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# Editor's Note

APRIL 2017

 **DEALS**

Having started my Beijing journalism career with a day-long ride around the loop of Line 2, it was with a sense of nostalgia that I embarked on China's longest domestic train journey. By comparison, it was a breeze. Don't let the term 'hard sleeper' fool you – the carriage beds are as soft as any in China. (In other words: not very. But you're probably used to that by now.)

So, what began as three-day feat of endurance became something of a holiday. There are few better ways to see a country than through the window of a slow train. And there are few better ways to meet new people than being thrown into a packed carriage full of them.

Some tips for fellow masochistic train enthusiasts: 1) if you're going to travel in the north of China, go in summer, unless you like the color brown; 2) be prepared to answer a lot of personal questions delivered in a wide range of difficult-to-understand regional accents; 3) don't assume that the body can exist on instant noodles alone, and most importantly; 4) bring earplugs, wet wipes and your own supply of toilet paper.

Find out how I stumble through these challenges in this month's cover story, from page 40. Predictable spoiler: It's as much about the people I meet along the way as the train itself.

Elsewhere in the magazine: Sky Thomas Gidge discusses China's place in the global VR revolution (page 10); Dominic Ngai meets the photographer mapping the stars from Yunnan (page 20); Dominique Wong reviews Zhang Lijia's debut novel, *Lotus* (page 38), and Noelle Mateer shows you how to find Beijing's best 'hidden' bars (page 54) before bringing you her characteristically astute round-up of Beijing's latest restaurant and bar openings.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to bid farewell to our national arts editor, Andrew Chin, who leaves the magazine this month. His encyclopedic knowledge of China's music, theater, literature and dance scenes was as impressive as his work ethic. This month alone he's covered a Beijing punk band, an Icelandic film score and a Shakespeare production, which you can read in our ever-comprehensive Arts section (from page 28). Good luck and farewell from us all.



Oscar Holland  
Editor-in-Chief

## WIN A PAIR OF FLIGHTS TO THAILAND!

Turn to page 23 for a chance to win a pair of return flights to the Thai island of Phuket – and its sandy white beaches and dramatic karst islands – with the new That's AR app. Short for Augmented Reality, the app allows users to scan the magazine to see interactive digital content such as video, audio, images and visualized 3D models, which leap off the page and come to life. Scan the one of the QR codes on the right to download it now.

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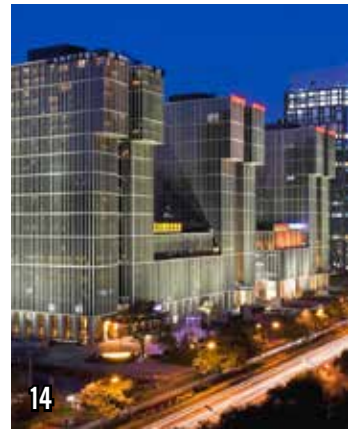
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# CITY

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# BEIJING'S TOILET REVOLUTION

by Noelle Mateer



It has been a wild year for Beijing's toilets.

Debates over public spaces have been front and center (remember all that dancing granny drama?). And when it comes to public spaces, few remind us of our shared humanity more than, well, public toilets.

But first, some history. We reported news of Beijing's 'Toilet Revolution' back in 2015, when tourism authorities announced plans to build 13,000 new toilets and renovate a further 9,000 at attractions across China. ('Toilet Revolution' was *their* term.)

"Insufficient and unhygienic toilets have damaged China's national image and left tourists unhappy," said the head of China National Tourism Administration, Li Jinzao. Well, you don't say.

Many speculated online about what the cleanup effort would entail. The Tourism Administration wouldn't rule out replacing traditional squatters with Western-style toilets. 'Could squatting become a thing of the past?' our headline mused. (Ha, of course not.)

The Toilet Revolution pattered along quietly until 2016, when Beijing announced plans for state-of-the-art, maybe even *glamorous*, public toilets. Planned for Tongzhou and

Fangshan districts, the bathrooms will allegedly feature Wi-Fi, ATMs and even charging ports for electronics. They will also include some much-needed ventilation, plus heating and air conditioning. Authorities said that the bathrooms would always remain between 12 and 30 degrees Celsius. (Hutong planners, please take note.)

Then an altogether different kind of revolution started. That summer, bathrooms in bars and restaurants around the city began sporting a now-ubiquitous sign, reading 'All Gender Toilet.' Designed to make transgender and non-gender-conforming Beijingers more comfortable, they were a huge success. And in the midst of a simultaneous battle over transgender bathroom rights in America, it was a beautiful middle finger to those places less accepting.

The signs spread like wildfire, as did transgender-rights awareness. Things were looking up.

And then. Hordes of thieving grannies were caught on CCTV cameras, their images disseminated across WeChat and Weibo for public mockery. They took reams of toilet paper from the bathrooms at the Temple of Heaven, and brought them home for their own use.

And they'd come back for more, multiple times a day in some cases.

The story made headlines the world over – even *The New York Times* ran shots of the TP burglars. But the Temple of Heaven is no pushover (it has, after all, been around since the 15th century). The park's authorities fought back by installing facial recognition technology in their bathrooms. Anyone who needs paper must now stand in line, remove their hats and sunglasses, and get their faces scanned by the machine, which will then dispense precisely 60cm of toilet paper. It has caused longer lines, and, of course, more outrage on social media.

So, will we see these machines across the city? Doubtful. According to a 2012 study, only a quarter of Beijing's 12,000 public toilets even offer paper. And the seven public toilets at the Temple of Heaven Park are the *crème de la crème* anyway, what with their four-star ratings from the Beijing Tourism Administration. (Yes, there are toilet ratings.)

And only the Administration itself knows what's in store for the Toilet Revolution. For now, there's only one thing we know for sure: squatting is definitely *not* a thing of the past.

# THE BUZZ

## ASK A LAOBEIJING

We meet Wang, 54, sitting outside his home on Wudaoying Hutong



**What are your thoughts on interracial and intercultural relationships?**

"It's fine. You simply have to see what kind of person the other person is. If the girl or boy is good and trustworthy, it doesn't matter where they come from or whether they happen to be a foreigner or not.

As long as they are not a liar. For example, a foreigner shouldn't be with a Chinese girl for a few months for a bit of fun, and then leave to go back to his home country. Nor should he be with a Chinese girl when he has another girlfriend or wife back home. When guys lie to young Chinese women – that's a bad situation.

Of course, from the start, two people from different cultures will have had different upbringings and customs. Even the food they like will be different! Each must have a proper think about this – and the issues that may arise from these differences. People can't just reason: 'I'm in China, I'm going to have a Chinese girlfriend' or 'I'm in America, I'll have an American partner'.

In China we are more traditional: One husband, one wife. So you do have to think about these things. I have a 27-year old child whose partner is Chinese. But if my child were with a foreigner I would consider a range of factors, like what country they were from, their character, education and family background.

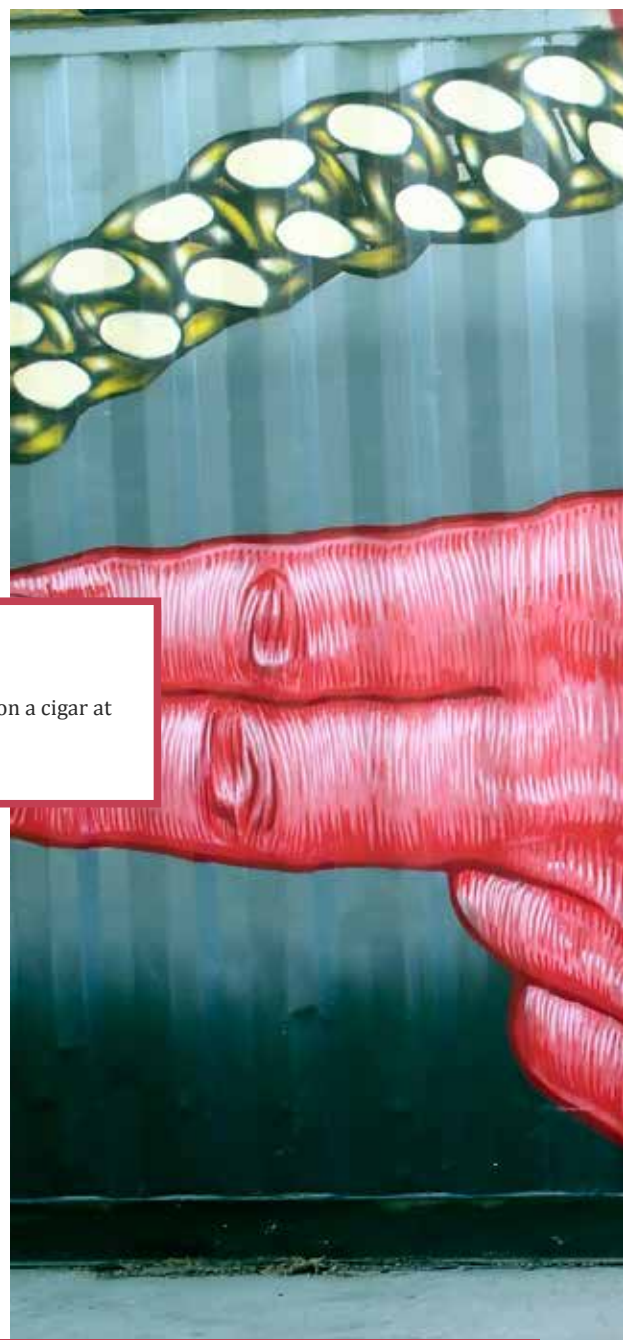
It doesn't matter if two people from different cultures have a child. The child's disposition will depend on both of its parents – as long as the dad and mom are both good people, the child will be fine.

I have more of an open mind about these issues because I am of a younger generation – I was born after 1960. But I think older Chinese people would be less accepting of interracial relationships."

**As told to Dominique Wong**

## SMOKING GUN

Man caught red-handed puffing on a cigar at 798 Art District.



## In the Dog Box

In an alleged world first, virtual reality video recorders are being mounted on the back of police dogs as part of a crime-fighting initiative. The cameras transmit panoramic views via Wi-Fi to waiting police officers, who can view the recordings using VR glasses, and even give the dogs remote commands. The police dogs will help officers in anti-drug efforts, bomb detection and general security. Weighing 155g, the lightweight recorders are both shatterproof and water-resistant.



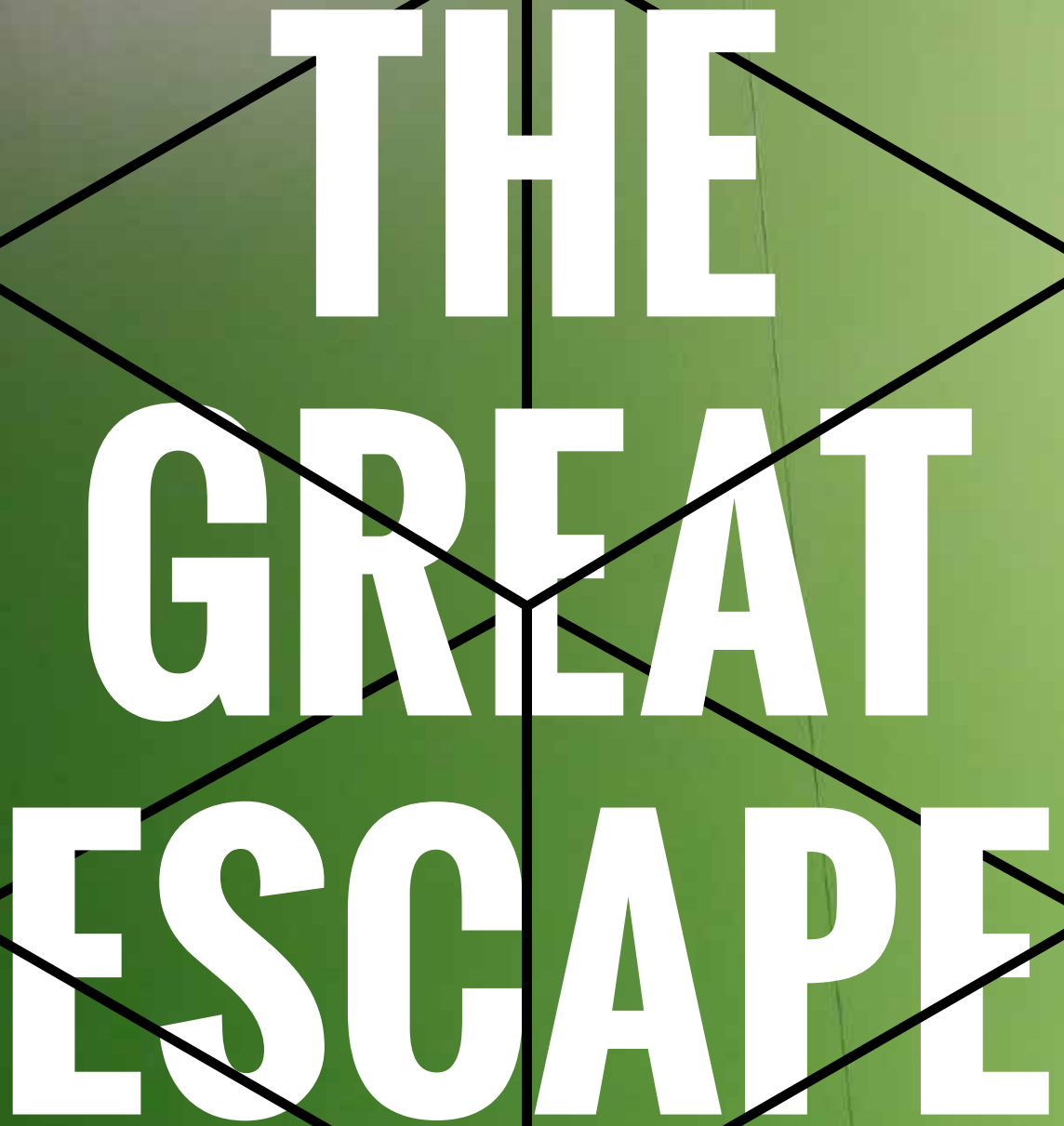


**“Regardless of whether it’s students preparing for their university exams, workers on the night shift or women who just gave birth - none of them want noise”**

Sun Renping, leader of a ‘dancing grannies’ group, tells *Beijing Daily* about the recent crackdown on her outdoor pastime. Last month, Beijing officials vowed to issue fines to anyone playing loud music in public spaces – a blow to the capital’s multitudes of square-dancers. In response, community groups have started issuing special wireless headphones that play tunes from a nearby music player, ensuring the grannies can keep dancing (while guaranteeing peace for everyone else in the vicinity).

# 2,010

... is the number of people who’ve been forced to find new homes in the past two months because of local government efforts to remove illegal underground rooms in central Beijing. Areas such as Hepingmen Community in West Chang’an Jie have been targeted, with 13,862sqm of illegal buildings and 1,157 underground rooms emptied so far. The vacated space will be converted to parking garages and other facilities for nearby residents.



# THE GREAT ESCAPE

After decades of promise, virtual reality is finally taking off. **Sky Thomas Gidge** investigates how China is leading the VR movement - and the problems still facing the industry.



## “It’s only been two years, and in that time we’ve developed about 300 experience shops on the Chinese mainland”

Virtual reality’s introduction to the world was a remarkable failure. Dubbed an “experience theater,” the Sensorama used a 3D film to simulate a motorcycle ride through Brooklyn, complete with blowing wind and a seat that rumbled with the motion of a mock engine. The year was 1962.

Designed for use in arcades, it was an impressive invention, but the Sensorama was deemed too expensive and complicated to be commercially viable. American cinematographer Morton Heilig would never get financial backing for his visionary machine.

The same can’t be said of Emax project manager Fu Licheng, 31, one of many who are riding the resurgence of virtual reality (VR) technology. Sitting outside a VR cafe in Shenzhen wearing a plaid shirt and khaki pants, Fu looks like any white-collar worker enjoying his weekend.

“It’s only been two years, and in that time we’ve developed about 300 experience shops on the Chinese mainland,” Fu says before taking a sip of his coffee. “It’s crazy.”

Just as the Sensorama would have, experience shops have given curious shoppers a chance to try VR. For about RMB50, customers can sit in devices like Emax’s Eggmax, which moves a pair of seats in sync with images displayed in VR headsets. There is even a vent blowing out wind.

Emax hardware is used in about 300 experience shops in China and 60 in South Korea, says Fu, who last year revealed that Emax makes a monthly revenue of about RMB30 million by targeting upscale malls.

The mainland’s VR influx hasn’t gone unnoticed, according to *Forbes* Japan reporter Yuji Ueda. “In Shenzhen [VR] is all over the place,” he observes walking through a shopping center. “In Japan we don’t really have VR things. There’s nothing like this.”

Outside of China, the pay-to-play concept may not be as widespread, but it has been applied on a grander scale. Last year, a VR attraction called The Void opened in both Utah and New York’s Times Square. Visitors to The Void strap a computer to their back, allowing untethered movement through a virtual world augmented by very real walls, mist machines and heat lamps.

And while the technology made its presence felt globally in the past year, there is little doubt the high water mark was reached on the Chinese mainland, where there were almost 4,000 experience shops running as of last April, according to the China Electronics Standardization Institute.

Yet, a five-minute ride in a shopping mall falls short of the VR promised during the technology’s rebirth in the 90s, when the possibility of widespread home use was touted. By the mid 90s – and with the failure of Nintendo’s Virtual Boy system – it became apparent the technology simply wasn’t ready.

This was supposed to change in 2016, when Sony, HTC and Oculus (a company backed by Facebook) all released VR headsets. Seeing the industry’s growth, China-based Dutchman Patrick Weermanam bought into what he views as the future.

“I put [the HTC Vive] on, and after that I was sold. It brought me back to being a little kid 20 years ago,” says Weermanam, who lives in Dongguan, a prefecture-level city in central Guangdong, and is developing a Tetris-like VR game. “You get your first mobile phone or your first computer – it’s that kind of feeling.”

China hopes to be front and center in the development of VR, with government funding being directed towards domestic tech firms. Taiwan-based electronics company HTC is also receiving government support to create a China VR Research Institute. The agreement includes a pledge to establish a RMB10 billion VR research fund.

The technology is also spreading at a grassroots level, but not always in ways that industry insiders would like. Experience shops rankle purists like Martin Meissner, who calls the simulated rides “a bit of a cash-grab.” Meissner’s efforts to bring VR to the public have seen him instead open a brick-and-

mortar VR lounge.

After months of construction, it opened to great fanfare in Shenzhen, pitting teams of players against each other.

“If we weren’t the first one doing this, we were one of the first ones,” said Meissner.

Now a search on Dianping in one of China’s major cities turns up hundreds of lounges allowing you to pay for a VR experience. Some of the businesses offer little more than a rented office space and a VR headset.

But despite Meissner’s perceptions about “cash-grabbing,” many of China’s VR businesses are struggling to make money. According to recent findings by VR-value, a source of industry information, only 20 percent of the 35,000 VR arcade shops opened across China last year are making a profit. Meanwhile, 90 percent of VR start-ups have declared bankruptcy, according to a report by China.org.

There’s another barrier to the proliferation of VR: The technology continues to cause motion sickness in some users, possibly due to a lag between head movement and the projection of images in the headset. Hardware addressing this problem may not reach consumers until 2018.

“The next difficulty is finding a killer app, like a Super Mario for the NES, or Sonic for Sega,” says Meissner.

Game developer Weermanam agrees, adding that knowledge of how to properly make VR software is a huge roadblock.

“You don’t have a teacher, and no one can tell you what is good and what is wrong,” explains Weermanam, who shows us videos of his game, though a recent coding error prevents a full demonstration. “For every problem you have, there is no answer.”

The cost of headsets may also delay VR’s journey into the world’s living rooms. The HTC Vive system costs more than RMB6,000 and requires an equally expensive computer to run it.

“These companies can’t demand such high prices and expect to be widely adopted,” says Attila Csanyi, who raised USD144,300 on crowdfunding site Indiegogo for an adult VR product. But Csanyi believes market competition will eventually push down prices.

Back in the VR Cafe, Fu asks a person how they feel after a simulated amusement park ride in an Emax product: “A bit dizzy.”

Fu admits that there are “some problems with the technology.” When asked when VR technology will be ready for home use, he answers simply: “It’ll be about five to 10 years.”

## 5 Places to Try VR in Beijing

### Le Fantian VR

Sanlitun SOHO, Bldg 3, 1/F, Shop 3111, 8 Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北路8号三里屯SOHO3号商场1层3111号 (5613 5673)

### Choice VR

U-Town Mall, Area 2, 2/F, Shop 206/207, Chaowai Nan Jie, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝外南街悠唐广场2期2层2-206/2-207 (8563 7661)

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## TALES FROM A BEIJING VR STATION

by Dominique Wong

I'm alone in a Shuangjing mall's VR station and I'm unimpressed. Considering the world I am about to enter, the set-up is pretty non-descript: a couple of open booths, each with a TV screen, a seat, a cycle and other VR accessories.

Although I'm yet to begin my 15-minute VR experience I am already facing difficulties, namely: what game should I play?

"Uh, that one is for children," the VR assistant comments on my selection ('Kittypocalypse'). He suggests I try skiing and gives me a pair of thick yellow HTC goggles and two black handheld controllers – *like ski goggles and poles*, I think. The goggles are heavy, pulling my eyes down towards my nose.

It's dark until a snowy landscape suddenly emerges from nowhere. Using the controllers, I mimic a skiing motion, while occasionally rocking backwards and forwards as I become accustomed to my new surroundings. I dodge a few random deer and struggle up a pesky incline.

I conclude that VR skiing is like real-life skiing except easier and more convenient – instead of physically jumping, I simply push a button on the controller, and rather than battle the elements on a ski slope; I'm in the relative safety of a warm mall.

Granted, there are downsides. The image quality is pretty poor for starters (I can almost see the pixels on the screen) – definitely no match for pristine snowfields. And instead of whooshing down a mountain, all I can hear is the sound of screaming children inside the shopping center and – what I imagine to be – the VR guy laughing at my awkward form.

Next up I want to try something more... combative. I tell the shop assistant I'd like a "fighting" game but nothing "too scary." He says

something I don't quite catch and hands me a long sword-like accessory.

Again I'm transported, visually at least, away from the mall and into another world. I seem to be outside a temple. The words "FRUIT NINJA" flash into sight before I'm assaulted by a barrage of watermelons, oranges, passionfruit and bananas. Using my 'sword' I slice through the colorful fruit, earning triple points on triple kills. Oh, yeah. I like this game so much I play it twice.

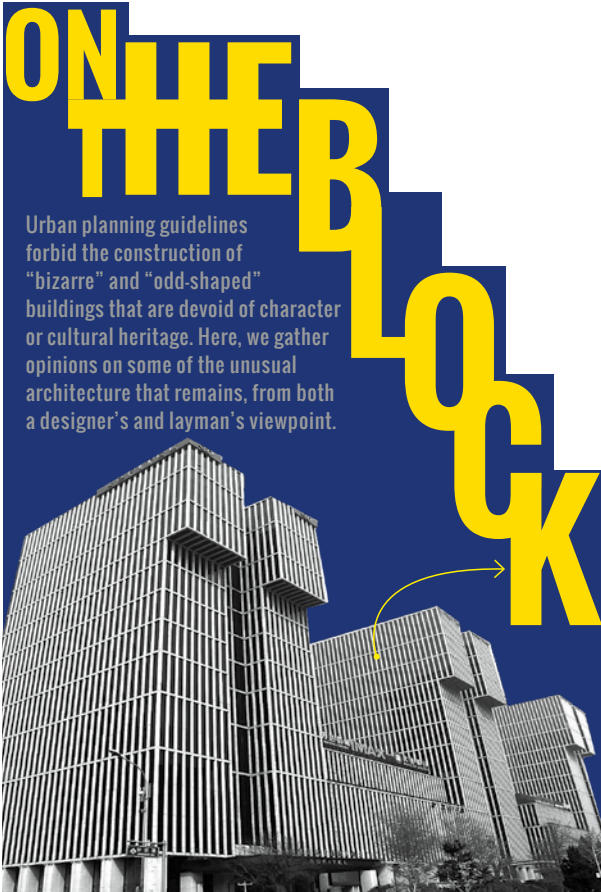
Afterwards I try the VR rollercoaster. Winding through a futuristic cityscape, the VR coaster pales in comparison to riding a real one. Perhaps this is a good thing.

The guy lets me play one last game even though I'm sure my time is up. There's no one else lining up, after all. (He later tells me that the station isn't very busy, which he blames on its hard-to-find location, a far corner on the fourth floor.)

Sitting in a virtual booster seat in the middle of the city, I am flung downwards, upwards and all around. Now *this* is vom-inducing. The assistant, probably afraid I'm going to fall down, steadies my back at certain points and I laugh – out of fear, mostly. The end of the simulation results in the booster breaking apart and me crashing into a building before falling into a pile of rubble.

I discover that VR has much in common with real life. For example, virtual skiing sucks as much as it does in reality. Also, sometimes we may act or look weird, but really, who cares?

And for RMB30 it's pretty good value. I'd do it again, though with other people next time. For those who've never experienced VR before, I recommend trying it out, although those with motion sickness should probably keep a bucket handy.



Urban planning guidelines forbid the construction of "bizarre" and "odd-shaped" buildings that are devoid of character or cultural heritage. Here, we gather opinions on some of the unusual architecture that remains, from both a designer's and layman's viewpoint.

## WANDA PLAZA, DAWANGLU

### The Building

Completed in 2007 and designed by GMP Architects, Jianguo Lu's Wanda Plaza covers 155,000sqm, part of which includes the headquarters for the Chinese multinational conglomerate Wanda Group. The quirky two-volume structure looks like giant Tetris blocks, with a collection of 104-meter high vertical towers marked by deep undersides and sprouting from a flat base. Offices and hotels occupy the towers while the horizontal platform is used for commercial purposes. Thanks to the plaza's distinctive shape and immense size, it attracts plenty of attention from the ground.

### The Residents' View

Next to Wanda Plaza a security guard surnamed Chen observes that it is "a large building." Nearby salesperson Xiao says: "The structure is quite fine; from the outside it looks good and makes me want to go inside and have a look." Less enthused is Xu, a young man "enjoying the sun" in front of the plaza, who says: "It's OK. Beijing's big buildings are all about the same; apart from the 'Wanda' mark, it looks similar to the other buildings."

### The Architect's View

Arch Stone Studio founder Zhao Chen muses: "For a large-scale construction that will be used for many purposes, a designer's biggest test is choosing the right concept. This determines whether the end design will be successful or not." In the case of Wanda Plaza, Zhao sees its design "adhering to a 'continuous space' concept. As an open space the area allows for flexible commercial use. It demonstrates the architectural philosophy of being in 'constant flux'."

