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THE FUTURE BEGINS TODAY

How will we travel in 10 or 20 years? With the rapid technological advances it's extremely difficult to imagine the changes that await us. Without a doubt, one of the future means of transport may be air taxis. Even now private jets are entering the mainstream thanks to apps enabling travellers to book seats on aircraft that would otherwise fly half-full or even empty on return trips. Another trend is the continued development of luxury products. Last year Etihad took it to the extreme with the unveiling of its Residence suite on the inaugural A380 service. A hotel-style room in the nose of the superjumbo, the Residence has its own set of doors, a living room with two couches and a 32-inch TV, a bathroom with a shower, and a bedroom with a double bed. You also get your own chef and a butler trained by the Savoy.

With more countries issuing biometric e-passports, and greater volumes of passengers flying, increasing numbers of airports will install automated immigration gates and use facial and gait recognition to monitor queues and flows throughout the terminals. Fingerprint and body scanning may also become more prevalent. Automatic cars? This isn't a science fiction idea anymore. In the US, self-driving vehicles are expected to be on the streets of 30 US cities by the end of next year. For more details, I recommend you to read our cover article. Enjoy your reading!



Marzena Mróz

Marzena Mróz
Editor-in-Chief

NEXT IS NOW

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SAMSUNG **Galaxy S6**





Tourism

Marseille

NEW MUSEUMS IN THE PORT CITY

This summer you should definitely visit the oldest city of France that is famous for its Vieux Port and the local anisette called pastis. This, however, isn't the only reason for a trip to Marseille. When in the city you simply must take a short stroll along the Corniche Boulevard, which connects the city centre with Prado and Pointe-Rouge beaches, as well as with wild coves with turquoise water, which were classified as a National Park in 2012. You can also take a boat trip to the castle of If, which was one of the settings of Alexandre Dumas' adventure novel *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

Since 2013, when Marseille was the European Capital of Culture, the city can boast several new, remarkable buildings. One of them is MuCEM (Museum of European and Mediterranean Civilisations), designed by Rudy Ricciotti and Roland Cart.

It's also worth visiting the Foundation Regards of Provence situated in the UNESCO listed former naval sanitary station (museeregardsdeprovence.com), the newly renovated Museum of Fine Arts housed in the beautiful Palace of Longchamp, as well as the Mirror Pavillion designed by Norman Foster. Marseilles is also popular with tourists because of its charm of a port city, where every morning fishermen sell fresh fish and seafood at the market, and a lot of restaurants serve the local delicacy – the remarkable *bujabes* soup. Add to this the inspirational background with colourful boats and the Mediterranean sun, and you immediately know where to go on your holiday this summer.

Hotel

Orbis

SWEET SECRET BY MERCURE

Mercure is Europe's second largest hotel chain in midscale segment and one of the leaders on the Polish market. The brand is renowned for its remarkable approach to its guests as well as décor inspired by the history of cities where its properties are located. What's more, Mercure surprises with a wide range of special offers, such as Sweet Secret by Mercure. This year the brand ambassador is Dorota Gardias. In Poland Mercure has a total of 22 hotels.

"This strategy is called 'glocal' being a blend of two words: global and local," explains Joanna Świerkosz, Deputy Director of the



Sales, Distribution, Marketing & Revenue Management for Poland & Baltic Area at Orbis S.A. / Accor Poland.

"It involves combining history and tradition with modern solutions," she adds.

You can now take advantage of Sweet Secret by Mercure in all Mercure hotels in Poland. Guests who book a minimum two-night stay until 31 May this year, can take advantage of the promotion, where in addition to a 30-percent discount on accommodation, triple points in Le Club Accorhotels loyalty scheme, free Wi-Fi and breakfast, they will receive a sweet treat at check-in - a box of handmade pralines.



Airlines

Finnair

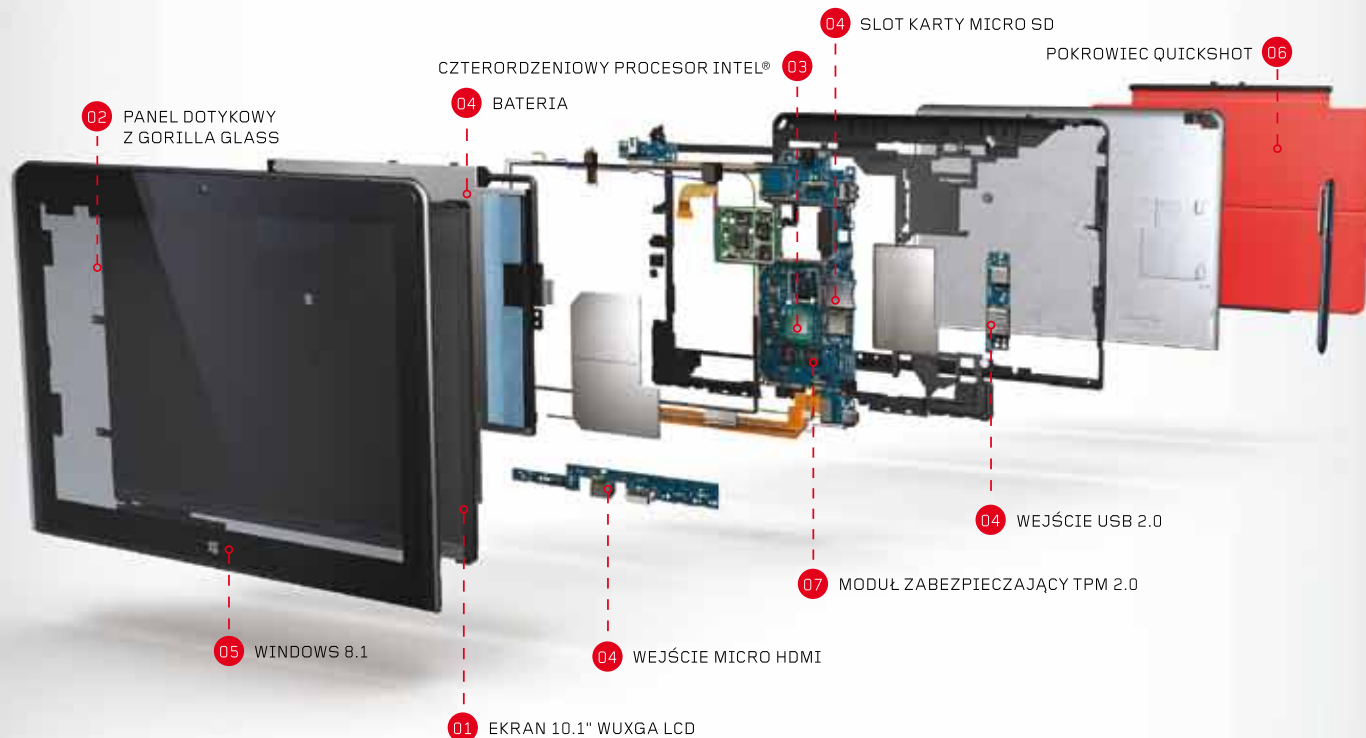
A350 XWB FROM EUROPE TO ASIA

You can now book tickets for first long-haul flights onboard the new Airbus 350 XWB. The carrier will first roster the aircraft on crew familiarisation flights, including from Helsinki to London Heathrow, Paris Charles de Gaulle and Amsterdam Schiphol, in October. The bright, spacious cabin is equipped with panoramic windows and comfortable seats, both in Business and Economy Class. Gradual changes in dynamic ambient LED lighting ease customers into new time zones and help create a calming and fresh atmosphere. All Finnair A350s will also be equipped with Wi-Fi for greater passenger enjoyment and connectivity. The 297-seat configuration includes 46 seats in Business Class in a 1+2+1 layout, ensuring direct aisle access for all Business Class passengers. Business Class features Zodiac Cirrus III seats that convert to fully flat beds, while a 16-inch touch-screen inflight entertainment system comes programmed with films, TV shows, music and other digital content on demand in numerous languages. All seats in Economy include an 11-inch touch screen inflight entertainment system and USB power outlets.



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- 05 WINDOWS 8.1**
Pełna personalizacja systemu Windows 8.1. Wystarczy zalogować się za pomocą swojego konta Microsoft, a układ, pliki i aplikacje z komputera będą widoczne również na tablecie.
- 06 POKROWIEC QUICKSHOT Z OSŁONĄ OBIEKTYWU**
Ochrona tabletu pokrowcem, nawet podczas robienia zdjęć. Wystarczy odchylić kłapkę w rogu a aplikacja kamery w systemie Windows 8.1 uruchomi się automatycznie. Magnetyczny zamek pozwala odpowiednio przełączać tablet w tryb uśpienia i wybudzać go, podczas zamykania i otwierania.
- 07 ZWIĘKSZONE BEZPIECZEŃSTWO**
Pełna ochrona danych dzięki modułowi TPM 2.0



Stworzony dla biznesu  Windows 8 Pro



Tourism

Ubaye Valley

CYCLING THROUGH SEVEN PASSES

This secluded valley situated in French Southern Alps, offers spectacular views and perfect venues to practise your favourite sports. It's a paradise for golf lovers, joggers as well as hiking aficionados. In winter you can ski in three stations: Pra Loup, Sauze and Sainte Anne. Overall, there are 29 hotels and 7 mountain huts in the area. Ubaye Valley is also a first choice summer destination for cyclists, with its seven different passes that connect the place with the outside world. The highly popular Col de la Bonnette-Restefond is located on the highest road in Europe; More details at ubaye.com

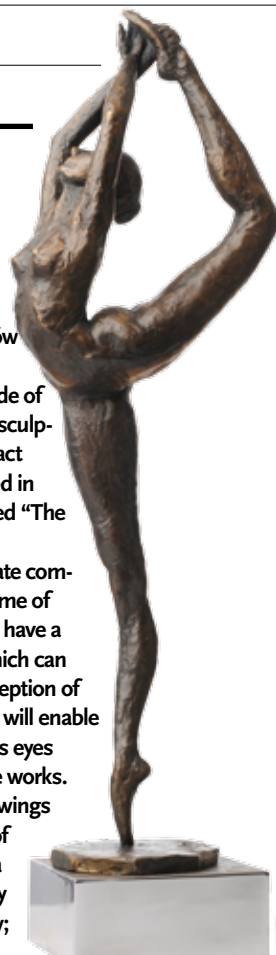
Culture

The fourth dimension

EXHIBITION OF SCULPTURES BY MONIKA OSIECKA

From 22 May to 31 July the postindustrial spaces of the old porcelain factory in Ćmielów will host an exhibition of works by a well-known Polish sculptor Monika Osiecka. Made of bronze, alabaster and pieces of mirrors, the sculptures depict mostly female nudes and abstract forms. All works by Osiecka will be presented in the context of excerpts from her book entitled "The Fragments of the Mirror".

The artist's statements constitute her intimate commentary on the sculptures, a record of the time of their creation and artistic explorations. They have a very genuine, often poetic form of notes, which can provide viewers with a new insight and perception of the finished artefacts. These personal notes will enable viewers to see the sculptures with the artist's eyes and will be a unique fourth dimension of the works. The exhibition will also present selected drawings and photographs. "The Fourth Dimension of the Sculpture – the Retrospective by Monika Osiecka" is associated with 20th anniversary of the artist's creative work at Van Rij Gallery; galeria-rj.com



Architecture

Złota 44

LIBESKIND'S DESIGN IN WARSAW

Designed by world-renowned architect Daniel Libeskind with interior design by London-based Woods Bagot studio, Złota 44 is one the tallest residential buildings in the EU. The construction symbolizes the dynamic development of Warsaw, Poland's economic advances and reflects private, professional and financial success of Poles, as well as their expectations and aspirations. BBI Development SA and the American investment fund Amstar have officially started sales of apartments located in Warsaw's iconic skyscraper. The building offers the highest quality of comfort with services and facilities that will determine the character of the place and create a unique space for residents and their guests. In this way Złota 44 will offer lifestyle that so far has been unavailable in Poland.





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Book

“Across Baikal”

A REPORT FROM AN EXPEDITION ON A FROZEN LAKE

“Across Baikal” by a young traveller Jakub Rybicki, is a book you could read in one go. It’s a report from a winter bicycle expedition across the frozen Baikal Lake. Two young men traverse the lake north to south, the route is more than 900 kilometres and the conditions more than extreme: frost, icy wind and ice cracks. The author describes unique encounters with fascinating people living in the area and their struggle with the beautiful though harsh nature. He also recites tales and stories he heard from them. You will also find here a cornucopia of funny and dramatic adventures that the bikers experienced in Siberia. Add to this plenty of wonderful photographs and beautiful landscapes. In 2008 Rybicki rode through Transbaikalia, heading for Mongolia, and five years later he returned there to traverse Baikal. “I’m not going to torment the reader with a description of each tyre puncture and broken spoke. Instead, I mostly focus here on local people and wonders that I met along the way. Russia is strange, surprising, magical. In Siberia all these adjectives must be multiplied, and Lake Baikal is a true core of mysticism and occult powers,” says the author.



Beauty

La Mer

SKIN-PROTECTING FLUID

La Mer brand has developed a unique novelty to improve, align and protect the skin. The Reparative Skin Tint SPF 30, which has just hit the market, is a multidimensional care product in the form of a light colouring fluid to immediately correct the appearance of the skin and highlight its natural glow. It gradually reduces fine lines, wrinkles and reduces the appearance of pores, while the SPF 30 filter protects it from damage. The



power of antioxidants contained in the product helps it defend itself against harmful external factors and accelerated aging. SPF 30 protects against the damaging effects of UVA and UVB rays. The new product continuously fills the skin with energy, contributing to its natural regeneration processes. As a result, the skin gradually gains a beautiful, healthy appearance; capacity: 40 ml, price: PLN 330



Chopin Airport

Top 10

WHERE CAN YOU FLY FROM WARSAW?

London, Paris and Frankfurt are the three most popular destinations with passengers flying with traditional carriers from Warsaw Chopin Airport. Charter flights departing the airport in the Polish capital fly most often to Egypt, Israel and Mexico. Taking into account the first three months of 2015, the most airport traffic flew to London airports of Gatwick, Heathrow and Luton (187,000 passengers - an increase by 18.5 percent compared to the previous year). The French capital is also very popular with Poles. Carriers that operate on the route to and from Paris served 116,000 passengers, the decline by mere 0.4 percent. The last destination on the podium is Frankfurt with 97,000 passengers choosing the German city in the first quarter of 2015. For years, the most popular holiday destination, served by charter flights is Hurghada. The Egyptian resort is however closely followed by Tel Aviv, a cosmopolitan metropolis that never sleeps. A huge increase (by impressive 437 percent), was recorded on Warsaw-Cancun route, while the traffic on flights to and from Antalya on the Turkish Riviera grew by 380 percent compared to the first quarter of 2014.

Hotel

Sheraton Sopot

MASSAGES ON REQUEST

The spa at Sheraton Sopot is an excellent place to relax and unwind. Guests usually opt here for Sheraton's signature massage of the whole body, which was developed by therapists working in this Baltic hotel. It's a typical relaxing and calming procedure, based on a variety of massage techniques, such as the elements of classical massage, forearm movements (similarly to Hawaiian lomi-lomi), as well as body stretching. The massage starts with a warm compress on the spine and shoulders, which relaxes the back. The massage ends with a very pleasant head acupressure. The procedure is performed with warm almond oil. This is accompanied by inhalation with cleansing ylang ylang and cedarwood oils.

The whole blissful treatment takes almost an hour and a half. Sheraton procedure is the signature treatment of the spa in Sopot and the first massage that was carried out in the facility.

