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Editor's Note

FEBRUARY 2018

I'm sure it is difficult for some of our readers to get into the winter sports 'mood' while living in South China. Let's face it: it's stinking hot 80 percent of the year.

Growing up in western Canada, snowboarding, snowshoeing and reckless toboggan rides through the streets (roped to the back of a Ford Explorer) were all activities I proudly partook in.

My hometown's place in the winter sports world was secured back in 2010, when Vancouver and Whistler – one of North America's largest ski resorts – hosted the Winter Olympic Games. It was 16 days of sporting glory, cultural festivities and illegal, albeit unenforced, street boozing.

Needless to say, I haven't seen snow (*proper* snow, that light dusting Guangzhou received in January 2016 does not count) since moving to the PRD three years ago. But, with the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang quickly approaching, it seems as good a time as any to get hyped about sub-zero sports.

That's why we've decided to examine China's growing ski and snowboard scene for this month's cover story. On pages 36-43, *That's Beijing* Editor-in-Chief Noelle Mateer introduces the rural Chinese town that's set to become a global skiing hotspot.

In our City section, we explore the fate of Guangzhou's abandoned railways (pages 12-15) and share the story of Ho Chi Minh's secret Canton bride (pages 16-17).

For those that enjoy our regular Daytripper column, we share a number of noteworthy sights in Guangzhou's Huangpu and Zengcheng districts – now easily accessible with the recent opening of Guangzhou Metro Line 13 (page 21).

Elsewhere in this issue, we take a look at the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture (page 30), divulge three new Middle Kingdom discs worth checking out (page 34) and share some quirky date ideas for Valentine's Day (page 47).

From all of us at That's PRD, *xinnian kuaile!*



Matthew Bossons



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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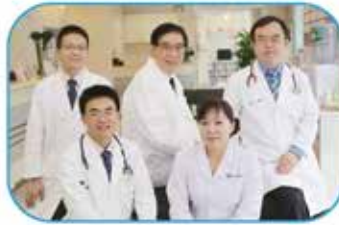
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EVERYTHING GUANGZHOU EVERY. SINGLE. DAY.



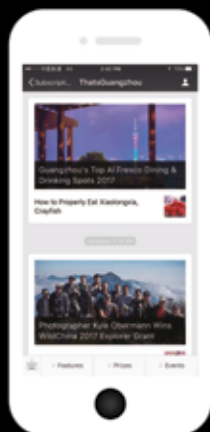
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GIVEAWAYS

GO ON, FOLLOW US.



CITY

End of the Line

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MEAT-SELLING SHIFU

Carnivore's Comrade

By Adam Robbins

As urban Shenzhen grows far beyond its original Special Economic Zone, plans for the city envision 100 old industrial districts and 100 urban villages redeveloped by 2020. That means more malls, of course, but also more towering residences and strip-mall grocers to feed them.

That's where we find our local "meat-selling *shifu*," an amiable 30-something who spends his day between a fish tank and a wide cooler filled with cuts of meat.

Like many in the city, Yajun (he won't share his last name) isn't from here, but moved to Shenzhen four years ago for the work. He's been at this shop in Longhua New District for six months. While his earlier jobs all involved working with meat and he boasts the skills to kill chickens, this job generally keeps his hands clean.

"Most places are the same," he tells us. "This one is kinda nice, since I just need to work with the meat." Anything particular about this job that gives him satisfaction? He pauses to consider.

"A job's a job, they're all about the same."

But the problem now, he tells us, is that cooler. He waves his hands over the packages of beef and pork. "The fridge is broken."

Don't worry, he reassures us. The meat should be okay, if he gets rid of it all today. And he usually does.

Is the meat safe? "Totally. I eat it too. Everything's fresh."

And the boss will get the cooler fixed, right? "Well, ya know..." he hems and haws. "Anybody can call the repairman." He just leaves it at that.

"The fish is all fresh, too." That much is apparent. They're swimming right behind him, oblivious to their impending doom.

He's cagey about exactly how much he's paid, but gives us the going rate in Shenzhen for a guy in his position. He likes that he'll get a bonus for selling more. But his one complaint is about the time off.

"Government says we should get days off every week, but this is a private company. So I only get two days off a month."

His future, like his present, is a source of ambivalence. "Ya never know what comes next. Just gotta find a job."

THE DIRTY DETAILS

Monthly salary: approx. RMB5,000

Days per month: 28

Hours per day: 9

Editor's note: the images accompanying this story were captured at a similar-style shop in Guangzhou. 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 NUMBERS

27



... hours. That is how long three foreigners were stranded in the South China Sea last month, after their 28-meter-long sailboat ran aground in the Nansha island chain. The grateful crew, composed of Polish, Swiss and French sailors, was eventually rescued after a Chinese patrol boat responded to their distress signal. Unfortunately for the adventurous sailors, attempts to tow and refloat their boat were unsuccessful and the trio and their belongings were transferred to a Chinese coast guard vessel.

360,000



... the approximate value, in renminbi, of a kilogram of crystal meth that a 27-year-old woman was caught attempting to smuggle across the Shenzhen-Hong Kong border (at Lok Ma Chau) on January 3. The smuggler faces a hefty punishment: in Hong Kong, trafficking drugs can get you a life imprisonment sentence and fines of up to HKD5 million.

CITY SNAPSHOT

Space-Time Tunnel

Pawel Strzewiczek has lived in China for over seven years, during which time he has cruised over 20,000 kilometers through the country via motorbike. According to



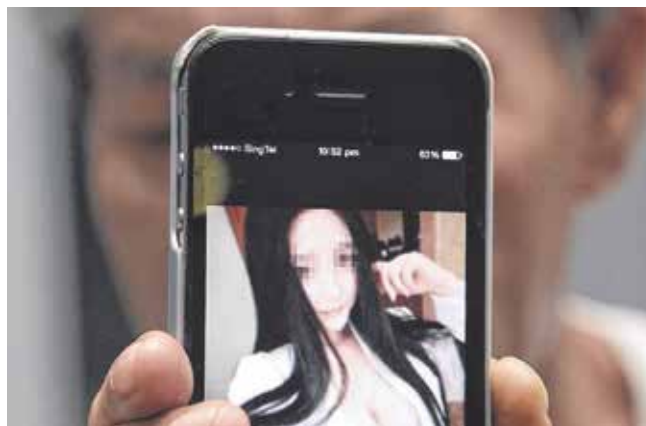
Strzewiczek, he became interested in photography while surrounded by yaks, nomadic people and high mountains near China's Tibet Autonomous Region. Two years ago, Strzewiczek moved to Guangzhou, where he now seeks photographic inspiration from the city's vibrant nightlife and unique architecture and design. Strzewiczek snapped this month's featured 'city snapshot' at Guangzhou's Baiyun International Airport after returning from Chengdu. See more of his work on Instagram (@strzewo).

