



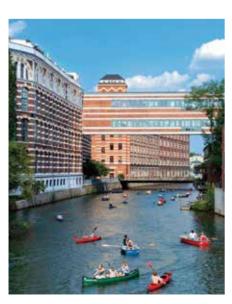
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Content | October 2017









4	Editorial
6	On Top • Hotel, restaurant, and airline news
10	Cover Story •Towering ambition
16 20 22 24 26	Tried&Tested • The Venetian Las Vegas • Twelve Apostles Hotel & Spa • Lanzerac Hotel & Spa • Novotel Wrocław Centrum Columna Medica
28	Report • Premium economy: Comfort zone
34 36	Hotels • Sofitel Grand Sopot celebrates its 90th anniversary! • New Face of the Iconic Hotel
	Destinations
38 44 48 54 64	 America Coast to Coast Downtime in Doha Leipzig: On the ball Dinner date 4 hours in Oslo
	Businessman on Holidays
58	• Lakeside glamour
	Moto&Techno
62	• Watches: coming of age
66	Ask Peter



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HERE'S THE NEW PARIS!

visited the capital of France in May this year. I walked around my favourite districts that I have known for years, and popped into the same museums and restaurants as before. Now, encouraged by our cover story, I am eager to see Paris again, this time to visit the fast-growing La Défense district.

This is because the city government has embarked on turning La Défense into a place not only for work but for living and socialising, too. Central to this is a host of ambitious projects, some of which will set new records for scale. You will find there, among others, an "art walk" that takes in more than 60 al fresco sculptures, a freestanding chimney decorated in rainbow stripes, as well as an urban garden near the Yaacov Agam



fountain. But developers want to improve it further, with mixed-use projects that cater to tourists and locals alike. The best example of this is Hermitage Plaza, a pair of towers being designed by Foster and Partners that will stand at 320 metres tall, making them the highest not only in Paris but in the EU. I do hope that the article "Paris: towering ambitions" will be an inspiration for your further travel explorations.







EKSKLUZYWNE I KOMFORTOWO WYPOSAŻONE APARTAMENTY W SAMYM CENTRUM WARSZAWY, GOTOWE DO ZAMIESZKANIA,

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Sephora

Kat Von D

ICONIC COSMETICS

Cosmetics from the renowned Kat Von D brand are now available in Poland. Foundations, eye shadows, lipsticks in 39 shades, pen eye-liners, face contouring kits, powders and concealers - all these can be purchased in Sephora perfumeries. The cosmetics were designed by Mexico-born Katherine von Drachenberg (known as Kat Von D) - one of the most respected and popular tattoo artist in the world. Kat Von D starred in two hit TV programmes "Miami Ink" and "LA Ink," which were broadcast on international television stations. In 2008 Kat Von D launched its own cosmetic brand created in collaboration with Kendo. The popular and iconic brand is known for its long-lasting cosmetics in bold colours that

combine the beauty of Hollywood with the rock'n'roll artistic spirit.
Kat Von D products have been honoured with many awards in cosmetic competitions in "colour and skin" category, and its lipsticks from Studded Kiss Lipstick collection are now the best selling line available in Sephora perfumeries.

Leading an active life, Kat has made close friends with many actors and musicians. These include Ewan McGregor, Jared Leto, David LaChapelle, Bam Margera, Steve-O, Nick Frost and Beyoncé. In addition to writing books, she is also a pianist, singer and fashion designer.



Airlines

KI.M

NEW ON-BOARD SERVICE

This summer KLM launched its "Anytime For You" dining option for business-class passengers, which allows them to choose what and when they eat on board. The option is available on selected intercontinental flights. The new concept means not only a much more extensive choice of meals, which now you can choose from the menu just like in a restaurant. Dishes are served at the passenger's request at any time throughout the flight. In addition to the regular three-course dinner or lunch options, the menu will also include an "Anytime For You" range, consisting of eight different dishes, hot and cold, savoury and sweet, health foods and special treats. The service on request was created





in the interest of the individual needs of each passenger. The "Anytime for You" concept is designed to meet a variety of wishes, while providing a professional service by specially trained cabin crew. As of now, you can enjoy this heavenly feast by flying with KLM to Johannesburg and Bangkok. More routes will be available soon. klm.com



Travel

Book

EIGHTH WONDER OF THE WORLD

Magdalena Witkiewicz's book is inspired by the author's journey to Vietnam. "The eighth wonder of the world" is a story of a single woman seeking the most important values in her life, with the picturesque Bay Ha Long and bustling Hanoi in the backdrop. Anna, the main character of the book, is a successful person with no obligations, but she doesn't feel fulfilled. Everything changes when she makes an emotional decision to go to Vietnam.

Whatever happens to her there will leave a trace forever. Can her decisions affect the lives of other people? Will the happiness she is enjoying now, fall apart like a house of cards? Anna is soaking in the Vietnamese adventure, discovering her own eighth wonder of the world.

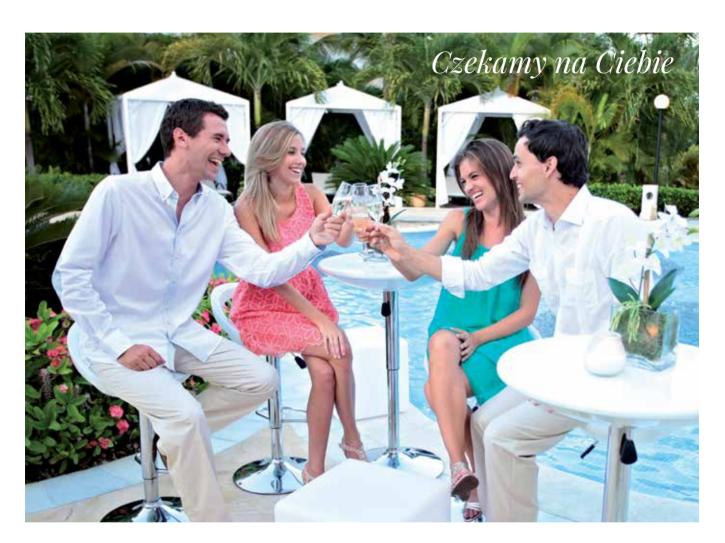
Magdalena Witkiewicz, a marketing analyst and a specialist in econometric models, is a passionate writer. Called a "happyending writer", she specializes in writing about serious matters in a light, pleaseant to read style.





GROUPS & EVENTS

- Wyjątkowe lokalizacje
- Indywidualna obsługa
- ► Fantastyczne sale konferencyjne
- Organizacja prywatnych imprez
- ► Gwarancja jakości jaką oferuje Bahia Principe











Autumn

Masurian Region

MILA KAMIEŃ CLUB

Where can you go on a warm, autumn weekend? Mila Kamień Club is a Masurian holiday resort, designed for families with children, active leisure aficionado, as well as water sports enthusiasts. It's an eco-friendly spot with the soul and a number of opportunities for practising sports. Guests can stay here in one of 55 fully equipped wooden chalets, as well as 30 rooms. The complex has two restaurants, a covered terrace with a panoramic view of the late, two conference rooms, a eco-marina with modern port infrastructure, the headquarters of Mateusz Kusznierewicz Academy, the sports and recreation centre with a rental store, a recreational pool, as well as a private bathing beach. Individual customers can book long-stay and weekend packages. kamien@klubmila.pl; klubmila.pl

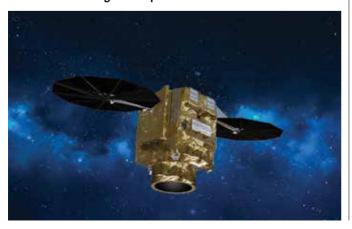
Airbus

Commercial satellites

INFORMATION SPACEDATAHIGHWAY

Airbus to reshape Earth observation market with its Pléiades Neo constellation - first commercial optical satellites using the SpaceData-Highway. The production of Airbus' four new very high-resolution satellites, which together will form the Pleiades Neo constellation, is well on schedule for launch in 2020. They will be joining Airbus' constellation of optical and radar satellites and will offer enhanced performance and direct access to the data relay on communication system, known as SpaceDataHighway.

This first batch of four optical and very agile satellites will double the number of visits per day anywhere on Earth and offer a re-tasking rate which is five times higher than previous constellations.





Airlines

Finnair

WE WILL FLY TO NANJING

On 13 May 2018, Finnair will launch the first direct air route between Helsinki and Nanjing in eastern China's Jiangsu province. Nanjing is a busy commercial and cultural centre, with increasing demand for travel and freight connections to Europe. Finnair will fly to Nanjing three times a week during the summer season and twice a week in the winter season. The opening of the Nanjing route will increase Finnair's growing footprint in Northeast Asia. Altogether, Finnair will fly 38 weekly flights to Greater China, flying daily flights to both Beijing and Shanghai, 4 weekly flights to both Chongqing and Guangzhou, three weekly flights to both Nanjing and Xi'an as well as 10 weekly flights to Hong Kong. The inaugural flight to Nanjing will take place on May 13, 2018 and the new route will be operated with an Airbus A330 aircraft. finnair.com



PEWNY PARTNER W NIEPEWNYCH CZASACH



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TOWERING AMBITION

Large-scale development is set to make Paris's La Défense business district more tempting for living and working, says *Jenny Southan*.



ooming 111 metres high, La Grande Arche is La Défense's most familiar landmark; a monolithic open-sided cube, with an 11,000 sqm, newly renovated roof that allows you to gaze all the way down Avenue Charles de Gaulle to the Arc du Triomphe, on the other side of the River Seine.

Construction of this two-square-mile cluster of high-rise towers began in 1958, with the intention of replacing farmland and dilapidated suburbs with a hub for business and banking. The first building erected was the low but expansive Centre of New Industries and Technologies (now a convention centre and Hilton hotel at the foot of the Arche), followed by the first of France's office blocks - the Esso Tower and the Nobel Tower – in the sixties.

Today, La Défense is the largest purposebuilt district in Europe, hovering above a network of roads on a 30-hectare elevated concrete platform called "the Slab", which allows pedestrians to walk freely across enormous plazas while cars pass beneath. For decades, the area has been home to a forest of mono-functional structures, occupied nine-to-five by workers who ebb and flow from their jobs to their outlying homes.

However, Paris has realised that it is falling behind other cities with its lifestyle-less urban planning, so has embarked on turning La Défense into a place not only for work but for living and socialising, too. Central to this is a host of ambitious projects that will

set new records for scale; and in so doing rob London's Shard of the title of "tallest building in the EU".

At the same time, with Brexit looming, the French capital is looking to pull in as many as 20,000 UK finance workers as they are compelled to migrate. Competition between London and Paris is hotting up.

LOOK OUT, LONDON

"Tired of the fog? Try the frogs." So reads the latest ad campaign from government organisation Defacto. This summer it hosted a five-week pop-up in front of La Défense's Les Ouatre Temps shopping mall. Deckchairs were laid out on Astroturf lawns, food trucks parked up and people played table football on their lunch breaks. It was designed to embody a slice of London - there were signs for King's Cross and Queensway, Union Jack flags fluttering against a familiarly grey sky, and spray-painted murals of Big Ben. All that was missing were cucumber sandwiches and jugs of Pimm's.

Thomas Ledoux, head of communications for Defacto, says: "The idea is to show people that you can live here like you can in London. We launched our campaign after we heard it would be a hard Brexit - we wanted people to know Paris will welcome you. We have office space available, whereas in Dublin, for example, there is none. That is a problem. Frankfurt is efficient but it doesn't have the size of Paris, and with that comes a certain lifestyle."

Earlier this year, Goldman Sachs announced that it would move 6,000 staff to Frankfurt and Paris as part of a contingency plan ahead of the UK's departure from the EU. HSBC has said it will move 1,000 jobs to Paris, while Reuters will relocate 9,000 to the continent. Newly elected president Emmanuel Macron has pledged to rejuvenate the French economy and has been campaigning for financiers to choose Paris over other European hubs such as Milan, Amsterdam, Madrid or Luxembourg.

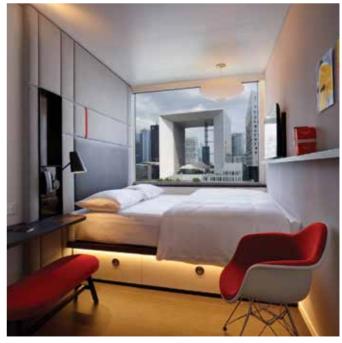
A spokesperson for the French Embassy in London says: "[Paris] is a major financial centre, committed to Europe, to the single currency, to business stability and to longterm perspectives. Besides, French regulators have been recognised internationally for their work; they provide clarity to businesses and ensure financial stability.

"Increasing France's business attractiveness is directly linked to economic reform. We will focus on improving our economic competitiveness, business environment and labour system through an ambitious plan spearheaded by the new government. These reforms do not target British businesses specifically. However, Brexit portunities in some sectors, which France stands ready to seize."

DESIGN FOR LIFE

While the rest of Paris enjoys beautiful Haussmann boulevards, pavement dining





Paris has embarked on turning La Défense into a place not only for work but for living and socialising,



and chic ateliers, La Défense tends to be inhuman in scale and substance, with impenetrable Brutalist blocks and never-ending esplanades. There have been attempts to brighten up the place – there is an "art walk" that takes in more than 60 al fresco sculptures, a freestanding chimney decorated in rainbow stripes and an urban garden near the Yaacov Agam fountain. But developers want to improve it further, with mixed-use projects that cater to tourists, locals and British bankers alike.

The best example of this is Hermitage Plaza, a pair of towers being designed by Foster and Partners that will stand at 320 metres tall, making them the highest not only in Paris but in the EU. Located on the banks of the Seine, with a jetty for people arriving by speedboat, construction on this new "arrondissement in the sky" will begin next year and is scheduled to be completed in early 2023. It will comprise 35,000 sqm of office space, 488 high-end apartments and a

230-room five-star hotel, plus a spa and pool, designer shops, restaurants, a concert hall and art gallery.

Emin Iskenderov, chairman and chief executive of Russian developer Hermitage, calls it "a new era for La Défense". He says: "From Wall Street to Canary Wharf, this model exists everywhere in the world except France." But the €2.4 billion project is setting a new trend for Paris.

