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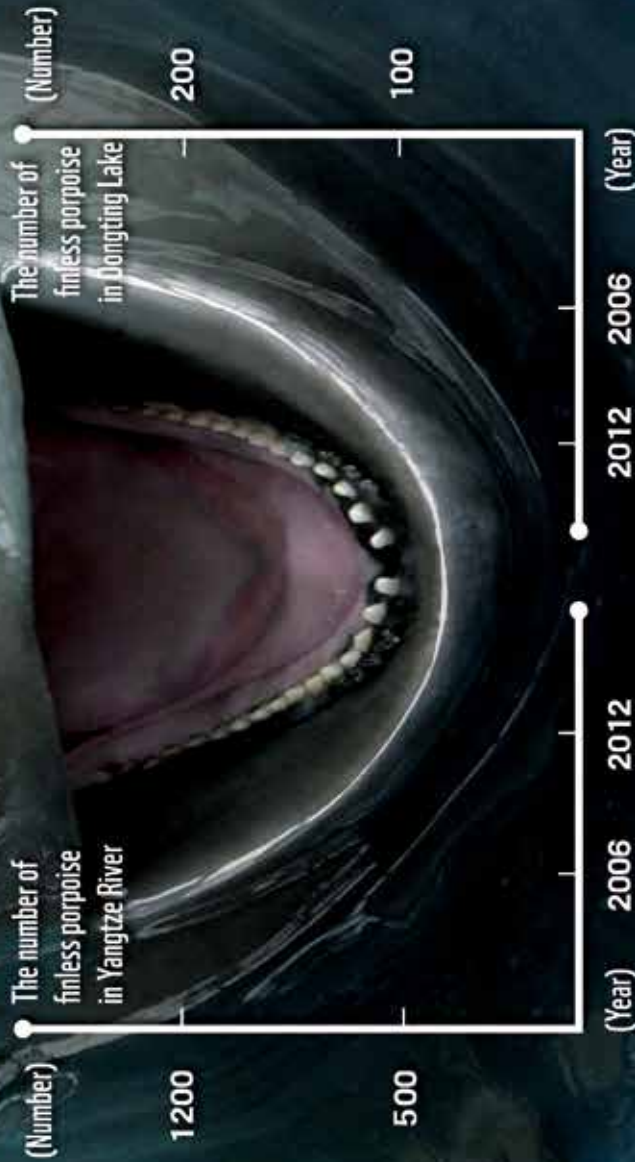


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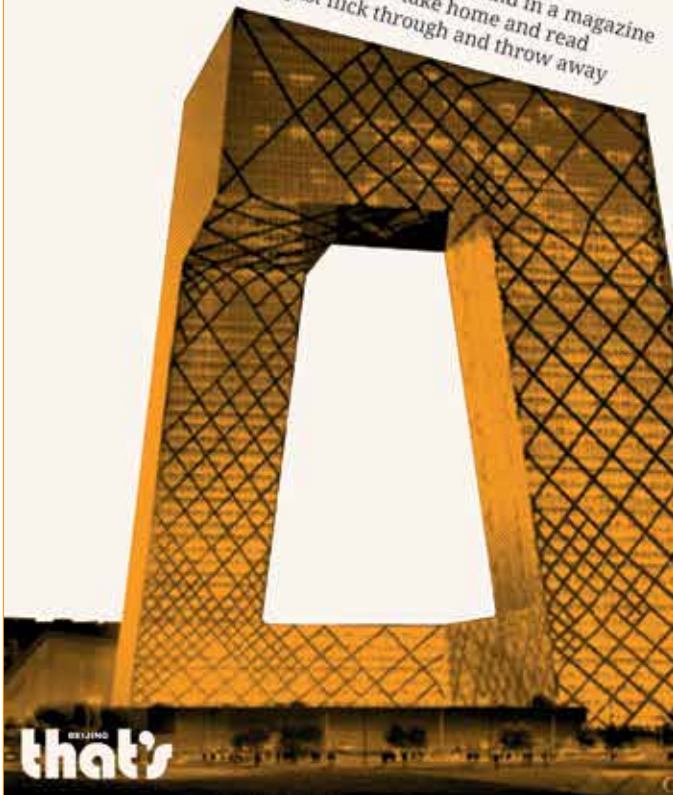
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EDITOR'S NOTE

MARCH

I HAVE ALWAYS HARBORED A DEEP DISTRUST FOR KINDLES. THEY ARE SOULLESS DEVICES. If you find that a small pile of rectangular paper is too heavy or inconvenient to carry around, then you should be questioning *yourself*, not the book.

As the editor of a print magazine, it's perhaps no surprise that I value the idea of reading something tangible. But physical books have irreplaceable character – as do the stores that stock them. So it is with great pleasure that we dedicate this month's cover story to The Bookworm Literary Festival.

As an independent bookshop, The Bookworm relies on the community to support it. I implore you to do so. The festival organizers have put together a fascinating program, and we were lucky enough to speak with nine of the authors who are scheduled to talk. While I am painfully aware that three of our interviewees are white guys called David, I like to think that we've included a diverse mix of people, topics and opinions.

Speaking of Davids, I'll be moderating one of their talks – David Leffman's on March 26, to be specific. Please feel free to come down and heckle me as I try to stop pretentious audience members from using the Q&A as an opportunity to show off their opinions without actually asking any questions.

Elsewhere in the magazine, we continue with a very loose theme: the rejection of unfettered modernity. On page 10, Aaron Ma meets a self-sufficient ascetic who has barely bought any material goods for the last 17 years. Meanwhile on page 28, I speak with New York veteran DJ Spinna, who claims to own 60,000 vinyls (although, for the record: I'm emphatically pro-MP3).

Unrelated – though I hope equally interesting – Marianna Cerini wonders what it takes for Chinese fashion houses to make it big in the West (page 20); Andrew Chin finds out what the country's best record labels have in store for 2016 (page 34); and Noelle Mateer eats her way through some rather obscure cuisines as she recreates the path of New Silk Road, before bringing you her characteristically irreverent take on the latest food and drink openings (from page 52).

Happy reading,



Oscar Holland
Editor-in-Chief

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“For me, the meaning of life is to create. But if you don't use your heart, everything will go back to being boring”

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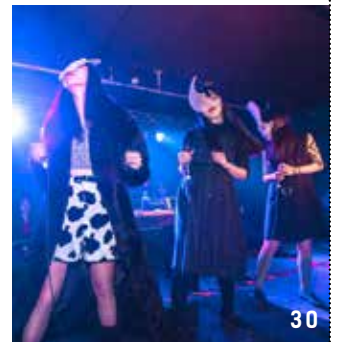
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CITY

THE BUZZ



STICKY BALLS

Workers at the Beijing Daoxiangcun Food Co., which operates 24 hours a day producing glutinous rice balls in the lead up to Lantern Festival. Output in 2016 is expected to be 8 percent higher than last year.

A RARE SIGHT

A flock of Jankowski's buntings (*Emberiza jankowskii*) was recently spotted at Miyun Reservoir, 75 years after the endangered bird was last seen in Beijing. Xing Chao, a university student and member of the bird-watching group 'Beijing Feathers,' reportedly photographed the bird. The rare species, of which there are now fewer than 1,000 in the wild, was last seen and collected in 1941 at The Summer Palace. Native to the temperate shrubland and grasslands of China, North Korea and Russia, the species' rapid decline over the past few decades has been attributed to habitat loss.

RANDOM NUMBER

10,000

...is the number of new public bicycles that the Beijing Commission of Transport plans to roll out this year. There were already 50,000 public bikes in use last year, which was five times the amount introduced in 2012, when the scheme was launched. The Commission also plans to build 50 kilometers of roads purely for buses, according to Spokesperson for the Commission Rong Jun. Low-emission transport options are favored as solutions to environmental concerns, like pollution, which have grown due to the city's rising population.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“One can be a good youth even when single. Spread the positivity of being a singleton”



... reads the text on a poster that popped up at Dongzhimen subway station during Spring Festival. The advertisement urges “father and mother” not to worry about their single child, as there are many different ways of living. The campaign was created by a group of singletons who were fed up with the constant pressure they received from family members to get married. May it serve as a reminder that yes, even unmarried youth can be good people too.

SAFE AND SOUND

Beijing-based China Radio International (CRI) is on the cusp of securing China’s first sound trademark from the State Administration for Industry and Commerce (SAIC). China’s Trademark law was revised in 2013 to allow the registration of a ‘sound,’ recognizing that in addition to the more typical name or phrase trademarks, a sound can also function as a brand’s exclusive identifier. Examples include McDonald’s classic ‘I’m lovin’ it’ and MGM’s lion roar.



ASK A LAOBEIJING

We met Zhang, 56, taking an evening stroll down Wudaoying Hutong



“I think that the events in Syria were somewhat brought about by American provocation, so it doesn’t really concern China or Chinese interests. We didn’t participate in these affairs – nor should we. The countries that are responsible for these events should bear the responsibility for the effects of their actions.

China already has such a large population, so I don’t think we should accept refugees. Sure, China covers a large area. I guess if we did accept refugees they would have to settle in Xinjiang and Gansu. They couldn’t resettle east or south – in Shanghai or Harbin for example – because it would be difficult for them to adapt. They would need a long time to become accustomed to China. It would also be hard for Chinese people to accept them.

Europe is not as far away from their home country, so it would be easier for Syrians to get used to life there. They would probably prefer these countries too, because they are more developed.

When countries have war or fighting, it inevitably results in a lot of refugees. As we have seen, countries like Germany have accepted many of them. But we’ve also seen how hard it is for both the countries and the refugees. There are language and cultural barriers, for one. But there is also huge pressure on the countries who accept migrants. For example, migrants often arrive together as a family. They must try and find work, but what about the countries’ own citizens who already have trouble finding work? How can these refugees hope to survive?

Plus, China already opened its doors to migrants a long time ago, when the population was not as big. In the past, this was possible for both China and other countries. You can see that now there is a mix of cultures in China, like Indian and Russian.

As told to Dominique Wong

TALES OF THE CITY



CSL: CASH SPENT LIBERALLY



When Argentine footballer Ezequiel Lavezzi signed to Hebei China Fortune from French team Paris St-Germain last month, it was reported he would earn more than RMB215 million for his two-year deal. That is over RMB2 million a week, and makes him the fifth highest-paid player in the world, behind only Ronaldo, Messi, Rooney and Ibrahimovic. This was enough to make him pick a life in Qinhuangdao instead of joining the likes of Chelsea, Inter Milan or Juventus.

Yet this is no isolated case. During the winter transfer window, the Chinese Super League's transfer record seemed to be broken almost weekly. When the 2016 season kicks off on March 5, the new faces will include Brazilians Alex Teixeira (bought for RMB350 million from Shakhtar Donetsk), Ramires (RMB230 million from Chelsea), and ex-Manchester City striker Jo, who have all been bought by Chinese FA Cup winners Jiangsu (who have themselves been bought by electronics giant Suning Commerce Group).

Over in Hebei, Lavezzi will be teaming up with Ivorian striker Gervinho (bought from Roma for RMB105 million), while Asian Champions Guangzhou Evergrande paid RMB285 million to Atletico Madrid for

Colombian striker Jackson Martínez. His compatriot Fredy Guarín joined Shanghai Shenhua from Inter Milan for RMB75 million.

Beijing Guo'an, meanwhile, have been a little more modest – their Brazilian trio of Renato Augusto, Kléber and Ralf only boast 15 caps for the Brazilian national team between them. That might be tongue-in-cheek, but only just; across town, China League One club Beijing Renhe have spent RMB40 million bringing in Croatian striker Nikica Jelavic from West Ham. Yes, you read correctly: a player has swapped the English Premier League for the second tier of Chinese football.

According to Forbes, the CSL spent more in the winter transfer window than any other league in the world, coming in at just under RMB2.2 billion (and it has probably gone up by the time you read this). That's more than the English Premier League. And more than the top leagues in Italy, Germany, Spain and France... combined. And consider this fact: after the CSL, EPL and Italy's Serie A, who spent the fourth most? China League One.

Much of the League One money came from just down the road at Tianjin Quanjian.

The city's second team, which was recently acquired by Quanjian Natural Medicine, are splashing the cash like only the nouveau riche know how. They have employed ex-Brazil coach Vanderlei Luxemburgo on over RMB50 million a year net and blown another RMB70 million on 28-year-old goalkeeper Zhang Lu, a player with only two national team appearances to his name. They also boast former Brazil striker Luís Fabiano, who's had previous stints at Porto and Sevilla.

So what's going on? It all seems to go back to President Xi Jinping, who has declared his dedication to the development of the game. This mandate stretches from grassroots-level football, right the way through to hosting – and even winning – the World Cup.

A part of this process seems to involve pouring vast amounts of money into the country's professional clubs. Presumably, the hope is that a strong domestic league, bolstered by foreign talent, will aid the improvement of domestic players, as well as helping China to become seen as a credible World Cup host. Whether it will work, only time will tell. For now, football fans can only sit back and start watching what should be a decade-long, decadent show.



Waiguoren \ Wāiguǒrén \ 歪果仁 *n. crooked nuts; a near-homonym for 'foreigners'*

A My waiguoren co-worker always asks for non-spicy soup when we go to Sichuan hotpot.

B This nut is crooked indeed. What is the point of going to Sichuan hotpot if you don't get the spiciest soup?

A He is not used to it. He never had spicy food growing up.

B You need to straighten up this crooked nut.

The debate of whether 'laowai' is an offensive term has been rendered obsolete by the Internet, because we now have a new name for foreigners: *Waiguoren*, or 'crooked nuts.' Just hold your hammer of political correctness for one moment and allow me to explain how

it came about.

The proper group term for foreigners is *wàiguórén*. However, when you type this into your computer or phone, you enter the pinyin without the tones. In any common Chinese language input method, the first term you are offered is *wāiguǒrén* ('crooked nuts') before the word 'foreigners.' You therefore have to skip over 'crooked nuts' to get to the word you want.

In the past year or so, people have become too lazy to do this. 'Crooked nuts' is now a good enough word to describe foreigners. In cut-throat contemporary China, no one has valuable seconds to spend on correct spelling.

Self-justification always follows laziness. Now, some say that 'crooked nuts' is actually the perfect word for foreigners because it is exactly what they sound like when they try to say 'foreigners' in Chinese and mess up the tones. Some say that foreigners are like the

round pegs in the square holes of China's social norms, and can therefore loosely be described as crooked. Plus, they seem slightly nuts from time to time.

Whatever the reasoning (or the lack thereof), the new *waiguoren* caught on.

Just to clarify: the word is not entirely making fun of the way foreigners mess up their tones (only a little). There are plenty of other words that were born this way. For example, the word 'talented' (*yǒucáihuá*) became 'canola flowers' (*yóucàihuā*); 'Weibo' (*Wēibó*) became 'scarf' (*wéibó*); and 'what' (*shénme*) became 'magical horse' (*shénmǎ*). This proves, once again, that laziness is the mother of all invention.

So next time you Google what Chinese people have been saying about you, don't type in 'laowai' like it's 2014. Try 'crooked nuts' instead. You can thank me later.

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

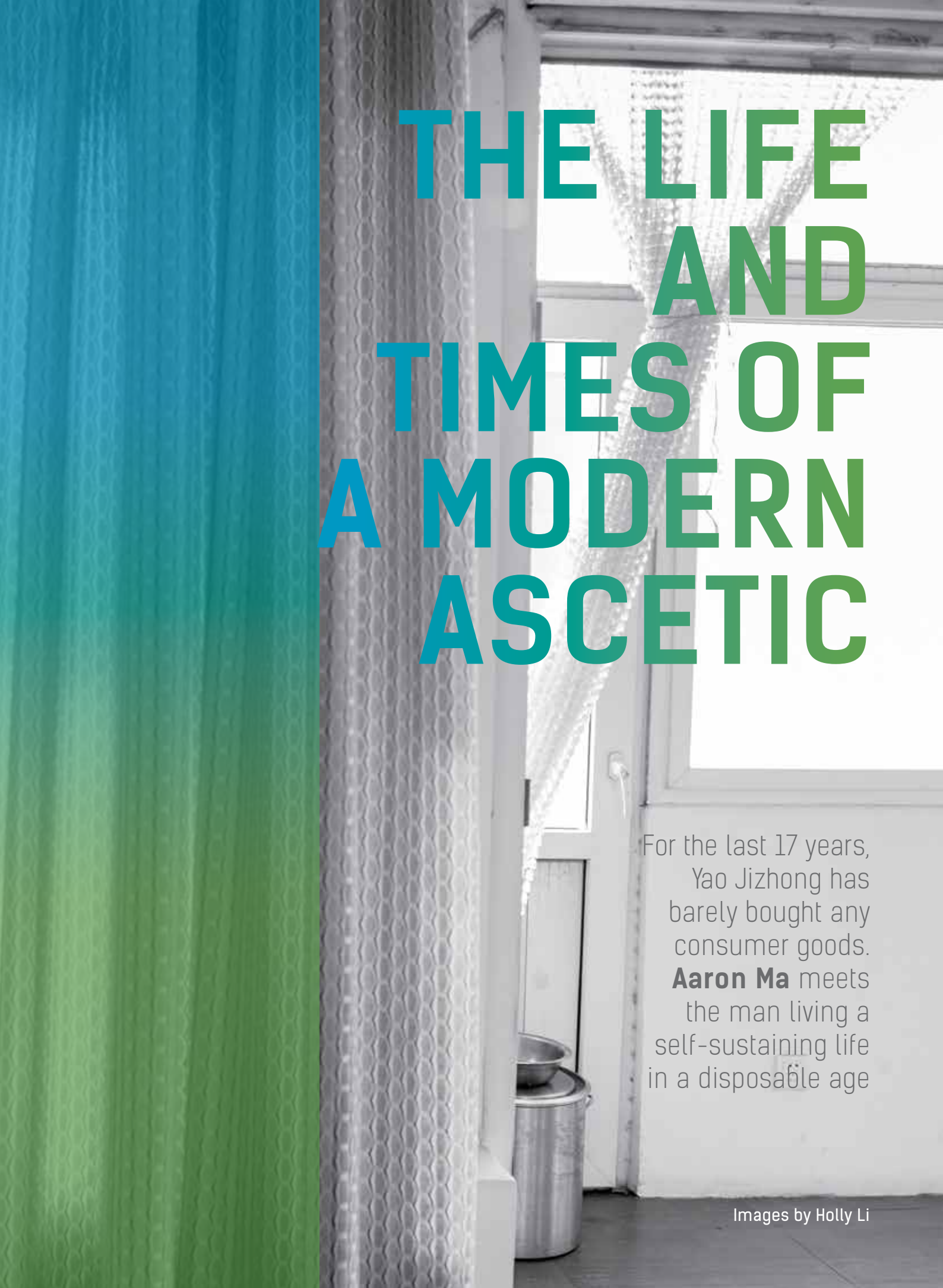


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THE LIFE AND TIMES OF A MODERN ASCETIC

For the last 17 years, Yao Jizhong has barely bought any consumer goods. **Aaron Ma** meets the man living a self-sustaining life in a disposable age

Images by Holly Li



This page, top to bottom | Recycled rice bags hang to dry; Yao cooks a meal using organic and homemade ingredients; Powdered tea seeds are used for washing dishes; Yao's scantily furnished bedroom at his home in Changping.

Opposite | Yao presents pastries that he sells online and at local organic markets.

YAO JIZHONG IS ONE OF THE MILLIONS OF people who migrate to big cities every year in search of a more prosperous life. But unlike many migrants, the 35-year-old does not measure his prosperity in terms of material wealth. He moved to Beijing to pursue a bigger dream: showing the world that less is more.

For the past 17 years, Yao has barely bought any clothes, cosmetics, detergents, or processed or non-organic foods. In the hope of removing himself from the work-earn-spend cycle, he is now almost entirely self-sufficient, instead relying on nature and his own skills.

Word is getting around. The Anhui native has over 4,000 followers on Weibo, and he has even re-entered the consumer economy in his own modest way, selling homemade pastries and snacks at a local organic market.

It's a few days before Chinese New Year, and Yao is making tofu at his home in the suburban district of Changping. He invites us into the enormous courtyard that he rents with friends, some of whom moved here with their families to run their small businesses full-time. Together, they form a commune of sorts, growing their own food and living off the land.

"I only eat seasonal and organic vegetables," Yao explains cheerfully. "Unseasonal ones are tasteless to me – like eating sawdust. I can even taste the chemicals they use to keep them in season."



“NOBODY UNDERSTOOD ME BACK IN MY HOMETOWN. I DIDN'T ALLOW MY FAMILY TO USE ANY DETERGENTS OR SOAPS – THEY THOUGHT I WAS CRAZY”





In Yao's small, scantily furnished bedroom, cabinets hold precious exhibits of handmade pastries, home-grown organic nuts and fermenting vinegar. A banner inscribed with 'qingcao shan ren' (green grass hermit) hangs in the middle of the room. The room is surprisingly cold and he offers us some freshly made soymilk to warm us up, explaining that it is only one step away from becoming tofu.

"I was always fascinated with ecological agriculture, so I had this idea of farming my land without any chemicals," he says.

After graduating from high school, Yao decided to become a farmer in his hometown in Anhui. But it proved more difficult than he had envisaged. Having learned very little about growing vegetables at school, he found it impossible to support himself without using chemical pesticides and fertilizers to boost his yield. With no support from his family, running at a loss was not an option.

"I moved to Beijing in 2008," he recalls. "I feel people here appreciate the things I do. But nobody understood me back in my hometown. I didn't allow my family to use any detergents or soaps – I'd throw them away, so they thought I was crazy.

"I don't believe in buying disposable products. I even collect tea leaves after brewing, and rub them into my teeth and gums to get more out of them."

This is just one of the countless ways that a self-sustaining lifestyle manifests itself. But being thrifty is just as important as being resourceful. Almost all of Yao's clothes have been donated by friends, including the patched-up trousers he wore on the day of our visit. Most of his kitchenware is scavenged from others' trash, meaning that no two bowls are the same.

Yao ushers us into the kitchen where he begins preparing lunch. While he spends around RMB300 on organic ingredients on his monthly shopping trip, almost everything here is home-made.

"These are dried vegetables – all organic. I gathered them in the summer then dried them under the sun in good weather. This way, you can store them for really a long time," he explains, pulling out a huge pot of home-made soybean paste from under the table.

He proceeds to chop the vegetables into small pieces – dried bamboo shoots, dried mushrooms and dried beans. Nothing goes to waste. ("I collect kitchen and food waste, add bacteria and leave it to ferment for a few days before burying it in the ground.")

The diet of this modern ascetic is a simple one. Breakfast usually consists of millet congee, while lunch is made with whatever organic vegetables he can find, served over brown rice. Then it's congee again for dinner, this time served alongside some nuts. But regardless of whether it tastes good (which, for the record, it genuinely does), it seems to be working – Yao has not needed to see a doctor for more than 10 years.

"I don't like to be too full; I prefer to only be 70 percent full. It's better for your health, especially for dinner," he explains. "I've only had KFC twice in my life so far. I didn't really like it. And it is so expensive – not worth the money!

"When I go out and eat with friends, I just order a glass of water and eat what I've prepared at home. Otherwise my stomach will act up."

And as one would expect of someone who cooks and eats sustainably – Yao also washes up sustainably. Cups and bowls with oil on them are separated, and then soaked in the water that had been used to wash the vegetables. Instead of using detergent, Yao uses a handful of powdered tea seeds that he rubs on the dishes before rinsing them with running water.

"One part brown sugar, three parts vegetable rind and ten parts water. Add some yeast, ferment it with soapberries for about three months, and you get your own enzymatic laundry detergent," he explains.

The man seems to have an answer for everything. But far from carrying himself with the holier-than-thou attitude that often accompanies the organic lifestyle, Yao has a simple message – happiness doesn't need to be material. ■



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TEL: (010) 64616928 \ 64635156
No. 6 Sanlitun Beixiaojie, Chaoyang District
朝阳区三里屯北小街 6 号

芳草店 RITAN STORE

TEL: (010) 85630626
No.4 Ritan North Road, Chaoyang District
朝阳区日坛北路 4 号

香江花园店 RIVERA GARDEN STORE

TEL: (010) 84701557 \ 84704095
No.1 Laiguangying East Road, Chaoyang District
朝阳区来广营东路 1 号

建外 SOHO 店 JIANWAI SOHO STORE

TEL: (010) 58692326 \ 58692253
0413 of Building 4, Jianwai SOHO, No. 39 Middle Dongsanhuan Road, Chaoyang District
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Bräuhaus Beijing

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- ▲ Traditional Bavarian Games
- ▲ Traditional May Bock Beer
- ▲ Special May Festival Menu
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- ★ Time: 18:00-24:00
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- ★ Regular ticket price: RMB 98, Includes: entrance fee
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- Please make your reservation by calling 010-56131099.





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LIFE & STYLE

STYLE RADAR

SPOTLIGHT

Jasin Chang, model

— How did you get started as a model?

I went with a friend to a modeling agency to pick up tickets to a party. The owner was there and asked if I was interested in modeling. I went to a few castings and got my first runway show after a couple of weeks. Nothing spectacular.

— What's a typical day for you?

A lot of sex, drugs, and champagne. Nah, just kidding. The meaning of a typical day has changed since I began modeling full-time. Before, my time was spent running around town to castings and auditions, looking for job leads, dieting, working out, and learning how to model and what the whole process was about – which meant talking to anybody that was willing to help. Nowadays, I've established a consistent routine of working different types of jobs – photoshoots, commercial videos and runway. I still go to castings, but far less. I believe I have enough experience and momentum where agents and clients are starting to seek me out. So now most of my time is spent managing my career and work relationships. Although no day goes by when I am not concerned about getting overweight or out of shape.

— What kind of work do you mostly do?

As far as fashion is concerned, I started off doing runways but now I also shoot campaigns, ads and lookbooks. I have an interest in acting, and over the summer landed a small role in a feature film produced by Luc Besson. Besides fashion, I also work in television commercials and commercial print or digital ads.

— What's the best thing about being a model? And the worst?

Modeling has given me the opportunity to work with some of the most passionate and talented people. Shortly after I started this career, I realized that a lot of designers, stylists, photographers, videographers, and hair and make-up artists are fuckin' crazy – but in a good way! The ones that are driven by their work create an energy that I've seldom felt elsewhere, besides sports maybe. And there is no better feeling than to collaborate and make their visions come to life. Of course, it's also cool that some people treat you nicer, give you free shit and pay for your travels. The worst aspect would probably be sacrificing so much time that I could spend with friends and family.

— If you could work with any brand or designer, who would it be?

I am not even going to pretend that I know a lot about fashion. I've definitely become more aware and picked up pieces here and there. One thing I've realized is that my taste is still developing. Right now, I would love to work with Giorgio Armani, Vivienne Westwood, Yohji Yamamoto and Rick Owens.

— What's the job you're most proud of?

I am proud whenever I overcome an obstacle, because modeling is full of uncertainty and challenges. Walking a runway at Milan Fashion Week was a definite highlight though. I had just started modeling and I kind of threw myself out there. So that was



definitely a great feeling, as I was aware the odds were against me.

— What's the most challenging side of your profession?

It's a competitive industry, with a lot of uncertainty and superficiality. Some bookers, clients and directors can be very annoying. But the most challenging side of modeling is the perpetual energy one has to generate in order to create the necessary momentum.

— Your style in three words.

Laid-back. Vintage. Edgy.

— When you're working you're....

Obsessed.

Follow Jasin on Instagram @jasin

COVET



•Hipster Everything

With its psychedelic and bright pop aesthetic, we can't get enough of Fantasy Fanatic, a label from London- and Beijing-based Zhang Liang (aka Ray). The graphic designer and illustrator plays with pop culture icons like David Bowie, Michael Jackson and Miley Cyrus to make tongue-in-cheek accessories and jewelry (RMB88-328). But he also pays homage to some of Beijing's most instantly recognizable features, like the city's dancing grannies sporting anti-pollution masks, which come as badges or plastered all over funky tote bags (RMB238). His use of prints is loud, joyful and hallucination-inducing – just check out his knee-high socks called Sweet Cloud (RMB108). We want it all.

www.zhangliangray.com, contact him at zhangyixian221323@hotmail.com.



MADE IN CHINA

Mellow Yellow



Call us suckers, but we've always had a penchant for independent brands that offer small-batch, locally sourced products. We especially like ones that strive to be ethical and, through their own niche contributions, make a difference to our beloved consumerist world; hence why we now own a whole bunch of Yellow Pummelo beauty products. Launched by San Francisco-native Beijing transplant Victoria Kong, Yellow Pummelo is an all-natural skincare venture. Its ointments and lotions have been hand-blended using certified organic ingredients, and all are free of chemicals, fillers and preservatives. Kong, a homemade remedies fanatic, launched the brand after the lotion bars she made for herself started gaining popularity

among friends and family. Soon enough, Yellow Pummelo branched out into face-repair concoctions, lip balms and cuticle oils, which work wonders in Beijing's somewhat challenging weather (read: dry as fuck). Kong tests all products on herself first, and wraps them up in neat tin cases before sending them off to customers. In an industry – the beauty one, specifically – where going green means goes against the grain, and synthesised ingredients like petroleum are all too common, Yellow Pummelo is a brave, brave project. Plus, its products smell divine. We endorse it, and so should you.

