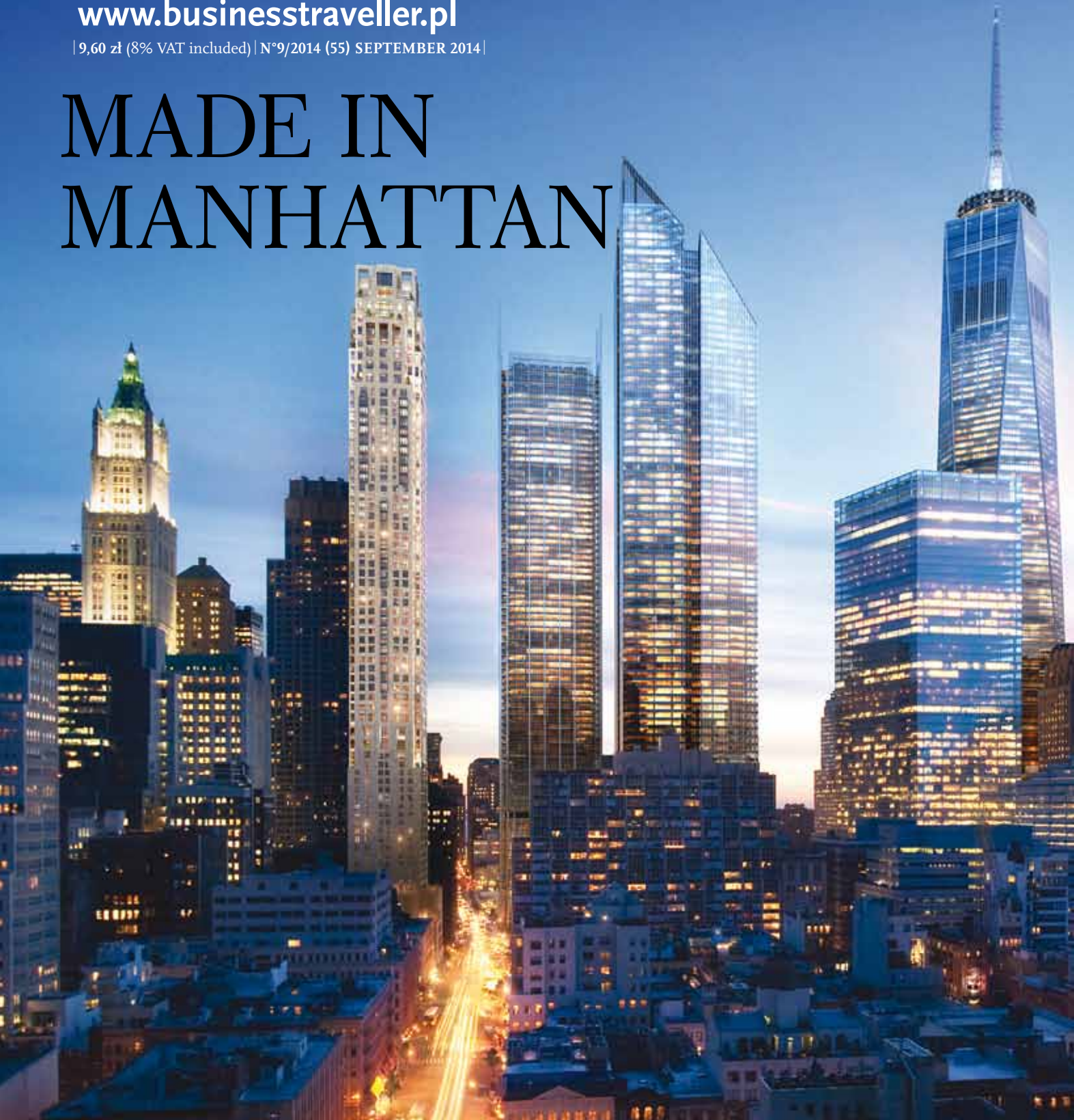


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# MANHATTAN IS CHANGING

New York's "Ground Zero" has been the most visited place in the USA in recent years. It's a more popular tourist spot than Grand Canyon, Yellowstone Park, Las Vegas and even Hollywood. After the 11 September attacks, the place was only one big hole in the ground, where for more than a year they recovered human remains. Today the place is occupied by towering buildings – a new symbol of the city. The gigantic construction raises a huge controversy, is a cause of disputes and stormy international debates. Until recently, the centre of Manhattan was one big construction site with large steel scaffolding, excavators, and hundreds of people, creating lots of noise. Today the newly erected towers reflect in their windows the buildings that survived the 9/11 attacks: banks, hotels, office buildings, and malls. Passers-by stop to watch the progress of the work, or simply to pray, ignoring the staggering pace of life in the tireless metropolis. Above them sparkles the blue, sunny sky.

I recommend you to read the article entitled "Made in Manhattan", which is our feature in this issue. It describes the changes that have occurred in recent years in New York City. 13 years after the terrorist attacks of 9/11 the New York's downtown is coming back to life. In a few months' time first companies will move into One World Trade Centre, formerly dubbed the Freedom Tower. This extraordinary building, rises to a height of 541.32 metres, or 1776 feet to commemorate the date when the Declaration of the Independence was signed. Standing at 541 metres, it is not only taller than its predecessors, the Twin Towers, but any other skyscraper in the Western Hemisphere. This is how it is done in America!



Marzena Mróz

Marzena Mróz  
Editor-in-Chief



# LATAJ Z NAGRADZANĄ LINIĄ LOTNICZĄ

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## Best Hub

### Munich

#### FIRST PLACE FOR PUNCTUALITY

Munich is one of the world's best hubs according to Skytrax - the London-based aviation research institute, which awarded World Airport Awards. Terminal 2, used exclusively by Lufthansa, Star Alliance and partner airlines, has been recognized by passengers as one of the six best in World's Best Airport for Transit Passengers category.

The terminal's special architectural concept means that passengers are able to transfer to one of 130 destinations in 45 countries in a very short time. And Lufthansa's Munich hub is also well-known for its punctuality. In the first quarter of 2014 Munich was in first place among European hubs, according to the statistics compiled by the Association of European Airports (AEA). Over 93 per cent of all Lufthansa flights took off on time. Anyone with a bit more time to spare can enjoy the facilities at Terminal 2. Lufthansa passengers rate Terminal 2 as one of the best airport terminals in the world (global ranking No. 5). They repeatedly gave it top marks for travel experience, comfort and leisure activities, which took second place in this category after Singapore. Customers praise the quiet areas and the range of entertainment available to passengers. The Lufthansa lounges cover an area of some 5,000 square metres and offer additional amenities. Underneath there is also the Lufthansa Business Lounge with a Bavarian beer garden and an exquisite Lufthansa First Class Lounge. Terminal 2 also scores highly with its 50 bars and restaurants. Munich is number two worldwide in the category "Best Airport for Dining". For the seventh time in a row Munich Airport has been voted best European airport. In the global rankings, Munich came in an excellent third place. Lufthansa has also been voted the best western as well as transatlantic airline.

## Restaurant

### Hong Kong

#### MISTRAL IN A HOTEL

If you happen to be visiting Hong Kong, you should definitely visit the new Mistral restaurant situated in Intercontinental Grand Stanford hotel. Its chef Samuele Baudoino recommends dishes of Italian cuisine that he specializes in. In addition to appetizers such as the traditional ciabatta, focaccia, or baked on site grissini, you can enjoy here such delicious dishes as thinly sliced and lightly fried tuna, varied seafood, shrimps with mango served with a glass of Italian Prosecco. Another delicacy is handmade ra-



violi filled with buffalo mozzarella and smoked tomatoes, fava bean puree and marjoram, as well as roasted Australian lamb loin. From Monday to Saturday, guests are welcome to indulge in a lunch buffet that features Italian ham, cheese, cold cuts, salads and desserts. Saffron risotto with green asparagus and Parmesan cheese, roasted sea bass fillet and pan-fried veal escalope with sage and Parma ham are just a few of the many main dish options. The Sunday brunch buffet showcases a variety of antipasti, black mussels, cheeses, pasta made-to-order, a roast carving station, as well as desserts. Free-flowing champagne, Prosecco, Italian red and white wines, and selected cocktails are available to turn your brunch into a boozy one. More information at [www.hongkong.intercontinental.com](http://www.hongkong.intercontinental.com).

## Bavaria

### Bamberg

#### THE TOWN WITH THE ALTAR BY VEIT STOSS

German Bamberg is a beautiful town situated in Bavaria. It lies on the river Regnitz, which flows into the Menu at the distance of about 7 kilometres from the centre of the town. The first mention of Bamberg appeared as early as in 902. Over 100 years later, King Henry II founded the bishopric of Bamberg, where in the 11th century the first cathedral school was opened. Some of the most eminent humanists of the European Middle Ages, including Durand of Leodium, William of Ebersberg, and Ezzo of Bamberg, were teachers here. In 1647 the school was converted into the Academia Ottoniana and in 1773 into the university. Since the 15th century the town had an autonomy with rights of a municipal republic. As the seat of an independent bishopric of Bamberg it remained Catholic during the Reformation. The independent bishop state existed until the Napoleonic era. In 1803 during the secularisation process it became the property of the kings of Bavaria, and after World War I it became an integral part of Germany. During World War II, Bamberg escaped destruction, managing to preserve a large number of monuments from all eras and the undisturbed spatial arrangement.

Tourists are delighted with Bamberg's Old Town braided with the network of narrow cobbled streets. Especially noteworthy are the Romanesque cathedral, the sculpture of the Rider of Bamberg (first monumental equestrian statue since the time of antiquity), the tomb of Pope Clement II, the altar by Veit Stoss, the Romanesque Benedictine abbey built in 1015, and the baroque bishop's palace of the 18th century. It's worth noting that the medieval Old Town of Bamberg became a UNESCO site in 1993.

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## Airline

### Star Alliance

## TOGETHER WITH AIR INDIA

Air India has joined Star Alliance, adding a total of 400 daily flights and over 40 new destinations in India to the Alliance network. The biggest growth will come from its home market, which has up to now been served by 13 Star Alliance members flying to 10 destinations and holding a 13% market share. As a result of the addition of Air India, the Alliance's market share in India has risen to 30%. Globally, passengers further benefit from a wider choice on routes connecting North America, Europe, Asia and Australia via the Indian Subcontinent. In total the Star Alliance network counts 27 member airlines, offering more than 18,500 daily flights serving 1,316 destinations in 192 countries.

## Around the Globe

### Airbus A350-900

## WORLD TOURNÉE

The world's newest airliner, the Airbus A350-900, has taken off for the final stage towards certification. These Route Proving tests are designed to demonstrate readiness for airline operations and will include high airfield performance, auto-landing trials, and airport turnaround and handling services. Some flights will have passengers on board. The A350 world tour itinerary includes 14 major airports worldwide and one route via the North Pole. The world tour using A350 MSN5 test aircraft forms part of the route proving for certification campaign. The tests form part of the last trials required for aircraft Type Certification scheduled for Q3 this year. The first airline delivery, to Qatar Airways, will follow towards the end of the year.



## Car

### BMW i8

## NEW PREMIUM CLASS

Car enthusiasts have always associated BMW with visionary concepts of cars, which inspire with their design and a new understanding of the concept of "premium", which is defined by sustainable development. The German automaker has just premiered the i8 - the BMW Group's first plug-in hybrid vehicle and the second model from the BMW i brand. The i8 is also a sports car with remarkably progressive and environmentally sustainable characteristics. The 2+2-seater was designed with the typical for the "i" brand LiveDrive architecture, has efficient aerodynamics and a beautiful interior which provides intense driving experience. It delights with its edgy, futuristic body, as well as performance worthy of the title of the top car of the 21st century.





## Airline

Finnair

### NEW SPACIOUS INTERIOR OF THE A350

As the European launch customer of the next-generation Airbus A350 XWB (extra wide body) aircraft, Finnair has completed the cabin design of its new flagship longhaul product due to enter service next year.

Created by top Helsinki firm dSign Vertti Kivi & Co, also the designer of Finnair's new Premium Lounge at Helsinki Airport, the A350's bright and spacious cabin features large panoramic view windows and comfortable seating arrangements in both classes. All Finnair A350s will also be equipped with Wi-Fi for greater passenger enjoyment and connectivity.

"We have worked hard to create a special customer experience onboard the new A350XWB aircraft and are proud to bring Finnish design to Finnair's passengers," says designer Vertti Kivi. "Our Space Alive concept means dynamic lighting, colours and moods to suit the time of day, destination or season. For example, when descending in the East the aircraft can be awash in warm orange tones, or surface interiors may glow in fresh blue hues when arriving in Helsinki."

The Airbus A350 also features an advanced pure air filtration system that changes the air in the cabin every two to three minutes.

The 297-seat configuration includes 46 seats in Business Class in a 1+2+1 layout, ensuring direct aisle access to all Business Class passengers. The Zodiac Cirrus III seats convert to fully flat beds, while a 16-inch touch-screen inflight entertainment system.

The Economy Class cabin features comfortable Zodiac Z300 slim-line seats with a 31-inch seat pitch in a 3+3+3 layout. At the front of the Economy Class cabin are 43 Economy Comfort seats, with comfier headrests, high-quality headphones and four extra inches of leg room. All seats in Economy include an 11-inch touch screen inflight entertainment system and USB power outlets.

Finnair plans to begin operating its first A350s in the second half of next year, initially serving Shanghai, Bangkok and Beijing, with Hong Kong and Singapore A350 service to be added in 2016. Finnair has 11 firm orders and 8 options for A350 aircraft, which will form the backbone of the company's long-haul fleet and drive expansion plans.



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## Hotel

### Event

## MUSIC AT RADISSON BLU HOTEL WROCLAW

Radisson Blu Wroclaw for years has been cooperating with the organizers of concerts and festivals, providing the highest level of service accommodation and catering for the stars of the events that take place in the city. In August Wroclaw hosted the world-famous musicians who were the stars of the 5th Double Bass World Festival. Radisson Blu Wroclaw was a partner of the event the part of which was a Jam Session that took place on 20 August at the hotel. The main stars of the concert were the phenomenal Adam Ciesielski playing the double bass and Kuba Stankiewicz playing the piano.

They were backed instrumentally and vocally by bassist Miroslav Gajdos who made a big show at the hotel's Sqwiggles bar.

Radisson Blu Hotel Wroclaw has 162 rooms, including 5 suites and 10 Business Class rooms. The lobby of Sqwiggles bar features a grand piano, enabling guests to listen to live music while sipping delicious drinks and delighting their palates with dishes of Polish and international cuisine prepared by Piotr Lisiewski – the head chef of Aquarelle restaurant.

## Tourism

### Pilsen

## IDEA FOR A TRIP

In 2015 Pilsen will be the European Capital of Culture. The city, which is considered to be the cradle of beer and is the organizer of the famous Pilsner Fest, is also known for its numerous architectural monuments. Especially impressive is the Gothic Cathedral of St. Bartholomew with the highest church tower in the Czech Republic (102 m), as well as the Great Synagogue – the fourth largest in the world. From mid-June visitors to Pilsen can also enter another interesting Jewish building – the Old Synagogue. Following a reno-



vation, the place has returned to its former glory. The synagogue attracts guests not only with its interior, but also numerous cultural events, and most recently an exhibition dedicated to the history of the Jews in the Pilsen region, their customs and culture. The Old Synagogue is the oldest preserved synagogue in Pilsen. It was used for liturgical purposes only until 1893, when this function was taken over by the newly built Great Synagogue. The Old Synagogue then served as a warehouse. Owing to this the building situated close to the historic centre of the city wasn't demolished during Nazi invasion and survived to this day. More information about Pilsen at: [www.visitplzen.eu](http://www.visitplzen.eu)

## Hotel Group

### Mamaison

## NOT ONLY IN WARSAW AND PRAGUE

The portfolio of one of the largest Czech hotel groups has as of 1 July 2014 grown by the addition of Mamaison Hotels & Residences operating in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary and Russia. The hotel group will hence increase its accommodation and congress capacity to a total of nearly 8,800 beds and 11,500 conference seats. The group's portfolio has currently 28 hotels.

