

# PASSPORT MOSCOW

OCTOBER 2011

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## Special ex-pat health care issue

- *Deputy Minister of Health talks about AIDS in Russia*
- *Review of clinics in Moscow*
- *Ex-pats' experiences in Russian hospitals and clinics*

### PLUS

- *1995 re-visited*
- *Frankfurt Motor Show*
- *Glasgow*
- *Emperors of the Free World*
- *Fred Flintstone finds America cheap*



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5

## 4. Previews

*Aline Kalinina*



10

## 7. Your Moscow

*The Turgenev house in Moscow, Marina Kashpar*

## 8. Theatre Review

*Marina Lukanina*

## 10. Travel

*Glasgow, the Most Under-estimated City in Europe*

*John Harrison*

## 16. The Way It Was

*1995, John Harrison*

*"The Flame", Helen Womack*



20

## 19. Health Section



*What Do I Do When I Get Ill? Peter Hainsworth*

*Health. Man's Most Valuable Good. For a Price*

*Frank Ebbecke*

*Are you Sick Yet? Eva Hua*

*Medical Treatment for Ex-pats, Jay Morley*

*Medical Treatment, Geoffrey Cox OBE*

*Interview with the deputy Health Minister, Veronika Skvortsova*



28

## 28. Out & About

## 30. Motoring

*The Frankfurt Motor Show, Frank Ebbecke*

## 32. Real Estate

*Moscow Boundary Changes, Vladimir Kozlov*

*Real Estate News*



38

## 36. Wining & Dining

*Best of the Rest, Charles Borden*

*Ulliams, Charles Borden*

## 42. Family Section

*Puzzle Pages*

*Clarice and the Campsite Crisis*



42

## 46. Book Review

*Emperors of the Free World*

*Ian Mitchell*

## 47. Comment

*Pray in One Hand, Fred Flintstone*



**John Ortega**  
Owner and Publisher

In an attempt to make this magazine more relevant and useful, we are switching over to a theme an issue. We shall continue with our regular arts columns, not to mention the inimitable Hunter, Mitchell, Kozlov, Harrison and Borden sections (family, book review, real estate, wining & dining, history), however the rest of each issue will be taken up by, as in this issue, the theme of the month. This month, as you hopefully gathered by the big red cross on the cover, the theme is healthcare. Sorry, not anything to do with the English rugby team, though they may be in need of a bit of healthcare after the All Blacks have dealt with them. Sports will be covered in depth in the magazine, in the February issue.

Deputy Minister of the Russian Federation Veronika Skvortsova kindly agreed to grant PASSPORT an interview about AIDS in Russia, which you may not think to be an important issue, however it is still there, and will continue to be a major problem for many years to come. We hope that the Russian government will continue to offer in this magazine their view of things which may or may not differ considerably from our own.

Also in this issue we have reinstated the contemporary history section (1986-2001), after a five month break. We also welcome back fellow writer Helen Womack, whose on-the-spot reporting makes a vivid counterpoint to John Harrison's historical piece.

## Ireland, Chechnya and Civil Society

On Friday 2 September a reception was held at the Irish Embassy to honour a group of Russian activists, called the Joint Mobile Group, who have been monitoring human rights in Chechnya. The group had been chosen by a jury of Irish and European parliamentarians for the Front Line Award, an Irish civil honour which has been given annually since 2001 to defenders of human rights all over the world. The Joint Mobile Group was set up in 2009 by a coalition of Russian human rights organisations with the aim of monitoring the situation in Chechnya after the murder of Natalya Estimorova. They do no more than ask questions, and are careful

at all times to stay within the law. Perhaps the most disconcerting point to emerge from the talk given on Friday was that the Russian investigators appointed by the central authorities to look into murders in the north Caucasus were unable in practice to compel the local investigating police to appear in front of them to give evidence. When one organ of a state is powerless to achieve co-operation from another in the face of a terrorist threat, it is right to ask the serious questions which the Joint Mobile Group pose of their own country's authorities. Though still unusual, this is becoming more common in Russia, and the Irish Embassy is to be applauded for offering the oxygen of publicity to these brave investigators of the abuse of power in an



*Igor Kalyapin, founder, and other members of the Joint Mobile Group*

area where investigation itself often carries an unofficial death penalty. *Ian Mitchell*



## Charity Contemporary Russian ART Exhibition

The Rotary Club Moscow Humboldt invites you to a charity exhibition of Contemporary Russian ART on Sunday, October 2nd, from 2 to 7 p.m. at the Baltschug Kempinski hotel. Entry is 1,500 RUR and includes snacks and drinks. All proceeds will go to the Pogachyovo childrens home.

### Owner and Publisher

John Ortega, +7 (985) 784-2834  
jortega@passportmagazine.ru

### Editor

John Harrison  
j.harrison@passportmagazine.ru

### Sales Manager

Valeria Astakhova  
v.astakhova@passportmagazine.ru

### Arts Editor

Alevtina Kalinina  
alevtina@passportmagazine.ru

### Designer

Julia Nozdracheva  
chiccone@yandex.ru

### Webmaster

Alexey Timokhin  
alexey@telemark-it.ru

### Accounting and Legal Services

ООО Юридическая Компания  
"Правовые Инновации",  
111024, г. Москва, пр-д завода "Серп и Молот", д.5, стр.1,  
(495)223-10-62,  
Гл бухгалтер. Якубович Любовь Александровна

### Book and Whisky Editor

Ian Mitchell  
ian@ianmitchellonline.co.uk

### Nightlife editor

Miguel Francis  
miguel@passportmagazine.ru

### Contributors

Charles Borden, Aline Kalinina, Ross Hunter,  
Ian Mitchell, Geoffrey Cox, Frank Ebbecke, Richard Hume,  
Jay Morely, Vladimir Kozlov, Marina Lukanina, Helen  
Womack, Catherine Hunter, Marina Kashpar, Julia Yakhina,  
Eva Hua

### Editorial Address:

42 Volgogradsky Prospekt, Bldg. 23  
Office 013, 1st floor  
109316 Moscow, Russia  
Tel. +7 (495) 640-0508  
Fax +7 (495) 620-0888  
[www.passportmagazine.ru](http://www.passportmagazine.ru)

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 <b>OOO AEB BUSINESS</b> ul. Krasnoproletarskaya 16, bld. 3 • 127473, Moscow • Russian Federation Tel.: +7 (495) 234 2764 • www.aeb.ru • Fax: +7 (495) 234 2807	
<b>BRINGING EXPATS TO RUSSIA</b> Tuesday, October 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2011 Moscow, Marriott Tverskaya Hotel 34 1 <sup>st</sup> Tverskaya-Yamskaya str, Moscow <b>PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME</b>	
Platinum Sponsor 	
9:30 – 10:00	- REGISTRATION -
10:00 – 10:10	INTRODUCTION – Frank Schauf, CEO, Association of European Businesses
10:10 – 11:40	<b>PROPERTY, SCHOOLING AND RELOCATION</b> Chaired by David Gilmartin, General Director, Troika Relocations, Chairman of the Relocation subcommittee  <b>UPDATE OF MOSCOW RESIDENTIAL RENTAL MARKET FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF RESIDENTIAL AREAS</b> Marina Semenova, Director of Tenant Representation, IntermarkSavills and Anna Kovaleva, HR manager, Nestle  <b>MOSCOW-ST PETERSBURG. RESIDENTIAL RENTAL MARKETS. SIMILITUDE AND DIFFERENCES</b> Marina Markarova, Managing partner, Mayfair Properties and client  <b>EDUCATION – OPTIONS AFTER SECONDARY SCHOOLING</b> Ross Hunter, Headmaster, English International School
11:40 – 12:00	-COFFEE-
12:00 – 13:30	<b>INTEGRATING EXPATS IN RUSSIA</b> Chaired by David Gilmartin, Chairman of the Relocation subcommittee  <b>HELPING FAMILIES TO SETTLE</b> David Gilmartin, General Director, Troika Relocations and client  <b>OVERCOMING PROBLEMS</b> Darya Samoylova, Head of customer department, Blackwood and a client  <b>KEY FIVE TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL EXPAT INTEGRATION</b> Ekaterina Bezyuk, Business Development manager, Interdean International Relocation and a Client
13:30 – 14:30	- LUNCH -
14:30 – 16:00	<b>IMMIGRATION AND LABOUR LAW</b> Chaired by David Gilmartin, GD, Troika Relocations  <b>SECONDMENT OF EXPATS – IS IT GOING TO SURVIVE IN RUSSIA?</b> Julia Borozdna, Head of Employment and Migration Law Practice, Pepeliaev Group  <b>PRACTICE OF APPLYING MIGRATION LEGISLATION FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIED SPECIALISTS. PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF APPLYING FOR THE 2012 QUOTA: PROBLEMS AND THEIR SOLUTION.</b> Alexei Filipenkov, Partner, Visa Delight  <b>EMPLOYMENT LITIGATION INVOLVING EXPATS</b> Anna Bayda, Head of Employment and Migration law practice, BEITEN BURKHARDT Moscow
16:00 – 16:10	Final remarks and Close – David Gilmartin, GD, Troika Relocations

## Environmental Prevention Rather Than Cure

Russia's move towards adopting more environmentally responsible measures is gaining momentum as we see companies like Biofarm Artel taking a lead on these issues. The idea of using innovative, natural and GM free products to improve our environment and well-being of animals to prevent outbreaks of illnesses is fast becoming the norm rather than taking a reactive approach when problems arise. Biofarm Artel's spokesperson, Larisa Prokopishina said that "we should see cleaner lakes and waterways in our cities and better quality food on our tables due to effective and proven environmentally friendly products we are now introducing into Russia." A report published in the Journal of Central European Agriculture highlights the effectiveness of tackling issues at the source rather than trying to fix more serious and complex challenges in the future.

Improvement of environmental quality in intensive pig farming for the control and prevention of swine mycoplasma pneumonia

The decline of pig health status is the effect of a bad air quality inside breeding facilities related to the concentration of biogases derived from the action of faecal microbial flora on urine nitrogen.



Bioactivation of the environment with bacterial-enzymatic mixtures is able to reduce this chemical emanation.

For the full report including experimental trials and results please go to [www.biofarmartel.com/news](http://www.biofarmartel.com/news).

## Annie Leibovitz: A Photographer's Life 1990–2005

Exhibitions of master photographers are commonplace at the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts. Museum visitors are familiar with the works of Helmut Newton or Peter Lindbergh. This autumn belongs to Annie Leibovitz, and quite right too. Annie has become one of the world's most famous photographers. Musicians and politicians often line up to be photographed by this lady, because her portraits, which she seems to create so easily, are by default iconic. The current exhibition at the department of private collections is based on a book of photography that was published five years ago. The exhibition brings together about two hundred images of famous public figures together with personal photographs of her family and close friends.

Arranged chronologically, they project a unified narrative of the artist's private life against the backdrop of her public image. "I don't have two lives," Leibovitz says. "This is one life, and the personal pictures and the assignment work are all part of it." At the heart of the exhibition are Leibovitz's personal photographic documents: scenes from her life, including the birth and childhood of her three daughters. There are vacations, reunions, rites of passage with her parents, her extended family and close friends. The exhibition features Leibovitz's portraits of well-known figures, including actors such as Jamie Foxx, Daniel Day Lewis, Demi Moore, Nelson Mandela, Scarlett Johansson, Al Pacino, Nicole Kidman and Brad Pitt as well as artists and architects



such as Richard Avedon, Brice Marden, Philip Johnson, Chuck Close and Cindy Sherman. **P**

**October 12 - January 15**

**10:00-19:00, every day except Monday**

*Museum of Private Collections*

*Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts*

## Moscow Design Week

Almost every country of the world is holding its own design week at this time of the year: in Copenhagen, Sydney or Helsinki events of this kind, with shows and exhibitions dedicated to design, are held regularly. Moscow Design Week is a new event (last year's was the first), but with such ambitious directors it is very competitive. The organizers are keeping to the idea of turning the city into a huge design space for seven days. Events will take place at the following locations: Provision warehouses (Park Kultury), at the Red October Chocolate Factory and the State Museum for Architecture. The programme is extended via private galleries, show-rooms and restaurants

that create an integrated space for this professional environment. This year's red line is "Design" in the extended sense, meaning that all the major steps in design from product to fashion, graphic design and architecture will be covered. Among participants are Maarten Baas, Giulio Cappellini, Luigi Colani—these are the people who worked on the images of Canon, Swarovski, Armani Casa or Boeing. For Russia, a country which has its own famous designers like Alexander Rodchenko, whose exhibition is being held in parallel at the Tretyakov gallery, it is a good chance to assert the status it deserves. Luckily there are some good teachers around. **P**



*For venues and schedule see:  
[www.moscowdesignweek.ru](http://www.moscowdesignweek.ru)*

## Vladimir Spivakov invites

The "Magic of Music" is the name that Vladimir Spivakov gave to the first of a series of musical festivals held at the House of Music in the autumn. The name has stuck. Ever since the festival was launched six years ago, it has been a major event for classical music fans. For the maestro, "the quantity of the festival days is not that important, as to show what I admire in music myself: something new and various in different genres and styles—that is significant."

Vladimir Spivakov is well known for his attachment to programs uniting

orchestral performances with high-class vocalists. The current festival is no exception. For the opening, Spivakov invited baritone Matthias Goerne, one of the best known soloists internationally who has performed in theatres from Carnegie Hall, New York and Wigmore Hall London, to Teatro alla Scala in Milan. The programme is dedicated to magic and miracles, and is crowned with Mahler's miniatures from his series of Youth's Magic Horn, an overture to Stravinsky's The Fairy's Kiss, and Rimsky-Korsakov's Three Miracles. **P**



**October 26, 19.00**

*International House of Music  
Svetlanovsky hall*

## NETFEST

How do you get to find out what's "in" in the world of contemporary theatre nowadays? October is the month in Moscow when the NETFEST, New European Theatre Festival, is held. This brings sought-after European directors to Moscow. Many of the debuting directors at the festival later become famous theatrical personalities. In this year's programme the name of the Russian-Soviet writer Maxim Gorky figures twice: Oskaras Koršunovas, the best known Lithuanian director, brings his production of *The Lower Depths* to Moscow, and Ivo van Hove, a Dutch director, will show his interpretation of Gorky's *Children of the Sun*, a play which is rarely staged in Russia. Jo Strömberg, the choreographer and director who showed his previous *Monastery and Hospital* productions at



last year's NETFEST, is back with a new story about coffee and tea-bags named *Society*. NETFEST is about innovations, too. So this year a performance featuring a lot of video art is on the list. Pierik Saurén from France shows *22.13*, which signals that it is acceptable to use video on theatre stages. And Victor Bodo from

Hungary with his last year's Golden Mask award in his pocket, will present his brand new "Diceman" production. **P**

**October 18 - 30**

For venues and schedule see [www.NETFEST.ru](http://www.NETFEST.ru)

## Maestri

Mod Design, one of the design mob's favourite spots in Moscow (excuses for the tautology), by Karim Rashid opened this spring. It presents an exhibition of Italian masters or simply Maestri. Here you can see furniture, lighting, interior objects, technofuturism and many other exciting things that speak loud and clear about innovation in materials and production.

Silvana Annichiarico, the curator of the show, has selected the most important items from the collection of the Triennale Design Museum, presented with the

support of the AR.CH.IT association. In Italy, as in many other countries, design has become a discipline that combines thought and action and is actually a new means of communication necessary in production, sales and consumption. Gradually, design is less of an instrument, and more of a standard cognitive communication system.

Here are the names of some of the creators of this show: Franco Albini, Gae Aulenti, Mario Bellini and twenty-one others. The current exhibition is part of



Design Act festival, and also presents a series of master classes, lectures and workshops. **P**

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

## The New Academy. St Petersburg

The current exhibition at the Ekaterina Foundation gallery is dedicated to the New Academy, founded by Timur Novikov, who was one of the leading underground artists in soviet Leningrad. The "academy" united very different artists with the unique phenomenon of St. Petersburg artistic life in the 1990s and 2000s. The Academy's history begins in 1990, when Timur, who was already well known as head of the New Artists movement, suddenly changed course to "classicism and beauty," proclaiming it to be far more relevant and contemporary than 20th century modernism. This culminated in the foundation of the New Academy, where Timur and his associates reproduced academic rituals in a manner not devoid of a certain ambiguity. The Academy's core task became the

creation of fully visual works to counter-balance modernist concepts. The task in itself is completely conceptual, if we take the original meaning of the word, conception that is: the presence of some guiding idea. At the time of an intended non-picturesque character in late modernism, the idea of "classicism and beauty" sounded highly radical and defined the New Academy's activity. The result was an affirmation of Russian neo-academicism that became a noticeable and influential movement at the beginning of this century. **P**

**October 28-January 29**

Open 11:00-20:00 except Monday

Ekaterina Cultural Foundation

21/5 Kuznetsky Most, porch 8,  
entrance from Bolshaya Lubyanka street



## Allegoria Sacra

AES+F is a group of Russian artists whose names are coded in its name: Tatyana Arzamasova, Lev Evzovich, Evgeny Svyatsky and Vladimir Fridkes. They gradually came together in the 1980s to explore what would come out of Hollywood cinema, fashion photography, popular culture joined with the aesthetics of old masters' paintings through using modern technology. They make digital collages combining real life and animated landscapes which are a futuristic metaphor of today's reality. In recent years the group have been exhibited practically worldwide, from the Netherlands to Australia. *Allegoria Sacra* is their latest video art project. The premiere took place at the Galleria Borghese, where the AES+F previewed some clips of their work. The vid-



eo is the third part of a trilogy, which also comprises *Last Riot* (2007) and *Unconditional Love* (2006), presented at Biennale di Venezia, which allude all to *Inferno*, *Purgatory*, and *Heaven*. Antonio Geusa, a well-known curator of video art comments that "the group have 'arrived' at

the inferno now: you can clearly see an evolutionary process, but the images never become violent." **P**

**September 16-November 6**

Open: 10:00-19:00,

every day except Monday

Multimedia Art Museum Moscow

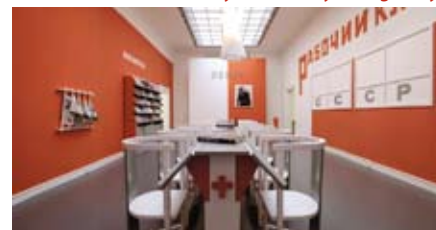
## Worker's Club, by Alexander Rodchenko at 20th Century Art, Tretyakov Gallery

The Tretyakov Gallery's department of the 20th century presents a new exhibition of Alexander Rodchenko's *Worker's Club*, recently reconstructed according to the original designs. When Rodchenko and other representatives from the Soviet Union participated in the Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes in Paris in the summer of 1925, this construction was one of the exhibits at the Soviet pavilion designed by Konstantin Melnikov at the Grand Palais. Rodchenko and colleagues' graphic design and architectural drawings made quite an impression on the development of design in Europe. At the exhibition, this was carried out in a literal sense, when Rodchenko, that hooligan

in photography and graphics, decided to paint the floor in the Soviet pavilion with black paint so that the visitors took the paint with them on their shoes to the refined and gorgeous carpets in the "neighbouring and bourgeois" pavilions of other countries.

