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3-6/7-11/12-14 year old

July 3rd - 7th 2017
July 10th - 14th 2017
July 17th - 21th 2017
July 24th - 28th 2017

Fee: 2350 RMB week (Includes lunch and snacks)

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Deadline for applications: Monday 5th June 2017
A Great Undertaking  Becoming Global Citizens
Objectives: Prepare students to be confident, multi-lingual, empathetic, and entrepreneurial global citizens

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Website: www.cisgz.com
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China is often cited as a land of juxtapositions, and nowhere is that more apparent than within its urban villages. Shadowed by the high-rises that define the modern skylines of Shenzhen and Guangzhou, urban villages cling to a more traditional way of life, where children play together in narrow lanes, mahjong games spill onto the street and front doors are left open.

Though not particularly aesthetic, these neighborhoods are the heart and soul of a city – a place where fresh graduates, entrepreneurs and working-class migrants can afford to rent a home.

As local governments look to modernize their cities, however, urban villages face an imminent threat of being demolished to make room for grander, more luxurious versions of home. How much time do these villages have and what will happen to their residents when they are destroyed? Find out on p40.

In City, we’re showcasing the top 14 photographs from our first-ever That’s PRD smartphone photo competition held last month. Voted by you, our readers, as the best images in a variety of genres, these photos capture everything from Zhujiang New Town at dusk to the Yao ethnic minority group in northern Guangdong. See the full collection on p12.

Elsewhere in the magazine, we explore the oddities of Shenzhen’s zoo (p21), introduce the best acts in this year’s highly anticipated Festival Croisements (p34) and consult Jamie on the quandary of dishonest acts (p52).

It’s an entertaining issue, and one that will hopefully keep you company this month whether you’re exploring a new coffee shop, on a long flight home or sprawled out in front of the AC.

Stay cool, PRD!

Jocelyn Richards
Editor-in-Chief

Exciting times are upon us with the launch of the That’s AR app. Standing 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 leaping off the page and coming to life. Want to give it a go? Simply scan the relevant QR code on right, download the That’s AR app, and use it to scan the last page of this issue’s cover story (p49).
Family Medicine 金科/家庭医学
Dr. Jack Chen, China
Dr. David Tel, American Family Physician, USA
Dr. Kai Wan, China
Dr. Ryan Ran, China

Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine 骨科和运动医学
Dr. Terence Chan, Orthopedist, Hong Kong
Dr. Edward Southern, Pediatric & General Orthopedist, USA
Edward Lai, Physiotherapist, Hong Kong
Kyle Gallagher, Athletic Trainer, USA

Dental Care 牙科
Dr. Cheopeng Sum, Singapore
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WORLDWIDE'S FIRST W FASHION WEEK
05/08 - 05/12
The first worldwide W Fashion Week Season 2 is where fashion brands and up-and-coming designers are proud to showcase their unexpected collections. It is held from May 8th to 12th 2017. At this year, the theme of the W Fashion Week will be futuristic and sometimes bizarre high-fashion looks to envision a future of metallic artificial hair and dresses that dispense actual cocktails, accordion-like protective headgear and outfits that would fit right in on an alien runway.

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For expat parents living in China, finding an educational institution that accommodates both their offspring’s unique talents and interests, and their own parental expectations, can be difficult.

While admittedly Guangzhou offers no shortage of high-quality schools and training centers, the newly opened Affiliated Foreign Language School of South China Normal University sets itself apart with its commitment to second – and even third – language acquisition and a technology-driven syllabus.

The global nature of the institution’s International Education Programme is undeniable, with elements modeled after some of the world’s leading educational bodies, including MIT’s computer science program, Stanford University’s approach to character growth, the Cambridge English curriculum, Harvard University’s makerspace, nature schooling elements from Denmark and a Guangzhou-based approach to mathematics and Mandarin.

The school’s language program is designed to ensure all students are at a level of Mandarin Chinese comparable to those pupils in the government-run school system. During children’s primary years in the school they are exposed to a prospectus that is comprised of 50 percent English and 50 percent Chinese.

Once students graduate from the primary level, they will move to the IEP middle school, which offers optional classes in French, Spanish and Korean, among other languages. The Affiliated Foreign Language School of SCNU extends its internationalized language teaching beyond the confines of the classroom with established partnerships with IEP campuses in the UK, Spain and Germany, where students can study and visit.

To accommodate such an ambitious language division, the school has assembled an international roster of specialized, field-focused faculty, with teachers hailing from the United States, Canada, the UK, Australia, Russia and South Korea, among other countries.

Dynamic and multifaceted, The Affiliated Foreign Language School of SCNU’s focus on computer technology starts in the first grade and plays an evolving part in the students’ education until the ninth grade.

The tech training starts basic, according to school administrators, and progresses to the point where students should have a grasp on HTML, Java and other web-coding languages, and be able to design their own websites and apps.

According to the head of IEP primary Jakub Peciak, school faculty strive to give students “the skills to be successful in the 21st century.”

In their quest to create technology-competent young adults, The Affiliated Foreign Language School of SCNU uses a range of tools, including cutting-edge computers and programs, and even 3D printers.

Over the course of their stay at the school, students will be expected to undertake a number of unique projects utilizing tech – from computer-assisted design to building full-on prototypes.

Although many parents may be unfamiliar with much of the new tech introduced to their children, school faculty run weekend seminars aimed at giving parents an introduction to what their children are learning and providing them with the support they need at home.

2 Kexue Dadao, Science City, Huangpu District, Guangzhou 广州市科学城科学大道2号
电话 020-32051995
www.scnufl.com
iep@scnufl.com

For more information please scan the International Education Programme QR code:
Free Fallin’
BASE jumpers take on Shenzhen, p10

Behind the Concrete
P10

Chinese Urban Dictionary
P11
Have you ever looked at those rows of seamlessly aligned shared bikes and wondered who – or what – is responsible for such precision? Well, inquisitive reader, this month we have your answer: some random guy.

It’s kind of a letdown, we know. We had expected teams of slick night crawlers trained to get those bikes into formation faster than Beyoncé. But alas, it’s just a man. On a street. Who happens to sound a bit like a Chinese Schwarzenegger.

“I have no time for talk,” he barks when we first meet, sweat dripping from his furrowed brow and onto overworked, meaty biceps.

It’s 3pm on a sweltering Friday afternoon and the mission is clear: move 50 Mobikes from the back of a truck onto a strip of pavement outside of Taojin Metro Station. The catch? Schwarzenegger’s sidekick has parked their truck illegally and, to our man-on-the-street’s great distress, directly under a traffic camera. The pressure is wearing on him, but he manages to ask where we’re from in-between frenzied trips to his truck.

“Ha, America,” he growls, displeased. “If you took me to America right now I wouldn’t even have time to look around!”

Clearly. We tell him we’ll follow up later on WeChat. And before you ask, yes – we did do some shameless Moments snooping (as only the best investigative journalists do) – and discovered that our protagonist, ‘Gufeng,’ enjoys playing with Chinese bamboo rats in his spare time. So there you go.

The sub-contractor Gufeng works for is hired by a number of different bike-share companies, but he personally only hauls Mobikes and Ofoos around the city and between various storage facilities.

He’s tried out every model of every shared bike in Guangdong, and seems partial to the “little yellow ones,” though he claims they “all have advantages.”

A typical day starts at 9am and ends at 5pm, though he might be back out at 8pm if there’s still work to be done, and occasionally finishes the job early, by 3pm.

Gufeng has only taken one day off this year, to “pay respects to his ancestors on Qingming Jie,” at his home in Conghua.

It’s a physically trying career but pays surprisingly well: approximately RMB10,000 a month. Gufeng claims that’s because “the dangers associated with driving are great.”

Are there any other frustrations associated with the job?

“I’m happy every day,” Gufeng insists. He considers the recent explosion of shared bikes and growing competition a positive thing that “motivates” him and is “an inevitable step towards improvement in any industry.” Touché.

His only complaint?

“Because Mobikes have solid-core tires, the shock absorption isn’t great. Also on the older versions you can’t adjust the seat, which could injure taller people.”

Our thoughts exactly, Gufeng, our thoughts exactly.

The Dirty Details

Monthly salary: RMB10,000 and up
Days per week: 7
Hours per day: 8-10

Man on the Street is a monthly feature where we talk to someone doing an everyday job, in order to get an insight into the lives of normal Chinese people.
RANDOM NUMBER

392

... is the number of meters three BASE jumpers plunged when they leapt off a rooftop crane in Shenzhen this past March. The video, which was allegedly filmed by a 16-year-old Australian based in Hong Kong, accumulated more than 9,000 views on YouTube within just two days. Scan here to watch the jump.

3.2

... is the number of feet the South China Sea or Pearl River would need to rise to destroy the entire city of Guangzhou. Canton has more to lose from climate change than any other city on the planet, according to a recent article in the New York Times that cites a World Bank report. Shenzhen is ranked 10th on the same list, which measures risk as a percentage of gross domestic product.

CITY SNAPSHOT

Street-Side Seamstress

“I love walking through Guangzhou with my camera to capture the rawness of its streets and its people,” says Milka Leuterio (@streetsnatch on Instagram). “In this photo, an older Chinese woman is working alongside the street repairing and altering clothes. Her shop is a narrow ‘under-stair space’ hardly large enough for her to turn around in, and her sewing machine occupies a place on the sidewalk.”

BEHIND THE CONCRETE

Jinlun Guild Hall

Real estate companies in China have long been known to copy architectural styles from the West, but one skill they don’t often get credit for is their ability to move completed structures, brick by brick, from one location to another – sometimes just a few meters away.

Ever since a 400-square-meter house in Huizhou, Anhui province was relocated to Salem, Massachusetts in 1997, China has been the world’s expert in transporting established buildings.

A CNN article published this past March also named Guangzhou’s Jinlun Guild Hall among China’s most famous repositioned structures. It ranks second place in the history of grab-and-go construction, apparently, for being moved a distance of 80 meters.

Originally located on what is now Kangwang Nan Lu in Liwan District by Shangxiajiu Pedestrian Street, Jinlun Guild Hall was built in 1723 to resemble a typical Cantonese ancestral shrine. Crafted with brick and wood, it features a pottery ridge crest on the roof similar to that of Chen Clan Ancestral Hall.

The only remaining guild hall in Guangzhou today, Jinlun was originally an assembly place for an esteemed silk weaving guild in Guangzhou. In 2001, when construction to widen Kangwang Lu began, the hall was moved northwest approximately 80.4 meters and elevated 1.85 meters. The entire process took about three years, and was completed in August of 2004.

289 Kangwang Nan Lu, Liwan District, Guangzhou
广州市荔湾区康王南路289号
“Where are you from?” is often the first thing we ask when trying to learn more about someone. However, for some folks, it is the only question needed to work you out.


Literally meaning ‘map cannon,’ ditupao is the act of attacking individuals or groups purely based on where they are from. It’s the figurative act of shooting a map with a cannon and indiscriminately ‘killing’ all in any given region.

In a vast country like China, you can’t blame people for assuming homogeneity among those who grew up in the same place. If you are from Henan, you may expect different social norms than someone from Guangdong. If you are from Dongbei, you may have a higher tolerance for guanxi than someone from Shanghai.

But as various parts of the country – and the world – become more integrated, stereotyping becomes increasingly problematic. The province Henan suffers so much from ditupao that its workers are routinely discriminated against by employers due to their ‘reputation’ for dishonesty.

Another thing about ditupao is this: cannons can be fired at any point on any map, no matter the size and no matter how zoomed in or out – it is. For example, you can aim your cannon at a part of the country (Shanghai? Stingy and calculating!), zoom in and aim at a district of Shanghai (Pudong? Tuhao!), and then zoom way out and aim at half the earth (you’re from the southern hemisphere? Lazy!).

A common joke goes: “I hate two kinds of people: those who fire ditupao and those who are from Anhui.” We may all be tempted to simplify things by saying “I’ll never deal with those from Henan again,” but humans are best not reduced to dots on a map. Mia Li
Our first That’s smartphone photography contest drew hundreds of competitive submissions that captured everything from rolling green hills in Inner Mongolia to ethnic minority groups in northern Guangdong. The 14 photos featured here were voted by you, our readers, as the best images in a variety of genres. A special thanks to Huawei for equipping our top winners with P10 smartphones and to everyone who joined in our first photo contest!

**Winners of the 2017 That’s PRD Smartphone Photography Contest**

**Su Zhenjie**  
China travel  
First-place winner

**Sandy Bergeron**  
People  
Second-place winner
John Eas
Architecture
Finalist

Mio Hu
Architecture
Finalist

Sorasak Bunrod
Architecture
Finalist
Max Bradshaw
Local travel
Finalist

Grace Guan
China travel
Finalist

Eric Mehlbrech
China travel
Finalist
Sue Francis
People
Honorable mention

Dominique Lila
People
Finalist

Christian Saavedra
People
Finalist

Have awesome photos to share? Connect with us on Instagram (@thatsprd) by tagging #thatsprd for a chance to be featured on our feed and in the City Snapshot column of our magazine.
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Affiliated with

Hong Kong Association
Stranger Things
The bizarre extravaganza that is Shenzhen Fashion Week, p22

GTFO of China
P20

Panda-monium
P21
If you are fascinated by the trend of minimalism, then a neat and artsy living space is what you’ll ultimately strive to be maintain. To succeed, however, a certain amount of daily attention is crucial – i.e. picking up clothes off the floor – as is making a consistent effort to cultivate your taste. In other words, you’ll need to bridge the gap between what you envision for your interior and what your room actually looks like, which is typically much harder than it sounds.

Enter Timing Home: a cafe, home decor shop, reading area, art gallery, meeting hall and, above all, ‘living space experience.’ Owned by Guangzhou-based real estate company Times Property, Timing Home strives to sell an ‘idea’ of home. Sound implausible? Not if you are considering purchasing an abode where you plan to spend the rest of your life. Design is key, and Timing Home hopes to spark the imagination.

Once in the shop, customers are greeted by a bleached-white display stuffed with random items like tableware, furniture, a microwave and even a typewriter. It’s a kind of glorified, avant-garde Ikea, and the spacious cafe also serves as a venue for salons, art exhibitions, academic forums and business meetings, among other events.

Wander off to the reading area, and you might delight in flicking through books on home decor and design recommended by experts in a variety of fields. There’s also a section featuring model homes, where you can peer into elaborate, well-arranged and detail-oriented floorplans that make the most of the limited area granted to most Chinese apartments.

Two model homes are exhibited, one 95 square meters and the other 115, both comfortably compact. U-shaped kitchens echo the economical design, with just enough room for most two-door fridges in the market. The 95-square-meter space manages to squeeze in three bedrooms, a living room, two washrooms, a kitchen and a balcony.

“We utilize every centimeter of the space,” explains Luo Ying, manager of Timing Home. “All of our apartments face south, which guarantees plenty of sunshine and good ventilation.”

If you’re in the market for neat trinkets, check out the small collection of items that start from RMB20. A portion of the profits will allegedly go to a charity foundation run by Times Property to help the underprivileged.

6/F, Grandview Mall, 228 Tianhe Lu, Tianhe District, Guangzhou

WWW.THATSMAGS.COM | MAY 2017 | GZ | 19
Huawei P10

This month we were able to get our hands on Huawei’s newest flagship mobile: the highly anticipated P10.

With previous experience using the Huawei P9, our editors quickly adapted to the new model, which keeps all the best qualities of its predecessor (like the frontal dual Leica camera) while committing to some welcome tweaks.

