

# baltic

OCTOBER 2014

## outlook

**airBaltic**  
inflight magazine

A woman's sense  
of wine

Fall foliage in  
Latvia

The secret life  
of the London  
Underground

Wandering through  
**Tuscany**





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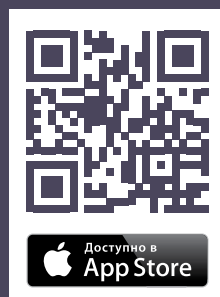
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Офис в Москве: Москва-Сити, МФК «Город Столиц»,  
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Тел.: +7499 777 0777

Офис в Юрмале: Улица Йомас 52,  
Тел./факс: +371 67 099 099, эл. почта: info@ordoag.lv

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# October

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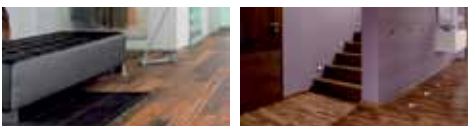
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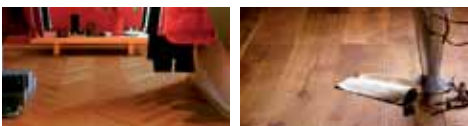


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#### RIGA

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## baltic

Outlook

Editorial Staff

Chief Editor: Ilze Pole / e: [ilze@frankshouse.lv](mailto:ilze@frankshouse.lv)

Deputy editor: Zane Nikodemusa /

e: [zane.nikodemusa@frankshouse.lv](mailto:zane.nikodemusa@frankshouse.lv)

Copy editor: Kārlis Roberts Freibergs

Design: Miks Zankovskis

Layout: Inta Kraukle

Cover: Corbis

## Frank's House

Baltic Outlook is published by SIA Frank's House

Stabu 17, Riga, LV 1011, Latvia / ph: (+371) 67293970

/ w: [frankshouse.lv](http://frankshouse.lv) / e: [franks@frankshouse.lv](mailto:franks@frankshouse.lv)

Director: Eva Dandzberga / e: [eva@frankshouse.lv](mailto:eva@frankshouse.lv)

Advertising managers:

Indra Indraše / e: [indra@frankshouse.lv](mailto:indra@frankshouse.lv) / m: (+371) 29496966

Ieva Birzniece / e: [ieva.birzniece@frankshouse.lv](mailto:ieva.birzniece@frankshouse.lv) / m: (+371) 26416866

Inta Veinsteina / e: [inta.vesteina@frankshouse.lv](mailto:inta.vesteina@frankshouse.lv) / m: (+371) 29263692

Overseas advertising manager:

Naseem Ullah / e: [naseem@frankshouse.lv](mailto:naseem@frankshouse.lv)

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Rīga, Vaļņu iela 12 / Z. A. Meierovica bulv. 16 (Basteja Pasāža)  
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# Dream big and travel far

We humans have always been on the move, if not going somewhere physically, then dreaming about far-off places. We may not know what the Aborigines dreamt of when they headed for Australia some 50,000 years ago. However, we know a great deal about what places many people dream about today. All we have to do is see what tourism brochures they consult and what destinations they google.

One famous dreamer was the patriarch of modern geography, Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859). At age 14 he drew two maps on a single page: one was of the Americas, while the other was of the universe. He fulfilled his dreams of these places. For five years, he was a scientific explorer in the tropical rain forests and Andes Mountains of Latin America. By the end of his life he had written *Cosmos*, a treatise on science and nature. At one time he was said to be better known in Paris than Napoleon.

My own dreams about the world started big but became more modest over the years. I initially wanted to sail around the world single-handed, as had Joshua Slocum (1844-1909), the first man to do so. Another accomplished sailor named Bernard Moitessier (1925-1994) seemed certain to win the first round-the-world yacht race, but he decided to revisit Tahiti instead of returning to the start line in England.



**EVERY** NIGHT, BEFORE FALLING ASLEEP, I IMAGINED THE VOYAGES OF THESE TWO MEN, FROM THE PREPARATION TO THE DEPARTURE

Every night, before falling asleep, I imagined the voyages of these two men, from the preparation to the departure and eventual arrival home. Eventually, I settled on two-week sailing voyages, ten-day treks in the mountains and long stays in Europe. An especially enjoyable aspect of

the planning was the hot evening baths in my attic apartment, when I pored over topographic maps to find suitable mountain routes. That didn't apply to sailing charts, which had to be read on a table.

Lately, I've been dreaming about taking a passenger ship through the Straits of Magellan in South America. This dream has been inspired by the difficulties that countless voyagers – including Joshua Slocum and artist Rockwell Kent – encountered while navigating it. The straight's irregular rocky shores and sudden blasts of hundred-mile-an-hour winds known as williwaws make it an intimidating passage.

Another dream is to go by kayak down the Noatak River in Alaska with my son and grandson. Yet another dream is to sail on my own sailboat from Riga to Gotland, Sweden, also with my son and grandson. More modest dreams include visiting such northern islands as the Orkneys, which have long fascinated me because the ancestors of my late Scottish wife came from there, not to mention their isolation, desolate landscapes and remnants of early European history. One place that I will probably never visit is Bouvet Island (Bouvetøya in Norwegian), considered the most remote island in the world. This glacier-covered inactive volcano lies in the South Atlantic Ocean, about 2,200 km SSW of South Africa and is uninhabited. **BO**

TEXT BY EDMUNDS VALDEMARS BUNKŠE,  
PROFESSOR EMERITUS AND GEOGRAPHER  
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## Miracle Square

*The little tile in Vilnius that doesn't look like much but means a lot*

Cathedral Square is one of the most visited spots in Vilnius, and among the countless tiles that cover the ground lies a very special one – the *Stebuklas* tile. Meaning *miracle* in Lithuanian, the tile is a major tourist attraction.

The inspiration to create the tile came 20 years ago to artist Gitenis Umbrasas, who works with frescoes and mosaics. At the time, he was pondering a Lithuanian folk tale about the origin of lakes. According to the tale, a group of people looked up at a bunch of clouds high in the sky and called out different

names that came to their minds. Whenever they correctly named a cloud, it fell down to earth and turned into a lake. The world was also created in this manner – when the right name was called, the summoned object materialised.

The symbolism in this tale led Umbrasas to create a physical tribute to the miracle of Lithuania's rebirth and the reestablishment of the country's independence three years earlier, in 1991. "Dreams, hopes and prayers had been sent upwards into the sky," Umbrasas says. "We needed a miracle and we firmly believed in it. Our

prayers were answered sooner than many might have thought."

The tile also marks the southern end of a human chain formed by an estimated two million people in 1989 as a political protest against the Soviet occupation. Known as the Baltic Way, this chain of people holding hands linked the three Baltic States and stretched for 650 kilometres from Vilnius through Riga to Tallinn, the Estonian capital.

A copy of the *Stebuklas* tile has also been laid in Vilnius Square in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia – a country, which, despite its considerable

geographical distance, has a uniquely cordial relationship with Lithuania. During the unveiling ceremony, inhabitants of Tbilisi wrote their wishes onto pieces of paper, which were then put into a time capsule and buried under the tile.

The original *Stebuklas* tile was also exhibited at the Shanghai World Expo in 2010, the first major world exposition to be held since 1992. Visitors to the Lithuanian pavilion were told about the tile and its history. Some people claim that the tile also has magical powers. If one makes a wish, stands on the tile and turns around on one's heel three times, then the wish will definitely come true.

"I once saw two teenagers standing on the tile, holding hands so as to remain still, and closing their eyes to make a wish," Umbrasas remembers. "Sometimes people place flowers on the tile as well, and when I cross Cathedral Square I occasionally step on it, too. That which really created the miracle tile is that which created everything around us, but I was just happy to assist in the process." **BO**

TEXT BY AGRA LIEGE  
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SPOTLIGHT ON AUTUMN

Five things that you should do in Latvia in October

- Enjoy the beautiful autumn scenery in Turaida and Sigulda, just an hour's drive away from Riga in the Gauja River Valley. The subject of numerous legends and tales, this part of the country has always been special to Latvians.
- Go to a fall market at the Kalnciema Quarter of restored wooden buildings in Pārdaugava. The Quarter's owners, Kārlis and

- Mārtiņš Dambergis, aptly compare it to "a colourful brooch on Riga's dress." [www.kalnciemela.lv](http://www.kalnciemela.lv)
- Spend sunny autumn weekends in the city's parks and have a glass of good wine in the evening at the Osiriss café.
- Feel like reading a good book? Then come and see how books looked 500 years ago, when the first printed volumes began to

- be published. The newly opened Latvian National Library is hosting the exhibition *1514. Book. 2014*, which showcases 80 books issued in the year 1514.
- Have a round of golf at the Ozo Golf Club, which is located on the banks of a lake and which can be particularly challenging in autumn weather conditions. [www.ozogolf.lv](http://www.ozogolf.lv)

ON THIS MONTH'S MENU

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



**A new record**  
*Meditation*, the new album by Latvian opera singer Elīna Garanča Deutsche Grammophon, 2014

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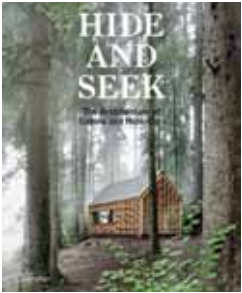
Concert at the Radio Latvia studio

Radio Latvia's Studio No. 1 in Old Riga is one of the best recording studios in the Baltic States and is accordingly used by some of the world's most accomplished musicians. The proud home of a Steinway piano, it was recently refurbished with new recording equipment. It also hosts classical music, jazz and popular music concerts. Thus, for the first time on October 19, the European

Broadcasting Union (EBU) will transmit a live broadcast of a jazz concert by the Radio Latvia Big Band. On the programme will be works by Latvian composers, including excerpts from Māris Briežkalns' Quintet album *Latvian Evergreens*. Riga Jazz Stage 2014 international competition winner Kristīne Prauliņa (vocals) and laureate Dāvis Jurka (saxophone) will also perform. [Doma.laukums@latvijasradio.lv](mailto:Doma.laukums@latvijasradio.lv)

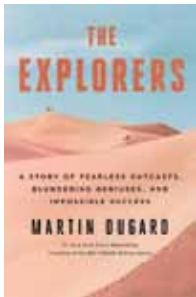
TEXT BY ILZE POLE AND ROGER NORUM  
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READING LIST



Sofia Borges, Robert Klanten and Sven Ehmann, *Hide and Seek: The Architecture of Cabins and Hideouts*

This gorgeous Gestalten coffee table book will sate your desire for simple living with a series of rustic retreats nestled into nature. The glossy 250-page book, a followup edition to the bestselling *Rock the Shack*, will please anyone with a penchant for stylish abodes in the great outdoors. EUR 45, [www.gestalten.com](http://www.gestalten.com)



Martin Dugard, *The Explorers: A Story of Fearless Outcasts, Blundering Geniuses, and Impossible Success*

This much overdue volume covers the exploits of some of the world's most renowned and notorious travelling personalities, from the mythologised Richard Burton to the historicised Christopher Columbus. Dugard finds seven traits common to all: curiosity, hope, passion, courage, independence, self-discipline and perseverance. A must for any traveller worth his or her salt. EUR 19.24, [www.simonandschuster.com](http://www.simonandschuster.com)



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*Premiere of Presence  
(Klātbūtne), a cello  
concert by Pēteris Vasks*  
Great Guild Hall, Riga  
October 25

Throughout the month of October, Riga is hosting the Autumn Chamber Music Festival, which will conclude with the premiere of the *Presence* cello concert by outstanding Latvian composer Pēteris Vasks. The composer has dedicated this new work to Argentinean cello star Sol Gabetta, who has been waiting to perform this work for almost five years. The *Sinfonietta Riga* chamber orchestra conducted by Normunds Šnē (Latvia) will also be performing at the concert, which will be broadcast live on Euroradio.

More information at [www.kamermuzika.lv](http://www.kamermuzika.lv)  
Tickets at [www.bilesuparadize.lv](http://www.bilesuparadize.lv)  
Price: EUR 10-40  
Amatu iela 6

## OCTOBER 2014

*Exhibition In Search  
of Future Art.  
Voldemārs Matvejs and  
Non-European (African,  
Pacific, North Asian) Art*  
Art Museum Riga Bourse, Riga  
Until October 26

Latvian painter, theorist and researcher Voldemārs Matvejs (1877-1914) made a unique investment in the study of non-European art during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, as he was one of the first people in the world to appraise art from Oceania, Africa and northern Asia from an aesthetic rather than an ethnographic point of view. Within the scientific books that he wrote about art in distant lands, black-and-white photos play a significant role, as in *The Art of Easter Island*, which Matvejs published in the Russian language under the pseudonym Vladimir Markov in 1914. Along with a selection of photographs by Matvejs, the Art Museum Riga Bourse is also showcasing artworks from the aforementioned regions, courtesy of the Branly Museum in Paris and other leading European museums.

More information at [www.lnmm.lv](http://www.lnmm.lv)  
Doma laukums 6



*Viktor Timofeev  
exhibition PROXYAH*  
kim? contemporary arts centre, Riga  
October 3 – November 9

New York City resident Viktor Timofeev is a well-known visual artist who in fact hails from Latvia. He has also lived and worked in London and Berlin and has made a bit of a name for himself in the art world over the last few years. Now Timofeev has installed an exhibition/computer game at the kim? contemporary arts centre, reflecting his interest in new storytelling methods and in informing the reader (or player) through various media. The resulting combination provides a refreshing new perspective and understanding of personal memories and transmedia storytelling.

More information at [www.kim.lv](http://www.kim.lv)  
Maskavas iela 12/1

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**David Guetta show**  
Arena Riga, Riga  
October 17

**Famous** French DJ, producer and composer David Guetta is set to storm Riga with a grandiose light, sound and pyrotechnic show. The DJ has drawn tens of thousands of adulating fans to arenas and stadiums all over the world.

So far he has sold over 8 million albums and 40 million singles. He is one of the most sought-after producers and has worked with an impressive cast of stars, including Katy Perry, Pitbull, Chris Martin from Coldplay, Jay-Z, David Bowie, Madonna and many others.

Tickets at [www.bilesuserviss.lv](http://www.bilesuserviss.lv)  
Price: EUR 39-59  
Skanstes iela 21



**Russian theatre guest performance festival Golden Mask in Latvia**  
Theatres in Riga and Ventspils  
October 13 - 18

As part of the annual *Golden Mask in Latvia* festival of guest performances by Russian theatres, Riga and Ventspils are hosting five prize winning shows by Russian theatres from Moscow and Saint Petersburg. In this retrospective of some of Russia's best plays, viewers will be treated to *Eugene Onegin* and *Anna Karenina* (Vakhtangov Theatre, Moscow), *The Good Person of Szechwan* (A.S. Pushkin Theatre, Moscow), *Multiplicity*, *Forms of Silence and Emptiness* (Mikhailovsky Theatre, St. Petersburg) and *Barmaley* (Bolshoi Puppet Theatre, St. Petersburg).

More information at [www.goldenmask.lv](http://www.goldenmask.lv)  
Tickets at [www.bilesuparadize.lv](http://www.bilesuparadize.lv)

**HOUSING ESTATE FOR SALE**  
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Located in the heart of Riga, this prestigious and historic building, along with the land property, is up for sale. A beautiful view of the park is revealed from its windows. The building is located at the intersection of Brivibas and Kalpaka Boulevards, and is just a few minutes away from the Old Town. The Freedom Monument - one of the most important national symbols of Latvia, is located nearby. The premises are best suited for either a hospitality business or premium-class apartments.  
Land area – 1 467 m<sup>2</sup>.  
Site area – 1 148 m<sup>2</sup>.  
Gross site area – 5 625 m<sup>2</sup>.  
Price – 8 900 000 EUR.

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TEXT BY AGRA LIEGE  
PHOTO BY ANDREJS TERENTJEVS, F64

# Escape the city

*Discrete charm of Riga's best-kept secret – the Vecmīlgrāvis district*

**D**id you know that there is only one bridge linking Vecmīlgrāvis to the rest of Riga? Over a hundred years ago, before the bridge was built, the inhabitants relied on ferrymen to take them across the river, or else they embraced local entertainment opportunities, which frequently meant not much more than the nearby tavern.

A great deal changed when Augusts Dombrovskis – the wealthy owner of a lumber mill situated by the port – decided to invest in the area. As most of his employees were from Vecmīlgrāvis, he built a kindergarten (one of the first in Latvia) and a school, which his workers' children could attend for free. He went on to build the *Soothsayer's House* (*Burtnieku Nams*), a summer residence for writers, poets and artists who could indulge in their creative enterprises there, undisturbed. The house has hosted such well-known Latvian writers as Kārlis Skalbe and the “father of the *dainas*” (Latvian folk songs), Krišjānis Barons.

Then, in 1903, Dombrovskis funded the construction of a cultural centre named *Northern Lights* (*Ziemeļblāzma*), the most striking and significant establishment in the area. Unfortunately, the wooden building was burnt down to the ground during the Revolution of 1905 and Dombrovskis emigrated abroad for a few years. Following his return to Latvia, he paid for the construction of a new cultural “palace” (made of concrete this time), which was completed in 1913 and which still stands to this day. In his will, Dombrovskis bequeathed the rebuilt

*Northern Lights* to the Latvian people on the condition that the palace be used only for enjoying culture and remain an alcohol-free environment.

The bridge connecting Vecmīlgrāvis with the rest of Riga was built later on in 1934, and by that time the tables had nearly turned – many Rigans sought to take part in the thriving cultural life of Vecmīlgrāvis and crossed the bridge to do so. The *Northern Lights* palace continued to operate as a cultural hub, hosting events and accommodating groups of amateur performers. However, by the 1980s, the palace, left without financial means, was almost falling to pieces. Its renovation was started in 2011 and last year the palace reopened in all of its former glory.

No less striking is the green, peaceful and spacious park surrounding the palace. It has hosted many summery events, such as the extraordinary dance performance *From Vecmīlgrāvis with Love* and the music festival *Piens Fest*. The park is also home to a 36-metre-high watchtower, which visitors are welcome to climb and from which the Daugava's estuary as well as the church spires of Riga's Old Town can be seen. At ground level one can visit the rotunda, a decorative building made from the columns of the original palace. There is also a teahouse whose reconstruction was based on old, well-preserved photographs of the original building by Latvian architect Eizēns Laube, an artificial grotto and a French-style garden. It is hardly surprising that Rigans come to Vecmīlgrāvis for an escape in the park's magical garden and to breathe in a bit of history at the rebuilt palace. **BO**



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Georg Baselitz,  
Vorwärts im Mai, 2012

© GEORG BASELITZ, 2014, PHOTO: JOCHEN LITTKEMANN

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## Munich

Georg Baselitz – Back Then, in  
Between and Today  
Haus der Kunst  
Until February 1

**Seventy** – six-year-old German painter, sculptor and graphic artist Georg Baselitz is viewed as one of the most prominent and influential postwar German artists, who has played an important role in shaping the development of figural painting. His works can be found in practically all of the world's most prominent museums.

For decades, Baselitz has been viewed as a wild and shameless scandal-seeker, whose provocations have sometimes garnered him the attention of law-enforcement authorities. In 1963, the police seized two paintings from Baselitz's first solo exhibition in Berlin on the grounds of their sexually provocative nature. The resulting scandal died down only two years later with the return of the works to the artist. However, that incident turned out to be one of the sparks that ignited Baselitz's fiery career. Today Baselitz is one of Germany's best-known artists and one of his most controversial works – *The Big Night Down the Drain* (*Die Große Nacht im Eimer*) – is viewed as an icon of postwar European art.

Since 2006, Baselitz has been producing the *Remix* series of paintings, in which he refers to his earlier iconic works and revisits older motifs. These paintings are being highlighted in the Munich exhibition, along with the artist's monumental bronze sculptures.

Prinzregentenstraße 1  
① [www.hausderkunst.de](http://www.hausderkunst.de)

## Amsterdam



Marlene Dumas  
Stedelijk Museum  
Until January 4

**Born** in South Africa and educated in Cape Town, Marlene Dumas has lived in Amsterdam for many years and is one of the brightest stars on the contemporary art scene. Critics tend to classify her as an intellectual expressionist who often draws inspiration from newspaper and magazine articles.

According to Dumas, the huge amount of images that we see on a daily basis influences the way that

we see each other and the world around us. Her works often address existential themes, invariably reflecting historical motifs and current political events. Dumas's exhibition at the Stedelijk Museum is the first such retrospective of her paintings in the Netherlands in the past 20 years as well as the largest exhibition of her works in Europe to date. Here, one will find many of the artist's best-known oeuvres, dating from the late 1970s to the present.

Museumplein 10  
① [www.stedelijk.nl](http://www.stedelijk.nl)

## Hamburg

Eyes Wide  
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Years of Leica  
Photography  
Deichtorhallen Hamburg  
October 24 - January 11

**"Shooting** with a *Leica* is like a long tender kiss, like firing an automatic pistol, like an hour on the analyst's couch," said Henri Cartier-Bresson, who called his camera an "extension of an eye" and who remained faithful to his 35-mm *Leica* throughout his photographer's career. Famous war correspondent Robert Capa also took many of his iconic photos with a *Leica*, which he found to be an extremely reliable work instrument. Aside from chronicling the history of the legendary *Leica*, the exhibition in Hamburg of more than 400 photographs also addresses the revolutionary changes, creative



and technological innovations brought on by the invention of this small camera.

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

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# Paris



## Fondation Louis Vuitton

On October 27, one of Europe’s most talked-about art spaces – the Fondation Louis Vuitton – will open its doors in Paris. The museum has been designed by starchitect Frank Gehry, who also drew up the plans for the Guggenheim museum in Bilbao, Spain. The Paris building, which is near completion, has been compared to all kinds of unusual objects, including a chaotic pile of shipping sails, a gigantic whale, an iceberg and even an exploding crystal palace. Regardless of the terms that have been used to describe the new museum, Paris has not seen the likes of such an imposing contemporary architecture project since the 1970s, when the now legendary Centre Pompidou was inaugurated.

The idea for the museum came from Bernard Arnault, the head of the LVMH luxury concern. Along with such well-known fashion brands as *Christian Dior*, *Givenchy* and *Louis Vuitton*, Arnault also wanted to own a “high fashion” building that would serve as a contemporary art museum and culture centre. In addition, the building is to highlight the carefully cultivated link between LVMH’s fashion empire, art and design. The new art space is to house both Arnault’s personal and LVMH’s corporate art collections, featuring works by such 20<sup>th</sup>-century classics as Pablo Picasso, Henry Moore, Yves Klein and Andy Warhol as well as current-day stars like Jeff Koons, Pierre Huyghe and Olafur Eliasson.

📍 [www.fondationlouisvuitton.fr](http://www.fondationlouisvuitton.fr)

# London

## Egon Schiele: The Radical Nude Courtauld Gallery Somerset House October 23 - January 18

Not many artists have been able to depict the human body so carnally – and to portray it in all of its realistic harshness and unpolished, sometimes crippled glory – as Austrian artist Egon Schiele (1890-1918), the famous protégé of fellow Austrian Gustav Klimt. Schiele was only 20 years old when he drew one of his first nude self-portraits. In this famous work, a yellowish green, naked man sits unnaturally contorted against a white canvas background, appearing introspective and withdrawn.



Egon Schiele, *Two Girls Embracing (Friends)*, 1915, Museum of Fine Arts, Budapest

Schiele painted the portrait at a time when psychoanalysis was all the rage and along the lines of a passage written by his contemporary, Franz Kafka: “When you stand before me and look at me, what do you know about the pain that is within me, and what do I know of yours?” Skilfully made expressive drawings and sometimes mere silhouette lines were Schiele’s trademark feature, which he used to represent people, objects and emotions. *The Radical Nude* is the most comprehensive exhibition to date of the artist’s works in the United Kingdom.

Courtauld Gallery Somerset House  
The Strand

📍 [www.courtauld.ac.uk](http://www.courtauld.ac.uk)



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# Vienna

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mecca, where one will find rare concert and opera recordings, schoolbooks and various publications devoted to music and outstanding musical personalities.

Dorotheergasse 10  
① [www.doblinger.at](http://www.doblinger.at)



### ► Hotel Guesthouse Vienna

In operation since the fall of 2013, the 39-room *Guesthouse Vienna* is one of Vienna's most charming places of accommodation. *Guesthouse Vienna* is an ode to modernism while also serving as a home away from home. Every

design element has been thought out to the finest detail, both from an aesthetic and functional viewpoint. The hotel is located a stone's throw away from the Albertina Museum and the Vienna State Opera.

Führichgasse 10  
① [www.theguesthouse.at](http://www.theguesthouse.at)  
Bookings through [www.designhotels.com](http://www.designhotels.com)

### ◀ Fashion destination Park

*Park* is a fashion store favoured by teachers at the Vienna Academy of Fine Arts. It was founded by Markus Strasser, a former student of fashion and art in Antwerp, and a business partner. The pair has sought to convey a particular sense of life into the store by stocking it with items that both founders find aesthetically pleasing. The main focus of the two-storey

establishment is contemporary fashion. Here you will find clothing and accessories by Belgian designers Ann Demeulemeester and Raf Simons, *Acne* of Sweden, *Damir Doma* of Croatia and various Austrian designers. Also available for purchase are furniture items and design objects as well as books that the store owners themselves have read.

Mondscheingasse 20  
① [www.park.co.at](http://www.park.co.at)



### ▲ Gourmet hot spot Motto am Fluss

The glass building, which also houses the Wien-City ferry terminal, looks like a boat from the outside, while the restaurant interior has a 1950s feel. The menu's specialty is local cuisine

with organically grown products. The restaurant also has a spacious terrace that is ideal for warmer evenings as well as a bar frequented by trendy Viennese consuming evening cocktails.

Schwedenplatz 2  
① [www.motto.at/mottoamfluss](http://www.motto.at/mottoamfluss)



### ▲ Must-see exhibition Feeling manipulator Carsten Höller in Vienna

Four years ago, Stockholm-based Belgian artist Carsten Höller created somewhat of a sensation with an exhibition at the *Hamburger Bahnhof* in Berlin. For 1,000 euros, visitors could book a night in a mushroom-like platform perched above 12 castrated live

reindeer that roamed about the first floor of the museum along with 24 canaries, eight mice and two flies. This year, Höller is following up on his unusual hotel theme with the *Leben* project in Vienna. Its central element is an *Elevator Bed* (2010) on a rotating platform that rises for several levels up to a height of 3.5 metres above the floor. Below the bed are various other extravagant feeling manipulators and mind benders created by the artist, including his famous fly agaric mushrooms. Visitors can book a night in the installation – which is being displayed at the exhibition hall of the Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary-Augarten – through the *Sofitel Vienna Stephansdom* hotel. Additional works by Höller are also on show at the Belvedere.

Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary-Augarten  
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Belvedere  
Prinz Eugen-Straße 27  
Until November 23

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NOTEWORTHY  
TOOLS ARE KNIVES  
OF DAMASCUS  
STEEL, WHICH ARE  
MADE FROM FROM  
240 LAYERS OF  
CARBON

# Haute couture of metal forging



Many ancient craftsmen's traditions remain alive and well in 21<sup>st</sup>-century Latvia. Crafts continue to be popular items at annual fairs, and practically everybody – even the most stylish city slickers – has something at home made by a master craftsman.

Bladesmith Jānis Nīmanis' (John Neeman) *Autine* brand is the epitome of fine craftsmanship. The axes, chisels, knives and other tools that he makes are among the best in the world and are used by industry professionals. Nīmanis uses only the highest quality materials and has honed the manufacture of his works to a refined art.

It all started as a hobby, and even today Nīmanis maintains that his work as a bladesmith is not only a means to support himself, but a meditative process in the Latvian countryside that he thoroughly enjoys and from which he derives immense satisfaction. Nīmanis' company is continuing to grow and develop as the demand for his exclusive fine-crafted tools increases. Part of *Autine's* success can also be attributed to its skilful use of 21<sup>st</sup>-century social media to sell and market Nīmanis' laconically designed but aesthetically pleasing products.

