

# Shopping - temptation



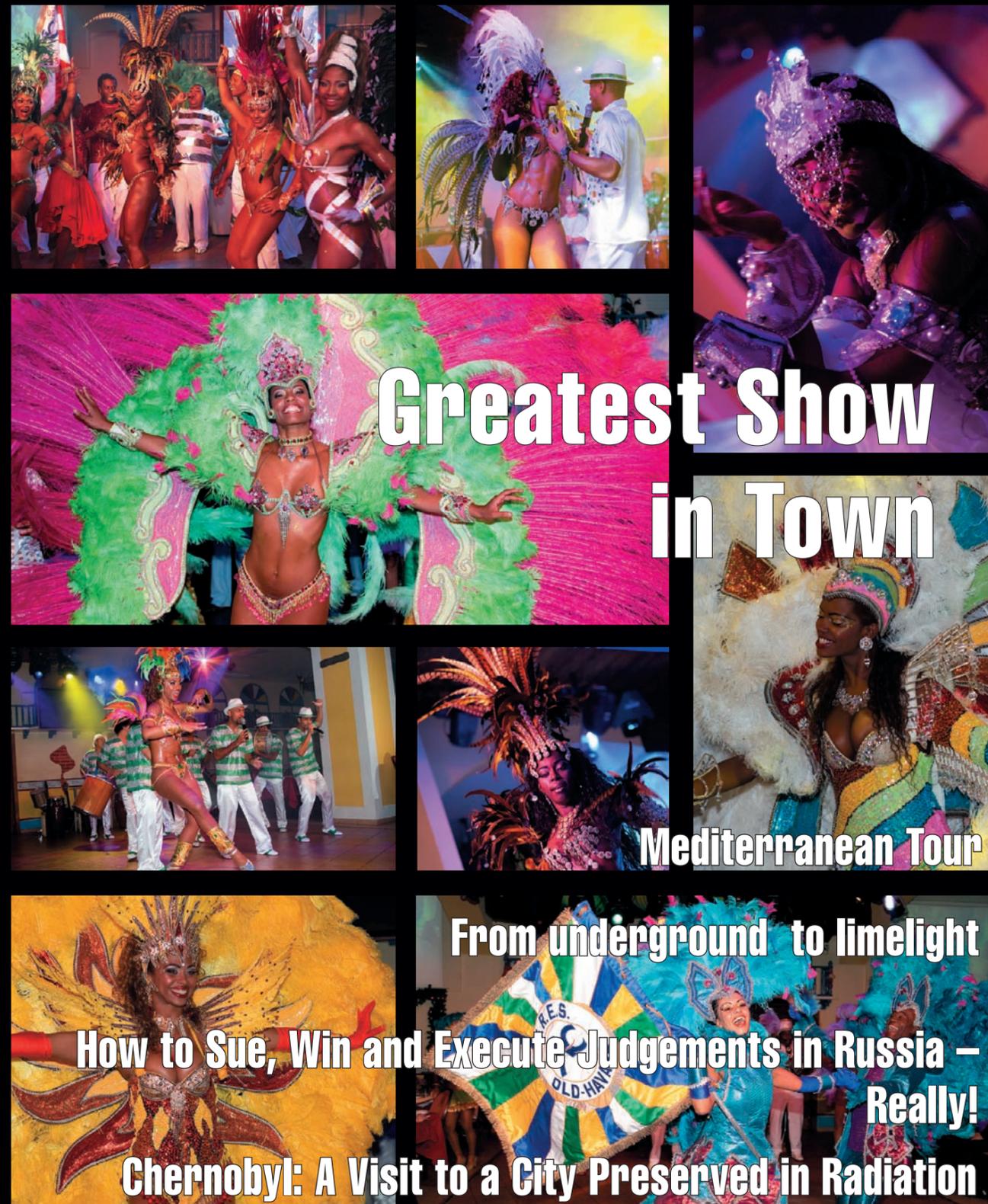
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# PASSPORT MOSCOW

MARCH 2008

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**Greatest Show  
in Town**

**Mediterranean Tour**

**From underground to limelight**

**How to Sue, Win and Execute Judgements in Russia – Really!**

**Chernobyl: A Visit to a City Preserved in Radiation**



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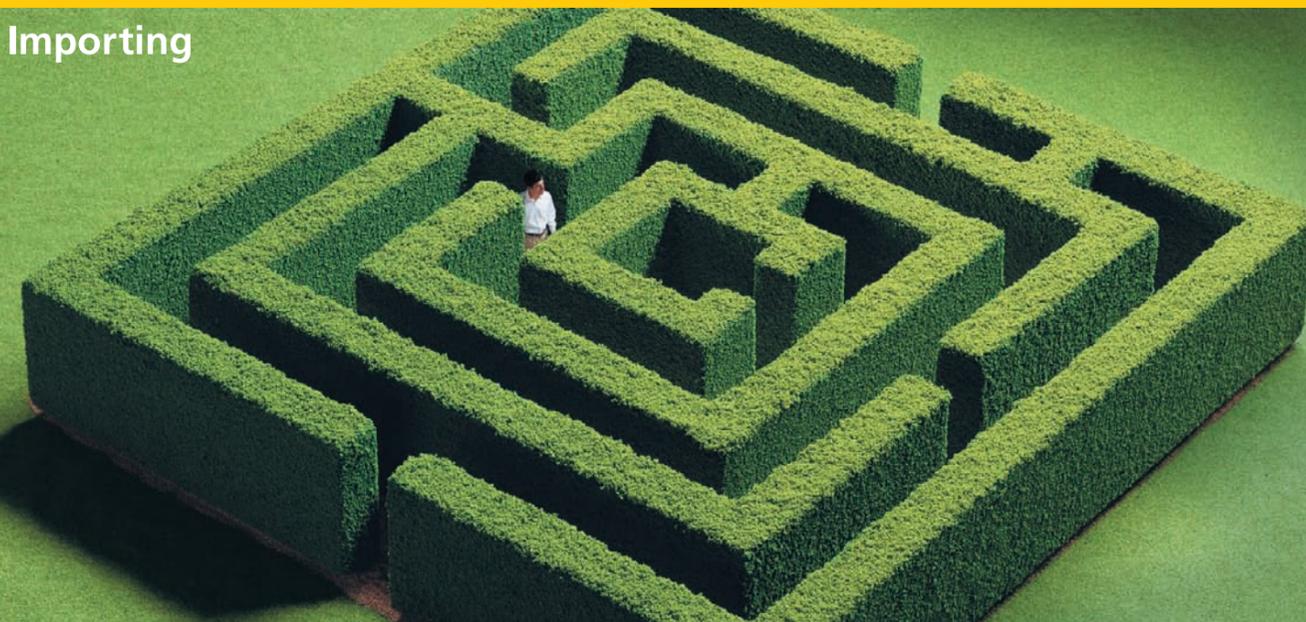
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## 64 Last Word

Helene Lloyd, Founder/Director TMI Consultancy  
 Talks to Ian Mitchell





**John Ortega**  
Owner and Publisher

As I write this letter in late February, I contemplate our wintry weather (or the lack of it) as I look out the window. However, it is still February and winter could still blow in, but I do smell spring coming around the corner.

This issue is historic for Passport, since we have added eight more pages to take Passport to sixty-eight pages including the cover. The cover of this issue belongs to Old Havana, which, after celebrating my birthday there in December, we voted BEST SHOW IN MOSCOW! Really!

Other valuable information about Moscow in this issue is contained in our cultural events listings, which our Arts and Community Editor Elevtina Kashitsina has beefed up with additional events around the world for our globe-trotting readers. We have added a section about Russian cinema to our Novelties section, which also covers current literature and music, Russian and international. Our readers will find the shopping section of interest, as Alina Tsirkunova tells us the best places to rent a tuxedo or set of "tails" as well as a chic gown. We also take a trip on the Metro's Green Line in our continuing series on the Moscow Metro.

Check out the new section, which features a profile or interview of a local businessperson. For this issue, we meet Alexander Kushnir, the founder and General Director of Kushnir Production Company. Kushnir is an entrepreneur who began bringing world pop and rock stars to Moscow in the early 1990's, a time when that scene was very still young. Speaking of business, our business writer Daniel Klein gives some advice about How to Sue in Russia (and to collect!),

Traveling around Moscow, our expert on unusual local excursions, Ian Mitchell, tells us the tragic story of Butovo, a place of political murder that is now a memorial to Stalin's victims. Believe it or not, another tragic location from Soviet times, Chernobyl, can also be toured, and Piers Gladstone tells us how to do it.

The Russian Knights of the Vine traveled on a Mediterranean wine-tasting tour, sampling some of the best Greek, Spanish, French and Italian wines from this huge coastal region, and that can be found in Moscow shops. This month, Knights of the Vine assembled at ? – yes, that is the name of the new restaurant which occupies the former Doug's Steak House location on Tsvetnoy Bulvar. We also review this new restaurant, which has a fine Mediterranean menu under the hand of Italian Chef Vincenzo Guglielmi.

Last but not least, in our Last Word feature, we have Helene Lloyd, the founder and General Director of TMI Travel Consultancy, who describes her thriving Moscow public relations company. And on that note – Happy Women's Day – to Helene and to all our wonderful Yin-side readers!

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Circulation 40,000. Readers 80,000. Published by OOO Passport Magazine. All rights reserved.

This publication is registered by the Press Ministry No. 77-18639. 08.10.04  
Printed by "Mozhayskiy Poligraficheskiy Kombinat"

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SUNDAY	<p>30</p> <p>JAZZ Le Jazz Festival Mir Concert Hall 19:00</p>	<p>9</p> <p>POPULAR MUSIC Chris de Burgh State Kremlin Palace 19:00</p>	<p>16</p> <p>EXPO Hospitality Industry Crocus Expo 10:00-18:00 Until March 19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>MOSCOW FASHION WEEK Gostiny Dvor 10:00-18:00 Until March 28</p> <p>POPULAR MUSIC Rihanna S/C Olimpiyskiy 19:00</p>
MONDAY	<p>3</p> <p>BALLET Swan Lake by P. Tchaikovsky Stanislavsky and Nemerovitch-Danchenko Musical Theater 19:00</p> <p>MASLENITSA Vassilievsky Spusk at Red Square Until March, 9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>MUSICAL Mamma Mia! MDM 19:00</p>	<p>17</p> <p>St. Patrick's Day</p>	<p>24</p> <p>OPERA Tsar's Bride by N. Rimsky-Korsakov Bolshoi Theater 19:00</p>
TUESDAY	<p>4</p> <p>ROCK Anti-Flag (US) Tochka Club 20:00</p>	<p>11</p> <p>OPERA Boris Godunov by M. Mussorgsky Bolshoi Theater 19:00</p>	<p>18</p> <p>ROCK Down (US) BI Maximum 21:00</p>	<p>25</p> <p>FOR KIDS AND PARENTS Little Prince by A. Exupery (in Russian) Theater of National Arts 19:00</p>
WEDNESDAY	<p>5</p> <p>JAZZ Spring Jazz: Al Jerreau, George Duke &amp; Stanley Clarke International House of Music 19:00</p>	<p>12</p> <p>CINEMA My Blackberry Nights by Wong Kar Wai (in English) 35 MM cinema 19:30</p> <p>Duo Zikr and Andrey Samsonov present their new album, soundtrack for «India in Real Time» movie. B2 Club 22:00</p>	<p>19</p> <p>BALLET Pharaon's Daughter By Puni State Kremlin Palace 19:00</p>	<p>26</p> <p>MUSICAL Mamma Mia! MDM 19:00</p>
THURSDAY	<p>6</p> <p>George Clinton and Parliament Funkadelic /USA/ live BI Maximum 20:00</p>	<p>13</p> <p>FOLK MUSIC Pelageya (Russia) MHAT im. Gorkogo 19:00</p>	<p>20</p> <p>ROCK MUSIC Chuck Berry (USA) BI Maximum 21:00</p>	<p>27</p> <p>FOR KIDS 130 minutes around the world! Circus at Vernadsky 11:30</p>
FRIDAY	<p>7</p> <p>CLASSICAL MUSIC Ennio Morricone State Kremlin Palace 19:00</p>	<p>14</p> <p>ROCK MUSIC Naiv (Russia) Tochka club 19:00</p>	<p>21</p> <p>CLASSICAL ORGAN MUSIC Olivier Latrie (France) International House of Music 19:00</p>	<p>28</p> <p>PREMIERE! Eugene Onegin by P. Tchaikovsky Galina Vishnevskaya Opera Center 19:00</p>
SATURDAY	<p>8</p> <p>FASHION Valentin Yudashkin Show State Kremlin Palace 18:00</p> <p>ROCK MUSIC Chris Norman (UK) BI Maximum 21:00</p>	<p>15</p> <p>HAUTE COUTURE MUSIC Vaya Con Dios and Danny Klein International House of Music 19:00</p>	<p>22</p> <p>FOR KIDS 130 minutes around the world! Circus at Vernadsky 11:30</p> <p>RUSSIAN ROCK Sergey Shnurov and Leningrad band BI Maximim 21:00</p>	<p>29</p> <p>OPERA Snow Maiden by N. Rimsky-Korsakov Novaya Opera 19:00</p>

**SPORTS****March 3–9****Dubai Tennis Championships**

Four-time winners Federer and Henin head an all-star team for the 2008 Barclays Dubai Tennis Championships with an incredible nine of the top ten women and eight of the world's best men in attendance.

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

**March 16****Formula 1**

The 2008 Formula One season is also the 59th FIA Formula One World Championship season. It starts on 16 March and ends on 2 November after 18 Grands Prix.

Melbourne, Australia

**March 30****WrestleMania**

Twenty-fourth annual WrestleMania professional wrestling pay-per-view produced by World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE).

Orlando, Florida

**March 6–9****World Single Distance Speed Skating Championships.**

Nagano, Japan

**March 17–23****Figure Skating**

The 2008 championships will be at the held at the Scandinavian Arena.

Gothenburg, Sweden

**March 28–30****World Synchronized Skating Championships.**

Budapest, Hungary

**ART****March 1 – through April**  
**Classic Photography**

Alexander Rodchenko: Revolution in Photography

Featuring approximately 120 original prints and photomontages, this exhibition traces the development of the famous Russian–Soviet artist Alexander Rodchenko's photography over a period of two decades when he created many classic works of Russian and world photography.

The Hayward Gallery, London, UK

**March 7****Jazz Music**

The three-day Jakarta International Jazz Festival (Jak.Jazz) is the premier Indonesian jazz festival. It was launched in 1988 at the Ancol Drive-In and Ancol Dreamland Park and, after moving to several different venues and finally shutting down, it was re-launched in 2006 and is now going strong.

Jakarta, Indonesia

**March 25 – 29****Winter Music Conference**

WMC is a music industry convention that serves as a springboard for artists, DJs, and dance music professionals from all over the world, thereby making it the place where many of the major deals of the year are made.

Miami, Florida

**March 27****Off on tour**

Def Leppard launches the first leg of their world tour in Greensboro, North Carolina on March 27. The world tour is in support of a new studio album to be released this year. Dates in Europe and the UK are being announced.

**March 1 – through April****From Berlin to NY: Karl Nierendorf and the Guggenheim**

This permanent collection installation features acquisitions from Karl Nierendorf's galleries in Berlin and New York and from the art collector's estate. Formerly a banker, German-born Karl Nierendorf (1889–1947) began his career as an art dealer in 1920 in Cologne Germany. Includes works by members of the early years of the school of Abstract Expressionism.

Guggenheim Museum, New York City

**MISCELLANEOUS****March 1****60th Annual Ocean Beach Kite Festival & Craft Fair:**

Oldest kite festival in the U.S.  
Ocean Beach

**March 2****Russian Presidential election****March 12****Arbor Day**

Arbor Day is a holiday in which individuals and groups are encouraged to plant and care for trees. Arbor Day originated in the United States in Nebraska but is also celebrated by several other countries. In Japan they call it Greenery Day.

**March 22****Taiwan Presidential election**

**Japanese Woodcuts**



Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts 12, Volkhonka Street  
Until May  
Open: 10:00–18:00 except Monday

Europeans only became acquainted with art from Japan in the 19th century. These were prints, or colored woodcuts and they became extremely popular and impressed and influenced famous European painters Manet, Toulouse-Lautrec, Degas and Van Gogh. Woodcuts are a relief print technique in which an image is carved into the surface of a block of wood, cherry wood in the case of Japan. The technique of multi-colored print (nishiki-e lit. “Brocade picture”) was invented by Suzuki Harunobu in 1765. The Torii dynasty engravers, specializing in a theater theme, for example, were adept at rendering the dynamics of the Kabuki theater scenes. The collection of Japanese art in the Pushkin Museum is one of the largest in Russia. Most of the items belonged to S. Kitaev, a Russian fleet officer who, when visiting the islands, started purchasing beautiful and unusual graphic works by local masters that were very unusual to the European eye. Kitaev first displayed his collection to immense interest in 1896 in St. Petersburg. In 1916 Kitaev and his family went to Europe for medical treatment and he again left the collection for a museum exhibition. When he didn't return home, the collection was nationalized by the Soviet authorities.

**Stories of Love on Ice**

The magnificent new “Story of Love” ice show is presented in Moscow by Stage Entertainment and Holiday on Ice companies. It has been on tour in many countries of the world, and now it is Russia's turn. The show is based upon some of Paolo Coelho's stories and is framed with beautiful compositions by Bizet, Chopin and legendary hits by Tom Jones, Whitney Houston and Chris de Burg. The story unites in one show the most popular and romantic literary and historic couples beginning with Caesar and Cleopatra, Romeo and Juliet, Dracula and his beloved, Carmen and Jose, Madame Butterfly and officer Pinkerton, and even Barbie and Ken. Theater, figure skating and gymnastic tricks are woven together in an amazing performance with beautiful sceneries, costumes and impressive special effects. As the Moscow ice center is larger than its European counterparts, the organizers have had to order more lighting and other equipment. The artistic director of the production is Frank Wentink – World Press Photo Gala award laureate. Jamie Isley (2003 Emmy award laureate) is the choreographer.



Ice Palace at Khodynskoe Pole 3, Khodynsky boulevard  
March, 4 – 16  
19:00

**Yudashkin Show**



State Kremlin Palace  
March, 8  
18:00

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of March it is a tradition for the Russian designer Valentin Yudashkin to make a present of a beautiful show for the women of Russia and to all those who are in love with fashion. There will be a fashion show followed with a concert with Russian musical stars who are friends of Maestro. Valentin Yudashkin is Russia's most famous fashion designer and a member of the Academy of Arts of the Russian Federation. When he first presented his “Faberge” collection in Paris, Pierre Cardin was the first to congratulate the young designer on his success, and Yudashkin became his apprentice. The fashion items he has created are displayed in the Louvre Museum of Clothes in Paris, the California Museum of Fashion in Los Angeles, and the Metropolitan Museum in New York, the State Historical Museum in Moscow and in other museums around the world. Valentin Yudashkin is the only Russian designer to be honored with a membership in the Syndicate of High Fashion in Paris. His boutiques are located in Moscow and Paris. Nowadays he is a regular participant at the weeks of haute couture and pret-a-porter in Paris, Milan, New York, and other cities.

**Shao-Lin Mastery**

The Shao-Lin monks are associated with spiritual self-improvement, sophisticated minds and incredible physical feats. They are on tour and will be in Moscow in March. According to legend the world famous Kung Fu mastery began in a small part of the Honan province in China at a temple known as Shao-Lin Ssu, the Young Forest Temple. Nestled here at the foot of the Sung Mountain, monks, plagued by bandits, hired instructors to teach them self defense. Finding a focus in their martial training, these monks learned and grew, collecting and developing different forms and styles of fighting arts and thus was born the legend of the Shao-Lin Fighting Monks. It was in the sixth century that Ta Mo, known as Bodhidharma in India, crossed the Himalayas and taught the Shao-Lin monks the 49 postures of the I Chin Ching, the Muscle Change Classic. Throughout the next centuries the Shao-Lin monks added to and perfected their art, and it spread to other temples. Frightening as the martial arts seem, the main aim of the study is self improvement through controlling energy or Chi.



Mir Concert Hall 11, Tsvetnoy boulevard  
March, 10–12  
19:00

## Music Deriving from a Word

Music Deriving from a Word is the name of a project in which famous conductors are invited to reveal sometimes unknown musical pages of the 19th and 20th centuries. Vladimir Spivakov is going to conduct the National Philharmonic Orchestra of Russia and will present his interpretations of two well-known themes – the tragedy of Romeo and Juliet and the Bible story of Salome. Sergei Prokofiev's ballet, Romeo and Juliet, is well-known all over the world. But few people know that another great Russian composer was planning to create an opera of Shakespeare's tragedy. Pyotr Tchaikovsky always said that he wanted to score an opera based on the plot of the very famous play. It was Balakirev who suggested the idea of an overture to Tchaikovsky who changed it several times but did not go any further, and never composed the whole opera. The other drama that Spivakov turns his attention to is Salome. In the 1910s both F. Schmitt and R. Strauss composed their versions of Salome. But the literary basis provided by R. Humier and O. Wilde were so different from each other that the music as well is varied. "Dance of the Seven Veils" is one of the most attractive orchestral pieces in the latter's version. Supported by Land Rover.



International House of Music (Svetlanovsky hall)  
March, 19  
19:00



For venues and schedules see  
[www.lejazz.ru](http://www.lejazz.ru)  
March, 28–30

## Le Jazz

In Moscow nowadays there are many different musical festivals. One of them, LeJazz, as one can guess, is of a French character. Among the participants there are only French musicians and if you look at the list of the participants, they are of the highest caliber. Bireli Lagrene, a "guitar phenomenon," according to John McLaughlin, found fame in the 1980s via his manouche (or django-like) style. He often performs in the swing, jazz fusion and post-bop mediums. Together with Sarah Lazarus, they will present the program "Gipsy in my Soul." Eric Legnini is a talented pianist from Belgium who works in the U.S. but performs all over the world with his band. He also composed scores for the "Ombres et Lumières" movie by Samy Brunet. Jean-Jacques Milteau is a French blues harmonica player, singer, and songwriter. He played with French singers like Yves Montand, Eddy Mitchell, Jean-Jacques Goldman and Charles Aznavour in various styles, from blues to jazz. Paul Lay, another participant in the festival, is a graduate of the Toulouse Conservatory in piano.

## Museums and Galleries

### Golden Fleece

The new exhibition at the Tretyakov Gallery is dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the Golden Fleece salon that took place in 1908 which was initiated by the magazine Zolotoe Runo (Golden Fleece). This was an artistic and literary magazine published monthly in Moscow from 1906 through 1910 and financed by the millionaire Nikolay Ryabushinsky, who sponsored the first exhibitions in Russia of modern and of contemporary French art. Initially the magazine, so beautiful and well-illustrated, was dedicated to Russian Symbolism. The poets A. Blok, K. Bal'mont and A. Bely were regular contributors and co-editors, as were many painters of the World of Art (Mir Iskusstva) generation such as Benois, M. Vrubel', I. Grabar', K. Korovin, N. Roerich and Valentin Serov.

Tretyakov Gallery  
at Krymsky Val  
Open: 10:00–18:00  
except Monday

### Modern Latvian Photography

The Moscow Fotobiennale is going to take place in Moscow for the seventh time this year. It first appeared in Moscow in 1996 thanks to Olga Sviblova, Director of the Moscow House of Photography, who decided that Moscow like many other cultural capitals of Europe deserves a festival that would be dedicated to Photography. Every time the program of the festival is dedicated to some particular subjects, thus all the numerous exhibitions all over the place are to the themes. The first exhibition to inaugurate the festival is called PRIVATE and features the best of the modern Latvian Photography. Gunars Binde, Inta Ruka, Zenta Dzividzinska and their colleagues, also laureates of different prizes in Latvia will present their works.

For schedule and venues see  
[www.mdf.ru](http://www.mdf.ru); Foto Studio Eleven  
at Winzavod; Bldg 6, 1, 4th Syromyatnicheskyy Pereulok  
Until March 15  
Open: 12:00–20:00  
except Monday

### Fans in Russia 18<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup> cent.

The State museum of Pushkin presents an exquisite exhibition "Magic world of fans". Fan history actually stretches back thousands of years. Since antiquity, fans have possessed a dual function – a status symbol and a useful ornament. In the course of their development, fans have been made of a variety of materials and have included decorative artwork. In Europe the folding fan, introduced from China, became popular in the 1600s. And it is impossible to imagine noble ladies of the 18th and 19th centuries without this garment. Folded fans of lace, silk, or parchment were decorated and painted by artists. The present exhibition in features a vast collection of fans of Russian fashionistas of different times.