Tag #thatsprd on Instagram for a chance to be featured on our feed and in the magazine.

DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

'Sexy Girl' Scam Bots

Police recently revealed that chat bots posing as bodacious babes have scammed dating app users out of a collective fortune. The investigation began last August, when Guangdong police were tipped off on an app that asks users to pay for titillating videos that, alas, did not exist. From there, the investigation expanded to apps run in 13 provinces across China.



By January, over 600 individuals had been arrested and 21 companies shut down in cities including Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hangzhou, Changsha and Wuhan. On the dating apps they formerly operated, some of the so-called single women were in fact chat bots programmed to flirt with users. In at least one case, app users could exchange a few messages with a 'sexy' bot before being asked to upgrade to VIP status for RMB200. Once they forked over the money, they could continue chatting, with some caveats – the bots would continue to attempt to lure users into topping up their accounts or sending virtual gifts of up to RMB1,000. Police estimate that some 100,000 people were scammed every day, handing over a total of 1 billion yuan to the fraudulent app companies.



fo xi / fó xì / 佛系 adj. buddha-like, having no desires and indifferent to everything, apathetic

A Every stage in life is exhausting: doing well in school, finding a job, buying a house. I'm stressed out just thinking about it.

I know. Fo xi is the only way to go.

B

A Agreed. Let's go take a nap.

This is the year when the first batch of the post-00's generation turns 18 and enters adulthood. How are they doing? Well, they've already given up and are ready to become hermits in caves.

They are *fo xi*, people who have seen through the nihilistic nature of our material world, abandoned all desires and now live like buddhas.

In a series of viral posts in the first month of 2018, a member of this generation described the *fo xi* philosophy. People who are *fo xi* don't set any professional goals, and therefore have no anxiety about not achieving them. They post photos on WeChat but don't care about how many people 'like' them. They don't really care about what to have for lunch or dinner because food is just food.

If socks show up when they order pants from Taobao, they just keep the socks, because arguing and complaining is unthinkably exhausting. "Okay" and "sure" are their answers to almost any question.

This nihilistic attitude is the latest addition to a long list of traits of the post-90's generation that annoys the heck out of the post-80's generation, who call them lethargic, unenthusiastic and soft. While most of these post-90's kids don't even care to defend themselves, some have cited the lack of social mobility as the cause. Class solidification only happened after the post-80's generation had already made their fortunes. Nowadays, the social status of the family you are born into very much determines your life trajectory. Changing that trajectory is nearly impossible and highly costly.

If you don't hope, you don't get disappointed; if you don't fight it, you don't get hurt. "I'm not from a rich family, nor am I super smart," one *fo xi* youngster wrote in his post. "How my life will turn out is very much up to chance. Why exert any effort?"

Mia Li

BEHIND THE CONCRETE

Guangdong Revolutionary History Museum

Nestled in the peaceful, leafy gardens on the western edge of Martyrs' Park, the historic edifice housing Guangdong's Revolutionary History Museum, ringed by archways and colonnades and framed by swaying palms, looks more like a forgotten colonial mansion from some distant Caribbean island than a Qing Dynasty relic that's borne witness to some of the highest crescendos of China's tumultuous twentieth century.

Indeed, the site, which now serves as a 'patriotism education base' (free entry, of course), was from its earliest days destined to serve as a backdrop to hot points of history. Originally constructed as an important administrative building in the latter days of the Qing Dynasty, the building was a focal point for popular dissent in the wake of the 1911 Xinhai Rebellion. Here, in the old halls of imperial power, the masses of Guangzhou staged a people's assembly denouncing the Manchu regime. Later, in 1921, the site saw Sun Yat-sen take his oath of office as Extraordinary President of his newly declared military government, setting in motion the campaign that would topple

Yuan Shikai and the northern warlords.

The building, with its dramatic domed meeting hall at its center, still festooned with Republican-era flags, also became an important headquarters for the early KMT government. Communist leaders too left their mark: Mao Zedong himself conducted affairs in the building while working as chief editor of *Politics Weekly*.

Today, the museum stands as a testament to the revolutionary history of the region, documenting the struggles of Cantonese people to resist imperialist aggression and reform their society, from the Opium Wars to the founding of the PRC. Exhibits on the second floor form the Guangzhou Museum of Modern History, cataloging the city's rise from an early manufacturing center to an important trading port to the modern megalopolis we know and love.

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END OF THE LINE

EXPLORING THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF GUANGZHOU'S ABANDONED RAILWAYS

Text and images by Matthew Bossons and Tristin Zhang

In this major hub of manufacturing and trade, railways have played an integral role in Guangzhou's development. If you have spent any amount of time living in the city or the region at large, chances are you have ridden at least one train, probably to Hong Kong for a weekend of boozy, unhinged fun and unhindered Internet access.

Canton's first railway, the Yuehan Railroad, was built in 1900, although it would not go into service until 1936. The route connected Guangzhou to Wuchang, in Hubei province.

The city's first active rail line, the Guangsan Railway, broke ground in November of 1901 and its construction was led by an American company.

The route, which

connected Guangzhou to nearby Foshan, went into operation in September of 1903 - roughly eight years before the Canton-Kowloon track linked Guangzhou and Hong Kong by rail.

The starting point of the Guangsan Railway in Guangzhou was Shiweitang Station, which was built on the site of a former Fang village on the right bank of the Pearl River, in Guangzhou's Liwan District.

