

Business Poland Traveller

www.businesstraveller.pl

| 9,60 zł (8% VAT included) | №12-1/2014 (46-47) DECEMBER 2013 - JANUARY 2014 |

MIDNIGHT IN PARIS

| SEOUL | LAS VEGAS | CHICAGO | MALEDIVES | XIAN | MEGÈVE |

Odkryj **4K**rotnie
więcej detali niż w Full HD



Samsung **UHD TV**
Ultra High Definition 4K



**Ostrzejszy i jaśniejszy obraz,
wyraźniejsze szczegóły i głębsza czerń**

Telewizor Samsung UHD prezentuje wyjątkową jakość obrazu o 4-krotnie wyższej rozdzielczości niż w Full HD. To także jedyny TV UHD z rozwiązaniem One Connect, które w pełni przygotowuje telewizor na rozwój technologii. Dzięki temu w przyszłości Twój Samsung UHD TV nadal będzie zachwycał najwyższą jakością, zgodną z najnowszymi rozwiązaniami technologii UHD.

» **Future Proof** »

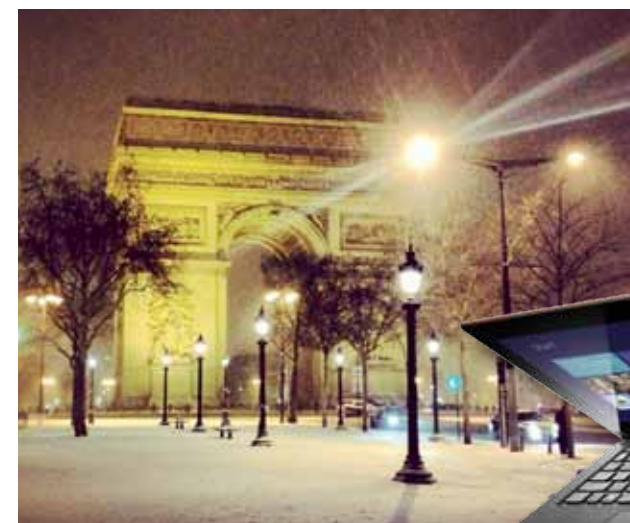
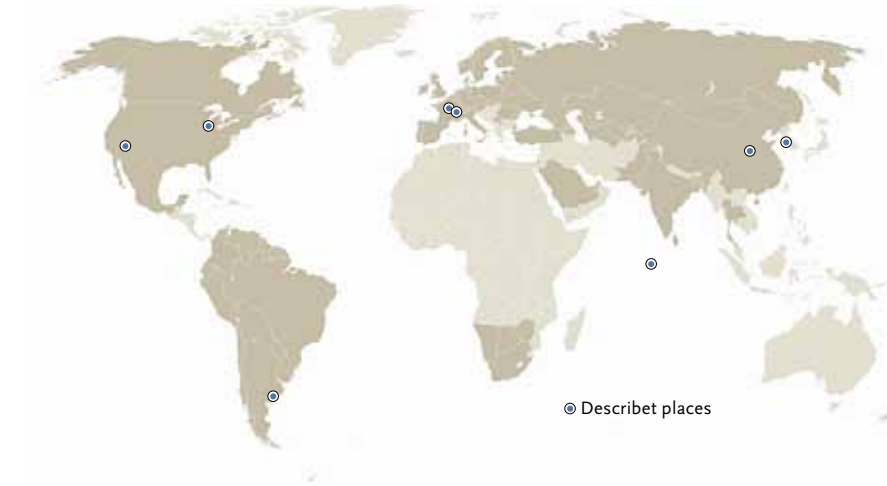
uhd.samsung.pl

 facebook.com/SamsungPolska

SAMSUNG

Telewizory Samsung są w pełni przystosowane do rozwoju technologii UHD, ponieważ kluczowe elementy, takie jak CPU/GPU/Memory oraz podłączenia HDMI 2.0/Codec/Tuner, można zmienić poprzez wymianę One Connect, bez potrzeby ingerowania w sprzęt lub jego wymiany. Szczegółowe informacje dotyczące funkcjonalności i wymiany zostaną opublikowane na samung.pl w momencie wprowadzenia nowej generacji One Connect. Stan na październik 2013. Informacje na podstawie obecnie określonych standardów połączenia i nadawania UHD. W przypadku wprowadzenia zmian Samsung UHD TV umożliwia podłączenie kolejnej generacji One Connect (wymagany zakup).

CONTENT | December 2013-January 2014



Editorial

On Top

- Hotel, restaurant, and airline news
- Giftmania

Cover Story

- Midnight in Paris ...

Tried&Tested

- Boeing 787 Dreamliner
- Conrad Maldives Rangali Island
- The Residence Maldives
- Du Collectionneur
- Les Jardins du Marais
- A charming place amid the alpine peaks
- samsung GALAXY Note 3
- RRejuvenating Programmes

Report

- Friends with benefits

Air Travel

- Lufthansa News

Hotels

- Sofitel Warsaw Victoria
- French elegance in the centre of Warsaw
- Westin weekend
- a way to cope with Mondays

Beauty

- Żubrówka for real men

Destinations

- Seoul survivor
- 4 hours in... Xian

A Business Person on Holiday

- Las Vegas

Business & Travel

- Around the World in the Footsteps of Great Poles

Investment

- The gate to the masuria

Moto&Techno

- The Dream of the Power Comes True
- Rise of the machines

Ask Peter

6

8

48

14

20

22

24

26

28

30

32

34

36

42

44

46

50

52

72

58

60

62

64

68

74



GIORGIO ARMANI
Nowy zapach

Business Traveller Poland

ul. Świętokrzyska 36, 00-116 Warszawa
tel. +48 22 455 38 14, +fax +48 22 455 38 13
www.businesstraveller.pl

Redaktor naczelna Marzena Mróz
m.mroz@businesstraveller.pl

Sekretarz redakcji Joanna Kadej-Krzyczkowska
j.krzyczkowska@businesstraveller.pl

Dyrektor artystyczny Barbara Scharf
b.scharf@businesstraveller.pl

Skład/łamanie LACRIMA
lacrima.barbarascharf@gmail.com

Wydawnictwo
R&S Media Sp. z o.o. ul. Świętokrzyska 36,
00-116 Warszawa
tel. +48 22 455 38 33
fax +48 22 455 38 13

Wydawca Robert Grzybowski
robertg@businesstraveller.pl

Szef serwisu
www.businesstraveller.pl Filip Gawrys
f.gawrys@businesstraveller.pl

Reklama, sponsoring biuro@businesstraveller.pl

Dystrybucja, prenumerata TM Media,
Al. Jana Pawła II 61 lok. 239
tel.+48 22 252 80 38
fax +48 22 252 55 07

Druk Drukarnia TINTA
13-200 Dziadowo,
ul. Zwirki i Wigury 22,
www.drukarniatinta.pl

Business Traveller
Managing director Julian Gregory
Perry Publications, Cardinal House,
39-40 Albemarle Street, London,
W1S 4TE
tel. +44 (0)20 76 47 63 30
www.businesstraveller.com

In the US, Business Traveler is published at 303 Fifth Avenue, 1308, NY 10016, tel 1 212 725 3500. In Germany, Business Traveller is published at Schulstrasse 34, 80634 Munich, tel. 89 167 9971, fax 89 167 9937. In Denmark, Business Traveller is published at Rymarksvej 46, 2900 Hellerup, tel. 45 3311 4413, fax 45 3311 4414. In Hungary, Business Traveller is published at 1074 Budapest, Munkas utca 9, tel. 36 1266 5853. In Hong Kong, Business Traveller Asia-Pacific and China are published at Suite 405 4/F Chinachem Exchange Square, 1 Hoi Wan Street, Quarry Bay, tel. 852 2594 9300, fax 852 2519 6846. In the Middle East, Business Traveller Middle East is published jointly by Motivate Publishing, PO Box 2331, Dubai UAE, tel. 9714 282 4060, and Perry Publications. In Africa, Business Traveller Africa is published by Future Publishing (Pty) Ltd, PO Box 3355, Rivonia 2128, South Africa, tel. 27 11 803 2040.

© 2009 Perry Publications Ltd – a subsidiary of Panacea Publishing International Ltd, United Kingdom



DREAM DESTINATIONS

The end of a year is always a good time to sum up the past year, reflect on our achievements, and plan the future. We count days that we spent on planes, calculate points collected in various loyalty programmes, recall best hotels that we stayed in both on business trips and holiday, as well as evaluate the airlines that we travelled with. We make plans for our future trips, putting on the list not only the places that we need to visit on business, but also our dream destinations, such as French Polynesia, Alaska, Burma, or ... Easter Island! Wishing you every success, both in personal and professional life, I would like to encourage you to travel even more in 2014. I hope that the articles published in this issue will encourage you to visit Paris – the unquestionable capital of fashion, style and business, and the city where you will find whatever you are looking for. Another country that we feature this month is the South Korea, which has gone from aid recipient to donor in a mere 50 years – an achievement spearheaded by the economic steam engine at its heart. The story of its capital, Seoul, is one of survival, tenacity and unprecedented success. Finally, in this issue we also write about the legendary Las Vegas, the heavenly beaches of the Maldives and about the Chinese city of Xian which although known primarily for its Terracotta Army, it has a lot to offer – both for tourists and businesspeople. Happy New Year, and enjoy your reading!

Marzena Mróz

Marzena Mróz
Editor-in-Chief



SINGAPORE AIRLINES

BUSINESS CLASS

NAJBARDZIEJ PRZESTRONNA JAKĄ WIDZIAŁ ŚWIAT

Zrelaksuj się w Twojej prywatnej przestrzeni, odpęż w najszerszym na świecie fotelu Business Class, który rozkłada się w zupełnie płaskie łóżko. W drodze baw się dobrze korzystając z KrisWorld, osobistego systemu rozrywki pokładowej, oraz serwisu pokładowego, o którym mówią nawet inne linie lotnicze.



SINGAPORE AIRLINES
A great way to fly
A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Dostępna w samolotach Singapore Airlines typu Airbus A380-800 z Londynu, Frankfurtu, Zurychu i Paryża oraz Boeing 777-300ER z Londynu, Frankfurtu, Monachium i Mediolanu.



GIFTCARD

Ask reception for more information
www.giftcards.rezidor.com



Radisson Blu Hotel, Gdańsk

Hotele

Radisson Blu

PERSONALIZED GIFT CARDS FROM RADISSON BLU

There's only one good present for frequent travellers. The Rezidor Hotel Group, one of the fastest growing hotel companies in the world, has launched the perfect Christmas gifts – a personalized Gift Card. The cards are valid in hotels Radisson Blu and Park Inn by Radisson. In this way the Rezidor Gift Card can be used in more than 250 hotels in over 30 countries worldwide. These include six Radisson Blu hotels in Cracow, Wrocław, Szczecin, Gdańsk, and Warsaw, as well as Park Inn by Radisson Cracow. The Gift Card can be used to pay for a stay in a hotel, meals in hotel restaurants, SPA treatment, and many more services offered by Rezidor. A weekend in Paris, dinner in Barcelona, massage in Dubrovnik, or shopping in London – with the Gift Card you can now give all of this to your beloved ones. What's more, you can also personalize the card. Just go to www.radissonblu.com/giftcard website, pick a photo from your computer or the website's collection, specify with what amount you want to charge the card, and provide the address at which it should be delivered. Such personalized and very versatile gift is an ideal choice for relatives and friends, but also any frequent traveller. The card can also be used as a nice form of appreciation to your customers, employees or business partners. More details at: www.radissonblu.com/giftcard

Tourism

Turkey

SKIING IN TURKEY

So far Turkey has mostly been associated only with summer vacation, but now the country shows its new face. The town of Erzurum, located at the feet of Palandöken Mountains is the central point of the region, gradually attracting more and more skiers searching for interesting places to ski. Its advantages are slopes for beginners and advanced skiers, high quality hotels with private lifts, as well as après ski attractions, which means that the place is a perfect choice for families with children. Erzurum boasts modern infrastructure – lifts, snowmaking machines, and luxury hotels and apartments. Additional advantages of the Turkish destination are attractive prices of ski-passes and the opportunity to taste the local cuisine.



Approximately 5 km east is one of the most famous Turkish ski resorts - Palandöken. It offers 27 slopes of varying difficulty. The slopes are serviced by 14 lifts, including, two for kids. Close to Erzurum there's also Konakli Alp Disiplini Kayak Tesisi resort. In addition to the great conditions for very advanced skiers, Konakli guarantees phenomenal views of Erzurum and picturesque sceneries. More details at: www.northeastturkey.com



Air line

LOT

WITH DREAMLINER ON HOLIDAY!

In November LOT Polish Airlines has launched direct charter connections to exotic countries, operated by B787 Dreamliner. The new routes are the result of LOT's close collaboration with two leading travel agencies – Itaka and Rainbow Tours. Those who have purchased package holidays with those tour operators can now comfortably and in a shorter time reach seven exceptionally attractive tourist destinations around the world: Bangkok, Colombo in Sri Lanka, Mexican Cancun, Cuban Varadero (Rainbow Tours), as well as Mombassa in Kenya, La Romana in the Dominican Republic, and Porlamar in Venezuela (Itaka). "It's a completely new quality in charter services. Luxury, modernity and ... direct connections. Our cooperation with tour operators is extremely attractive, especially since the alternative is a long flight with a stopover," says Barbara Pijanowska-Kuras, a spokesperson for LOT Polish Airlines. For LOT Polish Airlines this is a great way to better utilize the long-haul planes during less intense winter season. In this way, the Polish national carrier that is undergoing a difficult restructuring process, will be able to generate additional revenues. More details at: www.lot.com



Tourism

Norway

WORLD'S LARGEST GINGERBREAD CITY

Every year, starting at the end of November, in Bergen, the capital of the Norwegian fjords, you can smell the scent of gingerbread. It's a sign that the world's largest gingerbread city – Pepperkakebyen – is being built. This year's opening ceremony of the sweet Bergen, created by its youngest residents, took place on 23 November. The gingerbread capital located at Torgallmenningen square can be visited until December 31. Although it might thing otherwise, this tradition is relatively new and started in 1991, when one of the local malls held the first exhibition of gingerbread designs. Ever since, each year children from kindergartens and schools, as well as whole families, build gingerbread constructions which make up a replica of a real city. Gingerbread, prepared traditionally in Norwegian houses, is the basic building material for houses, cars, churches, bridges, and even figures of the residents of the city. In local stores you can also buy ready-made gingerbread dough, which makes the building process a whole lot easier. Those who don't have time for baking can take care of decorating gingerbread buildings instead. Candy, jellies, and cookies in all colours of the rainbow, as well as tons of icing, turn into colourful facades, windows, roofs and other elements of the urban infrastructure. The residents take care of every detail – the sweet city is located, just like the real one, among seven mountains. There's also the town hall, the famous fish market and the lighthouse. More about the attractions of Bergen at the www.visitbergen.com



ŚWIĄTECZNE INSPIRACJE

VOUCHER DO SPA
Zaskocz swoich najbliższych wspaniałym prezentem w relaksujących klimatach Spa! W Hotelach SPA Dr Irena Eris – Wzgórza Dylewskie lub Krynica Zdrój – zamów voucher pobytowy na wybrany program lub dowolną kwotę.
drirenaerisspa.com



PODARUNEK PIĘKNOŚCI
Wybierz Podarunek Piękności dla mamy lub siostry do Kosmetycznych Instytutów Dr Irena Eris! To zaproszenie na innowacyjne zabiegi na twarz lub ciało, zabiegi medycyny estetycznej lub na zakup luksusowych kosmetyków Dr Irena Eris ucieszy Twoich najbliższych.
drirenaeris.com/kosmetyczne-instytuty



ZESTAWY UPOMINKOWE
Idealne prezenty dla twoich przyjaciół to zestawy upominkowe Dr Irena Eris. Kosmetyki nawilżające HYDROGENIC dla niej i PLATINUM MEN dla niego. Zestawy zawierają także wyjątkowy prezent – zaproszenie do Kosmetycznych Instytutów Dr Irena Eris z voucherem o wartości 50 zł.
drirenaeris.com



Programme

Air ticket with accommodation

GOOD MORNING LISBON

Never has long voyages been so pleasant. If you choose to travel with TAP Portugal, you can forget about the long hours of waiting at the airport, even if you are traveling to the other end of the world. Within the BOM DIA LISBOA programme, passengers travelling to South America and Africa who have no scheduled same-day connections, are offered the Bom dia Lisboa facility by TAP Portugal. The carrier provides overnight hotel accommodation on a complimentary basis. In addition, it will offer a following morning continental breakfast and the shuttle transfers from/to the airport in Lisbon.

- the service is available for passengers who have purchased a ticket on the route from Poland (from/via Warsaw and Lisbon) to the port operated by TAP Portugal. The ticket for the entire route must be issued by TAP Portugal;
- the service is available for published tariffs, and for the sake of safety doesn't apply to unaccompanied minors;
- hotel reservations will be made in the office of TAP Portugal in Warsaw - TAPReservations@aviareps.com. More details at: www.flytap.com

Gadget

Thule Crossover 56L

BLACK ROLLING DUFFEL BAG

The ideal gear bag with a wide mouth access to easily load helmets, boots, gloves, jackets and other travel essentials.

