

# PASSPORT

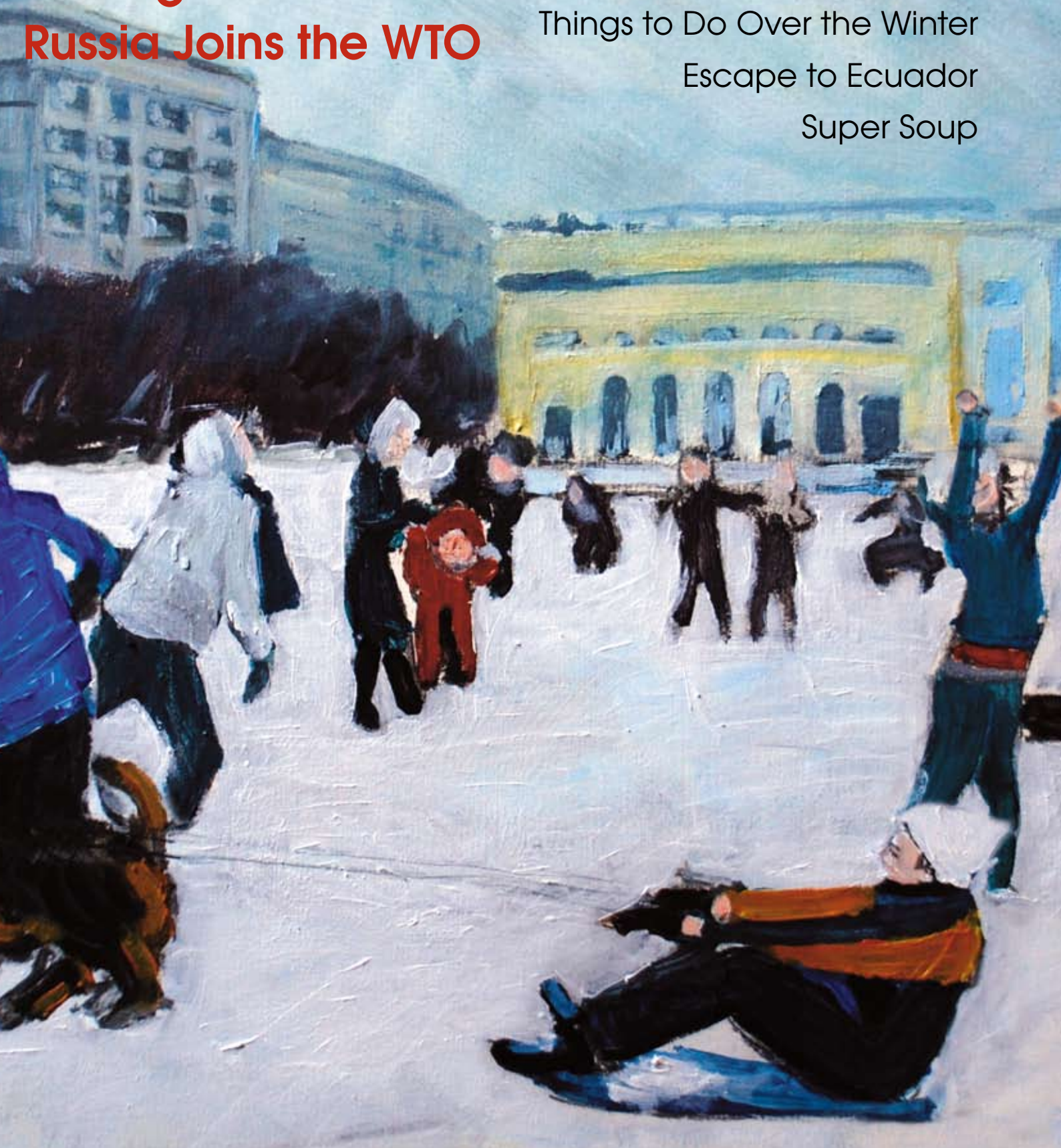
MOSCOW

JANUARY 2012

[www.passportmagazine.ru](http://www.passportmagazine.ru)

**Skating on Thin Ice?**  
**Russia Joins the WTO**

Roman Abramovich in Court  
Things to Do Over the Winter  
Escape to Ecuador  
Super Soup







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**John Ortega**  
Owner and Publisher

"You can fool all the people some of the time, you can even fool some of the people all of the time, but you cannot fool all of the people all the time," said Abraham Lincoln. The demonstration at Bolotnaya Ploshad on the 10th of December, which was attended by upwards of 50,000 people, including the PASSPORT team (two people), demonstrates Ol' Abe's understanding of twenty-first century Russian politics. The determined

civility of the crowd, which was not demanding a revolution but an end to attempts to fool them at election time, was perhaps the most amazing thing. Fair elections in Russia would of course be a revolution of a sort, which is why the authorities are trying to make up for lost time and being very clever about how they handle their crisis of middle-class voter confidence. We shall see how things unravel in February and March, but those

of us who lived here in the 1990s know that in Russia anything is possible. The prospect of something unusual happening is not very encouraging for investors, and for those of us who know that times of change are also times of great turbulence. However we all hope that, whatever awaits this country in the coming year, it will happen without bloodshed and unnecessary suffering. Happy New Year to all our readers!



## Winter menu at Chicago Prime



*John Harrison*

Winter menus are put together with the Russian winter in mind, and are usually full of good solid meat and fish dishes. The winter menu at Chicago Prime has certainly been put together like this. The appetisers, such as Kamchatka Crab and Chicken Cocotte (350r), and Salmon and Scallop Ceviche with Blood Orange and Ginger sauce (450r) are designed to give you some extra vitamins to survive the winter months, as are the soups, for example: Smoked Chicken and Spinach Salad with Bacon and a Dijon Vinaigrette (390r) and Chilled Beef, Scal-



lions with Apples, Dried Cranberry, Walnuts and Pumpkin Vinaigrette (490r).

I love Miso from my vegetarian days (before I moved to Moscow), and so I went straight to the Seafood Miso Soup with Shrimp, Mussels, salmon and Scallops (420r) in the soup section. Just thinking about soup makes my mouth water.



The main dishes are wholesome, and include Barbeque Pork Ribs with grilled Potato and Onion Rings (950r). Thanks to the new international import regulations, Chicago Prime are now able to add Kobe Tomahawk with grilled Asparagus and Sweet White Onion Rings (5550r). This is a huge chunk of meat, almost a kilogram, so large that the waiters don't



even recommend an appetiser or salads to go with it

If you still have room for desert after one of these dishes, there are two on offer: Orange, Honey Glazed Bananas with Assorted Sorbet (390r) and Raspberry and White Chocolate Feuillet (490r). The former is lighter than the latter. Both were well presented and basically good. Enjoy the winter!

## Heat it up with Roni Glintvine



When it's very cold outside, there is only one pleasure to heat up with hot fragrant winter beverage – Glintvine, which is suitable for both reasons: to get warm in this coldest month and celebrate all the holidays we have during it. In Roni there is a special warm offer - buy one Glintvine, get one free. The offer is valid all January, all the day, but only if seated at the bar.

**Asian Grill & Bar "Roni"**  
Petrovka 20/1, Tel: 625 26 06

*Cover painting by John Harrison*

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# New Year Resolutions:

Pay bills on time  
Eat more  
Drink more  
Sleep later  
Goodwill  
to all men and  
all women!





## 10<sup>th</sup> Jubilee at Lumiere gallery

Ten years ago in a 30 sq. metre space in the Central House of Artists a photography gallery opened, showing Soviet photography of the 1920s-50s. Today this is one of the best galleries in Moscow, but

also one of the few spots in the city where every exhibition is worth seeing if you love and study photography. In the gallery's archives there are works by eminent Soviet photographers, among whom are

Boris Ignatovich, Yakov Khalip, Alexander Greenberg, Alexander Ustinov, Lev Borodulin, Vladimir Lagrange and Naum Granovsky. In this decade, the gallery has published several retrospective books on the history of photography from the 1960s to the 1980s in the USSR. The gallery is celebrating its first adult jubilee with a notable exhibition of 150 collection-level pictures, the crème-de-la-crème of Russian and Soviet photography. These are hand-printed originals, through which one can trace the evolution of photography in the Soviet Union. Unlike in the West, where it was common practice for photographers to sign and stamp their photographs, for Soviet photographers who seldom had exhibitions, prints were rare, which makes the prints on display, collected by the gallery or donated by the relatives of the photographers, all the more precious. **P**



**December 9-January 15**

*Building 1, 3 Bolotnaya embankment*

*Red October chocolate factory*

*Open: 12.00 – 21.00, except Monday*

## Stanley Kubrick: History in photographs 1945-1950

The Multimedia Art Museum presents a unique series of photographs by the legendary 20th century film director, Stanley Kubrick, exhibited for the first time in Moscow. Here are some 200 of the images he produced for

Look magazine in the 1940s in New York. Stanley Kubrick has long been recognised as one of the greatest directors in the history of cinematography. Hundreds of thousands of articles have been written about Kubrick's

work, as well as thousands of research papers and hundreds of books. His films have been studied in great detail, but until now one aspect of the great director's talent has been largely ignored. Few people know that Kubrick was a professional photographer. From his earliest years he was fascinated by photography and frame composition, and this gave rise to his passionate interest in films. The current exposition is thematically divided into series including "Etudes in the Subway", secretly taken with a shutter trigger concealed in his pocket (1946); the dramatic "A Tale of a Shoeshine Boy" (1947); "Family Circus" (1950), inspired by perspectives of Russian Constructivism and Bauhaus; "Evening and Copacabana" (1948), revealing the backstage life of dancers; "Aqueduct Hippodrome" (1947), showing one of America's favourite sports—racing; and many others. **P**



**November 18-January 29**

*Multimedia Art Museum Moscow*

*16, Ostozhenka street*

*Open: 11:00 - 19:00*

*Except Monday*



## Godunov



Pavel Kaplevich has been one of the most famous theatrical designers in Russia since the 1990s. He created costumes for such significant Russian theatre productions as "Nijinsky" starring Oleg Menshikov, and "Imago" starring Anastasia Verinskaya. Together with film director Vladimir Lungin he worked on the "Taxi-blues" movie. The image of Vladimir Mirzoev's post-modernist theatre is based 100% on Kaplevich's designs. For many years Kaplevich has been an insider at one of Moscow's leading theatres—the Sovremennik. Here he has planted trees for the "Cherry Orchard" production, designed clothes for "Pygmalion" characters. A theatrical designer presenting his exhibition at the Triumph gallery should be no surprise, the local curators have always betted on projects that are theatrically interactive with the audience. Kaplevich's current project "Godunov" is dedicated to Musorgsky's opera of the same name. The opera is staged by Pavel's old friend, Nina Chusova, in the Saratov Theatre of Opera and Ballet. Together they worked on the hilarious "Twelfth Night" at Limelight theatre, for example, mixing a Bolshoi musi-



cian performing Beatles songs with an all-male cast as in Shakespeare's original "Globe" theatre.

The exhibition at the Triumph gallery is about 100 sketches and designs performed in unique techniques uniting wool and silk in one woven tissue, resulting in subtle and abstract landscapes, resembling French tapestries and Italian frescoes. **P**

**From January 20**

**Triumph Gallery**

**Building 5, 3/8 Ilyinka street**

**Open: 12:00-20:00, except Monday**

## Polish Poster Art

There is something in old advertising posters that makes them resemble old photographs, and one cannot stop watching them guessing and recognizing great-grandmother's favourite perfumes, soaps or chocolates. The start of the 20th century with its rise of Art Nouveau brought with it genres that earlier were considered below a gentleman's attention. Advertising placards and posters came into use in the last decade of the 19th century, with France and Great Britain being the principal trend-setters, each in its own field: vignette hand-painted letters in French versus thoroughly measured and perfectly printed English illustrations.

Examples from this epoch give us to understand however that in every European country advertising placards actually advertised the very Moderne style they were made in. The Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts regularly presents foreign illustrations and posters. Several years ago the success of Mucha's show inspired expositions of French and English posters. This year it is Poland's turn. More than one hundred works are on display, to start with placards created by the participants of the "Sztuka" artistic group: Teodor Axentowicz, Karol Frycz, Kazimierz Sichulski and Józef Mehoffer; to Warsaw placards by Stanislav Hrostovski and Stanislav Neakovski. **P**

**December 20-February 26**

**Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts**





## Elena Polenova's world of fairy-tales

Courtesy of the Tretyakov Gallery



Courtesy of the Tretyakov Gallery

Elena Polenova was a Russian painter and designer and the younger sister of another famous artist, Vasily Polenov. She was born in St Petersburg in 1850. As a girl she showed talent for drawing and from 1859 studied drawing under Pavel Chistyakov (1832-1919), an eminent Russian artist and teacher. In 1864 she also studied with Ivan Kramskoy at the Drawing School of the Society for the Encouragement of Artists (later Arts) in St Petersburg, and from 1869-1870 in the studio of Charles Chaplin in Paris. In 1875 Polenova and the famous activist of the women's movement Nadezhda Stasova (1822-1895) organized women's craft courses in St Petersburg; Polenova was in charge of the arts section. In 1880 she taught in the ceramic studio at the drawing school of the Society for the Encouragement of the Arts. In the 1870s Polenova worked mainly in water-colour, spending summers at the Imochentsy estate in Karelia and at the Olshanka estate in the Tambov province. Her landscape water-colours, carefully worked up from sketches, clean in colour and lyrical in mood, were shown from 1882 in exhibitions in St Petersburg and Moscow, where they were successfully accepted by the audience and were noticed by the critic Vladimir Stasov. Meanwhile her brother became acquainted with Savva Mamontov in Italy.

Several years later a circle of artists that would later be known as the Abramtsevo Colony was organised, and would include Ilya Repin, Victor and Apollinary Vasnetsov, Konstantin Korovin, Mikhail Vrubel and Elena and Vasily Polenov. Elena Polenova moved to Moscow in the early 1880s where she associated closely with the family of Savva Mamontov and began to play a prominent role in the activities of the Abramtsevo circle. The mansion where the group worked is itself interesting. It originally belonged to writer, Sergei Aksakov,



Photo by Aline Kalina

*A corner of Abramtsevo*

who afforded hospitality to such writers as Nikolai Gogol and Ivan Turgenev. It was here that Gogol gave the first public reading of his classic novel *Dead Souls*. Later, when the mansion was sold by Aksakov's daughter to art patron and entrepreneur Savva Mamontov in 1870, the story of Abramtsevo's revival began. In 1885 Polenova and Yelizaveta Mamontova organized a carpentry and woodcarving studio here at the mansion, for which Polenova made sketches of furniture and carvings in the traditional national style. At the same time she made designs for embroideries and worked on ceramics and porcelain. In these designs and also in her illustrations for Russian folk tales, she worked in the ornamental manner of representation, stylizing motifs from national decorative art mainly in wood and embroidery. Polenova was closely involved in the development of this national romantic version of Art Nouveau within the Abramtsevo circle. The group often resided in Abramtsevo in the summer, enjoying the beautiful land-

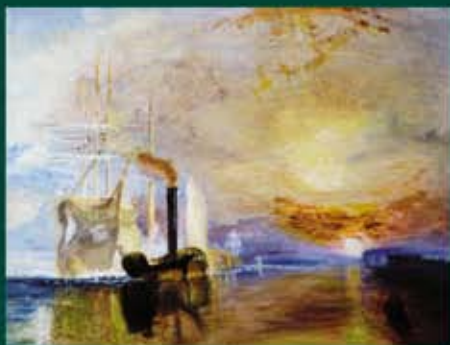


scape, home theatre productions, and tea parties in the open air. The estate church was designed by Vasily and Elena Polenov and the Vasnetsov brothers, and was the first Art Nouveau building in Russia. So along with Diaghilev's Ballets Russes and the activity of the St Petersburg "World of Art" association, the Abramtsevo Colony were at the forefront of the Russian Art Nouveau movement. The Russian handicraft section of the Exposition Universelle in Paris in 1900 was based on drawings by Polenova in this style, with the collaboration of Aleksandre Golovin and Mariya Yakunchikova (1870-1902). The present exhibition at the Tretyakov gallery is dedicated to Polenova's 160th jubilee and gives an insight into the early steps of Art Nouveau in Russia. **P**

**December 16-February 26.**

Open 10:00-19:00  
every day except Monday  
State Tretyakov Gallery  
12, Lavrushinsky lane





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 L. DaVinci, Y8

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Thanks to the Novotel Moscow  
 for holding a unique exhibition  
 of EIS pupils' art

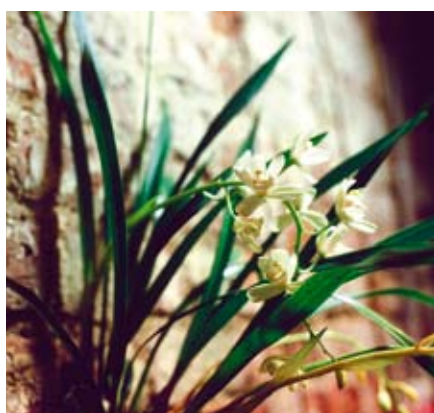


MOSCOW  
CENTRE



## Winter euphoria at the Apothecaries' Garden

The Apothecaries' Garden on Prospekt Mira is a kind of secret garden. It's not easy to find it behind the noisy Prospekt Mira, but having found it you will be awarded with its seasonal treasures. If young Jolyon were to meet Irene—the other character from the *Forsyte Saga*—for the first time in a Moscow garden, this would have been the place. So, about treasures... With spring, summer and even autumn, everything is clear: from snowdrops to tulips and chrysanthemums and golden leaves, and golden fish in the ponds, it is all picturesque and inspiring. But in winter? Snowdrops are asleep under the snow, the fish are safely transported to big, warm aquariums. But in the garden's orangeries the tropical queens' reign continues uninterrupted. Orchids are on display throughout the winter. There are thousands of them, and all preferring sunshine and more sunshine. Surprisingly some of them feel quite at ease in the heart of hibernating Moscow, blooming and inviting Muscovites to the Winter Festival of Orchids which is held in Moscow for the third time. The orangeries are a huge, heated building. To leave the frost behind, you have to pass through several



doors and you will be rewarded with a feast of colour which contrasts with the rather bleak scene outside. **P**

Photos by Aline Kalina

Till March 23,  
Open: 12:00 – 19:00  
Apothecaries' Garden  
(near Metro Prospekt Mira)  
26, Prospekt Mira,  
every day except Mondays  
[www.hortus.ru](http://www.hortus.ru)

