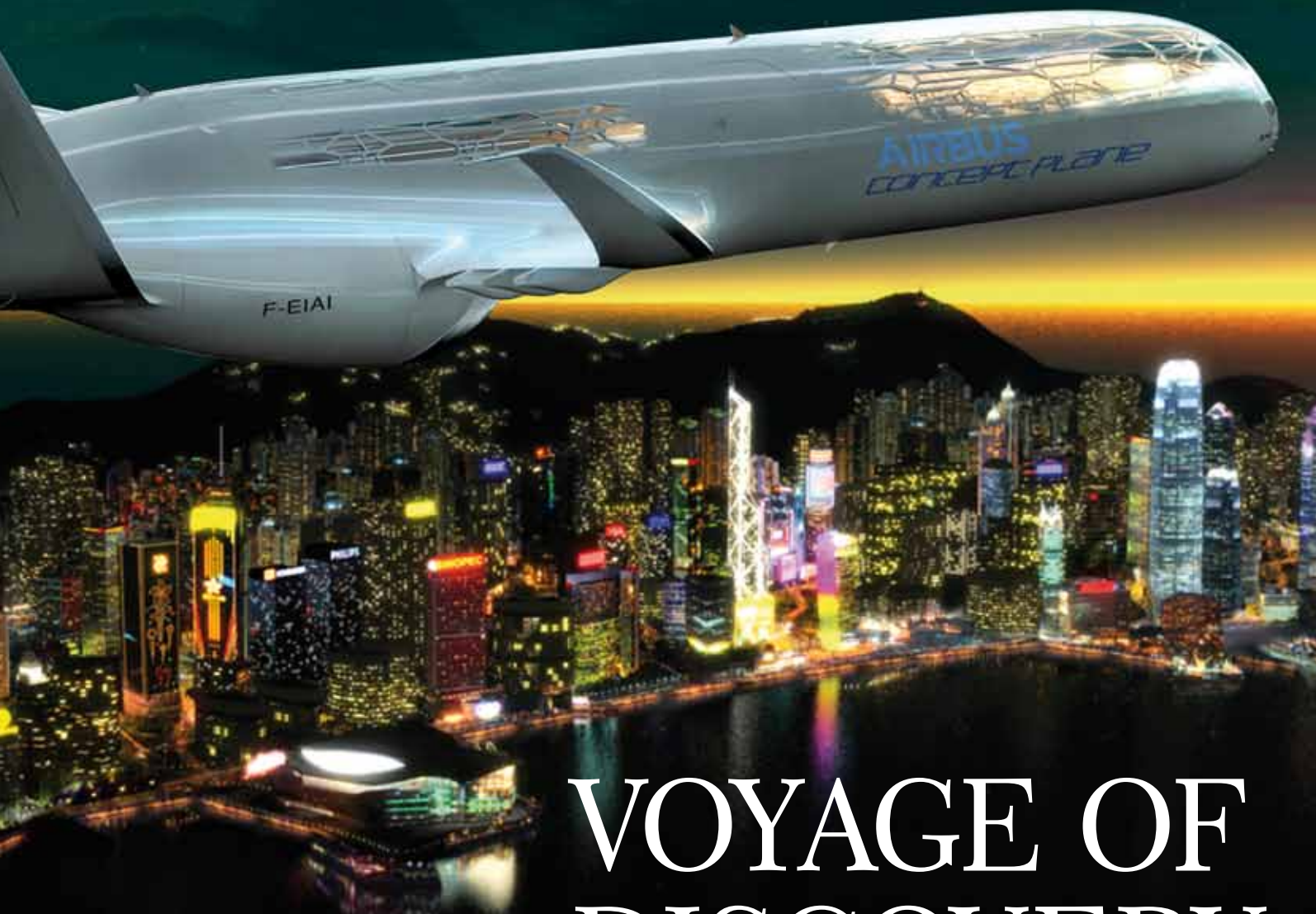


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VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

A JOURNEY THROUGH
THE FUTURE OF FLIGHT

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SINGAPORE AIRLINES

KLASA BUSINESS

NAJBARDZIEJ PRZESTRONNA JAKĄ WIDZIAŁ ŚWIAT

Wypocznij w fotelu naszej klasy Business, który rozkłada się w zupełnie płaskie łóżko i jest najbardziej obszernym w tej kategorii. Nasz pokładowy system rozrywki KrisWorld - zapewni rozrywkę najwyższych lotów, wg indywidualnych upodobań; a o naszym serwisie pokładowym mówią nawet inne linie lotnicze.



singaporeair.com



* Oferujemy trzy rejsy dziennie: dwa z Frankfurtu i jeden z Monachium – do Singapuru, które obsługują samoloty A380 oraz Boeing777-300ER. Porty te mają doskonałe połączenia z wieloma lotniskami krajowymi w Polsce. Dodatkowo z Warszawy mamy dogodne połączenia przez Londyn, skąd odlatają cztery rejsy dziennie do Singapuru. Wszystkie samoloty obsługujące te trasy wyposażone są w klasie Business jak na zdjęciu.

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VIRTUAL WORLD ON BOARD

Is it possible that in 40 years time passenger aircraft will feature “smart seats” which will adjust to the shape of the body of a person? Experts claim that this is not a dream, but a real future possibility! We might be able to live to see the times when business, first, and economy class cabins cease to exist. Instead, mid- and long-haul aircraft seating 250-350 passengers, will feature three key zones – Vitalising, Interaction and Smart Tech. The first, located at the front of the light-filled, glass-roofed aircraft, will offer panoramic views. Recline in a seat here and you could experience a “sound shower”, electronic acupressure therapy, a gentle breeze or the scent of eucalyptus, antioxidant-enriched air and vitamins, and lighting to suit your mood! Each zone will offer a unique experience but one that is linked to your budget, so the more you pay, the more access you have to the benefits this technology offers. When you move to the central Interaction Zone to play a round of virtual golf or enjoy a cocktail at the pop-up bar, before returning to your seat in the Smart Tech zone at the back to enjoy a film or talk to your family back home on your personal, gesture-controlled heads-up display. For those who desire privacy to conduct a business meeting or enjoy a romantic dinner, pods will allow them to conduct video-conferencing, while projections on the walls could be tailored to create a customised environment. I could go on and on with those visions, asking endless questions... If you want to know more about the solutions of the future, I recommend you to read our feature article “Blue Sky Thinking”.

Marzena Mróz

Marzena Mróz
Editor-in-Chief



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Hotels

Radisson Royal

AWARD FROM „WORLD TRAVEL AWARDS-2012”

On 12 December, 2012, at the gala ceremony in Gurgaon, India, a prestigious travel competition World Travel Awards summarized the results of yearly professional activities in travel industry. By a vote of expert representatives of the leading tour operators from 200 countries, "Radisson Royal Hotel, Moscow" (the historical name of the hotel is "Ukraina") has confirmed its right to lead among the world's best hotels and is recognized as the best in the category: World's Leading Luxury Business Hotel-2012

The award in this category goes to the hotel "Radisson Royal, Moscow" for the second year in a row, which proves a consistently high position of the hotel in the top list of world's best hotels. By annual voting of travel industry experts, this award from World Travel Awards is the eighth in the bank of the hotel.

World Travel Awards, held annually since 1993, estimates achievements of the most members of tourism market. The winners from the large number of nominees depend on votes of independent world leading tour operators on set of quality criteria. The winners have the opportunity to use the emblem as a symbol of WTA quality in tourism. Experts of the world tourist industry consider this competition as the most comprehensive and prestigious.



Tourism

Portugal

FOR THE WHOLE YEAR

This year in Portugal will be full of interesting cultural, culinary and sports events. The calendar of all events can be found at www.visitportugal.com.

The year starts with a unique treat – the International Chocolate Festival s (22 February -17 March), which will be held at the foot of one of the seven wonders of Portugal - the medieval castle Castelo de Óbido. You will be able to try and buy there various chocolate products, watch chocolate exhibitions and competitions to test chocolatiers' knowledge, as well as attend culinary workshops. For details, visit www.festivalchocolate.cm-obidos.pt.



Hotel

Best Western

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

At the beginning of the year two Polish hotels, in Lublin and Kielce, joined Best Western brand. With this move, the world's largest hotel family started this year with 18 facilities located in 12 Polish provinces, which offer a total of 1,700 rooms. Łysogóry hotel in Kielce and Korona Spa & Wellness in Lublin, had successfully passed inspection and officially started business under the name of Best Western, increasing the number of rooms and suites offered by the chain by over 200. In addition, following its renovation and adaptation to international requirements of the chain, Łysogóry hotel has changed its name to Best Western Grand Hotel.



Airline

Airberlin

NEW BUSINESS CLASS

Shortly before the end of 2012, airberlin's first Airbus A330 featuring a new business class cabin, took its maiden flight from Dusseldorf to Abu Dhabi.

The new configuration of 19 seats, guarantees more privacy as well as direct access to the aisle for each passenger. The majority of the seats also offer completely individual seating. These seats can be fully reclined into comfortable beds to guarantee a relaxing flight. In addition, the new seats have a massage function. Entertainment on board is provided by the Inflight Entertainment System via an individual 15-inch monitor at each seat. This gives guests a choice of more than 200 hours of entertainment including current box office hits, TV series, music and games, as well as providing a USB port.

airberlin is gradually equipping its long-haul fleet with these new Business Class seats, which are produced by Sogerma. With its new Business Class, Germany's second largest airline not only offers an outstanding product, but also guarantees a seamless travel experience with its Partner Etihad Airways and the members of oneworld®. The hub in Berlin offers Polish travellers a number of attractive connecting flights with airberlin on long-haul routes, including destinations such as Abu Dhabi, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, and Chicago (from 23 March).

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Jaskinia Waitomo w Nowej Zelandii

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Airline
New Alliance Member

SHENZHEN AIRLINES JOINS THE STAR ALLIANCE

At a ceremony held at Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport, Mark Schwab, CEO Star Alliance, welcomed the airline into the family on behalf on the Alliance's Chief Executive Board (CEB). "Shenzhen Airlines is China's fifth largest carrier and strengthens the Star Alliance presence in China and across Asia," said Mark Schwab. Adding Shenzhen Airlines to the network is part of Star Alliance's strategy of improving access to current and future growth markets.

Feng Gang, the president of Shenzhen Airlines said: "Today is filled with joy for all of us at Shenzhen Airlines. After 16 months of integration work, we have become a Star Alliance member. We know that today no single airline alone can tend to the needs of the international traveller. We are proud to proclaim that Shenzhen Airport, serving the 4th largest city in China, is now the newest Star Alliance Hub, from which we will make our mark not only in China, but across the Asia-Pacific region."

Technology
Sony



HYBRID ULTRABOOK™

The Sony VAIO Duo 11 slider hybrid Ultrabook combines fully-featured PC productivity with tablet convenience. The Surf Slider design transforms full-function Ultrabook PC into tablet operating mode for on-the-go computing. The Sony VAIO Duo 11 comes with a 11.6-inch full-HD touchscreen and a digitizer stylus pen. It's 17.85mm thin, and weighs 1.3kg. VAIO™ Duo 11 is a powerful computer providing you with creative possibilities, and can also be used as a creative, intuitive touch-screen tablet. Sony VAIO Duo 11 comes with what Sony terms as the 'Surf Slider' design, which helps the device to switch smoothly between Tablet and PC modes. In tablet mode, you can hold VAIO™ Duo 11 in one hand and use the other for browsing the web, or playing music and videos on the go. In the office, you can slide out the keyboard and thus improve your performance, working on a fully equipped computer with an Intel® Core™ processor of the new generation.

Airline
Emirates

EVERY DAY TO DUBAI

Starting 6 February, one of the world's best airlines will begin daily flights on Dubai – Warsaw route. In order to introduce their product, representatives of Emirates airline met with the Polish media and representatives of the tourist industry. The route will be operated by the modern Airbus A330-200 aircraft with 237 seats on board. Emirates will be the first international airline to offer first-class travel on flights to and from Poland. The flights will be operated according to the following schedule (in local time): EK 179 - Dubai 7.30 am, Warsaw 10.45 am; EK 180 - Warsaw 1.50 pm, Dubai 10.15 pm. "The Warsaw route is our first one in 2013, and the preparations for the launch are in full swing," said Richard Jewsbury, the Senior Vice President for Commercial Operations in Europe and Russian Federation.



Airline
Qatar Airways

EXPANSION ON THE POLISH MARKET

At a press conference held in Warsaw, representatives of Qatar Airways discussed long-term business plans of the airline for the Polish market, taking into account the newly established connection to Warsaw and the launch of the Customer Service Centre in Wrocław. The multilingual Customer Service Centre will initially serve Poland, Great Britain, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland and Austria. The representatives of the airline didn't rule out the possibility of extending the scope of activities of the centre to other countries. "We are delighted to contribute to the development of the local economy, both by opening a connection to Warsaw and creating over 100 new jobs in Wrocław," said Akbar Al Baker, the CEO of Qatar Airways at the press conference. The connection from Doha to Warsaw was initially operated by Qatar Airways four times a week. However, Mr Al Baker announced that should the demand be greater, the carrier would launch more flights. Indeed, just two months after the launch of the Doha-Warsaw route, Qatar Airways offers now flights in all days of the week. This new schedule came into force on 1 February 2013.



Event

Rotary International Gala

HELPING CHILDREN

Sheraton Hotel in Warsaw held the annual charity gala of Rotary Club Warsaw City - the Warsaw branch of Rotary International. During the event the organizers collected funds for rehabilitation of children suffering from cerebral palsy. The guests could support the campaign by purchasing coupons for lotteries and participation in the auction of evening dresses provided by Potis & Verso. The gala was highlighted by the performance of Justyna Steczkowska. Partners of the event were: BMW Auto Fus, Direct Wines – the owner of Winoteka Domowa brand, and SHARP. In the photo: Irena Suchodolska – the 2012/2013 President of Rotary Club Warszawa City, Conrado Moreno and Józef Krzysztof Oraczewski.



Airline
Lufthansa

NEW FLIGHT NETWORK FOR AFRICA AND ASIA

Lufthansa is starting the new year with a new pricing promotion for flights from Poland to most cities in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Round-trip fares to Asian cities start at PLN 2,019. A flight to the Middle East is available for as little as PLN 1,819, and if you wish to fulfil your dreams of an African expedition, you can do it for mere PLN 2,799. Lufthansa is consistently expanding its flight network to Asia and Africa. The German air carrier handles flights to over 40 destinations in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, departing from its two main German hubs. You can take a direct flight with Lufthansa to such countries as Angola, Nigeria, South Africa and Sudan. In recent years, Lufthansa has also expanded its route network to China, India and Russia. Starting your journey at one of seven Polish airports where Lufthansa operates, you can easily get to the most important industrial centres and the most attractive tourist destinations across Asia and the Middle East. Thanks to the modern infrastructure of Frankfurt Airport, transfer is seamless, and comfortable waiting areas will help you relax before continuing your journey. Flights from Germany to the largest cities in Africa and Asia are operated by the latest models of the legendary Jumbo Jet, as well as the world's largest passenger aircraft – the renowned Airbus A380. Lufthansa's In-flight Entertainment System won't leave you bored, while with special on-board service you will have a chance to get your first tastes of the country you're about to visit. The frequency of flights is optimized both for leisure and business travellers. Each week Lufthansa prepares a special e-mail newsletter for Polish customers. The subscribers to the newsletter learn in advance about the latest promotions and exclusive offers by Lufthansa's partners.





Airline

Austrian Airlines

A NEW WAY TO TRAVEL

After the changes which took place on mid-range routes, in December 2012 Austrian Airlines introduced a new product on its intercontinental flights. The cabins were upgraded to make the journey even more comfortable. Colours of the interior which allude to the traditional colours of the carrier, elegant fabrics, soft carpets, and carefully chosen details – all of this contributes to the fact that a journey on board aircraft of Austrian Airlines is always pleasant.

- Service in Business Class like in First Class. The seat reclines fully and can be adjusted to individual needs and preferences of the passenger. Add to this convenient overhead luggage compartments, a modern in-flight entertainment system, as well as exquisite meals, will certainly make you journey even more relaxing.
- Perfect relaxation in the Economic Class. The new ergonomic seat is remarkably comfortable. The individual in-flight entertainment system offers a number of options, also suited to the needs of the youngest passengers. What's more, passengers travelling with Austrian Airlines can now pre-order online a three-course meal, buy extra legroom in the cabin, and purchase admission to the business lounge at the airport in Vienna.
- New Destinations The new summer flight schedule of Austrian Airlines will include a connection to Chicago via Vienna. The connection will also be available to passengers flying from Warsaw and Cracow with a connecting flight in Vienna. The Vienna-Chicago route will be operated five times a week.

Airline

Singapore Airlines

MORE A380 AND A350 XWB

Singapore Airlines (SIA) has announced that it will order 25 more widebody aircraft from Airbus, comprising five double deck A380s and 20 A350-900s. Since first entering service with Singapore Airlines in 2007, the A380 has joined the fleets of nine world class carriers. Typically seating 525 passengers in three classes, the aircraft is capable of flying 8,500 nautical miles or 15,700 kilometres non-stop. The spacious, quiet cabin and smooth ride have made the A380 a firm favourite with passengers, resulting in higher load factors wherever it flies. In the mid-size category, the new A350 XWB order sees the airline double its backlog for the all-new aircraft to 40. The A350-900s will be used by the airline on both medium and long haul routes.

Accor

Sleep Art

CREATE A WORK OF ART FROM DREAMS

Accor is the first hotel group in the world which has started collaboration with experts in the field of robotics, in order to record our dreams in the form of an image. Sleep Art is a high precision robot that uses traditional paintbrushes and acrylic paints to turn night of sleep of ibis guests into a piece of art! Guests staying at ibis Warszawa Reduta had an opportunity to take advantage of this unique opportunity in December.



Business

Orange Tree of Life

TAKE IT TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL

6 December marked an official launch of the new, unique website of Private & Professional Development Platform "Orange Tree of Life" www.otol.eu Poland's first Platform of Development for Premium class has been created by professionals experienced in working with executive clients. Orange Tree of Life helps to open and clean canals of self-potential, make way to new horizons. It supports leaders, organizations, coaches and private clients with solving their problems, overcoming their limits on the way to a widely understood success. It also offers exclusive and effective solutions on the field of vacation that bring not only rest, but focus on revitalization, rejuvenation and regeneration. Options that seemed to be unreachable so far, are brought to you by Orange Tree of Life. The platform organizes the following projects: Humanagement - professional business coaching aimed at leaders, owners, and managers. Humanagement project is sponsored by companies and organizations. Eco Ego™ - a groundbreaking, innovating, seminal method of conducting a complete process of self-development based on an idea of creating a unique personal brand. The project was created by Konrad Wilk - the founder of the platform. Professional Coach Coaching to support supervision spirit. True You-weekend workshop for ladies which help support women in discovering and saturate their beauty.

Restaurant

The Olive

NEW MENU

The new winter menu of The Olive restaurant has been inspired by journeys made by Tomasz Leśniak – the head chef at Sheraton Hotel in Cracow. It's a real treat for the palate with international influences, although there will also be traditional Polish tastes. "The winter edition of the menu consists of delicate compositions based on many different types of meats. There will also be a wide variety of fish imported specially from the Paris fish market. This time, we have focused on a variety of products and a return to tradition - we bake bread, prepare pasta or ravioli, and smoke salmon," said Tomasz Leśniak. The menu is available at: www.theolive.sheraton.pl/en/menu-restaurant



Technology

UNIT4 TETA

CHANGE EMBRACING SOLUTIONS

IT tools help embrace change while maintaining the continuity of business processes of the company. This was the main theme of a meeting organized by Wrocław-based company UNIT4 TETA and named: "New HR Software for Change Management". During the meeting the company's experts presented ERP TETA Galactica software, designed to support online business processes, which among others, enables you to approve documents, plan working time, or issue different inquiries 24 hours/day from anywhere in the world. The second part was devoted to a lecture by a guest from TTX Institute, which outlined the key elements of change management in an organization.



