

Business Traveller Poland

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AIRPORT OASES

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Właśnie powstała jedna, wielka, szczęśliwa rodzina ibis, składająca się z hoteli ibis, ibis Styles i ibis ***budget***.

Odkryj 1600 hoteli na całym świecie, w tym 21 w Polsce, zjednoczonych w celu zapewnienia Ci wyjątkowo spokojnego i słodkiego snu.

W hotelach **ibis** docenisz przytulne pokoje i wygodne łóżka, gwarantujące najwyższy komfort, obfite, urozmaicone śniadania, gorące przekąski i napoje dostępne 24 godziny na dobę oraz troskliwy personel, oferujący swoją pomoc zarówno w dzień jak i w nocy.

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ibis *budget*, idealne połączenie komfortu z korzystną ceną zawdzięcza pokojom, wyposażonym w wygodne łóżka, puszyste kołdry i poduszki oraz w przestronne kabiny prysznicowe.

Poznaj hotele ibis, ibis Styles oraz ibis *budget* i już dziś zarezerwuj niepowtarzalny pobyt na **ibis.com**.



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A JOURNEY OUT OF THIS WORLD!

Until recently, travelling by plane with a stopover at one of the airports in Europe, Asia and America was regarded as exhaustive and tiring. Today, passengers travelling between continents can take advantage of unique privileges. Airlines are picking up on the need to offer premium services right from the very start of the journey. The new, sophisticated airport lounges equipped with cutting edge technology and solutions, offer us real attractions. It turns out that during a stopover, we can use a Spa, enjoy refined cuisine prepared by top chefs, taste the world's best wines, read e-mails on the latest iMac desktop computers, check the time measured precisely by a golden Rolex clock in the lounge, take a shower or have a game of pool. You just need to know where to plan your stopover and travel at least in business class cabin. To learn more about additional privileges for frequent travelers, read our article entitled "Point to point". You will find out there what awards you can redeem your miles for, and what airlines offer the most attractive loyalty programmes. For those more curious, we have prepared a detailed table - a sort of a guide to offers of airline alliances. Enjoy your reading and flights!

Marzena Mróz
Marzena Mróz
Editor-in-Chief



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Łódź
City Hall and Andel's Hotel Łódź

TOURISM AND BUSINESS

Congress tourism is one of the most lucrative segments of the tourism market. The City Hall and andel's Hotel Łódź are intensifying their efforts to develop the event market in the city, which can be proved by the latest "Łódź creates events" project. "The success of the hotel isn't possible without the success of the destination" - this is the main idea behind the marketing strategy of andel's Hotel Łódź. Łódź - a dynamic city located in the very centre of Poland - is a perfect destination for congress tourism. andel's Hotel Łódź through its business activities promotes Łódź as the perfect place to organize various events. In 2011, the hotel hosted 855 events for 56,206 guests. Their organization was possible thanks to the hotel's functional and modern conference centre which is one of the largest in the region. The hotel has hosted a number of celebrities, including Shakira, Rihanna, Depeche Mode, Chris Botti and Martin Scorsese. The strategy implemented by the City Hall involves intensification of activities promoting the event market, also through setting up in Łódź a branch of Poland Convention Bureau. The task of the bureau will be to not only promote the Łódź region as an ideal business and conference destination, but also to integrate local businesses operating in the tourism sector. Łódź City Hall has for some time already been actively collaborating with with non-governmental organizations and commercial partners, such as the andel's Hotel Łódź. An example of this cooperation was "Łódź creates events" project, which was initiated by andel's Łódź, with such partners as the City Hall, the Regional Tourist Organization of Łódź, Atlas Arena and Moda Forte.



Eurolot
Five novelties

WHERE WILL WE
FLY IN WINTER?

Eurolot will soon introduce five new international connections. The new routes are a response to the needs of passengers. Beginning this December, they will be able to fly to Innsbruck, Austria, as well as Verona, Italy. Tickets are already available for purchase. The carrier's flight schedule for this winter season includes new routes that Eurolot offers for the first time. The list of new Warsaw-Innsbruck and Gdańsk-Innsbruck route, which will be launched on 1 December 2012. The route to Verona will be operated from airports in Cracow and Poznań until 30 March 2013. All the four destinations will be operated by modern Q400 Next-



Gen aircraft. Eurolot has currently seven aircraft of this type. By the end of June 2013 the carrier will have a total of 14 new Bombardier Q400 NextGen. Eurolot has also expanded its network of connections from Ławica airport, by launching flights to Poprad, Slovakia. The route will be launched on 22 December. "We continue to expand our flight network. We are pleased that we can offer our passengers new, attractive destinations. I believe that they will be extremely popular especially among winter sports enthusiasts," says Mariusz Dąbrowski, CEO of Eurolot SA.



Airlines
Emirates

PHUKET
AND WARSAW

Emirates, one of the fastest growing airlines in the world, has announced the launch of a new connection to the largest island of Thailand, Phuket. The first flight will take off on 10 December 2012. The route will be operated by Airbus aircraft featuring three cabin classes. The daily flight EK 378 will take off from Dubai at 12.45 and land at Phuket International Airport at 9.55 pm. The return flight EK 379 will take off at 00.35 am and land in Dubai at 4.35 am. The launch of the new connection will coincide with the beginning of the holiday season in this region. Beginning 6 February 2013, Emirates will also launch a daily flight from Dubai to Warsaw, operated by Airbus A330-200 in a three-class configuration. This will be the largest aircraft regularly landing in Warsaw, while Emirates will become the first airline to offer first class cabin on board planes departing Poland. The flights will allow for convenient transfers in Dubai to more than 100 airports to which Emirates fly. What does this mean for those travelling from Poland? Most importantly, they will now have a much easier access to numerous airports in Asia, Africa, Australia, New Zealand and the Middle East.



OD MIŁOŚNIKÓW ESPRESSO. DLA MIŁOŚNIKÓW ESPRESSO.



Są chwile i niezapomniane miejsca, które mówią o przyjemności oraz pasji. Lavazza BLUE to perfekcyjnie przygotowane espresso. Zawsze i wszędzie. Teraz możesz cieszyć się wspaniałym, intensywnym smakiem kawy nie tylko w Twoim biurze, ale także w muzeum, czy kinie. Dzięki autoryzowanym dystrybutorom Lavazza zapewnia każdemu kompleksowe wsparcie.

www.lavazzalive.com **LIVE**



Airlines

LAN Airlines

FIRST DREAMLINER IN AMERICA

LAN Airlines, one of Latin America's leading passenger and cargo airlines, today became the first airline in the Americas (and one of the first in the world) to receive the Boeing 787 Dreamliner. LAN's first Dreamliner joined the fleet on 1 September. The carrier will receive 32 of this new aircraft over the next ten years, with the first three to be delivered this year. Top LAN executives, Boeing representatives, and authorities celebrated the delivery of LAN's first

787 at an event at the Boeing factory near Seattle, including LAN Airlines CEO Ignacio Cueto who stressed the importance of the delivery for the Company: "LAN is proud to be the first airline in the Americas to receive the 787 Dreamliner," said Mr Cueto. The first cities served by the LAN fleet of 787s are Santiago, Buenos Aires, Lima, Los Angeles, Madrid, and Frankfurt.

Finnair i Booking.com

Good partnership

ONLINE BOOKING

Finnair and Booking.com have signed a one year contract for hotel and accommodation reservation services. Effective today, the partnership enables Finnair customers who book their trips through the Finnair website to take advantage of improved hotel search features and access Booking.com's offering Accommodation searches powered by Booking.com are seamlessly integrated into the Finnair online experience. "Finding the perfect place to stay is a critical part of the customer's journey," says Anssi Komulainen, Finnair's SVP Customer Service. "This new agreement with a world-class partner enables us to provide the best one-stop Further information: Media Desk, tel. +358 9 818 4020, comms@finnair.com Finnair hotel search: <http://hotels.finnair.com> Photobank: www.finnair.com/gallery Finnair Blogs: <http://blogs.finnair.com> Finnair on Facebook: www.facebook.com/finnair Finnair on Twitter: www.twitter.com/finnair Finnair Group website: www.finnairgroup.com Feel Finnair: <http://feel.finnair.com>



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Leader of helicopter transport

AIR TAXIS

helicopter.pl is a leader in helicopter transportation services in Poland. The company provides fast, comfortable and safe transportation for its clients and their guests. It offers personalized service with a range of modern Eurocopter helicopters, which are characterized by the highest standards of safety, modern design and comfort which is best in the class. The helicopters are quiet, feature luxurious cabins, and are flown by experienced pilots. In its offer the company has also special flights, including flights for business, air filming, various events etc.



FALKENSTEINER
Hotels & Residences

Welcome Home!

Najlepszy zimowy wypoczynek w hotelach Falkensteiner w Południowym Tyrolu dla osób aktywnych oraz całych rodzin.

Zimowy wypoczynek w Południowym Tyrolu to synonim sportu, relaksu i romantyzmu. Dużo śniegu, dziewiczy krajobraz Dolomitów i doskonale przygotowane stoki zapraszają całe rodziny do jazdy na nartach, sankach, rakietach śnieżnych oraz do biegów narciarskich. Żaden inny region alpejski nie oferuje tak wielu nowoczesnych i komfortowych wyciągów. Po całym dniu na stoku zapraszamy do relaksu w naszym Acquapura SPA oraz do zasmakowania wyśmienitej regionalnej kuchni. Ciesz się romantyczną atmosferą w górach Południowego Tyrolu korzystając z naszej atrakcyjnej oferty. Welcome Home at Falkensteiner w Południowym Tyrolu.

Białe szaleństwo w najlepszych ośrodkach narciarskich Południowego Tyrolu! Kronplatz/Dolomiti Superski, Meran 2000, Gitschberg/Jochtal, Seiser Alm czekają na Ciebie!

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- ✦ koktajl powitalny
- ✦ korzystanie z centrum odnowy biologicznej i SPA Acquapura Water World (zabiegi płatne dodatkowo)

* Dopłata za każde dodatkowe dziecko w pokoju rodziców: 0-5,9 lat € 140,00 na tydzień, 6-14,9 lat € 249,00 na tydzień.

10%
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31.10.2012

INFORMACJE & REZERWACJA

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Hotels
Missoni, Edinburgh

FASHION & PASSION

Missoni boutique hotel, located in the Old Town of Edinburgh, is regarded as one of the most stylish and luxurious spots in the city. The hotel, belonging to Residor hotel group, is soaked in style and comfort. It's also very popular among those who wish to spend their weekend combining – as Missoni's motto suggests - fashion and passion.

The establishment, located in the very heart of the Scottish capital, in the historic Royal Mile, just 200 meters from Edinburgh Castle, was opened in 2009. It offers 136 rooms located on six floors, 5 junior suites and 2 suites. It's only 12 km away from the airport. Missoni - as you might expect from a brand of the renowned Italian designer - guarantees the highest standard, quality and style. Rooms are individually decorated, but they share common elements. Retro style is predominant here. Upholstery, curtains, carpets, bed linen, towels and even bathrobes are specially designed for hotel guests. The zigzag which is the style trademark of Missoni, is visible on bed coverings. Cucina restaurant offers Italian cuisine and Missoni Bar, which is open until late at night, serves delicious cocktails. Prices range from £90 for a room to £400 for a suite. We recommended this place to all who appreciate sophisticated design and are true fashion enthusiasts. For more info go to www.hotelmissoni.com

Airlines
LOT
A NEW CONNECTION TO STUTTGART

LOT Polish Airlines is going to launch a second new connection to Germany this year (after the one to Hannover earlier this year). From 5 October, the Polish carrier will launch its five-times a week service to the airport in Stuttgart, Germany. Tickets are already available for purchase. Stuttgart will be the seventh German destination operated by LOT aircraft. Flights, operated by Embraer 170 aircraft, will take place five times a week, except for Saturdays and Tuesdays, according to the following schedule:

departing Warsaw
- LO 405 - 4.25 pm
arriving in Stuttgart – 6.10 pm
departing Stuttgart
-LO 406 – 6.50 pm
arriving in Warsaw – 8.30 pm

Tickets can be purchased at lot.com, via the Call Centre as well as at LOT's offices and from travel agents.

LOT
Gala in London
Best Airline

LOT DOES IT AGAIN

Readers of the British edition of the prestigious "Business Traveller" magazine have once again honoured LOT Polish Airlines. The Polish carrier received for the 15th time the award for the best airline in Central and Eastern Europe. The awards ceremony was held in London Kensington, at the Royal Garden Hotel. The award was received by Marcin Piróg, the CEO of LOT Polish Airlines

Congratulations from the Polish edition of Business Traveller!



Warsaw
All about wine

POLISH SOMMELIER CHAMPION

On 1 and 2 September 2012 in Warsaw, the Polish Association of Sommeliers held the 12th Polish Sommelier Championship. The championship was won by Andrzej Strzelczyk, representing Mamaison Hotel Le Regina Warsaw. His skills were also honoured by the audience that awarded him with their own prize for the first time in the history of the championship.

The championship is a fixed point in the calendar of industry events in Poland. Its formula hasn't changed over the years: on the first day, participants take a written test to verify the theoretical knowledge, while on the second day, the final three contestants perform practical tasks. The tasks in this edition, included, among others selecting wines to dishes from a menu, a blind test of wines and spirits, and improving a wine list. Andrzej Strzelczyk was the only sommelier who was able to ideally pour a magnum champagne bottle for 12 persons in 3 minutes.

„It seems that number “5” is my lucky one as it was the fifth final in my sommelier career,” said the winner.



Cars
New BMW 7 series
PREMIERE IN ST. PETERSBURG

BMW Group has launched its new BMW 7 Series. The launch of this luxury limousine was held in late July in St. Petersburg, which because of its cultural heritage and the love of beauty manifested at every step, seemed to be a natural environment for the presentation of the top model in the range of the German company. The new BMW 7 Series continues to strengthen its position as the most innovative limousine in the luxury segment. BMW's flagship model is all about sporty elegance, excellent drive technology and luxurious comfort. The car further strengthens its leading position in the segment through significant upgrade of the equipment including new LED headlights, more attractive and better sound-proofed interior, as well as a comprehensive range of accessories, and the latest security technologies to provide the highest standard of travel.



Euro 2012
Car rental
SIXT AND UEFA

Sixt Rent A Car, a leading company specializing in rental and leasing vehicles, was the official chauffer service provider for UEFA European Championship 2012.

Last year, UEFA announced a tender for the chauffer service at EURO 2012 held in Poland and Ukraine. The subject of the tender was the services on the territory of Poland. Of the 27 companies that took part in the tender, only the top 3 reached the final stage which was won by the Polish branch of the international company Sixt rent a car. The drivers of the company provided the chauffer service, using cars provided by the sponsors of the Euro Championship. Over 180 drivers and coordinators who are employed to provide Sixt Limousine Service, were transferred to work for the EURO 2012 Championship. Preparations and training began at the beginning of the year, and the first transfers took place in the spring, when members of UEFA visited our stadiums.

“Selecting Sixt to provide official chauffer service at Euro 2012, was a very great honour for us, but also confirmation of the quality that we offer on a daily basis to our clients,” says Paweł Reczyński, the President of Sixt rent a car Poland.

WYPEŁNIJ ANKIETĘ
I WYGRAJ
rejsy po Karaibach,
bilety lotnicze
oraz smartfony!

Magazyn Business Traveller Poland zamierza w tym roku po raz pierwszy w Polsce przyznać Business Traveller Awards. W Wielkiej Brytanii te prestiżowe nagrody przyznawane są już od wielu lat. W Polsce nasza redakcja chce przyznać wyróżnienia m.in. dla najlepszych lotnisk, linii lotniczych i hoteli biznesowych w Polsce i na świecie. W tym celu przygotowaliśmy dla Państwa prostą ankietę w formie elektronicznej, której wypełnienie nie zajmie więcej niż dziesięć minut.

Wszyscy, którzy wezmą udział w naszym plebiscycie, będą mieli okazję wziąć udział w konkursie – na zwycięzców czekają trzy podwójne vouchery na rejsy luksusowymi statkami Royal Caribbean, vouchery na bilety lotnicze Ryanair, telefony firmy HTC oraz prenumeraty naszego magazynu.

Ankietę oraz zadanie konkursowe
znajdą Państwo na
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Zapraszamy!



Business Traveller Poland

WHAT'S ON

The Most Anticipated Events in October

ROME EIGHT TIMES VERMEER

Rome, Scuderie del Quirinale, Via XXIV Maggio 16
27 September 2012 - 20 January 2013

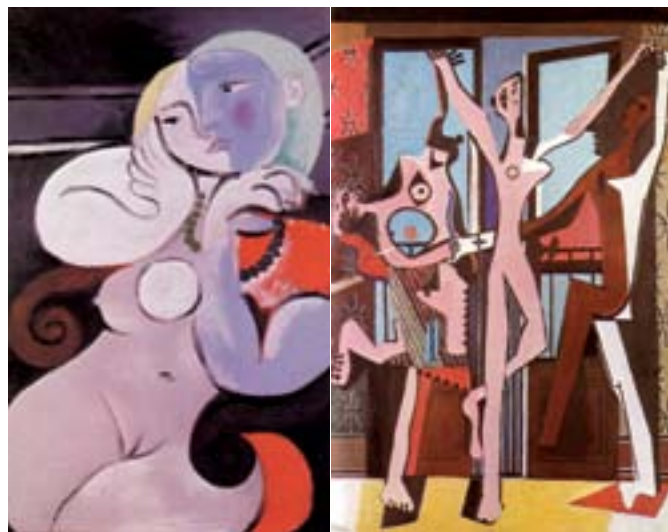
Johannes Vermeer, who is considered to be an unrivalled master of light, was forgotten for over 200 years until the mid 19th century. There are 37 paintings by the artist that survived to this day. Scattered all over the world, they are rarely exhibited or lend. The Rome exhibition enables you to see eights of them. www.scuderiequirinale.it



POLISH TOURNEE ALEXANDROV ENSEMBLE

5 - 12 October 2012

The legendary Russian choir is still very popular around the world. It performs over 2,000 musical pieces - folk songs, classical works by Russian and foreign composers, soldier songs and popular music hits. Audiences in countries where the choir performs regularly, appreciate that their repertoire includes local folk songs, often performed in the original language version. The choir also sings in Polish, and the organisers of the tournee claim, that a totally new repertoire has been prepared especially for the Polish fans. The concerts will be organised in Gdańsk, Ostróda, Koźnice, Cracow, Warsaw, Ostrowiec Świętokrzyski, Włocławek and Zielona Góra. www.chor-alexandrowa.pl



EDINBURGH PICASSO AND BRITISH MODERN ART

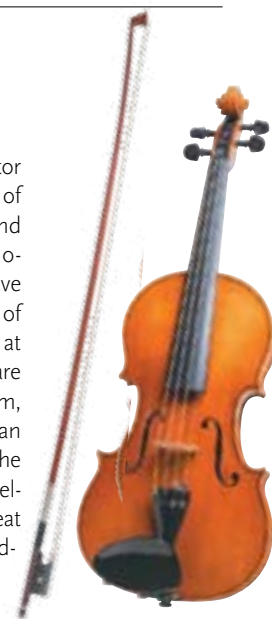
Until 4 November 2012, Edinburgh, Scottish National Gallery, The exhibition will show the impact of Pablo Picasso works on British painters in the first half of the 20th century. You will see there about 150 paintings, including 60 by Picasso himself - borrowed from museums and private collections. Among the British painters whose works will be exhibited, the most notable are Duncan Grant, Ben Nicholson and Francis Bacon.

www.nationalgalleries.org/whatson/exhibitions/picasso-modern-british-art

NEU-ULM JOHANN STRAUSS ORCHESTRA

Ratiopharm Arena, 4 - 5 October 2012

The famous Dutch violin player and conductor Andre Rieu thinks that in his time, the music of the great Viennese was pure entertainment, and that's how it should be treated. Concerts of Johann Strauss Orchestra founded by Rieu have nothing to do with the pompous atmosphere of the traditional classical music concerts, but at the same time delight real enthusiasts. If you are unable to make it for the concerts in Neu-Ulm, you will have another chance, as the European tournee will last until the end of the year. The orchestra will perform mostly in Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Great Britain. You can book the tickets at: www.world-ticketshop.pl/koncerty/bilety_andre_rieu



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AIRPORT OASES

Airline lounges are upping their game by providing stylish and refined new spaces for premium travellers pre-flight, write **Marzena Mróz** and **Alisha Haridasani**

A traveller's journey begins on the ground, and the airport experience is part and parcel of that vital first impression of his or her chosen carrier. Realising this, airlines are picking up on the need to offer premium services right from the very start with state-of-the-art and efficient ground services. An important element of this is serious investment in lounges, in order to provide passengers with a taste of what's to come for the rest of their journey. Gone are the simple pit stop locations of the past, that offered little more than a seating area with basic food and beverages – today's lounges represent a microcosm experience of the carrier brand itself, with the help of new technologies, graceful interiors and a wider range of services.