In the early days, Shiweitang Station only provided passenger transport and did not handle the consignment of cargo. During China's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, workers on the train route demolished one stretch of railroad from Shiweitang Station to

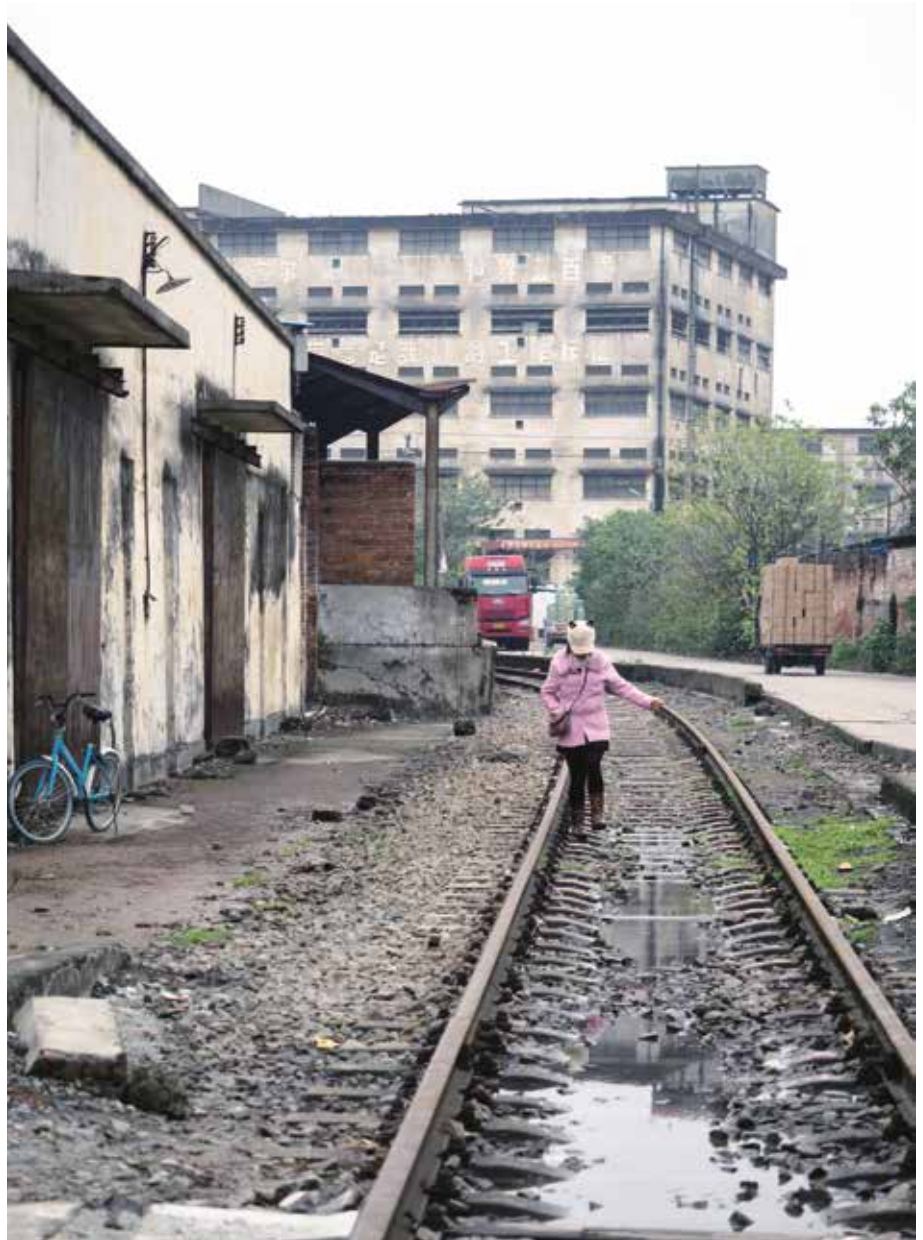


Foshan Station, lest the Japanese army make use of it. The track was rebuilt after the war and operated until March 1992, when passenger service was halted.

Today, the metal tracks at Shiweitang Station are covered in an orangey-gold layer of rust. Passengers no longer crowd the station platform and the blaring whistles of departing trains have been replaced with the hum of nearby industry.

While the station building is no more, the boarding platform and abandoned tracks are still very much intact, albeit weathered. The area has been largely reclaimed by nearby residents and serves as a kind of community garden.

By all accounts, the only folks that are going out of their way to visit Shiweitang Station now are selfie-hunting teens.



(Fun fact: the station, after its closure, was regularly used as a filming location for Chinese TV series and movies. This helped the site gain fame with Guangzhou's amateur photographers).

In death, Shiweitang Station has found some semblance of peace, but not all of Guangzhou's derelict railways have received such a quiet end.

An abandoned stretch of railway near Guangzhou Metro Line 5's Xichang Station, also in Liwan, has been swallowed up by a vibrant array of clothing and food stalls. The forgotten track, which can be accessed via Huanshi Xi Lu, came to our attention via a report by Guangzhou Radio and Television, which profiled the area's upcoming redevelopment – part of the local government's 'chengshi man xing xitong' scheme. (*Chengshi man xing xitong* roughly translates to 'slow city system').

The plan aims to transform a portion of Guangzhou's abandoned railways



into parks and pedestrian lanes, much in the spirit of New York City's High Line Park. According to Guangzhou Radio and Television, 35 kilometers of unused railway have been earmarked for overhaul during the *chengshi man xing xitong* project, although specifics on which deserted lines will be included in the development are presently hard to come by.

What we do know, from local media reports, is this: the old tracks near Xichang

Station, which were originally connected to factories used by Guanghong Food Corporation, will be developed as a demonstration section; the tracks will be retained in some manner; and disused structures near the railway will likely "be transformed into cafes, stadiums and gymnasiums," aka recreation and entertainment facilities.

Official bulletins posted near Huanshi Xi Lu by the Liwan District government's state-owned land levy office indicate that





the revitalization plan will cover 1.7 kilometers of forsaken railway.

A taro saleswoman from Guangxi, surnamed Wu, spoke with us when we visited last month and stated she was aware of the renewal project but that she “had heard nothing about having to leave, just yet.”

