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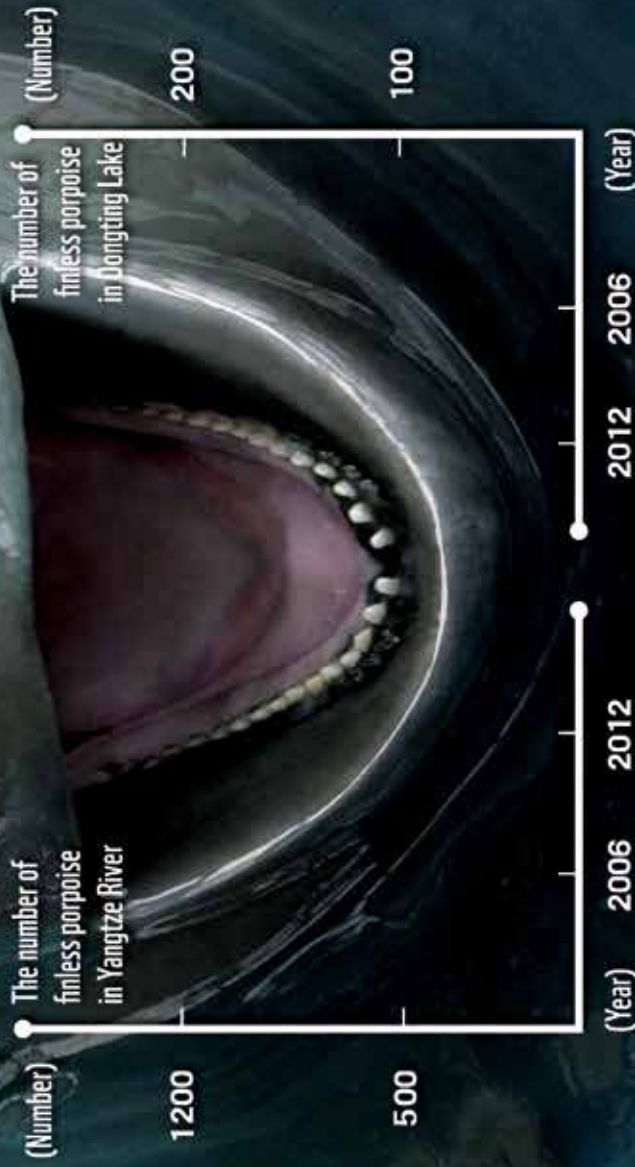


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EDITOR'S NOTE

AUGUST

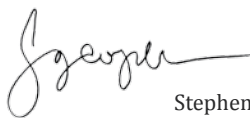
MAYBE IT'S THE COMPANY WE KEEP, OR MAYBE IT'S THE BARS WE FREQUENT, BUT JUST about everyone we meet this summer has a tattoo. From full sleeves, to indiscreet ankle patterns, tattoos appear to have slowly moved into the mainstream – but why?

In this special photo-led issue, we venture deep into Beijing's tattoo scene. From the 200-kuai-an-hour back-street joints, to state-of-the-art studios, we meet with some of the city's most creative and interesting tattoo artists (page 38) – and find out their views on tattooing in China.

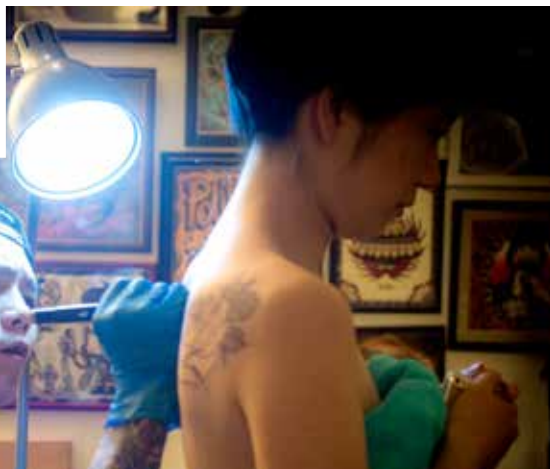
In honor of this issue, we handed the cover over to leading Beijing tattooist, 31-year-old Chacha [see below], whose work you can see more of on page 40.

Elsewhere in the magazine, Dominique Wong travels the entirety of the subway network to seek out the best in underground public art (page 10); Nicolas Olczak previews the forthcoming CAFA graduation exhibition (page 34); and Marianna Cerini meets the men behind the shady world of provincial beauty pageants (page 24).

Until next time,



Stephen George
Editor-in-Chief






Special thanks to Chacha, and our model Karoline Kan

DEALS

We're giving away tickets to some of the very biggest Beijing events, parties, openings, shows and talks throughout August, alongside a whole other host of free meals, drinks discounts and giveaways. All you have to do is scan the QR code below, follow us on **WeChat** and stay alert for your chance to win



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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Beauty is a primordial instinct. And we are feeding it through them”

Michael Rosenthal, national president of the Miss Earth beauty pageant, offers his unique take on female empowerment, page 25

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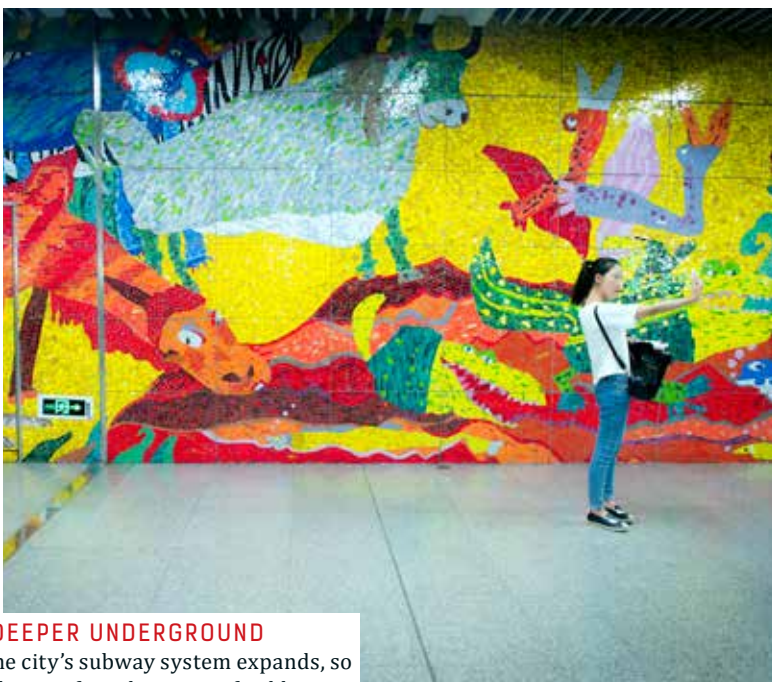


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THE WRAP

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We venture inside the city's leading tattoo studios and find out what it means to be a tattoo artist in China



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As the city's subway system expands, so too does its free showcase of public art. We go in search of the best works



34 WASTED YOUTH

Beijing's Central Academy of Fine Art prepares for its much anticipated annual graduation show

CITY



A SUBWAY LINE IN THE SAND

A subway car at Sihui East station is transformed into a beach for an advertising campaign, much to the indifference of line 1 commuters

A BITTER PILL

Are you in the business of selling wildly overpriced medicine to the elderly? Then you'd better watch out. Last month, police arrested 150 people operating the largest medical scam ever recorded in the city. Working out of seven bogus clinics, the fraudsters tricked seniors into buying otherwise inexpensive prescriptions for outrageous prices. It took 400 officers and a month-long investigation to break the case. Now that calls for a Xanax.

RANDOM NUMBER

1,000,000

is the maximum fine, in RMB, faced by Uniqlo, pending further investigation into the viral sex tape shot in its Sanlitun dressing room. The copulating couple – and any others involved – may themselves face punishment. Prison sentences of up to two years can be handed out to those creating or disseminating “obscene materials.”





WATER WE GOING TO DO?

For too long, Beijing has been a castle without a moat. But now city officials are mulling over a plan for a 230km network of waterways to reduce water pollution and improve ecological systems, which some are calling ‘ring roads of water.’ Detractors predict that these ‘roads’ will come with an unjustifiably large price tag, which is understandable given the recent (albeit effective) RMB500 billion effort to divert water from rivers in southern China to Beijing. At this point, though, the plan remains a far-fetched idea – only time will tell if it sinks or swims.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

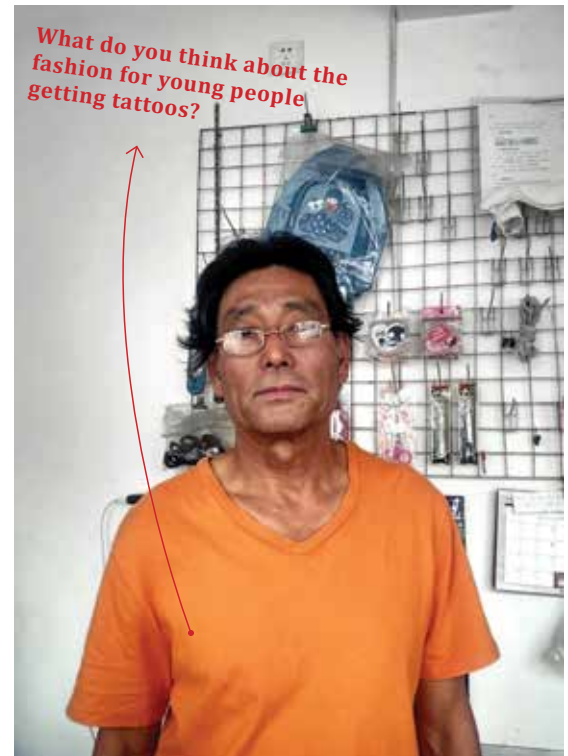
“If they think security was responsible for breaking the drone, they can file a complaint”

Wang Shiming, a security director at Tsinghua University, put an end to high-tech romantic gestures on campus after a student attempted to send his girlfriend a ring via drone. Tragically, Romeo’s airmail never made it to Juliet, as the university’s security intercepted the remote-controlled craft before it could make the delivery. Although drones are, in theory, allowed in Beijing’s non-controlled airspace, universities make their own rules.



ASK A LAOBEIJING

We met 64-year-old Zhang outside his convenience store in Yangmeizhu Xie Jie near Qianmen



“Young people’s tattoos don’t reflect Beijing culture. Back in the old times, tattoos were called *ciquing* (刺青). They were a mark to show your membership to an organization like a gang. It was these types of people who had tattoos. It was different to how it is now: over time, other countries’ styles influenced new designs of tattoos. Now it’s a dragon or phoenix or an eagle, but back then they were a symbol for gangs – like the head of a wild beast. The tattoos were usually of this kind: old animal heads or tails. It wasn’t common for people to get tattoos other than to show membership of a gang. Now it’s all about whether the tattoos look good, rather than a mark of a particular group.

The process has changed a lot. People would just do it themselves with a needle, and the tattoos were larger.

Personally I don’t like tattoos. And I think that no matter who you are, tattoos aren’t considered OK. But a lot of old Beijing people especially dislike tattoos as they are viewed as provocative. Nobody wants to be associated with a gang, which the tattoo is a symbol of. So whether you are an ordinary person, rich, at the top, in the middle, or at the bottom [of the hierarchy] the opinion is that tattoos are not acceptable.

Also, it used to be that if you have a tattoo you couldn’t enter the army. People in the army shouldn’t be allowed to have any tattoos. Even really small ones.”

As told to Dominique Wong

TALES OF THE CITY

We've all been to the Great Wall. If you haven't – and you're reading this in Beijing right now – what are you doing? Get up there before it disappears.

We kid not. An article in the *Beijing Times* made headlines around the world last month when it announced that roughly 30 percent of the manmade Ming dynasty-era Great Wall had disappeared.

This wasn't the first time journalists had written about the Great Wall's deterioration, but the scale – and the accompanying hard statistics – caused international consternation, with the news being reported in publications such as the *New York Times* and the *Guardian*.

According to the report, 22 percent of the original Ming dynasty wall is simply gone. (While sections of the wall pre-date the Ming, it was the Ming who created the wall in the iconic style we think of today –

the wide pathways and tall watchtowers of Mutianyu and Badaling.)

But how does a wall – a great wall – disappear?

According to the *Beijing Times*, China's national treasure is now being threatened by those closest to it. People from remote villages near the Wall have taken to stealing its ancient bricks, sometimes simply for construction material, but most often to sell on the black market. What should be an invaluable cultural treasure can be picked up for as little as RMB40 a block.

Elsewhere, the Wall's deterioration is a matter of erosion. And elsewhere still, Ming dynasty-era bricks have been replaced with cheap concrete in misguided attempts to 'restore' the Wall and market it to tourists. Some scholars including these faulty restorations in their calculations of how much of the Wall has disappeared.

Search online or crack open a *Lonely Planet*, and you'll find advice on where and how to hike the 'Wild Wall,' the unprotected sections that are most vulnerable to destruction. But these sections' wildness is both their charm and fatal flaw. Tourists, too, can cause damage to the ancient structure.

"Our historian always tries to advocate doing something good if you're on the Wild Wall," says Sarah Keenlyside of travel group Bespoke Beijing. "Picking up litter for example, and by that we don't just mean your own."

Some scholars take issue with the report, unsure of what unscientific methods led *Beijing Times* to declare that a fifth of the Wall is gone.

But no scholars disagree with the fact that great (Great?) swaths of the Wall are, indeed, disappearing.

Noelle Mateer



PHOTO BY STEPHEN GEORGE



Modern Dilemmas,
Age-Old Wisdom

WHAT WOULD CONFUCIUS DO



Q I recently noticed that one of my friends has scars on her arms and wrists. Worried that she had been self-harming, I asked her about it and she said that she would only explain if I promised not to tell anyone. She revealed that she sometimes feels depressed, but that she only cuts herself “for the excitement of it.” She refuses to seek help and I’m worried about her. I think that I should tell someone who can guide her, but I also feel that I should honor the promise I made. What should I do?

A Greetings. If truth be told, you have already broken your promise because you told me about your friend’s situation. I’m also ‘someone,’ am I not? But the real question is whether you can be branded a traitor for helping a friend?

In the *Analects* (chapter 7), one of Confucius’ most loyal disciples, Zigong, asks him about the two princes, Boyi and Suqi. “What kind of people are they?” he enquires. In response, Confucius says: “They are some of the most gallant of their time.”

Zigong then asks: “These two men are humble and will not accept the position of King – do you think they will regret this?” Confucius replied: “They search for true moral compassion, and they acquired true compassion, so what would they regret?”

I think you are someone who both possesses, and is in search of, compassion. This search is, according to Confucius, one of the most valuable goals in human life. However, your situation is not so simple because Confucius also emphasized the

importance of loyalty, asking: “How can you be a person if you are not loyal to your word?” (*Analects*, chapter 2).

Ultimately, he still valued compassion above loyalty. But the two are not unrelated. Compassion should encompass loyalty and, in turn, loyalty should mean providing support and compassion.

You face two difficult choices. But in writing to me, your actions prove you know what should be done. To truly help your friend, you must tell either a doctor or experts who can help. You may feel conflicted about telling others, but doing the right thing means breaking your promise. She will eventually come to see the true form of loyalty wrapped up in your betrayal.

Wang Xuejun is a lecturer at Beijing Language and Culture University, specializing in Chinese culture. His most recent book is entitled *Teaching Methods of Chinese Language and Traditional Culture*. Send your ethical dilemma for Professor Wang to bjeditor@urbanatomy.com

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Beijing Zoo's (动物园) fanciful animal murals differ slightly in their make-up (mosaic vs. paint) but all convey a healthy dose of fun and adventure

TUNNEL VIS

The Artwork You Walk
Past Every Day and
Never Notice

photos by Holly Li
words by Dominique Wong



ION

So you've already been to 798, and Caochangdi seems like too big a journey. But what if you didn't even have to take a taxi to get your fill of art? What if you never even had to leave the subway station?

It may seem counter-intuitive, but going underground is a great way to catch a glimpse of Beijing culture. As the city's subway system has grown more ambitious – expanding from just two lines and 41 stations in 2002 to 18 lines and 319 stations in 2015 – so too has its public art.

The first attempt at installing art into the subway system came in 1984, with murals introduced to lines 1 and 2. The tiled frescos span the length of the train platforms and depict scenes from imperial China, the best example of which might be in Chaoyangmen, where the station walls bear images of men transporting grain from the Grand Canal to local Chaoyang granaries.

Things moved on quickly, and by the mid-2000s, with the city confirmed to host the 2008 Summer Olympics, a team from the Chinese Academy of Fine Arts (CAFA) was commissioned to design several new subway line spaces (most notably lines 4, 8, 14, and 15).

Led by the academy's deputy director Wang Zhong, the new station designs incorporated elements of visual communication, architecture, landscape, digital media and public art.

Wang's aim was to transform the stations from areas of decoration to interactive areas. The results of the academy's effort range from triumphant modern art pieces to the more subtle integration of traditional Chinese architectural components. As Wang explains: "Subway art has become an important way to retain memories of Beijing. It has the ability to connect the history of the city to its future."

Liudaokou (六道口)

The art on line 15 is subtler than other lines, dominated by architectural touches and decorative flourishes. There is more of a focus on ambience and flow than pieces attracting immediate attention. Take the red columns in Cuigezhuang for example, where the top of each column features a seal script – a neat nod to Chinese artists past and present. The room structure of Maquanying is akin to a hollowed-out window, a typical Chinese building style. Anlilu and Liudaokou follow a gold and yellow color theme with a focus on unique lighting that is best appreciated after dark. Late at night, devoid of people, Liudaokou is like a ballroom during supertime. It's quiet with little movement apart from the candle flames flickering within chandelier-esque light fixtures suspended from the ceiling.



Nanluoguxiang (南锣鼓巷)

The entire design of NLGX station reflects the area it represents – traditional and familiar – but skillfully adds a modern touch of its own by using over 4,000 amber glass unit cells, which are configured to show an everyday scene in NLGX. Titled *Memories of Beijing*, it's not so much the glass units that are spectacular – although they are in their own right – but what's inside them. Inside each glass block is a treasure provided by people living in Beijing: a commemorative badge, food stamp, thimble, bead or photo. People can scan a QR code next to a treasure, enabling them access to a story and video, or more information about the project.

Dongfeng Beiqiao (东风北桥)

The CAFA creative team invited internationally renowned artists Professor Philip Pan and Professor Shana Chang to create two traditional Chinese paintings for Dongfeng Beiqiao station. The result is a butterfly and floral painting brushed with light pink and dark green against a pristine white backdrop. Beside it, there is an equally striking abstract black and white painting, taking on layered woody shades apparently inspired by Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



Wangjing (望京)

Wangjing, or 'Korea Town' as it's also known, plays host to three different art works, each situated opposite the three sets of stairs and escalators that descend into the subway from the main concourse. The theme for the art works is 'urban leisure life.' Each piece comprises a number of cubes that combine to create a scene, similar to a pixelated screen of an old video game.

There's a pig-tailed girl holding balloons atop a suitcase in the clouds (*a la* the movie *Up*), a boy in a hot air balloon peering through binoculars, and a Super Mario style platform game, replete with skyhigh mushrooms. The color theme for the station is blue and white, with square inset shapes set along the walls.



Xisi (西四)

Xisi features a tiled wall mural displaying a bevy of characters interacting in a market bazaar, an activity that was common in the area more than 700 years ago.





Olympic Green (奥林匹克公园)

Contrast this with Olympic Green station, which unashamedly wears its Olympic and nationalistic pride on its sleeve – or rather, its walls, ceilings, and everywhere in between. Steel-like silhouettes and an Olympic torch flame cut a powerful image along the subway wall, while Chinese flag imagery features heavily, with red and gold being the standard colors of choice. Created by artists Wu Dingyu and Cui Donghui, the *One World, One Dream* theme was designed to instill a sense of ‘strength, solidarity and belonging’ among the people of Beijing and China.

Futong (阜通)

One Person, One Drawing by artist Wang Zhong is a collection of over 100 tiled images that have been cut into round or square shapes of monomer. Each image is the work of different individuals, who were encouraged to design an image “from the heart.” It’s effective from afar and even more so up close: a handprint, an open window, a black cloud in a white sky, a village mountain scene and tear-stained eyes.

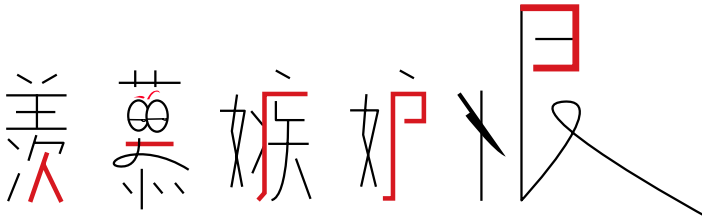
Line 4 (四号线)

Line 4 is the 'pulse' of the city: it runs from north to south, passing through Haidian, Fengtai, Xuanwu and Xicheng districts for a total length of 28.2km. Artists from CAFA designed eight sites on line 4, offering the artwork as a gift for its opening in 2009, which coincided with the 60th anniversary of the founding of the PRC.

Perhaps more than any other line, the artwork on line 4 embodies the rich cultural and historical background of Beijing. There are shades of the humanities, science and technology, and people in the different artworks. A mural exhibition show was held at the Beijing National Library Station for one month in 2010 and a long-term exhibition area has since been set up at Beigongmen so more members of the public can discover the stories behind the images.

**Xiyuan (西苑)**

A black stencil mural at Xiyuan – simple in execution but rich in its depiction of mythical Chinese folklore.



xianmu jidu hen \xiàn mù jì dù hèn\ 羡慕嫉妒恨 *n. The combined feelings of envy, jealousy and hatred.*

A My goal was to have a better life than all my friends and make them feel intense xianmu jidu hen toward me.

Have you succeeded? **B**

A Yes. But now I have no friends.

I have lots of friends. **B**

A I'm so full of xianmu jidu hen right now.

Known by some as ‘mental cancer,’ ‘the rust eating at iron’ or ‘the tribute that mediocrity pays to genius,’ jealousy is one of our most primordial emotions. We are all familiar with it

and we all suffer from it. But whatever you want to call it, we can all agree that jealousy feels lousier – and is more difficult to come to terms with – than most other negative emotions.

In China, where population density can lead to greater levels of emotional intensity, jealousy is only too common. Living in close quarters with other humans makes it easier to compare ourselves to them. And since no-one can ‘have it all,’ even the best-off among us find themselves jealous of those possessing the one thing they don’t. The rich are jealous of the famous, who are jealous of the good-looking, who are jealous of the best-dressed, who are jealous of the well-connected, who are jealous of the ones in power. The chain never ends.

But jealousy is never a simple emotion. It is a multi-layered tapestry of frustration, shame, anger, fear, anxiety, hatred and self-loathing. It is the manifestation of your frustration with failure, the shame of inferiority, a hatred of other people’s good fortune, and the injustice of others getting more than they deserve. As such, we need the

term *xianmu jidu hen* to unite envy, jealousy and hatred into one all-encompassing bundle of bitterness.

The phrase also acts as a scale to help us understand this wide-ranging emotion. If jealousy were a collection of paint swatches, it would begin with a lavender shade of envy – light and innocent enough. As the jealousy intensifies, however, the emotion turns darker until it looks and feels just like pure hatred – a bottomless jet black.

So where do you fall on the scale of *xianmu jidu hen*? Or do you swallow up all three into one messed-up ball of yarn? In any case, stop looking at your friends’ WeChat Moments and remember – *xianmu jidu hen* makes victims of both the jealous and those who they’re jealous of.

By day, **Mia Li** is a news reporter in Beijing; at night, she tries to turn that news into standup comedy.



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LIFE & STYLE

COVET

Travel Essentials

'Tis the season to build up your frequent flier miles. Make sure to do so in style with these travel pillows by NLGX. Boasting graphics and patterns inspired by traditional Chinese fabrics and fret-designs, they feature a U-shaped memory foam, washable and removable pillow cover, neck snap button for added comfort, and a travel clip to attach them to your bag while on the road. Perfect to achieve maximum coziness and show some real panache among fellow travelers. RMB168.

> Available at at Beijing Capital Airport Terminals 2 and 3 (www.nlgxdesign.com)



Ring Power



Hannah Ren is a brand to watch. The Beijing-based designer (who appeared as one of the capital's best-dressed ladies in this very section last month) is known for her edgy aesthetic and contemporary designs. Her latest collection, 'Signet Rings for Girls,' is one you want to get your hands on (literally). Each silver- or gold-plated ring features an inspirational or humorous quote, sentence or motto (we like 'I don't do normal') and packs attitude aplenty. A spinoff collection, 'Signet Rings for EVERYONE,' includes a ring sporting Dick Butt on it. Need we say more? RMB485 each.

> www.etsy.com, hannah-ren.taobao.com. Hannah also makes custom-made wedding and engagement pieces.

SPOTLIGHT

Pilar Escuder and Ray Wu, Co-Founders, Aotu Studio



PHOTO BY HOLLY LU

— Tell us about your background.

Pilar: I studied fine arts in Spain for five years and, after traveling through Europe, I moved to Beijing in 2011. I have always been interested in contemporary art as well as fashion design and ecology.

Ray: I've been chopping hair since 2002. I worked for a big hair salon chain for a while, then Aotu happened.

— How did you meet and how did Aotu Studio come about?

Pilar: We met at now-defunct co-working space Home Shop. I was an artist in residence there, Ray was looking to start his own business. We decided to partner up and open Aotu, which is a platform for interdisciplinary projects, emerging artists and international collaborations. The philosophy of the studio is to be a multifunctional art space and boutique hair salon, where

you can also grab a coffee.

— How does Beijing influence your life and work?

Pilar: Beijing is a hugely multicultural city. You can meet new people and find new projects pretty much on a daily basis. In that sense, it's very stimulating for anyone working in the creative world. Beijing never stops, it has a rhythm that's very fast and intense. I think my overall lifestyle has changed because of that – I live in time to a more fast-paced beat.

Ray: I like to think that Beijing influences me and I influence Beijing. The city is so international. Change is a constant aspect of it, from its people to its places, and that has had a huge impact on me as a person.

— Your style in three words.

Ray and Pilar: Less is more.

— Favorite places to hang out in Beijing (besides Aotu).

Pilar: I like going to the city's parks, and enjoying the peace and quiet.

Ray: I don't really have a favorite place in the city. I think you can find interesting new spots every day.

— If you could collaborate with any artist, local or international, who would that be?

Pilar: Miranda July. I'd love to showcase one of her installations or performances.

— What have you got planned for the coming months?

Pilar: Watch out for new exhibitions from contemporary artists, both local and international, as well as some workshops and summer-related events.

— Summer in Beijing is...

Ray and Pilar: Too much fun.
> 67 Beixinqiao Toutiao, Dongcheng 东城区北新桥头条 67 号



MADE IN CHINA

Green is the new Black

As we've written many times before, 'ethical fashion' is a tricky term. Even if you don't think they are contradictory concepts, the question remains: Which comes first, the ethics or the fashion?

Beijing-based label Made by Mir claims to have found the perfect balance of both.

Started by US designer and long-term capital city resident Miranda Millet, the label strives to "keep the whole focus on style as well as sustainability."

A fond supporter of eco-fashion, Millet uses recycled materials and textiles sourced

around Asia (her first collection was made in Bali by local craftspeople) to create unique totes, necklaces, rings and bracelets. Each of her items weaves regional ethnic motifs with sustainable touches, allowing the ascetic ('ethical') and the aesthetic ('fashion') to cohabit. Canvas bags are sprayed with titanium dioxide, which purifies

the surrounding air when exposed to pollution (take that, gray Beijing days!) while the jewellery range features reclaimed leather tassels, upcycled beads and fossilized stones.

In a world where some 11 million tons of textile waste goes to landfills every year (and that's for the US alone), Made by Mir's sustainable concept is a welcome change. And so are the designs: edgy, fun and attention-grabbing, they make for pieces you'll want to keep for a very, very long time. Totes from RMB200, jewellery RMB50-800.

UNDER THE LENS

Hu Bing

The 45-year-old Chinese top male model – who just happens to be a former Olympic rower, a part-time singer and one of China's best-known actors – was recently appointed by the British Fashion Council as brand ambassador for UK menswear. The title – a canny attempt to build stronger relationships between luxury British fashion and one of its biggest markets – saw Hu take center stage at London Collection Man (LCM, basically male fashion week) last month, where he shared his knowledge of the Chinese fashion industry, wore lots of British designers and looked incredibly hot talking to media.



OVERHEARD



"IN THE PAST, I REALLY WANTED TO DO EVERYTHING I COULD TO AVOID SCARING PEOPLE"

Zhang Shifan, a Qingdao-based designer of 'facekinis,' the balaclava-style headpiece that's become hugely popular on Chinese beaches, where female crowds prefer a fair, pale complexion as opposed to a tanned look. Zhang, who owns a swimwear shop, has become known for making facekinis featuring eye-popping colors and prints inspired by traditional Peking Opera, leading to counterfeits appearing in beachside resorts across the country.



1



2



3

For Her

1
Topshop
RMB504
> www.topshop.com

2
H&M
RMB299
> www.hm.com

3
Asos
RMB172.42
> www.asos.com

4
Zara
RMB399
> www.zara.cn

5
Asos
RMB206.90
> www.asos.com

6
Pull & Bear
RMB199
> www.pullandbear.com



4

PERFECT SOLE

by Marianna Cerini



5



6



1



2

Summer's Bestpadrilles

The once unloved and humble espadrille is this season's high fashion must-have, appearing on the catwalk for both Chanel and Valentino, as well as on the feet of every hot fashion blogger out there. And we can see why. For gals, they're great if you haven't quite got that summer pedi in order. For guys, they're a hot weather staple (all other men's sandals invariably look like oversized plastic shoes for children).

So this month, we've picked our favorites. You can wear them well into September too. So, what are you waiting for? Rock them while they're hot.



3

For Him

1
Mulo
RMB999
> www.mrporter.com

2
H&M
RMB149
> www.hm.com

3
Castaner
RMB765
> www.mrporter.com

4
Zara
RMB199
> www.zara.cn

5
Zara
RMB199
> www.zara.cn

6
H&M
RMB199
> www.hm.com



4



5



6

SCENE & HEARD

words by Marianna Cerini



1 OLD NAVY

For those born in the good ol' U.S. of A., Old Navy has long been the go-to spot for true bargain shopping. First launched in 1994, the least expensive chain in the Gap empire always offers relatively stylish, affordable clothing and accessories, often taking a product and making it in every size and color of the rainbow possible for customers of every age. The label has now debuted in our very own city with a two-story flagship in U-Town. Venturing in, you'll find racks and racks of the latest fashion essentials, from skinny jeans to tank tops, cold-beating outerwear and workout gear (RMB69-199). As with all fast fashion, quality isn't always good, and some items – shoes (except for flip-flops), jersey knit dresses and handbags – just aren't worth the price. But stick to the basics and you'll be in for a steal.

> F1-21, Bldg 2, U-Town Lifestyle Center, Sanfeng Beili, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝外大街三丰北里 2 号 F1-21 层 (8572 8060)

2 R FACTORY

There's a definite retro-slant to R Factory boutique showroom on Xinsi Hutong. Entering the space – which is strictly by appointment only, and hidden behind an inconspicuous and sign-less door – is like stepping into a secret boudoir. Soft lighting and dark wood create the perfect background to display the brand's signature items – bags on bags on bags – while making for a private and secretive setting. Inspired by 50s and 60s aesthetics, R Factory crafts leather totes and clutches that focus on the more exclusive, grown-up side of retro.

Though the only affordable items may be the dim lightbulbs illuminating the space (we're kidding, they aren't on sale) the showroom is a beautiful piece of fashion, with an artfully curated display of the brand's finest products. Upstairs, designer Wu Yingnan has her own studio, plus a cozy fitting room where long term customers can just come and while away their afternoon.

