

Business Traveller Poland

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The Best Golf Courses in Poland

THINGS

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Golf isn't just an extremely difficult discipline, which requires extraordinary control to hole the ball, as well as concentration, and technical perfection. It's, basically, a lifestyle and an etiquette you must comply with. This elite sport, which was once in Poland considered to be manifestation of the imperialist indecency, is now gaining more and more enthusiasts. The last few years have marked a rapid development of golf in our country, so this month we have decided to present the best Polish golf courses.

We are accustomed to long journeys. There are, however, certain things that we can't put up with during a flight. In this month's issue you can read about 101 reasons why we hate flying. And since we're talking about travelling, I recommend this issue's reports from our stays at hotels in Warsaw, Krynica, Zakopane, Wrocław and Zurich. We also went to Moscow to look at the city's local airports, which have great aspirations, but whose development is still somewhat being hindered by the shadows from the dark, communist past. This month, we also visited California and Nevada, USA, to find out how suitable they are as venues for an unforgettable incentive trip. We also invite you to Bombay, recommending the best ways of spending your free time while on a business trip there.

Autumn has finally come, and perhaps it's time to start thinking about the way we will welcome the

New Year. Our proposal is truly original – a New Year cruise aboard a luxury cruise liner. It's bound to be unforgettable.

I also recommend our regular articles on technological novelties, cars, as well as the cultural news. After all, our magazine is like one of the golf master strokes – “hole in one”.

Enjoy your reading.



Robert Grzybowski
Publisher BT Poland



Read more details! Visit businessstraveller.pl

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LOT in the Black

The Polish carrier caught a second wind and its present financial results may mean the LOT will finish this year in the black. Marcin Piróg, the CEO of LOT Polish Airlines has reported that the net result for the first 7 months of 2011 amounts to PLN 140.3 million which is a vast improvement over minus 64.5 million last year. This result was possible, mostly due to capital transactions conducted by LOT at the beginning of the year. The return on ordinary activi-

ties in July amounted to PLN 28.6 million and was higher than the one achieved in July 2010 by 27.1 million. In July 2011 transport results in Business Class improved by 32.1% on short/medium-haul flights and by 26.8% on long-haul flights compared to the same period last year. Punctuality and regularity of flights operated by LOT have also improved.

The average punctuality of service amounted to 84.7% and the regularity reached 97.4%.

Triple Miles & More

LOT prowadzi akcję promującą połączenia w klasie bizneLOT is running a campaign to promote business connections. Until the end of November the members of Miles&More programme have the opportunity to collect triple Miles and More for a journey in business class on all international routes of the Polish carrier.

M&M frequent flyer programme, which allows its members to collect and redeem miles on all connections of airlines belonging to Star Alliance (although there are also many other partners to the programme), has now over 20 million participants.

Business Traveller Awards Announced



The British edition of Business Traveller has announced the winners of the prestigious Business Traveller Awards 2011. BT Awards have become an extremely valuable and important honours, especially because they are awarded by the votes of readers which authenticated by special independent auditors. In other words, it's the voice of those who every day use the services of airlines, hotels or car rental companies, and know the best who is the best in the business. This year there were many winning categories, so we will list here only the most important distinctions.

There were a few surprises, but perhaps the greatest one was the fact that the title for the world's best airline this year went to British Airways – not to Singapore Airlines. However, the carrier from Singapore was honoured in many other categories such as the Best Business Class, the Best Economy Class, and the best cabin crew. Singapore's Changi Airport, which has been unbeatable for several years in a row, this year was also the best. The title for the best European airport went to Schiphol in Amsterdam, and Avis was selected as the best car rental company. The title for the best business hotel chain went to Four Seasons, and for the business hotel to The Peninsula Hong Kong.

Poland has also something to rejoice, as once again, LOT Polish Airline was awarded the title of the Best Airline in Eastern Europe.



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Contact Scanner

A new, interesting device has appeared on the market. It allows you to quickly collect and easily manage your received contacts. In other words, it solves your problem with dozens of business cards that you get at various business meetings. CardScan, because that's the name of Dymo's product, is a combination of a high speed business card scanner and the latest version of the software to manage business contacts. Simply insert the card there, and the scanned text will be placed in the appropriate fields of your electronic address book. CardScan Business Card can now scan in 7 languages of 14 different countries. Of course, your contact database can at any time be exported to file formats such as Microsoft Outlook, Outlook Express, Excel, or Palm Desktop.

A New System

Lesser Poland will soon see the launch of new tourist information centres, as a part of the Lesser Poland's Tourist Information System which is now being implemented. It sounds great, especially with the Football European Championship in mind. The founders of the system claim that the project is primarily designed for tourists, for whom now planning trips, weekend or holiday in Lesser Poland will become easier than ever.

There will be 34 such information centres in the region, connected to the central integrated computer system. The project also includes launching a new regional travel website, as well as installing a network of 24/7 infokiosks.



Finnair's New Look

The Finnish airline is boldly forging ahead, has clear objectives, and it seems more and more certain that it will soon become one of the key players in the European skies in the following years. Mika Vehviläinen, CEO of the Finnish airline, says that fears that the crisis and developing new technologies, including videoconferencing, will hamper the growth of civil aviation business sector, is not entirely true. In planning its strategy, Finnair decided that the most important course of action will be focusing on destinations in Asia. Every day, nearly 30 million people travel between Asia and Europe, half of this number must use transfer flights – and these are seen by Finnair as its potential customers. In three years time the fleet of the carrier will be joined by modern Airbus A350 air-

craft, which will increase efficiency, saving fuel and the natural environment. Mika Vehviläinen emphasized that Finnair, which currently operates over 74 Asian connections every week, wants to increase this number to 140. Finnair will also look for large, reliable partners with whom they will be able to create new solutions. One of such ideas is Flybe Nordic – a new airline which will soon be launched as an effect of the alliance between Finnair and Flybe, which is about to take over the northern routes of Finncom (more details in next month's issue).

Also the image of the airline will change, now promoting slogan "Peace of Mind", with the new uniforms of pilots and cabin crew to confirm it. The author of the changes is the famous Finnish designer Ritva-Liisa Pohjalainen.

To Our Cousins

Hungarians, travelling across Europe with special offers, invite us to visit their country, especially Budapest. We, don't have to be very much urged to do so, the old adage about the brotherhood of both our nations says it all. There are now several wine festivals taking place in Hungary. During the first days of October you can take part in the grand events in Tokaj and Villány. Not all us may remember the fact that Hungary is not only the Bull's Blood, which was drunk in grim communist times as the most sophisticated drink. There are as many as 22 wine regions that produce really good wine.



The beautiful Lake Balaton can wait until the next holiday, but it's always worth visiting Budapest because it's beautiful and vibrant city.

There won't be any trouble getting there, as well, because the Hungarian Malev airlines fly from Warsaw to Budapest almost every day, and the flight itself takes only an hour.



PRZEBADAJ SIĘ W JEDEN DZIEŃ, ZRÓB TO KOMPLEKSOWO

Czy wiesz, że historia fascynacji ludzkim ciałem sięga XV wieku? Anatomia była pasją Leonarda da Vinci, jednego z największych geniuszy sztuki, nauki i techniki wszech czasów.

Choroby cywilizacyjne to zмога współczesnego świata. Jak wynika ze statystyk, blisko połowa zgonów spowodowanych jest chorobami układu krążenia, zaś jedna czwarta chorobami nowotworowymi. W przypadku tych ostatnich współczynnik umieralności stale wzrasta. **Jak przeciwdziałać śmiertelnym chorobom i jakie metody profilaktyki stosować? Jednym ze skutecznych rozwiązań jest Screening Stanu Zdrowia**, dogłębny i precyzyjny program badań diagnostycznych pozwalający na szczegółowy przegląd i ocenę stanu zdrowia. Od niedawna można z niego skorzystać w warszawskim Szpitalu Medcover.

UNIKALNY PROGRAM W POLSCE

Dzięki współpracy specjalistów z różnych dziedzin oraz zastosowaniu nowoczesnego sprzętu medycznego w ciągu jednego dnia jesteśmy w stanie rozpoznać czynniki ryzyka i występujące schorzenia. A w przypadku zdiagnozowania poważnej choroby podjąć natychmiastowe leczenie czy dalszą diagnostykę. Personel Szpitala Medcover 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 Medcover znajdują się takie urządzenia jak: **18-kanałowy rezonans magnetyczny**, pierwszy z systemów MR wyposażony w technologię TIM (Total Imaging Matrix), 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. Jest tu również nowoczesna **cyfrowa pracownia rentgenowska**. Zaplecze diagnostyki ultrasonograficznej wyposażone jest w najwyższej klasy **ultrasonograf z opcją Dopplera** do badań naczyniowych i **aparat USG** wyposażony w opcje wykonywania badań w czasie rzeczywistym w obrazowaniu 4D.



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



Dr n. med. Mieczysław Kopacz – Szef Kliniki Kardiologii Szpitala Medcover w Warszawie

Sheraton Cracow Awarded

One of the largest hotel groups, Starwood Hotels & Resorts, has for years rewarded its selected hotels for their best achievements. The Hotel of the Year Award is a great recognition, because the areas which are evaluated by the jury include the annual financial results, the rate of guest satisfaction, and compliance with brand standards.

To our great delight, the award for Starwood hotels in the region of Central – Eastern Europe has been presented to Sheraton Cracow. It's the third such award for Sheraton Cracow as previously it was honoured in 2005 and 2006). The hotel in Cracow has also been awarded the prize in the category of Quality, and Compliance with Brand Standards.

This exceptionally beautiful hotel (we have described it in our Tried & Tested section) has 232 rooms, conference rooms, a ballroom, a restaurant, as well as Sheraton Fitness and swimming pool.



New Hotels on the Offer of Orbis Hotel Group

Orbis Hotel Group is now introducing the global strategy of its strategic partner, Accor Group. The goal of the group is to make the budget brands more dynamic and to create their new architecture. Under the assumptions of this plan, ibis will become the dominant brand, offering three complementary products through the following brands: ibis, ibis styles (now "all seasons"), and ibis budget (now "Etap hotels"). The project consists of modernization, change of corporate identity as well as the introduction of new products and services.

In 2012, four new budget hotels will be launched under the new brands ibis and ibis budget. In this way, the number of budget hotels belonging to Orbis Hotel Group will increase to 22. The new facilities to be opened as a complex of 2 hotels ibis and ibis and budget are located in Warsaw on Bitwy Warszawskiej 1920r Street, as well as in Cracow on Pawia Street. Ibis and ibis budget Warszawa Reduta complex will offer 333 rooms available, while ibis and ibis budget Cracow Old Town will have 302 rooms.

Lufthansa and Swiss Awarded

The awards of the 18th edition of the World Travel Awards have been announced. The World Travel Awards are known as Oscars for travel industry – the most prestigious awards programme in this business. The award winners are selected by the independent body of more than 213,000 experts from around the world.

Once again, Lufthansa was selected as Europe's Leading Airline. The criteria of as-

essment include all aspects of business, including overall performance, work on the development of product offer, innovation, creativity and customer satisfaction. Swiss International Air Lines which is a part of Lufthansa Group, received Europe's Leading Business Class award. The Swiss carrier has just completed the modernization of its 25 long-haul aircraft, modernizing its business-class cabins (we wrote about the new class in the previous issue of BT).



Golden Tulip at Euro2012

Louvre Hotels Group, which was established this year, is now the tenth hotel group in the world. Since January 2011 it has opened 42 hotels, offering over 4,000 rooms. The group is planning to launch another 28 hotels by the end of 2011, and nearly 100 of them in each subsequent year, for the next 5 years. The group currently manages the seven brands: Première Classe, Campanile, Kyriad, Kyriad Prestige, Tulip Inn, Golden Tulip and Royal Tulip.

In Poland Louvre has now 10 hotels and there are plans to double this number in the near future. The newest hotel, opened a few days ago, is a luxury Golden Tulip in Towarowa Street in the very heart of Warsaw. A real test for this place will be next year's Football European Championship, as Golden Tulip will host foreign journalists coming to Poland for EURO 2012.



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HOTEL Hotel Rialto

WHAT'S IT LIKE? There's no other place like this in Warsaw. The owners of Rialto managed to turn the hands of the time back to early 20th century when the building was in a perfect condition. This boutique hotel, inspired by Art Deco style, offers a truly unique atmosphere.

Rialto occupies the rooms of a restored tenement house which was built at the beginning of the last century. It was officially launched in 2003 and over the years it has gained recognition and good opinion of numerous guests who have become the hotel's regulars. It's barely surprising though, as the hotel has for long been a member of prestigious Preferred Hotels & Resorts association, which brings together more than 120 independent hotels throughout the world – all of them are characterized by unconventional design, as well as a very high quality and service at the highest level.

On entering the hotel, you immediately see, that much attention is paid here to little, but nice details. For instance, the lift which is modelled on the one which carried the passengers travelling aboard our renowned "Stefan Batory" liner, with the buttons made of mother-of-pearl. There also is an interesting stained glass window, made years ago by Jerzy Owsiak, who had his own art studio. The position

of the lift in the shaft is indicated by an unusual floor counter with a long pointer. As if it wasn't enough, the key to your room looks old and heavy, although in fact it's an electronic touch card. There are numerous similar curiosities in the hotel.

WHERE IS IT? The tenement is located in the centre of the capital, at the junction of Emilia Plater and Wilcza streets. And although it's the very heart of the city, the hustle and bustle of Warsaw's life isn't particularly burdensome here. Okęcie Chopin airport is only 20-minute drive from here, of course if the city isn't paralysed by the traffic jams. The railway station is literally just a few minutes' walk from the hotel. The car park, which is accessed from Wilcza street, is protected by a massive gate.

ROOM FACILITIES Rialto offers 44 rooms – each of them is decorated in a different manner, although with a common pre-determined style. The furniture is from the early 20th century, and is mostly won at auctions held across the continent. There is, therefore, the African room, the colonial British, Belgian, and of course Vienna room. So, if you say that you have been to Rialto and you know it very well, the reality is that you have still a lot to explore. Deluxe Single rooms (there are 6 of them) have an area of 25 sq m, double Executive (27) spread over 30 sq m, and the 11 suites cover the area of 45 to 50 sq m.

I stayed in a corner suite on the 5th floor. The balcony had a view of the Pal-



ace of Culture, which in the evening looked especially marvellous when it was illuminated.

In the spacious hallway I found quite a nice surprise – the switches look like the ones from pre-war era – round, made of solid bakelite. The light can be switched on by turning the knob in a clockwise direction.

The suite had a spacious lounge. The large windows and warm light beige colours made the room look especially bright and vivid. The lounge featured a comfort-

able sofa with two armchairs and a coffee table – you can easily arrange there a nice small business meeting. The work-desk was big enough to fit the laptop, the free WiFi the access code to which I received at the reception desk, worked fine. A little further on a beautiful sideboard, there was tea and coffee making facility, and a good quality stereo.

The lounge was connected to the bedroom which featured a large comfortable bed. The bathroom was also quite spacious and the detail which immediately drew my attention was a free-stand-

ing bathtub in the old style, as well as the built-in shower, and a well-lit magnifying mirror.

All rooms, of course, have individually controlled air conditioning, large screen TV, laptop safes and well-stocked minibars.

BUSINESS FACILITIES Two conference rooms, Astoria and the Lido, with the necessary AV equipment and high-speed Internet access, can accommodate from 20 to 40 people at a small meeting, board meetings or less formal business events. Both rooms have daylight access.



BARS AND RESTAURANTS Rialto restaurant, featuring Art Nouveau decor (giant mirror occupies almost the entire wall), is located on the ground floor and serves breakfast from 6.30 am. This isn't, however, a typical buffet breakfast, because apart from the typical dishes served there, you can also try delicious and simply irresistible drop scones. There was a selection of sliced fruit in small containers, and the choice of bread and sweet dishes was breathtaking. The service was discreet and very nice.

Lunches and dinners at Rialto comprise mostly dishes of international cuisine, which is the specialty of an experienced, albeit a young chef Paweł Suchenka. Each dish, however, has a hint of tradition dating back a century. I can certainly recommend roast pear with cheese, which I ordered as an appetizer, and a very tasty sea bass as the main dish. You can also pop in there for a two or three-course promotional business lunch.

LEISURE FACILITIES Fitness room, sauna and a steam room are available to guests who wish to have a moment of relaxation. You can also take advantage of the offer of aromatherapy treatment.

VERDICT It's an excellent, 5-star boutique hotel located in the very heart of Warsaw. An ideal choice for the guests who wish to work in a tranquil atmosphere. Excellent service.

Jakub Olgiewicz



CONTACT Hotel Rialto; ul. Wilcza 73, 00-670 Warszawa; Tel. 22 584 87 00; rialto.pl

PRICE Internet rate for a stay in a single room at the end of September was PLN 237.



HOTEL: KRYNICA ZDRÓJ

Hotel Spa Dr Irena Eris

WHAT'S IT LIKE? Cosmetics signed with Irena Eris» name are top quality. Their production is supported with a research centre, considered one of the best in the world. Some of the products can be obtained only from the company's Skin Care Institutes and two hotels aimed at visitors who look for peace and quiet, biological renewal and relaxation in its highest form. One of the hotels is to be found on Dylewskie Hills, the other one in Krynica.

The massive building is situated at the bottom of Jaworzyna Krynicka, a ski slope with modern ski lift – an excellent solution for all ski lovers. This is reflected in the schedule of hotel's events. Rooms for Christmas and New Year's Eve were already fully booked at the beginning of July, but booking 6 months ahead of time is nothing uncommon here.

Guests enter the hotel lobby through electric sliding doors – a small reception area is on the right hand side. The staff,

dressed in nice-looking uniforms is always very polite and well-prepared. Opposite the reception area, there is a culinary section, next to a lift and a staircase.

WHERE IS IT? The hotel complex is on the outskirts of the charming town of Krynica, at the end of Czarny Potok street. The nearest airports are in Cracow, Reszów and Poprada. The hotel has also its own helipad. You can also follow my example, and drive the distance of nearly 400 kilometres from Warsaw. Given the poor condition of the Polish roads, the journey was quite smooth.

ROOM FACILITIES The hotel halls are of austere white colour. What ornaments them, are numerous illuminated coffer, which dozens of graphic arts and watercolours inside. Nowadays guests have access to 48 rooms, but soon this number will exceed 60, as the new hotel wing is being erected rather rapidly.

The suites are light and spacious. They come under different names (Grand, Vision, Glamour, Modern, Kom-

fort), as the idea was for the rooms to be very different from one another. Therefore, the rooms come with similar furniture from cherry wood, but the colours are quite different. In some of the rooms, on the other hand, the furniture is of different design and colour, while the interior is decorated with brown, beige or delicate red colours. As a result, each room is unique and original. The idea proved successful, as a number of guests have appreciate it. Naturally, all rooms have access to high-speed wireless internet. The room on the second floor, where I stayed, was over 20 sq m. The pastel-coloured walls sharply contrasts with brown stripes on the floor. The cherry wood furniture was designed especially for the room, so everything fits in perfectly. The short corridor comes with a stand and fold-out suitcase rack, on the left hand side, there is a huge wardrobe with real hangers (business travellers who have been to hotels, where hangers are permanently fixed, know what I'm talking about). Inside, there is a safe, spare blankets as well as shoe and clothes cleaning accessories. In the very centre of the room there is a soft, comfortable bed with a padded headboard,



which goes up all the way to the ceiling. Other amenities include a mini bar, a sofa for guest, a flat TV screen with a clock, a small coffee table and a small work desk with a telephone.

As for business facilities, not always found in other hotels, there are separate ironing rooms on each floor, which sometimes saves life, and one electrical socket in each room with a sign saying «charger». It works even when the electric system is switched off, meaning: when your key card is not in. Your computer or mobile won't switch off – on the contrary – they will recharge the battery.

The marbled bathroom is spacious, not overly luxurious, but it comes with some practical solutions, like an originally designed shower and a big sprinkler under the ceiling. Each guest receives a set of brand toiletries – perfect quality.

BUSINESS FACILITIES There are two conference rooms in the hotel. The former, Wierchomla with room for about 20 people, is situated on the lowest level of the building, while the latter, Jaworzyna, which can accommodate up to 120 participants on the space of 200 sq m, is on the first floor. Both rooms have access to high-speed internet and

come with all the necessary technical equipment.

RESTAURANTS AND BARS The culinary heart of the hotel is Szósty Zmysł restaurant, managed by Janusz Myjak. The restaurant serves rich breakfasts, as well as dinners – perfect when it comes to both the taste and the way they are served. An interesting solution are theme dinners, promoting the cuisine and flavours characteristic to a particular region. I was lucky to be able to taste Russian and Italian delicacies. On top of all that, the hotel has a well-stocked wine cellar.

The culinary offer is complemented with Bar Przy Kominku, and Lamus club, where you can spend an evening over a glass of drink or cocktail in a nice atmosphere.

LEISURE FACILITIES Behind the glass door on the second floor there is a vast Skin Care Institute. It consists of 20 treatment rooms, where the guests can indulge themselves with various specialised beauty or relaxation treatments, including a wide range of massage types. Each guest can choose a beauty treatment programme based on their needs and the length of their stay in the hotel. Each treatment is preceded with pro-

fessional skin diagnosis. The Institute is popular not only with female guests, some of the dedicated treatments are often frequented by men as well.

Downstairs, guests have also access to Spa Centre. Great swimming pool (open between 7:00 a. m. to 10:00 p. m.) with huge windows, through which you can admire magnificent views is completed with a sauna, a Turkish bath, a caldarium and outside jacuzzi, open even in winter. Next, there is also a well-equipped gym and a fitness room. To reach the Centre, you have to go through a long, dark corridor listening to music – this alone makes you expect something extraordinary. On request, special callanetics and aerobics sessions, nordic walking equipment or bicycles can be organized.

VERDICT A charming hotel in the stunning neighbourhood with excellent service and extensive Spa offer.

Wojciech Chelchowski

CONTACT Hotel SPA Dr Irena Eris Krynica Zdrój;
ul. Czarny Potok 30, 33-380 Krynica Zdrój;
Tel. (18) 472-35-00;
drirenaerisspa.com/krynica/
PRICE Internet rates for a single room at the end of September started at PLN 490.



HOTEL: ZAKOPANE

Tatra Chalet

WHAT'S IT LIKE? It's hard to find someone who doesn't like the mountain view. That's why Tatra Chalet has so many advantages, because the villa which houses the hotel is surrounded by mountains, with the majestic Giewont at the front.

