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Editor's Note

NOVEMBER 2017

“Freedom.” “Reward.” “Family.” “Hope.” Four words flash across the wrap-around screen at a theater inside Guangzhou’s four-story Amway Experience Center – the newest and most high-tech in all of Asia, according to our spirited guide. “These are the pillars of a happy life,” he tells us as we exit the theater to continue our tour of Amway’s endless product lines. Leading us is a Cantonese man in his mid-50s who has spent the last 13 years working at Amway, an American multi-level marketing company founded in 1959. “We believe business is inextricably tied to relationships,” he proclaims. “Love is at the heart of it all.”

Well, maybe. But there’s something else at the heart of the ‘American Way’ – the US Republican Party – and we’d set out to discover how a company once described as a “legal pyramid scheme” has managed to survive in China despite recent crackdowns on MLMs. Told in depth by our Beijing Chief Editor Noelle Mateer on page 38, it’s a fascinating story that explores why so many Chinese tend to fall for Amway’s best product: hope.

Elsewhere in the magazine, we look at the history of China’s ‘little fresh meat’ – those beautiful male superstars adored for their soft, almost feminine appearance (p12); round up the best destinations in Asia to celebrate New Year’s Eve (p20); talk with the Western filmmakers behind a new documentary on China’s biggest rock star, Wang Feng (p32); and introduce three convenience store cocktails to try the next time you’re in a 7-11 (p60).

November is the month we hold our annual That’s PRD Food and Drink Awards, so remember to vote for your favorite F&B establishments and book your tickets to the awards night through our official WeChat accounts before they sell out!

Have a wonderful autumn.



Jocelyn Richards
Editor-in-Chief



We’re giving away tickets to some of the very best events in the Pearl River Delta, alongside a host of free meals and other goodies. Follow our official WeChat feeds and sign up for our weekly newsletter for your chance to win major prizes! To stay up to date, visit www.thatsmags.com or scan the QR codes below and follow our WeChat accounts.



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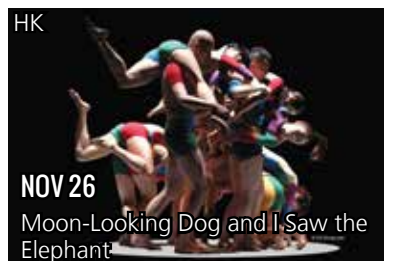
How one company is selling dreams (and dish soap) in China.



46 COMMUNITY



68 EVENTS



THE WRAP

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CITY

#Instagood

The Guangzhou photographer paying tribute to Zaha Hadid, p10



Behind the Concrete
P10



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P11

ROADSIDE TIEMO

Onscreen Protection

By Sky Thomas Gidge

On a recent Monday night, Chuan Ran proves himself resourceful. A middle-aged woman is hesitating – will the phone cases Ran sells really fit her friend's iPhone?

Ran spots us standing near his small, tent-based shop and borrows my phone – slipping it from case to snug-fitting case until the woman settles on a mauve number, bedazzled with a sparkling angel wing. My phone comes back.

Ran is a low-level phone accessory seller and provider of the *tiemo* service, as the sign hanging above the tent-opening advertises. Directly translated, *tiemo* reads 'stick to membrane.' Rather than street-side biology, the service is a blast of compressed air to clean a phone's screen before a screen protector is deftly applied – a vexing task for most of us, but performed at ad hoc stations across China for around RMB10.

Many – or most – street-side *tiemo* operate with the ebb of city management, setting up in underpasses or on footbridges and ready to pack up their foldout tables and knock off phone cables when local 'enforcers' get wise.

But in a country obsessed with covering everything from hotel tables to home computers in protective foil, demand for *tiemo* outweighs the risk of doing business.

Ran is a step above that – though he eludes to a time when things were not so 'orderly' – now paying about RMB1,500 monthly



to rent a space in a Shenzhen neighborhood where *tiemo* is regulated.

Ran's workday starts around 3pm and lasts until about 11pm when business slows. When not hawking his wares, Ran sits behind his laptop watching Chinese television shows, surrounded on three sides with a rainbow of phone cases and other goods, most purchased wholesale at an electronics market a 10-minute ride away.

So it's a surprise when Ran says sales are not a big moneymaker for him – *tiemo*, he tells us, are what people really pay for.

THE DIRTY DETAILS

Monthly salary: RMB3,000

Days per week: 7

Hours per day: 10

Man on the Street is a monthly feature where we talk to someone doing an everyday job to gain insight into the lives of ordinary Chinese people.



THE BUZZ

RANDOM NUMBER

5

... the number of ostriches that escaped from a farm in Foshan last month, running an impressive 50 kilometers down a highway before they were caught. Perhaps surprisingly (perhaps not), the incident marked the second time ostriches have caused havoc on a Foshan road. In May 2016, two birds ran side-by-side through morning traffic, causing fowl delays.

43 billion

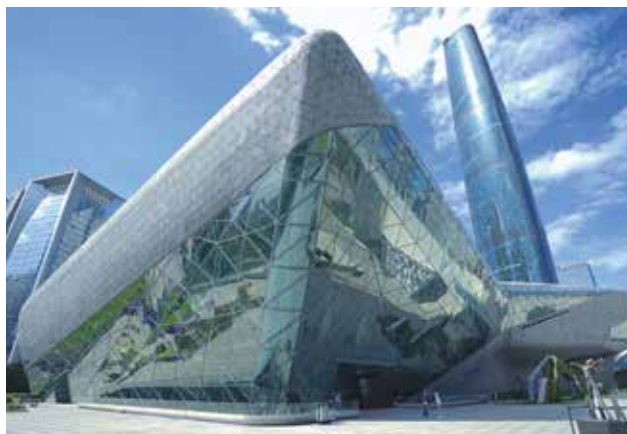
... is the net worth in US dollars of Xu Jiayin (Evergrande Group), who recently dethroned Wang Jianlin to become China's richest man. The real estate mogul moved to the top of China's billionaire list after a six month gain of USD30 billion, according to the 2017 edition of the *Hurun Report*. This year, China listed 647 billionaires, up 53 from last year and 396 from five years ago. That's a mind-boggling increase from just 15 years ago, when there were zero billionaires on the list.

Asia has long been one of the most hospitable regions for female entrepreneurs in the world, and this year, 26 percent of billionaires in China are women – a 2 percent increase from last year. Of those, 70 percent are self-made.

CITY SNAPSHOT

Tribute to Hadid

When he's not out capturing artsy coffee shop portraits, Wilson Tong is rubbing shoulders with international stars as one of the official photographers at the Guangzhou Opera House. He says his job allows him "to capture the beauty of Zaha Hadid's masterpiece from different angles," in all kinds of weather. View more of Tong's breathtaking shots on Instagram @wilson_tong_official.



Want your photo in our City Snapshot column? Tag #thatsprd on Instagram for a chance to be featured on our feed and in the magazine.

BEHIND THE CONCRETE

Shenzhen Stock Exchange

If it weren't for the 'miniskirt,' this gray tower housing the fourth largest stock exchange in Asia would look like any other skyscraper.

The winning design for the new Stock Exchange building, completed in 2013, came from the firm of Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas and includes a three-story-tall platform that juts out from the sleek façade.

With a liberal dose of imagination, it looks like the 46-story tower is wearing a very short skirt – or so snarky Chinese netizens claim.

At least it's better than the nickname for Koolhaas' most prominent project in China, Beijing's CCTV headquarters: from a certain angle its geometrically interlocking towers resemble a pair of giant underpants.

The design firm's official website says the Shenzhen building's elevated platform represents the weightless, 'speculative euphoria that drives the market.' It's also designed to open up room for a public space on the ground floor, while its upper layer boasts an open-air garden.

The fact that tenants and traders can take a leisurely outdoor stroll without leaving the building is, we admit, pretty cool. But the space around the ground floor feels less than welcoming due to the massive overhang looming above; a reminder that what goes up could also come down.

Still, compared to Shenzhen's other, sleeker skyscrapers, this one does stand out.





We live in a divided world, and China is no exception. Modern life comes with too many opportunities for us to disagree. Are vaccines good? Is Facebook bad? Is buying knockoffs on Taobao more ethical than shopping at H&M? Is ordering Sherpas on a rainy day helping or harming the delivery boys? Any position on any details of modern life can invite attacks and offend those around you, including those you call friends.

Sometimes such differences are so insurmountable that your friend might say: "I just can't be friends with someone who holds such beliefs. We are *youjin* from now on." Meaning: "our friendship has ended."

There are many brilliantly poetic manifestations of *youjin* on the Chinese internet, from "now you're just somebody I used to know" to "the fountain of our friendship has run dry." But they all mean the same thing: you were friend until you ran up against some irreconcilable differences, which makes the friendship impossible and now you must end it.

Besides political views, other things that are known for leading to *youjin* include: borrowing money, not 'liking' your friends' WeChat moments, setting up a WeChat group chat that doesn't include your friends and posting photos of your friends that haven't been beautified by Meitu Xiuxiu yet.

However, there is a more optimistic exception, where *youjin* means a new relationship is about to start where an old friendship ended. (Think Monica and Chandler in *Friends*.) If someone declares *youjin* with you, it is possible that he or she simply has too many romantic feelings about you to remain friends. If that's the case, you two are *youjin* no matter whether it works out or not.

But this happier version of *youjin* seems to happen to TV show characters way more than to the rest of us. If someone claims they are *youjin* with you, it's probably because of something like refusing to eat gluten, which you don't believe is a thing. **Mia Li**

Youjin/ yǒu jìn / 友尽 phrase, "our friendship has ended"

A How can you buy Michael Jackson records?

I like his music. **B**

A But you are supporting a pedophile!

I can like his music without endorsing his behaviors. **B**

A No you can't. We are youjin. Don't call me ever again.



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The Soft Sp

From **Fragile Scholar** to **'Little Fresh Meat'** By Dominic Ngai

Five million likes, two million comments and one million reposts. That's the reaction to the October 8 Weibo post where Luhan – also known as the 'Chinese Justin Bieber' – admitted his relationship with actress Guan Xiaotong. Five days later, another post telling his fans to stay warm on a chilly Friday also garnered millions of responses. Luhan and members of a brigade of young Chinese pretty boys collectively labeled as 'little fresh meat' (小鲜肉, *xiaoxianrou*) – Kris Wu, Wang Junkai, Yang Yang, Xu Weizhou, Li Yifeng and many more – have some of the highest engagement numbers among all Chinese celebrities.



On any given day, those who live in any major Chinese city would find it hard to elude Kris Wu's blue steel stare while he models the newest Xiaomi smartphone on a subway billboard ad, or Luhan's cheery grin as he enjoys (or pretends to enjoy?) a piece of fried chicken every time you pass by a KFC outlet. Chinese consumers – especially their enormous fan base made up of young women born in the 1990s and 2000s – clearly have a soft spot for them.

According to a recent study that ranks the influence of China's top celebrities and KOLs published by consumer intelligence research firm Bomoda, the social and commercial influence of the abovementioned stars are even higher than some internationally recognized names and award-winning musicians, actors and actresses.

It's hard to dismiss the star power of the 'little fresh meat.' Louis Houdart, the CEO and founder of branding agency Creative Capital, points to French beauty brand L'Occitane's collaboration with Luhan back in May for their cherry blossom skincare line as a great example.

Immediately after the announcement of naming Luhan as their brand ambassador, all 20,000 units of a limited edition gift box bearing the celebrity's name were sold out online within two minutes.

"Luhan or any of the *xiaoxianrou* are an effective way to generate immediate buzz for a brand or a specific campaign; but six months later, people will only remember the brands that already have a strong identity and heritage," says Houdart at his Shanghai office.

The limited shelf life of 'little fresh meat,' he explains, forces them to win as many brand endorsement deals in a short period of time before

their freshness expires. "They become overexposed and over-commercialized over a very short time," Houdart adds. "Using these *xiaoxianrou* to promote a brand is just a short-term tactic, not a long-term strategy."

After all, it'd be hard to sell oneself as a *xiaoxianrou* beyond the age of 30. And time is ticking for many of today's hottest 'little fresh meat,' who are already in their mid- to late-20s.

But why are the Chinese so obsessed with these feminine, artificial-looking, guy liner-wearing pretty boys, and what makes them so influential in the first place?

An obvious answer that most people can point to is Korea. Since the late 1990s, the Korean Wave – a global phenomenon of the rising influence of Korean pop culture – has swept away the hearts of an entire generation of youth in the Middle Kingdom. The uncanny resemblance in terms of appearance and styling between K-pop stars like G-Dragon and China's very own *xiaoxianrou* is hard to ignore.

But for Dr. Song Geng, an associate professor at the University of Hong Kong who has written extensively about the portrayal of modern Chinese men in pop culture, the answer is right here in our own backyard.

He argues that the appeal of *xiaoxianrou*, as well as their Korean and Japanese early influencers, can actually be traced all the way back to the time of Confucius, during the Spring and Autumn period in Chinese history.

"The soft image of men is more easily accepted in Chinese and other East Asian cultures because of our shared roots in Confucianism, where the ideal image of men is a culturally refined intellectual who appears frail and feminine. This is very different than the macho idealized masculinity in Western culture," explains Song.

ot



In his book *The Fragile Scholar*, Song writes extensively about how this image has transpired into the age-old notion of *zhongwen qingwu* (重文轻武) in Chinese culture, where wisdom and literary talent is regarded as superior to physical strength and athleticism.

While there are similarities between the images of the modern day Asian pretty boys and fragile scholars of the past, there is, however, also a notable difference. "The term *xiaoxianrou* – especially the character *rou* (which translates to meat or flesh) – definitely has some sexual connotation that's not part of the fragile scholars' appeal," Song notes.

The 'little fresh meat' phenomenon, he argues, has something to do with the growing financial independence of Chinese women over the past couple of decades or so. "Traditionally, women were the object of desire; but these pretty boys have now become symbols of an implied heterosexual desire on the male body from a female perspective."

Meanwhile, in the world of fashion, designers such as Coco Chanel and Rick Owens from the West or Yohji Yamamoto and Masha Ma from the East have pushed the boundaries of gender in their work, contributing to an ever-blurring line that is starting to intersect with mainstream culture too.

South China Morning Post's senior culture correspondent Jing Zhang sees a connection between the rising status of street fashion brands in recent years and the 'little fresh meat' boom.

"The soft image of men is more easily accepted in Chinese and other East Asian cultures because of our shared roots in Confucianism"

"In casualwear, a lot of pieces are unisex and there's less distinction between male and female," Zhang notes. Some young Chinese designers that she's interviewed take inspiration from a new mood of rebellion within Chinese millennials, who play with the concept of gender identity as an emblem of protest against the traditional roles that their parents' generation staunchly enforces.

She adds, "It's a similar case with these feminine looking male pop stars with their heavy make up; I think young people embrace them as a way to express themselves against the stereotypes that an older generation of society upholds."

HKU's Song Geng sees the *xiaoxian-*

rou trend as more of an indication for a broader, more inclusive Chinese sense of appreciation for different styles of men. "The tough guy image still has its market," he says, referring to the record-breaking success of *Wolf Warrior 2* over the summer.

On Luhan's Baidu Tieba (a web forum frequented by his loyal fans), which has nearly 3.5 million followers, an interesting thread written by the forum moderator on October 14 caught my eye.

In summary, this lengthy open letter to the community addresses the fact that some negative comments about their beloved pop idol have been circulating on the Internet in recent days (following Luhan's post about his relationship status), and she asks for her fellow fans to refrain from engaging in any verbal fights with trolls, as well as urging them to continue to support 'Lu Lu' through these difficult times.

Hundreds of replies with messages of support from fans around the country all came within the next few minutes and hours – many writing even longer letters detailing why, when, where and how they fell in love with Luhan in the first place.

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LIFE & STYLE

New Year's Getaways

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P18



Scarf-Obsessed
P24



GRANT PEARCE

Editorial Director, GQ Asia Pacific

Interview by Dominic Ngai

Since starting his media career at Conde Nast in Sydney, Australia almost two decades ago, Grant Pearce has been an important voice in the fashion world in his home country and across Asia. Serving as the Editorial Director for GQ Asia Pacific since 2008, Pearce is responsible for guiding the editorial and fashion direction of the brand's China and Japan editions, and has also advised on the launches of GQ Thailand, GQ Style Korea and Conde Nast Traveller China. Here, Pearce tells us about the beginning of his career, menswear trends to look out for this winter, and a fad that he wishes to never see again.

Can you tell us about how you became interested in fashion, and how you started your career in media?

My career started in Sydney when I took a job as a storeman and packer at a textile company, where I met many fashion designers and boutique owners and was quickly attracted to fashion. One thing led to another, and I was offered a fashion assistant role with *Mode* magazine and soon became the fashion editor. In 1998, I was offered to join Conde Nast in a marketing role for *Vogue Australia*. Soon after I launched *GQ Australia*, and almost 10 years ago, I was asked to be part of the launch of *GQ China* and to take the role of editorial director for GQ Asia Pacific, and the rest is history.

What are your responsibilities as the editorial director of GQ Asia Pacific?

I have different responsibilities in different markets but the main influence is on the overall visual image and fashion direction, including photo shoots that take me all over the world – this is definitely one of my favorite parts of the job. With the ever-changing media landscape, I work closely with the publishers on business solutions and client relationships. This is super important as all the digital and social platforms need to be a part of the brand for it to be successful. However, print will always have a place in the fashion market and it is the cornerstone for our brands.

What are some of most memorable photo shoots that you've been involved in recently?

The most recent ones that I love include the fashion story I shot with celebrity F1 driver Lewis Hamilton on the Great Wall for *GQ China*, and the one I shot with Akira (from Japanese super group Exile) in New York's Polo Bar for *GQ Japan*. These guys were true gentlemen and really loved the clothes, styling and experience, which made it a pleasure to produce.

Who are some of your favorite young Chinese designers/labels?

I am so excited to see so many emerging Chinese designers who are carving out a unique place in the fashion world. A few that have made an impact on me are Xander Zhou, Pronounce and Uma Wang. My favorite store, Dong Liang, has supported the rise of emerging Chinese designers and has an excellent selection; I always find something that catches my eye there.

What are some of your favorite fashion items at the moment?

The perfect cashmere track pants, a biker style leather jacket, and skinny denim jeans. The older I get the more important true classic pieces become.

What are some important menswear trends to watch this winter?

Coats are key this season and there are many different styles on offer, from the newest oversized silhouette to a classic trench with a twist. Checks are a must-have, and the most dynamic trend is termed 'athleisure,' which combines the practical applications of sportswear with luxury fabrics and modern styling.