State Museum of Pushkin  
12/2 Prechistenka street  
Until April, 1  
Open: 10:00–18:00  
except Monday

### Constructivism and Utopia

The exhibition is dedicated to the works of an eminent constructivist Soviet architect Moisei Ginzburg, Soviet constructivist architect, best known for his 1929 Narkomfin Building in Moscow. Being son of an architect, having graduated from Milano Academy, in the Soviet times already he joined the Institute of Civil Engineers and eventually became an ideologist of Constructivism. The founder of the Organisation of Contemporary Architects, who had links with Mayakovsky and Brik's LEF Group, he published the book "Style and Epoch" in 1924, an influential work of architectural theory with similarities to Le Corbusier's "Vers une architecture". It was effectively the manifesto of Constructivist Architecture, a style which combined an interest in advanced technology and engineering with socialist ideals.

Architecture Museum named after Schusev; Open: 10:00–18:00; March, 18 – April 22  
Except Monday

# Important Dates in the Worlds History

Maria Barleben



**March,1, 1565 The city of Rio de Janeiro is founded**

The shore reached by the Portuguese sailors in 1502 was named the River of January. 63 years later a town was constructed and soon the city became the center of the world transit and even was the first European capital outside Europe when Napoleon having conquered Portugal moved all his family there.

**March 3 1861. The abrogation of the Serfdom Law of Russia.**

The peasants' emancipation decree was read aloud in all the churches all over Russia on Forgiving Sunday two days after it was signed by Alexander II. Twenty years later this Emperor Liberator would be assassinated with a terrorist's bomb. In 1926 the assassins would be given pensions by the Soviet government.



**March, 4, 1519 Hernan Cortes arrives in Mexico in search of the Aztec civilization and their wealth**

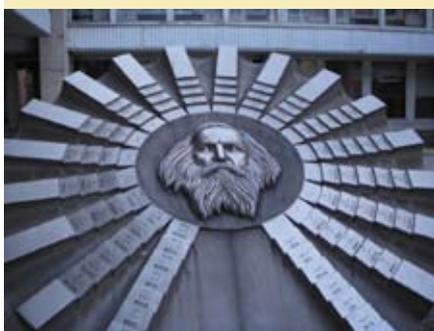
The Spanish conquistador Hernan Cortes goes from Cuba to Mexico to declare the Spanish power on behalf of the Emperor Charles V. The invader mastered with cruelty both the intrigues of his compatriots and the resistance of the native people and eventually destroyed the Aztecs' Empire and became the governor of the New Spain.

**March, 4, 1945 Princess Elizabeth, later to become Queen Elizabeth II, joins the British Army as a driver**

Elizabeth Windsor, junior officer convinced her father to let her join the army of the allies and became driver of a military lorry. The educa-



tion turned so favorable to Elizabeth, that when mother she sent her own children to school instead of home studies.



**March, 6, 1869 Dmitry Mendeleev presents the first periodic table to the Russian Chemical Society**

Many scientists before Mendeleev beginning with Aristotle had tried to systemize the chemical elements. Mendeleev is credited as being the creator of the first version of the periodic table of elements. Unlike other contributors to the table, Mendeleev predicted the properties of elements yet to be discovered. Mendeleev made a formal presentation to the Russian Chemical Society, which described elements according to both weight and valence.

**March 12, 1899. The first international hockey match in Russia.**

The match took place on the ice of the Neva River near the Tuchkov Bridge in St. Petersburg. The Russian team named "SPORT" competed against team of Englishmen living in St. Petersburg. The game ended in a draw: 4:4.



**March, 15, 44 BC Julius Caesar is stabbed to death**

The plot against Caesar initiated by several senators including his close friend was the result of the Civil War started by Caesar. It had led to his power becoming more absolute and

transformation of the republic to empire. But the assassins did not fully reach their aim – his own son succeeded to Caesar who was later formally deified by the Senate as Divus Iulius, "Son of a god".



**March, 15, 1972 The film version of Mario Puzo's The Godfather novel of the same name is released in theatres**

All the production difficulties did not stop Coppola from creating a deep psychological saga about the life of mafia and turn the 10 years of the Corleone family into most frequently cited chef-d'oeuvre of cinema.

**March, 15, 1985 The first internet domain name is registered**

The work on the computer network which began in several countries of the world in the 50-s of the 20th century resulted in the 1985's first registration of a domain name. It was symbolics.com. It belongs to a Massachusetts company that produces computers.

**March 16, 1915. The artists' club "Stray Dog" is closed.**

Due to a fight and according to the order of the St. Petersburg police the club, Stray Dog that was a favorite place for Russian bohemians was closed down. When it opened poets like Gumilev, Akhmatova, Mayakovsky and Mandelshtam had frequented it, but it became too popular with throngs of people which eventually brought it down.



**March, 17, 1901 A showing of 71 Vincent van Gogh paintings in Paris, 11 years after his death, creates a sensation**

Those few exhibitions of Van Gogh's works that took place during his life were not of in-

terest to either audience or critics. He began to gain fame in France and Belgium during the last year of his life which already meant almost nothing to the depressed artist.



**March 19, 1922. The Shukhov TV tower is constructed.**

When the 160 meter tower was constructed it caused much excitement. The first experimental broadcasting of TV began in Moscow in the 1930's. For many years the tower was the symbol of Soviet television. Now the tower is considered a masterwork of Russian architectural avant-garde and an object of the world cultural heritage.



**March, 22, 1895 First display (a private screening) of motion pictures by Lumiere Brothers**

The first motion picture the Lumiere brothers shot was "The exit from the Lumiere factories in Lyon". The first cinema show took place 10

months later in the Paris Grand Café. this date is considered as the beginning of the commercial cinematograph in the world. The brothers however stated that "the cinema is an invention without any future" and turned to studies of the color photography.

**March, 25, 1969 John Lennon and Yoko Ono hold their 1st Bed-In for Peace**

John and Yoko understood it well that their marriage was to attract much attention from all over the world and used the occasion to popularize their protest against the war in Vietnam. During one week of their honeymoon they sat in bed and spoke about peace to journalists invited to their room in the Amsterdam Hilton Hotel.



**March, 28 1776. The Bolshoi Theater is founded.**

Prince Peter Urussov received permission from Empress Catherine to construct a theater for opera, ballet and drama performances. The theater was located on Petrovka Street and named Petrovsky. This first theater burned down before the opening.

**March, 29, 1848 The Niagara Falls briefly stopped flowing due to an ice-jam on Lake Erie**

Beside a single occasion when the Niagara river was turned round artificially – with the purpose of constructing a dumb, it also once

blocked naturally when there happened a huge ice jam on the Airy lake – the fourth among the Great Lakes that stopped all the water system of the Niagara falls.



**March, 30 1970. Vladimir Motyl's "White Sun of the Desert" film opens.**

The story about the return of a Red Army Soldier to his home. The Russian cosmonauts have a habit of watching the film before launches into space. The Russian Customs Committee ordered a monument to honor one of the characters, the customs officer Vereschagin to be constructed in Moscow. The actor Luspekaev played the starring role having lost two legs.



**March, 30, 1867 Alaska is purchased**

Russia suffering from a difficult financial situation it found itself in and fearing to lose the territory for nothing, agrees to complete a deal and sell Alaska at 7,2 million US dollars. in the modern Alaska they celebrate the date as 'Seward's Day' on every last Monday of March in honor of the Secretary of State who signed the agreement.



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# Cinema Review

text Vladimir Kozlov

Luring the TV audience to movie theaters is becoming one of the strongest trends in the domestic film industry as both of the major commercial hits at the beginning of this year cashed in on the successes of an old Soviet television movie and a recent TV comedy show.

Just a few days before the ten-day New Year vacation, *The Irony of Fate: Continuation* opened nationwide, grossing just under \$50 million to date and breaking all previous domestic box-office records. Frankly, the artistic merits of this sequel to *The Irony of Fate*, the 1975 Soviet TV comedy based on a New Year theme, is questionable. The creators of the film should certainly be given credit for the idea itself. Generations of Soviet people have watched *The Irony of Fate*, which is shown on TV every December 31, and has become a natural part of the holiday, along with Russian salad and "Soviet" champagne, and they would be more than willing to see a continuation of that love-triangle-centered romantic story.

Incidentally, First Channel, which produced the movie, has had some successful previous experience at producing theatrical movies, such as *Night Watch* and *Day Watch*, whose excellent box-office performance must have inspired First Channel to continue its big-screen venture. In addition, no other domestic film company could invest as much in production of a feature or organize such a massive advertising campaign for a movie, which gave the Channel another advantage. While the first *Irony of Fate* was directed by Eldar Ryazanov, one of the best comedy directors of Soviet times, this time around Timur Bekmambetov was brought in who was the director of both *Watches*, who incidentally, has had a rather successful career in Hollywood.

Another recent commercial hit, modestly titled as *The Best Movie Ever*, also targets a primarily TV audience, featuring several major actors from the extremely popular TV show *Comedy Club*. People were lining up to see nearly obscene jokes by their favorite TV show characters. Meanwhile, the TV channel TNT, which produced the movie, is facing court litigation because of unauthorized use of the popular cartoon character *Cheburashka*. But this only gives the movie additional publicity, pushing up its box office take.

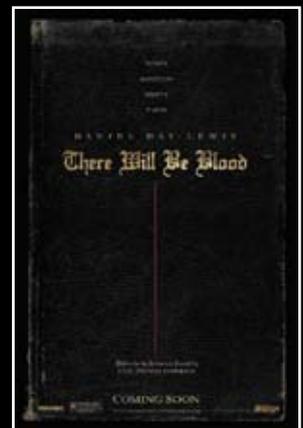
Meanwhile, the trend of bringing TV audiences to movie theaters raises several questions. Will it be possible to create a major box-office film in Russia without support from television these days? How big is the potential audience of television-driven movie projects and will it be sufficient to make big-budget films profitable? The answers should come later this year as more widely anticipated films are released.



## There Will Be Blood

Director Paul Thomas Anderson came to prominence about ten years ago with the movie *Magnolia*, an epic mosaic of several interrelated characters in search of happiness in the San Fernando Valley. Although the movie might have been underrated in the United States, where it got three Oscar nominations but no statuettes, it did well in Europe, winning a Golden Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival. Anderson's next movie, *Punch-Drunk Love*, brought him another major international award, the Best Director's prize at the Cannes Film Festival.

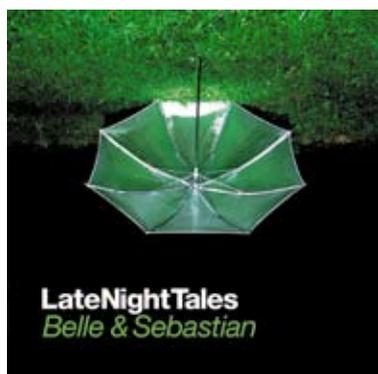
No surprise, the director's next feature, *There Will Be Blood*, which also collected a bevy of prizes and nominations, including a Golden Globe for the Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture, Daniel Day-Lewis, was widely awaited by audiences. Unlike the director's two previous movies, this is a period piece set in 1898. In the New Mexico wilderness, Daniel Plainview (Lewis) works his silver mine. Unexpectedly, when the silver gives out, Plainview discovers oil in the mine and starts pumping it. What follows is a story about family, faith, greed, religion, and vengeance, centered on a small, turn-of-the-century, oil-extracting business. Some critics have already hailed this movie as Anderson's best picture to date.



## Classic Compilations

text Claire Marsden

Put your feet up, pour a glass of wine and relax into The Late Night Tales of Belle and Sebastian. This CD, first released in 2006 is an eclectic mix of this Glasgow based band's favorite tracks. If you are unsure of what sort of mood you are in, what tune will hit the right spot, whether you want an old favorite to sing along to or a taste of something experimental to blow your mind; this is the CD for you. Belle and Sebastian are known not only for their unusual blend of sugary pop tunes and acidic lyrics but for their skill on the turntables. They bring us a heady mix of ageing classics, acid jazz and the absolutely bizarre. Taking you on a journey which incorporates stop-offs at the 50s Motown classic "Do you Really Want to Rescue Me" by Elsie May, the eerie sounds of Sterolab's "French Disko" and the unforgettably smooth "Fly Like an Eagle" by Steve Miller Band. The variety of their taste will help to spice up your evening, cool your boots, stir your blood and leave you puzzling for weeks at how Bach's *Orchestral Suite No.2 in B Minor* can so be smoothly followed by David Shrigley's surreal, oral tale of "When I was a Little Girl".



## Far Away from Home

text text Claire Marsden



Far away from home, you can sometimes feel out of the loop when it comes to new music. Being able to log on and listen again to favorite music programs goes a long way to ease the pain. Snatching the odd clip of Radio 1 presenter, Jo Whiley's Live Lounge never fails to bring a little cheer to the grey, sludgy days of a dispiriting Moscow winter. If you cannot listen again do not despair as Live Lounge Albums, volumes one and two have been released in the last two years. These CD's showcase the talents of a wide range of artists. The album begins with a bang with the sounds of David Grohl and his fellow Foo Fighters belting out DOA and what follows does not disappoint, with the likes of Editors, Snow Patrol and Maximo Park bringing their singles to life with the raw beauty of an acoustic set. However, it is the covers which really get inside your head. Ranging from the The Futureheads' fabulous version of Kate Bush's "The Hounds of Love" (since being performed on Radio 1, it has now become a festival favorite) to the Sheffield-based band, Arctic Monkeys, comical cover of x factor's success story, Girls Aloud's "Love Machine", the album delivers surprise after surprise after surprise. Will Young singing "Hey Ya" and Sugarbabes' "Livin' for the Weekend" is so wrong and yet so right!

## The Funeral Party, by Ludmila Ulitskaya

text Claire Marsden

One of Russia's leading prose writers, Ludmila Ulitskaya, has written and published numerous novels, plays and collections of short stories. Now, ten years after *The Funeral Party* (her first novel to be translated into English) was published, her tale of a weird and wonderful group of Russian emigrants living in New York has been transformed into a film.

The story takes place in a sweltering Manhattan apartment in which the charismatic protagonist, Alik lies dying. Observing the dying days of this artist and charming philanderer may sound morbid but the colorful, needy and beautiful women who surround, care and bicker over Alik make this short story a bitter, thought-provoking comedy. Ulitskaya observes both the astounding flexibility and the unbelievable flaws of human nature as we are introduced to an array of characters. His neurotic and alcoholic wife, his beautiful first love, Nina; the circus acrobat turned lawyer; and an odd couple, a Priest and a Rabbi, who come to read him his last rites.

The 'party' continues as many guests come and go. They drink vodka and remember their first meetings with Alik either many years ago in Soviet Russia or now as aliens to the strange, vibrant city they now live in. As his strange disease worsens, the gathering of displaced Russians watch as their once beloved Moscow descends into the chaos of the Yeltsin Putsch as watched on CNN.

Ulitskaya, who was born in Bashkortostan in 1943, grew up in Moscow and now lives in New York City. She brings her prose to life by exploring the power of the individual, their ability to adapt to new situations and to share the pain of the past.

Happiness and sadness are entwined in this story of opposites. As a reader, you will struggle to put this book down with its celebration of life and death. **P**



## Chic Dress Code: a Smoking Jacket for Rent in Moscow

text Alina Tsirkunova

**W**hite tie is the most formal style of dress. In the United Kingdom, civilian day dress in the Royal Court is similar to the white tie. The semi-formal counterparts of white tie are black tie and morning dress.

Formal evening dress is strictly regulated, and properly comprises:

- Black tailcoat with silk (ribbed or satin) facings, sharply cut-away at the front
- Black trousers with a single stripe of satin or braid in the US or two stripes in Europe
- White stiff-fronted cotton pique shirt
- White stiff-winged collar
- White bow tie (usually cotton pique)
- White low-cut waistcoat (usually cotton pique, matching the bow tie and shirt)
- Black silk stockings
- Black patent leather pumps or shoes

Additionally, it is common to wear medals, sashes, and other decorations with white tie dress, especially if the man has some military, political, or royal background.

Shirts, waistcoats and bow ties are now usually made of cotton marcella, although plain linen shirts and white or off-white silk ties and waistcoats are sometimes worn. Shirt studs and cuff-links should be silver or white. A white handkerchief and flower may be worn.

Like black tie, evening dress is generally worn only after 6 p.m. Occasions include:

- State dinners (e.g. dinners with visiting heads of state)
- Some balls
- Weddings
- Artistic premiers, the opening of an art season in large cities, or the opera or ballet. The swallow-tail coat with long tails has become almost a cliché for concert pianists of the classical school.

To buy all the above new could cost you a small fortune. However, all the items can be obtained second-hand, or hired without too much difficulty. Indeed, older garments are likely to be of a better material and of a better cut than you can obtain without having clothes made for you. Furthermore, you may already own some of the items such as a plain white shirt or a pair of trousers worn with a dinner jacket. There are a number of accessories you can add.

The tail coat is the sine qua non of white tie. Fortunately, old tail coats of high quality are relatively easy to hire.

The first thing to note is that there is a difference between the evening tail coat worn as a part of white tie and the morning coat. They are both black and with tails. However the evening tail coat is double-breasted and cut small so that the fronts don't fasten



Traditionally the month of March is devoted to women. It's reasonable: every person in this country knows that 8th of March is Women's Day. Originating essentially as a day to show women's strength, it finally became a day of women's "weaknesses": the men of the family, colleagues, friends, any men, do everything to give their woman a feeling that she's a queen. She gets presents, wishes, compliments, flowers, and is not allowed to do any job around the home. But... If a woman is a Queen, the men surrounding her, should look accordingly. So, this time we decided to write about dress codes for men...

even though there are three buttons on either front. Furthermore, the evening tail coat has a facing to its lapels – the morning coat doesn't. Don't confuse the two.

In general, the coat is made of the same material as the trousers it is worn with (in this sense it is a "suit"). However, since the color is black, any slight difference in texture is unlikely to be visible.

The coat has no hips and therefore no hip pockets. It has an outside welted pocket and probably two inside breast pockets.

They say that trousers worn with white tie are different from those worn with black tie. By this, they mean that, whereas the latter have one line of braid down the outside of each of the legs, the former have two lines of braid. In practice, very few people know this and, in poor lighting, it is difficult to tell the difference.

If you want to, you can wear an ordinary white shirt. You may not win the "Best Dressed Man" prize, but no-one will be able to say that you are not following the dress code.

A stiff-fronted shirt produces a much better effect altogether. You can find stiff-fronted shirts with soft attached wing collars. Indeed, virtually no-one will even know that you are wearing such an item.

Unless your shirt has buttons at the cuff, you will need cuff-links. Cuff-links come in two forms:

- Swivel-bar. The more common form.
- Chain links. Not so common in general.

Shirts studs are essentially detachable buttons and they are used to fasten the front of stiff shirts. They can be divided into two types:

- Push through.
- Screw top.

The most common form of white waistcoat is one made of two marcella (or pique) panels, each forming one front of the waistcoat.

The next item you'll have to deal with is a bow-tie. It is not difficult to tie a bow-tie – the geometry of the knot is identical to that in your shoe laces. Since the latter has two sub-types, there are in fact three forms of bow-tie to choose from.

1. Made-up. The bow is already tied. You put it on by unfastening some hook and eye arrangement in the neck-band, putting the tie around the collar and re-fastening.

2. Tie yourself – Adjustable. Adjust the tie to the correct length and then tie it.

Tie yourself – Fixed. The most stylish! There are no hooks and eyes or buckles along the length of the material to distract the eye – just a plain piece of material. You put the tie against your collar and tie it. Since the tie is not adjustable, you have to buy a tie of the right size. The rule is that your tie is half an inch bigger than your collar.

Next times we'll tell you what the Black Tie dress-code is, where and how to wear it. **P**

#### **Where to hire tailcoats in Moscow:**

##### *Wedding salons:*

*Fleuro Tverskoy Blvd. 3, Tel.: (495) 202-0942, 4,500 Roubles.*

*Dueto ul. Novoslobodskaya, 46, Tel.: (499) 972-4435, 2,250-7,500 Roubles.*

*Laimao ul. 4-ya Tverskaya-Yamskaya, 6/12, Tel.: (495) 250-3939, 5,500 Roubles*

# Chernobyl: A Visit to a City Preserved in Radiation

Text and photos Piers Gladstone



The name Chernobyl was first recorded in a charter that described a hunting lodge owned by a Kievan Rus prince in 1193. Nearly eight hundred years later, Chernobyl is featured in virtually every magazine and newspaper around the globe, and is now synonymous with the worst nuclear accident ever to occur.

On the night of 25<sup>th</sup> April 1986 Reactor Number 4 of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant was to be shut down for routine maintenance. Flouting safety procedures, the workers decided on an unscheduled experiment that resulted in a nuclear explosion in the early hours of 26<sup>th</sup> April.

The explosion was equivalent to 40 tons of TNT, rocketing 9 tons of radioactive material into the sky. 30 fires on the roof of the power plant were ignited as red-hot pieces of nuclear fuel rained down, resulting in the roof collapsing into the reactor hall. The fires were successfully extinguished by 37 firemen during the night, all of whom wore no protective clothing. 31 died from acute radiation sickness.

At 10 a.m., an official announcement was made over the radio of the city of Pripyat, one kilometer from the plant, that the city was to be evacuated. The town's 47,500 inhabitants (the plant's workers and their families) were driven out in 1,100 buses brought from Kiev over a four-hour period in the afternoon. The convoy stretched for 10 miles. The drivers had no idea what had happened and the passengers had been told it was just for three days, but in actual fact it was to be forever.

The immediate death toll would have been much higher, but luckily for the inhabitants of Pripyat, the lethal fallout landed around the city, not on it. Similarly, the intense heat of the explosion lifted the radioactive cloud 1 mile into the atmosphere, saving the in-

habitants, although this meant that the cloud drifted around the Northern hemisphere, depositing high doses of radiation wherever it rained, mainly in Belorussia.

After four days of dropping clay, sand, lead and dolomite from helicopters, the fire at the reactor was smothered sufficiently so



that it was only emitting daily the same amount of radioactivity that Hiroshima experienced in 1945. This did not stop the scheduled May Day Parade in Kiev from continuing, despite the fact that a nuclear cloud was drifting towards the city. While bureaucrats and politicians in the know left the city with their families, the population stayed on in a state of ignorance.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, while there was no official information on the disaster, word had spread and the train and bus stations were choked with people trying to get their children as far away as possible. At the same time, there was a core-meltdown at the reactor that released almost the same amount of radiation as the initial explosion.

Nobody knows the exact amount of radioactive material that was released, mainly because the radiation levels in the immediate aftermath were far above the recording limits of the on-site meters. But around 90 times what Hiroshima experienced is accepted as being most likely. More radioactive waste exists here than in the rest of the world and the explosion contaminated 43,500 square kilometers of land in Belorussia, 59,300 in Russia and 53,500 in Ukraine, the majority of which was farmland and forest. More than 350,000 people in these countries were evacuated and resettled; while close to 200,000 continue to live in areas above the official radioactive levels of safety.

The Chernobyl power plant accounted for 15% of Soviet energy capacity and 80% of its energy exports, so there was no way that the authorities were going to abandon the plant. Instead, a 30-kilometer exclusion zone was put in place (part of which included Belorussian territory) and a huge clean-up process was started. During the period of the clean-up, 600,000 "liquidators" (both military and civilian) worked 15-day tours of duty to strip the surfaces of contamination. The budget was not big enough for the entire zone, so just roads and their verges, Pripyat, the town of Chernobyl, and the area around the power station were decontaminated.

150,000 cubic meters of radioactive soil was removed and entire villages were buried in pits by bulldozers. Highly radioactive debris was shovelled off the roof of Reactor Number 3 by hand, buildings were sand-blasted, scrubbed and then coated with liquid glass. 11 miles of dykes and dams were built to try and prevent radiation spilling into the Pripyat River, a major tributary of the Dnieper River and the source of much of Ukraine's drinking water.

The vehicles and machinery used during this period never left the zone (unless they were looted and sold as scrap metal), and became part of more than 20 million tons of highly radioactive waste, some of which is still in temporary storage dumps and leaking into the environment. Disturbingly, not all the dumps were mapped or marked.

Perhaps the most important part of the clean-up process was the protective shell

that was designed and built to encase the remains of Reactor Number 4 and the 200 tons of nuclear fuel and waste inside. It took 9 months for 90,000 liquidators to build what was officially known as *The Shelter Object*, but it is better known by its nickname, *The Sarcophagus*.

### Visiting the Exclusion Zone

The minibus stops at a respectable distance from the security checkpoint and our passports and letter of official permission to visit the *Zona Vidchuzhennya* are collected and handed to the guards for inspection. The English translation used for *Zona Vidchuzhennya* is "Exclusion Zone", although "Zone of Alienation" is a closer, and perhaps more fitting translation.

There is no traffic here, no sign of life. And there is a lonely, middle-of-nowhere feeling. The barriers across the road really feel like barriers. There is a tangible sense of a frontier as I stand and look at the desolate forest-flanked road stretching beyond the barriers and into the distance.





