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May/June Issue

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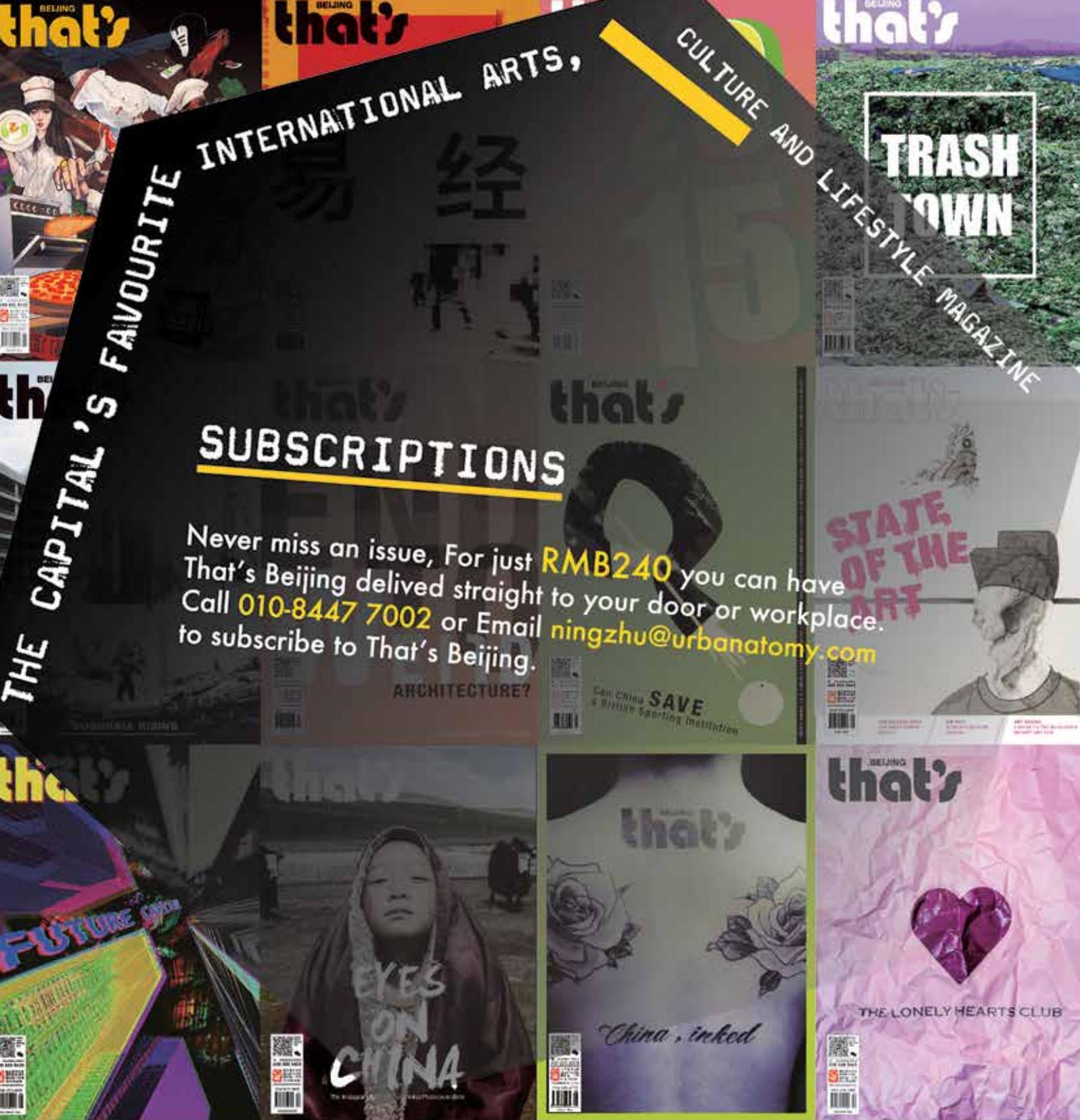
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EDITOR'S NOTE

MAY

I DON'T MAKE A HABIT OF CALLING OUT OTHER JOURNALISTS. WE'RE ALL JUST TRYING TO get by. But the more stories I saw about Yujiapu Financial District (Tianjin's vast empty 'replica' of Manhattan), the more I suspected that reporters' descriptions of an abandoned ghost city were unduly sensational.

We paid a couple of visits last month and found far more than I'd been led to believe. The area isn't exactly bustling yet, but for this month's cover story (page 42) I make the case that this isn't particularly surprising given that it's not finished yet. Even if the city hasn't come alive yet, the story is brought to life through stunning images from our staff photographer Holly Li.

It is fitting (though entirely coincidental) that this month also sees the launch of our new-look Tianjin supplement. Yujiapu may not have many great places to eat and drink *just yet*, but Tianjin proper does. We profile the best of them as we announce the winners from our latest Food and Drink Awards in the city.

Elsewhere in the magazine, Dominique Wong gathers some opinions on the late Zaha Hadid's Beijing legacy in our new regular architecture feature (page 9); Andrew Chin shines a light on the Chinese finalists at this year's Sony World Photography Awards (page 10); and Noelle Mateer meets the food importers trying to break the Chinese market, before bringing you her characteristically sardonic take on the month's restaurant and bar openings (from page 52).

I end with a fond farewell to our National Life & Style Editor (and the Editor-in-Chief of our sister publication *That's Shanghai*), Marianna Cerini, who departs after more than four years' service. Having joined as contributor to the Beijing magazine in July 2012, she is one of our longest-serving staff members. During this time she has produced some fantastic features, looking at topics from Chinese makerspaces to the absurd luxury pet market. She's debunked plenty of fads along the way, and this month she takes on juicing and the market for 'health' foods (page 20).

While I trust that we'll see Marianna's byline in the magazine again in the near future, I shall take this opportunity to wish her all the best on behalf of everyone at *That's*.

Ciao,



Farewell from everyone at *That's* to my Shanghai counterpart, Marianna.

Oscar Holland
Editor-in-Chief

DEALS

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QUOTE OF THE ISSUE

“I want to turn this whole building into the USA – United States of Africa!”

African food importer Max Wang talks about his business plans, page 54



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We get an exclusive look at China's finalists from the 2016 Sony World Photography Awards

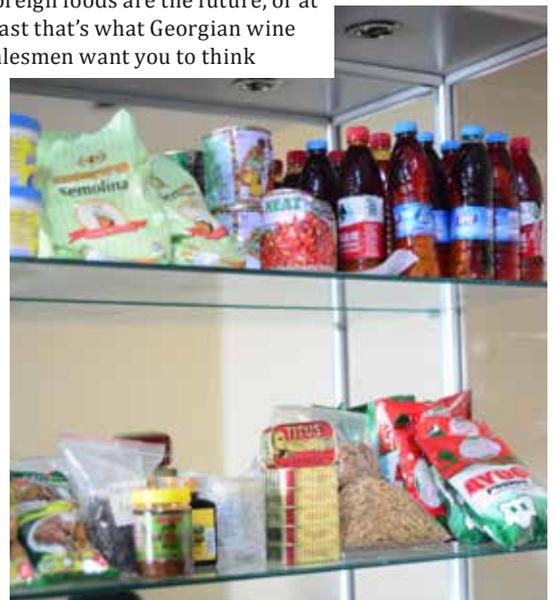
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Reports of Tianjin's Yujiapu as a 'Ghost City' may be a little more than tall tales



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Foreign foods are the future, or at least that's what Georgian wine salesmen want you to think



CITY

THE BUZZ



HOT IN HERE

Firefighters check out a sample of new protective suits during a ceremony last month at the Beijing Public Security Fire Department and China Astronaut Research and Training Center. The new suits include cameras and location devices.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"They said that it meets qualification standards, but because it's made of armored glass, there's an explosive rate of 0.3 to 0.5 percent"

...according to Beijing resident surnamed Wu, after he said that a glass cup he bought from Ikea had exploded. Wu alleges that the glass was sitting on his nightstand and contained room-temperature water when it blew up, *Beijing Times* reported. Ikea's customer service explained that while the item in question meets the company's safety criteria, "spontaneous glass explosion" is a phenomenon that can occur. Wu received vouchers equal in value to the set of four glasses as compensation.

RANDOM NUMBER

3,000

...is the number of aging elevators that are set to be examined by authorities in Beijing by the end of November, according to the Beijing Municipal Quality Supervision Bureau. A one-hour emergency response service will also be launched to help those who encounter elevator problems. The checkup will focus on buildings located in old neighborhoods while response teams will form a network with be stations in each square kilometer of the city. When an elevator malfunctions, the network will call the nearest rescue team to action. Currently elevators must, by law, be inspected thoroughly every six months.



FOX-TOPIA



More than 300 foxes and raccoon dogs were released in Huairou district without authorization last month, according to the *Beijing Evening News*. Buddhists reportedly freed the animals in a show of compassion. Local sentiment was less generous, with Huairou villager Peng Yuchun claiming that the foxes killed some of his chickens. The local forestry bureau has since retrieved over 100 foxes, though many had died due to their inability to survive in the wild after a life in captivity. There are currently no laws regarding captive animal release, though experts bemoan the practice for its damage to local ecological systems.

BLADE RUNNERS



A man and his 4-year-old son completed a 540-kilometer journey from Puyang, Henan to Beijing last month – on rollerblades. Zhang Junguang, 39, wanted to teach his son, Zhang Jiabo, that the road of life is not always easy, literally, with a 14-day rollerblading journey along National Highway 106. Zhang told *China Daily* that his son learned to skate when he was 2 years old and was very proud of the whole experience. The trip, which culminated in an eight-day stay in Beijing, helped Jiabo understand the importance of hard work, according to Zhang. The pair took the train home to Puyang.

ASK A LAOBEIJING

We met Liu, 68, during lunchtime in Taikooli



How do you feel about social media trends that focus on body image?

“I disapprove of the recent social media body-measuring competitions such as the ‘A4 challenge’ or the ‘belly button challenge.’ I don’t think a woman’s body should be seen as ‘good’ just because it is skinny.

A good body doesn’t only depend on weight. It depends on many factors such as one’s height and eyesight. If one’s body is too big this may also be inappropriate. But if women, in particular, are too skinny, they may be at risk of detrimental health effects, which would affect their ability to have a healthy pregnancy and child.

Real beauty isn’t about being thin or not. To me, beauty comes from the inside, and it’s this inside beauty that is most important. You need to have intelligence and honesty in your soul to be a decent person. This way you can send out positive energies. So, if you have a good heart, beauty will emanate.

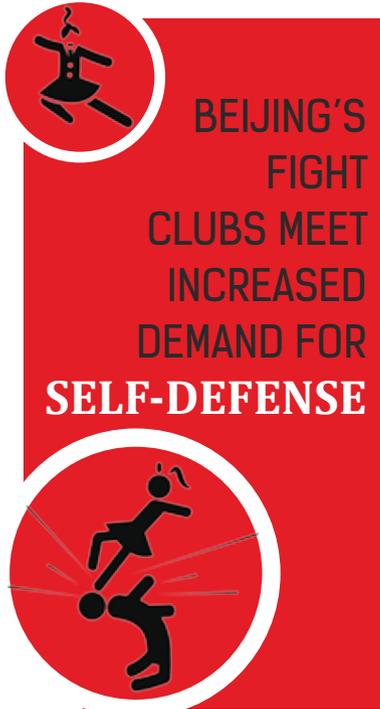
As a mother, I don’t pressure my daughter about her body size. In fact, she talks about it herself, as if it’s a problem. So at some point she started exercising more – she went swimming and jogging – to increase her fitness and achieve her body-shape goals.

It’s celebrities who are driving people to attain a thin body. Realistically, people are unable to imitate celebrities because everyone is different. Celebrities may be beautiful but that just happens to be their body type. Not everyone can make their looks similar to their favorite celebrity. Everyone has his or her own personal beauty, which derives from his or her life experiences.

As for these social media competitions, it’s not a matter of whether social media is wholly good or bad. There are two sides to it. A helpful aspect is that it enables rapid dissemination of news, so everyone can find out good information quickly. But if the topic is harmful, social media as an information-sharing platform can be misleading and detrimental.”

As told to Dominique Wong

TALES OF THE CITY



**BEIJING'S
FIGHT
CLUBS MEET
INCREASED
DEMAND FOR
SELF-DEFENSE**

Last month's attack on a woman at a Beijing hotel – in front of multiple passers-by and security cameras – resulted in online fury after the victim, posting as 'Wanwan,' uploaded a video of the attack on Weibo.

The surveillance footage shows the woman being assaulted by a man in the hallway of a budget hotel. In the video, the attacker attempts to abduct the victim, dragging her by her hair while a nearby security guard, who mistakenly assumes the two know each other, watches on before advising the two to take their dispute elsewhere.

The event inspired outrage from online commentators, disgusted at the non-intervention from passers-by as well as from the police. But it has also provoked a more positive response, as news channels began broadcasting self-defense demonstrations for viewers in a bid to highlight the importance of self-protection.

It seems that women, given no other choice, are preparing to fight back. Beijing's fighting and self-defense clubs have noticed a surge in demand for self-defense classes.

As the owner of Black Tiger Fight Club, Vince Soberano, tells us: "I was scheduled to teach a

women's boxing fitness class last Saturday when the gym manager called to tell me that students were requesting a self-defense class, inspired by the hotel incident. Since then, I've been inundated with requests for seminars and workshops for self-defense."

Director of Krav Maga Global (KMG) China, Von Ng, has also noticed a "notable increase" in inquiries for self-defense classes from women in Beijing, but stresses that education is most important. "We've noticed that a lot of people don't have a full sense of what self-defense entails, so it takes a bit of educating new people when they come to class," he says. "It is as much about training prevention, awareness and avoidance of a bad situation as it is fighting to get out and surviving once you are already stuck in a bad situation, and getting home safe."

Xian takes classes at Beijing boxing club Fight Republic to improve her strength and agility. She shares: "I believe I'll be less scared if ever confronted with men, but hopefully that will never happen. I feel that Beijing is safe – I often walk by myself at night."

Dominique Wong



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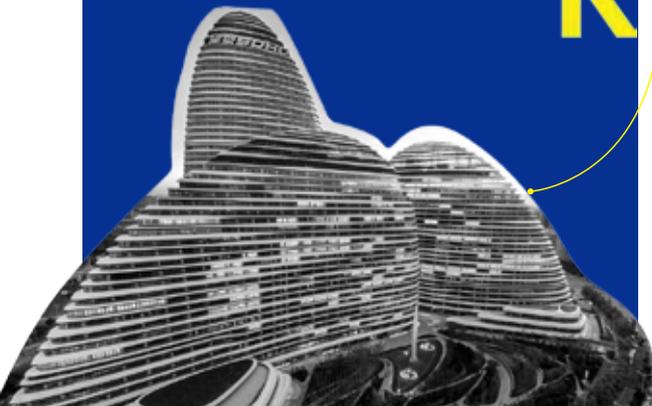
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ON THE BLOCK

New guidelines on urban planning will forbid the construction of "bizarre" and "odd-shaped" buildings that are devoid of character or cultural heritage. In our new feature, we gather opinions on some of the unusual architecture that remains, from both an architectural and civilian viewpoint.



WANGJING SOHO, WANGJING

The Building

Wangjing SOHO, a project of the late, great Iraqi-born architect Zaha Hadid, is made from a trio of office and retail spaces in Beijing's famous K-Town (i.e. Wangjing). Surrounded by a 60,000-sqm park and comprising three towers of varying heights (118, 127 and 200 meters), the overall effect is one of interweaving 'mountains.' The towers are wrapped in ribbons of white aluminum, which break up the glazing to form narrow horizontal stripes, while its distinct shape is instantly recognizable from nearby Jingmi Lu and has since been imitated by other architects in China.

The Residents' View

Wangjing barista Yo-Yo, 28, says: "It's beautiful but I don't think it's very useful. In the winter it is quite windy and cold around the building." Meanwhile local food deliverer Fan, 29, tells us: "I think its characteristics, such as the round shape of the towers, are very unique."

The Architect's View

Project architect at Buro Ole Scheeren, Virginia Chiappa Nunez, says: "The towers' profiles continuously change when viewed from different angles, while its dramatic thinness gives the project an elegance. Unfortunately, the central space on the ground floor is devoid of rich urban life – the greatest 'drama' is a staircase that carries the public from the ground directly into the basement shopping mall.

"The landscape design is one of the most successful aspects of the project. The three towers themselves huddle together at the center of the site in order to provide generous gardens at the perimeter. Moreover, the architects have designed an open park that is permeable from all sides of the city, a rare urban occurrence in Beijing."

Nunez reflects: "Zaha Hadid was one of the few architects who created something truly different, reflecting her own distinct background and personality. Wangjing SOHO might not be a project that best exemplifies all of her ambitions, but it is still interesting, as an architect, to visit."



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COMING INTO FOCUS

With 11 Chinese entries shortlisted at this year's Sony World Photography Awards, the country's photographers are gaining more international recognition. **Andrew Chin** speaks with the winner of the National Award category, Xie Longxiang, and looks at the best pictures from China's finalists.



'Heritage of The Chinese Ancient Kilns' by Hu Weiguo



'The Death of Migratory Birds' by Yong An He



'Snowing Heavily' by Xie Longxiang

“ The mysterious ritual, unique geographical location and beautiful natural scene deeply attracted me ”



'The Tang Dynasty Tomb Three Series' by Hui Zhang

In a photo titled 'Snowing Heavily,' Buddhist monks brave the cold at a religious ceremony in Gansu province. The wintry scene, captured by photographer Xie Longxiang, won the China National Award at this year's Sony World Photography Awards.

One of 11 Chinese photographers shortlisted in the awards, Xie thanks the competition for providing Chinese photographers with a "broad, global platform to display our work." Shot as part of his series of religious scenes in China, the photographer notes that the photo took years of effort.

"'Snowing Heavily' captures the Buddhist Tangka, Shaidafo – a ceremony held on this day every year at Langmu Temple, which is also a beautiful town where half of the people are Tibetan and half are Muslim," he explains.

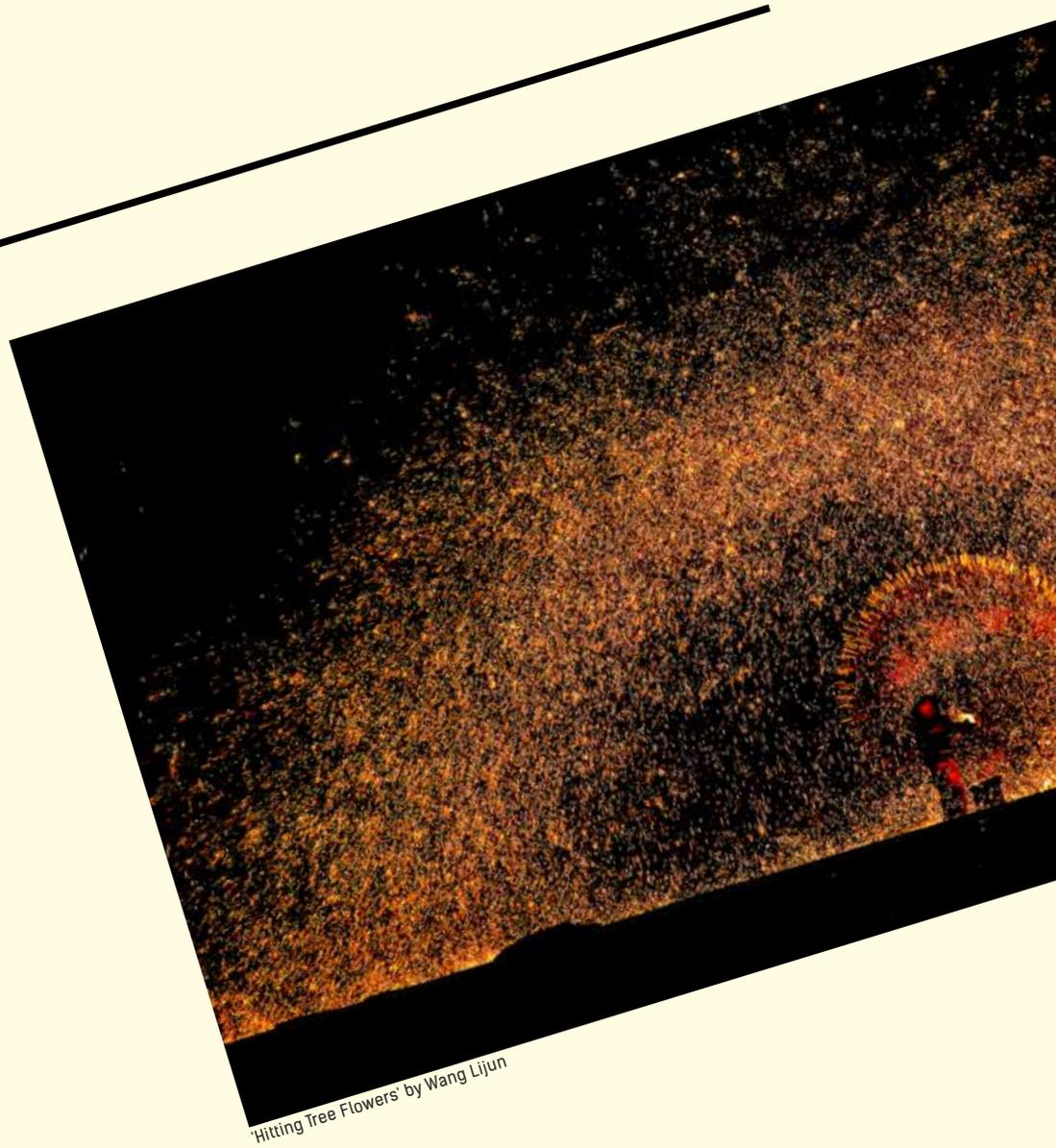
"The mysterious ritual, unique geographical location and beautiful natural scene deeply attracted me. Over the years, I've tried to shoot this scene several times but the weather conditions were never ideal. Perhaps my sincerity moved the Buddha, because last year there was a lot of snow, which wrapped the whole ceremony in a veil of mystery. I am very pleased that years of unremitting effort have finally paid off."

The global competition, overseen by the World Photography Organisation (WPO), runs in 60 countries. CEO of the WPO Scott Gray praises the winning work: "'Snowing Heavily' is an image full of feeling and intensity. The heavy snowfall mixed with the facial expressions of the subjects creates a mood of warmth and humor amidst the biting cold.

"It's a beautiful photograph and well worthy of its National Award."

The competition is free to enter for any photographer, and Gray notes that the number of submissions from China has increased by over 450 percent in the past three years.

Xie's triumphant image netted a prize of RMB15,000 worth of Sony products and is currently being shown in London along with other standout Chinese submissions as part of the 2016 Sony World Photography Awards exhibition. Other entries showcase an eclectic range of scenes from across today's China. Runner-up Hu Weiguo goes inside China's last working ancient brick kiln in Zhejiang province, while third-place winner Wang Lijun's



'Hitting Tree Flowers' by Wang Lijun



'Ancient Chinese Villages' by Maoyuan Cui



'Left-Behind Children in Western China' by Fan Li



'Tajiks on the Pamir Plateau' by Fan Li

“ We hope to inspire photographers and encourage them to push their creative boundaries ”

'Hitting Tree Flowers' captures a five-century-old Hebei tradition where people spread melted iron onto the ancient city walls in freezing weather, creating beautiful sparks.

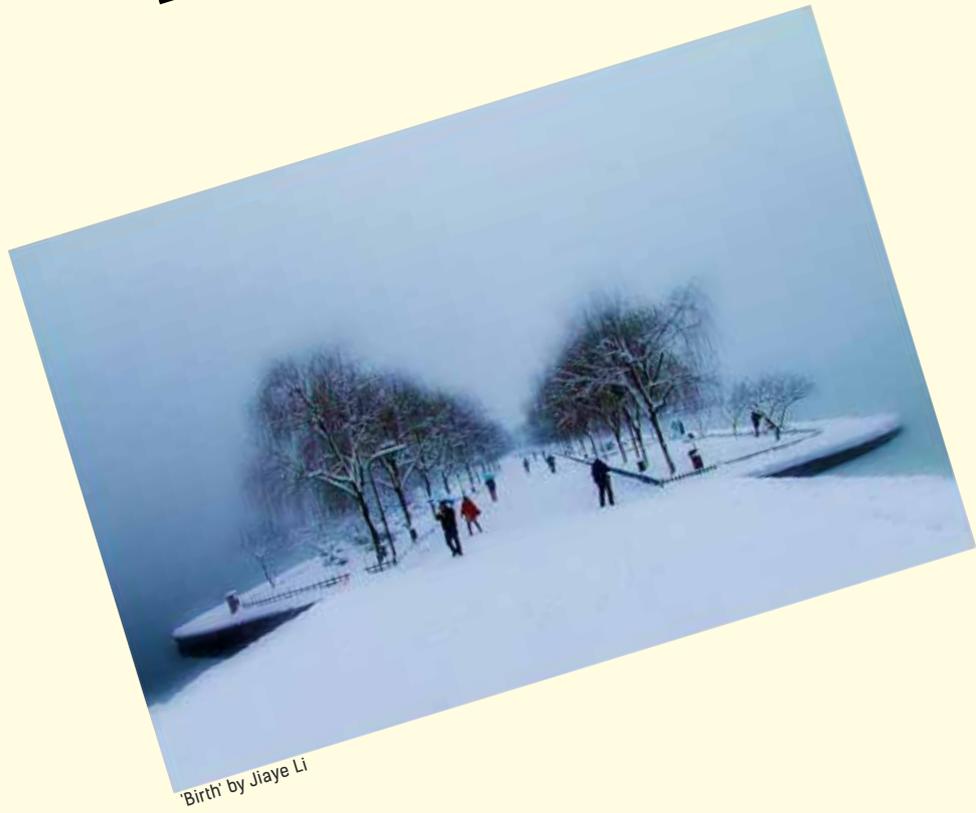
Shortlisted submissions showcase contemporary issues, such as Fan Li's look at left-behind children in Western China, and Yong An He's series on 'The Death of Migratory Birds' due to illegal nets. Others examine China's rich history from ancient villages in Hebei (Maoyuan Cui) to destroyed Tang Dynasty tombs in Shaanxi (Hui Zhang).

Fan Li documents Tajik life on the Pamir Plateau in Xinjiang, while Li Feng is granted access to an industrial complex devoted to taming and reproducing experimental macaques.