The hotel was launched at the beginning of this year, but it has worked fully since July. You can see the attention to detail – outside, where final works are underway, and inside – for example thanks to the interesting triangular windows. The whole building is decorated in earthy tones of browns, steel gray, hot beige and white. The reception area consists of a small desk with a computer. Right next to it are the stairs leading to the upper floor and the passage to the restaurant and club area. The atmosphere is homely and relaxed.

WHERE IS IT? Bogdański street is a bit off the beaten track, and the city centre together with the famous Krupówki is about 2 kilometres away from the hotel. Cracow Airport is about a 2-hour journey by car. The guests can use the hotel car park which is located right in front of the building.

ROOM FACILITIES Tatra Chalet features seven suites. They vary regarding size, architectural solutions (levels, sloped ceilings), and the details of the interior decoration. The colours are similar, which adds cohesion to the whole complex. On the massive door of each suite there's its number, but each of the rooms also has its own name and the choice of the names doesn't seem to be accidental. The Standard Suite is called "The Small Giewont", Superior Suites are "Under Reglami" and "The Deer Rock" while Deluxe Suites are named "The Silent Water", "The Priest's Forest", and "The Little Meadow". Finally, there's Family Suite called "Under Rysy" – it's the largest one with over 140 sq m of surface, and can accommodate a family of six people. It also has an independent entrance with a parking space.

I stayed on the first floor (ground floor houses only one of the suites) in suite number 2 called "The Deer Rock" due to the view from one of the windows. The

keys are traditional with regional key rings featuring a highlander's hat. The long corridor with a large closet opens onto the spacious room with an area of over 30 square meters. My suite as well as the other ones was equipped with a very large, high bed called Savoy Classic. Brown, sturdy furniture, look a bit stylish, but have a decisively modern feel. A row of low cabinets, with a flat screen TV on top of one of them, accommodates a minibar and coffee and tea making facilities. There is a medium-sized table in the middle of the room, with a bowl of fresh, peeled fruit waiting for me. The work-desk is located just under a large mirror in the corner. You can connect your laptop there, the Internet access is free and it works perfectly, which may not always be so obvious in the mountains. The access code can be found in the hotel guide or received at the reception desk.

The bathroom in my apartment was large, it seemed almost like a lounge with a bath tub, shower, toiletries by The White Company, and a separate terrace.

BUSINESS FACILITIES On the ground floor there is a small club room. It's decorated in an English style, with a fireplace, deep armchairs, a wide sofa bed, and work area with a computer and printer. You can arrange there a small meeting, a board meeting or business negotiations.

BARS AND RESTAURANTS The cosy restaurant offers a creative fusion of flavours. It uses mostly regional products. The guests are asked about their culinary preferences and they receive their favourite dishes, so the whole place

is filled with a home-like atmosphere. Breakfasts are generous, nicely served, and the view from the window of the restaurant (which in the evening serves also as a bar) is soothing.

LEISURE FACILITIES The hotel has a sauna and two massage rooms. Those who like active leisure, can go on a mountain trek, go jogging in the morning, or practise nordic walking.

VERDICT It's a comfortable place, perfect for relaxing in the beautiful Polish mountains.

Wojciech Chelchowski



CONTACT Tatra Chalet; ul. Bogdańskiego 5, 34-500 Zakopane; tel. 18 200 01 75; tatrachalet.pl

PRICE The price depends on the date and length of stay, but on average it's PLN 500 for a double suite with breakfast.

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HOTEL: WROCLAW

Haston City Hotel

WHAT'S IT LIKE? The name, as well as the architecture itself (with a facade featuring horizontal light stripes) may suggest that the hotel belongs to an international chain. However, Haston Wrocław is an entirely Polish enterprise and a brand new proposal on the local hospitality market, since it was launched in May. The investor is a company which, so far, has never been associated with the hotel industry – namely Hasco-Lek, and the name for the hotel was selected through a competition among the company's employees. Haston is set to be the largest in hotel convention centre in Wrocław. The centre is now being erected behind the main building of the hotel, and when the construction work has finished, Haston will offer its customers 8 brand-new meeting rooms. The two-storey convention centre seems to be a very good idea, because Wrocław is a city where something interesting happens everyday, both in terms of business and cultural life. You will certainly notice the ubiquitous automobile motifs, such as the vintage vehicle standing at the very entrance to the hotel.

WHERE IS IT? Haston Hotel is located in the northern part of Wrocław, at the main road leading to Poznań, and near the new bypass road. There are a lot of green areas around, and the hotel is close to one of the best golf clubs in Poland Toya Golf & Country Club. It's merely 4 kilometres from here to the impressive Old Town of Wrocław, where there is always something interesting going on.

ROOM FACILITIES Haston offers 110 spacious rooms, decorated in a quiet, creamy-beige colour. Each of them is equipped with one or two beds, min-

ibar, coffee and tea making facilities (on tray with special grooves for all the utensils – very convenient to use), safe for documents and a laptop, manually controlled air-conditioning, work-desk, free wired and wireless Internet, coffee table, as well as toiletries and a magnifying mirror in the bathroom. In addition to standard rooms, the hotel offers 3 Superior bedrooms and 8 Superior Junior Suites. Superior Junior Suites are especially worth consideration, because they have a comfortable bedroom and a lounge with a very comfortable seating set, as well as two bathrooms and two TV sets. A sofa in the Junior Suite is convertible and can accommodate in this way two more people.

BUSINESS FACILITIES Haston City Hotel has an ambition to become a major convention centre in the city and the chances are that it will succeed in its goal. The construction work on the hotel congress centre is due to finish in Q1 2012. The eight meeting rooms will accommodate up to 1,300 people (the largest one for 600 guests). The conference rooms will be multifunctional, equipped with the state-of-the-art AV equipment and it will be possible to join or divide them in various ways. The conference centre will be joined with the main building of the hotel via a glass passage. Currently, Haston offers for business only one 100 sq m conference room, which can be divided into two smaller ones. It's possible to organize an event in the restaurant, bar and the spacious lobby of the hotel. The hotel also has a Business Centre, near the reception area, where you can use a computer, printer and a fax.

FACTS **CONTACT** Haston City Hotel, ul. Irysowa 1-3 51-117 Wrocław, tel. +48 (71) 322 55 00, haston.pl
PRICE The price for a standard room booked online at the hotel's website for the end of September was PLN 230.

BARS AND RESTAURANTS Breakfast buffet is served from 6.30 am to 10.30 am, although the hotel is quite flexible here if, for example, a group of guests asks for a change of the serving hours. The restaurant accommodates 70 people and is open until 11 pm. It serves dishes from the international cuisine (great grilled salmon). The bar is open until 2 am and can seat 40 people.

LEISURE FACILITIES The fitness facilities are now being organized. Ultimately, they will occupy two rooms spread over the area of 90 sq m. Haston is also planning to launch a spa salon, as well as purchase bikes and nordic walking poles so that the guests could take advantage of the numerous bike trails and parks located around the hotel.

VERDICT It's a nice business hotel, which will soon become an important congress centre. Comfortable rooms, quick service, and helpful personnel.

Andrzej Czuba

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HOTEL: ZÜRICH

Radisson Blu Zurich Airport

WHAT'S IT LIKE? This modern hotel, located at Zurich airport, was launched in August 2008. It was designed by a studio of a renowned Milan architect Matteo Thun. The building's characteristic dark facade reflects the rays of the sun and the lights of the airport. The interior opens to the great six-level atrium which is 20 metres high. It's really impressive, particularly in combination with huge window panes. The reception area consists of a few individual desks, which seems to be justified because on the very first contact with the personnel, a guest may feel

as if he is being treated in a unique manner - this being said about an airport hotel, where it's not easy to create such a feel with hundreds of people check in and check out of the hotel everyday. The hotel bar is situated nearby, as are fast lifts. There's also a restaurant, but the focal point of the lobby is so-called Wine Tower. It's a truly remarkable construction. It's 16 meters tall and made of 38 thick acrylic panels with transparent stands holding over 4,000 bottles of wine and champagne. The value of the liquors collected here exceeds 220,000 Swiss francs,



an impressive amount – especially for somebody who has a mortgage denominated in the Swiss currency. The spectacular tower is the third such project, the two previous ones are located in Radisson hotels in Las Vegas and London. In the evening, between 5.15 pm and 11.30 pm an extraordinary show takes place there. Wine Angels, the girls dressed in white and suspended in a special harness, present acrobatic dancing, and if you order a specific type of wine, which is locked in the tower, the angel will serve you the bottle, while doing some break-neck evolution. Of course, everything is computerized and then stand with the liquor is immediately highlighted, the tower constantly changes colours and its just one total industrial madness. It's just enough to say that the design and construction of the tower, which weighs over 27 tons, cost about 4 million francs.

WHERE IS IT? Getting to the lobby took me about 10-12 minutes. It all depends on how long you wait for your luggage at the carousel and on the traffic at the airport in Zurich. Then you just take a short walk along a well-marked terminal corridors to find the front desk of the hotel.

ROOM FACILITIES The hotel has 330 fair-sized, air-conditioned rooms, decorated in four styles, called "At Home", "Chic", "Fresh", and "Charme". The concept is interesting, especially because it helps you avoid monotony if you often stay at this hotel.



The fairly dark carpeting of the corridor and the massive doors, look quite robust. The lifts are glass walled, and the view of atrium is truly excellent. It you wish to start the lift, you must swipe your room card in the card reader. The room where I stayed was located on the 6th floor. A long and wide corridor, with the entrance to the bathroom on the left, opens onto a spacious room. The floor is covered with a dull, but probably quite practical carpet with the shades of blue and gray. Behind the entrance to the bathroom there's a white cabinet (with funny, plastic handles) with an ironing board, iron and fortunately a lot of hangers inside. Another cabinet (also white) features tea and coffee making facilities (a wide choice) a safe for a laptop, and a well stocked minibar.

The work-desk is wide enough to sit at it comfortably and work with your computer. It's of ruby red leather colour with white finishing. There's quite a comfortable chair at the desk, and by the window there's a small square table and a large, comfortable bed. It's covered with a heap of pillows to choose from.

The bathroom is spacious and very logically designed. The cabin has daylight access, because the partition wall between the toilet and the room features a large window pane. The provided cosmetics are by French brand Anne Semonin.

The free, fast Internet works perfectly in the room, and your username for the

access is simply your surname and your room number.

BUSINESS FACILITIES The conference centre has recently been expanded and the offer of Radisson is now simply unrivalled. Several floors of the hotel feature a total of 42 rooms with a total area of 3720 sq m. The ballroom, which is the largest of them, is 800 sq m, and can accommodate more than 550 guests. If necessary, it can be divided into 4 smaller rooms. The 8th floor features Business Services Center, rooms used for video-conferences, and temporary offices.

BARS AND RESTAURANTS Buffet breakfasts are served in Filini restaurant with an Italian feel. In the evening, it offers a wide choice of meat, seafood, and pasta. Another place to indulge in fine wine and fancy dishes is Angels Wine Tower Grill, situated next to the restaurant (open Tuesday-Sunday). There's also the above mentioned Angels Wine Bar, where beautiful angels serve us wine.

LEISURE FACILITIES The leisure facilities are situated on 3rd floor. The guests can visit here the fitness room which is equipped with Technogym machines, as well as the sauna and the Turkish bath.

VERDICT It's a true haven for a business traveller, who needs to stay in Zurich for a while. It features an interesting design, original art forms, and all of this located right at the airport.

Wojciech Chelchowski



FACTS **CONTACT** Radisson Blu Zurich Airport; Postfach 295, 8058 Zurich-Flughafen, Switzerland; Tel. 41 44 800 40 40; radissonblu.com/hotel-zurichairport
PRICE Internet rates for a single room booked for a stay at the end of September started at 225 Swiss francs (PLN 815).



CAR RENTAL: WARSAW

AVIS

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BACKGROUND Avis was founded in Detroit. The name comes from the surname of Warren Avis – a business man who had a brilliant idea. The idea was great in its simplicity: to rent vehicle and attract customers with simple procedures and reasonable prices. The first rental station was opened at the local airport and several years later the business was expanding rapidly. Avis began conquering other American cities, and once it dominated the market, it began its expansion to other continents. Today the distinctive logo of the company is recognized by most travellers, all over the world. It can be found at most airports and in the centres of large cities in Europe, Asia and Africa. Several years ago Avis Group took over Budget – another well-know car rental company. In this way Avis became the world's leading car rental company.

In Poland Avis has been present for twenty years. It has several stations here (including those at Polish airports), and almost a thousand cars on its offer.

FORMALITIES It wasn't the first time when I was about to use take advantage of the company's offer, so I knew well what to count on. There are several rental options – first of all, you must be at least 23 years old (it's possible to rent a car by a person aged 21-23, but this implies additional cost of €5 per day, not more than €25), have a valid driving licence and credit card. Some of the cars of a higher class, such as Volvo, which I had already driven, can be rented only if you are at least 28 years and possess two credit cards.

If you collect your car following an earlier reservation (you can do it online at Avis» website), everything is processed very quickly.

The reservation can also be done a few days in advance in the reservations office of the company or at the rental station at Okęcie airport. You will then be asked about the method of payment (individual customers provide their credit card details, but in case of a business you can ask for a different method). You can

select your car from 16 different categories – from Opel Corsa to Ford Transit.

I was going to Masuria and I decided to collect my car at the station located at Warsaw Okęcie airport. I arrived there shortly after 10.00 am. The documents had been prepared beforehand, waiting for my signature (they also include drawings to mark any damage to the vehicle which may occur during a collision, as well as collision report form together – which can be extremely useful in case of an accident). The car, a shiny Volvo XC60 was standing in the car park, ready for the journey. There was only one procedure left – and this one is observed rigorously: the customer and an employee of Avis inspect the car carefully to make sure that everything is in perfect order.

THE CAR Volvo XC60 crossover is a unique crossover. It has a really interesting design, and you will soon like it, thanks to its pleasant interior, good functionality and the joy it provides while driving. D5 AWD Summum – this is the full name of the type of this car, which





means that it has a 2.4-liter turbo-diesel engine with dual sequential compressor, which produces 205 BHP, allowing to the 2-ton machine to reach the speed of 210 km/h (if you can find any good roads to do so). This was combined with a nice, six-speed automatic transmission (with a sport mode). The torque, which the designers managed to obtain from this configuration is 440 Newton meters. Thanks to this the car is safe and responsive to the driver's input. Volvo, though massive, accelerates to 100 km/h in just over 8 seconds. Let's get things straight, I'm not a fan of road races and pushing the pedal to the metal, but the power you have at your hand, simply allows for safer and more efficient driving.

Summum is the most luxurious version of the Volvo. Indeed, there are a lot of nice features on board, including nice leather seats with electrically controlled driver's seat (it's strange, but I think every man almost immediately starts fiddling with the new car seat), chrome detailing and pleasant, high-grade plastics. The boot is very roomy, so it can accommodate all your baggage, and if you need extra luggage space, you can fold the backseat, as well as the seat of the passenger at the front.

The road to Masuria went seamlessly, the weather was perfect, which didn't happen that often this summer, the prospect of sailing holidays triggered a continuous smile on my face, and the car was driving as if it has been glued

to the road. I got to the lake quickly and conveniently.

CAR RETURN A week later I arrived back in Warsaw and returned the car from the station I picked it from, luckily not exceeding the rental time. Overall, I covered 600 kilometres, the car consumed 10 litres of diesel per 100 kilometres, and the whole journey was more than comfortable. The procedure for returning the car is very simple. It takes just a few minutes. You give back the keys, the documents, and that's it. You can feel that the company is used to fast work. For returning customers Avis has prepared a service called Avis Preferred, which guarantees that you will receive your car within 3 minutes.

PRICES There are over a dozen groups of cars to choose from, marked with consecutive letters of the alphabet. Group A includes the smallest cars (e. g. Opel Corsa), while the following letters mean larger vehicles with better equipment (e. g. in group D you will find Volvo S40, and in group F Audi Q5). The company also offers trucks and campers. The prices depend on the type of a vehicle, the date of rental, and bonuses – so it's worth checking all the details on the phone or at the company's website.

VERDICT I received a reliable and well equipped car. Together with simple and clear procedures, they are definitely the main advantages of Avis.

CONTACT avis.pl

Jakub Olgiewicz

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Laser Ophthalmology Centre



BEAUTY SALON: WARSAW

Clarins Skin Spa



INFO Clarins Skin Spa is a resort functioning under the brand name of a world-recognized company producing cosmetics and popularising skin care treatments. The Warsaw salon has all the authorisation of the French brand. The first Clarins Institute was founded in Paris in 1954 by Jacques Courtin-Clarins. He was, among others, the inventor of new massage methods, based on using plant oils. Clarins is a family company – SRPN AI – today it is run by the founder's two sons. This family feeling can be sensed in all aspects of the company's activities: starting from the conception of the products to the Clarins-branded beauty salons – everything is carefully prepared and based on individual approach to a client, which is not very common in this era of mass production.

WHAT'S IT LIKE? The very moment you enter the Warsaw Clarins salon, you get the feeling of relaxation and calming down, also because of the decor in dark red and cream-like colours. The reception area is connected to the shopping zone, thanks to which, you already get familiar with the extensive offer of creams, water tonics, shaving accessories, etc.



Go up the stairs to the mezzanine level, where there is a nice lobby and a recreation area, right next to it. This is where you will find the seven treatment rooms. The cool and relaxing atmosphere of the interior is further emphasized by the calm music.

WHAT'S ON Clarins Skin Spa Offer is very extensive and includes treatments aimed both at men and women. The offer addressed to women includes permanent make-up, a wide range of facial and body skin care treatments, body massage, a series of complementary treatments and a special package for pregnant women. They can also brush up their skills in the local Master Make-up Academy.



Another option is Bella Contour, a machine which removes fatty tissue in a non-invasive way. Male customers can have facial skin care treatments, manicure, pedicure, body massage to relax the muscles, back massage, head skin massage and body treatments: classic or intensive ones. The salon is open between 8.00 am to 9.00 pm from Monday to Friday, and on Saturday between 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. It's worth mentioning that you can organize here an interesting business meeting with clients – the salon offer includes such an option.

TREATMENTS My stay in a Clarins Skin Spa treatment room lasted for an hour and a half. Firstly, I receive a skin diagnosis performed by the cosmetician. My skin turned out to be dry and tired, so it had to be moisturized, lightened up and its hydro-lipid balance had to be restored. Based on this diagnosis, subsequent treatments were performed. Firstly, my skin was treated with some relaxation oil. The following treatments included cleansing, enzymatic peeling, and the most important thing – katafray (a tree from Madagascar) oil massage, including neck massage – very pleasant. Later on I had a face mask for about 7 minutes, and in the meantime I received a relaxing hand massage. After cleansing the mask, the cosmetician put serum and moisturizing cream on my face. This series of treatment finished with a relaxing massage of the skin on the head, using Eau Dynamisante fragrance.

VERDICT It's an ideal place for someone who wants to rejuvenate both their and soul, as well as relax. Nice atmosphere, very well-trained staff, high quality service. ■



CONTACT Clarins Skin Spa,

ul. Różana 8/10, 02-548 Warszawa, clarins.pl

PRICE A facial skin care treatment starts from PLN 280, back and head skin massage is PLN 130, and a classic body treatment – PLN 280.



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FACTS **CONTACT** Al. Ujazdowskie 24, 00-478 Warszawa
tel.: +48 (22) 629 23 12, podgigantami.pl
PRICE It's a fancy restaurant located in a prestigious area.
An ideal choice for business lunch or dinner.

RESTAURANT: WARSAW

Pod Gigantami

INFO What is a recipe for a good restaurant? Good food, friendly and efficient service plus interesting location. It all works well in case of Warsaw's restaurant Pod Giants (Under the Giants), which has already managed to take a permanent place on the culinary map of the capital. The recommendations show that the restaurant's positions is strong indeed. What's more this year Pod Gigantami has received for the 5th time Michelin gourmet guide recommendation. No wonder, because the restaurant's culinary offer, as well as the design of the interiors where Pod Gigantami is located deserve all the best distinctions. The restaurant is situated in a historic, neoclassical building, and its name comes from two pieces of stone, supporting a balcony. The house was built over a century ago, according to the design by Władysław Marconi. It belonged to the painter and collector (of paintings, military equipment, and furniture), Antoni Jan Strzalecki.

WHERE IS IT? Ujazdowskie Avenue, near Plac Trzech Krzyży (Three Crosses Square) – it's just an ideal place for a restaurant. It's close to the Parliament and many government offices, office buildings and hotels, so no wonder it has numerous foreign guests. It's also close to the Royal Baths park, and even closer to Nowy Świat Street from where Krakowskie Przedmieście is just a stone's throw

away. You can reach the restaurant from the Central Railway Station in 10 minutes, and getting there from the airport can be a bit more difficult, because of the road works in the capital.

INTERIOR Pod Gigantami is one of those places where you can sit for hours with great pleasure. It's located in the former suite of Jan Antoni Strzalecki. The interiors have retained their 18th century wooden floors and frontons (ornaments above doors), installed by the owner. King Stanisław August is looking at the guests from the painting by Bacciarelli. The restaurant has several rooms (Golden Room, Cupboard Room, King Stanislaus Room, The Fireplace Room, and The Bar Room). They are very elegant with the decor perfectly suited to the atmosphere of the old times. Solid wooden furniture, beautifully decorated tables, paintings, and old photographs on the walls, ornamented goblets, plates and cutlery, nicely carved lamps, intimate candlelight, large double door – thanks to all of this, the guest feels as if he went back to the previous era, which highly appreciated elegance.

MENU The dishes offered by Pod Gigantami are made suitably to the restaurant's decor, but don't expect only traditional food here. The cooks skilfully combine the dishes served here with foreign elements, and they do it so well that sometimes we can talk here about the fusion cuisine here. Among the cold appetizers you will find here salmon tartare marinated in beetroot with wasabi sauce and fresh coriander. There is also beef carpaccio marinated in colourful pepper served

with grilled artichoke and lettuce, as well as tuna with caramelized pineapple and soy saucetard. Among the hot appetizers, we recommend goose liver baked in Malaga sauce served with toasted brioche and melon comfit, as well as snails wrapped in bacon, served with cognac sauce and herb butter. There are also shrimps, dark spaghetti and homemade pasta. As for the soups, you should try lemon soup with mint, or Lithuanian cold beetroot soup with veal slices. Those who like meat, will probably be happy to try roasted duck with marjoram baked potatoes and fine raspberry sauce, grilled rabbit loins served with carrot spaghetti and stewed morels, or lamb chops in tamarind and fresh mint pommes duchesses. Fish enthusiasts won't be disappointed with the restaurant's pikeperch with asparagus, cod with potatoes and dill, and daurade fillet in vegetable risotto with fresh made pesto. Don't forget about the wines, and the restaurant has definitely something to boast about. Apart from a pretty good home wine, the restaurant's wine cellar also stores a wide selection of white, pink and red wine from all over the world, including the great Châteauneuf du Pape, Shiraz Lindemansa, or Spanish Rioja. There are also numerous sorts of champagnes, including several ones only for collectors.