On arrival in the town of Chernobyl we are met by our guide Maxim, who works for *Chernobylinterinform*, an agency specifically set up to provide information and assistance to visitors, whether they be scientists or tourists. He leads us into a room that has the feel of a school classroom and briefly explains the background of the disaster and what we will be doing on our tour, before reassuringly adding, "There is no problem with radiation for you."

Maxim is young, enthusiastic, and wears a bright orange T-shirt, which in Ukraine is a political statement. I ask him what it is like to work here. "I have been working here for ten months," he says, peering around the headrest of the passenger seat in the minibus, which we have boarded for our tour. "Before I took the job, I was very afraid. I didn't know about radiation, and had thoughts of mutants. But, if you respect the rules, it is safe."

Our first stop is at the memorial to the fire fighters who lost their lives in the disaster. It stands outside the gates of the fire station, a constant reminder to those who work here now. Maxim tells us that the fire fighters here are the best in Ukraine, and that there is an annual national competition to select new recruits.

After another security check we pass into the 10 kilometer exclusion zone, where radiation levels were lethal. It will remain uninhabitable for thousands of years to come. The roads are rutted, the white lines in the center of the road are faded, weeds encroach from the verge and tracks that lead off the road, presumably to villages, are choked with overgrown vegetation.

We pull over at Kopachi village, now just a collection of mounds with yellow radiation hazard markers sticking out of them. "All the houses were destroyed because of high levels of radiation and then covered up," explains Maxim. I ask if I can get a bit closer to take a photograph. "It is not advisable to leave the road," Maxim informs me matter-of-factly. On the other side of the road, an old billboard still stands in front of a forest: "Forests are the lungs of the planet," it proclaims. The irony is bitter at best.

While standing on the tarmac nearby what was Kopachi village, Maxim tells us about the *Samosels*, the 'self-settlers'. Several hundred

people, predominantly old women, have returned to live inside the zone semi-legally. They are the zone's only permanent residents. Only three months after the disaster people started to sneak back to their villages. Ukraine's Supreme Court ruled they had a constitutional right to live where they wished and the government decided to let those over 50 return if they so desired.

As we get closer to the nuclear plant the number of mounds with radiation signs increases while the signs with village names are still by the roadside. Our minibus pulls over at the artificial cooling pond of the power plant. Water from the Pripyat River has to be continually pumped into the pond to stop it from evaporating and exposing 6 SqM of highly radioactive sediment. Nevertheless, the cooling pond is a major source for contamination of groundwater that flows into the Pripyat River, but cleaning up the pond is practically impossible; as there are no funds available, it is too hazardous and there is nowhere to put the radioactive waste.

Distant metallic clangs can be heard from our vantage point a few hundred meters away from the Sarcophagus, an innocuous looking structure. It is falling apart and in need of constant repair. "The workers on the Sarcophagus do 4-minute shifts on the roof", Maxim explains. "It is highly radioactive, and even with protective clothing it is only safe to be exposed for twenty minutes a day. They are extremely well paid," Maxim adds with a rueful smile.

More than 75% of the building is highly radioactive. The Sarcophagus has 100 SqM of cracks and openings. Without protective clothing, two minutes' exposure would bring acute radiation illness, ten minutes a fatal dose. Apart from the 180 tons of nuclear fuel, there are also 10 tons of radioactive dust and 3,000 cubic meters of radioactive water inside. Confinement is the only viable approach to such a hazard and that is why a new arch, 328 feet high and weighing 20,000 metric tons is being assembled by the side of the plant and will be slid over the plant in sections. It is designed to last 100 years, a fraction of the time that this place will be lethally radioactive. What cannot be confined is the gradual contamination of the soil and groundwater beneath the power plant.

The abandoned city of Pripyat is where I have an emotional connection to the disaster. We pass through a checkpoint and drive slowly up a poplar-lined boulevard. The trees are overgrown and



bushes encroach on the potholed road, but I can see from my window that this is where lovers would have walked, families would have played with children, walked their dogs or just sat on a bench and people-watched. Instead, the entrances to the high-rises where they would come from are engulfed in a jungle of foliage and saplings. It is almost impossible to see the first two floors of any building through the growth. Nature seems to be slowly reclaiming with total indifference what was, at the time, the area's youngest and now, shortest-lived city.

We visit the public swimming pool where the multi-level diving board watches forlornly over an empty pool. A pair of flippers lies in the shallow end and the shattered glass of the huge windows crunches underfoot. Everything seems to have been smashed or looted.

At the school I get the feeling that the rooms have been emotively prepared for visitors. Books, chairs, posters and chemistry sets lie about. This feeling is compounded when we are taken to the kindergarten. Small shoes and baby gas masks lie next to painted pictures, building bricks, toys and class photos. It is dark and eerie because none of the bright sunlight can penetrate the dense undergrowth, a sickly green hue invading the dank air.

Driving around various parts of the city, I realise that as long as one looks up, it could be any living city in Russia or the CIS. But with no traffic or people on the streets, with the cracked and weed-infested pavement and the overgrown vegetation, the sense of abandonment is palpable. This is fully brought home to me as I stand on top of a 16-storey apartment block surveying the radioactive nature reserve that is the Exclusion Zone, that the power plant and the city below being slowly devoured by nature. I realise the only sound I hear is that of the wind. It is quite literally deathly quiet.

I have visited ghost towns in America, but nothing could prepare me for the utter sense of desolation of Pripyat. Everywhere I look, I see a post-apocalyptic pre-Perestroika museum piece of a model Soviet city (minus some artifacts) with its abandoned House of Culture, and its fairground, central ploschad, cinema, restaurants and hotels, and apartments still with the families' shoes by the door. And now it is beginning to resemble an Aztec or Mayan city being reclaimed by the jungle.

The human cost was terrible. The Chernobyl Museum in Kiev illustrates this, simply but graphically, with photographs and personal effects of those affected. Of the 600,000 'liquidators', 4,000 died from radiation exposure and 170,000 suffer fatal diseases.

The most heart-wrenching exhibits are the photographs of the children who suffered, predominantly from thyroid cancer, an extremely rare disease. In the decade before the disaster there were 7 cases in Belarussia. Between 1986 and 1998, there were more



than 600 cases. In total, 1,800 cases can be directly traced to the disaster in Belarussia, Ukraine and Russia and conservative estimates state that another 8,000 cases will occur in those who were children in 1986.

The financial cost will stand at \$200 billion by 2015, and the Exclusion Zone will need to be contained and managed for centuries to come. In short, the human, environmental and economic costs of Chernobyl are a stark warning to those who want to build more nuclear power stations to secure the world's increasing energy needs. **P**



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*Piers Gladstone travelled to Chernobyl through Sam Travel, vul Ivana Franka 40B, Kiev. Tel: +380 044 238 6959. Prices vary depending on numbers. For two people, \$200 per person. Chernobyl Museum, prov Khoryva. \$1.00 entrance. closed Sundays.*

# Butovo Polygon and Church

text and photos Ian Mitchell



Last month I wrote about Sukhanovka, the most feared prison in the Gulag system, which was situated within what today, once again, is St Catherine's Monastery. Five kilometers away from St Catherine's is the place where the battered inmates of Sukhanovka, along with many, many others, were brought to be shot and buried. This is at Butovo, in a place which used to be known as the Butovo Polygon, "polygon" being the Russian word for "shooting range."

In 1937, at the time of the Great Terror, Nikolai Yezhov, the head of the Soviet secret police, began executing people on a huge scale at this site, which was then in a woodland fifteen miles or

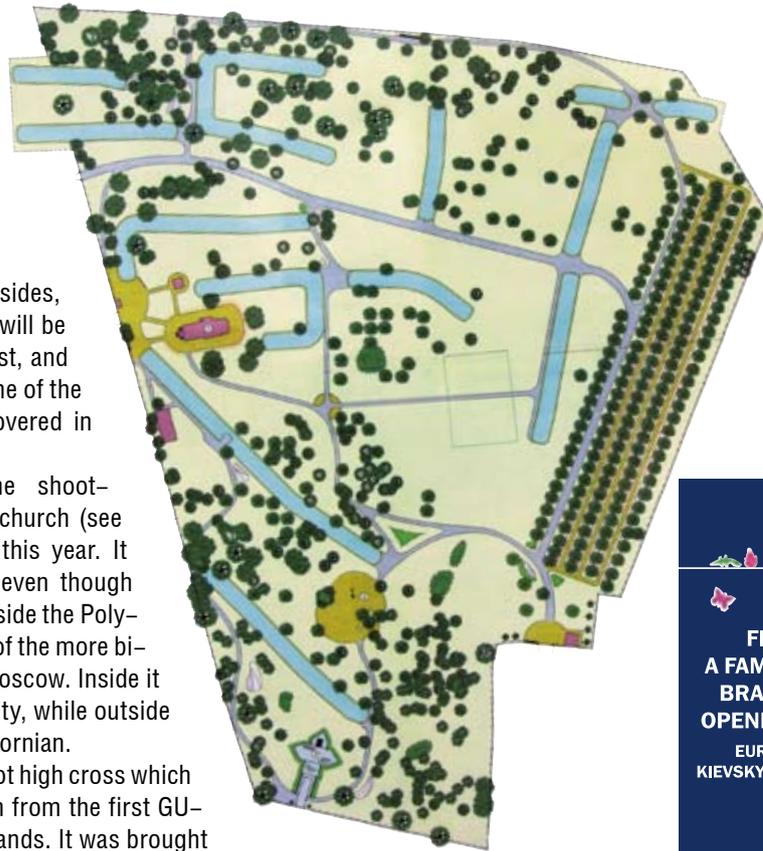
so from the southern edge of Moscow. Corpses were shovelled into long, trench-like mass graves. Today these are heaped up above the level of the surrounding land (see picture right; they are shown in blue on the plan above right), and clearly visible. The whole site is a monument to the victims. It was visited by President Putin last November.

In all, nearly 21,000 people were shot here between August 1937 and October 1938. The whole area is perhaps five or six acres. There is a large wall-map at the entrance to the site, showing the layout of the mass graves, as well as a table showing the numbers shot on each day. Photographs of some of the victims look hauntingly out across the silent square.

Visitors can buy a beautifully produced, 500-page book, in Russian, full of fascinating illustrations and reproduced documents, which gives a full history of the tragedy that took place on this site. It also give a great deal of interesting background information, including details of the building of the Moscow-Volga canal, which provided so many of the victims. Published in 2007, it is called "Butovsky Polygon: a Book in Memory of the Victims of Political Repression". ISBN 5-93547-008-X.

For all the archaeological work that has been done at Butovo, it is not known just how extensive the mass graves are. It is known that some extend beyond the fence of the current memorial park, out into the forest which used to surround the area. Today, there

**Directions:** Take the Metro to Bulvar Dmitria Donskogo at the southern end of the grey line and catch a cab (it is about 5 kms), or drive down the Varshavsky Shosse 5 kms south of the MKAD and turn left for Novodrozino. About 1 km further, on the left hand side is the Polygon, though it is not obvious, but look on the right side of the road where the big modern church, which can hardly be missed stands.



are modern коттеджи on two sides, and the threat exists that more will be built on the remains of the forest, and therefore possibly on top of some of the human remains as yet undiscovered in other mass graves.

Across the road from the shooting ground is a large, modern church (see above), which was completed this year. It stands as a formal memorial, even though there is small wooden church inside the Polygon. The modern church is one of the more bizarre buildings I have seen in Moscow. Inside it is opulent to the point of vulgarity, while outside (see above) it looks almost Californian.

On the grounds is a fifteen-foot high cross which was fashioned from wood taken from the first GULAG camp on the Solovetski Islands. It was brought to Moscow via every labor camp along the way, with appropriate memorial ceremonies at each stop. **P**

what are they patiently waiting for...

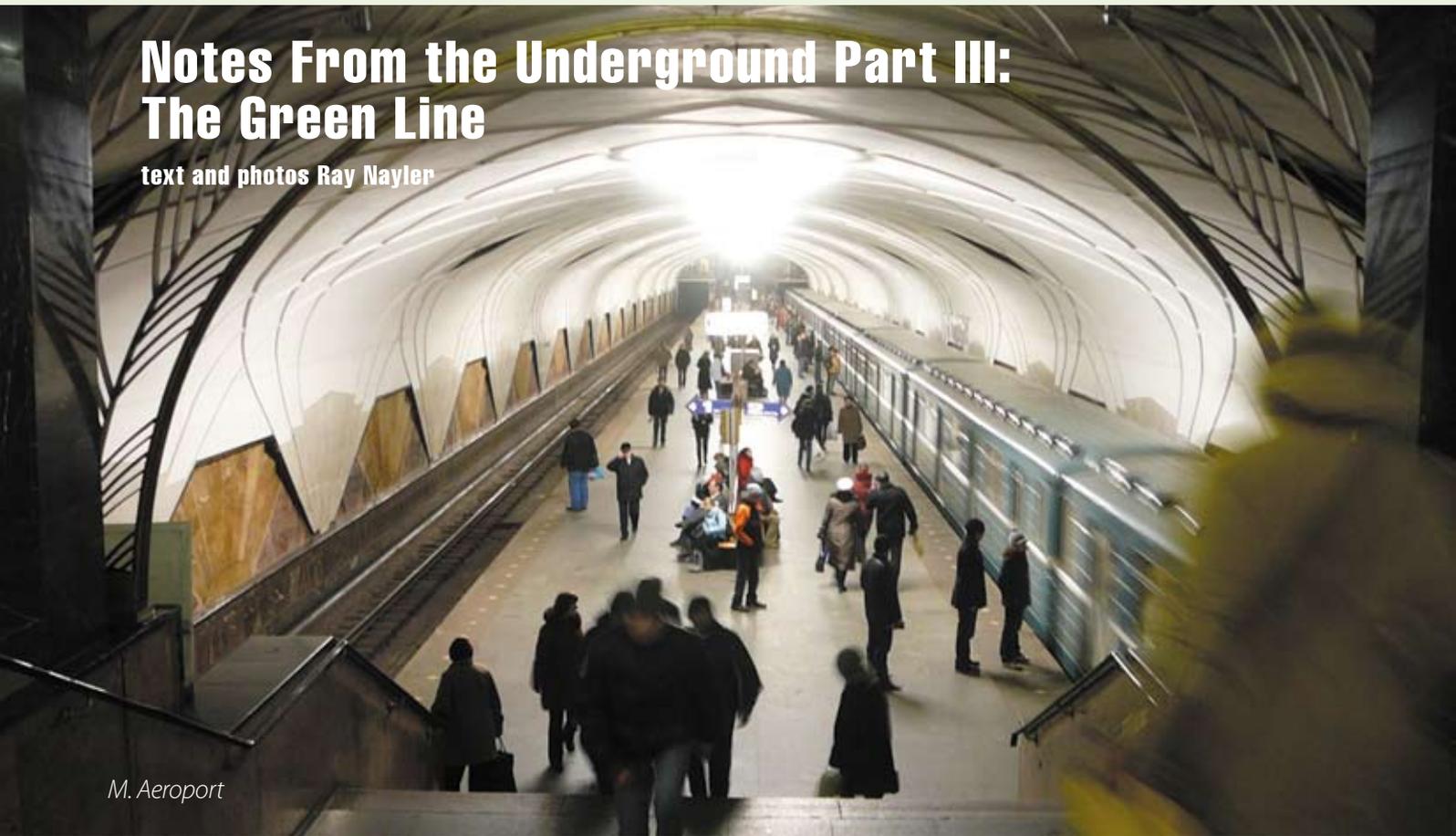
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# Notes From the Underground Part III: The Green Line

text and photos Ray Nayler



*M. Aeroport*

For Muscovites, the stations of the Metro can become haunted with memories and associations. There are the stations near where one works, or lives, stations where you met a date, stations forever associated in the mind with types of food, with bars, with a particularly stormy or spring day, or with the New Year, with a chance meeting or a walk in the park. For me, Prospekt Mira station will always carry the melancholy feeling of early, lonely days in Moscow, rainy walks home, the fluorescent yellow fire of maple leaves falling in autumn. But no line is more central to my life in Moscow than the green line, Zamoskvoretskaya. I have lived near two of its stations. In addition, the green line was the first I ever rode, on my first visit to Moscow—boarding at Domodedovskaya and getting off at Teatralnaya—under a pure June sky with the spires of the Kremlin before me.

Construction of the green line began, along with the dark blue line, as “Phase 2” of Metro construction, in 1935. The green line opened for service on September 11, 1938, originally extending from Teatralnaya, (which was at the time called Ploshad Sverdlova) to Sokol. In 1943, during the height of the Great Patriotic War, the line was extended to Avtozavodskaya, formerly named Zavod Imeni Stalina. For the purpose of this article, we’ll follow the green line in its 1943 variant, starting at Sokol and riding to Avtozavodskaya, taking in all the original stations along the way.

Sokol, meaning “Falcon,” takes its name from one of the first communal settlements in the Soviet Union, which existed from 1923 to 1930, and counted a number of famous artists, scientists, and educators among its ranks. The construction of Sokol is atypical for the Moscow Metro, with a central platform divided by a single row of graceful, arched columns and a “double-vault” construction. Like many of the early stations, Sokol was built in a neo-classical style, with each column embellished by a wooden bench around its base. But don’t try sitting on these benches during the morning or evening rush, for fear of a fractured kneecap: Sokol was never designed,

with its narrow platform and connecting bridges, for the load of passengers it now receives.

Aeroport, next along the line as we head south, is a beautiful early example of Moscow Art Deco design, with an airy architecture that suits its name. This was the first “single vault” station to be constructed, with a network of intersecting lines, like the contrails of planes overhead, originating from fan-shaped limestone panels alternated with red and brown marble. Also notable is the beautiful metalwork over the arches leading to the platform on either end. The vault of the station was assembled above ground in sections and then lowered to its present location just beneath Leningradskiy Prospekt.

Dinamo, which serves the eponymous sports complex and stadium, is one of the most cave-like of Moscow’s Metro stations, with pylons dimly lit by backlit onyx panels from Armenia in honeyed tones. The pylons are topped with ceramic medallions allegorizing numerous Soviet-era sports, a total of 60 medallions immortalizing 21 sports, for the entire length of the central hall and both platforms.



*M. Paveletskaya*

Belorusskaya serves the eponymous train station, with trains heading west for Minsk and points beyond. However, the station is clad with pink marble from Birobizhan, ironically one of the easternmost areas of the Soviet Union and where a failed attempt by Stalin at establishing a “Soviet Zion” while protecting European Russia from the “scourge” of Judaism. At the blind end of the station, almost hidden in the shadows, is a bust of Vladimir Lenin, more often than not accompanied by a Muscovite with a cell phone to his or her ear trying to finish a conversation in relative privacy before catching the next train.

Mayakovskaya is considered by many to be the most beautiful of the stations on the Moscow Metro. The Light, Art-Deco pylons are built not of concrete, but of marble-clad steel, a new technique in the 1930s and one that labeled the architect, Dushkin, as a lunatic by many of his colleagues. The construction of the station in muddy, water-saturated ground appeared to be a disaster from the beginning, with failures in the initial phases, and even a recommendation by foreign consultants to scrap the entire station design, build it deeper underground and in a style similar to Krasnaya Vorota. But the project pushed forward, and the station was completed without a single accident. From its very opening, a game that youths would play at Mayakovskaya (and one you can still see played today) is to press a ruble coin against the grooved stainless steel pylon and push it upwards. If done correctly, the coin will travel up and over the arch, following the steel track all the way down the opposite pylon.

The engineering of Mayakovskaya is impressive. But more impressive, perhaps, is the Art Deco decoration of the station. The 35 steel pylons are clad in pink rhodonite, and in the lighted niches created by each vault, 34 mosaic panels by the artist Aleksandr Deyneka, depict 24 hours in the Soviet Sky, with each Mosaic beautifully illustrating an aerial theme celebrating Soviet advancement.

In keeping to our goal of following the line's 1943 incarnation, our tour bypasses Tverskaya, which was added to the line in 1979. Tverskaya is worth mentioning as we pass, however. It is the first station in the world added to an already constructed metro line without the interruption of train service, taking advantage of a piece of reinforced straight track that had been set aside for just that purpose during the line's original construction phase.

Teatralnaya, the original southern terminus of the green line, started its life as Ploshad Sverdlova. The shadows left behind by the original name can still clearly be seen on the walls of the station behind the current Teatralnaya letters. Additionally, there is a plinth at one end of the platform where a bust of Sverdlov stood, though the bust is now gone and Sverdlov's name clumsily chiseled away. Sverdlov was one of the leaders of the October Revolution and first head of state of Soviet Russia, before the existence of the Soviet Union. He was also integral to the Bolshevik plot to murder Tsar Nicholas and his family. He died in Orel during the 1919 Spanish Influenza outbreak. The white marble of Teatralnaya was taken from the destroyed Cathedral of Christ the Savior, making this a Metro station of many ghosts.

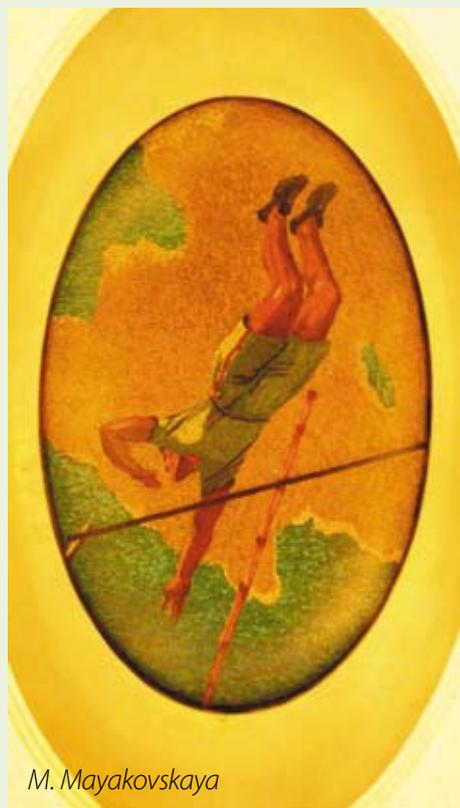
Novokuznetskaya, opened during the Great Patriot War, is suitably laden with panels of the Red Army in combat. Seven

hexagonal ceiling mosaics celebrate wartime industry, bas reliefs of a combative Red Army line the ceiling's base, and bronze portraits of other wartime heroes such as Aleksandr Nevsky and Kutuzov decorate the pylons of this station. The ornamented marble benches lining the platform were removed from the Cathedral of Christ the Savior before its demolition. Unlike other metro stations, which have had their old lighting systems replaced with fluorescent lights, the floor lamps of Novokuznetskaya give the station a shadowy melancholy that befits its opening during one of the bloodiest battles in history: on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1943, during the encirclement of the German 6<sup>th</sup> Army at Stalingrad.

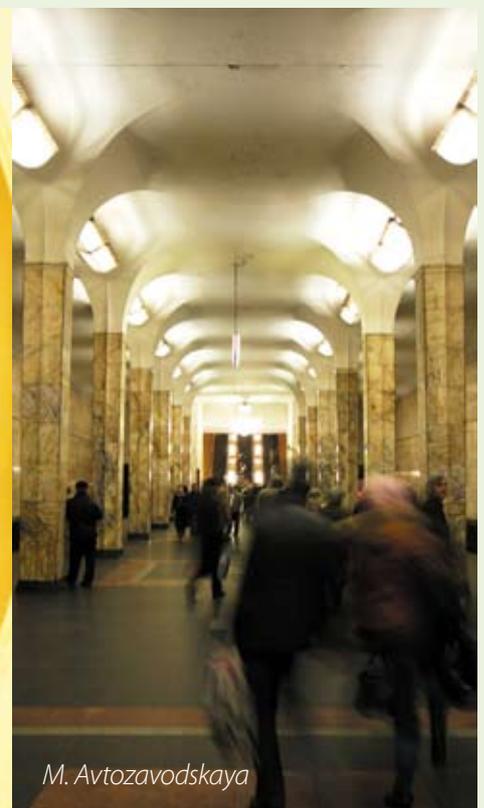
Paveletskaya is a high-traffic station serving the Paveletskiy train station, with trains departing to the southeast of Moscow. The platform has a series of high white columns decorated with the Hammer and Sickle, and a soaring, high ceiling, echoing, in a bombastic style, the much cleaner lines of Mayakovskaya. This station has been drastically rebuilt twice, originally opening as a London Tube-type station, then in 1953 being redesigned as a column-type station. In 1987 the station had to be rebuilt once again following a devastating train fire, during which parts of the station were heavily damaged.