Solid lotion bars are RMB100 each. For more products, check www.yellowpummelo.com or find Kong at local markets around town.



OVERHEARD

"HE LOOKS AMAZING IN THE PICTURES. NOT EVERYBODY LOOKS GOOD IN SUITS. BUT HE'S GOT CLASS"

Photographer Ding Guoliang, who goes by the name Jesse, tells *China Daily* about his granddad Ding Bingcai, an 85-year-old retired farmer who was catapulted to fashion fame when his grandson photographed him in green, blue and mulberry suits, tartan bow ties, designer glasses and fedoras. Photographs of the octogenarian – who has survived famine, civil war and revolution – went viral last month, with Internet users appointing him "China's coolest grandpa." Jesse had the idea for the fashion shoot after his grandfather moved to Xiamen, where the photographer owns a studio. The pair spent three days shooting, sometimes wearing matching dapper outfits and adopting the same posture. The result is a series of striking images that pay tribute to Bingcai, while offering him as way to "feel useful," Jesse says.



UNDER THE LENS

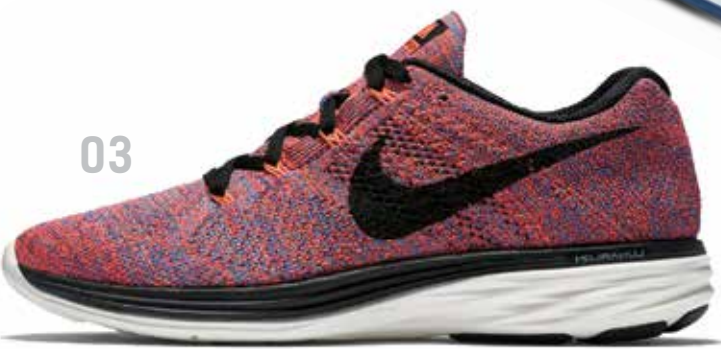
Taylor Swift at Hong Kong Fashion Week



You might have heard that Taylor Swift has done a clothing line exclusively for her Chinese fans, in a bid to capitalize on her huge following here (and to counter the proliferation of fake Taylor Swift products flooding the market). The singer has partnered up with Nashville-based fashion company Heritage 66 to launch the brand, which can be found on Tmall and JD.com. The entire collection – a mix of spring and fall merchandise – is now officially out, having recently debuted at Hong Kong Fashion Week. The singer did not make the journey East for the event, but the show saw models show off crop tops (obvs), graphic tees, branded jumpers and mini-dresses emblazoned with Swift's name to the sounds of hits like 'Bad Blood,' 'Blank Space' and 'Shake it Off.' It made fashion headlines worldwide, with many international retailers hoping the line will become available outside China. Looks like "Taylor wannabe" might be the next big trend for spring.

PUMPED UP KICKS

If The Shoes Fit, Wear Them
by Marianna Cerini



- Adidas Stan Smith** 01
RMB529
shop.adidas.cn
- Reebok Classic Nylon** 02
RMB480
world.tmall.com
- Nike Flyknit Lunar 3** 03
RMB1,299
store.nike.com/cn
- Vans Old Skool** 04
RMB756
vans.world.tmall.com
- Jeremy Scott x Adidas Originals White Tiger shoe** 05
RMB1,699
shop.adidas.cn





06



07

06 **Converse Pro Blaze**
RMB539
www.converse.com.cn

07 **Nike AirMax 2016 Print**
RMB1,599
store.nike.com/cn

08 **Puma x McQ Serve Mid Black**
RMB1,299
cn.puma.com



08

09 **New Balance MFL574BL**
RMB799
www.newbalance.com.cn



09



10

10 **Under Armour Speedform StudioLux**
RMB899
www.underarmour.cn

Sneakers might just be the perfect fashion item. They are timeless, easy to wear and easy to coordinate. They remain covetable at their most basic (we love you Stan Smith) and their most outlandish (hello Jeremy Scott x Adidas Originals). Juxtapose sneakers with smart tailored trousers and an oversized shirt – then throw on a blazer and you get an ageless, go-anywhere outfit. Don a pair of snazzy trainers with a button-up shirt and cropped swingy jeans, and your look becomes synonymous with rad. Plus, they are the most comfortable footwear to move around in. At a loss for which model suits you best? Here's our roundup of the sleekest around. Take your pick.

Looking West



N

Adding East



The Chinese Fashion Houses Working out How to Go Global

by Marianna Cerini

“PARIS IS WHERE FASHION DREAMS ARE MADE. IT’S WHERE the best buyers from all over the world go to place orders. Any international expansion, for any brand, starts here.”

Jasmine Ting can’t hide her excitement. The founder and managing director of Shanghai-based fashion brand Arete Studio has a lot to be happy about. Her label, which launched in Shanghai in 2013 and quickly made a name among local fashion-savvies for its sharp, versatile looks and broody aesthetics, is going to the French capital this month. It’s one of a few selected brands to show at Paris Fashion Week’s AMF Paris Showroom, a fashion platform for new luxury fashion designers from around the world.

And that’s not all. In December, the acclaimed French festival A Shaded View on Fashion Film (ASVOFF) chose Arete’s 2015 film collaboration with Hong Kong director Wing Shya to represent China. Couturier Jean Paul Gaultier – an icon most fashion designers couldn’t fathom even showing their work to – presided over the jury at the event, which was held at the Centre Pompidou. Arete’s feature made it to the finals and was nominated for best costume design, best art direction and best director at the International Fashion Film Awards.

The film is a slow-motion visual symphony of the fashion house’s craftsmanship and aesthetics. The critical acclaim it has received in industry circles equates to being promoted to fashion’s world stage.

“We’ve always had an international mindset for Arete,” says head designer Christina Liao. “Our latest collection – the one we’re showing in Europe – is for the woman who’s comfortable whether she’s in Shanghai, New York or Paris. I don’t want to design just for an individual demographic; the collection should be identifiable to any international audience.”

Ting agrees: “We want to introduce a contemporary style that moves away from the traditional ‘East’ and ‘West’ dichotomy.”

They aren’t the only ones.

A number of China-born designers who have been educated (or are based) in the West have been gracing the catwalks of international fashion weeks for some time now. Masha Ma, Uma Wang, Xander Zhou, Haizhen Wang and others are helping shift the way that Chinese design and fashion are perceived internationally.

But, increasingly, domestic talents who have only cut their teeth in China are also turning West – whether through invitation or other means – to show their collections.

China Academy of Art graduate Min Wu is a case in point. The designer – who’s highly revered among the upper echelons of China’s fashion world – had her official debut at London Fashion Week in September 2015, where she returned this season with a well-received fall/winter line.

In Milan last month, the women’s edition of the trade fair White Milano carved out an area dedicated to freshly scouted design talent from China. Fashion curator Sonja Long Xiao, founder of the Shanghai concept store Alter, was invited to showcase some of the rising stars in Chinese luxury design who are still unknown to the West. The result, called ‘China Calling,’ offered attendees the chance to view collections from the likes of

Chrisou by Dan, Shushu/Tong, Nicole Zhang, Chen Yi Yuan, YVMIN, C.J. Yao, Rolling Acid and more – all up-and-coming creatives from the Mainland.

Even Guo Pei – known by millions in the East yet unheard-of in the West until Rihanna wore one of her gowns to the Met Gala in New York last May – made her debut in Paris in January, when she showed her designs during Haute Couture Week.

The East is looking West, and shaping its aesthetics accordingly, targeting customers and marketing goals in new and interesting ways. It’s a sign that the industry, both locally and internationally, is maturing. Brands are aiming to expand and reach new shores,





“ Expanding to Paris proves that incredible design originates from China and that we are in sync with the international fashion calendar ”



moving beyond the confines set by borders, heritage and – in the case of Chinese fashion – the notion of exoticism. The fact

that more Chinese designers are doing so is healthy – although finding a balance between creativity and market expectations might prove challenging for some.

Having a coherent strategy, position and product range, as well as a way of communicating them in and outside China, is what’s needed to succeed in the long run. China’s biggest e-commerce company (in terms of direct sales to consumers), JD.com is, surprisingly, one fashion player aware of this.

The online shopping platform held a fashion show at New York Fashion Week in February – its second after last year’s runway debut at Milan Fashion Week. It was a calculated move to promote emerging Chinese designers, including Alicia Lee, Ruiping Guo, Chi Zhang and Gioia Pan, and as Marc Bain at Quartz pointed out: for the site to market itself to both Chinese and foreign consumers.

The show was seen by many fashion commentators as a move to raise JD.com’s credentials as the go-to platform for US designers entering China’s e-commerce market, but also as a way to lure more Chinese luxury consumers to the site.

Appearances at global fashion events seem to help drive greater desirability for a label (or in JD.com’s case, a retailer) in Mainland China, where brands with long-established credibility in the West tend to prosper.

JD.com’s previous Milan show, in September 2015, also hoped to attract the attention of China’s online fashion shoppers by showcasing the looks of four Chinese designers it stocks: Lin Gu, Ali Tan, Xiaoyan Xu and Ivy Hu. In August 2015, it partnered with the Europe Design Center to create a competitive fashion program for emerging Chinese designers – again, another trick to boost interest from both China and the West.

At a time when the country still lacks a strong wholesale system, binary strategies (showing collections abroad as a way of upping visibility) – are the best way for up-and-coming designers to get noticed, says Ting at Arete.

“Traditionally, ready-to-wear fashion labels around the world rely heavily on wholesale as the first step in building the business,” she explains. “But for now, China isn’t quite there. Also, time-wise, it lags far behind New York, Milan, London, and Paris. That’s why my team and I work extra hard to ensure our entire business is in sync with the West. We hope that expanding to Paris not only proves that incredible design originates from China, but also, from a business perspective, that operationally we are in sync with the international fashion calendar.” ■

Wang Junyao | 5

PORTRAIT OF CHINA

Interview Zoey Zha and Marianna Cerini
Photo by Candice Shen

I'm from Wenzhou, in Zhejiang, but my family and I moved to Shanghai. Today I'm helping dad out with his *kuaidi* work. I am just waiting for him.

When I grow up, I want to be Fairy Balala [the main character from popular Chinese cartoon *Balala Xiao Mo Xian*].

I don't like to talk much. But I like my dad a lot. He works really hard.

I like playing with dolls. Dolls are my favorite toys ever.



SCENE & HEARD

by Marianna Cerini



1 VERYLATVIA

We don't usually write about WeChat stores because the list of possible inclusions would become endless. But when we heard about a new one selling exclusively Latvian products, we were intrigued. Fun fact about Latvia: more than 50 percent of its land is covered by forest, and it is one of the most environmentally friendly countries on the planet. Through its showroom in Shanghai, VeryLatvia introduces Latvian design and lifestyle products to China. The wares in the store (and now WeChat and, soon, Taobao) are made solely by Latvian designers and epitomize the country's aesthetics and craftsmanship principles. This means an eclectic range of items that are environmentally friendly, natural and chemical- and preservative-free (for food items, at least). The brand's WeChat store, which launches this month, features GMO-free soy wax candles (called 'Naturella') decorated with wild crafter herbs, berries and spices; handmade lamps made from simple but unconventional materials; and 'sin-free' (free of gluten, sugar or nasty chemicals) Latvian snacks made from dried and fresh berries, cashew nuts, flax and pumpkin seeds. Couldn't sound more wholesome if it tried. Summer trip to Latvia, anyone?

Check the WeChat account [verylatvia](#) to access the store



2 LOFT NO.6

Samuel Hsin has done it again. The man behind two of Beijing's most interesting shops for gents – Radiance Trunk and Radiance Blue – has opened a third store, Loft No. 6 in 798. If you've wondered what a chic yet rustic Maine cabin looks like, take a peek inside this guy-centric space: cowboy hats and neon signs decorate a raw, minimal space of concrete, dark wood and brick walls. At the back, a barber station offers old-school shaves or cuts under the helm of professional Japanese stylist Ishida Ryuzo. Upstairs, a private lounge area is kitted out with leather couches, a bar and plenty of vintage touches. As for the clothes, Hsin has replicated his winning formula (and favorite style, it seems), showing a selection of American and European heritage brands, with a good dose of Japanese cult label The Real McCoy's in between. Like its siblings, the space aims to be a one-stop lifestyle shop where Americana-obsessed dudes can hunt for items that toe the line between vintage and contemporary: biker jackets, leather boots and good denim. Most pieces on offer are loyal reproductions of yesteryear classics, and come with a hefty price tag (think RMB10,000 and up). But for the quality and craftsmanship they show, we'd say they are worth it. Loft No.6 might not offer anything new – Hsin seems to love the one-trick Americana pony – but it does what it does well. Should you have the cash, the clothes are pretty cool.

B07, 708 Bei Jie, 798 Art District, Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路2号798艺术区706北一街 B07 (5978 9625)

3 SHANG XIA POP-UP STORE

If, like us, you can't get enough of Shang Xia's Beijing retail store, you're in luck, because the contemporary lifestyle brand recently opened its first themed pop-up concept, also conveniently located in China World Mall. (On L1, rather than B1, Shang Xia truly lives up to its name: 'up/down') All of Shang Xia's trademarks are present, such as its simple but striking layout and exquisite quality. However the pop-up, which will operate for one year, focuses more on seasonal items such as apparel, jewelry and leather goods, with each season featuring a fresh new theme and interior design. This spring it's all about natural warmth, with the store's decoration inspired by the reds of *danxia* landforms. The natural shades act as the perfect complement to Shang Xia's 2016 spring/summer collection. The entire pop-up space oozes passion, fire and energy – all entirely appropriate characteristics for the New Year. We especially love the minimalistic punch delivered by the stylish window shoe display. So now you have a whole year to visit the retail store followed by the pop-up. Go on, we know you want to (in fact, you'll probably see us there).

L118 & 119, L1 China World Mall, China World Trade Center, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国门外大街1号中国国际贸易中心国贸商城1楼 L118 & 119 (6505 3446)



THAI IN A KNOT

Treat Yourself at Sanlitun's Orchid Spa

If you've never been to Thailand, imagine it being something like Orchid Spa: woody and green, rich with fragrant aroma and full of delicious treats.

Located in Sanlitun SOHO, the recently opened massage specialist makes for a convenient afternoon stop or post-shopping indulgence. Promoting 'traditional Thai techniques,' the Orchid Spa uses 'traditional Thai herbs' for a 'holistic healing massage.'

This means very little to us. But, curious and excited, we stop by after lunch. The interior radiates warmth with a heavy emphasis on nature. A water fountain trickles in the background while Thai-inspired motifs hang from the walls and on the door.

Orchid offers a variety of massage and spa services, ranging from the classic 'Foot Massage & Reflexology' (RMB268 for 60 minutes) to the luxurious 'Sabai-dee Package,' which comprises a body scrub and a 'four hands' aromatherapy massage (RMB1,288 for 120 minutes).

The owners recommend the 'Essential Oil Full Body Massage' (RMB498 for 60 minutes or RMB698 for the full 90 minutes). They

then verse us on the different properties of each of the hand-pressed oils – coconut helps with skin disorders while lavender relieves muscle pain.

Respective oils chosen, we prepare for our massage. Laminated cards printed with keywords such as 'softer,' 'harder,' 'toilet please,' and 'massage head again' (in Thai, Chinese and English) hang beside the beds. It's a thoughtful touch.

The massage itself passes by in an hour and a half of absolute bliss. Eyes closed or covered, we are left to fully immerse ourselves in the sensation. Warm and fragrant oils are tenderly – and sometimes aggressively – kneaded onto bare skin by Orchid's professional therapists (all of whom originate from Thailand).

We discover that Thai massage is more energizing than other classic forms of massage. At various points, our therapists use their hands, knees and arms to move us into a series of yoga-like stretches. It's the lazy person's perfect form of exercise.

Soothing instrumental music plays in the background but it's subtle and unobtrusive.

Unsurprisingly, the massage is incredibly meditative: We are taken care of and never want it to end.

But end it does; though we quickly discover that Orchid's post-massage treatment is as luxurious as the massage itself. The showers are stocked with high-end hair and body products, while a bounty of face creams and perfumes greet us outside.

The final pleasure comes in the form of a fruit platter, a generous slice of cake and a cup of tea. We can only conclude that Orchid Spa doesn't just provide a massage but an extraordinary experience.

Ask for 10 percent discount on your first visit. Daily, noon-12am; Sanlitun SOHO Tower 5, B1-532, 8 Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工人体育北路8号三里屯SOHO 五号商场 B1-532 (Reservation only: 5785 3123, service@orchidspa.cn)



PHOTO BY HOLLY LI



DAY &
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ARTS

COLLAGE

WHAT'S NEW



Created by photo-sharing hub Wallpost, the Wall Art app foregoes auction houses and provides young artists with a platform to market their work. Users are able to purchase and sell art directly to each other, with prices so far ranging from RMB600 to RMB250,000 per piece so far. It's simple to use: you can sign up for an account with WeChat. Available at wallart.com.



There's no rest for Beijing 'future' music collective Do Hits!, which follows the January release of ZHI-16's debut with a *chunjie*-themed compilation. Top China-based producers like Conrank, 3asic and Damacha join the collective's own Howie Lee, Guzz and Jason Hou for 14 tracks of beats that are truly bananas. *Year of the Monkey* is available at dohits.bandcamp.com.



Award-winning social historian Lynn Pan asks whether or not romantic love originated in Europe and is uniquely Western. *When True Love Came to China* follows early 20th century Chinese intellectuals and writers as they discover romantic love – and all that comes with it – for the first time. Released by Hong Kong University Press, the fascinating book is available on Amazon.

DRUMROLL

X.L.F. and Ivan Binary



As one of the founders of China's first electronic music label, Acupuncture Records, X.L.F. (aka Xiao Linfeng, left) has been a major player in the Beijing music scene for the best part of a decade. Meanwhile, up-and-coming DJ and producer Ivan Binary (right) has been rising through the ranks with his CiQi Party club nights. Together, they have created a formidable pairing, henceforth known as X.L.F. and Ivan Binary. Catch the pair play live with VJ XXX at this month's Black Sheep, a new regular night at Lantern.

— **You're playing with the explicit-sounding VJ XXX. Can you describe his visuals in three words?**

Nerd, punk, psychedelic.

— **Which is your first love – DJing or producing?**

Both are equally as important.

— **How does your live show differ from your respective DJ sets?**

Live shows offer the chance to showcase more of our own personal style and there's also more opportunity to design the stage how we want it to look. The style of a DJ set depends on the time, place and people. We need to listen to music from different perspectives and listen to our own work.

— **Who do you think is the best electronic producer in China right now?**

Dou Wei.

— **So X.L.F., you're currently managing Modernsky Lab – how would you sum up the venue's first six months?**

During Modernsky Lab's first six months, we've just tried to test and learn what works. By trying new things, we have worked out a business model. We've had a lot of memorable shows and parties, but to name a few: Impact Sound City, Lab On Air, 24 Hour Party People, BEME and Yan Party, plus a lot of rock 'n' roll gigs.

— **You were closely involved with Intro festival – with so many Beijing festivals getting canceled last summer, what do you think the immediate future holds?**

There have been more laws and regulations established in the cultural 'market'. So, regarding music festivals, organizers have to learn more, while difficulties will increase. In terms of my own activities, this year I'm planning to try different forms of parties.

— **And a quick question for you Ivan Binary: are you fluent in binary?**

00101101010010011110101 100010?
01000010 0,100,110,001,000,001
0,100,001,101,001,011.
01010011 0,100,100,001,000,101
0,100,010,101,010,000. **OH**

Fri Mar 11, RMB50; Lantern (see Listings for details)



WIN

We are giving away a pair of Black Sheep tickets to the first person who can translate Ivan's Binary response – answers to bjeditor@urbanatomy.com

CANVASSED

Ma Wenting, 'Allusion'



Inspired by the rhetorical device in literature of the same name, Ma Wenting's 'Allusion' (meaning to explain something without directly mentioning it) examines and reflects relationships between the individual and society. By combining information, objects, shapes and colors, and confusing perspectives, Ma reconstructs reality whereby

the painted objects are not purely visual elements, but become prologues to and vehicles for other issues.

Tue-Sun, 10.30am-6.30pm, Mar 5-31; free; Gallery Yang, No. 20, Originality Square, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路4号798艺术区 (S978 9688)

HAO BU HAO

Hao

Sports streaming rights have become big business, and Tencent has scored a major coup with its recent digital distribution deal with ESPN. Live and pre-recorded sports coverage will be distributed across Tencent platforms, from WeChat to QQ. The deal comes just in time for college basketball fans – ESPN's coverage of March Madness is part of the deal.

Bu Hao

Online streaming services suffered this month too, as a number of homegrown hits including *The Lost Tomb* and *Go Princess Go* were taken offline. Companies like LeTV and iQiyi have been cashing in with original shows, but their activity has now caught the eye of regulators at SARFT, who appear to have flagged some of the shows' content. Also banned: *Deadpool*.





NEW YORK VETERAN DJ SPINNA
PUTS HIS HEROES FIRST

SPINNING PRAISES

by Oscar Holland

WINNER

"I'VE GOT 60,000-PLUS RECORDS. I'M ALWAYS BUYING AND ORDERING STUFF ONLINE, IT DOESN'T STOP"

WHEN ARTISTS DECLARE THAT "THE MUSIC COMES first" it normally sounds clichéd – and it rarely rings true. Yet when Vincent Williams makes the claim, it's impossible not to believe him.

Over the course of his career as DJ Spinna, Williams has openly celebrated musical greats through compilations and parties dedicated to the likes of Michael Jackson and Stevie Wonder (the latter through his long-running 'Wonder-Full' tribute nights). And over the course of our half-hour conversation, it's clear that nothing animates the 42-year-old more than speaking about his musical heroes.

Our interview takes place a few days after the tenth anniversary of Dilla's death. Spinna has already released two singles dedicated to the pioneering hip-hop producer – 'Dillagence' and 'Dilla is the G.O.A.T' [Greatest of All Time], in 2007 and 2008 respectively – and he has more to say about his late contemporary than he does about any of his own work.

"Dilla was my greatest inspiration in hip-hop when it comes to making beats and style. He came in and, in the span of 10 years, he turned the genre inside-out. He flipped it on its back and spun it around. He was like the Tasmanian Devil – you never knew where he was going to go next," he says with a fond laugh.

"A lot of us [DJs and producers] coming up at that time had the same kind of music collection – the same jazz records, the same funk records. And there were countless times when Dilla would sample something that I had in my collection, but he'd use the most uncanny, off-kilter, awkward part of the album. Most of us would just hear this 'go-to' thing and be like: 'I gotta sample this.' But he'd hear that and bypass it – then go for the least obvious, weirdest part and use that instead.

"When I speak to a lot of my beat-making music friends from that era, they all say the same thing. Dilla just saw things differently. He was unique, man – a special guy."

Williams was fortunate enough to meet Dilla early on in his career, during his time at WBAI Radio in New York City (the legendary producer came in with A Tribe Called Quest for an interview in 1996). He also got to perform with another of his idols when Stevie Wonder crashed a Wonder-Full party in Washington, D.C. and proceeded to sing and play keyboard over Spinna's beats.

Read any of Williams' previous interviews and you'll find that this is the musical partnership he long dreamed of. His list of collaborators may include names like Mos Def, Masta Ace, Pharoahe Monch and Eminem, but working on a track with Wonder was the goal.

And with that, he drops a bombshell.

"You're the first person I've told this to: I did a track with Stevie Wonder," he reveals with a dramatic pause.

"It's a dream come true. Or *half* a dream come true because he played harmonica. I didn't get him on vocals this time, that's still my ultimate goal. But it's an official song with him featuring on it."

Set to appear in summer as part of a Miles Davis remix project, the track is one of many Spinna productions due for release in 2016. While he continues to work on solo material, the first half of the year will also see new records from two of his collaboration projects: Jigmastas (with Brooklyn's MC Kriminul) and Domecrackers (with veteran producer Joc Max).

Despite Williams' prolific output as a producer, however, DJing has always been his first love. His website alludes to the size of his record collection – but I want numbers. So how many vinyls does it take to qualify as "obsessively extensive"?

"I'm in the 60,000-plus range. I've got them in two locations, one of which is the basement of my house. I'm always buying and ordering stuff online, it doesn't stop. It's kinda nuts," he says, before revealing plans for the forthcoming Asia tour, where he'll play hip-hop alongside the house music that his shows are now known for.

"I'm coming with a case of 45's [7-inch singles] and possibly another bag of big records – probably close to 200 in total. But I'm going to Japan right after and I've gotta save room so I can buy more records!"

It's no surprise that someone so vocal about their influences has the music collection to back it up. Spinna's deference – reverence, even – for others' music combines with his apparent lack of ego to keep him as an underground name, despite his high-profile work. I suggest to Williams that his tribute nights reflect his indifference toward being in the spotlight – an idea that he seems to partially accept.

"I think it's important to acknowledge those who paved the way and who have influenced all of our lives," he says. "Music is here for us to celebrate. I don't think it's creative for you to just hover over it and keep it to yourself.

"My goal is never really about me *per se*. Honestly, I know that I'm good. I know that I'm a great DJ, but I'm not promoting that. I'm promoting the music – that comes first. That always comes first."

And that's how you say it without sounding contrived. ■

Sat Mar 12, 10pm; RMB80 (on the door), RMB50 (limited pre-sale); The Bar at Migas (see Listings for details)

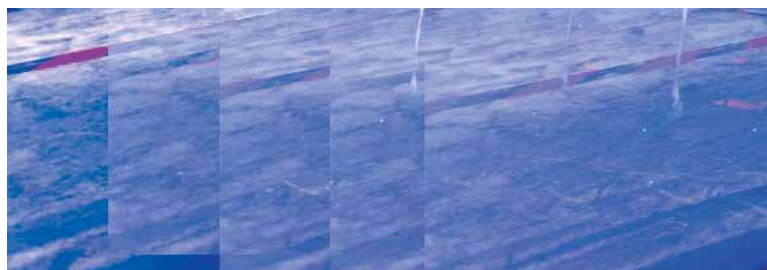
GRRRLS JUST RIOT

by Andrew Chin

WANNA The Untamable South Acid Mimi Dance Team



"WE NORMALLY OPEN A BOTTLE OF WHISKEY AND BRING A PACK OF SMOKES. IT'S JUST THREE GIRLS HOLDING HANDS AND OFF WE GO!"



Ever since the rise of all-female rockers Cobra in the early-90's, the Mainland music scene has been filled with kick-ass women, from Queen Sea Big Shark's Fu Han to Hedgehog's immortal drummer Atom.

To pay tribute, 21 female - or female-fronted - acts will play Yugong Yishan and School Bar over two days as part of the Electric Lady Festival (see page 64). Among them are Kunming's inscrutable South Acid Mimi Dance Team - a rising force in the country's indie scene. The trio mix electro beats with K-pop dance moves and a punk attitude in the vein of kindred spirits Grimes and M.I.A.