Tourism

Germany

THE FAIRY TRAIL

2012 marks 200 years since the first edition of "Grimm's Fairy Tales". In connection with this anniversary, Germany hosts a range of events related to the life of the brothers, and the characters of their tales. One of the most popular attractions is the 600-kilometre German Fairytale Road. You can travel along the trail from Hanau to Bremen, visiting sights and attractions linked to the stories by Grimm brothers. The tales, which most Germans know from their childhood, take on additional flavours when you can see them through the eyes of the authors. Another interesting event will be the "Grimm Expedition" which will be presented from 27 April to 8 September in the town of Kassel. More details at: www.grimm2013.de



Airline

Finnair

FROM EUROPE TO XI'AN

Finnair is the first airline to offer flights from Europe to Xi'an, China. In summer 2013, the Finnish air carrier will launch flights to Xi'an, thus expanding its flight network with Asian cities. Flights to Xi'an from Helsinki will be operated by A330-300 aircraft, three times a week, from 14 June to the end of the summer season on 26 October. The first direct connection between Xi'an and Europe is the latest step made by Finnair towards achieving their set aim - to double revenue from Asian flights by 2020. Finnair has recently announced the launch of a new, summer connection to Hanoi, Vietnam, three times a week. The first flight will take off on 15 June. "I'm very excited and pleased to announce Xi'an as our fifth destination in China," said Finnair's CEO, Mika Vehviläinen.

WHAT'S ON

The Most Anticipated Events in February 2013

WARSAW CLANNAD - 40 YEARS WITH CELTIC MUSIC

Stodoła Club, 10 February 2013

Hard to believe it's been so long. The first album of this legendary Irish band was released in 1973, so it's a round anniversary. All the more you should appreciate that Warsaw was included (in the last moment, but still) in the anniversary concert tour. The band, whose main members are Brennan family, in the beginning played mainly old Irish songs, only to add ethno, new age and ambient elements later on. Clannad gained international fame thanks to film music - from the famous theme from „Harry's Game” to the soundtrack of „Robin of Sherwood”, „Last Mohican” or „Patriot Games”. Fans of the bands should not miss the opportunity, as this is merely their third concert in Poland. For more details, go to www.clannad.ie



CRACOW ANDY WARHOL. CONTEXTS

International Centre of Culture until 10 February 2013

It's an exhibition you cannot miss. Andy Warhol is considered one of the greatest artists of modern culture. And one of a few, who gained appreciation by the experts, but also appealed to the taste of regular people. His portraits of pop stars like Marilyn Monroe, but also works depicting the symbols of American pop culture are recognized all over the world. No wonder they say an artist is a mirror in which you can see the reflection of the times, during which they lived. There are 60 screen printings, 3 drawings and a number of photographs, magazines, and books with detailed commentary. All the exhibits come from a private collection of Zoya Museum in Modra, Slovakia. More at: www.mck.krakow.pl



MARSEILLE, KOŠICE 2012 EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE

The rules are simple. European Capitals of Culture are chosen according to well-known criteria: a small town and a big city, located in Western and Eastern Europe, a fully-developed and a developing one. This year, the chosen cities are the legendary French city - Marseille, and a little-known in Europe, small town of Košice, Slovakia. Marseille, along with other smaller towns from Provence is supposed to promote the region. While Košice will present itself as a multi-cultural town. The opening ceremony took place on 13 and 14 January in Marseille with Trail of Modern Art, Illumination Parade, Treasure Hunt and on 19 and 20 January in Košice. For more information and a detailed programme for the whole 2013, go to www.mp2013.fr and www.kosice2013.sk

VENICE CARNIVAL

26-28 February 2013

You don't have to go to the South America to feel the carnival frenzy. The Venice parade is equal of the one in Rio. The city is one big party for three days long - the number of balls, parades or baroque music concerts is astounding. Gondolas are illuminated with torches and firework displays are visible from nearly every corner of the city. Costumes and masks of some people are real pieces of art, but a regular tourists can have their 5 minutes as well, as you can get your make-up done right in the street. More at: www.carnevale.venezia.it



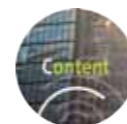
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Zgodność z korporacyjną polityką podróży – większa kontrola nad każdym aspektem planowania i rozliczania podróży służbowych; obniżenie kosztów zakupu usług turystycznych nawet o **20** proc.



Szeroki wybór dostawców – ponad **500** tradycyjnych linii lotniczych, **80** niskobudżetowych przewoźników, **92 000** obiektów hotelowych i **25** wypożyczalni samochodów w **36 000** lokalizacji na świecie



Dbłość o podróżnych i środowisko – pomiar poziomu emisji dwutlenku węgla (CO₂) wynikającej z podróży służbowych; przyjazny użytkownikowi interfejs, umożliwiający samodzielne rezerwowanie wszystkich usług turystycznych



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BLUE SKY THINKING

Intelligent seats, transparent cabins
and supersonic business jets – **Jenny Southan** and **Marzena Mróz** take a look at the future of aircraft design.

Imagine stepping on board a plane and placing your cabin baggage in a delivery system so that by the time you get to your seat, it is waiting for you in the bin overhead. Sitting down, the seat would then morph to accommodate your body shape, while adapting the humidity around you and absorbing some of your surplus energy to power the aircraft.

FUTURE PLANS

This is a glimpse inside the Airbus Future Concept Plane, part of the aircraft manufacturer's 2050 vision of the future. Ian Scoley, head of industrial design for Airbus, says in a video interview on airbus.com: "The cabin membrane allows the interior to go transparent or opaque or even control the quality of the air that comes in, so if you are feeling tired or dehydrated it can bring water or ionisation into the air to make you feel better. "We are using holographic displays and intelligent gestural controls, which mean we have a virtual environment combined with a human environment – one second you're trying on clothes with a virtual screen, and the next you could be having a beer with someone on the other side of the planet."

NO CABIN CLASSES

Instead of traditional economy, business and first class sections, the mid- to long-haul Concept Plane, with a capacity of between 250 and 350 passengers, would feature three key zones – Vitalising, Interaction and Smart Tech. The first, located at the front of the light-filled, glass-roofed aircraft, would offer panoramic views. Recline in a seat here and you could experience a "sound shower", electronic acupressure therapy, a gentle breeze or the scent of eucalyptus, antioxidant-enriched air and vitamins, and lighting to suit your mood.

"Each zone is offering a unique experience but one that is linked to your budget, so the more you pay, the more access you have to the benefits this technology offers," says Jorg Schuler, vice-president of cabin and cargo for Airbus. Once restored, you move to the central Interaction Zone to play a round of virtual golf or enjoy a cocktail at the pop-up bar, before returning to your seat in the Smart Tech zone at the back to enjoy a film or talk to your family back home on your personal, gesture-controlled heads-up display.

UTOPIA OR NOT?

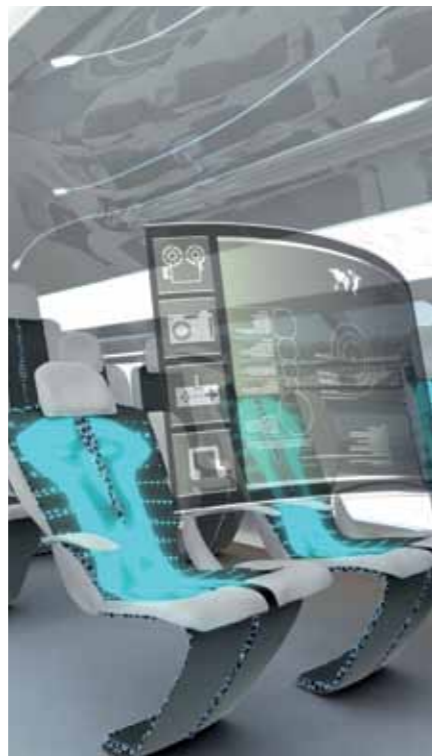
The entire aircraft would also be fully connected, allowing you to make phone calls

and access the internet at any point. For those who desire privacy to conduct a business meeting or enjoy a romantic dinner, pods would allow them to conduct video-conferencing, while projections on the walls could be tailored to create a customised environment.

Admittedly, this is future gazing taken to its limits, and even Airbus admits that this plane will probably never exist, and certainly not in 40 years. But does it matter? "We don't expect everything to exist in the way we have described," Schuler says. "It's a kind of engineer's dream to enable us to look ahead at how air travel could be."

A PLANE LIKE A BIRD

So what kinds of technologies might be used in years to come? Taking inspiration from nature, Airbus has envisioned a bionic structure similar to that of a bird bone – hollow in places and light and strong where it's meant to be, it could replace the solid aluminium fuselage of planes today. Instead of glass, a transparent biopolymer membrane, similar to the technology used in the dimmable windows of Boeing's B787 Dreamliner, could respond to a sweep of the hand and control the amount of light coming in, while 3D printing of components, along with self-cleaning, self-repairing materials, could all be employed by manufacturers.



NOW BOEING

In reality, most aircraft flying in 2050 will not appear significantly different because, as Randy Tinseth, vice-president of marketing for Boeing, highlights: "The lifespan of an aircraft is 25 to 30 years. We are going to build B787s for 20 years or more so you are going to have those planes out on the market for 40 or 50 years into the future, maybe even longer." According to a business traveller.com poll asking which aircraft out of the A380, B787, B747-800 or A350 XWB would be most important to the future of aviation, most (41.5 per cent) considered it to be the Dreamliner.

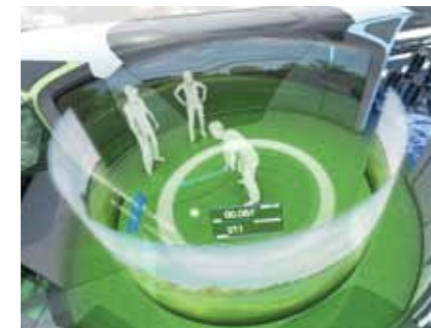
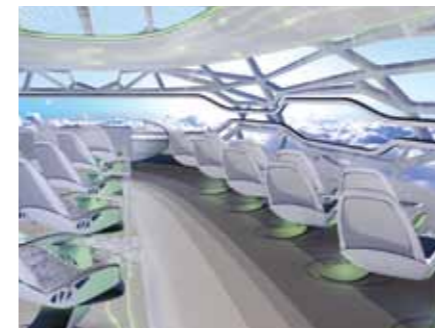
This is probably true, as the B787, which saw its first delivery in September last year, is the most innovative plane in our skies today, sporting not only the world's first single-piece carbon composite fuselage, allowing for a lower cabin altitude and higher humidity, but "smooth ride technology" to dampen turbulence, a gaseous air filtration system to remove bacteria and odours, electrochromic windows and glowing LED mood lighting to make it feel more spacious.

Such features are likely to become standard in the years to come, and many are being incorporated into other planes, such as the B747-800 and B737 Max. But, as Tinseth says, the evolution of design never ends. "We are looking at all things at all times in terms of plane capabilities. The interior experience is about building on what you have learnt and responding to passengers' changing desires and needs. You are always perfecting what you have but we won't see a change in direction until that next all-new plane, which probably won't come until sometime in the next decade."

CLEAN, QUIET, ECONOMICAL

That all-new plane has probably already been conceptualised by NASA. In 2010, its Fundamental Aeronautics Programme saw teams led by General Electric, MIT, defence corporation Northrop Grumman and Boeing come up with designs for cleaner, quieter, more fuel-efficient and more comfortable aircraft in 2030.

Incorporating sci-fi sounding "shape memory alloys, ceramic or fibre composites, carbon nanotube or fibre optic cabling, self-healing skin, hybrid electric engines, folding wings, double fuselages and virtual reality windows", the aircraft range from MIT's 180-passenger D8 Series "Double Bubble", which combines two fuselages side by side with three turbofan jet engines on



The Vitalizing zone located at the front of the light-filled, glass-roofed aircraft, would offer panoramic views. In the Interactive zone we will be able to play a game of virtual golf or enjoy a cocktail, and after returning to our seat in the Smart Tech zone, we will be able to call our family waiting at home.

the tail, to Boeing's 154-seat, twin-engine Sugar Volt, with hybrid propulsion and a truss-braced wing.

Rich Wahls, chief scientist on NASA's Subsonic Fixed Wing project, says: "By putting these timeframes further out than the next generation, it enables or causes people in the industry to look beyond the next aircraft. We put goals out there that are very challenging but are in the realms of possibility. They cause very smart people to think differently and that can lead to innovation." In August, NASA demonstrated the Boeing X-48C prototype hybrid wing-body aircraft at Edwards Air Force Base in California. The 6.5-metre-wide, remote-controlled scale model flew for nine minutes, proving the design – which sees the wings blended with the fuselage to create a triangular shape –

could operate landings and take-offs just as well as a conventional tube and wing plane. It is anticipated that the X-48C could be used for commercial flights in 15 or 20 years. Wahls says: "Historically, when you look at something that is a really big change, you see it show up in the military before the commercial guys accept the risk and make the investment." He adds: "I am hopeful though – from what I see, it is viable." Another exciting prospect is the return of supersonic, something NASA is also working on. "The real key is enabling supersonic over land, which means minimising the sonic boom – if a supersonic aircraft flies over you, you will hear a kind of thunder-clap as you are flying faster than the speed of sound, which generates a shockwave; a rapid pressure change," Wahls says.

"We have been trying to quantify the sound of the sonic boom to work out what is more objectionable for people inside and outside houses. Research is looking at how to shape the aircraft to reduce the size of that shockwave to make the pressure jump less sharp."

REVOLUTION IN THE CABIN

Could there be a revolution in cabin design, too? Norm Thompson, deputy chief executive of Air New Zealand, which unveiled its unique Skycouch concept in 2010, says: "Providing as much comfort as possible to each passenger is the goal; however, this comes with the challenge of how much that comfort costs verses the customer's preparedness to pay. Unfortunately, current aircraft design does not allow significant mass to be retained at more than the current seat height

Ten trends

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF FLIGHT

1 GREYING SOCIETY: It is suggested that by 2050, the average person may live to 100. As a consequence, transporting dozens of passengers with reduced mobility on any one flight will become a challenge every airline will have to prepare for.

2 FEMALE FORCE: In the 1970s, only about 1 per cent of business travellers were women – now it is almost 50 per cent. With the global population set to increase from seven billion to nine billion by 2050, and increased opportunities for the fairer sex, savvy airlines will be looking at ways to tap into this market.

3 OBESITY: In the US, about 36 per cent of adults are overweight, up from 13 per cent in the 1960s. With more people trying to squeeze themselves into seats, airlines may be forced to offer wider seats.

4 BRIC POWER: As the populations of Brazil, Russia, India and China vie for global dominance, their booming wealth and growing middle classes mean they are burgeoning air travel markets, and they are only going to continue to expand in the future.

5 CONNECTIVITY: More than 12 major airlines already allow in-flight mobile phone use, and many more are becoming wifi-enabled. In the coming decades, onboard connectivity will be the norm.

6 WELL-BEING: Mood lighting can be used to change the biorhythm of the passenger on board. It seems to help. Quiet or family zones might also be more commonplace.

7 GREAT EXPECTATIONS: James Park says: “Customer demands are shaping our design significantly. We will see lighter, more stylish, comfortable and efficient seats and better use of space.”

8 SUSTAINABILITY: The International Air Transport Association (IATA) is calling for a 50 per cent reduction in CO2 levels (compared with 2005) by 2050, and the EU Emissions Trading Scheme came into play this year.

9 NEED FOR SPEED: Concorde may be dead and gone, but supersonic is likely to make a return. The main issues are environmental, making it economically viable as fuel burn is high, and the sonic boom, which is a problem when flying over land.

10 REDUCED NOISE: Boeing’s Dreamliner is 60 per cent quieter than standard planes during take-off and landing, and as technology improves and aircraft are upgraded, noise pollution will be reduced across fleets. Cabin noise will also be lessened.



We need to wait a little longer for some revolutionary changes, but they are unavoidable ...



in the aircraft. This significantly constrains the ability to be more innovative with the introduction, for example, of bunks.”

Bunk beds were something the Kiwi carrier investigated for business class passengers at its Hangar Nine research facility in Auckland when it was coming up with ideas for new products alongside the Skycouch. And it has not been alone in this thought process. Paul Priestman, founding director of aircraft interior design company Priestmangoode, says: “There has been lots of discussion about why seats have to be in rows – why couldn’t you have a honeycomb structure with cabins that you crawl into like capsule hotels in Tokyo? It is an issue of flexibility – on a night flight it’s great but if you are doing a three-hour journey to Stuttgart, you don’t want to crawl into bed.”

A LIBRARY ON BOARD?

James Park, managing director of another aircraft interior design firm, James Park Associates (JPA), says he would be “very excited” to see a “completely radical way of using the volume of an aircraft interior”. “We did an experimental project that in-

volved stacking business class seats above each other so we had two levels down the centre of a wide-body aircraft, which actually worked well architecturally, but it would be a very long time until an aircraft manufacturer put it on board. By necessity the industry is risk-averse, and the cost of developing such a thing is astronomical,” he says.

Priestman adds: “As with any concept, it needs to be based on some sort of reality. We have had concepts with windows in the ceiling of the aircraft, but what benefits do you get? When we did the concepts for the A380 and A350 we had restaurants and libraries, but it’s about making use of that space.” He also believes that in the future, more could be done to improve the welcome area of a plane, especially for those flying first or business. “Boarding an aircraft has always been like entering a hotel through the back door rather than the front because you go past the toilets and the kitchen. Then you get some grotty aluminium trolley coming down the aisle with some newspapers slung on it – you wouldn’t get that in Harrods.” Perhaps Airbus is on the right track after all.

Golf paradise by *AIR MAURITIUS*



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AIR MAURITIUS

BRITISH AIRWAYS BOEING 777-200 BUSINESS CLASS



I was so keen to see the new business class offered by British Airways, that I decided to fly via London on my way from Warsaw to New York. This popular route is offered by a number of carriers operating in Poland. Can the new interior of the aircraft, the refurbished seats, a more sophisticated lounge area, and the catering offer, compete with the undeniable comfort of a direct connection?

CHECK-IN AND THE LOUNGE

I arrived at Okęcie 90 minutes before the flight. The check-in procedure went swiftly, because the day before I had checked in online at www.ba.com. My luggage was checked directly to New York.

Then I headed for "Bolero" lounge where I sat in a comfortable chair and sipped some tea. The lounge also offers a selection of newspapers as well as free WiFi. The choice of snacks wasn't too sophisticated, but at least there weren't many guests in the lounge, which made it easy to relax.

ON THE WAY TO LONDON

Boarding began on time and several minutes later our Airbus A320 was good to go. My seat, which was in the second row next to the window, was quite good. The cabin features 6 double rows of three seats on each side of the aisle. The flight attendants handed out warm wet towels to business class passengers (Club Europe) and offered us a glass of Pommery champagne. As for the lunch, we could choose between shrimps in curry sauce and chicken stew,



while for the dessert we received berries in whipped cream. At 2.15 pm we landed at Heathrow and got off at Terminal 3.

LOUNGE AREA

Bus transfer to Terminal 5, where flights to New York are served, took 10 minutes. After a while I entered a huge, modern terminal, with numerous boutiques of famous brands such as Dolce & Gabbana, Prada, Gucci, Mullberry, as well as great restaurants including the recently opened Gordon Ramsay Plane Food. Then I headed for Elemis Travel Spa, where I received a relaxing back massage which was included in the price of my ticket. The nearby business lounge operated by British Airways is spacious and offers various types of cuisine, including English, Indian and Moroccan. Sitting in a comfortable chair, you can observe there aircraft taxiing and taking off.

It's worth noting that to reach gate C56 where the 5.25 flight to Newark departs, you need to take a train, which altogether takes about 20 minutes.