Dozens of other new buildings are also on the horizon. French architect Jean Nouvel has designed the Residence Campusea, a gleaming block of student apartments that will open next year, and the faceted 220-metre Hekla tower, to follow in 2021. Next year, the Belvédère will provide 18,000 sqm of office and commercial space. In 2019 will be the 140-metre tall Trinity and the 165-metre Saint Gobain. In 2020 there will be the Alto tower and, in 2022, the Sisters - one standing at 200 metres and the other at 100 metres. Connected by a glass bridge, they will house offices and a hotel.

In a continuing effort to introduce more green space, next summer will see the unveiling of Oxygen, a 1,500 sqm semicircular park at the end of the Slab, with outdoor terraces partitioned by banks of tall grasses,

La Défense

IN NUMBERS

15 Fortune Global 500 companies (29 in total in Paris)

1 European city ranking for number of Fortune Global 500 firms

3.5 million sqm of office space

275,000 sqm of vacant office space

200,000 sqm of new tertiary office space coming by 2019

€550 office rental cost per sqm per year

€1,554 annual cost per sqm for prime central London office space

2,600 hotel rooms

160.000 workers

43,000 employees at foreign companies

31% jobs in banking and insurance

27% jobs in energy

10% SMEs

320 metres height of proposed Hermitage

310 metres height of London's Shard



While the rest of Paris enjoys beautiful Haussmann boulevards, pavement dining and chic ateliers, La Défense tends to be inhuman in scale and substance, with impenetrable Brutalist blocks and never-ending esplanades.

living walls, sleek cafés with turf roofs and free-flowing organic architecture.

In 2019, Table Square will become a "bistronomy" destination with seven new restaurants and bars. "For decades we have been growing vertically – now we are developing horizontally," Ledoux says.

CREATIVE CLUSTER

To the north-west of La Grande Arche is a long aerial walkway that ends abruptly outside the new Citizen M La Défense hotel in the Nanterre zone. Opened in June, the 175-room property is a far cry from nearby business hotels such as the Mercure, Renaissance and Pullman. The Dutch brand has instead delivered a place to stay where all rooms are the same, you get iPads preloaded with free porn, and prices are capped even during peak season.

The communal lounges are decorated with quirky modern art, and there's co-working

space, a concept store, a 24-hour self-service canteen and stylish meeting rooms with whiteboard walls. "We are about affordable luxury. We have designer Vitra furniture and our house pour is Ketel One vodka but we don't charge premium prices," says Alex Perper, Citizen M's area manager for France.

From the outdoor deck, you can look across to the new U Arena, which will open this autumn with a concert from the Rolling Stones. The 40,000-seat venue will also be used for rugby matches, motocross championships and conventions.

Come 2022, next to it will be the La Tour de Jardins de l'Arche. Resembling a tower of glass Jenga blocks planted with trees, it will have offices, 700 hotel rooms, a spa, pool and rooftop restaurant.

Corinne de Conti, president of event services company City One 111, says: "The neighbourhood has been transformed during the past couple of years – it has become very dynamic and young."

The final part of the urban renewal plan is the €26 billion expansion of the Paris Metro system, taking place over the next 15 years. The Grand Paris Express is expected to boost capacity to two million people a day by 2026, with the addition of four automatic lines, the extension of two existing ones, and 72 new stations.

By 2027, there will be a direct link from La Défense to Paris Charles de Gaulle's Terminal 2. The French Embassy spokesperson says: "The Grand Paris project represents a radical transformation of the capital. By 2030, it could generate an additional €100 billion to €200 billion in GDP, as well as 115,000 jobs." One thing is for sure, London can't rest on its laurels.

Visit businesstraveller.com/tried-and-tested for a review of the Citizen M Paris La Défense. citizenm.com Eurostar operates up to 19 times a day from London to Paris. eurostar.com





Inwestycja w apartamenty





Hotel LAS VEGAS

THE VENETIAN LAS VEGAS



CONTACT

The Venetian Las Vegas 3355 Las Vegas Blvd. South Las Vegas, NV 89109 USA

www.venetian.com e-mail: reservations@sands.com

PRICES

from US\$280 per night for two people

f you want to visit Las Vegas, then don't look any further and book a stay in the very centre of the city, preferably in the Venetian. This luxurious five-star Venice-style hotel will make it easier for you to feel the city of gambling and glitter in all its glory.

WHERE IS IT?

The Venetian Las Vegas is the perfect venue for those who wish to experience the true spirit of the city. This multifunctional property owned by Las Vegas Sands Corporation and conveniently located near the Las Vegas Strip, is much more than just a hotel. It's close to the most interesting sites of the city, including The Auto Collections, the Fashion Show mall or Miracle Mile Shops.

As befits a Las Vegas property, the hotel boasts a huge casino, rises 145 metres and has 40 floors. It offers more than 4,000 spacious suites, and with its sister locations situated near Sands

Expo Convention Centre and The Palazzo Hotel and Casino Resort, the number reaches impressive 8.000.

The Venetian is like real Italian Venice with a 1:1 replica of St. Mark's belfry and the Grand Canal crisscrossed by genuine Venetian gondolas.

ROOMS

The Venetian offers two similar types of suites: a 60-metre Luxury Suite with a kingsize bed and a slightly larger 65-metre Bella Suite with two queen-size beds. Both feature large 12-metre bathrooms with a tub, a shower and a separate toilet. The living room is situated below the bedroom level and comes with a comfortable sofa, a table for three, as well as a full-sized workdesk. Lighting and curtains are operated with a remote control, and both in the living room and the bedroom there is a large 46-inch TV.

Another 19-inch TV is mounted in the bathroom. Guests staying in The Venetian have a free access to its car park.

ATTRACTIONS.

The number of attractions available in The Venetian can make your head spin. And since you are in Venice (though not the real one), you can't miss a tour by a genuine Venetian gondola along the Grand Canal, among fairytale-like cafés, restaurants and shops. You can also join the Gondola University for a crash gondola rowing course at the end of which you receive a special certificate.

The Venetian/The Palazzo complex features 10 swimming pool, 4 of which are situated in The Venetian itself. These include The Aquatic Club and Pool Cabanas. Those in need of rejuvenating treatment will certainly head for Canyon Ranch SPA. A few years ago, TAO Beach, which has a wide swimming pool offer, was ranked second in the ranking of the most popular US nightclubs. The décor of the club is heavily inspired by Asia. In the middle there is a tall Buddha statue, two dance rooms and a large terrace overlooking the main promenade of Las Vegas.

Not to forget about the vast casino area, which covers the impressive 11,000 sqm. A trip to Las Vegas without visiting one of the gambling venues would be truly incomplete.

Then there are numerous amazing shows taking place in The Venitian. These include the unique "BAZ - Star Crossed







If you are planning to visit Las Vegas, then look no further - The Venetian is the place to stay. This is mostly due to its convenient location and unique offer of attractions.





Hotel LAS VEGAS



The whole resort houses more than 20 restaurants, catering to all the tastes of the world.

Love" - a cabaret production, combining several famous plays and musicals, such as "Romeo and Juliet", "Moulin Rouge" and "The Great Gatsby".

WORLD CUISINES

The whole resort houses more than 20 restaurants, catering to all the tastes of the world. In CUT, which is a typical American steakhouse, you can order best seasoned beef, served with original sauces. Bouchon is a classic French bistro, Canaletto located on St. Mark Square serves delicious Italian dishes along with live entertainment. The new Yardbird Southern Table & Bar is a real mecca for lovers of American cuisine. It's worth dropping here to try scrumptious fried chicken, as



well as deviled eggs - smoked trout with dill and chives.

DREAM TEAM FOR MEETINGS

It's hard to imagine a better and more attractive venue for conferences and business meetings than The Venetian, mostly owing to its unique setting and the rich offer for event organizers. The hotel's conference facilities include FedEx Office Business Centre situated on the second floor of the Congress Centre, near the Bellini Ballroom. The offer of the Centre is comprehensive and includes, such services as manufacture and printing of posters and gadgets, as well as renting laptops.

Note that The Venetian has recently won a prestigious "Meetings & Convention Magazine's

Gold Key" competition. It's hardly a surprise, though, since the property has more than 130,000 sqm of event space, which can be arranged in various configurations for groups of several hundred or even thousands of participants.

VERDICT

If you are planning to visit Las Vegas, then The Venetian would be one of the best possible options. This is mainly because the property is located near numerous attractions of the city, and offers a number of unique ways of spending time. On top of that, the hotel's conference facilities can accommodate the largest number of delegates under one roof.

Rafał Sobiech





Since you are in Venice (though simulated one), you can't miss a tour by a genuine Venetian gondola along the Grand Canal. There are numerous amazing shows taking place in The Venitian.

These include the unique "BAZ - Star Crossed Love" musical.





CAPE TOWN Hotel

TWELVE APOSTLES HOTEL & SPA



CONTACT

Twelve Apostles Hotel & Spa Victoria Road, Camps Bay Cape Town, RPA tel.: +27,214,379,000 www.12apostleshotel.com

ituated in Cape Town on a beach that lies at the foot of the Twelve Apostles mountain range, this luxury boutique property has been honoured with a number of prestigious awards. This is a mandatory stopover on one of the world's most beautiful scenic roads that leads along the ocean to the Cape of Good Hope. The beautiful white façade of the building, which offers spectacular views of Hout Bay and Camps Bay, is an excellent landmark for sailors.

The site of the Twelve Apostles is part of the National Park of the Table Mountain and is a UNE-SCO World Heritage Site. This makes it a great base for exploring the park - straight from the hotel you can go trekking or enjoy a picnic in nature with a view of the ocean. On the spot you will receive a map of all nearby walking trails: from easy 10-minute ones to more demanding that take 45 minutes.

INTERIORS

The hotel offers 55 spacious rooms and 15 suites with ocean or mountain views. All are decorated in blue, white and beige tones, alluding to the colours of the sky, water, beaches and nearby mountains. The décor is an eclectic combination of modern African style with classical European elegance. Inside you will find best quality materials, such as wood, leather and stone. All rooms come equipped with modern amenities including a DVD player, a widescreen TV and an

iPad docking station. There is also a special pillow menu. At night you are put to sleep by the calming sound of the ocean and the fragrant smell of local fynbos herbs.

ATTRACTIONS

There are two swimming pools, one rocky pool with a view of the mountains, and another infinity pool with heated water and an ocean view. At the swimming pools you can enjoy a meal in the bar with a specially composed menu. Guests receive free welcome drinks.

The hotel provides free transfer to the Camps Bay district and to the centre of Cape Town at Victoria & Albert Waterfront. Such a trip takes only 15 minutes. The property is also close



to the cable car station running to the Table Mountain, as well as to the Kirstenbosch Botanic Garden and the oldest vineyard in South Africa called Groot Constantia. There are daily boat trips departing from the nearby marina to watch whales and dolphins, as well as visit the seal island. With a little luck you can observe some of those beautiful creatures from the hotel balcony or restaurant terrace. The area is a great place for water sports and adrenaline sportsm such as surfing, diving, canoeing, paddleboarding, skydiving, paragliding, ziplining, climbing and many more. You can go horesback riding along the sea cost or explore the nearby vineyards.

The famous sandy Camps Bay beach marked with a blue flag is just 10-minute walk away from the hotel. The other beach, named Clifton and dubbed the "African Saint-Tropez' is just a few minutes' drive towards the Cape of Good Hope. On windy days, you can observe as the

wind blowing from the land pushes waves back towards the ocean. A truly extraordinary phenomenon.

The hotel also offers trips to more distant places, as well as safaris that you can get to by helicopter, as the property has its own helipad. Children under 12 can be taken care of for free at this time - the Kids Club offers a rich programme of activities for young holidaymakers every day.

RESTAURANTS

One of the highlights of the hotel is its Azure restaurant, reported as one of the best eateries in the RSA. The head chef serves here delicious French dishes with a local African twist, as well as scrumptious desserts prepared with wild fruit growing in hotel gardens. The dishes are served with high quality wine, also from the hotel's Bouchard Finlayson vineyard. You should also check the Azure Deck bar where you can observe beautiful South African sunsets.



SPA SUITE

The hotel's Sanctuary Spa,features rock caves with thermal water, as well as swimming pools with salt water. Spa therapists use B Africa cosmetics based on natural oils and extracts from local African plants. I recommend treatments with mienral salt recovered from pure Atlantic waters, as well as traditional massages.

VERDICT

Twelve Apostles is an absolutely unique hotel, mainly because of its location at the foot of one of the most beautiful mountain ranges in the world, and at the same time, practically above the ocean. Architecturally, the hotel is perfectly integrated into the landscape and the views from the terrace are breathtaking. Thanks to such convenient location, guests of Twelve Apostles can admire both sunrises and sunsets. The property was ranked 6th in the 2016 Trip Advisor ranking of all South African hotels.

Anna Drozdowska

Twelve Apostles is an absolutely unique hotel, mainly because of its location at the foot of one of the most beautiful mountain ranges in the world, and at the same time, practically above the ocean.





LANZERAC HOTEL & SPA



CONTACT

Lanzerac Hotel & Spa 1 Lanzerac Road Stellenbosch 7600, RPA tel.: +27 (0) 218 871 132 www.lanzerac.co.za

anzerac Hotel & Spa is one of the most splendid hotels in the famous ■ wine region of Stellenbosch in South Africa. This luxury, 5-star hotel is part of the 325-year-old Lanzerac Wine Estate occupying more than 155 hectares of Jonkershoek Valley. Getting here from the centre of Cape Town takes less than an hour, while the town of Stellenbosch packed with galleries, museums, boutiques and restaurants, is just a five minutes' drive away.

INTERIORS

The hotel offers 48 perfectly furnished suites, equipped with all possible amenities such as multimedia entertainment system and Nespresso coffee machines. You won't find here two identical rooms, because each one features unique antiques and artefacts from the private collection of the owners. In addition, each room has a private terrace and spacious patio.

HISTORY

Lanzerac boasts a very rich history – the vineyard is more than 300 years old, and it's here where the world's first bottled pinotage (South Africa's most successful wine) was produced. The building's architecture has retained the traditional character of Cape

Dutch's colonial style with its characteristic richly decorated roof peaks and snow-white exterior walls. From the 1920s to the late 1960s, the hotel was a favourite meeting spot for the crème de la crème of the Cape Town.

RESTAURANTS

For lunch or dinner, go to the Governors Hall, the main restaurant of the hotel that specializes in fine dining. I particularly recommend springboard steak paired with strong pinotage from a good vintage. A more casual al fresco atmosphere is offered in Terrace Restaurant, and if you feel like having a light snack during the day, go to Lanzerac

Deli serving fresh, locally made bread, tasty sandwiches, cheese plates, fruit and popular picnic baskets.