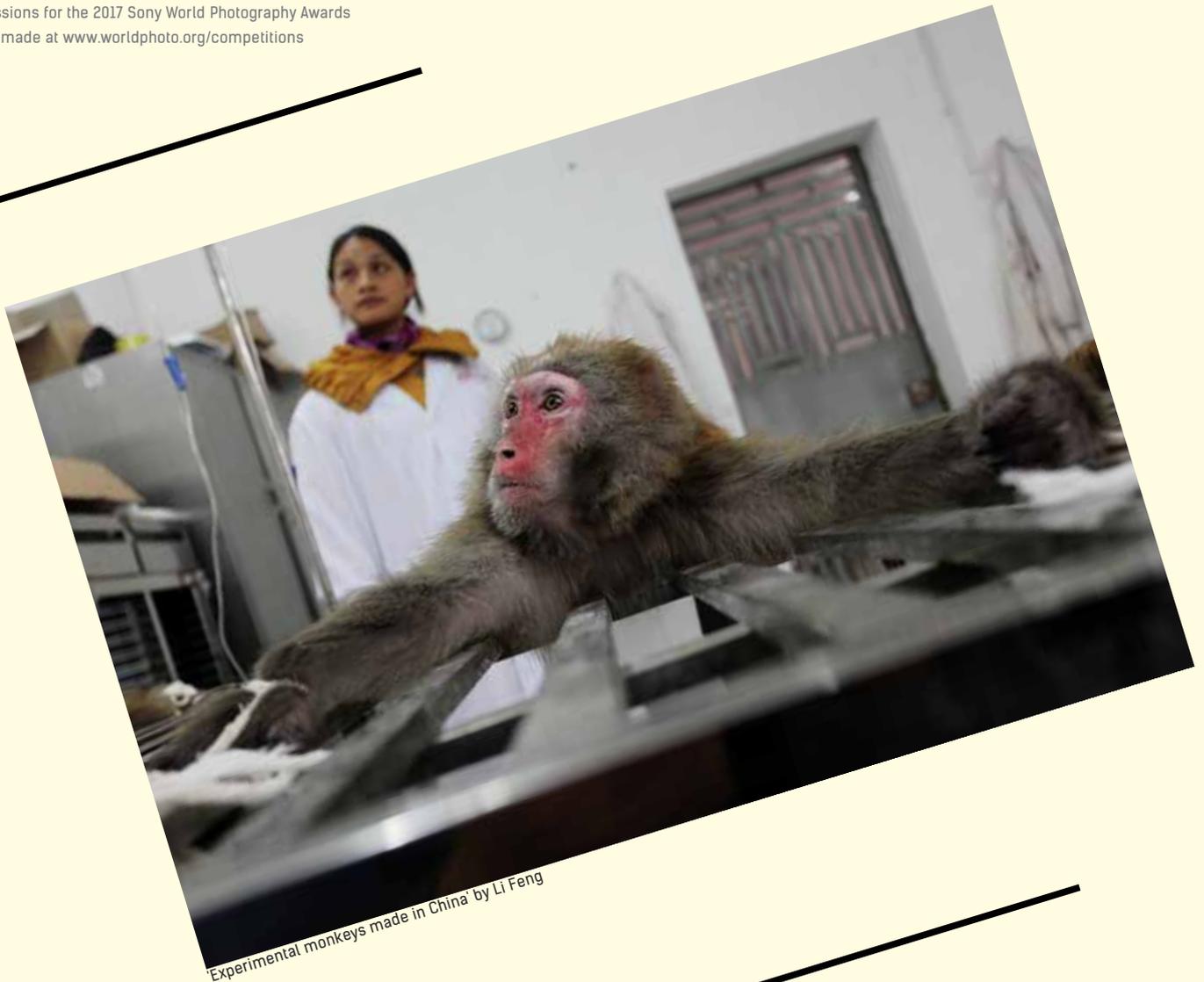
Not all subjects are so heavy, however, with Jiaye Li's 'Birth' capturing Hangzhou's West Lake at its most serene. Gray notes that the competition has four categories aimed at professionals, amateurs, students of photography and young people.

"We hope to inspire photographers and encourage them to push their creative boundaries," Gray says. "The Sony World Photography Awards provides an incredible opportunity for any photographers that wish to build their names globally." ■

Submissions for the 2017 Sony World Photography Awards can be made at www.worldphoto.org/competitions



'Birth' by Jiaye Li



'Experimental monkeys made in China' by Li Feng



Nanyou Li Max / Nányǒu Lì Max / 男友力Max *adj. having very high potential and the maximum number of the characteristics of a good boyfriend*

A When I got home from the work party last night, my boss sent me a message asking me if I got home okay.

Nanyouli max! **B**

A Yes but he is married.

Damn all the good ones are taken. **B**

There is a scale in every single girl's heart. It's delicate and constantly tipped one way or another by the smallest things boys do or say. He holds the door for her and it tips a bit in his favor; he makes a casual remark about how women can't be presidents and it tips violently off the chart.

A girl, single or not, believes that she can judge whether a boy will be a good or bad boyfriend from the littlest things that he does or says. Girls are instinctively tuned to pay attention to such details. Does he hold most of the umbrella over you in the rain? Does he let you walk on the inside on the sidewalk? Does he warn you before you are about to touch a bowl of hot soup?

If he infallibly does all of the above, then congratulations, he is *nanyouli max*, or 'boyfriend power max.' It is one of those rare occasions when a boy constantly passes such small tests, which indicates so much

(maximum) boyfriend potential that it unleashes a girl's entire elaborate fantasy of having the perfect boyfriend.

Some of the things that might tip the scale to *nanyouli max* seem a little bizarre, whimsy even, such as: always arriving for dates half-an-hour early in case she needs directions, always replying to text messages (and texting her good night), picking up things she drops by accident because she can't bend over in a skirt, always having band-aids in his pocket for when her heels get blistered, and always extending half of his scarf to warm her neck.

If a boy does all that without slipping up, he is going to tip the scale in a girl's heart all the way to the max with all that boyfriend power. If you do none of it, however, you're *nanyouli min*.

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

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LIFE & STYLE

STYLE RADAR

SPOTLIGHT

Erica Huang, Founder of Farm to Neighbors

— What led you to start Farm to Neighbors?

I started Farm to Neighbors (F2N) out of my own need for better quality, clean food in Beijing, and the desire to be part of a community that trusts and supports each other – from the farmers that make what we eat to the people that live around us. Building that community is F2N's main mission.

— How has the market grown since you started out?

When I started in July 2014, F2N consisted of just five or six vendors coming together at Modernista on Baochao Hutong on Sundays. After six months, the workload and my commitment to the project grew to the point where I decided to quit my job and focus on F2N full time.

Now, we have three full-time staff members and an amazing group of volunteers, as well as a somewhat permanent venue at the Grand Summit in Liangmaqiao. F2N runs on Saturday and Sunday with more than 35 vendors each day and a different DIY workshop every Sunday.

— What was behind your decision to move from Gulou to Liangmaqiao?

F2N owes a lot to the support of small businesses in the Gulou area, but as vendors and customers started growing we felt the need for a bigger space. This was around the time when Modernista closed for renovations. Luckily, the Grand Summit approached us right then, offering to host us. It was sad to leave Gulou because the hutongs are where I

started and where many of our customers lived, but it's been good to move into a bigger space where we can host more vendors and provide a greater variety of things. We still hope to come back to Gulou one day, when the opportunity comes.

— What are some of your favorite products at F2N?

I am very much into fermented food, and was lucky to find some proper traditional ones for the market, from sourdough breads and fermented soy products to pasture-raised yak yogurt and fermented sweet rice. I am also really excited about a few relatively new food artisans who focus on specific diet-related items such as raw vegan desserts, coconut yogurt and even kombucha!

— If you could add anything new to F2N, what would it be?

Now that we have a lot of food, I'd really like to add more eco-design products and more hand-crafted goods that preserve traditional culture and skills.

We are actually working on an online store that'll focus on just that.

— When you're not organizing markets you're...

Studying Chinese food laws. It's something I got into recently. I'd like to create the first legitimate artisanal food society in Beijing.

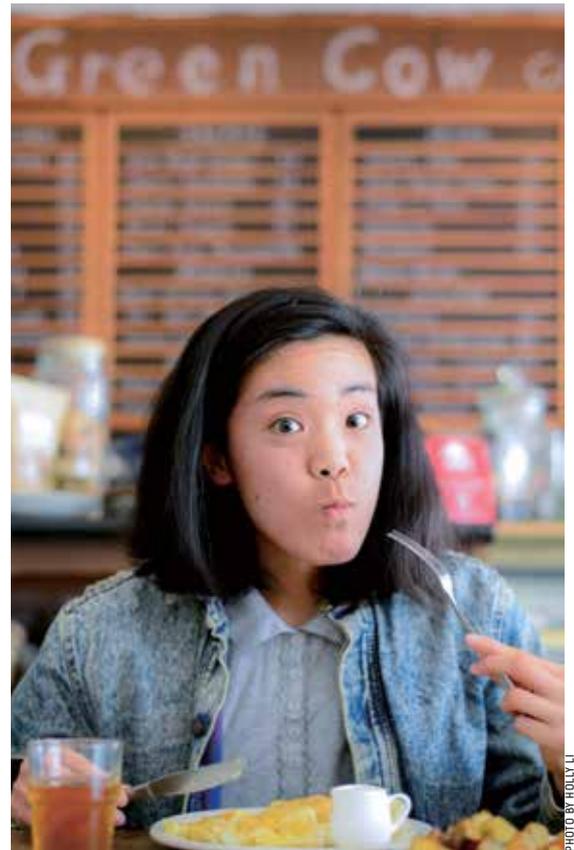


PHOTO BY HOLLY LI

To get involved, email farmtoneighbors@gmail.com or contact F2N via WeChat (username: farm2neighbors). Find Erica at The Grand Summit every weekend, 19 Dongfang Donglu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东方东路19号

UNDER THE LENS



Gucci Tian Prints

Last issue, we wrote about Louis Vuitton's CCTV9 documentary featuring remarkable Chinese women. This month, we bring you another fashion mega-brand: Gucci, and its take on the traditional Tian print, a classic Chinese landscape pattern depicted on tapestries dating back to the 10th century. Luxury houses never tire of luring Chinese (or Asian, really) shoppers through new, cleverly-thought-out marketing strategies. Dubbed 'Gucci Tian,' the collection reinvents the traditional flora and fauna motifs in a contemporary style in collaboration with a crew of all-Asian artists and designers, including China-based Cao Fei, Gu Ye, Cheng Ran and Guo Yong. Pushing the Tian branding one step further, Gucci also flooded its Instagram with all manner of Asia-inspired imagery (hashtag #GucciGram), from shoes left out on doorsteps and old Japanese women, to mysterious bucket-hatted models. Anything to win the hearts of its consumers, eh? The prints are beautiful, though, admittedly. We kinda want them, really. Damn you, Gucci.

OVERHEARD

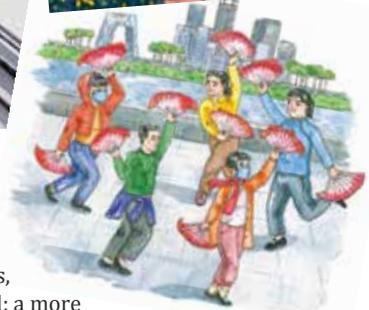
"CAN SOMEONE PLEASE EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT IS THE ACTUAL AIM OF EVENTS LIKE THIS? IT'S CLEARLY NOT FASHION; NOBODY WOULD EVER EVEN CONSIDER WEARING ONE OF THESE OUT. SO WHAT IS THE POINT? IS IT MEANT TO BE ART? THEATER? WHAT?"



A clearly confused netizen comments on Beijing designer Hu Shenguang's latest collection at China Fashion Week (and fashion weeks in general, it seems). Hu has made a name for shows that blend the theatrical with the surreal and the utterly absurd. This season, he sent a riot of unsettling outfits down the runway: red, nightmarish creations featuring PVC, masks, horns, splatterings of fake blood and plastic prosthetic hands and heads. Oh-so dramatic (and clearly not something you'd wear to go get groceries), the collection was visually arresting and a tad disturbing. Internet users took notice.

MADE IN CHINA

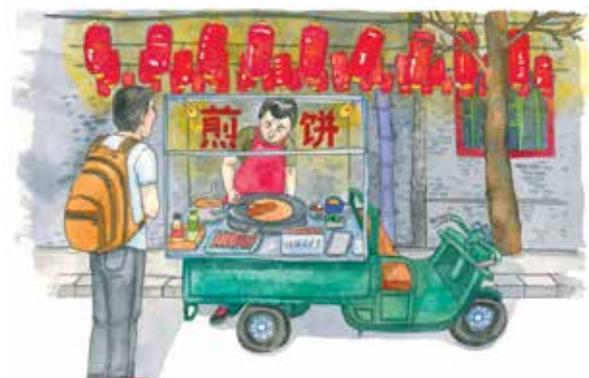
Pretty in Print



In a world where software-generated graphics are widely used and handwriting is increasingly ditched in favor of typing on tablets and keyboards, illustrations feel almost emotional; a more intimate way of expressing creativity. Enter the fantastical realm of Liuba Draws. The brainchild of Russian freelance illustrator Liuba Vladimirova, the project-cum-venture is all about sweet, whimsical drawings applied to everyday objects – cards, mugs, iPhone covers and beautiful posters – to remind us that hand-drawn prints and sketches can be more enticing than a font you'd find in InDesign.

"I have two main styles of drawing," says Vladimirova, who's self-taught. "One is more sketch-like, the other more detail-oriented, done using watercolor techniques."

Each artwork takes cues from fairytales and the natural world, but also urban, everyday Beijing scenes – a jianbing cart, or grannies dancing against the city skyline in the background. Our favorites (though it's hard to choose) are her animal iPhone covers (RMB50) and the 'Duo He Shui' mug ('drink more water,' RMB80) mug, which we think should be the cup of choice for anyone in Beijing. Cards start at RMB25, key chains are between RMB40-45 and posters vary according to size and subject. Oh, and she works on commission too. Liuba Draws is releasing more prints at the Bookworm Flea Market this month. Find her stall on May 14 to see what she's been working on. Also, check www.liubadraws.com (no VPN required) and liubadraws.tumblr.com (VPN required), or contact her at liubadraws@hotmail.com or WeChat (username: liubatie)



THE BIG CHILL

Fedoras, Stripes and Capri Pants

words by Marianna Cerini

It's almost summer, y'all, which means outdoor boozing, weekend picnics, al fresco dining and bike-riding (but mostly boozing, let's be real). When you're not working or pretending to, that is. Yay! Want to dress up to chill out? We've got you sorted. Forget flimsy flip-flops and oh-so-2013 tropical shirts. Here's how to show real swag with a beer in one hand and a Campari spritz in the other.



01



02

FOR HIM

01 **Super**
RMB1,650
shop.projectaegis.com

02 **Asos**
RMB65.22
www.asos.com

03 **Teva Originals**
RMB380.43
www.asos.com

04 **H&M**
RMB99
www.hm.com

05 **Zara Men**
RMB199
www.zara.cn

06 **H&M**
RMB149
www.hm.com



03



04



05



06



07



10

FOR HER

- 07 **Brixton**
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- 08 **Zara**
RMB399
www.zara.cn
- 09 **H&M**
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- 11 **Zara**
RMB239
www.zara.cn
- 12 **Pull&Bear**
RMB199
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08



09



11



12

A pair of hands is shown holding a red water bottle. The background is a collage of various flowers, including white and pink chrysanthemums, purple orchids, and pink cherry blossoms, all set against a white background with a faint geometric pattern. The text 'GET JUICED' is overlaid on the bottle in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The word 'GET' is in light blue, and 'JUICED' is in light pink. The letters have a slight drop shadow.

GET JUICED

China's Clean-Eating Industry
Is Big Business, But Is It Healthy?

by Marianna Cerini

At 9am on a rainy Wednesday in Shanghai, a delivery guy carrying a small bag squeezes past white-collar workers in a crammed elevator of a Xintiandi office building and emerges into the lobby of a local ad agency. In the bag is a cleanse set – six bottles of cold-pressed juices to be sipped as food substitutes for a day. They are for Guo Ling, a 24-year-old ad executive who has been “really getting into cleanses recently.”

“I do it with colleagues sometimes, as it’s easier that way,” she says. “But we like different combinations and so order from different places. There are a lot of options to choose from.”

She’s right: China’s first- and second-tier cities have seen juice-cleanse companies sprouting up at head-spinning rates over the last few years. And it doesn’t stop at cold-pressed kale and almond milk with chia seeds. In Shanghai alone, a quick online search shows hundreds of ‘well-being’ ventures offering anything from healthy meals delivered to your door to juices, infusions, coconut water and sugar-free cookies.

“It’s a booming industry, and it has all happened in the span of three years,” says Tian Tian Mayimin, co-founder and CEO of V Cleanse, one of China’s first cleanse companies. “We were among the first to start delivering cold-pressed juices. Now, it’s as competitive as the American market, if not more.”

Ostentatiously ascetic health has been a major fashion trend in the West for quite some time (in 2012, market research firm Euromonitor International dubbed the wellness sector “the next trillion-dollar industry”). But China is catching up, and may soon outpace the rest of the world.

According to a survey published by Boston Consulting Group in 2014, the country is currently the world’s most health-conscious market. Spending on health and wellness has grown exponentially over the last decade, and is expected to reach nearly USD70 billion a year by 2020.

Juicing, detoxing and cleansing have all entered Chinese society as expressions of healthy living; natural – and quick – remedies for a virtuous life in a



“China’s juice industry is as competitive as the American market, if not more”



country where food scandals and poor safety standards are still too often the norm. Organic food has undergone a similar assimilation too. In Beijing and Shanghai, a rising number of food ventures – from cafes like Hunter Gatherer in Shanghai to fine-dining restaurants like Beijing’s Okra 1949 – have made ‘locally sourced’ the core philosophy of their businesses. Doing so taps into the notion that the best way is the natural way – an ideal shared by 57 percent of Chinese consumers, according to market research company Mintel.

But healthy eating (or drinking) has also become a status symbol. It’s a nod to celebrity culture – Angelababy does it – but also a new mode of conspicuous consumption, particularly among its main fans: women born in the 80s and 90s. Shelling out thousands of kuai on nicely packaged, hip-looking cleansing sets says ‘I am sophisticated and care about my image.’ It’s an aspirational lifestyle that is ultimately tied to the pursuit of slimness (though you don’t even have to admit you’re trying to lose weight).

“I love the way juicing makes me feel,” says Guo Ling. “I’ve been doing it for the last couple of months – on and off, of course – and it’s just amazing. My skin is better, I feel more energized. I’ve lost a few pounds, which was on my to-do list for 2016. Yes, I do get pangs of hunger around dinnertime, but I’ve been told it’s only a matter of time before I get used to it.”

Guo decided to jump on the cleansing bandwagon after a period of poor health. “I was sick and tired of being sick and tired,” she laughs, “and I saw this post on WeChat about cold-pressed juices and their restorative effects. So I made an order for a five-day cleanse. Now I am hooked.”

For Ivy Tsui, a 27-year-old fitness fanatic who I meet at a local gym, juicing is a matter of convenience. “I am pretty busy and often don’t have time to sit down and eat a salad,” she says. “Juices are the perfect substitute, and stop me from eating crap food. They have all the nutrients you need packed in one single bottle. How good is that?” [Disclaimer: cold-pressed juices do *not* have all the



nutrients we need. Our bodies need carbohydrates, protein and fat on top of vitamins to function properly.]

At a networking event where everyone else is eating canapes and drinking champagne, I spot another woman sipping a green concoction. She admits that she is on a cleanse to shed some weight.

"My mum never hesitates to tell me I look a little chubby, and I got tired of it," she says. "I have done other diets in the past, but this feels kind of healthier, and I don't feel as bad about eating some fatty stuff on the weekend after I have been on green juices for the entire week."

Fleetingly, she casts a wishful look at the canapes. "I have been ordering the sets for the last 10 days. I eat a light breakfast then drink them for lunch and dinner. It's not easy to attend a social event, but I really want to drop a size."

Mayimin says many Chinese people – millennials above all – are taking their health into their own hands. "They want high quality products to 'cure' their ailments and power them through their day, while feeling good about it. Juice cleanses cover all of that."

Love it or loathe it, it looks like the market agrees with her. Since launching in 2013, V Cleanse went from catering to expats to a clientele that's 90 percent Chinese. The range has also expanded to include warm cleanses – hot infusions and soups specifically designed for Chinese customers' preference for warm drinks. And in an effort to spread awareness about healthy eating, it started holding lifestyle and food workshops that "are always incredibly popular," Mayimin says.

But better health isn't guaranteed. While the modern-day concoctions

"Being obsessive about healthy eating isn't actually all that healthy"



promise greater energy, balanced nutrition, glowing skin, a clearer mind and a detoxified gut (and with names like 'Fuel,' 'Clean,' 'Recharge' and 'Renovation,' why wouldn't you believe them?), not all of these claims can be scientifically linked to juicing – although nutritionists do not deny that fresh juice can help deliver the vegetables and fruits that many of us seem unable to find time to eat.

One thing that will almost certainly happen to juicers is that they will lose weight (even if many deny that this is their motivation). And that's what gets a lot of women – Chinese or otherwise – attracted to it. With an extremely low number of calories and trumped-up health benefits, cleanses unlock the possibility of a better life through a 'better' body – an idea that veers dangerously close to a fixation on thinness that affects so many women.

It's not only busy professionals who are lured by these quick-fixes for slenderness. Totox is a company selling detoxifying sets of herbal teas that come in bright pink envelopes and plastic bottles reading 'Better than Botox' (the company's tagline). The company claims that its infusions help people lose weight, burn fat and reduce their appetite, among other benefits. A visit to its website shows images of flat stomachs, girls on treadmills and Photoshop-enhanced bikini bodies.

And who are Totox's target customers? "Sixteen-year-olds and up," according to co-founder Wu Jueling, who launched last year with Angelababy as an investor. It already has a customer base of 2 million users, mainly in Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou. "Young girls love the concept," says Wu.

In our image-obsessed era, it is a disturbing strategy. Perhaps more so in a country like China, where memes like the 'A4 Waist' (calling for women to pose with A4 pieces of paper to demonstrate how thin they are) and the 'iPhone 6 Knees' (which sees women cover their knees with their phones to prove how skinny their legs are) have gone viral online.

"Eating disorders are on the rise in China," says psychology counselor at East China Normal University, Wang Yujing. "So it's important to address trends focused on the perception of the body with care."

There is no denying that what and how we eat is important. And the rise of healthy-living options like cleansing is proof that middle-class Chinese consumers are increasingly aware of that. But the promise of thinness that comes with juicing, and the misconception that it can be a permanent replacement for solid food, are worrisome.

"The market certainly still has a lot to learn when it comes to clean eating," says V Cleanse's Mayimin. "Juicing isn't a way of dieting, but rather a way to complement and support a wholesome lifestyle. After all, being obsessive about healthy eating isn't actually all that healthy." ■



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SCENE & HEARD

by Marianna Cerini

1 MAC X CHRIS CHANG

Makeup giant MAC seems to have a little crush on China (no doubt inspired by promises of hefty financial gains but hey, not all love stories are about romance and flowers). First, it was fashion doyenne Guo Pei, who partnered with the cosmetic brand last season. Well, another month, another Chinese designer, as they (well, I) would say. Now, it's Chris Chang of Poesia. Beautifully packaged and designed, the new line draws inspiration from ethnic tribal costumes worldwide and the ancient Chinese art form Kunqu. It's a nod to Chang's aesthetic, which is known for theatrical, whimsical and edgy creations. The collection – which Chang describes as an “acid-soaked twist” to makeup – features 14 items in impossibly cool, popping hues, from teal and yellow lipsticks (be still, our beating hearts!) to red eye shadows and pressed powder. The perfect compliment to rising temps, it'll see fashion buffs who dig color queuing outside the stores.

www.maccosmetics.com.cn



2 MAISON MONUS

Talented women getting together can work wonders. Maison Monus, a new Beijing-based design collaboration started by friends Mo and Ye, offers yet more proof of that. A fashion label-cum-art-project, the venture does minimal, directional garments in structured fabrics, meaning each piece can be worn and repurposed in different ways. “We met at a party and decided to join forces and vision,” says Mo, who studied in France for many years before returning to Beijing. “Ye is a photographer, and I was immediately drawn to her lifestyle and personality. We share a similar aesthetic – we shun mass trends, and are both into more ‘silent’ looks. Maison Monus was born out of that: the wish to offer interesting, good-quality clothes to people who don't like to follow the crowds.” The result is a series of oversized dresses, linear tops and geometric separates that are impervious to gender or seasonal fads. The duo does everything, from shooting and styling their lookbooks to marketing and visual branding. And, since launching, Mo and Ye have partnered with major figures from the capital's hippest music cluster (including Nova Heart and We Are Not Invited) to shoot short videos featuring a mix of fashion and tunes. “We love collaborating with artists as independent as our brand,” says Mo. And we love clothes with personality.

www.monus.org



3 MAYAYUEN JEWELLERY

We have a thing for jewelry that's versatile and casual enough to be worn at work *and* on a night out. Better still, give us a geometric bauble and we'll buy the whole shop. This is exactly why we recently fell (hard) for Mayayuen Jewellery, a Hong Kong-based brand that is rapidly expanding into the Mainland (go find it at Beijing's SKP mall). Founder Maya Yuen Hei-man launched it after a stint as jewelry marketer at Lane Crawford, which left her with a deep passion for precious accessories. Keen to bring her own ideas to life, she went on to take jewelry design and production courses at Hong Kong Baptist University and London's Central Saint Martins, before founding the brand last year. And her stuff is pretty dope. The first collection, Delta, was inspired by Art Deco and shows plenty of bold, architectural shapes, with a recurring triangle (representing the Greek symbol for 'delta') decorating everything from earrings to necklaces. The brand's most recent lines – Delta Jour and Delta Noir – are spin-offs of the original, with dramatic, striking designs boasting cubic zirconia stones. Many of the pieces can be worn in different ways: rings can be stacked and necklaces layered, which is a definite plus in our books. If you're looking for an edgy statement piece to go with your summer dress, check this out.

SKP Mall, B1081, 87 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国路 87号北京 SKP (原新光天地) 负一层 B1081 (5847 8738)



SHANG XIA

Unique presents for Mother's Day

BY VIRGINIA WERNER



SHANG XIA TIAN TI BRACELET
RMB2,900



SHANG XIA TIAN TI BRACELET
RMB3,200



Mother's Day is fast approaching, but what's the best way of expressing gratitude to the woman responsible for your entire existence? The options are endless, of course. For something truly timeless, however, lifestyle concept Shang Xia's latest collection of accessories is what you'll want to take your picks from.