Among *Autine's* most noteworthy tools are knives of Damascus steel, which are made from 240 layers of carbon and nickel steel forge that are welded and twisted together. The handles of *Autine's* products are carved from the finest

wood available (including mahogany, curly birch and wenge) and each tool is ergonomically designed to be used with maximum comfort.

Nīmanis has fused age-old Latvian metalworking know-how with modern-day techniques used elsewhere in the world to forge contemporary versions of traditional cutting tools. Each item with the *Autine* stamp comes with a lifetime guarantee and originates from the country workshop that has belonged to Nīmanis' family since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

The company name *Autine* derives from the former medieval 13<sup>th</sup>-century castle domain where Nīmanis' home and workshop are located. *Autine* is a family-run enterprise in which Nīmanis forges the tools, while his brother Matiss and sister Karline work on obtaining supplies for the shop, communicating with clients and marketing the finished products.

Nīmanis recently received a special reward for keeping Latvian traditions alive in his workplace. In recognition of his skills as a bladesmith and devotion to his craft, a pair of custom-made scissors was commissioned from him. These were then used to cut the ceremonial ribbon at the inauguration of the new National Library of Latvia building, which is one of the most impressive edifices to have been constructed in Riga during the past two decades and which opened to the public in August of this year. **BO**

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

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TEXT BY AGRA LIEGE  
PUBLICITY PHOTO

## Expanding horizons

Meet Ēriks Ešenvalds, one of the most renowned composers in the world of contemporary sacred music.

Latvian choral composer Ēriks Ešenvalds is currently enjoying a thriving international career and is one of the most sought-after artists in his field, with numerous Latvian and international music awards to his credit. Richard Morrison, a music critic for *The Times*, has called Ešenvalds "the next big thing in musical mysticism".

In 2011, Ešenvalds was awarded an exclusive two-year position of Fellow Commoner at Cambridge University's Trinity College. "Nothing is officially expected of Fellow Commoners. They're simply given a lifetime opportunity to use the college's incredible library and get involved in university life," says Ešenvalds.

Ešenvalds has an ongoing collaboration with English conductor Stephen Layton, who recorded two albums of Ešenvalds' music performed by the Trinity College and Polyphony choirs. His most recent CD, *At the Foot of the Sky*, came out last year, in collaboration with the State Choir Latvija (of which Ešenvalds has been a member for

nine years) and conductor Māris Sirmāis.

Along with texts from Latvian folk songs, Ešenvalds also found inspiration in the invaluable materials at the Cambridge University library. The composer read through centuries-old ships' logbooks written by sailors on a polar expedition. "Their descriptions of the *aurora borealis* were unique and poetic, and that's what I ended up using."

One of Ešenvalds' compositions, the opus *Trinity Te Deum*, was performed at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Sidney, Australia, on Easter Sunday of this year as part of a morning service. It turns out that their royal highnesses Prince William and Kate Middleton were also attending.

"They approached the conductor afterwards to compliment him about the opus," says the composer proudly.

However, Ešenvalds is not one to rest on his laurels. He is currently working on two new opuses and a multimedia symphony.

"One opus is for the Boston Symphony Orchestra and its first performance will be

in November. It will be conducted by my fellow Latvian Andris Nelsons. The other will be performed in Salt Lake City, Utah, during a musical convention," Ešenvalds explains. The convention will take place in February of 2015 and will gather over 5000 conductors, publishers and singers.

But it is the multimedia symphony *Nordic Light*, which will first be performed on April 27 of next year, that the renowned artist is most excited about. It will be accompanied by video projections of photographs by Norwegian "Aurora Chaser" Kjetil Skogli and footage of people from various nations and tribes that inhabit the Aurora Belt as they sing songs or recite legends about the Northern Lights. One cannot help but notice the affection that the composer evidently feels for this natural phenomenon, along with the sky and the stars.

"I always have to dream big, to be looking up," say Ešenvalds. "That is what we humans are all about. We want to discover, to expand our horizons, to fly. This is my way of doing it." **BO**

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TEXT BY AIGARS LUKSTINS  
PHOTO COURTESY OF BOULARD

## Seven million apple trees

France is most often associated with wine and cognac, which are both made from grapes. In Normandy, however, the climate is a bit too cool to grow grapes on a commercial scale. Instead, here one finds some of the finest orchards and berry fields in Europe. This northwestern region of France is home to approximately seven million apple trees, which thrive in Normandy's moderate maritime climate.

Apple brandy, more commonly known as calvados, has been made in this part of France since at least 1533, and it has been hailed in numerous literary works, including Erich Maria Remarch's *Arch of Triumph*.

The origins of the name for this drink are shrouded in mystery. According to one legend, calvados draws its name from the Spanish ship *Calvador*, which smashed against the Norman coast during a storm and was wrecked. Others say that the ship also contained barrels of apple brandy that washed upon the shores. Still others say that the name comes from the Latin *calva dorsa*, which means "empty back", in reference to the cliff-like hills of Normandy's coastline. Whatever the origins of the drink's name, the administrative territory of Calvados was

officially created after the French Revolution of 1789. As with other French regions such as Cognac, Champagne and Armagnac, the term calvados refers to a locally produced high-quality alcoholic drink.

Calvados is obtained by distilling cider, which has been made from apples in the region since at least the 8<sup>th</sup> century. The designation calvados can only be given to a local cider distillate that has aged for at least two years in oak barrels. Until then it is a "regular" *eau-de-vie* (i.e. spirit made of fruit or berries), clear and transparent as well-water but with an alcohol concentration of 40-45%.

Approximately 40 varieties of apples are usually used in the preparation of calvados, while the total number of permitted varieties is close to 200. The varieties must be distinctly aromatic and not too acidic. The apple varieties are also divided into four categories in accordance with their taste – sweet, bittersweet, bitter and acidic – and the proportion of categories used to prepare calvados is regulated by law.

Although calvados is commonly known as apple brandy, pears can also be used in its manufacture. A particularly large proportion of pears (about 30%) is used

to make *Calvados Domfrontais*, which is aged in oak barrels for at least three years and which is made not far from the town of Domfront.

As is the case with cognac, most of the calvados in Normandy is made by large producers such as *Boulard*, *Busnel* and *Christian Drouin*, who offer good-quality drinks for 20 to 25 euros per bottle. Finding calvados made by smaller producers is more difficult due to the smaller amount that they manufacture. Among the smaller producers, *Domaine de Montreuil*, *Lemorton* and *Adrien Camut* stand out with an individual approach, preparing calvados only from apples that grow in their estate orchards. The price of a bottle of some rare varieties of calvados can exceed 1000 euros.

Apple brandies are also made in other parts of the world. The British enjoy a similar drink named Somerset cider brandy, while the Americans drink applejack.

Due to its distinctive aroma, calvados is used by restaurant chefs in various recipes as well as in hot punches. With the cool autumn season in full swing, calvados can be enjoyed hot together with apple juice, cider, cinnamon, cloves and brown sugar. **BO**



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TEXT BY AGRA-LIEGE  
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The newly opened *Kainuu* space designed for yoga and meditation is a neat addition to the facilities at the Finavia Airport in Helsinki, Finland

## Airport cosiness

**You've taken a tour of some duty-free shops and grabbed a coffee. What else to do at the airport before your flight? Try some yoga or meditation!**

Every day, millions of passengers wind up at airports with time on their hands before their next connecting flight, or after having arrived early to ensure that they don't miss their departure. As soon as we find ourselves in one of these situations, we realise how much we wish we had reached our destination already. We crave comfort and cosiness to help us forget our in-between state.

In recent years, quite a few airports have added new facilities to make passengers' trips less tedious and more pleasant, including meditation rooms in soothing colours, Zen gardens and sound-proof nap cabins. Tallinn Airport in Estonia's capital offers travellers the services of a library – a

lovely addition to the usual cafés and fast-food restaurants. The English-, Estonian- and Russian-language books in this library have been donated, and some of them really do travel the world! Passengers can choose a book to read while waiting for their flight and, if they wish, they can also bring it along for their trip and return it when they come back. If they haven't finished reading the book by that time, then they can even take it home and return it later. The books carry stamps wherein readers are encouraged to write down their destinations and wishes for the next reader. Many of the books now hold travel histories and heart-warming dedications to other travellers, and the library is continually expanding.

Tallinn Airport has also thought of its younger passengers and hosts a small theme park dedicated to Lotte, a popular Estonian children's book and cartoon character. The park has a three-story playhouse and a widescreen TV showing Lotte cartoons.

Munich Airport also offers a lot to its youngest visitors. The airport's *Kinderland* hosts a large adventure plane, an arts and crafts corner, a stories and games area and a children's cinema with a wide selection

of films. Kids have access to *Nintendo Wii* and *DS*, and there is even a make-up studio for girls. As an added bonus, the facility is staffed by well-trained childcare professionals and a comfortable Parents' Lounge is located right next door.

The newly opened *Kainuu* space designed for yoga and meditation is a neat addition to the facilities at the Finavia Airport in Helsinki, Finland. It is open 24 hours a day for passengers who wish to pop in and stretch their travel-tired limbs. Yoga mats and instructions for various exercises are also provided. The design is appealing,

**IN RECENT YEARS, QUITE A FEW AIRPORTS HAVE ADDED NEW FACILITIES TO MAKE PASSENGERS' TRIPS LESS TEDIOUS AND MORE PLEASANT**

with soft, dark green carpets, wood and natural stone floors and lounge seats covered by traditional rugs. The airport may soon add yoga, Pilates and meditation to its services, and the *Kainuu* space has already hosted a few pop-up classes. **BO**

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# Sweet autumn sonata

*Don't be scared off by the apple and caramel in this  
risotto. It is simply delicious!*



## Ingredients

(serves four)

### Risotto:

1 cup short-grain risotto rice (such  
as Arborio)  
1 cup coconut milk  
2-3 cups milk  
1 vanilla pod  
1 small cinnamon stick  
1 tbsp. butter  
1 tbsp. brown sugar  
1 grated lemon peel

### Caramel:

1/3 cup brown demerara sugar  
juice from 1/2 lemon  
1/3 cup water

### Garnish:

2 apples of a sour variety  
1 tbsp. melted butter  
Roughly chopped almonds and  
cinnamon sugar for sprinkling

## Preparation

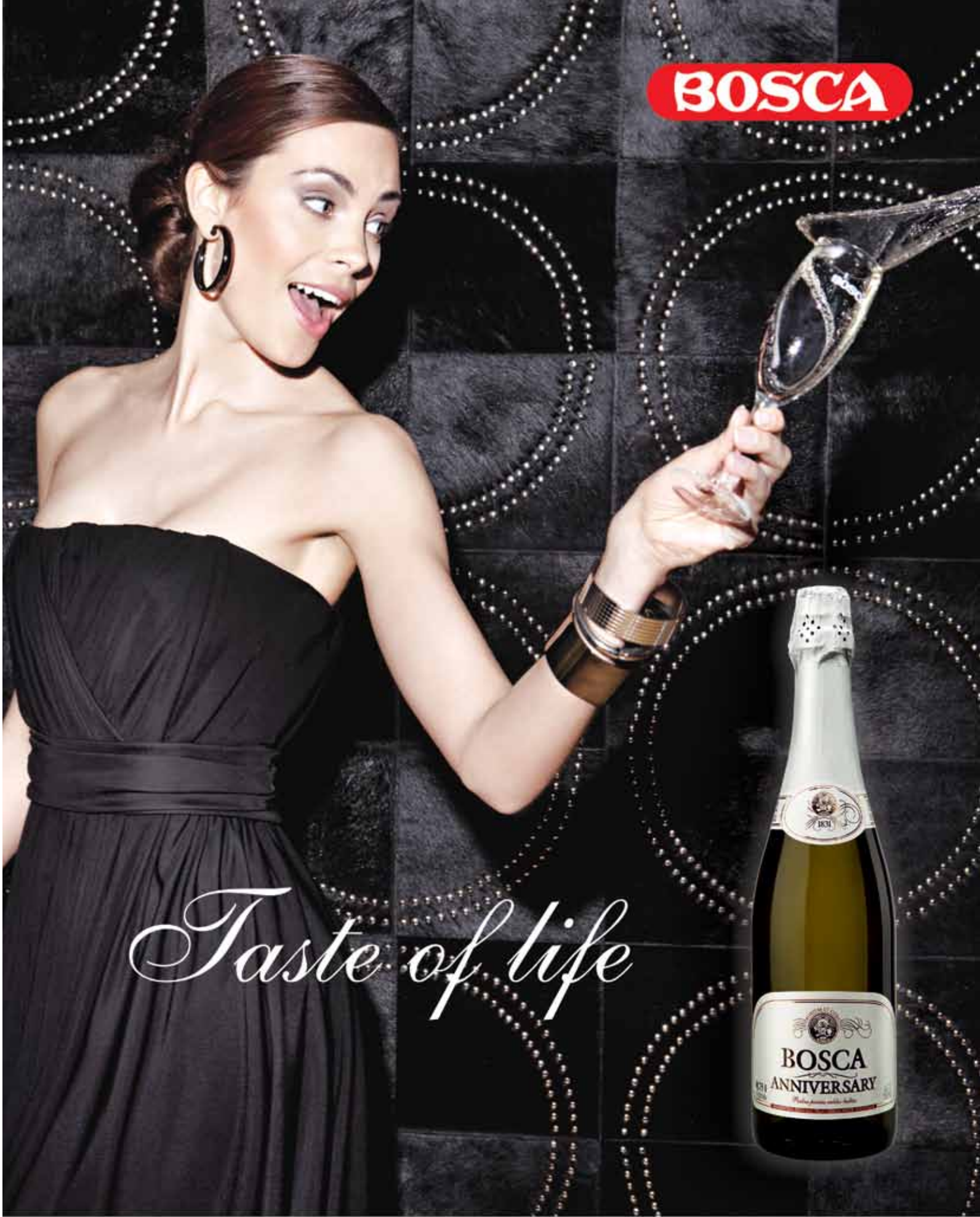
Heat the milk and coconut milk in  
a kettle to boiling. Remove from  
flame. Cut a slice lengthwise down  
the vanilla pod and add it to the  
heated milk mixture together with  
the cinnamon stick. Let the milk  
steep for 10 minutes, then remove  
the vanilla and cinnamon.

Cut the apples into thin slices  
while the milk is steeping. Spread  
the melted butter over the apples  
and lay out onto a tray that has  
been covered with baking paper.  
Bake the apple slices in an oven at  
175°C for about 10 minutes.

Melt 1 tbsp. butter in a deep pan  
and add the rice. Fry lightly for a  
couple of minutes over a medium  
fire, then slowly add the milk  
mixture by the spoonful, stirring  
constantly, until the rice becomes  
soft and acquires the desired risotto  
consistency (about 20 minutes).  
Remove the seeds from the vanilla  
pod with a knife and mix into the  
risotto together with the grated  
lemon peel and brown sugar.

Prepare the caramel by pouring  
the brown demerara sugar into  
a metal cup and adding the  
lemon juice and water. Boil the  
mixture over a hot flame without  
mixing until the caramel starts to  
thicken a bit.

Place the risotto onto serving  
dishes, garnish with apple slices,  
pour the caramel over it and  
sprinkle with the roughly chopped  
almonds and cinnamon sugar.  
Serve hot. **BO**



**BOSCA**

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# Seven commandments for finding a good restaurant

*Sometimes one can feel bewildered when looking for a good restaurant. This should not be very difficult if you know what you want and are already familiar with an establishment, but*

*some things need to be kept in mind when trying something new. We asked one of the best chefs in Sweden how to spot a good restaurant without making a mistake.*

Mattias Larsson is a modern Swedish chef and author of several cookbooks. He has published recipes for newspapers and magazines, works part-time as a lecturer and also as a presenter in radio and web TV. He is popularly known as Fredagskocken®, his nickname when presenting gastronomy every Friday for over five years at the Mix Megapol radio station.

"I started Modern Gastronomy in 2006 to inspire and entertain people with good food and drink and to be a part of the development of modern meals."



TEXT BY SANTA KRISTIANA ZAMUELE  
PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTIAS LARSSON

## Commandments of Mattias Larsson

**1. The wine menu:** The prices should be reasonable. There should be a good selection of different styles and you should feel that the sommelier has a philosophy. Check the selection of other beverages like coffee, tea and water. Nothing spoils a meal as much as bad coffee in the end.

**2. The sommelier:** Competent, friendly and can recommend drinks for each and every course.

**3. The menu:** The right products should be used in the right season, with an underlying philosophy going through everything.

**4. The food.** Those in the kitchen need to be in full command of the equipment and techniques that they are using. One should not try too hard to impress the customer. Every product needs to taste the way it's supposed to.

**5. The service.** As soon as you enter the restaurant you should feel welcome. The service should be personal but not too imposing.

**6. The premises.** The restaurant is clean, with good lighting and good sound quality.

**7. The atmosphere.** See how you feel inside the restaurant. Check out the staff and the crowd, and make sure that there are not too many tourists.

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# Wandering through *Tuscany*

TEXT BY UNA MEISTERE, WWW.ANOTHERTRAVELGUIDE.COM  
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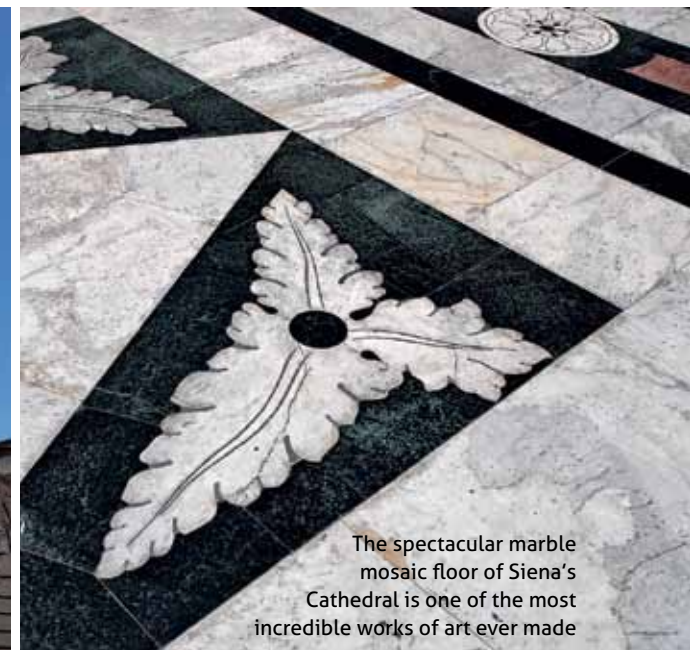




Il Campo, the main square of Siena, where the legendary Palio horse races take place in July and August



The Duomo di Siena or Cathedral of Siena, which moved composer Richard Wagner to tears when he saw it for the first time



The spectacular marble mosaic floor of Siena's Cathedral is one of the most incredible works of art ever made

The small road winds through cypresses and stops at a time-worn gate overgrown with vines. The gate opens slowly to reveal a landscape worthy of a postcard – an old villa surrounded by a garden. A real *grande dame*. Francesca, a charming and temperamental Italian, comes out to meet me. She has a wise cleverness to her speech yet radiates a disarming simplicity. Actually, Francesca Albergotti is a marquise, the descendant of an old Tuscan family of aristocrats. She is also a writer and a painter in her free time.

"In Tuscany everything has always had a perfect feeling of balance. In nature, in its customs. And Tuscany has always been its own place. Even though it's been a part of the Italian Republic for over a hundred years, it still has an independent soul," says Francesca. She was the one who hatched the idea of transforming the family property – the nearly 800-year-old Villa i Bossi – into a hotel. Her reasoning was both practical (it takes a significant amount of resources to maintain such a property) and empirical.

"Up until the Second World War, this place was always full of people – about 60 guests and servants in all. Places like this weren't built to be inhabited by only one family. Then they slowly die, because historically they have always bubbled with life."

Villa i Bossi was built in 1240 by the Albergottis, one of the most influential families in the region at the time. A thick family history almanac can be seen in the former wine cellar, which has now become an improvised reception area for the hotel. The Albergotti family tree is like a lush, full, centuries-old oak tree. The documents and artefacts in the villa's archives document the history of the family and the entire region as well. Even the Pope once stayed at the villa. A special room and prayer space were built above the villa's chapel for his visit. A

separate room holds relics and indulgences from the Vatican, which the family accumulated over the years. Among the countless historical portraits of family members and prominent guests one can also glimpse a few modern photographs of Francesca and her family, thereby embodying a feeling of continuation and temporality. A feeling of what already has been – and will be – experienced.

Surprisingly, despite the dusky corridors and history-filled rooms in which the Medieval meets the Renaissance and the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, the villa does not for a moment feel like a museum. Instead, it contains a subtle spark of continuous life, to which time just lights a fire. Because, actually, nothing here has been specially created for the needs of a hotel. Guests are simply given rooms that were meant to be guest rooms from the start. And Tuscany has many such vacation-in-a-vacation sites, especially considering that practically every old villa in the region has a history and a story of its own.

It is often said that many people who travel to Tuscany catch the local "bug", thereafter returning to the region again and again, because Tuscany is like a book that one can read again and again, each time finding in it something new, no matter what the reader is interested in, whether it be history, wine, art or gastronomy.

Tuscany is a year-long destination that just customises its wardrobe (events) to the present season. If September in Tuscany is the month of wine, then October is the month of olives and countless local harvest festivals, each village providing its own version of the strong, aromatic, freshly-pressed first olive oil of the season. Late October and early November also mark the traditional time for harvesting white truffles, when the epicentre of activity can be found in the

## THE HILLY REGION KNOWN FOR ITS OAK, LEMON AND WILLOW GROVES HAS THE IDEAL SOIL FOR GROWING THAT MOST EXPENSIVE OF FUNGI – WHITE TRUFFLE

town of San Miniato, whose history stretches back to Etruscan times.

The hilly region known for its oak, lemon and willow groves has the ideal soil for growing that most expensive of fungi – *tuber magnatum pico*, or white truffle, which has been San Miniato's "gold mine" since time immemorial. It is said that truffle hunting here still takes place as it did long ago, with the real connoisseurs taking their trusted "truffle dog" in the dark of night along secret paths known only to them in their search for "white gold". The annual National Festival of the White Truffle of San Miniato marks its 44th anniversary this year. It will be held on November 15-16, 22-23, 29-30 and December 6-8, when the town's main square will turn into a true truffle parade.

Autumn (more precisely, until October 27) is also the time to see one of humanity's masterpieces, the carpet-like marble floor of the Siena Cathedral, which is opened to the public for only a few months of the year. For the rest of the year it is covered with a transparent layer of fibreglass to protect the fragile marble from the wear and tear of people's footsteps. Siena Cathedral was built in 1263 and is one of the best examples of the Italian Gothic style. Richard Wagner was moved to tears by the cathedral and used it as an inspiration for the scenography of the Temple of the Grail in his last opera, *Parsifal*.

"Richard moved to tears, the greatest impression he has ever received from a building," Wagner's wife,

Cosima, later wrote in her memoirs. But one need not be a Wagner to be charmed by the majesty and uniqueness of the Siena Cathedral. Its main design is black-and-white, the symbolic colours of the city. The 56 floor panels of various sizes depict motifs from the Bible and resemble a surreal painting that, in an optical game together with the black-and-white columns, carry the mind out of this world and for a brief moment dissolve any feelings of time and space.

## A meditation of art and nature

Tuscany is home to one of the most surprising sculpture parks in Europe, Fattoria di Celle, which takes – believe it or not – a minimum of four hours to walk through. The park is located in a rural area of Tuscany's Chianti region, 35 km from Florence and five km from the town of Pistoia, outside any traditional tourist routes. The park was established by Giuliano Gori, a former textile business owner and art collector. Entrance to Fattoria di Celle is free of charge but, since it is private property and accessible only by guided tour, visits should be reserved several weeks in advance.

A tour of the Fattoria di Celle sculpture park usually begins early in the morning, and, when I inquire about accommodations near the park, the *Il Convento* hotel is suggested. A converted Franciscan monastery, *Il Convento* is located at the top of a hill, seemingly in the middle of nowhere, which leads to the feeling that I am entering some parallel world. The monastery consists of two separate buildings, a church and six chapels. Built in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the monastery stood abandoned for a while until 1969, when it was sold to an Italian family who first converted the property into a restaurant and then a hotel, complete with a gigantic swimming pool that is also open to local residents.





La Cabane Éclatée aux 4 Salles by Daniel Buren at the Fattoria di Celle sculpture park



Mute Servants by Roberto Barni at the Fattoria di Celle sculpture park



Artwork by Kei Nakamura at the entrance of the Chianti Sculpture Park



Artwork by Yu Zhaoyang at the Chianti Sculpture Park

**THE COLLECTOR BELIEVES THAT ART IS NECESSARY FOR OVERCOMING DIFFICULTIES AND FOR ENJOYING LIFE IN ALL OF ITS DIMENSIONS**

On the day we arrive, however, there is not a single other soul in the monastery except for a smallish porter holding a bundle of keys. The restaurant dining room located in the former church is empty and ghostly; the dusty cabinets at the end of the hallway hold relics from the monastery's past along with greyish-white chef uniforms. The once ornate wall frescoes are crumbling, the old wooden floor creaks, and it takes a while before the porter finds a bottle of cool *prosecco* in the cellar. As I wander the abandoned hallways, my thoughts involuntarily turn to scenes from *The Shining* (1980) with Mephisto-like Jack Nicholson. This place could provide him with some perfect decorations. And, of course, the hotel is also undeniably a colourful prelude to my walk through Tuscany's sculpture forest the next morning, bringing an almost cinematographic scope to this part of my journey.

At the heart of the 60-hectare Fattoria di Celle sculpture park is the Villa Celle and its chapel, commissioned in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century by the cardinal of Pistoia. Local architect Giovanni Gambini was invited to landscape the property in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and his task was to create an English garden around the villa. The majestic villa, whose former grandeur has been worn down by the passage of time, sits atop a hill and provides a breathtaking view of the Tuscan landscape.

Shady paths lead into the forest of centuries-old oaks, allowing visitors to enjoy the park at any time of year, even during the sweltering summer, when the

fragrance of sun-baked leaves fills the air. At the centre of the park are two lakes. Eventually, the paths lead to meadows of blooming wildflowers, olive groves and hillsides covered in vineyards. In fact, Fattoria di Celle's olive groves still produce an outstanding olive oil, and its grapes are used to make a wonderful *Chianti Montalbano*.

Gori, who at 83 years of age is still a very elegant and charming man, bought the property in the 1970s as a place to keep his impressive collection of art. The purchase also led to his interest in environmental objects. Asked about the beginnings of his career as an art collector, Gori has said in interviews:

"Everything began with a visit to Prato-based artist Gino Fanciollacci's studio. I ended up there as a matter of chance, but it was the beginning of my pilgrimages to artists' studios, which continue to this day."

These friendships with artists also became the foundation of Fattoria di Celle. Gori began inviting artists to his new home in the 1970s, encouraging them to get to know the area and create pieces of artwork specially for the property – for the park, for the buildings and even for the bodies of water on the estate. His goal was to create the ideal symbiosis between art and nature, with both interacting and supplementing each other. In addition, he laid down a personal rule from the very beginning, namely, to never interfere with this relationship.

For example, when a huge oak tree fell onto American artist Dennis Oppenheim's installation (a futuristic fireworks machine in the middle of a field) during a storm several years ago, it remained where it had fallen. Gori also challenged himself to make Fattoria di Celle a platform for new experiments, a place where artists could try out new ideas and new materials. It is here where American sculptor Richard

Serra created his first work in stone and Spanish sculptor Jaume Plensa built his first glass "house", the cube titled *Twins*, located in a green meadow and symbolising the good and evil thoughts that reside in each of us. On one side, everything evil we might eventually say has been inscribed in a seemingly invisible ink on glass; on the other are all of the good things we might say.

Gori opened the park in 1982, when it held 16 works of art. By 2012, when the park celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it already had 70 environmental installations. The collector believes that art is necessary for overcoming difficulties and for enjoying life in all of its dimensions. A blue bench has been placed on the roof of the building next to the villa, which now serves as a gallery; that's Italian artist Luigi Mainolfi's



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## YOUR NEXT DESTINATION



Energy by Costas Varotsos at the Chianti Sculpture Park

work titled *For Those Who Fly*, a symbolic dedication to Gori's late wife, a gesture that allows us to feel that she is still with us. And, even if she's not watching the sunset from her favourite balcony anymore, she's probably watching from just beyond there, up in heaven....