> 27 Xinsi hutong, Dongcheng 东城区辛寺胡同 27 号 (call 87 184 060 to book an appointment)

3 BRIO

If you've been here for a while, you know there isn't exactly a wealth of choice out there for Beijing's fashionable chaps. Well, things are a-changin'. Enter Brio. Opened by former financier George Wang – a Hong Kong native with a penchant for custom-made tailoring – the store is a 300sqm haven of all things bespoke for men, from handmade shoes to ties, suits and shirts. It's a rare pleasure to be able to enthuse about a stylish boutique, with a beautiful shop fit and a perfectly edited selection of quality garments, but this place nails it. Every item on display is of the highest quality – there's no corner-cutting here – while an astonishing selection of fabrics and linings means your suit can be as basic (or as swish) as you like. To make it even more of a treasure trove for guys who want, or need, to look dapper, Wang has built something of a relaxing man cave downstairs, equipped with plush sofas, magazines and a barbershop. Suits are around RMB40,000 for custom-made, RMB25,000 for ready-to-wear.

> 8 Xindong Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区新东路 8 号 (1388 3409 280)



Kafka | 22

PORTRAIT OF CHINA

words by Marianna Cerini
image by Holly Li

I'd love to sing professionally one day.

I am a waitress. I am from Henan but have been living in Beijing for almost six years now.

It's OK - it can be a bit daunting but there are lots of opportunities here.

I am a big rock'n'roll fan. And I love punk. The Clash are like my favorite band. I can even play some of their songs a little.



by Marianna Cerini

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF PAGEANTRY

The Rise, and Rise of Chinese Beauty Contests



In the world of Chinese pageantry, the word 'amazing' gets repeated a lot. The contestants are amazing. The opportunities generated by the event are amazing. The sponsors are amazing. The people in the room are amazing. Even opponents and critics (of which there are surprisingly few) are amazing.

"We are here today because we hope we can start something together... something *amazing*," announces national president of the Miss Earth pageant, Michael Rosenthal.

American-born Rosenthal is hosting a 'VIP luncheon' in Zhangjiang, on the outskirts of Shanghai, to promote a competition being held in the city later this summer.

"This is a pageant with a difference," he continues. "It's a platform for women to learn about charities, culture and other issues. We did a tree-planting last week and have a bike ride planned next week. We want you and your companies to be part of this amazing event."

A murmur of agreement passes through the varied – and somewhat random – group of potential investors assembled around the table.

"We will show you the value we can offer you. Our sponsors are very dear to us. You will be more than just a logo."

Beauty pageants such as Miss Earth might appear all smiles, swimsuits and tiaras, but they require money, investment and, in China, a significant amount of *guanxi* (social capital). For those able to secure the necessary deals – and navigate the often corrupt network of business interests that underlie them – the financial rewards can be huge.

Last year, there were over 300 pageants held throughout China. Equal to almost one pageant a day. Titles ranged from Miss Bikini of the Universe and Miss Famous Model of China, to Miss Beautiful Fairy and Miss International Coconut Festival.

Though contests rarely charge applicants for entry – legitimate competitions rarely do – the likes of Miss Long Leg and Miss Honest Smile often require hefty 'enrollment fees' from participants that can run into the tens of thousands of yuan.

As with beauty contests worldwide, girls who apply are seeking fame, the opportunity to launch a career in television (many former beauty queens in China go on to become TV presenters or anchorwomen), or the chance to receive free professional training (international pageants often offer month-long courses in the run-up to the finale, including etiquette, fitness, psychology and makeup). Some have 'benefactors' who want to push them in the entertainment industry. Some aim to go international. Others are simply there to make up the numbers, drafted into competitions where the winner has already been determined.

Shenzhen-based entrepreneur Mike Bai,

a onetime pageant promoter who asked us not to name his former company, tells us that the pursuit of beauty – and the girls themselves – are merely a front for what is really a complex web of mutual business interests.

"The profit margin on a single event is normally between 30 to 35 percent of total sponsorship," he says. "Companies that hold contests also have a slew of other deals and ventures going on the side. Pageants just offer the chance to build contacts for those activities, particularly in China."

"It's a big self-promoting scheme. The individuals or companies behind the pageants are mostly in it to boost their names or brands. Most pageants are massively corrupt – especially the smaller ones."

Inevitably, smaller pageants tend to take place away from the glare of the central government in smaller second- and third-tier cities, Bai explains.

"People who organize beauty pageants in provincial towns and cities are well recognized members of their business communities. They have relations with the local government, with media; they interact with police and mafia. They are hustlers. And they organize contests because they have this network and want to use it for their own purposes. The money they make from sponsorship and such goes, mostly, into their pockets, not to the event itself."

A key means of generating sponsorship is to register your own pageant organizations abroad, or buy the franchise for international contests ("That way, you can be identified as a 'world-class event,'" claims Bai). Franchise contracts typically run for three to five years, with each beauty contest holder required to pay back annual fees to the 'mother' brand. Many Chinese pageant companies do so by sub-franchising the name to smaller business in provinces like Anhui or Liaoning. These, in turn, sub-franchise by city, prefecture or school – hence the mushrooming of 'Misses' across the country.

"There is no real supervision in China," says Bai. "More and more organizations are claiming the rights to 'global' contests, even though they don't have any. It's completely chaotic. Things have come so far that having legitimacy doesn't even matter anymore. Any title goes. And the scheme goes on."

Deputy Director of SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies) China Institute in London, Dr. Liu Jieyu, has monitored the rise of pageantry in China and views beauty contests as a natural continuation of the country's economic reforms.

"The post-Mao era saw a rejection of the practice of erasing gender differences that had characterized the Cultural Revolution," says Dr. Liu. "Pageantry and Western approaches to femininity became quite enticing as a way to 're-sexualize' women, and offer them a chance for glamour and wealth. Local governments, on their part, began embracing the idea of using beauty to promote tourism and foster opportunities for Chinese and overseas businesses."

The town of Xitang, in Zhejiang province, saw its tourism revenue quadruple after it held the China finals for the Miss World Tourism pageant in 2004, 2005 and 2006. The local government invested some RMB3.5 million a year to organize the event, with the increase in tourism revenue believed to have run into the hundreds of millions of yuan. Similarly, the beach resort city of Sanya has seen a dramatic increase in tourist numbers over the period that it hosted the Miss World finals (on five occasions between 2003 and 2010). Although this

"People who organize beauty pageants in provincial towns and cities are well recognized members of their business community. They have relations with the local government, with media, they interact with police and mafia. They are hustlers"





rise cannot be directly attributed to the competition, the millions in public money spent paving roads and building facilities for the event hint at the potential returns.

But Chinese authorities were not always so enthusiastic about the idea of bikini-clad contestants parading themselves. In 1993, when the Miss World beauty pageant commanded 1.8 billion viewers worldwide, the front page of the state-run *Beijing Youth Daily* published an article titled: 'Peking University women reject beauty pageants.' The piece slammed beauty contests as objectifying women and received widespread support from readers.

"People born in the 50s were skeptical about the format of these competitions at first," says Dr. Liu. "But sure enough, China has been quick to adapt its outlook."

Today, it's not just a swimwear parade followed by a gown number and a Q&A session. Depending on the pageant and the networks which promoters want to reach, girls may be required to strut up a mountain wearing nothing but a bikini, show off their talents with dancing or singing routines, or wear fairy costumes referencing Chinese folklore tales.

Each competition uses different ways to stand out from the others. Miss Earth China – which was first launched in 2002 before attorney-turned-pageant-director Michael Rosenthal bought the franchise in 2013 – differentiates itself by organizing year-long events that span charity, voluntary work and environmental initiatives.

Participants in Miss Earth don't have to be models, claims Rosenthal, just "slightly above average." In Zhangjiang, where he's attempting to run a provincial-level contest, the organization has teamed up with a local business park to get young women from companies such as HP or General Electric to enter.

At the end of the year, a final show will be held in Shanghai, and the national winner named. Victory will mean a chance to represent China at the international contest for Miss Earth.

Despite the pageant's positive social message, none of the projects that these girls participate in influence their final score. The winner is decided on the closing night, like any other beauty contest. And, as with any other beauty contest, a bikini performance is a must.

It's hard to see a connection between saving trees and flaunting a swimsuit in front of an audience, but Rosenthal says the bikini section is part of the arrangement: "It's in the contract I signed with

Miss Earth, and there's nothing I can do about it."

For some of the contestants, the mandatory section isn't such a big deal. Current contestant Xie Yi, tells me that she doesn't mind the bikini part. "You've got to go into the competition with the right mind set. It's about beauty and you have to show what beauty is."

Others are less comfortable with the idea. Xiang Yang, who goes by the English name of Lisa and was the winner of Miss Earth China 2013, is now helping to promote the event alongside Rosenthal. She tells me that she found the idea of wearing a swimsuit upsetting.

"Even now, I don't like thinking about it. But there's nothing I could have done – it's part of the competition and you have to follow the rules if you want a chance to win."

When I ask both girls what made them decide to enter the pageant, I get pretty much the same answer: "Miss Earth isn't just about beauty," says Xiang. "It includes a lot of responsibilities and communication skills. It's a great platform."

Xie Yi agrees: "I like the environmental side of it, and how involved we are in the local community."

Maybe they are being sincere. Maybe they really think the pageant isn't just about looks and beauty. But their enthusiasm feels a little artificial, as if they are reciting lines by heart. And no-one seems to have a good explanation for how a bikini fits with the "let's save the planet" message.

So if the whole thing is just a big marketing stunt, what's really in it for them? Perhaps aware of her PR duties, Xiang presents a textbook answer.

"More and more Chinese girls are confident enough to show themselves off now, and they're getting more active and open-minded. Beauty pageants offer a way to shine," she explains. "Of course there's the issue of objectifying women. But as society develops, I believe we're going to play a bigger role in it and be worthy of greater respect. Plus, everyone likes watching pretty girls – myself included."

Rosenthal shares her message of empowerment.

"Amazing training, amazing networking, amazing times with other girls," he offers. "Beauty is a primordial instinct. And we are feeding it through them. It's an *amazing* opportunity." ■

Additional research by Tongfei Zhang

BODY AND SOLE

A Foot Massage at Sanlitun's Oriental Taipan

The need for a massage can strike at any time – sometimes inopportunistically and often without warning. But whether you succumb to the after-work respite, the post-shopping wind-down, or the zen party prep, Oriental Taipan's new branch couldn't be more conveniently located. Having recently moved from Xindong Lu in April, the massage chain's latest location is in the heart of Sanlitun. But once inside, you would never have guessed.

Housing around 30 massage rooms, the three-floor building is a fort of tranquillity in an otherwise sterile locale. It may be a muggy Beijing day but, once inside, we are transported to a peaceful boudoir of dim lighting and low-hanging drapes.

It is clear from the outset that customer service is high on the agenda. From the chorus of staff greetings that meet us at every turn, to the selection of free herbal teas and seasonal drinks, we couldn't feel more at home. We head to the second floor, which is dedicated to foot and body massage. (On the third floor you'll find facial/spa

services, and on the first, a range of other treatments, including nail spa and scalp treat.)

Traversing this concrete jungle can take its toll on one's feet, so we opt for the full 75-minute foot massage (RMB228/268/328 depending on experience – theirs not yours). As we enjoy a preparatory soak, our masseuse works the knots lingering deep in our shoulders. It's good enough to warrant a return visit for our aching backs alone.

Our diligent masseuse promptly moves onto our feet which, if truth be told, aren't used to being seen, let alone touched. He jumps right in – undeterred by our calloused soles – and works each area of our feet and ankles, expertly combining strength and gentleness. The padded chairs can be reclined at the press of a button and we find ourselves inhabiting a space somewhere between the waking world and sleep; aware



of each deft movement of the masseuse but also very much in another place altogether.

Our time is up and we emerge into the Sanlitun maze lighter of foot. Thankfully you can do the same without being lighter of pocket – prices are reasonable, with an hour-long full body massage for RMB228-328. And if you visit during happy hour (Mon-Fri before 5pm), you can enjoy a 20 percent discount on all services (members only).

Daily, noon-midnight; Bldg 69, 4 Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang 北京市朝阳区工体北路4号院69号楼 南三里屯路机电研究院西门 (8590 9599)

BIN HAI SHERATON, DIRECTOR OF SALES AND MARKETING, SUSAN LIU

Beijing's neighbor Tianjin is upping its game. Last year, the municipality accounted for around 10 percent of China's GDP according to officially released figures. The Bin Hai New Area, Tianjin's business hub, is a major economic driver – and one that continues to grow, year-on-year.

But at the Bin Hai Sheraton, it's all business as usual.

The hotel's Director of Sales and Marketing, Susan Liu, tells us that operating a CBD five-star hotel is very different from offering a luxury business experience in a financial suburb.

"The difference is essentially our different clientele. Here in Bin Hai we cater much more to the business person on a work related trip. That is the majority of our customers; middle aged, educated business people who know what they want from us," says Liu.

"Bin Hai is mainly a business area, so technically speaking, there are fewer potential customers than in the city center. But with the number of international

businesses in the area on the rise, there is a growing need for high quality services that meet an international business standard, to serve the steady flow of business customers on business trips from all over China – and even abroad."

That's not to say the hotel has its sights solely set on the business market.

"A challenge we have face here in Bin Hai is the local mentality. Most people feel that a five-star hotel is just a place for the rich and famous, or a place to stay when on a paid business trip. What we have been trying to do is alter people's expectations of what a luxury business hotel can be," explains Liu.

"If we can create demand in the local populace, then we will effectively create a niche in the market, beyond the business community."

This strategy of reaching out is already making good business sense.

"We have seen an increase in people hiring function rooms not only for business meetings, but also for weddings, annual business parties, birthdays and even the

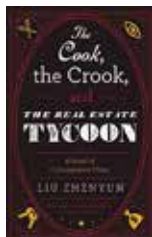


traditional party held when a new-born reaches 100 days. We showcase these and let the general public know that we can cater to these events, raising their awareness of the hotel service industry. It's important for them to know that we have much more than just super comfy Sweet Sleeper Beds for tired business people!"

At the beginning of June the hotel held a large Childrens' day event and will open its doors for a full week at the end of June for an Asia Food Festival. Their schedule will remain busy all throughout the Summer to keep the heat on their centrally located business competitors.

No. 50, 2nd Avenue, TEDA, Binhai New Area, Tianjin 天津滨海新区天津经济技术开发区第二大街50号 (022 6528 8888)

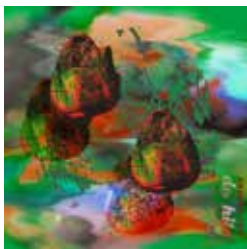
WHAT'S NEW



Award-winning Chinese novelist Liu Zhenyun secures his first English translation with the uproarious *The Cook, the Crook and the Real Estate Tycoon*. Centering around the dark world of stolen goods, the plot romps wryly through contemporary Beijing, merging the worlds of migrant workers and the city's super-rich. It's available through Arcade Publishing and online via Amazon from Aug 4.



Youthful Beijing quartet Bedstars have become underground favorites with a classic rock 'n' roll spirit that evokes Johnny Thunders, the Rolling Stones at their booziest, and Beijing punk-rockers Joyside. Released on Maybe Mars, debut album *Wet Hearts & Dry Vomit* is a perfect blend of hard alcohol and strong hormones. This soundtrack to a boozy summer is available at <http://downloads.maybemars.org>



Howie Lee and the Do Hits crew are back, with *Do Hits Vol.2*. Featuring four producers and a host of international MCs, the 11-track compilation boasts some of the biggest and sickest DJ names in the Chinese game, including ZHI 16, Conrank and Bloodz Boi. Get on it. Launch party, DADA, Aug 7



DRUMROLL

Mr C

Tech house pioneer Mr C rose to fame with *The Shamen*, when single 'Ebenezer Goode' topped the UK charts in 1992 (complete with subtle, and not-so-subtle, allusions to rave culture). We caught up with him ahead of his show at Dada this month.

— **Your songs are laden with double meanings - which ones did you manage to slip through?**

With 'Ebenezer Goode,' as we know, all you need to do is take away the letter 'h' from the word 'he' in the verses and all is explained. 'Boss Drum' was about altered states of consciousness via rhythm, body work and percussive sounds - which are in your brainwaves - to connect you with Dione, the goddess mind of the planet. 'Transamazonia' was about a shaman flying across the Amazon. How the hell is a shaman going to fly across the Amazon if he's not high on ayahuasca?

— **So altered states of consciousness were a recurring theme?**

What we were actually doing was giving people information about human evolution and coming together to form a telepathic community. I don't think there's been a band, before or since, that has been as informative about human evolution and how to move forward.

— **Why was Ebenezer so good?**

Because he was cheeky, mysterious and showed people how to enjoy themselves to the fullest.

— **If you had to change the letter 'C' in your name, what would you choose?**

Let's say 'E'. Again that's got a double meaning; it's all a bit of a mystery.

— **If you had a shamanic voodoo doll, who would you use it on?**

Can I use it on a bunch of people, like all the elite rich? No? Then I'd have to say one of the Rothschilds because they own all the banks, and all the money. I'd use the pins to inject love and compassion so that they'd stop being greedy, self-righteous people and use their money to end all poverty.

— **If you were chasing a dragon, how would you go about it?**

That's difficult, because I don't ride a horse! Would I just be catching the dragon or slaying the dragon as well?

— **We're not sure. No-one's caught up with one yet.**

Then I'm going to change my answer. I would catch the dragon by being in control of the illusion that tells us the dragon exists. **OH**

> Fri Aug 14, 10pm-late; Dada (see Listings for details)



CANVASSED
Sui Jianguo,
'Touchable'

Over the course of the last three decades, Qingdao-born sculptor Sui Jianguo has emerged as one of the most prominent contemporary artists in China. His chosen materials have spanned 100kg rock boulders and, famously, Mao suits. But plaster and polyurethane form the basis of his new exhibition "Touchable" at Pace Beijing. The collection features 12 sculptures – all of which are colored black – including the six-meter high

centerpiece 'Gravity Field.' Following on thematically from the 'Portraits' series (which Sui recently exhibited in New York), this is the artist's first solo exhibition in China since 2012.

> Until August 22; Tues-Sat 10am-6pm; Pace Beijing, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路2号798艺术区 (www.pacegallery.com, 5978 9781)

HAO BU HAO
Hao

Matt Damon showed off a new ponytail in Beijing as he promoted upcoming fantasy epic, *The Great Wall*. Directed by Zhang Yimou, the movie will follow an elite force protecting humanity from invading aliens. In March, *That's Beijing* Deputy Editor Oscar Holland was offered the role of Damon's body double on set in China. He turned it down, citing his "self-respect" and "journalism career" as reasons for the decision.

Bu Hao

Earlier this year, Netflix's market value soared after the announcement that it will enter China. But hopes of a Mainland version launching by 2016 were promptly thrown into doubt by Chief Executive Reed Hastings, who revealed difficulties securing government approval. He notes: "We still have some things to figure out, so I suppose it's possible," which, considering the recent regulations on streaming, may be overly optimistic.





A FEAT OF CLAY

1927 Theater Group's
Modern Take on Golem

by Andrew Chin

"Golem is not a critique of technology itself, but of the people and powers controlling it. It's about our willingness to embrace uncritically new technologies, and not to question who controls them"

The folklore character of Golem – a man-like creature brought to life from clay – has been the subject of countless interpretations since first appearing in early Jewish mythology. In the Marvel Universe, he was depicted as a resident of the Warsaw ghetto who fights Nazis. Jorge Luis Borges described him as being “less like man than dog, and much less than dog, but thing.” While in Terry Pratchett’s *Discworld* series, Golems (plural) were clay-men programmed to serve humans.

For Jo Crowley, producer of the award-winning theater group 1927, the mythical character had to be understood through a modern lens.

“We read around the Golem myth and kept coming back to artificial intelligence, cloning and robots. We personified Golem and wanted the audience to like him. We toyed with the notion of control,” she explains. “We liked the idea of a live actor and a filmed clay man as a starting point for a show.”

Her contemporary interpretation, which she brings to Beijing this month, isn’t a simple retelling or adaptation of Jewish mythology. Instead, it’s the type of multimedia extravaganza that 1927 has built its reputation on. Golem is full of style-mixing animation, music, claymation and live theater. There’s a vintage, yet otherworldly feel to the show – something of a trademark for the group.

Golem opens with the initially unremarkable tale of Robert, who works at

a tech company and lives with his rebellious sister and a grandmother who can’t leave the memory of her deceased husband behind. His life changes drastically when he meets inventor Phil Syllocct and purchases the titular Golem. Scenes whizz by, propelled by music from a live band that has been written into the show.

“Robert is naive, a bit annoying and easily sucked in,” Crowley explains. “We wanted half the audience to find him really annoying and the other half to really feel for him.

“The other characters are there to reveal Robert’s changes. His gran is there to represent the older generation. His sister is the voice of resistance and his friends are the classic ‘outsider’ bunch of mates. As Robert changes, so do his relationships with everyone around him.”

This leaves the Golem character to explore more contemporary themes, which has seen the production dubbed by reviewers as “a critique of technology.” Crowley does not entirely agree with the charge, preferring to see it as a “what-if” show.

“It’s not a critique of technology itself, but of the people and powers controlling it,” she explains. “It’s about our willingness to embrace uncritically new technologies, and not to question who controls them.”

Since debuting at the Young Vic in London, the show has been well received ahead of its run at Beijing’s NCPA Theatre.

“The reception has been good. Moscow was excited. London was great. Paris, well

Parisians are rather Parisian aren’t they?” Crowley laughs. “I think they liked it, since we’ve been invited back.”

And if extending *Golem*’s run wasn’t enough to think about, 1927 (which is named after the year of the first ‘talkie’ film) is due to return to China with another production in the coming months. An adaptation of *The Magic Flute* with the award-winning German theater, Komische Oper Berlin, makes its Asian debut in Shanghai in early September.

The group’s schedule is testament to the winning creative formula it has developed. Made up of Crowley, animator Paul Barritt, writer-director Suzanne Andrade, musical director Lillian Henley, associate director Esme Appleton, 1927 has a busy year ahead.

“We are working on Stravinsky’s *Petrushka* – a ballet we are tackling in our own style – and are currently exploring how this will work with dancers and circus performers,” Crowley reveals.

“We are also working on a one-act opera by Ravel, a wonderful piece of music. And just to ensure we all have breakdowns before we’re 40, we are also writing a brand new opera for the Royal Opera House. Lillian is working on a theatre show about female footballers and is scoring silent films for the BFI.”

RMB100-500; Aug 29-30, 2.30pm and 7.30pm; NCPA Theatre, 2 Xi Chang’an Jie, Xicheng 西城区长安街2号 (400 610 3721, en.damai.cn)

GOING UNDERGROUND

in Association with Woozy.cn

by Sophia Pederson

FACING OUTWARDS

Chinese bands playing outside of China isn't a new phenomenon. 'Godfather of Chinese Rock' Cui Jian played at the *Printemps de Bourges* festival in Paris in 1989. The all-girl band Cobra played dates in Germany as far back as 1994 and even graced the stages of CBGBs in New York in 1996. Xie Tianxiao (XTX) followed suit, and in 1999 became the first ever Chinese representative at Austin's SXSW festival.

Although multiple Chinese artists have continued to tour overseas, difficulties securing visas, language barriers and the pure cost of traveling have kept numbers to a minimum.

That's all changing now. Credit should be given to the Chinese artists that laid the groundwork for bands to tour abroad, but China's economic development and unique government policies have also led to an increase in interest from those outside of the country – especially within the Western music press.

Cui Jian: www.last.fm/music/Cuijian

Cobra: www.xiami.com/artist/3153

Xie Tianxiao: www.last.fm/music/XTX

CURRENT CHINESE FESTIVALS ABROAD

Modern Sky's first overseas festival was held in New York's Central Park in August of last year. Artists like Shuh Tou, Re-TROS, and Queen Sea Big Shark played alongside Cat Power, Blood Brothers, and Liars. This year sees an even more ambitious lineup and production, hitting both East and West Coasts – Oct 4 in New York and Oct 11 in Seattle. Artists include new Modern Sky signings Miserable Faith, as well as standard bearers Hedgehog, New Pants and Song Dongye. Also confirmed are Gang of Four, Black Lips, and Ariel Pink.

Miserable Faith: www.last.fm/music/miserable+faith

Hedgehog: www.last.fm/music/Hedgehog
New Pants: www.last.fm/music/New+Pants
Song Dongye: www.last.fm/music/Dongye+Song

Nor are Modern Sky's ambitions aimed firmly at the US. The Beijing label is also teaming up with Helsinki Festival, creating a mini festival – Modern Sky Helsinki - from Aug 14-30, featuring an interesting mix of Chinese talent, including hip-hop (DJ Wordy & Soulspeak), electro-indie rock (Nova Heart), and post punk (Re-TROS).

DJ Wordy: www.last.fm/music/DJ+Wordy
Re-TROS: www.last.fm/music/Re-TROS

RECENT CHINESE ACTS AT FESTIVALS ABROAD

Glastonbury Festival invited two Chinese indie acts for their debut performances this past June.

Nova Heart: Fronted by Helen Feng – the Chinese-born, American-raised darling of the China underground – this dark electro rock band have been receiving a lot of international attention in recent years. Music publications like *NME* have hailed them as "One of China's best underground prospects," while according to *Rolling Stone* listening to Feng was "as if the New York of the 70s has been transferred to the Beijing of today. Nova Heart sound like an apocalyptic version of Debbie Harry."
www.novaheart.bandcamp.com

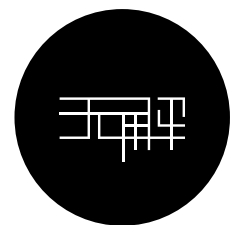
Long Shen Dao: China's best-known reggae outfit are a bit of a curveball. The band got its start after founder Guo Jian left Xie Tian Xiao and the Cold Blooded Animals to follow his main love, reggae. Taking a cue from Xie Tian Xiao himself, the band uses Chinese instruments to create a sound that might be described as 'Reggae with Chinese characteristics.'
www.last.fm/music/Long+Shen+Dao

CHINESE ARTISTS ON TOUR

In addition to tours from Chui Wan and Birdstriking in the US (see June edition of *That's Beijing*), Mongolian Folk Rockers Ajinai have been relentlessly touring across the world the last two years. Their current summer tour has stops in Denmark, Poland, and Norway.
www.ethnocloud.com/ajinai

Wang Wen have also just wrapped up a whirlwind tour in Europe this last May. The band are no strangers to touring abroad, and their classic post rock sound with little to no lyrics makes it translatable to any audience.
www.wangwen.bandcamp.com

Carsick Cars, probably China's most well known indie band among overseas audiences, the cars have just finished their Europe Tour, playing shows in France, Netherlands, Austria, Germany, and even proud little Slovenia.
www.carsickcars.bandcamp.com



Going Underground with Woozy is a monthly column written by Sophia Pederson, exploring the Chinese rock scene.

About Woozy: Launched in April 2009, Woozy.cn is a Chinese-language online specialist music site, focusing on the latest and best underground and mainstream sounds from China and beyond.

OLD DOG, MEW TRICKS

Still Rocking After All These Years

by Andrew Chin





It has taken over two decades for Mew to evolve from a high school band into the flag-bearers of Danish indie. But while they are now known as one of the country's first acts to sign with a major international label – and for touring the world with alternative icons like R.E.M. and Nine Inch Nails – they long toiled in the underground.

From 1994 (when the band formed as four friends who “learned how to play from scratch [and] had no idea what chords we were playing”), it would be another nine years before they produced a commercially successful record, 2003's *Frengers*. The nature of Denmark's music scene posed some of the biggest barriers to their ascent, admits frontman Jonas Bjerre.

“Unlike our neighbors Sweden, who have had a lot of music exports since ABBA, Denmark was kind of a closed-off circuit when we started out. A lot of the bands just sounded a lot like the UK scene,” he explains.

“There wasn't much of an identity in Danish music, except for the underground, which is where we started. Now it feels like a lot of things have started happening, with lots of bands touring overseas and not afraid of being themselves.”

Compatriots like The Raveonettes and Iceage are among the wave of bands now developing an international following. Bjerre also cites younger acts like Silo, Lust for Youth and the China-inspired Kala-Ok as examples of growing ambition in the country's music scene.

All owe a debt of gratitude to Mew. *Frengers*, their third album, served as benchmark for Danish music, winning the band their first Danish Music Award (for Album of the Year) and providing them with a ‘eureka’ moment in the development a sound they dub “indie-stadium.”

“We always wanted a big sound, but we just didn't know how to get there,” Bjerre says. “Getting Rich Costey [Sigur Rós, Muse,

Jane's Addiction] to produce opened us up to an entirely new way of recording. Our music had always been a bit quirky, with a mix of immediacy and something that takes a bit longer to get your head around.

“With so much going on in the music, the sound has to have a certain clarity for the listener to be able to hear everything that happens. We started really achieving that from *Frengers* onward.”

Since then, the group has released three similarly acclaimed albums including this year's +/- . True to form, the record is an epic mix of complex arrangements and prog-pop sensibilities that are realized without sacrificing accessibility. While Bjerre notes there are some hip-hop and R&B influences, he sheepishly admits: “Trying not to sound too full of myself, but I think we've been mostly influenced by ourselves on this one.”

“We actually did not try to conceptualize too much and we let each song become the thing it wanted to become,” he adds. “This made for a very versatile collection of songs. It feels kind of celebratory to me, the way the album was put together.”

The return of bassist Johan Wohler – who left the group in 2006 before the birth of his first child – only adds to the triumphant sound of +/- . Bjerre credits his bandmate with providing “a more driven rhythm section and a flair for arrangements.”

But the quartet's reformation was short-lived. Guitarist Bo Madsen left the band last month and will be replaced by Mads Wegner for the remainder of their world tour, which stops off at Tango on August 11.

“Being in a band takes a lot of effort,” Bjerre says diplomatically. “You spend a great deal of time together, and sometimes people need breaks. We've had people leave the band and return! I think that's OK. It has to feel right and honest, or the music will suffer for it.” ■

“There wasn't much of an identity in Danish music, except for the underground, which is where we started. Now it feels like a lot of things have started happening”

BEIJING'S CENTRAL ACADEMY OF FINE Arts (CAFA) has a long history of producing some of China's most famous artistic talents: figures such as Xu Bing, who graduated from CAFA in 1987 and has been acclaimed around the world for his calligraphy and printmaking; conceptual graffitist Zhang Dali, the third artist after Keith Haring and Jackson Pollock to be given the cover of *Time* magazine; and contemporary oil painter and leader of the "new generation" of Chinese realists, Liu Xiaodong.

It's that reputation – as a forming ground for some of the country's finest creative minds – that makes its annual graduation show so hotly anticipated. One of the very best ways to appreciate emerging art trends, this year's CAFA show does not disappoint.

Entitled 'The Start of A Long Journey', the show features the best works from graduating classes across the academy's art, design and architecture schools. There are 146 works on display, in varied styles and tackling a range of themes.

"This year, the students all demonstrate very different painting languages and subject matters," says Ma Lu, Dean of the School of Fine Arts and Director of the Oil Painting Department at CAFA. "The materials they're using are no longer limited to easel painting, but there are multi-disciplinary installations. Then the subjects chosen are also different. The students have begun to return to city life's little details and to express their own life experiences and emotions."

One artist whose work makes an impression is Shen Zhicheng. His 'A Judgment From The King' is a series of quirky wooden sculptures resembling the artifacts of a primitive forest tribe. There's a sculpted wooden figure made from pieces of wood roughly hewn into limbs. The figure's wooden head has been sculpted into a gaunt,

skull-like expression. He wears a strange headdress that dangles a mobile of small heads around him and carries a staff topped with a head identical to his own.

"I have created the figure of my ideal king, and I have placed him within a conflicted emotional atmosphere that I created, thereby producing uncertain emotions," Shen writes. It is a strange, puzzling and provoking piece of sculpture.

Elsewhere in the exhibition, two artists explore the topic of Chinese history and how people relate to it today. In 'Those Who Do Not Know the Future Look to the Past,' Wang Ximin examines how history can inform the present. He draws on traditional methods, using Chinese wall painting and lacquerware to produce a textured image.

The background shows palatial Chinese buildings being burnt to the ground, then spreading over this are the dark, glossy, writhing bodies of fish. The fish, Wang says, represent our powerlessness in history's flowing currents.