The spa uses mostly products by a renowned American brand Dermalogica, which are known for rich composition of active substances. An experienced beautician selects preparations individually in order to provide the patient with optimal care and the best effect. On leaving the spa, each guests received a prescription with a list of best beauty products for his or her skin. The facial massage takes 70 minutes and provides long-lasting effects.



To miejsce, gdzie czujesz się swobodniej niż w biurze i bardziej komfortowo niż w restauracji.

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21

TRAVEL TRENDS

What will the next decade of business travel look like? **Jenny Southan** pinpoints the innovations that will change the way we do things

1. THE NEW SUPERSONIC

Concorde may be dead but supersonic is set to make a comeback. US engineering firm Spike Aerospace is developing a 12- to 18-seat jet (the Spike S-512) that could fly between London and New York in four hours. It would have “luxurious multiplex digital cabins” with full-length screens along the windowless walls. If all goes to plan, it could be flying by the end of 2018.

Meanwhile, Aerion Corporation is working on a private jet able to reach Mach 1.6 (1,100mph) for a launch by 2020, and Hypermach Aerospace plans to start work on its SonicStar jet at the start of the next decade. It would be able to go twice as fast as Concorde, reaching speeds of Mach 4 (3,045mph).

And then there is Richard Branson’s Virgin Galactic, which he is pushing ahead with despite a fatal crash last year.

2. HAIL-A-JET AGE

Private jets are entering the mainstream thanks to apps enabling travellers to book seats on aircraft that would otherwise fly half-full or even empty on return trips.

PrivateFly, which launched in 2010, provides access to more than 7,000 jets around the world and claims it can get passengers from the ground to the air in 45 minutes.

JetSmarter, which entered the market in 2013, offers more than 2,500 empty legs a

month at a cost of US\$7,000 per year, plus 3,000 planes available for charter.

There’s also Blackjet, which sells seats on jets travelling between ten US cities (annual membership is US\$2,500 and grants discounted empty-leg flights), and Surf Air, which has a US\$1,750 a month payment plan with 44 daily flights to eight US cities. Fresh Jets doesn’t charge anything to sign up, has more than 1,200 aircraft and flights starting from US\$799.

3. ECONOMY CLASS SLIMS DOWN

As discussed in last month’s issue (“Feel the squeeze”), airlines are cramming more seats into economy class.

Emirates set the trend when it configured its B777s with ten-across instead of nine-across seating, and most airlines have gone for 3-3-3 layouts on the Dreamliner instead of Boeing’s suggested 2-4-2. Thanks to new slimline seats, extra rows are being added and legroom is being reduced. Air Asia X has ordered a ten-across version of the new A350, which will enter service in a few years’ time; 11-across seating on the A380 will not be a surprise.

4. PREMIUM ECONOMY 2.0

Premium economy is moving from being an “enhanced” economy seat with extra legroom, amenity kits and better food to a stand-alone product in itself.

Lufthansa and Singapore Airlines recently unveiled new seats, but some airlines are seeing value in taking their designs further. Air New Zealand’s fixed-shell “Space-seat” on the B777-300ER has central panels between pairs that lift up to form a shared dining table.

Air France, China Airlines and Japan Airlines have also fitted fixed-shell seats that are closer to what business class used to be like. In March, British Airways revealed it had patented a forward-backward facing design for seat pairs complete with privacy screens.

5. ALL-BUSINESS CLASS AIRLINES

In the noughties, a slew of airlines tried and failed to launch all-business class services. Eos, Maxjet and Silverjet all went bust by the summer of 2008 after oil prices went over US\$100 a barrel. Other carriers then tried the more modest tactic of configuring some of their aircraft solely with business class seats on specific routes.

BA’s all-Club World A318 service from London City to New York JFK has now been running for more than five years, while in February last year, Qatar Airways launched its first all-business class A319 from Doha to Heathrow.

However, in 2012, Hong Kong Airlines had to suspend its premium A330 Hong Kong-Gatwick service.



Hypermach Aerospace plans to start work on its SonicStar jet at the start of the next decade. It would be able to go twice as fast as Concorde, reaching speeds of Mach 4 (3,045mph).



With the economy picking up and oil prices far lower, there is renewed determination for the concept to work. French airline La Compagnie launched on Paris Orly-New York Newark last summer, followed by London Luton-Newark in February.

6. FIRST CLASS HOTEL ROOMS

With business class products improving all the time, first class has to work harder to differentiate itself.

While a number of carriers, such as Singapore Airlines, Asiana Airlines and Emirates, provide personal suites, last year Etihad took it to the extreme with the unveiling of its Residence on the inaugural A380 service from Abu Dhabi to London Heathrow in December.

A hotel-style room in the nose of the superjumbo, the Residence has its own set of doors, a living room with two couches and a 32-inch TV, a bathroom with a shower, and a bedroom with a double bed. You also get your own chef and a butler trained by the Savoy.

In addition, the aircraft is fitted with nine first class Apartments in a single-aisle cabin.

7. AIRPORTS AS HAPPINESS HUBS

As demand for air travel increases, airports are getting bigger – and better.



Singapore Changi is consistently voted the best in the world, with facilities such as a butterfly garden, rooftop pool and cinemas – and yet its vision for the future is even more ambitious.

The 3.5-hectare Jewel extension, set for completion in 2018, will have a domed glass roof under which will sit 22,000 sqm of gardens, a 130-room Yotel, and 300 shops and restau-

rants. Highlights will include an air-conditioned Forest Valley with walking trails, and a 40-metre Rain Vortex – the world's tallest indoor waterfall.

The impressive range of facilities at Amsterdam Schiphol – which calls itself an “airport city” – includes a casino, spa, meditation centre, art gallery and library, while Hong Kong International has a nine-hole golf course and an Imax theatre.

Heathrow's new T2 is home to Heston Blumenthal's Perfectionist's Café, which comes complete with a nitrogen ice cream parlour.

8. BIOTECH AND MICROCHIPS

With more countries issuing biometric e-passports, and greater volumes of passengers flying, increasing numbers of airports will install automated immigration gates and use facial and gait recognition to monitor queues and flows throughout the terminals.

Fingerprint and body scanning may also become more prevalent.

Gatwick has installed electronic eyes from Human Recognition Systems that track how long it takes individuals to get through the security process by scanning their faces and irises, and then converting the information into code (to maintain privacy).

Somewhat scarier is the prospect of “embedded biotech”, whereby microchips are surgi-



Adam Kushner, president of D-Shape Enterprises, is printing a four-bedroom residence with a pool in Upstate New York; and NASA is experimenting with the technology to build lunar modules for the moon.

cally inserted under the skin – in years to come, travellers may have personal ID chips implanted, which they could use instead of a passport.

9. STATUS FOR SALE

Last summer we reported on how airline and hotel loyalty programmes were moving to revenue-based models that reward how much you spend, not how many nights you stay or flights you take (See “Hey big spender”).

Fast forward several months, and British Airways, Malaysia Airlines and United are among the carriers that have made this change.

10. LOYALTY ATHEISM

The revamping of loyalty schemes may have a counter-effect. As frequent flyers become disillusioned with new models, a growing minority are abandoning them, freeing themselves up to choose the airlines that offer the best timings, prices and onboard experiences.

Such “loyalty atheists” gain many of the benefits of having status (such as lounge access) by paying to fly in premium cabins,

and on shorter flights don’t mind saving money by flying low-cost carriers.

11. 3D PRINTING

If you haven’t yet got your head around 3D printing, you need to. It’s the “third industrial revolution” allowing individuals and manufacturers to convert CGI imagery into tangible objects through the sequential layering of materials, producing everything from replacement hips to aircraft engines.

In the future, we will be seeing 3D printed architecture. In January, Chinese company Winsun unveiled a 1,100 sqm villa it had printed in a month with only eight people – a third of the time and manpower required for traditional construction, and half the price.

Adam Kushner, president of D-Shape Enterprises, is printing a four-bedroom residence with a pool in Upstate New York; and NASA is experimenting with the technology to build lunar modules for the moon.

It won’t be long until hoteliers get in on the action – whether for creating interiors and fixtures, or full-scale buildings.

For chains, the possibility of replicating their offering quickly and precisely will hold great appeal. In the meantime, you may find

3D printers appearing in business centres, allowing you to arrive at a presentation with a freshly-made 3D prototype.

12. SMALL ROOMS, BIG VALUE

Tiny sleeping spaces have been big in Japan for decades, with salarymen bedding down in 3 sqm “capsule hotels” that look more like stacks of washing machines.

Nine Hours recently opened a property at Tokyo Narita airport with 129 units priced from about £9 an hour.

The concept has also started to take off in the West. Yotel offers cabins from 7 sqm at Heathrow, Gatwick and Amsterdam Schiphol airports; Bloc arrived in Gatwick a year ago with rooms from 9.5 sqm; Munich airport offers 4 sqm Napcab pods; while the new GoSleep capsules at Helsinki airport are even cosier, at one metre high by two metres long.

In London, the first Hub by Premier Inn property opened in November near Covent Garden. Rooms are 11.4 sqm and cost from £79, with high-spec, high-tech fixtures and fittings (click here to read a review). The company has bought another seven sites in the capital, plus three in Edinburgh.



13. LIFESTYLE BRANDS

Thanks to an obsession with “millennials”, big hotel groups have begun launching “lifestyle” brands with a more individual feel.

At the top end of the scale, Marriott International debuted Edition in partnership with US hotelier Ian Schrager in Waikiki in 2010. While that property has since left the brand, there are now Editions in London, Istanbul and Miami, with New York, Abu Dhabi and Bangkok in the pipeline. Marriott also has the Autograph Collection – with a tagline of “exactly like nothing else” – while at the no-frills end, it unveiled Moxy last September at Milan Malpensa airport, with sexy digital prints and Instagram walls (click here for a review). Another 150 Moxys are set to arrive by 2020.

Hilton Worldwide has two new brands. Curio is a collection of four- and five-star hotels “hand-picked for [their] distinctive character”, which first entered the market last summer. Canopy by Hilton is “all about being local, through design, food and beverage, art and local know-how”, and is expected to debut this year.

Langham Hotels’ Cordis (high-end but without the opulence) arrives in Hong Kong in May, while Hyatt Centric – “for modern explorers” – will launch in Chicago and Miami this month. IHG, mean-

while, has Even hotels – aimed at “travellers who maintain a healthy and active lifestyle”. There are two open in the US and three more in the pipeline.

14. LUXURY HOSTELS

A new breed of “poshtels” is also popping up (see “Bunking down”). Carl Michel, executive chairman of Generator hostels, which arrived in Paris in February, says uptake from business travellers has been gradually rising.

Marco Nijhof, chief executive officer of Yoo Hotels and Resorts, is a fan: “My secretary told me I had to stay in a Generator hostel and I said: ‘How low do you want me to go?’ But I was blown away. They have created an experience that is fantastic – I walked in [to the London property] not knowing what to expect, but it was full. I thought with my grey hair I was going to be the oldest man walking around but that was not the case.” Safestay is another brand to keep an eye out for, along with independents such as the Kex hostel in Reykjavik.

15. SHARING ECONOMY

If you haven’t tried renting someone’s apartment through Airbnb yet, there are plenty who have – the company is now worth more than US\$20 billion, and has more than one million listings in 34,000 cities in 190 countries.

It has also been branching into the corporate market with a portal for business travellers (airbnb.co.uk/business-travel) and a deal with expense management company Concur last year, allowing travel managers to keep track of where employees are staying and making sure properties meet requirements. One Fine Stay is a similar model but exclusively for the rental of luxury homes in London, Los Angeles, New York and Paris, with staff providing hotel-like services. You can also find sites dedicated to sharing workspace, cars and parking. (See “Friends with benefits”).

16. ON-DEMAND CAR RENTAL

Companies such as Sixt, Hertz and Zipcar are embracing mobile apps to facilitate instant pick-ups and drop-offs in city centres and airports.

They have “free floating” fleets so you don’t have to go to a rental office or deal with staff. (See “Streets ahead”).

17. ROBOT CARS

The UK Commons transport committee says that both driverless and semi-autonomous cars will be on our roads in the next ten years, with trials already under way in Greenwich.

In the US, self-driving vehicles are expected to be on the streets of 30 US cities by the end of next year.

Google has been working on developing robot cars for some time, testing them in California, while Abu Dhabi's futuristic Masdar City project has been using solar-powered "autonomous people movers" for the past few years.

18. INTERNET OF THINGS

Known as the "second digital revolution", the dawn of web-enabled everyday objects, and the ability to control them with your personal devices, is already upon us.

Whether you are turning on the central heating in your home remotely (Nest) or letting your fridge tell you what shopping you need (LG Smart ThinQ), the gadgets in our lives are becoming intelligent, speaking to our smartphones, tablets and wearable devices such as the new Apple Watch.

In the travel industry, Starwood Preferred Guest is testing a feature on its app that enables guests to open the doors to their rooms with their phone. Air France-KLM is experimenting with luggage tracking tags and devices, while the new Virgin Hotel Chicago's app, called Lucy, can be used to customise the entire in-room experience.

19. INSTANT TRANSLATION

Doing business worldwide will be so much easier with instant translation technology.

In December, Skype unveiled a beta version of Translator, a feature that allows two people speaking via video link to hear an artificial voice translating what has been said, live. It's slow right now, and does make mistakes, but in the future it could be integrated with large-scale video-conferencing suites.

Platforms such as Globr offer instant messaging translation, while iTranslate also employs voice recognition. Google Translate recently incorporated Word Lens – hold your smartphone's camera up to a road sign or restaurant menu, for example, and it will convert what is written into your chosen language.

20. CRYPTO-CURRENCIES

In a world of fluctuating currencies, buying and selling across borders can often mean you lose out on exchange rates.

The use of crypto or digital currencies such as Bitcoin (BTC) gets around this as they have a real-world value and can be used internationally.

Last summer, Expedia began trialling Bitcoins as payment for hotel bookings in the US. The Holiday Inn Express in Brooklyn will process Bitcoins at its front desk with BitPay's payment system, while Airbnb, Uber and OpenTable are tipped to accept digital currencies in the future.

You can buy them at special ATMs such as in London's Shoreditch to keep in a virtual wallet, or through sites like Bittylicious. At the time of going to press, one BTC was £198.58 but the value has been much higher in the past.

21. THE END OF PRIVACY

Google is using the vast amount of data it has about the world – and us – to transform the way we travel: "Depending on your privacy settings and how much information you voluntarily give up, the tech giant knows where you are, the places you travel to, the restaurants you eat in, the location of your home and office, who your friends are, the things you like, the websites you browse and what's written in your emails. Google probably knows you better than your own parents."

It is using this information to personalise your online experience, with the aim of making life easier for you, but it is at the cost of keeping your data private.

In the future, most of us will realise resistance is futile. Companies and business people will hire online privacy managers to ensure sensitive information is protected – but, even then, the government could well be snooping.



In the travel industry, Starwood Preferred Guest is testing a feature on its app that enables guests to open the doors to their rooms with their phone.



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HOTEL FOR EXPO 2015



CONTACT

Milan-Malpensa Airport
Terminal 1
tel.: (39)(02)23 351
www.starwoodhotels.com

PRICE

from €230

It's a perfect place for those intending to visit Expo 2015. It's luxurious, functional and can compete with hotels in the centre of Milan – both when it comes to the quality and price. This is also the only Malpensa airport hotel connected directly with Terminal 1 and located only 100 metres away from the runway. What's more, it offers a fantastic view of the mountains.

WHERE IS IT?

The hotel was founded especially for passengers travelling to Milan from faraway places and who wish to have some rest while waiting for another flight. It's considered one of the best airport hotels in the world. There is a special train which will take you to the centre of Milan and the trip takes mere 30 minutes. Expo 2015 exhibition grounds are only 50 kilometres away.