The newly operated Mamaison Hotel Riverside Prague with its secession-styled exteriors is located near tourist as well as business centres, and hence targets diverse clientele. The same can also be said of the second Prague hotel, Mamaison Residence Belgicka Prague. The portfolio of hotels in the Moravian metropolis was enriched by Mamaison Business & Conference Hotel Imperial Ostrava, a congress hotel with a rich tradition and history. Mamaison Hotel Le Regina Warsaw with its prestigious address in the historic Mokrow Palace will satisfy even the most demanding clients with its offer of accommodation and other services, while another residence, Mamaison Residence Diana Warsaw, targets the upper middle class of services in the area of both business and recreational tourism. Last year, CPI Hotels celebrated the 20th anniversary of its existence on the Czech market, where it has operated since 1993.



**mamaison**  
Hotels & Residences



## Austria Stubai Valley

### MOUNTAIN RUNNING CHAMPIONSHIPS

From 5 to 7 September 2014, the beautiful Stubai Valley, which is especially popular with Poles during ski season, will be the venue of the Masters World Mountain Running Championships. The competition is open to anyone in the 35-80 age range. The athletes cover over 11.5 km in distance and 1,100 vertical meters to reach the finish line. A second, no less strenuous option begins at the middle station Froneben and covers 7.2 km in distance and 760 meters in altitude also finishing at the mountain station of the Kreuzjochbahn. When the participants reach the summit, there will be a gala decoration and a show held in the main tent. More information can be found at [www.stubai.at](http://www.stubai.at).

## Airline

Air France

### JAKARTA - NEW ROUTE FROM EUROPE TO ASIA

Air France offers flights to Jakarta, Indonesia's largest metropolis of over 10 million inhabitants. The Paris-Jakarta connection is operated by Boeing B777-300 aircraft with a change in Singapore.

The offer of Air France on this route includes the following connections operated three times a week: departure from Paris at 7.20 pm and arrival in Singapore at 2.15 pm the next day.

Departure from Singapore at 4.55 pm and arrival in Jakarta at 5.35 pm. The return flight from Jakarta is scheduled for 7.30 pm with arrival in Singapore at 10.25 pm, transfer at 0.25 am and arrival in Paris at 7.55 am. On Warsaw-Paris route Air France operates three flights a day. It's worth noting that as of 1 July Charles De Gaulle Airport in Paris, which is Air Frances national hub, offers free WiFi access without limit. In 2012, the airport in Jakarta handled 57.8 million passengers. In May 2008 Soekarno-Hatta International Airport was ranked sixth among the most punctual airports in the world.



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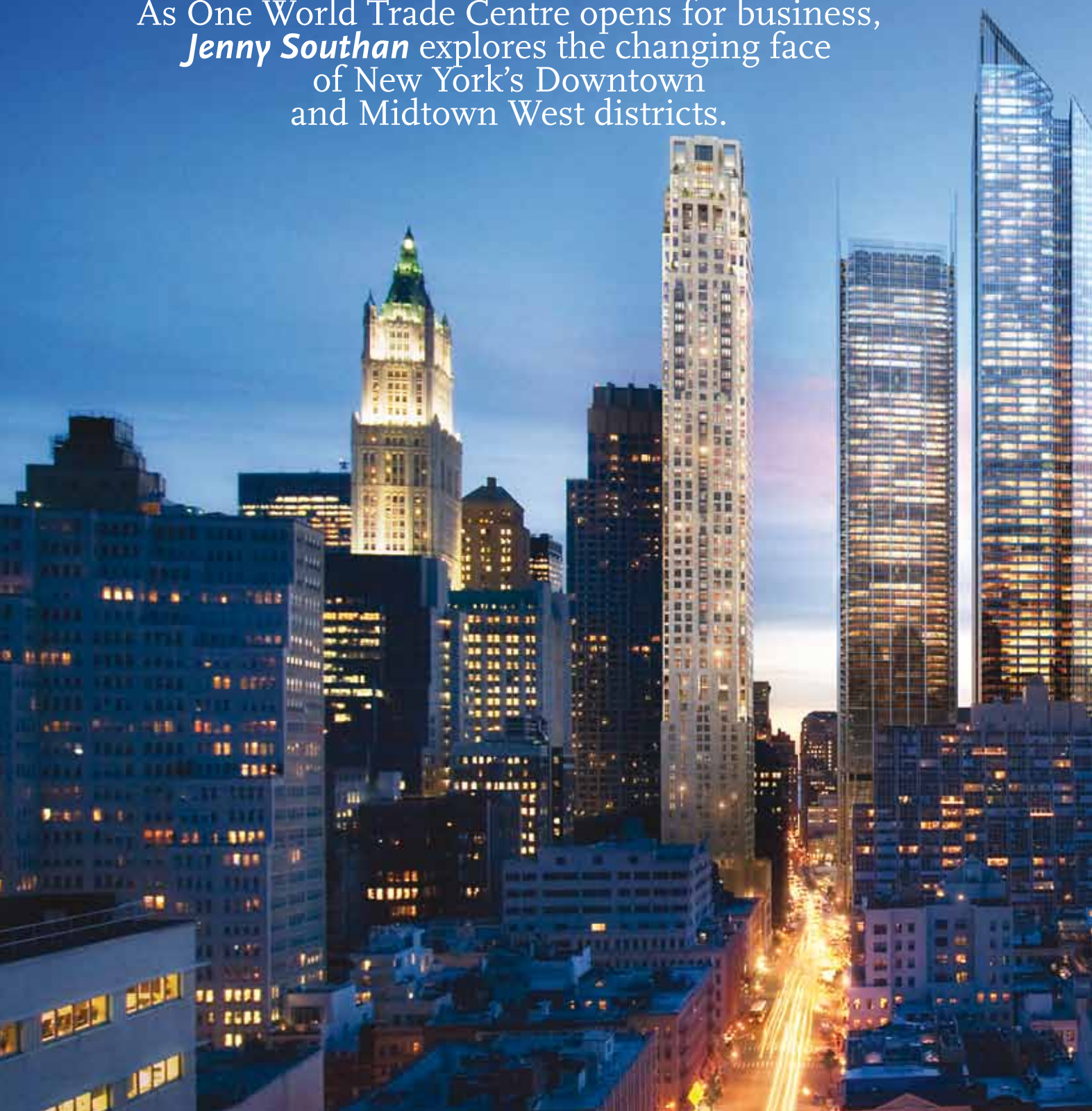
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# MADE IN MANHATTAN

As One World Trade Centre opens for business, **Jenny Southan** explores the changing face of New York's Downtown and Midtown West districts.





**A**lmost 13 years since the September 11 attacks, the time has finally come for New York's Downtown district to rise from Ground Zero to mighty hero. In a matter of months, Condé Nast will become the first company to move into the new US\$4 billion One World Trade Centre (onewtc.com), occupying 25 of its 104 floors. While the building was topped out in August 2012, the addition of its 124-metre spire completed its vital statistics in May last year – standing at 541 metres, it is not only taller than its predecessors, the Twin Towers, but any other skyscraper in the Western Hemisphere.

When I visited in March, the area around the base of One WTC (formerly dubbed the Freedom Tower and located at 285 Fulton Street) was still a high-security construction site so I was assigned an official guide,

a hard hat and a high-vis jacket before being escorted across an expanse of debris to the entrance of the glass-and-steel structure. Although the floors were covered in wooden boards, stepping into the vast, white marble lobby was impressive – light poured through long, slender windows cut into the lower section of the tower's bomb-proof concrete base, rising 57 metres. Apart from the 15-metre-high welcome hall, this portion of the building will not be occupied. When Condé Nast sets up its global HQ in November, it will take over the first livable portion of the building, from levels 20 to 44.

#### THE TENANTS

With 55 per cent of the tower leased before opening, the publisher's neighbours will include Vantone China Centre on levels 64 to 69, which will provide "a home for China

in the city of influence". According to its website (chinacenter.com), it will be "a coveted venue for fine dining, corporate events, cultural activities, business, social opportunities and global dialogue", with a double-height lobby, offices, conference and exhibition space, film screenings, restaurants, a bar and a members' club.

Legends Hospitality Group will operate the observatory floors of 100 to 102 from next summer, while the federal government's General Services Administration will move its regional HQ for the US Army Corps of Engineers and Customs and Border Protection to floors 50- 55 by the end of next year. Level 87 will be taken over by advertising agency Kids Creative, while Hugo Boss and tech company Percolate have reportedly expressed an interest too. Every level offers panoramic views through floor-to-ceiling



It was like the Dark Ages in the 1970s, but now it's being reborn – the subways are cleaner, the parks are nicer and pedestrian zones are being created.”



When drawing up the plans, front of mind was strength and fortitude – there was much to be learnt from the way the previous World Trade Centre

windows, and One WTC's eco-friendly blueprint is expected to earn it gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification.

Designed by David M Childs, the building has been co-developed by real estate firm the Durst Organisation and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. When drawing up the plans, front of mind was strength and fortitude, not just in terms of the emotional import the building was going to have for New Yorkers but also structurally – there was much to be learnt from the way the previous World Trade Centre had been constructed, and tenants would need reassurance that the latest safety measures had been taken into account.

### WORLD'S SAFEST

As well as the armoured base, which has concrete walls a metre thick clad in 2,000 panels of special shatterproof glass, One WTC has a super-strong central core that allows for column-free office space and protects the elevator shafts, sprinkler systems and stairways that run up and down the middle of the building. Inside, there are dedicated extra-wide staircases with their own air systems for firefighters, and 70 lifts that are impenetrable to water and pressurised against smoke, and that will continue to function in the event of fire. I was told it is the safest building in the world and that,

from now on, other newbuild skyscrapers in the city will have similar safety features.

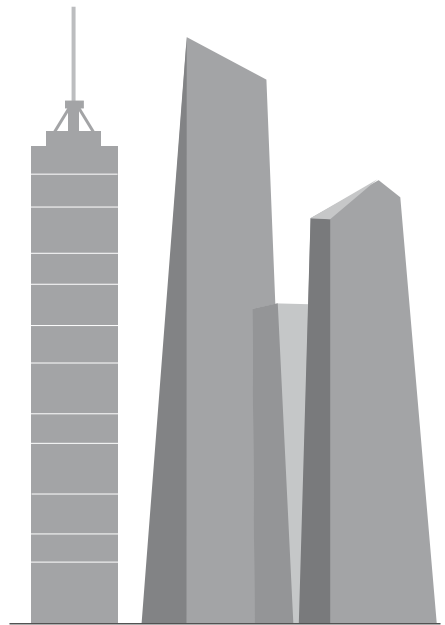
### DOWNTOWN UPGRADE

Looking out of the windows on the south side, at the bottom you can see two dark square pools in the September 11 Memorial garden – waterfalls that plunge into the ground and mark the footprint of where the Twin Towers stood. Next door is the National 9/11 Memorial Museum, which opened in May, and adjacent to that are the hulking spines of the skeleton structure of Calatrava station. Set to open next year, it will be home to the new Port Authority Transit Hub (PATH), the most expensive of its kind in the world, at close to US\$4 billion – the same as One WTC itself.

Last autumn, a subterranean marble corridor (known as the West Concourse) linking Calatrava with One WTC was unveiled. When finished, the transport nerve centre will have 150 restaurants and shops (the Westfield Group is a partner) and service 250,000 commuters a day.

“Walking through, you really feel you're in the future,” says Tara Stacom, vice-chairman of Cushman and Wakefield, property manager for One WTC. “A lot of the past is forgotten, and you get excited by the new aspects of what's in Downtown.”

Nearby is the US\$1.4 billion Fulton Centre, which opened in June and sees the conflu-



## One World Trade Center

### IN NUMBERS

- US\$4bn - cost
- 541m - height (with spire)
- 526m - height of original WTC One (with antenna)
- 104 - floors
- 103 - floors in Empire State Building
- 100-102 - observation deck levels
- 5 million - visitors a year expected for observation deck
- 325,000 sqm - office space
- 43,540 - tonnes of structural steel used in construction
- 92,900 sqm - glass cladding on exterior
- 70 - lifts
- 60 - seconds it takes to get from the ground to the top floor

## Hudson Yards

### IN NUMBERS

The largest private real estate project in US history

- US\$20bn - cost
- 23,000 - construction jobs created
- 5 - office towers
- 1.5 million sqm - commercial and residential space
- 5,000 - residences
- 100 - shops
- 20 - restaurants
- 11.3 hectares - footprint of site
- 5.6 hectares - open public space
- 24 million - visitors a year expected
- 2018 - completion date for phase one
- Late 2014 - opening of number 7 subway extension and High Line phase three



The regeneration isn't restricted to Downtown. The trend for creating human-friendly living/working environments is taking shape throughout New York

ence of 11 subway lines that deliver 300,000 passengers a day. Then there is the 74-floor Four World Trade Centre on 150 Greenwich Street (to the south of One WTC), which opened last year and houses the City of New York and Port Authority.

"Now the area is coming back and, really, it's been very long in coming," says Nancy Ploeger, president of the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce. Stacom agrees: "We started out jokingly saying 'Downtown is the new Midtown', but now it's true. It's where most companies want to be. The average age of buildings in Manhattan is 80 years, but most companies want new class-A office space with floor-to-ceiling glass, higher ceilings and no columns. Compared with new construction anywhere else in the city, it is significantly less expensive, too." Add to that various tax abatements and exemptions as incentives, and organisations have a compelling proposition to lease desk-space in the WTC complex. Stacom adds that quality of life is a factor. "People are gravitating towards the water and the green space," she says. "The younger generation wants to know that companies are thinking about the environment, and Downtown typifies that more than Midtown, which is a lot more stone and concrete and cavernous avenues. Downtown is a new 24/7 community."

No longer a soulless financial district, the area is also alive with tourists and migrating locals. Even on a Saturday night, when the streets look empty, you can find 21st-century speakeasies (above the China Chai Chinese restaurant, for example), full of hipsters from Brooklyn and the East Village. "It's become sort of a living, breathing, seven-day-a-week type of neighbourhood," says Kevin Draper, owner, director and lead guide for NY Historical Tours. "And the key is, it's not all commercial."

Among the numerous sky-high condos popping up will be Herzog and de Meuron's striking 56 Leonard in Tribeca (it looks like a crooked tower of glass Jenga blocks). Set for completion in 2016, it comprises 145 luxury apartments, ten penthouses and a squashed steel orb sculpture by Anish Kapoor holding up one corner.

The progress has not been without its problems and hold ups, however. At 175 Greenwich Street (previously the site of the Marriott World Trade Centre hotel, destroyed on 9/11) are the first eight levels of Three WTC, but work recently rumbled to a halt amid funding problems and a lack of interest from potential tenants. At number 200, Two World Trade Centre has been designed by Foster and Partners to be the second-



tallest of the WTC skyscrapers, but is yet to be built, as is the case with the 42-floor Five WTC on 130 Liberty Street.