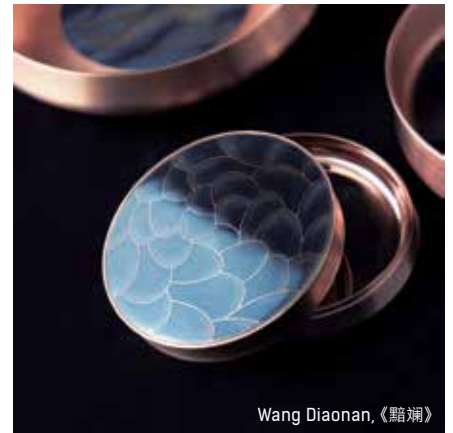
For 'Four Beauties, Four Beauties,' Song Xiuyin also employs traditional Chinese artistic techniques, using the soft, translucent shades of ink painting to depict four elegant young women.

The piece combines this with the double exposure found in modern photography. In front of these classical Chinese women, Song has painted a second layer showing four modern day figures. The traditional and modern are placed alongside each other. "The piece seems to layer time and space," Song writes. ■

RMB15; Until August 23; Tues-Sun 9.30am-5.30pm;
CAFA Art Museum, 8 Huajiadi Nan Jie, Chaoyang 朝阳区花家地南街8号 (6477 1575, <http://museum.cafa.com.cn/en/>)



Song Zhouyin, 《四四美美图图》



Wang Diaonan, 《黯》

THE

FUTURE,

NO

CAFA's Exciting New Graduation Show

by Nicholas Olczak



Zhang Zhuting, <Toten×reborn>



Tian Le, <Face it App>



Shen Zhicheng, <找国王评理>



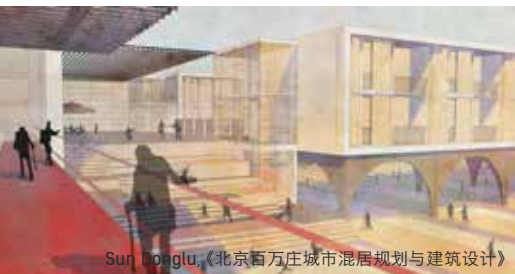
Wang Ximin, <不知来者视之往>



Huang Hongzhou, <乱码>



Jiang Chuan, <疗愈系列组画>



Sun Donglu, <北京百万庄城市混居规划与建筑设计>



Liu Liangzi, <追逐>



COVER STORY

2015

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words

Stephen GEORGE

Oscar HOLLAND

Vanessa MENG

—
images

Holly LI

China,

INKED

The Artists
Redefining Tattoo Culture

Acceptance [of tattoos] is really a very recent thing - and it's only in big cities. Outside of places like Beijing and Shanghai, views haven't changed all that much. People will still stop, stare and on occasion, cross the road to avoid somebody with tattoos

Ten years ago, getting a tattoo in Beijing required a certain degree of guile. Firstly, would-be recipients would need to seek out a tattooist, of which there were surprisingly few. This was done without the aid of smartphones, or online directories - and usually required knowing other people with tattoos (no easy feat).

Secondly, having located a tattooist - most likely someone unskilled and not equipped with modern technology, such as a tattoo gun - recipients would be faced with an even tougher challenge: devising a plan to conceal their new inking.

It may seem hard to believe today, but the idea of tattoos as socially acceptable - something to be shown off, rather than hidden away - is a relatively new phenomena.

For much of China's recent history, tattooing has been dangerously taboo, intimately linked with criminality, banditry and disreputableness.

"Traditionally, Chinese people have viewed tattoos as the mark of the outsider, something only found among gangsters or remote ethnic minorities," says Beijing-based tattoo artist Chacha, whose work adorns this month's front cover. "Acceptance [of tattoos] is really a very recent thing - and it's only in big cities. Outside of places like Beijing and Shanghai, views haven't changed all that much. People will still stop, stare and on occasion, cross the road to avoid somebody with tattoos."

Since the late 12th century, children throughout China have grown up learning of the legend of Yue Fei, a Song Dynasty general, whose mother tattooed 'serve the country with ultimate loyalty' across his shoulders with an old sewing needle before sending him back to the frontline. But although General Yue would go on to win the war, his deeds did little to reverse attitudes towards tattooing. If anything, Yue's tattoo, which his mother administered as punishment when he returned home from the battlefield prematurely, helped cement public opinion. Tattooing was dishonorable and something

that upstanding people should avoid.

This view was aided by the longstanding imperial practice of tattooing criminals' faces to warn others of their crimes before casting them out into exile. Encountering a man with a tattoo was a sure sign of danger - especially if the marking on his face read "刺客" [assassin].

The notoriety attached to tattooing resulted in its adoption by organized crime syndicates, especially in the south of the country, where groups such as the Triads began using large dragon and tiger insignia as a means of imposing loyalty and fear.

As a result of its unsavory associations, the Communist Party moved to prohibit tattooing after coming to power in 1949. Chairman Mao himself was said to detest the practice - and drafted a law preventing those with tattoos from joining the military.

But attitudes to tattooing are changing rapidly, especially in Beijing, where demand continues to outstrip supply. It is now estimated the capital is home to as many as 2,000 tattooists. Yet despite the growth, waiting times for the city's top artists typically exceeds six months, or more.

Graphic designer turned tattoo artist Ma Zhiyong has witnessed the industry's development first hand.

"I was working in Canada for several years, but eventually returned home to Beijing to set up my own studio. Business is non-stop. People here want something real and genuine - not some copied image," he argues.

In order to help find that sense of originality, the city's tattoo community is increasingly looking inward - and rediscovering China's own tattoo traditions. Though never part of mainstream culture, China is home to a number of venerable tattoo cultures, most notably among the Dulong and Dai ethnic groups. This fusion of modern Western practices with Eastern symbolism is helping to create a new tattoo language, unique to China.

Over the next 12 pages, we enter into the studios and workspaces of the Beijing's lead-

ing tattoo artists, explore their styles and find out their views on the city's nascent tattoo culture. Is the sudden increase in tattoos among young Chinese people just a passing fad, or are we witnessing the start of a new form of cultural identity? ■

Wang Ke 王柯 & Chacha

WANG KE

I got my very first tattoo on the back of my neck when I was 17. I started tattooing a few years later, just for friends at first, for a small fee, while I was at Sichuan Art School in Chongqing. I remember people used to pay me around RMB50 [today, Wang Ke charges a minimum of RMB2,000 per hour].

After college I tried working. I wanted to see if I could hold down a steady job, so I joined a design company. But after a while, I realized I just couldn't do it; I couldn't face spending the rest of my life in that world, where every day is the same, day in and day out. I figured becoming a tattoo artist would give me more freedom. So I set up my first studio in Kunming.

I didn't develop my own style until after I came to Beijing in 2008. That was when I really began to immerse myself in the tattoo industry - attending different conferences and meeting up with the international tattoo community.

I am constantly evolving and learning - and so it's difficult to define my style in words. I suppose what distinguishes my art is its softness... it's not that tough, not that rough. What I do is much more feminine. I think you can tell it's a female artist.

I don't have any particular themes or motifs. Usually a customer will have an idea of the subject - and so I use the customer's ideas and then add to it and create something original. I'm just here to put their ideas together. A lot of people aren't familiar with tattoo culture, so they just tell me key words, or adjectives. But to be honest I prefer it like this, I prefer them to give me simple directions so I can have more creative space.

CHACHA

There's a new wave of young tattooists who are genuine artists - and who are getting more and more interested in tattoos and tattoo culture. This is a really good thing, you know, because they have their own designs right from the very beginning. They're being creative. But the popularity of tattoos - the fact that they're becoming fashionable - means that lots of tattooists out there are just copying designs they see online. It's a big problem in China. There's no shame in it. I know that as soon as I upload an image of one of my tattoos onto social media, someone will copy it. Guaranteed.

Just yesterday, someone sent me a picture of one of my tattoos. I recognized the tattoo immediately - it was an original design from last year, but I didn't recognize the guy's face. I'd never met him. This happens all the

time. They're usually pretty good copies too. It used to make me angry, but now I take it as a compliment. What can you do? It's worse for the customer - because they're paying for something unique.

Yes, me and Wang Ke are married, and we share a tattoo studio, so of course we influence one another. But our styles have remained quite different.

I didn't think I was going to be a tattoo artist. It was through rock music, playing in bands and skateboarding that I came into contact with the culture. It just seemed like this very free kind of lifestyle.

When I started tattooing, I was an art student too, so it seemed very easy, just transferring my paintings onto skin. My style developed from there to become a reflection of my interests: punk, hardcore, skateboard culture, and Chinese traditions, it's all in there.

Some tattoos will have a deep meaning, others not so much - but every tattoo has a story. That's what makes it art in my mind. I don't think either of us could ever imagine doing anything else with our lives now. It's who we are.



right

Wang Ke and Chacha, with their daughter Molly in their studio apartment. Soaring demand for the couple's unique work has led to lengthy waiting lists, and commercial contracts with international companies such as Vans



A lot of people aren't familiar with tattoo culture, so they just tell me key words, or adjectives. But to be honest I prefer it like this, I prefer them to give me simple directions so I can have more creative space



*Everywhere in the world,
people are copying my designs.
Whatever. I'm not going to
complain if people like my stuff*

Yang Zhuo 杨卓

Considered among Asia's leading tattoo artists, Yang Zhuo is fully booked for the remainder of 2015



I'm not sure how long this guy's tattoo will take. It's really until he's satisfied.

Because I'm well-known, my customers usually want bigger tattoos like this one. It often also means that they're familiar with my style already. This makes it much easier. People come to me and tell me what size they want and the general content - the rest is up to me.

At the beginning, I enjoyed modern Western tattoos, but now I'm more into traditional Eastern styles. This doesn't just mean phoenixes or dragons - the options are endless. I used to enjoy a more animated, cartoonish aesthetic, but I've slowly evolved my

own style. Everywhere in the world, people are copying my designs. Whatever. I'm not going to complain if people like my stuff.

As for the philosophy of tattoo art? You need to ask the person getting the tattoo, not me. My job is to work with the customer to map out a design that fits them. The tattoo should mean something to the individual - I just help them develop it.

My own tattoos are actually just one big piece of art, covering a large part of my body. It was done by this guy in Sweden who I really respect. He's among the best tattoo artists in the world, and the entire thing was done by him. Every year I go to Sweden so he can

add to it. I started going to him in 2008 and it's still not done.

I actually believe that tattoos shouldn't be for everyone - they should only exist within the communities or subcultures that truly understand them. Nowadays tattoos have become fashionable, which I guess is good from a commercial perspective. But it's sad because a lot of people only get them because they're trendy. I think tattoos need meaning. All fashionable things will change. If you get a tattoo for fashion, it will soon become unfashionable.

Of course, if you just want to be beautiful there's nothing else to say.

Lee Xuan 李轩

We have a school here but, to be honest, I didn't really want to teach at first. I am an artist.

I suppose I just didn't want to commercialize the classes. In fact, I am anti-commercial - my students find me. When they do, I teach them the basics first. But then I'll guide them towards what they truly love, so it's important for me to notice what they are interested in, like Chinese traditional painting or skateboard art. A lot of my students have gone on to open their own shops, in Beijing and all over the world.

Tattooing is my life now. Not just a part of it, but my entire lifestyle and outlook. Why? Because to me, tattooing is... well, I guess I'd call it a responsibility. I've realized that tattoo culture in China does exist and it should be our responsibility to maintain this ancient tradition. Unlike Japan, many people believe that China never fostered its own tattoo culture. But that's not true. It's just that because our history is so long, convoluted and full of wars that wiped away our culture, few people cared.

Laozi once said that we are all born with responsibility and that we must embrace ours fully and protect it as if it were our own child. Passing on this tradition is my responsibility. If students want to come here to learn, I will tell them: 'We are Chinese artists, so we must do Chinese tattoos.' I'm not saying that Western tattoos aren't good - they're an important foundation. But if you're Chinese you need to develop a Chinese style.

As for me, I only do my own style. If a customer wants me to do a draft, I refuse. I tell them: 'just come down and it will be fine.' People understand my traditional Chinese style and my unique personality, so my customers know what they're in for. You just tell

me, broadly, what you want and I will guarantee satisfaction, one hundred percent. An artist notices everything, so I create tattoos based on my observations of each person.

We get a lot of customers who don't know what they want, so I'll talk with them - sometimes for ten minutes, sometimes for hours and hours. I'll ask them about their personalities, their lives, their aspirations and their hobbies. Because tattoos are an embodiment of one's soul, they're not just skin deep.



Laozi once said that we are all born with responsibility and that we must embrace ours fully and protect it as if it were our own child. Passing on this tradition is my responsibility

Students practice their art at Lee Xuan's school. Many of Lee's former pupils have gone on to open studios of their own throughout Beijing







Zhao Liang 赵亮

A tattoo is just a tattoo. There's nothing else to it. It's just a thing. A lot of people ask me 'what's the meaning behind tattoos, what do they represent?' But I think China is the same as every country

I'm originally from Dongbei. I opened this place around two to three years ago, but have been tattooing professionally since 2007. I tattoo all kinds of people: normal people, famous people - actors, models, musicians, but no one under 18 - I'm strict about that.

A tattoo is just a tattoo. There's nothing else to it. It's just a thing. A lot of people ask me 'what's the meaning behind tattoos, what do they represent?' But I think China is the same as every country. There isn't a lot of difference. Maybe older people will be like, 'oh, this is for younger people,' and the younger people who are not all that courageous or

daring will be like 'oh, this is for the wilder ones,' but that's the same everywhere.

We don't have a set style [at our studio]. We have different tattoo artists and we can do a lot of different styles. We currently have three tattoo artists working full time. I personally prefer traditional Japanese styles, but everyone is different.

We charge based on the size and the style. A full back would cost you RMB60,000.

Chinese tattoos are getting better and better. The skills are improving, the industry is maturing, and acceptance is growing. We are always busy.

Despite the gothic dungeon interior, Zhao Liang's studio is located inside the brightly-lit, ultra-modern Sanlitun SOHO shopping mall





Liu Su 刘速

There are some people who just want to get tattoos to scare people. The tough guys and gangsters. They don't get it for the art

I guess I don't really have my own style. I have a lot of customers, so I can't really afford to specialize in just one style, because if I did, I'd have to start turning people away.

I've been here (on Lucky Street) for 10 years, ever since I started out in Beijing. I can't move to the other more popular places like Sanlitun, because I can't part with my long-term customers, they always come back to find me, sometimes with friends. If I move, how are they going to find me?

Back in the day when I first got here, I was pretty confident with myself. Most tattoo parlors were pretty dingy, but I had a tattoo gun - and people thought that was really special. 'What is this?' they'd ask. Most tattooists back

then would use eyebrow needles. I thought I was a pretty big deal, so I was relaxed. I had a lot of customers too. All sorts.

But now I reject customers who are too low, the trashy types. I just can't deal with that. As I've got older, I've got wiser. I've learned to stop accepting those people who don't care about the results. There are some people who just want to get tattoos to scare people. The tough guys and gangsters. They don't get it for the art. Sometimes they will come in here and say, 'I want this dragon, and make it look scary, I don't care if it's ugly. Just make it this, or make it that. Simple.' But I tell them it's hideous, but they say 'I don't care, just do it, it's cheap anyway.'

I can't accept that, I just can't do it anymore.

The industry has improved a lot, and more of my customers understand tattoos a lot better now. I think it's because online, people are exposed to a lot more beautiful images, and so people's aesthetic standards are improving too.

I'm glad, because I like tattooing beautiful images... I like to help people become beautiful.

Liu Su poses outside his store alongside his teenage apprentice. Out of shot, a sign (in English) above the doorway reads, "11 years we only do good tattoo"



Ma Zhiyong

马志永



In China there is no such thing as a tattoo license. All the licenses or associations you see in other tattoo parlors are fake. In other countries there are rules. China isn't like that - here there aren't any standards

Ma works on the outline of a full back tattoo for a young customer. The work, based on traditional Chinese folklore, will take over a year to complete



It's unusual for a tattoo artist not to have any tattoos, but I don't have a single one. I didn't come into contact with tattoo culture until 2007 when I was already into my mid-30s. I had been fired from my job as a graphic designer and I couldn't find any work, so a friend suggested I try tattooing. At that age, you already have your personality figured out. I didn't feel the need to reinvent myself with tattoos.

I'm a very clean person. When I have the smallest pimple or mark on my body, I begin to freak out; so if I had a tattoo - especially one that I wasn't completely happy with - I don't think I'd ever be able to sleep again. I'm not afraid of the pain, I just don't want anything on my skin.

Attitudes to tattoos in China are changing, slowly. I tattoo all types of people, in all types of careers, though most are under 40.

I've probably tattooed over 2,000 people. I'm only really satisfied with my work in the past two years. This is an art form that

requires a lot of practice.

When I started I tried everything - cartoons, gothic, vintage American, and eventually, I settled on a more traditional eastern style. Eastern cultures have several thousand years' of history, so the imagery is much more powerful and elegant - and with more room for creativity, unlike in the West where everything is modern and ultra-realistic.

In China there is no such thing as a tattoo license. All the licenses or associations you see in other tattoo parlors are fake. In other countries there are rules. China isn't like that - here there aren't any standards. So it's all up to you.

You can't compare [Chinese and Western] tattoo cultures. In Western culture people are so much more free, they get tattoos to be cool and that's it, there's nothing else that needs to be considered. But Chinese culture is much more conservative. You rarely see tattoos in Chinese media, but when you do it's only ever on criminals, which has helped

create a specific image - and set of associations - among the public.

Chinese people are much more introspective - and so people will give their tattoo a lot of thought. There's more meaning behind the design here in China, both from an artistic point of view, and the consideration of our customers.



EAT & DRINK

NIBBLES

In an increasingly secular world, who can we turn to for spiritual guidance? Who is perfect enough to be worshipped? Who will always be there for us?

Craft beer. Beijing has found her holy savior, and it is foamy. We have our temples (breweries). We have our holy texts (*That's Beijing* beer reviews, if we do say so ourselves). And best of all, we have our holidays. Last month, Slow Boat Brewery announced that this year's Autumn Craft Beer Festival will be the last weekend in September, and that 14 breweries have already confirmed their attendance. The announcement came merely a week after Great Leap announced the date of their Invitational Craft Beer Festival (November), during which breweries from abroad will showcase their beers at TRB's beautiful new event space, Copper.

This is our Christmas, people. But if you're not a beer person, or – beer-god forbid – have an allergy that doesn't allow you to be a beer person, there's hope for you heathens. Rumor has it that Bungalow Tiki, the stellar hole-in-the-wall tiki bar that was shut down before we could even run a review, will also make (beachy) waves this fall at a new location in Andingmen. And while we're talking new locations, we'd be remiss not to mention Traitor Zhou's (see page 57), who've announced they'll be bringing their bagels to Nali Patio in the near future.



OFF THE BEATEN PLATE

Here's a hot pot full of chicken... stuffed inside pig intestines. At this Sichuan restaurant 'Pig Intestine Chicken' is the most popular dish, by some margin. Think of it as a sort of Sichuanese haggis, only spicier. Much, much spicier. So intensely spicy, in fact, you'll forget that what you're eating is one animal, tightly concealed within the guts of another. Surprisingly tasty, we would've finished it all if it weren't for its massive family size.

> Available at Backyard of Na Li Sha, Guangshun South Street bei lu ,Changyang 朝阳区广顺南大街北口 娜丽莎大厦后院 泡家常乡土火锅店 (6471 0368)



HEAD-TO-HEAD / COOLING TCM TONICS



Wanglaoji

王老吉

Available at 7-Eleven, RMB3



Jiaduobao

加多宝

Available at 7-Eleven, RMB4

VERSUS

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

The bold yellow Chinese characters on the red background seem very serious. We're expecting something strong and medicinal.

It's the reverse of the Wanglaoji can, with all the same seriousness, but with added chutzpah.

INITIAL TASTE

It's sweet, but with a faint hint of bitter Chinese tea. Not bad for a TCM tonic.

It looks like tea, but it tastes like cheap diluted syrup. Actually, it also looks a lot like cheap diluted syrup.

AFTERTASTE

What, how did this leave our tongues feeling even drier and more parched than before?

Definitely need to down something stronger to mask the sickly sweet taste.

VERDICT

Wanglaoji wins, on a technicality. In that drinking it you won't necessarily need to spend more money on another beverage to wash the taste away.



THEY SAID IT, WE READ IT

Paddy O'Shea's

Ever wondered what kids these days think of some of Beijing's long-standing food-and-drink establishments? To give you an idea, we've handpicked and translated some comments from popular ratings site dianping.com. This month: popular Irish drunk tank **Paddy O'Shea's**: proud sporting establishment, or rowdy fight club?



☆☆☆☆☆
Oh god, the food is so, so good!

☆☆☆☆
There are a lot of foreigners here... once it's nighttime the place is completely full. Why do so many foreigners like this place?

☆☆☆
It's nice to sit outside to watch the cars go by and inhale a bit of Beijing smog.

☆
Poor, poor, poor! The food is scary-bad and the service is even scarier!

NEWS BITES

Phallic Clam Penetrates China Market



Everything about this well-hung, throbbing clam is weird: from its name (properly pronounced 'goeey-duck'), to the fact that it is one of the longest living creatures on the planet (the oldest recorded being 168 years old), and of course, its phallic shape. Weirdness, lest we forget, is no barrier for diners in China – who, as of last month, consumed 90 percent of all geoduck sold globally.

China's demand for the girthy clam has pushed prices up to USD300 per geoduck. As the Chinese have a cultural practice of spending big money on food to impress, this out-sized, bulbous sea creature fits the criteria perfectly: it's imported, exotic, looks like a large semi-erect penis, and is extremely expensive.

BARTISANS

This month, Matthew Nilon, of *Capital M* (right)



— What got you into the food and drink business?

I've always liked restaurants. I went to university for a while in Australia, but I ended taking on a part-time job while I was in school and found I preferred it, much to my parents' dismay! Having a restaurant is a lot like hosting a dinner party, which I love. I find it addictive. There's a certain buzz about it.

— What's your favorite event Capital M has done?

It's hard to say. If it's a big event, then the literary festival. There were some fascinating speakers. But I also like our small events, particularly the ones about food, when we invite organic farmers to come and speak.

— What's the most memorable thing that's happened to you while at Capital M?

During APEC, we had the president of Chile in for dinner on one side of the restaurant and the Australian prime minister on the other side of the restaurant. They knew each other, of course, but our policy is to not announce patrons are here, so they didn't realize they were eating in the same restaurant until after the meal.

— You worked in Shanghai before. Team Shanghai or Team Beijing?

I can say this diplomatically. I like them both! I like that Beijing is a bit more real, a bit slower. I had to calm down a bit when I moved here. In Beijing, I feel like I'm touching the real China. **NM**

> Capital M, see Listings for details

The Story Behind Sue Zhou's Culinary Vision

New Clear Fusion

CULINARY TASTE-MAKER

Sue Zhou has come a long way since first arriving in Beijing four years ago, with nothing but a backpack and a vague sense of adventure. Undisputed queen of Instagram (don't follow her if you suffer from food envy), co-owner of exceedingly popular Yunnan restaurant Hani Gejiu, and organic food proponent, Sue is now preparing to expand her burgeoning empire once again, with the creation of 'Sue Zhou Does Food,' a creative catering and culinary consultancy service. Intrigued, we sat down with the ever-friendly chef to get the low-down on her next step.



Interview by Stephen George. Images by Holly Li



—How did you get into the culinary scene?

I was born in Wenzhou in China, and then my family moved to the Netherlands when I was 7 years old to open a Chinese restaurant. It was a family-run business, so, of course, everyone was expected to help out, including me. I worked in the kitchen from the age of 11 until I left for university – not that I really liked it! I was always fascinated by food though. As a child I was always cutting out articles about interesting and unusual dishes and putting them in a scrap book. But the restaurant business seemed so tough. There's no spare time. I could see that my parents worked flat-out, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, all year round. I was completely turned off by that. That's why, when the opportunity came, I chose to study business and economics rather than hospitality at university.

—So you never had any aspiration to work in the food industry?

I wanted to, but I wasn't sure how. All I knew at that time, was that I didn't want the stress of running a restaurant – which is ironic, as that's exactly what I'm doing now. While at university, I began to focus on Asian business, and was given a chance to study abroad, so I came to Beijing in 2002 for a year and really liked it. But afterwards, I went back to Holland and got a job in the food trading business, visiting factories and negotiating deals. I worked at the company for several years, but I was never really happy, I was never really passionate about it. I was approaching 30 and I realized I needed to change things up. I asked myself, 'where have I been really happy in my life?' And of course, it was during that one year in Beijing.

—And so you moved back?

Yep, via Hong Kong on a one way ticket! But when I arrived here I didn't really know what to do. Fortunately, someone suggested I begin teaching Chinese cooking classes at the Hutong [community cultural center]. That prompted me to start doing my own research on Chinese food – and that's how I came across Yunnanese cuisine. Chinese food is so interesting and varied; it's so fun to explore. I started traveling to Yunnan – which at the time, I knew so little about – visiting rural areas, going to the markets, talking with local people, trying the herbs and spices. It was all so new to me, especially the deep fried mint – that was a real eye opener!

—How did the idea of Hani Gejiu come about?

I was introduced to Wen Juan – my current business partner – through a friend. Wen is a Yunnan native and her mom is from the Hani minority group. She asked me if I'd like to join her at her previous restaurant, which was also in Gulou. But that was three years ago, and at that time I was very happy at the Hutong, developing their culinary courses – exploring Chinese food, researching recipes, and training other teachers.

And then two years ago, she asked me again, but this time, I felt ready for a new challenge. So we went to Gejiu, her home town – and studied the food. It's famous for its fresh rice noodles, which really are incredible. We tried to replicate them here – we brought the rice machine back and the specialty rice, but the water in Beijing was wrong – and it just wouldn't work. So instead, we started vacuum packing the rice noodles and

flying them in – and that's now our signature dish. Along with lots of original herbs and spices. It's very family style.

—Is the menu all authentic Hani style dishes – or have you improvised?

Everything in here is sourced from Yunnan, where possible. Our head chef is Hani. Even the tables are old reclaimed Gejiu doors! In fact [looks around the restaurant], the lampshades are Hani steaming lids, and the paintings are similar to what you see on the outside of farm houses in villages in Yunnan.

—Have you been surprised by the restaurant's success?

Gulou has always been really welcoming to specialty restaurants, but still, I've been extremely surprised by our popularity. We have so many regulars who bring their friends, who then bring their friends. We're quite hidden away, so people only really find us through word of mouth. We were quite clear at the beginning when we first opened two years ago: 'We're not going to copy anyone!' We wanted to do our own thing. So we focused on the rice noodles and the quality of the ingredients.

I think people can taste the difference when you take the time to prepare and source your food. Anyone can drop some flavor enhancer in a dish. But it's not really cooking. It may sound cliched, but I believe that the attention and love that has gone into our food really shows – and the customers can taste that. It also helps that Yunnan food is naturally healthy and balanced.

—So your new venture is separate from the restaurant?

Yes, Sue Zhou Does Food is entirely separate, it's more my style of food – those dishes I want to share with people. The focus is on sharing what I'm passionate about and sharing my love for food. I didn't want to be fixed on the restaurant. I saw what it did to my parents growing up and I didn't want to do that. I wanted to keep my passion for food, and not turn food into a drag.

—What types of cuisine can we expect?

Sometimes I will focus on classic Chinese, sometimes it's fusion, and sometimes it's Western. Sometimes I am inspired by people around me, sometimes it's the places I visit. I borrow a lot from Indonesian foods – I grew up eating a lot of Chinese-Indonesian dishes, because of the historic colonial Dutch-Indonesian connection – it's almost like comfort food for me. I borrow a lot from Yunnanese, of course. Sometimes I'll see something new on Instagram. It really depends!

The concept itself is varied. I'm hosting small private dinners, and giving cooking classes, as well as providing private catering services. The whole thing right now is super flexible. There's no fixed menu. It's more a case of me talking with the client and finding out what they want, and for how many people. So far I've worked with small groups of around eight people, creating specially-prepared private dinners at their homes, but I've also worked with the Dutch embassy, catering for 200. It's really about having fun, experimenting and creating new, healthy and interesting foods. ■

For more information about Sue Does Food visit her website at www.suezhoudoesfood.com





TIM'S TEXAS BAR-B-Q

You Can't Keep a Good Man Down

words by Stephen George, images by Holly Li

This month Tim's Texas Bar-B-Q prepares to celebrate its eighth anniversary. It's an unlikely turn of events for the popular American bar and restaurant, that just six years ago was facing closure after a protracted legal battle saw its previous location forcibly demolished to make way for a shopping mall.

"You know, I still have two staff members who were with me during that period," recalls owner and founder Tim Hilbert. "Everyone has slowly left to go back to their home provinces to get married and have children. But my accountant – she's an older

lady, she was there that day when they started tearing it down. She was there in case things got real hairy and they took me away."

Tim had invested some USD650,000 in what was known then as Tim's Texas Roadhouse, on 'Lady Street' in Sanlitun, when his landlord served him just three weeks notice and offered him a fraction of the compensation he was owed. The result was a standoff that saw Tim refuse to vacate the property, despite persistent threats from club-wielding thugs until, eventually, after several months, he collected what was left of his belongings and moved on.

"I remember, she [the accountant] was stood next to me, the police were there, filming me, the *Wall Street Journal* guys were there, filming the police filming me. Across the road, there were all these guys in riot gear, with big shields, alongside several fire trucks and ambulances all lined up. And then they had the movers – about eight people to come in and take all my old stuff away. Plus the local judges – about eight of them, to supervise the whole thing. It was me against about 50 people. It was like the Alamo."

But Tim's last stand would have to wait. Within several months, the venerable Texan had found a new location and reopened as Tim Texas Bar-B-Q.

"I was determined not to close, you know I had fought and fought to keep my place open

Join Tim and help celebrate the restaurant's eighth birthday, Texas style, on August 22 with unlimited Texas-style BBQ, draft Stella, Tiger, Carlsberg and Frozen Margarita from 5pm to 9PM. Pre sale tickets RMB88; RMB150 at the door

– even going so far as to hire security guards to defend the property when I wasn't there. I was a nail house. All the other bars had been demolished months ago. By summer it was just us, the last building standing on a big construction site. No electricity, no water, no income coming in. What they were doing was illegal. But I wasn't about to let them beat me, even after they finally knocked it down."

Six years later and Tim's is still going strong – and more remarkably, perhaps, still welcoming back several of those same regulars who frequented the Roadhouse. "You know, it was one of the first places like this in Beijing. It was like Cheers [the TV show] at one time, you know, where everybody knows your name. The people at that time had a real closeness. Even those guys who have left town still swing by on visits from time to time. It's always good to see old faces... and welcome new ones too!"

Daily 10am-11pm; Silk Market, 14 Dongdaqiao Road, Chaoyang 朝阳区东大桥路14号秀水2号 近光华路 (6591 9161)





THE RUG CHAT ROOM

Joy City Social Club

by Oscar Holland, images by Holly Li

There was once a time – and a place – when one could get away with the simplest of conversation-starters: ‘a/s/l?’ [age, sex, location?]

That time was before the advent of instant messaging; and that place was any chat room. It was a useful starting point when speaking with digital strangers (though not particularly useful for identifying online predators).

If the good folk at The Rug were to respond to our advance on behalf of their latest venture, Chat Room, the answer would read: ‘just a few months/not sure/Chaoyang Joy City, u?’ But TBH, this restaurant-cafe evokes visions of time long before web 1.0.

In fact, the high-ceilings and muted gold surfaces are more reminiscent of a place where fabulous 1920s-types might stop for a gossip after shopping for feather boas. Complete with angular chandeliers, a patterned tiled floor and big letters lit up Broadway-style, Chat Room offers a welcome breath of Art Deco in the midst of a utilitarian mega-mall. And it’s rather well done.

The dishes are also well suited to a shopping crowd, with a noticeably lighter selection than that found at The Rug’s other locations. Nonetheless, many of our favorites have successfully migrated and the menu boasts a chat roulette of dishes (minus the naked people). In addition to the salads and baked goods sat enticingly on the counter, we find a variety brunch items, tapas, pastas, hot plates and plenty more besides.