The original *Worker's Club* in Paris was the essence of culture of economy and rationality. The Club combined revolutionary ideology with leisure activities and with the collective. It was aimed at educating workers with the help of the most up-to-date information technologies available then. Alexander Rodchenko and his wife Lyubov Popova, even in the Soviet times, were called "the first Soviet designers". This legendary duo in the 1910s and 1920 were at the forefront

Courtesy of the Tretyakov gallery



of the Constructivist movement, which more than any other movement embodied the idea of art for art's sake. **P**

**From October 5,**

State Tretyakov Gallery at Krymsky Val

Everyday from 10:00-19:00,

except Monday

## Kandinsky and Blue Rider

Next May, the Pushkin Fine Arts Museums will celebrate its 100th anniversary, but as the museum will be closed for a thorough renovation after the celebration, Irina Antonova, the director, has tried her best to put on as many unique exhibitions as she can before then. Vassily Kandinsky is widely considered as the truest abstract painter, though his imagination went even further when he dreamt of his pictures to evoke sounds for his audience. His own favourite colour, if he had one, was blue. "The deeper the blue becomes, the more strongly it calls man towards the infinite, awakening in him a desire for the pure and, finally, for the supernatural..."

The brighter it becomes, the more it loses its sound, until it turns into silent stillness and becomes white."

From this quotation from Kandinsky's book on colour theory it is easy to grasp what a special attitude he had towards artistic creation and perception. By coincidence *The Blue Rider* was the name of a group of artists founded in Germany by a number of Russian emigrants, including Vassily Kandinsky, Alexei von Jawlensky, Marianne von Werefkin, and native German artists, such as Franz Marc, August Macke and Gabriele Münter. The exhibition is jointly organised with Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus which possesses



a large collection of works by masters of the Blue Rider group, whose peak was between 1911 and 1914. **P**

**October 4-November 15**

Open: 10:00-19:00

Everyday except Monday

Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts

# The Turgenev House in Moscow



Marina Kashpar

Today we will visit one more literary museum in the central part of Moscow, on Ostozhenka Ulitsa, Dom 37.

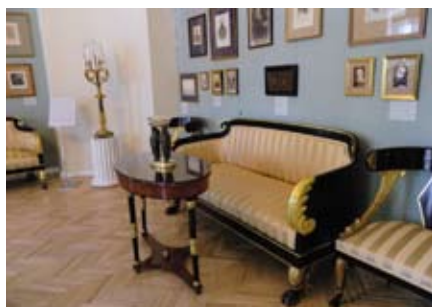
The mother of the famous Russian writer Ivan Turgenev, Varvara Turgeneva, rented this building from 1839 till 1851. The building has been reconstructed and only the main hall remains as it was then. In 2009 the state museum of Turgenev was opened here.

Ostozhenka was named after the place Ostozhe, which means meadows in Russian, a place of haymaking and haystacks. In ancient times, the road from Kiev to Vladimir-Suzdal passed through here, with a ferry crossing the Moscow River. In the XVIIth century a royal stable was built here and gradually houses started to be constructed. One side of the street was occupied by ordinary people, but the other, near Prechistenka, was settled by rich citizens.

Aristocratic estates appeared here only in XVIIIth century. Ostozhenka in the XVII-XVIIIth centuries, looked rather unpretentious, with small lodgings, taverns and pigeon lofts. The favourite entertainment was watching cock fights. It is hard to believe that this ordinary street has become the most expensive street in Moscow. The house at number 37 Ostozhenka was built right after the great fire of 1812.

Young Ivan Turgenev did not stay very long when he arrived in Moscow, but he did always visit his mother here on the way to his estate at Spasskoe, near Orlov. He lived here twice for two months; in 1844 he stayed even longer due to illness.

It was at this time that he got closely involved in literary and theatrical circles in Moscow. Here, in this house, he met with Nikolai Gogol, Sergei Aksakov, Mikhail Schepkin, Fedor Dostoevsky. His



rather eccentric mother, Varvara Petrovna, did not really respect his son's guests, and called them "learned monkeys" in her letters.

While staying at his mother's house, Turgenev lived in the attic rooms. Many of his literary projects were conceived here. In 1850 a quarrel between Varvara and her sons took place here, after which they broke off their relations. Here, in this house she died in 1851. Before her death she forgave her sons, but they did not manage to say goodbye to their mother.

Varvara Petrovna was a rather self-centred and hard person, sometimes very severe, but she loved her children very much. It is said that while looking through his mother's archives, reading her letters and memories, Turgenev wept with sorrow and said: "What a great woman! God, what a great woman she was!"

Ulitsa Ostozhenka, Dom 37, became the prototype of a Moscow estate, as described in Turgenev's novel, Mumu. His description is almost historically accurate. "In one of the outlying streets of Moscow, in a gray building with white columns, with a mezzanine and a twisted balcony there once lived a lady, a widow, surrounded by a numerous household of serfs."

By the middle of XIXth century only the main building of the whole estate remained. In 200 years, the house has changed owners and has been reconstructed several times. After the revolution, Turgenev's home was reconstructed to house factory workers. One of its famous owners was the well-known priest, the Right Reverend Serafim, who was shot in 1937, and canonized in 1997. From 1974, the house was rented by The State (USSR) Chief Department of Sports Goods Production! Forty years later the lease expired and the Moscow government made the property over The State Pushkin Museum.



The Turgenev Museum was opened here on the 9th of October 2009. There is an exhibition called "Moscow. Ostozhenka. Turgenev" in the main suite of rooms. The exhibition introduces the art and creativity of Turgenev, his epoch, his literary and friendship circles, his family, his Moscow life and events connected with this house.

There are a lot of other interesting exhibits in this house, but it is better to see everything with your own eyes. So let me invite you to visit Turgenev at Ostozhenka, 37 **P**

## Museum address:

Ul. Ostozhenka, 37, building #1  
(M. Park Kultura)

Working hours: Wednesday, Thursday,  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday –  
from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m.



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# New Theatre Seasons Unveiled in Moscow

Photographer: Galina Fesenko



From: *The "Scarlet Sails"*

## Marina Lukanina

The beginning of the fall is usually associated with bustling cultural life in Moscow. It is true that Moscow is "culturally active" all year-round and the recent Summer Ballet Seasons was proof of that. Passionate theatre-goers always eagerly await what the directors have got for them for the upcoming season. September is the time when most of theatres declare their plans to the mass media. Here are some of these plans.

The Mayakovsky Theatre opened its 89th season with a new artistic director, the Lithuanian director Mindaugas Karbauskis, who is well-known for several productions at the Tabakov Theatre. The new season opens with Gogol's "Marriage" and the first opening night will be "The Month in the Village" by Nikolai Turgenev. "Talents and Admirers" by Alexander Ostrovski will also be on at the Mayakovsky Theatre this season, and will star leading actors, such as Svetlana Nemolyaeva, Igor Kostolevski, Mikhail Filippov.

The new director also decided to incorporate the work of Vladimir Mayakovsky whose name the theatre bears. Young graduates from the Russian Academy of Theatre Arts directors' department were asked to look at the poet's art and to introduce him using the format of the theatre. The project is called "New Mayakovsky" and will most likely be performed on the Malaya Stage of the theatre sometime in December.

The Chekhov Moscow Art Theatre opens its new season with "Master and Margarita" by Mikhail Bulgakov staged by the Hungarian director Yanosh Sas who has created some notable productions both for the stage and screen. Other opening nights include "Zoikina Apartment," the performance based on Evgeny Grishkovets's book. This theatre does not forget about its young audience. The musical fairy-tale "The Snow White and Seven Dwarfs" will join the repertoire this season. The Maly Stage will be devoted to Dostoyevsky's "Crime and Punishment", and "Demons" will also be staged there.

The Lenkom Theatre will showcase "Peer Gynt" staged by Mark Zakharov, which was on as the last opening night of the previous season. During its 85th season, the theatre will also celebrate the 30th anniversary of its most legendary perfor-

From: *"Chekhov-Gala"*



Photographer: Ekaterina Menshova

mance, the rock opera "Yunona and Avos", which has been part of the repertoire since 1981. Over a million people have watched this show. If you still aren't one of them, you have a chance to do so this season.

The Satire Theatre opens with Shakespeare's "The Taming of The Shrew". The first opening night of the new season will be the play called "Fools" (to be released in November) staged by the famous TV showman Igor Ugolnikov.

The Tabakov's Theatre starts its season with Ostrovsky's "Wolves and Sheep". The opening night for "The Devil" by Leo Tolstoy is planned for November. Overall, the artistic director Oleg Tabakov plans to have seven opening nights this season. He is eager to have the well-known Georgian director, Robert Sturua, and the former artistic director of Taganka Theatre, Yuri Lubimov, showcase their work at his theatre.

The Helikon Opera will be moving back to its original building on Bolshaya Nikitskaya next season. In the meantime, due to space constraints and lack of rehearsal rooms it will be having only one opening night this season, for Wagner's opera "Prohibition of Love". The Helikon Opera is known as the theatre that stages rare productions. "Prohibition of Love" has never been put on in Moscow before.

The Vakhtangov Theatre opens its 90th season this year with Chekhov's "Uncle Vanya"—a real hit last season. Among the openings of this season is "Medea" by Jahn Anouih starring Julia Rutberg, as well as plays by Miller, Pirandello, Brecht, and Shakespeare. The key highlight of the season according to Rimas Tuminas, the Artistic Director, is planned in November with a play called "The Harbour" featuring Vladimir Etush, Yuri Yakovlev, and Liudmila Maksakova.

The Maly Theatre opens its 256th season this year. Yuri Solomin, the Artistic Director, has his mind set only on the classical repertoire. However, there are also a couple of productions that might be a bit "different" than others, such as "War and Peace" staged by the cinema director, Sergey Soloviev, and Chekhov's "Boring Story" by Sergey Zhenovach featuring Yuri Solomin in the leading role. Elina Bystritskaya, one of the major actresses of the theatre, will appear in Pushkin's "The Queen of Spades" directed by Andrey Zhitinkin.

The Maly Theatre has ambitious plans to cooperate with foreign directors, such as Stefano de Lukka from Italy and George Lobodan from France.

The Moscow State Academic Chamber Musical Theatre named after Boris Pokrovsky opened its 40th anniversary season with Albert Lortsinger's comic opera, "The Tsar and the Carpenter". One of the most popular German operas, this has

a prize for the "Best Musical Performance".

The Pushkin Theatre opens its 62nd season with Shakespeare's "Much Ado about Nothing" done in a modern way. It is not recommended for viewers under 16 years old.

In October there will be an opening night of the play "Love Letters" staged by the famous TV host Yulia Menshova starring her parents, Vera Alentova and Vladimir Menshov. They

Photographer: Ekaterina Menshova



From: The "Scarlet Sails"

not been staged in Russia for over 50 years. The opera dwells on the story of Peter the Great studying shipbuilding in Holland and pretending to be a simple carpenter. The opera was staged by the German director Hans-laquum Frei. The music is written in the traditions of the German *singspiel*, a variant of comic 18th century opera where dialogues are mixed with song. The actors sing in German yet talk in Russian so it's a bilingual performance.

Another opera opening night is planned for the beginning of October at the Novaya Opera Theatre, when an original production based on Rossini's comic opera, called "Cinderella in 3D", will be performed. This production is a real theatrical experiment. Instead of decorations, we will see screens on the stage. Set designers have been working on this production for over a year.

The Russian Academic Youth Theatre offers Tom Stoppard's "Rock-n-Roll" production, a story about the 1968 events in Prague, about young rock-n-roll culture and ultimately about freedom. This production is being staged in Russia for the first time. Two other productions at this theatre are also worth highlighting: "Chekhov Gala" and the musical performance "The Scarlet Sails".

"Chekhov-Gala" is based on several of Chekhov's one-act plays: "The Bear", "Proposal", "The Wedding", "The Anniversary", and "About the Harm of Smoking". Each story merges into the next, interrupts it and then starts anew. As the director of the play says: "Our life today is a mixture of absurd things. I believe this performance is a hymn to the human's absurdity." It is an excellent performance that offers a good glimpse of several Chekhov's notable works.

"The Scarlet Sails" is based on a famous book by Alexander Green. It tells a story of Assol, a young girl who dreamed about her "prince" coming to rescue her, on a ship with scarlet sails, from a boring life in a village. Maxim Dunaevski's music creates a special romantic atmosphere in this performance. It is interesting to see a musical production done in such a professional way on the stage of a drama theatre. The actors do a great job telling a revised, more modern and down-to-earth story through dancing and singing. The production received



From: The "Scarlet Sails"

Photographer: Ekaterina Menshova

will tell the story of two people who have been writing letters to each other all their life.

So it's time to check theatre box offices and such web-sites as [www.ticketland.ru](http://www.ticketland.ru), [www.kontromarka.ru](http://www.kontromarka.ru), [www.parter.ru](http://www.parter.ru) and plan an evening out. And as they say in a theatre world: Break a Leg! **P**



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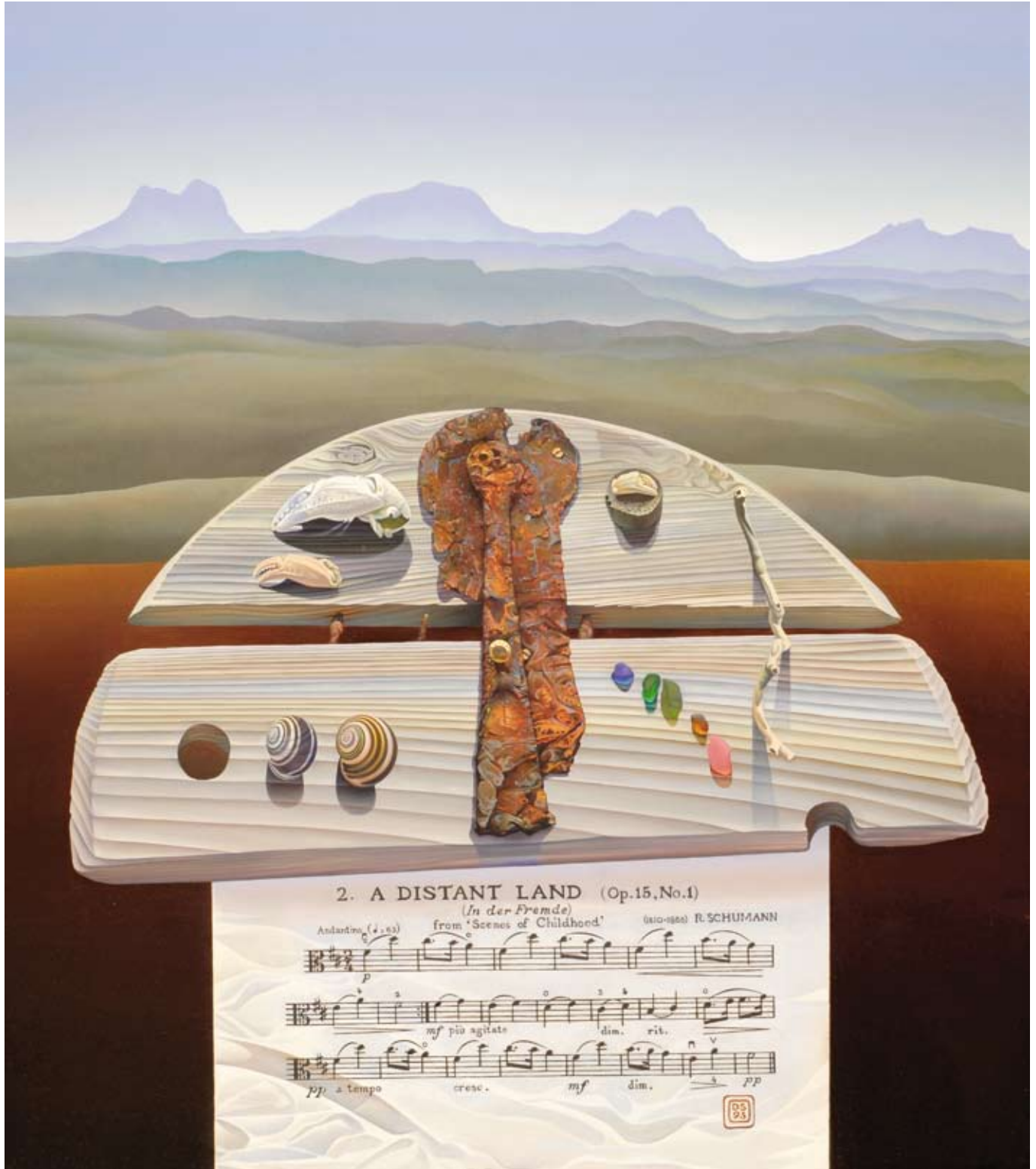


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# Glasgow

The most under-estimated city in Europe

Painting by Glasgow artist Donald Sutherland



John Harrison

When I told my friends in England that I was going to Glasgow during the summer holidays they looked at me in a quizzical way, as if I was some kind of imbecile. "Glasgow?" my sister said to me. "I saw a really depressing movie about the city, unemployment, crime, murder. I guess that goes for any city. I have been to a few, but Glasgow sticks in my mind from this play/movie about the violence, 3rd, 4th, 5th welfare citizens. Worse than LA I thought."

I suppose every country needs a kind of civic scapegoat, a place that is considered to be so bad that the other Metropolises look good. Well, let me tell you, Glasgow shocked me, because it is so good. And not because I am making a comparison with Moscow, although bits of Moscow are positively ritzy. Basically, Glasgow has changed. It's no longer a gloomy, fog-filled city, like it was fifty years ago, where you couldn't even cycle for fear of bumping into something, because visibility was so bad, and families lived in one room flats in tenement blocks, just as the Victorian poor did. The city centre has been regenerated, and the place has turned into a pretty thriving kind of place, with great pubs, eateries and galleries—not to mention the shopping. On our holidays, we also went to Edinburgh which I found un-Scottish,



a kind of cultural no-man's land. Then on to Cornwall—over-rated, crowded and expensive. Then London, which has changed a LOT over the last few decades and not in the right direction. Strangely, there were no riots in Glasgow, or indeed anywhere north of the border this summer (in contrast to London, Manchester and other cities) despite it's "the Gorbals" knife-fighting reputation of old. The Gorbals is now a redevelopment area with trendy new yuppy accommodation springing up where, rumour had it, people were once afraid to walk their dogs.

From the 1950s to the late 1980s, Glasgow was indeed a tough and often rough city. Britain's de-industrialisation hurt the most in centres of industrial



eminence, and Glasgow during the 19th century was known as the second city of the empire.

Heavy engineering was the name of the day, with Glasgow's shipyards, 70 of them once, down to two now. They built mighty vessels which sailed the seven seas under the British flag. Glasgow produced many of the railway carriages and steam engines which brought the empire together. Glasgow was an industrial mecca, much more so than Guangzhou is today and indeed was a trading centre to and from America and the Caribbean (Jamaica and Virginia Streets reminds us of this). But Glasgow was never an overly affluent place, as much of its wealth went elsewhere, a fact which still causes more than



a little angst in Glasgow town, but it's glorious Victorian architecture show a proud city, not a city of misers or scroungers, or "knuckle dusters," although a little of that still goes on, for sure. Sir John Betjeman called Glasgow "the most perfect Victorian city in the UK", and parts of the centre are strongly Victorian. But you aren't in a museum or protected district. There is the magnificent City Chambers, there is Glasgow's civic headquarters in George Square, there are the large stations, all Victorian, and most still in use.

