

# PASSPORT

MOSCOW

NOVEMBER 2008

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**The Travel Issue**  
*Wish You Were Here*





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# Letter from the Publisher



**John Ortega**  
Owner and Publisher

It's November in Moscow, and we all know that can mean only one thing. No, not newly bare trees and rainy weather that leaves mud spattered all over the cuffs of your trousers, not significantly shorter days and a chill in the air. OK, so November in Moscow can mean a number of things. One of them is *Passport's* Travel Issue!

Yes, *Passport's* November issue is all about travel, from motorcycling in Goa (page 24) to scuba diving in Palau (page 28) to strolling down the Las Vegas Strip (page 30). Russian TV personality Eva Lanska will help you get packed (page 13), and Neil McGowan will help you reset your watch (Russian time zones, page 23). In "On Track," a special section devoted to rail travel, take the Trans-Siberian Railway clear across Russia (page 20). Of course, those more pressed for time can settle for a visit to Moscow's Museum of the History of Railway Technology (page 16).

Read about what to download onto your iPod before you hit the road (page 12), dinner in Italy (via a new Moscow restaurant, review on page 42), and the culture of the *marshrutka* (page 52). For the armchair traveler, we recommend a celluloid itinerary: films of the Former Soviet Union (page 10). Art lovers can read about sculptor Leonid Berlin (page 14).

Plus our regular columns, This Month in History, and the *Passport* Poll.

So fasten your seatbelts, return your seat to its upright position, and turn off any electronic devices (except, of course, if you are reading this online). It's *Passport's* Travel Issue!



*Passport* mourns the recent passing of longtime friend and supporter David Self. David came to Russia in 1996 to jointly manage Hanscomb, which he helped to grow into a very successful company before leaving to form Savant with several partners in 2003. Along with his colleagues, David spearheaded the construction consultancy's activities in Russia, overseeing its tremendous growth and leading Savant to become one of the largest service providers in Russia. David was well known for his kindness, humor, wise counsel, and friendship both inside and outside the office. He will be sadly missed by his wife and three children as well as by his friends and colleagues in Moscow's business community.

*Passport is hiring a full-time designer. Candidates should be creative, hard-working team-players. Knowledge of Quark or InDesign essential, English language not required.*

*Send resume to  
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SPEND A ROMANTIC WEEKEND  
AT SWISSÔTEL KRASNYE HOLMY



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MOSCOW

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+7 495 787 9881 (Reservations)



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>To include an event in our calendar, please email information to <a href="mailto:editor@passportmagazine.ru">editor@passportmagazine.ru</a> or call <b>(495) 978-2012</b> by the 15th of the month prior to the event.</p>	<p><b>The American Women's Organization (AWO)</b></p> <p>15th annual Russian craft fair <b>Thursday, November 13, 2008 10am to 4pm</b> Park Place 113/1 Leninsky Prospect Metro Yugo-Zapadnaya (red line), first wagon from the center, then trolleybus No. 62 or 84</p> <p>Admission fee: 100 rubles All proceeds benefit local charity. Please join us!</p>	<p><b>The International Women's Club (IWC) General Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Saturday, November 22</b> 10:00 am to 12:00 pm European Union Delegation Children's art exhibition and auction! For more information, visit <a href="http://www.iwcmoscow.ru">www.iwcmoscow.ru</a>.</p>	<p><b>The American Women's Organization (AWO)</b></p> <p>holds regular coffee mornings <b>1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm</b> Hard Rock Cafe Sary (Old) Arbat, d. 44, tel.: 205-8335 Metro Smolenskaya For more information visit <a href="http://awomoscow.blogspot.com">http://awomoscow.blogspot.com</a>.</p>	<p><b>SAVE THE DATE!</b></p> <p><b>International Women's Club of Moscow Winter Bazaar 2008</b> Saturday, Dec. 6, 10:00-16:00 Radisson SAS Slavjanskaya Hotel For more information, call 7 (916) 259-1565 or email <a href="mailto:marcela.tenhoonte@yahoo.com">marcela.tenhoonte@yahoo.com</a></p>
<p>3</p> <p>Legendary Melodies of the 20th Century Golden Ring Theater, 19:00</p> <p>ABBA Show Mir Concert Hall, 20:00 Also November 4</p> <p>Noize MC (hip-hop) Tochka Club, 19:00</p> <p>Alexander F Sklyar (Russian rock) 16 Tonn Club, 21:00</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Anatoly Tekuchev Quartet (jazz) Soyuz Kompositorov Club, 21:00</p> <p>Garry Grodberg (organ) Tchaikovsky Conservatory, Small Hall, 19:00</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Slipknot (alternative rock) Olimpiysky Sports Complex, 20:00</p> <p>The Casualties (punk) Tochka Club, 19:00</p> <p>Ethno Fest (Russian folk) 16 Tons Club, 21:00</p> <p>Trio Elinte (jazz) Soyuz Kompositorov Club, 21:00</p> <p>Vasily Dolinsky (organ) Roman Catholic Cathedral, 19:30</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Tarja Turunen B1 Maximum, 20:30</p> <p>Songs of Russian Immigration Art House Theater, 19:00</p> <p>Protest the Hero (rock) Tochka Club, 20:00</p> <p>Future Sound of Russia Festival 16 Tonn Club, 21:00</p> <p>Svetlana Kovalenko and Gureev Ensemble (jazz) Soyuz Kompositorov Club, 21:00</p> <p>Bach soloists (classical) St. Andrew's Church, 19:30</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Fool's Garden (rock) B1 Maximum, 21:00</p> <p>Nogu Svelo (Russian rock) 16 Tonn Club, 21:00</p> <p>Traditional Blues Nights International House of Music, 19:00</p> <p>Yuta (vocal, Rus) Tochka Club, 23:30</p> <p>Mariam and Miraif Band (jazz) Soyuz Kompositorov Club, 21:00</p> <p>Pratum Integrum (religious music) Roman Catholic Cathedral, 20:00</p>
<p>10</p> <p>R'n'B Festival Olimpiysky Sports Complex, 19:00</p> <p>Rap Party Tochka Club, 18:30</p> <p>Jazz Dance Orchestra Soyuz Kompositorov Club, 21:00</p>	<p><b>The International Women's Club (IWC)</b> Newcomers' Coffee 10:00 - 12:00 Le Pain Quotidien, Novinsky Blvd., bldg. 7, M. Smolenskaya, RSVPs required. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.iwcmoscow.ru">www.iwcmoscow.ru</a>.</p> <p>Michael Bolton (soft rock) State Kremlin Palace, 19:00</p> <p>Uliana Lopatkina and Roland Petit (ballet show) Moscow Operetta Theatre, 19:00 Also November 12</p>	<p><b>Club de Damas Latinas</b> Monthly Meeting, 11:00-14:00 Centro Espanol, 18/7 Kuznetsky Most, Tel. 921-7394 For information, contact Patricia Martinez-Christie, 7 (905) 708-9242 or <a href="mailto:patriciamchristie@yahoo.co.uk">patriciamchristie@yahoo.co.uk</a></p> <p>Spyro Gyra Moscow House of Music, 19:00</p> <p>Bravo band 25th anniversary concert State Kremlin Palace, 19:00</p> <p>Black Coffee and Jazz (fantasy with bass) Amadei Theater, 19:00</p>	<p>13</p> <p>An Evening of Early Vocal Music St. Andrew's Anglican Church, 19:30</p> <p>Chuck Berry (blues) B1 Maximum, 20:30</p> <p>Viktor Zinchuk (guitar) State Kremlin Palace, 19:00</p> <p>Tcheboza (Russian rock) 16 Tonn Club, 21:00</p> <p>Mikhail Grinn Invites (jazz) Soyuz Kompositorov Club, 20:00 Also November 27</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Okean Elzi (rock, Ukraine) B1 Maximum, 21:00</p> <p>Grigory Leps (vocal, Russia) State Kremlin Palace, 19:00 Also November 15</p> <p>Shaherezada. Bolero. Polovetskiye Plyaski (ballet show) New Opera Theatre, 19:00</p> <p>From Monument to Masses (rock, US) 16 Tonn Club, 22:00</p> <p>Mus Energo Festival (jazz) Soyuz Kompositorov Club, 20:00 Also November 16</p>
<p>17</p> <p>Jean-Michel Jarre State Kremlin Palace, 19:00 Also November 21</p> <p>Madball (hard rock) Tochka Club, 19:00</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Get to Tochka Festival Tochka Club, 18:30 Through November 20</p> <p>Quintet of Alexander Oseitchuk (jazz) Soyuz Kompositorov Club, 21:00</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Alarm Will Sound (jazz) International House of Music, 19:00</p> <p>Jazz Theater of Alexander Rostotsky Soyuz Kompositorov Club, 21:00</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Carmen (ballet) Bolshoi Theater, 19:00 Also November 21, 22, 23</p> <p>Velvet (Russian rock) 16 Tonn Club, 21:00</p> <p>Gregory Fain Band (jazz) Soyuz Kompozitorov Club, 21:00</p> <p>Poker House, 19:00 – 1:00 1st Annual Charity Poker Tournament To benefit KidSave Sports Club Okean Prospekt Mira, dom 91, bld. 3 M. Alekseevskaya For more information visit <a href="http://www.kidsave.org">www.kidsave.org</a></p>	<p>21</p> <p>Surganova and Orchestra (Russian rock) B1 Maximum, 20:00</p> <p>Ara Martirosyan the Fifth Element (vocal, piano) Mir Concert Hall, 20:00</p> <p>Amatory (rock) SDK MAI, 20:00 Also November 22</p> <p>Tequilajazz (fusion) 16 Tonn Club, 21:00</p> <p>Eteri Beriashvili (vocal jazz) Soyuz Kompositorov Club, 21:00</p>
<p>24</p> <p>Swan Lake (ballet) Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theater, 19:00</p> <p>Get to Tochka Festival Tochka Club, 18:30 Through November 27</p> <p>Jazz with a Beard Band Soyuz Kompositorov Club, 21:00</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Moscow Jazz Passengers Band (Rus) Soyuz Kompositorov Club, 21:00</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Neschastny Sluchai (Russian art pop) 25th anniversary celebration MKhAT named after Gorky, 19:00 Also November 27</p> <p>LUKA (rock) 16 Tonn Club, 21:00</p> <p>Alexandra Serebryakova (jazz vocal) Soyuz Kompositorov Club, 21:00</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Solnishko Children's Choir St. Andrew's Anglican Church, 7:30</p> <p>Little Richard B1 Maximum, 20:00</p> <p>Millionaire Fair (exhibition) Crocus Expo, 10:00-18:00 Through November 30</p> <p>Russian Reggae Festival Tochka Club, 18:30</p> <p>Ilence Kit (rock, US) 16 Tonn Club, 21:00</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Sonata Arctica (rock) MAI SDK, 20:00</p> <p>Evening of Violin Duets (violin, piano) Amadei Theatre, 19:00</p> <p>Dolphin (Russian rock) Tochka Club, 22:30</p> <p>Billy's Band (jazz) 16 Tonn Club, 21:00 Also November 29</p> <p>Volga Russian National Choir named for Miloslavova (folk music) Golden Ring Theater, 19:00</p>



Saturday		Sunday		VENUES	
1	<div><b>The International Women's Club (IWC)</b> Newcomers' Coffee 11:00 - 13:00 Le Pain Quotidien, Novinsky Blvd., bldg. 7, M. Smolenskaya, RSVPs required. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.iwcmoscow.ru">www.iwcmoscow.ru</a>.</div> <div>Michael Nyman Band Tchaikovsky Concert Hall, 19:00 Mireille Mathieu (vocal) State Kremlin Palace, 19:00 Ranетки (Russian pop) Luzhniki Sport Complex, 19:00 Splin (Russian rock) B1 Maximum, 20:30</div>	2	<div>Alexander Gradsky (vocal) Cosmos Hotel Concert Hall, 19:00 Also November 3 Blagovest Ensemble (Russian folk) Golden Ring Theatre, 19:00 An Ancient Italian Sonata (classical music) Tchaikovsky Concert Hall, 15:00 Show Latino, Salsaboys (dance and music, Rus) Mir Concert Hall, 19:00 Efes Blues Festival B1 Maximum, 19:00 Through November 3</div>	<b>Amadei Moscow Musical Theater</b> 4 Spiridonovskaya, 290-0956 M.Pushkinskaya, Arbatskaya <a href="http://www.amadei.ru">www.amadei.ru</a> <b>Art House Theater</b> 39 Ul. Gastello, 603-0943, M. Sokolniki <a href="http://www.arthouse-vt.ru">www.arthouse-vt.ru</a> <b>B1 Maximum Club</b> 11 Ul. Ordzhonikidze 648-6777 M. Leninsky Prospect <a href="http://www.b1club.ru">www.b1club.ru</a> <b>Bolshoi Theater</b> 1 Teatralnaya Ploshchad 250-7317 M. Teatralnaya <a href="http://www.bolshoi.ru">www.bolshoi.ru</a> <b>Cosmos Hotel Concert Hall</b> 150 Ul. Prospect Mira, 234-6373 M. Prospekt Mira <a href="http://www.nationalrussianshow.ru">www.nationalrussianshow.ru</a> <b>Crocus Expo Center</b> <a href="http://www.crocus-expo.ru">www.crocus-expo.ru</a> <b>Estrada Theater</b> 20 Bersenevskaya Nab. 959-0550 <b>Galina Vishnevskaya Opera Center</b> 25 Ostozhenka Ul., Bldg. 1 <a href="http://www.opera-centre.ru">www.opera-centre.ru</a> <b>Golden Ring Theater</b> 17a Ul. Timiryazevskaya, 611-4800 M. Timiryazevskaya <a href="http://www.golden-ring.ru">www.golden-ring.ru</a> <b>International House of Music</b> 52 Kosmadamianskaya Naberezhnaya, Bldg. 8, 730-4350 M. Paveletskaya <a href="http://www.mmdm.ru">www.mmdm.ru</a> <b>Lumiere Brothers Gallery at Central House of Artists</b> 10 Krymsky Val M. Oktyabrskaya, Park Kultury <b>Moscow House of Photography Manezh Exhibition Center</b> 1 Manezhnaya Ploshchad. 689-1660 M. Okhotny Ryag <b>Mir Concert Hall</b> 11 Tsvetnoi Bulvar, Bldg. 2, 624-9647 M. Tsvetnoi Bulvar <a href="http://www.mir-hall.ru">www.mir-hall.ru</a> <b>MKhAT im. Gorkogo</b> 22 Tverskoi Bulvar 203-6222 <a href="http://www.mxat-teatr.ru">www.mxat-teatr.ru</a> <b>Moscow State Estrada Theater</b> 20 Bersenevskaya Nab. 959-0550 <b>Moscow State Operetta Theater</b> 6 Ul. Bolshaya Dmitrovka, 692-5982 M. Tverskaya, Pushkinsakaya <a href="http://www.mosoperetta.ru">www.mosoperetta.ru</a>	<b>New Opera</b> 3 Karetny Ryad, Ermitazh Garden M. Chekhovskaya <b>Olimpiysky Sports Complex</b> 16 Olimpiysky Prospekt, 688-3777 M. Prospect Mira <a href="http://www.olimpik.ru">www.olimpik.ru</a> <b>Plan B Club</b> 7 Ul. Sovetskoi Armii, tel. (903) 755-9493, M. Novoslobodskaya <a href="http://www.planbclub.ru">www.planbclub.ru</a> <b>Pobeda Gallery at Winzavod</b> 1 4th-Syromyatnichesky Pereulok Bldg. 6, 917-4646, M. Kurskaya <a href="http://www.winzavod.ru">www.winzavod.ru</a> <b>Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts</b> 12 Volkhonka Ul., 203-7998 M. Kropotkinskaya <a href="http://www.museum.ru">www.museum.ru</a> <b>Roman Catholic Cathedral</b> 21/13 Malaya Gruzinskaya, 252-4051 M. Belorusskaya <a href="http://www.artbene.ru">www.artbene.ru</a> <b>SDK MAI</b> 8 Ul. Dubosekovskaya, M. Sokol <b>Stanislavsky &amp; Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theater</b> 17 Ul. Bolshaya Dmitrovka, 629-8388 M. Tverskaya, Chekhovskaya <a href="http://www.stanislavskymusic.ru">www.stanislavskymusic.ru</a> <b>St. Andrew's Anglican Church</b> 8 Voznesensky Pereulok 629-0990 M. Pushkinskaya, Okhotny Ryad <a href="http://standrewsmoscow.org">standrewsmoscow.org</a> <b>Soyuz Kompositorov Club (Union of Composers Club)</b> 8/10 Briusov Pereulok, Bldg. 2, 692-6563 M. Puskinskaya. Okhotny Ryad <a href="http://www.uclub.ru">www.uclub.ru</a> <b>State Kremlin Palace</b> 1 Ul. Vozdvizhenka 628-5232 M. Biblioteka im. Lenina <a href="http://www.gkd.ru">www.gkd.ru</a> <b>Tochka Club</b> 6 Leninsky Prospekt, Bldg. 7, 737-7666 M. Oktyabrskaya (the Ring Line) <a href="http://www.clubtochka.ru">www.clubtochka.ru</a> <b>Tchaikovsky Conservatory</b> 11 Bolshaya Nikitskaya, 629-8183 M. Biblioteka im. Lenina <a href="http://www.mosconsv.ru">www.mosconsv.ru</a> <b>16 Tonn Club</b> 6 Presnensky Val, Bldg. 1, 253-5300 M. Ulitsa 1905 Goda <a href="http://www.16tons.ru">www.16tons.ru</a>
	8		<div>Agata Kristy (Russian rock) B1 Maximum, 20:30 These New Puritans 16 Tonn, 22:00 Alexey Kozlov and Miraif Band (jazz) Soyuz Kompositorov Club, 21:00 Moscow Boys' Choir Roman Catholic Cathedral, 20:00 Also November 9</div>	9	<div>His Majesty the Tenor (vocal, classical) Moscow House of Music, 19:00 Stereo MC's (jazz/hip-hop) B1 Maximum, 21:00 Litsedei Theater (mimes, Rus) International House of Music, 19:30 Through November 15 UDO (rock) Tochka Club, 20:00 Jane Air (Russian rock) 16 Tonn Club, 19:00</div>
15	<div>Elena Vaenga Solo Concert Mir Concert Hall, 19:00 Magic Flute (opera) Amadei Theater, 18:00 Also November 30 Private Line (rock) Plan B Club, 18:00 Robert Alagna (vocal) International House of Music, 19:00 Alexey Kozlov and Arsenal Band (jazz) Soyuz Kompositorov Club, 20:00 Also November 22</div>	16	<div>Romance Night (concert) Estrada Theatre, 19:00 Tractor Bowling (rock) Tochka Club, 19:00 Romeo and Juliet (ballet) Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Musical Theater, 19:00 Also November 17 Denis Shapovalov presents Night Streets Show (classical music) Mir Concert Hall, 19:00</div>		
	<div><b>The International Women's Club (IWC)</b> Newcomers' Coffee 11:00 - 13:00 Le Pain Quotidien, Novinsky Blvd., bldg. 7, M. Smolenskaya, RSVPs required. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.iwcmoscow.ru">www.iwcmoscow.ru</a>.</div> <div><b>Big Brothers Big Sisters</b> Trivia Night Fundraiser Marriott Courtyard Hotel, 18:00 Tickets are 2,000 rubles For more information, contact Eric Batsie at (495) 781-7520 or <a href="mailto:eric.batsie@bbbsrussia.org">eric.batsie@bbbsrussia.org</a></div>		<div><b>Italian Women's Organization</b> Charity Bazaar, 11:00-16:00 Italian Embassy, Denezhnyi Pereulok, 5 Naiv (Russian punk) B1 Maximum, 19:00 The Cossacks (opera) Amadei Theater, 18:00 Origami (rock) Tochka Club, 19:00 Alexander Malinin (romance) International House of Music, 19:00 Lovex (fusion, US) Plan B Club, 18:00</div>		
29	<div>Slayer (trash metal) B1 Maximum, 21:00 Lumen (Russian rock) Luzhniki Stadium, 19:00 Krematory (Russian rock) Tochka Club, 19:00</div>	30	<div>Sergei Penkin (vocal) Golden Ring Theater, 19:00 Trivium (rock) Tochka Club, 20:00 Znaki (Russian rock) 16 Tonn Club, 21:00 Tamara Mashuli Ensemble (jazz) Soyuz Kompositorov Club, 21:00</div>		





Galina Vishnevskaya Opera Center  
November 6, 10, 12, 20 at 19:00  
[www.opera-centre.ru](http://www.opera-centre.ru)

## Marriage and Other Nightmares

The Galina Vishnevskaya Opera Center is an incubator for young opera singers whom Vishnevskaya nurtures from talented conservatory graduates into budding opera stars. After a two-year course of study that includes choreography, foreign languages, and solo singing lessons with the best Russian teachers, Vishnevskaya's charges leave the nest and head for the Bolshoi or even La Scala. The access to a real stage Vishnevskaya provides her students is one of the most professionally valuable parts of their training: Each season they stage a new production, with eminent directors on the guest list. This year's program, entitled "Marriage and Other Nightmares," is dedicated to the 19th-century writer Nikolai Gogol and the Russian composers who were inspired by his work. The program includes compositions by Mussorgsky (*The Marriage and The Fair at Sorochyntsi*), Tchaikovsky (*Cherevichki*), Rimsky-Korsakov (*May Night*), and Shostakovich (*The Nose*).

## Cultural Crossroads: ROZA MIRA '08

Throughout its history, Russia has been a crossroads between East and West. So it is fitting that this November, Moscow will host the Roza Mira [Rose of the World] Forum for the third time. Roza Mira is a cross-cultural, multi-disciplinary event that brings together artists from the six member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization — China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Participants of the collaborative project are drawn from rural areas and urban centers alike and represent various branches of the visual and performing arts, both traditional and contemporary. Highlights of this year's forum, which will be held at venues throughout the city, include photographer Lyalya Kuznetsova's exhibit "Beyond Bukhara," along with an exhibit of Central Asian Socialist Realism curated by Beijing Museum of Modern Art Director Viktor Lu and original music by Sofia Gubaidulina.

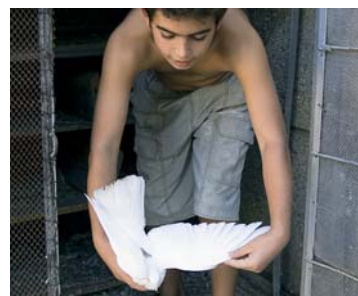


Photo Lyalya Kuznetsova

November 6 – 18  
For schedule and venues see  
[www.roza-mira.com](http://www.roza-mira.com)

## Bravo, BRAVO!



State Kremlin Palace  
November 12 at 19:00  
[www.gkd.ru](http://www.gkd.ru)

Formed back in the early 1980s when its lead guitarist, Yevgeny Khavtan, was still a university student, the Russian band Bravo has had its ups and downs over the decades along with the country: changes in frontmen, moments of turmoil and official disapprobation, lean times as well as times of popular and creative plenty. The band isn't big on birthdays, but every so often one comes along that warrants special celebration with a unique, one-time program with new arrangements of old hits and premieres of new songs. This month Bravo will mark its 25th anniversary with just such a show at the State Kremlin Palace, Europe's largest indoor concert hall, where guests will be treated to an appearance by former band member Zhanna Aguzarova. As time goes by and we all get older, Bravo, it seems, keeps giving fans something new.

## Balts Brainstorming in Moscow

Classmates Renars Kaupers, Janis Jubalts, Gundars Mausevics, and Kaspars Roga started Brainstorm in 1989 and spent much of the 1990s conquering the hearts of fans in their native Latvia and the other Baltic countries with their folk-rock hybrid sound. The band earned international popularity in 2000 when they finished third in that year's Eurovision Song Contest with their song "My Star." That exposure earned their album *Among the Suns* airplay in many countries, and subsequent singles such as "Maybe," "Colder," "A Day before Tomorrow," and "Thunder without Rain" became popular in much of Europe, receiving play on MTV's and VH1's European channels. Brainstorm's music is light, their lyrics thoughtful and poetic. And as they are not frequent visitors to Moscow, they are not easy to catch live. So don't miss the chance to feel this Baltic breeze now.



B1 Maximum  
November 22 at 21:00  
[www.b1club.ru](http://www.b1club.ru)

## R&B Festival



Olimpiysky Sports Complex  
November 10 at 19:00  
[www.timbalandmusic.com](http://www.timbalandmusic.com)

Occasionally, R&B artists visit Moscow while on tour, but it's a first for Olimpiysky Sports Complex to be hosting so many stars on a single night: Busta Rhymes, Akon, Kelly Rowland, Keri Hilson, and Timbaland himself, who will be presenting his new album, *Shock Value 2*. To be sure, Timbo's come a long way since his debut in the 1990s with Timbaland & Magoo. By the beginning of this decade, his signature sound had become a standard not only in the R&B world but for all kinds of popular music. With four Grammys under his belt and six singles having reached the top of Billboard's Hot 100, the singer/songwriter/rapper/record producer has collaborated with everyone from Madonna to Bjork to Limp Bizkit. Given his passion and reputation for great shows, the Moscow concert is sure to be something to see and hear.