“The market has been here for six or seven years,” says Wu, “I don’t know if the revitalization measures are a good thing.”

She adds that once the ‘slow city’ measures begin, she will pack up and leave her hawker post.



“
The market has been here for six or seven years. I don’t know if the revitalization measures are a good thing.
”

According to Wang Zechu with the city’s Urban Construction Committee, the most urgent job is to improve the city’s ‘slow traffic’ facilities, a task that includes adding more pedestrian walkways and bicycle lanes in residential areas that connect with nearby metro stations, hospitals and schools.

While some may mourn the loss of cheap (and in some cases, free) open-air retail space, the project boasts great potential.

Redtory, an art, entertainment and dining zone located in Guangzhou’s Tianhe District, underwent a similar renovation program in the late aughts. Formerly the Yingjinjian Canned Food Factory, the area saw art galleries, shops, restaurants and performance spaces open inside the facility’s derelict buildings.

A section of railway originally utilized by the Yingjinjian Canned Food Factory survives in Redtory today and, much like Shiweitang Station’s forsaken tracks, has become a photo hot spot for young urbanites looking to capture a unique shot.



HO CHI MINH'S SECRET CANTON BRIDE

A Valentine's Day Tale of Love and Woe

By Daniel Plafker



February is upon us, Valentine's Day is around the corner and love is in the air. Another season of romance is descending on our beloved City of Flowers – a town that is no stranger to tales of sweet amour.

Guangzhou has had its fair share of esteemed denizens (from Sun Yat-sen to that one guy who stands too close to you at Taco Tuesdays) and, indeed, has had no shortage of Romeo and Juliet sagas (from Soong Ching-ling to the English teacher who can't seem to stop sleeping with his TA). What follows is a super sad true love story, set right here in old Canton.

The year was 1924. His name was Ho Chi Minh and he had just stepped off the slow boat from Vladivostok. This communist Casanova had traveled the world working as a kitchen helper on ships, honing his socialist politics, and was in town on official Comintern business. Ho would live nearly three years in our fair city, organizing for the liberation of his homeland from the French and lecturing revolutionary Vietnamese expats at the Whampoa Military Academy.

It was inevitable, in such heady times, that love would soon blossom. Her name was Zeng Xueming: a Guangzhou native with Hakka roots. Zeng was working as a midwife when she met the dapper rebel and the two took to one another. Ho's comrades initially objected to the match but the love-struck lecturer insisted: "I will get married despite your disapproval because I need a woman to teach me the language and keep house," he is quoted by biographers as saying.

In 1926, the pair had the honor of tying the knot at Tai Ping Koon, the same historic Beijing Lu restaurant where Zhou Enlai wed his wifey the previous year. Even today, Guangzhouers can enjoy saucy beefsteaks in its hallowed halls.

Like all fairy tales however, this one could not last forever. A cruel wind was blowing down from Shanghai and in the midst of the murderous anti-Communist purges that followed Chiang Kai-shek's notorious massacre on April 12, 1927, Ho was forced to skip town to Hong Kong, leaving hours before KMT police beat down his door.

Separated by the gulfs of borders and politics, the two lovers yearned and pined to no avail. Letters would be sent back and forth, only to be intercepted. Rendezvous would be planned, then foiled. Eventually, contact between the two was severed. When Zeng saw her husband's face in the newspaper in 1950 and learned he had become president of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, it was too late. By this time, a cult of personality had grown around Ho that centered his supposed celibacy as testament to his single-minded commitment to the cause. Zeng's repeated entreaties to the Vietnamese embassy in Beijing went unanswered. Ho's attempts to establish contact through the Guangzhou consulate were refused. Their marriage had become an inconvenient truth.

Zeng, for her part, remained committed to the cause, staying active in the All-China Women's Federation and continuing to work in obstetrics. She lived out her days in Guangzhou as a midwife, retiring in her seventies and finally dying in 1991, at the age of 86.



Taiping Koon Western Restaurant 太平馆西餐厅

Urban adventurers, history buffs and fans of braised pigeon meat will be pleased to know that the storied venue that played host not only to the marriage of Zeng and Ho – but also to the wedding of the PRC's first premier, Zhou Enlai, to his wife and one-time chair of the CPPCC Deng Yingchao – is still very much open for business.

Taiping Koon Western Restaurant is quite possibly the oldest 'occidental-style' eatery in all of China. Started in 1885 during the late-Qing dynasty, the restaurant has been in continuous operation on the same stretch of Beijing Lu where it sits today. The founder, a chef named Xu who had been employed in the kitchens of a foreign firm on Shamian Island, decided to give the everyday people of Guangzhou a taste of the new Western cooking styles he learned, and lo, a legend was born.

While we can't exactly vouch for its flavor or authenticity (to be fair, the 'Western food' of the Qing Dynasty was likely a far cry from the burgers and salads on offer today in the pubs and cafes of Zhujiang New Town) we can certainly vouch for its history and popularity. For better or worse, Taiping Koon's sauced-up beefsteaks and signature broiled bird continues to grace the WeChat feeds of generations of Guangzhouers and the restaurant continues to draw crowds.

Taiping Koon Western Restaurant, 342 Beijing Lu, Yuexiu District 越秀区北京路342号太平馆西餐厅 (8332 1305)



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5

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LIFE & STYLE

Perfect Matches

Four foolproof ways to incorporate color into your wardrobe, p24



Wearable Tech
P20



Round the Riverbend
P21

KIM LEITZES

Founder & CEO of ParkLU

Interview by Dominic Ngai

Influencers, more widely known as KOLs (key opinion leaders) in China, are an essential element of the customer-centric marketing ecosystem today, but how can marketers differentiate the good from the bad? Kim Leitzes has been helping companies sift through the cluttered marketplace with ParkLU, a platform that pairs brands with KOLs based on a comprehensive database of influencer and brand profile analysis and performance data. Here, she tells us what brands should look for when working with KOLs, and offers an important piece of advice for aspiring content creators looking to establish themselves as influencers.

Tell us why you started ParkLU.