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

The hotel is built from concrete and glass. It's 420 metres long. It's spacious, modern and makes a good impression from the very beginning. Perhaps it doesn't look too cosy, but it's not

the most important thing when you pick a place where you want to have a rest for the next several hours. Standard rooms are located on the lower floor, while club rooms - on upper floors. They differ only in location and window view. Suites have a fitness corner, where you can do exercise, prepared by professionals engaged in the FIT programme organized by Sheraton. The third floor houses an open-plan business lounge, visible from every angle. There are also well-equipped conference rooms of a total space of 2,000 sq m as well as 30 smaller business meeting rooms. Guests have also access to a swimming pool, although it seems a bit too small for a huge hotel like this one.

ROOMS

The hotel offers 433 rooms and 19 suites. The furnishing is very modern and tasteful. It's worth noting the famous Sheraton Sweet Sleeper Bed - the company's apple in the eye, designed and improved by the most prominent specialists in the world. This legendary bed was indeed so comfortable, that I fell into a deep sleep and, as a result, al-

most missed my plane. In the bathroom you will find toiletries, a hair-dryer and soft towels.

BARS, RESTAURANTS AND SPA

The most spectacular place in the hotel is Monte Rosa Bar, open from 7.00 am to 2.00 am. You can have there a light snack and excellent cocktails. A long table illuminated with red lights, and comfortable chairs make you want to stay here for as long as it gets. You can also visit Il Canneto restaurant offering Mediterranean cuisine, open between 6.00 - 10.00 am, 12.00 - 14.30 pm and 22.00 pm to 23.00 pm. Whoever feels tired, can have some rest in the spa, which offers numerous relaxing treatments and covers the area of 1000 sqm.

VERDICT

I recommend Malpensa Sheraton hotel to everybody, not only tired travellers, and especially for those planning to visit Expo 2015 trade fair. You can have a rest here, eat a fantastic dinner, go to Spa, or have a drink in the spectacular Monte Rosa bar.

Rafał Sobiech



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Pacjenci zgłaszający się do naszej kliniki coraz częściej przychodzą z problemami złożonymi dotyczącymi zarówno twarzy jak i ciała. Oczekują od lekarza kompleksowej opieki, indywidualnego podejścia oraz pielęgnacji skóry całego ciała. Problemy dotyczące ciała to najczęściej wiotkość skóry po porodzie lub znacznej utracie wagi, miejscowa otyłość i cellulit. Na twarzy najczęściej przeszkadzają nam zmarszczki i spadek napięcia skóry. W związku z oczekiwaniami naszych pacjentów oferta naszej kliniki została wzbogacona o nową technologię Maximus TriLipo, który jako jedyny działa jednocześnie na skórę, komórki tłuszczowe i mięśnie.

Skóra napięta i jędrna

Zastosowana w urządzeniu Technologia TriLipo™ RF emituje falę radiową, która podnosi temperaturę skóry właściwej, doprowadzając do skurczenia włókna kolagenowe i natychmiastowej poprawy napięcia skóry. Motywuje też skórę do produkcji nowych włókien. Efekt zagęszczenia i liftingu nasila się i utrwała w czasie. To idealne rozwiązanie dla wiotkiej skóry, np. po ciąży czy utracie kilogramów. Mniej centymetrów w obwodzie, gładka skóra bez cellulitu

TriLipo™ RF działa również na komórki tłuszczowe. Rozgrzewając je, topi ich zawartość, która następnie wydostaje się na zewnątrz. W tej samej głowicy uruchamiana jest jednocześnie opatentowana technologia dynamicznej aktywacji mięśni (TriLipo™ DMA). Funkcja ta powoduje drenaż limfatyczny, pomagający opróżnić upłynioną zawartość komórek tłuszczowych. Wspomaga krążenie, dotlenia komórki. Efektem współpracy tych dwóch technologii jest utrata centymetrów w obwodzie, redukcja cellulitu oraz wymodelowanie sylwetki.

Wyraźnie zarysowane kości policzkowe, redukcja zmarszczek

Również głowica przeznaczona do zabiegów na twarz uruchamia dwie technologie – fale radiową i dynamiczną aktywację mięśni. W efekcie zabiegu kości policzkowe są wyraźniej zarysowane, bruzdy spłycone a zmarszczki wokół ust i oczu zredukowane. Zabiegi Maximus wymagają powtórzeń, od 3 do 8 w zależności od problemu i stosowanej technologii. Są komfortowe i nie wymagają okresu rekonwalescencji. Wykonuje się je jeden raz w tygodniu.



Dr Magdalena Opadczuk i aktorka Magdalena Schejbal

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HOXTON HOLBORN

**CONTACT**

199-206 High Holborn, London;
tel +44 (0)20 7661 3000;
thehoxton.com

PRICE

Internet rates for a midweek stay in March started from £119 per night for a Shoebox room.

Opened in September, this is the “luxury budget” brand’s second hotel, joining the Hoxton Shoreditch, which opened in 2006. Others are scheduled to open in Amsterdam, Paris and New York in the next two years.

WHAT’S IT LIKE?

The 174-room hotel is housed in a Grade II Listed building that was formerly a telephone exchange. Nevertheless, the sleek and simple design gives it a contemporary feel, despite furnishings that hark back to the 1960s. The large, open-plan lobby has a reception desk to the left and a bar and restaurant to the right, with armchairs and sofas dotted around low coffee tables. Free newspapers and magazines are available, and there are three Mac computers. Wifi is free throughout and there is a complimentary printing service. Staff were welcoming and helpful.

ROOM FACILITIES

There are four room categories – Shoebox (12 sqm), Snug (14 sqm), Cosy (18 sqm) and Roomy (23 sqm). Each provides the same facilities.

I was staying in a Roomy on the first floor with a view over

High Holborn. Double-glazed windows ensured it was quiet despite being next to a busy road. The room was comfortable, with a wooden floor, a grey rug, a large mounted mirror and framed artwork. The walls were painted white except for two black pillars between the three windows.

There was a king-size bed with UK plug sockets and reading lamps on either side, a small round work table and a leather armchair. A mini-fridge contained bottled water and milk for tea and coffee. A lobby shop sells snacks at “high street prices”.

Other features included a high-definition TV, a Roberts digital radio, a safe and near-silent air conditioning. There was no iron or ironing board, but a call to housekeeping saw these delivered in five minutes.

The small black-and-white tiled bathroom had a walk-in shower with both traditional and rain showerheads, and Pen and Ink toiletries.

Each room is entitled to one hour of free phone calls to landlines (including international) per night. Room service is available from 7am to 11pm. Check-out is at midday but guests can stay until 4pm at an hourly cost of £5. Two drawbacks in my room were the lighting – which was

very dim with no ceiling fixtures – and the size, which I found small despite being the largest room category.

RESTAURANTS AND BARS

The Hubbard and Bell grill restaurant next to the lobby is open all day, while Chicken Shop – from Nick Jones, the man behind Soho House – and espresso bar Holborn Grind are located on either side of the hotel. Guests can also order a breakfast bag containing yoghurt and granola, a banana and orange juice.

The bar has a DJ on Thursday to Saturday nights – for this reason, those seeking a hotel with quiet public areas might be advised to stay elsewhere.

BUSINESS AND MEETING FACILITIES

Run in collaboration with Soho House, the Apartment on the ground floor has six individually designed meeting rooms and an open-plan kitchen. These can become one space that holds 250 people standing.

VERDICT

A well-designed contemporary hotel, Hoxton Holborn is in a good central location for business travellers keen to avoid the more staid corporate brands.

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PROJECT RUNWAY

Alex McWhirter reports on the progress of Berlin's long-overdue Brandenburg airport





More than four years ago, Berlin should have had a brilliant new airport... but it never happened. The delayed opening of the capital's Brandenburg airport has become an embarrassment both for Berliners and Germany as a whole.

DELAYED LAUNCH

Although nothing is set in stone, the earliest the new airport could open is sometime in 2017. The project has been postponed several times during the past few years because of a host of safety and construction issues.

Brandenburg airport chief executive Hartmut Mehdorn, who has been overseeing the troubled project for the past couple of years, is to stand down in June, to be replaced by former Rolls-Royce executive Karsten Muhlenfeld.

In the meantime, Berlin's existing airports at Tegel (the main international facility) and Schönefeld (primarily used by low-cost carriers) have had to make do as best they can. Both were set to close at the same time that Brandenburg opened, so they have outdated facilities requiring many improvements. With the growth of international travellers, they have also become overcrowded and, in the case of Tegel, badly in need of refurbishment.

To this end, €20 million will now be spent on renovations at Tegel airport to keep it operating for another few years – which is welcome news for frequent business travellers. Berlin is not only short of airport capacity – it is also short on long-haul services.

ABANDONED CAPITAL

Almost all long-haul carriers shun the city. It is not considered a place to earn serious

money – a result of the capital's troubled past, during which Germany's industrial and business bases located to other cities.

Flag carrier Lufthansa does not fly long-haul from Berlin, instead restricting its "core brand" to its Frankfurt and Munich hubs, where passengers must change for destinations further afield.

The main scheduled long-haul carriers serving the city are Air Berlin (which is 30 per cent owned by Etihad), Qatar Airways and United. Aeropolitical issues restrict Emirates from flying there.

POPULAR TEGEL

Tegel is the airport most likely to be used by business people. Located in the former Western zone, it is a short taxi ride – about 10km – from the city centre. While there is no rail station, buses run to both the west and east of the city.



Almost all long-haul carriers shun the city. It is not considered a place to earn serious money

Tegel is constructed in a hexagonal shape. The advantage is that if you arrive by car, you are virtually at your departure gate, so walking distances are very short.

The drawback is that Tegel was built for the Cold War era, when the city's air transport was controlled by the Soviets and was a fraction of what it is today. As a consequence, gate space is limited, which results in overcrowding.

TAKING AFTER ITS ELDER BROTHER

Schönefeld was located in former East Germany and Brandenburg airport will occupy its airfield. It will have a new terminal, a hotel (built and ready for business when the airport opens), a train station that will be

linked to the existing mainline, and a new runway.

There is already a rail station at Schönefeld, which is a five-minute covered walk from the terminal. Regular Airport Express trains reach Alexanderplatz in 30 minutes and Zoologischer Garten in 45 minutes. There is also a frequent but slower S-Bahn service. Schönefeld is roughly 18km from downtown, depending on which part of the city you need to access, so taxi fares can be on the pricey side.

GERMANY'S THIRD LARGEST

When Brandenburg opens it will be Germany's third-biggest airport, although its annual capacity of 27 million passengers means it will be almost full from day one,

so additional space will be required in the not-too-distant future.

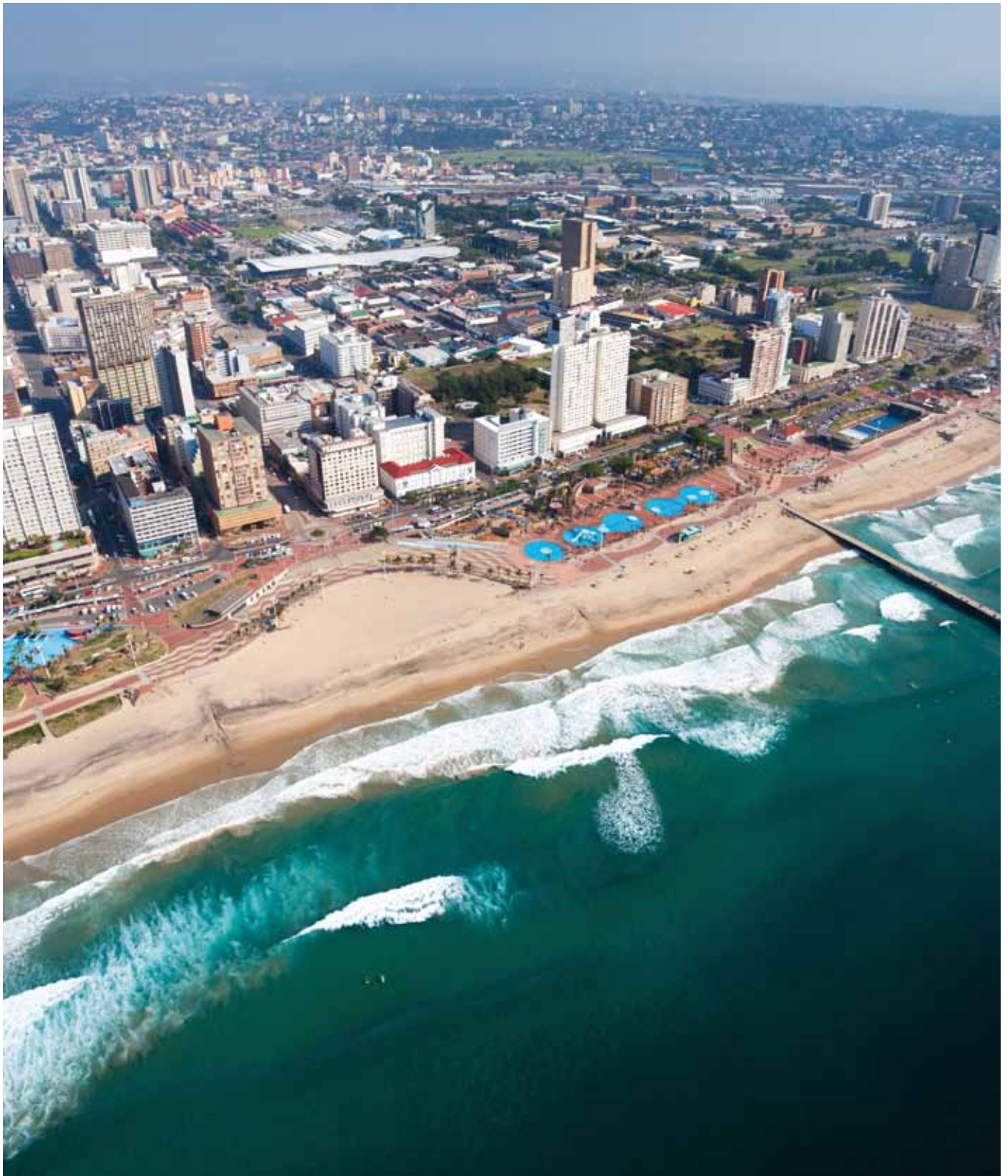
Passengers will find that using Brandenburg will offer a brighter, more welcoming experience than at present.

Although it will take longer to reach the centre compared with Tegel, the train journey will be easier than when using Schönefeld, and the first-class hotel will provide a much-needed facility (neither airport currently has an on-site hotel).

Aviation is a fast-changing business, so one cannot make predictions so far ahead with any certainty. Nevertheless, one would hope that in a few years' time Brandenburg would be able to attract some new airlines to reflect its status as the main airport serving the capital of Germany.

When Brandenburg opens it will be Germany's third-biggest airport, although its annual capacity of 27 million passengers means it will be almost full from day one, so additional space will be required in the not-too-distant future.





GIANT LEAP

Five years after hosting the World Cup, Durban has become a better place for business, reports **Jenny Southan**

Clipped into a harness, it takes about 20 minutes to climb the 500 steps to the top of Durban's Moses Mabhida stadium.

Halfway through the ascent, I watch a man grappling with a palpable fear of bungee jumping off it – he seems paralysed as he stares down at the pitch 80 metres below. Built in 2009 for the 2010 FIFA World Cup, the views from the summit are stunning. I can see the surging Indian Ocean and high-rises of downtown on one side, and a confluence of train lines arriving at the city's central station on the other.

NEW LIFE OF THE CITY

The influx of half a million football fans five years ago incentivised authorities to give the South African city a facelift.