## Museums and Galleries

### Merce My Way: Merce Cunningham Dance Company by Baryshnikov

The challenge of capturing a movement in an image has attracted artists of every era. The Futurist painters identified this as one of their main artistic tasks. A century later, Mikhail Baryshnikov, an eminent dancer himself, has taken up this challenge, along with his camera, in a project dedicated to the great choreographer Merce Cunningham. The result looks, on the one hand, like an attempt to fix a choreographic movement as an example for students of dance to study, and, on the other, like a complete work of art for its own sake. "Watching Cunningham's dances through the eye of a lens is a lesson in the extremes and restraints of the dancer's body. The company's astonishing stamina is in high relief when photographed, but it's the individual traits of the performers that burst into the shot with surprising power. To a dancer, such nakedness is revelatory."



Pobeda Gallery  
November 5 – January 15, 2009  
Open daily except Monday, 11:00 – 20:00  
[www.pobedagallery.com](http://www.pobedagallery.com)



Lumiere Brothers Gallery  
October 15 – November 25  
Open daily except Monday,  
10:00 – 19:00  
[www.lumiere.ru](http://www.lumiere.ru)

### Yakov Khalip and the Photographic Avant-Garde

Born in St. Petersburg in 1908, Yakov Khalip settled in Moscow in 1921, where he studied cinematography. His first published photograph, "Moskva River Embankment at Night," appeared in 1926 in the magazine *Ogonyok*, and Khalip went on to become a still photographer for such Soviet publications as *Pravda* and *Izvestiya*. In addition, he collaborated with the avant-garde artists Alexander Rodchenko and Varvara Stepanova, who often included his photographs in their graphic designs for the printed page. During World War II, Khalip served as a correspondent at the front, resuming his documentary and journalism work after the war. In this way, he was able to record not only life in the Soviet Union but abroad as well: Starting in the 1960s, he devoted photographic series to Morocco, Algeria, and Italy. In honor of the great photographer's jubilee, the Lumiere Brothers Gallery has organized a retrospective featuring some of Khalip's best works representing his contributions to the avant-garde as well as to photo reportage and art photography.

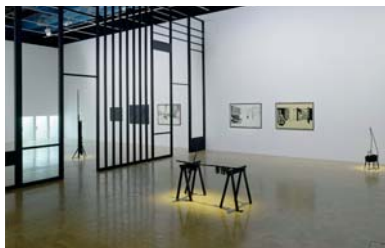
### Photo-Portraits of Viktor Tsoi and Others

Sergey Bermeniev is a master of the portrait with an enormous body of work. The list of those who have posed for him includes Nobel Prize winners and power brokers, celebrities of stage and screen and arts and letters, from Kofi Annan and Jack Nicholson to Maya Plisetskaya and Federico Fellini. Despite his fame abroad, exhibitions of his work are rare in Russia. This one will feature black-and-white portraits of Hollywood stars, luminaries of the political and artistic worlds, and a special tribute to the late, magnetic leader of the rock band Kino, Viktor Tsoi (shown right).



Moscow House of Photography, Novy Manezh  
November 11 – 30

Open daily except Monday, 10:00 – 20:00  
<http://mdf.ru/english>



Brodilny Hall, Winzavod Center for Modern Art  
October 31 – November 29  
Open daily except Monday, 11:00 – 20:00  
[www.winzavod.ru](http://www.winzavod.ru)

### Nine-Star Constellation: Pernod Ricard Art World in Moscow

Big corporations can be loyal patrons of the arts, and one example of such support is the French beverage company Pernod Ricard. Each year since 1999, the Pernod Ricard Foundation sponsors a contest for young French artists, buying the work of the winners and donating it to the Georges Pompidou Centre in Paris. This year, the company has organized an exhibit featuring the work of the nine artists who have won the contest since its inception, and this month the show will be in Moscow. At the center of the event is a work, *Constellation of Sculptures* by Vincent Lamouroux, that serves as an apt metaphor for the entire exhibit: Like stars that are many miles away from each other, the artists' styles, tastes, and ideas differ widely but come together to form one constellation when seen together from Earth.

### Turner's Turn at the Pushkin

J.M.W. Turner (1775–1851) is one of the treasures of British art, with his works in the collections of such venerable institutions as the Tate Gallery and British Museum. Entering the Royal Academy of Art in London at age 15, Turner was ahead of his time with romantic landscapes that explored new forms of expression through color and light. Though not appreciated in his own day — his compatriots called him "blind" — by the late 19th century he came to be recognized and admired as a master, with his art an important influence on such seminal Impressionists and Post-Impressionists as Manet, Monet, and Matisse. This month the Pushkin Museum will host an exhibit, the first ever in Russia devoted to this important British artist, of over 100 works from the Tate's Turner collection, including watercolors, oils, and engravings. The show is sponsored by businessman Alisher Usmanov and organized by Boris Messerer.



Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts  
November 18, 2008 – February 15, 2009  
[www.museum.ru/GMII](http://www.museum.ru/GMII)

Photo courtesy Tate Gallery, London

# This Month in History

**November 1-4, 1612:**

***Russian troops recapture Moscow.***

During the Time of Troubles, an interregnum between the Rurik and Romanov dynasties, Russia was suffering. Several years of famine and a vacant throne had rendered the population vulnerable and the state weak. By 1611, Polish-Lithuanian forces had occupied Moscow and other Russian cities, but in the autumn of 1612, Prince Dmitri Pozharsky and Novgorod merchant Kuzma Minin led an uprising in Moscow against the invaders. On November 1, Russian forces succeeded in recapturing the Kitai Gorod area of Moscow, ultimately forcing the occupiers to abandon the Kremlin and retreat from the city. The resurrection of a Russian Moscow marked the beginning of the end of the Time of Troubles. Today, the leaders of the fight to liberate Moscow are commemorated by a statue in front of St. Basil's Cathedral in Red Square, and the event is celebrated in Russia on November 4, the Day of National Unity.



**November 9, 1985:**

***Garry Kasparov becomes the youngest World Chess Champion in history.***

Baku-born Garry Kasparov showed enormous promise as a chess player from the earliest age, rising quickly through the turbo-charged Soviet chess establishment to dominate the international tournament circuit. The 1984 World Championship culminated in a marathon final match between Kasparov and reigning champion Anatoly Karpov. But after nearly 50 games, the head of the World Chess Federation (FIDE), concerned about the players' health, terminated the match, leaving the tournament inconclusive. In the scheduled rematch in 1985, the 22-year-old Kasparov defeated his countryman to become the youngest World Chess Champion ever. He maintained the title until 2000 and retired from professional chess in 2005. Since then Kasparov has become active in Russian domestic politics, mounting an unsuccessful campaign as an opposition candidate for the Russian presidency in fall 2007.



**November 11, 1821:**

***Fyodor Dostoevsky is born.***

Dostoevsky was born at Moscow's Mariinsky Hospital, where his father was a doctor. In May, 1849, he was arrested for participating in a liberal intellectual group and held in prison for six months until, on November 16 of the same year, Dostoevsky was sentenced to death for anti-government activities. At the last moment, as Dostoevsky stood before a firing squad, the sentence was converted to hard labor in Siberia, and it was after returning from this exile that his literary career began in earnest. His final novel, *The Brothers Karamazov*, was published in serialized form and completed in November 1880. The creator of Raskolnikov and the Underground Man is one of Russia's great gifts to world literature and a towering figure in the Russian cultural firmament. Today a statue of the master stands outside the Russian National Library in Moscow.



**November 14, 1263: Alexander Nevsky dies.**



One of the most venerated figures in Russian history, Nevsky may be most familiar as the namesake of St. Petersburg's central boulevard, Nevsky Prospekt. As the prince of medieval Novgorod, Alexander defended the city and its environs from invasion by Swedish and German forces. His victory at the Battle of the Neva in 1240 spared Russia from the hands of the northern invaders and earned him the name Nevsky. In the 16th century, Nevsky was canonized by the Russian Orthodox Church, which celebrates his feast day on November 23. In the 20th century, the story of Nevsky's defense of Russia against Germanic military threat became the subject of an epic film by legendary Soviet director Sergei Eisenstein. In 1938, Eisenstein's vision of the Battle of the Neva in *Alexander Nevsky*, scored by Sergei Prokofiev, reified the medieval figure as a symbol of Russian and Soviet resistance on the eve of World War II.



**November 15, 1933:**

***Moscow's first trolleybus hits the streets.***

As the population of the city of Moscow swelled and the city expanded outward, the need for cheap, quick public transportation grew more pressing. In November 1933, Moscow introduced its first regular trolleybus lines, becoming the first Soviet city to do so. The first line ran from what is now Belorussky train station to what is now the area around the Green Line's Sokol metro station. Even after the opening of the city's first underground metro line several years later, the convenience of the trolleybus — which, unlike the metro with its stops located 2-3 kilometers from each other, can deliver its passengers within a block or two of their destination — has preserved it as a fixture of the city's landscape over the decades. Today, Moscow's trolleybus network is the world's biggest, although advocates regret that the expansion of trolleybus routes has not kept up with the city's growth in recent years.



**November 23, 1957:**

***Boris Pasternak's Doctor Zhivago is published.***

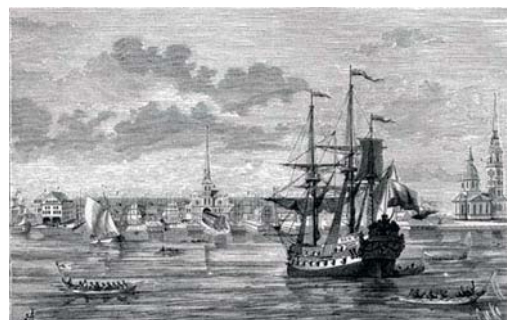


After the manuscript was rejected by a Soviet publishing house, an Italian publisher smuggled it to the West, where it was published in Italian in 1957. In 1958, an English translation appeared, and the novel became an immediate best-seller throughout the English-speaking world. In October 1958, Pasternak was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, which he ultimately declined, under duress from Soviet authorities. Pasternak died in 1960, after having been expelled from the Soviet Writers' Union (which reinstated him posthumously in 1988). Although earlier samizdat editions of the book had circulated around the USSR for a number of years, *Doctor Zhivago* was officially published in the Soviet Union for the first time in 1988.

**November 27, 1705:**

***Peter the Great orders the creation of a Russian navy.***

Peter's love affair with the sea and ships is well known, so it should come as no surprise that the founding of the Russian navy is traceable to him. In November 1705 (the 16th according to the Julian calendar used in Russia at the time and the 27th according to the Gregorian calendar in use today), Tsar Peter I issued a decree "On the Establishment in Russia of a regiment of naval soldiers," and thus the Imperial Russian Navy was born. Throughout imperial and Soviet times, the nation's various naval fleets, from the Baltic to the Pacific, were instrumental to its defense and commercial activities. In today's Russia, the day is a holiday honoring the navy fleets and all who have served in it.



**November 28, 1943: Tehran conference of Allied leaders begins.**



In the midst of World War II, the three main Allies, the Soviet Union, the United States, and Great Britain, met in Iran, to discuss war time cooperation and strategy. The first of three meetings attended by Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill, the focus of the conversation in Tehran was the opening of a second front in Europe through an Allied invasion from the West, known as Operation Overlord. It was here that discussions of the shape of the post-war world political order began. Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, emboldened by recent Soviet victories, pressed his British and American counterparts for concessions. Among those Churchill and Roosevelt granted was agreement to allow the Soviet Union to extend its post-war sphere of influence to Eastern Europe, an arrangement that set the stage for the Cold War.



## Film of the Former Soviet Space

text Vladimir Kozlov

Back in Soviet times, each republic of the USSR had its own film industry, centered in its own film studio, usually located in the capital of the republic. The biggest republics — Russia and Ukraine, each had several film studios. All told, these studios put out more than a hundred feature films a year. Although their quality differed dramatically, all these films were distributed to theaters throughout the Soviet territory, making the country's film industry one of the most profitable sectors of the economy.

All this ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s, which brought the planned economy and government support for the film industry to an end. Studios in Soviet successor states were forced to survive on their own. A population that had no money to go to the movies meant that huge film studio complexes were standing idle, with only a few sections in use, primarily by crews shooting commercials.

Russia's film industry — the biggest in the former Soviet Union — was the first to begin recovery in the early 2000s and is now producing almost as many movies annually as the entire Soviet Union did some 20 years ago. But what is the situation in the other former Soviet republics?

Most of them don't have much to boast about. Studio complexes badly need renovation, and the national film industries seldom produce more than a handful of features a year. One exception is Ukraine, which seems to be following in the footsteps of Russia's film renaissance. Earlier this year, the Ukrainian film *Safo* grossed more than \$1 million at the domestic box office, becoming the first homegrown movie to do so.

This watershed triggered comparisons with Russia's movie industry seven years ago, when that country's first domestically produced film, *Antikiller*, crossed the \$1 mil-

lion threshold. Ukraine has operable facilities at all of its studio complexes — Odessa (pictured above), Yalta, and Kiev's Dovzhenko — which attract domestic filmmakers as well as those from abroad, but on the artistic side, Ukrainian filmmakers still have to prove themselves.

On an international level, however, the fact that Ukraine has not yet joined an international convention on film industry cooperation is certainly a disadvantage. Another big problem for the Ukrainian film industry is that there is no massive state support program as there is in Russia, where about 3 billion rubles (\$120 million) was allotted for support to the film industry in 2008.

In Ukraine, the state supports about six features a year, which has led to the domination of domestic theaters by movies made in Russia and the United States. There are plans to bring state support for the film industry from the



current level of \$10 million per year to about \$80 million annually, but nothing is certain yet.

In 2007, box office revenues increased in Ukraine by 26 percent to \$59.8 million, making it the former Soviet Union's second-largest market, but a controversial law enacted in 2008 requiring the mandatory dubbing or subtitling of all movies — including Russian-language ones — into Ukrainian may have curtailed theater attendance.

Another major filmmaking power in the Soviet Union was Georgia, especially when it came to what later became known as “art house” cinema. Renowned director Sergei Parajanov made several of his movies in Georgia, and *Monanieba* [Repentance] by Tengiz Abuladze, an allegorical portrayal of an authoritarian ruler, was one of the most controversial films of Gorbachev's perestroika era in the 1980s. Since those times, Georgia's movie industry has slowed down substantially.

Today just a few feature films a year are produced, though some receive a measure of international exposure, such as *Midioda matarebeli* [The

Train Went On and On] by veteran director Giorgi Shengelaya. There are attempts at commercial moviemaking, notably, *Rusuli Samkudhedi* [The Russian Triangle] by Aleko Tsabadze, which was screened at the Moscow International Film Festival two years ago and was later shown in Russian theaters, becoming the first Georgian film to be released in the country in about 15 years. That movie was also Georgia's entry in the best foreign language film Oscar race.

Meanwhile, with local distribution systems still weak and foreign distributors unwilling to buy pictures produced in countries whose names they can hardly pronounce, the only opportunity to be seen for many movies made in the former Soviet republics is film festivals. New fests pop up in the region from time to time as well, like, for instance, the Eurasia International Film Festival. This festival, which focuses primarily on films from the Central Asian region, was held in the Kazakh capital of Astana for the fifth time last September. This year, the festival's Grand-Prix for Best Film went to *Farewell, Gulsary!* by Kazakh director Ardak Amirkulov, while his

compatriot Adilkhan Yerzhanov collected the best director's prize for *Bakhytzhama*.

Small film industries in the Baltic states are developing along the lines of the European Union's film policies, with some support from the local government and some more cash coming from the European institution, but the scale of production remains very small.

The situation is a little different in Belarus, a country where the film industry is still fully controlled by the state. This does not, however, prevent foreign film crews (primarily Russian) from shooting there. When it comes to making their own films, government funds are meager, allowing for about one movie a year — such as 2003's period piece *Anastasiya Slutskaya* by Yuri Yelkhov. At a recent meeting at the Belarusfilm studio complex, the country's President Alexander Lukashenko slammed domestic filmmakers for poor use of state money and sloppy work but went on to promise some additional state funds for making “good films.” However, what the criteria of “good films” would be and who will distribute the funds remains unclear. **P**



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## Traveling Tunes

Indulge me. Let me take a sentimental journey back to the summers of my youth, when holidays were a family affair that involved unfeasibly early starts (there is no traffic on the road at 4 am), loading the car to the brim, tins of crunch (mum's secret recipe for flapjack/cereal bars) placed temptingly in the seat between my sister and me, to be rationed sparingly throughout the epic adventure. And, of course, a soundtrack.

Demands for De La Soul were ignored, mum's choice of Steve Winwood endured, dad's requests for The Stones enjoyed (but not all the way there!).

But today it is all different. No longer do you get to choose just five CDs each, to be rotated for communal consumption. Now each family member will have his or her own iPod, with an individualized mixed tape lovingly compiled before take-off. So what would feature on yours?

It is a difficult question, and rather than merely subject you to my own eclectic tastes, I have carried out some research among colleagues, friends, and family, who have given me tracks — from the obvious to the bizarre — to download onto that iPod before piling into that car or heading off to the airport.

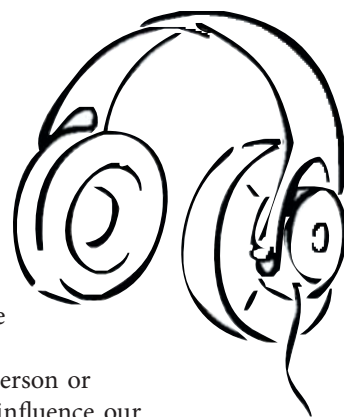
Canned Heat's "On the Road Again" may well be an answer that lacks subtlety of purpose, but it is a great opener nonetheless, a perfect start to any holiday. The traffic jam, the queues at the airport, the lack of air-conditioning at the hotel, and nerves are getting frayed. So the next track is perfect to vent frustrations, privately, at your traveling companion: "I Hate You So

Much Right Now" by Kelis offers powerful lyrics and a therapeutic screaming section mid-track. For a more relaxed feel, many suggested anything by Simon and Garfunkel, and one friend recommended new London-based singer/songwriter Natty, especially the track "Bedroom Eyes."

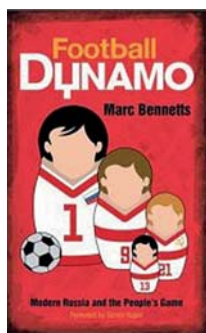
Songs often remind us a person or place from our past and so influence our choices. Hence the inclusion on this iPod of Bob Sinclair's "Love Generation" (at this point I would like to remind you that these are not my choices) and Radiohead's "Creep" as well as "Hips Don't Lie" by Shakira and Wyclef Jean, a track that can't fail to get you dancing.

I could go on and on, and I am aware that there have been many genres missed, let alone no mention of The Eagles' "Hotel California," "Dreadlock Holiday" by 10cc, Estelle's "American Boy," anything by Dolly Parton...

This just goes to prove that it is a difficult and thought-provoking list to compile. And it leads me to ponder the potentially peaceful car journey during which each traveler's iPod loaded with personal favorites renders unnecessary the noisy squabbles over whose music to put on ... Where's the fun in that? — Claire Marsden



## Football Commentators



To an English fan this phrase normally conjures up images of cold, aging yet excitable men in dodgy jackets rambling about a beautiful game of two halves and any other bizarre metaphors or clichés they can drum up. In his new book, *Football Dynamo*, Marc Bennetts retains all the passion for the game, but rather than merely commenting on the skills of a player or the faults of a ref, he uses his love of football — and of the

Russian game, in particular — to comment on the social, historical, and economic changes Russia has seen since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

This is a fantastic read. Bennetts bravely embarks on a study of Russian football and its teams; their industrial, communist, or military pasts; the iron rule of the managers; and the shady corruption that clouds the triumphs of the modern game. His paean to the Russian game involves all, from the players and managers to the oil-and-gas-rich oligarchs (who, following in Abramovich's footsteps, have injected a huge amount of capital into this fast-growing premiership) and the politicians (who tactically support or distance themselves from this sport in times of public need) to the hooligans (organized gangs who use the game as a playground for violence and dismiss English football hooligans, their one-time heroes, as having gone soft). Everyone is given a voice, and everyone — a publicity managers permitting — is subjected to Bennetts' probing.

His interviews with the various sporting heroes he meets give him the opportunity to criticize and praise Britain and

Russia, and his asides about these figures can be ingenious, ironic, and insightful. Don't miss his interview with the academic Alex Smertin, who had the romantic idea that living and playing in England would allow him to converse with people who speak a poetic English embellished with Dickens-like description. Instead, Smertin encountered the slightly less lyrical — and more obscene — language spoken in the stands and changing rooms at Arsenal or Fulham.

This book does not merely have a football focus. Along with Bennetts' research we are presented with the author's love for Russia and its people. Having lived and worked in Russia for over a decade, Bennetts is not blind to the country's faults, but, pleasingly, he is not jaded (as many expats can appear to be). His narrative reminds us of all that is exciting about living here: the nuances of the language (and the power and expressiveness of Russian putdowns and expletives); the foibles, superstitions, and homegrown fatalism. Through simple observations, Bennetts points out the differences between the Russian game and its British or Brazilian analogue — like the distances teams travel to an away match and the lack of gardens that give youngsters the private space to practice their keepie uppies.

With the season drawing to an end, fans of Russian football may wish to fill the void by reading this up-to-date account of the successes and failures of the league teams and the national squad. But I would also recommend it to anyone who fancies an enlightening and entertaining journey into heart of Russia. — Claire Marsden

*Football Dynamo* by Marc Bennetts, Random House Books, 2008 (253 pp. plus references, acknowledgements, and index)



# Packing it in

Eva Lanska tells *Passport's* Anna Kulyagina what's in her suitcase.



Is there anyone who relishes packing for a trip? The process can be a challenge for even the best organized among us. And for the organizationally challenged...Well, let's not get into it. So many little decisions to make, so much to remember.

Will all this fit into one bag? (Well, yes, but will I be able to lift it?)

Wait! Is there anything I've forgotten? (You haven't lived if you've never had the pleasure of arriving at your destination after a long trip, to wash, remove your contact lenses, and discover you've forgotten your eyeglasses.)

There are, however, those who have refined their packing routine to a science. One such person is Russian TV journalist, author, and frequent traveler Eva Lanska (pictured above). She recently spoke with *Passport* about the trials and tribulations of packing and how she has learned to maintain a Zen-like harmony between suitcase and soul. Below is a "travel-size" version of what she said.

## I always...

Read up on my destination before going somewhere. I check the Internet, ask advice from friends who have been there.

Make hotel and restaurant reservations in advance. This gives piece of mind and saves time when you get where you're going so you can do other things. Also, advance bookings can lead to some nice discounts.

## On Packing:

"I like traveling and do it a lot, so packing a suitcase is something I do often – at least twice a month. As a result, I've developed some guidelines for myself.

The central one is bring as little as possible – include all the necessities but leave anything extra at home. Of course, the hard part is figuring out what qualifies as a necessity. Planning your outfits carefully and thoroughly helps to clarify these categories."

## My basic wardrobe for a trip includes...

- at least two cocktail dresses and two pairs of shoes (one pair of heels and one pair of flats)
- a pair of jeans
- a jacket

- a light coat
- a swimsuit
- workout clothes and sneakers
- my favorite pajamas (they're soft and comfy)
- a comfortable pair of shoes that I don't mind wearing all day

## Other things I bring are...

- cosmetics
- more books than I can finish
- a strand of pearls that belonged to my grandmother — as a kind of good luck charm
- my notebook (I usually write while I'm traveling)
- my iPod with music by Serge Gainsbourg, Andrew Lloyd Webber, and the Beatles
- a mobile phone charger
- a blow-dryer (I don't trust the ones in hotels)

## I usually...

Spend a lot of time in bookstores when I travel. So, I tend to come home with a lot of new books and posters.