### WEST SIDE STORY

The regeneration isn't restricted to Downtown. The trend for creating human-friendly living/working environments is taking shape throughout New York, but particularly in Midtown West, near the Hudson River, where real-estate firm Related Companies is planning the largest private project of its kind in the US.

Hudson Yards, as it will be known, ([hudsonyardsnewyork.com](http://hudsonyardsnewyork.com)) will consist of five office towers, a cultural centre, 5,000 apartments, 100 shops, 20 eateries, a hotel (Four Points by Sheraton Manhattan Hudson Yards, due in 2016) and 5.6 hectares of public space. The first phase is due to be finished by 2018. The highlight will be the third section of the High Line Park, which will run through the base of one of its towers and is due to open by the end of the year. Stretching from Gansevoort Street in the Meatpacking District to West 30th, the first two elevated sections of the 1930s freight railway line were turned into a scenic walkway in 2009, with artworks, wild grasses and flowers and view-

ing spots. Almost five million people visit it annually. Draper says: "The High Line has brought people to the neighbourhood. People realised what incredible views you have [from there] and, all of a sudden, they wanted to start living there, so the real estate developers are putting up as many buildings as they can alongside it.

Also under way is the US\$30 million Hudson Park and Boulevard, the first phase of which – between 33rd and 36th streets – is due to be complete in December, with the second phase, from 36th to 42nd Street, to follow. Jessica Scaperotti, director of communications for Related Companies, says: "Once these projects are complete, you will have a new network of parks in Manhattan. You will be able to walk from Gansevoort Street to Times Square through green space."

Wedge between Chelsea and Hell's Kitchen, Hudson Yards will be spread over 11 hectares, with three-quarters of the site on top of the working railyard – a platform is currently being erected above it.

The five office towers are planned for completion by 2018, the first of which, Ten Hudson Yards, has been designed by Kohn Pedersen Fox and is due to open next year. Another, the 80-storey 30 Hudson Yards

(2017-18), will house Time Warner (HBO and CNN will move their studios here) and feature the highest outdoor observation deck in New York City. It will also provide access to the new number 7 subway station – part of a US\$2.4 billion extension to the number 7 subway line, which currently terminates at Times Square, it will begin operations this autumn.

Nearby, at Ninth Avenue and 33rd Street, another mixed-use project broke ground in 2012. Continuing the trend, the US\$4.5 billion Manhattan West project ([manhattanwestnyc.com](http://manhattanwestnyc.com)) will be built over the train tracks that connect to Penn station, on top of which will be two office towers, one apartment block and a plaza by 2020.

Ploeger says: "The West Side, which was traditionally our manufacturing hub, is where it's at – 20-25 years ago I remember derelict piers falling into the river but now it's chock-a-block with development."

Draper has noticed change rippling through New York as a whole: "It's a renaissance. It was like the Dark Ages in the 1970s, but now it's being reborn – the subways are cleaner, the parks are nicer and pedestrian zones are being created." For New Yorkers, it's onwards and upwards.

# Rejsy Wycieczkowe

**TOURS**  
GRUPA ATLAS TOURS



STATEK: **Costa Favolosa\*\*\*\*+** **HISZPANIA, WŁOCHY | MALTA (10 DNI)**  
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 + 135 EUR (rybny portmal)

STATEK: **Costa Fascinosa\*\*\*\*+** **KORFU, MYKONOS, SANTORINI (8 DNI)**  
 TRASA: Wenecja – Bari – Korfu – Mykonos – Santorini – Dubrownik – Wenecja  
 TERMIN: 19.10 – 27.10.2014  
**649** EUR/os.  
 + 135 EUR (rybny portmal)

STATEK: **Costa NeoClassica\*\*\*\*** **MAURITIUS, SESZELE, MADAGASKAR (18 DNI)**  
 TRASA: Mauritius – Seszele – Madagaskar – Reunion – Mauritius  
 TERMINY: 24.01 – 10.02.2015 / 22.02 – 10.03.2015  
**2499** EUR/os.  
 + 235 EUR (rybny portmal)

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Hotel

PHUKET, THAILAND

# SRI PANWA HOTEL



**CONTACT**  
www.sripanwa.com

**S**ri Panwa is a luxurious resort with an impressive view – 70 private villas with a swimming pool were built on the tropical forest-covered slopes of Cape Panwa. That is why most of them offer a 270° panorama, which includes the view of the ocean and the nearby islands. Depending on the location of the villa, you can observe either the sunrise or the sunset, and an infinity pool ends with a 40-metre high, spectacular edge. Each villa consists of two buildings - a bedroom and a living room connected by an atrium. The walls are glazed, and most of them slide aside to the pool. That way, you can observe the turquoise waters of the ocean and the yachts in the distance.

## VILLAS

The living room has a kitchenette with snacks and a minibar full of cocktails, beer and fresh fruit. The rooms are modernly arranged with attention to detail. Sophisticated design is manifested in made to order furniture, and the skilful combination of different materials, colours and textures. Each of

the rooms has a private bathroom and a toilet, and apart from that, next to the bedroom there is a sauna and a two-person hot tub.

The list of guests who visited the hotel is impressive: Snoop Dog shot a clip here together with Rita Ora, Gordon Ramsey was delighted with the hotel's cuisine, and Rockefeller, Kenny G and the prince of Bhutan consider Sri Panwa their favourite place. Each villa comes with an ipod with a music playlist (composed by the famous Flo Rid) connected to a Bose surround system.

## A BAR WITH A VIEW

The biggest attraction of Sri Panwa is Baba Nest bar ("baba" meaning "a boy"). CNN hailed it as the world's third bar with the best view. No wonder that in order to observe a sunset from here you need to book in advance. The 360-degree panorama of the Andaman Sea islands seen from the top of the cape, 60 metres above sea level, is breath-taking. Soft cushions, infinity pools and a favourite cocktail are a nice complement to this magical spectacle of lights, when the sky and ocean

waters change colour from blue to orange and purple.

## ALL THE BEST

The owner of the complex, the 32-year-old Issara, heir to the fortune of Thai real estate magnates, was educated in the field of hotel management and took the training in the world's top 5-star hotels. Thanks to him, Sri Panwa offers all the glitz and glamour you can think of. Issara introduces his own ideas as well: smiling, laid-back staff wears uniforms consisting of shorts and polo shirts (or T-shirts during the weekend), and the freezer is filled with a selection of ice cream.

Cool Spa menu has nine pages, and in each massage treatment room there is a mini waterfall. The rooms are frequented by hotel guests, including celebrities, as well as visitors from Phuket Town.

## VERDICT

It is a fantastic hotel for a romantic trip or an exclusive stay with friends. It offers impressive views with the unique 270-degree panorama and unforgettable sunrises and sunsets.

**Anna Drozdowska**

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Hotel

PHUKET, THAILAND

# TRISARA HOTEL



**CONTACT**  
www.trisara.com

**T**risara - meaning "three gardens in heaven" in Sanscrit, is on top of the most luxurious hotels on the island of Phuket. Guests have access here to 49 private villas, each equipped with a 10-metre infinity pool facing the ocean. The resort is located on a gentle slope, and its impressive surface is not a problem at all - several vehicles with chauffeurs are at the disposal of the guests 24/7.

## VILLAS

Spacious (each villa has 240 sqm space), luxuriously arranged interiors are equipped with advanced technology - surround system by Bose, ultra quiet air-conditioning, a 46-inch TV set, a bathtub with hydro massage, a classic shower, as well as an outdoor shower with a rain barrel. Teak-covered terrace comes with elegant deckchairs and umbrellas.

## SERVICE

For every guest at Trisara there are 4 members of professional staff. Already at the airport you are assisted by a hotel representative, who walks you through the passport control in a VIP line.

Then, you are taken in a limousine to one of the villas, where the resort's manager helps you to check in. There is also a welcome gift: hibiscus tea with fresh cookies, a fruit basket and handmade truffle pralines.

## RESTAURANTS

The favourite eatery in the resort is the Deck - a Thai restaurant located by the ocean, where barbecue parties are held every week. However, the real jewel in the crown is Seafood, frequented by clients from the farthest corners of the island, and serving seafood prepared in Thai and European fashion. If you are not an early riser, you would be delighted to know that breakfasts are served here 24/7. The choice of fresh fruit, juice, yoghurt and hot dishes is staggering and could overshadow most 5-star hotels. Wherever else could you start a day with a toast with avocado in balsamic sauce, or French cinnamon toast with fresh mango, papaya and mascarpone cheese?

## SPORTS

Sport enthusiasts have access to a tennis court and free rental of

such equipment as kayaks, paddle and windsurfing boards as well as sailing ships. You can also try scuba diving, snorkelling, or even charter a yacht. Interestingly, especially popular are morning yoga and Muay Thai boxing classes.

The sandy beach is sheltered by a reef, but a 115-metre pier was built here, so that snorkelers could dive into deep water straightaway. On the beach guests have access to deck chairs, beach umbrellas and a bar.

## SPA

If you are a spa person, you can enjoy Thai massage or Royal Trisara treatments performed by three therapists. All cosmetics are made entirely from natural ingredients. Treatments can be performed in the open air, in the gazebo overlooking the ocean or in the privacy of a villa.

## VERDICT

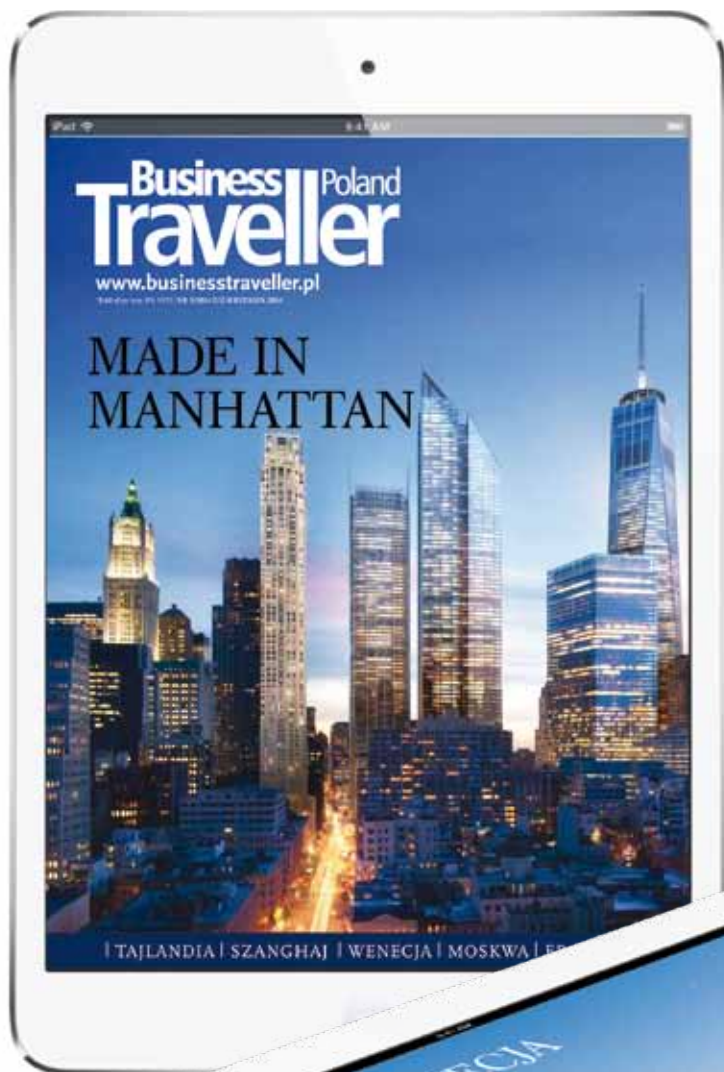
The resort offers an impressive range of active recreation and one of the best cuisines on the island.

*Anna Drozdowska*



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# CORNER ROOM POLONIA PALACE



The view from the corner room

## CONTACT

Aleje Jerozolimskie 45  
Warsaw  
tel. +48 22 31 82 800  
poloniapalace@syrena.com.pl  
www.poloniapalace.com

## PRICE

Executive Room - from €125

**P**olonia Palace is quite a unique hotel. Located in the centre of Warsaw, at the intersection of Aleje Jerozolimskie and Marszałkowska Street, it boasts both a hundred years of tradition, as well as modern, contemporary design. It is the perfect spot for business travellers who plan to spend a few days in the city, as well as for tourists planning to visit the capital.

## THE INTERIOR WITH HISTORY

It is hard to believe, but Polonia Palace is a hundred years old already. The hotel opened in July 1913, and immediately gained fame as the most modern hotel in Warsaw. Its first owner Konstanty Przeździecki arranged the hotel in French style, but the furniture was imported from England. Polonia Palace was given a new life in 2004 following a renovation that took several years. The hotel was restored to its former glory, and was equipped with all the mod cons. Throughout years the hotel has hosted

numerous famous figures, including Stefan Żeromski, president Dwight Eisenhower, and later president Lech Wałęsa and Roman Polański.

## CORNER ROOM

The Corner Room is considered by many visitors to be the most beautiful in the entire hotel. It is spacious, bright, cosy and full of light. Its large floor-to-ceiling windows display a spectacular view of the city centre with the Palace of Culture and Science and Żłote Tarasy. Decorated in beige and brown colours, it is furnished with a large and very comfortable kingsize bed, comfortable armchairs, a coffee table, a desk, a chair, and a safe deposit box - big enough to fit in a laptop. The floors are covered with light beige carpeting. The bathroom is spacious, very functional and comes with a set of cosmetics by Chopard. Guests will find here also tea and coffee making facilities, as well as a half a litre bottle of a branded mineral water. On my arrival at the room I was positively sur-

prised to see a welcome gift in a form of a platter of fresh fruit. As a guest of the hotel I also had access to its Fitness Centre, which consists of a fitness room and saunas. I could also use the Business Centre with fast Internet connection, a computer and a printer. The rooms have access to high-speed Wi-Fi and LAN, local calls made from the landline are free of charge, and guests are also offered a free movie package. Another nice surprise, which greatly simplified my day in Warsaw, was the early check-in before 2 pm.

## VERDICT

It is a perfect spot for a shorter or longer stay in the capital - a stylish place with a remarkable history, at the same time offering its guests all the possible mod cons and top-class facilities. The hotel restaurant with a new chef is superb, offering a varied breakfast buffet and professional service. The view from the corner room and the atmosphere of the place is second to none.

*Rafał Sobiech*



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# AMBER ROOM



## CONTACT

Amber Room Restaurant  
Aleje Ujazdowskie 13  
Warsaw  
tel. 22 523-66-64  
[www.amber-room.pl](http://www.amber-room.pl)

**T**he most beautiful mansion house in Warsaw, most prestigiously located in Aleje Ujazdowskie, is now beautifully restored and decorated. The building is the seat of the Polish Business Council, where the most exclusive and intimate business and social events are held. Apart from that, the interior features a unique restaurant – Amber Room.

The interior, terrace and the restaurant's garden are so beautiful and cosy, that the food would not even have to be perfect.

On the other hand, the food is so delicious that the décor should not even matter.

The combination of those two assets makes it, in my humble opinion, the best restaurant in Warsaw. And, as you may know it from TV, it is not only my sole opinion. The most important Polish politicians, the greatest businesspeople and numerous prominent foreign guests decide to spend their corporate money here. This is a perfect spot for important celebrations like discreet engagements, round anniversaries, or signing an important contract.

When the restaurant opened in 2009, its first head chef was Wojciech Modest Amaro – the only Michelin-starred chef in Poland. Then there was Jacek

Grochowina, also recommended by Michelin's specialists. The current chef Robert Skubisz was trained for many years under the supervision of Wojciech Modest Amaro, and, as the popular adage has it: "the apprentice has outdone the master".