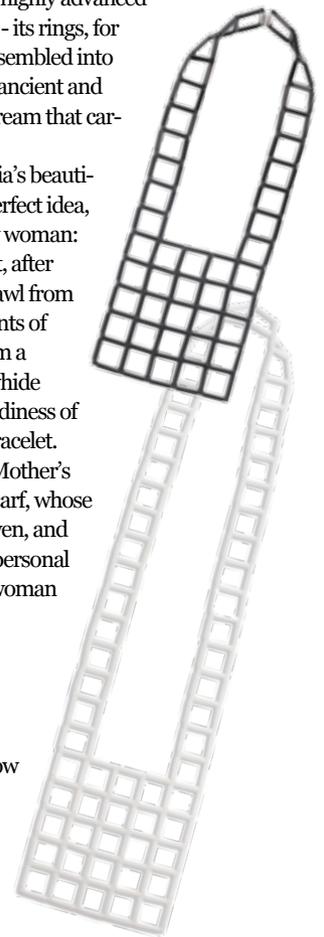
If only one object is what you're after, the brand's new Tian Ti Collection is not to be missed out. Meaning 'ladder to heaven' in English, it comprises a tasteful selection of hand-polished jewelry inspired by the cooling bamboo undershirts worn in summer in ancient China. Each piece from this line is made in porcelain crafted through highly advanced technology, which makes it unbreakable. Tian Ti's items - its rings, for instance - are composed of handcrafted narrow tubes assembled into polished chains, an apt representation of the meeting of ancient and modern, a ladder leading link by link to the heavens, a dream that carries you into the clouds.

If you want to fully spoil your mother, then Shang Xia's beautifully edited and oh-so-affordable gift packages are the perfect idea, featuring some of the most cherished accessories for any woman: scarves, bags, and jewelry. Mothers deserve the very best, after all. At RMB9,800, Shang Xia's first gift set includes a shawl from the Celebration Folk Scarves line, featuring gorgeous prints of traditional Chinese festivities, a Man Yi tote - choose from a pretty range of leather models boasting high-quality cowhide that has been expertly woven to mimic the aesthetic sturdiness of woven bamboo baskets - and a striking Dragon Cloud bracelet.

For a smaller yet equally striking present, a second Mother's Day offering priced at RMB3,200 includes a Tian Tan scarf, whose bold, beautiful prints are inspired by the Temple of Heaven, and a Seal necklace from the Seal Collection, the epitome of personal style - a great way to praise a mother, or any important woman in your life.

Finally, for the mother that has everything, a third set at RMB1,080 will allow you to show your love with a Celebration bag and a Seal belt, two subtle yet attractive items that are excellent additions to any woman's closet.

Pair it all with a bouquet of Spring blossoms, and wow your moms. This Mother's Day, there's no better way to show your love.



SHANG XIA TIAN TI NECKLACE
RMB3,800



SHANG XIA MAN YI BAG & CELEBRATION SCARF & DRAGON CLOUD
RMB9,800



SHANG XIA TIAN TAN SCARF & SEAL NECKLACE
RMB3,200

SHANG XIA CELEBRATION BAG & SEAL BELT
RMB1,080



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Scan this QR Code to access Shang Xia's WeChat store to purchase the Mother's Day gift sets.

STATES OF MIND

The American-Sino Hospital Bringing US Medical Care to Beijing

While it's not unheard of for Chinese clinics to overstate their connections with Western medicine, Beijing's American-Sino Obstetrics, Gynecology and Pediatric Hospital (ASOG) is the real deal. As well as a board of US experts, the hospital also has a team of physicians which trained, qualified and practiced Stateside.

One of them is Physician and Medical Director, Dr. Lei Chen, who spent more than two decades working in New York and Pennsylvania. The Guangzhou-born doctor, who returned to China in 2008, talks us through the advantage of spending time in some of the world's most advanced medical settings.

"Unlike in China's teaching hospitals or public hospitals, we run a private hospital concept," he explains. "You come in and you'll be treated as a private patient and see a private physician. In American medicine, their practice is really evidence-based. So as time goes by, we upgrade and update our

knowledge to treat disease."

But for Dr. Chen, another of the crucial ideas that he and his team adopted from the US relates to the doctor-patient relationship. While local clinics are likely to steer toward a 'doctor knows best' attitude, the American-Sino hospital sees medicine as something more consultative.

"Patients' autonomy is really important in America. The diagnostic procedure and the treatments are based on mutual agreement between the patient and doctor. From something like Aspirin – a simple pill – to a major operation, you have to agree on what's happening. In fact, the best case is that the patient is so well informed that they know the value of the treatment before the sign up for it."

This refreshing attitude has been putting patients at ease since American-Sino's first



PHOTO BY HOLLY LI

clinic opened in 2003 in Shanghai. Since launching its first outpatient clinic in Beijing in 2013, ASOG now offers the capital's women and children a range of services, from check-ups to deliveries.

"But the thing that I think is unique to US healthcare," Dr. Chen concludes, "is that you're not just focused on technical points, but also humanity. We bring that approach to all of our patients, expat or local."

Monday-Friday (9am-10 pm), Saturday and Sunday (9am-5pm); 218 Anwai Xiaoguan Beili, Chaoyang 朝阳区安外小关北里218号 (6496 5151, www.americanobgyn.com/en/)

THE FRENCH CONNECTION

Re-Energize With Ann Jema Spa

Spring may be nearly over, but there's never a bad time to refresh and rejuvenate. Luckily, Ann Jema is on hand, literally, to help out.

Established over 40 years ago in France, Ann Jema is a trailblazing spa institute (it was the first brand using Arabian ingredients in modern aromatherapy in Europe) that specializes in natural treatments for all-

around better health. Found in multiple locations across Beijing, the lush center offers services to suit everyone, ranging from old favorites (the neck and shoulder massage) to more specific remedies.

Recuperating from a long flight? Try the 'Jet Lag Recovery' (a 140-minute bath, massage, scrub and facial combo). Expecting a bundle of joy? The 'Mother-To-Be Pregnancy Massage' is the one for you. Meanwhile, those looking for something delicious can sample the 'Chocolate Detoxifying and Slimming Body Wrap' or 'Lime and Ginger Body Glow.'

We opt for a 'Classic Aromatic Lymph Detoxing Massage' at Ann Jema's Solana Mall branch. A massage to help discharge waste and eliminate fatigue – it's just what the masseuse ordered.

The spa radiates stylish yet understated vibes. Its luxurious private rooms shine with white and gold, while rich green trappings are a subtle nod to Ann Jema's natural roots. So chic, so very French.

Consummately executed by Ann Jema's

therapists, our 90-minute massage is an absolute pleasure. It is the little things that elevate the experience to another level, such as strategically placed pillows and scent diffusers. Another highlight of Ann Jema is its branded essential oils. We enjoy the traditional 'Energy' oil during our massage, but there is an array of custom-made options for every type of massage. Plus, anybody can enjoy a spot of holistic healing at Ann Jema, with children's and men's spa treatments also on offer.

In fact, during our post-massage tea, soup and fruit session, a small child's exuberant chatter from a nearby table gently regales us. Whether it's the effect of the soup or the toddler, our hearts warm.

So, if you're after something extra special – and why not? – look no further than 'superior life energy experts' Ann Jema.

Ann Jema Spa; Daily, 9am-10pm; Solana Lifestyle Shopping Park, 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu, 162-166, F2 Building 1, No.6 Yard, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳公园路6号蓝色港湾国际商务区1号楼二层162-166号 (5905 6227)



INTRODUCING CHEF ERNIE ZHANG

A Local Beijinger Brings an International Touch to the Renaissance Beijing Wangfujing Hotel

These days, hotel chefs in Beijing are rarely *Beijingers*.

But Chef Ernie Zhang is the exception. A native Beijinger, Zhang gives an authentic local touch to the international fare at the Renaissance Beijing Wangfujing Hotel.

That isn't to say he doesn't also execute international-standard Western cuisine. Zhang has nearly 30 years' experience in hotel restaurants (Peninsula, Langham and InterContinental Hotels just to name a few) – and it shows. On our most recent visit, we sample one of his signature dishes, a delicate mushroom consommé. The flavors are a perfect blend of Western and Eastern – hearty, savory stock filled with Yunnanese mushrooms. The presentation, meanwhile, is distinctly contemporary, as Zhang serves us our soup from a transparent teapot.

Zhang works throughout the hotel's dining

outlets, but is most at home in Food Studio, the casual restaurant featuring elegant dishes from Western and Eastern cuisines. It's here in this all-day eating haven that Zhang is able to put his extensive experience towards crafting a wide variety of meals – much to customers' delight, we might add, as they're able to watch Zhang and other chefs at work in Food Studio's exquisitely designed open 'theater' kitchens.

Zhang is not only talented, but also warm and funny. He regales us with tales of his years in the high-paced luxury hotel industry ("I cooked for Kobe Bryant," he says) and goes on to sing the praises of the 2008 Olympics' USA men's basketball team. He even became good friends with the team's American chef – the two still keep in touch – and laughed as he told the story of how he was able to get loads of stylish basketball



shoes for the daughter of Zhang's friend.

Now, Zhang is busy as ever. But that doesn't mean his guiding philosophy is complicated.

"You have to connect with your guests, and truly understand what they want," he says. "You need to make your guests happy."

Sample Chef Zhang's mushroom consommé at Food Studio, The Renaissance Beijing Wangfujing Hotel, 57 Wangfujing Jie, Dongcheng 东城区王府井大街57号



If you've visited Tianjin in recent years, you'll know that it's a city on the move. There is no greater sign of this than the rate at which international hotels have opened across the city. While this is great for tourists and travelers, it poses a challenge to the hospitality industry. But the growth of competition has also inspired hotels to up their game, explains the General Manager of the Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel, Steven Yau.

"From 2010 until now, the hospitality industry of Tianjin is booming, the competition between brands and properties is also fiercer," he explains. "But, the market is getting more and more mature, as is our hotel."

If anyone should know, it's Yau. Not only has he been at the Renaissance for almost six years (where he also oversees the Marriott Executive Apartments), but he has also been in the hospitality industry for 43 years, rising from the position of bellboy as a young man in Hong Kong. His response to the challenge of new openings has been to ensure that his hotel's service and hardware stays ahead of the competition.

"Our facilities are regarded as the best in town and our staff enhances the experience with great service," he explains. "You may choose to try our fully equipped and modern gym, complete with indoor tennis court and indoor swimming pool; play screen golf in our computer-image generated putting area; or enjoy the afternoon tea in our open-design lobby, which spans 11 floors."

But perhaps top of the list of things that help Yau's hotel stand out is the food, with the Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview's steakhouse,

STAYING AHEAD OF THE COMPETITION

GM of the Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel Sets the Pace

Fire House, now a major selling point.

"It's so special and elegant," he says. "The contemporary raw stone and wrought iron design elements, glassed-in kitchens, and a wood-burning grill placed at the center of the room, inject new life into a steakhouse. It's traditional in all but ambience. Here, the best cuts of beef, the freshest seafood and fabulous wines are offered in a much more modern and casual setting.

"Fire House's chef, Paul Chen, is the heart and soul of this award-winning restaurant. He specializes in cooking the best steaks and his passion for a quality piece of meat is unmatched."

Having just won 'Outstanding Pick' for fine dining at the *That's Tianjin* Food and Drink Awards, we'd have to agree.

Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel, 16 Binshui Lu, Hexi District, Tianjin 天津河西区宾水道16号 (022 5822 3388)

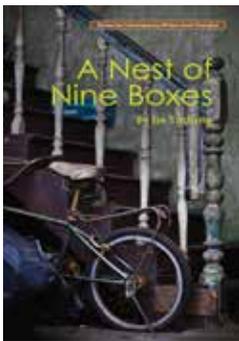
ARTS

COLLAGE

WHAT'S NEW



Along with Queen Sea Big Shark and Hedgehog, Casino Demon were one of the first Chinese groups to tour America. Seven years after their beloved debut *Teenage*, they're back and as smartass as ever. A little older and somewhat wiser, there's an added Americana edge to *Purple Haze of the Orient* (actual album cover pictured above). Available at buy.modernsky.com.



Best known for flooring the country's literati with his award-winning Shanghainese 2014 novel *Flowers*, Jin Yuncheng receives his first English translation. Released by Simon & Schuster, *A Nest of Nine Boxes* is a collection of bruising short stories full of haunted characters grappling with the significance of life in a changing China. Available from May 3 on Amazon.



Journey to the West has been endlessly mined for recent Mainland hits. Now, American broadcasters AMC (*Mad Men*, *Breaking Bad*) gets in on the act with *Into the Badlands*. In this loose adaptation of the Chinese classic, Daniel Wu stars as an honorable yet lethal fighter who travels a dangerous land in search of answers to his past. Begins streaming at tv.le.com/us on May 3.

DRUMROLL

MARSHALL JEFFERSON



PHOTO BY LEWIS KEAN

Chicago house veteran Marshall Jefferson came into his prime in the 1980s, just as the Windy City started to redefine the genre. Sure, everyone over 40 seems to be described as the father or godfather of house these days, but this guy has a better claim than most. We fired some quick questions at him ahead of his set at Migas later this month.

— **If you're the 'father of house music,' who's the young upstart cousin of house music?**

Too many to choose from, there's no one guy.

— **Got it. 'Move Your Body' is credited as the first house track to use piano, but what instrument do you think hasn't been used enough in house music?**

Oboe – a beautiful instrument.

— **'Move Your Body' was featured in one of the Grand Theft Auto games. Did you ever go on a digital killing spree to your own music?**

No, I play a lot of games, but never GTA.

— **We have! Thanks for keeping our crime rampage entertaining. You started a Kickstarter campaign to make an album using a 'binaural' microphone – what is it and how are you using it?**

A binaural microphone is a microphone that records with a full 360-degree sound field, instead of just left and right. In a

binaural recording you're able to hear things behind you, above you, below you and in front of you. However, you can only hear the binaural information with headphones. I built a binaural microphone and I'm using it in all my upcoming records.

— **Having spent long periods living in the UK, how do you think the house music there compares with in your native Chicago?**

I think everything coming out of both the UK and Chicago is heavily formatted. A place is hot one week and another the next week – it's all in the songwriting and who writes a great song that week.

— **True that. What will your friend and collaborator, the late Frankie Knuckles, be best remembered for?**

Frankie was our ambassador for all things house-related. I think more than any one song or remix, he'll be remembered as the embodiment of house.

— **You release tracks on a label called Trax. What are your top 3 tracks on Trax?**

'Move Your Body,' 'The Jungle,' and 'Time Marches On.'

— **Choose one: Thomas Jefferson or Marshall Mathers?**

Eminem – Thomas was a slave owner. **OH**
Fri May 13, 10pm-late; RMB70; Migas (see Listings for details)

CANVASSED

Chak Man Lei, 'Living to Say Goodbye'



A tribute to Chak Man Lei's late father, 'Living to Say Goodbye' embraces life and, subsequently, mortality. The artist uses unconventional tools such as marker pens and stickers to convey simple pleasures of the moment, such as *this* unique rose, or an instance of camaraderie at *this* specific hour. Together, the works reflect Chak Man Lei's broader idea of 'living' as a combination of growth, disintegration and renewal.

Thu-Sat, 2-7pm (or by appointment), through May 21; free; Jiali Gallery, 4 Beijixiang Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区北吉祥胡同4号 (138 1022 9370)

HAO BU HAO

Hao

Chen Wenxuan became the latest Chinese author to take home an international prize when he won the coveted Hans Christian Andersen Award for *Bronze and Sunflower*. Set during the Cultural Revolution, the acclaimed children's book tells the story of a shy village boy and a city girl who live through harsh times by relying on one another.

Bu Hao

Despite scoring a coveted 'same-day' international release, *Batman v Superman: The Dawn of Justice* was unable to revive its flagging fortunes in China. The film earned USD55.6 million on its opening weekend, but it has since struggled to top the USD100 million mark, eclipsed by the takings of *Zootopia* (USD233.37) and *Avengers: Age of Ultron* (USD240.1 million).





GOING AGAINST THE STREAM

Online Music Streaming: Great
for Chinese Listeners, Not
So Great for Chinese Artists?
We Ask, Then Listen

by Noelle Mateer

WHEN I ASK FU HAN HOW SHE MAKES

money from her music, she pauses.

"Yeah, that is a big question," she says. Fortunately for Fu, that's not her job – the label she's signed to, Modern Sky, handles the finances for her band. Fu is busy enough as it is, writing and performing music as the frontwoman of Queen Sea Big Shark.

But while she'd love to make the creative process her *only* focus – especially given the recent release of QSBS's acclaimed new album, *To Wild Heart* – the woes of producing and monetizing music in 2016's world of online streaming eat up more than their fair share of her energies.

"Now, the money we make from the record is almost zero," she says.

The reason is probably already installed on your phone. QQ Music, Xiami, Wangyi – these are just a few of the free music-streaming platforms that have grown exponentially in China in recent years. But their success stories aren't controversy-free. As recently as last year, these sites and apps hosted huge swaths of songs without artists' or labels' permission.

"You'd type your song's name in the search bar, and you would find all these websites where you could download it," says Fu. When asked if her songs are ever used for commercial purposes without her permission, her response is swift: "Yeah, yeah, yeah. Of course! Always."

Fu's story of copyright infringement and intellectual property theft is all too common, says Alex Taggart, of Beijing-based music-industry consultancy Outdustry.

"The streaming apps started out with a 'stream first, license later' attitude, in order to get people to use their services," he explains. "Since there was pretty much no regulation, very little risk of being successfully sued for infringement, everyone got away with it."

To many, this may come as no surprise. After all, China isn't exactly known for its adherence to copyright laws. What might be more surprising, then, are recent

improvements, according to Nathaniel Davis, co-founder of concert promotion agency Split Works.

"I think it is much better now than it was even two to three years ago," he says. "You see a lot of the major companies making concerted efforts to license the material that is on their sites."

As Taggart explains further: "The authorities have been steadily ramping up their rhetoric regarding copyright protection, and have issued increasingly strongly worded notices and regulations requiring the streaming companies to get their houses in order."

But the process of *getting* the houses in order – that's the tricky part. It has resulted in a battle of the tech giants, who offer payouts to major labels in exchange for permission to use their music.

Currently winning the fight for users is the Tencent-backed QQ Music, which integrates with Tencent's best-known app: WeChat. (Ever tried searching a song on WeChat? Message qqmusic a title and it'll shoot back with a streaming link almost instantly.)

Meanwhile Xiami, arguably the cooler of the two with its curated playlists and smart interface, has less reach. Xiami links can't be shared to WeChat because, well, Tencent said so. But the bottom line of all this is: These companies are increasingly streaming music they actually have the right to stream.

Still, there's disagreement about how artists can actually get paid from this. At the moment, the reality is, really, they don't. Artists make most of their money from gigs and sponsorship deals. (Queen Sea Big Shark, for instance, cashed in when Converse used their music for a promotional campaign.) Streaming, therefore, is a way for labels to get listeners to notice their artists.

"As far as I'm concerned, I'm not worried about people using platforms like QQ to listen to music," says Xiao Linfeng (otherwise known as X.L.F.), a recording artist, DJ and manager of Modernsky Lab. "I

see QQ as more of a publicity platform for my music."

It's perhaps fortunate Xiao feels this way. Many artists don't have a choice, as those on smaller labels don't have the power to fight back against the unlicensed streaming of their work. Or as Davis says of the music-rights buyouts: "A lot of these are done through big blanket deals with major labels in order to capture the 'big artist' catalogs, but which miss the music from other artists and smaller labels."

Even these 'major labels' need to have serious clout if they wish to remove their music from online streaming services. And I mean *serious* clout – in 2014, Taylor Swift made headlines for refusing to put her album *1989* on popular American music player Spotify. But Swift is the rare exception.

Queen Sea Big Shark's Fu Han empathizes with Swift's decision, but is unable to go against the stream.

"Now we put the music for free online, but I feel the audience doesn't respect musicians like before, because they don't pay for it," she says. "They think it's free. It's not valuable. I think that's wrong."

The earnest emotion in Fu's eyes makes it clear that this is a topic she's passionate about – even if it's technically her managers' responsibility.

"I think that, now, as musicians, we don't have a lot of knowledge of the law or the contract or the rights," she says. "But I think that in the future, most musicians will."

When I ask Fu if the complexities on the online world are changing the way she makes music, she rushes to reassure me: "No, of course not."

"But the rules of the game are changing so fast," she says.

Fu goes on to describe her energetic new album *To Wild Heart* with equal passion. "Sometimes people say to us, 'Why do you mix so many things together in one record?' I think there are no rules." ■



OLD DOGS,

Dalian Post-Rockers Wang Wen Aren't Done Yet

NEW TRICKS

by Andrew Chin

PHOTOS BY MOTO

Having spent over 16 years at the heart of China's post-rock scene, Wang Wen could be excused for resting on their laurels. But the Dalian group have turned over a dark new leaf on their upcoming ninth album.

"Trying new things creatively is the most important way to keep excited," explains guitarist Xie Yugang. "If we keep going down the same roads, we'll get bored and feel like we're rotting."

Recorded at Dalian Grand Theater and produced by brothers Wouter and Lode Vlaeminck (of the Belgian indie group Toman), *Sweet Home, Go!* represents a new chapter for Wang Wen.

"*Eight Horses* [released last year] was simpler and a little clearer. With this new album we've weaved in more emotions and have gotten more ideas from a lot of atmospheric music," Xie says, citing disparate influences from Brian Eno to Godspeed You! Black Emperor.

"There's more of an emphasis on atmosphere. It's pretty dark, although there is some light. Since the studio was in a theater, we used that space to create a lot of interesting reverb effects. We also added violin and cello to the mix, which has created some interesting sounds."

The album will be accompanied by a 19-city tour that stops off at Yugong Yishan on May 21-22. Plans are underway to add more dates later in the year, after a summer break for the birth of their drummer Zhou Lianjiang's child.

"We want to play every province in China," Xie says. "There are many cities that we haven't performed in like Qingdao, Jinan and Zhuhai. What's really interesting is that the tour begins with our first live gig in Shijiazhuang. Fourteen years ago, we recorded our first album in Shijiazhuang, so it feels like a return home."

It's been an impressively enduring career for the group, which initially formed in 1999 around Xie and fellow guitarist Geng Xin's shared love of the Smashing Pumpkins. Over the years, Wang Wen evolved from alternative rock wannabes to Mainland indie institutions. Standout discs like 2007's *RE: RE: RE:* showcase the group's unique take on post-rock, which incorporates traditional melodies and sounds. As one of the first indie groups to tour China, they've since shared the stage with genre giants like Mogwai and Mono.

Their notoriety is spreading outside China. Last summer, the band completed their second European tour – an 11-city trip that included a main stage performance at the Dunk Festival in Zottegem, Belgium.

"We were very happy," Xie says. "Since we're an instrumental band, there's no language barrier. The audiences were really supportive and by the end of the tour, we had sold out of T-shirts and records."

Formerly a shipyard worker, Xie now runs the popular Echo Book Store, which serves as a cultural hot-spot in Dalian. Resolutely committed to their hometown, Wang Wen have organized three editions of the Dansheng Music Festival showcasing homegrown bands.

"As far as I can tell, it hasn't really affected the local music scene, which is frustrating," he sighs. "But it's not easy to change things. As long as we have the energy and ability to organize these festivals, we'll keep doing them."

He giddily plugs upcoming discs from Dalian groups DOC, ERG and Park Which but seems abashed at the fact that younger acts like Hiperson and Stolen have cited Wang Wen as a model to follow.

"Young bands now are much more professional and developed musically so they don't need much advice," he says. "As long as they live in accordance with their ideas, then they will be good. We're particularly fond of Hiperson and Stolen, who strongly live up to that principle of being true to themselves." ■

Sat May 21 and Sun May 22, 9pm (Sat) 8.30pm (Sun); RMB100-150;
Yugong Yishan (see Listings for details).

"When I first started listening to electronic music I couldn't even fathom how it was created— that mystery intrigued me"

HELLO BROOKLYN

How Ratatat Outlived the New York Revival

by Andrew Chin

The Strokes, Yeah Yeah Yeahs and TV on the Radio may have defined the fertile New York music scene of the early 2000s, but none stood the test of time like Ratatat. While their contemporaries turned the city into a hipster capital, the Brooklyn duo managed to outlast them all through an indie rock-informed take on electronic music.

Previously a touring guitarist for emo stars Dashboard Confessional, Ratatat's Mike Stroud recalls falling in love with software while a college student at New York's Skidmore College.

"I was really excited about the range of sounds you could hear on records by people like Aphex Twin, Boards of Canada and Daft Punk," he says. "Instead of easily being able to identify a guitar, bass and drums, instruments could be anything. When I first started listening to electronic music I couldn't even fathom how it was created. That mystery intrigued me."

For 15 years, Stroud has scratched that curiosity with college friend and producer Evan Mast. He credits Ratatat's sound to the members' diverse musical pasts.

"Moving into electronic music opened up a lot of possibilities that were really exciting," he says. "At the same time, I really love a lot of more traditional forms of music making. Ratatat lets us exercise both sides. We can create really unique and unidentifiable sounds in the studio, but also combine that with traditional instruments like guitar."

As New York became the focal point of a Strokes-driven underground musical renaissance, Ratatat benefited from the resulting attention. While Stroud notes "we never really felt part of that particular scene because we were doing instrumental music," Ratatat toured with Interpol early in their careers and were quickly signed to respected British label XL Recordings (home to The Prodigy, The White Stripes and Adele).

Able to appeal to multiple music scenes, they've toured with indie stars (The Killers, Franz Ferdinand, Vampire Weekend) and electronic icons (Björk, Daft Punk). They've remixed The Notorious B.I.G. and were recruited by Kid Cudi to produce a pair of songs on his Kanye-approved debut.

A live favorite, Ratatat's triumphant night-closing set at last year's Coachella Festival heralded not only the end of a four-year hiatus, but also the arrival of their fifth album, *Magnifique*. Stroud admits "it was a bit difficult to make because we had set the bar pretty high for ourselves," but seems content about the disc, citing Queen's Brian May and unheralded guitar pioneers Alvin Ray, Buddy Merrill and Pete Drake as sonic influences.

Written and recorded over four years in Jamaica and New York, *Magnifique* topped the US Billboard Electronic Music charts. Ratatat are now bringing the disc around the globe with an extensive world tour that includes a six-city *Vice*-sponsored jaunt across China that stops off at Yugong Yishan on May 13.

Stroud raves about their last China tour, noting that footage of his trips to Chengdu and Chongqing were included in the music video to *Magnifique*'s lead single 'Cream on Chrome.'

While admitting that Ratatat won't be able to bring their "whole bag of tricks to China," he promises that they take their exemplary live reputation seriously.

"Our show involves a lot of visual elements, so it becomes much more than an audio experience," he says. "We'll certainly have video projections where each track has its own video synched with the music."

Fri May 13, 9–11.30pm; RMB120–150; Yugong Yishan (see Listings for details); Support comes from Gonggonggong



Founder of LiveBeijingMusic Will Griffith

GOING UNDERGROUND

by Sophia Pederson

KEEPING UP WITH MUSIC IN BEIJING The websites and blogs to watch

This month, I step back from the topic of actual Chinese underground music to talk about how and where to find it. When I first got to China, The Beijing Gig Guide was one of the best sites to go to – the design was definitely bare-bones minimum, but it had an amazing library of Chinese bands and the gigs they were scheduled to play. This site and others like it have helped foreigners and Chinese alike navigate and plan countless shows and festivals. They have also introduced new bands to new audiences. Although Beijing Gig Guide is now extinct (as an aside, That's Beijing has a great weekly guide called Beijing Gig Guide, though they are completely unrelated), one site that is great for checking out what is going on and reviewing what happened, is LiveBeijingMusic.



