of what will take place in 2018, when Latvia plans a grand celebration of its centennial. Artists and organisers in diverse fields have already begun preparing for the country's 100th birthday party – filmmakers are hard at work on movies, playwrights and directors are creating stage productions, museums are curating shows, and construction crews are hurrying to complete the expansion of the Museum of the Occupation of Latvia. The whole country is getting ready for its centenary anniversary!



NOVEMBER ADDRESSES

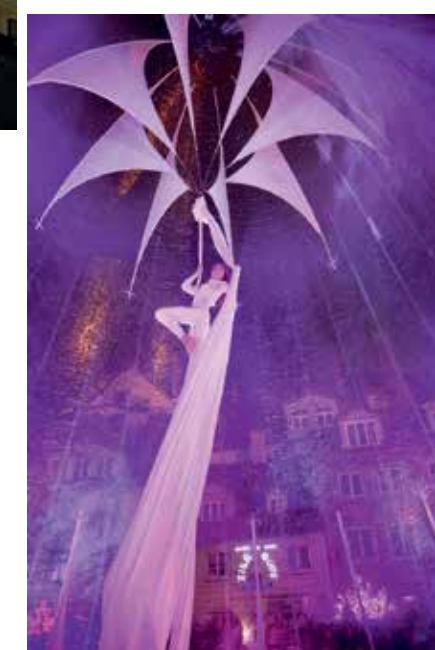
LATVIAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART

After a lengthy and extensive reconstruction, the Latvian National Museum of Art on Valdemāra iela was reopened in May of this year. The museum was built in 1905, with its initial collection composed primarily of Western European paintings from the municipal art gallery. After the founding of the Republic of Latvia in 1918, Vilhelms Purvītis, the country's most notable painter, became the museum's director and began a collection of Latvian visual art. The recent renovation fully restored the

historic building and greatly expanded the museum's exhibition space, while adding a contemporary infrastructure for exhibiting and preserving works of art. The building is definitely worth seeing – its renovation earned the Grand Prize for Latvian Architecture this year.

From November 17, the reopened museum will host an exhibition by a star of the "Riga school" of poster art, Juris Dimiters (b. 1947). His solo show is titled *Priekšvara paslēpes* (*Hiding Behind the Curtain*).

① lnmm.lv



★ STARO RĪGA!

Although the streets of the Latvian capital may not yet be covered in snow, November's long nights are unusually bright thanks to the *Staro Rīga* (*Shine Riga!*) festival of lights. From November 17 to 20, Riga's buildings, bridges, monuments and parks will become giant canvases for multimedia artworks of light. This year's theme is "The light dawned", drawing from the inspiring lyrics of *Gaismas pils* (*The Castle of Light*), a song by Latvian composer Jāzeps Vītols. The stirring choral work, which dates from 1899, uses ancient myth to invoke a national enlightenment. Incidentally, the new National Library is also called the Castle of Light.

① staroriga.lv

▼ LATVIAN NATIONAL LIBRARY

The Latvian National Library (*Latvijas Nacionālā bibliotēka*), named the Castle of Light in reference to Jāzeps Vītols' aforementioned anthem, houses over four million books. It was opened in 2014 and is one of the most important public buildings to be constructed in Latvia in the 21st century. The edifice was designed by Gunārs Birkerts, a well-known Latvian-American architect. One of the library's greatest treasures, on the fifth floor, is a wooden cabinet of *dainas*, or Latvian folk songs. It contains 268,815 little sheets of paper, each bearing a *daina* collected by

Krišjānis Barons (1835-1923) during his folklore expeditions across the country. The cabinet is listed by UNESCO in its Memory of the World list. The upper storey also offers a superb view of Riga's Old Town. The National Library is a major venue for exhibitions, film screenings and even concerts. On November 11, the library will host the famous National Academic Choir, while November 13 will mark the opening of *Echoes: Popular Culture in Latvia at the Turn of the 19th/20th Century*. This exhibition will focus on the beginnings of modernism in Latvia.

lnb.lv

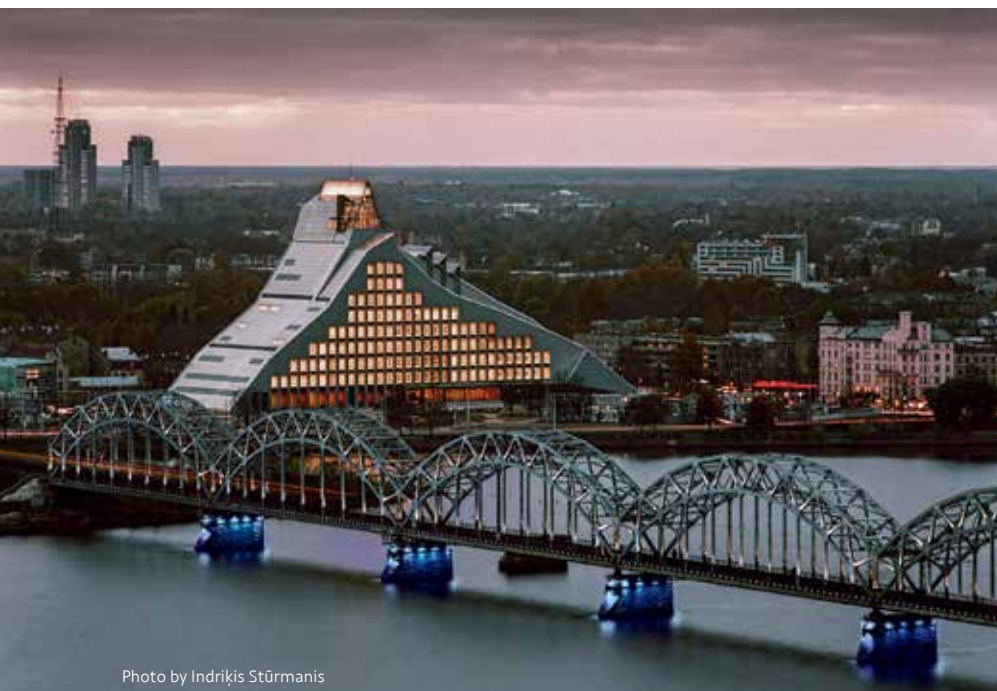


Photo by Indriķis Stūrmanis

► **SPLENDID PALACE**

November's dark autumn evenings are perfect for the cinema. You should spend at least one movie night in the rococo elegance of the *Splendid Palace*, an architectural landmark. Indeed, this was the first cinema in the Baltics to show "talkies". The repertoire is of high quality, with an emphasis on new European art films, not Hollywood blockbusters. From November 1, *Splendid Palace* will be showing Latvian director Viesturs Kairiškis' *Melānijas hronika* (*The Chronicles of Melanie*), the true story of a woman who survived her deportation to Siberia following the Soviet occupation of Latvia.

① splendidpalace.lv



▲ RIGA MOTOR MUSEUM

Car-lovers absolutely must see the newly restored Riga Motor Museum. It holds the largest and most diverse collection of historic automobiles in the Baltic States, encompassing the entire automotive history of the region and beyond (from the late 19th to the end of the 20th century). This is a place to view what is already being forgotten, such as the famous or infamous *Moskvich*, a car model driven by millions of people across the Soviet Union. At one time, Latvia also had its own automotive creation – the *Latvija*. One highlight is a rare series of cars that once belonged to the upper echelon of the Soviet government – it is known as the Kremlin Collection.

 motormuzejs.lv



▲ **PEACE STREET REPUBLIC** (*Miera ielas Republika*)

The neighbourhood around Miera iela – or Peace Street in Latvian – is known as Latvia’s “hipster capital” and is the main creative quarter in town. It’s a special place for both locals and visitors and full of pleasant cafés. *Rocket Bean* roasts its own coffee, while *Miers* offers fine homemade pastries and warm drinks. You’ll also enjoy *Buteljons*, a workshop that recycles glass, and the vintage *Ze Store* shop, as well as *M50*, a boutique that sells Latvian fashion items.

The street is doubtless the most fragrant in Riga – the aroma of coffee from the cafés blends with that of chocolate from Latvia's most famous confectionery factory, *Laima*, and the Laima Museum is definitely the most delicious museum in Latvia. You will not only learn how chocolate is made – you can become a chocolatier for a spell and make your own chocolate bar.

Those who prefer a dance floor should head for Aristīda Briāna iela, where there are numerous clubs and bars. *Piens* (Milk) is known for its Wednesday “wine nights”, and *One One* for the thunder of electronic music. *Labietis* is not only a bar but also a brewery. If you’re still not satisfied, then head for the nightlife in the narrow streets of the Old Town.

mieraiela.lv





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▼ **CATHEDRAL SQUARE** (*Doma laukums*)

The end of November marks the beginning of Advent, and Cathedral Square in the very heart of Riga is transformed into a market square. The little wooden booths set up next to the ancient cathedral offer great alternatives to the usual Christmas gifts, as well as unique souvenirs. No Christmas market could exist without gingerbread and mulled wine, of course, and the Cathedral Square market also gives you a chance to sample traditional Latvian specialties.

① liveriga.com



► **LATVIAN ETHNOGRAPHIC OPEN-AIR MUSEUM**
(*Latvijas Etnogrāfiskais brīvdabas muzejs*)

If you're looking to get away from the bustling city, you'll find that Nature beckons even in this supposedly gloomy month – and you need not go far. The Ethnographic Open-Air Museum on Riga's outskirts is a place for the perfect outing. Hidden in a pine forest along the shores of Lake Jugla, this is one of the oldest open-air museums in Europe. There, you can see how Latvian peasants and craftsmen once lived. One of the year's most special events takes place at the museum in November. Martin's Day (November 10) marks the beginning of winter and is celebrated in the traditional manner.

① brivdabasmuzejs.lv



◀ **CENTRAL MARKET** (*Centrāltirgus*) and **KALNCIEMS MARKET** (*Kalnciema tirgus*)

Goose is at the centre of a traditional meal on Martin's Day, along with the bounty of the autumn harvest. Whether you're looking for a goose or any other kind of food, or just want to see one of Europe's most amazing markets, visit Riga's Central Market next to the Old Town – both are included in UNESCO's World Heritage List. The market has five massive pavilions, each devoted to specific products: fish, meat, milk, prepared culinary delights, and fruits and vegetables. November is a month for hearty food like smoked meats, rye bread, sauerkraut and preserves.

An alternative is the market in the Kalnciems Quarter (*Kalnciema kvartāls*), on the opposite bank of the Daugava

River. The quarter is known for its fabulous, meticulously restored wooden buildings, so even if you are not going to the market, it's worth visiting. The Kalnciems Market isn't nearly as large or busy as the Central Market, but it is fancier and focused on organic food. Forget about Dijon mustard – try the unique Āgenskalns mustard. Lovers of English cider should taste what's made from Latvian apples in the Abava Valley and decide which they like better. The market showcases the best that local farmers have to offer, including homemade cakes and crafts by artisans. Skip brunch at a restaurant and go to the market with an empty stomach!

① rct.lv

① kalnciemaia.lv



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16	○	THE IMMURED
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OTHER **BRIGHT SPOTS** IN LATVIA

The **Mark Rothko Art Centre in Daugavpils** presents an opportunity to see original works by the famous American abstract expressionist in the city of his birth. The art centre is located in the Daugavpils Fortress, which dates to the Napoleonic wars and is one of the largest remaining examples of military architecture from that era. A new season of exhibitions opens on November 17. The centrepiece is a collection belonging to Russian art historian Aleksandre Vassiliev: *The Charm of the Victorian Age*, featuring fashion items from that era.

When visiting Daugavpils, Latvia's second largest city, you should also check out the Šmakovka Museum. *Šmakovka* is a frighteningly powerful but tasty home-brewed liquor for which Latvia's eastern region is renowned – and yes, you can sample this firewater at the museum.

The **Great Amber** (*Lielais Dzintars*) concert hall is an amber-coloured structure that is home to the Liepāja Symphony Orchestra. The

auditorium also hosts jazz concerts, contemporary dance performances, musicals and films. November 5 brings *Vivaldi Rocks* by classical music hooligans *Dagamba*, while on the 13th, Rosario Di Rosa will present a jazz concert. While you're watching a show at the concert hall, your kids can enjoy the thrills of speedy electric go-karts nearby.

The Latgalian Embassy **GORS** in Rēzekne is an epicentre of Latgale's unique regional culture. The concert hall has fantastic acoustics and serves as a venue for both classical and popular music. When in Rēzekne, the heart of Latgale, you should also see the recently restored Green Synagogue, a marvel of historic wooden architecture that is at once a house of worship and a museum of the town's rich history.

Not far from Rēzekne is the Lūznava Manor, a gem of Art Nouveau architecture. Once the home of Polish nobility, it housed both Russian and German soldiers at different times. These days, it's a site for symposia and art exhibits.