Which menswear trend or fad do you wish to never see again?

I am a little tired of seeing skirts on the menswear runways as I do not believe it will ever become a mainstream trend. Obviously, there have been excellent examples where it has had a true place and meaning, like the amazing collections created by Comme des Garçons and Rick Owens.

You travel a lot for work... what are a few of your travel essentials?

On every trip, I travel with Rimowa luggage, a Louis Vuitton keepall, a vintage Rolex watch... and good eye drops. Bloodshot eyes on arrival is not a good look!

Find out more at gq.com.cn

STYLE RADAR

TAP THAT APP

Kwai

There are video apps that make everything look flawless. And then there is Kwai.

Described by the *Wall Street Journal* as “a medium for those in less-developed parts of China to share what they find relevant or amusing,” Kwai gives us first-tier city slickers a chance to peek outside our bubble at the wide world beyond. If you’ve never traveled to rural China, this is the next best thing.

Setting up an account may require some help from a Mandarin-speaking friend, but once you’re on the platform the app is easy to navigate. Bypass the ‘Nearby’ button (which tends to draw a lot of creeps) and head straight to ‘Explore,’ where you’ll find thousands of top-rated video clips – some entertaining, some painfully dull – filmed by users across China.

Examples of duller clips we encountered: a Meituan delivery guy eating lunch; six pans of *hongshao rou* steaming in a kitchen; someone cleaning a shoe with toothpaste. And the entertaining: a PLA soldier doing the Macarena; houses built entirely of corncoobs; an inside look at Beijing’s new international airport, filmed by construction workers on the scene.

If you think you can compete with clips of farmers harvesting sunflowers or five-year-olds hand-pulling noodles, then consider posting a video of your own. If not, just sit back and watch. You might find rural Chinese humor more relatable than you think. Or, as Kwai’s website so eloquently puts it, you might “Wow for the same rainbow and upset by the same traffic jam.”

Kwai is available for both iPhone and Android devices. Visit kwai.com for more info.



INSPECT-A-GADGET

Single-use Power Bank



You’ve been there: the end of a night out, phone battery at 1 percent, Uber on the way – and just before you check the plate number, your phone dies. Now you’ll spend the tail of your Friday looking for a friendly convenience store, begging them to let you charge up, please, just a little.

Enter the single-use power bank – also dubbed the ‘emergency’ power bank – a palm-sized gadget small enough to forget that it’s in your pocket and packing a double-digit charge for modern smartphones.

The design is simple: flip a switch to make the charger live, plug your phone in and wait. But the simplicity also means copycat companies have begun churning them out in scale. An Alibaba search has more than 3,000 results, leading to howls from environmentalists, who are worried cheap, single-use batteries will begin flooding landfills.

But even if you don’t buy into the

charge’n’toss nature of the product, with a shelf life of years, it’s a good idea to store a few with emergency supplies.

Versions sold range from the cardboard-cased (claiming to be more environmentally friendly) to those kept in condom-esque wrappers, which result in a fair few sideways glances in public.

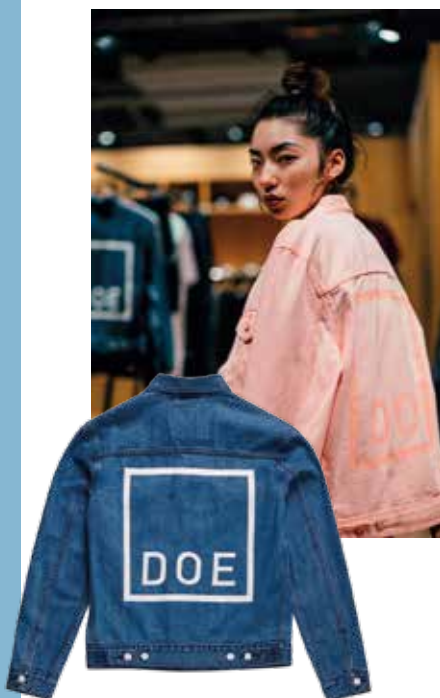
Just make sure you get the right type for your phone – Apple or microUSB – though some now sport ‘universal’ adapters.

In the end, these aren’t a replacement for their larger, reusable cousins – especially considering the prices aren’t much lower than the cheapest power banks. But in a pinch? It can be the difference between getting to bed at a reasonable hour and a long walk home.

Available for about RMB50 on JD.com; search 一次性充电宝 (yī cì xìng chōng diàn bǎo)

COVET

DOE / Levi’s TYPE III Truck Jacket



A longtime collaborator of DOE, Levi’s has recently partnered again with the Shanghai-born streetwear brand to roll out a special edition of their classic TYPE III Truck Jacket (RMB1,299). First introduced 50 years ago in the US, this newest crossover item is available in two colors – ‘indigo’ (blue) and ‘noir’ (black) – each with a large DOE square logo printed in the back of the jacket. There’s also third color – ‘peachy’ (pink) – but it’s only for friends and family and is not available to the public. Find these jackets in DOE outlets and on their official website.

doeshanghai.com



DAYTRIPPER

Our Go-to Swimming Spot in Guangzhou

Summers in Vancouver, British Columbia, are all about the outdoors. Growing up in the city, my friends and I spent the warm days of July and August hiking, trout fishing and swimming in rivers, aqua-blue glacier-fed lakes and the Pacific Ocean.

But upon moving to Guangzhou, my outdoor swimming exploits came to an abrupt end. Despite an abundance of pools in the city, swimming in an artificial container of water, treatment chemicals and child urine is clearly not the same as a glassy-clear river.

For those living in the heart of Guangzhou, the only real natural swimming option would be the Pearl River, but it's too icky and polluted for a nice dip.

Visits to two lakes in northern Tianhe District, near the boundaries of Huangpu and Baiyun, were also as underwhelming as the sequel to 2004's *Anchorman*. Resembling large carp ponds, both lakes were murky, muddy and had shorelines strewn with rubbish.

Then, on the tip of a friend, I finally discovered an unsoiled swimming hole within Guangzhou city limits: Wangzishan Forest Park (王子山森林公园).

Located about an hour's drive north of Guangzhou's CBD, in Huadu District, the park is most easily accessed via car (we recommend Didi, as most taxis won't take you that far).

After forking over RMB30 per person to two bored-looking guards at the park gate, my companions and I traveled a paved road towards a small, rustic village that serves as the starting point for Wangzishan, or Prince Mountain, exploration.



When we arrived at the settlement at around 10am, it was decidedly quiet. The only people visible were a pair of elderly men smoking cigarettes on overturned buckets and a woman running a small stand selling bottled water and soft drinks.

We also encountered another group of hikers in the village, the only other group of people we would see on the trail for close to an hour.

Starting out from the village, the trail follows a small river into dense, jungle-like foliage and eventually ends atop the mountain. Along the route, we passed tranquil pools deep enough to swim in and a seemingly endless number of waterfalls. There was also a large, apparently man-made cave, which rumor has it was tunneled during WWII, although this has proven difficult to verify.

The swimming holes lower on the trail, thus closer to human habitation, were not the cleanest, with garbage and discarded clothing occasionally visible around the water's edge. But after hiking for around an hour, we were rewarded with a number of cold, crystal-clear natural pools that look as though they were teleported from beautiful British Columbia.

One pool even had a nearby small rock ledge that was a perfect jumping point, although we caution anyone leaping to ensure the water level is high enough – the depth presumably fluctuates with the seasons.

During hours of frolicking in the pools, we saw relatively few people, all of whom were hikers. Some stopped and watched us enjoying the cool water while most simply carried on along the trail. No one else got into the water, meaning we had the pool all to ourselves.

On our hike down, we did notice some children swimming, but the upper portion of the river still has plenty of private, low-key spots to cool down from the stifling summer heat.

Anyone interested in checking out Wangzishan Forest Park should bring water, snacks and proper hiking footwear, as the trail can prove slippery at points. And, a final note: please pick up your garbage. This spot is awesome; let's keep it that way. **MB**

How to get there:

Order a Didi, or private car, to Wangzishan Forest Park (王子山森林公园). Alternatively, take Metro Line 3 to Renhe Station and then catch the 704 bus, which you will need to ride 17 stops to Lianglong Shichang market. From there, catch the No. 17 bus, which will take you to the gate of Wangzishan Forest Park.



NEW YEAR'S GETAWAYS

Top Destinations for Your Countdown to 2018

By Ariana Crisafulli

Chinese New Year is great – dumplings, food and friends paired with that four-hour long variety show prattle in the background. But sometimes we want to ring in the new year with a good old-fashioned bout of Western-style revelry. Look no further! This is your guide to the region's best New Year's bashes on the eve of 2018.

THAILAND

With stunning coastlines, unreal islands and rich mountain greenery, Thailand is a must-visit country, no matter the season. However, near the New Year, the weather is particularly impec-

cable and the parties outstanding. We picked a number of spots to ring in the New Year in Thailand.

Chiang Mai: Lanterns, Lights and Live Music

Chiang Mai is a favorite for travelers. With its exquisite temples and live music on nearly every corner, it makes for an amazing visit year-round. During the Western New Year, Chiang Mai goes all out. Head to the Pae Gate in the walled city for some live music and drinks, a countdown, fireworks and the main event: releasing thousands of lit lanterns at the stroke of midnight.

Chiang Mai also boasts live music along the eastern banks of the Ping River for New Year's Eve celebrations. This strip along the river has a number of bars and restaurants hosting outstanding music performances with the Ping River as a serene backdrop.

Bangkok: Loy Nava River Cruise

If you like the idea of spending your New Year's Eve riverside, the Loy Nava River cruise on the Chao Phraya River is right up your alley. This option is especially appealing for couples who want to ring in the New Year with a candlelit traditional Thai meal and onboard live performances on a historic teakwood rice



barge. Though this excursion is not exclusively reserved for New Year's Eve, cruising down the Chao Phraya River on December 31 offers a spectacular view of the Bangkok fireworks show. Tickets are USD48.54 (RMB317) per adult and USD31.11 (RMB204) per child.

The Countdown

Sometimes the classics are the best, like a good old-fashioned countdown to the New Year. This celebration is highlighted by fireworks, pyro-artwork, concerts and, of course, live broadcasts of worldwide countdowns.

Koh Phangan Island: Full Moon Party

No matter what time of year you visit Thailand, if you like to party, the Full Moon Party on Koh Phangan island is an absolute must-see-to-be-believed ordeal. The term 'full moon' is to be taken lightly, as the full moon appears only once per month, while the full moon revelry and partygoers appear more than once per month on Haad Rin beach. Check out DJs, fire dancing and general carousing on December 31 to ring in the New Year.

Phuket: Surin Beach

Phuket holds the reputation of being one of the biggest party spots in all of Thailand. With its wild club scene on Bangla Road and its

proximity to screensaver-esque beaches, Phuket never fails the imagination of the true partygoer.

Surin Beach on Phuket Island holds one of the most dazzling New Year's celebrations in the country, supported by Paris Hilton, who has long been the driving force behind the Surin Beach New Year's parties, which include live performances by big-name pop artists.

CHINA

If you're looking to stay a little closer to the neighborhood, China has plenty to offer in the way of Western New Year. Check out these five spots to get your New Year's fix.

Hong Kong: Time's Square Countdown

Again, sometimes the classics are the ones that can leave you with that warm tingly feeling. The Time's Square countdown in Hong Kong is one of those events, marked by live music and entertainment and a live countdown to 2018.

Victoria Harbor Cruise

If you want a glimpse of magnificent Hong Kong fireworks but you don't relish the crowds, take a spin on one of Victoria Harbor's all-included food and drink cruises and watch the fireworks. New Year's Eve Victoria Bay cruises range around USD80 (RMB528) to USD265 (RMB1,750).

Lan Kwai Fong New Year's Party

Lan Kwai Fong is a focal point of partygoers in Hong Kong, and during New Year's Eve, it kicks up to the next level. Many clubs ask for a cover charge in exchange for food and endless drinks. You can also just grab a few beers at the 7/11 and spend your evening clinking bottles with the crowd of revelers in the street.

Chinese Taipei: Taipei 101 Fireworks Show

This metropolitan city is a fantastic place to ring in 2018, with plenty of bars and clubs to help you stay up until midnight and a display show centering around Taipei 101.



Chinese Taipei: New Year's Eve Countdown Party

Having the distinction of being the third tallest building in the world, Taipei 101 is impressive even on a normal day. However, add to it fireworks displays and a light show, and the tower is outright majestic. On New Year's Eve, the celebrations will take place around this impressive construction, with a light show that lights up each floor of the tower as the countdown takes place. There will also be live performances by pop stars from 7pm to 1am.

INDONESIA

A top destination for travelers worldwide, Bali doesn't disappoint with its wild beach parties and tranquil scenery. Whether you're looking for the party of the year or just a relaxing place to kick up your feet, these three options have something for everyone.

Bali: Kuta Beach

If you really want to let your freak flag fly on New Year's Eve, then head on over to Kuta Beach on the Indonesian island of Bali. Here, you will find an afternoon carnival with a party that rages through the night and straight into 2018.

Jimbaran Bay and Sanur Beach

Though Bali can be a place of unrelenting festivity, it can also be a place of deep serenity. If the beach is your thing, but so is peace and quiet, check out either Jimbaran Bay or Sanur Beach for some peaceful reflection on the past year and the new one to come.

Bedugul

If you're more of a mountain/lakeside person, Bali's got you covered. This lakeside paradise also offers a memorable (depending on your alcohol intake) beach party and fireworks for New Year's Eve.

PHILIPPINES



Check out Boracay Island for a more off-the-beaten-path New Year's adventure. You might be surprised to learn that Boracay ranks 13th in a survey of the best places in the world to celebrate New Year's Eve. See what all the fuss is about.

Boracay: White Beach

The party on White Beach is an all-day event with a range of bars and restaurants to grab New Year's Eve drinks and a pristine view of the white sand beaches and clear turquoise water as a backdrop. The highlight of the party begins at 11.30pm with the fireworks displays and an ensuing countdown and festivities that'll have you up until the first sunrise of 2018.

SINGAPORE

Singapore is well known for its liveliness and prowess in entertainment and hospitality. New Year's Eve is no exception. Check out these two amazing parties to say hello to 2018.

Marina Bay: Countdown

Arguably the best place to be in Singapore for New Year's Eve celebrations is Marina Bay. There, you can watch the countdown and fireworks on the Marina Bay skyline or celebrate at one of the area's best re-

sorts, including the Marina Bay Sands Resort which has an observation deck and infinity pool facing the city's skyline and New Year's fireworks display.

Siloso Beach Party

Siloso Beach is one of the main attractions in Singapore on New Year's Eve. The beach is transformed to a party haven on December 31, with 12 hours of music, dancing and even a foam pool.

JAPAN

If you want to be one of the first in the world to ring in the new year, fly yourself over to the land of the rising sun and be get an early New Year's Eve kiss.

Tokyo: Countdown Japan

Countdown Japan in Tokyo is a pretty big deal. This event takes the 'eve' part to a whole other level, starting four days before the actual event on December 28 and ending December 31. For one to four days, you can rock out to Japanese pop stars and big names in electronic music. Tickets are available for one day or all four and the pricing ranges from USD102 (RMB673) to USD310 (RMB2,047). The tickets are distributed via raffle due to the concert's popularity, so be sure to sign up early!





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WRAP IT UP

Complete Your Winter Look and Stay Comfortably Warm

Compiled by Dominic Ngai

Scarves may just be that simple accessory to keep you warm during the winter, but when you wear ones with the perfect colors and patterns to match your outfit, they can add a special touch to spice up your look. From classic to playful, here are a few of our top picks.

For Him

- 1 Gucci, RMB3,750
wGucci.cn
- 2 Beams, RMB1,780
beams.co.jp
- 3 Louis Vuitton, RMB4,750
louisvuitton.cn
- 4 H&M, RMB149
hm.com

For Her

- 1 Burberry, RMB3,900
burberry.cn
- 2 Beams, RMB890
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- 3 Gap, RMB299
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PRD Wearabouts

Each month, we scour the streets of Shenzhen and Guangzhou to find some of the most stylish people in town and see what they're wearing.

Photos by Sky Thomas Gidge and Tristin Zhang

Cherie

Coat: COS
Skirt: initial
Shoes: Lesele



John

Jacket: Aape
Pants: Aape
Shoes: Nike



Vicky

Jacket: KICK
Dress: Self-designed
Shoes: 'Unknown' of Korean origin



Bin

T-shirt: Uniqlo
Shoes: Vans
Jacket: SPINNS





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Dr. Lingling Wu
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ARTS

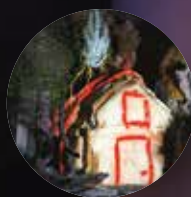


Wang Feng

The Western filmmakers introducing China's biggest rock star to the world, p32



Kris Wu
P30



China Music Corner
P34

PAUL VAN DYK

The Grammy Award-winning DJ Returns to China after Recovering from a Near-death Injury Last Year

By Erica Martin

As one of the world's most recognized DJs, Paul van Dyk started performing at underground venues in Berlin in the 90s and essentially invented trance music. He then went on to win a Grammy and the number one spot on *DJ Mag's* Top 100 DJ List twice. At a performance in The Netherlands last year, van Dyk fell through a gap in the stage and suffered severe spinal and brain injuries, putting him out of commission for months before he returned with a renewed enthusiasm for his trade. We caught up with PvD before his first post-recovery China tour to learn more about his sci-fi-inflected new album, fame in DJing and trance's euphoric appeal.



“I think fans will always be attracted to the uplifting, inclusive nature of trance shows”

Tell us a bit about your upcoming album, *From Then On*. How does it connect to your time recovering from your injury after A State of Trance festival last year?

This is the most personal album I have made so far in my career. All these songs are close to my heart and were made in the months following the accident. There was a time when I wasn't sure if I'd walk again, let alone make music, so the joy I experienced in the sessions while making these tracks was like none other. There was no A&R manager pushing certain songs or a particular direction for this album; instead it's a collection of songs that are extremely meaningful to me. I hope my fans enjoy listening to it as much as I enjoyed making it.

Why do you think trance music and its soaring, uplifting elements has caused so many people to become lifelong fans of the genre?

Well, to me trance music is one of purest and most euphoric types of music. I've always made high tempo, melodic electronic music throughout my career. *From Then On* is certainly much more of a true trance record than a lot of the pop/EDM music you hear these days. I think fans of trance will always be attracted to the

primal energy of the music and uplifting, inclusive nature of trance shows generally.

How does the new album's sci-fi and futuristic elements connect to its themes? Will it have any connection to the visuals of your shows in China?