Key features:

- Aluminum hardware and water-resistant fabrics combine to create a lightweight, durable bag
 - Durable exoskeleton and a molded polypropylene back panel absorb the impact of rugged travel
 - Tough, oversized wheels and Thule V-Tubing™ telescoping handles guarantee a smooth, steady and straight pull for years
 - Compression straps customize the bag to the size of your load
 - Heat-molded, crush-proof SafeZone™ compartment protects eyewear, portable electronics and other fragile gear (compartment locks and can be removed for extra cargo room)
 - Divided main compartment keeps clean-from-dirty, wet-from-dry, and work-from-play
 - Price: PLN 1,150
- More details at: www.thule.com/pl



Turystyka

Austria

FAMILY HOLIDAY IN TIROL

Experience a real adventure in a true faerie. Winter family holidays in Tirol are set to be a real hit of the season. In Silberregion Karwendel, Imst, and Tirol West, kids can take part in free ski courses. Many of the Tyrolean regions also offer free equipment rental for kids (if their parents also rent the equipment). Kids can also participate in numerous other activities, such as DIY, baking and painting courses, or can play under the watchful eye of the staff. Both children and adults will feel like Tarzan in the jungle, if they visit the popular Natur-Hochseilgarten Zauberwinkl ropes course in Wildschönau. Some sections of the course are situated as high as 21 metres above the ground. It's also worth visiting one of the numerous Tyrolean museums, take part in Christmas fairs or go to one of the toboggan runs. More details at: www.austria.info/pl

Radisson BLU

EXPERIENCE MEETINGS

SPOTKANIA Z SUKCESEM.
SALE KONFERENCYJNE DLA KREATYWNEJ PRACY.
MENU DLA SPRAWNEGO UMYSŁU. BEZPŁATNE SZYBKIE ŁĄCZE WIFI.
WYKORZYSTAJ W 100% POTENCJAŁ UCZESTNIKÓW SWOJEGO SPOTKANIA.

EXPERIENCE SUCCESS

BRAIN FOOD
FOR MEETINGS

((FREE WiFi))

BRAIN BOX
BREAK-OUT ROOM

ZAPYTAJ O PAKIETY KONFERENCYJNE EXPERIENCE MEETINGS
W HOTELACH SIECI RADISSON BLU
W GDAŃSKU, KRAKOWIE, SZCZECINIE, WARSZAWIE, WROCŁAWIU

RADISSON BLU HOTELS & RESORTS

National Sales Office Poland
Radisson Blu Centrum Hotel, Warszawa
T: +48 22 321 8878 F: +48 22 320 1754
groupdesk.poland@rezidor.com radissonblu.com/meetings



Megève
Alpine delicacies

LES FERMES DE MARIE

The French resort of Megeve owes its status of the Alpine culinary capital to as many as 81 local restaurants, of which 37 lies on the slopes. One of the best choices is the cuisine offered at Les Fermes de Marie restaurant - famous for its traditional, balanced dishes prepared by the chef Christoph Cote. The dishes are elegantly decorated and you can enjoy your meal while looking at the majestic Mont Blanc. If at lunchtime you happen to be in Traditionell restaurant, try the Scottish salmon as an appetizer, while for the main course choices include a sophisticated dish of sea bass, trout in the strawberry mousse, veal with mushrooms, beef with green pepper sauce, or roast of lamb with polenta. The restaurant is also famous for its burgers and the Alpine Croque Madame with egg and lettuce. As for dinner, you can start it with tomato soup with black olive oil and parmesan cheese, followed by, for example, the Bavarian prime rib for two, fried veal with cheese and potatoes, or lobster and truffle paste. The Alpine Restaurant, which is a part of the hotel of the same name, is open on Saturdays from 7.30 p.m. and is a perfect choice for those who appreciate both good cuisine and cosy atmosphere. Organ music, fine wine, potato soup with truffles, a large choice of pâtés, cheeses, fondue, raclette and homemade desserts – these are second to none. Those who like spicy snacks, should definitely go to L'Alpette restaurant located on the slope. It's interesting to know that the chef is already preparing a special menu for the New Year's Eve dinner. The large choice of dishes includes seafood, foie gras in apple jelly with saffron, as well as beef and black truffles. More details at: www.fermesdemarie.com

Air line
Finnair

90TH BIRTHDAY

On 1 November, Finnair, the world's fifth oldest operating airline, celebrated its 90th birthday. The Finnish airline has a modern fleet consisting mainly of Airbus aircraft, which carry over eight million passengers every year. The Finnish carrier specializes in routes between Europe and Asia and offers flights to 13 cities in Asia and more than 60 European cities. We encourage you to go to YouTube and watch videos that were made on the occasion of the 90 birthday of the airline. www.youtube.com/finnair. More details at: www.finnairgroup.com

Beauty
Yoskine

FOR A WOMAN
LIKE YOU

YOSKINE cosmetics are rejuvenating preparations of excellent quality, composed to perfectly match the individual needs of a woman's complexion. YOSKINE cosmetics are distinguished by unique formulas, velvety texture, nice smell, and a guarantee of effectiveness. With YOSKINE the everyday face care turns into... the everyday luxury. Price: PLN 70 More details at www.yoskine.pl



Air line
Singapore Airlines

LARGER LUGGAGE
ALLOWANCE

Travellers can now look forward to more free checked-in baggage allowance for Singapore Airlines (SIA) and SilkAir flights from Friday (Nov 15), for all classes of travel. Checked-in baggage allowances will increase by 10 kg across all classes of travel for all flights (except to and from United States and Brazil), bringing the free baggage allowances of Suites and First Class, Business Class and Economy Class to 50 kg, 40 kg and 30 kg respectively. For flights to and from the United States, where a per-piece allowance applies, customers travelling in Suites, First Class and Business Class will be entitled to check in two pieces of luggage of up to 32 kg each, up from 23 kg previously. SIA Senior Vice President Sales & Marketing, Mr Chin Yau Seng said: "Increasing baggage allowances across all classes of travel is in response to feedback from our customers and reaffirms our commitment to constantly enhancing customer service." KrisFlyer Elite Gold and Star Alliance Gold members will continue to enjoy an additional 20 kg of baggage allowance across all travel classes, or one extra piece of checked-in baggage when travelling to or from the United States and Brazil. PPS Club members will also continue to be entitled to double the checked-in baggage allowance in their respective class of travel. More details at: www.singaporeair.pl

Business
Lounge

Chwila relaksu
przed odlotem
Nowy Business Lounge
Terminal B, odloty

Fast
Track

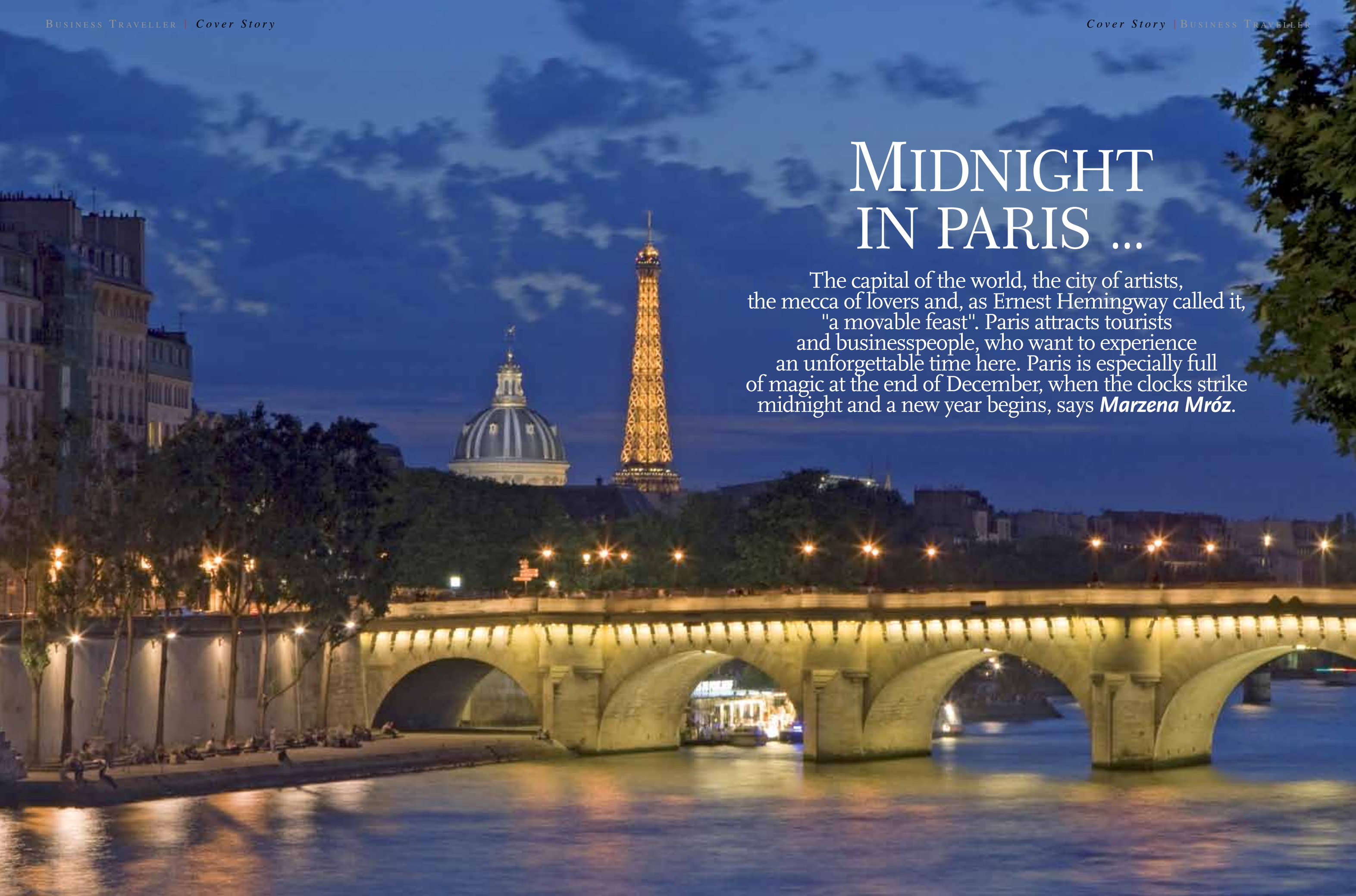
Przyspiesz...
dzięki usłudze Fast Track
Terminal B, I piętro

www.katowice-airport.com/pl/biznes



MIDNIGHT IN PARIS ...

The capital of the world, the city of artists, the mecca of lovers and, as Ernest Hemingway called it, "a movable feast". Paris attracts tourists and businesspeople, who want to experience an unforgettable time here. Paris is especially full of magic at the end of December, when the clocks strike midnight and a new year begins, says **Marzena Mróz**.





Paris - like no other city in the world - can live up to your expectations, showing a different face to everybody

Like in the Woody Allen's "Midnight in Paris", you come to the city hoping for a change of fate. You look forward to inspiration, entertainment, sights, great fashion, best restaurants, Parisian chic, sophisticated hotels, and modern conference centres. Indeed, Paris - like no other city in the world - can live up to your expectations, showing a different face to every visitor.

PARIS GLAMOUR

For those who want to see Paris in its royal, dazzling, and delicious version, I would recommend the following route - Palais-Royal, the Madeleine Church, the Paris Opera and the Grand Boulevards.

Palais-Royal - built in 1639, located in the city centre, 150 meters from the building of the Louvre - is the seat of the French Council of State, the Constitutional Council, and the Ministry of Culture, combined with the French National Theatre. It's worth to see this monumental building with as many as 260 Buren columns.

The neoclassical Madeleine Church is located on the square of the same name. It's impressive, as it towers over the place, like the Pantheon. It's an idée fixe of Napoleon Bonaparte, who wanted to erect a temple to the glory of the French army, and, knowing it - you can sit in one of the cafes surrounding the square - to contemplate this bold idea of the great man.

In the Opéra Garnier - resembling an exquisite box of chocolates - ballet performances still take place. The baroque-style building combines symmetry and a wealth of ornamentation. The opera house was opened in 1874. Today, after the renovation, which ended in 2006, the auditorium has a capacity of 2,200 people.

The originator of the creation of the Grands Boulevards, which completely changed the face of the city, was Georges Haussmann - the prefect of Paris in the years 1852-1870. It's difficult to imagine Paris without the wide boulevards: Sebastopol, Saint-Michel, Saint-Germain, Raspail, Henri IV, and the Haussmann Boulevard, housing the famous Parisian department stores.

PARIS TRENDS

The most fashionable - and at the same time alternative - places in Paris today are the Marais district, Hotel de Ville and, of course, Les Halles. Oh, to live in the Marais! Both hotels and suites in the area have been

very popular among visitors for several years now. Marais - abandoned by her royal residents during the revolution in 1789 - fell into disrepair. It revived only during the 1960s. Now it's experiencing its renaissance.

Hotel de Ville - the seat of the City Council - is housed in a nineteenth century building, which itself is a reconstruction of a 17th-century city hall, burnt down in the time of Paris Commune. If you are in the area, shopping at the famous Les Halles and visiting Centre Pompidou is a must. Also, don't miss the breathtaking collections of the Musée Picasso and the Carnavalet Museum - dedicated to the history of Paris since the Roman times.

PARIS AND ART

To experience the artistic spirit of this amazing city, you have to visit the Musée d'Orsay, stroll through the Saint-Germain-des-Pres and the nearby Luxembourg, as well as get to Montparnasse.

Visitors usually go to the famous museum, located in the old train station building, to see the Impressionist works, starting with a series of "Rouen Cathedral" paintings by Monet, through "Moulin de la Galette" by Renoir, to the works by van Gogh, Cézanne, and Seurat. You should reserve at least half a day for a visit to the Musée d'Orsay.

Saint-Germain-des-Pres is a place where the ideas of existentialism flourished by the accompaniment of American jazz and the local cafes were frequented by such well-known personas as Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Juliette Greco and the filmmakers of the New Wave. Be sure to visit Café de Flore, Les Deux Magots and Brasserie Lipp.

However Luxembourg is a peaceful oasis in the city centre, mainly because of its exceptional gardens, once belonging to the Duke of Provence. Today you can relax and admire the sculptures and fountains here. The charming Montparnasse, on the other hand, is where such well-known people as Hemingway, Giacometti, Modigliani, Matisse, Picasso, and Cocteau used to live. Why won't you take a stroll down the picturesque alleys, searching for the traces of artistic life from the past.

MONUMENTAL PARIS

The Eiffel Tower, Trocadero, Place de la Concorde, the Champs Elysees, the Louvre - if you haven't seen this all, you never really visited Paris. Teeming with the best bou-



tiques, the Champs Elysees can be reached from the Place de la Concorde - this walk is a must for everyone. Soon you will get even further - to the 319-meter-high Eiffel Tower, which was erected before the World Exhibition in 1889 and since then has been a symbol of the city. The Trocadero Gardens, stretching over 10 hectares, with a fantastic view of Paris, are just a stone's throw away. Visiting the Louvre, on the other hand, will sure take at least a whole day – naturally, you want to see more than just the famous portrait of Mona Lisa.

PARIS GOURMAND

- Cafe Boutique Prunier – 15 Place de la Madeleine 75008; www.prunier.com
Excellent seafood and - especially the sample menu is worth recommending - fresh salmon in different variations with a glass of white wine.
- Cafe de Flore – Saint Germain des Pres; www.cafedeflore.fr
a legendary spot. This is where the famous existentialists used to gather - Sartre, Jean-Paul, and Simone de Beauvoir. Plus they still serve the same great onion soup.

- Brasserie Le Stella – 133 rue Victor Hugo, tel. 01 56905600. The place is owned by Jean Gabin and Jeanne Moreau. Each day you will find fresh fish on the menu, grilled sole is especially worth recommending.
- Restauracja Au Pied de Cochon – 6 rue Coquilliere 7500; www.pieddecochon.com
Located close to famous les Halles, open 24 hours a day. You must try a dish, which the place was named after - pigs' hooves. Excellent oysters.
- Salon du Chocolat – Viparis Porte de Versailles; www.salon-du-chocolat.com
The cyclical event is a well-known exhibition featuring French pastry. You can try and taste as much as you want - all chocolates of the world, colourful macaroons and the famous madeleine cakes.

PARIS CHIC

- Galeries Lafayette – 40 Haussmann Boulevard; www.galerieslafayette.com
The best fashion brands from all over the world, gathered under one roof, or rather - a historic, stylish dome. You can spend almost the entire day here, starting with

- breakfast in Angelina restaurant on the 1st floor, and lunch at Le Premier, or in La Terrasse on the eighth floor in the summer. In the 250 sq m Bordeauxtece restaurant you will find more than 1,000 wines, which will satisfy the taste of even the most experienced connoisseurs. No wonder this French department store is visited by over 100,000 people every day.
- Lido de Paris – 116 bis Champs Elysees; www.lido.fr
It's definitely worth going to one of the shows of this famous cabaret. During the show you can enjoy delicious champagne and even have sumptuous dinner.
- The Museum of Eugene-Delacroix – 6 rue de Furstenberg; www.musee-delacroix.fr
It's a charming home of the great painter and his studio overlooking a flower garden in the centre of Paris.
- Espace Dali – 11 rue Poulbot; www.daliparis.com
Private collection of over 300 works by Salvador Dali: paintings, sculptures, drawings, and fascinating surrealist objects, such as a black phone with a receiver which looks like a giant lobster.



Notre Dame Cathedral and Arc de Triomphe on the Champs Elysees and the Eiffel Tower are the world's most famous Parisian buildings and the symbols of the city, which can get your imagination going.

Odwiedź nowy portal lotniczy Centrum Lotów



- ✈ Najniższe opłaty serwisowe
- ✈ okazje Biznes i First
- ✈ tanie linie
- ✈ oferty hotelowe
- ✈ dziesiątki porad

sprawdź nas



Linia lotnicza WARSAW-CHICAGO, BUSINESS CLASS

BOEING 787 DREAMLINER



CONTACT
www.lot.com

PRICE
A return ticket on the Warsaw – Chicago route:
Economy Class - from PLN 2,046 (promotional price PLN 1,799);
Premium Class – PLN 4,706;
Business Class – PLN 10,156.