## I never...

Buy a new pair of shoes for a trip. What if they turn out to be uncomfortable? **P**

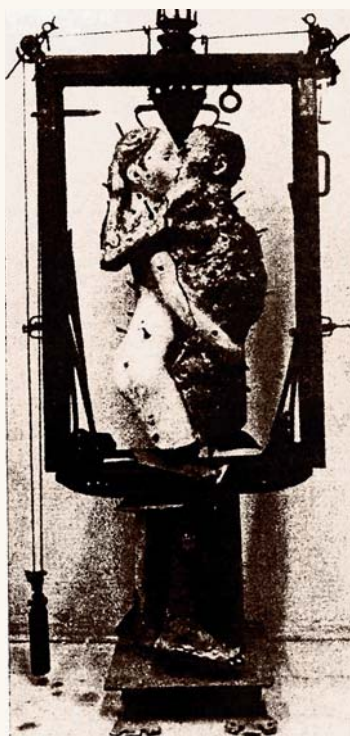


# Leonid Berlin's Roman Holiday

text Olga Slobodkina-von Brømssen



Leonid Berlin



Wedge



The Mouth of Truth

Abandoned as infants, Romulus and Remus, the mythological founders of Rome, are said to have been raised by a she-wolf. A classical visual interpretation of their story shows the brothers suckling as the wolf stands guard over them. Just such an image, with white ceramic characters inscribed within a blue medallion, is part of the sculptural adornment of *Rimskaya* metro station, which is named in honor of the Italian capital (*Rimskaya* means “Roman” in Russian).

The sculpture is by the Russian artist Leonid Berlin, whose work is featured throughout the station. Bringing ancient

themes to a modern venue, Berlin’s sculptures made of fire clay are an ultra-modern interpretation of the best examples of 14th- and 15th-century Italian sculpture.

*Berlin, who lost his father in Stalin’s purges, used his art to attack the Soviet regime. A favorite motif is the continuation of amid decay and destruction.*

themes to a modern venue, Berlin’s sculptures made of fire clay are an ultra-modern interpretation of the best examples of 14th- and 15th-century Italian sculpture.

Above one of the station’s escalators, another Berlin work depicts four horses pulling a quadriga (an ancient Roman chariot) through the Arch of Titus, an ancient Roman structure that still stands today on the Via Sacra in Rome. Two children frame the piece, cherub-like. Another of the station’s medallions, this one over the foot of the escalator, shows the Madonna and Child. The Catholic prayer to the Virgin is inscribed on the medallion’s edge, which — together with the Madonna’s shawl, breast, and hands — offers protection to the child. “For me this sculpture is a symbol of motherhood,” Berlin said of the work.

The theme of (re)birth is evident in another work displayed on one of the station’s landings: Two Corinthian columns, one standing and one fallen, form a playground for two sculptured children (opposite page, top). “Sprouts of new life,” laughed the sculptor, describing the youthful figures. “Without them it was deadly ennui. They are a prospect for the future.” The flowers that decorate the capitals of Berlin’s columns further add to the sense of life emerging out of decay.

Other prominent themes in Berlin’s work are human suffering and social injustice. For example, the sculpture *Artist* portrays a naked man entangled in wire, to

which cockroaches and other insects are attached. The bugs, powered by electricity, crawl over the body. The man holds a stick in his right hand, which might be a paint brush or a conductor’s baton, and continues to create as the pests torment him.

Another kinetic work, *Wedge* (at left, center), depicts the destruction of the family, a comment on the brutal policies of the Stalin era. In this sculpture, a man and a woman are locked in a naked embrace, their bodies melting into a single organic whole. Suddenly, a wedge comes between them, bloodily tearing their unity asunder.

Berlin used his art to attack Soviet brutality. The artist’s drawings register the powdered façade of Soviet life while simultaneously revealing the horrors of its realities. It is no wonder Berlin was compelled to express such sentiments: His father was executed in 1938, a victim of Stalin’s purges.

Born in Moscow in 1925, Leonid Berlin rejected Socialist Realism, the artistic style sanctioned by the Soviet state. For this reason, during Soviet times Berlin could not exhibit his provocative works without risking arrest. However, some inventive friends suggested a clever way around this: Exhibit his works as illustrations to Bertolt Brecht’s plays. They even wrote original verses in Brechtian style as captions for the “illustrations.” Fortunately for Berlin, the party bosses who controlled art were hardly literati and didn’t bother to check Brecht’s texts to see if the “quoted” lines were authentic.

This approach enabled Berlin to depict the struggle of the people against the powers that be — embodied by listless party functionaries — right under the noses of these same party bureaucrats. One Party boss turned all shades of red as he walked from picture to picture at an exhibition of Berlin’s. He could discern in Berlin’s works the commentary on Party bureaucracy, but he couldn’t find a way to pin down actual grounds for accusing Berlin. “My art illustrated Brecht and nothing but Brecht,” Berlin recollected.



Which isn't to say that Berlin was able to live and work in the USSR unmolested. Once, in 1974, some of his works were smashed and the pieces dumped over the garden wall of his dacha. With the advent of perestroika, he was free to create as he wished but continued to push the limits of convention. The artist died in 2000.

While Berlin is best known for his sculpture, he considered his graphic work equally important. In 1956, the artist illustrated a volume of selected poetry by Turkish poet Nazim Hikmet, a friend of the Russian poet Vladimir Mayakovsky and an activist in world political and artistic communities throughout the 1940s and 50s (Hikmet is buried in Moscow's Novodevichy Cemetery). This work earned Berlin a silver medal at the 1958 World Graphic Exhibition in Leipzig. After that, publishers began to commission work from him.

Berlin injected his personality and sometimes even his physical features into his art. In Rinskaya metro station, the face of the sculpture The Mouth of Truth is Berlin's self-portrait. "I didn't make that face look like mine on purpose, but somehow all my pieces look



photo Ben Berghaus

like me," the sculptor once admitted, with a smile.

The sculpture is a reference to the famous *Bocca della Verita* sculpture in Rome, believed to be part of an ancient Roman fountain. Centuries-old legend holds that any liar who dares put his

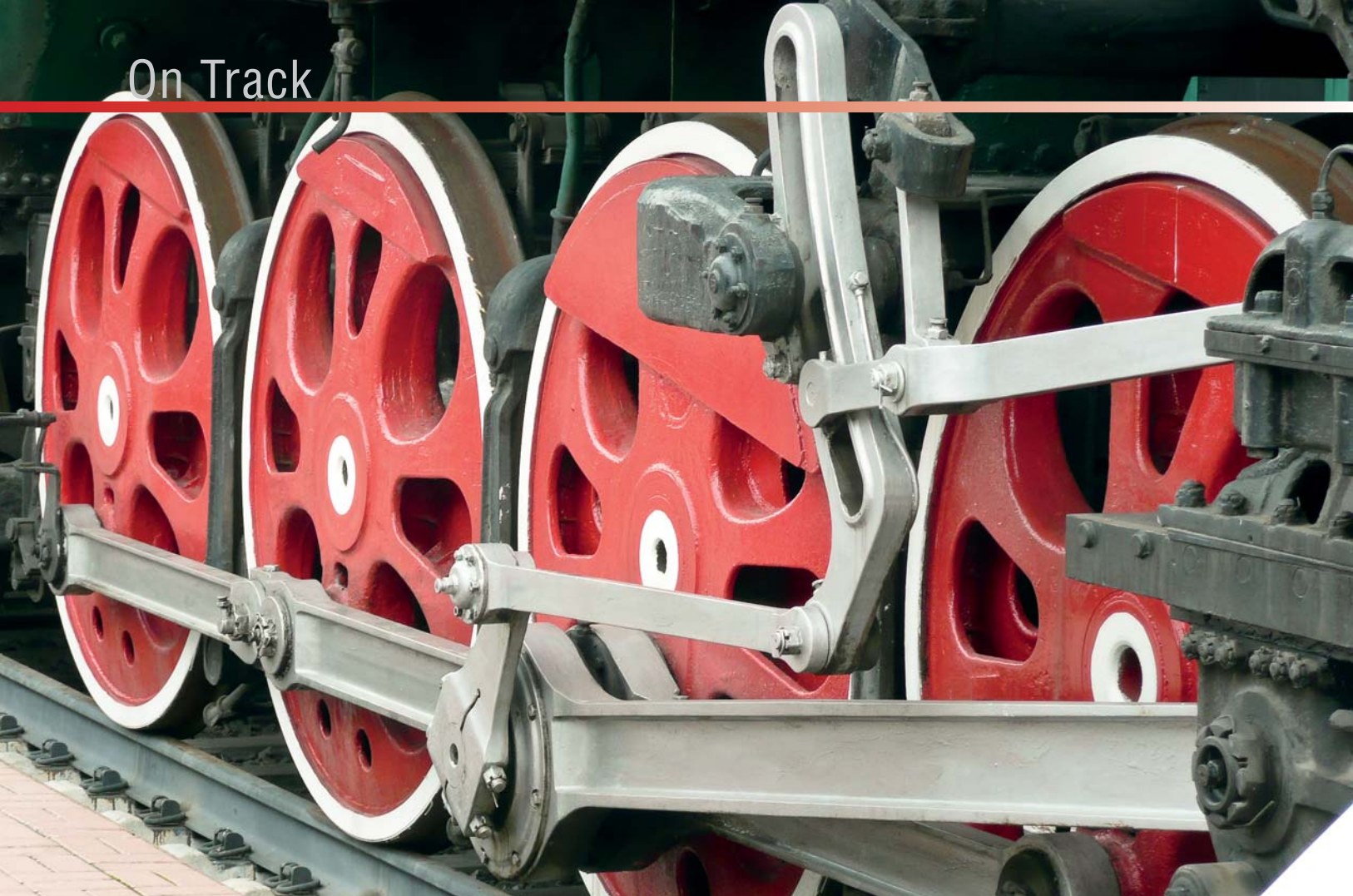
hand into the gaping mouth of the sculpture's round face will have it bitten off. The text inscribed around the edge of Berlin's version in the metro is mostly in Latin, but there are two words in Russian: *Dlya Donosov* [For Denunciations]. **P**



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**Tverskaya Street, 12, GUM, 1st floor** near Ilinka street entrance, Red Square, **Europe Center, 2nd floor,** Kievskaya Square, **Atrium, 1st floor** (in Accessorize), Zemlyanoi Val, 33, **Mega Belaya Dacha,** **Mega Teply Stan** (Monsoon children only), **Auchan City, 2nd floor,** Sheremyetevskaya Street, 60





# Riding the Rails

text and photos Ross Hunter

As soon as I thought he was old enough, I took my young son to enjoy the delights of steam trains. A picturesque French narrow gauge line, restored and run by enthusiasts winding through glorious countryside, full of bends and ravines and improbable viaducts and sudden tunnels on a sunny Sunday: What could be better?! As we waited amid the enthusiastic throng at a tiny halt in the middle of the line, the train did not let us down, as she puffed and wheezed majestically into view and cacophonously announced her arrival and willingness to take the lucky passengers on board. So far so good. But two stops up the line, with our faces full of fine soot and backsides numb on bone-hard wooden seats, the boy spotted a routine issue 1950s diesel railcar and asked to change.

Steam locos are therefore better to admire than to travel. And the fascination is endless. The railway museum at Rizhsky Vokzal on Prospekt Mira

offers a fine selection for all tastes with nearly a century's worth of exhibits. The visitors are as varied in age and origin as the engines, which include Russian and Soviet beasts as well as German and American and Czech examples.

Steam trains are not only the very engines of the industrial revolution, they are arguably the last and greatest engineering feat where the transformation of fuel into work is thrust at you — by sight and sound and smell and touch (and taste!). In short, they exude power.

While all steam engines are amazing, the great Soviet behemoths are awesome. Britain built the first railways, and Brunel helped Russia extend the empire. With a larger gauge and taller tunnels, Russian trains have sheer scale and raw power on their side. No messing with modest little 4-6-2 wheels; most serious Russian trains have 2-8-2 or even 0-10-0 formats: the

massive, mighty scarlet-spoked wheels project dynamism.

The earlier engines, from the turn of the century have a sit-up-and-beg quality, with modest boiler tubes and tall funnels telling of power harnessed slightly against the odds. These give way to ever larger beasts, massive cylinders sitting proud above the bogeys, funnels built in and mighty lights on their cyclopean crowns, and streamlining panels reinforcing their presence. And with the red star emblazoned on the front, offsetting the imposing but unavoidable coalsoot hue. Who needs jet? Black is the new black.

All things pass, even the age of steam. The later rows of engines faithfully track the progression to modern traction, diesel, and electric, with brighter colors and “go faster stripes” needed to enliven duller panel sides. With form dictated less and less by function, styling takes its place, and the resulting trend toward anthropo-



morphism is undeniable: Amble down the second line of haulers and see the drivers' paired windscreen eyes evolve atop bearded chin, and between them, a decorated nose, showing off Russian Railways' livery or makers' logos.

Train travel is inherently democratic and egalitarian. Everyone is in it together, and as any rail-set novel or travel journal will remind you, experiences are to be shared. This, plus the inescapable romance of heading off down the line, following one's destiny to discover exotic locations and equally exotic companions. That rail travel is the safest of all modes of transport hardly dims the vicarious possibility of death under the wheels (Mr. Tolstoy), at the hand of a fellow traveller (Ms. Christie, Mr. Greene, Mr. Fleming), or witness to life at its beginning, middle, and end (Mr. Theroux, Mr. Newby) or spectacular conflagration (Hollywood, *passim*).

The third row of Rizhsky exhibits is devoted to the people's carriages. Who can resist the allure of a 1930s sleeping car, with wood-paneled opulence and even an enameled bath? The sight of a green wagon with "Arctic Express: Moscow to Murmansk" on its side raises the little hairs on the back of the neck. On the other side of the tracks, literally as well as figuratively, the hope and the horror of cattle wagon travel for the poor or the captive are evident in the wooden vans, displayed with copies of art works to remind us of how desperate folks' travel can be.

Finally, a small branch line offers an amusing selection of wacky ideas and ugly sisters: self-propelled sheds with snow ploughs attached, rail maintenance cranes, coal tenders and tankers, and a really sweet railcar, my dream 24-seater limo, in tasteful claret and cream livery.

The mixture of exhibits is the delight of small boys, who are seen mobbing the displays. In truth, the railway museum at Rizhsky is not the world's greatest — it needs more interactive, hands-on, and get-inside-and-play features. But it is here, easy to visit, and very good value. **P**

*Museum of the History of Railway  
Technology  
1 Rizhsky Vokzal Ploshchad  
Tel. 266-8221  
M. Rizhskaya  
Open Wed.-Sun., 10:00-16:00*



## A Side Track: The etymology of vokzal

Evidently, main line stations are named after the now rather minor south London station at Vauxhall, but why?

The most popular legend has it that when Russia's first railway engineers visited Brunel's GWR to see how it was done, they alighted at the eponymous terminus, duly noting and then copying the name.

Delightful as that is, the real reason is probably a shade more prosaic. Near Vauxhall Station, there was a pleasure park, called Vauxhall Gardens. With good entrepreneurial initiative, the owner took his idea to the Russian capital, St. Petersburg, establishing a Vauxhall Gardens there. When Russia's first railway was opened in 1837, it ended near the park. Vauxhall (or *vokzal*) became the popular name for that railway terminus and subsequently all termini.





## Russia through a Train Window (and a Camera Lens)

text Alevtina Kashitsina

photos courtesy of Anton Lange

When Russian photographer Anton Lange's *Russia through a Train Window* exhibit opened in Moscow last spring, skeptics remarked that with sponsors like he had, anyone could put together a photography exhibit. After all, Lange's collaborator on the project was Russian Railways, the megacompany that owns and operates the nation's vast network of railroads. But the exhibit's popularity silenced cynics and spoke for itself: The number of visitors to the show in its first two weeks alone set an attendance record for the venue, Novy Manezh.

The project is a kind of tribute to early 20th-century Russian photographer Sergey Prokudin-Gorsky, a pioneer in the development of color photography. The photo expedition he launched in 1909 under the patronage of Tsar Nicholas II yielded the first color photographs of the Russian Empire. Unfortunately, the start of World War I prevented Prokudin-Gorsky from finishing his photographic collection of Russian churches, factories, cities, and people. So Lange picked up where Prokudin-Gorsky left off, determined to show us Lake Baikal, Sakhalin, and the Black Sea, to complete the record of images his predecessor had begun nearly 100 years earlier.



Lange has had a long career as a photographer in Russia and abroad, with his work appearing in such publications as *Geo*, *Playboy*, and *Harper's Bazaar*. His *Train Window* exhibition of 200-plus photographs opened in Moscow last May and since then has been touring train stations from Yuzhnosakhalinsk to St. Petersburg. In 2009 there are plans for the exhibit to travel abroad. *Passport* caught up with Lange (shown below, left, with his wife, Natalya Kolesova) during a stop in Moscow.

### On seeing Russia by train:

For me the very sense of traveling around Russia is summed up in one phrase written on a railway ticket: "You may stop at any station and continue your journey at any moment with this ticket." You can easily travel through the entire country simply with one railway ticket. You can make your journey on the Trans-Siberian last a month or more.

### How did the exhibition's title emerge?

The title is an image, with metaphorical as well as literal meaning. Many pictures were literally taken from a train window, but of course it would have been boring if all the photos were shot from the same vantage point.

The idea of the project is a series of expeditions, whose paths coincide with the routes of the Russian Railways. Sometimes we used a special expedition train, sometimes regular trains and smaller means of railway transport. To get to some places we took helicopters, boats, etc.

### On the individual and the collective:

This project allowed me to realize my own vision but it was possible thanks to the involvement of many people. It went beyond teamwork. A large-scale project such as this is predicated on many months, even years of travel. With such scope, you must find an algorithm to frame your story. We chose not to stray more than ten kilometers from the railroad tracks.



To make it work requires the effort of hundreds of people on myriad levels, from top to bottom, from Vladimir Yakunin, the head of Russian Railways on down. The scheduling of our expedition train alone required a huge amount of help and cooperation from all sides. It was a real partnership.

Every form of art is individual, of course, but modern photography sometimes requires joint efforts, especially in large-scale projects with technological components such as staging and lighting. These considerations can be more important than the photographer's talent. That is why I like to produce my own projects. The organizational process attracts me as much as taking pictures itself. In this project, I was able to play the role of stage director and playwright as well.

And it requires discipline at every turn – not just on the level of production or administration, but even when it comes to choosing an angle and spot for your picture. When you see a frame you want to shoot, unfortunately you have to sacrifice many other things accompanying it. But you see what you want to deliver and cut off all the rest, otherwise there will not be a complete story.

## How much freedom did you have on this project?

There were no strictures imposed. People have sometimes criticized me, saying that I show a Russia that is too made-up, too beautiful. But who can judge where the truth is? If I took pictures of homeless people at railway stations, would that be the only truth? And do you how the Southern Urals look at the very beginning of autumn or winter? This exhibition and project on the whole reveals new horizons to people, I think. And judging by the crowds that have come to see it, I think people appreciate that.

## On how landscapes influence the people in them:

Our country is “wide” and I used panorama lens to highlight this. And I discovered that I myself am susceptible to these beautiful landscapes. For example, in Izborsk and some other parts of the Urals, it is absolutely impossible to work because you are so impressed by the beauty around you. My team is ten big guys, but they were stunned, as if deafened by the beauty. It's like the first time you visit Venice, you cannot take any pictures for two days. Then you get used to the beauty, and it's all right.

Moreover, I am sure that every region has its strengths. Springtime. High water in Meschera, for example. Immediately all those associations with Russian literature emerge – Paustovsky, Nekrasov. Very strong emotions. And I am happy when people who come to the exhibition say that this or that picture reminds them of a place they love.



## What is your favorite part of the photographic process?

Waiting for film to be developed. That is why I continue shooting film photography. None of the photographers can know what is there on the film. Luckily, there are usually some good results, but not always. That's why I shoot a lot. Every professional does.

## You've traveled so widely in Russia. Do you have a favorite spot?

The island of Sakhalin for sure. It was one of the places I had never been before this project. And the Barguzin River Valley near Lake Baikal. My dream is to pass through it and come up to the Stanovoye plateau. But there were also places I had visited many years before that it was a thrill to return to - like Meschera, the Prioksko-Terrasny Nature Reserve. The places mean a lot to me even though I don't visit them very often. **P**

*For more information on Russia through a Train Window, visit [www.fotorussia.ru](http://www.fotorussia.ru)*





# The Trans-Siberian Railway: The Greatest Railway Show on Earth

text Neil McGowan  
photos Karen Haynes





There are “great railway journeys” — the Orient Express, the Blue Train, the Chief — but none come even waist-high to the greatest rail journey on earth, the Trans-Siberian Express. This is a train that covers continental mega distances — 9261 kilometers from Moscow to Vladivostok, or, for light-weights, a mere 7865 kilometers from Moscow to Beijing via Ulaanbaatar. Along the journey, the entire turbulent history of modern Russia, Mongolia, and China is played out — the last tsar, the last emperor, Mongolia’s struggle for independence, the race to loot the Buddhist treasures from the Taklamakan Desert, Soviet gulags. The Trans-Siberian has carried convicts and commissars, tsars and peasants, priceless relics and even gun-carriages on its world-famous rails.

Completists will opt for the Moscow-Vladivostok route, constructed between 1891 and 1913 and the first of the three “versions” of the line to be built. The reasons for building it were compelling. For centuries there had effectively been two separate Russias: the European part, which stretched from the country’s western borders to the Ural Mountains, and the Asian part, which spanned from the Urals to the Pacific coast. Before the advent of the railway, communications between the two sections of the vast country were a grim choice between months on sleigh and tarantass sledges or a boat voyage through the treacherous Arctic seas during the brief period of navigable waters in summer. As a result, it could take up to a year for laws enacted in Petersburg to come into effect in Vladivostok. When Tsar Alexander II was assassinated in March 1881, no one in the country’s eastern provinces knew about it for four whole months!

The contract to build the railroad made millions for railway tycoons like Savva Mamontov (whose magnificent Moscow residence at Patriarch’s Ponds was built on the proceeds). But there were losers too. Tomsk, for example, failed to come up with enough bribes to have the town put on the route, and thus drifted off into the eternal shadow of the new “railway town” of Novosibirsk. The “first rivet” was hammered home by no less than His Royal Highness Prince Nikolai, who, as Tsar Nicholas II, would later be taken to house-arrest in the Urals on the line he’d once opened in triumph.

**Ekaterinburg** is one of the train route’s don’t-miss stops. Among other sites there, you can visit the site of the 1918 assassination of the last tsar and his family (a cathedral now marks the spot). Those with a special interest in the last Romanovs might also visit nearby Perm, where the Communists tracked down the tsar’s brother, Grand Duke Mikhail, who had been on his way to visit the tsar in exile. Mikhail was, in effect, the last tsar of all — for the single day he survived his brother, although he probably never realized. Mikhail’s English secretary was offered the chance to return to Moscow but replied, “I shall prefer to remain with His Majesty,” so both men were shot in their hotel on Sibirskaya Street in Perm (a plaque marks the spot, although the building is no longer a hotel).

#### Life on Board, and The Longest Lunch (9001 km) in the World

The Trans-Siberian Express the last tsar would have known was even more handsomely accoutred than today’s, featuring not only a dining car but a saloon (i.e., lounge) car and, most intriguingly, a mobile chapel wagon hitched onto the train. Sadly, neither the saloon nor the chapel feature on today’s service, and the dining car is the only public area on board.

The **Russian Railways** services that run between Moscow and Vladivostok (and also those that operate Moscow-Irkutsk



and Moscow-Ekaterinburg) all have two WC’s (with handbasin) per wagon and a hot shower facility that can be ordered on request (it’s located in the wagon adjacent to the dining car).

**Chinese Railways** (who have Moscow-Beijing service once per week) go one better for their “deluxe” clients, offering a cunning shower facility shared one-shower-between-two-compartments with a bizarre system of double-locks to prevent unintentional visits by your neighbors while you’re lathering up. These compartments, however, tend to fall into the hands of Chinese Party officials most of the time — you can even find your “firm” booking has been canceled by some Party functionary (if you protest, you’ll probably get the usual reply “it’s our train”).

**Mongolian Railways** have services Moscow-Ulaanbaatar and Ulaanbaatar-Beijing, but they don’t necessarily link-up. Regrettably, the Mongolian-operated trains are two notches below the Russian and Chinese ones and are worth avoiding in your trip itinerary.

## Trans-Siberian Experience



www.trans-siberian.co.uk

The Russia Experience

## THE THREE ROUTES

**Moscow-Vladivostok.** Operates every alternate day (on the odd dates of the month except 31st), supplied and crewed by Russian Railways. Although their flagship service, Russian Railways are curiously ambivalent about providing better rolling stock. Although tidy and clean, it still fails to match the service now available between Moscow and St. Petersburg. The entire journey takes eight periods of 24 hours each, but the time difference results in you arriving on the ninth morning after departure. The biggest downside — return flights are limited to grim domestic Russian flights to Moscow only and are very overpriced.