Gori considers Villa Celle's historical aviary to be a symbolic heart of the park and his collection. Today, American artist Jean-Michel Folon's work *The Tree of Golden Fruit* occupies the aviary. Folon supplemented the lush green box tree growing in the house with a bronze tree

with seven arms whose stylised "palms" offer food and water to the birds who can freely enter the house, have a snack, rest and then fly off again.... The scene calls to mind Eastern legends in which the feeding of birds means to also care for one's own prosperity and safety. Because, if we share with birds (as opposed to sharing with fellow humans), we do not receive nor do we expect to receive anything in return; all we do is say thanks to Mother Earth for sharing in her bounty. In other words, in the next life we shall receive as much as we have given to others in this life.

## YOUR NEXT DESTINATION



Montepulciano

## THE HOUSE EVEN SEEMS TO VANISH, HIDDEN IN THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE AND MERGING WITH IT

The villa's former tea house has been given over to Jewish artist Dani Karavan and his installation *The Tea Ceremony* (1999). A mirror in the middle of the space serves as a stylised table and reflects the paintings on the surrounding walls. On the table is a cone of green tea leaves and seven snow-white tea cups around it. By the door stand seven just as white ceramic slippers, thereby creating the impression that someone is already in the room. Visitors can view the installation through the window or from the balcony; conversations fall silent and footsteps grow slower as they approach, as if they were afraid of interrupting the silence inside the house.

Another small house, out of the way and seemingly in the middle of the forest near the hill with Richard Serra's stone installation, holds two large-format works by Anselm Kiefer and nothing else. The guide turns off the alarm system and pushes open the creaking, hundred-year-old wooden door. I must admit this is the most extraordinary place to display works by Kiefer, works that arouse irrational passions and fetch millions at auction.

French artist Daniel Buren's dream house, or glass "cabin", hides in a small meadow surrounded by trees and a fence and seems to have climbed out of *Alice in Wonderland*.

The house's façade is almost never-ending as it reflects the meadow, forest, sky and landscape around it. Sometimes it even seems to vanish, hidden in the surrounding landscape and merging with it. At the same time, however, the house seems lonely and empty because it lacks a roof. Inside are four rooms, each measuring four by four metres. Each room has two mirrored walls and two walls painted a single colour – intense blue, green, pink. There are no doors, only open doorways; the doors themselves have been placed along the opposite walls, and the mirrored walls and reflections create an almost psychedelic effect. An indescribable game of optical illusions, colours and light.

As Gori himself once said, collecting does not only mean bringing together a certain number of works; first of all, it means opening up one's emotions.

"When I'm emotionally stirred, I not only feel stronger, but I also feel privileged." And it is precisely such a feeling that overtakes me as I leave Fattoria di Celle – a kind of fulfilled silence, a wonderful meditation of art and landscape.

## Wine and tarot cards

Of course, Fattoria di Celle is not the only sculpture park in Tuscany. About 11



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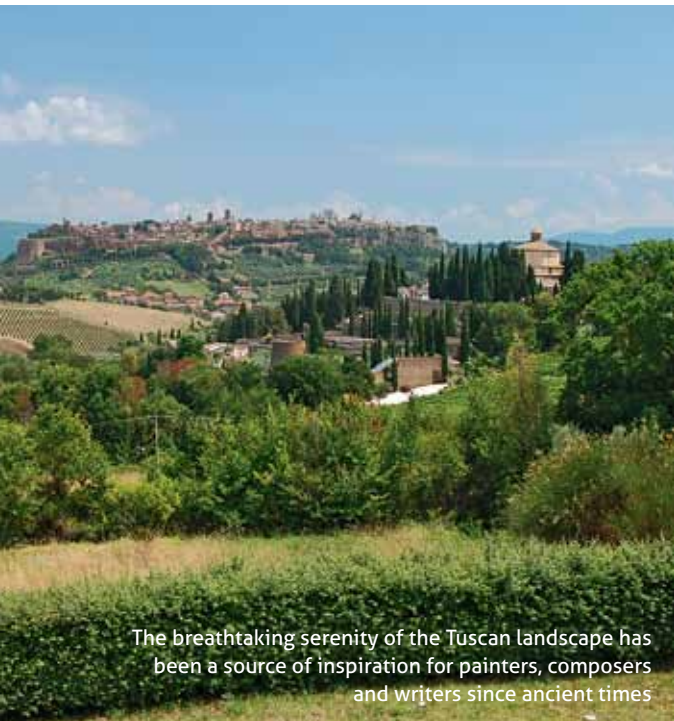


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The breathtaking serenity of the Tuscan landscape has been a source of inspiration for painters, composers and writers since ancient times



Olive fields



Villa i Bossi

SOMETIMES THIS  
PROCESS INCLUDED THE  
ENJOYMENT OF LARGE QUANTITIES  
OF WINE

kilometres from Siena is the Chianti Sculpture Park, established by art collector Piero Giadrossi in a forest next to his home. When we arrive, Giadrossi himself is working near the entrance, and later he also invites us into his house, which also serves as an art gallery and guest house. The path winding through the park is approximately a kilometre long and offers a glimpse at works by artists from 25 countries.

Giadrossi's goal was to exhibit works by artists who are well-known in their own countries but not in Europe. The extremes in geography (Egypt, Columbia, Argentina, Zimbabwe, Turkey, etc.) are what make this park unique. Giadrossi says his inspiration for the park came from a trip to South Africa and the Kristenbosch Botanical Garden, where he was fascinated by the way in which sculptures are displayed in a seemingly virgin natural environment. His own park opened in 2004, and each of the artists represented in it has personally visited the park to choose the most appropriate site for his or her artwork. And yes, sometimes this process included the enjoyment of large quantities of wine, seeing as the park is located in the legendary

Chianti Classico area of Tuscany. One of the park's highlights is the sculpture-amphitheatre where various concerts are held during the summer; here, under the summer sky, visitors can listen to fine jazz or classical music. The amphitheatre is small and seats only 250 guests, although some remain seated there all year round, in shadow-theatre form.

A third Tuscan sculpture park, the Tarot Garden, is also worth the trip. It was created by French-American artist Niki de Saint Phalle, one of the first female artists to gain international recognition during her lifetime. She became famous for *Nana*, a huge colourful doll who in her endless variations embodied the archetype of the global woman. Saint Phalle became carried away with the idea of a sculpture park created by a woman in 1979, when she was inspired by Antoni Gaudí's *Park Güell* in Barcelona. Her dream was to create "a small Eden where man and nature meet".

Tarot Garden is located in Capalbio, about 100 kilometres from Rome, and all of its Tarot-card-inspired sculptures covered with gigantic mirrors, colourful glass and ceramics were made by Saint Phalle herself together with her husband, Swiss artist Jean Tinguely. Due to difficulties in securing funding, it took 20 years to create the park. Saint Phalle's main supporter became the famous Italian auto manufacturing family Agnelli. The park is open to the public until October 15, but, according to the artist's wishes, it is also open the first Saturday of every month between November and March. The entrance to the park was designed by well-known Swiss architect Mario Botta, who also designed the Petra winery located in Suvereto, about 1.5 hour's drive from the park.

The symbolic centre of the Petra winery is a huge cylinder-shaped building with a slanted roof that seems to strive for the mountains in the distance. The stairs that symmetrically divide the roof into two equal parts lead to a grove of trees growing on the roof. In the distance is a breathtaking view of Tuscany's hills and valleys, which hide countless stops waiting to be discovered.





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INSIDER'S VIEW

*“The quality of life in Tuscany is among the best in the world”*



Piero Giadrossi

Born in Trieste and having later lived Naples, Genoa and London, Italian businessman and art collector Piero Giadrossi moved to Tuscany 30 years ago together with his wife, Rosalba. In the early 1990s, they bought a former terracotta factory near Siena as well as 14 hectares of forest that have since been turned into a sculpture park. The couple lives in the former factory, but the building also serves as an art gallery.

“I decided to create a permanent exhibition of site-specific sculptures and installations along a shady trail that runs through a beautiful wood of oaks: the Chianti Sculpture Park,” he says, adding that “living in Tuscany means living surrounded by beautiful nature, art and a very high quality of life.”

**What should one definitely do to get a feel of the Chianti region in all its diversity?**

One should live here for a few months and then one will probably decide not to leave any more. This often happens to foreigners, who then acquire real estate locally and either move here or come here for a few months every year.

**What is your favourite area of Tuscany and why?**

Chianti is by far our favourite area of Tuscany for the reasons I mentioned above. To summarise, the quality of life is among the best in the world. We are not from this area, but we have travelled a lot and can easily make comparisons.

**What are your favourite and most special restaurants in Tuscany?**

I can only speak about our area and not for all of Tuscany. Here the level of restaurants is very high and the prices are reasonable. In our area I can suggest *La Taverna* in Vagliagli for its *Bistecca Fiorentina*, *La Vecchia Osteria* in Ponte a Bozzone and *Il Ponte* in Pianella for its pizza, the *Il Pevano* restaurant at Castello di Spaltenna in Gaiole for its creative cuisine and *Il Celliere di Castagnoli* for its typical Tuscan food.

**What are your five favourite wineries in Tuscany?**

You can find very good Chianti Classico wines at the *Dievole*, *Borgo Scopeto*, *Tolaini* and *Rocca di Castagnoli* wineries. Recently I had the occasion to taste the wines of Argiano in the Brunello

di Montalcino area and can highly recommend them.

**What is the most special place for you in Tuscany?**

The Chianti Sculpture Park is still a very special place for me. When I enter the park today, I am amazed to see it so positively transfigured – happy to host shapes that have strived to blend in elegantly, without arrogance, among its oaks, its slopes, its colours. And I’m proud that the project has been expanded beyond the borders of the sculpture park. Nine more artworks can now be found at Pievasciata, the tiny little village near the park and its immediate surroundings.

Apart from contemporary art, Tuscany is always worth seeing for its beautiful landscapes. It is known for its gentle hills and cypress trees, but in reality the scenery is much more varied. If you go above Vagliagli on the road to Castellina you will enjoy a breathtaking view of the Chianti area, where woods alternate with vineyards, olive groves and typical stone villages.

As to typical towns, I like walking through the small streets of Montalcino very much and having a glass of its famous Brunello wine in one of the *enotecas* or in the medieval fortress.

The Tuscan coast offers impressive landscapes, too. A special place for me is Capraia Island. It’s a tiny volcanic island with a small port and a village around an old castle with volcanic rocks and wild nature. **BO**



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## Simply loving the game



Petr Schastlivy,  
a Russian hockey player  
(Dinamo Riga, KHL)

*It* would not be an exaggeration to say that hockey has been Latvia's most popular sport for the past 50 years. The Latvians' obsession with the sport began in the 1960s, when the legendary *Dinamo Riga* team joined the USSR's best hockey league. The obsession continued after Latvia regained its independence in 1991, with the whole country following the games of Latvia's national ice hockey team at the Olympics and world championships.

Every spring when the championships are held, thousands of Latvians go on vacation to root for their team, regardless of where the championship takes place. They hope that one day Latvia's national squad will also step onto the medals podium.

A new season has also begun for the revived version of the old *Dinamo Riga* hockey team, which has been a part of the Kontinental Hockey League (KHL) for seven years and which is the home team for most of Latvia's best hockey players. This season *Dinamo Riga* is being joined by the former captain of the Russian national team, Petr Schastlivy.

**Hockey team players occasionally have to move and change their place of residence. What do you need to feel at home?**

The main thing is for my family to be at my side. My home is where my family is – a place to return from a game, unwind and get ready for the next working day. It helps that my wife was born in Latvia. [Schastlivy is married to Latvian long jumper Ineta Radeviča, who finished fourth in the London Olympic Games in 2012. – ed.] Right now I'm very happy to be in Riga and feel right at home here. For many years, wherever I have gone, my family has followed. That's part of being an athlete. The family follows the husband or wife, no matter where in the world they have to go.

**Do you remember your first visit to Riga?**

Yes, of course. The first time I visited Riga was when I drove there by car from Moscow [a distance of about 920 km – ed.] to visit Ineta. That was in May of 2006, if I'm not mistaken. We walked around a lot and I got to know the city.

**Before that trip to Latvia you must have had some preconceptions about the country. Did these turn out to be true?**

I remember being impressed at how clean and proper everything was in Riga – on the streets, in the shopping centres, in the Old Town... I really liked that. I also recall walking through Old Riga in the company of a guide who recounted the history of the city. I remember some of what she said, but I really should brush up on my knowledge.

**How well have you gotten to know Riga and what have you seen?**

This year I visited the *Līvu Akvaparks* water park in Jūrmala for the first time. I really liked it and so did my son, who would like us to go there more often. I've been to a couple of new restaurants that I've also liked. Latvia seems to have good restaurants in general, they make tasty food here. I know the main streets in the city and some smaller ones as well. Nevertheless, I'm glad to have met with you at the service entry of *Arena Riga*, a place that I know how to get to. Otherwise, I would have to use the GPS system in my phone. I am more familiar now with various landmarks, such as *Hotel Latvija*, *Hotel Bergs*, places in Old Riga, the *Domina* shopping centre.

**How do you feel in Latvia? Although it is the homeland of your wife, Ineta, it is still a foreign country whose people speak a foreign language, with different customs and ways of doing things.**

I spent five years playing professional hockey in North America. Even when I played in Russia I had Swedes and Finns on my team. I've noticed that Latvians are very patriotic and love their country. For example, in the small town of Krāslava in Latgale, lots of people have the Latvian flag hanging by their houses. It isn't yet that way in Russia, where the flag is only displayed from public buildings on holidays. However, I like the fact that ordinary people display the Latvian flag by their houses and that people all sing the Latvian national anthem together.

**What did you know about Latvia's hockey players before coming here?**

I had already met a few of them. The first one I met was Aleksandrs Ņiživijs, when I was still playing for *Torpedo Nizhny Novgorod*. I really liked his playing style. I also met Petr Vorobyov, who has worked as a coach in Riga. Then at training camp in the USA I met Kārlis Skrastiņš. We had the same agent, Mark Gandler. Later we sometimes met when our teams played each





Petr Schastlivy in his new  
*Dinamo Riga* uniform

**LATVIAN** HOCKEY PLAYERS  
ARE FIGHTERS. THEY GO OUT INTO THE  
RINK AND PLAY HARD

other. I have also played for *Himik Mytishchi* together with Georgijs Pujacs, the current captain of *Dinamo Riga*. Aleksejs Širokovs was another teammate of ours. However, I didn't realise that Riga's team is so good until I got here. Now I am playing for *Dinamo* and am very happy to have been invited here by the team's management. The team is good and I would be glad to continue my career here if given the chance.

**You've been with *Dinamo Riga* for a few months now. Has your opinion of Latvia's hockey players changed? How would you describe Latvian hockey?**

Latvian hockey players are fighters. They go out into the rink and play hard. Most of *Dinamo Riga's* players are also on the Latvian national team. They can gain a lot of experience playing in the KHL. That will help them to push Latvia closer to first place at each following world championship. I really liked the way that Latvia played at this year's Olympics in Sochi. I remember the close game with Canada, which Latvia lost 2:1, but which it

could have also won. I think that the team is going on the right path. The main thing is not to stop and to keep moving forward.

**How is it that the former captain of the Russian national team chose to play for Riga, a team that is not at the top of the KHL rankings?**

I like the fact that the team is getting stronger every year. In previous seasons, *Dinamo* has beat such teams as *SKA Saint Petersburg* and *Dinamo Moscow* in the playoffs. To knock out such strong teams from the tournament is a real accomplishment! *Dinamo Riga* may have a small budget, but it's a strong team. The only thing that's missing is experience and skill at certain times to get even further. If the boys stay on the team and continue to work hard, then they will get better. They analyse every game that they've played and learn from their mistakes.

**How did you meet your wife, Ineta?**

I was in Stockholm with the Russian national hockey team at the beginning of 2005 for a tournament. We played three games there and then I went to sit in a restaurant with two teammates. Ineta also came in for a meal. We started to talk. She was a bit sick at the time but had to take part in a competition in Stockholm two

days later. I went to see our team doctor, asked him for some medicine and gave Ineta everything that I could give her! [Laughs.] We exchanged e-mail addresses and I wrote to her. Eight months later, she sent me an answer.

We started to communicate by phone and our first date was during the *Russian Winter* track and field competition in January of 2006. I first had to go to a team practice in Yaroslavl that day, and after the practice I drove to Moscow to see the competition. I watched Ineta compete and then we met for dinner at the hotel where she was staying. Then I got into my car and drove back to Yaroslavl. I had left Yaroslavl at one in the afternoon, was in Moscow for the beginning of the competition at seven PM, left Moscow at 11 in the evening and was back in Yaroslavl at three in the morning. I got into bed, slept for a few hours and then in the morning I already had to catch a flight to a game with my team.

**How often did you and Ineta get to be together?**

Not very often. I would go to a training camp, come home, but a week later Ineta would also have to go to a training camp of her own for three or four weeks. We saw each other very rarely. Whenever I had some vacation time, I tried to spend it where Ineta was at her training camps and competitions. I travelled together with her to spend more time with her. She usually had two weeks off in September, which she, for her part, spent accompanying me wherever I played – in

Moscow, Ufa or Nizhny Novgorod. We tried to be with each other as often as we could and spent any free time that we had with each other.

**It seems that having two first-class athletes in the same family can be a pretty big drawback!**

Yes, it's true that we both travelled a lot, but on the plus side, we both understood each other very well. If you are tired after a practice, you need to be given a chance to rest, catch some sleep or just be alone for a couple of hours.

**How did you manage to follow each other's sports careers?**

Ineta watched my games live at the arena whenever she could. If she couldn't, then she watched them online over the Internet. It was the same with me. I flew to be with Ineta at her competitions whenever I could, and when I couldn't, I watched them online. I always attended her competitions in Moscow. I doubt if watching hockey practices is any fun... [Laughs.] But I was glad to attend Ineta's training sessions.

**Who prepares the meals in your family?**

Whenever my practices and games coincided with Ineta's training sessions, Ineta's mother, Inna, usually prepared our meals. Now Ineta cooks for us whenever she has the time.

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Together with his wife, Ineta Radeviča, before her long jump competition at the London Olympic Games in 2012

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How did you get introduced to hockey?

One day my mom and dad took me along to a frozen river. My mom put her skates on me and I skated away on the ice. I was only four years old and my parents were surprised that I could skate right from the start. My father was fond of sports but had never played hockey. He worked as a welder in a factory and enjoyed boxing, track and field, long jumping, football and volleyball. One day he asked the company boss to set up a rink for a third hockey team in the city. It wasn't an arena, but a rink covered with frozen water that we got from the furnace room. Two train cars served as dressing rooms. We insulated the walls so that we could dress in them during the winter. My dad set up a team and became its coach. That's how I started to play hockey.

A good coach is like a father to his team. What are the main things that you have learned from your coaches?

MINUS 20 WAS AN IDEAL TEMPERATURE FOR US TO PLAY HOCKEY TO OUR HEARTS' CONTENT

I like the fact that Petr Vorobyov reads a lot about sports and has accumulated a lot of information. I also appreciate the fact that many of those who played under him for Lokomotiv Yaroslavl later became leaders in other clubs. The other coach I can mention is Vyacheslav Bikov. He's from the new generation, with a European style, and he'll find a different approach for each player. He's honest and dependable. He'll never let you down. If he says that he'll do something, then you can trust him to do it.

You are from Siberia. In Latvia if the temperature goes below minus 20°C, then the younger kids don't have to go to school and can stay home.

How was it with you?

We didn't have to go to school if the temperature went below minus 30 or minus 35 degrees. Minus 20 was an ideal temperature for us to play hockey to our hearts' content. However, you could already start feeling some discomfort at minus 33 or 34 degrees. We didn't play hockey when it got colder than that. Where I come from, the temperature can go down to between minus 40 and minus 45 degrees for a month to a month-and-a-half.

Does playing in such harsh weather conditions build character?

Those of us who came to play hockey in Vihorevka simply loved the game. We played hockey because we wanted to. Our going out onto the ice didn't depend on the weather. The main thing was for there to be a winter to start with.

Hockey players have to fly a lot from city to city. How do you spend your time on plane flights?

Sometimes I chat with the person beside me. On rarer occasions I might read a book. If possible, then on the bigger planes I try to just sleep, rest and replenish myself; to think and maybe analyse a game that we have played.

Can you easily fall asleep on a plane?

Not anymore. Before I could. Now on longer flights I can doze off, but that doesn't happen often. I sleep better in hotels, but I sleep best at home.

Do you have any hobbies?

I might watch a movie during a plane flight. Aside from that, I really enjoy fishing, although this year I haven't

really had the chance to fish. I own a fishing rod but only used it once in July with my son, Mark. I'm sure I'll get to fish some more in the future.

What's the biggest fish that you've caught?

I think that was in Canada, when I was playing for Ottawa. I had bought myself a small motorboat and managed to catch a catfish that was about half a metre long. Right after that I caught a perch. Just as I was reaching for my net to pull in the fish, a huge pike swam alongside the boat, bit into the perch and swam away, taking the fish and hook with it. I just stood there for a while, trying to grasp what had just happened. [Laughs.]

In which direction do you think hockey is developing?

The NHL is probably still the strongest hockey league in the world. Regarding Russia, the KHL has gotten a lot stronger during the past few years. You can see this in the fact that each team now has a special physical fitness trainer. Before, each coach had his own programme and exercises, but now we have trainers who make exercises specifically for hockey players and work on the muscles that we use. Each team is capable of coming up with surprises and beating any one of the other teams. I think that every sports team should have a physical fitness trainer who builds up individual hockey players step by step over the years. There are cases when you get worked too hard and don't have enough time to rest before you go back onto the ice, leaving you weaker than you should be. I think that the coach should train the players on the ice, while a physical fitness trainer should keep the players in shape off the ice. That's the way it is with the NHL teams. They work hard on maintaining the fitness of the players, not just on getting them into shape at training camps before a new season starts.

If we speak about changes in world hockey, then the sport is becoming faster. You have to think quickly and make split-second decisions. The way that checking is used is also changing. You have to be careful when you check another player, because if you make a mistake, then you'll give the opposing team the chance to make a counterattack. The way that power plays are used is also important, because the attack and defence zones are bigger. That's why many teams will play cautiously when both teams are at full strength and will wait for a power play to try and score. The players on the team that is short-handed get tired more quickly and that can lead to mistakes. Already now quite a lot of goals are being scored on the power play. Hockey is continuing to develop. I wouldn't be surprised if Chinese and Japanese players soon started playing in the Russian league.

What is it that makes hockey so special for you? Why did you choose hockey over basketball, football or track and field?

I have played hockey, football and basketball. I played basketball at school and we drove to various competitions all across Irkutsk Oblast. I played football only at the local level, but I like hockey the best with its team-playing combinations and speed. You have to think quickly, you have to make decisions, and it's a contact sport. Football isn't really a contact sport. Basketball is, but no



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## OUTLOOK / INTERVIEW



### Petr Schastlivy

Hockey player

Born in the Siberian town of Vihorevka, Russia, on 18 April 1979.

Plays as a forward and enjoys the forceful physical contact and checking that are part of the sport.

Was the *Ottawa Senators'* 4th round pick (101st overall) in the 1998 NHL draft.

Spent five seasons playing professional hockey in North America, including in the world's strongest league, the NHL.

Was on Russia's national junior hockey team when it won the world championship in 1999, and was the captain of the Russian men's national team when it won the bronze medal at the World Ice Hockey Championships in 2007.

Helped the *Ottawa Senators* win the NHL's President's Trophy in 2003. The trophy is awarded to the team that finishes with the most points in the league (i.e. has the best record) during the regular season.

Has received various awards as a member of teams in the Russian Superleague and its successor, the Kontinental Hockey League (KHL). In 2011, he played for *Salavat Yulaev Ufa* when it won the playoffs and obtained the KHL's championship trophy, the Gagarin Cup (named after cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin).

Married to accomplished Latvian athlete Ineta Radeviča, who won the European championship in the women's long jump in 2010 and set a new record for Latvia (6.92 m). She finished third in the world championships a year later.

Schastlivy was in the stands at the London Olympic Games in 2012 when his wife fell only 1 cm short of winning the bronze medal in the long jump. She retired after the games to devote more time to her family.

Petr and his family formerly resided in Moscow but now live on the outskirts of Riga.

He and his wife, Ineta, have a son named Mark and a daughter named Amēlija.

body checking is allowed. In hockey you make a body check and then your mood improves. Even at practice sessions when you play one-on-one or two-on-two and somebody falls, nobody gets offended because it is a physical contact sport. I'm very happy that my dad set up that team when I was a kid and showed me my path in life.

**The words of one Russian song say that weaklings don't play hockey. Would you agree?**

You can get hit pretty hard by the puck in hockey. Some people leave the sport after getting a puck to the body or to their skates. They can't deal with the pain. I remember one game in Vihorevka when the puck got caught in the caging of a goalie's face mask. It also caused a minor injury to his forehead. Although the injury wasn't serious, the guy was shook up. He threw off his mask and didn't play as a goaltender after that, even though he had been standing at the net for many years before. *Weaklings don't play hockey* means that one has to know how to handle the pain. You get hit in the arm and you take it. You can get hit in all kinds of manners in hockey. **BO**



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# A woman’s sense of wine

A good wine has no gender. Even the most accomplished wine connoisseur would not be able to distinguish in a blind taste test whether a wine was produced by a male or female winemaker. Nevertheless, the stereotype of winemaking as a man’s job still prevails. That being said, the number of innovative and courageous women winemakers is on the rise. In conversations with three renowned female winemakers in three different parts of Europe, *Baltic Outlook* attempted to establish – in this harsh and simultaneously refined profession, which can only be practiced successfully with the heightened use of all five senses – whether the intangible notion of a “woman’s sense of wine” truly exists.





## Elegant traditionalist

**Birgit Eichinger owns a winery in Kamptal, a traditional Austrian winemaking region that is best known for its Grüner Veltliner and Riesling white wines.**

She was born into a winemaking family and grew up together with her sister in the town of Strass, where her winery is located. Once they reached adulthood, her sister went off to study in Vienna, while Eichinger entered a wine school. "I think my father sent me there to find the right husband – one who would follow in my father's footsteps and make good wines. However, I married an architect and that confused my father. He is very traditional and the thought of a woman making wine was inconceivable to him." When Eichinger made her first wine in 1992, she had only four hectares of land to work with. Now she has 15.

"My dad liked the first wine that I bottled, but he never said: 'I'm proud of you.' I know that deep down he is proud, but he cannot say it. He is a man."

At first it was hard for Eichinger to find clients for her wine, but soon enough she managed to break into the export market, which now accounts for 50% of her winery's sales. *Birgit Eichinger* wines have received various prestigious wine awards and have been highly praised by *Gault Millau*, *Decanter*, *Falstaff* and other wine guides. The press also refers to Eichinger as a "constant star among Austria's top wineries."

When Eichinger entered the winemaking business more than 20 years

ago, there were practically no women winemakers in Austria. They later joined up in an association named *11 Women and Their Wines*.

"We wanted to show that women can also make good wines. Now there are many women winemakers, including young girls with a good education who have travelled around the world."

Eichinger estimates that currently there are about 40 women winemakers in Austria.

At a time when such terms as "organic", "biodynamic" and "biodiversity" have become the buzzwords of the day, some winemakers have begun to experiment and to make sulphite-free wines. However, Eichinger remains faithful to classical winemaking traditions.

"I don't like these new wines. 'Biodynamic' is too esoteric a term for me. Also the taste and colour of these wines is different. It's not mine. I know that this concept is very modern and everyone speaks about it, but I think that it's more like a trend."

The grapes in the Kamptal region also have a higher acidity content than in Burgenland.

"That is the reason why we have more white wines. Maybe only 10% of the wines in this region are red. And we have a lot of different soils, which is very important and good for us."