A lot of the visuals – in terms of the music videos and artwork – are very futuristic and revolve around the theme of finding your utopia. The album is very interconnected with my new live show, AEON by Paul van Dyk. You'll have to check out the show to see how it all works together! But basically it is about learning how to let go in order to find happiness.

What do you think about the divide between EDM shows at major festivals versus more underground electronic music?

Well I think it's more than just an underground/mainstream divide. When I first started my career, electronic music was always part of the underground. Today, what is considered 'electronic dance music' is essentially pop music that borrows elements of electronic music, and is very mainstream. I think the line between electronic and pop music has been blurred, and so has the line between under-

ground and mainstream. There are varying degrees to whether music is electronic or pop, mainstream or underground – it's not as black and white as it once was.

Looking back on your career, how does it feel to be seen as one of the first DJs to find international stardom? How do you think the role of fame in DJing, and DJs as famous musicians, has changed since you were starting out?

I am very humbled, because when I first started there were literally a couple hundred people in all of Berlin who appreciated this music! I never expected to play outside of Germany, let alone around the world. This was such a niche genre when I first started my career; I don't think anyone would have expected to grow into such a massive commercialized industry that it is today. While I'm grateful for the success I've had, I think I'd still be making music and DJing even if electronic music never took off like it had. I do this for the love of the music rather than the fame that comes along with it.

Fri Nov 10, 10pm-late; HKD405-1,020. Zentral, 4-5/F, California Tower, 32 D'Aguilar Street, Central, Hong Kong (pvdhk.eventbrite.com, 852-2111 8110)

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★ NOVEMBER 10 ★

Murder on the Orient Express

Murder on the Orient Express is one of Agatha Christie's most famous novels, featuring iconic detective Hercule Poirot. Kenneth Branagh directs and stars as Poirot in this sumptuous, slightly campy film adaptation, sporting his best Belgian accent and the most dramatic silver mustache ever depicted onscreen. Penelope Cruz, Johnny Depp, Daisy Ridley and Judy Dench also play some of the passengers Poirot suspects of having committed murder on a luxurious train trip across Europe. Scheduled for a simultaneous release with the US, this film marks the fourth time in which Christie's novel has been adapted for the screen since it was published in 1934.



★ NOVEMBER 17 ★

Justice League

Also scheduled for a simultaneous release with the US on Nov 17, *Justice League* is the latest celebrity-packed superhero blockbuster and the fifth installment in the DC Extended Universe. The film picks up after the tragic events at the end of *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* (no spoilers, though if you watch the *Justice League* trailer you'll get some), and see Wonder Woman (Gal Godot) and Batman (Ben Affleck) assemble a team of 'metahumans' including the Flash (Ezra Miller) and Aquaman (Jason Momoa) to take down Steppenwolf (Ciarán Hinds), an immortal from the nightmarish plant of Apokolips who leads an army of parademons. Amy Adams, J.K. Simmons, Diane Lane, Billy Crudup and William Dafoe also star.

AGE

SINO CELEB

Kris Wu

You might know his face from the memes. Round sunnies perched atop his impeccable hair, Wu looks perfectly serious as he challenges rappers with the offbeat catchphrase '有freestyle吗?' ('Can you freestyle?').

The image comes from trending reality series *The Rap of China*, where the 26-year-old plays the role of 'star producer' alongside older industry veterans. While the pop star has been mocked for his lack of street cred, he's also helped raise the profile of a show some say is making hip-hop mainstream in China – a testament to Wu's popularity.

The Guangzhou-born Canadian citizen began his career in 2012 as a rapper in Korean boy band EXO-M ('M' for 'Mandarin'), which was specifically created to target the Chinese market.

After two bestselling albums, Wu struck out on his own, releasing singles while appearing in various Chinese blockbusters. Critical

acclaim has yet to come, however: Wu was singled out by the Golden Broom Awards as 2016's 'Most Disappointing Actor.'

But there's no denying his sheer star power. We witnessed it in person this past summer while watching European sci-fi flick *Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets*, in which Wu plays a minor role.

The pop idol's first appearance on the screen sparked a collective intake of breath inside the movie theater – a sound of surprise, and wonder, as audience members waited to see what he would do next.

Kind of like: Justin Timberlake

Famous for: being in a Korean boy band

See him next in: *Europe Raiders* (2017)



HAO BU HAO

Hao



China's film festival scene has been growing vibrantly over the past several years, and the latest addition is the Pingyao Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon Festival, which debuted on Oct 28 and runs through Nov 4. Founded by leading Sixth Generation filmmaker Jia Zhangke and marketed as China's answer to Cannes, the festival will be held in Pingyao, an ancient city and UNESCO World Heritage Site in Jia's home province, Shanxi. Ang Lee gave Jia permission to name the festival after his celebrated film, and there will be "Crouching Tiger" and "Hidden Dragon" segments of the program, which focus on genre films and emerging directors, respectively. After its premiere was delayed earlier last month, Feng Xiaogang's film, *Youth*, became the festival's opening screening.



Bu Hao

Ever since the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced in early October that *Wolf Warrior 2* was China's official Oscar contender for the Best Foreign Language Film category, debate has raged online as to whether or not the blockbuster film was the right choice. While some viewers believe it only makes sense that the nation's highest-grossing film of all time would be put forth as the best film of the year, others argue that such a commercial action film lacks the artistic merit needed to be considered in the category. The film is up against entries from 92 other countries, and the official Oscar nominees will be announced on January 23.

THE PLAYLIST

From MC Hotdog's rhythmic rhyme-spitting to Seth Troxler's expansive electronica, here are our top 10 tunes from artists playing in the PRD this month.

Bob Moses - Tearing Me Up

Miss Ko - Slide

MC Hotdog - 差不多先生

Higher Brothers - Made in China

Kris Wu - Juice

Seth Troxler - The Woes of Me

红花会 - Talking Sh*t Freestyle

苏见信 - 火烧的寂寞

Yip Sai-wing - 荣光

Wilber Pan - 慢动作

WHAT'S NEW

Stephen Chow, Tsui Hark, Ang Lee Named Most Powerful Filmmakers in China

Last month, popular movie-focused WeChat platform Yiqipaidianying released a list that ranks the 100 most 'powerful' filmmakers in China. In order to decide on the rankings, the publication analyzed each filmmaker's score on major domestic film rating websites like Douban, their media coverage



and their box office totals from 2005 onward. Stephen Chow landed at the top of the list, still riding off the success of 2016's *The Mermaid*, while Vietnamese-Chinese director Tsui Hark and Taiwan's Ang Lee took the second and third spot. Other highly ranked directors included Jiang Wen (#4), Feng Xiaogang of *I Am Not Madam Bovary* (#5), Zhang Yimou of *Red Sorghum* and *The Great Wall* (#6), Chen Kaige of *Farewell My Concubine* (#7), and Wu Jing of *Wolf Warrior 2* (#10). Noticeably absent from the top 10 were several directors who have massive followings in the West, like Wong Kar-wai, who clocks in at #19, and Jia Zhangke, who is far lower on the list at #61.

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EXISTENCE

By Jocelyn Richards

THE UNTOLD STORY OF CHINA'S BIGGEST ROCK STAR... AND THE WESTERN FILMMAKERS WHO MADE IT KNOWN

In less than 24 hours of going live, *Existence*, an English-narrated documentary that charts the story of China's biggest rock musician, Wang Feng, had racked up 1.25 million views on iQiyi.

Netizens everywhere weighed in with comments, many moved by the film's candid depiction of a celebrity so often mocked in the media.

From their home in Guangzhou, producers Tom, Maxwell and Jacob Sanderson – three brothers from York, England – watched the numbers climb in a well-deserved culmination of their three-year endeavor to write, film and edit the first major documentary on China's rock-and-roll legend. It was the project of a lifetime, and one the Sanderson brothers could have never seen coming.

"We arrived here nine years ago with a suitcase, we didn't know anyone and we had a crap camera," jokes Tom, who was instrumental in financing *Existence*. "But to now be navigating the Chinese music industry and dealing with Wang Feng and Zhang Ziyi on that level... it's like a dream."

The trio started out by founding their own film production company, SLA Studios, in 2011, splitting a RMB7,000 salary and one-

person apartment three ways until the business gained momentum. Their passion for music inspired them to focus on filming festivals, concerts and events all across China, which is what led them to Wang Feng in 2014.

"He was doing a show at the Bird's Nest in Beijing, and we were filming the sound team because it was a huge operation – the logistics of filling a 70,000-person stadium with music," explains Max.

When one of Wang Feng's crew saw what the Sandersons had filmed, they asked to work with them on the spot, saying they had something unique – "20 percent that's different from other film companies."

The initial agreement held that SLA Studios would film Wang Feng's national tour, 10 shows total, and create a standard concert movie. But Max – who would become the chief writer and director of *Existence* – quickly discovered the story went deeper than that.

"We went to the first show in Shijiazhuang and it wasn't like what I'd imagine a rock band to be backstage – it was so well behaved," he recalls. "And Wang Feng seemed like a pretty serious and highly professional guy, so I thought, I have to do something on him."

"We met his mum for coffee – no cameras,

just to talk – and she just burst into tears, telling us loads of stuff. We realized we had a really good story."

But turning the project into a film about his whole life – instead of just the tour – would mean funding part of it themselves, and there was no guarantee Wang Feng was ready to share his intimate past with the world.

Still, the Sandersons decided to go for it. "We lost everything," Tom recalls. "We totally restructured our business model within a period of about three months to make a conscious effort to pursue [the film]."

It took a while – up until the first cut – for them to gain Wang Feng's trust. And even then, he was so "insanely busy" most days that he often forgot they were making a documentary about his life – a film that would ultimately show the world who he is.

"He's quite reserved," Max admits. "The most time we spent together was traveling from hotels to gigs. It'd always be a 20-minute journey or so, and we would just sit and talk about the meaning of life, or anything."

Gradually, and with support from Onsite Post Production House in London, the Sandersons pieced together a narrative of the real Wang Feng: an introverted kid turned

rebellious rocker, caught between his blossoming individuality and the pressure to conform.

At its core, the film was just a summary of his life. But for Wang Feng, it brought clarity.

“He was like, ‘These guys understand me completely – I’ve never been able to look at myself in this way,’” says Max of Wang Feng’s reaction to the final cut.

Interviews with immediate family members – including his wife, high-profile Chinese actress Zhang Ziyi – bandmates, friends and mentors, helped humanize the story, showing local audiences a more relatable side of the once distant megastar.

For non-Chinese audiences, *Existence* legitimized the idea that China could have a real Springsteen of its own – not just a talented impersonator.

“Wang Feng’s story is more ‘rock and roll’ than most of the rock artists in the West,” offers Max. “You hear his songs talking about ‘breaking free’ and all that stuff and it’s like, wow, the ultimate – I mean, isn’t that the definition of rock?”

Tom adds that while there may not yet be much desire for Chinese music internationally, there is a market for people interested in the stories of Chinese artists.

Existence is uniquely crafted to target both wider international audiences and local audiences. It’s a new concept for Chinese video streaming sites like iQiyi, and one SLA Studios plans to continue developing.

“It would be great to create a five-part series, kind of like *Hip-Hop Evolution* on Netflix, with stories from China that are genuinely interesting,” Tom says. The team is already discussing a second film featuring DJ Youdai, who is interviewed in *Existence* and who knows “pretty much everyone” in the Chinese music industry.

While that will likely be their next adventure, the Sandersons also have another goal: to get Wang Feng on BBC Two’s *Later... with Jools Holland* – and make him famous worldwide.



Existence is available to watch on iQiyi.com. You can also catch Wang Feng live in Shenzhen: Sat Dec 9, 7.30pm; RMB280-1,680. Shenzhen Bay Sports Center, 3001 Binhai Dadao, Nanshan District 南山区滨海大道3001号 (en.damai.cn, 0755-8630 8888)



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CHINA

MUSIC CORNER

Three New Homegrown Albums on Our Radar This Month

By Erica Martin

Vanishing Cinema by Hyph11e

As a core member of Shanghai electronic music collective Genome 6.66MBP, Hyph11e's debut EP marks an important moment for the local club scene. She named the album after a dream about memories disappearing before her eyes, which inspired her to quit her day job and devote herself to music. The opening strains of 'Black Pepper 炎' are comprised of solemn gongs followed by a single animalistic whoop, and then a slow pendulum of bass that you can feel in your chest starts descending, punctuated by occasional bullet-fast bass sounds. The very digital and futuristic 'Speak to Me 呓语' featuring Sharon Stewart is another memorable track, blending mumbling female vocals, glitches and beeps, soupy, bubbling noises and one notable hawk shriek. All of the tracks are to some extent sound exploration; while bass-heavy, they are slow and sometimes spare, making use of the contrast between silence and grinding industrial bass. The album as a whole is overlaid with an aura of eerie futurism, and the three remixes by Tzusing, M.E.S.H. and Kid Antoine round things out by orienting the tracks a bit more toward the dance floor.



We Are Shanghai Vol. 5 by Various Artists

The fifth installment of this local music showcase founded by expat musician Ivan Belcic was compiled by band members of thrash metal band Hitobashira and pop-rockers Pinball City. At 40 tracks, it's an exhausting listen and could maybe have benefitted from some curation, but the compilation gains strength from interspersing all the vein-bulging metal songs, of which there are many, with songs from other genres ranging from dubstep to hip-hop to pop-rock and country. There's much variety and you never know quite what you're going to hear next. Some of the tracks we found most memorable include Queen of Shanghai and MC Jado's dub/reggae banger 'Raga Muffin Soldier,' Ugly Girls' snarky punk track 'Fuck Boss' and 'Edible Clouds,' Parachutes on Fire's breezy ode to edibles. Of the metal and guitar-heavy rock songs, Second Son's is a standout for mashing up glitchy electronic elements with metal, while General Tsao's 'Blood On The Sheets' also stands out thanks to the almost Jefferson Airplane-like warbly voice of the vocalist. The most apparent takeaway from *We Are Shanghai Vol. 5* is that this particular slice of Shanghai's music scene is as pointedly male as ever, but if you listen closely, there are more diverse and interesting roots gradually spreading.

一瞬千擊 by Tzusing

Tzusing's humble beginnings running the local Stockholm Syndrome club night at The Shelter in Shanghai have given way to his becoming perhaps the city's most 'famous' underground DJ and producer, releasing albums on respected NYC label L.I.E.S. and touring some of the world's best nightclubs, from Berlin's Berghain to Brooklyn Night Baazar. Now based between Shanghai and Taipei, Tzusing dropped his latest release last month on Dubai-based label Bedouin Records, which also released a record by erstwhile Shanghai producer Pan Daijing earlier this year. In the opening track, 'Flow State,' featuring Stockholm Syndrome co-founder Illsee, a loop of zombified throat singing is punctuated by a driving industrial beat and nasal droning. Tzusing is rather adroit at coming up with evocative song names, and 'Shame' has a reverberating hum that for some reason calls to mind that exact emotion. Several great moments take a left turn just when you think you've figured the track out, like in '得意先生' or 'Mr. Smug,' when some shrill, creepy-crawly instrumentation enters about a minute in, meshing with distant, distorted vocals.





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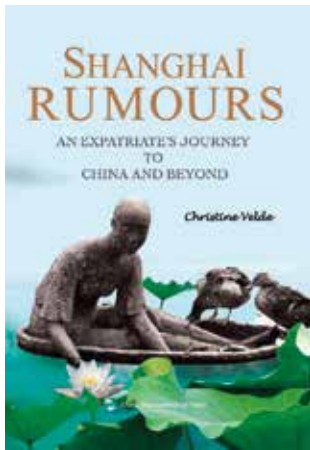
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SHANGHAI RUMOURS

An Expatriate's Journey to China and Beyond

Written by Christine Velde



Shanghai Rumours explores a 10-year period in the life of 'Kristen,' an Australian expatriate in Shanghai. Living in a foreign country is a transformative experience, which brings opportunities for discovering new things about other cultures and oneself. However, living abroad presents many challenges. *Shanghai Rumours* emphasizes the importance of the freedom to choose and create one's life, to take risks and to live outside the box.

This literary memoir explores the reasons why the Australian protagonist, and others from Australia, Europe and the UK choose to live and work in a very different culture from their own,

and the challenges they face in China.

Although there have been discussions about challenges of East to West migrations, few have written about the difficulties of moving from the West to the East. Yet these migrations are becoming more frequent due to globalization and advancements in technology. *Shanghai Rumours* helps to shed a light on this subject.

This book illustrates the experiences of both Chinese and Western expatriates and their contributions to life and work in Shanghai. Philosophical and literary themes such as loss, attachment to place, freedom and transformation are highlighted throughout, along with photos depicting the daily life and history of Shanghai. Poetry was considered integral to the writing of the memoir because it provides a more layered and visual meaning than prose alone could express.

Interviews were carried out with expatriates (strategists, entrepreneurs, artists, architects and writers) in Shanghai and Hong Kong during May 2012, and are reported in narrative form to include events and people that shaped the city. These stories reveal what it's like to live there as Westerners, and how this experience transforms them on a personal level.

For Velde, writing this memoir was a cathartic process that helped her see the experience of living abroad in a new light.



24 SOLAR TERMS FAIRY TALE

A Talking Picture Book

Translated and Edited by Berenice Zandonai

Two years ago, Chinese friends of French writer Berenice Zandonai sent her some illustrated postcards about the 24 solar terms in Chinese culture, and she was immediately inspired by their fantastic story. By following the journey of the young protagonist, she felt like she traveled through the four seasons and felt the magic of each change in the weather throughout the year.

After sending some of these postcards to her friends in France, she decided to search for the entire collection, and managed to contact Jorsir, a young and talented Chinese illustrator who created the postcards and proposed to translate the content into English.

Later, the two of them decided to make these beautiful illustrations of 24 solar terms into a Chinese-English bilingual picture book, so that people around the world could learn more about traditional Chinese culture and the wonderful stories behind the different seasons. Thanks to the help of China Intercontinental Communication Press, the book is now available in both Chinese-English and Chinese-French versions.

To purchase these books, please call

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MARCO POLO'S JOURNEY CONTINUES



As Shenzhen blazes into the future on legs of silicon and lightning, what will remain in Futian's hotel-heavy dining scene? Only those who evolve. We expect our first five-star hotel, the Marco Polo Shenzhen, will endure with understated elegance and dining excellence that keeps up with ever-changing times.

Cafe Marco's buffet (RMB328-348) now offers a rotating archipelago of stations, featuring cuisines from across Asia, imported

Western steaks, and house-made noodles with a clean clear taste and a perfectly tender bite.