In addition to the 70,000-seat stadium, the beachside promenade was extended to an 8km strip that can be walked, run or cycled all the way from the Point in the south to Blue Lagoon in the north. The coast is popular with surfers as shores are wide and sandy, the waves are huge and shark nets have been in place since the 1950s.

A new airport for the province of KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) – King Shaka International – was also unveiled for the occasion, 30 minutes up the coast in La Mercy. Meanwhile, many of the old warehouses and residences around the Point were restored, new buses and taxi ranks introduced, malls built and hotels opened.

Back down on the ground (there was no way I was brave enough to jump), I speak to James Seymour, chief executive of Durban KZN National Convention Bureau, who has been showing me around.

"All along the seafront were big screens showing the soccer – it had this incredible carnival atmosphere," he recalls. "Today, in North Beach we can set up a 10,000-capacity marquee for conventions, and we have one of the biggest annual leisure trade shows, Indaba [taking place next month], that puts on a beach party for 8,000 people," he says.

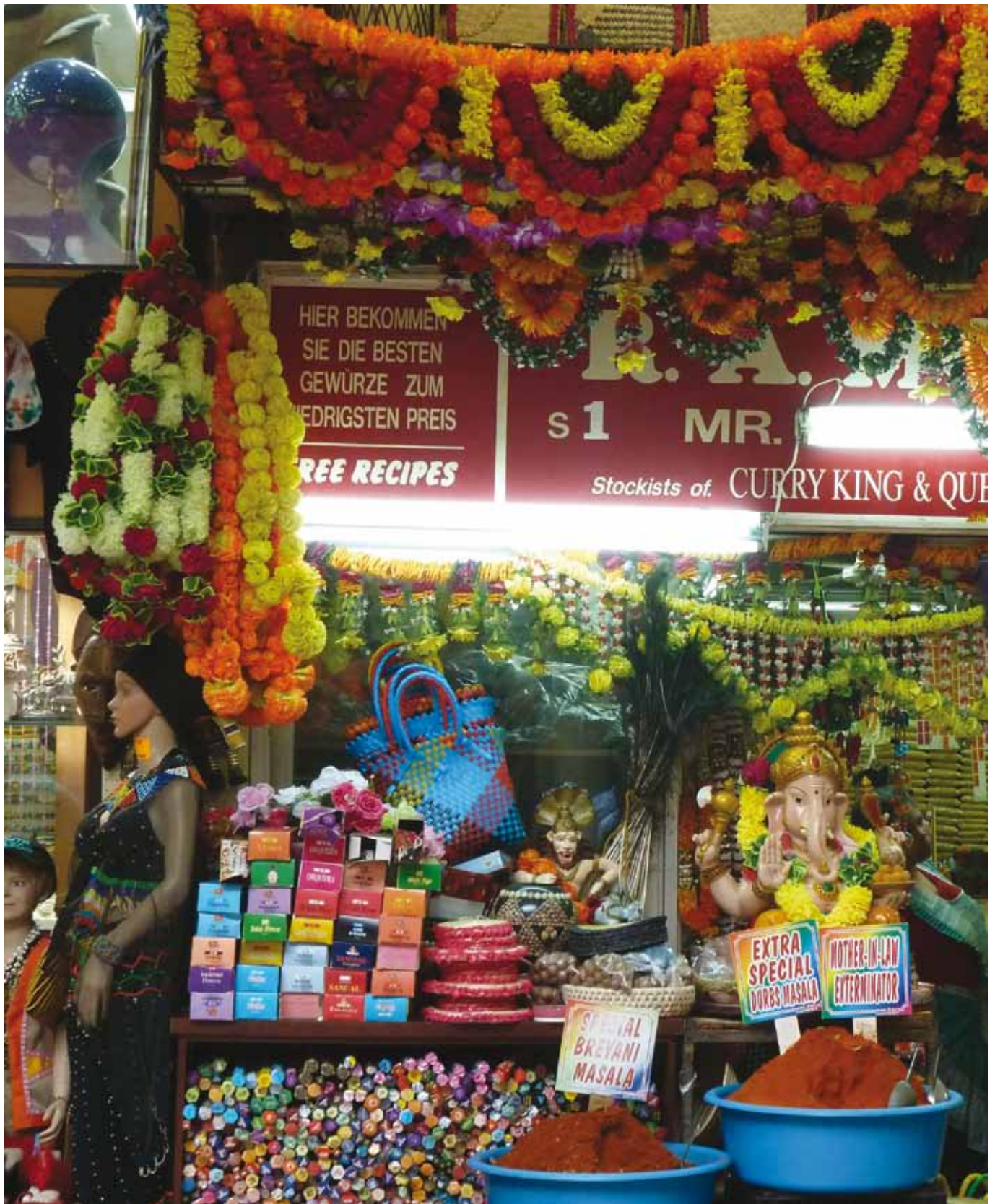
In 2007, the International Convention Centre (ICC) was doubled in size to offer 33,000 sqm of exhibition space. Next year, Durban will welcome 20,000 people for the biannual International AIDS Conference, becoming the only city in the world to have done so twice.

Seymour says: "We can close the roads around the site to create a convention precinct – you can't do that in Cape Town or Jo'burg – and we have a stock of 15,000 hotel rooms for delegates, with about 3,600 in walking distance of the ICC."



In addition to the 70,000-seat stadium, the beachside promenade was extended to an 8km strip that can be walked, run or cycled all the way from the Point in the south to Blue Lagoon in the north.





These days, about 70 per cent of Durban's 3.5 million people are black Africans, while roughly 10 per cent are white and 20 per cent are Asian – the city has the largest Indian community in the world outside of India.



Local chain Tsogo Sun has nine properties in the city, with the Southern Sun Elangeni and Maharani being the biggest, with 734 rooms.

HOTEL PARADISE

Hilton Hotels and Resorts and Holiday Inn Express have hotels here, while Marriott is integrating Protea into its portfolio, but other than that there aren't many international brands.

Local chain Tsogo Sun has nine properties in the city, with the Southern Sun Elangeni and Maharani being the biggest, with 734 rooms. Two of the most established hotels are in the northerly neighbourhood of Umhlanga – Tsogo Sun's Beverly Hills, which celebrated its 50th anniversary last year, and the 86-room Oyster Box next door. Both are high-end properties offering sea-facing rooms, outdoor pools and excellent service.

The area has also become Durban's new commercial and entertainment hub.

On a tour of the Oyster Box, I am told of the numerous film stars who have stayed here over the years, and meet Hendry Pakere, maître d' of the Grill Room, who has worked at the property since he was a 13-year-old slave.

HARD PAST

It's a startling reminder of South Africa's divided past, and makes me think of the old

prison wall outside the ICC, where a giant mural illustrates the country's 1994 Interim Bill of Rights: the right to freedom from discrimination; the right to vote in secret; the right to a fair trial; the list goes on...

These days, about 70 per cent of Durban's 3.5 million people are black Africans, while roughly 10 per cent are white and 20 per cent are Asian – the city has the largest Indian community in the world outside of India.

Joanne Hayes, founder of Tumbleweed Communications, a PR company based in the city, says: "The British tried to get the Zulus to work on the sugar plantations but they wouldn't, they thought it was beneath them. So they brought the Indians over on the condition that they would be paid well – but of course it didn't turn out like that. They couldn't get back home and were forced to stay."

What about the Zulus? They have traditional homesteads but also second homes in Durban where they work in the week. They are Westernised but very proud of their culture, marrying in the Christian way but still keen to celebrate in the traditional way – they will slaughter an ox and sometimes celebrations will go on for many days.

Travel info

WHERE TO EAT

● **Capicum** Hotel Britannia's restaurant is a good place to sample Durban's must-try signature dish, bunny chow. It is a little off the beaten track but its bunnies are worth it. The meal is a hefty one – half a loaf of white bread, hollowed out and filled with curry (mutton is traditional) – and was created by the city's Indian community in the 1940s. (If you are in London and want to try it, the recently opened Bunnychow diner in Soho serves slightly smaller, more refined versions – visit bunnychow.com.)

Open daily 7am-9.30pm (Mon-Tues 8.30pm). 1,299 Umgeni Road; tel +27 313 032 266; hotel-brits.co.za

● **Ninth Avenue Bistro** For stand-out cuisine and great craft beer, the chic Ninth Avenue Bistro is worth going out of your way for. Its seasonal menu is deliciously innovative – try specials such as pig's head terrine with crispy squid and fermented beetroot; and smoked ostrich. Open 12pm-2.30pm Tues-Fri, 6pm-9.30pm Mon-Sat. Shop 2 Avonmore Centre, Ninth Avenue; tel +27 313 129 134; 9thavenuebistro.co.za

● **The Oyster Box** The hotel's beautiful Ocean Terrace is always abuzz with guests and regulars. There is a varied menu (salads, pasta, pizza and gourmet hotdogs), but it's the curry buffet that is famous. For R270 (£15) you can make as many trips as you want to fill up on freshly made tandoori chicken, creamy dhal and fragrant masalas, vindaloos and biryans.

Open daily 7.30am-10.30am, 12pm-3pm, 6pm-10.30pm. 2 Lighthouse Road, Umhlanga; tel +27 315 145 018; oysterboxhotel.com

● **Little Havana** Up the road from the Oyster Box, in gentrified Umhlanga, is Little Havana. Opened in 2012, it is a feast for carnivores – there is an in-house butcher and staff bring out platters of juicy cuts for diners to choose from. All the beef is hormone-free, free range and grass fed. There is also a good selection of South African wine, and in fine weather you can sit out on the veranda. Open daily 12pm-5pm, then 6pm until late. 16 Chartwell Drive; tel; +27 315 617 589; littlehavana.co.za

● **Moyo Ushaka** To get a flavour of Durban's beachlife, head to Moyo, which has a restaurant with al fresco seating (attached to Ushaka Marine World) and a bar on a pier over the sea.

A relatively casual affair, the food is tasty and portions huge. Exotic highlights include crocodile pies, fried mopane worms (hand-picked in the wild), Nigerian koftas with chakalaka relish, and warthog potjiekos (hot pot). Open daily 11am-11pm (from 8am at weekends). 1 Bell Street, Ushaka Marine World; tel +27 313 320 606; moyo.co.za/moyo-ushaka



Durban has the busiest cargo port on the continent – you only have to look out to sea to spot the hulking container ships.



If you have some free time, it's an experience to venture into the Zulu medicine (muthi) market. Here you will find an ominous collection of shacks and stalls selling stacks of tree bark, the hides of protected animals, snake skins, bones, bird skulls, herbs, coloured powders and even the odd dried-up monkey carcass. (Don't try to photograph the healers, though – they don't like it.)

INVESTMENT IDEAS

In terms of industry, Durban has the busiest cargo port on the continent – you only have to look out to sea to spot the hulking container ships – and, in 2012, it was announced that state company Transnet had bought the old airport site in a R100 billion deal (£5.5 billion) to turn it into a dug-out port by 2020. Work on a new passenger terminal for cruise ships is also due to start soon.

In addition, the city is a major manufacturing hub with companies as diverse as Toyota, Sumitomo (tyres), Aspen (pharmaceuticals), AECI (explosives and speciality chemicals) and Unilever (sustainable dry food). According to the 2014 Africa Wealth Report report from research company New World Wealth, Durban is forging high-net worth individuals quicker than anywhere else in the country.

Outside Durban, near the airport, is a growing "aerotropolis" known as Dube Tradeport. It incorporates Dube City, an "ultra green hub" for offices, shops, hotels and restaurants; the Trade Zone for freight forwarders and shippers; the Cargo Terminal; and the Agri Zone, described as "the most technologically advanced future farming platform on the continent", growing salad, vegetables and flowers under glass.

Last summer it was announced that Samsung Electronics was to open a TV manufacturing plant at Dube Tradeport by 2018. With an array of varied landscapes – the beach, the bush, the battlefields and the Drakensberg mountains – the film industry is a growing contributor to the economy. Toni Monty, chief executive of the Durban Film Office, says: "We generate about R330 million [£17.9 million] annually compared with R5.4 billion [£294 million] for Cape Town, so it is fairly small, but there have been plans for years to build a big studio here.

"The country's biggest independent producer, Video Vision Entertainment, which did the Mandela film *Long Walk to Freedom*, has secured a big empty plot of land next to the Suncoast Casino so we hope to see it arrive in the next five years."

Since the World Cup, it would seem Durban is scoring big.



WŁOCHY



WYKAZ MIKROKRAJÓW

12 dni

WYKAZ MIKROKRAJÓW

Programy turystyczne obejmujące: wycieczki, noclegi, wyżywienie, ubezpieczenie, transfer lotniczy, ubezpieczenie turystyczne, ubezpieczenie od kradzieży i uszkodzenia bagażu, ubezpieczenie od odroczenia wylotu.

1549 zł/os

WYKAZ MIKROKRAJÓW

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WYKAZ MIKROKRAJÓW

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2589 zł/os

Wyjazd w dniach 12-14 września 2024 r.



1659 zł/os

WYKAZ MIKROKRAJÓW 12 dni
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2099 zł/os

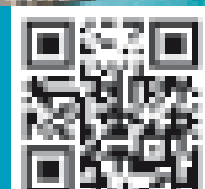
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JACK & BURGER

world's burgers in Sheraton and Westin hotel restaurants



**FOR MORE INFORMATION
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www.spgpolska.pl

Sheraton hotels in Warsaw, Cracow, and Poznań, as well as Westin Warsaw, will soon tempt beef lovers with their new offer of burgers from various parts of the world. The menu created by Artur Grajber, the head chef of Sheraton Warsaw, features premium burgers with toppings that are characteristic of countries by which they were inspired. The Jack & Burger offer will be available until the end of May. The menu features as many as seven burgers from Poland, Australia, Italy and Croatia – each filled with juicy beef and

the best ingredients specific to individual regions.

“I wanted to add a little more variety to a traditional burger, so I thought that presenting it from different geographical perspectives can be truly interesting. That’s why, we have created several burgers – each comprising ingredients that are typical of a given country. For example, Romano is served on a bun with dried tomatoes, herbs and grana padano cheese, Dalmatia is full of summer memories and the taste of Croatian cevapcici, while Veggy Burger was inspired by the flavours of In-

dia,” says Artur Grajber, the head chef at Sheraton Warsaw. Hamburger aficionado should definitely try Monteverest – probably the biggest burger in Poland. It consists almost 500 grams of juicy Polish seasoned beef, enrobed in grilled oscypek cheese, bacon and tartar sauce.

HISTORY OF THE HAMBURGER

Hamburger as a dish and a word derives from German city of Hamburg. Everything started with Hamburg beefsteak, that is hand chopped beef patty. The dish was then brought



to the US by immigrants from Germany, and the whole America has gone crazy about it. In 1904, a potter named Fletcher Davis, who also ran a bar in Texas, came up with an idea to serve the Hamburg beefsteak with lettuce, mustard and mayo to guests visiting pottery exhibitions.

A typical hamburger is a flat meat patty made of chopped or minced beef, which is then grilled or barbecued. According to the original recipe, the meat should be seasoned only with salt, pepper, and mustard,

but for years the recipe has evolved, providing burger lovers with new taste sensations. What's interesting - the famous steak from Hamburg didn't include a bun.

Meat used for a perfect burger can't be too lean, because it's not fried on fat. The burger's natural fat makes it juicy, plump, and soft. The ideal meat for hamburgers is entrecote, which isn't as delicate as sirloin. And one last thing - a real hamburger must be cooked on a grill or barbecue - never fried in a pan.

JACK & BURGER IN SHERATON AND WESTIN HOTELS

Until the end of May in Some-Place Else at Sheraton hotels in Warsaw, Cracow and Poznań, as well as JP's Bar at Westin will serve Jack & Burger menu. The offer features seven burgers, including the Italian style Romano, Surf & Turf inspired by Australia or Dalmatia from Croatia. The offered burgers cost from PLN 24 to PLN 39, while the largest one – Monteverest with its name inspired by the world's highest mountain, costs PLN 69.

