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# HAPPY TRAVELS



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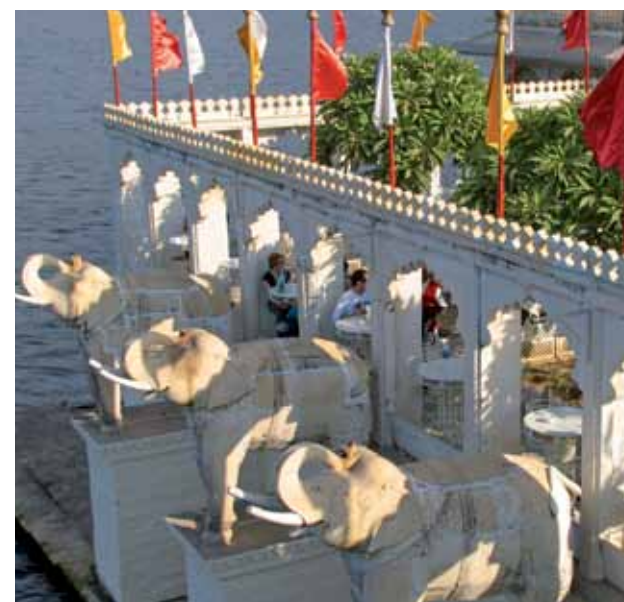
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# FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF ODYSSEUS

Many words have been written on the subject of happiness, fulfilment, and a tempestuous life. The Sumerian King Gilgamesh never ceased to travel, believing it will save him from death. Odysseus - the archetype of the “man the wanderer” – boldly took on the challenge, and ventured into the unknown. Ulysses, led by a desire to confront the inevitable, sailed beyond the Pillars of Hercules, the last frontier of the world known to him. This is because the ancient people believed that travels could enlighten your soul. Today, a lot of us get on a plane with a laptop, but also with an open mind, trying to analyse our business strategies or our lives. In the article entitled “Happy travels”, I hope to convince you that a journey is a good time to sort things out in your life.

I also encourage you to read the report from our annual Cellars in the Sky award ceremony. The competition was open to all passenger airlines, which fly from and to Poland, and 13 carriers decided to accept our invitation. I’m pleased to inform you that our panel of experts chaired by Tomasz Prange-Barczyński decided that the best wines are available on board aircraft belonging to Qatar Airways.

On my own behalf and on behalf of our Publisher, I would like to wish all the readers a wonderful and warm Christmas spent with your families. May the challenges of the New Year 2013 bring you a lot of satisfaction and happiness.

Marzena Mróz

Marzena Mróz  
Editor-in-Chief



SINGAPORE AIRLINES

# KLASA BUSINESS

NAJBARDZIEJ PRZESTRONNA JAKĄ WIDZIAŁ ŚWIAT

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



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Hotels

Carlson Rezidor Group

THE HOTEL GROUP OF THE YEAR

The Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group has been honored as Hotel Group of the Year at the Worldwide Hospitality Awards 2012. At the gala event in Paris, Trudy Rautio, president & chief executive officer, Carlson, and Kurt Ritter, president & chief executive officer, Rezidor, received the prestigious trophy for the group's outstanding achievements in four complementing areas: development, innovation, human resources, and business performance.

"The Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group launched earlier this year in January. To be awarded as the world's best hotel company in our first year is a great honour. It is a fantastic compliment to our team-work around the globe. Our dedicated people have proven that our 'Yes I Can!' philosophy resonates around the world – a huge thank you to all our 80,000 employees in 81 countries", said Trudy Rautio and Kurt Ritter.

The Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group is a strategic partnership of Carlson, one of the largest privately held hospitality companies worldwide, and Rezidor, one of the fastest growing hotel companies worldwide. The group's portfolio features more than 1,300 hotels and a powerful set of brands (Radisson Blu, Radisson®, Park Plaza®, Park Inn by Radisson, Country Inns & Suites by CarlsonSM, Hotel Missoni, and Regent). Through a number of joint revenue activities, Carlson Rezidor aims to generate more than US\$ 400 million in additional revenue and a RevPAR Index increase of more than nine points by 2015.

In Europe, the Middle East and Africa, the group's success can be credited to the leadership of Kurt Ritter, Rezidor's president & chief executive officer. Managing the company since 1989, Swiss-born Ritter has created an entrepreneurial, dynamic and innovative group. Throughout the industry, he is admired for his charisma, his genuine belief in hospitality, and his straightforward approach. Ritter will retire at the end of the year – succeeded by Wolfgang M. Neumann – and will serve as a strategic advisor to Carlson during 2013.

The Worldwide Hospitality Awards were created by Georges Panayotis, president & chief executive officer, MKG Group. It's an international competition and opportunity for hotel groups to highlight their exemplary achievements. The jury for the "grand prix" for the Hotel Group of the Year consists of the readers of the renowned trade magazine Hospitality-On.

Airline

Eurolot

SALZBURG IS WAITING FOR SKIERS

The city of Mozart attracts with its views, snow-covered slopes, and well-prepared ski runs. Now a trip there will take only two hours thanks to Eurolot, which on 1 December launched regular connections from Warsaw and Gdańsk to Salzburg.

"Statistics show that 50% of the Poles who travel abroad are interested in active winter recreation, while 20% of them are planning a trip to Austria," says Mariusz Dabrowski, the CEO of Eurolot SA.

The airline offers flights every Saturday from 1 December 2012 to 30 March 2013. The route will be operated by modern Bombardier Q400 NextGen aircraft. The fares are also tempting, starting at PLN 199. Children under 2 years of age travel free of charge, while those under 18 years of age are eligible for a 50% discount.

Coffee

MK Cafe Premium

NEW EDITION

Coffee enthusiasts will certainly like the new packaging of MK Cafe Premium, inspired by latte art. In addition to the visual qualities, the limited can is also very practical, as the coffee stored in it remains fresh and aromatic for a longer period of time. The limited edition of MK Cafe Premium is available in selected stores at PLN 19



Tourism

Norway

UNIQUE ATTRACTIONS OF THE FJORDS

Everyone knows how appealing the Land of Fjords is in summer. But what about the autumn and winter? Contrary to stereotypes, that region of Norway has a lot to offer, especially in the first half of the winter.

If, however, you are short of ideas on what to do there, you can always go to 'Visit Norway' website to get some inspiration. With convenient and affordable air connections from Bergen and other cities in the region, you can plan your stay much easier than a few years ago.

A visit to Bergen can be combined with an amazing trip called 'Norway in a Nutshell' – on which you will see the most interesting features of the Norwegian countryside. The trip is done by train, bus, ferry and one of the steepest standard gauge lines in the world - Flamsbana.

Thrill lovers will probably want to visit Voss – the world's capital of extreme sports. A hike on the glacier, for example in the frontal zone of Nigardsbreen glacier, will also be quite a challenge. Even ordinary skiing close to the picturesque fjords, may be an unforgettable experience.



# EXPERIENCE MEETINGS

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## Airlines

### Lufthansa

#### WINTER SCHEDULE

This winter, the "City of Angels" will be closer than you expect. This December, Lufthansa's newest Jumbo Jet inaugurated the airline's direct connection from Frankfurt to Los Angeles. The new route is operated seven days a week. With Lufthansa it will also be easier now to explore the culture of Morocco, or visit the land of eternal spring – that is the Portuguese island of Madeira. The German carrier also offers a number of connections to Alpine ski resorts. Travelling with Lufthansa and regardless of your main checked luggage, you can now check one pair of skis or a snowboard without any additional fees.

## Fashion

### Goshico



#### ELEGANT HANDBAGS FOR EVERY OCCASION

GOSHICO is a Polish brand, which is well known for its bags with a unique design and high quality. Since 2008, the brand has been winning the hearts of fashion admirers around the world, offering a wide selection of styles and fabrics. The company was also one of the major forces behind felt fashion. Felt combined with folk ornaments has become widely successful, dominated the streets of cities and became a showcase of the Polish fashion abroad. The brand also designs quilted handbags as well as bags made of fabric or fur. In the near future, GOSHICO is planning to launch its new line of products made of luxurious leather and aimed at women who seeking balance between current trends and their own style. More details at: [www.goshico.com](http://www.goshico.com).

## Airlines

### Singapore Airlines

#### SIA ORDERS NEW AIRBUS AIRCRAFT

Singapore Airlines (SIA) has announced that it will order 25 more wide-body aircraft from Airbus, comprising five double deck A380s and 20 A350-900s. The aircraft will be operated on the carrier's long range and regional services, offering maximum comfort and efficiency for high density and medium capacity routes. The latest A380 order will be the third to be placed by the airline, bringing the total number of A380s ordered by SIA to 24. The airline, which was the launch operator for the A380, now has 19 aircraft in service, flying to 10 destinations in Europe, the US and the Asia-Pacific region from its Singapore base. The A350-900s will be used by the airline on both medium and long haul routes. "This major order will provide us with additional growth opportunities and is consistent with our longstanding policy of maintaining a young and modern fleet. It demonstrates our commitment to the Singapore hub, and our confidence in the strength of the market for premium full-service travel," said Goh Choon Phong, CEO, Singapore Airlines.



#### OD MIŁOŚNIKÓW ESPRESSO. DLA MIŁOŚNIKÓW ESPRESSO.



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[www.lavazzalive.com](http://www.lavazzalive.com) **LIVE**





## Airlines

### Qatar Airways

#### FIVE STARS OVER WARSAW

Qatar Airways, which is to launch its new connection from Warsaw on 5 December, welcomed the representatives of the local business environment, the tourism industry and the leading travel agencies, during the reception held in Amber Room restaurant. Some of the most notable guests included His Excellency Hadi Nasser Al-Hajri M.K. Al-Hajri – the Ambassador of the State of Qatar in Poland, and His Excellency Waleed Taher Radwan - the Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Poland. During the meeting, representatives of the only five-star airline present in the Polish market presented the offer of the carrier whose name is always associated with the highest quality and award-winning service. This year Qatar Airways scored a repeat win, being named the World's Best Airline in 2012 at the World Airline Awards. The carrier is a member of an exclusive group of the world's six five-star airlines. Qatar Airways attach great importance to the development of the European flight network, with particular emphasis on Eastern Europe. Ian Lovelock, the senior commercial manager for Eastern Europe at Qatar Airways, who hosted the event, said: "We are pleased to add Warsaw as the 122nd destination served by our airline. In this way, passengers flying from Warsaw have obtained a direct connection with Doha, but also with other major cities in the Middle East, Africa and the countries of Asia and the Pacific region. We are proud that with the launch of the Warsaw-Doha connection we can contribute to the development of the flight network and tourism in Poland. " Beginning 5 December, passengers can travel from Warsaw on board the comfortable Airbus A320 aircraft, where every seat is equipped with an interactive in-flight entertainment system, offering hundreds of films, television programmes and music channels. The flights to Qatar depart on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. You can book your ticket at [www.qatarairways.com/pl](http://www.qatarairways.com/pl) or at authorized travel agents.

## Hotel

### Hampton by Hilton

#### BUILDING HAS BEGUN

Hampton by Hilton has announced signing of a contract for construction of a new hotel in Warsaw. The property is to be put into use at the beginning of 2014. "We are continuously expanding our presence on the Polish market and the new hotel is a strategic step in the expansion of our business in Eastern Europe. We also welcome the cooperation with a well-known investor in the region S+B Gruppe AG," said Patrick Fitzgibbon, senior vice president of Business Development, Europe, and Africa. The Austrian investor S+B Gruppe AG invests in Vienna, Prague, Bucharest, and Warsaw. The new project started in Poland involves construction of Hampton by Hilton in 72 Wspólna Street. The building will have



300 rooms and will be one of the biggest hotels of this brand in the world. It will feature a fitness centre, a business area with free wireless internet access throughout the hotel, as well as comfortable rooms equipped with Clean and Fresh Hampton Beds. The Hampton Warsaw will have three conference rooms and an underground car park. Guests will also be able to take advantage of such amenities as complimentary breakfast and a 24-hour bar. Within a few years after the opening of the first Hilton Worldwide property in Poland, the number of hotels of this brand will rise to 15, thereby creating jobs for about 500 people.



## Sopot

### Da Vinci

#### THE NEW ATELIER

In November 2012, Da Vinci launched in Sopot its new atelier, following the success of the ones in Tczew and Warsaw. The leading Polish manufacturer of upscale clothing once again opted for direct customer service in comfortably furnished interior, away from the crowds of typical malls. In Da Vinci atelier, customers will be able to order made to measure shirts, made of over 600 types of best Italian fabrics. The company offers 42 models of collars and 12 types of cuffs. You can also have a monogram embroidered on it. The offer of the atelier includes tailor-made suits from many excellent fabrics, such as Valentino, Loro Piana, Cerruti, Scabal, and Vitale Barberis Canonico. Da Vinci offers meetings with a stylist to help you choose the right style, colour, and accessories to your suit. Also ladies will find there something for themselves – the collection of ready-made products includes elegant, silk evening blouses as well as classic business shirts. In the atelier, you can also buy ready-made men's shirts and select the accessories: ties, bow ties, cufflinks, and shoes by Magnanni. The offer of Da Vinci is aimed at demanding customers who value good quality, contemporary style and like to shop in comfortable environment. The atelier in Sopot is located at Grunwaldzka Street 23/1. [www.davinci.pl](http://www.davinci.pl)

## Airlines

### Aeroflot

#### THE 100TH AIRBUS A330 FOR THE RUSSIAN CARRIER

Aeroflot, the Russian national carrier, has taken delivery of another A330-300, which will become the 100th Airbus aircraft to enter service with the airline. Powered by Rolls-Royce Trent 700 engines, Aeroflot's A330-300 features a spacious and comfortable two-class cabin layout seating 296 passengers (28 in business and 268 in economy class). Aeroflot plans to deploy the aircraft on numerous routes on its medium and long-haul network. Aeroflot was the first airline in Russia to operate the A310, with an entry into service in 1992, as well as the first to operate the A320 Family (in 2003) and the A330 Family (in 2008). Currently the airline operates a fleet of 79 A320 Family aircraft and with the present delivery 21 A330 Family aircraft. The A330 Family, which spans 250 to 300 seats, and includes Freighter, VIP, and Military Transport/Tanker variants, has now attracted more than 1,200 orders, with around 900 aircraft flying with some 90 operators worldwide. Ever since the original version of the A330-300 entered service, the hallmark has been its very efficient operating economics. Thanks to the introduction of numerous product improvements, it still remains the most cost-efficient and capable aircraft in its class. The cabin is widely recognized as one of the quietest cabins in the sky offering a light spacious atmosphere, making flying less tiring and more pleasurable.

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Więcej na [www.tissot.ch](http://www.tissot.ch), infolinia: 22 256 81 47



# WHAT'S ON

The Most Anticipated Events in december 2012&January 2013

## NEW YORK PICASSO BLACK AND WHITE

The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, until 23 January 2013

Few artists have had such an enormous influence on works of next generations. This is probably the first exhibition, which presents the whole artistic life of Picasso. You will be able to see pictures from cubism period, portraits, nudes, and masterpieces from his last period of work, laced with eroticism. The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum has collected works scattered around the world from other museums, foundations and private collectors - many of them were never shown to the public. [www.guggenheim.org](http://www.guggenheim.org)



## WROCLAW THE JEWELS OF EUROPE, THE ŚRODA TREASURE

Wrocław, National Museum, until 30 December 2012

25 years ago, gold and silver coins were discovered during demolition of an old building in the town of Środa. The most precious of them was a wedding crown with sapphires, emeralds and pearls, which most probably belonged to Blanche of Valois, the first wife of Charles of Bohemia. The crown comes from the 14th century and is the only fully-retained jewel of this sort in the world. The treasure most probably came to Poland as pledge to loans, which Charles of Bohemia took from Jewish bankers in Środa Śląska. Next time you are in Wrocław, you must definitely see it. [www.mnwr.art.pl](http://www.mnwr.art.pl)



## VIENNA NEW YEAR'S CONCERT

Wiener Musikverein, 2-23 January 2013

TV broadcasts of this concert gather millions of viewers around the world, and those who were lucky to get the tickets, are willing to travel for hours to get to Vienna. „Lucky” is an appropriate word, because you can't simply buy the tickets, as they are drawn by lot. Between 2 and 23 January every year, registrations are accepted to take part in the drawing for tickets. Those who got the ticket claim it's worth it. You'll find the registration form at [www.wienerphilharmoniker.at](http://www.wienerphilharmoniker.at)



## LONDON HOLLYWOOD COSTUMES

London, Victoria & Albert Museum, until 27 January 2013

These are three exhibitions in one. Individual exhibits present the whole process of costume making - starting with the original concept, through the project to the final costume. Film enthusiasts shouldn't miss the dress worn by Judy Garland when she starred as Dorothy in „The Wizard of Oz”, or Charlie Chaplin's costume. You must also see dresses, which became legendary, like Holly's little black dress from „Breakfast at Tiffany's” and the green dress made from velvet curtain worn by Scarlett O'Hara in „Gone with the Wind”. Costumes from contemporary productions like „Avatar” or „Pirates of the Caribbean” are equally interesting.



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Powierzchnia gruntu: 1,6160 ha  
Przeznaczenie: usługowo - handlowe  
Cena wywoławcza: 14 000 000 PLN  
Przetarg: 09.01. 2013 r

ELEKTRYCZNOŚĆ WODA GAZ KANALIZACJA

ŚREM, ul. Sikorskiego



Powierzchnia gruntu: 0,1213 ha  
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Cena wywoławcza: 1 100 000 PLN  
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ELEKTRYCZNOŚĆ WODA GAZ KANALIZACJA

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Powierzchnia gruntu od: 0,1086 ha, 16 działek  
Przeznaczenie: mieszkaniowe  
Cena wywoławcza od: 700 000 PLN

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# HAPPY TRAVELS

Most people, after a stressful experience or some bad news, will have been told by a well-meaning person to “try to be philosophical about it”. But what does it mean, and can philosophy really help to improve our mental state?