Glasgow has also been called an architectural jungle. Demolished older buildings have been replaced by a variety of modernist and post-modernist styles, juxtaposed one with the other. There is nothing to match the London's "Gherkin," but Glasgow does have its very own "Armadillo" as Lord Foster's Clyde Auditorium is known. There are Charles Rennie Mackintosh's superb Art Noveaux buildings like the Glasgow School of Art, which enjoys the status of being one of the UK's best art schools, not just because of the brilliance of its lecturers, but because the building itself fosters individuality amongst those lucky enough to study there.

Glasgow may have lost its former industrial glory, but it certainly hasn't lost its pride. Local artist Donald Sutherland's paintings calmly adopt aspects of different religions and cultures without even trying to do that. His paintings are executed superbly and yet are natural and unpretentious, as if a verse from the Bagavad Gita painted over the top of a rolling Scottish landscape is the most natural thing in the world. Glasgow wasn't just the home of factories, it was also the home town of countless engineers, physicians—empire-builders who sailed out to settle and conquer. Some returned and brought with them little bits of culture from foreign lands, hence street names like West Nile Street. Glasgow is also the home of a large Irish population who came to Scotland to escape the famines and economic woes back home in the 19th century.

Glasgow's new buildings are the result of the vast investment that has gone into Glasgow's turn-around from one of the UK's worst cities in the 1980s to one of its best today. The city became the European City of Culture in 1990. BBC Scotland is now based in Glasgow, as are the Scottish headquarters of ITN. 1999 Glasgow was designated UK City of Architecture and design, having won this accolade over Edinburgh and Liverpool, and BBC Drama has just an-

nounced it is relocating in Glasgow. The city continues to transform itself into a major European city, even as grockles think Scotland means Edinburgh, kilts and Loch Ness.

Glasgow's greatest asset is its people, and there are a lot of them. Over 2 million souls live in the greater Glasgow urban area, almost half of the population of Scotland. People here are friendly. All have a wry sense of humour, but that's something that you don't need to worry too much about as only Glaswegians can understand Glaswegians once they get going. People come across as sincere, in a sort of countryside way, quite unlike the "east coasters", they say. There is an element of rebelliousness in the city. I remember going to see Spielberg's film, *Jaws*, in a retro film show in the Glasgow Film theatre, one of the city's art house cinemas. Shark hunter Quint (Robert Shaw) was cheered raucously every time he came on, as he represented the local street hero in apposition to Richard Dreyfuss who played the educated, pretentious know-it-all, who represented the English, people from Edinburgh, you name it. But it is that quality that gives the city a fresh, raw, creative edge which personally I found refreshing.

What's bad about the place? Well, the weather's pretty horrible. The pavements are pretty wet, and the sky turns grey and leaks cold water for about 6 months of the year. In the summer though, a good summer that is, with a few beers and the odd wee dram, it is possible to understand how people can live here.

The tourist industry in Glasgow appears to be booming, the number of hotel rooms has rocketed from under 1,000 in 1983, to 12,000 today (it is, alongside Edinburgh, the best performing hotel market in the UK this year). Tourism in the greater Glasgow region now employs some 55,000 people, a figure that can be contrasted with the figure of 38,000 employed as shipbuilders during the halycon Clydeside shipbuilding days. The city is also Europe's fastest-growing conference destination.

Despite everything you may have heard about the place, Glasgow is worth a visit. It is a great walking city, has some of the best shops and architecture in the UK and you will be sure to find a friendly face even if you need to listen carefully to what they are saying! Do though make sure you keep a brolly and sweater in your bag. **P**



# Rules of Russian Migration Law for Family Members Accompanying a Foreign Citizen

Julia Yakhina, Director, Migration department

In accordance with Russian Migration Law, family members accompanying a foreign citizen in Russia are classified as the following:

<b>Foreign citizens - accompanying family members of a foreign citizen who is not a Highly-Qualified Specialist</b> (In accordance with the Family Code and the practice of the Federal Migration Service of the RF)	<b>Foreign citizens - accompanying family members of a foreign citizen who is a Highly-Qualified Specialists</b> (In accordance with point 1.1 article 13.2 of Federal Law №115-FZ dated 25.07.2002 "On the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in the Russian Federation")
<p><i>In accordance with the Family Code of the RF:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- spouse (wife/husband)</li> <li>- children under 18 (adopted children)</li> <li>- parents (adoptive parents)</li> <li>- other relatives</li> </ul> <p><i>In accordance with the Federal Migration Service practice:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- spouse (wife/husband)</li> <li>- children under 18 (adopted children)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- spouse (wife/husband)</li> <li>- children (adopted children)</li> <li>- spouses of children</li> <li>- parents (adoptive parents)</li> <li>- spouses of parents</li> <li>- grandparents</li> <li>- grandchildren</li> </ul>

Accompanying family members are subject to migration law of the Russian Federation. Mentioned above family members can travel to Russia on a similar visa as the one held by the head of the family (business visa, working visa or others) with purpose of entering as "accompanying family members". Other persons who are relatives of a foreign citizen, in accordance with the practices of the Federal Migration Service of the RF can be invited to Russia only on a visitor visa.

Accompanying family members cannot pursue labour activity in Russia and may travel to Russia for personal "non-commercial" reasons, but they are free to move while in Russia. However, it is important to remember that notification of arrival, also while moving to other regions, must be made within seven working days.

*Family Members of Highly-Qualified Specialists have the following advantages:*

1) They exempt from registration by place of residence for a period not exceeding 90 calendar days from the date of arrival in Russia. Upon moving within Russia under existing registration, they are exempt from registration by new place of residence for up to 30 calendar days. After the expiration of the aforementioned periods, they must register within seven working days.

2) They can be registered by private address of a Highly-Qualified Specialist, who is an owner of residence on basis of property right in Russia;

3) Family members can pursue employment on the basis of work permits in Russia, study, as well as pursue other activities

that are not prohibited by law. Herewith the period of validity for visas obtained by family members cannot exceed the period of validity of the visa held by the head of the family.

4) As a Highly-Qualified Specialist, his family members can also obtain a permanent residency permit of Highly-Qualified Specialist, avoiding the process of obtaining a temporary residency permit in Russia. Such a permanent residency permit is limited to the terms of the head of the family with Highly-Qualified Specialist status.

5) They are also covered under a voluntary medical insurance policy provided to the Highly-Qualified Specialist by the employer.

More detailed information regarding inviting to Russia of family members of a Highly Qualified Specialist can be found in the aforementioned law "On the Legal Status of Foreign citizens in the Russian Federation". **P**

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# 1995

John Harrison

**The story so far:** *the Soviet Union ended abruptly in 1991 after an abortive coup, and Yeltsin wrenched power from the master manoeuvrer Gorbachev. A brief tide of support for western-style democracy that Yeltsin tried to usher in turned nasty when IMF-approved economic reforms resulted in real economic hardship for most. The illusion that the communists had finally retreated broke in 1993 when conservative grouping around the vice-president Rutskoi moved to prevent Yeltsin from carrying out his objectives of establishing parliamentary elections and eventually establishing a presidential republic. The stand-off ended with pro-Yeltsin forces firing shells at the Russian parliament in October of that year. Yeltsin had won, but the sense of victory, as in 1992, was short-lived.*

*By 1994 disillusionment had set in once again. Corruption had reared its ugly head, poverty was endemic and from December onwards the country was mired in a dirty civil war in the breakaway republic of Chechnya, which both showed how unprofessional the Russian army was, and dragged the leadership's popularity down. After an initial campaign in December 1994 which culminated in the devastating battle for Grozny, the Chechen rebels, who included previous high-ranking Soviet army officials, based themselves in impregnable mountain strongholds and resorted to guerrilla warfare, giving the Russian forces no reason to celebrate.*

With the popularity-sapping Chechnya war dragging on all year, neither Yeltsin nor his government retained much support in the country. The majority of the population, including such eminent politicians as ex-prime minister Yegor Gaidar, one of the architects of the country's reform programme, were firmly against it.

Their antipathy was heightened when a group of Chechen terrorists headed by Shamil Basayev took between 1,500 and 1,800 patients, doctors and nurses (nobody knows the exact figures) hostage in a hospital in Budyennovsk, a town 70 miles north of the Chechen border, failed. Basayev issued ultimatums which included an end to the war and direct negotiations by Russia with the Chechnya regime. Basayev also demanded that reporters be allowed on the scene. Six hostages were shot because reporters were not allowed through the army cordons. Three days later, Russian forces attempted to take the hospital compound. After several hours of fierce fighting in which 61 hostages were freed, a cease-fire was announced and 227 hostages were released. A second attack failed, as did a third, resulting in heavy casualties. The whole country witnessed the action by television; we saw the dirty white bed sheets hung out of the windows as patients tried to indicate to Russian troops that they shouldn't fire. Yeltsin's human rights advisor described the scene: "In half an hour the hospital was burning, and it was not until the next morning that we found out what happened there as a result of this shooting. I saw with my own eyes pieces of human flesh stuck to the walls and the ceiling and burned corpses."

Eventually Russia agreed to a cessation of military activities against Chechnya and to hold peace negotiations, which

failed. However the Budyennovsk crisis was, perhaps, the turning point in the Chechen war, after that, it was very difficult for Russia to regain the initiative, both militarily and psychologically.

But Yeltsin was not alone. The Russian Orthodox Church supported his invasion of Chechnya and his diplomatic stand on the Kosovo question. The Church sensed that a communist restoration would have hurt their prospects very seriously. However, having the Church on your side wasn't enough, as the duma elections in December showed.

Loyal Prime Minister, Victor Chernomyrdin, formed a party named Our Home is Russia as a kind of "government party". In 1995, as in 1993, half of the 450 seats in the lower house of the new duma, were filled by in-house party voting, the other 255 by local elections by candidates fielded by members of a party or independents. Chernomyrdin had huge advantages over the opposition as his party had access to serious financing and time on television, yet the government party took only 65 seats of 450. The communists won 157 seats by spending little money but using a large nation-wide organisation to spread the word, which went down well in the circumstances. Now Gennady Zyuganov, head of the Communist Party, together with other left wing groups made up a majority.

**"In half an hour the hospital was burning, and it was not until the next morning that we found out what happened there as a result of this shooting. I saw with my own eyes pieces of human flesh stuck to the walls and the ceiling and burned corpses."**

The Duma elections, Zyuganov declared, handed the Communists a popular mandate for reversal of the whole reform agenda. To Zyuganov, the country and its assets had fallen into the hands of the IMF, and Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin were merely agents of a new anti-Russian pact. Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin continued to trim back the project for reforms. Russia's headlong flight into capitalism was halted, temporarily, in 1995.

Foreign Minister, Andrey Kozyrev, one of the original team of young reformers, was sacked after the December elections, and Yeltsin tightened up his foreign policy, now not afraid to use oil as an instrument in negotiations where necessary. Yet Yeltsin could do little about the encroachment of western powers around its borders. Finland joined the EU in 1995, and plans were laid for accession of many Eastern European countries. Worse still for the Russian government was NATO's refusal to disband itself after the end of the Cold War. Quite the opposite, it set out on a course of expansion—in Bosnia 1993-1995, for example. But Russia had lost its influence in the world, even in Eastern Europe.

But despite his compromises, Yeltsin's popularity ratings still sank. Why? Had he not come to power on a popular mandate of reform? Yes, but few people realised what reform actually meant, including, perhaps, the leadership itself. Shock Therapy, the favourite catchword of the IMF in those days, went badly wrong. In "Russia's Path from Gorbachev to Putin: the Demise of the Soviet System and the New Russia" by Fred Weir, the premise that the Russian economy needed to be transformed

rapidly is questioned. However Yeltsin had promised people a rapid period of reform, in contrast to Gorbachev's gradualist approach of reforming socialism which was seen to have failed. He had promised it all; quickly, he had to do it.

The first major principle of Shock Therapy was price liberalisation. Prices rose 350% in January 1992 alone, a far higher rate than IMF experts had predicted. Even as late as 1995, inflation was measured at averaging 4.1% a month, whilst pay rises simply could not keep up. Inflation drove down the value of the rouble, making western imports expensive, but Russia's consumer products also rose in price, as producers had to pay more for raw materials and wages. An increase in local supply, which is what price liberalisation is supposed to bring about, did not happen.

To fight inflation by reducing the money supply, government spending was slashed by more than 40% in real terms during the first quarter of 1992. By 1993 Russia's public spending was comparable to that of the US at 34.5% of GDP. Taxation was cut, and as a result, despite spending cuts, the government could not quite balance its budget after the first quarter of 1992. Overall, spending cuts went according to plan, and one of the ways this was achieved was to simply refuse to pay money out, even to institutions such as world-class scientific institutes which had been allocated resources previously.

However, less money meant enterprises had great difficulty in obtaining the capital they needed to invest in plant and machinery, so opportunities were lost for the development of Russian industry. Spending cuts undermined Russia's technological potential. Productivity fell drastically, a trend that continued until 1998. GDP fell by 42% and industrial production by 46% in 1991-1994. By comparison, production fell 30% during the Great depression of 1929-33 in the US.

The cuts meant that the only way that even the most honest officials could exist was by accepting bribes. And though inflation was curbed it was not broken. It was only with the appointment of a new chairman of the central bank, Victor Geraschenko, who in the years to come eased the money supply somewhat, that inflation began to come under control. A tendency began to be noticed that inflation fell when the monetary policy was eased. If a really tight monetary policy had been strictly adhered to all the way through, the desired results would have been achieved, but at a cost in terms of unemployment and social unrest that no leader was prepared to accept.

The next lynch-pin of Shock Therapy, Privatisation, proceeded more quickly than had been expected. By 1994 about two-thirds of state and municipal enterprises were in private hands. However this didn't necessarily mean that the enterprise concerned was better run than before. In many cases, they were eventually taken over by the previous management who might have been good managers, but who were good managers *under the Soviet system*. Alternatively, they were run by people who had very little experience. Soviet Russia had no legitimate wealthy class of people who could buy state enterprises. It was only natural that rapid privatisation would place the enterprises in the hands of the old elite, or the mafia. It was naïve to assume that they could be transformed into successful companies in a year or two. Even if they had successfully transformed themselves, they would have become public monopolies rather than state monopolies.

Mass unemployment, however, did not occur because Russian enterprises did not behave like traditional capitalist businesses. Unemployment was officially 7.7% in 1995. They

preferred instead to "produce for the warehouse." In 1992, for example, 400,000 cars were sold, and one million manufactured. That same year, factories produced 3.2 million fridges despite selling only 1.1 million.

Price liberalisation and privatisation resulted in all three of the main components of total demand, as taught by John Maynard Keynes, consumer demand, investment demand and government spending, declining. It is no wonder that supply also declined.

On the trade barriers front, Russia followed her IMF mentors closely and liberated its import regime in January 1992. There was even a brief period when all import tariffs were temporarily abolished. The rouble was disengaged from government exchange controls and began to float freely by July 1992. While unrestricted imports were encouraged, exports were still subject to various kinds of licensing agreements and quotas.

As a result, foreign products quickly replaced Russian goods in the main cities. The new rich and the small new middle class were the main market, but the majority of Russians who were left with very little purchasing power, relied on cheaper domestic goods, and didn't buy very much, even of them. Thus the new imports exerted less of a stimulus for product improvement or price restraints than free trade was supposed to do. Most of Russia's industry was not able to compete with foreign competition. This was certainly was not the policy which today's leading economies—China, the USA, Germany and Japan, followed in earlier periods when they faced and face superior foreign competition. Russia's declaration of welcome for foreign investment failed to produce much money. The conditions created by shock therapy did not create a favourable investment environment.

Of course some gained, for example the banking class, those who gained ownership or privatised raw materials firms or who invested in real estate and housing construction. Some politicians are reputed to have become very wealthy. A small middle class grew up in the major cities. But the new rich sent most of their wealth abroad and few invested in production in Russia. Organised crime enjoyed a blissful and noisy boom.

It is no wonder then that the Communists had the upper hand in the State Duma in 1995, well positioned for the presidential race scheduled for July 1996. Instead of seeing Russia become more democratic, Russians saw Yeltsin becoming more and more authoritarian with decisions that affected the whole country being made behind closed doors. Ironically, it was the costs and failures of Shock Therapy that threatened the transition to capitalism. **P**



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# Press intervention snuffs out “the Flame”



Helen Womack

On a beautiful autumn day, I motored through golden countryside to the town of Yelets in Lipetsk region. But the purpose of my trip was a disturbing one. I was going to interview prisoner Nikolai Pozhdayev, known as “the Flame”, who had been in limbo on death row for six years.

Local reporter Igor Chichinov brought Pozhdayev’s case to my attention. He had been one of a gang that robbed a lorry and set it alight, burning the driver and two other occupants alive. For this, in December 1989, Pozhdayev had been sentenced to death and, since his appeal to then President Mikhail Gorbachev had failed, he’d prepared himself to take a bullet in the back of the neck.

But then President Boris Yeltsin had come to power and Pozhdayev had been encouraged to apply to have his sentence commuted to life imprisonment. Yeltsin, it seemed, had lost this application somewhere in an overstuffed drawer or behind a radiator and the death row inmate was living on tenterhooks, waiting for a clear answer. Even the prison authorities felt his human rights were being abused, Igor said, and fixed up for me to have access to “the Flame” in Yelets jail.

What can you ask a man on death row? “How do you feel?” I felt very unsure of myself.

As I was taken into his cell, I remembered that Pozhdayev had seen no woman except his mother for six years. Pale-faced and dressed in the regulation navy and grey striped uniform of a *smertnik* (death row prisoner), he stood to attention as I entered. The guards hovered in the doorway.

But there was no threat. He was infinitely more afraid of me than I was of him. Perhaps I had come to announce his death.

Timidly, I asked for an interview. He begged an hour to marshal his thoughts. I just had time to notice the tight mesh over the window, blocking out all natural light, the narrow bed and toilet hole in the cell he never left.

The guards organised a tour of the prison to pass the time until Pozhdayev was ready. They told me they were “strict but humane”; that they welcomed the government’s drive against corruption; that they had not been paid for five months. They even offered me the chance of a drink and a sauna bath with them when they finished their shifts but I declined that hospitality.

We tramped the corridors of the fortress-like jail, built in 1830. In one cell, I saw muscle-bound former bodyguards, reduced to assembling chandeliers. The pain in their eyes was unspeakable.

My own ideas of Russian prisons came from Alexander Solzhenitsyn: icy cells, guard dogs and watchtowers. But Yelets prison was in fact unsettling in its attempts at cosiness.

The cells had black and white televisions and the prisoners were allowed to put posters on the walls. The library was

perhaps a little overstocked with the works of Lenin but soft pornography was available too. In the kitchen, young men peeled potatoes into bath tubs under the motherly eye of a former factory canteen manager, who said that meat was on the menu every day. Daily exercise was also guaranteed.

The privileges of the ordinary prisoners were not for Pozhdayev. Thirty-one years old, he had been in and out of custody since he was 11. His father was also a convicted murderer.

Igor said “the Flame” had come to resemble an animal. “He smelt me through the metal door. He said he recognised my aftershave. He will smell you too.”