Our ride terminates at Avtozavodskaya, another station designed by Dushkin, who was responsible for Mayakovskaya. Originally named “Zavod Imeni Stalina,” The station's ceiling soars above you, supported by gracefully widening columns clad in light pink Oraktuoy marble. The walls are clad with the same marble, and decorated with enormous mosaic panels of wartime production, including a tank assembly line with a female worker in kerchief, more than vaguely reminiscent of the “We Can Do It” posters circulating in the United States at the same period of time. Avtozavodskaya is named for the ZIL limousine factory nearby, which turned to military vehicle production during the war. But more importantly for me, Avtozavodskaya is home. **P**

*Next month we will explore the second half of the Moscow Metro's “Phase 2”—The Arbatsko-Pokrovskaya, or dark blue Line.*



M. Mayakovskaya



M. Avtozavodskaya



*Nasya's Portrait*  
1971



*Don Quixote*  
1971

# Anatoly Zverev

## the Black Tulip of the Moscow Underground

text Olga Slobodkina–von Bromssen

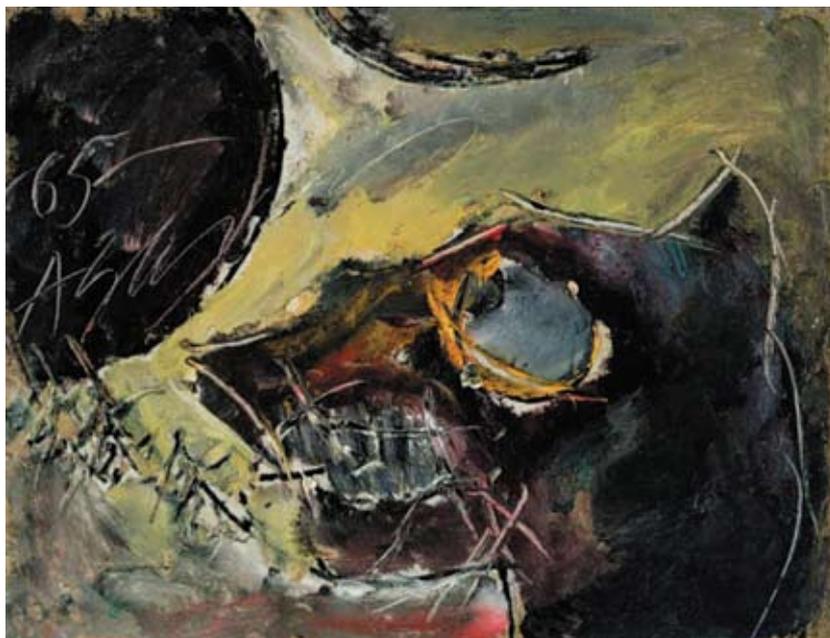
Today the leading art critics call Anatoly Zverev (1931–1997) the most original Russian artist of the 20th century. Zverev was able to unite and blend all the previous epochs' trends in painting. One can debate this point, but one thing is absolutely clear: Anatoly Zverev belonged to the group of artists who were creating according to the laws of their own inner consciousness regardless of political and social constraints, the fashion of the times or even expectation of commercial success for their works.

He was born of an invalid mother and a proletariat worker on November 3, 1931. In 1954 he was enrolled at the 1905 Art School (named after the 1905 Revolution), but was expelled for his unruly, anarchistic behavior. One can say he was actually a self-taught artist. He was greatly influenced by the Exhibition at the International Festival of Youth staged in Moscow in 1957 which displayed abstract art for the first time in the history of the Soviet Union. An art competition was announced. A man wearing old shoes, a wrinkled jacket and a funny hat took part. After he painted not more than several brush strokes the chairman of the jury, Mexican artist Siqueiros, awarded him the Gold Medal. The man was Anatoly Zverev. Thus an outcast, who was not fit for the socialist realism tradition, a person who had been expelled from art school and made a meagre living paint-

ing fences in the Moscow amusement parks, was declared the winner of this prestigious competition. The Soviet authorities did their best to suppress this fact, but the news became well-known and the popularity of Zverev began.

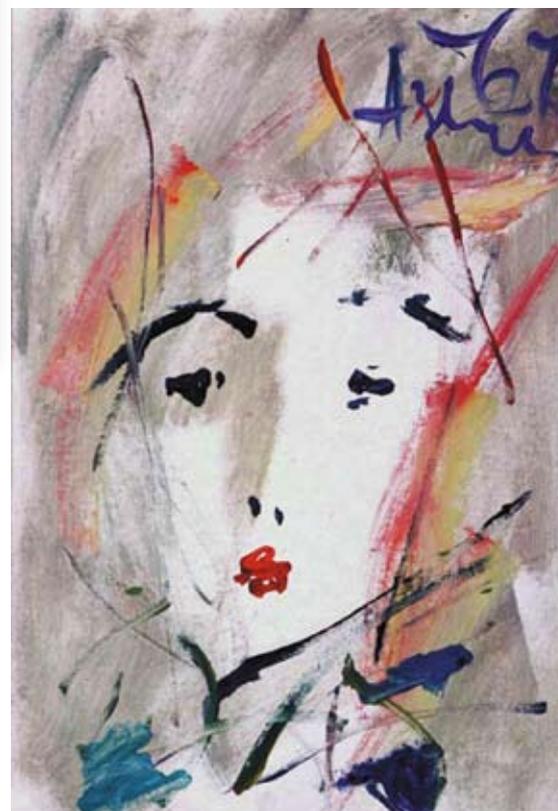
Even before the Festival when he had been painting in Sokolniki Park, Zverev attracted the attention of an actor from the Tairov Theater, Alexander Rumnev, who introduced him to the Moscow art galleries and whose home became Zverev's home. Later through the composer Andrey Volkonsky, Zverev's works became known to Georgy Kostaki the 1950's collector of the Russian avant-garde art of the 1920's.

Zverev did many sketches and drawings in Kostaki's home. For example, he did over 100 drawings in Indian ink illustrating "The Golden Ass" by Apuleius in just one night. The natural expressiveness of his manner was also due to lots of vodka, to which the young artist was very much addicted. As for portraits he did them by the thousands and was happy to sell them for one to three rubles each. In Kostaki's home Zverev attracted the attention of the world famous conductor Igor Markevich who was stunned by the spontaneous artistry of the "Russian Matisse." In 1965 Markevich organized Zverev's solo exhibition in Paris without obtaining any agreements from the Soviet authorities. Another important figure in his life was the widow of the poet



A dog  
1945

*When he was once asked how he lived, the artist said, "I never lived. I existed. I only lived among those for whom I was painting and who were creating myths about me."*



A Portrait  
1967

Nikolai Assev, who saw a spontaneous gift of creative energy in the artist.

Zverev was homeless most of this time and he migrated around Moscow from one flat to another. In the artistic circles of the non-conformists and even among some of the official Moscow elite, diplomats and foreign correspondents, everybody wanted to have a portrait by Zverev. A little money or an offer of a couple of vodka bottles and the dream could come true.

Quite often the news of Zverev's death flew around Moscow, but he re-appeared again and again – perhaps not as energetic and fiery as he used to be and perhaps like someone going down for the third time. His was a self-destructive genius and he died on Dec. 9, 1986, in a small apartment in the Sviblovo district of Moscow.

As for his original style it was a naturally evolved artistic approach that was born from his watercolor landscapes dating back to the time of the Youth Festival, streams of light and color done by a very soft touch of the brush against the paper. The image was not aggressive. The drawings of birds and animals testify to the perfect clarity of the spontaneous gesture of the artist. They were done in the style of the masters of Ancient China.

The amazing number of works dating back to the 1960s reveals

the hyper-energy of the artist, the unique activity of his image associations. The intense musicality of his semi-abstract canvases plus their texture and rhythm was unprecedented.

In his works during the period when Aseeva took care of the artist one can see the color expansion calming down. His works are all about the light, but a light that is not decorative, rather a sign of unexpected lyrical serenity. The tender attitude towards nature and towards animals possibly originated from the artist's childhood. It was there in his painting until the end of his life.

Most typical of his art were female portraits. Whether he worked in oil, watercolor or pencil, his portraits were impulsive and spontaneous. The act of painting was imbued with virtuosity, but as he wasted himself with drink and an unstable life, the energy of his artistic gesture began to evaporate. What was left was virtuosity by itself – the volcano was extinct.

The difficult and yet beloved child of the Moscow artistic underground of the 1960s–1980s was beginning to waste away. Several months before his death Zverev finished an autobiography. It is not only a record of his life, but also a literary document and an exercise in calligraphy.

When he was once asked how he lived, the artist said, "I never lived. I existed. I only lived among those for whom I was painting and who were creating myths about me." **P**



## The Yuri Rozum Charity Foundation Works to Preserve the Musical Talent of Russia

text Linda Lippner

Russia has always been well known for the high concentration of musical and other artistic talent among the population. During Soviet times, the government supported the development of this musical talent through a sizable investment in schooling and government-sponsored competitions and concert tours. Now, for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, other ways must be found to support the artistic talent of young people in Russia. Private individuals, private foundations, and private businesses are stepping up to the plate by giving financial aid to Russia's children in order to preserve Russia's future artistic heritage.

The Yuri Rozum International Charitable Foundation was established to address this investment in the musical future of Russia. Since 2005 the Foundation has been awarding stipends and scholarships to children from all regions of Russia who are in need of financial support so that a child's musical studies can be continued without interruption. The Foundation has developed a unique concept. Competitions are organized throughout Russia where children are invited to perform before the Foundation's jury of qualified judges. At these competitions, participants from the age of 7 to 17 are invited to perform, and are judged on their

individual talents and potential. If one or more of these children at the regional competitions are found to have talent that should be nurtured, a scholarship or living stipend is awarded to that child to help with the expenses of musical studies for one year. At the end of the year, the recipient's progress is reviewed and the scholarship can be renewed for another year. The money can be used to purchase instruments, private lessons or transportation to a distant city for more advanced studies. A very good example of the more creative ways that a stipend can be used is by one recipient, teenaged Artem Naumov who is here in Moscow with his mother living in a sparsely furnished room in the music school where he is taking daily lessons to achieve his musical goals, living carefully in a most expensive city on the monthly stipend that the Yuri Rozum Foundation has provided for his education. He is far away from home, but his dedication to his music is supported by his family who are making the necessary sacrifices.

Money to support the scholarships is being raised in ways that contribute to the children's musical performance experiences. An annual Music Festival has now become one of the major projects of the Foundation and a new tradition has been created to honor the UNESCO International Day for the Protection of Childhood. At the first concert, held on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 in the Kremlin Armory, the first ten annual scholarships were awarded from money raised by the Foundation. On June 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 and then on June 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2007, concerts were held at the Moscow Golf Club close to the city center to honor the UNESCO day of support of childhood. Beneath a white summer tent, supporters of the Foundation gathered to hear Yuri Rozum, the Foundation President, introduce the performances of the previous year's scholarship winners. After the most recent event in on June 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2007, approximately 50 annual scholarships had been awarded with more individual and corporate sponsors giving to the Fund.

Yuri Rozum, President of the Fund is a remarkable man and performer. Born to parents who were both honored performers



of Soviet Russia, he has developed a concert style of passionate interpretation of romantic composers including Rachmaninov, Tchaikovsky and Chopin and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Russian composers such as Scriabin. His concert work has taken him all over the world after early achievements such as the gold medal and first prize at the Barcelona International Piano Competition, the gold medal at the Pleven International Laureate Festival in 1980, special prize in Tokyo and Silver Medal at the Montreal piano competition in 1984 and others. However, during Soviet times a young Rozum ran afoul of the state authoritarian management of musical careers with his insistence on personal freedoms such as Russian Orthodox worship, reading books by exiled author Alexander Solzhenitsyn, and even practicing yoga. A Soviet endorsed career was cut short when Rozum was directed to the army instead of to the masters program at the Moscow Conservatory where he had earlier proven himself an outstanding student and potential concert pianist in his years of study there. Although he was allowed to enter competitions abroad, all offers of performance contracts in the West were rejected by Soviet officialdom. Rozum, as an adult, experienced first-hand the potential withering of his talent that had been nurtured so fully in his early years. His sensitivity to a child's chances to develop his or her talent, when outside forces are preventing this development, helped fuel his early interest in establishing a Foundation to support children's musical talent. Mr. Rozum, in speaking with Passport magazine, also spoke of the growing influence of his sense of responsibility in raising his daughter as a single parent and his growing awareness that Russia as a "new" country was in serious need of resources to develop, or nurture the talents of its future generations.

Rozum's international career only took off after Perestroika and the end of the Soviet Union in 1991. Then, after 15 years of constant travel and doing all that is necessary to build a successful career, including the honor of receiving the People's Honored Artist of Russia in 2001 and an appointment as Fellow of the Russian Academy of the Natural Sciences in 2005, Rozum decided on a way to "give back" to his beloved Russia. By founding the Yuri Rozum International Charitable Foundation, he began with a focus on developing young Russian talent. As he told Passport, "culture costs a lot, but lack of culture costs much more."

He needed to do something, and the opportunity presented itself in a rather unique way. In the village of Zagorianka, which

is in the Shchyolkovo region of Moscow, an already existing but under-funded school of the arts asked if they could name themselves "The Music and Arts School named after Yuri Rozum." Rozum has a dacha nearby and had already spent much time at the school helping as a "patron" to purchase new instruments and raise money for a new building to replace the deteriorating 60-year old school.

Very quickly, the Foundation was born, and maintains an ongoing commitment to this school. In fact this area of the Moscow region also is the home of "Star City" the international training center for astronauts and cosmonauts. Because of this association, additional international music festivals called "Zvezdy" or "Star" are held here. The first, in 2005, was hosted by the first female cosmonaut, Valentina Tereshkova, and was a great success in bringing together international classical and folk musicians from around the world. This annual international music festival will continue to raise money for the Foundation in 2008 and beyond.



An additional feature of Rozum's quest to build and develop young Russian musical talent has been the very important honor of the Foundation's appointment to implement the Federal government's program "Where Art is Born." The program is a regional competition for the best Music School for Children and the best Arts School for Children. The 7-year program was launched in 2006 and the financial responsibility is shared between the Federal government and Russian business. The Rozum Foundation coordinates the fundraising of business monies for awarding prizes (musical instruments, art materials, computers and other financial support), for schools selected as best in the Russian regions, while the Federal government provides funding for the expenses of implementing the program. The program is guided by a Board of Experts who are a Who's Who List of Russian cultural stars, and which also includes the Rectors of the Moscow Conservatory, the Gnessin School of Music, the St. Petersburg Conservatory, the Jazz Music College and Central Music School of Moscow.

Each year of the 7-year program, the Board of Experts in conjunction with the Rozum Foundation, travels to one of the Russian regions for competition and prize awards. The program started in the far eastern region of Russia in 2006 and will continue across the country from east to west for 7 years. All of the activities of the "Where Art is Born" program will of course serve to publicize and support the scholarship and stipend aims of the Foundation which is to develop artistic talent among the young of Russia. **P**

For further information about the Yuri Rozum International Charitable Foundation and information about donations, sponsorships and concert information, please contact:

info@rozumfund.ru

http://www.rozumfund.ru

Phone: +7 (495) 788 9698

Fax: +7 (495) 788 9501

And for information about Yuri Rozum and his concert schedule for 2008: www.YuriRozum.com



# How to Sue, Win and Execute Judgements

text Daniel Klein

In Russia, many potential plaintiffs whether they be companies or individuals, foreigners or Russians, hesitate to bring law suits against companies or individuals that wrong them. Fraud and disrespect of shareholder and corporate governance laws are frequent gripes. There are two basic concerns: 1) The "whole system" is corrupt, and 2) even if you win you can't collect.

By the time you finish this article you may modify your opinion about the Russian legal system, as Russia is becoming a more promising place to bring a cause of action when necessary. Corruption is less and less prevalent in the Russian judiciary and, using the right strategy, collection can be had relatively simply. This last comment, while hard to believe, is becoming more and more the case in Russia.

### Where did all the corruption go?

In order to discourage corruption and create a rule of law it is not easy to achieve that without reducing judicial corruption. There are at least three elements to that:

Punish those who take and offer bribes

Increase judges salaries to reduce the bribe-taking temptation

Make the bribing party have to bribe a lot of judges to make it more likely he will get caught and less likely he will succeed

In the November 2007 issue of Passport it was mentioned that monthly salaries for judges have increased from several hundred dollars a decade ago to a few thousand dollars a few years ago to now over \$4000. According to Avenir Recruitment's Managing Director, Maxim Stepanov, "for a lawyer with several years' experience, that is an excellent salary. And for a lawyer who does not speak English (which is usually the case with Russian judges since it is not required to execute their job) that is very good compensation package, and if we speak about the regions a very handsome package indeed." In parallel to raising salaries, there has been a multi-prong anti-corruption campaign to raise public awareness of bribe taking; by publicizing cases



where judges and bribers are caught, in order to increase the deterrent for all potential parties. In general, bribing and corruption cases are receiving mass media attention for every aspect of the public sector.

In Russia there are four levels of courts: a) Arbitrage (trial court) b) appeals court c) court of Cassation and d) the Supreme Court.

In order to use money as a means to sway the outcome of a court decision, it is necessary to first start off by bribing the young Arbitrage court judge. These recent law school grads may not have years of legal experience under their belts but, their relatively modest salary makes them seem fairly well off compared to their peers. Recent experience shows that these judges don't warm up to bribes as easy as one would think. Even if a party succeeds in bribing the Arbitrage sole judge, the next task is to bribe the next three levels where there are at least 3 judges in each (the Supreme Court may have more than 3 judges). So the bribing party will need to bribe up to 10 or more judges to get his decision tailor-made. How does someone approach each and every one of these civil servants? Does one just approach them during the hearing?

### Collecting Judgements

It is true that losing defendants can find easy ways to hide their assets through friends and relatives. However, defendants of civil actions who are guilty of fraud and other civil infractions are also criminally liable as well. If a defendant refuses to pay, the threat of going to jail can be a good tool to force settlement.

Litigator Ilya Lisovkiy has confirmed that there is a changing trend in Russia with respect to litigation. "It is true that in view of various changes in the judiciary we are seeing more cases being brought and a higher rate of sat-



# in Russia – Really!

ified plaintiffs with legitimate causes of action”. Another American litigator from a major Western firm in Russia has also indicated that litigation practices are expanding extremely rapidly for the same reasons.

Also according to some recent changes to the law, debtors may have difficulty traveling by air, if they have bad debts.

## **Rough Justice?**

Unlike the onerous and expensive discovery system in the US, Russia is not plagued with this problem. While justice may be a bit rougher not having all the facts in front of the court, it is quicker and a lot cheaper. It is so quick that it may be possible to bring a case through all four levels in a 18 months, or even less. So next time you have been cheated don't be so quick to dismiss the potential valid claim, since courts may not be so quick to do so either.

## **Not all plaintiffs and defendants the same**

This is not to say that it is always wise to bring or even defend an action. One needs to carefully consider who the counter-party is. Just like in the US especially, there seems to be a two-track system, where the wealthy parties are able ensure a higher likelihood of success for their actions depending on their social stature, fame and/or wealth. Especially in many Western countries, where litigation costs can run tens of thousand or even hundreds of thousands of dollars per month, there is a sort of natural survival of the well-to-do in terms of their success in Western courts.

This situation is intensified in the criminal arena where, for example, about 40% of prisoners in the US are of African descent, even though their share of the overall population is around half of that. It is well known that those who have the means have a much better chance of avoiding criminal conviction or losses in civil litigations. Obviously in the US that is changing, and it is more challenging for wealthy litigants and criminal defendants to 'buy' a victory through hiring big-gun attorneys.

We have seen a spate of criminal actions (especially) being brought against anyone, no matter their wealth, in the US. Whatever the methods wealthy Russian litigants may use to ensure victory or avoid loss (of the other side), the result is the same in Russia as in many Western countries: that is, wealth may help ensure some sort of protection in the legal world.

## **Just how cheap is it?**

Basically, depending on the firm one uses, the whole process for a multi-million dollar action should run about \$15,000 including court costs to the first level and up. Appeals should cost several thousand dollars and up per appeal depending again on what caliber of litigator is chosen.

In what kind of actions are companies applying this new approach to falling out with counter parties? In general where both parties are Western, or where the counter party is not a massive conglomerate, Western and Russian companies alike are turning more and more to the courts to seek redress.



The courts are less and less seen as a place of last resort and more and more as a means to enforce contracts and other business relations. At last, Russia is getting its own rule of law, which can only lead to greater confidence in the investment community.

Finally, as Dmitry Medvedev will be taking over as the next president of Russia, his heavy legal background and strong rule of law interests will likely result in more and more transparency and integrity in the local courts. **P**



# Russia's Air Links are Expanding

Text David Schauff

Two new air links launching this spring will expand Moscow's routes and help business and tourism grow. On March 20<sup>th</sup> the first direct non-stop flights from Moscow to Houston will connect oil- and gas-rich Russia with the oil capital of the United States for the first time. The route, which will be flown four times a week by burgeoning Singapore Airlines, also means the first direct flights on the Singapore-Moscow leg. The route will be operated with a Boeing 777-300 aircraft on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. On the other three days (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) Singapore Airlines will continue its Moscow-Singapore flights with a refueling stop in Dubai.

On April 27<sup>th</sup> S7 Airlines will inaugurate the first direct Moscow-Dublin flights heralding a new era in cooperation between the two countries. The flights are scheduled for three times a week on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays using an Airbus A319 aircraft, which means that Russian tourists will no longer have to transit a third country on their way to Ireland which necessitated another visa with its incumbent costs and time-consuming processes.

Even a simple change of planes at London's Heathrow Airport requires a British transit visa. The incoming international flight from Moscow lands at a different terminal from the one used for the outbound flight to Dublin, so passengers have had to process passport control.

Both airlines are using Moscow's most advanced air terminal at Domodedovo as their local hub.

The launch of the Moscow-Dublin flight precedes a Russian business forum in Dublin which is expected to take place in the second half of May and will be attended by Dmitry Kozak, Russia's Minister for Regional Development. The forum will build on the success of the one held in 2006 which had as its theme: "Russia - a Vital Part of Ireland's Future."

The 2006 forum also sought to dispel the myths about modern Russia, presenting the country in the light of the realities of doing business on the ground, rather than the perception of business in Russia often held by many Irish companies. The session drew on specific examples in the Russian investment market and highlighted that in comparative terms, Russia is a normal and active business environment.

With Guinness now being brewed under license in St Petersburg and Jameson's whisky available in bars and supermarkets



throughout Moscow, Russians are already bonding with Ireland's traditions. Moscow's group of Irish pubs, the strong Russian affinity to Celtic music and culture, and the unique privilege afforded by the Moscow City government which every year for nearly 20 years has allowed the closure of Novy Arbat street to permit one of the largest St. Patrick's Day parades outside Dublin and New York City, all point to Ireland's special relationship with Russia.

In many respects, Ireland has traditionally punched above its weight in the relationship with Russia which has its roots in the non-aligned movement. In recent years, Ireland's economic successes, and a growing self confidence and attractiveness for investors, have mirrored Russia's development in the Putin Era.

And now with three flights a week in both directions between Moscow and Dublin, hopes are high for the development of tourism. One popular Russian TV travel program is already exploring the possibility of making a series of 15-minute segments on Ireland and its food and culture. Dublin's hotels would be well advised to dust off their Russian phrase books or hire Russian-speaking staff to deal with what could be a summer influx of Russian tourists. **P**



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The public relations career of Alexander Kushnir, the head of the press agency Kushnir Production, which is focused on doing press relations for musical groups and artists, as well as for other show-business projects, started in a place as unlikely for that as underground samizdat magazines, *Urlait* and *Counteculture*, back in the late 1980s.

Then, few people in the Soviet Union knew anything about public relations. Still, as Kushnir says, sitting in his small office in a business center near *Paveletskaya* metro station, work on the distribution of an underground magazine in a way helped to lay the foundations of his future career.

"Print runs were between 300 and 400 copies, up to 500 maximum," he remembers. "But I knew any subscriber in person. And there was a very strong feedback, with people telling what they liked and what they didn't like. So, if we see public relations as effectively and efficiently forming public opinion, that's what I did on a daily basis back then. And that paid out when we started to organize press conferences."

"Producer Maxim Fadeyev rented our first offices for us, and Yuri Tseitlin, president of *CD Land*, helped us to move to our present offices," Kushnir says. "The deal was that we got a big discount on rent and, in exchange, we gave the label a big discount on our services. Also, Tseitlin gave us a \$5,000 loan with no interest – at that time that was a huge amount of money – to buy some office equipment."

But a conflict of interests was unavoidable, as producers and label bosses, who financed the agency at the beginning, wanted it to primarily focus on their artists, and Kushnir Production decided to go its own way. "We were able to become fully independent and self-sustaining within a year, although that was a difficult year," Kushnir admits.