## Dolce Napoli



Courtesy of the Tretyakov Gallery

The Tretyakov Gallery opens an exhibition dedicated to one of the most ancient cities in Italy—Naples. Throughout its history, Naples has been popular with travelers and artists. Its beauty was a source of

inspiration for numerous artists who painted its landscapes, sketched the modest and gaudy costumes of vivacious local inhabitants, and tried to capture their characters in which Roman and Christian traits

were mixed. This exhibiton is dedicated to Russian and Italian painters from the 18th to the middle of the 19th centuries. Among the exhibits are land- and seas- scapes, executed in paint and pen, also historical maps and ship plans of the 17th century when Naples was still the capital of the Kingdom of Naples. The juxtaposition of masters, the Russian paysagiste S. Schedrin (1791-1830) and painters from the Posillipo school, demonstrates the interaction of the two national landscape schools. Of equal interest are travel albums by the Russian artists A. Bryullov, S. Vorobiev, A. Ivanov and O. Kiprensky. The exposition consists of works from the stock of the Tretyakov Gallery, the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, Kremlin Museums, National Gallery of Modern Art (Rome), the San Martino Museum and National Museum of Capodimonte (Naples). **P**

Till March 11,  
Open: 10:00-19:00, except Mondays  
State Tretyakov Gallery



## Elio Ciol at the Gallery of Classical Photography



tions in Italy and USA and in the 1950s became a participant of the Venetian photo club, La Gondola, publishing numerous photography books, the first of which is dedicated to Assisi. Ciol has been photographing almost the same places for 60 years now, and is always faithful to his black and white film. The world as seen by Ciol through his camera is beautiful in its harmony. Whether it is his native land, and the people who farm it, magnificent architecture or whimsical landscapes, children playing or monks at prayer, his photographs make up mosaics of Italy herself. Ancient edifices, the religious beauty of Assisi, portraits, genre scenes, all shot in black and white, are the elements that render calm and beauty together. **P**

*Till January 29,  
open: Wednesdays-Sundays 12:00 -21:00  
Gallery of Classical Photography  
Building 1, 23 Savvinskaya embankment*

"Charmed with Reality" is the name of a retrospective exhibition by the Italian photographer Elio Ciol. Over one hundred and fifty works are presented by the Gallery of Classical Photography for the first time ever in Moscow. In Italy they call Elio Ciol a patriarch of photog-

raphy. His works in a way glorify Italians and Italy. Ciol was born in a small town in Northern Italy in 1929. As an assistant in his father's studio at the age of 15, he started taking photographs. After WWII, as an experienced photographer, he won numerous photographic competi-

## Lost illusions: Tsar Paul

"Lost Illusions" is the title of an exhibition held at the Tsaritsyno Estate muse-

um, dedicated to one of the most intriguing and controversial people in the



history of Russia, Emperor Paul (1754-1801), and marks the 210th year of his death. The project focuses on different aspects of Emperor Paul's life: his reforms, internal and external politics, relations to the Malta Order, genre scenes of his epoch, and the conspiracy against him. Paul had been preparing for power for many years before he was crowned Emperor at the age of 42. By that time he had established for himself a programme to arrange a perfect state in Russia. His main tasks were to introduce reforms to the army, economics, external politics and culture. But even his closest circle considered his aspirations too idealistic. The ideas for his reforms were proclaimed in public as absurd. Within four years Paul became isolated inside his own circle and even family. Lost illusions are the main theme. This is an unprecedented project, uniting exhibits from fourteen museums in Moscow and St Petersburg, and from three state archives. **P**

*Till February 16  
Tsaritsyno estate museum, open:  
Wednesdays-Fridays 11:00-18:00, Satur-  
days 11:00-20:00, Sunday 11:00-19:00*

Marina Lukanina

## Happy New Year! (\$ Nastypayushim!) The Sovremennik Theatre

Last season the Sovremennik Theatre offered a nice surprise to its audience—a holiday performance with two megastars—the show man Leonid Yarmolnik and one of the leading actors of the Sovremennik Theatre, Sergey Garmash. That took place on December 31st, but the run continues. Since there is a huge interest in this performance, you might have to really hunt for tickets. Your best bet is just to go directly to the theatre's box-office as there is a ticket pre-sale every Saturday.

The story in brief: a successful TV host and producer (played by Leonid Yarmolnik) returns home on New Year's Eve and finds out that his wife left him, taking their child. He takes the holiday table out to the landing and plans to celebrate New Year there. Suddenly Santa Claus appears (played by Sergey Garmash) from one of the elevators. Santa Claus turns to be his university fellow student. For the next couple of hours

we are witnesses to a witty dialogue between two actors, co-students, when they discuss and raise all possible issues. The dialogue is between two very different people—one a TV star and the other just one of many actors with no name who has to work extra hours as a Santa Claus to make ends meet.

This is a very warm performance, one that puts you in a good mood yet leaves you with food for thought. It is not often that a play is both entertaining and wise, and has outstanding acting and superb set design.

*January 10, 14, 31  
The Sovremennik Theatre  
19A Chistoprudny Boulevard  
Tel: +7 (495) 628 – 7749  
[www.sovremennik.ru](http://www.sovremennik.ru)*

## The Seagull The Tabakov's Theater

"I am writing this play not without pleasure; however, I am brutally lying about the conditions. It is a comedy with three female roles and six male ones, four acts, a landscape (the lake view); lots of talk about literature, not much action and five pounds (5 x 16 kilograms) of love."

This is a quote from Anton Chekhov's letter to a friend when he started writing *The Seagull*—one of the most important plays to influence the world of drama.

The opening night of *The Seagull* at the Alexandrinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg was a fiasco. Only two years later the Moscow Art Theatre, founded by Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko, was able to stage it more or less how Chekhov thought it should have been staged. Since then the interest in Chekhov's plays has remained strong. Directors worldwide and of course in Russia offer their own interpretation of Chekhov's tragedies—which he always called comedies.

*The Seagull* is definitely my favourite Chekhov play. I know the story by heart and I always envy people in the audience who react with surprise at the end hearing the sound of a shot, sometimes whispering "Oh my God! He [Treplev, the main character] actually killed himself."

One of the latest stagings of *The Seagull* happened at the Tabakov Theatre under Konstantin Bogomolov's direction. He

claims that his production depicts the conflict between "capital city" and "province" and is about "success" and "failure".

This is an interesting yet too-modern version of Chekhov's play for me. I might sound conservative but I prefer a classic interpretation of such works. It feels that whenever the director adds some modern attributes to the play or—which is even worse—transfers the action into the present day, that he has nothing new to say. Classical literature is called "classical" because the issues and problems it raises are eternal and common for any date in time; whether it be the 10th century BC or the century we are living in now.

This production is worth seeing if you are into the avant-garde style of directing and are a big fan of the main Tabakov actors, Marina Zudina (whose talent is questionable), Oleg Tabakov who is always a star and Konstantin Khabenski (who belongs to the Chekhov Moscow Art Theatre troupe).

*January 29, 30  
Tabakov's Theatre  
1A Chaplygina Str.  
Tel: +7 (495) 628–96–85  
[www.tabakov.ru](http://www.tabakov.ru)*



# The Extraordinary adventures of T.S. and H.F. by Mark Twain

## The Moscow Young Generation Theater (MTYuZ)

It is a common trick for this theatre to give somewhat "mysterious" titles to their performances. For example, there is one called "K.I. from the 'Crime'" that hints about Ivanovna, one of the heroes of Fyodor Dostoevsky's "Crime and Punishment".

As we can see, this performance is based on his book "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and its sequel "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn".

Henrietta Yanovskaya, the theatre's current director, composed this play a long time ago, back when she and her husband, Kama Ginkas, a famous theatre director, were still students at the Leningrad Theatre School. She allowed this play to be staged by students of the School-Studio of the Moscow Art Theatre and of the Russian Academy of Arts. Her name is mentioned in the performance programme as the "artistic director of the production".

Yanovskaya is one of the few directors who clearly states that performances for children should be staged with the same rigor as for adults. That is why it is always a pleasure to see occasional performances for children at her theatre. This production is not an exception.

It is a real feast for children—it's a musical and a dancing performance that is full of positive energy, emotions and beautiful decorations. It is indeed a story about how wonderful it is to "discover the world and how interesting it is even to make mistakes and how fun and easy it is sometimes to rise even after you fall." One of the theatre's critics mentioned in his review that it feels that the play is staged from Tom Sawyer's point of view, which means you are bound to be entertained following his pranks.

This play won the prize at the 2nd Moscow Theatre Festival for the Best Drama Play.

Ideal for children and adults from age 12.

January 4, 9  
Moscow Young Generation Theatre (MTYuZ)  
10 Mamonovsky per.  
Tel: +7 (495) 699-5360  
[www.moscowtyz.ru/eng](http://www.moscowtyz.ru/eng)

# Prima Donnas

## The Chekhov Moscow Art Theatre

Since January is a holiday month, you might want to stick to comedy performances that will only strengthen your good mood and positive emotions. One of the productions that will be able to offer you a whole bouquet of positive energy is called Prima Donnas. It is based on a play written by the contemporary American playwright, Ken Ludwig. This play is a typical example of a "situation comedy". It uses the same trick as in the famous American movie, "Some Like It Hot", when two men change into women's clothes and decide to act as women.

Evgeny Pisarev, a young director and the one who is called "the main specialist in the Broadway comedies" staged this play. Yuri Chursin and Dmitry Duzhev, who are known from a couple of TV series, play the leading roles in this production.

As in many Broadway comedies the starting point of the plot is money. The play tells the story of an old lady who is

about to die and wants to share her \$3 million inheritance among her three nieces; one of them lives with her and the other two she has never seen. The two main heroes dress up in women's clothes and decide to act as these "far-away nieces". Naturally, when they appear at their "aunt's" house they fall in love with the local girls. They constantly change their clothes while acting as the girls' friends and admirers.

One of the main charms of this production is that all acting parts are equally important. It's not that you are coming to see one particular actor or actress. There is a great ensemble here. I laughed almost till I cried.

January 20, 22  
Chekhov Moscow Art Theatre  
3 Kamergerski per.  
Tel: +7 (495) 629-87-60, 692-67-48  
[www.mxat.ru](http://www.mxat.ru)

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# Rules Regulating Foreign Currency in Russia

Alexander Ksenofontov,  
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If you are planning on visiting any country, it is always helpful to be familiar with the rules governing the import and export of currency and other securities.

In Russia these issues are regulated by Federal Law of 10.12.2003 No.173-FZ, "On Currency Regulation and Currency Control and Customs Legislation".

Foreigners may bring with them into the country foreign currency, Russian roubles, as well as travellers' cheques and other securities without limitation.

If a foreign citizen upon entry into the country has in his or her possession a total sum greater than US\$10,000, including currency, travellers' cheques and other securities, he or she must specify the value of each on a customs declaration and submit it to customs authority at the border crossing.

A foreigner may, when exiting the country, take with him or her all currencies which were declared upon entering the country or those which were transferred to Russia during the period of stay. However it is incumbent on the foreigner to prove the value of each that were either in his possession at the time of entering or transferred to him while in Russia. In order to do this, a foreigner will need at the moment of departure from the country to provide documentation regarding the transfer of currency and or other assets to Russia or submit the customs declaration which was completed at the point of entry into Russia. In this event, a declaration at the point of departure is not required.

In addition to foreign currency and or Russian roubles totalling that which was declared upon entry or transferred to Russia, a foreigner is permitted to export from the country the amount of currency which is not in excess of US\$10,000. Customs will not require supporting documentation that this additional currency had been previously imported or trans-

ferred to Russia. To depart from the country holding currency in excess of that amount is strictly forbidden.

Upon departure, if a foreign citizen is holding UD\$3,000 or less in any currency, he or she is not required to declare this at Customs. If however the amount is greater than that, the entire amount is subject to written documentation at Customs upon exiting from the country. The customs declaration must also show declared values for travellers' cheques, if the total value of such which is being taken out of the country is greater than US\$10,000. Securities which are being taken out of the country must be declared regardless of their total value. In this case, as was noted earlier, it is permissible not to declare at the point of departure that which was declared upon entry into Russia, including currency, travellers' cheques and other securities.

The conversion of foreign currency, Russian roubles and US dollar travellers' cheques are all subject to the official exchange rate which is set by the Central Bank of the Russian Federation on the day of declaration to the customs authority.

We would like to wish all travellers a safe and pleasant stay in our country. **P**

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**VOLVO**  
**FASHION WEEK**  
**MOSCOW**



# FASHION WEEK

## VOLVO FASHION WEEK MOSCOW

Thanks to Volvo Cars, the General partner of the event, the visitors could also witness brand new Volvo XC60 Ocean Race cross-over, a limited edition car, created exclusively to commemorate Volvo Ocean Race 2011/12. The cars were placed in the very center of Gostiny Dvor, on a special deck-like podium to feature a lighthouse for everyone wishing to sail the endless sea of fashion!



Valentin Yudashkin and Stefano Ricci show

October 26–31 2011 Volvo Fashion Week Moscow again took place in Gostiny Dvor to gather all fashion-lovers in Russia under one roof. In the very best traditions of the event the show was opened by Valentin Yudashkin with his joint collection with Stefano Ricci brand to celebrate THE YEAR OF ITALY IN RUSSIA. Mr. Ricci himself visited Volvo Fashion Week Moscow as an honored guest. The visitors could enjoy new collections by most notable Russian designers including Alena Akhmadullina, Alexander Terekhov, Konstantin Gayday, Cyrille Gassiline, Dmitry Loginov, Antonina Shapovalova, Ilya Shiyani, Daria Razumikhina, Masha Tsigal and many others. Luca Moro, Balmain Swiss Watches President, was a special guest of the event. The last day of Volvo Fashion Week Moscow was inspired by LaBiosthetique brand being partner of Alena Akhmadullina, Konstantin Gayday and Dmitry Loginov, Arsenicum shows.



Alexander and Ida Dostman

Yury Shtromberger

Valentin Yudashkin with present from vodka Saimaa

Balmain Swiss Watches President Luca Moro and Kristina Orskaya

Lena Kuleckaya with notebook Sony VAIO

Vladimir Kalinchev, Max Factor

Keith Schafer



KUTE model with camera Nikon 1



Olga & Anna Kameneva show



GV Galina Vasil'eva show



Lisa Romanyuk show



Olga Ibrajimova and Milana Koroleva



Rowenta, a trusted leader in the world of ironing, sponsored Sergey Sysoev's Anniversary show to celebrate 15 years since his first collection hit the world of fashion. Designer himself added a special thrill to the event. At the end of the show maestro himself came out to greet the audience with an iron in his hand!

Sergey Sysoev







# Alexei Tolstoy

## memorial flat in Moscow

Text and photos by Marina Kashpar

In the centre of old Moscow, not far from Nikitskie Vorota square, there is a small house with a memorial plaque fixed to one of the gates which says: "Here lived and worked A.N. Tolstoy."

Alexei Nikolaevich Tolstoy experienced both criticism and praise by the bucketful during his career. But when all these comments are put together, one is left with a feeling of awe of such a talent. "Whatever stupid things you might say about his work, however much he has lashed at by the critics, you always read him with total admiration and even wonder, like a huge stupendous gift," wrote Georgi Adamovich.

Alexei Tolstoy was one of the most life-loving writers in the story of Russian literature. He was a kind of Russian Rabelais. Of the Soviet period, he belongs to a very small group of writers who are still read to this day.

By a strange twist of fate, the wing of the house at number 2 Spiridinovka, that was designed by Shehtel for the Ryabushinsky family's servants, became Count Alexei Tolstoy's last earthly shelter. However, Tolstoy's life was intertwined with Spiridinovka in more ways than this. His well known predecessor Peter Andreevich Tolstoy, whilst serving time in a Turkish jail and preparing for the death penalty, turned to

St Spiridon and prayed for help. He avoided punishment, and from then on, St Spiridon became the guardian saint of the Tolstoy clan.

Tolstoy lived in the house on Spiridonovka from 1941 to 1945, right up to his death. He worked on his third book on Peter the Great, finished *The Road to Calvary*, a trilogy, *Stories by Ivan Sudarev*, and wrote articles about war.

Tolstoy's study, living room and corridor have been preserved exactly as they were when the writer lived there. You can almost feel his presence in this room.

If those who say that personal belongings are an extension of their owners are right, then there is plenty of evidence of Tolstoy here. Take the study for example. It is warm, unruly and excessive, like its generously-gifted owner. A bulky, fun-loving man whose life's journey ended at 62, Alexei Nikolaevich was inspired by life, carried by a multitude of tastes, interests and attachments. The study parquet floor is covered with soft carpet. The furniture is strange and belongs to the epoch of Emperor Paul. There are a lot of antique and decorative objects in this room, things that Tolstoy enjoyed immensely. Strange, wild things entertained his eyes. He could stare at them for hours, touch and feel them.



There is a strange bronze inkwell on the huge writing desk in the centre of the study, an intentionally useless artefact from Catherine the Great's day, a collection of pipes which Tolstoy assembled over the years. In a word, the desk had a decorative rather than a functional role. Tolstoy hardly ever used it. A humble-looking lectern made of redwood stands by one of the walls. This desk was given to him by his mother Alexandra Leontevna who was also a writer, way before the revolution. She had carted his desk around with her wherever her destiny sent her. This was the actual place that Tolstoy's works took form. Here, standing up, he created his brilliant literary gems.

The tastes of a man who loves life and people are reflected in the living/dining room area, which was big enough to entertain a lot of people. If it wasn't for the crystal aristocratic chandeliers on four sides of the room, or the twisted Paul-era armchairs with monograms on them in the dining room, you might detect a certain commercialism, characteristic of the writer's personality. The walls are lined with rose-covered silk, the sofas are of cherry-coloured wood and paintings which are somewhat frivolous are hung on the walls. "Here there is everything you need to live!" Tolstoy would declare when showing guests in, sometimes hungrily smacking his lips.

As Korney Chykovsky once mentioned, Tolstoy took his literary characters from himself. Everything he has created is the continuation of his character, his way of living, his habits. A great worshipper of beauty, Tolstoy surrounded himself by luxury and beautiful things. According to his distant relative, the author and historian Nikolai Tolstoy,

"Alexei Nikolaevich Tolstoy's life remains in large part an enigma... It is not hard to believe that the degrading personal role he undertook in Soviet society exerted a damaging effect on his creative capacity. His personal character was without question beneath contempt, reflecting as it did the pitiful morality of many contemporary European intellectuals. His friend Ilya Ehrenburg wrote once that Tolstoy would do anything for a quiet life, and his personal philosophy rose no higher than this *confessio vitae*, uttered when an exile in Paris: 'I only know this: the thing that I loathe most of all is walking in town with empty pockets, looking in shop windows without the possibility of buying anything—that's real torture for me.' There was no lie, betrayal, or indignity which he would not hasten to commit in order to fill those empty pockets, and in Stalin he found a worthy master. Few families have produced a higher literary talent than Leo Tolstoy, but few have sunk to one as degraded as Alexei Nikolaevich."

Bunin said that Tolstoy "wrote ....a lot of awful things, but even in the awful he was talented."