ON BOARD THE B777

Boarding went very smoothly. To board earlier, I took the priority pass available for Club World passengers. My seat was 14K – it was backward-facing and located at the window. All the B777-200 in the fleet of British Airways have a varied seating configuration. This

business class on that plane had 48 seats in six rows, configured 2-4-2. The plane was punctually parked at the bridge and we took of about 15 minutes later. Each business class passengers received a pillow and a blanket, and a headset for the in-flight entertainment system. After a while, the flight attendants handed out travel kits with a cream, a lip balm, a toothbrush and travel socks. The passengers watched the safety demonstration, and then the crew turned on the IFE which offers a large selection of films, games and music. Each passenger had their own TV which popped from the wall at the touch of a button.

I was particularly fond of the lie-flat seat (201 cm long), and the rest area. My sky bed was separated from the other passenger's seat by a milk glass partition which can be retracted. The fact that I felt there slightly like in a confessional, certainly added spice to the journey. I liked the small but handy drawer at the bottom of the seat, where I put my purse with documents. Other useful things in the cabin included friendly, intimate illumination of the interior, large coffee tables, footrests, adjustable armrests, LCD touch screens and beige, soft, cotton blankets.

After the take-off, a flight attendant offered drinks and roasted nuts, and then refined dinner was served. For a start-



er we received asparagus and gorgonzola salad with truffle sauce, while for the main dish you could choose among beef steak on spinach, Italian pasta, or perch with mushrooms, broccoli and couscous. For dessert we were offered cheesecake, fruit salad or chocolate soufflé. The selection of wine proposed by a sommelier was outstanding. Since I went for fish for my main course, I decided to wash it down with Californian Reata Chardonnay 2010 Carneros. For the entire journey the passengers could use the so-called 'Club Kitchen', which offered hot and cold drinks as well as snacks without any limitations. The trip took 7.5 hours, and I slept most of it, thrilled by the fact that I was able to rest on a flat bed. Just before landing we were served a light snack and at 8.25 pm our twin-engine wide body aircraft softly settled on the runway of Newark airport.

VERDICT

A flight in a seat which turns into a flight-bed can be better than a direct journey! The professional service, sophisticated cuisine, and the feeling of intimacy in the Club World, are worth the price of the ticket. I now know that the motto of British Airways „To fly. To serve „ is true. The carrier offers 13 daily flights from London to New York, so it's easy to choose the most suitable one.

Marzena Mróz

A flight in a seat which turns into a flight-bed can be better than a direct journey! The professional service, sophisticated cuisine, and the feeling of intimacy in the Club World, are worth the price of the ticket.

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A flight with a 5-star airline always stirs emotions. This was also the case this time, when in Frankfurt I boarded Airbus 330-200 painted in the traditional colours of burgundy of Qatar Airways.

FRANKFURT-DOHA

Flight QR026 was scheduled for 2.50 pm. Boarding procedure started on time, 40 minutes before the take-off. Since the gate was right next to Lufthansa's business lounge, I decided to spend there my waiting time, and made for the gate when I saw the information that boarding had already begun. The cabin crew welcomed us warmly at the door of the aircraft. The stewardesses were dressed in maroon costumes and pillbox hats. I took seat 14J, which was

next to the window, and I can definitely recommend it. Airbus 330-200 has a total of 228 seats. In First Class there are 3 rows configured 1-2-1, Business Class consists of 4 rows in 2-2-2 configuration, while Economy Class has 2-4-2 configuration. We were offered a welcome glass of Billecart-Salmon champagne and the flight attendants handed each business class passenger a Salvatore Ferragamo travel kit. At 3.00 pm the aircraft was already waiting on the runway and 15 minutes later it took off. At 3.35 the "fasten your seatbelts" lights were turned off. Onboard service began at 3.50 pm.

Qatar Airways is renowned for its excellent cuisine, extensive wine list and excellent service. This was also the case this time, and my expectations were even

exceeded. Among many options in the menu I chose the classic Arabic-style appetizers, served with delicious Arabic bread. For main course I ordered the rack of lamb with saffron, mashed potatoes and tomato salad with chives. I had no problem with choosing the right dessert, since the menu featured my favourite chocolate and vanilla ice cream. For dinner I decided to try two wines: 2007 Chateau Le Bon Pasteur AC Pomerol from Bordeaux, and 2008 Hollick Red Ridge from South Australia. Both were delicious! The international cabin crew was very knowledgeable, efficient and extremely courteous. The stewardess came from Romania, the Philippines and Turkey. The quickly responded to any request made by the passengers.

After the meal, I decided to listen to music and watch a movie. The in-flight entertainment system offers a great choice of music stations. I decided to listen to some good old jazz and then watched a comedy, which has recently hit Polish cinemas. Since on this route and in this aircraft it's possible for passengers to send text messages, I decided to try this function, once again using the touchscreen of the IFE system. Two hours before the scheduled landing, we were served the so-called 'afternoon tea'. This meal consisted of assorted chocolates, biscuits, as well as hot snacks such as sausages and tarts. Our aircraft landed in Doha punctually at 10.45 pm.

TRANSFER IN DOHA

At the airport in Frankfurt I received the boarding pass for the second stint of my journey, while on board I was given a voucher which identified me as a business class passenger entitled to numerous privileges for the transfer in Doha, including free entry to the business class lounge and a dedicated airside transfer bus. The airport in Doha is being expanded. Passengers are transported by bus from an aircraft to buildings which are assigned to each cabin class on the plane. I got on the bus for business class passengers which took us to the dedicated terminal.

There were several duty free shops, security checkpoint, and a huge business class lounge on the first floor. There are two large buffets with cold snacks and hot meals. There is also a bar where alcohol is served by bartenders. On the newspaper shelf I found an issue of Business Traveller Middle East. Apart from the "boarding" messages on the screens, members of the personnel walked round the lounge, informing passengers that the procedure for their flight had just commenced. This was also the case with my flight to the Seychelles. Our gate was



located just below the lounge, so I didn't have to waste time looking for it. Our dedicated Business Class bus transported us to the very door of the aircraft.

DOHA-MAHE

From Doha to the Seychelles we travelled on board Airbus 319, and our flight number was QR 702. Business Class seats occupied only two rows configured 2-2. This was quite understandable, since the DOH-SEZ route is dedicated mostly for tourist, as opposed to the FRA-DOH route which is largely used by businesspeople. In this way, I had a chance to test two products offered by Qatar Airways. During the second flight my seat was 2B. We took off exactly at 1.00 am.

Several minutes into the flight we were served dinner. I chose my favourite Arabic appetizers, marinated lamb with carrots,

and for dessert, a pumpkin mousse cake. Since the wine list was the same as during the flight from Frankfurt to Doha, I chose the same wines as before. I was served by a very competent flight attendant from Mauritius. It was a night flight, so after the meal I decided to recline my seat and fall asleep. We landed at Mahe airport at about 6.55 am and were greeted by the hot sun of the Seychelles.

VERDICT

The flights with the 5-star airline lived up to my expectations. I especially liked the professional onboard service, the unique menu, the extensive wine list, and the luxury business lounge in Doha. These are definitely strong points of Qatar Airways. I'm glad that the airline now also flies from Warsaw.

Rafał Sobiech

You can always count on the assistance of beautiful, smiling flight attendants, dressed in maroon costumes and elegant pillbox hats, which are characteristic of Qatar Airways.

AIRBUS 380



CONTACT
www.airfrance.pl

PRICE
Warsaw-Paris-Johannesburg – promotional price - PLN 2,500

The first impression you have when boarding the legend of the 21st century (which the Airbus 380 undoubtedly is), is the feeling of spaciousness. With the upper deck extending along the entire length of the fuselage, the A380 can accommodate up to 560 people in three cabin classes, or up to 853 people in all-economy class configurations. This means that the A380 has 49% more floor space than the next-largest airliner, the Boeing 747-400.

WARSAW - PARIS
I flew from Warsaw Frederic Chopin Airport to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport in the business class cabin of the Airbus A320. Before the take-off which

was scheduled at 7.05 pm, I got myself checked in, sending my luggage directly to Johannesburg. Then I headed for Bolero business lounge, which was situated close to my gate (26). At about 6.35 pm I boarded the plane and took seat 2F. Before the take-off the flight attendants handed out wet wipes to refresh our hands. The aircraft took off on time. At 7.30 we reached the cruising altitude and we could unfasten our seatbelts. The business class has 3 rows of seats, the first row has seats only on the right side. The middle seat can be blocked with a folding table so that the passenger can have more privacy and space around. Dinner was served at about 7.45

pm. It consisted of ravioli with chicken, bamboo, bean and egg salad, bread, French pudding, and a chocolate. The choice of drinks included champagne, wine, juices, as well as coffee and tea. We landed in Paris at 9.07 pm. From Terminal 2F I went to 2E, which didn't take me a lot of time, since they are only about 300 metres away.

PARIS-JOHANNESBURG
Boarding started at 10.35 pm from gate L 26 located near the business lounge, where I spent a short time, enjoying a glass of excellent champagne. I took advantage of the priority pass for business class passengers, marked with a distinctive red „Sky Priority” signage. After a while I boarded the plane, en-



tering the upper deck featuring a spacious cabin with 2-2-2 seat configuration. I took my seat 71 K (there are as many as 80 of them in business class), while the flight attendants served champagne, water and cranberry juice. We took off at 11.33 pm. As the plane was ascending, making a wide arc, we could see the illuminated city lights of Paris. Ten minutes into the flight, the “fasten your seatbelts” sign turned off. Each business class passenger received a travel kit with useful accessories, including a warm hand towel, as well as the menu. Twenty minutes later, the in-flight service began. I was particularly fond of the starter of salmon and foie gras. For my main course I chose duck, which was also delicious. After dinner which was a feast of French cuisine, I reclined by seat to lying position, turned on

my IFE screen and decided to listen to some classical music. Although the choice of entertainment included films, games and lots of music channels, I decided to calm down before going to sleep. I was also fascinated with the option of viewing the flight from the cameras installed on the nose, tail and the undercarriage. I was especially impressed by the view from the A380's tail. I also decided to explore this unique aircraft. Airbus A380 has two flights of stairs connecting the decks at the front and the rear. In premium class the seats are arranged in 2-3-2 configuration, while the configuration in the economy is 2-4-2. Interestingly, also premium economy and economy class passengers have their own IFE screens with built-in audio/video on demand system, so every can watch and listen to content of their preference.



An hour before landing in the capital of South Africa, we were served breakfast: ham, prosciutto, cheese, a baked apple, warm bread including French croissants, as well as a large selection of teas and coffee. You could also order pancakes with apples, as well as egg casserole which resembled an omelette. We landed in Johannesburg at 11.04 am.

VERDICT
Traveling on board this giant aircraft is a real pleasure. It's comfortable, spacious, and quiet - both during take-off and landing. Airbus 380 is one of the most modern and most comfortable planes in the world. It's distinguished by elegant design, special passenger-friendly lighting, comfortable seats, and wide aisles between seats. I was truly impressed by the IFE system, especially the fact I could choose from 1,000 film, TV and radio channels. It's also worth noting that the aircraft's fuel consumption per 1 passenger is only 3 litres per 100 kilometres. Impressive, as for a 276-ton giant which takes off with 310,000 litres of fuel, a load of passengers and their luggage. What's more, it reaches the height of 11,000 metres in just a few minutes!

Rafał Sobiech

SPECIFICATIONS
Airbus 380
Wingspan: 79.8 m
Length: 73 m
Height: 24.10 m
Wing area: 845 sq m
Empty weight: 276,000 kg;
Maximum speed: 1020 kmph
Cruising speed: 945 kmph
Service ceiling: 13,144 m
Range: 15,200 km
Number of seats: 560 (three classes), 853 (one class)

AIRBUS A380 OPERATED BY AIR FRANCE FLIES TO:

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- Washington
- Los Angeles
- Montreal
- Johannesburg
- Tokyo (Narita)
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Hotel New York

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Located in Chelsea district, New York, near Madison Square Garden and Herald Square, overlooking the skyscrapers like Empire State Building, the four-star Eventi A Kimpton can be considered one of the most interesting options for accommodation in Manhattan.

INTERIOR
Dark red lobby walls, a white column contrasting with dark background, paintings half-covered with curtains, a mysterious wardrobe with a mirror reflecting exotic flowers and birds

isn't it enough to intrigue? What's more there are pleasant and professional receptionists, a self-service bar offering a huge selection of top-quality teas and coffee, a few rooms with capacity of few hundred guests, two excellent restaurants, a bar, a fitness centre and a spa salon. The author of the original interior is an Irish designer Colum McCartan.

ROOMS
The hotel offers 292 rooms, 54 single suites and 44 double ones. The rooms are arranged with taste. Most of them come

with a double bed with a comfortable mattress, covered with a bedspread and a wool blanket during the day, a desk, an armchair and well-stocked mini bar. In the hallway you can find an enormous wardrobe with numerous shelves and lots of room for hangers. Inside there is also a spare cushion, an iron and an ironing desk. You have to admit that there is everything you need in a hotel. On bedside tables the guests will find iPod docking stations. A small lamp by the bed ideally diffuses light, and the material with which the headboard and arm-

chairs are padded is of top quality. The bathroom is covered with marble, and it's all complemented with a set of Etro toiletries as well as glass-painted graphics by Barbara Nessum. But what really distinguishes the hotel, apart from its perfect location, are gigantic windows taking up the whole wall, from the ceiling all the way to the floor. I stayed at 23rd floor, and I couldn't stop admiring the stunning view of Manhattan skyscrapers - I felt like I had them at my feet. You could say it's an ideal city hotel with a view. The most special place in the exceptional Eventi A Kimpton is the Eventi Suite. It covers the area of 180 square metres, and comprises a spacious living room with books and pictures, a dining room, a 40-metre bedroom, two luxurious bathrooms and a gigantic terrace, which seems to be the perfect place to admire the views and throw parties. A truly New York suite! What's worth recommending are corner rooms and suites, with even more windows and thus even more spectacular.

CONFERENCE ROOMS AND RESTAURANTS

There are a few of them in the hotel and each of them is famous for having capacity for both huge parties, conferences and conventions, as well as small parties for a few people. On the third floor there is an enormous room, which can accommodate 320 people, with a sound system and two huge screens. A few smaller rooms can be combined. The guests have also access to numerous terraces adjacent to conference rooms with a stunning view. The hotel boasts the fact that it can organize an event for even 1,000 people. Two restaurants offer diverse menu, from lobsters to hamburgers.

FITNESS CENTRE AND SPA
Guests like this small, but well-equipped fitness centre

and use it very often. Treadmills, stationary bikes, balls and hula-hoop - long forgotten in Europe, but gaining more and more popularity in America - are available both in the morning and in the evening. In summer, the fitness class takes place on one of the terraces under the supervision of an instructor. Spa offers face and body skin care treatments as well as massages.

VERDICT
A very good address in New York! An original, stylish hotel in the heart of Big Apple offering high quality service. Rooms with spectacular views (especially those located on top floors) are impressive not only for guests from Europe. Attention to detail and top-class quality make this hotel stand out in the crowd of other hotels in the area.

Marzena Mróz



The main assets of the hotel are comfortable rooms as well as the stunning view over skyscrapers including the Empire State Building.



Hotel

New York

INK48 HOTEL OVERLOOKING THE HUDSON RIVER



The hotel has a wonderful panorama of the Hudson River on one side, and of the New York's skyscrapers on the other.

The hotel, which offers spacious, modern rooms with views of the river and the skyscrapers of Manhattan (Hell's Kitchen), is housed in a former printing house. It belongs to the prestigious Kimpton chain, which has 60 hotels in the US. It's especially recommended to discerning travellers, especially those who value both individualism and modern design.

ROOMS

Wood, stone, glass, light, colours, music – you'll remember all of this should you spend even just one day in Ink48. The hotel offers 222 rooms and 20 suites. While not a small, it's still cosy. This might be thanks to the pastel-coloured décor and extremely polite staff who treat you as if you were the most important guest in the establishment.

I stayed in a corner room 1705 on 17th floor and I highly recommend this choice. The room was about 30 sq m, and had everything you might expect from a decent hotel room in a 4-star hotel i.e. a comfortable double bed, a desk, an armchair, a sofa and a TV. What made it stand out, however, was the wonderful panorama of the Hudson River on one side, and of the New York's skyscrapers on the other. It's worth choosing one of the corner rooms because they feature two glass walls. In this way, you can enjoy the spectacular views both during the day and at night. In my opinion, the panorama is the most beautiful at around 9.00 pm, when the city lights go on, including those of the nearby Broadway. I also admired the views from a small, wood-lined terrace of the room.

The bathroom was lined with light stone and had both bath and shower. There were also toiletries and a hair dryer. Wooden floors, fancy painted furniture, as well as photos of orchids and tulips on the walls, added to the overall atmosphere.

RESTAURANTS AND CONFERENCE ROOMS

The hotel has three conference rooms, bearing the names of typefaces – which is an apparent tribute to the historical nature of the property built in the 1940s. Therefore, you can throw a party at the Courier hall, organize a conference in Garamond, or meet friends in Helvetica room.

The 16th floor features a very stylish and trendy restaurant named The Press Lounge. It's a meeting place for New York's bohemia, and one of the most spectacular places in Manhattan. You can come here for a gourmet dinner in a glass-covered interior or on the terrace in summer. The Press Lounge is open from 5.00 pm to 1.00 am. It's possible to organize a cocktail party for 30-200 people on the terrace. Breakfast and lunch is served in the modern The Print Restaurant, whose walls are lined with wood panelling.

FITNESS CENTRE AND SPA

The small, but well-equipped fitness centre which is open 24/7 offers not only the most modern training equipment, but also yoga mats and large balls. Ink48 is famous for its morning programme for guests who like jogging, as the waterfront of the Hudson River is an excellent spot to practise this sport. Another good initiative offered by Ink48 is the „Forgot it? We've got it” programme. If you happened to forget to take your iPod, but you can't imagine a morning workout without this gadget – you can borrow it at the reception desk. The spa is luxurious and cosy, as it should be for Manhattan standards. You can relax and unwind in one of the three treatment rooms.

VERDICT

The sophisticated, yet friendly hotel offers a range of additional features. It stands out thanks to a spectacular view of the river, a programme for morning joggers, a yoga practice (5.00-6.00 pm), and the „wine hour” – where during which guests can taste wine for free. You can try sangria in summer and a warm punch in winter. The hotel is pet-friendly and there's even a bowl of dog food right at the entrance. What's important, the owners don't pay an additional



fee for the presence of their pets. However, pets aren't allowed on the floors which feature rooms with hypo-allergenic bedding. I was enchanted by the hotel's design and location. Enough to say, that I could go to a Broadway performance on foot. This doesn't often happen in the “Big Apple”.

Marzena Mróz

CONTACT

Hotel Ink 48
653 11th Avenue at 48th
Garment District
New York
www.ink48.com

PRICES

from \$200 plus taxes



Hotel

Krynica Zdrój

HOTEL SPA DR ERIS



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33-380 Krynica Zdrój
tel. (+48) 18 472 35 00
fax (+48) 18 472 35 01
krynica@hotelspa.pl
www.drirenaerisspa.com

PRICES
Classic single rooms (breakfast included) from 465 PLN (about 112 euro)
Classic double rooms (breakfast included) from 530 PLN (about 127 euro)
Prices vary according to season.

WHAT'S IT LIKE?
I reached the Spa Dr Irena Eris Krynica Zdrój Hotel around noon. Krynica was all green like in spring, but in the evening the temperature was more winter-like. The hotel was built in 1977 and has been developed and decorated recently. In 2001 a new section was erected where the Skin Care Institute Dr Irena Eris is now located. In 2009 a new spa centre was built and since 2011 the guests have the access to a third pavilion with 12 rooms and suites. There is a fireplace right behind the sliding door. On the ground floor there is also a reception area, a restaurant, a bar, a lift and stairs leading to the Skin Care Institute.