Plenty has been written on the subject of living a happy, fulfilled life – from as far back as the ancient Greeks it has been hotly debated – but not everyone seriously asks themselves the kinds of questions that might lead them to making the best choices.

**HAPPY DANES**

The UN's first World Happiness Report prepared by Columbia University and published in April 2012 indicates that the happiest nations are the Danes, the Finnish, the Norwegians, the Dutch, and the Canadians. Poland ranked 53rd. The New Zealand and Australia rank eighth and ninth in well-being terms, and are the happiest countries in Asia-Pacific. The report also indicates that higher income does not guarantee more happiness, with other things such as relationships, community trust, mental and physical health, the quality of governance and rule of law making more of a difference. Even scientific measurements of happiness rely on subjective views though, since different things make different people feel good. Mental health can be defined in many ways – the dictionary might explain it as “the psychological state of someone who

is functioning at a satisfactory level of emotional and behavioural adjustment”.

**IS HAPPINESS OVERRATED?**

Ask a philosopher and they will take the concept further. Antonia Macaro, philosophical counsellor and co-writer of *The Shrink* and *The Sage* column in the Financial Times Weekend Magazine, says: “Often, we equate mental well-being with a feeling of happiness, but I think this ‘happiness as mood’ is overrated in our society. There are other things that are more important, like doing things we value and consider worthwhile, and having meaning in our life.” Mark Vernon, author of *Plato's Podcasts: the Ancients' Guide to Modern Living*, agrees happiness is overrated. “It comes and goes. If happiness means feeling good, which is probably the modern idea that we have, it wasn't really the idea the ancient Greeks had. The word that is often translated as happiness, *eudaimonia*, literally means ‘good godedness’, meaning a capacity to live life well, like the gods.” Sometimes that will involve pleasure, but sometimes it will involve the capacity to bear suffering, but suffering that can lead to better things. If you are a parent you will

know that having children will bring you a lot of pain but it will also brings deep fulfilment..”

**FLOW OF THE LANDSCAPE**

One modern philosopher bringing the subject into the mainstream is Alain de Botton. His works include *A Week at Heathrow Airport*, a “meditation on travel, work, relationships and our daily lives”, and *The Art of Travel*, which asks how we can find fulfilment from our trips abroad. “Journeys are the midwives of thought,” he writes in the latter. “Few places are more conducive to internal conversations than moving planes, ships or trains. There is an almost quaint correlation between what is before our eyes and the thoughts we are able to have in our heads: large thoughts at times requiring large views, and new thoughts, new places. Introspective reflections that might otherwise be liable to stall are helped along by the flow of the landscape.” Travel, it would seem, provides an excellent opportunity for “being philosophical”, and for the frequent flyer with many hours on a plane at his or her disposal, spending time contemplating one's own thoughts, or reading someone else's, may be highly benefi-



It seems that journeys are a great opportunity to philosophical musings. There is a delightful relationship between what we have before our eyes, and the thoughts that pop up in the recesses of our minds.





cial. Because we are physical beings, being on the way somewhere can be a wonderful moment to reflect on where we are headed in the more metaphorical sense. So rather than reaching for the in-flight entertainment, you could do a meditative reading. Read reflectively, slowly, allowing it to sink in and your own thoughts and responses to emerge.

LOVE AND WORK

Each of us wants security, support, the feeling of belonging to a community, as well as role models. We all struggle with the sense of alienation and loneliness. Philosophy can't miraculously solve all our problems but what it does urge us to do is to understand ourselves better. Being on the road or flying over 3,000 metres above the ground, we can look at our problems with a real distance. A thorough analysis of our life, identifying new priorities, assessment of a relationship, or creating a new business strategy needs proper concentration and the comfortable environment can only help. According to Anna Sobkowska - a psychologist specializing in existential psychotherapy - love and work are the two fundamental pillars of a satisfied life. We also need to build our self-consciousness, drawing on life experiences such as those obtained on our trips. "It's also hard to overestimate the impor-

tance of who we travel with. A suitable travel companion is a real treat," says Sobkowska.

THE WORLD'S HAPPIEST

The citizens of 156 countries were surveyed for the recent World Happiness Report. The report indicates that low taxes or a strong economy don't necessarily contribute to the feeling of happiness. Venezuela ranked in the top 20, while the economically troubled Greece ranked ahead of Poland. On the oth-

Trivia

Every year, more than 900 million people set on a journey, 60% of whom come from the 10 richest countries in the world. In the ranking of the most visited countries, France is an unquestionable leader (82 million visitors), followed by Spain (59 million), the U.S. (56 million), China (54 million), Italy (43 million), the UK (30 million), and Mexico (22 million). Poland ranked 15th. According to the World Tourism Organization, Germans spend most money on international travel (US\$ 82.9 billion dollars per year), followed by the Americans, the British, the Japanese, the French, the Italians and the Chinese. Tourists spend most money in the U.S. (almost US\$ 100 billion per year), Spain (US\$ 57.8 billion) and France (US\$ 54.2 billion).

er hand, the poorest countries such as Togo, Benin, and Central African Republic are at the very bottom of the ranking. So, where is the key to happiness? It turns out that in some countries the happiness of citizens increases in direct proportion to the increase in the standard of living. The biggest cause of unhappiness is the threat of unemployment. Happy people are those who are satisfied with their job - not necessarily with a high salary. "Reasonable working hours which allow us for normal family life, are also of utmost importance," says John Helliwell, the co-author of "World Happiness Report". Since 1960 the GDP per capita in the USA has tripled, but the happiness index in this country hasn't changed. On the other hand, it's hard to deny that the relationship between our wealth and the sense of fulfilment does exist. Countries with the happiest citizens also score high in the global rankings of economic competitiveness. Sweden, which ranks 7th in the World Happiness Report, has also been recognized as the world's most competitive country in the report of the World Economic Forum. "It would be good if governments started taking seriously the results of these studies," - says John Helliwell. For now, only the Kingdom of Bhutan has decided to use the "World Happiness Report" index in place of the GDP, recognizing its importance.



We are physical beings, being on the way somewhere can be a wonderful moment to reflect on where we are headed in the more metaphorical sense.



# Rejsy marzeń

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WARSAW - SHANGHAI IN THE STYLE OF MARIMEKKO



CONTACT  
www.finnair.com

Some time ago, the Finnish national carrier decided to focus on the development of its flight network from Helsinki to Asia. The airline's strong point is its base - Helsinki Vantaa Airport. As it's located in the north of Europe, the distance that planes need to cover to Far East countries is considerably shorter than in case of those flying out of other European airports.

WARSAW - HELSINKI

The Warsaw-Helsinki flight takes off at 1.05 pm from Warsaw Okęcie Airport. The check-in desks are located on the right side of the new terminal. Business class passengers can check check in quicker with their priority pass. They can also use a security control checkpoint, which handles only premium

passengers. The checkpoint is close to Ballada business executive lounge, where they can wait for the departure. The lounge is open 24 hours a day. Last year it underwent a major renovation - now the walls are covered with wood panelling, and there are several comfortable leather sofas and chairs. The lounge offers a wide selection of cheese, cold meats, fruit, as well as tea and coffee, two types of wine, and cold drinks. There are also two computer stations with free internet access. Free wi-fi is available throughout the whole lounge - you can get the login info at the front desk. Keep in mind, however, that Ballada is a very small lounge, and I had trouble finding a place to sit there. The flight is operated by Embraer 190 aircraft with a typi-

cal 2-2 seat configuration. You board the plane through an airbridge, and the whole journey takes one hour and forty minutes. The first three rows of seats are reserved for business class passengers. If you check yourself in online, I strongly advise you to select a seat in the first row to get more legroom. The refreshments served on board consist of cooked salmon with potato puree, a selection of cheese, and a small dessert.

HELSINKI - SHANGHAI

The plane landed in Helsinki at 3.45 pm. Since the flight to Shanghai was scheduled for 5.10 pm, I had enough time to take a short tour around the Vantaa Airport. The locals praise it for its cosiness and modernity. Indeed, a walk to the newly built part of Terminal 2, from which

my Shanghai flight departed, took me less than five minutes. Along the way, I went through passport control. Business class passengers can take advantage of the excellent Finnair Lounge located in the non-Schengen area of the airport. Built in 2009, it's located between gates 36 and 37. You can enjoy here a sauna, a small spa, or simply take a shower. The lounge is spacious and can accommodate nearly 300 people. You will find here an excellent selection of food and beverages, as well as a wide selection of spirits, including a really good Prosecco and champagne. Free wi-fi is available throughout the whole lounge; there's also a wide selection of press from all over the world. There are plenty of electric sockets to recharge your laptop or mobile phone, but you can also charge them wirelessly. The solution consists of a charging transmitter, which is integrated within the coffee table, and a charging receiver, which is plugged into the device being charged. The charging receiver is the size of a small USB drive and they are available free of charge at the café. When the phone is placed on the table, the integrated transmitter identifies the charging need and automatically begins to charge the device. The lounge is close to gate 35, leading on board Airbus A340-300, which regularly operates the

Helsinki - Shanghai - Helsinki route. Passengers board the plane through an airbridge. A340-300 takes on board 269 passengers, including 42 in business class. This class is divided into two sections - the first one, which is closer to the cockpit, consists of 30 seats configured 2-2-2, while the second section has only two rows and is much cosier.

MENU

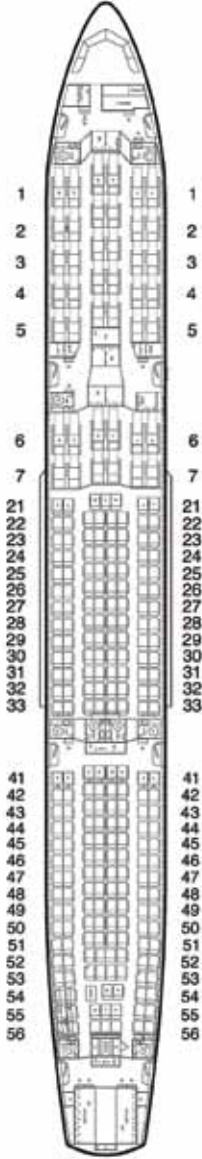
During the 8.5-hour flight from Helsinki to Shanghai, business class passengers were served two delicious meals - a warm dinner and breakfast (arrival in Shanghai at 7.15 am local time). The menu includes steak with vegetables, roasted chicken, as well as sole fish. There's also a wide choice of cheeses, fruits, and sweet desserts. It's worth noting that next spring Finnair's passengers are about to get a big treat, as the carrier announce a partnership with a well-known design company Marimekko. That's why, some Finnair's aircraft wear livery based on Marimekko floral designs. This will soon be followed by a range of similarly decorated textiles and tableware for use on board. I had an opportunity to test Finnair's new meals, which are largely prepared directly on the board. I recommend roasted salmon served with asparagus and spinach puree, as well as chanterelle soup.

The wine list is also impressive. For instance, you can enjoy champagne Joseph Perrier Cuvee Royale Brut year 2000. As for Italian white wines, I recommend Fabrizio Bianchi Chardonnay vintage 2009, while among the red ones the Valpolicella Classico Ripasso 2010 is worth trying. The Austrian Lenz Moser Prestige Beerenauslese dessert wine is also quite good.

VERDICT

The flight from Helsinki to Shanghai takes about 8.5 hours. Business class seats recline, but don't turn into fully flat beds. The complimentary traveller's kit consists of a blanket, travel socks and a sleep mask. Those who can't sleep, can turn on the onboard IFE, to watch the most recent movies, for example "To Rome with Love" directed by Woody Allen. The return flight takes more than 10 hours and departs from Terminal 2. It's worth taking advantage of Finnair's offer, not only because of the quality of service, but also the relatively short flight. The fare is also favourable. We have checked several return connections offered on Warsaw-Helsinki-Shanghai route, and those offered by Finnair were almost PLN 3,000 cheaper than connections offered by its big European rivals.

Filip Gawryś



Thanks to the collaboration with Marimekko, some Finnair's aircraft wear now livery based on the famous floral designs.



# GENERAL DE GAULLE’S SUITE



**CONTACT**  
ul. Powstańców Warszawy 12/14  
Sopot  
tel. 58 520 60 00  
[www.sofitel.com](http://www.sofitel.com)

**PRICE**  
PLN 4,100 PLN (about €1,000)  
per night.

A presidential suite is a mark of every luxurious hotel. It’s usually carefully designed to cater for the needs and comfort of even the most demanding guests. It’s also the case with the unique General de Gaulle Suite in Sofitel Grand Sopot hotel - a counterpart of the presidential suite.

## THE LEGEND OF THE PLACE

The majority of guests who decide to stay in the suite named after the French president, do it because he was a legendary figure and always surrounded by important personages.

Charles de Gaulle himself spent here a night on 9 September 1967. Especially for him a bed was brought from the National Museum in Warsaw, as the standard one turned out to be too short. Among the visitors who stayed in the legendary room 224 were: Ignacy Mościcki, Władimir Putin, Fidel Castro, Alfonso XIII of Spain, the Spanish prime minister Jose Louis Zapatero, as well as numerous film and pop stars including Omar Sharif, Greta Garbo, Annie Lennox, Helena Vondrackowa, Prince or Marlena Dietrich. This alone makes the thought of staying there a wonderful experience.

## HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY

What makes a visit in this suite truly unforgettable? What makes this room different from others? It’s its size, majesty and interior design. All the furniture pieces are antique and come from 1920’s. They make the place more atmospheric, and fascinating allowing you to go back in time. The main colours are golden, red, and claret. Huge ornamented crystal mirrors make you feel as if you were in a royal chamber. A beautiful, carved secretaire stimulates your imagination so much, that it’s easy to forget about current means of communication and

dream about writing a letter on beautiful stationery. However, the room is far from lacking technological facilities. The suite comes with the best Bose sound system, TV, a telephone and wireless Internet connection.

## A WELCOMING BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE

Despite its grandeur, the interior is cosy and warm. In one of the “chambers” there is an antique chest of drawers of unique size. Upon it, there is a plate of fruit, sweet delicacies, and a cooled bottle of champagne as a welcoming gift. The walls are decorated with beautiful pictures depicting floral compositions and photographs of general de Gaulle. The room oversees the sea and historical pier of Sopot. The beauty of the view is second to none, especially at night. The Charles de Gaulle suite is over 110 square metres. Guests staying here have access to two bedrooms,

each with a separate bathroom equipped with top quality cosmetics by Hermès. One of the bathrooms comes only with a bathtub, the other one with a bathtub as well as a shower. In each bedroom, there is a huge wardrobe, where you can even keep baggage of a really large size.

In the first bedroom there are two comfortable beds by Sofitel MyBed™, which can be drawn together to act as one giant bed. In the second one, there is a King Size bed also by Sofitel MyBed™. Both bedrooms are connected with a living room of 30 square metres, with an adjacent restroom with a washbasin. A beautiful golden round golden table with a marble surface, a stylish sofa and two armchairs are sign of a nice day, especially if you start it with a delicious breakfast, freshly ground coffee and a morning newspaper. A grand golden glass case, where you can see elements of antique hotel tableware contributes to

the charming atmosphere of the place, and makes you feel you are at home. In the very same room, there is a telescope you can use to observe the sky. One of the great advantages of this presidential suite is an enormous terrace stretching for the entire width of the suite.

## VERDICT

A stay in this historical and unique General de Gaulle suite in Sofitel Grand Sopot is a great pleasure and an unforgettable experience, which makes you feel as if you were following in the footsteps of well-known personages. A night in the legendary suite will make you understand the very meaning of the word ‘luxury’ from the first moment. You will feel unique and one of the kind, and the price includes transfer from the airport. Friendly staff is at your disposal and makes you feel the sky is the limit. I recommend it to everyone.

Joanna Błaszczak



It’s a great pleasure and an unforgettable experience, which makes you feel as if you were following in the footsteps of well-known personages. A night in the legendary suite will make you understand the very meaning of the word ‘luxury’ from the first moment. You will feel unique and one of the kind.



# HOTEL LE PALAIS



## CONTACT

U Zvonarky 1  
CZ-120 00 Prague  
tel. (+420) 234 634 600  
fax (+420) 234 634 635  
e-mail: gm@palaishotel.cz  
www.palaishotel.cz

## PRICES

starting at €159

## WHAT'S IT LIKE?

The capital of the Czech Republic - a picturesque city picturequely with fascinating history - offers visitors more than 60 five-star hotels. I decided to stay there in a boutique hotel named Le Palais and owned by Vienna International Hotels. Le Palais was launched in 2002, and since then it has hosted numerous famous guests including Carlos Santana, Boney M, Iron Maiden, Salma Hayek, Prince Albert of Monaco and Vaclav Klaus. This is one of the finest examples of the Belle Époque in Prague. In the early years 1900s, an ordinary apartment building was extended according to

plans made by an architect Josef Martin. The building owes its splendour to Antonin Chmel - a famous producer of ham who funded the reconstruction work. The splendid frescos in the suites were created by the famous painter Ludek Marold. The frescos on their own convey to the observer the exuberant joie de vivre of the Belle Époque. The interior design was taken care of by Veronika Jurkowsch who was able to preserve the style and charm of an old house. Just right next to the entrance to the hotel, there's a sculpture of a woman sitting on a bench, while at the reception desk there's a sculpture of a dog

friendly welcoming newcomers. Both are the works by a Czech sculptor Ley Vivot. I must admit that they add up to the warm, almost homely atmosphere of the place. Shortly after checking in, I was invited to a welcome drink in the cosy lobby bar. Then, on the way to my suite I popped into the library. Decorated in the colours of green and burgundy, with a lovely view of the terrace and the city of Prague, it's full of old books in various languages.