CATHAY PACIFIC

Name of lounge and airport: *The Wing, Hong Kong International Airport*

Location: In between Gates 2 and 3 on 6/F Departure level

Date of last renovation/opening: The carrier's signature lounge, which first opened in 1998, has recently completed a major refurbishment project. The first phase of renovation focused on Level 6 and was completed in April 2011; then in January this year, the carrier completed a second phase that changed the entire look and feel of Level 7. At present, The Wing's dedicated First Class lounge is undergoing renovation and is expected to be complete by the fourth quarter of this year.

The feel: Level 6 and 7 have been redesigned by London-based architects Foster + Partners in a way that maintains the classic Wing feel that the carrier's most frequent travellers are fond of while introducing some refreshing elements. The lounge has been reconfigured so that the six workspaces and shower stations have moved down to Level 6, leaving Level 7 purely as a relaxation zone. The classic Wing colour scheme of black, dark woods and white marble has been maintained but complemented with more natural light and plants. Cathay Pacific's specially designed pod-like Solus chairs are now present in this lounge, providing individual travellers with a convenient space of their own that encompasses a coat hanger, universal socket and side table. Complimentary wifi and universal power sockets are available throughout the lounge. **Food and drinks:** Catering services at all of Cathay Pacific's HKIA lounges are provided

Turkish Airlines lounge

For more than a year passengers travelling in Business Class via Istanbul, members of Miles & Smiles Elite and Elite Plus programmes, as well as Star Alliance gold car holders, can use one of the world's most modern lounges operated by Turkish Airlines. The exclusive and stylish lounge stretching over the area of 3,000 sq m, can accommodate 2,000 travellers a day, offering gourmet cuisine, drinks, separate rooms for relaxation, showers, and a children's playroom. Travellers can also use a billiards room, a library, and a special room for businesspeople where they can work in comfortable, peaceful conditions.

by The Peninsula hotel, thus ensuring high quality and consistency. The Noodle Bar on Level 7 has been expanded and enhanced to now consist of space for 172 people, instead of the previous 80, and boasts more natural lighting. There is also a new eatery, Coffee Loft, that serves breakfast items in the morning, afternoon tea followed by cocktails in the evening, while the signature Long Bar, with fantastic views of the runway, has been retained. Other than these dining options, there are self-serve buffets on both Level 6 and 7. **Technology:** All six of the workstations on Level 6 are equipped with iMacs, printers and fax machines. **Standout features:** The dining outlets and the Solus chairs. **Access:** In addition to business and first class passengers, this lounge is available to Marco Polo members of silver tier and above, as well as oneworld alliance members of sapphire tier and above.

EMIRATES

Name of lounge and airport: *First Class Lounge, Dubai International Airport*

Location: Terminal 3, Concourse 1

Date of last renovation/opening: This lounge opened in August last year and is the second first class facility at Dubai airport, the first of which opened in 2008 in Concourse 2.

The feel: To maintain consistency with the renowned first lounge, this new facility features a similar design including the same brown, beige and gold colour scheme, Italian marble flooring, plush leather armchairs and, of course, the gold-plated Rolex wall clocks. It also boasts modern artwork

and water features that imbue it with a sense of relaxation. Measuring 1,058 sqm, the lounge offers a quiet zone with eight recliner chairs, shower facilities, a business centre with 10 workstations, a spa and a complimentary shoe-shining service. **Food and drinks:** There is a 24-hour buffet section as well as an à la carte dining option serving gourmet meals all day and a selection of fine wines, as well as a separate bar. **Technology:** Free wifi access throughout. **Standout feature:** The recliner chairs. **Access:** First and business class passengers and Skywards Gold members.

QATAR AIRWAYS

Name of lounge and airport: *Qatar Airways Premium Lounge, Heathrow Airport*

Location: Terminal 4

Date of last renovation/opening: This lounge, which opened in January this year, is the carrier's first outside its Doha hub, built in response to the popularity of the London route and in anticipation of increased traffic to and from the British capital.

The feel: The facility exudes a contemporary and luxurious charm yet still feels distinctly Arabic. Although it deliberately resembles a "boutique hotel or private members' club", the lounge also draws inspiration from the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, incorporating elements that reflect the carrier's roots, such as a colour palette of cream, beige, brown and maroon alongside abstract, contemporary versions of Islamic mosaic prints and Arabic calligraphy motifs carved on the wall and printed on carpets. In order to ensure high-quality service, the carrier has recruited staff from five-star hotels and restaurants. Other amenities include private showers, a business centre and power sockets for every seat.

Food and drinks: The Global Brasserie kitchen, which features a live open kitchen, and a delicatessen and signature martini bar. **Technology:** Wifi is available, and the shower facilities consist of heated floors and mirrors. **Standout features:** The décor and the martini bar. **Access:** Exclusively for business and first class passengers of Qatar Airways.

VIRGIN ATLANTIC

Name of lounge and airport: *JFK Clubhouse, JFK International Airport*

Location: In the A-Concourse, above gates A4 and A5.

Date of last renovation/opening: The lounge



Airlines are picking up on the need to offer premium services right from the very start of the journey. In recent years lounges have changed almost beyond recognition.



opened in March this year, replacing the previous landside offering.

The feel: Officially described as “Understatedly Uptown, Unmistakably New York”, the JFK Clubhouse is not only double the size of the previous lounge but also extremely funky, colourful and contemporary to match the carrier’s vibrant persona. Designed by New York-based Slade Architecture, the lounge features flashy golden cylinders hanging from the ceiling, a cloud-shaped cocktail bar, a red ball sofa and a curtain of steel rods within an area called “Central Park”.

In addition to the jazzy seating in Central Park, Virgin has introduced “person-sized round cavities” lined with wool that allow individual travellers to relax, similar to the idea of Cathay Pacific’s purpose-built Solus chairs.

To step up the game a little more, the lounge also houses a hair salon and spa with hair-stylists from the famous New York brand Bumble and Bumble.

Food and drinks: Guests can order food or beverages from anywhere in the lounge, or choose to eat in the more formal brasserie dining area that offers à la carte meals, desserts and fine wines. Dishes include typical New York delicacies such as Brooklyn Ale pie. The large, cloud-shaped bar is another F&B attraction, staffed by professional mixologists offering signature cocktails.

Technology: The concierge team at the lounge offer phone-charging services. Standout features: The hair salon and spa. Access: The lounge is for Upper Class passengers and Flying Club Gold members.



Gone are the simple pit stop locations of the past, that offered little more than a seating area with basic food and beverages. Today’s lounges represent a microcosm experience of the carrier brand itself

PAY-IN LOUNGES

Premium passengers and frequent flyers usually have fantastic lounges to go to, provided either by the airline or an airline alliance. Thus even in places where an airline does not have a lounge, partnerships with other carriers ensure that passengers can still access a comfortable haven before their flights. But for those odd occasions where no such facilities are available, a pay-in lounge can do the trick as they offer most of the things that airline lounges do.

PLAZA PREMIUM LOUNGE

This independent lounge operator had its first opening at Hong Kong International Airport back in 1998. Today, the network consists of 60 locations at 17 international

LOT Polish Airlines – Polonez lounge

Passengers flying with the Polish national carrier and members of Star Alliance who travel in business class, can use LOT’s Polonez lounge. It’s located on level +2, in the Schengen area and is the largest executive lounge at Warsaw Okęcie airport. The area of 500 sq m can accommodate up to 80 people in comfortable conditions. The lounge is equipped with 10 leather couches and 60 comfortable chairs. Travelers can relax here, eat hot and cold snacks, read newspapers, as well as use free internet. The lounge also features two bathrooms with showers and a room for child care.

airports in China, Malaysia, Singapore, India, the Maldives, Oman, Canada and, of course, Hong Kong. All of its lounges offer food and beverage buffets with à la carte menus for the more premium customers and, in some locations, Halal or vegetarian food is also offered to cater to the needs of different travellers. All lounges also have shower facilities, private resting areas, free wifi access, workstations with computers and printers, as well as spas (although treatments will cost extra).

PRIORITY PASS

Launched in 1992, Priority Pass today has an expansive network of 600 lounges in 300 cities around the world. The lounges offer all the basic amenities, including wifi, food and beverage buffets, shower facilities, beds and workstations. Unlike Plaza Premium, Priority Pass only works on a membership basis, and to make use of their lounges travellers have to sign up beforehand. There are three types of membership: standard, which costs US\$99 a year and allows guests into lounges for an additional cost of US\$27 per use; standard plus membership (US\$249), which offers members 10 free uses of any lounge within a year, with members charged at the standard rate of US\$27 from the 11th visit onwards; and prestige membership, which costs US\$399 annually and gives guests unlimited use of all lounges for a year. Both of these lounges have partnerships with American Express to offer certain cardholders free access, such as Platinum members who gain free access to Priority Pass lounges.



OLD IS GOLD

These lounges are not new nor have they recently undergone refurbishment, yet they’ve stood the test of time and are still favourites among frequent travellers.

BRITISH AIRWAYS

Name of lounge and airport: Galleries Club Lounge, Heathrow Airport

Location: Within Terminal 5A, which is dedicated to British Airways and consists of a total of six Galleries lounges.

The feel: This lounge is the largest of the Galleries in T5 (spacious enough for 830 passengers), and is part of a three-lounge complex that also includes the Concorde Room (at the top of the lounge hierarchy) and Galleries First. The Galleries Club lounge may be at the bottom of the hierarchy but it is no less impressive, boasting the same modern British charm as the other two as well as comparable service and some great facilities. These include a quiet area for snoozing, a 20-seat cinema that screens live sporting events and other entertainment, a children’s play area, 20 shower suites, two separate work areas at each end of the lounge, universal power sockets and free wifi internet access throughout.

Standout feature: The cinema.
Access: First and Club World (business)

class passengers as well as Gold and Silver Executive club members.

LUFTHANSA

Name of lounge and airport: Lufthansa First Class Terminal, Frankfurt Airport

Location: The dedicated terminal is located close to Terminal 1

The feel: The entire facility takes luxury to a whole new level, offering first class passengers exclusive facilities and services. The terminal has its own check-in desks, security checks, a duty-free store and even a personal assistant who takes care of immigration, ensuring that discreet-minded passengers can go from their own car into the lounge, then on to the aircraft by chauffeur-driven car, without having to pass through the main terminal at all. The lounge, located within this terminal, offers guests a quiet escape with daybeds, private shower facilities (inclusive of bathtub), a cigar lounge and working units as well as free wifi throughout. There is a separate area that serves fine wines, hot and cold dishes from a buffet, or an à la carte menu. Also, a bar offers a selection of more than 86 whiskeys. Standout feature: The entire concept of a dedicated terminal.
Access: Exclusively for First Class passengers and HON Circle members.

QANTAS

Name of lounge and airport: Qantas First Lounge, Sydney Airport

Location: Terminal 1, past immigration on Level 4

The feel: This lounge, designed by the renowned Marc Newson, brings together contemporary elegance and a relaxed ambience. Even before entering, guests are greeted by a refreshing “rainforest wall” set against stark white interiors, while inside the lounge is decorated in Italian marble, oak wood and funky patterned carpets.

Dedicated concierge services are offered, in partnership with Sofitel Hotels, which can help guests with tasks such as making a restaurant reservation or ordering a car pick-up at their destination. Other facilities include a spa (also featuring the “rainforest wall” to create a sense of tranquillity) with complimentary services, a fully equipped business centre, a library with board games, shower suites and complimentary wifi access. Standout features: The concierge service and spa.

Access: The lounge is open to first class passengers on Qantas, British Airways or other oneworld flights, Frequent Flyer Platinum level members or oneworld Emerald tier members and above.

Hotel

WARSAW

SHERATON HOTEL PRESIDENTIAL SUITE



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Hotels are really only stops in our journey. A place where we leave our luggage, sleep and forget about once we hit the road again. Only truly exceptional hotels remain longer in our memory. But what does this word really mean? If it only meant a comfortable bed, beautiful interiors, good food and a convenient location, the patent for success in the hospitality industry would be extremely simple. Ultimately, all of this is just a matter of organization, expertise and money. The case, however, is much more complicated. A truly unique ho-

tel is the one that we remember well after just one stay and where we want to return. It's a hotel with a soul - that elusive "something" which derives from its history or creates its legend. Sheraton Warsaw has a long way to go before it celebrates its 100th birthday, but its legend and opinion of the most elegant place in Warsaw still continues.

SPECIAL GUESTS

Part of this credit goes to the hotel's guests. Sheraton hosted the King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden with his wife, Queen Sofia of Spain, King Harald V Glucks-

burg of Norway with his wife ... It seems merely surprising that a hotel which provides much comfort to numerous crowned heads, receives the status of a legend. Especially, since it was chosen by Vladimir Putin who doesn't hide his love of luxury, as well as by a whole host of stars and celebrities. If one were to cast them in one film, this could guarantee a world-class blockbuster, starring Catherine Deneuve, Sophia Loren, Jane Seymour, Steven Segal, Morgan Freeman, Patrick Swayze, as well as Jose Carreras and Jose Cura for good measure. Whims of Hollywood stars are a

subject of incredible stories not only in Poland, but also around the world. Specially selected flowers, towels, linens, mineral water imported from the other end of the world – these are only a few of unusual requests. However, since first-class hotels truly care about the privacy of their guests, information leaks related to their requests are extremely rare, which only further inflames the imagination. However, we would like to know more about the place which hosts famous people who are used to living in luxury.

LIVING ROOM

Presidential Suite designed by renowned London architect Keith Wright, is exactly such a place. Not surprisingly, it's the biggest and most luxurious suite in Sheraton Warsaw. It's 160 sq m large and has absolutely everything you can even imagine. The huge living room is decorated in soft, autumnal shades of brown and beige which perfectly harmonize with light walls and swish carpeting. The vast space is conventionally divided into a seating, dining, and TV area, a

library corner with a comfortable desk and a stylish chair, while a long tall table separates the work area from the dining zone (the suite has its own kitchenette). Well placed interior spotlights add cosiness, and the large floor-to-ceiling windows provide panoramic views of one of the most beautiful parts of the city.

BEDROOMS

The master bedroom isn't too large and because of this it seems remarkably cosy. The Sweet Sleeper® double bed is positioned in such a way that



it's freely accessible from both sides. The furniture is solid, carefully finished and the dark colour of the polished wood beautifully highlights the bright upholstery of an exceptionally comfortable chair with a large footstool. It seems to be a perfect piece of furniture for someone who doesn't like to read or watch TV in bed. The bedroom also features a spacious and well-equipped wardrobe. Another bedroom has similar furniture, but two single Sweet Sleeper® beds.

Bathrooms

It's impossible to imagine a true luxury without a private bathroom. Therefore, the Presidential Suite has three of them, including two located next to each of the bedrooms. The largest one is, in fact, a bathing room equipped with both a bath and shower. All are decorated with materials of the highest quality, with marble cladding, granite countertops, and crystal mirrors. Not surprisingly, the bathrooms feature all amenities you can only think of.

Magda Tarnacka

If the Hollywood stars who stayed in the Presidential Suite of Sheraton Warsaw were cast in one film, this would certainly be one big blockbuster.



Hotel

CRACOW

GRÓDEK HOTEL



CONTACT

tel. + 48 12 419 55 90
fax +48 12 378 37 79
www.donimirski.com

PRICES

A single room - from PLN 190
(about €45)
A double room - from PLN 215
(about €52)

WHERE IS IT?

An inconspicuous place in the very heart of Cracow, not frequently visited by the tourists, yet situated in the proximity of the Main Square. The hotel is situated on the area of one of the oldest fortified buildings in the old town - in Gródek, next to the Monastery of Dominican Sisters and the Small Market Square. Even locals don't know that just around the corner, there is one of the most atmospheric and sophisticated hotels in Cracow.

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

On entering the reception area, you feel like in a different age. The ornamented interior, stylish furniture, and the fireplace make you feel warm and willing to explore everything about the hotel. The place is often visited by politicians and celebrities who wish to remain anonymous.

ROOMS

The hotel has 21 guestrooms and 2 suites. Each one is uniquely

beautiful and different in style. Like most of the hotels from "Donimirski Boutique Hotels", this one was also arranged by Duchess Ingrid Lubomirska. Everywhere you can admire her taste in design - beautiful colours, unique fabric, stylish furniture, pictures, etchings and prints - you can see the attention to every detail.

Each room comes with an electric kettle with coffee and tea, a safe, a TV, and wifi. Bathrooms feature heated floors and mirrors, and are also equipped with hair-dryers and toiletries.

BAR AND RESTAURANT

The "0" level houses Cul-de-Sac restaurant with a glass roof. You will find there light, stylish interiors, as well as a glass cabinet with archeological exhibits and old prints depicting herbs and flowers. The entrance to the dining area features huge beautiful glass door with metal fittings, making this small space more spacious and light.

In the morning, the restaurant serves breakfasts while in the evening - seasonal dishes. The chef recommends octopus carpaccio with squids and balsamic sauce, or ravioli with ricotta cheese and asparagus for a starter. Enthusiasts of old Polish cuisine will be delighted to know that the dishes come from a cookery book published in 1682. It belonged to Stanisław Czernicki - the chef of Lubomirski.