I began my journey on board the renowned Dreamliner with an online check-in at , one day before the flight. I chose an aisle seat 3E, as in my opinion it guarantees more space than other seats available on B787. Before boarding at gate 14, I went through security control and had enough time to check the offer of Bolero lounge. There I sat in a comfortable chair, sipped some tea, read a newspaper and even worked a bit on my laptop, as there's free WiFi throughout the lounge. The choice of snacks wasn't too sophisticated, but at least there weren't many guests in the lounge, which made it easy to relax. The boarding procedure began exactly at 11.20 a.m. Interior As you know, first impressions count. My first thought on entering the cabin of the Polish

Dreamliner was that it's remarkably spacious. I noticed that in comparison to other aircraft I flew with (except Airbus A380), the seats have more leg-room and are wider. Windows on the new B787 have also been increased by 30%, so now from your seat, you can look out more easily as the windows meet your eye line better, and add to a feeling of space. The new aircraft also features much larger overhead luggage compartments. They fit four regulation-size (25cm x 30cm x 61cm) pieces of hand baggage, so you no longer need superhuman force to cram you bag into the bin. What is interesting and important, the cabin also features unique LED mood lighting which doesn't tire your eyes. 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, it's - according to the carrier - also a new standard of service. The cabin crew of LOT's Dreamliners are the best of the best, and I must admit that I could clearly see it on the flight to Chicago. It's worth noting that if there are any vacant seats in premium cabins, you can easily upgrade by paying with a credit card.

MENU
Business class passengers were welcomed with a drink of their choice – orange juice, mineral water, or well-chilled champagne (in this respect LOT stands out from most airlines).

Then things went quickly. At 12.30 p.m. the plane was pushed back from the gate, at 12.40 it took off. At 1.00 p.m. the “fasten your seat belts” light turned off and the in-flight service started. The menu for both lunch and dinner was prepared by Magda Gessler. For an appetizer we got salmon tartar with goat cheese, while for the main course you could choose from chicken stuffed with chałka, ratatouille, and smoked trout with horseradish mousse. For dessert you could order either vanilla cream with raspberry jam or fruit salad. Of course, there was also a broad choice of wines, carefully selected by a sommelier and traveller Slawomir Kojło. These included Piper Heidsieck champagne, white French Chablis Saint Martin and Chilean Caliterra Reserva Sauvignon Blanc, red Italian Tenuta Frescobaldi di Castiglione and Spanish Jean Leon Cabernet Sauvignon, as well as Chilean rose wine Santa Digna Cabernet Sauvignon. After dessert and the cheese plate, the cabin crew served Soplica cherry vodka. The current wine list offered on board the Dreamliner is light years ahead of what was offered on LOT's long-haul flights some time ago.

AMENITIES
Each business class passengers received a travel kit with such useful items as travel socks and a sleep mask. The kit also included a comfy pillow, a navy blue quilted blanket (incredibly soft in touch), and, surprisingly, a sheet (other carriers offer them only in the first class). I also like the well thought out arrangement of compartments – two ones for travel kits, a narrow one for shoes, and a large one for a bag. There's also some space for magazines, such as e.g. the useful Duty Free magazine. Next to the touchscreen, there's a coat hanger, a socket outlet, a USB slot, and sensor switches for dimming the windows. The selection of films is large and, importantly, you can watch them



Undoubtedly, the new Boeing 787 Dreamliner promises a revolution not only in Polish, but also in the global skies. It's a very modern aircraft, offering a high standard of travel.



in four languages: Polish, English, German and Russian. Another unique thing is a magnifying mirror in the bathroom, which is probably a bow towards ladies.

VERDICT
Undoubtedly, the new Boeing 787 Dreamliner promises a revolution not only in Polish, but also in the global skies. It's a very modern aircraft, offering a high standard of travel, at a competitive price. Take-off and landing are almost imperceptible. However, the biggest advantage of the Dreamliner is invisible. The quality of the air on

board is now much better, while the air pressure is lower than on other aircraft. The flight doesn't tire, at all. This might be owing to the fact that the cabin pressure in the B787 corresponds to the altitude of 1,800 m (600m less than in other planes), which guarantees 8% more oxygen, higher humidity and more efficient air filtration, reducing the effects of altitude sickness, and vertigo, and making a trip on board the Dreamliner a pleasurable experience. We landed in Chicago at 3.45 p.m. more than half an hour ahead of time.

Rafał Sobiech

Hotel

MALDIVES

CONRAD MALDIVES
RANGALI ISLAND



CONTACT
Conrad Maldives Rangali Island
Rangali, South Ari Atoll
The Maldives
tel. 00 960 668-0629
www.conradmaldives.com
conradhotels3.hilton.com

PRICES
Beach Villa (for 2 guests)
- From \$625 per night;
(During the holiday s
eason - \$2,700 per night,
from May to September
- \$1,150 per night)
- Additional adult + \$150 per
night; child + \$125 per night
(During the holiday season, +
\$500 and + \$250 respectively)

There's only one thing you need to do - get to the airport in Male, and - 48 hours before that - inform the staff in Conrad Maldives Rangali Island hotel (Hilton group) about your arrival. From that moment on, nothing will spoil your stay in this six-star paradise.

LOCATION AND THE ROOMS
Normally passengers are transferred to the resort, located on the Southern Atoll, by a sea-plane. If you arrive after 4.00 p.m. - you need to fly with local airlines to Maamigili, and then travel by boat. The hotel is located on two islands - Rangali and Rangalifinolhu - connected with a 500-metre footbridge. The very location can tell you

why this place won the title of the world's best hotel twice and that's just the beginning of the story. There are 150 luxurious villas aimed at 2-4 people scattered all over the islands, and you can easily forget that it's a hotel. The omnipresent but discreet service makes us feel more as if we are visiting friends. The roofs of the villas are thatched, and their architecture matches the local style. However, this traditional wrapping hides immeasurable luxury. Guests can choose among 6 different accommodation categories: from cottages on the beach or with a private garden and fountain, to the ones located above the ocean and erected on stilts. Floor-to-ceiling windows

look out on the four corners of the world - you can leave them wide open and it will feel like living in the open air. Each villa has its own swimming pool or hot tub on the terrace, not to mention little things like bed-loungers and umbrellas, or TV sets, DVD and CD players, coffee makers, minibars or free Internet access - inside the house. Other attractions include a rotating bed and a glass floor through which you can watch the ocean.

RESTAURANTS
If anyone should not come here, it's probably only those who wish to torture themselves with a diet (although dietary meals can be ordered as well). However, connoisseurs probably won't



be willing to leave the place. There are seven restaurants and four bars offering all the pleasures of the palate, and wine connoisseurs will be pleased to know they will find here 25,000 bottles of carefully selected species, and vintages. Ithaa restaurant is an absolute must - be sure to make a reservation ahead of time. Restaurant (the first such in the world) is located 16 meters under water and can accommodate only 14 guests, but both the views and food are impressive. In Grill Sunset Dining, located by the very ocean, you can eat fresh seafood and meat, while

the Mandhoo offers biodynamic cuisine. You can also enjoy Japan cuisine-inspired dishes in Koko Grill, located on the beach, and when in Cheese & Wine Bar - remember to order 'Discover the World' - a selection of the most famous cheese from all over the world. Meals (including main dishes, pizzas, pastas, desserts, and drinks) can also be ordered 24/7 to be eaten "at home".

ATTRACTIONS
"There are a million ways of doing nothing" - this is how Conrad Maldives Rangali Island advertises its offer. But if you cared to

make a list, you would find out the number of attractions exceeds million. Attractions like a spa, a fitness and wellness centre, tennis courts, windsurfing or cinema under the stars are provided by many great hotels, but who else offers a Rangali Raani yacht cruise towards the sunset? Or scuba-diving with whale sharks, watching the dolphins or a picnic on a deserted island?

VERDICT
Luxury at its best. Not the place for cost-conscious travellers, but you can't really put a price on a dream, can you?

Rafał Sobiech



"There are a million ways of doing nothing" - this is how Conrad Maldives Rangali Island advertises its offer. But if you cared to make a list of all the entertainment options, culinary experiences, sports, spa treatments and many others, you would find out the number of attractions exceeds million.

Hotel

MALDIVES

THE RESIDENCE MALDIVES



The villas are located on the beach, right by the shore of the lagoon or erected on stilts surrounded by the immense blue ocean.

Here everything is the best. Starting from the fact that Ari Gaafu atoll is considered the largest and deepest in the world, and The Residence is located on a real desert island - Falhumaafushi. It's one of the newest luxury resorts in the Maldives.

It's only 242 miles from the airport in Male, and the transfer to the hotel itself can be quite an adventure. First you need to fly with national airlines to the Kooddoo airport, and then take a 7-minute motorboat ride. All of this is arranged by The Residence, you only need to inform them about your arrival 7 days ahead of time. Transfers are organized into late evening, unless you come to Male after 22.30pm - then you have to take care of the accommodation yourself.

ROOMS & SERVICES

The Residence offers 94 luxury villas built in a traditional Maldivian style, yet equipped with all the mod cons. The villas are located on the beach, right by the shore of the lagoon or erected on stilts surrounded by the immense blue ocean. Depending on the type (there are seven categories) they have one or two bedrooms and are between 138 m2 (Beach Villas) to 282 m2 (Water Pool Villas). The furniture is modern, but alludes to the local tradition. All of the villas have also a private access to the ocean. Each comes with a 40-inch TV set, a DVD player, a minibar, a safe, a telephone and tea and coffee making facilities. The bathrooms are actually a topic for a completely different story – they are bright and spa-

cious and arranged in a minimalist style, but with attention to high quality. It has everything it needs: bathrobes, towels, slippers, a hair-dryer, etc. And it's not by an accident that the bathtubs are located right next to the huge floor-to-ceiling sliding doors - so that you can almost feel the ocean every time you have a bath. Twice during their stay, each guest can also expect a free ironing service. The hotel is air-conditioned, Wi-Fi is accessible throughout the place, and it's free of charge in the public area. In the complex there is also a kiosk with newspapers and souvenirs, an Internet area, a DVD and CD library and a children's club. In the resort you can also consult with a doctor, the room service is available 24/7, and there is even a smokers' area.

RESTAURANTS

Dining at The Residence is also an adventure. The Dining Room serves sumptuous breakfasts, salads, and light meals for lunch, as well as dishes of international and Asian cuisine for dinner. The restaurant is located on the beach, and the tables are both inside and outside.

When in the Falhumaafushi you don't even need to eat - it's enough just to admire the views. Located at the end of the 230-meter pier, the restaurant can successfully compete with any vantage point. The food is also excellent - these are international dishes with a particularly wide range of seafood and grilled meats. Some excellent wines are served with the food, and in the bar, guests are spoiled for choice when it comes to liqueurs and hard liquor. The Beach Bar located by the pool (and partially submerged in it) offers light meals and drinks in the local style, and stronger drinks after the sunset. You can also order the meals to your room, have a picnic on the beach or on a nearby island.



SPA AND RECREATION

Doing water sports and powerboating is simply a must in a place like this, and the list of all the sports available in the Residence is impressive: from snorkelling or scuba-diving through sailing and all sorts of windsurfing to water skiing. Those who dream about blissful laziness cannot complain either - you will find here the only one spa by Clarins in the whole of the Maldives. Connected to the mainland by only a charming pier, it consists of six pavilions overlooking a beautiful lagoon

and a coral reef. Massages, holistic treatments for the body and hair, rejuvenating treatments ... Just choose whatever suits you and relax in the hands of professionals.

VERDICT

It's a fantastic hotel with superb food and excellent service. It's also a place where children will never get bored and if one of the guests would like to get married or celebrate an important anniversary here, the staff will organize it from A to Z.

Rafał Sobiech

CONTACT

Falhumaafushi, Gaafu Alifu Atoll, Gaafu/Huvadhoo Atoll, Maledivy
tel. 960 682-0088
e-mail: info-maldives@theresidence.com
www.theresidence.com

PRICES

Water Villa (for 2 guests)
from \$ 950 + 8.80% VAT + \$8 for city tax + 10% service charge - per person per night

Hotel

PARIS

DU COLLECTIONNEUR



CONTACT
L'Hotel Du Collectionneur
Arc De Triomphe
8th Arrondissement
51-57 Rue de Courcelles
75008 Paryż
tel. +33 1 58 36 67 00
www.hotelducollectionneur.com

PRICES
from €300 per room, per night

This 5-star hotel, located in the prestigious 8th Arrondissement of Paris, is considered one of the best places in the city. The spacious interior decorated with works of art makes you think about Titanic and other big liners. It's close to the Arc de Triomphe and Hausmann Boulevard with its famous department stores. Within a walking distance there are the Champs Elysees, and arguably the most elegant street - Faubourg St Honore.

INTERIOR

It makes a good impression from the moment you enter. To get to the reception area, you go through a huge hall with comfortable sofas, but also sculptures, paintings, installations and flower compositions. The interiors are decorated in art deco style, and the owners and designers responsible for the

decor made every effort to ensure that the hotel stays consistent with the era. I explored the hotel like a museum, admiring the bronze sculptures, unique glassware, chandeliers, and paintings. Art connoisseurs will surely notice a sculpture by Martel or Sue & Mare armchairs in the lobby. And this is just the beginning! Every detail is a discovery, such as exotic wood imported from Brazil and Oriental Jade green granite from China. The ladies' room features original mirrors, taps and a suspended ceiling with illuminated stone from 80 years ago. Truly impressive.

ROOMS

The 7-storey hotel offers 473 rooms including 52 suites and 88 executive rooms. Almost each one is decorated differently, and 33 have private balconies. Leaning out a bit from the room no. 771, where I stayed, I could

see the Eiffel Tower. With every step I took, I was surprised with the harmonious style - e.g. art deco elements were already there on the ebony front door of each of the rooms. Each was furnished with a comfortable large bed, a desk, an étagère with drawers, a fully stocked minibar, a carpet, silk curtains, and in addition to this - high-speed internet access, a good flat TV screen, and air conditioning. Executive rooms - of higher category - also offer access to a private lounge, a spot with a few sofas and tables where you can have a small breakfast, have a rest during the day, read daily newspapers, have a delicious snack or a glass of wine. The Presidential Suite has a balcony, which overlooks the whole of Paris, is equipped with a hammam bath and a large spa bath. The Royal suite contains everything you could dream of - the area of 142 sq m

is divided into three bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, and a private jacuzzi.

ANDALUSIAN PATIO AND SPA MOSAIC

These are the two "gems" in the hotel full of surprises. Occupying 800 m2, the so-called Andalusian patio, is a subtle blend of exoticism and typically Parisian elements. Its designer Olivier Riols combined flowers and exotic trees around the granite fountains and sculptures, so that the place looks like southern Spain. The architect had planned it to be a year-round garden, so even in winter - thanks to a glass globe, where parties could be held - the patio teems with life.

The highlight is a visit to the Spa Mosaic - on the area of 400 m2 is there are 10 treatment rooms, a sauna, a steam bath, a fitness room, and a beautiful jacuzzi tiled with a stylish mosaic. Treatments here are done using cosmetics by a prestigious brand, Carita.

RESTAURANTS AND CONFERENCE FACILITIES

You can start your Parisian evening in "the Purple Bar" which serves delicious cocktails and snacks. Glazed-in "Le Safran" restaurant (for up

to 240 guests) is a great place for dinner. The chef Philippe Daigneaux suggests French cuisine, seafood, and delicious desserts.

Paris is considered the world capital of not only fashion, but also business tourism and a hotel with 1,800 sq m of conference and banquet space is ideal for international meetings. Six luxury rooms with excellent acoustics, equipment of the latest generation, access to natural light and a staff eager to organize everything makes

this place one of the best conference centres in Paris.

VERDICT

Sleek and stylish, perfectly situated complex offers a new quality among the five-star Parisian hotels. Starting from the rooms, through the reception, the spa, to the restaurants and the patio - every detail tells a story from years ago. Although the hotel is big, each of the guests is treated individually. A perfect place for a memorable and unique stay in Paris.

Marzena Mróz



You can explore the hotel like a museum, admiring the bronze sculptures, unique glassware, chandeliers, and parquets.



FOT: MATERIAŁ PRASOWE

LES JARDINS DU MARAIS



CONTACT

Les Jardins du Marais Hotel
74 rue Amelot – Paryż 75011
tel. +33 (0)1 40 21 22 68
www.lesjardinsdumarais.com

PRICE

from €200 for a superior room
and €250 for an executive room

The largest boutique hotel in the historic centre of Paris is located in the heart of the Marais - one of the trendiest arrondissement of the French capital. Right next there are numerous art galleries, trendy restaurants, boutiques with cloths by French designers, as well as the Picasso Museum, the house of Victor Hugo and Place de la Bastille. It takes less than 30 minutes to get here by underground from the Charles de Gaulle airport.

THE ENCHANTED GARDEN

The hotel offers 263 rooms and suites overlooking a beautiful private garden and a terrace - 1,500 sq m in the very city centre! This space is unique, and the Mediterranean-style garden seems to be enchanted - not only in spring, when it's in full bloom and colour. Among the trees, shrubs and potted palm you will find sculptures and garden houses. Since most windows overlook this inner courtyard - the rooms are quiet and you can relax there.

SUITES AND ROOMS

Booking a room you can choose from among 93 Superior rooms, 112 executive rooms, 52 junior suites and 6 prestige suites, which are located in one of the seven hotel buildings named after famous artists. All rooms have been recently renovated and furnished in art deco style. The dominant colours are red, deep burgundy, gold, and warm shade of brown. In addition to the comfortable beds, night cabinets with intimate lighting, desks, chairs, a round table and marble bathrooms - guests can enjoy the all the mod cons, such as fast internet connection or flat TV screen.