There is a polarity in his creative work. There was a polarity in his life. So as a result his house is full of unities and opposites. Come and check this out for yourself.

The house at Spiridonovka street became a museum in 1987. The museum is hospitable to the same extent as it was when it was Tolstoy's home. Literary parties are held in the museum, as well as meetings of modern painters and writers. **P**

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# Ecuador



Text and photos by Luc Jones, partner Antal Russia

Newcomers to Russia struggle with the whole concept of giving flowers here. Back home if you present a bunch to a girl you've taken a shine to, after the initial shock her first thought is likely to be "this guy's expecting to get laid", and woe betide you should you arrive home to your wife with an armful of flowers on any other date than her birthday or your wedding anniversary; her immediate reaction will almost certainly be "you've slept with someone else and are trying to ease your guilt"! Oh, and in the States don't even think about putting "flowers" and a "female co-worker" in the same sentence unless your idea of fun is a pending lawsuit, even if it's for her birthday and the whole team have chipped in.

Fortunately or unfortunately, this most certainly isn't the case in Russia, where every third retail outlet which isn't an apteka is almost certainly a 24-hour flower shop. Russians give flowers at almost every opportunity and without needing much of a reason to do so. Curiously very few of these, especially roses, are actually grown in Russia, apart from those crappy, short ones you can see in small bunches being hawked at suburban train stations by babushkas, and which have almost certainly been grown at her dacha. The

beautiful, tall roses which come in a variety of colours (I've even spotted them in a dark blue, although I'm not sure if this what nature intended) have in fact been shipped in from the world's floral capital, Amsterdam, but in fact mostly began their life in Ecuador—yes, that little South American country many people have barely heard of and would struggle to place on a map.

Ecuador means "equator" in Spanish and strangely enough the equator run through the top of the country, just north of the capital Quito—or to give it its full name, San Francisco de Quito—which is the second highest capital in the world, no less. The Andes range runs in a vertical line down the country and it is the fertile volcanic soil that lends itself to being able to produce beautiful flowers for export. Curiously most Ecuadorians outside of the trade seem to be aware of this fact since the majority of tourists to the country are from Western Europe or North America, plus a few Aussies, and it's largely the backpacker crowd than high end. In a week here I didn't hear Russian spoken once.

Kick off any trip with a couple of days in Quito, if only to acclimatize to the altitude, but there's plenty to keep you busy both during the day and at night as this is where you will find the country's best bars and restaurants, where tourists mix with locals. The old, colonial architecture makes for pleasant walks and be sure to take the cable car up a nearby mountain for exceptional views of the city. Just 16 miles north of Quito is Mitad del Mundo where just about every tour will take you for a day trip as it's an opportunity to straddle the equator. Ironically, after the massive monument was constructed, it turned out that the "real" equator was in fact a few hundred yards away, and subsequently a new mini-theme park was built around this one. It's all fairly tacky but if you've come all this way, it's worth a few hours of your time and makes for a good photo opportunity.

Heading South of Quito is Cotopaxi mountain, the country's second highest and part of the Pacific Ring of Fire. Technically, it's still active but deemed safe to climb although most people drive up as far as the top car park (at an altitude of 4,600m and walk some 200m up to the base camp. It looks



Cajas National Park



easy but this is where the lack of oxygen in the altitude plays its part and you'll need to stop for breath every few minutes, and smokers would be advised to stay in the car. Once back down again, you'll be thinking about not only renewing your gym membership but also about actually showing up more than once or twice a month as this mountain takes it out of all but the fittest.

Lardasses can let the train take the strain on one of the few remaining parts of the Ecuadorian railway network still functioning, the ride down La Nariz Del Diablo (The Devil's Nose: if you look at it at just the right angle, it's does, kind of look like a nose), which is an incredible feat of engineering. Nowadays it caters only to tourists. Passengers can no longer ride on the roof, after a recent fatality, yet nevertheless views from the open windows are spectacular. Back on the winding mountain roads, you'll come to Ingapirca, the largest Inca ruins in Ecuador. The showpiece, the temple of the sun, is surprisingly well preserved. On the face of it, Macchu Picchu it most certainly ain't, but then again you'll have the place pretty much to yourself and you don't need to hike for several days to get there!

Just before you reach Cuenca, be sure to spend a day walking around the Cajas national park. The name is derived from the local Quicha word "cassa" which means "gateway to the snowy mountains", which is rather apt given that much of the park rests at an altitude of between 3,000-4,000 metres. Ecuador is a bird-watcher's paradise and twitchers flock here in their droves to see species native only to the country. Cajas has excellent examples of the flora and fauna that can be found here—even if trying to spot one of the world's few remaining South American Condors or the world's largest hummingbird as it eats agave flowers isn't your idea of a great day out, then just take in the views with a long walk around one or three of the approximately 270 lakes and lagoons in the park. You won't be disappointed.

Return to civilization in Cuenca which rivals Quito (they're both UNESCO-listed, and deservedly so) and requires at least a day to do it justice, even if it is considerably smaller. It's also surrounded on all sides by mountains, allowing for a rather cozy feel, especially when walking along the river, just beyond the key sights dotted around the main square. From here I wished I could then have headed down to Guayaquil and on the Galapagos islands for an extra week, but regrettably I have a day job which ensures that I'll have to leave 'em until next time. But there will definitely be a next time as this is one country in the region that certainly punches above its weight in terms of

cramming in so many attractions into such a small land-mass. Possibly the fact that there's no Rio-style carnival here, or a nutty Chavez-guy in charge adds to the attraction, and my guess is that Ecuadorians would prefer to keep it that way. They're a friendly bunch and delighted that you made the effort to visit their country, and won't expect any flow-ers in return!

*Getting there:* there are no direct flights from Moscow to Ecuador (or anywhere else in Latin America, for that matter). You'll need to go via either a European or US hub (usually Miami). As Quito is relatively small, most airlines fly into Bogota and you'll need an additional change in the Colombian capital.

*Getting in there:* fortunately visas are not required by Russians or Westerners travelling as tourists, BUT if you choose to fly via the States, Russians must have a US visa, even if you don't leave the airport.

*Getting around there:* my tailor-made tour was organized by Happy Gringo ([www.happygringo.com](http://www.happygringo.com)) who despite the silly name were excellent and extremely helpful in putting together a programme which crammed in a huge amount in a short space of time.

*Spending there:* Ecuador's currency is the US\$, although they have their own coins, interchangeable with their American equivalents. The Greenback replaced the Sucre in 1999, which on the one hand solved the problem of hyperinflation but resulted in higher prices. However, by European/North American standards, Ecuador is pretty cheap.

*Speaking there:* the official language is Spanish, although some English is spoken in the more touristy areas. **P**

*Inca Ruins at Ingapirca*







## AWARA EXECUTIVE NIGHT



Cigars, selected premium wines, cocktails and top executives: these and more featured at Awara Executive Night on December 1st. At the frequently held and already famous event, hosted by Awara Group in the magnificent atrium of Marriott Royal Aurora Hotel in Moscow, over 150 top executives from the international and Russian business community

enjoyed an evening of exclusive, yet relaxed after work business atmosphere, mingling in free form, accompanied by a generous selection of Slovak wines by Elesko, presented truly as a premiere by Eastfield, colorfully creative cocktails by Parliament Vodka, live music and a light and informative presentation by Anatoly Golubev, Steering Member of the Committee for Fighting Corruption.

"Awara Group knows how to gather the right crowd, there is nobody here tonight I would not invite to my personal event", says Nathan Hunt, Chairman of the Canadian-Eurasian-Russian Business Association.

The diversity in the guests' countries of origin gave the event a truly international note. Some even took the opportunity to fly in especially for this event. Who was motivated to cross borders beyond, was invited to try his or her luck in the complimentary raffle which featured among others a trip for two with Etihad Airlines, business class to Abu-Dhabi.

To wrap up the evening, Awara Direct Search headhunters prepared a small surprise for the guests: a gift bag and reminder to start the Christmas season. **P**







# AWARA DIRECT SEARCH

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**Industries:** Telecoms, Information Technologies, Construction



**Vladimir Drobac:**

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**Vladimir Zenin:**

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**Mika Kokkonen:**

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**Ekaterina Lazareva:**

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## William Blake at the Pushkin Museum

On Monday 28th November the new British Ambassador to Russia, His Excellency Tim Barrow, opened a fascinating exhibition of the art of the eighteenth century visionary, William Blake, in the concert hall of the Pushkin Museum on Volkhonka Street. The display has been mounted in co-operation with the Tate Gallery in London, and contains most of Blake's works exhibited there, which in turn comprises most of Blake's visual work that is still extant. This is the first time these works have been shown in Russia. Blake is well known as a poet, the author of *Songs of Innocence and Experience*, "Tyger, tyger, burning bright/In the forests of the night" and, of course, Jerusalem (which some people think should become the English national anthem if the United Kingdom is ever dissolved). But his paintings and book illustrations are less well known. 150 pieces are now on display in Moscow. Not only that, they



are hung alongside works by artists like Rossetti and Burne-Jones who were influenced by Blake. The opening ceremony was followed by a concert of Blake's verse set to music by Vaughan Williams, Benjamin Britten and others. The exhibition is on until 19 February 2012. **P**

Ian Mitchell

## Whisky Live

On Saturday 26th November the Revolution Restaurant near Paveletskaya was host to what is becoming one of Moscow's more entertaining fixtures, the annual Whisky Live festival of malt, magic and madness, which takes place in the autumn, when the leaves are the colour of well-matured spirit. Inside the cavernous venue the skirl of the pipes, the yips and yells of the drinkers and the general dashing around of everyone still able to dash around while they tried to find the perfect malt amongst the thirty or forty distilleries who were exhibiting made a number of heads swirl. "Och, a peaty wee dram, I'd say!" alternated with, "I really like the Glenfiddich 12-year old. Have you tried that yet?" Others were struck almost dumb with amazement at the range of whiskies and, most importantly of all, how different they all tasted. No wonder the craze for malt whisky has gone world-wide. It is a world of nearly infinite choice. My own favourite was the one served in



the wonky glasses, which made you feel as if you were standing at an angle. If you did lurch over then they looked just right, which is roughly how whisky should be taken: laid back, or side-ways. Moderation in all things, they say, except moderation—and whisky! **P**

Ian Mitchell

## Old Sailors Never Die

(they just go to the movies)

On Wednesday 7th December, the British Ambassador to the Russian Federation, His Excellency Tim Barrow, invited a group of Russian sailors and their fellows from other Allied countries of the Second World War, to the Embassy to watch the screening of a new film made about the museum ship, *HMS Belfast*, which is berthed in the Pool of London. This ship was one of the important participants in the Arctic convoys which delivered armaments and other aid from Britain and north America to Murmansk and Arkhangelsk right throughout the





period of Soviet participation in the war against Nazi Germany. It is the last surviving fighting ship from World War II. It is also the only British naval vessel since *HMS Victory*, Nelson's flagship at Trafalgar, to have been made into a museum

The film is called *The Last Witness*, and was made as part of the fund-raising effort mounted by the Imperial War Museum, which owns the ship, and a group of Russian industrialists who have helped restore some parts of it that have been affected by rust. In particular, \$2 million was raised over the last few years to replace the badly corroded masts. The replacements were made in St Petersburg, and the film records the co-operation between the Russian engineers and the British custodians of the ship.

The importance of the Arctic convoys can hardly be overstated. Nearly half of the Allied aid delivered to the USSR came through this route, the first convoy sailing in August 1941, less than a month after the German attack, and the last arriving in Murmansk on 20 May 1945, a fortnight after the end of hostilities in Europe. During that period 1400 merchant ships delivered supplies which included 22,000 airplanes, 14,000 tanks, half a million motorcycles, 470 million shells, 13,000 locomotives and rail cars, 2 million kilometres of telephone cable and food worth over \$2 billion. One of the Russians present at the event said in a speech afterwards that without this aid, a good proportion of which went straight to Leningrad, that the city might not have been able to survive the three-year long siege.

The merchant ships carrying these supplies came from both sides of the Atlantic, and assembled in joint convoys in a remote fjord in Allied-occupied Iceland,



from where they were escorted largely by the Royal Navy to Russia. As was dramatically shown in *The Last Witness*, these convoys had to skirt the north Norwegian coast, from where the Luftwaffe attacked constantly, as did U-boats. More ominously still, the German Navy had stationed the giant battleship, *Tirpitz* (sister ship to the *Bismarck*) there, and the powerful, modern battle-cruiser the *Scharnhorst*. *HMS Belfast* played a key role in sinking that vessel during the climax of the four-year long convoy struggle, the famous Battle of North Cape, which was fought in the freezing Arctic night on Boxing Day, December 1943. It was decisive in that it caused Hitler to sack as Commander-in-Chief of the Kriegsmarine as he lost faith in surface ships generally. After that, the convoys suffered steadily diminishing losses. But they continued to act as a powerful symbol of Allied co-operation, as they do today.

The Embassy also mounted a small display of artefacts from wartime Britain where bodies like a factory committee from the London suburb of Willesden sent a consignment of home-knitted woollen

socks and a book of goodwill messages on one of the convoys. The spirit of mutual comradeship in the face of danger is revived at meetings like this, making modern disagreements seem petty.

Would it be going too far now, seventy years later, to extend this spirit of generosity even to the former enemy? Within an hour of the *Scharnhorst* going down with all but 36 of her complement of 2000, the commander of the squadron that sank her, Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser, addressed the officers aboard his battered but still functioning flagship, *HMS Duke of York*. "Gentlemen," he said, "the battle against the *Scharnhorst* has ended in victory for us. I hope that if any of you are ever called upon to lead a ship into action against an opponent many times superior, you will command your ship as gallantly as the *Scharnhorst* was commanded today." **P**

Ian Mitchell



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John Harrison

The news that Russia has finally been approved to join the WTO after an off-on 18-year negotiation period has passed almost unnoticed by the general public in Russia. The official invitation made by WTO ministers from their conference in Geneva on December the 17th was not the headline news it would have been in quieter times, but nevertheless is of real significance for Russia.

Russia will not actually enter the WTO until the State Duma ratifies the agreement, and it has six months to do that. Given that the Duma's make up will, it seems, become more rather than less democratic, although we don't know for certain, Russia's membership is now in the bag.

President Medvedev, in the pre-"snow revolution" (or whatever acronym is eventually coined to describe the virtual revolution that is taking place now) seems to have been instrumental in securing all the necessary support in order to overcome the two final stumbling blocks hindering Russia's accession, which were Georgia's (admitted to the WTO way back in June 2000) previous objection, and a lack of mutual trust. Russian negotiators were worried that Americans might change the rules of the game after all major issues have been settled, and Americans were worried about Putin's somewhat erratic foreign policy statements. In November, Putin commented on the various costs and benefits of joining the WTO: "The benefit of joining the WTO is only 50/50 for Russia."

Russia could have joined the WTO a long time ago if it had had the political will. This was too much for even the pro-democratic governments of the 1990s to pull off. What happened?

The USSR was never a member of GATT, which it perceived as being a capitalist organisation similar to the IMF. To join the IMF and the World Bank is relatively easy, and Russia joined in 1992. The WTO demands bilateral protocols with all the countries that the applicant country has trade relations with, and in Russia's case that was a lot of countries: sixty. Each of these countries had and used the right to veto the entry of a new applicant. Russia delegated such tricky negotiations to a deputy minister for foreign trade, who lacked the necessary clout to persuade ministers to push negotiations through, so actual negotiations did not start until 1998, although a formal start was made in 1994. To handle all the various disputes, scores of lawyers and specialists were needed, meaning that the government needed to have been very supportive, and it wasn't until quite recently.

In the early 2000s, the senior business community was split into two camps. Putin, Gref and Kudrin and the businessmen they were friendly with, such as the steel exporters, supported membership. Liberals in Russia's parliament produced a range of studies of the effects of Russia's accession to the WTO.

The camp against membership was headed by people such as Oleg Deripaska, CEO of Rusal, owner of Rospromavto

and one of Russia's big airplane building companies. Deripaska argued that Russia needed a substantial period of transition to adjust to freer trade. Other industrialists in the Russian Chamber of Commerce argued that access to foreign markets was not that important, because industrialists could barely keep up with domestic demand, which was rising because of the increased value oil and gas exports. Agriculturists also argued against WTO caps on state subsidies, and veterinary services raised doubts about Western imports of chicken, pork and beef. Russian retailers, telecommunication providers and the banking industry have also voiced their opposition from time to time, with the whole issue of intellectual property rights proving to be a major problem.

When Putin was elected for a second term, the liberal insignia of his first term faded, and so did emphasis on joining the WTO. All kinds of politicians, including Yury Luzhkov, came out against WTO accession. Perhaps he wanted to appear to be a nationalist. In October 2006, Putin declared on television that foreign traders should not be allowed "to sell processed goods such as smoked salami" or "clothes bought from China." His attitude was similar to that of the leaders from the old Soviet days, where the state had authority over everything but responsibility for nothing.

Despite this rhetoric, Russia came close to joining the WTO in 2006. Putin seemed to be riding two horses at the same time. One was for protectionism,



and the other a realistic foreign policy. Accession was dashed by the deterioration of Russia-Georgia relations (Georgia was already a member of the WTO), and the continuing enforcement of the Jackson-Vanik amendment which was attached to the U.S. Trade Act of 1974. To give Russia normal trade relations, the US president must grant an annual waiver, certifying that Russia does not deny its Jewish citizens the right to emigrate, in order for Russian exports to enter the US market at normal tariff rates. Jewish emigration has not been a problem since the mid-1980s, but this amendment has been used to apply pressure on Russia for all kinds of purposes. Russia's war with Georgia in 2008 did nothing to help the accession process.

When Dmitri Medvedev became President in May 2008, he mentioned WTO accession in every major speech, whilst Putin virtually ignored it. On June the 9th, however, Putin boldly announced that Belarus, Kazakhstan and Russia were abandoning their separate talks to join the WTO. Instead, they would enter as a single customs union. Putin jeopardised Russia's almost completed accession process. No country has ever entered the WTO collectively with another. The crisis ended when Putin back-tracked and clarified that each country will still need to apply for accession independently. But Russia's accession was, because of this incident, still frowned on by the majority of WTO executives.

Since then, other factors have encouraged Russia's leadership to join the WTO. Russia's GDP fell by 8-9% in 2009, much more than in 2008, when it fell by 4.8%. Russia's exports are no longer 90% minerals, and these now equate to roughly 60% of export earnings. In other words, it makes economic sense for Russian to join up.

So what exactly just joining the WTO mean for Russia? Not an awful lot to begin with, apparently.

Russia has concluded 30 bilateral agreements on market access for services and 57 on market access for goods. The average tariff ceiling will be 7.8% rather than the 2011 average of 10% for all products. The tariff for agricultural goods will be 10.8%, down from the present average of 13.2%.