**Moscow-Beijing via Manchuria (Harbin)** — the Trans-Manchurian Express. Operates once-weekly, supplied and crewed by Russian Railways. Following the historic routing to Beijing, it avoids Mongolia, adding over 1000 km to your journey but saving the cost and hassle of obtaining a Mongolian transit visa if you don't plan visiting Mongolia. For many, Mongolia will be the highlight of a Trans-Sib trip. However, this route offers the chance to visit the thoroughly russified city of Harbin. Although it's in China, it was built by exiled Russian industrialists who fled the Russian Revolution.

**Moscow-Beijing via Mongolia** — the Trans-Mongolian Express. The preferred route for most travellers, since it offers the once-in-a-lifetime chance to visit Mongolia, an end-point in the fascinating megapolis of Beijing, and return flights from Beijing on a wide selection of international airlines (which, in many cases, are actually cheaper than fares back from Vladivostok, with a higher standard of service).

For more information, visit [www.trans-siberian.co.uk](http://www.trans-siberian.co.uk)



A famous myth concerns the restaurant car — a well-known guidebook is still retailing the complete nonsense that the “Chinese train is best.” The reality is that whichever country you are in at the moment has a franchise to supply the restaurant car, and you'll get a Russian Railways dining car even on the Chinese train for the six-day Russian sector before crossing the border into China.

## Routes and Stops, Tips and Tricks

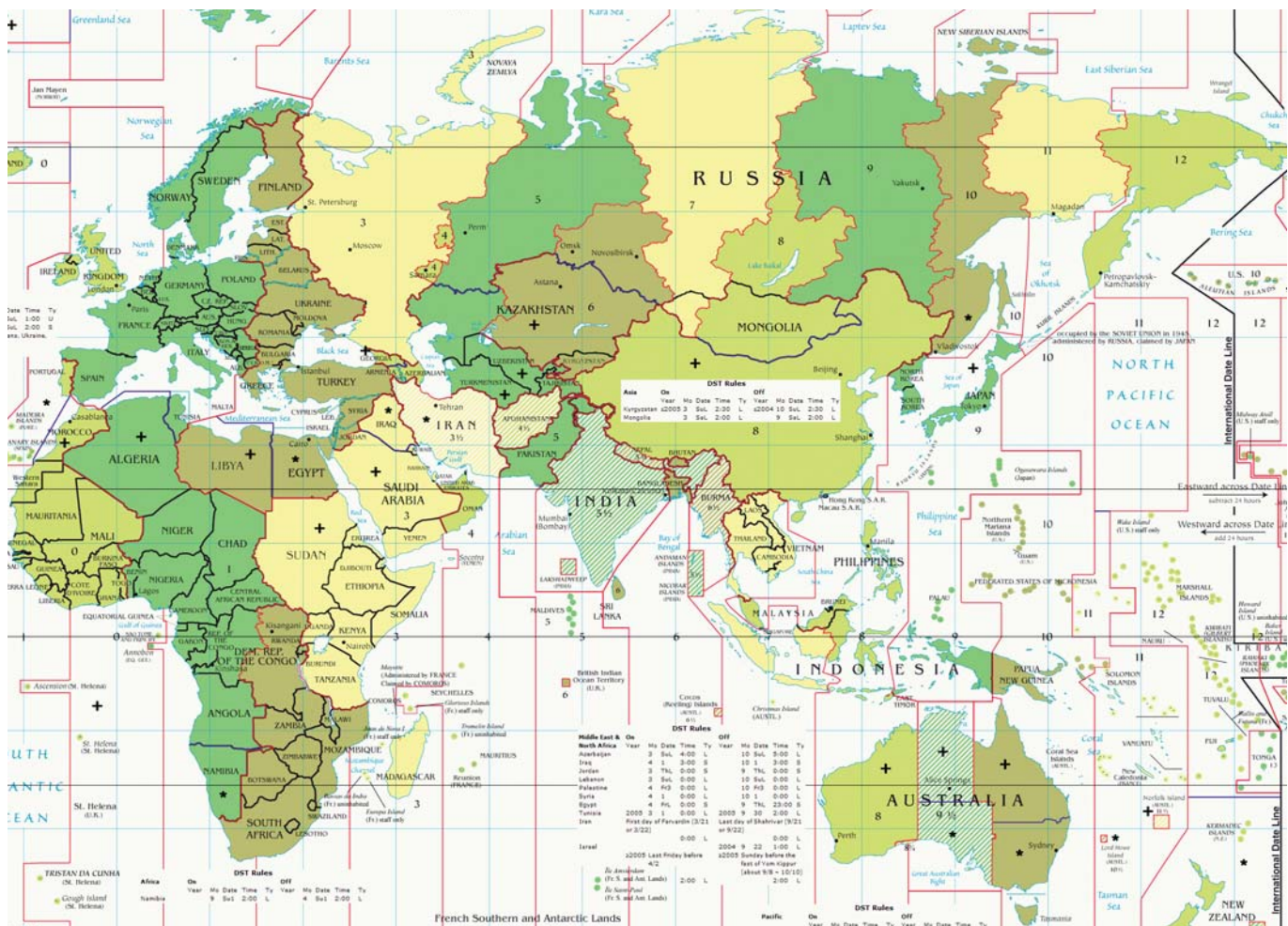
The Trans-Manchurian is the historic route to China — the one used by Komarovsky in Boris Pasternak's *Doctor Zhivago*, for instance. The “Zhivago” city is also on the Trans-Sib route, but its not called Yuryatin, as in the book — its real name is Perm. Although Yuri Zhivago is a fictional character, the book is so accurate that you can still follow its directions around the city — the public reading room where Yuri first meets Lara and Lara's home on Lenin Street.

**Lake Baikal** is the stop to make, if you have the time or budget for only one stop. As well as being a major wildlife reserve, it's also a marvelous place to walk, boat, hike, or just sunbathe and sauna. Both **Irkutsk** and **Ulan-Ude** offer access to the shores of Baikal — more built-up and resourced from the Irkutsk side, still wild and authentically Siberian on the Ulan-Ude side. But most Trans-Sibbers will combine a Baikal stay with something completely contrasted — the exotic cocktail of Buddhist temples, sun-baked deserts, and new age coffee shops that is modern **Mongolia**.

The savvy traveler can cherry-pick the upper-quality trains to assemble a three- or four-sector trip including Ekaterinburg, Irkutsk, and Ulaanbaatar. Many more stops are possible too, but the train-comfort droops noticeably once Ulan-Ude, Perm, or Omsk figure into your itinerary... and the Ulan-Ude to Ulaanbaatar slow train is the low watermark. But money can buy you an out, if you wish — there are premium-priced group tours operated on the historic rolling stock of the Golden Eagle train, aboard which all is magnificently comfortable and serene... as indeed it ought to be in that price range. **P**







## Father Time in Mother Russia

text Neil McGowan

In Russia, as in other countries, before the days of reliable timetable intercity transport, most towns and cities would simply decide for themselves what time of day it was — mainly with sundials, which told them when noon was. However, the building of long-distance transport systems like the Trans-Siberian railway produced a need for regularizing the country's vastly differing clocks into some kind of organized system of time zones.

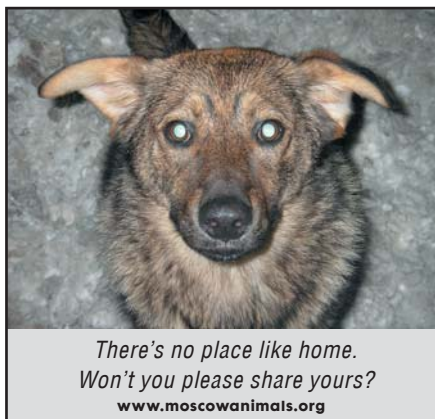
Today's Russia has 11 time zones — more than any other country in the world (as you might expect for the world's largest country, sprawling horizontally from Finland in the northwest to North Korea in the southeast).

A peculiarity of railways in Russia is that all trains everywhere run on Moscow time. (This convention was presumably introduced to prevent timetable sabotage by independent-

minded regional stations.) Although most people who live in the far eastern reaches of the country know where they are on Moscow time, the Moscow-centric system can wreak havoc with the travel plans of the unwary.

An extreme example of the confusion this system can engender is manifested when trying to calculate train departures to Moscow from Vladivostok on the Trans-Siberian.

These trains depart on alternate days — the odd-dated days in the month. But because of the ten-hour time difference between the two cities, the apparent departure time in the middle of the night is in fact mid-morning the next day. And that next day, of course, is now the even-dated day ... so your ticket shows a time in the middle of last night, dated for the day before. Easy, right? **P**



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# Goa and Beyond

text Piers Gladstone

photos Maria Bannova and Piers Gladstone

Since the 1960s, Goa has attracted global hedonists and escapists in ever-increasing numbers to its shores. For some, it has become a tacky, over-exploited charter destination, while for others it is still a magical idyll.

After several days of relaxing away from the crowds at the oasis of calm that is Casa Tres Amigos in north Goa, the lure of the road tempted us from our swims in the fresh water pool, ayurvedic massages, siestas in our bamboo tree-house, and the occasional ride on our 500 cc Enfield Bullet motorcycle to the beach or a restaurant. The Enfield Bullet, an English motorcycle, was first manufactured under license in India during the 1950s. Today, it is the oldest motorcycle model in the world to still be in production and the perfect way to see India.

We pause at the T-junction of the Bombay Highway. Several trucks thunder past before I let out the clutch and move through the gears until we are cruising at 80 kph. I feel the thrill of adventure, the knowledge that what is next is unknown. The sound of the single cylinder engine is a pleasingly loud drone, and the hot wind whistles through our hair as we climb the gentle hill in front of us, overtaking two slowing trucks as we do so. The tailgates of all the trucks are brightly festooned with painted faces from the pantheon of Hindu gods. All sport the command: "HORN PLEASE." So I

honk to let them know we are passing, and the drivers wave from the open doors of their cabs, returning our greeting with white smiles and blasts from their claxon-like musical horns.

We soon reach the state border of Goa and Maharashtra. I slow the bike because there is a police checkpoint. Several vehicles are being inspected, but nobody waves at us to stop so I open the throttle and we head further north. After 70 kilometers on this busy trunk road, we turn off onto a smaller road. It is a relief to leave the procession of trucks and buses — and the clouds of dust and diesel fumes. Now we are heading away from the coast and up into the hills of our next state, Karnataka. We climb steadily, the bike dropping down low as we swoop up a series of serpentine bends. We stop to admire the view of rural south India stretching out before us. Monkeys appear from the trees, inquisitive and in search of snacks.

After the hills we pass the intense greens of rice paddies, white bullocks hauling wooden ploughs through the rich, red earth. Sugar cane is being harvested, and overloaded trains of bullock carts move slow along the road, their drivers standing on top of the piles of cane, whip in hand, shouting indecipherable words to the tethered teams of animals in front. Others lay their maize harvest across the road for



the traffic to thresh for them, leaving a thick carpet of foliage that moves dangerously under two wheels. Women with firewood and earthen water pots balanced on their heads walk with straight backs along the side of the road, while children play and occasionally stop to shout and wave as two foreigners on a motorcycle pass by. After five hours in the saddle we reach our overnight destination, the town of Belgaum.

We leave Belgaum by mid-morning, soon flanked by fields of sunflowers, maize, and chilies. Garlanded tractors blare out tinny Hindi music as they move busily about. After passing through a small town a strange metallic noise starts, grating and growing louder. I stop the bike and see that the front mudguard has broken loose. We turn around and head back to the town. The mechanic we find quickly removes the wheel and takes the broken mudguard across the street to the old man with a welder. In 15 minutes the job is done; in the meantime we have been surrounded by 100 curious townspeople. A policeman arrives to find out why such a large crowd has gathered as I pay the mechanic less than a dollar for the work.

We arrive in Badami, the ancient capital of the Chalukya Empire, tired and sunburned. As the sun slowly sinks below the horizon, we search for a guesthouse, weaving our way around small groups of little black pigs. In the morning we climb the hill behind the small town to the four 6th–8th century Hindu and Jain cave temples intricately carved into the sandstone cliff. A sign warns: “Beware of Monkey Menace” — and rightly so, as we watch a monkey making off with an Indian woman’s handbag and ransacking its contents, much to the hilarity of the onlooking crowd. The temples look out across the town and its adjoining bathing tank, which is flanked by 5th-century temples. The rhythmic whacking of women doing their washing by the edge of the green water rises up to the ridge above.

The ride from Badami to Hampi is a relatively short one that we do in an afternoon. As we near Hampi, the landscape begins to change, getting drier and harsher. Boulders start to appear, whole ridges lined with them, like an armadillo’s back. A crimson sunset and a still dusk see us into Hampi Bazaar, where we are led through ancient flagstone streets to a guesthouse. After unloading the bike, we walk to the nearby Virupaksha Temple where a celebration is taking place. Thousands of pilgrims are in the temple complex and lining the bathing lake. Crowds with candles and flaming torches, musicians, and the temple elephant, the painted and garlanded Lakshmi, parade around the town behind the holy shrine that is carried in a litter, while a full moon hangs in the night sky and the smell of incense infuses the air.

All around Hampi Bazaar lie the ruins of the 15th-century city of Vijayanagar, set in a beautifully surreal boulder landscape. Founded in 1336, Vijayanagar became one of the largest Hindu empires in India’s history. Over the next 200 years, the city spread over a 650 sq km area; by the time it was overrun and ransacked by a confederacy of Deccan sultanates in 1565, the city’s population numbered 500,000.

Hampi and the surrounding area is now a UNESCO World Heritage site, and with the help of an auto-rickshaw driver we buzz around its main sightseeing attractions in a day. First up is the exquisite but unfinished 16th-century Vittala Temple, swiftly followed by the Royal Enclosure — complete with domed elephant stables and the delicately carved Lotus Mahal, a beautiful blend of Islamic and Hindu architecture.



*Ready for a day in the saddle, Goa*



*Women waiting for vehicles to thresh their maize, Karnataka*



*Religious trinkets on sale in Hampi Bazaar*





photo Maria Bannova

*Two-wheeled pilgrims near Hampi*

We see a string of various temples on our whistle-stop tour before being deposited back at Hampi Bazaar for a well-earned masala chai.

It is high up at the Hanuman Temple overlooking the entire area of Hampi that we really get a sense of the place. It is a surreal and holy landscape. Huge boulder fields lie all around, as if thrown around by the gods or giants. It is an incomprehensible picture, dotted with crumbling temples that blend in naturally with their surroundings. It is timeless, like so much of India, but exists and thrives in the 21st century. **P**

## Travel Information

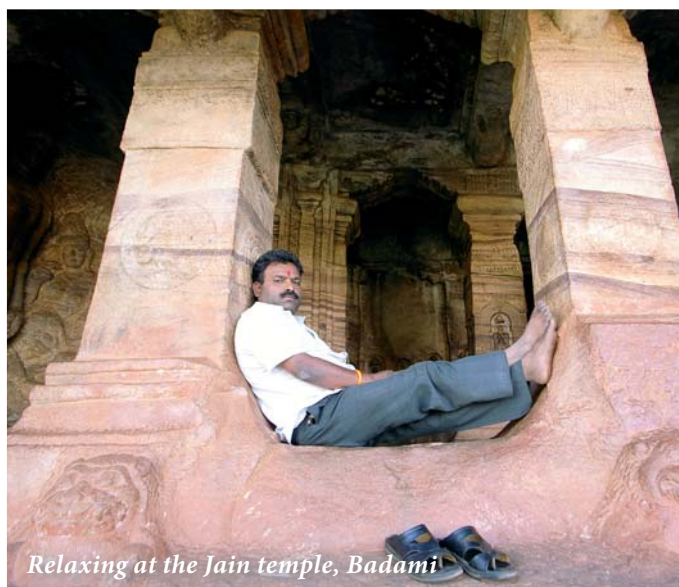
Piers Gladstone stayed at Casa Tres Amigos in Goa ([www.casa-tres-amigos-goa.com](http://www.casa-tres-amigos-goa.com)) and hired his Enfield Bullet motorcycle from there.

For those interested in organized Enfield Bullet tours in India, Nepal and, Bhutan, visit [www.classic-bike-india.com](http://www.classic-bike-india.com).

The best time to go is between October and March. Transaero flies direct from Moscow to Goa



*Rice paddies and boulders around Hampi*



*Relaxing at the Jain temple, Badami*



# Postcard from Beirut

text and photos Anne Coombes



*St. George's Bay*

Beirut may not seem an ideal holiday destination; on January 25, 2008, a bomb blast in the city left four dead and 38 injured. However, I'm passing through with my history-nut husband — on our way to view the ancient sites of Palmyra and Baalbek.

Martyrs' Square, once a genteel park surrounded by elegant Ottoman mansions, lies at the city's heart. It was once a meeting place for families and lovers, young and old alike; they gathered under its palms. That was before the fighting began. Now, it's scarred with the acne of bullet holes; sixteen years of civil conflict have taken their toll. Beirut may have a skyline of cranes and construction scaffolding, but, here, it's riddled with reminders of the past. The square stood right on the "green line" — the area most fought over by rival Christian and Muslim militias. They pounded its delicate buildings into mere shadows. Now, cobwebbed in weeds, they resemble ruined tombs. By night, they're eerily gothic, almost whispering the names of their ghosts.

In its 1960s heyday, Beirut was the playground of the rich and famous, attracting stars like Brigitte Bardot, David Niven, and Elizabeth Taylor. They stayed at the Hotel St. Georges, which looks across the turquoise water of St. George Bay from its location at the northern end of the city's coastal promenade, the Corniche. Sadly, the hotel was one of many buildings severely damaged during the fighting.

My expectations for our few days here were low; surprisingly, we've fallen in love with the place. Beirut may once have been a major war zone but it's back on the map big time, rising from the scorched rubble with renewed vigor. Funding has flooded in to transform the battered capital. We've jostled our way through crowded avenues — where street vendors and top designer stores vie for attention — and find the hustle and bustle is infectious; each day the city lures us to explore deeper and deeper. Beirut has one of the world's liveliest nightclub scenes, and no wonder — there's too much electricity in the air to sleep.

My favorite spot is the Corniche, where the Mediterranean sparkles by day and glitters by night. In between is the magical time of dusk. The sun melts through irresistible shades of rose and lilac and small bars invite us to linger until the last

rays are extinguished. We've taken to sitting with a cocktail (me) or cup of Lebanese coffee (him). The whole city emerges, keen to enjoy the cool evening air.

Best of all is the view from Al-Sakhra's cliff-terrace-café. It overlooks Pigeon Rocks, two natural arches washed by the sea. We order plates of fresh hummus, tabbouleh, and pita bread, followed by honey-rich baklava — a guaranteed recipe for happiness.

Beirut is, more than anything, a place of contrasts. On the street, a multitude of languages and faces assails you. Minarets stand next to church bell towers, many of which date back to the Crusades. As foundations for new buildings are dug, Greek and Roman columns and pedestals come to light. Contemporary glass and steel counterpoint subtle pink and ochre facades. This is a city with a dynamic future as well as a venerable past. It's accelerating forward and, God willing, will carve its path through the 21st century with more laughter than tears. **P**



*Roman ruins*

At present there are no direct flights between Moscow and Beirut, but a number of airlines (see partial list below) provide service with one connection. Prices range from US\$700-900 round-trip.

Turkish Airlines (through Istanbul)

Czech Airlines (through Prague)

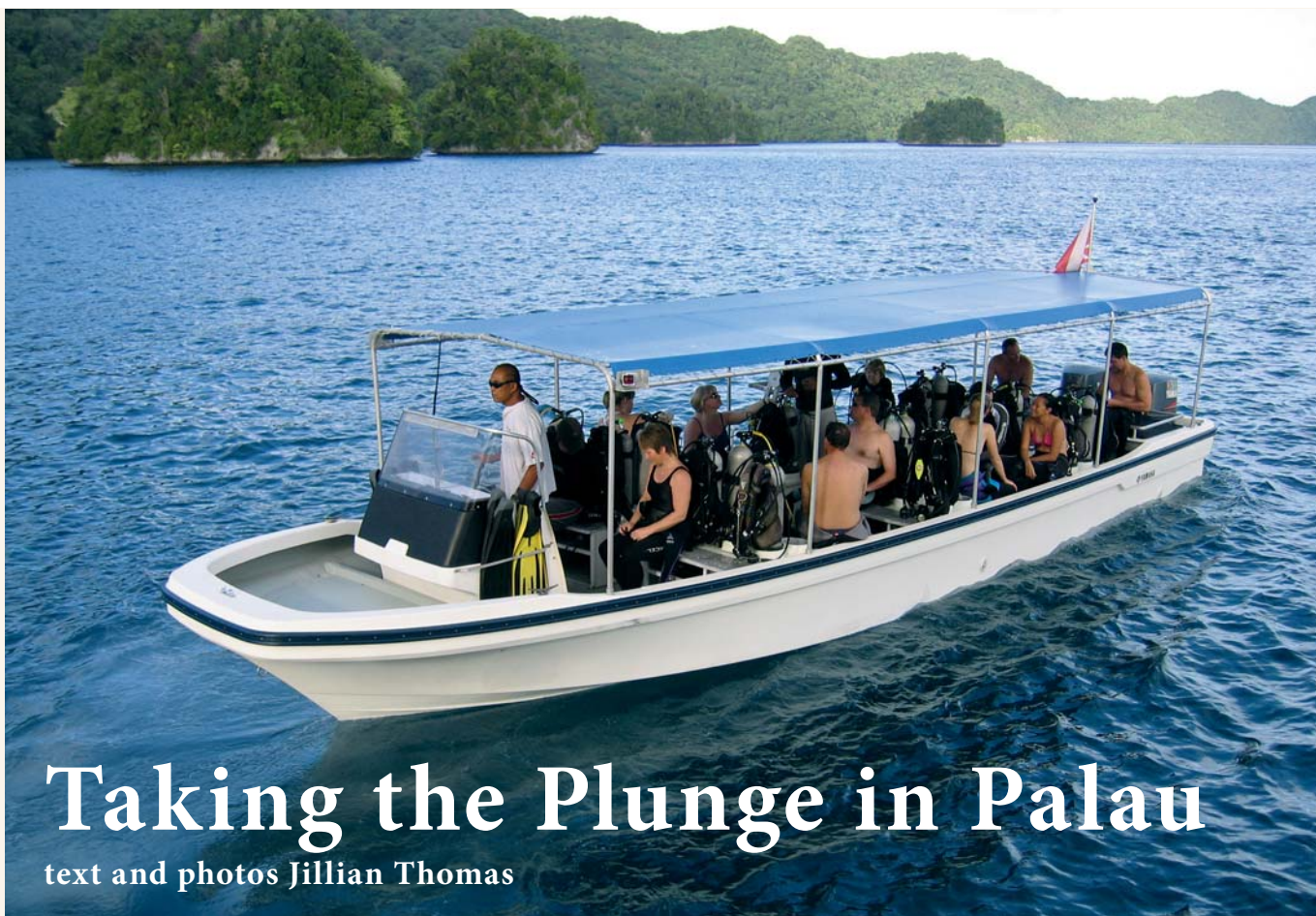
Lufthansa (through Frankfurt)

Moscow is one hour ahead of Beirut.

In general visas are required for travel to Lebanon. For information, visit [www.lebanonembassyus.org/consularaffairs/visas](http://www.lebanonembassyus.org/consularaffairs/visas)

In Moscow, call the Lebanese Embassy at 200-0022/200-2083 or email [leb.emb.moscow@mtu-net.ru](mailto:leb.emb.moscow@mtu-net.ru)





# Taking the Plunge in Palau

text and photos Jillian Thomas

At first there was nothing, just a calm cobalt expanse stretching into the deep blue beyond. Then, as though on cue, a lone turtle glided into view and the show began. As we watched from our vantage point — hooked into a reef 20 meters underwater — silvery clouds of fusiliers, teeming columns of big-eyed jacks, and clusters of barracuda swept past.

Barely a moment later, the sharks arrived. Some were in schools of half a dozen or more, others lone swimmers flanked by smaller pilot fish. It's hard to judge sizes and distances when you're diving: They say that everything is 25 percent smaller and further than you think. Still, we were close enough to these beady-eyed predators that although silvertips usually measure only 3 or 4 meters and don't eat humans, I wondered if I should hold my breath to stop the tell-tale trail of bubbles coming from my mouth.

We could have stayed here all morning watching the marine life. It was the third day of our week-long diving holiday in Palau, a chain of islands in the Pacific Ocean renowned for being one

of the top — if not *the* top — diving destinations in the world. With its deep vertical drop-offs, stunningly clear water, and wild currents, huge schools of fish and giant clams are common, and sharks are everywhere. There is also an abundance of hard and soft coral, from giant crimson sea fans swaying in the deep to violet expanses of table coral. One particular site, the Blue Corner, was certainly second to none.