Next to the reception area there is a library, where you can not only read, but also have a cup of coffee or a cocktail. On individual request, breakfast or dinner can also be served on the roof of the hotel. It's a perfect occasion to admire the view of Planty.

VERDICT

Atmospheric, romantic, elegant hotel providing guests with maximum privacy. A real gem and an ideal place for a holiday for couples. Discretion guaranteed.

Katarzyna Siekierzyńska



Everything about the hotel is unique.
Each room is exceptionally beautiful and different in style.



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Hotel

MILAN

PRINCIPE DI SAVOIA



This five-star luxury hotel located in the centre of Milan fits in perfectly with the city. Located in the old Palacco, it's the best choice for both businesspeople and those who visit the Italian fashion capital just for shopping. Principe di Savoia is close to Milan Cathedral, the famous La Scala, and the best shops and boutiques in the city.

INTERIOR

The hotel is considered by many as the best in the city, and this opinion doesn't seem to be exaggerated. Each of the 333 rooms and 67 suites feature decor reflecting elegant Lombard style, combined with the latest technology. The class and elegance of the old Milan are perfectly complemented by modern amenities. The rooms with high ceilings and are decorated with stucco and dark wood furniture pieces, some of which date back to past centuries, while others are designed in such a way to resemble antique pieces.

SUITES AND ROOMS

The famous 500 sq m Presidential Suite is considered to be the best address in the northern Italy. Its famous guests included Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain, Woody Allen and George Clooney. The suite comprises a spacious living room equipped with the most sophisticated furniture and knick-knacks, a royal bedroom (which is worthy its name), as well as a cosy and slightly exotic swimming pool lined with mosaics. Imperial Suites (230 sq m) designed by Celeste dell'Anna are luxury apartments - each featuring a spacious meeting room for meetings and a wonderful bedroom. Furniture pieces are covered with crocodile skin and the

walls are adorned with paintings of famous painters. The beautiful main bathroom features a shower with massage as well as Turkish bath. The windows of the suite overlook the Piazza della Repubblica.

Royal Suite is located on the first floor with its windows overlooking the spectacular view of the city. With the Italian decor including the marble hall, wine-coloured walls, crystal chandeliers, and walnut flooring – the designers were able to create here a perfect, intimate space.

Principe Suites (75 sq m) are also very popular among guests. Each of them consists of a living room, a bathroom with marble tiles, as well as a luxurious bedroom.

The newly renovated Ambassador Suites are the second most often chosen option after Deluxe Double Rooms (35 sq m). They also are very luxurious and decorated in creamy and purple colours.

Prices start at PLN 1,000 per night in a classic double room. A night in Deluxe Double Room costs PLN 1,600 while a stay in Ambassador Suite you will cost you PLN 3,500.

BARS AND RESTAURANTS

Acanto restaurant (note the antique chandeliers) was opened in 2006. Chef Fabrizio Cadel offers classic Italian cuisine, dominated by dishes of Lombardy, with touches of flavour derived from the traditions of the Mediterranean. You can eat here delicious seafood, mushrooms, pasta, as well as meat dishes, including Irish beef medallions and glazed duck.

Il Salotto bar, which is open daily from 7 pm, is also worth recommendation, especially if you feel like having a glass of good prosecco. The interior of Principe Bar was designed by Thierry Despont, who made it a chic and trendy meeting place thanks to stylish furniture, glass and mirrors. The bar is popular both among guests and locals.



MEETING & FITNESS FACILITIES

There is a stately-looking Cristallo Hall, which serves as a venue for various meetings, conferences and receptions. The hotel also features 14 elegant meeting rooms that can accommodate from 10 to 1,000 people. Those who want to stay fit during their stay in Milan, can take advantage of the Club 10 Wellness & Fitness Center which is located on the top floor of the hotel. It's the most luxurious place to relax in the city. The centre, which spreads over 5,000 sq m, features a heated swimming pool (with ceiling frescoes), a gym, a whirlpool, a sauna, a

steam room, 5 massage rooms, a cloakroom and a bathroom.

VERDICT

The opinion that Principe di Savoia is one of the most luxurious hotels in the world seems to be justified. The combination of Lombard style with the latest achievements in the art and design, is especially impressive. The suites are another treat - especially the Presidential Suite which is considered one of the most luxurious in the world. All suites and rooms have high speed internet access and are equipped with an interactive LCD equipment.

Rafał Sobiech

CONTACT

Principe di Savoia
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Mediolan
www.principedisavoia.com

Hotel&SPA

DĄBROWA NEAR KIELCE

ODYSSEY CLUB HOTEL
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CONTACT

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Wellness & Spa
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Odyssey hotel, situated on a hill which overlooks Kielce and the Świętokrzyskie Mountains, is the only five-star property in the region. It's intimate and elegant with interesting architecture and a professional spa. What's more, it's only two hours away from Warsaw.

INTERIOR

The hotel was designed with a style. Its owner and founder Piotr Syska wanted its design to allude to Stanley Kubrick's famous "2001. Space Odyssey". The building has an ultra-modern form and is situated on the slope of Mount Domaniówka, which

offers a beautiful and a bit "unearthly" panorama of the area. The reception area looks like a green oasis whose walls are decorated with beautiful plants watered by means of an intricate irrigation system. You can relax here on special cushions, which admittedly look strikingly similar to stones, but are very comfortable.

"Odyssey" offers 38 rooms and 4 suites decorated in warm, futuristic arrangements. The rooms feature comfortable beds, a table with two swivelling leather chairs, a desk and spacious luggage lockers. Bathroom walls and floors are covered with natural stone and milk glass. Each

bathroom features large mirrors, marble countertops and a shower. In the hallway there are two wardrobes, a mirror, and additional space for more luggage. Free wireless Internet is available throughout the whole area of the hotel.

Prices range from PLN 590 for a double room with breakfast and the access to sauna and swimming pool, to PLN 890 for a suite.

RESTAURANT

The menu is tastefully composed while dishes are original and delicious. You can enjoy the traditional local cuisine, including zalewajka soup made from soured rye flour, trout from

Zbrodźce, or cottage cheese with herbs and pieces of tomatoes from Sandomierz. There are, however, also more exotic dishes, such as scallops served with cauliflower, raisins and pine nuts; pumpkin soup with scallops and caviar; delicious rabbit in cream with goji berries; or tournedos of beef with sauce bernoise.

The restaurant also offers Polish wine, produced in a vineyard near Busko Zdrój.

SPA & WELLNESS

Hotel guests can use a 20-metre swimming pool with panoramic views, brine pool, a hot tub, and an outdoor terrace with comfortable chairs.

You can also benefit from an extensive range of saunas, ranging from the classic Finnish sauna, herbal sauna with lower air temperature, as well as aromatherapy steam room and infrared sauna. The hotel organizes "sauna nights", during which the swimming pool is open until 2.00 am, offering guests additional refreshments from fruit and vegetable buffet.

The spa is well equipped and occupies the area of 1,400 sq m.

Each of the treatment rooms has an original design and ... the name (Avatar, Moon in Barbados, Underwater, Świętokrzyski Forest, Thai Cabinet, Ganesha Temple). The spa offers a wide range of relaxing treatments, such as "Odyssey Body Ritual" and "Rite of Polynesia" massages, but you can also opt for one of numerous beauty treatments, performed with the use of modern equipment, such as Starvack 300 machine. Particularly spectacular is the Chamber of Merlin. The place is lined with stones and features two wooden tubs where you can bathe in goat milk and rose petals. The exercise room, which features a huge Buddha statue, is used for capoeira classes.

VERDICT

It's an ideal place not only for a weekend stay. Excellent saunas, professional staff, good food and location. The conference room and vast green area around the hotel are perfect for organizing company retreats. It is close to local attractions such as Jurassic Park in Bałtów, Raj Cave, and the ruins of the castle in Chęciny.

Marzena Mróz

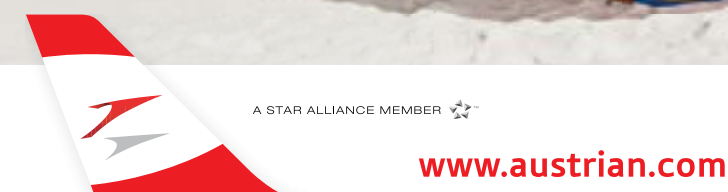


The sophisticated and original design of both the hotel and the spa alludes to the famous Stanley Kubrick's film "2001. Space Odyssey".

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ROMANTIC RESTAURANT

This is the first Polish restaurant recommended by Slow Food - the international organization that protects the "right to taste" and tries to protect small regional producers of food made in the traditional way.

INTERIOR

The restaurant is cosy and elegant with its open kitchen and decor which incorporates tones of green and white. Guests entering the place are often welcomed in person by Bartosz Budnik who has been the restaurant's chef for many years. "Romantyczna" is also distinguished by the classic tableware of high quality, as well as a fully stocked bar.

MENU

The place is guided by the idea of a return to nature. Meat, fish, vegetables, mushrooms, fruit, herbs, which are essential ingredients of meals served here, come from the region of Warmia and Pomerania. They are fresh, often delivered to the restaurant on the same day, they are to be used.

You can enjoy here a number of long-forgotten dishes, such as mouth-watering fish from the lakes of Warmia, seasoned with typical Polish herbs: oregano, thyme, lovage and fenugreek. You can also try here liqueurs and meads which are traditionally produced in Poland.

Some of the dishes served in "Romantyczna" haven't probably been seen in large urban areas in decades. How many of us know the taste of veal sweetbreads served with white knight mushrooms served in white sauce with tarragon; guinea fowl breast sauteed in quince liqueur; salad with slices of smoked trout, sour pickle, tomato and red onion; saddle of Polish lamb; beef tongue with roasted mustard sauce; cottage cheese dumplings stuffed with fresh raspberries, or freshly-picked fruit served with meringue crisps? Add to this such delicacies as smoked chopped beef served with grilled vegetables (the dish attracts gourmets from all over Poland); white soup of Baltic eel with mushrooms; goose in

oatmeal with apples and a bit of rowanberry vodka, served with potatoes and red cabbage, steak of beef from Rydel family in Rumiano; or eclairs with lavender pudding. And there's more...

VERDICT

Excellent quality, beautifully served dishes, and the natural originality encourage you to spend a whole evening in "Romantyczna" restaurant. Contrary to what you might think, prices are moderate. You can enjoy here seasonal dishes (the menu changes three times a year). Tasting menu consisting of 5-7 small servings is especially popular. You can also taste various dishes included in the weekly menu (always on Thursdays the chef composes new dishes). According to Bartosz Budnik - the key in preparing a good dish is to have access to fresh ingredients that shouldn't be processed for too long so that they don't lose their natural aroma. The effects of such an approach are truly extraordinary.

Marzena Mróz

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AVIS Rent a car

BACKGROUND

The car rental company founded by Warren Avis was founded in the USA in Detroit in 1946. Initially, it was present only at one airport, but now Avis has over 4,000 offices in 170 countries and is recognized around the world. And by joining to its portfolio a well-known BUDGET brand, Avis created the largest car rental company in the world.

In Poland, Avis has been present for over 20 years thanks to JUPOL-CAR SP. z o.o. The company is developing dynamically, and presently it has offices in 22 cities at all airports in Poland. Recently Avis has launched its rental station at Modlin airport. Radosław Lesiak, the Country Manager for Poland, says that the company proudly follows the motto “We try harder”. Most of the staff of 150 people has been working

here since the moment the Polish company was established. AVIS Poland has received the certificate of “Reliable Company” and has been a three-time winner of the “Best License” award.

In Poland Avis offers about 1,500 cars in different categories. These include Nissan, Ford Focus and Mondeo, Renault, Volvo S40, S60, VW Passat and Mercedes.

In addition to short-term rental, the company offers short and long-term rental of vans or even a limousine with a chauffeur. To find more info on interesting promotional offers e.g. for weekend or holiday rental, as well as options to test new models such as Audi TT and Audi A4, go to www.avis.pl.

FORMALITIES

There are several ways to book a car. You can do this online at

www.avis.pl, call the Reservation Center (tel. +48 22 572 65 65), or send an e-mail at: rezerwacje@avis.pl.

I always book cars online, but this time I decided to try the Reservation Center instead. I called in, providing my personal info, car pickup preferences (for me the most convenient was the main office of Avis located in Łopuszańska 12a, Warsaw), the date of travel, the pickup time, car category (I asked for a Mercedes C-class), and - in this particular case - numbers of two credit cards. To rent this particular model you need to have two embossed credit cards, be at least 28 years old, and possess the driving license for at least one year.

Requirements for drivers are different for different categories of vehicles. You have to be

at least 23 years old to rent a car from groups A-D and I/M/N, and at least 28 to be eligible to rent cars from groups E/F/G/H/J/K/L/O.

THE CAR

On the agreed date I arrived at the rental station to pick up the car. I introduced myself and produced my ID. Formalities lasted only a moment - I got to sign a contract with a specific date of return and control card with a technical description of the car and drawings for possible conflicts! I inspected the vehicle and I was briefly instructed on the main electronic functions in this model.

The beautiful, shiny black Mercedes C180 had only 7,500 km mileage and I quickly got used to it. It's not too big, has a spacious boot, automatic gearbox, functional dashboard and, of course, the navigation system which proved to be perfect in long journeys. I tried to test it on a 150 km stretch of A2 motorway between Toruń and Gdańsk. The car offers excellent grip and provides a great sense of security.

RETURNING THE CAR

On a set date and having driven over 1,200 km, I returned the car (with a full tank) to the station from which I picked it up, but, of course, I could return it to any Avis station worldwide. The procedure takes only a few minutes. You return the documents, the keys, and the assistant checks the technical condition and the fuel level.

NOVELTY

This September AVIS will introduce SMART cars to its fleet at only PLN 50 per day. The small car is very economical, and easy to park. It's just ideal for shopping, sightseeing, etc.

VERDICT

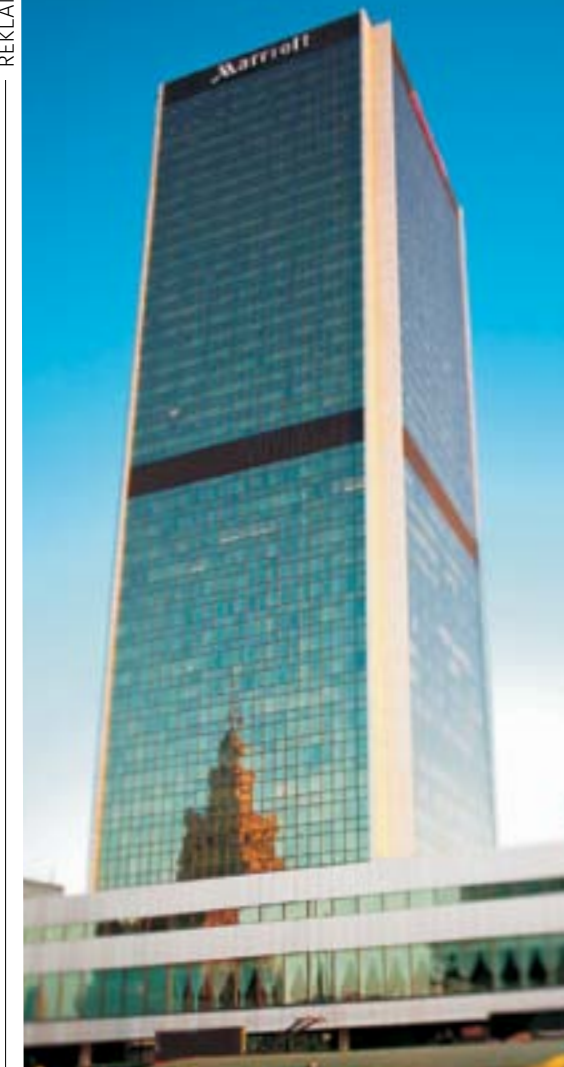
A huge selection of cars, professional service, easy booking. A big plus for the introduction of Smart little to offer at a reasonable price. Avis is a partner of many airline loyalty programmes. For more info go to www.avis.pl

I was able to see by myself that the “we try harder” not a mere slogan!

Katarzyna Siekierzyńska



In addition to short-term rental, the company offers short and long-term rental of vans or even a limousine with a chauffeur.



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BOOKS AND MUSIC

Marcin Firgurski recommends books and CDs



The mystery of a man's elegance

It's the vademecum of style, elegance and man's fashion. How to create your own style? What's a dress code? How choose attire suitable to a situation, style and figure? How to approach fashion? The book is a guide for everyone who has doubts and wants to know how to select clothes. According to the author, Krzysztof Łoszewski, the way we dress is a code. It's like the old adage, „fine feathers make fine birds „, is still alive. It sends a message to the people we meet about who we are, and how we perceive ourselves. The fabric, the cut and colours give information about us. It's worth getting to know more about yourself to be able to choose such clothes, which will make it possible for you to feel comfortable and confident even in the most difficult situations.

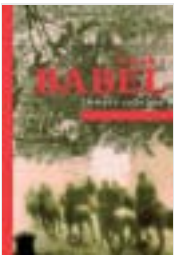
Krzysztof Łoszewski „Dress code” Bosz Publishing House



The mysterious country of India

Nine people, nine paths of life and nine extraordinary stories. From mysterious tantra practices, a god incarnating as a dancer to a sculptor creating a cod out of bronze. The author shares with the readers the knowledge he gained during his 20-year's stay in India. He takes us to the border with Pakistan, where sufism tries to valiantly fight against the progressing talibanization, to Bengal - where the people make bloody sacrifices to the Tara goddess, he writes about a monk, who suffers because he had broken the vows of obedience to protect Tibet against Chinese invasion. William Dalrymple was born in Scotland. He is a writer, a historian, a member of the Royal Geographical Society and an organizer of Jaipur Literature Festival.

William Dalrymple „Dziewięć żywotów” Czarne Publishing House



A genius in one volume

A long-awaited collection of works by the genius Isaak Bebel is the only Polish edition of all of the writer's works. On 764 pages of the book, you will find „1920 Diary”, „Calvary army”, famous Odessa stories, dispersed and early writings, „Twilight”, a play in eight acts, but also a real pearl, which is a previously-unpublished in Poland drama called „Maria” from 1935. The works of Babel are available in Poland thanks to the talent of great translators, the most prominent of whom is Jerzy Pomianowski - the author of most of the translations in the newly-published volume. The book also contains photographs, caricatures and copies of original manuscripts with the author's corrections in handwriting.

Izaak Babel „Utwory zebrae” Muza Literary Publishing House



Complete sound

Paul Hardcastle is an English musician, composer and music producer. This prominent synthesizer virtuoso and multi-instrumentalist presents another sample of his work on his album „Jazzmasters”. Superb jazz compositions of this world-recognized musician are performed by: Backi Biggins and Maxine Hardcastle - vocal, Chris ‘Snake’ Davis - saxophone, fleet and shakuhachi, and Paul Hardcastle - drums, guitar and synthesizer.