## WHERE IS IT?

The hotel is located in the most exclusive district of Prague - Vinohrady. Le Palais is the most luxurious five-star property near the city's Congress Centre, located 18 km from the airport and just a 10-minute walk from Wenceslas Square and the National Museum. The nearest underground stations are Pavlova (line C) or Namesti Miru (line A). You can easily reach Wenceslas Square, taking a shuttle bus which runs several times a day. There is also a paid BMW limousine service from the hotel to the airport, which costs about €50. The hotel has its own, paid car park (€30 per day).

## ROOMS

The hotel offers 72 rooms, including 16 Superior rooms (26 sq m) with Queen-size beds, 30 Deluxe rooms (29 sq m) with King-size beds, 14 Executive rooms (34 sq m) with King-size beds, 4 Petite suites (42-75 sq m) with double beds, and 8 Executive suites (56-94 sq m) with separate bedrooms and lounges. There are also three La Palais Royal Suites (134-190 sq m) with 3 to 5 bedrooms, the Belvedere Royal Suite (190 sq m) with 4 bedrooms, the Belle Époque Royal Suite (190 sq m)



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## Hotel



The hotel is one of the finest examples of the Belle Époque in Prague. Expanded and modernized, it retains the charm of the old house.



### AWARDS

Since its launch, the hotel has won many prestigious awards including 2012 World Travel Award, Czech Republic's Leading Boutique Hotel 2011, 2011 SENSES Award - Best City Boutique Spa, TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Award.

with 5 bedrooms, and finally the Presidential Suite. The rooms and suites are masterpieces of interior design. All of them come with air conditioning, free internet access, plasma TVs, safes, complimentary mini-bars, Nespresso coffee makers and a selection of tea. Bathrooms are spacious and feature heated floors, hair-dryers, and sets of miniature cosmetics by Molton Brown. Other amenities include comfortable bathrobes and slippers.

I, however, was most impressed by the most minute details. For instance, each room comes with a set of old books and a cookbook (which you can buy at the reception), and on their arrival guests can expect fresh apples and chocolates waiting for them on the table of their room. I also took advantage of the shoe shining service. The next day, I was delighted with the shiny look of my boots. My Bellevue Suite consisted of a hall (with the famous frescoes

## PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

by Ludek Marold), a lounge with a TV, and a dining area. The windows overlooked the garden, and in the distance I could see the rooftops and the Vysehrad cathedral. Double doors led to the bedroom with two beds. The bedroom featured a desk with a TV, a small table with 2 chairs, as well as a comfortable bathroom with a tub, a shower cabin, heated floor, and a set of cosmetics by Molton Brown.

### BUSINESS FACILITIES

The ground floor houses a stylish and well well-equipped conference room for 80 people. Here you can organize all kinds of conferences, events, business and private meetings. The room has direct access to the natural light.

### THE RESTAURANT AND THE BAR

Le Papillon restaurant serves buffet breakfast in the morning. At lunch and dinner time, you can enjoy here healthy dishes from around the world. In summer breakfasts and dinners are served on a large terrace with the view over Prague.

### SPA

Guests have access to a mini spa offering jacuzzi, a Turkish bath and a fitness room. The spa in Prague is known for its face and body treatment as well as natural cosmetics by St.Barth. The cosmetics come from the island of St. Bartholomew in the French Caribbean and are made from natural plant extracts. You can also buy them at the hotel. For more information on treatment options go to the hotel's website. For more info about the cosmetics, go to [www.lignestbarth.com](http://www.lignestbarth.com).

### VERDICT

A refined, elegant, atmospheric and peaceful oasis located far from the hustle and bustle of the city. Outstanding service.

**Katarzyna Siekierzyńska**

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**AIR MAURITIUS**



# PRESIDENTIAL SUITE – A LUXURY WITH A VIEW



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Warsaw  
tel. +48 22 328 8820  
fax +48 22 328 8805  
e-mail: warsaw@ihg.com  
www.warsaw.intercontinental.com

**D**id you know that if you have ever wished to stay for a night or two in the very neighbourhood of the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw, you can easily realize this dream? This is because InterContinental hotel is within easy reach of the Palace. The building of the hotel is quite conspicuous, as the soaring skyscraper has a visible empty space in the structure, which extends over several floors. This unusual design was necessitated by the building code, but thanks to this the construction is now one of the most recognizable buildings in the Polish capital. This modern five-star

hotel was launched almost 10 years ago and during that time it has earned a deserved reputation as a comfortable or even luxurious establishment with excellent service and a unique atmosphere.

## ROOMS

InterContinental offers 414 rooms, including 22 suites and 78 residential suites for guests who stay in the hotel for a longer period of time and so may need a more homely atmosphere. The rooms are spacious, are at least 34 sq m large, and come with queen (152x203 cm), king (183x203 cm) or twin beds. All of them feature air conditioning, telephone (also in the bath-

room), satellite TV with movie channels and a wide range of news channels, safe and high-speed Internet access.

At the request of guests the hotel provides additional items of equipment for children, such as cots, high chairs, or changing tables.

The hotel caters for all guests, even the four-legged ones. For instance, guests staying with their cats can receive a litter box.

## PRESIDENTIAL SUITE

Located on the 40th floor, the 170 sq m Presidential Suite offers a view that will simply make your jaw drop. If you still doubt the charm of the Polish capital, you should definitely stay in

the suite for at least one night. On a clear day, from the windows of its living room you will be able to see Poniatowski Bridge and the National Stadium, while at night you'll be treated with the spectacle of lights shimmering in the distance. However, the view, even if the most beautiful, isn't everything. The suite offers also other amenities.

From the large hall you enter a spacious dressing room and then the living room. The windows look more like a glass wall and the whole place is decorated in warm shades of brown, which immediately creates a cosy atmosphere. Double doors lead into the dining room, which can also be used as a small conference room. Next to it there's a small but well-equipped kitchenette with cooker, microwave, fridge and even a dishwasher. The cupboards contain crockery as well as pots and pans.

The second double doors lead from the living room to the study which is connected to the hall, so it can serve as a reception area. Through the next door you enter the most private room in the suite - the bedroom. It features a double bed, a TV, two wardrobes, chest of drawers and chaise longue. The floor is covered with elegant carpeting. If necessary, the suite can be



extended by an additional bedroom.

The bathroom (with a tub and shower) is covered with chocolate marble and equipped with everything you could need, including a toothbrush, dental floss and shaving brush.

## OTHER AMENITIES

Guests staying in the Presidential Suite have free access to Club Lounge situated on 41st floor. In the morning you can have breakfast there, while during the day it offers snacks, as well as coffee, tea or fruit juice. The 43rd floor houses the Riv-

erView Wellness Center. The centre features a hot tub, sauna, and steam room. There's also a gym and even... a swimming pool. A hotel pool may not be a big novelty, but this one situated at the very top of the building!

## VERDICT

It's a great place to stay, regardless of whether you come to Warsaw only for one night or plan an extended stay. The hotel is located right in the centre and is well communicated. The Presidential Suite will satisfy the most demanding guests.

*Joanna Krzyczkowska*



This modern five-star hotel was launched almost 10 years ago and during that time it has earned a deserved reputation as a comfortable or even luxurious establishment with excellent service and a unique atmosphere. The Presidential Suite is the essence of luxury.



# BEST WESTERN OLD TOWN



## CONTACT

Hotel Best Western  
Kraków Old Town  
ul. Św. Gertrudy 6  
31-046 Cracow  
tel. + 48 12 269 14 08  
fax +48 12 269 15 60  
[www.rthotels.com.pl](http://www.rthotels.com.pl)  
[www.bwkrakow.pl](http://www.bwkrakow.pl)

## PRICE

double room - from PLN 269

## AWARDS

Best Hotel Award 2011 awarded  
by [www.rezerwuje.pl](http://www.rezerwuje.pl)  
Certificate of Excellence awarded  
by [tripadvisor.com](http://tripadvisor.com) for services  
at the highest level  
Recommendation of FORBES  
magazine

## WHAT'S IT LIKE?

The hotel has an interesting history and its location is just perfect. Designed in 1875 by Filip Pokutyński with a lovely eclectic façade, it originally functioned as Klein Hotel, offering 25 rooms. It was also the venue for the First Congress of Polish Women in 1905. In the post-war years it continued to operate as "Monopol" until 2002, when it was decided to add another floor, thus increasing the number of rooms to 74. In 2010, RT Hotels took over the hotel and expanded it once again.

This new part of the building was designed by Adam Inwald and Maciej Jasica - young designers from 8PM studio. The interior is decorated in an avant-garde style in three colours: white, black and grey. Some interesting features include wallpapers depicting musical instruments, ultra-modern illumination in 30 colours, as well as modern furniture, which perfectly complement the décor. Hallways and staircases received similar decoration, creating a coherent artistic whole with a series of jazz posters.

Downstairs, near the recep-

tion area, there is a cosy "Monopol" restaurant. There is also a lounge with a selection of press, as well as a computer workstation and two conference rooms named "Kameralna" and "Parkowa". The rooms are equipped with a professional and modern AV equipment, and can accommodate between 45 to 65 people.

In 2011, the hotel joined the world's largest hotel family Best Western and was rebranded in Best Western Old Town.

## WHERE IS IT?

The hotel is located in the centre of Cracow, near the Planty Park, just a 5-minute walk from the Small and Main Market Square, 8 minutes from the historic Jewish quarter of Kazimierz, 10 minutes from the Wawel Castle and many other tourist attractions.

## ROOMS

The hotel offers 92 rooms, 74 of which are decorated in classic style including 55 standard rooms and 19 lux rooms. Those featuring avant-garde "JAZZ" décor are 15 premium rooms and 3 superior ones. Half of

the rooms overlook the Planty Park and St. Gertrude street, while the other half have a view of the summer garden and the car park. Some guests complain about the morning noise, but the location of the hotel makes up for all these inconveniences.

My room was a double lux and overlooked the courtyard and the car park, so I didn't hear any street noises. The room was decorated in shades of brown and beige, with solid furniture, very comfortable beds and thicker mattresses.

Lux, premium and superior rooms also feature leisure area with a small table, two armchairs and coffee and tea making facilities. The bathroom was spacious and had a shower cabin, as well as a hair dryer. All rooms come with LCD TVs, radio clocks, free internet, while Premium and Superior rooms also feature air conditioning and a sophisticated illumination system which can change colour.

## VERDICT

It's a nice 3-star hotel. Great location. Kudos to the designers for the bold "JAZZ" wing.

*Katarzyna Siekierzyńska*

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tel: (81) 880 99 99  
www.krolkazimierz.pl

The modern Król Kazimierz hotel, which was adapted from a 17th century granary, is a truly atmospheric establishment. You won't be bored staying there, regardless of whether you've come here for a romantic weekend, a conference or an incentive trip.

## ROOMS AND SUITES

The hotel offers 103 comfortable guest rooms and 12 suites. The suites are situated in the historic granary – each of them is unique, stylish and offers a different atmosphere. All the suites come with a king size bed, sofa and chairs, a work desk, an LCD TV, as well as free access to the Internet. You can also rent a conference suite with a table for 12 people. The suite can be combined with the adjoining Esterka and Król Kazimierz suites. Prices start at PLN 510 per night in a single room with breakfast, to PLN 1,500 for the Royal Suite.

## BUSINESS FACILITIES

The hotel is well suited for organizing small parties and meetings, as well as large conferences combined with banquets. Seven

air-conditioned, modern conference rooms can be combined, resulting in a total space of 1,000 sq.m.

All the rooms come with an overhead projector, wireless internet, and a flipchart. At the request of organizers, the hotel can also provide computers, laptops, public address systems, LCD and OHP projectors, TVs, VCRs, DVD players, a camera, and equipment for simultaneous interpretation.

Renting a 100 sq m conference room for 5 hours costs PLN 1,900.

## LEISURE FACILITIES

The spa zone comprises the Blue Lagoon pool which features so-called 'bubble beds' and 'geysers'. The water surface is illuminated, which - especially in the evening - creates a special atmosphere. Those who love hot temperatures will be eager to visit dry sauna as well as steam bath with aromatherapy. Finally, the so-called "shower experience" will let you experience arctic and tropical rains, as well as a sea breeze.

The hotel also offers beauty treatment performed with cosmetics

by such companies as: Bioline, Maria Galland, Selvert Thermal, and Organique.

The choice of treatments is wide, ranging from herbal and aromatherapy baths, through tropical rituals, to detoxifying, anti-aging, and anti-cellulite programmes. I recommend the chocolate massage with cocoa butter, which nourishes, strengthens and slims the body (PLN 250 for a 60 min session).

A nourishing face treatment called 'firming cocoon' is also quite popular. It improves the quality of collagen and elastin fibres in the face and smoothes wrinkles (PLN 230 for a 60 min session).

## VERDICT

It's a modern, luxury hotel, offering delicious cuisine based mainly on Polish recipes. The breakfast buffet is more than spectacular, and the products made by the hotel's patisserie are simply delicious. The picturesque location of the hotel is another highlight - it overlooks the Vistula river and is close to the renowned square market and the historic castle.

Marzena Mróz



The modern Król Kazimierz hotel, which was adapted from a 17th century granary, is a truly atmospheric establishment.

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Hotel

WARSAW

# ENGLISH APARTMENT AND A JOURNEY INTO THE PAST



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www.poloniapalace.com

PRICES

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I'm in the very centre of vibrant and modern Warsaw, at the intersection of Marszałkowska and Aleje Jerozolimskie streets, which is the very core of the Polish capital. The double glass sliding door opens silently. I enter the building and simply can't believe my eyes. Is it Warsaw AD 2012 or Paris around a hundred years earlier? The glass-roofed courtyard is surrounded by creamy façades of houses with several dozens of tiny windows. Balcony railings are all covered with ivy, while cast-iron street lamps give off a soft light. The

only thing missing is an accordionist ... In the reception area, instead of a standard long counter, there are four rounded desks which make you feel welcome the very moment you enter the hotel.

TRADITION AND MODERNITY

It's hard to believe, but the Polonia Palace is a hundred years old. Built by Konstanty Przeździecki, it was launched in July 1913 and even at that time it amazed guests with its modern solutions. "160 rooms, central heating, electric lights,

lifts, bathrooms, hot and cold running water ..." - such facilities of the Polonia Palace were advertised as ground-breaking over a century ago. It was something to be proud of, especially taking into consideration the fact that at that time even the Bristol Hotel didn't have running water. That's why, Polonia Palace quickly became one of the most elegant places in Warsaw. The hotel restaurant with its "Plais-Dancing" dance floor hosted numerous parties and balls. No wonder that both before the WWII and after it, the place attracted many celebrities.

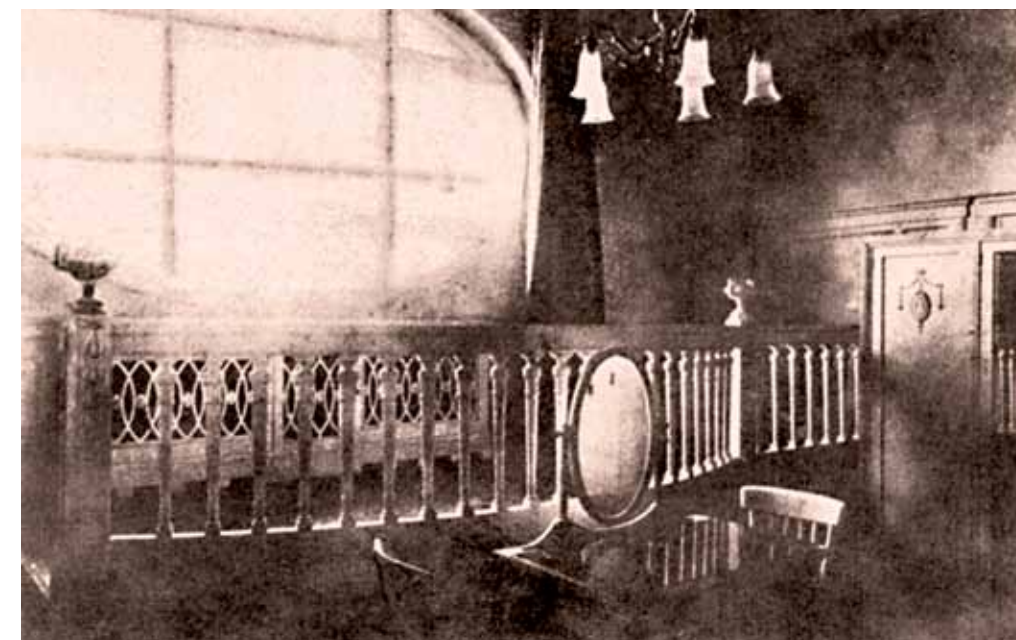
Some of the most notable ones included poet Maria Pawlikowska-Jasnorzewska, writer Stefan Żeromski, General Eisenhower, and in more recent times, Lech Wałęsa, Roman Polański and Miss World 2005 and 2006. A thorough, two-year renovation, which was completed in 2004, restored Polonia Palace to its former glory, at the same time making it even more comfortable. Hotel now has a mini spa, two saunas, a business centre and eight meeting rooms with a total area of 525 sq m. The largest and the most splendid one is the former ballroom, called Ludwikowska. It looks exactly like a hundred years ago, but it's also equipped with all the technological innovations. You can arrange there a business meeting or a conference, as well as a banquet, a fashion show, or even a wedding. Obviously WiFi is available throughout the whole area of the hotel. The access is charged unless your room is booked through the hotel website – in such a case WiFi is available free of charge.