For lighter bites, we’d recommend the duck-meat quiche (RMB38), which achieves richness without weighing down the pastry crust. Meanwhile, the mini-burgers in squid ink bread (RMB52) are wickedly juicy. Although they’re *technically* for kids.

If you have time for a sit-down meal, the oblong-shaped chili and meatball pizza (RMB108) hits the spot, as do the gargantuan fish and chips (RMB98) and a newly launched salmon pasta doused in a creamy dill, garlic and lemon sauce (RMB78). If your post-retail urge is to wet your whistle, not get your fill, there is an outstanding selection of teas and the caffe latte comes with a little bear’s face on it.

IMHO, Chat Room proves that the Rug can wrong right now. Anyway, BRB – eating.



Price

RMB50–RMB150 a head

Who’s Going

Shoppers, chatty-types, big talkers, gossip girls

Good For

Healthy meals in unpretentious surrounds

Daily 10:30am–10:30pm; Unit 31, Joy Yard, 6/F, Chaoyang Joy City, 101 Chaoyang Beilu Chaoyang District朝阳区朝阳北路101号朝阳大悦城6F–31 悦界区

AL BAR ITALIA

When Not in Rome

words by Oscar Holland, images by Holly Li

Price

Most lunch options in the RMB30 – RMB50 range. Drinks similarly affordable.

Who's Going

People who like Italian food. So everyone, right?

Good For

Eating Italian and meeting Italians



The ‘duck test’ states that if something looks like a duck, swims like a duck, and quacks like a duck, then it’s probably a duck. Similar inductive reasoning can be applied to Al Bar Italia. Because here – and this relates to any type of item found in the cafe-slash-bar – if something can be seen, tasted or touched, it’s probably Italian.

Practically everything has been imported, from the premium olive oil to the high-design chairs. Even the tricolor Smeg fridge has made the same long journey as Marco Polo, from a boot-shaped peninsula far away.

Put simply: Al Bar Italia (which is Italian for ‘At Bar Italy’) couldn’t be more Italian. It shares a space with Xindong Lu’s Italian Center. Its Italian owner, Fabio Falanga, runs an Italian cafe at the Italian Embassy. He also imports Italian produce wholesale and runs a catering company, Aurora International, which serves Italian food. A neighboring Italian wine merchant can see to your alcohol needs, though Falanga also has his own bottles – Italian ones.

So while the word ‘authentic’ is exasperatingly over-used in the food and drink world (normally by the people who call anything hand-made ‘artisanal’), these guys should be allowed to deploy the term as freely as they want. Even the layout has Italians in mind, with a long bar designed especially for drinking coffee (all reasonably priced: espresso

RMB12, Americano RMB15, and latte RMB25, among others). As Falanga explains: “In Italy, you sit at the bar, drink your espresso and leave.”

But by night, the bar returns to a more familiar role, hosting a decent range of cocktails. The limoncello-based ‘Yellow Fever’ (RMB45) is a standout – with more taste than its name would suggest. Al Bar’s food menu is also worthy of note, consisting largely of bruschettas, paninis and salads. Of the latter, we try the tuna variety (RMB45) which is positively saturated with fresh flavors. The mixed cheese and cold cuts selection (RMB110) is, literally, little slices of Italy on a plate. Amid this delightful platter, we find the best Parma ham we’ve tried in Beijing.

As with all great Italian food, these dishes rely on a simple two-step preparation. First, source some quality ingredients. Second, put them together. And if the produce is this good, then why not?

Herein we find a flaw in the duck test: Al Bar Italia looks, tastes and quacks like it’s in Italy but it’s not. Xindong Lu is one of the least Italian places on earth. Well it was, at least.



Sun–Thu 8am–10pm, Fri and Sat 8AM–11PM; 1/f, bldg 1 (inside the Italian Center), Hai Long Plaza, 13 Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体体育场北路13号院1号楼一层1-01(海龙石油大厦 意大利中心里面) (136 1113 8901)

TRAITOR ZHOU'S

Winning Back the Masses

by Vanessa Meng, images by Holly Li

Price

RMB30-RMB150 per person

Who's Going

Curious drunks from Jing-A, healthy types

Good For

Food on the go, food with friends, and doughnuts.



Traitor Zhou's Non-Kosher [sorry Jewish friends] delicatessen may be tiny, but what it lacks in size, it makes up for in detail. Exceptionally meticulous detail. There's something rather touching about the obvious love and enthusiasm that's gone into just about every inch of this place, from the hand-printed labels explaining what breed of pig is used for the *larou* pork and which farm it's sourced from, to the perfectly coordinated color schemes and choice of music (upbeat and ambient, naturally).

"We only use red, blue, yellow, black and white colors for furnishings and labels, because those are primary colors and our food is purely organic," explains delicatessen co-manager Tiffany.

As befits a store named in honor of a turncoat, the deli stocks a range of decidedly disloyal non-Chinese goods, including the black nori bagel (RMB10), made from Japanese nori seaweed. Served with red tofu cream cheese (RMB8), the bagel is a lip-smacking combination of Eastern and Western tastes – with the cream cheese in particular offering a faint reminder of classic

Chinese-style tofu brine.

The *larou* bagel sandwich (RMB40) and the vegetarian rosemary bagel sandwich (RMB30), are equally good, though more conservative.

But let's be honest, you're not necessarily visiting a non-kosher snack shop for the healthy eats. No, you want the good stuff. You want the doughnuts. Traitor Zhou could yet win back the hearts of the nation and become Patriotic Zhou with this selection, which includes – brace yourself Beijing – passionfruit, coconut and chocolate flavors (two for RMB8, but they're a bit on the small side).

"Everything in this shop is made with fresh organic produce, delivered daily," explains Tiffany. "And we always use less sugar and oil."

Good, because we're not leaving until we've eaten at least 16 doughnuts. At a minimum.

"We know most Chinese people don't really know all that much about bagels and doughnuts," says Tiffany, somewhat apologetically.

"So we help them learn, and they learn very fast!"

Of course they do, Tiffany, your doughnuts are like opium.

Once you've got hooked on their little balls of sugary dough, you can get started on their selection of organic wines, each accompanied by a label explaining where they're from and what terms like 'biodynamic' mean (too lengthy to explain here, but the key element seems to involve an absolute shit-ton of cow manure). Prices range from RMB170 to RMB500.

"We want people to be healthy," says Tiffany. "But not live like monks."

We agree – and head outside to wolf down some banana ice cream (25 RMB), while enjoying some much needed summer sun on the colorful patio. With Jing-A Taproom just a short stone's throw away, things could easily get messy this August. Or fun. Or most likely both.

Tue-Sun 11am-7pm 1949: The Hidden City, Courtyard 4, Gongti Beilu Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北路4号院1949内

A WEEK PLAN FOR A WEAK MAN

Trialing Tribe Nutrition's Meal Delivery Service

by Oscar Holland, images by Holly Li



"I find myself buying into a lifestyle that I'd previously dismissed as only for people who wear leggings"



I roll up to the media launch of Tribe's new meal delivery service harboring an Earth-shattering hangover. My headache and profound sense of regret are only compounded by my hosts' clean, wholesome branding. They are fresh, organic and healthy. I am not.

With a specially-made cartoon we're introduced to Tribe Nutrition, which delivers customized meal plans to the doors of the time-poor. It's a cute touch and the jingle's chorus – *you are what you eat, you are what you eat, eat, eat* – is fiendishly catchy. But it is also making a grave allegation: that I am made of gutter oil, rat-meat *chuan'r* and Cornettos that have been left to thaw, rendering their cones irreversibly soggy.

I try a sample meal. Vital faculties – such as the ability to think, and hope for the future – return almost instantly. As two of Tribe's employees parade around me in human-sized carrot and tomato costumes, I experience what alcoholics call a 'moment of clarity.'

Recent history would suggest that I'm incapable of producing a healthy, balanced diet. Tribe, on the other hand, has made a business of it. So why not let them deal with everything?

The available programs span the self-explanatory ('slim,' 'bulking,' and 'vegan') and the less self-explanatory ('fresh lite' for maintaining a healthy weight and 'happy sprouts' for kids). For each, Tribe's couriers will deliver breakfast, lunch, dinner or any combination



thereof. I opt for a week on the 'bulking' diet because, well, I'm quite weak. And I'd like to be less weak.

A few clicks later, I've committed to having three meals (and two snacks) delivered every morning. Collectively, they will take my calorie count far above that required to fuel my sedentary lifestyle. So I am also committing to visiting the gym. Every day. Because that's realistic.

Day one arrives, along with a phenomenal amount of food in a cool bag that colonizes the office fridge. Over the past decade, I've eaten breakfast just a handful of times. Yet by 11am I've already consumed salmon frittatas, sweet potato hash browns, peanut butter protein bars and cleanse juice. Is this... what normal feels like?

Peddlers of organic food tend to adopt an irritating holier-than-thou-ness, but Tribe seems to just genuinely believe in the mission. Each meal arrives in a biodegradable box with hand-written nutritional information. The cutlery is made from recycled wood. The ingredients come from a variety of organic farms on the city's outskirts. I find myself buying into a lifestyle that I'd previously dismissed as only for people who wear leggings.

As the days pass, the chefs continue to find inventive ways to load my body with protein. The dinners include Kerala beef stew with couscous, glazed salmon with green tea rice, and a huge sirloin steak that wouldn't feel out of place at one of Beijing's better steakhouses. The breakfasts, lunches and snacks range from lox and egg toasties to various combinations of kale, quinoa and other zeitgeisty superfoods.

I shan't go into too much detail, as the menus will regularly change and differ for those on other plans. Just know these two things: First, almost every meal was tastier than anything I've ever cooked for myself. And second, the ingredients are of better quality than those I enjoy eating out.

But at what price? As the most comprehensive, meat-heavy option, my bulking program is also the most expensive at RMB1,800 a week. But different plans and configurations of meals can suit lower budgets. Think of it like this: RMB60 for breakfast, RMB70 for lunch and RMB80 for dinner. Not unreasonable.

But of course, the real question is whether any 'bulking' has been achieved. It would be immodest for me to say in too much detail. But there was a noticeable effect. I also found myself with energy, a concentration span and renewed faith in the power of humanity.

Maybe that's because the food was healthy, or maybe it's because I actually undertook physical activity every day. Maybe I've just been consuming a selection of neatly packaged placebos. But I can't emphasize enough just how much better this is than protein shakes.

To order or find out more about the programs visit www.tribenutrition.com.cn or call 5900 3088



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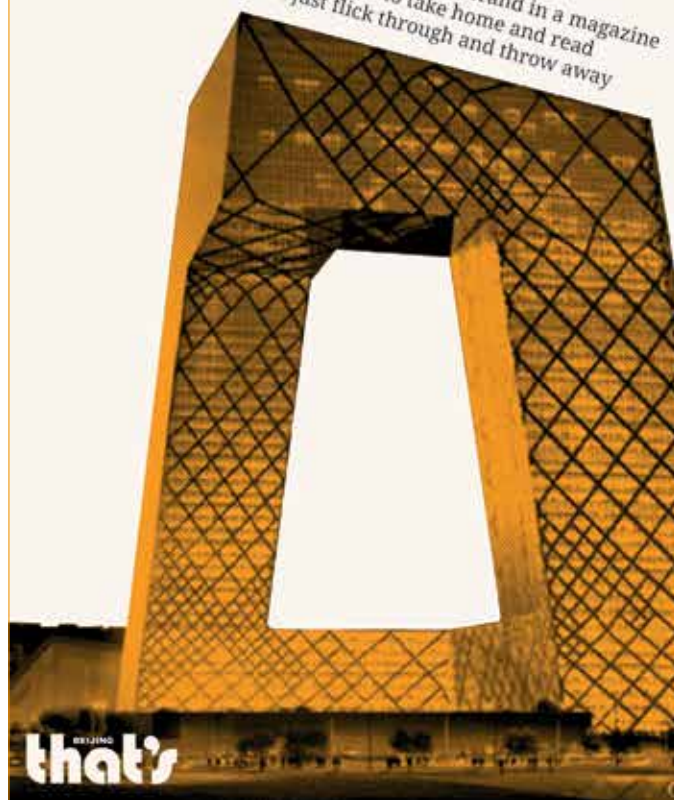
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PHONING IT IN

Preparing for my kids to go mobile

by Trevor Marshallsea



“Our girls are lovely, but soon each will transform into that most hideous of beasts – a teenage girl with a mobile phone”

You can call me old fashioned, or you might just point out that I grew up in a small town in which nothing ever, ever happened. But when the phone rang in our house, it was a time of great excitement.

Like mad bloodhounds, we kids would drop what we were doing and sprint for where the phone was (which, of course, was always in the same place). Often there'd be a bloody collision. Things would go flying, like the odd vase or pet, in the scramble to see who could answer it.

The phone was a big deal, like a lordly extra member of the family, who chose to announce his weighty presence every so often.

I'm even old enough, and from an Australian town hicky enough, to remember it being so special that you didn't even ask someone their number, but: “Have you got the phone on?” And this didn't mean powered on or off.

If we answered the phone, and were doubly blessed, we would hear the beeps that announced a long-distance call! That's right, someone was ringing from 50 miles away, or even more.

In British Commonwealth language, such calls were categorized as Subscriber Trunk Dialing. This meant that “subscribers” – those who chose to have the phone connected – could make “trunk” calls without needing one of those nasal-sounding operators who sat in dark booths and were sometimes strangled by their own cords.

Such calls were particularly expensive, so I'd get off quickly and run away shouting something like: “Mum, I've got an STD!” They were more innocent times indeed.

Now, my kids couldn't care less. A phone will ring and they'll stare at it, or more likely, won't even register that it's ringing. I'll still yell out, usually from my happy place in the bathroom, that a ringing phone is an important thing, but it makes no difference. I guess I can't blame them, since most of my calls come from a really thick Chinese robot who, despite all evidence, insists he'll one day sell me something.

Moreover, my childhood phone-getting

desperation stemmed from a tantalizing desire to be connected to the outside world, where it was rumored something, somewhere, might be happening. Perhaps kids now see how easy it is to be connected – like chatting to other hemispheres on Skype – so it's no big deal. Also, my wife and I don't put games on our phones, to avert even more screen time. Thus for our girls, picking up a phone is as appealing as picking up SARS.

Alas, all that will soon change. Our girls are nine and eight and lovely, but soon each will doubtless transform into that most hideous of beasts – a teenage girl with a mobile phone.

For me this will mean a couple of things – like having to book times to talk to them. Or I might just ring them from the next room. Worst of all, at my age I'll have to learn a new language – that of the dreaded acronym.



nym.

Of course I'm a hip dad. I might even be “sick,” “fully sick” or “extremely groovy.” But, according to dire web warnings which “no parent of teens can afford to miss,” there are about a million of these acronyms to learn. I'll happily, or grumpily, blame this on today's lazy youth. A hard day's typing would kill them.

There are basics like IDK (I Don't Know), BRB (Be Right Back), BTW (Between The Wars, I think) and of course, LOL.

For years, a mom I know felt blessed to have so many friends who always showered her with warm affection. It turned out this was only because she thought LOL meant “Lots of Love.”

Unfortunately, so did a mom featured on a web list called “Why parents shouldn't text.” She sent a message to many members of her family: “Your great aunt has just passed away. LOL.”

Some acronyms get complex, like WDYWTTA (What Do You Want To Talk About?), WAYDRN (What Are You Doing Right Now?) and even PDBAZ (Please Don't Be A Zombie). These are surely too ridiculous to be real, and are double-bluffs used to clog a parent's brain when he should be decoding real acronyms.

If you see PAW, PIR, or about 100 variations thereof, it means “Parents Are Watching”, “Parent In Room” etc. Your teen will then go into a temporary paralysis, like those goats with their legs in the air, until they can type “99.” This means the parents have stopped watching (and have perhaps gone off to spoon?)

These warnings may come in concert with smutty acronyms, like GNOC (Get Naked On Camera). There's even one called I&I for “Intercourse & Inebriation,” which the silly young things seem to have the wrong way round. NMJCU sounds vaguely rude too, but is instead just ridiculous: “Not Much, Just Chillin', U?” Oh, and 143 is a deadly romantic way of saying “I love you,” based on letters-per-word.

Some more delicate youngsters might use HGH (Haters Gonna Hate) or DJM (Don't Judge Me). There's LIHOP, for Let It Happen On Purpose, and MIH for Make It Happen, as opposed to meh, in which nothing happens.

It may seem confusing, but this much is clear: at the end of the day and for all intents and purposes, it's all about keeping parents clueless, if you know what I mean. Or as I like to say, @TEOTD, FAIAP, KPC, IYKWIM.

Trevor Marshallsea was a foreign correspondent in Beijing in the 1990s and returned a decade later. This time around he stays at home to grow the kids. Read more of his domestic adventures at www.thetigerfather.com

urbanfamily

LET'S FARM BY URBAN FAMILY & DRAGON SHOW

On July 8-9, Urban Family partnered up with family trip organizers Dragon Show to provide 11 families a 2-day farming adventure in Miyun County. The all-inclusive package included transportation, meals, a fun-packed itinerary and a one-night stay at the peaceful Shanli Lohas resort; located on the northeast mountainous region of Beijing approximately 90km from the city center.

Trip highlights included:

- Escaping the city to enjoy the beautiful countryside, nature and clean air
- Visiting an organic farm to plant and pick fresh vegetables
- A salad-making contest
- Organic meals
- Comfortable and quality accommodation with private courtyard
- Outdoor BBQ party
- Fun and creative handicraft activities
- An early morning egg hunt
- Feeding farm animals within Shanli Village
- Enjoying picturesque views on the Great Wall hike
- Printing photos and collecting souvenirs for the 'My Let's Farm Photo Album'

For more information or how to register for our future trips and events, follow Urban Family on WeChat. (ID: urbanfamily_beijing)



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Part of *That's Beijing* magazine, Urban Family is the go-to resource for international families living in Beijing. Specializing in events, our platform gives you a seasonal calendar of all the fun, healthy and family-friendly happenings in Beijing's international community. Together with our interactive content and website, our kids' clubs and family get-togethers connect urban families with the city and each other.



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● Do Hits presents Downstate and Achun Music

Do Hits takes over Dada for a night of live electronic music. Mysterious Shanghaist Downstate will bring trap and simmering bass, with Macao-born multi-instrumentalist Achun adding electronica into the mix. DJ support comes from Bloodz Boi, Dokedo, Guzz and Jason Hou. > Fri Aug 7; RMB40; Dada (see Listings for details)

● Modernsky Lab Opening Party Venue



China's largest indie label, Modern Sky, is finally opening the doors at Modernsky Lab, its new venue/cafe/store. The launch party features live sets from Rolling Bowling and The Big Wave, and if the Galaxy SOHO venue can attract consistent crowds, this could be a major new fixture on the live music scene.

> Sat Aug 1; B1, Bldg D 5-108, Galaxy SOHO, Chaoyangmennei Dajie, Dongcheng市东城区朝阳门内大街银河SOHO, D座B1层5-108

● Kiryu / Gig



If you're familiar with Japanese visual kei bands, then you can skip to the bottom. For everyone else, let's begin.

Visual kei involves the use of heavy makeup, costumes and extreme hairstyles. Think of it as a kind of Japanese glam rock, but often to the extent of resembling a crew of *Final Fantasy* extras. Although it is a subculture rather than a genre, it tends to attach itself to rock and metal, as in the case of Kiryu.

Forming in Tokyo in 2007, their music oscillates between calm and furious varieties of heavy metal. The five members all have alter-egos, including a witch, a mermaid and a Snow White inspired character named Party Hiwai. Must be seen to be understood.

> Fri Aug 7; RMB250 (presale), RMB300 (on the door); 6.30pm onward; MAO Livehouse (see Listings for details)

● Syndicate Sessions presents Q-Kraft / DJ



Sure, the efforts of the Syndicate have cemented Beijing as China's go-to city for jungle and all things bass. But we all know that Shanghai has got the odd talent worth poaching for a show. The recent winners of our award for Best Nightlife Promoters have done just that.

British-born Q-Kraft has made a name for himself in Asia, being awarded 'Best DJ in Taiwan' (in 2010, according to his website) before heading to the Mainland China and signing for Conrank's Rankadank records. Expect dub-step, electro and doses of dnb.

Support comes from the Syndicate regulars, of whom Kay C will be celebrating his birthday. We've been promised what the crew describe as a 'birthday-cake-in-the-face set.'

> Sat Aug 8; RMB30; 10pm-late; Dada (see Listings for details)

● Crazy P DJ



It may have been 20 years since Crazy P formed, but the band's recent releases sound just as relevant as when they first emerged in the UK's burgeoning mid-90s electronic scene. Perhaps that's because they fuse some of the most timeless genres, namely disco, house and soul. Their DJ show will be eminently danceable, with tracks from new album *Walk Talk Dance Sing* to be expected alongside a credible back catalogue. Want to know what the one thing that has changed since the 90s? The band appear to have grown up – they used to be called Crazy Penis.

> Sat Aug 22; RMB70; 10pm-late; Migas (see Listings for details)

● Her Bright Skies Gig



Her Bright Skies looked to have gone quiet, having not released an album since 2012. But recent EP *Prodigal Son* showed that the Swedish post-hardcore quintet are still as energetic as ever. Be warned: Singer Johan 'Jaybee' Brolin is known for maintaining eye contact with a single member of the audience for a whole song, though you're probably safe standing on Yugong Yishan's upper floor. Unless you're into androgynous emo-types, that is.

> Fri Aug 14; RMB80 (pre-sale), RMB120 (on the door); 9pm-onwards; Yugong Yishan (see Listings for details)



● The Dowager and the Dynasty Walking Tour

Hear the story of Empress Dowager Cixi that the official audio guides never tell, by joining The Hutong for an expert-led walking seminar at the Summer Palace. Discuss the Empress' life and legacy while enjoying the gardens of her erstwhile residence.

> Sat 29 Aug; RMB300 (RMB260 for members); 1-4pm; (meet in front of KFC at Beigongmen subway station, exit A)

● Organic Food and Alternative Agriculture Panel Discussion



What does 'organic' really mean in China? And how can alternative farming provide enough food while reducing the use of pesticides and fertilizers? These questions and more will be tackled by a panel of speakers from the organic food world at this panel discussion, hosted by the environmental networking group, Beijing Green Drinks.

> Tue Aug 25; 7:30pm; free; World Culture Open, Room 105, Tower 9, MOMA, 1 Xiangheyuan Lu, Dongcheng市东城区香河园路1号当代MOMA S9-105

● The China Model: Political Meritocracy and the Limits of Democracy Talk



Controversial Tsinghua Professor, Daniel Bell, makes the case that China has evolved a political system that can best be described as "political meritocracy," which does not fit into any of the usual models developed by the West. At his latest talk, hosted by the Bookworm, Bell will discuss this idea (and undoubtedly many more) from his new book *The China Model*. If you find yourself intrigued by his depiction of this unique political system, then the usual book-signing opportunities will follow. Bell's ideas have long split opinions among China-watchers, so a lively Q&A can be expected.

> Wed Aug 12; 7:30pm; RMB50 (RMB40 for members); The Bookworm (see Listings for details)

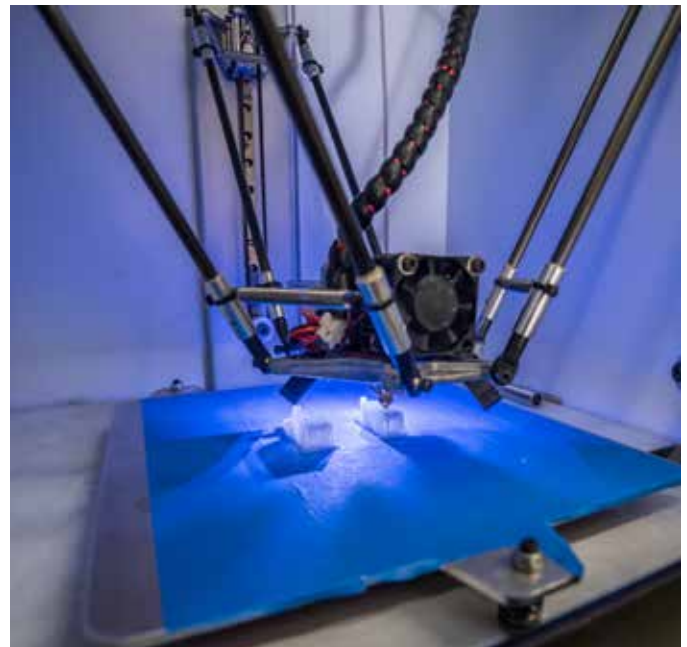
● Beijing Marathon Registration Sport



The appearance of runners in pollution masks is becoming something of a yearly phenomenon in international media. That's right, the Beijing Marathon is rolling round once more. If you're willing to risk life and lung at the September 20 race then now is the time to register. Anyone who does so before 11am on August 10 is guaranteed a place. That leaves just over a month to actually prepare for the thing.

> Register before Mon Aug 10 to guarantee spot; RMB200 for Chinese participants, USD100 for foreigners; for more information and online registration, visit www.beijing-marathon.com

● Building an Innovation Nation / Kids' Camp



Everyone is talking about 'innovation,' but what does it really mean on a practical level? Why do we need innovation? How can we be innovative? And how do we teach innovation? Join CreaTica at the Beijing MakerSpace for its kids-focused 'technology and innovation decryption' camp this summer – and invite your children to enter a world of creativity and originality.

At CreaTica, kids will get the chance to make luminous toys with LEDs, gain basic knowledge of circuitry, build robots, have a go at digital filmmaking, try the magic tool of real geeks – Arduino, experiment with 3D printing, and explore the world of open-source.

The ultimate goal of the CreaTica summer camp is to teach children quality scientific technological work through teamwork. Ideal for curious kids who are interested in advancements in science and technology, or those who simply want to know more about innovation is.

> Suitable for children aged 7 to 12, basic Chinese language skills a must; Daily 10am - 4:30pm, Aug 17 to 21, Beijing MakerSpace, Zhongguancun; RMB5,500 per child (includes: activity, lunch, insurance). RMB5,200 per child, if three or more children register together (includes free YAYA 3D printing pen, worth RMB499) Register at uf.bj@urbanatomy.com



● Gung Ho! Pizza Fifth Birthday Deals

Gung Ho! is half a decade old, and it's celebrating with... specials. Until August 8, pizzas are buy-one-get-one-free in-store, and all online orders are 20 percent off. What's more, Gung Ho! is extending its happy hour from 7-10pm, meaning drinks are buy-one-get-one-free during that time, too.

> Daily through Aug 8; all Gung Ho! Pizza locations; Sanlitun, 101, Building 3 China View, 2 Gongti Dong Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体东路2号中国红街3号楼101号; + Lido and Shuangjing branches

● World Baijiu Day at The Brickyard Event



Raise a (tiny) glass to China's most loved – and sometimes, reviled – liquor: baijiu. In honor of World Baijiu Day, The Brickyard at Mutianyu Great Wall is hosting free tastings its baijiu-based Schoolhouse Liqueurs.

> Aug 8; 7-9pm, the Brickyard at Mutianyu Great Wall; Yingbeigou Village, Huairou 慕田峪村12号

● Modernista Weekend Brunch



Only been to Modernista for late-night drinks? Think again. Last month, the hutong favorite launched a brunch so popular, they've had to turn people away. Every Saturday and Sunday, the Modernista crew will serve European-style set meals from noon till 4pm, including quiche, pancakes, homemade sausages, smoked salmon blini, eggs Benedict and more. Booze also available, including detox juices to cure hangovers and aperitifs to get them started.

Brunch prices from RMB60 to RMB75, with drinks RMB10-35 more.

> Saturdays and Sundays, noon-4pm; 44 Baochao Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区鼓楼东大街宝钞胡同44号 (136 9142 5744)

● Side Car Hutong Craft Beer Tour



"You drink, we drive" is the motto of Beijing Sideways' newest tour – a pub crawl on wheels. Spend a Saturday getting carted around from brewery to brewery, sampling beers at Jing-A, Great Leap, Slow Boat and the newly opened Arrow Factory Taproom. Over the course of four hours, you'll sample 15 different beers, munch on free snacks, listen to talks on beer production and, best of all, enjoy Beijing from a sidecar.

> Thu Aug 20; 2pm; RMB1,700 for two people, RMB950 for singles; reserve at booking@beijingsideways.com; starting point at Jing-A Taproom (see Listings for details)

● Jing-A x Pak Pak present Craft Beer & Curry Kitchen Takeover / Dinner



Jing-A's tremendously popular Kitchen Takeover series is back, this time with the help of Thai restaurant Pak Pak. Recommend we must.

In June, the brewers teamed up with Japanese joint Hagaki and the results were phenomenal – so we have high expectations for the next one. For the most reasonable sum of RMB100 you'll get you a set menu of Thai curry, two sides and dessert. Choose any beer you want, but we're reliably informed by Jing-A that curries go best with something hoppier, like the Flying Fist IPA. Trust them. They're experts.

Chicken satay and sour sausage will also be available a la carte. But be warned: past Kitchen Takeovers have been packed, so grab tickets ahead of time at the Taproom.

> Thu Aug 20, 7pm; Jing-A Taproom (see Listings for details)

● Chinese Valentine's Day / Romance



Screw February 14 – here we celebrate love on August 20.

You may roll your eyes at the furor surrounding the advertising ploy/festival of love, but think of it this way: Valentine's Day is one of the best days of the year for upscale dining. Enjoy a lavish meal with champagne and foie gras at the JW Marriot's Cru restaurant (RMB1,988 per couple), or work your way through buffets at the Crowne Plaza Beijing Lido (RMB688 per couple) and Chapter at Conrad Beijing (RMB600 per couple plus 15 percent service charge).

What better excuse to indulge in expensive hotel dining. If you have a significant other, that is. Excuse us while we cry in the office bathrooms.

> Times and locations vary, Thu Aug 20



● Hu Xiangqian Art

Conceptual artist Hu Xiangqian combines video installation with performance in 'A Performance a Day Keeps the Doctor Away' to create a series of scenes that slowly, and somewhat absurdly transform minor incidents into major social signifiers.

> Until Aug 9, 10am-6pm every day (except Monday); free; Long March Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路2号

● World Athletics Championships 2015 Sport



The world's finest athletes descend on Beijing for the biggest event to take place at the Bird's Nest since the 2008 Olympics. China will be hoping to improve on their last World Championship performance, after finishing 22nd in 2013 – with no gold medals.

> Aug 22-30; single tickets RMB50-RMB500, packages RMB120-RMB3,200; Beijing National Stadium (Bird's Nest); tickets can be purchased at ticketing.iaafbeijing2015.com/en/

● Van Gogh Alive / Art



Van Gogh Alive is something of a paradox – an exhibition that contains none of the Dutch master's original work, yet celebrates all of it. In a 35-minute looping presentation, over 3,000 images flash onto multiple screens mounted on screens on the floor and walls, some as high as seven-feet tall.

The show is notable for its modern flourishes, such as animating the crows in 'Wheatfield with Crows.' Adding to the exhibition's big budget feel is its prominent Cadillac sponsorship and exhibition-related merchandise ranging from 'Starry Night'-emblazoned shoes and ukuleles to one-eared Van Gogh teddy bears.

Since debuting in Singapore four years ago, Van Gogh Alive has become a global hit. Among the first shows to incorporate a 'Sensory 4 system,' which combines multi-channel motion graphics, cinema-quality surround sound and several high definition projectors, Alive takes a chronological approach to the Dutch master's decade as an active artist. It moves from his somber and earth-toned portraits of peasants like 'The Potato Eaters,' through his two-year stay in Arles where the local landscape and light inspired masterpieces like 'Café Terrace at Night,' to his final years in Saint-Remy where the swirling flourishes of 'The Starry Night' reflected the inner turmoil that preceded his 1890 suicide.

> Aug 8 – Nov 8; Joy City Mall, 101 Chaoyang Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳北路101大悦城

● Boat People Film Screening



Ann Hui's controversial 1982 political drama about Vietnamese refugees was a landmark film in Hong Kong film history, serving as perhaps the most exemplary film of the 'Hong Kong New Wave' movement that revitalized the city's cinema. Accused of being both anti-Vietnamese propaganda and a statement on sovereignty, this harrowing drama has an undeniable power, regardless of political stance.