Among the most notable updates is the repositioned fingerprint reader or home button. It’s been moved to the front of the phone, following leading models by Apple and Samsung.

Want a more detailed prediction? Scroll down to see exactly when Hopper estimates prices will fluctuate and on what date they will begin to rise indefinitely before your departure.

Prefer to avoid a layover? Filter your search so you’ll only receive notifications about nonstop flights.

Need to get out of China as soon as possible? Check out Hopper Inc.’s sister app: GTFO.

‘Get the Flight Out’ is perfect for impulse travelers – or outlaws – who need to leave town in a hurry. GTFO monitors airfares for last-minute deals on round-trips departing today and tomorrow, just enter your current city and see where you can escape to (remembering, of course, that you probably won’t have enough time to get a visa).

Flights are updated every second, so if you don’t see a cool deal in the morning, there’s still a chance you could GTFO by dinnertime.

Hopper is available on iOS and Android devices.

GTFO is available on iOS devices only – note it’s not the same ‘GTFO’ app on Google Play that lets you “get the F#$& out of conversations,” though that’s also pretty cool.
They were a media sensation. Though small, and identically dappled, the arrival of the black-and-white pigs at Shenzhen Safari Park was covered by CCTV, the Shenzhen Television Station and Hong Kong’s South China Morning Post. Why? Their DNA has been adjusted, rendering them pet-sized for life.

A short jaunt in Shenzhen Safari Park – which we can safely call a ‘zoo’ – leads to a concrete paddock, where the pigs are asleep in all their genetically modified glory. Though not snatching headlines with their tiny, cloned snouts, the 300-or-so other species kept at the zoo are just as interesting. From oryxes to alligators, the zoo offers views of 10,000 beasts and birds – many in open-air enclosures – throughout a 2-million-square-meter complex located in northern Shenzhen.

Established in 1993, wide concrete boulevards lead from ‘Ape Village’ to ‘Penguin Island,’ necessitating comfortable shoes for a day of walking.

The undeniable stars of the show are located in the western area, where pandas Yuan Zhou and Jiao Qing reside. The 6-year-old bachelors live in an open-air enclosure, and during our visit one poses atop a rock, before flopping off to the squeals of a gaggle of smartphone-wielding patrons.

Like most animals in the park, the pandas look clean and happy, though a show of bear cubs on bikes is something we wish our RMB240 tickets hadn’t gone towards.

If you have high hopes of spotting a particular fauna, call ahead: on our trip, parts of the park were closed off, perhaps explaining a lack of crowds during the weekday afternoon visit.

Like the pigs, a golden-plumed bird resembling a certain head of state has also been a draw for the zoo. Sadly, as it remained in its coop, all we saw of the golden pheasant was a large statue in its likeness in front of the park’s gates.

Those looking for some action can attend the nine shows, which are held most days. From the ‘Tiger Jumping Show’ to Mongolian-themed horse stunts and, oddly, an evening motorcycle and car stunt show, all are included in the ticket price.

The Shenzhen Safari Park is worth a visit for anyone interested in seeing animals that most don’t realize are even in Shenzhen – just be prepared to walk for about four hours through the sprawling complex. SG

How to get there:
High-speed trains go from Guangzhou East to Shenzhen. From there, ride the Shenzhen Metro Line 7 to the Xili Lake stop.
IN OR OUTRÉ?
Our Surreal Experience at Shenzhen Fashion Week 2017

Early this spring, fashionistas were out in force in Shenzhen, primping, posing and wearing everything from cloak to costume in Shenzhen Fashion Week’s more than 70 shows. Our Shenzhen-based digital editor Bailey Hu was on the ground to witness the surreal spectacle, which she recounts below.

“Don’t step on the white carpet!” a suited staff member snaps.
It’s our first fashion week event, and we’re learning that the scene isn’t as effortlessly glamorous as the promo photos show. For one, the ‘catwalk’ is a carpet stretching the length of the room.
A cell phone ringtone overhead startles before we realize it’s part of the soundtrack, a prelude to a bland pop-rock tune on a five-minute loop.
Audience members file in, filling up the general seating and two rows of VIP seats on
either side of the carpet. Some wear pointy-toed heels and artfully-ripped jeans, but almost all the cameramen and some VIPs are wearing plain t-shirts.

Our observations end when the lights dim and the show starts.

The models shamble out one by one, their mouths all bound or gagged. Each holds a smartphone, pretending to be so preoccupied that she ‘accidentally’ bumps into the next model. At the end of the catwalk, instead of striking a pose, the models fake taking a selfie or checking their texts.

Near the end of the show, they line up to face both sides of the room and photograph the people photographing them, poking fun at the rehearsed, silly nature of Fashion Week itself.

Outside, we ask to take a picture of an off-duty model. She sashays towards us as if she were on a catwalk, gesturing and smiling at an imaginary audience. She’s in a parking lot.

Nearby, a group of chic, chubby-cheeked kids pose for a photo in front of a Shenzhen Fashion Week sign. Despite identical t-shirts reading ‘Little Swan Kids Model Club,’ they look unhappy, or maybe they’re just practicing their pouts.

Leaving the heat behind, we enter an air-conditioned venue to see a fur-themed show. Loud bass thumps in the background and the expressionless models have whitened eyebrows.

There’s something hypnotizing about the colorful tufts of fur on their coats, dresses and shoes. Under muted electric lights the material has a soft, almost metallic sheen. Highlights ripple through the fur as the models make figure eights around two pillars.

Afterwards, we spot a man in a shiny green blazer and fedora with matching hatband walk away from the venue. He was giving orders to the models earlier – he might even be the designer.

Shenzhen Fashion Week teases with the chance of witnessing something groundbreaking or rubbing shoulders with the could-be famous.

We think about going after the fedora-hatted man to ask some questions, but we’re out of time. Instead, we hail a cab and prepare to return to the real world.
Kanye’s iconic sneaker collection, Adidas Yeezy, has inspired a new generation of athletic, thick-soled kicks. Want to get the look without lining Mr. West’s pockets? Here are some alternatives.

Compiled by Victor Liu
FOR HIM

ADIDAS ORIGINALS
Grey Tubular Nova PK High-Top Sneakers
RMB 894
www.global.adidas.com/ originals

Y-3
Black Kyojo Low Sneakers
RMB 2,410
www.y-3.com

REEBOK CLASSICS
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www.neighborhood.jp

FOR HER

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RMB 757
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Y-3
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RMB1,205
www.y-3.com

ADIDAS BY STELLA MCCARTNEY
Grey Tubular Nova PK High-Top Sneakers
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www.global.adidas.com/ originals
STARRY STA
How One Man Shot for the Stars.
Since the age of 20, Yunnan native Yu Dongrui has immersed himself in the world of photography and stargazing, traveling around China and beyond to capture dramatic images of constellations, night skies and breathtaking natural landscapes in places like Nepal, Myanmar, India and Switzerland.

The world-renowned photographer is also the recipient 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, the 25-year-old shares the beginning of his ‘star-studded’ journey, and his hope for building a dark sky reserve in Yunnan.
“I was still in high school; a bunch of friends and I were hanging out in this villa on a mountain,” says Yu, recalling that 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, among which was 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?”

And he did just that a few years later. The self-described zhainan (宅男, a socially awkward and introverted young man) purchased his very first camera, and traded in his favorite videogames for a new hobby – traveling and photographing shiny stars and night skies along the way.

Coming up with the concept for his 2016 project, ‘Finding Yunnan’s Lost Stars,’ for the WildChina Explorer Grant was a very natural and easy process. “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,” Yu explains.

The biggest challenge that he faced while pursuing this project was both physical and psychological. Yu sums it all up in one sentence: “I was sleep deprived the whole time.” For almost an entire month, the photographer stayed up all night to shoot but had a hard time sleeping during the day. He credits his strong willpower as the sole reason for being able to complete the journey.

Enduring extreme weather conditions out in the wild for hours or even days to capture the best frames is part of the daily lives of professional landscape photographers like Yu. On this trip around Yunnan, however, he 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 people to promote astronomy) in Yunnan for generations to come. “At the moment, we’re still in the early stages of communicating with the local government and lobbying for their 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 one day.”
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Festival Croisements
Franco-Chinese artistic collaborations you won’t want to miss, p34
HIGH TONE
French Dub Masters Take Up a Residency in China
By Erica Martin

High Tone has stood out since their founding in 1997 thanks to their hypnotic brand of bass-pounding dub performed live with a full band. They’re also known for fruitful collaborations with musicians from around the world, including an acclaimed project with Sichuan-born musician Wang Lei back in 2005 called Wangtone. This month, High Tone returns to China for a week-long residency in Chengdu, where they’ll collaborate with a group of local musicians before embarking on a China tour. We caught up with the band before they set off.

“Dub music is part of an important underground culture linked by reggae, and we love this.”

Could you clarify the difference between High Tone and your other project, Dub Invaders?
High Tone is our band; we play on stage with visuals and lights, a sound engineer, bass and drums, a keyboard, a DJ, a guitar and a sampler. It’s our first formation from 1997. Dub Invaders is the same people, but we play on a sound system, not onstage, and each musician has his own tracks with a different set-up. It’s not a band, but a collective.

Tell us about your upcoming residency in Chengdu. How will these collaborations play into your next album?
We are going to Chengdu to meet Chinese traditional musicians to integrate their music into our next album. We have contacts in China for finding some people who are interested in working with us. We hope that good ideas will emerge from this meeting.

What can we expect for your concerts in Shanghai and Guangzhou?
We expect that people will be here at the show like the last time and ready to dance! We will be with our special guest, [reggae performer] Shanti D from France, and maybe one guest from China, but we don’t know just yet.

Sat May 20, 9pm; RMB80 presale, RMB100 at the door. SD Livehouse, Hua Cheng Wang Shi Art Zone, Bldg. No. 7, 132 Gongye Dadao Bei, Haizhu District, Guangzhou 广州市海珠区工业大道北132号花城往事创意园7号楼 (WeChat: SDLivehouse)

High Tone is seen as a major player in the French dub scene. How do you think French dub music has changed and evolved since you formed the band in 1997?
The French dub scene began mainly in the late 1990s, with the idea to perform “live on stage with real instruments” as opposed to in the studio. Now, the new generation continues to do this, but mostly with computers and rack effects. Panda Dub, however, is one new dub artist who plays live on stage [like we do].

Tell us a bit about your Dub Sound System tour of China last year. What were some of your most memorable moments?
We did three gigs in China in May 2016: Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou. They were all in little clubs over five days; very intense! We had good vibrations with the audience. People were really attentive and curious about our sound. All three gigs were crazy!

Though dub originated in Jamaica along with its predecessor, reggae, musicians form dub bands all over the world. Why do you think dub speaks to so many people from different cultures?
= Dub music has existed for a long time – since 1970 – and it’s continued evolving each year. It’s timeless and universal, and it has never been so alive. Dub music is part of an important underground culture linked by reggae, and we love this.
**SINO CELEB**

**Stephen Chow**

Born in Hong Kong in 1962, Stephen Chow is one of China’s most notable and versatile film directors and actors. He is especially known for inserting himself into the lead role in his films. While Western audiences may be more familiar with Jackie Chan, Chow Yun Fat and Jet Li, Stephen Chow’s star eclipses them all in Hong Kong and many Asian countries.

Chow was raised by his grandparents in a government-sponsored housing project, but by the time the 90s rolled around, he had secured a string of television roles and was set to act in a series of films that would anoint him as a bankable star on the mainland. Comedies including the parodies *All for Winner* and *From Beijing With Love* coupled with the crime film *Final Justice* made him a runaway success in Asia.

It was not until 2001’s *Shaolin Soccer*, directed by and starring Chow himself, that he became known to Western audiences. 2004’s *Kung Fu Hustle*, where Chow again pulled double duties acting and directing, was also a crossover hit and solidified Chow’s status in the pantheon of Chinese male stars.

*Kung Fu Hustle* is still the 11th-highest-grossing foreign film of all time at the Hollywood box office. Not content to rest on his laurels, Chow directed and produced the 2016 blockbuster film, *The Mermaid*, which became the highest-grossing film of all time in China.

**Kind of like:** Martin Scorsese if he wrote himself into all his scripts  
**Famous for:** being the Charlie Chaplin of Asia  
**See him next in:** the upcoming sequel to *The Mermaid*

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**HAO BU HAO**

**Hao**

The reasonably friendly trade talks between Trump and Xi Jinping last month may have an unexpected benefit for China-based film buffs. Several think tank analysts have reported that it’s likely China will increase its quota on imported films in 2017-18. The quota has been officially set at 34 films since 2012, and last year 38 foreign films entered the market, several of which were part of a cultural exchange and therefore didn’t count toward the quota. China is already the world’s biggest movie market after North America, so an increased two-way film exchange would seem to benefit everyone.

**Bu Hao**

Chinese film network giant Alibaba Pictures Group reported several weeks ago that they sustained a staggering USD141 million loss in profit during 2016. APG released homegrown films like *Soul Mate* and *Ferry Man*, and helmed the China releases of Hollywood films like *Star Trek Beyond*, but their net losses were still nearly double that of the previous year. New APG chairman and CEO Yu Yongfu, who took over the role this past December, says he plans to focus on Internet content to close the gap in 2017.
One of the best new albums to come out of Shanghai in 2017 so far is Grim, the debut release by math rock duo Foster Parents. The songs aren’t actually grim at all; they’re nimble and technically impressive with an undertone of nostalgia, but not the kind that takes itself too seriously. Listening will make you feel like a kid eating a peanut butter sandwich and wondering about the complexities of life. Find it at fosterparents.bandcamp.com

LeTV is now streaming the first season of American Crime Story, a true crime serial by the creators of American Horror Story that’s been garnering rave reviews. Season One explores the infamous OJ Simpson case. The star-studded cast includes Cuba Gooding Jr. as OJ; John Travolta and Nathan Lane as lawyers for the defense; and Sarah Paulson as lead prosecutor Marsha Clark. Streamable at tv.le.com/us

Published for the first time in English this May, Notes of a Crocodile is a seminal novel by Qiu Miaojin, a Chinese cult icon who is revered in her native Taiwan thanks to her writing on queer culture and relationships. A postmodern mix of diary entries, vignettes and satirical stories, Notes of a Crocodile won the China Times Literature Award when it was first published in 1995, and has been translated from Chinese by Bonnie Huie. Find it on amazon.com for Kindle.
A CULTURAL FEAST
8 Acts to See in this Year’s Festival Croisements
By Jocelyn Richards

Now in its 12th year, the Festival Croisements is bigger and better than ever, with 216 Franco-Chinese artistic collaborations slated to debut this spring in 30 cities across China. From May 6 to July 9, the Pearl River Delta and surrounding cities will play host to visiting dance and theater troupes, cutting-edge musicians, film festivals, award-winning exhibitions and more. Here are the hottest acts you won’t want to miss.

**Maï Lucas** Visual Arts
A French photographer who captures the look of youth on streets the world over, Maï Lucas previously worked as an assistant of visionary British photographer Nick Knight before branching off to pursue her own style. Prior to this exhibition, she undertook a several-week-long residency in China to meet and photograph young Chinese people and familiarize herself with their lifestyle.