"The detailed facade has a powerful effect, due to the building's curtain wall [non-structural outer covering]. A landmark of Dawang Lu, the plaza laid the foundation for the area to flourish into a business center," he says before concluding: "It's a part of the third phase of China's building development urbanization, but it is also the third generation of 'Wanda' representation, resulting in companies all over the country trying to study its template." **DW**



**Jenny Lou's**  
珍妮露

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**Zhuangbi** / zhuāngbī / 装逼 v. to pose, to pretend to be a bigwig

**A** I can't come to dinner because I can't eat at a public restaurant.

Why not? **B**

**A** I'm too famous on the Internet. I'll just plunge the restaurant into chaos.

We'll book a private room then. **B**

**A** \*Walks away\*

According to psychologists, almost all adult problems are rooted in the gap between our expectations and reality. We all wanted to be astronauts, doctors, business moguls and supermodels, but instead ended up as IT consultants, pizza delivery boys and office clerks. The distance between our dreams and our lives is so unbridgeable that it hurts to even think about.

If there was some magic potion to alleviate that feeling of a failure, we'd take it in a heartbeat. And that's what *zhuangbi* is – pretending to be your dream self for a short while, usually in front of a random audience, to ease the pain of being the embarrassing disappointment that you usually are.

*Zhuang* means 'to pretend' and *bi*, in this context, is short for 'niubi' which means 'extremely impressive.' Therefore, to *zhuangbi* is to 'pose to impress.' This is what people are doing when they talk loudly in a crowded subway car about closing million-dollar deals, or when they sit in Starbucks with a soy latte that cost half of their weekly salary.

For those few short minutes, those who *zhuangbi* feel like less of a loser in this game of Life Versus Us. And since our brains can't distinguish fake happiness from real happiness, we feel as if we're really our dream selves.

This is why *zhuangbi* is an addictive game and some will never stop doing it. They sneak into first-class cabins to take a selfie which they post with the caption "first class isn't what it used to be." They memorize whiskey brands that they've never tasted, just to casually drop the line "I only drink peaty single malts." They pepper their speech with esoteric acronyms so that people think they are experts. They beg their friends to like their WeChat posts to appear popular and well-connected.

The truth is: we all *zhuangbi* from time to time. We do it because it takes so little and feels so good. And sometimes, you might even successfully convince people that you are who you're pretending to be. Whether you can convince yourself is another challenge altogether.

Mia Li

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BEIJING  
**that's**

**Our April Highlights**

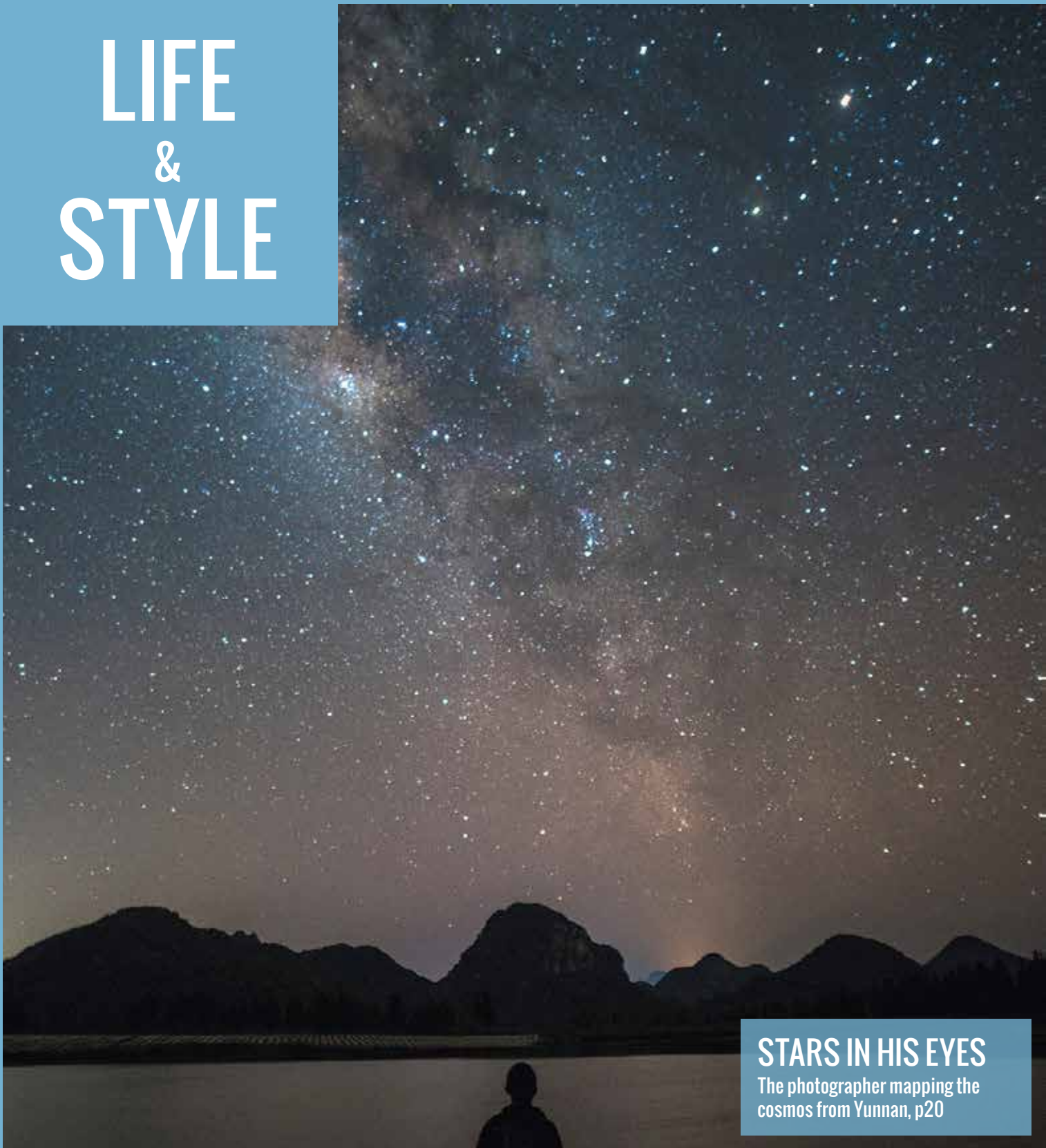
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# LIFE & STYLE



## STARS IN HIS EYES

The photographer mapping the cosmos from Yunnan, p20



**New Openings**  
p19



**Stripes are Back**  
p24



**Interior Design**  
p26

# DENISE LAI

## Lifestyle Blogger and Graphic Designer

interview by Dominic Ngai



Hong Kong native and founder of popular lifestyle blog SuperWowOMG Denise Lai offers her advice on how to keep it real.

### Tell us why you started your blog SuperWowOMG.

It's crazy to say this, but I've been blogging for nine years now! I started posting about my lifestyle and outfits while I was studying in New York. It was a way for me to connect with my friends and family around the world and also served as an outlet for inspiration and creativity. The success of my blog [has] allowed me to connect with other girls around the world who are interested in the same things.

### Do you have any advice for people who want to start their own blog and build up their online presence?

I've kept the tone of voice and style of my blog posts consistent all these years. Keeping it real with your readers is so important. Readers are smart and savvy: they know when someone is regurgitating a press release. So if you're working with a PR company to promote something, only do it if you really believe in what you're writing about. For social media, keep your posting consist-

ent. When you always have new posts, your followers will know to check your feed all the time. Photo quality and editing is also really important. Go easy on the drama filter!

### Noted. What websites and blogs do you follow yourself?

My favorites are The Haute Pursuit and Park & Cube for her editorial-style blog posts. Plus, Egg Canvas, because her photos are amazing, and MISSBISH – for fashion, streetwear and lifestyle updates.

### How long does it take you to get dressed in the morning?

I tend to base my outfit around one or two items – a new jacket or a favorite pair of shoes – and then pick the rest of my outfit to match. But I usually decide what to wear the night before. It's easy for me because I wear a lot of basics, like black skinny jeans, black sweaters and black Nike sneakers – always black!

### Super. Any favorite new purchases?

I wear glasses every day so finding my new pair of Celine glasses with clip-on sunglasses was a lifesaver. I'm in love with my new bucket bag by Hong Kong brand Esemblé. My lat-

est sneaker obsession is the coveted Comme des Garçons and NikeLab see-through high-top dunks. The clear panels are so fun and you can show off a cute pair of colored or printed socks.

### Wow. Is there anything you'd never wear and why?

I never really wear that much color, although I'll stray every now and then into army green, navy or gray territory. So I guess you could say I'd never wear anything that's bright or colorful. There's a meme that says: 'I'll stop wearing black when they make a darker color.' That's basically my life.

### OMG, you've lived in the Chinese Mainland for four years now. Do you miss Hong Kong?

Hong Kong will always be my home but right now I love living in Shanghai. Whenever I go back, my time is usually just spent with my family or friends. Shanghai is way more spacious and the creative scene is growing so fast and there are still so many opportunities here. To me, Hong Kong is somewhere I go back to for the familiarity and most importantly, delicious Cantonese food!

[www.superwowomg.com](http://www.superwowomg.com) / [www.deniselai.com](http://www.deniselai.com)

# STYLE RADAR

## COVET

### Uma Wang Debuts A/W 2017 Collection

Last month, all eyes were on Uma Wang as the Chinese fashion designer debuted her A/W 2017 collection at Paris Fashion Week. Staying true to her signature style, classic and modern design elements go hand-in-hand in her latest earth-toned creations. Wang's mastery in layering is once again prominently showcased in this collection through an array of interesting textures, shapes and silhouettes.

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



## OVERHEARD



A Weibo user comments on the 26-year-old actress' stunning look at the China premiere of *Beauty and the Beast*. Watson's nude gown by Elie Saab was made from leftover fabric from one of the designer's previous couture collections, and features a long train and a sheer cape covered in shiny beads and sequins.

“Looking at photos of Emma Watson from that night gave me goose bumps... She looked like a goddess!”

## MADE IN CHINA

### Ivanka Trump, Made in China

While her father preached about buying and hiring American, Ivanka Trump was busy outsourcing manufacturing jobs. According to AFP, more than 82 shipments of her brand's polyester woven blouses, cowhide leather wallets and footwear – all made in China – passed through US Customs between Nov 8 (Election Day) and Feb 26. Oh, the irony.



UNDER THE LENS

## Angelica Cheung on Chinese Millennial Consumers

*Vogue China's* editor-in-chief Angelica Cheung shared her thoughts on the behavior of Chinese millennial consumers in an interview with *Business of Fashion*.

Describing them as the “real and organic consumers,” Cheung said: “They just love things, they want to buy... [but they] are not consumers that are easily influenced by preaching to them.”

Speaking about her own experience of launching *Vogue Me* (an edition of *Vogue* focusing on millennials) in China last year, she explained the different approach that she takes to communicate with a younger audience. “At *Vogue*, it’s basically, ‘I speak, you listen.’ With *Vogue Me*, they speak, I listen, and I try to digest and talk to them in a way that they can understand.”

See the full interview on Business of Fashion ([www.businessoffashion.com](http://www.businessoffashion.com))



SCENE&HEARD



## ACROYOGA

Beijing’s new acroyoga classes combine the physicality of acrobatics with Zen yoga poses. Practiced in groups of two or more, acroyoga is a social activity where trust and playfulness is key. During class, yogis quite literally support each other as they learn how to fly, go upside down and fall back. Don’t be scared: The practice is available for every body, age and ability, plus the acroyoga community is extremely welcoming in that ‘healing art and love’ kinda way.

Saturdays, 4pm; prices vary; YogaYard, 6/F, 17 Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北路17号6层 (6413 0774, [yogayard.com](http://yogayard.com)); Sundays, 4.30pm; RMB100; FlowCreative Studio, 2/F, 44 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang (above Caravan) 朝阳区光华路44号2楼



## BASE FIT

Base Fit, Sanlitun’s sexiest new gym, takes training to a new level with a wealth of group classes in fun, state-of-the-art facilities. Stretch out with yoga, kick into high gear with intense cardio and work on your shape at a session of ‘Butty & Curves’. Also on site is a healthy cafe – a perfect place for you to grab lunch with your new friends from class.

39-3 Xingfu Ercun, Chaoyang 朝阳区幸福二村39-3 (5727 6060 (visit [www.basefit.cn](http://www.basefit.cn) for class schedule)



## MAIA ACTIVE

The right gear is crucial if you want to actually enjoy working out. Enter Maia Active, a Shanghai-based brand that aims to provide the “perfect sportswear,” especially cut for Chinese women. Created by former Badgely Mishka China design chief and self-confessed fitness freak, Lisa Ou, Maia uses lightweight and breathable fabrics to showcase clean lines, bright colors and fun prints.

Available in Beijing at SpaceCycle, N4-40A, Taikoo Li North, 11 Sanlitun Lu 朝阳区三里屯11号院西座太古里北 N4-40A ([www.maiaactive.com](http://www.maiaactive.com))

# STARRY STARRY

How One Man Shot For the Stars

# WARRRY NIGHT

rs - And Got There words by Dominic Ngai, photos by Yu Dengrui





For the last five years, Yunnan-born Yu Dongrui has immersed himself in the world of stargazing. He has captured dramatic images of constellations, night skies and breathtaking natural landscapes in places like Nepal, Myanmar, India and Switzerland.

But some of his most important work is closer to home. As the winner of the 2016 WildChina Explorer Grant, Yu used his prize money to launch a project titled 'Finding Yunnan's Lost Stars' – a collection of 10,000 photos that form a star map for his home province. Speaking to us from Iceland, Yu shares the beginning of his star-studded journey, and his hope for building a dark sky reserve in Yunnan.

"A bunch of friends and I were hanging out in this villa on a mountain during high school," says Yu, 25, recalling the pivotal moment when he fell in love with stars. "By the time we walked outside for some fresh air after a few drinks, it was already late at night. I looked up, and saw a sky full of stars, including a belt-shaped constellation. I was half-drunk at the time, but I still clearly remember how mesmerizing it was, and thought to myself, 'How awesome would it be if I could capture this on camera?'"

A few years later, he did just that. The self-described *zhainan* (a socially awkward and introverted young man) purchased his first camera, and traded in his favorite videogames for a new hobby – traveling and photographing the heavens.

Yu's passion became a photographic career, and in 2016, he was chosen for WildChina's Explorer Grant. Every year, the experiential tour company runs a popular contest for travelers, offering a USD5,000 grant to whomever has the best idea for a trip and project (for more info on how you can apply for this year's, see bottom right). Needless to say, competition was fierce.

And yet, for Yu, coming up with the concept of 'Finding Yunnan's

Lost Stars' for the WildChina Explorer Grant was easy. "I was basically doing something that I love – shooting night skies and stars – at a place that I call home. Besides, creating a star map for Yunnan also gave me a good opportunity to get to know my home province a little better," he explains.

The project was challenging both physically and psychologically: "I was sleep deprived the whole time." For almost an entire month, the photographer stayed up all night to shoot. But he had a hard time sleeping during the day. He credits his own willpower for being able to complete the journey.

Enduring extreme weather conditions for hours, or even days, is part of the job for a professional landscape photographer. But on this trip around Yunnan, Yu was able to enjoy a few relaxing moments between shots. "I remember this one night where I was lying on a grass field by a lake near Puzhehei, just staring at the sky, taking in all the stars above and enjoying a beer. It was a perfectly serene night that's very rare for me, especially when I'm on assignment."

For Yu, the ultimate goal of 'Finding Yunnan's Lost Stars' is much bigger than satisfying his own curiosity. It's a stepping stone to establishing a dark sky reserve – an area that's kept free of artificial light pollution for the benefit of astronomers. "At the moment, we're still in the early stages of communicating with the Yunnan government and lobbying for its support. [A dark sky reserve] is still a very new concept in China so we have to be very patient," he explains. "There's a lot of work left to be done, and it could take some time. Rome wasn't built in a day."

To see more of Yu Dongrui's work, visit [www.ydr.artron.net](http://www.ydr.artron.net); Apply for the 2017 WildChina Explorer Grant (before April 23) via [explorergrant.wildchina.com](http://explorergrant.wildchina.com)





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# WORKERS' ART

## Turning a Suburban Factory into an Artist's Studio

words by Oscar Holland, images by Sun Haiting

**Project name:** Hall Within Cloud

**Location:** Huairou, Beijing

**Site area:** 1,200sqm

**Building area:** 800sqm

**Design company:** officePROJECT

**The brief:** Painter, author and calligrapher Xu Hongquan wanted to turn an old factory building into a studio space and future home. His requirements included two studios, a tea room, bedroom and a study room – a typical configuration for an artist's studio.



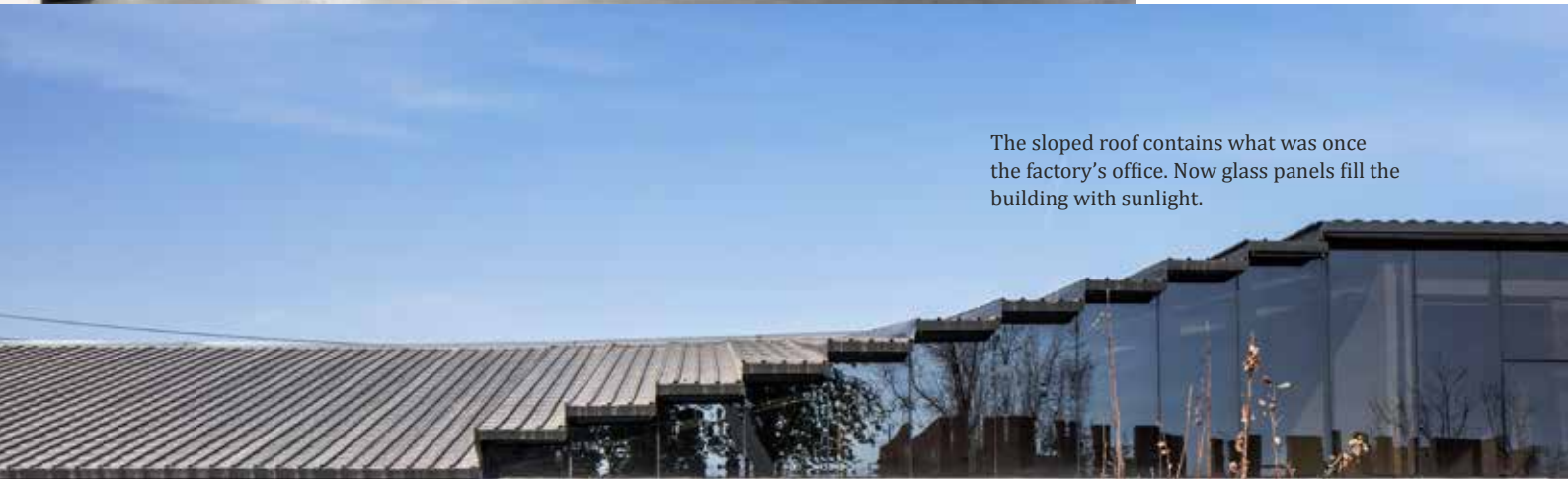


▶ People move from one room to another through corner openings that form “visual corridors” through the building.

▲ The existing triangular steel roof trusses were in good condition – they were kept and repainted.



◀ Trained in both Eastern and Western traditions, Xu Hongquan required both an oil painting room and a traditional painting room. The two studios were designed to produce different atmospheres for the two artistic styles.



The sloped roof contains what was once the factory’s office. Now glass panels fill the building with sunlight.

# ARTS

## A CHANGE OF ART

The best photography and art exhibitions happening this month, p39



Owen Pallett  
p32



AC Slater  
p34



Twelfth Night  
p37



# STIV HEY

## Techno Italiano

by Oscar Holland

Italian techno prodigy Stiv Hey is playing Beijing this month. We threw him a veritable smorgasbord of lighthearted interview questions ahead of his show at Lantern. Here's what he said.

**Italian electronic music has gone from strength to strength in recent years. Why do you think this is?**

I really think Italy has a lot to say in terms of electronic music. We have our signature sounds that you can really feel coming out of our country.

**But we hear that tight regulations, licensing and policing are making it difficult for electronic music to thrive in your native Milan.**

Correct. The law and politicians are not making it easy, but Milano is one of the biggest cities in Europe with a lot of clubs and clubbers, so the scene is always on fire.

**Semi-related question: AC Milan or Inter Milan?**

FC Inter!

**Your SoundCloud profile describes your sound as "futuristic techno." But how do you know what the future is going to sound like?**

[Laughs] Nice one! I am completely certain how my future will sound like, and I already know something really different is cooking in my studio. My vision has always been to create different music experiences for my fans, be it through my sets or production.

**We also checked out your Spotify profile, and it seems that your biggest contingent of listeners in Santiago, Chile. Why's that?**

Really? You should teach me how to check those stats. I have never been in Santiago, but I'm looking forward to going on a full South American tour later in the year and seeing the Chilean ravers!

**Which one song do you play for guaranteed crowd reaction?**

On my computer I have a folder called "BOMBS" that is full of tracks that guarantee reaction. The tunes are all very different in style and work great for any situation where I want the crowd to

explode. To answer your question: for guaranteed crowd reaction I play the best song for that particular crowd in that particular moment.

**Your latest EP invited us to "come into your mind." But what will we find there?**

The *Come Into My Mind* EP was maybe one of my fans' most liked – they felt the connection with my musical ideas when listening to those tracks, and this is what the title is about.

**Dubfire signed you to his label and opens his sets with your tracks. How important a figure has he been in your career?**

Ali [Shirazinia, AKA Dubfire] is one of the most important people I've met in the scene. He really showed me what being a professional DJ means. His support for my tracks – by playing them at big festivals – allowed me to connect with a lot of techno-lovers. This was really the start of my international career.

**We spotted some sleeve tattoos in your press photos – can you talk us through what they mean?**

This is a long story, as the tattoos on my arm were not made at once. Every part was added at a different moment and has its own meaning. I'll save this for our next interview.

**Which has been more important to your artistic development: studying music theory or playing Ibiza?**

Definitely both of them. DJing and producing are two different subjects that need to be developed at the same time, but separately. This is my approach to my job. Hard work on all fronts!

**Tell us, in three words, what 2017 has in store for you.**

Techno, techno and techno.

**One last thing: Hey, Stiv Hey. Hey!**

Hey! You got it!

Fri Apr 21, 10pm-late; RMB50 (advance), RMB80 (door); Lantern (see Listings for details)

# COLLAGE

## WHAT'S NEW



With the second season of *Humans* receiving rave reviews, LeTV revisits the 2012 Swedish original that spawned the remake. Taking place in a near-future Sweden, *Äkta Människor* (Real Humans) depicts a society where robots are workers and servants. Things get complicated after a group of robots attain freewill, demanding freedom from ownership. Streamable at [tv.le.com/us](http://tv.le.com/us).



Wuhan, China's former punk capital, is undergoing a musical renaissance thanks to new-school bands like Chinese Football. The emo act made waves around the world with their 2015 self-titled debut. The band dips into their melodic bag of tricks on their latest EP, *Here Comes a New Challenger*. Available at [chinesefootball.band-camp.com](http://chinesefootball.band-camp.com).



Despite a season suggesting that the Golden State Warriors would meet the Cleveland Cavaliers in the finals for the third straight year, there's a surprising amount of intrigue heading into the NBA playoffs. Will Kevin Durant come back to full health? Will LeBron hold up after a grueling regular season? Find out starting April 15 with games streamable exclusively at [v.qq.com](http://v.qq.com).

## CAUSING A SCENE

### Logan Gets Slashed

Hugh Jackman's final Wolverine film was the first to be affected by China's new Film Industry Promotion Law, introduced on March 1. Rated R in America for strong language and violence, *Logan* was released across China last month with 14 minutes cut from its original running time, and a parental advisory.

Historically, China has not employed a ratings system, allowing audiences of all ages to see any films released. This has prevented films like *Deadpool* from coming to the country in the past.

Despite the cuts and warning, *Logan* won the box office with an impressive USD48.34 million opening weekend. The film has garnered worldwide praise for its gritty and surprisingly emotional story.



### Hao

iQiyi has scored the streaming rights to *Moonlight* and *La La Land*, the two films (unintentionally) announced as Best Film at this year's infamous Oscars. It's a huge coup for the Baidu-owned subsidiary and, in addition to the USD1.53 billion of investment funds recently raised, provides heavy ammunition in the streaming supremacy battle against Alibaba-owned Youku Tudou.



### Bu Hao

The first major Chinese-American co-production met a resounding thud across North America. Despite the efforts of actor Matt Damon and director Zhang Yimou, *The Great Wall* failed to impress, grossing just USD34.8 million after last month's opening. Ironically, many Chinese netizens criticized the film for being "too Hollywood." Analysts estimate the big-budget spectacle could lose more than USD75 million.





**POSTER OF THE MONTH**

An adaptation of Russian author Mikhail Bulgakov's sci-fi novella of the same name, *The Fatal Eggs* depicts a zoologist's discovery of a red light that accelerates growth and reproduction in living creatures – and the madness that ensues. Published in 1924, *The Fatal Eggs* is a satire about Stalinist Russia that ridicules the Bolsheviks' faith in science.

Sat Apr 8-Sun Apr 9, Sat Apr 15-Sun Apr 16, 2.30pm;  
RMB160-380; Fengchao Juchang (M Theatre), 3  
Xinzhong Jie, Dongcheng 东城区新中街3号 (6416  
9253, tickets via [www.youyanchu.com](http://www.youyanchu.com))

Our favorite tracks  
from artists playing  
in Beijing this month.  
For full nightlife and  
gig listings, visit  
[www.thatsmags.com](http://www.thatsmags.com)

**THE PLAYLIST**

**'To Liu Wen, The Opposite House, 3 a.m.' (2015)**

Maximilian Hecker

A shimmering love letter to Beijing that bursts into a hopeful crescendo before falling back into melancholy.

**'Kodama' (2016)**

Alcest

Driven by guitar and monastic vocals, the blackgaze pioneers cover nine blistering yet extremely satisfying minutes with ease.

**'What Are We Waiting For?' (2010)**

amiina

The Icelandic band (and Sigur Ros collaborators) ask the perennial question in an uplifting track layered with ambient electronics and strings.

**'U Got 2' (2015)**

AC Slater

Slater goes to the brink of cheesy 90s piano house before slapping you in the face with a weighty baseline (and cowbells).

**'Stay Useless' (2012)**

Cloud Nothings

The first 20 seconds could easily be taken from an early Strokes album, but the track soon evolves into Cloud Nothings' distinct brand of garage rock.