> Sun Aug 9; 7pm; RMB50, Culture Yard (see Listings for details)

● Of Mice and Men Theater Screening



The 'National Theatre Live' series sees theater productions filmed and screened in China. The London and New York versions of Steinbeck's classic *Of Mice and Men* (starring James Franco) will be then shown simultaneously at UCCA. Multiple camera angles were used, which should give the audience an immersive audiovisual experience that is (almost) as good as being there in person. The event forms part of the ongoing UK-China Year of Cultural Exchange.

> Sat Aug 15; 2-4.30pm; RMB120 (RMB80 for UCCA members); UCCA, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路4号798艺术区 (5780 0200, www.ucca.org.cn)

est 2015 BEST OF BEIJING AWARDS

The inaugural *That's Beijing* Best of Beijing Awards took place on Thursday 25 June at DK1308.

A huge party, in a German brewery, with free-flow beers... what could possibly go wrong?

Our guests, which included award winners, nominees, readers and the good people of Beijing, were all invited to celebrate and raise their glasses to those who have made their mark on the capital (for better or worse). Over 6,000 readers cast their vote in categories spanning life and style, music, fashion, nightlife, health, beauty and fitness. In addition to the readers' choice award we also handed out editors' choice awards, selected by our 'expert' editorial team.

A great, beer-fueled evening was had by all, which included a total of 49 award winners, free-flow food and drink, music and good vibes by DJ Watermelon

and DK1308's totally rockin' in-house band, plus prize draw giveaways. To see the full winners list and all the party pictures (we couldn't print), visit our website:

www.thatsmags.com/beijing



DK1308 and Jing-A celebrating



Best Beauty Clinic
Zell BeauCare Clinic



Best Boutique Hotel (Readers' Choice)
Red Wall Garden Hotel



Best Gym (Readers' Choice)
Kerry Sports - Kerry Hotel, Beijing



Best Hair Salon (Editors' Choice)
Catherine De France



Best Hair Salon (Readers' Choice)
Laurent Falcon



Best Health Service (Editors' Choice)
Beijing HarMoniCare Women & Children's Hospital



Best Health Service (Readers' Choice)
Beijing International SOS Clinic



Best Hotel Bar (Editors' Choice)
X25 - W Beijing Chang'an



Best Hotel Design (Editors' Choice)
Hotel Éclat Beijing



Best Mandarin Training School (Editors' Choice)
Frontiers School



Best Mandarin Training School (Readers' Choice)
Culture Yard



Best Service Apartment - Facilities
The Tower Apartments at Oriental Plaza



Best Service Apartment - Family Friendly
Lanson Place Central Park Serviced Residences,
Beijing



Best Service Apartment - Service
Lee Garden Service Apartments, Beijing



Best Service Apartment - Value
GTC Residence Beijing



Best Sports Bar (Editors' Choice)
Drei Kronen 1308



Best Yoga Studio (Readers' Choice)
YIHE 42 Hot Yoga

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WEEKLY SPECIALS

Food and Drink

- Happy hours
- Meal deals
- Brunch
- Ladies' nights



Slow Boat Brewery Taproom

Thirsty Thursday, Sunday Funday, Freaky Friday - does every day of the week have a cutesy party name, or do we just drink too much? We find a comforting answer to these queries at the Slow Boat Brewery Taproom, which is getting in on the cute alliteration game with its new '25Kuai Tuesdays.' From 8-11pm each Tuesday, you can now grab RMB25 brews at their hutong taproom.

The beers on special will change every week, so follow @SlowBoatBrewery on WeChat to check ahead of time... or don't, and live a little. Slow Boat surprises are the best kind of surprises - their beers are generally excellent, and we're sure we'll find something to our liking among their specials. Have a happy Boozeday Tuesday. (Once again, is that a real thing, or do we just drink too much?)

> Slow Boat Brewery Taproom, see Listings for details

MONDAY to FRIDAY

MONDAY

Mai Bar

Buy two cocktails, get one free.
> 40 Beiluoguxiang, Dongcheng 东城区
北锣鼓巷40号 (138 1125 2641)

MONDAY TO THURSDAY

XIU

Buy-one-get-one-free on selected drinks, 6-9pm.
> 6/F, Park Hyatt Beijing, 2 Jianwai Dajie, Chaoyang 北京柏悦酒店, 朝阳区建国门外大街2号6楼 (8567 1108)

MONDAY TO FRIDAY

One East

Two-course set lunch: RMB118/ per person, 12:00-2:30pm.
2/F, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dong Fang Road, North Dong Sanhuan Road, Chaoyang 朝阳区东三环北路东方路一号北京希尔顿酒店2层 5865 5030

Great Leap Brewing

11.30am-2pm, free soft drink or juice with any burger or salad or add RMB5 for a Pale Ale #6.
> At Xinzhong Lu branch only, (see Listings for details)

Hagaki

Set lunch, 11.30am-3pm, Bento style lunch set from RMB58 with no service charge.
5-10pm, Daiginjo Sake promotion, RMB550 / 150 Bottle / Carafe.
> 1/F, 22 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路22号1层 8414 9815

Jing Yaa Tang

Set lunch, RMB88/person, 4 for 3.
> Bldg 1, The Opposite House, 11

Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路11号瑜舍酒店1号楼 (6140 5230)

Agua

Agua's new set lunch menu is RMB118/ person for three courses.
> RMB118/person, Mon-Fri, 12pm-2:30pm, Agua, 4/F Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯北路81号那里花园4楼D308号 (5208 6188)

Greyhound Café

Only RMB28 for a Tsingtao or Bud, and RMB38 for a mojito or dry martini, 5-7pm.
> Greyhound Cafe (see listings for details)

Village Café

Set Lunch, RMB98+15% (3 courses), RMB88+15% (2 courses)
> 11.30am-2.30pm, Bldg 1, The Opposite House, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路11号瑜舍酒店1号楼 (6410 5210)

MONDAY TO SATURDAY

Twilight

Mon-Sat before 8pm and all day Sun, RMB20 off cocktails.
> 0102, 3/F, Bldg 5, Jianwai SOHO, 39 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东三环39号建外SOHO5号3层0102室 (5900 5376)

TUESDAY

Flamme

Two-for-one steak all day.
> 3/F, S4-33 Sanlitun Taikooli, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路19号三里屯太古里南区3层S4-33 (6417 8608)

Pebbles

Just RMB10 per taco - order as many as you want.
> Midday to midnight; 74 Wudaoying Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区五道营胡同74号 (8404 0767)

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY

S.T.A.Y Restaurant

Three courses including coffee and tea for RMB388/person with 15 percent service charge, 11.30am-2.30pm.
> Level 1, Valley Wing, Shangri-La Hotel, 29 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian 海淀区紫竹院路29号香格里拉酒店1层 (6841 2211-6727)

WEDNESDAY

Great Leap Brewing

All day Wednesday, one select beer at RMB25.
> At Number 6 Courtyard branch, (see listings for details)

Mao Mao Chong

Cocktails RMB35, 7-11pm.
> 12 Banchang Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区交道口南大街板厂胡同12号 (6405 5718)

Elements

Free mojitos, champagne and cosmos, 9pm-1am.
> 58 Gongti Xi Men, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体西门58号 (6551 2373)

4Corners

Ladies get 15 percent off red wine. cheap shots and drink deals at 4Corners' weekly celebration of KTV.
> Dashibei Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区石杯胡同7号 (6401 7797)

Mosaic

Buy-one-get-one-free pizza every Wednesday lunchtime at Mosaic.
> Daily 12pm-2am; 32 S. Sanlitun St (Behind/North of Yashow Silk Market), Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯南32号楼临街店 (137 1883 7065)

Xian

Whiskey night, discounts on special selected whiskeys.
> All night, 1/F, 22 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路22号1层 (8414 9810)

THURSDAY

Domain

Happy Burger's Day, 2 for 1 Burger promotion.
> 10.30am-2pm, 2/F, 22 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路22号2层 (8414 9830)

Opus Terrace

Ladies enjoy free cocktails; on Fridays, it's bachelors night, where chaps get 50 percent off beer and burgers at the same times, 5-8pm.
> Opus Bar & Terrace, 48 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区亮马桥路48号 (5695 8888)

FRIDAY

Mesh

House Champagne buy 1 bottle get 1 free.
> Bldg 1, The Opposite House, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路11号瑜舍酒店1号楼 (6410 5220)

STELLA ARTOIS URBAN MOMENTS



Do you have party pictures to contribute? Send them to us at bjeditor@urbanatomy.com and we'll run the best.

Belgium 1366

SUNSETS TERRACE PARTY

@ XIU - JUNE 16



LISTINGS

Expensive.....¥
Expense Account.....¥¥
Highly Recommended.....*
Top Ten.....**

OPEN DOOR



RICCI CAFÉ

Haidian and Mighty

Hidden away in Wudaokou, Ricci Cafe is one of those gems that is absolutely worth seeking out. So when we found out they had new menu items, we did just that.

The latest dishes are as appetizing as we've come to expect, each with a creative twist. The hearty tomato orzo with sausage and mushrooms (RMB68) may look like rice, but it's in fact short-cut pasta. The flatbread (RMB78) may look like a pizza, but its crisp and laden with salmon and fresh avocado. There's no twist to the East Coast double cheese burger (RMB98) though, other than the fact it's hands-down one of the best in town.

If you live in Wudaokou and you don't know about Ricci – shame on you. If you don't live in Wudaokou – there's now no better reason to head up there. > 1/F, Keji Dasha Tower D, Bldg 8, Tsinghua Science Park, 1 Zhongguancun Donglu Chaoyang 朝阳区中关村东路1号清华科技园8号楼科技大厦D座1层 (8215 8826)

RESTAURANT

The Hot One Hundred

About This guide represents our editors' top 100 picks, and includes some *That's Beijing* advertisers. Restaurants rated(*) have been personally reviewed by our experts, and scored according to the cuisine, experience and affordability.

CHINESE

Contemporary & Mixed Cuisine

8 Qi Nian 祈年8号 (Cantonese/Sichuan)

The New World Hotel's flagship restaurant has classic Chinese cuisine in abundance, as well as some vitality-restoring medicinal soups. (Their decent wine list is just as effective.)

> Mon-Fri 11:30am-2:15pm, 5:30-9:30pm, Sat/Sun 12-2:45pm, 5:30-9:30pm; 2/F, New World Hotel, 8 Qinian Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区祈年大街8号新世界酒店2层 (5960 8822)

Bellagio 鹿港小镇 (Taiwanese)

A favorite among the city's hip and young, this swanky Taiwanese restaurant chain is the place for mountainous shaved ice desserts and creamy bubble teas.

> 11am-11pm; 6 Gongti Xilu Chaoyang 工体西路6号 (6551 3533) see www.bellagjocafe.com.cn for more locations

Din Tai Fung 鼎泰丰 ¥ (Taiwanese)

This Taipei-based franchise impressed Ken Hom enough to call it one of the best 10 eateries in the world, back in 1993. Famous for its dependably delicious *xiaolongbao* or little steam buns. Book ahead, there's always a long wait.

> Daily 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-10pm, weekends 11:30am-10pm; 24 Middle Street, Xinyuanxili, Chaoyang 朝阳区新源西里中街24号 (近渔阳饭店) (6462 4502) > Additional branches in Shin Kong Place; Parkview Green; Grand Pacific Mall Xidan; Modern Plaza Zhongguancun; see www.dintaifung.com.cn for details

The Horizon 海天阁 (Cantonese Beijing Duck) **

Kerry Hotel's Chinese restaurant has widened its predominantly Cantonese and Sichuan horizons to include dim sum, double-boiled soups and Peking duck – and the roast bird here really is fabulous.

> Daily 11:30am-2:30pm, 5:30pm-10pm 1/F, Beijing Kerry Hotel, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区光华路1号嘉里中心1层 (8565 2188)

No 16 Courtyard 后海16号 (Beijing)



Houhai No. 16 is a courtyard restaurant in Houhai, specializes in dishes once served for the government in the imperial times, with customizable menus.

¥380/person (without drinks) Open: 11:30am-9pm

> D4, Dajin Hutong, Xicheng District, 西城区后海大金丝胡同4号 010-83226461, 13716551797 www.houhai16.com

Jing Yaa Tang 京雅堂 (Chinese, Peking Duck)

Resembling something between a nightclub and a theater, the Opposite House's basement restaurant proves to be more than just style over substance with their range of expertly prepared classic dishes.

> Daily 12-10:30pm, B1/F, The Opposite House, Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路11号院1号楼渝香酒B1楼 (6410 5230)

Wu Li Xiang 屋里香 (Cantonese, Sichuan) *

Impressive views don't detract from the exquisitely presented cuisine of Chef Kam, especially the dim sum. Swanky classics from all the main culinary regions of China, including, of course, "Monk Jump Over the Wall" – braised pork in oyster sauce.

> Daily 11am-2pm, 5pm-10pm; 2-3/F, Traders Upper East Hotel, Beijing, 2 Dongsihuan Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东四环北路2号北京上东盛饭店二三层 (5907 8406)

Yipin 一品 (Huaiyang) *

The Sofitel Beijing's boutique Chinese restaurant, Yipin is a beautifully thought-out conflux of all that is elegant, traditional and tasty. Huaiyang cuisine headlines the menu, so expect sweet and delicate and sweet flavors with impeccable presentation.

> Sofitel Wanda Beijing, Tower C, Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国路93号 万达广场C座索菲特酒店 (8599 6666)

Peking Duck

Da Dong 大董

Among the city's most famous haunts, Da Dong guarantees slick cuts of Beijing-style roast duck and delectable wrap fillings. The venue's a class act and the plum sauce is hard to follow.

> Daily 11am-10pm; 22 Dongshihitiao, Dongcheng 东城区东四十条甲22号 (5169 0328); see www.dadong-gdang.com for more locations

Duck de Chine 全鸭季 ¥ *

Good duck is meant to show your guests how wonderful you are, as much as the food. Duck De Chine does that in spades, with fantastic presentation of its crispy, succulent duck (RMB188).

> Daily 11:30am-2:30pm, 6-10:30pm; Courtyard 4, 1949 The Hidden City, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北路4号院 (6501 8881) > 98 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng 东城区金宝街98号 (6521 2221)

Shanghai

Shanghai Min 小南国

Many swear this chain has the best Shanghai-style *hongshaorou* north of the Yangtze. The jury's out, but its popularity remains.

> 0505, 5/F Raffles City Mall, 1 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区东直门南大街1号来福士购物中心5楼0505号铺 (400 820 9777) > Additional branches in Financial Street; Jinbao Jie, Oriental Plaza; Sanlitun Soho; Xinyuan Nan Lu (see www.online.thatsmags.com for details)

Wang Jia Sha 王家沙

Modern Shanghai cuisine – popular with Hong Kong celebrities – famed for its crab-meat dumplings. Try the spiced-salt ribs (RMB62) for a bit of Adam action.

> Daily, 51-30a Taikoo Li Sanlitun (on the third floor of i.t shop) 朝阳区三里屯路19号院太古里1号楼3层 S1-30a号商铺 (6416 3469)

Sichuan/Hunan

Chuan Ban 川办 *

This bright, modestly decorated dining hall is frequently cited as Beijing's best Sichuan restaurant.

> Mon-Fri 7-9am, 10:50am-2pm, 4:50-9:30pm; Sat-Sun 7am-10pm; 5 Gongyuan Toutiao, Jianguomennei Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区建国门内贡院头条5号 (6512 2277, ext. 6101)

Karaiya Spice House 辣屋 *

Bold and fiery Hunan cuisine in the most serene of restaurant interiors. Don't miss the dry roasted duck with a dozen spices and stir fried bullfrog with shiso leaves and ginger. Peanut milk is there to soothe the palate: you'll need it.

> Daily 11:30am-2pm, 5:30-10pm; 3/F, Sanlitun Taikoo Li South, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯太古里19号院南区3层S9-30 (6415 3535)

South Memory 望湘园

This restaurant chain is the Hunan staple in the capital. The trademark *shilixiang niurou* (fragrant beef), *duofiao shuangse yutou* (dual-colour spiced fish head) and meltingly tender frog dishes are among the favorites with locals.

> Daily 11am-10pm; 2/F, 230-232, Fenglian Plaza, 18 Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝外大街18号丰联广场2楼230-232号 (6588 1797); see www.southmemory.com for more locations

Yuxiang Renjia 渝乡人家

The menu here is old-fashioned and reliably good. The *laziji* is crispy but not too greasy, the pepper-sauce noodle, with spinach, is filling and refreshing. Assorted confections are guaranteed to comfort numbed-and-burned tongues, too.

> Daily 11am-2pm, 5-9pm 5/F, Lianhe Dasha (Union Plaza), 20 Chaoyangmenwai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳门外大街20号联合大厦五层 (6588 3841) see www.yuxiangrenjia.com for other locations

Yu Xin 渝信川菜

Open since 1993, Yu Xin's authentic Sichuan dishes have earned a loyal fanbase. Their *liangfen* – a jelly-like substance cut into chunky strips and dressed in an addictive spicy sauce – hits the spot. The rustic, intimate setting of bamboo cubicles and swift, friendly service complete the experience.

> Daily 11am-10pm; 5A Xingfu Yicun Xili, Chaoyang 朝阳区幸福一村西里甲5号 see www.yuxin1997.com for other locations.

Transit 渡金湖 ¥¥ **

Sichuan is known for its blazing spices and its equally hot girls. While the latter are up to you, the creative minds at Transit have made some fiery additions to the classical, chili-thumping canon, and they will charge you for that knowledge. But unlike many equally expensive joints, this is high-end Chinese dining at its best.

> Daily 12-2:30pm, 6-10pm; N4-36, Sanlitun Taikoo Li North, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路11号三里屯太古里北区N4-36号 (6417 9090)

Yunnan**Dali Courtyard 大里院子 ***

If you like authentic Yunnanese food, you'll have to trust the staff: there's no menu, it all just arrives in an intimate courtyard setting. The price (RMB120/person) matches the rustic ingredients.

> Daily 12-2pm, 6-10:30pm; Gulou Dong Dajie, 67 Xiaojingchang Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区鼓楼东大街小经厂胡同67号 (8404 1430)

Hani Gejiu 哈尼个旧 ¥

Something about Gulou makes it the perfect district for Yunnan food, and this little gem is up their with the best. Contender for friendliest service in town.

> Mon-Sat 11am-10pm; 46 Zhonglouwan Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区钟鼓楼胡同46号 (6401 3318)

Lost Heaven 花马天堂 (Yunnan, SE Asian)

An emphasis on Yunnan characterizes this menu's fresh journey through the SE Asia passage, with a grandiose yet dark teak interior.

> Daily noon-2pm, 5pm-10:30 (bar open till 1am). Ch'ien Men 23, 23 Qianmen Dongdajie, Dongcheng 东城区前门东大街23号 (8516 2698)

Middle 8th Restaurant 中八楼 *

Hip and slightly swanky, without being pretentious, this is a celebration of all things 'south of the clouds' – so try crisp-fried worms, or "crossing-the-bridge" noodles, beef jerky-style yak meat and fresh, wild herbs galore.

> The Place Branch: Daily 11am-11pm, L404A, South Tower, The Place, 9 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区光化路9号世贸天阶南楼L404A (6587 1431) > Additional venues in Sanlitun; Taikoo Li Mall; Indigo Mall (see www.middle8th.com for details)

Yun'er Small Town 云洱小镇

Folksy and affordable Yunnanese fare on Beiluoguxiang. Fragrant dishes including the jasmine bulbs with scrambled eggs, lemongrass shrimp, and banana leaf wrapped bolete mushrooms will keep us crawling back.

> Daily 10am-11pm, 84 Beiluoguxiang, Dongcheng 东城区北锣鼓巷84号 (8404 2407)

Dumplings**Baoyuan Jiaoziwu 宝源饺子屋**

Famous for their rainbow of dyed dumplings, Baoyuan have their *jiaozzi* (six, under

RMB10) wrapped in a larger *yuanbao* silver-tingot shape, with creative vegetarian options and authentic Sichuan food.

> Daily 11am-10pm; north of 6 Maizidian Jie, Chaoyang 朝阳区麦子店街6号楼北侧 (6586 4967)

Mr Shi's Dumplings 老石饺子馆

Since receiving a *Lonely Planet* recommendation the prices have risen and the walls are covered in backpackers' scribbles, but the fantastic dumplings – boiled and fried – are still fantastic.

> 74 Baochao Hutong, Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区鼓楼东大街宝钞胡同74号 (8405 0399, 131 6100 3826)

Hot Pot**Ding Ding Xiang 鼎鼎香 ***

Classier than most hotpot joints, Ding Ding Xiang features a spacious dining room of sweaty-faced patrons enjoying high-grade *huoguo* in their own individual pot. The delicious sesame sauce (the recipe is a closely guarded secret) is a Beijing classic.

> Daily 11am-10pm; 2/F, Yuanjia International Apartments, Dongzhimenwai, Dongzhong Jie (opposite East Gate Plaza), Dongcheng 东城区东直门外东中街东环路对面元嘉国际公寓2层 (6417 9289, see www.dingdingxiang.com.cn for other locations)

Haidilao 海底捞火锅 *

Hotpot in China is like religion; everyone's got their own brand. Either way, the raw meats and vegetables, cooked communally, is divine, and the outstanding customer service makes Haidilao a fitting church

> Daily, 24 hrs; 2A Baijiazhuang Lu (beside No. 80 Middle School), Chaoyang 朝阳区白家庄路甲2号 (八十中学西侧) (6595 2982, see http://www.haidilao-huoguo.com for other locations)

Regional**Crescent Moon (Xinjiang) ***

Roast mutton enthusiasts go over the moon at this reputable Xinjiang Muslim restaurant. Eastern European and Central Asian influences are evident throughout, with peppery and cumin-spiced dishes livening up traditional Chinese favorites.

> Daily 10am-11:30pm; 16 Dongsilutiao, Dongcheng 东四六条16号 (6400-5281)

Da Gui (Guizhou)

Guizhou's famed hot-and-sour cuisine nestled into a charming traditional alleyway. Munch happily into pickled greens and don't miss the salty-sweet deep-fried black sesame balls. They're sensational.

> Daily 10am-2pm, 5-10pm; 69 Daxing Hutong, Jiaodaokou, Dongcheng 东城区交道口大兴胡同69号 (6407 1800)

Makeye Ame (Tibetan)

Determined to prove that Tibetan cuisine consists of more than just yak-butter tea, the Beijing branch of this nationwide chain serves up nomadic classics such as curried potatoes and roast lamb.

> Daily 10-midnight; 11A Xiushui Nanjie, Jianguomenwai, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国门外秀水南街甲11号 (6506 9616)

ShiChengJi Shaobing 实诚吉烧饼

If ever a food were able to alleviate life's difficulties – however temporarily – then this is surely it. In one bite, these beef *shaobing* will remind you exactly why you first chose to live in Beijing. They're that good. Queues of locals are testament.

> Daily 7am-7pm; 43 Dongsilutiao, Dongcheng 东城区东四六条43号 (186 1029 5038)

Xinjiang Red Rose (Xinjiang) *

One of Beijing's most famous Xinjiang restaurant, Red Rose serves some of the tenderest lamb skewers around, matched by enormous servings of classics like *dapanji* (a chicken, potato and pepper stew), *latiaozi* (noodles with a spicy tomato sauce) and *nang* (baked flatbread).

> Daily 10:30am-11pm; Inside 7 Xingfuyicun, opposite Workers' Stadium North Gate, Chaoyang 朝阳区工人体育场北门对面幸福一村7巷内 (6415 5741)

WESTERN**Fine Dining****Aria ¥¥ (European) ***

A gold standard of opulence and, at RMB1,100 for the Wagyu beef and starters around RMB150, the prices reflect that. In-house sommeliers help tailor your meal perfectly.

> Mon-Fri 11:30am-2:30pm, 6pm-midnight; Sat-Sun 6-10pm; 2/F China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomenwai Waidajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国门外大街 (6505 2266 ext. 36)

Barolo ¥¥ (Italian) *

Average Italian abounds in Beijing: not here, though. Quite the opposite, in fact, meaning Barolo is as well-regarded as the

OPEN DOOR**OBENTOS****Mo' bentos from Obentos**

Last month, we were excited to hear that healthy Japanese restaurant Obentos is working on a second location in Liangmaqiao, but it's not quite open yet. Never fear: the restaurant's still going strong over at Central Park.

Or should we say stronger? Beijing's healthy-food favorite just got healthier. The restaurant announced new additions to its smoothie menu with two new nutrient-packed summer smoothies, the Bitter Green and the Nutty Cacao (RMB34 for a small, RMB42 for a large). The two blends feature chia seeds and maca powder – the veritable all-stars of the nutrition world – designed to energize you, sans caffeine, and boost stamina and overall health. (If you're not sold yet, maca is also known to enhance libido.)

As always, Obentos is serving its killer bento boxes. There's plenty to hold you over until the new location arrives.

> Daily, 11am-10pm; Central Park, Building 9, 106/107, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳门内大街新城国际9号楼106-107室 (6597 0085)

LISTINGS

Piedmont wine it is named after.

> Mon-Sun 11:30am-2pm, 6pm-10pm. Ritz Carlton Hotel, China Central Place, 83A Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国路甲83号华贸中心丽思卡尔顿酒店内 (5908 8151)

Brasserie Flo 🍷 (French) *

Marble slabs, mosaic floors and brass fittings establish the Parisian bona fides; dishes like snails (RMB78), oysters (RMB48 each) and steak tartare (RMB158) confirm. The grandeur is matched only by the service, and the prices reflect the authenticity of the experience.

> Daily 11am-midnight; 18 Xiaoyun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区霄云路18号 (6595 5135)

Capital M ¥ (Contemporary Western) **

The Art Deco interior, swish staff and breathtaking views over the archery towers from Qianmen ensures the pinnacle of al-fresco dining, with world-class modern European stylings and deliciously posh afternoon tea.

> Daily 11:30am-10:30pm. Floor 3, 2 Qianmen Buxingjie, Dongcheng 东城区前门步行街2号3层 (6702 2727)

Héritage 🍷

A French country-style chateau in the heart of Beijing. A chef de cuisine with Michelin star restaurant experience and an extensive wine cellar make this Sofitel Hotel restaurant one of the best French dining experiences in town.

> 6F Sofitel Wanda Beijing, Tower C, Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国路93号 万达广场C座索菲特酒店6层 (8599 6666)

Mio 🍷

Glitzy Italian fare at the Four Seasons, with a mobile Bellini cart, wheeled straight to your table. Chef Marco Calenzo crafts a superb squash tortellini by hand, and pampers diners with desserts like the deconstructed tiramisù.

> Daily, lunch 11:30am - 2:30pm, dinner 5:30pm -10:30pm Four Seasons Hotel, 48 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang, 北京四季酒店 亮马桥路48号, 朝阳区 (5695 8888)

S.T.A.Y. 🍷 (French)

Luxury dining with three-Michelin-starred chef, Alléno Yannick's, back-to-basics kitchen concept, which includes a mouth-watering 'pastry library'. Classic dishes usually include dishes such as steak, foie gras, rack of lamb, plus a spit roast and grill for international standard fine-dining.

> Daily 11:30am-2:30pm; 5:30pm-10pm; Sundays 11am-4pm. Shangri La, Valley Wing, Level 1, 29 Zizhuyuan Road, Haidian 海淀区紫竹院路29号北京香格里拉饭店 (6841 2211, Ext. 6727)

Temple Restaurant Beijing (TRB) 🍷 (Contemporary Western) **

Setting is everything here, especially if it's fashioned inside a restored Buddhist temple. The bold contemporary European cuisine is fitting in majesty and the service alone is worthy of worship.

> Daily 11:30am-2:30pm, 6-10pm; 23 Songzhusi Temple, Shatan Beijie, Dongcheng 东城区沙滩北街嵩祝寺23号 (8400 2232)

Contemporary Western

Alfie's ¥ (British)

What's all this about, then? British gastro-pub classics, (like pukker fish and chips, RMB188), a swanky gentleman's club interior, and located in a chic modern art gallery-cum-mall. That's what, mate.

> Daily, 11:30am-2:30pm, 5:30-10pm, brunch served on weekends; Parkview Green, 9 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东大桥路9号芳草地上1-22 (5662 8777)

Caribeño (Latin)

Heavy Cuban influence, but there are dishes from all over the Latin continent here. The Ropa Vieja (shredded beef on potato) is excellent – as are the Mojitos.

> Daily 11:30am-9:30pm, 1/F, China Overseas Plaza, 8 Guanghua Dongli, Chaoyang 朝阳区光华东里8号中海广场北楼1层 (5977 2789)

Chi (Organic, Fusion)

Hutong set-menu dining par-excellence, with organic ingredients all locally sourced. From the owners of neighboring Saffron.

> Daily, opens 10:30am, last order 9:30pm, 67 Wudaoying Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区五道营胡同67号 (6445 7076)

C Pearl (Oysters, Seafood) ¥ *

This slick oyster restaurant imports fresh shells from Canada, South Africa, France, USA and more – and they are well worth the price. The fries are the best we've had in Beijing, beer and wine selection also excellent.

> Tue-Sun 5:30pm-2am; 14-2, Bldg 14, Shunyuanli, Xinyuan li, Yansha Qiao, Chaoyang 朝阳区燕莎桥新源街顺源里14号楼14-2号 (5724 5886)

Grill 79 (Steak)

With views this good, Grill 79 would probably make it onto the list even if the food was terrible. It's something of a bonus then that the kitchen is superb, and supported by one of the most extensive wine lists in town.

> Daily 6.30-10.30am, noon-2pm, 6-10pm. 79/F, China World Trade Center Phase 3, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国门外大街1号国贸大酒店79楼 (6505 2299 ext 6424)

Missa (European)

Whether it is the tender, imported cuts of meat or the long list of expertly made and creative cocktails going down your gullet, you can't really go wrong at this refined relaxed lounge like restaurant.

> Daily 6pm-late. 32-33, 3/F, Bldg 3, Sanlitun Taikoo Li North, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯太古里北区3号楼3层32-33 (137 1851 7917)

Mosto (European, South American) ¥ *

A perpetually busy lunch and evening spot, thanks to chef Daniel Urdaneta's skill for modernising South American-style dishes like ceviche and risotto in his open kitchen.

> Sun-Thu noon-2:30pm, 6-10pm; Fri-Sat noon-2:30pm, 6-10:30pm. 3/F, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路81号那里花园3层 (5208 6030)

Stuff'd (Contemporary Western)

The concept of Stuff'd is to simply stuff one kind of food in another. From sausage calzone pizzas (RMB68) to scotch eggs – it all works. On-site micro brewery a bonus.

> Wed-Mon, 11:30am-2:45pm, 6-10pm, 9 Jianchang Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区箭厂胡同9号 (6407 6308)

VIC

Not to be confused with the notorious nightclub of the same name, this VIC is the Sofitel Beijing's casual dining restaurant. All the major world cuisines are in attendance here – make you pay special attentions to the French-inspired breads and pastries – as is the customary Sunday champagne brunch.

> Sofitel Wanda Beijing, Tower C, Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国路93号 万达广场C座索菲特酒店6层 (8599 6666)

Yi House (Contemporary Western)

Nestled in the confines of 798, Yi's great tasting brunch is bettered only by their wide range of cocktails. Sundays offer jazz brunches with lobster and champagne.

> Daily 11am-3pm, 6pm-12am; 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, 798 Yishu Qu, No.1 706 Houjiejie, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路2号院798艺术区706后街1号 (6436 1818)

Café/Deli/Sandwich

Beiluo Bread Bar (Café)

This local hipster café favorite offers in-house baked bread and sandwiches but we usually go for the hand-pulled noodles. Gets cozy at night.

> Tue-Sun 12-10pm. 70A Beiluoguxiang, Dongcheng 东城区北锣鼓鼓巷甲70号(近南锣鼓巷)(8408 3069)

Café Zahar (Café) *

A smart new interior and menu for this longstanding café has propelled it from hipster hangout to Gulou institution. Large, airy and with a terrace for summer, the only downside is it's always packed.