Paul Hardcastle „Jazzmasters”



Black flower

Born in west-African Malawi Malia has decided to record an album with songs of Nina Simone, to pay tribute to the artist, whom she calls „a black orchid”. The songs from the album have a power of this unusual flower - they are beautiful, powerful, mysterious and mystic. Many of the songs chosen by Malia talk of love, lost chances and disillusioned women. Both the melodies and lyrics fall into the listeners' hearts. This is what makes both of the singers really talented artists.

Malia „Black Orchid”



INWESTUJESZ NA MAZOWSZU SPRAWDŹ OFERTĘ AMW

Atuty powojсковych nieruchomości doceniło już wielu biznesmenów i przedsiębiorców. Dzięki innowacyjnym pomysłom i kreatywnej adaptacji dawne wojskowe budynki zamieniły się w komfortowe lofty, hotele i SPA, a na terenach gdzie wcześniej ćwiczyli żołnierze wybudowano przestronne osiedla, nowoczesne centra handlowe, prężnie działające ośrodki przemysłowe oraz bazy logistyczne. Choć Agencja Mienia Wojskowego ma na koncie tysiące pozytywnie rozstrzygniętych przetargów, to w jej zasobie wciąż można znaleźć wiele interesujących nieruchomości z dużym potencjałem inwestycyjnym.

WARSZAWA, ul. Waldorffa, dz. 77/1



WARSZAWA, ul. Międzyparkowa 4A

Ambitni inwestorzy, którzy swoich biznesowych wyzwań szukają w Warszawie powinni zwrócić uwagę na nieruchomości przy ul. Waldorffa oraz ul. Międzyparkowej. Pierwszą z nich o powierzchni niespełna 1 ha można zaadoptować na potrzeby sportu i rekreacji, uzupełnionych o usługi administracyjne, hotelowe, gastronomiczne czy wystawiennicze. Działka trafi pod młotek już 9 października br. Potencjalny zwycięzca przetargu musi liczyć się z wydatkiem przekraczającym 4 mln złotych. W tym samym miesiącu pojawi się również szansa na zakup zabudowań wchodzących w skład historycznej zabudowy Twierdzy Warszawa - Fortu Traugutta. Teren o powierzchni ponad 0,2 ha usytuowany w północnej części Śródmieścia wyceniono na 3 mln złotych. Obiekt będzie można przeznaczyć na działalność sportową oraz kulturalną.

Na drugie życie wciąż czeka perła architektury obronnej - Cytadela w Twierdzy Modlin. Blisko 58 ha zabudowanych m.in. jednym z najdłuższych budynków w Europie kryje w sobie olbrzymi potencjał inwestycyjny. Twierdza to doskonałe miejsce na ekskluzywne lofty z widokiem na dorzecze Narwi, Wisły i Wkry, nowoczesne centrum konferencyjno - wystawiennicze, uniwersytecki kampus, hotele, restauracje, sklepy czy kina. Kolejny atut fortyfikacji to otwarty niedawno port lotniczy w Modlinie, który z miesiąca na miesiąc rozwija się i obsługuje coraz więcej nowych pasażerów. Każde lotnisko potrzebuje nowoczesnego zaplecza, a dzięki odpowiedniej adaptacji Twierdza mogłaby z powodzeniem spełnić to zadanie. Szansa na znalezienie jej nowego właściciela pojawi się prawdopodobnie jeszcze pod koniec tego roku.

TWIERDZA MODLIN



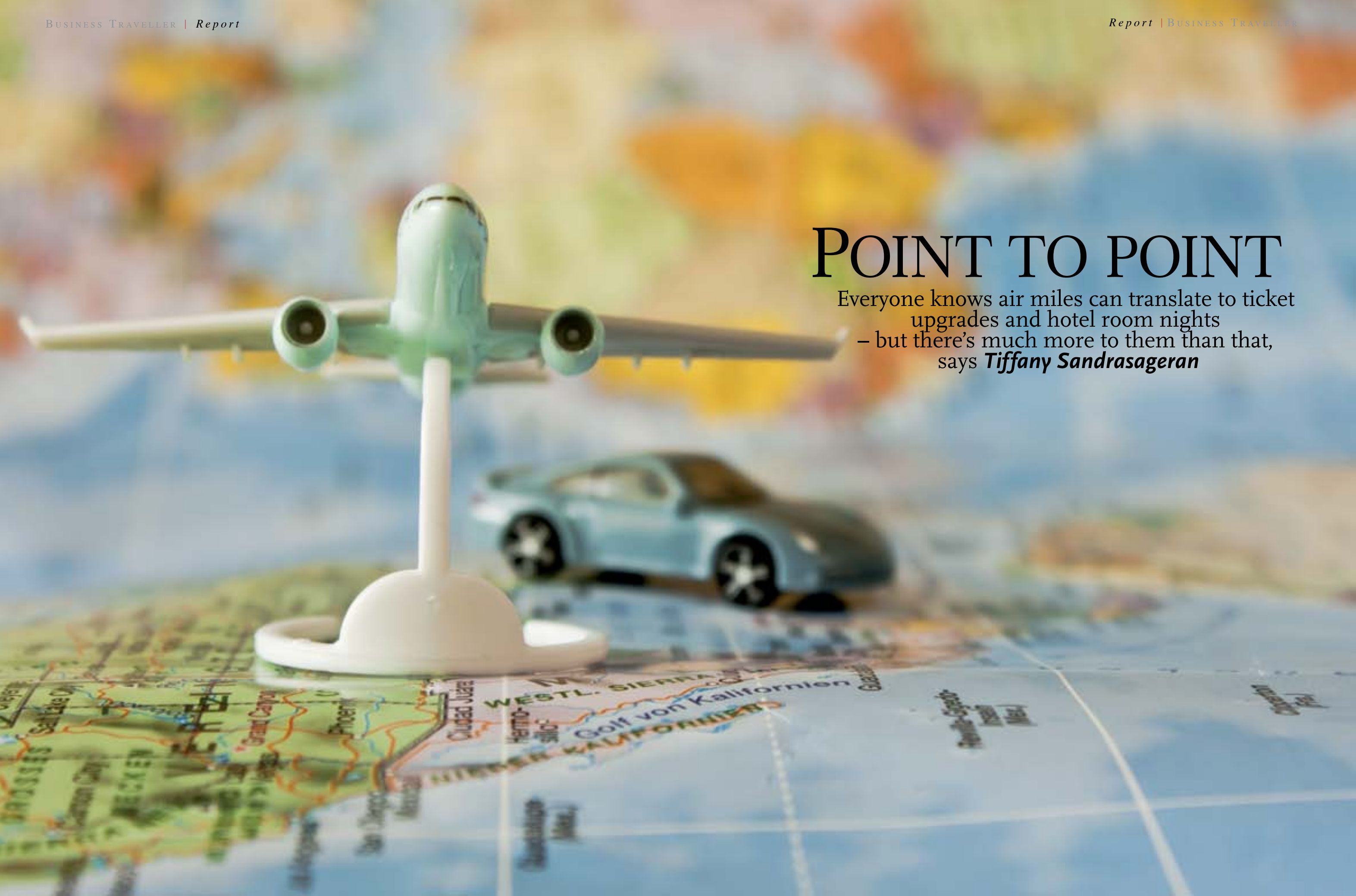
NOWE MIASTO NAD PILICĄ

W zasobie AMW wciąż pozostają tereny położone w Nowym Mieście nad Pilicą w woj. mazowieckim, gdzie miało powstać „polskie Hollywood”. Na nabywców czekają tam grunty po dawnym wojskowym lotnisku oraz działki około lotniskowe o łącznej pow. blisko 500 ha, które wyceniono na 45,5 mln złotych. Niektóre z nich można przeznaczyć pod usługi turystyki i handlu. Inne zaadaptować na cele produkcyjno - gospodarcze. Na części nieruchomości swoje miejsce może znaleźć również osiedle domów jednorodzinnych.

www.amw.com.pl

POINT TO POINT

Everyone knows air miles can translate to ticket upgrades and hotel room nights – but there's much more to them than that, says ***Tiffany Sandrasageran***



For many of us, frequent flyer programmes (FFP) have grown into an obsession of sorts, as we spend hours strategising how to rack up more points.

EARNING IS EASY

Previously this was dependent on how much a cardholder flew with an airline, but in recent years new ways to earn points have emerged, including airline branded credit cards. Online marketing engines also use air miles as a lure to get views and, in some cases, even dining at a restaurant or getting your dry cleaning done can benefit your FFP account.

MODERN PROGRAMMES

The first modern FFP as we know it was created in 1979 by Texas International Airlines, which subsequently merged with Continental. Two years later it was followed by American Airlines' AAdvantage programme, now the world's biggest with 67 million members (BA's Executive Club has seven million). In the decades since, such schemes have come a long way, offering members reward options that go way beyond free tickets and upgrades. With the growth of airline alliances One-world, Star Alliance and Skyteam, travellers can also earn and burn points across partner airlines.

MILES FOR A PLACE TO STAY

Some have discovered that air miles can even put a roof over your head. In 2010, Jim Kennedy lost his job as a corporate development manager and his home was repossessed. He went on to live off his stockpile of around one million airline and hotel points, cleverly picking rooms that came with wifi (for sending CVs) and a microwave (so he could eat

TV dinners). Combining this with the small amount of social benefit he received, he was able to survive official homelessness for months before landing a position as chief executive of an internet company.

HELICOPTER OR LOUIS VUITTON?

Of course, you don't have to be in such desperate circumstances to make use of your miles. Cashing them in can be frustrating at times, especially when you are faced with a string of conditions such as black-out dates, limited seat options and extra costs. But with a bit of patience and knowledge, the rewards can be great. Miles have evolved into a form of currency, allowing you to pay for a meal in a restaurant or shop online, both for everyday items and for more extravagant purchases such as exclusive heli-services or a limited-edition Louis Vuitton bag.

CHARITY OR ADVENTURE

January saw United launch a new Mileage Plus online auction site, allowing members to spend their miles on once-in-a-lifetime experiences – a behind-the-scenes flight simulator experience can be had for a whopping 341,000 miles. Giving your miles up for charitable causes is also an option – Mileage Plus, Lufthansa's Miles and More and Cathay Pacific's Asia Miles are among the programmes that have a list of charities to which members can make donations in the form of miles. Since 1996, United members have donated more than a billion miles.

MUSIC FOR MILES

You can even download songs using your miles. Finnair Plus members can use the Finnair Sony Music download store to buy tunes with their air miles, while Qantas's Frequent Flyer scheme allows its members to downlo-

ad songs from the bandit.fm digital music store. Alternatively, you can use your miles to purchase an iTunes music voucher. Mileage Plus members who are musically gifted could take it a step further and redeem their miles on instruments, such as a Roland Supernatural Digital Piano for 290,000 miles. With Virgin Atlantic's Flying Club, members can spend their miles with any organisation in the Virgin Group – for example, Virgin Experience, which organises 1,000 memorable activities, such as singing in a recording studio.

WINE AND CASH

Wine can even be delivered to your doorstep with BA Executive Club and Qantas – 15,000 Avios gets you a trio of champagnes (Laurent-Perrier, Veuve Clicquot and Bollinger Special Cuvée), while 5,000 Qantas Frequent Flyer miles equates to a bottle of De Bortoli eight-year-old Tawny port.

Redeeming points on gifts is nice, but nothing is as good as getting cash back. From February, the Etihad Guest programme began allowing members to convert their miles into cash through the iPhone Points Pay app, making Etihad the first airline to allow members to transform their miles into money. Members can use the app to exchange their miles for cash directly on to their Points Pay Visa prepaid card either in-store or online. Now there's an incentive to make the most of your miles. Here's a handy table detailing what some of the main schemes offer...

The miles required to upgrade from, say, premium economy to business are a fraction of the cost of a full business ticket. At quieter times of the year, many airlines offer discounted miles promotions.

GREAT DEAL

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| AIRLINE | PROGRAM- ME | ALLIANCE | TIERS | TIER QUALIFIER | MILE ACCRUAL (% OF BASE MILES) | | | TRANSFERABLE | EXPIRATION | LOYALTY PARTNERS WITH MILEAGE SHARING AGREEMENTS | NO OF PARTNER HOTEL GROUPS | OTHER PARTNER CATEGORIES |
|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| | | | | | FIRST | BUSINESS | ECONOMY | | | | | |
| Air France KLM | Flying Blue | Skyteam | Platinum | 70,000 Level miles (France/Monaco resi- dents: 90,000) | 300% (Additional 100% for Platinum, 75% for Gold, and 50% for Silver)) | do 250% (Additional 100% for Platinum, 75% for Gold, and 50% for Silver) | do 100% (Additional 100% for Plati- num, 75% for Gold, and 50% for Silver) | No (but an award ticket can be given to a person of your choice) | 20 months | All Skyteam partners, plus Aerolinas Argentinas, Aircalin. Airlinair, Alaska Airlines, Bangkok Airways, CCM Airlines. Chalair. Comair, Copa Airlines, GOL, Japan Airlines, Jet Airways, Kingfisher Airlines, Malaysia Airlines, Middle East Airlines, Oantas, Taag, Twin Jet, Ukraine International | 26 | Car rental, finance, leisure and lifestyle, shopping, telecommunications |
| | | | Gold | 40,000 Level miles (60,000) | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Silver | 25,000 Level miles (30,000) | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Ivory | N/A | | | | | | | | |
| American Airlines | AAdvantage | Oneworld | Executive Platinum | 100,000 miles/points or 100 segments | 100% (dodatkowy bonus 50% za klasę) | 100% (Additional 25% class bonus) | 100% | No | 18 months | All Oneworld partners, plus Air Pacific, Air Tahiti Nui, Alaska Airli- nes, Cape Air, El Al, Etihad Airways, GOL, Gulf Air, Hainan Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, Jet Airways, Jet Blue, Kingfisher Airlines | 31 | Car rental companies, finances |
| | | | Platinum | 50,000 miles/points or 60 segments | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Gold | 25,000 miles/points or 30 segments | | | | | | | | |
| British Airways | Executive Club | Oneworld | Gold | 1,500 tier points and four eligible flights | 200% (Additional 100% for Silver and Gold, 25% for Bronze) | 200% (Additional 100% for Silver and Gold, 25% for Bronze) | 125% (Premium Economy) (Additional 100% for Silver and Gold, 25% for Bronze) | No (but up to 24,000 Avios can be transferred to an Executive Club member for a charge) | 36 months | All Oneworld partners, plus Aer Lingus, Alaska Airlines, Kingfisher Airlines | 13 | Car rental, co-branded bank partners, foreign currency, holiday magazines, shopping, wine |
| | | | Silver | 600 tier points and four eligible flights or 50 eligible flights | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Bronze | 300 tier points and two eligible flights | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Blue | N/A | | | | | | | | |
| Cathay Pacific | Marco Polo Club | Oneworld | Diamond | 120,000 Club miles or 80 sectors | 150% | 125% | 110% (Premium economy) 100% (Economy) | Yes ((to nominees who are also Asia Miles members) | 36 months | All Oneworld partners, plus Aer Lingus, Air China, Alaska Airlines, China Eastern Airlines, Dragonair, Jet Airways | 10 | Car rental, dining, foreign currency, holidays, luxury brands, professional services, shopping, spas |
| | | | Gold | 60,000 Club miles or 40 sectors | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Silver | 30,000 Club miles or 20 sectors | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Green | N/A | | | | | | | | |
| Emirates | Skywards | Brak | Gold | 50,000 Tier miles | 200% or 250% (Additional 50% Gold, 25% for Silver) | 125% or 175% (Additional 50% Gold, 25% for Silver) | 50% or 100% (Additional 50% Gold, 25% for Silver) | Yes (US\$25 per 1,000 Miles to a Skywards account) | 36 months | Alaska Airlines, Japan Airlines, Jet Airways, Kingfisher Airlines, Kore- an Air, South African Airways | | Car rental, finance, holidays, leisure and lifestyle |
| | | | Silver | 25,000 Tier miles | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Blue | N/A | | | | | | | | |
| Japan Airlines | JAL Mileage Bank | Oneworld | Diamond | 1100,000 Fly On* points | 150% | 125% or 70% | 100% (Normal fares) 50% or 70% (Economy saver fares) | No | 36 months (no expiration for Diamond and JGC Pre- mier members) | All Oneworld partners, plus Air France, China Eastern Airlines, Emirates | 37 (excluding indepen- dent hotels) | Beauty/health treatments, car rental, coat storage service, dining, housing, karaoke, shopping, mobile phone rentals, newspapers and magazines, tickets to sport events/cultural attrac- tions, taxis |
| | | | JGC Premier | 80,000 Fly On* points | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Sapphir | 50,000 Fly On* points | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Crystal | 30,000 Fly On* points | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | * more conditions apply | | | | | | | | |
| Korean Air | Skypass | Skyteam | HON Circle Member | 1,000,000 miles | 200% (Kosmo Suite) 165% (Sleeper Seat) 150% (First class) | 135% (Prestige Sleeper Seat) 120% (Prestige class) | 100% (Normal fares) 70% or 80% (Discount fares) | No ((but miles can be shared with family members) | 10 years | All Skyteam partners, plus Alaska Airlines, Emirates, Garuda Indo- nesia, Hawaiian Airlines | 12 | Car rental companies, finances |
| | | | Senator | 500,000 miles | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Frequent Traveller | 50,000 miles | | | | | | | | |
| Lufthansa | Miles and More | Star Alliance | HON Circle Member | 600,000 HON Circle miles | Up to 300% (Additional 25% Executive bonus for all tiers) | Up to 200% (Additional 25% Executive bonus for all tiers) | Up to 150% (Additional 25% Executive bonus for all tiers) | Nie | 36 months (Award miles) 2 years (HON Circle miles) | All Star Alliance partners, plus All Lufthansa Regional airlines, Air Astana, Air Dotomiti, Air India, Air Malta, Avianca, Condor, German- wings, Jet Airways, Luxair, TACA | 45 | Car rental, electronics, finance, insu- rance, leisure and lifestyle, magazine subscriptions and books, telecommu- nications |
| | | | Senator | 100,000 Status miles (German residents: 130,000) | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Frequent Travelle | 35,000 Status miles | | | | | | | | |
| Singapore Airlines | Mileage Plus | Star Alliance | Elite Gold | 50,000 Elite miles | 300% (Suites) 150% (First class) (Additional 25% for Elite Silver/Goldmem- bers)) | 125% (Additional 25% for Elite Silver/Goldmem- bers) | 100% (Normal fares) 10% lub 50% (Special fares) (Additional 25% for Elite Silver/Goldmembers) | No | 36 months (mile Krisflyer) 12 mies. (mile Elite) | All Star Alliance partners, plus Air India, Silk Air. Virgin Atlantic, Virgin Australia | 28 | Car rental, finance, holidays, housing, shopping, telecommunications |
| | | | Elite Silver | 25,000 Elite miles | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Krisflyer | N/A | | | | | | | | |
| United | Mileage Plus | Star Alliance | Premier 1K | 100,000 Premier Qualifying Miles (PQM)/ or 120 segments | 250% (Additional 150% PQM)) | 175% (Normal fares) 150% (Discount fares) (Additional 150% PQM) | 125% (Normal fares, additional 150% PQM) 100% (Discount fares, not Europe, 100% PQM) | Yes (to another Mileage Plus member) | 18 months | All Star Alliance partners, plus Aer Lingus, Aeromar, Cape Air, Copa Airlines, Eva Air, Great Lakes Airlines, Hawaiian Airlines, Island Air, Jet Airways. Qatar Airways, Silver Airways | 23 | Car rental, charities, dining, enterta- inment, finance, gifts, holidays, home utilities, rail travel, shopping, telecom- munications |
| | | | Premier Platinum | 75,000 miles/points or 90 segments | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Premier Gold | 50,000 miles/points or 60 segments | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Premier Silver | 25,000 miles/points or 30 segments | | | | | | | | |
| Virgin Atlantic | Flying Club | Brak | Gold | 40 tier points (25 from Silver) | 6 punktów statusu (Upper Class) 5 punktów statusu (taryfy specjalne) | 4 or 3 tier points (Premium economy / special fares) 3 or 2 tier points (Economy / special fares) | | Yes (to another Flying Club mem- ber for a charge) | 36 months | Air China, Air New Zealand, ANA, Gulf Air, Hawaiian Airlines, Jet Airways, Malaysia Airlines, SAS. Singapore Airlines, South African Airways, US Airways, Virgin America, Virgin Australia | 25 | Car rental, charities, dining, Eurostar, finance, holidays, Virign Group partners |
| | | | Silver | 15 tier points | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Red | N/A | | | | | | | | |

GIFTMANIA

What about a little gift? It's proved that gifts can improve our mood, making us happy. Every occasion is good to get a gift for your loved one. Here are some suggestions - novelties from the autumn collection.