WHERE IS IT?
The hotel is situated in Krynica Górská, away from the city centre, at the bottom of mount Jaworzyna. What attracts atten-

tion in the area, is the biggest and most modern gondola lift in Poland (it can take 1400 skiers within an hour). Next to the lift station there is „Domek w Dolinie” restaurant, which is a part of Dr Irena Eris complex, where you can have lunch, dinner or deposit your skis. It's a great solution for all avid skiers, who unwillingly take a break from skiing. The nearest airport is in Cracow or Rzeszów. There is also a lot of guests coming from Poprad. Busy businessmen also have access to a helipad. What delighted me about this place, is the possibility to choose various forms of activities (naturally, apart from the top-class skin care treatments at Dr Irena Eris Institute available all year round) - tourist, sport and cultural ones. Between the treatments you can do tourism, nordic walking, take bicycle trips, take spring waters baths, admire ancient Orthodox and Greek

Catholic churches on the Lemkos trail, take part in music festivals and last but not least, have a rest and breath the clean air.

ROOMS
The hotel offers 60 luxurious hotels and suites, each with a balcony and the view over Czarny Potok Valley and Jaworzyna Krynicka. Recently, it has been renovated and the interior has a new boutique-like decor. The project of the new spa and the interior was done by Giertler & Giertler architect studio from Atelier 3, Warsaw. The standard amenities include a safe, a mini bar, coffee and tea making facilities, a TV and wireless Internet. Bright and spacious suites differ in colour scheme and equipment. I stayed at a huge sunny room with a terrace overlooking a roof garden on the swimming pool complex, situated below. The windows offer a view over the gondola lift.

The equipment includes all things you might need: simple furniture and a modern bed with an exceptionally comfortable mattress. There is also a desk, an armchair, a sofa and a small coffee table. The huge bathroom with a bathtub, a shower and floor heating come with a hair-dryer, a backlit magnifying mirror, a set of Dr Irena Eris toiletries, a bathrobe and slippers. The vast corridors are decorated with charming pre-war photos of Krynica. An excellent idea, especially to tell the foreigners something about the history of the region. Guests have a free-of charge access to the pool with a view over Jaworzyna, as well as Jacuzzi, the steam room, and the gym. You can also take part in aerobics, callanetics or stretching classes.

BUSINESS FACILITIES
With two meeting rooms (Wierchomla and Jaworzyna), the hotel is well prepared to organizing all kinds of events, banquets and business meetings. The rooms are suitable for groups from 20 to 120 people.

BARS AND RESTAURANTS
„Szósty zmysł” restaurant is especially worth recommending. Janusz Myjak, the chef, offers the most extraordinary buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner I have ever tried in the Polish hotels. Each day there are different dishes of his own idea, consisting of starters, soups, main courses and desserts. Unusual taste, the aroma of fresh herbs, beautiful decorations, surprising compositions of desserts - pure pleasure for the palate. All this was complemented by a great selection of wine served with the dishes and local mineral waters: Krynica, Muszynianka or Jan. Restauracja Tajska is also very popular as it is based on original ingredients such as coco milk, lemongrass, green curry.

SPA
On the second floor there is the heart of the hotel - Skin Care Institute offering the most up-to-date face and body treatments in 20 treatment rooms. After professional skin diagnosis, you can choose adequate therapy, according to how long you are planning to stay there. I have undergone

an original face Vitamin C 30% therapy, which was supposed to revitalize, moisturize, soften and improve the colouring of the skin on my face and neck. I was also very pleased to try the „Ocean Breath” body therapy, which is supposed to restore the balance between water and lipid, lighten up and nourish the skin. After delicate exfoliation with chemical peeling with mango, protein and rice mixture, comes a time for a proper body and skull massage. In the spa centre you can also swim in a pool overlooking the snow-covered mountain slopes. There is also a sauna and Turkish bath, 3 Jacuzzi (one is outside) and well-equipped fitness room and a gym.

VERDICT
One of the best spa hotels in Poland. A huge selection of treatments. Friendly and professional service. Wonderful location for fans of active leisure. The cuisine lives up to the highest European standards. There is a car park for dozen cars. I recommend the place for both longer stays as well as weekend trips.
Katarzyna Siekierzyńska



One of the best spa hotels in Poland. A huge selection of treatments. Friendly and professional service. Wonderful location for fans of active leisure willing to try something new.

Awards

RECEIVED

- One of the two Polish hotels (the other one is Wzgórza Dylewskie Hotel Spa) which has received PREMIUM QUALITAT quality certificate granted by Independent Wellness Association
- SPA Prestige Awards 2009 in „Best Destinaton SPA” category
- Best Hotel Award in 2011
- Best Spa in Spa Prestige Awards contest in 2011
- Recommendation of FORBES magazine

Car

BMW 535d Touring

A SMART EXCELLENCE



CONTACT
www.bmw.pl

PRICE
PLN 277,000

Planning a business trip to Krynica, I decided to test the BMW 535d Touring on the Polish motorways which have recently been put into service. Up to that moment I had had my doubts about this particular model. Of course, it draws attention with its elegant body shape with a long bonnet, the extended side line, and the roofline which slopes towards the rear, but despite these qualities it had still seemed too big and too bulky for a woman.

Of course, I strongly disagree with the popular opinion that when choosing a car, women mostly take into consideration its overall looks, fashionable design, or an unusual colour

of the body. I must assure you that for the majority of smart women-drivers the decisive factor when buying a car is whether it has appropriate safety features. Luckily, the model I tested, apart from vast driving pleasure, ensures maximum comfort, a smart excellence and safety.

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

I got into the sleek, black limousine with mere 7,000 km on the odometer, with a bit of reserve and respect. However, after starting the engine, seeing the interior of the car, and having driven the first few kilometres, I gradually started to fall for this huge vehicle, which became an invaluable partner in my journey.

INTERIOR

I admit that the beige leather interior upholstery, which was designed by a Pole - Jacek Frohlich, is truly impressive. The leather front seats are equipped with length adjustment feature and lumbar support. I felt pampered, relaxed, and for the first time after such a long journey, my back felt fine. The dashboard is extremely functional and intuitive. The navigation system has a large LCD display for easier reading.

DRIVER AIDS

I started my trip when it was still dark outside, so I was able to test the outstanding solutions such as Parking Assistant, Surround View, Active Cruise Con-

trol, Lane Change Warning, Speed Limit Info, High-Beam Assistant, BMW Night Vision, and Head-up display. This works by displaying useful info right where you need it. You no longer have to look at the LCD display to control the vital data, as in the 535d all the info including the current speed limit, no overtaking signs, messages from the check control system, as well as navigation info, are displayed on the windshield of the car.

DRIVING EXPERIENCE

The 8-gear automatic transmission is excellent. I watched in disbelief the needle of the rev counter while the car intelligently downshifted and upshifted without even a slightest jerk. I was also impressed by the suspension - with the modern technology employed in its design, the car has obtained a sporty character. You can individually assess whether your trip in Comfort mode is smooth enough, or if perhaps it's worth trying the Comfort+ or Eco Pro modes with which the aver-

age fuel consumption can drop to 6.2 litres/100 km. I hadn't thought that the car which weighs almost 2 tons, can accelerate from 80 kmph to 120 kmph in 7 seconds, while the 0-100 kmph acceleration takes it only 6 seconds. At the same time, the car is extremely balanced, feels like glued to the road, and provides a smooth ride. At one point, when I was smoothly speeding forward, effortlessly passing almost all cars, I noticed that as the driver I was a mere addition to this highly intelligent car that knows best when to stop this fascinating adventure. I must admit that saying goodbye to the 535d was extremely difficult!

VERDICT

BMW 535d xDrive Touring is an intelligent travel partner, whose aim is to improve your driving experience. It's an ideal choice for a family. It has a capacious boot, innovative driver assistance systems, and provides comfort and safety. The BMW's slogan „Joy of Driving” is really true.

Katarzyna Siekierzyńska



BMW 535d Touring, apart from vast driving pleasure, provides maximum comfort, a smart excellence and safety.

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BOOKS AND MUSIC

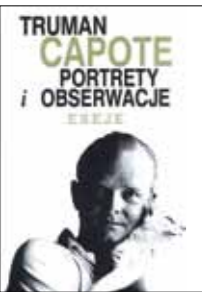
Marek Baranoski recommends books and CDs



Impressions of India

„The morning bath of the gods”, „The procession of paupers”, „Shiva has left by rickshaw”, „Don't wait for tomorrow, it won't come”, „Taboo on the plate” - these are the titles of several chapters from a book which is a collection of impressions on contemporary India. The book won a nomination for the Nike Literary Award and received the Arkady Fiedler Literary Award. It's illustrated with atmospheric photos by Bart Pogoda – a renowned photo-reporter. The authors, who have been traveling around Asia for years, present everyday lives of a billion of people living in this enthralling country, as well as the beauty, austerity, diversity and ambiguity of the whole continent. The book isn't full of praise and shouldn't be seen as a compendium of knowledge. It's, however, a fascinating description of changes taking place in this country of great contrasts.

Paulina Wilk „Dolls on fire” Carta Blanca Publishing House



Monroe, Brando and travel

A collection of essays by one of the greatest American writers of the twentieth century, the author of the famous „non-fiction” novel „In Cold Blood” and the iconic „Breakfast at Tiffany's”, includes the entire, nearly forty-year career of Truman Capote. The book starts with a collection of travel sketches from New Orleans, Hollywood, Haiti, Spain, Morocco, and Italy. The most interesting texts include mini-portraits of Charlie Chaplin, Pablo Picasso, Coco Chanel, Louis Armstrong, and Humphrey Bogart. Some of the pieces are real literary gems, such as „A Beautiful Child” – an account of a day spent with Marilyn Monroe, as well as „The Duke in his Domain” – a hard-hitting portrait of Marlon Brando. There are also two self-interviews.

„Portraits and Observations. The Essays of Truman Capote” Albatros Publishing House.



Visiting Asia

A couple of two avid travellers and renowned photographers describe a trip to Asia in the company of... their children. Together with the two-year Michaś and the 5-month-old Staś, Anna and Krzysztof visited Thailand, Burma and Cambodia. Following the advice by Mark Twain who said that „Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover,” they went a trip which would be unimaginable for most other parents, and described it with lots of funny details. How should you prepare for a journey with young travellers? How to plan a route? What delicacies can children expect to find in Asia? It's a book full of optimism, written with verve and humour.

Anna and Krzysztof Kobus „Smoki i smoczki”, National Geographic



New Flamenco

It's flamenco with modern, processed, non-literal form - hence the typo in the title of the album. The compilation was made by Krzysztof Pelech, the artistic director of Wrocław Guitar Festival Guitar+. You will find there compositions by such guitar masters as Cañizares, Paco de Lucía, Gerardo Nuñez, Chano Dominguez and Tomatito. There are also a few pieces by artists who are loosely associated with the culture of Andalusia, including Louis Winsberg and Michel Camilo, as well as Polish bands such as Danza del Fuego and Que Passa.

„Flamenco bueno” Wrocław Guitar Society

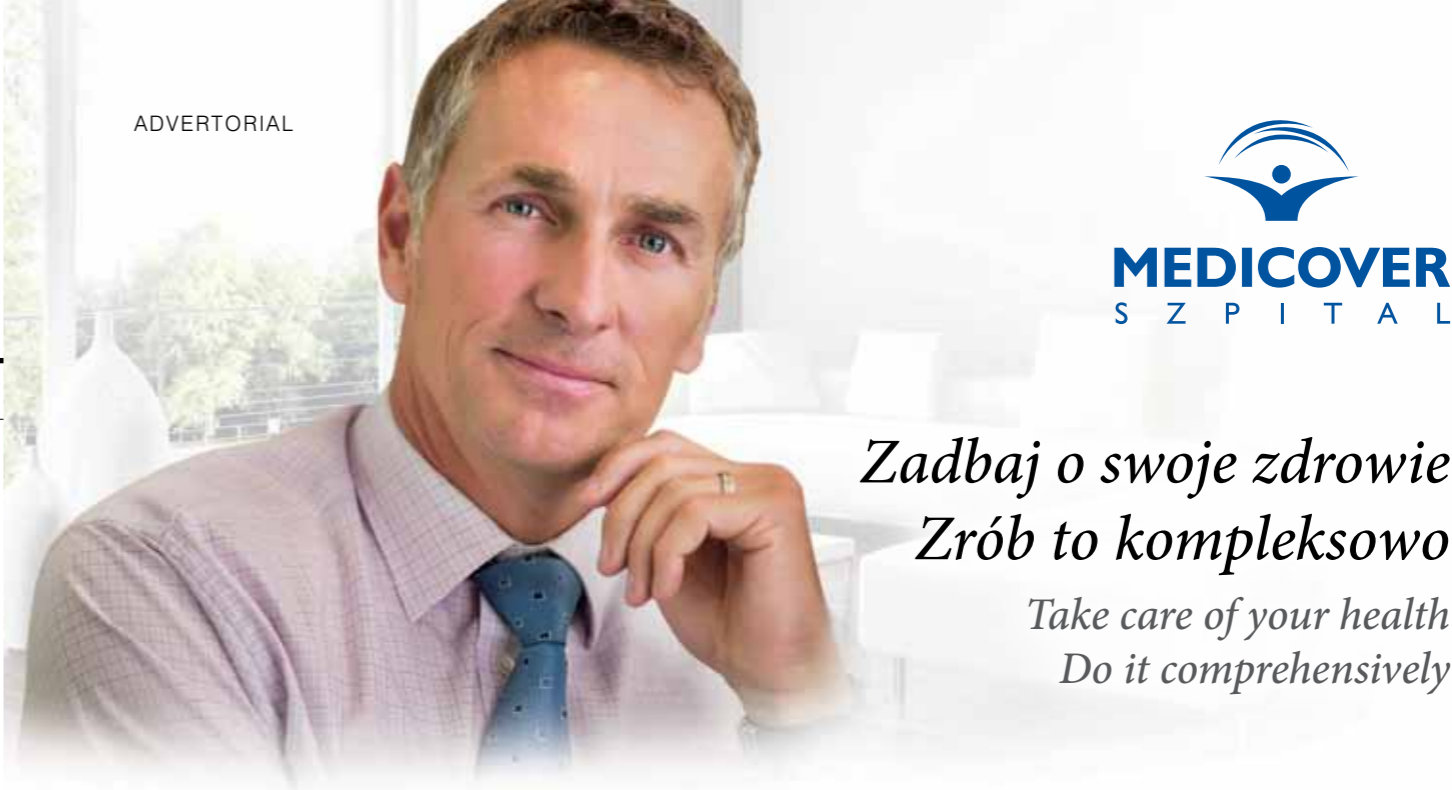


A Hypnotic Journey

This is one of the most interesting albums ever produced by Smolik. It's melodic, with a hint of hypnotic mood, dark atmosphere, and at times anxiety and terror. Its funny film music convention and stylistic juggling promise an intriguing journey to a mysterious island. „The Trip” is a multimedia project, which includes an interactive film by Kissinger Twins, a new Andrzej Smolik's website which has been designed for the new project, as well as the soundtrack.

Smolik „The Trip”, Kayax

ADVERTORIAL



*Zadbaj o swoje zdrowie
Zrób to kompleksowo*

*Take care of your health
Do it comprehensively*

Choroby cywilizacyjne to z mora współczesnego świata. Czy wiesz, że 50% osób umiera z powodu chorób układu krążenia, a 25% z powodu nowotworów? **Jak przeciwdziałać śmiertelnym chorobom i jakie metody profilaktyki stosować?**

Jednym ze skutecznych rozwiązań jest Screening Stanu Zdrowia proponowany przez Szpital Medicover. To dogłębny i precyzyjny program badań diagnostycznych pozwalający na szczegółowy przegląd i ocenę stanu zdrowia.

Unikalny program w Polsce

Dzięki współpracy specjalistów z różnych dziedzin oraz zastosowaniu nowoczesnego sprzętu medycznego w ciągu jednego dnia jesteśmy w stanie rozpoznać występujące schorzenia oraz ryzyko zachorowania na wiele chorób m.in. układu sercowo-naczyniowego, wątroby, płuc, nerek, zaburzeń funkcjonowania tarczycy, zakażeń organizmu przebiegających bezobjawowo oraz chorób nowotworowych. W przypadku zdiagnozowania poważnej choroby możemy podjąć natychmiastowe leczenie czy dalszą diagnostykę. Personel Szpitala Medicover gwarantuje pełną koordynację procesu badań, indywidualną obsługę oraz bardzo komfortowe warunki pobytu.

Nowoczesny sprzęt diagnostyczny

Screening Stanu Zdrowia jest programem wymagającym, do jego prawidłowej realizacji niezbędny jest najnowocześniejszy sprzęt diagnostyczny. W Szpitalu Medicover zapewnia to 18-kanalowy rezonans magnetyczny, pierwszy z systemów MR wyposażony w technologię TIM, dzięki której przebadanie całego pacjenta trwa około 40 minut. Tomografia komputerowa realizowana jest za pomocą 128-warstwowego tomografu komputerowego z opcją zaawansowanej diagnostyki onkologicznej oraz nieinwazyjnych badań kardiologicznych. Zaplecze diagnostyki ultrasonograficznej wyposażone jest w najwyższej klasy ultrasonograf z opcją Dopplera do badań naczyniowych i aparat USG wyposażony w opcję wykonywania badań w czasie rzeczywistym w obrazowaniu 4D.

Screening Stanu Zdrowia szczególnie polecamy jest osobom, które pragną mieć poczucie kontroli nad własnym zdrowiem, szanują swój czas i zależy im na szybkiej diagnozie, która sprawi, że lepiej wykorzystają swoje szanse w życiu i biznesie.

Jeśli Twoje zdrowie jest dla Ciebie ważne zadzwoń pod numer **500 900 900** lub wypełnij formularz na stronie **www.medicover.pl/szpital**

Lifestyle diseases are the bane of the modern world. Do you know that 50% of people die as a result of cardiovascular diseases and 25% die of cancer? **How can we prevent fatal diseases and what methods of prevention are available**

An effective measure is the Health Screening service offered by Medicover Hospital. It is a thorough and precise programme of diagnostic tests, allowing for a detailed overview and assessment of health.

Unique programme in Poland

Owing to the cooperation of specialists in various fields and the use of modern medical equipment, in just one day we are able to diagnose diseases and risks of diseases, including the heart and cardiovascular system, liver, lungs, kidneys, thyroid disorders, asymptomatic infections and neoplastic diseases. Should a serious illness be diagnosed, we are ready to start treatment immediately or do further tests. The personnel of Medicover Hospital guarantees full coordination of the diagnostic process, individual service and very comfortable conditions during hospitalization.

State-of-the-art diagnostic equipment

The Health Screening programme is very demanding and requires state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment. Medicover Hospital offers an 18-channel MRI scanner, the first MRI equipped with Total Imaging Matrix technology, which can perform a full-body scan in around 40 minutes. Computer Tomography is performed using a 128-layer CT scanner with the option to perform advanced oncological diagnostics and non-invasive cardiological examinations. Ultrasound examination facilities offer a high-end ultrasound equipment with Doppler option for vascular examinations and an ultrasound apparatus equipped with features that allow to perform examinations in real time in 4D imaging.

Health Screening is particularly recommended to persons who want to take control of their health, value their time and want to receive a quick diagnosis, which will help them use the opportunities in life and business better.

If your health is important to you call us at **500 900 900** or fill out the form at **www.medicover.pl/szpital**

ROOM TO DREAM

Virtual décor and a bed that rocks you to sleep?
Tomorrow's technology
is not as implausible as you may think,
report **Marzena Mróz** and **Felicity Cousins**



At last year's Sydney Hotel Hospitality and Design Expo, there was a session on the hotel room of the future. Designs included ergonomic massaging beds, self-cleaning bath tiles and smartphone room entry.

CHANGES ARE ROUND THE CORNER

Advances in technology will no doubt guide the direction of room design, but are there clues to tomorrow's hotel room in our past? Patrick Goff, editor of hoteldesigns.net, who was a hotel designer for 20 years, says changes are driven by society: "One thing about hotel design that has been constant in the 40 years I have been in this sector is the aspirational aspect of staying in a hotel. Hotels always try to be a standard above what guests have at home."

Room layouts haven't changed dramatically over the years. They vary in size according to how much you are willing to pay, and which city you are in, but most are cuboid-shaped with a bed, desk and TV, an en suite bathroom, a built-in wardrobe and a minibar.