I moved to Shanghai from New York in 2010, and I was working in finance at a hedge fund at the time, with a focus on retail and fashion companies. The following year, I started a fashion blog called ParkLU, where I'd write about cool things that I found on Taobao, and a few months into blogging, some American fashion brands started approaching me to do some sponsored content. One thing led to another and I started building a team of copywriters and graphic designers. We were not only creating content for brands that was tailored to the China market, but also connecting micro- or mid-tier influencers with these companies for similar collaborations. By 2015, ParkLU morphed into a platform that makes it easy for marketers, designers and brands to discover the right influencers or KOLs to work with.

How does the pairing process actually work?

We took what we were doing manually, and built a whole platform – the website and an app – around it. The matching process is based on the content and engagement data of 15,000+ KOLs across 11 social media platforms (including WeChat, Weibo and various live streaming sites). To make sense of it all, we depend on our own bilingual, proprietary database that includes profiles of 80 fashion,



“Having a thousand super fans is more important than having a million followers”

beauty, lifestyle and travel brands – these comprehensive customer profiles drive ParkLU's recommendation engine.

What are some qualities of a 'good' KOL?

Regardless of the size of their following, good KOLs tend to have high engagement and a loyal following. They bring value to their followers with their consistent, authentic and quality content. Having a thousand super fans is more important than having a million followers.

How do you measure the effectiveness of a collaboration with KOLs?

That depends on the goals of the brand. Besides click-through traffic data, marketers should also be looking at whether their organic search rate has increased on Tmall, WeChat or other relevant platforms, meaning whether the collaboration has generated more awareness and if it had prompted people to do more research. Or, a more direct way to track conversion rates is to offer a discount code for the KOLs' fans to use.

What are some common missteps in these collaborations?

There's often a mismatch in expectations regarding how much creative freedom the brand is offering the content creator. It's important that these details are clear and upfront before the collaboration starts. Marketers should trust that the KOLs know what their audience wants, but at the same time, they must offer some guidance and instructions to the content creators in terms of what they are looking for. The blank slate of 'do whatever you think is best' doesn't work well either, as most people don't really mean it when they say that.

What advice do you have for people who are becoming a KOL or starting their own content creation business?

Pick a format and platform that you're able to create content for and post everyday – consistency and frequency matters more than perfection in today's digital world.

Find out more at parklu.com

STYLE RADAR

TAP THAT APP

Forest

As Scottish naturalist and author John Muir so eloquently put it, “The clearest way into the universe is through a forest wilderness.”

In this age of urban sprawl, diminishing wilds and flourishing phone applications, the next best thing to true nature might just be an application called Forest, which encourages users to put down their phones and exercise focus for a set period of time, say, the duration of a meal or a period of app-free concentration at the office.

By setting your own time targets, you can earn coins which can later help you upgrade your starter plant – a standard daisy covered bush – to something with a little more charm, like a sunflower or pumpkin patch. If you can maintain focus, your ‘forest’ blooms; if you leave the app, it withers.

Depending on taste, users can choose to alter the standard ambient track to the sounds of a bustling Times Square or a quiet sandy beach.

With an attractive and user-friendly interface, Forest encourages a sense of patience and calm. Minty green tones and subdued yellow shades paint a picture of Zen in the midst of the daily hustle.

While the standard, free version of the app is both brilliant and timely, heavy users looking to cultivate multiple and larger forests can opt for the premium version (RMB12), which also allows users to help plant real trees with Forest’s sponsor, Trees for the Future.

At present, the app has helped more than 250,000 trees take seed throughout Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

Forest is available on iOS and Android. Visit www.forestapp.cc for more info.



INSPECT-A-GADGET

Maibu Smart Watch

Smartwatches are by no means new tech. Sure, they gained new life and prominence with the release of the first Apple Watch in 2015, but wearable computers can arguably be traced back to the early '80s, with the launch of the Pulsar NL C01.

In 2018, it seems virtually every tech manufacturer under the sun is getting in on the action, with powerhouse companies like Apple, Samsung, Lenovo, Garmin and Huawei all vying for a place on your wrist.

But for China dwellers looking to invest in a smartwatch, dropping USD400 on a brand name gadget isn't the only option, as myriad lesser known domestic companies have entered the fray – offering a selection of reasonably priced, practical ‘wrist comps.’

Of the local brand offerings we've sampled, one really stood out: the Maibu Watch M1.

The water resistant watch case boasts a basic digital screen, four buttons for program navigation and a stainless steel back.

For the reasonable price of RMB399, the Maibu Watch M1 proves highly functional, with an assortment of handy apps that can be uploaded to the watch via Maibu's mobile phone app.



In addition to the usual suspects (weather and step counting apps and countless quirky watch faces), the M1 can also support basic games, tell you your altitude and act as a remote (via Bluetooth) to control music being played on your mobile device.

This digital accessory is by no means the most cutting edge smartwatch on the market, but its simple design, useful programs and low price point make it an easy investment for individuals looking to join the wearable tech community.

Detractors will likely note the Maibu Watch M1 has a black and white screen, but we'd argue it adds a retro feel to the device. And heck, if you want a color screen, the Maibu Watch Maia offers all the aforementioned goodness and a color display for RMB528.

RMB399 Maibu Watch M1; available on tmall.com (search 麦步 M1)

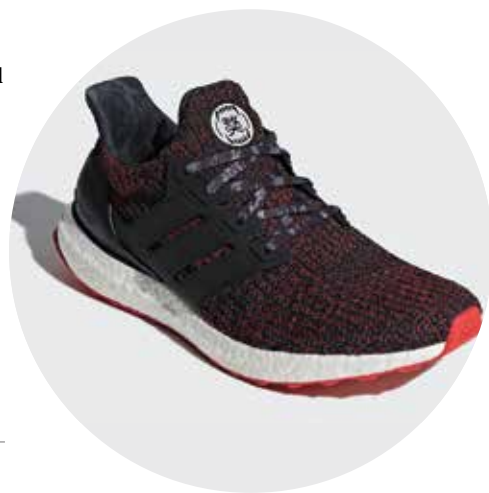
COVET

adidas Ultra Boost 'Year of the Dog'

Among all the CNY-themed sneakers released last month, the adidas Ultra Boost 'Year of the Dog' seems to be the most tasteful in design. Forgoing the stereotypical *hongbao* red, embroidered floral or animal prints, designers went with intertwining hues of red and black for the Primeknit upper, while a special logo with the Chinese character '癸' surrounded by dog fangs is placed on the shoe tongue as a nod to this year's zodiac animal.