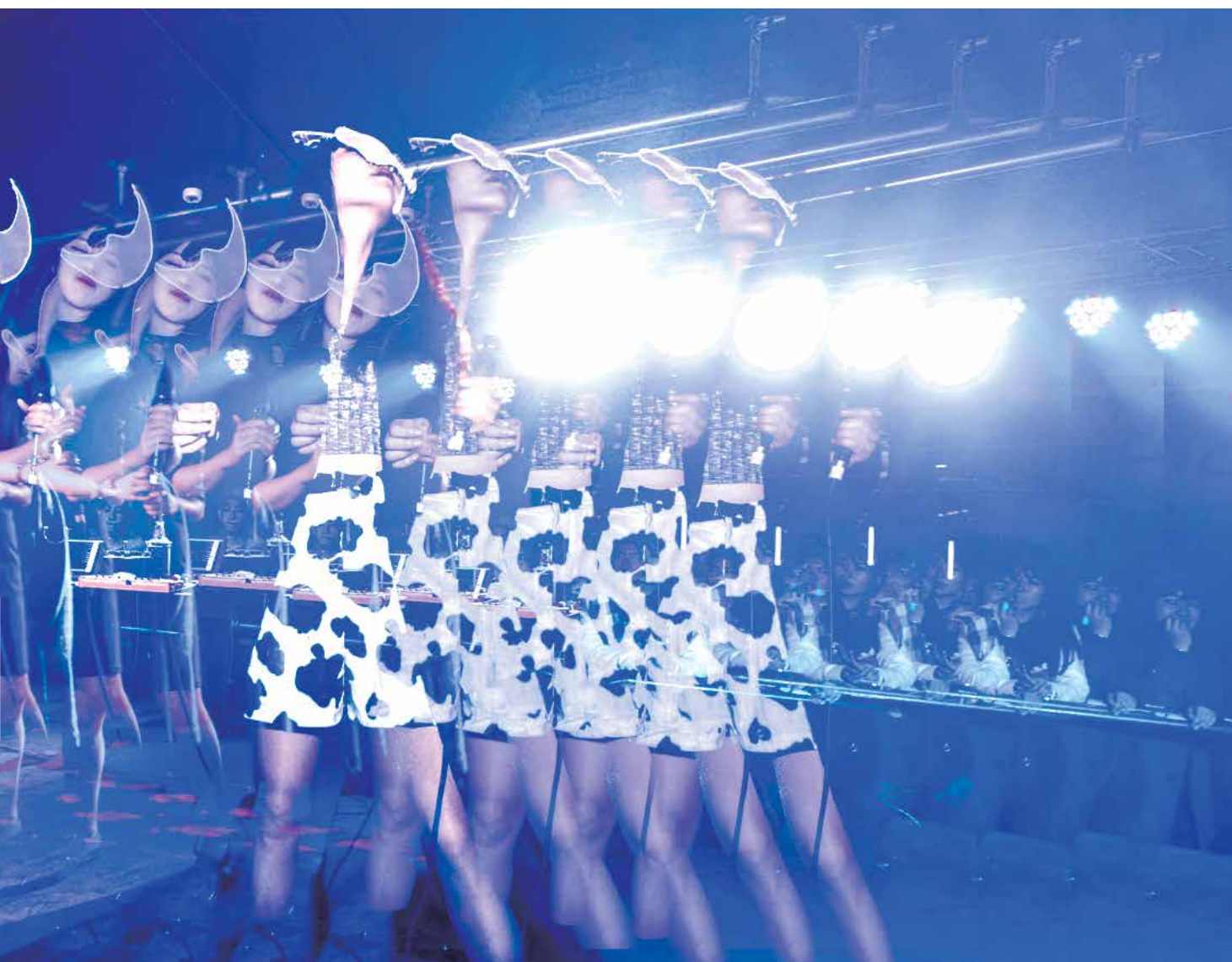
"We live with an easy-going attitude, so our music embodies that," explains band member Shishi. "Our creative process isn't that strict. Sometimes we'll use practicing as an excuse to hang out and not really do anything. But sometimes, there will be a moment at 2 or 3 in the morning - helped along with a few cups of plum wine - when we'll come up with a new demo.

"As for our influences, we can't really say. But we still remember

the feeling we had when we first heard Bikini Kill, Atari Teenage Riot, Nirvana, Rage Against the Machine, Scissor Sisters and so many others. It was like our spirit was baptized again and again. Listening to them changed our musical views."

The seminal 'riot grrrl' punk acts fronted by the musician and feminist Kathleen Hanna (Bikini Kill, Le Tigre and The Julie Ruin) played a prominent role in the Dance Team's upbringing, with Shishi noting that the group's members "have been running around together since we were little kids and started our first all-girl band at 15 years old playing covers of Bikini Kill, Yeah Yeah Yeahs and !Action Pact!"

While the band have evolved significantly over the years, Shishi hopes that they "can retain our youthful mind forever." Seemingly content to rule their Yunnan hometown, SAMDT's unique style has seen them accumulate major national buzz, with Queen Sea Big Shark bassist Wang Jinghan raving about them as one of China's most promising acts. The trio's surreal live shows, which see them sporting colorful masks and performing choreographed dance routines, are



becoming equally notorious.

"At first we wore masks simply because we didn't want people to recognize us. Of course, a little bit of this was because it looked good," Shishi smiles. "Now, it seems like each time we perform it's different, so we will try to wear different masks. A person doesn't have the same attitude forever. We want to express something new every time we play, because we have a lot to say."

The past year has been filled with high-profile gigs, including the opening of Kunming's own MAO Livehouse, Echo Park Festival in Shanghai and a 13-city tour of South China. At the end of last year, the band appeared at a showcase for Fake Music, the promoter and label set up by Nova Heart frontwoman Helen Feng.

Talks with Fake Music about joining its roster are ongoing, with Shishi admitting that she is still working on "finding a more methodical way to prepare to get on the stage." For now, she's content with the live approach captured in the band's debut music video for 'The End,' in which they perform while taking chugs of Jack Daniel's.

"We normally open a bottle of whiskey and bring a pack of smokes. It's just three girls holding hands and off we go! We'll randomly pick a direction and start our show from there. I remember one show, where we drank an entire bottle of Jack Daniel's from backstage to our last song."

Despite their youthful energy, party antics and dance-friendly sound, Shishi assures us that SAMDT have big ambitions. The rawness of early demos like the infectious 'Lucy in the Sky with Dolphin' and 'Rammstein is Playing At My House!' has given way to a more complex sound, as heard on last year's confrontational 'Nunudugu.'

"From the time we started this band until now, we've become more self-aware," Shishi says. "We have plans for an album and, actually, our more danceable music isn't just some simple dance melodies. We want to use music to express deep emotions and we'll never stop learning." ■

Tue Mar 8, 8pm; RMB70-100; Yugong Yishan (see Listings for details)



ETIENNE DE CRÉCY VS THE HACKER

Dada is Bringing in Two French Djs This Month – But Which Should You See?

interviews by Oscar Holland and Noelle Mateer

This month French producers Etienne de Crécy and The Hacker take on Beijing for two separate DJ sets, at Dada and Dada respectively. French groovers, prepare for some epic nights ahead. Oh shit, you can't tell your electroclash from your house? Are you confused already? We spoke to them both to help you break it down.

ETIENNE DE CRÉCY

Etienne de Crécy is a French DJ and producer whose first release *Super Discount* is widely considered to be the first album of the 'French touch' genre. His most recent tracks have honed in on this unique electronic style.

Nickname: 'Superdiscount'. He explains: "Because it's cheap. When I released [my album *Super Discount*], only a few happy, trendy people were buying house music records. Superdiscount was meant to be a joke to them!"

Genre: "French house is house music with attitude," he says. "The early days of French house were amazing because everything was new. We invented the music, plus we enjoyed parties and business at the same time. We were just a few young Parisian producers in the music industry and it was fun."

Inspiration: "When I was growing up I listened to a lot of Iron Maiden and Joy Division."

Future predictions: "I don't see the future! It's exciting because for the last 20 years there have always been talented new producers who have taken the music further and further. I'm confident this will continue."

Expect to hear: "New and cutting edge house music – I play music that people can party hard with. When I'm on stage for live gigs I use the mixer, synthesizer and rhythm box, but I try to bring some production to make it a real show for the ears *and* the eyes."

Sat Mar 26; RMB80; Dada [see Listings for details]

THE HACKER

Michel 'The Hacker' Amato is a French techno producer whose hit anthem 'Frank Sinatra' defined the electroclash genre. The Hacker recently featured on a Cititrax EP with Chinese producer Tzusing.

Nicknames: 'Man of Shadows.' He explains: "Man of Shadows is supposed to be dark but I find it funny. I like to have a laugh; I'm not really a 'dark' person. My side project, 'Amato,' came about because I was bored with the name 'The Hacker.' It sounded good in the 90's but now I find it stupid!"

Genre: "My music has always been a mix of different things: techno with electro and a subtle 80's touch. I love to mix different styles in order to create something new. I was into electroclash when it was cool. I've been there, I did it, and so I don't want to redo it. I don't like to go backwards."

Inspiration: "When I was a teenager I listened to a lot of new wave. I've always been interested in 'dark' music. 'Happy' music doesn't touch me."

Future predictions: "The house and techno scene is looking backwards because it's easy to steal ideas from the past and try to redo them. Everybody respects the 'rules' of how to make techno and house, like using 909, juno 106, 303 basslines, et cetera. But sometimes rules need to be broken if you want to go forward!"

Expect to hear: "I'll play a mix of electro, techno and a little bit of 80's new wave and industrial."

Fri Mar 18; RMB60; Dada [see Listings for details]



Pioneering electronic musician, SHAO

GOING UNDERGROUND

by Sophia Pederson

ELECTRONIC MUSIC IN CHINA A Brief Overview

This month, I take a break from introducing underground rock and folk to reflect on a growing industry – not only in China but worldwide: electronic music. Up until the mid-2000s, rock, punk, metal, and folk were king in China’s underground. But a few individuals began making waves and started to grow the scene. Fast-forward about 10 years to now, and electronic music in China is booming. Over-branded and distorted EDM is now commonplace, but let’s take a look at some of those who have been shaping the action and a few who are constantly pushing the underground dance world to think progressively.



THE EARLY YEARS

YANG BING

If ever there were a godfather of Chinese electronic music, this would be him. Yang Bing started DJing in 1995 – back when there were no clubs or bars playing electronic music. But that didn’t stop him. He organized, he promoted and he played. By 2000, there was finally a small following of electronic music fans that were mainly into tech-house, a genre which Yang Bing honed over the years. He was one of the first Chinese DJs to play abroad – and the first to play in Europe. The scene had been slowly growing, but clubs dedicated to the genre were few and far between (well, they are now too), so in 2007 he opened up White Rabbit – a club dedicated to underground dance music. Although the infamous club is now closed, it didn’t stop Yang Bing. He’s still out there DJing and can be seen playing festivals locally and abroad.

Recommended listening: ‘More or Less (Original Mix)’

INTO THE PRESENT

SHAO (FORMERLY KNOWN AS DEAD J)

SHAO is probably the most internationally talked about (and recognized) Chinese electronic musician today. His work and performances are on par with any of his international peers. And although most people in music circles know him for his own

releases (he’s put out four albums since his 2005 debut), he has a lot of other composing projects going on too. He works closely with renowned director Meng Jing Hui, creating soundtracks for the plays *Flower in the Mirror*, *Moon on the Water* (2006), *Rhinoceros in Love* (2008), *Soft* (2010) and *To Live* (2012). In 2010 he was selected as the environmental sound designer for the entire Pavilion of The Future at Shanghai World Expo.

Recommended Listening: ‘夏眠 (SHAO Remix)’ or anything from *Doppler Shift*.

3 MINUTES WITH...

MIAO WONG

SP: You’re not a DJ, why should I be interviewing you?

MW: Well, I’m your boss...

SP: Haha, right right. But aside from finding cool content for Letv.com to live stream, what else are you up to? Who are you, and why does your name always come up when electronic music is mentioned?

MW: Well, I first got into electronic music at university. I was very interested in art and literature, and hung around a lot of writers. One night I was at a club in Gongti – one of the clubs that’s not there anymore – and I commented on how terrible the music was. The guy sitting next to me took time to explain that it was difficult being a DJ –

no-one wanted to listen to the music they made, and they couldn’t get paid for it, so in order to do what they love, they had to play shitty music in Gongti clubs to survive. I took that to heart and started researching electronic music. After a few office jobs that weren’t really my style, I decided to work full-time doing what I love: supporting electronic musicians in China. Since then, with different partners, I launched Acupuncture Records, Intro festival and Dot Records, and I have helped with countless projects promoting electronic musicians in China. As for why my name always comes up? Hopefully it’s all good things [laughs]!

SP: So, what do you have coming up in 2016?

MW: I rolled out a new initiative in 2015 called dART. Its concept is along the lines of Sonar, CTM or Mutek Festival – digital, visual, and audio come together to make something really special. We launched the dART Festival in Beijing last September with a really good turnout. In 2016, we’re planning on working with a major international partner to live stream some cool parties, and we have a proper outdoor festival in the works too. All this is supported by smaller one-off parties and events across China. Shameless plug: Keep up with us on our WeChat [username: dART_festival].

Want to learn more about electronic music in China? Check out the documentary ‘Electronic Music in China’ at www.letv.com

FOR THE RECORD

China's Hottest Indie
Labels Share Their
Plans for 2016

words by Andrew Chin

Is the future bright for China's indie labels? We asked the country's best and they answered with a resounding yes. Most of them have major plans for 2016. They are touring the country. They are dropping high-profile albums. They are taking Chinese acts to festivals in the West. Here's a look at the year ahead from some of the country's most important labels. To read more, check out our complete guide at www.thatsmags.com/2016recordlabels.



Modern Sky

Est. 1997

< www.modernsky.com

Shen Lihui is China's Richard Branson. His Modern Sky empire includes music festivals, clothing lines and a new livehouse in Galaxy SOHO.

But it wasn't always this way. Shen originally started the label so he could release albums by his own band, though he's since traded the guitar for the boardroom. Over the years, his label has released over 100 albums spanning abrasive noise to ear-pleasing urban folk. It has also held sold-out music festivals in New York's Central Park and created China's famous Strawberry Music Festival. And all this in the lean years of rampant Internet piracy.

Shen's plans for the future are as vague as they are ambitious. In 2016, he says, there will "be a lot of music festivals, more than 100 concerts and about 30 records released."



Maybe Mars

Est. 2007

< downloads.maybemars.org

Maybe Mars enjoys the most hallowed international reputation of any Chinese label, which has more than lived up to its goal of "showing the world that Beijing has really good rock bands."

Maybe Mars is resolutely artist-driven, often going into the red to "make high quality recordings that sound good a decade later," according to CEO and P.K. 14 frontman Yang Haisong. The accolades prove it. With bands handpicked by founder Michael Pettis and mentored by Yang, Maybe Mars has crafted a shimmering portfolio of Chinese art-rock, and its acts have worked with international icons like Sonic Youth, Steve Albini and the Brian Jonestown Massacre.

This year has already seen releases by major bands Dear Eloise, Skip Skip Ben Ben and The Fuzz, with albums by Alpine Decline, Demerit, Birdstriking and SMZB all scheduled to come out this year.



D Force

Est. 2015

< site.douban.com/dforcerecords.com,
WeChat: DForceRecords

D Force isn't following your typical business trajectory. Founded by music site Douban, the label arguably marks the first instance of a Chinese Internet company transitioning to a brick-and-mortar studio – instead of the other way around.

The label's publicity director Zhao Yue acknowledges this strangeness.

"It might look weird in this Internet-everything era that we are a website that has gone retro," he says. But the website is still very much part of the business. Online, Douban's streaming service is a vital platform for indie musicians.

D Force has a jam-packed 2016. April will see releases from Shanghai techno star MHP and Tianjin electro duo Wanderlust. The summer will bring Duck Fight Goose's sci-fi concept album and a debut by Dalian's DOC (formerly Doc Talk Shock).



Tree Music

Est. 2004

< treemusic.com.cn

Tree Music's Sharon Long admits: "Most independent bands or artists can only survive for a couple of years." As a result, the label organizes festivals to promote its acts, like the Beijing Sonic Electronic Music Festival, Beijing Jazz Week and the touring MOMA Music Festival.

Tree is China's second-largest domestic indie label, and it has over 100 releases spanning urban folk (Wild Children), livetronica (CNdY), Britpop (Elenore) and Celtic rock (Blackwater).

For Long, a major priority is making artists' rights more respected. Tree, she says, is "committed to improving copyright protection," and the team there is diligently fighting the battle against unlicensed streaming.

This year, keep an eye out for a new album from popular folk artist Liu Dongming.





Ran Music

Est. 2015

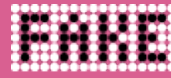
< soundcloud.com/ran-music,
WeChat: ran-music



Do Hits!

Est. 2011

< dohits.bandcamp.com,
WeChat: dohits



Fake Music

Est. 2008

< fakemusicmedia.com



Pest Productions

Est. 2006

< pestpro.com,
pestproductions.bandcamp.com

A well-known producer and mixer in Beijing's music underground, Shen Lijia started Ran Music as an "indie label dedicated to promoting electronic music."

Shen prefers "electronic music that sounds organic and melodic by artists that create music in a unique way live." So expect creative samples, live instruments and analogue gear.

Ran has found a muse in Beijing by way of LA hip-hop producer Soulspeak, who has already released three projects on the label, including with his Beijing-based jazz supergroup Flesh Beat Bones. Next month will see the release of his collaboration with Shanghai trumpet player Toby Mak.

"It really shows our aesthetic," Shen says of the collab. "Awesome trumpet and guitar playing combined with creative sampling."

Do Hits! co-founder Howie Lee describes his label's mission as simply: "Fuck the norm, be a rebel."

While Do Hits! started as a small recurring showcase at School Bar, today the collective defines "future music from Beijing" (the genre, not the tense). International tastemakers like Mad Decent and Hypetrack have showered the crew with love, and Howie Lee's own notoriety has grown through appearances at South by Southwest and the US release of his debut album *Mu Che Shan Chu*.

This year, Do Hits! plans to release the fourth edition of its *Do Hits!* compilations series, alongside a new Motherland series about Chinese producers. And watch out for forthcoming releases by Dokedo and Jason Hou.

Lee summarizes China's music industry as "a Pandora's box full of mysteries, and nothing is more beautiful than that."

Fake Music began as a way for founders Helen Feng (of Nova Heart) and Philip Grefer to invite their artist friends to China.

While they've since brought acts like CSS and Hot Chip, Fake Music's biggest focus is Nova Heart. In 2015, that meant a European album tour and a Glastonbury Festival set.

They've since teamed up with Beijing's Pilot Music and Berlin-based !K7, with plans underway to release a disc by producer SHAO (see page 33). Talks are ongoing with South Acid Mimi Dance Team (see page 30), who performed at the label's Christmas showcase at Yugong Yishan.

As for the type of acts that appeal to the label, Grefer has simple requirements: "Originality, amazing music and that sparkle in their eyes."

Pest Productions may be "bigger overseas than in China," according to founder, Eight, but it's hard to ignore. The leading purveyors of Chinese black metal, the label reps folk metal heavyweights Zuriaake and the newly signed Tengger Cavalry.

Eight and his team say they're sceptical of the country's record industry, but they've jam-packed their 2016 release calendar nonetheless. Expect new music from home-grown bands like Hokkien, black-metal act Holy Arrow and old-school Swedish black-metal devotees Black Reaper. Symphonic metal band Black Kirin (yes, 'symphonic metal' is a real genre) will also drop English and Chinese language discs this year.

The label will be hosting metal festivals in Beijing and Shanghai in June to celebrate its 10th anniversary, so get ready for some summer headbanging.





Groove Bunny

Est. 2013

< groovebunnyrecords.
bandcamp.com



Rankadank

Est. 2010

< rankadank.bandcamp.
com
WeChat: Rankadank_Records



SVBKVLT

Est. 2013

< svbkvlt.bandcamp.com
WeChat: SubCulture



Genjing

Est. 2010

< genjingrecords.com

One of the Mainland's most promising hip-hop forces resides in the unlikely location of Jinhua, Zhejiang. Originally just a tastemaking blog, Groove Bunny is now a label that's signed artists from across the country.

Musically anchored by Guangzhou producer Pete Chen – who takes soulful notes from the books of legendary hip-hop producers Pete Rock to Dilla – the label currently touts releases from Beijing and Cantonese rappers, as well as UK producer Eric Lau.

"We're not going to get rich through music," says founder Endy Chen. (But if you want to help him out with that, you can find his label's records in stores like FRUITYSHOP.)

Shanghai-based Conrank originally started Rankadank as a means to release his own music. But he has since shifted his focus to "new artists in China with quality music that we feel fits the label."

Past releases include a debut by Nanjing's 3asic, who has since started his own Project Sync Records. "Artists who are just trying to find their feet interest me the most," Conrank explains.

While his growing international profile has led to a dip in the label's productivity, Conrank promises that Rankadank will return this year with a vengeance.

"To be honest, the next few releases are amazing. I'm so excited and proud of where we are," he says. Look out for upcoming albums by SuSuSu, Visudy and Zean.

Gaz Williams has brought some of the world's leading underground artists to China. Through SVBKVLT, he's attempting to make it a reciprocal exchange.

"The quality of some of the music coming out of China has really stepped up," he says. "It's finally time to really push the music out there."

Artists like SLV have made the front page of music site XL8R, and Williams chuckles with pride as he says that tracks from his label were used at New York Fashion Week.

"There's also a remix version of Swimful's PM2.5 that already has Air Max 97 and Laura Ingalls remixes," Williams boasts. "We'll be releasing an EP by Prettybwoy from Tokyo, which will be huge. And there will be a Downstate EP and an Osheyack EP in the summer, so it's a pretty tight schedule."

As CFO of Maybe Mars, the last thing Nevin Dormar needed was to oversee another label. But while he was on tour with his fastcore group Fanzui Xiangfa, he noticed the impact that vinyl releases were having.

"I realized that Chinese artists looking for exposure abroad benefited from vinyl releases," he explains. "In the West, there's still a large audience for underground rock that prefers vinyl."

This year, Dormar promises releases from Shanghai's Little Monster and Brazil's Negro Leo, a collaborative project between "the godfather of indie-rock" Tyson Meade and members of P.K.14, and a 7-inch box-set from Dear Eloise.

"We've got a couple other tricks up our sleeves and some rather big names, both domestic and international," he teases. "But I won't ruin the surprise."



THE BOOKWORM

L I T E R A R Y F E S T I V A L

cover story

The Bookworm Literary Festival is – like Beijing itself – a picture of unfaltering growth. Now entering its tenth installment, the yearly event bears many of the characteristics of a burgeoning city: more overseas visitors, greater choice and inevitable urban sprawl (events are now also hosted at other venues including The Opposite House and the nearby café, iQiyi)

From humble beginnings in 2007, the festival program now includes over 300 events and more than 100 authors from China and abroad. Alongside the usual book talks, this year's lineup features workshops, panels, dinners and children's events.

In sum, we recommend that you check out the full schedule on page 50 – you're bound to find something you're interested in. We certainly did, and over the next 11 pages you can find interviews with some of (who we think are) the most interesting speakers at this year's festival.

Tickets for their talks (and all the others) are available at The Bookworm or through Yoopay, but we also have plenty of tickets to give away to lucky readers. Keep a close eye on our website www.thatsmags.com and our WeChat account (username: Thats_Beijing) for regular ticket giveaways throughout the festival, which runs from March 11 to 27.



Sun Mar 13, 2pm; free; The Opposite House

On the Frontline of Urbanization

by Oscar Holland

Using the word ‘dragon’ in a book title is not a decision that David Bandurski took lightly.

“When you have the ‘dragons’ or ‘tigers’ in a book title, the instant reaction – and this is often a legitimate criticism – is that it is orientalism,” he explains.

The American writer and academic did so anyway. But while the types of book that rely on such lazy imagery are prone to making sweeping statements about ‘macro’ issues in China, Bandurski’s work is about as ‘micro’ as it gets. Focussing primarily on Xian, an urban village swept up in the wave of Guangzhou’s expansion, *Dragons in Diamond Village* was named for the people whose lives it recorded.

“The dragon was the emblem that the villagers chose – it’s deeply rooted in their local culture of Dragon boat racing. So it’s a very local title,” he says, before explaining the second half of the book’s name. “And ‘Diamond Village’ is a nickname for Xian, because the land that it sits on is so, so valuable in terms of property development.”

Set amid a drive to regenerate large areas of Guangzhou ahead of the 2010 Asian Games, the book charts the once-rural villagers’ battle to protect

their homes from development as the city closes in around them. In many ways, it explores the broader themes of China’s rapid urbanization – a process that poses a multitude of new social problems across the country. But Bandurski, who teaches at the University of Hong Kong, didn’t want to write a book about urbanization. He wanted to write a book about the people caught up in it.

“I was fascinated by what places like Xian village represent, so I wanted to unpack the urban village as a phenomenon,”

he explains. “But I didn’t want to do a topical book – something about urbanization. I wanted it to be the kind of book of reportage where I’m out there [writing about] the stories that come at me.”

As a result, *Dragons in Diamond Village* puts a refreshingly human face to an issue that is often reduced to figures: the number of people relocated or the size of their compensation packages. Exploited by property developers and even their own village leaders, the campaigning individuals featured in the book are Bandurski’s real focus. Even when exploring wider themes, he seeks to find their human sides – including in his dealings with local government corruption.

“There was a clique – a clan – of leaders at Xian Village who had been in power for more than two decades. And I had every intention of speaking to the head of the village,” he explains. “I had a very specific plan – where we were going to meet, and with whom I’d meet afterwards so that they’d know I was safe once I’d shown my cards. But then I ran into him on the street quite by accident.

“I thought ‘this could be the last time I have a chance to interact with him’ – even though I had this plan. So I asked him for directions, then I followed him and saw that he was checking out the demolition like a general on the the front lines.”

With the nationwide campaign against corruption at all levels of government (the hunt for both ‘tigers’ and ‘flies,’ to use common parlance), the story of Xian Village is particularly topical. In many ways, *Dragons in Diamond Village* offers a more enlightening, relevant view on the issue than that the higher-profile cases reported in the media.

“The flies are what really matters,” Bandurski argues. “This is what affects most people. If your home is going to be demolished by local officials who are corrupt and unaccountable – if they run the local police force and the courts and they’re going to take your land – these are the cases that really affect people on a personal level.”

> *Dragons in Diamond Village: And Other Tales from the Back Alleys of Urbanizing China* was published by Viking (an imprint of Penguin Books) and is available through Amazon or at The Bookworm.

“The flies are what really matters. These are the corruption cases that really affect people on a personal level”

DAVID BANDURSKI

DAVID HILL



Tue Mar 15 10.30am; RMB60; The Bookworm

Cool Story, Bro

by Dominique Wong

David Hill made me cry. It happened over a decade ago in a small-town classroom during a reading of his young adult novel *See Ya, Simon*. I wasn't the only one; even the teacher was in tears.

See Ya, Simon, published in 1992, was New Zealand author David Hill's first foray into writing young adult fiction (YAF). The book concerns a young boy coming to grips with the impending death of his best friend, the titular Simon, who suffers from muscular dystrophy.

Hill deftly paints the subject matter with shades of light and serious undertones. All the typical hallmarks of youth are present: the schoolyard bully and girl-next-door crush, family drama and... suffering.

And yet, *See Ya, Simon* is ultimately a moving portrayal of friendship, which, over the years, has become somewhat compulsory reading for all young New Zealanders. *The Catcher in the Rye* of Kiwi classrooms, if you will.

But, as Hill explains over Skype from New Zealand, *See Ya, Simon* is also a deeply personal book.

"It is the novel most closely connected to somebody in my family," he explains. "Simon [real name Nick] was one of my daughter's best friends, and his death left her distraught and fearful. I've never written another novel so raw."

Altogether Hill has published 28 YAF novels and four collections of short fiction for adults. After graduating with a degree in English literature and teaching high school students for 14 years, it seems Hill's transition to becoming a full-time writer occurred naturally.

"Reading other writers made me think 'wow, I'd love to be able to try and write stories' plus things that happened to a lot of my students made me feel like I wanted to write about [these issues]."

"Writing for young adults is brilliant," Hill continues. "Teenagers are quite sophisticated in some ways because they understand all sorts of narrative techniques, but at the same time, they're wonderfully naïve and innocent in some ways."

From running away and a hiking trip gone wrong, to self-harm and competitive sport, Hill's fiction covers all the bases

of the (supposedly) 'best days of our lives.'

But his novels have recently turned toward the past. Three of his latest novels, for example, are set during World War I, the Korean War and the Pacific nuclear tests of the 1970s. Plus, during our Skype, Hill shows me the cover (an illustration of bullet casings) of his about-to-be-released novel, *Enemy Camp*, which is set during World War II.

So, do Hill's readers enjoy the added bonus of a history lesson?

"It's only one of the secondary concerns. The story matters more, especially for young readers. You can't bluff teenagers, so there's no use lecturing them. What I try to do is write a reasonably interesting story, and the historical details come into that."

My Brother's War, published in 2012 and set during WWI, is a great example of Hill's eye for narrative. He uses simple language and technique to show conflicting ideologies between two brothers during wartime: one a soldier, the other a conscientious objector. The trench descriptions feel particularly vivid and ghastly.

But I can't help but wonder, at 70-something years of age, does Hill feel as if he's getting a little bit over the, well, hill?

"I have to be careful now because I know how out of touch I am with contemporary teenagers; I mean, it's inevitable," he admits. "So, I just have to write about it respectfully. It's probably been a factor in my writing more and more books with historical settings."

"One thing I do with anything I write [that is] set in contemporary times is to get it checked by a teenager of the appropriate age. I pay them to make sure they read it properly."

Despite his propensity to make small children and adults cry, Hill is incredibly generous and self-deprecating. He jokes: "If Eleanor [Catton; author of The Man Booker Prize-winning novel *The Luminaries*] is the champagne of New Zealand wine, I'll be the cooking sherry."

"You can't bluff teenagers, so there's no use lecturing them"

> *My Brother's War* was published by Aurora Metro Press and is available on Amazon or through The Bookworm.

Sat Mar 19, 10am; RMB60; The Bookworm

A One-Child Mother on the Two-Child Policy

by Noelle Mateer

Xinran is a woman with excellent timing.