THREE QUESTIONS FOR LIVEBEIJINGMUSIC

Founder, cameraman, music enthusiast, and the man behind it all, **Will Griffith**, explains a few things about his site.

— How did LBM come about? Why another gig guide?

LiveBeijingMusic came about from a persistent friend who convinced me that I needed to share the videos I had been taking of bands in Beijing. We bought a site and learned the bare necessities of website maintenance. Then, just before we launched, my buddy got shipped down south for his job and left me with the site. So, I began posting anyway – that was fall of 2011. There were a few other blogs I frequented that gave me comfort in what I was doing – mainly *Beijing Daze* and *Beijing Gig Guide*. Badr [from *Beijing Daze*] was a treat to read, and *Beijing Gig Guide* was a great source for planning your month and picking and choosing what gigs to attend. Not sure if anyone has had a better calendar since then.

— So, from initially just posting video recordings, you've expanded to a gig calendar of your own, as well as mix

tapes, WeChat posts, and LBM events. How do you afford it all?

I barely manage. The whole thing is essentially running on obsessive-compulsion and stubbornness. From a financial standpoint, there is no gain. And I don't think that'll change anytime soon. It's a flat fee every year that I'm burning out of my own pocket. But it's one I can live with. I'm lucky enough to be working as a freelancer, so I can create a schedule that allows me to set aside time for the site. It can be a bit hectic and overwhelming at times, but I've created a routine out of it. And really, without the support of friends and people in the music scene, it wouldn't be possible. They're the lifeline of LBM.

— What's next for LBM?

In May, I'll be teaming up with Seippelabel for a show at the Old What? Bar on May 3, while on June 3, I'm helping put together a show for The Twenties at School Bar. On June 5, I'm also putting on a show for T6 at Fruityspace to promote the latest release from Nasty Wizard Recordings (a label I'm a part of alongside Dann Gaymer and Michale Cupoli). On June 21, I'm working with

the French Embassy to put together their massive awesome lineup for this year's Fete de La Musique. So, yeah. I'm keeping busy.

TOP THREE SITES FOR CHINA MUSIC NEWS AND INFO

LIVE BEIJING MUSIC

See above (English only)

> www.livebeijingmusic.com

PANGBIANR

Avant-garde and underground music from Beijing and across China (mostly in English, but has Chinese posts too)

> www.pangbianr.com

WOOOZY

Shanghai-based indie music site that just recently expanded its weekly show recommendations to include all of China (Chinese only)

> www.wooozy.cn

And don't forget to check out *That's Beijing's* weekly gig guide every Wednesday at www.thatsmags.com.



STORM ELECTRONIC MUSIC FESTIVAL

When: Thu-Fri Sep 15-16

Where: TBA

Lineup: Dash Berlin, Don Diablo, Flo Rida, Hardwell, Kaskadebe and more

Rundown: The Budweiser Storm Music Festival is technically not a summer festival, but we're hoping it's going to be a *long* summer. Little is yet known about the two-day EDM event, but with Storm hitting all the major cities, from Chengdu to Guangzhou and Shanghai (as well as our fair capital of course), it should be quite the party and one you'd do well to be in the eye of. Last year's Shanghai festival saw Skrillex play to an estimated 25,000 people. Can Flo Rida do better? Time will tell. In the meantime, get 'Low' on repeat and make like you're an extra in *Step Up*.

Tickets: TBA; for more info visit a2storm.cn



Beijing's festival game has been erratic at best over the past couple of years but, as summer fast approaches, the hallowed combo of multiple stages + booze + life-altering experiences + sick music looks set for resurgence. Yes, 2016 marks the Return of the Festival. With a range of venues and lineups, there is something for everyone. Don't know your Strawberry from your Storm? Wanna run while you rave? Best check our guide here. Then mark your calendars and get ready to mosh like it's 1999.

SOUNDS OF THE SUMMER

A Guide to Beijing Music Festivals

by Dominique Wong and Justine Lopez

INTRO BEIJING ELECTRONIC MUSIC FESTIVAL

When: Sat May 28

Where: Grand Epoch City (Xianghe County, Langfang City)

Lineup: Ken Ishii, Tic&Tac, Huang Weiwei, Juliana Lima, Shao, Weng Weng and more

Rundown (or INTRO, heh): Founded in 2009, INTRO ('Ideas Need To Reach Out') is *the* pioneer of electronic music festivals in China. And while it may be the country's largest, with an estimated 10,000 people expected to attend, INTRO isn't just a festival, it's "a way of life," we're told. The event is a platform for people to showcase their passions through innovative electronic music and digital art. Slick visuals provided by Noizome and Hanabitheo are set to stun electronic junkies, while music lovers will also be privy to panel discussions, DJ/VJ workshops and other activities. Grab your friends for a jam-packed day of primal beats and top-notch events. Oh, and don't miss The Syndicate's stage, which is usually where the party is.

Tickets: RMB280 (presale) or RMB380 (door); after-party, RMB50 (with INTRO ticket), RMB100 (door); for more info visit intro-festival.com (185 0017 1176)

GREAT WALL RUN FESTIVAL

When: Fri-Sun May 13-15

Where: Beijing W Town and Simatai Great Wall

Lineup: Knife Party, Pendulum, Deorro, Frontliner, Code Black, X.L.F. and more

Rundown: BOOM and Beijing W Town join forces for this one-of-a-kind event, fusing the spirit of a music festival with a five-kilometer race. It'll be like your morning run with headphones, except on a whole other level – literally, with four themed stages spread over Simatai Great Wall and Beijing W Town next door. Think: fresh air, space for days and a hit of cultural adrenaline (or, according to press info, a "30-hour rave). Beau-ti-ful. Tickets range from festival (only) to festival + run or, if you're feeling flashy, VIP. It's the most unique festival happening this season, plus *That's Beijing's* very own Justin Culkin (aka Juhstynn) will be there playing that funky music (i.e. killing it). So, what are you waiting for? Grab your tickets and jog on.

Tickets: RMB380-700; for more info visit greatwallrun.cn (134 2636 2636)

STRAWBERRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

When: Sat-Mon Apr 30-May 2

Where: Grand Epoch City (Xianghe, Hebei)

Lineup: The Prodigy, Disclosure, Modestep, EgoPusher, Queen Sea Big Shark, New Pants and more

Rundown: Modern Sky's beloved festival is back in the capital (or rather, out a little bit) and better than ever with a lineup loaded with music heavyweights. While the bill suggests a major UK influence, starting with the big three (The Prodigy, Disclosure and Modestep), there's also an undeniable emphasis on up-and-coming Chinese artists and bands, which is exactly what we like to see and hear. The 10,000 square meter location, 50 kilometers away from downtown Beijing, is so big you can even pitch a tent there (seriously, please do). Ah, just like Coachella or Glastonbury – just without the cringe outfits and muddy trenches. Strawberry's tagline "The world is virtual, you are the reality" gives major vibes. You know it's gonna be good.

Tickets: Single day RMB240 (presale), RMB300 (door); 3-day package RMB600; purchase via damai.cn or 247tickets.cn (includes a pair of virtual reality glasses); for more info visit modernsky.com (1010 3721)





DANCING WITH HORSES

Cavalia Brings Equestrian Ballet to Beijing

by Dominique Wong and Zoey Zha

Created by *Cirque du Soleil* co-founder Normand Latourelle, *Cavalia* is the world's first equestrian ballet. The striking spectacle is a global hit, already seen by more than six million people. Declared the "best show ever" by CNN icon Larry King, the show opened in Beijing on April 28.

The production takes its title from the French and Spanish words for horse (*caballo* and *cheval* respectively), as well as the English word *cavalry*. Often compared to *Cirque du Soleil*, the show is a breathtaking mix of equestrian arts, acrobatics, live music and cutting-edge technology. One of North America's most popular draws, *Cavalia* finally made its Mainland debut last summer in Shanghai.

The show was founded in 2003 after Latourelle experienced a moment of clarity, as his son (and the show's tour manager) Mathieu explains.

"My father was at an outdoor show and there were 100 people on stage and only one horse. The choreographer was complaining about the horse taking the spotlight away from the musicians and dancers. Plus, my father realized that during backstage visits everyone wanted to see the horse. So it was an 'a-ha' moment of exploring the idea of having more horses on stage and at some point doing a horse show."

Now, thirteen years and two shows later (the company's second production is titled *Odysseo*), *Cavalia* has astounded audiences worldwide with its magical portrayal of one of the oldest relationships known to exist – that between man and horse.

"Whatever culture you're from, horses have helped us throughout history – to explore and in our day-to-day work, so there is a natural admiration for the horse," Mathieu claims. "The show is made up of beautiful images and special scenes constructed around this relationship. For example, you'll see horses in liberty – without saddle or attachment – a trainer on the ground sending vocal commands, and the horse's reaction. You'll see a friendship."

With a cast of 40 artists and five musicians, *Cavalia* is a theatrical spectacle. But the show revolves around its equine performers, which can lead to some unpredictability. Mathieu assures us that, unlike other strictly controlled shows, spontaneity is welcomed: "If a horse decides not to listen to a command, we don't force him into doing

something, because that would suppress the spirit of the horse. It's a playground, it's meant to be fun for the horses to perform with our artists.

"Making sure we keep the horses happy is one of our biggest challenges," he continues. "We have our own recipe for this and it's very simple: love, respect and patience."

The show is performed under two pitched tents, collectively known as 'Big White Top'. Created specifically for the show, the temporary structure encompasses over 2,440 square meters and is shaped like a white castle.

"We don't set up a show, we set up a village," Mathieu jokes, citing the 120 permanent staff, 100 trucks, and 40 horses required.

It's a mammoth operation, but one that has the capacity to delight and alter perspective. "We've had marriage proposals and people who cry during the show, as well as letters from children afterwards," Mathieu shares. "The crazy part is that my father was not a horse person, he was raised in the city, so it's a show designed by a 'non-horse' person, with the aid of professionals who have made sure the quality and presentation of the show is accurate. The person who loves horses will enjoy the show, and the person who doesn't really know much about horses will still come out of it being entertained and wanting to know more about these animals. It's a general public show, rather than a horse-lover's show."

The beauty of *Cavalia* must be seen to be believed. Fortunately, this is only the beginning, as Mathieu hopes the show will be able to tour China for some time yet.

"We could stay [in China] for many years, as long as people welcome us with arms open. We are very excited to present this show to Beijing audiences. I have to say the cast and crew have been enjoying the city a lot so far. It's nice; there's culture and good places to visit."

Mathieu ends positively: "I think the show will do well and as we are happy here, you know that's a good thing."

From April 28, 7.30pm (Wed-Sun), 2.30pm matinees (Sat) and 2pm matinees (Sun); RMB120-1,980; Chaoyang Park 朝阳公园 (400 030 1651, en.damai.cn)



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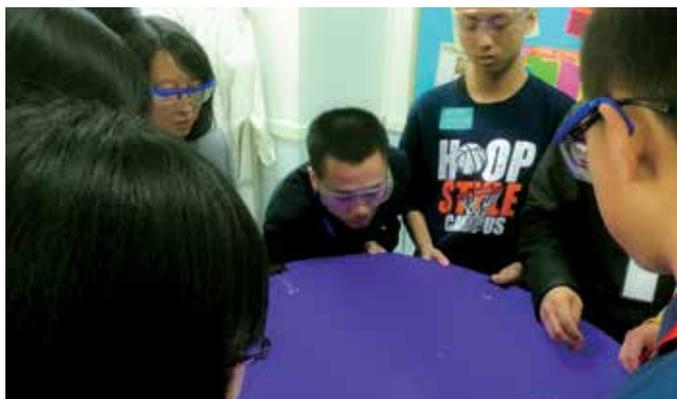
Two friends' chemistry is so powerful their bonds spark fireworks at the press conference for Budweiser Storm.



"If we pose with our VIP clients, will you put us in City Scenes?" say *That's* members of staff at the *That's Beijing* VIP Party at The Georg.



"This final ingredient will make you very, very happy, just don't tell the cops," says Migas Chef Aitor Olabegoya during his 'Symphony of Flavors' kitchen takeover at Brick & Wood.

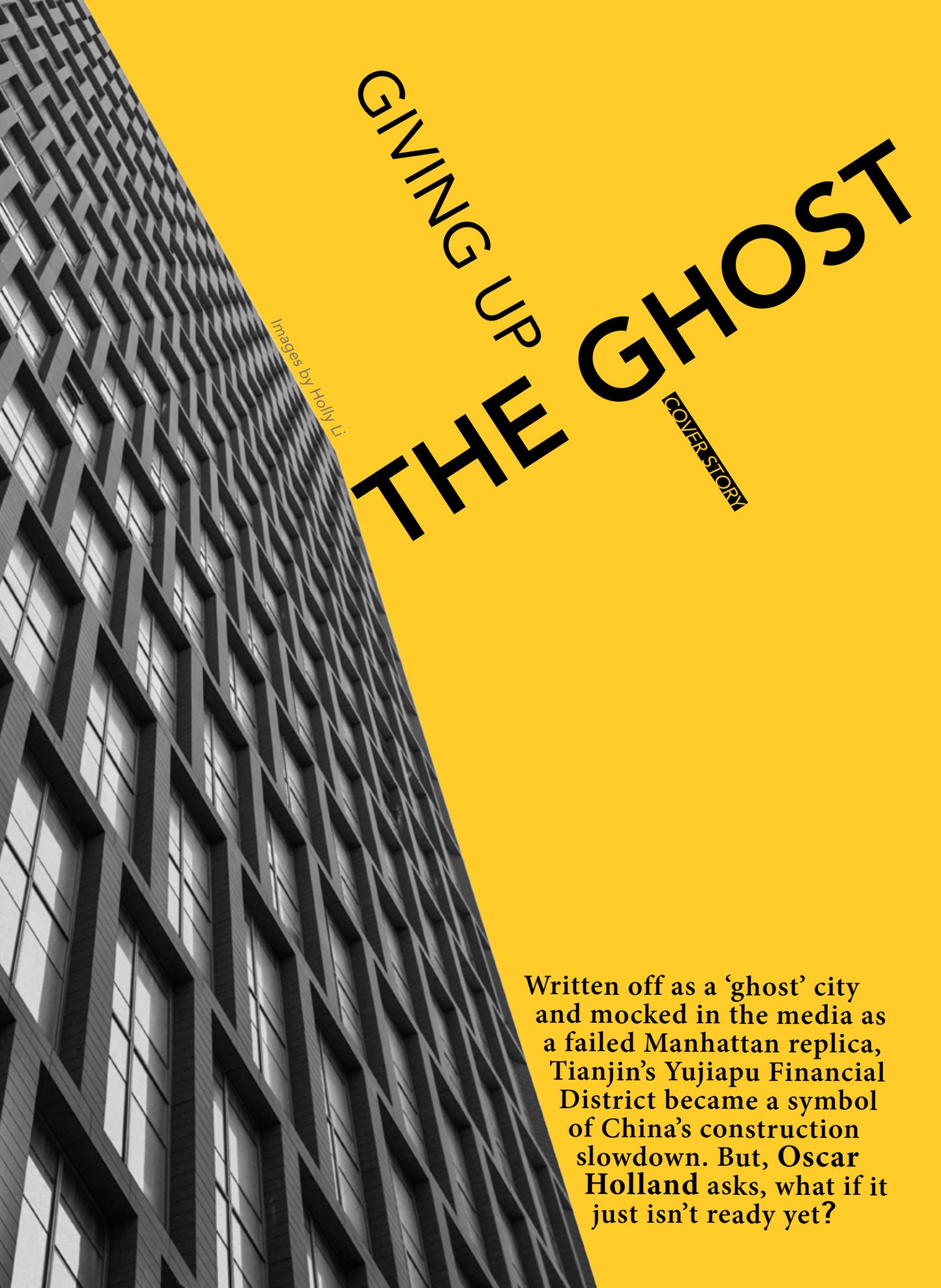


Students are unsure why goggles are necessary for this experiment at the British School of Beijing's UK-China space science program.



In rare miracle of nature, drinking game teammates all sneeze simultaneously at Lululemon's Sweat Games.



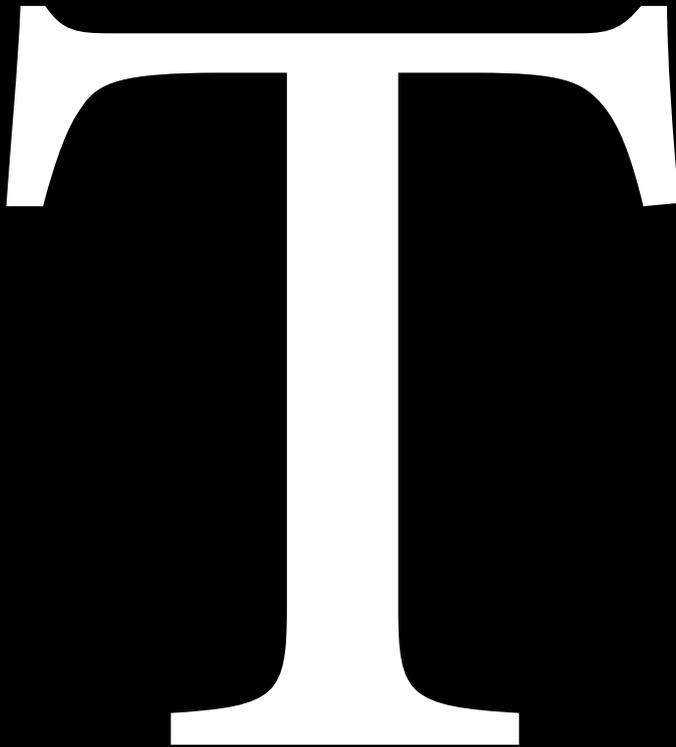


**GIVING UP
THE GHOST**

Images by Holly Li

COVER STORY

Written off as a 'ghost' city and mocked in the media as a failed Manhattan replica, Tianjin's Yujiapu Financial District became a symbol of China's construction slowdown. But, **Oscar Holland** asks, what if it just isn't ready yet?



The domed silver facade of Yujiapu's railway station protrudes onto the landscape like a shimmering seashell lodged in the earth. Sunlight pours through its roof into a modern, airy interior of geometric patterns and concentric spirals made from metal and glass. Opened last year, and soon to be connected to Tianjin's subway system, the station offers a grand and spotlessly clean vision of this new financial district's future.

Since September, seven trains have arrived here daily from Beijing. Our morning service, while not completely full, is certainly busy, and return tickets have already sold out. Upon arrival, passengers stream out above ground where a line of taxis awaits their custom.

Just beyond lies one of China's most ambitious new urban development projects. Set across an area of 3.86 million square meters, Yujiapu is being billed as a future center of global finance. Its CBD, which is modeled loosely on Manhattan, will comprise around 100 new buildings. Urban planners hope that investment in the region of RMB200 billion can transform this former marshy fishing village into a vital hub for northeast China.

Yet, if media reports are to be believed, this is one of China's infamous 'ghost'

cities. Yujiapu has been dogged by stories of its impending failure since the district's first building was completed in 2010. The world's news outlets – most which visited long before the railway station had even opened – depicted a deserted, unfinished new city.

'China's replica Manhattan is a half-built and abandoned ghost town amid economic woes,' screamed one headline. 'Manhattan look-a-like turned into a "ghost city"' CNN reported.

Given that there are currently no schools, hospitals or public services in Yujiapu, it's hardly surprising that people haven't yet flooded in. But it was an easy story to tell. The unfinished buildings fed into a narrative of China's construction boom; images of wide, empty streets encapsulated an economic slowdown; and the comparisons with Manhattan added an element of 'weird' (another seemingly vital component of reporting on China).

But beneath the surface – literally – Yujiapu is starting to show signs of life. An underground free-trade zone, opened at the end of last year to attract businesses to the area, now offers duty-free shopping. It's quiet on our first midweek visit, but returning on a Sunday we discover an altogether different scene.

"We live nearby in Tanggu," explains a mother by the entrance to the shopping area. "We just came here to show our daughter around and to have a look at the shops."

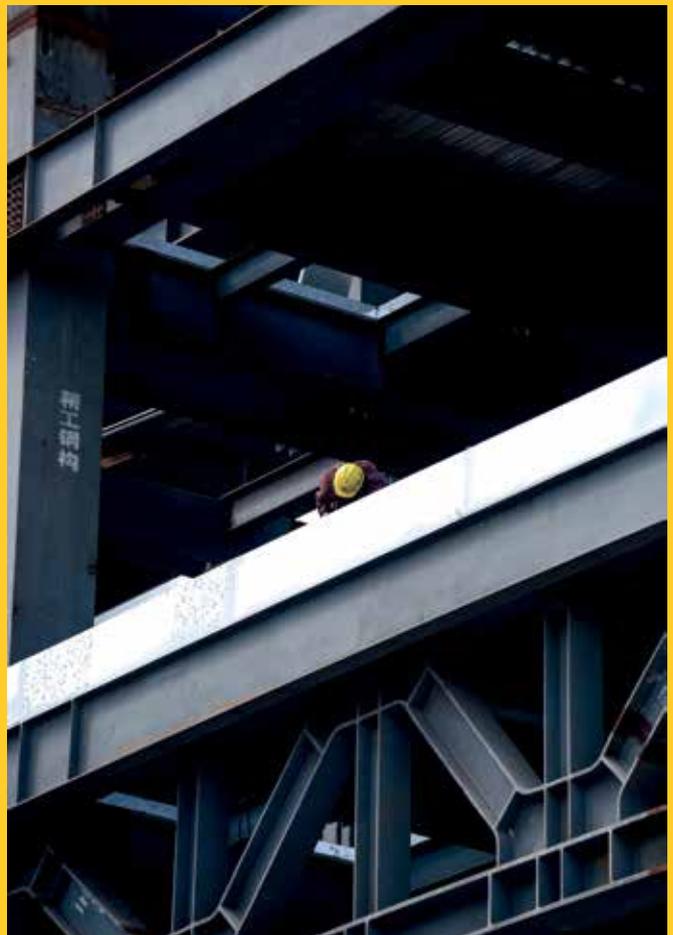
They are not alone. Inside, young families and groups of teens browse cut-price import goods which are divided by country. Offerings here range from Korean cosmetics and Turkish rugs to minimalist Danish furniture. Store employees tell us that although foot traffic has fallen since the opening buzz died down, business has been steady.

Officials expect much more. In a July 2015 interview quoted by *Bloomberg* (one of the few media outlets to offer in-depth coverage of the project beyond initial sensationalism), the Executive

Opposite page, counter-clockwise from top: Inside Yujiapu's new high-speed rail station; a construction worker rests beside recently completed buildings; the frame of (what will become) one of Yujiapu's tallest buildings



**“
These places
are being built
on 22- or 23-
year timelines –
Yujiapu is still a
very, very new
development
”**





Deputy Director-General of the free-trade zone, Jiang Guangjian, claimed that Yujiapu's economic output was set to quadruple between 2015 and 2017.

Yet back above ground, it's easy to see how the ghost city tag emerged. While some cars and trucks trundle past, the main CBD area is still unnervingly quiet. Flower beds have been prematurely planted; there are few people here to enjoy them.

Like anywhere else in China undergoing rapid development, construction sites are fenced off by boards offering bold dreams in questionable English. 'Diversified commercial facilities with

global exquisites' reads one, while another promises 'high-end office buildings gathering wealth and power.'

But for now, the area is populated largely by migrant workers. They can be found throughout the district's main arteries, painting trees, hammering in paving stones and pouring cement into wheelbarrows. Others rest on grassy banks or sit on the ground chatting and smoking cigarettes. The occasional crashes and clangs of construction echo between buildings in various stages of completion while, above us, figures can be seen between huge

concrete beams.

Neither these empty streets nor the busier free-trade zone tells the full story of Yujiapu. The new signs of life are no more an indication of the project's success than the *lack* of activity was an indication of its failure. The fact of the matter remains: It's simply too soon to judge.

"What many reporters did was go out and take a snapshot of a construction site then call it a ghost city," explains Wade Shepard, author of *Ghost Cities of China*. "But Yujiapu, like most of China's new cities, is a long-term project. These places are being



built on 22- or 23-year timelines. They didn't start building the place until 2009 – it's still a very, very new development."

Fascination with Yujiapu was undoubtedly stoked by the parallels with Manhattan. It made the project ripe for mockery, though the comparison may have more to do with marketing than reality (one project's brochure also depicts a replica of London's Tower Bridge, when the actual bridge here – wide and flat – bears no resemblance whatsoever). By and large, Yujiapu doesn't feel especially like it's trying to be New York – or no more so than other

Above: The new Xiangluowan CBD located just across the river from Yujiapu

planned cities, at least. Its wide boulevards and gridded streets lean toward an aesthetic favored by many new urban areas, from Brasilia to Islamabad.

Having said that, plans in the area do include a building based on the Rockefeller Center – as well as the district's very own twin towers. But before writing them off as cheap knock-offs, it's worth noting that subsidiaries of the Rockefeller Group and Tishman Speyer (the real estate firm behind the original *and* new World Trade Centers) are both directly involved in the funding and construction of Yujiapu.

If anywhere resembles Manhattan, it's actually Xiangluowan, another new business district being built just on the other side of the river. Many of the 'ghost city' news reports carried pictures from Xiangluowan alongside those of Yujiapu.

But while the fates of these two areas are closely tied, Xiangluowan is a 3.2 square-kilometer financial district in its own right. Among the zone's 48 planned buildings is the 91-story, 468-meter R&F Guangdong Tower which, upon completion, will be one of China's tallest structures.

"This place is almost empty, with only a few people," our taxi driver reflects as he escorts us across the river. "But in the last one or two years the process has become quicker. I think it will be finished next year."

It is clear that Xiangluowan is at a later stage of development than Yujiapu. Inside a showroom for a mixed-use development called the Binhai Center, apartments and commercial space are already available for RMB12,000-14,000 per square meter – in line with average prices in Tianjin. The salesman claims that by early 2018, the area will be busy and other facilities in the district will have opened.

His confidence is clearly an unreliable indicator. But a number of buildings on this side of the river are complete and open for trade, though many appear to be covered in a thin layer of dust. We find some small businesses, including a convenience store and an independent cafe. The owner of the latter tells us that she hopes to launch next month, though there is a nearby branch of coffee chain SPR to meet demand for now.

Perhaps most tellingly, a number of banks have opened their doors in the district. Their appearance marks the initial answer to the crucial question – *how* will these empty financial districts fill up?