## MENU

The menu is seasonal, but constantly updated with new fruit and vegetable dishes. Currently the main ingredients are chanterelle, broad bean and berries. Everyone will find here something for themselves. The menu itself is not very extensive. This is to make sure that all the ingredients and dishes served are absolutely fresh. There are 10 starters to choose from (about €9-16) including tuna tartar, fried foie gras, shrimps, or salmon. I was especially delighted with green dumplings stuffed with broad beans, ricotta, rucola and butter emulsion. Insanely good! Price - €9. Soups are also seasonal, e.g. baby beetroot chilled soup or green peas latte for €7.

There are four main dishes with either meat or fish. It is the optimal amount, but the choice is still difficult. The choice? Deer tenderloin, duck breast confit, guinea fowl breast, or meaty fish fillets. You will find a fine selection of side orders like chanterelle, chestnut purée, caramelized vegetables

and of course sauces, served in pretty sauceboats.

## LONG READING

The wine menu, on the other hand, is very extensive – it takes 2 hours to read it all, especially with the dim light in the garden. So you had better let the sommelier advise you. The motto of the menu is a quote from Sir Robert Scott Caywood: "Compromises are for relationships, not for wine...", so you can expect the top quality wines, very expensive ones, although the profit margins are not high. Excellent red wine La Grange Neuve De Figeac 2005, served in first and business class of Emirates airline, costs only about €112. For the wine of that quality, the prices are more than affordable.

## VERDICT

The waiting staff is only male, and the service is impeccable, elegant, caring and discreet. It is a pity that when you leave the place and get into taxi, this Cinderella tale comes to an end, and the reality strikes you again.

If you are fond of such fairy-tale like atmosphere, think of it that way: it's better to spend one magical evening in Amber Room than several ones in a "regular" restaurant. I hope it does not sound like a washing powder commercial.

**Magdalena Boratyńska**



# PIĘKNY NEAPOL



**KRAKÓW-NEAPOL**  
W DWIE STRONY, CENA CAŁKOWITA

OD **805** PLN

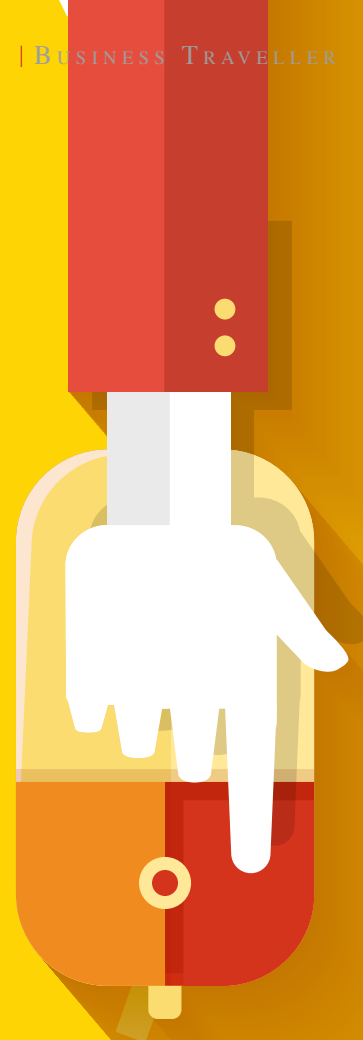
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# SEARCHING MADE SIMPLE

Planes, trains and automobiles... **Martin Ferguson** reports on how new meta-search sites are making it easier to book point-to-point travel itineraries.





**H**ow many websites did you visit to book your last trip? To make life easier, many of us use online travel agents (OTAs) such as Expedia and Orbitz to compare prices and then make bookings with their affiliated hotels and airlines. For those of us who want a broader search of real-time rates and brands, with reservations instead made separately, there is also the option of meta-search sites such as Kayak and Travelsupermarket, which pull in data from a range of independent search engines, aggregating the findings in one place. However, when embarking on a trip that might involve assessing the pros and cons of hiring a car versus taking the train, or travelling from one small town to another as opposed to a between two major cities (and, consequently, needing multiple forms of transport), these kinds of websites aren't going to do the job. Chances are you will need to trawl the pages of numerous individual websites to find and then compare the information you are presented with.

### TRAVELLING MADE EASIER

If you use a travel management company to arrange everything, you don't have any-

thing to worry about, but if you rely on sorting everything yourself, then the arrival of more comprehensive meta-search tools for itinerary building will be welcomed. It was at the turn of the millennium, when broadband internet was finding its way into homes across the UK, that OTAs came to prominence. It wasn't until around 2005 that meta-search sites began to build their own momentum. Today, a new generation of meta-search sites may have found a way to simplify the process of arranging point-to-point travel. Rather than searching multiple websites for flights, hotels, car rental and transfers, a couple of innovative startups are pulling everything into one search. Rome2rio.com was launched in 2011. On its homepage I'm asked to enter my origin, destination and preferred date of travel. I choose to leave my address in Clarkston, a suburb of Glasgow, to go to Naples city centre on July 6. Eight results, ranked by price and journey duration, provide me with door-to-door options involving buses, taxis, planes and ferries. By clicking on each segment of the result, every aspect, including hotels, is bookable directly on the supplier website. A massive time saver.

Goeuro.com, launched last year, offers a similar service – type in the name of your town or village and where you want to go, and let the technology take you through the journey, step by step.

However, these two modestly sized startups are not the only ones offering door-to-door travel options. Google has been providing a similar service in the US for the past year.

Type in San Francisco to Tulsa on Google Maps and you'll be presented with intricate driving directions, the journey duration and estimated fuel cost. One click on the aeroplane icon presents a detailed travel itinerary, which allows users to click through and book on the transport providers' websites. The search and book platform is powered by Google's own meta-search technology, Google Flights and Google Hotels.

### META-HELPERS

There are many types of meta-search sites from which to choose. The original engines, such as Cheapflights, Skyscanner and Kayak, used to focus on flights only, but have now branched into hotels and car hire. Others, such as fthostels.com and, for business

travel, Amadeus Meta Pricer, target niche customers and markets, while Trivago and hotels.com specialise in hotels only.

However, the lines are blurring and many meta-search engines are looking to extend their reach by offering a minimum of flight, hotel, car hire and other ancillary services.

While the main advantage of meta-search is aggregating a wide array of prices in one place, they are also more likely to guarantee the lowest rates because the figures come straight from the airlines and hotels.

Conversely, OTAs have their own pricing, which will not necessarily return the cheapest seat or room. A small fee, for example, may be added on to the price.

Still, even the meta-search community acknowledges that OTAs do some things well. Momondo chief executive Hugo Burge admits they do a great job of selling.

"They take your credit card details and are responsible for taking your booking," he says. "We do not do this. OTAs often have special discounted deals, which can be great for consumers. However, our mission is to let you know about the best prices, who has them, and offer a comprehensive range of options, quickly and simply."

Jon Pickles, director of information management for Travcorp Management Services, and a veteran of the travel technology business, says: "A meta-search provides the consumer with an easier way of comparing prices, which could only be achieved by visiting each airline and hotel individually. One search, many suppliers."

Bob Atkinson, travel expert at Travelsupermarket, explains that OTAs only include products they are licensed to display on their engines. "On the other hand, we can show products such as low-cost and charter airlines, smaller hotel chains and individual hotels or rates bought through bed banks, small car rental companies and car brokers," he says.

It didn't take long for the major OTAs to recognise the value their meta opponents were bringing to consumers, and they wanted a piece of the action. Priceline bought Kayak for US\$1.8 billion in November 2012. A month later, Expedia spent US\$632 million on a majority stake in German-based hotel-only firm Trivago.

Even travel review site Tripadvisor jumped on the bandwagon when it introduced hotel price comparison capabilities. Company

## Searching Travel

### META-SEARCH SITES

- **SKYSCANNER.NET** Searches by price and location to compare airfares, accommodation and car rental deals.
- **KAYAK.CO.UK** Connects to thousands of airline, hotel and car rental websites. Claims to process more than one billion travel queries per year.
- **MOMONDO.CO.UK** Scans more than 700 sites for airfare, hotel and car rental offers. Users search by location and are passed through, without charge, to an agency to book.
- **TRAVELSUPERMARKET.COM** Aggregates airfares, hotel rates and holiday packages from the best-known airlines, hotels and UK holiday companies. Also offers travel extras such as parking, train tickets and ferries.
- **HIPMUNK.COM** Searches for airfares and accommodation, as well as hotel chains and apartments through Airbnb.

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## Meta-search sites

### DOOR TO DOOR TRAVEL

- **GOEURO.COM** Start-to-end travel options across Europe can be searched for on this German-based site. Users type in the name of their city, town or village and their destination, and are presented with a variety of modes of transport, from public buses to planes.
- **ROME2RIO.COM** The Australia-based site generates door-to-door travel itineraries for air, train, coach, ferry and car, to and from any location in the world. It currently syncs with more than 360 train companies, 3,300 bus firms, 530 ferry operators and 670 airlines.
- **ROUTERANK.COM** This search engine, launched in 2006, integrates point-to-point air, rail and road options, and is designed specifically for business travellers. The search engine returns trip plans based on the traveller's schedule, and their desire to work or sleep while en route.

## Online

### TRAVEL AGENTS

- **EXPEDIA.CO.UK** Publishes discounted rates for more than 450 airlines and 80,000 properties. Also sells car rental and insurance.
- **LASTMINUTE.COM** Online travel and leisure retailer specialising in late deals for flights, hotels, holidays, cruises, restaurants and theatre tickets.
- **BOOKING.COM** One of the biggest online accommodation specialists with a portfolio of more than 460,000 hotels, villas and other properties around the world. It does not sell flights.
- **OPODO.CO.UK** Booking service offering access to over 500 airlines, 150,000 hotels and 7,000 car rental locations. Also sells insurance and city breaks.



A meta-search provides the consumer with an easier way of comparing prices, which could only be achieved by visiting each airline and hotel individually.

spokesman James Kay told Business Traveller the decision to introduce meta-search was a “no-brainer”.

While meta-search has, in some ways, revolutionised how people buy flights and holidays, it is unclear whether it has had the same level of success among business travellers. Antoine Boatwright is chief technology officer of Hillgate Travel, a company that manages travel arrangements for employees of its corporate customers. Like Goeuro and Rome2Rio, Hillgate provides travellers with a door-to-door service.

According to Boatwright, having a meta-search framework in place is crucial. “We have to find the best-value fares and are penalised if we fail. Our meta framework also has to accommodate an organisation’s travel policy and preferred suppliers.”

However, companies like Hillgate tend only to be employed by large firms who spend a lot of money. Richard Visick, operations director of a small UK-based tour operator called Ski-Wise, only makes about a dozen business trips a year, usually to destinations in and around the Alps. Price and departure time are what sways his purchasing decisions.

He says: “There is little advantage in booking through a third party, so I never use OTAs. I book direct on the airline’s website on the routes and services I use most often, but meta-search sites such as Skyscanner

are useful when I’m looking for flights to destinations I don’t regularly visit.”

#### WHAT WILL FUTURE BRING?

Most analysts agree that both OTAs and meta-search sites will coexist for some time to come. The data collated from transacting directly with customers means OTAs will have the upper hand when it comes to tailoring offers. But the one-stop-shop, door-to-door meta-search sites are sure to grow in popularity.

Still, there is, of course, one threat feared by every player in the online travel business. Filip Filipov, Skyscanner head of business-to-business, says: “Outside of travel, many meta-search engines are being dropped in favour of Google, and it is now well and truly positioning itself in the travel market meta-search arena.” New functionality launched last month, for instance, sees the Google Maps app syncing with every mode of public transport (buses, coaches, trams, trains, metros and ferries) available in Great Britain to enable users to see which is the quickest option to take when travelling from A to B. With almost 17,000 routes accounted for, Google says: “You’ll now know when the next trip is departing, how many stops and how far your walk is between each station.”

The dangers for metas, therefore, is if internet users believe they can get the same, if not better, results from the world’s biggest search engine.

LICZYŁEŚ NA:



A OTRZYMAŁEŚ:

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\* Otwarcie w 2014 r.: Bydgoszcz

# NEW STRATEGY MEANS NEW QUALITY



**Marzena Mróz** interviews **Bart Buyse**, General Manager for Poland at Lufthansa German Airlines

**Lufthansa Group has recently announced a new strategy for quality and innovation. What is the main objective of the world's largest aviation group?**

First of all, we want to strengthen our leading position in the industry and strengthen our role as the benchmark of the aviation sector and, with it, the first choice for customers, employees, investors and partners. We have planned an extensive range of actions to this end which will enable it to derive greater benefit from the continued growth of the global air transport market. These include new platforms and products for both intercontinental and European air services, an intensified partnership with Air China, an even stronger focus on quality and innovation and a groupwide drive to create more efficient structures and processes.

**Much is said about Lufthansa's intention to introduce a multi-platform concept called WINGS.**

The Lufthansa Group will be establishing new platforms with

competitive cost structures to ensure that it derives maximum benefit from the further growth of the aviation sector. Thus, the Group's present multi-brand system with its multiple hubs of Frankfurt, Munich, Zurich, Vienna and Brussels will now be consistently complemented by the new "WINGS" multi-platform concept in all the Group's European home markets. The new WINGS family, which will build on the success of the Germanwings concept, will be specifically aligned to the high-growth market for private air travel. The Group will use the new WINGS master brand to bundle the various platforms for its point-to-point air travel business. Lufthansa is also considering extending the concept to intercontinental services.

**Do these plans also apply to Germanwings, which is a well-known brand on the Polish market?**

Amalgamating the European members of the WINGS family – a move which will also include Germanwings – will permit an aligned management of all these operations. With Ger-

manwings Lufthansa will also complete the planned transfer of all of its routes not serving its Frankfurt or Munich hubs by next spring. The Germanwings fleet will also be further enlarged to up to 60 aircraft..

**Are you planning to enhance and develop the economy segment of private travel?**

The Lufthansa Group also plans to create a competitive new long-haul platform under the WINGS banner for the price-sensitive segment of private travel. Studies are currently being conducted into whether this should be done alone or with a further partner. In an initial phase, the new intercontinental platform is expected to operate with a fleet that will gradually be built up to seven Boeing 767 or Airbus A330 aircraft, with operations likely to commence in winter 2015. In a further move, Lufthansa Passenger Airlines is considering to what extent up to nine of its Airbus A340s could be operated at substantially lower unit costs, either on new routes or on routes currently threatened with closure. Negotiations are underway on this issue.





**Lufthansa is working intensively on the development of bilateral partnership programmes with other carriers. What partnerships are of utmost importance to you?**

We have just concluded a new agreement with Star Alliance partner Air China for closer collaboration on the MRO and passenger services fronts and, ultimately, a joint-venture arrangement. It is Lufthansa's declared objective to offer its customers in the four biggest markets and economies outside its home markets the best product available, in collaboration with its local partners.

**What are the investment plans of Lufthansa in the coming years?**

Lufthansa intends to invest a total of EUR 500 million in innovations groupwide between now and 2020. The plans here should see a new "innovation hub" established this year in Berlin, closer to the start-up and digital technology scene; and an "innovation fund" will also be set up to expedite the development of promising new ideas from both within and outside the Group. Lufthansa not only wants to become the first "five-star carrier" in the Western Hemisphere; it also aims to achieve quality leadership in all its various markets. The quality drive here will include bringing greater personalization to its products and services, with the aim of tripling the present revenues from its additional services between now and 2020.