The prolific author published her book on the one-child policy just months before the policy's repeal.

"When the one-child policy ended on October 28th, I was on my book tour in Bali. I was interviewed by over 40 media worldwide in three days," she says.

Xinran has long been a trusted voice on Chinese society. But in the wake of recent policy changes, her work is more important than ever. Published last year, *Buy Me The Sky* is a compilation of essays, each one focusing on a different only child born in the 1970s – the first generation to grow up during the one-child policy.

"I was both happy and crying," says Xinran of her reaction to the news. "I was happy for its end, so that more Chinese parents could have one more child, and Chinese single children wouldn't feel lonely, like my son and many others do.

"I was crying because it's too late for many parents, including myself."

Xinran has made her criticisms of the late policy known – she did, after all, write the book on it. While technically writing on government policy, Xinran's deeply empathetic tone renders *Buy Me The Sky* anything but stiff. The result is a complex look at the one-child society – but it's complex because it's human.

"I am surprised by how different they are from one another," she writes in the book's introduction of the children she profiles. "Yet, in the eyes of ordinary Chinese people, they are lumped together as the only-child generation. However, I believe that, by the time you get to the end of this book, you will perhaps, like me, have been moved by each of them."

It's this deeply caring, concerned attitude that first shot Xinran to fame in the 90s. As host of the popular radio show *Words on the Night Breeze*, she gave thoughtful life advice to her predominately female callers. Her resulting book *The Good Women of China* later became the handbook on women's issues in China.

In 1997, Xinran moved to London – but not before giving birth to her own only child, Panpan, now 28. She credits him for much of her interest in the one-child policy. "I am a part of the one-child family society," she says.

I get the feeling she'd be concerned regardless – fame has clearly not eroded Xinran's celebrated sense of compassion. "I hope I've answered your questions well enough!" she writes in an email, the same one in which she casually mentions getting interviewed by dozens of international media outlets last year.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Xinran is also an activist. Her charity The Mothers' Bridge of Love helps those who abandoned during the one-child policy and adopted and raised in the West. She also remains concerned for the children featured in *Buy Me The Sky* – now adults, of course – especially in light of recent policy changes.

"They will be the most affected generation because they are over 35 years old," she says. "It would be a big challenge for them to have second children, and their parents, now older, might not be able to help them raise the new baby."

Xinran's own son was born in 1988, and as such, she classifies him as part of the second generation to grow up in a one-child society – a generation she describes in *Buy Me The Sky* as "caught between the old and the new." It's for him that she tries to make sense of Chinese culture.

"All of my writing is for my son's generation and their children to know what China is really like," Xinran says. "And also, to tell them [my son's generation] that all of the past makes up the roots of China today and its future. We could forgive the past, but we shouldn't forget it."

"I was happy for the policy's end, so that more Chinese parents could have one more child. I was crying because it's too late"



> *Buy Me The Sky* and *The Good Women of China* are available on Amazon and at The Bookworm.

XINRAN

Sun Mar 13, 6pm; RMB60; The Bookworm

A Brief Encounter

by Dominique Wong

PREFACE

“I have arrived,” reads a WeChat message from cop-turned-writer A Yi (real name: Ai Guozhu). He is half an hour early.

We imagine that punctuality is a hangover from his former life as a police officer. A Yi chose Joy City as the venue for our interview, telling us: “The time is up to you.” He probably didn’t mean ‘late.’

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

We arrive to find A Yi sitting alone in a cafe-bookstore reading *Humiliated and Insulted* by Fyodor Dostoevsky and drinking watermelon juice. We quickly deduce he would have vetoed our initial interview ideas, such as ‘A Yi as *ayi*’ (where A Yi would clean an apartment, cook a meal and look after a child) or ‘A Yi meets *ayi*’ (a conversation between A Yi and an *ayi*).

Gazing at us with tired eyes, his hair unkempt, A Yi looks like a man who has stayed up too late reading, writing or both.

THE NOVEL

When we place a copy of his most-recently translated novel *A Perfect Crime* on the table, his eyes light up and he rifles through the book as if it’s the first time.

“It’s not good,” he says seriously. The writing, he clarifies; not the translation.

For somebody who is often described as a vanguard of the underground Chinese literary scene and as “one of the most gifted Chinese authors in recent times,” (by Nobel-nominated poet Bei Dao), A Yi is rather self-critical.

Having just finished reading the novel that morning, we firmly disagree with his critique.

A Perfect Crime is a probe into the mind of an alienated young man who goes on the run after murdering his classmate and only friend. Why? Well, because he’s bored.

A Yi employs striking imagery to devastating effect (the victim’s bloodstain is “a bright crimson, red with added red, the stain fresh and angry like a peony”).

It’s a taut thriller where everybody (including the nameless narrator) knows the ending but watches on horrified all the same. It’s like witnessing a car chase in slow motion.

Unsettling but also darkly funny at times, the novel ultimately offers a bleak view of contemporary China’s ills.



A DIALOGUE

Speaking quietly, A Yi tells us about his time as a police officer in Jiangxi province (“Boring. I hated it”) and his passion for writing.

He explains: “When I was young, it was my dream to be a writer. I wanted to be like Li Bai and Shakespeare. But when you’re a child, [dreams] feel so far away and I thought it probably wasn’t very realistic.”

Yet A Yi’s dream lived on (“When I was a police officer I would use the office paper to write my stories”) and became realized by the age of 32, when he began to write full-time. After leaving the police force A Yi worked as a sports journalist, an editor of the literary magazine *Chutzpah* and at Xiron publishing company. He is now an independent writer.

He says: “For a long time I just wrote. I didn’t know if it was good or not until one day some people told me I wrote really well, so slowly I felt more and more confident about my ability.”

A Yi’s writing packs quite the punch: see his short story, *Nin Hao*, for a love story that goes from sweet to acerbic in 500 words. Apart from the text’s refreshing lack of superfluous description or sentimentality, what stands out in particular is the author’s flair for characterization.

So, does A Yi sympathize with the young killer in *A Perfect Crime*? “No. Theoretically he has freedom, but he doesn’t feel like it.” He gives the example of becoming unemployed, and the sharp turn from liberation to depression that often follows.

He admits: “I was like this for a short time when I worked in a newsroom in Zhengzhou. I generally worked the 8 to 12am shift, editing other reporter’s scripts. Afterwards I’d eat dinner with my colleagues and go back to my house. If I couldn’t fall asleep I’d often go for a walk down the street in search of stimulation, like seeing people fighting.”

A Yi uses real life as inspiration, and *A Perfect Crime* is no exception. There’s a reason why the police reaction and legal aftermath reads chillingly true to life: A Yi knows these people. In fact, he was one of these people: “When I was a police officer, I didn’t really think about the people I processed. I saw them as having done wrong. But when I left [the police force] I began to look at things from the point of view of an ordinary person.”

Other writers’ works also serve as inspiration, he says: “I’m inspired when I read a sentence in a book. Although the really exciting themes usually take several years to develop.”

Indeed, A Yi is a voracious reader. As well as Dostoevsky, he rattles off Kafka, Faulkner and Camus as favorites, name-checking Yu Hua in the process. His favorite Karamazov brother is Ivan, A Yi smiles, “because he’s fanatical.”

“When I was a police officer I would use the office paper to write my stories”

FACTS AND PHILOSOPHY

A Yi tells us he does not like KFC or alcohol, and that he is a Capricorn. He uses exclamation marks sparingly in his text because they are “unnecessary.”

In between offering writing tips and ruminating on the reasons people succeed (in summary: education, tools and money), A Yi shares his view that “people should take the time now to do what they want, because you never know when stability will disappear.

“You can’t predict these things. I’m afraid that one day, all of a sudden, the environment will change and I won’t be able to write. Maybe you will want to interview me, but I can’t, because I’ve been hungry for days.

“In my opinion, writing is a positive achievement, so when I’m writing, I feel like time passes quickly. But if you do something that isn’t very successful, time stretches on for so long. Like the barista here,” he motions. “If they make a bad cup of coffee, they feel as if they haven’t accomplished anything and therefore wasted their time.”

The narrator in *A Perfect Crime* believes the meaning of life is:

‘Boredom
Repetition
Order
Entrapment
Imprisonment’

Does A Yi subscribe to this belief?

“For me, the meaning of life is to create. But if you don’t use your heart, everything will go back to being boring.”

We concur.

CONCLUSION

After a lull in conversation, A Yi asks if the interview is over. Yes. Relieved of having to answer questions, A Yi happily signs our copy of *A Perfect Crime* with the blessing: ‘Good lucky!’ (sic).

He puts on his facemask, signaling the end of our meeting. After exiting the cafe we stop and watch a group of children engaged in a pottery lesson outside. A Yi points and laughs, singing the famous song from the movie *Ghost*, “I-I-I will always love you.”

Bad Feminist, Bad Email Responder

by Noelle Mateer

Roxane Gay is my feminist hero.

But my feminist hero didn't respond to my emails. This is fine – she's probably busy being a feminist hero. The same thing once happened when I was promised an interview with Lil Jon (who, for the record, is not my feminist hero – just a rapping sensation from the mid-00s): I got excited. I conducted more research than anyone has ever conducted on Jonathan "Lil Jon" Smith. But in the end, he pulled out of the interview. So I cut the story.

Roxane Gay, though, I will write about anyway. Gay is best known as the writer of *Bad Feminist*, a series of laugh-out-loud, yet poignant essays about feminism, race, sexuality and pop culture. Her criticism appears regularly on *The Guardian*, *The New York Times* and *Salon*.

It also appears on her Twitter feed. To her 100,000-plus followers, she fangirls over Beyonce ("Jesus let me be that microphone beneath Beyonce's hands and lips"). She states her political opinions ("Never been more pleased to be a Democrat"). She shuts down Internet trolls ("Thanks for commenting and letting me know my pot roast looks like shit. Best of luck with your future endeavors").

While we may not have spoken with Gay directly, Twitter offers loads of material to work with. So we imagined an interview with her, using various tweets as her answers. As if she knew we were doing this, Gay recently tweeted the following: "People always assume the stupidest possible thing when they read a tweet without context."

Keep this in mind, readers.

Hey, Roxane. I'm a huge fan.

What have you been up to lately?

@rgay, Feb 17: I am no snitch but I just watched a very high young man steal a lot of Little Debbie snack cakes from the gas station.

@rgay, Feb 17: It was kind of exciting.

What do you like to do in your free time?

@rgay, Feb 3: Sometimes I pretend I am curling using my suitcases, rolling them across my fake wood flooring with purpose and aim.

If you could invent anything, what would it be?

@rgay, Feb 4: Tinder but i just want you to come over and fix my light bulbs and then leave instead of sex unless you are Channing. [Actor and *Magic Mike* star Channing Tatum]

You also work as a professor. How is that?

@rgay, Feb 17: I just gasped. A student turned a story in, using comic sans.

What are your thoughts on the US presidential election?

@rgay, Feb 10: White people get to be thoughtful individuals and people of color get to be group votes.

@rgay, Feb 10: Am I going to vote with my vagina or my skin this year? Gosh. It's a dilemma.

@rgay, Feb 10: I will also note that in 1992 it didn't even cross my mind that a black person or a woman could be president.

What can we expect from your Bookworm talk?

@rgay, Feb 15: I'm glad that when I have to be in front of a mic before thousands I only have to talk shit, which is always in tune.

Who is your favorite musician of late?

@rgay, Feb 18: Adele seems so delightful. I really like her.

@rgay, Feb 16: Adele I will take you to In and Out in August. As friends. I am nice, @Adele

What is life like as a feminist in the Midwest, typically a more conservative part of America?

@rgay, Jan 2: Ordering a happy meal and the cashier asked "for a boy or a girl?" And then I explained how damaging it is to enforce the gender binary

Do you have any life advice you'd like to give us?

@rgay, July 26: If your partner doesn't support your creativity or your work or anything that matters to you break up now.

Great advice. What is one thing you've learned over the years?

@rgay, Feb 18: No matter how old I get, I do not become immune to being made fun of.

Anything else?

@rgay, Feb 17: I am an emoticon in China right now.

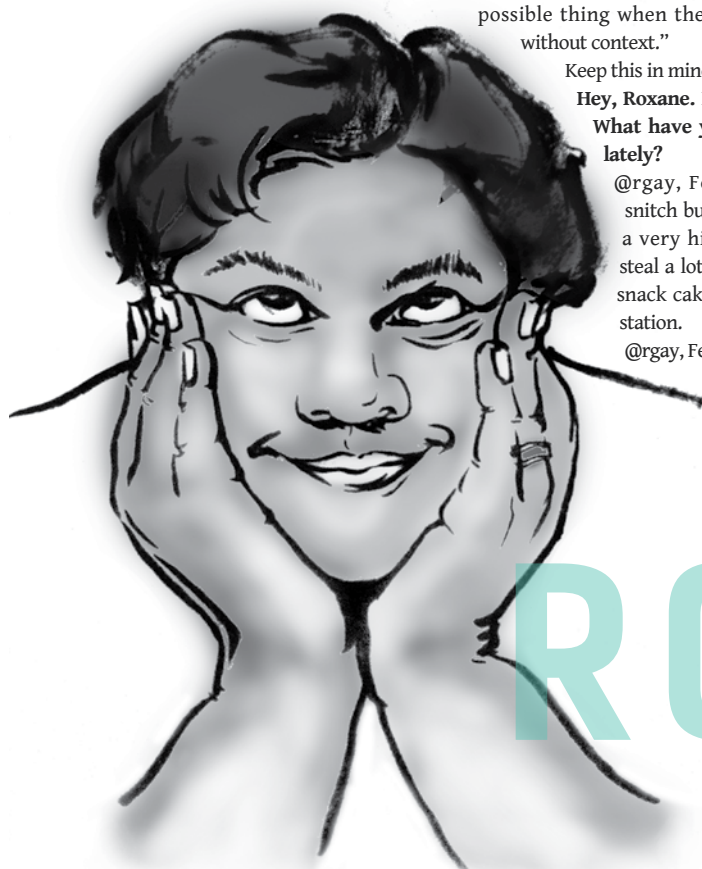
What?

@rgay, Feb 17: will explain soon

If Roxane Gay gets back to our emails we will publish the interview online at www.thatsmags.com

"People always assume the stupidest possible thing when they read a tweet without context"

> *Bad Feminist* is published by Harper and available on Amazon and through the Bookworm.



ROXANE GAY

DAVID LEFFMAN

Sat Mar 26, 2pm; RMB50; iQiyi

A Rough Guide to a Mercenary

by Oscar Holland



After a night of heavy drinking at a festival in Guizhou, David Leffman awoke to find his pad filled with notes on the Miao Rebellion.

Quite why he'd written them was unclear. The author's only recollection was being told by someone that casualties of the 19th century uprising – which he'd never heard of – numbered in the millions.

The research that followed led Leffman to William Mesny, a British mercenary who had fought with the Qing to quell the rebellion. More specifically, it led him to *Mesny's Chinese Miscellany* – a collection of articles and observations detailing life in China in the latter half of the 1800s. But he was unimpressed.

"It was just someone going into microscopic detail about military terms and things like that," he explains. "It seemed pointless. I was more interested in what was happening in modern-day China."

It would be a decade before Leffman revisited Mesny's accounts. But with many of the intervening years spent exploring Southwest China as a travel writer for the guidebook series *Rough Guides*, he suddenly found uncanny parallels between the mercenary's life and his own.

"I re-read some of his work and realized: 'my God, I've travelled to all the places he'd been to,'" he recalls. "I recognized all the individual temples he talks about, the villages he'd stayed in and the battlegrounds he fought at. After that, I just kept coming across Mesny's name."

So, after his initial indifference, the British author became fascinated by his countryman's journey, a process that culminates with release of *The Mercenary Mandarin: How a Jersey Adventurer Became a General in Qing Dynasty China*. The seemingly tiresome detail of Mesny's records became Leffman's most valuable resource.

"*The Miscellany* is 2,000 pages; it's a colossal, colossal thing," he explains. "And it was completely, utterly random. He'd written about everything – marriage customs, rainfall, collecting antiques... there wasn't anything unifying to it."

"But no other foreigner at the time left as detailed a record as Mesny. Between arriving in 1860 and settling in Shanghai

in 1885, there's an almost unbroken record of his life through his writings and newspaper articles – it was an incredibly well-documented life."

It was also an incredibly eventful life. Following a short stint as a prison warder in Hong Kong, Mesny began smuggling salt and weaponry up the Yangtze – from Shanghai to Wuhan – during the Taiping Rebellion. He later spent more than five years as a soldier in Guizhou, fighting both the Miao and Muslim insurgents from Yunnan. Other entries in Mesny's resume include: blacksmith, hotel owner, newspaper reporter, customs official and prisoner of war to the Taiping (who he charmed into keeping him alive).

As Leffman traveled through the region, he was able to discover physical traces of his subject's life. Remnants of both creation and destruction can still be found in Guizhou: a suspension bridge, which Mesny designed, and a town which still bares the marks of his conquest.

"One of Mesny's Chinese generals had a pet monkey which got loose and knocked over a lantern, burning the whole town down," Leffman explains. "When I visited, I met the incumbent 'oldest man' in what had once been an impressive family mansion. It was now just a ruin. But while the old man knew that the Sichuan army had once come and burned that house down, he had no idea about the monkey!"

Having followed in Mesny's footsteps, Leffman has – perhaps inevitably – found further links between himself and his subject. He even describes his approach to the infamously unprofitable world of guidebook writing as "mercenary."

"One of the things I realized about Mesny was the awkward parallels with my own life," he reflects. "He spent years roaming around China, gathering this information and publishing it. But he never really achieved anything like what he'd hoped. And sometimes I feel that about my guidebook writing – I gather all this information, put it out and then it's quickly redundant," he says with a laugh.

> *The Mercenary Mandarin: How a Jersey Adventurer Became a General in Qing Dynasty China* is out this month through Blacksmith Books.

"No other foreigner at the time left as detailed a record as William Mesny. Between 1860 and 1885, there's an almost unbroken record of his life"



Sat Mar 26, 2pm; RMB200; The Opposite House (workshop)

LARRY FEIGN

The World of Larry Feign

by Dominique Wong

Larry Feign, cartoonist of the popular and award-winning comic strip *The World of Lily Wong*, owes a lot to a random beach-side caricaturist in Hawaii – his illustrious career, for one thing. Oh, and his wife.

As Feign explains on Skype from Hong Kong, his home and inspiration-provider since 1985: “I’d never really taken the idea [of cartooning] seriously until I moved to Hawaii, where I was going to graduate school in applied linguistics.

“I needed a room so I put a notice on the university bulletin board, where I drew a little cartoon picture of myself so it would get people’s attention. I got a call from a guy saying, ‘I don’t have a room for you but I’ve got a job.’”

Although Feign initially rejected the caricaturist’s offer (several times), he finally relented when “the guy wouldn’t give up on me.” He dropped out of grad school to pursue his passion, which began with drawing caricatures on the beaches of Hawaii.

As for his wife? “She was selling souvenirs just across from me.”

“My website became the second cartoon ever on the Internet”

Since that fated choice, Feign’s cartoons have appeared in *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The Economist*, *Fortune*, *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *Der Spiegel*, among others. His animations have also appeared on television, on *Cartoon Network* and *Disney*, and he has published 15 books.

But perhaps Feign’s greatest claim to fame is having had the “very first website ever in Hong Kong.”

“It became the second cartoon ever on the Internet. The first one was *Dilbert*,” he explains. “*Lily Wong* was the second actual daily comic strip anywhere in the world on the Internet.”

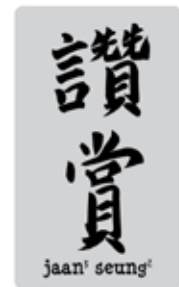
Not bad for a guy who neither planned to be a cartoonist nor to live in Hong Kong. He muses: “Sometimes I think how strange life is, that [it] led me here.”

> AIEEYAAA! *Learn Chinese the Hard Way*, a satirical English-Chinese dictionary, is available on Amazon and through The Bookworm.



MARRIAGE

(n.) Union between a man and the other woman in his life.

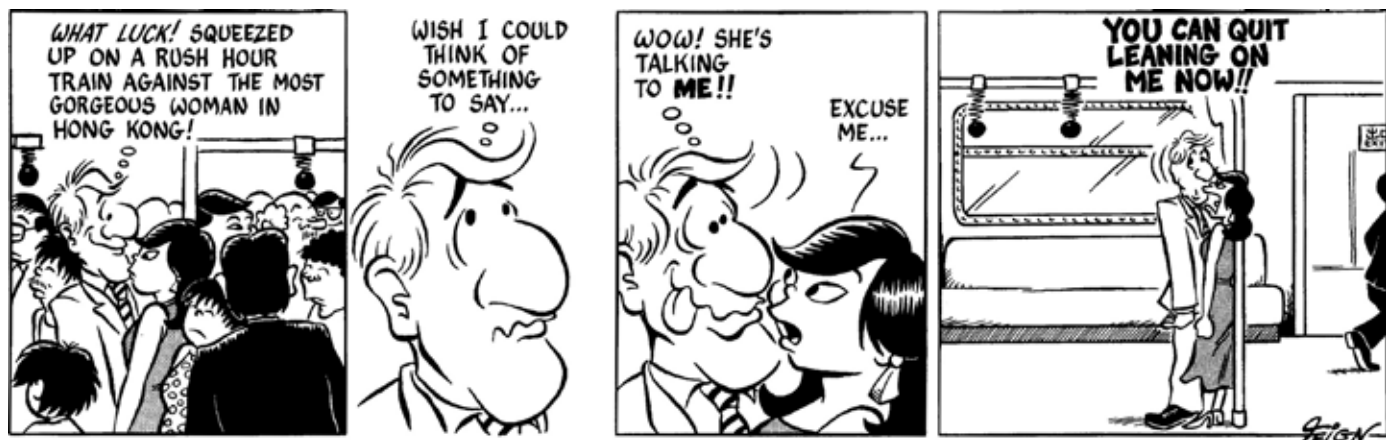


COMPLIMENT

(v./n.) Westerners find it rude when a compliment is rejected, while Chinese consider it arrogant when one is accepted. Insults, however, find common cultural ground.



Above | A selection of comics from *AIEEYAAA! Learn Chinese the Hard Way*



Above | A selection of comics – including two of Feign's personal favorites – from *The World of Lily Wong* comic strip.

TIM CLISSOLD



Sat Mar 26, noon; RMB60; The Bookworm

What the West Can Learn

by Oscar Holland

Few people will dispute Tim Clissold's thesis that China knows more about the West than vice versa. Even fewer have been so active in trying to redress the balance.

Best known for his memoirs-cum-business-books *Mr. China* and *Chinese Rules*, Clissold has spent the last two decades helping people understand how this country operates. But the businessman's efforts to inform the West go beyond the realm of multi-nationals – he has also spent the last eight years campaigning to have a Chinese civilization course included in the British curriculum for 16- to 18-year-olds.

"There's a major knowledge gap and we have to do something about it – rapidly," he explains. "This is not only to enrich our economy but to enrich our minds. There's so much we can learn from China."

In the UK, around 2,500 people take A Levels in Mandarin every year – less than 0.4 percent of the country's A Level students. Subtract the Chinese nationals looking for an easy qualification, and Clissold estimates that there are only 100 to 150 "indigenous" students of the language in UK schools. So, with the help of 12 leading university scholars, he has designed a Chinese civilization syllabus that he believes "will grab the attention of 17-year-olds."

Instead of using his Bookworm slot to plug his latest book, Clissold will instead address the asymmetry of knowledge between China and the West. Starting with a comparison of the first lines of the Old Testament and Confucius' *Analects* ("If you're going to try and understand the differences you might as well go right back to the beginning"), he will examine the historical and cultural departures that underpin the imbalance.

"For 30 years or so the Chinese have made it their business to try and understand the West," he says. "The reason for that was fairly obvious – because they had to, really. They were poor and had so much catch-up to do. But it now behooves us [the West] to go through that same process.

"Chinese politicians are much more conversant with the basic ideas about how Western society works than the other

way round. We need to catch up."

This premise will form the basis of his next book, which he suggests will take at least two years to write. The subject matter seems to be a natural progression from *Mr. China* and *Chinese Rules*, which respectively saw him losing (and fighting to retrieve) USD4 million of investors' money and navigating the Chinese carbon credit market.

"The first book is saying that the rules are different and the second one is saying *what* those rules are," he explains. "Now I'm working on one saying what we have to learn."

The project is likely to take Clissold into controversial territory. He is well aware of the backlash that may follow. Referencing the "hysteria" that surrounded Daniel Bell's recent book *The China Model* (which argued that the West should learn from China's process of political selection), the author admits that he will need to be "very careful" to avoid being branded an apologist.

"I'll do it cautiously," he explains. "But I think we have things to learn [from China] in areas like the selection of critical leaders, financial stability, conflict resolution and the environment. I'm not making a value judgment – I'm not saying whether things are good or bad, I'm just saying that we need to rid ourselves of the orthodoxies which, paradoxically, China doesn't have so many of – they've been willing to experiment with [outside ideas]."

Clissold's case will likely be enhanced by his abilities as a storyteller. His books have been celebrated for being as entertaining as they are informative, with the *The Independent* describing him in a review as "an exceptional writer... [who] somehow manages to make the complex world of carbon trading read like a thriller."

"I just strongly believe in the power of stories," Clissold explains. "Rather than telling somebody, it's much better to illustrate it through a story – preferably a funny one."

"I'm not making a value judgment – I'm not saying whether the Chinese way is good or bad; I'm just saying that we need to rid ourselves of orthodoxy"

> *Chinese Rules: Mao's Dog, Deng's Cat, and Five Timeless Lessons from the Front Lines in China* was published by Harper Collins and is available on Amazon and through The Bookworm.

Fri Mar 18, 7.30pm, RMB50, iQiyi

A Girl is a Fully-formed Novel

by Noelle Mateer

"It's a tricky thing to be an Irish writer because you've got the weight of Irish literature weighing on you – this sort of monstrous international renown to cope with on a daily basis"

Eimear McBride didn't want to become an 'Irish' writer. But then she became the best one of her generation.

"I didn't want to write about things that are perceived as being so Irish, like debt and sex and guilt. I really wanted to do something else," she explains. "But then I found myself still having to write about those things. It's almost as though I had to work through this part of my Irishness to move on as a writer."

Write about 'Irishness' she did, and masterfully. Her debut novel *A Girl is a Half-formed Thing* is one of the most celebrated fiction releases of the past decade, beating works by more established authors such as Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Americanah* and Donna Tartt's *The Goldfinch* to win the 2013 Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction (formerly the Orange Prize).

A Girl, the first-person account of a young woman whose brother suffers from a brain tumor, won the award for its groundbreaking approach to language. Take the book's opening paragraph, for example: "For you. You'll soon. You'll give her name. In the stitches of her skin she'll wear your say."

The rest of the novel continues in this lyrical stream of consciousness that, while not strictly grammatical, creates an intensely powerful experience for the reader.

"I wanted to see if it was possible to make [readers] feel as though the action of the book was happening inside them, so that [reading *A Girl*] isn't an intellectual experience or even an emotional experience, but something much more visceral and physical," McBride says.

"It seemed that the best way to achieve that was by making language work in a different way – by bending the rules, breaking the rules, sometimes stomping all over the rules, and really trying to capture that aspect of life that is often lost once that experience is channeled through language."

For those familiar with the Irish canon, this singular approach should remind readers of James Joyce, whom McBride cites as "a big influence." At least it's certainly reminded the press. Despite not setting out to write a quintessential Irish novel – McBride says she personally identifies more with European modernism – she's been hailed as the talented new 'Irish writer.'

"It's a tricky thing to be an Irish writer because you've got the weight of Irish literature weighing on you in a way that few other traditions have – this sort of monstrous international renown to cope with on a daily basis," she says. "I think being an Irish writer is a great thing, it's a calling card, but it does come with certain expectations of what an Irish writer will be like."

McBride has also been called a feminist writer – again, a label she didn't create for herself, but rather unintentionally inspired through *A Girl*'s protagonist, both deeply flawed and complex. (McBride was once quoted as saying: "It was a blessed relief to write a female character who was released from the traditional models of the fictional female—and God save us from novelists who want to create role models.")

A Girl was published after seven years of rejection by various publishers who thought it was too experimental for mainstream readers. Its eventual success proved them wrong.

International success, even – *A Girl* is now published in nearly a dozen languages worldwide, the next of which is slated to be Chinese. Given the unique writing style, this is no small task. The Bookworm is especially aware of this, and they'll be bringing in one of the book's translators for McBride's Friday talk. ("I have admiration for any of my translators, but particularly those translating into Chinese," McBride adds.)

McBride's visit corresponds with this upcoming translation. But this is not her first trip to Beijing.