Available at select adidas stores and its official website for RMB1,399 from Feb 1.

adidas.com.cn





DAYTRIPPER

Sights to See on Guangzhou's New Metro Line 13

The new year saw the opening of several new metro lines in Guangzhou, bringing entire swaths of the city's sprawling countryside into easy reach. Last month, we set off to explore some of the notable and newly accessible sites along the freshly minted Line 13.

Nestled amid the steady currents of the Pearl River, Dajisha Island's rural charms are like a weekend balm to the frazzled nerves of the harried city slicker. With laidback vibes and breathtaking sunset views, it's no wonder local villagers call their riverside home 'the most peaceful corner' of Huangpu District.

A five-minute amble from Yufengwei Station will take you to Wuchong Wharf. Don't be alarmed by the hulking shipping containers and giant freight vessels – the passenger dock will be on your right hand side. RMB15 is enough to charter an exclusive voyage with enterprising local boatmen, though

seats on the public ferry can be secured for RMB2.

Allow three hours to wander the peaceful island by foot or make use of readily available shared bikes to explore this unique corner of the city. Residents here still maintain a partly self-sufficient farming life, raising livestock and planting vegetables. Fishing, too, remains important and fresh, delicious meals can be enjoyed by visitors.

A coastline stroll provides ample opportunity for photography. Watching happy picnickers enjoy riverside beers and skip stones while the sun goes down behind passing cargo ships makes for a perfect end to a peaceful day.

Set out a little earlier and make time for a stop at the Nanhai God Temple (Nanhai God Temple Station, Exit C2). Here, the 'God of the South Sea' stands watch over a scene of bustling Pearl River maritime trade on a

scale that was surely unfathomable to those who built this ancient house of worship. Visit in March, when the annual celebration of the Sea God's birth brings the place to life, to witness grand performances, cultural demonstrations and historic rituals.

Alternatively, make it a whole day of eastward exploration by adding a stop at the even more far flung Gualing village in Zengcheng (Xinsha Station, Exit A), which proudly preserves a *diaolou* (the unique, early-century Guangdong fortification that put Kaiping on the map) along with a dense concentration of ancestral temples. A nearly-finished paved bike path makes two-wheeled rambling and a DIY picnic lunch a tempting option.

However, if you desire to explore Guangzhou's eastern frontier, aim to do it soon – before the very subway line that has put it in arm's reach inevitably chips away at its unspoiled allure. **KS**



How to get there:

Dajisha Island – Yufengwei Station (Exit A or B, public ferry from Wuchong Wharf ends at 6pm)

Nanhai God Temple – Nanhai God Temple Station (Exit C2)

Gualing village – Xinsha Station (Exit A)

IN THE RED

Dressed for the New Year

Compiled by Dominic Ngai

Red is a color that stands for many things, but during Chinese New Year, it's all about happiness, good luck and prosperity. Here are some festive and stylish pieces from top brands.



Zara
RMB299
zara.cn



Nike
RMB699
nike.com



Beams
RMB1,050
beams.co.jp



Visvim
RMB6,690
farfetch.cnthe



Burberry
RMB2,200
burberry.cn

FOR HIM

FOR HER



H&M
RMB699
hm.com



Zara
RMB79
zara.cn



adidas Originals
RMB899
adidas.com



Comme des Garçons
RMB1,164
farfetch.cn



Louis Vuitton
RMB3,150
louisvuitton.cn

PERFECT MATCHES

Four Foolproof Ways to Incorporate Color Into Your Wardrobe

By Annie Atienza and Dominic Ngai

Color is a powerful tool used across many visual disciplines including personal styling and building your wardrobe. Both objective and subjective, it can affect emotions and even motivate interpersonal perception when applied to clothing.

To harness the power of color theory, it is helpful to reference the color wheel - comprised of primary colors (red, yellow, blue), secondary colors (green, orange, purple) and tertiary colors, which are created by combining side-by-side primary and secondary colors - as a visual guide.

Here, stylist Annie Atienza outlines the virtues of four distinct color theories, in this easy-to-follow guide to help you find new possibilities in your wardrobe.



Split Complementary Color Theory

Choose one color on the color wheel and the two colors on either side of its complementary color (i.e. red-violet, yellow and green).

This color theory shares the same strong visual contrast with the complementary theory, but achieves it with less tension by using the two adjacent colors. In this runway look, we see a playful violet crocheted dress paired with bright yellow collar appliqué and green boots. The look embodies a balanced yet undeniably bold color dynamic. This theory can feel safer to those new to color experimentation.



Analogous Color Theory

Combine two or three colors that are situated directly next to each other on the color wheel (i.e. red-orange, orange, yellow-orange).

Their proximity on the color wheel is an indication that these pairings imbue a harmonious effect that's comfortable to the eye. A strong reason for this is the prominence of analogous colors in nature. The most effective way to use the analogous color theory in your wardrobe is to pick one color as the central focus, plus a second (and maybe a third) to play a supporting role. Here, we see a sensuous milky orange ensemble taking center stage, with pops of red-orange and yellow-orange making cameo appearances within this look.



Triad Complementary Color Theory

Combine three colors that are evenly spaced around the color wheel, forming an equilateral triangle (i.e. red, yellow and blue).

Because these three colors originate from vastly different points on the color wheel, using them within an outfit typically results in a vibrant look. This color strategy is often associated with adolescent looks and costuming, but when controlled, the triad can achieve beautiful sophistication, too. In the example, we see vibrant blue and yellow accentuating the dominance of a luxurious leather and boucle jacket in muted maroon. The intensity of the red portion of this triad has been tempered, and it works perfectly. Another strategy is to use all three colors within the triad at full intensity, but using only one in the dominant position; the other two colors would serve only as minimal accent.