Meat used for a perfect burger can't be too lean, because it's not fried on fat. The burger's natural fat makes it juicy, plump, and soft.



MERCURE IN THE VERY HEART OF GDYNIA



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The modernized Mercure Gdynia Centrum is another hotel of the brand on the Polish coast. With its excellent locations and an extensive conference offer, it's ideally suited to the needs of those who visit Tri-City both for business and leisure.

LOCALLY AND IN A REFINED MANNER

Around the world Mercure hotels are known to combine high quality of service with local history, alluding through their design and menu to the traditions of cities where they are located. Following a thorough makeover, Mercure Gdynia Centrum boasts décor inspired by nauti-

cal themes and sailing. Public areas and guest rooms feature images of boats and sails, while the names of meeting venues have been taken from yacht classes. Some business rooms, in turn, draw inspiration from movies and filming locations, referring to the most famous Polish film festival that is held in Gdynia. The changes can also be seen in the hotel restaurant with the introduction of Winestone concept. It's based around the idea that traditional hotel catering can be replaced with original wine bars that are becoming more and more popular in Poland. The main pillars of the concept are: wine collection that has been carefully selected by experienced som-

meliers, as well as dishes served on les planches – stone boards, as it's done in the trendiest French restaurants. The restaurant offers a unique selection of wines at reasonable prices, from French gems, through Mediterranean varieties, to interesting wines produced by small family winemakers from Chile, RSA, New Zealand, or even Cracow. In addition to high-quality alcoholic beverages, you can find here delicious dishes composed with fresh ingredients that come mostly from local producers. The restaurant also serves genuine Dutch Matias herring, roasted tomato soup, and more traditional meat dishes from Polish pork, beef and duck, as well as Italian specialties.

BUSINESS AND LEISURE

Mercurie Gdynia Centrum offers 294 smoke-free guest rooms of different categories. You can choose among Privilege, Standard and Family rooms, as well as luxury suites. There are also several rooms that have been adapted for the disabled guests. What's more, the hotel is pet-friendly. Another advantage of the property is its huge conference space with a total of 1,400 sqm. It comprises 14 modern conference rooms which are equipped with flipchart boards, AV equipment, professional sound system and of course WiFi. The centre is suitable for a variety of events, from large, professional conferences for up to 700 people, to private business meetings and workshops. Of course, the 3-star property would be incomplete without a good fitness and wellness centre with an indoor pool, sauna and a solarium. There's no doubt that with such facilities the hotel is an ideal offer for both business and leisure travellers.

IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

The hotel stands out not only with its comfortable and original interiors, but also with an ideal and unique location. Mercurie Gdynia Centre is located in the very heart of this modern city, just one kilometre from the main railway station and 100 metres from the city beach with its Feliks Nowowiejski Seaside Boulevard. The boulevard is one of the most popular pedestrian venues in Tri-City and a major tourist attraction of Gdynia. Inaugurated in 1969, extends from the beach in the city center, between the coastline of the Puck and the Stone mountains and Kępa Redłowska, to the beach in Redłowie. However, before you choose a walk along the boulevard, you can stop at the city's marina to admire beautiful yachts that are moored there. Those who wish experience a cultural feast in Gdynia, will be glad to discover the nearby



The hotel stands out not only with its comfortable and original interiors, but also with an ideal and unique location.



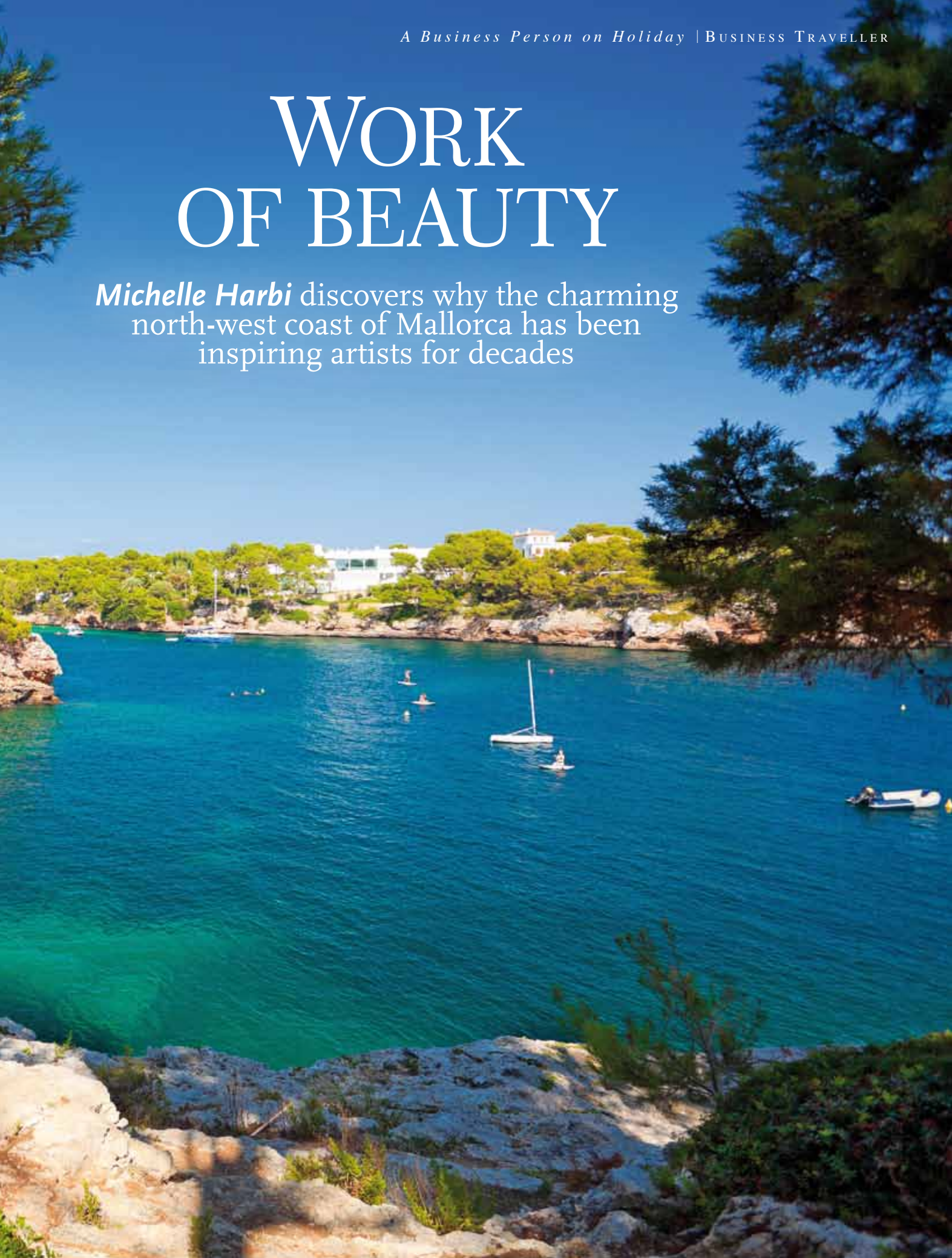
Baduszkowa Musical Theatre that features a plethora of performance both for children and adults. Other attractions include Gdynia Aquarium as well as museum ships of Dar Pomorza (sailing ship) and ORP

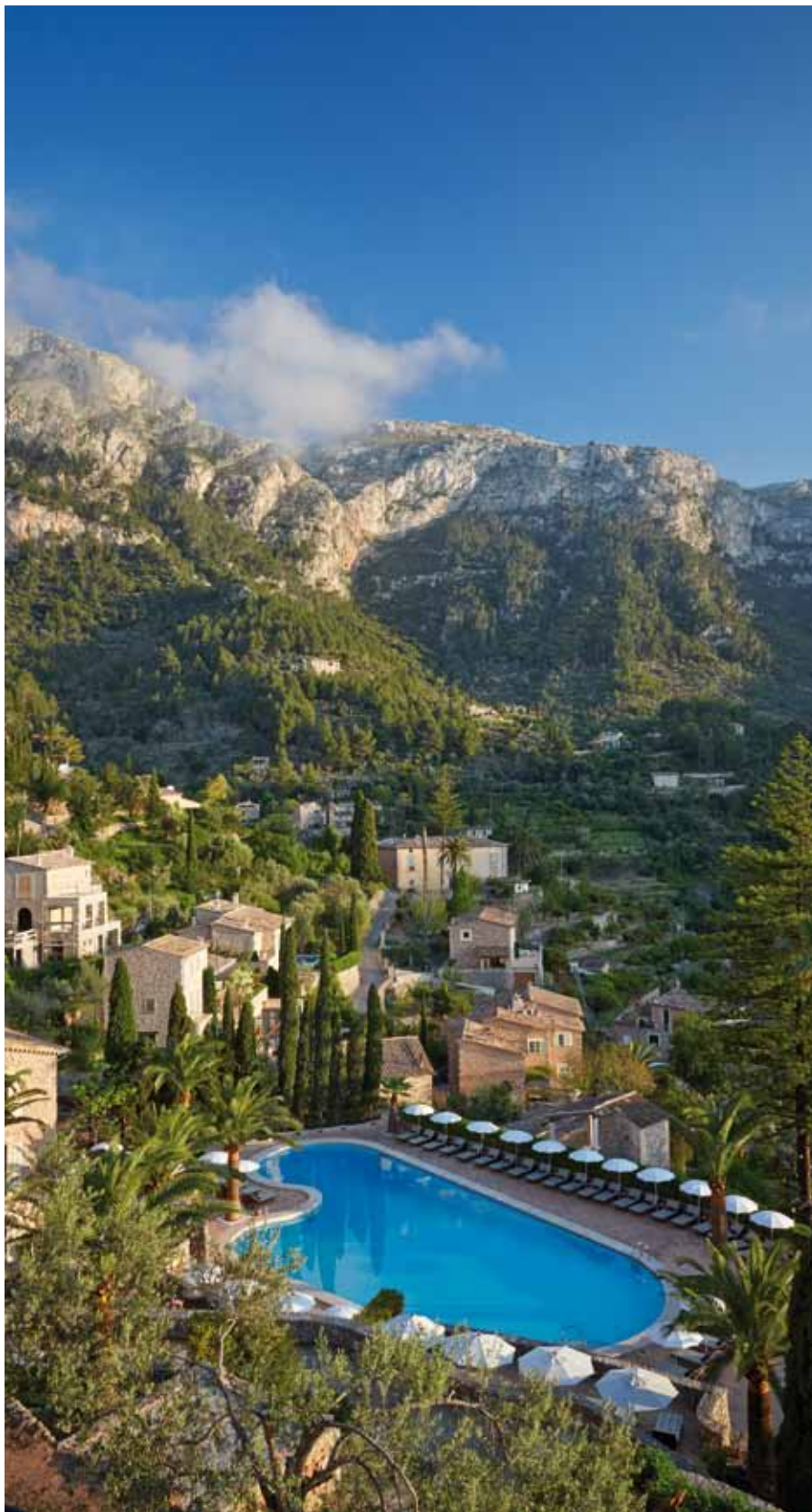
Błyskawica destroyer (destroyer). If you are in Gdynia with your family, you should also visit EXPERYMENT Science Centre, and the newly opened the European Centre of Solidarity in Gdańsk.



WORK OF BEAUTY

Michelle Harbi discovers why the charming north-west coast of Mallorca has been inspiring artists for decades





In recent times, Deia has become popular with celebrities. Many of them own houses in the village and use it as a retreat from the high life.

As the sun disappears behind the mountains, we watch as the fading light casts a yellow haze over the rock face and turns the thick pine forest ever deeper shades of green. Opposite, honey-coloured limestone houses stack steeply up the hillside, their painted shutters open to let in the last of the day. From the top of the village, the church bell tolls.

THE VILLAGE OF ARTISTS

The north-west Mallorcan village of Deia is certainly pretty as a picture, so it's no surprise to learn that it has attracted artists for decades, many of whom came to holiday here and ended up settling, captivated by the light, the landscape and the lifestyle.

Set in the Tramuntana mountains, which run the length of the island's north coast, this former Moorish settlement – its name comes from the Arabic word for village – has been a magnet for bohemians since the 19th century. British poet Robert Graves moved here with his mistress in 1929, and in the fifties and sixties a community of painters, musicians and writers built up around him. More recently, Deia has attracted the celebrity set, many of whom own houses in the village and use it as a retreat from the high life.

Graves is buried in the church cemetery, while on the outskirts of the village, the house in which he wrote *I, Claudius*, looking out to the Mediterranean amidst olive and orange trees, is now a museum to his work (lacasaderobertrgraves.org). Another writer, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, is said to have penned *One Hundred Years of Solitude* while staying here.

UNFORGETTABLE SUNSETS

Our vantage point as we watch the sunset is our room in *Belmond La Residencia*, in the heart of the village. A former olive estate, parts of which date back to the 15th century, it has been a hotel for 30 years and was once owned by Richard Branson. Refined yet rustic, it's a wonderful spot for a peaceful break, as well as a good base for exploring Deia's art scene, of which it is very much a part.

The property's gallery, *Sa Tafona*, stages exhibitions by artists with links to the area, while the impressive collection of its curator, Cecilie Sheridan, which numbers more than 800 pieces, is on display through the property's public spaces, grounds and 67 guestrooms. There is both an artist and

a sculptor in residence, who run classes, and a weekly “walk and talk” art tour takes guests to local studios.

Stephanie Moog, a German artist, accompanies us on the tour. She first came to the area when her mother asked her to join her for a visit, and unexpectedly fell in love with it. “It’s the light and the smells – they’re incredible,” she tells us.

First, we drop in on the studio of artist-in-residence Alan Hydes – on the door is tacked a photo of a previous visitor, Leonardo DiCaprio. The walls are lined with vibrant still lifes and landscapes, and Hydes, a Yorkshireman, shows us a commission he is working on for local homeowner Andrew Lloyd Webber.

PICTURESQUE YET EXPENSIVE

“Deia has become the place to be in the 14 years I’ve been here,” Hydes tells us. “That means people with a lot of money come.” A few glances in the windows of the village estate agents confirm the effect on the prices of property here – for a moment we think we’re back in London.



The western part of Mallorca attracts not only artists but hikers, drawn to the terrain of the Tramuntana range.

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Moog takes us to her own home, filled with dreamlike works inspired by her family, before we head up steep pathways to visit Arturo Rhodes, who creates surreal paintings from his retreat in the hills.

After our morning of art, we descend steep, rocky tracks to Cala Deia, a small shingle beach set in a secluded cove, and swim in the calm waters.

Other than drinking a cerveza in the local bar, Sa Fonda, browsing the few boutiques, and visiting the 15th-century church – filled with the soaring notes of a soprano rehearsing for a show when we popped in – there is not a huge amount to do in the village itself, which makes more time for enjoying the hotel. We snooze poolside, wander through the sculpture garden and have a wonderful meal in fine-dining restaurant El Olivo, housed in the former olive press.

IN THE SHADE OF SERRA DE TRAMUNTANA

This part of Mallorca attracts not only artists but hikers, drawn to the terrain of the Tramuntana range. A popular route is to walk from Deia to Port de Soller, an attractive resort town about 12km up the coast. It takes two and a half hours on foot, but we choose the easier option of a taxi, which de-

posits us at the Jumeirah Port Soller Hotel and Spa, our base for the next part of our Mallorcan break.

Open since 2012, the luxury new-build looks down on the sweeping curve of the bay from its clifftop position, and it is here that some of the island's most spectacular views can be had. All 120 of the well-designed guestrooms overlook the mountains or the Mediterranean, as do the pools, spa, cocktail bar and restaurant terraces.