ENGLISH APARTMENT

This place is unique. All other rooms are decorated in a typical business style i.e. tones of beige and warm brown. This one, however, is different. It's decorated in shades of blue with gold and white details, and features beautiful stylish dark wood furniture. The apartment is 110 sq m and surprises from the very entrance – a lovely staircase leads to the landing with a table, sofa, comfortable chairs and a large TV screen. On the side there's a small cabinet with a kettle. However, the most impressive is the oval window, which offers an unbelievable view of the city centre. In the lounge, there are also spacious closets, a kitchenette and bathroom. The apartment has two large bedrooms. Each of them features a large cupboard with a laptop safe, a small desk, a mir-



Konstanty Przeździecki arranged his hotel in the French style, but the furniture imported from England. That's why the most prestigious suite in the hotel is called the English Apartment.



ror with a console (which can serve as a dresser) and a huge bed. Since the bedrooms are very big, they also feature a resting area with a small table and armchairs - comfortably positioned in front of the TV. Each bedroom also has its own large bathroom with heated floors covered with tiles made of extremely rare, Portuguese orange marble. Despite its name,

it is more of a golden colour, which beautifully highlights the white equipment in the bathroom. Cosmetics are supplied by the renowned Chopard. The bathroom has another unique amenity - a speaker which is connected to the bedroom TV, so that you won't miss even a second of your favourite programme.

Joanna Krzyczkowska



# THREE COLOURS - GREEN



## CONTACT

ul. Pucka 10 b  
84-240 Reda  
tel. (+48) 58/7364800  
fax. (+48) 58/7364801  
e-mail: H9003@accor.com  
www.ibis.com

## PRICES

single room – PLN 220  
double/twin room - PLN 260  
family suite – PLN 420  
book on Tuesday to get a 50% discount for a weekend stay

ibis Styles Gdynia Reda is the first hotel of this famous brand in Poland. In October this year the establishment was rebranded from Wasko into ibis Styles. Ibis hotels have traditionally attracted visitors with their guaranteed quality, unified, modern style, and reasonable prices. The success of this chain resulted in separation of the ibis Styles brand, with its own green logo, which is characteristic of hotels offering the highest standard. Each hotel of this brand has its own individual style, and the basic offer of service features now breakfast and Internet access included in the price of the stay.

## WHERE IS IT?

The hotel is located only 12 kilometres from Gdynia in Pucka Street, Reda. The street is a trunk road leading to Władysławowo and the Hel Peninsula. The intersection with E6 trunk road, which leads to the Tricity, is only 200 metres away, while the nearest beach is slightly over 10 kilometres away. The hotel is situated on the bank of the Reda river. In summer, you can go on a kayaking trip on the river and reach the Bay of Puck. The hotel is also a partner of the nearby Sierra Golf Club.

## ROOMS

The hotel offers 84 twin and double rooms, as well as two

family suites with two bedrooms. All the rooms are well equipped, have free wi-fi access, as well as flat screen TVs and air conditioning. The bathrooms are bright and clean, with large walk-in showers. Each floor features rooms decorated in different colours – for instance, on the 2nd floor the most dominant are the tones of green. I recommend the rooms overlooking the river, as apart from the idyllic view, they guarantee welcoming sunrises in the morning. I stayed in room 202 - the one which during Euro 2012 was used by the Spain goalkeeper Iker Casillas and his fiancée Sara Carbonero.

## BUSINESS FACILITIES

The hotel specializes in organizing various group events and the place is well-suited to such occasions. It has a ballroom for 600 people, designed in such a way that it can be used for various shows and exhibitions, including car presentations. There are also two smaller meeting rooms, located on the first floor. The equipment in the rooms can be successfully used in conferences, seminars, weddings and proms. Other interesting things to be found in the hotel include ergonomically designed chairs and a fitness room located in the tower of the hotel. During the

UEFA European Championship 2012 the hotel hosted the entire press team from Spain.

## RESTAURANT

ibis Styles is well-known for its original cuisine served in the “Rzeka Smaków” restaurant. Its chef Artur Szymański adheres to the principles of natural cooking, without the use of chemicals, flavour enhancers, etc. All dishes are cooked on an ongoing basis, sometimes with the use of the so-called confiting method. The restaurant specializes in goose meat which delights with its softness. Goose meat is also the base for turnip and czernina soups.

## VERDICT

Hotels belonging to Ibis chain are well-known for a relatively favourable price/quality ratio. ibis Styles offers additional services included in the price which is still competitive. The main advantages of the hotel are a colourful, modern design, as well as its simplicity and functionality. ibis Styles Gdynia Reda is an ideal spot for events and group business trips. It's also a good choice for those who need a stopover on their long journey. In the future, the hotel will feature additional amenities such as a swimming pool, a sauna, and a bowling centre.

*Barbara Scharf*

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**Alitalia** SKYTEAM



# BOOKS AND MUSIC

Marek Baranoski recommends books and CDs



## Letters from the world

„Pod słońcem” („Under the Sun”) is a complete collection of the letters by Bruce Chatwin that survived - a legendary figure of British literary life, an eccentric traveller, and an outstanding writer. Letters to the parents, his wife, lovers, publishers, or friends - James Ivory and Susan Sontag among others, depict a man of great passions, a true storyteller, narrating about his own life. From the very first letter with spelling mistakes, which he wrote to his parents from the boarding school, until the very last one, written 3 weeks before his death and dedicated to his wife. The enthusiasts of „In Patagonia”, „On the Black Hill”, „The Songlines” or „Utz” will find here the continuation of the biography an talent of the writer and traveller.

**Bruce Chatwin „Pod słońcem. Listy” (Under the Sun: The Letters of Bruce Chatwin)**  
Świat Książki Publishing House



## Poland is the most...

A well-written and illustrated guidebook about Poland - a wealth of information about records, interesting facts and peculiarities of our country. You will find here over 170 original and not-so-well-known spots like Cinderella palace or Whistle Museum. You can also find out where Ściborska Republic is, what the smallest book looks like, and where the Poland's biggest lavender field and the greatest collection of old cars are. Theme pages will teach you about all the geography and natural science records. A collection of the most beautiful, the biggest, smallest, longest, shortest, highest and the most unique attractions in Poland is quite impressive.

**Marta Sapała, Anna Olej-Kobus, Krzysztof Kobus „Super Polska Vademecum rekordów i ciekawostek”, Carta Blanca Publishing House**



## The rediscovered capital of the Tatra Mountains.

The book subtitled „Lekko gorsząca opowieść góralsko-ceperska” is a wittily written story of our capital of the Tatra Mountains. Where did the name „Zakopane” come from? What things shouldn't be bought at the foot of Gubałówka? Who is Rysio from „Europejska” cafe? Why does the Krupówki bear have white fur? The authors, Paulina Młynarska, a ceper from Warsaw and Beata Sabała-Zielińska, a native highlander and a journalist, wittily - and sometimes in a controversial manner - describe the architecture of Zakopane, Gubałówka, the foehn wind, skiing, highlander families, cuisine, fashion, galleries, restaurants, guesthouses and hostels. They mention the legend of Zakopane, go back to the times when Jan Kasproicz lived in Harenda, Karol Szymański in Atma and Witkacy in „Witkiewiczówka” on Antałówka 6.

**Paulina Młynarska, Beata Sabała-Zielińska „Zakopane odkopane” Pascal Publishing House**



## Diana in new stylization

Each new album by this artist is a big event. Especially this one, as Diana Krall promised not to do any sentimental standards. So what's the change? For starters, the artist reached for songs from the beginning of the 20th century and the leitmotiv is loneliness. To produce the album, Diana Krall cooperated with Coleen Atwood, an Oscar-winner for costumes, and a photographer Mark Seligerem among others. They created a series of pictures of the artist inspired by photographs by Alfred Cheney Johnston for Ziegfeld Follies from 1920's.

**Diana Krall „Gład Rag Doll” Verve Music Group/Universal Music Polska**



## Loco Star once again

The third latest album of the legendary band Loco Star from Trójmieście includes 10 interesting compositions. The album „Shelter” has everything you can expect from Loco Star: the atmosphere, beautiful melodies, intriguing combination of electronics with „live” instruments. The CD is a special box edition with 10 interesting cards. That's an additional reason why you should have it! The album is promoted by „Artifiction” single, including the remixes by Bueno Bros, Chmara and Slomo.

**Loco Star „Shelter” Kayax**



AMBER ROOM  
RESTAURANT

## Składniki kulinarnej doskonałości

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www.amberroom.pl

Rekomendacja Przewodnika Michelin



Podniebne  Winnice

# CELLARS IN THE SKY 2012 PRIZES

For the second time in its history BT Poland has awarded prizes for the best wine served on board aircraft flying from Poland. We are pleased to announce that the main Cellar in the Sky Award 2012 was won by ***Qatar Airways***.



We invited all airlines which are present in the Polish market to take part in the competition.

13 carriers decided to accept our invitation. The expert judging panel, chaired by Tomasz Prange-Barczyński, the editor of “Wine Magazine”, also included: Ewa Wieleżyńska – the deputy editor of “Wine Magazine”, Andrzej Daszkiewicz and Tomasz Kurzeja – journalists and wine tasters at “Wine Magazine”, Kuba Janicki - the author of “Kontretykieta.pl” blog, and Grzegorz Wajner from Sstarwines.pl portal. The panel’s task was to evaluate wines provided by the participants and select the winners.

WINES WITH CHARACTER

The experts gathered in a cosy room of the Sobański Palace, which now belongs to the Polish Business Roundtable Club in Warsaw. The wines were divided into different categories, wrapped in black opaque bags and devoid of any labels that could reveal their origin.

“During the tasting phase in each category we selected potential finalists, and

then performed second tasting of selected samples, trying to agree on the order on the podium,” said Tomasz Prange-Barczyński. “The Business Traveller Cellars in the Sky Awards is not an ordinary wine competition. While tasting the wines we had to bear in mind the fact that they are consumed at high altitudes, sometimes in a slightly stressful atmosphere. Also, in economy class cabins wine is often served in run-of-the-mill wine glasses. That is why, we were looking for more clarity and features that could help wines keep their individual character, but also help them survive the conditions in which they are served.

THE BEST OF THE BEST

The choice was difficult, but the panel - after a long deliberation – was able to select the winners. The first prize in sparkling wine category was awarded to Gold Label Brut Vintage 1999 Champagne Lanson (Qatar Airways). Verdict: Lanson is known for its crisp champagnes of high acidity, which allows them to age perfectly. Brut Vintage 1999 is no longer a toddler in its category,

but still just an adolescent. It’s full of character, quite complex and certainly beyond the standard definition of champagne.

White wine, economy class - Riesling aus der Steillage 2011, Mosel, Peter & Peter (Lufthansa). Verdict: This straightforward, but full of character, crisp and refreshing Riesling, is a rarity in its class. Bonus points for originality and finding a wine which will certainly agree with different tastes of passengers, but at the same time is not a mainstream one.

White wine, business/premium class - Les Vieux Murs 2009, Pouilly-Fuissé, Loron et Fils (Brussels). Verdict: Three cheers for the sommelier who found this unique chardonnay from a less known appellation of Burgundy. The wine defeated, as it would seem, more serious competitors, thanks to its excellent quality, clarity and originality.

Red wine, economy class - I Giganti Buoni 2007, Toscana, Monteti (Air Berlin). Verdict: In the flood of anonymous red wines, which are served on board far too often, I Giganti Buoni seems like a real light in the tunnel. It is a perfectly tailored, not overly



The award ceremony took place in a cosy room of the Sobański Palace, which now belongs to the Polish Business Roundtable Club in Warsaw.



Jury: Tomasz Prange-Barczyński, Kuba Janicki, Ewa Wieleżyńska, Tomasz Kurzeja, Grzegorz Wajner.



Tomasz Prange-Barczyński, the editor-in-chief of „Wine Magazine”, Christian Bris, vice president of inflight services at Qatar Airways, and Robert Grzybowski, the publisher of Business Traveller Poland.



Cellars in the sky

THE WINNERS

- Best Cellars in the Sky **Qatar Airways**
- Best sparkling wine **Qatar Airways**
- Best white wine in economy class **Lufthansa**
- Best white wine in Business /Premium class **Brussels Airlines**
- Best red wine in economy class **Air Berlin**
- Best red wine in Business/Premium class **Brussels Airlines**
- Best sweet wine **Qatar Airways**

OTHER PODIUM POSITIONS

- 2nd place - best sparkling wine **Qatar Airways**
- 3rd place - best sparkling wine **Lufthansa**
- 3rd place - best sparkling wine **Brussels Airlines**
- 2nd place - best white wine in economy class **TAP Portugal**
- 3rd place - best white wine in economy class **Austrian Airlines**
- 2nd place - best white wine in Business /Premium class **British Airways**
- 2nd place - best white wine in Business /Premium class **Lufthansa**
- 3rd place - best white wine in Business /Premium class **Scandinavian Airlines**
- 2nd place - best red wine in economy class **Air Berlin**
- 3rd place - best red wine in economy class **TAP Portugal**
- 2nd place - best red wine in Business/Premium class **Brussels Airlines**
- 2nd place - best red wine in Business/Premium class **Air Mauritius**
- 3rd place - best red wine in Business/Premium class **Qatar Airways**
- 2nd place – best sweet wine **Lufthansa**
- 3rd place - best sweet wine **TAP Portugal**
- 3rd place - best sweet wine **Alitalia**
- **SPECIAL PRIZE** **Qatar Airways**



Tomasz Prange-Barczyński, Martin Klonowski, the Country Manager for Poland at Air Berlin, Robert Grzybowski.



Tomasz Prange-Barczyński, Szymon Żaliński, the Regional Director of Marketing at SAS Scandinavian Airlines for Eastern Europe, Robert Grzybowski.

complicated and simply tasty Super Tuscan wine which will certainly make your flight more pleasant.

Red wine, business/premium class – Tenuta Frescobaldi di Castiglioni 2009, Toscana, Marchesi di Frescobaldi (Brussels). Verdict: A Super Tuscan wine from one of the distinguished Tuscan families, left its rivals far behind. The Bordeaux blend with a touch of sangiovese produced a distinct wine which is versatile enough to meet the demands of the onboard cuisine.

Sweet wine - Colheita 1974, Vinho do Porto, Kopke (Qatar). Verdict: This old Porto is a real treat for all wine lovers. In the category, which is never strongly contested, this Kopke wine seems to be a real gem. An excellent decision!

A special prize was awarded to Qatar Airways. Justification: The sommelier working for Qatar Airlines is most likely a great

connoisseur and lover of wines with a more than a reasonable budget to spend. Most wines, which are offered on board QA, will delight the taste buds of wine lovers, some of whom might even be tempted to fly with QA for the mere pleasure of exploring the sky-cellar of the carrier. On the other hand, some of the wines on the offer may be too difficult for less advanced wine enthusiasts, hence no individual awards were granted for such stars as Dr. Loosen, Selbach-Oster, or Lopez de Heredia. However, it would be simply unfair to overlook such outstanding wines, hence the non-statutory award.

Business Traveller Poland encourages you to travel on board the winning airlines. In this way, you will be able to see for yourselves that the decision of the panel was correct.

**Marzena Mróz the editor-in-chief of Business Traveller Poland**



Bart Buyse, the General Manager Poland at Lufthansa and Robert Grzybowski, the publisher of Business Traveller Poland.



Jarosław Nowicki, the General Manger Poland at Brussels Airlines and Michel Girault, the regional director of Air Mauritius.



Tomasz Prange-Barczyński, George Athanassiou, the General Manager Poland at Alitalia, Ricardo Lo Presti, the Regional Manager France, Benelux and Poland at TAP Portugal, Robert Grzybowski.



# GIFTMANIA

There's no nicer feeling than the one when you give presents to your beloved ones, and when is a better occasion to do so, if not at Christmas? Here's our list of suggestions for elegant gifts both for Her and for Him.

**Dr Irena Eris**  
Active Essence  
Concentrated collagen for the face.  
Price: 30 ml/PLN 125.  
Available at Dr Irena Eris  
Cosmetic Institutes  
[www.DrIrenaEris.com/Instytut](http://www.DrIrenaEris.com/Instytut)

**Sephora**  
hand-wash cream  
– Christmas edition  
Price: PLN 29.  
Available at Sephora  
perfumeries.  
[www.sephora.pl](http://www.sephora.pl)

**Barbara Hofmann**  
Brush with  
Swarovski crystals.  
Available on the manufacturer's website or in  
Douglas perfumeries.  
Price: PLN 840  
[www.barbarahofmann.de](http://www.barbarahofmann.de)

**Eisenberg**  
"I am" perfume with  
a hint of bergamot,  
orange and musk.  
Available at Sephora  
perfumeries.  
Price: 50 ml/PLN 359.  
[www.eisenberg.com](http://www.eisenberg.com)

**Shiseido**  
Bio-performance  
revitalizing and  
rejuvenating cream.  
Cost: PLN 360  
[www.shiseido.com](http://www.shiseido.com)

**Sony**  
Digital camera NEX-5 R  
with a hybrid AF system  
and WiFi.  
Price: about PLN 3,000  
[www.sony.com](http://www.sony.com)



**Hugo Boss**  
Boss Black tailored  
jacket from  
autumn/winter  
2012/2013 Cruise  
collection, made  
of cotton, polyester  
and spandex.  
Price: PLN 1,590  
Boss Selection  
A bag made from poli-  
shed calf leather.  
A compartment  
for documents  
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Price: PLN 3,760  
[www.hugoboss.com](http://www.hugoboss.com)

**Certina**  
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[www.goshico.com](http://www.goshico.com)

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Price: PLN 790  
[www.lewanowicz.com](http://www.lewanowicz.com)



# WE HAVE THE DREAMLINER!

We waited for such an event for over 20 years. On 15 November, exactly at 10.51 am, the first Boeing 787 Dreamliner belonging to LOT Polish Airlines landed at Frederic Chopin Airport in Warsaw. The plane's first scheduled flight will depart on 14 December to Prague. Later, however, it will serve only overseas routes.