In the early 2000s, the agency was an industry pioneer. "There was no company of that kind in Russia," Kushnir proudly says. "Neither were there any after a year or two years. We were like test pilots in rarefied air. We didn't have competitors, we only had people who taught us, gave us ideas, such as Fadeyev or

# From Underground to Limelight

text Vladimir Kozlov

Interestingly, Kushnir's first press relations job was for his own book, "The Golden Underground," an encyclopedia of Soviet-time musical underground press, published in 1994. "Me and Sergey Guryev, the literary editor, were thinking about who would be able to organize a presentation of the book," Kushnir recalls. "And we ended up admitting that we knew no such person. So, we decided: okay, let's do it ourselves. And it all went well, so we did another press event, a news conference for *Kraina Mryi*, an album by the Ukrainian-French band *Vopli Vidoplyasova*."

Then more projects came along. But there was a long way to go from working as a freelance press agent to running an agency that employs about 50 people and works on some 20 various show business projects. "For a few years, it was just me and a couple of friends," Kushnir says. "But we soon realized that the number of artists we worked with was snowballing, and two or three people could no longer cope with that amount of work. So we came up with an idea of an agency."

"In the fall of 1999, there were already about ten people working with me, doing publicity for the record label "Utyekai." But there was still no office at that time, and we held meetings twice a week in my apartment."

Kushnir is a little bit nostalgic for that period, when there was just one obsolete computer, one land-line phone, a mobile and a pager, and the team worked as a close circle of collaborators. A trace of that nostalgia can be still seen in the agency's office today, as an old computer unit and monitor occupy a dignified place on top of bookshelves. "That's the computer equipment, on which Kushnir Production started," the agency's head points out.

According to Kushnir, in the formative stages, the agency had to rely financially on producers eager to hire it to do public relations for their artists, or newly emerged record labels, like, for example, "CD Land."

Leonid Burlakov, at one time the producer of such artists as *Zemfira* or *Mumiy Trol*, and Alexander Shulgin, then the producer of singer *Valeriya*."

And, according to the agency's head, there is still no competition today. "There are some companies that are doing press relations in the music industry," he says. "But give me the name of a company that has more than twenty artists, then I can talk about competition. Otherwise, I think, a question about competitors should not be asked."

According to Kushnir, although his agency has always been inclined towards rock music, over the years it has been doing various kinds of show business projects – from the *IMAX* movie theater chain to the musical show *Mama Mia!* to golf tournaments. The latter was a little surprising to Kushnir himself, he admits, adding, though, that he isn't a total stranger to this kind of sport as he played it in his youth.

Being busy with his agency did not stop Kushnir from getting on with his writing career. Late last year, he put out a new non-fiction book titled "The Headliners." The book is an account of Kushnir's work with the country's major artists and producers of recent years, and the author predictably uses his agency to promote it. "I'm glad the publisher doesn't stop me from doing what it doesn't have time for – promoting the book, but supplies me with promo copies of it," Kushnir says with a smile.

Despite running a successful press relations agency, Kushnir seems to remain true to underground principles, and personal attitudes towards artists are often more important criteria for picking who to work with than purely business considerations. "Usually we say yes when we like something on a visceral level," he says. "But there are really few artists of that kind these days." **P**



# Things to bear in mind when renting an apartment

text David Gilmarth

### Things to bear in mind when renting an apartment.

Hunting for an apartment can be very time-consuming and often frustrating. In Moscow, the experience is made more difficult by the relative lack of recently-built, good-quality properties. Choice is limited and prices are high.

Here you will find tips on what to consider before you begin your search and different methods you can use to find an apartment that meets your needs. By following a few simple steps, you can ensure you find a home that suits your requirements, and that you will enjoy living in.

### Research - Manage your own expectations!

No matter whether you are in Moscow as a corporate employee, an Embassy representative or in a private capacity, the first and most important thing to take into account is your budget, and what you can realistically expect to get for it. The rental market in Moscow suffers from high demand, limited supply and spoiled landlords. As a result, Moscow is an expensive place to live.



Make enquiries of local Real Estate agencies or Relocation providers; they all monitor the market and have price guides available. Read the Moscow Times, and check their quarterly Real Estate updates. Make sure that you know what property in a particular neighbourhood goes for, and don't let the agency bamboozle you.

### Your Wish List - Know what you want

Before you start your search, whether an agency or on your own, make a list of "Must Haves". Do you need a balcony? Do you need a furnished apartment, or will you bring your own? Is secure parking a requirement? Renovated or not? Classic or Modern?

When you do start your search, it is essential that the agent who is helping you understands all your requirements, to ensure that they do not waste your time viewing properties that do not meet your basic requirements.

### Location Location Location

- Is it close to your place of employment?
- Is the neighborhood safe?
- Is it close to an International school?
- Are there parks in the neighbourhood?
- Is it close to stores, banks and the post office?
- Is it close to the metro?
- Does it have secure parking?

At this point it is timely to mention the most important aspect: your relationship with the landlord. How present will the owner be in your life? It is acceptable for the landlord to come to the apartment occasionally, to check up, or to collect bills. On the other hand you do not want someone who will arrive out of the blue on a regular basis

demanding access to his property. Also, if the owner seems argumentative or difficult in negotiations, it may be better to walk away.

#### **The Contract – protect yourself**

Before you sign a lease, inspect the apartment for physical damage. This is crucial: You don't want to be held responsible for damage you didn't cause. Take photos (or make a videotape) of existing damage, date them and get the landlord to sign them. Insist that any violations be corrected before you move in and that any repairs or improvements to be made are recorded in the lease agreement. Ensure that the agency you use perform an inventory of all furniture and fittings, and get it signed by the landlord.

Ensure that the contract clearly assigns responsibility for all costs. Usually the landlord covers basic utilities with the client paying the cost of Internet, Satellite TV and long-distance calls.

Read your lease carefully before you sign it. Preferably, have a legal expert check it and make sure that your rights are protected. For example, you might want to insert a clause that releases you from the lease if your employer transfers you out of town. Never sign a lease if you are uncomfortable with any part of it.

Get the documents checked. Is the person you are meeting the registered owner? Does he have permission from all registered residents to lease out the property? You need to be sure that you will not have people turning up on your doorstep demanding to be let in to "their" apartment.

Is the property insured, and are your personal items covered? If not, it may be a good idea to take out insurance. With so many properties being renovated, accidents happen and it is wise to at least have cover for water damage.

#### **The Agency – get your money's worth**

In all likelihood, you or your employer will have paid commission to an agency or a relocation provider to help you find your new home.



Usually you will receive a guarantee of assistance from them – make sure that you use it. If you have problems with the landlord, or if some contractual obligation has not been fulfilled, get the agency onto the case, and get them to fix it. Don't be afraid to ask for help – that is their job.

There are a thousand things that can go wrong with renting a new home. If you are careful, get the right assistance, and stick to your own wish list, at least you are giving yourself the best chance of enjoying your stay. **P**

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# Moscow, Meet Cuba!

text Senor Pepe



Variety shows, popular in the few restaurants scattered about Moscow in Soviet times, became ubiquitous in post-Soviet Russian restaurants, when talented musicians, dancers, circus acts and other performance artists sought a to earn living by their hard-earned skills during the tough times of the 90s. In recent years, the variety show has virtually disappeared, as Russia's economy has recovered, leaving just a very few top floor shows such as the Russian Nights Show at Restaurant Yar in the Sovietsky Hotel on Leningradsky Prospekt.

One of Moscow's great floor shows these days is at the relatively new and rather hidden away, Old Havana (Habana Vieja or Stary Gavana depending upon your language) restaurant. Open for two years now, Old Havana presents an evening of Latin celebration that draws diners onto the floor to join its dozens of brightly costumed dancers, Creacion Latina and Brazil So Music musicians, and Capoeira



performers. When you go to Old Havana, you might pack a toothbrush, because you may be drawn into an all-night Carnival right here in Moscow.

#### The Location

Old Havana is located a few metro stops outside the Garden ring near the Volgogradsky Prospekt metro station on Ulitsa Talalikhina, which runs perpendicular to Volgogradsky Prospekt. The large building facing the street houses two venues, the restaurant and the bar. Enter the front door and turn left to the bar, or go right into the large, high ceiling restaurant with tables gathered around the performance area. The restaurant will likely be your first stop on your evening's adventure, beginning with dinner and the show, and ending the night in the bar.

#### The Restaurant

To fully enjoy the restaurant and the cuisine, it is necessary to arrive early. Once the show begins, at 19:00, it will be difficult to pay much attention to the food, other than to check that your glass is full. The restaurant is decked out like the courtyard of a hacienda with a balcony and colorful frescoes overlooking the floor. It seats about 200 at about 40 tables. Tables 83, 71, 51 to 54, 43, 31 and 21 surround the performance floor, so if the show is important to you, try to get one of these front row seats, and if the show is not important, either arrive and leave very early, or go to another restaurant.

#### The Menu

Chef Frank Sarria controls the kitchen at Old Havana, producing a menu that is billed as Cuban and European cuisine. The Cuban house salad, Habana Vieja, consists of lobster chunks, tiger prawns and mussels cooked in white wine and served with a tropical sauce at 720 rubles. El Guateque, the more simply prepared mixed salad with avocado and fresh vegetables is 230 rubles. A Cuban Africano soup with black beans, fried onions and paprika is 150 rubles, while a Sopa Cayo Coco with rock lobster, tiger prawns and butter fish in coconut milk is 800 rubles.

Main courses include Fricase de Cordero, a lamb leg marinated in Creole sauce at 850 rubles or a T-Bone Steak Guantanamera served with mashed yucca at 1,900 rubles. Cuban fish entrees include Mariscada con Salsa de Marakuya, fried rock lobster, tiger prawns and sweet pepper with Caribbean seafood at 1,900 rubles. For garnish, there's Tostones Platano, fried genuine Cuban green bananas at 110 rubles or Yucas Fritas, boiled palm tree root with Mojoto sauce at 200 rubles.

There are Cuban desserts and even a Tiramisu at 200 rubles, to be topped off with Cubita Cuban coffee. Cubita coffee is the state brand, which is shade-grown, chemical-free



in the Sierra Maestra mountains, with beans hand-picked and naturally sun dried.

### The Drinks

Old Havana stocks a number of rums, including an extended line of Cuban Ron Cubano right on up to a Santiago de Cuba Axta Anejo, a 25-year old that runs 1,550 rubles per 50 ml or \$800 a bottle. A Guaroram, made from rum, guarapo (sugar cane syrup) and lemon is 600 rubles and the base Mojito is 350 rubles. All Cuban restaurants and bars claim some kind of lineage to Ernest Hemingway; Old Havana's connection is an El Hemingway Special with rum, cherry brandy, and grapefruit and lemon juice at 270 rubles. Draft beers include Warsteiner at 180 rubles or a Stary Melnik at 130 rubles for a half-liter.

### The Cigars

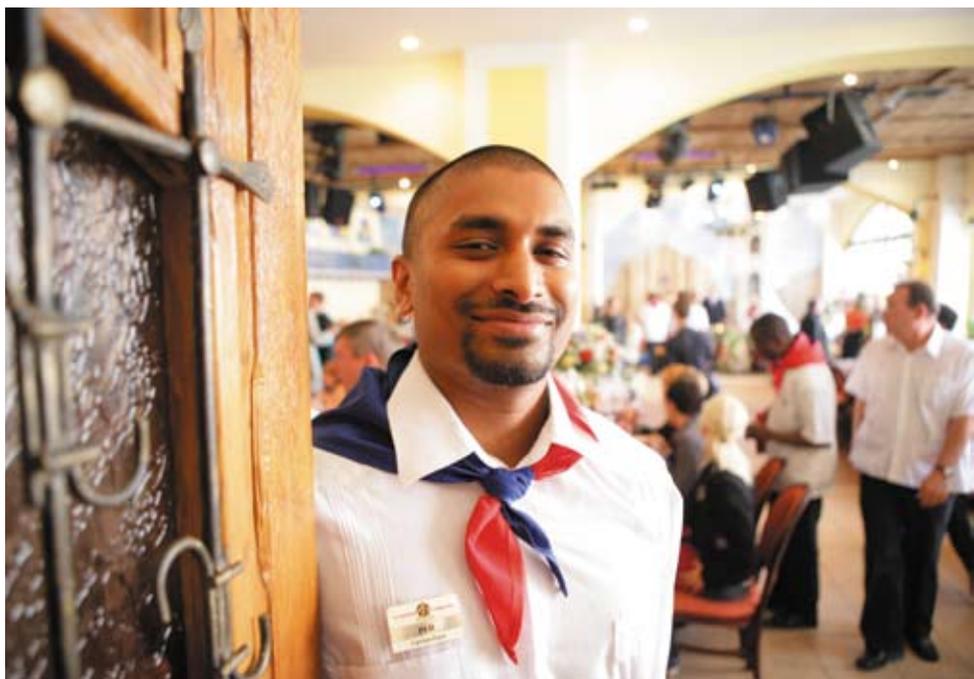
Old Havana has its own cigar roller, Cuban Tabaquero Carlos Valdes Mosquera, who worked most of his life at the Cuban La Corona factory. Prices range from 1,000 rubles for a Tabaco Havana Vieja Panetela to 2,500 rubles for a Tabaco Havana Vieja Torpedo Diademas.

### The Show

The Sacode Brazil show is fabulous and infectious, and runs pretty much continuously for at least three hours. The music starts, drawing you in, but one of the first things you notice is the costumes of the dancers and musicians. They are over-the-top colorful, elaborate and feathered creations. Brazil So Music provides the rhythm for the entire show, including its centerpiece, a half dozen bare-chested Capoeira performers. The show is orchestrated by the always effervescent Cuban, "Mr. Harasho."

The Capoeira performers glide and tumble onto the floor in a dance-combat game that has its roots in the Central-West African culture that was brought to Brazil with the slave trade. At the center of the performance, two warriors within a ring of others test each other through a series of sweeps, kicks, jumps and other athletic feats designed to throw the opponent off balance. In this show, Brazil So Music provides the beat, while the half dozen performers provide an extended Capoeira demonstration, with and without props, that leaves the audience in wonderment over the capabilities of the human body. The performance area has a two story high ceiling, and as you watch the Capoeira performance, it becomes clear why.

The octet of musicians of the Brazil So Music are also wonderfully costumed, and they provide the Carnival rhythms and melodies for the show's bright bejeweled Latin American dancers dressed in elaborate Brazilian Samba costumes that carry the weight of



the show. By the end of the show, the dancers draw diners onto the floor for an orgy of Latin music and dance. The cover fee for the show is a paltry 400 rubles, which is added to your restaurant check, and it includes a beer or Cuba Libre.

**The Bar**

When the show is finished, it's time to move over to the bar. The 400 rubles paid in the restaurant covers the entry fee to the bar as well. The bar is like a country village scene, less formal and by midnight even more rollicking than its neighbor. The dance floor becomes a mix of guests, Cuban dancers, and the Creacion Latina musicians. Creacion Latina is formed from Cuban workers from a village in Las Tunas and they bring authentic Cuban music to the big city. There's not much we remember after this.

In Brazil, the 2008 Carnival has just finished, but the show goes on at Old Havana. We'll see you there this weekend. **P**



# Touching the Strings of the Heart

text Natalia Shuvalova

photographs S. Zverev



This little guy has a big future. At least it feels like it by the pace at which his popularity grows. His stage name is DiDuLa (which he seems to use in life as well)... He is a guitar-player and composer. We met in a coffee shop right after he got back from his latest concert somewhere in the middle of Russia. Jeans and a jacket: everything is stylish but simple. His clothing is not that simple on stage. His aim is to make every live performance a big celebration of life, love and music. He treasures his time, answering the questions very much to the point.

**There is a small city called Grodno at the Western border of Byelorussia. Due to its location, the city always had close connections with Poland and the Baltic countries and through them, with the West. That greatly influenced its cultural and architectural heritage, as well as the musical education of its people. We do not mean the classics of course. We mean that its residents had all the Western music available (pop, rock and disco) even when the Iron Curtain blocked this stream of music from Soviet ears.**

**That is where DiDuLa was born and spent his childhood and teenage years.**

It was fortunate to be born in this place. We were able to get lots of music records and even tune into Western radio stations. I was exposed to all the variety of popular Western music. Though

it would be a lie to say that I owe my musical growth to Western music. I loved and I love listen to everything. I find inspiration in different styles, cultures...

**Whenever you talk about music and guitars, it sounds like music was your passion from childhood, as soon as you could hold a guitar.**

Yes and no. I was drawn to music from the age of five, when my mother gave me a small guitar for children for my birthday. Yet, I did so many other things – sports, radio technology. At that time children had so many opportunities to study and learn at no cost. I sincerely believe that Soviet times offered much more opportunities than now. A child could always be occupied instead of just roaming the streets.

**Did you go to musical school?**

No, but I had many teachers. Everyone around me was playing

guitar. I had many people to show me the chords, ways of arranging them together and styles of playing. I am grateful to all of them, but I believe that practice is the best teacher. Mostly I learned from playing. From the very beginning I loved improvisations and experiments with sound. I would add various gadgets to my guitar; sound boosters, for example.

**On your web-page you have a whole section devoted to the collection of the guitars you have. You speak of them as if they are living beings...**

They are! I have no doubt in that. My relationship with the guitar is the most intimate relationship in my life. It is mutual love. Just like a human, a guitar has its moods. There are days when it goes smoothly and well, and my guitar allows me to tap into great melodies and rhythms. And there are days when she does not want to communicate at all. It requires lots of emotional involvement, passion and patience. I love it! It is my life and I could hardly choose anything else. Music teaches me all the truths about life. Some practice yoga – I just play my music.

**Your collection is not just a series of instruments to display on a wall, you use a lot of them during the performances and in your recordings. How do you get these instruments and how did you get the idea to mix various musical styles?**

I am never loyal to any tradition. When I worked as a sound engineer for a Belorussian dance group, I learned a lot about our folk music. Not only that, I learned even more about sound as such, how it is made, how the audience reacts to it. Though, as I already said, I am a cosmopolitan musician. Wherever I travel I try to learn about the local music and its instruments. That's how I have them. Then they naturally become part of my compositions.

**Now you travel a lot. Do you find any differences between the audiences?**

People are people everywhere. What I love about music is that it is universal. It touches us all, no matter what language we speak, which country we live in. We all love, laugh, cry... The only difference that I notice is the kind presents that people bring!



**Do you choose different people to perform with on stage and in the studio or do you have the same group?**

I have the same group of about 10 people. We are all great friends. I give each of them their creative space, as they are real professionals and can do wonders with their instruments. Music we do is a team and every member is very important.

**You have worked with some of the Western music stars?**

We played with Brian Adams when I worked with Andrey Konchalovsky in his movie "House of Fools".

**Do you find it difficult to work with famous people?**

Not at all! I would say the opposite. They are very easy to work with, as they know what they are doing, they are talented, skilled and experienced. They are not trying to show off and prove anything to anyone. At the moment I work a lot with famous Russian musicians.

**What are you plans for the future?**

That's a sort of an abstract question, don't you think? Of course I have plans for the future but I try to concentrate on my plans for the next five years. Besides, I won't reveal all of my ideas. (smiles)

**Let's put it in a different way: what are your immediate future projects?**

There are many, but the one that is worth mentioning is a series of concerts at the orphanages. I would like kids to know that there is music and such an instrument as a guitar. I want to bring inspiration into their lives. I truly believe that it can save at least some of them from getting lost in their lives... Right now we are working at finding financial support for this project.

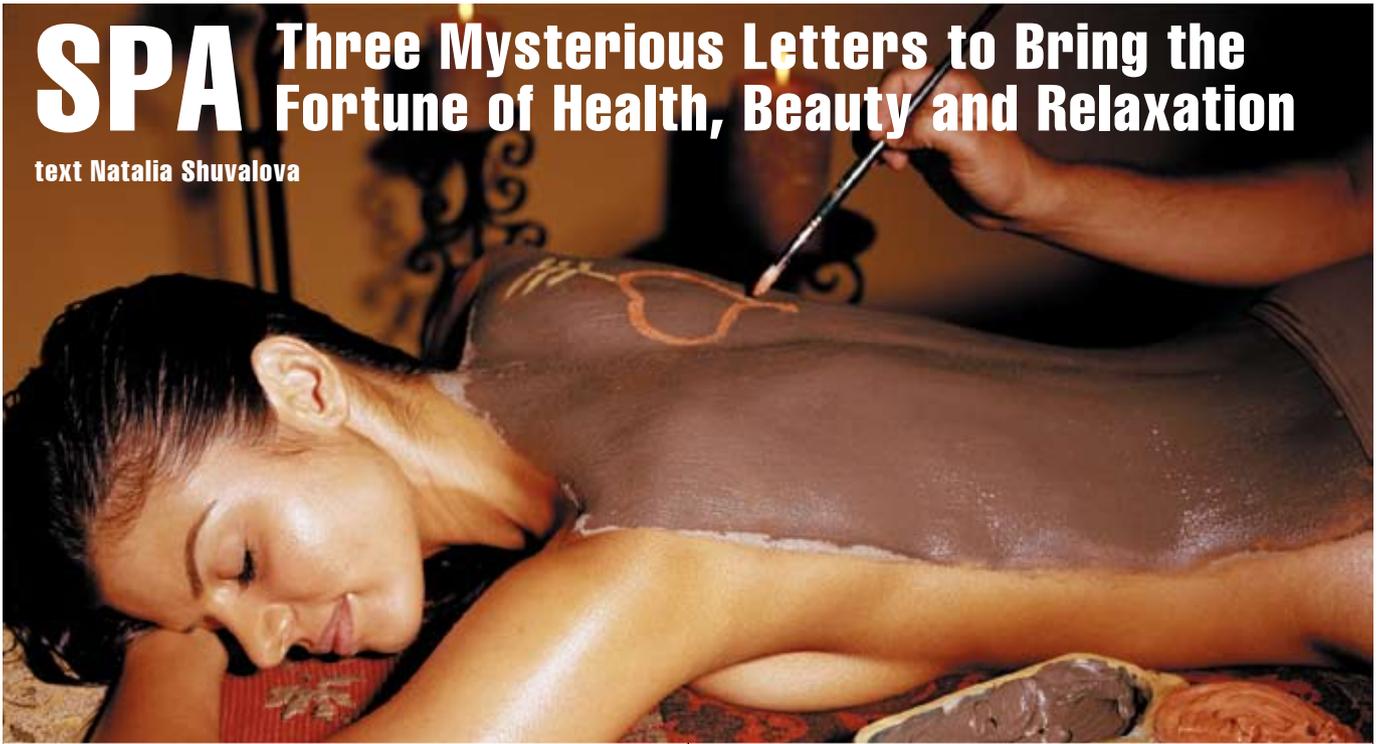
**That's a great idea! Anything else?**

Concerts, records, records, concerts – playing music! **P**



# SPA Three Mysterious Letters to Bring the Fortune of Health, Beauty and Relaxation

text Natalia Shuvalova



Spas have become as popular as Star Bucks coffee. In the USA you can take your doggy to a pet spa. I am not sure that you have this option in Moscow, not yet... But otherwise, Moscow keeps up with the rest of the world.

It is a common belief that the word SPA is abbreviation from the latin phrase Sanus Per Aqua, that is health through water. But that is a delusion. The Romans could have used some of the modern treatments but there is no such a phrase in Latin vocabulary.

In reality, the origins of the word spa go back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Then the place in Belgium called Spa became a very popular with the Belgium tourists. In 17<sup>th</sup> century the word already was applied to various mineral springs in Great Britain and other countries. In the late XXth century the word was used for the wellness-oasis in resort hotels. Now... now it is used all over... If you ever get confused, the Webster knows the answer: "Spa is a commercial establishment providing facilities devoted especially to health, fitness, weight loss, beauty and relaxation".

As the devoted SPA specialists say: "Spa is not just a series of treatments or ways of spending time, it is a philosophy of being!"

The authentic Russian Spa is the traditional Russian Banya – very hot, very humid and very much loved by the nation. Our grannies will never even compare it with the delicate Asian treatments. Here everything is for real – the steam, the heat, the birch or oak besom they beat each other with – yes, with lots of ah and oh exclamations and much excitement. They do not mind sharing a big hall with a dozen other women; they do not care that the place is far from being fancy and the personnel are far from being friendly. As long as they get their parilka – a room with intense humid heat – and their branch of oak or birch, they enjoy life to the maximum.

The modern generation, though, prefers minimalist zen to the outdated extremes. Fortunately, the demand is met with ever-growing supply.

Every Spa Center includes a whole variety of options. First of all, you have to choose at least between Turkish Hamam, Roman Therms, Finnish Sauna, Russian banya and Japanese O-furo.

Russian Banya is very much like a Finnish sauna, the difference is that a sauna is dry while the banya is humid. Humidity makes it much easier to sweat and releases the toxins from the body. It also very conducive for all kind of aromas that one can breathe with the steam or

absorb from the dry leaves of the besom. When speaking about Russian banyas, many got scared with the thought of being beaten with birch or eucalyptus branches. But the truth is that the branches should never really beat the body, they hardly touch the skin. The point of the procedure is to condense the steam as close to the body as possible, not to beat the client up...