In the foyer of the hotel there is Taphuis Bar with a wide choice of wines and spirits, while opposite the Governors Hall there is the Esquire Lounge-Whiskey & Cigar Bar. The real highlight of Lanzerac is its wine cellar and tasting room, where you can try a number of locally produced wines from eight grape varieties that grow in Lanzerac Wine Estate. It's a good idea to book the unique wine & chocolate pairing tasting event, where wine is matched with specially selected types of chocolate, which bring out the best flavours and aromas of wine.

ATTRACTIONS

After exploring the nearby vineyard and the adjacent gardens, you can relax in the modern Lanzerac Spa with seven treatment rooms, a large space to relax, steam and fog baths, dry saunas and a jacuzzi. To cool off from the heat, you can splash in one of two outdoor swimming pools, while in winter or on windy days soak in the indoor pool with heated water. The pool also features glass walls and ceiling, so you can enjoy a breathtaking view of the vineyard and surrounding mountains in the background. The spa uses high quality Elemis and TheraVine cosmetics based on grape extracts. There is also a fitness centre on site.

VERDICT

Lanzerac Hotel & Spa offers a unique opportunity to relax in the classic South African vineyard, in beautifully restored buildings that have been tastefully integrated into the mountainous landscape of Stellenbosch. The vineyard is situated close to the city, enabling you to use all of its numerous attractions. The rich culinary offer of the hotel and a selection of famous wines will satisfy even the most demanding guests.

Anna Drozdowska



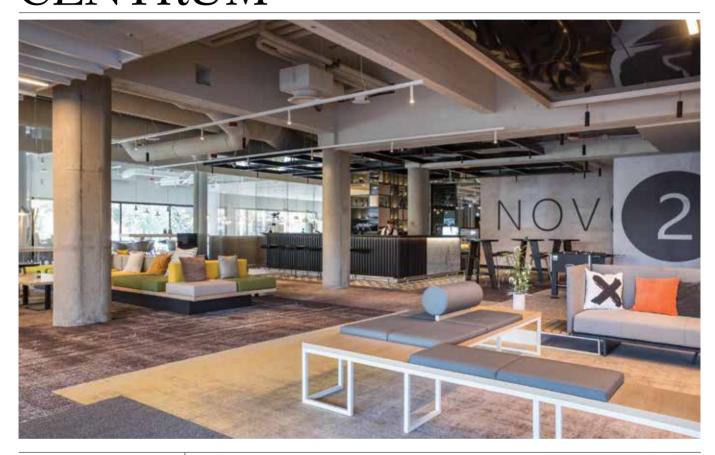


After exploring the nearby vineyard and the adjacent gardens, you can relax in the modern Lanzerac Spa.



Hotel WROCŁAW

NOVOTEL WROCŁAW **CENTRUM**



CONTACT

Novotel Wrocław Centrum ul. Powstańców Śląskich 7 53-332 Wrocław tel.: (+48) 71/722 4900 www.novotel.com/pl

rocław is a city of 100 bridges and dwarves. which can be found in various locations. One of them is the dwarf Novocław a guardian of Novotel Wrocław Centrum hotel, which is an ideal place for both business guests and tourists alike.

The property stands out for its excellent location. It is situated in the business centre of the capital of Lower Silesia, near the Old Town and major tourist attractions. Just a few steps away from the hotel, there are bus and train stations, as well as the Polish Theatre and the National Music Forum.

Novotel Wrocław Centrum is also an extraordinary hotel due to the fact that it shares a building with another property of the Orbis Hotel Group. The budget hotel ibis Wrocław Centrum occupies the first four floors, while the four-star Novotel is housed on the other levels of the building. Both hotels have separate entrances, lobby and reception.

INTERIORS

Novotel Wrocław Centrum was thoroughly revamped in mid-2016 and now boasts unique modern interiors. Lobby is creatively divided by means of various materials and textures into recreation, kids', entertainment and catering zones. Despite the use of subdued colors, the place encourages you to stay there for longer and work, play or simply relax. The other floors of the hotel feature 192 Novotel N'Rooms. The rooms are spacious and comfortable, and come equipped with free wifi, a 48inch TV, a media hub, tea and coffee making facility, as well as air conditioning. The stand-out feature of the N'Rooms is the remarkable Live N Dream by Novotel bed, designed in line with the brand's new concept, as well as beautiful city views.

BAR AND RESTAURANT

From the very morning you can enjoy a wide selection of cold and



hot breakfast dishes served in the hotel's restaurant. However, if you are looking for the perfect venue for an evening social or business event, then visit the NOVO2 (NOVO Square) lounge bar. NOVO2 combined what's the best in a bar and a restaurant, and its casual atmosphere will certainly appeal to both business people and leisure guests. Here you can enjoy a variety of dishes of international, vegan and gluten-free cuisine. And for the youngest there is a special kid's menu. Importantly, some of the dishes are available 24 hours a day via the room service.

ATTRACTIONS FOR EVERYONE

The offer of the hotel has been prepared to cater for any type of guest. If you want to organize a meeting, you can be assisted by a dedicated member of the staff who will professionally advise you and help choose the perfect room. There are as many as 12 meeting rooms throughout the property and some of them can be combined into larger spaces.

For families with children the hotel has prepared the Family & Novotel offer, which includes free accommodation with breakfast for two children under the age of 16, on condition they share the room with their parents. There are also numerous games and toys in the lobby, and families who want to soak in the atmosphere of the city even longer, can take advantage of the late Sunday check out at 5pm.

Those who like to stay in shape while on the go, can use the hotel sauna and a well-equipped fitness room, which are open to late night hours.

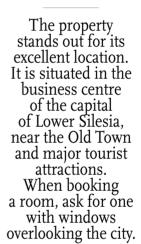


VERDIC

I recommend the hotel to anyone who wants to stay in the heart of Wrocław, regardless of the purpose of their visit. Note, that the property is highly rated by hotel guests. Those good marks have recently translated into the top position of Novotel Wrocław Centrum in hotel quality rankings.

Highlights: unique design, excellent location, very comfortable beds in spacious rooms, and the offer of NOVO² restaurant. The helpful and very kind staff deserve a separate praise. When booking a room, ask for one with windows overlooking the city. A perfect holiday with a breathtaking view is exactly what the spirit of the Novotel Wroclaw Centre reflects.

Rafał Sobiech







Clinic ŁASK

COLUMNA MEDICA





CONTACT Columna Medica ul. Wakacyjna 8 98-100 Łask tel.: +48 43 676 80 00 www.columnamedica.pl

olumna Medica is a modern clinic located in Łask, and surrounded by almost a hundred-year-old pine forest. The clinic specializes in spinal rehabilitation, non-invasive treatment of the musculoskeletal system disorders and manual therapy. It is also a beautiful, comfortable and modern hotel with an additional advantage of being a rehabilitation centre.

DIAGNOSTICS

Columna Medica is committed to working with the patient in a 1:1 system. Specialists working here attach great importance to both initial medical consultation and physical examination. During the diagnostics phase, the Diers Formetric 4D can perform analysis of the osteoarticular system without use of X-ray radiation. The clinic also

specializes in diagnostics of selected orthopaedic, neurological and rheumatological diseases. It helps to quickly restore efficiency, reduces pain associated with illnesses and injuries and, above all, helps avoid surgery in selected cases. With the needs of its patients in mind, Columna Medica has developed proprietary rehabilitation, orthopaedic and neurological programmes. Treatment within the package is designed to restore and improve motor functions with the shortest possible recovery time. All this done in a natural environment that promotes recovery.

WHERE IS IT?

In addition to top quality medical services and modern equipment, Columna Medica provides exceptional comfort of stay, intimacy and support in terms of wellness and healthy eating in

luxury conditions. Here it is all about you and your needs.

A rested mind is an essential element in decision-making processes and it increases work motivation.

In Columna Medica time flows slower. It is a unique place, created from the need to provide the best care within a holistic approach to health.

VERDICT

The clinic's offer is based on the individual needs of each patient. Specialists develop the most effective medical therapy, an individual nutrition plan and an exercise programme. It is also a perfect place for a weekend getaway, where you can relax in the pool, the exercise room, during yoga classes, as well as enjoy healthy and tasty dishes.

Marzena Mróz



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These days, most major airlines offer a standalone premium economy product not just economy seats with extra legroom. This year, American Airlines and Delta are finally installing premium economy cabins, and it's rumoured that some of the Middle Eastern airlines will follow suit. But how much better is the experience than regular coach class? We compare 16 airlines so you can decide...

LOT POLISH AIRLINES

Premium Economy on board aircraft of the Polish national carrier means much higher standards at an affordable price. The latest iteration of the product can be found on B787 Dreamliners owned by the airlines. Premium Economy passengers enjoy a rich catering menu consisting of two dishes of your choice during the flight plus snacks between services and a wide variety of drinks, including alcoholic beverages. All meals are served on porcelain crockery.

The seats offered on B787s are comfortable, have a large recline level, ergonomically profiled headrests and 43-cm wide footrests. The 10.6-inch individual touchscreen of the IFE system can be controlled by personal remote slotted into the main armrest. Each seat is also equipped with a USB port, a power socket and noise cancelling headphones. Before the flight Premium Economy passengers receive a travel kit, a blanket and a pillow. For long-haul flights the seat pitch in the class is 38 centimetres. Each of the eight LOT's Dreamliners offers 21 Premium Economy seats, occupying three rows in a separate part of the cabin and configured 2-3-2. In addition, passengers travelling in this class are guaranteed priority check-in and fast track for other procedures at Warsaw Chopin Airport.

AIR CANADA

Premium economy passengers are fasttracked through the airport and given a hot towel and welcome soft drink, followed by wine, beer, spirits and "premium" hot meals served on china with proper cutlery and glassware. As with most airlines here, you can check in two cases (23kg each).

The B787-8 cabin has three rows in a 2-3-2 layout (economy is 3-3-3). In my 2015 review businesstraveller.com/tried-and-tested), I said: "Premium economy feels spacious with a good amount of legroom (seven more inches than economy), and looks stylish. Seat-back screens (measuring 11 inches - two inches more than in economy) and universal power sockets are available to everybody. Amenity kits contained socks, an eye mask, toothbrush, toothpaste and ear plugs. Footrests made it more comfortable."

• Width: 18-20in/46-51cm • Legroom: 38in/96.5cm

• Recline: 7in/18cm

AIR FRANCE

Air France passengers can use Sky Priority channels in the airport, gain access to a lounge for a fee (economy passengers can't), board at will by skipping the economy queue, and get their luggage back quicker on arrival.

The newest seat is found on the carrier's B787. Air France says that it provides 40 per cent more space than in economy, and the fixed-shell design means that you won't encroach on the space of the person behind when you recline. Premium economy passengers are provided with travel kits and there are cleverly designed grooves in the tray table to rest your iPad on (you also get 12-inch built-in screens).

• Width: 19in/48cm • **Legroom:** 38in/96.5cm • Recline: 130 degrees



AIR NEW ZEALAND

In somewhat of a backward step, the Kiwi carrier's innovative Spaceseat, installed on the B777-300, is to be replaced with a more conventional premium economy seat by November. The product will be standardised across the airline's fleet of B787-9 and B777-200 and -300 planes, the last of which flies Auckland-LA-London. The new seat will be 2-3-2 or 2-4-2.

Passengers will continue to get premium check-in, priority baggage and boarding, and onboard amenity kits, meals and drinks, including wine from New Zealand.

Width: 19.3in/49cm
 Legroom: 41in/104cm
 Recline: 9in/23cm

AMERICAN AIRLINES

AA launched its first premium economy product this year on its B787-9s and B777-200s, initially on routes from Dallas to Madrid, Paris, Sao Paulo and Seoul, and Chicago-Paris, for a limited time. By the end of the year it will be available from LA to Tokyo Narita, Auckland and Sydney. Included in the price is priority check-in, security, boarding and luggage, as well as "chef-inspired" meals and alcohol. Passengers can take advantage of spacious black leather seats, noise-reducing headphones, USB ports and amenity kits. Main Cabin Extra will remain.

Width: 19in/48cm
 Legroom: 38in/96.5cm
 Recline: 5-6in/12-15cm

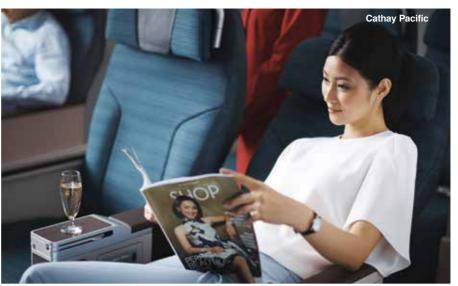
ANA

The checked bags of ANA premium economy customers are fixed with a Star Alliance priority tag. Travellers also have access to the Japanese carrier's lounge. Premium economy on the B777-300ER is in its own 2-4-2 cabin. Legroom is generous, at 38 inches - four inches more than regular economy - while the seat is 10 per cent wider, at 19.3 inches. The product is also installed on ANA's B787s. Each seat has a legrest, footrest, 10.6-inch touchscreen, power outlet, USB port and connection for Apple devices, plus a reading light at shoulder height. Free sparkling wine is served, while desserts are from the business class menu. Also on offer are ANA special edition wines.

Width: 18.4-19.3in/47-49cm
Legroom: 38in/96.5cm
Recline: 21-24.5 degrees

BRITISH AIRWAYS

BA's World Traveller Plus cabin comes in two forms, with a more modern product found on the B787, A380 and some B777s











and an older one on the rest of the longhaul fleet. The pitch is seven inches greater than in economy, while the width is an inch more.

Upholstered in navy padded fabric, the newer seat has a footrest, a headrest with wings and a 10.5-inch touchscreen that can be controlled by a personal handset. Noisecancelling headphones and an amenity kit with socks, an eye mask, ear plugs and toothbrush/paste are provided.

• Width: 18.5in/47cm • Legroom: 38in/96.5cm • Recline: 7-8in/18-20cm

CATHAY PACIFIC

On Cathay, premium economy flyers are greeted with a glass of champagne. The newest seat is on the airline's recently introduced A350s, which serve Hong Kong-Gatwick among other routes. Meals are "light

and healthy with an emphasis on fresh fruits and vegetables". Larger tray tables make working on a laptop easier, while 10.6inch screens (12.1-inch on the A350) come with noise-cancelling headphones. Amenity kits are also handed out.