"I was in Beijing for my honeymoon in 2003 – in the midst of the SARS crisis, no less," she says with a chuckle. "I was wearing a protective face mask, but I have fond memories of it nonetheless."

The author's excitement to return to Beijing is both genuine and evident in her voice.

"I'm looking forward to seeing it without a mask," she says, laughing. Well, let's just hope it isn't smoggy."

> *A Girl is a Half-formed Thing*, published by Faber & Faber, is available on Amazon and through The Bookworm.



EIMEAR
MCBRIDE

Tickets can only be purchased at The Bookworm or online via Yoopay. (Please note that a limited number of tickets are made available online; please email info@chinabookworm.com or call 6503 2050 for inquiries.) Unless otherwise stated, The Bookworm cannot take phone or email reservations.

EVENT SCHEDULE

Fri March 11

Literary Portraits of Women 1pm
Agnès Desarthe | The Bookworm | RMB60

A Celebration of Literature and Ideas: The 10th Bookworm Literary Festival Opening Ceremony 8pm

Bidisha, Robert Drewe, Xiao Meili, A Yi, Richard Blanco | The Bookworm | RMB100

Sat March 12

Women's Rights Around the World 10am
Clare Wright, Ying Xin (Xiao Tie), Lijia Zhang | The Bookworm | RMB60

The Future of Hong Kong noon
Jason Y. Ng, Didi Kirsten Tatlow | The Bookworm | RMB60

Disseminating the Magic: Children's Writing in the Digital Age 2pm
Bao Dongni, Graeme Base, Jane Godwin | The Bookworm | RMB60

That Damned Thing She Said 4pm
Eric Abrahamson, Dave Haysom, Nick Stember | The Bookworm | RMB60

I Cycled Into the Arctic Circle 4pm
Matt Hulse | iQiyi | RMB50

Writing With and Against History 6pm
Ragnar Baldursson, Clare Wright | The Bookworm | RMB60

Your Face in Mine 6pm
Jess Row | iQiyi | RMB50

One Today: Live Reading by Obama's Inauguration Poet 8pm
Richard Blanco | The Bookworm | RMB80

Sun March 13

Children's Event [Ages 7-12] This Writer's Life 10.30am
Jane Godwin | The Bookworm | RMB60

Umbrellas in Bloom noon
Jason Y. Ng | The Bookworm | RMB60

Brevity is the Soul: Short Fiction 2pm
Jon Bilbao, Robert Drewe, Jess Row | The Bookworm | RMB60

Mon March 14

Dragons in Diamond Village 2pm
David Bandurski | The Opposite House | Free

Journalism with Chinese Characteristics 4pm
David Bandurski, Raymond Zhou | The Bookworm | RMB60

New Chinese Writing 6pm
A Yi, Shuang Xuetao | The Bookworm | RMB60

Knocked Up Abroad 6pm
Charlotte Edwards-Zhang, Vanessa Jencks, Ruth Silbermayr-Song, Ember Swift | iQiyi | RMB50

Bad Feminist 8pm
Roxane Gay | RMB100

Children's Event [Ages 9-12] Reading Lewis Carroll is Prohibited 10.30am
Diego Arboleda | The Bookworm | RMB60

China's Economy: Powerhouse, Menace, or the Next Japan? 1pm
Arthur Kroeber | The Bookworm | RMB60

Deep, Dark, and Human 6pm
Jon Bilbao, Michela Murgia, Scot Slaby | The Bookworm | RMB60

South China Morning Blues 7.30pm
Ray Hecht | iQiyi | RMB50

Do Not Marry Before Age 30: Empowering Women 8pm
Joy Chen | The Bookworm | RMB80

Tue March 15

Children's Event [Ages 9-14] Maori Legends of New Zealand 10.30am
David Hill | The Bookworm | RMB60

War on Pollution 1pm
Anders Hove, Li Yan, Ma Tianjie | The Bookworm | RMB60

Poetry Around the World 6pm
Tammy Ho Lai-Ming, Mindaugas Nastaravicius, Kabu Okai-Davies, Scot Slaby | The Bookworm | RMB60

Wed March 16

Voices from the Margins: Gender, Politics, and Race 8pm
Roxane Gay, He Xiaopei, Xiao Meili | The Bookworm | RMB80

Launch Party: MaLa Literary Journal, Issue 4 (Reconstruction) 9.30pm
Featuring Sheng Keyi, Su Cici, Tammy Ho Lai-Ming | The Bookworm | Free

Writing Place 6pm
Keiichiro Hirano, Tammy Ho Lai-Ming, Owen Martell | The Bookworm | RMB60

Loreli China Presents: Songwriters of Beijing 8pm
Jordan Darling, Xuefeng Ji, Su Zixu, Dan Taylor | The Bookworm | RMB60

Thu March 17

Francoophone Literature and Society 1pm
Frédéric Ciriéz, Nico Helming, Lambert Schlechter | The Bookworm | RMB60

A Novel Approach: Experimenting with Language and Style 6pm
Eimear McBride, Anna Smaill, Xu Zechen | The Bookworm | RMB60

Japan's Literary Talent 7.30pm
Keiichiro Hirano | iQiyi | RMB50

Spoken-Word Performance 7.30pm
Philip Wilcox | International School of Beijing | Free

Literary Europe Live 8pm
Owen Martell, Jordi Puntí, Undine Radzeviciute, Nora Wagener | The Bookworm | RMB60

Fri March 18

Ken Hom, Master Chef 6pm
Ken Hom | The Bookworm | RMB60

Contemporary Spanish Poetry 6.30pm
Cervantes Institute | Free

A Girl is a Half-Formed Thing 7.30pm
Eimear McBride | iQiyi | RMB50

Voices of Canada 8pm
Dionne Brand, Michael Crummey, Andy McGuire, Anakana Schofield | The Bookworm | RMB60

Sat March 19

Buy Me the Sky: The Remarkable Truth of China's One-Child Generations 10am

Xinran | The Bookworm | RMB60

Innovation and Imitation in China noon

Christina Larson, Edward Lococo, Kaiser Kuo | The Bookworm | RMB60

Memory and Place 2pm

Michael Crummey, Mariko Nagai, Anna Smaill | The Bookworm | RMB60

Travel Writing as Literature 2pm

Lieve Joris | iQiyi | RMB50

Loss, Longing, and Bizarreries of the Living 4pm

Ofir Touché Gafla, Anakana Schofield | The Bookworm | RMB60

The Miraculous History of China's Two Palace Museums 4pm

Mark O'Neill | iQiyi | RMB50

Shanghai Redemption: Investigating Murder, Sex, and Corruption 6pm

Qiu Xiaolong | The Bookworm | RMB60

Atmen Einstellen, Bitte! Adjust Your Breathing, Please! 6pm

Kai Strittmatter | iQiyi | RMB50

Gala Dinner with Special Menu and Discussion with Celebrity Chef Ken Hom 7pm

Ken Hom | Green T House | RMB588 (+15% service charge)

In Conversation with Xinran 7pm

Xinran | Dulwich | Free

Stuff I Learnt from 90s Children's Television: Spoken-Word Performance 8pm

Philip Wilcox | The Bookworm | RMB60

Sun March 20

Minority Matters: Focus on Ethnicity in Chinese Culture 10am

Li Dan, Sonthar Gyal, Xinran | The Bookworm | RMB60

Crime and Vice noon

Qiu Xiaolong, Nury Vittachi | The Bookworm | RMB60

Spotlight on Africa 2pm

Lieve Joris, Kabu Okai-Davies, Liang Zi | The Bookworm | RMB60

Confucius: And the World He Created 2pm

Michael Schuman | iQiyi | RMB50

The Meaning of Contemporary Poetry 4pm

Michael Crummey, Andy McGuire, Mariko Nagai, Nicholas YB Wong | The Bookworm | RMB60

The World of the End 4pm

Ofir Touché Gafla | iQiyi | RMB50

Love Enough 6pm

Dionne Brand | The Bookworm | RMB60

Finding India in China 6pm

Anurag Viswanath | iQiyi | RMB50

WORKSHOP: The Writer Within 7.30pm

Ofir Touché Gafla | The Opposite House | RMB200

Bookworm Comedy Night, headlined by Steve Simeone 8pm

Local comics + Steve Simeone | The Bookworm | RMB150

Mon March 21

Children's Event

[Ages 8+] **Around the World in 70 Minutes 10.30am**

Frané Lessac | The Bookworm | RMB60

Territorial Disputes and Regional Stability 1pm

Moderated by Philip Wen | The Bookworm | RMB60

Asylum and Exile 6pm

Bidisha | The Bookworm | RMB60

Ninety Seventy-Six: The End of the Cultural Revolution 7.30pm

Ragnar Baldursson | iQiyi | RMB50

Creating Worlds: Writing Science Fiction and Fantasy 8pm

Ofir Touché Gafla, Han Song, Andrzej Sapkowski | The Bookworm | RMB60

Tue March 22

Children's Event

[Ages 6-12] **Writing Workshop: Strange Objects 10.30am**

Mark Greenwood | The Bookworm | RMB60

Trends in Spirituality in Modern China 1pm

Haiyun Jimeng, Joseph Loftus, etc. | The Bookworm | RMB60

The Witcher Saga 6pm

Andrzej Sapkowski | The Bookworm | RMB60

Storytelling: "Far From Home" 8pm

Matt Hulse, Lieve Joris, Yves Laplace, Mariko Nagai, Kabu Okai-Davies, etc. | The Bookworm | RMB60

Wed March 23

Spiritual Economics: A Way to Save the World 1pm

Haiyun Jimeng | The Bookworm | RMB60

From Alice in Wonderland to Present: The Evolution of Children's Lit 6pm

Josh Lacey, Ian Whybrow | The Bookworm | RMB60

Hero's Prairie 7.30pm

Yves Laplace | iQiyi | RMB50

Covering Conflict 8pm

Bidisha, Lieve Joris, Edward Platt | The Bookworm | RMB60

Thu March 24

Children's Event

[Ages 6-10] **Dinosaurs, Meerkats, and Other Talking Animals 10.30am**

Ian Whybrow | The Bookworm | RMB60

The Future of the Chinese Economy 1pm

Tom Orlik, Michael Schuman, Lingling Wei | The Bookworm | RMB60

Poetry in Translation 6pm

Yves Laplace, Yi Sha, etc. | The Bookworm | RMB60

WORKSHOP: Nonfiction Writing 7.30pm

Edward Platt | iQiyi | RMB200

Sinica Live Recording: The Cultural Revolution 8pm

Kaiser Kuo and David Moser | The Bookworm | RMB60

The Future for Civil Society and Philanthropy in China 1pm

Chloé Froissart, Karla Simon, etc. | The Bookworm | RMB60

Fri March 25

In Conversation with a Literary Pioneer 6pm

Yang Li | The Bookworm | RMB60

The Violet Hour 7.30pm

Sergio Del Molino | iQiyi | RMB50

Cartoons, Creativity, and Censorship 8pm

Larry Feign | The Bookworm | RMB60

Sat March 26

The Arts Alive: Identity and New Media in Contemporary Chinese Art 10am

Ju Anqi, Tian Xiaolei | The Bookworm | RMB60

Chinese Rules: Mao's Dog, Deng's Cat, and Five Timeless Lessons from the Front Lines in China noon

Tim Clissold | The Bookworm | RMB60

The Mercenary Mandarin: A Biography of William Mesny 2pm

David Leffman | iQiyi | RMB50

"The Story of My Teeth" and Other Stories from Mexico's Fastest Rising Literary Star 2pm

Valeria Luiselli | The Bookworm | RMB60

WORKSHOP: Cartoon Creation from Concept to Finish 2pm

Larry Feign | The Opposite House | RMB200

The Hazards and Thrills of Literary Translation 4pm

Zhiling Gao, Han Yujoo, Yi Sha | The Bookworm | RMB60

Year of the Goose 4pm

Carly Hallman | iQiyi | RMB50

El Impostor 4pm

Javier Cercas, Chen Zhongyi | Cervantes Institute | Free

The Girl with Seven Names: A North Korean Defector's Story 6pm

Hyeonseo Lee | The Bookworm | RMB80

Whisky and Writers 8pm

Alec Ash, Larry Feign, Han Yujoo, Matt Hulse, Valeria Luiselli | The Bookworm | RMB60 non-drinking ticket, RMB160 drinking ticket

Sun March 27

Chinese Filmmaking: From the Indies to Hollywood 10am

Julie Makinen, Pema Tsenden, Jenny Man Wu, Raymond Zhou | The Bookworm | RMB60

China LGBT Panel: The Tumultuous Year That Was noon

Kate, Lotus, Wei Tingting, Ying Xin (Xiao Tie) | The Bookworm | RMB60

Writing Life: The Art Memoir 2pm

Hyeonseo Lee, Sergio del Molino | The Bookworm | RMB60

China's Future Perfect 4pm

Hu Xingdou, Melinda Liu, David Moser, Joerg Wuttke | The Bookworm | RMB60

Ibero-American Literature 6pm

Javier Cercas, Sergio Del Molino, Valeria Luiselli | The Bookworm | RMB60

Literary Quiz Show 8pm

Kaiser Kuo and Anthony Tao host | The Bookworm | Free

EAT & DRINK

GRAPEVINE

SNACKS AND THE CITY

If life is like a box of chocolates because it's full of surprises, then I am like a bag of trash about to be tossed into the dumpster because I eat so much goddamn shit.

Seriously, I am a human garbage can. I mean this literally, not figuratively, because I have both a sharp mind and wonderful personality that do not manifest themselves physically. I am a human garbage can because if you were to examine the contents of my stomach and/or flabby region surrounding my lower stomach, they would most closely resemble a fine-dining establishment's trash bin – bits of chewed-up filet, Sichuan pepper oil, leftover wine. I take pride in this.

Eating is my sport, and I come to you from the sidelines of Beijing's most exciting matches bearing good news. Competitors are upping their game. By this I mean: **Ramo** is adding a brunch; **Tim's Texas Bar-B-Q** has found a new location in Central Park; and a new **Sake Manzo** has just opened.

One of my personal favorites, **Okra 1949**, is offering sake Fridays – 30 percent off sake (and on the night you want it the most). Just nearby, **The Local** has a new menu, and the excellent new dishes at **Ricci Café** are worth getting yourself to Wudaokou for.

As the fast-moving food-and-drink scene takes its toll on my body, it takes other victims too. And by this I mean: **Rumi** is closed. Also **Home Plate BBQ** and **Taco Bar** were the victims of a fire, weirdly. They're fine now, though.

It's a tough job, throwing all these deliciously unhealthy things into the rubbish container of my belly. I do this for you, Beijing. (But also kind of for me, because I love it.) **Noelle Mateer**

OFF THE BEATEN PLATE

If you grew up in the West, chances are you once made a paper-mache volcano in science class. You then dropped baking soda and vinegar into its caldera and squealed with joy as it frothed at the top, like magic. As an adult, paper-mache volcanoes are no longer a thing you delight in, so leave it to Phil Tory at The Tiki Bungalow to make a version you do enjoy. The Tiki Volcano is massive, flaming and – most importantly – alcoholic. Do not order unless you're with a group of four. This volcano is dangerous.

Available at The Tiki Bungalow; RMB150; 34 Jiaodaokou Bei Santiao, Dongcheng 东城区交道口三条34号; Mon-Thu, 7pm-late; Fri-Sat, 6pm-late



HEAD-TO-HEAD / CELEBRITY-ENDORSED DRINKS



Jack Nicklaus Golden Bear Lemonade with Mango

亚利桑那金熊芒果味柠檬水饮料
Available at BHG, RMB13.90



Soda Shaq

亚利桑那草莓牛奶碳酸饮料
Available at BHG, RMB13.90

VERSUS

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

They have Arnold Palmer here? Cool! Oh wait – that's Jack Nicklaus. All these golfers look the same.

My oh my, if that isn't the hero of American basketball smiling at us joyously from the front of an aggressively pink soda can!

INITIAL POUR

You know how when you're dehydrated your urine is more opaque? We'll just leave that image here.

The color of the liquid is so neon. It's like a highlighter was liquefied and carbonated.

UPON DRINKING

Pretty sure this is just artificial orange flavoring mixed into corn syrup.

How does this taste like cream soda without having cream in it? Magic? Or chemicals?

VERDICT

Neither of these drinks is remotely good, but let's be real here – you're only ever going to buy one for the LOLs. With that in mind, we admit that Shaq's smiling face makes us smile right back. Another slam dunk for O'Neil.

THEY SAID IT, WE READ IT

First Floor

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: Sanlitun Bar Street stalwart **First Floor**.



NEWS BITE

The Emperor Will Take His Tea Now



Tea: It's got to be one of the oldest things ever, right? Well, it turns out it's even older than we thought. Historians recently unearthed the oldest tea plant ever discovered buried among the relics of Han dynasty emperor Liu Qi, who died in the year 141B.C.

Before this, the oldest tea ever found dated back to roughly A.D.1100 – a thousand years after Liu Qi's time – and the oldest mention in writing went back to 59B.C. Archeologists were also able to prove that a branch of the Silk Road connected Central China with Tibet, which is where this sort of tea would have originated. While we've always considered tea an important part of Chinese culture, this shows just how deeply rooted the tradition is. **NM**

BARTISANS

This month, Ross Tan and Nick van Leeuwen, the dudes behind popular wine company *Australian Natural* talk China's wine market and Australian wine regions at new fine-dining favorite *The Georg*



PHOTO BY TROLLY LI

— Describe Australian wine in three words.

Ross: More than Yellowtail.

Nick: Yeah, I think he's summed it up perfectly.

— Which wine would you recommend for Spring?

R: Maybe the Franklin Estate Rocky Gully Shiraz.

N: Yeah, that's a cool-climate wine.

R: It's a Shiraz, but it's from one of the coldest wine-growing regions in Australia. It's a bit more savory than you'd normally get from South Australia, so it's not a full-on warm-you-up winter wine, but it's still fruit-driven because it's Australian.

— How does Australian wine fare against more famous wines like, say, French?

N: What we've noticed is that French wine will probably always be the most consumed wine in China. But people have tried their French wine, they understand it, and now they're interested in trying New World wines, and Australia ranks pretty highly among them.

R: And export volumes to China from Australia have gone up.

— Your wines are 'biodynamic.' What does that word mean?

R: It's based on Rudolph Steiner, an Austrian philosopher. He basically created this philosophy in the early 20th century. The best way to describe it, honestly, is like doing agriculture in a feng shui kind of way. It's like organics, but more intense. Organics is about what you can't do. This is also what you *should* do. **NM**

Find Australian Natural's wine at *The Georg*, *Nuo*, *TRB* and *TRB Bites*, *Jing-A* and *Cafe Zarah*

THE NEW SILK ROAD

We Eat Our Way Through China's 'One Belt, One Road' Initiative

words by Noelle Mateer, images by Holly Li

As a matter of grammatical pride, I've always said that one 'orders *from* Sherpas.' One does not 'order Sherpas.' Straight-up 'ordering Sherpas' would imply either (a), that Sherpas the delivery service has its own restaurant in which it makes its own food, or (b), that you have gone on Taobao and selected a hardy Nepali man to be packaged up and delivered straight to your door. Both of these options are impossible.

Well, Beijingers, I stand corrected. You can totally order Sherpas. More specifically, you can order the traditional Uzbek dish *shurpas* at Beijing restaurant Shash. And that's what I'm doing, now, at 2pm on a Thursday in an empty dining room.

Well, that's part of what I'm doing, anyway. In an attempt to better understand the cultures along the New Silk Road, *That's Beijing* photographer Holly and I are eating our way through them – and Shash is merely stop number one.

Officially known as the One Belt, One Road initiative, the New Silk Road is Xi Jinping's plan to create a colossal economic zone stretching from China to Europe – a modern, hugely profitable recreation of what was historically known as the Silk Road.

THE NETHERLANDS

We know, we know – **Stuff'd** isn't Dutch. But it does serve Rookworst, a classic Dutch sausage.
Wed–Mon, 11:30am–2:45pm, 6–10pm; 9
Jianchang Hutong,
Dongcheng 东城区箭厂胡同9号 (6407 6308)

TURKEY

Turkish Mum is the place to go for *manti*, *kofte* and other foods your Mum would ostensibly serve you if she were Turkish.
Daily, 10.30am–11.30pm; 1
Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang
朝阳区工体北路3-3号 (兆龙饭店对面) (8532 3979)

"History shows that capital isn't the only thing that travels along trade routes; culinary trends do, too. Sichuan didn't even have peppercorns until Portuguese traders brought them from South America in the 16th century"

RUSSIA

Few places in Beijing have a vodka menu, but **Traktir Pushkin** is one of them.

Daily, 10am-midnight;
1A Xiyangguan Hutong, Beizhongjie, Dongzhimennei Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区东直门内大街北中街西羊管胡同甲1号 (6403 1690)

AZERBAIJAN

Tucked away on a side street of Beijing's Russian neighborhood, **Caspi** is the perfect place to try plov, a Central Asian staple.

Daily, 10am-10pm; 39 Shentu jie, Chaoyang 朝阳区神路街39号日坛上街1-10 (8563 3306)

UZBEKISTAN

Eating in Beijing Uzbek restaurant **Shash** feels like eating in an abandoned opera house – and the experience is as weird and wonderful as it sounds.

Daily, 10am-11.30pm; Xiangjunbeili, Building 10, Lane 4, next to the Saint Angel Hotel, Chaoyang 朝阳区呼家楼向军北里4巷10号 (5190 7236)

GEORGIA

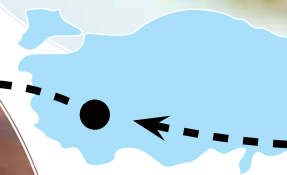
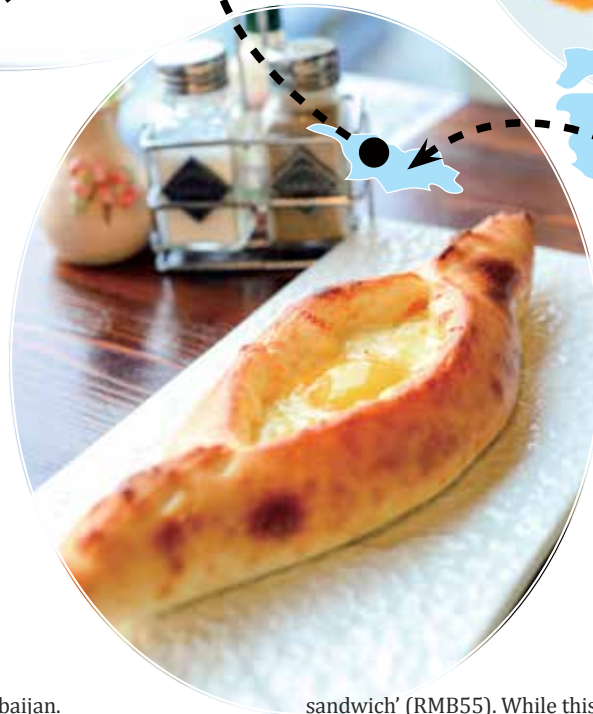
Georgia's Feast serves *khachapuri* with so much cheese, it's almost grotesque. Almost. We love it.

Daily, 11.30am-10pm; 2 Sanlitun Beixiaojie 朝阳区三里屯北小街2号 (8448 6886)

IRAN

Sanctions be damned: we had an unlikely combination of Iranian and American cuisines in the form of the Iranian burger sandwich at **Persepolis**.

Daily, 10.30am-10.30pm; 1-3 Gongti Beilu (opposite Zhaolong Hotel) Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北路甲1号兆龙饭店对面 (6532 4054)



But history shows that capital isn't the only thing that travels along trade routes; culinary trends do, too. Sichuan, for example, didn't even have its quintessential peppercorns until Portuguese traders brought them from South America in the 16th century. So what will the traders of today bring to Beijing? How will a colossal trade project affect our diets?

In short: what the fuck do Uzbeks eat?

According to our waiter at Shash (and Wikipedia) the answer is: *shurpa* (RMB45), a lamb and vegetable stew. Uzbeks pride themselves on being settled, as opposed to their traditionally nomadic neighbors, so there's a great deal of wheat farming that manifests itself in the many noodle and bread dishes of Uzbek cuisine.

Shash, meanwhile, is a castle. Its exterior is tricked out like a medieval fortress, and the interior is even crazier. Walls are covered in playful murals of ornately dressed Uzbeks in green, red and blue. Statues of turbaned men stand at attention. Tablecloths are bright purple. I want to get drunk here. Hell, I already *feel* drunk here. But this is only stop number one, and with my *shurpa* bowl empty,

I move on to Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan borders Iran and Russia, but Beijing Azerbaijani restaurant Caspi borders the grounds of the North Korean Embassy. Decorations are sparse, much to our relief after Shash's sensory overload. Inside, we flip through the menu's heavy laminated pages and settle on meat and dried fruits atop yellow saffron rice – otherwise known as *plov*.

Any discussion of Central Asian cuisine would be remiss not to mention *plov*. A simple concept – rice plus meat, lightly flavored – *plov* is a staple throughout much of the region. It also goes by *pilaf*, *plof*, *pilov* and *polo*, depending on the country.

'You say *plov*, I say *polo*,' goes the Central Asian folk song of legend. Kidding, I just made that up to segue into the fact that Iranians say *polo*. We're going to an Iranian restaurant next.

Or we are until we find out Rumi is closed. (I know this isn't the section of the magazine where I dish openings-and-closings news, but FYI – Rumi is closed.) We almost scrap our Iran deal until we remember Persepolis is just next door, serving the 'Iranian burger

sandwich' (RMB55). While this may not sound like the most quintessential of Persian dishes, it does have the word 'Iranian' in the name. We order it.

After all, I hear great things about Iranian food – dates, pilafs, kebabs, rice stew. The Iranian burger sandwich is OK.

We move on to Turkey, China's gateway to the West. (China is Turkey's second biggest source of imports; Turkey exports predominately to Europe.) We're now four restaurants in, and I feel as if I've had enough cumin-seasoned meat to feed a Central Asian family for a month. So at the restaurant Turkish Mum, I'm excited to eat something familiar: *manti* (RMB65), Turkish dumplings.

Compared to Chinese *jiaozi*, *manti* are tiny – about the size of peanut M&M's, filled with lamb and dressed with tomato and yogurt sauce. Holly says they're not as good as Chinese dumplings. They're certainly less meaty. Perhaps I'm biased – I did have the best time of my life at a PSY concert in Istanbul one time – but I love them.

Had we more time, we could have lingered over *meze* – a traditional Turkish spread of



tiny plates (think tapas) that might include eggplant salad, salted yogurt, calamari and cheese. Turkish food has distinct Mediterranean influences.

But instead we go to Georgia, a tiny country on the Caspian Sea, and order a *khachapuri* at the restaurant Georgia's Feast. Now what's a *khachapuri*? For starters, it's probably one of the richest things you can eat in Beijing. It's as if foie gras and deep-fried pork fat had a night of slow-moving, unprotected boning and gave birth to something designed to make mildly lactose intolerant food editors very, very uncomfortable.

It is delicious nonetheless – warm, freshly baked bread filled with layers of gooey cheese and topped with a runny egg. It's such a staple in Georgia that many Georgian cities use the local price of one to monitor inflation. This is called the "Khachapuri Index."

My *khachapuri* gave me no economic information, just an orgasmic sensation on my taste buds followed by a strong desire to go to sleep. But the New Silk Road waits for no woman. "We can totally walk to the Russian place from here," I say. "I mean, it'll only take

half an hour..."

After a walk that definitely takes longer than half an hour, I order a bowl of borscht.

"Nothing else?" says our waiter. No. Oh my God no. I've enjoyed eating all day, but my stomach keeps protesting with audible grumbles.

Traktirr Pushkin is a rustic-style restaurant just behind Dongzhimen Nei Dajie, with a long menu of Russian classics and a large selection of vodka. With our beet-red bowl of borscht and heavy bloating, we have symbolically entered Europe. We have not, however, entered the EU – the Silk Road's treasured final destination – until we get to Stuff'd.

Most maps of the One Belt, One Road initiative end in The Netherlands, and while Stuff'd is not a Dutch restaurant, it does serve the elegantly named Dutch pork sausage Rookwurst. As a recent *China Daily* headline proclaims: "China-Netherlands Food Trade High on New Silk Road Agenda." This is why, after a full day of eating, we order sausage.

At this point, our stomachs are ravaged. We take one bite for the sake of our experiment, then call it a day.

This has been a hedonistic marathon of dining, sure, but an educational one too. The next day I read that the first train route to connect China and Iran has just arrived in Tehran from Zhejiang.

The day after that, I read that Russian vodka sales are down. Western sanctions on Russia have taken their toll, says the report, but China is trading with Russia more than ever.

Whether you follow the news or not, all these little geopolitical truths add up. The more China works with other countries, the more exposure those of us living in China have to those countries' cultures. Lactose intolerance be damned: I can only hope this means more *khachapuri*.