*Birgit Eichinger* wines are known for their elegance and strong personality. According to Eichinger, perhaps only the Rieslings of Germany's Pfalz region are somewhat similar to hers. Compared to German wines, Austrian Rieslings "have less minerality but more spices and herbs in their bouquet, resulting in a more Baroque-style full-bodied wine."

Another challenge that Eichinger faces is keeping up with changing consumer demands. During the past four or five years, for example, the demand for very expensive wines has dropped dramatically. Now most wine drinkers would rather buy moderately priced wines, as these are also of sufficiently good quality.

The harvest season in Kamptal lasts from the end of September until the end of November. Eichinger laughs and says she is glad that "the harvest doesn't last for the whole year. Normally I don't smoke. Maybe one or two cigarettes with friends, no more. But when the harvest season starts, then oh my God, it's horrible. I need one pack a day."

Although every harvest year comes forth with its particular difficulties, Eichinger doesn't recall having a particularly bad winemaking year. One year did turn out to be particularly unusual.

"I was three months pregnant during harvest time in 1996. It seemed to be a horrible vintage, because we had more acidity than sugar in the juice. Every sample that I tried tasted terrible. I asked everyone to taste our produce – my husband, my brother, my father. I felt that we had to remove some of the acidity but hesitated because I wondered if my pregnancy was making me more sensitive to the acid than usual. In the end, I did what I felt was best."

Eichinger's daughter was born in the summer of 1997, the same year when the winemaker received Austria's most prestigious wine award, the Falstaff Grand Prix, for her Grüner Veltliner Wechselberg 1996.

"I must have done something right after all," Eichinger adds.

Regardless of the constant changes in the wine market and the various new trends, Eichinger goes by the motto that a skilled winemaker faces one continuing challenge – "to make a good wine every year."

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## Wine as a philosophy

**Barbara Widmer is a charming woman from Switzerland. Over the past 16 years, she has managed to turn the Brancaia winery, which her parents purchased, into one of the best-known and distinctive wine brands in the Chianti region of Tuscany.**

“Every day is like a dialog with the grapes. You really have to understand what they need and when. You might believe that they will grow better if you do something to them during the full or the new moon. Not many things are totally wrong or totally right. For me there is a lot of philosophy in winemaking,” she says.

Widmer sees an advantage in the fact that she entered the winemaking business completely by accident. A bit more than 30 years ago, her parents had spent a Christmas in Tuscany and fallen in love with the region, so they decided to buy some real estate there.

“At that time, in the 1980s, many estates here were empty. Hardly anyone wanted to invest in the countryside.”

The biggest problem was not in finding a house to buy, but in the fact that the owners also wanted to sell the vineyards that came with the houses. “So, my parents become vineyard owners by accident, not by design.”

When Widmer was a teenager, her parents tried to convince her to study oenology, or the science of wine and winemaking. However, since Zurich was not in a winemaking area, she opted for architecture instead but failed to obtain a

sense of fulfilment in her studies.

“I was 22 when I decided to take a year off and figure out if wine could be my thing. I went to the French part of Switzerland and worked for six months in vineyards, then six months in a cellar. Every day.”

By the end of that year, wine had become her passion, obsession and profession all in one. She then got a diploma in oenology at the technical college of higher wine education at Wädenswill (Switzerland). Currently *Brancaia* produces half a million bottles of wine per year, which means that although the winery is not small, it is not among the largest either. *Brancaia's* red wines have been highly rated and placed near the top of annual wine lists by *Wine Spectator*, *Decanter* and Robert Parker's *The Wine Advocate*. The winery's pride and joy is *Il Blu*, which has already become a wine-lovers' classic. Widmer's architect's background, for its part, manifests itself in the atypically bright paints on the walls of her winery's cellars.

“When I compare Brancaia with other estates, the fact that my family is not Italian and that I don't come from a traditional winemaking dynasty gives me the opportunity to see things in a new way. I didn't have a grandfather to tell me what to

do. Of course, not having a background can be difficult because you have to recreate everything from zero, but for me it was an advantage. As long as the product is good, I don't see any limits for doing things in a different way.”

In order to grow superb quality grapes, one has to spend an average of 300 hours working in a European vineyard. In Brancaia they spend 450 hours, because all of the work is done by hand.

“We have no difference in the way that we treat our vineyards. Our philosophy is that every vineyard has the potential to make its best crop and produce our best quality wine. Of course, that doesn't always happen, but it's a challenge. For example, we have one vineyard that we do not consider to be our best. It's not bad, it's about average. But during a rainy year, I will get some of the best Sangiovese grapes there. How can I know in January if it will rain or not in the summer? By keeping all of my options open, I always have enough grapes to make my wines.”

While the Tuscan climate is ideal for grape-growing, the weather remains unpredictable, turning each day on the job into a challenge.

“Even after 16 years, there is always something new and I have to think: ‘Oh, how should I do that?’ It is only after the fact that you can say ‘OK, I did it the right way’ or ‘Maybe I could have done it better this way’”

While Widmer is usually open and very communicable, it is best not to disturb her during the harvest.

“Harvest time is very strange. I walk through the vineyards and try to understand what's going on. I check the leaves to see if they are still bright green or if they are already tired. Does the berry still stick to the vine or does it detach easily? Is the skin thick or already very thin? There are a lot of small details that you can only get on the spot in the vineyards. I don't speak with anybody during the harvest and concentrate on my work. We don't send our grapes for analysis too often. An analysis can't tell you what you have to grasp with your eyes, your nose, and with all of your five senses.”

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## Wine senses

**Maria Elena Jiménez is one of two female winemakers who has managed to turn one of the oldest wineries in the Spanish region of Penedès – Parés Baltà – into a truly innovative company.**

The winery was founded back in 1790, and from the very beginning its grapes have always been grown organically, as testified to in modern-day times by a certificate. The winery has been operated by the Cusiné family for four generations. The men are in charge of running the company, while the important winemaking process is handled by their wives, one of whom is a pharmacist. Jiménez, for her part, is a chemical engineer. Having worked for several years as a consultant, she entered the winemaking business through her husband and enrolled in university a second time to study oenology. Although an increasing number of innovative and courageous women are studying in this field, the stereotype of winemaking being a man's job has not entirely disappeared.

"The challenges of a woman winemaker are the same as the ones that any working woman finds during her professional career. The difficulty in reaching a certain level of responsibility, the lack of confidence in a woman's opinion. Many women work in the wine industry, but very few have a leading role."

Jiménez belongs to a new and radical generation of winemakers who have travelled extensively, have worked in various parts of the world and are very

open-minded. They experiment with winemaking techniques from various parts of the world, while heralding local traditions and adapting them to the present day. They are ready to try out new grape varieties and blends, while not forsaking local varieties.

"Our winemaking strives to reflect the personality of our vineyards in an honest way, achieving the maximum potential

**WOMEN ARE  
USUALLY MORE AWARE OF  
ALL THEIR SENSES, WHILE  
MEN TEND TO FOCUS ON  
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of our grapes, without using any kind of unnatural manipulation."

Like other winemakers, Jiménez sees harvest time as the most challenging and unpredictable period of the winemaking process:

"I do not know if it is the most difficult, but definitely a key aspect is the decision of the harvest time. It is important to ensure that not only the pulp, but also the seeds are completely ripe to achieve the best quality. During harvest time, which lasts about two months in our winery, we visit

the vineyards every day, try the grapes and look up at the sky, as weather and timing are crucial."

Jiménez still doesn't know how this year's harvest will turn out:

"We still have to wait and see. It has been a strange year, and we are finding that the development of the vineyard is different from one field to another, so we will be adapting the winemaking to each case."

One prevalent view is that women make better wine-tasters than men because their senses are sharper. Jiménez agrees to a certain extent:

"As a general rule this could be, because women are usually more aware of all their senses, while men tend to focus on the visual part. However, if we talk about those in the wine industry, then we are talking about people trained in sensing tastes and aromas, so this difference disappears. This is something more cultural than genetic."

In Jiménez's opinion, people taking a blind taste test would find it very hard to determine if a wine was created by a male or female winemaker. She says that her main goal is "to transmit the sensations and feelings I sense in the vineyards into the glass of a person who may enjoy them from far away – that my wines bring a special moment to those who drink them."

Jiménez adds that no matter how highly rated a wine is, the way it will taste comes down to one's emotions and will be connected to special events in one's life. Among the best wines that she has ever tasted, Jiménez recalls a 1996 Cheval Blanc red wine that she tried together with friends in St. Emilion, France; and a 1997 Hayne Vineyard Petite Sirah from Turley Wine Cellars of Napa Valley, California, which Jiménez tasted together with her newlywed husband during their honeymoon in St. Helena. **BO**



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PETERIS SPROGIS

# Fall foliage in Latvia

Best destinations for autumn travel

An hour's drive northeast of Riga is the Gauja River Valley. During the autumn period when the leaves assume various shades of yellow, orange and red, it is one of the most beautiful places on Earth, according to many visitors and travel book writers. Part of the valley lies within the Gauja National Park, Latvia's oldest and best-known nature reserve. Within the park's 92,000-hectare territory a cable car connects both banks of the river, an obstacle course runs through trees 20 metres above the ground, and couples take romantic trips to the sandstone caves that dot the riverside. These are just some of the many attractions that this magical region offers visitors during the fall.



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Former workers' housing village at  
the Līgatne Paper Factory

## Hidden Līgatne

At the edge of the Līgatne River stands the former Līgatne Paper Factory, which can be reached by car and by public transport (get off at the Gaujasmala bus stop). The venerable establishment was one of the oldest and most illustrious paper manufacturers in Europe. It made paper for the Russian Tsar and was serviced by a small railway. The factory closed for an indefinite period in the spring of 2014 and now the last batch of recycled paper that it made (and that can still be obtained at the Līgatne Tourism Information Centre) is a hot souvenir commodity.

The factory had provided employment to several generations of the town's inhabitants, many of whom have now become unemployed. Nevertheless, the charming town looks well-kept and outstandingly picturesque in the fall, with a number of cafés where visitors can stop for a tasty bite to eat. A whole complex of wooden homes that the factory built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century for its workers still stands, a unique ensemble of proletarian architecture that continues to be inhabited by about 1,500 friendly and close-knit people.

Here you will find housewives hanging their laundry to dry and peeling potatoes for dinner on their front porches. The mushrooms that they have picked in the surrounding forests and pickled for the winter, along with the apple cider that they have made from locally grown apples, are kept not in their cellars but in the sandstone caves that abound in the area.

Medieval castle at Turaida

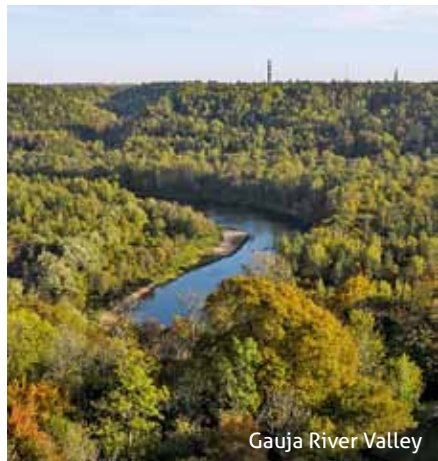


“Welcome to Latvia’s capital of caves!” says our smiling guide, as she rolls up her thick braid and tucks it under her protective construction helmet. Like myself and the other curious visitors who have come for a tour of the town, our guide is wearing a pair of rubber rain boots. A couple of minutes after we walk into a cave, it becomes clear that the helmet and boots are not theatrical elements but genuine necessities. Practically all of the dark and damp caves in Līgatne have been carved into the sandstone cliffs by hand, and there are hundreds of them here. Three hundred thirty-three registered caves, to be exact.

I am amazed to discover this hidden subterranean wonderland in such a small and quiet town. My feelings of exultation subside somewhat when our guide tells us about one cave by the building that formerly served as the town hospital. For a time, it served as a temporary morgue for fallen soldiers during the Second World War. That is followed by an amusing story about the unsuccessful attempts of some locals to use the caves as garages for their vehicles. The inhabitants’ endeavours didn’t pan out, as the changes brought on by the cars to the caves’ natural year-round temperature of +5°C caused the walls and ceilings to start collapsing. There is no information on the number of cars buried in such caves. In any case, the industrious townspeople quickly found more appropriate lodgings for their cars.

Things you should know about Līgatne

- In lower Līgatne some cars look like they are swimming. That is because in order to reach the town from the A3 carriageway, one has to cross Latvia’s longest river, the Gauja. The crossing is like no other, because during the warmer months, when the river is not covered with winter ice, the only ferryman in Latvia (and in the three Baltic States for that matter) pulls people and their cars across the river by hand on a small wooden barge.
- It is possible to go back in time and visit a formerly top-secret underground installation, which was built to shelter the Soviet political and military leadership in the event of an



Gauja River Valley



Exploring sandstone caves



Homemade wine and cheese



Secret Soviet-era atomic shelter

atomic war. The shelter is located nine metres below the Līgatne rehabilitation centre, another edifice constructed by the Soviets in the 1980s. Now this subterranean fortress can be visited officially with the purchase of an entry ticket. Its interior is extremely well preserved, complete with authentic artefacts from that time period.

- One day is sufficient to get to know Līgatne. If you decide to take an excursion to the caves or to the atomic shelter, then combine it with a trip to Vienkoču Park or along Līgatne’s nature trails, where one can observe various forest animals and birds that have been brought there from other parts of Latvia.

For more information on Līgatne and its surroundings, see [www.visitligatne.lv](http://www.visitligatne.lv).

Delightful Sigulda

It’s hard to say which place sells the best pastries in Sigulda. One friend of mine is a big fan of *Gustavbeķereja*, which emanates a sweet aroma on the side of the A2 highway that intersects the city, while I have a fondness for the *Mr.Biskvīts* café near the newly renovated Sigulda train station. An official partner of Riga as this year’s European Capital of Culture, Sigulda has been one of Latvia’s top tourist destinations for decades.

One of the best times to visit is during the fall, when autumn’s resplendent colours imbue the city and surrounding countryside with an almost surreal beauty. Sigulda also has given great consideration to the culinary, cultural and other needs of its visitors, making it a truly delightful place to visit. For example, the city is home to one of the few movie theatres in Latvia where one can relax on a comfortable sofa and enjoy a meal while watching a film ([www.kinolora.lv](http://www.kinolora.lv)).

Diversity is one of Sigulda’s key words, and that includes the various means of transport that one can use to reach the city. Sigulda is located 20 km from the caves of Līgatne and 62 km from the Latvian capital. If you plan to enter the city from Riga, Cēsis or Valmiera, then I suggest taking the train in the early morning and watching the fog-covered country scenes drift past your window. Grab a cup of steaming coffee at the spotlessly renovated train station’s newspaper kiosk and step into the city’s Tourism Information Centre, which is open every day of the week.

Those who are more athletic can walk or cycle into the city. I recently completed a 17.5-km route along a pedestrian and cycling path that extends from Līgatne along the scenic Gauja River. Sigulda is easy to navigate without GPS instruments and maps, as helpful street signs pointing to the main sights can be found all across the city. For more information on various activities that can be undertaken by car, boat, bicycle or foot, check out Sigulda’s tourism website ([www.tourism.sigulda.lv](http://www.tourism.sigulda.lv)) and that of Gauja National Park ([www.gnp.lv](http://www.gnp.lv)).



Bungee-jumping over the Gauja River



Flying in the Aerodium wind tunnel

Speaking of delightful moments, I am standing at the foot of Sigulda’s Ferris wheel on a sunny autumn afternoon. A small girl is driving a toy electric car along the footpath, grinning from ear to ear. The surrounding trees are hued in different shades of yellow and orange. A romantic couple sits down on a park bench to quietly take in the view. This year, the Ferris wheel marks its 40th year in operation. My mother used to go there when she was younger and so did my grandmother.

But that is not all. A cable car stretches across the Gauja River for about one kilometre, linking Sigulda with the town of Krimulda on the other side of the scenic valley. Opened in 1969, it is the only cable car in the Baltic States and, at a height of about 40 metres above the river, it offers a splendid view of the castles in Sigulda, Turaida and Krimulda as well as the country’s renowned bobsleigh and luge track, which has spawned a number of Latvian Olympic champions.

Sigulda is also an ideal destination for adrenaline junkies. On weekends

visitors can be seen bungee jumping from a special cable car over the river ([www.bungee.lv](http://www.bungee.lv)), while those aged four and up can try a flight in the legendary *Aerodium* wind tunnel ([www.aerodium.lv](http://www.aerodium.lv)), which was demonstrated by Latvian acrobats during the closing ceremonies of the winter Olympic Games in Turin in 2006.

The city has two exciting adventure parks: *Tarzāns* ([www.tarazns.lv](http://www.tarazns.lv)) and *Mežakaķis* ([www.kakiskalns.lv](http://www.kakiskalns.lv)), with obstacle courses of various difficulty levels for both adults and children. During the winter months, Sigulda is a small haven for skiers and snowboarders, with several downhill and cross-country ski slopes in the vicinity. Popularly known as Vidzeme’s Switzerland, Sigulda also has the only cross-country ski trail in Eastern Europe to be equipped with a snow-freezing system, ensuring that skiers can enjoy the route even if temperatures climb above zero degrees in this time of global warming.



Picturesque scenery at Sigulda



Autumn is a particularly good time for boating trips

Things you should know about Sigulda

- Walking canes and canned air. The hills and steep trails of Sigulda and the Gauja River Valley are more easily covered with the assistance of a sturdy walking cane. Hence, the inhabitants of Sigulda have been selling canes of all sizes as city souvenirs since 1925. Also for sale are metal cans containing fresh Sigulda air, a 21<sup>st</sup>-century addition to the usual items on offer at the city’s souvenir shops.
  - Latvians enjoy the heat of sauna-like steam baths (*pirtis*) on fall and winter evenings. The *Ezeri* spa hotel near Sigulda is a good place for spoiling oneself with a traditional Latvian *pirts* ritual. It also offers nice guest rooms and the chance to enjoy a fine meal at the *Gadalaiki* restaurant ([www.hotelezeri.lv](http://www.hotelezeri.lv)).
  - The affordably priced and pleasant *Fazenda* restaurant is a newcomer to Sigulda, following in the footsteps of two successful sister restaurants in Riga with the same name. Located in a thatch-covered building at the edge of the A2 highway, it will also appeal to vegetarians and those with a sweet tooth.
- For more information on tourism opportunities in Sigulda, see [www.tourism.sigulda.lv](http://www.tourism.sigulda.lv).





Amatciems community of private homes

## Gauja River Valley sites

As a true 21<sup>st</sup>-century European, I want quick access to the information that I need. So, here in a nutshell are some of the best sites to visit in the Gauja River Valley, as personally recommend by someone who lives in close proximity to the river. In order to really enjoy the magic of Latvia's unspoiled nature and charming towns in the region, I recommend a stay of several days and maybe even a whole week.

Not far from Cēsis and the A2 highway is Amatciems, a recently built village in which nature, not man, is the master ([www.amatciems.lv](http://www.amatciems.lv)). Among the fairy-tale houses is a high-class resort hotel named the *Jonathan Spa Estate* ([www.jonathanspahotel.lv](http://www.jonathanspahotel.lv)). There, guest rooms have been installed in elegant log cabins in which a traditional Latvian rural atmosphere is complemented with contemporary design elements.

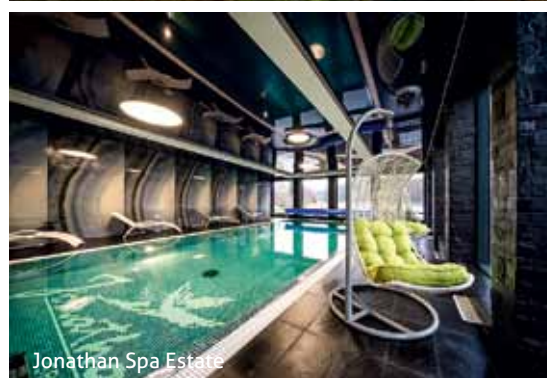
## Coming events on the banks of the Gauja River

- For the tenth year in a row, Līgatne's Vienkoču Park will be hosting a Fire Evening and torch-lit march with the onset of darkness on the first Saturday of October (the 4<sup>th</sup> of the month this year). The park was designed to promote wood craftsmanship and dugout carvings ([www.vienkoci.lv](http://www.vienkoci.lv)).
- On October 11, the annual fall Simjūda Market – one of the oldest in Vidzeme – will be held in Valmiera. This is the perfect place to taste homemade bread, pastries, smoked fish and to purchase wicker baskets, knitted clothes and other crafted goods ([www.visit.valmiera.lv](http://www.visit.valmiera.lv)).
- On October 17, the newly opened Cēsis concert hall in the city of the same name will host a new CD presentation with a concert by virtuoso Latvian pianist Vestards Šimkus playing music by Sergei Rachmaninoff ([www.cesukonzertzale.lv](http://www.cesukonzertzale.lv)).

For more information on tourism opportunities in Gauja National Park, see [www.entergauja.com](http://www.entergauja.com).



Medieval castle at Cēsis



Jonathan Spa Estate



Cēsis concert hall in Vidzeme

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Ungurmuiža Manor



St. John's Lutheran Church in Cēsis



Old Town in Cēsis

Various *pirts* (steam bath), pool, beauty and relaxation procedures are available to replenish the mind and body in a harmonious setting.

Not far from the A3 carriageway near Lake Ungurs (*Ungura ezers*) in Gauja National Park is the imposing 18<sup>th</sup>-century wooden manor of Ungurmuiža ([www.ungurmuiža.lv](http://www.ungurmuiža.lv)). This summer a small restaurant opened there, elegant in its simplicity amid a splendid historic backdrop. At this time of year, apples drop from the trees in the well-kept manor grounds and the smell of spices wafts forth from the chef's kitchen. This is a place worth visiting if you are in Vidzeme. On fall evenings, the orange sunset over a meadow with grazing horses and rising fog patches is unforgettable. (Take note that the restaurant is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays starting from October 1.)

A similar idyllic scene can be found on cool autumn evenings in Valmiermuiža, about 5 km from Valmiera, the most industrial city in Vidzeme. Aside from a picturesque setting and a manor park, Valmiermuiža also has one of the best breweries in the country. There one can try various beer-based foods and drinks, including beer-flavoured ice cream. One of the top fall beverages is hot beer, which one can sip while writing out postcards from the buffet ([www.valmiermuiža.lv](http://www.valmiermuiža.lv)).

The city of Cēsis ([www.tourism.cesis.lv](http://www.tourism.cesis.lv)) is 30 km from Valmiera and draws many visitors to its summer arts and music festivals. On a quiet autumn day, I recommend climbing the church tower in the city centre and marvelling at the fall colours in the park by the ruins of the medieval castle. Take a walk along the museum-like streets of the Old Town, which have also been captured in many a Latvian-made movie. **BO**



IEGULDĪJUMS TAVĀ NĀKOTNĒ



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TEXT BY TREVOR BAKER  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE LONDON  
TRANSPORT MUSEUM AND BY CORBIS



Interior of the London Underground in the 1890s

## Going underground

*The secret world beneath London's feet*

London's Underground rail network, known as the Tube, is a marvellously functional piece of machinery, facilitating a billion journeys a year through 270 stations. However, it also has a mysterious, dark side, with at least 40 ghost stations that once hummed with trains and passengers, but which are now empty and redundant. In some of these stations, time stopped at the moment they were bricked up. Original advertising posters still hang on their walls. Others have not been used as train stations

for more than 60 years but have subsequently served as air raid shelters, command centres, film sets, art storage vaults and, according to legend, the haunt for an extraordinary variety of ghosts.

During the last few years, there have been numerous calls for this secret world beneath Londoners' feet to be brought back to life. For several years, a company called *The Old London Underground* has been raising money to buy some of these stations and turn them into museums, bars or other tourist attractions. Owner

Ajit Chambers says that he's within a few months of announcing his first concrete plans. The *London Underground* is keen to sell, but points out that the stations need a huge amount of work to make them safe and usable.

The London Transport Museum runs occasional trips to the ghost station of Aldwych (see its website at [www.ltmuseum.co.uk](http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk) for details of the next tour), and you can still catch a glimpse of several unused stations if you know where to look.



October 1940. Londoners listen to a music concert in a subway tunnel as they take shelter from German air force bombings of the city above them

### Aldwych

1907-1994

Anyone who gets a chance to visit Aldwych Station might find it eerily familiar. After closing in 1994, it moved into the more glamorous world of film and TV, making appearances in everything from *Harry Potter* to *Atonement*, *V For Vendetta*, *28 Days Later* and the *Empty Hearse* episode of BBC's modernised *Sherlock* drama. It still has an operational train there purely for filming.

In its younger days, Aldwych had many other roles. The eastern platform operated for only ten years and hasn't serviced trains since 1917. During the First World War, it was used to store paintings from the National Gallery after the first Zeppelin bomb scares, when enemy air balloons appeared in the sky above London.

During the Second World War, up to 1,500 people slept there each night to escape the even more serious threat of the Blitz. Initially they were harassed by the police, but finally the authorities gave in, even providing entertainment and food below ground.

The western platform was eventually closed in 1994 due to a lack of users. Furthermore,

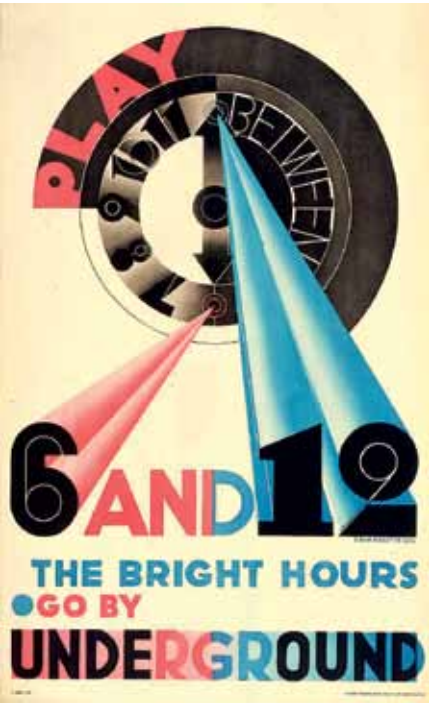
maintaining the lifts, which dated from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, had become increasingly expensive. It ended up being far more profitable to hire the station out to Hollywood and to Britain's own film industry.

The London Transport Museum organised the first tour of the station in 2013 and tickets sold out almost immediately. More tours are likely in the future. However, because of the station's new career in the movies, it's not always easy to ascertain which parts of the furnishings are original and which are just part of a film set. Some of the advertising posters on the walls are originals, while others have been added to give a little flavour to period dramas.

Another alleged relic of the station's past is that of a mysterious woman walking down the tracks. A theatre once stood on this site and some cleaners working late at night say that the ghost of an actress still haunts the old stage. Now that the station is, once again, more of a theatrical affair than a transport hub, she should feel right at home.

**How to see it:** Check the website of the London Transport Museum for details of the next tour.





The first London Underground posters date from the 1890s and revolutionised the advertising industry. The posters pictured here are from various time periods

*Brompton Road*  
1906-1934

Brompton Road began life in 1906 as a station for one of the most expensive parts of London. Anyone visiting *Harrods* would once have gotten off there. But with Knightsbridge and South Kensington stations just around the corner, the station became redundant. In 1926, it was shut during the General Strike and, although the strike lasted for only 10 days, the station remained closed for six months. It was finally shut down for good in 1934.

However, in the late 1930s, the spectre of airborne warfare began to alarm the British government, which bought the station for 22,000 pounds and turned it into a military command bunker. Floors were inserted into the lift shafts to create operations rooms, complete with a telephone exchange, pneumatic tubes to shoot messages from one level to another and a large map of southern England. When war broke out, London's bombing defences were planned from there.

In 1941, the station played host to what must have been one of the strangest interviews of the war. Hitler's deputy Rudolf Hess, disillusioned by his boss and sure that he had the right connections to persuade Britain to negotiate for peace, single-handedly flew to Scotland, where he



crash-landed. After being discovered by a farmer and handed in to the Home Guard, he was brought to London and debriefed at Brompton Road Station. Officials weren't sure whether Hess was crazy or part of a bizarre plot and transferred him to a secure facility at the Tower of London.