Only a third of the tariffs will be cut next year, most others in three year's time. The longest delay will be 8 years for poultry, 7 years for cars, helicopters and civil aircraft.

Perhaps more important are the agreements on market access. The foreign equity limitation (49%) in telecommunications will be eliminated four years after accession. Foreign insurance companies will be allowed to establish branches nine years after Russia accedes, and foreign banks would be allowed to establish subsidiaries. There will be no cap on foreign equity in individual banking institutions, which is going to mean a revolution in Russia's banking system. In general, WTO provisions regarding quotas, bans, licensing will gradually replace Russia's complex systems. Railways transportation charges will be standardised with WTO requirements. From the date of accession, importers of alcohol, pharmaceuticals and products with encryption technology will not need import licences, and so on.

This all sounds incredible, if it is all implemented. But who will enforce the agreements? The WTO has its own inspectors, but it mostly relies on each State's own customs and other services to provide accurate information. Who, exactly will check that such information provided is correct? These kinds of questions are rather difficult to answer, because Russia has yet to join the world of civilised countries which have an independent judiciary to settle arguments. The fact that WTO membership does include the use of an independent arbitration court is probably the most important aspect of the whole agreement.

Will accession eventually change the way business operates in Russia? Not necessarily. Accession means that the imports and export of goods into and from Russian will gradually come into line with WTO, indeed world norms. But the WTO is not really concerned with how these goods are produced. WTO membership won't cut down on corruption, it won't cut down on lack of transparency and really won't affect government economic policy. It might affect Russian foreign policy because if Russia decides to invade a country which is also a member of the WTO, its membership might be jeopardised.

WTO membership will give Russia bargaining power with America, as if the latter does not rescind the Jackson-Vanik agreement, Russia can limit America's new access rights to Russian markets, stipulated by WTO provisions. However Russia's accession to the WTO at this time could have as much to do with the WTO itself being embarrassed that Russia is not a member, as it is the only G20 country not to be a member, than guarantees that it will abide by all the rules. Entrance qualifications definitely seemed to have been made lenient to the point of being ridiculous, and are certainly more lenient than those which the Ukraine had to put up with when it joined in 2008. Perhaps the good ol' American expression applies to the WTO "establishment". They thought it was better to have Russia inside the tent pissing out than outside the tent pissing in. Perhaps it is also true that either way, the pissing's not going to stop.

Will accession change the way that Russia is perceived abroad? Much depends on Vladimir Putin's behaviour. However, business people will no doubt have a more favourable opinion of Russia after the country becomes a WTO member. Membership will smooth the path to joining other international clubs, such as the OECD.

I asked a few Russian "old hands" what they think of Russian membership:

**Brian Johnson**, Managing Director  
PFS International Russia

### **Is Russia joining the WTO a good thing?**

I don't think that most people will even notice that Russia has joined. Import tariffs have only been dropped by a few percentage points. I don't think that the average Russian manufacturing business will be affected. I can't really see that there is a big difference there, particularly as there





are some long implementation periods up ahead. Yes, I think that Russia joining is a good thing, because it shows the rest of the world that Russia wants to integrate, and gives Russia a place at the table so to speak, but I don't think it's going to make that much difference to the economy.

***But it does mean that Russia won't be able to just go and declare war on another WTO member for example?***

Well, one would hope that Russia has gone past the stage of declaring war on countries to punish them, and anyway if Russia carries on with its military cut-backs it won't have a an awful lot to declare war with.

**Len Nebons**, partner, 4 entertainment



***Is Russia joining the WTO a good thing?***

This is a very difficult question because we cannot look into the future. If they [Russia] abide by the rules, then it's a good idea, but if it turns into a China where they don't abide by the rules and they still limit trade with protectionism, then it's not a good idea. China took away a lot of jobs from a lot of major countries. About 20 million from the USA and UK for example. It's a good

idea in that the tariffs will go down 2-3%, but if oil goes up by 10% it's still very much of a nett gain for Russia. So it remains to be seen. It's not going to change the control that Russia has over its economy.

***Does WTO membership in a way legitimise Russia's economy?***

Yes, China is still doing piracy. They are still protecting whatever industries they want to protect. You look at the WTO and it is really replacing the UN. Maybe it should, because economy and in a way diplomacy revolved around trade. If the UN could be shut down, and everybody was a member of the WTO, then maybe we'd all be better off. I think that basically the whole world will be governed by trade in 15 years, and the UN will still be there because it is a lot of jobs and bureaucracy, but it will be eclipsed by the WTO. Of course we still have military power, but it is getting increasingly difficult to force trade through military means.

**Chris Gilbert**, Russia Director, Russo-British Chamber of Commerce



***Is Russia joining the WTO a good thing?***

Yes, it will definitely give Russia a much needed shot of credibility in international trade circles. It means that investors looking at Russia sceptically will be able to see that, yes, Russia is a partner with whom we can do business. Russia will play by the same rules that everybody else does, and this is all a good thing for us and for Russia, which will be able to export more easily.

***Do you think that WTO membership means that Russia will take jobs away from other countries?***

I don't think that Russia is able to do that on a large scale, because Russia's

population is not that large, and its economy is completely different to a country like China's.

**Geoffrey Cox**, OBE, one of the founding fathers of the AEB



***Is Russia joining the WTO a good thing?***

I think it is a good thing, for Russia. Is it a good thing for the rest of the world that Russia is joining the WTO? Yes, providing that Russia obeys the rules.

***How can Russia be trusted to play the rules?***

I don't know. Can I give you a bit of background? The European Business Club completed a study on this in about 2004. What was interesting was that we found that individual factories were quite capable of breaking any rules laid down by the WTO. The central government may not break rules, but individual companies might be inclined to. It could be, in some of the regions, that certain companies have made special arrangements allowing them to break the rules. So it's not just what the government says in Moscow, it's what all the companies in the provinces, and the provincial authorities, think and do, in regard to tax breaks that is important.

***Is it going to change the way the economy is run inside Russia?***

No, the only thing for Russia is that it is going to make trading a lot easier. Russia won't have to make separate trade agreements with each individual country any more, everything will be simplified. In general though, as far as Russia's credibility goes, is it a good thing? In general it is good thing for Russia. It affects trade, not investment. Importers and exporters will be encouraged. **P**



# In Court/On Court

## – My Six Hours with Roman Abramovich at London's Legal Wimbledon

Ian Mitchell

It is often said that the British government wants the City of London to replicate "the Wimbledon effect". Britain has neither the best tennis players nor the richest banks in the world, but it undoubtedly stages the most prestigious tennis tournament and accommodates the most globally respected financial centre anywhere on the planet. Thanks in part to the Russian oligarchy, it is beginning to become apparent that Britain is gaining a similar ascendancy in a third form of organised, non-violent combat, namely the law.

The titanic fight between Boris Berezovsky and Roman Abramovich over the billions of dollars that the oil company Sibneft was worth perfectly illustrates this, being the biggest private individual law suit in the world today. Which is why, when I had a few days' holiday in London recently, I spent every free moment sitting in Court 26 in the Rolls Building in New Fetter Lane watching "Mr Abramovich" being interrogated without stint or respect for his billions by Berezovsky's cocky South African barrister, Laurence Rabi-

novitz. I only wished I'd had three months' holiday because I would have been there every day, all day, and written a book about the case, which would have become a best seller after I was mysteriously murdered. Sadly, I only had about six hours in the company of Mr Abramovich, but that was fascinating enough.

The basic dispute is simple. Was the relationship between the two litigants one of client and protector or was it one of equal partnership? In 1995/6, at the time of the privatisation of Russian state assets by Boris Yeltsin, a company called Sibneft came into being apparently, though not indisputably, controlled by Abramovich. In 2005 he sold it to Gazprom for \$13 billion, making him the richest man in Russia. Berezovsky claims half of that money should really be his as they were equal partners in creating the business.

Abramovich made many payments to Berezovsky over the years, usually at the rate of about \$50 million annually, even though Berezovsky did not do any work in the company at all. The sums were sometimes larger than the whole profit of



the enterprise, especially in the late 1990s when the price of oil dropped to \$8 a barrel. But these were not dividends paid to a partner or investor, or loan interest, they were for “krysha” (meaning “roof”), or protection in murky world of Russian business. This word is at the centre of the case, and I must have heard it used fifty or sixty times in the short period I sat in court. It appears to be entering the English legal lexicon. But what exactly does it mean to an oligarch paying for it? This is what Abramovich wrote in his pre-trial witness statement:

“This is how krysha worked: so long as one’s protector provided the services necessary to maintain the particular business being protected, you were expected pay him whatever he asked, whenever he asked. The hierarchy of krysha is clear. It had nothing to do with ownership of the business... It does not make any sense to me to try to characterise krysha as giving rise to any form of legal obligation. Indeed there was a lot of krysha activity in Russia at that time which was well outside the law and was little more than criminal extortion (*sic!*). Krysha did not create legal obligations, but I was fully aware I had to pay, just like many others... For a period I had no objection if people believed that [Berezovsky] was closely connected with Sibneft, whether as owner, founder or otherwise. The whole point of securing his krysha was for other people to feel that Sibneft was ‘his’ so that the company would not be interfered with.”

Berezovsky (whose middle name is actually Abramovich!) claims that he “sold his interest” in Sibneft to Abramovich in 2002. He should have been paid much more than the “paltry” \$1.3 billion he received, especially in the light of the massive price the company commanded just three years later. But Abramovich allegedly told him that if he did not agree to that figure, he would arrange for his share to be expropriated for nothing. Abramovich hotly denies this, saying that he paid the \$1.3 billion to buy himself out of the krysha arrangement.

The problem is that there are no documents attesting to what was agreed, and very little paperwork even covering some of the big transfers from Abramovich to Berezovsky. Many of them were made in cash at the Moscow tennis club to which Berezovsky belonged—at least until he was forced to flee Russia after falling out with President Putin in late 2000. But in English law a verbal agreement is as binding as a written one, so the judge will have to decide on the basis of the evidence led what that agreement was: did it constitute partnership or was it mere krysha?

The arena in which this great battle is taking place—the case started in early October and is expected to last till the turn of the year—is the brand new Commercial Court building just off the Strand. The judge is the first woman to sit on the Bench in that court, Mrs Justice Gloster. She is a sharp-looking, blonde (there were no wigs in court, and the judge wore the only gown), ex-Roedean and Girton lady who used to earn £2 million a year as one of London’s top commercial barristers, working incidentally from the same chambers as Laurence Rabinovitz.

Abramovich’s Counsel is Jonathan Sumption, one of London’s most eminent barristers, who is soon to become a judge in the Supreme Court, and who is thought to be earning between £4 million and £10 million for this case. Though it is big bucks all round, Abramovich made a point of taking his lunch each day (with his three bodyguards) in the nearest Pret a Manger—as therefore did I. Berezovsky, by contrast, had spe-

cial food delivered to a well-guarded conference room within the court building.

On both the days I was in the public seats, 1st and 3rd of November, one of the richest men in Russia was sitting at a desk on a raised dais for all to see, with headphones on, replying to yet another of Rabinovitz’s intrusions into his private life. He did not look very comfortable.

“Now Mr Abramovich, could you tell the court how many times you attended Mr Berezovsky’s birthday party. And could you tell us who else was there. I think they were fairly small, rather intimate gatherings were they not?”

This sort of questioning went on for hour after hour: how many joint holidays did you take cruising in the Mediterranean? How often did you go skiing together? Did your wife meet Mr Berezovsky’s wife, and did your children play with Mr Berezovsky’s children? And so on. It was all designed to establish that the two men were close friends and therefore more likely to have been partners than client and protector.

When Rabinovitz put that point explicitly to Abramovich, he denied it saying that in Russia there were always understood to be at least two levels of “friend”, a close friend and an ordinary friend. There were sniggers in court at this apparently cavilling distinction. Few seemed to believe Abramovich when he said he counted Berezovsky as a “friend” but not a “close friend”. A cleverer man (and Abramovich did not look particularly smart) might have pointed out the difference between *друг*, *приятель* and *знакомый*. You do not have to be expert in Russian to understand that these words reflect gradations of friendship not adequately translated by the distinction in English between “friend” and “acquaintance”.

And in this lay a much larger problem. Law is all about language, and most of all when verbal rather than written agreements, in a foreign language, are under the microscope. Even in the short time I was in court I noticed half-a-dozen instances of this sort. Often the barrister and the witness appeared to be talking at cross-purposes. What I also noticed was that Abramovich sometimes tried to exploit the court’s inevitable lack of understanding of Russian to make a point.

One example stands out. When asked by Rabinovitz why an associate of Berezovsky’s had talked about his connection with Sibneft saying “we” not “you”, as if they were all partners, Abramovich replied that the man concerned was Georgian. He spoke good Russian, but it was common for such people to confuse the Russian words for “you” and “we”! Half the people in court laughed, to the point where the judge had to call for order.

The atmosphere on the landing outside was interesting too. When I first tried to get in, I was stopped by a woman who said the public benches were full. She politely directed me to some other rooms nearby where they had installed massive television screens so that those members of the public who wanted to watch the proceedings but could not find a seat could still see what was happening. One screen in each room showed the scene in court and another recorded the stenographers official words as they were spoken, which was a remarkable way to accommodate the requirement that justice must not only be done but be seen to be done.

When I asked this lady who she was, she said she was one of Berezovsky’s bodyguards. She was a tall, slim woman wearing an earpiece. I told her she had no authority to stop anyone entering the court, which she immediately conceded.

Irritated, I rather cheekily asked her if she were armed. She waved her arms meaningfully at me and said, "I have these." Was Berezovsky in court, I asked? No but his family were and someone might try to attack them. Not inside this building, I suggested. No, but they might try to poison their food, she answered; look what happened to Litvinenko. For all that he was always accompanied by his own bodyguards, there seemed to be a lot less paranoia in the Abramovich camp than in the Berezovsky one.

Perhaps the strongest impression from seeing everything at first hand, and both litigants at close quarters (though Berezovsky only briefly), was Abramovich's obvious air of personal discomfort. He sat by himself in the chairs outside the court during the tea breaks with everyone milling around but no-one talking to him. He looked sad, almost lonely.

I imagine the powers in the Kremlin are taking a close interest in this case. If one of the richest men in Russia can be forced to come to court and give such a minute account of his comings and goings fifteen years ago, then who is safe from the long arm of British justice? Vladimir Solvyov, a Russian journalist close to Putin, was recently quoted in a One Russia video release about the case entitled, "Russia is not an English colony", as saying: "That they are talking about our government there, is that not a disgrace?"

He is right. It is a disgrace. Many wealthy Russians who are not intimates of the Kremlin circle really do feel they will get justice only outside Russia. Oleg Deripaska and Michael Cherny likewise have a long-running dispute over billions of dollars of "privatised" assets, and their case will be heard in London next year. They are not alone. Any

court system is a "disgrace" when litigants prefer to use foreign tribunals.

As space is limited, I will say about the evidence I heard only that Abramovich gave me the impression that he was unlikely to convince the judge that his relationship with Berezovsky had been based on krysha rather than some form of partnership. Whether or not Mrs Justice Gloster will find that way after hearing all the evidence, I would not like to guess, but I would be surprised if she does not also take account of the fact that the dispute concerns money that many feel neither party is fully entitled to.

But even if Her Ladyship awards Berezovsky a small portion of what he claims, that might still be, by ordinary standards, a vast sum amount of money. Many Russians have asked me, "What happens if Abramovich simply refuses to pay?" That such a question can seriously be asked by intelligent, experienced people shows just what a disgrace the Russian legal system actually is, and therefore why more cases like this are going to come to London in the future.

There are huge sums to be made by Chancery Lane lawyers from rich Russian litigants, and the irony is that they are doing so at a time when the English government (the situation is somewhat different in Scotland) is trying to reduce the amount of Legal Aid available to ordinary people so that fewer claims end in formal court hearings, and more are settled by informal arbitration. It is rather like Wimbledon, where the hoi polloi have to make do with Henman Hill, while the Centre Court is largely reserved for celebrities and rich foreigners—which in a wider sense is rather like Russia. No wonder oligarchs feel at home in London! **P**



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# A small step for Skolkovo Foundation, a huge step for the Russian Federation: Skolkovo in the Silicon Valley



Miguel Francis

"It's been a long day in the Silicon Valley, it's been a long day in the digital world..." are the opening lines of the Skolkovo theme song that the Skolkovo Silicon Valley Roadshow participants and organizers happened to compose as we were going down the freeway in our bus. Yes, sounds intriguing doesn't it? The Skolkovo Foundation, not to be confused with the Skolkovo Business School, is a government initiative that aims to create a hub for IT, energy, nuclear and other fantastic but yet real tech Russian projects that the minds of today produce in full swing all over the country.

Skolkovo Foundation has several clusters, <http://igorod.com>, creating a hub for many specific areas of technology including the IT Cluster, headed by Alexander Turkot along with the Deputy Director of Education and Research, Katya Gaika. To me it seems that one day they had an idea, to bring forth the Russian mind into the heart of Silicon Valley, and see the reaction. Knowing that America has, for a long time, been "buying" Russian IT talents and taking them overseas with a nice starting bonus, perhaps brought forth just another reason to form a power-house of those talents, allowing them to progress,



*Wine tasting Day at Sonoma Valley*



Award Day at Skolkova IT cluster



develop themselves and their projects and get that nice starting bonus, but this time in Russia.

Skolkovo Foundation Silicon Valley Roadshow 2011 was literally a roadshow of 12 of the most promising start-ups from within Skolkovo's IT Cluster, which not only granted these lucky start-uppers good capital but also offered them quite impressive tax breaks, even by Western standards! A reality show, filmed to expose the IT culture in Russia, is soon to be aired on prime Russian networks. The participants got to travel around some of the grandest Silicon Valley institutions like Microsoft, Apple, Facebook, Google, Garage Tech Ventures, CISCO, Kiventures, Orrick, Stanford University, Singularity University, Black Box, Plug n Play, US Market Access Center and many others. Participants got to present their projects in front of leading representatives of these companies, and some have even managed to make a name for themselves.

I was very fortunate to have met Katya Gaika and between allowed the opportunity to associate-produce the documentary-reality side of the project on the American side, spending 12 shooting days with Skolkovo's mobile IT Cluster in the heart of Silicon Valley and finding myself bombarded with the energy of IT. This was all quite a thrill, I must say. Without further ado, let's dive in.

Firstly, Ilya Gelfenbeyn, CEO of Speaktoit, Skolkovo IT Cluster. Speaktoit is an interesting App which essentially is an Android version of Siri, and has received much attention at the Roadshow. The *Wall Street Journal* asked for another interview and a few venture funds turned their attention over to Speaktoit. It's amazing that if your product has been developed earlier than another product, but the other product has the marketing power of a company like Apple behind it, your product though similar, will likely to get a huge increase in the amount of attention it usually receives, which is exactly what happened.