PRICES Prices of appetizers vary from PLN 27 to PLN 59. Soups cots PLN 22 – PLN 26. The prices of meat dishes vary from PLN 64 to PLN 120, while fish dishes are PLN 56 – PLN 75. Prices of desserts vary between PLN 16 and PLN 21.

Andrzej Czuba

GDZIE WITAM
ZMIENIA SIĘ W
BENVENUTO

BARI

OD

545 PLN

W DWIE STRONY
PODATKI WLICZONE

NEAPOL

OD

630 PLN

W DWIE STRONY
PODATKI WLICZONE

CROTONE

OD

800 PLN

W DWIE STRONY
PODATKI WLICZONE

REGGIO
CALABRIA

OD

805 PLN

W DWIE STRONY
PODATKI WLICZONE



ODKRYJ CAŁE WŁOCHY Z ALITALIA – DZIĘKI LOTOM DO 28 WŁOSKICH MIAST ZABIERZEMY CIĘ TAM GDZIE TYLKO CHCESZ. NOWE! DODATKOWE REJSY DO RZYMU BĘDĄ OPEROWAĆ W GODZINACH: WARSZAWA 05:50 – RZYM 08:10 (W PONIEDZIAŁKI I CZWARTKI) i RZYM 21:25 – WARSZAWA 23:55 (W NIEDZIELE I ŚRODY). PRZEZ CAŁY LIPIEC I SIERPIEŃ '11 NA NOWOCZESNYM AIRBUSIE A32S.



alitalia.pl

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PRZEDSTAWIONE PRZYKŁADY DOTYCZĄ PODRÓŻY W DWIE STRONY W KLASIE EKONOMICZNEJ. CENA ZAWIERA PODATKI I OPŁATY DODATKOWE. TARYFA PRZEWIDUJE MAKSYMALNY CZAS POBYTU DO 12 MIESIĘCY. ZMIANY REZERWACJI SĄ DOZWOLONE ZA OPŁATĄ 50 EURO. ZWROTY BILETÓW NIE SĄ DOZWOLONE

BT About Culture

LESZEK BUGAJSKI recommends

BOOKS



FUNNY CLAPTRAP

Michel Houellebecq is a clever, but not outstanding writer, although he is often described as one. But does it matter? He's a star of contemporary literature, because he has a talent for self-creation and can suggest that in his novels he considers the most important problems of today's world. His latest novel, "The Map and the Territory" is probably the best thing he's written so far.

In the novel he makes fun of the contemporary art and of the fact how it makes a fool of its lovers. Also, as usually, he expresses his concern about the fate of our civilization, and, of course, shows his huge megalomania – this time, however, without any limitations, because Houellebecq is one of the two main characters of the book. Unfortunately, I can't tell you his fate in the book, because I don't want to spoil your reading. From these pieces of puzzle – at first glance not fitting to one another – he created a novel that reads quickly and pleasantly (he's a skilful writer, you see), but equally quickly leaves our memory, because it lacks proper depth which is typical of real masterpieces. However, it's worth reading just for fun, and to know what is trendy in the literary world.

Michel Houellebecq: "The Map and the Territory". W. A. B.; 384 pages

THE ALLIANCE OF CITIES AND VILLAGES

A research has shown that there are too many single men in villages, and too many single women living in cities who, pursuing their careers, fade without proper partners. Tomasz Pindel, a translator of the Iberian literature, has written a novel about what might happen if politicians took to solving this problem. A pilot programme is created, and a group of snobbish single ladies go to some forgotten corner of Poland to meet their potential partners. There is a clash of cultures, customs, tastes – of everything, but for the sake of hot sex all differences are put aside. *Tomasz Pindel: Czy to się nagrywa? ("Are you recording this?") Świat S książki, 322 pages*



A NOVEL LIKE A TV SERIES

A history of an American family which looks like inspired by an ambitious HBO series: four main characters, and disintegration or, at least, strong strain put on family ties. There's a whole lot of various emotional twists and turns, as well as sexual and psychological ones, mixed with frustrated ambitions, generosity and meanness, and of course, references to contemporary events (fraudulent transactions related to the American war in Iraq, and shady environmental initiatives). All of this is described over eight hundred pages by Jonathan Franzen as if he wanted to show that contemporary literature hasn't yet lost the ability to tell absorbing stories.

Jonathan Franzen: "Freedom". Publisher Sonia Draga, 810 pages

MUSIC



NOSOWSKA

8

Each new album by Katarzyna Nosowska causes lots of commotion. This time, it won't be any different. New ideas, other perspective, and the lyrics which redefine Nosowska as a songwriter. You won't regret!

KASABIAN VELOCIRAPTOR!

You either love them or simply hate their music. Both factions are equally strong, but the five British musicians who represent alternative-electronic trend, and who are famous for their independent views, don't really care.



GAME

Dead Island

It's not a game you should really brag about playing to your fellow-passenger during a flight. This is because Dead Island is full of action. Full of bloody action – to be more specific. Techland – a Polish game developer, is once again trying to create a worldwide hit, and it seems that this time they may succeed. Trailers for Dead Island aroused considerable excitement among the players. The plot of the game takes place on an island invaded by zombies. You just have to survive. That's it.



POŁĄCZ
PRZEPIĘKNE MIEJSCE W SAMYM SERCU WARSZAWY,
ELEGANCKIE WNĘTRZA PAŁACU SOBAŃSKICH,
SZEFA KUCHNI ZE ŚWIATOWYM DOŚWIADCZENIEM.
DODAJ NAJWYŻSZEJ JAKOŚCI MIĘSO OD POLSKICH HODOWCÓW
I RYBY Z MAZURSKICH JEZIOR.
PODLEJ ŁYKIEM WYBORNEGO WINA.
POŁĄCZ Z ZESTAWEM TRZECH DAŃ W CENIE 79 ZŁ*.
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Z NAJLEPSZYMI MANIERAMI W WARSZAWIE ...
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Golfing...

Around Poland

“Hole the ball with the lowest possible number of strokes” – this doesn’t sound like a principle of one of the most complicated sports, but golf aficionados are well aware of how difficult the game is. It turns out, however, that golf is not only about Tiger Woods and expensive golf courses.

Olga Chelchowska has prepared a list of 18 Polish golf courses, whose quality is comparable to the best courses around the world.



Sierra Golf Club

The complex is located in Pętkowice, near Wejherowo, and spreads over the area of 82 hectares, approximately 25 kilometres from the western borders of the Tri-City.

Sierra meets all world standards. It offers a full-sized, 18-hole championship golf course (par 72), together with a modern driving range (26 bays), as well as putting, chipping and pitching greens. It was designed by Cameron Sinclair – a Scottish architect. During preparatory works, the model of the existing lay of the land was created using cutting edge GPS technology. Natural lay of the land was expanded into numerous hills and valleys, the streams and backwaters were cleaned and widened. The land of the course was drained, computer and integrated irrigation system was applied on the entire usable area. Sierra Golf Club has 38 self-propelled golf carts with an innovative “Golf GPS” system. It’s a device with 11 inches LCD screen and wireless Wi-Fi communication, which supports players by displaying maps, distances, player’s location, results, information and various advice.

The clubhouse is over 1,000 sq m and offers a restaurant, bar and two simulators. Green fee for 18 holes is PLN 190 on weekdays, PLN 250 at weekends and on holidays. A set of clubs with a trolley costs PLN 100, a Club Car with GPS – PLN 140 for the 18 hole course.

sierragolf.pl





Rosa Private Golf Club



Rosa Private Golf Club

Rosa Private Golf Club

Less than 15 km from Częstochowa, exactly in Konopiska – a charming town of from 14th century – lies a golf complex consisting of a 18-hole championship course, an 80 bay driving range (14 are roofed), putting greens covering the area of 1,500 sq m, a chipping green, and practice bunkers. The course also comprises various water reservoirs, which together spread over the area of 14 hectares. The difference in water levels in the lakes reaches 8 metres. The course has four different species of grass to provide a greater diversity of surfaces. The whole complex was designed by a German architect Hans-Georg Erhardt, whose 30 years of experience made him a true specialist in this field. After the game RPGC members may relax in the clubhouse with a restaurant and a bar area. The place also has a club room, and two, larger meeting rooms, where companies hold their trainings and conferences. Green fee is PLN 100 on Mondays, PLN 160 Tuesday – Friday, and PLN 250 at weekends and on public holidays. Club hire – PLN 80 per day.

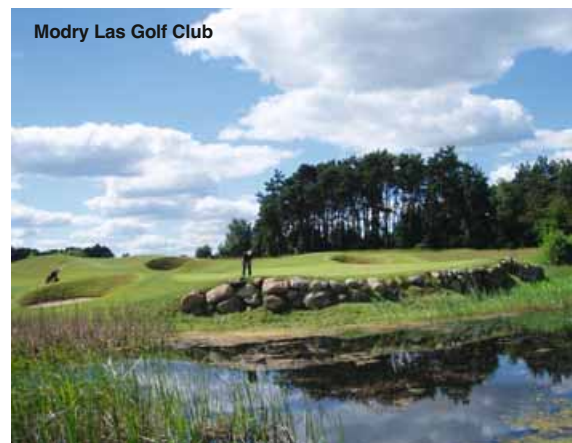
rpgc.pl

Modry Las Golf Club

The number of awards won by the 18-hole course located near Choszczno (less than 80 km from Szczecin) is big and it's still growing. Polish golfers have for long

been hailing it as their most favourite, most demanding, and finally, the best in the country. American professionals (representing Golf Inc.), who know what they say, have put the course among six most interesting facilities of this type built in the past two years. As if it wasn't enough, it has been officially recognized as one of the 100 best golf courses in Europe. No other golf course in Poland has received so many accolades. This is especially impressive, because Modry Las opened merely 3 years ago.

This shouldn't be surprising, though. The course occupies the area of 130 hectares, stretching along the shores of Lake Raduń, and was designed by the renowned Gary Player. This native of South Africa won in golf everything there



Modry Las Golf Club

was to win (he won a total of 165 events), and now designs golf courses, which immediately become objects of interest to specialists. Player has used all the advantages of the terrain, turning Modry Las into a real gem. Par 3 hole 15 is named after its architect and is considered to be the country's best.

Modry Las also has a driving range and a training course. The clubhouse is already undergoing finishing works and will be soon available to guests. The standard green fee for 18 holes is PLN 155 (Mondays-Fridays) PLN 199 (at weekends), happy Mondays – PLN 110, club hire 55 PLN, BagBoy trolley PLN 20.

modrylas.pl

Postołowo Gdańsk Golf & Country

The beautifully located course in Połowo near Tricity is the second longest professional course in Europe continent (par 72 for the best players is 7101 meters long). Talking about rankings, the course has been present on the list of top 100 European courses, and was also selected as the Polish best.

The complex was founded in 1997 and it occupies 120 hectares of land. The course, together with beautiful additions such as ponds, streams and woods, were designed by a professional British architect, Jeremy Turner. He did very well, although he admitted that design-



Postołowo Gdańsk Golf & Country

ing the course was a great, albeit a nice challenge, and his ambition was to create a course which would be both challenging to experienced players, but at the same time enjoyable for those with a high handicap.

The extensive infrastructure comprises a driving range, a 6-hole course for beginners, as well as a modern clubhouse, which houses a restaurant, bar, a golfing shop and an air-conditioned conference room for 60 people.

The green fee for 18 holes is PLN 200 (Mondays-Fridays), at weekends and on public holidays PLN 250 (all day PLN 250 and PLN 300 respectively), on Mondays PLN 150; club hire PLN 80, a buggy PLN 120.

golf.com.pl

Mazury Golf & Country Club

The charming landscape of Warmia became the starting point for creating this course. The challenge was set before the oldest company in the world of course design – Hawtree Ltd. The British led by Martin Hawtree are now celebrating their centenary. During that time they designed 750 golf courses – but the course in Poland was their first in this part of Europe, so the challenge was even bigger.

The charming landscape of Warmia became the starting point for creating this course. The challenge was set before the oldest company in the world of course design – Hawtree Ltd. The British led by Martin Hawtree are now celebrating their centenary. During that



Mazury Golf & Country Club

NINE HOLES

Apart from 18-hole championship courses, spread over vast areas of land, Poland has over a dozen smaller 9-hole courses, which are ideal for training and honing our passion. Their number is growing steadily, mostly because there are gradually more and more enthusiasts of this sport in Poland. They also host some pretty serious golf tournaments. Here are the two of them.

WIERZCHOWISKA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

It's a luxury 19 century palace and park complex with a 9-hole golf course, driving range, putting and chipping green, situated just 15 kilometres from the centre of Lublin. The course is located on 25 hectares of a beautiful, historic park. The palace situated in the very centre of the park and it houses a restaurant with several banquet rooms for up to 1,500 guests.

Numerous pools, and the ancient forest contribute to a unique atmosphere of each hole. The holes also vary in difficulty. The place is a challenge for advanced players, and attractive for people starting their golf career.



Daily green fee is PLN 60 on weekdays and PLN 80 at weekends, 9-hole fee is PLN 35 and PLN 50 respectively; club hire PLN 50, buggy PLN 80.

wierzychowska.pl

TOKARY GOLF CLUB

TGC is a sports and physical culture association, which this years celebrates its 10th anniversary. The complex, located less than 10 km from the international airport in Rębiechowo, comprises a 9-hole course, a golf academy, driving range, putting green, a stud farm and a horse-riding school. The whole area covers an area of 45 ha. The golf course is situated on a hilly area surrounded by forests, which is characteristic of the landscape of the Kashubian Switzerland. Tokary Golf Club hosts numerous tournaments, including: 54-36,1 HCP for Beginners, League Club, Texas, or the Max Cup and V League Club. On weekdays the individual fee is PLN 50- PLN 70 per round, while at weekends PLN 70 – PLN 100. Buggy hire – PLN 15/hour on weekdays, and PLN 20/ hour on Saturdays and Sundays. Club hire – PLN 50.

tokarygolf.pl





Amber Baltic Golf Club

time they designed 750 golf courses – but the course in Poland was their first in this part of Europe, so the challenge was even bigger.

mazurygolf.pl

Amber Baltic Golf Club

Located in Kolczewo on the edge of Wolin National Park, Amber Baltic Golf Club is a site dedicated not only for sports enthusiasts, but also for those who wish to relax. The nearby sea and pine woods make this place an ideal choice for those who seek fresh and clean air. An area of 66 hectares comprises “Amber” championship golf course (18 holes par 72), a course for beginners called “Baltic”, and practice facilities (driving range, putting green, chipping/pitching area). The complex was built in 1993 and currently has over 270 members. It has hosted many golf tournaments such as the Polish Professional Individual and

Team Championships, International European Ladies” Amateur Championships, European Junior Team Championships and many others. The clubhouse houses the offices of the club, the reception area, and a golf shop, as well as a restaurant and a bar with terrace. On weekdays the individual fee is PLN 140 per round, while at weekends and on public holidays it’s PLN 190. (Every Monday, the club offers a 25% discount). Club hire with a bag – PLN 50, a buggy for a day – PLN 120.

abgc.pl

Kalinowe Pola

The complex, which occupies nearly 75 hectares of land, was launched merely a year ago, and it hosted its first tournament in August 2010. The course is located in Kalinów, 12 kilometres from Świebodzin, near the junction of routes A2 and S3 (a trip from Poznań takes

Amber Baltic Golf Club



about an hour, 35 minutes from Zielona Góra).

It’s a “parkland” type of course. The owners claim that it was designed in such a way (by Marek Sokołowski who is also the enterprise’s golf director), that it would be a challenge for advanced golfers, playing from the white tees (par 72 is 6,500 meters long), at the same time being forgiving for beginners, who start off from yellow tees. The course should be a challenge for most players, but shouldn’t discourage from playing. Those who seek true challenges, will also be satisfied with Kalinowe Pola, because the course’s hole 18 is considered one of the most difficult in our part of Europe.

The owners of the course wanted to attract here as many golf enthusiasts as possible, especially from Ziemia Lubuska region, so from the very beginning the fees have been set at a reasonable level. That’s why a daily admission fee for 18-hole course is only PLN 120. There is also a driving range, and beginners can practise on a small 6-hole course (the longest distance to a hole is 130 meters, club hire – PLN 10).

kalinowepola.pl

First Warsaw Golf & Country Club

The oldest Polish golf course is the first such a facility built in the post-war Poland. Next year it will celebrate its 20th anniversary. The club is located in Rajszewo, a small town less than 25 kilometres away from the centre of Warsaw. Thanks to its location in a landscape park in the old river bed of Vistula, it’s a truly picturesque place. On the other



Kalinowe Pola





hand, the numerous water hazards and ancient forests integrated into the fairy-tale landscape, make this course one of the toughest in Europe. Enough to say that it has already hosted three Challenger Tournaments. The first 11 holes at FWG & CC are of a typical park character. They are characterized by numerous lakes and open fairways. The remaining seven holes are of a completely different nature. These are narrow fairways surrounded by dense forest. Green fee before 3 pm, depending on the day of the week, ranges from PLN 100 to PLN 250. After 3 pm the fee ranges from PLN 95 to PLN 200.

warsawgolfclub.com

Klub Golfowy Lisia Polana

The club, together with a championship course, is situated in a picturesque valley of Wkra river, 10 kilometres from

Warsaw-Gdańsk S7 expressway. The journey by car from the centre of Warsaw takes only 40 minutes.

Par 72 course was opened in May 2006. It consists of two loops. The first 9 holes run along the outer border of the course with an anticlockwise route. The second nine runs inside the area. One of the most important elements of the game is the wind – and here the dominant western wind makes the distance to the holes seem longer. Each hole has a unique character and a different degree of difficulty. The club is an official training centre of the Junior National Team. Both beginner and advanced golfers can improve their skill at the driving range (one of the largest in the country), as well as a putting and chipping green.

The guests to the club house can stay at the 3-star hotel, as well as visit the club's restaurant and bar, or shop in the golf store. There are also conference

Klub Golfowy Lisia Polana



We Have Reasons To Be Proud

Business Traveller talks to Marek Michałowski – the president of the Polish Golf Union, about Polish golf courses, the development of golf, and its prospects for becoming an Olympic sport.

Merely a decade ago golf was almost completely unknown in Poland. How do you assess these last years in our country? Where are we now in the world of golf?

We should remember that golf is currently reviving in Poland, following a long period of absence here. Before 1939 there were golf courses in Warsaw, Powsin, Gdańsk, Łańcut, Katowice and Szczawno. The oldest golf club in Szczawno Zdrój, which was then called Bad Sazbunn, was founded in 1906 and was recognized by the entire European elite. Also, the first golf facility in Warsaw was founded in 1928 in Nowosielski Street (current Bartycka), and count Karol Radziwiłł was an outstanding Polish golfer of that era.

Unfortunately, in the times of Polish People's Republic, the development of golf slowed down, because it was considered a sport for the nobles, and since late 80s we have been trying to rebuild its position. The first golf courses opened in 1993 and ever since we have noticed a steady growth of this discipline.

Our union currently brings together 53 clubs and almost 3,000 amateur golfers with an official handicap by PGU. Including professional golfers (belonging to PGA Poland) and non-member players, including Green Card holders (golf license), we can assume that there may be several thousand golf enthusiasts in our country.

Compare it to other European countries: in Germany there are about 600,000 amateur golfers, about half a million in Sweden, and 46,000 in Czech republic. It's estimated that over 150 million people practise this sport worldwide. It's hard to conclude then, that we are an important centre in the world of golf. Fortunately, the number of enthusiasts is rapidly increasing – in the period of 2005-2010 we had a twofold increase in the number of clubs, golfers and golf courses. In 2010 our country hosted 337 tournaments, which were attended by 16,000 players.

What criteria are the most important when evaluating a golf course, and is there anything we can be proud of, as regards our golf facilities?

Currently in Poland, there are eighteen 18-hole courses (approximately 80 ha), eleven 9-hole courses (40 ha) and a few dozen golf academies and driving ranges. The numbers aren't impressive, but definitely we have something to brag about, because some of the championship courses are real masterpieces, recognized and appreciated by famous golfers.

For instance – the course in Postołowo (Gdańsk Golf & Country Club) has been listed 84th among 100 Golf



Kraków Valley Golf & Country Club

rooms, a billiard room and a fitness centre, as well as tennis courts.

The green fee for 18 holes is PLN 160 (Tuesday-Friday), PLN 220 at weekends, PLN 80 at Mondays (after 3 pm PLN 130, 160 and PLN 65 respectively), club hire – PLN, buggy for 18 holes – PLN 120.

lisiapolana.pl

Krakow Valley Golf & Country Club

This is one of the largest golf and leisure complexes in Poland. It's located in the village of Paczółtowice, just 25 km from Cracow's Balice airport.

The professional par 72 with the length of 6,518 meters, is the first 18-hole course ever built in the south of Poland. Designed by the famous American architect, Ronald Fream, it's distinguished by its original style which is one of the reasons why numerous golf tournaments of international importance are held there. The most characteristic features of the course are its topographic diversity, wide, undulating fairways, and deep bunkers. They make a true impression, integrated into the typical Jurassic landscape and surrounded by dense woods.

Pacoldi Hotel Villa offers 16 air-conditioned rooms including two suites. There's also a stylish restaurant, a drink bar, barbecue, and summer gardens. The Conference Centre, located in a restored coach house, can accommodate up to 200 people.

Beginners can master their skills at Golf Academy, which is one of the most modern facilities of its kind in Europe with a 6-hole golf course and a driving range.

A full day fee on weekdays is PLN 170 (PLN 100 on Mondays), the 18-hole course on Friday costs PLN 200, at weekends and on public holidays – PLN 220; club hire – PLN 50, golf trolley – PLN 20.

krakow-valley.com

Sobienie Królewskie Golf & Country Club

This extensive complex is an 18-hole championship golf course, located in the area where a new housing estate is now being built together with leisure suites. It's located 30 kilometres from downtown Warsaw in the buffer zone of Mazowiecki Landscape Park, near the village of Sobienie Szlacheckie.

The course was designed by English company Ford Golf Design and it's inspired by the classic golf courses of the 20s. That's why the course in Sobienie Scottish is a typical links course with a large number of sand bunkers. However, several holes were designed in a parkland style, using local vegetation in order to emphasize the qualities of the Polish landscape.