Load up your plate with roasted fish, dim sum, soups, dumplings, sushi, seafood delivered every morning, a garden of veggies, superior baguettes and rolls. But save room for a grand selection of desserts featuring chocolate, cakes, custards, crumbles and creams, along with their beloved red velvet cake.

But the pride of the lot is Cafe Marco's cheesecake. We never expected such rich, airy

texture and wonderful crumble crust, but the pastry chef is clearly one of Shenzhen's best.

Love it? Hate it? Tomorrow there'll be something new. Under new direction from the dapper, dynamic Michael Loh, Cafe Marco's team of chefs is free to remake the menu to match their mood, their ingredients, and the crackling change of our times.

But if you want their delectable hairy crab—spicy, stir-fried, onion-braised, tea-steeped, or (best of all) simply steamed—you have to hurry. Even as Cafe Marco bends time to connect Shenzhen's past with our brave new future, they can't keep these critters past November 10.

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LASZLO'S LEGACY

Photographer Nicky Almasy on Shooting Shanghai's Iconic Art Deco Buildings

By Ned Kelly

Based in Shanghai from 2006, Hungarian photographer and filmmaker Nicky Almasy returned to the city recently to shoot the buildings designed by his countryman, architect Laszlo Hudec, who was active in the city from 1918 to 1945. With the help of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary and the Consulate General of Hungary in Shanghai, the result is his new book, *Hudec*. We caught up with Almasy to find out more about the project.

How did the book come about?

In February 2016, just before I moved away from Shanghai, I was talking to one of my acquaintances, the Consul for Culture and Education of the Consulate General of Hungary, Szentmartoni Livia. We discussed that what a great thing it would be to do a photo book on the remaining Hudec buildings – to shoot both the interior and exteriors of these buildings and collect them into an album.



We knew from the beginning that it was not going to be easy; some of these buildings have been closed, and even the ones that are open are not easy to photograph from the inside. You can't just walk into a bank and start snapping away. You need permits, which we all know, in China, are very difficult to get.

How did you go about shooting all the locations?

We started off on an insane schedule first, shooting six to seven buildings a day, and then I asked them to slow down a bit because I needed to know and study the buildings, not just get in and snap around.

I was lucky because the Consulate

General provided a car with a very helpful and patient driver, so I was almost living in that car for weeks. Also, I find using the drone a bit too fashionable for my taste, but I did drone shots of the buildings, which was fun. Whichever district I was taking photos in, every time we had the FAO representative of that actual district with us, so I was completely protected from the *bao'an*.

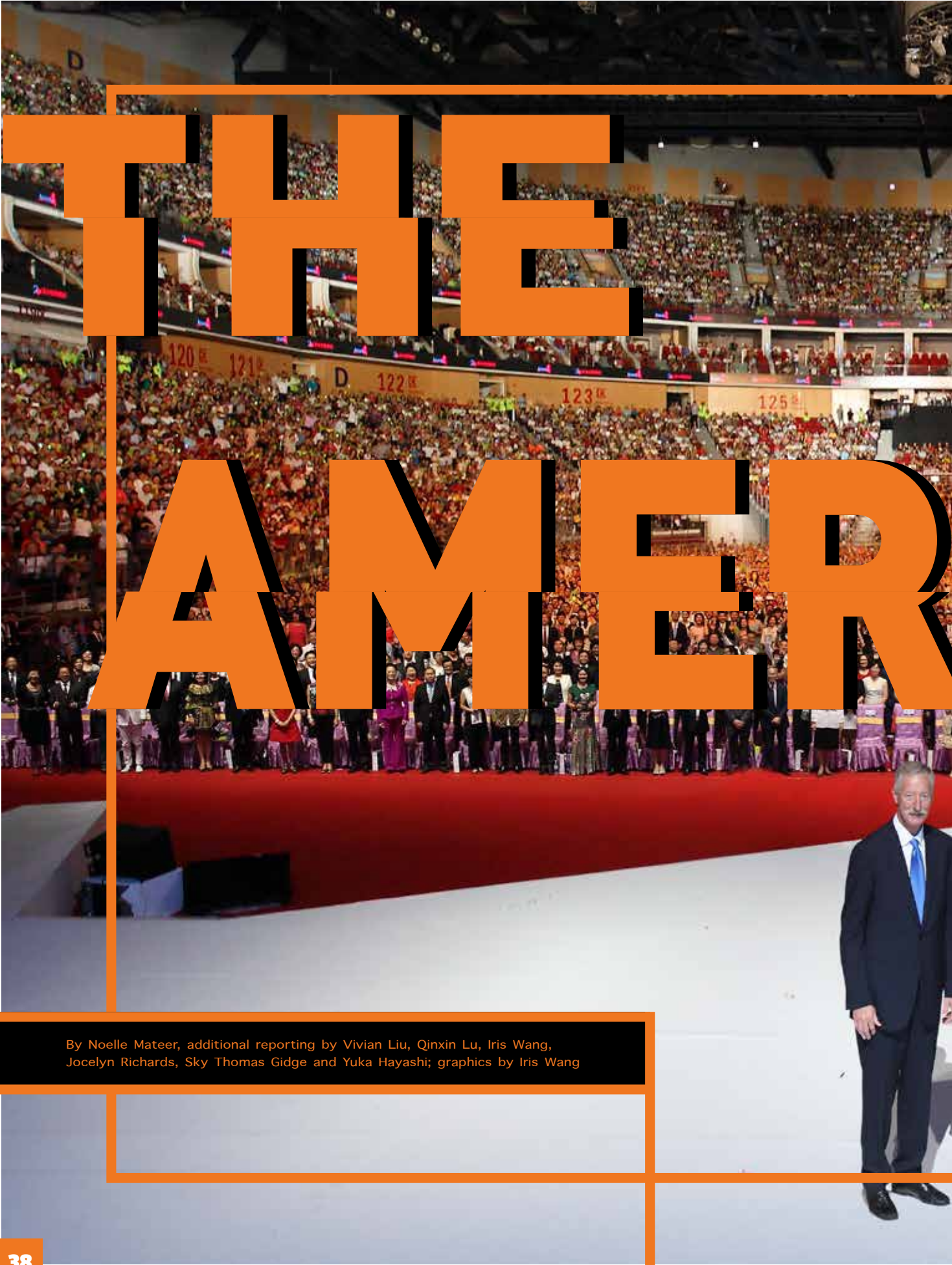
Which building was the most difficult to shoot?

Definitely the American Club on Fuzhou Lu. It's never been shot before from the inside since the time of digital photography, and it took five months of constant phone calls and emails until they let us in. I could even use the drone inside, which was amazing. There were some rooms where everything was untouched for decades, the carpets full of thick dust, and there were old computers from the 90s.

Do you have a favorite Hudec building?

Of course, and it's the Park Hotel. It has this gothic, Art Deco dignity that is just irresistible. I remember back in 2006, when I moved to Shanghai and I didn't know anything about the city or its architecture, that was the first building that I stopped and marveled at.

Hudec by Nicky Almasy is out now with the help of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary and the Consulate General of Hungary in Shanghai.



By Noelle Mateer, additional reporting by Vivian Liu, Qinxin Lu, Iris Wang, Jocelyn Richards, Sky Thomas Gidge and Yuka Hayashi; graphics by Iris Wang



How One Company is Selling Dreams (and Dish Soap) in China

**AMERICAN
WAY**

Former US President George W. Bush poses onstage at Beijing's Wukesong Arena for Amway China's 20th Anniversary, in 2015

C

ui Ning posts Moments on WeChat five times per day. Sometimes they're re-shares, taken from her friends' timelines. Sometimes they're photos of her with colleagues at a cooking class sponsored by

eSpring Water Purifier. Other days it's a selfie with the latest shade of ARTISTRY lipstick.

If she's really excited about something, she'll post photos of it multiple times in one day, like with the ARTISTRY Intensive Skincare Advanced Vitamin C & HA Treatment.

I often receive personal messages from Cui, though I suspect they're also being sent to others. Some days, she drops a line to say "nihao" or "you're great!" Once, she wrote: "Buy RMB1,500 worth of Amway products, get one package of sanitary pads for free."

No matter what, her grating online presence is about one thing: American mega-corporation Amway. But Cui is more than a fan. She's a convert and an evangelist. She is, in Amway speak, an Independent Business Owner (IBO).

Amway sells soap, vitamins and makeup, but what it really sells is the American dream. Through seminars, motivational speakers and aggressive recruiting, the company tells anybody who will listen how they, too, can become rich — by purchasing an inventory of Amway products and working as an independent salesperson. It's what Amway stands for: the American Way.

The corporation is a pioneer in the direct-selling industry (sometimes known as 'door-to-door sales') for its 'multilevel marketing' (MLM) structure. In an MLM, sales reps can make money from selling soaps, sure — but they can make even more from recruiting more sales reps. This has led to widespread aggressive recruiting tactics that lead some critics to call Amway a pyramid scheme, or worse, a cult.

In the US, a 1979 court ruling determined that Amway was legal. China, though, did not: after Amway and other MLMs entered the Mainland market in the 90s, hundreds of local copycat schemes exploded — causing widespread riots when they later collapsed. In 1998, the government responded by banning MLMs outright, calling the worst of them "evil cults, secret societies and superstitious and lawless activities."



Above: the Amway Experience Center in Guangzhou
 Right: the Amway Experience Center in Beijing
 Opposite Page: displays in Beijing's Amway Culture hall



Amway was banned for years, but China's 2005 'anti-MLM' regulations, ironically, allowed the company to muscle its way back in. By codifying China's definition of an MLM, the regulations laid out all the steps Amway could take to not be considered one. And so, to sidestep its MLM status (while still operating as an unabashed MLM scheme in nearly every other country it sells in), Amway opened brick-and-mortar stores and tweaked its payment scheme. Then, Amway stepped up its *guanxi* game. The company established the Amway Charity Foundation, working in collaboration with the Shanghai Charitable Fund and the Communist Youth League of China. It sponsored China's team at the 2012 Olympics. And it sent hundreds of Chinese officials to study public management at Harvard (and tour Amway's headquarters in Ada, Michigan) in a program called 'Amway Fellows.'

Today, China is by far the company's largest market. Still, Amway's rocky history in China impacts its image – and now, Amway has invested heavily in massive, museum-like Amway Experience Centers, currently opening in cities nationwide. Shenzhen's Amway Experience Center is still under construction, but last year, a Center was unveiled in nearby Guangzhou. Shanghai's 7,500sqm Experience Center opened in 2014. Beijing's first Amway Experience Center, meanwhile – a steel and glass behemoth in the center of Sanlitun, the capital's cosmopolitan heart – debuted just this spring. ▶

“This is remarkable. China is the first country that appears to be showing a willingness not to let this ravage its nation”



“Only a good, big, established company would receive that kind of attention, and have other people be jealous of it. Some people are salty”



Designed to distance the company from the toxic 'MLM' tag, these couldn't be timed better. China is currently experiencing a fresh wave of illegal pyramid schemes, and the government is threatening another MLM crackdown.

"Hello," says a woman the minute we step inside the Beijing Amway Experience Center, whisking us away on a tour of the complex. Not that we asked for a tour. This is simply what happens — Amway representatives wait for visitors, greet them enthusiastically, and before they know it, they're 90 minutes deep in Amway lore.

It's a high-wattage, multi-sensory experience, bouncing throughout the building's many display rooms: 'SMART SHOPPING,' where all-purpose floor cleaners are displayed behind plexiglass like precious objects in a gallery; the eSpring room, where short films about Amway's air and water purifiers play to a *Pirates of the Caribbean*-style soundtrack; and the Nutrilite hall, where an actual John Deere tractor sits among artificial flowers in an ode to Nutrilite's organic-farm origins. (Nutralite is a brand of nutritional supplements Amway took over in 1994.) Here we gaze upon a bronze statue of the Nutrilite founder, and peruse black-and-white photos of his time spent studying in Shanghai in the 1910s and 20s. "Nutralite and China have a rich history together," says our guide.

Flattering depictions of nondescript Western men are everywhere in the Experience Center, but especially within 'AMWAY CULTURE.' After watching a short film about founders Rich DeVos' and Jay Van Andel's perfectly average middle-class upbringings, we come across a photo of former US President George W. Bush, onstage at Beijing's own Wukesong Arena. In 2015, Amway flew Bush to Beijing to speak at Amway China's 20th anniversary. Over 12,000 Amway IBOs were in attendance. Bush and Chairman Steve Van Andel spoke onstage about leadership.

"The US government likes Amway very much," says our guide. "I'll send you a picture later of Betsy, on WeChat."

Betsy DeVos is the wife of Doug DeVos, Amway's current co-CEO and the son of its founder. The billionaire couple have donated roughly USD200 million to Republican causes and campaigns over the years. In December, Trump named her as his pick for Secretary of Education.

This, of course, is largely skipped over in an Amway Center tour. (At a tour of the Experience Center in Guangzhou, meanwhile, guide Sun Rong says, "One of the founders was definitely influential in the Republican Party in finance... or something.")

Anti-pyramid scheme expert Robert FitzPatrick knows Amway's lobbying practices by heart. The activist has been fighting against the company — which he personally considers a pyramid scheme — for decades. So when China banned direct selling in 1998, he was thrilled.

"I thought, 'This is remarkable,'" he says. "This is the first country that appears to be showing a willingness not to let these [MLMs] ravage its nation."

In the run-up to China's 2005 anti-MLM legislation, Chinese officials allegedly sought out FitzPatrick's expertise. He met with professor Yang Qian and his translator in Washington,

DC. FitzPatrick says the professor was consulting for Chinese officials drafting the 2005 regulations. (*That's* was unable to independently confirm this.)

"It appears to us that MLMs have very little effect economically," said Yang through his translator, at the meeting. FitzPatrick says this was an astute observation.

"Very little product is actually moved through MLMs," he explains. "If MLMs went away tomorrow, it would have no effect at all in terms of getting products to the public."

After all, he says, it's not like China would run out of all-purpose floor cleaners. Instead, he believes that Yang and his colleagues understood that MLMs have "very little economic value, but an incredible social purpose." Their real product isn't makeup or supplements — it's hope.

"People invest in MLMs because they see them as an alternative to low-paying jobs, debt and the rising cost of education," he says. "They believe they can truly get rich."

On the second floor of the Experience Center, the tone of our tour changes. Our guide is no longer selling Amway products, but the Amway lifestyle. We watch a slideshow of Amway China staffers on vacation in Alaska, taking selfies with glaciers from the deck of their cruise ship. Here we learn the benefits of life as an Amway employee — top sellers get all-expenses-paid vacations to destinations like Bali and Australia. Then our guide raises the stakes.

"Would you like to meet our manager?" she asks. Yes, we would. She whisks us downstairs, where we promptly shake hands with him. I begin to ask if he has time to answer some questions, but he's too busy leading us elsewhere. This choreographed dance takes us to Rich & Jay, a cafe named for Amway's founders, where he seats us by a massive poster of the two men. Their faces are everywhere — on the shop's logo, on each styrofoam cup, on the Starbucks-style merch that pairs their logo (faces) with icons of Beijing.

A personality cult is a weird marketing strategy for such normal-looking dudes, I think. But they are rich, white, corporate American men, and perhaps that is reason enough for many to adore them.

Here is where we first meet Cui Ning. Cui is writing down a series of numbers on a sheet of white paper, and the numbers keep getting larger and larger. These are our fortunes, and they're growing the more we invest in Amway. Our *That's* intern, Vivian, turns to me and whispers: "That's a lot of money."

That money can be ours, Cui says, if we sign on to become Independent Business Owners today. Once we're IBOs, we can buy Amway products at wholesale prices, and then sell those at retail prices to our friends, family members, colleagues and WeChat contacts. The more we buy, the more we can sell. We'll be rich in no time. (Elsewhere in the world, IBOs make money by recruiting more people to sign up, and then making commission off their sales. But that's unabashed multilevel marketing, which is illegal in China, so Cui can't do that. She can, however, get a bonus for signing us up.)

The two men at our table, both in their 20s, sign up immediately. Then Cui turns to Vivian and asks, "How old are you?" She's 17. ▶



“People invest because they see it as an alternative to low-paying jobs, debt and the higher cost of education. They believe they can truly get rich”

Clockwise, from top left: Ouyang Wenzhang, the director of China's Direct Selling Network; Beijing's new Amway Experience Center; a display about the history of Nutrilite; rooms in the Amway Experience Center where Nutrilite employees offer health exams and fitness classes to Amway members

“Oh, when's your 18th birthday?” she asks. “You can join then.” When I look at the other tables in Rich & Jay, everyone is having this same conversation. The brand-new Dunkin Donuts next door is empty.

Dong Chao, a blogger from Shanghai who writes regularly about Amway, says his father has been an IBO for decades, but hasn't made any profit.

“The worst part, for me, is that their sinister intentions are disguised by benevolent appearances,” he tells *That's*. Still, Dong's father believes in the American Way: “He sees himself as the deliverer of health. And the friendly atmosphere in Amway's classes makes him happy. It makes him want to stay in it. Because of those meetings, he's always absent from home.”

It's this devotion to the brand over all reason – even after years of no success – that leads critics to brand Amway as a cult. Indeed, IBOs regularly gather at Experience Centers to listen to motivational speeches, not unlike sermons, about the value of hard work. Last month, Cui posted a photo of someone who'd experienced a miracle: The week's speaker was an old, handicapped woman who, after attending a Nutrilite talk on healthy living, found herself able to walk again (for five minutes at a time, anyway).

“[Amway] evokes a reaction from people that is like religious fervor,” says FitzPatrick. “It operates like a cult.”

“That was the big concern about pyramid schemes in '98, when they shut them all down. It was a concern from a security point of view. It caused riots.”

This past July, protests erupted in Beijing. Hundreds of people, some from far away, demonstrated against a government crackdown on Shanxinhui, an MLM that it has since been branded in state media as a ‘business cult.’ Since then, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce announced it will work with the Ministry of Public Security to further combat





pyramid schemes in China, which are on the rise. Police investigated over 2,000 pyramid scheme cases in 2016, nearly 20 percent more than in 2015, according to Xinhua.

A September *New York Times* article connects this rise in illegal pyramid selling to China's slowing economy. But Ouyang Wenzhang, director of China's national Direct Selling Network, believes otherwise.

"This is not related to unemployment, because in China, unemployment is not very high," he says a rich, slow Beijing accent. "According to government departments, the unemployment rate is 4 to 4.3 percent. In 2012, America claimed that it was 6.5, and in 2013, 6.4. So actually, some foreigners will misunderstand that the unemployment rate in China is high. This is not the main reason for the proliferation."