Film Language, a project led by Andre Gromowski and Sergei Kuzmin of Bazelevs Innovations, a branch of the Bazelevs company owned by Timur Bekmambetov, an innovative cinematographer shooting some of the most exciting movies both in Russia and Hollywood: "Daywatch", and "Wanted", starring Angeline Jolie and Morgan Freeman. FL is a program that turns your actions, verbs and words into 3D animation. This opens up not just the opportunity for the film market to have a shortcut to their storyboards and shot lists, but also creates a new channel for media messaging—why read something when you can get shot animation sent over instead? Perhaps it could be something like this: "Hey honey, pick up some milk on your way home." A car is driving down the street to a build-

ing titled "home", a man titled "husband" walks out of the car goes into the store and buys a bottle titled "milk"? All of this happens quickly and looks appealing. Could be interesting. The project has gotten much attention from the Valley.

Other projects to look into from the Skolkovo IT Cluster Roadshow are Choister (The search and analysis of internet data, search engines, social networks etc., centralizing your search), Kuznech, Rock Flow Dynamics (3-D imaging software for oil and gas birthplaces, which received investments from Intel earlier this year), Epythia, Evanti, Pirate Pay (software that will kill every torrent alive legally), CyberCop (fraud prevention software), CRT Innovations (a security system that uses imaging and voice protection software, highly secure and better than using a finger or typing in a password), Agent Plus, iBuildApp (free creation of mobile apps) and Cloudmac.

The show was so grandiose in its scale, from the cocktail reception of the crème de la crème of the Silicon Valley at the Rosewood Estate to the executive VC committee pitching at Google and Cisco, that it became a positive quest of exploration and innovation.

Being alongside every participant for me was truly a unique experience. I remember a toast: "This trip is one small step for Skolkovo Foundation, but a huge step for the Russian Federation." That perhaps summarizes the warm feeling you could sense after seeing our boys go through the roast and toast of the toughest Silicon Valley executives and come out happy and appreciated. Keep an eye out for Skolkovo City, a marvelous high-tech city outside of Moscow, and the Skolkovo Roadshow. **P**







# WEDDING



## A three-part series by Helen Womack

The ceremony was set for 4.15 on 3 February 1987 at Moscow's Palace of Weddings Number One. My fiancé and I had no choice about the date or venue. The bureaucrat at the single registry office that handled marriages between Soviet citizens and foreigners gave us a slot three months on from the day of application. There was only one moment in time, one place in the world for my marriage to Konstantin Gagarin. We gratefully seized the chance the Soviet state gave us, for we both knew it was a miracle we were marrying at all.

I used to tell myself the lack of choice in the old Soviet Union was a blessing. The months, even years, of planning for a traditional English wedding—the endless consideration of dresses, invitation designs, hotel menus etc.—would have appalled me. Kostya and I had only three months to organize a wedding within the limited scope of the Soviet shops. It was strange but the Communist set-up made me feel freer than my own free market system, free to concentrate on the main thing, which was that I loved Kostya.

Having taken our booking, the bureaucrat at the Palace of Weddings gave us a wad of coupons with which to buy clothes and food for our reception. "Defitsit" was the word you heard everywhere in Moscow in those days. Shortages. In all the shops, there were shortages of the most basic items, not to mention wedding luxuries. But along with Communist Party bigwigs and veterans of the Second World War, young couples were allowed to jump the queues for the inadequate supply of goods. The bigwigs had permanent privileges, of course, whilst ours was a one-off chance to go shopping in Vesna (Spring), the department store for the officially betrothed.

Here we bought Kostya the first suit he ever possessed. He was vehemently against brown crimplene, so we took one in grey wool, even though it was a touch too tight for him. We also bought our ration of caviar and smoked salmon and

our entitlement to gold in the form of two simple rings. But the kipper ties were too revolting to contemplate, as were the meringue-like wedding dresses. In the end, I cheated a bit. Kostya had no exit visa but wasn't I a free human being? Despite my fine theories about the improving effect of deprivation, I flew home. In Leeds, which seemed like Paris or Milan compared to Moscow, I bought a grey and red silk tie for my future husband and an off-the-peg, knee-length dress in cream silk for myself. My high-heeled shoes were mauve to match the delicate amethyst necklace that had belonged to my grandmother.

Back in Moscow, Kostya and I began to make arrangements for the reception by going on an inspection tour of the city's restaurants. Many Russians choose to have their wedding parties in the privacy of their own homes. But I lived in a golden cage, a comfortable ghetto for foreigners, while Kostya came from a closed town in Leningrad region. We had nowhere to invite our guests except to a restaurant.

In 1987, before Mikhail Gorbachev allowed the opening of "cooperative" cafes in the first step towards private business, Moscow had only a handful of state restaurants, named after and serving the ethnic dishes of 15 Soviet republics plus the socialist countries of the Warsaw Pact.

We sampled lobio (beans) and khachipuri (cheese pie) in the room where Stalin used to dine at the Aragvi Georgian restaurant. We also braved the stuffed bear at the entrance of the Restaurant Berlin to see what culinary delights East Germany had to offer. Finally, because the waiters were friendly and gooey chocolate cake was the house specialty, we booked our reception at the Prague on the old Arbat.

On the day of the wedding, there were 30 degrees of frost. That is the temperature at which cats and dogs hop along on three paws to minimize contact with the frozen ground and nylon stockings can stick to your legs so that you have to have

I used to tell myself the lack of choice in the old Soviet Union was a blessing

them surgically removed, or so my Russian friends used to tell me. I was never quite sure whether or not they were joking. Whatever, the members of our party all wore heavy sheepskins over their best clothes for the short walk from the taxis into the Palace of Weddings.

Although we were on time, we were kept waiting. Mendelssohn's Wedding March sounded at 15-minute intervals for several other couples on the conveyor belt ahead of us before we too were summoned before the registrar, a woman with a chain of office like a Mayoress. The experience was not quite as tacky as it sounds. The music was live, played by a small palm court orchestra that included a harp. The registrar managed to put feeling into words she must have pronounced hundreds of times. Kostya and I both giggled when she congratulated us on forming a new "Soviet family". We exchanged the rings. I decided to remain Helen Womack, tempting though it was to become Mrs. Gagarin, a relation in name if not in fact to the first man in space. Kostya was the one who, after the wedding, changed his name. Konstantin is spelled with a "k" in Russian but he said he wanted to be like the Emperor Constantine and started spelling his name with a "c".

From the Palace of Weddings, we drove straight to the reception at the Prague, avoiding the usual patriotic ritual of laying flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on the edge of Red Square. We drank champagne, ate sturgeon and kissed to cries of gorko (it's not sweet enough, kiss again). But, since the plates were not our own, we refrained from smashing the crockery to bring good luck in the traditional Russian way. (The next day, my mother slipped on the ice and broke her wrist, which Russian friends took to be an even greater sign of luck but for some reason, she didn't see it that way.)

Our group was small, as Russians in those early days of perestroika were still quite nervous about meeting foreigners. Kostya had gathered only his closest friends, most of them young men he had met while dodging the army by logging in Siberia. Plus their wives and girlfriends, of course. I was represented by my parents, who came from Yorkshire with armfuls of daffodils and a homemade fruitcake that airport customs officers had wanted to cut open and that the Russian guests christened the "concrete cake" because of its outer layer of hard, white icing.

My parents and new in-laws had common memories of the Second World War, which gave them something to talk about. The rest of us were children not of the war but of the Cold War. We had grown up with a fascination for the "enemy" on the other side of the Iron Curtain. Now here we all were, rapidly breaking the ice at our wedding party.

While we caroused, Igor Borisenko, a photographer from Tallinn, went round the table taking pictures of all the guests. Igor went on to become an award-winning film director, so perhaps the photographs have more than sentimental value now.

He zoomed in on Alina, an actress who had been my witness at the registry office. She was married to a famous counter-tenor, who was building an opera career, defying his music professors who told him to "stop singing like a woman".

Kostya's witness was his best friend from youth, fondly nicknamed Little Kostya. A railway worker, he was to go on to make a success as a small businessman. He was accompanied by his wife Ira in an alluring midnight blue dress.

Our toastmaster was eloquent Sergei, son of a famous writer, and his wife Lyuba, a doctor. Then there was Mikhail, a

poet, with his girlfriend Vera, and Anton, an icon painter, with his wife Tamara, a ceramic artist.

Svetlana came too. The daughter of a cosmonaut, she was herself a very clever scientist. Her boyfriend, Oleg, was a Japanese scholar with a passion for haiku poetry and martial arts.

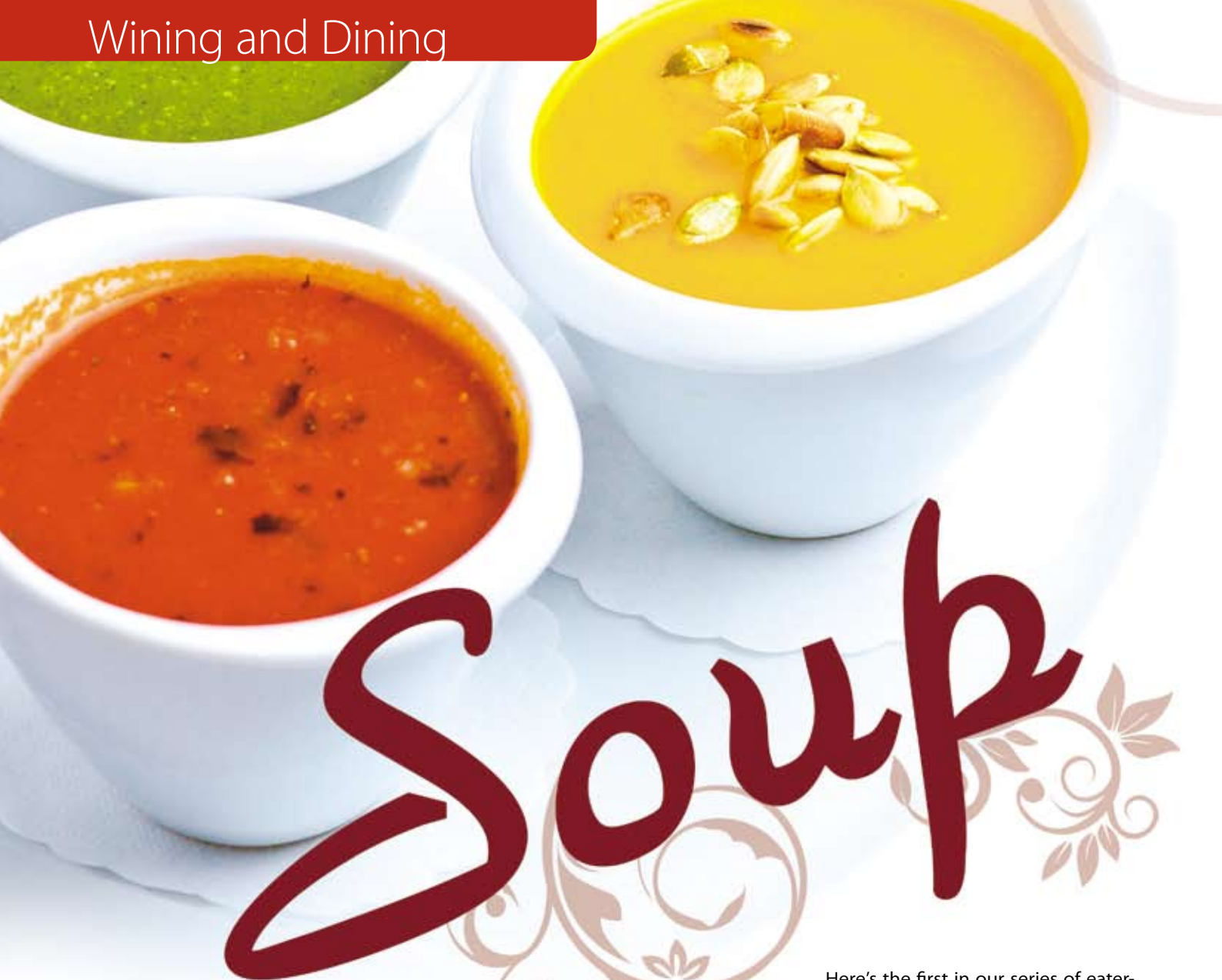
A rather sad figure on his own was Vadim, a biologist. His partner Irina had just emigrated as a Jew. In those days, if a person accepted an exit visa as a Jew, he or she had no right to return to the USSR. This did not trouble Irina because all her family had left with her. But Vadim could not go so easily because his parents wanted to remain in Moscow. The only way out for him was to marry a foreigner and leave the Soviet Union, not as a Jew but as a spouse, in which case he could return to visit his parents. This he eventually did, making a marriage of convenience with an American to reach Irina in the US. Such were the lengths to which the totalitarian system forced people to go to live the lives they wanted.

Kostya and I were luckier. We were together, just married and looking forward to the future. We had narrowly escaped the fate of the so-called "divided spouses", couples who had been apart for years because the Soviet authorities frowned on mixed marriages and would not give exit visas to Russians married to foreigners or entry visas to foreigners married to Russians.

But times were changing. Thanks to Mikhail Gorbachev, a grand love affair was blossoming between East and West, making possible the small loves of individuals.

*This is a true story. Read the next episode to learn how we met and dodged the KGB during our courtship.* **P**





# Soup

John Harrison

Many of us, including me, often complain that there are very few budget restaurants in Moscow that prepare good wholesome food, and do not cost a fortune. This is one of the biggest issues for foreigners who live and visit this city. Why should you have to be a member of the pseudo-elite to eat out? Where in fact do I eat without re-mortgaging my house? You may now officially relax. There are a few places around town, and your starring editor, John Harrison, knows them all.

Here's the first in our series of eateries for the people (and I'm not talking about McDonalds or Rostix): СУП or for non-Cyrils, SOUP. There are in fact two СУПs in Moscow, one on 1st Bretskaya Ulitsa, and the other on Skakovaya Street, with the former much nearer the Metro than the second.

As the name implies, the restaurant sells soup. A lot of it, with about 40 different types to choose from. They cost between 150 and 200 roubles a bowl, depending on the complexity of preparation. With a fruit juice and a desert of some kind, the average bill comes out at between 500 and 1000 roubles. Just what the





hungry business visitor staying at the Intercontinental just round the corner needs when he wants to eat and not re-mortgage his already re-mortgaged house back home in his bankrupt country.

But СУП's main clientele are young people, and the restaurants are open 24 hours a day. Many come here to pre- or after-party, some have breakfast here, and there are of course the business people who come in for an econo-lunch.

When I visited, thanks to being the editor, I was treated to a variety of delicious soups, and just as with wine degustations, after the first few spoonfuls, it soon became difficult to remember what I tasted before. I tasted cheese, borshcht, seafood soup Boston (seafood with bacon, potato and cream), Fricandelles soup, Finnish fish soup, Kharcho and Tom Yam soup. All were delicious, I can remember that, but I particularly liked the Tom Yam and cheese soups.

For desert I sampled Cherry soup with vanilla ice-cream, Chocolate soup with vanilla ice-cream, strawberry soup. All were presented well, with service that was acceptable. The restaurant on Brestskaya is in a large basement, but tastefully decorated in browns and greens, so there was a feeling of intimacy and privacy sadly lacking in just about every other restaurant in Moscow where you spend less than 2000 roubles per person.

Apart from Soups and deserts, the restaurant also a full range of salads, pastas, shashliks and other dishes, such as

turkey grilled on coal with mango sauce for 440 roubles, fish steak for 782 roubles.

The man behind СУП is Valeria Goryachev, who explained that the business model took some time to work out, but now, ten years later, it is solid and bankable. So much so, that he is considering major expansion into a "federal project" (i.e. going nation-wide). Money, he said, is now no problem, and he went on to comment that while others opened expensive swish joints that closed a year later, he has spent the last decade providing good solid food.

There is an art in providing reasonably good food in an OK environment for little money, and СУП does exactly that. It is well worth a visit.

Both СУП cafes are near Belorusskaya Metro station. **P**

Skakovaya st., 17/2 phone:  
+7(495) 945-24-54;  
+7(495) 945-51-65  
[www.soupcafe.ru](http://www.soupcafe.ru)  
[/cafe/contacts/skovovoy](http://cafe/contacts/skovovoy)

1st Brestskaya st., 62  
phone: +7 (499) 251-13-83  
[www.soupcafe.ru](http://www.soupcafe.ru)  
[/cafe/contacts/brestskoy](http://cafe/contacts/brestskoy)



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## Charles Borden

It's that time of year again, a month of chaos and then stillness. Snow snarls traffic and shoppers sweep the aisles. Socials, soirees, suppers and all manner of shindigs crowd the afternoons and evenings. Finally the finish: a bash, binge and blowout, followed by fireworks filling the firmament. Silence, and hopefully a blanket of white to the horizon, as Moscow empties for a full two weeks of peace on earth.

If in the West, the obsession is sex, Russia is obsessed with alcohol. If western television is filled with sexual allusions, Russian TV jokes about vodka, drinking and drunks. At no time is this more apparent than the New Year, when I hear from hapless hosts hunting help.

## The Company Party

I ask, "What about Russian wines? Even some elitny crowds, and certainly ex-pats, would be happy to try something from the Black Sea." If the line falls quiet, I add, "You can always claim patriotism, support your local producers, 'Buy Russian', to explain the wine list."

The selection of good Russian and Ukrainian wines produced near the Black Sea filled out a little this year, but Chateau Le Grand Vostock ([www.grand-vostock.ru](http://www.grand-vostock.ru)) remains at the top of my list. French winemaker Frank Duseigneur has just completed his ninth harvest

Frank Duseigneur  
in the Chateau  
Le Grand Vostock vineyards

## Abrau Durso Imperial Brut

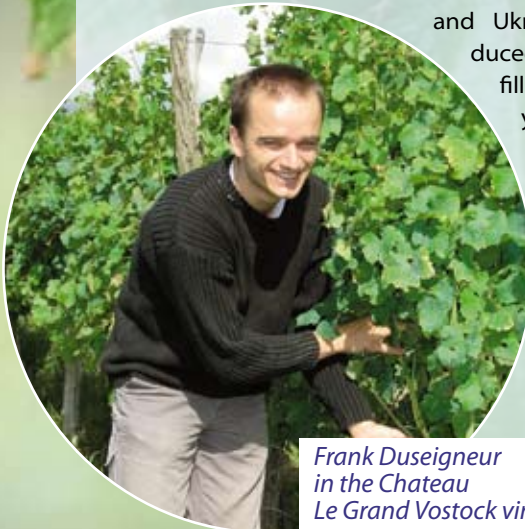
at this completely modern, French equipped, top-of-the-line winery. He and his wife Gael, who runs the winery laboratory, have settled down and started a family in this tiny village in Krasnodar region about 100 kilometres from the Black Sea coast. By now, Frank and Gael should be eligible for an Order of Lenin, or whatever honour they give heroes in Russia these days.