No. 10 by Mark Rothko, 1963. Oil on canvas. From the collection of Christopher Rothko



Great Amber



GORS



Cēsis History and Art Museum

Cēsis in Vidzeme is a terrific destination at any time of year. There are wonderful castle ruins surrounded by one of the most charming parks in Latvia, and the Cēsis Old Town is quaint as can be. Children will enjoy the *ZINOO* science centre, where they can make their own robots. Adults will be enamoured of the Vidzeme Concert Hall, which offers a full repertoire of music, art and film showings. On November 12, you can hear an unusual combination – the traditional Latvian *kokle* played by virtuoso Laima Jansone, and DJ Monsta. **BO**

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Text by **JAMES LUXFORD**
Publicity photos

WOODY'S TOUR OF EUROPE

For some reason, most movies by the great Woody Allen feel like fall. In conjunction with the whimsical mood that they convey, we establish what his films say about some iconic European cities.

There was a time when it would have been unthinkable to see Woody Allen anywhere else than New York City, such is the American film director's affinity with the Big Apple. In recent years, however, Allen has found influences in the bustling streets of great European cities. More than half of the films that he has made since 2000 have been shot in Europe, and some of these are considered to be among his best works.

Our tour across four cities will explore what this most American of voices finds fascinating about Spain, Italy, England and France. We also plot a sightseeing tour for those wanting to relive some of Allen's biggest screen moments.

Woody Allen on set directing
Midnight in Paris (2011)



BARCELONA:

Vicky Cristina Barcelona, 2008

The winner of an Oscar, four Golden Globes and various other awards, this bittersweet tale of restlessness and ennui centres on two young women (Rebecca Hall and Scarlett Johansson) who are drawn into the world of a charming but emotionally fractured local man (Javier Bardem). *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* is one of Allen's most acclaimed films from the 2000s and served to revitalise public interest in the director. It is also the best of his many collaborations with muse Scarlett Johansson.

The city draws in several characters who feel lost and inspires them to find direction

The director stated many times while promoting the film that Barcelona was intended as a character in its own right. The city draws in several characters who feel lost and inspires them to find direction. Much of that inspiration comes from the mixture of architectural and cultural influences that keep Barcelona with a foot in the past and an eye to the future.

A good place for fans of the film to begin their journey would be the lizard-shaped fountain at Park Güell, where Hall and Bardem first meet. The Tibidabo Amusement Park is another place where all three main characters get together. Aside from being a popular destination for thrill-seekers, the

Rebecca Hall, Patricia Clarkson and Scarlett Johansson visit the rooftop of *Casa Mila* (also known as *La Pedrera*) in *Vicky Cristina Barcelona* (2008)



Rebecca Hall and Javier Bardem share an intense exchange by the lizard-shaped fountain at the Parc Güell



Scarlett Johansson's free-spirited Cristina explores the streets of Barcelona



On-screen lovers Javier Bardem and Penelope Cruz have a heated argument

park offers unparalleled views of the city. An important conversation between Hall's character and her relative is framed on the steps of the Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya (MNAC). Finally, those same two characters stroll along the Port Olímpic, flanked by luxurious yachts and an ocean vista that gives Barcelona the feel of a tropical paradise.

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Alec Baldwin's character, a nostalgic architect, has dinner with friends at the beautiful *Caffè Della Pace* in Rome



A young newlywed (Alessandra Mastronardi) waits by the fountain at the Piazza Mattei in *To Rome with Love* (2012) ▼

ROMA:

To Rome with Love, 2012

The great filmmaker came out from behind the camera to direct and star in this surreal comedy with four loosely connected stories. Among the protagonists is an ageing architect (Alec Baldwin) who visits the places where he once lived while studying in Rome, and unsettled newlyweds who find excitement in unusual ways. That blending of traditional and fantastic storytelling echoes the Italian cinema greats who influenced Allen and so many others.

Allen's Rome is a place where young couples come to create new memories and where older

You can walk in Baldwin's footsteps yourself on the Via Margutta, which he revisits to relive his glory days

generations attempt to relive the past. A humble traffic cop (Roberto Benigni) suddenly wakes up as a superstar, while Allen himself plays a faded opera director who spots a new talent in the unlikely form of his daughter's future father-in-law. The surreal elements, such as the question as to whether Alec Baldwin's portion of the film is a flashback or not, help to lend Rome a sense of mystery and magic.

You can walk in Baldwin's footsteps yourself on the Via Margutta, which he revisits to relive his glory days. This was also Gregory Peck's place of residence in *Roman Holiday* (1953). In another segment of the film, Milly (Alessandra



One of the films-within-a-film in *To Rome with Love* was shot at the opulent Piazza Mattei



A newly married couple arrives in the Termini railway station, eager to explore Rome's many sights

Mastronardi) can be seen at the Piazza Del Popolo, a beautiful public square filled with neoclassical elements that belie its grisly history as a venue for public executions. (But don't worry, these stopped nearly 200 years ago!) Equally stunning is the Michelangelo-designed Piazza del Campidoglio, where architecture student Jack (Jesse Eisenberg) takes Monica (Ellen Page) out on a date. End your movie pilgrimage with a view of Italy's ancient past at the Parco degli Acquadotti, a public park with incredible Roman ruins.

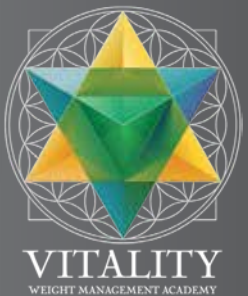
“ Now I realize that anything is possible! ”

Astra Dreimane / entrepreneur and singer



“ Теперь понимаю, что все возможно! ”

Астра Дреймане / предприниматель и певица



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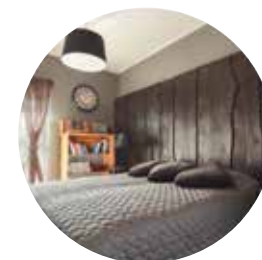
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Jonathan Rhys Meyers and Scarlett Johansson form a dangerous liaison on the streets of London in *Match Point* (2005)



Married couple Chris and Chloe (Jonathan Rhys Meyers and Emily Mortimer) share a tender moment by the Thames



Lead character Chris, a tennis instructor, relaxes in London's prestigious Queen's Club



A pivotal scene from *Match Point*, shot in the appropriately named Parliament View Apartments

LONDON:

Match Point, 2005

Not all of Allen's European films are whimsical. A dangerous emotional game is played in this thriller from the mid-2000s, in which an arrogant, socially climbing tennis instructor named Chris (Jonathan Rhys Meyers) falls for Nola, a beautiful American woman (Scarlett Johansson). However, their affair could ruin his marriage and dreams of prosperity.

Many of London's historic spots have strong ties to both finance and the aristocracy

Unlike other films on our journey, *Match Point* is a sombre (and gripping) assessment of social class, relationships and the damage that desire can wreak upon both. Allen describes *Match Point* as one of his greatest films, and many of his fans agree. As with his later film *Cassandra's Dream* (2007), Allen chooses London as the setting for a story of social ambition. Many of London's historic spots have strong ties to both finance and the aristocracy – monuments to a time when the city's class system was more pronounced than it is today.

One centre of wealth-creation is prominent within the film – 30 St. Mary Axe (nicknamed "The Gherkin"). It is a relatively new addition to the skyline and hosts a scene where Meyers' character applies for a job (unfortunately, the inside of the building is not open to the public). A more artistic

but no less extravagant a location is the Royal Opera House (ROH), where, as one might expect, the opera sequence takes place. The ROH has been a location for lovers of high art since 1732 and occasionally hosts film screenings as well. A more frequent cinematic schedule can be found at the *Curzon Soho*, one of London's best loved cinema houses and the spot where Chris is stood up by Nola. It has been serving the vibrant Soho community since 1912. Finally, modern art plays a part in two scenes – firstly within the Tate Modern on London's South Bank, where the ill-fated lovers meet after some time apart. This tense moment is echoed in the silent and sparse rooms of the gallery.



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Midnight In Paris lead character Gil (Owen Wilson) and friends view Claude Monet's waterlilies at the Musée de l'Orangerie



Time traveller Gil meets his 1920s love interest Adriana (Marion Cotillard) in the uniquely themed Parisian shop *Deyrolle*

PARIS:

Midnight in Paris, 2011

Opening with a montage of some of Paris' visual highlights, this nostalgic film sees screenwriter Gil (Owen Wilson) seduced by the French capital. Gil's wish to see the city's history come to life is realised when he mysteriously travels back in time to the 1920s. The aspiring author gets to meet the Lost Generation of artists and writers who made the city a creative melting pot.

Allen has mentioned Paris as the one place other than Manhattan where he could live, and in this film he demonstrates why. Towering cathedrals, stately monuments, verdant parks and small back streets maintain the same splendour and romance as they did hundreds of years ago.

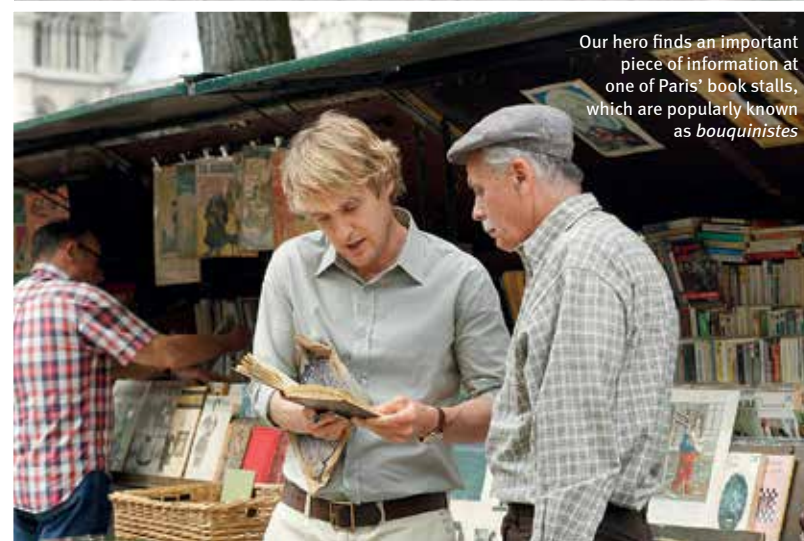
Allen has mentioned Paris as the one place other than Manhattan where he could live

Art, culture and history are celebrated in every frame of Allen's film, reminding those who have been to Paris what they love about the place, and revealing to those who haven't just what they are missing.

For those who wish to recreate the film's on-screen magic, why not start at the beginning, where Gil and his fiancée, Inez (Rachel McAdams), walk along the iconic bridge in Monet's Garden? Located about an hour outside of the city, it is well worth the trip. You could follow that with the steps of the Église Saint-Étienne-du-Mont, where



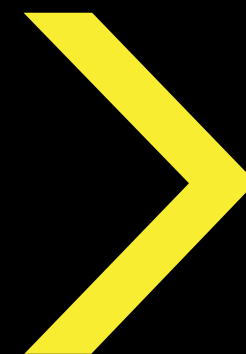
In one of the film's most iconic shots, Gil walks contemplatively along the River Seine



Our hero finds an important piece of information at one of Paris' book stalls, which are popularly known as *bouquinistes*

Gil begins his time-travelling adventure. Then walk across the street to *Polidor*, the charming pub where Gil meets his idol Ernest Hemingway. End your evening at the site of the film's climax, *Maxim's de Paris*, the bistro where Gil and his love interest Marion Cotillard are whisked back to the 1890s. Aside from being frequented by celebrities old and new, it's a timeless reminder of the hedonistic spirit that pervades Paris' rich history. **BO**

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Paris Motor Show 2016

Paris does not seem like a city that needs encouragement to buy more cars – a five-kilometre trip across town to the exhibition centre at the Porte de Versailles can take an hour and a half on a bad day – but this year’s motor show in the French capital brought a raft of exciting new metal, much of it ready to go on sale within the next few months. As always, there were enough concept cars to offer a glimpse into the future. Here are some interesting automobiles from the exhibition.



▲ **AUDI Q5**

While the styling of the new *Audi Q5* SUV is best described as conservative, the same can’t be said of the car’s technology. Buyers get the option of front-wheel drive for the first time, as well as clever air suspension borrowed from the larger *Q7*. The *Q5* is closely related to our current Car of the Year – the *Audi A4* – underneath the chassis, so expect it to drive very well.

▼ **LAND ROVER DISCOVERY**

Reinventing one of the best large SUVs on the market is no easy task, but *Land Rover* has done just that. This fifth-generation *Discovery* model ditches the boxy styling of its predecessor, gains seven adult-sized seats which can be folded from a smartphone app, and gets the option of a new entry-level 2.0-litre diesel engine. The upcoming *Discovery* will battle it out with the *Audi Q7* and *Volvo XC90* when it goes on sale in February.