We reluctantly tore ourselves away from the carnival of creatures in front of us — and realized that the plateau behind was just as magnificent. Covered with coral and fluffy anemones in every imaginable color, the reef played host to circling white tip reef sharks, turtles, rays, and a particularly sociable Napoleon wrasse. "He's more like a dog," my diving buddy said afterwards. The giant fish had nudged us as if wanting to play, its pouty lips almost curving upward in a smile when it was petted.

Absolutely ravenous, we eventually headed back to the dive yacht. One of the puzzling things about diving is that although





you don't think you're expending much energy — dives are usually planned such that the current does most of the work for you — it gives you a monster of an appetite. So it was fortunate that Captain Mike, an affable guy with just a hint of steeliness in his merry blue eyes, and his crew kept us stuffed to the, well, gills. Each day began with a hearty breakfast after the first morning dive, then a cooked lunch and fresh salad, cookies and pastries mid-afternoon, and a dinner buffet, all of it wonderfully delicious. Over the course of the week, we would return from dives to be greeted by the wafting scent of sizzling hamburgers, steaks on the barbeque, and all sorts of other cooking aromas, from Tex-Mex to Thai.

Due to a sudden storm that had blown in, making visibility poor, we had spent the previous day exploring several Japanese wrecks from World War II. The Pacific Ocean saw many naval battles during the war, with Palau an important harbor for the Imperial Japanese Fleet. In March 1944, the United States launched a massive air strike against the Japanese, sinking cargo vessels, naval ships, and some aircraft carriers off Palau. Although many of the wrecks were salvaged and transported back to Japan after the war, an estimated 60 still remain in the area, ghostly reminders of battles past.

Of the four that we dived that day, the Helmet Wreck, although not the biggest, was the most poignant. Amid the Gothic tangles of coral, rusting metal, and rotting wood, open boxes of depth charges and scattered gas masks lay caked in mud, with only the occasional butterfly fish or lion fish darting past. In the dim, murky brownness of the bow area, we also made out the silhouette of a pair of rifles, a cooking pot, and some sake bottles. It was a powerful reminder that Father Time and Mother Nature go about their business no matter what, indifferent to man's shenanigans and sufferings.

Indeed, the days passed far too quickly. Although there was still plenty we hadn't seen, we decided to spend an afternoon free of our wetsuits kayaking around the islands. As we sizzled under the scorching sun, paddling past the mushrooms of upraised coral tufted in green, our guide, a tanned, betelnut-munching chap, told us the legend of Palau.

There was once a particularly greedy child called Uab, who lived on Ngeaur Island. He ate so much that he grew too large for his own home. His neighbors, fearful of him, tied him up, but he railed against his bonds with such force that he finally shattered into pieces, forming Palau's many islands. His torso became Babelthuap, Palau's largest island, with Ngiwal, an area in the northwest, his stomach. "And that is why in Ngiwal they eat seven times a day," the guide said.

If Ngiwal is the stomach, we headed on our last day to what could only be Uab's butt on the southeast of the island in search of

#### WHEN TO GO:

Winter is recommended as the best time to dive Palau, with December through April offering superb diving conditions. The summer months of July through September are also excellent, although it tends to rain for a little while every day. As a result, the water can be slightly rougher in the summer and visibility can suffer.

#### HOW TO GET THERE:

Make your way to the U.S. territory of Guam, and take one of Continental Micronesia's daily flights to Palau. Alternatively, Continental Airlines also flies to Palau twice a week via Manila, Philippines.

#### VISAS:

Pre-arranged visas are not required for nationals of most European countries, including Russia, the United States, and the United Kingdom. In most cases, a 30-day visa will be issued on arrival if you have a return ticket and proof of sufficient monetary means. However, it's best to check with the Palau Embassy ([www.palauembassy.com](http://www.palauembassy.com)) when you're planning your trip for any updates.

#### DIVING CHARTERS:

There are three companies offering diving live-aboards in Palau: Palau Aggressor ([www.aggressor.com](http://www.aggressor.com)), Ocean Hunter ([www.oceanhunter.com](http://www.oceanhunter.com)), and The Big Blue Explorer ([www.palauscuba.com](http://www.palauscuba.com)). All three adhere to the highest codes of safety and service, are competitively priced, and put you on the same dive sites at optimum times, so your choice is really about which one you like the look of best. We went with the Aggressor and would definitely recommend it.

#### DIVE OPERATORS:

If your sea legs aren't up to it, you can, of course, do day trips to the dive sites from shore. Fish n Fins ([www.fishnfins.com](http://www.fishnfins.com)) and Sam's Tours ([www.samstours.com](http://www.samstours.com)) are among the most popular of the many dive operators.

Jellyfish Lake. The landlocked saltwater lake was once connected to the ocean, but after it was naturally closed off, the jellyfish, free of predators, all but lost their ability to sting. At the end of a 20-minute hike through lush tropical forest, we reached a picturesque clearing, the lake perfectly still in the lazy afternoon heat.

With masks and snorkels on, we swam toward the middle of the lake, seeing nothing at first except for the sandy floor. Then a few jellyfish came into view. Before we knew it, we were surrounded by hordes of jellyfish, some bigger than a hand, others tinier than a fingernail. With their bulbous heads and crinkly tentacles, they looked like parachutes in reverse motion, moving up toward the surface then bouncing gently off again in another direction. It is said that they've been this way for million of years now, so perhaps there is one place on Earth where time does, after all, stand still. **P**





# Viva Las Vegas!

text and photos Anne Coombes





It's often said that Vegas isn't so much a city as a state of mind. Since the city's advertising slogan assures us that "what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas," we're encouraged to throw caution (and money) to the wind in pursuit of pleasure. Sin City is all about indulgence and impulse. Leave behind your inhibitions and pack your party clothes. Needless to say, it's the ideal venue for a stag or hen party, guaranteed to provide tales you and your co-conspirators can wink over for years to come.

Glamorous Las Vegas really does have something for everyone, though. The gambling capital of the world once had a reputation as a playground for the wealthy, but it's now one of the top tourist spots in the U.S., catering to all budgets and all tastes. Unquestionably, it's dazzling. Where else can you find reincarnations of Paris, Rome, Egypt, New York, and Venice — not to mention Camelot — all within a few minutes' walk? Billions of dollars have been spent on turning Vegas into even more of a sensation, gilded in fountains, colonnades, and vast frescoed ceilings. Reality is replaced by spectacle; it's the ultimate escape.

Of course, there's gambling, but Vegas also boasts amazing nightclubs and restaurants to tempt even the most die-hard dieter, musical concerts featuring the likes of Celine Dion and Tom Jones, and a host of superb shows. Most hotels also have extensive gardens and pools, perfect for relaxing. Moreover, there are beautiful spa facilities to enjoy for as little as \$25 entrance, with top masseuses and cosmetologists waiting to indulge you. The Fijian pamper plan at the MGM Grand features a sugar rub, a Swedish massage with body butter, and a facial for just \$195. You can then float off for a serenaded gondola ride down the Venetian's Grand Canal or view fine art (the genuine article — not reproductions, like so much else in Las Vegas — on loan as part of exhibits organized by various art museums) at the Bellagio's gallery. If shopping therapy is what you're after, feast your eyes on the latest Gucci, Dior, and Cavalli, on sale at Caesar's Palace Forum. Or pop across the road to an all-American Macy's department store for bargain prices.

### Gambling

You're rarely in doubt that Vegas is a gambling destination. The first slots make their appearance at the airport arrivals lounge! Hotels' gaming floors are so huge, you can quite easily become lost — a ploy surely designed to keep you there. Smart VIP areas are set aside for much higher stakes. Vegas occupies a bittersweet place in American culture, known as much for its grand losers as its winners but if you gamble responsibly, setting a limit for what you are prepared to lose, there's little to fear.

### Dining

Whether you fancy Chinese, Japanese, Italian, Mexican, or traditional American fare, you'll never be stumped for choice in Vegas. The MGM Grand alone has a dozen restaurants, two overseen by Chef of the Century Joël Robuchon. His 16-course tasting menu costs a fearsome \$385 but features such sublime dishes as truffled langoustine ravioli, served with lemongrass roasted lobster and sea urchins. For a mid-morning treat, head to the Paris Hotel for a sumptuous fruit tart or gâteau at one of its patisserie cafés.

### Entertainment

High-kicking, besequined showgirls have graced Vegas since the town's early days. For a spot of adults-only titillation, get tickets to the Folies Bergere or the Crazy Horse Paris show.

### WHERE TO STAY

A double inside the Luxor's glass pyramid, with its sensational views of the Strip, can be had for as little as \$120 a night. A suite at the acclaimed Venetian costs around \$200, and a penthouse stay at the elegant Bellagio, inspired by Lake Como in Italy, ranges from \$750-1000 a night. Midweek nights are always cheapest. Where money is no object, there's The Palms' Sky Villa, modeled on Hugh Hefner's Playboy Mansion, with an outdoor Jacuzzi overlooking the Strip, an enormous rotating bed, and its own spa and cinema room (\$40,000 a night). The Hardwood Suite, complete with a basketball half-court, and the Kingpin Suite, featuring bowling lanes and a pool table, are perfect pads for stag parties.

### SHOPPING

#### *Affordable chic:*

Bebe, Banana Republic, and BCBG Max Azria, at the Venetian's Grand Canal Shoppes

Neiman Marcus and Macy's, at 3200 Las Vegas Boulevard.

#### *Designer labels:*

Chanel, Prada, Armani, and Yves Saint Laurent at Via Bellagio

Manolo Blahnik, Alexander McQueen, Louis Vuitton, and Cartier at the Wynn Esplanade

Dolce and Gabbana, Gucci, Fendi, Dior, and Just Cavalli at Caesar's Palace Forum

### AIRFARES

Delta is offering a roundtrip economy fare from Moscow in November for \$1,400 (changing planes in New York). Business-class fares cost around \$4,500.

For more information, go to <http://visitlasvegas.com>.





Contemporary eroticism comes courtesy of Zumanity, performed by the amazing Cirque du Soleil. Hen parties will have a ball with Thunder from Down Under, Australian male strippers who reveal all, to nightly squeals of excitement. Unmissable is Lloyd Webber's glitzy *Phantom of the Opera*, staged in a \$40-million custom-built theater and Cirque's Beatles tribute show, *Love*. Their performances receive rave reviews. (For advance discount rates and buy-one-get-one-free specials, check <http://broadwaybox.com/lasvegas>.)

## After sunset

Cocktail heaven is located at the Bellagio's stylish Petrossian piano bar, while Centrifuge at the MGM provides 21st-century thrills: a huge spinning centerpiece and high-energy dancing on the bar. The advertising asserts "you're invited, your inhibi-

tions aren't" and recommends you "immerse yourself in a sea of sensual sophistication." Trip along to Rain, at The Palms, which is a favorite with Paris Hilton and Jessica Simpson. Both sport glass walls looking down on the Strip, the city's main drag. For a more traditional club feel, try Studio 54, modeled on the NY original.

## With the Kids

Vegas isn't the first place that springs to mind when you think of a kiddie-holiday, but, in fact, it's not a bad choice for family vacationing. There's pool-time fun during the day as well as a few animal attractions that appeal to young-uns. For example, Shark Reef at Mandalay Bay houses more than a dozen breeds of sharks and sea turtles, as well as 12 saltwater crocodiles. Get up close and personal via the walkway tunnels.

Caesar's Palace and the Mirage also have tanks — home to the usual suspects, including sharks and rays. The Flamingo keeps a flock of spindly-legged pink birds, along with African penguins, black swans, guinea fowl, and ducks to keep them company. It's a charming place for a stroll, with koi carp and catfish to ogle as you walk over the small bridges. The Secret Garden at the Mirage features white tigers, lions, and dolphins, and there's a lion habitat, enclosed inside a glass tower, on the casino floor of the MGM Grand. Children and adults alike are enchanted by the Bellagio's stunning fountains, which play throughout the evening to the accompaniment of soul-stirring music.

The Excalibur and Treasure Island are perhaps the best hotel choices for families. The latter has a nightly pirates routine, complete with fireworks, while the former presents its highly entertaining Tournament of Kings dinner show. **P**





# Postcard from Pyongyang

text and photos Jill Thomas

The North Korean government is fervently proud of its roads, and rightly so. They're expansive and spotlessly clean, with not a pothole in sight. In fact, there is not much of anything in sight, least of all traffic. You can saunter across a six-lane highway in the heart of the capital safe in the knowledge that your only hazard is the occasional whizzing bicycle.

We're in Pyongyang, North Korea, a country best known for its nefarious dabbling in nuclear weaponry and its "axis of evil" moniker. Years of isolation have taken their toll, although at first glance life in the capital seems normal, albeit a little quiet. Enormous marble and stone buildings, many of which would look perfectly at home in Russia, dominate the skyline. Pedestrians scurry about their daily affairs — looking decidedly dour, but then again it is a Monday morning. Our guides, a petite Miss Lee and a rather more full-figured Mr. Park, take us everywhere like perfect hosts.

There's a feeling that we're being watched all the time — because we are. As we tour the sprawling Kim Il Sung Square, gawk at the massive Workers' Party Monument, and take in the views from the top of the Juche Tower, the camera-toting Mr. Park loopes after us filming our every move. He tells us it's for a souvenir DVD, but back home a few weeks later none of the copies work. We reckon the footage ended up on the local evening news instead.

Still, we know what we have signed up for, and it only makes us more curious about what there is to see, from the spectacular to the serious. At the Children's Palace, an after-school facility for kids up to their late teens, little mites as young as three are mastering music, gymnastics, and calligraphy. It's a fascinating study in what can be achieved without the distractions of TV or bits of electronic gadgetry.

The mood is much less jovial at the Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum, where Miss Lee delivers an impassioned speech on how her country won the Korean War and booted out the evil American aggressors. We swap incredulous looks but decide not to challenge her revisionism — we are, after all, guests. And under surveillance.

Most astonishing, though, is the Demilitarized Zone dividing the Korean peninsula between North and South Korea. We've been here, on the south side, and it was all "Don't point, don't smile, and don't walk anywhere unless you're given permission, or the North Koreans might shoot." But — perhaps in a deliberate one-fingered salute across the border — the North Koreans give us free rein to wander around, snap holiday shots, and generally act like silly tourists.

Much of what we see seems like a careful facade, from our five-star hotel with its cardboard walls, to the sad collection of items on sale at Department Store No. 1 (of four, apparently). So we're delighted when we're deposited for a few hours at a fairground. Never mind that it's seen better days — in the early '80s — and smells horribly rusty. We shovel ourselves into a creaky rollercoaster car and pummel some giggling school kids in the bumper cars, but stop short of the unhealthily cranking Ferris wheel. We do, after all, want to get out of here alive. **P**



*Rush hour*



*Workers' Monument*



*The Children's Palace*

Air Koryo, North Korea's official state-owned carrier, flies Beijing-Pyongyang three times a week and Vladivostok-Pyongyang once a week. Both routes take just under two hours. Pyongyang is six hours ahead of Moscow.

Independent travel in North Korea is not possible — you are required to hire a guide for the duration of your time there. Our trip was organized by Koryo Tours ([www.koryogroup.com](http://www.koryogroup.com)), an independent and very professional Beijing-based agency. Nationals of all countries require visas, which can be arranged by your tour agency.

# Mixing It Up in Mexico

text and photos courtesy of Embassy of Mexico, Moscow



When selecting a holiday destination, have you ever struggled to decide exactly what it is you want from your vacation? The relaxation of a beautiful beach or the cultural and culinary excitement of a city? Old World charm or New World energy? Immersion in the modern or in the depths of history?

Now you don't have to choose, because there is one place that has all of these: Mexico.

Beaches and warm ocean breezes? We've got 'em. Thanks to the country's prime location, the waters along the coast are warm all year round and rich in biodiversity. Mexico's 1,000 km (620 mi) of shoreline provide hundreds of gorgeous beaches where you can get away from it all year round and enjoy yourself, whether it's luxury, exclusivity, fun, or a close encounter with nature you're after.

You want pyramids? The country's long history has left it full of exciting places to visit, where you can learn about the pre-Columbian, colonial,

and post-colonial eras.

Hungry? Like Mexico itself, the country's cuisine is a multifaceted blend of the old and the new, with plenty of spice and savor, excitement and artistry. So read on! You're sure to find something to whet your appetite.

Touristically speaking, Mexico is divided into six regions:

## The North

Known for its extreme weather conditions and characterized by its deserts, nature reserves and rugged mountain ranges. Some cities in the region are key industrial and business centers.

## Central Mexico

The Mexican heartland. Here you'll find plenty of natural surroundings, picturesque towns full of life and color, and beautiful colonial cities, some of which have been declared World Heritage sites.

## The Gulf and the South

Lined with the shores of the Gulf

of Mexico and the Pacific Ocean, this region offers an abundance of marshes, mangrove swamps and forests, all of which are ideal for ecotourism outings and exciting outdoor adventures.

## Yucatan Peninsula

The gateway to the Mayan world. Here you can enjoy the white-sand beach resorts and the blue waters of the Caribbean Sea, where you can scuba dive along the world's second largest coral reef. You can also swim in fresh water pools in submerged caverns, known as *cenotes*.

## Pacific Coast

In this region, you'll find cities and towns with rich cultural and culinary traditions, as well as some of the best beaches for water sports like surfing and fishing.

## Baja California Peninsula

Territory that has been inhabited from time immemorial, in this region you can play golf on world-class



courses, discover the underwater treasures of the Sea of Cortez, and witness the amazing migration of the gray whale.

## SUN AND FUN

Mexico offers a wide array of destinations with sun, sand, and sea. The climate, vegetation, and scenery at these coastal destinations vary in each region, allowing visitors to have unique experiences and distinct itineraries. Along the extensive coasts you'll find modern tourist resorts, hotels, spas, and haciendas that provide top-notch facilities and service with the warmth and hospitality characteristic of Mexico.

Among the many options available to enjoy Mexico's sunny beaches, five destinations stand out that are sure to captivate you. **Los Cabos**, a tourist resort where the desert meets the Sea of Cortez, has modern facilities, plenty of excitement, and an atmosphere that preserves the magic of traditional Mexico. **Acapulco** has one of the most beautiful bays in the world. **Cancun**, an island with charming beaches, is lined with some of the world's finest multinational hotel chains. Finally, on the **Mayan Riviera** you'll find lagoons, archaeological zones, and world-class tourist resorts. These accessible destinations, with their non-stop nightlife, wonderful cuisine, and excellent shopping, are authentic paradises offering a multitude of simple and sublime pleasures.

For those who enjoy adventures at sea, you'll find more than 20 marinas offering all kinds of services, including docking and the best hotels.

If you're looking for some rest and relaxation, you can visit one of more than 500 spas, some of which are located in beautiful haciendas with private swimming pools. These facilities offer perfect harmony and specialized staff who will apply relaxation and beauty treatments that will prove beneficial to your health.

Experienced golfers seeking top-notch courses will find impeccable greens with ocean views, some of which are surrounded by immense sand dunes, while others are located in exotic jungle settings. Many of the courses have been created by the most prestigious designers in the world.

## HISTORY

Mexican history has left a legacy of majestic archaeological zones dat-

## Mexico in Moscow: Art – Music – Film – Books – Food

November 2008, Program of Events

### ART

Exhibition ABCDF: Portraits of Mexico City Photographs, installations, digital images, sounds, everyday objects, texts and videos. A collective artistic attempt to understand the attachments and mysterious attributes that Mexico city contains. What it means to live in an urban center of these dimensions. Moscow Museum of Modern Art, 10 Gogolyevsky Bulvar. [www.mmoma.ru](http://www.mmoma.ru) November 12 – December 7

Exhibition: *Contemporary Mexican Architecture* A sampling of projects representing different generations and trends. The Schusev State Museum of Architecture, 5 Vozdvizhenka Street. Opening November 12

Exhibition: *UNESCO World Heritage Monuments in Mexico* A selection of photos from the Mexican National Council for Culture and the Arts. The Schusev State Museum of Architecture, 5 Vozdvizhenka Street November 12 – December 7.

### MUSIC

Classical Mexican Music. Eight young Mexican musicians conducted by Anatoly Levin will make a performance at Rakhmaninov Hall of the Moscow State Conservatory named for Tchaikovsky, 13/6 Bolshaya Nikitskaya. November 16 at 14:00

### FILM

Contemporary Mexican Film Festival. Six new Mexican films, including the directorial debuts of world-famous Mexican actors Gael Garcia Bernal and Diego Luna. Khudozhestvenny Cinema. 14 Arbatskaya Square. November 13 – 16.

All films in Spanish with Russian subtitles. For titles and schedule, visit [www.latinofiesta.ru](http://www.latinofiesta.ru)

### BOOK PRESENTATIONS

*The wonderful reality of Mexico in the Russian perception*. An anthology of texts about Mexico by Russian travelers from the 16th to the present. Compiler - Ludmila Burmistrova. Editor in chief - Yuri Fridshteyn. Published by the Rudomino Library of Foreign Literature. Oval Hall, Rudomino Foreign Languages Library, 1 Nikoloyamskaya St., [www.libfl.ru](http://www.libfl.ru) November 18 at 18:00

*A New Brief History of Mexico*. Colegio de México, published by the Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Latin America. Anatoly Borovkov, Editor Institute of Latin America, 21 Bolshaya Ordynka St. Tel. 953-4639, [www.ilaran.ru](http://www.ilaran.ru) November 20 at 18:00

### FOOD

Mexican Gastronomy. Five-Star Diamond Award Chef Martha Ortiz will be preparing the most sophisticated and delicious Mexican dishes at Nedalny Vostok restaurant, 15/2 Tverskoi Bulvar. November 13 – 20

## «Мексика в Москве: Искусство-музыка-кино- книги-кухня»

Ноябрь 2008, Программа

### ИСКУССТВО

Выставка ABCDF «Портреты города Мехико» Фотографии, инсталляции, цифровые изображения, звуки, предметы обихода, тексты и видео. Коллективная попытка осмыслить наполнение и мистические атрибуты города: что значит жить в мегаполисе такого размера? Московский музей современного искусства, Гоголевский бульвар, 10. Открытие 11 ноября.

Выставка «Современная архитектура Мексики». Подборка проектов ведущих архитекторов разных поколений и направлений. Государственный музей архитектуры им. А.В. Щусева, ул. Воздвиженка, 5. Открытие 12 ноября.

Выставка «Мировые памятники Мексики, объявленные ЮНЕСКО достоянием человечества». Подборка фотографий Мексиканского национального совета по культуре и искусству. Государственный музей архитектуры им. А.В. Щусева, ул. Воздвиженка, 5. Открытие 12 ноября.

### МУЗЫКА

Классическая мексиканская музыка. Восемь молодых мексиканских музыкантов под руководством дирижера Анатолия Левина. Рахманиновский зал Московской государственной консерватории им. Чайковского. Ул. Большая Никитская, 13/6. 16 ноября в 14.00

### ФИЛЬМ

Фестиваль современного мексиканского кино. Шесть новых мексиканских фильмов. Режиссёрские дебюты известных мексиканских актёров Гаэля Гарсии Берналя и Диего Луны. Кинотеатр «Художественный». Арбатская площадь, 14. 13 – 16 ноября.

Фильмы на испанском с субтитрами на русском. Расписание сеансов на, visit [www.latinofiesta.ru](http://www.latinofiesta.ru)

### ПРЕЗЕНТАЦИЯ КНИГ

«Прекрасная действительность Мексики в российском восприятии». Составитель - Людмила Бурмистрова. Главный редактор - Юрий Фридштейн. Антология текстов о Мексике, написанных российскими писателями. Временной охват - с 16 века до наших дней. Опубликовано Библиотекой иностранной литературы им. М.И. Рудомино, Овальный Зал Библиотеки. Ул. Никольямская, 1. 18 ноября в 18:00

«Новая краткая история Мексики». Колледж Мексики. Редактор - Анатолий Боровков. Издана Институтом Латинской Америки Российской Академии Наук. Институт Латинской Америки РАН. Ул. Большая Ордынка, 21. Tel. 953-4639, 20 ноября в 18.00

### КУХНЯ

Мексиканская гастрономия. Обладательница премии Five Star Diamond шеф-повар Марта Ортис будет готовить самые изысканные и вкусные блюда мексиканской кухни в ресторане «Недальний Восток». Тверской бульвар, 15/2. 13 – 20 ноября



ing back as far as 3,000 years. To the south, you'll find such sites as Chichen Itza and Palenque, widely considered the most important archaeological zones of Mayan culture. Heading west to the Pacific coast region, there are Monte Alban and Mitla, where the Zapotec and Mixtec cultures once flourished. Moving toward the Gulf Coast region, you'll come across ruins from the Olmec, Totonac, and Huastec cultures. And up north, you can witness remains of the Paquime civilization. In short, Mexico offers more vestiges of pre-Hispanic Mesoamerican civilizations than other Latin American country, as evidenced by its many ancient ceremonial grounds, sculptures, manuscripts, cave paintings, and thousands of artifacts. The important Aztec city of Teotihuacan and the ruins of the Templo Mayor (the Great Temple), located in the nation's capital, Mexico City, are sites you must see. Visit these places and discover the magic of pre-Hispanic Mexico.