Chateau Le Grand Vostock has pairs of red and white wines at four price levels starting with Terre du Sud at 199r per bottle to Chêne Royal at 740r. It has an English language website; the wine is stocked in Moscow; and it delivers case lots.

Russians must consume more sparkling wine (Shampanskoye) during the last two weeks of December than the entire rest of the year, perhaps excepting Women's Day. In recent years Russian businessman Boris Titov rescued a Russian national treasure, historic sparkling wine producer Abrau Durso, which lies north of Novorossisk and a just a short jaunt to the Black Sea ([www.abraudurso.ru](http://www.abraudurso.ru)). Abrau Durso has

Boris Titov

# Seasonal Sips for a Supper, Soiree or Shindig





light, bright and refreshing, it had an almost overpowering exotic pineapple tone.

## Other Notable Black Sea Wines

*Novy Svet* (Crimea, Ukraine) makes a Pinot Noir Brut (600 roubles), a sparkling rosé, that bested some of France's most prestigious champagnes in a PASSPORT blind tasting in 2008. Serve very cold. *Tsimlanskoye Winery* in eastern Rostov region makes a sweet, deep purple sparkling wine "in accordance with an ancient Cossack method." (500 roubles).

*Praskoveya Winery* near Budyonnovsk in Stavropol region specializes in brandies (called cognac in Russia), produced under a French-trained winemaker. It also produces a retro-labeled grape-based Samogon No.5 (Russian moonshine) that is 45% alcohol. *Praskoveya* has a large collection of wines dating back to 1945, right after the German occupation.

These collector wines, such as a 1992 Uliybka (Smile: a sweet Muscat wine) at 1,460 roubles or a 1955 Buket Prikumya at 17,660 roubles, and its brandies and Samogon No.5 are available at a small shop off Krasnopresnya Prospekt near the Moscow zoo.

## Buyer Beware

I am reasonably confident that the specific wines mentioned above are actually Russian, and made with Russian grown grapes. Russia does not have AOC/DOC laws or other protections for authentic local producers that invest in vineyards and wineries. From available information that compares grape harvests and wine production statistics, the vast majority of wines labeled as Russian could only have been made with imported bulk wine called "wine material" or grape concentrate. I have seen a warehouse full of Chilean concentrate, and additives such as Essence of Riesling at Russian wineries. I had a reliable report about a Krasnodar region vinzavod (wine factory) that makes 16 types of Russian red wines from one cheap imported bulk wine from Spain. Many other Russian and Crimean wines, even if made from local grapes and bearing a well-known historic name, can be pretty awful. **P**

## Shops with Russian Wines

### Chateau le Grand Vostock

+7 495 785 8865

[www.grandvostock.ru](http://www.grandvostock.ru)

### Abrau Durso Shop

Smolensky Bulvar 15

+7 499 252 7701

[www.abraudurso.ru](http://www.abraudurso.ru)

### Myshkako Shop

Leningradsky Prospekt 10

### Stavropol Wine and Cognac

Ulitsa Malaya Gruzinskaya 12

+7 495 252 1408

### Massandra Shops

The Massandra shops in Moscow carry many Russian and Ukrainian wines including sparkling wines from Abrau Durso, Novy Svet and Tsimlanskoye, and the Russian Gai-Kodzor.

Zvenigorodskoye Shosse Dom 7

Oktyabryskaya Dom 5

Komsomolsky Prospekt Dom 15

Russian Grape Harvest photos

produced *méthode champenoise* (traditional in-bottle fermented) sparkling wines in an extensive network of caves for almost 120 years. AD's top-level wines are still produced this way and, as I understand, they really are made from grapes grown in AD's own vineyards and neighboring areas. AD's Premium and Russkoye Shamanskoye are made using the quicker *charmat* or reservoir method from imported bulk wines.

Two other Russian wineries, *Fanagoria* and *Myshkako*, employ an Australian flying winemaker, John Worontschak, and a few wines from either winery might be good holiday selections. *Fanagoria's* Cru Leermont line is made from French varietal grapes that were planted in 1987. *Fanagoria* also makes a very rich, dark sweet herbal wine that is very reasonably priced wine called Chorny Lecker. Many of your Russian guests would prefer a sweet wine, even if they won't admit it. Novorossiysk based *Myshkako* also makes some decent

wines, particularly whites. I like the Sauvignon Blanc and Riesling.

Two newcomer Black Sea wineries are worth watching: Gai-Kodzor south of Anapa, and Vedernikov in Rostov region. I tried the Gai-Kodzor Merlot-Grenache 2009 (348r) and, though

Gael Brullon (Duseigneur) at Chateau Le Grand Vostock



## AMERICAN

### CORREA'S

New American, non-smoking environment, cool comfort food at several Moscow locations  
7 Ulitsa Gasheka, 789-9654

### M. Mayakovskaya

#### STARLITE DINER

Paul O'Brien's 50s-style American Starlite Diners not only have the best traditional American breakfasts, lunches, and dinners in town, they draw a daily crowd for early morning and lunchtime business meetings. Open 24 hours. 5 locations.

### M. Pushkinskaya

Strastnoy Blvd. 8a,  
989 44 61

### M. Mayakovskaya

16 Ul. Bolshaya Sadovaya,  
650-0246

### M. Oktyabrskaya

9a Ul. Korovy Val,  
959-8919

### M. Universitet

6 Prospekt Vernadskovo,  
783-4037

### M. Polyanka

16/5 Bolotnaya Plushchad,  
951-5838

www.starlite.ru

### AMERICAN BAR & GRILL

This veteran Moscow venue still does good ham-burgers, steaks, bacon & eggs and more. Open 24 hours.

2/1/ 1st Tverskaya-Yamskaya Ul,

250-9525

### BEVERLY HILLS DINER

The new kid on the diner block with a full range of American standards.

1 Ulitsa Sretenka,

### M. Chisty Prudy

## ASIAN

### AROMA

Indian Restaurant  
Krizhizanovskovo Street 20/30,

### M. Profsayounnaya

www.aromamoscow.ru  
+7(495) 543-54-26

### TURANDOT

Fabulous Asian food in a palatial and exquisite setting. The owners reportedly spent a mid-eight figure amount on the fit-out including a two million dollar dim-sum kitchen. Try the Wasabi shrimp.

26/5 Tverskoi Bulvar, 739-0011

### M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya

www.turandotpallace.ru

### MR. LEE

Fashionable and expensive Chinese from Novikov.

7 Kuznetsky Most, 628-7678

### M. Kuznetsky Most

### NE DALNY VOSTOK

PASSPORT's 2009 number one Moscow restaurant. Chef Glen Ballis turns out fabulous crab specialties, Asian, grill and salads. Come by when they bring in a big tuna. "Classy."

15 Tverskoy Bulvar, 694-0641, 694-0154

### M. Tverskaya

http://eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/

## COFFEE AND PASTRIES

### COFFEE BEAN

Jerry Ruditsker opened the first coffee shops in Moscow, and still serves the best coffee. Smoke-free. Several locations.

56 Leningradsky Prospekt, 742-3755

www.coffeebean.ru

### COFFEE MANIA

The Coffee Mania next to the Moscow Conservatory is a popular daytime informal business venue. Open 24 hours. Several locations.

13 Ulitsa Bolshaya Nikitskaya, 775-5188, 775-4310

### M. Arbatskaya, Biblioteka im. Lenina

www.coffeemania.ru

### STARBUCKS

Now has 32 locations.

www.starbuckscoffee.ru

### VOLKONSKY PEKARNYA-KONDITERSKAYA

The coffee service at this bakery takes second place to its fabulous French-style baked goods. Smoke-free.

2/46 Bolshoi Sadovaya

### M. Mayakovskaya

## EUROPEAN

### CARRE BLANC

Moscow's top French restaurant. Try the bistro and weekend brunch.

9/2 Ul. Seleznevskaya, 258-4403

### M. Novoslobodskaya

www.carreblanc.ru

### BLACKBERRY

Elegant but comfortable with an eclectic international menu: Asian, Russian, Italian, sushi and other cuisines.

10 Academic Sakharov Prospekt

926-1640, 926-1645

### M. Chistiye Prudy

### CAFE DES ARTISTES

Restaurant and bar offers fine European cuisine in a relaxed atmosphere, often with recent artwork on the walls of the upstairs room.

5/6 Kamergersky Pereulok, 692-4042

### M. Teatralnaya

www.artistico.ru

### GALEREYA

Trendy, lavish and expensive. The place to see and be seen.

27 Ulitsa Petrovka, 937-4544

### M. Pushkinskaya

eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/

### GRAND ALEXANDER

Named after poet Alexander Pushkin, this opulent restaurant at the Marriott Grand Hotel is one of Moscow's top French-European restaurants.

26 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 937-0000

### M. Tverskaya

### JEROBOAM

Ritz-Carlton's Jeroboam, under the stewardship of celebrity German chef Heinz Winkler, offers "la Cuisine Vitale" in the new building that replaced the eyesore that was the Soviet-era Intourist Hotel.

3 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 225-8888

### M. Okhotny Ryad

### KAI RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE

Some of Moscow's best contemporary French cuisine with an Asian touch from chef at Swissotel Krasnye Holmy.

52/6 Kosmodamianskaya Nab, 221-5358

### M. Paveletskaya

### SCANDINAVIA

The summer café is one of Moscow's main after-work meeting venues. Excellent Scandinavian and continental menu.

19 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 937-5630

### M. Pushkinskaya

www.scandinavia.ru

### SKY LOUNGE

Dining on the roof of the Russian Academy of Sciences offers guests unparalleled views of the city.

32a Leninsky Prospekt, 915-1042, 938-5775

### M. Leninsky Prospekt

www.skylounge.ru

### VANIL

Hip French and Japanese near the Cathedral of Christ the Savior.

1 Ulitsa Ostozhenka, 202-3341

### M. Kropotkinskaya

eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/

### VOGUE CAFE

Elegant, trendy partnership with Vogue magazine.

7/9 Ul. Kuznetsky Most, 623-1701

### M. Kuznetsky Most

http://eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/

## LEBANESE

### SHAFRAN

Quiet and cosy atmosphere. Culinary masterpieces of Arabic cuisine. Varied and substantial lunches. Unusual and tasty breakfasts. The mezze is completely addictive!

Spiridonievsky pereulok, 12/9, 737-95-00

www.restoran-shafran.ru

## FUSION

### GQ BAR

A warm, active hang-out for the elite just up from the Kempinski Baltshug Hotel. Partnership with GQ magazine.

5 Ulitsa Baltshug, 956-7775

### M. Novokuznetskaya

eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/

### SOHO ROOMS

Chef Laura Bridge mixes it up at this trendy restaurant-club along the embankment near Novodivichy Monastery.

12 Savinskaya Nab., 988-7474

### M. Sportivnaya

www.sohorooms.com

## HEALTHY

### JAGGANNATH CAFÉ

A simple but excellent vegetarian buffet with an eclectic mix of Asian and other dishes.

11 Kuznetsky Most, 628-3580

### M. Kuznetsky Most

www.jagannath.ru

### LE PAIN QUOTIDIEN

Simple and healthy food and bakery at the Moscow extension of an international chain. Delivery. Multiple locations.

5/6 Kamergersky Pereulok, 649-7050

www.lpq.ru

## LATIN AMERICAN

### NAVARRO'S BAR & GRILL

El Salvador born chef-owner Yuri Navarro excels at everything from tapas to eclectic Peruvian-Mediterranean fusion, seafood to grilled meat.

One of Moscow's few chef-owned restaurants.

23 Shmitovskiy Proezd, 259-3791

### M. Mezhdunarodnaya

www.navarro.ru

### OLD HAVANA

An amazing place, with a stunning Brazilian table-side show nightly from Thursday to Saturday. The food is good, but the highlight is the unbelievable three-hour extravaganza with about two dozen dancers and capoeira performers.

28 Ulitsa Talalikhina, 723-1656

### M. Proletarskaya

www.old-havana.ru

## ITALIAN

### SEMIFREDDO MULINNAZO

Sicilian chef Nino Graziano dishes up the best of Sicily and the Mediterranean with the help of his personal grill out front. Huge Italian wine list.

2 Rossolimo Ulitsa, (499) 766-4646

### M. Park Kultury

www.semifreddo-restaurant.com

### MARIO

Delightful elegance and style with the best-quality Italian dishes. Open noon to last guest.

17 Ulitsa Klimashkina, 253-6505

### M. Barrikadnaya

### CIPOLLINO

Coffee- and cream-colored stylish Italian cafe a stone's throw from the Cathedral of Christ the Savior.

7 Soimonovskiy Proyezd, 695-2936, 695-2950

### M. Kropotkinskaya

www.cipollino.ru

## JAPANESE

### KINKI

Authentic Japanese kitchen with amazing seafood delicacies like Tasmanian salmon, Madagascar shrimp and others. The range of Japanese drinks is extremely wide. You can taste true Japanese sake – rice-based hot drink – which is served in a special Japanese way.

11, Osenyaya Str., (495) 781-1697

### M. Krylatskoye

www.kinkigrill.ru

### MEGU

The best Sushi in town is served here according to PASSPORT's publisher John Ortega. Funky Korean décor and ambience.

Lotte Plaza Hotel Novinsky Bulvar 8

### M. Smolenskaya

+7 495 745 1000

### NOBU

The Moscow branch of the legendary Nobu is now open on Bolshaya Dmitrovka. Nobu moves directly to PASSPORT's Moscow Top 10 list.

20 Bolshaya Dmitrovka, 645-3191

### M. Okhotny Ryad

www.noburestaurants.ru

## ICHIBAN BOSHI

High-quality, affordable Japanese with cool ambience. Several locations.  
22 Krasnaya Presnya Ulitsa, (499) 255-0909  
**M. Krasnopresnenskaya**  
50 Ulitsa Bolshaya Yakimanka  
M. Polyanka  
www.ichiban.ru

## SEIJI

One of the few Moscow sushi restaurants that actually has a Japanese chef, even a celebrity chef – Seiji Kusano, who also set up the O2 Lounge at the Ritz-Carlton.  
5/2 Komsomolsky Prospekt, 246-7624  
**M. Park Kultury**

## CAUCASUS

### BAGRATIONI

Great Georgian food and entertainment in a stylish mansion near Novodevichy Monastery and the Korean Embassy.

1/7 Spartakovskaya Plushchad, 267-6881, 266-0531

**M. Baumanskaya**

### BARASHKA

Our Azerbaijanian friends swear it's the best Azeri restaurant in town.

20/1 Petrovka Ulitsa, 200-4714, **M. Kuznetsky Most**

21/1 Novy Arbat, **M. Arbatskaya**

http://eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/

### BELOYE SOLNTSE PUSTYNI

Named after White Desert Sun, one of the USSR's favorite films. An eclectic Central Asian menu that includes Azerbaijan and Uzbek cuisine.

29 Ul. Neglinnaya, 625-2596, 200-6836

**M. Kuznetsky Most, Teatralnaya**

http://eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/

## RUSSIAN

### CAFE PUSHKIN

A Moscow classic serving upmarket Russian cuisine in a lavish, 19th century setting. Bustling, ground-floor dining hall and a more sophisticated (and pricier) experience upstairs. Reservation essential.

26a Tverskoi Bulvar, 739-0033

**M. Pushkinskaya, Tverskaya, Chekhovskaya**

### GODUNOV

For real lovers of all things Russian, including traditional Russian dancing, rivers of vodka and plates stacked with food in the Tsar's chambers from the time of Boris Godunov.

5 Teatralnaya Plushchad, 698-5609

**M. Teatralnaya**

### OBLOMOV

Authentic Russian cuisine in a restored 19th century mansion.

5 Monetchikovskiy Pereulok, 953-6828

**M. Dobryninskaya**

### YOLKI-PALKI

A Russian chain that serves a great selection of typical Russian specialties at modest prices. Many locations.

23 Bolshaya Dmitrovka, 200-0965

**M. Okhotny Ryad, Teatralnaya**

http://eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/

## SEAFOOD

### FILIMONOVA & YANKEL

You will find an outlet near many of the Goodman steak houses. Very fresh fish and a straightforward menu. Several locations.

23 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 223-0707

**M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya**

www.fishhouse.ru

### LA MAREE

La Maree is Moscow's number one seafood restaurant, built by Tunisian Mehdi Douss, owner of Moscow's leading fresh seafood importer.

28/2 Ulitsa Petrovka, 694-0930

www.la-maree.ru

## STEAKS

### EL GAUCHO

True Argentine menu. THE place for charcoal-grilled meats and fish.

4 Ul. Sadovaya-Triumfalnaya, 699-7974

**M. Mayakovskaya**

6/13 Ul. Zatsesky Val, 953-2876

**M. Paveletskaya**

3 Bolshoi Kozlovsky Pereulok, 623-1098

**M. Krasniye Vorota**

www.elgaucho.ru

### CHICAGO PRIME

#### Steakhouse & Bar

Chicago Prime Steakhouse, is the best of Chicago in downtown Moscow. U.S.D.A Prime steaks, a wide choice of seafood, valued priced wines, unique specialty cocktails and stylish interior will take you into an atmosphere of casual elegance and exceptional cuisine. Happy Hours daily from 5 pm till 8 pm

Strastnoy Blvd. 8a, 988 17 17

www.chicagoprime.ru

### GOODMAN

Moscow's premium steak house chain. Numerous locations.

23 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 775-9888

**M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya**

www.goodman.ru

### POLO CLUB

Dining at its finest at the Marriott Aurora. Features American prime beef and steaks.

Ulitsa Petrovka 11/20, 937-1024

**M. Kuznetsky Most**

### TORRO GRILL

The focus is on the best mid-priced meat in Moscow. Wine Bar. Several locations.

6 Prospekt Vernadskogo, 775-4503

**M. Universitet**

www.torrogrill.ru

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www.secretbar.ru

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# What Does 2012 Hold for Real Estate

John Harrison

2011 saw quite substantial changes in the Moscow real estate market, which were mostly prompted by the changes in the city's government in the wake of September 2010 dismissal of mayor Yuri Luzhkov.

In a move to bring order to city construction, the team of the new mayor, Sergei Sobyannin, suspended a number of development projects which, experts say, could lead to a shortage of residential property in the city and, consequently, to price hikes.

"The year 2011 was notable for a massive revision of existing investment projects in Moscow," Yulia Geraskina, head of the new construction department at Est-a-Tet, told PASSPORT. "In February 2011, the city government's decree #25 launched the biggest revision of investment contracts in Moscow's history."

According to Geraskina, the move led to the cancellation of a quarter of all existing contracts by mid-October, involving such big industry players as SU-155, Krost, PIK, Barkly, Gals-Development and Glavstroy.