Ouyang represents China's official attitude towards direct-selling corporations today. He is quick to condemn illegal pyramid schemes like Shanxinhui – but equally quick to defend licensed corporations like Amway.

"Amway has many positive influences on Chinese society," he reads, from a stack of printouts he's brought to our interview. "They have become a model for direct selling in China. Amway has also formed a specific and unique way to promote trade co-operation between the US and China."

If it's not unemployed people who are joining these companies, then, I ask who is. He reads a list consisting of three types of people: those who want to start their own business, those who are employed in companies that "operate in the traditional way, but who met some challenges that were extremely difficult to overcome, and therefore turned to direct selling," and finally, "young people who have dreams and want to achieve something big."

I ask if there's anything Ouyang would like to say off his prepared script, but no, he says, he would prefer to read. When I contact Amway China's public relations department later, I'm told

no one is available to comment. A week later, I get a call from an Amway China PR representative, imploring me to send her my piece before I publish it. I refuse. She says, "Are you interested in politics?" Yeah. "We have nothing to do with politics," she tells me. "We're just a company."

Later that afternoon, I finally get an official statement: "In China, pyramid fraud is called 'MLM.' Amway is not a pyramid scheme." Included in the statement are a list of reasons why: Amway's ultimate goal is the sale of products; to join Amway, IBOs do not have to pay 'entry fees' (they do, however, have to invest in Amway products); IBOs are compensated based on their sales performance; Amway has over 50 years of history and operates in over 100 countries; and also, employees can quit at any time.

Applauding one's company for allowing employees to quit of their own free will seems a bit bizarre to me. But luckily for Amway China, IBOs are doing a lot of the PR work for them. When I ask Cui what she thinks of people who consider Amway a pyramid scheme, she tells me: "Only a good, big, established company would receive that kind of attention, and have other people be jealous of it. Some people are bitter or salty."

Two weeks later, I'm back at the Experience Center. I wander through the displays, this time without a guide, but with my colleague, Iris, instead. Behind us, a group of women talk about Nutrilite. One says her husband's kidney problems cleared up after he took the supplements. Another mentions an elderly friend of hers who's unusually energetic, thanks to the brand. Iris turns to me and whispers.

"People in China are so afraid of dying now," she says. "Before, life was hard. Even just 10 or 15 years ago, life was much harder. But now, people see that things are getting better and better. They want to be around for the future. I think that's why things like Nutrilite do so well here."

Amway's best product, after all, is hope. And I get the feeling Cui still hopes that I'll buy her products. When I get back to the office that afternoon, I have a notification from WeChat. It's a message from Cui saying, "Hey, you're great!"

COMMUNITY

Top of the World

The group leading awe-inspiring hikes in South China, p47



Toastmasters
P48



Calling the Shots
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PACHA MAMA ADVENTURES

The Duo Leading Extraordinary Treks in China (and Why Everyone Wants Their Job)

By Jocelyn Richards



When Ezequiel Deniz of California and Lukasz Koszuk of Poland met at a Tuesday night couch surfing/barbecue event in Guangzhou five years ago, they never expected their friendship would evolve into a business leading hikes across the breathtaking terrain of China. Pacha Mama Adventures, launched this past June, is born of the pair's longtime love of the outdoors, inspired in part by their separate experiences in Yosemite years ago. We caught up with Deniz and Koszuk this month to hear the story behind their enviable new part-time job.

How did the idea for Pacha Mama Adventures first come about?

LK: In February, we went to India to visit a friend studying in Mumbai, and instead of touring the city, he proposed we go outside. There was a guy who organized our 'adventure,' where we hiked up to this remote Indian community on the top of a mountain. The people there were incredible, and I just remember looking at our guide and thinking, he's living the life, you know? This is his job, to bring people to this beautiful place and show them a sunrise.

At the time, I didn't think we could actually do it. But then this April I thought, why not do this? We know places that are beautiful to hike – why not share the experience with people?

What are some of your favorite places to take hikers?

ED: Our first trip this June was to the rice terraces in Guangxi. We usually hike from point A to point B and in the middle, we stay in a village in the mountains, surrounded by rice terraces. We also take people to Yangshuo, where we'll bike for a day and then hike to the top of this beautiful peak – the view is out of this world.

Do most people come for the exercise or social aspect?

ED: Some people want an escape from the city, other people want to socialize, others love hiking and nature, some Chinese want to practice their English... so it's a mix of different people.

LK: The unexpected effect of the trips, which I didn't predict, is that people actually become friends – like *friends* friends (laughs). Hiking is this nice way of hanging out where you don't have to drink anything, you're doing something good [for your body] and you're having awesome conversations.

Why 'Pacha Mama'?

LK: *Pachamama* in Quechua, an indigenous language from the Central Andes, means 'Mother Earth.' The people there depend so much on the earth to live, and they understand the importance of protecting it. We try to spread this kind of awareness. Like last month, we posted signs along a trail in both

Chinese and English, encouraging people to think before throwing their trash into the lake.

How has living in China played a role in your decision to start a company?

LK: In Poland, I would not be able to open this kind of company because people hike on their own. Here, interest in this field is just starting to pick up, and people don't always know how to go about [hiking in China].

ED: China for me, for us, has been a place where we can start something. It's an adventure in the end, and if we fail, we'll move on. But it's nice to know that we're trying it – I don't want to just live my life thinking 'damn, I should have done that before...'

What's the story behind all the incredible photos we see of your trips on WeChat?

ED: That's all Lukasz – he has a GoPro and drone, so will take photos of the trip and then make a 2-3-minute video to kind of sum up the awesome time we had. It's like a little extra gift we tack on the package.

Anything else to add?

ED: Pacha Mama isn't just about the trips – it's about this community of likeminded people that come together to experience the beautiful terrain, and protect it.

LK: It's a way we can contribute – by educating people about hiking, but also about the environment, hopefully, to spread the word and build a stronger community of people.

Want to join Pacha Mama on their next adventure? Follow PachaMamaAdventures on WeChat to get involved.



COMMUNITY

DEAR JAMIE

Sharing and Caring

Dear Jamie,

I met a really cool girl on Tinder a few weeks ago and we ended up spending a night together. I asked to meet up again but she blocked me.

Just today, I met my friend's girlfriend and it was the same girl I met on Tinder.

Do I tell him? I'm worried that it will both ruin his relationship with his girlfriend and kill our friendship.

What's the best way to handle this? Is mum the word?

-Confused in Shenzhen

Dear Confused,

Cue the dramatic organs, because we have a good ol' fashioned Tinder plot twist – similar to a *Planet of the Apes* plot twist in that it results in loss of faith in humanity.

First: get your dates straight. How long has your friend and his new lass been exclusive – does your belly bumping fall outside their timeline?

If, on the other hand, you learn she betrayed your friend and you were a tool of the trade – well, you owe your friend the truth.

You see, relationships are fickle things: blooming, burning out, fading like embers in the wind... what I'm trying to say is: the end is nigh.

Sit down with your buddy and explain what happened. How he reacts is up to him, but don't be surprised if he leaves the conversation shy a girlfriend and you on shaky ground for a while.

Look at the bright side, the 'really cool' girl might unblock you now.

-Jamie

In a pickle? Relish it. Email me: jamieinchina@outlook.com.

AROUND TOWN



SOCIAL SKILLS

Toastmasters

Rather than lords of bread and butter, Toastmasters is a worldwide group that focuses on improving members' ability to speak publicly – or toast, say at weddings, or other events.

Formally founded by a dapper-looking Ralph C. Smedley in 1924 in California, Toastmasters has spread across the world, including to Shenzhen, where the official website lists more than 40 groups that meet regularly.

Online, many gatherings are designated English, Chinese or bilingual, and list Shenzhen locations ranging from the CBD, Shekou to the factory outskirts.

"You have to do presentations, you have to prepare and deliver a speech," says Veronica Chen, a Shenzhen-based art teacher and eight-year member of the group. "You inspire people and that's why I like it."

Each group has slightly different rules about joining, according to Chen, and contact information is available online. Member fees go to renting the space where events are held in.

Chen says the cordial atmosphere results in cross-industry networking, as members work in fields ranging from education to high-powered finance.

The focus is on developing leadership and communication, but Shenzhen's status as a city of singletons has actually lent the local branches an unofficial motto.

"Toastmasters has a slogan: where leaders are made," says Chen. "But in Shenzhen, we have another slogan: where couples are made."

For more information about groups in Shenzhen visit toastmasters.com. Meetings are held daily across the city.

TAKE FIVE

Jordan Taylor

From sheltered childhood to stock-trading globe trotter, Jordan Taylor has led an interesting life, most recently bringing 100,000-or-so YouTube subscribers along for the ride as she turned Shenzhen into her home base.

With 150 videos and 12 million views under her belt, Taylor spoke to *That's* about handling Internet trolls, the surprising popularity of her China-based vids and the strangest thing she ever had to deal with while filming in the Middle Kingdom.

Your 'I Moved to China' video has more than 700,000 views - why do you think it is so popular?

People are interested in the initial culture shock that a first-timer will have in China, and it was the first thing I filmed when I got here. I think it captured my excitement and those moments where I had no idea what was going on - but still decided to embrace it!

What's the strangest situation you've had to deal with when filming in China?

On the way to the Great Wall, a group of guys asked for RMB1,800 for a train ticket we knew cost RMB6! It was so ridiculous, my



friend and I burst out laughing. We ended up becoming friends with those guys and did some silly film shots with them along with 'talking' via translation apps - resulting in some hilarious mistranslations.

Some of the YouTube comments can get pretty negative, how do you deal with that?

While they're wasting their time writing negative comments, I'm wandering ancient ruins, exploring mountains that look like movie sets and eating the best hot pot in the world.

What has been your favorite part of China to explore?

Meizhou, about a five-hour drive outside Shenzhen. I stayed with a family and a friend showed me a temple, a park with waterfalls and another park where you literally walk in the clouds - right on the sides of mountains.

You've been invited to explore other parts of China based on your videos. How did you find those opportunities?

I get emails from people all over China and sometimes they invite me to visit their hometowns. I love opportunities like this, because you're not just going somewhere as a tourist - you're going there to see someone's hometown.

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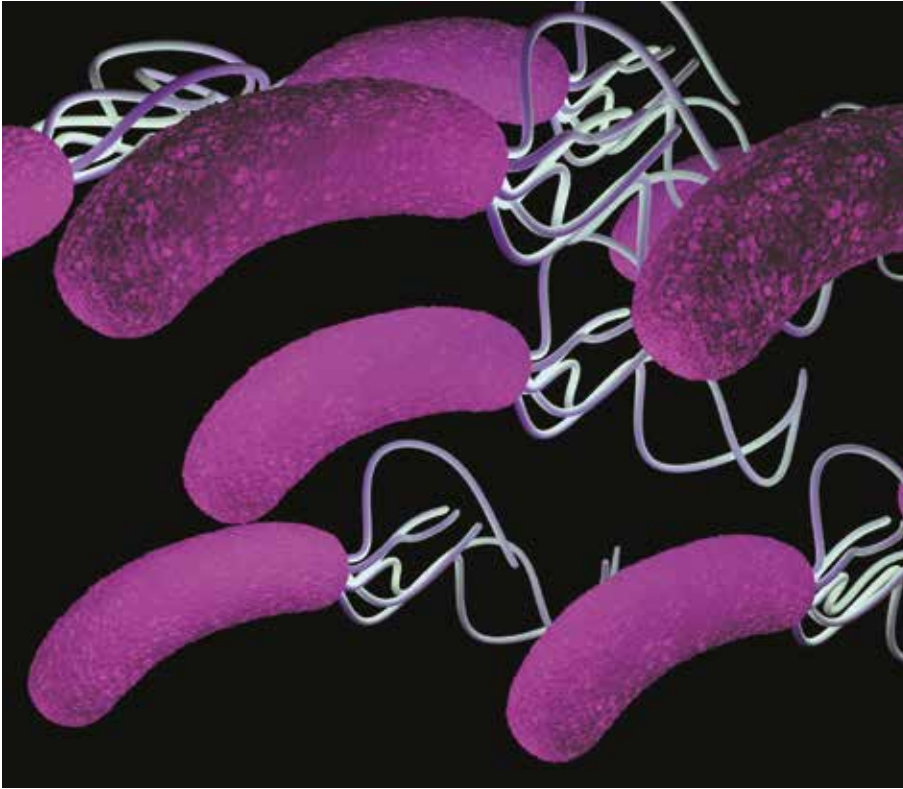
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f t in i

WRATH OF THE PYLORIANS

How to Deal with the Army of Microbes in Your Gut

By Dr. Adam Koh



Mankind's deadliest enemy might not possess the sharpest fangs, bone-breaking strength or come in the shape and size of a monster – it might be microscopic.

Though invisible to the naked eye, these tiny 'enemies' possess features that allow them to infiltrate, invade and flourish in one of human's most hostile environments: the stomach. Not to give the stomach a bad rap – it's actually a remarkable organ that serves many functions, including digestion. By secreting highly acidic gastric juice, the stomach can break down large food particles and aid enzymes in the degradation of macromolecules into its building blocks for absorption later in the smaller intestine. So, just how acidic is our gastric acid?

On a pH scale of 0 to 14 (0 being the most acidic and 14 the most non-acidic, or alkaline), our stomach acid measures between 1 and 3. Visualize it like this: if you poured stomach acid on a piece of wood, it would corrode and eat right through it.

So, logically speaking, our stomach should be invincible to the threats of the world. After all, what could one or two of these microbes possibly do to harm us humans, who are well equipped with a powerful defense system?

The reality is, whenever there is defense, there's always counter defense. And the *Helicobacter pylori* bacteria (let's call them 'the Pylorians') have found just the right ways to disable our inbuilt 'firewall' and cause pandemonium in our gut, causing us to get abdominal aches, diarrhea, stomach ulcers and more.

But how can the Pylorians slip past the 'heavy security' guarding the stomach wall?

It took a while before we learned that bacteria were the leading cause of stomach ulcer disease, a condition not previously believed to have a microbial cause. But in 1982, two Australian scientists discovered the presence of microbes in the stomach wall of a person with chronic gastritis and a stomach ulcer.

In fact, more than 50 percent of the world's population harbor *H. pylori* in their upper gastrointestinal tract, but not all who are infected experience symptoms. It was much later that scientists discovered fascinating 'counter-defense' mechanisms devised by the Pylorians, which aid in their intrusion into the human stomach.

One of these is neutralizing acid. The Pylorians figured out that if they're going to settle down in such an acidic environment (not to mention lethal), they have to either

adapt or evolve. So, they decided to neutralize stomach acid. By producing the enzyme urease, the Pylorians are able to break down urea into ammonia and carbon dioxide. Ammonia then neutralizes stomach acid.

Another tactic is to 'burrow and hide.' The inner lining of the stomach has a layer of mucus that protects stomach cells from erosion, and this provides an ideal hideout for the Pylorians.

Once inside, the Pylorians tend to cause a ruckus, bringing about problems of increased acidity and inflammation in the stomach. Then there are the troublesome mutant genes (capable of fooling our immune system into attacking one of our own) and strands that can actually self-repair or transform – like super villain Sylar from the TV series *Heroes*.

It sounds like we are heading for doomsday with so many microbes lurking around, so should we start taking antibiotics now in order to eradicate them?

Before you raid the pharmacy of antibiotics, remember that not everyone who is infected will experience symptoms and thus, it may be unnecessary to eradicate the microbes.

Some bacteria present in minute amounts do not cause chaos, and actually coexist with us amicably. They may even play an important role in our natural stomach ecology.

However, if you do experience symptoms (like nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, bad breath, excessive hunger, abdominal pain or heartburn) more often than not, then don't brush them aside as a stomach flu or gastritis. Instead, go to your doctor and get a simple breath test done, which can detect the presence of bacterium.

With the help of antibiotics, we can eradicate bacterium when they cause mayhem. Until then, there is no need to panic. After all, the key to a peaceful life is to coexist harmoniously with other beings!

Dr. Adam Koh has over 20 years of clinical experience and is currently working as a family physician at Sing Health Medical. Open Mon-Fri 9am-7pm, Sat-Sun 9am-3pm; 2 Xiancun Lu, Tianhe District, Guangzhou 广州市天河区洗村路2号 (020-3739 2500, 020-3739 2566, www.singhealth.asia)



CALLING THE SHOTS

The Vaccination Debate



By Lena Gidwani

To vaccinate or not to vaccinate your little one – that is the question.

Amidst all the affirmations, misconceptions, questions and fears, one thing is true: you're either for it or against it. There's no middle ground.

And speaking of stances, several countries around the world have taken one: in the US, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) both highly recommend vaccinations, calling them a form of preventive care that is unequivocally safe and responsible for the eradication of several childhood diseases, a reduction in mortality and morbidity rates. In Australia, vaccinations are mandatory to receive an education.

In China, it's similar: vaccines are divided into two categories: government imposed immunizations (free at local clinics and hospitals, including mumps-measles-rubella) and non-imposed immunizations (chargeable and voluntary, such as rabies).

The aforementioned countries appear to have reached a similar conclusion, namely, that vaccinations help protect children's immature immune systems and help shield entire communities from major disease outbreaks.

So, why does the debate about the effectiveness and safety of vaccines still exist?

Confusion can be traced back to a 1998 study, in which a published hypothesis by a certain Dr. Andrew Wakefield and 12 other authors linked the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine – given to children before the age of two – with autism. In the same year, leading health organizations issued a health warning calling for the reduction or elimination of thimerosal (a mercury-containing compound) in vaccines, claiming it could push levels of neurotoxicity.

But here is what we now know, post-2004: despite sustained, relentless attempts to prove a causal link between MMR vaccines and autism, Wakefield's theory has been widely de-

bunked and discredited by several respected medical studies and experts in the field.

Judges have since ruled that there was not enough evidence to prove or disprove that thimerosal in vaccines causes autism.

And while vaccines, like most medications, can result in adverse effects, most doctors agree that the odds of experiencing a vaccine-related injury are greatly outweighed by the dangers of catching a vaccine-preventable disease.

A 2015 study of 96,000 children, for example, claims a child's brain is thousands of times more likely to be damaged by a disease than by a vaccination. Emerging research also shows that autism appears to develop in the womb – long before a baby receives vaccinations.

The debate about childhood vaccination is stimulating for many reasons. But whatever your beliefs or opinions may entail, one thing is certain: we are responsible for our own actions. At the end of the day, it's up to you to call the shots.