Turkish Hamam is traditional for the Islamic countries. The specialty of it is that one lays on a warm marble. The Harar – the steam room– is full of vapor and essential aromas. The steaming is usually accompanied by massage, peeling, oblations and soap-foam massage. While in Russians use the besoms, the Turks use towels to direct the steam and heat to the body.

Roman Therms have lots of specifics. Their steam is both dry and humid, which is achieved by the special architecture, the stone that is used and other aspects. One has to be well acquainted with the banya and spa topic to understand all the peculiarities. The good news is that this knowledge is not obligatory to enjoy the whole variety of traditions.

Japanese O-furo is great for those who cannot stand the heat. They use special barrels with hot water and oils. The benefit is that the head never gets hot. The treatment has several steps. First, hot barrel. One just sits on a small bench right inside of the barrel, while the shoulders and head are being massaged. Of course, the water has special oils and may even have rose petals. Second, one lies down on warm cedar wood planks. Third, stone therapy – lying on very warm special stones.

The choice is wide and depends a lot on personal preferences and health conditions.

To be able to compete in the market, each spa has its own specialty.

For instance, "Banya Estate" is all about luxury and abundance. "We are open 24 hours, and always ready to provide any service to our clients" says their PR manager. "Once we had a client who wanted to take a barrel with Champagne after the steam room... that was about 2 a.m. We managed! The whole personnel was involved! Just imagine how many bottles of Champagne we needed to fill the whole barrel!"

This establishment is part of a chain. Each section consists of several little houses, devoted to a particular tradition mentioned above. Each of them is available for rent as a hotel room.

For instance, Japanese O-furo has at least three rooms: one with two cedar-wood barrels and two cedar-wood special baths, a tea-room and a bedroom. All is in exquisite oriental design. VIP service includes geisha (nothing intimate...at least that's what they claim), who takes care of treatments, entertainment, tea ceremony and meals.

As for Russian Banyas – they are designed as a part of a whole house with a little yard, a swimming pool and a barrel outside.

They promise to offer the best banya men, who know all about the steam, the herbs to use and massages.

These guys are nothing like the tiny and gentle Japanese ladies. They are robust and brawny fellows. "There are many people willing to learn this art," says one of them, "But only few can do it! Imagine working hard in the humid heat for several hours a day!"

If you are looking more into Zen place, Banya Estate maybe not the best choice. There are other options.

Royal Rixos Spa is located in the huge European shopping mall. It belongs to the chain of Turkish hotels. Its owner was joking (though, he could have been serious) about building a tunnel bridge going to the reconstructed Ukraina Hotel. For now, there is no bridge, but a sandy beach, big swimming pool, Turkish Hamam, Russian Banya, Finish Sauna, aroma room, snow room, several massage rooms, rest halls, beauty saloon and fitness. You can get the idea that a visit to a place like that may take the whole of the day.

Their specialty is the Turkish Hamam with many Turkish employees to do the treatments. "We believe in authentic traditions thus we hire people from the country where this or that therapy comes from," their PR manager explains. Thus, Thai massage is made Thais, Aurvedic – by Indians etc.

Its view over the Kutuzovsky prospect, which is always in traffic jams, creates an incredible contrast. Of course, Spa is always associated with peaceful nature, like mountains and ocean waves. Yet, when relaxing in one of the Rixos halls, sipping freshly squeezed juice or freshly brewed tea, you can truly enjoy watching the busy city, its constantly changing billboards, people rushing, cars getting stuck... it feels like watching the planet Earth from far away, like in a crystal ball. It makes one wonder – what is it that they all run after?

Well... when paying the bill, you get down to the earth and ready to join all of those running around.

One day visit costs about 200 USD. The price includes fitness center and beauty saloon.

Another one that is worthy mentioning is First Spa Beauty and Relaxation Center. It has a wide range of spa programs and all of the corresponding treatments: peelings, wrappings, all kinds of massages, foot and hand care, hair care, sun-tan studio, Aurveda... Their Spa decor is created with such materials as sea stones, leather and pearl mosaics not to mention water falls and candle lights. It is very easy to reach as its location is not far from the



center. Another oasis right in the middle of the rushing city... Another one that is not cheap. Every treatment will cost you about 150 USD...

Well, let's assume that prosperity is part of the spa philosophy. Maybe making spas a part of your life, you can always stay in shape for a good career. Otherwise, create a spa at home! Make yourself a warm bath, add some nice sea salt with lavender essential oils, light some candles, put on soothing music... and just relax! **P**



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## Mediterranean Tour

text Charles W. Borden

The venue for this month's tasting, *?*, features a Mediterranean menu. Also, we were to be joined at this event by Henri Bernabe, director of a leading grape-vine producer and our host on France's Mediterranean coast in Montpellier during the recent Knights of the Vine gathering. So Passport publisher John Ortega decided take our Russian Knights of the Vine on tour of Mediterranean wine country.

Broadly speaking, most wines from Italy, Spain, France, Greece, Cyprus, Croatia, Turkey, Lebanon, Israel, Tunisia, Malta and Morocco would qualify as Mediterranean. However, we decided to confine our selections to the coastal areas of several countries, vineyards where one can practically feel the sea breeze. Since

the fashionable wines of Spain, France and Italy are mostly inland, this month's selections were sure to open new vistas for the Knights of the Vine.

With more than the usual advance notice, we were able to fully prepare for this tasting. Normally, John and I cruise the wine boutiques on Kutuzovsky and he buys wines based upon shop recommendations. This time I was able to obtain the price lists from the importers that own the boutiques – DP Trade, Simple and Kauffman – and do some research. I first selected out the wines from coastal areas – wine regions that overlook the Mediterranean – Penedes, Priorat and Montsant of Spain; Provence and Languedoc of France; and Bolgheri, Sicily, Campania, Calabria of

Italy. I next checked the Robert Parker and Wine Spectator rating of each, narrowed the selection down to about 20 wines, and highlighted my first choices. This served as a checklist for visits to Grand Cru and Kauffman. We also stopped at Kollection Wine, where John bought Greek wines, a white and a red.

The first wine from each flight (white and red) was a Greek wine. Although Greece stands at the ancient cradle of winemaking, it does not have much of a reputation for fine wines. However, like many other countries in recent years, modern winemakers have begun to make better use of local conditions with local grape varieties. The Greek white was Sigales Santorini from self-taught



Vincenzo Guglielmi, John Ortega



winemaker Paris Sigales on the island of Santorini. Trained in Math at the Sorbonne, and a teacher, playwright, artist and philologist, Paris put his hand to winemaking. This wine, made from the *Asyrtiko* grape is dry, strong but very pleasing, and it beat out the whites from Italy and Spain.

All of our whites were dominated by local grape varieties, starting with the Mastroberardino

Radici *Fiano di Avellino* 2006, a straw-colored wine with heavy fruit and nut notes from the *Fiano* grape. Mastroberardino is a legendary Campania winemaker, located at the foot of Pompeii on Italy's west coast, which has conserved ancient varieties and created single-variety wines with them. The Librandi *Efese* 2004 hails from Calabria, at the sole and toe of Italy. This Parker 91 scoring wine is made from the *Mantonico* grape, which is normally used for dessert wines, but in this case, as a dry wine, makes a good partner for Mediterranean fish soup or grilled meats.

The last white, Gran Caus Can Rafols dels Caus 2003, is from the rugged terrain of the Garraf Massif in the Catalan coastal range. This wine is a blend of 50% of the local Xarel-lo with 30% Chardonnay and 20% Chenin Blanc. It was a pleasure to enjoy the local expressions of grape and terroir that these four white wines provided.



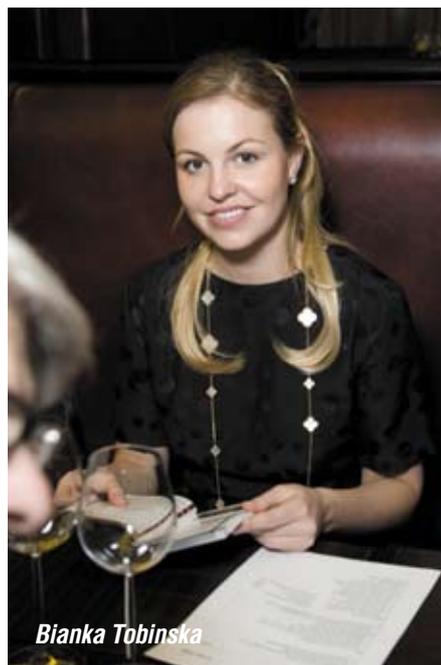
image from its Marsala heritage by producing a broader selection of good white and red wines. The predominant red grape of Sicily is Nero d'Avola, and the Tasca d'Almerita Rosso del Conte Contea Sclafani is an icon of this Sicilian grape, produced non-traditionally with French oak barrel ageing.

We returned to Mastroberardino in Campania for another history lesson, this time with the local *Aglianico* and *Piedirosso* grapes used in Irpinia Naturalis Historia 2000, an earthy yet slightly fruity and lively wine. This was our runner-up red, described by Wine Spectator

Peter Konunnikov with his wife Svetlana



To start the reds, it was back to Greece, from Domaine Kokotos in northern Attica near Mount Penteli, the area where Dionysos, the god of wine, first gave vine cultivation and wine culture to Greece. Though Domaine Kokotos has a planted a number of foreign cultivars, their Semeli Nemea is made from 100% *Agiorgitiko*, which produces a deep cherry-colored wine. Our next stop was Sicily, where modern winemakers have begun to transform the island's





**Knights of the Vine:**

- John Ortega, General Director, International Apparel
- Charles Borden, Director, Meridian Capital
- Henri Bernabi, Richter Group, France
- Sammy Kotwani, Proprietor, Imperial Tailoring
- Andrey Davydov, Business Manager, Savant International
- Stephan Andersson, Director, Vice President, IKEA
- Galina Likhacheva, Deputy Editor, Magnum magazine
- Bianka Tobinska, Real Estate Lawyer, Clifford Chance CIS Limited
- Jonathan Tubb, Chief Financial Officer, Deloitte & Touche CIS
- Peter Konunnikov, General Director, Alter Moda
- Svetlana Konunnikov, Director, Alter Moda
- George Voloshin, Managing Director, Passport Magazine
- Viktoria Tkacheva, Logistics Director, International Apparel

as *“Spicy and ripe with leather and berry character. Full-bodied, with firm tannins and a long finish. A bit rustic but good.”*

Next stop Sardinia, just a short hop across the water, for a taste of Agricola Punica Barrua IGT 2003, a Wine Spectator '92 wine that is a blend of Carignano with old bush vine Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot, producing an intense, dark, yet fruity wine that scores well with the experts.

I had most anticipated the next wine, Montepeloso Eneo IGT 2001, and was not disappointed. This was the one wine on our list from a “fashionable” or even hot area, Bogheri on the Tuscan coast. The Eneo, which is mostly Sangiovese, with some Colorino and Merlot grapes, is Montepeloso’s basic red wine. This was a powerful, open and complex wine, ready to drink at this moment. The Wine Advocate described it as offering *“a fine combination of black fruit, wild cherries and leather on the nose, along with a touch of incense and cedar. Ripe, soft, and textured, it is a remarkable effort for a regular bottling.”*

Then we went back to the Spanish coast near Barcelona, for wines from Montsant, Priorat and Penedes. The Laurona 2002



	Wine	Retail (RR)	Retail (USD)	Rating
<b>White</b>				
1	Sigales Santorini (Santorini, Greece)	1,290	\$53	3.95
2	Mastroberardino Radici Fiano di Avellino DOC 2006 (Campania, Italy)	1,100	\$45	3.32
3	Librandi Efeso IGT 2004 (Calabria, Italy)	2,000	\$82	3.72
4	Gran Caus Can Rafols dels Caus 2003 (Penedes, Spain)	914	\$37	3.67
<b>Red</b>				
1	Semeli Nemea 2004 (Attica, Greece)	890	\$36	3.12
2	Tasca d’Almerita Rosso del Conte Contea Sclafani DOC 2003 (Sicily)	1,638	\$67	3.18
3	Mastroberardino Irpinia Naturalis Historia 2000 (Campania, Italy)	2,132	\$87	4.02
4	Agricola Punica Barrua IGT 2003 (Sardinia, Italy)	2,380	\$97	3.60
5	Montepeloso Eneo IGT 2001 (Bolgheri, Italy)	1,785	\$73	3.83
6	Laurona 2002 Falset (Montsant, Spain)	1,051	\$43	3.61
7	Clos Mogodor 2001 (Priorat, Spain)	3,194	\$130	4.23
8	Can Rafols dels Caus, Caus Lubis Merlot 1998 (Penedes, Spain)	3,650	\$149	3.79
9	Domaine Bunan Moulin des Costes Tuvee Charriage 2000 (Bandol, Provence)	4,100	\$167	3.40
		26,123	\$1066	



Sammy Kotwani, John Ortega

Falset is a blend of 30% Garnacha, 30% Carinena, 15% Syrah, 15% Merlot and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. A co-owner of this estate is the well-respected Rene Barbier of Clos Mogador, the winery that provided our next selection and my personal favorite, Clos Mogador 2001. With a Wine Spectator 95 and Parker 98, it turned out to be the top in this Passport rating as well. Wine Advocate described it as:

*“Simply sensational, this inky/purple-colored 2001 boasts gorgeous blueberry and raspberry liqueur characteristics intertwined with crushed stone, lilac, and subtle background espresso/toasty new oak notes. Powerful, concentrated, and multi-layered, with tremendous purity and intensity, this prodigious effort is one of the candidates for wine of the vintage in Priorat.”*

We finished with the most expensive, but certainly not highest scoring reds: Can Rafols dels Gaus, Gaus Lubis Merlot 1998 from Penedes and then Domaine Bunan Moulin des Costes Cuvee Charrriage 2000 from Provence. We again learned that there is no correlation between price and quality in the wine business. **P**



Henri Bernabi



Andrey Davydov



Simon Connolly, Jonathan Tubb



Charles Borden



Galina Likhacheva, John Ortega

Ortega Easy Rating System	
I love this wine!	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 5 pts.
I really like this wine!	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ 4 pts.
This wine is good!	✓ ✓ ✓ 3 pts.
This wine is not that good!	✓ ✓ 2 pts.
I don't really care for this wine!	✓ 1 pt.

A perfect romantic date at home! Enjoy this interview with chef Laura Bridge and she will give you the ideal recipe for a romantic evening at home.

## How Can You Help to Produce a Romantic Atmosphere for Woman's Day?

Text Annet Kulyagina  
Photos Alexey Zhukov

**They say in Russia that a path to a man's heart goes through his stomach, do you agree?**

Yes, and without hesitation I would say the emotional attachment to simple home cooking is what keeps a man happy! Over the years I've cooked for many people, from Prince Charles to Formula One drivers and their mechanics, and honestly their most popular requests were for simply-prepared food where the high quality ingredients stand out. Of course they would eat out at chic restaurants, but who wants to eat rich, foamed, molecular, or fancy food every night? 'Keep it simple' is the philosophy of Correa's restaurants, and we have many clients who eat with us on a daily basis.

Also, let's not forget that the heart plays an important physical function in our lives, so no matter what type of food your man desires make sure it's nutritious as well!

**And where does this path go to a woman's heart?**

I believe that women are more interested in the path taken rather than the end result.

For instance women are more touched by the fact that their men spent the time to cook for them rather than what the meal actually was. Over-cooked, served raw or simply unrecognizable, a woman will still feel that the meal is special because her man took the time to make it. We're a lot more forgiving that way!

**And why do you think there are more men chefs than women chefs?**

There are perhaps several reasons behind this. First, the working environment in a commercial kitchen is very arduous. Chefs spend long hours in a heat-filled kitchen dealing with constant demands from both the front of the restaurant and their kitchen staff. Chefs are also, generally, very demanding on themselves and passionate about the food they produce. We spend hours wresting perfection from our staff, our flavors and ourselves. It is a very challenging and emotional world where each day leaves you exhausted, but in the end it's all worth it when you see someone enjoying your creation.

What does it mean to you to be a professional in what you do?

A professional in the kitchen knows how to pass their passion for their food on to others. In a good kitchen the staff works together to prepare perfect meals for their clients. Promoting hard work and cohesiveness for each meal is a challenge that must be met in order to realize one's vision. If everyone goes home at the end of the day happy with the product they put out, then the head chef did his or her job correctly. A spotless kitchen is of course an unspoken prerequisite as well!

**Can you make a wonderful dish out of simple potato?**

Absolutely! What is tastier than simple mashed potatoes? Potato gratin is also a delicious favorite of mine.

**What is the most complicated thing for a woman when she is a chef?**

That would definitely be preserving any bit of femininity she has! You can completely forget the image of looking like a ravishing Nigella Lawson, domestic goddess, in a commercial kitchen!

For practicality, the chef's uniform is never flattering. Instead imagine surgeon-like prep gloves, hair completely scraped back, no nail polish, no dangling jewelry, or high heeled shoes. It's hot and steamy, so forget perfume, and only bother to wear waterproof mascara! Personally I swear like a trouper too, which is never lady-like, and by the end of the day, you might find the odd random fish-scale in your hair etc.

In other words, femininity and commercial kitchens simply do not mix!

**What is the main ingredient of a romantic dinner?**

I would say the company! However other important factors to remember is good candle light, turning off the mobile phone, relaxing background music, good wine, and most importantly advanced preparation, so you end up sitting opposite each other, face to face, instead of panicking in the kitchen!

It's also a good idea to think about the menu in advance. For instance, certain ingredients do not work well with romance. Ingredients to stay away from would be: raw garlic or onion, seeds, spinach, and bits that can catch in the teeth, and no deadly vegetables such as Jerusalem artichokes, broccoli or cabbage, which can induce unwanted odors!!

I'd also keep the meal as light as possible, otherwise you will have no romantic conclusion to the date, since you'll both end up falling asleep on the sofa!

Aphrodisiac foods such as asparagus, figs, and strawberries which can be shared and fed with fingers can also be romantic and fun.

When you prepare your own dish, do you claim author's rights? What if you don't want someone else to prepare it?

I think that it is impossible to claim rights to a dish. If you serve your own signature plate and create contented clients as a result, that is the best reward you could have. **P**





## Fig & goats' Cheese salad with toasted walnuts shards of prosciutto & pomegranate – serves 2

- 3 small figs
- 1 tablespoon pomegranate seeds
- A bunch of arugula
- A small bunch of frisse lettuce
- 60 g prosciutto
- 2 table spoons of soft goats' cheese
- 6 walnut halves toasted

## Seared tuna loin with a sesame crust & wasabi hollandaise served with jasmine rice and an avocado salad – Serves 2

- 2 Tuna loin steaks, about 200g each
- 4 table spoon of sesame seeds
- 1 table spoon olive oil
- Salt and cracked black pepper
- Jasmine rice 120g

### Hollandaise

- 1 egg yolk
- Squeeze of lemon juice to taste
- Pinch of salt
- 60 g unsalted butter
- A pea-size squeeze of wasabi paste

### Avocado Salad

- 1 lime
- 1 teaspoon sesame oil
- Black pepper to taste
- 2 teaspoons Thai fish sauce (optional)
- 2 teaspoons sweet chilli dipping sauce
- 1 small cucumber
- 1 ripe avocado
- 8 sprigs of coriander



### Method

Coat the tuna steaks in the sesame seeds and set aside on a plate covered with cling-film in the fridge

To make the hollandaise, melt the butter, and set aside. Meanwhile put the egg yolk in a small bowl, set over boiling water and whisk with a squeeze of lemon juice and a pinch of salt until it becomes pale and thick in consistency. Be careful not to scramble the yolk. Then very slowly add the butter until it is all incorporated. Whisk in the wasabi to taste. (Alternatively you can place the yolk in a blender, and very slowly add the hot butter)

Do not refrigerate, but leave at room temperature. Put the rice in a saucepan and cover with double the amount of water. Cover with a lid and cook for 10 minutes. Leave the lid on until all the water has absorbed and the rice has become sticky, (another 10 minutes).

For the salad, squeeze the juice of 1/2 the lime into a bowl and add the sesame oil, (fish sauce) and sweet chilli dipping sauce. Mix together. Peel and split the cucumber lengthways. Use a teaspoon to remove the seeds. Thinly slice into half-moons. Run a knife round the avocado, twist apart, then remove the stone and skin. Slice across the avocado and toss with the juice of the other 1/2 lime to season and stop discoloration. When you are ready, mix the avocado, with the cucumber, some chopped coriander and dressing.

Heat the oil in a non-stick frying pan, and when it begins to smoke, add the tuna steaks and fry on each side for 1 minute for rare steaks, or longer if you prefer your tuna cooked through.

To serve, spoon the rice onto warmed plates, cut the tuna steaks in half and stack onto the rice mound. Drizzle with wasabi hollandaise. Serve with the salad on the side, topped with coriander.

**Gin & Rose Tonic Sorbet - serves 2**

- 1 small gin and tonic 200ml
- Rose flavoured tonic 'Holy Grail' Brand 50ml
- Finely grated zest of 1/2 lemon – (optional)
- 1 Egg white
- 1 tablespoon of fine white sugar

Whisk the egg whites in a completely clean bowl until they become peaks, and the sugar and continue beating until you regain firm peaks.

Combine with the gin, tonic and zest, and whisk vigorously. Put into a container and freeze. It is essential to whisk at intervals, at least 5-6 times, to combine the egg whites with the gin and tonic mixture.



**Rosemary dressing**

- 1/2 teaspoon finely chopped rosemary leaves
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon water
- Pinch of salt
- Black pepper to taste
- 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

Toast walnuts on a baking sheet in the oven at 300 degrees until they are just fragrant, about 4-5 minutes. Transfer to a plate to cool.

In a food processor, or metal bowl, combine rosemary, honey, vinegar, water, mustard, salt, and pepper. Slowly blend in the oil.

Combine arugula, frisse, figs and walnuts in a salad bowl. Give the dressing a final whisk and toss with salad. Divide salad onto two plates and garnish with crumbled goat cheese. Finish by scattering the pomegranate seeds around the plate



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## Back to the Future

text Charles W. Borden

I never expected to enter the building at Tsvetnoy Bulvar 30 again, even if a restaurant should open in the space once briefly occupied by the Doug Steele Steak House, the center of a business meltdown that left a number of expat and Russian investors holding their heads. When I got a call and an invite from publisher John Ortega to check out the new restaurant at that location, which bears the name – ?, I refused. But the next day, I yielded after hearing John's raves about the work of Chef Vincenzo Gugielmi. John arranged a Passport staff meeting at ? followed the next night by a Mediterranean wine tasting.

Although there is still no sign on the street, and the restaurant is no easier to find than the "Steakhouse," being set back as it is behind a large gate, the entrance and first floor of the building are now re-done and ready for business. There were even no-skid strips on the once slippery tile entry stairway. Upstairs, little has changed from the previous incarnation. Gone are the books from the heavy, dark wooden bookshelves, and the walls are now garnished with dozens of photographs of Sophia Loren and Mari-

lyn Monroe. A large, but currently fishless aquarium occupies the center of the restaurant. The space still has the luxurious, gent's club feel that the Steakhouse had, with its dark brown, lushly upholstered leather chairs and dark wood trim.

Italian Chef Vincenzo Gugielmi greeted us warmly and stayed to discuss his kitchen and cuisine. Vincenzo hails from Bari, Italy, on the Adriatic coast in the Apulia (Puglia) region. Like many Italian chefs, his mother was his first teacher and he was already an accomplished cook by the age of 15. Vincenzo has traveled the world as a chef, or as he says, a "hotel chef" in Singapore, Kuwait, Puerto Vallarta, and Egypt among other places.

The core of the Passport crew was gathered for an adventure in dining: George Voloshin, Anna Kulyagina, Linda Lippner and Andrey Vodenikov, myself and Passport Publisher Ortega. Although the wine list is spare, there were some good selections. John is partial to Amarone, so he was happy to find Villabella Amarone 2001 and it was so tasty that we made our way through several bottles. Amarone is made from grapes that are allowed to dry for



several months to concentrate sugar and flavors and later aged for several years in oak barrels.

Once the wine was set and orders placed, Vincenzo sent out his "complement of the Chef," mussels sitting in their shell with a cream sauce and served with arugula and bread slices with olive oil. My starter was Chessboard of Tuna and King Fish with Greek Tzatziki Salad (430r), a beautiful set of square inches of red tuna and white kingfish laid out like a chessboard, each square dabbed with a light sauce of citrus and sea urchin essence. The tender pieces of very fresh fish were delightful. Linda ordered the Carpaccio of Herbed Marinated Beef (480r), which she said was "very light and delicate with a mild sauce of honey grain mustard dressing."