May 13-31, Wandun Warehouse, Zintang Loft, Zintang Creative Park, 7 Xian Lu, Shawan Town, Panyu District, Guangzhou

**High Tension** Visual Arts
Reuniting eight winners of the Marcel Duchamp Prize – the highest award for young French creators – this exhibition demonstrates the vitality and diversity of the French contemporary art scene. Each artist is strongly committed to their approach to today’s world, taking a sensitive and sometimes critical approach to new developments in the circulation of information, technology, modernization and more.

Jun 4-Jul 23, 10am-6pm; RMB10. Times Museum, Times Rose Garden, Huangbian Bei Lu, Baiyun Dadao, Baiyun District, Guangzhou

**Seeds** Dance
Described as a kind of ‘visual poetry,’ Seeds, created by Californian-born choreographer Carolyn Carlson, is a joyful ode to Mother Earth and a call for environmental awareness. The dance, which shifts between reality and imagination through dazzling projected animations and vibrant choreography, is both a visual feat and provocative statement.

May 27, 8pm; RMB80-200. Studio Theater, Nanhai Culture and Sports Center, 62 Nantou Jie, Nanhai District, Shenzhen

**Music Day** Music Festival
On June 24 and 25, Shunde will host several groups new on the French music scene – Feloche and King Krab – as well as locally-based bands Cat Machine, Fat Space and Mysterain. If you can’t make it to Shunde for the live festival, you can catch this mix of French and Chinese talent on PPTV.com, which will be streaming the concerts live.

Jun 24-25, 7.30-10:30pm; free entry. Shunfeng Mountain Park, Nanguo Dong Lu, Shunde District, Foshan

**Heavy Fingers** Saxophone
Three guys rocking out on the sax? Yes please. Comprised of Jacques Ponthus, Arno Jourdy and Manuel Fillat, this trio has become a reference in the French saxophone scene since the group was created in 1993. Their shows typically mix a bit of humor with jazz, classical, reggae, salsa and blues.

May 27, 8pm; Guancheng Cultural Weekend, Guancheng Cultural Square, 2 Xiangyang Lu, Guangzhou. May 28, 3-5pm. Mission Hills, 1 Gaofu Dadao, Longhua New District, Shenzhen. Jun 2-3, 8pm/10.30am; RMB80-280. Xinghai Concert Hall, 33 Qingbo Lu, Ersha Island, Yuexiu District, Guangzhou
14th Panorama of French Cinema Film Festival
This year’s film fest combines the best of contemporary French cinema and pays special tribute to the great Isabelle Huppert, with *Elle* by Paul Verhoeven, a double winner at the Golden Globes 2017, and *L’Avenir* by Mia Hansen Love, Silver Bear winner for Best Director at the Berlin International Film Festival 2016. Two celebrated animated films will also be showcased.

June. Imax Palace Cinema, IGC, 222 Xingming Lu, Zhujiang New Town, Tianhe District, Guangzhou

Poetry Dance
Don’t be fooled by the placidity of its name – *Poetry* is a duet for two dancers set to the electric guitar solo ‘Trash TV Trance.’ It’s an incredibly expressive hybrid work, woven with spectral harmonies and wild riffs. Dancers Maud Le Pladec and Julien Gallée-Ferré play with the repetitive essence of the sound while slipping in and out of it, marrying its endless metamorphosis.

Jun 4, 8pm; Price TBC. The Grand Theatre of Longgang Culture Center, Longgang District, Shenzhen

Great French Comedies Film Festival
Twelve classic French comedies will tour Shenzhen Broadway Cinemas this July, including the inestimable Louis de Funès (Don’t Look Now... We’re Being Shot At!), Jean-Paul Belmondo (That Man from Rio), Jacques Tati (The Big Day), Thierry Lhermitte (The French Minister, Little Indian, Big City) and Guillaume Gallienne (Me, Myself and Mum).

Jul 7-16. Shenzhen Broadway Cinemas, Coco Park, 269 Fuhua San Lu, Shenzhen
Every band has their own story, but if you tracked the progress of all the world’s best indie bands, some patterns might start to emerge. First comes the period of raw energy and potential, followed by the acclaimed breakout album, followed by a change in the band’s sound (usually by introducing electronic elements) and accusations of selling out. By their seventh, eighth or ninth album, the band either makes a high-profile comeback with a new fan base, or they fade into obscurity.

The 27-year story of German indie rockers The Notwist shares some of these tropes (a breakout album, a move from rock toward electronica), but thanks to a knack for reinvention and a virtuosic musicality, they’ve maintained a creative edge, solidifying their status as a perennial underground favorite.

Starting off in 1989 with a noise rock album that vocalist and guitarist Markus Acher tells us was influenced by “American post-hardcore bands like Moving Targets, Dinosaur Jr. and Pitchfork,” they went on to make a name for themselves by unrolling a dramatically new aesthetic with each passing album.

“We always try to keep a certain edge to everything we do, which doesn’t mean it has to sound distorted or loud,” says Acher. “It just has to have a certain element of confusion in every song. Something that doesn’t seem to fit at first.” This is an apt description of the not-quite-placeable appeal that carries through all of their music.

The Notwist’s most recent album, 2016’s Superheroes, Ghostvillains + Stuff, was recorded live, complete with crackly audial imperfections and audience cheers. Releasing a live album was a natural step for the band, as their concerts are a thrill to watch thanks to their earnest energy and impulsive experimentation onstage. The YouTube recording of their set at 2014’s Pitchfork Music Festival Paris provides a prime example.

Despite touring extensively throughout their career, this month will mark the group’s first tour in China.

“Endless Invention
By Erica Martin

“We always try to keep a certain edge to everything we do... an element of confusion in every song”
MUSIC AND MOVIE
The Tomorrow Festival
By Sky Thomas Gidge

Part concert, part lecture, part movie screening, the fourth Tomorrow Festival will rely on experimental music’s past to cast an avant-garde eye to the future. Beginning May 17, the five-day event will host some of the most experimental musicians Shenzhen has ever heard.

Known for constructing his own instruments – and at one point building a mechanical, touring orchestra – French artist Pierre Bastien’s original trumpeting and artful use of the nail violin will kick off the performance section of the fest, which will be hosted in B10 Live.

A day later, band Blurt’s tensile guitars and tribal drum patterns will be on show, as singer Ted Milton hums and growls into a microphone in between blowing “his sax to shreds.”

Oft cited as a severely underrated guitarist, Marc Ribot’s show on the 20th will explain why the Financial Times hailed his “blisterring form and stingy attack.”

Speaking on the same day, music expert Dr. Alan Cummings will look at why Japan saw an experimental music revolution in the 1960s and 1970s, when Japan’s top indie artists of today began developing.

Rounding out the festival will be a screening of Paris/Berlin: 20 Years of Underground Techno, which looks at the music genre’s evolution from Chicago’s underground scene to its flowering in the adoptive cities of Paris and Berlin.

Those interested should head down to the OCT-Loft’s Old Heaven Bookstore May 17, where tickets and prizes will be raffled off. Attendees will also get a firsthand look at how German-company Dada Machines turns household objects into musical instruments.

See B10live.cn for ticketing information. B10 Live, Bldg C2, North District, OCT-Loft, Wenchang Jie, Nanshan District, Shenzhen (0755-8633 7602)
To find success as a writer in any given field is a precious rarity; to find success in more than one is a feat of near mythic proportions. Australian writer Geraldine Brooks began her career as a journalist working as a correspondent for the Wall Street Journal where she spent six years reporting from conflict areas around Egypt, Eritrea, Iran, Israel, Jordan, and elsewhere. This led to her first book, a clear-eyed and compulsively readable piece of narrative journalism called Nine Parts of Desire, which profiles the Muslim women Brooks met while working abroad.

Such a strong debut might have pushed Brooks farther down a path toward journalism as a lifelong career, but she soon began writing fiction instead as “an experiment” because she had a young child and wanted to avoid the kind of writing job that required “long, open-ended, news-driven travel.”

The most difficult part of writing fiction, she discovered, was sustaining a narrative – something she’d already grappled with as a journalist writing Nine Parts of Desire.

“I struggled for months, learning how one sustains a long narrative, how to bring the reader along with me on an extended journey,” says Brooks about her first book. “Once I learned that lesson, the shift to fiction was rather easier.”

That experiment became her celebrated first novel, Year of Wonders, a chronicle of the Civil War and retelling of the classic novel Little Women from the perspective of March, the girls’ absent father. March won the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for Literature; though the Pulitzer is limited to Americans, Brooks gained dual citizenship just a few years prior to publishing the book.

Now at work on her next novel, Brooks will make her way to China for a series of book talks with Australian Writers Week. Her last visit to China was 11 years ago with her son, but she’s well-read in Chinese literature and is a fan of Mo Yan and Ha Jin.

As she prepares for the trip, she’s currently “reading and loving” Liu Cixin’s The Three-Body Problem, which has sparked her interest in Chinese sci-fi.

Perhaps because she was originally comfortable drawing on real life to form a narrative as a journalist, Brooks has focused on historical fiction as a novelist, choosing to reanimate characters from the past whose stories speak to her. It was likely her experiences as a journalist that helped convince her reality has enough narrative intrigue to fill an eternity’s worth of novels.

“The past is full of implausible stories – things that if you made them up out of whole cloth, no one would credit as true. And yet, they happened,” Brooks says. “These are the stories that seem to grab hold of my imagination.”

Geraldine Brooks: From Journalist to Novelist, May 16, 7pm. United Bookstore, 4/F, GTLand Winter Plaza, 85 Huacheng Dadao, Tianhe District, Guangzhou (020-3788 7572)
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OPENING 2017
URBAN VILLAGES UNDER ATTACK
RAZING MIGRANTS’ LAST REFUGE

By Bailey Hu
Additional reporting by Sky Thomas Gidge, Jocelyn Richards and Tristin Zhang
Drone photos by NK Chu and Daniel MH Chun
Imagine living in a maze of a neighborhood where buildings 10 stories tall crowd so closely together that their residents dwell in perpetual shade.

Your apartment window, set with steel bars, is little more than a meter away from the building next door; if it weren’t for the frosted glass, you’d be able to see directly into the room across the alley.

Going outside and looking up, you’d glimpse the sky only in the narrow strips between buildings. But it’s better to keep your head down anyway – in the summer, air conditioners hung outside windows have a habit of dripping on unwary pedestrians.

This is life in the chengzhongcun, literally ‘villages within the city.’ In the Pearl River Delta they stand as a symbol of the rapid, sometimes uneven, development that’s taken place over the last four decades.

The neighborhood described above is a relatively nice one; in less well-kept areas, buildings are shorter and even more closely spaced together.

In a place like Baishizhou Village in Shenzhen, clumps and tangles of wires crisscross overhead in alleys, sometimes drooping low enough to touch. In Xiancun, the last remaining ‘eyesore’ of Liede, Guangzhou, heaps of trash fill the narrow cracks between apartments, a breeding ground for rats.

But despite all that, urban villages are not the depressing slums they might resemble. After meals, you can catch housewives huddling around doorways, holding babies and chatting. In nearby, narrow lanes paved with concrete, children play. Square mahjong tables are a common sight in ground-floor living rooms that open onto the street. Besides the obvious, they’re useful for drinking tea or playing cards with neighbors.

Inside what looks like the most stifling of settings is a flourishing, lively community. But it rests on an unstable foundation.

For years now, urban villages have been targeted by redevelopment policies that don’t value the neighborhoods’ inherent strengths. The unique buildings and networks of alleys in today’s urban villages are at risk of being lost forever, and their vibrant communities of migrants forced to search for new shelter in the city.
The current crisis shows just how far urban villages have come in a short time. Only four decades ago, much of the area that’s now prime real estate was undeveloped, rural land. Villagers residing in small-town Bao’an County (renamed Shenzhen City in 1979) or what is now Guangzhou’s central business district couldn’t have imagined their collectively owned land might one day be so desirable that selling could guarantee a life of luxury.

The villagers’ current situation is due to a historical anomaly. In accordance with the national ‘reform and opening up’ policies that started in 1978, local governments bought land to prepare for urbanization. But the villagers were expensive to compensate and move. In the end, they were allowed to keep their property even as cities sprang up all around them.

Their land, still classified as ‘rural,’ fell outside city regulations on construction. Villagers were able to raise dozens of short, closely clustered apartment buildings and rent them out to migrants for a tidy profit. As affordable housing became increasingly harder to find, the ‘villages’ took on an important, even integral role in the city.

Now, well-off former villagers and their descendants have the freedom to live wherever they want. Some choose to stay in their ancestral homes, but it’s migrants who currently make up most of the urban villages’ population. They also stand to lose the most from their impending destruction.
Baishizhou

On a weekday afternoon, we come across a group chatting in the space between two low-lying row houses, remnants of late 50s construction. It turns out that all 10 – seven women and three men – are relatives who hail from Bazhong, Sichuan.

One member of the family came to Shenzhen a decade ago, and the others trickled in afterwards. Many of them took up residence in Tangtou, one of the five villages that make up the Baishizhou area.

The atmosphere is friendly, as if we’d stepped into a neighbor’s living room on a social visit.

Do they like living in an urban village? Would they prefer somewhere else?

The answers come in bits and pieces as multiple family members join in.

A gated xiaqu neighborhood would “definitely be more comfortable,” but the “low prices” of the urban villages still win out.

One of the women, 28, says her work situation is “not steady.” She considers her current home, which costs RMB1,000 a month, “expensive.”

It’s not easy living in Shenzhen, she tells us. A fellow migrant recently died on the job while working for a soldering company. It’s unclear whether his employer will compensate the family.

She knows this area of Baishizhou will be torn down, but not when. Her family has no set plan for that day; they’ll deal with it as it comes, she tells us. BH

Apartments start at: RMB500 (studio)

Hubei Village

A canopy hangs above Hubei Village’s street market, coloring the sunlight that lands on slabs of meat spread across wood tables. Vendors swat flies while calling out to passing friends in Hakka or the Chaozhou dialect – in Mandarin-speaking Shenzhen, this is an outpost of eastern Guangdong migrants.

“Some say ‘knock it down,’ others say ‘save cultural relics,’” says nine-year-resident Ding Jian Wei, 35. “This is a question for the government.”

But recently others have taken to answering: “save it.”

Founded in 1466, Hubei’s alleys are laid out in the traditional pattern of three-by-eight, causing preservationists, photographers and the general public to weigh in on the side of saving the area, or at least part of it.

The smell of garbage mixes with incense as 20-year-resident Chen Bao, 67, stands in his shop and explains how Hubei survived Shenzhen’s modernization.

“One member of the family came to Shenzhen a decade ago, and the others trickled in afterwards. Many of them took up residence in Tangtou, one of the five villages that make up the Baishizhou area.”

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Apartments start at: RMB500 (studio)
After more than a decade of planning and negotiations, in 2013 high-rise office buildings and apartment complexes were raised on what used to be the Western half of Gangxia Village.

The smaller, eastern part of Gangxia still stands, a tall ring of buildings surrounding a dense collage of low-lying roofs. Here, we find a few middle-aged men hanging out in front of a small liquor and smoke shop.

One of them is a Gangxia villager. The other two are migrants; one owns the dry goods store next door. The other, who hails from Fujian and has lived here for 20 years, points out his home across the street.

During the day, he tells us, he’s most often found sitting in front of the smoke shop. How does he like Gangxia?

“It’s okay here,” he tells us between puffs of a cigarette. The area is familiar to him, as are nearby shop owners and residents. He does business for a living, although he doesn’t specify what kind. He estimates East Gangxia will be torn down as well in around 20 years. But for now, he doesn’t seem particularly worried about the prospect: “If we want to leave, we’ll leave.”