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**"In February 2011, the city government's decree #25 launched the biggest revision of investment contracts in Moscow's history" - Yulia Geraskina, Est-a-Tet**

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"Judging by the list of companies, the largest part of these contracts were economy and standard class housing construction," Geraskina observed. "So, in the nearest future, the city is likely to experience shortages in those segments."

She went on to say that buyers in those segments react by buying properties in the Moscow region. "One can really call the year 2011 a year in which the vector of demand switched direction, with more and more Muscovites buying apartments in nearby Podmoskovye," she explained.

Meanwhile, the shortages have already brought about an increase in prices. "Given a limited supply of newly constructed properties, demand for real estate has gone up, pushing up prices as well," Alexei Shlenov, general director of Miel-Brokerage told PASSPORT. "From the beginning of the fall, we noticed an increase in prices in prestigious neighborhoods of

the city, the most sought-after apartments being those in panel buildings, both old and improved-quality."

Other experts also pointed out that residential property prices gradually climbed throughout the year. "In the elite segment, secondary property prices were up from \$26,200 per square metre to \$28,900, which is 10%, newly built properties gained 12%, to \$23,400 per square metre," Alexander Ziminsky, director of the elite property sales department at Penny Lane Realty told PASSPORT, adding the business class segment saw an increase from \$6,900 per square metre to \$7,400 per square metre for newly built properties and from \$7,900 to \$8,900 for secondary-market properties, which is also around 10%-11%.

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**"The situation is likely to be heavily dependent on overall economic conditions, but even under the most negative scenario, I think the elite segment will keep its position," said Alexander Ziminsky**

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"This kind of growth was predictable, based on the current economic conditions," Ziminsky said. "In 2011, there were no premises for either decreases in prices or a new upward movement. However, in 2012, in the elite segment, we could see an increase of 20% or more because of a shortage in new offerings in the Central Administrative District."

The decline in new construction is limiting investment options for those who previously opted for making a deal long before a building is completed, often at early construction stages, obtaining a property with a considerable discount to its market value. But now options of this kind seem to be limited.

"Projects that could be brought to the market are already there, and those which were in earlier stages, are now set to be at least nine months behind schedule because of the revision of contracts," Geraskina explained. "More than a half of all new properties on sale are in the buildings close to their completion."

According to Ziminsky, demand for property remained stable for most of 2011, gaining about 15% to 17% from the respective months of 2010. "We observe neither decreases, nor sharp increases," he said.

Ziminsky added that the majority of deals in the elite segments are in the price range between \$1.5 million and \$2 million, while apartments with an area under 100 sq. metres remain most wanted. "In the business class segment, apartments of between 100,000 sq. metres and 120,000 sq. metres at about \$800,000 to \$900,000 sell well," he went on to say. "Relatively cheap one-room apartments under 70 sq. metres find buyers relatively quickly, too. One trend in the business class that becomes more and more prominent is that [buyers] are interested in apartments that are already fully decorated."

"At the beginning of the year [2011], we suggested that prices for properties of regular demand could grow over the course of the year by roughly 10%," Shlenov said. "We see an active market, in which seasonal demand is completely back.

This kind of buyers' activity makes us optimistically suggest that [2012] is going to be just as successful.

"Because of a shortage in good quality offers in the elite segment, it is possible to predict a 25% growth in prices," Ziminsky said. "The volumes of construction are likely to increase because of active development of the suburbs."

For most of the year 2011, the situation in the currency market was unstable, with the exchange rate of the rouble against the US dollar fluctuating in the 10% range. That, predictably, had an impact on the real estate sector.

"One of the [recent] trends is that sellers are converting rouble prices into dollars or increase the price by 5% to 10%," Ziminsky said. "The practice of announcing prices in 'currency units' is back, under which the 'units' are converted, depending on currency fluctuations, in the direction that is favorable for the seller."

Meanwhile, experts say that against the background of uncertainty in the world economy, which has an impact on the main currencies, people have been more actively investing in real estate as a means to protect their savings. "The difficult situation of the American currency and fluctuations in the exchange rate of the rouble, coupled with uncertainty in the stock markets all over the world have led to an increase in demand for real estate," said Geraskina.

Meanwhile, realtors also point to the recuperation of the mortgage lending segment, which fell prey to the 2008 global financial downturn and remained in dire straights even though the economy was recovering from the crisis. According to Est-a-Tet, in the first months of 2011, the number of mortgage loans doubled, year-on-year, and between 35% and 40% of all deals brokered by the company involve mortgage loans.

"Today, the proportion of deals involving mortgage loans at Miel-Brokerage in Moscow and the Moscow region is around 30%," Shlenov said.

"Middle-class buyers either take out a mortgage loan or sell their old property," Ziminsky said, adding that the purchase of an apartment ready to move into allows buyers to avoid having to rent property while the new apartment is being decorated.

One of the biggest events in the Moscow property market in 2011 was the announcement of the city's expansion into the Moscow region. Predictably, prices for property in the former Moscow region towns that are now going to become part of the city have gone sharply up. According to information from Est-a-Tet, prices for "new Moscow" properties gained about 18%, compared with an average 5% growth for the Moscow region.

Speaking about possible scenarios for the development of the Moscow real estate market, experts are cautious, but they still note that there is a potential for price increases.

"The situation is likely to be heavily dependent on overall economic conditions, but even under the most negative scenario, I think the elite segment will keep its position," said Ziminsky, adding that one of the major factors that are going to have an impact on the market in the short term, is City Hall's policies.

"The outcome of the financial uncertainty is that investors are divided: one part insists that it is time to buy before currencies completely lose their values, the other part are holding their cash in a hope to strike a lucrative deal in a situation of general panic," he went on to say. "But overall, in a situation like that, interest in properties as a secure investment is steadily growing." **P**





## Russian government to encourage renting, but experts are skeptical

The Russian government plans to annually allocate 5 billion roubles for the creation of a mass rental property market. According to the ministry of regional development, the construction of residential buildings specifically for renting out apartments in them may take off on a mass scale already in 2012, with some pilot projects currently under way in Kaluga and Novosibirsk regions. However, experts are skeptical about the idea, saying that Russians would prefer buying apartments with mortgage loans to renting them for their entire lives. The rental model will never be able to compete with the mortgage model on the Russian real estate market, Mikhail Semyonov, general director of Renova Stroi-Group was quoted as saying by RIA Novosti. "When a person buys an apartment with a mortgage loan, they create stock capital," he said. "That person then becomes the owner of an asset whose price could go up."

## New project at Moskva-City

City Hall has found a buyer for a 2 hectare plot of land in the Moscow City commercial center, which had been lying idle for a few years, the business daily *Vedomosti* reported. Grand-Titul, owned by God Nisanov, a co-owner of the hotel Ukraina and the shopping center Yevropeysky, intends to build a 315,000 sq. metre multifunctional complex, featuring offices, a hotel, apartments and a trade and exhibition centre. The report quoted Nisanov's spokesperson as saying that the company plans to invest \$500 million in the project, which is to be completed in 2013. Previously, there were plans to erect four 70-storey buildings with a total area of 806,400 sq. metres on the plot. The underground part of the project was completed in 2008, after which it was suspended.

## Economy-class lofts to arrive in Moscow

Buyers looking to buy economy-class lofts could soon be able to find something suitable for their budgets, as cheaper lofts are to be brought to the market at between \$3,500 and \$5,000 per sq. metre. Alexander Poduskov, sales director at KR Properties, was quoted by RIA Novosti as saying that his company, which is currently converting the weaving mill Danilovskaya Manufaktura and the silk mill Krasnaya Roza for non-industrial uses, plans to offer economy-class lofts. Still, he added that lofts will remain an expensive housing option, and stylizing a regular apartment to look like a loft would certainly be cheaper than buying one.

## Developer flee to Moscow region

Restrictions on construction within city limits, introduced by the new Moscow government, have made some developers move their operations to the region, the business daily *Kommersant* reported. The developer Tekta Group is already launching three residential construction projects with a total area of 500,000 sq. metres, while several other developers, including MR Group, MITs, FSK Leader and the founders of PIK, Kirill Pisarev and Yuri Zhukov, acquired plots beyond the Moscow Ring Road in 2011. MITs's chairman of the board, Andrei Ryabinsky, was quoted as saying that the city is overloaded with construction, while in the Moscow region, there are many unoccupied plots and the procedure of obtaining required permissions and approvals is less complicated. In October 2011, MITs spent \$119 million on a 34.5 hectare plot near Govorovo. Until 2008, the volume of newly built construction in the city was higher than that in the region, but then the dynamic began to change. In the first 10 month of 2011, 3.45 million sq. metres of residential property were built in the region, against 1.2 million sq. metres in the city. **P**

## How to:

### Just say 'Hello!':

Здравствуйте! *Don't be discouraged that the first word you need in conversation is such a tongue twister, forget how it's written, it's pronounced 'zdrastye'!*

*If you really can't get your mouth around it, opt for Добрый день – the all purpose 'good day'.*

Привет! *Very informal, along the lines of 'hi'.*

*You'll always get a smile with a cheerful good morning: Доброе утро!*

*And if the sun's shining, you'll can spice it up with Доброе солнечное утро!*

### How are things?

*Unfortunately, Russians don't ask "How are you?" as readily as the English, but try these alternatives:*

Как дела? *How are things?*

*In a business context, Как у вас дела? sounds a bit more formal.*

Как выживаете? Как ты поживаешь? *How are you getting on? (literally, how are you living?)*

Как жизнь? *How's life?*

Как вы провели выходные? *How was your weekend?*

### If you haven't seen someone in a while:

Сто лет не виделись! *Long time no see (Literally: haven't seen you for a hundred years!).*

Какие люди! *Who do we have here! (Literally: what people!)*

С приездом! *Welcome back!*

Хорошо выглядите! *You look well!*

*If they start asking you how you are:*

Всё отлично! *Everything's great!*

Лучше не бывает! *Never been better!*

Не очень. *Not so great.*

Лучше не спрашивай... *Better not to ask...*

*If you really want to sound Russian, non-committal is most convincing:*

Потихоньку. *I'm getting there (literally: quietly)*

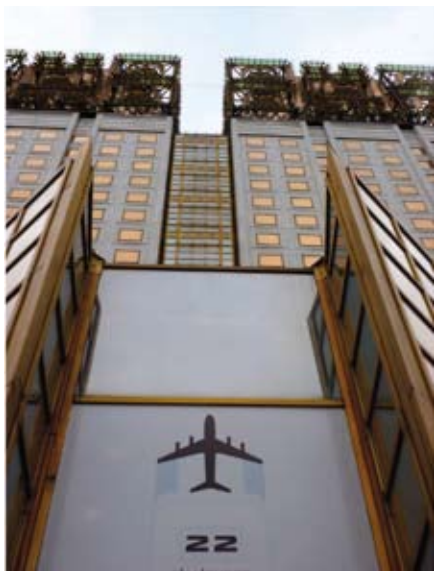
Нормально. *Normal enough.*

Ничего. *Nothing much.*

Courtesy of **RUSLINGUA**  
[www.ruslingua.com](http://www.ruslingua.com)

# Ruslingua

Compiled by Ross Hunter  
Brought to you by EIS, the English International School



**Photo quiz:** Where are these familiar Moscow sights, photographed at unusual angles?



## Word Searches

### Food and cooking

Can you find 25 yummy words?

Hint: every square is used.

T	M	A	R	M	A	L	A	D	E
O	E	I	D	I	E	T	T	I	N
O	F	A	C	N	S	T	F	S	D
T	A	R	T	R	N	O	A	H	I
H	N	I	I	I	O	E	T	L	V
P	L	U	M	D	M	W	A	T	E
I	H	R	A	N	G	E	A	P	O
C	O	L	A	N	D	E	R	V	S
K	T	O	M	E	L	E	T	T	E

## Around Moscow (3)

Another 26 Assorted places, people, things to see, names, including a few Russian words transliterated.

As usual, every square is used.

S	M	O	L	E	N	S	K	A	Y	A
A	A	L	I	M	I	G	A	L	K	A
M	I	L	I	T	S	I	A	H	A	K
O	R	A	S	T	B	A	S	I	L	S
V	O	K	S	A	L	U	D	L	I	E
A	R	O	D	U	B	U	E	L	N	N
R	Y	A	Z	A	N	S	K	Y	I	I
K	L	E	B	O	R	I	S	A	N	A

## Mini Sudoku

Usual rules: fill 1-6 in to each row, column & box

2					
		4			1
			6		
	5			3	
		3			
5		6			2

## Micro Sudoku

A starter game for young puzzlers. A-D in each row, column and box.

(1)Easier

		B	
A			
			C
	D	A	

(2) A bit harder

D			
		B	
			B
	A		

Answers to all puzzles  
next month, or earlier at  
[www.englishedmoscow.com](http://www.englishedmoscow.com)  
Enjoy!



# Fables & Folk Tales



*Illustration by Catherine Hunter*

Happy New Year, 2012! This month, PASSPORT launches a new collection of stories for families. It is an open series, and we welcome new writing and especially new artists. If you fancy writing a modern-day fable, or illustrating one of any age (you and the story!) please get in touch: [j.harrison@passportmagazine.ru](mailto:j.harrison@passportmagazine.ru)

What is a fable? Or a fairy tale? Like many simple questions, the answer gets more complex the more you look at it. Short. To the point. Using animals to learn a little about human nature. Timeless. Or for their time? And an excuse for great illustrations.

Before we get going, search your memory. Remember your childhood: those wonderful stories of foxes tricking crows or bears, of wise storks and foolish wolves. Who wrote them? Depending where you grew up, and in what language, your answer might be Aesop, or La Fontaine, or Krylov, or Andersen, or Grimm, or several others. And those memorable pictures? By Arthur Rackham, or Bilibin or Beatrix Potter or Ron-

ald Searle.... both lists are endless. Each storyteller and artist has borrowed from the others, and added something new. PASSPORT humbly seeks to join this wonderful tradition. Each month, we will offer you an old story, with a new illustrator, or a new story, or a chance to enjoy one of the great writers or illustrators, or all four. Enjoy – and join in!

To begin at the beginning. Aesop lived in ancient Greece, in several places, from about 620 to 564 BC. In a life full of ups and downs, including being a freed slave, sponsorship by Croesus (the original oligarch) and execution for refusing to join in the corruption, he managed to write 313 stories. From 50 to 500 words, they involve trees, men and Gods, but mostly caricature animals, each with a human foible and failing, that defines the end of the story. He inspired all who trod in his footsteps. In homage to Aesop, here are two of his most famous stories, with fresh illustrations by emerging young artists Dominica Harrison and Catherine Hunter.





Illustrations by Nica Harrison

### Fable 1 Aesop: The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

ONCE UPON A TIME a wolf resolved to disguise his appearance in order to secure food more easily. Encased in the skin of a sheep, he pastured with the flock, deceiving the shepherd by his costume. In the evening he was shut up by the shepherd in the fold; the gate was closed, and the entrance made thoroughly secure. But the shepherd, returning to the fold during the night to obtain meat for the next day, mistakenly caught the wolf instead of a sheep, and killed him instantly. Moral: do not be fooled by appearances.

### Fable 2 Aesop: The Crow and the Sheep

A TROUBLESOME CROW seated herself on the back of a sheep. The sheep, much against his will, carried her backward and forward for a long time, and at last said, "If you had treated a dog in this way, you would have had your deserts from his sharp teeth." To this the crow replied, "I despise the weak and yield to the strong. I know whom I may bully and whom I

must flatter; and I thus prolong my life to a good old age." Moral: Assess your acquaintances well. **P**



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# Football in Russia, the now and the future: an interview with Alan Moore



Miguel Francis

Born in Dublin in 1973, Mr. Moore started playing football at six, an average age to begin wobbling the ball with your feet. His love for sports developed into boxing and even tennis. Luckily he's Irish, and even though he traveled most of the world with sports-related work being either a semi-professional player or a consulting manager, he ended up in Croatia. You can probably guess what happened in his life after Croatia... yep, he came over to save Russia!

**Miguel Francis: How did you get into sports? What was the catalyst that made you continue?**

Alan Moore: Well, I began boxing internationally for Ireland and then played football semi-professionally for Ireland as well. I then went on to play for Canada, Germany and even Saudi Arabia. Too many teams to mention, but there was this one team that I was playing for called Medina, which happened to be the representative team of the second holiest city in Saudi Arabia. The funny thing was that I was the only Christian to have been on that team in its entire history [smiles]. My father was a sports coach in Ireland. For football he did a lot of fund-raising, promotions and marketing. He was way ahead of his time, really. He knew how to make sports accessible and fun on and off the field. He knew how to make it an attractive product, as he called it, how to sell the sport. I looked at him as my role model. Eventually that drive and passion infected me.

**MF: How did you get into consulting?**

AM: I began working for clubs, helping them with how to market their events better, how to sell sponsorship and how to sell tickets. This all started while I was still boxing and playing football in Ireland. I used North American gameday style marketing and operations and went behind the scenes. Then I moved to Germany and mixed North American with the existing German style of marketing, and applied it to clubs in Hesse,

Frankfurt region.

Soon after, my gigs spread to Croatia which was a stepping stone into the Russian market. In Croatia I worked a team called Hajduk from Split which is a city 700 kms from the capital Zagreb. I assisted them in fine-tuning their marketing strategies, and increased their revenue streams. Eventually becoming a shareholder in a Croatian-based company that specializes in sports consulting called Hiberno Intl.

**MF: So what led to that point in going with Hiberno and eventually into Russia?**

The first work I actually came with into Russia was in 2004, when Hajduk sold a player to a Russia club, I had to organize the legal papers, finance and visas, which was just me driving up and down between Zagreb and Split, 700kms round trips (laughs) and two trips to Moscow. Seven years later I'm here with Hiberno again but this time full time, specializing in football and tennis consulting and operations management.

**MF: And now that you're in Russia, what's your take on the Russian sports situation and particularly football?**

AM: If you have money you play, if you don't you need a rich benefactor athlete-wise or absolute perfect skills. The majority of Russian sport clubs are simply money-making exercises in the youth section with little quality or forethought being applied. This is endemic from top to bottom even in the biggest clubs in Russia, in any sport.

If the youth sections of clubs are not well run then we shouldn't be surprised when the senior team matches are poorly attended and organized. A few years ago those players were in the youth sections! Nobody believes in the Russian football league and clubs.

When players in the premier league go for five months without salary, how can they be motivated to even try on the field? Too often we hear of corruption and match fixing in Russian football which turns even more people off.