• Width: 18.5-19.3in/47-49cm • Legroom: 38-40in/96.5-101.5cm • Recline: 8-9in/20-23cm

CHINA AIRLINES

The Taiwanese carrier offers eight rows of premium economy in a 2-4-2 layout on its B777-300ER aircraft. The fixed-back shell seat features a legrest, a 12.1-inch touchscreen, a water bottle holder, a drinks holder and a USB port. Designer Ray Chen has incorporated Chinese aesthetic touches throughout the aircraft, with the premium economy cabin featuring walls lined with a wood texturing effect.

• Width: 19in/48cm • Legroom: 39in/99cm • Recline: 118 degrees

DELTA AIR LINES

Delta will be rolling out Premium Select on long-haul aircraft later this year - before, it only had Delta Comfort+, which was an economy class seat with extra legroom. The new product will have adjustable rests for legs, feet, arms and head, 13.3-inch screens (nine inches in economy) and individual power ports.

The airline has collaborated with hotel brand Westin to supply Heavenly blankets, along with Tumi and Malin and Goetz for the amenity kits. Free Starbucks coffee will be available, along with complimentary craft beer, spirits and wine. Free seasonal meals will be served on Alessi tableware.

Premium Select travellers will qualify for Sky Priority security, boarding and bag delivery. The product will be available to book on the carrier's new A350 aircraft, to be followed by its B777s, A330s and B767s.

Width: 19in/48cm
 Legroom: 38in/96.5cm
 Recline: 7in/18cm

EVA AIR

The Taiwanese airline was one of the first carriers to offer premium economy (branded Elite Class). Its product offers USB ports, plug sockets, mood lighting and 11-inch LCD touchscreens. Toiletries by Canadian brand Escents are also provided, along with pillow and blanket sets. Wine, beer and non-alcoholic drinks are on offer, with meals served on chinaware.

Width: 19.5in/49.5cmLegroom: 38in/96.5cmRecline: 8in/20cm

JAPAN AIRLINES

JAL's Sky Premium fixed-shell seat has a generous 42 inches of pitch, a legrest, a headrest with wings, and a privacy divider at head height. The 12.1-inch touchscreen can be controlled via a handheld remote. Inseat power is provided. A significant perk is having lounge access at Tokyo Haneda and Narita, and London Heathrow.

Width: 19in/48cmLegroom: 42in/106.5cmRecline: Undisclosed

LUFTHANSA

Lufthansa's seat is not in a separate cabin but, depending on aircraft, is up to an inch wider than in economy, with about four inches more room at the side thanks to a wide armrest and a centre console. Seats have adjustable footrests, power sockets, a USB port, an 11- to 12-inch screen, and a small stowage area for glasses or a phone. There is no priority boarding or check-in but select lounges can be used for a fee. A "fruity" welcome drink is offered on board.

Width: 18-19in/45.5-48cm
 Legroom: 38in/96.5cm
 Recline: 40 degrees

NORWEGIAN

Those flying long-haul with Norwegian will find B787s fitted with five rows of Premium seats arranged 2-3-2. Seat pitch is 46 inches, compared with 31 inches in economy, although seat recline, while greater in Premium, remains minimal. Travellers get lounge access plus fast-track security and boarding. They don't have to pay to reserve seats, and drinks and a three-course dinner and breakfast are served free (you need to pay and order in advance in economy).

Width: 19.5in/49.5cm
 Legroom: 46in/117cm
 Recline: 9-10 degrees

QANTAS

From next month, the Aussie carrier will be introducing a new premium economy seat on its B787s, flying domestic routes to begin with, followed by LA and London. Smartly upholstered in charcoal grey with touches of "burnt caramel", the seat reclines into a Z shape with a hammock to support your feet, while a thick pillow slots on to the fixedwing headrest to cushion you as you sleep. Seatbacks have 13.5-inch screens, plus slots for your own tablet. There are also USB sockets and pods for storing water bottles.

• Legroom: 38-42in/96.5-106.5cm

• Recline: 9in/23cm

SINGAPORE AIRLINES

Configured 2-4-2, SIA's new premium economy seat has lots of thoughtful details, such as slots at the base of the central armrest for water bottles, cup holders above, calf and footrests that fold out, two USB sockets per person, and 13.3-inch HD monitors. Take your pick from three meal choices on board, or pre-order a special option from the "Book the Cook" menu. Champagne is complimentary, and fast-track check-in, boarding and baggage handling are rolled in as well. Travellers can stow one piece of checked luggage to 35kg.

Width: 18.5-19.5in/47-49.5cm
Legroom: 38in/96.5cm
Recline: 8in/20cm

VIRGIN ATLANTIC

One of the originators of premium economy, Virgin's product is still very popular. The seat has 10.5-inch touchscreens and broad central armrests with a flat section for drinks. Passengers either have footrests or a supportive ottoman cushion behind the bulkhead. When boarding, a glass of prosecco and a newspaper are offered and, later, a choice of post-prandial liqueurs. Amenity kits are provided on night flights. See page 21 for a review of Virgin's B787-9 premium economy.

Width: 21in/53cm
 Legroom: 38in/96.5cm
 Recline: 8in/20cm



SOFITEL GRAND SOPOT

celebrates its 90th anniversary!



What distinguishes the Sofitel brand among other hotels is the French "art de vivre" and the ability to combine French origin with the best elements of the local culture.

uilt in 1927 at the beach front on the shore of Gdańsk Bay, Sofitel **Grand Sopot continues** to delight with its unique style and elegance. This one of the most recognizable landmarks of the Polish coast celebrates its 90th anniversary this year.

THE MOST ELEGANT HOTEL **IN NORTHERN EUROPE**

The Mayor of Sopot described the newly opened Hotel Grand as "the largest and most elegant hotel in Northern Europe", while "Gazeta Gdańska" daily wrote: "(...) This grand impressive building boasts a vast beach. The hotel's driveway, hall, sea-view terraces, café and patisserie, as wella as 35 rooms with 50 beds, are now ready for guests (...)".

The construction works took three years and cost 20 million Danzig guldens. At that time Grand Sopot was the most luxurious hotel in the Tri-City. Suites had private bathrooms where guests could take baths in sea water, because the building had equipment that supplied water directly from the Baltic Sea. Most of the rooms were separated only by a sliding door, making it easy to enlarge the area should guests need it. In this way wealthy guests would sometimes book half of the floor, as they wanted to stay in a large, spacious suite.

Located in the heart of Poland's most fashionable Baltic resort, on its opening it was immediately named the most prestigious hotel in the Tri-City area. The structure of the building has not changed ever since and is a perfect example of modernist resort architecture. From the very beginning of its existence, its interiors impressed with crystal chandeliers, stylish furniture and walls covered with tapestries. The ballroom was illuminated by Baccarat crystal chandeliers, which have been preserved until today.

THE BIGGEST NAMES FROM THE WORLD OF ART

Grand Hotel has always been a unique place. 90 years ago its opening was accompanied by jazz music performed by the American Eric Burchard band. The pre-war and post-war tradition included the famous "five o'clock parties". Those popular dance parties were held every Sunday at 5 pm. From 1961, the hotel radio broadcast a local music show called "Afternoon tea on wave 230", inspired by the famous "Afternoon tea at the microphone". In the early 1970s, it hosted elegant press balls with three orchestras.

In its long history, the hotel has hosted crowned heads (King Alfons XIII), statesmen (Charles de Gaulle, Henry Kissinger), and world famous stars (Greta Garbo, Marlena Dietrich, Omar Sharif, Annie Lennox, Charles Aznavour, Josephine Baker, Shakira, Prince, Jean Michel-Jarre, Helena Vondrackov).

The hotel was also visited by numerous representatives of the artistic bohemia, including Czesław Miłosz, Sławomir Mrożek, Nina Andrycz, Jan Kiepura, Krzysztof Krawczyk, Maryla Rodowicz and Zbigniew Wodecki. It is here where Czerwone Gitary band debuted in 1965. The unforgettable Agnieszka Osiecka had here her favourite table with a view of the beach, where many of her songs were created. One of them was probably the "Sopot Bolero", sung by Edyta Geppert to the music of Włodzimierz Korcz.

SOFITEL GRAND SOPOT... 90 YEARS LATER

After a recent upgrade, the fivestar Sofitel Grand Sopot captivates with its unique style and atmosphere. The new décor of the property hass been designed by a renowned French architect Frédéric Yzerman. Following the redecoration, the hotel's lobby, restaurant, swimming pool and rooms have acquired a modern character, without losing the original style. The changes were made with respect to the existing design, allowing the hotel to retain its character. In the garden there is now a fountain and a private hotel beach, which offers guests romantic dinners served with sea waves in the offing.

Sofitel Grand Sopot was and still is a witness of history, an icon of the Polish coastline and a synonym of elegance and





luxury. It is a combination of historical beauty and comfort of French elegance. Formerly known as the Grand Hotel, it now operates under the Sofitel brand, owned by the French AccorHotels Group. Grand Sopot offers 127 rooms overlooking the sea or the park, and equipped with comfortable MyBed™ beds, which guarantee peaceful sleep. Art Deco restaurant offers dishes that combine Polish and French culinary art, while Le Bar impresses with a selection of delicious cocktails served in the company of live music. Guests can relax on a private beach or in the Grand SPA, visit the SoFIT gym or enjoy the indoor pool. The hotel's five conference and banquet rooms, as well as the ballroom, provide ideal conditions for organizing any kind of meeting or conference.

What distinguishes the Sofitel brand among other hotels is the French "art de vivre" and the ability to combine French origin with the best elements of the local culture. Sofitel is an elegant answer for travellers who seek unusual aesthetic sensations, as well as all the good things in life. The brands 120 hotels in 40 countries across five continents. invite all those who seek tailormade service, unique décor and creative cuisine.

The pre-war and post-war tradition included the famous "five o'clock parties". Those popular dance parties were held every Sunday at 5 pm.

NEW FACE OF THE ICONIC HOTEL



Alex Kravetz has created residential décor, which will appeal both to business travellers. high-rank diplomats and leisure tourists.

heraton Warsaw Hotel, the flagship property of the Sheraton brand in Poland, has been thoroughly renovated. The revamp covered all guest rooms including suites and Sheraton Club® Lounge. The interior design by London architect Alex Kravetz combines elegant contemporary design of rooms with tradition and excellent location at the Three Crosses Square, near Ujazdowski Park.

Club rooms and suites situated on upper floors of the hotel have also been renovated. Many of them overlook the nearby Łazienki Park (Royal Baths) and the Three Crosses Square. Guests staying in Club room gain access to the newly refurbished Sheraton Club - a private space with complimentary wifi, breakfasts, drinks and snacks offered during the day, as well as evening cocktails with a large selection of alcohols and refreshments. You can spend there time with your friends, meet your colleagues after work or simply unwind in the elegant interior of the lounge.

COMFORT AND LUXURY

Alex Kravetz has created residential décor, which will appeal both to business travellers, high-rank diplomats and leisure tourists. The hotel suites offer a network of interconnected rooms, including living rooms, where work can be comfortably combined with relaxation. The rich social life heritage of Sheraton Warsaw is reflected in the small details of the décor, as well as unique works of art made by a local artist. In the rooms you will find high-end

architectural elements, such as multi-level, non-intrusive lighting, luxury fabrics, as well as a whole cornucopia of textures and finishes. Bespoke furniture is both creatively designed and functional to provide as much comfort as possible.

TIME TO RELAX

Conveniently, each room features an openable window to allow guests to take a breath of fresh. The Sheraton Signature Sleep Experience set includes the iconic custom-designed bed, which helps eliminate uncomfortable pressure points that cause tossing and turning, and improves blood circulation, ensuring a peaceful, refreshing sleep, even after a long flight, intense physical exercise or exploring the beautiful sights of Warsaw.

MANY OPTIONS IN ONE PLACE

In the heart of the hotel there is a banquet space extending over two floors and reserved for special events. Since its grand opening the elegant Ballroom of the hotel has hosted numerous galas, meetings and other special events. The Ballroom continues to be one of the most desirable venues to organize events in Warsaw, and its advantages are perfectly complemented by the famous culinary offer and reliable quality of ser-

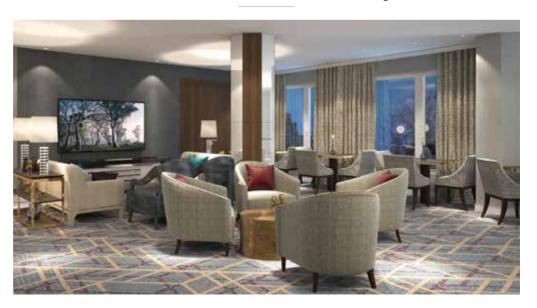
Whether you want to meet at the Lobby Bar or try out a carefully selected range of Tex-Mex cuisine and interesting cocktails from around the world in SomePlace Else, Sheraton Warsaw offers a lot of possibilities. Don't forget to visit inAzia restaurant to taste fresh, authentic dishes of South East Asia in relaxed, friendly atmosphere. For even more sophisticated culinary experiences with food prepared in live kitchen, go to Poland's smallest restaurant -Chef's Table.

To find out more or to book a room, go to sheraton.pl





Whether you want to meet at the Lobby Bar or try out a carefully selected range of Tex-Mex cuisine and interesting cocktails from around the world in SomePlace Else, Sheraton Warsaw offers a lot of possibilities.



AMERICA COAST TO COAST

In April 2017, LOT Polish Airlines launched a direct connection between Warsaw and Los Angeles. This was enough of an incentive to fly to the US and set out on a coast-to-coast trip there.





his is the fourth LOT's destination to the North America. The route is almost 10,000km and the flight takes less than 12 hours. B787s are modern, comfortable and quiet aircraft, guaranteeing good quality onboard service. Interestingly, an "open jaw" ticket booked with LOT costs less than a regular roundtrip ticket to LA. Preparations for the trip were very short, as we wanted to feel free and spontaneously decide where and how long we want to stay and see. That's why, right before leaving, we only booked a car with Hertz and a hotel room for our first four nights in LA.

After a pleasant and comfortable flight to the City of Angels, we faced a very unpleasant surprise. Although we were the first to leave the plane, the queue for the passport control was very long. Passengers from all over the world, some after a 20-hour flight from Asia, had to wait nearly three hours to present their visa and have their fingerprints scanned. The same queue had to be used by Poles (who need a visa to enter the US), as well as other UE citizens who must apply for the ESTA authorization online. However, many people are anaware of that and, in consequence, can't board the plane. If you arrive at an airport 2-3 hours before your flight, you should be able to complete the ESTA application online, but it's a very stressful experience.