▲ **BMW X2 CONCEPT**

BMW already has two coupé-styled SUVs in the *X4* and *X6*, but will add another to its range in mid-2018 with the *X2*. It’s based on the smaller *X1* and aims to offer a sporty alternative to the likes of the *Mercedes GLC Coupé*. Some of the more radical design elements of the *X2* concept will be lost on the production car, which is expected to cost around 35,000 euros for a base model.



▲ **NISSAN MICRA**

Nissan provided one of the biggest shocks of the show by unveiling its revitalised *Micra*. Gone is the wholly unremarkable styling of the current motor vehicle, to be replaced by a modern and sporty hatchback that will go head-to-head with some of the best-selling small cars – including our current Small Car of the Year, the *Škoda Fabia* – when it goes onto the market next March. Highlights of the *Micra* include a driving syle specially engineered for Europe and engines shared with *Renault*.



▼ **TOYOTA C-HR**

It’s impossible not to notice the striking looks of *Toyota*’s latest crossover, the *C-HR*. It stands out amongst its rivals and was clearly designed to look different from any other *Toyota* on sale. It has done the job so well that some of the current *Toyotas* – in particular the larger *RAV4* – now look antiquated. Inside, the *Toyota C-HR* sports an eight-inch touchscreen with the company’s *Touch 2* multimedia system, along with piano black and satin silver trim as well as a shallow dashboard design that provides the driver with an excellent field of vision.



▲ **VOLKSWAGEN ID CONCEPT**

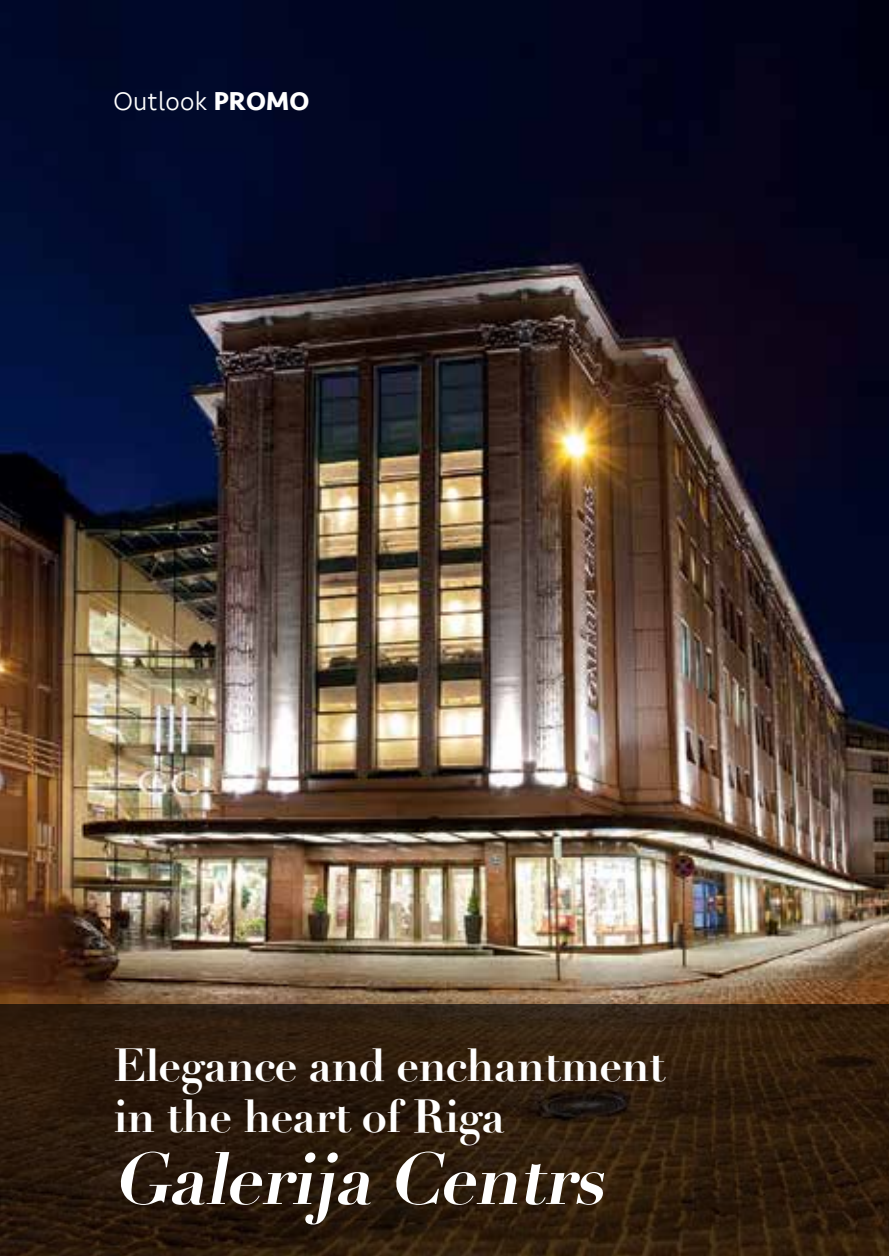
The *Volkswagen ID* might be a concept car, but it previews an all-electric hatchback that will be on sale by 2020. In production form, the car will be able to reach 100 km/h from a standing start in less than 8 seconds, have a top speed limited to 160 km/h, and the capacity to travel more than 500 km between charges. It will offer interior space akin to the larger *Passat*, despite being similar in size to the *Golf* hatchback.



▼ **HYUNDAI RN30 CONCEPT**

Look past the motor show disguise and the *RN30* is actually a first glimpse of what will eventually become the hottest model in the new *i30* range – a sleek hatchback to rival the *Ford Focus RS* called the *i30 N Plus*. It’s due to arrive next year and will be powered by a turbocharged 2.0-litre petrol engine with about 370 hp. The car also has four-wheel drive.

**BIGGEST AND BEST
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IN THE BALTICS**



Elegance and enchantment in the heart of Riga *Galerija Centrs*

III

GALERIJA CENTRS

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The *GALERIJA CENTRS* is as sophisticated and elegant as the Latvian capital in which it is located. Traditionally associated with good taste, this modern shopping centre has a rich history that dates back to the 1930s. There is hardly a more suitable place for leisurely shopping right in the historic centre of Riga.

SHOPPING CENTRE TIMELINE

1919

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

1928

The *AES* is opened to the public.

1936

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

1938

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

1940

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

1944-91

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

1997

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

2006

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

2008

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

In tribute to the store building's eventful past, the grand staircase of the *GALERIJA CENTRS* features a fascinating exhibition of more than 60 photographs. Both privately owned and taken from public archives, the photos cover nearly eight decades of history, from the laying of the building's foundation stone to the present day.



Today, Rīdzenes iela has become a popular public open space for various cultural activities, including exhibitions. Photo by Dmitrijs Mokejevs



Main staircase. Interior designer Kārlis Plūksne. Photo by J. Brūveris, from his private collection



Pilaster capital with ornament depicting Hermes' staff, a symbol of commerce. Architect A. Galindoms

LITTLE OLD TOWN MARKET



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TIRDZIŅŠ

NOVEMBER 10 and 11
DECEMBER 1 and 2
DECEMBER 8 and 9
DECEMBER 15 and 16
DECEMBER 22 and 23
Open: 10:00-21:00

LITTLE OLD TOWN MARKET

Wholesome foods from the Latvian countryside along with masterful creations by artists and craftsmen. Latvian culture and traditions from antiquity to the present day. All visitors are welcome!

The exhibition places particular emphasis on the edifice's architecture and interior details, some of which are unique in Europe.

The exhibition also reveals extracts from 13th-century chronicles about the historical significance of the store's location. Up until the 16th century, the current site of the *GALERIJA CENTRS* was a commercial port on the banks of the Rīdzene River, which was quite wide and navigable by sizeable ships. The well-preserved wreck of one of these water craft was uncovered during archaeological excavations in 1939 and is now on display at the Museum of the History of Riga and Navigation. Fragments of clothing, jewellery, coins, package seals and game paraphernalia were also uncovered in the diggings, and photographs of these artefacts are part of the exhibition.

Since 1936, when Latvian president Kārlis Ulmanis and the building's architect, Artūrs Galindoms, laid the foundation stone, this location has seen many changes. Initially known as the *Army Economy Store* during Latvia's first period of independence, it was later renamed *Riga Central Department Store* and is now known as the *GALERIJA CENTRS*. This background has made the centre a continual nexus of Riga shopping to the present day. The most recent renovation and expansion of the *GALERIJA CENTRS* has been acknowledged as an outstanding design accomplishment, both in Europe and globally.

Linstow Center Management took over the operation of the department store in 1997. Following extensive reconstruction works in 2006, Rīdzenes iela became an axis that highlighted the building's history, while incorporating modern-day attributes. Today, the *GALERIJA CENTRS* is a popular shopping location with 110 shops, cafés, restaurants and other service providers. **BO**



Drapery department, Riga Central Department Store. Photo by J. Brūveris, from his private collection



Army Economy Store, view across the ground floor. Interior designer Kārlis Plūksne. Unknown photographer, Latvian Museum of Architecture



View of the shop windows from Vaļņu iela. The *GALERIJA CENTRS* proudly continues the tradition of making works of art out of window displays



Photo by Karmen Kärg

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Spend your holiday in the Estonian resort town of Pärnu

Pärnu is a historical resort town that has offered different holiday opportunities for centuries. Perfectly situated between two national capitals – a 2-hour drive away from Tallinn and 2.5 hours from Riga – this town is a wonderful place for resting from the hustle and bustle of the big city and for revitalising your mind and body.

There's lots to keep visitors active, including a beautiful seaside, riverbanks, parks, walking paths and cycling roads. The kids will definitely enjoy the town's numerous public playgrounds, while the autumn's windy bay attracts surfers.

With your lungs full of fresh air and rosy cheeks, you will want to step into a cosy café or restaurant. Most of Pärnu's eating establishments are proud to use fresh and local ingredients in their cuisine. The town has eating places that offer both gourmet food and traditional meals, so everyone is sure to find their favourite place and dish.

If you're looking for something to do indoors, then spend the day making crafts

in the Mary Magdalene Guild (Uus 5; maarjamagdaleenagild.ee), exploring the Pärnu Museum (Aida 3; parnumuseum.ee), visiting the galleries of the Museum of New Art (Esplanaadi 10; mona.ee) or getting to know terrarium animals at the Mini Zoo (Vana Tallinn St).

Adrenalin junkies can try out a real-life escape room (pogenemistoad.ee, secrethouse.ee). In this popular adventure game, participants have to find the exit in a closed room within a limited time.

Among the highlights of Pärnu's winter season are indoor water parks, sauna centres and healing treatments at spa hotels. There are eight spa hotels in Pärnu, which makes this town the unofficial spa capital of Estonia. The town's spa and sauna centres continue to be upgraded on a regular basis and offer all kinds of enticing experiences. The *Viiking Saaga* water and sauna centre, for example, is a Viking oasis of sorts. Its saunas are shrouded in caves and grottos, while the second floor features a roof garden and an igloo sauna.



Photo by Sergel Zjuganov

PÄRNU SPA HOTELS
Hedon Spa & Hotel
(Ranna Pst 1; hedonspa.com)
Estonia Medical Spa & Hotel
(Pärna 12/Sääse 7; spaestonia.ee)
Estonia Resort Hotel & Spa
(A.H.Tammsaare pst 4a/6; spaestonia.ee)
Strand Spa & Conference Hotel
(A.H.Tammsaare pst 35; strand.ee)
Tervis Medical Spa Hotel
(Seedri 6; spatervis.ee)
Tervise Paradiis Spa Hotel & Water Park
(Side 14; terviseparadiis.ee)
Viiking Spa-Hotel
(Sadama 15; viiking.ee)
Health Center & Hotel Wasa
(Eha 2; wasa.ee)

In addition to its fun water park section, Estonia's largest water park, *Tervise Paradiis*, also has a *Paradiisi Saunas* (Paradise Saunas) sauna centre for relaxing at a gentler pace. Rest and relaxation are also the key words at the *Hedon Spa & Hotel*, which is located in a historic mud bath building. Its Silent Spa delivers a truly mind-calming experience. The Spa & Sauna Centre at the *Estonia Resort Hotel & Spa* lets visitors take some time off in a delightful pool with several massage showers and whirlpools, and to further relax in one of eight different innovative saunas.

Colourful bogs and new golf courses

If you long for a true getaway from the city and wish to enjoy the autumn colours as Nature prepares for winter, or perhaps marvel at the silence and peacefulness of a snow-covered landscape, then head to a pristine bog or forest. Soomaa National Park has many wetland trails of different lengths, and guides can take you on special tours with bog shoes. Soomaa's rivers are popular canoeing destinations and, when frozen in winter, for kicksledding as well. Educational nature trails have also been set up in the bog at the Nigula Nature Reserve near Kabli, the Luitemaa Nature Reserve and elsewhere. The best places for bird-watching are Kabli and Valgeranna.