Larry Traxler, senior vice-president for global design at Hilton Worldwide, explains that it is our behaviour that influences how rooms are drawn up: "The biggest change I've seen in the guestroom has come about by the way people use it. Every room has the same basic components but people work differently now – people can use the lobby as a third space or work in restaurants or on the sofa, and all this affects the design." Sometimes the drive for cutting-edge design can wipe out any sense of function. How many of you have slipped into your hotel bed after a long day only to realise that the switch by your head only turns off the reading lamp? Stomping around the minimalist room searching for the elusive master light switch, wildly flicking lights on and off like an obsessive compulsive isn't conducive to a good night's sleep. Neither is being attacked by a toilet in Tokyo in the middle of the night – the warm welcoming seat a wicked ruse before the water jets take fire.

THE UNDERWATER SUITE

The Jumeirah Group asked delegates at the TEDx Dubai event what they wanted to see in the hotel room of the future. Their thoughts were then drawn by artist Zanjeer Salam. Ideas included virtual personal assistants and robots. People also wanted to see underwater hotel rooms, which are in

fact already a reality – the Conrad Maldives Rangali Island has a submerged restaurant and honeymoon suite (pictured), and there are several projects in development for entire underwater properties, including Dubai's Water Discus hotel.

Paul Priestman, founding director of design group Priestmangoode, says many of the features that will grace hotel rooms in the coming decades have already been invented: "The flatscreen TV was in the business arena for many years before it was introduced into hotel rooms," he says. "We'll see more remote control technology in the future." Priestman cites Nest – a "learning" thermostat that uses intelligent algorithms to learn personal habits, meaning room temperature will be exactly as each guest wants it rather than them having to keep adjusting the air conditioning. "It's this joined-up type of interactive technology that we'll be seeing more of," he says.

INDIVIDUALISM AND ECOLOGY

Another example of this is in the bathroom. Hotel guests spend about two-thirds of their waking time in the bathroom so it has always been a key element for designers. Tim Mutton, chief executive of hospitality designers Black Sheep, says bathrooms



will interact with the person using them, so light, temperature and scent will all adjust according to individual preferences. Sustainability will also drive design in the bathroom. Finding the right temperature on the hotel shower often means using a lot of water, so Priestmangoode has designed digital shower controllers that can be preset to your ideal temperature, allowing you to start your shower without running your hand under the water for ages to gauge when it is hot enough.

NO NEED TO WASH

Ian Pearson, futurologist for technology, marketing and strategy consultancy Futurizon, says materials used in rooms will change dramatically. "We are already overtaking nature on the material side of things – cotton is a huge pollutant to produce and clean, but we will see self-cleaning using nanotechnology," he says. Materials with this technology have nanoparticles that eliminate tiny scratches or fissures, creating an ultra-smooth surface that repels water, grease and bacteria. Still, this probably wouldn't compensate for the freshly laundered smell that makes getting into a hotel bed so appealing.

Priestman says such technology is already here: "There are self-cleaning bath tiles and 'shake' self-cleaning materials – so you could just shake the bedsheets and they would be clean". Pearson adds that this "intelligent technology" also means we will see materials changing colour according to mood "or bedding that wicks away moisture or changes temperature".

MULTIFUNCTIONAL SOLUTIONS

Agnieszka Róg-Skrzyniarz, the director of PR and Communications at Starwood Hotels Poland, points out that Starwood brands are already introducing trends of the future in the hospitality industry. "In a few years hotel guests will pay great attention to the design of the room, so Starwood focuses on branded accessories and furniture, but also the intriguing combination of colours and textures," she says.

An example is the recently opened hotels by aloft and W brand. Also, an easy access to the Internet, as well as an ability to connect your own devices to room equipment, will be of significance. That's why more and more hotels provide docking stations for smartphones and iPods, as well as other Plug &Play solutions. The concept of the



Underwater rooms already exist. The Conrad Maldives Rangali Island has a submerged restaurant and honeymoon suite.



LAVA's working prototype of a future hotel room looked at “the interfaces between architecture, technology and the human body.”

bathroom design is also changing. Now it's supposed to be an alternative to the spa - more spacious, with a wide range of cosmetics, but also integrated with the room. Even today, the most fashion-conscious hotel brand W offers its guests rooms with the bathroom situated in the middle, where the sink is both a desk and a bar. This is what I call multifunctional! The most important element of the hotel room is the bed and you can't expect revolutionary changes in this area. Hotel chains will invest to provide beds which guarantee comfort at the highest level. Significant changes will be observed in the area of services and facilities outside the room, whose aim will be to provide guests with opportunities to integrate and make friends.

AUGMENTED REALITY

What about other technology in the room – with many travellers now carrying their own devices such as tablets and e-readers, what will be the future of in-room entertainment, for example? Hilton's Traxler says: “Technology has already affected room design – big block TVs are now flatscreen. So what takes the place of the flatscreen TV? It might be the wall, or the entire surface of the room.” Pearson suggests something far more revolutionary – that hotel guests in 50 years' time might be wearing high-resolution augmented reality contact lenses so they can create their own entertainment. “Once you have a display like that [through the lenses], you

don't need anything else,” he says. “There will be no need for iPads, Kindles or TVs.” Augmented reality – a computer-generated reality – means people can walk around in a virtual world that appears real. During the Olympics, the Holiday Inn Kensington Forum unveiled “the world's first augmented reality hotel”. Guests used smartphones and tablets to see London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic athletes in virtual action in the public areas and bedrooms. (See how BMX biker Shanaze Reade, windsurfing champion Nick Dempsey, table-tennis player Will Bayley and British long-jump record-holder Chris Tomlinson were brought to life by using the Blippar app to scan this page.) All this could mean that if you want to see Renoir paintings on the wall of your room, you could, or if you are staying in a budget hotel you could have the plush décor of the Ritz. Pearson says: “At the moment you go to a hotel room and it is the same for every guest, but with augmented reality it doesn't have to be.” Such ideas feature strongly in his Travelodge Future of Sleep report, compiled for the chain last year. Possibilities for the hotel room of 2030 include projecting images of your favourite beach on to walls and furniture – accompanied by the sound of the ocean via audio panels built into the windows – or shopping from your room with the walls replicating store interiors. Still, augmented reality can't take the place of tangible luxuries, and Pearson concedes that

a white box as a hotel room may not be the future desire of everyone, as “there will always be some people who want the real stuff”.

THE FUTURE IS HERE

The Laboratory for Visionary Architecture (LAVA) has offices in Germany, Abu Dhabi, Singapore and Australia and its creative team explores “frontiers that merge future technologies with the patterns of organisation found in nature”, believing this will result in “a smarter, friendlier, more socially and environmentally responsible future”. LAVA's designs incorporate intelligent systems and “skins that can react to external influences such as air pressure, temperature, humidity, solar radiation and pollution”. It designs everything from urban centres, such as the futuristic Masdar City centre in Abu Dhabi to homes made out of PET bottles, and hotels, houses and airports of the future. LAVA's working prototype of a future hotel room looked at “the interfaces between architecture, technology and the human body”. The room is womb-like, rounded and features curved surfaces (circles apparently make people relax), anti-jet-lag lights, interactive ceiling lighting (you can choose your mood from a rainbow of colours) and a bed that rocks you to sleep. The bathroom has a reactive mirror that lights up when you look into it and the bath has heated sides. The windows turn into an opaque entertainment screen at the click of your fingers, and the TV is a talking computer.



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GIFTMANIA

Everybody loves giving presents to their beloved ones, and St. Valentine's Day is a perfect occasion to do so. Here's our list of suggestions for elegant gifts both for Her and for Him.

Goshico

An elegant set of travel bags decorated with embroidery and with leather finish.
Price: bag 'Destiny' - PLN 300; small handbag 'Destiny' - PLN 140; the whole set - PLN 400.
www.goshico.com

Sephora

Blushwear Cream Stick.
Easy application with wet shine effect.
Price: PLN 59.
Heart-shaped glitter bubble bath.
Price: PLN 19. Available at Sephora perfumeries.
www.sephora.pl

Lewanowicz

Flower-shaped earrings made of coloured gemstones
www.lewanowicz.com

Dr Irena Eris Express

Lifting. Face lifting serum in ampoules. Stimulates skin cells to rebuild and strengthen the natural structure of the connective tissue.
Price: 5 ampoules of 4 ml - PLN 90.
Available at Dr Irena Eris Cosmetic Institutes
www.DrIrenaEris.com/Instytut



Leica

A new edition of the legendary camera, with combination of colours designed by Paul Smith.
Price: PLN 9,999.
www.leicastore.pl

Da Vinci

Silk pocket handkerchief by Roberto Cavalli.
Price: PLN 229.
Cufflinks - PLN 259.
Da Vinci
Shirts and suits made to measure, ready-made shirts and accessories.
www.davinci.pl

Longines

An elegant and sophisticated Longines Saint-Imier watch on a steel bracelet.
Price: PLN 9,620.
www.longines.com

Salvador Dali Le Roy Soleil Extreme.

Extravagant and sensual fragrance alluding to King Louis XIV.
Price: PLN 249/ 100 ml.
Available at Sephora perfumeries.
www.sephora.pl

Fabryka Form

Wine Finer - wine aerator and funnel with a stopper. Designed by Marcus Vagnby.
Price: PLN 129.
www.fabrykaform.pl



THE AIRLINE FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS



Marzena Mróz
talks to **Maciej Pyrka**
- Emirates Country
Manager Poland.

Beginning 6 February 2013, Emirates will start operations in Poland. What does this mean for Polish passengers?

Passengers of Emirates who travel from Poland, gain easy access to the cities of the Middle and Far East, the Indian Subcontinent and Australasia region via Emirates' hub in Dubai. Travellers can also experience our award-winning service and the onboard product. Our staff consists of professionals from 130 countries around the world, who will do their best to make you feel at home on board our aircraft. Our passengers have access to on-demand entertainment in First and Business Classes, as well as a lot of films and music in Economy Class. Our onboard menu features fresh delicious dishes inspired by local culinary traditions. In Emirates, we always try to be a step ahead, in order to fully meet the needs of our passengers. In addition, we are the first carrier to offer the First Class product on the route from Warsaw.

First Class is especially interesting. What amenities does your airline offer for passengers who choose this product?

The First Class offers unparalleled luxury and comfort which, in fact, is ahead of similar products of our competitors. First Class passengers can take advantage of luxury lounges at the airport, super-fast check-in and boarding procedures, as well as luxury transfers by limousine with a chauffeur. They can simply expect the ultimate comfort and luxury right from the beginning of their journey. The ergonomically designed and comfortable seat in First Class cabin, can recline fully into a flat-bed. Meals, which consist of seven dishes, are served on bone china tableware, and passengers can enjoy a complete range of complimentary drinks inflight, including cocktails, champagne, and vintage wines.

How much will the tickets cost in each of the classes on Warsaw – Dubai route?

Ticket prices will depend on the

availability of seats on board. We have prepared several price levels for Economy Class and a few in the First and Business Class. Fares on this route will start at PLN 1,896 Economy Class, at PLN 8,672 in Business Class, and at PLN 14,047 in First Class.

Warsaw is Emirates' first new destination in 2013. What are your plans for the future?

The development strategy of Emirates is simple. We know where we want to fly and we have those destinations included in our long-term plans (10-20 years) for expansion. The order in which we plan to launch new routes, may be subject to slight changes over time, depending on various market conditions, but the foundation will always remain the same. We focus on markets where there is already demand for our services, or on those where we are confident that we can stimulate this demand. One of the key factors of our success in recent years has been launching connections to



cities that were under-served by other carriers. We have learned to use such an opportunity to develop our business through filling such "gaps" in the market. We are convinced that Polish business and leisure passengers, will take advantage of our global route network of more than 125 destinations, as well as convenient connections via the hub in Dubai. Our fleet of 195 aircraft, also represents the position of the carrier on the market, and there are plans to double it by 2020. Soon it will be expanded by another 59 Airbus A380 aircraft, which will join the 31 planes of this type we already have. We are also waiting for delivery of 69 units of Boeing B777.

Your fleet is impressive.

Indeed, we can't complain. It's also worth noting that Emirates is one of only a few airlines, which enter a new market with a set goal to keep the connections they introduce for a longer time. Therefore, both employees of the Polish branch of the Emirates and passengers can be assured that the Warsaw-Dubai route isn't just our whim, but a long-term project.

Emirates is considered one of the best airlines in the world. What's so unique about this brand?

Our success is based primarily on the quality of services offered to passengers. We build this val-

ue with a number of elements, ranging from onboard service, leather trimmed cloth seats with wood grain panelling which reclines into a flat-bed in Business Class, to fast track check-in and boarding for First and Business Class passengers at the airport in Dubai. Our highly trained cabin crew, which consists of a multicultural mix of well-trained people from all over the world, presents a unique professionalism and - consequently - the individual approach to the passenger. Even the smallest details count. For example the fact that flight attendants during a conversation with passengers don't lean or stand upright, but they squat to shorten the distance. We have received numerous awards for our service, and most recently for the best ICE entertainment system on board with over 1,400 channels! Certainly, the facts that the average age of our aircraft doesn't exceed 7 years, there are always fresh flowers on board, and best brand cosmetics in bathrooms, are also significant. All of this makes a flight with Emirates a unique experience and passengers want to come back on board our aircraft. The brand is well known all over the world, we have numerous fans of our airline who frequently travel with us, even for pleasure.

How would you define the characteristics of Emirates?

It's an unusual experience at an

affordable price. We are also an airline for special occasions

What does the alliance of Emirates with the Australian carrier Qantas mean to passengers travelling from Warsaw?

Our alliance with Qantas will certainly facilitate the connection from Warsaw to Australia via Dubai. I'm talking about the number of flights and the availability of connections. I think it will also be an offer with affordable prices. In other words, flying from Poland to Australia has never been so easy, as it will be soon. In addition, the ambition of both Emirates and Qantas is to operate the same type of aircraft - Airbus-380.

Give us three reasons why it's worth flying from Warsaw to Dubai.

The first one is the weather - the sun always shines in Dubai. Secondly, Dubai is one of the most fantastic places in almost every respect. It's a perfect spot for couples, families with children, as well as businesspeople who look for new business opportunities or simply want to relax. The third reason is that now you can get there directly - with Emirates.

In First Class cabin?

Yes, it's the unique option for passengers flying from Warsaw.

Thank you for the interview.

A flight with Emirates is a unique experience and passengers want to come back on board our aircraft. The brand is well known all over the world, and we have our devoted fans.



NOVOTEL HOTELS – CUSTOMER SATISFACTION IS WHAT COUNTS

"YOU - Our mission is your satisfaction" - this motto of Novotel brand introduces a global programme to improve guest satisfaction.



MORE INFO
www.novotel.com
www.accorhotels.com

The programme assumes that starting 1 January 2013, the staff of all Novotel hotels in Poland will have one main priority – to ensure that all guests leaving the hotel are satisfied with the received service. The aim of the programme is to reach the highest possible standards of service throughout all the hotels of the chain.

"YOU ARE IN THE CENTRE OF ATTENTION"
"YOU" is a new global programme by Novotel brand, whose primary goal is to satisfy guests by improving the quality of services. Currently, the brand's global motto is: "Novotel is the best place to relax and rejuvenate." Apart from providing customers with high quality infrastructure, the "YOU"

programme introduces a completely new approach to guest service. The motto of the brand is the best definition of the primary objective of Novotel staff throughout the world. Unfortunately, stars awarded to a hotel are seldom a guarantee of the highest standards of customer service, even though this area has a major impact on whether a guest will return to a

hotel or not. The aim of "YOU" programme is to create a dialogue between customers and the hotel service, so that no customer is "silently dissatisfied". Research conducted by Novotel brand experts shows that such guests almost never return to the hotel they were disappointed with. Therefore, the "YOU" programme ensures that all opinions are heard, the response to them is immediate, and no guest leaves a hotel dissatisfied.

YOUR OPINION IS CRUCIAL
The basic premise of the programme is to raise the quality of service by encouraging guests to express their opinions. A customer is free to present his views and concerns during his stay at the hotel. In order to obtain the fullest possible picture of how Novotel hotels are perceived by guests, the staff are trained and encouraged to regularly communicate and ask questions about their views on the quality of service. Each guest to Novotel hotels can dial a special phone number (888) to report any problems and obtain answers to all his questions. The number is the same in all Novotel hotels all over the world. Information is provided to guests at any time, 365 days a year. The staff respond to the reported problems



as soon as it is only possible, in order to ensure that each guest stays satisfied. Novotel hotels have prepared a number of solutions to problems that may occur, and the staff always try to find the most appropriate one.

THE GLOBAL LAUNCH OF THE PROGRAMME
The concept of the "YOU" programme was first presented in March 2012 in Warsaw, at a meeting of European teams of Novotel hotels. Poland is the first country where starting 1 January 2013, the "YOU" programme came into force at the same time across all hotels of the chain. The hotels prepared for many months to implement the new quality of service. To do so, the entire staff underwent training and participated in workshops to learn how to cope with problems

that could arise. They also learnt about the basic principles of interpersonal communication.

VALUES
One of the pillars of the "YOU" programme is the Novotel Service Attitudes concept implemented with the teams during training and at work. It employs fundamental values which lie at the foundation of 5 basic attitudes of customer service in the hotel chain:

1. Be jointly responsible
2. Be representative
3. Be communicative
4. Be available
5. Be extra-caring

YOU IN POLAND
In Poland the "YOU" programme will be heavily promoted in hotels of the chain, so that all the guests are well aware of the amenities they can expect during their stay. In early 2013, the Polish hotels held animations for guests, to celebrate the introduction of the "YOU" programme. The programme is being implemented to provide guests with a unique level of quality of service, based on a dialogue with the customer. It is a modern procedure which puts strong emphasis on the exchange of views, which allows for appropriate choice of solutions, in order to obtain full satisfaction of the guests.



The staff of all Novotel hotels in Poland will have one main priority – to ensure that all guests leaving the hotel are satisfied with the received service. The aim of the programme is to reach the highest possible standards of service throughout all the hotels of the chain.

100 YEARS OF LUXURY AND THE ARTISTIC SPIRIT

Following its thorough renovation, the pearl of Warsaw's hospitality industry - the famous Bristol Hotel – has joined the Luxury Collection - an ensemble of the world's best hotels.



The Bristol has always been considered a legendary place. It has impressed with its elegance, set trends in design, and amazed with its technological innovations. For more than a century, the Bristol has

been one of the most recognizable buildings in Warsaw and the true national pride. This is partly owing to the hotel's prestigious location - right on the Royal Route, just steps from the Nowy Świat - the most fashionable street in Poland. The majes-

tic, neo-Renaissance building fits perfectly into the architectural uniqueness of the nearby Old Town, the Royal Castle and the Presidential Palace. This unique location attracts travellers looking for an unforgettable experience, wanting to touch the living history.

HOTEL WITH AN ARTISTIC SPIRIT.

Founded by Ignacy Paderewski, the hotel has hosted the most outstanding personalities - representatives of royal families, leading politicians, composers, writers, musicians, painters, and film stars. With the splendour, which has always been an integral part of such visits, the Bristol is a sort of a "bridge" between the Polish culture and the leading representatives of the world of thought. Many of them are still well remembered here through interesting stories and anecdotes.

Wojciech Kossak had here his painting studio where he created his finest works. Jan Kiepura sang from the hotel's balcony, and Karol Szymanowski used to hold here discussions about the condition of the Polish culture. Today, the Bristol still reflects the Polish tradition as well as its culture, and continues to remain a national pride. For more than a century it has been a witness to major historical events, watching as Warsaw transformed into a luxurious and chic travel spot for tourists from all over the world.

Following a thorough renovation, the Bristol offers its guests

an unforgettable experience - a taste of Warsaw from the Belle Époque combined with contemporary comforts. The stylish, newly renovated rooms feature classic design. The inspiration for the new design were the historical interiors of the early 20th century, which were combined with modern amenities, including large mirrors from cut crystal, polished nickel lamps, stylish armchairs and leather trunks. The décor of the rooms is based mainly on a range of mild grey and blue colours. The walls are covered with ivory-like wallpaper, designed specifically for the Bristol.