Golf enthusiasts can practise at the 250 m driving range with 19 sheltered bays, and 3 training holes with a length of 70-150 meters each (par 3). The course in Sobienie is the Poland's only branch of one of the best golf

schools in the world – Scott Cranfield Golf Academy. The academy is attended both by amateur golfers, and players who compete in professional tournaments.

The hotel area of the complex is situated in three adjacent buildings, one of which is a restored 19th century palace. It comprises a restaurant with an orangery, a cafeteria, a cigar lounge, a library, and a ballroom. A picturesque park is also nearby.

A full day fee on weekdays is PLN 160, at weekends and on public holidays – PLN 220, on Happy Wednesdays PLN 100; club hire – PLN 40, golf trolley – PLN 20.

sobieniekrolewskie.pl



Sobienie Królewskie Golf & Country Club



Śląski Klub Golfowy

Silesian Golf Club

The Silesian Golf Club is one of the oldest clubs of this type in Poland, with its first four lanes opened on 7 June 1997. It was founded by great enthusiasts of this sport and has continuously been developed over the years, as the owners were keen to popularize the sport in the area.

A full-size par 72 course was launched 5 years ago. Today, the complex covers over 40 hectares of land and it's located in Siemianowice Śląskie, in Sowia Street. Getting there by car from the centre of Katowice takes merely 10 minutes.

The offer of SGC also includes a driving range with sheltered bays, putting green and chipping green. Golf enthusiasts can also visit the specialist shop, as well as the clubhouse, a restaurant and the equipment rental store.

The Silesian Golf Academy, which is formed by coaches from PGA Poland, organizes golf courses for beginner and advanced players.

Green fee for 18 holes is PLN 100 on weekdays, PLN 140 at weekends. There's a 20% happy hour discount available, which is valid Monday through Thursday before noon (reservation is needed). Club hire: a set of clubs – PLN 50, golf cart PLN 15. The course is open from 15

March to 15 November, from 9.00 am to dusk.

skgolf.pl

Golf Palace & Country Club

Central Poland has also received its first 18-hole course. Golf Palace is a beautifully situated course, located in the village of Wola Błędowa, in the vicinity of Łódź Hills Landscape Park. It's only 10 km away from the centre of Łódź, and around 100 kilometres from Warsaw.

Par 72 for professionals has is 6,018 metres and was designed by Pierre Delacour.

The course is diverse in terms of skills required from players. A few holes, including a water hazards at par 3, require considerable experience and a steady hand.

Ultimately, the course in Wola Błędowa will be a part of a huge sports and leisure complex with many additional attractions, such as a swimming pool, a hotel with tennis courts, and even a stud farm.

Currently, the club offers additional 240 metre driving range. You can also visit the clubhouse located just off the putting green of the 18th hole.

Green fee for 18 holes is PLN 100 on weekdays; club hire PLN 50, buggy PLN 100.

golfpalace.eu



Golf Palace & Country Club

Courses of Continental Europe by a British golf website (among 7,000 other courses). Until the last season it was the longest course in Europe (par 72 – 7,121 meters).

Also Modry Las is ranked as one of the top 100 European golf courses, and has been listed by American "Golf Inc." magazine as one of six best golf courses around the world (in the "Development of the Year" category), opened within the last two years.

The golf course in Binowo, near Szczecin, is one of the oldest in Poland – it was officially launched on 3 September 2000, and among the guests of honour were the Swedish Princess Birgitta, and the Swedish golfing legend – Sven Tumba.

Kraków Valley Golf & Country Club in Paczółtowice is recognized as one of the most difficult in this part of Europe.

Therefore, if we assume that the aesthetics and the quality of service are important criteria when assessing a golf course, we can say that most Polish courses meet those requirements.

But for me, as the president of PGU, representing Polish golfers, the most important criterion must be the availability of courses. By this I mean, above all, affordable prices, and a training offer aimed at children and teenagers.

In this regard, we are merely taking first steps, because the first public courses are still under construction.

These facilities are mostly built with the financial backing of local governments; the first one is a 9-hole golf course in Gorzów Wielkopolski, the other one are the training facilities in Lublin. There are undoubtedly pioneering projects, whose appearance will be, in my opinion, a turning point in the development of the Polish golf. No sport can develop without affordable and widely available sporting facilities available to the general public and owned by local governments.

Apart from the construction of public facilities, some owners of private courses have made them available for children and young people. Some of them provide their facilities free of charge to schools for PE lessons.

How do you predict the future prospects for this discipline? Will the return of golf to the roster of Olympic sports for 2016 games in Rio de Janeiro be a significant moment?

Amateur golf was present in the Olympics twice, in 1900 in Paris and in Saint Louis (1904). At the end of 2009, a decision of IOC brought golf back to the roster of the Olympic sports for 2016 Olympic Games in Rio, following its 112 absence. In March this year, Polish Golf Union became a member of the Polish Olympic Committee.

This is an extraordinary opportunity for the development of the discipline, and the effects of the decision are already visible with an increasing presence of golf in the national media.

The Olympic Games in Brazil will be a turning point for golf and I hope that in 2016 we will be able to talk about tens of thousands of Poles practicing this discipline. This will also contribute to changing the image of golf in our country and, hopefully, golf will no longer be considered a boring sport for old rich men. I hope that by then it will be a sport practiced by whole families in all parts of Poland.



A MIXED COUPLE

Moscow airports are currently undergoing transformation from socialist to capitalist structures, and it seems it's going to take less time than the road to communism did. **Mieczysław Samborski** visits Sheremetyevo and Domodedovo airports.



Both Vnukovo and Domodedovo airports, focus mainly on handling international flights, expanding the range of services, as well as invest in their infrastructure. They also compete with each other in terms of the number of handled passengers, and as of now, Domodedovo is winning. Let's not forget, however, that Russia is a huge country, operating numerous daily connections, so it's not surprising that these two airports located in one city (there's also Vnukovo) serve about 40 million passengers a year.

SHEREMETYEVO

Sheremetyevo International Airport was launched in 1959. It was constructed in difficult conditions, the builders lived in tents, building temporary huts for themselves, and cutting down the woods to make room for roads and runways. The first flight was operated on Leningrad – Moscow route. Since the very beginning, Sheremetyevo was the main base for Aeroflot and so it is today. Initially, the airport consisted of two terminals – the second one was launched for the Olympic Games in Moscow in 1980.

The airport, however, has huge ambitions. In 2015, it expects to handle 35 million passengers and wants to become one of the best airports in Europe in terms of quality of serv-

ice. The management of Sheremetyev has created a long-term plan of development, which includes construction of a new airport zone (with two terminals), and another runway by 2030. One of the two existing runways has already been reconstructed, and adapted to landing of large aircraft, like Airbus A380.

Sheremetyevo is gradually increasing in volume, modernizing the obsolete infrastructure, which is often the main point of criticism of passengers using the airport. The changes are also a result of the fierce competition of Sheremetyevo with Domodedovo, and also because a few years ago some significant airlines like Lufthansa or British Airways decided to move to Domodedovo. One of such changes is the new infrastructure, notably a new Terminal C, which has been launched recently. The terminal, painted in ►





Large investment and ambitions. Both Moscow airports compete with each other and wish to play the leading role.

a distinctive orange colour, cost over \$90 million. It covers the area of over 40,000 square meters and can handle up to 5 million passengers per year. The old Terminal 1 is currently used mostly for handling domestic flights. After its renovation, it will also be used for handling private business flights.

Another new building, is a 170,000 sq m Terminal D, which serves the role of headquarters of Aeroflot and other airline members of SkyTeam alliance. This terminal can handle up to 12 million passengers a year. Terminal 2, which is currently called Terminal F is undergoing renovation. There's also a new section of the airport named Terminal E, which joins Terminals D and F. All these actions significantly increased the capacity of the airport, which resulted in a greater number of passengers, which in recent years has increased by as much as 30 percent.

Undoubtedly, the biggest flaw of Sheremetyevo airport was its communication with the centre of Moscow, which is distant 29 kilometres away. 2004 saw a launch of a railway connection from central Moscow to Lobna station, which, however, is located 7 kilometres from the airport. Four years later a new railway station was opened, this time connect-

ing the terminal F with the city. In 2010 the line was extended to the Belarusian Railway Station.

The plans of the management of Sheremetyevo assume that the airport will become the central point of an aerotropolis – an airport city, which is set to become a thriving economic centre. Chances are that they will succeed in their efforts, because the development of Sheremetyevo attracts a growing number of investors and the airport is gradually moving closer to world standards.

DOMODEDOVO

Passenger flights on the second Moscow airport began in 1965. For three decades, Domodedovo served only domestic flights. However, since in the mid-90s, when it was privatized and put under the management of East Line Group, it has began to develop rapidly, gaining the status of an international airport, serving more and more passengers and surpassing Sheremetyevo in this number (last year it served 22 million passengers). This development can be perfectly illustrated by numbers – there have been periods in the history of the airport, where traffic grew by 15 percent per month. According to Skytrax, the airport ranks among the top three in the Eastern Europe.

Currently, 77 airlines use the airport, including 36 foreign ones. The airport operates flights to 241 destinations, 92 of which are unique ones – you can reach them departing only from Domodedovo. The port is the Russian headquarters for two major airline alliances: Star Alliance and oneworld.

East Line company is currently planning to increase the area of passenger terminals (T1, T) two-fold, to 225,000 sq m. The plan assumes \$300 million investment in the infrastructure. Also the construction of Terminal 3 is to be completed by 2012. The whole investment will increase the airport's capacity to 28 million passengers per year, and when the next stage – the construction of Terminal 4 – has been completed, the capacity will increase to 35 million.

Domodedovo has two runways, but they are arranged differently than at Sheremetyevo where they are located next to each other, so they can't be used simultaneously. Domodedovo doesn't have this problem – its runways can be used by 177 different types of aircraft, from small private machines to giant cargo planes. We should add here that Domodedovo is Russia's largest cargo hub.

The strategic objective of the airport's management is for the port to become a multipurpose centre for passengers and cargo traffic, with an ambition to become a major hub in this respect for destinations between Europe and Asia. The plans include building a new runway, the development of passenger terminals, renovation of the existing infrastructure, and new investments on another 13,000 hectares of land. These plans are real, given the current rapid development of the port. What's more, that newer Domodedovo and the slightly older, but also fast-developing Sheremetyevo, ideally complement each other. It seems that in a few years, Moscow will be (in fact, it already is) a great centre of air traffic and its airports will compete for the industry's awards. ■





INSTYTUT ZDROWIA I URODY
MEDICAL SPA

*Najlepszy salon urody w Polsce ostatniego X-lecia
Laureat Konkursu Warszawski Znak Jakości*

■ Nowoczesne zabiegi laserowe

Epilacja laserowa - Lasery Light Sheer - nowość

Trwale - dzięki zastosowaniu diody o bardzo wysokiej mocy i o długim czasie trwania impulsu.

Bezpiecznie - wysokie bezpieczeństwo zabiegu zapewnia unikalny system chłodzenia kontaktową końcówką szafirową.

Szybko - ma dwa razy większą "głowicę" - tzw. plamkę celującą (12x12mm) co pozwala na szybsze wykonanie zabiegu.

■ Fotoodmładzanie FRAXEL® - najnowocześniejszy laser w Polsce, Nr 1 na świecie.

Usuwanie blizn potrądzikowych, usuwanie przebarwień, wygładzanie zmarszczek, poprawa tekstury skóry, poprawa owalu twarzy.

■ Makijaż trwały Conture Make-up

Podkreśla kształt i kolor ust, nadaje piękny kształt brwiom, zagęszcza linię rzęs.

Linerzystki Sharley - wielokrotne mistrzynie z tytułem ELITE.

■ Wellness, SPA

Sauny: sucha, parowa z aromaterapią;

Sauna na podczerwień - nowość w terapii otyłości; Masaż podwodny z solami morskimi; Zabiegi pielęgnacyjne i relaksujące.

■ Porady dietytyka

■ Dermatolog



■ Ekskluzywne zabiegi kosmetyczne

ThermaClinic - bezbolesny i bezpieczny system poprawy napięcia skóry i spłykania zmarszczek;

Poprawa owalu twarzy TMT, izoliza, ultradźwięki,

Wygładzanie zmarszczek, blizn - mikrodermabrazja;

Dermatologiczno-kosmetyczna terapia trądziku;

Konsultacje wizażystki i stylistki.

■ Pielęgnacja ciała

Lipo Shock - szokujące efekty odchudzania, długoetapowe efekty redukujące tkankę tłuszczową;

Therma Lipo - alternatywa dla chirurgii plastycznej; redukcja tkanki tłuszczowej, cellulitu i ujędrnienie skóry;

Elektrostymulacja, Ultradźwięki;

Body mix - wyszczuplenie, modelowanie sylwetki;

Laser, krioterapia, fotostymulacja, masaż ciśnieniowy;

Zabiegi relaksujące - winoterapia, czekoladoterapia;

Mezoterapia - kondycjonowanie skóry, terapie cellulitu.

■ Medycyna estetyczna

Leczenie przebarwień - peelingi, **Cosmelan** - terapia na przebarwienia hormonalne;

Usuwanie zmarszczek - botulina, wypełniacze;

Mezoterapia - kondycjonowanie skóry, poprawianie owalu twarzy;

Poprawa owalu twarzy - najnowocześniejsze zabiegi.

Leczenie nadpotliwości - botulina.

Zamykanie naczynek - twarz, nogi.



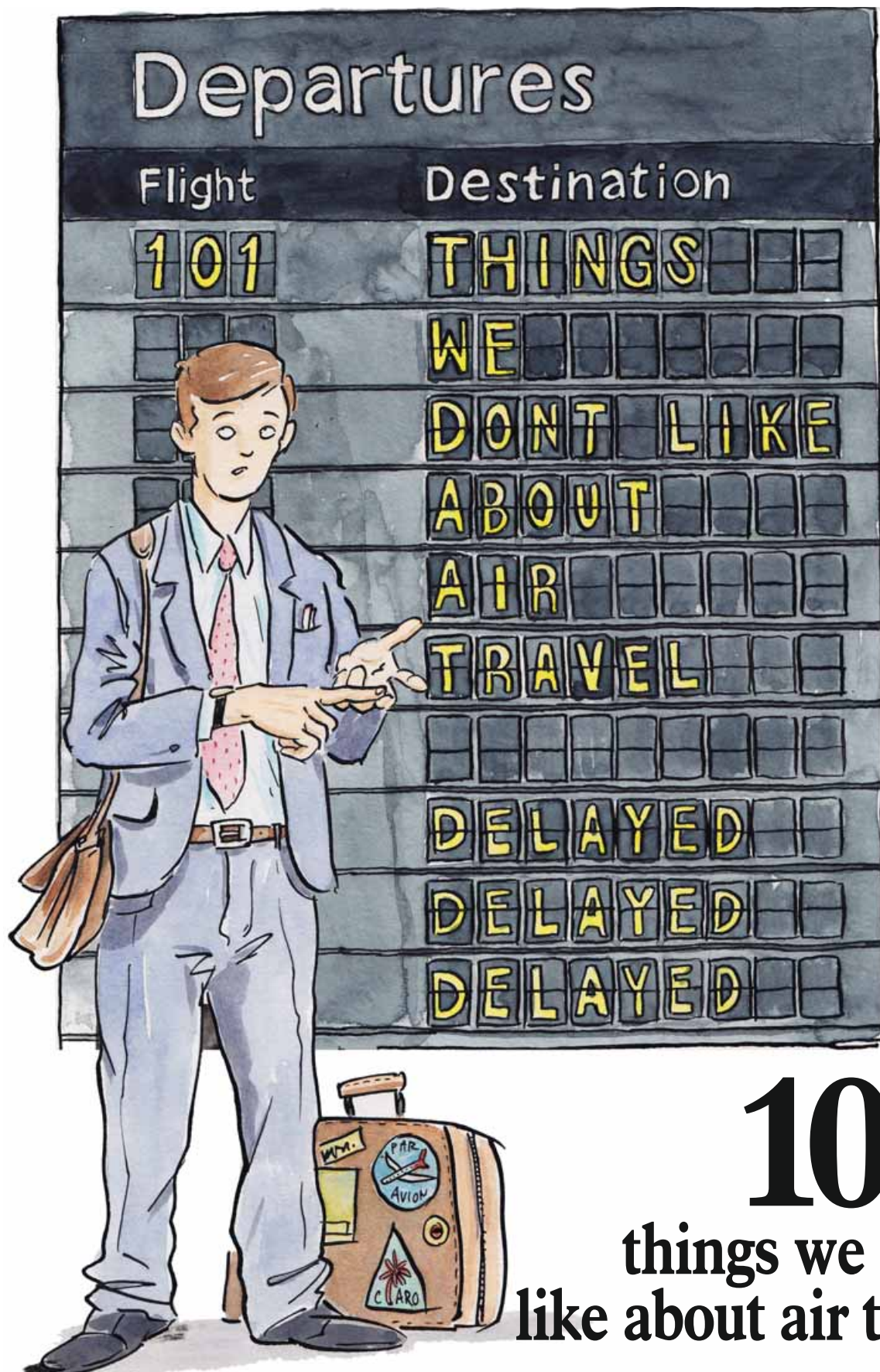
www.sharley.pl

ul. Jana Pawła II 75, Warszawa

tel: 22 636 46 66, 636 46 64

e-mail: sharley@sharley.pl





101

things we don't like about air travel

Frequent flyers can always rely on something irritating to happen on a plane journey. We vent our frustrations



1 When you do it a lot, you smell of plane.

2 People tell you how big your carbon footprint is.

3 Its defencelessness in the face of bad weather, volcanoes and “acts of God”.

4 You book the flight yourself, online, and buy the wrong ticket... and you can't get a refund.

5 Or you buy the right ticket, but twice... and can't get a refund.

6 And whatever you paid, you can guarantee the guy next to you paid less.

7 A last-minute plane change means the slick new business class seat you had been looking forward to trying out is actually an old version from the 1980s.

8 The plane is so decrepit that it rattles as it goes down the runway.

9 There's no room for your cabin baggage because everyone has exceeded their own allowance.

10 Or you are told you have exceeded yours, and have to check it in.

11 You look out of the window and see your suitcase being thrown on to the plane as if it were a beach ball.

12 Or it doesn't make it on to the plane at all.

13 There is always one passenger who's late, and delays you.

14 The person next to you has a cough. Or sniffs. Or breathes through their mouth. A bad sign on a night flight.

15 And they want to talk to you.

16 But then they get upgraded just before take-off.

17 No one greets you on board, offers to take your coat or gives you a drink.

18 There are crumbs all over your seat and butter on the remote control.

19 The only seats left to select were the middle ones, or by the washrooms.

20 Or by the bassinets, which are occupied by babies with extreme colic.

21 Or by the galley, and it's a night flight so you have to put up with inane chat from the crew while trying to sleep.

22 The “noise-cancelling” headphones provided don't cancel anything.

23 Having boarded on time, you are stuck on the tarmac for an hour.

24 Just before take-off, you're told there is a fault and that maintenance are trying to locate a spare part.

25 Boring safety demonstrations. Can't they jazz it up a bit? Like Cebu Pacific – visit youtube.com/watch?v=Lqh8e2KYIrU

26 On long haul, the in-flight entertainment doesn't work.

27 Or having seen the films on offer, isn't worth turning on.

28 The music selection hasn't been updated since the eighties.

29 The flight map doesn't work, or shows a different route, so you worry you got on the wrong plane.

30 Or doesn't have an English translation, so you are left trying to work out your flight status in Mandarin.

31 Your plane has mobile phone technology, and the person next to you thinks it's good to talk.

32 The child behind you keeps kicking your seat, and their parents don't seem to mind.

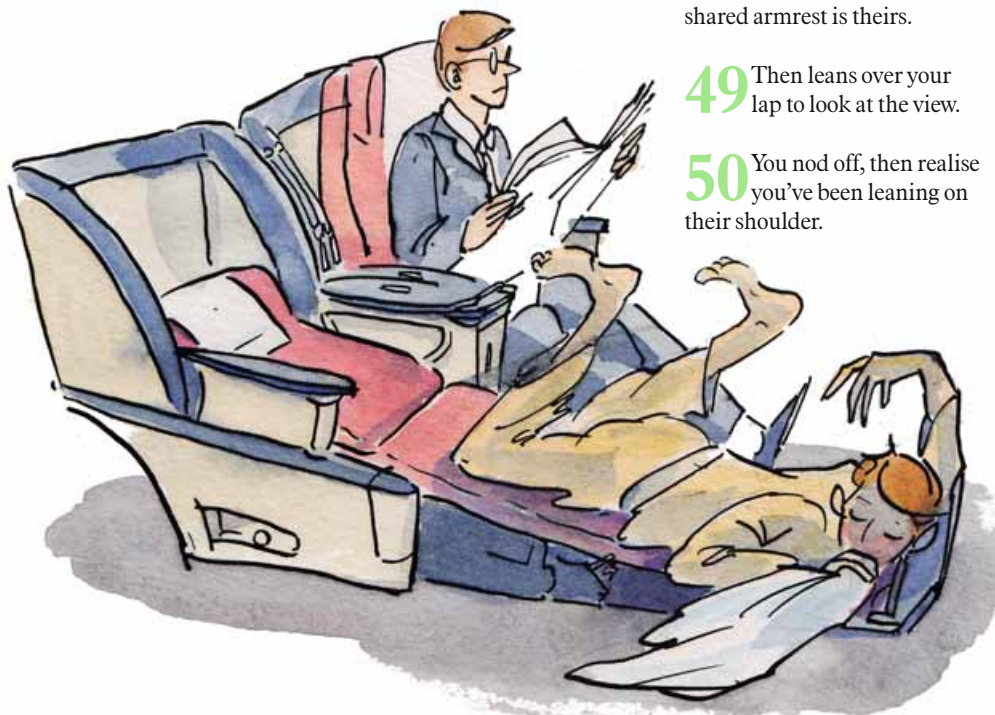
33 Or they tell them off too aggressively, making everyone feel uncomfortable.



34 You get up to go to the washroom and are blocked by trolleys in both directions.

101

things we don't like about air travel



35 People in lower classes keep using your washrooms, and crew do nothing to stop them.

36 When you finally get into one, someone bangs on the door just as you're getting comfortable.

37 You look in the mirror before you come out and see the cabin pressure has aged you by a decade.

38 And you feel so dehydrated that your eyes, nose and throat feel like sandpaper.

39 In business, the "fully-flat" bed is angled lie-flat so you slide down it and wake under the footrest.

40 While wearing the ridiculous beige sleep suit they have given you.

41 The bed has been designed for midgets.

42 The fleece blanket doesn't cover your toes, and gives you a static shock when you get out of your seat.

43 You wake up aching everywhere.

44 In economy class, the window seat you requested is occupied by a heavy drinker with a weak bladder.

45 The person in front reclines their seat fully, even though it's a day flight.

46 Or the seats don't recline at all.

47 The legroom is so poor that you knock your neighbour out while trying to get into your flight socks.

48 The person beside you informs you that the shared armrest is theirs.

49 Then leans over your lap to look at the view.

50 You nod off, then realise you've been leaning on their shoulder.

51 And you've been dribbling.

52 Imperious cabin crew who talk to you like you're a child and take half an hour to come when you press the button for service.