CAR FROM HERTZ

After almost three hours of queueing, we completed all the formalities, collected our

luggage from the carousel and left the terminal, worried if we would be able to collect the booked car before dark.

This time, however, we were in for a pleasant surprise. Right in front of the terminal building there is a car park with a bay for mini-buses from car rental companies. Although a Hertz bus had left right before we turned up, we hopped on another one that arrived three minutes later. After a short, ten-minute ride we got to the main building of the company. Having lots of luggage, we were afraid we would have to queue again for a long time, but luckily there were so many customer service desks that we didn't have to wait, at all. We had booked our car before our trip, in Poland. You can do it through the company's website (hertz.pl) or by calling Hertz Reservations Department at (22) 50 01 620. When renting a car in the USA you should have an international driving license. Such document is valid only when you present it along with the original driving license. Without additional charges, we registered a second driver and got the keys to our SUV. Unfortunately, there is no wifi in the rental office, but a Hertz employee gave us a map of LA and explained how to get to the hotel.

TO SEE CALIFORNIA

Driving through the United States took us less than three weeks. First we explored California, driving along its coast from Los Angeles to Santa Barbara. Then due to massive road repairs on the Pacific Coast Highway we took a different route to San Francisco, driving through scenic vineyards. The Golden City is an truly beautiful place, both in terms of location and architecture, and known for its magnificent Bay and Golden Gate bridges. Then we went to Yosemite National Park and Sequoia Park, where you can watch the largest and oldest trees in the world. To explore the Death Valley and the Grand Canyon, you must reserve at least two days. The amplitude of the temperatures here is staggering. In the Death Valley it rose by a few degrees every half an hour to finally reach 49°C by 3pm. It never rains here. The next day it was snowing and hailing, but we walked on the snow layer in flip flops without getting cold, because the temperature was rising fast. Unlike in the Death Valley, in the afternoon we were hit here by torrential rain, followed by a beautiful rainbow before sunset on the magnificent bridge on the Colorado River.

LAS VEGAS AND MONUMENT VALLEY

We also visited Las Vegas, where we stayed in the opulent Venetian Hotel renowned for its replica of Italian Venice and floating gondolas. It was a pleasant antidote to a very modest motel near Monument Valley - the only place to stay we could find at the last minute on booking.com. Interestingly, the motel wasn't cheap at all, and to get there we needed to drive nearly 70 miles in the op-



Driving through the United States took us less than three weeks. First, we toured California along the coast from LA to Santa Barbara. To get to San Francisco, we chose a faster route leading through vineyards.



To explore the Death Valley and the Grand Canyon, you must reserve at least two days. The amplitude of the temperatures here is staggering.





Nissan

THE OFF-ROAD GLADIATOR

Note that when booking your car with Hertz, you book a group of cars, not a specific model. What is important, however, is that all cars within the group are of a similar standard. If we want a particular model, then Hertz has prepared for its customers speciall Collections: Family, Adrenaline, Fun, Green, Prestige, Dream. Our four-door Rogue Sport in Brilliant Silver colour was really elegant. Its 2.0 litre engine generates 141 hp and the automatic CVT Xtronic transmission with ECO mode performed perfectly on the long journey. Although fuel prices in the US are not high, the eco-mode was useful for long distances covered at a stable pace.

However, from time to time we would leave the beaten track. Nissan Rogue Sport is perfect for off road trails - it's an SUV, after all. With its four-wheel drive, the car swiftly cleared boggy terrain and other obstacles. And its 565-litre of boot space means you can accommodate there even the largest pieces of luggage. Interestingly, you can open the boot lid by moving your leg under the rear bumper – a very convenient feature. The cars for the US market are assembled in Japan.

posite direction, covering the same distance again in the morning to get to Monument Valley. The valley itself is a fantastic miracle of nature, which is difficult to describe or even capture on photos.

ON THE WAY TO THE EAST COAST

There is literally one road (E40) leading almost all the way from the Monument Valley to the east coast, partly running parallel to the famous Route 66. The journey took us four days and along the way we visited Elvis Presley's Graceland mansion in Memphis, Nashville - the capital of country music, and the university campus in Knoxville. We spent the night in Amarillo, Texas, Memphis, Tennessee and Knoxville.

In Texas we had to face a heavy storm. With no radio turned on and unaware of the danger, we drove calmly through the biggest hurricane in the history of this state, named "Harvey".`nWith no radio included, unaware of the danger, we drove calmly through the biggest hurricane in the history of this state - "Harvey".

On the 15th day of our trip we reached the east coast, in Washington. The city is beautiful, clean and quiet. Unfortunately, Donald Trump wasn't there to say hello, because he had just gone to Texas.

DRIVING THROUGH THE US

Overall, we covered more than 8,500 kilometres, and despite many hours of driving every day, we didn't find it tiring to travel through the USA. People drive safely and obey traffic rules, lanes are very wide, road signage is perfect, and on highways (which are free of charge) you won't be distracted by any large posters or signs. Petrol in the United States is much cheaper than in Europe, and the car was very economical. The price for 1 gallon (3.8 litre) range from US\$1.93 in central states to US\$4 near Monument Valley.

HELLO NEW YORK

It took us all day to get from Washington to New York, because we chose the route leading through forests and villages to have the chance to explore the real America. Entering New York City is like falling into a centrifuge. After visiting the beaches of Long Island and Hamptons, we decided to return our car, because having it in NY is more of a hindrance than a help.

We stayed at Wall Street and immediately started googling the location of the nearest rental station to return the vehicle. We were afraid we would have to go all the way to the airport to do it, but fortunately the search engine returned a long list of Hertz stations, one of which was quite close to our hotel. It took just 5 minutes to return the car with Californian plates that covered more than 8,600 kilometres. "Hello, here's the key. Thanks, bye." We even asked if they wanted to check the condition of our Nissan, and make sure if it didn't have any scratches or if it was exactly the same car we had rented, because, frankly, after the visit to Monument Valley and its red sands, the vehicle's colour changed from silver to dirty orange. No, they didn't want to. In the US almost every matter is dealt with quickly, efficiently and convenientl







Along the way we visited Graceland mansion, where Elvis Presley is worshipped to this day Entering New York City is like falling into a centrifuge.





DOWNTIME IN DOHA

From camel racing and desert safaris to top-class restaurants and spas, there's much to enjoy in Qatar, says *Karl Cushing*.

ttracting international visitors has become something of a preoccupation for Qatar, future host of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, and a burst of recent developments – such as the new Mall of Qatar – has widened the options for business travellers with some time to explore. Doha's impressive five-star hotels, meanwhile, are an attraction in themselves, supporting a vibrant dining and nightlife scene (see page 80). Here are ten things to try both in the capital and the wider area.

1. HIT THE BEACH

Recharge after your business trip by catching some of that year-round sun, away from the restrictions of the local public beaches. Hotels offering day passes for non-guests include the Intercontinental Doha, where tickets cost from QR 200 (£42) for adults on weekdays. It's a great spot to get a resort-style R&R experience either by the pool or on the large beach and, once revived, you can try your hand at some of the watersports available.

Also offering day access is the Grand Hyatt Doha, with its curved beach and five pools. Options outside the city include Sealine Beach Club, about an hour's drive from Doha and a good spot for activities.

2. RELAX IN A SPA

Many of Doha's high-end hotels are home to outstanding spa facilities, such as the Banana Island Resort Doha by Anantara and Kempinski Marsa Malaz on the Pearl, with its Spa by Clarins and hammam







by Amra skincare. A personal favourite is the Six Senses spa at Ritz-Carlton's Sharq Village, the design of which creates a relaxed, local atmosphere, with Arabian treatments offered alongside the likes of Thai and Swedish.

3. CRUISE THE BAY

Leave the land behind you and take to the water on one of the many dhow boat cruises that leave from the Corniche. It's worth it for the knockout views of the Doha skyline alone - particularly impressive at night as you sail the bay beneath a canopy of stars, enjoying a blowout barbecue buffet dinner. Another option is taking a gondola ride from Katara Village. Operators offering BBQ dhow cruises include Qatar International Adventures (four hours; QR 230/£48 per person; qia-qatar.com).

4. PLAY A ROUND

Doha Golf Club, the only 18-hole championship course in the country, plays host to January's Oatar Masters. Other facilities include a driving range and a putting green, while novices can practise their game at the on-site Qatar Golf Academy. The Arabic-style clubhouse is well worth checking out too. It costs from QR 300 (£63) to play 18 holes or QR 200 (£42) for nine. You can book a tee time online and hire equipment (dohagolfclub.com).

5. HEAD INLAND

The Inland Sea, or Khor Al Adaid, is a UN-ESCO-recognised site and one of the most popular destinations outside of Doha for tourists and locals alike. Here, the sea encroaches deep into the heart of the desert and the 86km journey from Doha is a spectacle in itself, not least the moment you get your first view of the water from the crests of the dunes being navigated by the driver of your 4WD vehicle.

The sea can easily be experienced as part of an organised desert safari, along with activities such as sand boarding, quad biking and moonlit Bedouin-style barbecues. Operators include Falcon Tours, which offers half-day safaris from QR 390 (£83) per person, based on a trip for two (falcontoursgatar.com).

6. VISIT A MUSEUM

Located in Al Samriya, 42km west of Doha, the fascinating display of artefacts at Sheikh Faisal Bin Qassim Al Thani Museum is based on the personal collection of Sheikh Faisal himself. It's centred on the four key areas of Islamic art, local heritage, vehicles,



Good to know

FOOD AND DRINK

Brunch spots

Friday brunches are a Doha institution – popular venues include W Doha, and Opal at the St Regis, one of three Gordon Ramsay offerings at the property (tel +974 4446 0000; opalbygordonramsaydoha.com). The St Regis's range of restaurants also includes an impressive branch of modern Cantonese chain Hakkasan.

Local dining

One of the best spots for local dishes is Souq Waqif, where great options include Shay Al Shoomos, Al Matbakh Rooftop Grill and Al Mourjan. Better still, try the branch of Al Mourian on the Corniche, where the bay views are almost as spectacular as the Lebanese-influenced dishes (tel +974 4483 4423; almourjan.com).

Idam

Celebrated French chef Alain Ducasse's 60-cover restaurant, Idam, boasts an enviable spot atop the Museum of Islamic Art, and has an interior designed by Philippe Starck. The sumptuous menu sees Mediterranean-style dishes lifted by Middle Eastern touches. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays (tel +974 4422 4488;

alain-ducasse.com/en/restaurant/idam).

Nobu

From the stylish interiors to its trademark Japanese cuisine, Nobu at the Four Seasons Doha impresses on many levels. It's a popular spot for cocktails, not least during happy hour, which takes place from 6pm to 8pm daily except on Saturdays, and the packed ladies' nights on Mondays (tel +974 4494 8888; fourseasons. com/doha).

• City Centre Rotana

Varied options at the five-star hotel include Teatro, for fusion food encompassing Chinese, Indian, Italian, Japanese and Thai cuisines; Misk, for Lebanese cooking; and the Cheers-inspired Boston's bar (tel +974 4445 8888; rotana.com).

and coins and currency, with highlights including the Sheikh's car collection and the impressive Qatari fort it is housed in. Open Mon-Thurs 9am-4.30pm, Fri 2pm-7pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 9am-4pm. Entry QR 15 (£3); fbqmuseum.org.

7. CHEER ON THE CAMELS

If you find yourself in Qatar in the winter months then don't miss one of the highenergy camel races held at Al Shahaniya, 60km west of Doha. Operators such as Qatar International Adventures frequently combine a behind-the-scenes tour of the camel racing track with a visit to the Sheikh Faisal museum - often with a look at the Racing and Equestrian Club, where the Qatari royal stables are based.

8. TOUR THE LANDSCAPE

Further west of Al Shahaniya lies Zikrit and the Ras Abroug peninsula, an area of raw, barren beauty and wind-carved limestone rock formations. Other attractions in the region – which is known for its archaeological sites, including some from the Neolithic era - are its secluded, remote beaches and a wild deer reserve.

While you're there, check out the impressive East-West/West-East sculpture by artist Richard Serra in the nature reserve. Operators offering tours of the area include Discover Qatar (discoverqatar.qatarairways.com).

9. KAYAK IN THE MANGROVES

For a less arid natural wilderness, head to Al Thakira Mangroves, 57km from Doha, to the north of the city of Al Khor. The watery green wilderness is a haven for bird life, including flamingos and herons, and you can explore it by kayak. Companies offering tours include Aqua Sport, which runs two options from the marina in Al Thakira - a mangrove exploration tour and a mangrove and flamingo beach tour - for QR 200/£42 (aquasportsqatar. com).On the journey there from Doha, consider stopping off at the restored Al Zubarah Fort. This UNESCO World Heritage site is surrounded by a 60-hectare archaeological park and offers an interesting glimpse into the country's past.

10. BE A SPORT

Doha's state-of-the-art sport facilities offer visitors the option of either watching a major event or having a go themselves. Top picks include the Qatar Racing and Equestrian Club, Khalifa International Tennis and Squash Complex and the sprawling Aspire Zone (aspirezone.qa), where standout facilities include the Hamad Aquatic Centre.

Petrolheads should consider heading north of Doha to the town of Losail. The Losail International Circuit hosts a series of local and international motorsport events, from touring cars to superbikes, with a separate track for motocross. You can also get behind the wheel yourself, either on its karting track or on the circuit itself during a training day.



The watery green wilderness is a haven for bird life, including flamingos and herons, and you can explore it by kayak.



KLM JEST "ECO" I TROSZCZY SIĘ O ZRÓWNOWAŻONY ROZWÓJ



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Sukcesywnie wymieniamy naszą flote, zastępując Boeingi 747 najnowszym Dreamlinerem -Boeing 787, który zużywa aż 46% mniej paliwa. Dreamliner emituje też 20% mniej dwutlenku węgla w porównaniu z wcześniejszymi modelami i jest o 60% cichszy.