Apartments start at: RMB1,100 (studio)
While they’re undoubtedly valuable, many urban villages are also packed with buildings Al calls “substandard.” Apartments may be cramped; some lack smoke alarms, let alone elevators.

The narrow alleyways that contribute to a neighborhood’s character can also restrict emergency vehicles from entering. And despite their bustling vitality, urban villages can be noisy, crowded and unsanitary to the people who live there.

They also have an unsavory history, at least according to some sources. The title of a Tencent News piece from last April, for instance, starts with: ‘Shenzhen Urban Villages’ Dark Past.’ It focuses on Xiasha Village’s reputation as a home for ernai, or ‘second wives,’ of Hong Kongers. In addition, the article brings up a notorious 2006 crackdown in which police rounded up 167 sex workers and their patrons from XIasha and two neighboring urban villages.

But according to architect Duan Peng, whose interest in Shenzhen’s urban villages started shortly after he arrived in 2001, the view of chengzhongcun as a breeding ground for illicit activities is outdated. 2007 marked a “turning point,” he says, when surveillance cameras installed in the villages within city limits brought down crime.

Still, it’s hard to deny that urban villages were erected for profit, not comfort. Notorious ‘handshake buildings’ are so close to one another that by leaning out of their respective windows, neighboring residents can shake hands.
It's not uncommon, according to a prior resident of Tangxia Village, Guangzhou – where some buildings are only 20 inches apart and not all windows are secured – to see someone climb into your kitchen from an adjacent patio on their way to a friend’s apartment (or while snooping around for cash).

The architectural crowding also blocks out sunlight, which in addition to creating a gloomy atmosphere forces some residents to dry their laundry on lines in the street.

**Xiancun**

A team of teqin, or special duty officers, enters the village when we do. They’ve been hired to keep order in Xiancun in the time before its demolition. When we enter, it’s not hard to see why.

Inside, the alleys are so narrow that sunlight cannot penetrate all the way to ground level, making it dark as night. Eighty percent of the buildings have been gutted, and most residents have already moved out.

The few remaining villagers have taken up the hobby of watching their homes be destroyed from a lookout point atop a pile of debris on the other side of a manmade pond.

One towering apartment complex has already been constructed where a portion of Xiancun used to lie, a 40-something migrant worker tells us. He won’t be given a room there, of course, since he merely rented in Xiancun and could never afford a new apartment in central Liede, but he understands why the village is being demolished.

“You have to admit, it’s ugly,” he says, squinting at men in red hardhats across the pond. “I know why they have to tear it down, but that just means I’ll have to find another place to live, like Shipai.”

Authorities have wanted to flatten Xiancun to make way for shiny new real estate ever since 2010, when Guangzhou hosted the Asian Games. Despite numerous attempts, however, an agreement on land development and compensation was never reached – until recently, that is.

While the population of Xiancun used to hover around 40,000, today it likely stands at a few hundred. Soon, its Lego-like four-story abodes will be swept away forever, replaced with shinier, more acceptable versions of home. **JR**

**Apartments start at:** RMB400-500/month (studio)
Despite their less-than-pristine appearance, urban villages often occupy desirable locations. Chengzhongcun like Shenzhen’s Gangxia or Guangzhou’s Xiancun are even in central districts where shiny new office buildings and skyscrapers provide a sharp contrast.

To the local government and developers, urban villages may seem like eyesores, to be wiped out and replaced by more impressive, cosmopolitan structures. Even parts of Shenzhen’s Hubei Village, with its rare 500 years of history, are scheduled to be torn down to make way for a giant shopping mall.

Redevelopment plans vary between villages. Sometimes, they’re delayed due to complex negotiations over villagers’ compensation or land ownership rights. But after plans for redevelopment have been made, they’re rarely brought to a complete halt.

In Guangzhou’s Liede Village, for every square meter of property they owned, villagers were promised an equivalent amount in the new luxury apartments to be constructed in the area. Even property that violated regulations (any building higher than four stories) was compensated, at RMB1,000 a square meter. In the end, all of Liede was demolished, including an 800-year-old ancestral hall.

In Shenzhen’s Dachong Village, 168 families agreed to a government payout of more than RMB100 million in exchange for their land. Those who refused to sell had their property taken anyway when the district government exercised its right of eminent domain. The migrants were evacuated from the area, and almost all buildings razed to the ground.

In Baishizhou, Shenzhen, redevelopment is underway. One section of the area has already been torn down, and businesses lining a main road are being pushed to leave.

Residents of some places, such as Shenzhen’s Dafen Oil Painting Village, will most likely escape this fate. Dafen is a rare success story among urban villages; not only does it support a prosperous arts industry, pumping out a large percentage of the world’s oil paintings, but over the years it’s also become a major tourist attraction.

According to Mary Ann O’Donnell, an artist and scholar whose work on urban villages began more than two decades ago, there are also other exceptions: sometimes, a village’s location simply isn’t valuable enough to attract the government’s attention.

There are signs that official opinion on urban villages may be shifting. Although they’ve been featured in previous exhibits, this year marks the first time that the Shenzhen and Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism/Architecture, a large-scale event open to the public, will focus on urban villages as its main topic.

But even if the biennale brings more awareness, there’s no relief in sight for villages already targeted by redevelopment plans, and the migrants who make homes and run businesses there. The price hike that follows demolition and reconstruction effectively forces many of them to look elsewhere for a place to live or work.

As urban villages are torn down, cities lose some of their most vibrant neighborhoods. At the same time, the rare places that can provide working-class migrants with refuge or the chance to pursue a better future will only become harder and harder to find.
Check out the 'handshake buildings' and lively public spaces of an urban village from a new perspective. To watch the video, follow the three easy steps below.

**A DRONE'S EYE VIEW OF XIASHA VILLAGE, SHENZHEN**

**IN 3 EASY STEPS...**

1. Scan the QR code and download the That's AR app
2. Use the That's AR app to scan the image above
3. Watch the photograph come to life
Dear Jamie
P52

Bluesox Baseball
P52

Night and Day
Two converse personalities talk life in the PRD, p51
One is a dark-haired, dirty-mouthed partier who "gets people fat" by working for Mazing app. The other is blonde, buff, healthy and gets people fit with the K2Fit program. Known respectively as 'Bad Kara' and 'Good Kara,' these two independent women are, indisputably, the definition of polar opposites. And yet both have effected positive change in the community, whether by hooking PRD expats up with workout plans, recommending the best bars in town or just giving us solid advice on life.

This month, we pulled Good Kara (Kara Wutzke) and Bad Kara (Kara Schroeder) aside to see just how different they are – at least when it comes to hangover snacks and celebrity crushes.

What's your ideal Saturday?

"Bad Kara" Schroeder (KS): Getting as much sleep as possible, having brunch with friends, taking a nap, then going out with friends for an event or party and seeing how crazy everyone gets.

"Good Kara" Wutzke (KW): I like my current Saturday routine! Sleep in – well, until 6.40am – coach Bootcamp at 7, then coffee with the K2Fitters afterwards. Brekkie at home with the fam, gym time in the arvo and then an early dinner at an outdoor seating venue, with a movie to end the night.

Motto you live by?

KS: "If you keep one foot in yesterday and one foot in tomorrow, you piss all over today." Don't piss on today,

KW: "Be healthy, be fit, be strong!"

Craziest thing most people don't know about you?

KS: People think I'm always out having fun but in reality, I can't even get a date!

KW: I love junk food. I just choose not to eat it very often.

You're hungover. What's for breakfast?

KS: Something greasy. Nachos are the best!

KW: I can't remember the last time I woke up with a hangover. But likely, I would've grabbed mac 'n' cheese.

That one must-have item you always bring traveling?

KS: A Bluetooth speaker. I can't function without music.

KW: Workout gear!

Definition of a solid workout?

KS: Solid? Does running around Guangzhou and Shenzhen in high heels count?

KW: Whatever you can do to get that heart rate up and challenge your body. If you consistently work hard at something, whether it’s weight-training, running or yoga, then you know you’re progressing.

Alcoholic drink of choice?

KS: Pisco sour. I mean, if I’m looking to get tipsy, I guess anything with alcohol works for me.

KW: Vodka soda with heaps of fresh lime.

If you could ‘get with’ one famous person who would it be?

KS: Clint Eastwood. He may be older than dirt now, but he’s still got it!

KW: Shakira. We meet up once a year.

Best part about living in South China?

KS: If I end up doing something crazy, no one is surprised anymore so no one cares. There’s so many wonderful people to meet and become friends with, and most people are supportive of one another.

KW: All the people I get to meet from all over the world, in all different industries, from all walks of life. I’m a coach with friends who are diplomats, lawyers, pilots, teachers, business owners, journalists, soccer players, the lot. It’s amazing!

What do you most admire about the other Kara?

KS: Good Kara is buff and I can send her to beat up my enemies! Just kidding! I really admire her for building such a fantastic program to motivate people to be healthy. She’s also very, very caring and kind and even though she’s ‘good,’ I’ve caught her being bad a couple of times, which makes her even more likeable!

KW: Bad Kara isn’t that bad. She’s extremely kind and full of life which makes you want to be around her.

She’s always smiling, laughing and spreading that gift to others. She goes out of her way to help people and has the best first name ever.

Globes painted to look like baseballs shed light on a red diamond on the floor. A giant wooden carving of a bat protrudes from the reception desk. There are shelves stacked with equipment and three astroturfed practice spaces.

This is the headquarters of Shenzhen’s premier baseball group, the fittingly-named Bluesox.

Outside the ‘academy,’ about 100 adults play regularly in the group, forming multiple teams that participate in outdoor, in-city tournaments.

Bluesox also has social events like dinners and group trips, with organizer Tim Cui calling it more of a lifestyle than purely a sports group.

Cui, who started playing baseball in the first grade in Shenzhen, lived in the US for eight years before returning to Asia and making baseball, and the brick-and-mortar academy, his full-time job.

Although Shenzhen’s baseball scene is small, Cui is determined to change that. Bluesox offers classes for adults and children (taught in English with Chinese translation).

“We just need to show them the sport and they love it,” he says of newcomers.

Monthly membership for adults, including access to weekly events, costs RMB300-500. For more information, visit www.blsxsport.com or add them on WeChat: bluesoxsports.

Dear Jamie,

I have an ayi who has come to clean weekly for about a year. Recently, something perturbing has been happening. She cleans while we are away and each time I come home the shower is wet, and it contains long, black hairs and the shampoo bottles are noticeably lighter. It is obvious she is taking advantage of our home amenities.

That being said, she is an excellent housekeeper. She is also cheap and reliable. I have no idea how to approach the situation without making our dear ayi lose face.

Help us Jamie-wan-Kenobi, you are our only hope.

-Pilfered in Guangzhou

Dear Pilfered,

Your problem has a brand-name solution: Nair. The favored hair remover of ornery teenagers, plop a bottle of Nair down in the shower and wait for the wayward housekeeper to do the deed herself – though you’ll still end up with black hair in your drain. After this balding episode, she might stop showering entirely!

Don’t feel like possible jail time? Then fire her. Honestly, her face level is the least of your concerns. You’re paying her to clean and she is singing rub-a-dub from the laowai’s tub. That’s not only disrespectful, it’s borderline theft.

-Jamie

Got a problem? Just, sort of, ball it up, into a tight black thing and bury it deep, deep inside where it festers unacknowledged until you explode in a blaze of rage and regret. Or ask Jamie at jamieinchina@outlook.com!

The Consul General of the Republic of Poland is celebrating the 226th anniversary of its May 3rd Constitution Day this month, a watershed moment in Polish-Lithuanian history that brought positive reforms to the Commonwealth and promoted political equality.

On June 6, the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in China welcomes the 2017 Sino French Business Forum from 2-8pm at Sofitel Guangzhou Sunrich. An important platform for exchange between French and Chinese companies, the forum will feature table discussions on topics such as the environment, energy, architecture and design, high-tech, agribusiness, nuclear energy and more. French and Chinese cultures will also be showcased through a fine selection of French wine, accompanied by traditional Chinese dishes.

Celebrating the Past, Forging New Ties

International Chitter-Chatter
TAKE FIVE
Dr. Bernadette P. Carmody

Director of the American International School of Guangzhou Dr. Carmody is dedicated to creating a stimulating environment for students that positively impacts the community at large. This month, she shares the school’s greatest development in 35 years and describes what she likes most about South China.

This year marks AISG’s 35th anniversary. What’s been the greatest change since then?

I think our Innovation Initiative, launched this year, is the single biggest example of change within the school to date. Our students are developing the skills needed to thrive in a rapidly-changing, digital environment. Whether it is building a prosthetic hand for a child with a disability, competing in robotics championships around the world or designing and printing 3D plant cells, the Innovation Initiative is providing our students with a phenomenal platform for creativity and real-world learning!

Any other exciting developments?

Our theater is due to open on May 23 so I’d say that’s another new and very exciting opportunity for our Visual and Performing Arts programs as well!

Every school has a unique identity or personality. How would you describe that of AISG?

I believe the heart of AISG is reflected in our refreshed mission statement: nurturing future-ready individuals to aspire, achieve, and contribute. We challenge students to strive for academic rigor, provide them with opportunities to discover their potential and passions, and encourage them to give back to their community.

How much does an ‘American’ mindset play into that identity?

We are an internationally-minded school guided by American values and principles. We also understand the importance of being happy. Positive social interactions between adults and students, and amongst students themselves, promote better learning and better behavior.

What do you like most about living in Guangzhou?

There is an amazing synergy between the old and the new in South China that is fascinating. Within a short walk from our apartment, my husband and I can be wandering through a wet market or searching out siu mai from a street-side vendor. One of our favorite things to do is to take our visitors on cruises along the Pearl River. Standing on the deck of the boat delighting in a traditional tea ceremony with the neon skyline of Zhujiang New Town in the background provides a magnificent juxtaposition.
In a world and age where billions of people have taken both their personal and professional lives online, one needs to be conscious and mindful of one's digital footprint. What, you may ask, is a digital footprint?

A Facebook post or an Instagram photo, a comment on a friend’s blog, a video you uploaded on YouTube just because it was funny, a Skype call, a Snapchat that was recaptured on a phone camera, a tweet you had to make – all of these leave an eternal trail that can be seen, searched or tracked, as well as stolen or shared many times over. In a nutshell, almost anything and everything on the Internet leads to the creation of a digital identity, known as your digital footprint.

Whether it’s passive (data uploaded without the owner’s knowledge) or active (self-created and uploaded by the owner) is not relevant. The crux of the matter is that almost anyone with access to the Internet has an online presence. This impacts your reputation and how you are perceived as a person and/or professional, with everyone from teachers to potential employers often judging you and your lifestyle via your ‘online resume’ – i.e. your chosen social media platforms.

Understanding privacy policies of sites, untagging yourself where and when necessary, avoiding the sharing of personal issues and photos, thinking twice before you tweet, and asking for permission first if others are in the post, is key to ensuring your digital footprint remains positive.

As technology continues to evolve, use this modern-day enabler fittingly, as it can offer you a wealth of opportunities with no side effects as long as you act and engage responsibly, and clean up as you go along.

Remember, you are eternally what you post...

Imagine this: you’re a 16-year-old with a zest for psychedelic tunes and graffiti. You make a one-minute video of you spray painting a mailbox, complete with sick tracks in the background, and upload it to your YouTube channel. You get loads of hits, and your mates at school think you’re so cool. Groovy stuff.