## CUISINE

Mexican cuisine has drawn from its pre-Hispanic origin various culinary techniques which are still in use: the *nixtamalización* to enhance delicious *tortillas* (cooking the corn grain in water with a fixed proportion of lime), fermenting maguey to obtain incomparable *pulque* (an alcoholic beverage made with or without fruit), and the use of underground ovens to roast meat (lamb or mutton wrapped in fleshy maguey leaves and buried underground with hot stones), a technique known nowadays as *barbeque*.

When the conquerors came and founded the Spanish colony in Mexico, native ingredients and techniques fused with those brought from the Old World, Asia, and Africa. This gave birth to various exquisite dishes — like *mole*, *chiles en nogada*, *pozole*, and wide range of sauces, beverages, and desserts — that today represent traditional Mexican cuisine.

Many common ingredients widely used today throughout the world were initially “domesticated” in Mexico during the pre-Hispanic era. These gifts that Mexico has given to the rest of the world include corn, different kinds of chilies, vanilla, and — last but not least — the tomato.

It is worth mentioning that in every state of the country the variety of dishes is enriched by the contributions of spices and ingredients each state identifies itself with. This gives each dish a touch of special taste. So come to Mexico, a land of colors and flavors that you'll want to return to again and again!

## GETTING THERE

Most major international airlines fly to Mexico through principal European or American airports. Time difference from Moscow is minus 9 hours (MX: GMT – 6).

## WEATHER

Average temperatures range between 25° C to 30° C (77° F to 86° F). The hottest time of the year runs from May to September (especially on the coasts), and it gets cooler from October to April.

## VISAS

To find out visa requirements for different nations, consult the Mexican Embassy's website at [www.sre.gob.mx](http://www.sre.gob.mx). **P**

For more information, go to [www.visitmexico.com](http://www.visitmexico.com)



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# Budget Travel in Russia's Friendly Skies

Interview and photos Boris Sorokoumov



Sky Express, Russia's first budget airline, was established in 2006 and made its first flight in 2007. Today, it serves 11 cities throughout Russia and ranks fifth in the Russian market in number of passengers carried on domestic flights.

Maria Bukalova (pictured opposite), the company's general director, talks about market turbulence, holding patterns, and how low-cost airlines are faring.

## What catalyzed the advent of Sky Express? Why has it appeared now?

When the Soviet Union collapsed, the Soviet airline, Aeroflot, was broken up into hundreds of small carriers. Since then, the idea of resurrecting a "national" airline has been on the minds of those in the Russian aviation industry. For a while it seemed like Novosibirsk-based Aeroflot Siberia had its eye on the prize of becoming a national airline, but then it decided to go in a different direction, focusing on expanding its international service.

Then the Sky Express team, which included experienced people from both inside and outside the airline industry, entered the scene. The primary goal was to make domestic travel easier and more accessible to a broader range of customers. Today the company is a success nationwide with over a million customers served, but the members of the original start-up group admit that they wouldn't risk doing it all again.

## Why is that?

The main reason is the inertia of the Russian market. The airline industry in Russia remains averse to innovative business models and reluctant to make basic regulatory changes.

In addition, the Russian public continues to be wary of cheap flights and tends to perceive them as the proverbial free lunch, which everyone knows doesn't exist.

When Sky Express introduced a 500-ruble fare, it seemed outlandish to passengers. They assumed there would be no seats and they'd have to stand the entire flight. Or maybe there would be milk crates to sit on. Even within the industry, there was skepticism about low-cost carriers because of a perception that Russian airports were not equipped to meet the service needs of a budget airline.

But the diverse start-up team was able to mobilize support from big players in the industry such as the Abramovich brothers of AirUnion [Russia's first airline alliance]. After that, as they started to work on a business plan, it became clear how it was possible to cut costs and pass along the savings to the consumer by offering lower airfares.

## What were some of these cost-cutting strategies?

From the start, Sky Express made business decisions that distinguish it from other Russian carriers. First, Russian airlines typically have fleets that include aircraft made by different manufacturers. A unified fleet optimizes maintenance costs. Second, Russian airlines are administratively



overloaded — with daughter companies, lots of offices and sales outlets, home bases at numerous airports. Choosing one airport as a home base, keeping administrative offices to a minimum, and opting for inexpensive sales outlets are all approaches that led to significant savings.

Our in-flight costs — such as fuel, navigation, flight crew salaries, airport fees, aircraft leasing agreements — are the same as those of any other carrier. One exception is refreshment service: At Sky Express snacks are for purchase and not included in the ticket price. This allows us to save money on food, and that savings is passed along to the customer, who can decide whether or not he or she wants to bear this expense.

The Internet is the most direct and least expensive channel of communications and sales, and Sky Express is one of the first airlines on the Russian market to offer the customer a full range of services online. Through the airline's web resources, our customers can book and buy tickets in any of the 11 cities Sky Express serves. Within one to two hours after payment, the plane tickets and other travel documents are sent to the customer's email address. Besides that, our web check-in service eases the burden of some pre-flight formalities, such as the need to arrive at the airport two hours before departure in order to allow time to wait in line for a boarding pass. So we were able to use low-cost technology to reduce our administrative expenses, lower our prices, and increase customer convenience.

## Who is your "typical" passenger? What types of clients would you like to see more of?

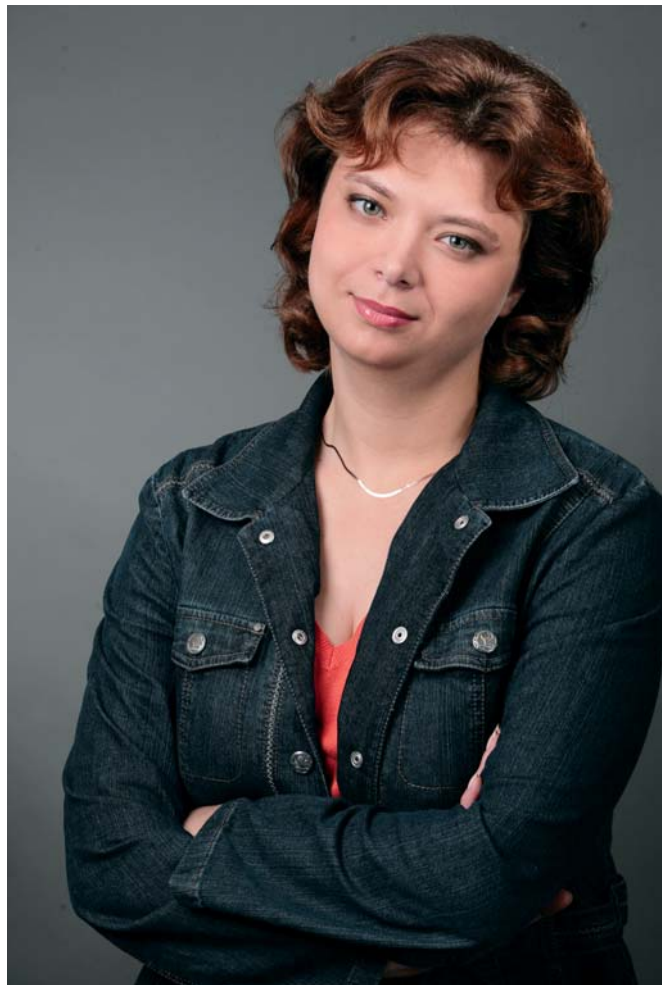
Research informed our decision to focus on 25-to-35-year-olds because they are the most mobile. This segment of the market includes business travelers, particularly mid-level management and owners of small and medium-sized businesses. We did not focus on employees of large companies because this group tends to fly business class, which we don't have. Our target audience also includes homemakers — that is, women who decide how the family budget is spent and make the family travel plans. And, naturally, students. That said, we of course work with the entire existing market, especially as we are rapidly expanding our service routes.

## Did you borrow anything from the experiences of low-cost airlines elsewhere in the world?

We borrowed the term "low cost," which we imported phonetically into Russian. The term originated in the U.S., where Southwest Airlines introduced an entirely new business model to the airline industry. In 1967, Rollin King and Herb Kelleher started Air Southwest, providing service to three Texas cities: Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio. The company's plan was to offer airfares that were lower than the cost of driving between these cities.

Southwest made its first profit in 1973 and has earned a profit ever year since, a record that no other airline in the world has been able to break. During the American oil crisis of the 1970s, Southwest developed a technique of entry into the market that allowed profitability through high utilization rates of aircraft and cost-cutting on the management side.

The success and profitability of Southwest's business model led to a trend that is named for the company: The Southwest Effect. The basic idea of the Southwest Effect is that when a budget airline or other innovative and aggressive company



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enters the market, the market itself changes, usually growing with tremendous speed. For example, if prices drop by 50 percent, the number of customers in that market may not only double but increase by four times or more.

Southwest became the inspiration for other budget airlines around the world, who adopted Southwest's business model. European budget airlines easyJet and Ryanair have applied the Southwest model (though today easyJet uses two different types of aircraft), as have Canada's WestJet, New Zealand's Freedom Air, and Thailand's Nok Air.

And 35 years later, the model appeared in Russia in the form of Sky Express.

### **Did you have to make any adjustments to account for the particularities of the Russian market?**

Along with its innovative business model, Sky Express paid consistent attention to customer service. From the start, we encouraged our employees to derive satisfaction from doing their jobs well and making the passengers' travel experience comfortable and pleasant. This required the development of a new corporate culture and philosophy, with an emphasis on friendliness and good interpersonal relations at its core.

In addition, while Sky Express is on its way to being a real low-cost carrier in the European sense of the term, at present there are still many economic and administrative factors in Russia that do not allow low-budget airlines to operate as they do elsewhere. For example, high customs duties hinder the development of low-cost carriers in Russia. This factor forced us to develop a cost-effectiveness calculus that is different from that of low-cost carriers operating elsewhere. In addition, there is contradictory legislation, and the system of allotting runway time at airports is less than transparent.

### **What are some of the lessons you've learned after a year and half on the Russian market?**

A year and a half have gone by, for almost nine months of which the oil crisis has been going on. The airlines have had losses. They are downsizing and modernizing their fleets, reducing the number of flights, and optimizing expenses in all areas. The low-cost era has begun in the airline industry throughout the world. All airlines, including traditional ones, are actively trying to cut costs.

The potential market for low-cost carriers in Russia is huge, and there will probably be other start-ups who want to tap into this market. But it's tough to make it work, and, as they say, you've got to be in the right place at the right time. In January 2007, that's just where we were, and today Sky Express has

carried 1.2 million passengers to date on 11 routes and has a nearly 5 percent share of the domestic passenger market.

### **Whom do you see as your main competitors, and how do you compete with them?**

Sky Express' strategy for entering the market was a departure from the usual procedure. Typically, a new airline will use low prices to attract passengers from other carriers. Then, once the newbie has established itself on a particular route and secured a customer base, it raises prices.

In contrast, Sky Express took the completely different approach of trying to expand the ranks of air travelers. Sky Express targeted non-flyers who were interested in plane travel but considered it too expensive. With low fares and a pricing policy that is easy to understand, we were able to appeal to these potential new customers. Even a ticket bought at the highest fare two hours before a flight will cost the same as the cheapest ticket on a traditional carrier. The transparency of our pricing structure remains a big advantage in the battle to attract customers.

But because our chief task is to increase the nation's mobility, our main challenge is the inertia of the population. And we are making inroads in this area. For example, in a single year, the volume of passengers on our Moscow-Murmansk route increased by 61 percent, on our Moscow-Rostov route by 47 percent, on our Moscow-St. Petersburg route by 33 percent.

The key is changing customer behavior, to convince someone not to spend the weekend in Moscow but to get out and go somewhere else. Tell the passenger that there's a great concert in Ekaterinburg, and it's easy to get there quickly. Two hours' flight, a night in a hotel we are partnered with, a ticket to the concert, the organizer of which is also our partner, and fly home. Our task is to get into the head of each person and say, "Now you can spend time differently." That's the hardest thing — not competition with Russian Railways or other airlines.

### **For many people, the word "budget" is associated with poor quality. How do you maintain high quality and safety of your flights?**

In our case, budget means no-frills but never poor quality. We simply allow the customer to pay the basic cost of a ticket from point A to point B.

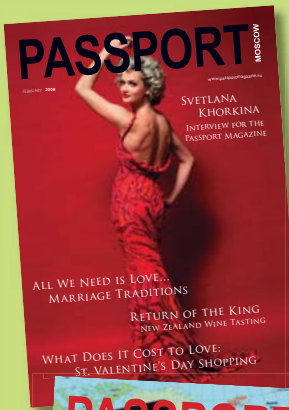
As to safety, Sky Express strictly adheres to all the current air travel standards and regulations. This year Sky Express passed an Operational Safety Audit conducted by the IATA [International Air Travel Association]. The results of this audit confirm the quality and safety of our service.

### **What plans does Sky Express have for the future?**

Sky Express continues to grow. There are over 20 airports located within a 3000 kilometer radius of Moscow that have the infrastructure to accommodate our Boeing 737s. We plan to increase the number of daily flights between Moscow and Ekaterinburg to three, and to increase the frequency of flights to Sochi on a seasonal basis.

Our plan remains to expand domestic service to at least 20 routes. In 2009 we'll introduce new routes in connection with the expansion of our fleet to 17 planes. In 2007, the airline had a sales volume of \$66 million and carried 677,000 passengers. We hope to increase those figures to \$900 million and over 4.5 million passengers by 2011. **P**





## Restaurants & Bars

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Adzhanta  
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Simple Pleasures  
Soho  
Starlite Diner  
Sudar  
SunGate  
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Talk of the Town  
Tapa de Comida  
Tesoro  
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Trattoria Macaroni  
Tunnel

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Vanil  
Vanilla Sky  
Vogue Cafe  
Vesna  
White Sun of the Desert  
Yapona Mama  
Yellow Sea  
Zapravochnya

## Hotels

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Iris Hotel  
Katerina-City Hotel  
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Metropol  
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Maxima Hotels  
National  
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Sheraton Palace  
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Sretenskaya  
Swissotel Krasnye Holmy  
Tiflis  
Volga  
Zavidovo  
Zolotoye Koltso

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Business Center Degtyarny  
Business Center Mokhovaya  
Dayev Plaza  
Ducat Place 2  
Gogolevsky 11  
Iris Business Center  
Japan House  
LG Electronics  
Lotte Plaza  
Meyerhold House  
Morskoi Dom  
Mosalarko Plaza  
Mosbusiness Center  
Moscow Business Center  
Mosenka 1, 2, 3, 4, 5  
Novinsky Passage  
Olympic Plaza  
Romanov Dvor  
Samsung Center  
Sodexho  
Znamenskoye Business Center

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Singapore  
Slovenia  
South Africa  
South Korea  
Spain  
Sweden  
Thailand  
United Arab Emirates  
United Kingdom  
United States

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American Clinic  
American Dental Clinic  
American Dental Center  
American Medical Center  
American-Russian Dental Center  
European Dental Center  
European Medical Center  
German Dental Center  
International SOS Alarm  
Center  
International SOS Medical  
Clinic  
US Dental Care  
MedinCentre

## Others

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American Express  
Anglia Bookshop  
Anglo-American School  
American Institute of  
Business and Economics  
Astravel  
Aviatransagentstvo  
Baker Hughes  
British International School  
Cara & Co.  
Citibank  
Concept MR, ZAO  
Dr. Loder's  
Dom Kompozitorov  
DHL  
Dunaevsky 7  
English International  
School  
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photo courtesy Casta Diva



“Chaste goddess, who dost bathe in silver light  
These ancient, hallowed trees,  
Turn thy fair face upon us,  
Unveiled and unclouded...  
Temper thou the burning hearts,  
The excessive zeal of thy people.  
Enfold the earth in that sweet peace  
Which, through Thee, reigns in heaven...”

— Casta Diva, Norma’s aria from Bellini’s *Norma*  
(libretto can be found at [www.opera-guide.ch](http://www.opera-guide.ch))

## Casta Diva, Che in Argenti (or, Waiting for Maria Callas)

Text Charles W. Borden

Photos Sergei Koshkin

**C**asta Diva, Turandot’s new neighbor on Tverskoi Bulvar, has a name also drawn from operatic legend. In the aria from Vincenzo Bellini’s *Norma*, the Druid high priestess calls upon the Casta Diva, or Chaste Goddess (the moon), to bestow peace upon Gaul. For restaura-

teur Andrey Dellos, it appears that the mood of the aria inspired the decor of his new restaurant. (Google Casta Diva and Maria Callas, pictured above, to get the idea.) Set like a Gallic temple within a moonlit oak grove, Dellos has provided Casta Diva with the same theatrical atten-



tion to detail that characterizes Turandot. Occupying two floors, the tables of Casta Diva are amply spaced and served by attentive waitstaff, clad in black jackets and bright red neckties that wrap the narrow, upturned wing collars of their white shirts.

Executive Chef Michele Brogioni, a veteran of Tuscany's Michelin-starred Relais Il Falconiere, leads the kitchen. His menu is extensive with a dozen headings from antipasti and hot antipasti to pizza, grilled meats, and desserts. The wine list is heavy on Italian though there are a couple of pages of French and New World. It includes an Antinori Cervaro Castello della Sala Estate Chardonnay (7500r) (see a review of this wine in *Passport's* October issue) as well as the more modestly priced Bramito del Cervo Chardonnay (2160r) from the same winery, a good budget choice. Sommelier Sergei Aksyonovsky suggested Palari Faro 2004 (9600r) made from Nerello Mascalese grapes and raved about Passopisciaro 2005 (6750r), a Burgundian style wine from the same varietal.

Before going further, it should be stated that the pizza was a big hit. It seems Casta Diva has its own Italian pizza chef, David Mauro, winner of a "Best Pizza in Europe" award. While waiting for some late-arriving dinner companions, we tested the pizza oven with an order of Pizza con Tartufo Nero (720r) and a request to supplement the black truffles with some thin prosciutto. Quickly devoured with raves all around, we couldn't help repeating the pizza late in the meal, this time with a few slices of white truffles carefully weighed by the waiter at the table.

I scanned Chef Brogioni's menu for intriguing items like the Mushroom Soup with Meat Ravioli and Burrata (590r). For hot antipasti, I zeroed in on Cannelloni with Duck and Ricotta (575r) and under homemade pasta picked the Ravioli with Burrata, Tomato and Pine Nut (825r), passing over the Risotto with Hazelnuts and Ceps (850r), which I would have loved to have tried. The cannelloni consisted of two generous pieces filled with full-flavored, dark duck finely blended to a paste, covered with a rich parmesan cream sauce. The Ravioli with Burrata followed, a wonderful combination, the al dente pasta opening up to the soft, delicate Burrata cheese.

For a main course I selected Costolette di Agnello "Scottadito" (1180r), or sizzling lamb chops. Scottadito means finger-blistering, which in this context means three seared chops so meaty and good that you can't resist picking them up hot off the grill. For dessert, we shared a rich and delicate Tira Misu with Wildberry (490r) and two rounds of Limoncello.

The fabulous pizza aside, the presentation and quality of preparation at Casta Diva was exquisite and the service very good, certainly as good as any of the other Italian chef restaurants in Moscow. Though deserving of high marks indeed, Casta Diva still fell short on Italian ambience, something that few if any restaurants in Moscow have yet been able to import. We are still waiting for our Maria Callas. **P**

*Casta Diva*  
26 Tverskoi Bulvar  
(495) 651-8181  
[www.castadiva.ru](http://www.castadiva.ru)



*Tiramisu*



*Ravioli*



*Cannelloni*

## Planet Sushi

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The new menu is devised to dazzle and impress the palate of the Moscow chic. Dishes like Star of the Seas, Philadelphia De Lux, Philadelphia Chic, New California, Royal Salmon and The Sea Fantasy promise an esthetic and beautiful culinary experience. It's healthy, tasty, and simply beautiful!

For more information, including locations and hours, visit [www.planet-sushi.rosinter.com](http://www.planet-sushi.rosinter.com)



## Планета Суши

В ноябре во всех ресторанах японской кухни “Планета Суши” гостей будут радовать новым промо-меню “Лосось&Икра”. Оранжевые икринки соблазняют на вкусный японский ужин с элегантными блюдами из королевской красной рыбы и икры. Это полезно, это вкусно, это красиво... Просто блестяще! Красиво есть не запретишь! Поэтому девушки предпочитают Лосось&Икру. Даже названия блюд обещают интересное и яркое гастрономическое путешествие: Звезда морей, Филадельфия Делюкс, Филадельфия Шик, Нью Калифорния, Морская фантазия, Королевский лосось. Искрометное меню!

Дополнительную информацию можно найти на сайте [www.planet-sushi.rosinter.com](http://www.planet-sushi.rosinter.com)



## Dymov №1

With the coming of autumn we find ourselves occupied with the hustle and bustle of the city and work. The streets become cold and the soul gloomy. Yet fond memories stir of summer days spent soaking up the sun at the beach, fun with friends at the summer house, and worldly travel.

The Dymov №1 restaurant has contrived a remedy to cure the autumn blues. A new hot drink menu of alcoholic and soft drinks is now available in all Dymov №1 restaurants. Each drink represents one of Europe's capitals: A combination of dried apricots, prunes, honey, spices, and white wine transports you to Rome. Another blend of Czech herbs, honey, Bekherovka, and dark beer sweeps you away to the streets of Prague. A mix of strawberry, cinnamon, and Cointreau whisk you directly to merry Paris. In the autumn city, all roads lead to Dymov №1!

For more information, including locations and hours, visit [www.dymov1.ru](http://www.dymov1.ru)

## ДЫМОВ №1

Осенью мы возвращаемся к городской суете, к делам и работе, оставленным на время летних отпусков. На улице становится прохладно, а на душе – печально. Остается только тешить себя воспоминаниями о летних деньках, когда Вы нежились на под солнцем на пляже, веселились с друзьями на даче и путешествовали по миру. Ресторан «ДЫМОВ №1» изобрел панацею от осеннего синдрома - уютные и теплые путешествия по городам Европы. Для этого достаточно просто попробовать один из ряда горячих алкогольных и безалкогольных напитков, которые появились в сети наших заведений. Каждый из них представляет одну из европейских столиц. Например, сочетание кураги, чернослива, меда, специй, самбуки и белого вина переносит Вас в Рим. А на улицах Праги мы оказываемся благодаря чешским травам, меда, бехеровки и темного пива. Вкусы клубники, корицы и куантро сливаются так, что тепло пробегает по телу и мы слышим французскую музыку. Друзья, если Вы прочли эту новость, то горячая путевка от «ДЫМОВ» №1 у Вас в кармане!

Дополнительную информацию можно найти на сайте на [www.dymov1.ru](http://www.dymov1.ru)



## Thai Elephant

The Thai Elephant restaurant has a new executive chef. Vit Klinsakul, a culinary specialist with knowledge passed down through generations of his family, which cooked for the Royal Thai dynasty. Following in his father's and grandfather's footsteps, he has cooked extensively abroad. He has also worked at restaurants and five-star hotels in Bangkok and Saudi Arabia and at the Thai Pavilion in Great Britain. Vit Klinsakul has skillfully learned how to adapt the spicy Thai cuisine to the European palate without depriving his dishes of charm and authenticity.

25 Khoroshevskoye Shosse, Bldg. 1  
М. Беговая  
Тел. 974-8401  
www.slou.su



## Ресторан «Тайский слон»

Новый шеф-повар тайской кухни ресторана «Тайский слон», Правит Клинсакул – наследственный кулинар, продолжатель известной династии. Поварами были его отец и дядя, а дедушка готовил при дворе самого короля Рамы VI. Сам Правит работал в ресторанах пятизвездочных отелях Бангкока и Саудовской Аравии. А работа в ресторане Thai Pavilion в Великобритании научила его умело учитывать разницу между вкусами жителей Тайланда и европейских стран. Если необходимо, Правит Клинсакул деликатно адаптирует блюда, например, снижая остроту, но не лишая еду очарования аутентичности.

Хорошевское ш., 25, стр.1  
М. Беговая  
Тел. 974-8401  
www.slou.su



## Union of Composers Club

We at the Union of Composers club-restaurant are proud to present our new fall/winter menu. The menu is an amalgamation of dishes representing traditions of the world's diverse cultures in a creative interpretation by our head chef. Gastronomic travelers may wish to sample our organic, healthy, and classic dishes, which emphasize the ethnic zest of other countries. Unique creations lend the menu refreshingly new harmonies that are sure to please your palate. Don't miss our sumptuous fresh juices, salads, and mouth-watering desserts. Bon appétit!