**'Heroin Hat' (2015)**

Why Be

An abstract and atmospheric slice of lo-fi fuzz is underpinned by a piercing kick drum and marimbas (a criminally under-used instrument).

# REBUILDING

## The Beijing Post-Punk Standouts' Second Act

by Andrew Chin

“  
When you're trying to  
create something new,  
why not try to go further?  
”

Since emerging from the Beijing underground a dozen years ago, Re-TROS have been among the standard-bearers for the country's post-punk influenced indie scene. However, as they prepare to release their first album in eight years, frontman and guitarist Hua Dong promises a “remodeled” version of the band, stressing they're not a punk act anymore.

At over 12 minutes long, their first single from the project, 'At Mosp Here' is a sign of things to come. While it retains the group's trademark intensity, the song is built on urgent electronic beats.

“Over these eight years, we have been trying to make more interesting music,” he says of the change.

Since moving from Nanjing to Beijing in the early 2000s, Re-TROS have been part of the country's indie vanguard. Their 2005 debut *Cut Off!* featured legendary producer Brian Eno on three tracks. Signed to Modern Sky, the band have toured America several times and opened for Gang of Four on their 2011 Australian tour. Closer to home, they're a staple of the popular Strawberry Music Festival.

However, if bands like Bauhaus and Joy Division were the group's early models, Hua credits acts like PVT, Liars and TV on the Radio as influencing Re-TROS 2.0.

Hua says the band's the greatest influence lately has been American experimental rock group Battles: “Their musical imagination, their concepts and structures have been a great inspiration to us.”

The group will continue their experimental

approach during their upcoming national tour, which stops off at Yugong Yishan on April 14. Having just released a second single, the gothic-bluesy 'Pigs in the River,' Re-TROS plan to use the shows to workshop new songs – with an eye towards releasing the full album in the second half of the year.

“It's difficult to change the way you create,” Hua says. “The new songs sound structurally and conceptually different from the traditional rock-and-roll of our past albums. We're still in the process of throwing away a lot of songs that had some details that we just weren't able to perfectly solve.”

While some groups would cringe at the idea of touring behind an album that audiences have yet to hear, Hua smiles at the challenge.

“When you're trying to create something new, why not try to go further? We've played some of the new songs at music festivals to let people feel the changes we have gone through. When you really win the respect of the audience, you feel very happy and pleased.

“After all, some people will look into the depths of the music and find a place where they can resonate with each other. It's because of those people that the foundations of China's indie scene can continue moving forward.”

Fri April 14, 8.30pm; Price TBD; Yugong Yishan (see Listings for details)

# RE-TROS



“Confidence is the enemy of artistic pursuit. You always want to feel off-balance and exploratory, or else the work is no longer interesting”

# OWEN PALLETT

## Has the World On A String

by Andrew Chin

The violin may seem an unlikely backbone for an indie-pop career. But strings have played an outsize role in Canadian artist Owen Pallett's award-winning body of work.

It all started at the University of Toronto. Pallett was a student with an unusual side gig: working as the go-to string arranger for buzz Canadian acts like Arcade Fire, Hidden Cameras and Death from Above 1979. Today, the composer provides strings for everyone from indie favorites (Titus Andronicus, Caribou, Franz Ferdinand) to pop stars (Taylor Swift, Robbie Williams, Linkin Park).

But while he's affiliated with countless bands, Pallett garnered the most acclaim when stepping out on his own. Under the alias Final Fantasy (which he dropped in 2010 to avoid issues with the hit video game franchise), Pallett first drew attention as a one-man band, playing his violin through a loop pedal to allow him to create complex arrangements live. His work won the inaugural Polaris Prize – an annual award for best Canadian album. Yet, his sophomore album played on themes of self-doubt.

“I still lack that confidence,” he says. “I think confidence is the enemy of artistic pursuit. You always want to feel off-balance and exploratory, or else the work is no longer interesting.”

But Pallett's insecurities do not show in his brilliant, diverse works, which include everything from Grammy-winning string arrangements (Arcade Fire's *The Suburbs*) to Oscar-nominated film scores (*Her*).

And, of course, mind-bending solo albums – his third, *Heartland*, was a heady conceptual disc driven by imagined conversations between a young farmer named Lewis and his all-powerful creator. Its 2014 follow-up, *In Conflict*, boasts collaborations with iconic producer and ambient pioneer Brian Eno, who Pallett calls “the single most influential musician on my production and songwriting.”

“He contributed some amazing parts and fixed a bunch of songs,” Pallett says. “It felt very workman-like – just like me.”

Pallett's forthcoming album “is coming close to being completed,” he says. But we ought to forgive him for the delay.

“I worked on 20 or so records last year as an arranger,” he says. “I've been studying a lot of scores from the last 20 years to try and expand my compositional vocabulary. I'm not the most talented arranger, but I think I am good at finding a good spot between innovation and pop history.”

Although he remains focused on finishing up his long-awaited fifth disc, Pallett is excited for his first tour of China – one which will take over the stately Shanghai Symphony Orchestra Hall and Beijing's Yugong Yishan.

“I tend to prefer rock clubs, simply because I prefer the urgency of a standing crowd,” Pallett says.

While both shows are bound to have an impact on the audience, their influence will be most felt by Pallett himself. The “superlatively positive responses” to his 2015 *In Conflict* tour, he says, triggered his creative instincts. And accordingly, he plans on making this year's tour different.

“I figured it was time for a change,” he says. “I have sold my synthesizer and am now playing with a guitar and violin instead.”

Sun Apr 23, 8.30pm, RMB120 (presale), RMB150 (door); Yugong Yishan (see Listings for details; tickets available via yoopay.cn)



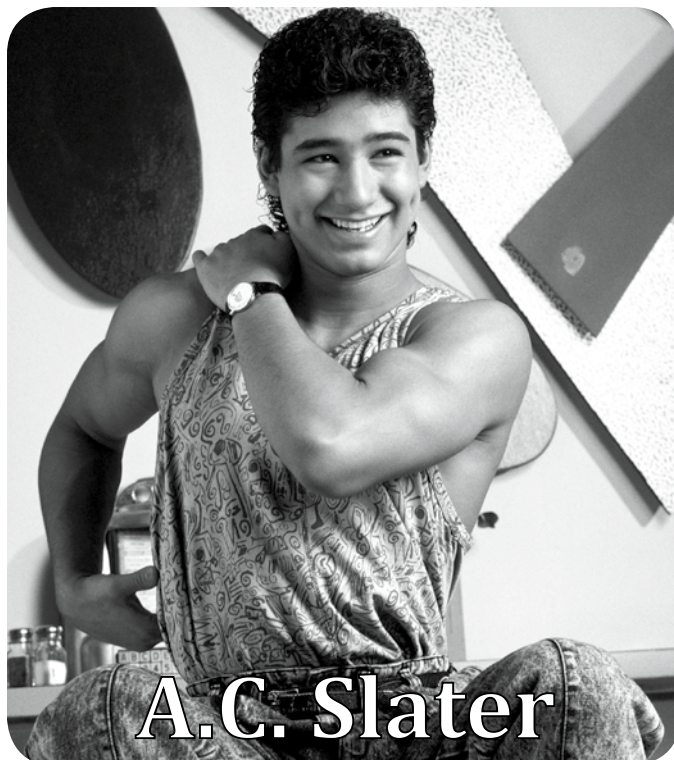
# AC SLATER VS A.C. SLATER

One's a DJ bound for Beijing, the other a fictional 90s chauvinist. But who's the one for you?

by Oscar Holland



## AC Slater



## A.C. Slater

### Who?

Californian DJ and producer known for his bass-heavy fidget house.

Archetypal jock from early 90s sitcom *Saved by the Bell*.

### General vibe

Laidback DJ guy, founder of Night Bass Records, purveyor of wobbly bass. Makes normal house music sound like birdsong.

High school running back, amateur wrestler, casual 90s misogynist. Makes Joey from *Friends* look like Mr. Darcy.

### Appearance

Always wears a hat. Presumably bald or balding, with little chance of achieving a credible mullet.

Owner of one of pop culture's most distinctive curly mullets. Often seen flexing in unbuttoned shirts.

### Breakout moment

His 2008 remix of Math Head's 'Turn the Music Up' being named as one of the 10 best tracks of the decade by fellow bald man Moby.

Transferring to the fictional Bayside High School in 1989 with a poor disciplinary record, daddy issues and a barely credible backstory.

### Best known for

Making people dance, collaborating with the likes of Sinden, and using sounds from UK garage and bassline in house music.

Playing football, being late to class and making the type of derogatory remarks towards women that were deemed acceptable on 90s TV.

### What's with the name?

Real name (Aaron Clevenger) is not that cool. Instead used name of archetypal jock from early 90s sitcom *Saved by the Bell*.

Despite a season three rumor that A.C. means 'abnormally cruel,' it in fact comes from Slater's real name, Albert Clifford.

### Where to see him

At Dada on Saturday April 22 (although it'll probably be Sunday morning by the time he's on). He'll be the dude behind the decks in a hat.

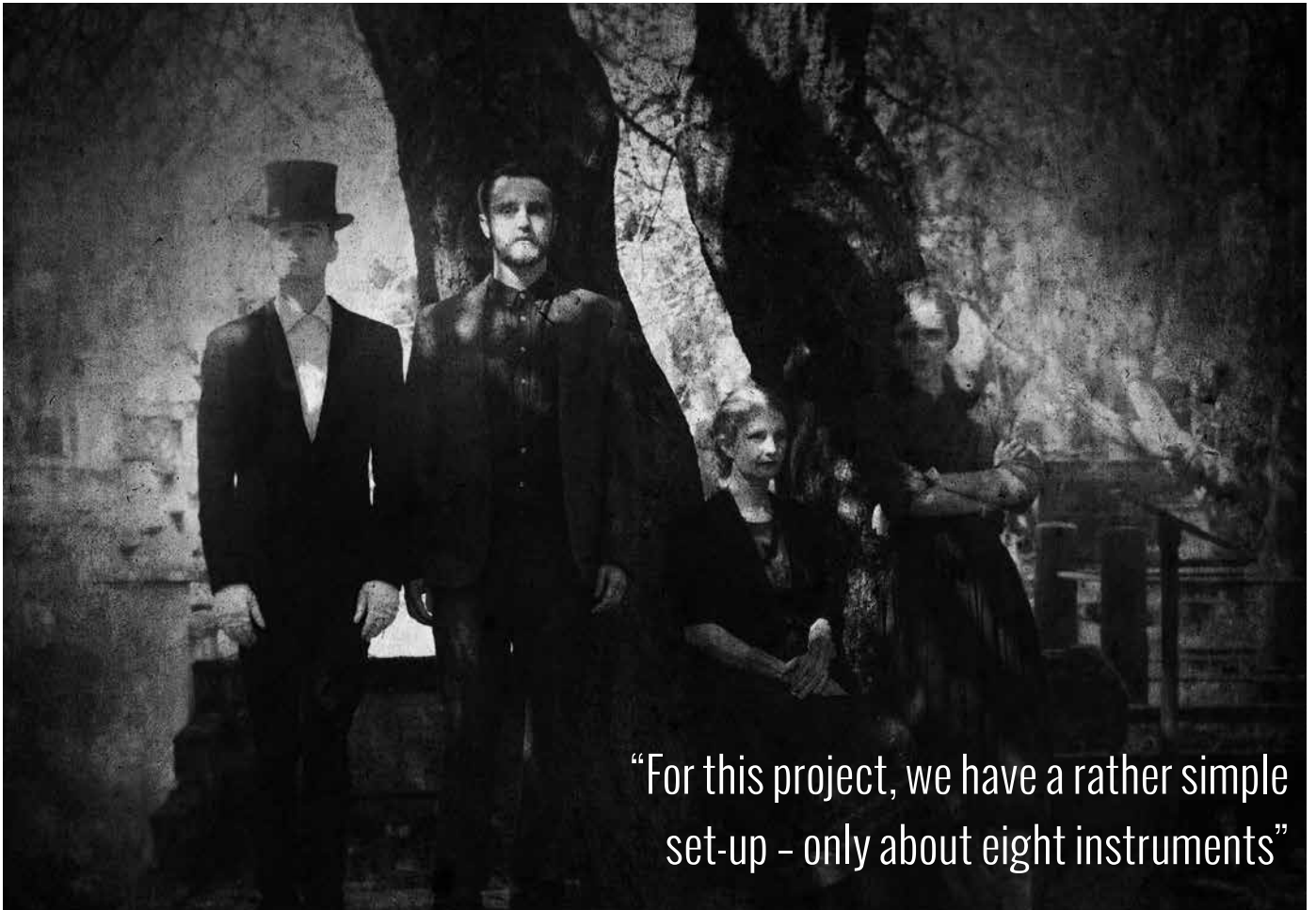
On YouTube, where someone has helpfully made a compilation of his most sexist comments called 'A.C. Slater: The Sexiest Man Alive.'

### Classic quote

"Night Bass parties are a refreshing alternative to events of late."

"She's a cute little feminist isn't she?"

Sat Apr 22, 10pm-late; Price TBD; Dada (see Listings for details)



“For this project, we have a rather simple set-up – only about eight instruments”

## AMIINA SCORE BIG

The Former Sigur Rós Collaborators Write Music for Cinematic Criminals

by Andrew Chin

In Nordic Europe’s vast world of instrumental acts, Amiina have carved out their own distinct space. Known for using a seemingly endless number of instruments, they first gained prominence as the string section for acclaimed Icelandic post-rock band Sigur Rós.

“We first worked together in music collection, and that evolved over some years as we started to do sessions and tours with various bands in Reykjavík,” explains Amiina co-founder Sólrún Sumarliðadóttir.

While the group provided strings on four Sigur Rós albums, Amiina officially formed in 2004 after “feeling the need to compose our own material.”

The result has been three acclaimed albums including last year’s *Fantômas* – their score to the seminal 1913 French film of the same name.

“The project began as a concert for [French musician] Yann Tiersen’s curated shows celebrating the 100th anniversary of the film,” Sumarliðadóttir explains.

“We had scored several silhouette anima-

tion films from the early 20th century by Lotte Reiniger and really liked the idea of scoring such an old and remarkable film. The whole process of writing the music was really enjoyable.”

A huge hit when it was released, *Fantômas* (the film) follows the misadventures of its titular criminal genius. It spawned four additional film serials, which were restored and rereleased in 2006.

“The strong visual language of *Fantômas* appealed to us from the start,” Sumarliðadóttir says. “The film has been so beautifully restored that all details are very vivid.”

Sumarliðadóttir raves that the group’s initial *Fantômas* concert at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris was “a unique evening and a great experience.” However, she admits that there was more work for the group to do.

“Some of the musical cues in the film only last a very short time, so we wanted to create versions of the tracks that could stand on their own on an album.”

The result is Amiina at their darkest. Noirish strings meet foreboding beats to create what the

*Irish Times* dubbed “a contemporary classical, post-rock cocktail.”

It’s the perfect soundtrack to the devious deeds of *Fantômas*, a character that represents the bridge from 19th-century Gothic villains to 20th-century serial killers in crime fiction.

In short, it’s bound to be an unusual concert at Yugong Yishan.

“For this project, we have a rather simple set-up – only about eight instruments,” Sumarliðadóttir says. “It’s a palette that just works really well with the film.”

Their world tour for the album kicked off last winter and continued into the fall. It would be hard to fault the band if they were getting tired of seeing the film. However, Sumarliðadóttir insists that’s not the case. “We even enjoy it more now than in the beginning,” she says. “It is always a pleasure to dive into Paris, 1913!”

Fri Apr 21; RMB160-200; Yugong Yishan (see Listings for details; newnoise.taobao.com for tickets)



## TWELFTH NIGHT

### Shakespeare's Greatest Comedy Comes to Beijing

by Andrew Chin

Now one of the most popular foreign touring companies in China, TNT Theatre has built up a huge fan base across the country. Its founder Paul Stebbings has even received an MBE from Britain's royal family for his efforts. And after 11 years bringing shows to China, Stebbings promises that the upcoming tour of *Twelfth Night* will offer something completely new.

"This is a brand new production, which will actually premiere in China – which is unusual for us," he says. "It then carries on to Japan and 11 European countries."

With China tours of Shakespeare classics like *Hamlet*, *Macbeth* and *The Taming of the Shrew* to its name, TNT is now tackling what many consider to be the Bard's greatest comedy.

"*Twelfth Night* is fascinating because it is the last true comedy Shakespeare wrote. He dispenses with a true central character and gives equal weight to so many people, who are often in disguise. It is a whirlpool of action and interaction that leaves the audience breathless – usually with laughter," Stebbings says.

The ensemble cast is comprised of TNT veterans like Glyn Connop (*Tempest*), Rachel Middle (*Hamlet*), Jean-Paul Pfluger (*Merchant of Venice*) and Gareth Fordred (*Macbeth*). To capture the show's hijinks, the company will be using a revolving set for the first time.

"It's a wall that rotates and gives many opportunities for comedy," Stebbings explains. "It also has a door and window so actors can pop through it. We also have a chair on wheels – it's a part of the comic whirlpool effect – everything is moving and unfixed."

Named for the Eve of the Feast of Epiphany, which takes place on the twelfth night after Christmas, *Twelfth Night* captures the revelry of the holiday. During Shakespeare's time, it was a

carnival-esque night of role reversal inspired by the ancient Roman festival of Saturnalia, when masters became slaves for a day.

The show's storyline of mistaken identity and cross-dressing has inspired recent remakes like the hit jukebox musicals *Play On!* and *All Shook Up*, as well as the Amanda Bynes film *She's the Man*.

"Gender and identity are such modern themes," Stebbings notes. "The play questions everything about love, romance, loyalty, purity and moral corruption. It is a work that is constantly reinterpreted."

"Our aim is to make sense of the play in all its richness but without trying to simplify or pin it down to one view. Our intention is to let the audience decide and let Shakespeare speak."

Adding to the experience is a live musical score featuring singers, trumpets, violins and percussion. It combines music from the Baroque period, like Vivaldi, with original music composed by TNT's own Helen Beauchamp.

With a tour of *Romeo and Juliet* already lined up for China this autumn, Stebbings is eager to return. However, despite all of *Twelfth Night*'s added bells and whistles, he admits that the production will have a tough time topping TNT's last tour of China.

"Last year, TNT veteran Richard [Ede] went down on his knees and proposed marriage to his long-time girlfriend [co-star Natalia Campbell], on stage during the applause for *The Taming of the Shrew* in front of 500 people in Shanghai," he says. "Many audience members were in tears."

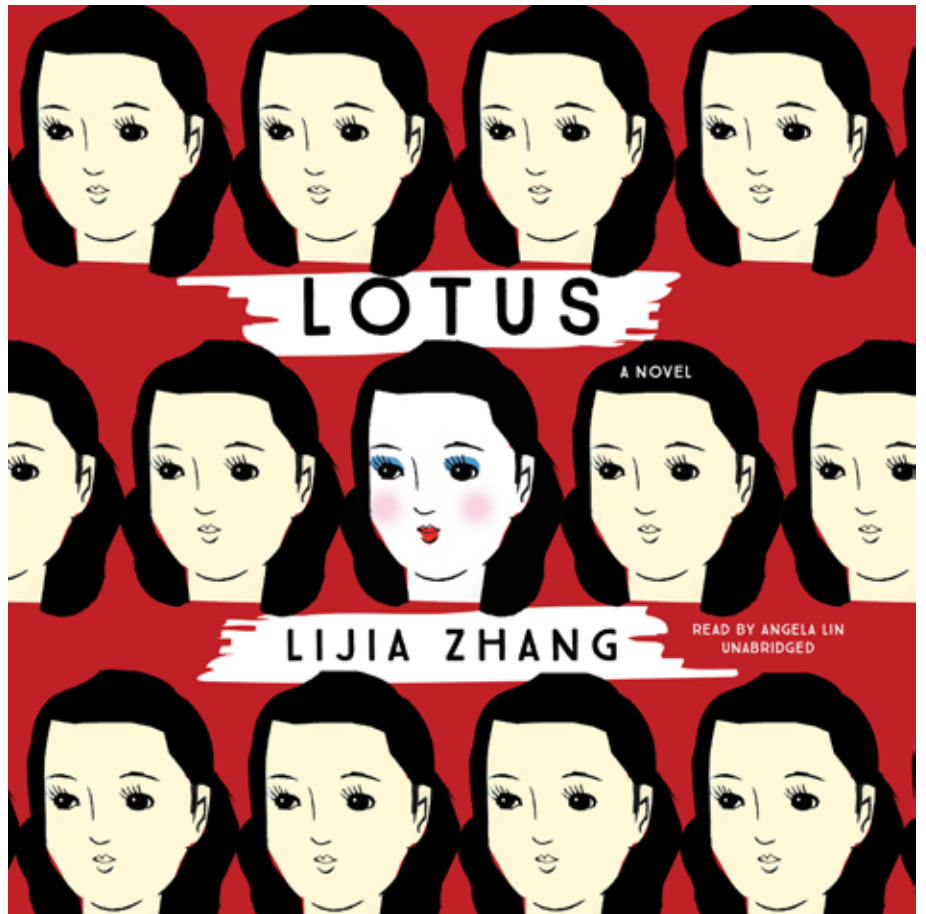
"It is a whirlpool of action and interaction that leaves the audience breathless – usually with laughter"

Thu Apr 13-Sat Apr 15, 7.30pm; RMB120-380; 9 Theatre Beijing, 17 Jintaili, Xiaozhuang, Chaoyang 朝阳区小庄金台里17号朝阳文化馆 (400 610 3721, en.damai.cn)

# FLOWER GIRLS

Zhang Lijia's *Lotus* Shines Through the Dark

by Dominique Wong



"I love the lotus because while growing from mud, it is unstained," wrote Confucian scholar Zhou Dunyi.

So it is for the eponymous Lotus, the 'working girl' and heroine of Zhang Lijia's debut novel. Set in the outskirts of Shenzhen at the turn of the millennium, *Lotus* follows a young massage parlor sex worker as she seeks to carve out a better life for herself and her family.

Luo Xiangzhu (Lotus is her parlor name) is a sweet, hardworking and, at times, naïve 23-year-old. Both "tough and vulnerable at the same time," the young woman works to send money back to her family in rural Sichuan while attracting attention from multiple suitors over the course of the novel.

One suitor is the story's other principal narrator, Bing. The older freelance photographer becomes acquainted with Lotus and her friends after he shoots them for a photo documentary about working girls. The book follows the two characters as they intertwine and eventually leave a lasting impression on one another.

A familiar tale, perhaps. But this isn't a simple case of a 'meet cute' narrative (see: *Pretty Woman*). Zhang covers a lot of ground, with the Moonflower Massage Parlor acting as a mi-

crocosm for the country and the issues it faces.

As well as providing a window into China's sex industry, we also see, through Lotus' situation and her relationship with Bing, the gap between rural and urban China – and between men and women. Bing's chapters, meanwhile, reveal the divorcee's former life in Beijing, where he was once an idealistic student, and his exposure to corruption as a one-time businessman in Shenzhen.

It's an entertaining read, peppered with Chinese proverbs, memorably named characters (such as the elusive 'Funny Eye' and fawning 'Family Treasure') and plenty of sex, naturally.

Throughout the book, Zhang's prose shows little restraint. This is both a blessing and a curse. Everything is described in exhaustive detail, making the reader feel ever present, a silent observer of a perfectly conjured scene.

The women's 'parlor room talk' is at once candid and heartbreaking (the women go from comparing clients' appendages to bemoaning having to do such work in the first place), highlighted beautifully by Zhang's descriptions, including a lovely scene where the girls eat sunflower seeds: "the lipstick-stained husks snowed down on the pavement."

Yet at times, over a sprawling 366 pages,

the book feels a little bloated. This is especially noticeable in Bing's sections, which may be down to the fact that he's just not as likeable as Lotus, despite being as fully-formed a character.

The real joy of *Lotus* is seeing the title character grow into an independent woman, as she frees herself from guilt and self-doubt to forge a path away from the parlor. In the end it is Lotus' relationships with her friends and family that provide nourishment, rather than her romantic liaisons.

Inspired by her grandmother's deathbed revelation of being a former 'flower girl' (a euphemism, FYI), Zhang has conducted painstaking research into China's red-light districts, including those in Shenzhen, Dongguan and Beijing. Aside from interviewing women working in the industry, Zhang also volunteered at an NGO devoted to helping female sex workers in northern China.

The attention to detail and authenticity evident in *Lotus* is testament to Zhang fully embracing her illicit cast and the world they inhabit.

*Lotus* is published by Henry Holt and Co.





**Zhuang Hui, 'Qilian Range'**

Through Apr 30; Galleria Continua Beijing



**Lu Chao, 'Black Box'**

Through Apr 8; Hadrien de Monterrand Gallery



**Zheng Tianming, 'Sweet Dreams Hotel'**

Through May 7; MOCUBE

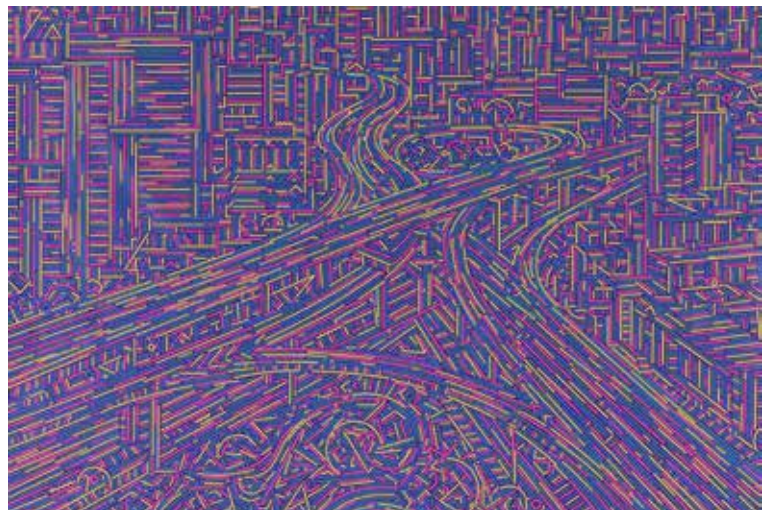


**Li Qing, 'Safety Exit'**

Through Mar 12; Ying Space

# PICK OF SIX ART EXHIBITIONS

For gallery information visit [www.thatsmags.com/beijing](http://www.thatsmags.com/beijing)



**Lu Xinjian, 'Infinite Lines'**

Through Apr 30; de Sarthe Gallery



**Group, 'Marching in Circles'**

Through May 4; Long March Space



# SLOW TODDO



Z047793

## Three Days Aboard China's Longest Rail Journey

WORDS BY OSCAR HOLLAND  
IMAGES BY NANCY TONG & WANG WEI  
GRAPHICS BY IRIS WANG

# TRAIN NGBEI

Upon boarding the K1082 in Urumqi it becomes apparent that – like many procedures in China – there’s no protocol for foreigners. Having initially let us pass, the old conductor changes his mind.