On our sea-facing balcony, we settle down again to watch the sunset – we are in the Balearics, after all – and it is equally captivating, the sky a wash of yellows and pinks as night descends, the water shimmering gold. When the show's over, we head down to Cap Roig restaurant and dine on plump, juicy Soller prawns and flavoursome Iberian ham, washing it down with a good bottle of Rioja.

PORT DE SOLLER

The next day, after a dip in the infinity pool, we take the short but steep walk down to town – the hotel runs a shuttle service should the climb up be less appealing – and stroll the expansive promenade. There are a couple of beaches and a large number of bars and eateries with terraces – such as

Cava, which serves up excellent tapas and a wide selection of gins.

From here, a century-old wooden tram runs 5km inland to the historic town of Soller itself. The verdant orange groves en route point to how Soller made its money – it became a major exporter of the fruit in the 19th century, the result of which can be seen in its modernist architecture and grand houses.

Here, too, there is an artistic vibe. Along the main street, Sa Lluna, are galleries displaying imaginative paintings and sculptures, and shops selling exquisite hand-crafted jewellery and gifts.

Further up is the Can Prunera museum of modernism (canprunera.com). The beautiful art nouveau building it is housed in is as much an artwork as the collection, which includes pieces by Cézanne, Man Ray and Diego Rivera.

Even the rail station houses permanent exhibitions by Picasso and Jean Miro. The Picasso room displays about 50 ceramic pieces by the Malaga master, while the Miro gallery features colourful works honouring Gaudi and the artist's own grandfather, who was born in Soller. In this part of Mallorca, inspiration is to be found wherever you look.





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A BITE OF THE APPLE

Seen New York's major sights before? **Michelle Harbi** suggests alternative pitstops for the seasoned visitor

If you've been to the cultural heavyweights of Museum Mile on previous trips, cross the park to the Upper West Side to discover the wonderful New York Historical Society.

The city's oldest museum, it was founded in 1804 and explores the political, cultural and social life of New York and the US through its collection of more than 1.6 million artworks and 40,000 objects.

A stirring film provides a potted history of the city's rises and falls, while the "New York and the Nation" display contains everything from War of Independence artefacts to part of a fire truck destroyed on 9/11. Other areas of the museum showcase paint-

ings, sculptures, furniture and textiles spanning four centuries, as well as temporary exhibitions.

Open Tues-Sat 10am-6pm (Fri 8pm), Sun 11am-5pm; entry US\$19. 170 Central Park West at 77th Street; nyhistory.org

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

Central Park isn't the city's only green lung – in the Bronx, the New York Botanical Garden makes for an equally relaxing break from the bustle (take the train from Grand Central).

Covering more than 100 hectares and inspired by Kew Gardens, it contains more than a million plants and 30,000 trees. Wandering

the vast terrain of forest and garden, it's easy to forget you're in a major metropolis.

Open Tues-Sun 10am-6pm; entry US\$20. 2,900 Southern Blvd; nybg.org

MANHATTAN BY SAIL

You may have sailed New York Harbour before, but have you ever done it in a 82-foot 1920s schooner? Swap the city's prolific ferries for a trip on the Shearwater yacht, a recognised national landmark that has circled the globe and now takes 48 passengers at a time out on the water.

Departing up to three times daily from North Cove marina, it's well placed if you have meetings in the financial district and



is a great way to take in the changing Lower Manhattan skyline. This year's season kicks off on April 24.

From US\$45 for 90 minutes; manhattanby-sail.com

MINTON'S

New York has countless options for evening entertainment, although you may not often have thought of going as far north as Harlem. You're missing out if you don't make a trip to Minton's, though.

Founded in 1938, it was one of the city's most important jazz clubs, where bebop was born and the likes of Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie and Billie Holiday performed.

Reborn in 2013 as a supper club with live entertainment, you can enjoy fantastic music from the house band and visiting players, while dining on gourmet "Southern Revival" cuisine.

Open Tues-Thurs 6pm-11pm; Fri-Sat until 3am; Sun 12pm-4pm, 5pm-10pm. 206 West 118th Street; tel +1 212 243 2222; minton-sharlem.com

BROOKLYN WINERY

Williamsburg in Brooklyn might not be the obvious place to set up a winery, but that didn't stop owners Brian Leventhal and John Stires.

From their industrial-chic premises, open since 2010, winemaker Conor McCormack produces 16 small-batch reds, whites and rosés – the friendly team can take you on a tour and talk you through a tasting. You can then settle down with your favourite over some sharing plates in the bar.

Open daily 5pm-11pm (unless hired for private events, check website before visiting). 213 North Eighth Street; tel +1 347 763 1506; bkwinery.com

Travel info

WHERE TO EAT

- **Maze** by Gordon Ramsay Located in the London NYC hotel, Ramsay's New York outpost serves up inventive dishes in a relaxed David Collins-designed setting. Open for breakfast, lunch, dinner and brunch. There's spacious, comfortable accommodation upstairs too. 151 West 54th Street; tel +1 212 468 8898; thelondonnyc.com/gordonramsay
- **Porter House** Superb service and seriously good steaks in an elegant space overlooking Central Park. Located on the fourth floor of the Time Warner Centre on Columbus Circle. Tel +1 212 823 9500; porterhousenewyork.com Visit nycgo.com for more information

ARABIAN MASTERPIECE

The Louvre Abu Dhabi is due to open at the end of the year.
Tom Otley finds out what's in store for visitors

Abu Dhabi wants to attract cultured travellers, and it is pulling out all the stops to ensure there are world-class venues and exhibits for them to visit.

The Norman Foster-designed Zayed National Museum will open in 2016, and a Guggenheim, designed by Frank Gehry and 12 times the size of Frank Lloyd Wright's original in New York, will follow in 2018. Before either of those, however, the Louvre Abu Dhabi is scheduled to open at the end of this year.

UNIQUE BUILDING

Designed by Jean Nouvel, the building will certainly be the match of any flagship museum worldwide. The white dome is 180 metres in diameter, and has geometric openings inspired by the interlaced palm leaves used as roofing in traditional houses, the gaps controlling the light and temperature inside. The interior will be illuminated by scattered beams of light mimicking the en-

vironment created by traditional mashrabiya latticework.

Underneath the dome, Nouvel is recreating an Arabic cityscape, with a promenade passing through clusters of low-rise buildings with



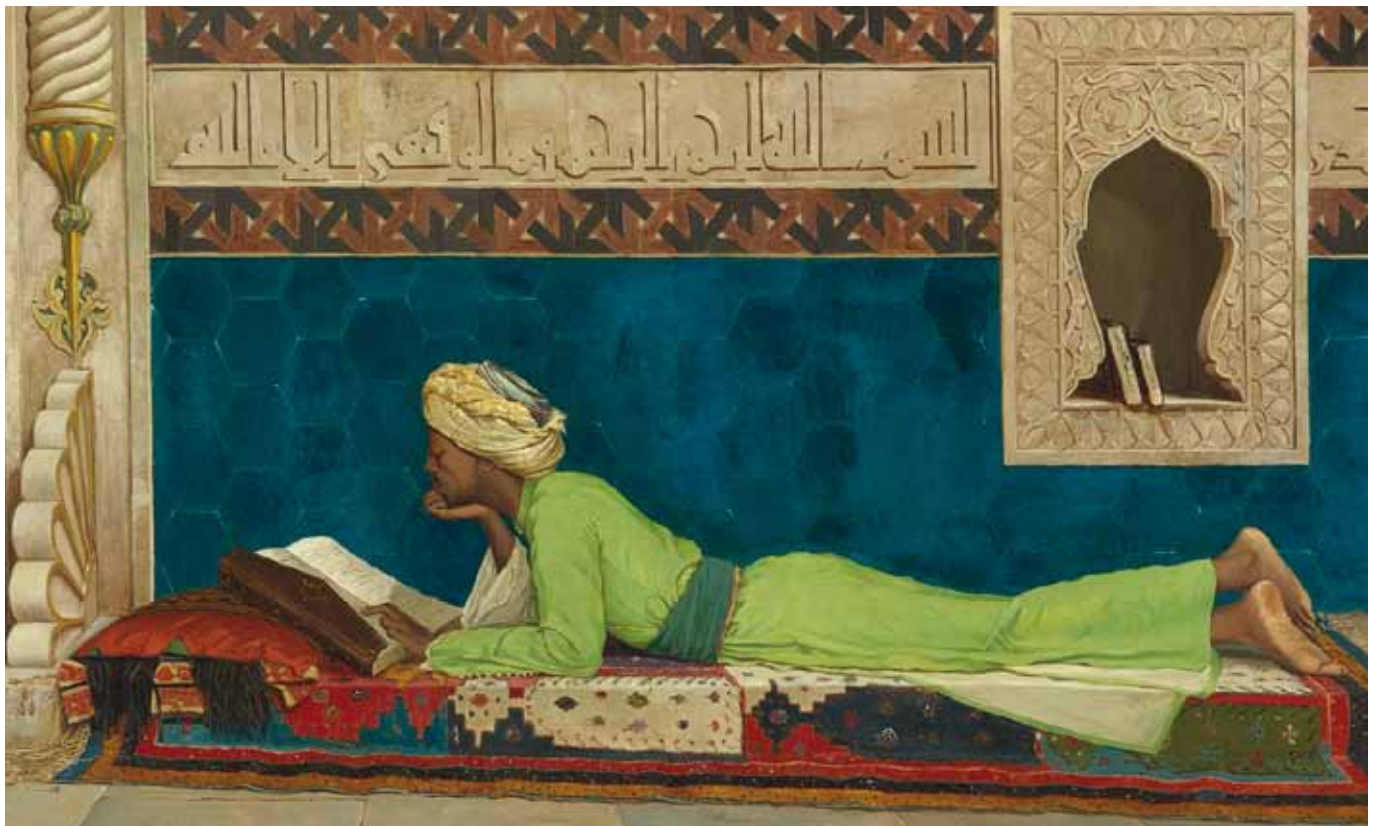
diverse façades, "creating a shifting, varied, poetic experience for visitors and a contrast to the strict geometry and high ceilings of the galleries inside," the museum says.

DA VINCI, TITIAN, WARHOL

The Louvre is taking more than just the name of its Parisian counterpart. An extensive training programme for staff has been ongoing, and many of the items on display will be on loan from French cultural institutions such as the Musée d'Orsay and Musée de Quai Branly, as well as the Louvre.

Visitors will walk through four major periods chronologically: archaeology and the birth of civilisation; Medieval days and the birth of Islam; the Classical period from Humanism to Enlightenment; and modern and contemporary art.

As they do, they will take in everything from ancient Roman, Egyptian and Chinese sculptures to works by da Vinci, Titian, Monet, Rodin, Van Gogh and Warhol. louvreabudhabi.ae





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IMPERIAL DINING

Marc Bennetts samples the delights of Russia's second city – from posh pancakes to horseradish vodka.

When eating out in St Petersburg, you are guaranteed a picturesque walk to your meal. From traditional Russian cuisine in the impressive historical centre to cosy canal-side eateries, the evocative Tsarist-era architecture only adds to the occasion. The rouble's recent collapse now means even the city's most luxurious restaurants are also suddenly a lot more affordable. Here are five places to visit.

PALKIN

Founded in 1785, this sumptuously decorated restaurant on Nevsky Prospekt has

seen some famous visitors over the years, including the writers Fyodor Dostoyevsky and Nikolai Gogol.

Frequented by a mixture of business people, wealthy locals and tourists from the nearby top-end hotels, Palkin serves high-quality, "Imperial" Russian food. Unusual fish dishes include Karelian trout poached in champagne and lemon (1,690 roubles/£18) and black cod with beetroot risotto and scallops (1,200 roubles/£13).

To really splash out, try the black caviar and wheat pancakes (6,840 roubles/£71).

Open 12pm-11.30pm daily. 47 Nevsky Prospekt; tel +7 812 703 5371; palkin.ru

BAKLAZHAN

Baklazhan serves good-quality, good-value food from across Central Asia and the Caucasus region. Located on the first floor of a busy shopping centre, a short walk from Nevsky Prospekt, the specialties in this bright and friendly restaurant include aubergine-based salads (baklazhan means "aubergine" in Russian) and Georgian food. Try the lobio (fried red beans with herbs and spices – 369 roubles/£4) or the adjarian khachapuri, a steaming hot cheese pastry with a raw egg in the middle (449 roubles/£5). The latter Georgian delicacy is a lot tastier than it sounds.

Open 10am-11pm daily. 30 Ligovsky Prospekt; tel +7 812 677 7372; en.ginza.ru/spb/restaurant/baklajan

GOGOL

St Petersburg is justifiably proud of its literary traditions, and the Gogol restaurant, just off Nevsky Prospekt, seeks to recreate the atmosphere of a 19th-century writer's apartment, as well as his dining habits.

Consisting of a number of tasteful rooms, Gogol serves some great traditional Russian dishes, from freshly salted fillet of wild Siberian whitefish served with a shot of horseradish vodka (420 roubles/£4) to chicken Kiev stuffed with foie gras, nuts and herbs (690 roubles/£7).

Gogol is popular both with tourists looking to get off the beaten trail and well-off locals. Open daily 11am-11pm (12am Fri-Sat). 8 Malaya Morskaya Street; tel +7 812 312 6097; eng.restaurant-gogol.ru



IDIOT

Named after the novel by Dostoyevsky, the Idiot restaurant has remained popular since opening in 1997.

It serves tasty, good-value traditional Russian food, with plenty of meat-free options, including ukha (fish soup – 320 roubles/£3) and pelmeni (dumplings with mushrooms – 390 roubles/£4).

Overflowing book shelves and working gramophones add to the atmosphere. A favourite with the city's artists and intellectuals, and a good place to meet English speakers, it's within walking distance of St Isaac's Cathedral and the State Hermitage Museum.

Open 11pm-1am daily. 82 Naberezhnaya Reki Moyki; tel +7 812 315 1675; idiot-spb.com



If you are seized by the need for a quality curry while in St Petersburg, don't despair – there's always Tandoor.

TANDOOR

If you are seized by the need for a quality curry while in St Petersburg, don't despair. Tandoor, founded in the late 1990s, is a veteran of the city's restaurant scene and offers tasty, well-priced Indian food in an elegant setting just around the corner from the Hermitage.

Bengali fish curry (600 roubles/£6) and rogan josh (700 roubles/£7) are among the menu's many highlights.

One word of warning – Tandoor's curries are made mild for Russian taste buds, which are largely unaccustomed to the delights of Indian cooking. So if you want your curry spicy, let the friendly staff know.

Open 11am-12am (1am at weekends).

10 Admiralteysky Prospekt; tel +7 812 312 3886; tandoor-spb.ru





SIX OF THE BEST

John Brunton reveals top places for a tippie in the Hungarian capital

Budapest boasts a vibrant 24-hour bar and café culture. From sipping a hot chocolate in an art nouveau café in the morning, or sitting out for afternoon tea on a sunny terrace, to discovering Hungarian cocktails, local wines, and innovative craft beer in one of the city's unique "ruin pubs", you won't go thirsty. Here are the best spots to head for.

BEST CAFÉ

● **Book Café** The Mitteleuropa tradition of lavish literary cafés is alive and flourishing. The most authentic address is hidden away inside the iconic art nouveau Paris Department Store, now a vast bookshop, on An-

drassy Avenue, Budapest's equivalent of the Champs-Élysées.