Suites are spacious; each comes with a bedroom, a beautifully furnished living room, and a shower with hydro-massage in the bathroom.

RESTAURANTS AND CONFERENCE ROOMS

When you come out of the lobby, you need to walk through a stylish bar, where the flagship drink is champagne - you are in Paris, after all - but other liquor

is also available. The hotel also has its own restaurant, where you can taste all the delicacies of the French cuisine, while sitting in a raspberry-coloured interior. It's also possible to have a meal in the garden - this option is especially tempting during warm summer days.

The hotel is particularly often frequented by business people, as it's famous for its conference facilities: 5 rooms with access to natural light of the total area of 1,000 sq m, and a capacity for 450 people. The huge glazed rooms also host fashion shows, exhibitions or serve as a film set.

VERDICT

This stylish and quiet 4-star hotel is located in the heart of the city. What makes it stand out of the crowd is excellent service, great location, the inner garden and a bar furnished with furniture by Philipp Starck - a perfect place to have a glass of good champagne. It's a great choice for a conference or symposium but also a romantic getaway weekend. Guests also have access to a private car park.

Marzena Mróz



Nowe BMW X5

www.bmw-autofus.pl



Radość z jazdy

NOWATORSKIE.

Nieprzeciętny luksus. Unikalny komfort. Najwyższe standardy. Przed Tobą nowe BMW X5. Zachwyć się jego dynamiką i wydajnością silników, które w połączeniu z inteligentnym napędem na cztery koła BMW xDrive dają fascynujące wrażenia z jazdy i bezpieczeństwo na każdej nawierzchni. Odkryj nowoczesne i przestronne wnętrze oraz poznaj najnowsze rozwiązania z zakresu BMW ConnectedDrive. Zarezerwuj ekskluzywną jazdę próbną nowym BMW X5 u Dealera BMW Auto Fus.

NOWE BMW X5.

BMW EfficientDynamics

Mniejsza emisja. Większa radość z jazdy.

Dealer BMW Auto Fus

ul. Ostrobramska 73
04-175 Warszawa
Tel.: +48 22 613 90 03
www.bmw-autofus.pl

Hotel Alpaga

MEGÈVE, FRANCE

A CHARMING PLACE AMID THE ALPINE PEAKS



CONTACT

Alpaga
66 Allée des Marmousets,
74120 Megève, France
tel. +33 4 50 91 48 70
www.alpaga.com

PRICES

Classic double room - €280 EUR
Deluxe double room - €360 EUR
Prestige triple room - €420 EUR
(booked for December)

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

Anyone who expects to experience here regular 5-star hotel amenities, will be quite surprised. The hotel is more like a typical French chalet - a homely and cosy place that blends easily with natural surroundings. However, the rustic feeling is only the first impression - you won't have to deal with any inconveniences or limitations during your stay. Wooden walls - whitened and in its natural colours, the beamed ceilings, stone siding, and wooden furniture make you feel at home the minute you walk in. Note, that at the same time, the interior is quite austere when it comes to decorations. The rustic materials

and construction is contrasted with simple geometric forms if the furniture, ornaments and huge modern floor-to-ceiling windows. It would be a sin to cover such spectacular views with a curtain. The hotel overlooks the powerful Alpine peaks - hence the name of the place. The three "A" letters in the name are an allusion to the three surrounding mountains - Rochebrune, Mont d'Arbois and Jaillet. Franck Jaulneau, the General Manager claims, in turn, that the alpaca is also an animal that gives wonderful wool - silky, soft and delicate, just like the snow here... But whatever the origin of the name is, it's a perfect place to

take a break from reality at any time of the year.

ROOMS

The hotel has 27 rooms and suites, as well as 5 charming cottages. There are several categories, so you can choose whatever suits you best - from regular Classic or Deluxe double rooms, through Prestige rooms to suites with one, two or three bedrooms. All rooms come with a flat TV screen, satellite TV, an iPod docking station, and free Wi-Fi internet access. Both in the suites and cottages guests have access to a well-equipped kitchen - with a microwave and a dishwasher, so if you want to impress somebody with your

culinary skills, nothing stands in your way.

RESTAURANTS

Although the conditions are conducive to preparing meals on your own, the hotel's culinary offer is a great excuse for laziness in this respect. Christophe Schuffenecker, the chef in La Table de l'Alpaca restaurant has put some real mountain delicacies on the menu. The club restaurant is open Wednesday to Sunday, since 7.00 p.m.

L'Onyx restaurant, open in summer 2013, is a great place for a light lunch or dinner. You can have here excellent bistro-like meals and Haute-Savoie cuisine-inspired dishes. Cocktails served here are legendary - the bartenders are real masters of the trade and prepare personalized drinks for each guest.

During your stay you can also order a menu for a private dinner or even a banquet, and the food will be delivered straight to our room or suite.

ATTRACTIONS

You would have to book a long stay to test thoroughly the offer of the hotel in this respect. In the summer season you can go mountain biking (the rental is located on the site), play golf (Mont-d'Arbois Golf Course is located less than 3 km from here), go fishing and try horseback riding. In winter, your natural choice would be the slope (ski passes can be purchased at the hotel); there is also a ski storage facility and a ski academy for beginners.

Once the white adventure is over, you can relax in the hotel's fitness centre; try Spa La Colline treatments or wellness centre. Further options include Turkish bath, hydro-massage bathtub, or solarium. And if you still have the energy after a whole day of fun, you can spend an evening by the fireplace or in a library, have a swim in an all-year-round pool,

play bowling, tennis or try your luck in the casino.

VERDICT

The hotel and its staff are trying hard to make the life of hotel guests as simple and pleasant as possible. Do you need a transfer from the airport? No problem - the hotel can provide it for you and your family. Do you want to visit the neighbourhood? Once again, no problem, as the car rental is on the spot. So are the business facilities, lunch packages, childcare, and

concierge service. You can even bring your four-legged friend, because pets are welcome here as well.

Note, that there's also VIP package available. It includes breakfasts prepared by a dedicated housekeeper, cleaning services, and privileged access to the hotel facilities (restaurants, spa). You can also order a personal butler and driver. Not to mention that getting here is fast and easy - it's only 57 km from the Geneva airport.

Rafał Sobiech



SAMSUNG GALAXY NOTE 3

CONTACT

www.samsung.com/pl

PRICE

PLN 2,999 (suggested retail price)

APPEARANCE

Although number "3" means that this is another generation of the well-known model, but in fact GALAXY Note 3 opens a new chapter in the history of smartphones.

Its appearance is a prelude to numerous attractions hidden inside. The body has a nice feel and resembles leather. The delicate stitching of the back panel and the plastic chrome bend with ridges are reminiscent of classic luxury calendars and notebooks. GALAXY Note 3 is available in three colours: Jet Black, Classic White and Blush Pink. And since smartphones are now often the user's "personal friends", the Note 3 can be personalized with removable back covers that come in several dozens of colours. No wonder that even on the day of its premiere, the GALAXY Note 3 was hailed as an icon of style.

The Full HD screen with a 5.7-inch screen is large enough for almost all purposes: browsing the web, reading books, watching movies, and performing several tasks simultaneously.

FUNCTIONS

Using a smartphone has never been so simple. With the S Pen stylus you can now make even very long notes, without any problem. A simple click of the S Pen button while hovering over the screen introduces users to Air Command, a palette of five powerful features that truly make tasks easier and faster. You no longer have to constantly switch between screen views, memorize commands, or waste time looking for a function that you need. Now a handwritten text can be saved and if you need to gather pieces of information from various sources, you can

store them in one place. You can also search the resources of your smartphone, using numerous criteria - from the type of the file to date it was saved.

The multiscreen function is another brilliant thing by Samsung. It not only allows you to work on two applications at the same time, but also transfer data between them, using drag and drop.

CAMERA

With the 13-megapixel camera with Smart stabilization and a LED lamp with high colour rendering index, the new Samsung GALAXY Note 3 will capture all the important moments and scenes, even those in poor light. And using one of the Air Command functions ... you can easily describe the image by placing a comment directly on it. It's very useful, because in this way the photo is ready to be put on your Facebook wall without the need to write any additional comments.

POWER AND SPEED

Samsung Galaxy Note 3 offers the latest LTE technologies - 3 Carrier Aggregation and supports the greatest number of multiple frequencies. The quad-core processor with a speed of 2.3 GHz, and 3 GB of RAM, allow for fast and extremely efficient work.

VERDICT

Samsung GALAXY Note 3 is the perfect combination of a telephone and a tablet. It's extremely capable, amazes with its versatility, is lightweight (168 g), and comes with a high capacity battery (3200 mAh). And on top of this, it's just beautiful. It's undoubtedly an important addition to the smartphone market.

Marianna Bonik



KATOWICE
dla odmiany



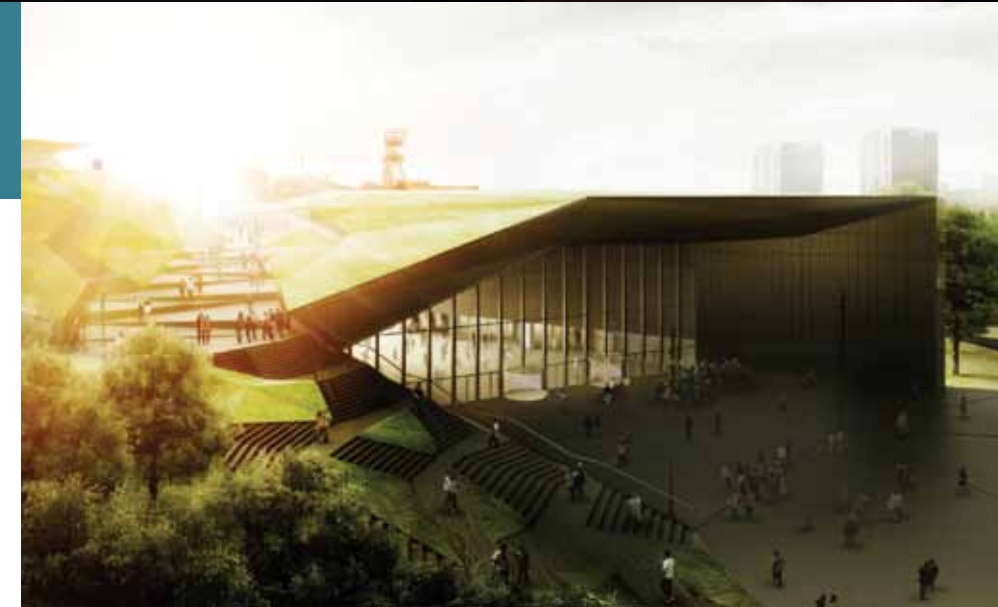
energia spotkań

Convention Bureau Katowice

tel. +48 32 2593 215

convention@katowice.eu

www.convention.katowice.eu



Convention Bureau
Katowice



PROGRAM REGIONALNY
NARODOWA STRATEGIA SPÓJNOŚCI



UNIA EUROPEJSKA
EUROPEJSKI FUNDUSZ
ROZWOJU REGIONALNEGO



Regionalny Program Operacyjny Województwa Śląskiego – realna odpowiedź na realne potrzeby
Projekt „Przeprowadzenie kampanii promocyjnej produktu turystyki biznesowej Katowic II etap” współfinansowany jest ze środków Europejskiego Funduszu Rozwoju Regionalnego w ramach Regionalnego Programu Operacyjnego Województwa Śląskiego na lata 2007 – 2013 i ze środków budżetu Miasta Katowice

REJUVENATING PROGRAMMES



CONTACT

Hotel SPA Dr Irena Eris
Wzgórza Dylewskie
Wysoka Wieś 22
tel. 89 644 52 00
www.DrIrenaErisSpa.com

PRICES

5 Steps Face Lab - PLN 1,850
Exclusive Rejuvenating Programme (including a stay in the hotel) - from PLN 9,900

THE TREATMENT

Dr Irena Eris Dylewskie Hills Hotel SPA has introduced a new service - a three-day exclusive Rejuvenating Programme. It's targeted to active men and women, expecting quick and visible results - smoothing out or getting rid of wrinkles, improving the facial contours and condition of the skin.

INDIVIDUAL APPROACH

The core of the programme is consultation with a team of experts, a diagnosis, and devising an individual list of rejuvenating treatments tailored to the biological age of the skin, its needs, and the expected results.

The treatments are performed using state-of-the-art Face Lab technology - waterpeel, infrared waves, ultrasound, and the combination of proven therapies in aesthetic medicine utilizing preparations with a high concentration of active ingredients (e.g.

correction and filling wrinkles, meso-lift therapy).

THE FACE LAB

5 Steps Face Lab - a five stage stimulation of the skin - is a cosmetic part of the Exclusive Rejuvenating Programme. It starts with waterpeel - a strong stream cleanses the neck and face, so that the active ingredients of cosmetics can work more effectively. The next step is radio waves, which renew collagen fibres. As a result the wrinkles are smoothed and the skin feels firmer. The next step is treatment with infrared waves. This reduces the signs of aging by stimulating fibroblasts to produce collagen, improves the flexibility of the skin, and conceals enlarged pores. During the three-hour treatment, you will also undergo an ultrasound therapy, which stimulates blood circulation, speeds up, and activates the absorption of nutrients. The final

touch is a 20-minute relaxation with an algae mask.

The Exclusive Rejuvenating Programme is supervised by an aesthetic doctor, and your personal concierge documents all the changes. The cosmetic part is followed by aesthetic medicine treatments (with hyaluronic acid, botox, etc.) performed after a consultation with a doctor. After 1-2 weeks it's recommended to see a dermatologist in the hotel or in Dr Irena Eris Skin Care Institute close to the place where you live, to check if everything is fine.

VERDICT

The 5 Steps Face Lab is an effective way to quickly and visible regenerate your skin, but the spectacular long-term effects of rejuvenation are visible only after undergoing the full Exclusive Rejuvenating Programme. It's worth noting that the programme is as little invasive as possible to restore the youthful look.



NOWA INSIGNIA

NIEMIECKA JAKOŚĆ W KLASIE BIZNES.

Doświadcz wyjątkowego poziomu interakcji dzięki systemowi IntelliLink. Poznaj najbardziej ekologiczne silniki, jakie stworzyliśmy: 99 g CO₂/km.



1. Ściągnij aplikację Layar.
2. Zeskanuj tę reklamę.
3. Dowiedz się więcej.

opel.pl

Zużycie paliwa i emisja CO₂: Opel Insignia 3,7–8,7 l/100 km, 99–204 g/km (wg dyrektywy WE 715/2007, w cyklu mieszanym). Informacje na temat złomowania samochodu, przydatności do odzysku oraz recyklingu są dostępne na www.opel.pl



Wir leben Autos.



FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS

From eating with strangers to renting their flats, **Jenny Southan** reports on how the peer-to-peer marketplace could change the way we travel.

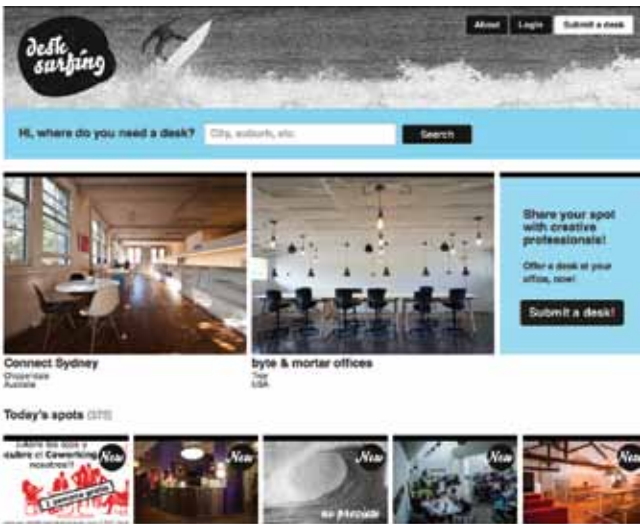


Pop quiz: what connects the entire principality of Lichtenstein with spare seats on private jets? Answer: they have both been available for private rental. In 2011, the former was listed on airbnb.com by Prince Hans-Adam II for US\$70,000 a night, while the latter can be nabbed for US\$1,000 through websites such as blackjet.com. The “sharing economy”, as it is known, is taking off in a big way – and it’s not just for backpackers. In fact, a spokeswoman for Peers (peers.org), an organisation that promotes the idea through member events and partnerships, says it could be the “defining concept of the 21st century”. From renting someone’s garage (parkatmyhouse.com) or a place to work (desksurfing.net), to hiring someone’s car or bike for the day (lyft.me, spinlister.com) or logging on to their wifi (fon.com), the internet is turning what otherwise goes unused into a commodity.