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CITY SCENES

CICC Guangdong 7° Go Karting (Supported by **that's** and **urbanfamily**)

With the pedal to the metal, the CICC Guangdong 7° Go Kart Cup was held on September 23 in Shenzhen. More than 60 participants joined the event and 40 racers hit the tracks, thanks to sponsors Maserati, Urbana, LPR and the Wang Jing Law Firm. Before racing around the circuit, racers coffee-ed up with Caffè' Perfetto, while Campo Marzio provided prizes to participants, resulting in a fun-filled and friendly addition to this yearly tradition.



Canton Tower Run Up Open Tournament

On September 24, the 4th Annual Canton Tower Run Up was held successfully at the Canton Tower, along with an entertaining 'bubble run.' In the past three years, the tower run has become an influential and high-level sporting event. Foshan Poly Centre and Shenzhen Centralcon Investment Centre invited the top 10 runners and 1,500 selected runners to join the final competition. The vertical race started from the second floor and ended at the 112th, boasting 2,580 stairs in total. Zeng Wenbo claimed the title in the male group with a record-breaking 14 minutes and 36 seconds, climbing each floor in an average of 7.8 seconds, while Jian Muhua came in first in the female group in 18 minutes and 22 seconds; Jeremy Fok, vice executive president of Hong Kong Fok Ying Tung Group, was the first runner to reach the top from the 'celebrity group.'



Mr. Wong F&B Concert (Supported by **that's**)

September 23 saw Mr. Wong launch into the Shenzhen scene with creative cocktails that pushed the 'gastro' label to a new level: incorporating edibles with the drinks, which are assembled by a costumed mixologist, Sasha Osta, moving to theme-matching music. Incorporating a lucky draw, a la carte cocktails, wine on free flow and support from premium sponsors like Summergate and *That's PRD* – the F&B concert was extended an extra hour to 11pm, making it one for the books.



Captivating Charity Auction

(Supported by **that's** and **urbanfamily**)

October 14 saw guests fill the grand ballroom of the Futian Shangri-la, Shenzhen in support of the annual Captivating Charity Auction – an event run in partnership with the Shenzhen Charity Federation and supported by *Urban Family* and *That's PRD*, Shamtse and LOVEQTRA. About RMB1.25 million was raised. The money will impact the lives of up to 1,000 girls and their families in remote locations of Western China, with a focus on practical solutions, including greenhouses, animal husbandry, health education and vocational school scholarships.



2017 SWIC Welcome Breakfast

On September 26, the 2017 SWIC Welcome Breakfast was held in Marco Polo Shenzhen, to greet newcomers from all over the world. HarMoniCare Women & Children's Hospital, the first international hospital with JCI certification in Shenzhen since 2010, participated in the event. SWIC (Shenzhen Women's International Club) is a social club for expatriates living in all areas of Shenzhen, and focuses on social and cultural activities for members. It is of particular value to newcomers by providing a means to meet other expats.



Guangzhou White Collar Charity Fight Night

(Supported by **that's**)

Guangzhou's inaugural White Collar Charity Fight Night was held on October 21 to much fanfare, with the city's media, F&B folks and boxing fans gathering at the Crowne Plaza Guangzhou City Centre. With an estimated 500 people in attendance, 16 fighters from around the globe suited up and entered the ring to entertain and help raise money for GIVES, a charity which has invested considerable time helping autistic centers across Guangdong. The night was capped off by a TKO by 'The Canuck Punch' that has left us hungry for more boxing action in Canton!



PRD FOCUS



On October 16, The British School of Guangzhou invited world-renowned violinist Kathryn Andersen as part of its collaboration with The Juilliard School, New York. Students were given a special performance in the theatre after a series of workshops.



The Consulate General of France in Guangzhou organized an outing at Golden Fig organic farm in Huadu District, where 40 participants spent a day planting tomatoes and sweet corn, and feeding chickens with organic figs.



Sheraton Hotels & Resorts debuted in Guangzhou's Nansha free-trade zone this past October. The opening of Sheraton Guangzhou Nansha Hotel marked the 13th Sheraton property in Guangdong province and the second hotel in Guangzhou, signifying the popular demand for Marriott's most prestigious global brand.



On September 29, Trinity's Mid-Autumn Festival celebration took place in the outdoor playground of the kindergarten, where a wonderful performance by talented children was applauded by attendees. Surrounded by Mid-Autumn decorations, staff and children enjoyed festive games and delicious food.



A painting and jewelry exhibition organized by Cloudy Gallery opened at Hi Department Store of Grandview Plaza Guangzhou on October 21. It featured productions of Cloudy - paintings full of Lingnan elements by contemporary artist Mila, born and raised in Guangzhou, as well as jewelry by Linda Tsai, a jewelry design graduate from Saint Martins College of Art and Design in London.



Oakwood Premier Guangzhou celebrated its five-year anniversary on October 21 by hosting an environmentally conscious event: a five-kilometer walk through Guangzhou's CBD. Participants soaked up the sun and scenery while enjoying an up-close look at the city's modern center.



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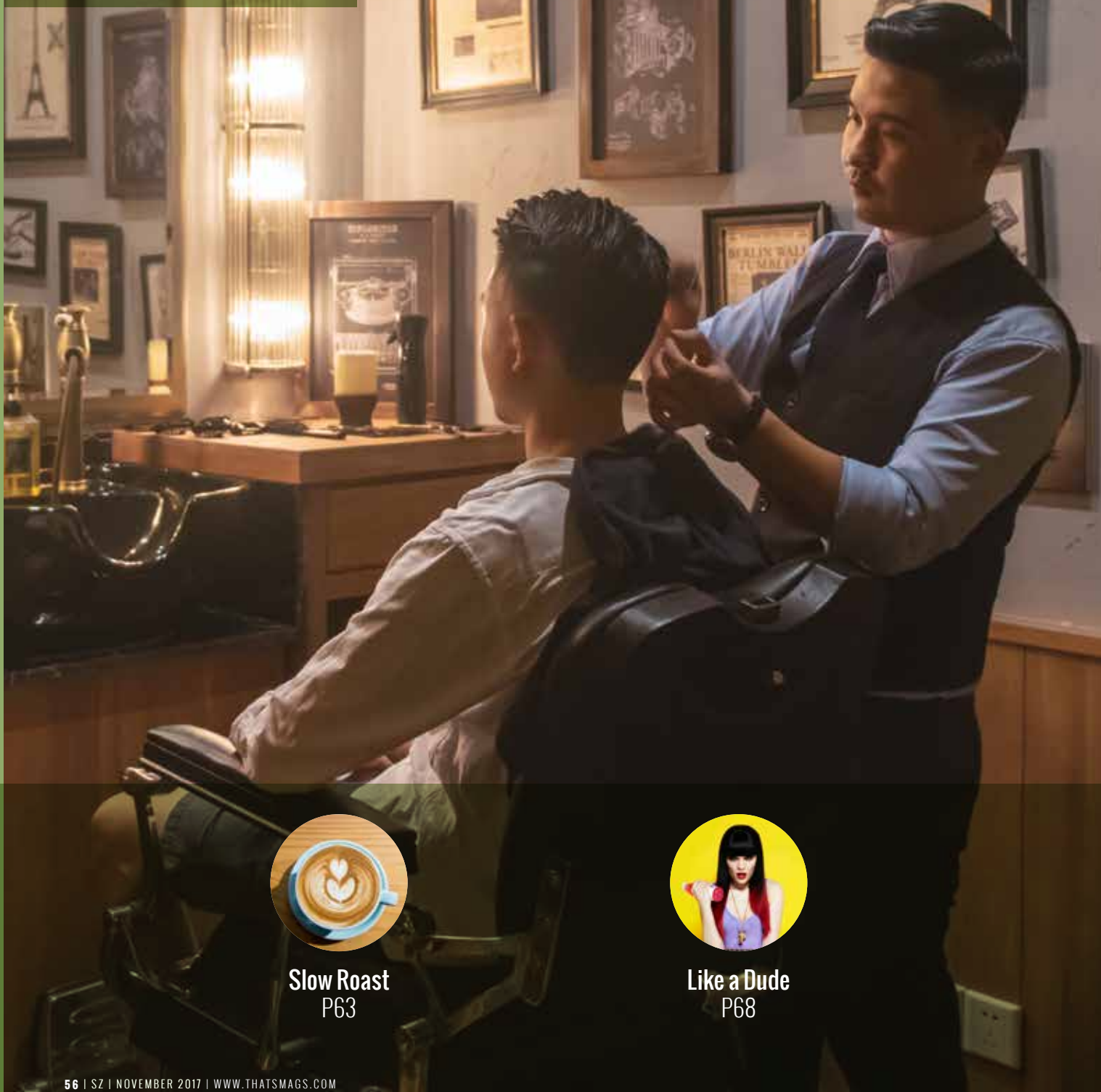
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FOOD, DRINK & EVENTS IN SHENZHEN

Cocktail and a Cut

Something for everyone
at Men's Club, p66



Slow Roast
P63



Like a Dude
P68

ON THE GRILL

A Day in the Life of an Executive Chef



Chef Giovanni D' Alessandro doesn't just cook things. Hailing from Palermo, Sicily, Italy, he works at Four Seasons Hotel Shenzhen as the executive chef - meaning he deals with everything from staff training to ensuring the kitchens are properly stocked, all before 6pm when he lets his personal culinary skill shine by preparing an original dinner dish based on guest request. Read on to get an exclusive peek into the unseen side of some of Shenzhen's finest food.

7am - 9.30am

My day starts by checking on the breakfast operation all over the hotel - that means from room service to buffet set up. I need to make sure the stations are properly manned by well-groomed staff and the kitchen operation is running smoothly. And of course, be there to greet our guests for their first meal of the day!

9.30am - Noon

I spend time in the kitchen checking the food being received, including spot checking for freshness to ensure our quality standards are met. Then I meet up with various outlets about their reservations and VIP requirements. Then it's back to the main kitchen to work with my team to get ready for the second meal of the day - lunch!

Noon - 2:30pm

Apart from doing several rounds at the various kitchen facilities, which are now in full swing, and ensuring that all is running smoothly - not only with the culinary team but with coordination of the various service teams - I make time to engage guests. I ask for their feedback and try to meet special requests.

2:30pm - 5:00pm

The focus now is on administration work and that means responding

to internal and external communications. This is also a key period to develop the market list by doing a proper tour of the kitchens' storage and assessing food inventory. I consider the requirements for the next day's menus with each outlet's chef and fine tune the next day's menus.

This time is also spent training new staff on how to improve their cooking skills and helping them better understand culinary processes.

5:00pm - 6:00pm

A quick check on all the kitchen and banquet venues to ensure all are ready for the final meal of the day - dinner!

6:00pm - 9:30pm

A special time for me as I engage with the diners and learn about their favorite meals. I make it a point to challenge my creativity and past experiences to interpret the taste they are seeking in a special customized dish made exclusively for the dinner. It's this time of day when dinner serves as my muse, bringing out my creativity and best craftsmanship.

Get a look at Alessandro's tight ship at the Four Seasons Hotel Shenzhen: Four Seasons Hotel Shenzhen, 138 Fuhua San Lu, Futian District, Shenzhen 深圳市福田区福华三路138号 (0755-8826 8900)

GRAPE VINE

THE SCANDALOUS SCOOP

We're Digging:



Jazz hounds and cocktail connoisseurs getting a new (dual-gender) haunt in **Men's Club** (p66); quality coffee ingredients trotting across tables at Nanshan's **Beans to Dance** (p63); the soft cheese ban switch up that sees our favorites again shelf-ward bound; our magazine's fantastic food and drink voting raising hopes – and hackles – across the city; delicious halal food near Shekou's temple in the shape of **Miznon** (p62) but...

We're Done with:



One and the same eatery facing claims of copy-catism (p62); whatever the fork **McDonald's** was thinking with their new French-fry-framed utensil: the fork! Food, drink and jazzy city shutdowns for 'some reasons;' the taxi scamming of an Italian traveler, though authorities in the end saw justice done...



OLDIE BUT GOODIE

Northeast Family Dumpling Restaurant

Across from the neon gleam of super-mall KKOne, you'll find dowdy apartment buildings. Between buildings, down a damp alleyway and up an uneven step sits the Northeast Family Dumpling Restaurant, an outpost of the authentic in a quickly gentrifying central Shenzhen.

To enter the restaurant's glass doors is to travel to China's industrial northeast, with all staff hailing from a coal-heavy Dongbei city and unconcerned about the aesthetics of anything you won't be putting in your mouth.

Bare fluorescent bulbs hang above squeaking ceiling fans, which stir the air around a hodgepodge of tables and chairs, apparently bought at different times from different places.

The menu – a red, garish thing that takes up most of two walls – doesn't have English, but we recommend ordering the handmade RMB18 lamb dumplings (羊肉饺子), which are as good as any we've found in

Shenzhen and come with thick, free rice.

The RMB35 *guobaorou* (锅包肉) (which suffers the online translation 'pot flesh') is a hearty fried pork dish, which the Northeast Family Dumpling Restaurant serves on the sweet side.

You can bring your own drink, or make like most customers and sip large RMB6 Harbin bottles.

There's no Wi-Fi, no sound system and service is an equal mix of friendly and sassy. ("Eat all your food!" we are told on a recent visit.)

Staying until closing time – which seems to be dictated by when a retired miner decides to lay his sleeping bag across the floor – we're treated to an onion-based herbal alcohol, before heading out and into the buzz of Shenzhen's looping LEDs.

Open daily, 9am-11pm; No. 18, Alley 1, Dongchong Lu, Xiasha Cun, Futian District 福田区下沙村东涌路1坊18号 (132 4907 8057)

COCKTAIL

Holiday Sauce

Lo! The chill winds of November blow! With ghoulish costumes closeted and a feast pending, turkeys need beheading – but first: an appropriate aperitif.

China is awash in nothing if not cognac, and with Thanksgiving around the corner, most of this cocktail's ingredients should be on hand – with the caveat that this drink requires you to shake and strain. You can do that right?

Ingredients

- 1.5 oz Cognac
- 0.5 oz lemon juice
- 1 large tbsp. cranberry sauce
- 1 dash cranberry bitters



Directions

1. Coat the rim of a martini glass with an equal mixture of cinnamon and sugar.
2. Add all other ingredients to the shaker and fill with ice.
3. Shake, strain and pour into glass.
4. Garnish with an orange twist if desired.

WHAT'S ON WAIMAI

Let's Soup-Party

Feeling fancy but can't be bothered to go outside for a meal? This shop, as its memorable moniker implies, specializes in chicken soup served inside coconuts, which are carefully packaged to prevent spills.

The restaurant's set meal option of soup plus rice is handily customizable: choose from around six types of soups and four kinds of rice for your ideal meal, which will range in price from RMB28-52 a person.

To consume, unwrap the foil and pop off the circular 'lid' of the fruit, part of which is edible. Inside you'll find, depending on what you ordered, chunks of chicken, spareribs, duck, or pigs' feet (don't judge); paired with coconut, bamboo, papaya, red dates or matsutake mushrooms.

Don't forget to dip it all in salty, tangy, slightly spicy sauce, which is similar to what you'd get at a coconut chicken restaurant.

Serving sizes are moderate but filling. Plus, there are healthy choices



for those who know where to look: for instance, you can order purplish 'mixed grains' (杂粮饭) for a chewier, more wholesome alternative to white rice.

With 30 locations around Shenzhen, the Let's Soup-Party franchise is broadly accessible. It has yet to be listed on English-language food apps, however, so diners should stick to its Chinese name when searching.

Price: RMB30

Good for: chicken soup with rice, thoughtful packaging

Search: 吃个汤

Available on: Dianping, Baidu Waimai, E Le Me, Koubei, Meituan

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CONVENIENCE STORE COCKTAILS

A Guide to Street-Side Mixology

By Sky Thomas Gidge

Chinese convenience store booze is a story of extremes: on the mellow end you have the watery slosh of shelf-stuffing lagers, filling out the middle ground is *jingjiu*, its medicinal undertones an acquired taste and, finally, comes the caustic zip of *baijiu*.

Plenty swear off the Middle Kingdom's alcohol after the first sip, but this article will change that. Not by teaching you to appreciate some of the world's most popular spirits, but by giving you some simple street-side mixes you can make - on the cheap.

SCISSOR ME TIMBERS RMB16.5

My grandfather would call it 'gut rot'. In China it's known as *erguotou* (二锅头) - a usually cheap type of *baijiu* made from sorghum and widely available. It's also about as classy as chugging a forty in your underwear before noon on a weekday. So it was a shock when an avid cocktail drinker deemed the following mix 'floral' and 'something I'd drink!'

INGREDIENTS:

- 50ml of erguotou
- 50ml of peach tea
- 1/3 of a cut apple

DIRECTIONS:

1. Cut one-third of the apple into pieces.
2. Add apple pieces into the shaker.
3. Add the erguotou into the shaker.
4. Add the peach tea.
5. Shake for 15 seconds and pour, using the bottle cap to strain out most of the apple.



BAD MEDICINE

RMB21

Years ago, the *jingjiu*-milk tea combo had a following among a certain cash-strapped Shenzhen set – lets call this drink an ‘evolution’ of that.

Note: it’s important to use the Jingpai (劲牌) *jingjiu*, as this alcohol’s flavors range from ‘gag’ to ‘one more sip.’

In this mix, the *jingjiu*’s medicinal notes are paired with the flavor of Watson’s Vanilla Soda and a heavy dollop of milk coffee.

INGREDIENTS:

- 50ml of jingjiu
- 20ml Watson’s Vanilla Soda
- 75ml Milk Coffee

DIRECTIONS:

1. Add the vanilla soda, milk coffee and jingjiu to the shaker.
2. For 15 seconds, shake cautiously pointing the cap in a safe direction, as the soda is carbonated.
3. Think about where you went wrong in life.
4. Pour.

THE SWEATY PIG

RMB30

A step up from *erguotou*, we call the *baijiu* in this drink ‘pig juice,’ owing to the pig emblazoned on its reusable vessel. The official name is Xiao Zhuge (小诸葛). Again, get the brand right for reasonable results.

The squeezed grapefruit juice lends this nepenthe a bitter, tongue numbing flavor – paired with refreshing green tea and a hint of saltiness from the unfortunately-named Pocari Sweat.

INGREDIENTS:

- 50ml Xiao Zhuge Baijiu
- 50ml Green Tea
- 50ml grapefruit juice
- 15ml Pocari Sweat

DIRECTIONS:

1. Add the grapefruit juice, baijiu and Pocari Sweat.
2. Shake 15 seconds.
3. Pour.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

This guide requires you to MacGyver some tools of the trade – and by MacGyver, we mean empty a water bottle and save the cap.