As in all new city developments across China, the relocation of state-owned enterprises and public facilities is the first step in populating an area. These so-called 'anchor tenants' will always appear the earliest, explains Shepard.

"By the time [a new urban project] is ready, the local government flips a switch and the institutions that the state owns – like banks and universities –



move in," he says. "That gets the ball rolling. It never really happens gradually, it's almost immediate. There's a tipping point that is very obvious.

"I remember a TV news crew wanting to take me to a 'ghost city' near Shanghai when I was promoting my book," he recalls. "I'd been there nine months before and the place was pretty desolate. But we went back and there were people everywhere, they'd opened up the high-tech zone, and the reporter was like: 'This just looks like normal.' But that's how fast these things can happen when the authorities are ready to flip the switch."

A number of private organizations have also expressed their intent to move to the area. The Tianjin branch of New York's prestigious arts conservatory, the Julliard School, aims to set up in Yujiapu by 2018. And, peering through the

Above left: A family on a weekend visit to Yujiapu's new free-trade zone.

Right: Unfinished buildings loom over an entrance to the shopping area





Top: Yujiapu's neatly maintained plazas remain largely empty for now

Bottom: A group of migrant workers take a break from their underground project building the new CBD's heating systems



Maybe it will be a success, maybe it will be a ghost town, maybe it will just be a normal commercial center. But if I had money, I would buy property there



glass door of a finished building in Xiangluowan, we see signs announcing a makerspace by tech giant Tencent.

It is only *after* businesses and services move in that ‘regular’ people can be expected to follow. Low-price land and tax breaks can be used as an incentive to encourage them to relocate, explains Assistant Director at Tianjin University of Commerce’s Institute of Urban Construction, Wang Wei.

“The local government has ways to get people to move there, not only by investing money, but also through policies,” he says. “It can give people a *hukou* [household registration], for instance, which may encourage people from other provinces to relocate there for better education or healthcare.”

In essence, writing off Tianjin’s new financial districts as ghost cities is premature until this process is underway. And there are precedents from across China that provide a model for what success *might* look like.

After stuttering through development in the 1990s, Shanghai’s Pudong district now has occupancy rates of more than 95 percent in its central area, Lujiazui. Meanwhile, the Zhengdong New District in Zhengzhou (which as recently as 2013 was presented in Western media as a ‘ghost city’) is now home to around 1.5 million people who must deal with one of the realities of life in a busy metropolis – traffic jams.

“Look at other similar large-scale CBD projects that got their start a little earlier – in the late 1990s and early 2000s,” says Shepard. “If you use those as a model for what Yujiapu could become, then the future looks rather kinetic, if not bright.”

Yet the problem for Yujiapu and its financiers is that the longer it remains empty, the more it costs.

“*Someone* must be taking the losses,” explains Gillem Tulloch, founder of the financial analysis firm GMT Research. “You would assume the contractors are getting paid by the local government, which is not defaulting on its bills. But someone has to account for and operate the buildings, and it’ll have to carry costs – depreciation and so on. If you’re spending a lot of money maintaining empty buildings, then it means less money on other stuff.”

Many of the recent ‘ghost city’ reports have focused on the falling revenue of Yujiapu’s main

financiers, Tianjin Binhai New Area Construction & Investment Group Co. But this state-backed vehicle appears to have the ability to absorb short-term losses. The international ratings agency Fitch Ratings recently afforded it an A- rating due to a “strong likelihood of extraordinary support” from Tianjin’s municipal authorities.

In other words, the project may be too big to fail.

To understand its political and economic importance, Yujiapu should not be viewed in isolation. Instead, it is more helpful to consider the mosaic of developments taking place across the region. North of the district you find the Sino-Singapore Eco City, and to the east you find the Tianjin Economic-Technological Development Area (TEDA), which is home to more businesses than all of Shanghai.

Zoom out and you see that Yujiapu is just one part of an economic restructuring that aims to see the Binhai region rival other ‘special economic zones’ like Shenzhen. Zoom out again and you see the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei megacity project (Jing-Jin-Ji) that hopes to relocate millions of people from the overcrowded capital. Zoom out once more and you see a country that must accommodate for 250 million new urban residents over the next 10 years.

This by no means guarantees that every new urban development will become a bustling metropolis. A number of the ghost cities reported in the media will fail to attract the requisite interest, as their planners have miscalculated demand. There is also little doubt that a slump in the property market could seriously hinder Yujiapu’s ability to attract new residents and businesses.

But it is far better placed than many of its counterparts. Tianjin’s economic growth is still above the national average, and few developments have as much financial and political backing. If any of China’s new city districts are to really succeed, one as strategically vital as Yujiapu would seem a likely bet.

We may not find out until the turn of the decade. So until then, a punt from Tianjin University of Commerce’s Wang Wei is the best we can offer: “Maybe it will be a success, maybe it will be a ghost town, maybe it will just be a normal commercial center,” he says. “But if I had money, I would buy property there.” ■

EAT & DRINK

GRAPEVINE

SNACKS AND THE CITY

It has now been one year since I moved to Beijing from Hangzhou. *Why did you live in Hangzhou?* you might ask. Good question! I spent most of my 10 months there walking in circles around West Lake and wondering the same thing. Beijing is much cooler.

Nevertheless, I went back for a weekend visit over Qingming Festival. My friends there were excited to show me the hot new Japanese restaurant that had just opened up. It was the most exciting food opening in the city, and it sucked. I was like, *fuck this restaurant*. And then I drank four bottles of Kirin.

I mean, I still had a great time. (It's not about where you are, it's about who you're with! See also: number of Kirin bottles drunk.) But the place reminded me of why I'm so happy to be in Beijing. I mean, I had just come from *That's Beijing's* VIP party at **The Georg**, for God's sake! Other cities don't have this shit!

Our food-and-drink scene is veritably popping, and case in point: **Slow Boat** has announced plans for a new taproom on Sanlitun Nanlu. **Modernista** has a killer new brunch, just in time for the summer.

Also, it's outdoor drinking season. And while **Jing-A Taproom** won't have its outdoor picnic tables this year, you can guzzle their brews outside at **Xian's** new beer garden, opening this month. And for a place to drink bottles of Kirin in that *doesn't* suck, see my review of **He Cai** on page 59. **NM**



Brunch at Modernista

OFF THE BEATEN PLATE

Call us crazy, but when a new restaurant smells like a Subway and looks like a Subway, we presume it's a Subway. Turns out we're wrong. Sandwich is a Subway copycat a mere five-minute walk from an actual Subway, and is so convincingly Subway-like that one of our colleagues actually ate there without realizing it wasn't the real thing. We don't blame him – Sandwich is scarily accurate, from the triangular slices of squeaky cheese to Subway's signature scent wafting outside. Taste, however, is where we notice a difference: Our teriyaki chicken is suspiciously rubbery, the cheese is flavorless, and the meat on our steak-and-cheese sandwich is almost ground to a pulp. Granted, real Subway isn't exactly known for the quality of its ingredients. But we imagine that, had we eaten there, we wouldn't have been starving two hours later. **NM**

Sandwich, 1/F Sky Plaza, Dongzhimen Wai Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区东直门外大街天恒大厦1层

SANDWICH 三明治



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Fruit Candy Gift Set

北京果脯礼包
RMB15

VERSUS

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Petite white hairballs jostle for position next to long, slender phalli. (We have no clue what either of these things is.)

Packaging aside, the gummy candied fruit reminds us of the fruit snacks of our youth. Hopefully they taste like those, too.

INITIAL BITE

The white wheat spheres fall apart as soon as we put snack to lips. And the aforementioned phalli are... not hard.

The sugared fruit tastes are genuinely not bad – it's just the texture that's, well, terse.

OVERALL

This could use some... Salt? Sugar? Illicit drugs? We're not sure. All we know is we didn't taste any flavors, like, at all.

The sugary candies sink like deadweights to the bottoms of our stomachs.

VERDICT

Neither of these is great, but if you'd wanted to get great souvenirs for your family, you'd have done your shopping *before* you hit the airport gift shop. If you're in a hurry, the candied fruit snacks will do. Just don't expect anyone to have more than one bite. **NM**

NEWS BITES

It's Not You, It's Me



Nowadays, everything's about 'me, me, me.' And with Mercedes-Benz' new urban lifestyle space, Mercedes *me*, opening last month in central Sanlitun, this trend is set to continue. Mercedes *me*'s 'me Space' has it all: a cafe serving Yunnanese brews for RMB22-28 a cup (a steal), a restaurant for contemporary Southwestern Chinese cuisine, a juice bar and a *bar bar* (Lighthouse), with the latter offering stunning views of Taikooli opposite.

And luxury cars, of course. The facility houses a couple new Mercedes-Benz models, with test-drives open to visitors, as well as Mercedes-Benz merchandise available to purchase. We sampled the goods, and the restaurant and cafe fare are of high quality, offering a lovely fresh take on Chinese flavors. The standard prices reflect Mercedes *me*'s overall goal of introducing the Mercedes-Benz brand to the everyday customer. It's accessible, top-quality and – dare we say it – fun. **DW**

Mercedes me, 1 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路1号

Shelling Out



The price of Chinese peanuts has “gone up dangerously,” according to the *Financial Times*. Is ‘dangerous’ an overdramatic word to describe changes in international nut markets? Maybe. But maybe not – peanut prices in China have been rising ever since a sparse 2014-15 harvest. Also they're our favorite bar snack (not that that's relevant to global markets).

Yet while China suffers from a shortage, the US has produced so many peanuts in recent years that Americans are running out of warehouses to store them in. (Can you imagine? Send some to us!) Does this mean fewer bowls of peanuts at Beijing bars? Not necessarily. But it does mean that China may have to start importing the snack. Oh, the shame. **NM**

BARTISANS

This month, Scarlet Zhu and Jack Chen, the fun-loving owner and the bartender at **Scarlet A**, talk summer drinks, ‘alcoholism,’ and loyalty.



— **Tell us about your backgrounds in**

SZ: I was just a normal person who liked drinking – an alcoholic [laughs].

JC: She's joking.

SZ: I don't drink as much anymore though.

JC: I used to work in bars in New Zealand and here. I like mixing drinks because it's fun – I feel free to do the things I like.

— **What are your favorite drinks?**

SZ: I like Springbank [whisky].

JC: Rum because it's stronger, sweeter and easier to drink.

SZ: And cheaper!

JC: Right, you don't need an expensive one. The price of a low-quality whisky is the same as a high-quality rum.

— **Which Scarlet A cocktail is most popular?**

JC: We're changing the menu soon, but from our current one, customers seem to like the Jordan Baker and Don Diego the most. They have a smoky taste.

— **So, what's hot for the summer at Scarlet A?**

JC: We're keeping the best-sellers and adding some new chilled drinks using seasonal fruits.

— **Sounds good. Will you also have some sweet deals?**

JC: Yeah, we will have a new late-night happy hour, from 11 until we close – for the people who are still partying. It'll be RMB50 cocktails and RMB20 shots.

— **Do you have any quirky customers?**

SZ: There's one guy who comes in every week, sometimes four days in a row. The interesting thing is that he'd never had a cocktail before he came here. And now he's *crazy* into our bar. He drinks a lot – 10 cocktails a night – but is usually just tipsy. He's one of our best customers. **DW**

Scarlet A, Daily, 7pm-2am; 60 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区鼓楼东大街60号 [139 1084 6615]; Scarlet A's new summer menu debuts in May

BRING IT ON IN

What food imports will grace China's shelves in 10 years' time?

Noelle Mateer

investigates,

Images by **Holly Li**



“With the improvement of China's economy and the rise of the middle class, more and more people pursue quality and novelty”

As if they're here expressly to lend irony to my story, jianbing carts line up outside the entrance to Mainland China's largest imported food expo. Visitors, their entrance passes dangling from their necks, line up for the local snack; *Beijingren* fry the eggs and hand them over.

After all, there's no taste like home. Or maybe there is. I guess I'm about to find out.

I'm at the Asia International Import Food Expo (AIFE), and it's massive. The fair has commanded crowds so huge that peddlers are hawking entry passes outside its gates. It's free to get in; they're just selling them so visitors don't have to wait in line. This is our first clue that AIFE is a big deal.

"Our expo is very popular," International Director Cathy Zhao had told me in her AIFE headquarters a couple weeks before, in what must be the understatement of the year.

Perhaps we shouldn't be surprised. Food import rates have been rising since China's reform and opening-up, decades ago. "The total demand for imported food increases by the rate of 15 percent every year," says Cassidy Liu, program manager for another, competing food-imports expo, CIPFE.

China is no stranger to imported foods. Oreos have been on 7-Eleven shelves for years now. There are more KFCs here in Beijing than there are in actual Kentucky. And Sanlitun has a building full of Spanish food (I'm talking about Nali Patio). But what about countries that *aren't* Western? Whose food exports will we see on Chinese supermarket shelves in five or ten years' time? So I enter AIFE with a question: What's next?

And, more pressingly: Can I try some free samples? Fortunately for me, and *That's Beijing* photographer Holly Li, the answer is yes.

The massive industrial complex that hosts AIFE is full of sights and smells, but most of all, it's full of people. First up, a shirtless man has us drink a gooey brown liquid. The aforementioned sentence is horrible without context, yet at AIFE, it makes a funny kind of sense. But please, humor me and let me throw in two more disturbing facts before I fully explain this: The dude has a pineapple on his head and he's wearing a grass skirt.

"Try it!" he says, holding out two tiny cups. (Grass skirts and fluorescent hats are traditional Tahitian dress, if this Tahitian health foods booth is to be believed.) We try it and nod vague approval as the man explains that we're drinking active enzymes from noni, a Tahitian fruit known for its superpower-like health benefits.

In fact, the entire front hall of the expo center is dedicated to products endorsing a distinctly Asian view of health. (Western-style organic juice cleanses, these are not – see p. 20 for that.) There are fruits that make your skin look better. There are syrups

Japanese health elixirs. There are stands full of shiny rocks, prompting me to ask a saleswoman what they're doing here. "It's traditional medicine," she says. OK.

There are so many stalls dedicated to health products and superfoods that we wonder if we're in the wrong place. And the crowd makes us feel especially lost – everyone in attendance looks over 70 years old.

"There are so many grannies here," remarks my colleague Holly as we pass stand after stand of health products. The median visitor age appears to rise as we travel from Hall 1 (general health products) to Hall 2 (Korean medical supplies), which has me wondering if the expo is capable of warping time like Benjamin Button. "Where are the funeral supplies?" I joke. (I'm the worst.)

But we aren't in the wrong expo – just the wrong halls. Health foods and Korean medical products (cue the grannies) are merely the first two exhibitions.

"We have a theme of health this year," said Cathy Zhao, back at AIFE offices, in her second colossal understatement of our interview. Zhao explains that the expo's themes are chosen by popular demand – read: sector growth – but that AIFE also contains halls dedicated to purified water, agricultural products and imported-food miscellany. The average age of the visitors in these sections is significantly lower.

And so we proceed. The rest of the day is a blur of strangers pushing substances and us pushing said substances down our digestive tracts. Things we sample include, but are not limited to: octopus kimchi, sesame paste, Spanish olive oil, Russian barbecue sauce, Turkish candies, Georgian dry wine, Georgian sweet wine, teriyaki chicken, Slovakian wafer cookies, Mongolian spring water, Korean corn wine (it's a thing!) and some dude's nostril air filters (to clarify: we don't eat these; we just learn how to properly shove them up our nose holes).

And Indonesian snack foods. "Indonesia has a really good reputation for instant noodles," saleswoman Mikka Law tells us, over samples of her brand's mango juice. Law has traveled from Indonesia to reach out to Chinese buyers at AIFE, particularly Chinese Muslims, because, she explains, "All our food is halal." Her brand plans to open an office in China soon because, as she says: "It's a big market."

We could detail every time someone says the phrase "China is a big market," but to make things easier, just know: Every



Opposite page, clockwise from upper left: visitors test out imported kimchi, a Taiwanese man sells sesame paste, visitors queue for a peek at a Korean exhibit; this page: vendors sell Japanese tea smoothies

exhibitor we speak to at AIFE says China is a big market. Every person we interview wants to enter this market. Suffice to say, China is a big market.

"There's a really big market among upper-class consumers," says another sales rep, this one for a Russian corn oil company.

The upper-middle class consumer is exactly who American fitness-water company BLK is targeting. "The price of imported goods is going down," says marketing manager Eric Kuang (despite the fact that BLK sells RMB48 bottled waters).

But health food isn't the only sector experiencing a surge.

"For different times, different decades, there are different products," says Xing Jiayi of Wendeng Hecheng International Trade Co., a Shandong-based importer of Korean food. His company used to import Japanese products, but it switched gears a few years ago due to popular demand for Korean goods.

"Korean food is a trend, and it's going to get bigger," he says.

Zhao confirms: "We're seeing growth in the Korean sector."

The options on offer at AIFE are dizzying, but perhaps most interestingly, they are decidedly non-Western. There is a distinct lack of Western goods in general – a notable exception being BLK, whose stall includes gorgeous athletes pumping iron to the sounds of gaudy EDM. (It is so obnoxiously American, and I'm allowed to make that joke because I'm obnoxious and American.)

After all, this expo isn't for the Pepsis and Nestles of the world. AIFE mainly features smaller companies looking to get their starts in China. As varied as their products are, these exhibitors all have certain similarities in common: they come from afar with a desire to break into the Chinese market.

As a Chinese man importing food for foreign communities in Beijing, Max Wang represents the reverse. From his store in Dongzhimen, Wang provides a variety of services for African expats, but one of his most popular is imported foods.

The entryway of Wang's office features a wall of hair extensions in nearly every color (and we mean literally every color – there are some rainbow braids). But to our right, we spy shelves of African food. There is cassava, spices and cans

of snack food with colorful labels.

Wang's services are evidently popular. During our visit, he pauses our interview several times to talk with walk-in customers, who often hug him and greet him by name.

"I get a big shipment in once a month," he says of his cassava and yams. "It's very popular. People love it!"

Wang sells more than he can bring in, which is testament to the demand for imported African food in Beijing. Wang's business currently centers on one office, but he jokes: "I want to turn this whole building into the USA – United States of Africa!"

He's started to, at least. There's a salon specializing in African haircuts next door to his office, as well as an African restaurant two floors down. (Although, full disclosure, when we knock on the restaurant door, a woman shouts "NO FOOD" at us and slams the door in our face.)

Will she be serving food to us in the future, though? Maybe.

"With the improvement of China's economy and the rise of the middle class, more and more people pursue quality and novelty," says CIPFE's Liu. "There will be more high-quality and personalized food brought into China, and supermarkets and chain supermarkets will become like miniature imported food fairs.

"China will be the largest consumption country for imported food by 2018, then the imported food market will be worth RMB480 billion. China will welcome a high-speed development or a 'golden period' for imported foods in the next few years."

Back at AIFE, we're having a little pre-lunch aperitif with Georgian wine salesman Mikhail Sharoike. After his requisite spiel on Georgia being the cradle of wine – "Google it, you'll see I'm right" – we ask him how he goes about importing wine into China.

"It's simple. We take the goods to China. Then we sell them," he says, looking at us like we're a pair of idiots.

"Right, but how do you approach the Chinese market?" I ask. "Do you have a strategy?"

"If it's good, everyone will drink it. If it's not good, nobody will drink it," he says.

He doesn't roll his eyes and say "duh," but it's implied. While not backed up by sales data, his argument is bolstered by queues of visitors lining up to taste the wines. "Hm, this is good," says one taster, handing over his business card to Sharoike. "Email me later."

"I think China has really started to appreciate foreign products," says instant-noodle saleswoman Law.

Once again, this is an understatement. ■





Opposite page: Visitors pose for photos with women in traditional Korean dress; This page, clockwise from upper left: Max Wang in his office, American fitness waters, a display of Russian corn oil

“For different times, different decades, there are different products. Korean food is a trend, and it’s going to get bigger”



O'PASTA

O'Pasta, we have one question for you: Oh, why? Your casual French-bistro vibe is killer. Your Sanlitun location is prime. Your prices are agreeable. But serving several varieties of bland noodles just a couple of storefronts down from major Xingfucun joints is no way to get us to return. We'll just have to be content with O'Steak.

Daily, 11am-late; 55 Xingfucun Zhonglu, Chaoyang 朝阳区幸福村中路55号



TRIBE (LIDO)

Beijing asked: "More organic food, pretty please?" and TRIBE responded with a second restaurant so spacious it makes its original Gongti spot look like a closet. (The Sanlitun shop, by the way, doesn't actually look like a closet. That's hyperbole to prove how big the Lido location is. OK, you get it.) Expect more healthy dinners, obvs, but also more events, workshops and parties.

Sun-Thu, 8am-12am; Fri-Sat, 8am-2am; Lido Place, Unit B-103, 6 Jiangtai Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区将台路6号 B103室 (6431 9289)



TUK TUK

Fangjia Hutong newbie, Tuk Tuk, is a hole-in-the-wall – literally. If you're on the go, there's a window you can place takeaway orders from, which sells quality sandwiches ranging from the classic BLT (RMB40) to the more adventurous beef and blue cheese (RMB55). There are cliched hutong hipster vibes, sure, but when simple is done this well (even the coleslaw is homemade, and Yunnan coffee sells for RMB15 a cup), we're cool with that.

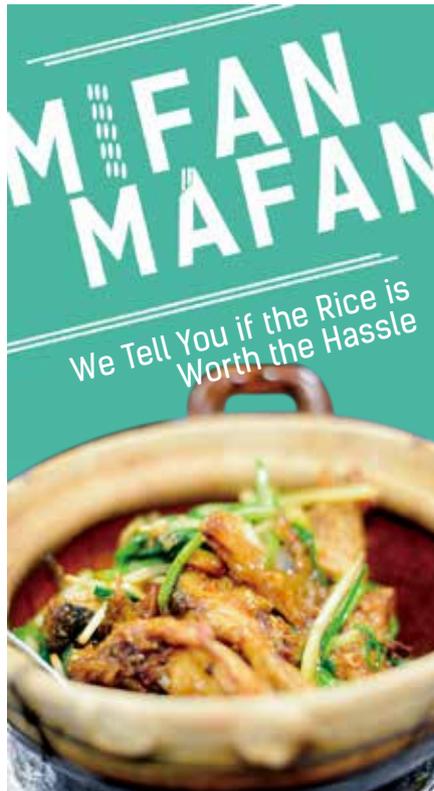
Daily, 11am-10.30pm; 27-29 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区方家胡同27-29号



BERRY BEANS

To get to Berry Beans, you must first take six flights of escalators through Sanlitun's depressing 3.3 Mall. Then you need to enter a hipster barber shop. And then you have to try your best not to spend 5,000 kuai on rad clothing at Mega Vintage. But after all that, you arrive at third-wave coffee spot Berry Beans. Baristas here take their brewing seriously, and our iced coffee, which they spend a solid five minutes crafting, is serious indeed.

6/F, 3.3 Mall, 33 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路33号3.3大厦6/F (5136 5310)



OLD BOY

We heard rumors of this being a dope-ass Hong Kong joint. Turns out, it is a moderate-ass Hong Kong joint. The scallion rice was nice, but the rest of the *mifan* – unless you're in the Dawang Lu vicinity – is not quite worth the *mafan*.

Daily, 11am-11pm; 16 Baizhawan Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区百子湾路16号 (5114 8016)



MAX BRENNER CHOCOLATE BAR

It may sound like a character from a superhero movie, but Max Brenner is actually a massive two-level chocolate bar in The Place. It's a sugar addict's dream come true, complete with self-affirming slogans on the walls ("Chocolate is good for you!") and a menu including waffles (RMB90), cookie shakes (RMB40) and chocolate-chunk pizza (RMB40-120). Gorge in groups to lessen the heavy price tag – and calorie intake. Also, avoid the French toast (RMB95, where is the egg, Max, where?).

Daily, 9am-10pm; The Place (East End of the South Building), Chaoyang 朝阳区金桐西路世贸天阶东口天阶大厦 (5727 8282)

TAOYUAN VILLAGE

Snack to Basics

by Dominique Wong

Taoyuan Village is snack city.

But at the risk of stating the obvious, and despite its Sanlitun Village location, Taoyuan Village is not a village. Rather, it's a trendy canteen-like restaurant serving traditional Taiwanese breakfast foods and snacks.

On our visits, the 'canteen' bustles with well-dressed townsfolk at the big communal dining table, gossiping about so-and-so from next door and discussing the week's news over *youtiao* (RMB6, deep-fried dough sticks) and soybean milk.

These are, after all, foods that bring people together: bowls of soymilk sweet or savory, sticky-rice rolls and the aforementioned cylinders of dough. It's simple food in a simple – albeit hip – setting, but don't be deceived: Your mother's kitchen, Taoyuan Village is not. (Unless your mother charges RMB10 for dry sesame wheat cake or RMB8 for a bowl of sweet soybean milk, in which case, power to your mom.)

The soymilk is just sweet enough, while the sausage and green onion with egg rice roll (RMB28) is tasty and filling, the fat from the meat combining nicely with the thick casing of sticky rice. We also suggest trying the wheat cake with pork chop and egg (RMB32).

A tip for newcomers: the menu is in Traditional Chinese – text only – so ordering may be a tricky affair.

But enough chitchat from us. Go with friends or make nice with the locals (see *Ask a Lao Beijing*, p. 11). Whether you are passing through or a Sanlitun resident, Taoyuan Village will make you feel at home.

Daily, 7am–2.30am; Taikooli South, 1F–S910, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路19号院9号楼太古里南1F–S910 (64165117)



HE CAI

All You Can Eel

words by Noelle Mateer, images by Holly Li

At He Cai, we eat with abandon and we eat very well. Then we hand over seven pink bills.

We do not like that last part. It's hard, handing over bills multitudinous enough that altogether they have palpable mass. But then we thought about two things: First, this was for two people (RMB350 a head). And second, as mentioned previously, we ate with abandon and we ate very well.

Here's how it works: He Cai is all-you-can-eat (or as a local government-sponsored tourism website calls it, AYCE). Is it also, like, ace though? You decide.

In Beijing, the all-you-can-eat phenomenon currently resides in three arenas: high-end hotels, hedonistic teppanyaki joints and Nali Patio. He Cai has most in common with that second category, in that its Japanese and there's lots of Kirin. But the similarities stop there.

This is no raucous, chaotic teppanyaki joint. It is calm and focused – and its food is too. We have a fat platter of sashimi, a tray of varied sushi rolls, a warm eel soup, tasty udon, crunchy salads and so, so much more, perhaps *too* much more. The variety of the dishes does not come at the expense of their quality. Which is, frankly, rare.

The atmosphere is dark wood-paneled contemporary. Service is warm and attentive. Our glasses (of Kirin, duh) are refilled before we even finish them. So we all-we-can-eat until we all-we-can't.