For years afterwards, the station was used by the Ministry of Defence before being abandoned. Then, in 2010, businessman Ajit Chambers began a campaign to bring the station back to public life. He was successful in that the Ministry of Defence agreed to sell it, but only to the highest bidder. Just a few

minutes from London's most famous stores, *Harrods* and *Harvey Nichols*, the space was hugely valuable. In July of 2013, it was sold to a Ukrainian billionaire for 50 million pounds and is likely to be turned into apartments. However, Chambers still hopes that this sale will be reversed and that he can fulfil his dream of turning Brompton Road Station into a museum, with a bar restaurant above and climbing walls in the deep tunnels.

**How to see it:** When passing through from Knightsbridge to South Kensington on the Piccadilly Line, you'll notice pale brick walls where the station used to be.



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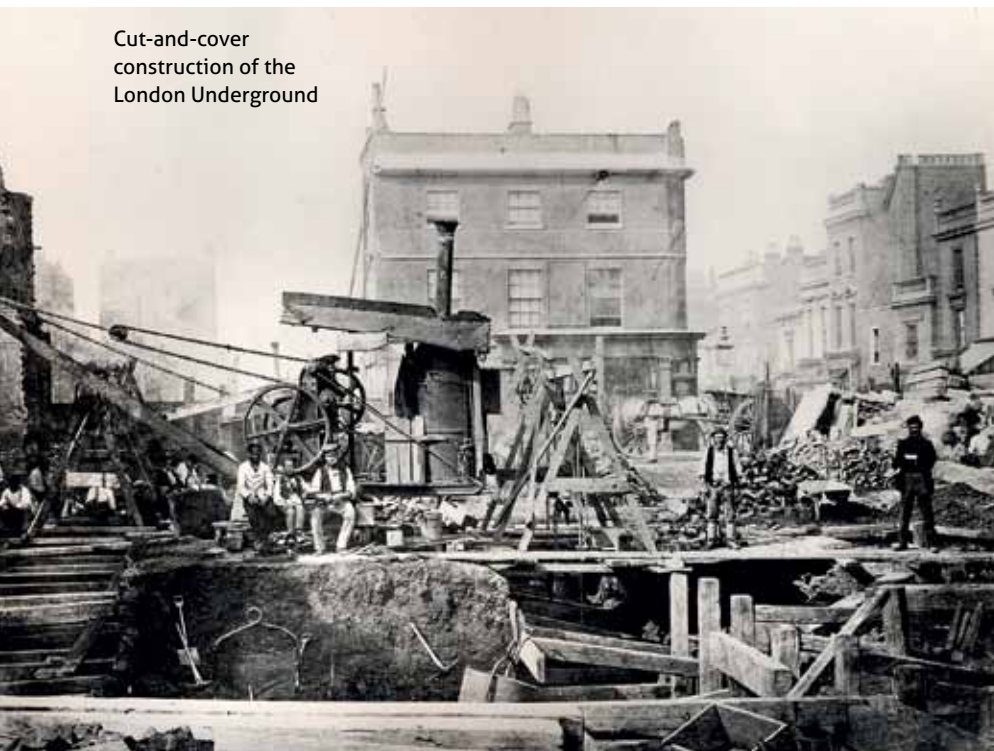
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Cut-and-cover  
construction of the  
London Underground



## Down Street 1907-1932

Like Brompton Road, Down Street served one of the wealthiest areas of town – Mayfair, near Hyde Park Corner. The station closed in 1932, allegedly because the locals were too posh to use public transport. At the start of the Second World War, the deep tunnels were converted into an office bunker for the Railway Executive. Until Prime Minister Winston Churchill's own underground War Rooms were built (now a museum in Whitehall), the Cabinet often met and sometimes slept there. Churchill said that this was one of the few places in London where he couldn't hear the bombs and nicknamed the station The Burrow.

To serve its new functions, Down Street was heavily reconstructed. Among other things, it received a new lift, as the authorities felt that Churchill and his ministers wouldn't appreciate taking the stairs. They also added surprisingly luxurious bedrooms and a bathroom with what became known as Churchill's Bath. The wartime Prime Minister famously loved to work from his bathtub, reviewing documents and even, on occasion, receiving startled visitors. One narrow access tunnel was widened, reportedly

## CHURCHILL SAID THAT THIS WAS ONE OF THE FEW PLACES IN LONDON WHERE HE COULDN'T HEAR THE BOMBS AND NICKNAMED THE STATION THE BURROW

so that it would be big enough to accommodate the all-important tea trolley. Until relatively recently, the London Underground arranged visits to the station, where some of the wartime fittings are still in evidence. However, in 2009 these had to be halted as sewage began leaking into the tunnels, making any visit a rather unpleasant experience.

**How to see it:** If you stand on Down Street today and look to the left of the newsagent you can see a metal door beneath a wide arch. This is where the original entrance once stood. Also, if you look closely as you travel along the Piccadilly Line between Hyde Park Corner and Piccadilly Circus, you can see signs of the station's existence. Look out for the brick wall that now blocks off the original platform.

## British Museum

1900-1933

The British Museum opened in 1759 and by the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was one of London's most popular attractions. It also seemed to be a logical place for a Tube station but, with Holborn Station less than 100 metres away, the British Museum station was eventually closed.

Not long afterwards, bizarre rumours started to appear about the station and the nearby museum. Ever since Howard Carter's 1922 discovery of Pharaoh Tutankhamun's lavish tomb near Cairo, the British public had been obsessed with all things Egyptian. This led to the story of a secret tunnel extending all the way from the abandoned Tube station to the museum's Egyptian Room. There were also, inevitably, stories of a ghost. Some visitors to the station claimed to have seen a young woman with an Egyptian headdress – supposedly the daughter of one of the Pharaohs whose tomb had been disturbed in recent archaeological excavations. One newspaper actually offered a reward to anybody who would spend the night in the Tube station, but there were no takers.

Then, like many other deep-tunnel Tube stations in London, the British Museum station was used as an air-raid shelter during the Second World War. An intriguing newspaper report from the time tells the story of a man cautioned for "disorderly conduct" with four women. What exactly this "conduct" entailed the report doesn't say. Perhaps he was just telling ghost stories to his companions. Even now, some people claim that from the platform at nearby Holborn Station you can still hear ghostly Egyptian cries coming down the tunnel.

**How to see it:** The station building was demolished in 1969, but you can still see where the platforms used to be as you go from Tottenham Court Road to Holborn on the Central Line.



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Metropolitan line centenary parade, 1963. E class locomotive L44, built in 1898



Steam test run, December 2012

## North End

The Northern Line is one of London's busiest Tube lines, and passengers zooming between leafy Hampstead and Golders Green should have had the chance to get off at North End station. Construction of the station was begun in the early 1900s to serve a housing project planned for the northern edge of beautiful Hampstead Heath. However, enraged locals successfully campaigned to prevent the housing project from being constructed and the station from being completed.

Since the tunnels and platforms for the station had already been built, North End became a secret Cold War control centre from 1956 until the late 1980s. Its civil defence purpose was to protect London in the event of attacks on the city's emergency floodgates.

Ever since the Second World War, planners had feared the effects of a bomb penetrating the parts of the Tube that are below the River Thames. This would result in considerable sections of the network being flooded. Floodgates were installed at various points throughout the tunnels during the war, and from 1956 the protective system was operated from the officially non-existent North End Station. The control centre didn't close until the 1980s, when the Thames Barrier was built at Woolwich to control flood problems.

These days, the disused station is known as the Bull & Bush after a nearby pub, and it's still not possible to access the secrets of the Cold War bunker hidden inside.

**How to see it:** The station was never opened, but you can imagine where it would have been as you go from Hampstead to Golders Green station on the Northern Line.



“Your hair becomes much heavier and thicker. You maintain your healthy hair”

## THINNING HAIR?

How a new pill can boost your hair and self-confidence

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OUTLOOK / SPECIAL



Pocket Underground map. 1933

## 10 Fascinating underground facts

1. Aldgate Station is built on a massive plague pit of over 1,000 bodies. During the Great Plague of 1665, there wasn't time to give everybody a decent burial so many bodies were thrown into large communal graves.
2. Over 50 percent of the London Underground is actually overground. Parts of it head far into the countryside of Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Essex.
3. Opened in 1863 and currently with 402 kilometres of track, it's the oldest and the longest underground railway in the world.
4. The London Tube map, designed by Harry Beck, has made the London Underground more money than its train operations.
5. Various voiceover artists have recorded the "Mind the gap" announcement, which is played at many stations to warn passengers of a gap between the train and the platform. One of these was Oswald Laurence. After he died, his widow, Margaret McCollum, regularly visited the Embankment station to hear his voice. In 2013, his recording was replaced, but after hearing how much she missed hearing him, Tube bosses decided to reinstate it.

6. The Tube journey between Leicester Square and Covent Garden on the Piccadilly Line takes only about 20 seconds, because the two stations are a mere 260 metres apart.
7. Finsbury Park station has murals that show a pair of duelling pistols, as the area was a notorious site for duels in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century.
8. Other murals include a silhouette of Sherlock Holmes' head, complete with pipe and deer-stalker hat, which appears at the Baker Street station. Author Arthur Conan Doyle described him as living with his colleague Doctor Watson at 221b Baker Street.
9. Since 1986, the Poems on the Underground project has also decorated many trains with classic and modern poetry.
10. The record for the fastest visit to all the stations on the London Underground network is held by Geoff Marshall and Anthony Smith, who raced from station to station in 16 hours, 20 minutes and 27 seconds on 16 August 2013. BO

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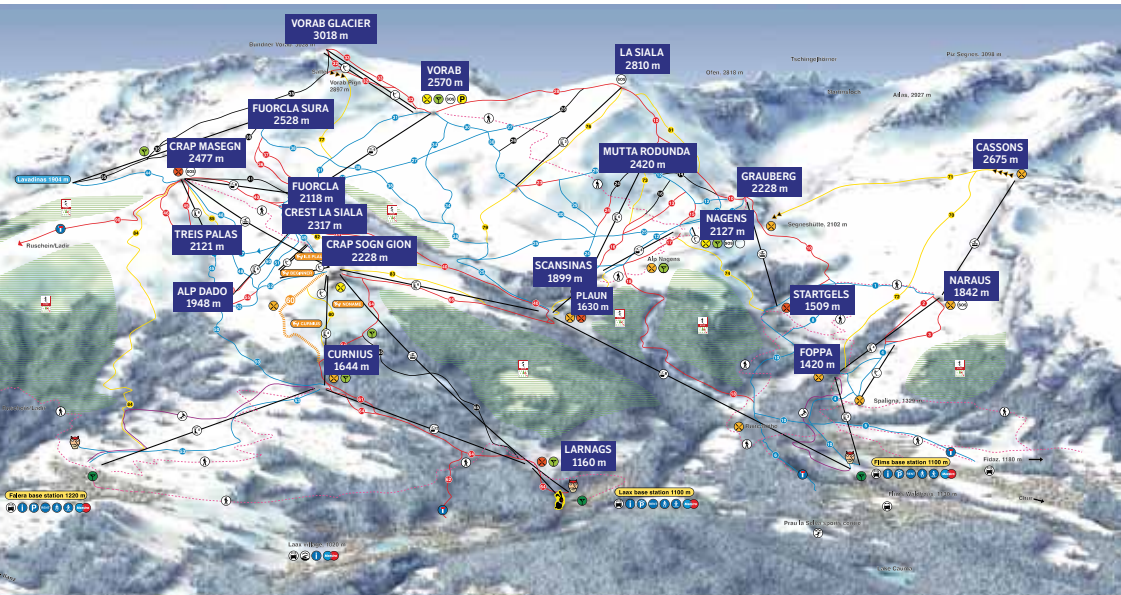
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SWITZERLAND

Fly to Zurich with airBaltic from €75 ONE WAY

Riga – Zurich				
Flight No	Days	Departure	Arrival	
BT 641	1--4--7	09:10	10:40	
BT 641	---56-	16:10	17:40	

Zurich – Riga				
Flight No	Days	Departure	Arrival	
BT 642	1--4--7	11:40	15:10	
BT 642	---56-	18:20	21:50	



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

**Flims Laax Falera** There's something to satisfy just about everyone's wishes here, with a wide selection of services to choose

from, including mountainside restaurants, places for renting the latest ski gear and accommodation.

**St. Moritz** St. Moritz is Switzerland's most famous exclusive winter resort. There are plenty of designer stores to keep posh ladies busy after lunch, while other visitors come to watch the annual polo, horse racing and cricket competitions on the town's frozen lake. You might even run into Ivana Trump!

**Resort altitude:** 1850 m  
**Highest lift:** 3300 m  
**Total piste length:** 350 km  
Black 9 | Red 61 | Blue 18  
**Longest run:** 10 km  
**Snow parks:** 2  
**Number of ski lifts:** 57  
**Lift pass prices:**  
Day EUR 64.11 | EUR 19.73 (children)

**Week (6 days)** EUR 294.27 | EUR 100.28 (children)  
**Resorts accepting lift pass:** Corviglia, Corvatsch above neighbouring Silvaplana and the Diavolezza Glacier area  
**Season:** October 18 – April 6



**Davos** Davos prides itself on keeping good company. Alongside resorts such as Zermatt, St. Moritz, St. Anton and Kitzbühel, Davos is a member of *The Best of the Alps* association of 12 classic Alpine resorts. The nearby resort of Klosters has long been a favourite haunt of Prince Charles and sometimes his sons as well. Hence, the main cable car that takes skiers to the top of Gotschnagrat is called the *Prince of Wales*.

**Resort altitude:** 1560 m  
**Highest lift:** 3146 m  
**Total piste length:** 320 km  
Black 12 | Red 39 | Blue 31  
**Longest run:** 12 km  
**Snow parks:** 3  
**Ski lifts:** 50  
**Lift pass prices:**  
Day EUR 55.90 | EUR 22.20 (children)  
Week (6 days) EUR 272.93 | EUR 109.34 (children)

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

SLOVAKIA

Fly to Poprad with airBaltic from €55 ONE WAY

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

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



**Tatranska Lomnica** The High Tatras is the oldest holiday region in Slovakia and Poprad is an even older Slovakian city, known since the 13<sup>th</sup> century as a gateway to these mountains. Not far from Poprad is Tatranská Lomnica, one of the largest and most beautiful villages in the High Tatras. The expert "French mulda" ski

run is one of the steepest in Slovakia, sloping from 2196 meters above sea level to Tatranská Lomnica through Lomnické sedlo. Apart from ski activities, the resort also hosts plenty of spa resorts and water parks.

**Resort altitude:** 785 m  
**Highest lift:** 2632 m  
**Total piste length:** 24 km  
Black 2 | Red 4 | Blue 2  
**Longest run:** 6 km  
**Snow parks:** 1  
**Ski lifts:** 7  
**Lift pass prices:**  
Day EUR 31.00 | EUR 22.00 (children)  
Week (6 days) EUR 162.00 | EUR 113.00 (children)  
**Resorts accepting lift pass:** Tatranska Lomnica  
**Season:** Early December to late April



ITALY



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

Riga – Milan				
Flight No	Days	Departure	Arrival	
BT 629	---4-6-	09:30	11:15	
BT 629	1-3-5-7	16:00	17:45	

Milan – Riga				
Flight No	Days	Departure	Arrival	
BT 630	---4-6-	12:00	15:40	
BT 630	1-3-5-7	18:30	22:10	

**Resort altitude:** 1224 m  
**Highest lift:** 2624 m  
**Total piste length:** 36 km  
Black 4 | Red 14 | Blue 6 | Green 3

**Longest run:** 10 km  
**Snow parks:** 1  
**Ski lifts:** 18  
**Lift pass prices:**  
Day EUR 45 |  
EUR 22.50 (children)  
Week (6 days) EUR 227 |  
EUR 113.50 (children)

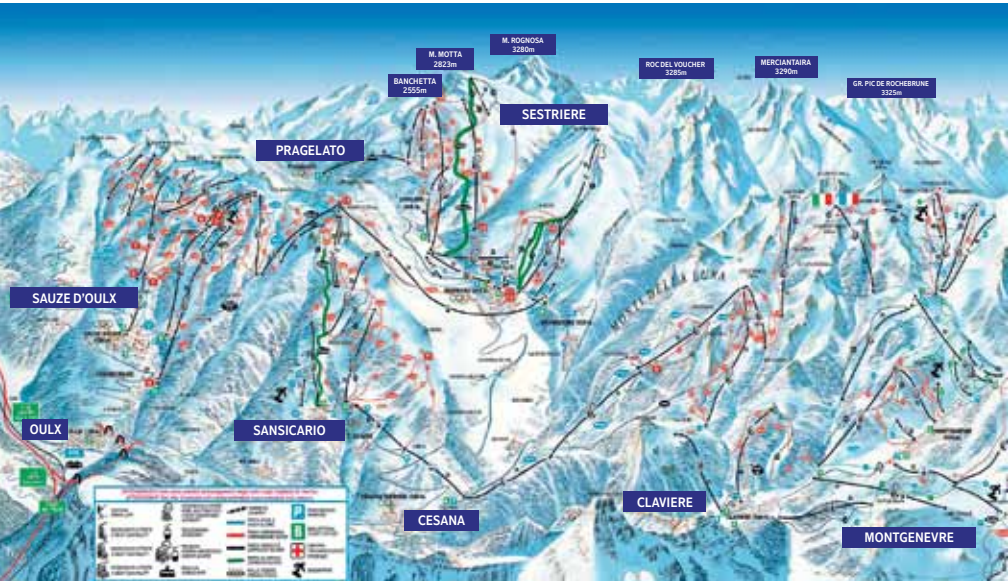
**Resorts accepting lift pass:**  
Alagna Valsesia, Breuil-Cervinia,  
Crévacol, Etroubles, Pila and  
Saint-Rhémy-en-Bosses  
**Season:**  
Early December to mid-April



**Courmayeur** Founded in the 17<sup>th</sup> century as a spa town located at the very top of the Aosta Valley, Courmayeur is a charming place. Pretty buildings with slate roofs line the traffic-free cobbled streets of the old town. The little resort at the foot of the Mont Blanc chain

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

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



**Sestriere** Sestriere is the highest ski resort in the extensive Via Lattea (Milky Way) linked ski area, boasting an impressive Alpine winter sports history as one of the world's first purpose-built ski resorts. A good choice for beginners and intermediates. Sestriere is also one of the few resorts where it is possible to ski at night on a floodlit run.

During the summer months, it is a famous starting and arrival point in the *Tour de France* and the *Giro d'Italia* cycling races. Notably, it was the scene of a definitive moment in cyclist Lance Armstrong's now tarnished career. It regularly hosts FIS Alpine Ski World Cup events, and it was a main venue during the 2006 Winter Olympic Games.

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



**Livigno** Families and beginners can enjoy gentle slopes and fun areas suited for acquiring basic techniques and for learning by playing. Furthermore, Livigno has a special tax status that dates back to Napoleonic times. There's no VAT, which means

that drinks, fuel and consumer goods are among the cheapest in Europe. Apparently, there is even a Latvian-run hotel that serves Latvian cuisine.

GEORGIA



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with airBaltic  
from **€119** ONE  
WAY

Riga – Tbilisi				
Flight No	Days	Departure	Arrival	
BT 722/724	-2--5-7	23:05	03:35+1	

Tbilisi – Riga				
Flight No	Days	Departure	Arrival	
BT 723/725	1-3--6-	05:45	08:20	

**Gudauri** Gudauri is a growing ski resort, enchanting visitors with a wealth of opportunities for an active holiday in the mountains, unparalleled views, amazing colours, a festive atmosphere and a warm welcome for its guests. Situated on a south-facing plateau of the Greater Caucasus Mountain Range, its skiable area enjoys maximum exposure to the sun, which makes Gudauri a magnificent year-round tourist destination. Georgian hospitality is another reason why you should consider Gaudari for your next ski trip.

**Resort altitude:** 2196 m  
**Highest lift:** 3250 m  
**Total piste length:** 57 km  
Black 10 km | Red 25 km | Blue 15 km  
**Longest run:** 7 km  
**Snow parks:** 1  
**Ski lifts:** 7  
**Lift pass prices:**  
Day EUR 13.00 |  
EUR 9.00 (children)  
Week (6 days) EUR 70.00 |  
EUR 47.00 (children)  
**Resorts accepting lift pass:** Gudauri  
**Season:**  
December 13 – April 26





FRANCE



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

Riga – Paris					Paris – Riga				
Flight No	Days	Departure	Arrival		Flight No	Days	Departure	Arrival	
BT 691	123456-	09:05	11:00		BT 692	123456-	11:55	15:40	
BT 693	12-45-7	15:55	17:50		BT 694	12-45-7	18:35	22:20	



**Tignes** Compared to its neighbouring resorts, sport comes first here and you're more likely to find visitors staying on the slopes as long as possible, rather than partying the night away. As for accommodation, Val Claret is the highest village at 2100 metres and has easy access to the glacier. Together with Tignes-Le-Lac just down the road, it is the most convenient place to stay, with a large choice of hotels, restaurants and shops. Slightly lower lie the cheaper and less convenient apartments of Le Lavachet, which are linked to the lifts by ski bus.

**Resort altitude:** 2100 m

**Highest lift:** 3450 m

**Total piste length:** 300 km  
Black 45 | Red 46 | Blue 61 | Green 22

**Longest run:** 10 km

**Snow parks:** 2

**Ski lifts:** 59

**Lift pass prices:**

**Day** EUR 52.00 | EUR 41.50 (children)

**Week** (6 days) EUR 260.00 | EUR 208.00 (children)

**Resorts accepting lift pass:** Espace Killy ski resorts of Val d'Isère. Tignes is directly linked by Ski Lift to the ski areas of Val d'Isère

**Season:** December 20 – May 6



**Meribel** There are plenty of reasons to love Méribel aside from its chalet-style architecture, wooded surroundings and friendly, village atmosphere. The prime reason is its central position within France's huge Trois Vallées ski area. The Olympic Centre built for the 1992 Winter Olympics is also open daily, offering a variety of non-ski activities for the whole family. It's no secret that avid skiers Prince William and Kate Middleton have also checked in for a family vacation at Trois Vallées!

**Resort altitude:** 1450 m

**Highest lift:** 3200 m

**Total piste length:** 600 km  
Black 9 | Red 24 | Blue 34 | Green 10

**Longest run:** 5 km

**Snow parks:** 2

**Total Lifts:** 18

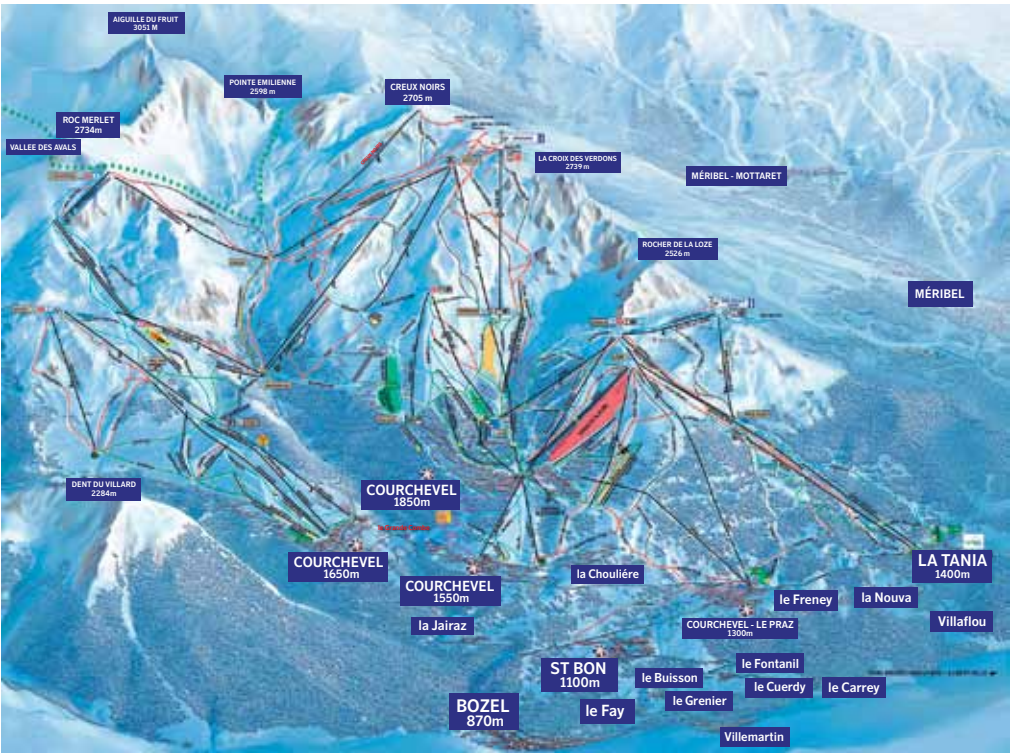
**Lift pass prices:** Day EUR 46.40 |

EUR 37.30 (children)

Week (6 days) EUR 226.40 | EUR 182.40 (children)

**Resorts accepting lift pass:** Three Valleys ski resorts of Courchevel, La Tania, Les Menuires, Saint Martin de Belleville and Val Thorens

**Season:** December 6 – April 17



**Courchevel** Considered the most glamorous and celebrity-filled ski resort in the world, Courchevel offers breathtaking views of Mont Blanc. If the first thing that you think about when you hear

'Courchevel' is skiing, then the second thing should be gastronomy, as Courchevel boasts many *Michelin*-starred restaurants and is a gourmet ski destination.

**Resort altitude:** 1850 m

**Highest lift:** 3230 m

**Total piste length:** 600 km  
Black 10 | Red 42 | Blue 40 | Green 27

**Longest run:** 7 km

**Snow parks:** 2

**Total Lifts:** 20

**Lift pass prices:** Day EUR 49.00 | EUR 39.20 (children)

Week (6 days) EUR 240.00 | EUR 193.00 (children)

**Resorts accepting lift pass:** Three Valleys ski resorts of La Tania, Les Menuires, Méribel, Saint Martin de Belleville and Val Thorens

**Season:** December 20 – April 17









IN ASSOCIATION WITH CAR BUYER'S GUIDE  
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PUBLICITY PHOTOS

# Driven: the Opel Adam Rocks

The Opel Adam was launched to surf the wave of popularity that stylish small cars such as the Fiat 500, Citroën DS3 and BMW Mini had successfully rode before.



It is a stylish vehicle, offered in 17 body colours and a seemingly bottomless list of options with which to make the city car your own. They may be a relative rarity on the road, but some 10,000 have already found homes since their launch.

The Adam Rocks is the first attempt to broaden the concept of the original Adam model, following the current trend for SUV styling on smaller cars. A hike in ride height,



tough-looking wheel arches, bumper inserts and underbody protection are the extent of the external changes, but they do make the car look more butch.

Opel has also given the Adam a fabric-folding roof, meaning that this is the first convertible city SUV we've seen. It is nothing if not niche.

**What's it like inside?**

Equipment levels in the Adam Rocks are good and roughly in line with the Slam trim level of the standard car. Bluetooth, air-conditioning and digital radio are all included. That said, you should budget for the Intellilink infotainment system, which will allow the car to seamlessly integrate with your smartphone through a range of apps.

Along with the fabric roof, two interior colour schemes exclusive to the model are standard options: Ocio Brandy and Ocio Coffee Bean. Get the colour choices right and the interiors are hugely appealing. Leather door insert trims, a coloured dash insert and a chunky two-tone steering wheel

make the car feel premium, even though some humdrum plastics remain tucked away further from the highlights.

The sunroof is electrically operated and can be opened at highway speeds. Pulling it back does limit rear headroom in the back seats, but seeing as there is negligible legroom anyway, we can't imagine many rear passengers sitting there long enough to complain.

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

The Adam has always looked better than it has driven, but the Rocks goes some way to remedying those issues. Available with three engines, the car that we tested had the new three-cylinder petrol turbo engine mated to an all-new six-speed gearbox.