Your mother is so appalled by this video, however, that she posts an innocent question to an online psychologist on Facebook asking whether or not her teenager needs therapy. Said shrink replies within a few hours, but not after tweeting about it first. After all, that’s how he gets followers.

Fast forward 20 years, and your now 36-year-old self is in the running to work at the UN in the field of child protection. As expected, background checks are conducted, and soon, old video footage taken from street cameras emerges, depicting a young man running away as a police car whizzes past, cans of spray paint in hand...
FORGET THE SHEEP
4 Tips for a Better Night’s Sleep
By Selena Wood

How many hours do you get a night? If it’s less than seven, you may be at risk for a range of health problems, from obesity and heart disease to impaired immune function or even depression. Adults between the ages of 18 and 64 need seven to nine hours a night according to the National Sleep Foundation, but most people operate on five to six.

If you’re trying to get more rest but have trouble falling asleep, the following tips might help you secure some much-needed shut-eye.

Keep a Sleep Diary
Track your sleeping habits by writing down the time you go to bed and when you wake up. Note whether you took naps, how soundly you slept and how you felt upon waking. Knowing your sleep habits will help you better communicate insomnia problems to a doctor and gain new insights into your sleep patterns.

Try Listening to Soothing Podcasts
Did you know there’s a podcast specifically designed to help you fall asleep? ‘Sleep with Me’ features bedtime stories that get progressively more boring until you can’t focus any longer. It sounds amusing, yes, but many people swear by it. Listening to Icelandic music – the lyrics of which are incomprehensible to most – is also a tried-and-true method.

Eliminate Noise and Light
Guangzhou was recently named the noisiest city in the world. If construction or garbage men are keeping you awake at night, invest in a pair of ear plugs. Be sure also that your room is cool and dark. Buy curtains designed to block out the sun – it’ll help you stay asleep longer in the morning.

Keep Your Devices in Another Room
Unless you’re listening to a soothing podcast or music, consider keeping all of your devices (laptop, tablet, phone) in another room to help train your body that beds are reserved solely for sleeping. It sounds simple, but can be the difference between tossing and turning all night long and drifting peacefully into dream.
That’s PRD Smartphone Photography Contest Awards Ceremony
(Supported by An URBANATOMY Event ‡ë¹ and urbanfamily )

After months of planning, the That’s PRD Smartphone Photography Contest successfully came to pass with an awards ceremony at Sky Hall on Party Pier on the evening of April 7. The occasion saw photos by the winners of the contest exhibited at the hall, DJ Tangen playing electrifying beats, as well as delicious treats sponsored by Zapatas and Feel More Bagels and an array of drinks by Vikings, Goose Island, Pearl River Beer, Fuji Water. The evening also saw two winners take home a Huawei P10 smartphone, sponsored, of course, by Huawei.

AmCham Spring Ball
(Supported by ‡ë¹ and urbanfamily )

Themed ‘Musical Fantasy,’ the AmCham Spring Ball gala kicked off with a cocktail reception in the lobby of LN Garden Hotel, Guangzhou, where guests experienced the charm of renowned theater worldwide. The song ‘On the Street Where You Live’ served as the prelude of the performances in the Grand Ballroom. While the whole party brimmed with musical shows, bunches of roses were presented to all female guests. Renowned Broadway star Brad Little’s rendition of The Phantom of the Opera main score was a highlight of the event.

European Chamber of Commerce Annual Gala
(Supported by ‡ë¹)

The European Chamber held its sixth annual gala dinner themed ‘Fashion through Time’ on April 8 at the LN Garden Hotel, Guangzhou. Throughout the evening, numerous performances and interactive programs invited attendees to explore the evolution of fashion over time. Guests were greeted by an engaging cocktail reception followed by a set dinner. A catwalk featured fashionable wears from various decades, while the ‘Best Dressed’ award encouraged guests to get on stage and flaunt their smart attire.
British Chamber of Commerce Holds 6th Women in Business Forum
(Supported by that’s and urbanfamily)

Organized by The British Chamber of Commerce Guangdong and supported by the Culture and Education Section of the British Consulate-General, this year’s Women in Business Forum was held to great success on March 31 at Marriott Hotel Nanshan, Shenzhen. With a healthy mix of nationalities and industries, more than 250 guests convened to share their experiences working in different fields. Five industry forerunners shared stories about overturning traditional concepts to achieve their dreams. Generous sponsors ranged from local English media to health care providers and the Marriott Shenzhen Nanshan.

2017 Easter Community Event
(Supported by that’s and urbanfamily)

Easter Sunday saw an ‘eggs-ellent’ family-friendly party with attendance from 150 guests. A nonprofit event, the gathering saw children partake in arts and crafts, bubble football, drone flying, tai chi lessons and more. Numerous vendors also attended, displaying their products at the Abnet Market. Everyone enjoyed a buffet, with free-flow German beer and wine. Food and drinks sold at the market included French homemade pate, grocery items and essential oils, cosmetics, T-shirts and more.

HealthTech AmCham HK Delegation Visits HarMoniCare in Shenzhen

On March 29, an AmCham Hong Kong delegation, including Chairwoman Tara Joseph, visited Shenzhen HarMoniCare Women and Children’s Hospital. They were warmly welcomed by Chen Wei, the vice president of HarMoniCare Medical Group, and other leaders from the hospital, who discussed the current medical situation and strategic cooperation in the near future. More than 30 chief representatives from Walgreens Boots Alliance, MetLife Limited and Aon Hong Kong Limited were present.
As part of the Innovation Initiative, AISG’s tech coach, Jenelle Kresak, and middle school science and math teacher Tami Cutter helped students to combine their knowledge of science, technology, art and math to create 3D replica printed cells. The process they followed to that used by doctors to test techniques for surgeries.

On March 28, LN Garden Hotel, Guangzhou catered for Oppen’s client appreciation party at the Baiyun Gymnasium. More than 900 guests enjoyed the five-course dinner. In total, 200 local and international chefs and over 300 service staff cooperated to make this grand occasion possible.

Together, all Hilton hotels in Guangzhou held a special ‘Chocoholic’-themed afternoon tea event on April 12. Participating hotels included Hilton Guangzhou Tianhe, Hilton Guangzhou Baiyun, Hilton Foshan, DoubleTree by Hilton Guangzhou and DoubleTree by Hilton Guangzhou Science City.

The British School of Guangzhou’s production of Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber of Fleet Street last month was a resounding success. Students performed the popular musical thriller to a packed theater over three nights.

Wines of Argentina, an organization promoting Argentine wines globally, launched the seventh edition of World Malbec Day. With the slogan ‘Malbec, the heart of Argentina,’ the event took place in cities around the world and at Four Seasons Hotel Guangzhou on April 21. As Argentina’s ‘Flagship grape,’ Malbec integrates the DNA of the country and occupies 35 percent of all hectares planted in Argentina. It has given a vigorous character to the vitiviniculture of the country over the last 20 years.
This month
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See the Lithuanian ballet live in Guangzhou
p72

A monthly insert in May 2017
WHAT'S ON IN MAY 2017

SUN MAY 7
LA TRAVIATA BY ARTEMIS DANZA
GUANGZHOU OPERA HOUSE

THU-SUN
MAY 18-21
THE 7TH GUANGZHOU ART TRADE FAIR
CANTON FAIR COMPLEX

SUN MAY 21
PRISCILLA AHN
XINGHAI CONCERT HALL

SUN ONGOING
SUNDAY BRUNCH AT OPEN
OPEN, DOUBLETREE BY HILTON
GUANGZHOU
MON-FRI MAY 8-12
W FASHION WEEK
W GUANGZHOU
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SAT MAY 20
HIGH TONE
SD LIVE HOUSE
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TUE MAY 30
JOYCE JONATHAN
CENTRAL STATION
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FRI MAY 19
OLIVER HELDEN
G5 LE NEST
P73

THU JUN 1
RYTHMO! BY SAMAJAM
GUANGZHOU OPERA HOUSE
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SAT-SUN JUN 3-4
SWORD OF WISDOM BY U
THEATRE
GUANGZHOU OPERA HOUSE
P72

ALL WEEK ONGOING
CATCH THE FLAVOR OF THE SEASON
CATCH, FOUR SEASONS HOTEL
GUANGZHOU
P75

WE HAVE AN
AWESOME
APP COVERING CHINA'S
BIGGEST CITIES
AND IT'S
FREE

GO ON, DOWNLOAD IT.
EAT & DRINK

Tapas with a View
Party Pier’s newest arrival, p69

Hey Tea
P66

The One
P71
Behold, the giant tiger prawn! From mighty mandible to prepossessing posterior, 300 million years of evolution have made this crustacean uniquely fit to dart through the not-so-deep waters of the world. They’re also great with coconut curry.

Ingredients:

For the prawn
Ginger and garlic paste
Lemon juice
Turmeric powder

For the coconut curry
100ml coconut oil
150ml coconut milk
1 red onion, sliced
2 tomatoes, diced
1 yellow bell pepper, diced
1 green bell pepper, diced
2 tbps ginger paste
2 tbps garlic paste
1 tbps lemon juice
10 pieces fresh curry leaf
10g dry red chili
5g mustard seed
2 tbps turmeric powder
2 tbps cumin powder
2 tbps Kashmir chili powder

Method:

Preparing the prawn
1. Leave head and tail, but remove outer shell.
2. Marinate with all ingredients for at least 10 minutes.

Cooking the curry
1. Heat the cooking pan and add coconut oil. Wait until there is faint smoke then gently add the curry leaves, mustard seeds and dry red chili.
2. Once the mustard seeds start to crackle, add the sliced onion. Fry until golden brown, then add the ginger and garlic paste.
3. Mix all of the dry spices with water to create a smooth paste.
4. Add the paste into the onion mixture in the pan. Saute gently until the spices release an aroma.
5. Add diced tomatoes and pepper and saute.
6. Add the prawn into the pan, adding a little water as required and saute gently so that it absorbs the spices.
7. Add the coconut milk into the curry and simmer until the prawn is cooked to a golden color.

This recipe is courtesy of Chef Paul Rajdeep of the St. Regis Shenzhen, 5016 Shennan Dong Lu, Luohu District, Shenzhen 深圳市罗湖区深南东路5016号 (0755-8308 8888)
THE SCANDALOUS SCOOP

We’re digging:

Cocina – a tapas club with a view on Party Pier; those coconut vendors in parks that accept WeChat payments; the new brunch menu at McCawley’s with health-conscious options; how The Locksmith in Foshan grows its own herbs and garnishes on its roof (p68); the tasty new menus at Social&Co and Somewhere Else; YouTube and iQiyi sensation ‘The Food Ranger’ – a Canadian who tries eclectic Chinese street food in amusing half-hour episodes.

We’re done with:

Coca Cola’s new ginger soda (do they know it’s a cold remedy in China?); waiting two hours in line for a cup of Hey Tea (read all about our experience on p66); the sad reality that is a patio-less Xingsheng Lu in the springtime.

CREMIA ICE CREAM

KFC may not seem like a place Chinese foodies would rave about, but that’s exactly what happened last August when Cremia ice cream cones appeared at KFCs for a limited time in six Chinese cities. They returned to Shenzhen late last December, and the frozen treat is still available at select stores.

What’s so special about Cremia? According to the official website, it’s the product of a Japanese company’s quest to make ‘high class’ soft serve. They used high-fat milk and cream, then paired the result with a fancy cone.

After sampling, we can confirm that Cremia tastes very different from soft serves we’ve tried before. There’s no artificial flavoring, just the taste of pure, whole dairy.

It’s like drinking condensed milk from the can (not that we would know from experience), only less cloyingly sweet.

But the best part is the cone. The buttery cookie is delicate but not brittle, rich but not overpowering. It’s a perfect complement to the ice cream. Or anything. If we could, we’d order a stack of cones to take home.

At RMB25 a pop, Cremia is roughly five times the price of regular KFC soft serve. But it’s still cheaper than, say, Haagen-Dazs, so why not try this ‘high class’ treat while you still can?

WE TRIED IT

Cremia Ice Cream

COCKTAIL

The Paloma

Unlike the main liquor involved, the origin of this month’s cocktail is unclear. One story holds that in hot and humid Tequila, Mexico, a bartender known for mixing drinks with a large knife invented the paloma, or ‘the dove.’

Wherever the drink came from, the destination is the same. The paloma is now one of Mexico’s favored vehicles for Tequila. Cool, refreshing and easy enough to whip up on a languid summer’s day, this Central American drink will get you through the PRD’s hottest months.

Ingredients

60ml 100-percent agave blanco tequila
30ml fresh pink grapefruit juice
15ml lime juice
7.5ml agave syrup
Grapefruit soda

Method

1. Shake all ingredients with ice then strain into a highball glass filled with ice.
2. Top with grapefruit soda.

This recipe is provided by our friends at Shenzhen’s Providence Cocktail, 2/F, Paradiso Apartments, 82 Furong Lu, Futian District 福田区福荣路82号金域蓝湾2楼 (186 6538 3106)
Growing up, we were told not to play with our food. As adults, we learn that letting people play with their food is actually a very profitable business plan – if you do it right, that is.

At Gong Qiong, a minimalist concrete facade located beside Sun in Sky at Party Pier, dishes are meant to be interactive, arriving flaming, steaming or buried six inches in edible soil.

In this four-story establishment, nothing is as it seems: those four mushrooms on your plate? Yeah, those are really steamed baozi pressed with cocoa powder. That solid ball of ice smoking on a platter? It's actually a hollow shell containing fresh sauteed bamboo stalks. Even a simple shrimp dish becomes a kind of entertainment at Gong Qiong, as pink crustaceans are poured over hot coals right in front of your table.

On Friday nights and weekends, the place tends to get busy but doesn't take reservations ahead, so come early (around 5.30pm) and hold down a table until your friends arrive. You won't regret the wait.

**Price:** RMB200/person with drinks

Section B, Warehouse 5, levels 1-3, Party Pier, Yuejiang Lu, Haizhu District 海珠区阅江西路珠江琶醍啤酒创意园B区仓51-3层, 卉穹概念中国菜 (8944 7055)
Gong Cha is officially dead. The popular milk cap tea shop known for its addictive – if not nauseating – cream-topped brews has, at long last, been assailed by the explosive popularity of Hey Tea.

To say Hey Tea has a cult following might be an understatement. In the last few months, it’s gone from a small street-side shop in Jiangmen, Guangdong to a sought-after nationwide sensation.

The most confounding thing about Xi Cha (喜茶), as it’s known in Mandarin, however, is how long people are willing to queue for it: nearly two hours, in most cases.

But is Hey Tea really that good or are people just trying to look cool by posting photos with its ultra-slim cup?

We decided to find out.

To attempt to understand the mindset of a typical Hey Tea enthusiast, we ventured deep into classic chou doufu-consuming mallrat territory: China Plaza in Guangzhou. There, on the sixth floor, lies a celestial Mecca of Hey Tea.

On our way up a series of winding escalators, we spot droves of others who have made the pilgrimage: three boys in school track suits posing giddily with their prize; a dazed woman clutching an assorted six-pack to her heart; a couple silently slurping the remains of their two-hour wait.

It’s approximately 3.23pm when we step into the line that snakes around the front of the shop and down a long corridor of the mall. Hey Tea personnel shuffle about offering cups of water on trays, ostensibly to avoid a lawsuit. Passersby enjoy asking how long we’ve been waiting and then shaking their heads incredulously at our response.