Scenic island nature coupled with a traditional way of living and folk culture have induced UNESCO to place Kihnu (kihnu.ee) – the biggest island in Pärnu County – on its list of World Heritage Sites. On Kihnu, national costumes are worn daily and traditional handicrafts continue to be made. You are welcome to explore the traditional Estonian way of life, including the food, at the Farm Museum of C. R. Jakobson (Kurgja Village, Vändra Municipality; kurgja.ee), which also operates as a farm.

There are also two 18-course golf parks right next to the town: *White Beach Golf* in Valgeranna (Valgeranna village, Audru; wbg.ee) and *Pärnu Bay Golf Links* in Tahkuranna (Klubi tee 1, Reiu küla, Tahkuranna; parnubay.com). For an added dose of adrenalin, try out the *Auto24Ring* driving range in Audru (Papsaare, Audru; auto24ring.ee). By the way, Santa Claus and his family have made a home for themselves at the *Chimney Farm* (Kõpu village, Tõstamaa; maria.ee) which is open for visits all year round. The *Lottemaa Theme Park* is also near Pärnu (Reiu, Tahkuranna vald; lottemaa.ee) and will present a magical Christmas world in the latter half of December.

Welcome to Pärnu!

The Pärnu Visitor Centre will be happy to help you with your travel plans and advise you on how to spend your vacation in Pärnumaa. **BO**



Café Supelsaksad



Pärnu coastal meadow

Photo by Mati Kose

WINTER SEASON EVENTS IN PÄRNU AND NEARBY

November 9: New Theatre Ensemble (Pärnu Concert Hall, concert.ee)
November 11–27: Black Nights Film Festival (Tallinn, Tartu, Pärnu, poff.ee)
November 18: The Estonian National Opera presents Giuseppe Verdi's *Rigoletto* (Pärnu Concert Hall, concert.ee)
December 1–31: Christmas Month in Pärnu (Pärnu, visitparnu.com)
December 1–4: Christmas Jazz 2016 (Pärnu, jazzkaar.ee)
December 17–22 and December 26–30: Magical Christmas in Lottemaa (Lottemaa, lottemaa.ee)
March 4–12, 2017: Pärnu Spa Week (Pärnu, visitparnu.com/talvespaa)



Publicity photos and by
GATIS GIERTS
(Picture Agency)

Galleria Riga shopping centre
Dzirnavu iela 67
Entrances from Dzirnavu iela 67
and Blaumaņa iela 10
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Galleria Riga — a shopping centre that inspires

The

Galleria Riga shopping centre has been operating at Dzirnavu iela 67 in downtown Riga since 2010. It is home to more than 85 stores, restaurants and cafés that take up 23,300 square metres of retail space. The main part of the shopping centre spreads across seven floors, not counting the two-floor heated underground parking garage. During the spring and summer months, the 8th floor is the site of the largest rooftop terrace in the Baltic countries. There, several fine restaurants offer great food and drinks, along with a fantastic 360° panoramic view of the Latvian capital.

The first-rate stores and restaurants at the *Galleria Riga* – along with a wide array of services, a personal approach and a special atmosphere – inspire visitors to develop their personalities and enjoy life.

One will find practically everything that one needs at the *Galleria Riga*, including clothing, shoes and accessories, books, children's items and household goods. Each store in the shopping centre is special,

allowing buyers to follow the latest fashion trends and express themselves in various creative ways.

The *Galleria Riga* is home to such internationally renowned fashion brands as *Lloyd*, *Ivo Nikkolo*, *Monton*, *Baltman*, *MAX&Co*, *Marella*, *Mango*, *Ecco*, *Cortefiel*, *Mohito* and many more. Smart concept stores like *8 Rooms*, which sells clothing by Latvian fashion designers, create a special ambience. Furthermore, a stylist is on hand at the *Galleria Riga* to ensure an exciting and valuable shopping experience.

One new arrival that fashion and style aficionados will appreciate is the internationally known brand *COS*. Its first shop in the Baltics was opened in the *Galleria Riga* last month. The store showcases the brand's modern, functional designs for women, men and children, splendidly complementing the current lifestyle offer at the *Galleria Riga*.

The *Galleria Riga* is a place where one can quickly and easily meet various everyday needs, with a bank branch, a post office, a sewing atelier and a dry cleaner's conveniently accessible on the premises.

The *Zinoo Rīga* scientific centre, for its part, provides wonderful recreation and entertainment opportunities for families with children, while grownups can relax and replenish themselves at a beauty salon, hairdresser's and solarium, and yoga studio. One can hardly think of something more invigorating than a yoga session out in the fresh air on the summer terrace.

A wide array of cosy cafés, restaurants and bars can be found on all eight floors of the *Galleria Riga*, including *Can Bei City*, *Il Cibo del Papa*, *The Trinity Bar*, *Oyster Bar Medusa*, *Coffee Inn* and a branch of the legendary *Lido Ķirsons* restaurant chain, which serves Latvian-style dishes made with local food products. Hence, the *Galleria Riga* is perfect for enjoying a satisfying lunch with business partners, drinking a refreshing afternoon coffee, and going out for dinner together with friends.

Inspiring shopping, delicious meals and a pleasant meeting location right in the city centre make the *Galleria Riga* an ideal place for spending quality time. Consequently, it should come as no surprise that the *Galleria Riga's* slogan is *Life gives you wings!* **BO**



Ribs that really rock

Preparing excellent ribs is laborious, and that's one good reason to leave it to the experts. At *Ribs & Rock*, the staff treats ribs at a state-of-the-art level.

Photos by **GATIS GIERTS**
(Picture Agency) and from
publicity materials



Chef Juris Latišenoks

Being the only restaurant in Latvia to specialise in lamb, beef and pork ribs, *Ribs & Rock* knows how to make its customers' mouths water right from the start. Sometimes the aroma emanating into the dining hall is so irresistible that it's easy to overrate one's hunger when choosing from an order of either 400 or 800 grams of ribs. For those who fancy something else, the menu also offers appetisers, soups, salads, pastas and fish as well as wide range of steaks.

Although *Ribs & Rock* belongs to the same people who founded three other popular Riga restaurant chains – *Steiku Haoss*, *KID** and *MUUSU* – it carries a different message than its kin, being an American-style establishment with a Latvian heart and staff. Before *Ribs & Rock* opened to the public, its chefs transformed the kitchen into a laboratory, seeking new methods for achieving tender and juicy meat – and the outcome is remarkable.

The restaurant's special place on Riga's gourmet map is the work of its head chef, Juris Latišenoks. Highly talented and already gaining renown, Latišenoks was famed chef Kaspars Jansons' right hand man and has worked at some of Riga's finest restaurants. Latišenoks is full of the unbridled enthusiasm and creativity of youth, which is reflected in the menu as well. The young chef is not afraid to experiment, and the reaction so far suggests that his boldness is being appreciated.

"My goal is to ensure that *Ribs & Rock* becomes the undisputed barbecue and grill restaurant king in Riga. Our menu reflects several cultures, including American barbecue-style pork ribs and Thai-style barbecue beef," says the chef.

During the fall and winter seasons, Latišenoks is offering gourmet variations of Latvian marinades and autumn products. For vegetarians, the chef recommends the marinated cabbage salad with *Līvu* goat cheese, dried berries, walnuts and cabbage chips. And of course, as a popular spot for meat-eaters, *Ribs & Rock* is continuing to serve all sorts of succulent ribs, including the *Deep Purple* grilled pork spare ribs in black currant balsam and BBQ glazed sauce with potato croquettes. Also worth trying are the *Buffalo Soldiers* beef short ribs, which are sautéed in beer and served together with a smoked potato mash.

"The darkest season of the year is a time for relaxed conversations with friends, which is why we've come up with some tasty appetisers that go very well together with beer, such as pork skin chips, homemade onion rings and traditional Latvian garlic bread," says Latišenoks. In the dessert section, the chef is particularly proud of his cacao egg with beet powder, which he presents in a very creative manner.

The typical patron at *Ribs & Rock* is someone who values not only great food, but also classic rock music. At *Ribs & Rock* you will hear old-school favourites like Jimi Hendrix and Led Zeppelin as well as newer hits by REM and U2, for example. On Friday and Saturday nights, the restaurant provides live music by local bands starting at 8:30 PM.

"We are particularly happy when our guests tell us that they appreciate the harmonious mix of excellent food, a pleasant interior and great music," says Latišenoks, who can be seen personally serving meals to the restaurant's guests on the nights when live music is played.



Those who are looking for a tasty midday meal will love the lunch specials at *Ribs & Rock* – 7.90 euros will get you two delicious dishes. Aside from a diverse range of classic meat and fish plates, there are also vegetarian soups and salads to choose from.

While enjoying a nice afternoon or evening meal at *Ribs & Rock* this autumn, be sure to pair a wine with your main course. Believe us, *Ribs & Rock* is one of the best places in town for coupling wine with pork and other meats. Appetisingly filled plates, relaxed patrons sipping refreshing drinks and listening to live music by Latvian rock groups while enjoying each other's company – all this makes for a tempting combination that is hard to beat! **BO**

Ribs & Rock

Kaļķu iela 8, Rīga
Tel. (+371) 28650450

Opening hours:
Mon.-Wed.: 12:00-23:00
Thu.-Sat.: 12:00-24:00
Sun.: 12:00-23:00

① ribsrestaurant.lv
① facebook.com/ribsandrock
① twitter.com/ribsandrock
① instagram.com/ribsandrock



Aqua Luna restaurant — for those who enjoy life

Photos by
KRISTĪNE GRĪNVALDE

The *Aqua Luna* restaurant has been pleasing Riga’s inhabitants and their guests for the past four years with a romantic view of the scenic Daugava River, a fantastic menu and outstanding service. This fall, the acclaimed restaurant is introducing a new feature that seafood lovers will truly appreciate – a shrimp bar.

Jeļena Kašina is the owner and head of *Aqua Luna*, with more than 20 years of experience in the restaurant business. She is proud that her establishment has set up the only shrimp bar in the city.

The restaurant’s chef spent several months preparing the unique menu, painstakingly searching for the tastiest and healthiest crustaceans on the planet. As a result, *Aqua Luna*’s shrimp bar offers the largest choice of shrimp in the city, including large red *Carabineros* caught off the coast of Mozambique, which taste similar to lobster. Gourmets will also appreciate the Argentine Red deepwater shrimp, which are considered to be among the world’s sweetest-tasting, and the Bangladeshi Black Tiger shrimp, which stand out with a firm, meaty texture and tender taste.

“We let the patrons choose the manner in which they would like their shrimp to be prepared, as well as the sauce with which they are served,” says the restaurant owner.

Having travelled to many countries, Kašina is convinced that in order for a restaurant to be successful, the emphasis must be on quality – both in terms of the meals and the service.

“A first-rate restaurant isn’t only about good food. It’s also about the atmosphere and making people feel at home. One of the reasons that our guests like spending time here is because the waitstaff are very attentive. In addition, we change our menu several times a year, in tune with the changing seasons, and our wine list is among the most extensive in the city,” says Kašina.

During the spring and summer, *Aqua Luna* doubles as a leisure club with a splendid view of the riverfront from the outside terrace. The warm and cosy interior, for its part, can seat up to 100 people – a perfect dinner spot for those cool November evenings. And if you happen to be in Riga on Latvia’s Independence Day (November 18), then there is hardly a better place than *Aqua Luna*’s terrace for viewing the impressive fireworks display.



AQUA LUNA restaurant, bar and lounge
Address: Andrejostas iela 4, Riga
Open: Mon.-Sat.: 12:00 until the last guest
Tel: (+371) 67650922
restaurant@aqualuna.lv
aqualuna.lv



Owner and head of *Aqua Luna*
Jeļena Kašina

Expert appraisals of the *Aqua Luna* restaurant
Aqua Luna’s shrimp bar has received the endorsement of several Latvian food experts, who met at the restaurant for a joint gourmet meal in a festive atmosphere. Here are their comments:



AIVARS MACKEVIČS, TOURISM EXPERT, DIRECTOR OF THE TRAVELNEWS.LV WEBSITE
“One of *Aqua Luna*’s main assets is its fantastic ambience. It’s not easy to generate a festive feeling in a public space, but this restaurant has succeeded in that regard. Everything seems to have been planned out to the finest detail. The service is excellent and so is the food. Following a meal at *Aqua Luna*, I always feel good – as if I have just celebrated a special event.”



ILZE JURKĀNE, FINANCIER AND GOURMET
“The restaurant’s new shrimp menu really surprised me. *Aqua Luna*’s guests will be intrigued by the wide choice of shrimp available. People often don’t realize how diverse shrimp can be – both in terms of taste and texture. The *carabineros carpaccio* is really wonderful and gourmet eaters will appreciate its fantastic taste.”