Whereas the 1.2 and 1.4-litre naturally aspirated petrol engines are listless and flat by modern standards, the 115-hp turbo bestows the Adam Rocks with a genuine turn of pace. It's not desperately quick off the line, but in-gear performance is very good and

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## CARS



## THE ADAM ROCKS IS THE FIRST CONVERTIBLE CITY SUV THAT WE'VE SEEN

the power is delivered more smoothly and consistently than you might expect from a small-capacity turbo engine. It pulls well from low revs too, meaning that you don't need to row through the ratios of the light, precise gearbox as often as you might think. It is also the greenest *Adam* available, with emissions of 119g/km and a combined economy figure of 4.5 litres/100km.

Think three cylinders and you might expect a busy, noisy cabin, but actually the engine is surprisingly quiet at low speeds. Rev it hard and you'll know it is a three-pot, but on the road engine noise is very muted. Tyre roar from the optional 18-inch wheels on our test car was far more pronounced than anything from under the bonnet.

To assert its soft-roader credentials, *Opel* has hiked the *Adam's* ride height by 15 mm and retuned the suspension accordingly. The standard car is criticised for its very firm ride, but even with the 18-inch wheels, the *Rocks* is an improvement. It is still quite firm and body control is very good, but comfort is generally decent on all but the

most broken surfaces. *Opel* claims to have toned down the very fast steering of the regular *Adam*, but aside from precious little communication through the wheel, the *Rocks Air* steers well enough.

### Should I buy one?

The *Adam Rocks* is a desirable car, having become as much fun to drive as it looks. Viewed purely in pragmatic terms, however, the starting price of 14,910 euros may seem too much for a car that has two tiny rear seats and a very small boot – even one as nicely equipped and finished as this.

Ultimately, the decision on whether to buy or not will rest on how much you fall for the car's stylish charms. On that basis its main competitor is the *Citroën DS3*, and the two cars are priced at a comparable level.

The new engine, gearbox and suspension changes make this the nicest *Adam* that we've driven, but for many buyers who can live without the macho styling, the new engine will also arrive in the standard *Adam* – and therefore at a lower cost – before the end of 2014. **BO**

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ballet THREE MEETINGS





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**LIDO Airport :** Riga International Airport, departures area, 2nd floor  
**LIDO DOMINA:** Ieriku Street 3, "Domina Shopping" Centre



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



# Colourful Jūrmala

PUBLICITY PHOTOS



With the advent of fall, the air has become cooler and the trees have assumed various shades of yellow, orange and red. Crisp invigorating mornings and beautiful sunsets make October one of the best months to visit the picturesque seaside town of Jūrmala.

Jūrmala is the only official resort city in Latvia and is practically within arm's reach of the Riga International Airport as well as the capital itself. This means that you can conveniently combine visits to both Riga and Jūrmala during your trip to Latvia. Fall is one of the best times of the year for walks along nature trails that will lead you to primeval swamps, pine forests, coastal sand dunes and pristine beaches.

Two notable nature reserves lie within Jūrmala's territory. Ķemeri National Park boasts a wooden footbridge in the Great Ķemeri Moorland that extends for more than three kilometres into an unspoiled bog. The paths at the nearby Ragakāpa Nature Park wind

through a pine forest, leading either to the sea or to the Jūrmala Open-Air Museum, which reveals Jūrmala's history at a time when it wasn't yet known as a seaside resort but merely a fishing village.

The pleasant temperatures and beautiful scenes during Jūrmala's golden autumn provide ample opportunities for exploring the city by bicycle along specially made bicycle trails. Four newly established bicycle routes cover various lengths to ensure that cyclists of all ages and abilities get the opportunity to take in the city and its sandy beaches. Nordic walkers, for their part, can rent the equipment that they need for healthy walks by the sea and its coastal pine-scented forests.

Families with children will feel right at home at Jūrmala's most popular family leisure centre, the *Līvu Akvaparks* water park. It is open year-round and offers the opportunity to enjoy summery water activities long after the waters of the Baltic Sea have become too cool



to swim in. Water slides of various lengths and speeds will thrill both adults and children alike, while those who simply wish to relax can step into a sauna or hot tub in the park's spa zone.

If you want to pamper yourself with some really special treatment, then try out a stay at one of Jūrmala's resort hotels, which offer a wide array of spa procedures all year long – starting from hand and foot massages and ending with special wellness rituals that last for several hours, making you feel replenished and rejuvenated. These can be complemented by dips in pools that are filled with either mineral water or sea salt.

Gourmets will be pleasantly surprised at the large number of cafés and restaurants in the city and at the variety of delectable dishes from various world cuisines that are sure to satisfy even the most

indiscriminate foodie. Seaside eating establishments offer unforgettable sunset views of Jūrmala's sandy coastline.

After your meal, don't miss the chance to wander along Jūrmala's side streets, which are dotted with charming wooden houses that predate the First World War. Their ornate wood carvings, rooftop towers and verandas with stain-glass windows hark back to an era when greater attention was paid to beauty and detail. Itineraries that highlight Jūrmala's most noteworthy architectural, cultural and historical objects are available for guests who wish to see more of the city.

Colourful Jūrmala is truly a wonderful place to visit at any time of the year. Take the short trip from Riga and see for yourself! **BO**

① [www.tourism.jurmala.lv](http://www.tourism.jurmala.lv)

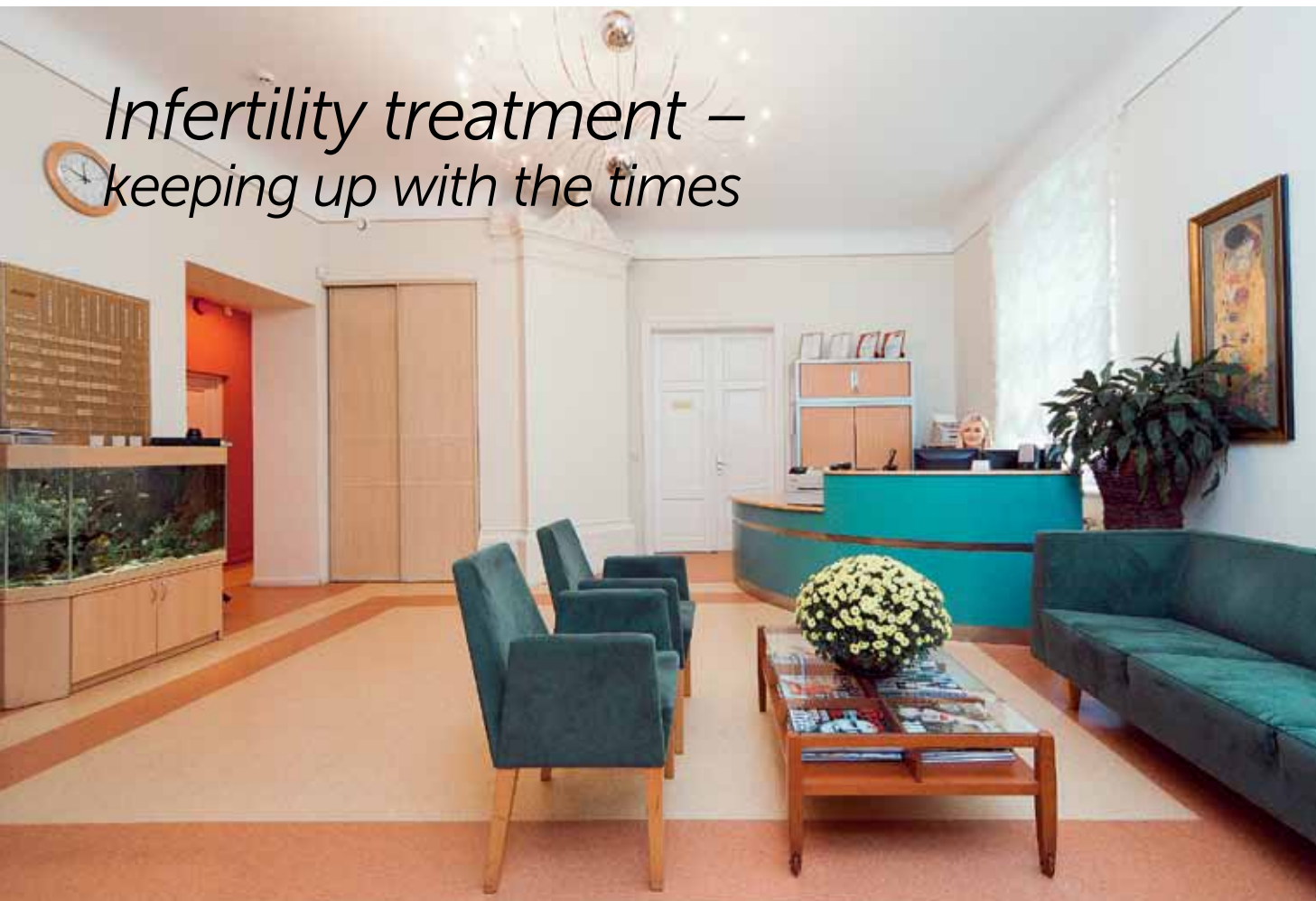


Only a 15-minute drive from the Riga airport, Latvia's most beautiful resort city offers a wide array of healthy recreation opportunities.





# Infertility treatment – keeping up with the times



PUBLICITY PHOTOS

There are many reasons to visit Riga, which has lately become a hot-spot of sorts. A metropolis compact enough to take in, explore and enjoy to the fullest even on a short visit, it offers both tourist attractions and great cultural repertoire as well as a chance to utilise top-notch assistance in more practical matters. And such is the purpose of *AVA Clinic*, one of the top infertility treatment clinics in northern Europe, which has been operating in the capital of Latvia for close to ten years.

*AVA Clinic* is part of the *Fertinova Group*, a European network of infertility treatment clinics, which was founded in 1993 with the first branch opening in Tampere, Finland. Apart from Tampere, there are now clinics operating in Helsinki, Turku and Jyväskylä, but even Finnish clients travel regularly to the Latvian branch of the clinic, because the reproductive law in Latvia is especially favourable to various highly sought-after reproduction-related procedures.

Thus, seeking fertility treatment in Riga is a sound choice for several reasons. Riga is truly a geographical centre with fast and easy access from both the Scandinavian countries and those further west, considering its naturally optimal location as well as frequent air traffic. The above-mentioned

reproductive law allows for various procedures that are either denied or considerably restricted elsewhere in Europe. In addition, unlike infertility clinics in many other countries, *AVA Clinic* is open all year round (many elsewhere are closed during the summer season). *AVA Clinic* also holds an ISO 9001:2008 European quality certificate, thus guaranteeing state-of-the-art equipment and methods as well as highly qualified personnel. Naturally, the clinic also holds all the necessary local certification, most crucially that of being a part of the national tissue establishment, meaning that it has met all the necessary requirements for operating with donated material.

A large team of fertility specialists currently works at the clinic: reproductologists, embryologists, IVF nurses and sonography specialists, providing the maximum attentive care to each couple and doing everything within their power to promote the main purpose of the establishment, namely, to help give a new life. The clinic provides three areas of services, first and foremost being infertility treatment, followed by gynaecology and pregnancy monitoring as well as ultrasonography diagnostics and paediatric care.

The clinic's infertility treatment services are wide-ranging, from relatively simple artificial insemination

using either a partner's or donor's sperm to *in-vitro* fertilisation (IVF), which is one of the most popular and effective procedures, in which the ovum is fertilised outside the woman's body in a laboratory. After artificial insemination, the embryos are transferred to the uterine cavity and continue to develop naturally. A woman's own eggs and her partner's sperm can be used in case the problems with conception have arisen due to the infertility of either.

However, conception using IVF is possible regardless of whether the woman or man possesses their own germ cells. Both donated egg cells and donor sperm can be used in the process, thus providing several options depending on the necessity. A donor's eggs can be combined with the partner's sperm, or a woman's eggs can be combined with a donor's sperm. Egg donation, also known as oocyte or ovum donation, is an effective treatment for infertility with a high success rate, especially compared to pregnancy rates in women with poor egg quality and quantity. Egg donation is typically used in women with early menopause, poor response to ovarian stimulation, advanced age (typically, over 40) and poor egg quality in general. When infertility treatments such as artificial insemination or *in-vitro* fertilisation are not effective, egg donation is the ultimate chance to make a family.

Donors are never scarce at *AVA Clinic* and they are individually selected for a perfect match – both visual appearance and blood type are taken into account when a donor is chosen. An appropriate (and anonymous) egg donor is selected and thoroughly screened for possible infectious diseases and conditions that could be genetically transmissible.

It is well known and quite common today all over Europe that women plan their first pregnancies at a later age; women often choose to pursue careers and decide to wait to have a fully stable family situation before making the important decision to become mothers. For example, in the early 1990s the average age for a woman to have her first child was 24, but now this has gone up to 29 years of age. Even though this is a sound and respectable choice, it can often mean that, having reached the time in their lives when they would like to conceive, women might no longer have their own egg cells or the eggs might not match the quality needed for conception. This is a situation that *AVA Clinic*, being a pioneer in this field in the Baltic States, has strived to improve, and we are now offering the ideal service for this – ovum-freezing. Ovum-freezing technologies have rapidly advanced in recent years, and now frozen eggs can be used just as fresh eggs for conception. High pregnancy and live birth success rates using previously frozen ovum are now possible, and this possibility has a wide-ranging array of uses.

For example, it is generally quite difficult to conceive naturally when the woman has reached a certain age, thus, she can decide to have her eggs frozen in order for her to be able to easily conceive when she's older. A medical condition can be another reason for choosing ovum-freezing. If the patient has a reason to believe that



a medical condition (for example, cancer treatment) can decrease her reproductive ability, she can freeze her eggs to have them intact until she decides to use them.

Alongside these highly popular procedures, a new type of service is being developed at the clinic to complement and maximise the effectiveness of other infertility-reversing procedures. This is a combined genome hybridisation, a process that would allow all of the chromosomes of a newly formed embryo to be tested. This would even further maximise the chances of maintaining a pregnancy after any form of infertility treatment.

Staying ahead of the latest offers in the field of technology and keeping the bar high in all respects – from major approaches to the minutest detail – is the key to *AVA Clinic's* success. The key to your success, that is! **BO**

**AVA Clinic**  
OUR MISSION IS NEW LIFE  
Member of Fertinova Clinics

Vilandes iela 3, Riga  
(+371) 67001007, ① [www.avaclinic.lv](http://www.avaclinic.lv)





# Equal opportunities – the key to Latvia's success story

Latvia's modern-day success story has been written by strong and inspiring leaders – women and men who have been successful in their professional careers and who have gained international acclaim. Professionalism and success have no gender, which is why Latvia's Society Integration Foundation (*Sabiedrības integrācijas fonds – SIF*) is carrying out an informative campaign named *Equal Opportunities* to promote the representation of both genders in the adoption of economic decisions.

While Latvia has the highest proportion of females in the European Union (EU) at 54.2%, the country ranks only 15<sup>th</sup> in the gender equality index of the EU's 27 member states (source: *European Institute for Gender Equality, EIGE*).

It has been shown that the equal representation of both genders in the adoption of economic decisions is a path to success and to sustainable

economic development. Latvia is one of the few EU member states with no gender quotas, nor has it called for the implementation of such quotas, for example, in positions of high office. The goal of the campaign is to promote the harmonious adherence to principles of gender equality in Latvia, and to gradually change society's views about women's and men's traditional gender roles in the choice of careers, in education and in the establishment of family models.

Since the restoration of Latvia's independence in 1991, a great deal has been accomplished in the sphere of gender equality, thanks to the important role played by prominent female personalities and opinion-makers in both the state and private sector, including politicians, entrepreneurs and professionals in various fields. The most notable example at the international level is that of former Latvian president Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga, under

whose leadership Latvia joined the EU and NATO, gaining international recognition and acclaim among the world's most influential countries.

Latvia has great potential to reach the top three countries in the aforementioned gender equality index. However, that will require the active participation of both women and men – at their workplaces and in their private lives – in promoting equal opportunities, regardless of gender.

A rise of Latvia's ranking in the gender equality index would testify to the welfare, democracy and maturity of the Latvian population. It has been shown that in the Scandinavian countries, for example – which enjoy a more balanced proportion of women and men in the adoption of economic decisions – economic indicators are more favourable than elsewhere. Studies of business enterprises show similar results. This is the path to sustainable economic development. **BO**

Aija Bauere,  
director of  
the secretariat  
of Latvia's  
Society  
Integration  
Foundation:



Our goal is to strengthen the belief that all individuals should have equal opportunities, regardless of their gender. People's career growth should be guaranteed by their professional competence, which should not be subject to the influence of stereotypes. Despite some positive and noteworthy examples of women in leadership positions – Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga was the president of Latvia from 1999-2007, Solvita Āboltiņa has been the speaker of Parliament since 2010, and Laimdota Straujuma is the current prime minister – the challenge is to increase the proportion of women involved in the adoption of economic decisions in business, finance, manufacturing, science and other fields. In order for Latvia to develop as a modern European country, the entire potential of its inhabitants must be used, and women are a large part of this. That is especially important during the current economic situation, when the amount and type of resources at our disposal is not as important as how rationally and effectively we are able to use them.

Līga  
Meņģelsone,  
general  
director of the  
Employers'  
Confederation  
of Latvia and  
board member  
of the *Leader (Līdere)* association



The two awards "Most Gender-Equal Company" and "Most Successful Woman – Enterprise Leader" were established within the framework of the *Sustainability Index*, because we believe that Latvia can serve as an example to other countries. Women are able-bodied, enterprising and patient. Often they are more hard-working and fearless in assuming responsibility and in making decisions. Those enterprises that have a balanced gender representation in their leadership show higher profit indicators as well as a better internal climate and atmosphere.

- Latvia ranks 15<sup>th</sup> among the European Union's 27 member states in the EU's gender equality index.

- Latvia has the highest proportion of females in the EU (54.2%).

- Two of the three highest political posts in the country are currently held by women (September, 2014). Solvita Āboltiņa is the speaker of parliament and Laimdota Straujuma is the prime minister.
- Of 100 deputies in the Latvian parliament, 24 are women.
- Approximately half of the judges in the Latvian Supreme Court are women.

- 29% of the top positions in business enterprises are held by women.

See the *Sieviete būt (To be a woman)* exhibition devoted to the theme of gender equality, with works by artists from Latvia, on display at the Latvian Academy of Arts from October 1–24.

Learn more about Latvia's women leaders through the *Equal Opportunities* photo exhibition at the *Galerija Centrs* shopping centre from October 17– 31.

## Information about the project:

- The activities of the *Equal Opportunities* (#Līdzvērtīgas iespējas) campaign can be followed in the social media: [www.draugiem.lv/lidzvertigasiespejas](http://www.draugiem.lv/lidzvertigasiespejas) and [www.twitter.com/lidzvertiba](https://www.twitter.com/lidzvertiba) (using the relevant social media icons and referring to the words *Lidzvertigasiespejas* and *Lidzvertiba*).



This project is being funded by the COMMUNITY PROGRAMME FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY of the European Union.

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# SIM office furniture series

The *SIM* office furniture series has been designed to meet the latest office building construction and office space equipment requirements.



Made by KATE, Latvia

One feature of modern office design is the division of a large common space into work and social areas. The latter usually includes a kitchen, eating space, places for discussions and also rest and recreation zones. In fact, both the work and social areas are equally important, as nowadays an increasing proportion of decisions are made during brainstorming sessions and discussions in informal settings. Hence, if a social area is planned in an office environment, then this might come at the expense of the work area and involve a reduction in the size of each individual work station. In this regard, office desks are crucial for ensuring employees' individual private space and should meet modern-day ergonomic requirements.

## Freedom to combine

The KATE furniture salon in Riga is offering the *SIM* series work desks, which meet the demands of our current day and age. Compact, ergonomically made and elegant, their curved form also helps to provide an appropriate degree of privacy. *SIM* series desks are suited for both open office spaces and small office rooms. Their tasteful and laconic design is the result of a carefully planned balance in proportion and details. When the work

desks are combined together in groups of two, for example, symmetric patterns arise, generating a lively and dynamic impression.

The *SIM* series of furniture includes work desks of various sizes as well as several shelf models. Thanks to the variety of *SIM* models, the work stations of both the management and other employees can be set up in a unified style. In office spaces with a large number of employees, *SIM* work desks help staff members to feel comfortable and sufficiently separated from their colleagues.



PUBLICITY PHOTOS



Nicgales iela 18a  
Riga, Latvia  
www.kate.lv

## What makes *SIM* work desks so special?

In many modern-day buildings, the distance between supporting construction columns is six metres. This means that if two work offices are installed within a 6x6-metre grid, then the width of each office, taking into account the thickness of the partition wall, is 2.80 metres. Accordingly, if two work stations facing each other are to be installed in each office to form a double working place, then the maximum width of each work station is 1.40 metres.

Ergonomic principles and practice dictate that a person needs at least 80 cm of space in order to feel comfortable while sitting at a work desk. That leaves only 60 cm of space remaining for each work station, which is not very much at all. This shortcoming can be conveniently resolved with *SIM* work desks, whose curved lines ensure that 60 cm of space can actually be gained at each desk. The result is a 75-80-cm free space for the placement of a computer, along with the obtention of the proper ergonomic distance for sufficient work comfort within a small office space.

For more information on the combination possibilities and advantages of *SIM* work desks, visit the KATE furniture salon in Riga or check out the salon's website. The salon's friendly staff will be happy to help you in your enquiries. **BO**



Restaurant "1221" is a historical and cosy family restaurant. The aura of the 300-year-old building can be felt throughout its three floors, and the culinary prowess of internationally-renowned chef Roberts Smilga makes for a delightful dining experience.

Restorāns  
**1221**

Jauniela 16, Riga  
Hours: Mon.–Sun. 12:00–23:00  
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1221@apollo.lv  
www.1221.lv





# MUUSU

Have you visited MUUSU, the dining haven in Riga's Quiet Centre, on the corner of Antonijas and Alberta streets? Well, if you haven't been raiding that part of the town yet and are mostly confined to the Old Town, then you are in luck. Another MUUSU restaurant recently opened at Skārņu iela 6, which is as 'Old Town' of a location as one can get!

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AND BY  
GINTS IVUŠKANS, F64

The four-storey building, standing proudly since 1739, is fully inhabited by the restaurant. The charming and fairly narrow premises offer an intimate atmosphere in an elegant setting, coupled with a dash of playfulness in a unified style. The restored spiral staircase in the fully refurbished building goes up to the very top floor and serves as a testimony to centuries long gone.

Each of the three floors offers up to 40 seats, which means that no matter where you are sitting, it won't be crowded. The first floor hosts a bar and a cosy communal table, the walls decorated with hand-painted chic black-and-white drawings. The stylised country animals in these illustrations are a nod to the repeated focus on locality in both restaurants' menus and interiors.

Like its sister establishment, this MUUSU locale has kept things modern and simple with the help of talented designer Anda Ozoliņa. Shimmery grey



appears in the linen curtains and in the coverings of the more cushy seating elements on each floor, while the wooden details give off a vibe of profoundness and natural charm.

The second floor has a larger dining hall plus a secluded "library" with an eight-person table for private gatherings, when you feel like enjoying a lovely evening in the buzzing city but want to keep it intimate. From this space you have direct access to a terrace that goes out over the *Konventa Sēta* courtyard.

If you get up to the third floor, then you will have the chance to admire the building's beautiful wooden beams as well. This is where you also come across a very special set-up. The counter and an open kitchen in the centre of the room is where the two head chefs of MUUSU are set to hold some unique events, including food and drink tastings as well as proper 'hands on' workshops. For a special treat, you can even book a dinner that will be prepared right in front of you.

But who's responsible for sparking life into this kitchen? If you've been to the first MUUSU, then you have already tasted some of the creations by skilled head chef Ainārs Volodka, who is now running the kitchens in both restaurant branches. Volodka has been with the chain for over six years, and until the opening of MUUSU he ran the kitchens in two other restaurants of the successful *KID\** and *Steiku Haoss* chain in the Latvian capital. He also conducted in-service training at the *Michelin*-starred *Noma* in Copenhagen, Denmark, which has retaken the top spot in the *World's 50 Best Restaurants* list.

His new "accomplice", Kaspars Jansons, is also a name to reckon with, having undergone in-service training at the 3-*Michelin*-starred *Baiersbronn* in the *Hotel Traube Tornbach* in Germany as well as at the 1-*Michelin*-starred *Atlantide* in France. Jansons has also been a jury member in international culinary competitions.

Together the two chefs make a superb team and have matching professional signatures which, after the initial food-tasting that they organised together, was noticed by various participants. The tandem formula ensures that the two MUUSU restaurants are a real item and maintain each other's bar exceptionally high.

The cuisine remains primarily seasonal and local, placing emphasis on goods from Latvia's rivers and woods. Cream of beetroot soup as a starter, venison or Baltic herring as a main and cranberry mousse for dessert are just a few of the fine dishes on offer. Still, the two restaurants do have different menus, so there is no chance of getting bored at all! **BO**



muusu  
RESTORĀNS

Skārņu iela 6  
/ +371 25772552

Antonijas iela 13  
(entrance from Alberta iela)  
/ +371 26699966

www.muusu.lv

Open (Skārņu iela):  
Sun.-Wed.: 12:00-23:00  
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### Sirmais & Dreibants, Rīga

**Spicy chefs**  
The names of popular chefs Mārtiņš Sirmais and Ēriks Dreibants hardly need any advertising in Rīga. Now the duo has launched a line of seasonings in cute little sacs labelled *For grills*, *For chicken*, *For duck*, etc. Each package has two easy-to-follow recipes on the back, one by each of the renowned chefs.

Apart from the seasonings, you can also buy kitchen appliances at this latest addition to the Sirmais and Dreibants' locales.

"We love to cook at home as well, and we want to offer the same top-notch appliances that we use to the general public," they say. Hence, a whole wall at the restaurant is covered in colourful blenders,

toasters, food processors, mixers and other items by *Kitchen Aid*.

Despite all the clutter, the place still feels cosy and relaxed, and I suspect that this is due to the chefs' calm and Zen-like demeanour, which makes you just want to go in there and have a cup of tea with them (or whatever kind of drink you're into).

The neighbourhood might be a little ways from the city centre (about a 20-minute walk from the Old Town), but the fact that they've opened their new establishment for the locals makes you want to go there and see what the locals are getting. All in all, it's fairly simple stuff. Currently these is a choice between two starters: either cheesy bread sticks (for EUR 1.50) or mussels steamed in white wine (for EUR 6.90).

The menu is short and sweet, with the dishes not even being named.

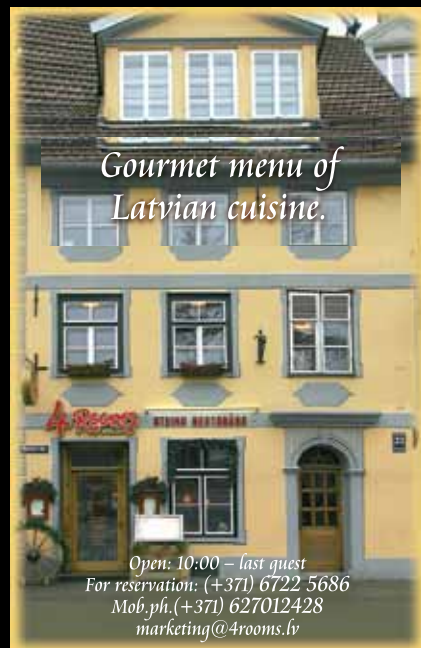
"Otherwise, people will read about the dishes, come in and ask for a meal that we stopped making a long time ago." So, please don't do that. Just trust the chefs and ask for the "Soup of the Day" or the "Special", or the "Dessert of the Day".

If you want an idea of the main courses that they offer, it might be sander with carrot puree, green lentils and fennel salad; or beef steak with potatoes, chanterelles and onion puree. It will probably be something entirely different the next time that you go. In any case, Sirmais and Dreibants are doing a great job at spicing up their new locale.