**Recently Lufthansa has been literally showered with awards. Which ones do you consider particularly valuable?**

For the fourth time in a row Lufthansa German Airlines has been voted "Europe's leading Airline" at the World Travel Awards. The award for the best of Europe's travel industry is presented following a voting



process involving 230,000 travel tourism and hospitality professionals worldwide. For the first time, Lufthansa also won the top spot as "Europe's Leading Airline Lounge" – receiving medals for its First Class Terminal and Frankfurt Airport lounges. We also clinched the "Best European Airline serving the Middle East" title

during the gala ceremony of the Business Traveller Middle East Awards 2014 in Dubai, as well as "Europe's leading Airline" and "Best Transatlantic Airline" at the World Airline Awards in London. We are extremely proud of these achievements.

**Thank you for the interview.**

# LUXURY FIRST CLASS ON BOARD AIR FRANCE



CONTACT  
[www.airfrance.pl](http://www.airfrance.pl)

**AIRFRANCE** /

**L**a Première, the highest travel class offered by Air France, has undergone a true revolution. The new, luxury cabins will progressively be fitted on board 19 Air France Boeing 777-300 as from September 2014.

Each suite offers three square metres of space and ensures optimum privacy, allowing customers to be totally or partially alone, in absolute comfort. The new La Première cabin now offers four exclusive individual suites on board Air France's long

#### PRIVATE LOUNGE

The new La Première cabin offers a flexible solution for the privacy of passengers, who can now decide whether they want to travel isolated from others, or enjoy the open space of the cab-

in and the company. Each suite is equipped with thick separating curtains held with leather tiebacks. This enables passengers to be completely or partially separated from other people in the cabin. Once the curtains are closed, the passenger has the feeling of being alone at home, totally enclosed in their private cabin. So that they have even more choice in how to personalize their own suite, the customer also has a mobile partition. Located in the armrest next to the aisle, it can be raised by a simple touch control. It is worth noting that the idea of a cabin in which a passenger can have privacy at their request, is the result of a survey conducted among travellers. Half of the surveyed customers wished for the cabin to be an open space and enable contacts with fel-

low passengers, while the other half wanted more privacy. That is how the intermediate solution came to life. The individual suite can be shared with a fellow passenger. Opposite the seat, an ottoman enables the passenger to invite a guest for dinner, or simply for a drink. The suite in turn then becomes a drawing room, a restaurant, or a work area. Anything goes in this space which changes according to the passenger's desires.

#### HOME COMFORTS

The vast seat promotes rest and relaxation. The seat's clean lines, with integrated lumbar support, embrace any morphology so that each guest can find an optimum position of comfort. Each guest has a personal 24-inch (61 cm) HD touch screen, one of the largest ever



seen on board, offering a totally new intuitive navigation experience on an exclusive graphic interface, inspired by the iPad and available in twelve languages. Movies, games, music, TV series, etc. Close to 1,000 hours of programmes on demand will soon be available. Like spending a night in a palace, sleeping in one of our La Première suites is a completely exclusive experience. In an instant, the seat turns into a fully-flat bed over two metres long. The armrests are fully retractable and offer a vast space 77 cm wide. When the passenger is ready to go to sleep, the crew members install a mattress on the seat, for impeccable comfort. They are then given a fluffy pillow and a Sofitel My Bed® duvet.

#### **MENUS PREPARED BY MICHELIN-STARRED CHEFS**

La Première offers cuisine worthy of the finest restaurants. La Première offers cuisine worthy of the finest restaurants. With caviar, Champagne and foie gras, the finest ingredients can be found on the menu. There are dishes to savour designed by Joël Robuchon, the chef with the most Michelin stars in the world, Régis Marcon, an iconic French chef specializing in regional dishes. To enhance each meal, Air France asked Jean-Ma-

rie Massaud, a famous French designer, to create the new tableware, available on board in December 2014. A white tablecloth edged with openwork, a bud vase with a fresh flower, each detail highlights the gourmet dining experience awaiting each guest.

#### **DESIGN SPIRIT**

Air France embodies French elegance, expressed by its choice of textures and materials, continually guided by an obsession for absolute comfort. The “leather-effect” cabin walls provide a cosy atmosphere. A thick, soft woven tweed fabric covers the seat, providing a touch of elegance to the ensemble. A vast console next to the seat underlines the purity of the cabin’s design. The high-quality leather can also be found on the headrests and armrests, while the various storage compartments are padded with suede. With its stitching, touches of wood and metal, la suite represents the utmost in sophistication, down to the slightest details. La Première provides each guest with a luxury cosmetics bag designed by Givenchy. Personally handed to each guest by the crew as a welcome gift, this leather cosmetics bag can be considered as a real collector’s item. Guests are also given a sleep suit to

perfectly round off the cosy, comfortable feeling in their La Première suite.

#### **TRULY UNIQUE**

In Warsaw, La Première passengers departing Poland can choose between a limousine transfer to the airport or a one night stay at the Sofitel Victoria. After landing in Paris, the guests accompanied by hostesses go to a separate lounge for La Première passengers.

Waiting for a flight is the next stage of the inspired journey in the world of excellence, designed with the utmost attention to every detail. A separate front desk, refined restaurant menu and spa salon - complete the feeling of exclusivity. Then each of the passengers, also in the company of hostesses, is transported by a limousine straight from the La Première lounge to the aircraft. On board the traveller is greeted by the captain and guided to their seat. All of this makes each La Premier passengers feel truly special.

The new cabin suites will be successively introduced from September 2014 on selected routes. The new La Première product will be first available on flights to Singapore, New York and Jakarta. Subsequently, it is to appear on the routes to Houston and Dubai.

In total, La Première will be offered on 24 long-haul routes to and from Paris, including Hong Kong, Seoul, Singapore, Tokyo, Kuala Lumpur, New York, Houston, Los Angeles, Washington, Atlanta, Boston, Sao Paulo, Johannesburg, Mumbai, Dubai and others.

\* On European routes, including from Warsaw to Paris, passengers travel in Business Class. La Première is available on selected intercontinental flights.

# NEW INCARNATION OF NOVOTEL WARSZAWA CENTRUM



**CONTACT**  
accorhotels.com  
novotel.com

One of the most prestigious and well-known hotels in Warsaw - Novotel Warszawa Centrum - is continuing the process of its modernization. The place, which is mainly business-oriented, has undergone changes in order to adjust it to the global standards of Novotel. This year the renovation process included the conference facilities, daily and breakfast restaurants, bar, as well some of the guest rooms. The total cost of the modernization amounted to nearly PLN 16 million. The revamp of the Warsaw object is a continuation of work conducted in 2013, which

incorporates the transformation of the traditional lobby into attractively equipped multifunctional space, as well as modernization of the reception area and the upgrade of some rooms to Executive standard. The rooms have received now modern décor, access to iPhone and iPad docking stations, 32-inch flat screen TVs, as well as panels for connecting external devices with USB, audio and video sockets. The rooms also now feature different electrical outlets serving various electrical voltage for travellers from different parts of the world.

"Novotel Warszawa Centrum has been changing for some

time in order to be the first choice middle-range hotel ideal both for business and leisure travellers. For this to happen, we need to modernize it and upgrade it technologically. All the renovations in the hotel are carried out with our guests in mind. We want to be even closer to them, offer services and level of comfort they expect," says Cyril Vourc'h Papon, the Director of Novotel Warszawa Centrum.

#### **NEW IDEA FOR A RESTAURANT**

Breakfast restaurants as well as Le bar and Le Caffè have been thoroughly redesigned. Now the



whole concept is one open public space, which is dominated by bright colours and wooden elements. Additional cosiness has been achieved by low-slung lamps. The elements of the daily restaurant, which will surprise most visitors are the Swing Table with chairs hanging like swings, a bookcase, as well as a grand piano which closes the space from the side of the lobby. The merging of the two restaurants and the bar is a result of the introduction of the NOVO2 concept (NOVO Square) to Polish Novotel hotels. The concept is based on three values: VITALITY – a further implementation of healthy and eco-friendly solutions in Novotel hotels,

CONNECT-AINMENT - an international, laid-back atmosphere in a friendly setting, and IMAGINATION – highlighting the contemporary design of the interiors. Additionally, in November this year, the breakfast restaurant on level -1 will also be thoroughly revamped.

#### CONFERENCE FACILITIES

Business customers can use 9 fully modernised conference rooms with a total area of 1,200 sq m and prepared to host all kinds of meetings, conferences or events. Each of them is equipped with air conditioning, high-quality AV equipment, power outlets, as well as wireless Internet access.

What is new is the multifunctional touch panel with which guests can adjust light intensity, temperature, sound volume and many others. For greater comfort the foyer features special EarChairs ensuring excellent acoustics for interlocutors. Customers who wish to organize smaller meetings can also use the revamped board rooms located on the first floor of the hotel. There they will find state of the art AV equipment, a Nespresso coffee machine and a multi-functional touch panel. The advantage of board rooms is an additional room where guests can relax during the break in brainstorming session or presentation.

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Novotel Warszawa Centrum has been changing for some time in order to be the first choice middle-range hotel ideal both for business and leisure travellers.

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# EXECUTIVE CLUB LOUNGE AT WESTIN WARSAW



**KONTAKT**  
www.westin.pl

**W**estin Warsaw hotel has recently opened its new, revamped

Executive Club Lounge - a comfortable space for guests of the Executive floor, where throughout the day you can enjoy breakfasts and healthy SuperFoodsRx snacks, and where in the evening cocktails are held. The décor of the Executive Club Lounge was designed by a famous London fashion designer Anita Rosato, who created here a real oasis of relaxation in the centre of Warsaw.

Following that renovation, the interior of the Executive Club Lounge received an elegant and

modern look, which fully corresponds to the Westin brand philosophy. This is because the main objective of Westin chain

is taking care for the well-being of its guests.

## **FOR THE BODY AND THE SOUL**

On entering the Executive Club Lounge you are overwhelmed with a feeling of tranquillity. This is certainly owing to the décor of the place where Anita Rosato used a lot of natural elements such as stone, wood, and leather. Plush-covered sofas, soft cushions, and cubic poufs, add to the overall feeling of cosiness. A visit in Executive Club Lounge allows guests to relax and regenerate. Lovers of a healthy lifestyle will love this place for delicious snacks full of



vitamins. The adventure with the cuisine whose main mission is to have a positive impact on your body through healthy nutrition and creative combination of flavours, starts already at breakfast. Light porridge, homemade jam with pineapple and cardamom, omelettes with broccoli and spinach – this is how the chef cares about your proper concentration and provides you energy for the whole day, since it has long been known that nothing affects our well-being as healthy food.

During the day the Executive Club Lounge offers healthy snacks, and evening is a time for cocktails that are a perfect proposal before dinner. You can then enjoy a delicious drink, while admiring the sunset, because the Executive Club Lounge located on the 19th floor of the building offers stunning views of Warsaw.

The spacious stylish interiors offer both relaxation zones with comfortable sofas and chairs, and tables where you can work and enjoy healthy snacks.

Executive Club Lounge is on offer for guests who value privacy and the highest standard of service. To use the services of the lounge, you just need to book a room on the Executive floor. The new concept of the Executive Club Lounge is yet another proof of Westin's commitment in creating atmosphere and services that enable guests to relax and improve their well-being while on travel.

#### **THE WESTIN WARSAW - TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF IN THE CENTRE OF WARSAW**

From the very beginning of its existence in the capital Poland, Westin Warsaw has facilitated its guests to obtain a balance between work and personal life. Each place of the hotel features an element which creates harmony and acts on the senses. The mission of the brand is to enable its guests to take care of themselves while staying at



From the very beginning of its existence in the capital Poland, Westin Warsaw has facilitated its guests to obtain a balance between work and personal life.



Westin hotels, through good nutrition, physical exercise, and a relaxing atmosphere. The hotel offers 350 rooms and is distinguished by its interesting architecture - especially

futuristic glass elevator, as well as an attentive and professional service. The hallmark of the hotel is its creative fusion cuisine, which Westin pioneered in Poland.

# ART HOTEL – COMFORTS IN THE HEART OF THE CITY



## CONTACT

Art Hotel  
ul. Kiełbaśnicza 20  
Wrocław  
tel.: +48 71 78 77 400  
[www.arthotel.pl](http://www.arthotel.pl)



**ART HOTEL®**



Art Hotel offers  
80 uniquely  
decorated rooms.  
Its interior is decorated  
with genuine paintings,  
watercolours  
and prints, turning the  
place into a real gallery

**I**t was barely surprising that it was Art Hotel that last year won the coveted Traveller's Choice Award from the American travel portal TripAdvisor. Each year the website awards hotels, which are top rated by its guests. There is no doubt that in Wrocław the position of Art Hotel in this respect is very strong. This happens for several reasons.

## IDEAL LOCATION

A number of business guests choose Art Hotel because of its convenient location. It is situated on Kiełbaśnicza Street – one of the most beautiful in the old town of Wrocław. What is more, it is very close to the Main Market Square (a few dozen metres!), municipal institutions, shopping and business centres, as well as main transport nodes. Art Hotel has its own underground car park, which is an added advantage for business travellers.

Those who plan to stay in Wrocław for longer, will quickly reach from here the wonderful Cathedral Island (Ostrów Tum-

ski) or the path around the city moat. The hotel is located opposite the famous Jatki Gallery - one of the biggest attractions of Wrocław.

## THE TASTE OF THE OLD WROCLAW

Guests staying in Art Hotel can enjoy sumptuous and varied breakfasts, which include products and dishes of regional cuisine. The same is true with the menu of the hotel's Art Restaurant - in addition to European cuisine, guests can also taste here dishes from the special "The Taste of the Old Wrocław" category, inspired by local recipes dating back 100 years. In this way the hotel promotes the old Wrocław's cuisine, endorsing and contributing to the unique identity of the city.

## MOOD AND INTERIOR

The name obliges: Art Hotel Wrocław regularly supports artists, by offering them to use its interiors. This is why the lobby and the corridors of the building function as a perpetual art gallery. What is more, at the

front desk guests of the hotel can obtain comprehensive information about the cultural offerings of the city.

Art Hotel also stands out for its design. Unlike chain hotels here you can feel the individual character of the place at every step. The restaurant, the guest rooms and corridors are decorated in style highlighting the history of the 14th-century building where the hotel is located. Completely renovated, it now combines classic chic with modernity. That is why Art Hotel received the city award named "The Most Beautiful Interior".

## IDEAL FOR BUSINESS

The hotel regularly hosts guests arriving in Wrocław for business. Its ideal location, spacious car park, high standard of rooms, varied breakfasts, fast WiFi Internet – are only a few of the hotel's amenities that are especially valued here. Following the Traveller's Choice Award, the hotel has just received another distinction: the 2014 Quality Certificate. Art Hotel is waiting for you!





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# HISTORIC HOTELS POLAND FASHION FOR HISTORY



The Bonerowski Palace.

## CONTACT

The Seat of Historic Hotels in Poland:  
ul. Parkowa 11, 30-538 Cracow  
tel.: 660 69 29 45,  
info@hhpolska.com  
www.hhpolska.com



Historic Hotels in Poland is a member of the Historic Hotels of Europe.



**H**istoric Hotels in Poland are castles, palaces, mansions and even a revitalized 19th-century factory, which after the renovation, and sometimes even after rebuilding them from ruins - returned to their former glory, but... in a new form and function. Although the buildings differ, all of them share one value: the climate of past ages.

Listed in the register of monuments, they keep up with modernity, offering services at a minimum of three stars, excellent cuisine, SPA & Wellness services, as well as organizing special events and business meetings.