But in the interview, Pozhdayev was all too human. He spoke softly, haltingly, obviously overwhelmed by the space of the conference room where he had been brought for our 10-minute talk. The time was short but enough for him to convey his agony.

“I thought it would be quick,” he said, “but it has dragged on. Each time I hear a sound in the corridor, I think the moment has come. When you came, it was strange. I thought, ‘maybe this is it’. My mother visits me once a month and every time we say goodbye.”

Pozhdayev said he passed the time like a caged beast, “pacing to and fro”. His cell light was always switched on but he said he had control over the radio switch and sometimes listened to pop music. He once gave up smoking for two weeks but then thought: “What’s the point?”

He said he was hoping for a life sentence because “while there’s life there’s hope”.

His other requests were modest. “Tell the civilised world I need medicines for my stomach ulcers. And say I want magazines, magazines with coloured pictures.”

Igor and I left the jail and walked out into the pretty streets of Yelets old town. If we thought at all, we assumed that our intervention would secure a life sentence for the prisoner. Russia was about to accede to the Council of Europe and one of the conditions was that it should abolish the death penalty.

But in January 1996, Pozhdayev was executed. It was an election year and President Yeltsin could not afford to appear soft on crime.

An official at the courthouse in Yelets wrote to Igor, saying: “We received so many letters and phone calls as a result of your articles that we thought it time to decide the matter of Pozhdayev. Thank you for your useful work.”

I received a commendation from Amnesty International for my “useful work”. I was accustomed to my writing in the newspaper being used the next day to wrap up fish and chips and suddenly my article had killed a man.

You can imagine how Igor and I felt.

“The Flame” haunts me still. **P**



*Dr Poletaeva, Deputy Head of the Reso Garantiya Clinic*



*Call centre at the Reso Garantiya Medical headquarters*

# Er... What happens when I get ill?

John Harrison

Well what does happen when you fall sick? In this country, it all depends on whether or not you have medical insurance, or, if you break a leg today and don't have insurance, how much money you can lay your hands on.

If you go for the insurance path, there are many alternatives. As a kind of left-over from the Soviet Union, every Russian citizen has compulsory medical insurance. People using this insurance are treated in a network of polyclinics and state hospitals throughout Russia. The policies are easily obtained from local polyclinics, and foreigners who live here permanently can go to their local polyclinic and get such a policy. To prove you live here permanently, you need to have been living here for a year or two (it varies according to the polyclinic), and prove you are registered here, which means you do have to register your visa when you arrive. It helps also to have a permanent address with documents. If you have a residence permit "Vid na Zhitelstvo" you can get this document straight away. The local polyclinics will give you basic medical care. You may have to wait in a queue for treatment which may

not be easy if you aren't used to that, and stress levels go up considerably when there are children around. The ward in the hospital where you get put may be dirty, the food likened to that in a prison, cockroaches on the floor, but the doctors—great. Sometimes there is nothing particularly wrong with the nearest clinic, it's just too far away, and nobody speaks your language. Whatever the reason, many foreigners want something better, and it doesn't have to cost the earth, as you can see by reading this article and some of the short articles in this PASSPORT health special over the next few pages.

For better conditions, you have to take out a so-called "voluntary health insurance" with an insurance company, which uses one or several of the new private clinics working in Moscow, St. Petersburg and some larger cities. Anybody can buy these policies, whether you are here for one week or ten years, with or without a residence permit. This kind of insurance is bought for a year at a time and there are two basic types: corporate, for a legal entity for over ten people, and private. There are, according to Dr Poletaeva, the deputy head of medical services at Reso Garantiya three main levels of service. The first is a little better than what the state

offers, the third level is the European Medical Centre (EMC) the American Medical Centre (AMC) and SOS. Price for home visits, ambulance and hospitalisations when needed at the second level are about 1200 Euros per year for the and 4000 Euros for the third level. English-speaking staff are available in clinics on the second level, but not everybody speaks foreign languages as in clinics of the third level. As Dr Poletaeva commented: "Mostly, we take the opinion that if somebody is sent to work in a country like Russia, they should be able to speak the language that is spoken here."

When assessing the cost of each individual policy, there are many factors involved, too many to list in detail here, but basically, on each level, different services are available. For example you may only want a policy that covers home visits, or may want hospitalisation cover as well, and so on. "It's like Lego, you can build your own policy," Dr Poletaeva said. In general, according to Russian law, all insurance packages have to cover serious, pain-causing illnesses, not necessarily preventative medicine, such as a complete check-up, which can be bought separately. Here the maths can be interesting. A complete check up in place like EMC can set you back 200,000 roubles as a pay-as-you-go patient. You can have the

care, neurosurgery, etc.) and they will probably send you to a Russian hospital with which they work closely, where you will get treatment under supervision of the clinic. The hospital concerned must have a licence allowing them to work in this way, and usually hospitals, according to Dr Poletaeva, are interested in more patients, thus keeping costs reasonable as compared to high costs and few patients. This is good for everyone, the hospitals because they are guaranteed a high number of people passing through their wards, and also the clinics because if patients have to pay huge premiums for really expensive treatment, the cost of insurance policies will go up, and thus there will be fewer clients.

No insurance policies cover things like valves which are needed in a heart operation for example. These you have to buy yourselves. Most medicines for most operations are included in the price but things like artificial limbs are hardware you have to buy yourself. Free body equipment is available in Russian hospitals, but there is usually a wait involved, and you will get the cheapest (usually Chinese) option, which probably will not be the best available and may go wrong quickly. So the real cost of getting fixed up in Russia isn't just the price of the insurance policy, it is also the cost of those parts of the



*Facilities at a Reso Garantiya Clinic*

same done in a level two clinic for an additional yearly policy which costs 6000 roubles. The insurance company will be interested in your past medical history unless you are a member of a corporate package.

In general, health insurance policies on sale here are a bit wider than the usual international medical insurance you get back home which basically cover only emergency situations. The cost goes up once you are over 60, for obvious reasons.

There are only a few insurance companies offering insurance packages for foreigners here on an individual basis. Reso Garantiya ([www.reso.ru](http://www.reso.ru)) is a large insurance company which runs a series of clinics at the second level throughout Moscow. Then there are some foreign companies which are offering special policies for foreigners here, such as in2matrix ([www.in2matrix.com](http://www.in2matrix.com)) which is working with the British Business Club and presenting its services to other business clubs as well. They are offering programmes here in Moscow for the third level of service for about \$4000 per person for its "world-wide coverage minus USA programme." EMC and AMC for example also offer health-care programmes of their own, but these are generally higher than going through an insurance company.

No clinics offer a complete range of medical services. Even the top clinics do not cover tertiary care (specialist cancer

treatment that the insurance policy doesn't cover. One also has to remember that as the law only states that health-care providers have to provide treatment for serious illnesses and real physical pain, physical therapy and post-operation treatment is not included.

The alternative for some is not to get involved in the Russian health-care system at all. You can buy, or your company can buy an evacuation policy such as that offered by SOS International, although they are also using, when suitable, local services in the form of joint ventures with top, third-level providers. You have to look at the fine print and ask questions when you talk to insurance people. What is available here in Russia is actually better and more varied than a lot of people realise. We have come a long way over the past twenty years. You can get treatment faster and pay more than for comparable health-care from Britain's NHS for example, but certainly for a lot less money than comparable services in the USA for the majority of patients and illnesses. There is more paranoia and misunderstanding surrounding health in Russia than irresolvable problems.

You need to decide what kind of service you need. Phone around the clinics, look at the insurance companies' sites, talk to people, ask questions and sign up! **P**



# Health is man's most valuable good—at a price.



Frank Ebbecke

It was close to midnight. It was in a classy downtown restaurant. Food, drinks and company had been just excellent. However, health far less. In fact, absolutely lousy. Like never ever before in life. Terrible abdominal pain. To the extent that it was almost impossible to raise the body from the chair. A strange object had developed inside over the previous months. Now it had grown big like a fist. Felt stone-hard. A friend helped me up and into his car. The fast drive did lead straight into a hospital—the EMC, the European Medical Centre in Moscow's Spiridonievsky Pereoluk (and lately also established near Olympiiskiy Prospekt). Within an hour or two the diagnosis. As clear as frightening. A deadly serious abscess. Emergency escape to the probably "safer" German home-land for treatment? No way. The nasty thing had to be removed. Here and now. And it was. Mid-day the same day. In a difficult three-hour operation. The saviour was Pierre Konchalovsky, head surgeon. The patient was me.

Today I regard him as a true friend. Dr. Pjotr "Pierre" Konchalovsky. Having studied and practiced in Paris/France for one-and-a-half decades. And as gifted and experienced as a personable and pleasant man. Only a few hours after the operation he was sitting at my bedside. We celebrated a little together. With a sip of my preferred JD Bourbon and a few puffs from my favourite cigarette brand. He knew that I was a somewhat lonely. A single ex-pat in the big city and in some trouble. He spent lots of time with me the following days. To listen, to advise, to help. Then and afterwards.

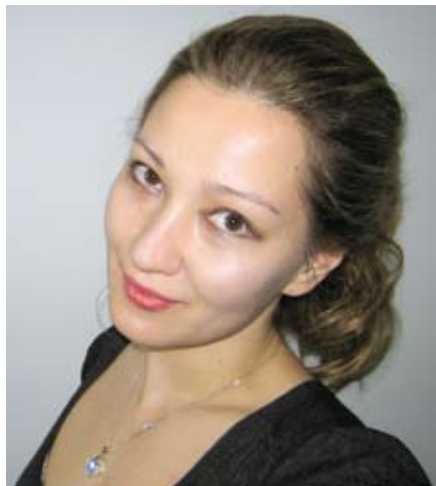


Dr Pierre Konchalevsky

I happily survived. And again a second time two years later when I suffered from diverticulitis. A not that easy operation, too. In the meantime the couple of unavoidable, heavy scars in my belly area can hardly be recognized. Fit for beachwear. A master surgeon's work. Today I feel physically better than ever. And on the occasion of some medical routine checks back home, colleagues were even ready to praise their Russian fellow-doctor's performance.

Right, but of course the whole procedure and the about ten days' convalescence each time did cost an arm and a leg. The price of a mid-size imported car. Finally, my long-time, quite costly monthly insurance payments paid off. The successful operation, the professional nursing services, the state-of-the-art medical equipment, the overall healing atmosphere. Sure, there are thousands of clinics and thousands of doctors of every kind in Russia's capital and across the country. And, sure, they heal and help whatever they can. But as a mere Western ex-pat trying to play it probably a little safer (especially if you are not in command of the language that well) the EMC and some other American, British, French medical service institutions are pretty healthy alternatives. They don't hurt your pocket that much. Provided you are properly insured. And in the end you just have to make sure you get back on your feet, right?

"Moscow doesn't believe in tears," as the title of a Soviet film classic says. But Moscow can make you sick. I know. So, if something health-wise ever goes wrong: I personally know where I get help. From the best. From personal experience. **P**



Eva Hua

When ex-pats get ill in Russia, they usually make their way immediately to the airport instead to a local hospital. What is behind the prejudice of foreigners not to trust the Russian health-care system and how bad is it in reality?

"I'm in a hospital. Yes, in a hospital in Moscow, because I had an emergency appendix operation. I am fine, yes really!" Oliver, from Germany who lives in Moscow got to feel what health-care in Russia is like at first hand. He was admitted to the the Medinskogo Zentra Upravleniya Delami Prezidenta Rossiyskoy Federatsiy ZKB, where Boris Yeltsin used to recover, frequently, from heart surgery in 1996. "The food and service could be better, but overall everything looks quite OK." Not everybody is as lucky as Oliver, who enjoys a single room with colour TV in the hospital on Rublovs-koye Shosse, along which government officials make their way home to their villas. Oliver's ambulance rushed him to the hospital, all paid by the an additional, voluntary health-care program organised his former employer.

Though Russia has free health-care for their citizens stated in their constitution,

## Are you sick yet?

its quality is often questionable. Antonida, a young Russian woman remembers her student times, when she was in hospital: "The clinic was crowded and they put me in a bed on the corridor. It was winter, and a few homeless people were lying a few meters away from me, seeking shelter from the cold weather."

As opposed to the American approach, as in the film from Michael Moore "Sicko", Russians do not have to fear losing a finger or two because they cannot afford treatment. But a visit to the doctor is not a holiday. Many employers offer additional voluntary health-care programs, either fully paid by them or partly paid by their employees. With packages ranging from basic to business and standard to VIP, the portfolio of clinics and centres listed in their offers reflect the surcharge people are willing to pay.

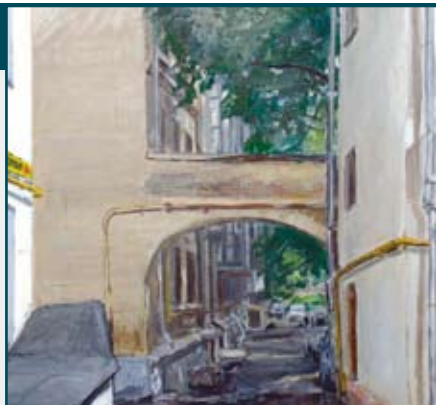
Many clinics have reportedly outdated equipment and especially stories of misdiagnosis and unhygienic incidents scare most ex-pats to engage often expensive health-care in their countries of origin, leaving them double- or triple-insured. Several medical centres specialise in treating foreigners, providing

service in various languages (e.g. American, European or Scandinavian Medical Centres). In private facilities the final bill can be far more expensive than in Russian state clinics. A general medical test for work permit reasons costs about 50 Euros (2000 roubles) in a state clinic, and includes a bureaucratic way of getting it paid and done, in comparison to 300-400 Euros in the European Medical Centre, where the whole procedure is carried quickly, efficiently and with the minimum of stress.

It seems that ex-pats choose Russian health-care only as a back-up option, when they can't make it back to their home country to get treatment. A CEO of a German company reported that after slipping on an icy street at night, leaving his arm with an open fracture, he stopped at a local Medpunkt only for first aid, where a doctor, scared of local junkies opened the door together with his guarding German shepherd dog, who seemed to live in the same room where patients were treated. Instead of an ambulance, he afterwards took a local gipsy taxi directly to the airport to get the first flight out.

You think an ambulance saves lives? Then you haven't been to Russia yet. At least in Moscow even ambulances struggle with the difficult traffic conditions. "Sometimes it takes 20 minutes, sometimes it can be more than an hour," notes Antonida, although to be fair, a lot of this is due to the traffic. The construction of Russian apartment buildings does not support first aid procedures. Artem, a local journalist was involved, helping first aid workers carry a heart attack patient to the car, "we carried him down in a bed-sheet, because the stretcher just didn't fit in the elevator and through the corridor."

Whether to trust health-care in Russia or not is up to the patient. To change its bad reputation in many ex-pats' minds, it will take improvements in both quality and affordability of services. **P**



## Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October

### Moscow Walks

You are invited to the launch of "Phoebe's Walks - Autumn" from 6-9pm Phoebe Taplin and group show of Russian inspired art and photography by international and local artists.

The signing at 8pm and discussion about Phoebe's adventures and discoveries of Moscow and the local surroundings.

After 9pm Phoebe will take us on a late night walk encountering a few watering holes on the way!!!

Phoebe's book will be for sale at the studio on Petrovka.

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studio tel. 6945532 [www.petrovka-art-studio.com](http://www.petrovka-art-studio.com)



Jay Morley

Many ex-patriate families arrive in Moscow on various packages that are provided by the employer to the main earning spouse. These relocation packages are different to each ex-pat. Some are incredibly generous and many are austere in benefit and in allowance. Some of the lucky few have free health-care. Free health-care is worth more than gold when abroad and even more so in a country like Russia.

If you speak the language and are a fairly relaxed person you could probably get by using a Russian state hospital but you would need to know how to play the system and it would help if you are married to a Russian citizen. If you are none of these, you will need to use one of the many private health-care centres in Moscow. On an internet search, I counted at least twenty medical centres they cover general health, dentistry as well as a whole host of other services such as cosmetic surgery and the 'specialties'. The main big fish here are the European Medical Centre (EMC), The American Medical Centre and the SOS clinic. A simple Google web search will list their web-sites along with all their incredible services on offer. The EMC lists thirty one types of medical service. Many foreigners that use these centres have their medical bills paid directly to the clinic, so for example Belinda from Chicago, won't have to pay any money at the reception at the ABC clinic in Moscow for little Jane's injections as her husband's insurance pays it directly to the clinic, few questions are asked and there are few restrictions on payments or treatments.

You could try a cheaper Russian clinic such as the Medin centre ([www.medin.ru](http://www.medin.ru)). The clinic is situated near the Metro



# Medical treatment for ex-pats

Dobryinsky. On arrival, in the winter, you must leave your coat at the coat desk and you will be given a plastic coat ticket, failure to remove your coat may result in being shot or deported from Russia. The clinic provides two translators that are free for you to use. They speak average English but from my experience, they seem to lack a basic knowledge of common medical terminology. However they are free and try their best to help.

On arrival at the clinic, you must see them, tell them what doctor or specialty you need and then go to the floor they tell you. Find seat in the corridor and wait for your turn to be seen by the doctor. If you don't speak Russian, you may be spoken to by a Russian who is waiting to see the same doctor as you, if you don't understand the question, they will go in front of you. In Russia, appointment times are not usually followed. The system here is that you see the doctor when he or she has your medical records and you simply wait your turn.

Sometimes, you will be called by the doctor's nurse to go in, sometimes you will just wait for ages it can be a question of luck. In this case, you must knock on the doctor's door and ask to go in. If the doctor does not speak English, they will call the translator to help you. At the clinic, these translators are women. If you are a man and have a rash on your left testicle, you must tell her and she will tell the doctor and she will wait while you drop your trousers to show the doctor. It will be at embarrassing times like these, you will wish you spoke Russian as you bend over touch your toes, while you talk to the translator through the gap in your legs.

Once the doctor has understood your medical issue, he or she will tell you via

the translator what you must take and give you a post-it note with the medicine you need or give you a written prescription. You will then be given a white bit of paper saying how much you must pay, go downstairs to the cash desk ("Kassa"), pay and then get your medicine from the clinic's pharmacy. If you have insurance, get the doctor to stamp and sign your insurance form and get a clinic stamp from the grumpy woman who sits behind a glass window downstairs.

A doctor's visit will cost approximately 1,136 roubles, a return visit will cost 936 roubles (at some of the other medical centres, you can pay from 150 Euros just to see a doctor). Blood-test prices vary and take about a week to get the results. At the clinic, the pharmacy often does not have the medicine that you need and when you ask for it you will be bluntly told in the Russian way, "No".

Many of the doctors are in their early 50s and seem a bit bored and uninterested in their job. However, there are one or two young ones that still care, once you know the good ones, you can see them each time you go. I cannot fault this clinic as the service is often quick and you will not wait long for blood tests or for X-rays. On the downside, as you wait for the doctor you will not have a flashy plasma TV to watch, you will not be offered coffee or have a choice of glossy lifestyle or fashion magazines. However, you will save your insurance company or your employer a lot of money and get as good a service at one of the big centres.

For more information and further thoughts on this, ex-pat life and other topics see English Dad In Moscow at: [www.englishdadinmoscow.com](http://www.englishdadinmoscow.com) **P**



# Medical treatment

Geoffrey Cox OBE

During my 16 years living in Moscow, I enjoyed a number of interesting experiences with the Russian medical services.