Address: Bruņinieku iela 63  
Open: Mon.-Sun.: 11:00-20:00

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

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/ John, a waiter /

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FOOD&DRINK



**Niklāvs, Riga**

**Local is the new black**

The hotel *Radi un Draugi* (meaning "relatives and friends" in Latvian) in Old Riga was established by the UK-based Latvian Welfare Fund in 1995, a few years after the renewal of the country's independence. For a time, it served as a central meeting point for émigré Latvians and their long-lost relatives and friends. Even if you're not staying at this hotel, you might want to step into the recently opened *Niklāvs* restaurant.

Named after famous Latvian painter and graphic artist Niklāvs Strunke (who fled in exile to Sweden in 1944), the restaurant tries to keep things minimal, in tune with the artist's modernist and minimalist style of painting. The interior is simple, with a couple of reproductions of Strunke's Dalí-like works hanging on the walls. The atmosphere is less stiff than

one might expect in a hotel environment. With a little imagination, you could even sit back and contemplate the times when the renowned artist was working in his studio at the top floor of the building, long before its current hotel days.

The dining space is divided into two areas by the elongated bar – a romantic window section with tables for two, and a more official space at the back for group and business meetings. To be honest, the place does seem quite business-like, but on a beautiful winter evening with snow falling slowly outside the window, a table for two would also be just fine.

They seem to have a thing for dividing things in two, as the restaurant menu also sports two sections: a traditional Latvian cuisine section and a classical European one. Both are said to contain dishes prepared

mostly from local produce. The Latvian section might seem a bit more enticing, with its salmon fillet being hot-smoked in alder wood shavings, or its mushrooms and bacon coming with cooked grey peas. The Latvian mains include blood pudding with onion fries and beer-marinated pork belly.

The classical menu starts light with a simple prawn and avocado salad, or mozzarella with tomatoes and basil, but there's also a hearty duck breast in orange and thyme as well as grilled steak with mushrooms and gravy. You'll be satisfied alright, and perhaps you'll run into some friends or relatives, too.

Address: *Radi un Draugi* hotel  
Mārstaļu iela 1  
Open: 12:00-22:00 (or until the last guest)  
Hotel breakfast:  
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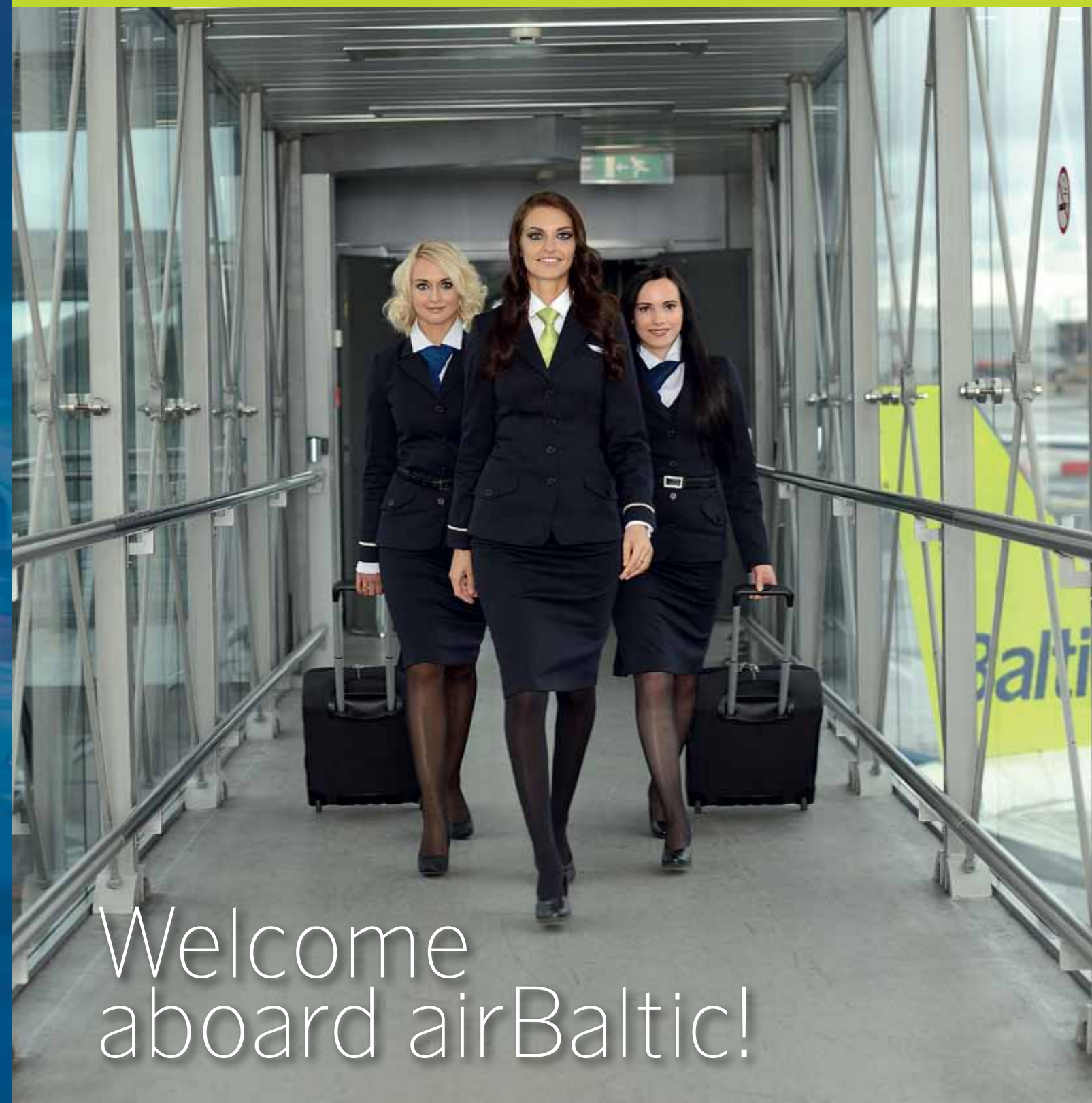
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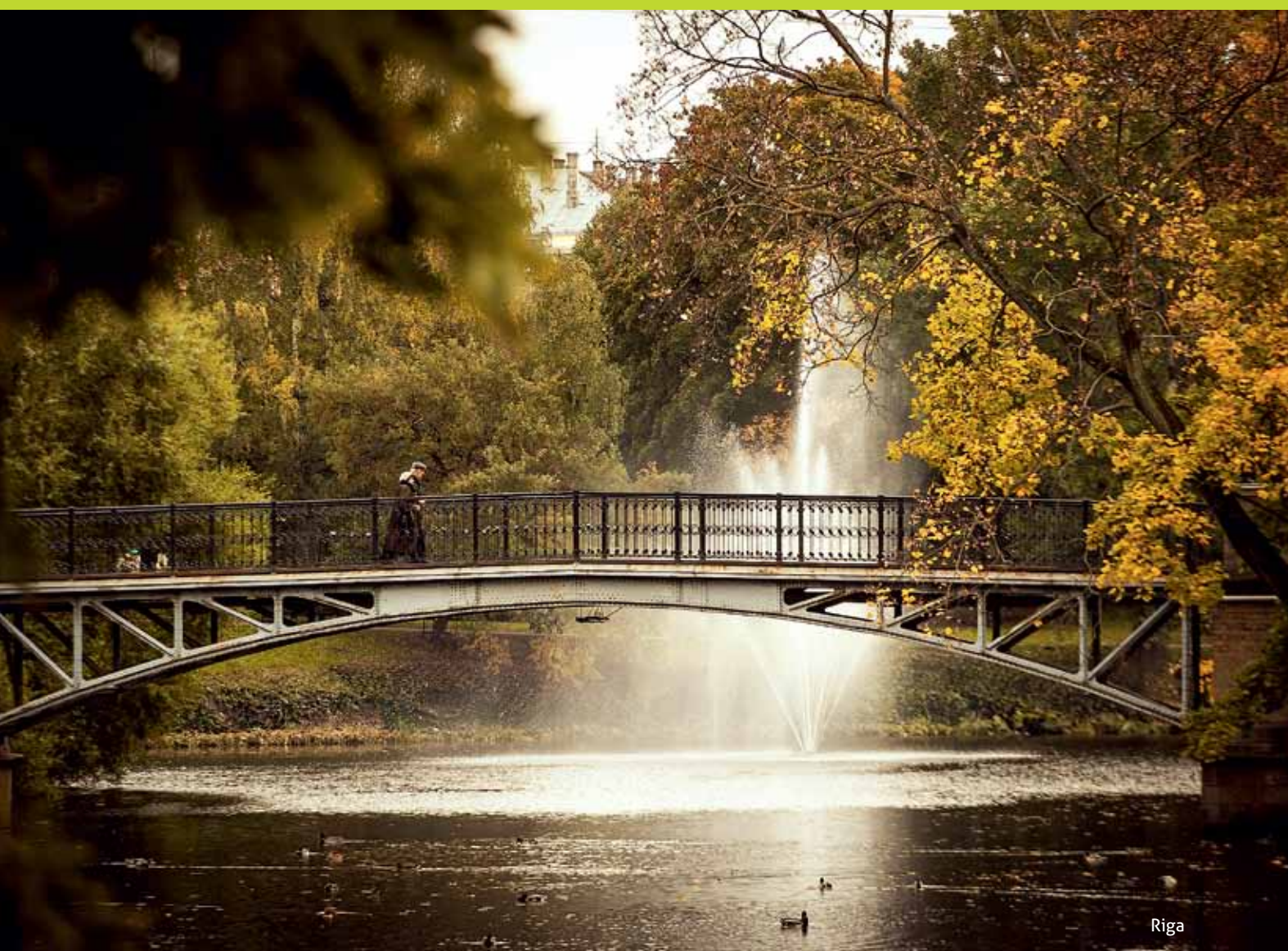
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### 1/ Riga – a city that celebrates autumn

To brighten up the time before winter's arrival, Riga is celebrating the autumn season. The lively capital of Latvia is a glamorous getaway and all about brightening up your November. Enjoy the city's Art Nouveau architecture, renew your wardrobe with Latvian designer clothes, and dine in first-class restaurants and new vegan establishments. This is a particularly special year for Riga, which has been designated a European Capital of Culture for 2014. The city is offering a full spectrum of exciting cultural activities, including performances by well-known classical music and ballet stars at the Latvian National Opera, the spectacular city light show *Staro Rīga* and some of the boldest experiments in the music world at the *Sound Forest* festival. No matter what your culinary, fashion and cultural tastes, you are bound to be delighted in the Latvian capital.

November 18 marks Latvia's Independence Day, when various celebratory events are held all across the country. In Riga the festivities begin with a parade by the National Armed Forces, followed by various shows and exhibitions throughout the day. The celebrations traditionally end late at night with a magnificent fireworks display over the Daugava River. Find out more at [www.riga2014.org](http://www.riga2014.org). Tickets to Riga available starting at EUR 29\*.

### 2/ *airBaltic* is expanding into the Baltics with new direct routes from Lithuania and Estonia

Good news for those who wish to explore the Baltics – *airBaltic* is expanding with new direct flight routes from Estonia and Lithuania in collaboration with code share partners *Air France* and *KLM*. Due to increasing demand, we are launching two new direct routes from Vilnius to Amsterdam and from Tallinn to Paris, covering more of the Baltics with direct flights to popular European destinations.

For residents of the Baltic countries, this means even more accessible flights to stunning Paris and intriguing Amsterdam as well as convenient leisure and business travel connections. *airBaltic's* expanded route map and new direct flights from Lithuania and Estonia start operating from October.

Direct flights operate every week on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, with tickets available from Vilnius to Amsterdam at prices starting from EUR 49 and from Tallin to Paris starting at EUR 69. A full schedule of *airBaltic* flights can be found at [www.airbaltic.com/timetable](http://www.airbaltic.com/timetable).



### 3/ *airBaltic* teams up with *British Airways*

*airBaltic* has just teamed up with *British Airways*, the UK's largest international airline and one of the world's leading premium carriers. This new partnership will enable *airBaltic* passengers to reach additional destinations from London's Gatwick hub. The Riga to London route is by far the most popular for travellers starting or finishing their journey in the Baltic region and *airBaltic* is very pleased to add *British Airways* to its growing family of code-share partners. Operating from London – the world's largest premium travel market – *British Airways* has a significant presence at Heathrow, Gatwick and London City airports.

*airBaltic* operates flights to London up to two times a day, offering convenient connections through London Gatwick hub to numerous worldwide destinations served by *British Airways*.



### 4/ Fly *airBaltic* and enjoy free bus service

Start your journey in the comfort of an *airBaltic Bus*, a free bus service offered to *airBaltic* passengers travelling to or from Riga International Airport. Convenient connections to the airport are now available from Valmiera, Jēkabpils, Jelgava and Daugavpils in Latvia, Tartu in Estonia and Kaunas in Lithuania. Experience a comfortable ride and even free Wi-Fi during your bus trip. Buses run according to a set schedule in line with *airBaltic* flight arrival and departure times. To use the *airBaltic Bus* service, you must have your *airBaltic* confirmation e-mail and a passport or national ID card ready to show the driver.

Detailed information about *airBaltic Bus* services and a full bus schedule can be found at [www.airbaltic.com/bus](http://www.airbaltic.com/bus).





Edmunds Poruks,  
flight operations  
engineer

## To be precise

*Edmunds Poruks began working at airBaltic four years ago. Lately, he has been spending a lot of time working on procedures for testing and improving the descent and arrival efficiency of the company's aircraft. This work is being done under the airline's AMBER project, which is being co-financed by the European Union's SESAR Joint Undertaking.*

TEXT BY AGRA LIEGE  
PHOTO BY ANDREJS  
TERENTJEVS, F64

### How did you assume your current position at airBaltic and what background is necessary for it?

I've been an engineer since finishing high school and my first specialty was power and electrical engineering. At that time I was involved with planning power grids in Latvia. Then I continued my studies in automation engineering in Latvia and in Aachen, Germany. These studies were connected with electromobility and electric transport vehicles. When I returned to Latvia, I started looking for a job that would be interesting and that would let me use the knowledge that I had gained in both specialties. It turns out that aviation is an ideal field for this. My work with air transport involves both spatial planning and mobility. I have always been interested in finding out how things work, to see what's going on under the exterior. Essentially, my work is my lifestyle.

### What are your responsibilities as a flight operations engineer?

The bulk of my work involves calculations concerning aircraft weight and balance as well as aircraft flight performance. The weight and balance calculations need to be performed to safely operate an aircraft both on the ground and while flying. Our team has to ensure that the cargo and seated passengers on aircraft are properly balanced. We also have to make sure that weight limits are not exceeded at various phases in a flight. Nowadays such calculations are mostly done automatically by computer, which is why most of my responsibility lies in maintaining and administering these computer systems. Aircraft performance calculations, for their part, are connected with the aircraft's ability to fly in accordance with regulatory requirements. I conduct

these calculations based on each aircraft's capabilities in order to assess important characteristics of a planned flight, such as the surface type and length of runways needed for take off and landing, the effect of weather conditions on performance, and the emergency procedures that might have to be made if an engine becomes inoperative or in the event of cabin depressurisation, for example. I also perform fuel consumption calculations – an area where we are always trying to attain maximum efficiency. It is my participation in this latter sphere that is playing an important role in our AMBER project.

### What is the AMBER project about?

AMBER is part of an initiative financed by SESAR, a joint undertaking of the European Commission and Eurocontrol designed to promote effective innovations in the field of civil aviation all across Europe. Under the AMBER project we are working on new arrival procedures for airBaltic aircraft at the Riga airport. Our highly professional partners are Latvijas Gaisa Satiksme

**WITH THIS NEW LANDING PROCEDURE ONE CAN CALCULATE THE DISTANCE VERY PRECISELY. THIS LEADS TO REDUCED FUEL CONSUMPTION AND LESS CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS DURING A FLIGHT**

(responsible for air traffic control), Airbus Prosky (responsible for designing flight maps and programmes for the cockpit computers), the Riga International Airport and the Latvian Civil Aviation Agency. The main goals are to reduce track miles for arrival and approach, to achieve the aircraft's continuous descent, to reduce fuel burn and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and also to improve the aircraft's trajectory and avoid overflying populated areas, thus reducing noise levels to a minimum.

### How will this project affect airBaltic's future operations?

There are a number of fields in which airBaltic is continually trying to optimise its performance, such as in fuel economy. We have taken many initiatives on our own and carried them out in our daily operations with existing technologies. But as in all processes, there is always a point when we can't improve our performance any further without looking into even newer technologies. That's why airBaltic started to renew its fleet in 2010 with Bombardier Q400 Next Gen turboprop aircraft, which are completely new planes and which

operate under the highest possible efficiency standards at this time. We were also able to equip these new aircraft with the latest navigation equipment, which allows for high-precision performance-based navigation (PNB). It is under the AMBER project that we have been able to test this equipment.

### What type of new navigation equipment are you testing?

This latest generation of navigation equipment permits us to plan and maintain the aircraft's flight paths much more precisely. The precise satellite navigation system and the advanced equipment in the planes ensure that we know each aircraft's location at all times even more precisely. This means that we can safely reduce the distance between aircraft near airports during their approach for landing. Also we can utilise our aircraft's automatic pilot at lower altitudes, permitting the flight crew to concentrate on configuration changes and better prepare for the landing.

### What stage have you reached in the AMBER project and what results have you obtained?

The first project activities began at the end of 2012, with procedures being established until July of 2013. Then our pilots and flight operations personnel received supplemental training. From September of 2013 until May of 2014 we conducted the most interesting part of the project – the trial flights themselves. To date we have conducted 124 successfully completed arrivals – more than the 100 that were initially planned. In each trial flight we conducted measurements to precisely follow each aircraft's trajectory and parameters for the duration of its flight. Then we analysed the data and released a final report. In traditional or "open" landings, one can't precisely calculate the plane's arrival path distance beforehand, which usually entails extra complexity for the pilots. However, with this new arrival procedure the distance can be calculated very precisely. This leads to reduced fuel consumption and less CO<sub>2</sub> emissions during a flight. We have worked out two landing procedures: one with maximum efficiency to be used during good weather, and a second procedure for use in poor weather conditions. Obviously, we save more fuel and produce less CO<sub>2</sub> under the maximum efficiency variant, but there are still marked improvements under the other procedure as well. As future steps, we plan to continue furnishing our planes with the latest high-precision navigation equipment and to implement these two arrival procedures on all of our regular flights to Riga. If everything goes according to plan, then this will start happening already by the end of next year. **BO**



# Start your Christmas shopping early

The romance of the holiday season will soon come alive at Christmas markets all across Europe. In the weeks before Yuletide, sweet smells of gingerbread waft through the cold air, master artists sell their handmade ornaments and other crafts in wooden stalls, and shoppers sip on *Glühwein* (a spiced and mulled hot wine beverage) while local choirs chant Christmas carols. *airBaltic* offers a list of Europe's top Christmas markets to make your pre-celebration shopping easier.

## Berlin

Berlin shines in a festive blaze of lights every year before Christmas. The square at Kaiser Wilhelm Gedächtniskirche hosts the biggest and most popular Christmas market. Around two million visitors come each year to peruse the jewellery, decorations and artworks as well to indulge in such seasonal pleasures as chestnuts and mulled wine. Many argue that Berlin is the capital of traditional Christmas markets. Take in the experience and decide for yourself!



Flights to Berlin operate every day of the week at ticket prices starting from EUR 79

## Brussels

Brussels' Christmas market has been around only since 2002 and hosts a breathtaking sound and light show on the Grand Place called *Plaisirs d'Hiver*. Artisans from around the world hawk a kaleidoscope of Christmas wares, handmade crafts and souvenirs in 240 wooden chalets. And no Christmas market in Brussels would be complete without the famous Belgian fries, fluffy Belgian waffles, fine chocolates and powerful beer.



Flights to Brussels operate every day of the week at ticket prices starting from EUR 59

## Prague

The two best Czech Christmas markets are on the long slope of Prague's Wenceslas Square and in the medieval Old Town Square, complete with a giant Christmas tree, manger scene and small petting zoo. The markets' brightly decorated stalls sell wooden toys, Bohemian crystal, handmade jewellery, classic Czech marionettes and plenty of potential for sweet-tooth decay: gingerbread, *vánocvka* (a braided pastry studded with raisins) and *vosí hnízda* (nutty cookies heavy with rum). Wash it all down with mead and mulled wine.



Flights to Prague operate every day of the week at ticket prices starting from EUR 75

## Budapest

Fans of folk traditions should head to Budapest's Christmas fair, located on Vörösmarty Square, where folk dancing performances take place and local artists sell homemade products. Visitors can browse over 100 stands offering unique Christmas-themed arts and crafts. A giant Advent calendar on the façade of the glamorous Gerbeaud building is part of the festivities, along with exhibitions, live entertainment, food and wine. Each day between December 1<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, a new window is opened in the Advent calendar, accompanied by light, music and puppet shows for children.



Flights to Budapest operate five days a weeks at ticket prices starting from EUR 69

# Onboard menu



## Business Class

*airBaltic's* menu offers delicious and wholesome meals with a wide choice of recipes from all over the world. Business Class passengers can enjoy dainty appetisers and main courses like grilled veal with *spaetzle* dumplings and mini zucchini, smoked salmon and spinach and ricotta cheese filled potatoes, or fried chicken fillet with tabbouleh salad, as well as tempting desserts: marble cheesecake, cardamom panna cotta with lingonberry sauce or layered rye bread dessert. The Business Class breakfast menu has meals for a great start of the day, including omelette with greens, grilled zucchini and *Fetaki* cheese, oven-baked eggs with grilled smoked

turkey and vegetables, and French potato salad and grilled chicken. These meals are served together with an appetiser and granola or assorted fruits.

## Economy Class

Economy Class passengers can choose their meal from the *airBaltic Café* menu. For the autumn season there is a new hot meal prepared: fried chicken fillet with fried vegetables and mushrooms and cheese sauce, which comes together with an apple crumble cake and can be combined with newly selected wines. Two kinds of oatmeal porridges are on offer for a healthy breakfast. Our popular sandwiches, lasagne, chicken tortilla and a variety of snacks and drinks are also available.

# Heavenly tasty meal selection on pre-order menu



Countryside breakfast

When ordering a meal before the flight, our passengers will have a guaranteed choice of delicious meals and will be among the first served. Order a gourmet meal while booking your flight ticket at [www.airbaltic.com](http://www.airbaltic.com) or any time later up to 24 hours before departure in the *Manage My Booking* section. Passengers who want to create their own meal set or who have special dietary requirements can use our customised in-flight meal pre-

order system to make combinations from more than 70 tasty dishes on a virtual tray. You can choose from a variety of breakfast meals, cold starters, salads or kids' menu as well as a wide range of drinks. Delicious meat, seafood, dietary and special meals can be selected together with one of nine salads and nine types of dessert. **Now it is possible to order your meal up to 24 hours prior to your departure time at [www.airbalticmeal.com](http://www.airbalticmeal.com).**



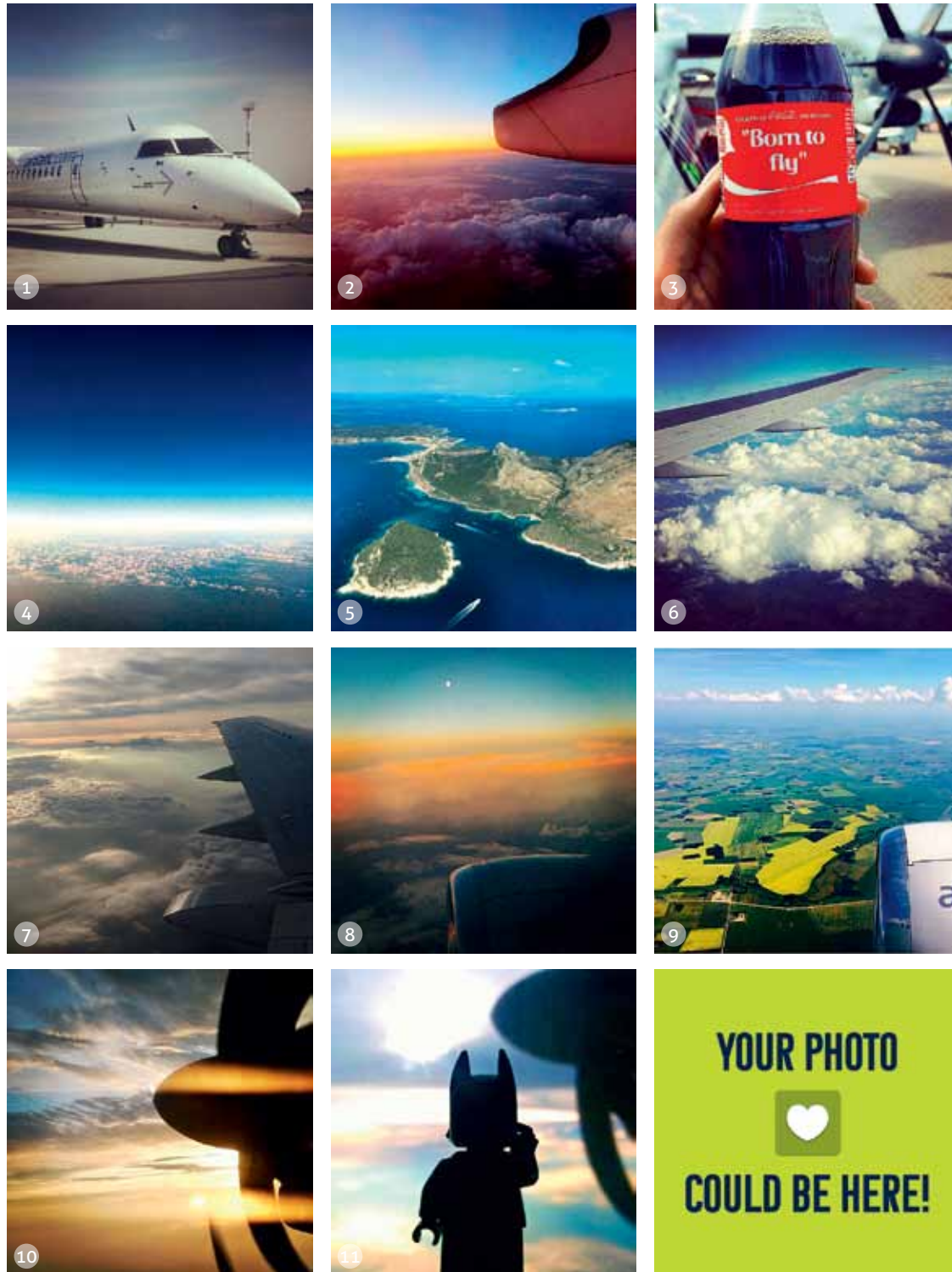
Honey-glazed duck breast



Meatball nest



## airBaltic Travellers' Social Stories



There's nothing more beautiful than being up in the sky. So why don't you share the joy of travelling and inspire others to fly! Tag your

photos with #airBaltic when posting on Instagram or Twitter, or post them to airBaltic's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/airBaltic](http://www.facebook.com/airBaltic).

Tell your travel story via beautiful images captured in the sky and on our planes! We'd love to share your story!

1. @eparasockis: #airBaltic | 2. @krocans: Flying home | 3. @glownshow: Born to fly! | 4. @kvyryl12: Just got home and brand new trip. Now flying Kiev-Riga. Next destination - Helsinki | 5. @lidandule: On the way: Riga - Olbia | 6. @maskalin: #100happydays | 7. @pucini: Between the clouds | 8. @stugsy\_malone: Heading home | 9. @the\_yoyo\_richardson: Patches | 10. @alexnocturnal: Up in the air... | 11. @alexnocturnal: It's a bird!?



## About the programme

**PINS is the airBaltic frequent flyer loyalty programme (previously BalticMiles) with the loyalty currency PINS.** The more you fly, the greater the privileges, which include a free luggage allowance, no queues, reserved seats and much more to make travelling easier. The PINS programme has different card designs to choose from, but if you are a frequent flyer, then the most suitable one for you will be the airBaltic PINS card.

## Membership levels of airBaltic PINS cards

- Fly 30 one way flights or collect 25 000 Status PINS within a 12-month period to reach **Executive level**.
- Fly 60 one way flights or collect 50 000 Status PINS within a 12-month period to reach **VIP level**.