John started with the Tartare of Lightly Steamed Prawns served on a Blend of Green Peas & Anchovies with Crispy Leeks (950r) and also King Crab Chunks in Almond Crust served on a Confit of Cherry Tomatoes and Crispy Streaked Bacon (1,230r). I snatched a taste of each. The thinly shaved crispy leeks were well matched with the mound of diced, fresh shrimp below. The sections of soft King crab were generous, and the firm, smoky and crispy lengths bacon drew me into ordering this appetizer the next night at our wine tasting.

For dinner, I ordered the Tagliatelle in Roasted Bell Pepper and Hazelnut Sauce, served with Pata Negra Ham and Burrata (930r). The tagliatelle was perfectly cooked, a solid base for the nutty flavor combination of the pepper and hazelnut, and the creamy sections of Burrata cheese. John had already tried the Home made Pappardelle with Braised Lamb Shank (700r), and recommended it around the table. This consists of a large piece of lamb on the bone, placed upright on a bed of Pappardelle with the creamy sauce.

Linda ordered Grilled Lamb Chops served with Gratinated Lasagna with Burrata and Mint & Chili Pesto (1,050r) which she described as "delicate and melt in your mouth lamb chops; easy for a "lady" to pick them up and get every little morsel off the bone!"

We don't often have room for desserts, but a few of the Passport staff managed. Linda picked a Parfait served on Pineapple Compote with Coconut Crème Brule. "A very nice crispy Crème Brule, perfect with the fresh pineapple compote and the vanilla ice cream." We all managed a Limoncello to close the evening."

This visit was Deja vu with a few familiar faces in the background. I was glad to see that the Russian investors in the previous incarnation had managed to recoup something through ownership of the current restaurants. Like the previous management, they are fortunate to have a great chef. We have yet to try the Asian restaurant downstairs, and I won't object too strongly if John wants to go back. **P**




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7/9 Ul. Kuznetsky Most, (495) 923-1701  
M.Kuznetsky most **E B R**

**CITY GRILL \$\$** Contemporary European cuisine, state-of-the-art interior. Noon-2:00.  
2/30 Sad.-Triumphalnaya Ul., (495) 699-0953  
M.Mayakovskaya **E B R**

**BISTROT \$\$\$\$** Italian cuisine, three dining rooms, VIP hall, summer patio. Noon-05:00.  
12 Bol.Savinsky Per., Bldg. 2, (495) 248-4045  
M.Kievskaya **E R**

**CIPOLLINO \$\$\$\$** Coffee and cream-colored stylish Italian eatery a stone's throw from Christ the Savior Cathedral. Three halls with numerous divans make for cozy dining in this upmarket restaurant. Noon-6:00.  
7 Soimonovskiy Proyezd, Bldg. 1, (495) 291-6576  
M.Kropotkinskaya

**CONCERTO RESTAURANT AND BAR \$\$\$\$**  
Experience Italian cooking combined with the freshest herbs and ingredients. Guests are entertained by the live show in the theatre kitchen, where the Italian dishes are produced in the burning oven. A large variety of pizzas and wide choice of cheeses. For beverages you can rely on the expertise of our sommelier.  
12:00-16:00  
Kosmodamianskaya Nab., 52 Building 6, (495) 787-9800 ext. 3196  
M.Paveletskaya

**SETTEBELLO \$\$\$\$** Classic Italian menu with a Russian twist. Cozy coffee lounge. Noon-last guest.  
3 Sadovaya-Samotechnaya Ul., (495) 699-1656  
M.Tsvetnoi Bulvar **K R**

**MARIO \$\$\$** Delightful elegance and style flavored with the best quality Italian dishes.  
17 Ul. Klimashkina, (495) 253-6505  
M.Ulitsa 1905 Goda **E R**

**SPAGO \$\$\$** Stylish restaurant with a wide range of pastas. Live music. Noon-23:00  
1 Bolshoi Zlatoustinsky Pereulok, (495) 921-3797  
M.Lubyanka **E B**

**13 SANDWICHES BISTRO \$** Cozy Italian eatery serving warm pressed gourmet sandwiches.  
9:00-21:00, delivery 19:00.  
www.13sandwiches.ru  
21 Ul. Trubnaya, (495) 106-4996  
M.Trubnaya

**SUDAR \$\$\$\$** Russian cuisine. Authentic russian dishes. Recipes from old cookbooks.Noon-16:00 – 25% discount. 19th century mansion interior. Summer terrace called "Abazhur". Noon-last guest.  
36a Kutuzovskiy Prospekt, (499) 249-6965  
M.Park Pobedy or Kutuzovskaya

**CAFE PUSHKIN \$\$\$\$** A Moscow classic serving upmarket Russian cuisine in lavish, 19th century surroundings. Bustling ground-floor dining hall and a more sophisticated (and pricier) experience complete with classical quartet, on the upper levels. Reservation essential. 24 hours.  
Tverskoy Bulvar, 26a, (495) 699-5590  
M.Pushkinskaya

**1 RED SQUARE \$\$\$** The menu features lavish, centuries-old recipes. Expect cream-laden meat dishes with fruit-based sauces and live folk music. Noon-midnight.  
1 Krasnaya Ploshchad, (495) 625-3600  
M.Okhotny Ryad

**SENO \$\$** This inexpensive Russian restaurant is a good option for the budget- or time-conscious. Its excellent self-service buffet offers a wide range of salads and hot meals. 9:00-midnight.  
6 Kamergersky Pereulok, Bldg. 1, (495)692-0452  
M.Tverskaya

**CAFE ROSET \$\$\$\$** Along with an excellent kitchen, Cafe Roset offers a spectacular wine on the list, the Australian, Clarendon Hills Syrah. 9:00 - midnight.  
29, Kutusovskiy Prospekt, (495) 249-9040  
M.Kutuzovskaya

**BLUE ELEPHANT \$\$\$\$** Royal Thai cuisine with impeccable service. One of the newest in the worldwide chain features Royal Thai Platter to sample a range of Thai specialties. Three Elephant rating means very spicy-hot while no elephants mean it's mild enough to serve the kids.  
Noon-midnight  
31 Novinsky Blvd, (495) 580-7757  
M.Barrikadnaya **E K**

**GUILLY'S \$\$\$** "Guilly's" is the oldest, and best steakhouse in Moscow. The restaurant is situated in a cozy multi-room basement of a historic mansion built in the early 19th century. There's always soft background music on, lights are adjusted to the time of day.  
6 Stoleshnikov Per. (495) 933-5521  
M.Okhotny ryad **E K**

**T.G.I. FRIDAY'S \$\$\$** American favorites in a cozy wood-paneled setting. Noon-midnight.  
18/2 Tverskaya Ul., 694-3921/2497  
M.Pushkinskaya

1/2 Leninsky Prospekt., 238-3200  
M.Oktyabrskaya

33 Ul. Zemlyanoi Val, in Atrium mall, 970-1187  
M.Kurskaya  
14 Ul. Novy Arbat, Bldg.1, 291-1318  
M.Arbatkaya  
23 Ul. Garibaldi, 779-4211  
M.Noviye Cheryomushki  
3 Ul. Novoslobodskaya, 780-7922  
M. Novoslobodskaya **E K B W D**

**AMERICAN BARSGRILL \$\$** Hamburgers, steaks, bacon & eggs breakfast and more. Children's room on weekends. 24 hours.  
2/1 1st Tverskaya-Yamskaya Ul., (495) 250-9525,  
M.Mayakovskaya  
59 Ul. Zemlyanoi Val, (495) 912-3621/15,  
M.Taganskaya  
14 Kirovogradskaya Ul., (inside Global City Trade Centre), (495) 956-4843  
M.Yuzhnaya

**STARLITE DINER \$\$** American '50s-style diner, extensive menu with great breakfasts, cheeseburgers and milkshakes.  
Expat hangout. 24 hours.  
6 Prospekt Vernadskogo  
M.Universitet  
16 Ul. Bolshaya Sadovaya, (495) 290-9638  
M.Mayakovskaya  
9a Ul. Korovy Val, (495) 959-8919  
M.Oktyabrskaya **E K**

**SAPPORO \$\$\$** Modern Japanese restaurant with an extensive sushi and sashimi menu.  
Noon-23:00.  
14 Prospekt Mira (495) 207-0198  
M.Prospekt Mira **E B**

**ICHIBAN BOSHI \$\$\$** Good quality Japanese food with modern presentation in cool ambience at affordable prices.  
11:00-midnight.  
22 Krasnaya Presnya Ul., (495) 255-0909  
M.Krasnopresnenskaya **E R**  
105-1 Vernadskogo Prosop.  
(495) 433-9151  
M.Yugo-Zapadnaya **E R**

**BLOOMING SAKURA \$\$** Authentic Japanese. Finer dining than the Ichiban Boshi people who own it. Modelled after their up-market fine dining restaurant in Singapore.  
7/1 Ul. Krasina, (495) 254 7908  
M.Mayakovskaya **E K**

**NAVARRO \$\$\$** The creation of popular Moscow chef, Yuri Navarro, serves breakfast, business lunch and dinners. From tapas to eclectic Peruvian-Mediterranean fusion in a detached building.  
23 Shmitovskiy Proezd, Bldg 4,(495) 259-3791  
M.Ulitsa 1905 Goda **E**

**JU-JU \$\$\$\$** African-European fusion interior reflects a hunting house conveying the idea of a meat restaurant. Open kitchen with wood-burning stove and a chargrill. A huge selection of meat and fish dishes.  
15 Smolensky Bulvar, (495) 291-1667  
12:00-last guest, kitchen till 23.30.  
M.Smolenskaya

**TANDOOR \$\$\$\$** Indian cuisine.  
31 Tverskaya Ul., (495) 699-8062, (495) 699-8962, www.tandoor.ru, email: info@tandoor.ru  
M.Mayakovskaya

**LOUISIANA STEAKHOUSE** Big selection of Australian and Argentinian beef steaks. Grilled fish. Wines from France, Italy, Spain and New Zeland. VIP space "Sheriff room"

Week days discount from 12:00 to 16:00 menu discount 20%. 11:00-01:00  
30 Pyatnitskaya str., Bldg. 4  
(495) 951-4244, 959-5506  
M.Tretyakovskaya, Novokuznetskaya

**HEMINGWAY'S \$\$\$** Comfortable, expat-owned with top-notch Tex-Mex, Caribbean, Mojitos, Margaritas, Latin music.  
Komsomolsky Prospekt 13  
(495) 246-5726

**VOGUE CAFE \$\$\$\$** Hip and elegant partnership with Vogue magazine. Modern, Continental menu.  
Ulitsa Kuznetsky Most, 7/9  
(495) 623 1701

Galereya \$\$\$\$ Trendy, lavish and expensive, the place to be and be seen.  
Ulitsa Petrovka, 27, (495) 937 4544  
Cafe des Artistes \$\$\$\$ Kamergersky Pereulok, 5/6 (495) 692 4042

**INDUS \$\$\$\$** Elitny modern Indian restaurant, with Chivas bar on the first floor.  
Plotnikov Pereulok, 15  
(495) 244-7979

**COFFEE MANIA \$\$\$** Daytime business meeting venue next to the Moscow Conservatory.  
Ulitsa Bolshaya Nikitskaya, 13  
(495) 229-3901

**GOODMAN STEAK HOUSE \$\$\$** Moscow's premium steak house chain.  
Novinsky Bulvar 31  
(495) 981-4941  
Tverskaya 23  
(495) 775-9888  
Leninsky Prospekt 57  
(495) 775-9888

**EL GAUCHO \$\$\$\$** True Argentinean menu, the place for charcoal grilled meats and fish.  
Ulitsa Sadovaya-Triumphalnaya 4  
(495) 699 7974

**VANILLE \$\$\$\$** Hip French and Japanese within sight of Christ the Savior Cathedral  
Ulitsa Ostozhenka, 1  
(495) 202 3341

**BELOYE SOLNTSE PUSTIYNI \$\$\$\$** Named after White Desert Sun, one of the USSR's favorite films. An eclectic Asian menu that includes Azerbaijan and Uzbek cuisine.  
Ulitsa Neglinnaya, 29  
(495) 625 2596

**ROBERTO \$\$\$\$** Cozy, classy Italian  
Rozhdesventkiy Bulvar 20  
(495) 628-1944

**ASSAGIATORE \$\$\$** Atmosphere of comfort & simplicity with sand-coloured wooden tables and chairs set into the main dining area. Atmosphere of semi-private, candle-lit rooms. The restaurant offers Russian and European-style breakfasts served all day, as well as a generous selection of gourmet sandwiches.  
26 Ostozhenka Ul., Tel. (499) 766-9858  
M.Park Kultury

**BENVENUTO \$\$** The latest addition to the bountiful list of Moscow's Italian-restaurants. In Benvenuto's menu, most items run around or below 300 rubles.  
Great variety of Italian cuisine  
6 Velozavodskaya Ul., Tel. 675-0033  
M.Avtozavodskaya

**CHIANTI \$\$** The feeling in the small dining room is cozy rather than cramped with an open kitchen at one end of the room. The walls have beautiful custom murals depicting a Florence landscape, framed by windowsills with a base hewn from Italian marble. A large variety of pizza and a wide choice of Italian cuisine.  
48 Leningradskiy Pr., Tel. 612-5612  
M.Dinamo

**DANTES \$\$** Several dining halls. Menu consists of European, Asian and Soviet dishes. Dantes gives a master-class in style to Moscow's upmarket cocktail crowd.  
13 Myasnitkaya Ul., Bldg.1  
Tel. 621-4688  
M.Krasnye Vorota

**HEMINGWAY'S A** great variety of alcoholic and non-alcoholic cocktails and Italian cuisine. No cocktail over 200 rubles!  
Happy Hour: 18:00 – 20:00 nightly for cocktails (they bece cheaper)  
13 Komsomolsky Pr. Tel.: 246-5726 www.hemingways.ru  
M.Park Kultury

**NAVARROS** Excellent menu lays a great emphasis on seafood but also worth checking out the wide selection of Argentinian grilled meats.  
23 Shmitovskiy Proezd, Bld. 4, (495) 259-3791

**POLLY SAD \$\$\$** The selection of dishes fuses different cuisines, rather than just alternating between them  
41 1st Brestskaya Ul., Bld. 2  
Tel. 250-2530  
M.Belorusskaya

**YU CAFE** DJ cafe with the cheap, good quality food, drinks and house music.  
4 Pushechnaya Ul. Tel. (499) 271-88-65  
M.Kuznetsky Most

**TSVETNIYE SAKURY** Completely new restaurant concept in Moscow based on the combination of traditional and contemporary Japanese cuisine. Ancient recipes are joined by recent innovations. Tsveteniye Sakury also handles corporate events and catering.  
7 Krasina Ul., Bldg. 1  
Tel.: 254-79-08  
M.Mayakovskaya

**DA GIACOMO** An exact copy of Da Giacomo in New York and Milan. This spacious two-level restaurant is heavy with authentic Italian furniture and bric-a-brac...  
25/20 Spiridonovka Ul. Tel: 746-69-64 www.lifelife.ru  
M.Barrikadnaya

**BOOZE PUB** English-style pub with real British beer and original cocktails.  
Daily from 5 a.m. to noon – English breakfast for only 100 rubles.  
Weekdays from 12:00 to 17:00, business lunch from 140 rubles and 35 percent menu discount.  
Sport matches on the big screen.  
5 Potapovskiy Per., Bldg. 2  
Tel: 621-47-17 www.boozebub.ru  
M.Chistye Prudy

US\$ per person without alcohol: \$ = up to \$25 (up to 650 rubles), \$\$ = \$25-\$50 (650-1,300 rubles), \$\$\$ = \$50-\$75 (1,300-1,950 rubles), \$\$\$\$ = \$75-\$100 (1,950-2,600 rubles)  
**E** – English-language menu **B** – Business lunch **R** – Kids menu **D** – Delivery **W** – Wi-Fi  
**K** – Reservations recommended

**KARMA BAR** One of the most popular night-clubs in town. Eastern-inspired interior, hookahs, and Pan-Asian cuisine. Offering themed parties. Latin American dancing Thursday through Saturday from 21:00 to Midnight. Every Saturday – the amazing new Show Girls night. Every Sunday 12:00 to 6:00 – R'n'B and hip-hop party night. 3 Pushechnaya Ul. Tel. 624-56-33, 789-690 www.karma-bar.ru M.Kuznetsky Most

**SIMPLE PLEASURES** The large dining room accommodates 80 people, while the cozy Fireplace Hall doubles as a showroom for photographers. As always, a DJ entertains from 22:00. Enjoy the simple pleasures of life! 22/1 Sretenka Ul. Tel. 607-15-21 M.Sukharevskaya

**TRAKTIR CHERNAYA KOSHKA \$\$\$** This restaurant was opened to mark the 20th anniversary of the cult detective series "Mesto Vstrechi Izmenit Nelzya" ("The Meeting Place Can't be Changed") – everything here is connected with the movie, such as the image of a black cat on the entrance wall. Restaurant security is dressed up as policemen and waiters in peaked caps. 6 Vorontsovskaya Ul. Tel. 911-7601 M.Taganskaya

**GODUNOV \$\$\$\$\$** For real lovers of Russian Style including traditional Russian dancing, flowing rivers of vodka and plates stacked with food. For those who find it thrilling to dine in the Tsar's chambers, which were established during the time of Boris Godunov. The interior includes portraits of Russia's monarchs, painted arches and national d cor; makes you feel like a part of Russian history. Russian cuisine. 5 Teatralnaya Pl., Bldg. 1 Tel. 698-56-09 M.Teatralnaya

**GRABLI \$ (Multiple Locations)** The best mid-priced Russian food in Moscow. Buffet style. Russian cuisine. 99 Prospect Mira Ul. Tel. 602-4662 M.Alexeyevskaya

**NA MELNITSE \$\$\$ (multiple locations)** Uber-Russian eatery. Home-made cuisine – kvas, mors, vodka, pickles. The interior is in Russian style with plenty of wood. The food is far from cheap, but the portions are enormous: it's like being fed by an overzealous babushka. 7 Tverskoi Bul. Tel. 290-3737 M.Pushkinskaya

**OBLOMOV \$\$\$** Occupying a three-story building that once belonged to a famous Russian merchant, this huge mansion is located in the historical part of Moscow known as Zamoskvorechye; the other side of the Moscow River. The interior is crammed with ancient utensils and furniture. Two spacious halls are named after Oblomov and Stoltz, two characters from Nikolai Goncharov's Novel "Oblomov". Remember to take a look at the chimney room on the first floor and the oriental room on the third. 5 1st Monetchikovskiy Per. Tel. 953-6828 M.Dobryninskaya

**PUSHKIN CAFE \$\$\$\$** Both the restaurant itself and its history have already become a thing of urban legend. Scores of famous dinner parties and diners have brought even more fame to this eatery remaining miraculously uncompromised. High quality Russian cuisine. 26a Tverskoi Bul. Tel.: 629-5590 M.Tverskaya

**KRASNAYA PLOSHAD, 1 \$\$\$\$** Red Square 1 is located at the Kremlin in the building of the Historical Museum. Perfect dishes of Russian cuisine, all of them based on traditional Russian recipes dating from the 18th and 19th centuries. Interior is in Old Russian style. Krasnaya Pl. Tel. 692-11-96 M.Teatralnaya

**TRANSIBERIAN \$\$\$** The menu itself takes you on a long gastronomic voyage to the north of Russia. It is situated in the Renaissance Moscow Hotel. 18/1 Olimpiyskiy Pr., inside Renaissance Hotel Tel.: 931-9000 M.Prospekt Mira

**TSDL \$\$\$\$ (Central House of Writers)** This opulent Russian restaurant is located inside the Central House of Writers building, and shares the same lavish decor and opulent atmosphere. A top-notch Russian meal in this luxurious place will be remembered for a long time. 50 Povarskaya Ul. Tel.: 290-1589 Metro: Barrikadnaya

**EL GAUCHO \$\$\$\$\$ (multiple locations)** Named in honor of Argentinean cowboys, El Gaucho's gift to Moscow's carnivores is the Latin-American flavor. Great menu with a list of special "house" steaks with Latin accents are the highlights. There are three restaurants in Moscow, each varying in size, but all featuring the same extensive menus and an impressive selection of over 120 Chilean and Argentinean wines. 6/13 Zatssepsky Val Ul. Tel. 953-2876 M.Paveletskaya

**FLAT IRON BAR & ROADHOUSE \$\$** Located in the Courtyard Marriot. American style pub with great cuisine and meat dishes. 7 Voznesensky Per. Tel. 937-3077 M.Tverskaya, Okhotny Ryad

**GOODMAN STEAKHOUSE \$\$\$ (multiple locations)** Steakhouse has a steakhouse design and focus on quality, imported meat. Its menu offers a great number of meat dishes and a selection of seafood dishes and salads. 23 Tverskaya Ul. Tel. 937-5679 M.Tverskaya

**GILLY'S \$\$\$\$** Located in the heart of the city, on the less glitzy side of Stoleshnikov pereulok, Gilly's is unique not just as a cozy, brick-lined hideaway, but as one of the few restaurants in the city that serves meat imported from the U.S. As well as steaks, Gully's offers a range of seafood dishes, soups, and salads, with Russian, Italian and French accents. 6 Stoleshnikov Per. Tel.: 933-5521 M.Chekhovskaya, Okhotny Ryad

**LOUISIANA AMERICAN STEAK HOUSE \$\$** American styled steakhouse. Serves French and Mexican cuisine accompanied by a soundtrack of country music and a wild-west-themed d cor. Among the menu of American comfort foods, if you are feeling slightly more ethnic are quesadillas, enchiladas, and other similar dishes are available. 30 Pyatnickaya Ul., Bldg. 4 Tel.: 951-4244 M.Tretyakovskaya

**STEAKS \$\$\$\$** There's a successful formula to steakhouses, and Steaks follows it almost to the letter with a meat heavy menu of pork, chicken, lamb, sausage and seafood 21 Verkhnyaya Radishevskaya Ul. Tel.: 915-10-42 M.Taganskaya

**TORRO GRILL \$\$\$** The focus here is the best mid-priced meat in Moscow. Wine Bar. 6 Vernadskogo Pr. Tel.: 775-4503 M.Universitet

**HOTEL RESTAURANTS**  
**ARARAT PARK HYATT** Located in the Ararat Park Hyatt Hotel, is a little corner of Armenia located right in the center of Moscow. Cozy atmosphere and spicy Armenian fare. Something of a culinary landmark. All ingredients are delivered straight from Armenia, and the wine list abounds with the finest Armenian cognacs. 4 Neglinnaya Ul. Tel. 783-1234 M.Teatralnaya, Kuznetsky Most

**GRAND ALEXANDER** Named after poet Alexander Pushkin, this restaurant is valued for its refined European cuisine with a wide choice of French delicacies that delight Muscovites and foreigners alike. Visitors who seek anonymity can dine in one of the private rooms. 26 Tverskaya Ul. Tel. 937-0000 M.Tverskaya

**SKY LOUNGE \$\$\$\$** This sushi bar on the roof of the luxury hotel offers its guests unparalleled views of the Kremlin Palace and Red Square. Top-notch sushi. 32a Leninsky Pr. Tel.: 915-10-42 M.Taganskaya

**PANORAMA** Located on the 23rd floor of the Golden Ring Hotel, Panorama's service and food are also elevated far above the rest of the city. The Mediterranean cuisine is served on Versace tableware, and the Versace glasses make any drink taste better. 5 Smolenskaya Ul. Tel.: 725-0100 M.Smolenskaya

**THE SAVOY RESTAURANT** is open daily for breakfast for all guests at the hotel, and also offers la carte lunch and dinner. Its magnificent interior and gourmet menu make it equally suited to corporate events and candlelit dinners. Open daily from 7 am to 11 am and 12 pm to 2 am. Live music in the evenings. All major credit cards accepted.