SYSTEM AND TRUST Sharing doesn’t mean not making money, but equally it isn’t always about generating profit. Often people are just looking to cover their costs, or ask for donations or barter. Still, plenty see it as a way to generate extra income. The principles at its heart are efficiency, democracy and trust – the last cemented

by online reviews. Not only is it creating a new generation of micro entrepreneurs, but providing consumers with cheaper, more personalised services, products and experiences. Think the sharing economy is not for you? You may in fact already be a part of it – though a distinction should be made between “beta sharing”, whereby a company provides a product that is shared among the public, and “alpha sharing”, which sees commodities exchanged peer-to-peer, with the internet acting as an intermediary. **FLEXIBILITY IS THE KEY** Examples of the former include Barclays Cycle Hire in London and Zipcar (vehicle rental by the hour with an Avis-owned fleet). The best-known example of the latter is Ebay, but there are dozens of new “alpha” platforms popping up, many of which could change the way we travel. For a holidaymaker or budget traveller, the sharing economy may make immediate sense, but for the corporate it can understandably be a stretch. Privacy, comfort, reliability, convenience and security are all concerns, not to mention the fact that many of us are locked into travel policies and rely on the benefits of accruing loyalty points. But for those who can be a little more flexible in the accommodation and transport

they book – or who fancy profiting from renting out their car or house when away – the sharing economy may be worth getting to grips with. **THE UNIQUE GUARANTEE** Central to it all is social media. Forget our parents, it’s Facebook and Twitter that have taught us how to share – be it photos, videos, opinions or ideas. We know more about the people around us than we have ever done, and are increasingly confident about communicating in a virtual realm. For those of us who have become “socialised”, it is no great leap to enter the people-powered marketplace. Suddenly, you have created an account on Airbnb, booked a 200 sqm luxury apartment in Copenhagen for £100 a night, and rented your place in Liverpool for £180 per night. Launched in 2008, San Francisco-based Airbnb now has a presence in 192 countries, with 300,000 listings and 140,000 guests a day. Up to 15 per cent of every listing fee (divided between host and guest) goes to the company, and you can choose to stay in anything from a modernist loft in Rio to a cabin in wine country. If you are advertising your home, Airbnb has a network of 5,000 photographers who will take pictures of it for free – it will then be listed



The principles at its heart are efficiency, democracy and trust – the last cemented by online reviews. Not only is it creating a new generation of micro entrepreneurs, but providing consumers with cheaper, more personalised services, products and experiences.

10 sharing

ECONOMY TRAVEL SITES

- 1. ONEFINESTAY.COM** Stay in a high-end home when the owners are out of town and pay by the night. Like a hotel, you will find five-star linens, towels, toiletries and maid service. Only available in London, New York and Paris, but another city will be added this autumn.
- 2. PARKATMYHOUSE.COM** Hire a private driveway, garage or parking space in cities all around the world, with convenient locations near airports and train stations. Countries include Australia, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, the UK and US.
- 3. GETAROUND.COM** More than 250 million cars sit idle in the US for over 22 hours a day. Take advantage and rent a private car by the hour in San Francisco, Portland, Chicago, Austin or San Diego. Relayrides.com works in much the same way and is also available across a greater range of US cities.
- 4. FLIGHTCAR.COM** Instead of paying for airport parking, hire out your car while you are away – just leave it at a drop-off location and Flight Car will do the rest. Each vehicle is insured up to US\$1 million and if you are the person renting, you will get competitive pricing, free GPS and free insurance. Available at San Francisco International and Boston Logan airports.
- 5. LYFT.ME** An alternative to taxis, this ride-sharing app (tagline: “your friend with a car”) asks for donations instead of setting fares and empowers non-professional drivers. It is available in San Francisco, LA, San Diego and Seattle as well as other US cities. Side Car (side.cr) operates in a similar way across six American cities.
- 6. EATWITH.COM** Bored of restaurants and want to meet new people? Use Eat With to dine with locals at their homes in cities such as London, New York, Miami, Paris and Budapest. Hosts can set the price but often allow you to bring your own booze. Cookening.com works in the same way.
- 7. BOATBOUND.COM** The Airbnb of the sailing world, this “pier-to-pier” rental service allows people to privately rent boats that would otherwise be moored for weeks or months on end. Unveiled in June, Boatbound also provides US\$1 million in liability insurance.
- 8. BLACKJET.COM** Launched in 2009, Blackjet helps owners of private jets to sell empty seats on their aircraft. So far it has filled 3,300 seats on 1,100 US flights, and online booking can be done in ten seconds. Annual membership is US\$2,500 with seats from US\$1,000.
- 9. FON.COM** This is a global wifi network that opens up internet access through crowdsharing hotspots. Members share a bit of their home wifi with others, and in return can log on to other people’s all around the world for free. BT Broadband is Fon’s UK partner so if you are already a customer, you are already part of Fon.
- 10. EASYNЕСТ.COM** Probably not one for the business traveller, Easynest helps to match people who are looking to stay in a luxury hotel but can’t afford it by themselves. The clincher is that they have to share a (twin) room.



Thanks to the Internet virtually everything has become a saleable commodity. You can rent someone's garage, or a place to work, hire someone's car or bike for the day or log on to their wifi. That's what sharing economy is all about.

as having been verified by Airbnb, reinforcing reliability.

ONLINE REPUTATION

According to What's Mine is Yours: How Collaborative Consumption is Changing the Way We Live by Rachel Botsman and Roo Rogers, by 2015 it is estimated that 4.4 million people in North America and 5.5 million in Europe will belong to car sharing services, while the peer-to-peer rental market "for everything from drills to cameras" is estimated to be worth over US\$26 billion.

The concept works because it is built on online reputation. In the same way that Ebay requires both sellers and buyers to rate each other, virtually every new site that pops up also compels users to leave reviews, which, when combined with photos, a biography and references, creates Botsman's "social glue of trust".

Ben Hammersley, author of Now For Then: How to Face the Digital Future Without Fear, is a fan of Airbnb. "I spend nine months of the year on the road and have found that I flourish if I stay in a place with a washing machine and kitchen. Plus, you get a nicer place for the amount of money you're willing to spend."

Jimmy MacDonald rents out two rooms in his house in London's Spitalfields (see be-

low). He says: "We started using Airbnb last November after we realised we hadn't been up to the top floor of our house for three weeks. It's never been a problem adapting to sharing our home with people."

He adds: "We get lots of creative industry people and entrepreneurs but also people in finance. We are also hosting more individuals who are choosing their own accommodation and expensing it back to their company."

ALTERNATIVE TO HOTELS?

Those looking for a high-end hotel alternative in London, Paris and New York could also check out One Fine Stay, which launched in 2009. A spokeswoman says: "The idea was to let visitors to the city live like a local by staying in a distinctive home while the owner is out of town. Every home is prepared by our hotel-trained staff before guests arrive, the beds made up with five-star linens, and the bathrooms kitted out with towels and toiletries. There's a free weekly maid service and once we've helped you settle in, we're just a call away."

Security is, naturally, a big issue. There are safeguards in place if you are a host – Airbnb guarantees up to US\$1 million in property damage, while One Fine Stay says: "A member of our team meets the guests to verify their identity. We also keep

a copy of their passport and take a damage deposit. When our team prepares the home we use tamper tape seals to indicate which areas are out of bounds."

MOTIVATION FOR THE INDUSTRY

Still, there are obvious health and safety issues attached to staying in someone else's place, which is one reason why corporate travel managers would not mandate their employees using such sites – what do you do if a fire breaks out, for example, or if the usual inhabitant of the "spare room" comes home unexpectedly?

Ultimately, though, the sharing economy can only have a positive impact on the wider travel industry. Tessa Mansfield, senior vice-president of content at trends agency Stylus, says: "A few years ago people would think: 'Wouldn't that be strange going into someone's home and having all their things around them?' But clearly not and that is what the industry is learning – the personal side of this is appealing, it's not putting people off."

She adds: "The disruption that this is opening up in the market, making it more agile and flexible, is clearly of benefit to consumers and will encourage the very mature and developed [hotel] industry to innovate as a result."

CERTINA
SWISS WATCHES SINCE 1888



80^H
POWER
RESERVE



3+ DAYS
OF RESERVE

DS - LIMITED EDITION
AUTOMATIC MOVEMENT

POWERMATIC 80 - HIGH ACCURACY
80-HOUR POWER RESERVE

WWW.CERTINA.COM

CERTINA 125TH
ANNIVERSARY

LUFTHANSA NEWS

New connections, a lounge,
and convenient journey planning.



Lufthansa passengers in Frankfurt now have an even greater number of lounges to choose from. The 15th Lufthansa lounge in Frankfurt Airport's Terminal 1 is being opened today near gate A26. The new Business Lounge will complement the existing lounges in the central Schengen area of the new A-pier. Passengers making their way to departure gates 20–42 with destinations in Germany and Europe (Schengen) can stop off there en route. In a modern design on the

840-square-metre site of the former First Class Lounge, the new lounge invites passengers to relax and pass the time. The use of an existing spatial structure provides the lounge with an exclusive layout – one that is unique among Lufthansa's worldwide Business Lounge portfolio. It stands out with its natural stone floor made of greywacke as well as marble surfaces in the toilet and wash areas, and the furnishings are in keeping with the warm colours of the new Business Lounge design.

Guests are treated to an impressive view of the apron, which they can take in from the comfort of stylish leather chairs in beige and anthracite. In addition, two separate quiet rooms and three shower rooms provide an opportunity to relax and freshen up. Guests can work in peace in four detached offices, while free Wi-Fi is available throughout the entire lounge. Lufthansa also provides lounge guests with refreshments consisting of a range of drinks and meals, which change on a weekly basis and vary according to the time of day.

The two highly modern flagships in the Lufthansa long-haul fleet, the Airbus A380 and the Boeing 747-8, will be deployed on further connections in the winter flight schedules. Also since September, the B747-8 has been operating on the Frankfurt–Mexico City route. The Queen of the Skies will also commence flights from Frankfurt to Chicago when the winter timetable comes into force. In addition, services will be increased to daily flights on connections from Frankfurt to Philadelphia on the US East Coast and to Dammam in Saudi Arabia in order to accommodate growing demand. Lufthansa will again be flying as usual nonstop in winter from Munich to Cape Town. This seasonal destination is highly popular especially among holidaymakers exploring the delights of the South African city and the nearby coastline. When the Olympic flame is lit in Sochi in Russia heralding the opening of the 2014 Winter Olympics and Paralympics, Lufthansa will be flying fans and competitors nonstop to the Black Sea on a special con-

nection set up for the winter games. This dedicated connection will be operated from 24 January to 17 March by an Airbus A321. Lufthansa is making travel planning even easier for its customers. As a first in the industry, the airline is offering passengers a new online planning tool – the “Journey Planner” – for them to detail their route easily from door to door, including the use of diverse transport options. Alongside the Lufthansa flight schedules at www.lufthansa.com/door-to-door, users of the tool can view all other transport options to and from the airport, be it by train, by car, ferry, on the underground or on foot. The new online journey planning tool offers information on the timetables of more than 600 urban or public transport systems as well as those published by rail and shipping companies. Intermodal travel, utilizing diverse modes of transport, ranks high at Lufthansa. In Poland Lufthansa is the leading airline among those carriers that offer the First Class product, and our market share in this sector is more

than 50%. In the first seven months of this year ticket sales increased by 50% compared to the previous year. The carrier also observes a steady increase in interest in Lufthansa Private Jet services. Lufthansa's First Class has recently received the highest possible rating in the prestigious Skytrax ranking, which evaluates the quality of services provided by airlines. Lufthansa was awarded five stars, especially for the exceptional comfort and quality of service on board, as well as exclusive amenities in the Lufthansa First Class Terminal in the airline's main hub – the airport in Frankfurt. We have also received the prestigious international Five Star Diamond Award from the American Academy of Hospitality Sciences. We were honoured for three outstanding accomplishments of our premium service portfolio: The Lufthansa First Class on board its intercontinental fleet, the Lufthansa First Class Terminal in Frankfurt and the Lufthansa First Class Lounge at New York's JFK International Airport.

Marzena Mróz



The winter connections to Shanghai, Chicago and Mexico City will be operated by Lufthansa's best long-haul aircraft such as Airbus A380 and Boeing 747-8. The flight network will also be expanded by new connections to Sochi for the time of the Winter Olympics and Paralympics. The carrier was the first in the industry to offer passengers a Journey Planner.

SOFITEL WARSAW VICTORIA - FRENCH ELEGANCE IN THE CENTRE OF WARSAW



In our project we tried to be immune to nostalgia for the past or the history of the Victoria – instead, we were guided more by an idea to create a modern and luxurious hotel that Victoria used to be and will always remain.

Sofitel Warsaw Victoria for nearly four decades has been one of the most recognizable hotels in our capital. The exceptional location of the hotel attracts travellers from around the world to come here and touch the living history of the city. This one of the most luxurious and prestigious places on the map of Warsaw continues to fascinate, especially now, when the first stage of modernization has been completed. Didier Gomez, a prominent French architect and the designer of the hotel's new interior, talks about the inspiration behind the concepts of two new restaurants: Kitchen Gallery and Le Victoria Brasserie Moderne.

What was the inspiration for the interior design of the two new restaurants: Kitchen

Gallery and Le Victoria Brasserie Moderne?

In this project, I worked with two different restaurants in terms of size and cuisine:

- **Kitchen Gallery** In the case of this particular restaurant the most difficult part was to transform its huge space into a charming place with cosy atmosphere, where guests could fully enjoy their breakfast. The idea for Kitchen Gallery was to create an open kitchen with a nice atmosphere, the counter and artistic photographs. The interior was warmed up with shelves, tables and wooden consoles, various types of seats and furniture (sofas, armchairs, chairs, bar stools), as well as with various types of flooring to make the space optically smaller and create the feel of coziness which contrasts with Poland's weather. The final result

is a bright, optimistic, dynamic and warm place with dominant tones of yellow, orange and green, further enhanced by bright additions such as wood and leather finishes.

- **Le Victoria Brasserie Moderne** In the case of this restaurant, the idea was to create a very chic, modern, luxurious and unique reflection of a Parisian brasserie. It is decorated with mirrors and couches, and has a stunning arrangement with a beautiful carpet, tasteful lighting, open bar and kitchen, as well as numerous paintings depicting Parisian cafes. The aim was to create in Warsaw a very special place, inspired by the French art of decoration, which is a perfect setting for high quality cuisine, and has a charming style, with contrasting beige and black tones combined with warmer colours.

How would you describe the decor of both restaurants?

Kitchen Gallery is an informal, dynamic place which exudes joy of life – it is a sort of a combination of a kitchen and a library. Meanwhile, the interior of Le Victoria Brasserie Moderne is very sophisticated, luxurious and ideal for sophisticated lunch or dinner.

How do the interiors of Brasserie and Kitchen Gallery fit in the general concept of the hotel?

Due to its size, Kitchen Gallery is separated from the rest of the hotel and is a nice place where you can enjoy breakfast or a meal during the day. Le Victoria Brasserie, in turn, is an extension of the lobby and the bar, so it retains the atmosphere of harmony which is typical of the whole hotel.

Did the history of the hotel influence the project in any way?

In our project we tried to be immune to nostalgia for the past or the history of the Victoria – instead, we were guided more by an idea to create a modern and luxurious hotel that Victoria used to be and will always remain. Compared to the



competition, this hotel is the epitome of luxury, freedom and modernity.

Are there any references of your previous work in the restaurants of Sofitel Warsaw Victoria?

No, because every hotel is different and unique. A different

history, location, problems and needs, require individually tailored, specific solutions, taking into consideration the local culture, the country and its climate. We also want to give each hotel its own identity and make it different from the rest.

Interview by Marianna Bonik

CONTACT

accorhotels.com
sofitel.com
sofitel-victoria-warsaw.com



WESTIN WEEKEND - A WAY TO COPE WITH MONDAYS

Monday turns out to be the least productive day of the week. But Westin Hotels know how to remedy it.



Westin Hotels & Resorts regularly analyses all aspects of our life which can impact our the well-being of hotel guests. Recently the group has looked into how modern technology and work duties influence the personal life and well-being of the Europeans.

Westin Hotels & Resorts today revealed the results of a newly commissioned survey looking at how technology and work obligations have impacted personal life and well-being across Europe. The research was released as Westin Hotels & Resorts addresses a growing need amongst consumers for more leisure time with a new weekend experience offered at Westin hotels and resorts around the world. The “Westin Weekend” experience was designed to make Mondays better as it allows guests more flexibility and time to make the most out of their weekend getaway by offering to sleep in with 3.00 p.m. Sunday

late check-out, extended hours for an energising SuperFoodRX breakfast all weekend and more.

THE MONDAY BLUES STARTS ON SATURDAY

With working days becoming longer and workloads heavier, nearly half of the survey respondents felt that their overall level of work stress has increased as compared to five years ago. According to the survey results, our lack of ‘down’ time to recharge and re-focus over the weekends has made Monday the least productive day of the week for an astounding 65% of respondents, many of whom also consider Monday to be the longest work day. The main reasons for an unproductive start into the week are

that people do not have enough time to recharge over the weekend (36%) and are busy catching-up with work-related items which gets in the way of their personal time (36%). With the rise in smartphone technology, work is no longer confined to the 9-5, Monday to Friday as it once was. In fact, half of respondents felt that their work days have become up to two hours longer due to their smart phone. With the line between work and personal time becoming increasingly blurred, one out of two people claim that their personal life has suffered from work obligations and that sleep (60%), relaxation (60%), well-being (54%) and family relations (54%) were most affected. Over a third claim they feel



“We have found that having more vacation time would allow our guests to improve their personal lives and well-being,” says Brian Povinelli, Global Brand Leader for Westin Hotels & Resorts.

tired at the start of the working week. Two thirds of the respondents (65%) have felt anxiety and stress during the weekend in anticipation of the work week and one out of two spends up to three hours working on the weekend answering emails or calls. Also during weekends 60% of the respondents think of their projects they need to tackle in the coming week. So it's no surprise that 61% have been caught or spotted a colleague arriving late on a typical Monday morning.

WESTIN CHANGES THE IMAGE OF WEEKENDS

Westin Hotels & Resorts understands the growing need of consumers for more leisure and “me-time” and is tackling the “Monday blues” with the introduction of a new “Westin Weekend” experience that gives guests the opportunity to unwind, recharge and switch off from work during their weekend getaway.

To set the stage for the new program all Westin hotels will signal the weekend has arrived through a variety of subtle sensory cues including changes in lighting, music and décor. Hotel associates are also part of the transformation, leaving behind weekday ties and customary uniforms for a more relaxed and casual weekend look.