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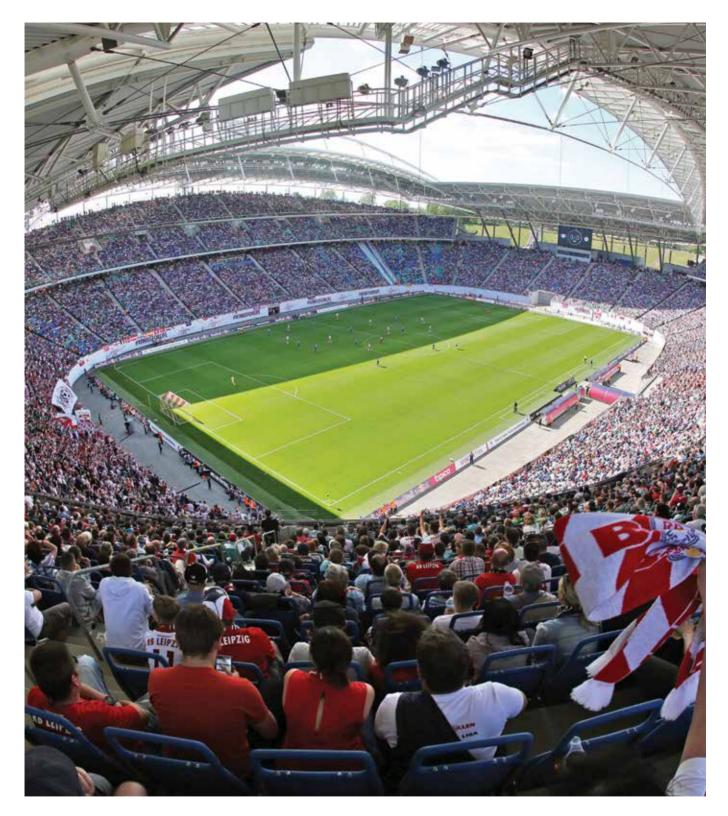
Nasi pasażerowie mają pewność, że ryby, które podajemy na pokładach naszych samolotów posiadają certyfikat zrównoważonego rybołówstwa.



Biopaliwa

Jesteśmy prekursorem w pracach nad wykorzystaniem biopaliw w lotnictwie i nie tylko. To ważne, ponieważ biopaliwa używane na większą skalę pozwolą nam zredukować emisję dwutlenku węgla do atmosfery aż o 80% w porównaniu z paliwami konwencjonalnymi.





LEIPZIG: ON THE BALL

Nearly three decades since German reunification, new business, low living costs and a fast-rising football team have seen the eastern city of Leipzig go from bust to boom. **Andrew Eames** reports.

or a decade or so after the demise of East Germany, the steadily depopulating city of Leipzig had little to celebrate in terms of economics, and even less to be proud of on the football field, a crucial ingredient in the self-esteem of any German city. But then, in 2009, the Red Bull corporation came knocking, and RB Leipzig was born.

FOOTBALL RULES

At that stage, the new team had to start out in the lowly fifth tier of the German leagues, but its rise since then has been as meteoric as it has been disapproved of by the country's footballing traditionalists, who dislike its corporate origins.

Last season it entered the Bundesliga, the equivalent of the Premier League, and ended up finishing an astonishing second, even threatening mighty Bayern Munich. So next year it will be playing in the Champions League, the first club in former East Germany to get to such giddy heights.

Footballing success has been a huge morale boost for a city that had struggled A reunification, and its rise has been matched by a shift in the city's economic status, too. From having lost almost 100,000 inhabitants during the difficult post-GDR transitional decade of the 1990s, Leipzig is now the fastest-growing city in Germany, attracting 15,000 new residents every year. It has gone from bust to boom.

There are several engines behind that growth. New industry, e-commerce and arts have encamped here, encouraged by low rents and room to grow, earning the city the label of the "new Berlin". And they are bringing with them increasing tourism as well.

CITY OF GLOBAL BRANDS

Leading the way in Leipzig's business regeneration are four brands that could hardly be better known – DHL, Amazon, BMW and Porsche. DHL, employing 5,000 staff, moved its European distribution hub here from Brussels in 2008, partly because Leipzig's userfriendly airport allows 24-hour operation. (From the UK, only Ryanair flies to Leipzig, from London Stansted three times a week, but there are numerous options to nearby Berlin, which is only a 75-minute train journey away.)

Amazon, employing 12,000 people, came here for similar logistical reasons,



Leipzig is now the fastest-growing city in Germany, attracting 15,000 new residents every year.

after the reunified country opened new autobahns around the city; the traffic jams that blight the road network in western Germany are virtually unheard of around here.

BMW, employing 5,300 workers, is focusing its electric car development on a new factory, and Porsche is now producing some two-thirds of its cars in its new Leipzig plant.

Porsche's marketing manager, Thomas Lenck, acknowledges that it was a risk choosing Leipzig as a manufacturing base back in 2002. But the company, which is headquartered in Stuttgart, needed room to expand, and it particularly wanted to create a test circuit where customers could get the full Porsche experience.

"We believe that customers need to feel the car perform," Lenck says. So everyone who comes here to pick up a brand new vehicle can take to the track - the curves of which emulate Formula One courses around the world – either as driver or passenger, to get to grips with the controls and capabilities of their model. The track and its adjoining customer centre also function as a successful standalone business, hosting more than 500 corporate events a year.

For Porsche, with a strong handmade element in production, the human side of the story was always going to be important.

Initially, the company had to run a homecoming campaign to attract the right kind of workers back to the city, but now that word of mouth has got out about Leipzig's quality of life and low costs, recent growth has been very fast - from 800 workers in 2011 to 4,500 today.

"We've only got a leaving rate of 1 per cent," Lenck says, "so something must be right. The city is the perfect size, big enough to be international and to have lots of activities, and small enough to be 20 minutes from anywhere."

While Porsche and the other new companies are located on the city's fringes, a lot of the original Leipzig heavy manufacturing - printworks, foundries and huge cotton mills – was a short tram ride west of the centre in the Plagwitz area of the city. Here, giant warehouses and factories still loom, but their brickwork has been beautifully repointed and their new workers are more likely to have man-buns than mullets.

For example, some 350 people work for e-commerce pioneer Spreadshirt, whose offices are sited in a former truck factory, with obligatory ping-pong tables and Playstations. Spreadshirt's core business lies in generating T-shirts bearing customers' own messages and designs, for which it is the market leader in Europe. Its Leipzig-based

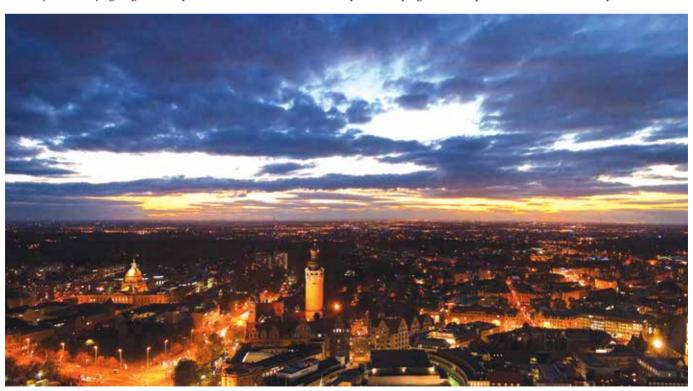
chief executive is Brit Philip Rooke and its operating language is English, although his team also includes 20 different nationalities to manage its 18 national websites.

With a turnover of €106 million, and a year-on-year growth rate of 15-20 per cent, you might think that recruiting the right kind of multilingual designers and IT experts would be an issue for a Leipzig-based company. Not so, says Rooke, an unconventional executive who camps out in what is effectively a glorified garden shed during the week, joining his wife in their Berlin home at the weekends.

"When I arrived in 2009, very few people knew of Leipzig. Now it is a hip place to be for people who are tired of Berlin," he says. "And I know of several British-based companies nosing around here with a Brexit relocation in mind."

CREAM ON THE CAKE

Just down the road from Spreadshirt, past a couple of the sort of artist-based squats that were common in Berlin before property prices shot up (per-sqm rental is €7 per month in Leipzig, and approaching €20 in the capital), is the Spinnerei. Once the largest cotton mill in Europe, employing 2,000 people, today it is a huge, rambling workspace with dozens of start-ups and about 100



It is tourists and business travellers who are adding the cream to Leipzig's post-reunification cake. Visitor numbers have risen steadily year by year.

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Leipzig, it seems, is once again a place where the big corporations like to see and be seen.



artist studios. One of these is occupied by Neo Rauch, a big name in the international arts scene. Some of the rooms here have been converted to boutique accommodation, and many of the artists participate in open days, attracting tourists.

It is tourists and business travellers who are adding the cream to Leipzig's post-reunification cake. Visitor numbers have risen steadily, from 2.1 million overnights ten years ago to 2.9 million last year, according to Andreas Hachmeister, chief operating officer of Interhotels, a company with several big-brand hotels (such as Westin and Radisson Blu) in the region.

In one respect, however, Leipzig will always struggle to produce numbers that match those of its pre-reunification days. Back then, it was a trade show centre, hosting huge consumer fairs displaying goods from the west. These days, those goods are freely available throughout the city.

Meanwhile, the Messe and the beautifully renovated art deco Kongresshalle are concentrating on the meeting and conference market - with the addition of functions for the new big-hitters of DHL, Amazon, Porsche and BMW. Leipzig, it seems, is once again a place where the big corporations like to see and be seen.

WHAT TO SEE

For anyone with a little spare time available to explore, there are three key areas to visit. Leipzig's historic heart, surrounded by a ring road jangling with trams, is easily walked and busy with street musicians and students on bicycles (German chancellor Angela Merkel studied physics here when it was still the GDR). It is particularly known for its 30-odd interior courtyard arcades, some lined with shops, some with quiet cafes.

West of the centre, the repurposed factory district, Plagwitz, laced with canals that are now given over to leisure boating, is also worth seeing, particularly along main thoroughfare Karl-Heine Strasse, with its feng shui shops and vegetarian kebabs. Just south of town is the New Lakeland, where former open-caste coalmines have been converted to beach and watersport destina-

In town, business travellers often frequent the Westin's 27th-floor restaurant. Falco (falco-leipzig.de), which has two Michelin stars. For a real bargain business lunch, however, nothing can touch the value of the Panorama Tower restaurant (panorama-leipzig.de), which

offers a three-course lunch for a mere €12 as well as fantastic views from the 29th floor.

MODELOWY OWAL TWARZY



jących klientów, eksperci Kosmetycznych Instytutów Dr Irena Eris stworzyli zabieg zainspirowany osiągnięciami medycyny estetycznej DEEP SKIN FILLER. Gwarantuje on skuteczną walkę ze zmarszczkami, utratą elastyczności i zmianą owalu twarzy.

Program DEEP SKIN FILLER bazuje na unikalnej technologii wielopoziomowego wypełniania zmarszczek (lipofillingu) z jednoczesnym efektem re-modelingu twarzy. Z wiekiem pojawia się coraz więcej zmarszczek, opada skóra policzków i kaciki ust, poglębiają się bruzdy nosowo-wargowe. To efekt między innymi zaburzeń w komunikacji międzykomórkowej oraz malejącej z wiekiem ilości tkanki podskórnej. Składniki aktywne preparatu BIO-FILLER SERUM zastosowanego w zabiegu docierają w głąb tkanek. W efekcie wyraźnie zwiększają ilość komórek tłuszczowych, powiększając zarówno ich liczbę, jak i rozmiar, co daje spektakularny efekt wypełnienia zmarszczek. Kompleks składników aktywnych HIALU-NT-LIFT o optymalnym dla skóry stężeniu 27 % gwarantuje spektakularny efekt re-modelingu twarzy. Kompleks ten aktywując komunikację między neuronami a fibroblastami, odbudowuje sieci kolagenu i elastyny co prowadzi do radykalnej korekty widocznych symptomów starzenia.

Dla wzmocnienia efektów zabieg DEEP SKIN FILLER można wykonać w oparciu o pięć technologii Dr Irena Eris REVICORE

> Hi-Tech System – z mezoterapia beziałowa, radiofrekwencją biolaser RF, oksybrazją, mikrodermabrazją i peelingiem kawitacyjnym.

Profesjonalny Program Pielęgnacyjny Dr Irena Eris PROSYSTEM HOME CARE przedłuża i wzmacnia skuteczność zabiegów kosmetycznych. Linia DEEP SKIN FILLER walczy ze zmarszczkami,

utratą elastyczności skóry i zmiang owalu twarzy, zwigzanymi nie tylko z wynikającą z wieku utratą podskórnej tkanki tłuszczowej, ale również z nieprawidłową komunikacją międzykomórkową (tzw. teoria NEUROSTARZENIA).



Dr Irena Eris

KOSMETYCZNE INSTYTUTY



DINNER DATE

The Business Traveller Asia-Pacific team tries out some new hotspots and old favourites in Hong Kong

UMI

The newest dining venture from Hong Kong group Le Comptoir, Umi opened in February and offers authentic Japanese cuisine in easy walking distance of the Central business district.

Natural materials and minimalist décor create a zen-like environment, with a spectacular showpiece in the form of a hanging orchid tree. A set omasake (chef's choice) menu is prepared live by fourthgeneration sushi master Yukio Kimijima, with two seatings for ten patrons at a time (HK\$1,588/£158 per person).

Our four appetisers comprised six-month dried rice with lavish shavings of French truffle; seasonal hirame (Japanese halibut) adorned with the vibrant hanaho flower; Narita-sourced abalone; and grilled Hokkaido scallop wrapped in seaweed with sweet chestnut.

The procession of ten sushi courses started with the lighter flavours of sayori, snapper and kohada fish, before the more meaty textures of akami and toro tuna. A rich miso

soup, a powerfully flavoured sea urchin roll, and a dessert of mochi and matcha Valrhona chocolate followed. Sake pairings are available.

Offering authentic Edomae sushi in a lovely environment, Umi is a fantastic addition to Hong Kong's culinary scene. Tamsin Cocks

Open Mon-Sat 6.30pm-8pm, 8.30pm-10.30pm. Shop 3, G/F, 159-163 Hollywood Road; tel +852 2956 3177; lecomptoir.hk/umi

FLINT GRILL AND BAR

Flint Grill and Bar may be housed on level five of the JW Marriott, but with its upmarket industrial-chic interior, it's not your typical hotel restaurant. In 2016, it welcomed head chef Pieter Fitz-Dreyer, who has revamped the menu with inventive creations.

Our meal started with options "from the sea". First, Akaroa king salmon with oyster, charred cucumber and white balsamic (HK\$190/£19) - a seafood sensation. Another standout was the Ahi tuna (HK\$190/£19), prepared at the table. The fresh melt-inthe-mouth fish contrasted beautifully with homemade Nori crackers.