53 The food service takes two hours to complete even though you're on a six-hour night flight and need to get some sleep.

54 Your first choice of meal isn't available.

55 There is no choice.

56 Your travel manager has booked you on a dry airline.

57 There is one red and one white wine available, and both are paint stripper, served warm, in plastic.

58 The "champagne" is Prosecco.

59 The menu described the meal incorrectly. What it should have said was: "Grey, misshapen substance, not edible."

60 But you eat it anyway, because it's in front of you, even though you ate in the lounge as well. And then you feel sick.

61 And you drink more wine than you should, because they offered it, and you feel hungover an hour later.

62 In economy, the crew parade the business class meals past you on their way from the galley.

63 Your vegetarian "special" has ham in it.

64 The meal is served with silly little metal knives with stubby rounded ends. Or plastic cutlery that breaks when you try to slice anything.

65 You've been promised a breakfast snack and get a three-day old croissant and a coffee with UHT milk.

66 And the sachet explodes all over your suit when you try to open it.

67 You can't smoke but there is an ashtray in the armrest, just to tempt you.

68 You feel nauseous after putting on too many nicotine patches.

69 You can't work out how to get the tray table out of your armrest, let alone back in.

70 Then when you've finally got it assembled, it bounces like a trampoline when you attempt to type on your laptop.

71 Your laptop battery dies an hour into the flight and there is no in-seat power.

72 In business, the amenity kit has moisturiser but no ear plugs.

73 In economy, your neighbour has 30 years of over-eating under his belt and it's spilling into your seat.

74 It's a night flight but the lights aren't turned off.

75 You suddenly get an overwhelming feeling of claustrophobia, and you're only two hours into a long-haul flight.

76 Air rage.

77 The cabin temperature is always too hot or too cold, but never just right.

78 There is so much turbulence that you start to wonder if you've updated your will.

79 When it stops, the seatbelt sign stays on for ages, and you need the loo.

80 Ceaseless engine noise.

81 People who do lunging exercises in the aisle because they "need to stretch".

82 Pages ripped out of in-flight magazines.

83 Boredom-induced purchases from the in-flight duty free.

84 Guilt-induced purchases from duty free (you were away for their birthday again).



85 You have to use the sick bag but it's so old the bottom has worn away.

86 Trying to calculate what time it will be when you land and how many hours» sleep you should try to get, or if you should sleep at all.

87 Thinking about what else you could be doing with the money you spent on your ticket.

88 Worrying about ticking the wrong box on your arrival form.

89 Someone opens their window shade just as the sun comes up, blinding you.

90 The crew turn off the in-flight entertainment ten minutes before the end of your film.

91 You arrive on time but then have to circle the airport for half an hour because there is no slot available to land.

92 Or you're delayed and the captain is over-familiar and makes a joke about how he'll be late home for tea. Just fly the plane, goddammit.

93 The landing resembles a kamikaze mission.

94 People applaud when you touch down.

95 Then jump up and open the overhead bins before the seatbelt sign is turned off, knocking you out.

96 It's raining when you arrive.

97 When you turn your phone back on, dozens of emails and voicemails flood in for you to deal with.

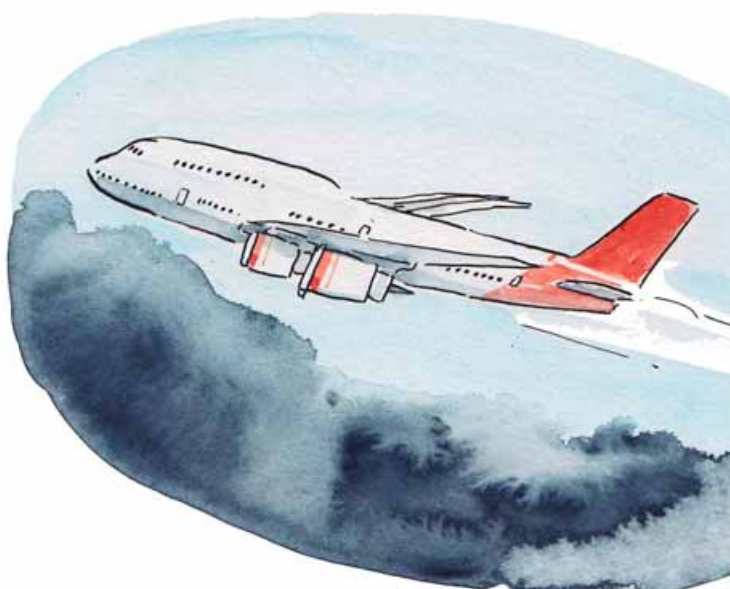
98 You're kept waiting ages before you can get off the plane.

99 And it is designed in such a way that people in lower classes get to disembark before you.

100 Jet lag.

101 And then there's the airports – but that's a whole other 101 things to complain about... (Look out for the next in the series, "101 things we don't like about airports".)

■ *What are your air travel hates? Let us know at talktous@businesstraveller.com*



LOT *Tastes Different*

LOT Polish Airlines is getting ready for EURO 2012 championship. One of the first novelties introduced with EURO 2012 in mind has been the new menu on board the Polish carrier's aircraft. The changes include both business and economy class. Now the food will be even tastier – **Olga Chelchowska**.

The previous menu, which was launched in July 2010, was designed by chef Robert Sowa, who is also an author of the new choice of meals on board LOT's aircraft. It's been his third such menu prepared exclusively for LOT. The previous offer was well received by the passengers travelling with LOT Polish Airlines, and it definitely proved suitable. This time the menu creators turned towards elegant and light cuisine, but most of all inspired by our local specialties.

"Developing the new menu, I tried to implement there a lot of elements typical of the modern Polish cuisine", explains Robert Sowa. "We use here mainly Polish products, because with the current Polish presidency of the EU Council and the imminent Euro 2012 championship, we wanted the guests visiting our country to try food which is the most characteristic of our cuisine. I try to use here exclusively Polish regional and seasonal products, such as strawberries, asparagus, or chanterelles", adds Sowa.

Once again the culinary changes on board LOT's aircraft were made by Robert Sowa



MORE ON THE PLATE

Those who fly with LOT, will definitely be glad to know that the portions are now slightly larger and the dishes are lower in calories than they were before. On longer European flights and on medium-haul journeys, as well as on the transatlantic routes, the so-called second service includes now a hot sandwich instead of a cold one.

Currently, on European routes taking up to 90 minutes, economy class passengers can encounter four different types of dishes. They consist of a combination of such fresh products as chicken with marjoram, cheese, red or green pepper, pickled cucumber, żywiecka sausage, dried tomatoes, roast chicken with marjoram, zucchini or fried turkey ham. These may be served with Danish sauce, mayonnaise, garlic sauce, mustard or ketchup, and with white or wholegrain roll. On longer flights, which take up to 180 minutes, the above are accompanied by iceberg lettuce, sliced black or green olives, a boiled egg, salami or a turkey leg. On flights of over 3 hours the cabin crew serves hot sandwiches. However, a real feast starts on transatlantic routes. On such a long flight you will be served



one cold and two hot meals, as well as hot sandwiches. A cold meal may consist of meat pate, smoked turkey, patisson, dried apricots, cherry tomatoes, and lettuce. A hot meal, on the other hand, may consist of cabbage rolls, boiled potatoes sprinkled with parsley, and topped with Napolitana sauce. The dessert in economy class is a traditional Prince Polo wafer bar.

AMPLE BUSINESS MEALS

In the higher cabin class the service remains unchanged – passengers will still receive metal cutlery, drinks served in glass, on white tablecloths. However, the choice of dishes has undergone a major overhaul. On routes of up to 90 minutes, business class passengers will have a chance to try such delicacies as cream cheese with walnuts and celery, roast beef rolls with cheese mousse and pear, blue cheese gateau with ham, cottage cheese and fresh herbs, or spinach omelette with cheese and fish stuffing, served with anchovies and capers. On flights of over 90 minutes, they may be served drop scones with apple and canned fruit, royal terrine with vegetables and pesto sauce, pancakes with roasted apple and cinnamon sauce, or an omelette with salmon and cherry tomatoes. There are numerous options to choose from and the way the meals are composed is of course dependent on time of the day, the length of flight, and the destination. On long-haul routes in business class, passengers can enjoy hot meals served in large casserole dishes. They include the wild pork tenderloin with black currant sauce and juniper, stewed chicken drumsticks with rosemary, wild honey and buckwheat millet, cabbage rolls with meat, or a roast catfish with cucumber sauce and mashed potatoes.

Not enough? There is also a wide selection of cold meals such as include terrine of roasted turkey breast with cranberry mousse and egg, roast breast of chicken with asparagus in tomato and herb sauce, or smoked salmon served with quail eggs and horseradish sauce.

Desserts served in business class are also unique. In this regard, the new menu offers a variety of delicacies. You can, for example, order a trio of galia melons, cheesecake with white chocolate and cherry sauce, fruit salad, carpaccio with melon and pineapple with toasted sunflower seeds or sponge cake with vanilla cream, seasonal fruits and chocolate sauce.

The Polish carrier is aware of the importance of good food on board, because it's a real showpiece of any airline.

The meals will be tasty, light, elegant, and with a “down home” feel.

“We are trying to achieve the highest quality of passenger service and increase the comfort of the journey, so the menu on board our aircraft is one of the most important aspects here. A delicious meal served on board contributes significantly to a passenger's well-being during the flight. I believe that the analysis of opinions made by our passengers, will show that the new menu offered on board our aircraft is well received”, says Leszek Chorzewski, a spokesman for LOT Polish Airlines. Sounds great, and the first comments by LOT's passengers confirm that the new menu has won them over. It's definitely something with which we can amaze the football fans arriving in Poland for Euro 2012 – let's hope our footballers will follow this trend. ■



A Real Star Alliance

The merger of two major airlines in 2004 resulted in dramatic changes, not only in the European airline industry. Today, Air France and KLM are one firm body, acting at various levels and developing faster than before. Both Air France and KLM are now celebrating their anniversaries. Interestingly, they both were launched in October – what's more – on the same day.

The merger of two major airlines in 2004 resulted in dramatic changes, not only in the European airline industry. Today, Air France and KLM are one firm body, acting at various levels and developing faster than before. Both Air France and KLM are now celebrating their anniversaries. Interestingly, they both were launched in October – what's more – on the same day.

That's why, apart from the May date (when the merger was finalized), 7 October is a day of celebration for both carriers. In 1919 it was the day of birth of Koninklijke Luchtvaartmaatschappij – the airline of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and its colonies. Several months later a regular route from Amsterdam to London was launched, and then the reliable Fokkers started flying to Bremen, Brussels, Copenhagen, Paris, and also on long distances to Indonesia and even to Curacao.

In Paris, on the other hand, 1933 saw the launch of a national airline of France, which was the result of a merger of five local carriers. The new airline opened connections to numerous countries across the continent. In other words, both companies were the pioneers of the European civil aviation.

New challenges

The latest news coming from the AF/KLM camp are equally exciting. The board has recently decided to purchase new aircraft. There will be 110 of them and they will mostly operate on long-haul routes. This is the first joint order of the holding and already so big. KLM/Air France ordered two types of aircraft, from two different manufacturers (currently the modern fleet of both companies has a total of 590 aircraft, with 168 of them flying on long-haul routes, 227 operating on medium-haul routes and 181 are used for domestic flights. The remaining machines are used for cargo shipment). The machines ordered by the holding will include 30 units of Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner and 73 units of a new generation Airbus A350-900 aircraft. The first Dreamliner (it's still unknown what engines the plane will feature, because this decision has been postponed), will be delivered to KLM in 2016. Airbus is still working on its new baby, so the model A350, featuring Rolls-Royce engines, will definitely join the fleet of Air France, albeit in 2018. Both aircraft will reduce fuel consumption by as much as 15%, and won't produce as much noise as the current aircraft. Also, emissions of



FLYINGBLUE

harmful gases is reduced, which is a crucial issue for both carriers. Environmental protection can be seen in everyday activities of the holding – since 2004 it has been a member of the Dow Jones Sustainability Index, working for sustainable development with high environmental standards. Recently it was announced that AF/KLM are among dozens of the most secure airlines in the world.

There are many more such successes to the credit of both carriers. Following a dramatic collapse of the market and the global turmoil, causing huge losses for the whole industry, the holding was one of the first to recover from its predicament. KLM/Air France is currently the largest European operator of long-haul routes, reaching 254 destinations in 124 countries worldwide. The number of passengers carried each year reaches 71.3 million, while the transported cargo reaches 1.5 million tons. A less known, though extremely important area of the holding's operation, which generates substantial profits, is aircraft maintenance. Ground services repair and maintain over 1,300 aircraft. AF/KLM is also one of the largest employers – both companies provide employment to 102,000 people.

Both KLM and Air France belong to Skyteam airline alliance, and their loyalty programme called Flying Blue, provides their passengers with numerous benefits. The same is true for BlueBiz programme which is aimed at business customers. The principles of the programme are clear and simple. When your company purchases airline tickets, some part of the paid sum returns to the BlueBiz account in a form of BlueBiz points. The longer the route is and the more expensive the ticket, the more credits are earned. The credits can later be converted into awards. Membership in the programme offers measurable benefits with discounts up to 10%. KLM has also recently introduced a brand new Business Class on European routes. The travellers, apart from more legroom, will also enjoy more space obtained thanks to blocking the middle seat in each row to remain unoccupied. The benefits of the travel in Europe Business class are not only limited to the flight. Passengers travelling in this cabin class may check in at priority desks, and have priority when boarding the aircraft. Another novelty is the new on board menu which comprises luxurious breakfasts

BLUEBIZ

and delicious dinners. Only fresh ingredients are used and the choice is wider than ever. Meals are now served on tableware designed by Dutch designer Marcel Wanders, as they are in World Business Class. The collection is created in Wanders' unique style and matches the quality standards of a top restaurant.

Air France, on the other hand, takes pride in its first class cabin called La Première. Passengers in La Première are provided with their own personal assistant, luxury limousines take them to the foot of the aircraft, where they travel in a comfortable seat. It has a number of discreetly integrated functions such as back massage, an interactive video screen, a noise-reducing hi-fi headset, on-demand video, a PC power outlet, an individual telephone, soft lighting and a private fibre optic reading light. It's worth knowing that even a single purchase of a ticket in La Première class makes you eligible to obtain a Gold card of Air France's Flying Blue frequent flyer programme. The miles earned in Flying Blue can be redeemed for one free prize ticket in Business class on an intercontinental flight or two Business class tickets in promo awards programme on certain European routes. ●



Trade Fair - the World under a Roof

Business Traveller talks to **Urszula Potęga**, the Chairperson of MT Targi.



Is the 19th edition of International Tourism Fair TT Warsaw a good moment to talk about the history of this event?

We started in 1993, which is really the beginning of the development of international tourism in our country. We have to remember that until 1989, it was very difficult to obtain a passport, and the free outbound tourism – especially to countries outside the socialist bloc – was something unattainable. At the beginning of 1990's everything changed and the Polish people saw unrestricted possibilities. Unfortunately it turned out it was not the sky, but the wallet, that was the limit. In the first year, our Fair was attended by exhibitors from 16 countries, mostly from Europe: Austria, Belgium, Belarus, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Lithuania, Latvia, but you could also feel some exotic, as a few companies from Brazil, Kenya and Peru had their stalls as well. Currently, we have exhibitors from over 60 countries. That includes both the neighbouring countries, as well as the little-known countries from faraway places. Initially, TT Warsaw was held in Torwar, later in the Palace of Culture and Science. From 2009 on, we have moved to the new and highly modern MT Polska Fair Trade and Congress Centre on Mars street.

TT Warsaw has become a permanent event in the schedule of trade fair in Warsaw. What, in your opinion, makes it so attractive? What attracts other companies?

No other tourist event in Poland attracts so many foreign countries, as well as national stalls promoting its attractions. Contrary to our spring LATO Fair, aimed at individuals looking for interesting ideas for summer holiday, TT Warsaw is addressed to tourist industry representatives. Its purpose is to establish business contact, consolidate knowledge and conducting business talks. To create conducive conditions, the first day is traditionally reserved for the tourist business alone. Only from the second day on, do we open the fair to individuals, and on the last day – Saturday – we organize plenty of attractions for them. To participate in the fair is an excellent opportunity for all travel lovers, to be able to learn about tourist attractions from all over the world in one place. They can get familiar with the culture of individual countries, try some local delicacies and buy a dream trip at an affordable price.

What is your evaluation of the latest edition? Who appeared for the first time? Was there anything surprising?

This year, for the first time in Poland, countries like Japan, Albania, Laos and Vietnam exhibited

and presented their tourist offer during TT Warsaw. And by no means were they intimidated. Japan organized a mass of attractions, just like the most active countries with an established position at the fair. You could see the Japanese No theatre performances, attend Japanese culture meetings combined with presentations of manga, an opportunity to try on a kimono, Samurai swords and Japanese shodo calligraphy presentation, as well as a Urasenke school tea brewing ceremony. Japan encouraged the tourists to see its former capital cities, temples and castles, as well as Japanese festivals with long and established history. This year I was genuinely surprised with how impressive some of the stalls were. Our fair – similarly as it is with other events of this type in the whole world – are getting better and better with each year. It is a fantastic place not only to do business, but also to spend some time in a unique, international atmosphere.

How do you plan a tourist event of this size? Where and how do you look for partners and exhibitors? Is the interest in the fair and Poland growing nowadays?

For almost twenty years we have paved numerous ways all over the world. Each year we encourage not only the regular exhibitors, but we also actively look for some new ones, and

so far we have always been successful in this field. And Poland is more and more often perceived as an attractive market by the international business trade. Numerous countries want to advertise their tourist attractions in Poland, because Polish people travel more and more. On one hand, the number of Polish tourists in such popular holiday destinations like Egypt or Tunisia is growing, and on the other hand, the Polish people often choose to go to very exotic countries, including very expensive, individually-organized expeditions. As a result, exotic destinations are chosen more and more often, and with time they really gain popularity. For instance, our partner country, Morocco, was not quite popular with Polish tourists a few years ago, but currently a substantial number of tourists coming to this country, comes from Poland. In 2010 alone, 35 thousand Polish tourists came to Morocco. That's why, the Moroccans see great potential in our country, and want to promote themselves even more intensively, so that the number of Polish tourists grows even more.

You visit numerous fair events all over the world. How is Warsaw doing when compared to other cities?

For one thing, we have nothing to feel intimidated about. Of course, we are much smaller than big events like ITB in Berlin, but taking into account their scale and tradition, we should not be comparing them to TT Warsaw. But there is no doubt that our fair is one of the most important trade events in the Central and Eastern

Europe, and we've got everything to strengthen this position.

What are the strong points and weaknesses of Polish tourist industry?

We've got numerous impressive attractions, some of them being completely unknown or not promoted. But both Poland as a whole, as well as individual regions invest more and more funds into promotional campaigns, which is also present during TT Warsaw. There are many interesting ideas: this year is marked with our presidency in European Union, and next year we are co-organising Euro 2012. I am glad to see that these occasions are used to promote our products abroad.

How long does it take to organize such a big trade fair event? How many people are there in your team?

It takes over a year to organize one edition of a trade fair event. For instance, during this year's TT Warsaw fair we are promoting the jubilee TT Warsaw 2012, and we are even selling stalls for next year. Working on such an event requires coordination in various aspects like sales, logistics and promotion. To organize one event, it takes one dedicated team consisting of at least 6 people, and a number of experts and subcontractors cooperating together. What is more, a lot of work is also on the part of the exhibitors themselves, as they invest significant funds and hire numerous people just to present themselves during the fair in an original way.

Each event is different, has its own peculiarities and the exhibitors have different requirements, as you organize both sports and culinary event. How do you combine all these things together?

We approach each fair individually, taking into account the peculiarities of each industry as well as the expectations on the part of exhibitors and visitors from the particular sector. We've got an experienced team of people, who specialize in particular trade fair, and are familiar with current trends and needs of each industry. What's more, we support ourselves with knowledge of companies and organisations working in particular industries, and together we work on the factual programme for each fair. It is always about the most important issues concerning each market and it constitutes a key element of all our events.

And what are the exhibitors and visitors expecting to get nowadays? What are the current trends in today's fair business?

Visitors coming to the fair are more and more demanding and their expectations are getting higher. Nowadays, the mere presence at the fair is not enough. The competition is high, so the exhibiting companies care about all sorts of promotional strategies and nice setting of the stalls. The exhibitors, on the other hand, expect that the visitors are not just random comers, but potential customers looking for business contacts or attractive products and services they could be willing to buy.

You gave been awarded with the title of "Businesswoman of the year", you've been working in the business for many years and have known it inside out, so, how do you think the tourist industry is going to develop? What can we expect in the upcoming years?

One of the trends, we can observe in the trade business, is the presence of specialized theme events dedicated to a fragment of a particular sector, and aimed at a highly-selected range of consumers. In the upcoming years we can see more events of this sort. As for new technologies, I believe that the concept of the virtual fair sounds interesting, but it will not replace the regular one. The internet may boost many processes in various aspects, but it does not have the power to replace the direct contact between people, a still crucial thing when doing business. Trade fair is also an occasion to present and sell more complex offers, and not just homogeneous products you can obtain just by one click when surfing the Net. All the more, both the exhibitors and visitors truly appreciate the possibility of establishing a direct contact or having a conversation or agreement on specific terms of cooperation. ■



HARDER Better *Faster* STRONGER

What will the world of technology look like in ten years' time, and how will we benefit?

Mark Prigg reports

Predicting the future is a fraught affair. If some futurologists had got it right, we would by now be commuting using jetpacks, while household robots tended to our every need.

Sadly, neither of these has quite come true yet, a reminder that predicting the future of technology is an almost impossible task, as a single scientific breakthrough can result in huge changes with all manner of results.

The past five years alone have seen technology advance at an astonishing pace. The smartphone has emerged as something with the power of a desktop computer, while Google has made large chunks of the world's knowledge searchable within seconds from anywhere. So what technology will we be using in a decade's time?