LAURIS ALEKSEJEVS, CHEF AT THE 36.LINE RESTAURANT IN JŪRMALA
“I have a high regard for concept menus. I have no doubt that the chefs at *Aqua Luna* will continue to make the most of their creativity and that they will keep highlighting new products to please their patrons.”



ROMĀNS KOMARS, SOMMELIER
“The variety of the foods at *Aqua Luna* is highlighted with wines that are paired with the meals. The wine card is very extensive and easy to understand, so it’s not hard to select an appropriate wine for each dish. I highly recommend the combination of lamb with the Argentinean shrimp from the shrimp menu.”



SIGNE MEIRĀNE, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF THE *FOUR SEASONS* (ČETRAS SEZONAS) MAGAZINE, COOKBOOK AUTHOR
“I appreciate the fact that *Aqua Luna* took the bold step of offering shrimp that are a rarity at other Riga restaurants.”

Outlook **PROMO Dining**

Restaurant 3

WILD AND ORGANIC FOOD



CELEBRATE NOVEMBER TOGETHER WITH US!

Remember, remember how it gets colder in November? It sure does, but there is plenty going on at *Restaurant 3* to keep you warm, happy, and – most importantly – well-fed!

November is a special month in Latvia. We ring in the winter season by celebrating Martin's Day (on November 10) and Latvian Independence Day (on November 18). Traditionally, all harvesting should be completed by Martin's Day, and this should be celebrated with a hearty feast that might include a juicy roast.

Bringing forth the best of what Nature has to offer at this time of year, *Restaurant 3* invites visitors to celebrate the month of November in style with mouth-watering duck and goose dishes, along with other wild and organic goods for which the establishment is already known. The waterfowl have been raised especially for the restaurant under the watchful eye of the chefs, and will be playing the main role in *Restaurant 3*'s five- and seven-course gourmet menus all month long.

Those preferring a vegetarian meal have not been forgotten – far from it. This month, the restaurant's five-course vegetarian gourmet menu is being "dressed up" even more, taking the veggie experience to a new level. *A la carte* dishes can also be ordered, ensuring that returning

fans of particular dishes remain as happy as ever.

While Latvians cherish their national holidays, they are quite open to festivities that originate elsewhere. When it comes to superb wine, for example, the savvies at *Restaurant 3* would never miss the chance to celebrate the annual release of Beaujolais Nouveau, a popular French red wine that's best served chilled (the day falls on November 17 this year). In fact, guests will be able to feast on succulent roasts accompanied with a perfectly matched red throughout the month of November. The dedicated staff will be happy to help you select the best wine for your meal, so you won't be disappointed if you decide to leave the choice to experienced hands.

The imminent approach of winter has a number of benefits. You will relish the cosiness of the restaurant, especially in contrast to the cool weather outside the window. And knowing how closely the restaurant's chefs listen to Nature's heartbeat, you might consider trying out one of their carefully selected local herbal teas. Come and enjoy November at *Restaurant 3*! **BO**



Restaurant 3 has two floors: Earth (downstairs) and Sky (upstairs), with 50 seats on each floor, while the terrace can seat up to 30. On the Earth floor you may order à la carte all day, while on the Sky floor, five- to seven-course dinners are served (including a full vegetarian dinner) from Tuesday to Saturday. A business lunch is offered every day, and a themed brunch is available every Saturday and Sunday between 11 AM and 4 PM.



Address:
Torņa iela 4, Rīga
Open: Mon.-Sat.:
12:00-23:00
Sun.: 11:00-23:00
☎ 3pavari.lv

Photos by
GATIS GIERTS
(Picture Agency)



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Outlook **FOOD & DRINK**

Restaurants, bars and cafés

Culinary hotspots in Riga

A guide to the best restaurants, cafés and eateries

Text by **AGRA LIEGE**
Photos by **LAURIS VIKSNE**
(Picture Agency) and
ĢIRTS OZOLIŅŠ (Picture
Agency)



BALTS

Quality and speed plus corn-based cardboard

Balts abides by three basic principles: quality, speed and an environmentally conscious approach. Combining all three of these concepts is incredibly difficult, but somehow they've managed to do so at this establishment.

Even though sushi is the main dish, *Balts* is not a Japanese fast-food spot. Along with a white (*balts* means *white* in Latvian) ascetic interior and cool ray-like stick lamps, the restaurant has a shelf full of authentic Asian snacks (think *Tao Kae Noi* wasabi-flavoured crispy seaweed). So, what is it that convinced the owners to open a place focussed on sushi in a neighbourhood that already has a number of sushi restaurants? And,

more interestingly, why is their concept working?

Well, the food is super good. All of it. The sushi rolls are incredibly fresh and full of flavour, and you can see everything that's inside each snack. They have cute options for people who are actually on the go, like the sushirito (sushi plus burrito), which is exactly what it sounds like and yes, you can actually eat it while standing at the bus stop. I tried, and I even worked in the soya sauce, too!

The mains are of mixed origin, but also Asian-themed when possible. You'll find meaty options as well as salmon and tasty portobello mushrooms for veggie-lovers. The soups come in take-away pots and are unique in the sense that they consist of a very strong liquid bouillon along with healthy, steamed

and near-ready ingredients. All you have to do is pour hot water over the mixture. It works like magic.

Speaking of the second principle, which is speed – *Balts* will have each of the main dishes ready in six minutes or less, and nothing is pre-made. As for the third principle: all of the crockery is made of corn-based cardboard and degrades within two months, so don't hold your takeaway meal in the fridge for too long.

Address: Ģertrūdes iela 27
Open: Mon.-Fri.: 10:00-20:00
Sat.: 11:00-19:00
Sun.: closed

TRY: Salmon sushiritto for EUR 4.60
Butter-baked portobello mushrooms with vegetables and noodles/rice for EUR 5.20
Chicken curry soup for EUR 2.30

colour your stay

Park Inn by Radisson announces two brand-new openings in Riga

parkinn.com

park inn
by Radisson

Discover Riga in brand-new hotels

Park Inn by Radisson Riga Valdemara is located on the western bank of the Daugava River near the city centre. The hotel is just a 12-minute drive from Riga International Airport (RIX). The Old Town, the city's Art Nouveau district, and the Latvian National Opera are only a few minutes away. Rest well in one of our 178 rooms and enjoy panoramic views of Riga. The hotel offers a fitness centre and parking space.

Park Inn by Radisson Residence Riga Barona is located in the bustling commercial city centre. This Riga hotel and residence provides easy access to businesses, transport options and attractions. Guests can admire picturesque buildings and Art Nouveau architecture in the city centre. Especially convenient for extended stays, each of the 78 apartments includes amenities like a kitchen, a coffee maker, cable television and in-room movies.

Dining experience

Park Inn by Radisson Riga Valdemara has the only Bocca Buona brand restaurant in Latvia, with an open terrace and relaxing lounge bar, offering exceptional Italian and Mediterranean dishes is the perfect spot to relax with a flavourful meal and a glass of wine. For meetings, the hotel provides the exceptional SMART meeting-food concept, which provides healthy, brain-refreshing meals.

Meetings and events

Park Inn by Radisson Riga Valdemara has a naturally lit, 350m² flexible conference room which can be transformed into 3 separate rooms; it is equipped with smart intelligence audio-visual technology and free Wi-Fi internet access. We are proud to offer an exceptional service concept emphasizing Choice, Connectivity and Community.

Why Riga?

Riga, founded in 1201, has always been the political, economic, and cultural centre of the Baltics. The historical Centre of Riga is listed by UNESCO as one of the world's most important cultural and architectural sites. Art Nouveau and wooden buildings from the 19th century are trademarks of Riga. Riga International Airport is one of the fastest-growing travel hubs in Europe and provides connectivity with 79 destinations.

Park Inn by Radisson Residence Riga Barona

Kr. Barona iela 40A, 1048 Riga, Latvia
T: +371 63315777, F: +371 64335555
info.residence.riga@rezidorparkinn.com

Park Inn by Radisson Riga Valdemara

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Outlook **FOOD & DRINK**



FERMA

Where meat truly tastes like meat, and fish tastes like fish

Ferma (meaning *farm* in Latvian) is a story of two friends – Jānis Viļumovs and Māris Astičs – who together make the ultimate restaurant manager and the ultimate head chef. They had been friends for years and had worked together (in these same respective positions) a couple of times before, until finally, approximately three years ago, they sat down for their first business talk and dreamed up *Ferma*.

Ferma is a story of instant success – open for just over three months, full to the brim from day two, impossible to get into without prior booking on nearly every weekday evening and all day Saturday, with the only unhappy customers being those who didn't think to make

a reservation before showing up and seeing a queue outside....

The two colleagues also run the Restaurant Service School, which is located right at the back of their cherished *Ferma*. Apparently, even well-travelled customers, who are accustomed to waiting outside of *Michelin*-starred restaurants abroad, have become mildly outraged to see the same happening in Riga. Well, with *Ferma* on the scene, they'd better get used to it!

So what is *Ferma's* secret? As the restaurant's name indicates, the food is simple and "understandable", in the words of the head chef himself. At *Ferma*, meat tastes like meat and fish tastes like fish – like super fresh and high-quality meat and fish! Astičs uses the best local produce whenever possible, but doesn't shy from using imported foods if necessary.

The prices are friendly, because this is "food for the

people", in Astičs' words. It could be called classic European cuisine made mostly with local products, and visitors will be in for some pleasant surprises. The classic pumpkin-orange soup, so good in autumn, has turned into pumpkin-quince in Astičs' hands. And the risotto tastes oh-so-fresh when made out of buckwheat. But don't just take my word for it. Give it a try! And make a booking first!

Address: Valkas iela 7
Open: Mon.-Sat: 12:00-23:00
Sun.: closed
TRY: Classic Latvian porridge (*bukstiņputra*) with potatoes for EUR 4.50
Buckwheat risotto with baked cheese, spinach and sautéed pulses for EUR 7.00
Slow-cooked duck breast with scorzonera, quince and wild mushroom bake for EUR 15.60



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For other locations and live music events refer to www.lido.lv



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It is used to open the city gates when guests are welcome.

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

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

www.keytoriga.lv

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New destinations coming up in 2017

We are happy to announce the launching of new direct flights from the Baltics in the spring of 2017. Where would you like to travel next year? Choose your destination and book your trip at airbaltic.com.



Riga – STAVANGER

The locals say that Stavanger is a city of highs, as it is surrounded by beautiful fjords and breathtaking mountains. It also boasts an active cultural life. Being the capital of Norway's oil industry, the city is booming with energy and countless opportunities and attracts people from all over the world.

Start date: May 2
Frequency: three flights per week
One-way ticket price: from EUR 49



Riga – ABERDEEN

The Granite City is a true Scottish beauty, but don't let the pristine coastline with all of its cliffs, beaches and mysterious castles fool you – Aberdeen is also open for some serious business, as it holds one of the oldest and widest ports in the region and is the oil centre of Scotland.

Start date: May 2
Frequency: three flights per week
One-way ticket price: from EUR 39



Riga – GENEVA

The second largest city in Switzerland is a booming finance centre with lots to offer. However, if you wish to take a break from Geneva's busy city life, the mountains are just a stone's throw away, and you can see the majestic Mont Blanc right from the city centre.

Start date: May 4
Frequency: three flights per week
One-way ticket price: from EUR 69

VILNIUS – PARIS
Paris is always a good idea for a vacation trip. The city of romance, lights, croissants and jam, style and fashion, and much, much more... Paris can be described in millions of beautiful words, but it takes only one flight to get there.

Start date: March 26
Frequency: four flights per week
One-way ticket price: from EUR 39

VILNIUS – MUNICH
Munich does not require much introduction. The friendliest metropolis in Germany, the heart of Bavaria and the hometown of Oktoberfest will now be accessible from Vilnius with direct flights.

Start date: March 27
Frequency: three flights per week
One-way ticket price: from EUR 39



Riga – GOTHENBURG

The "second capital" of Sweden has long been at the crossroads of trade and culture. Today, the city is known for gourmet restaurants that offer exquisite seafood, contemporary art, Swedish design and an active culture life. Gothenburg is also a large trading centre and one of the best logistics locations in Sweden.

Start date: June 1
Frequency: six flights per week
One-way ticket price: from EUR 49



Riga – CATANIA

Located at the foot of Mount Etna, this lovely Sicilian town is a wonderful combination of the ancient and the modern. The historic core with its Baroque architecture is a UNESCO World Heritage site, while the impressive skyline will remain etched in your memory. And of course, the sea and the food... you can never have too much of Sicily.

Start date: May 11
Frequency: one flight per week
One-way ticket price: from EUR 99



Riga – TAMPERE

Located in the largest lake district in Europe, Tampere is the second largest city in Finland, yet it has managed to maintain a casual and friendly atmosphere. Its visitors love the cosy cafés and captivating museums that have found home in redeveloped industrial buildings as well as the fantastic views over two lakes.