8/10 Bryusov pereulok, Bldg. 2  
М. Okhotny Ryad  
Тел. 229-6563  
www.ucclub.ru

## Клуб Союз Композиторов

Дорогие друзья! Имеем честь предложить Вам новое меню от клуба-ресторана «Союз композиторов». Меню сезона 2008/09 состоит из блюд, воспроизводящих традиции разнообразных культур мира, в творческой интерпретации нашего шеф-повара. Гастрономические путешественники смогут попробовать максимально полезные, классические блюда, в которых подчеркнут этнический колорит других стран. Авторское исполнение известных рецептов придает им совершенно новое, неожиданное, прекрасное звучание. Кулинарные «либретто» расскажут о каждом блюде любопытные факты. Большинство наших блюд – диетические и создавались вместе со специалистами по рациональному питанию. Без сомнения Вы оцените свежие салаты и соки, а также восхитительные десерты. Приятного аппетита!

8/10 Брюсов пер., стр. 2  
М. Охотный ряд  
Т. 229-6563  
www.ucclub.ru

## A Star for Stars and Millionaires at YAKIMONO

The popular Japanese restaurant chain Planet Sushi will please its guests with a new "Salmon & Roe" promo-menu during the month of November. The new menu offers a special selection of dishes that highlight the colors of autumn and feature tender salmon and roe.

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23a Taras Shevchenko Embankment, M. Delovoi Center  
Tel. 653-8448, <http://en.ic-club.ru>



## Звезда для звёзд и миллионеров в ресторане ЯКИМОНО

Этот человек звезда. И звезда уникальная! Его считают звездой сами звёзды и наиболее состоятельные люди мира, из года в год приезжающие отдыхать на лазурный берег Франции, средиземноморские курорты Италии и в самые фешенебельные отели Швейцарии.

Репертуар маэстро необыкновенно широк - это блюз и классический джаз, итальянские и французские песни, мировые нестареющие хиты, латиноамериканская музыка и Карибское регги.

Г-н Томас лауреат многих международных джазовых фестивалей, в частности, Sant Anna Arresi Jazz Festiva на Сардинии. Гости ресторана Yakimono смогут увидеть и услышать выступления Найджела Томаса до декабря 2008 года, окунуться в мир солнца, моря, неторопливой роскоши средиземноморских курортов, не выезжая из осенней Москвы, и, подобно многим мировым знаменитостям, стать поклонником и личным другом маэстро.

Наб. Тараса Шевченко, 23а, М. Деловой Центр, Т.653-8448, <http://en.ic-club.ru>

## Hot and Cool at Myata Music Café

MINT Music Cafe presents an ongoing "Hot Ice Cream" party. Guests are invited to sample the newest gastronomic trend of the fall/winter season, which has come to replace the traditional mulled wine and grog. Hot Ice Cream drinks are unprecedented tasty alcoholic cocktails in the form of appetizing ice cream mixed with a base of "BOLS Advocaat" Liquor. An autumn hit in the most fashionable European clubs, thanks to the hormone of happiness, serotonin, which is found in this creamy dessert as well as in a unique incendiary alcoholic component of the well-known Amsterdam liquor BOLS Advocaat. This new cocktail trend promises to instantly transform any party into a cheerful holiday.

1А Luzhnetsky Proyezd, M. Sportivnaya, Tel. 245-2245

## Hot Ice-cream party в ресторане МЯТА music cafe

В ресторане МЯТА music cafe состоится Hot Ice-cream party. Гости вечеринки смогут продегустировать самый актуальный гастрономический тренд холодного осенне-зимнего сезона, пришедший на смену глинтвейну и грогу – Hot Ice-cream. Беспрецедентно вкусные алкогольные коктейли в виде аппетитного мороженого на основе BOLS Advocaat, сливочного пломбира и, порой, самых неожиданных компонентов – осенний хит самых модных европейских клубов. Благодаря гормону счастья, серотонину, в изобилии содержащемуся в сливочном десерте, а также уникальному зажигательному алкогольному ингредиенту в виде знаменитого амстердамского ликера BOLS Advocaat, новый формат коктейля моментально поднимает настроение, превращая любую вечеринку в интригующий и веселый праздник.

Лужнецкий проезд, 1А, М. Спортивная, Т. 245-2245

## MICHAEL's

MICHAEL's is a fashionable new restaurant with original Italian and Mediterranean cuisine. The relaxed ambience of the calm interior sets the tone for an agreeable and quality meal. An open kitchen that looks out over the dining area allows guests to observe culinary secrets behind the preparation of their scrumptious meals. Business breakfasts now on offer from 09:00 am on weekdays.

7 Tverskoi Bulvar, M. Pushkinskaya  
Tel. 690-3737, [www.michaels-restaurant.ru](http://www.michaels-restaurant.ru)

MICHAEL's – новое модное заведение с авторской итальянской и средиземноморской кухней. Спокойный интерьер, располагающий к полному расслаблению, вкусная и качественная еда, открытая кухня, которая выходит в зал, давая возможность гостям наблюдать за тайной приготовления блюд. Здесь можно провести деловой завтрак (с 09.00 до 12.00 по будням), устроить романтическое свидание, организовать банкет.

Тверской бульвар, 7, М. Пушкинская  
Т. 690-3737, [www.michaels-restaurant.ru](http://www.michaels-restaurant.ru)



## Ararat Park Hyatt: Sunday in the Park with Brunch



The renowned Sunday Brunch at the Ararat Park Hyatt features, as always, a marvelous range of high-class cuisine. Enjoy fantastic food and entertainment in an elegant and cozy atmosphere. This year a special emphasis is given to live cooking stations - tender fish and meat carvings, risotto and pasta, as well as Russian specialties - pancakes, syrniki, and pastries. The seafood station will leave no one indifferent - oysters, shrimp, and a counter for lovers of Japanese cuisine where sushi is made right in front of you. Moët & Chandon champagne, Hennessy cognac, Kauffman vodka, red and white wine, and a large assortment of other alcoholic drinks as well as fresh juices and soft drinks are a great accompaniment. Dessert connoisseurs will be impressed with the selection presented by our pastry chef, Pascal Poitevin.

The Sunday Brunch at the Park Restaurant is priced at 4,200 rubles for adults; 2,100 rubles for children aged 6 to 12; free for children under 6. A children's entertainment room is available.

Every Sunday 12:00-17:00

4 Neglinnaya Street, M. Teatralnaya, Tel. 783-1234

[www.moscow.park.hyatt.com](http://www.moscow.park.hyatt.com)

## Воскресенье в Парке с бранчем

Арарат Парк Хаятт Москва представляет новый сезон традиционных воскресных бранчей. В этом году мы сделали акцент на приготовлении ассортимента блюд «вживую». Нежнейшая рыбная и мясная нарезка, устрицы и морепродукты, вкуснейшие блины и сырники со всевозможными начинками и добавками, ризотто и паста, а также свежайшие суши и сашими – все это гастрономическое многообразие будет приготовлено непосредственно перед Вами. Кроме того, в меню бранча присутствует впечатляющий список алкогольных напитков – шампанское Moët&Chandon, коньяк Hennessy, водка Kauffman, а также большой выбор элитных вин и безалкогольных напитков. Десертный стол ресторана не позволит никому устоять перед сладким искушением.

Каждое воскресенье с 12.30 до 17.00 мы ждем вас в ресторане «Парк» на втором этаже отеля. Как и прежде, бранч стоит 4200 рублей. Стоимость бранча для детей от 6 до 12 лет составляет 2100 рублей. Наши самые маленькие гости, которым еще не исполнилось 6 лет, могут угощаться бесплатно. Для детей действует игровая комната.

Ул. Неглинная, 7, М. Театральная, Т. 783-1234

[www.moscow.park.hyatt.com](http://www.moscow.park.hyatt.com)

## Holiday Shopping Galore at the AWO Craft Fair

Now is the time to start your holiday shopping, and the 15th annual American Women's Organization (AWO) Russian craft fair is the place to start it! All proceeds from the fair, including generous donations from the artists, will go to the Nastenka Foundation in support of the Moscow Pediatric Oncology Institute. Choose from painted icons and matryoshkas, full-sized paintings, carpets, furniture, textiles, jewelry, and more, all the highest-quality work of over 60 Russian artists and craftspeople. This year, the fair will feature the creations of icon and Faberge egg painter Olga Syomina, whose work is pictured at right.

The 2008 AWO Russian craft fair will be on Thursday, November 13 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Park Place (113/1 Leninsky Prospekt). For more information, visit <http://awomoscow.blogspot.com>.



## Ярмарка AWO

Пора собираться за подарками на ярмарку Американской Женской Ассоциации! Более 60 русских художников и ремесленников представят свои работы (в том числе Ольга Суомина): иконы и картины, расписные матрешки и тканые вручную ковры, деревянная утварь и изделия мастеров-ювелиров. Вырученные средства пойдут в благотворительный фонд «Настенка» и будут переданы Научно-исследовательскому институту детской онкологии.

Выставка пройдет во вторник 13 ноября с 10:00 до 16:00 в Парк Плейс (113/1 Ленинский проспект).

Дополнительную информацию вы можете найти на сайте <http://awomoscow.blogspot.com>.

# Wine & Dine Listings

## AMERICAN

### AMERICAN BAR & GRILL

Hamburgers, steaks, bacon & eggs and more. Children's room on weekends. Open 24 hours. 2/1 1st Tverskaya-Yamskaya Ul., 250-9525. M. Mayakovskaya  
59 Ul. Zemlyanoi Val, 912-3621/3615. M. Taganskaya  
14 Kirovogradskaya Ul., (inside Global City Trade Center), 956-4843, M. Yuzhnaya

### FLAT IRON BAR & ROADHOUSE

Located in the Courtyard Marriot. American-style pub with great cuisine and meat dishes. 7 Voznesensky Pereulok, 937-3077. M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya, Chekhovskaya

### T.G.I. FRIDAY'S

American favorites in a cozy wood-paneled setting. Open noon-midnight. 18/2 Tverskaya Ul., 694-3921/2497. M. Pushkinskaya, Tverskaya  
1/2 Leninsky Prospekt, 238-3200. M. Oktyabrskaya  
33 Ul. Zemlyanoi Val (in Atrium Mall), 970-1187. See [www.tgifridays.ru](http://www.tgifridays.ru) for additional locations.

### STARLITE DINER

American '50s-style diner. Extensive menu with great breakfasts, cheeseburgers, milkshakes. Open 24 hours. 6 Prospekt Vernadskogo, 783-4037. M. Universitet  
16 Ul. Bolshaya Sadovaya, 290-9638. M. Mayakovskaya  
9a Ul. Korovy Val, 959-8919. M. Oktyabrskaya

## ASIAN

### BELOYE SOLNTSE PUSTYNI

Named after White Desert Sun, one of the USSR's favorite films. An eclectic Asian menu that includes Azerbaijani and Uzbek cuisine. Open noon-midnight. 29 Ul. Neglinnaya, 625-2596, 200-6836 M. Kuznetsky Most, Teatralnaya

### BLUE ELEPHANT

Thai cuisine with impeccable service. Try the Royal Thai Platter to sample a range of Thai specialties. Three-elephant rating means very spicy; no elephants means it's mild enough to serve the kids. Open noon-midnight. 31 Novinsky Bulvar, 580-7757. M. Barrikadnaya

### INDUS

"Elitny" modern Indian restaurant with Chivas bar on the first floor. Open 24 hours. 15 Plotnikov Pereulok, 244-7979. M. Smolenskaya, Kropotkinskaya

### TANDOOR

Upscale Indian. Open noon-midnight. 31 Tverskaya Ul., 699-8062. M. Mayakovskaya

## EUROPEAN

### APPLE BAR & RESTAURANT

A chic, intimate lounge serving classic and original cocktails. The restaurant offers a selection of simple and tasty European dishes in a contemporary atmosphere. Restaurant Open 19:00-last guest; bar open 24 hours. 11 Ul. Malaya Dmitrovka, 980-7000. M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya, Chekhovskaya

### CAFE DES ARTISTES

Restaurant and bar offers fine European cuisine in a relaxed atmosphere, often with recent art on the walls of the upstairs room. Open 11:00-midnight. 5/6 Kamergersky Pereulok, 692-4042. M. Teatralnaya

### CAFE SWISS

Breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Located on the 3rd floor of Swissotel Krasnye Holmy. European (including Swiss) cuisine and Russian dishes. Seafood buffet on Tuesdays, Russian buffet Wednesdays. Open 7:00-22:30. 52/6 Kosmodamianskaya Nab., 787-9800/3202, M. Paveletskaya

### CITY GRILL

Contemporary European cuisine, modern interior. Open noon-2:00. 2/30 Sadovaya-Triumfalnaya Ul., 699-0953. M. Mayakovskaya

### COFFEE MANIA

Good daytime business meeting venue next to Moscow Conservatory. Open 24 hours. 13 Ulitsa Bolshaya Nikitskaya 775-5188, 775-4310, [www.coffeeman.ru](http://www.coffeeman.ru) M. Arbatskaya, Biblioteka im. Lenina

### CUTTY SARK

Restaurant made to look like a luxury yacht. Aquarium with live lobsters and crabs; oyster bar; over 40 varieties of fresh fish. Seasonal offerings from the chef. Extensive selection of wine, spirits, cigars. "Captain's Cabin" VIP room. Open 11:00-midnight. 12 Novinsky Bulvar, 202-1312/1621. M. Smolenskaya, Barrikadnaya

### DANTES

Several dining halls. Menu consists of European and Soviet dishes. Dantes gives a master-class in style to Moscow's upmarket cocktail crowd. Open 24 hours. 13 Myasnitskaya Ul., Bldg.1 Tel. 621-4688, M. Chistiye Prudy

### GALEREYA

Trendy, lavish and expensive. The place to see and be seen. Open 24 hours. 27 Ul. Petrovka, 937-4544. M. Pushkinskaya

### OBSERVATOIRE

Excellent – and expensive European cuisine – with attentive service in a relaxed atmosphere. Valet parking available. Free wi-fi. Open noon-midnight. 22 Bolshaya Yakimanka, bldg. 3 643-3606/797-4333, [www.observatoire.ru](http://www.observatoire.ru) M. Oktyabrskaya, Polyanka

### THE SAVOY

Located inside the hotel of the same name, the restaurant lunch and dinner. Its magnificent interior and gourmet menu make it equally suited to corporate events and candlelit dinners. Open noon-last guest. 3 Ul. Rozhdivizhenka, 620-8600. M. Kuznetsky Most

### SHOKOLAD

Pan-European menu plus a selection of Japanese dishes. Cozy decor and live music. Open 24 hours. 5 Strastnoi Bulvar, 787-8866. M. Pushkinskaya, Chekhovskaya, Tverskaya

### 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! Open noon-06:00 22/1 Sretenka Ul., 607-1521. M. Sukharevskaya

### 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. Open noon-midnight. 32a Leninsky Prospekt (In the Russian Academy of Sciences building), 915-1042; 938-5775. M. Leninsky Propekt

### TSIMES

Kosher. Open noon-midnight. 3 Novoslobodskaya Ul., 499 973-0873 M. Novoslobodskaya

### VANILLE

Hip French and Japanese near Christ the Savior Cathedral. Open noon-midnight. 1 Ul. Ostozhenka, 202-3341. M. Kropotkinskaya

### VOGUE CAFE

European food, top clientele. Hip and elegant partnership with Vogue magazine. Modern, continental menu. Open Mon.-Thurs., 20:30-01:00, Fri., 20:30-02:00, Sat., noon-02:00, Sun., noon-01:00. 7/9 Ul. Kuznetsky Most, 923-1701. M. Kuznetsky Most

### YU CAFE

DJ cafe with inexpensive but good-quality food, drinks and house music. Open weekdays 10:00-midnight. 4 Pushechnaya Ul., 271-8865. M. Kuznetsky Most

### ZOLOTOI KUPOL

Upmarket restaurant serving Caucasian and pan-European cuisine. Wide selection of beverages. Open 24 hours. Gorki-10, 70/2 Rublyovo-Uspenskoye Shosse, 634-5278. M. Molodyozhnaya

### 4 ANGELS CAFE

European, Russian and Japanese cuisine. Cozy cafe with gorgeous interior. Open Sun.-Thurs., noon-6:00, Fri.-Sat., 24 hrs. 5 Pokrovka Ul., 364-3339. M. Kitai-Gorod

### 5 RINGS RESTAURANT

European and Russian cuisine with cozy atmosphere, elegant interior. Open noon-last guest. 27 Dolgorukovskaya, 250-2551. M. Novoslobodskaya

## ITALIAN

### BENVENUTO

Great variety of Italian cuisine. Most items run around or below 300 rubles. Open NOON-23:00. 6 Velozavodskaya Ul. 675-0033. M. Avtozavodskaya, Dubrovka

### BISTROT

Italian cuisine, three dining rooms, VIP hall, summer patio. Open noon-5:00. 12 Bol. Savinsky Per., Bldg. 2, 248-4045. M. Kievskaya

### 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 Leningradsky Prospekt, 162-5612 M. Dinamo

### 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. Open noon-6:00. 7 Soimonovsky Proyezd, Bldg.1, 291-6576. M. Kropotkinskaya

### CONCERTO RESTAURANT AND BAR

Italian cooking prepared with the freshest herbs and ingredients. Patrons are entertained by the live show in the open kitchen. Wide selection of pizzas, cheeses. Ask the sommelier for beverage recommendations. Open 12:00-01:00. 52/6 Kosmodamianskaya Nab., Bldg. 6, 787-9898. M. Paveletskaya

### 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... Open noon-23:00. 25/20 Spiridonovka Ul., 746-6964. M.Barrikadnaya, [www.litelife.ru](http://www.litelife.ru)

### MARIO

Delightful elegance and style with best-quality Italian dishes. Open noon-last guest. 17 Ul. Klimashka, 253-6505. M. Barrikadnaya

### ROBERTO

Cozy, classy Italian. Open 11:00-midnight. 20 Rozhdesventkiy Bulvar, 628-1944 M. Kuznetsky Most

### SEMIFREDDO

A little bit of everything. Large selection of wines and spirits, including grappa and cognac. Open noon-23:00. 2 Rossolimo Ul., 248-6169. M. Park Kultury

### SETTEBELLO

Classic Italian menu with a Russian twist. Cozy coffee lounge. Open noon-last guest. 3 Sadovaya-Samotechnaya Ul., 699-1656/3039. M. Tsvetnoi Bulvar, Mayakovskaya

### SPAGO

Stylish restaurant with a wide range of pastas. Live music. Open noon-23:00. 1 Bolshoi Zlatoustinsky Pereulok, 921-3797. M. Lubyanka

## JAPANESE

### ICHIBAN BOSHI

High-quality, affordable Japanese with cool ambience. 22 Krasnaya Presnya Ul., 255-0909. M. Krasnopresnenskaya  
105 Prospekt Vernadskogo, k.1 M. Yugo-Zapadnaya  
50 Ul. Bolshaya Yakimanka NEW LOCATION! M. Polyanka  
Open 11:00-midnight. [www.ichiban.ru](http://www.ichiban.ru)

### SAPPORO

105-1 Prospekt Vernadskogo, 433-9151. M. Yugo-Zapadnaya Modern Japanese with extensive sushi and sashimi menu. Open noon-23:00. 14 Prospekt Mira, 207-0198. M. Prospekt Mira

### TSVETENIYE SAKURY

Completely new restaurant concept in Moscow based on the combination of traditional and contemporary Japanese cuisine. Ancient recipes are joined by recent innovations. Open noon-midnight. 7 Krasina Ul., Bldg. 1, 506-0033. M. Mayakovskaya

## MEDITERRANEAN

### 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. Open 18:00-midnight. 5 Smolenskaya Ul., 725-0100. M. Smolenskaya

### ARARAT

A little corner of Armenia right in the center of Moscow. Cozy atmosphere and spicy Armenian fare. All ingredients are delivered straight from Armenia, and the wine list abounds with the finest Armenian cognacs. Open noon-midnight. 4 Neglinnaya Ul. (Ararat Park Hyatt), 783-1234. M. Teatralnaya, Kuznetsky Most

## RUSSIAN

### CAFE PUSHKIN

A Moscow classic serving upmarket Russian cuisine in a lavish, 19th-century setting. Bustling ground-floor dining hall, more sophisticated (and pricier) experience upstairs. Reservation essential. Open 24 hours. 26a Tverskoi Bulvar, 739-0033. M. Pushkinskaya, Tverskaya, Chekhovskaya

### GODUNOV

For real lovers of all things Russian, 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. Open noon-midnight. 5 Teatralnaya Ploshchad, Bldg. 1, 698-5609. M. Teatralnaya

### GRABLI

The best mid-priced Russian food in Moscow. Buffet-style. Russian cuisine. Open 09:00-23:00. 99 Prospekt Mira, 602-4662. M. Alexeyevskaya [www.grably.ru](http://www.grably.ru)

### 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. Open Mon.-Fri., 18:00-23:00. 26 Tverskaya Ul. (in Marriott Grand Hotel), 937-0000. M. Tverskaya

### NA MELNITSE

Uber-Russian eatery. Homemade 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. Open noon-last guest. 7 Tverskoi Bulvar, 290-3737. M. Pushkinskaya, Tverskaya, Chekhovskaya  
24 Sadovo-Spasskaya Ul., 625-8890/8753. M. Krasniye Vorota [www.namelnitse.ru](http://www.namelnitse.ru)



# Wine & Dine Listings

## OBLMOV

In a mansion in the historical Zamoskvorechye area, the interior is crammed with ancient utensils and furniture. Two large halls are named for characters from Nikolai Goncharov's novel Oblomov. Remember to peek in the chimney room on the first floor and the oriental room on the third. Open noon-midnight.  
5 1st Monetchikovskiy Pereulok, 953-6828.  
M. Dobryninskaya

## SENO

This inexpensive Russian restaurant is a good option for the budget- or time-conscious. Excellent self-service buffet offers a wide range of salads and hot meals. Open 9:00-midnight.  
6 Kamergerskiy Pereulok, Bldg. 1, 692-0452.  
M. Tverskaya

## SUDAR

Authentic Russian dishes prepared from traditional recipes. Located in a 19th-century mansion, Open noon-last guest.  
36a Kutuzovskiy Prospekt, 249-6965.  
M. Park Pobedy, Kutuzovskaya

## TRAKTIR CHERNAYA KOSHKA

This restaurant was opened to mark the 20th anniversary of the cult detective series "Mesto Vstrechi Izmenit Nelya" ("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. Open noon-last guest.  
6 Vorontsovskaya Ul., 911-7601.  
M. Taganskaya

## TSOL

(Central House of Writers)  
This opulent Russian restaurant is located in the building with the same name, lavish decor, and opulent atmosphere. A memorable, top-notch meal in luxurious surroundings. Open noon-midnight.  
50 Povarskaya Ul., 290-1589.  
M. Barrikadnaya

## 1 RED SQUARE

The menu features lavish, centuries-old recipes. Expect cream-laden meat dishes with fruit-based sauces and live folk music. Open noon-midnight.  
1 Krasnaya Ploshchad, 625-3600; 692-1196.  
M. Okhotny Ryad, Teatralnaya

## STEAK

### EL GAUCHO

True Argentine menu. THE place for charcoal-grilled meats and fish. Impressive selection of over 120 Argentine and Chilean wines. Open 11:30-midnight. www.elgauchor.ru  
4 Ul. Sadovaya-Triumfalnaya, 699-7974.  
M. Mayakovskaya  
6/13 Ul. Zatspeyskiy Val, 953-2876.  
M. Paveletskaya  
3 Bolshoi Kozlovskiy Pereulok, 623-1098.  
M. Krasniye Vorota

### GOODMAN

Moscow's premium steak house chain. Open noon-midnight. 775-9888., 23 Ul. Tverskaya.  
M. Tverskaya, Puahkinskaya  
See www.goodman.ru for additional locations.