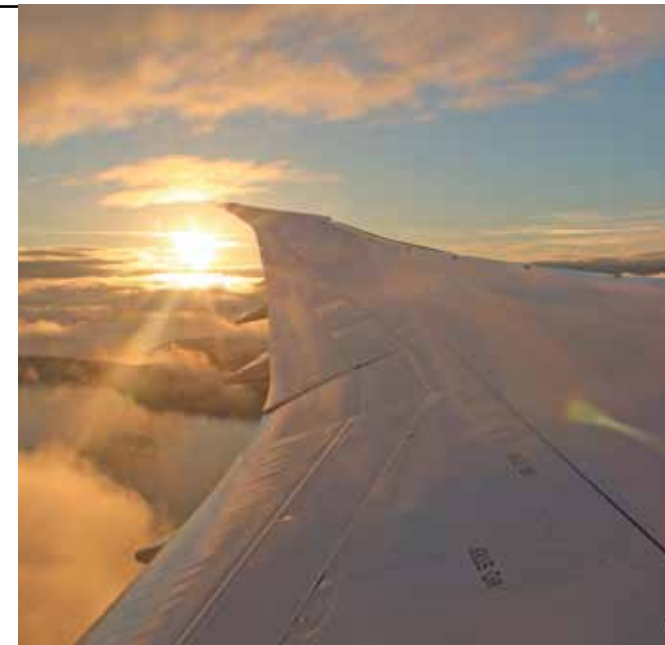
## THE MOMENT WORTH WAITING

The aircraft's handing ceremony took place several days before the Dreamliner's arrival in Warsaw, on 12 November, near Boeing's plant in Everett near Seattle. "It's not just a great moment for LOT, but also for the whole country," said Marcin Piróg, the CEO of LOT Polish Airlines. Shortly after those words were said, the first „Polish” Dreamliner emerged from behind a glass wall of the hangar where the gala dinner was held. From that moment the aircraft officially

became a part of the LOT's fleet. The representatives of both the manufacturer and LOT Polish Airlines agreed that the production and delivery of the first Dreamliner to the Polish national carrier involved a lot of effort, but despite numerous delays and changes to the project, the machine is now finally ready to carry passengers. Marcin Piróg thanked all those who had worked hard to successfully complete this important project. He also stressed that LOT Polish Airlines is the first European airline to receive the Dreamliner.

## IMPRESSIONS

On its ferry flight, the Polish Dreamliner took on board a little over 170 people. Since the flight from Seattle to Warsaw was relatively long, all the passengers had a chance to fully explore the advantages of the new aircraft. The distance which the plane covered on its maiden trip was almost 9,000 kilometres, so it was an ideal occasion to see how the machine works on long-haul routes which B787 will soon serve on a regular basis. The plane took off from Everett airport shortly after 4.00 pm.



One of the most striking things you can immediately notice is that the aircraft is much quieter when compared to previous models built by Boeing. Even during the take-off, you could talk freely without having to raise your voice. During the flight the Dreamliner also provides incredible visual effects. This is particularly true of the aircraft's wing which is designed in such a way that during take-off and later during the flight it slightly bends upward, resembling a wing of a bird. What's more, its smooth surface beautifully reflects the sun and the clouds.

This phenomenon can be observed not only by passengers sitting next to the window. Since the windows on the Dreamliner are much larger than in any other plane, even passengers sitting in middle rows can see what is happening outside. Well, unless another passenger dims the window. The dimmable windows are a completely novel approach. Instead of traditional shades, there is a button by pressing which you can dim your window almost completely.

However, the greatest technical improvement was done in the area which isn't visible. The quality of the air on board is now much better, while the air

pressure is lower than on other aircraft. Boeing claims that passengers travelling on board the Dreamliner will feel as if they were cruising at an altitude of 1,800 metres (this value is almost 2,500 metres in other planes). This allows for up to 8% more oxygen to be absorbed in the blood, and thanks to the double-filtration system the air is much healthier.

In combination with modern lighting that simulates the time of the day according to our biological clock, all these advantages contribute to the fact the a journey on board the Dreamliner is much less tiring. The jet-lag effect is vastly reduced, our eyes don't dry out, and there is no unpleasant feeling of dryness in the nose or the mouth.

Most importantly, the first flight from Seattle to Warsaw was a good opportunity to see that the announced changes weren't just Boeing's marketing propaganda, but systems which actually work and are ahead of the technology used today in civil aviation for at least a decade.

## HOW IT CAN TEMPT YOU

With the Dreamliner LOT is catching up with the world's best airlines, as the new aircraft isn't only about better fuel economy. It's primarily a brand new product.

The business class cabin now called Elite Club features 18 seats which by pushing a single button can turn into flatbeds. They also have individual lighting, a partition wall for more privacy, as well as an individual in-flight entertainment system.

However, Elite Club means much more than only modern interiors. According to the carrier, it's also a new standard of service. Only the best of the best will serve as the cabin crew on board the Dreamliners. LOT wants the on board service to be as good as in best restaurants. Another innovative solution is the introduction of an economy plus class, named the Premium Club. It's a travel class positioned between economy and business class, and addressed to passengers who wish to have a higher standard of travel, at a moderate price.

Initially, the Dreamliner will fly on European routes. On its first ticketed flight the B787 owned by LOT will fly on 14 December to Prague. Later, however, the Dreamliners will serve only intercontinental routes. The first such a flight is scheduled for 16 January to Chicago. With successive deliveries the Dreamliners will also begin its regular services to New York (in February), Toronto (in March), and Beijing (in April).

The aircraft's wing is designed in such a way that during the take-off and later during the flight it slightly bends upward, resembling a wing of a bird.







# PREMIUM ECONOMY CLASS

## A NEW NAME, THE SAME GREAT QUALITY!

The Premium Economy Class Offered by Air France on intercontinental flights, is situated between the economic and business class cabins.



The exceptional feature of the class is the personal space, which is totally protected thanks to a fixed-shell seat offering 40% more room than in the economy cabin. Modern, wide seats (48 cm) feature comfortable armrests and adjustable headrest, as well as a footrest. The seat reclines within its own frame (to 123°), thus not intruding on the space of the passenger behind. Each seat is equipped with a 26-inch screen and a state-of-the-art

multimedia system, as well as noise cancelling headphones. There's also a large work tray, an electric plug for a laptop, and a personal reading light. Additionally, each passenger receives a business class travel kit.

### VARIED MENU

The on-board service is also improved, compared to economy class. It begins with aperitif including French champagne. Then passengers can choose one of two hot dishes, accompanied by a side dish and des-

sert, as well as fine wines. On flights of over 10.5 hours, a self-service buffet is available for the duration of the flight. It includes a selection of snacks to suit all tastes, including mini-sandwiches and Häagen Dazs ice cream bars.

### PRIORITY AT THE AIRPORT

At the airport, Premium Economy passengers enjoy the same facilities as those in business class, including separate check-in, priority at boarding and baggage claim area, as well as in-



40%  
more space compared  
with economy class,  
at an attractive price.

creased baggage allowance i.e. 2 pieces of luggage of 23kg each, plus hand luggage.

### HIGH COMFORT AT AN ATTRACTIVE PRICE

With Premium Economy passengers travelling with Air France can experience a truly big difference in the comfort of traveling with a relatively small difference in price. In addition, members of Air France's loyalty programme receive 25% more miles, and companies participating in BlueBiz programme

– PLN 400 rebate for each ticket (granted in the form of programme points). They can also receive free accommodation at Sofitel Victoria in Warsaw, one night before their flight including breakfast and transfer to the airport. This is a particularly attractive option for passengers who live outside of Warsaw. \*\*

\*\* The hotel offer is subject to conditions, for more details contact Air France tel: 22 55 66 400

### APPROXIMATE FARES FOR FLIGHT IN PREMIUM ECONOMY\*

route	price
Warsaw - New York	from PLN 3,396
Warsaw - Beijing	from PLN 4,090*
Warsaw - Cape Town	from PLN 4,697*

\* Round trip includes airport taxes and charges, the price is subject to change depending on the date.



# LET'S MEET AT THE NOVOTEL KRAKÓW CENTRUM



In mid-September the Novotel Kraków Centrum celebrated its 10th birthday. During the ceremony held on this occasion all invited guests had an opportunity to see the hotel's renovated conference facilities. The interiors decorated with vivid colours and contemporary art, were highly praised by the guests. The celebration of the anniversary was attended by the hotel's business partners, as well as representatives of travel agencies, but also by many well-known personalities from the world of music, film and sport. The organizers prepared a num-

ber of attractions, including performances by outstanding artists, as well as a presentation of the modernized part of the hotel in order to show its full potential both for business and entertainment purposes. Over 515 sq m of conference space was thoroughly renovated. Now the business floor is much more functional, being a perfect example of the latest trends in the art of interior design. Simple, clear forms and their vivid red accents, make the lobby and the rooms warm and full of positive energy, which is certainly helpful during business and social meetings. The use of mod-

ern technologies, such as dynamic signage, strengthens the modern character of the interior. On the other hand, the modern works of art adorning the walls as well as relaxing music in the background, create a unique atmosphere for all guests. Conference rooms were designed to make the most of their surface and ensure maximum comfort for all participants to meetings. They are equipped with high-quality AV equipment and special lighting, which can easily be adapted to the needs of customers, making the rooms simply ideal for trainings or presentations. New



wall colours with touches of energetic lime will certainly bring in a good mood and stimulate creative work. Regardless of types of organized meetings, business customers can be assisted by a professional team of experts available within the Meeting@Novotel programme. The programme has been designed to provide professional assistance to event organizers and thus guarantee the success of a meeting held at Novotel. The Novotel's professional coordinator is appointed to assist the organizer through all the stages of the event. The coordinator incorporates a five-point promise, which is key to the success of any conference. The five points ensure instant

availability for the organizer, fine-tuning of every detail, tailoring solutions to the needs of guests, full support and ensuring well-being of all participants to meetings. Many years of experience of Meeting@Novotel coordinators, as well as facilities prepared in accordance with the latest standards of business meetings, ensure the successful completion of any event organized in the hotels of the chain. However, the renovation of the conference floor is not the only upgrade at the Novotel Kraków Centrum. Changes have also been made to the lobby bar area, which now has a more energetic and modern character. The hotel hasn't forgotten

about the needs of its youngest guests thoroughly modernizing the children's corner near the lobby. Children are very eager to use the colourful toy furniture, Kapla blocks, Barbapapa shaped pillows, and Xbox 360 gaming consoles. Novotel Kraków Centrum is located 14 kilometres from Balice International Airport and only a 10-minute walk from the Market Square. The windows of the rooms overlook the Wawel Royal Castle and the Vistula river. The hotel rents bicycles to those who prefer to explore the city in a more active way. The Leisure Centre provides guests with relaxation opportunities after a long day of work or visiting the countless attractions of Cracow.



The renovated meeting rooms as well as Meeting@Novotel programme, guarantee the success of any business meeting.



The centre features a swimming pool, jacuzzi, sauna and a gym.



# GO LIGHT AND BE FIT WITH WESTIN HOTELS



Westin Hotels & Resorts has introduced a new programme which will certainly appeal to those who love practising sport, but owing to luggage allowances must give up their regular training while on their trip. Gear Lending is a programme which was developed in partnership with New Balance footwear manufacturer to allow guests to rent sneakers, workout tops, socks, shorts and pants at any of the 190 Westin properties.

Prior to the launch of the programme Westin conducted a survey among frequent travellers, in order to find out what determines the choice of a hotel, as well as to define the key barriers to working out while travelling. As it turned out, a good fitness studio is one of the five key elements determining the choice of the hotel. What's more, more than half of the respondents said they would gladly work out on their trip, but owing to baggage allowances they often need to leave their training gear at home, thus breaking the cycle of training. This might be the reason why the pilot programme, which was launched in 10 countries in 2010, proved so successful. Interestingly, it was the most enthusiastically received pilot programme among all those implemented by Westin.

Gear Lending programme is the first such solution in the industry and involves lending guests running shoes with disposable insoles, as well as a variety of men's and women's New Balance apparel including shorts, shirts and socks for men and shorts, capri pants, shirts, sports bras and socks for women. In Westin Warsaw the cost of this service is mere PLN 20.

Westin guests will also benefit from travel-specific fitness content provided by New Balance. New Balance Fitness Ambassador and Exercise TV celebrity trainer Holly Perkins developed exclusive in-room fitness and equipment-free content that includes stretching and strengthening workouts, cardio and yoga. The program includes 'Wellness in Travel' tips from Perkins on nutrition and creative ways to combat jet lag and healthy living. We asked several guests about their opinion on the programme and most of them were very positive. First of all, they were pleased with the fact that they no longer need to pack their training gear. Several guests, however, expressed their concerns about the hygiene since the running shoes are used by many people. Luckily, these concerns were quickly

put to rest with an assurance that the running shoes have disposable soles and after each use they are thoroughly cleaned with a disinfectant, which eliminates bacteria. In this way they are always clean and safe for users.

For Westin hotels the well-being of guests is of paramount importance. The brand's slogan is „For a Better You” and Gear Lending programme is one of many solutions designed to help guests stay in good shape while on the road. Earlier, Westin hotels introduced SuperFoodsRX programme, which, through a good diet helps guests improve their concentration, boost energy, but also provides the body with all necessary nutrients.

All Westin hotels are also equipped with Westin WORKOUT studios which combine state-of-the-art equipment and

high-performance workouts for guests who are committed to maintaining an active lifestyle during their travels. Jogging enthusiasts will find recommendations for the best routes in the vicinity of the hotel. Selected hotels also provide RunWESTIN programme in which the so-called Run Concierge shares interesting facts about the area as you get energized for the day ahead... or shake off the stress of the day.

After a hard day of work or workout, it's good take a relaxing massage in the comfort of your own room. The “in room spa” service, involves massage procedure carried out in the room, which helps to achieve complete relaxation. And after the treatment, you can sit back with a cup of tea in your own room and enjoy the rest of the day.



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# IN THE LAND OF MAHARAJAS

You can either hit it off with India at once, or never fully understand this country. But it's clear you won't be able to stop thinking about it, claims **Marzena Mróz**. It's especially true about Rajasthan - the most magical of all the regions of the country, called the Empire of the Soul, the Land of Kings, veiled with a mist of bloody mysteries and legends about unusual rulers of the Orient.





Nowhere else in India can you find so many fortresses, fancy-fairs, and most of all, palaces inhabited by maharajas (high king) - Hindu rulers, whose title is higher than 'rajan' (king), but lower in rank than 'chakravartin' - a title used with reference to the emperor. The state, occupying much greater territory than Poland, is covered by mountain ranges, the Thar desert as well as fairy tale-like gardens where beautiful peacocks take a stroll. When it comes to a diversity of social life, customs and traditions, India is second to none.