What I'm trying to say is: Cuisine matters. And cuisine changes. It is changing, constantly. And that's why the chronicling of culinary trends is just as important as the chronicling of others. It's history; it's culture.

It's also dinner. Or, if you want, seven dinners in one day. (Although I'd recommend doing one at a time.) ■



CARTOCCIO

Cartoccio is the latest to follow that quintessential Beijing trend of expat-opens-a-small-business-on-Fangjia Hutong. The kitchen (not restaurant, it's *that* small) supplies neighboring bars El Nido, Fang and Jiao with authentic Italian snacks. We loved the crispy arancini (RMB25-35, a very reasonable price).

Tues-Sun, 7pm-1am; available at El Nido, Fang and Jiao bars, all on Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区方家胡同



CAFÉ FLO

The CBD's got beef – not with anyone, but for anyone – in the form of French steak frites, which are on the menu of one of the best business lunches in town. Flo's new location in the China World Mall also offers a special shopping section with imported French foods – you know, in case that fancy lunch just wasn't enough for you.

Daily, 8am-10pm; SB124, B1/F, China World Mall, 1 Jianguomen Waidajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国门外大街1号国贸商城地下一层SB124



CACHA CACHA

Cacha Cacha serves the best bowl of khao soi we've had since that bender in Phuket. But here's the catch (catcha catcha?) – it's significantly more expensive at dinnertime, so go for a weekday lunch, when RMB98 gets you khao soi plus your choice of an appetizer and a drink. (Trust us and choose the pork neck and the lime soda, respectively.)

Daily, 11am-10pm; NLG45, B1/F, Taikoo Li North, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路11号院太古里北区地下一层NLG45 (5721 2286)



BAYI LAOYE (BARON ROZI)

Mary had a little lamb. Bayi has a lotta lamb. And cheap. This palatial spot on Gongti Beilu (no, seriously, it looks like a palace) is our new favorite for holding court over *chuan'r* and naan. The food is authentic, the prices are low and the decor is veritably bonkers. Great for groups.

Daily, 10am-10pm; 1/F New East Building, Gongti Beilu, Dongcheng 东城区东四十条东工体北路新中大厦 1/F (6981 8181)



SANTA

Why would a place named 'Santa' open after Christmas? We investigated and learned that not only is 'Santa' the Spanish word for 'saint,' but that it's also a Mexican restaurant near the German Embassy. While Santa isn't going to push Taco Bar off its salsa-covered throne any time soon, its decent tacos for just RMB35 make it a solid option if you're in the area.

Daily, 11am-7pm; 6 Sanlitun Beixiaojie, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯北小街6号 (6461 6928)



MIAN HE TANG

Even the linguistically challenged should be able to understand this name – *mian he tang* means 'noodles with soup.' And that's exactly what you should get at this packed spot on Xindong Lu. (Although you can't go wrong with the sesame tofu either.) Noodles are thick and wheaty, so come hungry.

Daily, 11am-2.30pm, 5.30-9.30pm; 110, Bldg 3, China View, 2 Gongti Donglu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体东路2号中国红街3号楼110室 (6771 2788)



XI DING DUMPLINGS

We Found Love in a Dumpling Place

words by Noelle Mateer, images by Holly Li

In Mandarin, *xi ding* means sea urchin. In Taikooli North, Xi Ding means a sea urchin dumpling restaurant that appears to only play the pop hits of international superstar Rihanna.

In short, we went to Xi Ding for the sea urchin dumplings, and left with a newfound appreciation for Rihanna chart-toppers.

Sea urchin dumplings, *xi ding jiaozi*, are a fun, briny twist on the more traditional pork *jiaozi*. And Xi Ding is a fun, stylish twist on the home-style shops in coastal Dalian where you'd typically find them: black walls; sleek, shiny tables; and the sexy beats of Barbadian Goddess Robyn "Rihanna" Fenty.

The savory dumplings (RMB58) smell faintly of the sea, steam rising above them as if they're screaming for us to eat them. Or as Rihanna sings in her staggeringly self-assured anthem of female sex-positivity 'Birthday Cake': *I know you wanna bite this, it's so enticing; nothing is like this, imma make you my bitch.*

Anyway, here's how the rest of the Xi Ding experience goes.

Our waitress brings us glasses of red wine with no explanation. We do not pay for them. Somehow this is tied in with a Dianping deal. *Cheers to the freakin' weekend, I'll drink to that,* Rihanna sings.

Then the waitress brings us our dishes: Shandong classics like lightly flavored peas with shrimp (RMB48), a hearty vegetable-and-tofu stew (RMB78), and thin vermicelli noodles (RMB68). These are nicely executed and, best of all, inexpensive – not a small feat in these Sanlitun environs.

As we are in the basement of Taikooli North, our window seats look out upon the bucolic view of designer clothing store Anna Kiki and a fancy juice place. Inside the restaurant, however, our view is of the waitresses, who are all young and conventionally attractive women in matching powder-blue Mao jackets and short black skirts. There are even photos of them on the menu, as if they're dishes we can eat. Sexism is so cute sometimes!

At the end of our meal, we realize Xi Ding's greatest feat of the night is not the sea urchin dumplings, lovely as they were. It's that not a single Rihanna song was repeated. That is two full hours of RiRi hits – starting with 'Umbrella' and ending with 'We Found Love.'

We laugh, but ultimately we don't mind – because we like the dumplings, and we like the price even more.

And you can trust us because, as Rihanna proclaims in her 2009 hit 'Rude Boy': *Babe if I don't feel it, I ain't faking, no no.*



Daily, 11.30am-2pm, 5.30-10pm; B1 - NLG15, Taikoo Li North, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路11号三里屯太古里北区B1-NLG15 (5360 1288)

HATCHERY

Have Some (Mighty) Mo

by Dominique Wong

Maybe you've heard of Hatchery. Perhaps your restaurant-loving friends have mentioned it. It certainly has Beijing's tight-knit F&B community abuzz.

But if 'hatchery' still brings to mind a place where fish or poultry eggs are hatched under artificial conditions, let us explain.

Hatchery is an incubator, but the similarities with chicken farming end there. This hatchery is brought to you by the team behind last year's Buena Onda pop-up, and it matures food and drink concepts. The crew hopes to support food entrepreneurs (food-preneurs?) by giving them space and resources to grow their businesses.

Essentially: if you've always wanted to start your own pie shop but never knew how, Hatchery is here for you.

But for its initial three months in business, Hatchery is testing out its own concepts. The first: Mighty Mo's Mussel & Beer Bar. We visit on a packed Friday night, hoping to take a bite beyond the buzz.

Everything on the menu looks great, so we

order it all – except for corn, because, well, corn. The fiery seabass *chuan'r* (RMB55), Crispy Kraken (RMB55) and truffle oil fries (RMB50) are dynamite. They would be killer accompaniments to a drinking session, if that's what you're in the mood for – just saying.

Drinking sessions, group gatherings, parties – that's what Hatchery seems built for. The large, casual space features a ping-pong table, bottle light fixtures, a trellis-like bar and sofas for lounging on. It's a more unpretentious, chilled-out Sanlitun than D-Lounge Sanlitun. We dig the vibe.

Speaking of drinking, Hatchery offers a solid beer selection (try the Tuatara APA, imported from New Zealand, RMB45) and tasty cocktails (the Pina Colada, RMB60, is like Christmas in our mouths).

Mighty Mo's, though, is all about that mussel. We loved the New Zealand green-lipped mussels in creamy Old Faithful sauce (RMB80 for 500g or RMB160 for 1kg) but found the Qingdao clams in Thai Green



Curry sauce (RMB50 for 500g or RMB95 for 1kg) a little weird – we'd prefer less musk, more zing.

As these are early days, we trust the flavors will be refined further as Hatchery comes out of its (mussel) shell. Mighty Mo's will be available at Hatchery for three months only – so get at it, Beijing.

Whether or not you put all of your eggs in its basket, this incubator is something we're excited to watch. And eat.

For up-to-date opening hours, follow Hatchery's WeChat (hatcheryasia); 12 Nongzhanguan Nanli, Chaoyang (Tuanjiehu subway, exit B, in the same yard as Classic Furniture) 朝阳区农展馆南里12号 (团结湖地铁B出口克拉斯家具院里) (6594 0188)

DELLA BOCCA TRATTORIA

7-Eleventh Heaven

words by Noelle Mateer



Della Bocca Trattoria is the most low-profile Italian opening of 2015.

And by that we mean we honestly had no idea it was even there. Sure, we saw a rogue pizza stand on Yonghegong Dajie and wondered briefly: What's that all about?

Another time, we noticed a tiny plaster Italian man bedecked in white and red in the shared stairwell between the pizza stand and 7-Eleven. Again, we wondered as we slipped in and out for some Oreos and a soda: What's that all about?

So we investigated. Let us now tell you what it is all about: There is an Italian chef making Italian food at Beixinqiao.

Up the hall from 7-Eleven is Della Bocca Trattoria, an Italian restaurant that possesses not only myriad syllables in its name, but also a chef from Rome.

Sure, the location on the fringes of Gui Jie is undeniably bizarre. But we're delighted to report that Della Bocca does not serve opium-laced hot pot. Instead, it serves what is likely the cheapest authentic Italian fare you can get in Beijing.

A meaty lasagna alla Bolognese is RMB48.

A shareable thin crust pizza margherita is RMB48. A plate of prosciutto with melon is RMB45. Our point is: You could come here with one green Mao and leave pretty full.

Either way, go for the classics. Chef Simone Marotti is fresh off the boat from Italy, and his authentic cooking is best reflected in the Italian classics we know and love. This is home-style food, after all, and it's hard to go wrong with simple dishes like spaghetti – plus the filling meat sauce will get you major caloric intake for your buck.

Downstairs, of course, is the pizza stand, which we like to think is a solid choice for anyone stumbling out of Café de la Poste or any of the bars nearby.

So next time you're running to 7-Eleven and hankering for some carbs, walk a bit further. Follow the statue of an Italian dude. Only then will you find the hidden Italian chef of Beixinqiao.

Tue-Sun, 10am-3pm and 5-10pm; 3F, 277 Dongzhimen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区东直门内大街277号三楼 (6455 3832)



LATINA GRILL

All You Can Meat

by Oscar Holland

Black bean stew, or *feijoada*, is to Brazilian cuisine what kimchi is to Korean cuisine. Or what ketchup is to British cuisine. It can go with anything, and it often does.

So before we get to Latina's barbecued meat – which is surely the reason why you'd visit a Brazilian churrascaria – we must first pay homage to its *feijoada*.

This is not because the staple stew is particularly difficult to get right. It's more that getting it wrong would be damning. To make another cross-cultural comparison: *feijoada* is to Brazilian restaurants what bread is to Italian ones. It doesn't indicate the overall quality, but if it isn't good, you should probably stand up and walk away.

Latina's *feijoada* is good. Superb, even. And

the restaurant also passes the second litmus test of authenticity by stocking Guaraná Antarctica, which, if you don't already know, is your new favorite soft drink. It is Brazil's second-best-selling soda (after Coca Cola, naturally), and for very good reason. In fact, paying a visit to Liangmaqiao's burgeoning Grand Summit building might be worth it for this alone.

While you're there, we suggest getting some barbecued meat. Because this is Latina's *raison d'être* – its succulent, slow-cooked forte. The restaurant specializes in putting cuts of animal onto skewers and rotating them on an open flame. In Shanghai, where there are five branches, Latina has been doing exactly that since 1998.

So stop pretending to thumb through the à la carte menu and just order the all-you-can-eat-barbecued meat (RMB228). To do anything else would be missing the point. (Unless you opt for the 'deluxe' option which, for an additional RMB70, also includes seafood, grilled mozzarella and – believe it or not – more meat: Argentinean sirloin and tenderloin.)

Your barbecue odyssey begins at the buffet, however. Here you'll find a comprehensive selection of vegetables, stews, pasta dishes and *feijoada* (we mentioned that, right?). Tempting as it may be, overloading your plate would be foolhardy. The best is yet to come. And when we say 'best' we mean 'barbecue'; and when we say 'come' we mean 'delivered to your table by a friendly man with a large knife.'

And so it begins. Wave after wave of meat arrives – short rib, rib-eye, skirt, lamb leg and more besides. Some is cut directly onto our plates; some must be secured ourselves with mini-tongs. But all is tender and consistently flavorful. We recommend that – amid the beef blitz – you keep an eye out for the *picanha*, a popular cut in Brazil that butchers elsewhere incorporate into the rump or loin. It's easy to spot: just imagine what a Swiss roll would look like if it was made from beef.

Emerging with a curiously enjoyable case of the meat sweats, it becomes clear to us that a simple two-question test is all you need to determine whether you'll enjoy Latina Grill: Do you like excellent barbecued meat? And are you unusually hungry?



Daily, 11am–11pm; 201, 2/F, Grand Summit Building,
19 Dongfang Donglu Chaoyang 朝阳区东方东路19号
(8531 5287, www.latinagrill.net)

SO LONG, CHINA

by Trevor Marshallsea



“I knew why we’d come and roughly how long we’d stay. In fact, a planned one year became seven. Sound familiar?”

After seven years, the time has come to write my farewell to China. The temptation with such pieces is to lean towards the wistful or the melancholic, or to gild the odd lily. But if there’s one thing I’ve learned in journalism around the world, it’s that you can’t coat flowers with gold.

To be clear, it didn’t drive me nuts to be in China, in my case Beijing. I knew why we’d come – my wife’s medical career – and roughly how long we’d stay. In fact, a planned one year became seven. Sound familiar?

What was also clear is that we’d stayed long enough. As friend after friend left roughly on schedule (and it’s hard after a while to make friends with newcomers), we became those expats who stayed because they couldn’t quite get it together to leave. Until now.

But instead of those above-mentioned sentimentalities, I’d rather quote from Monty Python’s *Holy Grail*. When our heroes finally reach Camelot, instead of being entranced, they’re nonplussed by a lot of ... nonsense. King Arthur turns and says: “On second thoughts, let’s not go to Camelot. ‘Tis a silly place.”

After a while, the silly bits of Beijing might make you question why you live here. A lot of it is novel for a time, and challenges your ideas of how things should be done, if we’re putting it nicely. But after a while, for me the feeling was “OK, done it now. Time to get back to my own element, and the things that ‘really’ nourish my soul, not just things I’ll dabble in for a while.”

Being an expat here feels like floating through life. You float down the street not knowing what that sign says, what that shop does, or what those people are talking about. That depends on your level of Mandarin, but if you can understand the chatter, can you relate? Are you captivated by that which interests locals, which therefore represents that most basic of lifestyle questions when anyone goes anywhere: What’s there to do here?

We know about the pollution. Suffice to say

that if you’re in a place where you must first check an app before knowing whether it will harm you to go outdoors, then make no bones about it—that place is a silly place. The long-term risks are still largely a mystery.

But there are other pointers in the traffic. Behold, the minor bump. When two cars collide, or let’s say ‘rub,’ and the owners are then not allowed to move them until the matter is settled, even if an inch-long scratch means many thousands of people on that ring road will be held up, then you’re in a silly place.

When two cars rub on a smaller street, and the cars don’t move, and a crowd of 30 people gathers to watch the ensuing discussion, this is not only silly, you really have to ask: “So, what’s there to do around here?”

And when two people stroll onto a road, then must quickly retreat because – bugger me! – there are cars on it, and then fall into fits of giggles over the whole episode, you have to ask: “C’mon guys! Surely you’ve had funnier things happen?”

Anyway, there’s nothing to do – I’ve made many lamented trips through traffic jams to and from the Great Wall (what the hell does that wonder do, by the way?) – but perhaps it’s worse for those who have no interest in fake handbags and restaurants. If shopping and eating ticks all your boxes, then maybe Beijing’s the place. Mind you, once cheap, Beijing is now very expensive.

My biggest tip for Beijing is to get a bicycle. My nighttime rides along China’s main street, Chang’an Avenue, singing loud like a local, getting no odd looks but instead waves and smiles from my fellow riders, goes in as my favorite memory.

China’s also great for meeting interesting people from

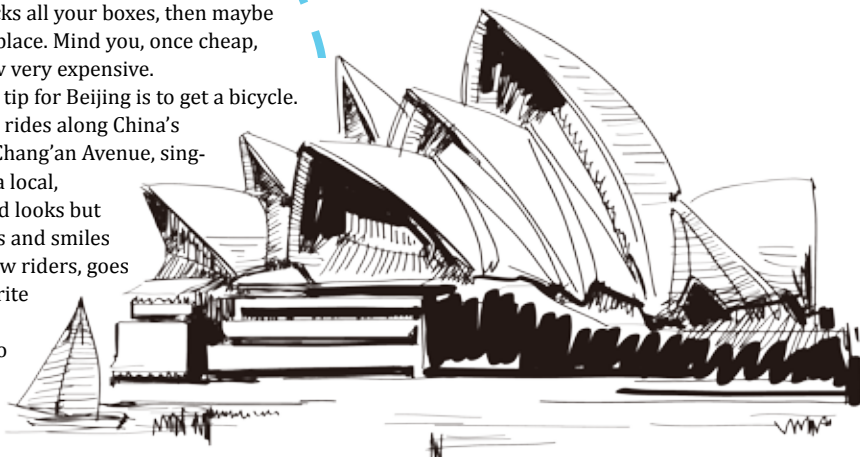
all over the world. Your kids get a world view (at their staggeringly expensive international schools). Beijingers are mostly nice at the micro level, and you get an ayi, though they are also available in other places.

So we’re off to Sydney. It’s expensive, the traffic can suck, but its air is fragrant (in a good way). There are many clean and convenient things to do – beaches, parks with walkable grass, world-class arts, sport and so on.

I’m leaving some friends who’ve been in China for 20 years, doing well in business, having a wonderful holiday each year for one month, but mostly tolerating the other 11. To each their own, but personally, I’d worry that quality of life was passing me by.

(The views expressed here are those of this columnist, and not his wife, who really will miss her patients and won’t, say, dance about with a lampshade on her head like that big bald bloke in her living room. Also, next month I’ll really say goodbye with one last column – “from the other side.”)

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



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THE MONTH ON THATS MAGS.COM

COMMENT OF THE MONTH

"That's funny. The name of the restaurant really doesn't fit the location. They will be surprised when they travel to Beijing to see the real Hutong"

-- User Moon River, on 'Can London's "Hutong" Restaurant Beat the Real Thing?'

INSTAGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Thanks to @chinctic.s for tagging #thatsbeijing. Tag your pictures on Instagram for a chance to be featured on our feed.



VIDEO OF THE MONTH

WATCH: Shenzhen Market Upgrades iPhone from 16 to 128GB

A Shenzhen market is offering massive storage upgrades for a fraction of the price charged by Apple.



Follow That's Beijing on WeChat



● Blackbird Blackbird Gig

The adjective 'dreamy' is used all too often by writers describing Mikey Maramag's sound. Unimaginative perhaps, but it really is the most appropriate word. Under the alias Blackbird Blackbird, the San Francisco native crafts echoic slices of floaty folktronica on albums with equally dreamy names, like *Tangerine Sky* and *Strawberry Light*.

Tue Mar 8, 8.30pm; RMB100 (presale), RMB120 (at the door); Modernsky Lab, 5-108, Floor B1, Building D, Galaxy SOHO, Dongcheng 东城区朝阳门银河SOHO D座B1层5-108

● AraabMuzik Gig



Abraham Orellana (aka AraabMuzik) can do unimaginable things with a drum machine. And while the 26-year-old has already made beats for the likes of A\$AP Rocky and Busta Rhymes, his live set is where his talent truly shines. Not to be missed.

Thu Mar 3; RMB80 (before 11), RMB100 (after 11); Dada (see Listings for details)

● Godspeed You! Black Emperor / Gig



"No singer, no leader, no interviews, no press photos" is the stated philosophy of Canadian post-rockers Godspeed You! Black Emperor (expressed in an email interview with *The Guardian*, ironically). This poses a challenge to magazines like ours. We would love to have given the band a glassy two-page feature, but they'll have to settle for a humble event box.

But don't take this as any less of an endorsement. There are few better things you could do this month than catch the eight-piece's famously soaring, layered live show. A year on from their 40-minute, four-track opus *Asunder, Sweet and Other Distress*, Godspeed's fans may be hoping for a return to the back catalogue which was largely ignored during the band's 2015 gigs.

Mon Mar 14, 8.30pm; RMB280 (presale), RMB 360 (at the door); Hit FM Live (Tango), 3/F, 79 Hepingli Xijie, Dongcheng 东城区和平里西街79号 糖果3层

● Electric Lady Festival / Festival



With a name referencing Jimi Hendrix's 1968 album *Electric Ladyland*, this two-day festival features 21 female – or female-fronted – acts over two nights at Yugong Yishan and School. Organized by broadcasting platform Yema Live and record label Douban Artist, the festival aims to celebrate the role of women in Mainland rock.

On March 7, Yugong Yishan hosts Li Xiaoyun, Gemini, Twinkle Star, Wang Shengnan and Gabrielle. On March 8, it's Jiang Xin, South Acid Mimi Dance Team, New Cake, Cheng Shijia and Xu Fei (pictured). Over at School, meanwhile, Girl Kill Girls, S-Mud, H.C.R., Wusuoazai and Twenties will play on March 7. The following night sees performances from The Power Powder, Platanus, Time Street, Free Sex Shop and Quick Shot.

Mar 7-8, 8pm; Yugong Yishan: RMB70 (presale), RMB100 (at the door); School Bar: RMB60 (presale), RMB80 (at the door) (see Listings for details)

● Juliana Huxtable Gig



New Yorker Juliana Huxtable is something of a creative polymath. Not only is the poet, artist, DJ and model putting on a gallery in Beijing (we'll announce the details on thatsmags.com once they're confirmed), but she'll also be taking over Dada for a night. We're not quite sure what to expect, but the success of Huxtable's infamous weekly New York club night, Shock Value, would suggest that she knows how to throw a party.

Thu Mar 10; RMB50; Dada (see Listings for details)

● Moonsorrow Gig



Scandinavian men with waist-length hair seem to just love hanging out in forests. Moonsorrow are no exception. Thankfully, the Finnish metalheads are venturing out from their natural habitat to a venue near you. Mythology and folk legend are weaved through Moonsorrow's discography, which includes heartwarming hits like 'Tuleen ajettu maa' ('A Land Driven into the Fire') 'Pakanajuhla' ('Pagan Feast') and the characteristically uplifting 'Nälkä, väsymys ja epätoivo' ('Hunger, Weariness and Despair').

Sun Mar 6, 8.30pm; RMB280 (presale), RMB400 (at the door); Modernsky Lab, 5-108, Floor B1, Building D, Galaxy SOHO, Dongcheng 东城区朝阳门银河SOHO D座B1层5-108



● Beijing Walks Tour

With temperatures almost back into double digits again (in Celsius, that is), it's time to leave the house and start exploring again. Beijing Walks is a new walking tour specializing in routes around 'Old Beijing,' aka inside the Second Ring. Forget tourist traps: Beijing Walks offers participants the chance to experience local daily life and authentic food. Fare includes lunch in a local restaurant.

Every Saturday and Sunday, 10am-2pm; RMB100; routes vary; for more information, contact Beijing Walks on WeChat (cesarcasellas) or telephone (186 1204 4492)

● Rotary Club New Member Lunch Reception Community



Learn more about the Rotary Club of Beijing's mission and projects at the Club's New Member Lunch Reception. There will be presentations from club officers offering a quick overview of the group's philanthropic work. Those interested in volunteering are also welcome to attend.

Tue Mar 22, 12.30-2pm; Kempinski Hotel, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区亮马桥路50号 凯宾斯基饭店

● Jing-A Spring Fever Ski Break / Trip



Spring Festival may be over but Jing-A is keeping the fun bus going (literally) with a spring ski trip to Chongli. There'll be a bus full of kegs and good times; all you have to do is show up – and let Jing-A do the rest (as long as you throw down some RMB, of course). Destination: Thaiwoo, a brand-new resort being built for the 2022 Olympics. The RMB1,500 ticket price includes ski or snowboard (and gear) rental for two days, weekend lift passes, a Jing-A winter hat, a one-liter growler of Jing-A beer, apres-ski dinner party (with free-flow Jing-A beer), hotel accommodation, and transportation to and from Beijing. Oh yeah, hell yeah, damn yeah – a cracking weekend, indeed.

Mar 5-6, 7am departure from Jing-A Taproom; RMB1500; Thaiwoo Resort 上午7点从京A; 太舞滑雪场来 (For ticket details check out Jing-A's WeChat: jingabeer)

● Be Yourself: Empowering Women for our Future / Campaign



While March 8 is International Women's Day, the folk at The British Embassy and Consulate are going one step further and dedicating the entire month of March to a China-wide campaign focused on empowering women in society and the economy. The campaign hopes to raise awareness of the benefits of gender equality, celebrate successful women, bring people together to discuss key issues, and encourage male participation in the conversation. Events include panel discussions, TED-style talks, educational events, film screenings and video interviews created by female filmmakers.

Events taking place throughout March, see the most up-to-date event information at www.gov.uk/government/world/china

● Australia & New Zealand Rock Through the Ages Ball



Rock on at the Australia and New Zealand Rock & Roll Ball 2016, featuring live musical guests, Mental As Anything. With a four-course dinner, free-flow drinks, raffle prizes and a DJ till late, it will be mental as... anything? Purchase tickets at Hatchery (12 Nongzhanguan Nanli, Chaoyang, phone 6594 0188).

Sat Mar 5, 6.30pm-late; RMB1,200 per person (RMB12,000 for a table of 10); Sofitel Wanda Beijing, Tower C Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Jie, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国路93号万达广场C座

● Fight Fusion Exercise



Fight Fusion, a popular Martial Arts-style training program (formerly known as 'Fight Camp'), has arrived – bigger and better than ever, with a new name and new program.

Fight Fusion offers a six-week training program covering a broad range of martial arts. The workouts, which combine boxing, MMA, Muay Thai, bodyweight exercises, kettle bell movements and more, are guaranteed to get you into shape – and fast. There are three different 6-week sessions to choose from at RMB1,500 each; to sign up for the next Fight Fusion training camp, send an email to signup@fightfusion.asia; WeChat (fightfusion)



● TRIBE x Jing-A Easter Brunch Takeover Dining

The organic food pros from TRIBE are serving a three-course brunch for Easter... at Jing-A. Feel better about all those beer calories with fresh kale salads, naturally colored eggs, chicken sausage patties and a surprise dessert.

Sun Mar 27, 11am-2.30pm; RMB100; Jing-A Taproom (see Listings for details)

● Indonesian Food Week Dining



The flavors of Indonesia are taking over Feast for one week. Set menus available at lunch and dinner will showcase the recipes of Feast's own Indonesian staffers.

Through Fri Mar 4; RMB128 for two-course lunch, RMB158 for three-course lunch, RMB188 for four-course dinner (all plus 15 percent service charge); Feast, food by EAST, Beijing, 2/F 22 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路22号 北京东隅酒店二层 (8426 0888)

● Gala Dinner and Discussion with Chef Ken Hom Event



Ken Hom is the celebrity chef to end all celebrity chefs. He's cooked for Elton John, served royalty and been on British TV for over 30 years – and now he's coming to Beijing as part of the Bookworm Literary Festival. At this special event, Hom will prepare a truffle-filled menu paired with fine wines, as well as speak about his dishes and take questions.

Sat Mar 19, 7pm; RMB588 plus 15 percent service charge; Green T House, 318 Hegezhuang Village, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang 朝阳区崔各庄乡合各庄村318号; to reserve email (peter@chinabookworm.com)

● Cookie Monster Charity Cookie Bakeoff Event



It's too late to submit your own recipe into this year's charity cookie bakeoff – but it's not too late to sample everyone else's. Just RMB150 at the door will get you samples of every cookie and a glass of milk to go with, and best of all, the proceeds go to charity. We can hardly think of a better way to spend a Sunday afternoon. Bring your appetite.

Sun Mar 20, 2-5pm; RMB150 (RMB100 for The Hutong members); The Hutong (see Listings for details)

● Stella Artois Recommends / Eudora Station



While Eudora Station hasn't been around for *quite* as long as Stella Artois (which has over 600 years of brewing expertise, don't you know), it's still something of a Beijing institution. The Lido stalwart has become a go-to spot for expats and locals alike, and it has that 'community' vibe often lost in this oversized city of ours.

The menu is packed with hearty Western fare, spanning pasta, ribs, burgers, soups and much else besides. Eudora's pizzas are some of the best in the neighborhood (and go down well with a pint of the good stuff – the spicy Mexican pizza that we tried on our last visit needed a cool beer to take the edge off).

While Eudora certainly caters to the nostalgic tastes of its foreign patrons, we were pleased to find some less obvious items added to the menu since our last visit. The thin slices of Japanese takaki beef (RMB69) and smoked wild boar salad with grapefruit (RMB69) were particular standouts.