THE SHAKER

No excuses. A water bottle can be substituted for this bartender basic – shake with caution when using fizzy as you risk an AV-style blow out.

THE STRAINER

Just turn the cap (of said water bottle) sideways to create a small gap in the opening, catching most of the fruit bits – anything that gets through adds... texture and mouthfeel. Yes, texture and mouthfeel.



SCAN FOR VIDEO

Scan here to see our cocktail-mixing madness in action.

All recipes created with the help Ross Woodford, future lord commander of cocktail bar Life on Mars in Futian, Shenzhen



LES 5 CHEF'S MIZNON

Pita Pretender?

By Adam Robbins



The Place

Delicious scandal arrived on Shekou's Laojie with Les 5 Chef's Miznon. Founders Harold Dax and Claudio Giannantonio insist their gourmet street food is simply the dishes of their

nearby German bakery, slow-cooked and tucked into airy pita pockets. But irascible Israeli chef Eyal Shani denounced them in the *Times of Israel* as copying his concept and brand name – and also phoned Shenzhen for a 45-minute

shouting match.

But armed with years of local experience, loyal fans hankering for pita and a China trademark, Les 5 Chef's is standing firm, welcoming diners who savor the controversy.

The Food

The menu of gourmet meats — duck confit, beef tenderloin, foie gras, long-marinated chicken, and succulent lamb — also has a strong vegetarian game, all in soft house-made pita filled with a meal's worth of treats. With most priced RMB48-RMB78, it's great value for the money. Just watch out for the chili oil heat in the meats or sauces: it bites, but maybe that's what you are looking for.

Cauliflower heads (RMB39), half a kilo heavy, arrive crisply roasted with olive oil, herbs de Provence, balsamic, and a sprinkle of lava salt. All the produce, eggplants, peppers and tomatoes are sourced from a farm three hours away, then roasted or pickled to coax out natural sweetness.



Pair that with Germany's Herrnbräu beers, from a citrusy Doppelbock to a light Zwickl (all RMB20) or deliciously smooth nitro coffee (RMB25). The same machine provides bubbles for Italian sodas, in flavors like berry, mango, toffee, elderflower and more (RMB50, RMB10 re-fills).

The Vibe

With TVs and a Hong Kong style bar, urban minimalism and a French DJ (Thursdays-Saturdays), it's an inviting spot for Rose Garden residents and passersby. Walk up to the counter to order, then sit and wait for your taste of this scandalous shanzhai street food.

Price: RMB100

Who's going: Shekou residents, pita bread fans

Good for: people watching, sticking it to a celeb chef, or a quick meal en route to temple

Nearest metro: Dongjiaotou (Exit A), 8 minutes



Open Daily 11am-12am; Shop 104, Bldg 38 Laojie, Shekou, Nanshan District 南山蛇口老街38号综合楼104铺 (2889 0561)



ple quietly chatting or typing on laptops.

The Coffee

At Beans to Dance, coffee making gets contemplative. The cafe specializes in drip brews, the slow, methodical process bringing out a medley of flavors.

Unconventionally, bitterness isn't one of them. Founder Cao Huolong claims he's trying to open the taste buds of local caffeine addicts to lighter, more nuanced flavors. As a result, a cup made from off-menu Pacamara beans (RMB50) is mild with a full-bodied acidity.

A brew made with Yirgacheffe G1 (RMB40) comes out stronger; its sourness more biting, but is still comparatively

mellow. The same goes for the nitro cold brew (RMB50), despite its higher caffeine level and cloudy appearance.

It's certainly a fresh approach, suitable for those interested in experimenting with different flavors – this is a cafe with almost twenty kinds of beans to choose from, after all. For the rest of us, Beans to Dance also serves a mean cappuccino (RMB25) with a hearty espresso flavor.

The Vibe

With its unhurried brewing methods and emphasis on quality, this is definitely a place for sipping and savoring rather than a quick afternoon pick-me-up.

It's also quiet, with plenty of seating and natural lighting from floor-to-ceiling glass walls. In other words, it's the perfect place to get some work done outside the office – or, failing that, catch up on sleep in between sips.

Price: RMB30

Who's going: coffee geeks, people living nearby

Good for: trying new coffees, catching up on work

Nearest metro: Houhai (Exit G), 15 minutes

Open daily 10am-10pm; Nanshan Administrative Services Hall, Southeast Shenzhen Bay Sports Center Area, Binhai Dadao, Nanshan District 南山区滨海大道深圳湾体育中心东南侧南山区行政服务大厅旁 (186 8892 6138)



BEANS TO DANCE COFFEE

Caffeine and Contemplation

By Bailey Hu

The Place

With its out-of-the-way location and impressive array of equipment, Beans to Dance is the quintessential haunt of coffee nerds.

Hidden in the southeast corner of the Shenzhen Bay Sports Center complex, it also sees visits from those running errands at the neighboring government office.

Inside the cafe, a long counter displays shiny European latte machines and twisty glass ice drip contraptions alike. The place is fairly empty on the weekday afternoon we visit, with the exception of a few peo-

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TRAP

Rapper's Delight

By Sky Thomas Gidge

The Place

TV show *The Rap of China* has spawned celebrities, a wave of musician wannabes and – apparently – a restaurant near Shenzhen's High Tech Park.

The eatery is located on the second floor of a building that seems better suited for peddling obscure phone sensors than the semi-soul food on offer.

DJ equipment sits on a table in the center of the small space, and behind that, a wall sports graffiti by 4pm, a local sports group that has been decorating Shenzhen underpasses for more than a few months.

The Food

The beef and cheese sandwich (RMB28) arrives, looking every bit like something you would be served at the back of Jesus's Food and Wine – which is to say, buttery, large and home style.

The chicken burrito (RMB28) is slightly fancier, though it doesn't go out on any limbs with the egg, rice and cabbage.

We're told a 'master' from Hong Kong helped with the virgin drink recipes like the RMB20 'Fantast Scented Tea,' which contains a secret flower-derived ingredient from Thailand. It also tastes a lot like a pixie stick,



though we're assured it doesn't have too much sugar.

In short, solid, simple food at reasonable prices – as long as this is the food you're into.

The Vibe

Rather than a marketing cash grab, Trap's employees do seem invested in the music style being pumped through four ceiling mounted speakers, namely rap and a bit of trap – and the grungy tracks match the decoration (or lack thereof) for a polarizing DIY vibe.

With a cigarette burning in one hand, the proprietress shows us iPhone videos of after 8pm events when Trap stops serving food and focuses on drinks, DJs and rappers.

Trap strikes us as the type of messy nook that real artistry sometimes springs from, something sorely lacking in Shenzhen – or it could just be an odd place to get a sandwich.

Price: RMB80

Who's going: tech workers and rap fans

Good for: simple food, walls you can write on

Nearest metro: Hi-tech Park (exit B), 13 minutes

Open daily, 10.30am-midnight; 2/F, 1 Kefa Lu, Fulizhen Mansion Bldg 2, Nanshan District 南山区科发路1号2楼(富利臻大厦2楼) (186 7669 1748)



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MEN'S CLUB

Gatsby Calling

By Bailey Hu

Hark back to the good old days with a bar F. Scott Fitzgerald might have approved of – if not for the enthusiastic Art Deco theme, then at least for the whiskey.

The dimly lit space gives off an air of old-school luxury with its marble-tiled floor and geometrically sculpted lamps, while closely clustered chairs seem designed to foster intimate conversations. Just a few steps away, another themed lounge, complete with retro-style barber chair, provides a space for clientele to chat more casually and smoke

the occasional cigars.

At the bar, we start with Men's Club's most girly cocktail: pastel pink and garnished with rosebuds, the cognac-based Angel Rose (RMB108) tastes like a spiked strawberry milkshake.

The similarly pretty Chrysanthemum Negroni (RMB108) is an interesting spin on a classic, with floral notes that are bitter rather than sweet, while the flashy Earl Grey cocktail (RMB108) livens things up with dry ice, spice-infused liquors and a 10-year-old scotch.

For those who prefer their whiskey neat, the bar has a whole menu devoted to the drink, and prides itself on high-end bottles like a limited edition 1995 Glendronach scotch. At RMB200 for 15 milliliters, the price is nearly as impressive as the pedigree. The liquor proves its worth, however, with a potency and rich, warm flavor that linger for

minutes after each sip.

For those who aren't prepared to go all out, the bar offers less exorbitant varieties of scotches, Japanese and American whiskeys, as well as taster sets.

But with most cocktails costing over RMB100, Men's Club is a hard sell for frugal drinkers, who may find it difficult to stay on budget. Though, as Jay Gatsby would have said, 'where's the fun in that?'

Price: RMB100-130 a drink

Who's going: serious drinkers, whiskey lovers

Good for: strong cocktails, treating yourself
Nearest metro: Shopping Park (Exit D), 6 minutes

Open daily 6pm-2am; Shop L120-121, Times Square Excellence, Fuhua San Lu, Futian District 福田区福华三路卓越时代广场L120-L121商铺

CRAZY DARTS

Surprisingly Sane

By Sky Thomas Gidge

There's a certain style of dingy, dark dart bars that nest along the Shenzhen side of the Hong Kong border – the type of place where Hong Kong dollars are used to pay for canned beers, which come served in a metal bucket by a woman who will try to chat you up in Cantonese. Crazy Darts is not that.

Set in a complex near Chegongmiao Station, Crazy Darts shares a building with restaurants and at least one club – all of which have all been polished to a practiced, corporate sheen. Crazy Darts follows that commercially refined formula with KTV-style floors that reflect violently colorful neon lights that spider-web overhead.

Service is prompt, friendly and operates mostly by hand gestures, as not much can be heard over the scream of recent club hits – that is, until a musician takes to the modest stage.

The music fades, and a fashionable, guitar-bearing fellow begins singing below a big screen TV looping a Victoria's Secret promo. Though less windswept than the models



pictured above, he sets into the first of five Chinese-language love songs with a set of lungs that turn heads.

Shenzhen's smoking ban hasn't affected the inside of Crazy Darts, but no matter. The huge sliding doors are open on our visit, giving a view of the outside seating and plenty of airflow.

We didn't have our hopes set very high for the drinks – the place striking us more as a green tea and whiskey venue – but the 'margarit' (read margarita, RMB68) was competently made, if light on the triple sec.

We followed that tittle with something

labeled 'For the drunk' (RMB70) – apparently a screwdriver decorated by an orange peel and mint leaves. As for the specific ingredients, the wait staff weren't sure.

The bathrooms are separate, small rooms with reflective walls – the perfect place for some mid-date primping.

Finally, good news about the 14 electronic darts machines: customers play for

free, though the plastic tipped projectiles may be a turn off for purists.

Price: RMB70

Who's going: groups interested in their cell-phones, casual dart players

Good for: a conversation-lite start to the night

Nearest metro: Chegongmiao (Exit B), 10 minutes

Open daily, 11.30am-midnight; A40 Huangguan Keji Yuan, Chegongmiao, Futian District 福田区车公庙皇冠科技园A40 (158 1723 8881)

CHUAN SPA

Experience Ultimate Bliss

By Gary Bailer

There are few things more stressful for a writer than impending deadlines, but even during the end-of-the-month crunch, a session at The Langham, Shenzhen's Chuan Spa whisked me away from my worries for a blissful two hours.

In a tastefully appointed 'contemplation corner' with a soothing fountain, I was given a Five Elements questionnaire that checked not only for skin type but also which element (Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal or Water) I lacked the most.

Shortly afterwards, I was ushered into a suite with two massage beds and a Jacuzzi, where dimmed lights and a slow-paced orchestral soundtrack helped set the mood. Combined with the soothing voice of the therapist, who



periodically asked if I was comfortable, I was soon lulled into a peaceful state of mind.

The treatment began from the scalp and neck, progressing to the shoulders, back and, more briefly, arms and legs. With the aid of an 'Earth' essential oil, the therapist used thumb pressure, knuckles and kneading techniques to ease the tension from my muscles. By the end of the session, my body felt lighter and looser.

A facial treatment involving pieces of jade was a novel experience, while gentle exfoliation, cleansing and a mask made my skin radi-

ant.

With stress and soreness at bay, and still smelling of fragrant herbs, I left feeling soothed in both body and mind.

Nearest metro: Chegongmiao (Exit B), 11 minutes

Open daily, 10am-11.30pm; 5F, The Langham, Shenzhen, 7888 Shennan Boulevard, Futian District, Shenzhen 深圳市福田区深南大道7888号东海朗廷酒店 5F (0755 8828 8093)



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全新菜单 惊喜呈现



● G.E.M. Concert



In 2016 G.E.M. became the only Asian ranked on *Forbe's 30 under 30* for music – an accomplishment suiting her career that first took root in Hong Kong before her popularity spread to mainland China. After her first album in 2008, she has been behind a string of hits, playing guitar and keyboard on stage.

Sat Dec 2, 7:30pm; RMB380-RMB1280. Shenzhen Bay Sports Center, 3001 Binhai Dadao, Nanshan District 南山区滨海大道3001号 (pioniu.com, 8630 8888)

● Richard Galliano Quintet Concert



The accordion is not the sexiest instrument in the world – but Galliano has set out to change that, giving the ol' 'squeezebox' its proper place in the heart of jazz, alongside the sax and horn. Special guest includes Daniel 'the Pipi' Piazzolla.

Mon Nov 13, 8pm; RMB200-RMB250. B10 Live, Bldg C2, OCT-Loft, Xiangshan Dong Jie, Nanshan District 南山区香山东街华侨城创意文化园北区C2栋北侧 (8633 7602, b10live.taobao.com)

● Jessie J and Flo Rida Concert



British Jessie J has been riding the charts since before her song 'Domino' became an international earworm, thanks to her unusual method of mixing soul and pop. Flo Rida has been bringing Southern Hip Hop to the masses since his 2008 hit smash 'Low.' Now is your chance to see both superstars in Shenzhen. Fri Dec 1, 7:30pm; RMB480-4800. Shenzhen Universiade Sports Centre, 3001 Longxiang Dadao, Longgang District 龙岗区龙翔大道3001号 (Youyanchu.com)

● Stolen Gig



When four Chengdu natives and a Frenchman assemble – they create Stolen, a band praised for being 'ahead of other Chinese bands' in their press material. Expect a mix of rock and electronic musical styles, described as thick and gloomy. The Shenzhen show will see new songs and new visuals designed by the French guy, who is their VJ.

Sat Nov 11, 8:30pm; early bird RMB80 door RMB100. B10 Live, Bldg C2, OCT-Loft, Xiangshan Dong Jie, Nanshan District 南山区香山东街华侨城创意文化园北区C2栋北侧 (8633 7602, b10live.taobao.com)

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● Jonas Kaufman Concert



Kaufmann is a German operatic tenor. He is best known for his performances in spinto roles such as Don José in *Carmen*. He has performed to great fanfare in both his native country and became a box-office draw for the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

Sat Nov 11, 8pm; RMB280-1280. Shenzhen Concert Hall, 2016 Fuzhong Yi Lu, Futian District 福田区福中一路2016号 (<http://en.damai.cn>, 8306 0346)

● The Legend of Chopin Recital



Dang Thai Son is a Vietnamese-Canadian classical pianist. He was the Gold Medalist at the Tenth International Chopin Piano Competition in Warsaw, Poland in 1980. Dang Thai Son has received particular acclaim for his interpretations of music by Chopin.

Fri Dec 1, 8pm-late; RMB180-480. Nanshan Cultural and Sports Center, 2106 Nanshan Boulevard, Nanshan District 南山区南山大道2106号南山文体中心 (400 185 8666)



TASTE

● Muye Wu Piano Recital



Muye Wu may not be the biggest name in piano music, but he is recognized as one of mainland China's best players – and his skills haven't gone unnoticed in the rest of the world. In Europe he earned accolades, including, Sina.com reports, the nickname 'gold-finger,' – though for reasons unrelated to battling James Bond. He is particularly recognized in France where he has been granted the highest rating a piano player can earn.

Sat Nov 25, 8pm; RMB80-380. Shenzhen Concert Hall, 2016 Fuzhong Yi Lu, Futian District 福田区福中一路 2016号 (szyt.com)

● Philharmonia Quartet Berlin Concert



Having traveled across Europe, the US and Japan, the Philharmonia Quartet Berlin has established itself as a world-renowned string quartet known for its flawless interplay of sounds. From Carnegie Hall to Shenzhen, don't miss this top-class quartet.

Sat Nov 11, 8pm; RMB80-380. Shenzhen Concert Hall, 2016 Fuzhong Yi Lu, Futian District 福田区福中一路2016号 (8284 1888)

● Wang Feng Concert



Married early and often, Wang Feng is a legendary Chinese rock musician and composer, with his artistry crafting a series of iconic Chinese anthems like 'Beijing, Beijing!' and other hits you can likely hum – if not sing. Recently settling into a role as a coach on the Voice of China, Wang's popularity as a singer and guitarist has only grown.

Sat Dec 9, 7:30pm; RMB280-1,680. Shenzhen Bay Sports Center, 3001 Binhai Dadao, Nanshan District 南山区滨海大道 3001号 (en.damai.cn, 8630 8888)

● Taste of Artistry Deal



Unique and incredible food prepared by a master chef will be available in Shenzhen for only two days this month - seeing Chef Charles Cheung, of the Four Seasons Hotel Macao, Cotai Strip, bring Zi Yat Heen's Michelin-starred, creative Cantonese cuisine to the city.

Fri-Sat Nov 10-11, eight course meal RMB2580 six course meal RMB1280 a la cart RMB168. Four Seasons Hotel Shenzhen, 138 Fuhua San Lu 福田区福华三路138号深圳四季酒店3楼 (8826 8800)

● Afternoon Tea Deal



Winter may be here, but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy the taste of summer with this deluxe 'summerlicious' tea deal by Grange Grill. Feast on a triple decker of exquisite delicacies while sipping Earl Grey tea matched with fashionable scents from Welton London.

To Nov 30, daily; Mon-Fri RMB178 Sat-Sun RMB268 (serves two). 25/F, Grange Grill, The Westin Shenzhen Nanshan, 9028 Shennan Road, Nanshan District 南山区深南大道9028-2号深圳益田威斯汀酒店 (8634 8431)

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● Health and Wellness Fair Fair



The Shenzhen Health and Wellness Fair is back, with a focus on promoting holistic living for Shenzhen's urbanites, an eclectic selection of fitness, nutrition and mental wellbeing providers will be present at the free fair. Free goody bags and coupon books are given to all attendees. Those who RSVP online and arrive early also get a gift. All classes, demos and talks at the fair are free.