Massage oil.

Moisturizes and firms the skin, thanks to Shea butter. Available in Douglas perfumeries. Price: PLN 49; www.douglas.pl

Absolute Lips Lip Gloss.

Contains the extract of Hawaiian portulaca oleracea plant, stimulating the synthesis of hyaluronic acid. Moisturizes, protects, fills the lips. Available in 12 shades. Price: PLN 39; www.douglas.pl

Eisenberg. Eye cream.

Corrects wrinkles and dark circles under the eyes, smoothes and firms the skin and improves skin elasticity. Price: PLN 499; www.eisenberg.com

Ladies' watch.

A stylish and elegant watch by famous designer Calvin Klein. Features bright, clear dial and a thin bracelet. Price: PLN 1489; www.calvinklein.com

Tropical body scrub by Dr Irena Eris.

Contains extracts of exotic fruits from distant Indonesia and jojoba oil. Perfectly cleanses and smooths the body. Price: 200 ml/PLN 100. Available at good perfumeries. www.DrIrenaEris.com



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LG-Ericsson jest południowokoreańskim producentem wysokiej klasy urządzeń telekomunikacyjnych i informatycznych, reprezentowanym przez firmę ITSA Professional Services – wyłącznego importera produktów LG-Ericsson w Polsce.

DREAMLINER ON LOT'S OFFER

LOT has launched ticket sales for flight on board the airline's first Dreamliner. The first Boeing 787 aircraft will join the fleet of the Polish carrier in mid-November.



Since 14 September all passengers wishing to fly aboard Boeing 787 Dreamliner with LOT Polish Airlines may buy tickets online at lot.com, at ticket offices or travel agencies or via the Call Center.

DESTINATIONS AND PRICES

It's now known where we will be able to fly on board Dreamliner and how much it will cost us. The prices of economy class tickets for Dreamliner flights (round trips) to New York, Chicago and Toronto will start from PLN 1,999 and to Beijing from PLN 2,299. Prices of Premium Class tickets, the so-called Premium Club, which is a new offer for LOT passengers, will start from PLN 3,999 for routes to the United States and Canada and PLN 4,499 for the Beijing route.

THE FIRST FLIGHT - TO CHICAGO

LOT Polish Airlines has also presented the planned dates of the first long-distance Dream-

liner flights. The plane will make its first long-haul flight to Chicago on 16 January 2013. The next flight will reach Toronto on 1 February 2013. On 3 February, passengers will fly on board the Dreamliner to New York and Beijing will greet LOT's Boeing 787 one month later – on 3 March 2013.

GOOD PRICE, HIGH STANDARD

"I can say with confidence that this is a breakthrough moment for LOT. I am convinced that the offer which we are presenting to our Passengers will meet great interest, and a plane such as the Dreamliner will delight and meet the expectations of each traveller," – said Marcin Piróg, CEO of LOT Polish Airlines. "I am sure that our offer of Dreamliner flights is currently the best offer on the market and it is an ideal combination of an advantageous price with the highest standards of service on the most modern

passenger plane in the world," he added.

LET THEM HEAR ABOUT US

The beginning of ticket sales for flights on board Dreamliner is supported by intensive promotional activities of the airline. In addition to extensive media campaign, both in Poland and abroad (radio, television, internet, press) and the presentation of the new commercial of the airline on TV, the carrier will organize several competitions including those on its Facebook profile, with tickets for Dreamliner flights as prizes. LOT is also planning to organize a series of special presentations for sales agents throughout the country, to show the Dreamliner's seats and windows. With passengers in mind, LOT has also developed and will soon launch a special microsite at its website which will present all advantages of the Dreamliner which influence the flight comfort, its three-class configuration and technical data.

With passengers in mind, LOT has also developed and will soon launch a special microsite to present all advantages of the Dreamliner.



POLSKIE LINIE LOTNICZE

LOT

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Tylko Ty się liczysz

Żeby nadążyć za współczesnym światem, trzeba go wyprzedzać. Poczuj się wyjątkowo. Skorzystaj z naszych nowych usług w klasie biznes.

- Więcej przestrzeni – wolne miejsce obok Ciebie podczas rejsów europejskich oraz całkowicie rozkładany fotel „Flat Bed” w podróżach międzykontynentalnych obsługiwanych przez **Boeingi 787 Dreamliner™**
- Dedykowane stanowiska odprawy i szybka ścieżka kontroli bezpieczeństwa
- Pierwszeństwo odbioru bagażu
- Najwięcej bagażu – aż 3* sztuki bagażu rejestrowanego oraz 2 sztuki podręcznego
- Business Lounge
- Dodatkowe korzyści w programie **Miles & More**
- Nowy serwis kelnerski i doskonałe menu
- Profesjonalny personel pokładowy **Elite Fleet**

Od stycznia masz jeszcze większy wybór! W Boeingach 787 Dreamliner czeka na Ciebie nowa klasa o podwyższonym standardzie – Premium Club.

First European Airline
to Fly the Boeing 787 Dreamliner™

*Dla pasażerów klasy biznes rejsów międzykontynentalnych

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lot.com



RELAX IN THE “PARK”

Air France unveils its newest and largest business lounge



Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport has received a new business lounge, which is the world's largest lounge belonging to Air France. The luxury lounge for business class passengers occupies an area of over 3,000 sq m and can accommodate 800 guests at the same time. The lounge is called “Park”, and its bright open space with green chairs, lamps, as well as the decor alluding to the shape of trees – emphasize the “botanical” concept of the building. The design is a creation of

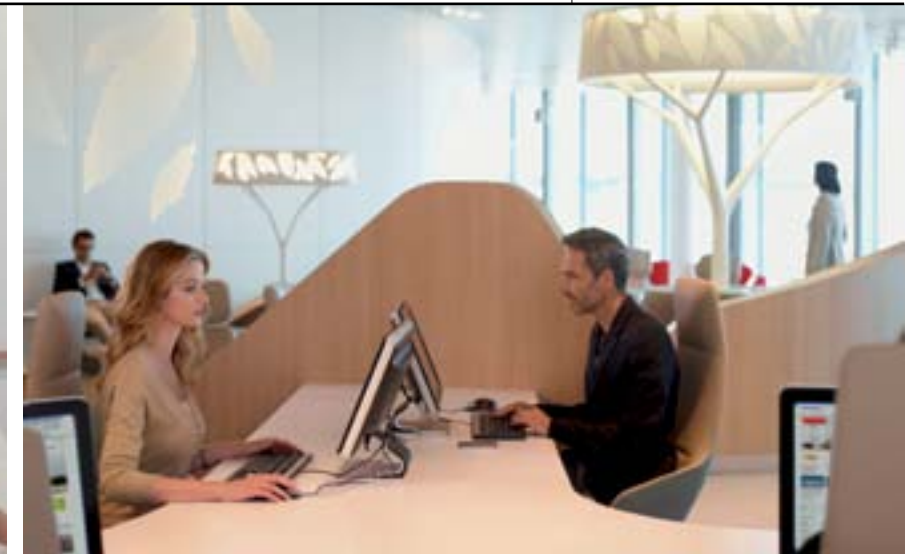
French Consultancy Brandimage which worked in partnership with interior architect Noe Duchfaur Lawrence.

The huge space was discreetly divided into smaller sections of different nature and purpose, each with appropriate furniture. In the individual sections travellers can work or relax - sitting or even lying down comfortably. Those who want even more comfort, can use a spa where Clarins cosmetic company offers guests a range of free treatments. Each takes 20 minutes and must be booked at the

reception desk. Next to the spa there are several elegant bathrooms featuring showers and toiletries.

Hungry and thirsty travellers will recharge their batteries in a spacious restaurant, which (as opposed to other Air France lounges) also offers a wide range of hot meals. The standard menu features a lot of different snacks and drinks, including alcoholic beverages.

In addition to the main dining section, there are several smaller bars with drinks and snacks



located in other corners of the lounge. Naturally, the guests have access to wifi throughout the whole lounge. The “office section” features several computer stations with printers. Passengers traveling with children, will be happy to use the playroom where their kids will certainly have great time.

The international press is available both in traditional printed form and in a digital version on iPads. By using the PC tablets available in the lounge, guests can not only read various newspapers, but also watch trailers of films shown on Air France flights, or find out more about the carrier's products and services. Ultimately, the lounge will of-

fer 150 tablets for guest use. The lounge has a separate room for VIP guests - a place for people who want maximum privacy in their trip.

In addition to the use of the exclusive lounge, business class passengers can also enjoy other amenities. At check-in desks, security control, and in the luggage claim area business-class passengers baggage use separate priority desks with “Sky Priority” labels.

In April this year, the airport introduced new signage of lanes and desks for premium passengers, including business class travellers. The entire alliance Sky Team (including Air France and KLM) has decided to standardize signage at

their hubs, which means that now all those airports feature characteristic red “Sky Priority” signs. You can encounter them at check-in desks, security and passport control, as well as baggage claim areas which are exclusively intended for premium passengers, providing them with a faster and more efficient service. Boarding passes of passengers who are entitled to “Sky Priority” service, feature a clear indicator of the fact (“Sky Priority” logo), irrespective of which airline of the alliance they travel with. “Sky Priority” signage is already present at KLM's main hub - Schiphol airport in Amsterdam, and will soon appear at other airports worldwide.

The new business lounge by Air France is an essence of luxury. Free spa, restaurant serving hot meals, as well as access to PC tablets - these are its main advantages of the place, making it difficult to beat.



SWEET BED BY IBIS GUARANTEES SWEET DREAMS



„Sweet Bed by ibis”
is the first and largest
bed replacement
project in the econo-
mic hospitality
industry, conducted in
such a short time.



Have you ever wondered what you generally do just after you enter your hotel room? French experts working for the Accor group have analysed this and found that the vast majority of us check whether the bed is comfortable. This led them to design a new bed that will meet the expectations of the most demanding guests. As part of „Sweet Bed by ibis” campaign, until the end of 2013 over 70,000 beds will be replaced in hotels of ibis brand worldwide.

For hotel guests a comfortable bed is one of the most important conditions for a pleasant stay. This is the main conclusion of an opinion poll which was carried out by Ifop company on be-

half of ibis brand in May 2011. Guided by these results, the group set up a team of experts in various fields: marketing, engineering, design, procurement and logistics, who started working on the new project – providing a new bed for ibis chain. Before the beds were made, JD Power and Ipsos market research companies conducted further opinion polls in numerous European countries. Their aim was to compare the analysis and confirm choices made at each stage of the project. The combination of the obtained results, professionalism of the experts, and over 40 years of experience of Accor in the hospitality industry, have all contributed to designing a bed which guarantees comfort in every respect.

The new generation beds incorporate the latest technology, innovation and unique design, which until recently has been absent in most hotels. Each element, part and detail were carefully thought out, analyzed, designed, compared, and finally tested to ensure that Accor guests have a good night’s sleep for 365 nights a year.

TOP TECHNOLOGY – BOXSPRING BASE

It would seem that the comfort of a bed depends mainly on its mattress. Well, nothing could be more wrong! In fact, each element is important, including the base and even the bedsheets. The experts from the Accor group started with designing

the base, which is the foundation of the new generation of bed. It’s said to be responsible for about one-third of the overall comfort. What is exactly its role? First of all, it provides support, cushioning and absorbs energy. It can endure the load of up to 500 kg without deformation and provides stability. Its extremely flexible wooden slats were placed in such a way that they support even the smallest movement of the body during sleep. The robust build, durability and resilience are only some of its advantages. The designers didn’t forget about the unique design. The new bed has an elegant black frame and legs of the same colour to make it a stylish piece of furniture.

INNOVATION – THE MATTRESS AND THE TOPPER

The mattress for the bed of the new generation is an example of the essence of innovation and exceptional comfort.

It’s compact, hard and thick. It works ideally with all the other components, providing optimal support and toughness, thanks to its „memory foam.”

Its diverse density eliminates all pressure points regardless of the shape of the body. The additional, 7-inch mattress topper enhances the values of the main mattress and provides comfort.

BEDDING - TO COMPLETE THE COMFORT

For maximum comfort the new bed is offered together with a new light duvet. Long strands of fibers are blown into the pillow, to provide extra lightness and softness. Additionally, two large, comfortable microfibre pillows guarantee a good, deep sleep.

PRODUCT TESTING

Before the new beds were sent to all ibis hotels worldwide, they were thoroughly tested. The researchers interviewed over 1,000 hotel guests who expressed their opinion and rated

the overall comfort provided by the beds. The tests were carried out in France, the UK, Latin America and the Asia-Pacific region. The results of the research confirmed the improvement of comfort. The interviewed guests rated the individual features, comparing the new „absolutely comfortable” bed with its predecessor, two new pillows with three small pillows used earlier, and the new “long-fibre” duvet with the previous ones. They also rated the quality of the high-quality topper which is a complete novelty. Summarizing all the responses, the guests evaluated the new formula as providing „absolute comfort,” giving it 8.4 points out of 10. This clear result assured the Accor group that the decision to replace the beds was right. „Sweet Bed by ibis” is the first and largest bed replacement project in the economic hospitality indus-

try, conducted in such a short time.

„SWEET BED BY IBIS” IN POLAND

In Poland, guests of all ibis hotels can now enjoy and benefit from the beds of the next generation. The old beds were donated to nine non-governmental organizations from around the country which actively help various social groups. A total of 420 beds were donated to various associations and charities providing shelter to people in need. These included Caritas of Warsaw-Prague Diocese, a Home for the Elderly, „Monar-Markot” and „SOS for Families” association. This initiative is one of many activities undertaken by hotels belonging to Orbis Group under Planet 21 - a sustainable development programme which is implemented by all hotels of the Accor group worldwide.

Absolute COMFORT

- ❶ 2 large microfibre pillows - 80x50 cm
- ❷ Light white soft duvet - 220x240 cm, hidden under the topper
- ❸ Ibis topper – extra 7 cm for heavenly comfort
- ❹ Firm foam mattress, black 3D honeycomb fabrics
- ❺ Flexible wooden slats, BOX-SPRING base, black 3D honeycomb fabrics



THAI FOOD FESTIVAL AT THE ORIENTAL RESTAURANT

15-27 October, Thai Culinary Festival, Warsaw, Poland



The Oriental restaurant at the Sheraton Hotel (ul. B. Prusa 2, Warsaw), known to many lovers of good cuisine, has prepared another treat for its guests. This time it's a part of the Thai Culinary Festival, organized in collaboration with the Embassy of Thailand in Poland. Thai cuisine is considered to be the world's most aromatic and impressive. It's a great combination of flavours and decorations created from finely-cut fruit and vegetables. Thai culinary art is the essence of the best aromas and flavours, which over the years have been shaped under the influence of other nations visiting Thailand. In dishes which originated in Thailand, culinary experts find influences of Chinese, Malaysian, Cambodian and Laotian cuisines. The spiciness which is so characteristic of dishes from this region is attributed to the influence of the Portuguese, who brought chilli peppers to Thailand. Its uniqueness Thai food owes to skilful combining of ingredients, intuition of cooks, but most of all to combination of well-known products with mixtures of spices and ingredients typical of Thai culture.

Traditional Thai cuisine abounds in dishes where seafood, coconut milk and Lemongrass are key ingredients. However, its most basic ingredient is rice, which by Thai people is recognized as a symbol of life - so it's no surprise that it's prepared in hundreds of ways. The most popular variety of rice in Thailand is fragrant

Jasmine, which is served fried or steamed fluffy. Rice is also an indispensable ingredient of curry, slightly softening the outrageous spiciness of the sauce. Each curry is different because it's the chef who always decides on the perfect combination of ingredients.

Thai cuisine is a philosophical one, based on pleasure and harmony. That is why, each dish consists of five flavours: spicy, sweet, sour, bitter and salty.

Achieving such a variety of flavours is possible thanks to well selected spices, herbs and sauces. Moreover, according to the Thai culinary philosophy, each meal should contain vegetables with sophisticated shapes, sizes and colours. Therefore, individual vegetables such as onions, peppers, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, bamboo shoots and cucumber, are chosen not only in terms of taste, but also often cut in fancy shapes.

If you want to smell and taste Thai cuisine you must go the Thai Culinary Festival organized in mid-October in Warsaw. For two consecutive weeks of the month, the chef of the Oriental restaurant will be serving



dishes typical of the region. The buffet table will tempt with a wide choice of dishes, including shrimp cutlets with lime leaf and green chilli pepper; spicy seafood salad; "Laksa" soup with beef and dried shrimp; beef tenderloin with oyster and pepper sauce; Pad Thai - or spring roll with duck, shrimp and vegetables.

All meals will be prepared following the rules of the Thai cu-

linary art. The main spices are, of course, garlic, chilli, coriander, sesame oil, ginger and lemongrass. You won't miss the papaya salad with chilli and lime, also in combination with beef. The chef recommends pork in sesame seeds served with lemongrass and coriander, as well as the spicy oriental duck. And for the dessert exotic fruit salad with coconut milk and candied ginger.



Thai cuisine is considered to be the world's most aromatic and impressive. It's a great combination of flavours and decorations created from finely-cut fruit and vegetables.