But perhaps best of all, this Lido institution has a fantastically well-stocked bar (or multiple bars, if you include upstairs). There's an enviable range of cocktails and beers, so if you fancy sticking to a liquid diet, grab a Stella and catch some of the live music that goes down every Wednesday to Saturday between 9.30pm and 1am.

Eudora Station Beijing, opposite Lido Palace, 6 Fangyuan Xi Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区芳园西路6号 丽都广场对面 (6437 8331/8334)



● The Miser Theater

Habima Theatre, the national theater of Israel and one of the first Hebrew language theaters, presents *The Miser*, a five-act comedy in prose by the French playwright Moliere. The (almost) 350-year-old play blends satire and farce for a memorable experience.

Mar 8-10, 7:30pm; RMB180-680; Capital Theatre, 22 Wangfujing Jie, Dongcheng 东城区王府井街22号首都剧场 (tickets available via sales@theatrebeijing.com)

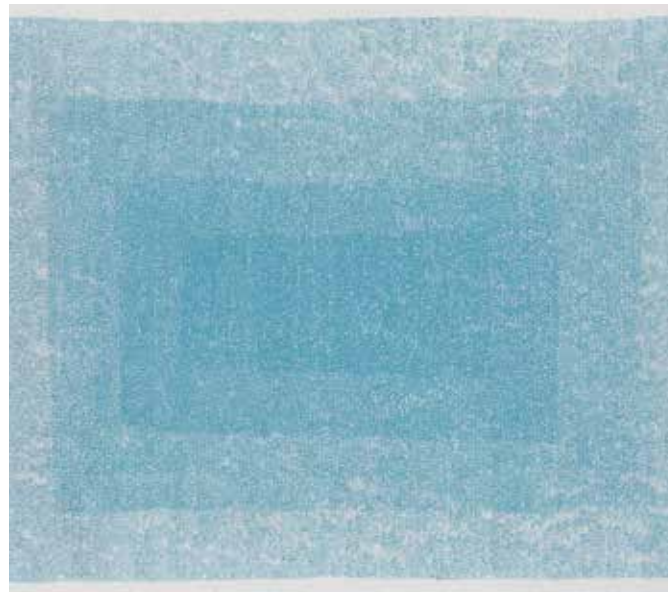
● Shanghai Express Film



As well as showcasing the excellent pairing of renowned director Josef von Sternberg and actress Marlene Dietrich, *Shanghai Express* is also a fascinating look into American views of China in the 1930s. Look out for trailblazing Chinese-American actress Anna May Wong in a supporting role.

Sun Mar 20, 7-10.30pm; RMB50 (RMB20 for CY students); Culture Yard (see Listings for details)

● 'Between moments – Between hollows' / Art



Liu Deng's solo exhibition sees him use a seemingly endless intersection of lines to show the positive and negative space in a maze of patterns. The exhibition displays ink lines weaved into rice paper, with the artist's paintings often divided into sections. The overall effect is a sense of color 'disappearance' as tones are blended between said sections. Deng's dream is to "make a painting with a pattern of thousands of invisible interlaced lines." Intrigued? Check out 'Between moments – Between hollows' while you can.

Mar 5-Apr 9, Thu-Sat, 2-7pm (or by appointment); Jiali Gallery, 4 Beijixiang Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区北吉祥胡同4号 (138 1022 9370)

● Duo Harrington-Varga Global Chamber Music / Classical



Violinist Gregory Harrington and pianist Matei Varga team up for a night of musical bliss at NCPA. Dublin-born Harrington has toured and performed as a soloist across the Americas, Asia and Europe, including Carnegie Hall in New York, Symphony Hall in Boston, and the Oriental Arts Center in Shanghai. He has also performed with the San Diego Symphony, Naples Philharmonic and the Irish Concert Orchestra, among others.

Matei Varga, meanwhile, has been praised as "the greatest young Romanian pianist" (by Enescu Festival News, 2013). He has garnered gushing reviews from critics around the world, with superlatives such as 'magical' and 'spectacular' employed with abandon. Varga has also appeared as a soloist and recitalist in many of the world's top leading concert halls, such as Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall (New York) and the Auditorium du Louvre (Paris).

Fri Mar 11, 7:30pm; RMB120-200; Multi-functional Theatre of NCPA, 2 West Chang'an Jie, Xicheng 西城区西长安街2号 (tickets available via sales@theatre-beijing.com)

● Hot Cat Comedy Night Stand-up



One of the best stand-up nights in Beijing, Hot Cat's Comedy Night is hella funny and – even better – free. The night features regular four-minute spots from China Comedy Club comedians, plus open-mic spots for randoms. Expect plenty of cheap laughs, on tap.

Every Wednesday throughout March, 9-11pm; free; Hot Cat Club, 46 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区方家胡同46号 (6400 7868)

● The Lei Family, the Royal Architects Drama



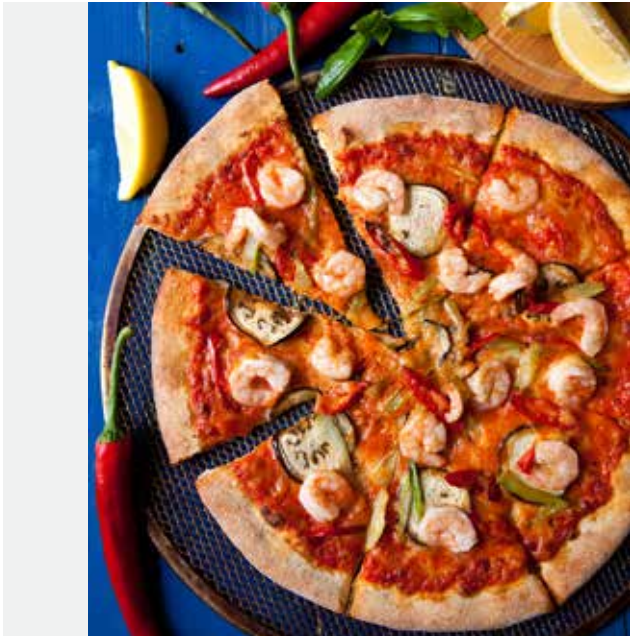
The NCPA brings the legend of *The Lei Family, the Royal Architects* onto stage after four years of preparation. The drama tells a patriotic story of architect Lei Siqi, and his son Lei Tingchang, as they participate in reconstructing the royal gardens amid the great social changes taking place during the late Qing Dynasty. The NCPA has brought together a formidable cast and creative team for the drama, including playwright Huang Weiruo and director Cao Qijing.

Mar 4-8, 7:30pm; RMB180-500; Drama Theatre of NCPA, 2 West Chang'an Jie, Xicheng 西城区西长安街2号 (tickets available via sales@theatrebeijing.com)

WEEKLY SPECIALS

Food and Drink

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



Gung Ho! Pizza

Gung Ho! Pizza has so many specials it's hard to know where to start. How about: buy-one-get-one pizza all-day Tuesdays? Or, a RMB59 lunch buffet from 11.30am-2pm, every day. Better still: check out Gung Ho's happy hour, between 7-10pm, every night. And don't even get us started on their delivery deals. (OK, if you insist: try the upsize special – where you can upsize your pizza from medium to large between 1-4pm Monday to Friday, for free.) So many deals, so much pizza. In the words of Gung Ho: Go! Go! Go!

Every day at Gung Ho! Pizza, Sanlitun: 101 Building 3 China View, 2 Gongti Dong Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体东路2号中国红阶大厦3号楼101室(8587 1404); Lido: Shop 2, Hairun Int'l Apartments, Cnr Jiangtai Lu and Fangyuan Xi Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区将台路乙2号海润国际公寓 (5135 8557); Shuangjing: 10-9 Fuli City Xingguang Dadao, Chaoyang 朝阳区富力城, 星光大道10-9 (5876 5262). Delivery hours: Daily, 11am-11pm

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)

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)

MEI

All cocktails half off from 6-9 pm.
> 5F Rosewood Beijing, Jing Guang Centre, Hujialou, Chaoyang District 朝阳区呼家楼一号京广中心北京瑰丽酒店3层 (6536 0083)

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

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, 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)

MEI

A glass of champagne or a champagne cocktail free for all ladies. Veuve Clicquot Yellow Label buy one bottle, get one free all night long.
> 5F Rosewood Beijing, Jing Guang Centre, Hujialou, Chaoyang District 朝阳区呼家楼一号京广中心北京瑰丽酒店3层 (6536 0083)

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)

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)

MEI

'Mad Men' Thursdays, selected bottles of whiskey half off.
> 5F Rosewood Beijing, Jing Guang Centre, Hujialou, Chaoyang District 朝阳区呼家楼一号京广中心北京瑰丽酒店3层 (6536 0083)

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)

CITY SCENES



Badass chefs are ready to face off at Hacker-Pschorr.



Woman at Crultaly's wine tasting at The Italian Center finishes first wine so fast, she orders two.



Participants in the Eat! Drink! Inspire! Charity Gala at Rosewood Beijing eat, drink and inspire, but mostly drink.

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.

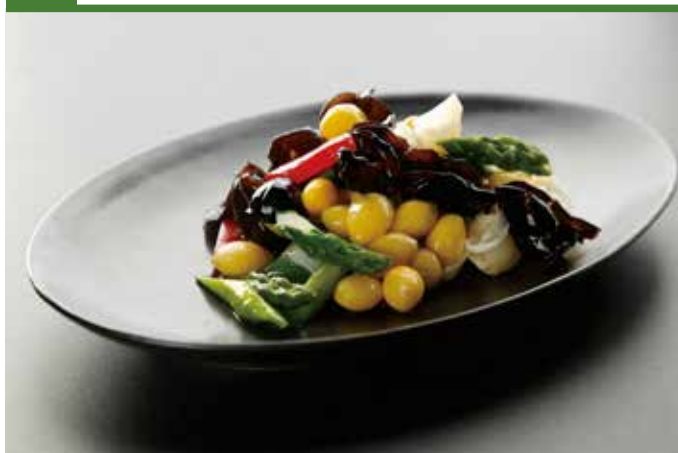
Corona Sunsets Parties in Winter



LISTINGS

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

OPEN DOOR



LU YU, CONRAD BEIJING

A New You

If you indulged to excess over the New Year, never fear: Lu Yu is looking out for you with its new Rejuvenate and Recharge menu. Chef Simon delivers a range of healthy vegetarian options, beautifully prepared to maximize the ingredients' natural and medicinal properties and taste. We especially love the braised Yunnan wild mushrooms in soy sauce (RMB78) and organic kidney beans with Chinese yam (RMB58), plus a cheeky bit of Chinese pastry (RMB38). Fresh as anything.

> Mar 1-31, available lunch and dinner; Lu Yu, 1/F, Conrad Beijing, 29 North Dongsanhuan Jie, Chaoyang District 朝阳区东三环北路29号 1楼 (6584 6290)



HOME PLATE BBQ

Meals on Wheels

Home Plate BBQ is all about creature comforts. Beer on tap? Check. Massive projector screen? Uh-huh. BBQ burgers and ribs? Yes, ma'am. Indeed, one of the best parts about Home Plate BBQ is its, well, BBQ, and now Home Plate is making it even easier for you to grab a plate of the good stuff with its new BBQ meat trolley, which is (literally) doing the rounds at the restaurant's Sanlitun location. So, if you see a cut of BBQ you'd like to try on the trolley, all you have to do is tell the waitstaff the amount you'd like and then, voila, it's yours. Talk about great service. We suggest the beef ribs or, for non-BBQ options, the delicious house chili.

> Home Plate BBQ (see Listings for details)

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 Qianian Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区祈年大街8号新世界酒店2层 (5960 8822)

Bellegio 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.bellegiocalfe.com.cn for more locations

Din Tai Fung 鼎泰丰 ¥ (Taiwanese)

This Taipei-based franchise impressed Ken Horn 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

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, 81/F, The Opposite House, Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯北路11号院1号楼 瑜舍酒吧1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号北京上东盛贸饭店二三层 (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

Country Kitchen

The name 'Country Kitchen' may sound like

a diner, but a diner this is not. Rosewood Beijing's resplendent Northern Chinese restaurant serves elegant Hebei fare unlike you've ever had it. Excellent peking duck is on offer as well.

Daily, 11:30am-2:30pm and 5:30-10:30pm; 3F Rosewood Beijing, Jing Guang Centre, Huijialou, Chaoyang District 朝阳区呼家楼一号京广中心北京瑰丽酒店3层 (6597 8888)

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 Dongsishitiao, Dongcheng 东城区东四十条甲22号 (5169 0328); see www.dadong.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)

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)

Shanghai

Shanghai Min 小南国

Many swear this chain has the best Shanghai-style *hongshao* 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 11 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 Li 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号院南区三层S9-30 (6415 3535)

South Memory 望乡园

This restaurant chain is the Hunan staple in the capital. The trademark *shiliang niurou* (fragrant beef), *duojiao 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 *lazi ji* 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.yuxin997.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 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 II 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 Geju 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 东城区钟楼弯胡同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 teal 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 Beiliuoguxiang. 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 Beiliuoguxiang, 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 *jiaozis* (six, under RMB10) wrapped in a larger *yuandao* silver-ingot 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)

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 Dongsi Liutiao, 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)

Makey 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, Jiaoguomenwai, 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 Dongsi Liutiao, 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

Barolo ¥¥ (Italian) *

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

Grange Grill **

Located in the Westin Beijing Chaoyang, Grange Grill serves up some of the city's best steak, seafood and grill offerings. The restaurant's welcoming decor provides a relaxing atmosphere to enjoy a glass of cocktail or a fine vintage from the extensive wine collection. Be sure to try the 'luxurious oyster feast,' where you can enjoy the delicacy raw, grilled or with cheese.

> Lunch: Mon-Fri 11:30am-2:30pm, Sat and Sun 11:30am-3:30pm; Dinner: Daily, 5:30-10:30pm; The Westin Beijing Chaoyang 7 North East Third Ring Road, Chaoyang 东三环北路7号 (5922 8888)

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

OPEN DOOR



THE RUG CHAT ROOM

I Want You In My (Chat) Room

When we ask cofounder Elin how The Rug got its name, she laughs: "Because 'The Carpet' sounded bad!" Jokes aside, The Rug consistently rolls out the red carpet for its guests, and The Rug Chat Room is no exception. Other parts of Chaoyang Joy City, where it's located, may overwhelm, but Chat Room is an oasis of peace and relaxation.

And sliders. Chat Room's added new recipes to its menu, and the results are delicious. We loved the vegetarian sliders on soft green buns. We had fun cooking our own beef on hot stones. We pecked our way through a sizzling bowl of spicy shrimp. And, as always, we washed everything down with delicious fresh juice and tea. It was a workday, but had it not been, we would have gotten wine involved, too. We can't think of a better place to unwind after an afternoon of shopping. Or just a regular afternoon, for that matter.

> Daily, 10am-10pm; 6/F-31, Joy Yard, Chaoyang Joy City, 101 Chaoyang Beilu 朝阳区朝阳北路101号朝阳大悦城6F-31



JIA, AT NUO HOTEL BEIJING

Crustacean Nation

How many ways can you cook a lobster? Well, if you're one of the wonderfully inventive chefs at NUO Hotel's Chinese restaurant, Jia – quite a few. For the very reasonable price of RMB550 (+ 15 percent service charge) you can try five different varieties as part of a special March lobster promotion. The lineup looks like this: Wok-fried Boston lobster with ginger and leek, steamed Boston lobster with *huadian*, steamed Boston lobster with leaf mustard, crispy Boston lobster in green pepper sauce (with soup), and Boston lobster with gel paste in clay pot. Yep that's right: five different ways of preparing a lobster, and each as delicious as the last. Catch them while you can.

> Promotion available throughout March; 2A Jiangtai Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区将台路2号 (5926 8281, www.nuohotel.com)

(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. The Chef crafts a superb squash tortellini by hand, and pampers diners with desserts like the deconstructed tiramisu.

> 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, 6-10pm; 23 Songzhushi Temple, Shatan Bejie, Dongcheng 东城区沙滩北街嵩祝寺23号 (8400 2232)

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 Songzhushi Temple, Shatan Bejie, 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 gastropub 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号芳草里L1-22 (5662 8777)

Bistro B

Rosewood Beijing's exquisite French restaurant is the sort of place chefs like to eat. Expect lavish luxury.

Daily, 11:30am-2:30pm and 5:30-10:30pm; 1F Rosewood Beijing, Jing Guang Centre, Huijialou, Chaoyang District 朝阳区呼家楼一号京广中心北京瑰丽酒店3层 (65360066)

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 朝阳区光华东路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, Shunyuanti, Xinyuan Jie, 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)

Miss K Cafe (Xing Fu Morning)

Whether it's a rainy morning or a sunny afternoon, relax with your favorite novel and a cup of freshly brewed coffee. Experience a quiet moment of serenity amid the hustle

and bustle of Beijing.

> Daily, 8am-8:30pm; 1/F, Tower A, East Gate Plaza, Dongzhimen, Dongcheng 东城区东直门东环广场A座一层幸福咖啡馆 (6418 1096)

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)

Sizzler

Sizzler invented 'casual dining' in Australia when it introduced the first soup, salad, pasta and fresh fruit concept. Since those pioneering days, it has expanded its 'classic grill' to include, not only steak and seafood, but also delicious chicken dishes, BBQ ribs, combination meals, and burgers.

'Variety' and 'freedom to choose' set Sizzler apart from other dining experiences. At Sizzler customers are free to control the volume, nutritional balance and variety of each meal by ordering from the grill and helping themselves to our famous soup, salad, pasta and fruits.

> All stores open daily, 10am-10pm; Wangfujing Oriental Plaza Store 王府井东方广场 (8518 6315); Chongwenmen Glory Mall Store 崇文门门瑞购物中心店 (6714 0399); Wangjing Capital Mall 望京凯德购物中心店 (6471 3876); Wanlu BHD 万柳华联商场店 (8258 9405) Wan Shoulu Crystal Capital Mall 万寿路凯德精品店 (6826 086); Xizhimen Capital Mall 西直门凯德购物中心店 (5830 2199); Sanlitun Shimao Gongsan 三里屯世贸万达三店 (8400 4014); Changying Paradise Walk 常营龙湖天街店 (8539 0438); Tianjin Joy City 天津大悦城店 (8728 1620)

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 东城区前门胡同9号 (6407 6308)

Tomacado



Tomacado is indeed a mash-up of 'tomato' and 'avocado' – and while you'll certainly find these ingredients on the menu, you can also expect pleasant drinks, light soups and heartier main courses from this charming cafe. Fowers are also available for sale.

> Daily 10am-10pm (Lunch start from 11am, Only afternoon tea served on Mon-Fri 2:30-5pm). No. 19/20, B1/F, Jia Ming Center, 27 Dongshanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东三环北路27号嘉铭中心地下一层19/20号 (6500 3354)

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 Houjie, 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 Beiliuguxiang, Dongcheng 东城区北锣鼓巷甲70号(近南锣鼓巷)(8408 3069)

Café Zarah (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.

> Open Daily, Mon-Fri 8am-9pm, Sat-Sun 9am-9pm; 1 Sanlitun Soho Store: B1-239, Building 2, Sanlitun SOHO, 8 Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北路8号院, 三里屯SOHO, 2号楼B1-239 (5785 3762 / 15910944325); 2) 751 D-Park Store: No.4, 798 Dashanzi Art District, Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路4号798大山子艺术区751动力广场 (6432 2798 / 13522120390); 3) 798 Dashanzi Art District Store: D09-1, No.4, 798 Dashanzi Art District, Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路4号 798艺术区D09-1 (5978 9067 / 13051771436); 4) China Central Mall Store (Hua Mao): China Central Mall, Room L315, 81 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国路81号L315 8588 7978 / 15652922791); 5) Jianguomenwai DRC Store: Building 7-1-11, 1 Silk Street, Chaoyang 朝阳区秀水街1号 建国门外外交公寓7-1-11 (8532 2633 / 18701092189) www.cafeatwhite.com, cafeatwhite@hotmail.com, WeChat username: Cafe-Flatwhite

Café Flatwhite

Hailing from New Zealand, Café Flatwhite uses fresh and healthy ingredients in its tasty selection of sandwiches, pizzas, salads and brunch options, all served alongside some of the best coffee in Beijing.

> Open Daily, Mon-Fri 8am-9pm, Sat-Sun 9am-9pm; 1 Sanlitun Soho Store: B1-239, Building 2, Sanlitun SOHO, 8 Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北路8号院, 三里屯SOHO, 2号楼B1-239 (5785 3762 / 15910944325); 2) 751 D-Park Store: No.4, 798 Dashanzi Art District, Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路4号798大山子艺术区751动力广场 (6432 2798 / 13522120390); 3) 798 Dashanzi Art District Store: D09-1, No.4, 798 Dashanzi Art District, Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路4号 798艺术区D09-1 (5978 9067 / 13051771436); 4) China Central Mall Store (Hua Mao): China Central Mall, Room L315, 81 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国路81号L315 8588 7978 / 15652922791); 5) Jianguomenwai DRC Store: Building 7-1-11, 1 Silk Street, Chaoyang 朝阳区秀水街1号 建国门外外交公寓7-1-11 (8532 2633 / 18701092189) www.cafeatwhite.com, cafeatwhite@hotmail.com, WeChat username: Cafe-Flatwhite

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, B101b Nali Patio South, 81 Sanlitun Beilu Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路81号B101B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)

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)

Ricci

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 Zhongyuanqun 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)

TRIBE

Salads, wraps and sandwiches, and noodle and grain bowls are as tasty as they are holistic, and there are more superfoods in one single dish than we even knew existed. Come hungry, leave basking in the warm, glow that comes from knowing that you are eating well. Kombucha is the icing on the (organic, locally-sourced) cake.

> 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; 5B-33, 3/F, Bldg 8, Taikoo Li South, 19 South Sanlitun Street, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯太古里南区三层 (6416-5829) > Additional locations in The Kerry Centre, Raffles Mall Dongzhimen (see www.online.thatsmags.com for details)

Burgers

Blue Frog



Blue Frog is pleased to introduce a creative new Drinks Menu. As the new year begins, this new menu will wake up everyone's taste buds with a bevy of specialty and original cocktails, mocktails, shots, beer, wine and healthy drinks inspired by popular ingredients.

> All open Daily 10am-late; 1) 52-30, Level 3, S2 Tower, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路19号三里屯太古里南区三座52-30 6417 4030 ; 2) No.167, 1/F, 18 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路18号1层167号 8426 0017 ; 3) No.125, 1/F, Bldg 1, Sanfeng(North), Chaoyang 朝阳区三丰北里1号楼1层125号 8561 2665 ; 4) Unit 15-16, 1/F, Bldg AB, Ocean International Center, 10 Jintong Xilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区金桐西路10号远洋光华国际中心AB座一层15 16单元 8590 3168

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)

American/BBQ/Grill

The Big Smoke

Taking the Home Plate BBQ concept and upscale 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)

Union Bar and Grill

The definitive US-style diner in Beijing, Union's extensive menu – from eggs Benedict to baby back ribs – covers all the 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 Chaowai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝外大街6号新威国际1号楼101 (6533 6380)

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) 叉叉 *

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 5-10:30pm; 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) 叉叉 *

The bill is hopefully on the company kiai 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)

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, Xingtu: No.55-7 Xingfucun Zhonglu, opposite of April court, Chaoyang 朝阳区幸福村中路55-7杰作大厦底商 绿叶子超市斜对面 8448 8250 > Central Park: No.0103 building 20, Central Park, No.6 Chaowai Avenue, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝外大街6号 新城国际20号楼103 6533 6599 > shunyi: No.11-102 Shine Hills, No.9 Antai Avenue, Shunyi 顺义区后沙峪安泰大街9号 祥云小镇南门11号楼102 8048 5080

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

Annie's 叉 *

Now a certified Beijing institution, Annie's, serves up the city's most reliable Italian fare. Delivery is free anywhere between Line 5 and the Fifth Ring Road (call for delivery prices outside this area), and can be ordered in English between 10.30am and 10.30pm from www.annies.com.cn or by calling 8589 8366. Alternatively, drop in to your local branch.

> All open Daily, 10.30am-11pm; 1) Beijing Riviera: opposite west gate of Lane Bridge Villa, Shunyi 朝阳区来广营东5号长岛澜桥别墅西门对面尚古城一楼 (8470 4768); 2) Lido: Jiangtai Lu, opposite United Family Hospital 朝阳区将台商业街4号楼2楼 和睦家医院对面 (6436 3735); 3) Wangjing: 2F, beside the Daimler Hotel, LSH Plaza, 8 Wangjing Jie 朝阳区利星行广场A座戴姆勒大厦裙楼2层 近望京商业中心 (8476 0398); 4) Chaoyang Park: West Gate of Chaoyang Park 朝阳区朝阳公园老西门南侧 (6591 1931); 5) Sanlitun: China View Building, opposite East Gate of Workers' Stadium 朝阳区工体东门对面中

国红街一楼 (8587 1469); Ritan Park: Ritan High Life, 3F, north of Ritan Park 朝阳区神路街39号日坛上街3-108号 (8569 3031); 7) The Place: East of the Place, south of Central Park 朝阳区金桐西路10号远洋光华国际中心AB座1层 (8590 6428); 8) Guomao: Ruisai Business Building (southeast of Guomao subway) 朝阳区东三环南路2号瑞赛大厦商务楼1层 (6568 5890); 9) Sunshine 100: Guanghua Lu, opposite Sunshine 100 Building 朝阳区光华阳光100公寓对面 首经贸南门 (858 98366)

Assaggi 叉 *

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 叉 *

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 叉

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, Jinrong 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)

Della Bocca Trattoria 叉

Good-value homestyle Italian is the order of the day at this little-known spot in Beixinqiao.

> Closed on Monday; Dinner: 5-10pm; Lunch: 10am-3pm; 3/F, 277 Dongzhimen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区东直门内大街277号三楼 雍和宫大街和北新桥头条交叉处的四层商业楼三楼 6455 3832, 1391 0969 240

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商舖 (www.gaiagroup.com.hk/isola-beijing, reservations@isola-beijing.com; 6416 3499)

Mercante 叉 *

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 东城区方厂胡同4号 (8402 5098)

Opera Bombana 叉

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号福芳草地地下2层21号 (5690 7177)

Spanish

Niajo 叉 *

With homely Mediterranean influences and a charming management, 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)

Agua 叉 *

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 Middy-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)

Aria 叉 *

This gold standard of opulence has crafted a new Spanish menu. A fantastic place for paella brunch. 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)

Migas 叉 *

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)

German

Brotzeit German Bier Bar & Restaurant

博琛德国啤酒餐厅 Brotzeit offers its customers a unique experience with authentic German cuisine and world famous German beers in a casual environment. Coupled with its contemporary setting and unique brand appeal, Brotzeit is distinct from the traditional-style German restaurants still seen in Germany and other parts of the world.

>Daily 11am-late; F109, Grand Summit, bldg 5, 19 Dongfang Donglu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东方东路19号楼(DR外交办公大楼)一层F109 (8531 5166, www.brotzeit.co)

Drei Kronen 1308 *

Authentic (truly – when they say 1308 they mean it!) 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

Al Safr 阿拉伯餐厅

>Daily 11.30am – 10pm, Shop 6-12, 35 Food Street, Ocean Express Building, 66 Xiaguangli, Chaoyang 朝阳区霞光里66号远洋新干线美食街35号6-12铺 (51304243)

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)

Pinotage 叉 (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号东门外楼 (5785 3538) > Additional location in Shunyi (see online. thatsmags.com for details)

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)

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 三里屯北路33号3.3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.on-line.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3.3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号1层, SA-48 (5905 6106) > SOHU Shangdu Branch: SH112, SOHO Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区东大桥路8号SOHO尚都 SH112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)

Asian

Indian

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))

Bhoimi Store Indian Food Shop

Bhoimi stores One stop destination where a wide range of Indian & Pakistani food products are served. 266 Yaohong Lu, by Hongsong Dong Lu, Minhang District, (021-2428 3400)

> Mon-Sat 9.30am-9.30pm, Sunday 2-7pm 闵行区姚虹路266号, 近虹松东路

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 non-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)

South-East Asian

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)

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

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号楼悦汇A座 201室 (6477 7387)

Malacca Legend

Malaysian food with a view, this spacious and airy restaurant sits on the banks of Shunyi's Roma Lake and at a new unit in the heart of the city at The Place, making a

great spot for their beef rendang or green curry pawns.

> Daily 11am-10pm; 6 Roma Lake: 6 Luodong Lu, Luozhehuang Village, Hoshiyao Town, Shunyi 顺义区后沙峪镇罗各庄村罗马湖北路6号院 8049 8902 > Signature: Shop L203, 2/F, The Place, 9 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区光华路9号世贸天阶2层L203 6587 1393

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 Kapit-an-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)

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)

Even 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号和芥大厦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 Inanawa 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 (8517 2838)

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 Tuanjieshu Beisiantiao, Chaoyang 朝阳区团结湖北三条甲7号(6436 1608)

Sui Ka

Is this what after-work hangouts are like in Japan? We're not sure, but we hope so: This charming izakaya nails it when it comes to sake selection and fried delights to munch alongside it.