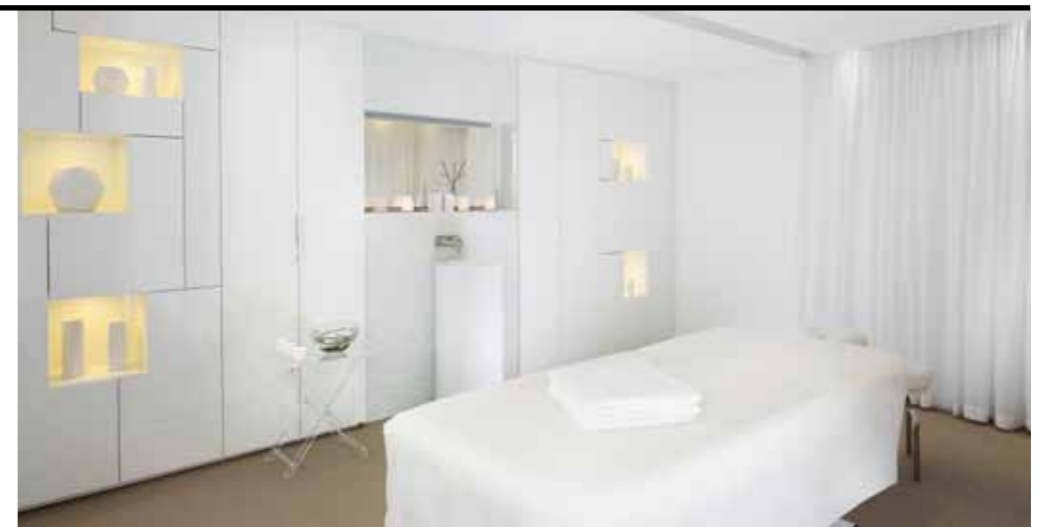
ADVINTURE

the fascinating world of wine. The renovation also allowed for creation of a new venue, whose aim is to restore the tradition of inspiring people of Warsaw who meet in the Bristol. The place named "Advinture" is a wine bar which is a gateway to the magical world of the hotel. It is here where begins the real journey through the fascinating world of wines from the most famous vineyards.

The interior of the wine bar is decorated with bronze details, which are a reflection of the original forms of the Art Nouveau style. The whole is complemented with faceted mirrors with monochrome colours in the background. The wine bar is the essence of the new Bristol. It is a place where prestige, tradition and luxury combine to create a unique atmosphere.

THE RESTORED COLUMN BAR

The Column Bar is said to be a sort of an institution. Indeed, it is a masterpiece of Art Nouveau which is a unique place on the map of Warsaw. The magnificent interior was renovated with respect for the historical design of the early 20th century and adapted to modern needs. Dark wood panelling and original sconces by Otto Wagner perfectly harmonize with the colour of



the walls. Seat cushions covered in black and ivory leather, reflect the aesthetics of historic friezes. The atmosphere of this unique interior would not be complete without the sound of a grand piano and an exceptionally wide range of alcoholic beverages. You can continue your journey with gourmet cuisine in Marconi restaurant, whose interior impresses with a harmonious form and luxurious design. Subtle colours and carefully chosen details, such as crystal chandeliers, ornate mirrors and the romantic candle light, emphasize the elegance of the restaurant.

In this refreshed, more luxurious form, the Bristol joins the

Luxury Collection - a portfolio of over 80 most beautiful hotels in 30 countries, which offer the highest quality of service and luxurious interiors, at the same time being promoters of local culture. Each hotel and resort is an expert in providing guests with tastes of local culture which they will not find in traditional guidebooks. The Bristol will join the hospitality gems such as the Hotel Grande Bretagne in Athens, Imperial in Vienna, Al Maha Desert & Resort in Dubai, The Chatwal Hotel in New York City, Paracas Hotel in Peru, as well as The Royal Begonia, Sanya in China, and Keraton at The Plaza in Jakarta.

Following a thorough renovation, the Bristol offers its guests an unforgettable experience - a taste of Warsaw from the Belle Époque combined with contemporary comforts.

20 YEARS OF GROWTH!



Marzena Mróz
talks to **J.J. Singh**
– the CEO
of Weco-Travel

When was Weco-Travel established?

We have been active in the Polish market since 1992. The company was founded soon after the political transition, when we were opening up to the world both figuratively and literally. At that time companies needed a partner to organize their corporate travel. I remember the first meeting with Mr. Axel Rasmussen, the CEO of Weco-Travel Denmark, whose intuition and business experience encouraged us to open Weco-Travel in Poland. Today we know that this was the right decision and we are proud of how far we have come. In the beginning, we had only 4 employees, but today the company employs more than 80 people, has a network of its own offices in Warsaw, Gdynia, and Wrocław, as well as offices of Weco-Travel Group located in Scandinavia, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Romania.

What is the real strength of Weco-Travel?

We are the industry leader in business travel. We serve corporations, as well as large and medium-sized companies. Technological, administrative and structural solutions allow us to effectively manage the company and our employees, so that the standard of customer service is top notch. We have also managed to retain family character of the company we used to be a few years ago. We have a friendly atmosphere, good relationships within the company, effective management. Our employees are happy with their job, which is reflected in their results.

What distinguishes your company from many others?

Our customers are cared for not only by professional and experienced consultants. Through

investments in technology, all Weco-Travel agencies are now connected by one modern IT system. This enables us to serve our customers in accordance with internationally accepted standards, respecting the Travel Policy regardless of where our collaboration has started. We generate advanced reports which allow for ongoing monitoring of expenditure and budget planning, as well as simplify accounting procedures. Such solutions, which provide tangible benefits through reduction of the time needed to complete ongoing accounting work, as well as generate financial savings, are not common on the Polish market. It is a real database, to which both we and the client can always refer to, as well as a proof that it is worthwhile to have us for a business partner, because service charges are quickly recouped. What is more, we have offices in four countries, which means that our customers can be served in the same way in Poland, Romania, the Czech Republic or Hungary. We are a real office Travel Management Company.

Do you invest in your employees?

We realize that the advanced system technology would not be sufficient without the skills and passion of our employees. Our consultants are true advisors who maintain direct contact

with customers. In this way, our customers receive complimentary consulting service. Our consultants not only sell air or train tickets and book rooms in hotels, but also recommend the best solutions. Since we have close contact with our customers, we can organize a trip tailored to their individual, even the most demanding needs, and they – almost always return to us.

Weco-Travel employs a lot of young people. Is this intentional?

In addition to the fact that our employees continue to improve their professional skills, we are also committed to our internal programme, which we call "The First Job". The aim of the programmes is to enable young people to enter the employment market by providing them with necessary experience and knowledge. We plan their career within the company, taking into account their skills. We value our employees, and they value us. Many of them have been with us for several years.

What are the plans of the company for this year?

We are planning to consistently develop our business, and take every opportunity to co-operate with other travel agencies. We are open to cooperation at various levels.

Thank you for the interview.



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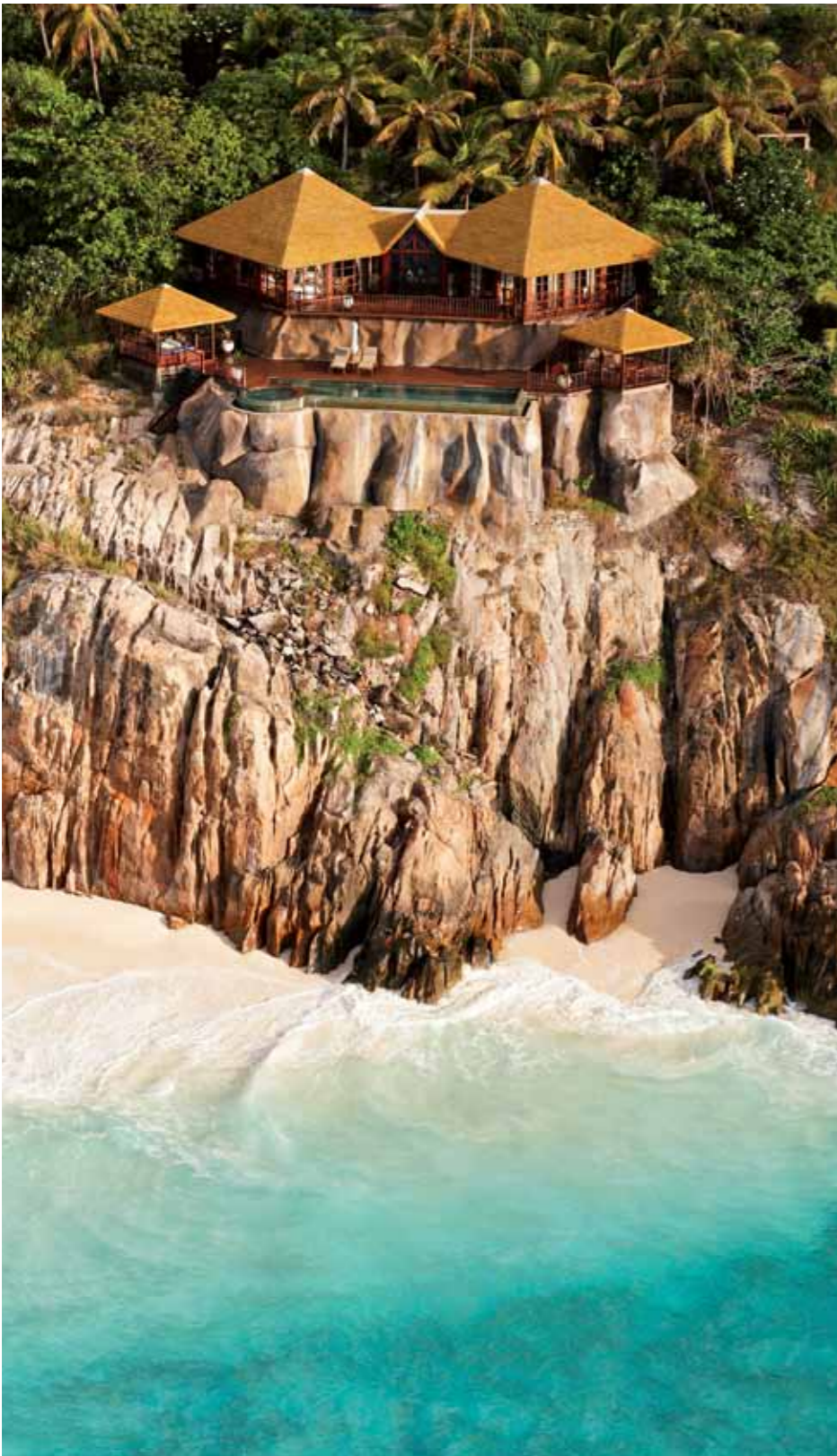
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Michelin Guide Recommendation

SEYCHELLES PARADISE FOR LOVERS

Imagine a tropical island in the middle of the ocean. In a spacious villa with a terrace and a private pool, whose edge merges with the surface of the ocean and a view over nearby islands, a waiter will serve you a glass of your favourite champagne.
Welcome to Frégate Island Private!



If it's a paradise, luxury and virgin nature you want, a stay on Frégate will be a holiday of your life. Beautiful landscapes, the highest quality of service and the most beautiful beaches in the world - this is the essence of Frégate.

Some of the 115 islands of the Seychelles were turned into the world's most beautiful resorts. Extraordinary beaches, surrounded by coral reef and lush greenery and exotic animals contribute to the paradise-like atmosphere of the place. One of such spots is Frégate island. Once a pirates' hideout, today it's a holiday destination for some of the most demanding guests and is considered one of the most exclusive private resort islands in the world. If it's a paradise, luxury and virgin nature you want, a stay on Frégate will be a holiday of your life. Beautiful landscapes, the highest quality of service and the most beautiful beaches in the world - this is the essence of Frégate, where Roman Polański shot a few scenes to "Pirates".

ELEGANCE ON A HILL

The easiest way to get to the island is by helicopter. A flight from Mahé takes only 20 minutes. Once you reach Frégate, you will be overwhelmed with delight. Elegant mahogany and teak villas are located in one part of the island and come in a few categories. One Bedroom Villa - covering the area of 300–400 sq m has a spacious terrace with a jacuzzi and a private pool, whose edge merges with the surface of the ocean and a view over nearby islands. On the terrace there is also a roofing, a comfortable bed. The nearby pavilion serves dinners. The villa comprises a living room, a bedroom with an enormous bed and a bathroom with a bathtub facing the window and an outdoor shower. Two Bedroom/Spa Villa, which is 500 sq m - has two bedrooms, or one bedroom and a mini spa. Luxurious Presidential Villa Banyan Hill is even bigger (1,000 sq m!) has three bedrooms. The resort belongs to Small Luxury Hotels of the World.

PURE LUXURY

The fact that the guests, whose number never exceeds 40, are served by 120 members of the personnel, is visible wherever you go. Such a luxury guarantees not only high standard of service, but also space, privacy, safety and care about natural environment of this unique place. Villas come with all sorts of mod cons. But the thing that is most appreciated by guests is 24/7 care by a private butler designated to each of the



Such a luxury guarantees not only high standard of service, but also space, privacy, safety and care about natural environment of this unique place.





Frégate is much more than just a great hotel. It's also a place where a pioneer environmental program was launched - its aim is to preserve and restore the natural ecosystem.



villas. It's him, who helps organize breakfast in a tree house, barbecue on the beach for just the two of you, a picnic on the highest top of the island, an afternoon tea on Glacis Cerf, from where you can see the panorama of the whole island, a romantic dinner by candlelight on a terrace, and a table at Plantation House restaurant, where you can try amazing dishes from Creole cuisine. Huge Indian Banyan trees shade a path which leads through jungle to Rock Spa, located on the highest point of the island. Instead of pampering you with world's best known cosmetics, they use their own balms, creams and exfoliation products. They are prepared from natural, locally-grown products just before the treatment, based on a client's individual needs and demands.

A BEACH FOR ONLY TWO

You can drive down the roads of this tiny island by electric cars. Use them to get to one of the seven spectacular beaches. Anse Victorin is considered the most beautiful one in the world. Anse Bambous - located near the pool - offers a bar and a full service. On Grand Anse you can see giant tortoises. While Anse Macquereau - surrounded by palm trees and impressive rock formations - guarantees complete privacy. The sign "do not disturb" in front of the entrance informs you that someone is occupying the beach and you can't come in.

NATURE AND SPORT

Frégate is much more than just a great hotel. It's also a place where a pioneer environmental programme was launched - its aim is to preserve and restore the natural ecosystem. The owners of the island have undertaken a project to reclaim the land by planting 100,000 endemic trees in the area. There are 700 giant tortoises and Seychelles Magpie-Robins which are on the brink of extinction. The whole undertaking is possible thanks to a team of naturalists, zoologists and ecology managers working on the island. There's no way you could be bored on Frégate. You have access to kayaks, windsurfing boards, sailing boats and tennis courts. You can try snorkelling, volleyball, mountain biking or go on a fishing trip on board of Little Frigate Bird. The island also has its own marina, a helipad and a grass runway for small planes.

Rafał Sobiech

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Guests, who come here to enjoy the nature in its pure form, often opt for having their meals in form of a picnic prepared on the beach. The dishes based on mango, papaya, guava, bilimbi, bananas, coconuts and melons, are grown in the resort.



NORTH ISLAND – LUXURY IN ECO STYLE

“Ecology in a luxury form” – this is how you can define the style of a sophisticated proposal which includes a stay in one of 11 villas which blend into the natural landscape of North Island.

The villas are built of wood, stone and glass, and situated away from the bustle of the big world. The windows look out over one of the most beautiful bays with incredibly turquoise water. Does such a place even

exist? Yes, it’s North Island, a tiny island in the Seychelles. **ROBINSON’S HIDEAWAY** Uninhabited for over thirty years, today it’s experiencing a renaissance and is called

the “Robinson Crusoe’s hideaway”. A very luxurious one, may I add. It’s mecca of the wealthy who dream of paradise holiday and seek privacy - the enthusiasts of luxury eco style. The island is located about 40 miles northwest of Mahe. You can get there by

boat, which takes about two hours, or take a 15-minute helicopter ride. This rustic, one-of-a-kind resort is celebrating its 10th birthday this year.

WOOD, BEADS AND CIVILIZATION

There are only 11 villas on North Island which blend into the natural landscape. They are built of wood, local stone and glass, while their roofs are covered with ylang – ylang plant. The walls of these luxuriously simple structures are covered with original carvings made by local artists. The villas, which are 450 sq m each, are situated along Anse d’est Beach and hidden in dense Takamaka forest. Each of them features a luxuriously proportioned master bedroom with change-room and writing

area leads onto a large en-suite bathroom with marble bath and two showers. There’s also a kitchen (with French champagne in the refrigerator) and a spacious lounge which is semi-open teak floored with panoramic views out to sea. The style alludes to the traditional architecture of the island. Therefore, the villas have an openwork design, the furniture is made of tree trunks, and the curtains of beads and shells. Everything is natural and ecological, but the guests can also use the latest technological developments, as the rooms are air-conditioned, all the villas have TVs with hundreds of channels, you can easily connect to the Internet, use a home cinema, and even iPod docking stations. The large windows offer a spectacular view of the ocean. Since the 210 ha island is 2.5 km long and 1

km wide, each villa has its own North Island Buggy, similar to a golf buggy to make getting around easier.

ATTRACTIONS FOR EVERYONE

There are rarely more than 20 guests on the island at the same time. Each villa has a private butler, (the so-called “villa host”) and an “experience host” who is committed to providing individual attractions, suitable for the needs of the guests. There’s also a Spa which offers some luxurious and creative treatments to enhance your stay. The Spa has adopted a holistic approach; the treatments are as much for your inner self and your mind as they are for your face or body. Tahe spa therapist is trained to provide a consultation aimed at designing a personalised spa experience.



Part of the profit, that this luxurious resort generates, is used to restore and maintain the natural balance of the island's flora and fauna.



There are four beaches on the island, where you can see tortoises in their natural environment and watch them lay eggs. There is also a 45-metre swimming pool, the PADI dive centre, you can practise here snorkelling, windsurfing, sailing, kayaking, fish on the high seas, charter a boat, ride a mountain bike, visit a well-equipped gym, and go on expedition with a resident environmentalist to observe bird life. It's definitely worth taking a boat ride to a granite island named Silhouette. This paradise-like island of Silhouette is mostly known as a small but exotic and luxurious tourist destination. One of the amazing local draws is the giant tortoise sanctuary.

PICNIC ON THE SAND

The chef personally consults the menu with the guests, taking into account their preferences. No need to say, that there are numerous opportunities to eat well on the island. In the very centre of North Island there's an excellent restaurant with a wine cellar storing exquisite vintages. The Tropical Heat Bar, located on the western side of the island, is a perfect place to enjoy the sunset. Guests, who come here to enjoy the nature in its pure form, often opt for having their meals in form of a picnic prepared on the beach. The dishes served in this way are based on mango, papaya, guava, bilimbi, bananas, coconuts and melons which are grown in the resort. There are also light snacks made of vegetables, fish, seafood, meat and eggs, as well as juices, fine wines and champagne. Meals can also be served in the villas.

NATURAL BALANCE

Since 1997, the island has been owned by Wilderness Safaris, which means that part of the profit that this luxurious resort generates, is used to restore and maintain the natural balance of the island's flora and fauna. All facilities and equipment on North Island are compatible with even the most stringent environmental standards. The specialists who are employed here, including ecologists and geologists, share their knowledge with guests, organize trips, talk about the habits of animals of North Island, and facilitate contact with them.

Rafał Sobiech

CONTACT

www.north-island.com

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THE NEW LOOKS OF SINGAPORE

The Lion City is changing, and the transformation is worth seeing with your own eyes. A long flight from Europe is a small price to pay, if you get to spend a weekend in Singapore, says **Marzena Mróz**.