Though the line is long, the entire process has been streamlined to a T, such that by the time we reach the checkout counter (at 4.11pm), we’ve already seen a menu and had our order recorded on a piece of paper. A team of three cashiers then confirm our order and complete the transaction in seconds.

At 4.32pm, we finally get our hands on a cool cup of Hey Tea, making the total wait time one hour and nine minutes – significantly shorter than we’d anticipated going in.

We order the most popular flavor: Jinfeng Chawang (金凤茶王) with a full cheese cap (not the reduced fat version) for RMB23.

There’s specific instructions for how one should drink Hey Tea (because of course), which suggest that instead of using a straw first, you should open the top flap to swig both layers – the cheesy top and the tea – simultaneously.

Being avid Gong Cha fans, however, we have a habit of saving the best – i.e. the cream cap – for last, and do the same this time.

The first few sips bring pure, sweet, flowery tea (Hey Tea allegedly uses high-quality tea leaves and ingredients, one reason, a girl in line tells us, why they’re so popular). The tea itself is undoubtedly a step up from Gong Cha’s.

About halfway through, we start to taste a hint of the salty cheese. It’s subtle at first, and seems to complement the tea surprisingly well.

Towards the end of the drink, however, our sips begin to summon something sinister: thick, clotting globs of salty cheesy cream. The sensation is like taking a bag of movie theater popcorn and dumping the liquid butter straight into your mouth. Not good.

Next time we’ll follow Hey Tea’s instructions and drink the cheesy top first with the tea.

So anyway, is Hey Tea really that amazing or does the appeal lie in saying that you tried it?

We’ll let you determine that – by ordering via WeChat, of course. Did we mention you can do that too?

Newest branch: B/F, International Grand City, 222 Xingmin Lu, Tianhe District, Tianhe District, Guangdong, 510623 (3739 2323)

Don’t want to stand in line? Pay someone else to. Order on WeChat via supercatmiumiu.
You might know this Italian eatery by its former name, Pizza Express, which sounded more like a fast-food joint than a family restaurant serving platters of dainty mushrooms stuffed with pesto, mozzarella and sundried tomatoes (RMB59).

Pizza Marzano, on the other hand, is a classy enough moniker to feel at home in glitzy malls like IGC, which is exactly where the chain’s latest branch opened shop.

Don’t get your suit and tie out just yet, though. The shop is still casual – maybe two notches up from a Pizza Hut – with a bright interior that works well enough for kids’ birthday parties but not a hot date. Tables are only a foot apart – a bonus if you want to see what your neighbors ordered, a drawback if you’re trying to speak in private.

For starters, try the aforementioned stuffed mushrooms, which arrive toasty and dripping hot, aromatic olive oil. Those seeking a dose of veggies should opt for the avocado salad (RMB68), over the superfood salad (RMB88), as the latter disappoints with three single pieces of roast pumpkin and canned beets on a bed of tough, bitter spinach.

Pizza is a must-order here, and Marzano has its bases covered with classic Italian toppings and local interpretations like the Peking duck pizza (RMB88). The Alba and Calabrese (RMB108) are the way to go, though. Order two different varieties on one pizza if you want, just know the final price will be dictated by the more expensive flavor.

Pasta dishes at Pizza Marzano are somewhat underwhelming, but hold their own for the price (RMB60-70). If you’re looking for a solid side to complement your pizza, try the chicken drumsticks instead (RMB48/two), served piping hot, juicy and slathered in mouth-watering barbecue sauce. They’re not cheap, but you might find yourself ordering seconds regardless – they’re that good.

For dessert, you’d be better off trying any of the other new sweet shops in IGC (Venchi, Softree ice cream or even Hey Tea come to mind), as Pizza Marzano’s tiramisu (RMB48), chocolate cake (RMB52) and cheesecake (RMB48) all seem to lack that special spark characteristic of truly great homemade baked goods. Maybe they were just having an off night.

If you live near Liede and are craving pizza out, then Pizza Marzano’s your place. For authentic, home-style Italian cuisine, however, head elsewhere.

Price: RMB150
Who’s going: Chinese families with kids, 30-somethings
Good for: some of the best pizza in Guangzhou, casual dining

1) Shop 116, B1/F, Parc Central, 218 Tianhe Lu, Tianhe District 天河区天河路218号天环广场B1层116铺 (3855 0734); 2) Shop 4114, 4/F, IGC, 222 Xingmin Lu, Tianhe District 天河区兴民路222号天汇广场4层4114号 (3727 7236)
Situated in the charming dining area of Lingnan Tiandi, The Locksmith’s exterior vaulted façade draws one’s attention first. The impressive deco design, we’re later told, originates from Australian firm Studio Y, and is just one indication that The Locksmith is pushing the boundaries of the F&B scene in Foshan.

On a rainy weekday afternoon, we’re greeted personally by Head Chef E.J. and elect to sit at a table that affords a perfect view of the happenings in the expansive and modern kitchen. All garnishes, herbs, flowers and a range of other produce is grown onsite at The Locksmith, giving a garden-fresh aroma to every dish.

Australian chef E.J. personally cures eye-of-round, as well as dry-ages beef, pork, chicken, goose and pigeon himself before cooking it in a Josper oven from Spain – one of only five in China.

To kick off our meal, we start with the smoked eggplant served with roast lemon, Baharat spice and coriander (RMB28) and an assortment of bread made in-house (E.J. mills and bakes all his own bread too). Try the focaccia and sourdough when you visit, both RMB28.

The main course consists of the giant river prawn (RMB58) and the somewhat ominously-named ‘Leather Jacket fish’ (price varies by size), both of which are excellent. The fish is doused in a creative mix of spices and garnish that has us eagerly pining for the very last bits of meat on the platter.

Dessert comes in the form of a hollow chocolate egg stuffed with a delightful combination of mango and coconut, and is served on a bed of dried mango and brownie crumbs (RMB98). We’re instructed to crack it open with a hammer, which is mildly unnerving and feels a bit like the scene in Django Unchained, where Leonardo DiCaprio threatens to split open the skull of Samuel L. Jackson’s father. The result, however, is still altogether delicious.

In between courses, we sate our thirst with regular drinks at the bar, where the theme of meticulous stylization continues. The house cocktails are all mixed by Perth native and resident bartender Joe and show an attention to detail that would give pause to even the most full-bearded hipster barista in downtown Seattle. Of course, all garnishes are grown on-site. The matcha flip (RMB98), a cocktail made with superfood-of-the-moment matcha tea, is our personal favorite.

Having just opened, The Locksmith is still an undiscovered culinary gem. Go now before it gets trendy and overrun by selfie-stick wielding diners whose sole existence is to post food photos on WeChat Moments.

But really, there is high-concept stuff here that wouldn’t be out of place on Shanghai’s Bund. The fact that such a dining option is available right here – just an hour outside of Guangzhou – should not be taken for granted.

Price: RMB200
Who’s going: foodies in the know, anyone visiting Foshan
Good for: a classy evening out, home-grown produce and herbs

2 Qilin She, Lingnan Tiandi, Chancheng District, Foshan 佛山市禅城区岭南天地麒麟社2号 (0757-8203 6557)
NEW RESTAURANTS | EAT & DRINK

COCINA
Tapas with a View
By Lena Gidwani

We’re big on tapas, especially exotic ones. You get loads of delightful variety, and as Mama always says, sharing is caring.

Over at Party Pier, touted once again as the next big thing now that the chengguan have taken over Xingsheng Lu, comes the Peruvian-inspired Cocina.

By the masterminds behind Le Saint Maxime, this part-restaurant, part-lounge, part-nightclub on the sixth floor comes blessed with expansive, uninterrupted views – reason enough to turn heads. Its varied, modern menu is designed to share, as is most of Cocina’s food, which we quickly realized is as stimulating to the eyes as it is to the palate.

Start with a shot of Leche de Tigre (RMB28), a tart and spicy elixir leftover from marinating ceviche, served with fresh shrimp on a stick. Tapping on Nikkei influences is the dainty beef sushi (RMB42/2 pieces), topped with quail eggs. Down some anticuchos (skewers) to whet your appetite for more solids – try the salmon cubes (RMB48/2) drizzled with a peppery sauce (amazing), followed by some of the most delicious ceviches you could imagine this side of town. Highlights are the Pescado (RMB48): fish of the day served in a small bowl with peppers, onions, corn and micro herbs in a bath of leche de tigre. It sounds strange, but we would fish and/or swim across the Pearl River just for one bite.

The other dishes are good too, although they might raise some eyebrows for their commitment to culinary fusionism. The creme brulée foie gras maintains an aura of French refinement coupled with touches normally reserved for desserts, the quinoa salad (RMB48) features fresh cherry tomatoes, avocado and feta cheese and the succulent thin cuts of wagyu M4 (RMB95), served with mash and tomato salsa, will satisfy all red meat cravings.

The list goes on and the small plates keep coming – it’s the most fun, sociable way to spend an evening.

The beautiful meal ends, like all good things, with dessert. In this case, the suspiro de limena (RMB48) – a crumbly cookie made of flour and pisco – is served with a cloud of soft lemony meringue over dulce de leche that, according to one Peruvian poet, is as light, sweet and alluring as that of a woman’s sigh right after a steamy soiree.

Remember Christian Grey’s pleasure dungeon in Fifty Shades Darker, aka the Red Room, where he takes all of his subs through their paces? Visually, Cocina (which coincidentally is a feminine noun for kitchen) appears no different, albeit with more pleasure and no pain.

Bathed in hues of seductive red, the sultry eating space features bold artwork, dramatic ceilings and chandeliers, plus a lounge where you can cozy up to Cocina’s well-selected tipples. Try an icy Peruvian mojito (RMB80) or a smoking whiskey sour (RMB90), whilst you listen to trending tunes from their easy-on-the-eye DJ. Fancy some fresh air? Drinks in hand, saunter over to the patio and you’ll feel like you’re in the heart of some very hot action that goes on late into the night.

So of course, it seems only right you’d have to beg for her. A reservation, we mean. She gets busy, so book ahead.

**Price:** RMB200

**Who’s going:** those with trained taste buds

**Good for:** ceviche, tempting tapas and late-night patio parties

6/F, Jingxuan Bldg, Area B, Zhujiang Party Pier, 118 Modiesha Jie Haizhu District 海珠区磨碟沙大街118号珠江琶醍啤酒文化创意艺术区B区精选楼6楼 (185 8868 0411)
Brez’n, the Bavarian word for pretzel, is the young and chic sister to German eatery Paulaner Brauhaus and has already garnered a following here in Guangzhou for its hearty Bavarian food.

A recent addition to the brand-new Kingold International Financial Center located nearby Zhujiang New Town Metro Station, Brez’n, brightly lit by natural light and antler-shaped pendants, is housed on the first floor beside the Happy Monk’s newest branch.

The venue greets patrons (most of whom are white-collar workers out for lunch or happy hour drinks) with glass walls, brisk colors and wooden furniture.

Dishes are as prettily presented as displayed on the menu which, on top of classic pork knuckles, meatloaf, beef goulash and sausages, offers the appetizing Brotzeit platter (RMB158 for two), a starter comprising various cold cuts and cheeses. A main dish could be the sea bass (RMB118) wrapped in juicy bacon or, for a party of four, a Brez’n platter (RMB398) consisting of an array of sausages, pork knuckles and ribs alongside salads and potatoes – both of which will see the once-famished leave satisfied.

Here, staff glide rather than rush about, bringing patrons Paulaner lager and wheat beers that come in one-third, one-half or one-liter glasses for RMB35, RMB55 and RMB98 respectively. Consider pairing your draft beer with pretzels in sweet mustard (RMB18) if you’re in the mood for a simple snack.

Curious palates can try beer mixes like the Radler (lager with Sprite), the Cola Weizen (Cola with wheat beer) or the Russ’n (wheat beer with Sprite) for RMB48.

Dessert will see diners lick their lips as they fall in love with the popular Austrian and South German treat known as an ‘Emperor’s pancake’ (RMB48). A light, caramelized pancake split into pieces when fried, this dessert is typically sprinkled with powdered sugar and served hot with apple or plum sauce. The apple strudel with vanilla cream (RMB48) and chocolate cake (RMB38) will also do the trick, though why not try something new, right? At Brez’n, you won’t regret it.

**Price:** RMB100

**Who’s going:** white-collars upstairs, German expats hunting for a taste of home

**Good for:** Bavarian eats, classic ‘Emperor’s pancakes’

Shop 3-4, Kingold International Financial Center, 62 Jinsui Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District 天河区珠江新城金穗路62号侨鑫国际金融中心3-4号铺 (3739 2543)
THE ONE
Raise the Roof
By Lena Gidwani

“Don’t be shy,” she prompted. “Do it anywhere you want.” He ran his hand up and down her arm, only to notice she didn’t have a stamp. And so he did, as all good bouncers do, stamp her arm and let her enter the pulsing, raving wonderland of music, dance and drinks.

The One blends the appeal of a high-energy nightclub and a modern lounge, and is set to redefine nightlife in a city that hasn’t quite warmed up to it.

Young people dancing and putting their hands up, multicolored confetti, an after-party crowd celebrating whilst the sun comes up – all of this contributes to what is termed a ‘Top 100 Club.’

Meeting the technical specifications and other requirements to invite top DJs, The One has played host to world-class names like DJ Slushii, Adam Trigger, Wolfpack, Diego Miranda, Rehab, JP Candella, Tujamo, Tommy Walker and Timmy, with more slated to come. These heavyweights are residents in cities like Ibiza and Las Vegas, getting crowds pumped till the wee hours. And now, it’s all at your doorstep – if you can make your way to Beijing Nan Lu, that is.

Drinks are fairly inexpensive; basics like a gin and tonic or vodka with sprite go for RMB50, and mixed cocktails like long islands and mojitos run for RMB60. Of course, tables are where the magic happens, but be prepared to shell out some serious cash if you want a premium spot to watch the crowds as they let it all go.

Price: RMB60
Who’s going: night owls
Good for: big name DJs, late-night hangouts, electro house and techno beats

STELLA ARTOIS RECOMMENDS
LAB Loft
By Jocelyn Richards

Most of us walk past bars and restaurants on Xingsheng Lu without ever venturing inside, but to what extent are we missing out on less-explored but still awesome places? This month, we talked with Lab Loft’s planning supervisor Cathy Liang to give you an insider’s look at the bar and everything it offers.

What sets LAB Loft apart from other bars on Xingsheng Lu?
LAB Loft comes from the abbreviation for the word ‘laboratory’ in English, which denotes experiments, research or chemical reactions. But it also signifies a kind of freedom, an unrestrained space where people can carve out their own zone and their own adventure. Here, there can be ‘chemical reactions’ between people, so to speak, resulting in new connections.

Can you tell us a bit about what you offer?
We represent a stylish and modern lifestyle, so the interior is trendy and comfortable. You can come in and relax with a beer from almost any country in the world, or enjoy special LAB cocktails, imported wine and snacks. We also have darts, a pool table, karaoke and other forms of entertainment. It’s a great place to take a break from bustling city life and relax in an uninhibited space.

Your best bar snacks on offer?
We have all the classics: pizza, sliders, beer-battered chicken bites and fries – they’re all worth a try!