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

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

## If you aren't a PINS programme member yet

Join the programme right away – just ask a flight attendant for your card. Register your card online after the flight at [register.pinsforme.com](http://register.pinsforme.com) and get **10 bonus PINS**.



airBaltic PINS card



airBaltic PINS Executive card



airBaltic PINS VIP card





How to collect

Collect PINS for flying with airBaltic, staying in hotels, renting cars, shopping, eating out and much more. The program also offers collecting PINS at a wide range of well-known international online shops for travel, home, sports, beauty and more.

Collect with airBaltic:

- 3 PINS for each EUR spent on a Business Class ticket.
- 2 PINS for each EUR spent on an Economy Class ticket.
- 1 PINS for each EUR spent on a Basic Class ticket.

New partners

**T.G.I. Fridays restaurant** at Riga airport

T.G.I. Fridays is a legendary international restaurant chain offering authentic American food and drinks with exciting twists. It's always Friday at T.G.I. Fridays!

1€ = 15 pins

**IL Patio restaurants**

IL Patio restaurants offer masterpieces of Italian cooking served in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere. It is a great place for anything from a business lunch to a romantic dinner.

1€ = 15 pins

**Planeta Sushi restaurants**

Take a break at Planeta Sushi restaurants and enjoy delicious food and outstanding service in a cosy interior with contemporary Japanese vibe.

1€ = 15 pins

**Planeta Riga restaurant**

Planeta Riga is an authentic Japanese experience in the centre of Riga, serving a selection of exceptional dishes in a refined yet balanced interior with a vibrant ambience.

1€ = 15 pins

**Wellton Hotel Group**

Wellton operates five 4-star hotels in Riga, offering comfortable rooms, excellent service and professional business services at an affordable cost. Find out more at [www.wellton.com](http://www.wellton.com)

Stay = 500 pins  
1€ = 5 pins

**Autosole Hotel Group**

Autosole Hotel Group offers varied accommodation styles in three locations in Riga. Find out more and book online at [www.hotelautosole.com](http://www.hotelautosole.com)

Stay = 500 pins  
1€ = 5 pins

**Taka SPA**

Taka Spa is a cozy, luxury spa with a homely interior, wonderful atmosphere, and personal attitude. Find out more at [www.takaspa.lv](http://www.takaspa.lv) or visit us at Riga, Kronvalda bulvaris 3a.



















1€ = 3 pins

**Ženeva watch stores**

Ženeva is a chain of Swiss watch stores which has been selling watches since 1993. It offers well-known international brands, such as Zenith, Omega, and Tag Heuer, as well as jewellery.

1 LTL = 1 pins

Tips for collecting

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

How to spend

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

Spend on airBaltic:

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



Prices are reflected for airBaltic economy class, one-way flight tickets. Airport taxes and fees are not included, seat availability is not confirmed, restricted and subject to change. Please read full terms and conditions at [pinsform.com](http://pinsform.com)



NEW FLIGHT

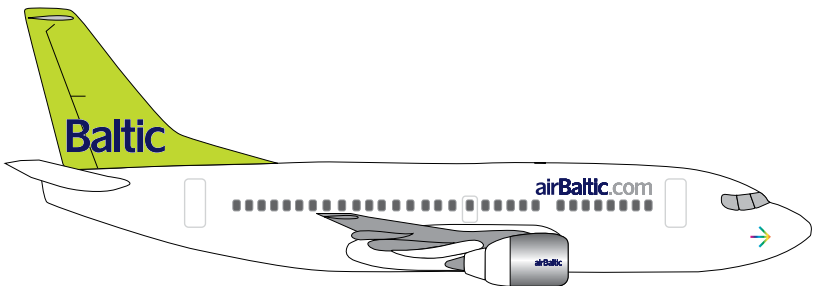
Gateway to the Tatras!  
→ Poprad from EUR 55

Your skiing equipment  
✈ for  
FREE!



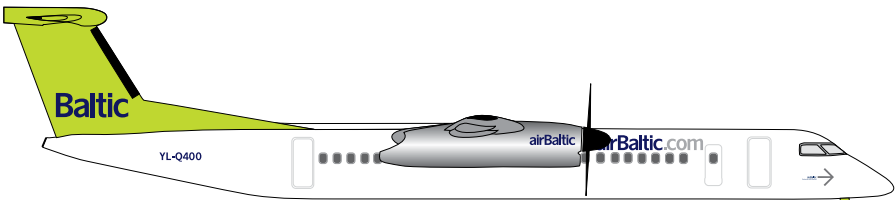
Boeing 737-300

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



Boeing 737-500

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



Q400 NextGen  
Bombardier

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

NEW SERVICE!

Fly airBaltic and enjoy FREE bus service to and from Riga airport

airBaltic Bus is a free bus service offered to airBaltic passengers travelling to or from Riga International Airport. Detailed information at [www.airBaltic.com/bus](http://www.airBaltic.com/bus)



→ Riga

Route nr	Departs	Arrives	Departs	Arrives	Departs	Arrives	Duration
BT001	Daugavpils 03:45	Jekabpils 04:55	05:00			Riga 07:10	03:25
BT002	Tartu 03:55	Valmiera 05:45	05:50			Riga 07:30	03:35
BT004	Kaunas 03:30	Panevėžys 05:10	05:15	Bauska 06:35	06:40	Riga 07:50	04:20

Riga →

Route nr	Departs	Arrives	Departs	Arrives	Departs	Arrives	Duration
BT001	Riga 23:30	Jekabpils 01:40	01:45			Daugavpils 02:55	03:25
BT002	Riga 23:20	Valmiera 01:00	01:05			Tartu 02:55	03:35
BT004	Riga 23:00	Bauska 00:10	00:15	Panevėžys 01:35	01:40	Kaunas 03:20	04:20

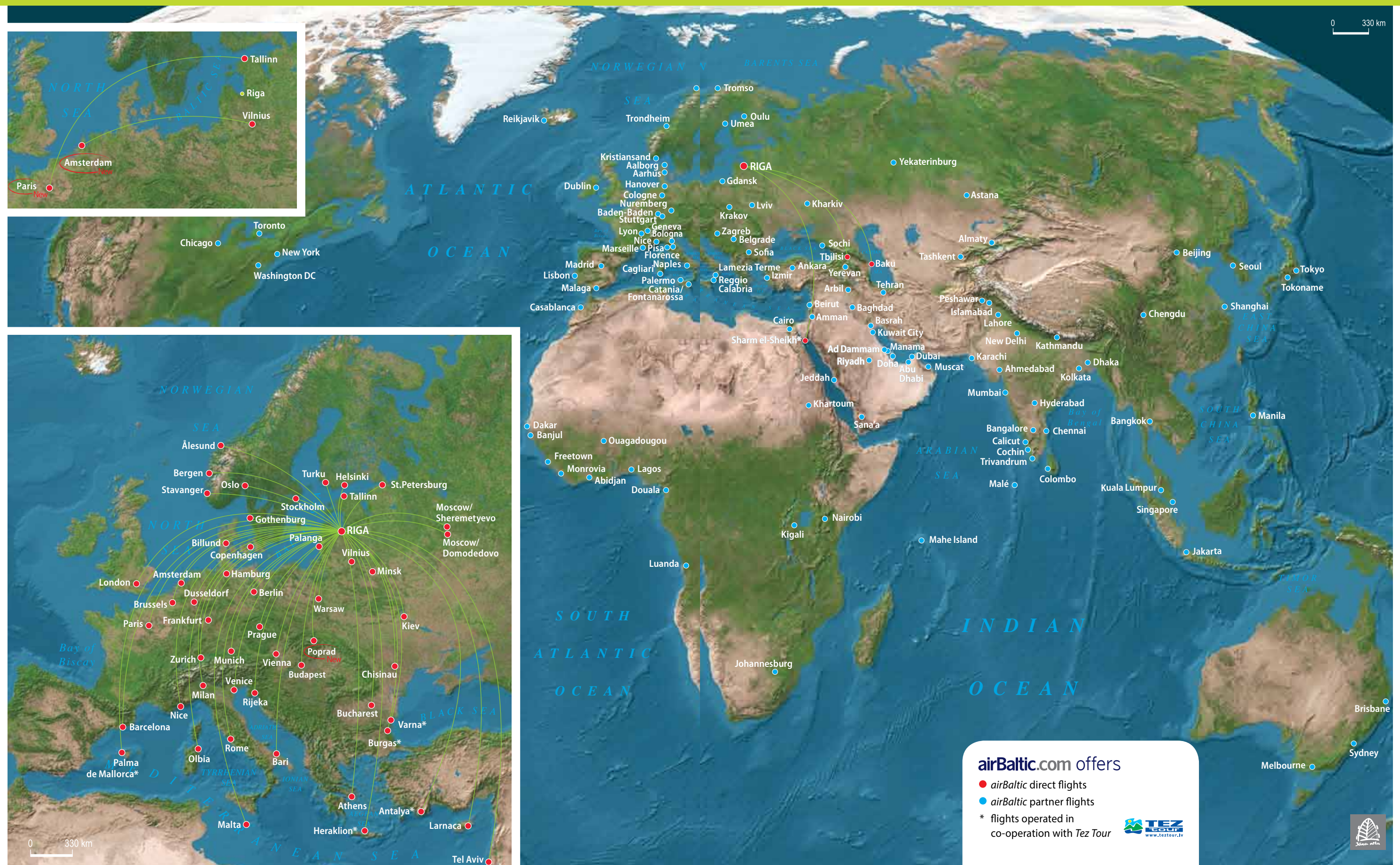
airBalticBus



Flights from Riga					Flights to Riga				
Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure Arrival	Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure Arrival
<b>ALESUND</b>					<b>ALESUND</b>				
BT 175	RIX	AES	----5--	09:50 11:15	BT 176	AES	RIX	----5--	11:45 15:00
BT 175	RIX	AES	-----7	12:45 14:10	BT 176	AES	RIX	-----7	14:40 17:55
<b>AMSTERDAM</b>					<b>AMSTERDAM</b>				
BT 617	RIX	AMS	1234567	09:10 10:35	BT 618	AMS	RIX	1234567	11:20 14:35
BT 619	RIX	AMS	1234567	16:35 18:00	BT 620	AMS	RIX	1234567	18:45 22:00
<b>ATHENS</b>					<b>ATHENS</b>				
BT 611	RIX	ATH	-----6-	14:40 18:00	BT 612	ATH	RIX	-----6-	18:35 21:55
<b>BARCELONA</b>					<b>BARCELONA</b>				
BT 681	RIX	BCN	-2--56-	09:30 12:15	BT 682	BCN	RIX	-2--56-	12:55 17:35
BT 683	RIX	BCN	1-4-7	14:10 16:55	BT 684	BCN	RIX	1-4-7	17:40 22:20
<b>BERGEN</b>					<b>BERGEN</b>				
BT 171	RIX	BGO	---4-7	22:45 00:10+1	BT 172	BGO	RIX	1---5--	05:20 08:40
<b>BERLIN Tegel</b>					<b>BERLIN Tegel</b>				
BT 211	RIX	TXL	12345-7	09:20 10:15	BT 212	TXL	RIX	12345-7	10:45 13:35
BT 217	RIX	TXL	1---56-	13:10 14:05	BT 218	TXL	RIX	1---56-	14:35 17:25
BT 213	RIX	TXL	1234567	17:55 18:50	BT 214	TXL	RIX	1234567	19:25 22:15
<b>BILLUND</b>					<b>BILLUND</b>				
BT 145	RIX	BLL	1-34567	22:45 23:45	BT 146	BLL	RIX	12-4567	05:50 08:40
<b>BRUSSELS</b>					<b>BRUSSELS</b>				
BT 601	RIX	BRU	12345--	06:05 08:00	BT 602	BRU	RIX	12345--	08:30 12:15
BT 601	RIX	BRU	-----6-	09:20 11:15	BT 602	BRU	RIX	-----6-	11:55 15:40
BT 603	RIX	BRU	-----7	15:55 17:50	BT 604	BRU	RIX	-----7	18:20 22:05
BT 603	RIX	BRU	12345--	17:30 19:25	BT 604	BRU	RIX	12345--	19:50 23:35
<b>BUCHAREST</b>					<b>BUCHAREST</b>				
BT 503/505	RIX	OTP	1-3-5-7	23:15 02:00+1	BT 504/506	OTP	RIX	12-4-6-	05:40 08:30
<b>BUDAPEST</b>					<b>BUDAPEST</b>				
BT 491	RIX	BUD	1-3-5-7	13:10 14:35	BT 492	BUD	RIX	1-3-5-7	15:05 18:20
<b>CHISINAU</b>					<b>CHISINAU</b>				
BT 420	RIX	KIV	-2---6-	12:55 15:20	BT 421	KIV	RIX	-2---6-	15:55 18:25
<b>COPENHAGEN</b>					<b>COPENHAGEN</b>				
BT 133	RIX	CPH	1234---	06:45 07:25	BT 142	CPH	RIX	---567	06:00 08:35
BT 131	RIX	CPH	1234567	09:40 10:20	BT 134	CPH	RIX	1234---	08:05 10:40
BT 139	RIX	CPH	1234567	18:10 18:50	BT 132	CPH	RIX	1234567	12:35 15:10
BT 141	RIX	CPH	---456-	22:55 23:35	BT 140	CPH	RIX	1234567	19:20 21:55
<b>DUSSELDORF</b>					<b>DUSSELDORF</b>				
BT 231	RIX	DUS	-2-4-6-	09:45 11:25	BT 232	DUS	RIX	-2-4-6-	11:55 15:25
BT 233	RIX	DUS	1-3---7	16:05 17:45	BT 234	DUS	RIX	1-3---7	18:15 21:45
<b>FRANKFURT</b>					<b>FRANKFURT</b>				
BT 243	RIX	FRA	1-3---7	09:30 11:15	BT 244	FRA	RIX	1-3---7	11:55 15:30
BT 245	RIX	FRA	-2-456-	16:15 18:00	BT 246	FRA	RIX	-2-456-	18:35 22:10
<b>GOTHENBURG Landvetter</b>					<b>GOTHENBURG Landvetter</b>				
BT 121	RIX	GOT	1-4-6-	22:55 23:40	BT 122	GOT	RIX	-2--5-7	06:00 08:35
<b>HAMBURG</b>					<b>HAMBURG</b>				
BT 251	RIX	HAM	12-456-	09:10 10:15	BT 252	HAM	RIX	12-456-	10:45 13:40
BT 253	RIX	HAM	--3-5-7	17:30 18:35	BT 254	HAM	RIX	--3-5-7	19:05 22:00
<b>HELSINKI</b>					<b>HELSINKI</b>				
BT 301	RIX	HEL	1234567	09:40 10:45	BT 326	HEL	RIX	1234567	07:40 08:35
BT 303	RIX	HEL	1234567	12:50 13:55	BT 302	HEL	RIX	1234567	11:15 12:15
BT 305	RIX	HEL	1234567	16:25 17:30	BT 304	HEL	RIX	1234567	14:25 15:25
BT 307	RIX	HEL	1234567	19:45 20:50	BT 306	HEL	RIX	1234567	18:00 19:00
BT 325	RIX	HEL	1234567	22:55 23:55	BT 308	HEL	RIX	1234567	21:20 22:20
<b>KIEV Borispol</b>					<b>KIEV Borispol</b>				
BT 400	RIX	KBP	1234567	09:25 11:15	BT 401	KBP	RIX	1234567	11:45 13:40
BT 404	RIX	KBP	123456-	16:40 18:30	BT 405	KBP	RIX	1234567	20:10 22:05
BT 404	RIX	KBP	-----7	17:50 19:40					
<b>LARNACA</b>					<b>LARNACA</b>				
BT 657	RIX	LCA	-----6-	22:45 02:35+1	BT 658	LCA	RIX	-----7	04:30 08:30
<b>LONDON Gatwick</b>					<b>LONDON Gatwick</b>				
BT 651	RIX	LGW	1-3-56-	09:20 10:10	BT 652	LGW	RIX	1-3-56-	10:50 15:35
BT 653	RIX	LGW	12-4-7	15:55 16:45	BT 654	LGW	RIX	12-4-7	17:30 22:15
BT 653	RIX	LGW	----5--	16:00 16:50	BT 654	LGW	RIX	----5--	18:10 22:55
<b>MALTA</b>					<b>MALTA</b>				
BT 739	RIX	MLA	-----7	09:15 11:55	BT 740	MLA	RIX	-----7	12:40 17:20
<b>MILAN Malpensa</b>					<b>MILAN Malpensa</b>				
BT 629	RIX	MXP	---4-6-	09:30 11:15	BT 630	MXP	RIX	---4-6-	12:00 15:40
BT 629	RIX	MXP	1-3-5-7	16:00 17:45	BT 630	MXP	RIX	1-3-5-7	18:30 22:10
<b>MINSK</b>					<b>MINSK</b>				
BT 412	RIX	MSQ	1-34--7	14:10 15:20	BT 413	MSQ	RIX	1-34--7	15:55 17:05

Flights from Riga					Flights to Riga				
Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure Arrival	Flight No	From	To	Days	Departure Arrival
<b>MOSCOW Domodedovo</b>					<b>MOSCOW Domodedovo</b>				
BT 418	RIX	DME	-2345--	09:30 12:15	BT 417	DME	RIX	1234-67	07:10 08:20
BT 416	RIX	DME	123-567	23:05 02:15+1	BT 419	DME	RIX	-2345--	13:00 13:45
<b>MOSCOW Sheremetyevo</b>					<b>MOSCOW Sheremetyevo</b>				
BT 424	RIX	SVO	12345--	05:50 08:30	BT 425	SVO	RIX	12345--	09:20 10:05
BT 424	RIX	SVO	-----67	09:20 12:00	BT 425	SVO	RIX	-----67	12:45 13:30
BT 422	RIX	SVO	1234567	17:50 20:30	BT 423	SVO	RIX	1234567	21:15 22:00
<b>MUNICH</b>					<b>MUNICH</b>				
BT 221	RIX	MUC	123-56-	09:20 11:00	BT 222	MUC	RIX	123-5--	11:35 15:05
BT 223	RIX	MUC	1-345-7	16:35 18:15	BT 224	MUC	RIX	1-345-7	18:45 22:15
<b>NICE</b>					<b>NICE</b>				
BT 695	RIX	NCE	-----6-	15:25 17:30	BT 696	NCE	RIX	-----6-	18:15 22:15
<b>OLBIA</b>					<b>OLBIA</b>				
BT 655	RIX	OLB	-----6-	09:30 11:40	BT 656	OLB	RIX	-----6-	12:15 16:30
<b>OSLO</b>					<b>OSLO</b>				
BT 151	RIX	OSL	123456-	09:10 10:05	BT 158	OSL	RIX	1234-67	05:50 08:40
BT 153	RIX	OSL	1234567	18:00 18:55	BT 152	OSL	RIX	123456-	10:35 13:25
BT 157	RIX	OSL	1-3-567	22:45 23:40	BT 154	OSL	RIX	1234567	19:25 22:15
<b>PALANGA</b>					<b>PALANGA</b>				
BT 033	RIX	PLQ	1-3-5-7	23:30 00:15+1	BT 032	PLQ	RIX	1-3-5-7	07:00 07:45
<b>PARIS Charles de Gaulles</b>					<b>PARIS Charles de Gaulles</b>				
BT 691	RIX	CDG	123456-	09:05 11:00	BT 692	CDG	RIX	123456-	11:55 15:40
BT 693	RIX	CDG	12-45-7	15:55 17:50	BT 694	CDG	RIX	12-45-7	18:35 22:20
<b>PRAGUE</b>					<b>PRAGUE</b>				
BT 481	RIX	PRG	1-----	09:40 10:50	BT 482	PRG	RIX	1-----	11:15 14:20
BT 481	RIX	PRG	----5-7	12:55 14:05	BT 482	PRG	RIX	----5-7	14:35 17:40
BT 481	RIX	PRG	---4-6-	17:15 18:25	BT 482	PRG	RIX	---4-6-	18:50 21:55
<b>ROME Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino</b>					<b>ROME Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino</b>				
BT 631	RIX	FCO	-2----7	09:20 11:25	BT 632	FCO	RIX	-2----7	12:10 16:20
BT 633	RIX	FCO	1-3-56-	15:05 17:10	BT 634	FCO	RIX	1-3-56-	18:00 22:10
<b>STAVANGER</b>					<b>STAVANGER</b>				
BT 177/179	RIX	SVG	---4567	22:45 00:05+1	BT 178	SVG	RIX	1---567	05:25 08:40
<b>STOCKHOLM Arlanda</b>					<b>STOCKHOLM Arlanda</b>				
BT 101	RIX	ARN	1234567	09:15 09:30	BT 104	ARN	RIX	12345--	06:15 08:30
BT 105	RIX	ARN	1234567	14:25 14:40	BT 102	ARN	RIX	1234567	10:05 12:20
BT 109	RIX	ARN	1234567	19:10 19:25	BT 106	ARN	RIX	1234567	15:10 17:25
BT 103	RIX	ARN	1234--7	22:55 23:10	BT 110	ARN	RIX	1234567	19:55 22:10
<b>ST-PETERSBURG</b>					<b>ST-PETERSBURG</b>				
BT 442	RIX	LED	123456-	09:30 11:50	BT 447	LED	RIX	123-5-7	07:55 08:15
BT 444	RIX	LED	12345-7	18:50 21:10	BT 443	LED	RIX	123456-	12:25 12:45
BT 446	RIX	LED	12-4-67	23:05 01:25+1	BT 445	LED	RIX	12345-7	21:45 22:05
<b>TALLINN</b>					<b>TALLINN</b>				
BT 311	RIX	TLL	1234567	09:55 10:45	BT 362	TLL	RIX	1234567	07:40 08:30
BT 313	RIX	TLL	1234567	13:15 14:05	BT 312	TLL	RIX	1234567	11:15 12:0







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Vienna airBaltic Germany Hauptstrasse 117, D-10827 Berlin ☎ 0820600830 local calls (EUR 0.17/min) service@airbaltic.de	Airport Schwechat Terminal 2 Airport Ticket Office Celebi Ground Handling ☎ +431 700736394
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	
Baku Improtex Travel 16, S. Vurgun Str. Baku AZ1000, Azerbaijan ☎ +994 124989239 info@improtex-travel.com booking@improtex-travel.com	Heydar Aliyev International Airport Airport Ticket Office Silk Way Airlines South Terminal ☎ +994 124972600
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Minsk	Airport Minsk 2 Airport Ticket Office airBaltic
<b>BELGIUM</b>	
	Airport Zaventem Departure Hall ☎ +32 (0) 27230667 Airport Ticket Office Aviapartner
<b>Croatia</b>	
Rijeka	Rijeka Airport Airport Ticket Office Zračna Luka Rijeka ☎ +385 51 841 222
<b>CYPRUS</b>	
Larnaca	Larnaca International Airport Airport Ticket Office airBaltic / LGS Handling
<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	
Prague	Vaclav Havel Prague Airport Terminal T2 Airport Ticket Office CEAS ☎ +420 220117540
<b>DENMARK</b>	
Copenhagen	Airport Copenhagen International Terminal 3 Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office SAS
<b>Billund</b>	Billund Airport Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office F: +45 75358410
<b>ESTONIA</b>	
Tallinn ☎ 17107 (airBaltic RESERVATIONS 0600411015 0.51 EUR/min, local calls only) tallinn@airbaltic.com	Airport Tallinn Main Terminal, Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office airBaltic / Tallinn Airport GH
<b>FINLAND</b>	
Helsinki (airBaltic RESERVATIONS 0600411015 0.64 EUR/min, Mon-Fri 09:00-18:00)	Helsinki Handling NewCo Oy Airport Ticket Office Servisair
<b>Turku</b>	Airport Turku Airport Ticket Office Airpro OY
<b>FRANCE</b>	
Paris APG France 66 avenue des Champs Elysées Building E, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor 75008, Paris ☎ +33 153892100 airbaltic@apg.fr	Airport Charles de Gaulles Terminal 2D Airport Ticket Office Swissport Services CDG
Nice	Airport Nice Cote D'azur Terminal 1 Airport Ticket Office Lufthansa Ticket Desk
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<b>GERMANY</b>	
Berlin airBaltic Germany	Airport Berlin-Tegel Main Terminal Airport Ticket Office GlobeGround Berlin Opposite Gate 4/5

Country/City Ticket offices	Airport Ticket Offices
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<b>Frankfurt</b>	Airport Frankfurt Airport Ticket Office Havas Germany GmbH Terminal 2, Hall E, Desk 939
<b>Hamburg</b>	Airport Fuhrsbüttel Terminal 1, Departure Hall Airport Ticket Office Havas Germany GmbH
<b>Munich</b>	Airport Munich Terminal 1 Airport Ticket Office Havas Germany GmbH
<b>GREECE</b>	
Athens Tal Aviation 44 Ihoux str. 17564 - P.Faliro ☎ +30 210 9341500 F: +30 210 9341620 airbaltic@tal-aviation.gr	Athens International Airport Airport Ticket Office Goldair Handling
<b>HUNGARY</b>	
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<b>ISRAEL</b>	
Tel Aviv Caspi Aviation Ltd 1 Ben Yehuda st. Tel-Aviv 63801 ☎ +972 3 5100213 / 4 F: +972 (3) 5108365 bt@caspi-aviation.co.il	Ben-Gurion International Airport Airport Ticket Office Lauler Aviation GHI Level 3, Terminal 3 ☎ +972 39754076
<b>ITALY</b>	
Rome Tal Aviation Italy Via Adolfo Rava, 106, 00142, Rome ☎ +39 0654242544 F: +390654242534 airbaltic@italaviation.it	Leonardo de Vinci – Fiumicino Airport Terminal 3, Departure Hall A.R.E. Airline Representative Europe
<b>Bari</b>	Bari Airport Airport Ticket Office Bari Palese
<b>Milan</b>	Milan Malpensa Airport Terminal 1, Departure Level Airport Ticket Office A.R.E. Airline Representative Europe
<b>Olbia</b>	Olbia Geasar S.P.A. International Airport Costa Smeralda
<b>Venice</b>	Airport Venice Marco Polo Airport Ticket Office A.R.E. Airline Representative Europe
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<b>LITHUANIA</b>	
Vilnius ☎ 890015004 (2.12 LTL/min, local calls only) vnoreservations@airbaltic.com	Vilnius International Airport Airport Ticket Office Litcargus ticketing@litcargus.lt
<b>Palanga</b>	Palanga Airport Airport Ticket Office Orlaivių Aptarnavimo Agentura ☎ +370 46052300 F: +370 46056401
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<b>NORWAY</b>	
Oslo	Airport Oslo Gaardemoen Departure hall Area H Menzies Aviation Ticket Office

Country/City Ticket offices	Airport Ticket Offices
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Warsaw INTAIR 69 Koszykowa str. apt 5 (2 <sup>nd</sup> floor) ☎ 0048/22 559 39 32 F: 0048/22 559 39 38 airbaltic@intair.pl	Warsaw Airport Airport Ticket Office BGS
<b>RUSSIA</b>	
Moscow	International Airport Sheremetjevo Terminal E Airport Ticket Office DAVS ☎ +7 (495) 9564661
	International Airport Domodedovo Airport Ticket Office DAVS Ticketing counters no: 177, 185
<b>St. Petersburg</b>	Airport Pulkovo Terminal 2 Airport Ticket Office LTD North-West Transport Agency
<b>SPAIN</b>	
Barcelona	Airport El Prat de Llobregat Terminal 1 Airport Ticket Office Lufthansa Ticket Desk
<b>SWEDEN</b>	
Stockholm	Stockholm Arlanda Airport Airport Ticket Office airBaltic / Nordic Aero International Terminal 5
<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	
Zurich airBaltic Germany Hauptstrasse 117, D-10827 Berlin ☎ 0840600830 local calls service@airbaltic.de	Airport Zurich Kloten Airport Ticket Office Swissport Terminal 2
<b>UKRAINE</b>	
Kiev	Airport Borispol Terminal D Airport Ticket Office Interavia ☎ +380 442 817 461 kbp.ticketing@interavia.ua call-center line +380 443 840 120
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