### GUILLY'S

The oldest steakhouse in Moscow. Steaks from Australian and U.S. beef. Multinational culinary hits. Extensive choice of wines. Located in the basement of an historic mansion and named after Moscow writer Gilyarovskiy, the interior revives the spirit of 19th-century Moscow. Main hall, bar, two banquet rooms. 10% discount with this ad.  
6 Stoleshnikov Pereulok, 933-5521.  
M. Okhotny Ryad

### JU-JU

Meat restaurant with hunting-lodge decor. Open kitchen with wood-burning stove and chargrill. Huge selection of meat and fish dishes. Open noon-last guest.  
15 Smolenskiy Bulvar, 291-1667.  
M. Smolenskaya

### LOUISIANA STEAKHOUSE

Big selection of Australian and Argentinian beef steaks. Grilled fish. Wines from France, Italy, Spain, New Zealand. VIP "Sheriff room." 20% menu discount weekdays from 12:00 to 16:00.  
Open 11:00-01:00.  
30 Ulitsa Pyatnitskaya, Bldg. 4, 951-4244, 959-5506.  
M. Tretyakovskaya, Novokuznetskaya

### STEAKS

There's a successful formula to steak-houses, and Steaks follows it almost to the letter with a meat heavy menu of pork, chicken, lamb, sausage and seafood.  
21 Verkhnyaya Radishevskaya Ul., 915-1042.  
M. Taganskaya

**TORRO GRILL** The focus here is the best mid-priced meat in Moscow. Wine Bar.  
6 Prospekt Vernadskogo, 775-4503.  
M. Universitet

## FUSION

**NAVARRO'S BAR & GRILL** From tapas to eclectic Peruvian-Mediterranean fusion, seafood to grilled meat, from popular Moscow chef Yuri Navarro. Open 8:30-3:30.  
23 Shmitovskiy Proezd, Bldg. 4, 259-3791.  
M. Ulitsa 1905 Goda

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

## BARS AND CLUBS

### BOOZE PUB

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Daily from 5 a.m. to noon –  
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Weekdays from 12:00 to 17:00.  
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5 Potapovskiy Pereulok, Bldg. 2, 621-4717.  
M. Chistiye Prudy www.boozebub.ru

### 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-Saturday, 21:00-midnight. Every Saturday, the amazing Show Girls night. Every Sunday 12:00-6:00 – R'n'B and hip-hop party night.  
3 Pushhechnaya Ul., 624-5633.  
M. Kuznetskiy Most www.karma-bar.ru

**B2 CLUB** 4 bars, sushi bar, concert hall for 800. Reasonable prices. Open daily noon-06:00.  
8 Bolshaya Sadovaya Ul., 650-9918.  
M. Marksistskaya, Tretyakovskaya

**JUSTO** Monday-Friday, Sunday 13:00-02:00, Friday-Saturday 13:00-03:00. Face control, dress code.  
5 Bolshoi Tolmachyovskiy Pereulok, Bldg. 9, 937-3750.  
M. Tretyakovskaya

## PAPA JOHN'S

Tucked in the basement below the Johnny the Fat Boy Pizzeria, Papa John's features live music and lots of sweaty young bodies  
2 Myasnitskaya Ul., 755-9554  
M. Kitai-Gorod

## TOCHKA

Open Monday- Sunday, 18:00-06:00.  
6 Leninskiy Prospekt, Bldg. 7, 737-7666.  
M. Oktyabrskaya

**SAKHAR** Open Tues.-Thurs. 20:00-06:00, Fri. 12:00-6:00, Sat. 20:00-07:00.  
23/25 Bolshoi Sukharevskiy Pereulok, 207-2838.

M. Sukharevskaya

## A PRIORI

Open Mon.-Sat. 24:00-12:00.  
Face control.  
12 Bolshaya Molchanovka Ul., Bldg. 1, 737-5843.  
M. Tretyakovskaya

## ADRENALIN

Restaurant, bar, disco, billiards, entertainment center. Open noon-midnight.  
1 Chermianskiy Proyezd, 477-3447.  
M. Medvedkovo

## CABANA BAR

Tasty Mexican and African food. Male striptease on Tuesdays and Fridays.  
4 Raushskaya Naberezhnaya, Bldg. 1, 238-5006, 238-5017.  
M. Tretyakovskaya

## CENTRAL HOUSE OF ARCHITECTS

Face control. Open Mon.-Sat. 24:00-12:00.  
7 Granatny Pereulok, 290-3249.  
M. Tretyakovskaya

**GOLDEN PALACE CASINO** Concert hall, restaurant, open bar for players. Entrance free for women. Face control. Open 24 hours.  
15 Ul. 3rd Yamskogo Polya, 212-3909.  
M. Belorusskaya

**NOTES:** Hours of operation are given in the 24-hour clock. All phone numbers are in area code 495 unless otherwise indicated. Reservations suggested for most restaurants.



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## Waiting for Babye Leto

text Fred Flintstone

It's early September, morning, and Wilma has the stove burners running full blast to help warm up the kitchen — and the rest of the apartment. Bedrock normally doesn't turn on the city's central hot water heating system until the middle of October, and it seems we either had a very short *babye leto* (literally, grandma's summer, but meaning Indian summer), all of three days, or it hasn't arrived yet. With temperatures under 10 degrees Celsius at night, and a wet and damp fall, the Flintstones bundle up around the house this time of year.

In contrast, things are heating up outside on the roads. Following the relatively light traffic of July and August when the population leaves town, September is one of the worst traffic months on the stressful Bedrock streets. Tempers are short and drivers more hurried and reckless than usual.

Fred was on his way to see an old friend who was in Bedrock for a visit, when he came to a partially controlled intersection where vehicles and trams have to crisscross each other, causing a serious *probka* (traffic jam) every day. An oncoming Land Rover SUV decided to turn left in front of Fred and block his way. Fred didn't let him

in, and they ended up stuck, driver-door to driver-door. The SUV driver edged forward and kissed Fred's rear quarter panel, one of many of the unique ways Bedrock drivers show their appreciation. Fred opened the door and squeezed out the narrow space between the cars to inspect.

No damage apparent, Fred still took a few iPhone photos of the SUV and surroundings just in case and got back in. Then the SUV driver got out and banged his door into Fred's. He circled around. Fred started to get out to again inspect the damage. This was a mistake. The SUV driver dashed around and Fred, seeing the guy was large and not in a good mood, got back in and locked the doors.

At this point he started to beat the side of Fred's beauty, kicking the door several times and smashing his fist into the driver side window. He grabbed door handles and pulled them hard, first trying to open but then clearly trying to damage them. With surrounding drivers honking and Fred more concerned about the manic SUV driver, Fred edged out, taking some more photos out the window. From his rearview, Fred could see the SUV depart as well.

Despite the damage, Wilma and Fred decided against calling the militia or traffic police. In Bedrock, this could buy more trouble than it's worth and certainly would waste a lot of time. And the big problem in Bedrock is that you never know what kind of person you're dealing with and what connections he has.

Well, Fred and Wilma soon found out. About ten days later, an ominous letter from the traffic police arrived requesting an appearance. The Flintstones showed up at the designated time and were greeted by a statement from a traffic police officer that the SUV driver had made several claims, and that for leaving the scene of an accident, he was filing a "protocol" that could result in a suspension of Fred's driver's license for 18 months. Fortunately, Fred had his photos that demonstrated the situation and disproved the claims. Looking disappointed, the police officer said he was sending the issue for "further investigation."

Babye leto finally came, and Bedrock turned the heat on two weeks early. Still, it's no match for the heat on the city streets. **P**





# Lipp Service: HAPPY HALLOWEEN FROM MOSCOW CEMETERIES

text Linda Lippner

Celebrating Halloween isn't widespread in Moscow yet. So expats who want to get ghoulish for the holiday usually have their own parties at home or visit a few watering holes that promote Halloween partying in the city.

Where I come from, Halloween is celebrated in a big way and there are even special Halloween tours and parties in cemeteries. In Mexico, the Day of the Dead is observed in cemeteries, where the lives of departed family members and ancestors are celebrated. In Los Angeles, the Hollywood Forever Cemetery conducts weird but wonderful Hollywood Halloween celebrations with nighttime walks along candlelit pathways in the "Cemetery to the Stars." This is where the likes of Rudolph Valentino, Cecil B. DeMille, and Douglas Fairbanks are permanently enshrined, making the destination a must-see for tourists.

And Moscow for cemetery visits? A goldmine!

There's the grand Donskoi Monastery, where pre-revolutionary celebrities share the earth with giant, ancient trees, winding paths, and several large and stylish mausoleums or chapels scattered about the territory. My favorite graves are from the earliest part of the 18th century, when grinning skulls and crossbones were fashionable tombstone decoration. The strange animal feet holding the stone sarcophagi off the moldy ground give a finishing touch of splendor.

But if you have only one cemetery to visit, then Novodevichy Monastery and its adjacent Cemetery of Soviet Celebrities is the place. (Not that they call it that, but oftentimes there are vendors at the entrance selling maps with all the celebrities' resting places neatly noted.) You can tell the place has seen better days, but recently there have been some improvements in the cemetery's upkeep, and any Moscow tour guide will gladly show you around the famous graves within.

It reeks of Soviet tombstone extravagance. Sculptures of giant heads on pedestals, statues of men and women looking heroic. A lucite cube enclosing a giant rose. A rocket scientist gets a rocket on a launch pad for his gravesite; a bullet inventor has a piece of metal with bullet holes in it sitting atop his final resting place. Khrushchev is buried here, as is the great Soviet ballerina Galina Ulanova, her grave marked by a statue of her. And now there is Yeltsin with a large undulating stone-and-tile flag of the Russian Federation that literally flows onto the pathway.

My personal favorite is in the old section of the cemetery. There sits a smallish stained glass-and-lead structure that looks like a large phone booth with a tombstone placed inside, slightly off-center. A perfect little "house of the dead," glassed in to create a cozy refuge in the (frequent) event of inclement weather in Moscow.

These are glorious places to visit — or spend eternity. **P**

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# Marshrutka Culture

text Isabelle Hale

Etiquette on various forms of transport — from taxis to buses to airplanes — can differ from place to place. While such differences may not present a particular challenge in some cities, in Moscow, the behavioral norms one encounters on modes of transport can leave the uninitiated with scars.

To begin with, there's touching down on the tarmac for the first time. Once the "fasten seatbelt" light is turned off, the air traveler is ready to collect his or her belongings from above and below the seat and head to the exit. But ovine visitors to Russia who naively take their cues from the fasten seatbelt sign may miss the deplaning boat while more culturally adept passengers flood the aisles long before the plane has come to a complete stop.

The etiquette of allowing those sitting in front of you to enter the aisle ahead of you does not apply to the typical Russian plane, where it's dog-eat-dog to stake your claim to a piece of aisle real estate. And if you haven't spent the last hour of the flight sharpening your elbows, then you may well be a rotten egg — the last off the plane, even if you started out in the second row.

Deplaning tardiness has repercussions once you enter the arrival hall and tackle your next challenge: passport control. Here lines play no role as a mob of people moves asymptotically closer to the officials' glassed-in booths.

Once you've made it out of the airport, you might think you're home free. Not so fast. There's Moscow driving habits, which take their toll on both passenger and pedestrian, and of course the incessant jostling on the crowded metro.

But there is one place where the rules of behavior are altogether different, salving the frazzled Moscow traveler with a through-the-looking glass experience. It is called *marshrutka*.

A marshrutka is a minibus that makes regular stops along a prescribed route that usually begins and ends at a metro station, where you'll often see a herd of the yellow (or sometimes white) vans discharging passengers or waiting to begin a new circuit. Marshrutki are privately owned and run by individuals or companies and serve points that are otherwise hard to access via Moscow's other forms of transportation. Sometimes they follow the same route as an existing bus or trolley but simply provide speedier and more frequent service.

Specializing in the medium-sized distance that is a short ride but a long walk, marshrutki can be hugely convenient. They usually have laser-printed signs pasted in the window announcing the fare (anywhere from 15 to 30 rubles a pop) along with the stops and terminus (some drivers will make unscheduled stops along the route upon request). And the numbered routes have sprouted up like mushrooms after the rain following Moscow's geographical and economic expansion.

What distinguishes these communal taxis most, however, is the behavior and atmosphere that reigns inside. For the duration of the ride, the 12 to 18 passengers (there can be anywhere from 11 to 16 seats in the back, plus a couple of coveted spots up front next to the driver) form an instant collective before parting to go their separate ways. Although the physi-



cal condition of marshrutki can vary widely from plush, white affairs to the grungy yellow minibus with a "for sale" sign in the window (call 978-2012 for details) that serves the office park where I work, the spontaneous, ephemeral collective that always constitutes itself invariably follows the same unwritten and highly civil rules.

Because marshrutki have no tickets or fare cards as the metro and trolley do, riders are bound by the honor code to pay the fare. While the driver can be observed keeping tabs on his haul with the aid of the rearview mirror, there is no formal control as each passenger passes cash to front. There is a tacit understanding that the person closest to the driver will collect all the money and make change before delivering the handful of bills and coins to the driver. In this way, no matter your profession, you can take a turn as cashier in the morning on your way to work. (Of course, if you received your mathematics education in the United States as I did, then the prospect of all that arithmetic on the fly is terrifying, so upon entry, you'll immediately head to the rear of the van and settle in the spot furthest from the driver.)

Another feature of the marshrutka environment is "Marshrutka TV," programming shown on monitors that fold down from the ceilings of more and more marshrutki. Even though the marshrutka I take to work lacks a door handle (be sure to mention that when you call to ask the price), it recently acquired a fancy flat screen TV. In addition to advertisements ("The person sitting next to you could be your next client!"), Marshrutka TV shows soothing scenes of giraffes loping across the Serengeti or tables laden with sumptuous-looking fruit. It also provides bits of culture and trivia. So besides fostering the sense that you are sitting in your living room watching the Discovery Channel, Marshrutka TV does seem designed to strengthen group identity (Fyodor Dostoevsky was born in Moscow this month in 1821!) and promote pride in the collective experience (Apparently, at the North Pole, the sun is not visible for 186 days out of the year, a fact handpicked to soothe the Muscovite's soul in November).

While the interesting phenomenon of marshrutka civility is not entirely explainable, identifiable factors like a fare-paying procedure that is simultaneously informal and formalized certainly contribute to it. Whatever its basis, it works. Even though marshrutka-mates rarely exchange addresses at the end of the ride, the fabric of marshrutka culture seems to be stronger — and more civil — than on other forms of public transport in Russia or anywhere. **P**



## Daniel Klein's Legal Line

*Each month Daniel Klein fields corporate legal questions posed by Passport's readers. Do you have a Russia-related legal question you'd like Daniel to address? Tell him about it at [dklein@passportmagazine.ru](mailto:dklein@passportmagazine.ru).*



### Dear Daniel:

I am the expat general director of the Russian subsidiary of a publicly listed British company. Our headquarters have just informed me that I must close our local office. For various reasons, we cannot sell the Russian subsidiary. Can you give a thumbnail sketch of what such a closure in Russia would entail?

### Dear Closer:

Given the recent economic downturn, your situation is becoming increasingly common. Generally speaking, there are two options for closing a company: bankruptcy and liquidation.

**Bankruptcy.** Bankruptcy in Russia is instigated for the same reasons as in the West — a creditor can force the initiation of the process, or a firm can initiate it of its own volition. But this is where the similarities end.

In Russia, bankruptcy is a complex procedure that can last for several years and has a measure of unpredictability. For example, while in the West the existing management is often permitted to remain in place during the bankruptcy proceeding (with the idea of giving management a second chance), by Russian law the court appoints a so-called "independent" bankruptcy administrator. The assumption behind this is that the current management is incapable of running the company, and so the responsibility passes to the courts. This leaves the shareholders with little if any influence over the process.

It is important that a voluntary bankruptcy be properly planned so as to avoid settling debts incorrectly. The general rule is that if repaying a debt less than six months prior to filing for bankruptcy would put other debtors at risk, the transaction can be deemed illegal and voided and the general director held both civilly and criminally liable. For example, if a contractor is paid while employees are left without salaries, the payment of the debt to the contractor may be invalidated. Criminal liability usually takes the form of an administrative fine, but for a foreigner such a fine may be considered grounds for expulsion from the country or future denial of visas.

One reason for choosing bankruptcy is that it facilitates the laying off of staff. As Russian labor laws are quite inflexible and provide employees with many protections, the ability to lay off workers is an important consideration.

**Liquidation.** Unlike bankruptcy, which provides a firm protection from its creditors when it goes broke, liquidation is a process of clearing a balance sheet by paying all creditors and collecting (or even forgiving) remaining debts in advance of closure. Liquidation also requires the settling of all outstanding tax issues with the Russian authorities. If during a liquidation proceeding it is determined that a firm's

assets are not sufficient to satisfy its debts, then the company must file for bankruptcy.

An important difference between bankruptcy and liquidation is that the latter is brought through an administrative body whereas the former, as mentioned above, is done through the courts. Since shareholders choose the liquidation committee, they can exercise some control over the liquidation process.

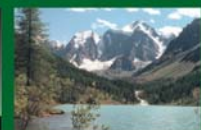
Laying off staff is easier and quicker in a liquidation proceeding than a bankruptcy. However, as with bankruptcy, careful planning is essential as failure to satisfy all creditors and to file tax statements — or the fulfillment of these tasks incorrectly — may lead to criminal charges and/or administrative fines for management. **P**

*Daniel Klein is a partner at the law firm of Hellevig, Klein & Usov in Moscow and a frequent legal commentator for Russia Today.*



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## To Read, Perchance to Dream, of Russia

On September 25, Moscow businessman and restaurateur Rostislav Ordovsky-Tanaevsky Blanco (near right) presented his new book, *The Russian Dream: How to Realize It*. Two and a half years in the making, the book presents a vision of the Russia we would all like to live in and examines what path will bring us there. For Russia to reach its fullest, brightest potential, the author posits, the nation must banish indifference and replace it with the firm belief that each person can act to change the future of both the individual and the collective. Written in accessible prose with a minimum of jargon, the work addresses topics that are permanent fixtures of conversations about today's Russia such as oil, distribution of wealth, formation of a middle class, national health, and the birth rate. But instead of dispensing prescriptions and advice, Ordovsky-Tanaevsky Blanco invites all readers, from civil servants to housewives, to consider these issues for themselves. By doing so, each reader can demonstrate the engagement required of all citizens to bring about the dream of a free and flourishing Russia. Hosted by arts historian Svyatoslav Belza (above, far right), the presentation was held at the historic Moscow estate of the Muravyov-Apostol family, which was represented at the event by Cristopher Muravyov-Apostol (shown with the author at right). The book, published by Izvestia, is available in Russian at Respublika and Moskovsky Dom Knigi bookstores throughout Moscow. An English translation is in the works.



## Uruguayans in Moscow

From September 20 to 25, President of the General Assembly and Senate of Uruguay and Vice President of Uruguay Rodolfo Nin Nivoa was in Moscow as the leader of a visiting delegation of congressmen from the South American country. During their stay in the Russian capital, the delegation met with Federation Council President Sergei Mironov and Deputy Chair of the State Duma Svetlana Zhurova as well as the international affairs committees of both chambers of the Russian parliament. In honor of the delegation's visit, Uruguay's ambassador in Moscow, Dr. Jorge Meyer Long, hosted a reception at his official residence, the historic mansion known as Shekhtel House. The delegation's trip represents only the latest chapter in the 151-year history of diplomatic relations between Uruguay and Russia. Shown above (l to r) are Jorge Meyer Long, Ambassador of Uruguay; Senator Rodolfo Nin Novoa, President of the Congress of Uruguay, and his wife; Nubia Pirone de Meyer, wife of the Uruguayan ambassador. On the wall in the background is a portrait of Uruguayan national hero Jose Gervasio Artigas, considered "the father of Uruguayan independence."

## Monsoon Style Blows into GUM

On September 17, invited guests and lucky GUM shoppers were treated to a fashion show organized by British clothing company Monsoon featuring its autumn '08 collection for women and children. Entitled Film Diva, the presentation, like the collection itself, was inspired by the black-and-white movies of yesteryear, with their glamorous stars and mid-century elegance. But it was the trendsetters of today from Russian page and screen who strode down the catwalk in the newest Monsoon fashions. With strains of *Chattanooga Choo Choo* and other jazzy hits from the silver screen's golden age playing in the background, editors of Russian fashion glossies joined TV and radio personalities, actresses, and singers to model the collection, proving that real style is timeless and that everything old is new again. The event was emceed by Kim Balashak, Monsoon's director of marketing for Russia (below, top row, second from left).





## Big Cities Quest



Residents of Russia's two capitals out for a stroll during the last weekend of September might have encountered hordes of young people in black vests racing toward a target. If you saw (and wondered about) the spectacle, it was a Navigation Game organized by Nokia. Five teams of four players each participated in a high-tech treasure hunt-cum-great race in which they had to solve riddles and uncover clues that pointed them to the next stop in the quest. To complicate matters, team members were strangers before the game commenced (a requirement for participation), but the challenges of unfamiliarity didn't end there: Muscovites were sent to Petersburg for the game, while Petersburgers were sent to Moscow. When necessary, teams could consult a "life line" in the form of Nokia's new Navigator, a mobile telephone that also provides GPS functions for both pedestrians and drivers. Naturally, the Navigator was a boon to lost teams trying to find their way so far from home. The winning team in each city got the chance to practice their newly honed navigation skills — as well as the connectivity of their new Nokia phones — on a trip to Italy, courtesy of Nokia.

## "Glance at Mazda" Fashion Auto Party

You've heard of a car show. You've heard of a fashion show. So what could be more logical than combining the two? Not a bad idea, but someone's already beat you to it. On September 18 at Moscow's Impex-Mazda car showroom, Mazda and the Russian fashion label Glance joined forces to present their respective designs for fall 2008. All eyes were on the sleek, elegant models, some clad in the hottest couture for autumn, others buffed and polished to a gleaming shine and sporting that new car smell. Here's what the automotive and sartorial sides of the event had in common: an appreciation for sophisticated design and quality manufacturing, an interest in the successful marriage of aesthetically pleasing form and effective function, and just the right balance between comfort and style. Here's what they didn't: The Mazda CX-9s on display had spare tires, while the svelte fashion models most certainly did not.



## Africa's Unchildish Eyes as Seen by Vladimir Shirokov

On October 10 at Moscow's Evropeysky Mall, photographer Vladimir Shirokov unveiled his new project, *Africa's Unchildish Eyes*. The photo project's goal is to draw attention to the scourge of tetanus, a disease that each year takes the lives of thousands of mothers and their newborn children in some of the world's poorest countries. One such place is the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which Shirokov visited in September together with UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Oksana Fyodorova and a group of Russian journalists. The Russian delegation's trip was part of an initiative to battle the disease spearheaded by UNICEF and supported by Pampers. Tetanus, which strikes newborns through the open wound left by the cutting of the umbilical cord and can go on to infect the mother, is preventable through vaccination, and it is the provision of this vaccine that is the aim of the UNICEF program. From October 1 through December 31, 2008, Pampers will donate a portion of the purchase price of each package of specially marked diapers to the UNICEF program to combat tetanus. Vladimir Shirokov's photo exhibit will be available for viewing on the 4th floor of the Evropeysky Mall through November 11, when it will travel to St. Petersburg.





## What's your favorite city in the world? That's what we wanted to know. Here's what some readers said in response to this month's *Passport* poll.

- Paris. It's the most beautiful.
- Tel Aviv. An amazing mix of traditional and modern, creative designers, beautiful people, fantastic food, joy, and great energy.
- Sydney. A perfect evening would be to sit at a waterfront restaurant with a plate of lobster and a glass of Australian bubbly then watch the sunset over Harbour Bridge.
- New York. Because the subway never closes (unless an underground pipe bursts), because you can hear dozens of languages spoken...on a single city block, and because it's the best @&?#! city in the world!
- Cape Town, Vienna... Every city has its own charm, but my favorite is Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, simply because I was really happy there.
- Rome. It's got the perfect combination of architecture, culture, shopping, food, and licentious men.
- Montreal! For a million reasons: It's not too big and not too small. It's European and North American at the same time. It couldn't be more international — you can find a Jewish bookshop next to a Muslim butcher next to a Jamaican food shop next to a Vietnamese restaurant ... Winters are REAL winters with lots of snow, summers are hot like they're supposed to be. Excellent public transportation, museums, restaurants, the Jazz Festival. Quebec et Montreal — Je me souviens!
- St. Petersburg, Russia. The culture, the history, and, of course, the canals.
- San Francisco! The Bay, the fog, the Bridge, Ocean Beach, Golden Gate Park, and Mission Dolores, the city's oldest...
- Hong Kong. The only place I have been that fizzes and buzzes more energy into you than Moscow.
- Istanbul. European beauty and Asian colorfulness, marketplaces and wonderful historical monuments, it's big and cozy at the same time. I feel at home there. Each visit puts me in a good mood for months.
- Chicago. The arts, the natural beauty. Lake Michigan. Its grid design makes it easy to navigate. As long as you know which way North is, you're good to go!

And lest we forget the most popular response, **MOSCOW**. Because...

... it's vibrant, alive, breathing, lots of things to do, you can FEEL the energy pulsing in the air, a mix of ancient and futuristic.

... I still can't grasp how deep its soul is.

... I'm addicted to the dynamic. It's a 24-hour city in every way.

... I am here, now: Why yearn for somewhere else instead of making the most of what is on site? The best beer in the world is the one in your hand!



December *Passport* poll question:  
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