**MF: What changes do you see happening in the Russian sports scene? What can clubs do now to make their product better? Let's stick to football, I guess.**

AM: With a tiny investment, any football club in the top four divisions can increase ticket sales, sponsorship and performance on the field. By making their stadium THE place to be! Football IS an entertainment so it has to be fun and safe to go to. No Russian club in the premier league except Lokomotiv Moscow have grasped this. Football on the pitch doesn't have to be stupendous or Brazil-like you know, a win is a win but what happens before, during and after the game forms the fans opinion. Miguel, since you're from the movie business it's just like having a good thorough pre-production, production, post-production and distribution and marketing but with the most crucial thing having the perfect sound-track. For example, the music they play at Russian stadiums does nothing to excite. Until the Russian clubs are prepared to break with the past and treat their supporters like valued customers, clubs will continue to go bankrupt.

**MF: Wow you surprised me with your knowledge of the movie industry! Sounds like a plan, Alan, that's also what I'm here for, to help Russia let go, let go of the past. You know it's all about letting go right? What ventures are you doing now and in the near future?**

AM: Currently I'm working with a number of clubs including Volga Ulyanovsk, to improve their gameday operations and the region's sport stadiums with our partners, the best sports surface company in the world, SIS. It's good to make people aware of these things; we all need to push forward!

Thanks for filling us in on the sports loop Alan. I guess most of us could have guessed that the situation in the sports arena could be similar to the one in the political arena because, honestly, it all sounds too much the same to me. Best of luck to Alan and Godspeed Russia, let go and go forward! **P**

# Jolly Rogering

Ian Mitchell

Now that Russia is about to join the WTO it is appropriate to consider some of the reasons why negotiations have dragged on for eighteen years: fears about piracy, copyright theft and protection for intellectual property. Professor Johns has written a fascinating (if occasionally rambling) history of the wars for and against copyright, patents and general protection for creativity, both scientific and artistic, since the middle ages.

If Russia wants to join the modern world, it will have to learn how to promote innovation. And there is a lot to learn, not least that most of the received wisdom about intellectual property is special pleading by those who make the most profitable use of it. In fact, there has never been a consensus for the idea that strong copyright and patent laws are helpful to society at large. Too much protection can be harmful.

Until at least the 1960s many senior people in both Britain (the home of copyright) and America (the home of the application of patent law) argued that legal protection for ideas and their expression was a form of theft from the general public and an unnecessary brake on development. Shakespeare needed no copyright law to make money from *Hamlet*, and Beethoven never gave a thought to the problem of bootleg copies of the *Moonlight Sonata* circulating round Vienna while he struggled to pay his laundry bills.

A century later, things were very different. AT&T, by far the world's largest telecommunications company, spent much of the 1920s and 30s buying up patents and not using them. It owned older patents that made money without the need for any industrial re-tooling due to improved technology. The general public was as much the loser as the inventors. The only beneficiary was the corporation and its stock-holders.

This is not just an issue of money; it can be a matter of life and death, on a vast scale. Some people will remember the anti-AIDS vaccine which was so desperately needed in South Africa, where 5 million people were HIV positive, in the 1990s. When South African pharmaceutical companies cloned it and

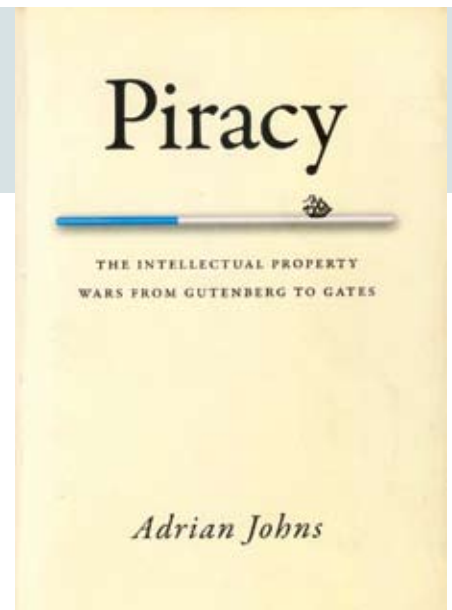
were able to sell it at a twentieth of the unaffordable price the Americans were charging, they were sued for patent infringement.

The worst of it was that the legal drug was originally developed using publicly-funded research. But since 1980, American universities have been allowed to "privatise" the output of their laboratories. Following suit, universities worldwide have today become more like patent factories than places dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake. One of the reasons for the decline of Russian scientific prestige has been that no pharmaceutical company wants to commission expensive research in the universities of a country where protection for its discoveries is so weak.

But Russia has some strengths, notably the computer developers and DVD pirates who have revived the traditions of knowledge as a "commons" that emerged in seventeenth century England after the first attempt was made to bring the law to bear on publication—traditions which are stoutly upheld today in every Moscow *perekhod*. These ideals are reflected more respectfully in open-source software and file-sharing. It is interesting that the greatest battle fought about this issue produced one of the most formative developments in European intellectual history, namely the Scottish Enlightenment.

Up to the seventeenth century there had been very little international trade in books. Every country had its printers who had a tacit national monopoly on every title they set in print. All that changed in 1707 with the Union between Scotland and England. Established Edinburgh printers started to make money from selling cheap books to provincial England and the American colonies, both of which London had previously disdained. The London booksellers called this "piracy", while the Scots called the English proprietary approach to what they thought of as the common intellectual heritage of mankind a "monopoly". They had support from such thinkers as Adam Smith, who wanted free trade in ideas.

In the end, the Scots won. Out of their efforts came the idea of limited copy-



**Piracy:**  
**Intellectual Property Wars**  
**from Gutenberg to Gates**  
**Adrian Johns**  
**University of Chicago Press**  
**£14.50**

right, which protected living authors but which opened most of the rest of the literary world to market forces. It is easy today to cast aspersions on Russian DVD counterfeiters and software cloners, but in certain circumstances, they can have a point. Though the case for some sort of protection for creative endeavour is strong, there are important counter-arguments against too rigid a system, or one which is so expensive to operate that only multinational corporations can in practice make use of it.

It should not be forgotten that the boot was once on the other foot. Until the end of the nineteenth century, American publishers "pirated" British books ruthlessly. Only when it became obvious that this was a two-way street, did they stop behaving in a way which they now accuse the Russians of behaving, and sign up to the Berne Convention on copyright.

Likewise with patents. At the end of World War Two, American corporations took control of massive amounts of German chemical and pharmaceutical research. They patented the resulting products, and when German companies tried to restart trade with the United States, the Americans called them "pirates" and sued them for patent infringement—on their own inventions! Russians are not the only people to have flown the Jolly Roger. **P**

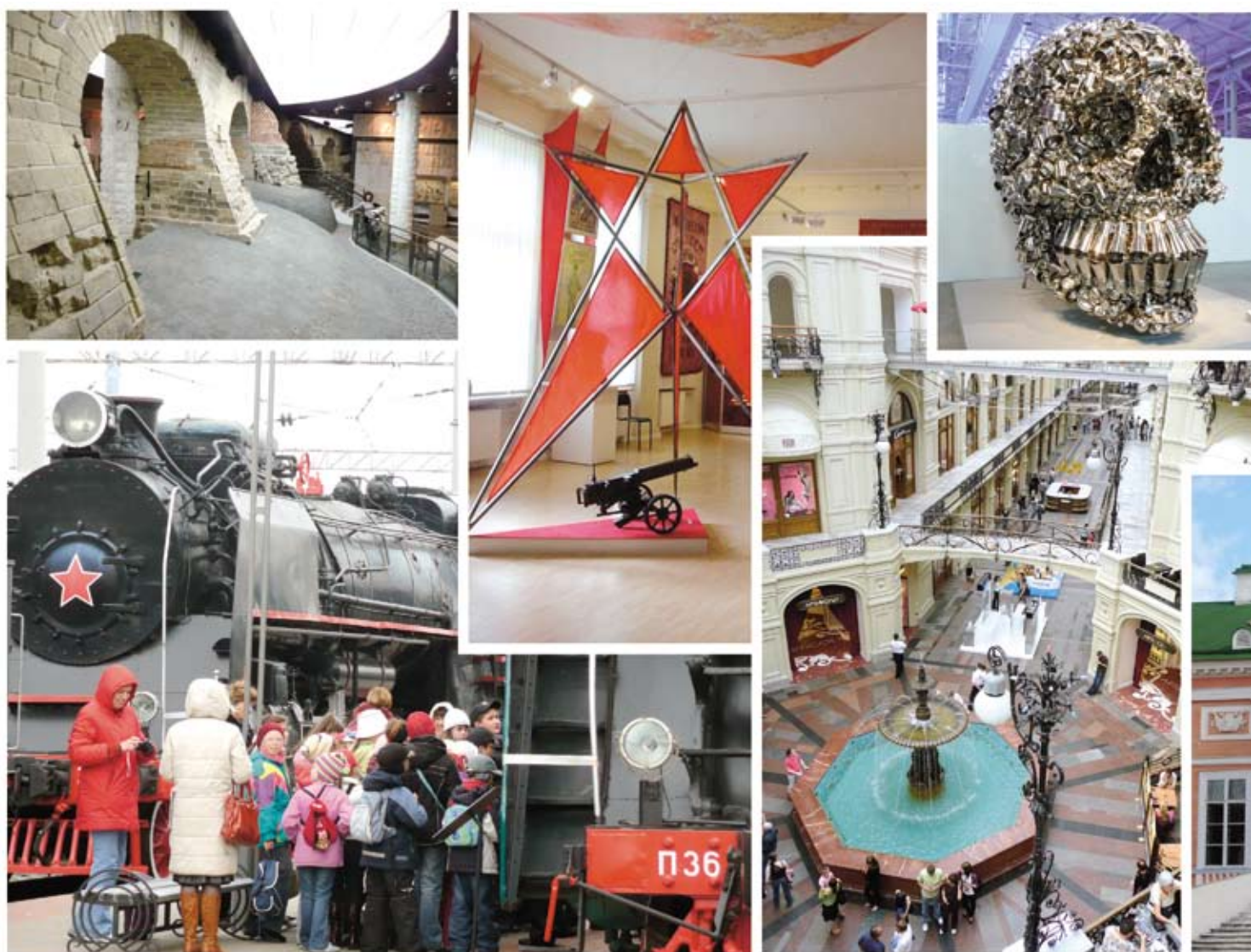


**PASSPORT PRESENTS:**

# Moscow in Winter

What to do when the mercury is low and the snow is uninviting? Europe's largest city has an endless supply of great indoor museums, galleries and attractions. Some are free; none is expensive. And if all these are not enough for you, there is a great selection of bookshops, too, with English language titles for all ages.

PASSPORT has the pleasure of offering you a loosely grouped pix-and-mix of a dozen of our favourites, with photos:





# Museums

The Museum of the 20th century,  
(Museum of the Revolution) –  
Tverskaya (M Pushkinskaya)  
The Mayakovskiy Museum (M – Lubyanka)  
Tolstoy's House (M – Park Kultury)  
Gorky's House (Pl. Nikitskiy Vorota)  
Kuskovo House (M – Novogireevo)

# Commercial

The dining room/coffee lounge of the Hotel Metropol  
The Hotel Hilton Leningradsky  
The roof of GUM

# Art Galleries

Moscow Arts and Media Museum (MAMM)  
The New Tretyakov Museum (M - Oktyabaskaya)  
The Garage Centre for Contemporary Arts  
(M- Mendelevskaya)

# Historical

St Basil's Cathedral  
Moscow Railway Museum (M – Rizhskaya)  
Museum of Archaeology (M – Ploschad Revolutsii)  
The Cold War Command Bunker (M – Taganskaya)  
Stalin's Bunker, (M – Ismailova)

# Skating!

Gorky Park <http://park-gorkogo.com/>  
Chistie Prudi  
Red Square  
Sad Ermitazh





## Restaurants & Bars

Adriatico  
American Bar&Grill, Zemlyani Val 59  
American Bar&Grill, 1st Tverskaya-Yamskaya 2/1  
Aroma  
BeerHouse  
Bookafe  
Buddies  
Cafe des Artistes  
Cantinetta Antinori  
Che  
Chicago Prime  
China Dream  
Coffee Bean, Leningradsky prospect 58  
Coffee Bean, Pyatnitskaya 5  
Cuba libre bar  
Cutty Sark  
Eat and Talk  
Everyday terrace  
Gandhara  
Gorki  
Hard Rock Cafe / Хард Рок Кафе  
Hot dogs (бывший Doug & Martin's Boar House)  
Il Forno, Neglinnaya 1  
Il Forno, Ostojenka 3/14  
Il Patio, Novinski 31  
Il Patio, Leninsky 68/10  
Il Patio, Prospekt Mir 33  
Il Patio, Trubnaya Ul  
Il Patio, Pushkinskaya 5  
Il Patio, 1st Tverskaya Yamskaya 2  
John Donne  
Katie's Pub  
Kostya Coffee, Vavilova 3  
LIGA PUB, Skromnoe obayanie  
Louisiana Steak House  
Luce  
Mario's  
Martinez bar  
Mia Florencia  
Molly Gwynn's, Krasnaya Presnaya 1-7  
Molly Gwynn's, Novy Arbat 24  
Molly Gwynn's, Pyatnitskaya 24  
Nedalni Vostok  
Navarro's  
Night Flight  
Old Havana Club  
Pancho Villa  
Papa's  
Petit Cref  
Pizza Express  
Pizza Maxima  
Республика Суши  
911 Club  
Rock'n'Roll bar  
SCANDINAVIA Restaurant  
Seiji / Сейджи  
Secret bar  
Shafran  
Shamrock  
Shanti  
Sirena Restaurant  
Silvers Irish Pub  
Starbucks 5th Avenue  
Starbucks Atrium  
Starbucks Balchug

Starbucks Belaya Ploschad  
Starbucks Galereye Airopport  
Starbucks Druzhba  
Starbucks Dukat  
Starbucks Zbezdodka  
Starbucks Zemlyani Val  
Starbucks Kamergerski  
Starbucks MDM  
Starbucks Metropolis 1  
Starbucks Metropolis 2 Starbucks  
Metropolis Business Plaza  
Starbucks Moscow City  
Starbucks Pokrovka  
Starbucks Sokolniki  
Starbucks Festival  
Starbucks Chetire Vetra  
Starbucks Shuka  
Starbucks Academiya Plekhanova  
Starbucks Arbat 38  
Starbucks MEGA Belaya Dacha  
Starbucks MEGA Tyepi Stan  
Starbucks MEGA Khimki  
Starbucks Severnoe Siyaniye  
Starbucks Tulskaaya  
Starbucks Sheremetievo  
Starbucks Gorod Stolits  
Starbucks Ashan Troika  
Starbucks Belyaev  
Starbucks "Europeyskiy"  
Shopping Mall  
Starbucks Krasnoselskaya  
Starlight Diner,  
Bolshaya Sadovaya 10  
Starlight Diner,  
Prospect Vernadskogo 6  
Starlight Diner, Korovi Val 9  
Starlight Diner, Bolotny Ploschad 16/5  
T.G.I. Friday's, Tverskaya  
T.G.I. Friday's, Novoslovobodskaya 3  
T.G.I. Friday's, Zemlyanoi Val 33  
T.G.I. Friday's, Komsomoloski  
Propsect 28  
T.G.I. Friday's, Kievski Vokzal 2  
T.G.I. Friday's, Bolshaya Tulskaaya 13  
T.G.I. Friday's, Novy Arbat 14  
Tapa de Comida  
Tiflis  
Uzbekistan  
Uley / Correas  
Vanilla Sky  
Vesna  
Yapona Mama  
АИСТ (Stork)  
Цветение Сакуры  
**Hotels**  
Akvarrel Hotel Moscow  
Ararat Park Hyatt  
Balchug Keminski Moscow  
East-West  
Holiday Inn, Lesnaya 15  
Holiday Inn, Sushevski Val 26  
Iris Business Centre  
Katerina-City Hotel  
Lotte Hotel  
Marriott Hotels / Марриотт Аврора  
Marriott Hotels / Марриотт Гранд  
Marriott Hotels / Марриотт Тверская  
Maxima Irbis Maxima Zarya

Metropol  
Mezhdunarodnaya 2  
National Hotel  
Novotel Moscow Centre  
Pokrovky Hills  
Radisson Slavyanskaya, + sport club  
Sheraton Palace  
Swissotel Krasnye HOLMY  
Zolotoye Koltso  
**Embassies**  
Australia  
Austria  
Brazil  
Delegation of the European Commission to Russia  
Embassy of Canada  
Denmark  
Finland  
Germany  
Hungary  
Ireland  
Indonesia  
Italy  
Japan  
Kuwait  
Malaysia  
Mexico  
New Zealand  
Peru  
Philippines  
Poland  
Portugal  
Slovakia  
South Africa  
South Korea  
Spain  
The Netherlands  
Singapore  
Sweden  
Thailand  
Tunisia  
UAE  
USA  
UK  
**Business Centres**  
Business Centre Degtyarny  
Business Centre Mokhovaya  
Business Centre Znamenskoe  
Daev Plaza  
Ducat Place 2  
Japan House  
Meyerhold House  
Mosalko Plaza  
Moscow Business Centre  
Mosenka JSC  
Novinsky Passazh  
Olympic Plaza  
Park Place  
Romanov Dvor  
Samsung Centre  
**Companies/Associations**  
7 Красок  
American Centre  
American Chamber of Commerce  
American Express  
AEB  
Astravel  
British Council  
Citi Bank

Coca Cola  
Crown  
DHL  
Direct Approach  
Dr Loder  
Ernst & Young  
Est A Tet Agency  
Ex-pat Salon 1 & 2  
Four Squares  
General Electric  
General Motors CIS  
Halliburton International, Inc.  
HSBC  
IBM  
Initiative Media  
International SOS  
Jack's ZAO  
JAL Tverskaya Yamskaya  
JCC Jewish Community  
Jones Lang LaSalle  
Le Meridian Moscow Country Club  
Levine Bridge  
LG Electronics  
Nestle Rossiya LLC  
P&G  
Penny Lane Realty  
Philips Russia  
PricewaterhouseCoopers / PWC  
Pulford  
Renaissance Capital  
Reuters Ltd  
Royal Bank of Scotland ZAO  
Ruslingua  
Russo-British Chamber of Commerce  
SCANDINAVIA Restaurant  
Sport Line Club  
Sportland  
United Airlines  
Wimm Bill Dann  
Schwartzkopf & Henkel  
Усадьба Агентство Недвижимости  
Work Service  
OOO Checkpoint Russia  
**Medical Centres**  
American Clinic  
American Dental Centre  
American Medical Centre  
European Dental Centre  
EMC, Spiridonevsky 5  
EMC, Orlovsky Per. 7  
Medincentre  
Tibet Clinic  
**Education**  
American Inst. of Business and Economics  
Anglo-American School of Moscow / Англо-Американская школа  
British Higher School of Design  
British International School, B. Academicheskaya 24  
British International School, Nakhimovsky Prospect 35  
English International School  
Little Angels Kindergarten  
Montessori School  
The International School of Moscow  
**Others**  
Anglican Church  
Golds Gym  
NB Gallery

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