Marina Bay Sands is the latest architectural icon of Singapore, and at the same time one of the main destinations for people travelling to Asia for leisure, entertainment and business. The spectacular design of the complex was inspired by a house of cards.

Singapore has always attracted businessmen. The city has a reputation of an Asian oasis of peace and order, where the temperature reaches about 30 degrees all year round - has been an ideal place to accumulate wealth. Since the time when futuristic building of Marina Bay Sands centre has sprung next to other skyscrapers of Singapore, the place has been going through a big boom.

THE MOST EXPENSIVE

Marina Bay Sands is considered the world's most expensive leisure centre. It has been priced at US\$8 bln (including buy out costs). Since the erection of three identical skyscrapers, on which an enormous plane-like object has been placed, the number of tourists as well as investors coming to Singapore, has doubled. On the area of 120 thousand square metres there is not only a 55-storey hotel, but also a gigantic shopping gallery, with really spacious boutiques from all of the world famous fashion designers. There are also theatre rooms, museums and restaurants. In a casino, considered the biggest facility of this sort located in a skyscraper, there are 500 game tables and over 1,600 gaming machines.

A HOUSE OF CARDS

Moshe Safdie, the Israeli-Canadian architect, who designed the cult Habitat 67 housing estate in 1967, is the landscaping designer. He designed main building of EXPO 1967, which took place at that time in Quebec, when he was still a student as part of his graduation work. The modernist experiment, which utilized modular prefabricated residential constructions, turned out to be one of the best

architectural solutions. Unlike other experimental residential units, the project started by Moshe Safdiego still exists. His latest project of Marina Bay Sands is also distinguished by a complicated, intriguing form. Three skyscrapers combined with the impressive platform placed above the roofs was inspired by a deck of cards. As befits an Asian building, the architecture of the complex was consulted with feng shui masters. The place is often visited by such celebrities like Lady Gaga or Kylie Minoque.

A CHALLENGE FOR ARCHITECTS

The spectacular project of Marina Bay Sands has mounted a serious challenge to the construction workers. A group of designer engineers - Arup, Parsons and Brinkerhoff - known for solving construction problems with Opera House in Sydney in 1960, has described the Singapore building as "the world's most difficult architectural task". However, thanks to the help of the main building contractors, including JRP International, Pacific Interiors Supply, Benson Wall Systems and Rockwool group, the designers found adequate solutions already in the

designing stage. Thanks to the multi-sector cooperation, a resistant building came into existence, while its interior is distinguished by good acoustics and high fire security.

HOTEL COMPLEX RESEMBLING A CITY

The American Las Vegas Sands Corporation is an investor of this gigantic building. The whole complex consists of three 55-storey towers with 2560 rooms altogether. It's a structure, where all the elements are organized around two principal axes. Such urban layout makes it easier to navigate in the multitude of functions available to guests. They have access not only to guestrooms, but also boutiques, shops, restaurants, but also the entertainment offer: a casino, a museum and two theatres. Luxurious leisure enthusiasts won't be disappointed either. The complex includes a bathing beach, a spa centres, and a spectacular, the world's highest swimming pool and natural park with a stunning view over the whole Singapore.

The roof terrace, called SkyPark overlooks the three towers like a gigantic horizontal girder. One of its elements is a cantilevered platform which overhangs the north tower by 67 metres. It has a capacity of 900 people. The 340-metre-long terrace offers a stunning panorama of Singapore, including the "jungle" of impressive skyscrapers in the banking district. On the terrace there is also a 151-metre long pool. The guests feel as if they swim in the ocean, as the line of the horizon is visible. The effect is achieved by water cascading down the edge of the pool to the lower storey. The central part of the terrace is occupied by a park with 250 trees and 650 other plant species. It's definitely worth seeing!

Useful addresses:

Singapore Airlines - one of the world's best airlines.
www.singaporeairlines.com
Marina Bay Sands - one of the most spectacular architectural complexes. www.marinabaysands.com
Changi Airport - an international hub in Singapore, awarded with a gold medal in 2012.
www.changiairport.com



MEET IN MELBOURNE

With its attractive setting and rich sport and cultural life, the Australian city is an enticing option for events, says **Chris Pritchard**.

How times change. A postcard I bought 20 years ago sports solid blackness where the picture should be. It's captioned "Melbourne by night". This notion of Australia's second-biggest city as a place of after-dark gloom wasn't fair then – though you had to know where to go – and it's certainly inaccurate now.

Vibrant nightlife has helped Victoria's state capital to become one of the best places to spend time in. In August, Melbourne was

voted the world's most liveable city by the Economist Intelligence Unit for the second year in a row, and it has made the top five for the past decade.

A VIVID METROPOLIS

It's also a great destination for staging events. The past year has seen Melbourne named Australia's top conference destination by the International Congress and Convention Association – ahead of Sydney – while the Melbourne Convention and Visi-

tors Bureau (mcvb.com.au) has secured 210 business events for the state of Victoria, worth an estimated A\$361 million (£229 million). In 2014, the city will host the International AIDS Conference.

Karen Bolinger, chief executive of the MCVB, says: "I haven't come across such energy anywhere else in the world – there's always something new to discover." True, Melbourne lacks Sydney's dramatic harbourside beauty – but it basks in its reputation as the nation's liveliest metropolis, and

its cultural and culinary capital. Its calendar includes major sporting fixtures such as the Melbourne Cup, the Formula 1 Grand Prix and the Australian Open, as well as opera and drama galas, and art, comedy, food and wine festivals.

A MELTING POT

Jenifer Dwyer Slee, business events sales director at Accor Australia, which has 29 hotels in the city, says: "Melbourne seems perfectly designed for conferences and events, with its proven experience with mega-events such as the Australian Open and Grand Prix."

Its simple grid pattern also makes it almost impossible to get lost – good if you wish to explore on foot between meetings. Trams trundle down broad, tree-lined avenues, with the free 45-minute City Circle

route passing numerous sights. The city is often described as a cluster of villages. Just beyond the business district are Carlton's Italianate Lygon Street, Fitzroy's restaurant-studded Brunswick Street, the newish Docklands dining zone, Chapel Street's boutique strip, Richmond's Vietnamese quarter and beachside St Kilda. Australians also often say Melbourne has the country's best shopping, with downtown's Bourke Street Mall and the grand 19th-century Block Arcade among the options.

JAZZ, BUSINESS, AND THE ART

The transformation of the central business district's once drab lanes – originally home to a thriving garment industry – also merits investigation, with Flinders Lane the best known. Warehouses were reinvented as high-rent apartments, restaurants, coffee

EVENT VENUES

ROWN ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX

Modern and glitzy, Crown is situated at the Yarra's edge and includes three high-end hotels – Crown Towers, Crown Metropal and Crown Promenade – totalling 1,600 rooms. It has 49 meeting rooms, the largest of which holds 2,500 people theatre-style. 8 Whiteman Street; crownmelbourne.com.au

GRAND HYATT

A heart-of-the-city contemporary option, this 547-roomer is much favoured for events, with the largest of its 16 meeting rooms accommodating 1,120 delegates theatre-style and 730 for banquets. The Grand Hyatt's RU-CO bar has one of the city's best selections of single malts and cognacs, as well as a wide range of Victoria's wines. 123 Collins Street; hyatt.com

HILTON MELBOURNE SOUTH WHARF

This 19-storey, 396-room property is linked by a walkway to the MCEC. Delegates to MCEC events often check into the Hilton's spacious and modern rooms, which offer skyline, river or bay views. It has 32 meeting rooms, with a maximum capacity of 480 delegates theatre-style or 500 for cocktails. 2 Convention Centre Place; hilton.com

MELBOURNE CRICKET GROUND

One of the world's most hallowed bat-and-ball venues and the scene of many memorable moments, the MCG also has 29 modern meeting rooms, holding a maximum of 760 guests theatre-style or 500 for a banquet. It's particularly sought after for sports-related events. Yarra Park; mcg.org.au

NOVOTEL MELBOURNE ST KILDA

This modern 211-room hotel, the best-known property in Melbourne's most popular beach suburb of St Kilda (6km from downtown), is across the road from the beach. It has 12 meeting rooms, some with open-air terraces and ocean views, with a maximum capacity of 300 theatre-style or 350 for cocktails. 16 The Esplanade; novotel.com

RACV CITY CLUB

In downtown's business belt, the home of the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria has 11 meeting rooms – the biggest of which holds 500 people theatre-style or 400 for dinner. 501 Bourke Street; racv.com.au

WINDSOR HOTEL

One of the city's most stylish venues, the five-star, 180-room Windsor is a landmark opposite the State Parliament, built in 1883 (historic in Melbourne terms). Its four meeting rooms are elegant and ornate, in Victorian-era style, with the largest holding 400 people for cocktails or 230 diners for banquets. 111 Spring Street; thehotelwindsor.com.au

OTHER VENUES

Other worthwhile five-star options include the 107-room Como (mirvachotels.com), located amid South Yarra's Chapel Street boutiques, and the 363-room, city-centre Sofitel on Collins (sofitel.com). They accommodate 150 and 1,000 delegates theatre-style respectively. The World Heritage-listed Royal Exhibition Building (museumvictoria.com.au) in Carlton Gardens, completed in 1880, is still in demand for trade shows, with 11,000 sqm of space on two levels.



Just a short trip outside Melbourne will take you to places full of vineyards, penguins and koalas.



shops, boutiques and a local phenomenon called “small bars”. Among the best is the Gin Palace, with an eclectic mix of old furniture and multitudinous gins, and Berlin, modelled on the German city pre-unification. Bennetts Lane draws jazz aficionados from around the world.

Away from the lanes, the most famous pub is Young and Jacksons. It's famous for a painting called Chloé, a nude that once scandalised a less tolerant Melbourne (it was withdrawn from exhibition from the National Gallery of Victoria in 1883). From here, it's a few blocks to “theatre land”, anchored by the gloriously restored Princess. For a more modernist take on the cultural scene, Arts Centre Melbourne plays host to everything from orchestral concerts to opera, drama and ballet.

Along the Southbank are some of the city's top meeting and event venues. The Crown Entertainment Complex has several award-winning eateries, three hotels, shopping arcades, a food court, spas, bars and a casino. Just beyond it, the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (mcec.com.au) has one of the southern hemisphere's largest pillar-free floor space, accommodating 5,440 delegates theatre-style.

The city's backyard also brims with post-conference diversions – including the Great Ocean Road, one of the world's iconic drives. It's commonly included on incentive trips – as is a visit to the Eureka Skydeck 88, where you can step into a glass cube protruding from the 88th floor of the skyscraper to enjoy superb city, bay and countryside views.

WINE, GOLD, OR COALAS?

Other popular options include a visit to some of Australia's top wine districts (of which five, including the Yarra Valley and Mornington Peninsula, are within a 90-minute drive), gold rush towns such as Ballarat and Bendigo, Phillip Island's koalas and penguin colony, and Melbourne Aquarium. Art options include the National Gallery of Victoria and the Ian Potter Centre on Federation Square, known for Australian art.

Melbourne is undeniably a long-haul destination – the shortest flights from London take 22 hours 20 minutes – but getting here is relatively easy. Direct flights are currently jointly operated by British Airways and Qantas. This arrangement is set to cease from next April when Qantas goes its own way with flights now routed via Dubai rather than Singapore, following its new tie-up with Emirates.

If delegates wish to see more of the country before or after conferences, Tullamarine airport, 22km northwest of the city, has an impressive domestic network.



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THE NEW TERMINAL IN KIEV

If you wish to see the Pechersk Lavra, the famous Khreschatyk street, or alleys which Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz walked along as a child, you need to visit the Ukrainian capital - reports **Marzena Mróz**, who recently landed at the Boryspil Kyiv Airport.

Ukraine's largest airport, which handles international and domestic flights is located in the town of Boryspil, about 29 km east of the centre of Kiev. It's one of three airports (together with Żulianów and Hos-tomla), which serve the capital.

A WALK ALONG THE KHRESCHATYK

Kiev-Boryspil is the most popular, and the largest international and domestic airport in the country. Until recently it handled 6 million passengers a year. However, since

its expansion made for Euro 2012 - the number of travellers will soon probably double. No wonder, because Kiev has many attractions. When you visit the city, you simply must see the Sophia Cathedral and the Pechersk Lavra – both of which are UNESCO World Heritage sites. You should also visit the house of writer Mikhail Bulgakov on the Andriyivskyy Descent, and go for a stroll along the beautiful Khreschatyk street, which at weekends becomes a pedestrian zone. Other interesting places include the Andreevski Descent, the Museum of the Great Patriotic War, St. Michael's Golden-Domed Monastery, and the Golden Gate.

NOVELTIES FOR EURO 2012

The airport has four terminals. Terminal B is dedicated to domestic and international flights, while terminal C is used by business and VIP aircraft. Terminal D is used by international flights, and just before Euro 2012 championship, after four years of construction, a modern international terminal F was opened.

The construction of the new 107,000 sq m terminal cost 4.8 billion hryvnias (over PLN 2 billion). The terminal features 61 check-in desks, 18 security control checkpoints, and 28 passport control booths. There's even a moving walkway installed for the conveni-



ence of the passengers. There are 11 boarding bridges which can be used by Boeing 747 and 737 aircraft. The new terminal handles mostly international flights, including to and from Poland.

The futuristic place looks like a construction from the 22nd century and offers passengers a variety of amenities, including banks, shops, cafes, bars, internet access, airline offices, travel agencies, as well as a business centre. The only disappointment is the absence of Ukrainian cognacs in the duty free shop, but I hope it's just a temporary inconvenience ...

MORE THAN 50 AIRLINES

The airport is served by over 50 airlines. These include Aerosvit, Ukraine International Airlines, Air France, KLM, Austrian Airlines, British Airways, LOT Polish Airlines, Swiss, and Wizz Air.

Ukraine's largest airport has a long history. It used to be a military airport, but since 1959 it has handled passenger and cargo flights. The first permanent connection was launched on Moscow-Kiev-Moscow and Leningrad-Kiev-Leningrad route. In

November 1960 an airline was established here with the fleet of the famous Tu-104 and An-10 aircraft. In 1965, a new passenger terminal was opened. Since 1980, Boryspil Airport handled some international flights for senior members of the communist party of the USSR, while ordinary citizens could depart the Soviet Union only via Moscow Sheremetyevo airport. Finally, on 11 March 1993 with a regulation by the Minister of Transport of Ukraine, the Boryspil International Airport was officially launched.

At the beginning of the 21st century, it was not only a hub for direct flights, but also for transit flights of foreign airlines. In 2001, the construction of a new runway was completed and the airport was able to handle 1.5 million passengers. A year later, it obtained ISO 9001 certification for quality management system. Today it is regarded as one of the largest airports in Eastern Europe. It's expected that in 2020 the Kiev-Boryspil will handle 18 million passengers a year. There are also further plans for its expansion, such as for example the construction of a new runway.

Important info

Boryspil International Airport

IATA code: KBP

ICAO Code:

Official website of the airport:

<http://kbp.com.ua>

• All travel information and airport information can be obtained by phone at +380 44 490 47 77

or e-mail: info_phone@kbp.kiev.ua.

Kiev-Boryspil international airport has four terminals:

- **Terminal B** - handles domestic and international flights
- **Terminal C** – used by VIP guests
- **Terminal D** – handles international flights
- **Terminal F** – handles international flights

Car rental companies

• You can rent a car directly at the airport. Car rental companies present at Boryspil include Avis, Hertz and Europcar. Passengers can also use the airport's car parks.

Transportation

The airport boasts a well-developed transportation system. This includes taxis, buses and underground railway service.

• Taxis

The taxi rank is situated directly in front of the arrivals hall. Estimated travel time to the centre of Kiev is 20-40 minutes. Cost: around €50-60. You can safely use a taxi waiting at the rank or order it by telephone from such companies as FM-taxi, www.fm-taxi.kiev.ua (tel. +38 (044) 502-0-502) or INTER-AVIA LTD. (tel. +38 (295) 9-24-86).

• Bus service

To get to Kiev, you can take one of Polit buses. Their route is Borispol airport - Borispilske Street- Kharkivska Metro station - M. Bajan - Moskovska (central bus station) - Solomyanska - Urytsky - "Pivdenny" central train station. Tickets are available at the airport. Sky Bus and Astass bus companies also offer a convenient and inexpensive connection to the centre of Kiev. Buses depart from the arrivals hall and run every half an hour. The journey takes up to 30 minutes. The same carriers also offer access to the Zhulyany airport and other major cities of Ukraine, for example, Yalta, Kharkiv, Lviv, Odessa, Rovne, or Poltava. Other bus companies which serve the airport are Giunsel, Avtolux and Ukrbus.

• **Underground Railway** The nearest metro station is Boryspilska. Trains run from 6.00 am to midnight. The fare is UAH 2.

• **Hotels** As for airport hotels, I recommend the recently launched Radisson.



FLIRTING WITH FOOD

Aphrodisiac is a substance that increases sexual desire and pleasure. The most famous one are oysters. The legend has it that Casanova would eat 50 of them a day to increase his prowess. Is it possible? Scientists seem to disagree over the matter, but extraordinary food is undoubtedly one of the best preludes to sex.

Sophisticated people claim that the most erogenous human sphere is... the brain. Indeed, in the eroticism the effect of positive feedback is always there. If we think something gives us sexual arousal... it really does. Aphrodisiacs have been known for thousands of years. They owe their named to the ancient Greek goddess of love - Aphrodite. According to the legend, it was the sea foam that gave rise to the goddess, so no wonder the best aphrodisiacs come from the ocean. Apparently, oysters were eaten as aphrodisiacs by ancient Romans, as early as in 2nd century BC, and Cleopatra is said to have served them to her lovers.

TRUE OR FALSE

Did they work? Scientists can't reach an agreement. The fact is, that oysters are rich in zinc, an element indispensable for male sexual agility. Zinc also increases the production of progesterone, a hormone responsible for libido. Oysters (and mussels) also contain protein, vitamins, minerals and macro-elements, which enhance the production of sex steroids like testosterone and oestrogens. There has been serious studies to explain the phenomenon. In May 2011 Food Research International magazine published

the results of the latest studies, which indicate that aphrodisiacs really exist. The sceptics claim, however, that it is the amount that matters, not the food itself. If Casanova really ate 50 oysters a day, he indeed could feel the positive effect of the substances they contain. The problem is, such treatment would be extremely expensive and suitable only for seafood enthusiasts. The sceptics also say that if it was that simple, all the problems with sexual performance could be cured with vitamins and dietary supplements. Some other people claim that the truth lies in between. That's a reasonable approach. There's no point counting that after eating something, you will become a sex demon, but if you share the table together it can easily lead to sharing the bed. Especially, if we sit at a table celebrating some unusual event or holiday, with a wonderful person eating mouth-watering dishes. And Valentine's Day is one of such holidays, so how about an oyster dinner for two? Luckily, you will have no problem buying oysters in any of the bigger cities in Poland.

WITH NO UNPLEASANT SURPRISES

In the past people believed you shouldn't eat them in months with the letter "r" (English and French names). It had nothing to do with oysters themselves, but with the temperature. In spring and summer, hot temperature makes it difficult to transport and store oysters. Today it's not a problem anymore, but the gourmets still believe they taste best in winter. The biggest problem is that they need to be very fresh. Oysters should be served... alive. Unfresh are not only tasteless, but eating them may result in food poisoning. Apparently, king Louis XIV of France, a great oys-

ter enthusiast, had hid chef beheaded, as he served unfresh oysters. How to check if the oysters are fresh? They should have tightly closed shells. If they are open, you need to knock it. A live oyster will close immediately. Once you've made your choice, weigh the oysters in your hands - they should be heavy. You should eat them on the very same day you bought them. You could also keep it in the fridge (no more than 24 hours) by placing it convex side facing down. The shell (even after opening) should smell of the ocean with no fishy smell.