“Make sure their passport numbers are on the tickets,” he tells his colleague, calling us back.

“Where’s the number?” the young man asks, clearly unfamiliar with our documents.

After much page-turning we’re admitted for a second time. Our narrow, doorless compartment contains six bunks, each barely wider than the average human. Like all of China’s ‘hard sleeper’ carriages, the beds are stacked in threes – a spacious lower bunk, a smaller middle one and a cramped top bunk requiring great dexterity to reach. The compartment is equipped with a small table and a grubby square window from which to watch China go by. For the next 68 hours and 19 minutes, this is home.

Currently the country’s longest domestic rail service, the daily K1082 meanders from the deserts of Xinjiang in the northwest (Xibei), to Qiqihar, an old garrison city in China’s freezing northeast (Dongbei). It stops 41 times along the way. At 4,687 kilometers, this isn’t *quite* the longest journey by distance – that title goes to the Z266 from Guangzhou to Lhasa. But through a combination of its leisurely pace and scheduled stops of up to 30 minutes, this route takes half a day longer.

These trundling trains seem hopelessly outdated. Their iconic dark green carriages may have once been the epitome of modern transport (the ‘K’ in K1082 stands for *kuaisu* – a ‘fast’ service), but they feel like relics in a country where almost 1.5 million people travel by high-speed rail every day. The dining cart is decorated in faded faux-velvet. The toilet is a glorified hole above the rails. There are even



“smoking rooms,” though they are little more than wall-mounted ashtrays in the iron purgatory between carriages.

Yet, this is an affordable essential for many in China – especially in the west, which remains largely untouched by high-speed rail. Our three-day trip costs less than RMB800 per person, about half the price of the equivalent indirect flight. In fact, far from being phased out, the old rail network is constantly evolving for an increasingly mobile nation. The K1082 only became the longest journey last year after the route was extended in both directions.

**“These iconic dark green trains may have once been the epitome of modern transport, but they feel like relics in a country where almost 1.5 million people travel by high-speed rail every day”**

It is not, however, a popular train for tourists. As such, there’s a certain amount of interest in our arrival. Passengers from the neighboring compartment gather round to find out more. A slight man with thinning hair and brilliant hazel eyes hands us a foreign banknote with a one-word explanation. “*Hasakesitan*,” he says – ‘Kazakhstan.’

I’m not entirely sure what he expects us to say – he’s from Dongbei, not Kazakhstan. We politely examine the note and return it to him, enquiring about his destination. Like everyone we meet, our neighbor’s journey is one of necessity. Having been in the far west of China building agricultural silos, he’s returning home to deal with “family issues.”

The K1082 departs without fanfare at 10.23pm, slowly winding to life on the short journey to Urumqi’s second station. Here, more passengers join. The old train conductor, Mr. Li, assures us that the carriage will fill up. And having checked the new arrivals’ tickets, he comes over to examine us. (The other half of the narrative ‘us’ is my full-time girlfriend and part-time translator, Nancy.)

Conductor Li is bursting with questions. After ascertaining our nationalities, our Chinese zodiac animals and the comparative cost of train travel in the West (“very expensive!”), he informs us that the lights will soon be turned off. The crowd disperses.

Dressed in a smart navy blazer embellished with gold buttons, Conductor Li will become our friend, guardian and one of the few people accompanying us from start to finish. With a wide, kind face and youthful eyes, he is inquisitive to the point of downright nosiness. Seeing the glare of my iPad later that night, he enters our dark compartment and bends down to inspect the screen.

“I’m reading a book,” I whisper.

“You can’t sleep,” he observes, wandering off.

He’s quite right. As we labor through Xibei, a low rattle sends creaks through every fixture. Multiple layers of sound, from deep shudders to high-pitched squawks, converge into a cacophony of arrhythmic mechanical noise and miscellaneous juddering.

Trains speed past in the opposite direction; snores float through from neighboring compartments; railway staff on permanent patrol, slam doors at either end of the carriage.

We screech to a halt at three stations on the way across Xinjiang. At one point I awake to find a new passenger – a thin, graying man in a purple sweater – hovering in our compartment. Despite his advanced age, the man nimbly ascends more than two meters into the top bunk, letting out a small burp on the way.



Morning breaks and I am roused, ironically, by an insipid cover of ‘The Sound of Silence.’ The occasional and indiscriminate broadcast of music – be it sweeping Chinese love songs or thumping Eurodance – will be a recurring theme of our journey.

We’ve reached Gansu province, and the frosty Xinjiang wilderness has transformed into a bare, brown landscape punctuated by electricity pylons. Parched mountains lie beyond the expanse, their facades adorned with prickly, otherworldly shrubs.

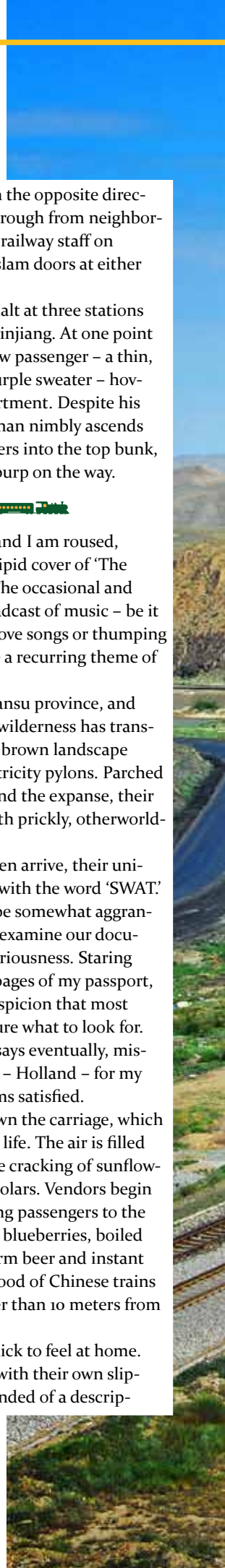
A pair of policemen arrive, their uniforms emblazoned with the word ‘SWAT.’ The title proves to be somewhat aggrandized, though they examine our documents with great seriousness. Staring intently at various pages of my passport, they confirm my suspicion that most authorities are unsure what to look for.

“Ah, *Helan*,” one says eventually, mistaking my surname – Holland – for my nationality. He seems satisfied.

They proceed down the carriage, which has rapidly come to life. The air is filled with chatter and the cracking of sunflower seeds between molars. Vendors begin their rounds, alerting passengers to the availability of dried blueberries, boiled dumplings, lukewarm beer and instant noodles – the lifeblood of Chinese trains (you’re never further than 10 meters from a hot water tap).

Passengers are quick to feel at home. Many come armed with their own slippers, and I am reminded of a descrip-

Right: A stretch of the Lanzhou-Xinjiang Railway, which runs from Urumqi to Gansu province





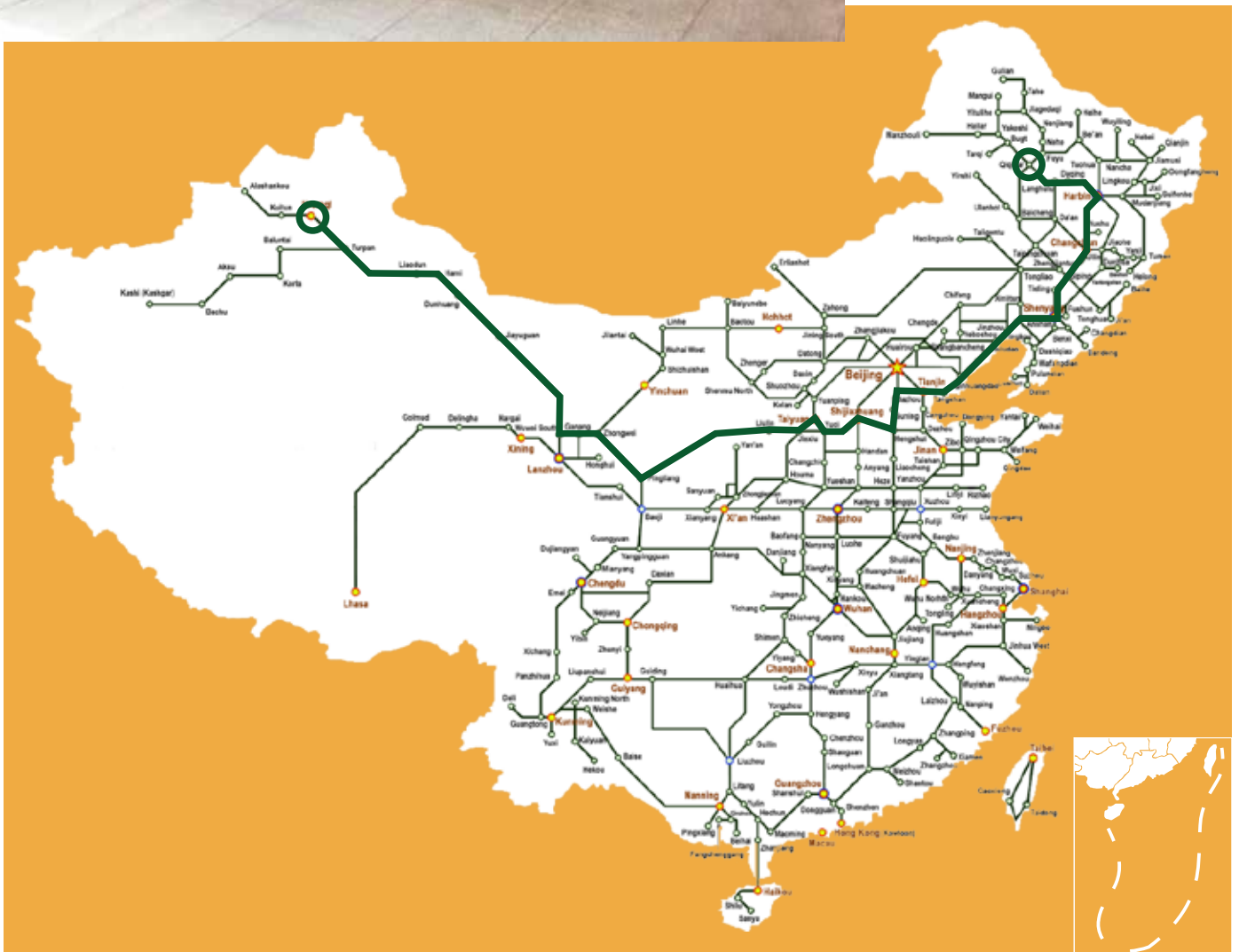


tion by American journalist Paul Theroux from his book *Riding the Iron Rooster*. Traveling across the country in the 1980s (a time when hard sleepers were the only option for those without *guanxi* – connections), he describes the atmosphere as: “a great sluttish pleasure for everyone – a big middle-aged pajama party, full of reminiscences. [The passengers] liked smoking and slurping tea and playing cards and shuffling about in their slippers – and so did I.”

Trains have certainly evolved since Theroux’s travels. Each carriage now comes equipped with charging points and Wi-Fi, though the former are rarely available and no one can make the latter work. But in many ways, much has stayed the same. Passengers share portable phone batteries rather than copies of *People’s Daily*, but the old sense of camaraderie endures.

Consequently, occupying a bottom bunk is to implicitly accept that it is public property – during waking hours, at least. The phantom in the purple sweater descends from his bunk and sits on the bed opposite. Our neighbor with the hazel eyes drops by for a chat, and our compartment is quickly engulfed by conversation.

Overseeing proceedings is Conductor Li’s younger colleague, a surly northerner with a Caesar haircut, who regularly gazes out of the window like a despondent puppy. He tells us that there are 40 staff members on the train: two conductors per carriage, five dining personnel and two



Top left: A snack vendor awaits on the platform  
 Bottom left: The K1082's route and China's railway network  
 Below: The corridor of our carriage aboard the K1082

**“Passengers share portable phone batteries rather than copies of People’s Daily, but the old sense of camaraderie endures”**



drivers who switch shifts every eight hours. Having worked this route for more than a year, the young man is unable to name anything he likes about it.

“It doesn’t mean anything,” he reflects. “Nothing happens.”

Then, eventually, a glimpse of positivity: He’s from our terminus city, Qiqihar. This means that after six days on the train – three in each direction – he’ll be given a further six days to relax at home.

Never one to miss a chitchat, Conductor Li arrives, making himself comfortable on my bunk. When not checking tickets, his job appears to consist of cleaning floors, collecting trash and finding out how much our electronic devices are worth.

“How much did that camera cost?” he asks.

“I can’t remember, I bought it years ago,” my girlfriend replies.

“Just estimate,” he says, before embarking on a series of further price requests and friendly questions – about our work history, our families’ cars and the size of my salary.

A woman selling hot dogs rolls past and asks if we have any foreign money. Her currency collection spans 42 different countries, and she is thrilled that we have US dollars and Danish krone to contribute. Insisting on paying the going rate, the beaming woman hands over some hot dog earnings before parking up her trolley and falling into conversation about exchange rates and her admiration for Angela Merkel.

And so life on the slow train unfolds. Conversation moves from the compartments to the corridors and back again; window blinds rise and fall; people drift in and out of sleep.

Scenery flies by at a similarly slow pace. There is commotion as we pass the westernmost point of the Great Wall, but otherwise, fellow passengers find the backdrop largely unremarkable. This part of Xibei is vast and empty, save for the occasional wind farm and a few railway signals lodged into scrubland. As we venture deeper into Gansu I am struck by its unerring brownness. This part of the world is oddly beautiful, but Hazel-Eyes doesn’t understand the appeal.

“Why are you taking pictures of the desert?” he asks. “There’s nothing there.”

This reaction is becoming familiar. No one quite understands why we’d travel this route for fun, and their response is often the same: “You should have gone south – it’s much more beautiful.”

\*\*\*\*\*

Under the cover of darkness, we pass through Ningxia and Shaanxi (the province with two a’s). I awake in Lüliang, a modestly-sized city in Shanxi (the province with one a). We’re in coal country, and the land is becoming markedly busier the further east we travel.

Even in rural areas, there’s more to see than yesterday: industrial plants, cooling towers and signs of China’s uninterrupted construction boom. We see clusters of tower blocks being built in the unlikeliest of places. We see brutalist architecture and mock European spires. We see unfinished bridges that will one day carry trains much faster than our own.

By the second morning, life has taken on new rhythm. Our six-person berth has been completed by a driving instructor from Liaoning, a burly woman headed to Harbin, and a wispy youngster who eschews our social precedent by putting in headphones and reclining with his eyes closed. I’ve adjusted to the microclimate, growing indifferent to the wafting odor of smoke and the galling music that returns with vengeance at 8.55am (the exact time that an optimistic vendor marches past selling “beer, baijiu”).

Conductor Li checks in on us, clearly enjoying the novelty of foreign passen-



gers who are semi-literate in China's ways. He is fond of us – as we are of him. Taking a seat, he starts flicking through my copy of *Time*.

"I'll have a look but I can't understand English," he muses, turning to an article about Donald Trump. "He's 70 – he can't serve two terms. Seventy-eight will be too old!"

After enquiring about my facial hair, Conductor Li asks whether I can tie a necktie. Then, without warning, he removes his and hands it to me, revealing that he himself cannot. This adds pressure to the recollection of a skill I rarely use. With the whole compartment (and various neighbors) watching, I produce something I believe to be a Double Windsor. He inspects it – his reaction utterly indecipherable – and ambles off again.

An afternoon lull descends as we're plummeted into darkness by a succession of tunnels. The name 'Shanxi' means 'West of the Mountains' – and we're headed east.

Walking to the end of the train I find passengers in various states of consciousness. Our carriage has quieted down with the new arrivals, who seem more guarded than the initial, inquisitive bunch. The man in the purple sweater regularly disappears for long naps, and seems to never do much else. He doesn't play with his phone, read or – given that we always refer to him, privately, as the 'man in the purple sweater' – change his clothes. He just sits and stares pensively out of the window.

The young man on the opposite bunk has yet to utter a word. Wearing thin glasses and a T-shirt emblazoned with the English words 'An Idea Tree,' his angular chin and premature grays belie otherwise boyish features. With more than a day to go, we have little choice but to engage him.

Shy at first, the softly spoken student proves receptive. Going by the name Xiao Yan ('Little Yan'), he's returning to university in Changchun, one of Dongbei's industrial hubs. The journey would have been twice as fast by high-speed rail, but schedules didn't work out that way.

Like many of China's digital natives, Yan is staking his future on software develop-

***This part of northwest China is vast and empty, save for the occasional wind farm and a few railway signals lodged into scrubland. As we venture deeper into Gansu I am struck by its unerring brownness***







An old train works its way through Gansu province in winter

ment. After graduation he wants to find an internship developing mobile apps. We talk about social media, computer games and the *Fast & Furious* franchise – a selection of topics familiar to most of China’s post-90s generation.

After hours of silence, Little Yan now seems liberated. Soon he has struck up an unlikely friendship with the Liaoning driving instructor. They make an odd couple – a diligent student who learned to cook for his parents aged 12, and a boisterous 40-something who I’d earlier spotted looking at bikini babes on his phone. Yet, their interaction is brotherly and, at times, hilarious.

“I find it impossible to gain weight,” Yan complains. “I eat and eat but I don’t grow.”

“You’re so dumb!” replies the driving instructor. “You’re just too young to put on weight. When you’re my age you can’t stop. Wait until you’re married. My wife makes so much nice food – that’s what makes you fat,” he claims, overlooking the fact that his job involves sitting down all day.

As with so many of the day’s exchanges, we’ve landed on the topic of food. It is a subject of universal interest in China – just as weather is to the British. The best dishes of any given province are fertile grounds for conversation, often accompanied by demonstrations of how they’re best eaten. So as the sun sets on our approach to Tianjin, talk invariably veers towards the city’s gastronomic delights: *goubuli baozi*, literally ‘dogs don’t pay attention stuffed buns,’ and *jianbing guozi*, a unique take on the fried pancake.

With a seven-minute wait at Tianjin station, the driving instructor rushes out to the platform, returning with two boxes of the steaming buns. He passes them out among our newly cemented six-person group. Little Yan, clearly serious about gaining weight, grabs the most.

Good spirits continue into the night. At one point the driving instructor introduces us to his wife on a video call. I feel a new loyalty towards – and trust for – this adopted family. Our inescapable proximity to one another breeds familiarity, and that familiarity erodes awkwardness and any qualms about leaving valuables unattended. In this sense, life on the slow train is much like life in a big Chinese city. Your immediate neighbors’ business is innately your own. As for everyone beyond? Far less so.

At the beginning of our journey, Conductor Li had told us that “lots of people” would travel the full length of the route from Urumqi to Qiqihar. But they’re in other carriages, so we’ll never know.



Unlike a real family, ours is inherently temporary. I awake on the third morning (my alarm is once again “The Sound of Silence”) to find the driving instructor’s bunk empty. He departed in the night, and we hadn’t even got around to asking his name.

Deeper into Dongbei, the landscape becomes decidedly more agricultural. Come summer these fields will heave with yellow corn, the staple crop of this region. But for now they are wide, flat and dead. The countryside is instead dotted with dried streams and frozen ponds. (“Do you also farm the fields in the West?” Conductor Li later asks.)



**“Life on the slow train is much like life in a big Chinese city. Your immediate neighbors’ business is innately your own”**



For the first time, the journey feels grueling. Whether a result of close living conditions or our instant-noodle diet, my throat is scratchy and dry. I feel new sympathy towards those for whom this isn't a choice. I feel even greater sympathy for passengers of the old Shanghai-to-Urumqi train which, before the completion of the Nanjing Yangtze River Bridge in 1968, involved a ferry and took 101 hours and three minutes.

Over the course of our final day, we cut through the cold heart of Dongbei: Shenyang, Changchun then Harbin, a far-northern city famed for its yearly ice festival. There is a sense of finality about this stretch. People drip away and aren't replaced – first little Yan, then Hazel-Eyes and the man in the purple sweater (he's still wearing it as he bids us farewell). Finally, the burly woman departs at Harbin – along with most of the train's staff – leaving us with a warm smile and a box of small, uneaten cucumbers.

Despite being hours from our destination, Conductor Li strips the beds. Food carts trundle by, though they've been ravaged to near-emptiness. The woman peddling dried blueberries expresses delight at having sold every last pack.

It's like being the last people at a party. And with neither travel companions nor bedding, we're left to sit on the hard bunk and absorb this immense and remote part of China. In its final hours, the K1082 passes through vast expanses of icy brown, drifting from one infinite nothingness to another. I could easily come to the hackneyed conclusion that we've seen more of China *inside* the carriage than outside the window. But given how brown the country's north is during late winter, it's hardly a fair comparison.

Heading into Qiqihar, the horizon fills with nodding pumpjacks lifting oil from deep wells. Conductor Li stops by for a debrief. Irritated by the music, he hits a switch and instantly kills the sound in our compartment. If only I'd known.

We ask him what he'll do with his six days off.

"Oh, just cook and clean," he says, bouncing a question back to us. "Do you have somewhere to stay in Qiqihar?"

"We're actually flying back to Beijing tonight. We just wanted to ride the train."

His reaction is one of amused incredulity. But there's also a flash of pride that two foreigners might find his train so interesting that they'd ride its length for no reason other than to see China's great north.



Top Left: The young train conductor rests in our compartment  
 Top Right: Little Yan (left) and the driving instructor bond over technology  
 Center: The man in the purple sweater looks pensively out of the window  
 Bottom: Little Yan and the blueberry-seller



# EAT & DRINK

## BETTER RED THAN DEAD

Welcome to Sanlitun's trippiest cocktail bar, Red Dog, p60



High-End Yunnanese  
p58



A Taste of Ningxia  
p60



Kangaroos Can Fly  
p61

# GETTING MODERATELY DEEP WITH...

## A Nut Vendor

by Noelle Mateer and Victor Liu



This month we find **Pan Bangxia** roasting chestnuts and packaging bundles of watermelon seeds. She giggles through our entire interview.

**How are you feeling today?**

Just like every other day: I feel happy.

**What's the first thing you thought when you woke up this morning?**

How I could do a better job at work.

**What is your idea of the perfect day?**

Being simple and cheerful in both life and business. Every day can be a perfect day.

**Who is your best customer?**

Everyone is a good customer.

**Who is your worst customer?**

There is no such thing as a bad customer.

**Right, everyone tells us that. When and where are you happiest?**

Spending time at home with my family.

**Which talent would you most like to have?**

To be happy all the time.

**What do you consider your greatest achievement?**

I don't have any great achievements. All I have is this humble business.

**If you could change one thing about your life, what would it be?**

Not a single thing.

**Which living person do you most admire?**

My father and my mother.

**What is your most treasured possession?**

As always, my family.

**What trait do you most value in a person?**

Kindness.

**What is it that you most dislike?**

Saying goodbye.

**What is your motto?**

Be kind and be cheerful.

**What always makes you laugh?**

My kids, my family and all my customers.

**Which era of Beijing's history would you most like to have lived in?**

The present is the best! I love the present time.

**Who is your hero?**

My parents, maybe? Ummm, my classmates?

You can find Pan Bangxia selling nuts just south of the intersection of Wudaoying Hutong and Andingmen Nei Dajie.

# GRAPE VINE

## SNACKS IN THE CITY

I had a list of innocuous food facts to use for this column – so-and-so's serving this now, check out the new cocktails at blah blah blah – but then the Great Construction Takeover of 2017 happened. Huge swaths of our city fell prey to the wrecking ball in a Beijing-wide effort seemingly designed to deprive us of places to *aperitivo*. Here is a list of spots under threat (at the time of print anyway, who knows what'll be gone by the time you read this):

Sanlitun Lu: It all began with that stretch of restaurants and patios just off Dongzhimen Wai Dajie.

**Cheers, Turkish Doner**, that place called **Bossy** – their outdoor seating has been totally razed. Note that you can still drink inside Cheers. You just need to climb over rubble to get there. **Bottega** has also fallen. They're planning to make up for this with not one, but two locations – in Nali Patio and in Liangmaqiao. Elsewhere in the area, the West side of Yashow is under threat, so we presume it's no coincidence that **Andy's Craft Sausage** has moved to XL Bar.

Xingfucun Zhonglu: Say goodbye to your favorite lunch spots? The street containing **Rollbox** and **Ling Er Jiu** is under threat. **Mr. Shi's Dumplings** can only be accessed through a backdoor. **BBC** is closing, at least for now, and **Kuan's** is closing... forever.

Fangjia Hutong: Your guess is as good as ours here. All we know is that an ominous blue sign was posted in the popular bar strip, threatening renovation. We'll let you know details when we have them. Should I plug our website now? It's [thatsmags.com](http://thatsmags.com). **NM**

## Move Over, Sanlitun

You know that tower in Guomao that's been under construction for the past year or so? The one with horizontal ledges stretching upward and outward like an upside-down Christmas tree? We got a sneak peek inside and can confirm: The CBD is about to become *CB-Dope*.

The soon-to-open skyscraper includes the incredibly trendy Hotel Jen Beijing, a zeitgeisty paean to modernity and good vibes. It is clear that someone in the upper echelons of Hotel Jen management has done their market research. 'What's cool in 2017?' a manager or executive or director surely asked, to which society responded: Co-working spaces! Spinning classes set to EDM! Craft breweries! Street-style wall art! The hotel contains all of the above.

What's more, all of this is connected to the Kerry Centre and the China World complex, meaning that CBD residents may never have to go outside again – which is totally fine, because a new mall attached to it all has more than enough to entertain: a second location of Migas with a killer terrace (duh), a new bistro concept by FLO and a two-story Taiwanese KTV called ChunK, which we hear has auto-tune built into its microphones. The hotel and adjoining mall are scheduled to open on June 1 – if all goes to plan, that is. **NM**



## OFF THE BEATEN PLATE

Ah, British pride. We remember you from major global events like the colonization of the free world and the disintegration of the EU. Now you've been carbonated! Marked 'Proudly British,' Wake energy drinks are now available in various Beijing branches of Cheers. You can't actually buy one (they're being tested in China). So instead: Scan a QR code, fill out a survey and the drink is yours. Warning: We took the last can in the Gui Jie branch. Another warning: tastes like over-sweetened, caffeinated berries. **OH**

Available at various branches of Cheers, see [www.thatsmags.com](http://www.thatsmags.com) for all branch listings





MIFAN/MAFAN

We Tell You  
if the Rice is  
Worth the  
Hassle



## WILDERNESS BREW

If Wilderness Brew were in the actual wilderness, we might find it endearing. You can interpret this to mean: We'd only go here if it were the only bar for miles. Instead, where it lives is arguably the opposite of the great outdoors – the gray concrete expanses of Eastern Xindong Lu, with its pitiful craft beer and 15 mounted faux deer heads proclaiming, 'No really, we're a tavern, trust us! Wait – where are you going?'