Start date: March 26
Frequency: six flights per week
One-way ticket price: from EUR 35



Hamburg

Catch the Christmas feeling in Germany

Germans are world-famous for their love of Christmas, which they start preparing for during the last week of November, when Christmas markets open in many cities and villages. The bigger cities host several markets, and Berlin alone has around 60 Christmas markets.

On workday evenings, groups of friends or colleagues often gather for a glass of Glühwein and Bratwurst in the Christmas markets. On weekends, the markets are full of families with children. Visitors can taste local and international specialties, shop for gifts and take part in various activities.

airBaltic flies non-stop to five cities in Germany, with up to two flights per day to **Berlin** from Riga, Vilnius and Tallinn. One can also fly directly from Riga to **Munich, Frankfurt, Hamburg** and **Dusseldorf**.

Ticket prices for the end of November and beginning of December are still very affordable, starting from EUR 29 one-way. Remember that the best deals are always marked with cherries 🍒 at airbaltic.com.

Start planning your skiing holidays

This winter, *airBaltic* is offering flights to lots of popular skiing destinations.

If you prefer the classic skiing resorts of the Alps, then there are up to two flights per day from Riga to **Munich** and **Vienna**, six flights per week to **Zurich** and five flights per week to **Milan**. As of December 24, flights will also begin to **Verona** and **Salzburg**. One-way ticket prices to these destinations start at EUR 49.

Those looking for something more unconventional might want to visit the Gudauri ski resort in the Caucasus Mountains of Georgia. Flights from Riga to **Tbilisi** operate twice per week, and ticket prices start at EUR 99 one way.

The High Tatra Mountains are a great value-for-money option, with Saturday flights to **Poprad** in Slovakia resuming on December 17 from as low as EUR 35 one way.

Take along your own ski equipment. Add it to your luggage while booking at airbaltic.com for EUR 34.99 and avoid the higher costs of onsite equipment rentals.

All flight prices mentioned in this magazine apply for one-way Basic tickets from Riga, Vilnius or Tallinn that are booked in advance at www.airbaltic.com. Prices are subject to availability and not available for all flights or days. A transaction fee in the amount of up to EUR 5.99 may be applied to the booking depending on the selected method of payment. Special conditions apply. The published prices are valid only if round trip flights are booked.

WHY BOOK ON AIRBALTIC.COM?



Best Price Guarantee

It's the one and only official *airBaltic* website. Of course we have the lowest rates on *airBaltic* flights!

Cherry fares 🍒

Enjoy the special offers exclusive to [airBaltic.com](http://airbaltic.com). They're easy to find — just look for cherries.

Extra services

The only site with such a huge selection of flight extras at the best prices: from bags to seats, meals & more!

Flexible payments

Book your flight on our website, but pay for it later! Don't want to pay the whole sum now? Pay in parts!

For even more reasons,
visit our website:

www.airbaltic.com

Meet our new Bombardier CS300

We are so close to starting flights with the first new *Bombardier CS300* aircraft.

A NEW TRAVEL EXPERIENCE

Designed with the passenger's comfort in mind, the *CSeries* cabin provides space where it matters the most. Enjoy the greatest seat width and widest middle seat of a single-aisle commercial aircraft. Extra large windows provide additional natural light, and more than one window can be seen in each row. There is enough space for the carry-on baggage of every passenger, and the luggage bins are now lower, making them easier to reach. All this and more will ensure an even more pleasant flying experience.

EXTRAORDINARY EFFICIENCY

Stringent environmental standards in a rapidly changing world. *CSeries* aircraft are the quietest commercial jet in production, while maintaining remarkably low rates of carbon emission.



THE NEXT GENERATION AIRCRAFT

Innovative design and the latest technologies have resulted in more convenience and comfort for passengers, along with an expanded aircraft flight range. This will allow *airBaltic* to take its customers further and bring them to more exotic locations. In addition, the *CSeries* aircraft flies faster than similar aircraft, requiring less time to bring travellers to their destination.



Text by
EGITA KRASTIŅA



Kristaps Lapsa,
CSeries fleet
project manager

What do your responsibilities entail?

We are coordinating the introduction of the CS300 into *airBaltic's* fleet. That involves everything: starting from the paperwork and ending with the training of the ground crew, flight attendants and pilots. It involves signing contracts, planning out marketing activities, coordinating test flights and many other things to ensure that *airBaltic* can successfully conduct commercial passenger flights with a brand new aircraft model.

Can you describe the cooperation between *airBaltic* and *Bombardier* in the leadup to the first commercial flights with the CS300?

We communicate with *Bombardier* on a daily basis by e-mail and by phone. I fly frequently to Montreal, where the planes are being manufactured and from where several aspects of their entry into service are being coordinated. It can be quite challenging to implement an international project from two different parts of the world. When we get together for our morning meetings at *airBaltic*, our colleagues in Canada are still sleeping because we are seven time zones ahead of them. We start getting in touch with the people at *Bombardier* at about 3 PM Riga time, when it is still morning in Montreal. Since our work day at *airBaltic* might end just a couple of hours after the work day of our colleagues in North America has begun, direct communication by phone between our two companies occurs in a restricted time frame – day in and day out.

What are the main advantages of the new CS300 aircraft for passengers and for *airBaltic* itself?

Passengers will be really surprised at how quiet the engines are. That is a huge plus. I had seen countless marketing booklets that touted the merits of the new aircraft, but only when I got to see the first takeoffs and landings from the tarmac did I really grasp how true these claims really were. Passengers will also appreciate the larger seats and luggage bins as well as the larger windows, which will give them better views as they fly up above the clouds. The biggest gain for the airline is greater fuel economy, which will lead to lower ticket prices for our passengers. **BO**

Phase-in coordinator

Although Kristaps Lapsa joined *airBaltic* less than a year ago, he has been involved in one of the most exciting events in the airline's history – the overhaul of its fleet and the phasing in of the new *Bombardier CS300* jet aircraft. In this interview, Lapsa outlines the challenges of working from two different continents and reveals what positive changes passengers can expect.

How long have you been with *airBaltic* and what is your background in the airline industry?

I joined *airBaltic* at the beginning of this year as the airline's *CSeries* fleet project manager. Before that, I worked for 14 years at the Riga airport in various capacities. I started off as a cargo handler, then worked as a check-in agent, flight coordinator, shift foreman and aviation client relations head, to name just a few of the many positions I have held.

Maybe I should have asked you what you *haven't* done in aviation?

Yes, I really have seen the industry from many different vantage points. I was really excited at the chance to help phase in the new CS300 at *airBaltic*. I knew that I would have to deal with many challenges. The job is particularly interesting because we are the first airline in the world to phase in this new aircraft. We are starting completely from scratch, and this means that we will be able to consult other airlines that use the CS300 in the future.

airBaltic.com – a one-stop shop for all your travel needs

A bit of planning ahead of time makes a huge difference. Booking extras along with your ticket allows you to save big and have more cash for your trip!

Should I take my snowboard with me?

Take along your own sports equipment – it's definitely cheaper than renting on site. Use that extra money for your apres-ski each night!

EUR 34.99



Will I carry baggage?

Decide early on your baggage for major savings! Adding checked baggage at the moment of booking your flight will save up to 50% of the baggage price you may pay at the airport.

from EUR 29.99



What's on the menu?

We all know that having a bite makes time fly and the flight seem shorter. Get more for your money by pre-ordering your meal on airbalticmeal.com. Choose from a wider menu of over 70 meals that may not be available for in-flight purchase.

from EUR 8

It's important to me where I sit on the plane!

Reserve your favourite seat on the aircraft, whether it's a seat by the window, one with more legroom, or near the front for an easy exit.

from EUR 1.99



Should I bring my pet with me?

Man's best friend doesn't have to stay at home! You can bring a small pet in the cabin if it fits under the front seat or a larger pet in the cargo hold with an animal-friendly container. Book your pet's ticket through our Ticket Office or Call Centre.



Business Class menu

This month, together with the new winter season flight schedule, *airBaltic* is offering a new menu for its Business Class passengers. The selection of exquisite meals is inspired by cuisines from all over the world and particularly by local Latvian traditions.

Latvian cuisine has its origins in the country's ancient pagan heritage and has been enriched with the culinary traditions of additional cultures over the centuries. This can be seen in contemporary Latvian meals, where traditional ingredients are prepared in ever new ways.

Riga and the Gauja River Valley have been named a *European Region of Gastronomy* for 2017, giving an added opportunity for Latvia to showcase the gastronomic heritage of its central and northeastern regions. *airBaltic*'s Business Class menu reflects the Wild at Palate concept, which implies the use of ingredients that can be found just outside the window in the Latvian

countryside – game, fish, forest berries and mushrooms, etc. Many of these products can now be found on *airBaltic*'s Business Class plates, such as catfish, trout, venison, rabbit, boletus mushrooms, rowan berries, lingonberries and hazelnuts. Among the delicious treats available are smoked salmon with horseradish cream, rye bread and cucumber; grilled turkey fillet with raspberry sauce and fried seasonal vegetables; and fried catfish with fresh vegetable salad and roasted garlic sauce. These are complimented with a delightful dessert, such as ricotta cheese cake with cocoa, lingonberry upside down cake and mascarpone-almond cream with raspberry sauce.

In honour of Latvia's Independence Day, which

the country celebrates on November 18, Andris Vasiļonoks of *LSG Sky Chefs* has prepared special festive meals that will be served to *airBaltic*'s Business Class passengers during that holiday period. These include fried chicken breast with king boletes and carrot puree, cheese *Sierštele* with cranberries and fried beetroot and apple-lingonberry tartelette with vanilla sauce.





Join *airBaltic*’s loyalty program pins

About the program

PINS is the ***airBaltic* frequent flyer loyalty program**, which uses the loyalty currency PINS.

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

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

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

If you aren’t a pins program member yet

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



airBaltic PINS card



airBaltic PINS Executive card



airBaltic PINS VIP card



airBaltic PINS Young Pilot card

Benefits for Executive- and VIP-level members of the *airBaltic* pins program

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

For instance, ***airBaltic* VIP members** travelling on a Basic ticket can use **the Business Class counter to check in** for a flight, or simply drop off baggage and then just breeze through Riga Airport security! Instead of joining the regular queue at the

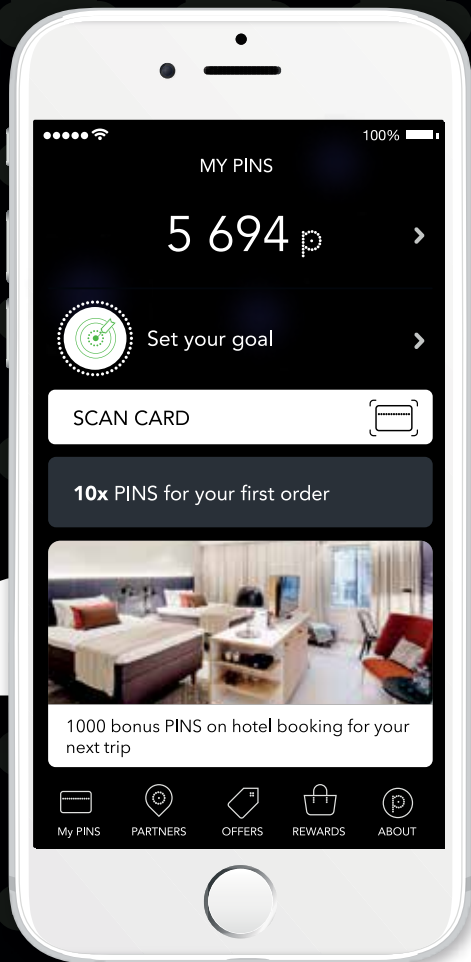
security check, go **straight to the dedicated Fast Track lane** and save time.

airBaltic’s most loyal customers at the Executive and VIP levels can **receive various benefits**, including **priority check-in**, **advanced seat reservation** and **Fast Track security screening**, to name just a few. For a complete list of privileges offered, please check the table below.