One of the aims of the association to disseminate the knowledge about this specific niche in the hotel business: where true

quality counts. In Historic Hotels there is no place for routine or run-of-the mill solutions. They are unique – one of their kind. It is a group of 33 luxury facilities of a high standard, where each of us can make a luxurious trip to the past.

## GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER...

In recent times, operating hotels in historical buildings has become increasingly popular. It can even be argued that there is a "fashion for history". It combines the expectations for holiday stay or business meeting with a desire to know more of the facts of the history of Poland and Europe.

Another source of this increasing interest in Historical Hotels can also be fatigue of Poles with trips to hot foreign beaches. Those who visit the hotels be-

longing to the HHP are people who often have already visited numerous popular destinations and now are looking for ways to get to know equally interesting places in their own country.

## CREATIVITY, STANDARD, COMMITMENT

The Historic Hotels have become successful owing to great creativity of the teams that are responsible for the image of the facilities, high quality of service, and the personal involvement of the owners in the operations of the hotels. Very often it is they who show their guests around the facilities, tell them about the history of the place, and encourage them to deepen their knowledge. Although renovation of a historic building and restoring it to its former glory is a huge challenge, these people



Pacóttowo Palace

take on this difficult task due to the specific historical value of the place and positive perception of the initiatives related to their saving. In this case more important than obtaining high return on the investment is the opportunity to become a patron of culture and do something significant.

#### ATTRACTIONS FOR EVERYONE

Historical buildings are prepared to serve both individual tourists and business clients seeking conference offer, as

well as those who appreciate the original venues for the organization of parties and events.

The uniqueness of these places often makes participants of conferences return as individual guests, and those who have at least once seen a unique hotel, captivated by the atmosphere of the place – organize there their wedding receptions, photo sessions, or come there for a longer stay to visit the region.

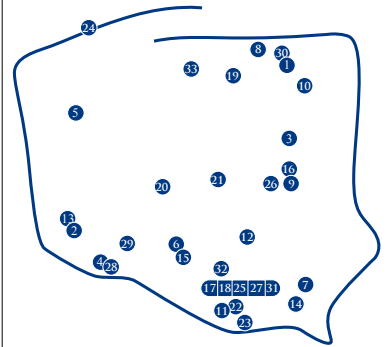
#### TOTALLY UNIQUE

The most valued quality of Historic Hotels is the fact that they

differ from typical chain hotels. Another important factor is the space and architecture that allow privacy and enable guests to spend time in a more numerous company. Each room is individually decorated, you can taste dishes prepared by famous chefs, go horse riding, play golf, listen to a good concert, or benefit from SPA & Wellness centres. There is virtually a historic hotel in any part of Poland. Each of them offers at least one attraction, which is worth taking even a longer trip.

## Historic hotels

### IN POLAND



1. Ryn Castle Hotel
2. Wojanów Palace
3. Łochów Palace
4. Castle on the Rock Hotel
5. Mierzęcin Palace
6. Lubiniec Castle Golf&Spa Hotel
7. Dubiecko Castle
8. Galiny Palace and Manor
9. Chotynia Manor House
10. Kaliszki Manor House
11. Sieraków Manor House
12. Villa Hueta
13. Paulinum Palace
14. Kombornia Manor Hotel & Spa
15. Lucja Palace
16. Żaków Palace
17. Kościuszko Manor House Hotel
18. Gródek Hotel
19. Pacóttowo Palace
20. Tłokinia Palace
21. Loft Aparts
22. Grand Sal Hotel
23. Modrzewie Park Hotel
24. Apollo Hotel
25. Małtański Hotel
26. White Palace Palczew
27. The Bonerowski Palace
28. Villa Elise Park Pension
29. The Palace Of Sulisław
30. Nakomiady Palace
31. Pugetów Hotel
32. Korzkiew Castle
33. Gnień Castle Hotel



Gnień Castle Hotel



Pałac Mierzęcin

The most valued quality of Historic Hotels is the fact that they differ from typical chain hotels.

# AVIS – NEW OPPORTUNITIES



**Anna Graczyk** talks to **Radostaw Gutknecht**, Sales & Marketing Director at Avis Poland

**For more than 20 years Avis has been a leading provider of car rental services. Globally, Avis brand is known mainly for short-term rental services. Why have you decided to add leasing to the scope of your services?**

Avis was present on the Polish market as early as in the 1990s, and back then our portfolio consisted of more than 2,000 cars in full management. In 1999 we decided to sell off this part of the business and to focus on building the position of the leader in short-term rental services in Poland as part of an international network. So where from did you get the idea to return to long-term rental segment? First of all, our existing customers, strongly attached to Avis brand, regularly asked us about the possibility of a 2-3 year rental service with full management. Another argument was that the long-term rental market in Poland is experiencing a renaissance and continues to grow year by year. Avis, with its wealth of experience and a nationwide network of offices, can propose a unique solution for companies.

**What is exactly Avis Lease?**

From the very beginning we had a primary objective: to create the unique offer which would provide our customers with a full range of services, beginning with special conditions for short-term rental, and ending with a rich package of services included in the monthly rent lease payment.

We offer comprehensive solutions such as coverage of maintenance costs or providing a replacement vehicle of the same class. We will take care of the maintenance of the vehicle, loss settlement, and provide a 24/7 assistance service. Each customer is treated individually and receives a direct contact to his personal carer in Avis.

As the only company in the market we offer the option to park free of charge at airports in spaces designated by Avis, a free seven-day voucher for the rental of a car of the same class as the one you lease (for the area of Poland), discounts on rentals abroad and an attractive price for short-term rentals in the Poland. The offer is primarily addressed to executives and mid-level managers, that is frequent travellers who appreciate the constant care and individual approach.

**Why the long-term Avis Lease is so beneficial?**

With our service companies can focus on current operations, while reducing the costs associated with the operation and administration of the fleet. Fixed monthly payments for the lease and management allow you to avoid unexpected costs. Companies do not have to commit their own resources, which in turn has a positive effect on the economic balance, creditworthiness and investment capacity.

**It seems that more and more companies see the benefits of long-term rental.**

Yes, the data presented by the Polish Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association shows a 11 percent increase in the number of vehicles financed and managed by the leasing industry. Avis does not pretend to fight for the title of greatest player. We want to meet the needs of more demanding customers who are looking for an individual approach, and a comprehensive care package at the highest level in conjunction with the benefits offered by an international rental company.

**Thank you for the interview.**

# Największy Ogólnopolski Kongres Menedżerów i Właścicieli Hoteli 2014

**Sprawdzone narzędzia marketingu hotelowego,  
decyzje poprawiające rentowność,  
najlepsze wzorce zarządzania,  
które przełożą się na wynik w 2015 r.**

## Weź udział i dowiedz się

- Jak przebić się z ofertą swojego hotelu w Internecie,
- Jak właściwie prowadzić Revenue Management,
- Jak uzyskać najwyższe noty na portalach rezerwacyjnych,
- Jak pozyskać firmy organizujące szkolenia i konferencje,
- Jak zmotywować pracowników do ponadprzeciętnej pracy.

A także wiele innych gotowych do wdrożenia rozwiązań dla właścicieli i managerów hoteli

## Tylko u nas!

Certyfikowany Warsztat "**Skuteczna promocja hotelu w Internecie**"  
współorganizowany przez Redakcję Magazynu Online Marketing.  
Certyfikowany Warsztat "**Professional Revenue Management**".

## DoubleTree by Hilton, Warszawa

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organizator:



# ROUND ABOUT RUSSIA

From artistic treasures to memorials for space dogs, the Russian capital offers plenty beyond Red Square, says **Marc Bennetts**.





**I**t's easy to be intimidated by Moscow. The sheer size of the sprawling Russian capital makes navigating it a challenge, while the lack of a tourist information centre means visitors are on their own when it comes to exploring this city of more than 12 million people.

It's hardly surprising, then, that many short-term visitors to Moscow spend much of their time in the sight-heavy district around the Kremlin. But once you've wandered around Red Square and gawked at Lenin's tomb, it's advisable to spread out and investigate the many other treasures – architectural and cultural – that the city has to offer.

### MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES

For a treasure trove of Russian spoils, from centuries-old religious icons by Andrei

Rublev to colossal canvasses by Ilya Repin and Alexander Ivanov, head to the State Tretyakov Gallery, a short walk from the banks of the Moscow River (Lavrushinsky Pereulok 10-12; open Tues-Wed, Sat-Sun 10am-6pm, Thurs- Fri 10am-9pm; entry 450R/£8; [tretiyakovgallery.ru](http://tretiyakovgallery.ru)).

A stroll back across the river, in the fashionable Kropotkinskaya district, the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts is among the city's most popular museums.

Housed in a recently renovated early 20th-century building, its vast collection includes masterpieces by Van Gogh and Picasso. The wing next door is home to the Museum of 19th and 20th Century European and American Art. Packed full of work by impressionists and postimpressionists such as Monet, Renoir, Gauguin, and even more by Van Gogh, it's a delight to wander

its compact halls (Ulitsa Volkhonka 12 and 14; both open Tues-Wed, Fri-Sun 10pm-7pm, Thurs 10am-9pm; entry to each 300R/£5; [arts-museum.ru](http://arts-museum.ru)).

### FOLLOWING PUSSY RIOT

Opposite, the mammoth Cathedral of Christ the Saviour dominates the skyline. The original church was blown up in the 1930s as part of Stalin's anti-religion campaign. Marble from its walls was later used in the construction of the nearby Kropotkinskaya metro station. The modern version of the cathedral – an exact copy of the original – was rebuilt in the early 2000s after the collapse of the atheist Soviet state. It was here that the feminist punk rock protest group Pussy Riot carried out their ill-fated performance against Russian president Vladimir Putin in February 2012.



Old Arbat offers plenty of cultural attractions. The old saying goes: “If the Kremlin is Moscow’s heart, then the Arbat is its soul.”



## RED OCTOBER

Down the river, the former Red October chocolate factory (Bersenevskaya Naberezhnaya, redok.ru) is now one of the hippest places in town. Since 2010, this once iconic Soviet factory has been home to bars, restaurants and art galleries catering to Moscow's intellectuals. For more cutting-edge art and fashionable cafés, visit the Winzavod arts and cultural centre (4th Siromyatnichesky Pereulok 1, Building 6; winzavod.ru). Often picketed by Russian Orthodox Christian activists enraged by its controversial and "blasphemous" exhibitions, it's located on the site of a former wine factory near the Kursk train station.

The Red October is not the only Soviet-era landmark to have had a facelift in recent years. Once a sad and soulless "park of culture," Gorky Park (nearest metro Park Kultury; parkgorkogo.com) has been transformed into a pleasant open space. Named after Soviet-era writer Maxim Gorky, a firm favourite of Stalin's, it now represents the more attractive side of modern Moscow. Unlike in many Russian parks, visitors are encouraged to walk on the grass, and bean bags are provided for those long, hot summer days. Free wifi throughout the park attracts young, hip Muscovites, who play table tennis and go cycling or boating here during the warmer months. In winter, it's all skating and ice sculptures.

## BULGAKOV'S HOUSE

One of the most interesting places in Moscow is the Bulgakov House/Museum (Ulitsa Bolshaya Sadovaya 10; open Tues-Wed, Fri-Sun 12pm-7pm, Thurs 2pm-9pm; entry 70R/£1; bulgakovmuseum.ru). Created in honour of Mikhail Bulgakov, the author of Soviet-era classics *The Master and Margarita*, and *Heart of a Dog*, it's located in the central Moscow building where he lived for many years. It features some of the writer's personal artefacts, as well as a collection of Bulgakov-related memorabilia. There is also a cosy café. The atmospheric setting for the devil's first appearance in *The Master and Margarita* – the peaceful Patriarch's Ponds – is just around the corner from the museum.

## THE ARBAT

The pedestrianised Old Arbat area offers more cultural delights, as well as a host of street cafés. "If the Kremlin is Moscow's heart, then the Arbat is its soul," goes the saying. The Tsarist-era haunt of Russia's in-



More than two decades on from the collapse of the Soviet Union, physical reminders of the world's first socialist state are omnipresent in Moscow, with hammers and sickles to be found everywhere from the metro system to government buildings.





## Worth visiting

### DINING AND DRINKING

● **CAFÉ PUSHKIN** Russian food might not have the world's best reputation but a visit to Café Pushkin, a short walk from Red Square, is enough to make anyone reconsider their opinions. One of Moscow's oldest restaurants, it serves recipes that date back to the Tsarist period, such as black caviar and wild mushroom soup. Mains £15-£30. Tverskaya Bulvar 26a; tel +7 495 739 0033; cafe-pushkin.ru

● **GENATSVALE** Located on the Black Sea coast, tiny Georgia boasts some of the most popular dishes in the former Soviet Union, from spicy beans to hot cheese pastries. Find out why at Genatzvale, a vast yet somehow cosy restaurant just off the Old Arbat. Mains £10-£20. Novy Arbat 11; tel +7 495 697 9453; restoran-genatzvale.ru

● **MARI VANNA** For home cooking in a domestic setting, try Mari Vanna. The interior is designed to resemble a typical Moscow apartment, with dishes including filling borsch and Russian dumplings. There is no sign outside, so press the bell for No 10 for entry. It's in a side street not far from the central Tverskaya street. Mains £10-£20. Spiridonoyevsky Pereulok 10a; tel +7 495 650 6500; marivanna.ru/msk

● **JAGANNATH** One of the city's few vegetarian restaurants, friendly Jagannath is a short walk from the Kremlin and comprises a cheap café and a more upmarket restaurant. Mains £10-£15. Ulitsa Kuznetsky Most 11; tel +7 495 628 3580; jagannath.ru/jagannath-1

● **JEAN-JACQUES** A firm favourite among young opposition-minded Russians, Jean-Jacques enjoys legendary status in Moscow. A good selection of imported wines and beers fuel noisy debates. Beer from 230R (£4), bottles of wine from 1,000R (£17). Nikitsky Bulvar 12 (just off the Old Arbat); tel +7 495 690 3886; jan-jak.com

tellectuals, the Old Arbat was briefly home to Russia's 19th-century national poet, Alexander Pushkin. His statue stands opposite the Pushkin House Museum in his former residence (Ulitsa Arbat 53; open Wed-Sun 10am-6pm; entry 120R/£2; museum.ru/m322).

Bulat Okudzhava, the singersongwriter idolised by Soviet-era dissidents, lived at number 43. Okudzhava's most famous song, "Oh Arbat, My Arbat" ("You are my destiny, you are my happiness and my sorrow") is a firm favourite among the area's many buskers. A bronze monument to Okudzhava is next to the Old Arbat's post office, at number 36. Just behind the Old Arbat is the Melnikov House (Krivoarbat-sky Pereulok 10; melnikovhouse.org), one of the most unusual buildings from the Soviet era. This cylinder house with wall-length windows was designed in the 1920s by Constructivist architect Konstantin Melnikov. Although you can't go inside, it's well worth taking a look at it. There are tentative plans to eventually turn it into a museum.

### HAMMER, SICKLE AND A ROCKET

More than two decades on from the collapse of the Soviet Union, physical reminders of

the world's first socialist state are omnipresent in Moscow, with hammers and sickles to be found everywhere from the metro system to government buildings. But if you want to experience some of the very best Soviet architecture, nothing beats a visit to VDNKh – the All-Russia Exhibition Centre (Prospekt Mira 119; nearest metro VDNKh; open 24/7; vvcentre.ru). This sprawling park features grand pavilions dedicated to Soviet republics and fountains celebrating the friendship of the Soviet peoples, as well as simpler pleasures in the form of a big wheel and cheap and cheerful cafés. The highlight is Vera Mukhina's iconic Worker and Peasant Woman monument. Built in 1937, the 24.5 metre-tall statue was for many years the symbol of Soviet studio Mosfilm.