How can you put a price on said pleasures? (No seriously, tell us – the finance department of *That's Beijing* would really like to know.) Perhaps there is an equation to determine accurate pricing that was discussed in Economics 101 or Business Administration 200 or some other introductory college class we never took at journalism school. Ultimately, we are writers. We are not good at math. We are, however, good at eating, and at He Cai, we eat with abandon and we eat very well.

Ultimately, we conclude that equations do not matter. Got 350 kuai to spend on dinner? This is a fun place to do it.

And in terms of Japanese AYCE restaurants, this place is ace.

Daily, 11.30am–2.30pm and 5.30–10.30pm; 18 Xinyuan Xili Zhongjie, Chaoyang 朝阳区新源西里中街18号 (6462 5200)



ANNIE'S CHEF SHAKEDOWN

Italian Chefs Go Head-to-Head

The chefs at Annie's were expecting a typical interview. So we gave them a pop quiz instead. Meet Filippo and Alex – the Italian chefs behind Beijing's favorite Italian restaurant chain.

FILIPPO, PASTRY CHEF AT ANNIE'S

Hometown: Center-North Italy, near Bologna

Favorite thing to make: Bread.

— **When you started to bake:**

More than 10 years ago. The baker in my town was looking for help, and now that's my life.

— **Your funniest accident in the kitchen:**

I asked to my staff to put a pan with sugar and water in the oven to boil. The guy misunderstood and poured the sugar and water into the well of the oven. So he basically caramelized the oven! It was a mess.

— **The weirdest thing you like to eat:**

I'm a kind of a boring person. I like the old-school, old-fashioned way. I can't think of anything weird. [Laughs, then turns to his girlfriend and asks:] Have we ever eaten something weird? [She says no.]

— **If you could only have three ingredients on a deserted island:**

Milk, sugar and chocolate – so I can have a milkshake.

— **If you could only have one dessert for the rest of your life:**

Tiramisu. I feel like I'm forced to give this answer because I'm Italian. I have to, just to honor Italy.

— **Pizza or pasta:**

Pasta.

— **Mozzarella or parmesan:**

Mozzarella.

— **We didn't realize this was so easy.**

It's actually not easy – you're asking me to choose between my left and right arm!

— **OK, espressos or lattes:**

Espressos. *This* is easy.

— **The strangest thing you've ever had on a pizza:**

I want to say, for the record, that I did not order this pizza – it was just on the table. Do you know durian?

ALEX, CHEF AT ANNIE'S

Hometown: Milan.

Favorite thing to make: Risotto.

— **When you started to cook:**

When I was in middle school, I didn't really like watching cartoons, so I watched cooking shows instead. I saw a chef cooking on TV and was just mesmerized. Then there was a party in my school – and every student was supposed to bring something. I baked a cake. It was so good my teacher said I should pursue a career as a chef.

— **The weirdest thing you like to eat:**

I don't know what they were called, actually. [Attempts to describe a meatball stand he ate from on a Beijing street.] They looked weird, but tasted really good.

— **If you could only have three ingredients on a deserted island:**

Rice, potatoes and tomatoes because I could plant them and grow more.

— **If you could only have one main course for the rest of your life:**

Pasta e fagioli [pasta with white beans].

— **Pizza or pasta:**

Good pizza, good pasta.

— **Choose one.**

Depends.

— **No, really – if you had to choose!**

Fresh pasta.

— **Mozzarella or parmesan:**

Mozzarella.

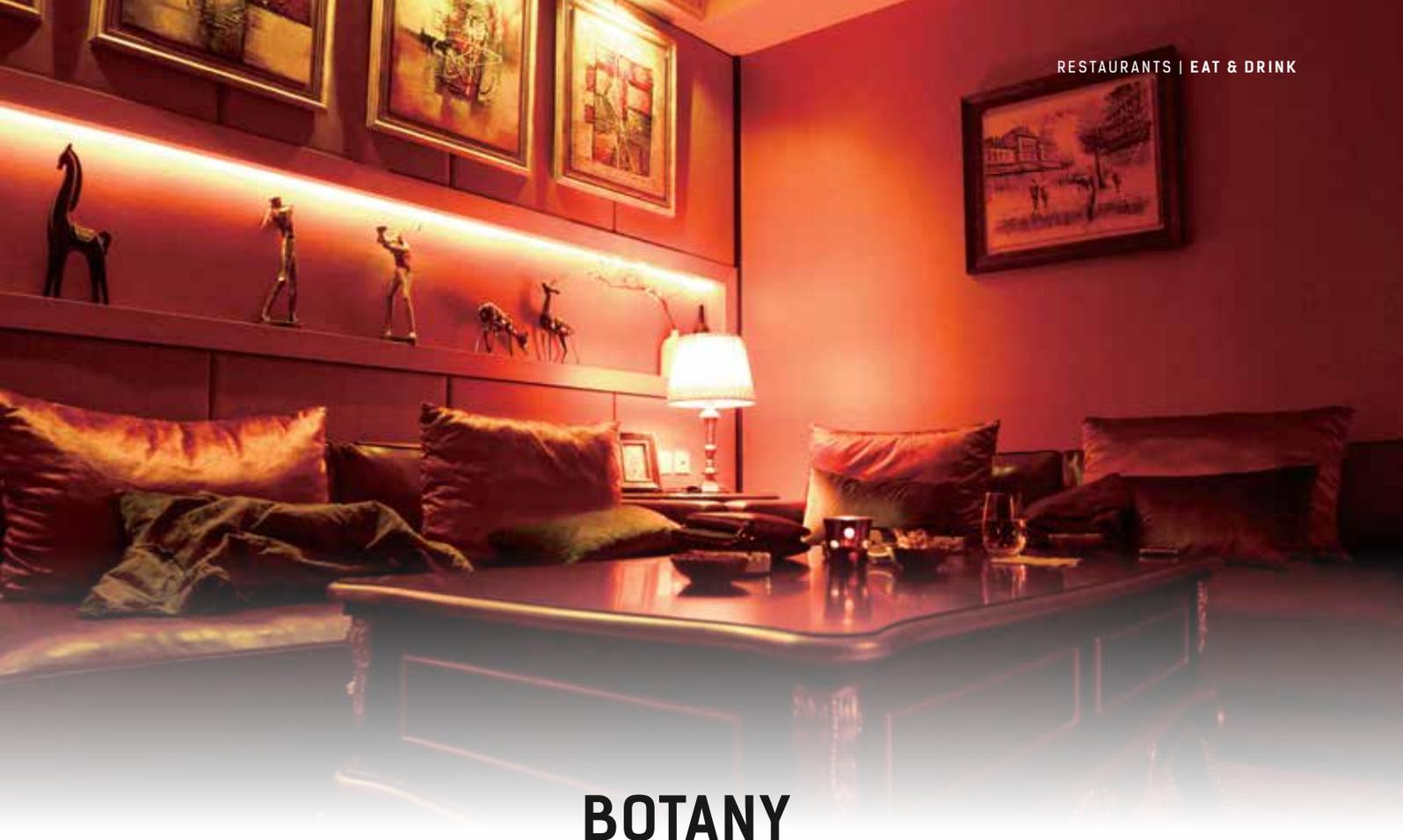
— **Espressos or lattes:**

Espressos.

— **The strangest thing you've ever had on a pizza:**

Chicken and barbecue sauce. It's quite good after a night out, actually.

Taste Alex and Filippo's Italian cuisine and free traditional homemade aperitivo bread at Annie's locations throughout the city (see Listings for details), via takeout or as part of their private high-end dinner service



BOTANY

Gongti's Secret Garden

words by Noelle Mateer, images by Holly Li

In terms of Beijing's bar scene, Botany is this month's "find."

And we mean that literally – we have to work to find it. We have to call in advance to make an appointment. We have to walk past security guards into a residential compound, and take an elevator to the right floor and knock on the door.

The exclusive-bar-hidden-somewhere-you-don't-expect gimmick is no longer new to Beijing. It is, however, new to Yongli International Plaza, the outwardly dismal mall on Gongti Beilu. Granted, we're not in the mall, but in Yongli's serviced apartments, which makes the somewhere-you-don't-expect gimmick particularly effective. From Botany's apartment-cum-bar on one of the block's upper levels, you can literally look down on people lining up at Vics while you sip your artisanal cocktails.

Botany is helmed by Frankie Zou, a master mixologist previously of fine-dining heavyweights TRB and Maison Boulud. Let us repeat that: TRB and Maison Boulud. The hype surrounding this man was huge. Our expectations were even huger. So how did Botany live up to them?

Well.

Botany's Tokyo Bay (RMB85) is worth canceling all your plans for. The Japanese green tea-based drink is one of the best cocktails we've had this year. And it's the best tea cocktail we've had, period.

Other drinks require a tad more

explanation. Botany is more of a cocktail laboratory than a place to guzzle things down. Zou loves explaining the complicated processes behind his drinks, as well as the homemade botanicals he crafts specifically for his recipes. The cocktails, we've decided, are a show that plays out best with Zou's narration.

In the sitting room (bedroom?) of the bar (apartment?), we don't get as much explanation. As such, the special nature of some of them – in particular the tasty, but unexciting Friday Night (RMB85) – is lost on us. We do get excellent service, though, plus loads of canapes. Throughout the night, our party is in a near-constant state of surprise due to the rounds and rounds of complimentary bites delivered to our table. There are delicate flatbreads, nibbles of smoked salmon and – at the end – pink macarons.

Surprises also come in drinkable form. Zou himself brings out multiple rounds of tiny sample-sized cocktails, which are, for the most part, complex and delightful.

Zou's biggest weakness lies in decor (he's a mixologist, not an interior designer). While the level of service creates a palpable feeling of comfort, it doesn't have that look – gilded picture frames and wall trappings veer towards the cheesy.

But zoom out from all that minutiae, and you'll see your time at Botany for what it is: an experience – at the very least, a night out you won't soon forget.



Zoom way out from all that – say, with a satellite overlooking the entire block, replete with Vics and Elements – and you'll see you're the luckiest drinker in all of Gongti.

By appointment only, 1209-2 Yongli International Service Apartment, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区 永利国际2单元1209, call (6463 6091) or add BOTANY-CONCEPT on WeChat to reserve

TOP STORIES

BEIJING

- **Man and 4-Year-Old Son Rollerblade 540km to Beijing**

Father goes all out to prove that life is wheely, wheely tough.

- **11 Places to Drink Outside in Beijing**

Our guide to getting drunk – al fresco style.

- **Beijing Is World's Least Affordable City to Rent**

We're not even sure if they took agents' fees into account.

- **Scantly Clad Milk Lady Leads Cow Along Beijing Streets**

Freshly squeezed PR stunt from an organic milk company.

- **Now Hiring: Editorial Interns for Spring/Summer 2016**

Get writing – we can fetch our own coffees.

NATIONAL

- **Hilarious Comics Highlight Dangers of Dating Foreigners**

Beware of big-nosed spies posing as academics.

- **On a Go-Kart, On a Boat: Departing from China in 2017**

New cruise ship with go-kart track to sail from China.

- **Which US Presidential Candidate is Best for China?**

Never before have candidates spoken *this* much about China.

- **Customers Do Not Take to 'Hermes of Instant Noodles'**

If you're going to spend 30 kuai on a meal, make it a fresh one.

- **Ronald McDonald Detained by Chengguan In Guangzhou**

Renegade friend, The Hamburgler, is still at large.

THE MONTH ON THATS MAGS. COM

COMMENT OF THE MONTH

"The perfect shaped face on a stupid person has nothing beautiful. Come on girls, wake up!"

-- User Mitra, on 'Latest Chinese Body-Shaming Challenge Involves Pencils'

INSTAGRAM HIGHLIGHT

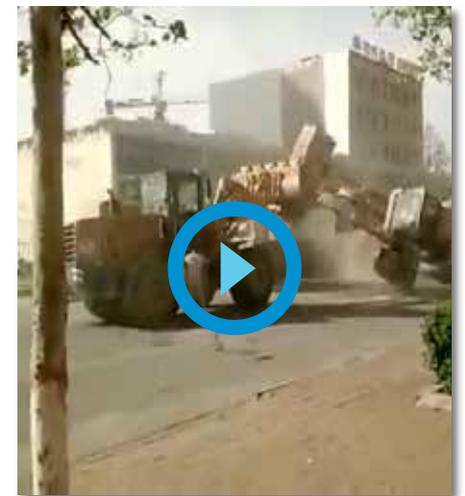
Thanks to @lengwen822 for tagging #thatsbeijing. Tag your pictures on Instagram for a chance to be featured on our feed.



VIDEO OF THE MONTH

WATCH: Bulldozer Street Battle in Hebei

Things get out of hand as rival bulldozer firms duel over a business feud



Scan the QR code to visit thatsmags.com

REVEALING THE SECRETS OF HOW TO CHOOSE AN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

by Xu Jian, Former Principal of Shanghai World Foreign Language Middle School

Why do you choose international education? There may be thousands of reasons. Previously, your reason may have been: "I have to choose international education because my child can't get into domestic colleges." However, students in China can now learn a high standard of English from lessons at international schools or language institutes, where they are taught by foreign teachers. From this perspective, therefore, going abroad is not simply about getting better qualifications or jobs. So why do we still choose international education?

I. The tendency to study abroad is increasing rapidly and will keep rising in 2016

According to recent statistics, the number of students studying abroad in 2014 was nearly 460,000, 31 percent higher than in 2013. Although the data hasn't been published, the overall trend will definitely keep rising in 2016. This tendency to go abroad is increasing rapidly. Moreover, Chinese students now make up the largest portion of this number.

II. Four reasons to choose an international education

1. The primary reason could be that parents want to further their children's international education abroad. Recently, kids have more and more opportunities to join study trips and summer camps abroad, at any grade.

2. Parents want to change their children's style of learning. Studying abroad can cultivate students' skills and abilities, among many other benefits.

3. From a wider perspective, international education broadens children's vision, cultivates their values and instills a more international way of thinking.

4. Lastly, children should assume some international responsibilities. Social values – which are created everywhere – contribute to international society. It is valuable to



cultivate students with broader vision and more comprehensive abilities.

III. What should we focus on?

1. The different types of international schools depend on individual differences.

What really is an 'international school'? We normally divide them into three categories. The first is comprised completely of foreigners. The second enrolls foreign students as well as Chinese students. It is initially a local school, but it opens some international courses and begins to recruit more students. The third is a training school. These will open some training lessons by developing international high school curriculums. Holders of foreign passports can choose all of these types of school. Holders of Chinese passports may select the last two types. If you want to avoid the college entrance examination, you can only enter the second type of school.

2. Selecting the right international curriculum isn't the only thing that will help students secure a place at a prestigious university.

There are many kinds of international courses, including IB, A-level and others. Education providers will always claim that their students are more likely to secure the place in top universities. In fact, I believe it is students' learning experiences which hold the key to their further study.

Schools differ in terms of the kinds of classes they run during a semester, so it is essential for parents to have a clear mind about international schools. All in all, it seems that the key to a top university does not boil down to the types of international classes parents choose, nor the difficulty or breadth of the teaching sessions. But it is how students learn in the school and what motives or encourages them the most that will lay the foundation for their university studies and graduation.

3. Consider the

teaching methods and emphasize students' individuality

In the process of choosing schools, parents will need to emphasize individual students' personalities. If the practical courses and elective courses are not comprehensive when compared to the domestic curriculum, I advise parents to act carefully.

4. Take the sustainable development of the school into consideration and do not judge a school by its distance from home.

In my opinion, I believe the most important and meaningful things to consider when selecting a school are: whether it is trustworthy, whether students will have a good experience studying, and whether they will get better scores, not the distance between the school and home.

5. The best school is the one most suitable for you, aiming to have more opportunities for the future.

At the end of this article, I want to make clear one thing: suitability is best. To quote Master Long Yingtai for further explanation: Children, I ask you to study hard. This doesn't mean comparing your achievements with others, but giving you the right to choose, so that you can have the chance to have a meaningful life and career, rather than being forced to make a living.

For more information visit guoji.114study.com



● Funk Fever Farewell Bash Party

For over seven years, Funk Fever nights have brought some much-needed groove to Beijing's nightlife. But with co-founder Bite-Size Buddha (above) on his way out of the capital, the long-running parties will leave with him. Save your tears and say goodbye with a final get-down on Migas' terrace.

Sat May 7, 10pm-late; RMB60; Migas (see Listings for details)

● Redor Gig



Feel-good Fujian quartet Redor have been blending pop, rock and funk since 2010. As long as they veer toward their funky side (rather than their soppy side), then their show at Modernsky Lab should get your feet moving.

Sun May 22; RMB60 (advance), RMB80 (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

● Sarah Farina / DJ



She may have emerged from a techno-heavy Berlin club scene, but Sarah Farina's wide-ranging sets span genres as diverse as juke, drum 'n' bass and UK funky. It is this very variety that has led her to dub her style 'Rainbowbass.' For a taster of what to expect, jump online and check out her 2013 and 2014 Boiler Room sets. Farina has played alongside the likes of Kode9, dBridge and Disclosure, and this time she's joined on the bill by the UK's Harikiri. If that name sounds familiar, then you may have caught him ripping it up at The Syndicate Sessions in October. Support comes from Bloodzboi, Dokedo and Oshi from the night's organizers, The Drop.

Sat May 7, 10pm-5am; RMB60; Dada (see Listings for details).

● Stones Throw 20th Anniversary / Gig



Independent US label Stones Throw has put out some of hip-hop's most important records during its two-decade history. To celebrate 20 years in the game, the founder and all-around hip-hop legend Peanut Butter Wolf heads up a killer lineup for an anniversary tour of Asia that stops in Beijing this month. He'll be joined by Egyptian Lover, who shows off the more electro-minded side of the label's output. But the thing we're looking forward to most is a special live collaboration between producer Knxwledge and rapper Earl Sweatshirt (pictured) who, alongside the likes of Tyler the Creator and Frank Ocean was a member of influential collective Odd Future.

Sat May 7, 9pm; RMB100 (in advance), RMB150 (door); 751 D-Park, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路4号北京时尚设计广场

● Eluveitie Gig



Swiss folk metal band Eluveitie merge traditional Celtic folk melodies with Scandinavian-style death metal. The resulting sound is devastatingly aggressive, but with melodic undertones. This fusion of musical worlds also means that, alongside down-tuned guitar riffs and primal drumming, Eluveitie also embrace wonderfully twee instruments such as fiddles, tin whistles, bagpipes and hurdy-gurdies. Whether they'll bring hurdy-gurdies to Beijing for their show at Tango is unconfirmed. But what you can expect is a furious set and a whirlwind tour of the band's discography, which includes tracks like 'Gray Sublime Archon,' 'Primordial Breath,' 'Scorched Earth' and the characteristically uplifting 'Bloodstained Ground.'

Sat May 14, 8.30pm; RMB260 (pre-sale), RMB350 (door), RMB480 (VIP); Tango 5F (see Listings for details)

● NightSHFT Festival Gig



The former 1LoveShanghai crew has been spreading the good times nationwide as SHFT. They've organized this mini national warehouse tour featuring double headliners UZ (Mad Decent), who made an appearance at 8mm last year, and rising Atlanta rapper OG Maco (pictured), who was included in XXL's Freshmen of the Year list (also last year). Rounding things out is a bill filled with Chinese standouts and on-site artistic activities.

Thu May 12, 10pm-late; RMB80-200; Yugong Yishan (see Listings for details)



● NUO Market Bazaar

Liven up your Saturdays with NUO Hotel's new market bazaars, a weekly event full of delicious produce including Italian cold cuts, fresh cheeses, and a range of Miele-branded olive oil and pasta. There will be plenty of international food on offer, such as cold Thai coconut soup and Arab-style snacks. While you're there, pick up some NUO's relaxing spa products.

Every Sat from 14 May, 2-6pm; NUO Hotel Beijing, 2A Jiangtai Lu, Chaoyang 中国北京朝阳区将台路甲2号 (5926 8888)

● The Good Earth Film



The best thing about Tuesdays is Pop-Up Beijing's 'Classic Movie' screenings. Our pick this month is *The Good Earth* (1937), a tale of famine, freedom and love in rural China. Happy-hour wine-by-the-glass all evening (RMB35 a pop) will make the night even sweeter.

Tue May 3, 7:30pm; free; Pop-Up Beijing, Courtyard 4, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北路4号院22号楼北侧首层 (6502 5725)

● Eyes on China / Photo Exhibition



Eyes on China, the Instagram collaboration of photojournalists, documentary photographers and video journalists based in China, celebrates its first anniversary with an exhibition in Beijing. Join the opening party where many of the photographers will be on hand to discuss their work. The project is a fascinating and beautiful look into everyday people and scenes across China (see *That's Beijing's* November 2015 cover story). Don't miss this opportunity to see a selection of Eyes on China photos, from phone to gallery.

Daily, May 26-Jun 11; free; Aotu Studio, 67 Beixinqiao Toutiao, Dongcheng 东城区北新桥头条67号 (Instagram: @eyesonchinaproject)

● An Art Show / Culture



DDC presents the third installment of 'An Art Show,' featuring a range of artists, musicians, poets, storytellers, comedians and photography. The event will showcase photography by Clancy Oopow, an esteemed international travel photographer, while selected artworks by Shannon Lethbridge and Kent Niepert will be shown among much else. Meanwhile, the solid musical lineup includes The Plum Trees, Heike and Dan, Image Above All and Electric Badminton. And in between all that, keep an ear out for poetry, storytelling and stand-up comedy from local raconteurs such as Matthew Byrne, Liz Richards, Anthony Tao and Jenny Tang. With a mix this varied, you shouldn't struggle to find something to tickle your fancy.

Sun May 15, 4pm-midnight; RMB50 (presale), RMB60 (at the door); DDC (see Listings for details)

● Yard Sale Community



End the month on a high note by picking up a bargain (or selling some) at House of Knowledge's yard sale. Tables are free, on the condition that a cake is brought along to be sold at the cake table. Money raised will go to Roundabout Charity, so you can feel good about yourself too. Call to reserve a table.

Sat May 31, 10am-1pm; House of Knowledge International School & Kindergarten, Chaoyang Park West Gate Campus: 15 Victoria Gardens, Chaoyang Park Xilu. Beijing 朝阳区朝阳公园西路15号 (6438 2624); Shunyi Campus: North gate of Quanfa Gardens, 18 Maquanying, off Shunbai Lu 朝阳区15号马泉营路泉发小区北门 好思之家国际学校 (6431 8452)

● The Dowager and the Dynasty Walk



Grab some fresh air and learn all about the Empress Dowager Cixi at The Hutong's educational walk and discussion event. A key figure of 20th-century Chinese history, the Empress Dowager has, over the years, been much talked about but little understood. Held at none other than the Summer Palace (which the Empress Dowager rebuilt), the stroll and education session are a pleasant way to spend a morning.

Wed May 11, 10am-1pm; RMB300 (RMB260 for The Hutong members); The Summer Palace, 19 Xinjiangongmen Lu, Haidian 颐和园海淀区新建宫门路19号 (book tickets online via www.thehutong.com)



● Kids Vegan Cooking Class Nutrition

Get your kids into vegan eating with a hands-on cooking workshop. Your little ones will make zucchini spaghetti, baked falafel, salad dressing and vegan chocolate-chip cookies, all with the guidance of the Factory team.

Sat May 21; RMB280, for kids ages 6-12; Factory (see Listings for details, call 156 5272 9258 to reserve)

● Buy-One-Get-One Shots at Blue Frog Boozing



Shots! Shots! Shots! Every Tuesday, Blue Frog is offering insane deals on its selection of shots. Buy-one-get-one free after 4pm all night. Also, ladies receive a free selected appetizer for every 10 shots ordered (definitely come with a group for that deal, though).

Tuesdays, 4pm-late; Blue Frog (see Listings for details)

● RAW by Mosto Culinary Events



Pairing Japanese and Peruvian cuisines may sound strange – but only if you haven't heard of pairing Japanese and Peruvian cuisines before. One of the hottest international culinary trends to emerge within the past decade, Japanese-Peruvian fusion food is now stopping off at Mosto for a special four-day event. The two gastronomic traditions share one crucial ingredient – raw meat – and Mosto will be hosting a pop-up 'Raw Bar' where diners can choose their favorite seafoods, their preferred serving style (ceviche, tiradito or carpaccio) and then hand it over to the chefs to prepare. A weekend of culinary experimentation that's bound to please your taste buds.

Thu May 12-Sun May 15; Mosto (see Listings for details)

● Mother's Day Brunch at Okra 1949 Dining



Okra doesn't do brunch, but it will for Mother's Day, and we couldn't be more excited. This isn't your typical Eggs Benny – expect Chef Max Levy's creative spin on Japanese cuisine with the freshest fish around. Plus, the star dish: one sexy, tender fish head, pictured. Also noteworthy: Okra's cocktail bar has one of the best Bloody Marys in town.

Sun May 8; RMB248 (add RMB128 for free-flow cava); Okra, 1949 The Hidden City, Courtyard 4, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang; 朝阳区南三里屯路4号院 (call 6593 5087 to reserve)

● First Annual Hot Sausage-Eating Competition / Gluttony



With summer approaching, Beijing is getting hot. Some might even say it's getting "hot as balls." That's what we say, anyway – so we've paired up with The Meatball Company to bring you Beijing's First Annual Hot Sausage-Eating Competition, featuring The Ladle & Spice Collection's "Hot as Balls" chili sauce.

Here's how it works. Twelve fierce competitors will undergo two rounds of intensive sausage-eating for the chance to win our first-place prize: RMB500 in cash, a trophy and some bonus Sherpa's money. Sausages are provided by our friends over at Stuff'd, and the whole spectacle will go down in Arrow Factory's new taproom (our second-place prize? Some AF craft brews). Third place gets... a high-five. And probably some fun surprises in the toilet later. Just kidding. Sort of.

This is Beijing's first hot sausage-eating competition, ever, so take advantage of this historic moment. Stop by Arrow Factory's Liangma River taproom to sign up. Vegetarian? It's cool – you can still watch. Let's get silly with chili. **Shit will get nasty. (Literally.)**

Sat May 14, 3pm; Arrow Factory Taproom, 1 Xindong Lu (at Liangmahe Nanlu), Chaoyang 朝阳区新东路1号 (亮马河南路) (8532 5335)



● Quinn Dahle Comedy

The Los Angeles-based comic has wowed *The Tonight Show* with his clean wit, and he's worked with legends like Robin Williams and Drew Carey. Now he's making his second trip to China after slaying audiences last summer. Dahle's brand of comedy appeals to all ages and ethnicities so make sure to bring your mom and friends (then make them sit at the front – he's probably too nice to pick on them). Sun May 22, 8pm; RMB150-180 (RMB100 students); The Bookworm (see Listings for details)

● Tanja Koljonen Art



Finish artist Tanja Koljonen lights up Kempinski Hotel with her unique artistic take on play and reality. Her stay is part of Kempinski's Young Artist Programme, an initiative supporting young talent in arts and culture. Not only will her previous works be showcased, but also new creations from her sojourn in the capital.