> Daily 9.30am-midnight 42 Gulou Dongdajie, Dongcheng 东城区鼓楼东大街42号 (8403 9807)

Element Fresh (Contemporary Western)

Another import from Shangers, this is boutique salads-and-sandwich lunching, with somewhat questionable price tags.

> Daily Mon-Fri 10am-11pm, Sat-Sun 7am-11pm. 833, Building 8, 19 Sanlitun Taikoo Li South, Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路19号三里屯太古里南区8号楼833 (6417 1318)

MODO Urban Deli (Contemporary Western) *

Yates Wine Lodge this is not. Unconventional and great fun, this compact eatery was designed around an ever-changing selection of fine wines. Serves up fresh tapas style food and original finger foods.

> Sun-Thu noon-10pm, Fri-Sat noon-10:30pm; 3/F, Sanlitun Taikoo Li South (close to Element Fresh), 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路19号三里屯太古里南区3楼(近新元素) (6415 7207)

MOKA Bros (Contemporary Western) *

Power bowls, salads and wraps are the kind of fare on offer at this trendy Nali Patio space, which also has a great selection of cakes and pastries if you're feeling more indulgent.

> Sanlitun: Sun-Thu 11am-10:30pm, Fri/Sat 11am-11:30pm, 8101b Nali Patio South, 81 Sanlitun Beilu Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路81号101B南楼 (5208 6079) > Solana: Solana Lakeside Dining Street, 6 Chaoyang Park Road, Chaoyang 朝阳区湖畔美食街朝阳公园路6号院 蓝色港湾 (5905 6259)

Ricc

Named after a 17th century Italian Jesuit (duh), this creative café has a funky, kooky-meets-organic vibe and serves up some of the best casual western food in town, and a great brunch at the Wudaokou location (Chaoyang branch closed weekends).

> 1/F, Building D, Tsinghua Science Park, 1 Zhongguancun Donglu, Haidian 海淀区中关村东路1号院清华科技园D座1楼 8215 8826)

The Rug (Contemporary Western, Organic) *

With ingredients supplied by local organic farms like Dahe and De Run Wu, and an emphasis on sustainability, this café's wide ranging menu has something for everyone, especially green types, bored foreign moms and freelance Macbook types.

> Mon-Fri 7:30am-10:30pm, Sat/Sun 9:30am-10:30pm; Bldg 4, Lishui Jiayuan, Chaoyang Gongyuan Nanlu (opposite Chaoyang Park South Gate), Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳公园南路丽水嘉园4号楼(朝阳公园南门对面) (8550 2722) > Additional location in Sanlitun Nan Jie (see online.thatsmags.com for details)

Vineyard Cafe on the River (British)

New Vineyard offshoot opposite of the Li-gangna River. Menu features British classics like fish & chips and bangers & mash. The breezy terrace is primed for a pint of the handcraft beer or a carafe of Pimms.

> Daily Tue-Fri 11.30am-3pm, 6pm-12am (kitchen closes at 10pm), Sat/Sun 11.30am-3pm, 6pm-12am; Liangmahe Nan Lu, west side of Xindong Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区亮马河南路 新东路西侧御阳饭店对面 (8532 5335)

TRIBE *

Induction to this Tribe appears to involve spending somewhere in the region of RMB100 on a kale salad and a freshly pressed juice, while basking in the warm, conceited glow that comes from knowing that you are Eating Well. Salads, wraps and sandwiches, and noodle and grain bowls are as tasty as they are holistic.

> Daily 8am-10.30pm, 1/F, Building 3, China View Plaza, 2a Gongti Dong Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体东路甲2号中国红街大厦3号楼1层大厅入口南侧 8587 1899

Wagas (Contemporary Western)

Quality eats with minimal pretension. This stylish, no-fuss Shanghai rival to Element Fresh offers some of the best and most affordable Western lunch options in town. The zesty carrot-and-zucchini cake is a crowd pleaser.

> Daily 8am-10pm; 58-33, 3/F, Bldg 8, Taikoo Li South, 19 South Sanlitun Street, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯太古里南区3层 (6416-5829) > Additional locations in The Kerry Centre, Raffles Mall Dongzhimen (see www.online.thatsmags.com for details)

American/BBQ/Grill

The Big Smoke *

Taking the Home Plate BBQ concept and upscaling was a gourmet masterstroke. Full menu evenings only (also delivers rotisserie chicken via Uncle Otis).

> Daily Mon-Sat 11am-midnight, Sun 11am-10pm. First Floor, Lee World Building (opposite Frost Nails), 57 Xingfucun Zhong Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区幸福村中路 57号楼利世楼 (6416 5195, 6416 268, www.uncle-otis.com)

Home Plate BBQ *

Scruffy looks and laid-back staff belie the popularity of this entry-level brick-smoker barbecue joint, that blossoms in the sunny months. Pulled-pork sandwiches are the favorites, followed by baby-back ribs racks. Beer and bourbons are taken care of, too.

> Daily 11am-10pm. 35 Xiaoyun Lu courtyard (20m north of Xiaoyun Lu intersection, first right), Chaoyang District 朝阳区霄云路35号院过霄云路路口, 往北走20米, 到第一个路口右转(5128 5584) Additional location in Sanlitun Nan Jie (see online.thatsmags.com for details)

NOLA

N'Orleans finds a dark-wood home in the leafy embassy area, with a jazz soundtrack, shrimp and grits, gumbo, fried chicken, jambalaya and decent-oven po'boys – yes'm. Excellent Cajun snacks, craft beers and cocktail also make NOLA a popular watering hole.

> Mon-Fri 8am-11pm, Sat-Sun 10.30am-11pm. 11A Xiushui Nanjie, Chaoyang 朝阳区秀水南街11号 (8563 6215)

Tim's Texas BBQ *

Who is Tim, you ask, and what's his Texas BBQ doing in Beijing? Providing ya'll home-sick 'Murricans with the best damn home-style briskets, ribs and steaks – slow-cooked over a mesquite wood BBQ – this side of the Rio Grande. Tex Mex and Margherita's recommended.

> Daily 9am-midnight; Silk#2 Building, 14 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东大桥路14号秀水

2号院 (6591 9161)

Union Bar and Grill

The definitive US-style diner in Beijing, Union's extensive menu – from eggs Benedict to baby back ribs – covers all bases and hours, served by friendly staff. The warm atmosphere tempts many to stay all day.

> Mon-Fri 11am-11pm, Sat/Sun 11am-midnight; 56-31, 3/F, Bldg 6, Sanlitun Taikoo Li South, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路19号三里屯太古里南区6号楼3层56-31 (6415 9117)

The Woods *

New York native-owned, Manhattan-style restaurant, tucked in amongst the skyscrapers of CBD: you can't get more Big Apple than that.

> Daily 12pm-10pm, Central Park Tower 1, Suite 101, No. 6 Chaoyang Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝外大街6号新城国际1号楼101 (6533 6380)

Burgers

Blue Frog

This Shanghai hamburger franchise has been keeping Americans in China obese since it opened. Monday's burger deal is always packed.

> Daily 10.00am-late. Sanlitun: Level 3, S2 Tower, 52-30 Taikoo Li, Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路太古里3层52-30 (6417 4030) Additional branches in Jiuxianqiao and U-Town (see online.thatsmags.com for details)

Burger Bar

Don't be fooled by the American diner-style interior, Burger Bar's pedigree of bap fillings include wagyu beef, foie gras and truffles. Burger King this ain't.

> Sun-Thu 11:30am-10pm, Fri/Sat 11:30am-midnight, B2/F, Parkview Green, 9 Dongdaqiao Road Chaoyang 朝阳区东大桥路9号侨福芳草地大厦地下二层 (5690 7000)

Chef Too ¥

With its crisp white tablecloths and service, this upscale New York diner serves up some of the classiest burgers in town.

> Tue-Fri 11am-1pm; Sat-Sun 9.30am-3pm; Tue-Sat 5.30pm-10pm. Opposite the West Gate, Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳公园西门 (6591 8676)

Steak

29 Grill (Contemporary Western) *

Top-notch steak, along with just about every other cut of meat found in the barnyard in this well-priced meat-eaters' mecca.

> Mon-Fri Lunch: 11.30am-2.30pm; Mon-Sat dinner: 6-10.30pm (closed Sundays); Conrad Beijing, 2/F, 29 North Dongsanhuan, Chaoyang 朝阳区东三环北路9号2层 (6584 6270)

Morton's of Chicago (American) ¥ ¥ *

Meat so tender the knife falls through it: ritzy Morton's deserves the worldwide praise. Expensive, but where else are you going to get steak this good? (Try the RMB550 set menu if you want to save cash) > Mon-Sat 5:30-11pm, Sun 5:10-10pm; 2/F, Regent Hotel, 99 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng 东城区金宝街99号丽晶酒店二层 (6523 7777)

Steak Exchange Restaurant+Bar (Contemporary Western) ¥ ¥ *

The bill is hopefully on the company kuai at this opulent eatery, where charcoal-grilled cuts of 250-day, grain-fed Australian Angus start from around RMB428 and merrily spiral. But the meat is unquestionably succulent, and cooked exactly to order.

> Daily 11.30am-2pm, 5.30-10.30pm. InterContinental Beijing Financial Street, 11 Jinrong Jie, Xicheng 西城区金融街11号北京金融街洲际酒店 (5852 5921)

Flamme (Contemporary Western)

Expensive steaks are now invading Beijing. Flamme (pronounced 'Flame,' apparently) remains top value, however, especially on 2-4-1 Tuesdays, while bar staff maintain an eclectic (and genuinely exciting) cocktail menu.

> Daily 11am-10.30pm Sun-Thu; 11am-11pm Fri-Sat. 54-33, Third Floor, Sanlitun Taikoo Li South, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路19号三里屯太古里南区3层54-33室 (6417 8608) > 269 Indigo Mall, Jixianqiao Road, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路18号颐堤港商场269号 (8420 0270)

O'Steak

A well-cooked steak in Beijing isn't all that rare anymore, and here we have affordable but quality cuts. Don't be fooled by the Irish sounding name, it's an authentic French bistro – not a Guinness in sight.

> Daily midday-midnight, 55-7 Xingfucun Zhonglu, Chaoyang 朝阳区幸福村中路55-7 (8488 8250)

Mexican/Tex Mex

Cantina Agave (Tex-Mex)

Great selection of burritos, tacos and 80+ imported tequilas. Spice up dishes with the

walk-up salsa bar and don't leave without a bite of the custardy flan.

> Sun-Thurs 11am to midnight, Fri-Sat 11am to 2am, 54-32 South Block, Sanlitun Taikoo Li, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路19号三里太古里南区 (6416 5212)

Taco Bar

Rising from the ashes of its deceased hutong location, the new Taco Bar is hip, popular and able to produce some of the most authentic Mexican fare in town. Only RMB45 for three and great cocktails to complement.

> Tue-Thu 5:30pm-1am, Fri-Sat 5:30pm-2:30am, Sun 11am-1am; 1/F, Unit 10, Electrical Research Institute, Sanlitun Nan Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯南路机电研究院内10号1层 (6501 6026)

Palms L.A. Kitchen and Bar * (Korean-Mexican fusion)

Tucked away near Gulou, this hip little hutong concept is truly one of a kind in Beijing. Quesadillas with kimchi and bibimbaps with melted cheese and hot sauce. Guess what? It works. Killer range of classic Cali' cocktails, too.

> Daily 11:30am-midnight (closed Mondays) 14 Zhangwang Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区旧鼓楼大街张旺胡同14号 (6405 4352)

Italian

Assaggi ¥ *

This fine Italian spot in the leafy embassy district has one of Beijing's best terraces for summer dining. The tagliata steak is worth a return visit.

> Daily 11:30am-2:30pm, 6pm-11:30pm, 1 Sanlitun Beixiaojie, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯北小街1号 (8454 4508)

Bene ¥ *

Chef Ricci will have you singing like a soprano with his pork ravioli and prize-winning tiramisù. Excellent set menus (RMB588) and extensive wine selection.

> Daily 11am-2:30pm, 5:30-10:30pm. Sheraton Beijing Dongcheng, 36 Northeast Third Ring Road, Dongcheng District 东城区北三环东路36号 (5798 8995)

Cepe ¥

In a city inundated with Italian offerings, Cepe manages to stand out thanks to its attention to the smallest detail – everything from the vinaigrette to the Parma ham is import quality, and the wine is superb.

> Daily 11:30am-2:30pm, 6-10:30pm. The Ritz-Carlton Financial Street, 1 Jinchengfang Dongjie, Jirong Jie, Xicheng 西城区金城坊东街1号北京金融街丽思卡尔顿酒店大堂 (6601 6666)

Isola Bar & Grill

Isola's elegant design, even by Taikoo Li North standards, is classic Italian panache – and so is the food. Beef carpaccio, burrata, Strozzapreti (handed twisted pasta) are all fantastic, but just as good is a classic Margherita pizza.

> Daily, 11:30am-10:30pm, N3-47, 3/F, Building 3, Taikoo Li North, 11 Sanlitun Street, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路11号院太古里北区N3-37和 47商辅 (www.gaiagroup.com.hk/isola-beijing, reservations@isola-beijing.com; 6416 3499)

Mercante ¥ *

Old World family charm in an intimate hutong setting. Time (and, occasionally, service) slows with a rustic menu from Bologna offering an assortment of homemade pastas and seasonal mains.

> Tue-Sun 6-10:30pm, 4 Fangzhuanchang Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区方砖厂胡同4号 (8402 5098)

Opera Bombana ¥

Head chef Umberto Bombana boasts three Michelin stars to his name, earned at his wildly successful Hong Kong restaurant Otto e Mezzo. He's the only Italian chef to do so outside of his native land, and certainly the only to have opened a restaurant in Beijing.

> Daily, 12pm-10:30pm; LG2-21 Parkview Green Fangcaodi, 9 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东大桥路9号侨福芳草地下2层21号 (5690 7177)

Pizza

Tube Station

Nowhere does gigantic toppen-laden pizza quite like Beijing, and these guys claim to be the biggest in town.

> Sanlitun 3-3 Branch: Mon-Fri 10am-10pm, Sat/Sun 10am-11pm, delivery Mon-Thu 11:30am-10:30pm, Fri-Sun 11:30am-11pm 3/F, 3-3 Building, No. 33 Sanlitun Road, Chaoyang 三里屯北街33号3层服装大厦3层3008号 (5136 5571, delivery 8989 177) > Additional branches in Gongti, Beida, Beitai, Yayancun, Solana and Weigongcun, see www.online.thatsmags.com for details

La Pizza

Among the upper echelons of Beijing pizzerias is this Sanlitun goldfish bowl

with a wood-fired oven and Neapolitan manners. Further branches in Solana and pasta/salad/mains-buffet restaurant in Sanlitun 3-3

> Sanlitun Branch: daily 10:30am-3pm, 6-11pm, 1/F, 3-3 Mall, 33 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路33号3层服装大厦西北角底商(5136 5582) > Solana Branch: SA-48, 1/F, Bldg 3, Solana, 6 Chaoyang Park Road, Chaoyang 朝阳公园西路6号, 蓝色港湾3层, SA-48 (5905 6106) > SOHU Shangdu Branch: SH1112, SOHO Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区东大桥路8号SOHO尚都SH1112号(5900 3112) > La Pizza Buffet: 4f, Sanlitun 3-3 Mall, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯3-3服装大厦4层 (5136 5990)

Spanish

Agua ¥ *

Occupying the high end of Nali's Spanish invasion, Agua excels with reasonably priced classics like suckling pig, chorizo and jamon. Winner of the 2014 Golden Fork Editors' Pick for best restaurant.

> Daily Midday-2pm, 6pm-10pm. 4/F, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路81号那里花园 (5208 6188)

Migas ¥ *

The boys at Migas have turned a concept bar into a thriving Mediterranean restaurant, bar and party venue, and one of summer's rooftop destinations.

> Daily 10am-3pm, 5pm-late. 6/F, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路81号那里花园6层 (5208 6061)

Niajo ¥ *



With homely Mediterranean influences and a charming manager, Niajo is prime Sanlitun smart-casual dining. Order the paella (their star dish) together with some tapas and be automatically transported to Spain (minus the constant sunshine).

> Daily 12:00am - 10:30pm. 3/F, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路81号那里花园3层 (5208 6052)

German

Drei Kronen 1308 *

Authentic (in as much as any brauhaus with a Filipino cover band can be) displays of armour and brewing kits draw regular evening crowds for the superb pork knuckle and heavy-duty helles (pale lager), wheat and dark beer (brewed on-site).

> Daily 11am-2am. 1/F, Bldg 5, China View, Gongti Donglu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体东路中国红街5号楼1层(6503 5555)

Paulaner Brauhaus

The grand old man of Beijing brauhauses, Paulaner delivers the Teutonic goods in the hands of lederhosen-clad staff from the provinces. It can be pricey but is usually worthwhile, especially during Oktoberfest.

> Daily 11am-1am. Kempinski Hotel, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区亮马桥路50号凯宾斯基饭店 (6465 3388 ext. 5732)

African/Middle Eastern

1001 Nights

There's no missing this beast of a Middle Eastern on the way into Sanlitun. The whole Arabic dining package is on offer here, from kebabs, to shisha to belly dancing shows between courses.

> Daily 11am-2am, 3-4 Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北路3-4号 (6532 4050)

Biteapitta *

Enjoyed by vegetarians (hummus, falafel) and 58 kuai kebab-lovers alike, Biteapitta has the Middle-East mid-range market all wrapped up in a fluffy pitta.

> Daily 11am-11pm, Second Floor, Tongli Studio, Sanlitun Houjie, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯后街同里2层 (6467 2961)

Cuju Moroccan Bistrot & Rummary *

Cuju used to be a cozy little hutong sports bar with an incredible rum selection, but now it's a cozy little Moroccan bistrot and rummary – so it still has an awesome rum selection. Badr's Moroccan food might be

the best in town.

> 28 Xiquan Hutong, off Dongsibeidajie, Dongcheng 东城区细管胡同28号东四北大街 (6407 9782)

Mosaic Restaurant & Bar

Promising "the best shawarmas and shishas in town", Mosaic restaurant & bar offers a range of great value delicacies and cocktails, served up in a cozy setting with a friendly and personalized service. One of few places in Beijing to offer genuine Arabic shishas (hookah), Mosaic is a hidden Sanlitun gem.

> Daily 12pm-2am; 32 S. Sanlitun St (Behind/North of Yashow Silk Market), Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯南32号楼临街店 (137 1883 7065)

Rumi (Middle Eastern)



Worlds away from the filth of nearby dirty Bar Street, Rumi dishes out plentiful helpings of traditional Persian stews and tasty kebabs. Try the juicy Chicken Shish kebab, the tastier cousin to cheap *chuan'r*.

> Daily 11:30am-12am, Gongti Beilu and Third Ring Road, Chaoyang 工体北路和三环内,兆龙饭店对面 (8454 3838)

Pinotage ¥ (South African) *

A seasonal blend of Dutch, English and regional African influences, this contemporary and stylish eatery has an impressive selection of fine import-quality meats, and wines to match. The traditional borewor ground beer-sausage (RMB100) is tender and sweet, while the red-wine pork tenderloin makes the trip out to their Shunyi branch worth it.

> Dongmen Building, 12 Dongzhimen Wai, Chaoyang 朝阳区东直门外大街12号东门丁下楼 (5785 3538) > Additional location in Shunyi (see online. thatsamags.com for details)

Asian

Indian

Ganges

Conveniently located above popular Irish sports bar Paddy O'Sheas, this solid Indian curry house provides the perfect post-match culinary accompaniment. Or put another way: it's what you'll be craving after eight pints of beer.

> Daily 11am to 10:30pm; Dongzhimen Branch: 2nd Floor, 28 Dongzhimen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区东直门外大街28号2层 (6417-0900) > Additional branch in Sanlitun, see online.thatsmags.com for details.

Indian Kitchen



The go to curry house among Beijing's homesick Indian community, this ever popular no-nonsense restaurant has built up a solid reputation thanks to its wide range of quality dishes and particularly friendly service. Looking good after a recent renovation and very available on JinShiSong online delivery.

> Daily 11am-2:30pm, 5:30-11pm, 2/F 2 Sanlitun Beixiaojie, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯北小街2号2楼 (6462 7255)

Raj

Tucked away in musty old building just underneath the drum tower, this curryhouse may look Chinese but everything on the

menu is authentic Indian, especially the rather fine naan.

> Daily 11am-2pm, 5pm-11pm, 31 Gulou Xidajie Dongcheng 东城区鼓楼西大街31号 (6401 1675)

South-East Asian

Nyonya Kitchen (Malaysian, Nyonya)

This chain specializes in Nyonya style cooking – ostensibly Malaysian but with a mix of Chinese, South-East Asian and European influences resulting in lots of bold flavors and bright colors.

> CBD: EB105, B1/F, China World Mall Phase 1, 1 Jianguomen Wai, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国门外大街1号国贸商城一期地下一层EB105 (6505 0376) > Taiyanggong: Unit 10-11, 4/F, Capital Mall Taiyanggong, Chaoyang 朝阳区凯德Mall太阳宫4层10/11号 (8415 0863) www.nyonyakitchen.com

Malacca Legend

Malaysian food with a view, this spacious and airy restaurant sits on the banks of Shunyi's Roma Lake, making a great spot for their beef rendang or green curry prawns.

> Daily 11am-10pm; 6 Luodong Road, Luogezhuang Village, Houshayu Town, Shunyi 顺义区后沙峪镇罗各庄村罗各东路6号 (8049 8902, www.malaccallegend.com)

Cafe Sambal (Malaysian)

When it comes to Malay-style food in a hutong, nowhere does it better. Admittedly, it's something of a niche category, but then so is the food on offer. The spicy Kapitan-style chicken is pricey, but worth it.

> Daily 11am-midnight, 43 Doufuchi Hutong (just east of Jiugulou Dajie), Xicheng 西城区豆腐池胡同43号 旧鼓楼大街往东走(6400 4875)

Flor de Loto

Sleek and chic Vietnamese restaurant – always draws a crowd. DIY fresh spring rolls are a highlight. Worth the ride to Korea-town.

> Daily 11am-10pm; 201, Europark Bldg A1 (Cafe Bene Building) Guangshun Nandajie, Wangjing, Chaoyang 朝阳区望京园610号楼悠乐汇A座 201室 (6477 7387)

4Corners (Vietnamese, Fusion)

The definitive hutong bar/restaurant? Chef Jun Trinh took a break from his celebrity TV work to host this part-Vietnamese venue, serving up steaming bowls of pho with zesty, fresh rolls, as well as a great bar, with frequent live indie performances.

> Tue-Sun 11am-2am, 27 DashiBei Hutong (near west end of Yandai Xiejie), Xicheng 西城区大石碑胡同27号烟袋斜街西口附近 (6401 7797)

Greyhound Café (Modern Thai/Fusion)

Greyhound Café originated in Bangkok offering Thai food with a twist and served in a fashionable surrounds. Perfect for Taikoo Li Sanlitun then.

> Daily 11am-11pm, 51-30B, Building 1, Sanlitun Road 19, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路19号1号楼 51-30B (6416 3439) > Additional branch in Shin Kong Place (see online.thatsmags.com for details)

Purple Haze (Thai)

Given Beijing's lack of white sand beaches and backpacker bars, Purple Haze has to make do for the best Thai experience in town. Has all the classics like veggie spring rolls (RMB40), papaya salad (RMB46) and curries (RMB44-180) – but our pick's the seafood pad Thai (RMB45).

> Daily 11am-11pm, 55 Xingfu Yicun, Chaoyang 朝阳区幸福一村55号 (6413 0899)

Susu (Vietnamese)

The first step is finding it. Follow that up with a dreamlike renovated courtyard, extensive wine list and a listing of top-notch Vietnamese curries, banh mi sandwiches, stews, soups and la Vong fish.

> Tue-Sun 11:30am-11pm; 10 Qianliang Hutong Xixiang, Dongcheng 东城区钱粮胡同西巷10号 (8400 2699)

Japanese

Hatsune ¥ * (California Japanese)

As much a California roll joint as true Japanese, Hatsune is now an old favorite among the sake-swilling, sushi-swallowing set, though less so among sashimi purists.

> Daily 11:30am-2pm, 5:30-10pm 2/F, Heqiao Bldg C, 8A Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区光华路甲8号 和乔大厦C座2层 (6581 3939) > Additional locations in Sanlitun Tai Koo Li South; Kerry Centre Mall (see www.online.thatsmags.com for details)

Inagiku *

This Beijing branch of one of Tokyo's oldest and most celebrated restaurants is as near to perfection as you're likely to find. Deceptively simple yet finely crafted, the handmade Inaniwa udon (RMB80) is not to be missed.

> Daily 11am-3pm, 6-10:30pm; Rm 315, 3/F, Park Life, Yintai Centre, 2 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国门外大街2号银泰中心悦生活3层315室

LISTINGS

(8517 2838)

Happy Sake (Japanese)

When it comes to sake, owner Taka Yamamoto is an expert, responsible for around 80 percent of all high-quality sake imported to China. His restaurant is dedicated to food meant to be enjoyed with sake. Stylish and relaxed, high-quality and affordable - Happy Sake hits all the right notes.

> Mon-Sat 6pm-2am, Sun 6pm-midnight; Jia 2, Tuanjiehu Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区团结湖北路甲2号 (6582 8216)

Sake Manzo *

The barmen here are serious about their sake. Boasting one of the best stocked drinks cabinets in town with over 60 different sakes on offer, this super-cool little eatery is the perfect place to unwind after a hard day's toil. The sashimi is fresh to the cut, and the beer-marinated chicken is out of this world. One of the very best and least appreciated restaurants in town.

> Daily 6pm-midnight. 7A Tuanjiehu Beisanfiao, Chaoyang 朝阳区团结湖北三条甲7号 (6436 1608)

Hyoki ¥ (Japanese)

Hidden away in the depths of the Sofitel Hotel, this labyrinthine Japanese restaurant of all private dining rooms has some stunning food, and is the only place to sample traditional Japanese paper hot pot in Beijing.

> 6F Sofitel Wanda Beijing 100022 93 Jianguo Road, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国路93号索菲特万达北京酒店6层 (6581 0072)

Sushi Yotsuba **

It doesn't come cheap (tasting menu RMB1,000), but what would you expect from some of the best sushi in town? Buttery and meaty fatty tuna sashimi is a cut above.

> Dongcheng: Tue-Sun 11.30am-11pm. 10 Qiantian Hutong Xixiang, Dongcheng 东城区钱粮胡同西巷10号 (8400 2699) > Lido branch: 2F, No.9-3, Jiangtai Xilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区将台西路9-3号2层 (8420 0998)

Korean

Ai Jiang Shan

This upscale seafood restaurant proves that chargrill and compose can go together. Their RMB58 bibimbap lunch is an absolute bargain.

> Daily 11am-10pm, Sat and Sun until 9.30pm. 5/F, LG Twin Towers (East Tower), 12 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国门外大街乙12号双子座大厦东塔5层 (51096036/6037) see online.thatsmags.com for other locations

Saveurs de Coree

This upmarket Korean bistro has undergone several changes in recent years, not least its move away from the hipper-than-thou confines of Nanluoguxiang. Fortunately, the menu remains largely intact. The Shin Ramyun is among the best in Beijing, while the Wagyu barbecued beef is almost too good to be true.

> Daily noon-11pm. 128-1 Xiang'er Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区香胡同128-1号 (5741 5753)

Vegetarian

Tianchu Maoxiang (Asian)

Like many arrivals to Beijing, this place started out in Wudaokou and it's since made a successful migration to Chaoyang. Great range of veggie fare, reasonably priced and they offer cooking classes as well.

> Daily 10am-10pm 19 Rm 0260, 2/F, Bldg D, Chaowai SOHO, 6B Chaoyangmenwai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳门外大街乙6朝外SOHO座2层0260 (5900 1288) Additional location in Wudaokou (see www.online.thatsmags.com for details)

Veggie Table (Western, Asian) *

Proving that Beijing-style vegetarian cuisine is by no means the exclusive preserve of Buddhist monks and sappy Jack Johnson fans, this superbly honed eatery offers some of the very best sandwiches - vegetarian or otherwise - found anywhere in the city.

> Daily 10.30am to 11.30pm (last order 10.30pm) 19 Wudaoying Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区五道营胡同19号. (6446 2073)

BARS

TOP 40 BARS AND CLUBS

About This guide represents our editors' top 40 picks, and includes some *That's Beijing* advertisers. Bars rated(*) have been personally reviewed by our experts, and scored according to the cuisine, experience and affordability.

Arrow Factory

The newest craft beer taproom on the block, Arrow Factory is a rustic hideaway brimming with good Anglo-ScWEeandInavi-an vibes (courtesy of the brew-masters) and the brand's distinctive Chinese brewed ales. A winning combination

> 38 Jianchang Hutong, Dongcheng District 东城区箭厂胡同38号 (6407 6308)

8-Bit

Drinking alongside multiplayer retro gaming - why didn't anyone do this sooner? Megadrive, Super Nintendo, N64... some real gems make up an ever-growing collection. Draft Kirin goes for a reasonable RMB25 a glass.

> Daily, 1pm-2am, 49 Jiaodaokuo Nandajie, Dongcheng District 东城区交道口南大街49号 (159 1025 6538)

BBC (Bottle, Boot & Cigar)

The brainchild of local spirits professional Douglas Williams, this bar provides the discerning Beijing drinker with a peerless selection of liquor for sale, cocktails and coming soon, shoe shines, cigars and straight-razor shaves.

> 1pm-late. 1 Taipingzhuang Nanli (At Xingfucun, between Frost: Coffee, Nails & Cocktails and Commix Bar), Chaoyang District 朝阳区太平庄南里1号 (1861 405 7407, www.bbcbeijing.com)

The Brick

A Cheers-style atmosphere ensures you'll find this neighbourhood drinking hole-in-the-brick-wall faux dive bar either cliquy or inclusive. The heavy-duty cocktails (including the devastatingly boozy RMB80 Terminator) are probably needed for the bizarre Wednesday pub quiz.

> Daily 4pm-late. Unit 2-11, Bldg 2, Tianzhi Jiaozhi, 31 Guangqu Lu (northeast corner of Shuangjing Qiao), Chaoyang District 朝阳区双井桥东北角广渠路31号院天之骄子2号楼底商2-11 (134 2616 6777)

Capital Spirits

A team of non-China natives doing a bijuu bar? Brave and, luckily, brilliant. Lovely hutong setting, friendly owners and great bottle collection.

> Tue-Sun 8pm-late; 3 Da Ju Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区大菊胡同3号 (010 6409 3319; www.capitalspirits.com)

China Bar ¥¥

Top views from the 65th floor and flash drinks are the attractions on offer at this hip hotel bar.

> Sun-Thu 5pm-1am, Fri-Sat 5pm-2am. 65/F, Park Hyatt, 2 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District 朝阳区建国门外大街2号柏悦酒店65层 (8567 1838/40)

CICADA Ultralounge ¥

The latest - and perhaps only - ultralounge in Beijing is fast becoming one of Sanlitun's trendiest bars. A Shanghai style lounge bar with mixology credentials, the Whisky Sours and Smoky Havana's are worth the cost.

> Mon-Sat, 6pm-late, 11 Sanlitun Road, Chaoyang District 朝阳区三里屯路11号三里屯太古里北区N4-33 (6418 9898)

Cu Ju

Moroccan-inspired bistro, cocktail destination and sports fan's manna all rolled into one, Renaissance man Badr Benjelloun's hutong gem is constantly evolving. Offering North African food with an international cocktails, Beijing's widest selection of rums and sports broadcasts from basketball to cricket, Cu Ju is truly one of the city's best all-around bar-restaurants.

> 5-11pm, Sun-Tue, Thu; 5pm-late, Fri-Sat; closed Wed. 28 Xiguan Hutong (Hutong entrance is 300m north of subway line 5, Zhangzizhong Lu stop), Dongcheng District 东城区细管胡同28号 6407 9782, www.cujubeijing.com

Daily Routine 日常生活

This cozy bar is a diamond in the rough. Owner Travis is a cocktail aficionado, and the drinks at this establishment change seasonally according to ingredient availability. Light cafe fare is available during the day.