Daily, 5pm-12.30am; 1/F, Bldg B, Yishengge, 10 Xindong Lu, Chaoyang  
朝阳区新东路10号逸盛阁B座一层

## THE DAILY BAGEL

Newcomer The Daily Bagel and its more established neighboring cafe have stamped out their own Bread Concession on West Maizidian. It is a takeover we're in favor of. While these daily bagels aren't technically New York standard, they're good for Beijing – a city suffering from bagel deprivation. Try the Everything Grilled Cheese (RMB69), a runny-yolk-soaked behemoth sure to please even purists.

Wed-Mon, 8am-7pm; 39 West Maizidian Xijie(1/F of FX Hotel), Chaoyang  
朝阳区麦子店西街39号 富驿时尚酒店一层 (135 2093 6328)



## GLO KITCHEN X RAW FITNESS

The gym-turned-healthy-living-space-turned-fitness-fanatic-community is back. GLO has opened a second location of its popular concept, a Crossfit studio and healthy cafe. On the menu: colorful salads, protein-packed energy bowls, infectious positivity.

Daily, 11am-9.30pm; Rm 101, Bldg 7, Wanda Plaza, 97 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang  
朝阳区建国路97号万达广场7号楼101室

## METAL HANDS

No hutong is safe from the invasion of third-wave coffee shops. This month (and we swear there's a new one every month), it's Metal Hands on Jiaodaokou Toutiao. It follows a familiar formula: Solid coffee, cute space, disappointing snacks. Rager Pie and Big Small Coffee continue to hold the coffee line in this area; we continue to be very skeptical of anyone else trying to cash in on the trend.

Daily, 10.30am-9pm; 68 Jiaodaokou Beiertiao, Dongcheng 东城区交道口北二条68号 (155 1053 3895)



# HIDDEN NO MORE

## Scarlet A

**WHAT IT IS:** Cult-favorite Gulou cocktail bar.

**HOW TO FIND IT:** Open the heavy door, then slide open the bookcase. Or yell until someone on the other side hears and slides it open for you.

60 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区鼓楼东大街60号 (139 1084 6615)

The past year has seen a rash of 'hidden' bars open in Beijing. Here's our guide to finding them. (*That's Beijing* does not accept responsibility if you get lost.)

words by **Noelle Mateer**,  
graphics by **Victor Liu**

## Mimi e Coco

**WHAT IT IS:** Hip little spot serving pre-mixed cocktails and homemade cordials alongside its all-vinyl DJ booth.

**HOW TO FIND IT:** Go to Ramo (64 Fangjia Hutong), then enter the tiny alleyway on its east side. Find the large door with a handle, and enter. (If you get lost, you can always ask Ramo for help.)

64 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区方家胡同64号 (8401 6288)

## Bar 4 Nine

**WHAT IT IS:** Relaxed lounge with top-notch cocktails featuring traditional Beijing ingredients.

**HOW TO FIND IT:** Enter a chicken restaurant (yes, really), then find the staircase in the back. Walk up, pull back the curtain and *voila*.

2/F, 308 Andingmen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区安定门内大街308号内家鸡坊餐厅2层 (150 1000 8553)

## Capital Spirits

**WHAT IT IS:** Beijing's one-and-only baijiu bar. (It's not new, but newly hidden – local authorities paved over the front door in a recent spate of hutong renovations.)

**HOW TO FIND IT:** Enter Daju Hutong from Dongzhimen Nan Xiaojie, then call Capital Spirits at 6409 3319. A member of staff will come out and let you in.

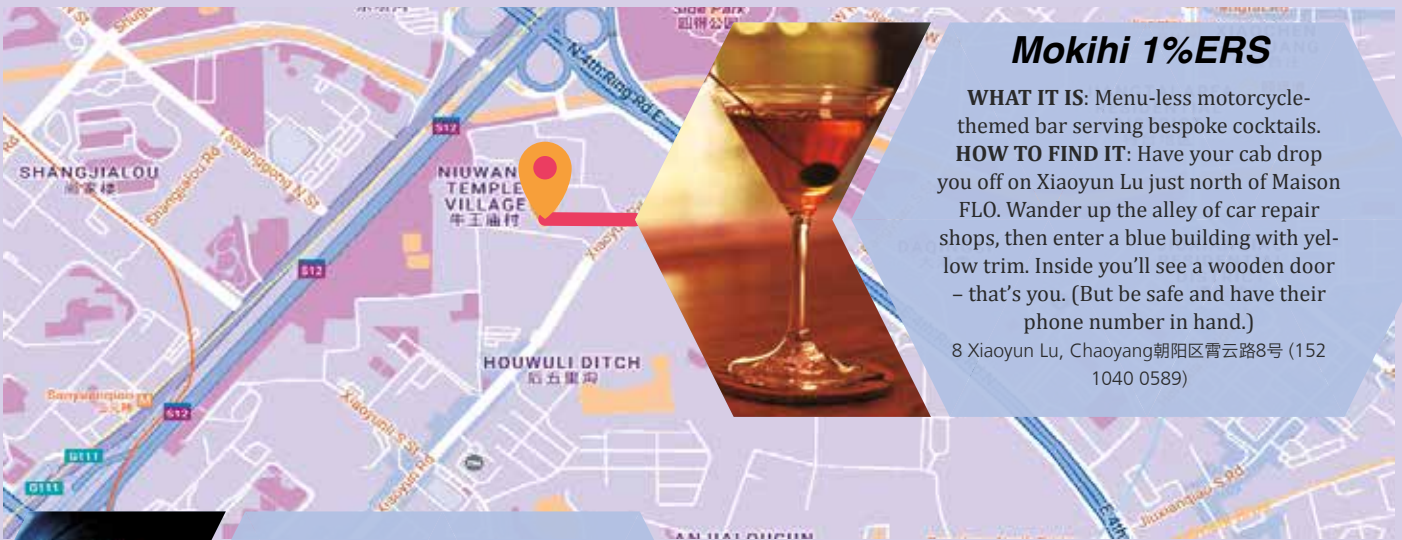
3 Daju Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区大菊胡同3号 (6409 3319)





## Mokihi 1%ERS

**WHAT IT IS:** Menu-less motorcycle-themed bar serving bespoke cocktails.  
**HOW TO FIND IT:** Have your cab drop you off on Xiaoyun Lu just north of Maison FLO. Wander up the alley of car repair shops, then enter a blue building with yellow trim. Inside you'll see a wooden door – that's you. (But be safe and have their phone number in hand.)  
 8 Xiaoyun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区霄云路8号 (152 1040 0589)



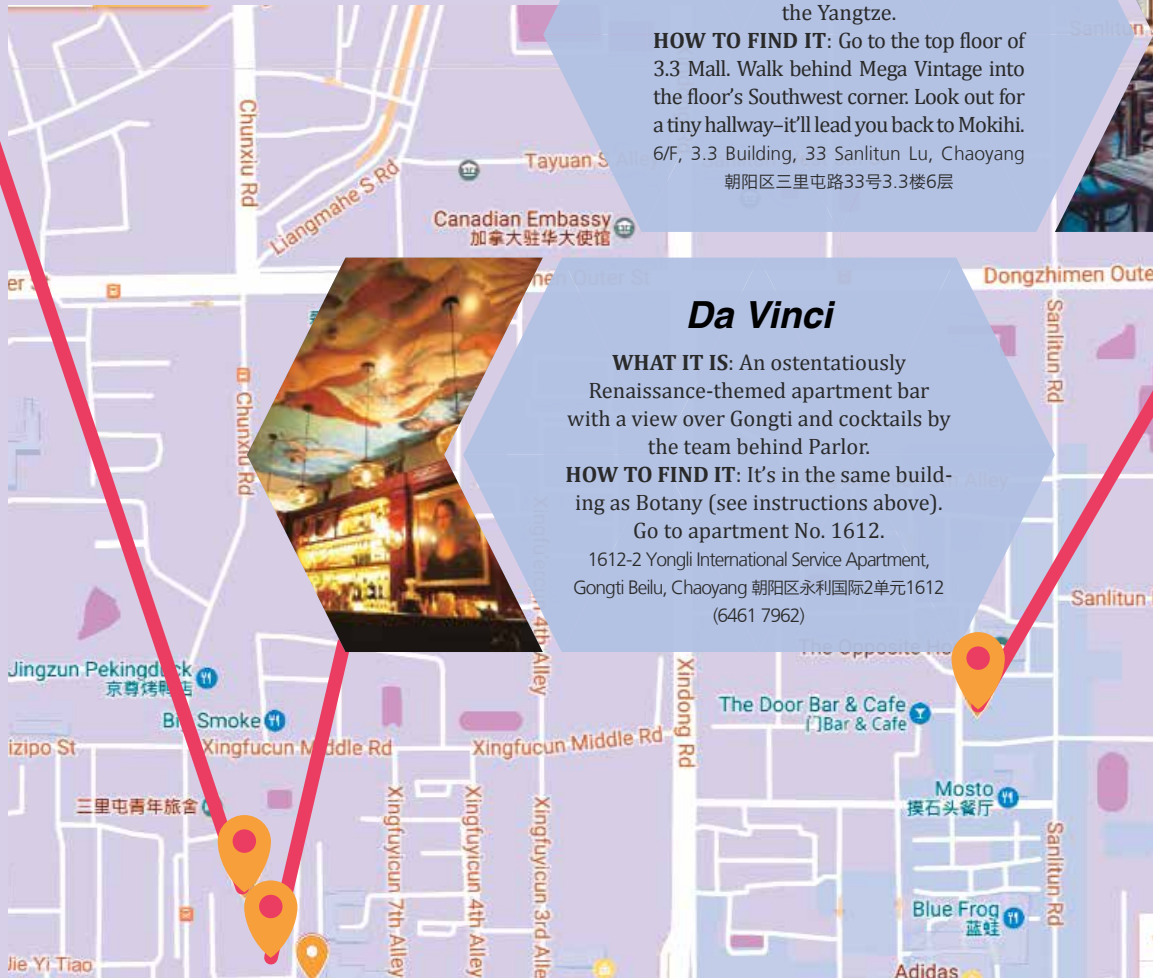
## Botany

**WHAT IT IS:** Mind-blowing cocktails by master mixologist Frankie Zou in what was once an apartment.  
**HOW TO FIND IT:** Call 6463 6091 to make an appointment. Call it again later when you can't figure out how to get to No. 1209 of Yongli International Service Apartments. 1209-2 Yongli International Service Apartment, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区永利国际2单元1209 (6463 6091)



## Mokihi No. 3

**WHAT IT IS:** Vintage Americana-styled speakeasy with inventive drinks and the friendliest bartenders this side of the Yangtze.  
**HOW TO FIND IT:** Go to the top floor of 3.3 Mall. Walk behind Mega Vintage into the floor's Southwest corner. Look out for a tiny hallway—it'll lead you back to Mokihi. 6/F, 3.3 Building, 33 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路33号3.3楼6层



## Da Vinci

**WHAT IT IS:** An ostentatiously Renaissance-themed apartment bar with a view over Gongti and cocktails by the team behind Parlor.  
**HOW TO FIND IT:** It's in the same building as Botany (see instructions above). Go to apartment No. 1612. 1612-2 Yongli International Service Apartment, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区永利国际2单元1612 (6461 7962)



# mix and match

There's more to Japanese-style green tea flavoring than over-sweetened Starbucks drinks. **Noelle Mateer** finds the best matcha snacks in town. Photo and graphics by **Victor Liu**.



Japanese Matcha Ice Cream  
RMB25  
Traitor Zhou's



Handmade Matcha Chocolate Bar  
RMB48  
V+H Laboratory, The Crib

# ha



Matcha Mood Smoothie  
RMB34  
Obentos



Matcha & Red Bean Donut  
RMB12  
Dunkin Donuts



Pain du Matcha  
RMB18  
TiensTiens



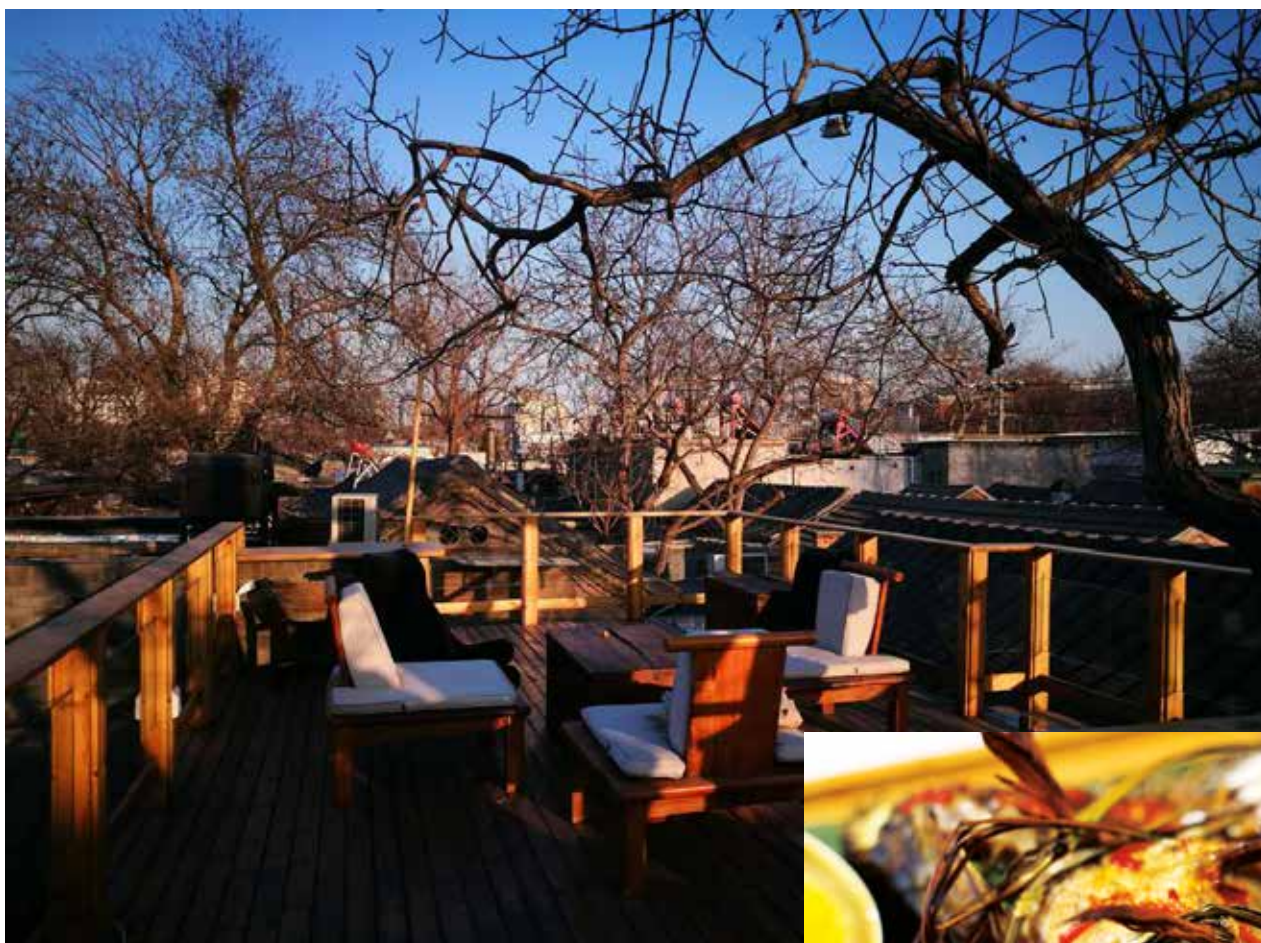
Mini Éclair Matcha Chocolat Blanc  
RMB30  
Glacage



Strawberry Matcha Cake  
RMB35  
27. Café



Matcha Macaron  
RMB18  
TiensTiens



# YOUYUN

## Beixinqiao's Secret Yunnanese

by Oscar Holland



There's no Baidu listing. There are no Dianping deals. There's not even a sign on the door.

In fact, Yunnanese restaurant Youyun is trying pretty hard not to be found. And while speakeasies are nothing new in Beijing's bar scene (you can find our guide to the best of them on page 54), when it comes to high-end dining, the motivation seems altogether more novel.

Deep in a labyrinth of alleys south of Gui Jie, Youyun isn't hiding for the sake of gimmickry. This isn't a 'concept' – it's just kinda exclusive. It's a spot for schmoozing with officials. It's a spot for celebrating lucrative business deals. It's a spot for impressing visitors with your in-depth knowledge of the hutongs. And if that doesn't resemble your life, then fear not: it's also just a great spot for a quiet lunch.

Assuming you can find your way here (see address below; call in advance for reservations), you'll be rewarded with a tranquil courtyard dotted with understated decorations, spotless white walls and wooden fixtures. The restaurant's decor is traditional, certainly. But there are contemporary twists too: The minimalist plating, the curved seats, and the abstract, asymmetric artwork hung from timber ceiling beams.

Having opened at the start of winter (yes, it took us that long to find it), the advent of spring is a game-changer here. As well as offering al fresco dining, there's an endearing little terrace elevated above the surrounding roofs. It's accessed through a stairwell that wraps itself

around an old tree trunk, like a treehouse for grown-ups.

A great place, then, for an aperitif (or digestif, depending on which way you swing). But you'll want a full table for your meal, because this will be an elaborate multi-course affair. And while the menu hosts a plentiful a la carte selection, this restaurant is all about the sets. From a RMB99 afternoon tea to a RMB3,988, 14-person extravaganza, you get the feeling that they want to curate an experience.

We suggest you oblige (although in the name of thorough restaurant-reviewing, we sample dishes from across the menu), because Youyun's various sets offer a fascinating variety of Yunnanese fare. Drawing influence from the kaleidoscopic flavors of Dai cuisine, the food here is consistently excellent, delicate and, at times, surprising.

Among the standout dishes is the fried beef with Japanese banana flowers, and a tilapia served with citronella and a wickedly spicy dipping sauce. Elsewhere, the cured ham sings with deep flavor, and – we mean this – the chicken feet are some of the best we've ever tried.

So, there you have it: We've just given away one of the hutongs' best-kept secrets. And you know what? We don't feel that bad about it either.

Daily, 10-10pm; 63 Babaokeng Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区八宝坑胡同63号 (reservations required 136 8127 3691)

# V SHINE

## The World (of Sanlitun) Is Your Oyster

words by Noelle Mateer

Let me tell you a little story. When I was 16, I traveled to France. To welcome me, the family I stayed with served oysters. I do not come from the most sophisticated of dining backgrounds; suffice to say I had no idea what to do. I'd had oysters (deep-fried), but I had never had any food, ever, straight from its shell. In America, we prefer not to be reminded that our meats were once alive.

But these oysters, damn, they were alive. And to prove it, my host's father poked one, and it moved. I shared this story with everyone back home, thinking this was the most badass thing I had ever done. Ha ha, that crazy girl, eating raw oysters, became my family's refrain, as we sat around the lunch table, smothering our fried ones in Wal-Mart-brand tartar sauce.

Despite all odds, I have since become a food editor (I'm not as clueless as I was back then, I promise) and fallen for the briny stank of real, fresh oysters. There's a joy in seeing a plate of them next to a glass of Champagne, a stupid satisfied smile on my face, and thinking, *damn, I am blessed.*

And yet, I'm still plagued by an oyster-specific impostor syndrome when I am tasked with choosing oyster varieties. Aren't so many of us? Beijing of late has been so overcome by an onslaught of 'foodie' culture. Suddenly, we're all expected to know the difference between a Belon and a Gillardeau.

V Shine takes an explanatory approach to its oysters. In the lower reaches of

Sanlitun's unpretentious Topwin Center sits the least pretentious oyster bar we know, sandwiched between a poutine joint and a ramen shop. It is a starting point for your journey of oyster exploration.

The sample plates here feature different varieties of fresh oysters: La Lune, Gillardeau and Belon. Staffers are happy to explain their differences – or better yet, suggest a wine to go with them – and the menu even offers tasting notes. We love the intense, fragrant Belon, but the gentle La Lune is perfect for those looking to enter the oyster world slowly.

There is more to V Shine than oysters. It is also a bistro and tapas joint. We enjoy plates of charcuterie, Icelandic scampi and Spanish-style shrimp. Dishes here are perfect for sharing, and we imagine this would be a great place for after-work bubbles. The New York-bistro-meets-Sanlitun vibe – all brick walls and leather couches – soothes us the second we walk in. No stuffiness here.

Because when you think about it, holding a shell to your mouth and slurping it like an animal isn't all that 'fancy' anyway. So who needs the pretension?

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Daily, 10am-1am; B1-11, Topwin Center, 1 Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯1号通盈中心B1-11





# NINGXIA TASTE

## (Autonomous) Regional Cuisine

words by Noelle Mateer, images by Victor Liu



According to Wikitravel, Eight Treasure Tea “yields (not surprisingly) eight ingredients.” Then it lists: “Sugar lumps, wolfberries, tea leaves.” That’s not eight ingredients, Wikitravel.

Nor do there appear to be eight ingredients in the version in front of me, but rather 8,888 – the cup explodes with dried fruits and candies. I am left with a sugary aftertaste and more questions, when all I want from new restaurant Ningxia Taste is answers. Namely, to the following questions: What do people eat in Ningxia? What is the capital of Ningxia? Where is Ningxia?

Well, Ningxia Taste is in a mall. It’s the kind of cookie-cutter restaurant that has long rows of identical tables, where groups of coworkers form lines during weekday lunch hours like cattle waiting for feed. But it is also a banger, a welcoming place with friendly service and unusually tasteful decor (well, for a mall).

Colorful photos on the walls and menus confirm that we’re not the only ones unaware of Ningxia cuisine – this place is practically an exhibition on the subject. We’re recommended the Wuzhong boiled mutton (RMB118), which for a star dish is disappointingly dry and flavorless. The local flavor eggplant (RMB29), fares better – it’s both sugared and spicy. Our favorite is the squeaky, chewy fried oat noodles (RMB39). But if you want the full experience, get a camel meat skewer (RMB9, we’re not joking).

Ningxia Taste, alas, is not the mind-blowing culinary discovery we hoped for. But it is a solid choice for lunch in Chaoyangmen. (Ningxia, by the way, is sandwiched between Inner Mongolia and Gansu. We Googled it later.)

Daily, 10am-9pm; 2/F Full Link Plaza, Chaoyangmen Waidajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳门外大街丰联广场2F (8579 4877)

# RED DOG

## Both Bark And Bite

by Noelle Mateer



Of all the ways to describe this particular dog, ‘red’ is an understatement. Red Dog is a rainbow of color, an overwhelming kaleidoscope of patterns splashed over portraits of French ladies in various states of undress. The decor at Red Dog is Thai Full Moon Party meets Parisian gentlemen’s lounge. It’s like if Jackson Pollock had a thing for tasteful nudes. It’s your middle school art teacher meets drugged-out bohemian hippie.

It is utterly bizarre that we find this psychedelic funhouse in the monochrome recesses of Sanlitun SOHO. And yet, that’s the beauty of the place. Red Dog is as unexpected as the quality of its cocktails – solid, potent drinks developed by a bar manager with experience at Beijing’s shrine-to-mixology, Botany. Previous bars in Sanlitun SOHO have spelled disaster – anyone else remember that sad baijiu bar En

Vain, or are we the only ones going to all these dismal places? Don’t answer that.

Cocktails at Red Dog fare much better. We enjoy the sake-based Pacific Conference (RMB75) – light and fruity yet still packing a punch. The Cucumber Cooler (RMB75) is a slightly sweeter Tom Collins mix. As for another mix – does Spotify have a curated playlist called ‘twee’? Because that’s the only way we can describe the music selection.

We’re not fans of drinking in Sanlitun SOHO, but then again, this bar makes us forget where we are. And what century we’re in. And which universe we belong to.

Daily, 6pm-2am; B1-538, Building 5, Sanlitun SOHO, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北路三里屯SOHO5号商厦B1-538



# THE FLYING KANGAROO

## Steaks on a Plane

words by Noelle Mateer, images by Victor Liu

We will grant you no guesses as to the Flying Kangaroo's dual theme. We will simply describe the decor as follows: lotta planes, lotta kangaroos.

The walls are covered in framed photos of men and women and kangaroos in pilot apparel. There is a large inflatable kangaroo, and a life-sized Santa Claus mannequin dressed in a pilot uniform. There are red walls and assorted mafia den shit, because the staff hasn't finished renovating the space after the departure of previous occupant, Godfathers Bar.

We bring an Australian friend with us to review Flying Kangaroo, for good measure. "Look, it's a picture of a Qantas plane flying over Sydney Harbor," he says as we peruse the menu, which is largely the same as Godfathers'.

It would appear the Flying Kangaroo isn't quite finished. "Give them a few months," says a neighbor we run into outside. But how long must we wait before a restaurant is ready for review? Sorry, I mean bar. Sorry, I mean mafia den. Sorry, I mean airport lounge?

The middle-aged foosball aficionados of the greater Guanghai Lu area haven't given the Flying Kangaroo any months at all. On our Thursday night visit, the bar and attached dining room are packed. After snagging a table we leaf through several laminated photos of

pastoral Australian scenes in the menu, and order from the section marked 'AUSTRALIAN PIES.'

We're told there are none. "Noooooo," says our friend, in an Australian drawl that sounds like 25 syllables. We opt for fish and chips (RMB75) and the Australian burger (RMB60) instead. It turns out that Australian burgers are the same as any other burger, just with beets. (Sorry, *beetroot*. They say *beetroot* in Australia.)

This hardly matters, and the patrons here don't seem to mind – it's more of an after-work boozing spot, anyway. The Flying Kangaroo's utter disregard for modern decorating practices attracts folks looking simply for cheap, unpretentious fun. And by this we mean: mostly Chaoyang district dads.

But we should also note that it is an incredible place for 20-something ironic hipster friends to drink Coopers in. And, oh my God, it's the perfect place for flight crews in transit through Beijing to drink Coopers in. Coopers, by the way, is a popular Australian beer. It is OK.

Flying Kangaroo is a dive. But it is the kind of dive that is, to many, home. Only time will tell if it takes off.

Daily, 10am-11pm; 44 Guanghai Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区光华路44号 (8563 0292)



## ● Organic Party

Beijing's most environmentally conscious club night, Organic, put on some of the biggest nights at Dada last year (including a stonking NYE party). Residents Juhstynn and Marc Alexr are back for their first night of the new year, headlined by Beijing's very own master of the dance floor, 0161.