May 19-Jun 9; Kempinski Hotel Beijing Lufthansa Center, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu 朝阳区亮马桥路50号 (6465 3388)

● The Freddie James Project at MEI / Stella Recommends



PHOTO BY PROUDLY.CN

MEI is one of our favorite spots in town to get our drink on. Whether we're chilling after work with a pint of Stella or downing several late on a Saturday, we always seem to have a good time there. We especially love MEI's view of the iconic CCTV building, and yet, when the band steps on stage to play, our attention always turns to them instead.

The Freddie James Project has been rocking the bar for a few weeks now, and every time we've seen them play, they've been the highlight of our visit. Freddie James's earth-shaking vocals as he sings 'Hallelujah' make us shudder, but his more upbeat moments are just as memorable.

We sat down with the man himself and learned about his fascinating journey from Montreal's lively music scene to the stage at MEI. James has made a career out of traveling the world with his music, and this is by no means his first time in Asia – he actually spent a few years performing in Hong Kong ("you have to go!" he urges us earnestly, before going on to give us some tips).

In our conversation, James emanates the same warmth that's so evident in his vocals. And that sort of artistry is exactly why we love going to MEI, getting a cold Stella and watching him perform.

Enjoy music by The Freddie James Project and cold glasses of Stella Artois at MEI, Rosewood Beijing (see Listings for details)



● Shuangjing Showdown Round 4 Fighting



Beijing's international amateur fight event returns to its original location for a fourth round of boxing, Muay Thai and MMA. With 12 fights scheduled and plenty of beer, music and BBQ (the later provided by local faves Plan B), you should be rumbling or, at least, getting ready to rumble.

Sat May 28, 1pm; RMB99 (presale), RMB150 (door); 22 Yishu Jie Qu, Pingguo Beiqu, Chaoyang 朝阳区苹果北区艺术街区22号 (tickets via WeChat: JamesOliver)

● Star Wars Festival Film



May the Fourth be with you at Temple this month with the bar's Star Wars Festival extravaganza. On May 4 (official Star Wars Day, FYI) the latest film in the franchise, *Star Wars Episode VII*, will be screened, while the days leading up to it (May 2, 3) will see *Episodes IV, V* and *VI* played as a preview. Plus there will be airings of Star Wars-related programs (think satires by *Robot Chicken* and *Family Guy*) as well as *Episodes I, II* and *III* (painful viewing but necessary for purposes of completion). Arrive in costume to enjoy special deals.

Mon-Wed May 2-4, 6pm; free; Temple Bar (see Listings for details)

WEEKLY SPECIALS

Food and Drink

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



Tiago

Tiago is one of our favorite places to chill in the evening thanks to its daily buy-one-get-one happy hour drink deal. Pair a wine or two with one of the Italian restaurant's mouthwatering pizzas or pastas (we love the Penne alla smoked salmon with asparagus, RMB78), and your belly will thank you.

Now with summer around the corner Tiago (Indigo Mall) is turning it up with the opening of its beer garden 'Tiago Sunset Lounge.' Grab a seat outside and down a pint of Stella Artois as you relax to the smooth sounds of Tiago's house jazz band, performing on Friday and Saturday nights. Pets and children welcome.

Tiago Sunset Lounge; Daily from May 1, 5pm-late; Tiago Home Kitchen, L173, 1/F Indigo Mall, 18 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路18号颐堤港商场1层L173 (6438 8772)

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 50-percent off from 6-9pm.
> 5F Rosewood Beijing, Jing Guang Centre, Hujialou, Chaoyang 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

'Modern 80s' themed music all night alongside 50-percent off deals on bottles of Belvedere vodka.
> 5F Rosewood Beijing, Jing Guang Centre, Hujialou, Chaoyang 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

Free martinis for ladies from 9-11pm followed by a midnight lucky draw.
> 5F Rosewood Beijing, Jing Guang Centre, Hujialou, Chaoyang 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)

EVERY DAY

Parlor

Daily 6-8pm, buy one get one for free.
> 39-8 Xingfuercun, Chaoyang 朝阳区幸福二村39-8 (8444 4135)

The Big Smoke

Daily 4-7pm, 20 percent off all cocktails, house wines and beers.
> 57 Kingfucun Zhonglu, Chaoyang 朝阳区幸福村中路57号楼利世楼 (6416 2683)

Blue Frog

Daily 4-8pm, buy-one-get-one-free all drinks.
> Daily 10.00am-late. Sanlitun: Level 3, S2 Tower, S2-30 Taikoo Li, Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区三里屯路太古里3层S2-30 (6417 4030) Additional branches in Jiuxianqiao and U-Town (see www.bluefrog.com.cn for details)

Centro

Daily 5-8pm, two-for-one deals.
> Shangri-la's Kerry Centre Hotel Beijing, 1/F, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区光华路1号香格里拉北京嘉里中心大酒店1层 (6561 8833 ext. 42)

Feast (Food by East)

Works for dinner, 2 course RMB168+15% with a glass of wine or soft drinks.
> 5.30-10.30pm, 2/F, 22 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路22号2层 (8414 9820)

Flamme

Cocktail, beers and wine by the glass are 50 percent off from 3-7.30pm daily.
> S4-33, 3/F, Sanlitun Taikooli, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路19号三里屯太古里南区3层S4-33 (6417 8608)

Modo Urban Deli

4-7pm cocktails and house wine RMB25 and beer RMB15.
> S10-31, 3/F, Bldg 8, Sanlitun Taikooli South, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路19号三里屯太古里南区8号楼S10-31 (6415 7207)

Mosaic

4-8pm daily happy hour.
> Daily 12pm-2am; 32 S. Sanlitun St (Behind/North of Yashow Silk Market), Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯南32号楼临街店 (137 1883 7065)

Mosto

6-7pm discounts on cocktails, wine and beer.
> 3/F Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯北路81号那里花园3层 (5208 6030)

NOLA

3-8pm. Sun-Thu, half price on Pabst Blue Ribbon, Tsingtao and all cocktails including daiquiris.
> A-11 Xiushui Nanjie, Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国门外大街秀水

南街A-11 (8563 6215)

R Lounge

Daily 6-9pm, two-for-one standard drinks and cocktails.
> 4/F, Renaissance Beijing Capital Hotel, 61 Dongsanhuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东三环中路61号北京富力万丽酒店4层 (5863 8112)

Transit

Daily 6pm-7:30pm, two-for-one.
> N4-36, Sanlitun Taikooli 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)

Isola

11:30am-3pm. Lunch for RMB138. 3-6pm Fashion high tea 5-8pm Happy hour, two-for-one on selected drinks 6-10:30 Dinner set menu, 2-course RMB238, 3-course RMB258.
> N3-47, 3/F, Building 3, Taikoo Li North, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路11号院太古里北区N3-37和47商铺 (6416 3499)

Bene Restaurant

Daily 11.30am-2pm. RMB98 includes antipasto with main course, pizza or pasta.
> Sheraton Dongcheng, 36 Beisanhuan Donglu, Dongcheng 东城区北三环东路36号 (5798 8888)

Cafe Sambal

Nasi Campur Malaysian set: two meats

and vegetables each, varying daily. With soup, appetizer for RMB78. Curry sets from RMB55-65
> See Listings for details

Beijing Marriott Hotel

Daily 11.30-2pm, dumplings, noodles and desserts, including juice or tea, RMB18. Sun/Sat 11.30-2pm, dim sum, lobster and unlimited beer, RMB168.
> 26A Xiaoyun Road, Chaoyang 朝阳区霄云路甲26号 北京海航大厦万豪酒店(5927 8888)

Vivid

Daily, 6pm-10pm, two-for-one drinks.
> Vivid, Level 5, Conrad Beijing, 29 North Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东三环北路29号北京康莱德酒店5层 (6584 6310)

Transit

Daily 12pm-2.30pm. Choice of appetizers, mains, rice or noodles with dessert for RMB88.
> N4-36/37 Sanlitun Taikooli 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)

Factory (By Salt)

Until Sep 30 order summer BBQ catering, from RMB150pp
> Factory A1 North, 797 Middle Street, 798 Art Zone A, Chaoyang 朝阳区798艺术区A区七九七中街01#商务楼北楼一层1号 (010 5762-6451)

WEEKEND

SATURDAY

Great Leap Brewing

All day Tuesday and Sunday, one select beer at RMB25.
> At Xinzhong Lu branch, (see listings for details)

R Lounge

Selection of drinks for free all night.
> 61 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东三环中路61号北京富力万丽酒店4层 (5863 8241)

SUNDAY

Great Leap Brewing

All day Tuesday and Sunday, one select beer at RMB25.
> At Xinzhong Lu branch, (see listings for details)

The Village Cafe

Sun 3:30pm-sold out. Sunday roast RMB98 (+15%; 50% off for kids under 12)
> The Opposite House, Building 1, No. 11 Sanlitun Road, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路11号院1号楼瑜舍酒店

Qi

Sun 11.30am-2pm, all-you-can-eat dim sum including one double-boiled soup for RMB288 per person. Add a bottle of

Dom Perignon for RMB1988 for two.

> Ritz-Carlton Beijing Financial Street, Jinchengfang Dong, 1 Jinrong Jie, Xicheng 西城区金城坊东金融街1号 (6601 6666)

Senses and Prego

Sun 11.30am-3pm, Retrolicious Champagne Brunch, international and Asian specialties with free flow champagne, wines, cocktails and juices for RMB 458. Prices subject to 15 percent service.

> The Westin Beijing Financial Street, 9B Financial Street, Xicheng 西城区金融大街乙9号(6629 7810)

Seasonal Tastes

Sun 11.30am-3pm Unlimited buffet for RMB428-498 per person plus 15 percent surcharge.
> Westin Chaoyang, 7 North Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东三环北路7号(5922 8880)

Sureño

RMB228 for 2 courses, RMB328 for 3 courses. Supplement RMB150 for free flow cocktails; supplement RMB200 for free flow Champaign (all prices subject to 15% service charge)
> Bldg 1, The Opposite House, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路11号院瑜舍酒店1号楼 (6410 5240)

Vasco's

Sun 11.30am-3pm, international buffet with free-flow champagne for RMB458 plus 15 percent service charge.
> Hilton Beijing Wangfujing, 8 Wangfujing Dongjie, Dongcheng 东城区王府井东街8号(5812 8888 ext. 8411)

SATURDAY TO SUNDAY

Agua

Sat-Sun, Agua's Infinity Weekend Brunch is RMB298 for infinite food, plus RMB168 for free flow drinks.
> 12-2:30pm (free flow until 3pm), 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)

Aroma

Sat-Sun 11.30am-3pm, international buffet starting at RMB518 plus 15 percent service charge.
> Ritz-Carlton Beijing, 83A Jianguo Lu, China Central Place, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国路83甲(5908 8161)

Café Sambal

Sat-Sun, RMB98, Café Sambal is rolling out weekend brunch. Three courses plus coffee, tea or fruit punch.
> 43 Doufuchi Hutong, Jiugulou Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区旧鼓楼大街豆腐池胡同43号 (6400 4875)

Eudora Station

Sat-Sun 10am-3pm, breakfast buffet with one main and free flow juice or coffee for RMB98.
> Opposite Lido Palace, 6 Fangyuan Xi Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区芳园西路6号(6437 8331)

Migas

Migas rocks two different brunch options: Saturday, grilled meat heavy; and Sunday, paella meat (both RMB210, +RMB138 for 2hrs free flow cava, coffee, tea soft drinks).
> Daily 12pm-3pm; Migas 6/F Nali Patio, Sanlitun Beije, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯北街那里花园6层

Sui Yuan

Sat-Sun and public holidays 10.30am-2.30pm, unlimited dim sum for RMB128 plus 15 percent surcharge.
> Hilton Double Tree, 168 Guang'anmen Waidajie, Xicheng 西城区广安门大街168号 (6338 1999 ext. 1726)

LISTINGS

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

OPEN DOOR



PHOTO BY HOLLY LI

XIHE VILLAGE

Mighty Ducks

When it comes to Peking Duck, presentation means a lot. And Xihe Village knows exactly how to serve up the capital's favorite dish. Nestled on the third floor of Taikoo Li South, the restaurant's skillful staff slices the roast bird (RMB258) at the table before placing it alongside all the trimmings. Around the green and white pancakes, a spinning plate offers intricately sliced slivers of cucumber, onion and more, in what must be the most colorful wheel of duck accoutrements that you'll find anywhere in the city. But really, our favorite thing about Xihe's Peking Duck is, well, the duck itself, which is succulent and cooked to perfection. There's also a great selection of other classic dishes on offer, as well as a chic, well-stocked bar for a digestif.

> Mon-Fri, 11am-2.30pm and 5pm to 10pm, Sat-Sun 11am-10pm; 3/F, S9-33, Taikooli South, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 三里屯路19号三里屯太古里南区3/F, S9-33 (6417 6082)



PHOTO BY HOLLY LI

HACKER-PSCHORR

Wunder-Bar Food

Hacker-Pschorr is one of Munich's best-known breweries, and it has rapidly built a reputation for itself in Beijing over the last year. Since opening its doors on Xindong Lu, the Bavarian brauhaus has been serving up some of the city's finest brews. But it would be foolish to overlook the excellent food that's also on offer. On our most recent visit we try two of the new standout bar snacks: BBQ chicken wings and BBQ pork ribs (both RMB68), which are perfect the complement to a cold, crisp beer. And all the German classics are still available (and completely on-point), from the juicy sausage platter (RMB128) to the hearty pork knuckle with roast potato and sauerkraut (RMB188 whole, RMB98 half). Prost!

> Daily, 11am-midnight; Gate 3, Building 3, 12 Xindong Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区新东路12号院3号楼3门 (5323 3399)

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)

Bellagio 鹿港小镇 (Taiwanese)

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

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

Din Tai Fung 鼎泰丰 ¥ (Taiwanese)

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

> Daily 11.30am-2.30pm, 5-10pm, weekends 11.30am-10pm; 24 Middle Street, Xinyuanxili, Chaoyang 朝阳区新源西里中街24号 (近渔阳饭店) (6462 4502) > Additional branches in Shin Kong Place; Parkview Green; Grand Pacific Mall Xidan; Modern Plaza Zhongguancun; see www.dintaifung.com.cn for details

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 (8322 6461, 13716551797, www.houhai16.com)

Jing Yaa Tang 京雅堂 (Chinese, Peking Duck)

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

> Daily 12-10.30pm, B1/F, The Opposite House, Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路11号院1号楼瑜舍酒81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 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 3/F, Beijing Kerry Hotel, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区光华路1号嘉里中心1层 (8565 2188)

Xihe Village Restaurant and Bar



> Mon-Fri Lunch: 11am-2.30pm; Dinner: 5-9pm; Sun: 11am-9pm, S9-33, 3/F, South Area of Sanlitun Taikooli, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路19号三里屯太古里南区三层S9-33 (6417 6082)

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 it shop) 朝阳区三里屯路19号院太古里1号楼3层S1-30a号商辅 (6416 3469)

Sichuan/Hunan

Chuan Ban 川办 *

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

> Mon-Fri 7-9am, 10.50am-2pm, 4.50-9.30pm; Sat-Sun 7am-10pm; 5 Gongyuan Toutiao, Jianguomennei Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区建国门内贡院头条5号 (6512 2277, ext. 6101)

Karaiya Spice House 辣屋 *

Bold and fiery Hunan cuisine in the most serene of restaurant interiors. Don't miss

the dry roasted duck with a dozen spices and stir fried bullfrog with shiso leaves and ginger. Peanut milk is there to soothe the palate: you'll need it.

> Daily 11:30am-2pm, 5:30-10pm; 3/F, Sanlitun Taikoo Li South, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯太古里19号院南区三层59-30 (6415 3535)

South Memory 望湘园

This restaurant chain is the Hunan staple in the capital. The trademark *shilixiang 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 朝阳区朝外大街20号联合大厦五层 (6588 3841) see www.yuxiangrenjia.com for other locations

Yu Xin 渝信川菜

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

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

Transit 渡江湖 ¥¥ **

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

> Daily 12-2.30pm, 6-10pm; N4-36, Sanlitun Taikoo Li North, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路11号三里屯太古里北区N4-36号 (6417 9090)

Yunnan

Dali Courtyard 大里院子 *

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

> Daily 12-2pm, 6-10.30pm; Gulou Dong Dajie, 67 Xiaojingchang Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区鼓楼东大街小经厂胡同67号 (8404 1430)

Hani Gejiu 哈尼个旧 ¥

Something about Gulou makes it the perfect district for Yunnan food, and this little gem is up there 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 teak interior.

> Daily noon-2pm, 5pm-10.30 (bar open till 1am). Ch'ien Men 23, 23 Qianmen Dongdajie, Dongcheng 东城区前门东大街23号 (8516 2698)

Middle 8th Restaurant 中八楼 *

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

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

Yun'er Small Town 云洱小镇

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

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

Dumplings

Baoyuan Jiaoziwu 宝源饺子屋
Famous for their rainbow of dyed dumplings, Baoyuan have their *jiaozzi* (six, under RMB10) wrapped in a larger *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 living 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, Jiadaokou, 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, Jianguomenwai, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国门外秀水南街甲11号 (6506 9616)

ShiChengJi Shaobing 实诚吉烧饼

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

> Daily 7am-7pm; 43 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)

The Georg **

This hutong mansion has an elegant restaurant, leather-couched lounge area, sleek bar and sick location near Houhai. But most importantly, it has some of the most thoughtful, innovative cuisine in town. Go for a dinner you won't forget.

> 10.30am-midnight (dinner 6-10.30pm), closed Mondays; 45 Dongbuyajiao Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区东不压桥胡同45号 (8408 5300)

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

OPEN DOOR



PHOTO BY HOLLY LI

GEORGE'S, HOTEL ECLAT

Eat Your Art Out

White tables, red accents, priceless art pieces on the walls – exactly what you'd expect from Parkview Green's art-space-cum-hotel Hotel Eclat, you'll find in its new restaurant George's decor. It is over-the-top, in the best way. Fortunately for us, however, the prices are not over-the-top. In fact, they're incredibly reasonable. Tapas prices at this Spanish-inspired restaurant are typically under RMB100, to which we say ole.

On our recent visit, we indulge in hearty Spanish meatballs, creamy asparagus soup and stuffed squid. The flavors are artfully presented by the chef and pair wonderfully with the restaurant's ample selection of fine wines. To our delight, complimentary bites also arrive between each course. All this in a restaurant that practically doubles as an art gallery. It's a sensory overload – just not a wallet overload.

> George's, Hotel Eclat, 9 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东大桥路9号 (8561 2888)



PHOTO BY HOLLY LI

TRATTORIA BOCCA DELLA VERITÀ

Pizza Your Heart

A perfect stop-off after a day exploring the hutongs, Beijing's hidden trattoria is still going strong on Yonghegong Dajie. TRATTORIA Bocca Della Verità serves up hearty, homestyle Italian fare for bargain prices alongside a welcome selection of coffees and wines. Chef Simone Marotti – a recent arrival from Rome – prepares comforting dishes typical of his historic city including tasty pizzas, fresh pastas, hand-tossed salads and rich desserts.

On our latest visit, we enjoyed meaty lasagna all Bolognese, margherita pizza and appetizer sharing plates of cold cuts and melon – all of which clock in at under RMB50. You'll be hard-pressed to find a better deal on Italian food. In the mood for something quick? A stand downstairs from the dine-in restaurants offers Marotti's pizzas by the slice for customers on the go. Stop by next time on your way to the Lama Temple area.

> Daily 10am-10pm; 3/F, 277 Dongzhimen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区东直门内大街277号三楼 (6455 3832)

OPEN DOOR



MALACCA LEGEND

Spice Up Your Life

Malacca Legend celebrates its 10th anniversary this year. That's 10 glorious years of the Malaysian, well, legend satisfying our voracious Southeast Asian cravings with steaming bowls of laksa and rendang. To honor the occasion, Malacca Legend is offering several new dishes to its permanent menu. The mouthwatering lineup includes hot and spicy volcano prawns, milky coconut prawns and spicy butter chili prawns.

Apart from sharing a prawn base, the new dishes are all distinctly different. The volcano prawns combine a fiery mix of tomyam, mixed chili and chili shrimp paste – a proper taste explosion, while the addition of lemongrass and lime leaves to the coconut prawns is refreshing and light. Last but definitely not least, we love the butter chili prawns: straight up comfort food. A very happy birthday, indeed.

> RMB98 small portion (5 prawns), RMB180 large portion (10 prawns); Malacca Legend (see Listings for details)

delicacy raw, grilled or with cheese.

> Lunch: Mon-Fri 11.30am-2.30pm, Sat and Sun 11.30am-3pm; 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 (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)

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 Beijie, Dongcheng 东城区沙滩北街嵩祝寺23号 (8400 2232)

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, 朝阳区亮马桥路48号北京四季酒店 (5695 8888)

S.T.A.Y. ¥¥ (French)

Luxury dining with three-Michelin-starred chef, Alléno Yannick's, back-to-basics kitchen concept, which includes a mouth-

watering 'pastry library'. Classic dishes usually include dishes such as steak, foie gras, rack of lamb, plus a spit roast and grill for international standard fine-dining.

> Daily 11.30am-2.30pm; 5.30pm-10pm; Sundays 11am-4pm. Shangri-La, Valley Wing, 1/F, 29 Zhizhuyuan Lu, Haidian 海淀区紫竹院路29号北京香格里拉饭店 (6841 2211 Ext. 6727)

Contemporary Western

Alfie's ¥ (British)

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

> Daily, 11.30am-2.30pm, 5.30-10pm, brunch served on weekends; Parkview Green, 9 Dongdaogiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东大桥路9号芳草绿地L1-22 (5662 8777)

Bistrot 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 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 朝阳区光华东里8号中海广场北楼1层 (5977 2789)

Chi (Organic, Fusion)

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

> Daily, opens 10.30am, last order 9.30pm, 67 Wudaoying Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区五道营胡同67号 (6445 7076)

C Pearl (Oysters, Seafood) ¥ *

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

excellent.

> Tue-Sun 5.30pm-2am; 14-2, Bldg 14, Shunyuanli, Xinyuan 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)

Factory

Fun, contemporary cuisine that's as creative as its 798 environs – plus some South American fare from Chef Camilla Betin.

> Factory A1, North Business Building 797 Zhongjie, 798 Art Zone A, Chaoyang 朝阳区798艺术区A区七九七中街01商务楼北楼一层1号 (5762 6451)

Miss K Cafe (Xing Fu Cafe)

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 王府井东方广场店 (8518 6315); Chongwenmen Glory Mall Store 崇文门国瑞购物中心店 (6714 0399); Wangjing Capital Mall 望京凯德购物中心店 (6471 3876); Wanliu BHC 万柳华联商场店 (8258 9405); Wan Shoulu Crystal Capital Mall 万寿路凯德晶品店 (6826 086); Xizhimen Capital Mall 西直门凯德购物中心店 (5830 2199); Sanlitun Shimao Gongsan 三里屯世茂工三店 (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 东城区新厂胡同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 Dongsanhuan 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

Awfully Chocolate



This place is *anything* but awful. The cakes, ice creams and pastries are enough to satisfy any sweet tooth.

> Daily 9am-10.30pm, 1) Sanlitun: Opposite to BHG, B1/F, Southern area of TaikooLi, Sanlitun, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯太古里地下一层华联超市对面 (8468 3802); 2) Indigo: B1/F, Indigo Mall, 18 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路18号颐康地下一层 (8426 0917); 3) Joy City Chaoyang: 5/F Joy City Chaoyang, Qingnian Lu, Chaoyang Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳北路青年路朝阳大悦城5楼悦界区 (8582 2677); 4) Raffles City: B1/F, Raffles City, Dongzhimen, Dongcheng 东城区东直门来福士地下一层 (8409 8038)

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 noon-10pm. 70A Beiluoguxiang, 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.

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

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; 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SOHO2号楼B1-239 (5785 3762 / 15910944325); 751 D-Park Store: No. 74, 98 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); 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); 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); Jianguomenwai DRC Store: Building 7-11, 1 Silk Street, Chaoyang 朝阳区秀水街1号建国门外外交公寓7-11 (8532 2633 / 18701092189) www.cafeflatwhite.com, cafeflatwhite@hotmail.com, WeChat username: Cafe-Flatwhite

Element Fresh (Contemporary Western)

Chain of restaurants and one of the longest running with quality ingredients and good service. One of the mainstays in Beijing.

> 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)

MODDO 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)

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 Zhongguancun Donglu, Haidian 海淀区中关村东路1号院清华科技园D座1楼 (8215 8826)

The Rug (Contemporary Western, Organic) *

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

> Mon-Fri 7:30am-10:30pm, Sat/Sun 9:30am-10:30pm; Bldg 4, Lishui Jiayuan, Chaoyang Gongyuan Nanlu (opposite Chaoyang Park South Gate), Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳公园南路水嘉园4号楼(朝阳公园南面对面) (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; S8-33, 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.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; S2-30, 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楼S2-30 (6417 4030) | No.167, 1/F, 18 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路18号1层167号 (8426 0017) | 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) | Unit 15-16, 1/F, Bldg AB, Ocean International Centre, 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 upscaling was a gourmet masterstroke. Full menu evenings only (also delivers rotisserie chicken via Uncle Otis).

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

Home Plate BBQ *

Scruffy looks and laid-back staff belie the popularity of this entry-level brick-smoker barbecue joint, that blossoms in the sunny months. Pulled-pork sandwiches are the favorites, followed by baby-back rib 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 www.thatsmags.com for details)

NOLA

NOLA's Orleans finds a dark-wood home in the leafy embassy area, with a jazz soundtrack, shrimp and grits, gumbo, fried chicken, jambalaya and decent-enough 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 bases and hours, served by friendly staff. The warm atmosphere tempts many to stay all day.

> Mon-Fri 11am-11pm, Sat/Sun 11am-midnight; S6-31, 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S6-31 (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号新城国际1号楼101 (6533 6380)

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, S4-32 South Block, Sanlitun Taikoo Li, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路19号三里屯太古里南区 (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)

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 Dongshanhuan, Chaoyang 朝阳区东三环北路9号2层 (6584 6270)

Morton's of Chicago (American) ¥¥ *

Meat so tender the knife falls through it; prize Morton's deserves the worldwide raitze. 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) ¥¥ *

The bill is hopefully on the company kuai at this opulent eatery, where charcoal-grilled cuts of 250-day, grain-fed Australian Angus

start from around RMB428 and merrily spiral. But the meat is unquestionably succulent, and cooked exactly to order.

> Daily 11:30am-2pm, 5:30-10:30pm. InterContinental Beijing Financial Street, 11 Jinrong Jie, Xicheng 西城区金融街11号北京金融街洲际酒店 (5852 5921)

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 Irish pub bistro – not a Guinness in sight.