Locals refer to it as the Lotz Café, after the artist who painted the spectacular murals in the salon, and it's a firm favourite for afternoon tea. Despite the plush surroundings, prices are low, and an irresistible slice of sachertorte (chocolate cake) is only £1. Open daily 10am-10pm. 39 Andrassy Utca; parisi.hu

BEST WINE BAR

● **Bock Bisztró** Hungarian wine is nothing less than a revelation – not just the famous Tokaji and Bull's Blood, but Pinot Noir, Sauvignon, Riesling and Furmint, a surprising native grape.

On the ground floor of the monumental Royal Corinthia hotel – inspiration for the movie *The Grand Budapest Hotel* – renowned vigneron Josef Bock opened the cosy Bock Bisztró to showcase his own vintages, and now has a cellar of more than 200 Hungarian wines.

Sit at the bar and order a glass, or sample local charcuterie and traditional pickles.

Open Mon-Sat 12pm-12am. 43 Erzsebet Korut; bockbisztrópest.hu

BEST TERRACE

● **Gerloczy Cafe** Close to Vaci Utca, the main pedestrian shopping drag, the Gerloczy is housed in a 19th-century townhouse. The pastel-hued mansion is dwarfed by a gi-



Close to Vaci Utca, the main pedestrian shopping drag, the Gerloczy is housed in a 19th-century townhouse. The pastel-hued mansion is dwarfed by a giant elm tree that shades the café terrace.



ant elm tree that shades the café terrace. The bistro tables and chairs could be from a black-and-white French movie, and there is always an animated crowd of arty locals and expats from the moment it opens for its legendary breakfast.

Drinks range from a great tea selection to Hungarian palinka, a lethal fruit brandy made from plums, pears, apples or even beetroot, at £4 a shot. Open daily 7am-12am. 1 Gerloczy Utca; gerloczy.hu

BEST COCKTAILS

● **Boutiq Bar** The square surrounding St Stephen's Basilica is lined with hip, noisy bars, but walk one street over to the discreet Boutiq and you'll discover a seriously classy watering hole that is considered one of the world's best.

Pull up a red velvet stool at the dimly-lit bar and let the friendly mixologist talk you

through their palinka-based concoctions inspired by old cocktail books from the 1920s. Try the Puszta Cocktail 13, an intriguing mix of sweet Tokaji wine, apricot palinka and Mecsek, a Hungarian bitter.

Open Tues-Sat 6pm-2am. 5 Paulay Ede Utca; boutiqbar.hu

BEST ARTISAN BEER

● **Lehuto Craft Beer Bar** Craft beer is big in Budapest right now, with small local breweries producing brilliant artisan ales rather than lagers for mass consumption.

The best bet if you want to sample the likes of Flying Dog, Hopfanatic IPA and Pokerface Pale Ale is to head for Lehuto, a funky bar with vintage Hungarian beer posters and a hipster vibe – think exposed light-bulbs and eclectic furniture.

The bar is located in the nightlife Bermuda triangle around Gozdsu Passage.

Open daily 4pm-4am. 12 Hollo Utca; facebook.com/lehuto.kezmuvevossoro

BEST RUIN PUB

● **Szimpla Kert** Ruin pubs are a Budapest phenomenon, with abandoned factories and tenements transformed into stunning anarchic bars.

There are more than 20 dotted around the city (ruinpubs.com), but the first, and still everyone's favourite, is Szimpla Kert in the Jewish district, a labyrinth of chaotic rooms and gardens filled with flea-market furniture, artwork, and a Trabant car used as a table.

With live music, a farmer's market on Sundays and cheap drinks (£2 for a Bombay Sapphire and tonic), it is not to be missed. Open daily 12pm-4am. 14 Kazinczy Ucta; szimpla.hu

WAY OUT WEST

The extension of the MTR's Island line has given a new lease of life to three of Hong Kong's oldest neighbourhoods, says **Christopher DeWolf**



FOT: ARCHIWUM, FOTOLIA (1)

It's just past noon in Hong Kong, and the scene at Sun Hing restaurant is typically chaotic.

Customers jostle for a seat and flag down waitresses carrying steaming bamboo towers of quail egg dumplings, black sugar cake and beef balls. Construction workers share tables with students and, somehow, despite the bustle, a couple of men have managed to unfurl newspapers and retreat into the stories of the day.

Fifteen hours later, the scene is very different as packs of twentysomethings look to cap the night's reveries with post-booze dim sum. For years, Sun Hing was a symbol of working-class Kennedy Town, a no-nonsense place for yum cha (morning or afternoon tea) that was known for its exceptionally good custard buns. Now, it has become a late-night destination for young people, mirroring the neighbourhood's transformation into a trendy lifestyle destination.

NEW MTR LINE

Expect the change to accelerate. More than 30 years after the MTR's Island line first opened, a new extension has finally reached three historic neighbourhoods on the island's western edge.

With journey times to Central cut by more than half, a wave of new residents and businesses have moved into Sai Ying Pun, Shek Tong Tsui and Kennedy Town, each of which boasts a gleaming new subway station.

The MTR has been a long time coming. Government-led urban renewal projects had already been built in anticipation of the new stations, which helped to spark gentrification a few years ago.

In Sai Ying Pun, a hillside grid of apartment towers and walk-up tenements, the opening of the Island Crest luxury apartment complex and the Centre Street escalator opened the doors to an influx of upscale new enterprises.

Ground zero of the transformation is High Street, a narrow side road that has turned into a kind of restaurant row.

PARIS-STYLE RESTAURANTS

One of the earliest arrivals was Metropolitan, a bistro with décor inspired by the Paris metro. Chef Frank Lebiez oversees a menu of down-to-earth French classics such as duck confit and salmon tartare. On any given night, about a third of the customers can be heard speaking la langue de Molière, reflecting Sai Ying Pun's growing community of French expats. "It's like a village," Lebiez says.

Sai Ying Pun's rents are still affordable compared with established districts such as Soho, which has encouraged innovation you might not see elsewhere.

On Third Street, next to the majestic banyan trees of King George V Memorial Park, twin brothers Josh and Caleb Ng have opened Stack, a cocktail and pancake bar. Sweet pancakes are served during the day, while

the night-time menu consists of savoury buckwheat pancakes with toppings such as quail's egg and guacamole, all of it accompanied by house-bottled cocktails made with local liquor such as Ng Ka Pei.

On the other side of the neighbourhood, Fuk Sau Lane has become a haven for local organic food served by Locofama and Grassroots Pantry, which face each other across the quiet, dead-end street. The latter recently expanded next door with Prune, a vegetarian breakfast spot that also hosts cooking workshops.

"We moved out here three years ago because rent was affordable," says owner/chef Peggy Chan. "We spend more on quality of food, training, and staff over rent."

Cheap rent was also a boon for Spanish expat Juan Martinez Gregorio, who opened Ping Pong Gintoneria last year in a basement that once housed a table tennis club. Under the glow of a neon sign, Ping Pong's bartenders serve Spanish gins made with the likes of rosemary, thyme and Arbequina olives.

LINE TO THE CAMPUS

A few blocks west of Ping Pong is the new HKU Station, which serves the University of Hong Kong located up the hill, and the neighbourhood of Shek Tong Tsui below.

With two station exits leading directly into the campus, the 104-year-old institution has never been more accessible. Its historic Main Building and Sun Yat Sen memo-







rial garden are both worth checking out, as is the Run Run Shaw Heritage House, a recently restored structure built in 1926, whose odd mixture of roof dragons and rustic fieldstone walls make it look like an English cottage that got lost in China.

Downhill is Shek Tong Tsui. The last time it had much notoriety was during its period as a red light district in the 1930s; since then, it has been an unassuming residential enclave best known for its neighbourhood market, which boasts a cooked food centre known for its Sichuan and Chiu Chow restaurants.

Yet even here, things are changing. Last year saw the opening of Time and Space, an event venue and watch boutique, and the arrival of alternative nightclub XXX Gallery.

KENNEDY TOWN WITHIN REACH

One stop further west is the Island line's new terminus, Kennedy Town, which is quite possibly the most hyped neighbourhood in Hong Kong at the moment. Major urbanisation took hold in the mid-2000s with the completion of several large luxury apartment towers. This attracted a strip of Western and Japanese bars and restaurants to Davis Street, which is now spreading into every other corner of the district.

Chino is the most high profile of the new arrivals, helmed by Erik Idos, former executive chef at the Michelin-starred Hong Kong branch of Nobu. Los Angeles-born Idos melded his nostalgia for the taco trucks of his youth with his Japanese training to produce hybrid dishes such as chipotle dashi tortilla soup.

Located in a corner space in a stylishly renovated 1960s building, Chino has been getting rave reviews since it opened last year. Idos is modest, despite the praise: "We're not bringing anything new, just good food in a neighbourhood restaurant," he says.

That neighbourhood feel is what attracted many other newcomers, including Matt Abergel and Lindsay Jang, founders of popular yakitori joint Yardbird, who opened a deli and liquor store called Sunday's Grocery last year. The shop serves homemade sandwiches and wine on tap, and boasts a large selection of mezcal, fine tequila and Japanese whisky.

"The area is great, it has this blend of old and new. You go there at two in the morning and there's people on the street doing all sorts of things," Abergel says. "It's a real neighbourhood."

Whether it's an old-school dim sum parlour like Sun Hing, or a venture like standing espresso bar the Cofftea Shop, Kennedy

Town's local feel is apparent. On the terraces above Rock Hill Street, worshippers still gather to pay homage to Lo Pan, the god of construction workers, in a 130-year-old temple.

But change is coming quickly. "It's been so busy since the MTR opened," says Cofftea Shop's owner, Herbert Lau.

Erik Idos thinks the area might be unrecognisable in a year. "There will be millions of restaurants," he says, adding that he hopes they follow the same low-key, high-quality model as Chino. "Hopefully I started a revolution."

ALL ABOARD

The West Island line extension is the first in a string of MTR projects that are slated for completion in the next few years.

Next up is the South Island line, scheduled to open next year, which will connect south-side neighbourhoods such as up-and-coming arts district Wong Chuk Hang to the centre of town.

Next year will also see the extension of the Kwun Tong line to Ho Man Tin and Whampoa. In 2018, the Ma On Shan line will be extended south through Kowloon City and To Kwa Wan and, in 2020, a new cross-harbour link is scheduled to open as the East Rail line is extended to Admiralty.



New Places

TO LOOK OUT FOR

SAI YING PUN STATION

- **Stack** Pancakes and cocktails in an intimate, neon-lit dining room. 1 Third Street; tel +852 2549 9787; stack-concepts.com
- **Metropolitan** Homey French bistro dishes and a convivial atmosphere. 46 High Street; tel +852 6271 6102; french-creations.com
- **Above Second** Hong Kong's leading gallery for contemporary street art, showcasing both international and local artists. 9 First Street; tel +852 6330 7759; blog.above-second.com
- **Craft Brew and Co** Local and imported craft beer on tap. Shop 5, 26-38 High Street; tel +852 2885 0821; craftbrew.com.hk
- **Grassroots Pantry** Organic wine, craft beer and healthy vegetarian dishes. 12 Fuk Sau Lane; tel +852 2873 3353; grassrootspantry.com
- **Ping Pong Ginoteria** Spanish gin served up in a stylised basement setting. 129 Second Street; tel +852 9158 1584; pingpong129.com
- **Beans & Dough** A three-storey eatery offering Italian-style coffee and freshly made pizza. 2A Second Street; tel +852 2540 2833

HKU STATION

- **Hong Kong University Press** A wide-ranging selection of local books inside a rustic cottage. Run Run Shaw Heritage House, University of Hong Kong; hkupress.org
- **XXX Gallery** Alternative DJs, film screenings and live bands every weekend. B/F, 353-363 Des Voeux Road West; xxxgallery.hk
- **Time and Space** Pop-up events and a by-appointment watch boutique. Shop 5, 6-20 Po Tuck Street; tel +852 2858 0225; timeandspace.hk

KENNEDY TOWN STATION

- **Chino** Japanese-Mexican fusion cuisine and cocktails in a cosy, stylish setting. 1B-1C New Praya; tel +852 2606 0588; chinohk.com
- **Kinsale** Contemporary Irish cuisine in an airy waterfront space. Shop 2, 2-5 New Praya; tel +852 2796 6004; kinsale.com.hk
- **Fish and Chick** Fish and chips and moist roast chicken overlooking the harbour. Shop 6, 25 New Praya; tel +852 2974 0088
- **Oonami** One of Kennedy Town's early pioneers: sashimi, udon, gyoza and more Japanese classics. 39A Cadogan Street; tel +852 2817 6626
- **Sunday's Grocery** Japanese-inspired sandwiches, condiments, wine, beer and spirits. 66-68 Catchick Street; tel +852 2628 6001; sundaysgrocery.com
- **Tivo** Bright and spacious with a park view, full bar and hearty East-meets-West food. 33 Praya; tel +852 2543 1238; tivo.com.hk

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DRIVER-FRIENDLY MODEL

The new Ford Mondeo provides a high driving comfort with its advanced technologies, innovative suspension and a perfectly soundproofed body.

Ford Mondeo debuts in Europe with multi-contour seats featuring the unique Active Motion massage, new integrated multi-link rear suspension that improves ride comfort and reduces noise in the cabin. Mondeo also offers Ford's new SYNC 2 voice control connectivity system with 8-inch touchscreen for easy operation of phone, entertainment, climate and navigation systems. Technologies including Ford's first adaptive LED headlamps in Europe and Active Park Assist featuring Perpendicular Parking contribute to a simplified driving experience.

COMFORTABLE SEATS

Ford Multi-Contour Seats with Active Motion massage function are designed to reduce muscle fatigue for front seat occupants, particularly during longer journeys. The 10-way adjustable seats also incorporate heating and cooling features, and use a system of 11 cushions to deliver an unobtrusive massaging effect for thighs, bottom and lower back. A team including two medical doctors developed Ford Multi-Contour Seat technology to deliver optimal performance. The experts used advanced techniques including pressure mapping, ultra-sonic posture monitoring for viewing occupant spine movement when seated, and electromyography that measures the small electrical impulses created by muscle movement.

LIGHTING THE WAY

All-new Mondeo's adaptive LED headlamps combine the daylight-mimicking light clarity of full-LED. The Adaptive Front Lighting System adjusts the headlight beam angle and intensity to match driving environment. The system can choose one of seven settings according to vehicle speed, ambient light conditions, steering angle, distance to the vehicle in front and windscreen wiper activation.

The all-new Mondeo will feature an advanced version of Active Park Assist featuring Perpendicular Parking, which enables drivers to detect suitably-sized parallel parking spaces and reverse hands-free into spaces parallel to the road and side-to-side with other cars.

CONTROL CLIMATE AND MORE WITH VOICE COMMANDS

The SYNC 2 system offered by Mondeo enables drivers to control key in-car systems using simple, natural voice commands and a high-resolution 8-inch colour touch screen (unfortunately Polish language is not available as of now). Connectivity is delivered via Bluetooth, USB and SD card ports. Simply pushing the voice control button and saying "I'm hungry" will bring up a list of local restaurants, and the MICHELIN guide can help drivers choose where to eat. SYNC 2 will then connect users by phone to the

restaurant to book a table and guide them there. Entering a navigation address is also simplified. Rather than reciting the address in stages, users can say the full address at once. You can also now select music from a connected MP3 device by asking SYNC 2 to play an artist or track. Cover art is also displayed on screen with compatible players.

NEW CHASSIS

The first model for Europe to be built on Ford's new global CD-segment platform, the all-new Mondeo will debut Ford's new integral link rear suspension configuration for improved refinement alongside more dynamic performance.