From the daily specials, we enjoyed the lobster ravioli smothered in a coconut sauce infused with Thai herbs and decorated with young asparagus tips. The main event was the Linz Heritage USDA prime cut, 45-day dry-aged on the bone steak (20oz rib-eye HK\$590/£58). The flavour of the matured meat was prominent, and not something for everyone.

Desserts included a crunchy, tangy apple crumble, which my companion declared the best she'd ever had in Hong Kong. Flint ticks all the boxes for both business travellers and locals looking for a high-end yet informal setting. Tamsin Cocks

Open 12pm-2.30pm, 6pm-10.30pm; bar 5pm-12am. JW Marriott Hong Kong, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty; tel +852 2810 8366; marriott.com

YEE TUNG HEEN

Located on the second floor of the Excelsior hotel in Causeway Bay, Yee Tung Heen is a







tel. 123456789

superb example of Cantonese fine dining, with a new and innovative approach to the cuisine courtesy of executive chef Wong Wing Keung.

The décor is dramatic, with a contemporary artistic bamboo pattern in red and black leading through to floral-patterned partitions, which create five separate dining rooms and disguise the fact that this is a large restaurant (200 seats). There's an elegant tea counter at the entrance where you can choose from a range of premium and bespoke blends.

The à la carte menu is huge, at 14 pages. We tried the twin mushroom platter (HK\$248/£24), which won a "Gold with Distinction" award at the Hong Kong Tourism Board 2015 Best of the Best Culinary Awards. The two mushrooms were stuffed yet light in texture and flavour, exemplifying the subtle approach of the chef.

Another highlight was the steamed rice roll with tiger prawn, kale and beetroot dumpling served with prawn oil soy sauce (HK\$128/£13). This well-known restaurant deserves a return visit - great food and service and some innovative cooking.

Mon-Sat 12pm-2.30pm, 10.30am-3pm; dinner 6pm-10.30pm daily. 281 Gloucester Road; tel +852 2837 6790; mandarinoriental.com

Tom Otley

BIZOU

Opened in December last year on the ground floor of Pacific Place mall in Admiralty, Bizou offers Danish-born chef Magnus Hansson's fresh interpretation of a classic American brasserie. The menu is farm-to-table in style, with no GM foodstuffs and organic produce as the rule. The cool, comfortable interior features natural wood finishes, dark leather, wooden chairs and warm lighting.

To start, we chose fried Camembert cheese with cloudberry preserves, fried parsley and toasted sourdough; rich with the perfect combination of crusty skin and melting centre. The grilled octopus with crispy potatoes, olives, young celery, mint hummus, sumac, extra virgin olive oil and lemon offered a fascinating mix of flavours.

For mains, we tried the slow-braised boneless short ribs in red wine with potato purée, gailan green vegetables and fresh horseradish, and the pan-seared Icelandic cod fillet with butter, soft-boiled egg, cauliflower purée, sautéed kale and fresh horseradish. The ribs were cooked beautifully, the meat shredding easily and filled with juicy flavour. The fish was also excellent, the crispy kale and horseradish injecting piquancy into an otherwise mild, creamy dish.

The wine list was strong on Italian bottles but with a good global spread, while the cocktail menu was highly creative. The atmosphere was a nice mix between modern and traditional, the service was excellent and the food consistently delicious. HK\$1,500-\$2,000 (£145-£200) for a three-course meal for two with wine.

Open daily 11.30am-10.30pm. Shop 132, L1, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway; tel +852 2871 0775; diningconcepts.com/restaurants/bizou Jeremy Tredinnick

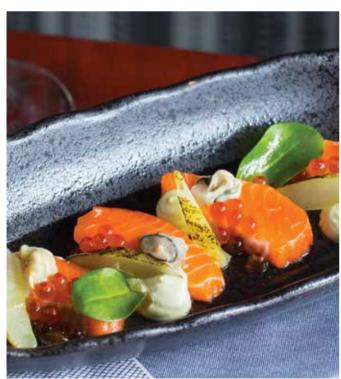
COBO HOUSE

Open since March last year, Cobo House (short for "community of bohemians") is an arty eatery tucked away in the Shek Tong Tsui district. It grows its own herbs and plants, while other ingredients are procured from local markets.

The menu is brief and to the point. For starters, we chose the "Mushroom" and "Crab". The former consisted of a king trumpet mushroom, egg tofu and herb butter, along with more mushrooms, a pan-fried egg tofu cube and smashed potato. A hint of truffle subtly enhanced the flavour. For the mains, we selected the pork and the vegetarian somen. The slow-cooked pork belly was served with charred spiced pineapple, giving the dish a slightly peppery taste.

A key part of Cobo's appeal is its collaboration with Janice Wong, a Singapore-based chef known for founding 2am:dessertbar. The dessert menu offers three dishes, paired with beverages for HK\$298 (£29). We tried the Popcorn, a combination of sweet and savoury popcorn-flavoured parfait; Kyoto Garden, a floral dish with orange blossom ice cream in a white chocolate shell; and Basil White Chocolate, a sharp, fruity dish with passion fruit. Perhaps the most impressive dessert is the Cassis Plum (pictured), a signature creation of Wong's that made an appearance on Masterchef Australia 2015.

Craig Bright













ielkie miasta. Miasta kontrastów, gdzie nowe spotyka się ze starym, a małe stoi ramię w ramię z dużym. Wśród nich Warszawa, która niezmiennie zaskakuje wielością form i stylów. Od tempa zmian w ostatnim dziesięcioleciu może zakręcić się w głowie, ale w większości jest to pozytywne zakręcenie. Kolejne dzielnice zyskują nowy charakter, a niektóre nowe życie. Jedną z takich dzielnic jest Wola. Niegdyś robotnicza część miasta, dzisiaj dumnie nosi tytuł nowego centrum biznesowego stolicy. Liczne przedsięwzięcia infrastrukturalne oraz nowe inwestycje biurowe i mieszkaniowe w okolicy Ronda Daszyńskiego sprawiły, że stała się najbardziej rozchwytywaną dzielnicą Warszawy.

"Jeszcze do niedawna postindustrialne okolice Woli nie wywoływały entuzjazmu wśród mieszkańców stolicy. Na naszych oczach zmieniły się nie do poznania. Dziś przyciągają młodych ludzi oraz entuzjastów dobrego, nowoczesnego designu." - mówi Katarzyna Kajak, Dyrektor ds. Sprzedaży i Marketingu, firmy deweloperskiej Pro Urba.

Metamorfoza w wielkim mieście

NOWE OBLICZE WARSZAWSKIEJ WOLI

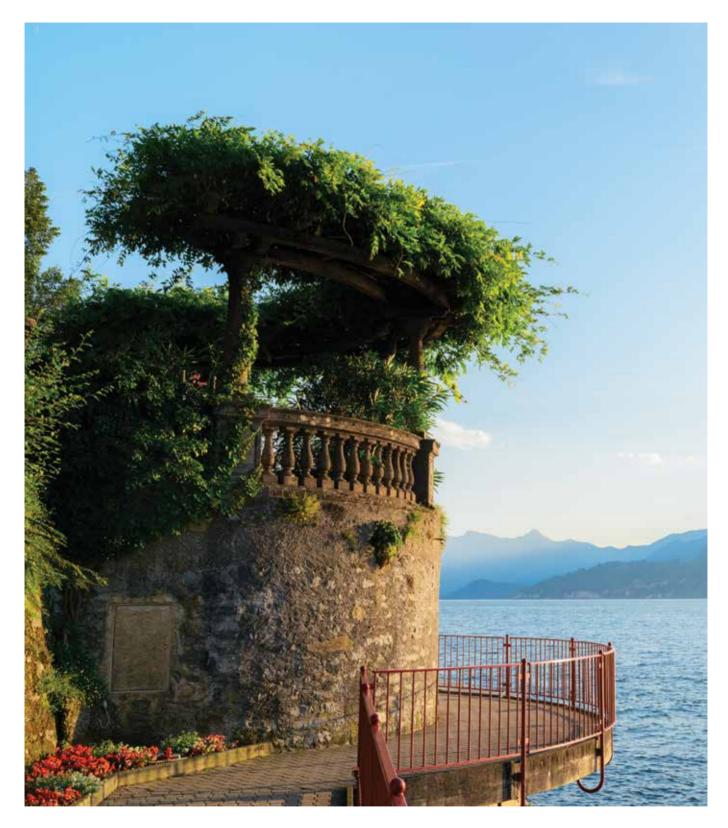
JESZCZE DO NIEDAWNA POSTINDUSTRIALNE OKOLICE WOLI NIE WYWOŁYWAŁY ENTUZJAZMU WŚRÓD MIESZKAŃCÓW STOLICY. NA NASZYCH OCZACH ZMIENIŁY SIĘ NIE DO POZNANIA. DZIŚ PRZYCIĄGAJĄ MŁODYCH LUDZI ORAZ ENTUZJASTÓW DOBREGO, NOWOCZESNEGO DESIGNU.

Wszystko zaczęło się od wielkiego wybuchu. Dokładnie 10 lat temu padł jeden z ostatnich symboli industrialnej Woli. W kilka sekund ponad 130kg ładunków wybuchowych zrównało z ziemią 10-piętrowy biurowiec Zakładów Maszyn Budowlanych im. L. Waryńskiego. Był to wówczas największy budynek w Polsce wysadzony w powietrze przy użyciu tak zawansowanej metody. W tym miejscu, przy ulicy Kolejowej powstaje obecnie 19. Dzielnica, która stała się jednym z najbardziej rozpoznawalnych i docenianych osiedli w Polsce.

Projekt realizowany przez firmę Pro Urba zakłada wybudowanie dziesięciu budynków w sześciu etapach, z których każdy ma swój indywidualny charakter. Wspólnym mianownikiem kontrastujących ze sobą budynków jest ich kubikowa forma, spektakularne przeszklenia, drewno oraz surowa faktura elewacji, które komponują spójną architektonicznie całość. Zupełnie nową część miasta tworzą nie tylko budynki, ale także skwery z fontannami, zielone patia, ulice oraz powierzchnie handlowo-usługowe.

19. Dzielnica to miejsce, w którym nowoczesna architektura spotkała się z tradycyjną urbanistyką. Komfortowa, przyjazna i nowoczesna przestrzeń w naturalny sposób scaliła się z istniejącą tkanką miejską, zachowując postindustrialny charakter miejsca. Budowa 19. Dzielnicy stała się także ważną częścią całego procesu rewitalizacji tej części miasta. To właśnie m.in. za odzyskanie poprzemysłowych terenów oraz stworzenie nowego modelu dzielnicy w 2015 roku Pro Urba otrzymała I Nagrodę w ogólnopolskim konkursie Ministra Środowiska "Projekt: Przestrzeń". Została również wielokrotnie doceniona przez środowisko architektów i urbanistów, zdobywając najważniejsze nagrody architektoniczne.

Historia warszawskiej Woli przypomina historię brzydkiego kaczątka, które omijane i niechciane stało się w końcu obiektem zachwytu. Takich metamorfoz może być więcej - wszystko w rękach mądrych architektów oraz inwestorów, którzy mają szansę odzyskać dla miast zaniedbane i zapomniane tereny. ¶



LAKESIDE GLAMOUR

Lake Como's glittering waters and elegant villas are a haven for celebrities and mortals alike. *Michelle Harbi* checks in for a taste of the good life.



ake Como is a view you couldn't tire of – whatever the weather or season, the panorama of water, forest and sky is never less than beguiling. We visited in late April and experienced it in all its guises. On our first day, bleak skies and bucketing rain threatened to stop play but it was a pleasure simply to sit back with a strong Italian coffee and watch the vista change gradually - clouds shrouding the tops of the mountains as boats passed in a stately fashion, interrupting the stillness of the shimmering lake.

HOME FOR CELEBRITIES

By the following morning, all had cleared, the sun throwing everything into glorious technicolour - muted greys replaced with dazzling blues and greens, the low mist lifted to reveal snow capping the mountains, their bases dotted with pretty peach and vellow villas. And below, as ever, the boats passing, busier today with tourists taking in the view from the water.

Long known as a glamorous destination for the celebrity set, if you are looking for a luxurious break then Lake Como is hard to beat. About 50km north of Milan if you want to extend a business trip, it's as little as 45 minutes' drive from Malpensa airport depending on where you choose to stay.

CASTA DIVA

Located east of lakes Maggiore and Lugano, in the foothills of the Alps, Lake Como is shaped like a slender two-pronged fork, with the city of Como itself situated at the foot of the western leg, and the popular town of Bellagio located in the centre, where the branches meet. We chose as our base the superb Casta Diva Resort and Spa, set right on the lake about 6km up the winding eastern shoreline from Como, in the comune of Blevio.

Part of Small Luxury Hotels of the World, the five-star luxury Casta Diva has a storied history. Villa Roccabruna, the grand house at the heart of the 26,000 sqm property, was originally built in 1797 and 30 years later was bought by soprano Giuditta Pasta. A muse of Bellini, she was the inspiration for his opera, Norma, and the first to sing its famous aria, "Casta Diva". Rebuilt in the early 20th century, it became a hotel in 2010 following considerable expansion. It now comprises 73 spacious rooms and suites split across nine villas set in manicured grounds. Designed in traditional or modern styles, most rooms have fabulous lake views that can be enjoyed from private balconies or terraces. My own suite was huge and had not one but two balconies, with understated, contemporary interiors that rightly deferred to the vista outside.

You could easily go to Casta Diva for the weekend and not leave the grounds. As well as containing ten suites, the main villa houses sumptuous, high-ceilinged salons for taking tea, and a cocktail bar for something stronger.

A covered walkway takes you to the expansive 1,300 sqm spa - home to everything from a Turkish bath to a Himalayan rose salt room – and fine-dining restaurant L'Orangerie, which has a lake-view terrace and serves beautifully conceived and presented Mediterranean cuisine. Out front, meanwhile, and perfect for lazing the day



Rebuilt in the early 20th century, Villa Roccabruna became a hotel in 2010 following considerable expansion.





away in peak season, is a floating pool and deck suspended right on the lake.

HISTORIC SITES AND CAPPUCCINO

When you are ready to venture out, it's worth setting aside at least half a day to explore Como itself - the resort lays on a free regular shuttle service (useful if you don't have your own wheels, as taxis can be eye-wateringly expensive). We spent a happy afternoon wandering the narrow streets of the once-walled old quarter - the Duomo (cathedral), built between the 14th and 18th centuries, is spectacular - and watching the locals go about their business from café terraces. Strolling the lakefront promenade was also lovely, and it was good to stumble across La Vita e Bella restaurant (Piazza Domenico Croggi 4), where we struggled to choose from the long list of bountiful, very reasonably priced salads on offer.