The only thing experts seem to agree on is that these incredible leaps are set to continue, and by looking at what research labs around the world are working on, it's possible to get a glimpse of what's yet to come.

Of course, many of these predictions should be taken with a pinch of salt – in the age of tech, a decade is a long time. Canadian research firm 5Deka (5deka.com) has just published its thoughts on technology in 2020, and predicts every-

thing from mobile phone earpieces embedded in our skin to tags that immediately identify us to shops as we walk in. According to 5Deka's chief executive and co-founder, Réjean Bourgault: "We're going to see some very big changes by 2020."

Electronic tags, similar to those found in travel cards such as Oyster, are also set to become commonplace. Called NFC (near field communication) tags, they are just beginning to be installed in phones and can be used for everything from paying for items by acting as a credit card, to being a contactless key. In fact, technology market research firm Juniper (juniperresearch.com) says that 500 million people worldwide will use their smartphone as a travel card by 2015.

According to Howard Wilcox, a senior analyst at Juniper Research, the phone is set to replace our wallet for almost everything. "We think that by 2014, one in five smartphones will have NFC built in," he said. "There's going to be a real change in consumer behaviour."

One of the most impressive uses is to revolutionise the way we shop and finally kill off the dreaded check-out queue. Instead, shopping will be done by simply placing items straight in your bag – a machine will then scan your purchases as you leave the store and connect to





your phone to debit the appropriate account. This is not without some privacy concerns, of course, but 5Deka believes the appeal of the service will outweigh these.

The relentless pace of technology will also leave casualties in its wake, the biggest of which, some believe, will be the desktop computer. IT publisher *Computerworld* recently predicted that in the next 18 months, shipments of app-powered smartphones and tablet devices will surpass the number of PC deliveries. "Mobile phones and tablets really are a glimpse into the future of computers, and I think we are going to see the balance shift massively towards them," says freelance futurologist Jonathan Mitchener.

"I see the traditional computer, be it a laptop or a desktop, disappearing for

One of the biggest casualties of the relentless pace of technology will be the desktop computer

most consumers," he says. "Just a few years ago the idea of a computer without a mouse would be absurd, yet now we already find pressing keys rather odd on a phone. The computer is hidden from the user in a touchscreen device, which is why people love them so much. For instance, when you use an iPad, it just doesn't seem like you are using a computer at all – it's extremely natural."

Another casualty is likely to be the television channel. As programmes are increasingly stored in "the cloud" – vast farms of computer servers run by firms such as Google and Apple – then conventional TV schedules become irrelevant, leaving only live events such as sports to be broadcast in the traditional way, as everything else becomes on-demand, downloaded only when we decide we want to watch it.

One upshot of the advances in technology is likely to be that offices also be- ▶

come increasingly irrelevant. “The age of the Martini worker has truly come,” says Nicola Millard, BT’s customer experience futurologist. “You can work anytime, and in any place without having to compromise at all.”

As well as the way we work, the way we travel is set to change, and one of the biggest advances for business people could be the emergence of low orbit space travel for long flights. The idea is being investigated by Richard Branson’s Virgin Galactic team, which claims it will begin running flights that could see trips from the UK to Australia cut to just 2.5 hours. (For more on the future of aviation, see “The sky’s the limit”, businesstraveller.com/archive/2010/april-2010.)

Virgin Galactic’s low orbit space flights could see trips from the UK to Australia cut to just 2.5 hours

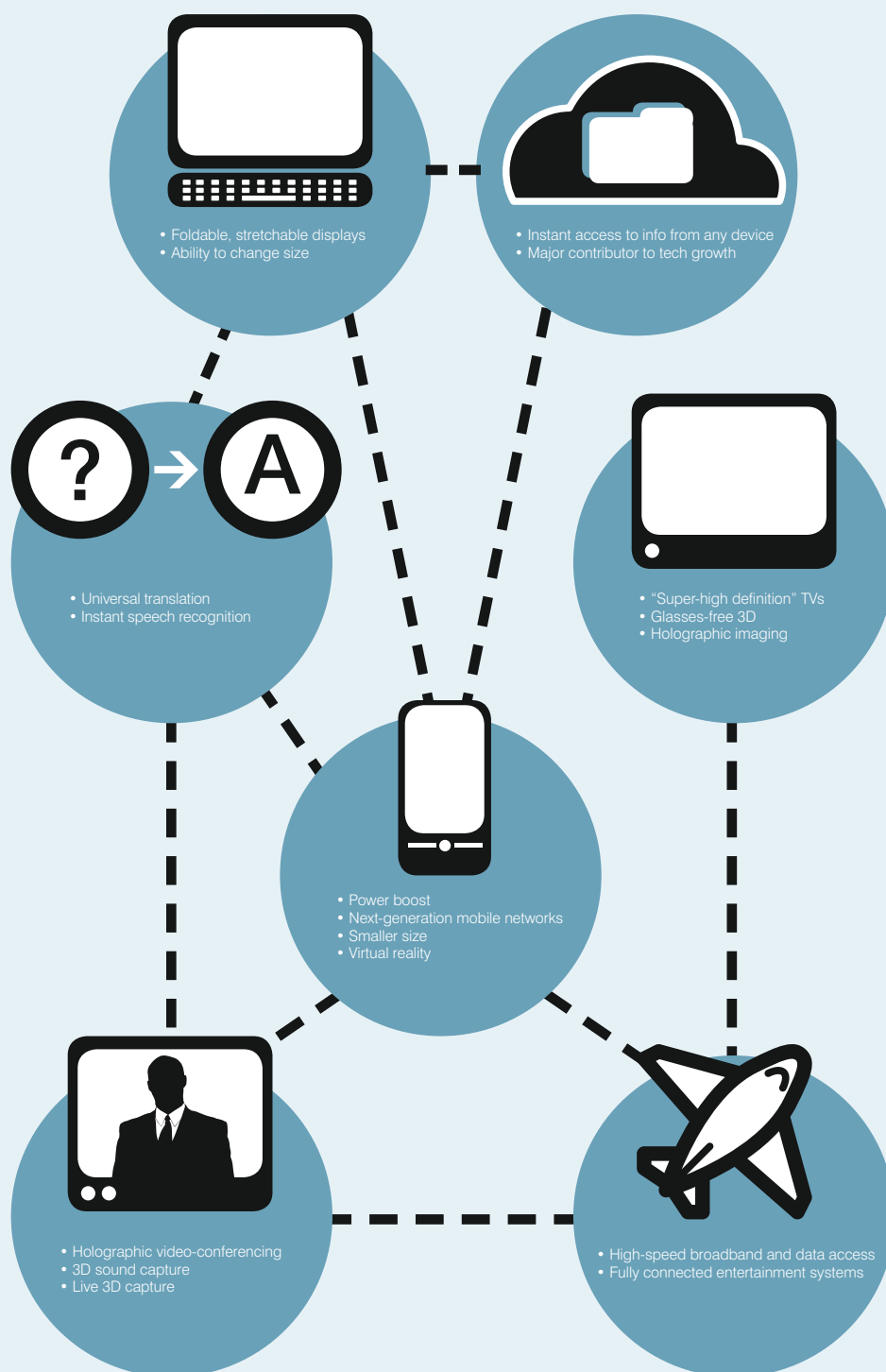
However, it may take slightly longer than a decade – Virgin Galactic plans to launch an awful lot of £100,000 passenger flights into space from its New Mexico spaceport before it has the cash and resources to expand to suborbital journeys. Still, with dozens of other teams working on low-cost space travel, it’s impossible to rule out.

On the ground, transport will also change, owing in part to increased pressure on developers to come up with more environmentally friendly solutions to the way we get around. As a result, we should expect huge growth in electric vehicles, which by 2020 should be commonplace in major cities, along with huge networks of recharging points that make them practical to use.

See “Trend driven”, businesstraveller.com/archive/2011/may-2011, for a look at how the car rental market will be affected, and “Forward thinking”, businesstraveller.com/archive/2010/june-2010, for future travel trends. ■

TECHNOLOGY IN A DECADE

From bionic contact lenses to holographic televisions, the gadgets of the future are making science fiction science fact



MOBILE PHONES

The smartphone has arguably been the most astonishing technological advance in the past decade, putting real computing power, high-speed internet and high-definition displays in your pocket. However, researchers believe the phone can get smaller still, thanks to pioneering work to create "virtual reality" contact lenses that can superimpose displays on the human eyeball.

Researchers at the University of Washington have already created working prototypes of a bionic lens with an imprinted electronic circuit and lights. As reported in *The Guardian* in July 2008, Babak Parviz, a University of Washington assistant professor of electrical engineering, said: "Looking through a completed lens, you would see what the display is generating superimposed on the world outside."

He believes that the contact lens could allow the mobile to disappear entirely, especially if bluetooth headsets could also be implanted behind the ear. He said: "The display size is one of the main reasons that laptops, cellphones, PDAs, and so on are not smaller today. If we move the display to a contact lens, we can significantly reduce the physical constraints on mobile devices."

Smartphones are also set for a power boost, particularly as they increasingly take advantage of next-generation high-speed mobile networks to access the internet and other online services.

COMPUTERS

Foldable and stretchable displays are the key to the next generation of laptops. Futurologists envisage a machine that can change size depending on what you want to do – when out and about, it could be rolled or folded up to fit in a bag and, depending on where you are,

act as an ultraportable laptop, or a desktop replacement with a display akin to the size of a living room TV. This technology is already being worked on in labs, and firms such as Sony and Philips have had shows with working prototypes.

INTERNET

The advent of high-speed broadband has meant that our information is increasingly stored in "the cloud" – vast servers based all over the world. This is going to grow dramatically and give us instant access to everything from films and TV shows to the latest business information and news – wherever we are, and from any device.

According to research company Forrester (forrester.com), the cloud industry is going to increase in value from about US\$41 billion in 2011 to US\$240 billion in 2020. This is likely to be a significant contributor to the future of computing, and the explosion will come as today's teenagers grow up, expecting all their data to be held in the cloud as a matter of course.

TRANSLATION

First envisioned by Douglas Adams in *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, the idea of a universal translator is finally set to come true in the next decade, thanks largely to work by Google.

Adams' version took the form of a small sea creature, called a Babel Fish, that the user placed in their ear (the name has since been appropriated by Yahoo's instant online translation service). Thankfully, the reality is a little more high-tech and relies on internet servers being able to recognise speech instantly and translate it.

In fact, it's already available, albeit in a very early version called Google Translate, which uses the search engine's vast

network of computer servers to analyse voices in almost real-time to recognise words.

Once Google's servers have done this, the firm uses complex software to translate them, looking for the "best matches" in other languages. The results can then be sent back in text form to the user's phone. (For more on the Google Translate mobile app see page 41.)

TELEVISION

The emergence of flatscreen TVs has led to an explosion of innovations, with everything from high-definition to the first wave of 3D. But, as always, there are more advances around the corner, with «super-high definition» TVs far more detailed than current sets already being trialled by broadcasters including the BBC.

As for 3D, you'll soon be able to dump the glasses. Toshiba already sells spec-free 3D TVs, and dozens of other manufacturers, including Sony, are planning to put them on the market in the coming years, giving you the same 3D experience as current sets.

There's also an even bigger revolution on the horizon – holographic images that appear to float in front of you. A stalwart of sci-fi movies for decades, they are now beginning to appear in research labs. Sony has even shown off an (admittedly small) prototype at trade shows.

Most experimental models project images into the middle of a room as a «cloud» that can be viewed from every angle without 3D glasses. The prototypes are shaky, but are a real glimpse of the future, with every major manufacturer investigating "holo-TV". Japanese Broadcaster NHK has invested £2.8 billion in developing them, and says they could go on sale within the next five years – although most experts agree it will be

closer to a decade before they become commonplace.

VIDEO-CONFERRING

If holographic displays are going to revolutionise TV, they are also going to have a huge impact on video-conferencing, really making it feel as though you are in the same room as colleagues. In addition, 3D sound capture is already beginning to appear in high-end systems, making it sound as if you are in the same room as well. Smart sensors such as Microsoft's Kinect, originally used as a games console add-on, are also allowing live 3D capture of living rooms – making 3D holographic video-conferencing only a few steps away.

IN-FLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT

Connectivity is the key to the future of in-flight entertainment (IFE) – and expect a lot of it. As the devices we carry increase in power and portability, getting them wired up is likely to become more important. With wifi already available on numerous airlines, within a decade you can expect extremely high-speed broadband on all flights, with fully connected entertainment systems giving you access to almost every live and recorded TV show and film around the globe. As well as this, new 4G mobile phone networks should give high-speed data access wherever you are, with carriers even planning to install hotspots on planes.

Airlines own IFE systems are also likely to evolve, giving you access to live TV and the internet but also letting you plug in your phone to watch your own recorded shows or home TV channels.

■ *Mark Prigg is science and technology editor at London's Evening Standard.*

Falkensteiner Hotels

the Power of Tradition

Some say, that families are like fudge – mostly sweet with a few nuts, but some claim that it's a powerful institution. Falkensteiner global tourist complex is a group of four- and five-star hotels and residences with a 50-year tradition, where everyone feels at home.



conditions are met in the offer called “Falkensteiner for families”, which can be used in 4 hotels in Austria (Urbani Ossiach See, Sonnenalpe in Nassfeld, Cristallo Hotel and Club Fanimation in Katschberg), two hotels in Croatia (Familie Hotel Diadora and Funimation Borik in Zadar), and three in Italy (Meran Hotel 2000, Portogreco in the picturesque town of Basilicata, and Lido Ehrenburgerhof in Ehrenburg). The offer in all those hotels consists of warm and nicely decorated rooms, a lot of space, friendly service, numerous programmes of active holiday for each family member, a special range of services, and a special menu for children as well as discounts for children, and family packages.

It all started with a small guest house with seven beds, located once in Ehrenburg in South Tyrol, which was opened in 1957 by Maria and Josef Falkensteiner. Falkensteiner Lido Ehrenburgerhof hotel was, at that time, a unique place – it was the first hotel in South Tyrol which was equipped with showers and toilets in the rooms. With time, the business was taken over by their sons, Erich and Andreas, who also opened the first incoming-office in the region – that is an agency providing comprehensive care for foreign tourists. The belief in their own potential, the family warmth and support, as well as perseverance in the pursuit of the highest quality service, helped develop the project into a global tourism company.

This is how Falkensteiner Michaeler Tourism Group AG (FMTG AG) was created. The group is present in all promising branches of the hospital-

ity industry, and currently employs almost 1,400 people. In 2001 the group started the process of internationalization to Eastern Europe. Currently, the company has 30 hotels and residences in 5 countries: Austria, Czech Republic, Italy, Slovakia and Croatia, and still tradition, personal guest service and friendly atmosphere are the most important values there. This year the group launched its so-called “Premium Collection” that is three 5-star hotels: Falkensteiner Hotel & Spa Iadera in Croatia, Falkensteiner Balance Resort in Stegersbach, and Schlosshotel in Velden.

FAMILY RESIDENCES

The holiday time is usually a long-awaited period, which we finally can spend with our family and relax. It's then important to spend that time in the best conditions, in the most interesting place, offering warm and cozy atmosphere. These

The family-run business has turned into a thriving company, which is now present in five countries. That's Falkensteiner

WELLNESS WATER POWER

The wellness centres and wellness family hotels belonging to the Falkensteiner group provide ideal rest and relaxation. The unique concept here is based on the belief in the power of the element of water. “Acquapura SPA”, ie, “the force of pure water” is a series of treatments with products made in the regions where the hotels are located. The idea consists primarily of total relaxation, freeing the mind and the soul. It's goal isn't only to provide a moment of pleasure, but it's also a way to learn a stress-free approach to life. The luxury oases of wellness, located in Falkensteiner hotels and residences comprise indoor and outdoor swimming pools, various types of saunas and steam baths, rooms for rest and relaxation, massage facilities, beauty treatment, baths and wraps, and fully-equipped gyms. The offer can be used by those who travel around Austria, where

they will come across 8 hotels of the brand, visitors to the Czech Republic (Marienbad), as well as Italy and Croatia, where Falkensteiner has its 3 residences.

CITY TIME!

The “City” concept of guesthouses with a special character, is a unique and original idea aimed at tourists. The prevailing philosophy here is based on reflecting the special atmosphere of the neighbourhood, and offering the guests stimulating cognitive conditions. It’s widely known that every city has its charm and its own pace of life. With the “City” concept Falkensteiner wants its guests to not only visit a city with its museums or monuments, but also discover the history of these places in their own rooms. You can take advantage of this offer in Loeben, in central Austria, as well as in Vienna, Prague, Bratislava, and Palermo. Each of these cities is of course different, original and worth visiting.

The hotels are located right in the centre of each city, so the guests can easily explore them and learn about their history. The urban atmosphere, high quality furniture, and well-decorated rooms are complemented by pleasant and professional service.

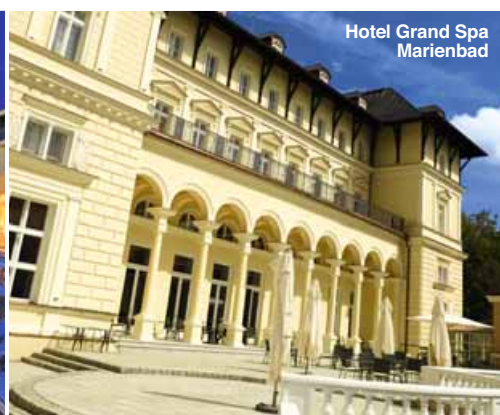
THE OTHER FACE OF A CONFERENCE

Rest and relaxation are indispensable elements in Falkensteiner hotels and residences – which also applies to conferences and other events organized there. All rooms and conference facilities of Falkensteiner hotels located in Austria, Italy, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Croatia, are truly luxurious places, decorated with a real flair. The seminar rooms available to customers and business partners feature high-quality technical equipment, and the well-prepared professional staff are always at hand to assist and advise. ■

Olga Chelchowska



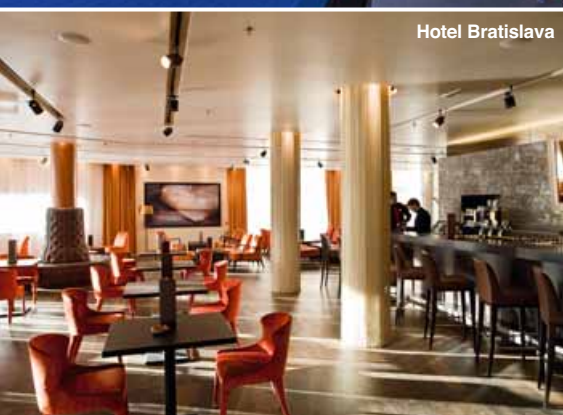
Family Hotel Diadora



Hotel Grand Spa
Marienbad



Palazzo Sitano Palermo



Hotel Bratislava



Hotel & Spa Alpenresidenz Antholz



Balance Resort Stegersbach



Hotel&Spa Iadera



Hotel&Spa
Falkensteinerhof



Hotel Am Schottenfeld Vienna



Wrocław

Visit the “Venice of the North”

It's a business and cultural centre, a city of numerous monuments and modern shopping malls. Wrocław is a perfect place for a weekend outing, a shopping madness, as well as a longer holiday. The wide offer prepared by Orbis Hotel Group will suit everyone's tastes – both those who prefer a luxury stay, and those seeking budget accommodation.

Wrocław tempts with its numerous attractions, and both tourists and businesspeople are drawn to this city. It's one of the largest cultural centres in Poland and the European Capital of Culture 2016. Its numerous galleries, theatres, museums, cinemas and pubs will never leave you bored. Wrocław is also one of the hosts of the UEFA European Football Championship Euro 2012. Traversed by tributaries and canals of the Oder, it's a city of islands and bridges, monuments such as the medieval Cathedral Island or City Hall – the finest Gothic building in Central Europe. Located at the foot of the Sudety it's a perfect base for mountain treks.

Orbis Hotel Group has 6 hotels located in the capital of the Lower Silesia – from the luxury one in the very centre or close to it, to the budget hotels offering accommodation at a reasonable price, and located slightly away from the heart of the city.

Gourmets and those fond of French elegance will appreciate their stay in

the **Sofitel Wrocław Old Town**, which is one of the most luxurious buildings in the city. The spacious and comfortable rooms are equipped with everything the guests may need: comfortable beds, a bathroom with bathtub, minibar, coffee and tea making facilities, safe, bathrobe and slippers. Guests have free Internet access, both in the rooms and the hotel's Internet corner. After an eventful day, they will certainly want to relax in the hotel's spa and fitness centre. The lovers of good food and French wine, will definitely visit the hotel's restaurant, which offers various delicacies of the international cuisine. The hotel is located near the lively Old Town of Wrocław, which delights with its varied architecture.

Those who love historical places, will be glad to stay in the 3-star **Mercure Panorama Wrocław**. It's a modern hotel, which is located in the vicinity of major tourist attractions such as Market Square and the Cathedral Island. Guests can stay here at one of 150 air-conditioned rooms. The functional equipment includes LCD TVs, telephone, minibar, coffee and tea making facilities and safe

Wrocław is a great place for tourist escapades and business meeting. Orbis Hotel Group has six hotels there

(in the Superior rooms and suites). The hotel's “Dominikańska” restaurant will pamper the palates of every gourmet. “Dominikańska” is well known for its extensive menu with regional specialties and classic international cuisine. It's also worth trying the wines from the “Grands Vins Mercure” wine list. The hotel provides ideal working conditions for those who are busy with their professional matters. Such room facilities as a comfortable work-desk and free high-speed Internet, will certainly be appreciated by business travellers.

However, Wrocław is not only the Old Town. It's also full of green areas, ideal for relaxation and recreation. The 3-star **Novotel Wrocław** hotel is located in one of such places – near a picturesque garden. In the hotel's vicinity you will find tennis courts and the renowned Partrynice racecourse. The hotel offers 145 spacious rooms equipped with a desk,





Novotel Wrocław



Sofitel Wrocław Old Town



Mercure Panorama Wrocław

Etap Hotel Wrocław Południe



WiFi, satellite TV, radio, telephone, and in most rooms also coffee and tea making facilities. Novotel Wrocław is especially glad to host families – two children under the age of 16 and accommodated in the same room as their parents, will stay in the hotel free of charge. The nicely decorated kids» corner featuring an Xbox 360 gaming console is a real hit among children. The hotel's restaurant is also worth recommendation. Its menu also offers healthy meals prepared especially for vegetarians and diabetics. As regards business facilities – the hotel offers 2 rooms for smaller business meetings. What's important, Novotel Wrocław offers its guests free WiFi across the whole area of the hotel. The hotel lobby features a Mac computer station which can be used free of charge. In addition, the hotel has a large car park provided exclusively for the hotel guests.