Complementary Color Theory

Combine two colors that are situated directly across from each other on the color wheel (i.e. blue and orange).

Due to the high contrast between them, these striking color combinations are eye-catching and energetic. Here, we see an example of this theory with fully saturated colors, using a blue blazer and orange trousers. Another option is to use a lighter tint or darker shade of one of the complementary-colored pieces to achieve balance.

STROLLIN' IN SINGAPORE

Three Urban Walks to Fill an Afternoon in the 'Lion City'

By Kheng Swe Lim, photos by Samuel Lipoff

So, you find yourself in Singapore. You're done with your business meeting and have already walked up and down Orchard Road five times, staring at branded goods you can't afford.

Now, you want to spend a chill afternoon slowly exploring a neighborhood, eating and shopping along the way. Here are three enjoyable strolls in the downtown area, each with their own distinctive personalities and easily accessible by public transport.



Little India: Bargain Shopping and Appetizing Indian Fare

Little India is the vibrant heart of Singapore's Indian community. Along your walk, be sure to stop and snack on *roti prata* (grilled flatbread with clarified butter) and *teh tarik* (pulled sweet milk tea) at the small restaurants on the way.

Head to Little India MRT Station, exit on Race Course Road and head east. Take a right turn down Kerbau Road and another right down Chander, where you'll find Jaggi's, home of hearty Punjabi food.

From Jaggi's, travel down Belilios Road until you see the Sri Veeramakaliamman Temple, a Hindu temple dating from the 19th century. Built in classic Tamil style, the temple boasts a towering roof covered with

beautifully-carved figurines.

At the end of Belilios, turn left onto Serangoon Road, the main artery of Little India, which is crammed full of small shops. Don't be too distracted; turn right by the Anguilla Mosque onto Syed Alwi Road, where you will find the legendary Mustafa Centre.

This budget department store, open 24 hours a day, inspires strong loyalty among its regular customers. If, for whatever reason, you need a gold necklace, a watch, *chai masala* spices, a cheap suitcase, a new television and an Indian tourist visa, all at the same time, you need never leave the building.

The main draw, though, is that the Mustafa Centre, like Terry Pratchett's Unseen

University library, seems to warp space and time, with a finite exterior enclosing an infinite space.

When you finally find your way out, your head will be spinning after your travels through hyperspace. While readjusting to reality, tumble back to Serangoon Road and head east to Mavalli Tiffin Rooms, often referred to simply as MTR. This chain of vegetarian restaurants from Bangalore serves South Indian comfort food of the finest quality, which should satisfy even the heartiest meat eaters.

Once you're full, Farrer Park MRT Station is right next door. Simply hop on a train and whiz back to your hotel.



Tiong Bahru: Hipster Cafes and Public Housing

Tiong Bahru was one of the first public housing estates in Singapore. Today, it's home to a collection of hipster cafes and shops that merge seamlessly with 1920s art-deco architecture, populated by long-time residents seemingly unfazed by the changes in their neighborhood.

Start from Tiong Bahru MRT and get on Tiong Bahru Road. Head eastward, then turn right at Kim Pong Road. Next, walk till you reach Moh Guan Terrace. If you circle the area, you will find several interesting places to shop, eat and collect highly likeable Instagram snaps.

There are two good bookstores on Yong Siak Street: Books Actually and Woods in the Books. The former has a back room crammed full of vintage knick-knacks, and you can also pick up some products by local Singaporean designers. You may notice signs to the Tiong Bahru Air Raid Shelter, a World War II-era shelter, although this is rarely open to the public.

For food, you will be spoiled for choice. Pop in to Forty Hands for coffee, or head to PS Café Petit for a decent pizza (be sure to add the chili sauce!). For more traditional food options, follow Seng Poh Road until you reach Tiong Bahru Market, where you can indulge in typical Singapore fare in the hawker center upstairs. Try Jian Bo Shwee Kueh, which serves steamed rice cakes with a spicy relish, and steamed buns from Tiong Bahru Pau.

Turn right on Eng Hoon Street and stop by Tiong Bahru Bakery for a couple of pastries to sate your sweet tooth.

Keep going until you meet Outram Road, and then follow it to Outram Park MRT Station to catch your train.



The Downtown Core: Colonial Buildings, Museums and Burmese Food

The downtown core is Singapore's oldest area, with stately colonial-era buildings, museums and surprisingly good Burmese food. Get your camera out and snap away for classic views of the city skyline and colonial architecture.

Start at Raffles Place MRT Station and make your way north to the beautiful Fullerton Hotel. Formerly the General Post Office Building, you can enjoy afternoon tea in the lobby.

Next, cross the Singapore River over the 19th century Cavenagh Bridge; note the sign forbidding horses and cattle from crossing. On the other side, head to the Asian Civilizations Museum, which hosts a good

collection of Southeast Asian artifacts. Also, be sure to get a picture of the Raffles Statue, commemorating the founder of modern Singapore, in the shadow of the Singapore skyline.

Continue along Fullerton and Connaught Roads to the National Gallery of Singapore. The building, cobbled together from the former Supreme Court and City Hall buildings, displays works by Southeast Asian artists. In its immediate vicinity are the modern Supreme Court and Singapore Parliament buildings. Once satisfied, turn right on St. Andrew's Road to see the neo-gothic St. Andrew's Cathedral.

Now for a change of scene: turn West

on Coleman Street to Peninsula Plaza, the heart of Singapore's Burmese community. Visit Inle Restaurant in the basement for classics like tea-leaf salad, chickpea tofu and Myanmar-style *biryani*, and look around the Burmese grocery stores.

To return to glitz and glamor, head north up North Bridge Road to get to Chijmes and the Raffles Hotel. The first is a former convent, redeveloped into a restaurant and bar complex, while the latter is a colonial-era five-star hotel and the birthplace of the legendary Singapore Sling cocktail.

When you need to head back, City Hall MRT Station is right by the cathedral.