> 11am-11pm. 34 Wudaoying Hutong, Dongcheng District 东城区五道营胡同34号 8400 1159

El Nido *

The first hutong hang-out to patent the fridge-full-of-cheap-imports formula, El Nido inspires a loyal following, particularly in summer. The roast leg of mutton place next door is one of the best locally.

> Daily 6pm-late, 59 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng District 东城区方家胡同59号 (158 1038 2089)

Enoterra

Looking for an affordable glass of wine with that date? Look no further than Nali Patio's wine center. Although the food leaves a bit to be desired, the selections are vast, and if anything, you can enjoy a nice

cheese plate with that tart glass of vino.

> Daily 10am-2am, 4/F Sanlitun Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区三里屯路81号那里花园D405室 (5208 6076)

First Floor

First Floor is like that friend who's too popular to properly enjoy their company. At weekends, it gets aggressively full, with regulars and the passing tourist trade all baying at the bar. A good place to meet new friends, perhaps.

// Daily, 4pm-late, Sanlitun Beixiaojie, Chaoyang District 朝阳区三里屯北小街 (6413 0587, first-floor-beijing.com)

Fubar

Slightly past its prime, this basement bar is trying to rediscover the speakeasy pretence that made the place its name. Live lounge music and a vast amount of pours are starting to persuade people it's succeeding.

> 6pm-2am Sunday to Thursday, 6pm-4am Friday and Saturday. 8 Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang District, Workers' Stadium East Gate 朝阳区工体北路8号工人体育场东内门 (6593 8227)

Glen ¥

Experiences can vary at Glen (we've endured poor service and drinks that are scandalous at the price), which is located in a decidedly downbeat compound. But whisky lovers have been known to swear by its selections and dark, intimate atmosphere. See for yourself.

> 6.30pm-2am. 203, 2/F, Taiyue Suites Hotel Beijing, 16 Nansanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区南三里屯路16号悦豪庭2楼203室 (6591 1191)

Glen Classic ¥

Tucked away in the grounds of Face hotel, Glen Classic is a Japanese-owned whisky bar where discerning drinkers can sink into an arm-chair, glass in hand, and while away the hours. Huge range of whiskies and rums are personally selected by expert owner Daiki Kanetaka - let him recommend you something special.

> Mon-Sat, 7pm-2am, reservation required, minimum spend RMB200, Face Hotel Courtyard, 26 Dongcaoyuan, Chaoyang District 朝阳区工体南路东草园26号 (6551 6788)

Great Leap Brewing 大跃啤酒 ¥ *

The bar that began the whole Beijing microbrewing frenzy (yes, frenzy) specializes in idiosyncratic, local-style brews (RMB25-40) with intriguing flavors - their Sichuan peppercorn ale was memorably good. Reservations used to be recommended for their original hutong brewhouse, but the opening of a wildly popular new pub on Xinzhong Lu has shifted most drinkers there instead.

> Gulou: 5pm-late, Tue-Fri, 2pm-late Sat-Sun 2-10pm, 6 Douliao Hutong, Dongcheng District 东城区豆角胡同6号 (5717 1399) > Sanlitun: Daily 11-30am-2pm; Sun-Thu 5pm-midnight, Fri/Sat 5pm-1am, B12 Xinzhong Street 新中街乙12号 (6416-6887, www.greatleapbrewing.com)

Heaven Supermarket

A purgatory of bottles, bongs and bedraggled English teachers, Heaven sells the cheapest alcoholic takeaways in town. You can also hang around and appreciate the afterlife (cientele) if you want. Caveat: the food is straight from Hell's own kitchen.

> Daily 12pm-4am. 12 Xindong Lu (next to The James Joyce), Chaoyang District 朝阳区新东路16号 (6415 6513)

Hidden Lounge *

Although frustrating to find, Hidden Lounge rewards the intrepid with good artwork and comfortable seating, suggesting a Kasbah, plus well-made drinks at great prices (wine from RMB100 a bottle, mix drinks from RMB25). You'll probably have to call them to find it, though.

> Daily 6pm-1am. Room 101, Bldg 8, CBD Apartments, Shuanghuayuan Nanli Erqu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区双花园南里二区CBD公寓8号楼101室 (8772 1613)

Ichikura ¥

One of the best-known 'secrets' in town, this Japanese whisky bar tucked behind a theater also offers terrific cocktails. Although less expensive than several rivals, you'll want to indulge.

> Daily 7pm-2am. 2/F Chaoyang Theater, 36 Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区东三环北路36号朝阳剧场南侧 (6507 1107)

The Irish Volunteer

Everything - from the red-faced owner to the grub - is authentically Irish: tinged with alcoholism, doggerel and drunken regret. A good place to down a pint and a pizza before heading into town, then.

> Daily 9pm-2am. 311 Jiangtai Lu (opposite Lido Hotel East Gate), Chaoyang District 朝阳区将台路311号 (6438 5581)

Jane's & Hooch ¥ *

Acclaimed by some foreign press as one of the best bars in the world (cough), this not-so-plain Jane has been at the vanguard of the South Sanlitun gentrification. It serves RMB60-80 measures of your favorite Prohibition-era hooches in a fantastic speakeasy atmosphere, with attentive staff and unimpeachable cocktails.

> Daily 8pm-2am, Courtyard 4 Gongti Beilu, 工体北路4号院 (6503 2757)

Jing-A Taproom **

In just a few years, these guys developed from shady guerrilla brewers to upstanding publicans with their own range of souvenir T-shirts. Their bar is a peach: a bricks-and-mortar taproom, which is large, warm and sociable, and has up to 16 different beers on tap.

> Building B, 1949 The Hidden City, Courtyard 4, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北路4号院

Maggie's ¥

A notorious sausage fest (we refer, of course, to the hot-dog stand outside), Maggie's has been providing its special comforts for so long, it's practically a time-honored Beijing brand - although it's also a bastion of Mongolian culture.

> Sun-Thur 8pm-4am, Fri-Sat 8pm-5am, Ritan Park South Gate, Chaoyang District 朝阳区日坛公园南门 (8562 8142)

Mai Bar *

Understated hutong hideaway with a long list of some of the best cocktails in town.

> Daily 5pm-late, 40 Beilugouxiang, Dongcheng 东城区北锣鼓巷40号 (6406 1807)

Mao Mao Chong **

The cocktails at Mao's - such as their sublime 'Mala' Mule, a Sichuan peppercorn-infused vodka drink that's a long way from Moscow - are unique infusions using local ingredients and know-how. Grungey without being grimy, Mao's eschews flash while still keeping it real. And those pizzas.

> 12 Banchang Hutong, Jiaodaokuo, Dongcheng District 东城区交道口南大街广渠门12号 (6405 5718, www.maomaochongbeijing.com)

Mesh ¥

Whether it's an early evening cocktail or a late-night infusion, Mesh's moody interior and underground soundtrack draws the bright young things (and on LGBT Thursdays, quite a few old things, too).

> Daily 5pm-1am. Building 1, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区三里屯路11号院1号楼 (6417 6688)

Parlor

Learn a few quotes from *Gatsby* before heading to this 20s Shanghai-style speakeasy and you'll fit right in.

> Daily 6pm-2am, 39-8 Xingfucun, Chaoyang 朝阳区新东路幸福二村39-8 (8444 4135)

Revolution *

Sanlitun doesn't really do hipster bars but if it did, this cramped ode to Maomorabilia would be it. The East may be red but their cocktails (RMB45) are fit for a Chairman.

> Daily, 12pm-late, west of Yashow, Gongti Bei Lu, 朝阳区工体北路雅秀市场西侧 (6415 8776)

Salud 老伍 *

A Nanluoguxiang institution, with everything from cheap beer to (loud) live music and low beams. The rum infusions are a particular favorite on cold nights. Latest branch in WDK a welcome addition to surrounding student dives.

> NLGX: Mon-Fri 3pm-late, Sat-Sun noon-late. 66 Nanluogu Xiang, Dongcheng District 东城区南锣鼓巷66号 (6402 5086)

> Wudaokou: 2/F, Qijixin Building, Zhanchunyuan Xilu 展春园西路奇鑫大厦南侧2层

Slow Boat Brewery Taproom **

This popular microbrewery has its own pub hidden away in Dongcheng's hutongs. Quality ales that change depending on the season, heated floors and a great little kitchen round out the deal.

> Mon Closed, Tues-Wed: 5pm-midnight, Thu 5pm-1am, Fri 5pm-late, Sat 2pm-late, Sun 2-10pm; 56 Dongsil Batao, Dongcheng 东城区东四八条56号 (6538 5537)

The Tree

A cozy stalwart of the Beijing bar scene, you'll find wood-fired comfort pizza, beer aplenty and a hearty, mature atmosphere. Has two neighborhood offshoots: By the Tree (brickwork, pool, old man's pub) and Nearby by the Tree (live music, two floors).

> Daily noon-2am. 100m west of Sanlitun Bar Street, Youyi Youth Hostel, Chaoyang District 朝阳区三里屯酒吧街往西100米友谊旅馆后面三里屯医院东面 (6415 1954)

10 Best Livehouses

Dusk Dawn Club (DDC) 黄昏黎明俱乐部
Great little livehouse near Meishuguan with a focus on jazz, folk and indie rock. Craft beer and whisky means you won't get bored of the drinks list quickly.

> Tue-Sun 1pm-2am; 14 Shanlao Hutong, Dongcheng District 东城区美术馆后街山老胡同14号 (6407 8969)

Hot Cat Club 热力猫

A true stalwart of the Beijing scene, Hot Cat is the type of hard-working venue that helps cement a city's music scene. From Afro Funk to Math Rock to painful open-mic nights, this everyman's club breeds good vibes. Decent drinks, lots of lounge seats and plenty of space.

> Daily 10am-late, 46 Fangjia Hutong (just south of Guozijian Jie), Dongcheng District 东城区方家胡同46号 (6400 7868).

Jianghu 江湖酒吧

This former Qing Dynasty courtyard home is exactly where you'd take that friend from out of town to prove you're cool. Its cozy atmosphere is also its downfall – any show with under 40 people and you're stuck looking through the windows. Hip and casually familiar, the jazz and folk bookings keep things low-key enough for the get-home-for-the-babysitter crowd.

> 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng District 东城区交道口南大街东棉花胡同7号 (6401 5269, site.douban.com/jianghujubar, jincanzh@gmail.com)

Mako Live 麻雀瓦舍

Nestled in the old Beijing Jeep plant, this former warehouse plays host to a Silk Road smorgasbord of musical encounters from western China and the 'Stans. Forget the overpriced bar and come for the killer sound, comfortable wraparound balcony and five-meter replica of Optimus Prime, followed by a hearty meal at the Xinjiang restaurant upstairs.

> Hongdian Art Factory, 36 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区广渠路36号红点艺术工厂院内 (5205 1113, www.mako001.com)

MAO Livehouse 光芒*

From the denim-jacketed doorman to the well-graffitied walls, Mao leans on every Hollywood rock club cliché without feeling scripted. Besides boasting the worst bar in town, Mao delivers with great sound and the best billings of heavy metal, punk hitting this side of the Drum Tower.

> 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District 东城区鼓楼东大街111号 (6402 5080, www.maolive.com)

The Post Mountain 后山

Built into a man-made hill in the center of the MOMA Complex, this new addition to Beijing's growing livehouse empire is The Hobbit meets Manhattan. With as much vibe as a sterile modern-art gallery. Its imported sound system and ramped floor makes for decent sound and sightlines.

> Bldg T8, MOMA, 1 Xiangheyuan Lu, Dongzhimenwai, Dongcheng District (next to MOMA Cinemateque) 东城区东直门外香河园路1号当代MOMA园区T8楼北百老汇电影中心北侧 (8400 4774)

School Bar 学校酒吧*

Crap drinks and regular, unscheduled fights: no wonder the cool kids adore this alternative livehouse/DJ bar, founded by Beijing and Shanghai rock 'n' rollers.

> Daily 8pm-late, 53 Wudaoying Hutong, Chaoyang District 朝阳区五道营胡同53号 (6402 8881, 6406 9947)

Temple 坛*

Probably the manliest venue in town, this dimly lit and unventilated space is owned by rockers (Gao Xu, Gao Jian and Clement Burger) and known for late sets of hard rock, punk and ska, with weekend gigs and DJ sets every fortnight. It offers a long drinks menu, with plenty of cheap pastis and shooters, but you'll probably stick to the RMB15 draught.

> Daily, 7pm-late, Bldg B, 206 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District 东城区鼓楼东大街206号B楼 202 (131 6107 0713)

Yugong Yishan 愚公移山*

We've lost more body weight than we'd care to remember in YY's mosh pit. Fortunately, almost all the acts – usually hip-hop DJs, emo rocks and obscure indie outfits from across the globe – were worth it. The upstairs bar area is a refuge from the sweat glands below.

> Daily 7pm-late, 3-2 Zhangzhong Lu (100m west of Zhangzhong Lu subway station), Dongcheng District 东城区张自忠路3-2号 (6404 2711)

Zajia Lab 杂家

A Daoist Temple is exactly where you'd expect an Italian Sinologist to open a venue

– big on film screenings, A/V projects, avant-garde puppetry and choice but obscure live music for the adventurous.

> Hong En Daoist Temple, Doufuchi Hutong, Dongcheng District 东城区旧鼓楼大街豆腐池胡同宏恩观前殿 (156 0112 2252, 8404 9141, www.zajia.cc)

Hotel Bars

Atmosphere ¥¥

Beijing's highest bar, on the 80th floor of the 1,082-ft China World Tower, offers 300+ swanky cocktails from RMB65 with 360-degree views of the 700AQM PM2.5.

> Mon-Fri noon-2am, Sat and Sun noon-4am, 80/F, China World Summit Wing, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District 朝阳区建国门外大街1号北京国贸大酒店80 (6505 2299 ext. 6433)

Centro ¥

Although it's no longer quite the go-to place for beautiful people it once was, Centro still draws a cute crowd with its nightly jazz performances, spacious and recently renovated lounge areas and classic drinks like the blue-cheese martini.

> Open 24 hours, 1/F, Kerry Hotel, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区光华路1号北京嘉里大酒店1层 (6561 8833)

Xian ¥

This elongated bar space makes a nice spot for refreshment after a day spent shopping at neighboring Indigo.

> Sun-Thu 5pm-1am, Fri-Sat 5pm-2am, 1/F, EAST Beijing, 22 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区酒仙桥22号北京东隅酒店一层 (8414 9810, www.xian-bar.com)

Sports Bars

The Den

At the opposite end of the 24-hour drinking spectrum from Centro, The Den is a seedy sports joint that starts off sedate and grows steadily sadder as night turns to day. It can get rough and ready come dawn. Solid (cheap) menu, good location and those opening times earn it a place.

> Open 24 hours, 4 Gongti Donglu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区工体东路4号城市宾馆正门旁边

The Local *

Formerly Brussels, this beery bar has come into its own, with large (yet strangely unobtrusive) screenings of sports and political events, a pub quiz, quality fare and a nice selection of draughts and cocktails. Try the Bourbon Street Ice Tea – you won't need another.

> Daily 11-2am, 4 Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang District 工体北路4号院 (6591 9525)

Paddy O'Shea's *

Founder Karl Long airlifted an entire Irish-themed pub, including residents, from a council estate in Limerick and gently deposited it in central Beijing. With plenty going on, including pub quiz and sports, no one seems to have noticed.

> Dongzhimen: Daily 10am-late, 28 Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District 朝阳区东直门外大街28号 (6592 6290) > Sanlitun: 2/F, Tongli Studio, Sanlitun Back Street 三里屯北路43号同里二层 (6415 0299)

V Sports

Spacious, comfortable, huge screens and no rowdy drunken cretins, V Sports makes a claim for the champion of Beijing sports bars.

> Daily 5:30pm-6am, Gongti North Gate East side, Chaoyang District 工体北门外东侧 (5293 0333)

Nightclubs

The Bar at Migas *

A place to dance and prowl, perhaps, rather than a drinks destination, TBAM, as no one calls it, focuses on upscale local DJs to get the party started. Good-enough cocktails range from RMB55-70 but mostly it's about the music, man.

> Sunday to Wednesday 6pm-2am, Thursday to Friday 6pm-late, 6/F, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区三里屯路81号 (5208-6061)

Chocolate

It's impossible to discuss Chocolate without mentioning gold leaf, dwarves, cabaret dancers and oddly-friendly Russian women. Timed right, a visit can be raucous fun, with bottles of spirits from around RMB200, cocktails under RMB50 (including the absinthe-based Flaming Armageddon) and regular floor shows.

> Daily 7pm-6am, 19 Ritian Beilu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区日坛北路19号 (8561 3988)

Dada *

It hasn't been on the Beijing scene for too long, but already Dada is the hippest hangout in town. Their cosy Gulou confines under rock house Temple offer an intimate place to nod along to an eclectic range of all things electro from the best names on the underground scene.

> Daily, 9pm-late, Rm 101, Bldg B, 206 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District 东城区鼓楼东大街206号B栋101室 (183 1108 0818)

Lantern *

Founded by now-defunct Acupuncture Records, Lantern is a beacon of light in the strip of truly ghostly nightclubs and bars known as 'Gongti.' Serious about its music, it also makes good drinks and attracts international electronic DJs.

> Thurs-Sat 9pm-6.30am, 100m north of Worker's Stadium West Gate, Chaoyang District 朝阳区工人体育场西门向北100米 (139 119 77989)

MIX

A bit like a trip to the Forbidden City, Mix is one of those places in Beijing you have to experience before you leave. Not much is forbidden in this underground hip-hop disco palace and if you don't leave with hook-up in tow then you're doing something very wrong.

> Daily 8pm-6am, Inside Worker's Stadium North Gate, Chaoyang District 朝阳区工人体育场北门内 6506 9888, 6530 2889, 150 1138 2219, mixclub@sohu.com

Vics

Separated at birth from its identical twin brother, Mix, this is the definition of Gongti sweatbox meat-market chic at its very finest. The Chinese love it – as do moody Russians and jailbait students – helping Vics to become one of the most infamous clubs in the capital.

> Daily 8:30pm late, Inside Worker's Stadium North Gate, Chaoyang District 朝阳区工人体育场北门内 (5293 0333)

GALLERY

798 Art District Picks

Galleria Continua *

In the often-insular 798, Galleria Continua is the international gallery. Their warehouse space is a forum for high-caliber artists from nearly every continent, including several of China's artistic nobility.

> Free, Tues-Sun 11am-6pm, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区酒仙桥路2号798大山子艺术区 (5978 9505, www.galleriacontinua.com)

Long March Space

Founder and curator, Lu Jie abides by exacting standards from both the 20-odd Chinese artists he represents and the overall design of his topical and uncompromising exhibitions. International clout was inevitable.

> Free, Tues-Sun 11am-7pm, 4 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang District 朝阳区酒仙桥路4号798艺术区 (5978 9768, www.longmarchspace.com)

Pace Beijing

With locations in New York, London and Beijing hosting the likes of Zhang Xi-aogang, Yue Minjun, Robert Rauschenberg, Mark Rothko, Kiki Smith and Sol LeWitt, Pace inhabits Bauhaus-style buildings 798 is idealized for. Go there!

> Free, Tues-Sun 10am-6pm, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区酒仙桥路2号大山子艺术区 (5978 9781, www.pacegallery.com)

Space Station

Not often shown in 789's sea of elites, Space Station presents a younger generation of domestic artists. Exhibitions tend to have a good curatorial understanding of space and high-quality 2D work.

> Free, Tues-Sun 10am-6pm, 4 Jiuxianqiao Rd 798 Art District, Chaoyang District 朝阳区酒仙桥路4号798艺术区中一街 (5978 9671)

Ullens Center for Contemporary Art

Filling the largest factory space in 798 with Chinese and international art, the UCCA has the curatorial power and financial backing to put together some of Beijing's most impressive exhibitions.

> RMB10, free Thursdays, Tues-Sun 10am-7pm, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区酒仙桥路4号798艺术区 (5780 0200, www.ucca.org.cn)

Tang Contemporary Art

Stressing cutting-edge exhibition installation and curatorial theory. With locations in Bangkok, Hong Kong and Beijing, Tang focuses on promoting artistic exchange throughout East Asia.

> Free, Tues-Sun 10.30am-6pm, 798 Factory, 2 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang District 朝阳区酒仙桥路798工厂2号入口前行300米 (5978 9610, www.atngcontemporary.com)

Caochangdi Art Village

Chambers Fine Art Beijing

With its coepeer gallery in New York, Chambers is a matriarch with extensive roots in the local-studio scene that allows

Big Apple headhunters to cull next generation avant-garde and provide a stepping stone to international recognition.

> Free, Tues-Sun 10am-6pm, Red No.1-D, Caochangdi, Chaoyang District 朝阳区草场街一号D座 (5127 3298, www.chambersfineart.com)

Galerie Urs Meile

Recently upgrading to one of the courtyards designed by artist-architect Ai Weiwei, this Swiss-owned gallery has two intimate spaces, allowing pairs of solo exhibitions from leading contemporary Chinese artists.

> Free, Tues-Sun 11am-6.30pm, 104 Caochangdi, Cui Gezhuan Xiang, Chaoyang District 朝阳区崔各庄草场地村104号(近电影博物馆路)(64333 3393, www.galerieursmeile.com)

White Space Beijing

There are no restricting on the art this gallery supports, leading to some of the area's more perplexing exhibitions. Always fun and on the pulse of vitality, though empirical value is pushed to an extreme.

> Free, Tues-Sun 10am-6pm, 255 Caochangdi, Airport Service Road, Chaoyang District 朝阳区机场辅路草场地255号 (8456 2054, www.whitespace-beijing.com)

Bookstores

Page One

The go-to shop for new releases and special requests. With sister venues in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore, and two locations in Beijing, its network allows for fresh authors whilst upholding an extensive collection of titles.

> Daily 10am-9pm, Shop 3B 201, Zone 3 China World Mall, No.1 Jian Guo Men Wai Avenue, Chaoyang District 朝阳区国贸商城三期地下二层3B201 (8535 1055, www.pageonegroup.com)

Page One Indigo, Shop LG50, INDIGO, 18 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区酒仙桥路18号颐堤港商业中心B1楼50号 (8426 0408, www.pageonegroup.com)

The Bookworm *

This glass cube looks over Sanlitun Village, providing a cozy atmosphere for browsing bibliophiles. The Western bookstore, library, film house, bar, bistro-cafe and event space always has a cultured evening on its shelves for both adults and kids.

> Daily 9am-2am, Building 4, Near Sanlitun Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 三里屯南路4号楼 (6586 9507, www.beijingbookworm.com)

BEAUTY & FITNESS

Brad Clinic

Welcome to Brad Clinic, Beijing's unique skincare and anti-aging center. Our professional and personalized treatments rejuvenate the skin safely, naturally and most effectively while restoring your skin's natural beauty and health. We offer: skin rejuvenation and re-firming, hair removal, acne and sun spots treatment, and wrinkle reduction.

> Tue-Sat 9am-6pm, Room 2103, Tower E1, The Towers, Oriental Plaza, 1 East Chang'An Ave, Dong Cheng East District 东长安街1号东方广场东方经贸城E1办公楼2103室 (8518 2103/ 5688, contact@BradClinic.com)

Broadwell International Tennis Academy

Located inside Chaoyang Park's Tennis Center, this indoor club boasts a complete state-of-the-art air-supported structure for all-weather year-round indoor tennis, with an advanced lighting system and controlled climate. Ideal for peeps looking to perfect their service and batting a few balls.

> Nongzhan Nanlu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区农南路1号朝阳公园网球中心(4006406800/ 65958885, www.broadwell.cn1)

Jindafit

Created by D'Jack Tchinda, Jindafit is a full-body workout that turns African dance and music into seamless sequences that burns fat, tones muscles and relax your mind. Jindafit can be joined by everyone; there is no limitation to your level of fitness. Thanks to the combination of inspiring music, easy-to-follow choreography and great results, Jindafit is a promise to rock the fitness world.

> Contact: jindafit@outlook.com; T: 188-0132-1096; facebook.com/jindafit; Instagram: @jindafit

JM Cosmetic Plastic Surgery Clinic

A top cosmetic & plastic surgery clinic with over 18 years of experience in Beijing. They provide a full range of surgical and non-surgical cosmetic procedures. Their standard for service is focused on maintaining the best technologies in the field of cosmetic surgery and achieving beautiful results safely.

> Building C-D, Dawang Building, 12 Xi Dawang Lu, Chaoyang District 西大望路12号大望写字楼C-D座 (400 0589 809, 138 1088 7442, www.jingmeihui.cn)

Alona Pilates Studio

LISTINGS

Pairing up traditional Pilates with an innovative, full-body workout, Alona Pilates offers classes designed to tone and whip you into shape fast. It also provides a personalized experience for all its students, regardless of fitness, strength and flexibility levels.

> Daily, 7:30, late, 5/F at Heavenly Spa by Westin, 1 Xinyuan Nanlu, Chaoyang District
朝阳区新源南路1号威斯汀酒店5层 (139 1029 0260, www.alonapilates.com)

Luxura Tanning Center

This tanning salon has some of the city's best state-of-the-art tanning beds, all imported from Europe. For the sexiest tan possible, get custom-made tanning tips from the well-trained staff.

> Daily, 10am-10pm. 1) Rm 307, Bldg 4, Jianwai Soho 39 Dongsanhuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区三环中路建外SOHO西区4楼307室 (5900 0427, www.luxura.net) 2) 5005, 5/F, 3.3 Sanlitun, Chaoyang District 朝阳区三里屯3.3大厦5层5005号 (5136 5186, www.luxura.net)

Lily Nails

A long-time favorite among locals and expats alike, Lily Nails is much more than a nail spa; they have a variety of pampering treatments and waxing services too.

> Daily, 10am-10pm. 1) 2 Ginza Mall, 48 Dongzhimenwai Dajie (southeast of Dongzhimen Bridge), Dongcheng District 东城区东直门外大街48号东方银座2楼(东直门桥东南侧) (8447 7178); 2) Shop 2049, 2/F, 3.3 Shopping Center, 33 Sanlitun Beijing, Chaoyang District 朝阳区三里屯北街33号3.3大厦2层2049号 (5136 5829, 136 8148 3308)

ZELL BeauCare Clinic 泽尔丽格医疗美容



Overseen by Fellow of the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery (ASDS), ZELL cosmetic clinic provides state-of-art comprehensive minimal invasive procedures, including, Botox, dermal filler, fractionated laser skin resurfacing, Ulthera skin tightening and lifting, professional skin care treatment (acne, pigmentation, aging), and plastic surgery (including double eyelid, rhinoplasty, among others).

> Unit 2002, 1/F, Vantone Center, 6A Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District 朝阳区朝外大街甲6号万通中心A座一层2002 (010-59073390, 18612483390, www.zellbeauty.com)

Sport

Yihe 42° Hot Yoga



3 locations in Beijing: the best Yoga for Beginners! No previous experience necessary - and if your body is a bit stiff - that's okay! Yihe knows it can be a little intimidating to begin your journey into Yoga, so they are available to answer any questions you may have. It's a great workout for the body and calming for the mind. Call them today on (5905 6067, 8405 9996, 8599 7395)

> Daily, 10am-8pm. 1) 3/F, No. 2 South Building, Blue Castle, Dawang Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区大望路蓝堡国际中心南写字楼2座3层 (8599 7395/96, www.yh42.com); 2) 3/F, Bldg. 14, Solana, No. 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Xilu Chaoyang District 朝阳区朝阳公园西路6号, 蓝色港湾14号, 三层 (5905 6067/77, www.yh42.com); 3) 3/F, Shimao Plaza 13 Gongti Beilu Chaoyang District 朝阳区工体北路新中西里13号巨石大厦3F serve@cyclechina.com or cyclechina@hotmail.com)

Broadwell International Tennis Academy

Located inside Chaoyang Park's Tennis Center, this indoor club boasts a complete state-of-the-art air-supported structure for all-weather year-round indoor tennis, with an advanced lighting system and controlled climate. Ideal for peeps looking to perfect their service and batting a few balls.

> Nongzhan Nanlu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区农南路1号朝阳公园网球中心(4006406800/65958885, www.broadwell.cn)

Cycle China Inc. 北京非常之旅

Cycle China provides organized cycling and hiking tours in and around Beijing as well as longer tours throughout China. Some of their more popular tours take cyclists through the Olympic Green, Tian'anmen Square, and Beijing's traditional hutongs.

> 12 Jingshan East Street, Dongcheng District 东城区景山东街12号 (6402 5653 Mobile: 13911886524, re.broadwell.cn)

California Fitness Beijing Club

California Fitness Beijing's Group X program is among the best in the region, and with membership you have access to over 150 weekly Group X classes and a team of professional personal trainers in Asia. Your membership also includes free towel usage and a fitness assessment.

> South Tower, L4, 9 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District 4008-100-988 www.californiafitness.com

Heyrobics

"Sweat like a Swede!" they say with annoyingly smug grin and toned abs. The only fitness craze worth following in Beijing, Heyrobics is all about a punishing full-body workout set to pumping beats - not forgetting the fluorescent spandex. Differing classes for all abilities, check online for the full schedule.

> www.heyrobics.com, info@heyrobics.com

DENTAL

Arrail Dental

Affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania, Arrail Dental has access to top-class equipment. Its well-trained staff, multiple locations across town and excellent facilities make it one of the best dental providers in Beijing. English-speaking staff. Dental services including examinations, whitening, root-canal treatment, orthodontics and implants.

> 1) Rm 201, the Exchange-Beijing, 1188 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区建国路乙118号国贸桥东南角京汇大厦201室 (6567 5670); 2) Rm 208, Tower A, CITIC Building, 19 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District 朝阳区建国门外大街19号国际大厦A座208室 (6500 6473); 3) Rm 308, Tower A, Raycom Info Tech Park 2 Kexueyuan Nanlu, Haidian District 海淀区中关村科学院南路2号慧科资讯中心A座308室 (8286 1956); 4) Rm 101, Bldg 16, China Central Place, 89 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区建国路89号世贸中心公寓16号楼101室 (8588 8550/60/70); 5) 1/F, Somerset Fortune Garden, 46 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区亮马桥路46号燕莎东隅盛捷福景苑1层 (8440 1926)

United Family Shunyi Dental Clinic

The Beijing United Family Dental Clinic in Shunyi is a satellite of the main hospital in Lido (which has its own dental clinic onsite). A comprehensive range of services are at hand, including restorative dentistry and cosmetic dentistry. Call ahead for all appointments.

> 818 Pinnacle Plaza, Tianzhu Real Estate Development Zone, Shunyi District 北京和睦家医院牙科诊所, 顺义区天竺开发区荣祥广场818 (8046 1102)

SDM Dental 固瑞齿科

The full spectrum of dentistry. Services include teeth cleaning, root-canal treatment, porcelain crowns, dental implants, orthodontics, cosmetic dentistry, fillings, pediatric dentistry, extraction, teeth-whitening and veneers. Credit cards accepted.

> www.sdm-dental.com** Mon-Fri 9am-8pm. CBD/Guomao>2/F, NB210, China World Shopping Mall, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie 建外大街1号国贸商城地下2层 Tel: 6505-9439/3193** Mon-Fri 9am-8pm. Olympic Area>F-0186B Sunshine Plaza, 68 Anli Lu (east of Sunshine Plaza) 亚运村安立路68号 阳光广场东侧. Tel: 6497-2173, 6498-2173** Mon-Sun 10am-19pm. Shunyi>LB07-08, No.99 Euro Plaza, YuXiang Road, Beijing 顺义区天竺镇裕翔路99号欧陆广场LB07-08 Tel: 8046-6084** Mon-Fri 9am-8pm. Sanyuanqiao>FC222, 21st Century Hotel, 40 Liang Maqiao Lu 亮马桥40号21世纪饭店2层 Tel: 6466-4814, 6461-2745** Mon-Fri 9am-8pm. Haidian>4076B, 4/F, New Yansha Mall, Yuanda Lu 远大路金源燕莎购物中心Mall4层 4076B Tel: 8859-6912/13** Mon-Sun, 10am-7pm Guomao>Rm 5, 3/F, North Tower, China Overseas Plaza, 8 Guanghua Dongli. Beijing 朝阳区光华东路8号中海广场北楼3层05号 Tel: 5977-2488

SPA & MASSAGE

Angel Hands Massage Center

Let us release your stress and make you smile wherever you go... Aroma Soothes

Therapy Massage, Rose Oil (RMB 280/min); Aroma Relaxation Massage; Happy Hour at weekend, all services are 20% off. Our masseuses will know how to pamper you and attend to your every need.