Sat Apr 15; Price TBD; Dada (see Listings for details)

## ● The Drifter DJ



The folks at dART are giving you a chance to get wild on a Monday – chill, it's Qingming Festival – by bringing DJ, producer and singer The Drifter to Lantern. Although the Irishman leans (or drifts?) to a more emotive and melodic side of the electronic music spectrum, he knows how to put on a party. In fact, he spent years in Berlin doing just that.

Mon Apr 3; Price TBD; Lantern (see Listings for details)

## ● Chinese Football / Gig



The last time we saw Chinese Football play in Beijing, they packed out School Bar for a sweaty, energetic night of emo (the good kind, we promise). Just over a year later, they're set to play a far bigger stage – Yugong Yishan. Something must be going well for the Wuhan four-piece, who cite late 1990s emo pioneers like Jimmy Eat World, Death Cab for Cutie and American Football as inspiration (see what they did there?). Wuhan is known for in-your-face punk bands like SMZB and AV Okubo, but Chinese Football produce a sound that's altogether more serene.

Mon Apr 3, 9pm; RMB80 (door), RMB60 (presale); Yugong Yishan (see Listings for details)

## ● Bad Monk / Gig



Dusk Dawn Club continues its 3C Jazz series with a performance from local trio Bad Monk. Known for energetic live shows, the band rely heavily on improvisation – which is never a problem for guitarist Simone Schirru, saxophonist Nathaniel Gao, and nimble-wristed drummer Xiao. An initiative founded by Schirru, 3C (which stands for Creative Composers Collective) hopes to bring together the best jazz composers in the city. So as well as offering a night of interesting music, this should also be a chance to connect with Beijing's creative community. After two shows at DDC last month, the series concludes with a final performance in May.

Thu Apr 20; RMB80, free before 11pm; Dusk Dawn Club (see Listings for details)

## ● Kiwi DJ



Dim Sum Disco have been putting on dope parties in Beijing since day dot. And relative newcomers Club Paradise have injected some much-needed color into the city's night life. So what happens when they join forces? Well, it's quite simple really: they book one of UK's most exciting up-and-comers, Kiwi. Also known as Orlando Boom, the London-based whizz-kid has receiving support from musical big-hitters like Erol Alkan with his unique brand of genre-bending dance music. Bring your own fruit jokes.

Sat Apr 8, from 10pm; RMB50; The Bar at Migas (see Listings for details)

## ● Rob Smith DJ



He may have one of the most non-descript names in the English-speaking world, but Rob Smith has always stood out. With tastes spanning dub, dubstep, hip-hop and reggae, you can expect a smorgasbord of musical delights at Dada. And given that Smith used to play jungle back in the day, don't be surprised if he turns up the tempo.

Fri Apr 21, late; price TBD; Dada (see Listings for details)





## ● Canopy Festival

Soak up the warm weather at Hatchery's open-air festival 'Canopy.' Details are sparse but we've been told it will be an "immersive social experience" overlooking the hutongs. Expect kids' activities and workshops, entertainment, market stalls and food and drink stalls. Plus there'll be music in the form of DJs Boflex, Club Paradise and *That's Beijing's* very own Juhstynn. Partners include Education in Sight, Mantra and Pingospace.  
Sat Apr 8, 11am-9pm; price TBD; Hatchery, 88 Dongsi Jiutiao, Dongcheng 东城区东四九条88号 (8950 8065)

## ● Earth Day Cleanup Hiking



Do your part to help keep the Great Wall clean this month at Beijing Hikers 9th annual 'Earth Day Cleanup.' In the spirit of Earth Day (Apr 22) and to give back to the community, the team is going to try and collect as much litter as they can and carry it out. The hike is run at cost and everyone is asked to help clean up. As part of the Beijing Earth Day Festival, hikers can also enjoy free pizza and beer at the Gung Ho Hut courtesy of Gung Ho Pizza.

Sun Apr 23, 8am-6pm; est. RMB150-200; Beijing Hikers (for more info email [reservations@beijinghikers.com](mailto:reservations@beijinghikers.com) or visit [www.beijinghikers.com](http://www.beijinghikers.com))

## ● Art Beijing / Expo



Art Beijing is back for the 12th year. Bringing together hundreds of exhibitors from countries all around the world, Art Beijing is a bona fide feast for the eyes. As in the past, this year's Art Beijing is divided into four parts: contemporary art, classic art, design gallery and public art. What does that mean exactly? Let us break it down: The classic section presents artworks and objects spanning from the Italian Renaissance to 20th century pop art, while the contemporary section is based around a theme (yet TBA). The design area explores the intersection of art, design and life. Meanwhile the art park is all about urban art and environmental protection. The exhibition area spans over 25,000sqm so lest you tire of the walking and art admiring, take a break and enjoy some of the delicious food and drink on offer.

Sat Apr 29-Tue May 2; RMB100; National Agriculture Exhibition Center ([www.artbeijing.net](http://www.artbeijing.net))



## ● Rumble in the Jungle Market



Head to Rumble in the Jungle for all your craft and thriftstore needs. The monthly hutong market is chock-full of fantastic stalls including jewelry, baked goods, clothes and household items, as well as local entrepreneurs. The bustling market is super popular so make sure you leave plenty of time to look for those killer deals or alternatively get rid of any clothes and home items you don't need – the organizers collect donations for charity every month, with past charities including Roundabout and the Queenak Foundation.

Sat Apr 29, 2-8pm; free entry (RMB125 stall cost); Hot Cat Club, 46 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区方家胡同46号 (for more info add [helenisawinner](https://www.wechat.com/p/helenisawinner) on WeChat)

## ● Public Beijing International Film Festival Tour Cinema



China has a rich and varied cinema history, from the Golden Age of Chinese cinema in the 1920s and 30s to the Communist-era films used as a vessel for propaganda. Learn more about it at Newman Tours' one-off Public Tour of the China National Film Museum, a special tour to celebrate the Beijing International Film Festival.

Sat Apr 22, 1:30-3:30pm; RMB190 (adults), RMB120 (children); includes two-hour tour with native English speaking guide and entry tickets; see website for starting point and private tour pricing; tours must be booked in advance (138 1777 0229, [info@newmantours.com](mailto:info@newmantours.com), [www.newmantours.com](http://www.newmantours.com))



## ● "La Feria" Brunch Dining



Migas brunches are always a party. And this spring, they're kicking things up a notch with a brunch concept inspired by one big Spanish party: La Feria, a traditional festival of food, drink and music to celebrate the coming of warmer months. What does this mean for you? A fresh menu of tapas, fried fish, light bites and, of course, paella.

Weekends, Migas (see Listings for details)

## ● Hacker-Pschorr Spring Beer Festival Drinking



At Hacker-Pschorr, Oktoberfest is never far away. Even in April. This month, the brauhaus is celebrating in style with deals on their freshly brewed beer, plus an authentic Bavarian band every Thursday through Sunday until Apr 25. Buy three liters of beer for only RMB288, or four liters for RMB388. Free entry. Through Apr 25; Hacker-Pschorr Brauhaus (see Listings for details)

## ● Easter Brunch at Chapter Dining



Easter rings in spring. But you know what else it rings in? Brunch season. That's right - warmer weather means more lazy Sunday afternoons spent wining and dining. But let's not get ahead of ourselves - remember, the granddaddy of all brunches is Easter brunch, and nowhere's doing a better spread of it this year than Chapter. The library-turned-dining room is offering egg painting for kids alongside a lavish buffet. On the table? Bourbon-glazed ham, roast lamb leg, baked salmon and, of course, hot cross buns.

RMB298 plus 15-percent service tax (add RMB148 for free-flow Champagne); Sun Apr 16, noon-2:30pm; Chapter, Conrad Beijing (see Listings for details, call 6584 6270 for reservations)

## ● Napa New Brunch Dining



Two words: biscuits and gravy. Wait, no, make that three words: biscuits and gravy and eggs. (We're not counting 'and's. You're not supposed to count the 'and.' are you?) Napa may be a fantastic place to eat healthy, but that doesn't mean they don't get down and dirty with some biscuits and gravy, plus some of the best eggs Benedict in Beijing. Visit for brunch - or don't, it's your life.

Weekends, Napa Artisan Cooking, 20 Liulitun Zhonglu, Chaoyang 朝阳区六里屯中路20号 (6595 9181)

## ● Legend Beer / Promotion



Legend Beer is offering a couple of special pre-summer drink deals until Apr 6. Head over to their massive craft taproom in the Gongti complex any day from 5-10pm for killer deals on craft beer. Here's what they told us: If you spend less than RMB50 just add RMB50 and you'll get free-flow drinks (including beer and soda). And if you spend up to RMB100, just add RMB38 for the free-flow drink deal.

Legend is a 1,500-square-meter space complete with two outdoor seating areas. Considering how nice the weather has been lately, these drink deals come at the perfect time. So head over to Legend, grab a pint and enjoy. They also serve up a variety of German and American dishes, in case you need something to soak up all that booze.

Daily, 11am-3am; Worker's Stadium West Gate, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体西路工人体育场西门 (6551 9026)





## ● The King and I Film

An homage of sorts to *La La Land*, this April Pop-Up Beijing's Classic Movie Tuesdays is bringing movie musicals from the past that were nominated for Best Picture, but lost out. Our pick is *The King and I*, a classic tale about a widow who accepts a job as a live-in governess for the King of Siam's children. Fun fact: *The King and I* was (and remains) banned in Thailand, due to its representation of King Mongkut of Siam.

Tue Apr 25, 7:30pm; free; Pop-Up Beijing, Bldg 22, Courtyard 4, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北路4号院22号楼 (6502 5725)

## ● On the Kang Photography



A photo exhibition illustrating shots of rural Chinese life taken by Gilles Sabrié in Gansu in 2015. A book and prints will be on sale during the event with all proceeds going to Children of Madaifu, an NGO providing financial support towards the education of orphans in Gansu and Shaanxi.

Sun Apr 23, 3-8pm; Jiali Gallery, 4 Beijixiang hutong, Dongcheng 东城区北吉祥胡同4号 (13720058934, www.madaifu.org)

## ● Cavalia / Show



In case you missed out on the horse-dancing show last year, you're in luck because the Cirque du Soleil-inspired performance is back. And, even if you did catch the show, the equine ballet has been revamped and revitalized for its new run so either way, many thrills are to be had. The unique performance showcases the relationship between horse and man, highlighted by the trust demonstrated between steed and rider. As well as being an impressive athletic feat, Cavalia is a visual extravaganza, making it a great event for the whole family.

Apr 19-May 1, 7:30-9:30pm (matinee performance Sat-Sun, 2:30pm); RMB280-1920; Chaoyang Park 朝阳区朝阳公园 (for more information or tickets visit [www.douban.com](http://www.douban.com))

## ● Break With Convention / Art



Liu Di is an award-winning photographer and artist from Shanxi province. His first solo exhibition in Beijing will debut two new 3D animation videos alongside recent photo works. The artist's 3D digital video work focuses on his favorite themes; namely, the conflicting relationship between nature and human society. Liu's images are striking and surreal, with a particular focus on abnormal growth. This idea typically underlies the artist's work, and is seen as an inevitable by-product of a hyper-fast economy fueled by widespread urbanization. Both weirdly cute and disturbing, Liu's imagery depicts animals and humans floating in unreal realms, plunked down amidst familiar urban landscapes and monumental buildings.

Through Sat Apr 29; Pekin Fine Arts Beijing, 241 Cao Changdi Village, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang 朝阳区崔各庄乡草场地村241号 (5127 3220)

## ● Jane Eyre Theater



Charlotte Brontë's classic novel is brought to life by the NCPA. The beloved tale follows the eponymous heroine from orphaned baby and lonely child to passionate and independent young woman. Championed for its strong feminist elements, *Jane Eyre* combines Gothicism with Romanticism to touch on the themes of morality, social class and love. Led by a Chinese cast, the NCPA's production of *Jane Eyre* has played to full houses and high praise.

Thu Apr 13-Wed Apr 19, 7:30pm; RMB200-880; Drama Theatre of NCPA, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng 西城区西长安街2号 (tickets via [sales@theatrebeijing.com](mailto:sales@theatrebeijing.com))

## ● Sanlitun Mondays Stand-up



WeilAugh Comedy Club brings the LOLs to Sanlitun with its new open mic Mondays at Groovy Schiller's. Buy one get one drink specials plus performers get a free drink.

Mondays, 8:30pm; free; Groovy Schiller's, 50m west of Sanlitun police station, 50m north of Yashow Market, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯派出所西50米雅秀服装市场往北50米 (6413 1587)

# CITY SCENES

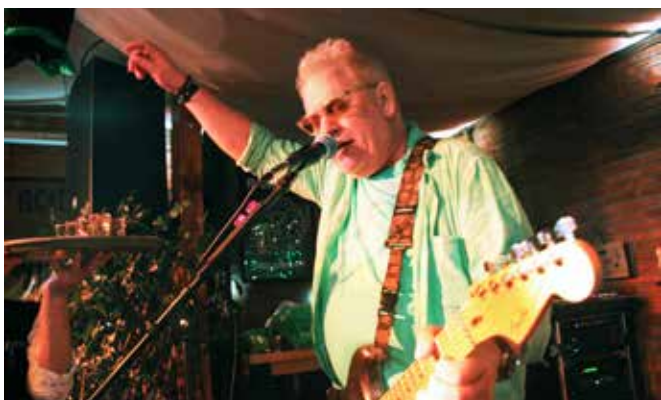
The cast of the upcoming *Friends* remake is spotted at Chongli for the Jing-A Ski Break.



Blue lighting and pained expressions belie general aura of festivity at The Bricks' opening party.



Man in chef's uniform sings sweet lullabies to his food at Wine and Cheese Night at Kerry Hotel's Vinotheque.



St. Patrick salutes the crowd in attendance at Eudora Station's St. Patrick's Day party.



Conventionally attractive man holds conventionally attractive plate of cheese puffs at Puerta 20's opening party.

## TOP STORIES

### BEIJING

- **Samuel L. Jackson Spotted Taking Selfies in Beijing**

The actor live-tweeted his trip and posted food photos on Instagram.

- **Apple CEO Tim Cook Visits Ofo Headquarters in Beijing**

The Ofo visit marks Cook's second trip to the capital in less than a year.

- **Beijing Closes Last Coal-Run Power Plant, Moves to Clean Energy**

The capital makes another step on the long road to sustainability.

- **The Great Wall is Going Green for St. Patrick's Day**

Because even historic landmarks like to celebrate the Irish holiday.

- **Beijing Hospitals Deliver 100,000 More Babies in 2016**

It looks like the two-child policy is finally starting to have an impact.

### NATIONAL

- **China To Launch a Five-Year Work Permit for Foreigners**

Expats breathe a sigh of relief.

- **China To Add 136 New Airports by 2025**

We hope this means fewer flight delays.

- **Is Google Eyeing a China Comeback?**

The search engine giant pulled out of China in 2010 over censorship rules.

- **Global Times Asks: Are Shanghai Expats Arrogant?**

A hard-hitting investigation from the GT.

- **170,000 People Moved to Make Way for Panda Park in Sichuan**

Seven different cities and prefectures, along with 19 counties, will be affected.

THE  
MONTH  
ON

thatsmags.com

## COMMENTS OF THE MONTH

*"I fail to understand how promoting women's health through reduced-price pelvic exams could be considered stereotypically sexist?"*

- user Beijing Survivor on 'China, Please Stop Having Sexist Women's Day Celebrations'

*"Imagine how much worse it would be if China did nothing to try and control this problem"*

- user Amber Cameron on 'Beijing's Air Is Going to Get Worse Thanks to Global Warming'

*"In general more so than other places, yes, as far as I've found"*

- user Susie Niko on 'Global Times Asks: Are Shanghai Expats Arrogant?'

## INSTAGRAM HIGHLIGHT

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



关注



## VIDEO OF THE MONTH

**WATCH: Chinese Man Drives Car Straight Into Roof?!**

Another day, another crazy driving video.



Scan the QR code to visit thatsmags.com

# WEEKLY SPECIALS

## Food and Drink

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



### DACHA ART RESTAURANT

Located near Ritan Park, an area known for its rich Russian heritage and community, Dacha Restaurant is a great spot for a casual meal or special gathering thanks to its welcoming atmosphere and set up (we especially love the tables made from wood recycled from an old Ukraine ship). And the food? Dacha offers traditional Russian cuisine, such as borscht and traditional beet salad, plus European and other international fare. For a good deal we recommend the special set offer, which includes a soup, salad, main course, dessert and drink (soft drink or juice) for just RMB198.

Daily, 10.30am-3am; 1 Ritan Lu (on the north side of Ritan Hotel, close to Ritan Park West Gate), Chaoyang 朝阳区日坛路1号日坛宾馆1楼北侧 (近日坛公园西门) (85635765)

## 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)

### WEDNESDAY

#### SIZZLER

After 4pm, get 29 percent off your bill.  
> 3/F Shimao Plaza, 12 Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北路12号楼世茂广场3楼 (8400 4773)

#### 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 东城区北胡胡同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)

#### Tiago

5:30-8:30pm, RMB100 for free flow on selected alcoholic beverages.  
> Shop L173, Indigo Mall, 18 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路18号颐堤港购物中心L173商铺 6438 8772

### 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 Xingfucun 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商舖 (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, RMB118. 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)

## Tiago

Buy one, get from free refill during happy hour, 4-8pm.  
> Shop L173, Indigo Mall, 18 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路18号颐堤港购物中心L173商舖 6438 8772

# 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

RMB3:30pm-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 heavy (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 西城区广安门外大街168号 (6338 1999 ext. 1726)

### Tiago

Weekend brunch from noon-4pm.

> Shop L173, Indigo Mall, 18 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路18号颐堤港购物中心L173商舖 6438 8772

# LISTINGS

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

## OPEN DOOR



## LA DOLCE VITA

### Long Live the Sweet Life

It takes courage to enter the pizza game. Beijing's got a lot of pies, and good ones too. But La Dolce Vita came to play. And we here at *That's Beijing* have an exclusive for you: La Dolce Vita has upped its pizza game, and you best go try it, like, immediately.

One of Beijing's longest-running Italian joints, La Dolce Vita has the air of an Italian trattoria that's been passed from generation to generation – indeed, it's hard to think of another place in town with the same charmingly creaky wooden floors. And yet, despite its traditional feel, La Dolce Vita isn't afraid to innovate, and they've done so this spring with a killer new menu. Oh, and a pizza oven. Did we mention the pizza?

For a real taste of what the new menu has to offer, kick things off with a pizza to share – we love Le Speciali (RMB108) topped with N'duja salami and Gorgonzola cheese. For a bite of pasta, the Seafood Fregola (RMB78) is flavorful and creamy. If it's a hearty main you're after, you can't go wrong with the Australian rib-eye served with fried vegetables and rosemary foam (RMB208).

Then again, *la vita* wouldn't be truly *dolce* without a little something sweet at the end – finish it all off with La Dolce Vita's classic tiramisu (RMB65).

>La Dolce Vita (see Listings for details)

## RESTAURANTS

### The Hot One Hundred

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

### CHINESE

#### Contemporary & Mixed Cuisine

##### 8 Qi Nian 祈年8号 (Cantonese/Sichuan)

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

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

##### 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

##### Jing Yaa Tang 京雅堂 (Chinese, Peking Duck)

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

> Daily 12-10:30pm, 81/F, The Opposite House, Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路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)

#### Peking Duck

##### The Horizon 海天阁 (Cantonese Beijing Duck) \*\*

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

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

##### Honglu 红炉

>Daily 11am-9:30pm, 5/F Beijing Raffles City, 1 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区东直门南大街1号北京来福士购物中心05层01号(8409 8199 / 84094310); Daily 11am-10pm, 6 Sanlitun Nanlu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯南6号楼南侧60米(6595 9872 / 6593 8970)

##### 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. Excellent peking duck is on offer as well.

> Daily 11:30am-2:30pm and 5:30-10:30pm; 3F 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 (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-gdang.com for more locations

##### Duck de Chine 全鸭季 ¥\*

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

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

##### Xihe Village Restaurant and Bar



> Mon-Fri Lunch: 11am-2:30pm; Dinner: 5-9pm; Sun: 11am-9pm, 59-33, 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59-33(6417 6082)

#### Shanghai

##### Shanghai Min 小南国

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

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

##### Wang Jia Sha 王家沙

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

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

#### Sichuan/Hunan

##### Chuan Ban 川办 \*

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

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

##### Karaiya Spice House 辣屋 \*

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

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

##### South Memory 望湘园

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

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

##### Yu Xin 渝信川菜

Open since 1993, Yu Xin's authentic Sichuan dishes have earned a loyal fanbase. Their *liangfen* – a jelly-like substance cut into



chunky strips and dressed in an addictive spicy sauce – hits the spot. The rustic, intimate setting of bamboo cubicles and swift, friendly service complete the experience.  
> Daily 11am-10pm; 5A Xingfu Yicun Xili, Chaoyang 朝阳区幸福一村西里甲5号 see www.yuxin1997.com for other locations.

### Transit 渡金湖 ¥¥ \*\*

Sichuan is known for its blazing spices and hot climate. While the latter isn't able to be replicated, 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)

### 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 8 Restaurant 中8楼 \*



An oasis at the top of Taikoo Li, Middle 8 is the go-to destination for fresh authentic Yunnan cuisine. The restaurant, stylish yet understated, has plenty of flavorful well-priced dishes and a killer view to boot.  
> Sanlitun: Daily 11am-10pm, Taikoo Li Sanlitun South South Area F4, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯太古里南区4层 (6415 8858); Indigo: Daily 11am-10pm, Jiuxianqiao Road No.20 Indigo F2, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路20号颐堤港2层 (8420 0883); Zhongguancun: Daily 11am-10pm, Zhongguancun Plaza Pedestrian Street, No.17, Haidian海淀区中关村广场步行街R17号 (5172 1728); Fenglan: Daily 11am-10pm, Xizhimen North Street No.32 Maples International Center Blok B, 1 Floor, Haidian海淀区西直门大街32号枫蓝国际中心B座1层 (6223 5583)

### 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 *jiaozi* (six, under RMB10) wrapped in a larger *yuantao* silver-tingot shape, with creative vegetarian options and authentic Sichuan food.  
> Daily 11am-10pm; north of 6 Maizidian Jie, Chaoyang 朝阳区麦子店街6号楼北侧 (6586 4967)

### Mr Shi's Dumplings 老石饺子馆

Since receiving a *Lonely Planet* recommendation the prices have risen and the walls are covered in backpackers' scribbles, but the fantastic dumplings – boiled and fried – are still fantastic.  
> 74 Baochao Hutong, Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区鼓楼东大街宝钞胡同74号 (8405 0399, 131 6100 3826)

## 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)

### Jia Chinese Restaurant 禾家中餐厅 (Cantonese)

Featuring modern Ming elements with inspired paintings from Xu Wei, a painter, calligrapher and food and wine connoisseur, the quintessentially authentic house of agriculture produces, Jia Chinese restaurant serves exquisite traditional Cantonese specialties in their purest form with chefs hailing from Hong Kong. Using the freshest ingredients from NUO's very own green farms, NUO Hotel Beijing provides an alternative green gourmet option in town.  
> Mon-Fri: 11:30am-2pm, 5:30-10pm; Sat-Sun: 11am-2:30pm, 5:30-10pm; 1/F, NUO Hotel Beijing, 2A Jiangtai Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区将台路甲2号北京诺金酒店一层 (5926 8281)

### Makye 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)

### 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 Xingfuyuan, opposite Workers' Stadium North Gate, Chaoyang 朝阳区工人体育场北门对面幸福一村7巷内 (6415 5741)

## WESTERN

### Fine Dining

### Barolo ¥¥ (Italian) \*

Average Italian abounds in Beijing: not here, though. Quite the opposite, in fact, meaning Barolo is as well-regarded as the Piedmont wine it is named after.  
> Mon-Sun 11:30am-2pm, 6pm-10pm. Ritz Carlton Hotel, China Central Place, 83A Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国路甲83号华贸中心丽思卡尔顿酒店内 (5908 8151)

### Brasserie Flo ¥¥ (French) \*

Marble slabs, mosaic floors and brass fittings establish the Parisian bona fides; dishes like snails (RMB78), oysters (RMB48 each) and steak tartare (RMB158) confirm. The grandeur is matched only by the service, and the prices reflect the authenticity of the experience.  
> Daily 11am-midnight; 18 Xiaoyun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区霄云路18号 (6595 5135)

### 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 Dongbuyuqiao Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区东不压桥胡同45号 (8408 5300)

### 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)

## OPEN DOOR



## ATMOSPHERE

### Beijing's Mile High Club

As anyone who's ever gotten drunk a plane could tell you, there's something fun about drinking high in the sky. Fortunately at Atmosphere, sipping at high altitudes doesn't entail getting into an airtight metal cabin. Beijing's highest bar, on the 80th floor of the CBD's China World Summit Wing, continues to be a city-wide favorite. With a view like this, they could serve us lukewarm Tsingtaos and we'd still be happy. But the team at Atmosphere consistently outdo themselves, and now, they've got a new cocktail master behind the bar. Meet new head bartender Mochammad Fadli, who has 15 years of experience in Indonesia, Australia, UAE, Cambodia and Bahrain. But Fadli brings more than bartending chops – he brings new cocktails. Try the Metropolitan Sorbet, a lime-infused based vodka concoction with crème de mure, fresh lime juice and cranberry juice, or the gin-based Great Green Wall featuring baby bok choy foam. Fadli's drinks are anything but conventional – just like the bar he joins.  
> Atmosphere, China World Summit Wing (see Listings for details)



## THE RUG

### Burrito Me

Fusion cuisine and The Rug go together like kimchi and pork. With apricot. On a burrito. That's right – the globetrotters behind The Rug's menu have done it again, this time with culture-crossing burritos that are sure to please everyone, newbies and purists alike.

The Chicken Avocado Mango Egg Burrito is a healthy, refined take on the popular street food. The Kimchi Pork Apricot Egg Burrito, meanwhile, is a mind-blowing combo that blends the spice of kimchi with the sugary sweetness of apricot. Dare we say this one is for the adventurer at your table?

Burritos are reliably filling and always delicious. But they don't need to be unhealthy to be so. If the Rug's fusion burritos prove one thing, it's this: Burritos are for everyone. Yes, even you, health freaks.