One of the biggest advantages of **Orbis Hotel Wrocław** is its location in the business centre of the capital of Lower Silesia, near the Old Town and major tourist attractions. It's also close to the railway and coach stations, and it's easy to get here by car (for the convenience of its guests, the hotel has prepared two car parks). The hotel offers 294 air-conditioned rooms with free internet access and tea and coffee making facilities. After an eventful day you can relax in the hotel's recreation centre, featuring a swimming pool, sauna, solarium

and massage. The cozy restaurant serves dishes of Polish and international cuisine. The hotel has large and functional business centre, which is ideal for organizing conferences, business meetings, as well as banquets and small receptions.

Tourists looking for comfortable accommodation at a reasonable price, will also find something in the offer of Orbis Hotel Group. The hotels which specialize in budget accommodation are – **Etap Hotel Wrocław South** and **Etap Hotel Wrocław Stadion**. The first one is located near the A4 motorway, about 4 km from the city centre and offers 108 modern rooms. In its vicinity you will find tennis courts and Partynice racecourse. Etap Wrocław Stadion Hotel, on the other hand, can boast its proximity to the City Stadium, built especially for Euro 2012 and to Wrocław Motorway Bypass (the Wrocław Stadion node). It offers 122 rooms. Both hotels serve breakfast buffet at an additional fee. Both feature beverage and snack vending machines which are available 24/7. The modern rooms are air-conditioned, and equipped with shower, wireless Internet access and satellite TV. ■



New Creations at Fusion Restaurant in Westin Hotel Warsaw



In September, **Janusz Korzyński**, the chef at Westin hotel in Warsaw presented a new menu for the hotel's Fusion restaurant. This season he has gone for luscious colours (purple potatoes, mango salsa) as well as precious and delicate sides (cashmere curry, oriental carrot mousse). The new menu is multifarious – sometimes orderly and eclectic (oriental salad), the other time eccentric (steak of wild salmon with saffron sauce), but also ethereal (e. g. orange roughly fillet). One thing is for sure: the autumn/winter season 2011 at Fusion restaurant will be full of surprising combinations, intriguing colour compositions served in an elegant minimalistic manner which is a hallmark of chef Janusz Korzyński.

Restaurant Fusion was one of the first in Poland to introduce fusion cuisine whose philosophy is to combine a variety of culinary traditions in one dish. The most important principle of fusion cuisine is a good taste, in the literal sense of the word. It's an original and cutting edge cuisine, which, however, requires a lot of versatility from the chef, since he must fluently know the world's cuisines to combine them



together in surprising ways. Fusion is also known for its unusual forms of preparation and serving of food – the dishes are almost like small masterpieces inspired by trends in the arts.

Janusz Korzyński possesses all these traits and as being a real fusion master, he surprised us not only with his dishes, but also with the concept of presentation of the new menu. Korzyński boldly combined fashion with food and invited Plich – a young fashion designer who especially for this occasion created a line of accessories. Handbags, earrings and bracelets were placed literally on the plate – in this way both Plich and Korzyński presented to the media the newest trends in fashion and cuisine.

Some of the culinary novelties deserve special attention – particularly goat cheese rolls with carrot and curry puree, pecan nuts in a crispy meringue, salsa of mango and lime, or green pea soup with roasted duck and lime oil, decorated with foam which is the result of the chef's fascination with molecular cuisine. Another tempting dish is black tagliatelle coloured with venom of squid, which gives it a noble shade of brown. The dish is served with boletus mushrooms and spinach and gratinated with sheep cheese.

When we ask about the chef's inspirations, he modestly replies: "I created the new menu with my assistant Sebastian Kornackim, for a couple of months. We spoke to our regular guests, observed the international culinary trends, and experimented a lot. Our main aim was to create a menu comprising light, healthy, but sophisticated dishes."

Indeed, fish dishes constitute a substantial part of the menu. "We mostly

go for the wild species of fish such as the salmon from Alaska, because of their nutritional value is higher," explains Kornacki.

It's worth trying orange roughly fillet served with green asparagus, jasmine rice with curry, garlic sauce with green pepper and lemon, as well as steak of wild salmon served with spinach and peanuts, purple mashed potato, and saffron sauce.

The novelties also include dishes prepared with sous vide method, which enhance the taste of meat, fish and vegetables (lamb, beef, wild salmon from Alaska) at the same time retaining their nutritional value. The method involves cooking meat in a hermetically sealed container, at constant temperature, which ensures an exceptional mellowness of the meat.

Fusion in Fusion restaurant will be a surprising combination of flavours created by the chef

The menu also uses elements of molecular gastronomy, which elevates the aesthetics of the dishes.

The icing on the cake of the new menu is the list of desserts prepared by Adam Jakubowski, the head of the pastry shop at Westin. One could expect that the person whose motto in life is crazy experimentation will prepare equally crazy compositions. And so, among the proposals you will find fried chocolate ice cream with nuts, carica fruit in chilli, vanilla sauce with cardamom, or chocolate lasagne with strawberries, balsamic vinegar and chocolate ice cream with togarashi.

Fusion of flavours, and fusion of colours – this is how you can describe the new menu of Fusion restaurant. ■



The Sun, the Show Business and Adrenaline

The States of California and Nevada with Las Vegas and its extravagant entertainment is an excellent place to organize an incentive trip, says **Jagoda Zielińska**.

Visitors can expect various attractions, including entertainment with movie stars, gambling and some major adrenaline flow. Remember that there is a reason why it is home to the world's biggest show business. Unfortunately, it takes a while to get to the USA. You have to be prepared for a few hours» flight – luckily, usually without stopping over. Another requirement is getting a visa in the embassy. Fortunately nowadays it's nothing more than just a formality, especially after the reason for the trip has been presented.

RUNNING AWAY TO PRISON

If you need some thrill, take a ship to Alcatraz Island (in Spanish: Pelicans Island). In 1934 a top-security prison was

opened here. According to the official reports nobody, out of 1500 criminals, managed to get away from the prison. One of the first, and probably the most famous prisoner, was the gangster Al Capone – he became prisoner number 85. It is worth mentioning that the building of this famous now-abandoned prison was used for at least seven movies.

The prison maintenance costs were too high, and in 1963 a decision was made to close it down. Nowadays, its building is open to visitors. Guests are shown around by the last living prison guard. The participants of our incentive trip will get to experience this adventure.

SUN SET IN LOS ANGELES

A walk down the famous Sunset Boulevard, naturally when the sun is setting, is one of calmer and more relaxing forms of spending your leisure time. But each next thing on the offer can be described as pure excitement. This includes evenings spent with movie stars on Malibu beaches, or concerts in the legendary Hard Rock Cafe.

A visit to Universal Studios sounds quite innocent, but there more to it than just a ride, to visit the film scenery from famous blockbusters like Grinch, Psycho, Jaws, the Fast and the Furious and War of the Worlds. Within the premises of Universal there is a huge amusement park with various attractions connected to some of the most famous productions of the company. There are so many of them, that it's impossible to see everything in one day, that's why the tickets are valid for two days.

You shouldn't miss the projection of King Kong 360 3D by Peter Jackson – the film perfectly uses the 3D illusion and presents some impressive special effects. The projections of Shrek 4D and Terminator 2 3D are quite similar in style. During the film, the seats are trembling, artificial spiders fall on viewers» heads, explosions on the screen are accompanied with real smoke in the cinema, and even the effect of falling down a precipice is well imitated. Only when the lights turn on again, do the spectators realize that the seats were standing still





for the whole time. It's incredible how these gimmicks can treat your mind.

The House of Horrors is both scary and funny: zombies jump out from behind the corner, a Chucky doll gives out some sinister laughter and a Frankenstein is running around like a mad man. The most petrifying thing – aimed at real tough cookies – is the sight of artificial corpses wrapped in transparent plastic bags, which are hanging on a hook.

Other attractions include: a roller-coaster ride around the Simpsons® world or scenery from the Mummy movie. You also need to see some action movie live – one of performances like this takes place in the scenery from the Waterworld movie, and ends up with a spectacular catastrophe: a real plane falls down to a huge pool filled with water.

A DREAM ABOUT THE VALLEY

It's time to calm your tense nerves. Nothing can relax you more than beautiful views. How about hot-air ballooning? In Napa Valley you can admire impressive

wineries, providing wine lovers from all over the world with the famous Californian Chardonnay, Riesling, Cabernet and Pinot Grigio.

While on your way to the neighbouring state of Nevada, you can have a stop-over to see Death Valley. It owns its name to its extraordinarily dry and hot climate. There are years of drought when it doesn't rain there at all, and the highest temperature ever recorded was 56,7 degrees. But despite all this, the place is really charming – the salty Badwater lake is inhabited by endemic animals and the rocks sparkle with all the colours of the rainbow.

GAMBLING KINGS

Tourists and visitors to Las Vegas can expect excellent service in hotels, spectacular performances and exciting entertainment in casinos.

But before they start the game, it's worth getting familiar with the rules and casino etiquette. The less experienced players can take part in exclusive trainings organized in casinos. Another op-

This is the very place where the American dream may come true. A little bit of glitter, a feast of lights, and - most importantly - great fun.

tion are grand performances, revue theatres and musical shows. Music lovers can expect special theme evenings with songs by Frank Sinatra, Elvis Presley and The Beatles. Each year brings some new performances – the latest one: The Lion King – has won stupendous popularity. You can also enjoy stage performances of such celebrities as: Celine Dion, Elton John, Chris Tucker and The Eagles. Taking part in such a concert is bound to be an unforgettable experience for the incentive trip participants.

During the late night walk you just have to have a stop in front of Bellagio hotel, by the fountain. It took 50 million dollars to erect it. It takes up the space of over three hectares. There are twelve nozzles which create the special water effects – up to 150 up in the air. It is illuminated with 5000 light bulbs. 60 different musical arrangements have been created – water, light and sound – and each year two more are added. The show takes place every 15 minutes.

Everything in Las Vegas has to be perfect, even the fountain. ■







New Year's Eve at Sea

Time's flying, so it's worth thinking about where to spend the New Year's Eve. Nothing seems to be more exciting and interesting than spending this special night on a luxurious cruise ship. As for the offers, there are plenty to choose from. **Olga Chelchowska** tells you - whether to choose the Caribbean, Australian or South American coastline, but whichever you choose, you will spend an unforgettable night.

The moment you enter the passenger terminal, you know you're in the right place. From the very first moment you are treated like somebody special. The procedures don't take long, although you have to bear in mind, that there are a few thousand people also hoping to be checked-in quickly. And it so happens. You leave your luggage right after you enter the terminal. You have to tag it with your name and cabin number – you will receive it back before we set out to sea.

Each evening party during the cruise is special. The ship theatres can accommodate hundreds of people, and they employ great artists from all over the world. You can their performances in various places including Las Vegas casinos. But the New Year's Eve ball can give you twice as much excitement and great fun. All restaurants, bars and entertainment centres bustle with life and the music doesn't stop until the dawn. Especially for Business Traveller readers, we have chosen a couple of suggestions on how to spend the New Year's Eve night on a cruise ship. Now it's the perfect time to book a ticket for a cruise like that. Welcome on board.

THE MAGIC OF THE CARIBBEAN

Let's start with the biggest cruise ship in the world. Allure of the Seas belongs to Royal Caribbean and was launched merely a year and a half ago. It was construct-

ed in Turku, Finland – just like the Oasis of the Seas sister ship, which initiated this class of liners. Apart from the grand size: 362 metres of length, 66 metres of width, and 65 metres height, both ships have unique construction. Thanks to an original idea to create an open space in the centre of the ship, the cabins are situated of both sides, and that's why most of them come with balconies and have access to natural light.

This special cruise with 5400 passengers and 2300 crew members, will set off on 25th December at 5:00 p. m. from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Almost each one of the 16 decks will have something extraordinary to offer. Guests will earn a wonderful experience of watching a special performance in a fabulous open-air theatre, which occupies the area of the whole stern and accommodates a few hundreds people. Water ballet performances and divers competition are also very popular. Other passengers will get to see a skating performance on the ship ice rink. There are over 15 restaurants on both Allure and Oasis, so the sound of champagne cork popping will be heard everywhere.

Allure of the Seas will be sailing for 9 days, from Florida to the Eastern Caribbean. The last day of the year will be spent in sea, after leaving the picturesque port of Basseterre, on Saint Kitts island. Discovered in 1623 by the British, was a colony for a couple of centuries. It's worth visiting an old mansion – the former prop-





Each day on this cruise liner is extraordinary. New Year's Eve in the sea can provide you with great deal of excitement and lots of fun.

years for its superior quality and excellent service. If you wish to spend the New Year's Eve in the sea, you should not forget its name either. The latest ship, constructed just a few months ago, Celebrity Silhouette, is 315 metres long, has 13 decks, and takes on 2850 passengers and 1300 crew members. Celebrity ships are smaller than those of Royal Caribbean, but that was exactly what the cruise line meant. An additional bonus, apart from the perfect atmosphere and top-quality organization – the awards don't lie, is that Celebrity ships can reach smaller, yet sometimes more picturesque ports.

Silhouette is a very modern ship and thanks to some technical solutions, over 80% of all cabins have access to natural light. The ship will take you for New Year's Eve cruise, on the very special day of 24 December. At 5.00 pm it will leave Cape Liberty Bayonne, New Jersey. The Christmas celebration begins right away. During the subsequent days the passengers visit Southern Caribbean, and on 31 December, while the ship is in the sea, a festive New Year's Eve ball will take place.

Celebrity Century also starts its journey on Christmas Eve, leaving the port in Sydney, Australia. It has 10 decks – as the only ship in this category – and can accommodate 1,814 passengers. During the last days of December it will visit Melbourne – a city with both European and Asian historical and cultural reference, Burnie, Tasmania – with its unique waterfalls, and finally – Milford Sound, Dunedin, Akaroa, Wellington, Napier and Tauranga in New Zealand. The cruise ends in Auckland on 8 January 2012. During the cruise, the passenger can expect unforgettable New Year's Eve fun. ■

erty of a royal governor, with beautiful gardens. After the wild parties of the New Year's Eve, on 1st January 2012 at 8:00 a. m., Allure of the Seas will sail to Labadee, north Haiti. And despite the morning hours, it's definitely worth getting off, as the place offers plenty stunning views and fabulous beaches. Next day, the ship will be in the sea again, and on 3rd January it will be back in Fort Lauderdale to finish the cruise.

Its sister ship, Oasis of the Seas, will also set out for a New Year's Eve cruise from Fort Lauderdale. In this case, however, the passengers will have slightly more time for preparations, as the Eastern Caribbean Cruise will leave the port on 31 December at 5.00 p. m. The New Year's Eve fun will take place while the ship is in the sea. Only on 3rd January in the morning, will the ship reach Charlotte Amalie on St. Thomas. Two days later it will go to Philipsburg on St. Maarten, and the next stop – on 6th January – will be Nassau, The Bahamas. The following

day, the ship will reach Florida, and the cruise will come to an end.

If cooler weather in the port doesn't scare you – later this should not be a problem – you should try cruising with Independence of the Seas (the second bigger liner class: 339 metres in length, 15 decks, 4,370 passengers and 1,360 crew members). It starts on 29 December in Southampton, and two days later the ship moors in Vigo, Spain. The moment the ship leaves the Spanish port at 4.00 pm, the New Year's Eve fun begins – the party may last all to the morning, that is, when the ship reaches the next port – Lisbon, Portugal. The following ports include: The Canary Islands (Lanzarote, Gran Canaria, Tenerife), the magnificent Madeira, La Coruna in Spain and back to Southampton on 10 December 2012. Such a cruise is an unforgettable adventure.

HUGE CELEBRATION

Celebrity Cruises with its 11 modern cruise liners has been rewarded for

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The Charm of Awards



European Imaging and Sound Association (EISA), which is the unique association of 50 special interest magazines from 19 European countries, has once again presented prestigious awards for best quality equipment introduced into the market in the past year. **Olga Chelchowska** has selected for you the most interesting ones.

Philips LED Smart Econova ECO (46PFL6806)

In the category which arouse the most interest i. e. "the most environmentally friendly TV in Europe," EISA awarded a 46-inch TV made by Philips. The manufacturer has focused here on low power consumption, gave up on long-degradable plastic and used elements made of recycled aluminium. To properly care for the environment, the device is equipped with an auto-off function which switches the TV after 4 hours, and a "Zero Power" switch, which reduces power consumption in stand-by to a minimum. The TV is made of PVC, and the remote is powered by solar ener-

gy, which further contributes to environment protection. Econova ECO offers a Full HD resolution thanks to Pixel Precise HD technology, and 100Hz refresh rate. The TV also features 20W speakers with Clear Sound technology. Other features include LED Full HD backlight, brightness of 380 cd/m² and 500000: 1 contrast ratio. Price: about PLN 4,600

Verdict: *Cutting edge technology combined with low power consumption (in standard mode it's only 56 W), and with very good image quality.*



Epson Stylus Photo R 3000

The award for the European printer 2011-2012 went to Epson, the manufacturer of a new, compact photo printer Stylus Photo R 3000. The equipment supports the A3+ format and uses UltraChrome K3 8-colour ink set with Vivid Magenta Technology. The ability to print on various surfaces, ranging from graphic paper roll to cardboard, is an additional advantage for the Epson, while the comfort and ease of use will satisfy both professional photographers and designers, as well as beginners in the above professions. In addition, the upper lid, unlike in the previous model (R 2880), is completely flat, so it can serve even as a paper shelf. The printer costs around PLN 3,000.

Verdict: Thanks to its small size, it will fit every desk or a shelf and the printout time for an A3+ photo is merely 200 seconds.



JBL studio 190

It's widely known that music soothes the savage, so the higher sound quality, the better. The award for the best European loudspeaker went to a couple of three-way speakers JBL Studio 190. The assessment was based not only on the quality of the equipment, but also on the attractive price of the set. The input power is 100W (continuous) / 400 W (peak), the nominal impedance 8 ohms, and the frequency response: 45 Hz – 22 kHz (-3dB). The speakers are suitable for a stereo setup, but they can also be combined with monitors Studio 130, the centre speaker Studio 120, and one of the subwoofers from the Studio 1 series – creating a complete home theatre system. The price for the whole set is PLN 2,800.

Verdict: The elegant looks, a wide range of configuration options, high quality sound – and all of these for a reasonable price.



Sony Handycam HDR-PJ10E

The award for the "European family camcorder 2011-2012" went to Sony. HDR-PJ10E, which features a built-in projector, looks quite sturdy and reliable. Its another advantage is the ability to view recordings and photographs on the walls or other flat surfaces. Thanks to stereo speakers with Clear Phase function, and S-Master digital amplifier, the sound is clear and more dynamic. The wide-angle lens with powerful optical zoom (30x max), highly sensitive CMOS sensor, and the advanced automation system – all contribute to the unique ability of the camera to adapt to different recording conditions, of course in HD. The material can be stored on internal flash memory or memory cards such as Memory Stick PRO Duo™ (Mark 2), Memory Stick PRO-HG Duo or SD/SDHC/SDXC (Class 4 or higher). The hard disk capacity is 16 GB. The dimensions of the device are 64 x 58 x 128 mm and its weight is 310 gram. Price: around PLN 2,200.

Verdict: This friendly, functional equipment, can be both useful both on business trips and family outings. It captures high quality video and audio, and its built-in projector can display up to a 60-inch image, which can be especially useful at presentations.





Samsung Galaxy S II

"The European mobile phone" is one of 4 categories in which Samsung was awarded. Following the success of Galaxy i9000, Galaxy S II combines the best features of the previous phone made by the Korean electronics giant. Galaxy S II features a large, clear Super Plus 4.3-inch AMOLED display (10.9 cm) and a 1.2 GHz dual-core processor. It's also both elegant and light. In this case, stating that today's smartphones are, in fact, small computers, seems to be very much justified. S II makes it possible to browse the Internet, play various media files, capture high-resolution photos (8Mpix), as well as record movies in full 1920x1080p HD quality. The price for the telephone is around PLN 2,000.

Verdict: *The competition in this category was very fierce. Assuming you are accustomed to using a touchscreen, you will probably find no other faults in this device. Unfortunately you have to remember that the more "goodies" a phone has, the faster the battery consumption is.*

LG Smart 3D Blu-ray HX966TZ/TZW

LG received two awards including the "European Home Theater System 5.1". HX966TZ/TZW is an ideal home entertainment system of the highest quality. It offers 3D Blu-ray and dynamic playback, rich sound with a total capacity of 1100 W. WiFi Direct wireless connection, as well as LG Smart Direct TV offer a top quality of the picture. Thanks to HX966TZ/TZW system, it's possible to download LG personalized applications, which allows for individual adjustment of functions according to our preferences. The system has two inputs and one HDMI output can be controlled by LG Remote application, which can be downloaded from the Android Market, and wireless rear speakers provide additional depth of sound. There's even an iPod docking station. Price: about PLN 2,300.

Verdict: *The device made by LG offers elegant design, can be mounted on the wall, and provides top quality playback combined with interesting functions. Keep in mind, though, that most of these features are only available in combination with a 3D TV.*



Eat and Save

In a recent survey, two thirds of Poles admitted to wasting food. The British estimated that the average British family loses for the same reason as much as £700 a year. Is there any way to prevent this? There are, in fact, several simple ways to keep our plates full, and our wallets thicker.

Most of us don't pay attention to whether we buy four or five bread rolls. We also don't really realize how much food we throw away and don't know the expiry date of most of the products we buy. But all these things contribute to the fact that each year the world wastes huge amounts of food. According to FAO (a UN agency that leads international efforts to defeat hunger), this number reaches annually 1.3 billion tonnes, which is 1/3 of the world's total food production. It's a huge amount, given that an average European throws away about 20-30 percent of food he or she has bought.

There are several reasons why you should learn to wisely manage your food supplies. First of all, there are micro- and macro-economic reasons. The fact that with each product we throw away, we also throw away our money, doesn't seem to make much impression on us. However, if we sum the value of all the food products we throw away annually, it will turn out that in this way we get rid of several thousand PLN. To make matters worse, we do it simply owing to our negligence. We don't seem to realize that with that money we could buy an iPad, a Gibson guitar, a computer, or even a scooter.

Higher food prices are only one of the macroeconomic results of throwing it away in large quantities. Yes, wasting food leads to higher consumption which, in turn, contributes to higher prices. Also, the amount of garbage is increasing, especially because 25 percent of the food which is thrown away, has never been touched! Add to this the environmental effects, because higher food production results in an increased use of energy and water. There's also an ethical aspect of the whole thing: there are numerous places in the world where people starve, some even to death, so such a huge waste is simply shameful.