> Room 301, Building 5, JianwaiSOHO, CBD/Guomao, Chaoyang District 朝阳区国贸建外SOHO, 5号楼301 (138 1182 1008)

Oriental Taipan Massage & Spa

Since 2002, Oriental Taipan has been pampering Beijing's finest in their small chain of contemporary spas. Calming flower aromas, Zen music, and trickling feng shui fountains create a soothing atmosphere in each of their locations, while a long list of treatments from around the world cater to all pampering needs.

> Daily, 12am-midnight. Sunjoy Mansion, 6 Ritan Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区日坛路6号 (400 001 0202, www.taipan.com.cn)

Dragonfly Therapeutic Retreat

Created as a contemporary urban retreat, Dragonfly is an oasis of peace and tranquility in the midst of the hectic city.

> Daily, 10am-late. 1) 60 Donghuanen Dajie (near The Peninsula Hotel and Oriental Plaza) Dongcheng District 东城区东直门大街60号(近王府饭店和东方广场) (6527 9368, www.dragonfly.net.cn); 2) 1/F Eastern Inn, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区南三里屯逸涛酒店一层 (6593 6066); 3) Grand Summit Plaza, 19 Dongfang Donglu (100m north of Lufthansa Center), Chaoyang District 朝阳区燕莎桥东东方东路19号外交会所1层(燕莎中心路北100米) (8532 3122)

HAIR SALONS

Catherine de France



Awarded best expat salon in 2014, with a trained team of international and local stylists, colorists and beauticians, this salon welcomes all ages and budgets in a modern and relaxed atmosphere for a wide range of hair and beauty treatments, including manicures, pedicures & waxing. Wella, SP, INOA, TIGI.
> EAST AVENUE BLD Ground Floor, No.10 Xindong Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区新东路10号逸盛阁首层 Salon: 0086 10 84425120, Mobile: 0086 13521473492 E-mail: catherine@catherinedefrance.com Wechat: CDFSalon; Web: www.catherinedefrance.com

Laurent Falcon



The salon is a cut above, thanks to skills of experienced French stylist Laurent Falcon. Guys/girls. Blow-dry, up-dos, highlights, coloring available. L'oreal, Schwarzkopf, KeraSraight, Inoa. RMB165-980 women, RMB115-468 men.

> 209 2nd floor, zoon3 China World Trade Centre Shopping Mall, 国贸商城区域, 二楼 209. (8535 1002, 131 4667 9913). 43 Sanlitun Beijing Nan, Chaoyang, 三里屯北街南43号楼 (135 0137 2971)

HEALTH SERVICES

Amcare Women's & Children's Hospital

With a zero waiting-time policy, top-quality inpatient facilities, home visits, night services and transportation assistance, Amcare provides a trustworthy experience. English-speaking services include pediatrics, gynecology and obstetrics.

> 9 Fangyuan Xilu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区芳园西路9号 (6434 2399, 24hr hotline 800 610 6200, www.amcare.com.cn)

Beijing International Medical Center (IMC)

Established in 1993, the International Medical Center-Beijing counts on an expert team of foreign doctors, offering a wide range of medical services, including family medicine, psychological services, dental, ob/gyn, pediatrics and TCM. Drop-in services for travelers; x-rays and ultrasounds are also available. English, Farsi, Japanese, Chinese, Arabic and Russian spoken.

> 24hours. Room 5106/111 Lufthansa Center, 50 Liangmahe Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区亮马桥路50号燕莎中心写字楼1层5106 (6465 1561/2/3, 6465 1384/28, www.imclinics.com)

Beijing New Century Harmony Pediatric Clinic

> Shunyi, K-01, Building No.19, Harmony Business Centre, Liyuan Street, Tianzhu Town 天竺镇丽苑街荣和商业中心19号楼K-01 (6456-2599; harmonyped@ncich.com.cn, www.ncich.com.cn)

Beijing Passion International Medical Center

This full-service international clinic provides 24-hr general medical care and a patient-centered attitude. Beijing Passion International Medical Center is equipped with the latest in medical technology and is designed to support the comfort, safety and privacy of patients.

> 24hours, B1/F, Borui Building, 26 Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区东三环北路26号博瑞大厦B1层 6517 7667, www.passion-medical.com

Beijing United Family Hospital and Clinics 北京和睦家医院

> Wi-fi internet. Lido, Emergency Room is open 24/7/365, Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5pm. > 2 Jianguai Road, Chaoyang District, 朝阳区将台路2号. Tel: (10) 5927 7000 / 5927 7120(Emergency Hotline). United Family CBD Clinic and和睦家诊所. Mon-Sat, 9:30am-6:30pm. > Suite 3017, Building AB, Vantone Center, 6 Chaowai Street, Chaoyang District, 朝阳区朝阳门外大街6号万通中心AB座2层3017室. Tel: (10) 5907 1266. Jianguomen Health and Wellness Center and和睦家建国门保健中心, Wi-fi internet, Mon-Sun 8:30am-5pm->21 Jianguomen Dajie, B1, The St. Regis Residence, St. Regis Hotel 朝阳区建国门外大街21号北京国际俱乐部饭店. Tel: (10) 8532 1221 / 8532 1678 (Immigration Clinic). Shunyi Clinic and和睦家顺义诊所 Wi-fi internet, Mon-Fri, 9:30am-5:30pm, Sat and Sun, 9:30am-4:30pm. > Pinnacle Plaza, Unit 806, Tian Zhu Real Estate Development Zone, Shunyi District, 顺义区天竺开发区荣祥广场806号. Tel: (10) 8046 5432. Shunyi Dental Clinic 顺义牙科诊所, Wi-fi internet, Mon-Sat, 9:30am-7:30pm. > Pinnacle Plaza, Unit 818, Tian Zhu Real Estate Development Zone, Shunyi District 顺义区天竺开发区荣祥广场818号. Tel: (10) 8046 1102. Liangma Clinic 亮马桥诊所 Wi-fi internet, Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5pm->2nd Floor Grand Summit, 19 Dongfang East Road 朝阳区东方东路19号1号楼会所27号 外交人员公寓B区官舍16号. Tel: (10) 5927 7005 www.uhf.com.cn, patientservices@uhf.com.cn

Beijing HarMoniCare Women and Children's Hospital 北京和美妇儿医院



> Wi-Fi available. Chaoyang: 2 Xiaoguan Beili, Beiyuan Lu 北苑路小关北里甲2号. Tel: 6499-0000.

contact@hmcare.org, en.hmcare.net

Hongkong International Medical Clinic, Beijing 北京港澳国际医疗诊所
Dongsishitiao: 9/F, Office Tower, Hongkong Macau Center-Swiss Hotel, 2 Chaoyangmen Bei Dajie 朝阳门北大街2号 港澳中心瑞士酒店办公楼9层; 6553-9752, 6553-2288/2345/6/7; service@hkclinic.com; www.hkclinic.com

International SOS

Since 1989, International SOS has been run by globally trained medical professionals and provides medical, security and travel advice, as well as emergency help 24/7. Its alarm centers operate house calls, ambulance and evacuation services, and standard health treatments. Languages spoken include English, German, French, Mandarin, Spanish, Japanese, Italian and Cantonese.
> Suite 105, Wing 1, Kunsha Building, No.16 Xinyuanti, Chaoyang District 朝阳区新源里16号瑞莎中心1座105室 (6462 9112/ 6462 9100, www.international.sos.com)

Parkway Health Clinic

> Mon-Sat, 10am-7pm; CBD, 1-2/F, Vantone Center, 6 Chaowai Street 朝阳门外大街甲六号万通中心A座一二层; (4000-662-882(24hrs); enquiry@parkwayhealth.cn; www.parkwayhealth.cn > No. 101-201, Beijing Link, block2, No.6 Yuan, Jing Shun Dong Street, Chaoyang 朝阳区京顺东街6号院2号楼北京Link 101-201室

Vista Medical Center 维世达诊所

> 24hours. Wi-Fi internet. 3/F Kerry Center, 1 Guanghua Lu 光华路1号嘉里中心商场3层 Tel: 8529-6618. Email: vista@vista-china.net. Website: www.vista-china.net

OASIS International Hospital

OASIS International Hospital specializes in serving the expatriate community with the latest world-class technology and a broad range of services, all in a pristine facility designed to provide patients with the utmost comfort, care and privacy.
> Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5:30pm; Sat-Sun, 8:30am-12:30pm; 24 Hour Emergency Bldg C1, 9 Jiuxiangqiao Beilu Chaoyang District 朝阳区酒仙桥北路9号C1栋 (400 876 2747, 5985-0333, www.oasishealth.cn)

EDUCATION

MBA & EMBA Schools

BBA at BFSU-SolBridge

北京外国语大学国际商学院
> 19 Xisanhuan Beilu, Haidian District, 海淀区西三环北路19号 (solbridge.bfsu.edu.cn, 8881 6563/8881 6763/8881 8573)

LEMBA

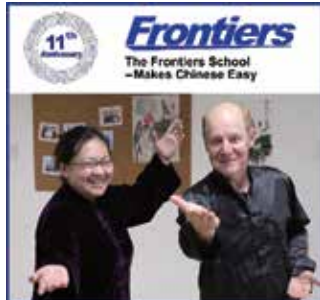
The Leadership EMBA from the University of Maryland
Robert H. Smith School of Business is a unique learning experience in Beijing. The program offers world class executive and leadership education from some of the best professors the world has to offer. Every month one of the professors from the University of Maryland comes to Beijing to instruct the class for 4 consecutive days (Thurs – Sun). The program lasts 18 months; the impact lasts a lifetime.
Email: beijing@rhsmith.umd.edu
Tel: 8526 2528/29

Rutgers International Executive MBA

> 5/F China Life Tower, 16 Chaowai Dajie Chaoyang District 朝阳区朝阳门外大街16号中国人寿大厦 (5877 1706, www.rutgersinasia.com)

Mandarin Schools

The Frontiers School



Join the friendly and professional team at Frontiers, who've been teaching Mandarin for 11 years.

> 3/F, Bldg 30, Dongzhongjie, Dongzhimenwai, Dongcheng 东城区东直门内大街30号三层 6413 1547, www.frontiers.com.cn, frontiers@frontiers.com.cn)

Beijing Mandarin Language School

Established in 1998, Beijing Mandarin School is the city's top institute for teaching

spoken and written Mandarin as a second language. More than 5,000 students from over 66 countries and more than 80 companies and embassies have successfully learned with us each year.
> Guangming Hotel School: Room 0709, 7/F Guangming Hotel (near the U.S Embassy) 朝阳区光明饭店7层0709 (8441 8391; info@beijingmandarinschool.com; www.beijingmandarinschool.com; Skype: beijingmandarinschool1998)

Culture Yard

Voted Best Mandarin School in Beijing for 2015 by That's Beijing readers!

Ready to take your Chinese to the next level? We offer personalized Mandarin classes for serious language learners of all levels.

Why choose us?

- Learn in a small group of up to 6 students
- Get your Chinese level evaluated and your study goals set on our detailed level test
- Reach an HSK4 level in less than one year on our flagship Intensive Program!
- Learn from professional teachers with master degrees in teaching Chinese to foreigners
- Study in a centrally located, cozy and sunny hutong courtyard
- Practice on the go with Culture Yard customized online tools
- Discover Chinese culture on our Chinese Through Cinema movie nights and other cultural activities
- Study the most common Chinese characters in our Characters Building course
- Need more?
 - Classes are focused on speaking and understanding real Chinese that native speakers use
 - Serious approach to Chinese learning with regular homework assignments and tests
 - We offer Chinese Media classes for advanced learners
 - The school was opened by a western educator passionate about Chinese learning

Don't take our word for it? See what our students say about us on www.cultureyard.net/reviews

Contact us: contact@cultureyard.net/ 010-84044166/Wechat: CultureYard

Beijing Juncheng Language School

北京君诚语言学校
> 1) Room 208, 1 Panjiapo Hutong, Chaoyangmenwai, Dongcheng District 东城区朝阳门内潘家胡同1号东城区职工大学208办公室 (6525 9932/6526 7539) 2) Guocheng Village, 45 Huoshu Lu, Houshayu Town, Shunyi District 顺义区后沙峪镇火沙路古城15号 (8049 0307)

The Bridge School

北京桥汉语言学校
> (The Bridge School Head office)/Room 503, 5/F, Guangming Hotel, 42 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区亮马桥路42号光明饭店5层503室 (15321793321 Gretchlin)

International Schools

Beijing BISS International School

北京BISS国际学校
> Building 17, Area 4, Anzhen Xili Chaoyang District 朝阳区安贞西里4区17号楼 (6443 3151 www.biss.com.cn)

Beijing City International School

北京乐成国际学校
Located in Beijing's Central Business District, Beijing City International School (BCIS) lives by its motto: "Empowering and Inspiring through Challenge and Compassion." This non-profit, independent co-educational day school offers an international curriculum under the International Baccalaureate (IB) World School system and is authorized to teach all three IB programs (Primary Years, Middle Years, and Diploma Programme).
> 77 Baizhuan Nan'er Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区百子湾南路77号 (8771 7171 www.bcis.cn)

The International Montessori School of Beijing 北京蒙台梭利国际学校

Founded in 1990, MSB is Beijing's first fully registered international Montessori school. The school also boasts an unsurpassed dual Mandarin/English program geared towards helping students achieve fluency in either language from an early age. Curriculum aside, MSB boasts spacious classrooms, a high teacher-student ratio and impressive staff longevity. Tuition: RMB98,000 - RMB177,000/year.
> Bldg 8, 2A, Xiangjiang Beilu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区香江北路甲2号院8号楼 6432 8228 ext. 800, http://www.msb.edu.cn, admissions@msb.edu.cn

Beijing World Youth Academy

北京世青国际学校
Beijing World Youth Academy (BWYA) is an international school for students of all nationalities ages 6 to 18, offering programs on its campuses conveniently located in Wangjing and Lido. An IB World School since 2001, BWYA values holistic education and seeks to give students ample opportunity to develop as globally-aware critical thinkers. A wide variety of co-curricular activities are offered to further enrich student life. Graduates of BWYA have been accepted at prestigious universities around the world. Age range: 6-18. Tuition: RMB 100,000- 140,000/year.
> Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm. 18 Huajidi Belli, Wangjing, Chaoyang District Inside 94 Middle school 北京市朝阳区望京花家地北里18号(6461 7787 ext. 32, 8454 3478/0649, admissions@ibwya.net, www.ibwya.net)

The British School of Beijing 北京英国学校

The British School of Beijing, established in 2003, has campuses in Shunyi (primary & secondary) and Sanlitun (primary). BSB offers an enhanced English National Curriculum to 1,500 expatriate students, aged 1 to 18, beginning with Early Years Foundation Stage, Primary, Secondary, IGCSE exams in Year 10 and 11 and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma programme in Year 12 and 13. Admission & Fees: RMB102,993-246,057. Contact our Admissions team to arrange a school tour.
> Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm, South Side, 9 An Hua Street, Shunyi District 顺义区安华街9号南侧(8047 3558, www.britishschool.org.cn, admissions@british-school.org.cn)

La Maison Montessori de Pekin

北京中法双语蒙氏儿童之家
The first bilingual French-Chinese Montessori kindergarten in Beijing, it welcomes children between ages 2 to 6 years old. The kindergarten is located in a beautiful courtyard in the hutongs. Schedule: Monday to Friday: 8:30am to 3:30pm. After class activities also offered.
> 50 Dongsishitiao, Dongcheng 东城区东四十四条50号 Tel: 131 2025 0341/ 8401 3974; e-mail: lamaisonmontessorip@gmail.com www.lamaisonmontessoridepk.com

Beijing Mandarin School

Established in 1998, Beijing Mandarin School is the city's top institute for teaching spoken and written Mandarin as a second language, more than 5,000 students from over 66 countries and more than 80 companies and embassies have successfully learned with us each year. Also recognized and recommended by BBC News as one of the most professional Chinese language schools.

> E-tower School(Guomao Area): Room 904-905, 9/F E-tower Building E数码世界9层904-905(6508 1026/1126) Guangming Hotel School (Embassy Area): Room 0709, 7/F Guangming Hotel(near U.S Embassy) 光明饭店7层0709室 美国大使馆附近(84418394) Email: info@beijingmandarinschool.com/ www.beijingmandarinschool.com/ Skype ID: beijingmandarinschool1998

Canadian International School of Beijing

北京加拿大国际学校
Located in the Third Embassy Quarter of downtown Beijing, the Canadian International School of Beijing (CISB) opened its doors in September 2006. This world-class facility offers an internationally recognized Canadian & IB PYP, IB MYP and IB DP education. The Canadian International School of Beijing develops the whole child in an environmentally sensitive school within a kind, caring community to become a citizen of the world.
> 38 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区亮马桥路38号 (6465 7788 www.cisb.com.cn)

Harrow International School Beijing

北京哈罗英国国际学校 www.harrowbeijing.cn
Harrow International School Beijing prides itself on its high academic standards, a close-knit school community, a rich extra-curricular activity program and the quality of its pastoral care provision. Leadership skills are promoted school-wide, with a range of enrichment activities to help students develop teamwork and creative thinking skills, as well as independence and responsibility. Students graduating from Harrow Beijing have won places at a range of universities across the world including Princeton, Yale, Oxford and Cambridge.
> Address: 287, Hegezhong, Cuigezhuang County, Chaoyang District
朝阳区崔各庄乡何各庄村 287 号 Tel: +8610 6444 8900 Ext. 6900 Fax: +8610 6445 3870 Email: enquiries@harrowbeijing.cn

International School of Beijing

北京顺义国际学校
> www.isb.bj.edu.cn 10 Anhua Lu, Shunyi District 顺义区安华路10号 (8149 2345)

SIBS Springboard International Bilingual

School 君城国际双语学校

Springboard International Bilingual School is a place where children, staff and parents work in partnership to enable all their students to realize their full potential. They are offering a stimulating and full international curriculum as well as an exciting after school program, which will include Kung Fu, calligraphy, health and fitness and football.

> 15 Gucheng Duan, Huosha Lu, Houshayu Town, Shunyi District 顺义区后沙峪镇火沙路古城段15号 (www.sibs.com.cn, office@sibs.com.cn; 8049 2450)

Western Academy of Beijing

京西国际学校
The Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) is a creative and innovative IB World School built upon a solid foundation of core values and our mission to Connect, Inspire, Challenge, Make a Difference. Our students exemplify these values through their awareness of the world around them, service to others, can-do spirit and commitment to excellence. WAB graduates are accepted into world-class colleges and universities across the globe.
> 10 Lai Guang Ying Dong Lu, Chao Yang District 朝阳区来广营东路10号(5986 5588)

Yew Chung International School

耀中国际学校
> Hongjingin Park, 5 Houbaizhuang, Chaoyang District 朝阳区后八里庄5号红领巾公园 (8583 3731 www.ycis-bj.com)

Kindergartens

Beanstalk International Bilingual School

青苗国际双语学校
> 1) Kindergarten > 1/F, Tower B, 40 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区亮马桥路40号B座一层 (6466 9255) 2) Primary School > Block 2, Upper East Side, 6 Dongshuan Beilu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区东四环北路6号阳光上东二区 (5130 7951) 3) Middle & High School > 38 Nan Shijiu Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区南十里居38号 (8456 6019)

House of Knowledge International Kindergarten (HOK)

House of Knowledge International kindergarten (HOK) has locations in both Shunyi and Chaoyang. Both locations offer a Kindergarten program for children aged 10 months to 6 years (Pre-school). Students are treated as competent learners and the school emphasizes critical thinking and collaboration skills, in an environment where children "Learn to Learn". In addition, the Shunyi location also has a elementary school starting from grade 1 in September 2014.
> 1) Quanfa Gardens Campus: North gate of Quanfa compound, 15 Maquanying, Chaoyang District 朝阳区马泉营15号泉安花园北(6431 8452, www.hokschools.com) 2) Victoria Gardens Campus: 15 Chaoyang Gongyuan Xilu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区朝阳公园西路15号维多利亚花园(6538 2624, www.hokschools.com)

EtonKids International Kindergarten

伊顿国际幼儿园
1) Lido – 6436 7368 www.etonkids.com > Room C103 Lido Country Club, Lido Place Jichang Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区亮马桥路40号B座一层 (6461 6506) 2) Global Trade Mansion 3) 6506 4805 3/F, Block D Global Trade Mansion Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区光华路世贸国际公寓D座3层 3) 8437 1006 Southwest corner of Beichen Xilu and Kehui Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区北辰西路与科荟路交汇处西南角 4) 8480 5538 Kehui Lu, Chaoyang District, Beijing 朝阳区科荟路大屯里社区 5) 6533 6995 Bldg 19, Central Park, 6 Chaowai Dajie Chaoyang District 朝阳区朝外大街6号新城国际19号楼 6) 6539 8967 Palm Springs International Apartments 8 Chaoyang Park Nanlu Chaoyang District 朝阳区朝阳公园南路8号棕榈泉国际公寓 7) 6749 5008 Bldg 21, Guanguo Jiayuan, Guangmenwai, Dongcheng District 东城区广渠门内广渠家园 21号楼 8) 8478 0578 Baoxing International Phase 2, Wangjing Chaoyang District 朝阳区望京宝星园国际社区2期 9) 8047 2983 Block 1, Arcadia Villas, Houshayu Shunyi District 顺义区后沙峪罗马环岛 北侧天北路阿凯迪亚庄园1座 10) 5870 6779 20A Xidawang Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区西大望路甲20号首府社区内

Ivy Schools 艾毅幼儿园

> www.ivyschools.com 1) East Lake Campus (8451 1380/1) C-101, East Lake Villas, 35 Dongzhimenwai Main Street, Dongcheng 东城区东直门内大街35号东湖别墅C座101室; 2) Ivy Bilingual School 艾毅双语幼儿园 Ocean Express Campus: (8446 7286/7) Building E, Ocean Express, 2 Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District 东三环北路2号远洋新干线E座 3) Orchid Garden Campus: (8439 7080) Orchid Garden, 18 Xinjin Lu, Cuige Xiang, Chaoyang District 崔各庄新锦路18号卓锦万代 4) Wangjing Campus: (5738 9166/1332 110 6167) Kylin Zone, Bldg 11, Fuan Xilu, Wangjing, Chaoyang 朝阳区望京阜安西路11号楼合生麒麟社内 7) Rm106, warehouse4, 653 Waimea Lu, by Wangjia Matou Lu (3376 8308) 外马路653号4库106室, 近王家码头路

3e International 北京3e国际学校

> 6437 3344
www.3eik.com, 9-1 Jiangtai Xilu Chaoyang 朝阳区将台西路9-1号(四德公园旁)

CLASSIFIEDS

ACCOMMODATION

Ascott Raffles City Beijing

Located in Dongzhimen, one of the most vibrant areas, Ascott Raffles City is near the second embassy district, which is rich in cultural heritage and is only a 15 minute drive to The Forbidden City. Other nearby leisure attractions include Food Street (Gui Jie) and Sanlitun nightlife district.

> No.1-2 Dongzhimen South Street
Dongcheng District
Tel: 8405 3888

Ascott Raffles City Chengdu

> No. 3, Section 4, South Renmin Road, Wuhou District, Chengdu 610041, China
Post code: 610041
Telephone: (86-28) 6268 2888
Facsimile: (86-28) 6268 2889
GDS Code: AZ
Reservations Telephone: 400 820 1028 (China toll-free) / (86-512) 6763 1021
Email: enquiry.china@the-ascott.com

Somerset ZhongGuanCun Beijing

Somerset ZhongGuanCun is a luxury residence in Beijing that lets you enjoy the cultural depth and elegance of the city while living in the fast developing ZhongGuanCun area, only 15 minutes away from the 2008 Beijing Olympic Village. > No.15 Haidian Zhong Street, Haidian District
Tel: 5873 0088

Lusongyuan Hotel

A traditional compound of quadrangle composing of 5 courtyards which lies in the "hutong" area of Beijing. The hotel building is famous for its imperial living taste of the Qing Dynasty with a history of nearly 170 years. The original owner of this large private house was the Grand General SenggeRinchen, who lived here while he carried out top official duties, such as defense minister.

> Tel: (86 10) 6404 0436
Fax: (86 10) 6403 0418
Address:
No.22 Banchang Lane , Kuanjie, Dongcheng District
东城区宽街板厂胡同22号
www.the-silk-road.com
E-mail: webmaster@the-silk-road.com

Lee Garden Service Apartments

A newly renovated high-end premier living residence in a central location next to the shopping and cultural sites of Beijing's Wangfujing, suites range from studios to 4-bedroom apartments (60-610sqm in size) and are tastefully furnished with specially selected materials.

> 18 Jinyu Hutong, Wangfujing, Dongcheng (100m East of Sun Dong An Plaza) 东城区王府井金鱼胡同18号 (新东安东侧100米);
24hr front desk: 6525 8855, Fax: 6525 8080,
general.manager@lgapartment.com, www.lgapartment.com

FraserResidence CBD East Beijing

Our location on the Fringe of the CBD with excellent connections to the subway line 1 (Sihui station), BRT Lines (Ciyunsi) and public bus system mean that wherever your intern needs to be in the city, getting there is relatively fuss free!

One bedroom deluxe: RMB16,000 / month
Two bedroom Executive: RMB26,000 / month
Three bedroom Deluxe: RMB33,000 / month
Email: sales.frbeijing@frasershospitality.com
> Website: http://beijing-east.frasershospitality.com
Tel: 010-58709188 / 400-881-6988

FraserSuite CBD Beijing

The ultimate luxury in apartment living, Fraser Suites CBD Beijing epitomizes style and comfort, that surpasses the service level of many Beijing hotels. The 357

Gold-Standard Beijing apartment features contemporary concepts designed for luxury living.

> 12 Jintong Xilu Chaoyang District Beijing
Tel: 5908 6000

GTC RESIDENCE BEIJING

One of the top residences in Beijing, GTC Residence is located beside the third ring road with 5 minutes' walk to subway line 5, 10 minutes' drive to Hou Hai. It is also within easily reach of CBD, embassy area, Financial Street and other urban commercial, shopping and recreation areas. Fully equipped apartments with impeccable quality offer you a cozy living system and will meet all of your requirements for room decoration, furniture, electric appliances etc..

Unique sky garden with golf practice field and barbecue area is another symbol of GTC Residence.

> E-mail: sales@gtcresidence.com
website: www.gtcresidence.com
Tel: 56756666

Lanson Place

Lanson Place Central Park Serviced Residences, located in the Central Business District of Chaoyang, offers spacious apartments in two, three and four bedroom configurations as well as penthouses overlooking a charming landscaped garden. The interiors are contemporary and restful while marble-clad bathrooms and kitchens are fully equipped.

> Website: www.lansonplace.com
Lanson Place Central Park Residences
Tower 23, Central Park, No.6
Chaoyangmenwai Avenue, Chaoyang District, Beijing
Tel: 8588 9588 Fax: 8588 9549

Marriott Executive Apartments

Ideally located in the center of Wangfujing area where the prestigious business, commercial, entertainment, and shopping center of Beijing. The Imperial Mansion, Beijing - Marriott Executive Apartments reflects an exceptional level of luxury.

> Gate, No. 1 Xiagongfu Street, Dongcheng District
Tel: 6564 9999

The Millennium Residences of the Beijing Fortune Plaza

The Millennium Residences of the Beijing Fortune Plaza is located in the heart of the Beijing CBD which bears the most momentarily potential of development and value elevation. While 25 minutes away from the Beijing International Airport, the Millennium Residences is walking distance from nearly all Embassies.

> 7 Dongsanhuan Zhonglu Chaoyang District.
Tel: 8588 2888

Oakwood Residence Beijing

Oakwood Residence Beijing offers 406 fully equipped luxury apartments ranging from studios to four bedroom penthouse and terrace apartments, all exquisitely furnished in elegant and stylish decor. Each apartment is fitted with a state-of-the-art air purification and air conditioning system which ensures 99.9% pure, triple filtered air, so you can trust in Oakwood and breathe easy.

> No. 8 Dongzhimenwai Xiejie, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100027, China
reschaoyang@oakwoodasia.com
Website: www.oakwoodasia.com/resbeijing
Tel: 5995 2888 Fax: 5995 2999

THE WESTIN EXECUTIVE RESIDENCES

The Westin Executive Residences at The Beijing Financial Street offer an array of world-class cuisine options and Westin's signature amenities designed to elicit personal renewal. Just 40 minutes from the airport, the Westin Executive Residences provides direct access to Beijing's business, entertainment and shopping district and

close proximity to cultural landmarks such as The Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square. Each apartment is also fitted with contemporary furnishings, fully equipped kitchens, state-of-the-art appliances, home entertainment system and LCD flat screen televisions.

> Email: reservation.beijing@westin.com
Website: www.westin.com/beijingfinancial
Tel: 6606 8866

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>> BEIJING (20 LOCATIONS) <<

Lei Shing Hong Plaza [New]

北京利星行广场
5/F, Tower C, Lei Shing Hong Plaza, No.8 Wangjing Street, Chaoyang District
北京市朝阳区望京街8号利星行广场C座5层

Sun Dong An Plaza [New]

北京新东安广场
7/F, Office Tower 2, Sun Dong An Plaza, No.138 Wangfujing, Avenue, Dongcheng District
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NOT SMILING

The Dark Side of Darlie Toothpaste

by George McKibbens

In 1933, Shanghai-based Hawley and Hazel Chemical Company began marketing what was then called Darkie, a brand which paraded a goofy image of American minstrel performer Al Jolson. A vaudeville legend who built his career mocking black people for white audiences, Jolson's acts reached their peak in the mid-20th century, but the logo was never abandoned, and Darkie – since renamed in English as Darlie – continues to hold its place as China's best-selling toothpaste.

Like most distasteful promotional ploys, Darkie didn't go unnoticed for long. In 1985, when Hawley and Hazel relocated to Hong Kong, Colgate-Palmolive acquired half of the company, inheriting what would become a civil rights disaster. After confronting immediate public backlash, Colgate's then CEO Ruben Mark offered a statement to the New York Times, promising to change the "offensive" name because, he said, "it's just plain wrong."

The resulting Darlie moniker (which could have easily been a typo, since 'L' and 'K' are side by side on a keyboard) and brighter image came from a compromise between Colgate and the toothpaste's Hong Kong manufacturers. The original and bigoted Chinese name, however, remains intact today (黑人牙膏 translates literally as 'Black Man Toothpaste').

黑人牙膏 is still sold on the mainland and has expanded to Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia. Retro blackface remains routine for East Asia.

Recent years would suggest China has a thing for a bright smile, typified by widespread obsession over the pearly whites of Ding Hui – China's first black, African-Chinese Olympian – during the 2012 London games. Chinese sports writers repeatedly celebrated how Hui's "sparkling" teeth were simply magnificent and rarely commented on his skills at the net.

Since the beginning of reform and opening up, China has been grappling with newfound diversity. Guangzhou is known worldwide as China's most African city. In the 1990s, the stability of the Chinese yuan attracted African entrepreneurs, who could effectively export the manufacturing goods they needed. New positions in southern China have recruited African youth at major firms such as Ethiopia Airlines and Kenya Airways, which send daily flights to Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport. Praised by many as a cultural oasis, Guangzhou boasts an African belt in Xiaobei, though it goes by a discomfiting



colloquial name: 'Chocolate City.'

When asked about the moniker, Adams Bodomo, a Ghanaian professor and author of Africans in China, dismisses it as innocuous – at least when considered in a larger context.

"Africans in China have enough problems to worry about than to get upset with that title," says Bodomo. In his book, those problems are clearly illustrated. The black community in Guangzhou is more often than not denied housing and job opportunities, while police profiling and racist slurs against prominent black individuals – such as Chinese-African pop singer Lou Jing – are not rare, and by no means helped by the continued sale of products such as 黑人牙膏.

"The original and bigoted Chinese name (黑人牙膏 translates literally as 'Black Man Toothpaste') remains intact today."

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