> The Rug (see Listings for details)

## OPEN DOOR



## CASA TALIA

### A Taste of the Mediterranean

Enjoying the warmer weather but wishing you could be somewhere more – continental? Short of hopping on a plane out of the capital, try Casa Talia in Raffles City for an authentic Mediterranean taste. With tapas and seafood galore, Casa Talia is a great spot for filling up on tasty Spanish cuisine. We love the crispy pork and mango tapas – the fresh mango anchored by fatty pork – while the lobster and avocado salad is decadence refined. Another must-try is the premium seafood platter – a mix of lobster, clams, prawns, and squid and more, it smacks of the sea.

> Daily, 10am-10pm; 1B, 4/F, Raffles City, 1 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区东直门南大街1号 来福士购物中心4层 (8409 4009)



## LIN'S DINING LOUNGE

### DEAL: Free Glass of Wine Throughout April

Pairing wines with vegetarian food is something of an art. But while wine-tasting often focuses on meat and fish, the same rules apply: understand a dish's flavor profile and match it to the acidity, body and sweetness of the wine. Over at Lin's Dining Lounge (see *That's Beijing*, January 2017, 'The Meat Eater's Favorite New Vegetarian Restaurant'), they know this only too well. The innovative meat-free restaurant has picked out a wonderful Moscato Bianco, and is offering a free glass of it to anyone who orders certain dishes throughout April. If you go for the hot pot mock-fish (made from tofu), the imitation meat steak or the mushroom tofu, then the free vino is yours. And given how much we enjoyed eating here without wine, this only sweetens the deal.

> Daily, 11am-11pm; 2/F, New Grand Dynasty Hotel, 58 Maizidian Jie, Chaoyang 朝阳区麦子店街58号新大饭店二层 (6500 6766)

## LISTINGS

### Temple Restaurant Beijing (TRB) ¥¥ \*\*

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 Beijing, 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 tiramisù.

> 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)

### 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 cocktail or a glass of fine vintage from the extensive wine collection. Be sure to try the 'luxurious oyster feast,' where you can enjoy the delicacy raw, grilled or with cheese.

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

## Contemporary Western

### Alfie's ¥ (British)

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

> Daily, 11.30am-2.30pm, 5.30-10pm, brunch served on weekends; Parkview Green, 9 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东大桥路9号芳草草地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 (6536 0066)

### 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)

### Feast (Food by East)

Bustling café with a philosophy of 'Simple things, done well'. International favorites, using freshest ingredients, cooked on the spot.

> Daily 6am-10.30pm, 2/F, EAST Beijing, 22 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路22号东隅酒店2层 8414 9820

### 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)

### JF Royal Teahouse

> Daily 10am-9.30pm; B215 China World Trade Center Tower 3, Jintong East Road, Chaoyang Beijing 北京市朝阳区国贸商城3楼地下二层B215 (8535 1625)

### Miss K Cafe (Xing Fu Cafe)

Whether it's a rainy morning or a sunny af-

ternoon, 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; 3/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)

### 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 望京凯悦购物中心店 (6471 3876); Wanliu BHG 万柳华联商场店 (8258 9405) Wan Shoulu Crystal Capital Mall 万寿路凯悦酒店店 (6826 0861); Xizhimen Capital Mall 西直门凯悦购物中心店 (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)

### The English Tearoom英国茶房

> Daily 10am-9.30pm; 101, Bldg 10, North area of Xiangyun Town, 9 Antai Dajie, Shunyi 顺义区安泰大街9号院中粮祥云小镇北区10号楼101 (8047 9661 / 8047 9661); Daily 10am-7pm Creativity Garden, 1 Shunhuang Lu, Sunhe xiang, Chaoyang 朝阳区孙河乡顺黄路1号创意园内 (8459 4407)

### 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 sure 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)

### Wood

> Daily 10.30am-11pm, Lakeside Gourmet Street, Solana, 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳公园路6号蓝色港湾南边湖畔美食街 近南边地面停车场 5726 8255

### Stuff'd (Contemporary Western)

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

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

## Café/Deli/Sandwich

### Café Zarah (Café) \*

A smart new interior and menu for this longstanding cafe has propelled it from hipster hangout to Gulou institution. Large, airy and with a terrace for summer, the old 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)

### Domain 城

A blend of café, business center and

lounge, it has a gentle buzz all of its own. For privacy, Domain also provides workstations equipped with computers and ipads.  
> Daily 7am-9pm, 2/F, EAST Building, 22 Jiuxiangqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路22号东隅酒店2层 (8414 9830)

### 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; 798 Dashanzi Art District Store: D09-1, No.4, 798 Dashanzi Art District, Jiuxiangqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路4号 798艺术区D09-1 (5978 9067 / 13051711436); Jianguomenwai DRC Store: Building 7-1-11, 1 Silk Street, Chaoyang 朝阳区秀水街1号建国门外外交公寓7-1-11 (8532 2633 / 18701092189); FCCStore: 107, B1/F, Fortune Financial Center, 5 Dongsanhuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区东三环中路5号楼财富金融中心1层107 (6596 9108); China Central Mall Store: L315, China Central Mall, Chaoyang District 朝阳区华贸中心写字楼三层L315单元 (8588 7978); www.cafeatwhite.com, cafeatwhite@hotmail.com, WeChat username: Cafe-Flatwhite

### awfullychocolate

awfullychocolate



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 Taikoo, 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 Jiuxiangqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路18号颐堤港地下一层 (8426 0917); 3) Joy City Chaoyang: 5/F, Joy City Chaoyang, Qingnian Lu, Chaoyang Beiliu, 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)

### 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)

### Maan Coffee漫咖啡文化体验馆

> Daily 9am-2:00pm; The south gate of Jianguo Park, Half tower road, Chaoyang 朝阳区半截塔路将府公园南门外西侧 (5949 8336)

### 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 Beiliu 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)

### 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)

### The Rug (Contemporary Western, Organic) \*

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

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

### 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)

### American/BBQ/Grill

#### Eudora Station 亿多瑞站

> (Near Lidu place) No.6, Fangyuanli Chaoyang 朝阳区芳园西里6号(丽都广场对面) (6437 8331, 6437 8334)

#### 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

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

> Mon-Fri 8am-11pm, Sat-Sun 10:30am-11pm. 11A Xiushui Nanjie, Chaoyang 朝阳区秀水街11号 (8563 6215)

#### 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)

#### 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)

### Q Mex Bar & Grill

> Sanlitun Courtyard (across from Salsa Caribe, nearby Bookworm), Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北路4号院机电研究院餐饮区内 6585 3828

### 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层S2-30 (6417 4030); No.167, 1/F, 18 Jiuxiangqiao 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 Center, 10 Jintong Xilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区金桐西路10号远洋光华国际中心AB座一层15 16单元 (8590 3168)

### Steak

#### Morton's of Chicago (American) ¥¥ \*

Meat so tender the knife falls through it: ritzy Morton's deserves the worldwide praise. Expensive, but where else are you going to get steak this good? (Try the RMB550 set menu if you want to save cash)

> Mon-Sat 5:30-11pm, Sun 5:30-3:00pm; 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 French 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)

#### 29 Grill (Contemporary Western) \*

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

> Mon-Fri lunch: 11:30am-2:30pm; Mon-Sat dinner: 6-10:30pm (closed Sundays); Conrad Beijing, 2/F, 29 North Dongsanhuan, Chaoyang 朝阳区东三环北路9号2层 (6584 6270)

### Italian

#### Assaggi ¥ \*

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

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

#### Bene ¥ \*

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

> Daily 11am-2:30pm, 5:30-10:30pm. Sheraton Beijing Dongcheng, 36 Northeast Third Ring Road, Dongcheng District 东城区东三环东路36号(5798 8995)

#### BOCCA DELLA VERITA ¥

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

### Beixinqiao.

> Dinner: 5-10pm; Lunch: 10am-3pm; 3/F, 277 Dongzhimen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区东直门内大街277号3楼 雍和宫大街和新桥头东直门内四层商业楼三层 (6455 3832, 1391 0969 240)

### 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)

### 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号长岛澜桥别墅西门对面向古城楼 (8470 4768); Lido: Jiantai Lu, opposite United Family Hospital 朝阳区将台商业街4号楼2楼和融家医院对面 (6436 3735); Wangjing: 2F, beside the Daimler Tower, LSH Plaza, 8 Wangjing Jie 朝阳区望京广场A座戴勒姆大厦裙楼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号日坛上街上3-108号 (8569 3031); The Place: East of the Place, south of Center Park 朝阳区金桐西路10号远洋光华国际中心AB座1层 (8590 6428); Guoma: Ruisai Business Building (southeast of Guoma 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公寓对面向经贤南园 (9816 98366)

### Florentina 翡玲翠意大利餐厅



Florentina serves authentic Italian fare in low-key, yet elegant surroundings. Cuisine is high-end, the environment is relaxed. A beautiful outdoor terrace makes this place a godsend for Lido residents.

> Daily 11-late (Kitchen serves until 10pm), 1/F, Bldg 2, No. 6 Yard, Fanyuan Xilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区芳园西路6号院2号楼1层(8431 0027)

### Mercato ¥ \*

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

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

### TIAGO Home Kitchen



Even the most exacting palettes are delighted by TIAGO, whose team prepares globally sourced ingredients and sustainably grown produce. TIAGO's dining experience is distinctly Italian, but its menu also offers such classics as Australian steaks and Boston lobster - plus a wide selection of salads, pizza, pasta and desserts.

> Indigo: Daily 11:30am-10pm, Shop L173, Indigo Mall, 18 Jiuxiangqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路18号颐堤港购物中心L173商铺(6438 8772); Chaoyang

## LISTINGS

Joy City: Daily 11am-10pm, 5F/50/6F, Chaoyang Joy City, 101 Chaoyang Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳北路101号朝北大悦城5F/50/6F(8558 3892)

### Opera Bombana

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

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

## German

### 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)

### Hacker-Pschorr Brauhaus

If you're looking for authentic German fare and, most importantly, German-style beer, then you can't go wrong with Hacker-Pschorr Brauhaus. Made from centuries-old recipes – and in accordance with the 1516 German Beer Purity Law – the brews here are some of the finest in Beijing. Prost!

> Room 3, Building 3, No 12, Xindonglu Chaoyang 朝阳区新东路12号院3号楼3门(5323 3399)

### Paulaner Brauhaus

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

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

### Brotzeit German Bier Bar & Restaurant

博探德国啤酒餐厅 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外交办公楼)一层F109 (8531 5166, www.brotzeit.co)

## Pizza

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

### 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 Bejie, Chaoyang 三里屯北街3.3服装大厦3层3008号 (5136 5571, delivery 8989 177) > Additional branches in Gongti, Beida, Beitai, Yayancun, Solana and Weigongcun, see www.online.thatsmags.com for details

## 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)

### Casa Talia by Tiago

>Daily 11.30am-9pm, 01B, 4/F, Raffles City, 1 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区东直门南大街1号来福士购物中心4层01B 8409 4009

### Niajo \*

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

> Daily 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)

## Asian

### Indian

### Raj

Tucked away in musty old building just underneath the drum tower, this curryhouse may look Chinese but everything on the menu is authentic Indian, especially the rather fine naan.

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

### Ganges

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

> Daily 11am to 10.30pm; Dongzhimen Branch: 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.thatsmags.com for details.

### Indian Kitchen

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

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

## South-East Asian

### 4Corners (Vietnamese, Fusion)

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

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

### 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, Minhang Shanghai, 上海闵行区姚虹路266号, 近虹松东路(021 2428 3400)

### Cafe Sambal (Malaysian)

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

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

### 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)

### Greyhound Café (Modern Thai/Fusion)

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

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

### 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 Jianguomenwai Dajie, 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

Malaysian food with a view, this spacious and airy restaurant sits on the banks of

Shunyi's Roma Lake and at a new unit in the heart of the city at The Place, making a great spot for their beef rendang or green curry 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)

### Susu (Vietnamese)

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

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

## Japanese

### HAGAKI 叶书 \*

Serves up a selection of signature maki rolls, as well as classics like tonkatsu, tempura and udon, Hagaki specializes in Californian-inspired Japanese cuisine and has a lively sushi bar.

> Daily 11am-2.30pm, 1/F, EAST Beijing, 22 Jiuxiangqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路22号东隅酒店1层 8414 9815

### Hatsune \* (California Japanese)

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

> Daily 11.30am-2pm, 5.30-10pm; 2/F, Heqiao Bldg C, 8A Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区光华路甲8号 和乔大厦C座2层(6581 3939) > Additional locations in Sanlitun Tai Koo Li South; Kerry Centre Mall (see www.online.thatsmags.com for details)

### Inagiku \*

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

> Daily 11am-3pm, 6-10.30pm; Rm 315, 3/F, Park Life, Yintai Centre, 2 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国门外大街2号银泰中心悦生活3层315室(8517 2838)

### Hyoki \* (Japanese)

Hidden away in the depths of the Sofitel Hotel, this labyrinthine Japanese restaurant of all private dining rooms has some stunning food, and is the only place to sample traditional Japanese paper hot pot in Beijing.

> 6F Sofitel Wanda Beijing 100022 93 Jianguo Road, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国路93号索菲特万达北京酒店6层(6581 0072)

### 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)

### 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)

### 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 朝阳区三里屯北街2号(6464 2365); Lido branch: 2F, No.9-3, Jiantai Xilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区将台西路9-3号2层(8420 0998)

### Sui Ka

Is this what after-work hangouts are like in Japan? We're not sure, but we hope so: This charming izakaya nails it when it comes to sake selection and fried delights to munch alongside it.

> Daily 5pm-1am, Ichibangai First Avenue Food Court, Zaoying Nanli, Maizidian, East 3rd Ring Road, Chaoyang 朝阳区东三环农展馆北路宾都苑东侧一层底商一番街内(137 1692 7543)

### Hyoki ¥ (Japanese)

Hidden away in the depths of the Sofitel Hotel, this labyrinthine Japanese restaurant of all private dining rooms has some stunning food, and is the only place to sample traditional Japanese paper hot pot in Beijing.

> 6F Sofitel Wanda Beijing 100022 93 Jianguo Road, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国路93号索菲特万达北京酒店6层(6581 0072)

## Korean

### Ai Jiang Shan

This upscale seafood restaurant proves that chargrill and composure can go together. Their RMB58 bibimbab 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.thatsmags.com for other locations

## 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)(see www.online.thatsmags.com for details)

### Veggie Table (Western, Asian) \*

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

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

### BBC (Bottle, Boot & Cigar)

The brainchild of local spirits professional Douglas Williams, this bar provides the discerning Beijing drinker with a peerless selection of liquor for sale, cocktails and coming soon, shoe shines, cigars and straight-razor shaves.

> 1pm-late, 1 Taipinghuang Nanli (At Xingfucun, between Frost: Coffee, Nails & Cocktails and Comm Bar), Chaoyang 朝阳区太平庄南里1号 (1861 405 7407, www.bcbbeijing.com)

### 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.

> Sun-Sun 8pm-late; 3 Da Ju Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区大菊胡同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-Thu 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)

### 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50号(158 1038 2089)

### 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)

### 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 Doujiao 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, B12 Xinzhong Street 新中街B12号 (6416 6887, www.greatleap-brewing.com)

### Heaven Supermarket

A purgatory of bottles, bongs and bedraggled English teachers, Heaven sells the cheapest alcoholic takeaways in town. You can also hang around and appreciate the afterlife (cliente) 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 art-work and comfortable seating, suggesting a Kasbah, plus well-made drinks at great prices (wine from RMB100 a bottle, mix drinks from RMB25). You'll probably have to call them to find it, though.

> Daily 6pm-1am. Room 101, Bldg 8, CBD Apartments, Shuanghuayuan Nanli Erqu, Chaoyang 朝阳区双花园南里二区CBD公寓8号楼101室 (8772 1613)

### 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

### 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, Jiadaokou, Dongcheng 东城区交道口南大街板厂胡同12号 (6405 5738, www.maomaochongbeijing.com)

### Mesh ¥

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

> Daily 5pm-1am. Building 1, 11 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路11号院1号楼 (6417 6688)

### Maggie's ¥

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

> Sun-Thu 8pm-4am, Fri-Sat 8pm-5am, Ritan Park South Gate, Chaoyang District 朝阳区日坛公园南门 (8562 8142)

### Parlor

Learn a few quotes from *Gatsby* before heading to this 20s Shanghai-style speak-easy and you'll fit right in.

> Daily 6pm-2am, 39-8 Xingfucun, Chaoyang 朝阳区新东路幸福二村39-8 (8444 4135)

### Mai Bar \*

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

> Daily 5pm-late, 40 Beiliuoxiang, Dongcheng 东城区北锣鼓巷40号 (6406 1871)

### Revolution \*

Sanlitun doesn't 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, Chaoyang 工体北路雅秀市场西侧 (6415 8776)

### The Brick

A Cheers-style atmosphere ensures you'll find this neighbourhood drinking hole in the brick-wall faux dive bar either cliquey 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 Guanggu Lu (northeast corner of Shuangjing Qiao), Chaoyang 朝阳区东井桥东北角广渠路31号院天之骄子2号楼底商2-11 (134 2616 6677)

### 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C里屯医院东面 (6415 1954)

### 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 东城区东西八条56号 (6538 5537)

### 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 朝阳区南三里屯路16号泰悦豪庭2楼203室 (6591 1191)

### Glen Classic ¥

Tucked away in the grounds of Face hotel, Glen Classic is a Japanese-owned whisky bar where discerning drinkers can sink into an arm-chair, glass in hand, and while away the hours. Huge range of whiskies and rums are personally selected by expert owner Daiki Kanetaka – let him recommend you something special.

> Mon-Sat, 7pm-2am, reservation required, minimum spend RMB200, Face Hotel Courtyard, 26 Dongcaoyuan, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体南路东草园26号 (6551 6788)

### 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 TV's to accommodate any event, meetings, and gatherings.

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

## 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)

### 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, Jiadaokou Nan Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区交道口南大街东棉花胡同7号 (6401 5269, site.douban.com/jianghujubar, jincanzh@gmail.com)

### 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.

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

### The Post Mountain 后山

Built into a man-made hill in the center of the MOMA Complex, this new addition to Beijing's growing livehouse empire is The Hobbit meets Manhattan. With as much vibe as a sterile modern-art gallery. Its imported sound system and ramped floor makes for decent sound and sightlines.

> Bldg T8, MOMA, 1 Xiangheyuan Lu, Dongzhimenwai, Dongcheng (next to MOMA Cinemateque) 东城区东直门外香河园路1号当代MOMA园区T8楼北百老汇电影中心北侧 (8400 4774)

### Temple \*

Probably the manliest venue in town, this dimly lit and unventilated space is owned by rockers (Gao Xu, Gao Jian and Clement Burger) and known for late sets of hard rock, punk and ska, with weekend gigs and DJ sets every fortnight. It offers a long drinks menu, with plenty of cheap pastis and shooters, but you'll probably stick to the RMB15 draught.

> Daily, 7pm-late. Bldg B, 206 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng 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 Zhangzhizhong Lu (100m west of Zhangzhizhong 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 transported, untouched, from a back alley in Limerick and gently deposited in central Beijing. With plenty going on, including pub quiz and sports.

> Dongzhimen: Daily 10am-late, 28 Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Chaoyang 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 prowl, perhaps, rather than a drinks destination, TBAM, as no one calls it, focuses on upscale local DJs to get the party started. Good-enough cocktails range from RMB55-70 but mostly it's about the music, man.

> Sunday to Wednesday 6pm-2am, Thursday to Friday 6pm-late. 6/F, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区三里屯路81号 (5208-6061)

### Chocolate

It's impossible to discuss Chocolate without mentioning gold leaf, dwarves, cabaret dancers and oddly-friendly Russian women. Timed right, a visit can be raucous fun, with bottles of spirits from around RMB200, cocktails under RMB50 (including the absinthe-based Flaming Armageddon) and regular floor shows.

> Daily 7pm-6am. 19 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大门内 (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 jaihbait 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大门内 (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 700AQP 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 ¥**

Although it's no longer quite the go-to place for beautiful people it once was, Centro still draws a cute crowd with its nightly jazz performances, spacious and recently renovated lounge areas and classic drinks like the blue-cheese martini.

> Open 24 hours. 1/F, Kerry Hotel, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang 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 frightfully 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)

**O'Bar**

With both a fantastic cocktail menu and one of the finest terraces in the city, NUO Hotel's O'Bar is a sure bet for classy evening drinks in the city.

> Sun-Thur 6pm-1am; Fri-Sat 6pm-2am; 2 Jiangtai Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区将台路甲2号 (5926 8888)

**Xian 仙**

Bold multi – element bar Xian on the ground floor mixes a pub, whiskey bar, live music venue and games room into one vibrant entertainment hotspot.

> Daily 5pm-2am, 1/F, EAST Beijing, 22 Jiuxiangqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路22号东隅酒店1层 (8414 9810)

**BEAUTY & FITNESS****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, jusunghao@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)

**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5层 (139 1029 0260, www.alonapilates.com)

**Narcisse Beauty Brands Encompassed**

美容品牌集合店

One of a kind! A 600 m<sup>2</sup> brand-new concept of beauty salon—Narcisse, encompassed with professional brands on skincare, manicure and hair removal. Not only can we guarantee to give you the highest quality of products and treatments, but also an impressive one-stop beauty experience.

Brands inside Narcisse:

**Youngfo: Facial Cleansing Center**

Clean Out What's Deeply Buried In Your Skin

**10+10: Minimal-Design Nail**

Chic Workaholic's Luv!

**Edelweiss: Laser Hair Removal**

Latest Technology, Safe&Permanent

**Deep Facial Cleaning — 880rmb/once**

> 10.30am-10.30pm, Bldg. 1, No.6 West Fangyuan rd, Chaoyang (inside Narcisse Beauty Brands Encompassed) 朝阳区芳园西路6号院1号楼水仙美容品牌集合店内 (5365 9418)

**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)

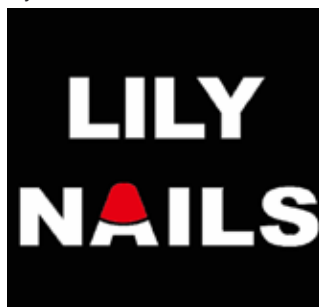
**Beijing Hikers**

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

**Shang Xia**

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

**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贸购物中心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 Wangjing store: Daily 10am-10pm, Shop K01, 2/F, CapitaMall Wangjing store, Guangshun Beidajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区广顺北大街凯德望京购物中心2层K-1 (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)

**HAIR SALONS****Blow+Bar**

AWARD WINNING HAIR SALON FROM SINGAPORE

Sanlitun 3.3 Mall L3 | Contact 51365432

Wechat/Instagram: blowplusbar

FREE WINE

This salon is equipped with more than shampoo – the team here provides haircuts, dye, updos, hair treatments and more. With prices for almost everything listed under RMB1,000, Blow+ is a haven of

reasonably priced good taste in Sanlitun's 3.3 Mall. They have champagne and a well-stocked bar, so bring your friends and make a night of it.

> 3/F 3.3 Mall, 33 Sanlitun Lu, Sanlitun, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路33号3.3层3/F (for appointments, call 5136 5432)

**Laurent Falcon**

The salon is a cut above, thanks to skills of experienced French stylist Laurent Falcon. Guys/girls. Blow-dry, up-dos, highlights, coloring available. L'Oreal, Schwarzkopf, KeraStraight, Inoa. RMB165-980 women, RMB115-468 men.

> 209 2/F, zoon3 China World Trade Centre Shopping Mall. 国贸商城区域3楼209 (8535 1002, 131 4667 9913); 43 Sanlitun Beijing Nan, Chaoyang. 三里屯北街南43号楼 (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)

**Sport****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)

**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 Village, 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)

**Heyrobics**

"Sweat like a Swede!" they say with annoyingly smug grin and toned abs. The only fitness craze worth following in Beijing, Heyrobics is all about a punishing full-body workout set to pumping beats – not forgetting the fluorescent spandex. Differing classes for all abilities, check online for the full schedule.

> www.heyrobics.com, info@heyrobics.com

**Yihe 42° Hot Yoga**

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 begin your journey into Yoga, so they are available to answer any questions you may have. It's a great workout for the body and calming for the mind. Call them today on (5905 6067, 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.yih42.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,3层 (5905 6067/65, www.yih42.com)

**Broadwell International Tennis Academy**

Located inside Chaoyang Park's Tennis Center, this indoor club boasts a complete state-of-the-art air-supported structure for all-weather year-round indoor tennis, with an advanced lighting system and controlled climate. Ideal for peeps looking to perfect their service and batting a few balls.

> Nongzhan Nanlu, Chaoyang 朝阳区农南路1号朝阳公园网球中心 (400 6406 800/ 6595 8885, www.broadwell.cn1)

**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 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 S106/111 Luffhansa Center, 50 Liangmahe Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区亮马桥路50号燕莎中心写字楼1层S106 (6465 1561/2/3, 6465 1384/28, www.imclinics.com)

**Beijing United Family Hospital and Clinics 北京和睦家医院**

> Wi-Fi internet. Lido, Emergency Room is open 24/7/365, Mon-Fri, 8.30am-5pm; 2 Jianguai Road, Chaoyang District, 朝阳区将台路2号 (5927 7000 / 5927 7120 Emergency Hotline); United Family CBD Clinic and 和睦家诊所 Mon-Sat, 9.30am-6.30pm, Suite 3017, Building AB, Vantone Center, 6 Chaowai Street, Chaoyang, 朝阳区朝阳门外大街6号万通中心A8座3层3017室 (5907 1266); Jianguomen Health and Wellness Center and 和睦家建国门保健中心, Wi-Fi internet, Mon-Sun 8.30am-5pm, 21 Jianguomen Dajie, B1, The St. Regis Residence, St. Regis Hotel 朝阳区建国门外大街21号北京国际俱乐部饭店 (8532 1221 / 8532 1678 Immigration Clinic); Shunyi Clinic and 和睦家顺义诊所, Wi-Fi internet, Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5.30pm, Sat Sun and 9.30am-4.30pm, Pinnacle Plaza, Unit 806, Tian Zhu Real Estate Development Zone, Shunyi District, 顺义区

天竺开发区荣祥广场806号(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 亮马诊所, Wi-Fi internet, Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5pm, 2nd Floor Grand Summit, 19 Dongfang East Road 朝阳区东方东路19号1号楼会所27号 外交人员公寓B区官舍16号 (5927 7005 www.ufh.com.cn, patientservices@ufh.com.cn)

### Raffles Medical

International SOS and Raffles Medical Group have formed a joint venture to enhance and expand the services of its China Clinics. From March 30 the International SOS clinics in China will be branded and operated by Raffles Medical with expanded services to all patients and privileged access for International SOS members. Patients of the clinic will continue to have access to the same doctors, the same facilities and same level of high quality care.