Jostling for attention on the VDNKh district's skyline is the rocket-shaped monument to the Soviet space effort, which stands on top of the recently revamped Space museum (Prospekt Mira 111; open Tues-Sun 11am-7pm; entry 200R/£3; space-museum.ru). Here you can marvel at all manner of spacecraft, both Soviet and Russian, as well as pay your respects to Belka and Strelka (their stuffed remains, at least), the first dogs in space.



It's hardly surprising, then, that many short-term visitors to Moscow spend much of their time in the sight-heavy district around the Kremlin. However, it's also worth discovering other treasures that the Russian capital lies in store





# CIAO, WENECJA

*Jenny Southan* navigates canals and back streets in search of the Italian city's finest palazzi and most delicious gelati

**T**here's a certain magic to the ancient city of Venice that only emerges after dark, once the hordes of tourists have retreated to the amber glow of inviting trattorias. Mysterious waterways slide into darkness; the quaint footbridges that arch over them, empty.

Walk across the famed Piazza San Marco and you'll see the elegant arcades that surround it on three sides illuminated by a triple row of starry lights, delicate as diamonds. On one side is the Gran Caffè Quadri; opposite is Florian's; both in residence for several hundred years. Between them they have hosted the likes of Proust, Byron and Casanova.

Stroll straight down the middle of the square and you'll enter a shared space where music from each of the establishments' competing orchestras meet. Nighthawks and bon vivants are seated at the many al fresco tables and chairs, sipping expensive digestifs, while romantics sway in informal couplings to the sound of uplifting baroque.

## RULING THE WAVES

Venice is made up of an archipelago of more than 100 islands (Murano, Burano and Torcello being the most well-known), divided into six main districts, or sestieri (Cannaregio, Castello, San Marco, San Polo, Santa Croce and Dorsoduro). Both Treviso (about a 40-minute drive) and Marco Polo airports

are located on the mainland – fly to the latter, just 8km away, for a quicker connection, by boat direct from the terminal. Coming in by plane, you can see why the marshy islands and saltwater lagoons provided a unique hiding place for the early Venetians who settled here in the fifth century to escape barbarian invaders.

By the time Venice became a republic in the seventh century, it was one of the richest nations in the world. Its merchants sailed the globe exchanging salt harvested from the lagoon for gold, silver, spices, silk, ebony, hemp, cocoa, coffee, velvet and perfume. However, in a tragic twist, the ships that frequented the exotic shores of Central Asia and the Middle East were also carrying



a cargo of rats; rats that were infested with fleas infected the deadly Bubonic plague. It was 1630 when the virus really took hold, wiping out 46,000 people in a single year – about a third of the city’s population.

It’s no wonder that this spelled the end of Venice as a major world power. A number of Venetian islands, such as Lazzaretto Vecchio, were used to quarantine the dying – in more recent times, the “haunted” island of Poveglia, which is home to an abandoned mental hospital and plague burial site, was sold for €513,000. There are rumours that a luxury hotel will go up in its place.

### FACE IN THE CROWD

Tourism is, of course, Venice’s primary source of income these days, with more than 30 million visitors a year. But with that comes problems. In the peak summer months of July and August, I am told, it can take half an hour to push your way over the Ponte della Paglia, which faces the iconic Bridge of Sighs.

During carnival season, in February, Harry’s Bar serves more than a thousand of its

renowned Bellini cocktails (€16.50) a day. If you do stop by, following in the footsteps of Ernest Hemingway, don’t expect anything more than simple interiors, off-hand service and very high prices.

And then there are the cruise ships. Standing at sunset on the waterside Fondamenta della Zattere, eating a double-scoop cone from Gelateria Nico (one of the best), I watch as one slowly bulldozes its way into the lagoon, dwarfing even the tallest bell towers, and no doubt eroding the fragile foundations of the World Heritage site, where even small boats are subjected to strict speed limits on its canals.

### LIVING HISTORY

The reason, of course, that Venice attracts so many tourists is that it is an unchanging city of unparalleled beauty – described by UNESCO as “an extraordinary architectural masterpiece in which even the smallest building contains works by some of the world’s greatest artists”, from Giorgione and Titian, to Tintoretto and Veronese.

You can even stay in restored palazzi on the Grand Canal – the newest and most spectacular being the Aman, unveiled last summer after an ambitious, 18-month restoration project. Palazzo Papadopoli, as it was known, was the family home of Count Giberto Gonzaga, who still occupies the top floor of the 16th-century wing with his wife and five children.

When the count was growing up, he lived there with just seven family members and a staff of 80. After the luxury Asian chain began renting it, 24 magnificent hotel rooms were created, served by almost the same number of staff.

The original historical details remain, from frescoed ceilings by Venetian master Tiepolo and Murano glass chandeliers, to mosaic terrazzo floors and hand-painted chinoiserie wallpaper. In contrast, the furnishings from B&B Italia are stylishly understated. The Aman Grand Canal has unofficially been described as a “seven-star” hotel and, after staying there, I can see why.

More big news has been the reopening of



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With no other way to get around the city than by boat or on foot, it's easy to get lost in the maze of twisting streets and alleys, but that is part of the joy of it.

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Venice is a city of unsurpassed beauty, whose main source of income is now tourism. Each year, it's visited by more than 30 million tourists.

the famous Gritti Palace, part of Starwood's Luxury Collection, which was closed for 15 months for a £36.5-million revamp – it first became a hotel in 1948, but the palazzo itself dates all the way back to 1525. It has 82 sumptuous rooms, while the Club del Doge restaurant, right on the Grand Canal, is a stunning location for fine dining, with delicious pasta, risotto and Venetian specialities (liver with polenta, fried fish from the market and thick bean soup) served with a story from the charming waiters. Speaking of enviable settings for meals, the Westin Europa and Regina, a short walk from the Gritti, also has a gorgeous waterside eatery looking straight on to the Santa Maria della Salute basilica. Painted by many great artists, from Canaletto to Monet, it was constructed in the mid-1600s as a votive offering to God in return for ridding the city of plague.

Meanwhile, Bauer Il Palazzo serves a lavish buffet breakfast on its rooftop terrace (one of the highest in town), and treats guests to glasses of chilled prosecco on arrival. With no other way to get around the city than by boat or on foot, it's easy to get lost in the maze of twisting streets and alleys, but that is part of the joy of it. Get up early and cross the enormous Rialto Bridge, which connects the district of San Marco to that of San Polo, to shop like a local for punnets of fresh strawberries, fistfuls of cherries and bags of sun-dried tomatoes from the outdoor market stalls. Whether it is your first time in Venice, or your fifth,

you will want to tick off some of the obvious sights and experiences – and although a gondola ride may sound too touristy, it is actually rather wonderful. Especially when seated on a golden throne, going down the Grand Canal while being serenaded by your own rugged Italian in a black suit and designer stubble. (Book through Viator; £66 per person for a 35-minute private tour.)

### CULTURAL GRAZING

Alternatively, if you want to get off the beaten track, try Viator's bacari (wine bar) tour through the Jewish ghetto (from £40 per person), sampling cicchetti (Italy's version

of tapas) between exploring the history of the peaceful neighbourhood, which still has signs in Hebrew, synagogues and kosher bakeries. Going solo? Head for Al Timon in Cannaregio (on Fondamenta degli Ormesini), or Osteria ai Rusteghi in San Marco (tucked away on Campiello del Trentor).

If you yearn for solemn religious art, you can find it in almost any of Venice's hundreds of churches, while the Gallerie dell'Academia is filled with Renaissance treasures. If modern art holds more appeal, the Peggy Guggenheim Collection features the likes of Miro, Picasso, Kandinsky, Dali and Warhol, while Palazzo Grassi is showing an exhibition of black and white portrait photography by Irving Penn until the end of the year. (Note that most galleries are closed on Tuesdays).

Palazzo Fortuny, which was once the studio and home of Spanish fashion designer Mariano Fortuny, displays a selection of his textiles and fine-pleated dresses, but it's the crumbling building itself that is most interesting (visit [fortuny.visitmuve.it](http://fortuny.visitmuve.it) for opening times). As well as dozens of ateliers selling traditional stationery, masks and leather bags, keep an eye out for the new Sicilian soap and fragrance store Ortigia, on Campo San Maurizio; Leaf on Calle Frezzeria, which sells wood-framed sunglasses; and the newly relocated Frette linen boutique around the corner.

Venice may be discovering "cool", but it will always be a precious, age-old fairyland, unlike anywhere else on Earth.

### Important info

#### Getting around

- Private water taxi: €275 one-way from Marco Polo airport to San Marco
- Alilaguna public boat: €27 return from Marco Polo airport to San Marco
- Traghetto gondola ferry: €2 to cross a canal to the other side
- Vaporetto public ferry: €7 per ride

#### Contacts

- Aman Grand Canal [amanresorts.com/amancanalgrandevenice](http://amanresorts.com/amancanalgrandevenice)
- Bauer Il Palazzo [ilpalazzovenezia.com](http://ilpalazzovenezia.com)
- Westin Europa and Regina [westineuropar-eginavenice.com](http://westineuropar-eginavenice.com)
- Gritti Palace [thegrittipalace.com](http://thegrittipalace.com)
- Turismo Venezia [en.turismovenezia.it](http://en.turismovenezia.it)



# FASHION IN THE STYLE OF 500

Three fashion bloggers, three European fashion capitals and Fiat 500 in hundreds of versions, colours, and styles. Those were the main elements of the “500 Fashion” project that involved Polish fashion bloggers visiting London, Paris, and Berlin in search of the most fashionable car in Europe. And they found it!





# T

he project aimed to bring Polish women the latest trends in fashion and design. The action also proved how immensely popular Fiat 500 is in the European fashion capitals. Interestingly, the little Fiat was most often spotted near designer boutiques and in the company of expensive, luxury cars. It turns out that this is the natural environment for the 500!

### ICON WITH A RECORD

The icon of the Italian style, fashion, and design, Fiat 500 enjoys popularity among fans of the automotive industry not only in Italy, but also in more than 100 countries in which the model is offered. Since its launch in 2007, the Italian automaker has sold more than 1.2 mln units of the 500s, last year noting the record market share in Europe. The

leader of the A segment in 2013 not only had better sales than its sister model Fiat Panda (second place in the segment in Europe), but also the Volkswagen Up!, Renault Twingo and Smart Fortwo.

### ESPECIALLY FOR LADIES

The 500 was chosen more often than other, also home-grown brands, by citizens of 10 UE countries, including Great Britain, France, Germany, Spain, Switzerland and Austria - in particular by women, for whom the model is a fashionable supplement to their lifestyle. Fiat 500 is their number one choice. Also in Poland, the car is now more accessible than ever, thanks to the introduction of new, promotional prices: from PLN 37,900 or PLN 39,900 for a version with climate control.

In 2014, Fiat 500 has gained new, feminine exterior colours: spring Lattementa Green, noble White Pearl, and energetic Italia Blue. Recognized as an extremely sexy model, it is now available in as many as 14 colours. In addition, the new 500 has received new wheel designs, elegant leather upholstery, and a very practical multi-function 7-inch TFT LCD display. The modern display acts as an extensive on-board computer, has replaced the analogue speedometer and rev-counter in three of the four available versions of the model, highlighting the quality and careful design of this car.

### AN INFINITE CHOICE

The range of Fiat 500 MY2014 offers up to four comfortable trim levels. The basic version called Pop includes central locking

The icon of the Italian style, fashion, and design, Fiat 500 enjoys popularity among fans of the automotive industry not only in Italy, but also in more than 100 countries.



with remote control, electric front windows and mirrors, DUALDRIVE power steering, GSI gearshift indicator, CD radio+MP3, My-Car on-board computer system, 50/50 folding rear seat, and daytime running lights. Safe and comfortable journey is ensured by systems that provide effective braking (ABS+EBD+BAS), ESS emergency stop signal, and seven airbags.

### LOUNGE IS THE BASIS

The FIAT 500 Lounge also builds on the Pop specification by adding air conditioning (automatic climate control on TwinAir models), 15-inch alloy wheels, Blue&Me™ connectivity (including Bluetooth, voice recognition, steering wheel remote controls and a USB port), a leather-trimmed steering wheel, heated door mirrors, chrome detailing and a fixed glass sunroof as standard, as well as height-adjustable driver's seat and storage compartment under the passenger seat. The Lounge trim level is available with every engine in the range - 1.2 69hp, TwinAir 85hp, TwinAir 105hp and the 1.3 16v MultiJet 95hp.

### FOR SPORT FANS

The FIAT 500S puts a sporty slant on the 2014 FIAT 500 compared to the luxurious Lounge model. In lieu of the fixed glass sunroof the 500S benefits from unique front and rear bumpers, side skirts, dark tinted glass and 15-inch sports alloy wheels. Satin detailing takes the place of the Lounge's chrome detailing and inside there is a leather-trimmed, flat-bottom Abarth sports steering wheel; new sports upholstery with the "500S" logo embroidered into the seatback; a sports gear knob and FIAT's new seven-inch TFT instrument cluster all as standard. The full engine range is also offered in the 500S trim.

### LUXURY CULT

Top of the line version of the Fiat 500 is MY2014 exclusive Cult available with 69-hp engine 1.2 or 105-hp 0.9 TwinAir Turbo. The new top-of-the-range Cult trim level is based on the Lounge version but features automatic climate control; new 16-inch alloy wheels; rear parking sensors; a black roof panel with a fixed glass sunroof and new Poltrona Frau® leather upholstery, as well as the seven-inch TFT instrument panel, all as standard.

**Marcin Kwieciński**



Since its launch in 2007, the Italian automaker has sold more than 1.2 mln units of the 500s, last year noting the record market share in Europe.



# PERFECT FORM

In the not-so-distant past, when it came to gadgets, people expected - demanded - complexity. VCRs were so difficult to program it became a cliché that nobody knew how to work them. People wanted their gadgetry to come loaded with as many functions as possible. We even had alarm clocks that made cups of tea.

**T**hen Apple happened - or, more accurately, Jonathan (Jony) Ive, under the auspices of Steve Jobs, happened. Cutting-edge gadget design was no longer about dazzling with complexity, but about beauty' through simplicity. Why have separate buttons for play, pause, skip and rewind when one sliding wheel will suffice?

The same applies to software. When I was growing up, to load a program on a PC you had to input lines of code; now we work the user-friendly tiles designed to do all the work for us. Operating systems are designed to be clear from the first time you use them, with no need to sift through endless instruction manuals (or the instructions that explained how to read the instruction manual).

Thankfully, the past decade has seen this attitude become the norm. We now expect electronics to be simple and attractive. Children are so used to growing up with touchscreen interfaces that parents often see them poking in frustration at the television set, wondering why it won't respond. As a rule of thumb, if your grandma or six-year-old nephew can't work something, it's probably too complicated.

Design hasn't just improved gadgets - it has improved lives. Apple didn't really do anything groundbreaking - it simply applied the same principals the great designers of the 20th century had already mastered in other fields. The iPad is to personal computing, for example, what Philippe Starck's Juicy Salif was to lemon juicers: taking something practical - even mundane - and reimagining it as something beautiful and desirable.

Starck is famed for his elegant, minimalist creations, from moulded plastic chairs to wind turbines - items that look entirely at home next to the modern crop of consumer electronics. Likewise, British-Iraqi designer Zaha Hadid has applied these principles to everything from architecture to furniture, trainers and super-yachts - anything that can be simplified, improved and made more beautiful.