Each guestroom features the brand's signature Heavenly Bed bathrobe placed on the bed to officially welcome guests to

their weekend. Guests are encouraged to linger in bed longer with a late, 3pm Sunday check-out and extended breakfast hours all weekend.

Westin Weekends are designed to inspire well-being, from a good night's sleep on the Heavenly Bed and SuperFoodsRX dining options to convenient exercise through the RunWESTIN and New Balance gear-lending programmes.

“Westin is committed to providing wellness in travel. With this promise, we proudly introduce a new weekend experience addressing our guests' need for more relaxation and leisure time to unwind before the start of the working week”, said Brian Povinelli, Global

Brand Leader for Westin Hotels & Resorts.

A weekend stay at Westin offers great perks such as late check-out, extended breakfast hours and instinctive programming, making it easy to plan the perfect, personalised getaway. To inspire guests during a weekend getaway, Westin, in partnership with AFAR, recently launched WESTIN FINDS FROM AFAR, an engaging and award-winning digital destination guide that steers travellers to local favourites and must-see sights within easy reach of Westin hotels. It lets guests personalise their itinerary based on whether they are travelling as singles, couples, families or groups of friends.



FOT: MATERIAL PRASOVIE

GIFTMANIA

What about a little gift? It's proved that gifts can improve our mood, making us happy. Every occasion is good to get a gift for your loved one. Here are some of our suggestions - ideas for the upcoming Christmas and New Year.

Book "Who's in Charge?: Free Will and the Science of the Brain"

Michael S. Gazzaniga;
Smak Słowa Publishing House

A fascinating read for those who want to know more about the capabilities of the brain. Inspiration not only for business-people. Price: PLN 39.90

Book "Ja, Kapitan"

(I, the Captain)

Tadeusz Wrona;
Poznańskie Publishing House

The account of the spectacular belly landing at Warsaw Okęcie Airport – and more! An excellent book that sheds more light on this remarkable man. Price: PLN 29.90

Earrings

Golden petals designed by Ewa Lewanowicz Metal galvanized on old gold with pearls, crystals and silk tape. Price: PLN 260
www.lewanowicz.com

Nespresso Umilk

- a modern capsule coffee machine with an integrated milk frothing module. Available in two colours: black and white. Price: PLN 849
www.nespresso.com/pl

CD "Polska" – Możdżer, Danielson, Fresco

The latest album by the three musicians, demonstrating their artistic symbiosis and huge musical talent. Price: PLN 44.49



Sephora - eye shadow with glitter and a concealer.

The product from the latest collection, available in different colours.

Price: PLN 55
www.sephora.pl

Sephora – a set of white iridescent make-up brushes.

Price: PLN 79
www.sephora.pl

Helena Rubinstein

- an exclusive gift set, which consists of mascara, eye cream and make-up remover. Available at Sephora perfumeries.

Price: PLN 159

Perfume

Tous "Rosa"; Sensual, delicate scent, perfect for the day, and the New Year's party.

Price: PLN 219/50 ml

Perfume

"Instinct" by Avon A blend of notes of carambola fruit, exotic camellias and sandalwood.

Price: PLN 90/50 ml
www.avon.pl

Eisenberg

– Neck and bustline treatment Firms and shapes facial contours, smoothens and firms the skin, improves elasticity and restores the skin's youthful appearance.

Price: PLN 449
www.eisenberg.com

ŻUBRÓWKA FOR REAL MEN

A line of skincare products for men, introduced in 2003 ClarinsMen celebrates 10th birthday this year.



Known for its medicinal properties, relieving cough and sore throat, it's also an excellent spice, but it owes its fame to Polish vodka ... Of course I'm talking here about the Żubrówka grass, an aromatic plant which grows in Eastern Europe, and which likes the cold and humid climate. In cosmetology it's well-known for its toning and energizing properties, as well as beneficial effects on the skin, especially male skin which is thicker and harder to rebuild. Clarins Laboratories use this magical plant in shower and hair products, deodorants, the Ab Firming Gel, and hand cream for men.

WHY DOES THE MALES SKIN NEEDS A SCRUB?
Having more sebaceous glands, the men's skin has a tendency

to produce the excess of sebum. It's thicker, so it rebuilds slower, which can block the hair follicles, causing imperfections and ingrown hairs.

MORE THAN JUST CLEANING
Regular scrub (exfoliation) is necessary to deeply cleanse your skin. Gentle exfoliation removes the dead skin cells which block pores, improves skin texture, smoothenes the surface, thus making it easier to shave. Male skin, which is rich in sebaceous glands, becomes wrinkled much later than female skin, but wrinkles are much deeper. That's why Line-Control face products combine caffeine and Peruvian Acmeola oleracea - a plant with anaesthetic properties and elements which reinforce density of the skin. Caffeine significantly enhances the facial oval which, in turn, can

reduce the collar size by up to one inch.

To fight jet lag and changing time zones while travelling or signs of stress, it's worth using specialized eye care products, such as the Anti-Fatigue Eye Serum with eight active ingredients. This is an immediate energy boost for men's skin, which also helps reduce swelling around the eyes.

TREATMENT TAILORED TO MEN'S NEEDS
Plant extracts used in Clarins products are also used in the brand's skin care treatments for men. Clarins Skin Spa in Warsaw and Clarins authorized salons throughout the country offer such "a la carte" treatments as Body Energy, New Force, as well as firming and relaxing rituals.



AMBER ROOM
RESTAURANT

Ingredients of culinary excellence

We invite you to taste the delicious dishes of modern Polish cuisine with a distinct touch of the most sophisticated culinary trends.

Pałac Sobańskich, Al. Ujazdowskie 13, 00-567 Warsaw
Booking: (+ 48) 22 523 66 64
www.amberroom.pl

Michelin Guide Recommendation

SEOUL SURVIVOR

The ambition of its companies and tenacity of its people have made the Korean capital a formidable world player, reports **Alex Andersson**



South Korea has gone from aid recipient to donor in a mere 50 years – an achievement spearheaded by the economic steam engine at its heart. The story of its capital, Seoul, is one of survival, tenacity and unprecedented success.

KOREAN CHAEBOLS

The city proper has about 11 million people and three buzzing central business districts – the centre of Myeong-dong; Seoul's Wall Street equivalent, Yeouido; and the newer Gangnam, located south of the Han River in an area made up of rice paddies only 30 years ago.

The Seoul National Capital Area, which encompasses Gyeonggi province and the colossal free economic zone of Songdo, near Incheon (see "Songdo style"), is the second-largest metropolitan area in the world, after Tokyo, and houses about 23 million people. This economic breeding ground spawned the emergence of domestic corporate powerhouses, or chaebols, such as Samsung, Hyundai, Lotte and LG. Their interests run the industrial gamut, from telecommunications to shipbuilding to international infrastructure developments – a dynamism that has propelled exports.

Foreign businesses have also flocked to the city, with Seoul hosting 22 global banks, 45 foreign securities services and 82 transnational insurance firms as of the end of last year, according to AIG. The city sits at

a comfortable ninth place in the Global Financial Centres Index.

SPORT AND POLITICS

Comprehensive convention services and infrastructure have cropped up to cater to this growth. The standard of facilities and public transport is such that Seoul was the location for the 1988 Olympics and a host city for the 2002 World Cup and a 2010 G20 summit. Geopolitically, Seoul is making the most of its historical and regional ties. Since the Korean War, it has retained close co-operation with the US, culminating in the bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) that came into effect in March last year.

This is part of a wider strategy to become an FTA hub country in North East Asia – Korea has established such deals with 46 other countries, a network unlike any other in the region. It reached an agreement with Colombia earlier this year, and is negotiating deals with 16 further countries, including China and Japan.

REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

But the Seoul sensation is not without its shortcomings – a lack of transparency among regulatory bodies is an issue raised by many multinational corporations. William F Freeman III, president of AIG Korean Real Estate Development says: "Sometimes there's red tape, and sometimes there's a lot of political wrangling and haggling... but

once that decision is made by the top-level person it is remarkable what this country can, and has, done."

Nothing is more demonstrative of Seoul's nurturing economic climate than the rise of the chaebols. Take Samsung, currently the ninth-largest company in the world in terms of brand value on Interbrand's list. It has risen ten places since 2010, and is now the top non-US company, valued at US\$32,893 million.

It may be at the forefront of the smartphone and telecommunications industry, but that is by no means its only focus. Samsung is the umbrella company under which more than 30 others operate, in fields ranging from electronics and semiconductors to shipbuilding and petrochemicals. It also runs charitable organisations, sells life insurance and operates the Shilla hotel and duty-free shopping outlets.

LOTTE, HYUNDAI, LG,

Having such a wide variety of interests is not uncommon among the chaebols – Lotte provides hotels, duty-free shopping, insurance, amusement parks, housing and oil services, while Hyundai is in construction, shipbuilding and logistics, as well as the automotive business.

That may seem intimidating to incoming business ventures, but the fact that the chaebols have a multi-pronged presence means they are able to engage and draw in different companies across the world. "The

Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency has been very good at matchmaking Korean companies with those abroad," says Amy Jackson, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Korea. "The [chaebols] do not only promote their relevant industries or products, but also serve as advertisements for the positive aspects of Korea."

FOR INVESTORS

A liberal business environment is commonly associated with the rise of mega-corporations. But contrary to that perception, many international companies in Seoul point to the presence of corporate restrictions.

Freeman says: "When you go to Hong Kong or Singapore, you always hear that the regulatory environment is easy to do business in, and I think Korea could make improvements in which foreign companies are more easily able to set up business."

There are signs that this is being done. In the past decade and a half Seoul has lifted the ceilings on foreign ownership of businesses and land, established free trade agreements with 46 countries and opened six Free Economic Zones. A catalyst for this was the Asian financial crisis of 1997.

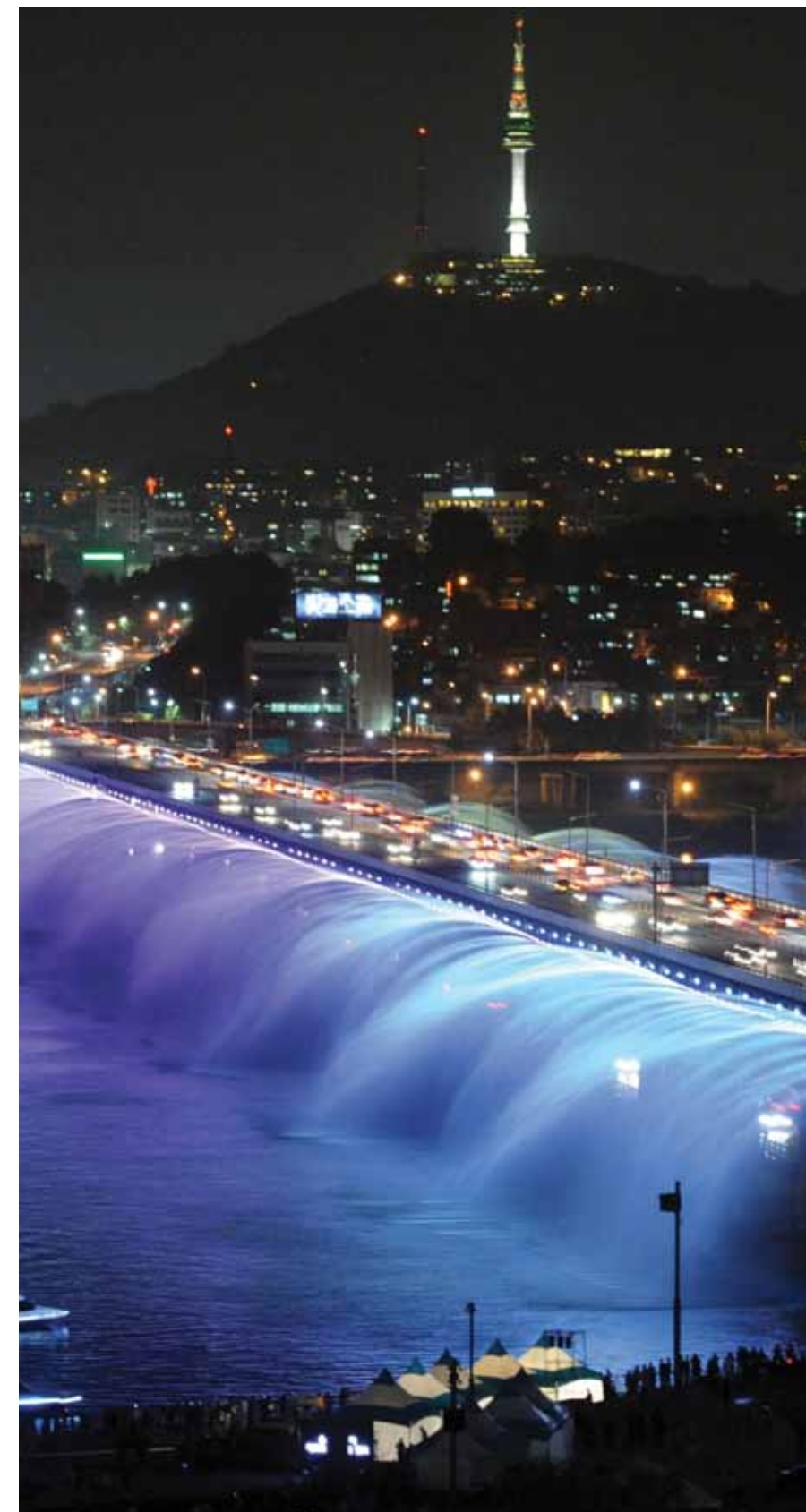
The US Embassy's Investing in Korea paper said: "Against this backdrop, the Korean government quickly responded in various ways to cure the structural problems of the Korean economy, which were considered to be the cause of the crisis. They recognised that attracting foreign direct investment was a short-cut to overcoming the economic difficulties."

The FTAs are particularly important in this respect. The agreement with the US, called KORUS, will gradually eliminate all trade tariffs over the next decade. In the period after KORUS was put in place (March 2012-February 2013), US foreign direct investment into Korea reached US\$4.5 billion, increasing by 113.6 per cent year on year.

If Seoul's pursuit of numerous international FTAs is successful, it will open avenues for more such economic returns. Jackson says: "If there is an agreement with China and Japan [a third round of negotiations is to take place towards the end of the year] then Korea will end up having FTAs with 80 per cent of the global GDP... no other country, not Japan or China, has an FTA network like we do. And that will have a positive effect on export growth."

BEFORE AND AFTER THE GAMES

Infrastructure has developed in tandem with the increased international business



With pride and determination of South Koreans it seems Seoul's ascent will not be plateauing in the near future.



activity in the city. Incheon airport, opened in 2001, was rated the best in Asia-Pacific this year by Airport Council International. The subway system, meanwhile, is one of the world's busiest and most comprehensive in terms of number of stops, and is affordable, clean and punctual.

Many point to the hosting of the Olympics as a turning point in this respect. Freeman says: "Really, the Olympics in 1988 was the catalyst that provided the initiative to kick-start this country, and a lot of Koreans would agree with that." This global event coincided with a regime change from military dictatorship to social democracy, meaning Seoul was simultaneously showcased to the world and opened up to visitors.

Aside from the Olympic Park and Olympic Stadium complexes, it also led to the development of many five-star hotels and the entrance of international hotel chains to Seoul. The Seoul Tourism Organisation's Meeting Planner's Guide names 40 hotels with exceptional meeting facilities, as well as the Coex, 63 and SETEC convention centres. This high-quality base is what contributed to the successful hosting of the G20 meeting in 2010 and the Nuclear Security Summit in 2012.

PROBLEMS DO EXIST

Still, cracks in the city's framework do emerge from time to time, the worst being the Sampoong department store collapse in 1995, which killed 502 people. This attracted widespread condemnation of bypassed construction laws and bribed officials. Although an exceptional incident, evidence of political influence in the construction industry can still be found in cosmopolitan Seoul, Freeman says.

"Take the Songdo IBD Project in Incheon. Although the residential component has done quite well, it has had a number of false starts and [has been affected by] the political environment," he says. It has recently gained positive momentum, however, with the announcement that the United Nations Global Climate Fund offices will be set up there. Songdo is not the only development that has experienced delays. The 554-metre Lotte World Premium Tower and the 334-metre Parc One both stalled a short way into construction, and now stick out like sore thumbs in Seoul's ascending skyline. Freeman also predicts that such problems may blight the construction of the huge Yongsan Dreamhub project, which plans to include the world's second-tallest building. "If it ever happens, it will take years and years and years," he says.

THE SHADOW OF THE NEIGHBOUR

Even the ever-looming shadow of North Korea has not been enough to stifle Seoul, but the geopolitical situation has not been an impediment, because ultimately it's the city's people who have their foot on the accelerator. "This is a remarkable country, and clearly a remarkable people, when you consider the utter devastation and the income levels of Koreans in the early 1960s," Freeman says. Certainly, examples of South Koreans donating their personal gold during the 1998 International Monetary Fund bailout after the financial crisis, and the constant sense of urgency to move forward, illustrate this point.

The bbali-bbali ("hurry hurry") culture that is so often cited does not just refer to Koreans' efficiency, but also their desire to perform, compete and succeed – and this is something you immediately sense when you interact with Seoul's people.


"I've never been in any other country that operates as efficiently," Freeman says. With such a solid fundamental economic base to work from, and the capability, pride and determination of its people, it seems Seoul's ascent will not be plateauing in the near future.



Seoul hosted the fifth most international conferences of any city in the world for the third consecutive year in 2012. The city offers 40 hotels with exceptional meeting facilities, as well as the Coex, 63 and SETEC convention centres.