> Daily midday-midnight, Xingfu: No.55-7 Xingfucun Zhonglu, opposite of April courtmet, 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)

Italian

Annie's ¥ *

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 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. Alternatively, drop in to your local branch.

> All open Daily, 10:30am-11pm; Beijing Riviera: opposite west gate of Lane Bridge Villa, Shunyi 朝阳区来广营东路5号长岛湖村别墅西门对面尚古城一楼 (8470 4768); Lido: Jiangtai Lu, opposite United Family Hospital 朝阳区将台商业区4号楼2楼和和睦家医院对面 (6436 3735); Wangjing: 2F, beside the Daimler Tower, 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); Chaoyang Park: West Gate of Chaoyang Park 朝阳区朝阳公园老西门南侧 (6591 1931); 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); 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); Guomao: Ruisai Business Building (southwest of Guomao subway) 朝阳区东三环南路2号瑞赛大厦商务楼1层 (6568 5890); Sunshine 100: Guanghua Lu, opposite Sunshine 100 Building 朝阳区光华路阳光100公寓对面首经贸南门 (858 98366)

Assaggi ¥ *

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

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

Bene ¥ *

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

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

Cepe ¥

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

> Daily 11:30am-2:30pm, 6-10:30pm. The Ritz-Carlton Financial Street, 1 Jinchengfang Dongjie, 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¥

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

> 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, Strozziapreti (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号太古里北区N3-37和47号铺 (6416 3499, www.gaiagroup.com.hk/isola-beijing, reservations@isolabeijing.com)

Mercante ¥ *

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

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

Opera Bombana ¥

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

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

Spanish

Agua ¥ *

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

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

Aria ¥¥ *

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)

Niajo ¥ *

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

> Daily noon-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)

Migas ¥ *

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

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

German

Brotzeit German Bier Bar & Restaurant

博聚德国啤酒餐厅 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(DRC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号凯宾斯基酒店 (6465 3388 ext. 5732)

African/Middle Eastern

Al Safir 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 (5130 4243)

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 ¥ (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号东门下楼 (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 Houjue, 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 Beijing, Chaoyang 三里屯北街33号3层服装大厦3层3008号 (5136 5571, delivery 8989 177) > Additional branches in Gongti, Beida, Beitai, Yayancun, Solana and Weigongcun, see www.online.thatmags.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. Former branches in Solana and pasta/salad/mains-buffet restaurant in Sanlitun 3.3

> Sanlitun Branch: daily 10.30am-3pm, 6-11pm. 1/F, 3.3 Mall, 33 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路33号3层服装大厦西北角底商(5136 5582); Solana Branch: SA-48, 1/F, Bldg 3, Solana, 6 Chaoyang Park Road, Chaoyang 朝阳公园西路6号蓝色港湾3号1层 SA-48 (5905 6106) > SOHU Shangdu Branch: SH1112, SOHO Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区东大桥路8号SOHO尚都 SH1112号(5900 3112); La Pizza Buffet: 4F, Sanlitun 3.3 Mall, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯3.3服装大厦4层 (5136 5990)

Asian

South-East Asian

Bhoomi Store Philippines Food Shop

Bhoomi store One stop destination where a wide range of Philippines food products are served.

> Mon-Sat 9.30am-9.30pm, Sunday 2-7pm. 266 Yaohong Lu by Hongsong Dong Lu, Mirhang Shanghai, 上海闵行区姚虹路266号, 近虹松东路 (021 2428 3400)

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 西城区大柵石胡同27号烟袋斜街西口附近 (6401 7797)

Flor de Loto

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

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

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, S1-30B, Building 1, Sanlitun Road 19, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路19号1号楼 S1-30B (6416 3439) > Additional branch in Shin Kong Place (see online.thatmags.com for details)

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, CapitaMall Taiyanggong, Chaoyang 朝阳区凯德Mall太阳宫4层 10/11号 (8415 0863, www.nyonyakitchen.com)

Malacca Legend

Malacca 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 prawns.

> Daily 11am-10pm; 6 Roma Lake: 6 Luodong Lu, Luogezhuang Village, Hoshayu Town, Shunyi 顺义区后沙峪镇罗各庄村罗马湖东北三路6号C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)

Purple Haze (Thai)

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

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

Susu (Vietnamese)

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

> Tue-Sun 11.30am-11pm; 10 Qianliang Hutong Xixiang, Dongcheng 东城区钱粮胡同西巷10号 (8400 2699)

Cafe Sambal (Malaysian)

When it comes to Malay-style food in a *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)

Ganges

Conveniently located above popular Irish sports bar Paddy O'Shea, 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: 2/F, 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.thatmags.com for details.

Indian Kitchen



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

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

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 and 乔大厦C座2层 (6581 3939) > Additional locations in Sanlitun Tai Koo Li South; Kerry Centre Mall (see www.online.thatmags.com for details)

Inagiku *

This Beijing branch of one of Tokyo's oldest and most celebrated restaurants is as near to perfection as you're likely to find. Deceptively simple yet finely crafted, the handmade Inaniwa udon (RMB80) is not to be missed.

> Daily 11am-3pm, 6-10.30pm; Rm 315, 3/F, Park Life, Yintai Centre, 2 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国门外大街2号银泰中心悦生活3层315室 (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一层底商一番街内 (137 1692 7543)

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. Sanlitun branch: 2 Sanlitun Bei Xiaojie, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯北小街2号 (6464 2365); 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 (5109 6036/6037) see www.thatmags.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 Maoxing (Asian)

Like many arrivals to Beijing, this place started out in Wudaokou and it's since made a successful migration to Chaoyang. Great range of veggie fare, reasonably priced and they offer cooking classes as well.

> Daily 10am-10pm; 19 Rm 0260, 2/F, Bldg D, Chaowai SOHO, 6B Chaoyangmenwai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳门外大街乙6朝外SOHO座2层 0260 (5900 1288)

> Additional location in Wudaokou (see www.online.thatmags.com for details)

Veggie Table (Western, Asian) *

Proving that Beijing-style vegetarian cuisine is by no means the exclusive preserve of Buddhist monks and sippy Jack Johnsons fans, this superbly honed eatery offers some of the very best sandwiches – vegetarian or otherwise – found anywhere in the city.

> Daily 10.30am-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 东城区北锣鼓巷13号 (159 1025 6538)

BBC (Bottle, Boot & Cigar)

The branchful 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 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 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 东城区大柵胡同3号 (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-Tue 5pm-1am, Fri-Sat 5pm-2am. 65/F, Park Hyatt, 2 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang 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 Lu, 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.

> Sun-Tue, Thu 5-11pm; Fri-Sat 5pm-late ; closed Wed. 28 Xiguan Hutong (Hutong entrance is 300m north of subway line 5, Zhangzizhong Lu stop), Dongcheng 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.

> Daily 11am-11pm. 34 Wudaoying Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区五道营胡同34号 (8400 1159)

El Nido *

The first hutong hang-out to patent the fridge-full-of-cheap-imports formula, El Nido inspires a loyal following, particularly in summer. The roast leg of mutton place next door is one of the best locally.

> Daily 6pm-late, 59 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区方家胡同59号(158 1038 2089)

Enoterra

Looking for an affordable glass of wine with that date? Look no further than Nali Patio's wine center. Although the food leaves a bit to be desired, the selections are vast, and if anything, you can enjoy a nice cheese plate with that tart glass of vino.

> Daily 10am-2am, 4/F Sanlitun Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路81号那里花园405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 朝阳区三里屯北小街 (6413 0587, first.floorbeijing.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, Chaoyang 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 Douliao Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区豆角胡同6号 (5717 1399); Sanlitun: Daily 11:30am-2pm; Sun-Thu 5pm-midnight, Fri/Sat 5pm-1am, 812 Xinzhong Street 新中街乙12号 (6416 6887, www.greatleap-brewing.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.

> Daily 6:30pm-2am. 203, 2/F, Taiyue Suites Hotel Beijing, 16 Nansanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯北路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 朝阳区工体南路东草园26号 (6551 6788)

Heaven Supermarket

A purgatory of bottles, bongos 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 11-4am. 14 Xindong Lu (next to The James Joyce), Chaoyang 朝阳区新东路14号 (6415 6513)

Hidden Lounge *

Although frustrating to find, Hidden Lounge rewards the intrepid with good artwork and comfortable seating, suggesting a Kasbah, plus well-made drinks at great prices (wine from RMB100 a bottle, mix drinks from RMB25). You'll probably have to call them to find it, though.

> Daily 6pm-1am. Room 101, Bldg 8, CBD Apartments, Shuanghuyuan Nanli Erqu, Chaoyang 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 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 fanstastic speakeasy atmosphere, with attentive staff and unimpeachable cocktails.

> Daily 8pm-2am, Courtyard 4 Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北路4号院 (6503 2757)

Jing-A Taproom **

In just a few years, these guys developed from shady guerrilla brewers to upstanding publicans with their own range of souvenir T-shirts. Their bar is a peach: a bricks-and-mortar taproom, which is large, warm and sociable, and has up to 16 different beers on tap.

> Building B, 1949 The Hidden City, Courtyard 4, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北路4号院

Maggie's ¥

A notorious sausage fest (we refer, of course, to the hot-dog stand outside), Maggie's has been providing its special comforts for so long, it's practically a time-honored Beijing brand – although it's also a bastion of Mongolian culture.

> Sun-Thur 8pm-4am, Fri-Sat 8pm-5am, Ritan Park

South Gate, Chaoyang District 朝阳区日坛公园南门 (8562 8142)

Mai Bar *

Understated hutong hideaway with a long list of some of the best cocktails in town.

> Daily 5pm-late, 40 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. Grungey without being grimey, Mao's eschews flash while still keeping it real. And those pizzas.

> 12 Banchang Hutong, Jiaodaokou, Dongcheng 东城区交道口南大街板厂胡同12号 (6405 5718, www.maomaichongbeijing.com)

Mesh ¥

Whether it's an early evening cocktail or a late-night infusion, Mesh's moody interior and underground soundtrack draws the bright young things (and on LGBT Thursdays, quite a few old things, too).

> Daily 5pm-1am. Building 1, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 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 朝阳区新东路幸福二村39-8 (8444 4135)

Revolution *

Sanlitun doesnt really do hipster bars but if it did, this cramped ode to Maamorabilia would be it. The East may be red but their cocktails (RMB45) are fit for a Chairman.

> Daily, 12pm-late, west of Yashow, Gongti Bei Lu, 朝阳区工体北路雅秀市场西侧 (6415 8776)

Salud 老伍 *

A Nanluoguxiang institution, with everything from cheap beer to (loud) live music and low beams. The rum infusions are a particular favorite on cold nights. Latest branch in WDK a welcome addition to surrounding student dives.

> NLGX: Mon-Fri 3pm-late, Sat-Sun noon-late. 66 Nanluogu Xiang, Dongcheng District 东城区南锣鼓巷66号 (6402 5086); Wudaokou: 2/F, Qijixin Building, Zhanchunyuian Xilu 展春园西路奇鑫大厦南侧2层

The Irish Volunteer

Everything – from the red-faced owner to the grub – is authentically Irish: tinged with alcoholism, doggerel and drunken regret. A good place to down a pint and a pizza before heading into town, then.

> Daily 9pm-2am. 311 Jiangtai Lu (opposite Lido Hotel East Gate), Chaoyang 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 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 full-sized foos-ball table, darts, and plenty of TVs to accommodate any event, meetings, and gatherings.

> 2-101, China View Building, 28 Gongti Donglu, Chaoyang (Next To Gung-Ho) 朝阳区工人体育场东路乙2号中国红街2-101叫板比萨隔壁 (8590 0390, troublebar@gmail.com, www.trouble.bar)

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

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 朝阳区五道营胡同53号 (6402 8881, 6406 9947)

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 loungy seats and plenty of space.

> Daily 10am-late, 46 Fangjia Hutong (just south of Guozijian jie), Dongcheng 东城区方家胡同46号 (6400 7868)

Jianghu 江湖酒吧

This former Qing Dynasty courtyard home is exactly where you'd take that friend from out of town to prove you're cool. Its cozy atmosphere is also its downfall – any show with under 40 people and you're stuck looking through the windows. Hip and casually familiar, the jazz and folk bookings keep things low-key enough for the get-home-for-the-babysitter crowd.

> 7 Dongmianhua Hutong, Jiaodaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区交道口南大街东棉花胡同7号 (6401 5269, site.douban.com/jianghujiubar, jincanzh@gmail.com)

MAO Livehouse 光芒 *

From the denim-jacketed doorman to the well-graffitied walls, Mao leans on every Hollywood rock club cliché without feeling scripted. Besides boasting the worst bar in town, MAO delivers with great sound and the best billings of heavy metal, punk hitting this side of the Drum Tower.

> 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District 东城区鼓楼东大街111号(6402 5080, www.mao.live.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 Xiangfeyuan Lu, Dongzhimenwai, Dongcheng (next to MOMA Cinematque) 东城区东直门外香河园路1号当代MOMA园区T8楼北百老汇电影中心北侧 (8400 4774)

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 8, 206 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区鼓楼东大街206号B楼202 (131 6107 0713)

Yugong Yishan 愚公移山 *

We've lost more body weight than we'd care to remember in YY's mosh pit. Fortunately, almost all the acts – usually hip-hop DJs, emo rocks and obscure indie outfits from across the globe – were worth it. The upstairs bar area is a refuge from the sweat glands below.

> Daily 7pm-late. 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu (100m west of Zhangzizhong Lu subway station), Dongcheng 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 transposed, 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 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 朝阳区工体北门内东侧 (5293 0333)

Nightclubs

The Bar at Migas *

A place to dance and prow, perhaps, rather than a drinks destination, TBAM, as no one calls it, focuses on upscale local DJs to get the party started. Good-enchough cocktails range from RMB5-70 but mostly it's about the music, man.

> Sunday to Wednesday 6pm-2am, Thursday to Friday 6pm-late. 6/F, Nail 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 lef, 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 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 东城区鼓楼东大街206号B栋101室 (183 1108 0818)

Lantern *

Founded by now-defunct Acupuncture Records, Lantern is a beacon of light in the strip of truly ghostly nightclub and bars known as 'Gongti.' Serious about its music, it also makes good drinks and attracts international electronica DJs.

> Thurs-Sat 9pm-6:30am. 100m north of Worker's Stadium West Gate, Chaoyang 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 朝阳区工人体育场北门内 (6506 9888, 6530 2889, 150 1138 2219, mixclub@sohu.com)

Vics

Separated at birth from its identical twin brother, Mix, this is the definition of Gongti sweatbox meat-market chic at its very finest. The Chinese love it – as do moody Russians and jailbait students – helping Vics to become one of the most infamous clubs in the capital.

> Daily 8:30pm late, Inside Worker's Stadium North Gate, Chaoyang 朝阳区工人体育场北门内 (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 朝阳区建国门外大街1号北京国贸大酒店80 (6505 2299 ext. 6433)

Centro ¥

Being 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 Guanhua Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区光华路1号北京嘉里大饭店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 fruitfully delicious Panjiayuan Bramble. Mon-Wed 6pm-2am, Thu-Sat 6pm-3am, Sun 5pm-midnight; 5F 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 (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 朝阳区新源南路1号威斯汀酒店五层 (139 1029 0260, www.alonaplates.com)

Daisy's Beauty Salon



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. Laser and IPL permanent hair removal treatment is also proving popular and effective.

> Daily, 10am-8:30pm, Rm301, Building B, Sunshine100 International Apartment, Guanghua Donglu, Chaoyang 朝阳区光华东路2号阳光100国际公寓B座301室 (5100 0556 / 0557, www.daisysbeautysalon.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, Rm 307, Bldg 4, Jianwai Soho 39 Dongsanhuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东三环中路建外SOHO西区4楼307室 (5900 0427, www.luxura.net); 5005, 5/F, 3-3 Sanlitun, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯3-3大厦5层5005号 (5136 5186, www.luxura.net)

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 朝阳区工体北路三里屯SOHO3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 (8472 2855)

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 (5136 5919); 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 (5136 5829); Yashow shopping mall: Daily 10am-10pm, Shop 22, 4/F, Yashow shopping Mall, Sanlitun, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯雅秀购物中心4层22号 (6416 6441); 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 (8590 0569); 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 (8447 7178); 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 (8819 7078); CapitaMall Wanging store: Daily 10am-10pm, Shop K01, 2/F, CapitaMall Wanging store, Guangshun Beidajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区广顺北大街凯德望京购物中心2层02-K1 (5602 0736); 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 (647 71889)

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

Brad Clinic

Welcome to Brad Clinic, Beijing's unique skincare and anti-aging center. Our professional and personalized treatments rejuvenate the skin safely, naturally and most effectively while restoring your skin's natural beauty and health. We offer: skin rejuvenation and re-firming, hair removal, acne and sun spots treatment, and wrinkle reduction.

> Tue-Sat 9am-6pm, Room 2103, Tower E1, The Towers, Oriental Plaza, 1 East Chang'An Ave, Dong Cheng 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)

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, 3/F, Vantone Center, 6A Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳门外大街甲6号万通中心A座二层2002 (5907 3390, 186 1248 3390, 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 朝阳区农南路1号朝阳公园网球中心 (400 6406 800 / 6595 8885, www.broadwell.cn)

Yihe 24th Hot Yoga

2 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 start 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, 8599 7395)

> Daily 10am-8pm, 3/F, No. 2 South Building, Blue Castle, Dawang Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区大望路蓝堡国际中心南写字楼2座3层 (8599 7395/96, www.yh42.com); 3/F, Bldg. 14, Solana, No. 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Xilu Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳公园西路6号, 蓝色港湾14号, 三层 (5905 6065/67, www.yh42.com)

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 东城区景山东街12号 (6402 5653, 139 1188 6524)

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 (4008 100-988, www.californiafitness.com)

Heyrobics

"Sweet 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 fluores-

cent spandex. Differing classes for all abilities, check online for the full schedule. > www.heyrobics.com, info@heyrobics.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'Oréal, Schwarzkopf, KeraStraight, Inoa. RMB15-980 women, RMB15-468 men.

> 209 2/F, zoon3 China World Trade Centre Shopping Mall, 国贸商城区域3二楼209 (8535 1002, 131 4667 9913); 43 Sanlitun Beijing Nan, Chaoyang, 三里屯北街南43号楼 (6409 4243, 135 0137 2971)

Catherine de France

Awarded best expat salon in 2014/ 2015, 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, include manicure, pedicure and waxing. Wella, SP, INOA, TIGI
Language: French, English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian.

> East Avenue BLD Ground Floor, No.10 Xindong Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区新东路10号逸盛阁首层 (8442 5120, 135 2147 3492, eastavenue@catherinedefrance.com, Wechat: CDFSalon, www.catherinedefrance.com)

SPA & MASSAGE

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, 60 Donghuamen Dajie (near The Peninsula Hotel and Oriental Plaza) Dongcheng 东城区东大街60号(近王府饭店和东方广场) (6527 9368, www.dragonfly.net.cn); 1/F Eastern Inn, Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区南三里屯逸庐酒店一层 (6593 6066); Grand Summit Plaza, 19 Dongfang Donglu (100m north of Lufthansa Center), Chaoyang 朝阳区燕莎桥东东路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 noon-midnight, 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)

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 朝阳区日坛路6号 (400 001 0202, www.taipan.com.cn)

Angel Hands Massage Center



Let us release your stress and make you smile wherever you go... Aroma Soothes Therapy Massage, Rose Oil (RMB 280/min); Aroma Relaxation Massage; 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)

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 (8443 9666, bj.americansinobgyn.com)

Beijing HarMoniCare Women and Children's Hospital 北京和美妇儿医院

> Wi-Fi available. Chaoyang: 2 Xiaoguan Beit, Beiyuan Lu 北苑路小关北里甲2号 (6499 0000, contact@hmcare.org, en.hmcare.net)

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 朝阳区亮马桥路50号燕莎中心写字楼1层1106 (6465 1561/2/3, 6465 1384/28, www.imclinics.com)

Beijing New Century Harmony Pediatric Clinic

> Shunyi, K-01, Building No.19, Harmony Business Centre, Liyuan Street, Tianzhu Town 天竺镇丽苑街和商业中心19号楼K-01 (6456 2599; harmonypeds@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 Beitlu, Chaoyang 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 Jiangtai Road, Chaoyang District, 朝阳区将台路2号, (5927 7000 / 5927 7120, Emergency Hotline); United Family CBD Clinic and 和睦家外诊部 Mon-Sat, 9:30am-6:30pm, Suite 3017, Building AB, Vantone Center, 6 Chaowai Street, Chaoyang, 朝阳区朝外大街6号万通中心A8座3层3017室 (5907 1266); Jianguomen Health and Wellness Center 和睦家建国门保健中心, Wi-Fi internet, Mon-Sun 8:30am-5pm, 21 Jianguomen Dajie, B1, The St. Regis Residence, St. Regis Hotel 朝阳区建国门外大街21号北京国际俱乐部饭店 (8532 1221 / 8532 1678 Immigration Clinic); Shunyi Clinic and 顺义区顺义诊所, 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 Center, Shunyi District, 顺义区天竺开发区荣祥广场806号 (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 顺义区天竺开发区荣祥广场818号 (8046 1102); Liangma Clinic 亮马桥诊所, Wi-Fi

CLASSIFIEDS

ACCOMMODATION

Ascott Raffles City Beijing

Located in Dongzhimen, one of the most vibrant areas, Ascott Raffles City is near the second embassy district, which is rich in cultural heritage and is only a 15 minute drive to The Forbidden City. Other nearby leisure attractions include Food Street (Gui Jie) and Sanlitun nightlife district.

> No.1-2 Dongzhimen South Street
Dongcheng District
Tel: 8405 3888

Ascott Raffles City Chengdu

> No. 3, Section 4, South Renmin Road, Wuhou District, Chengdu 610041, China
Post code: 610041
Telephone:(86-28) 6268 2888
Facsimile:(86-28) 6268 2889
GDS Code: AZ
Reservations Telephone:400 820 1028
(China toll-free) ;(86-512) 6763 1021
Email:enquiry.china@the-ascott.com

Lusongyuan Hotel

A traditional compound of quadrangle composing of 5 courtyards which lies in the "hutong" area of Beijing. The hotel building is famous for its imperial living taste of the Qing Dynasty with a history of nearly 170 years. The original owner of the second private house was the Grand General Senggerinchen, who lived here while he carried out top official duties, such as defense minister.

> Tel: (86 10) 6404 0436
Fax: (86 10) 6403 0418
Address:

No.22 Banchang Lane , Kuanjie, Dongcheng District
东城区宽街板厂胡同22号
www.the-silk-road.com
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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
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Landgent Building [Coming Soon]

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China World Tower 3

北京国贸三期
15/F, China World Tower 3, No.1 Jianguomenwai Street, Chaoyang District
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Lufthansa Centre

北京燕莎中心
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Kerry Centre

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12/F, Financial Street Excel, Centre, No.6 Wudinghou Street, Xicheng District
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15/F, NCI Tower, No.12A Jianguomenwai Street, Chaoyang District
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北京泰康金融大厦
23/F, Taikang Financial Tower, No.38 East Third Ring Road, Chaoyang District
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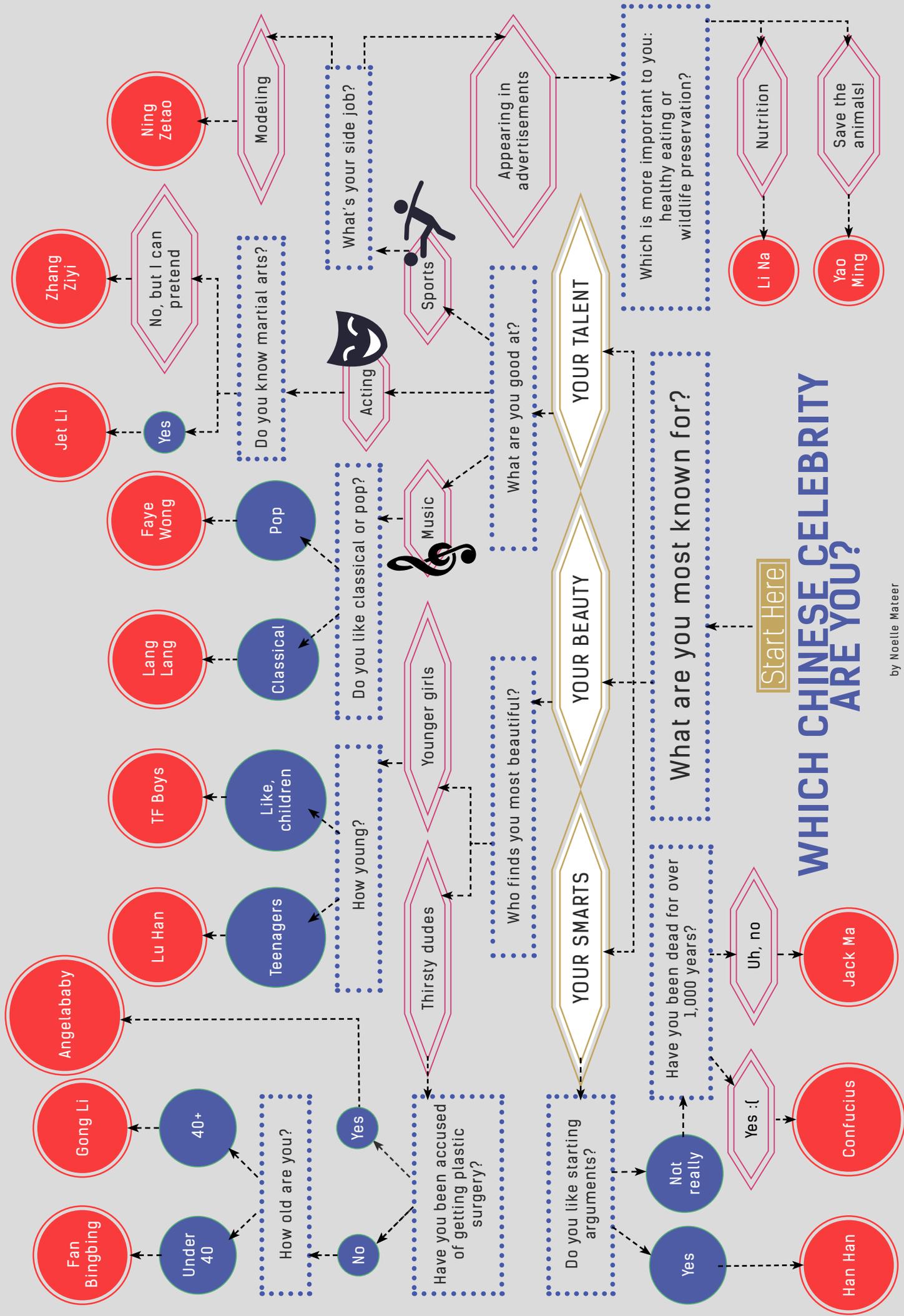
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