Rules and benefits	Status level		
	BASIC	EXECUTIVE	VIP
			
QUALIFICATION			
Based on Status PINS	registration	25,000 Status PINS	50,000 Status PINS
Based on the number of <i>airBaltic</i> segments flown	⊘	30 (or 15 round trips)	60 (or 30 round trips)
Qualification duration	⊘	1 year	1 year
Status PINS expiration	after 12 months	after 12 months	after 12 months
Reward PINS expiration	after 36 months	no expiration	no expiration
THRESHOLD FOR RE-QUALIFICATION			
Based on Status PINS	⊘	20,000 Status PINS	40,000 Status PINS
Based on the number of <i>airBaltic</i> segments flown	⊘	25	50
ADDITIONAL BENEFITS			
Advance seat request online	⊘	⊘	free
Seat Selection during online check-in	⊘	⊘	free
Business class check-in with basic class ticket type	⊘	✓	✓
Security Fast Track	⊘	in Riga	in Riga
Lounge access	⊘	⊘	✓ (plus one guest and children)
Flight segment upgrade	⊘	⊘	2 upgrade vouchers per year
BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE			
Total checked baggage allowance (free bags and total baggage weight)			
Basic ticket type (Economy class) – Second cabin bag free of charge	⊘	⊘	2 cabin bags (55x40x20 cm max. each)
Premium class ticket type	1 item up to 20kg	2 items up to 40kg	3 items up to 60kg; 1 piece of sports equipment with maximum weight 20 kg free of charge
Business class ticket type	2 items up to 40kg	3 items up to 60kg	4 items up to 80kg
			1 sports equipment set with the max. weight of 20 kg included

* Exception: at Copenhagen, Helsinki, Oslo and Stockholm airports access to the SAS Business Lounge is granted to the VIP member and one guest only.

Download the pins app and get more



- ✓ Set your desired reward as a goal and collect pins to get it
- ✓ Track your pins balance and recent transactions easily
- ✓ Find on the map the closest places to collect pins
- ✓ Get exclusive offers and discounts for app users only
- ✓ Explore the most popular rewards to exchange your collected pins

Available now



Escape to Spain this winter!



Since the beginning of this year, *airBaltic* has strengthened its cooperation with the Spanish flag carrier *Iberia*, creating additional opportunities for easy travel between Latvia and Spain.

This winter, *airBaltic* will operate direct flights between Riga and Barcelona four times a week in cooperation with *Iberia*. The Spanish capital, Madrid, can also be conveniently reached through Europe's biggest hubs, including Frankfurt, Amsterdam and Dusseldorf. One part of such trips takes place on *airBaltic* flights, while the other is operated by *Iberia*.

Madrid

The capital of Spain is one of Europe's greatest cities, with an extremely modern infrastructure. Aside from being a major centre of economic, financial, administrative and service activities, Madrid has a vast cultural and artistic heritage that extends back for centuries.

Visit world-famous museums such as the Prado; walk along the Gran Vía street with its impressive buildings, shops and bars; see the majestic Royal Palace; relax in a beautiful park (the most famous of which is Retiro) and try out some Spanish tapas, beer and wine.

Barcelona

Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia, is a Mediterranean and cosmopolitan city with Roman ruins, medieval quarters and the most beautiful examples of 20th-century modernist and avant-garde architecture. It is thus no surprise that emblematic constructions by Catalan architects Antoni Gaudí and Lluís Domènech i Montaner have been declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.

Walk along the beach promenades, appraise the modernist structures by Gaudí and his contemporaries, visit the

Boqueria market to buy some Spanish delicacies, and enjoy the great seafood and wine for which the region is known.

Book your flights in one go at airbaltic.com or iberia.com.

Why book connecting flights together?

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

Two ticket types for your convenience

When booking connecting flights with *airBaltic* and its partner airlines, you can choose between two types of tickets: Premium Economy with one piece of checked baggage, airport check-in and fast-track security control at Riga International Airport; and Business Class with a full range of services and flexibility.

IBERIA BASIC FACTS	
Founded	1927
Alliance	one world
Hub	Adolfo Suárez Madrid-Barajas Airport
Focus city	Barcelona-El Prat Airport
Fleet	136 aircraft
Destinations	125


airBaltic codeshare partners

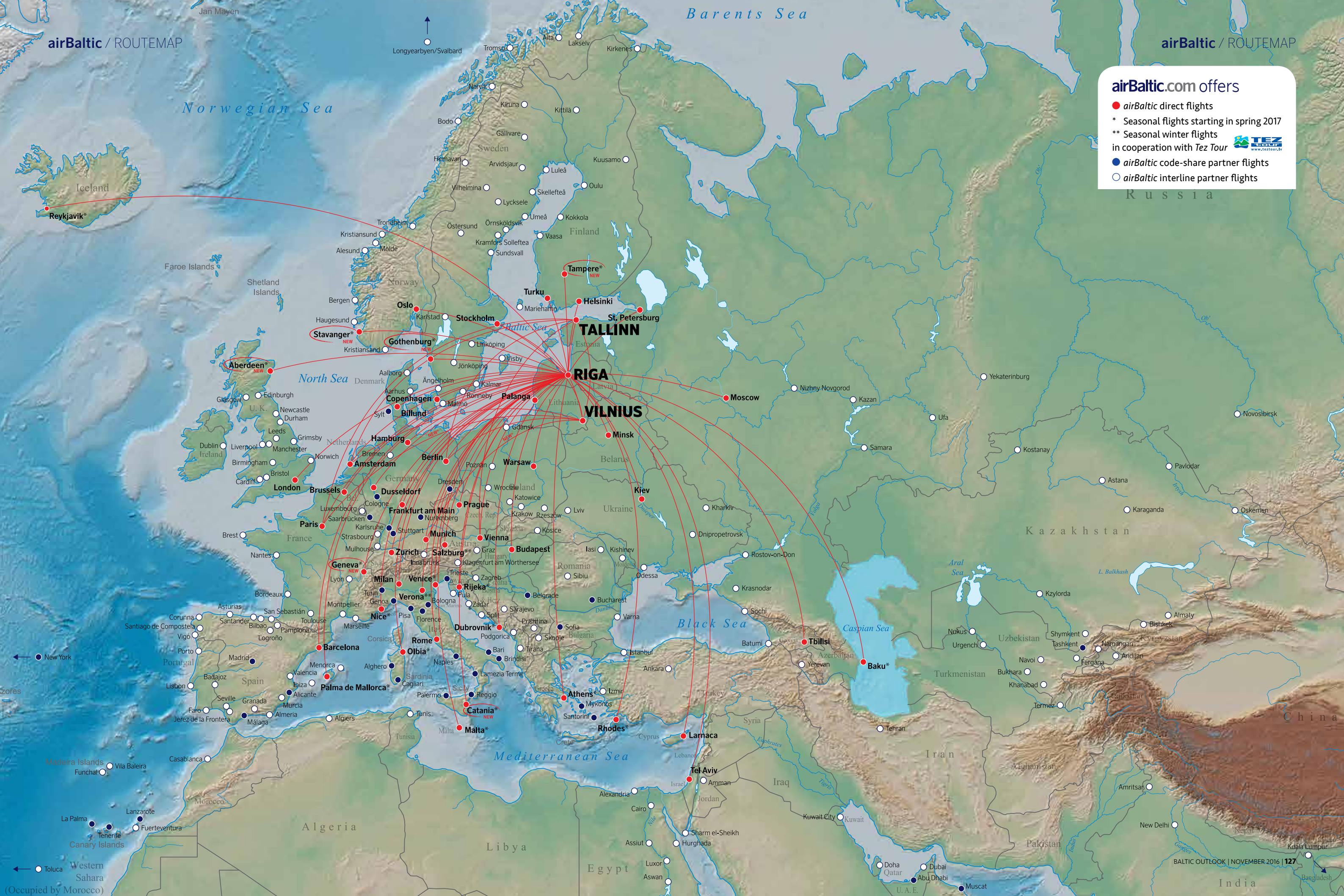


Flights from RIGA						Flights to RIGA					
Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure	Arrival	Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure	Arrival
AMSTERDAM						AMSTERDAM					
BT 617	RIX	AMS	123456-	07:35	9:00	BT 618	AMS	RIX	-2-----	10:00	13:15
BT 619	RIX	AMS	12345-7	16:25	17:50	BT 618	AMS	RIX	1-3-56-	10:20	13:35
						BT 618	AMS	RIX	---4---	11:00	14:15
						BT 620	AMS	RIX	12345-7	18:55	22:10
BARCELONA						BARCELONA					
BT 681	RIX	BCN	-2-4-67	07:40	10:25	BT 682	BCN	RIX	-2-4-6-	12:20	17:00
						BT 682	BCN	RIX	-----7	11:05	15:45
BERLIN Tegel						BERLIN Tegel					
BT 211	RIX	TXL	1234567	08:15	9:10	BT 212	TXL	RIX	1234567	09:50	12:40
BT 213	RIX	TXL	12345-7	18:05	19:00	BT 214	TXL	RIX	12345-7	19:30	22:20
BILLUND						BILLUND					
BT 147	RIX	BLL	1-3-5-7	12:25	13:30	BT 148	BLL	RIX	1-3-5-7	14:40	17:30
BRUSSELS						BRUSSELS					
BT 601	RIX	BRU	12345--	06:20	8:20	BT 602	BRU	RIX	12345--	09:05	12:50
BT 607	RIX	BRU	-----6-	12:05	14:05	BT 608	BRU	RIX	-----6-	14:35	18:20
BT 603	RIX	BRU	12345-7	16:20	18:20	BT 604	BRU	RIX	12345-7	18:50	22:35
BUDAPEST						BUDAPEST					
BT 491	RIX	BUD	1---5-7	12:20	13:45	BT 492	BUD	RIX	1---5-7	14:15	17:35
COPENHAGEN						COPENHAGEN					
BT 131	RIX	CPH	1234567	07:30	8:10	BT 132	CPH	RIX	1234567	08:50	11:25
BT 135	RIX	CPH	1234567	12:30	13:10	BT 136	CPH	RIX	1---5--	13:45	16:20
BT 139	RIX	CPH	12345-7	18:25	19:05	BT 136	CPH	RIX	-234-67	14:55	17:30
BT 139	RIX	CPH	-----6-	18:50	19:30	BT 140	CPH	RIX	12345-7	19:40	22:15
						BT 140			-----6-	20:05	22:40
DUSSELDORF						DUSSELDORF					
BT 233	RIX	DUS	-----7	12:00	13:40	BT 234	DUS	RIX	-----7	14:15	17:45
BT 233	RIX	DUS	1-3-5--	15:10	16:50	BT 234	DUS	RIX	1-3-5--	17:25	20:55
FRANKFURT						FRANKFURT					
BT 245	RIX	FRA	12345-7	16:25	18:10	BT 246	FRA	RIX	12345-7	18:45	22:20
HAMBURG						HAMBURG					
BT 251	RIX	HAM	12-4---	07:20	8:25	BT 252	HAM	RIX	12-4---	08:55	11:50
BT 255	RIX	HAM	-----6-	12:20	13:25	BT 256	HAM	RIX	-----6-	14:25	17:20
BT 253	RIX	HAM	--3-5-7	18:05	19:10	BT 254	HAM	RIX	--3-5-7	19:40	22:35
HELSINKI						HELSINKI					
BT 301	RIX	HEL	123456-	07:40	8:45	BT 326	HEL	RIX	123456-	05:35	6:40
BT 303	RIX	HEL	-----6-	14:25	15:30	BT 302	HEL	RIX	1234567	10:15	11:20
BT 303	RIX	HEL	12345-7	14:55	16:00	BT 304	HEL	RIX	1234567	16:30	17:35
BT 307	RIX	HEL	12345-7	18:20	19:25	BT 308	HEL	RIX	12345-7	21:05	22:10
BT 307	RIX	HEL	-----6-	18:50	19:55						
BT 325	RIX	HEL	12345-7	23:05	00:10+1						
KIEV						KIEV					
BT 400	RIX	KBP	123456-	07:20	9:10	BT 401	KBP	RIX	123456-	09:40	11:35
BT 404	RIX	KBP	12345-7	18:15	20:05	BT 405	KBP	RIX	12345-7	20:35	22:30
LARNACA						LARNACA					
BT 657	RIX	LCA	-----6-	18:20	22:10	BT 658	LCA	RIX	-----7	12:25	16:25
LONDON Gatwick						LONDON Gatwick					
BT 651	RIX	LGW	-2---6-	07:45	8:35	BT 652	LGW	RIX	-2---6-	09:25	14:10
BT 651	RIX	LGW	1-4---	09:05	10:00	BT 652	LGW	RIX	1-4---	11:00	15:45
BT 653	RIX	LGW	--3-5-7	15:50	16:45	BT 654	LGW	RIX	--3-5-7	17:30	22:15
MILAN Malpensa						MILAN Malpensa					
BT 629	RIX	MXP	1-3-56-	07:40	9:25	BT 630	MXP	RIX	1-3-56-	10:10	13:55
BT 629	RIX	MXP	-----7	11:10	12:55	BT 630	MXP	RIX	-----7	13:40	17:25
MINSK						MINSK					
BT 412	RIX	MSQ	1-3---7	12:45	14:55	BT 413	MSQ	RIX	1-3---7	15:35	15:45
MOSCOW Sheremetyevo						MOSCOW Sheremetyevo					
BT 424	RIX	SVO	123456-	07:20	10:00	BT 427	SVO	RIX	123456-	05:50	06:35
BT 428	RIX	SVO	12345--	12:50	15:30	BT 425	SVO	RIX	1234567	10:45	11:30
BT 422	RIX	SVO	12345-7	18:15	20:55	BT 429	SVO	RIX	12345--	16:25	17:10
BT 422	RIX	SVO	-----6-	19:20	22:00	BT 423	SVO	RIX	12345-7	21:40	22:25
BT 426	RIX	SVO	12345-7	23:15	01:55+1						
MUNICH						MUNICH					
BT 221	RIX	MUC	1234-6-	07:20	09:00	BT 222	MUC	RIX	1234-6-	09:35	13:05
BT 223	RIX	MUC	1-345-7	16:25	18:05	BT 224	MUC	RIX	1-345-7	18:40	22:10
OSLO						OSLO					
BT 151	RIX	OSL	123456-	08:05	9:00	BT 152	OSL	RIX	123456-	09:30	12:20
BT 159	RIX	OSL	1-3-5-7	12:20	13:15	BT 160	OSL	RIX	1-3-5-7	14:30	17:20
BT 153	RIX	OSL	12345-7	18:10	19:05	BT 154	OSL	RIX	12345-7	19:30	22:20
PALANGA						PALANGA					
BT 033	RIX	PLQ	-----6-	18:50	19:35	BT 032	PLQ	RIX	123456-	05:50	06:35
BT 033	RIX	PLQ	12345-7	23:25	00:10+1	BT 033	PLQ	RIX	-----7	10:45	11:30
PARIS Charles de Gaulles						PARIS Charles de Gaulles					
BT 691	RIX	CDG	123456-	07:15	09:10	BT 692	CDG	RIX	123456-	10:10	13:55
BT 693	RIX	CDG	1-3-5-7	16:00	17:55	BT 694	CDG	RIX	1-3-5-7	18:40	22:25
PRAGUE						PRAGUE					
BT 481	RIX	PRG	1234567	12:30	13:40	BT 482	PRG	RIX	1234567	14:25	17:30
ROME Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino						ROME Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino					
BT 631	RIX	FCO	--3-5--	07:55	10:00	BT 632	FCO	RIX	--3-5--	12:00	16:10
BT 633	RIX	FCO	1-----	13:20	15:25	BT 634	FCO	RIX	1-----	17:50	22:00