**A KING UNDER HOUSE ARREST**  
Rajasthan is the capital of rajputs, honourable and warrior clans. To this day rajans trace back their background from the gods of the sun, fire and the moon. In 19th century, when India was under British rule, Rajasthan was inhabited by 540 maharajas. In 1920 the rulers introduced Royal House, an ersatz trade union, to later transform it into an advisory board of the British viceroy of India. They had to unite, as the British lords occupying India allowed them to live in their ancestral palaces, but the life of Rajasthan rulers was like living under house arrest. There was a

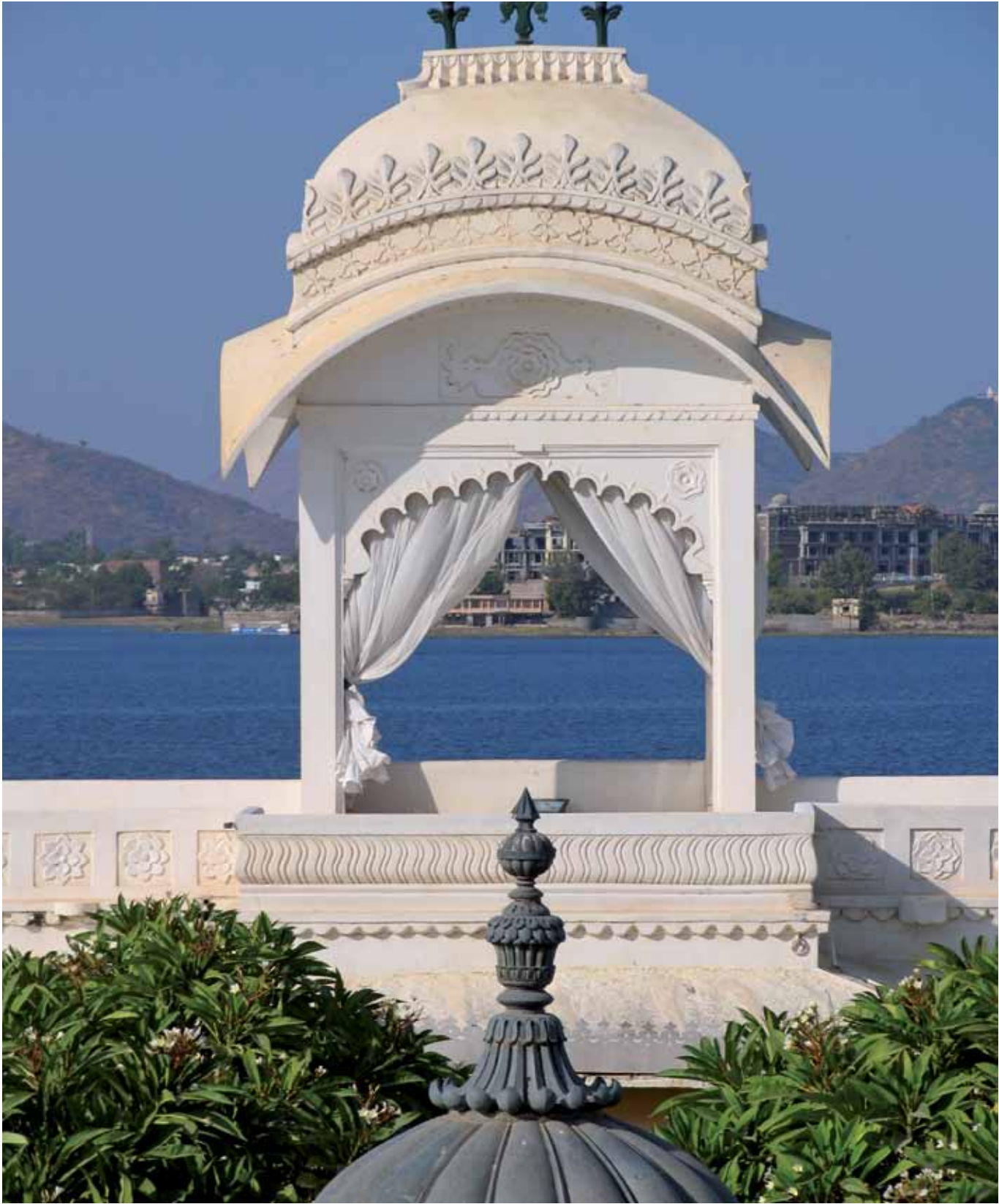
British governor in each palace, whose job was to supervise and check if the maharaja's activity didn't bring harm to the Queen Victoria's interests. However, the owners of fairy-tale like palaces, endowed with imagination and a bent for decadence didn't mortify.

**DIAMONDS AND TAMED ELEPHANTS**  
Their lifestyle and wealth was legendary. People were saying they had boxes full of diamonds, pearls or stables with tamed elephants (today they would be replaced with jeeps and luxurious cars). People still remember Maharaja of Patiala, who once a year used to walk around the streets of his city wearing nothing but a necklace with 1001 diamonds, and Maharaja of Bharatpur who allegedly kept 50 most beautiful female citizens of India in his harem. There are also stories - passed from generation to generation - about enlightened, generous, and wisely investing rulers. The last prince of Mughal dynasty, the ruler of Hyderabad, vastly wealthy and generous friend of King George V, donated squads of Hurricane and Tornado planes to the British aviation. Moreover, Maharaja of Udaipur, an avid environmentalist, invested

in a construction of solar batteries, which were supposed to power cars.

**PALACES OF THE 1001 NIGHTS**  
Currently, Rajasthan is the biggest state in India. It's colourful, proud, exotic, and frequently visited by people from all over the world, who want to see oneiric oriental scenery. It's famous for production of wool, cultivation of wheat, sugarcane and the most precious treasure of the region - noble stone, once avidly collected by the maharajas. The population of its capital, Jaipur, is 2.5 mln people. However, the tourism is the branch, which generates most of the income. The rulers no longer deal with politics, annexe conquered lands or lead civil strikes. Being slightly laid-back, because of the new economic trend, they transformed their seats into top class hotels, which became oasis of luxury - sophisticated accommodation resembling palaces from the 1001 Nights.

**CITY OR MIRAGE?**  
The most extraordinary spot in Rajasthan is, undoubtedly, Udaipur, situated on the territory of former kingdom of Mewar. It's the seat of one of the world's oldest dynasties, ruling in-



Being slightly laid-back, because of the new economic trend, they transformed their seats into top class hotels, which became oasis of luxury - sophisticated accommodation resembling palaces from the 1001 Nights.





cessantly for 1200 years! The city is like mirage: unreal, ephemeral, demonic, as if it was about to melt into thin air and disappear at dawn and dusk. Because of the unusual beauty, romantic location, magical light and clear air, the city was loved by the French impressionists. The desert fallow surrounding Udaipur is a contradiction of everything you are about to see in the city. Subtle constructions of marble palaces, temples ornamented with cuddling couples from "Kama Sutra", pink ghats reflected in the Pichola lake. When the capital of Chitaurgarh was conquered by the Mongolian ruler Akbara in 1568, Maharaja Udaj Singh II built a city located on the banks of a lake - an absurd sight in this desert-like region, and named it after himself. Living there was interesting, especially in 17th century, when Udaipur was wealthy, and each year maharajas used to weigh themselves in public, in order to endow the public with as much gold and silver, as the number on the scales indicated.

**IN THE MAZE OF CHAMBERS**  
The remnants of the good old times in City Palace - the biggest residence in Rajasthan and one of the biggest in the world. Its frontal wall is 475 m! It's the apple of the eye of two maharajas who developed the building. Behind the city walls, there is a maze of chambers, bedrooms,

suits, and courtyards connected by narrow corridors, steep steps, and secret passages. Today the palace is open to the visitors, and the last maharaja, who still lives here, is OK with that too. Sometimes he invites them for an afternoon tea. He is known for his practical approach to business. Each week he attends the "light and sound" shows, setting off fireworks worth of millions of rupees, in order to advertise the residences turned into luxurious hotels.

**HOLIDAY WITH THE KING**  
It was Bhagwat Singh, the thirty-fourth maharaja of Udaipur and the Kingdom of Mewar, who came up with the idea of "holiday with maharaja". He contributed to the existence of Heritage Resorts and Hotels - one of the most sophisticated hotel brands in the world. Currently, he manages only the palaces and hotels categorised as historical sites. At the beginning of 1960's the perspective ruler decided to turn his summer mansion Jag Niwas into a hotel, today known as Lake Palace ([www.tajhotels.com](http://www.tajhotels.com)). Soon, it was recognized as the most luxurious hotel in the world. It was here that some of the scenes from "Octopussy" with James Bond were filmed. Lake Palace is located in the middle of a lake. The guestrooms come with all the mod cons: air-conditioning, pools with heat-

ed water, spa, satellite connection, and the restaurants serve fusion cuisine, which is so trendy and popular these days.

**1000 GUESTS AT THE TABLE**  
Another unusual place known for its fairy tale-like glamour and historical background is Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur ([www.tajhotels.com](http://www.tajhotels.com)). Built from pink sandstone, it has 347 rooms, including 8 dining rooms, a ballroom, two theatres, an underground pool and a huge room topped with a dome, which accommodated a thousand people during the opening reception. The palace was founded by maharaja Umaid Singh. His grandson Gadz Singh, who turned the mansion into a luxurious hotel, still lives in it. However, it was not uncommon in Rajasthan, that the rulers invested not only in their own residences, but also in entire cities. One of them was Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, the founder of Jaipur - famous for pink-coloured buildings in one of the most interesting cities of Rajasthan. There is also an astronomical observatory. Sawai Jai Singh II made his house legendary. According to a legend, one night Maharaja woke up suddenly and saw Krishna. The god, amazed by the beauty of the palace, demanded it as his new temple. In return, he gave him the idea to build Jaipur. Apparently only Indian gods trade with people for palaces.





# ON THE SLOPES OF THE STUBAI VALLEY

The Stubai Valley with 150 kilometres of ski runs is a perfect place for all fans of winter sports. Marzena Mróz checks why it's so appealing to avid skiers and snowboarders, as well as to ski mountaineers, freestylers, freeskiers and families with children.



One of the biggest advantages of the valley is that it's easily accessible, as it's only 15 kilometres away from Innsbruck Airport. Munich is located much further (200 kilometres), but if you go by car via Inn Valley or Brenner, you can cover this distance in just 2.5 hours.

## THE KINGDOM OF SNOW

The picturesque valley is 35 kilometres long, and is surrounded by 80 glaciers as well as 109 three-thousand-metre mountain peaks. Its five main centres are Neustift, Fulpmes, Telfes, Mieders and Schönberg. The residents are extremely proud of their ski resort located on the Stubai glacier. "The Kingdom of Snow", as they call this place, is Europe's largest glacier region, which guarantees snow on the slopes from October to June.

Winter sports fans will be perfectly at home on 150 kilometres of ski runs in four resorts. Stubai Glacier offers 110 kilometres of ski runs and 26 lifts with guaranteed snow from October to June, a 10-kilometre route leading to the Wilde Grub'n valley, Moreboards Stuabi Zoo snow park, a climbing tower, a family ski slope, the BIG Family Boardercross, BIG Family Ski Camp with a kindergarten and a restaurant for children, eight restaurants, ski rental and storage directly on the slopes, three ski schools and the TOP OF TYROL viewing platform with a 360-degree panoramic view.

The Schlick 2000 resort in Fulpmes offers 25 kilometres of ski runs, two cable cars, a four-seater chairlift, seven T-bar lifts, cosy old-style cottages, a 3-kilometre ski run to the valley, and the BIG Family Ski Camp. A panoramic trail leads to a new, unique viewing platform named "Stubai Blick", located at an altitude of 2,160 m above sea level.

Serlesbahnen family resort in Mieders offers 8 kilometres of ski runs, a gondola lift, three T-bar lifts, breathtaking trails for toboggan enthusiasts, and beautiful cross-country trails. Neustift resort offers 7 kilometres of ski runs with a varied degree of difficulty, access to the slopes by a cable car, four T-bar lifts, night-time tobogganing and skiing, as well as the longest natural toboggan run in Tyrol.

## CROSS-COUNTRY, SLEIGHS AND SNOWSHOES

Winter sports aficionados will be happy to take advantage of over 130 kilometres of cross-country ski trails, 88 kilometres of winter hiking trails and 10 natural toboggan runs. Other available activities include snowshoeing, paragliding, as well as sleigh rides. Ski touring enthusiasts will find here attractive routes in Schlick 2000 resort in the region of Kalkkögel. The landscape in the land of the eternal ice is truly impressive.

Adventurous tourists can go for an hour tour of the Stubai glacier, or go zip-lining into a cre-

## NOVELTIES

It was in 1973 that ski pioneer Dr. Heinrich Klier built the first three lift systems on the Stubai Glacier. Today, with 26 lifts and 110 kilometres of pistes, the Stubai Glacier is Austria's largest glacial ski resort.

**Rotadl** – the existing four-seater lift will be replaced by an 8-seat one with canopy and seat heating. This modernization will increase the lift's capacity to 3,000 people per hour. The journey takes no longer than 5 minutes.

**Daunjoch** – a four-seater lift which has a mountain station at 3,000 metres, is brand new, and will open up a completely new ski area on the glacier with a black-graded ski run and diverse freeride routes from the end of November. Both lifts cost around €12 million and promise even more convenience and room to ski.

**Gamsgarten** – during the 2012/13 season, countless new off-piste routes of varying levels of difficulty have been created.

From 19 December 2012, near the BIG Family Ski Camp children will be able to take a ride in a snow-groomer, and find out how a ski run is prepared. Meetings every Wednesday at 2.00 pm. Prior notification is required.

**Stubai Tirol Tourist Association** informs about current offers, meetings and events on its website [www.stubai.at](http://www.stubai.at).



vasse in the company of an experienced guide. Enthusiasts of active leisure will find here interesting attractions also in the spring-autumn period. These include cableway runs to a region which offers stunning views, 850 kilometres of hiking trails, 720 kilometres of mountain bike trails, 15 climbing trails, 3 climbing parks, 2 ropes courses, paragliding, Nordic walking, tennis courts and swimming pools. Also, throughout the year gourmets can enjoy here delicious dishes served in numerous restaurants on the glacier. Excellent cuisine offered by Schaufelspitz restaurant will satisfy even the greatest connoisseurs. Those who love Italian pasta can go to feast in Eisgrat restaurant, which features the world's highest situated pasta factory.

#### FOR THE YOUNGEST

Children under the age of ten can travel with all of the cable railways for free when accompanied by a paying parent or guardian. The offer aimed at kids includes stables with ponies, the Birds of Prey Park, Wild Water Trail (WildeWasserWege), the Trail

of Adventures in Schlick (with a section you can walk barefoot), as well as Klaus Äuele Amusement Park.

The cheapest and most convenient way to spend a holiday in the Stubai Valley is to purchase the Stubai Card, which for five consecutive days allows you to use a range of services: cable cars and buses in the valley, trams running between Innsbruck and Fulpmes, as well as the swimming pools. The card is valid from mid-May to the end of October 2013. Price: €54 for adults and €27 euros for children aged 6-14. You can purchase it at Tourismusverband Stubai Tirol (Tirol Stubai Tourist Association) in Neustift and Fulpmes.



#### PARADISE FOR FREERIDERS

During the 2012/13 season, countless new off-piste routes of varying levels of difficulty are being defined at Gamsgraben. No matter whether you want to stay near the ski run, or are looking for short hikes or challenging tours involving abseiling and glacial crossings - every freerider will find his ideal route here. Special freeride checkpoints, freeride maps, slope videos and freeride runs available as GPS downloads offer everything that you need when you want to go skiing over open terrain. And that's not all - the Stubai Freeride Festival takes place in February 2013, offering workshops and freeride races.



No matter whether you want to stay near the ski run, or are looking for short hikes or challenging tours involving abseiling and glacial crossings - every freerider will find his ideal route here.

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# TANGO AT THE AIRPORT

The divine Buenos, which is a historic capital of Argentina and is widely regarded as the most cosmopolitan city in South America - impresses with its vitality. **Marzena Mróz** invites you to take a journey which starts at Ezeiza airport.

Regardless of whether you decide to stay for a few days in the capital's business district called La City, or the lively bohemian district of San Telmo, one thing is for certain - your gateway to the city will be the Ezeiza airport. It's a modern, but also a very atmospheric place. You can go even further - plan a trip to Patagonia which slightly resembles Switzerland, Tierra del Fuego located on the southernmost tip of America, or the province of Cuyo with its Cerro Aconcagua which is the highest peak in South America.

**THE ROAD TO ALL CONTINENTS**  
Buenos Aires-Ezeiza International Airport, that is Aeropuerto Internacional Ministro is Pistarini, is located 2 kilometres east of the

town of the same name, and 22 kilometres east of the capital. It's Argentina's largest airport and the major international hub for Aerolineas Argentinas airline. In 2012, the airport handled 9 million passengers. Interestingly, this is the only airport in South America which serves flights to all continents. Although it's named in honour of general and politician Juan Pistarini (1882-1956), it's more known as Ezeiza airport. It was launched in 1949 and for many years was the largest airport in Latin America. It was launched in 1949 and for many years was the largest airport in Latin America, serving both civil and military traffic. Ezeiza has two terminals used both for domestic and international flights.



## WINE, MATE AND SHOPPING

One of the amenities available at the airport is the free access to WiFi Internet. Ezeiza is also praised for its facilities for the disabled. The airport features numerous duty-free shops where you can do shopping at attractive prices, currency exchange offices, cash dispensers, separate rooms for those travelling with children, luggage storage facilities, as well as restaurants, cafes and bars. You can have there a cup of excellent coffee tea, or yerba mate, try the Argentine delicacies such as parrillada (grilled meat), chorizo (spicy sausage) or sweet media lunas - delicious croissants usually served with white coffee (café cortado). You should also try the famous Argentine wines from the province of Mendoza, San Juan, La Rioja and the northern part of Salta, and go to one of the bars to listen to or perhaps even dance to the rhythms of tango.

## AIRLINES AT THE AIRPORT

Ezeiza handles connections operated by several dozen airlines such as Aerolíneas Argentinas, Aerosur, Air Canada, Air Europa, Air France, Alitalia, American Airlines, British Airways, Continental Airlines, Ibe-

ria, LAN Airlines, KLM, Lufthansa, TAM Linhas Aéreas, or Gol Transportes Aéreos. There is no direct connection to Poland, so to get there you need to change planes at one of the European airports.

## HOW TO GET THERE

The airport is located about 22 kilometres southwest of Buenos Aires, and the motorway access to the city is very well marked. There's a taxi rank next to each terminal building. City taxis run to the centre of Buenos Aires (which takes nearly 45 minutes), as well as to Ezeiza. It's worth agreeing the fare with the taxi driver before you depart. There are also several private companies providing transportation to the centre. The airport is served by municipal bus lines running to several towns and cities. For instance, line 394 runs to Monte Grande (train station), while line 4 - to Camino de Cintura. Tickets are quite cheap - a fare to the centre of Buenos is only 1.35 pesos (US\$ 0.3) You can also rent a car and reach the capital via the Riccheri highway. Getting to the surrounding towns and cities is also fairly simple. You can use the rail, taxis, coaches, and private buses.