We are living through a gadget renaissance, when items of incredible craftsmanship are being made available to the everyday consumer. In fact, many of these items (such as smartphones) are so mass-produced that they have become ubiquitous. There are ten gadgets that use these principles to improve different areas of our lives, or which push the boundaries of design from both an aesthetic and utilitarian perspective.

## Audio Art

### BANG AND OLUFSEN H6 HEADPHONES

£329; [beoplay.com](http://beoplay.com)

Denmark's Bang and Olufsen has garnered a reputation not only for incredible audio quality but cutting-edge design. Inspired by mid-20th century minimalistic Scandinavian manufacturing, its sound systems aren't just a way of playing your music - they are pieces of sculpture for your living room. That doesn't do you much good when you're sitting on a plane - which is where the leather-trimmed H6 headphones come in. They maintain the clean lines and earthy colours (beige or charcoal) of the home-stereo range and combine them with innovative design flourishes, such as the ability to connect two pairs to share your audio from a single source.



## Individualist

### LEICA À LA CARTE

From £3,595; [leica-a-la-carte.com](http://leica-a-la-carte.com)

If you couldn't afford to spend US\$1.8 million on the one-off Leica Red - a collaboration between the German optics company, Apple designer-in-chief Jony Ive and industrial designer Marc Newson for a charity auction - then Leica A La Carte could help to satisfy your desire for a gorgeous piece of bespoke engineering. Whereas the Leica Red took 55 engineers three months to get right, going through 550 iterations before it was perfected, with this online service you can customise either a Leica MP or M7 compact system camera yourself (hopefully in a fraction of the time). You can choose the body finish, leather trim, viewfinder specifications and even include a personal engraving of your signature.



## For special tasks

### VICTORINOX PRESENTATION MASTER

£325; [victorinox.com](http://victorinox.com)

When it comes to world-beating design, the Swiss are worthy of a special mention. While watches may be their best-known industry, the Swiss Army Knife has become one of the world's most iconic products. The Presentation Master brings its classic red fold-out design into the 21st century, incorporating a 256-bit data encryption USB storage drive that can hold up to 32GB.

The ingenious device allows you to access your data via a sensor for fingerprint-recognition, or by entering a password into your laptop. It also comes with a laser pointer and a Bluetooth remote for changing slides during a presentation. Just remember to pack it in your hold luggage.



## Perfect zoom-in

### NIKON ACULON T51 BINOCULARS

£155; [europe-nikon.com](http://europe-nikon.com)

Whether you are an architect, bird-watcher or just a regular business traveller exploring between meetings, these stylish but powerful binoculars from the Japanese camera giant are a nifty piece of kit. Coming in red, pink and silver as well as black, the compact, lightweight metal chassis is beautifully crafted and the well-balanced ergonomics ensure they are comfortable enough to use for long periods; perfect for when you're on safari, at the opera or a major sporting event. At only 200g and 10.3cm in length, they'll also fit easily in your pocket.



## Two in one

### SKYRUNNER

£75,000; [fly-skyrunner.com](http://fly-skyrunner.com)

Flying cars have been a mainstay of science fiction movies for as long as there have been science fiction movies. Now, thanks to the Skyrunner, fiction has become reality. Designed by Dorset-based Parajet International, this almost unbelievable machine looks like the Batmobile's younger, slimmer brother and is billed as "part all-terrain buggy, part light aircraft". On land it's a dune buggy with acceleration of 0-62mph in 4.3 seconds, with suspension tough enough to tackle bumpy terrain. Making use of a rotor blade at the rear and a paraglider wing, it can take off and climb to 15,000 feet, after which it can cruise for 200 miles before it's time to go back down to earth. At £75,000, it's about the same price as a BMW 7-Series.



## Stylish

### RAZER BLADE LAPTOP

£1,802; [razerzone.com](http://razerzone.com)

When it comes to laptop design, it can be hard to see past Apple's glorious Pro and Air ranges. But it's not the only company that can craft deliciously stylish machines - and in terms of sheer horsepower, the Razer Blade leaves its Mac equivalents for dust. Built from matte black aluminium, with distinctive green-lit keys, the Blade claims to be the world's thinnest gaming laptop, at 0.7 inches, and weighs 4.5 pounds. And it's not just for gamers - if you work in design, or any industry where you need some real computing firepower, then this is the laptop for you.

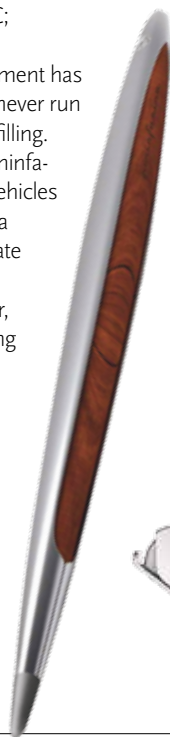


## Eternal

### PININFARINA CAMBIANO EVERLASTING

Release date and price TBC; [pininfarina.com](http://pininfarina.com)

This unusual writing implement has a trick up its sleeve - it will never run out, wear down or need refilling. From Italian design firm Pininfarina, which has designed vehicles for Fiat and Ferrari, it uses a process of oxidation to create an alloy called "ethergraf" that makes marks on paper, without the tip ever reducing in size. It looks stunning, with a hand-crafted aluminium shaft inlaid with wood. Business Traveller understands it will retail at around the US\$120 mark, so it shouldn't be outrageously expensive, either.



## Small but powerful

### DYSON DC58 ANIMAL

£350; [dyson.co.uk](http://dyson.co.uk)

Any company that can make hand-dryers seem sexy deserves some serious design props. Dyson - the British Apple - long ago learnt that form and function need to go hand in its appliances aren't just practical, they also look great. It helps that Dyson knows a thing or two about marketing; its vacuum cleaners feature "cyclone" technology, which makes sucking up crumbs the sofa sound like more fun than it actually is. The handheld DC58 (useful for cleaning your car) is one of the most impressive in its range, giving the suction of an upright model in a 20.8cm x 39.5cm x 14.4cm package.



## Crossing borders

### LYTRO ILLUM

US\$1,599; [lytro.com](http://lytro.com)

Great design isn't just about making something that looks pretty - it's about pushing the boundaries of what gadgets are capable of. The Lytro Illum, from US start-up Lytro, does just this. Far from an ordinary camera, it takes "living pictures" that you can refocus after you have taken a snap. The remarkable technology doesn't just capture the light in a scene, it also analyses which direction it's coming from, meaning it can detect different depths and allows you to "nudge" between them, sharpening your pictures. It comes with all the capabilities of other high-end cameras - wifi. GPS. touchscreen display - and it's a handsome beast, with a gigantic lens capable of 8x optical zoom.



## Time master

### SAMSUNG GEAR 2 NEO

£190; [samsung.com](http://samsung.com)

The Samsung Gear may have had a muted response since its launch but in terms of heralding a shift in how we view wearable tech, it can be considered a design innovator. Like a smartphone, it has an ecosystem whereby developers can design apps independently of Samsung, meaning the software is constantly evolving. It already incorporates many of the functions of fitness trackers, using an in-built accelerometer and gyroscope to monitor your activity, and can beam music to your wireless headphones via Bluetooth. Heck, it can even tell the time.





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# 4 HOURS IN... SHANGHAI

The facts speak for themselves. Shanghai is a city of 24 million people and 17 million cars, with downtown area the size of Warsaw. It produces 4 per cent of China's GDP, has a thousand-year history, and boasts the largest financial centre in Asia.

**I**n the past ten years Shanghai has outpaced both Hong Kong and Beijing, and is now home to a number of the world's major companies. It is also a fashion centre with stores of almost all mainstream fashion brands.

## TRAFFIC REDEFINED

For a typical European person, getting around this monstrous city could be a real shock. The main thoroughfares crossing the city have three levels - the ground level (usually with four or five lanes), level one with an expressway, and level two with numerous three of four-lane roads.

Although all intersections in the city feature traffic lights, and some have policemen directing the traffic, the reality is that the streets of Shanghai are an example of pure chaos. The green light for pedestrians means only that cars move slightly slower, and people can then attempt to cross the street, of course if they dare.

Fortunately, Shanghai has now the largest metro system in the world (450 km of railway), modelled on the best traditions of the London Underground. Launched in 1993 as China's third, after Beijing and Tianjin, it has since been dynamically expanding, and now features as many as 239 stations. Believe it or

not, but each day it carries up to 8.5 million passengers. If you want to move seamlessly around the city, the metro would be your best choice. Alternatively you could opt for a cheap taxi whose drivers are skilled in navigating the jungle of cars, scooters and buses.

## TRAIN MAGLEV SHANGHAI - HONGQIAO

When you are in Shanghai, you simply must take a ride by a magnetic levitation train. Opened in 2004 after three years of construction work, Shanghai Maglev is the first commercial magnetic rail line in the world. It is almost 31 kilometres long and links Pudong International Airport with the Longyang Road in Pudong district, which is a stone's throw from Shanghai's city centre. The noiseless Maglev train accelerates to the speed of 350 kilometres per hour in just two minutes, for a moment reaches over 430 km/h (its record speed is 501 km/h, which is roughly the speed of passenger aircraft on local routes in Poland), to gradually slow down before reaching its final station. The journey takes slightly over seven minutes and a single ticket costs ¥ 50 (about PLN 25). At the entrance to the platform every passenger undergoes a thorough inspection and their luggage is screened like at an airport.

## THE BUND

The Bund is one of the most beautiful and older districts of Shanghai, where you can truly feel the atmosphere of colonial times. In fact, it is a waterfront area along Huangpu river, which stretches over 1.5 kilometres from Waibaidu to Nanpu bridges. There you will have a unique chance to see more than 50 buildings dating from the colonial era, in varied architectural styles - from Baroque through classicism to art deco. The Bund (which simply means 'the coast') is the remains of a 19th century settlement built by the British on a riverside area of the city, which housed the headquarters of many, if not most, of the major financial institutions operating in China. However, following the rise of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the Bund lost the status of Shanghai's business district. Luckily, at the end of 20th century the Chinese government decided to restore the area to its former glory. Today the Bund is one of several landmarks of Shanghai and clearly contrasts with the high-rise districts of the city.

## THE CITY OF SKYSCRAPERS

It is safe to say that skyscrapers are the hallmark of the fastest growing city in Asia. Provided the weather is fine and there is







no smog, on your way from the airport you will see a cityscape of high-rise buildings – some with truly bizarre shapes. The most prominent of them is Shanghai Tower (632 metres), which is currently under construction. When it is completed, it will officially become the world's second tallest building, after the Burj Khalifa in Dubai. The 420-metre Jin Mao Tower as well as the 289-metre Plaza 66 Tower One will also certainly grab your attention. For now, however, the tallest building of the Chinese business capital and in China is the 492-metre Shanghai World Financial Center in Pudong district, which opened in 2008 and whose construction cost of US\$ 1.23 bln. You can easily recognize it from a distance, as at its top part there is a distinctive, trapezoidal hole. Just above it, on the penultimate floor of the building, there is an observation deck.

#### YUYUAN GARDENS

For years Shanghai has been called 'the concrete jungle' because of the lack of green areas in the city. The very centre features only two gardens, where you can sit for a moment and relax from the bustle of the metropolis. The first one can be compared in size to a small park in the centre of Warsaw, and is situated next to the building of the 60-storey J.W. Marriot hotel. The second and larger one is Yuyuan Park situated in the Old City. Created in the 16th century by order of the governor of Sichuan, it fell into disrepair after the extinction of the Ming dynasty, but was rebuilt in the 18th century. Ironically, it was fully restored and included in the list of historical monuments when Chinese communists came to power. Yuyuan takes only a few acres, but you will find there several small ponds, temples, as well as old traditional wooden buildings, which

can give you an idea on what Shanghai could look like in the past.

For the past several years, Shanghai has been changing at a pace unimaginable to the average European. The whole quarters of low, two-storey cottages are systematically demolished, their inhabitants displaced to make place for new high-rise buildings. Luckily, among skyscrapers and three-level intersections in the city centre, you will still find the old settlements of low houses soaked with the atmosphere of the past. There, in the crowd of ordinary Chinese people you will see numerous bikes loaded up with goods, as well as street vendors selling local food, live turtles in all possible sizes, and exotic birds.

Probably in a few years the old Shanghai will be barely a memory. It seems to be enough for a reason to visit it now, when it is not too late.

*Filip Gawryś*

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# 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@businessstraveller.pl](mailto:redakcja@businessstraveller.pl)

### Changing the departure date

*I'm going on a business trip to Boston for three weeks. I'm taking my husband and daughters, but they are coming back to Poland after 10 days. We bought the tickets some time ago. Now it turns out my husband has a medical check-up and cannot go with us, only a day later. The fee for the change was to be the equivalent of €100. However, now I was informed there is an additional fee of €300. Why is that? Is there a chance that the airline will agree to make changes in booking due to a passenger's illness? Can children fly under my care, and come back with my husband?*

**Sylwia**

Dear Sylwia,

Your tickets were issued over two months ago. You received a promotional discount for the tickets, but the condition was to purchase the tickets at least 28 days prior the departure. When it comes to the first section of the flight, you need to pay the standard fee for the change (€100), and then recalculate the price of the whole ticket and check possible price for the new flight. Naturally, the new price will be higher, as you haven't purchased the ticket in advance. You also need to pay the price difference. Airlines encourage people to buy tickets well ahead of time. When buying last minute, the prices are considerably higher. That's why every change is almost always connected with a surcharge. Medical check-ups or an illness aren't treated by the airlines as special cases. That's why you were rejected the possibility of a free ticket change. You can take out travel insurance that covers changes or refunds tickets in case of health problems. A plane ticket is considered a tourist event (only for insurance purposes). The insurance should be purchased on the same day as the ticket.

There is no problem with the children flying under your care to Boston, and then returning together with your husband. As originally they were assigned to your husband's reservation, the agent issuing the tickets should make the appropriate entries to the reservation system. Thanks to this, the airline will be informed that the children are still travelling under the supervision of an adult, and you will avoid complications at the check-in at the airport.

### Mobile phone on board

*I'm flying to Los Angeles through London. I've learned there might be a problem with taking my mobile phone with me. It needs to be fully charged. What are the limitations? Is it ok if my mobile stays switched on during the flight? Can I change the ticket if there is a problem with the mobile or laptop?*

**Marcin**

Dear Marcin

Each air travel is subject to a number of detailed regulations, including safety procedures. The procedures may vary depending on the route, airline or airport.

Additional restrictions for electronic equipment (including phones, tablets, and laptops) were introduced in early July with flights to the USA. Passengers might go through more stringent security checks and should be able to demonstrate that their electronic equipment is working and suitable for normal use. During the check-in, they might be asked to switch them on and show how they work. That's why you should make sure the batteries are fully charged before the journey.

But it does not mean you are allowed to use the phone on board. The existing rules haven't changed in this respect. You might turn the flight mode on, if you are instructed so during the flight.

Make sure your battery is charged during the stopover in London, as your electronic equipment will be thoroughly checked. Heathrow Airport is preparing more battery charging stations (with different plugins), but this might not be enough, especially during peak hours.

If the battery dies, you will not be allowed to take in with you on board. Theoretically, some airlines may allow you to deposit the device, but the practice can be different. That's why I wouldn't count on it, as in consequence you might miss the next flight.

Tighter security checks don't entitle you to having a free change or return of the ticket. Charges related to changing the ticket and other costs of travel delays must be paid by the passenger.



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