Let's now move from the macro to micro scale in order to find out what we can do to avoid wasting food. WRAP organization (Waste & Resources Action Programme), which was established by the British government, teaches us on its website lovefoodhatewaste.com (similar to Polish website niemarnuje.pl) the five basic steps to save food. First of all, we should thoroughly check the contents our own refrigerator and check the expiry dates of all the products that are inside. Then, we should eat everything that is still fit for consumption, and if we don't feel like eating some product soon and it's freezable, we should put it into the freezing compartment. Another important aspect is a proper man-

The results of FAO research is alarming: the world throws away one third of the food it produces, and many products haven't even been unwrapped.

agement of the space in the refrigerator – the products whose expiry date is approaching, should be put at the front, not behind.

Secondly, we should plan our shopping well. When going to the shop, we should always make a list of products that we want to buy (and of course stick to it). This will prevent us from buying unnecessary things. Thirdly, we should carefully plan the portions of the food that we prepare. Usually, we don't eat everything we have prepared for our dinner, which means that the portions we have prepared were too large. For example, a glass of rice should be sufficient for 3-4 servings for adults. Another advice is to use the leftovers – the meat left from the lunch can be frozen and then used after 2-3 days. Even small amounts of food can be useful if we have children. Finally, the last piece of advice – plan ahead. It's really worth writing down our weekly meal schedule. In this way, we will know what products to buy when we go shopping. In this way we will waste less food, contribute to saving the planet, save a lot of money, and the world will look more beautiful. ■

Artur Kolger





Missing the Gate to Italy

When speeding down the highway through the Alps and heading to everybody's dream destination – Tuscany – most people don't usually turn their head sideways to see spectacular vineyards, situated on the mountain slopes near the Brenner Pass. You would think: No good quality wine can survive in such inaccessible and severe environment? But you couldn't be further from the truth. The Alps are the homeland to two legendary Italian wines – San Leonardo, a former version of the famous Tuscany-originated Sassicaia, and another, quite different, but equally noble wine – Granato.

ISTOCKPHOTO / FOTOLIA

When you think of Italian wines, there are two main regions that usually come to your mind. Piedmont, and its Barolo, and Tuscany with Brunello di Montalcino. Some people would also mention Amarone from Verona, but nobody dares to look northwards, at the area around the monumental Alps. Not that there's anything particularly surprising about that. The tradition of grand Tuscany and Piedmont wines has a long history, and the Italian Alps – both Alto Adige, and more southernmost Trentino, have always provided rather flat wines, aimed at less sophisticated local markets. The only exception being Trameno – the homeland to a variety well known in Poland – Gewurztraminer from Alsace. Whereas as for the quality of red wines, produced here on a much larger scale than white wines, left much to be desired. They included three Schiava varieties, which is used today to produce not very impressive Rose, Lagrein – which only occasionally rises above mediocrity, and Teroldego – which is mostly dull and without character. But what you should really focus on, are the ex-



to replace it with less efficient but more reliable when it comes to the fruit quality – Guyot. As a result of these actions, a new wine was created: stronger, with aromas of smoke, fruits of the forest and minerals – an extraordinary thing in such a powerful wine. Despite the great success of Granato, they started experimenting. Stainless steel tanks and oak barrels were replaced with ceramic amphoras, in which the fermentation process is difficult to control, but skilful winemakers can use it to produce softer wines, ready to drink right after bottling. What is more, thanks to the small size of the amphoras, fruit from each plot can be fermented separately, which enables unobstructed expression of its character.

SAN LEONARDO

Many people, even the ones not really interested in viniculture, have heard the name Sassicaia. The name makes all Italian wine lovers smile blissfully and nod their heads in recognition. For it is one of the best and most well known Tuscan wines, which was not produced from Sangiovese, a variety omnipresent in Tuscany, but from a Bordeaux mix: Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. Few people remember that it was not Sassicaia, that was the first wine based on a composition of these varieties. In the neighbourhood of Trento, another wine called San Leonardo is produced. Given the fact that the region was never quite popular with the tourists or wine-lovers, San Leonardo could only settle for the title of “garage wine”, as it is available only to a small circle of experts who know of

its existence and recognize its grandeur. Slightly more fruity and less rustic than the French predecessor, San Leonardo is just as elegant and equal when it comes to the tannin content and mineral structure. It is just as long-lived, and its quality is getting better and better over the years. Wine lovers should appreciate its lack of popularity, as this enables them to enjoy its unique taste without the need to break the bank.

THE NEW HOMELAND TO PINOT NOIR

There is one more reason to have a break in your journey to Italy and have a stop-over in the mountains. Far outside Burgundy, the legendary capricious variety of Pinot Noir – which makes winemakers compete against each other – has found a new homeland in Alto Adige. The Italian mountains produce one of the best – after Burgundy and Champagne – Pinot Noir. When grown in rocky mountain soil, it makes the wine more fruity with raspberry aroma and cinnamon tannins. It loses some of the sharpness typical for its Burgundy counterparts, but gains more spontaneous and vivid character.

Therefore, you shouldn't speed so much on your way to Tuscany. Take a look around and make the effort of distinguishing those few bottles of excellent wine in the background of painful mediocrity produced in Tyrol. For its delicate reserve in hedonistic concentration is complemented with subtle wisdom and slightly sentimental, mountainous character. ■

Michał Poddany & Robert Mielżyński

ceptions, as they are the product of fortitude and the most tenacious and genius ethnologist ever seen in Italy – Elisabetta Foradori.

GRANATO

Elisabetta Foradori didn't go for the soft option of composing wines from international varieties. She devoted herself to the unwanted and unloved Teroldego. After years of reconstructing the ever-forgotten variety, she managed to create Granato – the most fabulous and juicy Teroldego, produced from the best wine grapes in the mountain plots of Mezzolombardo and Fontanasanta near Trento. A decision was made to give up on the popular in this area Pergola planting system,

The Alps are the homeland to two legendary Italian wines, although not many people seem to remember about it.





I AM SMART



Several years ago one of my colleagues complained to journalists about a car that he had just tested. The car was Korean. -“I’ve driven at least a thousand different cars, but only with this one I had to buy the air freshener. The cabin smelt with chemicals and the whole interior seems to be made from plastic. This car is a big no no,” complained my colleague. Forestalling any questions – it wasn’t a Hyundai. However, the world in the past few years has changed so much that Korean cars now quite boldly compete with models designed, manufactured, and purchased in Western Europe! European customers have their own specific needs to which Korean engineer can now quite successfully cater. The best example is Hyundai i40, which targets the segment of business cars. However, the i40 isn’t aimed at sales representatives as its potential users, but at their bosses. This is especially true for the station-wagon variant with an over 550-litre boot (if you prefer saloon cars – the good news is that this variant of i40 will also appear in Poland soon).

LIQUID SCULPTURE

It seems like a passage taken from a third grade poetry, but car manufacturers like boasting about their ideas, using such grandiloquent terms. This is also the case of the Hyundai i40, whose style is called “liquid sculpture”. It sounds ridiculous, but looks EXCELLENT. The car at the first glance looks extravagant, and there’s also this “wave” – that is a curvy shape of the dashboard, which absolutely adds i40 a bit of prestige. The idea was simple, but it hit the point:

Hyundai won’t now be mistaken for a rival Ford or Opel limousine. What about the price? After all, a “sculpture” must be pricey, because only imitations or copies may be cheap. And pricey it is... The cheapest Hyundai i40 costs PLN 84,900, but to buy the most expensive version you will have to shell out PLN 132,000. The price is debatable, but only from one point of view. The car is perfected down to a single detail, but for the same price you can get a Ford Mondeo! Polish customers may not like it. They may, but, of course, don’t have to...

A POLYGLOT

Corporate fleet managers carefully look at all novelties, because the car for an executive must have a good presence, be well equipped and have impressive performance. There’s also the issue of safety. Although some say that “I have a car to drive it, not to crash it”, but better safe than...

Hyundai meets the definition of a business car in each respect. Air-cooled front seats? There you go. Airbags? Yes, and even nine of them (including a knee airbag)! The car also has a hill-holding assistant (forget about those crazy hand brake operations, done in order not to slide down on a hill), ESP as standard, and can alert the driver when it starts to unwittingly (let’s say accidentally) veer out of the lane. Hyundai’s competitors also have those gimmicks. So what really distinguishes the Korean car from others? Details, details, and once again – attention to detail. For example, the issue of “intelligence”. The Korean limousine is so smart that it can recognize voice commands given by the driver in one of 10 languages – at least this is what the marketing specialists



claim in press releases. -They also boast that in i40, Hyundai went for processors with high computing power, advanced navigation software, as well as an extensive entertainment system. Truly commendable. ■

Rafał Jemielita is a journalist for Playboy and a co-presenter of TVN Turbo's "Automaniak" – a motor magazine programme.



Mumbai

Sara Turner gets stuck into street food and haggles with the locals while pounding the streets of the Indian city

CHOWPATTY BEACH AND MARINE DRIVE

Although not recommended for bathing, Mumbai's city beach is an ideal place to start your tour. It offers fantastic views from the shore of Marine Drive with its art deco mansions as it curves around to Nariman Point. Chances are you'll be exploring during the day, but if you get the opportunity to return in the evening, Chowpatty Beach offers the perfect vision of "the Queen's Necklace" – the name given to Marine Drive by night, when it is lit up by a chain of street lamps.

The beach has a number of stalls selling street food, such as the popular savoury snack *bhelpuri*, a mix of puffed rice, spices and potato. You can also find

kulfi, traditional Indian ice cream. Surprisingly, the most refreshing choice is often a cup of *masala chai* – spiced Indian tea. Served espresso-style in a small cup, it is made with plenty of sugar and dried loose-leaf tea boiled up with two-thirds milk, one-third water, ginger and spices. It is super-sweet so may take a little getting used to, but is as good a pick-me-up as any caffeine shot.

BOMBAY MUSEUM

If you've got the time and energy and you don't hit the midday sun, you could walk all the way around the bay to your next stop, South Mumbai, in about an hour. There is a wide pavement and a sea wall, and the open panorama offers a welcome reprieve from this busy city. Otherwise, take a taxi to the Prince of Wales Museum on MG Road, making sure the driver puts the meter on.

The museum is now officially known as Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, but many people still refer to it by its former name, or simply as

the Bombay Museum. Open since 1922, the Indo-Saracenic building houses a well put-together collection of art and artefacts from across the subcontinent. There is also a good audio guide included in the entry price, but bear in mind that this takes well over an hour.

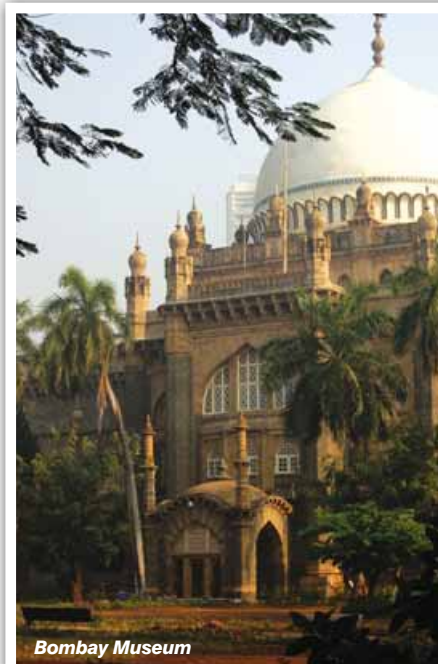
The collection of miniature paintings is one of the best in the country. These painstakingly produced masterpieces show scenes from popular tales of Indian gods and goddesses. The attention to detail is amazing, with some of the smaller strokes having been painted with a single hair. The array of stuffed animals on show might leave you cold but if you don't mind it, the extremely rare white tiger, thought to be extinct until recently, ranks among the more unusual specimens. Open Tues-Sat 10.15am-6pm; Rs 300 (£4); 159-161 MG Road; bombaymuseum.org

NATIONAL GALLERY OF MODERN ART

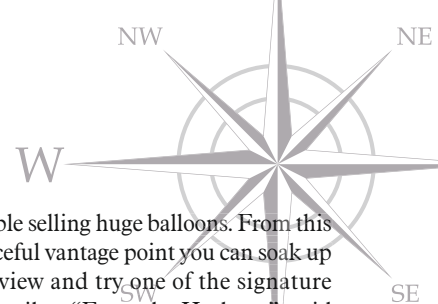
Opposite the museum is this white-walled contemporary art gallery, which hosts mainly temporary exhibitions covering photography, painting and sculpture. Shows are often drawn from the art collection of the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi, which includes some 17,000 works from the 1850s onwards. Past shows have included photography by Henri-Cartier Bresson,

DREAMSTIME/ISTOCKPHOTO/SARA TURNER

Chowpatty Beach



Bombay Museum



who spent some time in India, as well as drawings and paintings by the multi-talented Rabindranath Tagore, the first Asian to win the Nobel Prize for literature in 1913. Open Tues-Sun 10am-5pm; entry Rs 150 (£2); Sir Cowasji Jahangir Public Hall, MG Road; ngmaindia.gov.in

LEOPOLD CAFE

Wander down to Colaba Causeway (officially called Shahid Bhagat Singh Marg) to Leopold café, under the porticoes on the left-hand side. This friendly bar and eatery hit the headlines in November 2008 when it was attacked by terrorists along with the Oberoi Trident hotel and the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower, but it picked itself up and reopened shortly afterwards – the only visible signs are a few bullet holes in the wall and guards who check your bags at the door.

Serving good food and cold beer, Leopold's has been around since 1871 and was originally made famous by Gregory David Roberts' semi-autobiographical novel *Shantaram* – you can pick up a copy of the hefty tome here. Take a seat at one of the wooden tables, enjoy the breeze from the colonial-style ceiling fans, and tuck in. The menu includes local favourites such as *mutter paneer* (peas and cheese in a tomato sauce) and butter chicken, but it's the cold Kingfisher lager that's the real draw. Visit leopoldcafe.com

COLABA MARKET

This lively market selling books, leather sandals, scarves, silver jewellery and handbags takes place outside Leopold's – remember to haggle hard and you can pick up a real bargain. In India, haggling is an art form and is great fun if you don't take it too seriously. As a rule of thumb, start at just below half the asking price and go up, begrudgingly, to two-thirds maximum. The stalls line one side of the road, while on the other are more upmarket jewellery and souvenir shops. Remember you can also bargain in some of the swankier stores – try asking "Is that the best price?" if you don't want to offend, and the same rules apply.

Further down Colaba Causeway are jeans stores Lee and Levi's, where you can pick up a pair at a steal. What's more, they will alter your trousers free of charge so if you're a little short in the leg, or narrow-waisted, you can get a perfect fit. Bear in mind that this service usually takes a couple of hours while they run your new clothes down to the tailors.

HARBOUR BAR AT THE TAJ

Finish up at the Taj Mahal Palace and Tower's Harbour bar, which opened in 1933 and claims to have been Mumbai's first licensed drinking establishment. The atmospheric spot overlooks the Gateway of India, nearly always busy with tourists, touts and, inexplicably,

GIFT TIP

A great place to pick up some presents is Fabindia, at 137 MG Road – it sells handicrafts, colourful shirts, dresses, saris and bed linen. Founded by US entrepreneur John Bissell in 1960, the chain can be found in most of India's major cities. It aims to provide sustainable employment for rural communities – its products are made by some 40,000 craftsmen who use traditional techniques such as handweaving. Visit fabindia.com

people selling huge balloons. From this peaceful vantage point you can soak up the view and try one of the signature cocktails – "From the Harbour", said to date from the age of prohibition, and invented here at the Taj, contains Tanqueray gin, peach syrup, chopped fruit, pineapple and cranberry juice and Chartreuse liqueur. Or opt for one of the many single malt whiskies or vintage wines. If this doesn't tickle your taste buds, the hotel has another bar and eight restaurants. Apollo Bunder; tel +91 226 6653 366; tajhotels.com ■

Go to incredibleindia.org



Taj Mahal Palace and Tower hotel



Harbour bar at the Taj



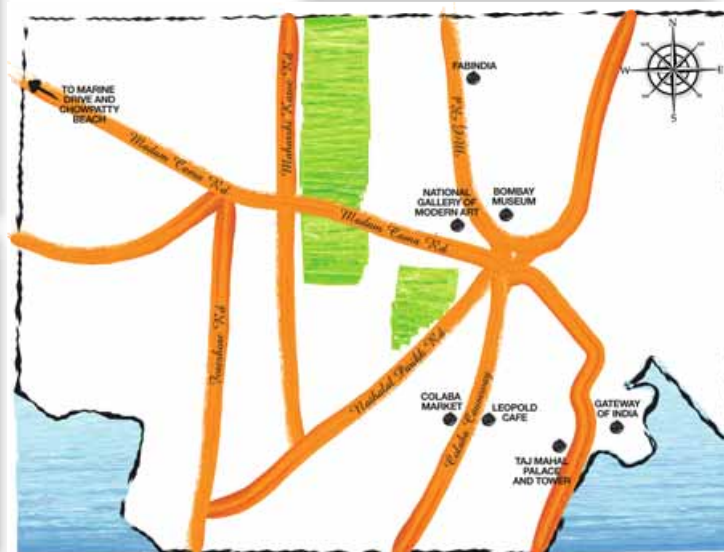
Leopold café



Leopold café and Colaba market



Gateway of India



Piotr Kalita has been associated with the air travel market for almost 20 years. He specializes in corporate and diplomatic travel.
Do you have any questions? Ask Peter. Send your question at redakcja@businesstraveller.pl



AT THE LAST MOMENT

Can you please explain to me why I can't buy a plane ticket at lower price at the last moment before the flight? The last few times when I flew, there were many empty seats, but the tickets were expensive. I thought it would be better to sell the seats for half the price and make some profit. When is the best time to buy the cheapest tickets? What does the price depend on? When I travel by train I always know how much this is going to cost, while with planes it's always different.

Adam

Dear Adam,

Plane fares are much more complicated than railway ones, so you can't really compare the two. As for plane fares, the situation is more complex, as we need to take into account two things: meeting the requirements of each fare and the availability of seats, which is, generally, limited.

For instance there are 20 various plane fares on Warsaw-London route: from PLN 30 to over PLN 4,000, excluding the mandatory airport charges. Each of the fares has specific requirements, which must be met, for instance: the minimum stay in London (with the lowest fares it's Saturday/Sunday night, or three days), a maximum stay (with the lowest fares: 1 month, with higher

fares: one year), the need to buy the ticket ahead of time (for instance 21 days before the departure), combining ticket purchase with the booking (in most fares the ticket is issued within 24 hours or 3 days from the booking). Additional restrictions concern the route of the journey (low fare require direct flights, higher ones give a possibility of a stopover), changes in the flight dates, refund of the whole or part of the ticket. By analogy, in the event of low fares with special offers, no changes or returns are allowed. Middle range fares allow for returns with deductions, and changes are charged extra. As for the highest fares, there are no such restrictions.

Another parameter is the availability of seats

on a certain flight in a particular fare. It may turn out, that theoretically you meet the requirements for a certain fare, but it's not available at the time you've selected. Airlines have a very strict pricing policy. You can't expect that an airline would keep the places available at the lowest fair to the last moment. They don't want to risk losing profits. ON the contrary – low fares are available only much earlier, and the number of cheap seats on each plane is strictly limited. It's because each flight generates costs, which need to be covered by proceeds from the tickets. You can't be serious believing that a ticket which costs the symbolic sum of PLN 1 will cover it. If you buy a ticket at the last moment, you can expect only the highest fares to be available, often in business class. All airlines have similar pricing policy, including budget carriers. That's why it's important to be reasonable when planning a journey. Especially, remember to buy the tickets early enough and refrain from making any changes at the last moment.

That is why, it is sometimes more beneficial for an airline if half of the seats are empty during a flight, than to risk losing the profits as a result of inconsistent pricing policy.

PREGNANT WOMAN ON BOARD

My boss is expecting a baby and she's planning to go to a meeting at our company's headquarters. There are no medical reasons not to travel by plane. Do I need to inform the airline about the fact? Is it possible to get any help in case something goes wrong?

Marta

Dear Marta,

The most important thing has already been done – medical consultation. In the case of any medicine-related questions, connected with travelling, I always advise you to turn to specialists, which I often do myself. Starting with formalities – pregnant women naturally can travel by plane. In case of an advanced pregnancy (defined in a different way by different carriers), the passenger is required to have a special bilingual doctor's certificate stating there are no contraindications against air travel. Such a certificate comes in handy in case of a clearly visible pregnancy. Examples of such documents are available in airline offices, but you can find them on other websites as well. A security worker can always ask an airport doctor on duty to provide permission for a passenger to travel in case of any doubts concerning her health.

Flight attendants are only trained to give first aid when necessary. Therefore they can't really help with more complicated medical issues. That's why it's so important to consult your doctor and bring the medical documentation.

While on board, remember about a few things affecting the comfort of the flight. First of all, the seat – it's better to sit in the front row, as there is much more room. Similarly the seats next to emergency exits come with bigger space between the seats, but the place can't be occupied by a pregnant woman. The reason behind it, is that she wouldn't be able to help other passengers in case of an emergency.

A pregnant woman is definitely obliged to fasten the seatbelts during take-off and landing. There are special seatbelts, longer than regular ones, available on board. Naturally, it's important to drink a lot of fluid, and if possible walk around the plane to prevent blood circulation problems. That's why it's not recommended for pregnant women to fly on long-haul intercontinental routes. If it's a flight with a stopover, and the passenger can't manage long walks, you can order a wheelchair at the connecting airport.

And the last but not least – those spectacular news reports about women delivering babies on board are extremely rare. Similarly the stories about free life plane tickets for babies born during the flight belong to the urban legend category.

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Ekspresy EQ.7 Plus i EQ.5 otwierają nowy rozdział w kulturze picia kawy. Ich zadaniem jest precyzyjne spełnianie najbardziej wyszukanych potrzeb miłośników kawowych specjałów. Służą temu innowacje w ekspresie EQ.7 Plus: **individualCup Volume**, **aromaDouble Shot**, czy **oneTouch-Function®**. Te profesjonalne rozwiązania dostarczają nowych doznań ściśle według indywidualnych wymagań. Również ekspres EQ.5 bez trudu zrealizuje wszelkie oczekiwania użytkowników dzięki funkcji **aromaDouble Shot** z dokładną regulacją mocy kawy oraz wbudowanemu systemowi **autoWhirl Plus**, wytwarzającemu idealną mleczną piankę. Przyjemność delektowania się aromatycznymi napojami potęguje też komfort obsługi oraz ekskluzywny design. Wejdź na www.siemens-kawa.pl i zobacz, co znaczy smak, aromat i styl.

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