The first I remember was in 1993 and not all that encouraging. I was taken to the eye hospital by Russian colleagues and being the only foreigner there was moved immediately to the front of the queue. I tried to explain to the doctor that I thought it was only a cold that I had. "I am the doctor," he replied, "and I shall decide what is wrong with you." After he had examined my eye, I was given some liquid in an already used medicine bottle plugged with what looked suspiciously like a cork from a wine bottle, with instructions to bathe my eye in the purple contents.

A while later, a scan was organised for me at the hospital patronised at that time by Mr Yeltsin. When I was actually in the room with the equipment being prepared for the scan, a smart looking Russian lady was brought in. She did not appear too pleased to see me and after a short discussion with my doctor, he told me that I should have to wait until she had had her scan first as she had paid more than me!

My next contact came much later, sometime around the beginning of the

century. I needed my hip and knees x-rayed. So I went to the clinic in the hospital at Octyabersky Poli, reporting at 10 o'clock in the morning, that being the time advertised for the commencement of x-rays. A short discussion with the receptionist revealed that I would need to have five x-rays taken. The price quoted was the rouble equivalent of £5. I went immediately to the cashier at the next desk and paid this sum, whereupon the nurse led me to the x-ray suite. There, a number of other patients were waiting who obviously came from the hospital itself. Nevertheless I was immediately invited into the x-ray room where the five x-rays were taken. I was then asked to wait outside. However, very quickly I was summoned in to see the bone specialist who showed me what was wrong with my hip and the consequent arthritis in my knees on the x-rays and handed me a handwritten report on my condition, in Russian naturally, together with the x-rays to take away with me. When I got back to my car afterwards I was amazed to discover that only 40 minutes had elapsed since my arrival at the clinic. I still have the 5% discount card I was given by the clinic on that occasion.

On another visit to the clinic for a heart consultation, the very beautiful red-headed consultant stood so close in listening to my heartbeats that she very nearly spoiled everything by giving me palpitations! When I warned her of this, she replied with a knowing smile, saying, "My husband is also a parachutist." I still have a recommendation for a pacemaker which they could not supply.

Several years later when my artificial hip was giving me serious trouble, a friend organised an appointment with the leading traumatologist who looked after the Russian national ice hockey team. This took place in the aptly named Number 1 Hospital. He was a remarkably kind and thoughtful person, though alas there appeared to be no satisfactory solution to my problem. However, returning from showing the x-ray to the consultant in charge of the medical school there, he did ask if the professor could keep the x-rays on my artificial hip to show his students as they had never seen such an old hip replacement before. I had been fitted with it in 1983 when I left the Army. It was their parting gift to compensate for a parachute accident sustained when jumping with French Special Forces in 1976.

Alas, the condition of my hip replacement and my arthritic knees has now reduced me to using elbow crutches. So now I live a quiet life in rural Dorset, but maintaining my Russian contacts as best I can. The picture shows me attending the Russian victory Day celebration held on 9 May this year on HMS Belfast, the cruiser which escorted the first convoy to Murmansk in 1941. **P**

# When health is a pain in the neck!

Child with fever at 2h00 in the morning! Bad toothache while on business conference in Samara! In need of a medical specialist for a family member! Ran out of medications! Call for a medical second opinion! Want a prescription while on assignment in Nizhny Novgorod! Cannot read the medication notice! In need of an ambulance or even medical evacuation out of Moscow or from remote location in Russia! Inability to understand the Russian speaking nurse or treating doctor!

Whether newcomers or those who have been in Moscow a while will encounter such a situation is unknown. Most are not fully prepared to respond to such eventualities, impacting seriously the wellbeing of the affected person.

Which one of the nearly 7,000 private clinics in Moscow should he choose? How to get medical confidential translation or interpretation? Do they have the right specialist on the spot when I need him, even during the dacha period? Will they accept my insurance cover? Do they use similar protocols as the ones used at home? Do I get a proper medical report? What about availability of blood and blood products? How do you call an ambulance in Novosibirsk?

A company whose job is to provide answers to such questions is International SOS, the world's leading international health-care, medical assistance, and security services company. Many may remember it from their previous assignments in other countries such as Vietnam, India, Kazakhstan, China, and 70 others. Long-term Moscovites know SOS since it came to Russia some 20 years ago with a small GP practise and a full scale 24/7 Alarm Centre, staffed with Russian multilingual and ex-patriates

doctors at any time. The company in Russia today manages a network of over a 1000 medical providers (hospitals, doctors, ambulance providers, and more) throughout the country. They can always direct a patient to the best facility based on caller's geographic location, the caller's medical condition and the time. "It may not make any sense directing a patient to a clinic situated in the far north of Moscow when a patient is in the south and similar quality is available in the vicinity," states Dr Alexander Ermakov, Deputy Medical Director at the Alarm centre.

The International SOS Moscow clinic is only a very small part of the overall network the company maintains. "As you can imagine it will not be the International SOS Moscow clinic or any other private clinic in the city helping you during a car accident in Kaluga, but only a strong assistance provider, knowing the circumstances on the spot," confirms Oleg Koninin, Director for Sales and Marketing. To strengthen its neutrality and reduce its sometimes apparent competitive situation with certain medical providers in Moscow, as well to enhance its positing as assistance company, the International SOS clinic will gradually loose its importance over these next months in favour of the 24/7 Alarm Centre. International SOS will continue reassuring its members all over the world and in Russia, being 100% with them anywhere, in Moscow on a daily live base, during a business trip in St. Petersburg, in Bali during annual holiday or at a conference in Johannesburg. Individuals and corporations will continue relying on them for their operational capabilities in remote areas, their expertise in emergency situations or just to provide a peace of mind and duty of care to their staff. **P**



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# AIDS in Russia



AIDS is a word that we Westerners have largely grown bored of. Amidst reports that the number of HIV-infected people in our countries has stabilised, or is even falling, we have convinced ourselves that the problem is over. But what about Russia? We hear all sorts of stories about a very alarming situation in terms of the numbers of people HIV-infected. But what is the official view and how does the attitude to treating people differ from that in our own societies? PASSPORT talks to Deputy Health Minister, Veronika Skvortsova

Interview by John Harrison

**Deputy Minister, the western press has reported that AIDS is rampant in Russia. The New York Times, the BBC and other western news agencies have reported over the past few years that the AIDS epidemic is out of control in Russia. What is the actual situation here?**

First of all, I'd like to say how we get our figures. Between 22 and 25 million people a year are tested for HIV positive, which is about 16% of the population. HIV positive tests are taken by pregnant women, registered addicts, blood donors and many other groups on a compulsory basis. Other groups, such as people working in the sex industry are tested on a voluntary basis. So we actually have a pretty clear idea about what is happening. There was a large increase in the number of infected people from 2005 to 2008, but after that the growth rate has tailed off, and there was a zero growth in the total number of infected people between 2009 and 2010.

**The Times reported that at least 60% of new cases were spread by intravenous drug use, and a good portion of the rest of the new cases were the result of sex with drug addicts. Are drug addicts still the main vehicles for the spreading of AIDS in Russia?**

Yes of course drug addiction and drug addicts are the main reason that AIDS is being spread in Russia. This is a very tough problem for our country, and has been for some decades now, ever since the time of the hippies. In June 2010 President Medvedev set out the official anti-drugs strategy up until 2020. The strategy involves coordinating the work of whole range of government bodies: the police, the ministries of health and social development, education, sports and tourism, voluntary organisations. It is also important to work with international organisations which are working to cut down drug trafficking and cooperate on curtailing the drug industry internationally. I am the chairwomen of a Russia-USA committee, and I can tell you that there are many similar problems in these two countries. In Russia we are adopting a holistic attempt to come to grips with the problem. Cutting down on demand is as crucial as cutting supply.

**Is such wide-scale cooperation between government departments possible?**

It is already taking place.

**A simple thing like making sure that syringes are freely available to drug addicts seems to have turned around the problem in many some Western countries. But in Russia, drug addicts are marginalized and do not feel confident talking to the authorities about their problems. The attitude seems to be that they are sick, but also that they are weak and guilty of letting society down. Should this attitude be changed, and if so, how?**

The results of the programme of supplying free disposable syringes, in those parts of the country where the programme was introduced, turned out to be negative. The level of HIV infection actually grew, dramatically. Obtaining disposable sy-

ringes in Russia actually isn't a problem at all, syringes and needles can be bought in any chemist very cheaply with no questions asked. Our experience shows that supplying syringes is actually indirect way of showing society's approval of drug using. Traditionally, Russians treat drug users as sick people, and are not too inclined to suddenly show their approval of their activities by offering them free syringes and so on.

***In other countries, methadone and buprenorphine have long been recognised as "substitute" maintenance drugs to treat addicts. But in Russia there seems to be an ideological opposition to the use of these substances. What is the current situation, is Russia running an effective anti-drugs campaign?***

Addiction is a requirement of the human brain, people show addiction to many things right from childhood, for example to computer games. However physical dependence on drugs leads to disintegration in both a mental and physical way, and the effect snowballs. How did it all start? Originally, there was opium, then in the middle of the 19th century morphine was created as a derivative of opium, then a little later, in 1874, a stronger drug, heroin, was created from morphine. Methadone and buprenorphine are both synthetic opiate substances created in the 20th century, containing derivations of heroin. In our opinion it is counter-productive to cure addicts by giving them more opium-related drugs. The overwhelming majority of our specialists do not agree that you can cure addiction by using these drugs.

In Russia, we see that there is more drug taking where there is more drug dealing. There is a direct correlation between supply and demand. At the same time, the more we cut demand, the less trafficking goes on. So it comes back to creating the basis for a healthy way of life, from a very early age onwards. Our programme includes both medical and non-medical methods, and has three aspects: primary care which covers social aspects. For example, free psychological testing for children and special treatment where necessary. I cannot emphasise the importance of the family enough, the importance of having both a mother and a father around. For children from broken homes, it is vital that they find role-models for themselves. It might be a teacher or a trainer. It is really important to build up the emotional strength of children so they can withstand the onslaught of drugs. Secondary care is concentrated on people who use drugs from time to time, and the third kind of care concentrates on the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. This involves detoxification, easing the psychological and physical dependence on drugs, rebuilding psychologically damaged personalities and so on. This is not so different from what goes in European and American rehab centres. To do this, we consider it vital to carry out pathological treatment involving complete denial of any narcotic substances. We do use special medicines to help us in this, but not methadone or buprenorphine.

***That sounds very good, but it also sounds rather Soviet, as if you are going back to strict disciplinarian methods in the schools. Do they work in today's world?***

We don't want to return to the Soviet school system, because it was not all good. In particular, it did not provide for enough development of the individual. But we do want to protect our children and provide them with all the opportunities they need to realise their talents. Together with the ministry of education we are already starting to implement special social programmes in some schools. Also vital is to increase extra-curricular activities to help character development. We are finding that this kind of approach is really effective. Over the last 10 years the number of

***"Our experience shows that supplying syringes is actually indirect way of showing society's approval of drug using. Traditionally, Russians treat drug users as sick people, and are not too inclined to suddenly show their approval of their activities by offering them free syringes and so on."***

infected 15-20 year olds has decreased 11.2 times, to only 2.2 % of the total HIV infected population.

But drug takers are not just school children, the majority are already adults. In 2010 we started to set up Health Centres where anybody can come in off the street and have free blood, cardiac and other scans. These are paid for by the compulsory medical programme. In parallel, we are developing secondary care programmes, for example providing information and medical care for people working in sex industry are incredibly important. The circles of people we are talking about are fairly closed, they aren't exactly disposed to sharing their secrets with anybody, so the people who implement these programmes, have to be incredibly tactful, otherwise they will never gain addicts' emotional trust. And it is vital that our government creates the necessary infrastructure so that health centres and labs for anonymous HIV testing appear in every corner of the country. Of course with a country this large, in a country with 83 different regions, there has to be some flexibility in the way policies are implemented according to the local environment. Yes, we do have a programme and it is working. **P**



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## Irish Footballers in Moscow

Members of the Irish community attended the event, as did representatives of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Football Union of Russia, local media and the Football Association of Ireland (FAI), including its Chief Executive Officer, Mr John Delaney.

Ambassador McDonagh gave a speech, as did a representative of the FAI. The Ambassador was presented with an Irish team short, signed by the players. "Songs of Joyce", a selection of songs from the life and works of James Joyce, was performed by Ms. Sinead Murphy and Ms. Darina Gallagher. See their website: [www.songs-of-joyce.biz](http://www.songs-of-joyce.biz)

A keg of stout and a keg of red ale (it was great!) was provided by the Carlow Brewery. **P**



## UK Prime Minister in Moscow

David Cameron has started the overdue and difficult process of rebuilding relations with Russia. His first friendly meeting with President Medvedev was followed by a stiffly formal encounter with Prime Minister Putin, while British captains of industry hawked their wares. Of greater interest to the ordinary citizen was a speech given to the students at Moscow State University, earlier in the day. The hall was packed, sadly with hordes of hack-



neyed journalists and semi-VIPs, while hundreds of enthusiastic students were crammed in the corridors outside. The PM's speech was necessarily bland, prior to key closet Kremlin chat, but the students were enthusiastic. Question topics ranged from disarmament difficulties to visa headaches, by way of great societies and career choices. And then the vast cavalcade raced off to the next photo opp. The entourage filled a whole BA jet, and were in Moscow for under 24 hours. A curious spectacle. RDH **P**

## St. Andrew's church fete

Early September sees Moscow get back into gear after the long summer. Early autumnal weather didn't dampen enthusiasm as the British Business Club set up stall to get ex-pats together and raise money for charity. A hog roast, raffles, War-



ren's sausages, tombolas, tug-of-war contests, children's face paints, books and bric-a-brac all combined to entertain the throngs. An entertaining afternoon, which led to Rb.170,000 being raised to support the church roof (literally) and the Taganka children's fund, a long term commitment of the BBC. Thank you to all who helped. RDH **P**

## Rugby world cup



By the time you read this, the 20 teams in New Zealand will have been reduced to eight, and the contest gets serious. It has been a great spectacle, and testimony to rugby's growing global appeal. Japan, Georgia, Namibia and the United States have all excelled. Canada beat Tonga, normally a class above them. Russia enjoyed a first set of finals and, with little chance of making the ¼ finals, played for pride and for the future. The Bears' real cup final was their first match, against a strong USA side. They were close, but lacked the precision to contain the Americans, who themselves offered too many chances. Russia did score first and last. Good effort.

At the risk of sounding "hemispherist", it is a brave man who bets on a European side to topple the Tri-Nations favourites. Stay tuned for the quarter finals on 8-9 October, the semis on 15-16, and the final on Sunday 23 October. Expect a lot of black shirts in the pubs. RDH **P**

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View of Frankfurt Fairground



## Horsepower to the People



Russian Yo Hybrid Concept

er of the economy." Everybody showed unbroken optimism.

In this industry nobody seemed to remember the just-survived crisis. Was there one? "The Future Comes as Standard." The promising, self-confident, motto of the 64th IAA in Frankfurt 2011. 109 world premieres, 49 from German manufacturers alone. More than 20,000 press and audio-visual media journalists from all over. Easy to suffer from 20 kilometres of walking in a day. If willing to grant a short visit of every single vehicle on display. Giganticism. Examples: it has been said that 1000 people in the hall of VW Group alone were busy just keeping their stands up and running. And then the individual "show palaces" of the global premium segment leaders. Space in abundance. Precious building materials. Generous hospitality. Felt like made for eternity. But it was for just 12 days. With the costs for these demonstrations of power and success the German elite pack of Mercedes-Benz, BMW and Audi could have probably paid the debts which have grounded the Saab brand at the same time.

As my home is Moscow, the first personal question certainly was: "Where is Russia?" Avtovaz? "Nyet." Marussia? Cancelled. But here came the ! Yo's "New Symbol of Russia" as they claim. A joint project of the ONEXIM Group and the Yarovit Holding. Personally backed by billionaire entrepreneur Mikhail Prokhorov. The "Yo" represents the first hybrid vehicle from Russia. The dual-fuel crossover concept will run on either natural gas or petrol. Promised to consume a mere 3.5 liters of gasoline per 100 kilometers. Resulting in an impressive 700 kilometers range (using both tanks). Ready to pull people out of their outdated Ladas for the fair price of approximately \$12,000. And this by mid-next



Mini Coupe

### Frank Ebbecke

FRAport. One of the busiest airports in the world. Every day. Frankfurt. "WORLDport". The busiest automotive hub globally. At least for these few mid-September days. Time for the IAA. The Internationale Automobil Ausstellung. Every second year (alternating with Paris), the executives of the entire world of car makers and suppliers, accompanied by their fan groups, make a pilgrimage to Frankfurt. Hundred of thousands pay homage to everybody's most beloved object of desire. Everywhere.

And so in 2011. In this year when some European countries were, or still are, close to bankruptcy, the year when even the USA went financially down the drain. Almost. In this year when the People's Republic of China, starts to fight inflation threats. Nevertheless, Angela Merkel officially opened the doors to the world's biggest motor show with praise: "The automotive industry is the key driv-

year. Hold it. The stand and the exhibited vehicle itself suggested that all this could be only good will. Poor design of the stage in a remote place of the shiny show. Next to an equally unattractive stand of one of the surprisingly few competitors present from China: Changan. The exhibited car itself looked like quickly handcrafted. The totally blackened-out windows didn't allow one to get a look inside. I guess, there was no interior to see yet.

At least, the plans for the Yo are heading exactly in the right direction. Alternative power together with more effective emission control was the main theme of the show. More than ever before. The offerings of every major player from everywhere proved that environmentally conscious solutions could be put in mass production as from "tomorrow". With zero emission. But that seems to be not really realistic. Entry prices are still far too high. Batteries are too big, heavy and expensive. And not feasible: an average range of just over 100 kilometres is a joke.



VW Nils:  
1-Person Electric  
City Concept

A satisfactory infrastructure for recharging has not been established anywhere. Another problem (as funny as it might sound) is the low noise factor. A running danger for pedestrians, bikers and conventionally powered cars.

It seems that cars powered by Otto and Diesel engines will be on the road for much longer than demanded by politicians, people and nature. Many experts predict that a pool of only 20% of electric vehicles will be whistling their way after 2020. But in fact there's lots of room for consumption, performance and emission improvement of traditional engines. Further innovations in gearbox technology and lighter body construction and components have to be expected.

But now a selective look to some of the brands: VW Group occupied one huge hall with seven of their brands: Volkswagen, Skoda, SEAT, Bentley, Lamborghini, Bugatti, and even Porsche slipping under the family roof for the first time. Audi as the image leader in design, technology within the family had decided on its own position. Its own piece of futuristic architecture.

VW's Up!, the tiniest VW family offer ever, made its mark on their stand: "Small is Big", its claim. But then the new, appealing appearance of the classic Beetle shows up. And Nils, a practical one-seater with a trunk for comfortable, ecological, fancy city cruising (a similar concept shown at GM's Opel). Audi adds one more seat into the same direction with their Urban Concept. Unconventionally with freestanding wheels and sliding doors opening towards the rear. And there was their new view of the A2.

BMW devoted lots of space to their whole new BMWi sub-brand line-up. At first glimpse onto the flagship model i8 just says: electric mobility can be so exciting and beautiful.