## Important Info

**Aeropuerto Internacional de Ezeiza**  
„Ministro Pistarini”  
Autopista Aut. Richieri S/N, CP 1802,  
Buenos Aires, Argentina  
tel. +54 (011) 5480 6111 [www.aa2000.com.ar](http://www.aa2000.com.ar)  
IATA code: EZE  
ICAO code: SAEZ  
**Height:** 20 m above sea level  
**Number of handled passengers:** 9 million per year  
**Number of operations:** 95.000  
At Ezeiza can rent a car at following rental companies:  
ALAMO (NATIONAL),  
tel. +54 11 0810-999-25266,  
+5411 5480-5580/5581  
ANNIE MILLET-HERTZ,  
tel. +54 11 4480 0054,  
AVIS, tel. +54 11 4480 9387/4378 9640,  
LOCALIZA,  
tel. +54 11 4816 2799/5480 5337  
WORLD CAR,  
The airport has both indoor and outdoor parking spaces. There are no separate long-term car parks.



# APPETITE FOR HAPPINESS

Our tradition tells us to take care of the financial prosperity for the following year even before Christmas - by carefully collecting the scales of the carp. Later, during the New Year's Eve you should reinforce the effect by eating kasha with pork scratching. If you are doubtful about the local traditions, you can always try more exotic delicacies, since everywhere in the world people eat various things to secure their well-being.





There are moments when even the most sensible of us, who couldn't care less about Friday the thirteenth, lose their rational approach to life. Just to be on the safe side. This is because not believing in something is one thing, but to fail to seize the opportunity, is quite another.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

You can ensure your affluence by filling up your larder and fridge, so that you'll have plenty of supply at the beginning of the New Year – thanks to this you'll never be short of anything throughout the year. An equally good way to multiply your wealth is eating kasha with lots of pork scratching right after the New Year's toast. To ensure the household's well-being, you can bake the so called "szczodraki", little round loaves of bread. You should distribute them around your relatives and any living creature within the family. And since apparently happiness shared is multiplied, you ought to share "szczodraki" with every person who visits you on 1 January.

**FROHES NEUES JAHR!**

The practical Germans claim that two in one is the best package you can get. Both happiness and money are guaranteed by the same kind of food - sour cabbage in any form, which understandably is also served to greet the New Year. Our western neighbours also appreciate the magical properties of the carp – but instead of believing that it brings well-being, they believe that it can protect you from financial problems. Theoretically, it's the same thing, but it doesn't stimulate your imagination so much. The Austrians are even less creative - they believe they will ensure their financial well-being by eating a marzipan pig - a rather unsophisticated and not very imaginative "dish".

**FELIZ AÑO NUEVO!**

New Year's Eve in Spain is one of the most important holidays of the year. When the clocks chime midnight, you eat a single grape with every chime, while thinking one wish. Contrary to what you may think, it's not that easy, especially that you need to finish the whole procedure the moment the chiming stops. Therefore, some people write their wishes down, but in such cases, the fate gets capricious, as this is cheating. Apparently, you can double your chances by



standing on your left leg - before the clock starts chiming - in order to step into the New Year with your right leg. And if you're more interested in feelings and emotions than money, you should put some red fruit into your champagne glass when proposing the toast.

**BOLDOG ÚJ ÉVET!**

The Hungarians won't miss any opportunity to eat lecsó, even on New Year's Eve. On the usual menu there is also marzipan and different types of pork meat. However, serving poultry should be avoided. This is because according to tradition, a pig gathers the wealth, while a hen will just scratch it away and scatter it around. The traditional New Year's Eve dinner is usually bean soup - beans resemble coins in shape, which is supposed to bring financial prosperity to everyone eating them.

**BUON ANNO NUOVO!**

In Italy, all the prosperity and well-being is represented by lentils. One cooked seed is thrown into a glass when proposing the New Year's Eve toast. But that's only for starters. Those who really want to make sure they will multiply their wealth, should eat a substantial serving of lentils soup or

fricassee just before midnight. There are two reasons for doing this - lentils are rich in nutrients, and the Italians claim that the cooked seeds resemble money. If you want to improve your love life (or family growth), eat a pomegranate fruit with your beloved one.

**SHŌGATSU SAN-GA-NICHI!**

In Japan, the New Year's Eve dinner can consist of anything, as long as it comes from water. The usual menu includes herring spawn (it symbolizes fertility and growth), shrimps (longevity) and dried sardines (wealth). All the Osechi-ryori (New Year dishes) should be prepared on 31st December, and the last meal of the old year should be soba noodles, called toshi koshi soba, which means: end of the year noodles. Long and thin noodles symbolize calm and long life. The New Year, in turn, should start with toso. It's a type of herbal liqueur, made, among other things, with rice vodka. Then there is zōni soup, and next mochi - very soft and sweet rice cookies. However, the Japanese pay attention not only to the selection of dishes. Their characteristic sense of harmony makes the arrangement of the dishes important as well. They use special containers called jūbako, which resemble fields.

**ZHU XINNIAN HAO!**

The Chinese pay attention particularly to sweet foods. You can sweeten the upcoming year with lotus seeds and lychee fruit - always served on round or octagonal plates. Prosperity and wealth are guaranteed by fish - served together with the head and tail, which is supposed to guarantee a good beginning and ending of the year. However, during the meal you shouldn't turn it onto the other side, as then your good luck may desert you. You can nurture the good relations within a family by serving whole roasted chicken, while round cookies made from rice flour will make your life pleasant. Vegetarian dishes are also popular - potato dumplings resembling coins, noodles (you mustn't cut or break them), beans (symbolize health) and various products wrapped with cabbage leaves, whose name in Chinese sounds similar to a word denoting a growing fortune. In China, the New Year is celebrated twice - on 31 December, but also between 21 January and 19 February, which is in line with the Chinese calendar.

*Joanna Krzyckowska*

# dA CAR

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# THE NEW SCENT OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a troublesome time for every wine enthusiast. Your preferences need to be confronted with those of your relatives. Aunts who like their wine sickeningly sweet no matter if they drink it with kutia or herring. For those who organize Christmas on their own, there is still some room for invention. The rest of us has to grin and bear it drinking awfully sweet wines not worthy of the name.



**T**his year the Christmas rush has been delayed. Last year you could buy santa-shaped candles with a music box playing Christmas carols even before the 1st November! I was shocked. I thought these 2.5 days of holiday will change into a real Catholic version of Ramadan. Today I'm glad we will celebrate Christmas only in December. The recession can have a clearing effect, just like a sip of champagne before dinner. And I can happily admit that unlike other consequences of bad economic situation, this is surely a benefit. Maybe this year we will enjoy flavours and scents more instead of worshipping the excessive marketing logistics. When I think about what I will choose for Christmas this year, I try to weigh in everything. Flavours and scents of the dishes their acidity and fattiness and the preferences of the whole family. Usually, because of these reflections, I chose slightly sweet but top quality Mozelle or Rheingau Riesling, or more moderate when it comes to acidity, Tokaji. This year, I wanted it to be different. Instead of balancing, I decided to give it a go and choose wine made from only one variety - Sauvignon Blanc. Why this one, and not thousands of others?

## IRON CORE

That's because Sauvignon Blanc, unlike many others it shows off its distinctive character, impossible to confuse with any other. And I don't mean the well-known cat's pee smell all the wine books write about, which more often than not resembles a chicken broth seasoned with lovage. Each variety has something I call 'the core of identity'. You can change the climate, soil and vinification process, but you will always get this trace of aroma characteristic to a given variety. And so Californian Chardonnay and Chardonnay from Burgundy will differ in almost every aspect, but the citrus aroma will be present in both wines. The same

goes with Sauvignon, but this very core accounts for most of its expression. That's why its distinctiveness and succulence will be attractive for those of your family, who drink wine because it's elegant, but without much pleasure. I, on the other hand, will be delighted to find out the subtle differences between the bottles from different regions.

## LET'S START WITH THE CLASSICS

Because Bordeaux is the home to Sauvignon Blanc (some people say it's the Loire Valley) I'd advise you to start with white wines from these regions. You don't have to buy expensive wines. Something simple and ephemeral will do. For example, Entre-deux-Mers appellation, which is famous for simple white wines. I would only avoid those with a large amount of Semillion variety, which slightly stupefies the character of Sauvignon and gives it unnecessary fattiness. If you want better wines to go with subsequent dishes, I would look for them outside France, where Sauvignon Blanc matures equally well, and sometimes even better than in its homeland, maybe except for Bordeaux, but they can be quite expensive - both in Poland and France. However, not every country where Sauvignon is produced - and it's produced virtually everywhere - should attract your attention.

## ITALY WITHOUT XENOPHOBIA

What's interesting, the region where Sauvignon is remarkably good is Friuli, Italy - it stretches between the Alps and Venice. Not only did the Italians adopt foreign variety, when they have hundreds on their own, but they also gave it priority. The local Ribolla Gialla or Friulano had to resign and recognize the grandeur of Sauvignon. Especially, that the new hosts seemed to better understand the nature of the French variety that the French themselves. They don't mix it with any other, nor store it in barrels, which can kill the distinctiveness of Sauvignon. Fruitiness is its poetics. Scented with gooseberry, blackberry and sometimes even pineapple or mango. You can also sense traces of nettle and other herbs. Ageing the wine in oak barrels flattens the aromas and deprives it of its youthful spirit. And it

takes really great wine, to be afford to take a risk, hoping the final effect will be satisfactory. Within last years, Sauvignon has been a major attraction in other regions adjacent to Friuli, like Styria, Austria or in Slovenia. Incredibly clear and crystal. Sometimes a bit raw and bitterish, but always unusually characteristic and vivid.

## ASYLUM ON THE ANTIPODES

I'm not a great enthusiast of wines from the New World, because of too stable and hot maturing conditions, which levels the differences between vintages, and this ruins all the fun. Hot climate, on the other hand, deprives the wine of its acidity, so that the producers are sometimes forced to acidify the wine artificially. But there one place, where this isn't the case. New Zealand is the place where wine production seems equally natural as skating in Canada or snorkelling in the Red Sea. And Sauvignon Blanc is a flagship variety not only for one region, but the whole country. Much further on the podium is Pinot Noir, which gets closer and closer to perfection, but there's still room for improvement. Sauvignon Blanc, on the other hand, especially one from the Marlborough region in the southern part of the island, is undoubtedly one of the best wines in the New World and it has already been included into the canon of wine lists in the restaurants all over the world. Although it's still remarkably similar to the European wines, it's also a bit sunnier, tropical, unpretentious, and happily noble. That's why I would serve it at the end, along with desserts or on its own.

Let's make Christmas more attractive. Enjoying the possibility to discover subtle differences characterizing different regions where Sauvignon Blanc is made and counting on the fact, that others will embrace it as a chance to learn something new about wine, other than saying "it's good, because it isn't sour". And even if they accuse us of sensual authoritarianism or lack of mercy for those craving sweetness, let's try to bear it, knowing that we do something appropriate by expanding the experience of those, who think they've tried everything, and nothing is ever going to change their mind.

**Michał Poddany**

Let's make Christmas more attractive. Enjoying the possibility to discover subtle differences characterizing different regions where Sauvignon Blanc is made and counting on the fact, that others will embrace it as a chance to learn something new about wine.



## COMBINING THE TASTE OF WINE AND FOOD

Human tongue responsible for taste is a very primitive organ when compared to nose, which makes us recognize the aromas. The tongue distinguishes between four tastes, so what we think is the taste of, let's say, a banana, is in fact its aroma. If someone switched our nose off, it would turn that all you could say about banana is the fact that it's sweet and a bit acid. Provided we want to achieve balance, we have to combine the flavour counter-intuitively. If we have something sour, it feels like we need a mild and gentle wine, but it is the other way round. Mild wine will only reinforce the acid aftertaste of the food, so you have to choose a wine, which has more acidity, so that when confronted with the dish, it doesn't seem dull or bland. The same goes with the sweet taste. The flavours don't sum up, but eliminate one another. If you have any doubts, ask any child how coke tastes if you drink it while eating chocolate - it simply isn't sweet.



# ALFA ROMEO AND GIULIETTA

Its world premiere took place at Geneva Motor Show 2010  
and in May that year the new Alfa Giulietta  
debuted on the market.





Presented on the 100th anniversary of the make, the Giulietta refers to one of the legendary models made by Alfa Romeo. In the 1950s Giulietta worked on the imagination of car enthusiasts around the world. They dreamed about it, praising its unsurpassed ride quality and excellent technical performance. Now Centro Stile Alfa Romeo has created a new Giulietta - a five-door hatchback featuring design which is characteristic of Alfa Romeo. The car handles perfectly even on the most demanding roads and provides remarkable comfort on day-to-day basis.

NEW PLATFORM

The Alfa Romeo Giulietta introduces an entirely new platform - called Compact - designed to satisfy the most demanding customers in terms of road-holding, agility and safety. It ensures both exceptional dynamic performance and high comfort levels, thanks to the refined technical solutions employed for the suspension, a new-generation steering system, a light and rigid structure created from materials such as aluminium and high-strength steels, and avant-garde manufacturing techniques. This new platform will allow the Alfa Romeo Giulietta to accommodate the needs of all customers in this category, combining on-board comfort, functional interiors

and generous boot space, with the dynamic qualities that belong to every Alfa Romeo. Furthermore, driving satisfaction and comfort can be adapted to meet every customer's specific needs thanks to the Alfa DNA selector, a device that customises the vehicle's behaviour to suit different road conditions and driving styles.

STYLE AND SPORTY NATURE

The Giulietta was created with its own style. In an age when it is increasingly easy to be just like all the others, it defines its own rules. The front displays a brand new interpretation of the classic shield, embedded in the front bumper and suspended between the air vents. This is the starting point for the design of the entire car, which combines an energetic personality with a distinctly elegant form. The front headlights have DRL with LED technology and a day light function for maximum active safety. Even the profile of the Alfa Romeo Giulietta is brimming with personality, giving the impression of an agile and sturdy car. This is above all due to the side windows which recall the appearance of a coupé, emphasising the dynamism and fluidity of form, thanks also to the concealed rear door handles. The ribs on the sides of the vehicle seem to elongate the car while the clean lines which end at the rear accentuate the angular shape of the car's body.

The rear, like the front and side, features distinct styling which emphasises the feeling of a muscular car, firmly gripped onto the road surface. In addition, like the headlights, the innovative rear lights also use LED technology, not only for the sake of style but also preventive safety. Lastly, the measurements of the new car amount to a compact and dynamic shape, while at the same time guaranteeing excellent comfort and a spacious boot (350 litres): it is 4.35 metres long, 1.46 metres high and 1.80 metres wide, with a wheelbase of 2.63 metres. Attention to detail and high quality materials used for interiors are, today as always, the most developed expression of Italian style. More specifically, the dominant concept in the interiors of the new model is lightness. The lines are clean and the dashboard develops horizontally. The seats are comfortable and their shape is designed to ensure maximum comfort during long journeys. Thanks to the advanced ergonomics in the interior design, every switch is ideally located: the main ones are grouped together at the centre of the dashboard and feature the same design as those on the Alfa Romeo 8C Competizione.

The navigation system with pop-up display allows drivers to safely display the route or the mechanical operating parameters set by the Alfa DNA device without having to take



their eyes off the road. There are practical open storage compartments situated in various areas of the passenger compartment: in front of the gearbox, on the centre console and on the interior trim of the doors. There are closed storage compartments - depending on the version - on the top of the dashboard, under the dashboard opposite the front passenger (cooled with dual zone climate control) and in the front and rear armrests.

INNOVATIVE ENGINES

The Alfa Romeo Giulietta guarantees the highest levels of performance and technology through a range of engines that are state-of-the-art in terms of technology, performance levels and environmental-friendliness. The choice of motors includes 4 turbo engines, all Euro 5 compliant and with a Start&Stop system to reduce consumption levels and emissions fitted as standard: two petrol versions (120 HP 1.4TB and 170 HP 1.4TB Multiair) and two diesels (105 HP 1.6 JTDM and 170 HP 2.0 JTDM, both second-generation MultiJet engines). The range is completed by the high performance 235 HP 1750 TBi with direct injection and scavenging control in combination with exclusive Quadrifoglio Verde interiors.

This latter version equipped with a 235 HP 1750 TBi engine perfectly represents the way in which Alfa Romeo offers the most in this

segment. Not just a means of transport, but a vehicle that can really connect with the customer. There is strong acceleration thanks to high torque levels even at low revs, a smooth response that minimises gearbox use thanks to the flexibility typical of modern petrol engines, and an engine note that is engaging without ever becoming intrusive. In detail, the 1750 Turbo petrol engine boasts advanced technical solutions including direct fuel injection, dual continuously variable valve timing, a turbocharger and a revolutionary scavenging control system that gets rid of any turbo lag. The resulting performance is comparable to - or better than - that of many 3-litre engines while still delivering fuel consumption typical of a compact four cylinder unit. It should be noted that the specific power of 134 HP/litre is the highest in the world for a 4-cylinder unit installed in this category of vehicles, as well as being the highest ever achieved by an Alfa Romeo production engine. The specific torque too, totalling 194 Nm/litre, is the highest of all petrol engines in this category, while the maximum torque of 340 Nm, reached at just 1,900 revs, is excellent.

ALFA DNA

Alfa Romeo Giulietta została zaprojektowana by uzyskać najlepszy wynik w rankingu

bezpieczeństwa Euro NCAP, oferując pełną ochronę dla kierowcy i pasażerów.}0{The Alfa Romeo Giulietta was designed to achieve the highest Euro NCAP safety rating to offer total protection for both driver and passengers.0} In addition, the new platform was devised to guarantee the utmost interaction of the systems in charge of controlling the vehicle dynamics. All this is controlled by the real 'brain' of the vehicle, namely the Alfa dna device, which manages all the sophisticated electronic devices for dynamic vehicle control: VDC (Vehicle Dynamic Control), Dual Pinion Active Steering, the Q2 electronic differential, the response and torque curve of the engine, the braking system with pre-fill function. All these systems guarantee genuine Alfa Romeo driving safety, vehicle traction and performance.