What kind of clientele does LAB Loft attract?
We were one of the first large establishments on Xingsheng Lu, and have three floors covering more than 800 square meters, with large private rooms that you can rent out. I’d say we attract those who enjoy music, KTV, chatting with friends, entertainment, smoking cigars or hanging out in non-smoking areas.

Enjoy Stella Artois at LAB Loft for RMB38 per 300ml-cup or RMB48 for 500ml. Shop 103-104, 7 Xingsheng Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District 天河区珠江新城兴盛路7号103-104铺 (3703 3012)
La Traviata by Artemis Danza  
Modern Dance

Since its inception, the ballet Anna Karenina has toured the world more than 100 times. Created by Lithuanian choreographer Anzelika Cholina, this version differs from classic productions in its score and choreography, but has nevertheless garnered critical acclaim from experts and audiences alike. Come see why everyone’s raving about Anna Karenina at the Guangzhou Opera House this May.

Tue May 30, 8pm; RMB80-680. Guangzhou Opera House, 1 Zhujiang Xi Lu, Tianhe District (www.gzdjy.org, 3839 2888)

Anna Karenina  
Ballet

La Traviata is a dance tribute to Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi’s namesake opera, created by Italian modern dance troupe Artemis Danza, member of the World Dance Alliance (Europe). Dancers convey the melancholy of love between Violetta and Alfredo, the main characters of the story.

Sun May 7, 8pm; RMB80-680. Guangzhou Opera House, 1 Zhujiang Xi Lu, Tianhe District 天河区珠江东路1号广州大剧院 (www.gzdjy.org, 3839 2888)

Sword of Wisdom by U-Theatre  
Drumming Performance

Founded in 1988 by Taiwanese artist and NYU graduate Liu Ruoyu, U-Theatre is distinguished by its drumming integrated with martial arts, Zen Buddhism as well as a wide range of music, dance, drama and ritual. Their work ‘Sword of Wisdom’ tells of the unknown aspects of life one is facing, the sword being their courage. Famous for their precise movement, U-Theatre will astonish audiences of all ages.

Sat-Sun Jun 3-4, 8pm; RMB80-880. Guangzhou Opera House, 1 Zhujiang Xi Lu, Tianhe District 天河区珠江东路1号广州大剧院 (www.gzdjy.org, 3839 2888)

The Ugly Duckling  
Stage

In an age when technology seems to provide many distractions, Lightwire Theater brings a classic tale, The Ugly Duckling, to the modern stage in an unforgettable theatrical experience. Lined with electroluminescent wire, the well-known characters continue the Corbian tradition as they illuminate the darkened stage and wend their way into audiences’ hearts.

Sat May 20, 3.30pm/7.30pm; RMB100-588. Guangdong Performing Arts Center Theater, 1229 Guangzhou Dadao Zhong, Tianhe District 荔湾区沙面岛沙面南街 乔十光美术馆 (8403 9277)

Ancient Jade Article  
Exhibition

A symbol of sovereignty and dignity, jade objects and art works have existed in Chinese history for thousands of years. In concert with the Chongqing China Three Gorges Museum, the Guangzhou Museum will exhibit a collection of more than 200 objects made of jade.

Ongoing until Jul 2, 10am-5pm; RMB10. Guangzhou Museum, Yuexiu Park, 988 Jiefang Bei Lu, Yuexiu District 越秀区解放北路988号越秀公园广州博物馆 (8355 4759, 8355 0627)

Lacquer Paintings and Installations  
Exhibition

Featuring the work of female artists of different ages and from various regions within China, this exhibition at the Qiao Shiguang Art Gallery on Shamian Island will showcase over 40 paintings and art installations.

Ongoing until Jun 28, 2-5pm (Tue-Fri), 10am-5pm (Sat-Sun); RMB10. Qiao Shiguang Art Gallery, 28 Shamian Nan Jie, Shamian Island, Liwan District 荔湾区沙面岛沙面南街 乔十光美术馆 (8403 9277)
**Six Appeal Vocal Band** A Cappella

The vital and energetic Six Appeal is an American award-winning vocal ensemble that performs everything from classic oldies to current chart toppers. Known from coast to coast for their vivid musical style and playful charm, Six Appeal will be making their first appearance at the National Harmony Sweepstakes Championship in 2012. Their concert in Guangzhou will include the Lion King original score ‘Circle of Life,’ ‘Happy,’ and ‘Wagon Wheel’ by Bob Dylan, among other famous tunes.

Sat May 27, 8pm; RMB80-480. Guangzhou Opera House, 1 Zhujiang Xi Lu, Tianhe District. (www.gzdjy.org, 3839 2888)

**Priscilla Ahn** Indie Folk

American singer and songwriter Priscilla Ahn has touched quite a few hearts with her albums, including *This is Where We Are* and *When You Grow Up*. Ahn began playing at open mic nights and was later discovered by Blue Note Records who produced her first album, *A Good Day*. Grounded in folk, country and pop, her music has appeared on numerous TV shows in the past.

Sun May 21, 8-9.30pm; RMB100-480. Xinghai Concert Hall, 33 Qingbo Lu, Ersha Island, Yuexiu District. (WeChat: ThatsGuangzhou)

**Joyce Jonathan** Pop

French singer Joyce Jonathan’s first album went gold five months after its release and platinum the very next year. Jonathan secretly composed her first song at the age of seven and posted three of her own compositions on MySpace when she turned 18. She also performed some of her songs in Chinese and, in this concert, will sing ‘Huafang Guniang’ (Greenhouse Girl), a popular song by Chinese rock star Cui Jian, in French.

Tue May 30, 8pm; RMB240-680. Central Station, No. 2-8, Yangcheng Creative Industrial Park. (ThatsGuangzhou)

**Oliver Heldens** DJ

With his popular single ‘Gecko,’ which made it to No. 1 on the Buzz Chart of DMC World magazine, Dutch DJ Oliver Heldens caught the attention of “the greatest DJ of all time,” Tiesto. He then made his way into DJ Mag’s top 100 DJs in 2014 and ranked 12th in 2015. After selling out in many a music festival, Heldens will make his appearance in Guangzhou this month.

Fri May 19, 9pm; RMB120-550. CS Le Nest, No.5, Apron Plaza, 333 Yunxiao Lu, Baiyun District. (en. damai.cn, 8735 3869)

**Shanghai Restoration Project Gig**

Following their 2015 The Classics Tour, The Shanghai Restoration Project, a trio founded by Emmy Award-winning musician Dave Liang, return to China this May to promote their latest release: *Life Elsewhere*. It’s an album that weaves jazz, electronic, samba, bossa nova and world music with Chinese Taoist philosophy. The band will be joined by jazz guitarist Zhang Xiongguan.

Sat May 13, 8.30-10pm; RMB100 advanced order, RMB120 at the door. (en. damai.cn, 3862 5735)

**High Tone** Dub Music

Trendsetters in dub music, five-member band High Tone have become a household name in France. Their sound is fluid and constant, but retains a strong psychedelic and hypnotic flavor. Since their inception in 1997, High Tone have released a total of seven studio records and have been touring extensively from Europe to China. They’ve collaborated with Chinese musician Wang Lei in the past to produce Wangtone, an album considered the most significant indie music exchange between China and the world to date.

Sat May 20, 9pm; RMB80 pre-sale, RMB100 at the door. SD Livehouse, Sat May 20, 9pm; RMB80 at the door. SD Livehouse, Haiyin District, 132 Gongye Dadao Bei, ‘Hua Cheng Wang Shi’ Art Zone. (ThatsGuangzhou)

**Trendsetter in Dub Music**

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SmartChinEase Mandarin Class

SmartChinEase provides Mandarin training in a fun range of shapes and forms. Their goal is to show the charm of the Chinese language, while their “point of penetration is teaching Chinese as a foreign language to expats.” SmartChinEase boasts students from all over the world and offers tailor-made courses for each of them. One-on-one class is RMB120 per hour, while group classes start from RMB60 per hour. There’s also an online option available.

Ongoing. Go to www.chinese-hsk.com to learn more about SmartChinEase (159 2041 4158)

Dare2Wear Party

Dust off your banana suit, sexy nun costume or whatever other uncanny apparel you may have hiding in your wardrobe, because the Dare2Wear party is here. Organized by the charity Hopeful Hearts, Dare2Wear will be held at the Happy Monk at Kingold Century, with proceeds going to finance heart surgeries for children from low-income families.

Sat May 6, 8pm; RMB250. Happy Monk (Kingold Century), Unit 1, G/F, Kingold Century, 62 Jinsui Lu, Zhujiang New Town, Tianhe District

The W Fashion Week is where fashion brands and up-and-coming designers will be exhibiting their creative collections. With the theme of “Futuristic Wave”, this year’s edition looks to envision a future of metallic artificial hair, dresses that dispense actual cocktails, accordion-like protective headgear and outfits that would fit right in on an alien runway. W Guangzhou invites fashion disrupters and fashion brands to unveil their creativity through exclusive presentations and happenings.

Mon-Fri May 8-12, Time TBC; RMB168. W Guangzhou, 26 Xiancun Lu, Zhujiang New Town, Tianhe District

Rythmo! by Samajam

Created with the little ones in mind, ‘Rythmo!’ is an interactive musical performance. Each child and parent will receive drum sticks, whirly tubes or an African djembe and will be led by talented musicians to create something extraordinary.

Thu Jun 1, 3pm/8pm; RMB80-480. Guangzhou Opera House, 1 Zhujiang Xi Lu, Tianhe District

The W Fashion Week

With three halls – International, Classic and Collections – this year’s edition of the GATF is offering world-class art works of all shapes and forms from prestigious art institutions in the US, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Korea and more. Featuring as many as 11 themed exhibitions in four days, the GATF is a must-see event for art lovers.

Thu-Sun May 18-21, 10am-6pm; RMB50. Zone C, Canton Fair Complex, 382 Yuejiang Zhong Lu, Haizhu District

The 7th Guangzhou Art Trade Fair

The W Fashion Week is where fashion brands and up-and-coming designers will be exhibiting their creative collections. With the theme of “Futuristic Wave”, this year’s edition looks to envision a future of metallic artificial hair, dresses that dispense actual cocktails, accordion-like protective headgear and outfits that would fit right in on an alien runway. W Guangzhou invites fashion disrupters and fashion brands to unveil their creativity through exclusive presentations and happenings.

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The W Fashion Week is where fashion brands and up-and-coming designers will be exhibiting their creative collections. With the theme of “Futuristic Wave”, this year’s edition looks to envision a future of metallic artificial hair, dresses that dispense actual cocktails, accordion-like protective headgear and outfits that would fit right in on an alien runway. W Guangzhou invites fashion disrupters and fashion brands to unveil their creativity through exclusive presentations and happenings.

Mon-Fri May 8-12, Time TBC; RMB168. W Guangzhou, 26 Xiancun Lu, Zhujiang New Town, Tianhe District

Rythmo! by Samajam

Created with the little ones in mind, ‘Rythmo!’ is an interactive musical performance. Each child and parent will receive drum sticks, whirly tubes or an African djembe and will be led by talented musicians to create something extraordinary.

Thu Jun 1, 3pm/8pm; RMB80-480. Guangzhou Opera House, 1 Zhujiang Xi Lu, Tianhe District

The W Fashion Week

With three halls – International, Classic and Collections – this year’s edition of the GATF is offering world-class art works of all shapes and forms from prestigious art institutions in the US, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Korea and more. Featuring as many as 11 themed exhibitions in four days, the GATF is a must-see event for art lovers.

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Thu-Sun May 18-21, 10am-6pm; RMB50. Zone C, Canton Fair Complex, 382 Yuejiang Zhong Lu, Haizhu District
Sunday Brunch at Open Brunch

Come relish a seafood buffet brunch at Open, with a delicious offering of caviar, Scottish oyster, grain-fed Australian beef (which means more marbling and a smoother texture), roasted suckling pig, as well as an array of desserts. Or, for a more satisfactory and fun dining experience, try making your own paella or risotto under the guidance of expert in-house chefs. A cookie-making class will also be offered to the little ones.

Sun ongoing, noon-3pm; RMB265 plus 15 percent, half for children from 6-12, free for children under 6. Open, DoubleTree by Hilton Guangzhou, 391 Dongfeng Lu, Yuexiu District 越秀区东风路391号广州希尔顿逸林酒店 (2833 2888)

Catch the Flavor of the Season New Menu

Inspired by local Cantonese cuisine, the culinary creatives at Catch restaurant in the Four Seasons Hotel Guangzhou are introducing a new menu utilizing seasonal ingredients for an extensive selection of mains and tempting desserts. So far, diners have given thumbs-ups to the scampi carpaccio, mozzarella cheese puree, morel mushroom, basil caviar, roasted pigeon, foie gras, jasmine poached raisins and celeriac puree. Others were impressed by the fine selection of desserts, such as mango mini dome, pistachio sponge, coconut crumble and Mandarin mousse. Don't miss out on this seasonal feast!