The Italians? Si, *naturalmente*! They were there. But kind of quiet. Wait a minute. They still decorated their exhibits with more gorgeous girls in stylish outfits than most of their competitors. Not exactly unexpected. Who drew more attention then? The new Fiat Panda or its lady presenters?! Alfa Romeo (will VW Group try to add this prestigious make to their portfolio soon—a continuing rumour in the industry) launched the 4C. A born sports car in the true, unbeatable Italian design tradition.

Nothing to say about Asians? In the contrary. Who could ignore Hyundai-Kia from Korea. With concentrating on the development of only two brands they have already achieved a global market share of 5.2% (#5) to date (including 75% in their home market). By the end of this year they will have sold 6.5 million cars. They have grown steadily in all major markets on all continents. Ferdinand Piech, the already legendary architect of the VW empire, and his lifelong companion Martin Winterkorn, the almighty boss of VW Group, regard the Korean powerhouse as their biggest threat on a global basis. So do the Toyota bosses. As reported in the trade. The high-up VW-managers, gifted, highly educated car engineers, were both seen disappearing in one of Hyundai's best-sellers, the i30, for a solid inspection.

Vicarious for the top managers of the industry, James Muir, Chairman & CEO of SEAT/VW Group, addressed the RF indirectly: "Russia, in particular its vibrant metropolis Moscow, is one of the most dynamic market places in Europe and even worldwide—and so are the drivers as I had the chance to witness myself. Russians today seem just to love the freedom of individual mobility—and so does SEAT, designing cars with built-in Spanish temperament and style as well as the latest state-of-the-art German technology."

Nowhere else than at IAA does one gets such a complete overview of the global passenger car output, now and in future. In contrast to former shows, 2011 features many more realistic models. Ready for production. Ready for sale. The Mazda CX-5 lightweight compact SUV. The next Mini derivative, the eye-catcher Mini Coupe. Mercedes M- and B-Class of a new generation. Plus their amazing SLS-AMG Roadster. Toyota re-enters the sports car segment with the sexy FT-86. And "some steps up": a "firework" of high performance models at Audi (RS&S) and BMW (M). The backbone of Porsche—the new 911 sports classic. The racy Ferrari 458 Spider. All of them just dreams on wheels.

The IAA in Frankfurt. If you missed it. A pity. But don't worry. Next one coming up: September 2013. Welcome to the whole world of cars. **P**



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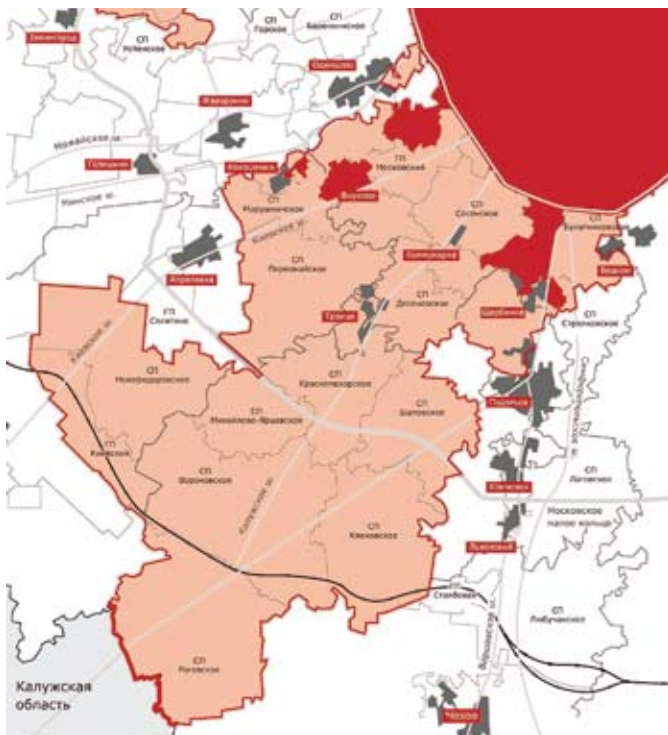
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# Moscow Grows



Vladimir Kozlov

The recently announced plans to radically expand Moscow's city limits into the territory of the Oblast are likely to have a serious impact on the real estate market in the longer run.

As a result of changes, proposed last summer, the territory of Moscow is going to increase by 144,000 hectares, or by 2.4 times. A huge stretch of land, which currently lies outside the city's South-Western border, is to become part of it, the area between the Kiev and Warsaw motorways.

The main idea behind the plan is that headquarters of several government agencies are to be relocated to a specifically constructed area outside the capital's current limits, thereby easing the burden on the city's infrastructure and improving the traffic situation. The new governmental compound, the exact location of which is yet to be determined, is also expected to become an international financial centre.

Apart from housing administrative buildings, the new land will also be used for residential construction. Over the next 20 years, more than two million new homes are to be built on the "new Moscow" territory. Also, there are plans to reconstruct the Kiev and Kaluga motorways.

The proposals are expected to become law in 2012, after which ordinary residents could feel the impact, although some changes could begin to be felt in the shorter term.

"Given international experience of executing such large-scale mass-construction projects, the creation and approval

of a new general [development] plan could take at least two to three years," Alexandra Kadchenko, head of the consulting and evaluation department at MIAN, told PASSPORT. "So, execution of new projects would not start before 2014."

According to Alexander Ziminsky, director of the elite property sales department at Penny Lane Realty, the main impact from the expansion of Moscow is to be felt in the areas that are to become part of the city.

"Moscow has a considerable budget," he told PASSPORT. "So, areas that will become part of the capital, will be developing better, especially when it comes to the social and transport infrastructure. Also, situations when Moscow expands a motorway [on its territory] but beyond MKAD it turns into a bottle-neck unable to handle traffic, will become history."

"Developers that bought plots of land in that area before the crisis and later faced problems because the value of the assets went down, now will be able to re-evaluate the land because of a change in its status, and could then feel some relief," he went on to say. "Certainly, land prices in that area are set to go up."

Meanwhile, Ziminsky is skeptical about the prospects of a major international financial centre beyond the current city limits. "I think big business won't leave central Moscow to move in the direction of Podolsk," he said. "State officials are not independent, they'll do what they are told. But businesses could just open new representative offices."

At the same time, the change of status from Moscow Oblast to the capital may not come as pleasant news for developers used to a simple approval procedure in the Oblast, which would now have to be replaced with a more complicated one that applies to the capital.

"Primarily, developers that have connections to federal agencies are likely to benefit from the situation," Ziminsky observed. "But there will be not only winners but also losers. The latter will completely lose chances of getting their projects approved and will have to leave the market with losses."

Realtors agree that the expansion of the capital is set to bring about an increase in real estate prices in the new territories.

According to Kadchenko, in the short-term, the changes are not going to have a tangible impact on the property market but in the longer run, demand and prices for properties located to the south-west of today's city limits are likely to go up. "In the long term, prices for new, good-quality residential property in Shcherbinka, Troitsk and Kommunarka could go up," she said. "But a sharp increase in prices is unlikely as the territory [added to Moscow] is huge, and new residential neighborhoods are likely to compete with each other."

However, other experts say that there have already been increases in property prices, related to the expansion of Moscow. "Some buildings currently under construction have already seen a 15% to 20% increase in prices," Yulia Geraskina, head of the new construction department at Est-a-Tet, told PASSPORT. "One example is Dom V Kommunarke from the developer MITs. In late May, the maximum price for one-room apartments was 65,850 roubles per sq m, which is now between 77,850 roubles per sq m and 83,850 roubles per sq m, and the project is still in its middle stage. We also forecast increases in buildings under construction in Shcherbinka."

"Secondly, price increases are expected in towns located next to the 'new Moscow' territory," she went on to say. "For instance, in Podolsk, which is not part of expanded Moscow, prices are likely to be pushed up by the improved infrastructure and transport situation."

"At this point, changes in prices are not yet noticeable because it is too early, but in the longer run, prices for apartments that used to be in Moscow Oblast, are likely to go up by 25% to 30%," said Ziminsky. "The statement [about Moscow expansion] by itself cannot trigger a hike in prices, but prices will inevitably increase, pushed up by the development of the territory."

According to Ziminsky, prices for apartments in best-quality residential projects in Kommunarka, Sovkhoz Moskovsky, Troitsk, Podolsk and Shcherbinka are likely to be on the rise. He pointed out that the difference in prices for identical apartments located within city limits and beyond it has always been about 20%.

He added that a "Sochi scenario", in which prices initially went up unreasonably high and then gradually descended to a realistic level, could not be ruled out for the "new Moscow" territories.

Meanwhile, experts say that residents of upscale residential compounds, next to which mass-construction residential projects are to be executed, are to be losers in the situation, as prices for their properties are set to go down.

One important change for former Moscow Oblast residents who will suddenly become Muscovites, is that they will be able to obtain permanent registration in the city, "propiska." Although the role of the Moscow propiska has substantially decreased over the last few years, and it no longer provides any benefits for residents, it is historically valued.

But one much more palpable change that is expected to come with the expansion of Moscow is an improvement in the social and transport infrastructure in the new territories,

which will have to be brought in line with that in the city.

"The huge territories added to Moscow await large-scale reconstruction of the road network, improvement of communications and the construction of infrastructure elements that are vital for comfortable living and working," said Ziminsky. He added that the scale of construction could be comparable to the preparations for the Sochi Olympics, and could lead to inconveniences for residents, caused by massive construction in areas next to residential neighborhoods.

According to Geraskina, in the future, as the new territories are being developed, more educational and health-care institutions, as well as retail outlets are to be built in "new Moscow." "We could also expect the development of the road networks, as well as alternatives, such as railways," she added.

"In addition to Moscow propiska, to make the new territories more attractive, the transport and social infrastructure should be developed and new jobs should be created," Kadchenko said, adding that those factors could also have a major impact on residential prices in the "new Moscow" territories.

Experts point out that the development of the "new Moscow" territories is likely to take years. Meanwhile, Moscow Oblast residents who are now set to become Muscovites, are uncertain about what changes their new status prepares for them.

"I have no clue what it means to me as a home owner in Letovo 8 km from MKAD on Kaluzhskoye Shosse," said John Ortega, the owner of PASSPORT magazine. "Higher real estate taxes? Higher gas? Higher electric? I have my own well. They claim bigger Kievsky and Kaluzhskoye highway, means more lanes? How long will it take?" **P**



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## City Hall cancels controversial project

The Moscow government's commission for urban development and land, headed by mayor Sergei Sobyanin, has made the decision to cancel a large-scale development project on the territory of the capital's oldest tram depot, Apakov, on Shabolovka street. According to a report published by the business newspaper RBK Daily, City Hall will revoke a development contract earlier signed with the company Stolitsa Group, which, some industry insiders say, has ties to a son of former mayor Yuri Luzhkov. Under the contract signed back in 2004, the 1909 tram depot, which has the status of an architectural monument, was to be transferred to another location to provide a site for a 190,000 sq m multipurpose complex. The development of the project was hampered by the 2008 economic downturn and protests from architecture preservationists. Stolitsa Group allegedly paid to the city just over \$8 million for the right to develop the site, compared with its current market value of between \$60 million and \$80 million.

## Dollar prices for elite property decline

Prices for elite residential property in Moscow declined in August for the first time in 15 months, the real estate company Chesterton said in a press release. The decline amounted to between 1.5% and 3.5%, depending on the segment. The average price for elite residential property in Moscow is \$20,700 per sq m, the company said, adding that in spite of the August decline, prices for that type of property have climbed 10% since the beginning of the year. The decline in the "future prime" segment was 3.4%, to \$13,500 per sq meter, in "pure prime" to 2.5% and in "super prime" to 1.1%.

## Hotel instead of City Hall complex

The site in the Moskva City business compound, on which a complex of buildings for the city government was supposed to be built, will be used for a construction of a hotel, RIA Novosti reported. "The city authorities have decided to cancel the project and auction off the land," Timur Zeldich, a senior property official at City Hall was quoted as saying. Before the economic meltdown, the Moscow government planned to build an 806,000 sq m complex on the site, but then the project was suspended indefinitely. Now City Hall says it is ready to sell the 1.3 hectare plot of land to a developer that would build a 315,000 sq m complex featuring a hotel for 1,300 rooms and an apart-hotel for 300 apartments. The starting price is to be 7.08 billion roubles.

## Demand for rental apartments up

Demand for rental apartments went up 34% in August compared with the previous month, Miel Arenda said in an analytical report, stressing that in the lowest price category supply has been lagging substantially behind demand. According to report, apartments rented at between \$1,000 and \$3,000 a month account for 73% of all properties in the market, those with a price tag between \$750 and \$1,000 account for 18.5%. It is nearly impossible to find an apartment for less than \$750. Meanwhile, one-room apartments remain the most wanted category, and the number of properties of that kind in the market corresponds to just one third of demand. The average rent in the economy class segment is 29,000 roubles per month for one-room apartments, 36,700 roubles for two-room apartments and 41,800 roubles for three-room apartments. **P**

## How to take public transport

### Куда? – Where to?

Какой троллейбус идёт до метро?

*Which trolleybus goes to the Metro?*

Этот автобус идёт до метро?

*Does this bus go as far as the Metro?*

Этот троллейбус идёт до Полиньки?

*Does this bus go to Polyanka?*

Здесь автобус номер 5

останавливается?

*Does the number 5 bus stop here?*

Этот трамвай останавливается

возле магазина "Всё для Дома?"

*Does this tram stop near the shop "Everything for the home"?*

### Билеты - Tickets

Где можно купить билет?

*Where can I buy a ticket?*

Сколько стоит билет?

*How much is a ticket?*

Сколько стоит проезд?

*How much is one trip?*

Дайте, пожалуйста, один билет.

*One ticket, please.*

Одну поездку на метро, пожалуйста.

*One trip to the Metro, please.*

Сколько стоит проездной на месяц?

*How much is a monthly pass?*

У вас есть единый? (метро, автобус, трамвай, троллейбус)

*Do you have an all-inclusive ticket?*

*(Metro, bus, tram, trolleybus)*

Дайте, пожалуйста, 20 поездок на метро. Please can I have a ticket for 20 Metro trips.

### В общественном транспорте – On public transport

Вы выходите на следующей?

*Are you getting off at the next stop?*

Какая следующая остановка?

*What's the next stop?*

Садитесь, пожалуйста. Я постою.

*Please have a seat, I can stand.*

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# The Rest of the Best

Charles W. Borden

Last month's "Moscow's Best Restaurants" article prompted some fierce comments. People have strong opinions on eating, each with his or her "best" criteria, for instance "the biggest helping for the least money." My definition of best, as expressed in the last issue, does not depend upon how filled up I am, or who goes to a restaurant. One reader complained that "nobody goes there," but if head-count was our criteria then McDonalds would be at the top of the list. If the selection was based upon the total value of black "elitny machiny" at 11pm then maybe Soho Rooms would top the list. The experts, like Michelin, Zagat, Gault Millau and Gambero Rosso rate best overall, and that's what we have tried to do.

This month I add some Special Mentions, restaurants worth noting for superior ethnic cuisine, local color, or other unique features.

## Ethnic Restaurants

One perennial mystery about Moscow is the lack of authentic ethnic restaurants—a Mexican restaurant run by Mexicans or a Chinese run by Chinese. There are a few exceptions, notably Caucasian, and even a couple of Indian restaurants. In small-business-unfriendly Russia, there just aren't any really great family run ethnic restaurants like the hundreds found in most cities small and large around the world.

There ought to be dozens of great Chinese restaurants. **Druzhba**, which actually has Chinese proprietors (and ample portions of MSG), is the only place that comes close. Its prin-



cial fault is the lack of the vegetarian offerings I expect at a Chinese restaurant. Even Druzhba's tofu dish is dominated by pork, but then that's authentic Chinese food for you.

**Darbar** in the Sputnik hotel has always been a personal favorite not only for the quality of the food, but for its diversity of Indian dishes on the menu from southern and northern India. There is nothing like a real Mexican restaurant in Moscow, and in my opinion there won't be until someone brings white corn tortillas to town, and has a real Mexican chef.

## American Food

**Starlite Diners** have long dominated for basic American, and the SD locations at Oktyabrskaya and Mayakovskaya are popular Power Breakfast spots. **Beverly Hills Diner** (two locations) is the newcomer its own very good variants of American classics.

Isaac Correa's **Corner Burger** is tops for American Modern Urban comfort food.

## No Smoking and Wifi to Boot

I recently email comment about No Smoking sections: "Having a smoking section is like having peeing area of a swimming pool." Unfortunately, most Moscow restaurants are entirely smoking and few restaurants have no-smoking areas. Many that do relegate non-smokers to the least desirable sections of the restaurant. McDonalds and Starbucks are both completely non-smoking, serve no alcohol and have Wi-Fi.

## New Age Veggie

**Jagganath**, long located on Kuznetsky Most, has an informal buffet of fresh Indian and Asian veggie items. A new location is now open on the garden ring near Kurskaya.

## Best Pizza

There's a lot of pizza in town. If you like breadly, thick American style (I don't), then the Papa John's is for you. For a more traditional thin Italian pizza, try Isaac Correa's new **Montalto** or one of two **Bocconcino** locations.

## New and Promising

### Roni

Asian urban brasserie from Nedalny Vostok chef Glen Ballis, more democratic, quiet and reasonably priced than its big brother.

### Uilliam's

A new chef-owned sensation from Italian Uilliam Lamberti (see this month's review).

## Room with a View

**Sky Lounge** – the top of the Russian Academy of Sciences building south on Leninsky Prospekt.

**O2** – the best view over the Kremlin from the Ritz Carlson

**City Space** – its small cocktail tables, wrapped 360 degrees around the building core, offer one of the best views of the city out the tall glass windows that wrap up from practically under the tables' feet.

**Karlson** – a relative newcomer, not far from the Tretyakov. Not for acrophobes—nothing separates you from the ground below but a meter high, all glass and practically invisible barrier.

**Bueno** – a view of the city from the newly restored Hotel Ukraine. Check out the huge diorama of 1950s Moscow on the ground floor.

## Best Place to Impress with Excess

Though it is easy to miss the door to Turandot near Puskin Café, once through you can stop at the jewelry store to admire the \$100,000+ trinkets before entering this elaborate palace (built out at cost reported from \$25-75 million) for some reasonably good Asian food.