It also allows the wheel to move rearwards on impact with bumps. This delivers improved impact absorption for a smoother ride and reduced noise levels. Self-levelling rear suspension is offered for the wagon model, maintaining optimal ride height for comfort and handling regardless of load. Integral link rear suspension contributes to road noise reductions of around 3 decibels in the rear and 2 decibels in the front, supported by additional sound deadening material within the underbody shields, wheel arch liners and front and rear doors to block tyre noise. The number of holes within the all-new Mondeo body shell also has been reduced to minimise noise transfer.

Adam Popławski



SYNC 2 communication system available on Ford Mondeo enables the driver to control most of the onboard functions with simple, natural voice commands.



IT'S TIME HOLIDAY TIME

The offer of Certina watches is overwhelming, but we have chosen three models of watches to test them thoroughly. Each of them has different characteristics, style and properties. What they all share, however, is great reliability, precision and refinement of every detail.

Sporty character

DS-2 CHRONOGRAPH

The well-established CERTINA DS-2 undergoes a bright transformation, with the addition of a sporty touch of synthetic material, in either green or red, to both its stainless-steel bezel and crown tip. These accents bring contrast to the PVD black case, two-tone coloured HM hands and the moulded black rubber strap with matching colour stitching.

The latest version of the highly-accurate CERTINA DS-2 Chronograph relies on the same Swiss-Made ETA PRECIDRIVE™ quartz movement used in the previous model line. This time, however, the movement is set inside a brushed/polished black PVD-finished stainless-steel case with a sporty synthetic ring in either CERTINA green or red (according to model) around a stainless-steel tachymeter bezel, and a same-coloured "DS"-decorated synthetic element on the crown tip.

The new DS-2 Chronograph is assembled using CERTINA's well-known DS Concept, and is water-resistant up to a pressure of 10 bar (100 m). As a reminder, the watch case-back is decorated with the CERTINA turtle emblem, historical symbol of water resistance, robustness and long life for the brand. Suggested price: PLN 3190



Trends and elegance

DS FIRST LADY CERAMIC CHRONO

The DS First Lady Ceramic is an innovative blend of sporty and chic design elements, along with great accuracy thanks to a cutting-edge ETA Precidrive™ chronograph movement. Its sculpted ceramic bezel and discreet, floral-patterned dial unite form and function beautifully indeed. In either bright white or richly-contrasting black against PVD rose-gold detailing, and equipped with a rubber strap, the new timepiece is sure to please the most discerning watch lover.

Chic yet delightfully sporty, the new DS First Lady Ceramic chronograph instantly catches the eye. Its brushed 38 mm case with polished lugs and bezel is adorned with a beautiful rim of white (or black) finely toothed ceramic material along the surface. These bright elements are complemented by polished push-buttons and a ceramic-tipped crown, as well as the historical CERTINA turtle emblem on the case back. Behind the sapphire crystal with anti-reflective coating on both faces, a smart-looking dial with three counters and gorgeous PVD rose-gold elements against white (or black) is enhanced by a delicate floral background texture for a beautifully stylish effect. The CERTINA DS First Lady Ceramic Chrono is water-resistant up to a pressure of 10 bar (100 m), and is assembled using the well-known DS (Double Security) Concept. Suggested price: PLN 3090



Time to overtake

DS PODIUM BIG SIZE CHRONOGRAPH – WRC

With its carbon-fibre dial surface and extreme precision, the limited-edition WRC version of the DS Podium Big Size is absolutely race-ready, and celebrates the third year of partnership between CERTINA and the WRC. With the virile good looks of a 44mm case, a broad bezel, branded rubber strap and sporty colour detailing in official CERTINA green, the timepiece is a no-compromise essential for every car-racing enthusiast.

The solid character of its 44-mm brushed stainless-steel case, polished tachymeter bezel, crown and push-buttons, and the carbon-fibre dial surface tell the story – confirmed by two words in CERTINA green: Limited Edition. Only 5,000 units of this special watch will be produced. From start to finish, the timepiece is all about racing, and thanks to a Precidrive™ movement at its core, it is tremendously accurate, with a precision of +/- 10 sec./year. Behind a sapphire crystal treated with anti-reflective coating on both faces, a dial inspired by racing-car instruments displays instantly visible timekeeping information to assist the quick decision-making of today's racing fans and drivers. Suggested price: PLN 3490




AIRPORT AND ONBOARD APPS



The boarding pass on your mobile device, the smartphone showing you way around the airport, a guide to choosing the most comfortable seats on the plane... Today we present yet another bunch of mobile apps recommended by the editors of iMagazine monthly. This time we focus on application that may prove useful at an airport or on the plane.

PASSBOOK

 Passbook is, in fact, an integral part of mobile iOS system for iPhones. It's a brilliant as well as simple and functional concept. The app collects in one place all discount coupons, loyalty cars, and boarding passes. Passbook's API is open, so all software vendors can add here documents generated by their services. If your boarding pass is stored in Passbook, simply scan the pass in the airport scanner to quickly undergo the security control. In this way you no longer have to print out the pass and carry additional documents. What's more, Passbook, can automati-

cally display documents on your lock screen of your phone when you are in a specific location (at an airport it will display your boarding pass, while near stores it will display applicable discount coupons). It's a shame that no similar solution has ever been presented for other mobile platforms.

SEATGURU



It's a truly indispensable app for every traveller, advising you which seats you should opt for and which ones avoid at the check-in. The app application contains a database of over 700 aircraft plans from more than 100 airlines. The plans contain detailed descriptions of the seats, their photos etc. Additionally, SeatGuru offers easy search for convenient connections.

MILES & MORE



If you are frequent travellers, you certainly collect miles. One of the most popular loyalty schemes in Poland is Miles & More. The programme is used by member airlines of Star Al-

liance, including Lufthansa, LOT Polish Airlines, SWISS, SAS, or Tap, as well as a great number of other carriers from Europe and all over the world. The application provides access to your account, but also provides a collection of useful tips for travellers. You can calculate here how many miles you will earn on a specific flight, as well as contact other members of the programme, exchanging your views.

AIRPORT MAPS



A very good app, especially for those who frequently use connections that require airport transfers. Its database consists of almost 100 plans of the largest and the most popular airports in the world, including the port in Warsaw. With Airport Maps you can easily navigate unfamiliar terminals, quickly finding their check-in and security control zones, as well as restaurants and shops. What's more, to use location services at the airport, you don't need to have Wi-Fi or GPS coverage.

The magazine need no special recommendation - suffice to say that it is the only Polish magazine dedicated to computers, technology and Apple-associated environment, but completely independent of the giant from Cupertino.

4 HOURS IN... COPENHAGEN

Jenny Southan finds ancient body parts, well-travelled liquor and functioning anarchy in the Danish capital.



Separated from Sweden by a narrow Strait of Øresund, Copenhagen is a city situated on both natural and artificial islands.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENMARK

Once a Viking fishing settlement, Copenhagen is now home to 1.2 million people. Get a sense of the country's roots by starting at the National Museum near the Tivoli Gardens. Prioritise the Danish Prehistory collection – there are cases crammed with Viking treasure and weapons, as well as leathery bodies found preserved in peat bogs, teeth, jewellery and all.

Highlights include a display of huge curly Nordic lur horns used in Bronze Age rituals, a creepy set of copper-coloured plaits of human hair from 350BC (cut off as a sacrifice to the gods), and the giant silver Gundestrup Cauldron found in a swamp in Jutland.

It dates back to 150BC and mysteriously depicts exotic animals unknown to this part of the world.

Open Tues-Sun 10am-5pm, free entry. Ny Vestergade 10; en.natmus.dk

STREET FOOD MARKET

Separated from Sweden by the Oresund (or Sound), a 4km-wide watery strait, the flat city incorporates various natural and man-made islands connected by bridges.

Take the Knippelsbro to pretty Christianshavn, a peaceful neighbourhood where the architecture softens to quaint cobbled streets and brick houses, and there are canals with boats moored along them.

It's a good 20-minute walk to Paper Island but arriving with an appetite is a must. Follow the signs to Copenhagen Street Food, which launched last May and is located in two repurposed warehouses facing the Royal Danish Playhouse on the other side of the water.

Inside, dozens of shacks and trucks sell food from around the world – from Turkish shawarma and Colombian veggie burgers to Chinese crispy duck and Mexican tacos (£5 to £8 a plate).

There's also a handful of bars, a coffee caravan and, at night, lively music and bingo sessions for 300 people.



Open daily 12pm-10pm in spring/summer (later for drinks). Warehouse 7/8, Trangravsvej 14; copenhagenstreetfood.dk/en

CHRISTIANIA

Ten minutes down the road is an anarchistic corner of the city known as Freetown Christiania.

This self-governing hippy enclave was set up by squatters in the early 1970s, and has since become an autonomous neighbourhood of almost 1,000 people who live in wood cabins among the trees. (As there is no private ownership, residents have to apply for a place to live and cars are shared.)

You will spot the boundaries of the community immediately, as walls and buildings are covered in street art. You are welcome to wander around – there are cafés, a market selling smoking paraphernalia and Indian clothing, art galleries, ceramic studios, and even a women-only blacksmiths stocked with rustic homeware.

The most surprising discovery is the “Green Light Zone”, where stalls on Pusher Street

covered in camouflage netting hide vendors who sell marijuana.

Queues of people line up to buy bags of the stuff, which they roll into fat joints and sit around smoking. The air is thick with fumes so you may or may not want to hang around.

The sale of weed is tolerated here, but not in Copenhagen itself. Hard drugs are banned completely. christiania.org

SKJOLD BURNE VINHANDEL

Head back over the bridge towards the main square of Kongens Nytorv (most of it is sealed off owing to construction work on a new metro station opening in a few years).

Dating back to 1928, Skjold Burne is the oldest liquor chain in the country and its flagship store stocks a wide selection of local tippel aquavit (akvavit). About 40 per cent alcohol, the spirit is clear or golden depending on whether it has been aged in casks. Made from potatoes and sometimes flavoured with spices, it is drunk neat but not too cold.

The friendly staff can talk you through the

different labels, but a good one to go for is the Ekvator Akvavit, which comes in a stone bottle. It has been matured in Madeira oak barrels travelling by ship across the equator on the MSC Susanna from Copenhagen to Cape Town and back again.

Open 10am-6pm (7pm Fri, 4pm Sat, closed Sun). Ostergade 1; skjold-burne.dk

BALTHAZAR

Opened in 2012 and connected to the adjacent five-star Hotel D’Angleterre via a secret passage, Balthazar is the city’s first and only champagne bar.

It’s an elegant venue popular among professionals for after-work drinks, with moody lighting and a floor-to-ceiling glass cabinet filled with vintage Dom Pérignon.

With 160 brands available – from Krug to Cristal – there’s plenty to spend your money on. If you only have time for a quick preprandial, fizz by the glass costs Kr 135-380 (£13-£38).

Open Weds-Sat 4pm-2am. Ny Ostergade 6; balthazarcph.dk/en visitcopenhagen.com



ASK PETER

Letters

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

Change of plans and of the ticket

I have bought an air ticket for my boss to Los Angeles and return from Vancouver. I received a promotional rate in Business Class for less than US\$ 4,000. The ticket is non-refundable and non-changeable, and I was aware of this when booking it. However, now it turns out that my boss has changed his plans. He wants to use only the return section of the trip from Vancouver to Warsaw. Unfortunately, our agent has informed us that if my boss skips the first leg of the trip, the whole ticket will be cancelled. This means that I have to buy a new one-way ticket. Why is it impossible to make changes to this booking?

Ewelina

Dear Ewelina

I receive a lot of similar questions, regarding the use of only certain sections of a trip. Plans and itineraries of businesspeople change quite often, so no wonder that they sometimes need to cancel or change their air tickets. Any change of a ticket is subject to general rules (completing individual flight legs in the order of issue, recalculation of the route), as well as specific provisions (change fees bound with the conditions of a given fare, meeting minimum stay and advance purchase requirements).

In this case the agent issued a Business Class ticket with a promotional fare, which doesn't allow for any refunds or changes in dates or routes. Its terms also don't permit the passenger to pay the difference for a higher fare. It's a typical fare for passengers travelling for private purposes. An additional condition is the requirement to buy the ticket 45 days in advance.

Conditions of carriage provide that all legs of a trip must be used in an order indicated on the ticket, otherwise the passenger is obliged to pay the difference in price. Failing to do so is treated as a breach of the contract, the transport document is no longer valid, and the passenger isn't allowed to board the plane.

I've checked the calculation. The promotional ticket that you bought cost PLN 13,920. If it's not used, it will be cancelled (you will be only entitled to a refund of some airport changes). Currently, the cheapest ticket on Vancouver – Warsaw route costs PLN 23,804. The agent doesn't want to make your life harder, but simply acts in accordance with the procedures of airlines and IATA.

In future I advise you to buy tickets from corporate fares that allow you to make changes at extra charge and entitle you to refunds with a deduction. In the long run it may turn out to be more economical.

Other prices on different days

I have booked a room in a hotel in Berlin for two weeks. Since I'm a frequent guest of the property, I asked them for a discount. The hotel offered me different prices for almost each day. Why couldn't they give me just one price for the entire stay? As a result, I have a problem with breaking down the invoice, because my company pays for the first week of my stay, while the contracting party for the second one.

Bogdan

Dear Bogdan

Each hotel sets individual prices for extended stays. Generally, to obtain a discount you need to stay in the hotel for more than 30 days. These are the rules used by your hotel in Berlin.

Hotel chains, just like the airlines, use a dynamic price management system. Depending on the season and the hotel occupancy (planned or actual), they may offer different prices. As a rule, lower prices in typical corporate hotel chains are offered on weekends and during summer holidays when there are fewer business guests. On the other hand, on weekdays or at times of conferences and fairs, hotels often increase their prices. Long stays aren't always profitable for a hotel. It often turns out that it's better to sell a room for a few nights at higher prices than to block it for a longer time at a lower price.

Your reservation is calculated according to a corporate from Monday to Friday. From Friday to Monday you have been offered a significantly reduced weekend rate. Hence the apparent disparity in prices. In addition, the hotel has offered you free breakfasts for the entire stay and access to wireless Internet. This is a significant added value.

It's not always possible for a hotel to issue separate invoices for one stay. It's very much dependent of the hotel's booking and accounting systems. If you need to have two separate invoices, it's safer to make separate reservations. In that case, however, you might need to change your rooms during your stay.

PRZYWILEJE DLA ZARZĄDÓW
I RAD NADZORCZYCH

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Tylko nieliczni w biznesie
naprawdę wiele mogą.

A Ty?

W którym jesteś Klubie?

Jesteś członkiem zarządu, rady nadzorczej lub właścicielem spółki, która odniosła sukces?

Chcesz dać swojej spółce przewagę nad konkurencją? Potwierdzić należny Ci status, budować wizerunek i wpływy, zabezpieczyć karierę? Pragniesz rozwijać sieć kontaktów z top menedżerami z tej samej ligi biznesu, lokalnie i w całej Polsce? Móc na nich liczyć w potrzebie, wymieniać się radami i wiedzą? Czy interesuje Cię wygoda i przywileje dla Ciebie i Twojej rodziny, a jednocześnie chcesz dbać o innych? Pragniesz to wszystko realizować bez wysiłku, przez 365 dni w roku? **Wejdź** na www.leaders.pl, **wybierz** swój Klub i w 2 minuty **potwierdź** przynależność do zamkniętej grupy decydentów. Fantastyczna cena za elitarne usługi. Liczba miejsc ograniczona.

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SIEMENS

Ekscytujące piękno, futurystyczna technologia.

www.siemens-home.pl

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

kryje innowacyjne rozwiązania i zaawansowaną technologię która zapewnia urządzeniom maksymalną samodzielność i efektywność. Kontrolowane przez elektroniczne systemy sensorowe, pracują oszczędnie i cicho, z gwarancją doskonałych efektów.

Więcej informacji: www.siemens-home.pl

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