WE FLY TO SERVE



Marzena Mróz talks to **Petr Duchek**, British Airways' Commercial Manager for Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

Why is it worth flying with British Airways?

Because we are and have always been leaders in the air transport market. British Airways is one of the largest international airlines, serving over 36 million passengers a year. We also have over 85 years of experience in providing in-flight service. Every day we strive to meet the expectations of our customers by providing them with new services and facilities. The best example of this is the fact that in 1996, we were the first to introduce fully reclining seats in first class, which later were also introduced in business class. Following a recent upgrade of the first class, we now offer unique seats with screens which allow passengers for much more privacy and freedom. Moreover, in 2013 we will be the world's only airline whose fleet will include two excellent aircraft - Airbus 380 and Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

British Airways has recently entered into new alliances with other airlines. What does this mean for Polish passengers?

Our co-operation with American Airlines and Iberia has provided our customers with an access to 241 destinations in North America. We were able to synchronize the flights so that travellers from Europe have a choice of flexible options for connections. According to the agreement, our airline will create a network of connections over the United States, Mexico, Canada and Europe. Our aircraft will reach 443 airports in 106 countries. The cooperation has also led to the introduction of new, more attractive fares and increasing their frequency, which will certainly be appreciated by passengers traveling regularly between the U.S. and Europe. Thanks to this alliance, the most popular connection on

London-New York-London route, is operated by British Airways and American Airlines with 13 and 5 daily flights respectively. Another 16 flights on this route are operated by Iberia. This gives us 4,608 combinations of connections on a single route. We also hope that in 2013 we will forge another alliance – this time with Japan Airlines.

You have refreshed your RTW (round-the-world) ticket offer. What routes are included and at what prices?

More and more people are interested in traveling around the world, which until recently was considered as something reserved only for adventurers or the chosen ones. I hope that our offer opens up the opportunity to make a fascinating journey for a larger group of passengers. The destinations we support, such as New York, Los Angeles, Honolulu, Singapore, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Johannesburg, are excellent stops

during such a trip. One of the most interesting options is Warsaw-London-Bangkok-Sydney-London-Warsaw route. The total cost of the journey, along with the fees is PLN 5,511. The fare for Warsaw-London-Hong Kong-Melbourne (transfer to Sydney not included)-Sydney-Johannesburg-London-Warsaw route, including all additional charges, is PLN 7,828.

Personally, I recommend Warsaw-London-Singapore-Sydney-Honolulu-Los Angeles-London-Warsaw route which costs PLN 6,734.

The motto of British Airways is "To fly. To serve." It's a very serious statement. What does it translate into in practice?

These four words were put on the tails of our first aircrafts. The motto is still stitched to the uniforms and hats of our pilots. But it's not just an advertising slogan. It's also a promise with which we are committed to



building the strength of British Airways. We want to be proud of our achievements today, as much as we are proud of our history and heritage. 85 years ago, we were the first to serve meals and drinks to our passengers during a continental flight. Since then our staff have been carefully trained in in-flight service. All this to meet the highest expectations of our customers. We simply fly to serve.

Recently, BT has made considerable investment in amenities aimed at business customers. What changes will we see on board?

Recently, we have invested £5 billion in expansion of our fleet and in upgrading our product offering. As part of the changes we purchased six Boeing B777-300s. In 2013, our fleet will be extended by 12 Airbus A380s and 24 Boeing B787 Dreamliner aircraft. In addition, we have modernized our fleet of Boeing 777-200 and Boeing 767 aircraft. Passengers are now able to take advantage of our new, comfortable seats, high-quality touch screens and audio-video equipment available on World Traveller and World Traveller Plus offers. It's worth noting that more than £100 million was spent on the development of our first class product (named First). Our offer of long-haul flights in

business class (Club World) has been positively received by passengers. This is mainly owing to the wonderful cabins equipped with fully reclining seats, personal touchscreens, and professional service. We have been working on our menus. Recently, we have introduced on board our planes the fifth taste called umami, as well as a wide range of wines. Another noteworthy aspect is the development of our offer of airport lounges. Currently, we offer four types of lounges, including Concorde Room at London's Terminal 5 which was chosen by CNN as one of the most exclusive lounges in the world. Our premium customers have a unique opportunity to take advantage of unique treatment provided in Elemis Travel Spa, available at London Heathrow and New York's JFK.

Is it true that BA passengers will soon have access to iPads on board your planes?

This service is already available on London-New York route in Club World London City offer. These devices are also used by our cabin crew, providing them with information on flight schedules, as well as safety procedures and service updates. Your fleet includes new Boeing B777-300 aircraft. What routes do they operate?

We have 52 Boeing 777 aircraft, including six Boeing B777-300ERs. They are extremely efficient as regards fuel consumption, and CO2 emissions are 23% lower compared with B747-400. The aircraft can seat 297 passengers (14 seats in the luxurious first class, 56 seats in Club World, 44 seats in World Traveller Plus and 183 in World Traveller). Passengers travelling on board B777-300 in premium economy class World Traveller Plus, and in World Traveller economy class sit in comfortable seats designed by Recaro which is a manufacturer of luxury seats for car companies such as Porsche or Audi. Currently, Boeing B777-300ERs operate flights to Dubai, Delhi, Chicago, Tokyo Narita and Mumbai. Soon, our customers will be able to use these wonderful planes also on other long-haul routes.

When you go on a trip with BA can you find yourself seating next to someone famous, for example a member of the British royal family?

You never know who will be traveling with you on the same plane - a supermodel, a film star, or a foreign minister. This makes flying with British Airways even more fascinating and attractive.

More and more people are interested in traveling around the world, which until recently was considered as something reserved only for adventurers or the chosen ones. I hope that our offer opens up the opportunity to make a fascinating journey for a larger group of passengers. The destinations which we operate, are excellent stops during such a trip.



FIESTA AND SIESTA

You are losing your daily race against time, dreaming of peace and quiet. You'd like to embrace the whole world, thinking of a small island somewhere in the warm seas. Spanish Balearic Islands? But, they are crowded, noisy, and too commercialized. Don't worry ... there's still one true peaceful oasis there and it's called Minorca.

In our crazy world, this small island which is only 50 by 16 kilometres, has its own rights and principles. Only 5% of the island is occupied by buildings which, according to the local law, must be low-rise. You won't find there any behemoth-like hotels, apartment buildings, or villas for rent which stand vacant after the high season. Those who want to live here, must become farmers and cultivate the land. The only main road winds through the hills along the island with two small towns located at its either ends. The landscape tempts with its idyllic atmosphere, luring mostly families with children, seniors, loners, and sailors.

TRADITION AND MODERNITY

You can try to find good accommodation in either of the two towns: Ciutadella and Mahon. Each located on opposite ends of the island, they have for centuries been competing with each other for primacy. Ciutadella - noble and traditional, and Mahon – business-friendly and modern. One lures with culture, the other with money. They are like Cracow and Warsaw – of course with different proportions. Both claim to be the capital of Menorca, one owing to an administrative decision, while the other basing on history. And today, like centuries ago, woe betide the one who blinded with love finds the future wife in the "enemy" town. Indeed, the dispute is truly Spanish! Since 1286 years, i.e. since the expulsion of Moors, the island has ben a proud part of the kingdom of Spain, with Catalan dialect as the prevailing one. Also geographically the Balearic archipelago is an extension of the Baetic Mountains, separated by a 200-kilometre strip of the Mediterranean from the mainland. Being a border province, the island repeatedly underwent raids, mostly in the modern era, succumbing to the Turks, the French and the English. The descendants of the latter continue to live on the island, and their houses are distinguished by red facades. The English wanted to patrol the coast of the island, so they created a bridle-path (Cami de Cavalls) winding along the edge of the coast together with several guard towers. Today it is the most convenient and most scenic route, accessible for pedestrians, bicycles and, of course, horses.

A BEACH FOR EVERYONE

One of the laws of the island forbids to set up private, fenced beaches. In other words, all of them belong to the state and the pub-



lic. However, it doesn't necessarily mean that the beaches are crowded. The coast of the island is dotted with hundreds of arching, wild beaches separated by rocky cliffs which are several metres high. This is a true charm of sunbathing in Menorca - everyone can find there their own sandy crescent, which can be reached by bicycle or by boat. The sand doesn't resemble the Baltic quartz sand, as it's more clayish and reddish, but the locals use it as healing mud, spreading it over the entire body. Peeling is guaranteed. Most importantly, the descent to the sea is gentle and sandy, while water clear and warm, but damn salty. The sea also seems to be more natural here than on neighbouring islands, mostly thanks to lack of noisy water-jets and motorboats. On the other hand, the waves here are ideal for those who love surfing. Sailing is very popular here - there are two picturesque marinas and

many other smaller harbours. You can charter a yacht and sail the Balearic Islands, or even visit Barcelona. Navigation-wise it's an easier reservoir than Adriatic or the Aegean Sea, with similar prices. Weekly yacht charter for 7-8 people can cost around €1,200. Besides, boats here don't dazzle your eyes with their splendour, as it is the case in various "nouveau riche" ports, so a Polish sea dog can feel here more like at home. Those who are unfamiliar with sailing, can use canoes which are available at almost all marinas, or decide to take a cruise aboard numerous or ferries which transport passengers to the islands of the archipelago. You can explore the flora and fauna living in the depths of the sea, in several ways: through a porthole in a cruise ship's hull, face to face if you dive into the coastal shallows or ... by visiting a traditional fish markets, such as the one in Mahon. Here we can try the local lobsters which is the reason why King Juan Carlos regularly visits the island, predatory scorpions with venomous stingers, and the delicious gallo fish.

THE STONE WORLD

The sea is blue, and the dominant colour on the island is warm yellow of limestone. Although travel folders often refer to the island as the "green" one, owing to summer droughts the colours of earth and rocks come to dominance. For this reason, it's better to visit the island either in spring or autumn. In winter the temperature drops to only a few degrees, and once in a few decades the island gets covered with a thin layer of snow. When it happens, such an unforgettable year is called "white". Menorca's landscape is quite rocky because of numerous rocky hills scattered all over the island, but also because the stone used as the primary building material. The carefully built picturesque walls, which can be seen here at every step, are the Menorcan equivalent to our Polish baulk. There you can often admire large black horses grazing on the fields. Between the hills you can see sandy facades of farms with colourful shutters and plants climbing on the walls. Some farms are engaged in viticulture, while others breed cows and sheep. Stone buildings have a long tradition in Menorca. Naveta des Tudons, a domed tomb where the remains of 100 skeletons were found, is over 3,000 years old. At that time bodies of the dead were put at the entrance for the wild animals to devour. Then their bare bones were slipped through a narrow



The coast of the island is dotted with hundreds of arching, wild beaches separated by rocky cliffs which are several metres high.



The horses are also overwhelmed by the frenzy, rearing up while people are trying to control their madness.

opening into the interior of the tomb. They had lain there until 1975 when the construction was discovered. Another great attraction of the island are historic megalithic stones called Taula de Torralba, which look like a stone table on a 5-metre leg. The tradition of building with stones has survived to this day, because some locals still build special half a metre tall stone pyramids which are supposed to absorb energy from space.

WINE, HORSES, AND SINGING

I preferred to get my energy from local dishes. The regional cuisine doesn't differ much from what we can find on the mainland. It's interesting, however, that mayonnaise originated in Menorca – initially known as Mahon sauce (salsa Mahones), and which was first served in 1756 to the French admiral, the Duke de Richelieu.

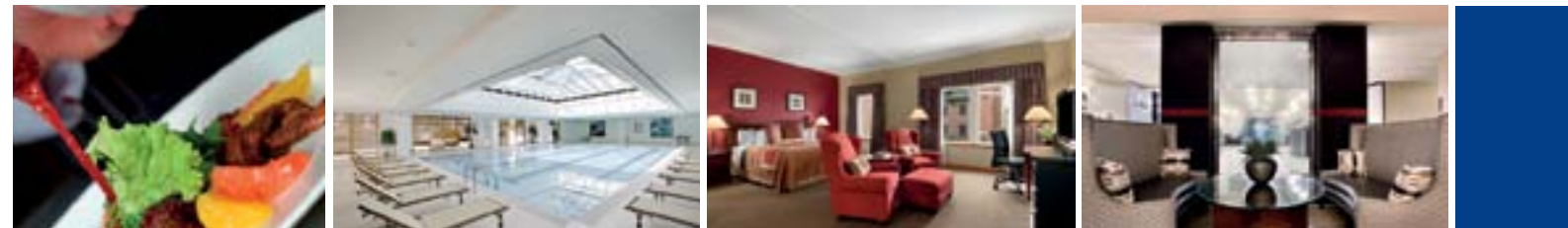
My palate was conquered by salty and hard yellow cheese served with local red wine which by itself is worth recommendation. The real regional liquor is Pomada - a drink based on Xoriguer gin and lemon juice. It's a very popular drink, and tradition demands that it should be served in large ceramic bottles with a handle.

The island is a peaceful oasis, but you wouldn't feel that the place was truly Spanish, if there weren't any places to have good fun. One of the residents of the island took the legendary rock cave Cova de Xoroi in lease and remade it into an excellent entertainment club. There are several bars, terraces and lots of nooks and crannies. Each evening, crowds gather on the terraces situated on a cliff to watch the sunset, and then indulge in pleasures night to the rhythm of disco music.

Traditional fiestas are another occasion to have good fun. On 7 September Mahon celebrates the festival of Our Lady of Grace. The whole town erupts in frenzy of joy – and everyone has a truly good fun. The whole street participates in the event. Nobly dressed señoras watch the festivities from windows of their houses. People run, scream, sing – all of this with broad smiles on their faces and without a hint of aggression.

The fiesta finishes with a parade of horses. They are also overwhelmed by this frenzy, rearing up while people are trying to control their madness. Centuries ago, before the era of football, this is how local farmers satisfied their need for male rivalry. Even today only them, the mayor and the priest can participate in these competitions. And, of course, the horses - but no-one asks them whether they like it or not...

Barbara Scharf



* (wkrótce otwarcie)

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THERE'S MORE TO SCOTLAND THAN JUST TARTAN

Scotland has a lot to offer. Its capital - the mysterious and elegant Edinburgh is considered one of the most interesting cities in Europe. The Loch Ness monster still remains a mystery, a mystical Rosslyn chapel attracts tourists from all over the world, and various whisky distilleries can be visited like museums. **Marzena Mróz** takes you for a weekend trip to this unique country.

The easiest way to get from Poland to Edinburgh is by plane with a stop-over in London, Liverpool or Amsterdam. The flight isn't too long. If you take a Warsaw-Amsterdam-Edinburgh flight (KLM) at 6.05 am, you reach your destination at 10.25am.

MYSTERIOUS EDINBURGH
The city amazes with its medieval and gregorian districts. Because of its attitude to art, it was once called "The Athens of the North", and nowadays it's considered Harry Potter's hometown. It's worth staying there for at least 2 days to see the old town, situated on the edge of a volcano or Edinburgh Castle. The National Gallery of Scotland, erected on the top of the sleeping Castle Rock volcano, is a building complex from different periods from 12th to 20th century. Its functions were diverse: it was a stronghold, a royal palace, military barracks and a prison. Since 1996 it has been housing the so called Stone of Destiny - the treasure of Scottish kings, which for many years had been

in the hands of the English. When in Edinburgh, you need to take a walk down Royal Mile - four ancient streets, which show you the medieval history of the city. In National Gallery, which is considered one of the best art galleries in Scotland, you can see the pictures by Raphael, Titian, Tintoretto, Velazquez and Allan Ramsay. A perfect end to a perfect day would be a visit to a good restaurant. You can try one of the Scottish specialties: porridge, haggis in whisky sauce or lamb.

IN SEARCH OF NESSIE
Travelling from Edinburgh to Loch Ness, you will see a genuine Scottish landscape. Small hills covered with heath, ruins of stone castles, grazing sheep and black cows are a sign you've come to Highlands. You can see Loch Ness after about three hours drive from the capital. Go past the medieval Inverness and stop at Clansman Hotel Harbour, where you can take a boat trip to look for the legendary Nessie monster.

Rosslyn MYSTICAL CHAPEL

Rosslyn Chapel is only 14 kilometres from Edinburgh. It was built in 15th century and resembles a miniature gothic cathedral. Because of its unique ornaments and intricate sculptures, is referred to as a Bible carved in stone. A legend has it, that it houses the Knights Templar treasure, including the Holy Grail. Unfortunately, nobody is willing to allow for a detailed examination of the temple foundation, for the fear of it getting damaged. In the chapel there are over 100 images of the so called green man, a Celtic symbol of the harvest. What should catch your attention are two columns - a journeyman's and the one of the master. According to one of the theories, the sculptures in Rosslyn depicts the story of human life in miniature.



Important info WHERE TO GO

Hotel Balmoral - the best place in Edinburgh, located in an ancient building in the heart of the city, with a majestic clock tower, visible from the distance. www.thebalmoralhotel.com
Edinburgh Castle - a spectacular and symbolic place in the Scottish capital. It's worth visiting, to see the crown of the Scottish kings, and admire the city panorama from the vantage platform.
Jacobite Queen ship - making a cruise around Loch Ness: www.jacobite.co.uk
Glanmorangie distillery, located by the sea in the town of Tain; www.glenmorangie.com
Rosslyn Chapel - a mystical place, where, according to a legend, the Holy Grail is. www.rosslynchapel.com



Kilt, tartan, moorlands, and of course, whisky, are the symbols of Scotland, recognizable all over the world.

What's the origin of the monster story? It probably stems from the fact that the 230-metre deep lake is unusually dark. The changeable weather - frequent rainfalls are often followed by sudden bursts of sunshine. Also the romantic ruins can speak to your imagination. Loch Ness stretches for over 36 km from Fort August to the lighthouse of Bona, the northernmost point of the lake. Even if you fail to observe the monster, you might take a photo of its giant statue in Clansman.

LEGENDARY LIQUOR

Many people go to Scotland especially to find out more about its national liquor - whisky. Among kilts, tartans, castles and moorlands, it is a national symbol. In fact, whisky came to Scotland through Ireland, where in the 7th century monks brewed aqua vitae (apparently the recipe was invented by St. Patrick) which at that time was used only for medical reasons.

However, the Scots quickly worked on their own recipes, and today, like in the old times, the liquor matures in wooden barrels in dark cellars of distilleries, hid among the rainswept moorlands. The places of production and storage of the most whisky brands are located in the Highlands area, which - because of its harsh climate and landscape, was a perfect place to produce and smuggle alcohol in secret - for about 150 years. The practice came to an end only after an intervention of the Prince of Gordon in the House of Lords, which in 1823 produced a law which sanctioned whisky production after purchasing a licence for 10 pounds. This decision has shaped the alcohol industry in Scotland. But distilleries are still where they were before - among the moor-covered hills on the former smuggling trucks.