Still, you can't spend all your time on dry land here – it's a must to get out on the water and explore the lake. Casta Diva runs a tour to Bellagio and back on its 20-seat boat (€85 per person, April to September/October depending on weather). It wasn't running on the day we had set aside, so instead we boarded a ferry from Como port. Services depart regularly throughout the day and you can hop on and off at the many villages that line the shore.

SEARCHING FOR GEORGE CLOONEY

Our time was limited so we contented ourselves with heading straight for Bellagio, catching glimpses of local life in the towns - an outdoor karate class here, a game of basketball there - as the boat docked to offload and onload passengers. As we continued north - wondering which villa belonged to George Clooney - the lake widened to reveal ever more expansive views, until the densely packed pastel buildings of Bellagio unveiled themselves. Undeniably beautiful and romantic, Bellagio is also very touristy, its waterfront terraces and steep alleyways packed with visitors even in spring. It has a wonderful atmosphere, though - La Punta (ristorantelapunta.it), on the edge of the town, looked like a particularly refined place to stop for lunch, with stunning views, while Bar Rossi, down by the ferry terminal, is an old-school spot for a negroni.

Still, after a couple of hours we were happy to retreat back to the tranquility of Casta Diva. Donning my thick white robe and snoozing on a sunbed by the floating pool, the early evening sun warming my face, I felt like a bit of a celebrity myself.





WATCHES: COMING OF AGE

Long known as the little brother to Rolex, Tudor has its sights set on becoming a big name on its own terms, says *Chris Hall*.

he story of Tudor's genesis as a watch brand is well known among enthusiasts. Rolex founder Hans Wilsdorf — hailed by many as the watch world's original master of marketing — saw an opportunity to sell watches with Rolex levels of build quality at a lower price. That was back in 1926, Rolex having been formed only in 1905; a few Tudor watches emerged in the 1930s, but it wasn't until 1946 that Wilsdorf would form a separate company and make a real go of it.

TO BE LIKE THE OLDER BROTHER

From then on, Tudor followed a fairly predictable path, shadowing Rolex through the 1960s and '70s as watches enjoyed their boom years. It, too, created Submariners – now highly prized – and other tool watches similar to their Rolex cousins, many of which found their way on to the wrists of adventurers and soldiers around the world.

But, in line with its founding principles, Tudor was always the younger sibling. Where Rolex put watches on the wrists of Everest's conquerors, Tudor equipped less newsworthy pioneers on the wastes of Greenland. Rolex was the brand of James Bond and Pan-Am pilots; Tudor had the French Navy. Rolex was the crown; Tudor had the Oyster Prince.

It wasn't all silver medals, however — Tudor had a 200m Submariner on sale before Rolex, and boasted an automatic chronograph years before the Daytona went the same way. But, in general, if Tudor was known to the wider world, it was as Rolex's junior brand.

Unlike Rolex, however, Tudor was not stewarded carefully through the "quartz crisis" of the late 1970s and 1980s. By the 2000s it was suffering an identity crisis of its own, bogged down by unappealing designs and no more of a household name than it had been half a century before.

FRESH START

Tudor hit the reset button. Withdrawing from key markets entirely, it made a comeback in 2010 with an approach that was to become emblematic of the entire industry for years to come. Drawing on its 1960s and '70s bestsellers, Tudor got watch nerds' attention with the Heritage Ranger and Heritage Chronograph. Just as its founder had envisaged, these







were hardy watches made to Rolex levels of quality at prices that reached a wider market (even by today's elevated standards).

Then in 2013 came the masterstroke – the Heritage Black Bay. Not a reissue of any specific watch, it nevertheless bore its retro influences proudly. With first blue, then red bezels, it kick-started a generation of 1970s dive watch revival editions, and then moved up another gear entirely to become the cornerstone of everything Tudor does.

ENDORSED BY BECKHAM

To date, there have been seven iterations of the Black Bay, including a larger bronze version. This year Tudor added a chronograph model, produced with movements supplied by Breitling (as part of a landmark "swap" deal, Tudor gives Breitling movements for its new Superocean Heritage).

The Heritage Black Bay has become the darling of watch fans, and Tudor has found a better way to be Rolex's younger brother, realising that it can be more daring (producing a left-handed limited edition Pelagos), louder (working with Italian motorcycle company Ducati) and generally exhibit more zest and verve while retaining that seal of quality.

Importantly, in today's market, modern-day Tudor has done what its former self never needed or bothered to: invest in its own in-house movements. A mark of independence and – theoretically – quality, in-house movement production is usually met by hefty price hikes; Tudor made the switch with barely a shift in retail prices, further endearing itself to customers.

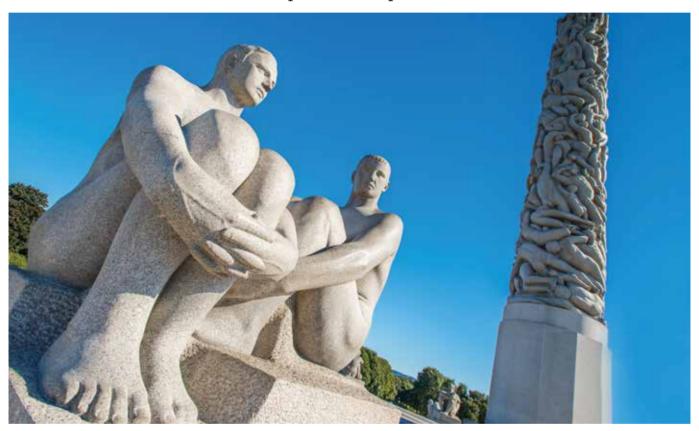
And yet, for all this, it is probably fair to say that Tudor is not overly well known. Certainly more people will be able to reference Omega, Tag Heuer or Breitling. Reinventing the products to critical acclaim over the past seven years has been vital to winning over the die-hard watch fans, but now Tudor has its sights set on the genuine mainstream.

Hence the announcement last month of David Beckham as the brand's flagship ambassador, alongside a position as official timekeeper to the New Zealand Lions rugby tour, sponsor of the All Blacks and their talismanic fly-half Beauden Barrett. We may be entering the era where Tudor no longer needs to trade on Rolex's name; even younger brothers grow up eventually.

4

HOURS IN... OSLO

Marisa Cannon wanders the Norwegian capital, taking in stunning architecture, historic hotels and sculpture-strewn parks



OSLO OPERA HOUSE

Perched on the edge of Oslo's waterfront, the opera house is one of the city's most striking landmarks, and a good place to start a tour of the Norwegian capital. A fortress of gleaming white Carrara marble and polished glass, its harsh angles and geometric shape pay homage to the country's landscape, resembling a craggy, snow-capped mountain or an iceberg floating on the Oslo Fjord.

Built in 2008 by local architectural firm Snohetta, a number of the building's features were designed to encourage public interest in the arts, such as the floor-to-ceiling windows along its flanks, inviting you to peer in and watch set and costume production unfold. If you have time to spare, sign

up to one of the 50-minute guided tours (kr $100/\pounds9.60$), or take a packed lunch to the rooftop for views across the water and surrounding islands. Kirsten Flagstads Plass 1; operaen.no/en

GRAND HOTEL OSLO

A 15-minute walk westward will take you to the Grand hotel, the annual host of the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize banquet, which has recently undergone a major renovation. Opened in 1874, the property was a regular haunt of playwright Henrik Ibsen, who was known to dine in its Grand Café every lunch and dinnertime.

This is where Oslo-ites go to be seen, either for lunch in the café or dusk cocktails at Eight, the chic rooftop bar on the eighth floor. Decked out with smart cushioned beds and sultry artwork, it offers finger food, local beer and a range of reinvented classic cocktails, alongside lovely views of the nearby Norwegian Storting parliament and National Theatre. Try the "Nor Way" for a twist on the negroni, made with aquavit and local bitter digestif Marka, or the "Ginger Club" — an update on the Clover Club with raspberry liqueur and a raspberry spirit, both distilled in Norway. Karl Johans Gate 31; grand.no

NOBEL PEACE CENTRE

A ten-minute stroll towards the waterfront will take you to the Nobel Peace Centre. While all other Nobel prizes are awarded in nearby Stockholm, the Peace Prize ceremony is held in Oslo. A tribute to this tradition is the Peace Centre, which charts the work and lives of former winners through a series of compelling exhibits.

At its heart is the story of the incumbent laureate Colombian president Juan Manuel Santos, whose landmark peace deal with Farc armed rebels in 2016 ended a bloody 52-year war. Running until November 26, the "Hope Over Fear" photography exhibition shows the reality of the Colombian conflict, depicting soldiers working to clear areas of landmines, Colombian coca pickers and Farc members preparing to transition to normal life. Open Tues-Sun 10am-6pm during winter (daily in summer); kr 100 (£9.60). Brynjulf Bulls Plass 1; nobelpeacecenter.org

NORSK FOLKEMUSEUM

From the pier opposite, take a ten-minute ferry ride (these run March to October) to Bygdoy, on the western edge of the peninsula. This is one of the city's more well-heeled neighbourhoods, with wide-set Americanstyle avenues and grand homes. A five-minute walk from the jetty is the Norwegian Folk Museum. Its indoor and outdoor collections show how people lived before the Industrial Revolution, featuring artefacts from Norway's indigenous Sami people and reproductions of traditional 18th- and 19thcentury homes, with interiors furnished as they would have been at the time.

Exhibitions include "Queering Sapmi", a photography project about LGBT identities among the Sami, on until October 15.

Open weekdays 11am-3pm, weekends 11am-4pm from September 15 to May 14 (otherwise daily 10am-6pm); kr 130 (£12.50). Museumsveien 10; norskfolkemuseum.no

VIGELAND PARK

Parks are an important part of Oslo's landscape, and a number feature art installations by international and local artists. A ten-minute drive from the museum, in the north-eastern suburbs, is one of the most notable, Vigeland Park, which is the world's largest sculpture park by a single artist.

Created by Norwegian sculptor Gustav Vigeland in the 1940s, the park encompasses 32 hectares of landscaped gardens and lakes, strewn with more than 200 granite, bronze and cast-iron sculptures of human figures, portraying different stages of life. The most arresting is a monolith of stonecarved bodies, knotted and clambering over one another, toward the pillar's highest point. It's an intense, even unsettling sight, but it makes for a stunning photo. Free entry; Nobels Gate 32;

vigeland.museum.no



Grand Hotel Oslo is where Oslo-ites go to be seen, either for lunch in the café or dusk cocktails at Eight, the chic rooftop bar on the eighth floor.







ASK PETER

Letters

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

Compensation for delayed flight

My flight to Zurich was delayed, because our aircraft arrived at the airport later than expected. We landed in Paris with a considerable delay of almost two hours. There was no free boarding bridge, and to make matters worse, we were held on board for an hour before the airside bus was provided. I was sitting in the last row and I was the last to leave the plane. I made a complaint with the airline, but in the reply I received they stated that the plane had landed earlier and that I had no right to any compensation. What rules apply in such a situation?

Krzysztof

Dear Krzysztof,

In accordance with European Union Regulation (EU) 261/2004 (February 11, 2014), you are entitled to certain compensation for the delayed flight. In this particular case the distance to your destination was less than 1,500 kilometres, and with the delay of more than two hours due to the fault of the carrier the compensation is equivalent to €250. Regardless of the reason for delay, the airline should provide passengers with adequate care (meal, drinks, access to telephone and email).

The situation is far from clear here, as the directive and the regulation don't clearly define which moment is eligible as the time of arrival. Is it the moment of touchdown or when the plane is parked at the terminal? Airlines like to interpret the arrival time as the hour of touchdown, because this moment is taken into account when determining punctuality. However court rulings tend to take the side of consumers. The last few judgements of the courts of appeal have tipped the balance in favour of passengers. The groundbreaking decision was made on 4 September 2014, when the court declared that the time of arrival should be understood as the moment when the doors of the aircraft have been opened to enable passengers to disembark and enter the airport terminal.

This means that if from the time of departure of the aircraft (defined as the time when the plane leaves its parking bay) to the time when the door was opened at the port of destination, the delay exceeded two hours, you should appeal the airline's decision. The time of arrival at the last destination is crucial here.

It doesn't matter that you occupied a seat in one of the last rows and were the last passenger to leave the plane. Priority embarkation and disembarkation is paid extra and reserved only for privileged passengers.

Seat at the front of a plane

I booked a ticked for my boss for a flight from Krakow to London with easyJet airline. I didn't book a specific seat, though. I checked him in online and printed out the ticket. During the check-in process the system assigned a seat in row 26. Now it turns out that my boss wants to have priority embarking the plane and needs a seat at the front of the cabin. I wanted to modify the reservation, but the system kept sending me back to the check-in page. My colleague advised me to call the carrier's customer service, but I don't want to pay extra for such service and increase the overall cost of the ticket.

Ewelina

Dear Ewelina,

Let's make it clear: you didn't print out the ticket, but merely the boarding pass. The ticket as a proof of contract of carriage by air, doesn't entitle your boss to board the plane, yet. To make it possible, the passenger needs to undergo the check-in procedure and receive a boarding pass, which is the only document that entitles the passenger to enter the restricted area of the airport and board the plane. After check-in and printing the boarding pass, the option of changing the seat was blocked. Now the airline must withdraw the passenger from check-in and cancel the boarding pass (change the status of the ticket coupon from checked-in to open), to be able to re-assign the seat. Once the new seat has been assigned, the passenger must undergo the whole check-in procedure again and print out a new boarding pass. Traditional airlines have very advanced online applications that allow you to make changes online. Low cost airlines, such as easyJet, use fairly simplified versions of booking systems, so not all changes can be made online.

In this particular case you won't have to pay extra for a phone call, because this service wasn't available via the website of the carrier. If you were given a choice of the distribution channel, the airline could charge an additional fee for booking made by phone. However, in this case, there was no such possibility. You will only pay for the front seat, with no additional transaction fee.



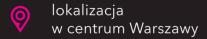




Najlepsze osiedle w Polsce Premiera IV etapu



Zamieszkaj w kolejnym etapie najbardziej nagradzanego osiedla w Polsce



obok stacji metra Rondo Daszyńskiego



powierzchnie od 32 m² do 137 m²



duży wybór mieszkań pod inwestycję



mieszkania z tarasami



atrakcyjne lokale usługowe