Z MORZA DLA SKÓRY

codzienna transformacja



Stworzony z leczniczej mocy morza Crème de la Mer jest przepelniony cennym Miracle Broth.™

Opracowany z niezwykłą starannością, zawiera odżywcze algi morskie, nawilża skórę, dodaje jej energii i wygładza drobne linie. Skóra, nawet ta najbardziej sucha, odzyskuje promienność, wygląda na bardziej miękką, napiętą i młodszą.

LaMer.com

LA MER

Dzisiaj, jutro, zawsze

Zapraszamy do wybranych perfumerii *Douglas* i salonów La Mer w Galerii Mokotów (Warszawa) oraz Starym Browarze (Poznań).



LAS VEGAS

The New Year celebrations in Sin City? It's a pretty tempting idea... We have checked for you four newly open restaurants in this remarkable city. Top hotels in Vegas boast top-notch eateries, but being in the city it's worth visiting also other places which are popular both with citizens of the city and tourists.

CITIZEN'S KITCHEN

It's always handy to know of a decent 24-hour joint in Las Vegas. Citizens Kitchen opened in January and is located on the casino floor of the Mandalay Bay hotel. The food isn't dazzling but if you need to fill up on a Fatty Melt burger with tomato, grilled cheese, caramelised onions and special sauce (US\$19), this is a good place to pop into. Other plates include the all-American TV Turkey Dinner (US\$23.50), shrimp cocktail (US\$15) and the US\$40 "Ultimate Slider

Challenge", whereby you can attempt to devour 24 mini patties in 24 minutes in true Man Versus Food style. There's also a quirky list of ales, such as the 7.2 per cent Stone Arrogant Bastard (US\$17). Open daily 24 hours. Mandalay Bay hotel, 3,950 Las Vegas Boulevard South; tel +1 702 632 9200; citizenslasvegas.com

NOBU

February saw the opening of Las Vegas's second Nobu restaurant in the inaugural Nobu hotel, accessed through Caesars Palace.

The establishment is reassuringly refined, with a sit-up sushi bar and golden lighting that illuminates pillowy paper clouds overhead. The Japanese-Peruvian cuisine is exquisitely beautiful, imaginatively delicious and, at times, scandalously decadent (Nobu serves bluefin tuna, for example, which is endangered). Tantalising highlights include delicate yellowtail sashimi with jalapeno, coriander, yuzu (Japanese citrus) and soy sauce (US\$28), and black cod glazed with sweet miso (US\$34). You can also order Wagyu



beef for US\$38 an ounce. Find it hard to choose? Go for the "Omakase" menu of chef's daily creations (US\$175). Open 5pm-11pm Sun-Thurs, until 12am Fri-Sat. Caesars Palace, 3,570 Las Vegas Boulevard South; tel +1 702 785 6628; noburestaurants.com

LA COMIDA

A favourite new haunt in the up-and-coming Downtown district, this lively Mexican cantina opened just off the main drag in April – look out for the pink neon monkey skeleton sign. The menu is full of zingy treats such as creamy, chunky guacamole with Pico de Gallo and jalapeno (US\$9), and corn-on-the-cob with chilli lime butter (US\$8). Make sure you try the queso fundido, a ceramic dish of melted Oaxaca cheese, chorizo and roasted Poblano pepper served with tortillas (US\$11), and the tender, smoky puerco ahumado – Mesquite pork shoulder with Adovada sauce and plantain chips (US\$15). If you fancy a shot there are 180 types of

tequila, not to mention unmissable margaritas. Open Mon-Thurs 11.30am-late, Fri-Sat 10.30-2am. 100 Sixth Street; tel +1 702 463 9900; lacomidalv.com

HAKKASAN

The women that eat at Hakkasan – and party at the adjacent monster of a nightclub,



one of the world's largest – are unreasonably beautiful. Open since April, this branch of the fine-dining Chinese chain is dark, and divided into sections by latticework walls that create intimate areas in which to hide. It's not the most sophisticated of experiences, with pounding music, over-familiar service and cocktails that don't quite cut it, but this is Vegas after all. The cuisine is approachable and tasty, with options including platters of springy dim sum filled with scallops, perch or edamame (US\$22-28), roasted cod with champagne and Chinese honey (US\$42), and stir-fried black pepper rib-eye presented in an edible pink basket (US\$37). If you want to show off, you can also order a "supreme special" such as whole braised Japanese abalone for US\$450. Open Mon-Wed 5pm-11pm, Thurs-Sun until 12am. MGM Grand hotel, 3,799 Las Vegas Boulevard South; tel +1 702 891 7888; hakkasan.com/lasvegas

Marzena Mróz

AROUND THE WORLD IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF GREAT POLES



MORE DETAILS AT:
www.dumnipolska.pl

Polish Pride – A Creative Poland foundation is organizing a cruise around the world, whose aim is to promote Poland and its citizens. Its route takes the participants to various places throughout the world where famous Poles lived and worked. During the three-and-a-half year expedition the fleet of three sailing ships will call at 360 ports in more than 100 countries on all continents. The plan of the voyage is to visit places around the world where Poles went down to history working as explorers, scientists, engineers, artists, businesspeople, or doctors. In nearly 80 ports that the sailors will visit during

the voyage, there will be special events to promote our cuisine, music, visual arts and design, as well as Polish companies, investment areas and the most attractive tourist destination.

SAILING OUT FROM GDYNIA

The voyage will begin in July 2014 in Gdynia. The ships will first call at ports in Copenhagen (Denmark), Gothenburg (Sweden), Bergen (Norway), and Reykjavik (Iceland). Then the route goes through Canada and the Atlantic ports of the United States, Caribbean and South America, Pacific Islands, Australia and Asia, as well as Africa, the countries of the Mediterranean and Western Europe.

The return to Poland is planned for the autumn of 2017.

A group of sailing enthusiasts, and at the same time modern patriots, is going to sail almost 75,000 miles within the three-and-a-half year period. The crew for each of the three ships will consist of 21 people who will change every one, two, or three weeks, so in total, more than 2,000 people will take part in the voyage!

AS DOMEYKO AND PIŁSUDSKI

The foundation wishes to commemorate thousands of Poles who greatly contributed to such events as exploring and colonizing Siberia and China, the

construction of the Andean railway, or geographical discoveries in Australia. It will promote such great Poles as ethnographer Bronisław Malinowski, explorers Bronisław Piłsudski and Paweł Edmund Strzelecki, biochemist Kazimierz Funk, geologist and engineer Ignacy Domeyko, and sculptor Korczak Ziółkowski.

POLAND BETTER PERCEIVED

“We want the Voyage Around the World in the Footsteps of Great Poles to contribute to a better perception of Poland as a country of open-minded, wise, insightful and creative people,” says Kuba Strzyczkowski, a journalist, sailor, and the President of the “Polish Pride – A Creative Poland” foundation. “With help of global public broadcasting organizations we are going to heavily promote our action in all the cities which our ships will visit. In this way the names and great deeds of famous Poles who lived and worked in those cities and towns, will help us promote the modern Poland. We also want the voyage to be an opportunity to showcase our economic, scientific, and cultural achievements. We would like to change the perception of

Poland in the world and show it as a country that for centuries has been participating in the development of the modern civilization, and whose outstanding figures contributed greatly to the country's success.

HAPPENINGS, EXHIBITIONS AND JAZZ

The cruise is a non-profit venture. The initiative is supported by the Ministry of Economy and the Agricultural Market Agency, which see it as an opportunity to promote Polish companies and regions. The arrival of the ships to each of the selected port will be accompanied by a short happening. Then the participants of the voyage, accompanied by the representatives of local authorities, will open an exhibition presenting the achievements in Polish visual arts and design. Exhibitions will be organized with the use of modern technological solutions. The presented work will be selected through open competitions, which will be announced at the beginning of 2014. The musical events organized in selected ports will last one or several days (depending on the schedule of the voyage).

“We will take advantage of the strong position that Polish jazz holds on the world's scene,” says Strzyczkowski. “We will also invite to our concerts the most talented Polish performers of contemporary and classical music, who have gained recognition in various national and international competitions and festivals. There will be night fashion shows presenting the collections made by young, talented designers. We want to put in the spotlight mainly the young and promising artists, who keep up with the changing reality, and are ready to represent Poland in every corner of the world. The program of our exhibitions, presentations and concerts will be modified in order to showcase the widest possible range of works. We are planning to organise online post-exhibition auctions. The main communication tools for our projects will be social media and interactive mobile applications.

In our initiative we wish to take into account the contribution of Poland and Poles in the history of development of a particular city or country. The selection of artists and their works will always be guided by the motto: THE POLISH PRIDE,” continues Strzyczkowski.



We want the Voyage Around the World in the Footsteps of Great Poles to contribute to a better perception of Poland as a country of open-minded, wise, insightful and creative people.



THE GATE TO THE MASURIA



A spot between Śniardwy and Roś lakes, near the town of Pisz, features a very interesting tourist facility. A port, a housing estate, and a restaurant, are just part of what Wrota Mazur (the Gate to the Masuria) has to offer. The name of this sailing town is not accidental, as it is an ideal place to start your adventure with the sun, sailing, and the Masurian nature.

Wrota Mazur is a venue for numerous events, such as national sailing championship of physicians and actors, the Polish Cabin Yacht Cup, and the Blue Lake Roś Blue Ribbon Regatta. In conjunction with the Polish Olympic Committee, Wrota Mazur also organizes the 1st Polonia Sailing World Championship under the auspices of the President of Poland Bronisław Komorowski.

THE TOWN ON THE LAKE

In the very centre of the town there is a yacht port with the full sailing infrastructure. The nearby tavern holds various concerts and is the place to go if you feel like watching a sporting event over a cup of beer. The port is guarded 24/7. Port residents can also order comprehensive service - from clean-

ing the yacht, through various maintenance work, to all sorts of boat repairs.

Wrota Mazur town is a housing estate of year-round residential homes, which is slightly away from the marina and port facilities. It is a perfect place for those who appreciate peace and quiet. Renting a house costs PLN 500 per day.

The ground floor features a spacious living room with fireplace, kitchen, and toilet. Upstairs there are three large, sunny bedrooms and two bathrooms. Each house also has a garage and a terrace.

The houses are nicely furnished with a touch of picturesque sailing feel. Through the use of traditional materials such as brick, wood, and ceramic tiles, it was possible to retain the regional style. Some homes are offered for sale. You can also buy a house here and put it under the management of the staff of Wrota Mazur. In this way, you can own a holiday house and have a guaranteed profit from renting it.

REGIONAL DELICACIES

Near the port there is a restaurant where you can enjoy delicious Masurian pierogis, homemade "grandpa's" brawn and

paprikash, as well as fresh fish and venison. The sailing atmosphere, the original interior with beautiful views and excellent food are not the only reasons, why you should visit this place. The restaurant is also a place where no kid will feel bored. Outside there is a spacious playground, and in rainy weather kids can also have fun inside the building, in a special children's corner.

SPORTS, SILENCE AND NATURE

Wrota Mazur is one of few places in Masuria, where both adventure-seekers and those who value peace and quiet will find something for themselves. Active leisure aficionados can practise here various water motorsports, play tennis, and, of course, go sailing aboard Delhia 21 boats – alone or with an instructor. There are also numerous regattas, trainings, and competitions organized here, so it is almost impossible to be bored. Guests who want to enjoy peace and quiet, will also be satisfied, as apart from sailing, walking, and sunbathing, they can go to numerous art exhibitions, participate in artistic workshops and open air events.

Agata Janicka

A port, a housing estate, and a restaurant, are just part of what Wrota Mazur has to offer. The name of this sailing town is not accidental, as it is an ideal place to start your adventure with the sun, sailing, and the Masurian nature.



ALITALIA,
GDZIE WITAM
ZMIENIA SIĘ
W BENVENUTO.

THE DREAM OF THE POWER COMES TRUE

The third generation of the BMW X5 - founder of the Sports Activity Vehicle segment and global market leader in its class sets new standards in powerful design, luxurious spaciousness, cutting-edge versatility and efficient driving pleasure.

The design proportions of the third-generation Sports Activity Vehicle are defined by a characteristic, evolutionary development of body design from the predecessor model. The front-end features a powerful, alert look, with twin circular headlight units extending into the BMW kidney grill. The new X5 reveals an elegantly stretched silhouette, eye-catching swag line over the athletically moulded wheel arches, horizontal lines and taut surfaces at the rear. The vehicle's aerodynamic properties integrate harmoniously into its overall design language, including Air Curtains, Air Breathers and Aero Blades for the rear window. Finally, the bumper's X-shaped contour lines clearly designate it as a member of the BMW X model family.

SAFETY AND COMFORT

The interior of the new BMW X5 is elegant and spacious. The raised seating position and low-set instrument panel with horizontal lines extending into the door trim and additional trim surface, add to the feeling of space. The materials used for the trim greatly contribute to the luxury ambience, while the 10,25-inch control display adds the feeling of modernity. The 40 : 20 : 40 folding rear seat enables versatile arrangement of the interior, and with folded seats the 650-litre boot can be expanded to impressive 1,870 litres. Additionally, rear comfort seats and an additional third row of seats are both available as options, and the tailgate can

now also be opened and closed by remote control and from the driver's seat. The new BMW X5 is equipped with numerous driver assistance systems and those which increase comfort and safety. These include BMW Night Vision with human and animal detection, Dynamic Light Spot, Lane Change Warning, Speed Limit Info, new BMW Parking Assistant with longitudinal and lateral guidance, Surround View with 360-degree display, Driving Assistant including Lane Departure Warning, plus Collision Warning and Pedestrian Warning with braking function, and Traffic Jam Assistant with active speed and steering angle control without driver input.

Safety is a priority, but BMW never forgets about comfort. Standard BMW xDrive intelligent all-wheel drive (except on the BMW X5 sDrive25d) can be complemented by Dynamic Performance Control as part of the optional Dynamic and Professional adaptive suspension packages. The Dynamic adaptive suspension package also includes Dynamic Drive active roll stabilisation for a targeted improvement of the car's sporty handling attributes. There is also the option of the Comfort active suspension package, which provides further enhanced ride comfort thanks to air suspension at the rear axle and Dynamic Damper Control. Adaptive M suspension, available as part of the M Sport package, also includes Dynamic Damper Control and rear-axle air suspension as well as specifically sports-oriented suspension tuning. The Professional adaptive

suspension package, meanwhile, combines the features of Comfort and Dynamic. This choice allows drivers to select noticeably enhanced comfort or hallmark BMW sporting capability, as desired.

Comfort also means the ability to be in contact with the rest of the world, and BMW understands it well, equipping the X5 with extensive range of mobility and internet-based services such as Concierge Services, Remote Services, Intelligent Emergency Call, Real Time Traffic Information, internet access, in-car use of Facebook and Twitter, dictation function with full speech recognition for emails, SMS and memos, and online entertainment.

POWERFUL MOTORS

At the time of its launch the BMW X5 offers three powertrains. X5 xDrive30d is a six-cylinder in-line diesel engine with TwinPower Turbo and direct fuel injection. This 3-litre unit offers 258 HP and 560 Nm of torque. The second diesel - X5 M50D - has the same capacity, but with three turbochargers generates 381 HP and 740 Nm of torque. Finally, the X5 xDrive50i version with a 4.4 V8 petrol engine (with two turbochargers) offers 450 HP and 650 Nm of torque.

How does the new X5 differ from its predecessors? It does not differ, at all. It is still the best in its class. It is the combination of luxury and dynamic performance, which usually is encountered only in our dreams.

Zuzanna Krzyckowska



Signature BMW design features combine with undeniable presence, robustness and versatility to lend BMW X models their distinctive appearance.



Innovation in WiFi



Profesjonalne rozwiązania usługi WIFI
dla właścicieli biurów, najemców, restauracji, galerii
handlowych oraz innych lokali usługowych.

- Gwarantowana jakość oraz dostępność usług,
- Estetyczne instalacje wewnątrz budynków,
- Usługi dopasowane do potrzeb klienta,
- Bezpieczny dostęp do Internetu,
- Niski koszt administracji usługi oraz sprzętu,
- Profesjonalnie przeprowadzone planowanie radiowe,
- Podział dostępu dla pracowników oraz gości biura,
- Dedykowany Opiekun dla każdego klienta

Aforte więcej niż Hot Spot

AFORTE Sp. z o.o., Al. Jerozolimskie 94, 00-807 Warszawa, www.aforte.pl, e-mail: kontakt@aforte.pl, tel: 223955000



RISE OF THE MACHINES

With all the talk of the tablet revolution, you could be forgiven for thinking laptops were yesterday’s news; the embarrassing uncle of the tech world – everyone’s got one but they’re nothing to brag about.

Yet laptop aficionados know this isn’t the case. The fact is, laptops and tablets are evolving hand in hand, becoming faster, lighter and thinner together. Rather than supersede the laptop, tablets are performing different functions. They are for lounging on the sofa, lying in bed or sitting on a plane. Laptops are for serious web browsing, work and for those times when you need your hardware to kick like a mule. The holy grail is to create a device that can do both. Laptop-tablet hybrids have tended to be poorly conceived devices that try to be all things to all men and end up doing nothing particularly well, but now there is a new crop of machines that work both as distinct tablets and full-keyboard laptops. Intel has pinned its colours to this mast, with executive vice-president Tom Kilroy recently saying he believes the two-in-one will eventually usurp the stand-alone tablet. He has a vested interest: Apple’s iPads – the most successful tablet – use ARM chips, whereas almost all two-in-ones use Intel. Intel has, though, shown why it is still the world’s biggest chipmaker. Its new range of fourth-generation Core processors have enabled manufacturers to improve battery life drastically without adding weight or size. Laptops have also begun to borrow the concept of “touch” from their flatscreen cousins. Microsoft’s latest version of Windows has touch at its heart, and a host of new laptops are making interesting use of the technology. The other big movement in laptops is pixels. Triggered by the incredible retina display in Apple’s Pro range, the big manufacturers are competing to pack the highest resolution, which is great news for movie fans. So what should you consider before splashing out? First, think about what you’re going to use it for. Spending US\$300 on an extra 4GB of RAM might seem like a great idea but not if you only use your laptop for responding to emails. Where are you going to use it? If it is your main household machine, you might want to spend a bit extra on a 17-inch screen – alternatively, go for one that can mirror its display on your TV. If you’re as likely to use your computer on an airline tray table as in the living room, think seriously about an ultrabook. You will sacrifice that nice big screen and a bit of power but you’ll save yourself getting backache lugging a gigantic box around with you.