The Scottish whisky is produced only in the country, from barley or malting barley. The maturing process takes minimum 3 years. The taste of the liquor depends of the distillation process and storage conditions. Manufacturers often stress that the flavour of whisky is influenced by the unique qualities of water used in the production. It usually comes from a clear source and it is a carrier for the flavour obtained from the malting barley. What's also important is the contact between the liquor and the interior of the wooden barrel. These factors truly influence the quality of whisky. Since the liquor soaks the aromas characteristic for the place where it was stored, whisky from each distillery tastes differently.

One of the favourite sorts of single malt whisky in Scotland is Glenmorangie. It matures in oak barrels made from wood dried outdoors - used only twice. The whisky owes its delicate character to being distilled in the highest alembics in Scotland. Its unique shape and height (5,14m) makes it possible only for the lightest and cleanest fumes to reach to the top and condense. The distillery of this brand is located in Tain, by the sea.



The Scots quickly worked on their own recipes, and today, like in the old times, the liquor matures in wooden barrels in dark cellars of distilleries, hid among the rainswept moorlands.





BUZZING BERLIN

Germany's capital provides a vibrant and inspiring setting for internet start-up companies, finds **Liat Clark**.

Berlin is not beautiful in the traditional sense, its sprawling city limits dominated by grey post-war architecture. Head to one of its heaving cafés or bars, though, and it soon reveals its USP.

PROGRESSIVE CLUBS

The infamous club culture has attracted an influx of bright young things from across Europe, escaping their unemployment woes and eager to make something of themselves in a city where entrepreneurship is second nature, in a country that is one of the most politically and financially stable on the continent.

"You see them sitting with their Apples in a café – they're not wearing a tie, stuck in an office," says Burkhard Kieker, chief executive of Visit Berlin. He is referring to the new tech-savvy generation that has been turning innovation into profit, launching new internet start-ups from their studio apartments every week.

Germany's financial security is founded on exports – last year it broke the trillion-euro mark – including steel and car manufacturing. But in its capital, where traditional industry has been weak for decades and the economy has been sustained by the tourism and meetings sectors – it is number four in the world for conventions, according to the International Congress and Convention Association – technology is rapidly catching up as one of the top-performing industries.

EUROPE'S SILICON VALLEY

When figures released last year showed that 1,860 tech companies launched in 2010 in Berlin, the world finally took note – €136 million in funding poured into 81 start-ups, and Skype co-founder Niklas Zennstrom's investment fund put €3.1 million into Berlin software start-up 6Wunderkinder.

There are about 50,000 staff working for the city's 5,700 IT companies, producing an annual turnover of more than €10 billion and accounting for more than 10 per cent of the city's GDP. In September, ten fledgling companies will receive the three-month-long Startupbootcamp (startupbootcamp.org) treatment, when the "Startup Accelerator" comes to the capital.

Infrastructure is also catching up, with the much-needed new Brandenburg International airport opening in March next year (it was originally scheduled to open this month but has been delayed) and the 10,000-person capacity City Cube exhibition centre opening in west Berlin in 2014 to replace the ICC Berlin (icc-berlin.de), which will be renovated.



HOW DOES BERLIN DO IT?

So what is it about the city that has attracted this 50,000-strong force of pioneers? "Berlin has a counterculture image and attitude that sits well with entrepreneurship," says Eric Wahlforss, chief technology officer and co-founder of Sound Cloud, an audio-sharing platform and one of the city's success stories, with an online community of 10 million. "It's an atmosphere of recognising how things are done, then looking to do them in a different way, which is the same mantra needed to launch a start-up."

"More than that, there's a certain infectious atmosphere here of collaboration and innovation – in arts, design, fashion and so many other fields including tech – that spurs us on." For Johannes Reck, co-founder of online tour booking engine Get Your Guide, which

saw its sales increase by 600 per cent within a year of moving here, the city's international flavour sealed the deal. "We need so many different languages, and Berlin is one of the few cities in Europe where it's possible to hire skilled people with [a particular] language the next day."

Despite this, delays in attaining visas were cited by every start-up I spoke to. "German bureaucracy is definitely cumbersome," Reck says. Janka Schmeisser, marketing and publishing manager at tech recruitment consultancy I-potentials, says it is a growing concern: "We have a lot of candidates from India, but it's much easier for them to go to the US so we lose them." Still, living costs are low, and Germany plans to lower the legal wage threshold for high-skilled immigrant workers from €66,000 to €34,200 in sectors with high vacancies, which should help.

CREATIVE CAPITAL

Look around and you'll see the city's creative streak reflected in its architecture. At the Neues Museum, in the fashionable Mitte district east of the centre, Nefertiti's bust sits proudly inside David Chipperfield's beautiful 2003 renovation of the 19th-century building. Not far from here, across the Spree, the Baroque Royal Palace is due to be resurrected in 2014 in a controversial €552 million state-funded project.

Over at Brandenburg Gate, inside nearby DZ Bank, Frank Gehry's undulating design makes for a spectacular meetings venue (visit axica.de), while north to the Reichstag, visitors can stand in Norman Foster's glass dome and inspect democracy in action below in the Bundestag. The imposing pre-unification steel and glass edifice of the Neue Nationalgalerie, near the Tiergarten, houses striking Cubist, Expressionist, Bauhaus and Surrealist works.

"Berlin doesn't look like old, communist, kaput East Berlin anymore," says Alexander Kolpin, co-founder of Berlin Partner, a public-private partnership which works to attract new business. "But it's still cheap compared with Munich or London. You can still try to live your dreams, found a start-up and live with little money."

HARD BEGINNINGS

Watch a short history of Sound Cloud at storywheel.cc, and you will see the romantic beginnings of Berlin's start-ups as those who flock to the city imagine it. "This is our first office," one says, as the first frame pops up. "Actually, the second, the first was a café," they chuckle. Cue slides of web developers working on tables knocked together

by the founders, or curled up on a beanbag, sleeping at the office. Work hubs, such as Sankt Oberholz (sanktoberholz.de) in the north and Betahaus (betahaus.de) in Moritzplatz in the south, are popular for networking. Young companies and freelancers rent workspace or chill out in the lounges or eateries – Betahaus calls itself a “Vienna-style coffee house, a library or university campus”. Those new to the city can log on to Venture Village (venturevillage.eu) for news and jobs, or head to Web Week (berlinwebweek.de), a series of conferences and events that take place every May. Venture capitalists and aspirational developers come here to meet and form new businesses over coffee – some 6,000 participants were expected this year.

BUILDING ON BARE SOIL

This may all sound rather laid-back, but the city is changing, and gentrification abounds. Kolpin tells of Club Commission, a group of entrepreneurs that have joined forces to protect its club culture from property developers. “There has to be a compromise to keep

Berlin alive, as an active, 24/7 city,” he says. Reck calls it a “classic maturation process”, and only worries that the city needs to do more to protect its creative edge. Visit Berlin’s Kieker sees the positive – vast quantities of destitute land are being bought up by hotels. “Berlin is the last developing city in the old world because it was out of business for 60 years, being bombed to rubble and then divided. Now it’s a great comeback story, so everybody is putting money into it,” he says. Hotel rates are competitive, and the stock is set to increase. South of the River Spree, the 232-room Waldorf Astoria Berlin will open in September, while a 256-room Crowne Plaza opens this month. The Alexander Parkside complex will open this summer, housing a 153-room Hotel Indigo and a 240-room Holiday Inn. The new Brandenburg airport’s opening may have been delayed but it still signals the end of an era that saw a divided city split between three airports. It should also be a pleasant place to pass through – the Bauhaus-inspired exterior hides soaring ceilings of steel and glass and a compact, eas-

ily navigable layout. The airport will be the new home of Oneworld carrier Air Berlin, and the Lufthansa Group is dedicating 35 aircraft to it. Its 27 million passenger capacity could, eventually, increase to 45 million.

LAST MISSING ELEMENT

Meanwhile, over at the soon-to-be-defunct Tegel airport, a 230-hectare research hub for renewable energy, biotechnology and “city solutions” such as water management will open.

“It was the last missing piece for the rebuilding of Berlin,” Kieker says. “When the wall came down, everybody here thought ‘Okay, that’s it – Berlin is back.’ But nothing happened. Berlin was a seriously wounded city, and it took another ten to 15 years to rebuild and recover. Now we are seeing the results.” Standing in the brisk breeze outside the new airport, my guide tells me: “There is more steel in the roof than in the Eiffel Tower.” It is a fitting gateway, then, for a city that has set its ambitions high and, from its citizens’ determination to innovate, it looks like Berlin might surpass even its own expectations.



Banhoff Potsdamer Platz opened in 2006, is a railway station, which has quickly become one of the symbols of modern development of Berlin



BANGKOK ORIENTAL CITY

The lyrics of this popular song which praises this remarkable, challenging, yet appealing city, are known by almost anyone who visits Bangkok. **Marzena Mróz** writes about the city's airport which features over 130 passport control checkpoints for those who arrive in the Thai capital.

Bangkok-Suvarnabhumi is located 25 km east of the capital of Thailand. It's the largest airport in the country and one of the largest in the world. It was launched on 28 September 2006, when the airport replaced the old Bangkok-Don Muang. As of today, it can now handle 50 million passengers, and eventually, after its planned extension - as many as 150 million!

AIRPORT ON COBRA SWAMP

The cost of building the airport on wetland areas, called by the inhabitants "Cobra Swamps", was estimated at 155 billion baht

(US\$ 3.8 billion). 60The airport has two parallel runways (4,000 and 3,700 m long, both 60 m wide) and two parallel taxiways, 120 parking bays (51 airbridges and 60 gates) - five of which can handle Airbus A380 aircraft. The main passenger terminal which can handle 76 aircraft operations per hour, features zones for both international and domestic flights, although each of them is situated in a different part of the building. Over the underground railway station and just opposite the passenger terminal, there is a 600-room hotel belonging to Accor Hotel Group (prices start at \$90). In the space

between the terminal and the hotel there are two 5-storey car parks which can accommodate up to 5,000 cars.

NAMED BY THE KING

The name "Suvarnabhumi" was selected by the currently reigning King of Thailand, His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej, and it means "The Golden Land". This is how the whole region of Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar (Burma) is called in Indochina.

The ultra-modern airport features numerous amenities such as 130 passport control checkpoints for arrivals, 72 for departures

as well as 26 customs control checkpoints for arrivals and 8 for departures. There are 22 luggage carousels, 107 moving walkways, 102 lifts and 83 escalators.

EVEN SECONDS COUNT

There are over 50 dining facilities at the airport - from oriental restaurants serving best Thai cuisine, through fast food and pizza restaurants, to dozens of cafeterias and snack bars, similar to those found at the airport in Rome. It's worth knowing, that the expanded duty-free zone featuring luxury goods, is far from being as attractive as similar zones in Europe, mainly due to much higher prices.

Interestingly, BKK airport can handle at the same time five Airbus A380 aircraft, 120 arriving or departing planes from 90 international airlines, such as Aeroflot, Aeroméxico, Aerosvit, Air China, Air France, Air India, British Airways, Cathay Pacific, China Airlines, KLM, Lufthansa, Swiss International Air Lines, Turkish Airlines, Thai Airways. It also serves 5 domestic and 22 cargo airlines. Planes take off or land here every 45 seconds.

Important Info

Suvarnabhumi Airport,
Racha Thewa,
Bang Phli, Bangkok, 10540,
Thailand
IATA code: BKK

Official website of the airport:

www.airportthai.co.th
All travel information and the airport can be obtained by phone at + 66 2 132 1888. Car rental companies
Offices are located in the arrivals hall. The choice of companies includes Avis, Hertz, Budget, and Thai rent car Association. The car rental centre is located within the Public Transportation Center.

Car parks

They are located in multi-level parking garages, next to the terminal. Both can accommodate up to 5,000 cars. There is also an outdoor car park for about 1,100 cars. Additional long-term car park can accommodate about 4,000 cars and 78 buses.

Transportation

The airport boasts a well-developed transportation system. This consists of licensed taxi service, bus and rail lines, as well as limo service. Taxi ranks are situated on level 2 of the terminal building and in the Public Transportation Center. A journey to the city centre takes about 30-40 minutes and costs about 200-400 baht, plus motorway toll (70 baht), depending on your destination.

There are also 4 bus lines (Airport Express) heading for Bangkok's centre. The buses are air-conditioned and have a large storage space. The fare is 150 baht for the entire trip. Buses depart from the first floor of the terminal and run from 5.00 am until midnight.

At the end of 2009 Airport Express train services were launched, with which passengers can reach the city centre in just 15 minutes. Additionally, SRT offers connections by commuter trains between Hua Takha (in the east) and the northern suburb of Rangsit via the centre of Bangkok and the old Don Mueang airport. The train connects with BTS and MRT at Phaya Thai and Phetchaburi stations and a ticket costs 30 baht. A bus line connects the airport with Hua Takha station (a ticket costs 15 baht).



THE QUEEN OF THE AUTUMN

Gardens are getting gloomy, vegetable beds are empty, and the only thing to save the humour of the passing summer is a pumpkin. So if you haven't grown one of your own this year, you should go to the market and look for it. It's tasty, healthy and can really improve our mood.



Most people associate pumpkins with Halloween, no matter which language and cultural background they come from. The vast majority thinks that Halloween came to us from America, and those who protest against the Americanization of other cultures, oppose the pumpkin-related custom.

A PUMPKIN AND A CANDLE

In fact, Halloween and pumpkin lanterns originated in Europe. The magical night prior to All Saints' Day dates back to a medieval Celtic tradition. Souls of dead people were believed to have been wandering around and visiting the living ones. It's not surprising it didn't meet with delight - burning bonfires, loud music and noises had to scare the condemned soul off to the underworld, where they belonged. The Jack-o-lanterns put in front of houses had the same purpose. The legend has it that a man called Jack was such a drunkard, that he was a persona non grata even in hell. And thus, he was chased out back to the Earth. The satan must have suffered from pangs of remorse, as he gave Jack a burning ember. Jack put in into a part of a half-eaten turnip and set for an eternal wandering with the lantern. With time, the turnip was replaced with a pumpkin, and the Irish immigrants brought the tradition to America. From there, it spread all over the world in a form of a light-hearted play, instead of a religious custom.

HEALTHY WHEN ORANGE

Unfortunately, the pumpkin is known more because of the Halloween tradition rather than its health and culinary advantages. It has a very low calorie content - only 28 calories in 100. This means that 1 kg has fewer ca-

lories than a single doughnut. It's also rich in protein, and vitamins A, B, C and PP. It has a high content of calcium, magnesium, phosphorus and potassium. When roasted, pumpkin becomes more aromatic and distinctive in flavour, but it doesn't lose its health value. It's worth knowing that the more intense the colour of the flesh, the more precious elements it has. Also, thanks to the high content of cellulose, it helps you to lose weight. Pumpkin's flesh is given even to infants, as it doesn't cause allergies. What's more, pumpkin seeds have a lot of zinc.

PUMPKIN SEED

Pumpkin seeds are used in medicine when dealing with prostate conditions (prostatitis, adenoma) and problems with the bladder. The results of a recent research indicate that pumpkin extract may be useful in treatment of diabetes type I. If the research results are confirmed, pumpkin may prove an indispensable medicine, which, when applied early enough, would prevent the disease from developing. According to the



data published in "Chemistry & Industry" and "Journal of the Society of Chemical Industry" (SCI), substances discovered in pumpkin may potentially replace or decrease the daily intake of insulin given to patients suffering from diabetes.

WITH THE PUMPKIN THROUGH HISTORY

Pumpkin is also valuable taste-wise. Archeologists estimate that it was grown already 9,000 years ago in the area of today's Peru. For the next thousands of years the vegetable conquered another countries. 7,000 years ago it was grown by the Indians from the Mexican valley of Tehuacán. 4,000 years ago, it was grown by the Maya people, and in our times, it was brought to the North America. It isn't known when it appeared in Europe. One of the version gives all the credit to Columbus, but there are documents which prove that it was used by medicians in ancient Arabia or even ancient Greece!

LUCULLUS APPRECIATED IT

Although it's easy to grow pumpkin, in the past it was considered such a delicacy, that even Lucullus himself served it on his feasts. This politician and a leader, born in 117 BC, was once a great persona, but he made history mostly as a smallholder and an originator of very sumptuous feasts. Today, pumpkin is mostly served marinated. The Hindu use it to make soup with coconut milk, in Argentina it's the basic ingredient of carbonada en zapallo (a pumpkin stuffed with beef in vegetable bouillon), and the Americans love pumpkin pie. In Poland, it's served marinated as a sidedish to meat, while Italians eat ravioli with pumpkin filling.

Joanna Kadej-Krzyczkowska

You should try these varieties

1.

Yellow Melon Pumpkin - very tasty and delicate with a sweet melon smell. When cooked or roasted it quickly gets softer. The flesh is juicy and of bright orange colour. It reaches 30 kg, and is easy to store.
2.

Hokkaido - one of the smallest pumpkins, weighing about 1.5 kg. It has firm, dr flesh of intense orange colour and a bit nutty flavour. It's the only variety with edible skin - after roasting its soft and tasty. That's why it is often served stuffed.
3.

Atlantic Giant Pumpkin - the biggest of all the varieties - 300-kilogram fruit is nothing unique. The world record was established by a pumpkin grown by the Canadians, Jim and Kelsey Bryson in 2010 - it weighed 824.9 kg. The flesh is firm, crunchy and juicy.
4.

Spaghetti squash - it has a yello-orange skin and a bit darker flesh, weighs about 3-4 kg. It's mild in taste, but what is characteristic about it, is its looks - when cooked or roasted, the flesh falls away from the fruit in ribbons or strands like spaghetti. It's often used for pickles, or it can even replace real spaghetti.

TANIE LOTY Z MODLIN

MODLIN

OSLO (Rygge) SZTOKHOLM (Skavsta)

GLASGOW (Prestwick) LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER DUBLIN EAST MIDLANDS CORK BRISTOL LONDYN (Stansted) BRUKSELA (Charleroi) PARYŻ (Beauvais) DÜSSELDORF (Weeze) EINDHOVEN FRANKFURT (Hahn) MEDIOLAN (Bergamo) BUDAPESZT BOLONIA BARCELONA (El Prat) RZYM

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THE LOIRE LEFT BEHIND

It's funny that although both regions compete against each other in the wine world, Bordeaux is widely recognized for wine production, while the Loire valley - not at all. The common sense would suggest, that the other region must be worse, as they didn't gain world recognition, but is it so? All in all, the common sense has let many people down.



When I walk down the streets of Paris, I notice with somewhat mixed feelings, that I no longer go from a wine shop to a restaurant in search for authentic French wines, as more and more of them are already available in Poland. Even the good old Burgund is no longer such a rarity on the Polish market. On one hand, I should be happy about it, but on the other, I sometimes miss this wine fever and exoticism. Fortunately, Paris has still got something that caters for this need among the wine enthusiasts. It's the selection of wines from the Loire Valley. Virtually unknown in Poland, while in French menus they often occupy the second place. It's valued especially for its fine elegance, authenticity, naturalness. And of course, relatively low prices which do not reflect equally low quality, but rather economically unfortunate geopolitics.