>Daily 5pm-1am, Ichibangai First Avenue Food Court, Zaoying Nanli, Maizidian, East 3rd Ring Road, Chaoyang 朝阳区东三环农展馆北路宾都苑东侧一层底商一番街内 (137 1692 7543)

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 Qianliang 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 composure 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 东城区香饵胡同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, 68 Chaoyangmenwai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳门外大街乙6朝外SOHOHOD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-Scandinavian 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, 13 Beiluoguxiang, Dongcheng 北锣鼓巷13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 6677)

Capital Spirits

A team of non-China natives doing a baijiu 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, Zhangzhizhong 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 piece next door is one of the best locally.

> Daily 6pm-late, 59 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng District 东城区方家胡同50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号工人体育场东门内 (6593 8227)

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 Douluo 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)

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号泰悦豪庭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)

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 (clientele) 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 art-work 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层 (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)

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-Thu 8pm-4am, Fri-Sat 8pm-5am, Ritian 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 Beiluoguxiang, Dongcheng 东城区北锣鼓巷40号 (6406 1871)

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. Grunge without being grimy, Mao's eschews flash while still keeping it real. And those pizzas.

> 12 Banchang Hutong, Jiaodaokou, Dongcheng District 东城区交道口南大街板厂胡同12号 (6405 5718,

www.maomaochongbeijing.com)

Mesh 麦

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 Xingfuercun, Chaoyang 朝阳区新东路幸福村239-8 (8444 4135)

Revolution 革命

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, 朝阳区工体北路秀秀市场西侧 (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, Zhanchunyuanyuan Xilu 展春园西路奇勤大厦南侧2层

The Irish Whiskey

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)

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)

Trouble Bar

Beijing's leading venue for imported craft beers. Stocks a large draft selection and an even larger selection of bottles. Also does a nice line in creative cocktails, if brews aren't your thing. Conveniently located next to Gung-Ho, hosts a fully-sized foos-ball table, darts, and plenty of TV's to accommodate any event, meetings, and gatherings.

> 2-101, China View Building, 2B Gongti Donglu, Chaoyang District (Next To Gung-Ho) 朝阳区工人体育场东乙号中国红街2-101叫板比萨隔壁 (8590 0390, troublebar@gmail.com, www.troublebar.com)

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 Dongsi Batiao, Dongcheng 东城区东四八条56号 (6538 5537)

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 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 loungey 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 book-home-for-the-babysitter crowd.

> 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiadaokou 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)

MAO Livehouse 光芒

From the denim-jacketed doorman to the well-graffittied 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 Xianghuyuan Lu, Dongzhimenwai, Dongcheng District (next to MOMA Cinematheque) 东城区东直门外香河园路1号当代MOMA园区T8楼北老老汇电中心北侧 (8400 4774)

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206B楼202 (131 6107 0713)

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)

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 Zhangzhizhong Lu (100m west of Zhangzhizhong Lu subway station), Dongcheng District 东城区张自忠路3-2号 (6404 2711)

Sports Bars

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 朝阳区工体北路4号院 (6591 9525)

Paddy O'Shea's

An entire Irish-themed pub, which could easily be transported, untouched, from a back alley in Limerick and gently deposited in central Beijing. With plenty going on, including pub quiz and sports.

> 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 朝阳区工体北门外东侧 (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 RM55-70 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 Ritan 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 ghastly 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外 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 朝阳区工人体育场北门外 (5293 0333)

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 700AQL PM2.5.

> Mon-Fri noon-2am, Sat and Sun noon-4am. 80/F, China World Summit Wing, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District 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)

MEI

One of the livelier hotel bars in town, MEI has a nightly band, serves creatively delicious cocktails and overlooks the CCTV 'trousers'. Don't leave without trying the delightfully delicious Panjiayuan Bramble. Mon-Wed 6pm-2am, Thu-Sat 6pm-3am, Sun 5pm-midnight; SF Rosewood Beijing, Jing Guang Centre, Huijiaolou, Chaoyang District 朝阳区呼家楼一号京广中心北京瑰丽酒店3层 (6536 0083)

BEAUTY & FITNESS

Alona Pilates Studio

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号威斯汀酒店五层 (139 1029 0260, www.alonapilates.com)

Beijing Hikers

Want to experience the wild, unrestored Great Wall, away from the tourist masses?

Or do you just want to get out of the city for some exercise? Beijing Hikers offers hikes in the countryside of Beijing every week all year round. Hikes for all fitness levels! Regular hikes are priced from RMB380, with discounts for members. Cost includes hiking guide, transportation, tickets, food and water. We've also got adventures all over China.

> For more information, visit www.beijinghikers.com

Black Golden Tanning Studio

古铜日晒中心

Beijing is hardly the best place to pick up a natural tan. When it finally reaches the warm summer, the sun's rays struggle to penetrate the smog. Thankfully, Black Golden Tanning Studio is on hand to give you that golden glow with its quick, safe and effective technology. With a membership card, enjoy a 50-minute session for RMB400 and come away with natural, healthy-looking color.

> Sanlitun: 11am-9pm, 2/F, Bldg 3, Sanlitun SOHO, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯SoHo 3号楼2层217 (5785 3711, jusonghao@hotmail.com); > Wangjing: 11am-9pm, Rm T5, 3/F, BOTAL International Building, 36 Guangshun Bei Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区望京广顺北大街36号博泰国际商业广场3层T-5 (84722855)

Daisy's Beauty Salon



Daisy's Beauty Salon
 ☎ 51000556 | 51000557
 "The city's leading experts offering wonderful Brazilian waxing in Beijing!" - Fran Collins
 ● Permanent hair removal
 ● Laser & IPL treatments
 ● Slimming treatments
 ● Chocolate Wax
 ● Massage
 ● Facials
 First Visit 10% off

Since 2001, Daisy's beauty salon has catered to thousands of Beijing expats and locals and is renowned for its premium waxing services and imported wax that smells like hot chocolate. If waxing isn't your thing, the salon also specializes in an array of other treatments including IPL Facial Rejuvenation and lifting, a 90-minute treatment that uses a laser to stimulate collagen production and soften lines. The salon's slimming treatment is also proving popular and effective.

> Daily, 10am-8.30pm, Rm 301, Building B, Sunshine 100 International Apartment, Guanghua Donglu, Chaoyang 朝阳区光华东路100国际公寓B座301室 (5100 0556 / 0557, www.daisysbeauty.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 Dongdanghuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区东三环中路建外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 eyelash services, of pampering treatments and waxing too.

> 3.3 Flagship store: Daily 11am-11pm, Shop 5009, 5/F, 3.3 Fashion Plaza, Sanlitun, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯3.3大厦5层5009号 (51365919) > 3.3 Star store: Daily 11am-11pm, Shop 2049, 2/F, 3.3 Fashion Plaza, Sanlitun, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯3.3大厦2层2049号 (51365829) > Yashow shopping mall: Daily 10am-10pm, Shop 22, 4/F, Yashow shopping Mall, Sanlitun, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯秀秀购物中心4层22号 (64166441) > Shimao store: Daily 10am-10pm, Shop E301, 3/F, ShiMao shopping center, Sanlitun,

Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯工体北路世茂购物中心3层 E-301号(85900569) >Ginza store: Daily 10am-10pm, Shop B1-11H, Ginza Mall, Dongzhimen, Dongcheng 东城区东直门东方银座Mall B1-11H号(84477178) >CapitaMall Crystal store: Daily 10am-10pm, Shop B1-09, CapitaMall Crystal, Haidian 海淀区复兴路51号凯德晶品购物中心B1-09号(88197078) >CapitaMall Wangjing store: Daily 10am-10pm, Shop K01, 2/F, CapitaMall Wangjing store, Guangshun Beidajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区广顺北大街凯德望京购物中心2层 02-K1(56020736) >Carrefour Siyuanqiao store: Daily 10am-10pm, Shop 08, 3/F, Carrefour Siyuanqiao store, Yijiu Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区四元桥家乐福购物中心3层08号(64771889)

Broad 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 东城区东长安街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 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 朝阳区西大望路12号望京写字楼C-D座 (400 0989 809, 138 1088 7442, www.jingmeihealth.cn)

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, rhynoplasty, among others).

> Unit 2002, 1/F, Vantone Center, 6A Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳门外大街甲6号通中心B座一层2002 (010-59073390, 18612483390, www.zellbeauty.com)

Sport

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)

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)

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

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层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)

HAIR SALONS

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 Center Shopping Mall, 国贸商城区域3楼 209, (8535 1002, 131 4667 9913), 43 Sanlitun Beijing Nan, Chaoyang, 三里屯北街南43号楼 (135 0137 2971)

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 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

SPA & MASSAGE

Angel Hands Massage Center

Essential Oil SPA (original price: RMB288/hr), promotional price RMB230/hr now. Let us release your stress and make you smile wherever you go... Aroma Soothers Therapy Massage, Rose Oil (RMB 280/min); Aroma Relaxation Massage; Aroma Lomi Lomi; Deep 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, CBDGuomao, Chaoyang 朝阳区国贸建外SOHO, 5号楼301 (138 1182 1008)

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 Donghuan 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 朝阳区南三里屯路逸羽酒店一层 (6593 6066); 3) Grand Summit Plaza, 19 Dongfang Donglu (100m north of Lufthansa Center), Chaoyang District 朝阳区燕莎桥东方东路19号外交会所1层(燕莎中心路北100米) (8532 3122)

Orchid Spa

Purify your mind, body and soul at Orchid Spa, an authentic Thai spa in the heart of Sanlitun. Orchid's Thai massage therapists use quality hand-made oils to deliver an extraordinary experience. Services include wifi, complimentary tea and dessert, and on-site underground parking.

> Daily, 12pm-12am; Sanlitun SOHO Tower 5, B1-532, 8 Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工人体育场北路8号三里屯SOHO五号商厦B1-532 (Reservation only: 5785 3123, service@orchidspa.cn)

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)

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, 118B 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 海淀区中关村科学园南路2号凯讯资讯中心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号华贸中心公寓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号燕莎东侧盛捷福苑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 北京和融家医院牙科诊所, 顺义区天竺开发区荣祥广场818 (8046 1102)

Joinway Dental



As one of Beijing's most reputable and trusted dental practices, Joinway Dental provides the perfect combination of cutting edge technology and comfortable treatment, while maintaining the strictest sanitary and sterilization processes. The clinic uses imported materials of the highest quality and its professional, US-trained staff offers a personalized and private service.

> Mon-Sat, 9am-6pm; 11D, Building D, Oriental

Kenzo Plaza (Ginza Mall), 48 Dongzhimen Wai Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区东直门外大街48号东方银座D座 11D (8447 6092/93, mobile:1326 181 6708, joinway@dentalcn.com, www.dentalcn.com)

SDM Dental 固齿齿科

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:6505-9439/31/93**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.北京顺义区天竺镇裕翔路99号欧陆广场LB07-08号 Tel: 8046-6084**Mon-Fri 9am-8pm. Sanyuanqiao>FC22.2, 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东大街金源燕莎购物中心Mall4层 4076B Tel:8859-6912/13**Mon-Sun, 10am-7pm Guomao>Rm 5, 3/F, North Tower, China Overseas Plaza, 8 Guanghua Dongli. 北京朝阳区光华东路8号中海广场北楼3层05号 Tel: 5977-2488

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)

American-Sino OB/GYN/Pediatrics Services 北京美华妇儿医院

> 18 anyuan road, Chaoyang district, Beijing 北京市朝阳区安苑路18号 Tel (010)8443-9666, http://bj.americanoobgyn.com

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 1106/111 Lufthansa Center, 50 Liangmahe Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区亮马桥路50号燕莎中心写字楼1106室 (6465 1561/2/3, 6465 1384/28, www.imcintl.cn)

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 和睦家门诊. 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号北京国际俱乐部酒店. 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区首层16号. Tel: (10) 5927 7005 www.ufh.com.cn, patientservices@ufh.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 北京港澳国际医务诊所

Dongshihitiao: 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 Xinyuanli, 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A8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 朝阳区京顺东桥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 8537)

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@rsmith.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

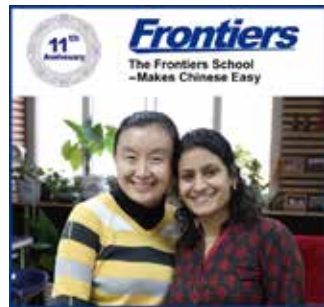
Beijing Juncheng Language School 北京君诚语言学校

> 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办室 (6525 9932/6526 7539) 2) Gucheng Village, 15 Huoshu Lu, Houshayu Town, Shunyi District 顺义区后沙峪镇火沙路古城段15号 (8049 0307)

The Bridge School

北京桥汉语学校
> (The Bridge School Head office) Room 503, 5/F, Guangming Hotel, 42 Jianguangqiao Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区亮马桥路42号光明饭店5层503室 (15321793321 Gretchlin)

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 东城区东直门外东中街30号3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)

International Schools

Beijing BISS International School 北京BISS国际学校

> Building 37, Area 4, Anzhen Xili Chaoyang District 朝阳区安贞西里4区17楼 (6443 3151 www.biss.com.cn)

Beijing City International School 北京东成国际学校

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 朝阳区百子湾南二环路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 朝阳区香江路甲2号院8号楼 6432 8228 ext. 800, 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 Huajiadi Beili, Wangjing, Chaoyang District 北里18号 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). BSF 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 Dongsi Shitiao, Dongcheng 东城区东四十四条50号 Tel: 131 2025 0341/ 8401 3974; e-mail: lamaisonmontessoripk@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 school.

> E-tower School(Guomao Area): Room 904-905, 9/F E-tower Building E数码世界9层904-905(6598 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(84418391) 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, Hegezhuang, 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

> www.isb.bj.edu.cn 10 Anhua Lu, Shunyi District 顺义区安华路10号 (8149 2345)

Springboard International Bilingual School 君诚国际双语学校

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, Huoshu 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 东西国际学校

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

Located in downtown Honglingjin Park since 1995, Yew Chung International School of Beijing (YCIS Beijing) offers a truly international curriculum for children of foreign nationals in China. The school follows the National Curriculum for England but also integrates an extensive Chinese language and culture program, allowing foreign nationals to get the best out of their time in China. YCIS Beijing is one of only five schools in China accredited by three separate accreditation organizations and has a 100 percent pass rate within the IGCSE and IB programs. In addition, YCIS Beijing is the only international school in China to receive the Cambridge Award for Excellence in Education from the University of Cambridge International Examinations.

> Honglingjin 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

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 朝阳区卷石路机场路丽都广场2 6506 4805 3/F; Block D Global Trade Mansion Guanguhua Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区光华路世贸国际公寓D3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, Guangqu Jiayuan, Guanguamenwai, Dongcheng District 东城区广渠门外广渠家园21号楼 8) 8478 0578 Baoxing International Phase 2, Wangjing Chaoyang District 朝阳区望京宝园国际社区2期 9) 8047 2983 Block 1, Arcadia Villas, Houshayu Shunyi District 顺义区后沙峪罗马环岛北御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20号首府社区内

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 Dongshihuan Beilu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区东四环北路6号阳光上东二期 (5130 7951) 3) Middle & High School > 38 Nan Shiliu, 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 an elementary school starting from grade 1 in September 2014.

> 1) Qianfa Gardens Campus: North gate of Qianfa compound, 15 Maquanying, Chaoyang District 朝阳区马泉营15号泉发花园北门(6431 8452, www.hokschools.com) 2) Victoria Gardens Campus: 15 Chaoyang Gongyuan Xilu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区公园西路15号维多利亚花园(6538 2624, www.hokschools.com)

Ivy Schools 艾薇幼儿园

> www.ivyschools.com 1) East Lake Campus (8451 13801) C-101, East Lake Villas, 35 Dongzhimenwai Main Street, Dongcheng 东城区东直门外大街35号东湖别墅C座101室; 2) Ivy Bilingual School 艾薇双语幼儿园 Ocean Express Campus: (8446 7286/7) Building E, Ocean Express, 2 Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区东三环北路2号远洋新干线E座 3) Orchard Garden Campus: (8439 7080) Orchard Garden, 18 Xinjin Lu, Cuige Xiang, Chaoyang 朝阳区崔各庄乡新锦路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11号 Rm106, warehouse, 653 Waima 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)

Other

Atelier Art School

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> Sanlitun campus: C202, Jinxinyuan, Xingfucun Zhonglu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区幸福村中路瑞泰国际C202 (64161614 / 1324018498) > Shunyi campus: 204-205, Bldg 2, Central Park, 16 Yufeng Lu, Shunyi (Go to 2/F from Entrance A of Commercial Buildings) 顺义区裕丰路16号院会展楼2号楼204-205 商厦入口2楼 (5686 4243 / 15110098260, contact@atelier.cn.com, www.atelier.cn.com)

CLASSIFIEDS

ACCOMMODATION

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> 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
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Lusongyuan Hotel

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> 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

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> 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)

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> E-mail: sales@gtrcresidence.com
website: www.gtrcresidence.com
Tel: 85765666

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> 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

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Tel: 6564 9999

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> 7 Dongsanhuan Zhonglu Chaoyang District.
Tel: 8588 2888

Oakwood Residence Beijing

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reschaoyang@oakwoodasia.com
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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
北京市东城区王府井大街138号新东安广场写字楼2座7层

Zhongyu Mansion [New]

北京中宇大厦
6/F, Zhongyu Mansion, No.6 North Workers Stadium Road, Chaoyang District
北京市朝阳区工体北路甲6号中宇大厦6层

Diplomatic [New]

北京亮马桥外交办公大楼
17/F, Tower E, Liangmaqiao, Diplomatic Office Building, 3rd Embassy District, Chaoyang District
北京市朝阳区第三使馆区亮马桥外交办公大楼E座17层

Kerry Centre - South Tower [New]

北京嘉里中心-南楼
10/F, South Tower, Kerry Centre, No.1 Guanghua Road, Chaoyang District
北京市朝阳区光华路1号嘉里中心南楼10层

Landgent Building [Coming Soon]

北京乐成中心
5/F, Block A, Landgent Center, No.20 East Middle 3rd Ring Road, Chaoyang District
北京市朝阳区东三环中路20号乐成中心A座5层

China World Tower 3

北京国贸三期
15/F, China World Tower 3, No.1 Jianguomenwai Street, Chaoyang District
北京市朝阳区建国门外大街1号国贸中心3座15层

Lufthansa Centre

北京燕莎中心
C203, Lufthansa Centre, No.50 Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang District
北京市朝阳区亮马桥路50号燕莎中心C203

Kerry Centre

北京嘉里中心
11/F, North Tower, Kerry Centre, No.1 Guanghua Road, Chaoyang District
北京市朝阳区光华路1号嘉里中心北楼11层

Pacific Century Place

北京华贸中心
14/F, IBM Tower, No.2A North Workers Stadium Road, Chaoyang District
北京市朝阳区工体北路甲2号IBM大厦14层

China Central Place

北京华贸中心
9/F, Tower 2, China Central Place, No.79 Jianguo Road, Chaoyang District
北京市朝阳区建国路79号华贸中心2号楼9层

Parkview Green

北京侨福芳草地中心
15/F, Office Building A Parkview, Green,

No.9 Dongdaqiao Road, Chaoyang District
北京市朝阳区东大桥路8号芳草地办公楼A座15层

China Life Tower

北京中国人寿大厦中心
5/F, China Life Tower, No.16 Chaoyangmenwai Street, Chaoyang District
北京市朝阳区朝阳门外大街16号中国人寿大厦5层

China Life - West 北京中国人寿大厦-西

West, 5/F, China Life Tower, No.16 Chaoyangmenwai Street, Chaoyang District
北京市朝阳区朝阳门外大街16号中国人寿大厦5层西区

IFC

北京财富国际中心
10/F, IFC East Tower, No.8 Jianguomenwai Street, Chaoyang District
北京市朝阳区建国门外大街甲8号财富国际中心东座10层

Prosper Center

北京世纪财富中心
6/F, Tower 2, Prosper Center, No.5 Guang Hua Road, Chaoyang District
北京市朝阳区光华路5号世纪财富中心2号楼6层

Financial St. Excel Centre

北京金融街卓越中心
12/F, Financial Street Excel, Centre, No.6 Wudinghou Street, Xicheng District
北京市西城区武定侯街6号卓越国际金融中心12层

NCI Centre

北京新华保险大厦中心
15/F, NCI Tower, No.12A Jianguomenwai Street, Chaoyang District
北京市朝阳区建国门外大街甲12号新华保险大厦15层

Taikang Financial Tower

北京泰康金融大厦
23/F, Taikang Financial Tower, No.38 East Third Ring Road, Chaoyang District
北京市朝阳区东三环北路38号泰康金融大厦23层

Zhongguancun Metropolis Tower

北京中关村欧美汇大厦
7/F, Metropolis Tower, No.2 Dongsan Street, Zhongguancun Xi Zone, Haidian District
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 Add.: Level 6, Sun Palace Building, Taiyanggong, Beijing
 Ms. Stephanie Yan, Mobile: 18210080591
 Email: sales.beijing@corporateso.com
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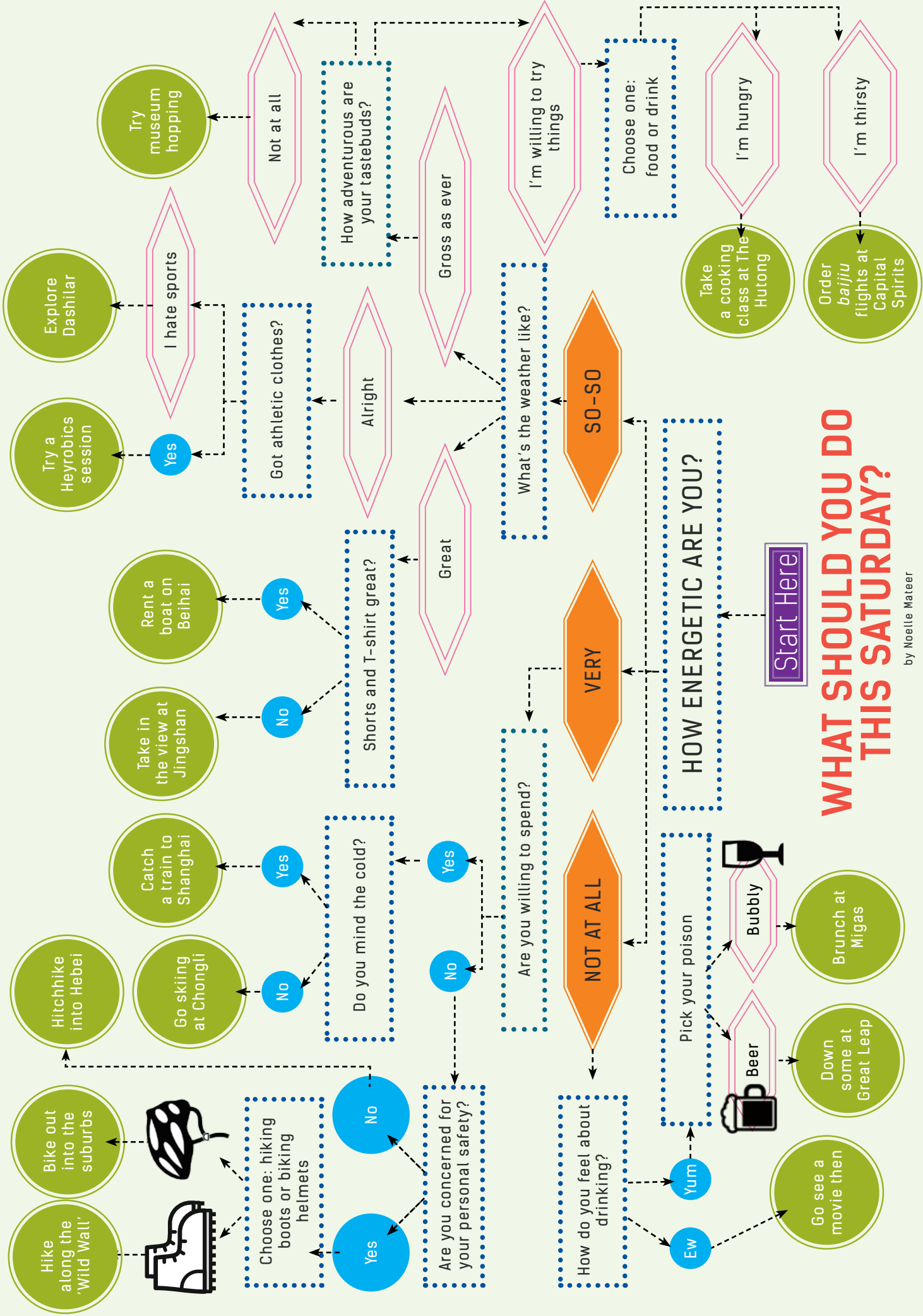
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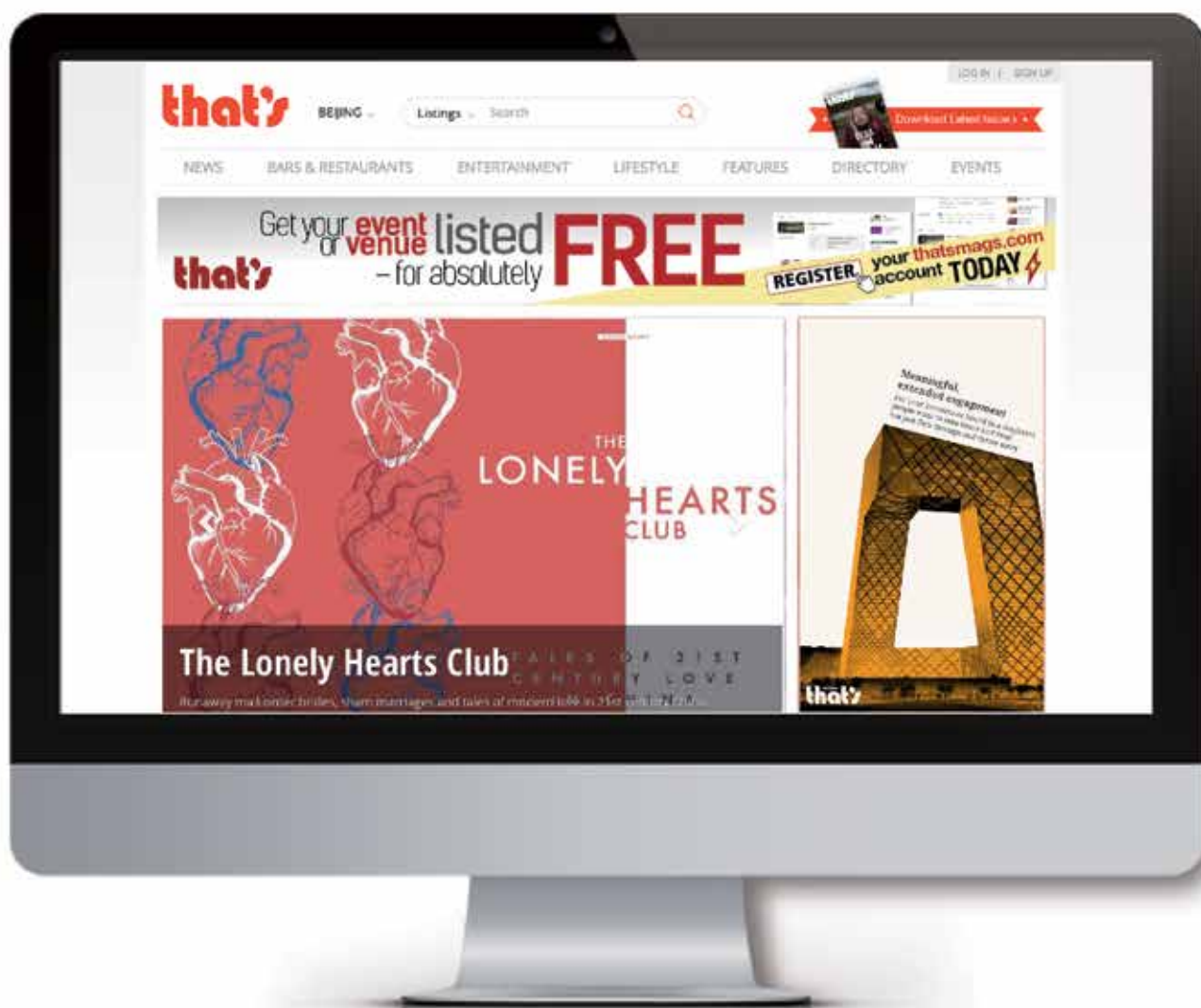
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