## Best Dinner and Show

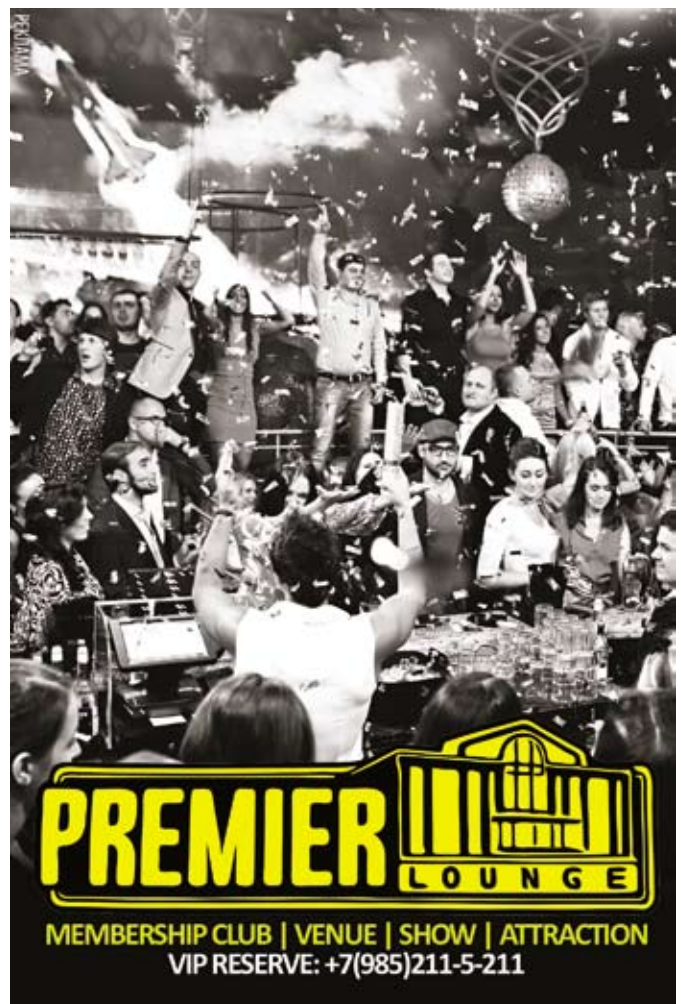
**Old Havana** is a large impressive Cuban restaurant and night-spot. The food is good, but the highlight is the unbelievable three-hour Brazilian extravaganza with about two dozen dancers and capoeira performers. **Yar Restaurant** at the Sovietski Hotel gets runner-up for its great Russian extravaganza show. Despite the fact that a remount took away some of the retro charm of **Margarita Café**, I still enjoy this sardine can of a place with its live nightly entertainment from conservatory musicians.

## Best Coffee

American Jerry Ruditsker brought great coffee to Moscow with his **Coffee Bean**, which still serves Moscow's best coffee. Forget the dishwasher sold at exorbitant prices that you find at many of the city's Starbuck's wannabes.

## Best Street Food

The **Teremok** street stands make blini to order with all manner of fillings: lesnoy yagoda (forest fruit), malina (raspberry), tvorog (curds). If you're hankering for a big baked potato and a bigger selection of uniquely Russian toppings try the **Kros-hka Karoshka** chain. P





# Uilliams'



# Okno v Europa

Charles Borden

Okno v Parizh is a hilarious 1994 comedy about Nikolai, a St. Petersburg music teacher, and his friends who discover a "window to Paris" in a communal apartment. I was as shocked as Nikolai must have been this week when I stumbled through a door on Malaya Bronaya. I found a closely packed, noisy bistro filled with fulsome aromas from an open kitchen directly in front of me. It's difficult to be modest about Uilliam's: it practically screams best restaurant in town. One wants to be cautious, after all it just opened in July, so we'll give it time. But, after six years of writing PASSPORT restaurant reviews, Uilliam's is the first place with that genuine comfy feeling of a popular neighborhood Parisian bistro.

Uilliam's is small, squeezing in at most 60 diners. Décor is





simple. It's practically impossible to get a seat. The tables wrap around a busy, completely open kitchen that is dominated by a huge bright red and brass French artisan Molteni range marked with a large brass plate "Specially for Uilliam Lamberti". Molteni calls each of its custom stoves "a unique jewel" for great chefs, and Lamberti must be proud to have his Molteni in Moscow.

Owner-chef Uilliam Lamberti is a fifteen-year Moscow veteran from Ascona. Early on he was chef at El Dorado. Most recently he has been a consultant with Ginza Group, the St. Petersburg restaurant conglomerate that has dominated Moscow's new restaurant scene for the past two years. However, we understand that Uilliam's is Lamberti's own pride and joy, and as chef-owner he is a rarity in Moscow.

The cuisine is creative European; there was even Russian Okroshka soup on the menu (but with scallops and marinated salmon). Uilliam's simple one-page paper menu changes monthly. The plain listings (Seafood Salad, Chicken Soup, Ravioli or Salmon) belie the complexity of the preparation and presentation. For instance, the Seafood Salad (800r) was a wonderful helping of octopus, squid and prawns laid over a thick slice of baked eggplant. The Artichoke (500r) consisted of a generous stack of artichoke heart served on a wooden chopping board with thick, toasted slices of baguette and a delicious whipped goat cheese. The main course Salmon (500r) came out with chanterelle mushrooms under a delightful spinach creamy sauce, and the Ravioli (550r) was made with duck, foie-gras, spinach and goat cheese.

Uilliams' has a short selection of Rotisserie items – Duck (700r), Rabbit (550r), Quail (450r), and Grill – Ribeye Prime (950r), Lamb Chop (900r).

I started with the Seafood Salad followed by a Ricotta Cheese Soup (600), a remarkable cheesy yet thin soup with chanterelles served in a small copper cooking pan with long crispy slices of baguette. I finished with a Rigatoni with Neapolitan meat sauce (700), which was a little too "al dente" for my taste, though the meat sauce was very good. I stole a forkful of John Ortega's Risotto (beef tartare and parmesan), which did not meet expectations.

The monthly menu change is also unusual for Moscow, and a boon to encourage experimentation. It also helps build repeat customers who want to try the latest offerings. We understand that Lamberti encourages customer suggestions and input.

Unfortunately we did not try Uilliam's desserts such as Home Style Apple Tart with Ginger and Lemon (350r) or Biscuits Uilliam (100r).

Most wines are priced between 1300 and 2700 roubles, mostly French and Italian, with five each of red and white wines by the glass at 350 roubles. We first ordered a bottle of

very enjoyable Ceralto Vermentino Bolgheri, a tropical fruity Tuscan white at 2300 roubles, and followed with a solid red Spadafora Monreale Syrah (Sicily) at 1950 roubles.

Uilliam's is open for breakfast and closes "when the last customer leaves". Reservations are necessary. Fortunately I now have the phone numbers of the PR director and manager. **P**

## My next meal for two at Uilliam's:

Vegetable Salad	450r
Artichoke	700r
Akroshka	550r
Chicken Soup	300r
Home-style Chicken (rotisserie)	500r
Total	2500r

## Wine

Gavi Castello di Tassarolo (Piemonte)	1700r
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## Wine and meal


4200r

**Uilliam's**  
**Malaya Bronaya 20**  
**+7 495 650 64 62**  
**www.uilliams.ru**

**Metro: Mayakovskaya, Puskinskaya**

NEW

NOVIKOV RESTAURANT GROUP



RONI

ASIAN GRILL & BAR

EVERY DAY 12:00-0:00

Petrovka street, 20\1  
Tel: 625-2606

## AMERICAN

### CORREA'S

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

**M. Mayakovskaya**

### STARLITE DINER

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

**M. Pushkinskaya**

Strastnoy Blvd. 8a,  
989 44 61

**M. Mayakovskaya**

16 Ul. Bolshaya Sadovaya,  
650-0246

**M. Oktyabrskaya**

9a Ul. Korovy Val,  
959-8919

**M. Universitet**

6 Prospekt Vernadskovo,  
783-4037

**M. Polyanka**

16/5 Bolotnaya Ploshchad,  
951-5838

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

### AMERICAN BAR & GRILL

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

2/1/ 1st Tverskaya-Yamskaya Ul,  
250-9525

### BEVERLY HILLS DINER

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

1 Ulitsa Sretenka,

**M. Chisty Prudy**

### HARD ROCK CAFE

For those longing to Americana, HRC's main asset is its great location on the Old Arbat overlooking the busy pedestrian mall. The usual rock paraphernalia and a somewhat mediocre presentation of the HRC standard menu.

44 Stary Arbat, 205-8335

**M. Smolenskaya**

[www.hardrock.com](http://www.hardrock.com)

## ASIAN

### AROMA

Indian Restaurant  
Krizhizanovskovo Street 20/30,

**M. Profsayounaya**

[www.aromamoscow.ru](http://www.aromamoscow.ru)  
+7(495) 543-54-26

### TURANDOT

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

26/5 Tverskoi Bulvar, 739-0011

**M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya**

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

### MR. LEE

Fashionable and expensive Chinese from Novikov.

7 Kuznetsky Most, 628-7678

**M. Kuznetsky Most**

### NE DALNY VOSTOK

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

15 Tverskoy Bulvar, 694-0641, 694-0154

**M. Tverskaya**

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

## COFFEE AND PASTRIES

### COFFEE BEAN

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

56 Leningradsky Prospekt, 742-3755

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

### COFFEE MANIA

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

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

**M. Arbatskaya, Biblioteka im. Lenina**

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

### STARBUCKS

Now has 32 locations.

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

### VOLKONSKY PEKARNYA-KONDITERSKAYA

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

2/46 Bolshoi Sadovaya

**M. Mayakovskaya**

## EUROPEAN

### CARRE BLANC

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

9/2 Ul. Seleznevskaya, 258-4403

**M. Novoslobodskaya**

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

### BLACKBERRY

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

10 Academic Sakharov Prospekt

926-1640, 926-1645

**M. Chistiye Prudy**

### CAFE DES ARTISTES

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

5/6 Kamergersky Pereulok, 692-4042

**M. Teatralnaya**

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

### GALEREYA

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

27 Ulitsa Petrovka, 937-4544

**M. Pushkinskaya**

[eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/](http://eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/)

### GRAND ALEXANDER

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

26 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 937-0000

**M. Tverskaya**

### JEROBOAM

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

3 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 225-8888

**M. Okhotny Ryad**

### KAI RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE

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

Krasnye Holmy.

52/6 Kosmodamianskaya Nab, 221-5358

**M. Paveletskaya**

### EVERYDAY TERRACE BY IMPERIA LOUNGE

Due to its location in the Krasnopresnenskiy Park and sophisticated summer menu becomes a breath of fresh air in the hot Moscow days.

Executive Chef Bruno Marino has developed a menu with an emphasis on Mediterranean cuisine. Mantulinskaya Street house 5 bld 7, 790 74 00

[www.everyday-terrace.ru](http://www.everyday-terrace.ru)

### SCANDINAVIA

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

19 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 937-5630

**M. Pushkinskaya**

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

### SKY LOUNGE

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

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

**M. Leninsky Prospekt**

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

### VANIL

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

1 Ulitsa Ostozhenka, 202-3341

**M. Kropotkinskaya**

[eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/](http://eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/)

### VOGUE CAFE

Elegant, trendy partnership with Vogue magazine.

7/9 Ul. Kuznetsky Most, 623-1701

**M. Kuznetsky Most**

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

## LEBANESE

### SHAFRAN

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

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

[www.restoran-shafran.ru](http://www.restoran-shafran.ru)

## FUSION

### GQ BAR

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

5 Ulitsa Baltschug, 956-7775

**M. Novokuznetskaya**

[eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/](http://eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/)

### SOHO ROOMS

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

12 Savinskaya Nab., 988-7474

**M. Sportivnaya**

[www.sohorooms.com](http://www.sohorooms.com)

## HEALTHY

### JAGGANNATH CAFE

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

11 Kuznetsky Most, 628-3580

**M. Kuznetsky Most**

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

### LE PAIN QUOTIDIEN

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

5/6 Kamergerski Pereulok, 649-7050

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

## LATIN AMERICAN

### NAVARRO'S BAR & GRILL

El Salvador born chef-owner Yuri Navarro excels at everything from tapas to eclectic Peruvian-Mediterranean fusion, seafood to grilled meat. One of Moscow's few chef-owned restaurants.

23 Shmitovskiy Proezd, 259-3791

**M. Mezhdunarodnaya**

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

### OLD HAVANA

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

28 Ulitsa Talalikhina, 723-1656

**M. Proletarskaya**

[www.old-havana.ru](http://www.old-havana.ru)

## ITALIAN

### ILFORNO

Restaurant-Pizzeria 25 kinds of great tasty stone oven baked Pizza. Great choice of fresh pasta and risotto. Grilled meat and fish

8/10 Build.1 Neglinnaya Ul.

(495) 621-90-80, (495) 621-35-41

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

### SEMIFREDDO MULINNAZO

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

2 Rossolimo Ulitsa, (499) 766-4646

**M. Park Kultury**

[www.semifreddo-restaurant.com](http://www.semifreddo-restaurant.com)

### MARIO

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

17 Ulitsa Klimashkina, 253-6505

**M. Barrikadnaya**

### CIPOLLINO

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

7 Soimonovsky Proyezd, 695-2936, 695-2950

**M. Kropotkinskaya**

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

## JAPANESE

### KINKI

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

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

**M. Krylatskoye**  
www.kinkigrill.ru

### MEGU

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

Lotte Plaza Hotel Novinsky Bulvar 8

**M. Smolenskaya**  
+7 495 745 1000

### NOBU

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

20 Bolshaya Dmitrovka, 645-3191

**M. Okhotny Ryad**  
www.noburestaurants.ru

### ICHIBAN BOSHI

High-quality, affordable Japanese with cool ambience. Several locations.

22 Krasnaya Presnya Ulitsa, (499) 255-0909

**M. Krasnopresnenskaya**  
50 Ulitsa Bolshaya Yakimanka  
**M. Polyanka**  
www.ichiban.ru

### SEIJI

One of the few Moscow sushi restaurants that actually has a Japanese chef, even a celebrity chef – Seiji Kusano, who also set up the O2 Lounge at the Ritz-Carlton.

5/2 Komsomolsky Prospekt, 246-7624

**M. Park Kultury**

## CAUCASUS

### BAGRATIONI

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

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

**M. Baumanskaya**

### BARASHKA

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

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

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

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

### BELOYE SOLNTSE PUSTYNI

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

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

**M. Kuznetsky Most, Teatralnaya**

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

## RUSSIAN

### CAFE PUSHKIN

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

26a Tverskoi Bulvar, 739-0033

**M. Pushkinskaya, Tverskaya, Chekhovskaya**

### GODUNOV

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

5 Teatralnaya Plushchad, 698-5609

**M. Teatralnaya**

### OBLMOV

Authentic Russian cuisine in a restored 19th century mansion.

5 Monetchikovskiy Pereulok, 953-6828

**M. Dobryninskaya**

### YOLKI-PALKI

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

23 Bolshaya Dmitrovka, 200-0965

**M. Okhotny Ryad, Teatralnaya**

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

## SEAFOOD

### FILIMONOVA & YANKEL

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

23 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 223-0707

**M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya**

www.fishhouse.ru

### LA MAREE

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

28/2 Ulitsa Petrovka, 694-0930

www.la-maree.ru

## STEAKS

### EL GAUCHO

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

4 Ul. Sadovaya-Triumfalnaya, 699-7974

**M. Mayakovskaya**

6/13 Ul. Zatseskiy Val, 953-2876

**M. Paveletskaya**

3 Bolshoi Kozlovsky Pereulok, 623-1098

**M. Krasniye Vorota**

www.elgauch.ru

### CHICAGO PRIME

#### Steakhouse & Bar

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

Strastnoy Blvd. 8a, 988 17 17

www.chicagoprime.ru

### GOODMAN

Moscow's premium steak house chain. Numerous locations.

23 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 775-9888

**M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya**

www.goodman.ru

### POLO CLUB

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

Ulitsa Petrovka 11/20, 937-1024

**M. Kuznetsky Most**

### TORRO GRILL

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

6 Prospekt Vernadskogo, 775-4503

**M. Universitet**

www.torrogrii.ru

## BARS AND CLUBS

### CUBA LIBRE BAR

The real island of freedom in suffocating space of a dependent city. In the afternoon, at lunch-time, here it is possible to deal business, but at night you forget about all and enjoy freedom, the real emotions, passionate dances and democratic prices for cocktails.

**M. Chistye Prudy; 17 Ulitsa Pokrovka, 624-07-18**

**M. Kuznetsky most; 4 Kuznetsky most, 692-02-14**

www.cubalibrebar.ru

### MARTINEZ BAR

Martinez Bar offers its guests a chamber setting and a cozy atmosphere without tobacco smoke and the city hustle. During the day, Martinez Bar is a comfortable location for a meeting (from 12:00 till 17:00 30% discount for the hole menu); during the evenings, the Bar is an ideal place for cocktails.

**M. Chistye Prudy; 1 Ulitsa Sretenka, 760 81 92**

www.martinezbar.ru

### NIGHT FLIGHT

If you don't know about Night Flight, ask somebody! Open 18:00-05:00

**M. Tverskaya; 17 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 629-4165**

www.nightflight.ru

### PAPA'S

Master night spot host Doug Steele is back, at Papa's tucked in the basement below Johnny the Fat Boy Pizzeria. Papa's features live music and lots of sweaty young bodies and sweaty older men.

**M. Kitai-Gorod; 2 Myasnitskaya Ulitsa, 755-9554**

### ROCK'N'ROLL

Rock'n'Roll bar offering visitors all popular dishes and drinks, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In the afternoons we are a quiet place for business lunch, and at night we are a cheerful and rampant bar where it is possible to take pleasure with freshening cocktails while listening to dj sets.

**M. Chistye Prudy; 1 Ulitsa Sretenka, 233 76 97**

www.rocknrollbar.ru

### SECRET BAR

In July Secret bar has slightly opened the doors and has ceased to be one of the most secret places of Moscow.

Cosy atmosphere of house parties, tasty meal, good drinks and the pleasant prices remain at former level, and here possibility to get to a bar is received by all interesting inhabitants of capital.

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**NOTE:** For restaurants with multiple locations the most popular location is given – see the website for others. All phone numbers have city code 495 unless otherwise indicated. Reservations suggested for most restaurants.



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Compiled by Ross Hunter

## Know your onions

Everybody knows what the fruit and vegetables look like; can you spot the plant that produces them? Match up the names to the leaves.

Potato

Tomato

Onion

Beetroot

Asparagus



## Disease is bad for you.

Thank you, heroes! For which health improvement was each of these responsible:

Florence Nightingale	Ronald Ross	Alexander Fleming	Marie Curie	Louis Pasteur	Joseph Lister
Mosquitoes → malaria 1897	X-rays 1903	Hospital hygiene ~1854	Penicillin 1928	Antiseptic surgery 1867	Sterilising milk 1862

## Vitamins are good for you.

Which is which? Match them up

Vitamin		Found in...		Benefits
A Carotene		Milk, liver, green veg		Scurvy, gum disease
B1 Thiamine		Citrus fruit		Brain cells, digestive organs
B2 Riboflavin		Yeast, Marmite		Good for night vision
C Ascorbic acid		Broccoli, vegetable oils		Healthy blood & nerves
D		Carrots		Healthy bones, no rickets
E		Sunshine, fish		Good digestion & skin

## Mixed salad

Which popular "vegetable" is actually a fruit?

It is "ananas" in almost every language, except English. What do we call it?

Which is the only major epidemic disease to have been wholly eradicated?

Quinine is the tangy taste in tonic water. Where does it come from? Which disease does it suppress?

## Popular medicine: What am I?

How few questions to you need to identify this wonder medicine? They get easier as you read down

- I am found in willow bark and in the sweat glands of beaver
- Chemically, I am acetyl-salicylic acid (C<sub>9</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O<sub>4</sub>)
- I am brilliant at easing headaches, cold symptoms, fevers and pains, as well as reducing blood clot risks ...
- ... but I can damage stomach linings and can cause ulcers (and I should not be given to children)
- I am the world's most popular medicine, sold for 112 years, with 40,000 tonnes swallowed annually
- My younger cousins include paracetamol and ibuprofen.

## Mini Sudoku

Usual rules, 1-6 in each row, column and box.