A LOST BATTLE FOR THE BRITISH ISLES

The 19th century has influenced the fate of wine regions in France. When the international trade increased, the winemakers tried to sell their products abroad, especially on the British Isles. The English - who enjoyed luxury alcohols, but because of the harsh climate, where unable to produce anything even remotely similar to the poorest French wines - turned out to be pretty thankful consumers. Their gratitude was measurable and converted to cash. And this is how Bordeaux, a region favourably located by the sea, outclassed the other, more mainland wine region - the Loire Valley, though in the beginning the quality of wine was pretty much similar and it was difficult to decide which one was better. However, thanks to the money obtained from the English, Bordeaux rapidly started to develop. It invested in technology, experimented and tried their best to become the major player in the French wine market, competing with Champagne, Burgundy, which were situated closer to Great Britain. This is how the Loire was left behind. Without much regretting, though. It's the place where the time stands still.

WINE, ONION AND LAUGHTER

Today the Loire doesn't resemble an idyllic winemaking region like in Piedmont or

the Rhone Valley. Here, the vine is a friend, not just an end by itself, which brings money to satisfy the needs of the local people. At least when it comes to food. That's why in many places vineyards compete over space with potatoes and kohlrabi, as they are scarce by the very river where the soil is fertile. The vine doesn't like it anyway. Perhaps such a landscape may not appear very romantic to some of you, but it enables production of truly unique wines. Their main purpose is to appeal to customer's tastes, so they don't need impressive vineyard or pompous character. Even the seaside Muscadets have a lot of charm, although it would be hard to imagine simpler wine. And still they are considered among the best wines to go with seafood. The most interesting thing about the Loire is the unique expression of varieties, which are also grown in various regions, but here they are completely different. For example Sauvignon Blanc is well-known and easily recognizable in the whole world, but here it gets a bit different. It becomes sallow and oxidated. Very vegetable-like and thick. And I'm not even talking about such legendary wines like Sancerre or Pouilly Fume produced further mainland, but those simpler, satellite varieties from such appellations like Saumur or microscopic Menetou Salon. Extrordinary. When you already think you know it, it amazes you with distinctiveness and uniqueness, which, considering the low price, is a delightful surprise. There is also Cabernet Franc from Chinon appellation, which smells of slightly rotten plums and violets, and often of cowshed, as well. And I'm not just saying it because of my snobbish attitude. It really smells of a cowshed. An ordinary one, filled with cows and everything they produce. Sounds off-putting? And yet when combined with all the other aromas, it gives an unforgettable, delightful feeling of freedom and rusticity, which should be the anthem of every wine. The world keeps forgetting about it, thinking more about Wine Spectator magazine points, but the truth is, you don't always have to be precise and professional. We can afford a bit of light-heartedness when it comes to wine and the winemaking world.

Michał Poddany
& Robert Mielżyński

Wines produced here are truly unique and not overdone. Their main purpose is to appeal to customer's tastes, so they don't need impressive vineyard or pompous character.



Why does wine only RARELY SMELL OF GRAPES?

I often get skeptic reactions from people who read the wine labels talking about aromas of fruit, spices and flowers. Where does the cherry aroma come from, if the wine is made from grapes? And although the content of wine labels is usually overtly optimistic description written by a marketing expert who prefers coke to wine, the truth is that during the fermentation process grape aroma is released from sugar and broken into smaller fractions, which spontaneously combine together to create new fragrances. Experts have listed a palette of nearly 60 aromas, but if you add all those fragrances that come from storing the wine in wooden barrells, the truth is, a single wine can smell of almost anything. Melon, iron rakes or a wet dog.



A VERSATILE CAR

The new Volvo V40 is a luxury, five-door, five-seat hatchback with a dynamic character and distinguished looks. It was designed with the thought of transferring all the features of larger, luxury Volvo models to a more compact car of B/C segment.

The new Volvo V40 is a graceful, sporty and compact car based on the solutions previously used in the S60, V60 and XC60. In line with the new "Designed Around You" philosophy, the car was designed for comfort and safety of both the driver and passengers.

THE BODY

The main distinguishing feature of the car is a classic V-shaped bonnet as well as a shiny, low-placed, wide front grill. Daytime running lights are situated in the bottom corners, and their line curves upward. All these alterations have given the car a more dynamic nature and improved its aerodynamics. The total length of the new V40 is 4.37 m with the wheelbase of 2.64 m. The car will be available with two types of suspension: standard dynamic or sport. The difference depends on the settings of springs and shock absorbers. The sport suspension is 11 mm lower, which allows for higher cornering speeds.

COLOURS AND THE SUN ROOF

Volvo V40 is available in 13 colours, including three new ones: Raw Copper, Misty Blue and Biarritz Blue. The model can be equipped with a fixed panoramic roof made of tinted glass to reduce infrared radiation in the cabin. An electrically controlled fabric curtain is located under the roof. The curtain opens from the rear,

which means the rear passengers can enjoy the light of the sun while the driver and front passenger are still shaded.

THE CHASSIS

The standard chassis is equipped with a so-called Dynamic suspension, which is quite stiff, but offers comfortable ride. The car's ground clearance also allows for comfortable casual driving. The chassis of versions with 4-cylindres engines is lowered by 10 mm compared to the Dynamic option, which reduces the drag coefficient and thus lowers fuel consumption. Optionally, the new V40 is available with a real sport chassis. It's lowered by 10 mm compared to the standard Dynamic chassis and features stiffer springs and dampers.

COMFORTABLE INTERIOR

Ergonomics and comfort are key words that describe the process of designing the seats by Volvo Car Corporation. Similarly to the front seats, rear ones are comfortably shaped. Also, seat heating is available for both front and rear seats. The feel of luxury and the highest quality is further emphasized by the choice of materials and colours. The car features a characteristic narrow central console, which is more sculpted than in previous models. Another new feature is the frameless rear-view mirror and the illuminated gearshift knob. LEDs are also located in the storage compartments and on the door panel.

SAFETY AND CONVENIENCE

Volvo V40 is equipped with numerous driver's assistance features, including electric power steering in three modes: low – for easy parking, medium – for faster response at higher speeds, and high – to guarantee a comfortable and fast driving. The Dynamic Stability and Traction Control (DSTC) system in the all-new Volvo V40 includes several sophisticated features that offer a unique blend of driving pleasure and safety. To improve safety, the new V40 is equipped with a number of additional functions, which are an integral part of the vehicle. Some of these are developments of the existing ones, others are completely new.

PEDESTRIAN PROTECTION

In order to mitigate the consequences if a collision with a pedestrian is unavoidable, the Volvo V40 features newly developed Pedestrian Airbag Technology, a world first. It works like this: Sensors in the front bumper register the physical contact between the car and the pedestrian. The rear end of the bonnet is released and at the same time elevated by the deploying airbag. The inflated airbag covers the area under the raised bonnet plus approximately one third of the windscreen area and the lower part of the A-pillar. The raised bonnet and airbag will help reduce the severity of pedestrian injuries.

Wiktoria Łucki



Safety and comfort combined with a dynamic modern body are the basic characteristics of the new Volvo V40.

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łów kryje innowacyjne rozwiązania i zaawansowaną automatykę, dzięki której urządzenia działają prawie samodzielnie, nie wymagając Twojego zaangażowania. Kontrolowane przez elektroniczne systemy, pracują wydajnie, skutecznie i cicho, zapewniając idealnie świeżą atmosferę w kuchni. Więcej informacji: www.siemens-home.pl

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SAVING DOESN'T HURT

Do you have a gold credit card, a big house, and a good job? That's great, but I bet that even if you drive a company car, you still (albeit a bit out of habit) check how much fuel costs! How do I know that? Well, everyone does it. Today in the App Store new we will have a closer looks at several "fuel savers", i.e. applications which help us manage and save fuel.

To tell you the truth, the assumption that even company presidents are interested in fuel cost, is neither bold nor revolutionary. If car fuel was as cheap as in Venezuela (apparently only several cents per litre), you would probably didn't care about the cost. But the problem is huge, because almost everywhere else in the world, both petrol and diesel are extremely expensive. Let's compare. A litre of petrol costs PLN 6 – which is equivalent to a bottle of good beer, a loaf of good bread from a private bakery, a kilogram of peaches, or a packet of quality sausages. The price of 1 litre of fuel may not look pretty scary, but let's not forget that our cars consume this valuable liquid as if it was water! If we assume that an average car needs 10 litres of fuel per 100 kilometres, this means that

every visit to a petrol station will slim our wallet by PLN 200-400. However, if we succeed in lowering the cost by only a few zlotys per filling, then we might be able to buy more peaches, bread and beer! Simple, isn't it? How should we save? Some say that you need to learn eco-driving (a driving style, which helps reduce fuel consumption), while others may suggest that you replace your car (as if it was that simple). I, in turn, suggest downloading a few useful applications. They won't do any magic to your car to make it burn less fuel, but the information they provide may change your approach to your car and its fuel consumption. After all, there's a chance that thanks to smart software (this time downloaded for free), we will pay a bit less...



You know how much it costs? Don't waste a drop

MOJE AUTO



An app made in Poland by Go Virtual.pl. To use it, you need to enter basic vehicle data (tank capacity, type of engine, the additional LPG or CNG installation), fixed costs (insurance, repairs, car loan or lease instalments) and basic maintenance costs (changing fluids, tires, windshield wipers etc.) to calibrate the fuel consumption. Although the application doesn't explicitly teach you how to economize on fuel, it allows for the precise calculation of costs. I was especially impressed by the search engine which lists car insurance agents or tyre repair shops, and sends their coordinates to your satnav. It's invaluable when you have a flat tire.

A GLASS OF WATER



A simple app created by the Swedish unit of Toyota. It teaches you how to drive on a proverbial drop of fuel – that is how to drive economically (so called eco-driving). How is it done? Simply, yet very effectively: while driving you need to accelerate and brake in such a way that you don't spill even a drop of water from a virtual glass on the screen of your smartphone. At the same time, your phone calculates and stores a range of data (distance, driving time, average speed and fuel consumption), on the basis of which we can assess whether and to what extent we are able to gently handle the gas pedal. The application menu also features tips on general principles of eco driving.

Tires also save

LANXESS SAVE FUEL



From 1 November the tyre market will change - manufacturers will have to use new tyre labelling with featuring basic parameters of the rubber, including fuel efficiency. This means that the stickers on the tyre will tell us how energy efficient the rubber is. Lanxess, which supplies components to the automotive industry has presented a clever application in connection with this new law. It's not related to the GPS, but basing on the annual mileage, suggested fuel consumption, etc. it calculates how much money we can save by selecting tyres according to the labels. The app does a number of other things such as a service reminder and parking time alarm.

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4 HOURS IN... HELSINKI

Agata Janicka discovers a fascinating conglomeration of distinctive designs and delectable treats in 2012's World Design Capital



The 1960s was a time of great change for Finnish design. Kaj Franck, one of Finland's most noted designers, was in the midst of revolutionising the field by pioneering simple and elegant designs that stripped away any unnecessary clutter in order to maximise the utility of any given object. In fact, he famously said that "complexity is rarely wise, and it takes bravery and spirit to be simple".

The phenomenal Temppeliaukio Church or Rock Church echoes exactly that spirit, being simple in design but beautiful and intelligent nonetheless, capturing the essence of the era perfectly. The church, which opened in 1969, was designed by two brothers – Timo and Tuomo Suomalainen – and is carved straight into a giant slab of naturally exposed granite, hence the name. If cavemen had had churches, this would have been one – though this institution looks and feels more sophisticated than a Neanderthal site ever could.

Open daily; entry is free.

SENATE SQUARE

Take a bus or tram (Helsinki's citywide tram network is very convenient) down to the city's Senate Square and it's as if you've travelled back in time. Contrasting drastically with the uncomplicated but surprisingly contemporary design of the Rock Church, the Senate Square looks more romantic and grandiose due to the Russian influences at the time it was built.

The open plaza, which was designed by Carl Ludvig Engel in gilded neoclassical style, is comprised of the striking Helsinki Cathedral at its northern edge, Finland's Palace of the Council of State building on the eastern side and the University of Helsinki. It was built when the country was part of the Russian Empire - the intention was to upgrade Helsinki as the capital of Finland instead of Turku. At its centre stands a formidable statue of Emperor Alexander the Second, who eventually reformed the country in a way that helped liberate it from Russian rule. Open daily; free entry.



Kaj Franck, one of the most significant designers in Finland, famously said: "complexity is rarely wise, and it takes bravery and spirit to be simple."

SALUTORGET AND THE MARKET SQUARE

Head south from Senate Square and you'll end up at the city's South Harbour, where the Market Square is located. The market sells all kinds of knick-knacks, from quirky souvenirs to fresh fruit, all enhanced by the picturesque backdrop of yachts and small boats lazily floating around the pier under – if you're lucky – clear, crisp blue skies. You'll also come across an interesting statue of a naked mermaid – the Havis Amanda – standing in the middle of waterspewing sea lions. The statue was introduced after women got the right to vote back in 1906, drawing heavy controversy not only because it was seen as inappropriate, but also because it seemed to objectify women at a time when they were seeking equality. The market is open from Monday to Saturday from 6.30am to 3pm as well as on the first Sunday of every month.

At one corner of the Market Square, directly behind the naked lady, lies the elegant Salutorget restaurant that has been around since 1830. The building first housed regular stores before becoming a bank, then eventually transforming into its current form. The restaurant not only serves excellent international cuisine but is decked out with

incredible décor and art, such as the large glass mural of two peacocks that greets customers from the far end of the interior. The restaurant and bar are open from Monday to Friday between 11am and midnight, between 12pm and midnight on Saturdays, and on Sundays between 12pm and 5.30pm. www.salutorget.fi

ESPLANADI

After a delightful lunch at Salutorget a little shopping might be appropriate, and coincidentally the restaurant lies at the end of Esplanadi – the city's major shopping artery. Not only will you find the flagship stores of major shopping brands lining the entire street – think Louis Vuitton and Chanel – but also several renowned local brands such as Iittala and Meri Mekko. Esplanadi is also dotted with several alfresco cafés and, on sunny days, rocking with talented buskers. The parallel street is also great for shopping, with more local stores and shopping malls.

KARL FAZER CAFÉ

No trip down Esplanadi would be complete without a stop at the Karl Fazer Café – the flagship café, founded in 1891, of Finland's most famous chocolatier. Located just off Esplanadi on Kluuvikatu Street, the café's

vintage décor and feel have been retained with an interesting display of all the chocolate wrappings and candy boxes used in the past. The amount of chocolates and candies in-store astonishes, leaving anyone in awe whether or not you have a sweet tooth.

It also serves coffee and lunch items and is equipped with free wifi internet access – all you need is a password, which appears on the receipt. The café is open Monday to Friday from 7.30am to 10pm; 9am to 10pm on Saturday and 10am to 6pm on Sunday. www.fazer.com

DESIGN MUSEUM

From here, take a short walk down to the city's Design Museum to top off your tour. A trip to this museum will bring you full circle back into the realm of Kaj Franck since it has a permanent exhibition on the story of Finnish design, which of course features Franck's work, philosophies and lasting influence. The exhibition walks you through the changes in design from the 19th century to the present day, covering everything from furniture design to Nokia.

Tickets for adults cost €8 (US\$10) and €3 (US\$4) for children. The museum is closed on Monday; it is open on Tuesday from 11am to 8pm and on Wednesday through Sunday from 11am to 6pm.



ASK PETER

Letters

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

To Paris with grandma

I'm flying to Paris with my grandmother who is an elderly and ailing person. She moves around in a wheelchair. What is such a flight like? Is the plane seat adjusted to the needs of a handicapped person? Do I have to pay extra for baggage? Apart from the wheelchair, each of us will also have two pieces of luggage.

Agnieszka

Dear Agnieszka,
Wheelchaired passengers are not an uncommon sight at an airport. Both airports and airlines are prepared to serve passengers who require special assistance. You should inform the airline about the wheelchair, the moment you make your reservation, not later than 24 hours before the flight. Airlines have 3 types of wheelchair, depending on the condition of the passenger: for the stairs, entrance and on board. The standard version is that a passenger is transported to the stairs and is able to go up and down from the plane. Passengers who can't climb the stairs on their own, are transported to the entrance by means of a special lift. It's the easiest when boarding take place via a special air bridge, because then a wheelchaired passenger can easily board the aircraft. However, it's not always possible. That's why, you need to assume that you will have to climb the stairs. There is also another group of wheelchairs, the so called on-board wheelchairs, which enable you to move around inside the plane. Such a service is usually available on wide-body aircrafts on long-haul flights and the passenger has to be accompanied by another person.

In your case, I would suggest the standard service with a ramp to the plane entrance. Your grandmother may ride up there in her own wheelchair or use one provided by the airport staff. You should fold your wheelchair and check it in as additional luggage. In Paris you will have it back. On the plane, your grandmother will get a seat next to the aisle, close to the exit. But it wouldn't be the one next to the emergency exit. It's good that your grandmother will be accompanied by you, as she might need assistance, for example to get to the bathroom. The plane crew can't be engaged in helping passengers - the accompanying person is obliged to do so.

Ordering a wheelchair is free of charge. Each person is allowed one piece of luggage and hand luggage. Transport of your wheelchair is also free of charge, as it's not counted as a part of luggage allowance.

Why stopover is cheaper

I often fly from London to Asia. Regardless of the fact that I buy tickets in advance or just before the flight, direct flights are always more expensive than those with a stopover. Airlines claim they have competitive prices, but it's cheaper when I change the plane. Why can't I buy a cheap ticket for a direct flight?

Marcin

Dear Marcin,
As the simplest economic principle has it, the price goes up when the demand increases. Direct flights are the most popular ones, both among businesspeople who have meetings to go to, and are pressed for time, as well as tourists, for whom travelling with a stopover is a nuisance (elderly people, no language skills, passenger traffic).. It's like in the old saying „time is money”. Routes between London and airports in Asia are served by numerous carriers. There are dozens of direct flights a day, and even more possible flights with a stopover. It's also reflected in the prices. You have to make a distinction between two things: fares published by the airlines (a theoretical price) and the availability of seats for a given fare during a particular flight (the actual price). Theoretically, all airlines have similar prices for each routes in each fare category. But they control the availability depending on the demand for a given flight. For example, in November a ticket from London to Hong Kong for a direct flight is available at £720 pounds (about €900), while return tickets for a stopover flight begin from £560 pounds (€700).

Don't expect this trend to change. Direct flights on long-haul routes will be popular, as long as there are people willing to choose the destination. That's why, it would be economically unreasonable to lower the prices. On the other hand, there are many people for whom the length of the flight and comfort are not that important. The price is the major criterion. That's why, you can expect greater availability of lower fares for stopover flights. These solutions aren't always economical for airlines, as much of the ticket money goes to pay airport taxes (in a stopover hub) and additional fuel charges, which don't bring much of a profit to airline companies.

So if your only criterion is the price - you have to expect a flight with a stopover. But you should keep checking the promotions on direct flights - sometimes you can find a cheaper ticket in low season.

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