Sat Nov 4, 10am-4pm; free. Vista-SK International Medical Center, 4/F, Nanshan Software Industry Base, Xuefu Lu by Keyuan Lu 南山区科技园路软件产业基地4栋C座4层 (WeChat pmk-96, 3689 9688)

● Football Tournament Charity Event



The 6th European Chamber Cup Football Tournament will kick off in Shenzhen High-Tech Industry Park, bringing 16 teams for a 5-a-side competition – an excellent chance to build team spirit and network with both male and female players. Also, a book exchange, dart throwing, handicrafts and a charity bazaar will be held at the catered event – along with a homeless cat and dog meet-and-greet activity.

Sat Nov 25, 8:30am-5:30pm; for member RMB7000 non-member RMB10000. Shenzhen Easy Striker Football Club, Hi-Tech Industry Park, Nanshan District (by the crossroad of Keji Nan Lu and Gaoxin Nanhuan Lu) 南山区高科技科技园区易前锋国际足球俱乐部 (科技南路与高新南环路交叉口)

● Craft Beer Fest Festival



Eighteen of China's most prominent breweries, eight great restaurants and a limited number of tickets: Bionic Brew presents the 3rd Annual Shenzhen Craft Beer Festival. This year will be a showcase of some China's top breweries, including from Hong Kong. Buy tickets early as they may sell out.

Fri-Sat Nov 10-11, Fri 4pm-11pm Sat 12pm-11pm; early bird single day RMB80 at door RMB100. HALO Plaza, No. 8 Liyuan Road, Luohu District 深圳市罗湖区梨园路8号HALO广场 (yooipay.cn)

● Full Moon at Secret Spot Party



Some say it's too cold for the beach in November and to that we say: nah! Take one last trip for an awesome day of fun in the sun, the city's best music and, oh yeah, a beach. Don't be alone at home when the frost moon appears, instead cozy up next to old friends and new while enjoying signature shots.

Sat-Sun Nov 4-5, 11am start; early bird RMB88 presale RMB120 day of RMB150. Secret Spot Café, Shalanzai Beach, Gate 3, Hesou Village, Xiyong, Nan'ao Town, Dapeng, Longgang District 龙岗区大鹏新区南澳镇西涌鹤藪村3号收费站沙兰仔沙滩 (yooipay.cn, 5474 1859)

● Café Créa Christmas Crafts Market



Looking for exceptional gifts for this coming Christmas? Stop in at Café Créa to find creative and unique crafts. Organized by the French association Shenzhen Bienvenue, this market showcases high quality creators in a welcoming space while supporting a charity. Thu Nov 23, 9:30am-4:30pm. Mann Coffee, Zhongtai Arts Division, 4076 Dongbin Lu, Nanshan District 南山蛇口东滨路4076号中泰艺术名庭一栋1-2楼 (shenzhen.cafecrea@gmail.com)



Pulse

● TeamLab Exhibition



This photo friendly tech-art display is going into its final month in Shenzhen. The past TeamLab exhibition in Japan was praised as one of the top 10 art exhibitions of 2015. Shenzhen's displays have already become iconic, with visitors posing with six astounding artistic works created using digital equipment. To Thu Nov 30, 10am-10pm; RMB150-320. OCT Design Museum Studio, Happy Harbor, 8 Baishi Lu, Futian District 福田区白石路8号欢乐海岸OCT创意展示中心 137 1458 4985

● Battlefield Stage



This play is based on an ancient Sanskrit-language text featuring a great war that leads to the deaths of millions. Originally more than eight hours long, the English-language stage version has proven more accessible – and popular with – audiences by depicting modern conundrums. Mon-Tue Nov 6-7, 8pm; RMB180-580. Nanshan Culture Sports Theater, 62 Nantou Jie, Nanshan Da Dao, Nanshan District 南山区南山大道南头街62号 (en.damai.cn, 8320 8858)

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HONG KONG & MACAU CALENDAR

NOV 10
FRI



Electric Wonderland: DJ Paul van Dyk, 10pm-late; HKD405-1020. Zentrak (www.pvdhk.eventbrite.com)
Legendary DJ Paul van Dyk – or PVD to his friends – will be playing a two-plus hour set of his greatest hits, while spinning tunes from his October released album. Dubbed the worlds greatest DJ by Forbes and nominated for over 100 awards, PVD's hits speak for themselves – now come see them spun in person.

ONGOING
MON-SUN



Bruce Lee: Kung Fu. Art. Life, 10am-6pm; HKD10. 2/F Thematic Gallery 6, Hong Kong Heritage Museum (www.heritagemuseum.gov.hk)
In collaboration with the Bruce Lee Foundation in the United States, the Hong Kong Heritage Museum has organized an exhibition that looks at Bruce Lee as not only a film star and martial artist, but also cultural phenomenon. The exhibition has more than 600 invaluable items of Bruce Lee memorabilia provided by local and overseas collectors.

UNTIL NOV 30
DAILY

Festive Korea 2017, citywide. Various venues (www.festivekorea.com/en)
Festive Korea presents a wide array of Korean art and cultural activities including dance, music, cinema and culinary events. Events, both free and ticketed, will give you a look at both an ancient and contemporary Korea. Presented by the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Hong Kong.

HK

UNTIL NOV 11
DAILY

German Bierfest 2017, 6pm-11pm; various prices. Marco Polo Hongkong Hotel Tsim Sha Tsui (www.gbfnk.com)
Head to Marco Polo Hongkong Hotel in Tsim Sha Tsui for a fun-filled evening of authentic German food, a head-spinning selection of beers and late-night dancing. Expect a German band playing hits from the fatherland. Don't forget your lederhosen and get ready to say prost!

NOV 17-19
FRI-SUN



Clockenflap, various times; various prices. Central Harbourfront Event Space (ticketflap.com)
Trip-hop superstars Massive Attack will be launching this year's Clockenflap, Hong Kong's top music festival, to levels never seen before. Also performing will be Canadian indie-rock chanteuse Feist, Danish electropop singer-songwriter MØ and Hong Kong rock pop favorites Supper Moment. The weekend's entertainment includes film, visual art and family fun.

NOV 26
SUN



Moon-looking Dog and I Saw the Elephant, 8pm; HKD150-250. Kwai Tsing Theatre (ccdc.com.hk/en)
These contemporary Korean plays are a perfect introduction to the startling stagecraft that defines modern Korea.
Moon-looking Dog made shockwaves with its esoteric look at the self in the context of the modern day – winning honors in France in 2000. *I Saw the Elephant* questions the nature of things, urging a second look with the mind's eye.

NOV 10-26
DAILY



Macau Grand Prix, 7.30am; MOP50/350/900. Guia Circuit (www.macauticket.com)
Fans, the 64th Macau Grand Prix is here in November. This annual motor-racing event, being the only street circuit racing of its kind, has drawn attention from huge amount of audiences, as well as champions and skilled drivers around the world. Car and motorbike races will be held through the four-day event, where riders and drivers compete fiercely in different categories.

Macau Food Festival, free entry. Sai Van Lake Square (853 2857 5765, www.macaotourism.gov.mo)
The annual Macau Food Festival will be held in the square next to the Macau Tower. The last edition attracted both local residents and visitors alike to savor delicious Southeast Asian, European and Chinese delicacies. Combined with exciting live entertainment, games and beer competitions, this food festival is becoming popular for its relaxed and welcoming alfresco dining atmosphere.

UNTIL NOV 12
ALL WEEK



Tokyo Horror Experience, 5pm-midnight; MOP198. 2/F, Broadway Macau (www.broadwaymacau.com.mo)
The Tokyo Horror Experience, composed of two parts – Japanese Ruin and Kominka – is a 'haunted house' game that covers an area of 1,000 square meters. Allowing players to experience the sense of smell, sight and touch from head to toe, this spine-chilling game takes horror to a whole new level.

NOV 16-19
THU-SUN



MO

Macau Grand Prix, 7.30am; MOP50/350/900. Guia Circuit (www.macauticket.com)
Fans, the 64th Macau Grand Prix is here in November. This annual motor-racing event, being the only street circuit racing of its kind, has drawn attention from huge amount of audiences, as well as champions and skilled drivers around the world. Car and motorbike races will be held through the four-day event, where riders and drivers compete fiercely in different categories.

DEC 4
MON



2017 Macau International Marathon, for more information, visit www.macaumarathon.com.
Running for 36 years, the Macau Galaxy Entertainment International Marathon encourages runners from various cultural backgrounds to participate. Consisting of the mini marathon, half marathon and whole marathon, the Macau International Marathon continues to be a popular event for runners of all kinds.

ONGOING
FRIDAY

'Shine' Ladies' Night at Pacha Macau, 11pm; MOP200 for men. Pacha Macau, Studio City, Macau
Hey ladies: want to get the most out of your trip to Macau? Pacha Macau offers free entry and drinks for the ladies every Friday night after 11pm. Gentlemen, it's an inviting night for you too.

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HOTEL NEWS

MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL

Raises Money Through Charity Run

Marriott International's Run to Give annual charity run was held in the Greater China region, including in Shenzhen, in support of the Yao Foundation. Funds raised totaled RMB983,265.

The money will go to education projects for under-privileged children in rural China. Jointly supported by four Marriott Greater China Business Councils, the charity run on September 24 was organized by 250 Marriott hotels in 50 cities with attendance of more than 8,700 people nationwide, including 7,500 Marriott associates.

"The stronger the youth is, the stronger the nation will be," said Ms. Angela Pan, a Guidance Member of Marriott Greater China Business Councils.



HARD ROCK HOTEL SHENZHEN

Awards Talent Audition Winners

After reviewing almost 100 entries, the winners of the Hard Rock Talents Audition were revealed September 30. Gigantic Band won the Best Bands and Musicians category, while Ms. Zhang Yingmin received recognition as the Best Talent of the competition.

In collaboration with NetEase Cloud Music, the Hard Rock Talents Audition was a contest aimed to help aspiring musicians achieve their dreams of rock stardom.

The nine finalists enjoyed free luxury accommodation at the hotel, while winners of each category are invited to perform at Hard Rock Hotel Shenzhen as a guest band, house DJ, or make special event appearances, as well as receive attractive prizes from Hard Rock.





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Grand Hyatt Shenzhen No.1881 Baoan Nan Lu, Luohu District (8266 1234) www.shenzhen.grand.hyatt.com 罗湖区宝安南路1881号

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深圳朗廷酒店, 福田区深南大道7888号

The Ritz-Carlton, Shenzhen 116 Fuhua San Lu, Futian District (2222 2222)
福田区福华三路116号

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The Westin Shenzhen 9028-2 Shennan Dadao, Nanshan District (2698 8888)
www.westin.com/shenzhen 南山区深南大道9028号-2

HEALTH

HarmoniCare Women & Children's Hospital 12018 Shennan Dadao, by Nanshan Dadao (3339 1333) 深圳和美妇儿专科医院 南山区深南大道12018号

Vista-SK International Medical Center Lvl 4, Bldg 4C, Shenzhen Software Industry Base, Xuefu Lu, Nanshan District (3689 9833) 南山区学府路软件产业基地4栋C座裙楼4层

C-MER (Shenzhen) Dennis Lam Eye Hospital 1-2/F, Shengtang Bldg, 1 Tairan Jiu Lu, Chegongmiao, Futian District (4001 666 120, 3322 7188) 福田区车公庙泰然九路一号 盛唐大厦1-2层

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European Union Chamber of Commerce
Rm 308, 3/F Overseas Chinese Scholars Venture Building, southern section of High-Tech Industrial Park, Nanshan District (Tel: 8635 0920; fax: 8632 9785).
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French Chamber of Commerce in South China (CCIFC) Room 318, 3/F Chinese Overseas Scholars Venture Building, South section of Hi-tech Industry Park, Nanshan District (Tel: 8632 9602; fax: 8632 9736)
www.ccifc.org 南山区科技园南区留学生创业大厦3楼318室

German Chamber of Commerce
217 Chinese Overseas Scholars Venture Building, Hi-Tech Industrial Park, Nanshan District. (8635 0487) www.china.ahk.de
南山区高新科技园南区留学生创业大厦217

The American Chamber of Commerce in South China Rm 208, 2/F Overseas Chinese Scholars Venture Building, southern section of High-Tech Industrial Park, Nanshan District (Tel: 0755-2658 8342; fax: 0755-2658 8341). www.amcham-southchina.org

The British Chamber of Commerce, Shenzhen Sub-Chamber Rm 314, 3/F Overseas Chinese Scholars Venture Building, southern section of High-Tech Industrial Park, Nanshan District (Tel: 2658 8350). 深圳市南山区高新科技园南区留学生创业大厦3楼314室



Morefoods No.1,1F, Building A, OCEAN City Garden, Shekou New Street, Nanshan District, Shenzhen (0755-8827 9078) 深圳市南山区蛇口新街花园A栋一楼1号铺

SERVICED RESIDENCE

Savills Residence Daxin Shenzhen Bay 1168 Houhai Road, Nanshan District, Shenzhen (2685 6688) 南山区后海大道1168号 www.savillsresidence.com

Somerset Grandview Shenzhen No.5 Xinsha Road, Futian District, Shenzhen (400 820 1028) 福田区新沙路5号 www.ascottchina.com

FOOD & DRINK



pho nam 1) Shop B26C, Link City Passage (near Coco Park), Futian District; **2)** B1 floor, B1-04, Zhuoyue Plaza, Shangmeilin, Futian District
越小品, 1) 福田区连城新天地B26C 商铺 (8255 7048); 2) 福田区上梅林卓悦汇B1楼B1-04



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3 Taizi Lu, by Minghua Lu, Nanshan District (Tel: 2669 8564). 南山区太子路3号太子宾馆1楼后街3号商铺

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Address: Shop 108, Nanhai Rose Garden, 91 Wanghai Lu, by Minghua Lu 南山区望海路91号南海玫瑰园108号

MAN HO Restaurant-introduces Special Cantonese Dish Shenzhen Marriott Hotel Golden Bay, 33 zonglu Dadao, Dapeng District 2839 8888 深圳佳兆业万豪酒店 大鹏新区棕榈大道33号玫瑰花园108号 (2685 7030)

TINGS



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Mobile Game company business development position.

A NASDAQ listed Shenzhen based mobile game company iDreamSky is looking for an expat for one business development position, native English speaker and fluent in Mandarin a must, well versed with mobile games or business negotiation experience a plus. Responsible for looking for Western games suitable for the Chinese market and contacting the game developers. Our office is located in NanShan district, Shenzhen. If interested, please send resume to Evan at email: evan.liang@idreamsky.com

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THE 7TH DAY Introduces All-day Teatime

Shenzhen is not known for its selection of bespoke teas, hence 7th day introducing specialty tea by Whittard – with the blend on menu sporting a faint scent of rose along with a reputation for reducing wrinkles. Each set is only RMB48.

Shop 2C, Building B, SCC Building, 9 Wenxin San Lu, Coastal City, Nanshan District南山区海岸城文心三路9号中洲控股金融中心B座2C (0755 8638 0028)



LA MAISON Puts Lamb Shank Stew on Menu

La Maison is adding a delicious lamb shank stew to the menu. The hearty broth includes cherry tomatoes and red beans, which are slow-cooked over three hours with ten spices by a new chef, Jean-Baptiste Louis. The premium stew is only RMB120.

Shop 108, Nanhai Rose Garden, 91 Wanghai Lu, Nanshan District南山区望海路91号南海玫瑰花园108号 (2685 7030)

BIONIC BREW Offers 20 Percent Off if You 'Unplug' on Tuesdays

From first flooding Shenzhen streets with delicious craft brews, to soon holding the third iteration of Shenzhen's premier beer fest (November 10, RMB80 tickets on yoopay.cn) Bionic tends to be on the forward cusp of any movement. Now they are inviting you to take a step back and unplug. By leaving your phone behind the counter on Tuesdays you can enjoy 20 percent off your entire bill – but no peeking!

A-1F Shangye Buxing Jie, by Shahe Jie, Baishizhou, Nanshan District南山区白石洲沙河街商业步行街A-1F Phone (139 2466 8864)



URBAN MOMENTS

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

PERCH OPENING PARTY @ THE LANGHAM, SHENZHEN



RAPPER BRIDGET @ DAZZLE CLUB, OCT 6TH



That's Shenzhen

Horoscopes

Finally, a horoscope that understands your life in Shenzhen.

BY NOELLE MATEER



Scorpio
10.24-11.22

It's Scorpio season. Live your best life with a new winter wardrobe, or just a nice pair of socks. They sell them at the Chegongmiao subway station sometimes.



Sagittarius
11.23-12.21

You will have an incredibly fortuitous November if you sign up for our email newsletter at thatsmags.com. Yeah, we just plugged ourselves in our own horoscopes. Don't wear red on a full moon.



Capricorn
12.22-1.20

Don't go to Dongguan on a Wednesday. Only travel to Hong Kong on weekends. Don't book sleeper trains if you don't plan on sleeping. Best to avoid travel this whole month, actually.



Aquarius
1.21-2.19

Something from your past will haunt you - your past life boozing in Coco Park, that is. Romeo, your partner on that project about the Qing dynasty you did for study abroad, will make a sudden reappearance.



Pisces
2.20-3.20

If you board a rickshaw on the 13th you will fall off the back of it. If you board a rickshaw on the 25th you will fall in love with the driver.



Aries
3.21-4.20

Don't paint your nails on days when the AQI is above 50.



Taurus
4.21-5.21

You will receive several calls from kuaidi delivery men - even though you haven't ordered anything. "Strange," you'll mumble to yourself, after Mr. Li calls for the third time. These packages are inauspicious - never touch them.



Gemini
5.22-6.21

Naughty Gemini - you swapped germs with a sweaty stranger at a Halloween party again this year! This is why you're currently suffering from a sore throat and head cold. You'll be fine - just take it easy at Thanksgiving.



Cancer
6.22-7.22

Relax. Fall is your season. All your relationships are fine. You know what? Drink more. Dawdle. Your Didi driver will wait for six minutes without yelling at you.



Leo
7.23-8.23

You're the type of person who will break out the new sweater when there's just the hint of a chill. Stop being that person. Do not interpret this month's cold snap as an opportunity for you to show off.



Virgo
8.24-9.23

You're feeling sad and overwhelmed. Here's what the stars prescribe: a night under blankets, with a glass of Great Wall red wine and *Wolf Warrior 2*.



Libra
9.24-10.23

You've been single for a very long time. So long, that it's time to ask your neighborhood busybody if she knows of any eligible matches. You will go on several dates at which she will be present, but no one gets lucky.

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