Tablet and laptop in one

LENOVO IDEAPAD YOGA 13

Price: US\$1,549 www.lenovo.com
The 13-inch IdeaPad is one of the best machines bridging the gap between tablet and laptop. It is one of the larger devices in the segment and takes full advantage of the Windows 8 touchscreen interface. When in its default position, it is a sleek ultrabook with a full, comfortable keyboard. But flip the display 180 degrees and you have a touch-only interface controlled by the distinctive boxes that make up Microsoft’s new operating system. It is solidly built and the hinge that transforms it never feels under any real strain. It is also powerful, with an Intel Core i7 chip and features an ample amount of memory with 8GB of RAM.
PROS Flexible, light and quick
CONS Battery life is average



Pricey but nicey

APPLE MACBOOK PRO 15-INCH WITH RETINA DISPLAY

Price: US\$2,799 www.store.apple.com
It is surprisingly thin – especially when you consider the 2.7GHz Intel Core i7 processor and space for up to 16GB of RAM (8GB default). This is for people who are planning on running hardcore video-editing software or playing a lot of 3D games; most users could happily change down to the MacBook Air and never notice a difference in speed. But if you want to own one of the sexiest laptops on the market, this is for you.
PROS Fast, good screen, great operating system
CONS Most users don’t need all that power



Undefeated

APPLE MACBOOK AIR 13 INCH

Price: US\$1,099 www.store.apple.com
Apple’s jaw-droppingly attractive ultra-portable device has changed the way people think about laptops. It isn’t just an item to order your shopping on – it’s a thing of beauty. The new version’s biggest selling point is that it now has what Apple calls “all-day battery life”, meaning you can watch, browse and play for a full 12 hours before it needs recharging. If you hang on a little longer, you will also be able to get it with Apple’s new Maverick operating system, which includes the ability to wirelessly beam your desktop to an HD TV, plus improvements to the document filing system, full-screen mode and speed.
PROS Sleek, powerful and thin
CONS Not easy to customise



Easel-like laptop

ACER ASPIRE R7

Price: US\$999 www.acer.com
The Aspire is a convertible folding screen laptop, which enables you to lift the display upwards from the keyboard and angle it so you can take full advantage of the touchscreen, a bit like an easel. It can fold into a rudimentary – if unwieldy – tablet and you can turn the screen back on itself to show someone sitting opposite what you’re working on. The 15.6-inch monitor is good for watching movies. It feels solidly built but the trade-off is it’s heavy (2.4kg). The Aspire R7 also switches the location of the touchpad (what you control the mouse with) and the keyboard, which takes a bit of getting used to, and isn’t a great idea.
PROS Innovative design
CONS Heavy and takes a while to get accustomed to



A new king?

SAMSUNG ATIV BOOK 8Price: US\$1,269 www.samsung.com

Finally a laptop that can challenge Apple on both looks and performance. This monstrously fast machine features a 15.6-inch, high-resolution touchscreen and is packed with an Intel i7 Core processor, 8GB of RAM and a 1TB hard drive. It comes in ash black, with an attractive brushed aluminium finish. The battery performs admirably compared with rivals in this class (it has up to 8.6 hours of battery life). If you're comfortable with Windows, don't want to have to learn how to use a new operating system, and require a powerful, top-class machine, this is as good as it gets.

PROS Powerful, attractive, a good option for Windows users

CONS Heats up a lot, even when left idle



Quality at a good price

SONY VAIO E SERIES (SVE1713M1E)Price: £658 (US\$1,047) www.sony.com

With the E Series, Sony has brought a relatively powerful (Intel Core i5 processor), big-screen (17.3-inch) laptop under the US\$800 mark. For a mid- to low-priced machine, it is pretty quick, unless you're hammering it with memory-intensive games. It's a Sony, so you know the build quality is going to be solid, although with its curved edges and bulky finish, it isn't the most attractive unit. Its high-resolution screen is decent, and is great for watching videos.

PROS Big screen, cheap

CONS Poor battery life



Google goes upmarket

GOOGLE CHROMEBOOK PIXEL

Price: US\$1,229

www.google.com/intl/en/chrome/devices

The Chromebook range has existed for years but has always targeted the entry-level market. This device bucked the trend spectacularly – the Pixel is a proper powerhouse of a computer that packs an Intel Core i5 processor and a stunning 12.8-inch display squeezing in 4.3 million pixels (hence the name). It is also light, at 1.5kg, and comes with 1TB worth of Google Drive storage for free. It runs Google's Chrome operating system, which could attract users who are disillusioned with the latest version of Windows.

PROS Great screen, runs Google's Chrome OS

CONS Expensive compared with predecessors



Sensible choice

TOSHIBA SATELLITE U920TPrice: US\$970.99 www.toshiba.com

Yet another take on the laptop-that-turns-into-a-tablet genre. At 12.5 inches, it is also one of the most portable devices in the segment. But don't be fooled – this is a fully fledged laptop. Still, it packs an Intel Core i3 processor, which is rather slow compared with the competition and, if you're a heavy user of advanced software such as Photoshop or need to edit videos, you'll start to notice the difference (a new model with an i5 processor has since been released).

PROS Relatively inexpensive

CONS Feels a bit cheap



Gaming machine

DELL ALIENWARE 17Price: US\$1,499 www.dell.com

The 17 shirks the vogue for svelte machines, with a brawny, angular design with red streaks and a glowing keyboard. It has a large 17.3-inch screen with rich colours and dark blacks, is packed with hardware, including a 2.4GHz Intel Core i7 processor and 8GB of RAM (upgradable to 16GB), and takes full HD and 3D gaming in its stride. The trackpad is backlit and you can programme the groups of keys to glow in different colours for those late nights playing in the dark. This latest offering from Dell is the ultimate big boy's toy.

PROS Power – it's the best off-the-shelf gaming laptop on the market

CONS It's huge (4.6cm x 29.9cm x 41.3cm and 4.1kg)



Cheap but gives happiness

HP PAVILION 15-B155SW SLEEKBOOKPrice: £480 (US\$764) www.hp.com

The portable 14-inch touchscreen "Sleekbook" packs more hardware than its unassuming casing would lead you to believe. It may only include an Intel Core i3 processor but it's also got 8GB of RAM and an impressive 1TB hard drive. Its battery life is also substantial for a laptop in this price range, with up to eight hours of normal use. It's never going to win in a head-to-head with a premium laptop, but if you're looking for a portable device with the functionality of a laptop – something you can fling in your suitcase for trips abroad and not have to worry too much about – it could be for you.

This model too is only available for UK market.

PROS Impressive feature set for price

CONS Doesn't have a great processor



SIEMENS



Ekscytujące piękno, futurystyczna technologia.

www.siemens-home.pl

Aktualnie projektanci wnętrz kuchennych coraz częściej proponują proste formy wkomponowane w otwartą, jasną przestrzeń. Najnowsze modele urządzeń Siemens świetnie spełniają te wymagania. Zarówno piekarniki, płyty grzewcze, jak i chłodziarki oraz okapy wyróżniają się ponadczasowym wzornictwem o niezwykle eleganckiej, oszczędnej linii. Ekskluzywna obudowa z materiałów

najwyższej jakości kryje innowacyjne rozwiązania i zaawansowaną automatykę, która zapewnia urządzeniom maksymalną samodzielność i efektywność. Kontrolowane przez elektroniczne systemy sensorowe, pracują oszczędnie i cicho, z gwarancją doskonałych efektów. Dla Twojego komfortu i dla dobra natury. Więcej informacji: www.siemens-home.pl

Siemens. The future moving in.

4 HOURS IN... XIAN

Scott Carey discovers an abundance of ancient relics in the Chinese metropolis – and all without making the two-hour round trip to see the Terracotta Army



Surrounded by busy roads, the pagoda complex is a sanctuary of peace and quiet, and the perfect juxtaposition of Xian as it is and was.

BIG WILD GOOSE PAGODA

Being the closest city to the Terracotta Army is Xian's main allure for tourists – it is situated 32km from the UNESCO World Heritage Site – but there is plenty to explore in the city itself.

The easiest way to get around Xian is by taxi. My journey from the Hilton (inside the city walls) to the Big Wild Goose pagoda (6km south of the centre) cost ¥22 (£2) and took 15 minutes in some typically heavy traffic.

Surrounded by busy roads, the pagoda complex is a sanctuary of peace and quiet, and the perfect juxtaposition of Xian as it is and was. Originally constructed in 652AD during the Tang Dynasty, the pagoda has been ravaged by war over the years, with the current version being constructed during the Ming Dynasty (1368AD-1644AD) and renovated again in 1964, finally standing at seven storeys and 60 metres.

The complex costs ¥50 (£5) to enter and the first thing you will see is two small stone structures, the drum and bell towers, which were used to mark the passage of time for the temple's Buddhist monks. There are also tranquil gardens, Buddhist statues and relics, elaborate relief wall carvings and a library.

If you are feeling up to the climb then the pagoda itself is open to visitors, costing an additional ¥30 (£3) to enter. The seven flights of narrow wooden stairs can pose quite a challenge on hot days but the payoff is wholly gratifying – the views from the top are spectacular. Tickets are discounted in the winter. Open daily 8am-5pm.

CITY WALL

Now head back towards the city wall, which is an attraction in itself. Xian has seen 13 dynasties come and go, and is considered the ancient cultural seat of a fledgling unified China.

Originally built by the Tang Dynasty, the wall was extended and fortified during the Ming Dynasty to its current grand form,

measuring 12 metres high, and 13.7km in circumference.

The wall is surrounded by a large sunken moat and gardens, where the city's older residents practise tai chi or play cards. If it's not too far, it is best to walk around to the south gate as it is arguably the most ornate and impressive.

If you want to do a lap of the wall then the best way is by bike, which can be hired for ¥40 (£4) for 90 minutes (a ¥200/£20 deposit is payable). The south gate is open 8am-10pm Apr-Oct, until 8pm Nov-Mar.

MUSLIM QUARTER

Walk directly north, towards the centre of the inner city, for 15 minutes to reach the Drum Tower. The structure, another Ming Dynasty project, is located at one end of the city's Muslim quarter, home to thousands of descendants of the Islamic merchants who came here when Xian held a key position on the Silk Road.

Just behind the tower you can find the bazaar. This snaking alleyway features an endless chain of sellers haggling over souvenirs and fake designer goods. Once you reach the other end you will be deposited back into the bustle of the Muslim Quarter, where you'll find a host of street food vendors selling meat skewers, yang rou pao mo (mutton stew) and sickly sweet rice cakes. Don't sample too much, though, as a feast awaits at your next stop...

DE FA CHANG

Xian is in the Shaanxi region of China, where the dry summers mean there is little rice production, so the locals are more inclined to noodles and dumplings.

To try a dumpling banquet, head back towards the Drum Tower to the famous De Fa Chang dumpling house. While a bit on the touristy side – prices are high, ranging from ¥120 (£12) to the thousands for set menus – the theatrical nature of the banquet in the busy dining room makes for a memorable experience.

The dumplings come in a variety of shapes, many mirroring the filling, though vegetarians should not fear the rabbit-shaped baked dumpling, which is instead packed with sweet black sesame paste. They come out in giant stacks of bamboo steamers in a random procession of sweet, savoury and spicy; fried, steamed and baked. Open 11am-2pm, 5pm-9pm; 3 West Street, Lianhu; tel +86 29 8721 4060.

DE FU ALLEY

If you're here in the evening, end with a drink at De Fu Alley, a 15-minute walk di-



Discovered in 1974 the Terracotta Army, which guards the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi, is one of the most famous Chinese landmarks But Xi'an has also numerous other attractions.



rectly south of the Drum Tower. This narrow street is lined with bars and cafés with outdoor seating.

Head to the De Fu Lou Beer House for Chinese girls in Bavarian dress serving up German beers by the litre. Beware of the prices, though – the imported beer will make London prices look reasonable. Most of the bars are European-themed but the whole atmosphere is very relaxed, and

isn't overrun by tourists. If you are feeling truly brave, follow the raucous sound of karaoke that rings up through the street all through the night.

Finnair will fly from London Heathrow to Xian via Helsinki three times a week until October 26, when the route ends for the season; it will return on June 13 next year. finnair.com



ASK PETER

Letters

Piotr Kalita is related with air transport market for almost 20 years.

He is specializing in corporate and diplomatic travel segment. Have a question? - ask Piotr.

Mail your question to: redakcja@businesstraveller.pl

What's with the return ticket?

My boss had a flight ticket for Paris to London return ticket for €248. However, his plans changed and he took a train ride to London. When he was checking in for the return flight, it turned out his reservation had been cancelled. He had to buy a new ticket for more than £300 - more than the previous return ticket. Why could not he use the ticket just for the inbound flight? Can he apply for a refund? A similar thing happened when he was flying with a low-cost carrier and there was no problem.

Ewa

Dear Ewa,

The airline was right, cancelling the reservation, because the passenger had broken the terms of the contract. Your boss had entered into an agreement with the carrier for return ticket, starting in Paris, according to a special promotional fare available exclusively for the French market. That's why the lower fare was available. Additionally, the ticket was valid for certain routes, without the possibility of changes in the date and time. If a passenger doesn't show up for the first route, the whole ticket is no longer valid - that includes the inbound flight. The airline did the right thing by making a re-valuation of the inbound flight, according to the rates available in the UK market. Usually, on the departure day only full fares are available, without discounts. Therefore, the new ticket cost more. The conditions were also much less restrictive - it was available at the last minute with a possibility to change and return.

We are accustomed to the fact that with trains, you can use all sections of a ticket freely (although this too is changing) With air travel all ticket coupons must be used in order in which they were issued. All changed have to be notified to the carrier ahead of time to recalculate the prices. The cheapest fares usually do not allow for such changes.

The so-called "low cost airlines" do not have a very sophisticated system of fares and apply their own, more simplified rules (point-to-point), distinct from the lines grouped in IATA. That's why you can't really compare the two cases.

The passenger is not entitled to any refund, as there was no fault on part of the airline. All your boss can do is turn to the carrier (the agent who issued the ticket) to return the unused airport fees.

Flying without luggage?

I'm flying from Barcelona to Warsaw. The cheapest was an Air France ticket through Paris. But the price doesn't include the luggage. Does this mean that I have to pay extra? And if so, how much? I know that the KLM take luggage free if you have a Flying Blue number. I thought Air France and KLM is the same airline, so it should be the same.

Grzegorz

Dear Grzegorz,

Air France introduced a low rate group (MINI PRICE) for European flights, and for Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, and Israel. MINI rates allow taking only hand luggage free - provided it weighs less than 12 kg. This doesn't mean of course that you can't check-in regular luggage. It's possible but for an extra charge.

Ideally, you should notify about the luggage when buying a ticket or you can make the purchase via internet at least 30 hours prior to your departure. Then you will have to pay €15 for one piece of luggage up to 23 kg, including the 50% discount. You can also pay at the airport, but then you will have to make the full payment of €30. Fees are charged for every section of the flight (except for the stopover hub). In your case, you need to pay €15 twice.

As for the second part of your questions - indeed with KLM, even the lowest level of Flying Blue membership (Ivory) entitles you to taking your luggage free of charge. Air France, however, has different rules, and you get the luggage privileges only after you upgrade to the Elite or Elite Plus level. Purchasing a MINI rate ticket will not earn you any points in the Flying Blue programme. Companies participating in the corporate Blue Biz program have only a limited access to the MINI rate. You get the points for flights, but these can't be exchanged for free flights. Theoretically, after the merger in 2004, Air France and KLM are the same holding company but they still operate as two independent brands. Each can have its own independent board product as well as the rate and luggage policy.

TWOJE WYDARZENIA W NAJWIĘKSZEJ SKALI!

Centrum Targowo-Kongresowe MT Polska

1
H
A
L
A

: **185 000** ZWIEDZAJĄCYCH

: **140** KONFERENCJI

: **80** EVENTÓW

: **29** IMPREZ TARGOWYCH



1500 miejsc samochodowych, **60** miejsc autokarowych, **15 200 m²** do dowolnej aranżacji

Poznaj skalę **największej**
Hali Targowo-Kongresowej w Warszawie
www.halamtpolska.pl

MTPolska

Centrum Targowo-Kongresowe MT Polska, ul. Marsa 56c, 04-242 Warszawa

Hello Tomorrow



Znajdź swój rytm w pracy i w życiu

Każda podróż w klasie biznes przyniesie Ci wiele inspirujących doznań, od relaksujących po bardziej energetyczne. Skosztujesz wykwintnych dań naszej kuchni, rozbawią Cię do łez najnowsze komedie albo miło spędzisz czas w salonie na pokładzie samolotu. Przygotuj się na doznania klasy biznes.

emirates.com/pl

Bezpłatna usługa prywatnego szofera • Wykwintna kuchnia na pokładzie • Przyjazna polityka bagażowa

Więcej informacji pod numerem +48 22 306 08 08, na stronie emirates.com/pl lub w biurze podróży.