Ongoing. Catch, Four Seasons Hotel Guangzhou, 5 Zhujiang Xi Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District 天河区珠江新城珠江西街5号广州四季酒店 (8883 3902)
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<th>MAY 8-11</th>
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<tr>
<td>HOFEX Tradeshows, 10.30am-6.30pm (Mon-Wed), 10.30am-5pm (Thu); free with registration. Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (<a href="http://www.hofex.com">www.hofex.com</a>). Celebrating its 30th anniversary, HOFEX, Asia’s leading food and hospitality tradeshows, is set to take people from the food and hospitality industry as well as attendees from all kinds of fields on an extraordinary culinary journey. This tradeshows is bringing the world’s most comprehensive selection of food and drink, hospitality equipment and supply products to Hong Kong.</td>
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<th>MAY 12-13</th>
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<td>Tango With Piazzolla, 8pm; HKD120-380. Hong Kong Cultural Centre (<a href="http://www.hkphil.org">www.hkphil.org</a>). Tango dancers performing Astor Piazzolla’s saucy new tango will join the Hong Kong Philharmonic. Considered the world’s foremost tango composer, his musical creations are infused with elements of jazz and modern classical music.</td>
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<th>MAY 19-21</th>
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<td>Affordable Art Fair Hong Kong, 10am-9pm (Fri), 11am-7pm (Sat-Sun); HKD160. Hong Kong Exhibition Centre (affordableartfair.com). The fifth Affordable Art Fair Hong Kong will bring 110 local and international galleries together to offer artwork ranging from HKD1,000 to HKD100,000 for everyone from first-time buyers to long-term collectors to enjoy.</td>
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<td>Carmen and More, various times; HKD140-1,000. Hong Kong Cultural Centre (hkballent.com). Hong Kong Ballet offers audiences a variety of one-act ballets to showcase their dancers’ talents. The highlight is an original one-act version of Carmen created by Hong Kong Ballet talent. The story involves a passionate woman who has captured the imaginations of audiences worldwide.</td>
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<th>JUN 3</th>
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<td>Sting 57th and 9th Tour, 8pm; HKDSR8-1,288. Hong Kong Convention &amp; Exhibition Centre (<a href="http://www.livenationlondon.net">www.livenationlondon.net</a>). An English musician, singer and songwriter, Sting is touring to promote his new album, 57th and 9th. Returning to Hong Kong for the first time in five years, this legendary figure will play old hits along with material from his new album.</td>
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<td>Village People, 8pm; MOP480/580. The Venetian Macao (<a href="http://www.venetian-macao.com">www.venetian-macao.com</a>). Celebrating its 40th anniversary, American disco group Village People is touring the world with their famous tunes, fabulous choreography and signature outfits modeled after Native American and cowboys to construction workers and bikers. Joining the group is Australian’s pop group Bjorn Again. The concert will be a night of nostalgia and great music of the 70s.</td>
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<td>Creative Postcard Workshop, 11am-4.30pm; free with registration. Macao Museum of Art (<a href="http://www.mam.gov.mo">www.mam.gov.mo</a>, 853-8791 9814). Cyanotype, invented in 1842 by British chemist and photographer John Herschel and popular in the 19th century, is a photo-developing technique that allows the transfer of an image onto paper or other mediums by utilizing sunlight to preserve the image. After being processed with cyanotype, exposed images appear bluish. In this workshop, participants will use the technique of cyanotype to craft their own postcards.</td>
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<td>The Seagull, 7.30pm; MOP120-380. Macao Cultural Centre (<a href="http://www.macauticket.com">www.macauticket.com</a>). During the 28th edition of Macao Art Festival, Iceland’s Reykjavik City Theatre will present Russian playwright Anton Chekhov’s stage masterpiece The Seagull. The namesake play is designed with a modern twist of remarkable humor and unease: three women, six men, four acts and lots of discussion about literature. The scenery is transformed from a Russian country estate to an Icelandic summer house livened with karaoke and parties, but suppression, anger, desire and love remain.</td>
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<th>MAY 27, 28, 30</th>
<th>SAT, SUN, TUE</th>
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<td>Macao International Dragon Boat Races, time TBC; Nam Van Lake Nautical Center (<a href="http://www.macaudragoon-boat.com">www.macaudragoon-boat.com</a>). This year’s Macao International Dragon Boat Races will see teams from Hong Kong, Japan, the U.S., the Philippines, China, Thailand, Singapore, Korea and Australia compete. The Macao races have been promoting the modality of dragon-boat and have grown to become a grand-scale sporting event attracting athletes from around the world. The first two days will see local teams compete in the 200 and 500-meter races, while international teams will compete on the third and final day.</td>
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<td>10th World Supermodel Production and International Fashion Week, 7.30pm/8pm; MOP150-800. Macau Tower (<a href="http://www.macauticket.com">www.macauticket.com</a>). With a business theme, the 10th World Supermodel Production and International Fashion Week, taking place at Macau Tower, will showcase the latest fashions and feature the world’s leading fashion designers. Top-level models will compete for the titles of World Supermodel and World Teen Supermodel.</td>
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<td>Thriller Live, 2pm/5pm/8pm; MOP180-220. The Parisian Theatre, The Parisian Macau (<a href="http://www.parisan-macao.com">www.parisan-macao.com</a>). This electrifying concert, organized as a tribute to the King of Pop, will feature a 90-minute, intensive explosion of rock, soul, pop and disco music. “Thriller Live”, produced by London’s West End, is celebrating its eighth year and has been applauded by audiences in over 30 countries.</td>
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<td>West Side Story, 7.45pm (Tue-Fri), 2pm and 7.45pm (Sat), 1pm and 6pm (Sun); HKDSR45-135. Lyric Theatre (<a href="http://www.westsidestoryhk.com">www.westsidestoryhk.com</a>). A vibrant new stage production of the classic dance musical is coming to Hong Kong, following wild acclaim and sold-out seasons around the world. An outstanding international cast will electrify audiences with their passionate high-energy dance routines and astounding vocal range in classic songs. It’s simply a masterpiece that should not be missed.</td>
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Musical Fantasy Amcham Spring Ball 2017 @ LN Garden Hotel, Guangzhou April 22

Bravo & Brewdog Tap Takeover April 13
David Liu has been appointed general manager at Crowne Plaza Guangzhou Zengcheng. Liu has more than 20 years of experience in the hospitality industry, having worked in sales, marketing and hotel operation management with many famous international hotels such as IHG, Shangri-La and more.

David Liu Named General Manager of Crowne Plaza Guangzhou Zengcheng

David Jean Marteau has worked in the culinary field for more than 30 years. From 1988 to 1994, he obtained rich knowledge in different restaurants and hotels before he joined Renaissance Cruises as chef de cuisine. He began his career in Asia with Huating Hotel and Tower Shanghai in 2007 and then worked at Parkyard Hotel Shanghai as corporate executive chef for seven years. Marteau is an asset for Grand Hyatt Guangzhou in his new role, leading the hotel’s culinary team to creating delectable dining experiences for guests.

David Jean Marteau Named Executive Chef of Grand Hyatt Guangzhou

Hilton Guangzhou Baiyun and Hilton Yuhi Fuxian Lake Bring Yunnan Specialties to Guangzhou

To bring local gourmets a unique and abundant dining experience, Hilton Guangzhou Baiyun, in collaboration with sister hotel Hilton Yuhi Fuxian Lake, launched the ‘Taste Yunnan at Fuxian Lake’ food and culture experience at its Sense Restaurant over a 20-day period from April 17 to May 7. Dishes were created by three experienced guest chefs from Yunnan’s Hilton Yuhi Fuxian Lake.

Macau Food Festival in Hotel Nikko Guangzhou

Café Verano at Hotel Nikko Guangzhou hosted the Macau Food Festival, where chefs from Hotel Okura Macau were invited to create feasts that offered guests a taste of Macau. Dishes like curry chicken, curry crab, pork stew and Bacalhau a bras lured diners to savor Macau’s specialties.

Softel Foshan to Open in July

Located in China’s leading furniture city – Leong in Shunde – Softel Foshan connects to the Louvre International Exhibition Center and is the first property of Accor in the Asia Pacific region. The four-day event brought together more than 600 business and industry leaders, policy experts and top government officials from the US, China and from across the Asian Pacific region. As an ‘economic powerhouse,’ the Asia Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce represents 29 American chambers of commerce from 22 economies in the Asia Pacific, 20,000 member companies, 50,000 overseas American executives, 10 million employees, USD620 billion in annual FDI management and USD5 trillion in annual trade.

The Ritz-Carlton, Guangzhou Joined Earth Hour

In its commitment to environmental conservation, The Ritz-Carlton, Guangzhou once again participated in Earth Hour, from 8.30pm to 9.30pm on March 25. In accordance with the ‘Blue WE’ theme in China this year, The Ritz-Carlton, Guangzhou worked together with the Guangdong Museum to present “Stories in the Darkness,” a class on energy conservation which took guests on a meaningful journey with lights out for an hour, as well as emphasized the importance of environmental conservation.

Vivacious Spring Spar at Banyan Tree Yanshuo

Nestled along Yangshuo’s enchanting Li River bank, Banyan Tree Yanshuo take advantages of its natural setting, offering an exclusive resort of relaxation, romance and fun-filled exploration. Stay at Banyan Tree Yanshuo and enjoy the ‘Vivacious Spring Spa Package’ that features a 10-minute steam bath, 30-minute ginseng and cinnamon body scrub, 60-minute ‘Island Dew’ massage, 20-minute ‘Calm Time,’ as well as a high tea, for RMB999. Book today by emailing reservations-yangshuo@banyantree.com.
TRAVEL DEALS

Discover Splashing Fun with Dolphins at Hengqin Bay Water World

Kick-start a cool vacation this summer with the Hengqin Bay Water World. Covering an area of 12,000 square meters, Hengqin Bay Water World boasts abundant recreational water facilities. Guests will have an unforgettable experience meeting and playing with dolphins in the hotel’s Dolphin Pool and acquiring knowledge about various cetaceans at a fun educational class.

Chimelong Hengqin Bay Hotel, Fuxiang Bay, Hengqin New District, Zhuhai (www.chimelong.com, 400 883 0083)

LN Hotel Five Cycle Canton Package

Discover Guangzhou off the beaten track, mingle with locals and visit unknown cultural treasures by bike. With Cycle Canton, you can tour hidden gems of the city by starting in the ‘old town’ in Yuexiu District and ending in the modern downtown of Zhujiang New Town. A complimentary Cycle Canton tour will be offered to those staying a minimum of two nights in an Executive Room at LN Hotel Five for RMB1,500 per night for one person or RMB1,950 per room for two. Prices are subject to a 10 percent surcharge and tax.

277 Yanjiang Zhong Lu, Yuexiu District 越秀区沿江中路277号 (www.lingnanhotelfive.com, 8333 8989)
FOOD & DRINK

1920 Restaurant 1) 4/F, 1 Jianshe Liu Malu, Yuexiu District; 2) Shops 67, 69, 72 & 76, The Canton Place, Qingfeng Jie, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District (8388 1142); Shop MW01-03, 05, Central Zone, Mall of the World, 89 Huacheng Dadao, Tianhe District (8709 6033)

1920 咖啡厅 1) 建设六马路一号前幢 4 楼 ; 2) 天河区珠江新城清风街 48 号广粤天地 67, 69, 72, 76 号铺 ; 3) 天河区花城大道89 号花城汇 MW01-03, 05 商铺

Aroma Bistro Shop 117, 1/F, Voka Street, 460 Tianhe Bei Lu, Tianhe District  (185 0200 1416)

Bravo Shop 114-115, 6 Huajiu Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District

The Brew Sports Bar & Grill 1) Unit 9-11, Huayan Country Garden, Panyu Dadao (across the road from Chimelong Theme Park), Panyu District (3482 0401); 2) West Section, Bao Lin Yuan, Huaxun Jie, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District (3408 9549); 3) Shop 11-13, Yuhai Food Street, 1 Jianshe Liu Malu, Yuexiu District (8382 8269)

The Eating Table With seats for more than 200 diners to explore gastronomy at a less frenetic pace, The Eating Table’s warm, alluring design enlivens the senses. The owner, who spent years in Melbourne, has ensured that the food delivers to both local and foreign palates. Enjoy a tapas-style meal, with a menu that boasts a wide range of appetizers, soups, pastas and both meaty and marine-filled mains.

Shop 401, 4/F, GTLand Winter Plaza, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District

Buongiorno 1) 3/F, Yi An Plaza, 33 Jianshe Liu Malu, Yuexiu District (8363 3587); 2) A7, Xinshijie Huoyuan Diyi Ju, 168 Dongcheng Nan Lu, Dongguan (0769 2339 6499)

Element Fresh 1) Shop L302, TaiKoo Hui, 383 Tianhe Lu, Tianhe District (3808 8506); 2) 6/F, 42 Qingfeng Jie, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District (3828 8482)

Happy Monk 1) Back of Yi’an Plaza, 383 Tianhe Lu, Yuexiu District (8376 5597); 2) No. 109, 7 Xingsheng Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District (3877 8679); 3) Outdoor Plaza, Happy Valley Mall, 3/F, Macau Plaza, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District

Hooley’s Irish Pub and Restaurant 1) 101, 8 Xingsheng Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District (3886 2675); 2) Section 2, Yijia Yuan, 7 Xingzhongdao, Zhongshan

In·Side · Out By Threedrops 3/F, 10 Xi·etianli, Lingnan Tiandi, Chancheng District, Foshan (0757-8203 1400, 189 885 25470)

Knightship Fusion Restaurant Newly opened in Guangzhou’ s CBD and conveniently located in Zhujiang New Town, Knightship Fusion Restaurant provides gourmet food with international favor in an unparalleled atmosphere. We are committed to applying our understanding of what constitutes a quality life to each dish in our boutique restaurant. In addition to Chinese and Asian foods, you can also taste the best of European fare on our ‘fusion’ menu.

Shop No.116,Zhong Hai Jing Hui Huating, No.33, Liede Da Dao, Tianhe, Guangzhou

How to Post Your Event on Thatsmags.com and That’s App

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Knightship Fusion Restaurant

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WALK Backstage at ‘Wicked’ Ahead of China Tour

70-Million-Year-Old Dinosaur Eggs Found in Foshan

How to Post Your Event on Thatsmags.com and That’s App

How to Blow 10,000 USD in 100 Hours in South China

How to Post Your Event on Thatsmags.com and That’s App

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How to Blow 10,000 USD in 100 Hours in South China

How to Post Your Event on Thatsmags.com and That’s App

WALK Backstage at ‘Wicked’ Ahead of China Tour
SIGNATURE ABALONE DISH AT GRAND HYATT GUANGZHOU

Abalone, a highly sought-after delicacy in China typically served at weddings or special occasions, is rich in minerals and believed to help promote healthy vision, improve circulation and boost one's immune system.

This season, Chef David Jean Marteau at the Grand Hyatt Guangzhou will prepare this prized dish in a Western style, using abalone brought in fresh every morning. Boasting more than 30 years of culinary experience, Chef Marteau looks forward to making your first taste of abalone unforgettable.

Stop by G Restaurant this month and try it for yourself!
ACCOUNTING FIRMS

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ECLIPSE ENGLISH EDUCATION

Native English teachers wanted.
Competitive pay with flexible scheduling.
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## Horoscopes

Finally, a horoscope that understands your life in Guangzhou.

### Taurus
April 21 - May 20

You’re going through a stressful, anxiety-ridden time. Try some TCM or cupping, or, well, just ask one of the old ladies who hangs out in your neighborhood courtyard - she’ll know what to do. Follow her advice and your troubles will go away by the 16th.

### Gemini
May 21 - June 20

You’ve been bad lately, and now it’s time to repent. Climb on top of a really tall thing - IFC, for example - and look out over Guangzhou while thinking about your choices. Drink snake baijiu on the 4th and you will find love. Maybe.

### Cancer
June 21 - July 22

You’re searching, questioning, looking for answers. Perhaps you’ll find these answers in a book at left in the metro. Or maybe you won’t - we don’t actually know. Only enter subway stations from the south.

### Leo
July 23 - August 22

Your advice from the stars this month is toilet-specific: When using the bathroom anywhere in Yuexiu District, do not flush your toilet paper. How many times do we have to tell you to put it in the trash?

### Virgo
August 23 - September 22

You’re in a fighting mood this month. Haggle your rent down, ask for a raise, or challenge the Lauyangzhou in your apartment block to a ping-pong match. Wear purple on the 19th or your favorite snack stall will vanish.

### Libra
September 23 - October 22

You will accomplish whatever you set out to achieve this May - as long as you set really easy goals. Vow to read one chapter of a book, or to go on one run along the Pearl River. Turn around three times before boarding Line 5.

### Scorpio
October 23 - November 21

Your advice from the stars this month is toilet-specific: When using the bathroom anywhere in Yuexiu District, do not flush your toilet paper. How many times do we have to tell you to put it in the trash?

### Sagittarius
November 22 - December 21

Take time to get outside this month - maybe even outside Tianhe (wild, we know). We hear Huizhou is supposed to be cool. As for inauspicious omens, avoid Jianshe Lu on weekends. For the rest of your life.

### Capricorn
December 22 - January 19

You’re feeling creative this month, so carve out time to express yourself. Consider taking a painting class, or singing loudly in a public park. Do not ride the APM Line, or misfortune will befall you.

### Aquarius
January 20 - February 18

You will meet a beautiful stranger at a Xingsheng bar and spend hours conversing under the night sky. Unfortunately that stranger will turn out to be here on business, inspecting plastics factories. Ditch them.

### Pisces
February 19 - March 20

May is a month of ups and downs for you. Maintain a sense of normalcy by establishing a routine. We suggest starting every day with congee and ending it with niurou fan. Speak only Cantonese under a full moon.

### Aries
March 21 - April 19

Tell that special someone how you really feel with a romantic, smelly boat ride off Taikoo Wharf or a long walk past all your favorite CBD construction sites. Wear a face mask on the 15th for good luck.
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