LOVE IT OR HATE IT

Once opened (see: the box) the oysters should be placed gently - so as not to spill the liquid they contain - on a plate with crushed ice. The connoisseurs eat them just like that, while drinking the liquid out of the shells. You can also drizzle the oysters with lemon juice, tabasco sauce and sprinkle with white pepper. The smallest helping is 6 oysters per person, but real oysters fan will consider it too scant. But if that's your "first time" with oysters, you may want to have even less than that. Apparently, if you haven't tried them, you can't even speculate about whether you'll like them or not. The connoisseurs claim there are no compromises here - those who've tried them either love it, or swear they'll never put them in their mouth again. In France, oysters are served with baguettes or rye bread with butter and champagne, in Portugal - with white wine, and in Ireland... - with Guinness. I choose champagne. This noble beverage will also go well with... strawberries. And you can have a Valentine's dinner with no dessert (especially red one).

Joanna Krzyczkowska

Before you dig in

- To open the shell, hold it horizontally convex side down and through a cloth, so that it doesn't slip. Slip the tip of a sharp knife into the shell halves from the pointing edge and open the shell by moving the knife sideways.
- You should take the oyster out of the shell with a special fork - quite wide with two prongs. You can easily replace it with a dessert fork.
- Attention! You shouldn't chew oysters, but swallow them. Note that although they are sold in different sizes (the bigger the more expensive), they do not affect the taste.
- If you don't feel like trying the classic way of eating oysters, you can fry, bake or grill them as well. They go well with bacon, cheese, garlic and shallot. But why mess up the natural taste?

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A TASTE OF LUSITANIA IN THE SKY

A flight from Warsaw to Lisbon takes four hours. Too long? Well, long enough to get familiar with the new wine menu of the Portuguese TAP airline.

Portugal is one of the most original wine countries in the world. 77 indigenous vine species are grown there and a specific climate and variety of habitat in this small country make it impossible to confuse Lusitanian wine with any other. TAP has taken a role of an ambassador of Portuguese winemakers and prepared a wine menu offering a selection of the country's best brands. As aperitif you will be served sparkling wine from one of the most interesting Portuguese winemakers, Luís Pato, who

introduced the less known region of Bairrada, north of Coimbra, onto the wine map. It's made from maria gomes variety in the same method as champagne. It's one of the most recognizable sparkling wines in the country and is perfect for thirst quenching. The offer includes one more sparkling wine, Cabriz Bruto Branco, made in the region of Dão, considering a rising star of Portuguese wine regions. This time, the wine is also made in the traditional way from local bical and malvasia fina varieties.

THE GREAT FOUR

Four wines represent two wine regions in Portugal. Vallado Branco, a flowery and fruity coupage of rabigato, viosinho, arinto and verdelho varieties, made from one of the Europe's leading winemaker, Francisco Olazabal comes from Douro, a region previously known mostly for its porto. You can expect it to be fresh with great mineral overtones. The other white wine from Douro is Vinha Grande Branco from the vineyard of Casa Ferreira belonging to one of the biggest wine corporation in Portugal, Sogrape



The robust Monte da Cal Reserva, which matures for 8 months in barrels also comes from Alentejo. It's a coupage of indigenous Portuguese trincadeira variety with world-famous alicante bouschet and more and more popular syrah - which adapts well to the country's hot climate.



TAP has taken a role of an ambassador of Portuguese winemakers and prepared a wine menu offering a selection of the country's best brands.



company. It matures in wooden barrels and is a serious, complex wine, which goes well with a meal. The other region, the white wines served on TAP planes come from is Alentejo, located in the south of Lisbon, along the border with Spain. Its climate is usually hot and dry, so the wines are mostly strong and very characteristic. Vinha da Defesa Branco is produced by the most famous winery in the region, Herdade do Esporão from antão vaz, arinto and roupeiro varieties. It has the aroma of tropical fruit, it's rich and goes well with lettuce, fish and Eastern cuisine. Paulo Laureano Reserva is pure antão vaz with tropical fruit and tangerine aroma - an alluring wine of strong structure, very elegant.

RED POWER

The robust Monte da Cal Reserva, which matures for 8 months in barrels also comes from Alentejo. It's a coupage of indigenous Portuguese trincadeira variety with world-famous alicante bouschet and the popular syrah - which adapts well to the country's

hot climate. Casa de Santar Reserva is made further northwards in Dão, from the most important Portuguese red touriga nacional variety, typical for the region alfocheiro and tinta roriz, well-known in Spain by the name of tempranillo. This wine is distinguished by its intense flavour with the aroma of oak barrel, in which it matures. Perfect with a proper meal Time to go back to Douro Until 1930's Quinta do Cotto was famous for port production. After the grape phylloxera (a species of pest which destroyed all the European winemaking industry at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries) blight the winemakers decided to turn to dry wines. The red wine originating here is a coupage of touriga nacional, tinta roriz, touriga francesa and sousão. It matures for 9 months in barrels made of Portuguese oak and is elegant, balanced and very universal, when it comes to food that matches it. The last red wine comes from a winery, which until recently, was famous only for port production. The owners of Churchill's

have taken up the gauntlet thrown down by other wineries and expanded their production line with dry wines. One of them is Estate Tinto - elegant, combining overtones of oak and juicy fruit. Modern but still very Portuguese in character. It's worthwhile to note that Wine & Spirits magazine has awarded it Winery of the Year 2012.

ALWAYS PORTO

Since we're flying with TAP, the menu must include port. The airline's sommelier has chosen 10-year-old tawny wines from Churchill's - distinctive and perfectly balanced enhanced wines. Ideal after a meal Or instead of... Economy class travellers can choose from two white and two red wines from Alentejo and Dão - Versátil and Grilos respectively. Given that Portugal is a country where wines of the best price/quality ratio are produced, the flight from Warsaw to Lisbon passes in the blink of an eye.

Andrzej Jaworski

EXPRESSION AND POWER

The BMW X6 is the world's first ever Sports Activity Coupé. It is a unique combination of sporty dynamics and supreme versatility and with further enhanced appeal from spring 2012.





Its exceptional standing and ongoing popularity is due to both its highly expressive design, combining the athletic and elegant lines of a coupé with the supremacy of a BMW X model, and the fascinating driving experience provided by powerful petrol and diesel engines fitted with BMW TwinPower Turbo Technology and the intelligent all-wheel-drive system xDrive, including Dynamic Performance Control.

THE WINNING CONCEPT

Since its market launch, more than 150,000 of the Sporty Activity Coupé were sold within approximately three years. This far exceeded the original plans. And the continuing high level of demand for the BMW X6 on the worldwide automobile markets is impressive confirmation of the unusual vehicle concept of the Sports Activity Coupé. The standard fog lights are now set in matt finish surrounds in the upper area of the outer air inlets. Their higher and more lateral position emphasises the width of the vehicle. The striking three-dimensional modelling of the frame and newly designed bars, angled in the lower section, make the BMW kidney grille stand out especially conspicuously within the vehicle front section.

The angle of the grille bars is flush with the bottom of the headlamp units, thereby creating an additional horizontal line. This highlights the wide track and stable road-holding of the new BMW X6.

The new BMW X6 is the first vehicle in its segment to be fitted optionally with adaptive LED headlamps. Their bright white light ensures optimum visibility, while their high-quality appearance represents a new interpretation of the brand's hallmark twin circular headlamps.

The three-dimensionally shaped luminous rings of the adaptive LED headlamps are strikingly levelled off both at the top and bottom and are overlaid at the upper edge by an LED-fed accent light. The light sources for low and high beam light are LED units positioned on a horizontal bar at its centre, feeding their light into the reflectors in front. In the new BMW X6 M, adaptive LED headlights are fitted as standard.

With its newly designed rear lights with LED technology, the powerfully shaped rear section of the new BMW X6 also features more intense styling. The rear lights are now two LED-fed light banks which create the brand's hallmark night design as a harmoniously glowing light mass. The fact that they are horizontally aligned and stretch far

out to the sides emphasises both the width of the vehicle and the flowing transition between the side section and rear.

PAINT FINISHES

The program of external paint finishes for the new BMW X6 consists of two non-metallic and eight metallic colours, including Marrakech Brown metallic, Orion Silver metallic and Midnight Blue metallic. The standard equipment range of the new BMW X6 also includes 19-inch light alloy wheels. In the 8-cylinder model BMW X6 xDrive 50i these now feature a new double spoke design in bi-colour. The selection of light alloy wheels available as an option is supplemented with a 20-inch version in Y-spoke, bi-colour design. An optional feature for the BMW X6 is an engine compartment lid with strikingly shaped powerdome which additionally highlights the powerful appearance of the Sports Activity Coupé. The standard leather trim Nevada is now also available in the colour Vermilion Red. The exclusive nappa leather option with extended features now includes a choice between the colours Black and Ebony White. The new BMW X6 is offered as standard as a four-seater model. A three-seater rear bench is optionally available. The luggage



With the market launch of the new BMW X6, a powerful combination of mighty looks, sporty performance and efficiency typical of the make, was raised to a new level.

compartment volume of the Sports Activity Coupé is 570 litres and can be extended to up to 1,450 litres by folding down the rear backrests.

LET THE POWER BE WITH YOU

The petrol and diesel engines with BMW TwinPower Turbo Technology available for the BMW X6 deliver impressive pulling power and exemplary low fuel consumption figures. The V8 engine of the BMW X6 xDrive50i delivers 300 kW/407 bhp, while in the BMW X6 xDrive35i an in-line 6-cylinder petrol engine with 225 kW/306 bhp ensures supreme athletic performance. An additional model version based on the new BMW X6 also lines up for the start at the same as the market launch of the latter. The BMW M Performance Automobile BMW X6 M50d sets a new benchmark for pulling power and efficiency with a newly developed 280 kW/381 bhp in-line 6-cylinder diesel engine. Its maximum torque is 740 Newton metres. One of the factors contributing to its exceptional efficiency - especially in relation to its output - is the new

version of the common rail direct injection. With an acceleration rate of 5.3 seconds for the sprint from zero to 100 km/h, the BMW X6 M50d even outdoes 8-cylinder models, while its average fuel consumption in the EU test cycle is still only 7.7 litres per 100 kilometres. Its drivetrain, suspension technology and aerodynamic properties have been harmonised with the precision so characteristic of M.

Dynamic Performance Control is a standard feature in all versions of the BMW X6 as an element of the intelligent all-wheel drive system xDrive. This gives greater precision to the electronically controlled power distribution so as to optimise driving stability, traction and dynamic performance. It particularly comes to bear when taking bends in sporty style. Even as the car enters the bend, xDrive feeds additional power to the rear wheels. By means of continuously variable distribution of drive torque between the rear wheels, Dynamic Performance Control also optimises tracking stability under high transverse acceleration forces as well as traction when accelerating out of a bend.

For additional enhancement of agility and supremacy, the systems Active Steering (not available for the BMW X6 M50d and the BMW X6 M) and Adaptive Drive (as standard in the BMW X6 M50d and the BMW X6 M) are offered with electronically controlled dampers and roll stabilisation.

EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL

The progressive character of the new BMW X6 is also underscored by the extensive range of driver assistance systems and mobility services from BMW ConnectedDrive. In addition to BMW Head-Up-Display, features available for the Sports Activity Coupé include the systems Lane Departure Warning (not for the BMW X6 M50d and the BMW X6 M), Speed Limit Info, Side View and Rear View camera with Top View. The new BMW X6 is also optimised by means of intelligent networking with the integration of smartphones and music players in the vehicle and the use of innovative infotainment functions.

Joanna Krzyczkowska

FOT: MATERIALY PRASOWE

4 HOURS IN ... SALZBURG

The charming city situated at the foot of the Alps and associated with Mozart, Mozartkugel chocolate, and Baroque monuments, can be a great idea for a romantic getaway. **Marzena Mróz** takes you to a place which you must visit, even if for just one day.



Although Salzburg is populated by less than 150,000 people, the city is a venue for almost 4,000 cultural events each year. Not surprisingly, as the charm of the city is simply unforgettable. The Hohensalzburg Fortress, Baroque domes and the towers of the cathedral, as well as the Franciscans and the university churches look even more majestic with Mönchsberg mountain in the background. In the distance looms the legendary Untersberg mountain. Salzburg has a lot to offer. Apart from its spectacular location, charming atmosphere and the beautiful old town, it's famous for its music festivals and excellent cuisine.

THE OLD TOWN

Surrounded by mountains and the Salzach river, the Old Town of Salzburg, which occupies mere one square kilometre, has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1997. It's interesting to know that up until 1816 Salzburg had been the seat of the Archbishopric of Salzburg, a prince-bishopric of the Holy Roman Empire. The country had a long tradition, as it had existed since the year of 696 until the beginning of the 19th century. Since salt and gold were mined in this area, the rulers and the inhabitants were considered quite wealthy. The evidence of that fact is the fortified stronghold, and as many as 20 churches. Most of them are Baroque buildings, including the Cathedral of St. Rupert - the patron saint and founder of the city. You should also visit the St. Peter Abbey (which is a Benedictine monastery), as well as the Franciscan church. Strolling through the narrow streets, you pass the alleyways and courtyards of houses from the second half of the 13th century. Here you will find the bishop's residence, as well as five large squares.

Mozart's House

This medieval town house at 9 Getreidegasse, was the home of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart who was born here on 27 January 1756, in a flat located on the 3rd floor. The



Surrounded by mountains and the Salzach river, the Old Town of Salzburg, which occupies mere one square kilometre, has been a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1997.

elements which date back to that time include the kitchen, the clavichord which Mozart used to compose 350 pieces of music including "The Magic Flute" and "La Clemenza di Tito", two locks of his hair, several buttons from his coat, a snuff-box, and the violin which he played as a child. The view from the window hasn't changed over the years, so we can assume that what Mozart saw after waking up each morning was the nearby church.

FESTIVALS AND CONCERTS

When going to Salzburg, it's worth checking what festival or concert will take place there during your stay there (www.salzburg.info). The art year in the city starts with the Mozart Week in January, which is followed by the Easter Festival, the Whitsun Festival, and the Salzburg Festival in summer. October is the month of the Culture Days. Early November is marked by jazz (Salzburg Autumn Jazz), while the period before Christmas is filled with romantic Advent Singing held in the Great Festival Hall.

EUROPE'S OLDEST RESTAURANT

The place is called "St. Peter's Beer Cellar" and the first record of its existence dates back to 803 when supposedly Charlemagne himself dined here. Today it's an elegant restaurant with several rooms, known primarily from the so-called Mozart Dinner concerts. Almost every day, guests can enjoy dishes whose recipes date back to Mozart

times (including his favourite cinnamon soup), listening to a concert with musicians in period costumes and the music composed by the great master.

SALZBURG FLACHAU SKI SHUTTLE

In winter, active leisure enthusiasts can take advantage of free trips to ski resorts offered by the city of Salzburg. In this way you can combine a visit to Mozart's hometown with practising winter sports. A special shuttle bus, which runs until 17 March 2013, takes tourists to the slopes of Flachau, about 70 km away from Salzburg. This ski resort is a part of the extensive ski area named Ski am Adé, offering a total of 860 km of ski runs. The bus stops are located near the Europark mall (departure at 8.00 am), at Mirabellplatz (8.30 am) and next to Hubertushof hotel in Anif (8.45 am). The bus returns to Salzburg every day at 4.00 pm. The skiers are accompanied by a local guide who can also help you obtain ski passes, rent necessary equipment and provide information about other forms of active recreation in the area. www.salzburg.info

SALZBURG CARD

This is the coolest way to explore Salzburg! The card, which is valid for 24, 48 or 72 hours, entitles you to a single admission to all museums and historical places, as well as to the use of the city's public transport (www.salzburg.info).

Where to go

- The luxurious five-star Goldener Hirsch hotel situated in the heart of the Old Town, on Getreidegasse. www.goldenerhirsch.com/en
- The four-star boutique hotel Stein is situated on a bank of the river. Breakfast is served in the restaurant which features a glass roof. The place has been in operation since 1399 years; www.hotelstein.at
- "Zum Eulenspiegel" restaurant, situated opposite the Mozart's house, is renowned for its traditional cuisine served in an elegant form. The small rooms spread over several floors of the building, are decorated in a rustic-medieval style. Centuries ago the building housed ... a brothel. www.zum-eulenspiegel.at
- "Zum fidelen Affen" restaurant - known for its good, typical Austrian cuisine and many types of beers, e-mail: info@fideleraffe.at.
- Stiegl brewery, which has brewed traditional March beer since 1492. The visit includes beer tasting; www.stiegl.at.
- Hangar-7 - a glass building at Salzburg airport. It's the investment made by Dietrich Mateschitz - the owner of Red Bull. There you can see a collection of old aircraft, and eat in one of the most sophisticated restaurants in Austria; www.hangar-7.com



ASK PETER

Letters

Piotr Kalita is related with air transport market for almost 20 years. He is specializing in corporate and diplomatic travel segment. Have a question? - ask Piotr. Mail your question to: redakcja@businesstraveller.pl

I was expecting an Airbus

I bought tickets for a flight from Frankfurt to New York. As I was travelling with children I chose an Airbus flight, as they come with built-in screens in the seats. Before making the purchase, I inquired at the travel agency to make sure this would be an Airbus. I chose particular seats as well. But the plane turned out to be an old jumbo jet with no screens. I'm planning to demand a refund. What's the best way to do it?

Maria

Dear Maria,
I understand that the entertainment system advertised by the carrier was the main reason you bought the ticket in the first place, but I'm afraid my response will disappoint you. You have signed a contract for a flight from Frankfurt to New York at a certain date and time. The airline has fulfilled their duty. No particular plane type or services available on board were the subject matter of this contract. The specific conditions don't describe such details. Similarly, EU regulations concerning passengers' rights don't allow for such cases either. That's why you can't demand any refund on the grounds that your plane was changed and your claim will be rejected by the airline.

I encountered a similar problem when passengers bought tickets in premium economy class, and in the end the plane type was changed. The new plane had a different seat configuration with no premium economy, so the passengers had to travel in standard economy class. However, in this case, they were given a refund because of a change in the ticket price, but also because of the class downgrade.

If the plane had the entertainment system, but the one in your seat didn't work (e.g. because of a screen failure), you would have a right to demand compensation. In such a case, the passengers can expect additional points in the loyalty scheme or a discount on the next ticket they buy.

Naturally, you always have the possibility to file a complaint to your airline. It will be investigated and the carrier will address your claim.

Hotel booking rules

I'm responsible for booking plane tickets for my boss. What are the rules when it comes to cancelling a reservation in a hotel? Why do I need to provide the card number? Also, recently I have received a special, lower rate for a room at one hotel, but it turns out that the price doesn't include breakfast. Is it a common practice now?

Małgorzata

Dear Małgorzata,
There are a few different hotel rates. Each of them may have other confirmation and cancellation conditions. The general rule is similar to this regarding airline tariffs - the lower the price, the more restrictive the cancellation conditions. With business travels when plans may change unexpectedly, people usually choose the rate which allows for a cancellation without any costs.

The majority of reservations needs to be confirmed. That's why it's necessary to provide the number of your credit card. Some hotels may accept cheques, but it's a much less common practice now. You don't have to make the payment with the credit card you used for confirmation. You can pay with a different one, by cash or money transfer.

Usually you may cancel the reservation until 6.00 pm on the day of your planned arrival. After this time the hotel will charge the credit card used for confirmation with the price of the first date of your stay. Like airlines, hotels have a very detailed policy when it comes to managing rates and vacancies. They can't risk losing profits because someone "blocks" a room until the very last moment. Some rates require cancellation 48 or even 72 hours before the arrival. The higher rates require a confirmation, and the reservation is kept until 6.00 pm - that's why you have to confirm the stay with the credit card even if you arrive late in the evening.

During special occasions (like the Olympic Games, conferences, fairs), hotels may require an advance payment in a form of non-returnable deposit for the whole stay. In such a case, cancellation will cause the hotel to charge you for all the days you've booked.

These days more and more corporate rates don't include breakfast. The standard service includes only accommodation. If you need any additional services (breakfast, parking space) you need to provide adequate information when making the reservation. These will be added to your bill.

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