**CLUBS**  
**B2 CLUB** 4 bars, sushi-bar, concert hall for 800 people. Reasonable prices. Bolshaya Sadovaya st., 8, (495) 209-9918 M.Marksistskaya

**JUSTO** Monday-Friday, Sunday 13:00-2:00, Friday-Saturday 13:00-3:00, Face control, Dress code B.Tolmachyovskiy per., 5, bld.9 (495) 937 37 50 M.Tretyakovskaya

**PAPA JOHN'S** Tucked in the basement below the Johnny the Fat Boy Pizzeria, Pappa John's features live music and plenty of sweaty young bodies 2 Myasnitskaya Ul.(495) 755-9554 M.Kitay-Gorod

**TOCHKA** Open: Mon - Sun from 18:00 until 06:00 Oktyabrskaya Leninsky ave., 6, bldg. 7 (495) 737-7666 M.Pushkinskaya

**SAKHAR** Open: Tue, Thurs from 20:00 until 6:00, Fri from 12:00 until 6:00, Sat from 20:00 until 7:00 Bol. Sukharevsky lane, 23/25 (495) 207-2838 M.Sukharevskaya

**ALABAMA** Alabama is a very cosy jazz club in the heart of Moscow. Great stylish place with comfy sofas, not pricy food. Live concerts start at 9 p.m. 7/2 Stoleshnikov pereulok, 229-2412 M.Teatralnaya

**NIGHT FLIGHT** The club keeps its doors open daily from 21:00 till 05:00. Tverskaya st., 17 (495)229-4165 night@aha.ru www.nightflight.ru M.Pushkinskaya

**A PRIORI** Open: Mon-Sat from 24:00 until 12:00. Face control Bol. Molchanovka st., 12, bldg. 1 291 77 83, 737 58 43 M.Tretyakovskaya

**ADRENALIN** Chermynsky proyezd, 1 473-0005, 477-3447 M.Medvedkovo

**B2 CLUB** 4 bars, sushi-bar, concert hall for 800 people. Reasonable prices Bolshaya Sadovaya st., 209-9918 M.Tretyakovskaya

**CABANA BAR**, restaurant with tasty Mexican and African food. Male striptease on Tuesdays and Fridays. Entrance: Fr- Sat.(after 10 p. m.) 4 Raushskaya Naberezhnaya 1 238 50 06, 238 50 17 M.Tretyakovskaya

**CENTRAL HOUSE OF ARCHITECTS** Open: Mon-Sat from 24:00 until 12:00. Face control 7, Granatny Pereulok 290-3249, 291-7738 M.Tretyakovskaya

**FABRIQUE** Open: Fri-Sat from 22:00 until 6:00. Dress code, Face control Sadovnicheskaya st., 33 291 77 83, 737 58 43 M.Novokuznetskaya

**GAUDI ARENA** Skladochnaya st., 1, bldg 19 508-8060, (fax 727-18-62) M.Savyolovskaya

**GOLDEN PALACE CASINO**, concert hall, restaurant, open bar for players. Entrance: free for women 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. - 20\$, 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. - 50\$ (price covers the amount of chips). Face control. 15 3rd Ulitsa Yamskogo Polya, 212-3909 M.Belorusskaya



## SEAFOOD & GRILL

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\$\$\$ = up to \$25 (up to 650 rubles), \$\$ = \$25-\$50 (650-1,300 rubles), \$ = \$50-\$75 (1,300-1,950 rubles), \$\$\$\$ = \$75-\$100 (1,950-2,600 rubles)  
 E - English-language menu B - Business lunch R - Reservations recommended K - Kids menu D - Delivery W - Wi-Fi



# Lions and Tigers and Bears

text Linda Lippner

With several more weeks of cold and slushy weather left during this winter's miserable drawdown to a possibly slushy and cold early spring, a case of cabin fever has pushed me out onto the streets of Moscow. But as soon as I am out and about I am looking for shelter from the cold and slushy streets. What to do? I have been to all the major museums and I have spent a lot of money on evenings

out and my New Year's resolution was to put a stop to spending so much money, so I usually walk in the parks of Moscow for free entertainment but certainly not during this in-between season of cold and slush, so what to do on a Saturday afternoon?

The other day I happened to be walking along Nikitskaya ul. and I came across a recently-renovated museum in a beautiful old building on the east side of the street. I knew it was recently renovated because it had been shrouded a few years back in the usual 'under renovation' wraps that tend to flap in the wind and block your view of the street. I remember skipping across the street to avoid all of that for months, so now the wrappings are off I wanted to see what goes on inside this building, which is the Zoological Museum. It could be that the building is renovated but I was surprised to see that the inside "look" of the place is rather turn of the century, and I don't mean the last turn. It was warm inside which was good for the moment while I thawed out, knowing that soon I would be thawed and starting to bake since the heating systems in the old buildings in Moscow can go great

guns. There was a hushed feeling to the place which surprised me as I had seen children running in ahead of me with their hustling parents. Perhaps the overwhelmingness of the place hushed them into silence.

Before I knew it I was in the midst of a veritable jungle or should I say, zoo of animals... or I might even say a Noah's Ark of animals, although hopefully, the other half of each pair remained in the jungle or prairie where these stuffed specimens of the species were bagged. I like zoos, which I know is not PC, so I knew I was going to like this place after I creaked open the giant doors to the first floor exhibit hall on the right side of the lobby and saw: lions and tigers and bears!

Poor things: they were in sad shape. Their giant glass cages were housing not only the outer remnants of once proud animals but little piles of moth balls placed inside to prevent their post-stuffed selves from having an attack of moths. Lice and fleas in life and moths after death. It was obvious that the moths had found the specimens before the museum staff had found the moths as patches of bare "skin" peeked through the tufts of fur.

But I still liked the place; I kept imagining that at night perhaps the spirits of these animals under glass become animated like that great movie from last year "Night at the Museum" where a magic spell liberates all the animals of a museum who cavort and enjoy some freedom, if only for a few hours. During my hour at the museum, the animals were quiet as they could be, but I almost imagined that I saw a stuffed she-lion wink at a little boy who was transfixed in front of her at the glass cage. Perhaps, only a fun museum for some of us, but a welcome chance to come in from the cold when it is too cold to visit the Moscow zoo. **P**

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## Best of the Road Awards

text Fred Flintstone

After two weeks of memorable scenery and unmemorable driving back home, Fred was in for a surprise when he, Wilma and Fred Jr. arrived at Bedrock's main airport – the taxi driver actually asked Fred to buckle up before leaving the terminal. This was a first. Only a few days later, a report in the Bedrock Times explained it. New traffic laws had gone into effect that increased the fines for violations – an unbuckled seatbelt now cost 500 rubles (\$20), which meant that on-the-spot fines had increased commensurately as well. Since that time, virtually every gypsy cab driver has asked Fred to buckle up. This was a small lesson that economic incentives can actually save lives, since lack of seatbelt use must be a main contributor to road deaths.

The return from the airport reminded Fred that annual Best of the Road awards were overdue, based upon the memorable impressions left on so many occasions on Bedrock streets. Here are Fred's "Best of the Year" picks:

### Best Reason to Wear Clean Underwear

Fred's mom always told him that he should put on clean underwear every day in case of an accident – "wouldn't want the doctors and nurses to see dirty underwear would we?" As Fred was taking Fred Jr. to the bus on a cold, dark December morning, traffic slowed revealing two GAI officers covering a body in the centerline, kicking around broken red and clear glass and plastic. It was a hit-and-run. To top it off, Fred Jr. commented that the evening before he and mom had seen "two more just like that" on the way home from school, but they looked like they were still alive.

### Best Reason to Keep the Side Windows Clean

Speechless, Fred stared out the passenger side window at about 5 pedestrians as his Lada 99 gypsy cab slid sideways down the centerline of a icy six lane road after the driver had swerved around a slower car. This flock of pedestrians were waiting in the center to scramble the next three lanes at an uncontrolled "zebra" crossing. Fred could see the whites of their eyes as they stared wide-eyed at the oncoming Lada, unable to back up or move forward into the two-way traffic. Just meters away, a couple of the Lada's tires caught on a stretch of dry pavement, careening the car into the oncoming traffic. The Lada then did a 180 and headed back across the highway leaving Fred looking back out his passenger windows at the pedestrians as they scampered the final distance. The Lada slid across the final three lanes into a car parked on the right side of the road. When the wheels stopped, Fred saluted, said "do-svidaniya" and caught another cab.

### Best Way to Make New Friends and Learn Local Etiquette

Fred got his Silver Streak towed, and, deciding to do things the "right and proper way," spent seven hours at the GAI waiting in line for documents that would allow him to pick it up at the *spetz-stoyanka* (special parking lot) on the other side of the city. As a foreigner, he had an opportunity to learn the fine points of Bedrock queuing etiquette, and some new local terminology.



### Best Way to Learn Local Etiquette Part 2 or Best Reason to Carry a Spare Ben Franklin

After spending the day getting the papers to pick up the towed Silver Streak, and spending another two hours getting to the *spetz-stoyanka*, Fred found another queue. Because the Silver Streak had spent more than 24 hours at the lot, Fred would have to pay 40 rubles per hour or 160 rubles by bank transfer, and at that time of night the nearest open bank was at Vnukovo Airport. Giving up on his "right and proper" intentions, Fred managed to settle things "po-chyelovyechyeski" and freed his friend faster than you can say E Pluribus Unum.

### Fastest Man on Four Wheels

Fred Jr., Wilma and I were headed home from the dacha on the Third Ring. As they headed up the overpass just past Rusakovskaya Ulitsa, a pensioner in his wheelchair was wheeling himself over the bridge in the right lane.

### Fastest Man on Two Wheels

Fred had just enter the Third Ring headed north near Moscow Citi, when a bicyclist in the right lane began signaling to make his way to the far left lane. At least he was wearing a helmet.

### Best Anecdote

There was a head-on collision between the black BMW of an FSB general with the black Mercedes of a general from the MVD. It was determined that the GAI officer who came to investigate was to blame for the accident.

### Best Traffic Report

One morning Wilma recounted a radio report of an eight-car pile-up on the freeway bridge late the night before. Traffic police had been stopping cars, when the first vehicle was rear-ended, followed by a second. Minutes later they were joined by the rest. When the drivers turned to the GAI officers for assistance, they fled saying that this was not their territory. They were apparently poaching, a common practice, particularly late at night, used to pick up some overtime pay.

### Best Reason to Stay in Bedrock

Fred didn't much notice the red car to his left as pulled into a parking space in front of the door at the Azbuka Vkusa grocery at Pokrovka on the Garden Ring. Before he could open his door, a stunning, statuesque blond strode out the door and headed straight for Fred. Was that a smile as she approached his door? And then she whispered past, around the back of the red car and into the driver's seat. As she backed out, Fred examined the glossy wax finish, the lush beige leather seats, and the Bentley emblem on the Continental GT coupe. **P**

# Postcard from Rotorua – Volcanic Thrills in Red Hot New Zealand

text Anne Coombes



**M**y tired bones are currently stewing in a warm mud pool at the Wai Ora Spa, perched beside Rotorua's hissing, steaming whirlpools. My nostrils are assailed by the faintly repugnant odour of rotten eggs, courtesy of the sulphur belching out of this volcanic rift – but I can't complain. I'm enveloped in warmth and feeling more relaxed than I have in quite some time. The mineral-enriched, miracle-working mud acts like an entire body mask and the staff urges me to smear it generously over my face and hair – only my beady eyes are left twinkling out of the gooey stuff. Looking at my fellow mud revellers, hippo imagery comes to mind, but I quickly put that aside. Instead, I lie back and daydream about how radiant my skin will look when I get out. Apparently, the mud promotes skin cell regeneration and detoxifies the body. Considering the amount of lovely New Zealand wine I've been drinking for the past 3 weeks, this is no bad thing. It's even said to eliminate acne. What's not to like?

A quick shower later, I'm back to being lily white and ready to head to the spa's giant sulphuric pool. It overlooks the geothermal reserve and the soft waters are fabulous, not to mention, extremely hot. My pores open up, sigh with relief and thank me for taking them to such a divine spot. No wonder people have been coming here for centuries to soothe their aches, pains and skin diseases. Maori warriors used to bathe their wounds in these magical pools after battle. I eventually emerge silky smooth and with such a feeling of light headed contentment that I positively float down the road towards Hell's Gate – the bubbling, steaming volcanic casserole that draws so many thousands of visitors each week.

Here the mud spews and seethes far more menacingly. With its heat source just one kilometer below the surface, it's not surprising that Rotorua is so fiercely active. I totter along the edge of the boiling lakes, where there's little between myself and 'The Devil's Bath' but a flimsy restraining rope. They may smell foul, but the jewel-coloured waters are certainly beautiful; they almost invite you to dip a toe in but not advisable unless you plan to become a human lobster. I peer down unfathomable caverns, from which sulphur clouds rise chokingly. This is one spot where you could let rip your most vile fart and nobody would ever notice. One thing you do notice is that there aren't many animals, birds or insects around. Clearly, they don't like the smells and heat either.

The following day, having had my fill of demonic craters, I drive up the road to see the Lady Knox Geyser. It erupts promptly at 10.15 a.m. each morning, following a dose of detergent thrown into the water. (Apparently, prisoners discovered that soap triggers the scalding fountain while washing their clothes in its gently simmering pool – poor them!) Right on time, the plume of spray shoots up, the crowd gasps and gapes and several hundred camera shutters click around me. It's a stark reminder of 'what lies beneath.' More thrills await me at the Kakahi Falls, the largest hot waterfall in the Southern Hemisphere. I brave the swirling clouds of steam and stand in awe, with thousands of gallons of steaming water rushing past me every few minutes.

Whether you're admiring the dazzling splendor of the aptly named Champagne Pool or luxuriating in mud, you can't help loving Rotorua. If you can stand the smell, then Hell's Gate may be your very own slice of heaven. **P**

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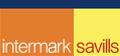
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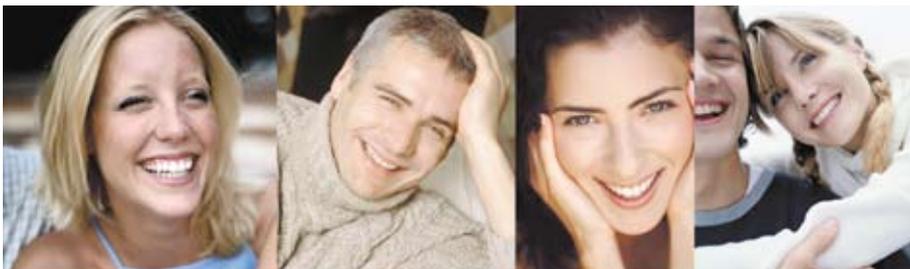
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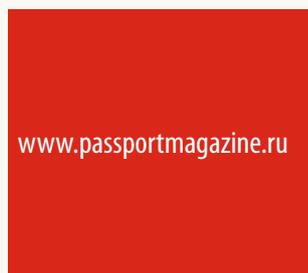
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## Polo at Minus 15 C

text Alevtina Kashitsina

On the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of February the equestrian center Otrada hosted the Mercury Snow Polo Cup that took place in Moscow for the fifth time. The weather was unusually cold, which did not prevent guests from coming to support their favorite teams. Among the teams that played for the first – third prizes were those of Chopard, Land Rover, Villagio Estate and Beluga. There was only one 1<sup>st</sup> prize, which went to Beluga eventually, but all the guests enjoyed the show despite the cold weather. The players from Argentina and UK proved again that they can play polo in Russia even in winter.



photos courtesy of Absolute pro



## Mowglie in the Kremlin

text Alevtina Kashitsina

On December 3<sup>rd</sup> there was a unique chance for a sold-out Moscow audience to witness the talent of a young composer and conductor who directed the Orchestra of the New Opera Theater. Alex Prior is one of the youngest students at the St. Petersburg conservatory but yet a famous composer and conductor. Eminent Russian artistic people were there to greet Alex, Yevgeniy Evtushenko, Oleg Tabakov and Maestro Vasiliev himself came to congratulate Alex on the success of the performance. Among the audience there were children ill with cancer, whom Alex personally had invited so that they could enjoy the adventures of Mowglie.

According to Alex, "Mowglie is not simply a ballet but a musical drama, a unity of all the genres of arts." The young composer is already working on a series of operas on historical events of his second motherland, Russia.



## AEB Starts the Year

text Annet Kulyagina

The Association of European Business (AEB) launched the New Year at the Golden Hotel and invited media to say special thanks for its collaboration in 2007 and with the wish that the relationship would be more efficient and mutually successful in 2008. One of the outstanding features of this kind of business-after-hours meeting was that every journalist was welcomed with hospitality by the members of AEB. Passport magazine was just one of the media guests to discover new friends among the European Business Elite. We hope to be invited back again and again!



photos A.Koshkin

## CERBA 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Auction

text Annett Kulyagina

On January 24, 2008 Canada Eurasia Russia Business Association (CERBA) jointly with Vladislav Tretyak Foundation and CIDA organized its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Auction. The event took place at the *Baltschug Kempinski Hotel*, and attracted more than 160 Russian and Canadian businessmen, civil servants and cultural and social activists. The Auction, hosted by a Hockey Legend and State Duma Deputy Vladislav Tretyak and His Excellency Ralph Lysyshyn, Canadian Ambassador to Russia, gathered over \$122,000 for the benefit of the Children's and Family Institutions, Orphanages and Hospitals in Saratov, Irkutsk and the North. From its inception, the Charity Auction has been enormously successful, and it has been CERBA's most recognized and celebrated event. The scale of this initiative has grown every year from the 1<sup>st</sup> Charity Auction in 2002, which raised over \$5,000 to this year's unprecedented success.

Although the cause was noble and solemn, the night passed in pleasant and cheerful atmosphere of friendship and international cooperation. The official addresses were made by Mr. Lysyshyn and Mr. Tretyak, as well as Nathan Hunt, CERBA Moscow President, and Vera Terekhova of Tretyak's Foundation. The representatives of this year's beneficiaries also said a word at the end of the night explaining their specific needs and expressing heartfelt gratitude for the support their received.

CERBA owes tremendous gratitude to sponsors of the event: Aktis-Stroy, White&Case, Ernst&Young, Bombardier, Intercom Holding, VIP National Club Moscow, RUZA, TerraLink, Kinross, and other companies and individuals for their participation and support.



photos courtesy of CERBA

## December Theater Awards

text Alevtina Kashitsina

Seagull is certainly one of the symbols of the Russian theatre. It is also the name of a theatrical award The Chayka. Its ceremony took place on December the 25th in the MHAt im. Chekhova. The award has existed since 1996 and is one of the brightest Moscow events in December. As it takes place before the New Year holidays, it is always a ceremony with a lot of jokes, fun and of course awards for best productions and roles in 19 nominations. Yekaterina Konovalova and Igor Zolotovitsky were the hosts of the ceremony as usual, entertaining the guests and presenting the prizes. Among the winners was Maxim Sukhanov and Alexander Sirin for the best actor duet, "Zorro's Mask". The head award prize went to Anatoly Belyi for his role in Kirill Serebrennikov's "Man-Pillow". Irina Grineva received her "F Smile" prize for the female role in "Ornitology" and Vitaly Khaev – "M smile" for his role in "Figaro". Among the sponsors of the ceremony there were the following brands: Longines, Czar's Gold, Nescafe Gold and companies LeCadeau and MaiNaim.



photos courtesy of H2O

# Moscow Dragons Dance the Night Away

text and photos Ian Mitchell

On 16 February at the Marriott Grand Hotel in Tverskaya, the Moscow Dragons Rugby Club held its Annual Charity Ball. Three hundred people gathered for one of the highlights of Moscow's sporting season.

The club was formed in 1997 and plays snow rugby in the winter and the more conventional variety in the summer. The Ball raised money for Maria's Children and was sponsored by Vinicom, Pepsi Steelcase, Parliament, RPSI, DHL, Glenmorangie, Intermark Savills, Hemingway's, Officescape, Moscow Duty Free, English International School, Silver's Irish Pub, Marriott Moscow Grand, Novotel Moscow, Tchik-Tchik, Au nom de la rose, and the Air Force Museum.



# When It Is Difficult to Say No

text Daniel Klein

C's head of Russian operations, Bulgarian Vassil Barsakov decided to do something a little different as a celebration with his strategic partner i-Teco. Instead of the typical night-club party or weekend retreat, Mr. Barsakov wanted to motivate his partner's account managers to invite some of their key clients to an event that they would have a difficult time saying "no" to. Who could resist the offer to race a new BMW 325 on an icy track, testing the car's state-of-the-art anti-skid technology? Passport Magazine's business editor didn't resist. According to Daniel Klein, "it was like being in high school all over again spinning around on the ice like a dare-devil." The BMW training course came complete with in-class lessons and one-on-one with skilled driving instructors. It was both fun-packed and all participants now feel that much safer negotiating Moscow's sometimes treacherous roads, even if not behind the wheel of a 325.



### Eastern Future Caught in a Calendar

text Alevtina Kashitsina

On February 7<sup>th</sup> there was a Chinese New Year party, and the release of a brand new calendar from the Irito Company. The famous Russian photographer Vlad Loktev was invited to work on this unusual project. These are not simply pictures but a "story board" about a girl from another galaxy who arrives on Earth and finds a mysterious and unknown world. The scenes for each month of the calendar depict a hi-tech Shanghai. Another treat for the guests was Dmitry Loginov's fashion collection presented in a show made to dazzle.



photos courtesy of H2O

### The Venice Carnival at the Most

text Alevtina Kashitsina

On the 8th of February "the Most Club" hosted a real Venetian carnival. As if in the streets of the festive city there were gorgeous beauties wearing masks and fans, circus acrobats and pantomime players, while the videos played scenes of Venice and a masquerade show. Rozalla Miller was one of the "Most" glamorous guests that night. Ksenia Borodina, Margarita Mitrofanova, Vlad Losovets Vengerov and others were here to enjoy the fantastical decor of a Venetian night in Moscow.



photos courtesy of the Most Club

## Helene Lloyd

**Founder/Director TMI Consultancy  
Talks to Ian Mitchell  
Photos Sergey Koshkin**

### How long have you been in Moscow?

I have been in Moscow for eight years. I came here to set up TMI in 1999, and stayed. I first visited Russia in the late 1980s. I spent a month in Novosibirsk practising Russian as part of my degree before moving to Moscow.

### How did that come about?

I went to the University of Keele, in the English Midlands, to study Economics. They have a one-year foundation course, in which you could try different subjects. I thought psychology would be interesting, but it didn't fit in with the time-table, so I took Russian Studies. I found that absolutely amazing, so while I was doing this dreary Economics degree, I thought I'd study Russian at the same time. I wanted something to inspire me, but never thought that I would ever use it. I was the only student in the University studying Russian and economics, but this was the late 1980s, so it proved to be a lucky break when everything changed here in 1991.

### How was TMI born?

In the 1990s I worked for the British Tourism Authority as the marketing manager for Russia and the CIS. After the financial crash in Russia 1998, and some short-sighted policies by the British government, nearly all emerging market offices of Visit Britain were closed. However, a number of UK companies who were already active in the market asked me to join their companies. I decided that as I was more of a marketer than a salesperson, I would work with all of them by setting up my own marketing agency - hence TMI.

### Who did you represent?

For the first couple of years we mainly focussed on representing Britain in Russia. Lately, we have represented Hong Kong, Singapore, Jordan and Malaysia. We also deal with small, high-end companies, such as Baglioni Hotels, and large groups like Kuoni, which is the fourth-largest tour operator in the world. We work for the Destination Management part of the company which is expanding rapidly throughout the world.



**Is it all a question of selling the world to Russia? What about selling Russia to the world?**

That is just what we have started to do. Last year we began promoting key regions and cities in Russia so that they can position themselves for visitors from Europe and the Middle East.



Our first Russian project was St. Petersburg, and we are now completing the marketing strategy for Kazan. We are planning to work with Azerbaijan, Georgia and Kazakhstan in the near future.

### This is obviously a life which involves a great deal of moving around, so where is home?

Home is on a plane, somewhere between Moscow, Rome and the UK.

### Moscow and the UK I understand, but why Rome?

Rome has been my second home for the last three years as my husband is now based there. He was a Greek diplomat and was previously based in Moscow, but now is posted in Rome. We got married there late last year.

### Congratulations! How do Moscow and Rome differ?

They are completely different worlds. The quality of life is much better in Rome. You can have the most fantastic cappuccino for less than a Euro. The food is brilliant, and a fraction of the cost of Moscow. But on the other hand, Rome can seem a little provincial after Moscow. Things close early in the evening, and on Sundays. There are very few places where you can eat international food such as sushi. Finally Moscow is much more dynamic, alive and exciting; in Rome nothing much changes from month to month.

### Do the two cities have any similarities?

One thing that connects them is the terrible bureaucracy and inefficiency. In fact, I'd say Russia is actually better than Italy in that respect. I once wanted to post a letter in Italy and asked for help. But no one would touch it, so I said, "OK, tell me where the Post Office is, and I'll do it myself." The Post Office was this huge, dark, cavernous building full of people sitting with their sandwiches, knowing they'd be queuing for the whole day. And you can't have parcels sent to you in Italy because they simply loot the packages before delivery.

### Finally, where would you recommend visiting right now? What is hot in CIS tourism?

In general the Caucasus and Central Asia are very friendly, have spectacular scenery and are a nice contrast to the city culture of Moscow. Places like Baku are fascinating. There is a lot to see and do which you would never imagine unless you had been there. Tbilisi is beautiful, and surprisingly similar to Greece or other places in the Mediterranean. Within Russia, Kazan is a great weekend getaway destination, with an excellent over-night train connection to Moscow. **P**