		5			4
6	1		5	2	
				6	1
		3			
3	4		1		

## Micro Sudoku: new!

A starter game, 1-4, for young puzzlers.

	4		
			1
2			
			3

## September solutions

Russian art, clockwise: Moscow courtyard (Polenov 1878), At the dressing table (Serebriakova 1913, Transverse Line (Kandinsky 1909), St Basil's (Lentulov 1923).

Age puzzle: Albert is 16, Basil is 14, Calamity is 11 & Zoolobooogie is 7.

Full answers at [www.englishedmoscow.com](http://www.englishedmoscow.com)

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# Clarice and the Campsite Crisis

A Brainy Bird Tale  
(no.3)

Ross Hunter, illustrated by Catherine Hunter

"Now don't hang up, Gals, I have good and bad holiday news."

Clarice was on the telling bone (you are way ahead of me, yes, it's Cockerel rhyming slang for the phone. You already know Clarice hardly needs one when shrieking to her chums).

"Gals, I promised you a beach resort classy enough to deserve birds like us. But the piggy bank can't afford Top Bird Class, and ostrich legs do not fit into Cheapo Class seats. Good news: we are going on holiday anyway! Who needs a beaks-on-seats plastic hotel in an artificial resort? I have booked us in for a back to nature experience. with your toes in the water

and your heart in the forest!"

"Clarice, that is brochure-speak", said Celia, always the sensible sceptical one, "tell us the real plan."

"Err, it's a campsite, not far from here. But it is loads cheaper and more interesting than anything we have done yet. You, Clara, cousin Emma and Cyd will find it really exciting. Trust me," she said more in hope than expectation.

It was going to be very exciting, but not quite as they expected.

So three ostriches, one emu and a snake wended their way to the tented town. True, it was nicely sandwiched between the sea and the trees, and it was clearly popular. More agitated ant hill than peaceful paradise.

Our heroes put on brave faces, and put up the tents. You need a very long tent if you are an ostrich, an emu or a python with a bad back. Level land was not on hand. Four beaks and eight hard claws scratched away at the soil, and sorted it sharpish. Soon, the tents were cosy tunnels of comfort, and the barbeque was making super supper smells. Deck chairs faced the setting sun, long beaks supped at cool drinks. No need for straws, with an ostrich proboscis. The world did not look so bad. A nearby group started singing, with lots of volume, but not much tune or tone. Clara joined in, so all went quiet quite quickly. They were more popular once children realised that long necks helped rescue stray balls from trees. Sunset beach races with excited small jockeys on large birds were loads more fun than bedtime stories, even this one.

Next morning, time to examine the area. The beach can



wait, mornings are for exploration. Our team dived into the forest. Ugh! horrid! The place was full of litter. What should have been a sight for sore eyes was an eyesore. Nature covered in rubbish. Clarice hurrumphed, and the girls sighed. They knew what was coming. So you do. Back to camp-site HQ. Luckless staff and relaxing campers were pecked into action. They fanned out across the forest and filled bin bags. Tatty jungle was restored to pristine beauty. A triumphant procession convoyed an impressive but embarrassing collection of clutter out of the way.

"Well done, all!" chirped a cheerful Colonel Clarice. "Job done! We will now relax and enjoy the holiday," said she, grabbing her towel and striding towards the beach.

Not so fast! You stirred the forest more than you think!

A big wood hides more residents than campers realise. Our clean up team took away rubbish, but left scents which were sniffed at sunset by all sorts of curious creatures. Most went back to bed, but a family of wild boars were very interested in the new smells. Boar? Think of a lean, mean bacon machine, at home in the scrub, able to shove snout and tusks through thick scrub faster than I can cycle downhill. Also bad tempered, and territorial, which is a fancy word for not welcoming people or big birds invading their personal space, or forest.

Daddy wild boar, let's call him Keith, and mummy wild boar, Doris of course, trotted off in search of the smells. Followed by lots of little striped boarettes—you choose names for them, I don't mind.

When they got to where forest meets campsite, they paused for a good snuffle. Strong smells filled their impressive nostrils. Many barbeques were cooking pork sausages. The boars were not amused. A nod to the squadron and they advanced. Ran riot, to be exact. Snouts down, tusks up, they scoured the campsite. Campers took to the trees or the water (boars don't do bath time). They watched in horror as deck chairs were demolished, cook



stoves upended, toys scattered and tent guy ropes got caught in the tusks: a wave of flattened, waving canvas spread like a wrecking cloak around the now smashed campsite.

What of the Gals? Ostriches don't climb trees, and they are not wading birds. Only cowards would have made a run for it. Not without lumpy throats and quivering quivers of feathers, the four friends closed ranks and took on the invaders. Cyd was less convinced, and added height by forming a turban on Emma's head. She hissed furiously at the boars, who, with poor eyesight, ignored her completely.

Our four brave birds linked wings and advanced on the boars. They noticed a new smell and paused from their wrecking game (which they thought was great fun). Slowly, the birds stepped forward, very wary of angry pork with sharp tusks. Pig Family One was equally anxious about long kicking legs and extendable beaks. Everything went quiet, as tree-refugee campers and free birds waited for the brewing battle. Only the crows—Hamish and Ewan, of course—were busy, dancing around the battlefield filling up with scraps and cawing over their ill-gotten gains. Quiet. Still. Like a volcano ready to burst.

And then one brave, silly little piggy, striped hair all bristling, rushed forward before a parent could stop him, and was rewarded by a very sharp Clara beak-peck on the snout, which made him turn round, and a telescopic Emma leg which booted him back behind his own lines. He squawked like, well, like a stuck pig. Musical it wasn't. The birds strode forward, beaks ahead, soft parts behind, and legs ready to kick.

Even with little piggy eyes, the boars could see their free fun was over. Keith snorted while Doris rounded up the pack, and they fled into safe undergrowth: copse and robbers. The birds strutted proudly.

"Gals, if there is one thing I can't stand, it's messy campers."

Relaxing by the poolside, Clarice reflected on the day:

"I am glad we sorted it all out. As I always say, a bird in the hand beats two pigs in the bush!"

The Gals looked over the battlefield wreckage and tried to imagine a nice, dull holiday. **P**



# Emperors of the Free World

Ian Mitchell

Now that the decorous, tightly controlled process of deciding who should be Russia's next President is getting under way, it is particularly interesting to read about the chaotically undecorous manner in which US Presidents are elected, and in which they often continue to govern.

Nigel Hamilton's riveting new book tells the story of the twelve "imperial" presidents, from Franklin Delano Roosevelt to George W. Bush. He calls them imperial because they presided over a country that had decided, after the destruction of British imperial strength during the Second World War, that it must unilaterally assume leadership of the Free World and re-make it in its own image.

Mr Hamilton's book is modelled on *The Twelve Caesars* by the third-century Roman historian Suetonius, who wrote candid biographies of the men who ruled the Rome at the zenith of its power, from Julius Caesar to Domitian, including Augustus, Caligula, Nero and Vespasian, the man who left Jerusalem with "not one stone standing upon another". All glory and filth is there, as it is in *American Caesars*, and Hamilton makes many telling comparisons.

There are parallels with Russia too, like this description of Jimmy Carter's first taste of democratic politics, when he stood for the Georgia senate in the 1960s. "Electoral felony was still endemic. Ballot boxes were regularly stuffed, non-compliant white voters were intimidated, while black voters were simply excluded, on pain of death."

Likewise, when Lyndon Johnson "threw his ten gallon hat" into the ring and stood in Texas for the US Senate in 1941, he discovered that winning the most votes was not of itself decisive. "On election night, Johnson unwisely made public the tiny margin of his victory, and went exhausted to bed, the door guarded by Rebekah, his proud mother. When he awoke it was to find his opponent had raided the ballot boxes kept in various judges' homes. Johnson eventually lost by 1,311 'late' votes."

There are two serious examples of treason in pursuit of the presidency, the

first by Richard Nixon, who sabotaged Johnson's attempt to end the Vietnam war by secretly promising the South Vietnamese they would get better terms if they waited for him to be elected. Though peace was in sight in 1968, it did not come until 1973, by which time an additional 20,000 Americans had died, as well as hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese and Cambodians.

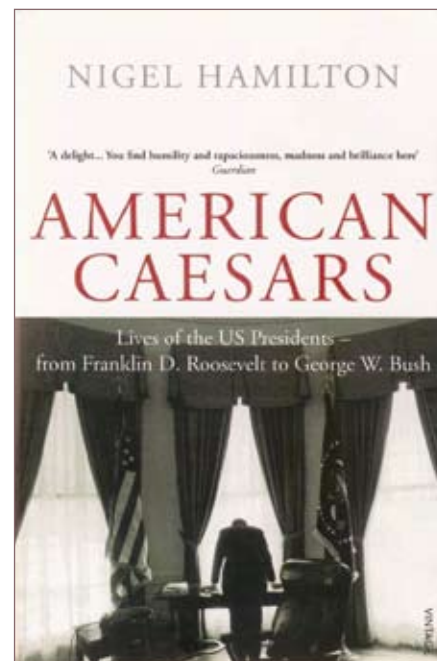
Likewise, Ronald Reagan undermined President Carter's attempt to end the Iran hostage crisis in 1980 by secretly telling Ayatollah Khomeini that if he waited for a change of president he could expect an "arms-for-hostages" deal.

Hamilton, the son of an editor of the London *Times*, was the prize-winning official biographer of Field Marshal Montgomery, and has also written books about Bill Clinton and the young J.F. Kennedy. He has the true biographer's skill in seeing his subjects as people first and politicians second. The overwhelming impression that the reader carries away is of men who were larger than life, in the best and the worst senses of the term.

Though we all know of Kennedy's and Clinton's philandering, how many are aware that President Johnson, who claimed that he had "had more women by accident than Kennedy had on purpose", was liable to take his penis out and ask startled visitors to admire its size, once saying, "I've got take ol' Jumbo here and give him some exercise"?

This was the man who was prepared to stake his tenure in the White House on the passage of one of the most enlightened pieces of legislation of the twentieth century, the Civil Rights Act, 1964, which arguably gave full meaning for the first time ever to the noble wording of the Declaration of Independence nearly two centuries earlier.

There are many comparable examples of wisdom, strength of mind and character and, from time to time, sheer, bloody intransigence in the face of what they saw as evil. Reagan's determination to roll back the power of communist totalitarianism was one, informed as it was by awareness of the Soviet idea of proportionate response to threat. Khrush-



**American Caesars**  
Nigel Hamilton  
Vintage £11.99

chev had justified aggressive diplomacy by writing in his memoirs: "We showed that anyone who slapped us on our cheek would get his head kicked off."

Of the twelve American Caesars, perhaps only Richard Nixon was capable of that sort of thuggish vindictiveness, and the reason, Hamilton says, was a sense of personal inferiority going back to childhood.

Perhaps the most interesting reflection provoked by this book is that of these twelve men, only the honest but naïve and ultimately unsuccessful Jimmy Carter was born into contented, affluent middle-class circumstances. Of the others, Roosevelt, Kennedy and the two Bushes grew up in the homes of multi-millionaires, while the remaining seven either could not afford a college education unaided because their fathers were absent or drunk, like Ford and Clinton, or they were so poor, like Truman, Eisenhower and Johnson, that they did not have indoor plumbing in their childhood homes. Richard Nixon had to walk barefoot to school carrying his shoes and socks in a paper bag to save wear and tear.

The only British Prime Minister to have experienced poverty of that sort was Ramsay MacDonald, who was in power during the quarter century between the achievement of full democracy and the end of Empire. But every Soviet leader after Lenin grew up like that, as did Vladimir Putin. **P**

# Pray in One Hand

## Fred Flintstone

In July, Fred prayed that this year Bedrock would be spared last summer's smoke and heat. But he took his old man's advice to "spit in one hand and pray in the other and see which one fills first." He headed for the land of corn-fed beef and peaches 'n' cream sweet corn with Wilma and Fred Jr—with empty bags. They were heading to a land free of the "corruption tax" that saddles Bedrock residents with exorbitant prices for almost everything.

The Flintstones stayed in a small fairy-tale of a town far from any city, without Bentleys, Audi 8s, Mercs, and Cayennes, though there were a few "vettes." The CEO of a hundred million dollar company drives a Prius, and it's not black. Farms are going organic, the mayor is green, and "sustainable" is the by-word. Wild beasts roam: deer, fox, owls, turkey, rabbits, and squirrels. On the back roads, drivers give each other a quick wave in passing, a "secret handshake" that let's the other know you belong.

Fred had to get used to hearing the words "thank you". People actually said "thanks" when Fred opened the door for them at the coffee shop. Shop owners and grocery clerks said "thanks for your business, come back soon." OK, so the "how are you" greetings and small talk about the weather can be a little much, but a quick "fine, and you" is a small price to pay for civility.

The door-lock thing also threw him: residents lock neither home nor car. The UPS delivery guy leaves your Amazon-ordered iPad on the porch, or inside your door (since it's open). If someone does lock, you'll be shown to location of the secret key above the door or in the umbrella stand on the porch.

Businesses don't have high security overhead. Flintstones never saw a shop security guard during the entire month and only occasionally a policeman. The once-a-week-or-so car accident makes the paper. The sheriff of a nearby town really was arrested and jailed for drunk driving.

For the equivalent of about 1000 roubles he got four corn-fed Amana steaks, a few brats, and a dozen ears of corn for the grill, a six-pack of Potosi Snake Hollow India Pale Ale, a pound of luscious Oxnard strawberries, and a half-gallon of Blue Bunny ice cream. Even a real Dutch brewed 750 ml Heineken cost the equivalent of 75 roubles—compare that with its weak sister, Bedrock-brewed 500 ml Heineken at almost the same price.

TV was a disappointment: there was not much to watch on the 500 or so channels. Anything interesting was constantly interrupted by what seemed to be the only TV advertising these days. First are the ads for pharmaceuticals, which with soft and soothing music and images of grandmothers and happy families, warn of side effects: heart attacks, sudden death, if you have an erection for more

than four hours call your physician. The second are ads from Texas lawyers suggesting "if you've ever taken such and such drug or medical treatment, call us in order to get you the compensation you deserve."

"Rabbi, is there a proper blessing for the Czar? Of course Lebish, 'May God bless and keep the Czar, (pause) far away from us.'" (Fiddler on the Roof)

Like the little village Anatevka in Fiddler on the Roof, Fred's village is part of a much bigger circle. During Fred's visit, leaders who hysterically led the country into a conflict ten years ago that for the first time in history was financed entirely by debt, created a new crisis. This one had the potential to escalate to a global catastrophe.

The rhetoric alarmed Fred. It trickled down to Fred's village. Normally intelligent people seemed to be streaming Internet webpages from their mouths. Even acquaintances, people with "green" and liberal credentials, said about default "bring it on". Fred knows from default, having seen the result of the 1992 collapse of the USSR and the 1998 crisis in Bedrock.

Back in the day, visitors brought suitcases of jeans and other hard-to-get goods to Bedrock. Goods are not longer hard to get in Bedrock, but the variety is limited and they're so damned expensive. Fred and family returned to Bedrock with suitcases full—a small happy ending to the fairy tale. **P**

## The queen's english theatre studio moscow

## 2011 AUDITIONS

### End of the Summer Auditions to join Queen's English Drama Club for the Sept-Dec 2011 Calendar Year\*:

#### Audition dates and details:

**Date: Sept 1st**  
**Time: 5pm-10pm**  
**Date: Sept 4th**  
**Time: 2pm-5pm**

**Place: Nina Chusova**  
**Theatre Studio(4B), 82/2 - Leninsky Prospect, 10**  
**(Nearest Metro: Universitet - Red Line)**

*\*Look at our 2011 Calendar and Promotional Packages for more details.*

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Starlight Diner, Bolotny Ploschad 16/5  
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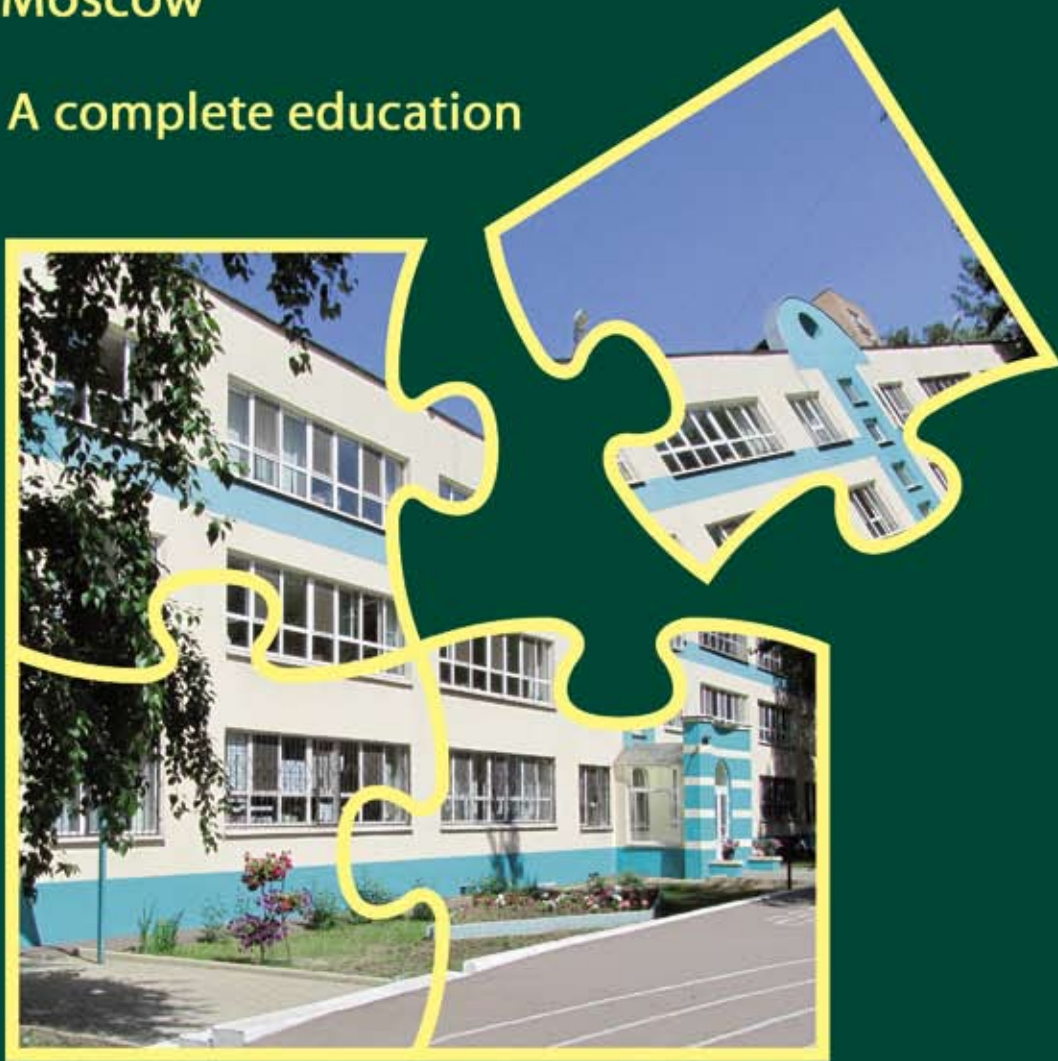


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