Flights from Riga						Flights to Riga					
Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure	Arrival	Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure	Arrival
STOCKHOLM Arlanda						STOCKHOLM Arlanda					
BT 101	RIX	ARN	1234567	07:30	07:45	BT 102	ARN	RIX	----5--	08:15	10:30
BT 105	RIX	ARN	12345--	12:05	12:20	BT 102	ARN	RIX	1234-6-	08:40	10:55
BT 105	RIX	ARN	-----67	12:30	12:45	BT 102	ARN	RIX	-----7	09:05	11:20
BT 107	RIX	ARN	12345--	14:50	15:05	BT 106	ARN	RIX	12345--	12:50	15:00
BT 109	RIX	ARN	1234567	19:00	19:15	BT 108	ARN	RIX	1234567	15:35	17:45
						BT 110	ARN	RIX	1234567	19:45	22:00
ST-PETERSBURG						ST-PETERSBURG					
BT 442	RIX	LED	123456-	07:50	10:10	BT 447	LED	RIX	123456-	06:15	06:35
BT 444	RIX	LED	12345-7	18:30	20:50	BT 443	LED	RIX	1234567	11:00	11:20
BT 444	RIX	LED	-----6-	19:00	21:20	BT 445	LED	RIX	12345-7	21:40	22:00
BT 446	RIX	LED	12345-7	23:15	01:35+1						
TALLINN						TALLINN					
BT 311	RIX	TLL	123456-	07:30	08:20	BT 362	TLL	RIX	123456-	06:00	06:50
BT 313	RIX	TLL	12345-7	12:15	13:05	BT 312	TLL	RIX	1234567	10:40	11:30
BT 315	RIX	TLL	-----6-	14:25	15:15	BT 314	TLL	RIX	12345--	13:30	14:20
BT 315	RIX	TLL	12345--	15:30	16:20	BT 314	TLL	RIX	-----7	14:20	15:10
BT 317	RIX	TLL	12345-7	18:20	19:10	BT 316	TLL	RIX	123456-	16:45	17:35
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BT 361	RIX	TLL	12345-7	23:10	23:59						
TBILISI						TBILISI					
BT 724	RIX	TBS	----5-7	22:55	04:25+1	BT 725	TBS	RIX	1----6-	05:10	06:45
TEL AVIV						TEL AVIV					
BT 771	RIX	TLV	-----6-	14:25	18:45	BT 772	TLV	RIX	--3----	06:40	11:15
BT 771	RIX	TLV	-2-4---	23:30	03:50+1	BT 772	TLV	RIX	----5-7	07:10	11:45
TURKU						TURKU					
BT 359	RIX	TKU	1-345-7	23:20	00:30+1	BT 360	TKU	RIX	12-456-	05:35	06:40
VIENNA						VIENNA					
BT 431	RIX	VIE	1-34-6-	07:15	08:40	BT 432	VIE	RIX	1-34-6-	09:45	13:05
BT 433	RIX	VIE	12345-7	16:45	18:10	BT 434	VIE	RIX	12345-7	18:50	22:10
VILNIUS						VILNIUS					
BT 341	RIX	VNO	123456-	07:30	08:20	BT 350	VNO	RIX	123456-	05:50	06:40
BT 343	RIX	VNO	12345-7	12:15	13:05	BT 342	VNO	RIX	1234567	10:40	11:30
BT 345	RIX	VNO	-----6-	14:25	15:15	BT 344	VNO	RIX	12345--	13:30	14:20
BT 345	RIX	VNO	12345--	15:30	16:20	BT 344	VNO	RIX	-----7	14:20	15:10
BT 347	RIX	VNO	12345-7	18:20	19:10	BT 346	VNO	RIX	123456-	16:45	17:35
BT 347	RIX	VNO	-----6-	18:50	19:40	BT 348	VNO	RIX	12345-7	21:25	22:15
BT 349	RIX	VNO	12345-7	23:10	23:59						
WARSAW						WARSAW					
BT 461	RIX	WAW	123456-	07:45	08:10	BT 462	WAW	RIX	123456-	09:00	11:25
BT 467	RIX	WAW	-----7	12:40	13:05	BT 468	WAW	RIX	-----7	15:00	17:25
ZURICH						ZURICH					
BT 641	RIX	ZRH	1-34567	12:05	13:35	BT 642	ZRH	RIX	1-34567	14:10	17:40
Flights from Tallinn						Flights to Tallinn					
Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure	Arrival	Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure	Arrival
AMSTERDAM						AMSTERDAM					
BT 621	TLL	AMS	-2-----	06:10	7:45	BT 622	AMS	TLL	-2-4---	09:15	12:35
BT 621	TLL	AMS	----4--	07:05	08:40	BT 622	AMS	TLL	-----7	10:20	13:40
BT 621	TLL	AMS	-----7	07:25	09:00	BT 622	AMS	TLL	1-3-56-	11:40	15:00
BT 621	TLL	AMS	1--5---	08:05	09:40						
BT 621	TLL	AMS	--3---	08:25	10:00						
BT 621	TLL	AMS	-----6-	09:25	11:00						
BERLIN Tegel						BERLIN Tegel					
BT 201	TLL	TXL	-2-4-7-	14:15	15:10	BT 202	TXL	TLL	-2-4-7-	16:40	18:30
PARIS Charles de Gaulles						PARIS Charles de Gaulles					
BT 689	TLL	CDG	1-3-5--	15:45	17:55	BT 690	CDG	TLL	1-3-5--	18:40	22:35
VIENNA						VIENNA					
BT 207	TLL	VIE	--4-7-	19:05	20:25	BT 208	VIE	TLL	--4-7-	20:55	00:15+1
VILNIUS						VILNIUS					
BT 332	TLL	VNO	12345--	08:50	10:10	BT 331	VNO	TLL	12345--	08:45	10:10
BT 336	TLL	VNO	12345-7	19:40	21:00	BT 335	VNO	TLL	12345-7	19:40	21:05
Flights from Vilnius						Flights to Vilnius					
Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure	Arrival	Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure	Arrival
AMSTERDAM						AMSTERDAM					
BT 609	VNO	AMS	1-----	05:40	7:45	BT 610	AMS	VNO	1-3----	09:15	13:00
BT 609	VNO	AMS	--3----	06:35	8:40	BT 610	AMS	VNO	-----5-	10:20	14:05
BT 609	VNO	AMS	-2-4567	07:15	9:20	BT 610	AMS	VNO	-----67	10:40	14:25
						BT 610	AMS	VNO	--4----	11:00	14:45
						BT 610	AMS	VNO	-2-----	11:40	15:25
BERLIN Tegel						BERLIN Tegel					
BT 215	VNO	TXL	1-3-5-7	14:40	15:35	BT 216	TXL	VNO	1-3-5-7	16:05	18:55
STOCKHOLM Arlanda						STOCKHOLM Arlanda					
BT 113	VNO	ARN	12345-7	19:20	20:05	BT 114	ARN	VNO	12345-7	20:35	23:15
TALLINN						TALLINN					
BT 331	VNO	TLL	12345--	08:45	10:10	BT 332	TLL	VNO	12345--	08:50	10:10
BT 335	VNO	TLL	12345-7	19:40	21:05	BT 336	TLL	VNO	12345-7	19:40	21:00

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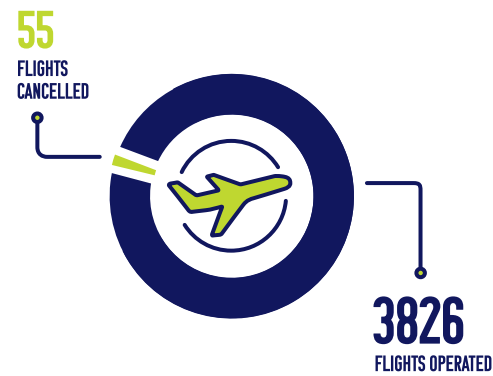
- airBaltic direct flights
- * Seasonal flights starting in spring 2017
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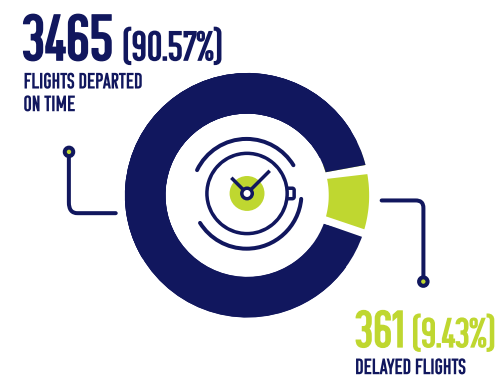
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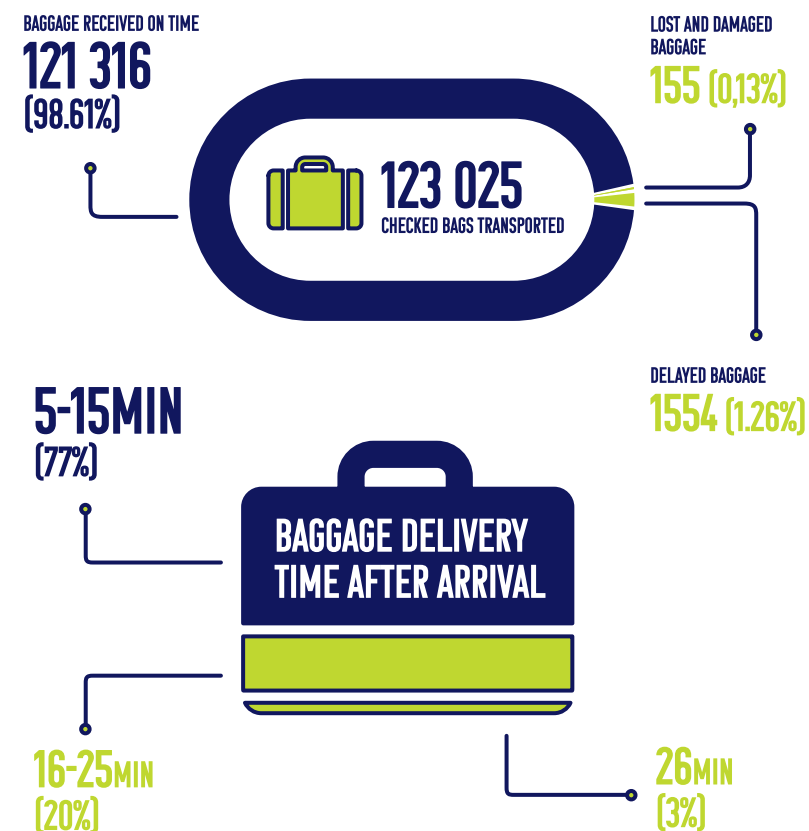
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