Raffles Medical Group is a leading medical provider in Singapore and has been operating for 40 years with over 100 clinics and hospitals in Asia. The joint venture is committed to maintain the high standard of quality with a focus on innovative and expanded clinical services and excellent patient care.

> Suite 105, Wing 1, Kunsha Building, No.16 Xinyuanli, Chaoyang 朝阳区新源里16号理莎中心1座105室 (6462 9112/6462 9100, www.internationalsos.com)

### OASIS International Hospital

OASIS International Hospital specializes in serving the expatriate community with the latest world-class technology and a broad range of services, all in a pristine facility designed to provide patients with the utmost comfort, care and privacy.

> Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5:30pm; Sat-Sun, 8:30am-12:30pm; 24 Hour Emergency Bldg C1, 9 Jiuxianqiao Beilu Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥北路9号C1栋 (400 876 2747, 5985 0333, www.oasishealth.cn)

### Beijing HarMoniCare Women and Children's Hospital 北京和美妇儿医院

> Wi-Fi available. Chaoyang: 2 Xiaoguan Beili, Beiyuan Lu 北苑路小关北里甲2号 (6499 0000, contact@hmcare.org, en.hmcare.net)

### Hongkong International Medical Clinic, Beijing 北京港澳国际医疗诊所

> Dongshihitao: 9/F, Office Tower, Hongkong Macau Center-Swiss Hotel, 2 Chaoyangmen Bei Dajie 朝阳门北大街2号 港澳中心瑞士酒店办公楼9层 (6553 9752, 6553 2288/2345/67; service@hkclinic.com; www.hkclinic.com)

## DENTAL

### Arrail Dental

Affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania, Arrail Dental has access to top-class equipment. Its well-trained staff, multiple locations across town and excellent facilities make it one of the best dental providers in Beijing. English-speaking staff. Dental services including examinations, whitening, root-canal treatment, orthodontics and implants.

> Rm 201, the Exchange-Beijing, 1188 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国路E118号国贸桥东南角京汇大厦201室 (6567 5670); Rm 208, Tower A, CITIC Building, 19 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国门外大街19号国际大厦A座208室 (6500 6473); Rm 308, Tower A, Raycom Info Tech Park 2 Kexueyuan Nanlu, Haidian 海淀区中关村科学院南路2号融科资讯中心A座308室 (8286 1956); Rm 101, Bldg 16, China Central Place, 89 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国路89号华贸中心公寓16号楼101室 (8588 8550/6070); 1/F, Somerset Fortune Garden, 46 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区亮马桥路46号燕莎东庭盛庭福景苑1层 (8440 1926)

### PrettySmile Dental

If you are looking for professional and comfortable dental care, PrettySmile Dental is highly recommended by many patients. The clinic is standing out because of the professional team, all doctors are from the dental hospital of Peking University and most of them got professional training in USA. The strictest sterilization processes and high-end imported equipment and materials all help guarantee the highest quality of all dental services.

> Mon-Fri, 9:30am-6pm (closed Thu); 5-105-1, Building 5, Sanlitun SOHO Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯SOHO 5号商场1层5-105 (5785 3689/5785 3898, www.prettysmiledental.com, psd3898@163.com)

### Joinway Dental

A reputable and trusted dental practice, Joinway Dental provides the perfect combination of cutting edge technology and comfortable treatment, while maintaining the strictest sanitary and sterilization processes. The clinic uses high-quality imported materials, and its professional, US-trained staff offers a personalized and private service.

> Mon-Sat, 9am-6pm; 11D, Building D, Oriental

Kenzo Plaza (Ginza Mall), 48 Dongzhimen Wai Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区东直门外大街48号东方银座D座11D (8447 6092/93, mobile:1326 181 6708, joinway@dentalcn.com, www.dentalcn.com)

### United Family Shunyi Dental Clinic

The Beijing United Family Dental Clinic in Shunyi is a satellite of the main hospital in Lido (which has its own dental clinic onsite). A comprehensive range of services are at hand, including restorative dentistry and cosmetic dentistry. Call ahead for all appointments.

> 818 Pinnacle Plaza, Tianzhu Real Estate Development Zone, Shunyi 北京和睦家牙科诊所, 顺义区天竺开发区荣祥广场818 (8046 1102)

### SDM Dental 固瑞齿科

The full spectrum of dentistry. Services include teeth cleaning, root-canal treatment, porcelain crowns, dental implants, orthodontics, cosmetic dentistry, fillings, pediatric dentistry, extraction, teeth-whitening and veneers. Credit cards accepted.

> Mon-Fri 9am-8pm, NB210, 2/F, CBD, Guomao, China World Shopping Mall, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie 建外大街1号国贸商城地下2层 (6505 9439/31/93, www.sdmdental.com); Mon-Fri 9am-8pm, Olympic Area, F-0186B, Sunshine Plaza, 68 Anli Luleast of Sunshine Plaza) 亚运村安立路68号阳光广场东侧 (6497 2173, 6498 2173); Mon-Sun 10am-19pm, L807-08, Euro Plaza, No.99 Yuxiang Road, Shunyi 北京顺义区天竺镇裕翔路99号欧陆广场L807-08号 (8046 684); Mon-Fri 9am-8pm, FC222, 21st Century Hotel, 40 Liang Maqiao Lu, Sanyuanqiao 亮马桥40号21世纪饭店2层 (6466 4814, 6461 2745); Mon-Fri 9am-8pm, 4076B, 4/F, New Yansha Mall, Yuanda Lu, Haidian 远大路金源燕莎购物中心Mall4层4076B (8859 6912/13); Mon-Sun, 10am-7pm, Rm 5, 3/F, North Tower, China Overseas Plaza, 8 Guanghua Dongli 北京朝阳区光华东路8号中海广场北楼3层05号 (5977 2488)

### IDC Dental

> Daily: 9am-6pm, Room 209, Bldg 7, Richmond Park Clubhouse, Fangyuan Nanli, Chaoyang 朝阳区芳园里丽都水岸会所209 (6538 8111, info@idcdentalbj.com)

## EDUCATION

### Mandarin Schools

#### Hutong School

Learn Mandarin with Beijing's best Mandarin school, Hutong School. Our experienced teachers will customize your classes and help you learn in a fun environment.

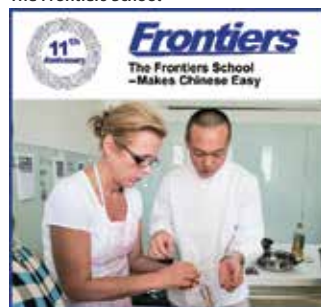
> Room 1501, 15/F, Zhongyu Plaza, A6 Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北路甲6号中宇大厦1501室

#### Gloria Chinese School

Focusing on teaching Chinese, making sure your improvements, organizing task-based, practical activities and providing 180-day student visa.

> R202 East Building, No.78 Maizidian Street, Chaoyang 朝阳区麦子店街78号一幢二单元202室 (6500 8201, WeChat:1381 186 4656, www.gloriachinese.com)

#### The Frontiers School



Join the friendly and professional team at Frontiers, who've been teaching Mandarin for 11 years.

> 3/F, Bldg 30, Dongzhongjie, Dongzhimenwai, Dongcheng 东城区东直门外东中街30号3层 (6413 1547, www.frontiers.com.cn, frontiers@frontiers.com.cn)

#### The Bridge School

北京桥汉语言学校  
> The Bridge School Head office, Room 503, 5/F, Guangming Hotel, 42 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区亮马桥路42号光明饭店5层503室 (2153 2179 3321 Gretchin)

### International Schools

#### 3e International 北京3e国际学校

> 9-1 Jianguo Xilu Chaoyang 朝阳区将台西路9-1号(四德公园旁) (6437 3344, www.3eik.com)

#### Canadian International School of Beijing

北京加拿大国际学校  
Located in the Third Embassy Quarter of downtown Beijing, the Canadian International School of Beijing (CISB) opened its

doors in September 2006. This world-class facility offers an internationally recognized Canadian & IB PYP, IB MYP and IB DP education. The Canadian International School of Beijing develops the whole child in an environmentally sensitive school within a kind, caring community to become a citizen of the world.

> 38 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区亮马桥路38号 (6465 7788, www.cisb.com.cn)

#### Springboard International Bilingual

School 君诚国际双语学校  
Springboard International Bilingual School is a place where children, staff and parents work in partnership to enable all their students to realize their full potential. They are offering a stimulating and full international curriculum as well as an exciting after school program, which will include Kung Fu, calligraphy, health and fitness and football.

> 15 Gucheng Duan, Huosha Lu, Houshayu Town, Shunyi 顺义区后沙峪镇火沙路古城段15号 (8049 2450; www.sibs.com.cn, office@sibs.com.cn)

#### The British School of Beijing 北京英国学校

The British School of Beijing, established in 2003, has campuses in Shunyi (primary & secondary) and Sanlitun (primary). BSB offers an enhanced English National Curriculum to 1,500 expatriate students, aged 1 to 18, beginning with Early Years Foundation Stage, Primary, Secondary, IGCSE exams in Year 10 and 11 and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma programme in Year 12 and 13. Admission & Fees: RMB102,993-246,057. Contact our Admissions team to arrange a school tour.

> Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm, South Side, 9 An Hua Street, Shunyi 顺义区安华街9号南侧 (8047 3558, www.britishschool.org.cn, admissions@britishschool.org.cn)

#### Western Academy of Beijing

京西国际学校  
The Western Academy of Beijing (WAB) is a creative and innovative IB World School built upon a solid foundation of core values and our mission to Connect, Inspire, Challenge; Make a Difference. Our students exemplify these values through their awareness of the world around them, service to others, can-do spirit and commitment to excellence. WAB graduates are accepted into world-class colleges and universities across the globe.

> 10 Lai Guang Ying Dong Lu, Chao Yang 朝阳区莱广东路10号 (5986 5588)

#### Beijing City International School

北京乐成国际学校  
Located in Beijing's Central Business District, Beijing City International School (BCIS) lives by its motto: "Empowering and Inspiring through Challenge and Compassion." This non-profit, independent co-educational day school offers an international curriculum under the International Baccalaureate (IB) World School system and is authorized to teach all three IB programs (Primary Years, Middle Years, and Diploma Programme).

> 77 Baizhwan Nan'er Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区百子湾南路77号 (8771 7171, www.bciscn.com)

#### The International Montessori School of Beijing 北京蒙台梭利国际学校

Founded in 1990, MSB is Beijing's first fully registered international Montessori school. The school also boasts an unsurpassed dual Mandarin/English program geared towards helping students achieve fluency in either language from an early age. Curriculum aside, MSB boasts spacious classrooms, a high teacher-student ratio and impressive staff longevity. Tuition: RMB98,000 - RMB177,000/year.

> Bldg 8, 2A, Xianjiang Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区香江北路2号锦源楼 (6432 8228 ext. 800, www.msb.edu.cn, admissions@msb.edu.cn)

#### Beijing BISS International School

北京BISS国际学校  
> Building 17, Area 4, Anzhen Xili Chaoyang 朝阳区安西里4区17楼 (6443 3151 www.biss.com.cn)

#### Beijing World Youth Academy

北京世青国际学校  
Beijing World Youth Academy (BWYA) is an international school for students of all nationalities ages 6 to 18, offering programs on its campuses conveniently located in Wangjing and Lido. An IB World School since 2001, BWYA values holistic education and seeks to give students ample opportunity to develop as globally-aware critical thinkers. A wide variety of co-curricular activities are offered to further enrich student life. Graduates of BWYA have been accepted at prestigious universities around the world. Age range: 6-18. Tuition: RMB 100,000- 140,000/year.

> Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm. 18 Huajidi Beili, Wangjing,

Chaoyang Inside 94 Middle school 北京市朝阳区望京花家地北里18号 (6461 7787 ext. 32, 8454 3478/0649, admissions@ibwya.net, www.ibwya.net)

#### La Maison Montessori de Pekin

北京中法双语蒙氏儿童之家  
The first bilingual French-Chinese Montessori kindergarten in Beijing, it welcomes children between ages 2 to 6 years old. The kindergarten is located in a beautiful courtyard in the hutongs. Schedule: Monday to Friday: 8:30am to 3:30pm. After class activities also offered.

> 50 Dongsi Shisitiao, Dongcheng 东城区东四十四条50号 (131 2025 0341/ 8401 3974; lamaisonmontessori@gmail.com; www.lamaisonmontessoridepek.com)

#### Beijing Mandarin School

Established in 1998, Beijing Mandarin School is the city's top institute for teaching spoken and written Mandarin as a second language, more than 5,000 students from over 66 countries and more than 80 companies and embassies have successfully learned with us each year. Also recognized and recommended by BBC News as one of the most professional Chinese language school.

> E-tower School (Guomao Area): Room 904-905, 9/F E-tower Building E 数码世界904-905 (6508 1026/1126); Guangming Hotel School (Embassy Area): Room 0709, 7/F Guangming Hotel (near USA Embassy) 光明饭店7层0709室 美国大使馆附近 (84418391, info@beijingmandarinschool.com, www.beijingmandarinschool.com, Skype ID: beijing-mandarinschool1998)

### Kindergartens

#### House of Knowledge International Kindergarten (HOK)

House of Knowledge International Kindergarten (HOK) has locations in both Shunyi and Chaoyang. Both locations offer a Kindergarten program for children aged 10 months to 6 years (Pre-school). Students are treated as competent learners and the school emphasizes critical thinking and collaboration skills, in an environment where children "Learn to Learn". In addition, the Shunyi location also has an elementary school starting from grade 1 in September 2014.

> Quanfa Gardens Campus: North gate of Quanfa compound, 15 Maqanyuan, Chaoyang District 朝阳区马泉营15号泉发花园北门 (6431 8452, www.hokschools.com); Victoria Gardens Campus: 15 Chaoyang Gongyuan Xilu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区朝阳公园西路15号维多利亚花园公寓 (6538 2624, www.hokschools.com)

#### EtonKids International Kindergarten

伊顿国际幼儿园  
> LidoRoom C103 Lido Country Club, Lido Place Jichang Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区蒋各庄路路福都广场 (6436 7368 www.etonkids.com); 3/F, Block D Global Trade Mansion Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区光华路世贸国际公寓D座3层 (6506 4805); Southwest corner of Beichen Xilu and Kehui Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区北惠西路与科荟路交汇处西南角 (8437 1006); Kehui Lu, Chaoyang, Beijing 朝阳区科荟路大屯里社区 (8480 5538); Bldg 19, Central Park, 6 Chaowai Dajie Chaoyang 朝阳区朝外大街6号新城国际19号楼 (6533 6995); Palm Springs International Apartments 8 Chaoyang Park Nanlu Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳公园南路8号棕榈泉国际公寓 (6539 8967); Bldg 21, Guangqu Jiayuan, Guangqumen-wai, Dongcheng 东城区广渠门外广渠家园21号楼 (6749 5008); Boxing International Phase 2, Wangjing Chaoyang 朝阳区望京宝星园国际社区2期 (8478 0578); Block 1, Arcadia Villas, Houshayu Shunyi 顺义区后沙峪罗环岛北侧天北路阿凯迪亚庄园1座 (8047 2983); 20A Xidawang Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区西大望路20号首府社区内 (5870 6779)

#### Beanstalk International Bilingual School

青苗国际双语学校  
> Kindergarten: 1/F, Tower B, 40 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区亮马桥路40号B座一层 (6466 9255); Primary School: Block 2, Upper East Side, 6 Dongshihuan Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东四环北路6号阳光上东二期 (5130 7951); Middle & High School: 38 Nan Shiliujie, Chaoyang 朝阳区南十里居38号 (8456 6019)

#### Ivy Schools 艾毅幼儿园

> www.ivyschools.com; East Lake Campus C-101, East Lake Villas, 35 Dongzhimenwai Main Street, Dongcheng 东城区东直门外大街35号东湖别墅C座101室 (8451 1380/1); Ivy Bilingual School 艾毅双语幼儿园 Ocean Express Campus: Building E, Ocean Express, 2 Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东三环北路2号远洋新干线E座 (8446 7286/7); Orchard Garden Campus: Orchard Garden, 18 Xinjin Lu, Guige Xiang, Chaoyang 朝阳区崔各乡新锦园18号卓锦万代 (8439 7080); Wangjing Campus: Kylin Zone, Bldg 11, Fuan Xilu, Wangjing, Chaoyang 朝阳区望京阜安西路11号楼合生麒麟社内 (5738 9166/1332 1101617); Rm106, warehouse4, 653 Waima Lu, Wangjia Matou Lu 外马路653号4库106室, 近王家码头路 (3376 8308)

# CLASSIFIEDS

## ACCOMMODATION

### Ascott Beijing

> No. 108B Jianguo Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 北京市朝阳区建国路乙108号 (6587 0888)

### 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, GD5 Code: AZ, Reservations Telephone: 400 820 1028 (China toll-free); (86-512) 6763 1021 Email: enquiry.china@the-ascott.com

### Beijing Kerry Residence

Whether you're a single business executive or a busy family, Beijing Kerry's fully-furnished 1, 2 and 3-bedroom apartments will feel just like home. As well as enjoying all the comforts of modern living – including a well-equipped kitchen, entertainment systems, high-speed broadband and much more – residents are just moments away from the Kerry Centre's shopping mall and sports facilities. The rest of the CBD is on your doorstep too.

> 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区光华路1号 (8535 6888, www.beijingkerryresidence.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 this large private house was the Grand General Sengge Rinchen, who lived here while he carried out top official duties, such as defense minister.

> Tel: (86 10) 6404 0436, Fax: (86 10) 6403 0418, Address: No. 22 Banchang Lane, Kuanjie, Dongcheng District 东城区宽街板厂胡同22号 www.the-silk-road.com, E-mail: webmaster@the-silk-road.com

### Lee Garden Service Apartments

A newly renovated high-end premier living residence in a central location next to the shopping and cultural sites of Beijing's Wangfujing, suites range from studios to 4-bedroom apartments (60-610sqm in size) and are tastefully furnished with specially selected materials.

> 18 Jinyu Hutong, Wangfujing, Dongcheng (100m East of Sun Dong An Plaza) 东城区王府井金鱼胡同18号 (新东安东侧100米); 24hr front desk: 6525 8855, Fax: 6525 8080, general.manager@lgapartment.com, www.lgapartment.com

### FraserResidence CBD East Beijing

Our location on the Fringe of the CBD with excellent connections to the subway line 1 (Sihui station), BRT Lines (Ciyunsi) and public bus system mean that wherever your intern needs to be in the city, getting there is relatively fuss free! One bedroom deluxe: RMB16,000 / month Two bedroom Executive: RMB26,000 / month Three bedroom Deluxe: RMB33,000 / month Email: sales.frbeijing@frasershospitality.com > Website: http://beijing-east.frasershospitality.com Tel: 010-58709188 / 400-881-6988

### FraserSuite CBD Beijing

The ultimate luxury in apartment living, Fraser Suites CBD Beijing epitomizes style and comfort, that surpasses the service level of many Beijing hotels. The 357 Gold-Standard Beijing apartment features contemporary concepts designed for luxury living.

> 12 Jintong Xilu Chaoyang District Beijing Tel: 5908 6000

### GTC RESIDENCE BEIJING

One of the top residences in Beijing, GTC Residence is located beside the third ring road with 5 minutes' walk to subway line 5, 10 minutes' drive to Hou Hai. It is also within easily reach of CBD, embassy area, Financial Street and other urban commercial, shopping and recreation areas. Fully equipped apartments with impeccable quality offer you a cozy living system and will meet all of your requirements for room decoration, furniture, electric appliances etc..

Unique sky garden with golf practice field and barbecue area is another symbol of GTC Residence.

> sales@gtrcresidence.com, website: www.gtrcresidence.com Tel: 56756666

### Marriott Executive Apartments

Ideally located in the center of Wangfujing area where the prestigious business, commercial, entertainment, and shopping center of Beijing. The Imperial Mansion, Beijing – Marriott Executive Apartments reflects an exceptional level of luxury.

> Gate, No. 1 Xiagongfu Street, Dongcheng District Tel: 6564 9999

### The Millennium Residences of the Beijing Fortune Plaza

The Millennium Residences of the Beijing Fortune Plaza is located in the heart of the Beijing CBD which bears the most momentously potential of development and value elevation. While 25 minutes away from the Beijing International Airport, the Millennium Residences is walking distance from nearly all Embassies.

> 7 Dongsanhuan Zhonglu Chaoyang District. Tel: 8588 2888

### Oak Chateau Beijing

Oak Chateau Beijing has 236 stylish and contemporary fully serviced apartments from studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom, three-bedroom and four bedroom suites available, measuring 64 to 260 square meters. There is a 24-hours guest reception, and housekeeping is offered twice a week.

Nestled within the landscaped gardens of the Ocean Express commercial and residential complex, Oak Chateau Beijing is very close to the third Embassy Area and shopping and dining services at the Beijing Lufthansa Centre. There are only 19 kilometers to the Beijing Capital Airport.

> 北京市朝阳区东三环霞光里66号远洋新干线D座 邮编 100027 Block D, Ocean Express, 66 Xiaguang Li, Third East Ring Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100027, P.R.C Tel: (86-10) 84465888 Fax: (86-10) 84465999 Email oak.chateau@oakchateau.com Website: www.oakchateau.com

### Oakwood Residence Beijing

Oakwood Residence Beijing offers 406 fully equipped luxury apartments ranging from studios to four bedroom penthouse and terrace apartments, all exquisitely furnished in elegant and stylish decor. Each apartment is fitted with a state-of-the-art air purification and air conditioning system which ensures 99.9% pure, triple filtered air, so you can trust in Oakwood and breathe easy.

> No. 8 Dongzhimenwai Xiejie, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100027, China reschaoyang@oakwoodasia.com Website: www.oakwoodasia.com/resbeijing Tel: 5995 2888 Fax: 5995 2999

### THE WESTIN EXECUTIVE RESIDENCES

The Westin Executive Residences at The Beijing Financial Street offer an array of

world-class cuisine options and Westin's signature amenities designed to elicit personal renewal. Just 40 minutes from the airport, the Westin Executive Residences provides direct access to Beijing's business, entertainment and shopping district and close proximity to cultural landmarks such as The Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square. Each apartment is also fitted with contemporary furnishings, fully equipped kitchens, state-of-the-art appliances, home entertainment system and LCD flat screen televisions.

> Email: reservation.beijing@westin.com Website: www.westin.com/beijingfinancial Tel: 6606 8866

## BUSINESS CENTER

### Regus Serviced Office 雷格斯服务式办公室

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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 北京市朝阳区光华路1号嘉里中心南楼10层

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### China World Tower 3

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15/F, China World Tower 3, No.1 Jianguomenwai Street, Chaoyang District 北京市朝阳区建国门外大街1号国贸中心3座15层

### Lufthansa Centre

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9/F, Tower 2, China Central Place, No.79 Jianguo Road, Chaoyang District 北京市朝阳区建国路79号华贸中心2号楼9层

### Parkview Green

北京侨福芳草中心  
15/F, Office Building A Parkview, Green, No.9 Dongdaqiao Road, Chaoyang District 北京市朝阳区东大桥路8号芳草地办公楼A座15层

### China Life Tower

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5/F, China Life Tower, No.16 Chaoyangmenwai Street, Chaoyang District 北京市朝阳区朝阳门外大街16号中国人寿大厦5层

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北京中国人寿大厦-西  
West, 5/F, China Life Tower, No.16 Chaoyangmenwai Street, Chaoyang District 北京市朝阳区朝阳门外大街16号中国人寿大厦5层西区

### IFC

北京财源国际中心  
10/F, IFC East Tower, No.8 Jianguomenwai Street, Chaoyang District 北京市朝阳区建国门外大街甲8号财源国际中心东座10层

### Prosper Center

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6/F, Tower 2, Prosper Center, No.5 Guang Hua Road, Chaoyang District 北京市朝阳区光华路5号世纪财富中心2号楼6层

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That's Beijing

# Horoscopes

Finally, a horoscope that understands your life in Beijing.

by Noelle Mateer



**Aries**

3.21-4.20

You've always been charming, but this month, you're on fire. Use your deadly smile to get out of a rough situation, like haggling with rickshaw drivers, or being propositioned at Maggie's. Don't travel north during the Tomb-Sweeping Festival.



**Taurus**

4.21-5.21

It's time to get in shape. So next time you walk by gym reps passing out fliers and shouting "fitness club!" try listening to them. Or just run away really, really fast - that's exercise too. Avoid Gongti on Fridays. (That part isn't your horoscope, it's just generally good advice.)



**Gemini**

5.22-6.21

Gemini, you will be plagued by a wandering mind this month. By all means, dare to dream - but don't let that dreaming interfere with your ability to navigate Sanlitun intersections safely. Eat egg-and-chive *jiaozi* on the 3rd.



**Cancer**

6.22-7.22

You're the life of the party this April. Consider hosting a barbecue (*chuan'r-becue?*), but choosing Snow over Yanjing will lead to misfortune. Roasting *mantou* on the 15th of the month will bring good luck.



**Leo**

7.23-8.23

You may find yourself at a crossroads - hesitate before choosing your path forward. The right choice could lead to happiness (dumplings); the wrong choice could lead to despair (no dumplings).



**Virgo**

8.24-9.23

You'll receive good news on the 21st - if your VPN is working, that is. Try turning it off and on again. Is the Hong Kong server not working? Try Bangkok. No? Singapore? It is inauspicious to use the American servers.



**Libra**

9.24-10.23

A series of seemingly unconnected events will converge in surprising ways. But if it's polluted outside, you'll never be able to work out how. Go for a ride on a Mobike on April 12 and you will be rewarded. DO NOT USE OFO.



**Scorpio**

10.24-11.22

Breaking social norms will earn you plenty of stares, but if you do, that guy/girl you like will fall instantly in love with you. Only joking - don't be weird. Go for a ride on an Ofo bike on April 12 and you will be rewarded. DO NOT USE MOBIKE.



**Sagittarius**

11.23-12.21

Leadership is your strong point this month - so get out the megaphone and a little flag on a stick, and guide a tour group through the Summer Palace. Tap your toes three times for good luck before entering public toilets.



**Capricorn**

12.22-1.20

Do your thing this month. Just not too much of your thing - we don't want you getting kicked out of Wudaokou open bars again. Don't take Subway Line 14 on Mondays.



**Aquarius**

1.21-2.19

The stars have shifted into your celestial house of intellect, whatever that means - you know we're just making these up, right? Consider tackling an intellectual hurdle. (The biggest intellectual hurdle of all is learning Chinese.)



**Pisces**

2.20-3.20

It is a month of love and romance for Pisces - keep your eyes open, and you will meet an alluring stranger in Guomao. Do not make eye contact in hutong bathrooms.

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