The new compact platform, thanks to the sophisticated technical solutions employed for the suspension and the materials used, such as high-strength steels, aluminium, magnesium and xenon, can accommodate the needs of the most demanding customers in terms of on-board comfort and quiet running, placing the Giulietta at the top of its category also in terms of the everyday practicality of the vehicle.



In the 1950s Giulietta worked on the imagination of car enthusiasts around the world. Today, the new Giulietta - a five-door hatchback – is becoming a legend on its own.

Wiktor Łucki



# PROJECT X

From artificial intelligence to augmented reality, **Steve Dinneen** reveals the innovations powering the tech of tomorrow.



**T**he 20th century saw an explosion in technological innovation that made the Renaissance look like a primary school lesson. It was the century when humankind really started to grasp the fundamental building blocks of the universe and use them to its advantage.

## ROBOTS OR PEOPLE?

David Hanson, a robotics engineer and founder of Hanson Robotics, builds realistic-looking robots (coated in a skin-like material called “frubber”) that can understand language, recognise facial expressions and, in a rudimentary way, work out what you are feeling. Hanson’s creations include Einstein, which looks like the famous professor and is mounted on a bipedal robot, and Bina48, reputedly the most intelligent robot in the world. Bina48 is based on the memories and experiences of a real woman, Bina Rothblatt. It is loaded with hundreds of hours of interviews with its human “twin”, which it can occasionally recall during conversation. While Bina48 is largely unconvincing as a human surrogate, momentary flashes of “lucidity”, when a ghost appears to flicker in the machine, are astonishing and creepy in almost equal measure.

## LIFE WITHOUT LIMITS

“Within 20 years, I’m quite confident we will know where consciousness comes from, and if it is simply an element of intelligence,” says Dr Graeme Codrington, a futurologist and co-founder of research company Tomorrow Today. “If this is the case – and it is a big ‘if’ – it could be a real game-changer for the human race. If consciousness develops purely through intelligence, then there is no reason why we wouldn’t be able to ‘upload’ our ‘essence’ or personality into something that doesn’t degrade in the way our bodies do. It’s called ‘transhumanism’.” Take augmented reality (AR). Magnifying lenses have long helped people to see further, but they are still limited to what is really there. AR, such as the software being pioneered by Aurasma, Layar and Blippar, uses physical reality as the jump-off point for a whole new “data layer”. Point your smartphone’s Blippar app at an augmented billboard or page in a magazine, and it will spring to life, with objects emerging

in fully-rendered 3D, or buttons appearing that allow you to “click to buy” the product pictured. You may also be able to unlock animations, video content and secret images. In The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy, Douglas Adams imagined the Babel fish, a telepathic creature that could live in the human ear, translating languages between different nations and even species. Now Google is doing it for real, working on software that can understand and translate language, while smartphone apps such as Word Lens can overlay translations on to almost any body of text (see overleaf).

Imagine how much less foreign a city would feel if the signs you looked at were automatically translated and words spoken in unknown tongues just made sense, as if by magic. Commercial air travel made the world a far smaller place, as did the internet. Now, it’s about to get a whole lot smaller again. In the meantime, here are some more impossibly futuristic gadgets to try to get your head around...

## 1. GOOGLE PROJECT GLASS

**Cost: Unknown, Availability: Possibly 2013**

Google revolutionised the internet with its search engine, but its most exciting product is still in the pipeline – Project Glass. In what appears, from demo models, to be a relatively unobtrusive set of glasses, Google has the technology to overlay the information you’d normally look up on your smartphone on top of your everyday vision. It uses voice recognition to interact with you – so, for example, if you ask the heads-up display that appears in front of you: “How do I get to the airport?” it will cross-reference with Google Maps and provide directions, including a map.

## 2. SAMSUNG WB850F

**Cost: £260, comet.co.uk**

Replacing film photography with digital was a godsend – no more blurred snaps and ruined holiday pics. But there is one fundamental flaw – downloading photographs requires a bit of effort. The new range of Samsung pocket cameras, led by the best-in-class WB850f, solves this issue. The WB850f is a wifi-enabled camera that allows you to automatically beam your pictures to the cloud or even upload them directly to social media sites. It also comes with all the features you would expect, including 16-megapixels and 21x optical zoom.

## 3. NOKIA LUMIA 920 NFC-ENABLED SMARTPHONE

**Cost: From free, dependent on contract**  
**Availability: November 2012, nokia.com**

The concept of paying for stuff with your smartphone has been around for a while, but it is about to become a reality. Many of the latest generation of handsets come loaded with encrypted near-field communication chips, which enable you to simply scan your phone in stores (PIN codes will be required for transactions over £20 in the UK) and your account will be debited. The Windows Phone-based Lumia is one of the best on the market: proof that there is more to the smartphone world than Samsung and Apple.

## 4. WORD LENS

**Cost: Free to download, £2.99 for each language (Spanish, French, Italian)**

**Apple App Store, Google Play (Android)**

The stuff of science fiction a few years ago, Word Lens allows you to point your smartphone at text and, using AR, get an accurate(ish) translation overlaid. While it can still be a bit jittery and some of the translations are a bit iffy, it’s enough to get you through a menu in a French restaurant. While it currently only works in Spanish, French and Italian, more languages are in the pipeline. Imagine how much easier that business trip to Tokyo would be if you could translate every signpost into English.

## 5. APPLE MAPS

**Cost: Free**

**Apple iOS 6 devices**

Apple’s new map software had a rather rude awakening after users immediately spotted that several major landmarks had been



shifted out of place and antiquated place names had been resurrected. But one feature is incredibly impressive – the satellite “flyover”. Apple has rendered finely detailed versions of city centres that you can swoop through like in a real-life computer game. The level of detail is astonishing – after zooming in on the Gherkin, there is one window in particular that you can clearly peer into. If Apple can build on this, it could be something very special.

## 6. CYBERTECTURE MIRROR

**Cost: £2,399**

**tech2o.co.uk**

Since reading fairytales as children, people have been intrigued by magic mirrors – that seductive blend of practicality and narcissism. Now, you can have your very own. While the Cyberecture Mirror may not be able to work out who is the fairest in the land (not yet, anyway), it can display your emails, tell you what the weather is going to be like and, if you hook it up to a set of wifi scales, break it to you that you have put on weight. The thought of losing even more “me time”, may put some people off but if you’re running late for a meeting and need to check your emails first, it could be a lifesaver.

## 7. LG SMART REFRIGERATOR

**Cost: Unknown**

**Availability: Late 2012/2013**

Since automatons were first dreamed up, us lazy humans have longed for robots to do our bidding. LG’s smart refrigerator is probably the closest we’ve come. It will check food in and out, and when items run low, automatically order new ones over the internet so you don’t have to traipse to the shops. Need a recipe? Just search for one on the built-in screen on the fridge door – and when you’ve made your mind up, it can tell the oven to heat up in preparation.

## 8. CUBIFY 3D PRINTER

**Cost: US\$1,299**

**cubify.com**

Printing in 3D is so futuristic, it’s difficult to even imagine. The concept is a science fiction mainstay – you tell a vending machine what you need and it drops out, like a chocolate bar. Now you can have your very own 3D printer. It isn’t quite up to sci-fi levels yet, but the creations are almost unbelievable in their complexity. The object you want to print is scanned using lasers to give the printer a 3D image; then, using cartridges of special resin, it will, over the space of a few hours, build it for you. It is capable of incredible detail and can make shapes that would otherwise be incredibly difficult to construct.



# 4 HOURS IN... PERTH

Perth is said to be the loneliest city on Earth. At the same time it ranks 8th in an index of 10 most livable cities in the world. **Agata Janicka** invites you to the sunniest place in Australia.



**T**he loneliest city in the world is also the sunniest one. Throughout the year the sun shines here 8 hours a day. However, Perth is not only a very sunny place, but also a very cheerful one, thanks to its smiling and good-natured citizens. The inhabitants of the metropolis, which is the capital of the Western Australia, are separated from the world by the Indian Ocean on one side, and millions of square kilometres of desert on the other. The nearest major city, Adelaide, is situated 3,000 km away from Perth!

## LONELINESS IN THE ANTIPODES

Although Perth is a part of Australia, it's much closer from here to Jakarta, Indonesia than to Sydney or Melbourne. An aerial view of the capital of the Western Australia shows the city as a lonely outpost of civilization situated between the vast spaces of the steppes of the Fifth Continent and the vastness of waters of the Indian Ocean. The city is also almost evenly divided into two parts by a transcontinental railway line. Despite these "adversities" Perth is considered to be the fastest growing city in Australia. It's picturesquely situated at the mouth of the Swan River flowing out into the Indian Ocean. The river owes its name to black swans, which can still be found here.

Interestingly, the people of Perth don't complain about the slightly unfortunate location of their home city. They got used to it and they feel good about it, especially because following geological discoveries made in the area, Perth is getting richer. Skyscrapers of incredible shapes, numerous investments, and something elusive in the atmosphere of the city – all of this shows that Perth isn't wasting its opportunity.

## A MODERN CITY

Perth is a modern, green, safe and clean place. The city's fantastic skyscrapers and sophisticated architecture of the city centre are a true testimony to its wealth. Not surprisingly, Perth is one of the fastest growing metropolises in the entire Southern Hemi-



Although Perth is located on the edge of civilization, its residents don't complain. They have everything they need for life, even the world-renowned regatta.

sphere. Although its population constitutes 1/8 of the entire population of Australia, it generates up to 25% of the nation's GNP. The signs of prosperity can be seen here at every step. The winding, futuristic highways carry a constant stream of vehicles into the City – a skyscraper jungle which forms the core of Perth. The city centre is surrounded by thousands of acres of parks and suburban areas with characteristic houses which almost always come with a swimming pool.

## KINGS PARK

Kings Park, located in the very heart of Perth, covers over 500 hectares of land and is the most beautiful picturesque of the city. This green area was landscaped as early as in the 19th century. Established on Mount Eliza by Aborigines, nowadays it's considered almost a sacred place. According to the mythological beliefs, Wagyl snake hid here under the ground and turned into water thus creating the Swan River, which flows at the foot of the hill. The park features numerous artificial lakes, miniature waterfalls, a tower which offers a stunning panorama of the area, as well as several monuments to commemorate significant events in the history of the Western Australia. There's also a beautiful botanical garden.

## REGATTAS AROUND THE WORLD

When you visit Perth you must also go to the neighbouring city of Fremantle situated over the ocean, where the main Australian port on the Indian Ocean is located. Fremantle is just 30 minutes by train from the centre of Perth. With its unique atmosphere, Fremantle attracts tourists, mainly thanks to its beautiful 19th century architecture, including numerous wooden houses listed by the National Trust of Australia. A walk down the streets of Fremantle will allow you to move back to the times of sailing ships, sailors and the early years of the Australian colonies. The modern yacht ma-

rina, located in the very centre of the city, clearly contrasts with the old architecture. If you want to see the finest yachts, this is definitely the place to go. Fremantle also features a renowned yacht harbour which is a mandatory stop on the route of the famous Whitbread Round the World Race.

## THE ISLAND, REEF AND HUMPHACK WHALES

Take a walk on the beaches of Perth to see up close seals, dolphins and sea lions approaching the shore. You should also take a trip to the island of Rottnest, which for over 50 years has been a popular hangout spot among the residents of Perth. It's 11 km long and 4.5 km wide. In 1917 it was recognized as a Class A reserve owing to its remarkable flora and fauna. You will see here over 8,000 species of flowers (including hundreds of orchids), have a close encounter with a miniature kangaroo called Quokka (found only in a few worldwide), observe black swans which are a symbol of the city, and see over 400 species of fish and 20 species of corals growing in warm waters of the marine reserve. The island is also a popular migrating spot for humpback whales, bottlenose dolphins and Australian sea lions. Thanks to the vast coral reef, the ocean waters surrounding Rottnest are considered to be a fantastic place to scuba dive.

## Important info

The best air connection to Perth is offered by Singapore Airlines [www.singaporeair.com](http://www.singaporeair.com) Pan Pacific Perth – a 5-star hotel located by the Swan River, offers comfortable rooms with views of the ocean [www.panpacific.com](http://www.panpacific.com).

The city was founded in 1829 as a British trading post by Perth Water - a lake fed by the river, but its true origins are associated with the discovery of gold and diamond deposits in 1890s.





# 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](mailto:redakcja@businesstraveller.pl)

## Airport VIP service

*Next month we are expecting a visit of the German owner of our company. My boss asked me to organize a VIP service at the airport. Until now, he has always used business lounges. How do I order a VIP service? What is that exactly?*

**Alicja**

Dear Alicja,  
Business travellers normally have access to lounges as they have bought a ticket of a certain category. While the loyalty card owners of higher status can use business lounges regardless of the type of a ticket they buy. Airports also offer an additional product, which is a VIP service. Until recently, VIP lounges were reserved only for well-known politicians travelling for official diplomatic purposes. However, a demand for such service increased and the airports decided to turn it into a commercial service.

VIP service offers a very high quality of service, but at the same time, privacy and discretion are guaranteed. VIP lounges are usually located in a terminal building, but they come with a separate car driveway and a separate entrance. You can use the car park during your trip - both as a traveller and if you see someone off. VIP lounge guests do not get through the check-in with all the other passengers. Check-in procedure is handled by dedicated airport crew in the VIP lounge. Boarding cards are usually prepared earlier and you can collect them ahead of time. The same rules apply to the security check and the customs. Separate checkpoints are aimed only at VIP passengers, check-in is performed in line with all the procedures, but in a discreet way.

Apart from a huge selection of snacks and meals in the lounge, the guests have access to conference rooms, office appliances, the Internet and TV. All in all, important business meeting may end just before boarding in.

VIP passengers don't have to stand in a queue to get on board. They are transferred to the plane with limousines and can board even minutes before the plane takes off.

VIP service is available also after the travellers have reached their destination.

The cost of VIP service starts from 300 euro per person. It is also available in Poland. In Warsaw, you have to order it at least 4 hours before the flight.

## A change of a ticket price

*I am an assistant to the chairman of the board of directors and I take care of booking travels and flight tickets. I'd like to ask you a question. Can a ticket price change after booking, but before I've paid for it? What does it depend on? Is the client informed about the change? How quickly should I pay for a booked ticket?*

**Karolina**

Dear Karolina,  
The booking itself guarantees a seat on the plane, but not the price, as both the airport fees and currency rate may change. The ticket price comprises the carrier's fee, additional charges (airport fees, customs, immigration, security and fuel charges) as well as the handling fee. The transfer contract is drawn when a ticket for a particular person is issued, and this is when the final price is given, and your invoice is issued. When booking the ticket, the agent gives us the price of the ticket, but they usually inform that it may change until the ticket is issued. The agents should warn you that the price of the ticket you see during the booking process isn't a trade offer, and is subject to change for the reasons I have just listed above.

After the ticket has been issued, the price can't change, as the contract has been concluded. Theoretically, your airport might introduce additional airport fee, and take it from you in cash on the day of your departure, such situations sometimes occur when flying from some Asian or South-American airports. In this case, a passenger must pay extra after the ticket has been issued.

The date of a ticket issue depends on the terms of the fare which was used. Generally speaking, the cheaper the ticket, the sooner you have to pay for it. In most fares you have to pay within 72 hours after booking a ticket. With promotional fares this can be even 24 hours. Business class and premium economy fares don't have these restrictions - you can pay for the tickets any time.

Sometimes an airline introduces higher fares before you have paid, but after the booking. They can also introduce some additional fees or the fuel prices might go up. Technically, it's not really possible to inform the client about the changes (as with the timetable changes). You learn about it when the ticket is issued. Therefore, you should take it into account when planning the trip-related budget.



## Ekscytujące piękno, futurystyczna technologia.

[www.siemens-home.pl](http://www.siemens-home.pl)

Najnowsze trendy w zabudowie kuchni proponują czyste formy wkomponowane w pełną powietrza przestrzeń. Sprzęt Siemens doskonale spełnia te wymagania. Podobnie jak piekarniki i płyty grzewcze, również nowe okapy wyróżniają się ekskluzywnym designem o wyjątkowo eleganckiej, oszczędnej linii. Piękna obudowa ze szlachetnych materia-

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](http://www.siemens-home.pl)



**BENEFIA Towarzystwo Ubezpieczeń na Życie S.A. Vienna Insurance Group**  
specjalizuje się w indywidualnych ubezpieczeniach na życie oraz ubezpieczeniach powiązanych z usługami bankowymi. Stawia sobie za cel oferowanie swoim Klientom najwyższej jakości produktów i usług ubezpieczeniowych.

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Właścicielem Towarzystwa jest **VIENNA INSURANCE GROUP** – wiodąca austriacka grupa ubezpieczeniowa w Europie Środkowo-Wschodniej ze 180 letnią tradycją. **Wysoki kapitał akcyjny** dodatkowo wzmacnia wiarygodność finansową Towarzystwa. To jeden z najwyższych kapitałów akcyjnych wśród firm ubezpieczeniowych. Jest gwarancją siły i stabilności Towarzystwa, a z drugiej strony stanowi o potencjale inwestycyjnym firmy i zainteresowaniu akcjonariuszy szybkim i stabilnym rozwojem spółki.

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