ARTS

Urban Art

Shenzhen-Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale
of Urbanism/Architecture, p30



Maybe Mars
P32



Homegrown Albums
P34

DO IT TOGETHER

A Chat with the Folks Behind Qiii Snacks Records

By Bryan Grogan

To be an alternative music group in Guangzhou often means to be a DIY group. The team doing it best right now, Qiii Snacks Records, are a mixed bunch of self-professed nerds who are in it for the music and the community.

We met with three of the six folks behind the local indie label: Howie, who is currently studying for his PhD in physiology; Andrew, who works for a real estate company; and Jinbo, who pulls double time as singer of hardcore punk band Die!ChiwawaDie! and works in communications – the latter of which she describes as “doing lots of shit.”

Qiii Snacks Records was formed over “snacks” in a McDonalds in 2016. Comprised of former members of another Guangzhou indie label, Full Label, and armed with a reputation for performing in toilets and an all-welcome musical attitude, it was perhaps obvious that they would become popular fast.

What was the ambition for you guys when you started out in 2016?

Howie: For Qiii Snacks, we just wanted to release our own [bands’ music], we never thought about releasing other people’s music. First The White Tulips contacted us and asked to help release their album. We weren’t sure how much we could help them so we said we couldn’t really do it, but then they said they just wanted our logo on it.

Do you think you are representative of the independent music scene in Guangzhou right now?

Howie: We are a small label. There are bigger labels in Guangzhou but they are not doing the same thing as us, they are not promoting their labels as much.

How did you start to come into contact with bands from outside of Guangzhou, like Struggle Session from Beijing and Hong Kong band Wellsaid?

Howie: DIY now is more like DIT – ‘do it together’ For Die!ChiwawaDie! we release albums with other bands. We released the last album with Struggle Session. The guitarist of Struggle Session, Nevin, runs a label called Genjing Records and we always wanted to



release on his label. We went to Hong Kong to record the album, so finally it was with many friends’ help. Without this help we couldn’t have done it.

Your upcoming event, 30 People, 30 Songs, has a lot of interesting aspects to it. How did you come up with the idea for this show?

Howie: The idea for the event started in Japan, as a 40 people, 40 songs gig. Hom Shen Hao, the ex-vocalist/guitarist in a Taiwan-based band called Touming Magazine, went to Japan and watched that show. He was very moved by the event and he wanted to bring it to Taiwan – the uncertainty of the show struck him. We wanted to do something similar with our friends.

Do you ever think that you could work as a musician full-time?

Howie: Unless you are a trap or hip hop musician you can’t work at music full-time.

Andrew: We are not really into trap, but we like old-school hip hop. I need the job to support me, to do what we are doing now. The job helps me a lot to grow up.

Howie: Basically, we are just music lovers.

Follow Qiii Snacks Records on WeChat at ID ‘QiiiSR’



COLLAGE

SINO CELEB

Khalil Fong

From the first listen, it's apparent: Khalil Fong is just... different. The R&B musician straddles traditions with apparent ease, pumping out soul-infused songs of his own composition in English as well as Mandarin.

And China loves it. Long before *The Rap of China* emerged on the scene, Fong was already breaking sales records with his catchy, hip-hop-influenced tunes.

Since his 2005 debut album, *Soul Boy*, Fong has released eight more records and been recognized six times as best male artist by various awards in the Asia region. Other accolades have recognized the thirty-something's songwriting skills as well as popularity among fans, who number almost 11 million on Weibo.

Fong made his name on a pioneering blend of Western styles with Chinese lyrics, a product of his international background: although he was born in Hawaii, Fong's Chinese-American father and Hong Kong mother raised the budding crooner in Shanghai and Guangzhou as well as the former British colony.

Fong is still based in Hong Kong, where he's put the hit-making temporarily on hold to run a new music label that aims to fuse cultural influences and create "a new sound for Chinese music."

Hints of that sound might be found in his most recent album, *Journey to the West* (2016), which featured collaborations with Taiwanese-American superstar Wang Leehom, soprano pop princess Jane Zhang, Inner Mongolian band Hanggai and Korean rapper Zion.T.

The record garnered Fong his latest 'Best Male Vocalist' award, a sign that even if this latest venture falls through, he's already paved an alternative route to the top of the pops in China.

Kind of like:
Bruno Mars
Famous for:
making R&B mainstream
See him in:
Journey to the West (2016)



AGE

URBAN ART

Shenzhen's UABB

The scope of the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism\Architecture (UABB) is just as ambitious as its lengthy name. Centered on art and urban growth, the months-long array of exhibits, talks, performances and other events only happens every two years.

This year's UABB began last December, and is possibly the most impressive effort yet. Rather than staging events and exhibitions in museums, organizers decided to integrate them into Shenzhen's most dense and hectic neighborhoods - urban villages. The main UABB venue is Nantou, a unique 'village' that also boasts a history of nearly 1,700 years.

Stroll along Nantou's north-south axis and you'll find, among zigzagging, narrow alleyways, bright murals and



eye-catching buildings that house photography, art, academic texts and more.

Exhibits at other venues, which include a former missionary-run school as well as a Hakka village, draw attention to overlooked parts of the city's history. Taken together, they instruct and involve viewers in the grand social experiment that is Shenzhen.

Exhibits open 10am-6pm Tue-Thu, 10am-8pm Fri-Sun, until March 17 except for holidays. Follow WeChat ID 'UABB-SZ' and message 'ticket' or 't' to receive a free e-ticket. Bring ID for entry and simultaneous interpretation services.

HAO BU HAO



Hao

The global movement condemning misogyny and violence against women in the entertainment industry that's become known by the hashtag #MeToo has begun to make modest progress in China. The movement's success overseas coupled with the release of films like *Angels Wear White*, which chronicles a fictional assault case set in Xiamen, has inspired women working in the film industry, media and academia to tell their stories via various forms of social media. Subsequently, a student from Beihang University started a local version of the movement with the hashtag #WoYeShi.



Bu Hao

Despite the relative success of its predecessor *The Force Awakens*, which garnered a respectable USD52 million in its opening weekend back in 2016, *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* failed to find its footing at the Chinese box office last month. The film earned a mere USD28.7 million during its opening weekend, which was well below the studio's expectations considering the efforts that went into promoting the film in China, including a partnership between Disney and Wanda Cinemas that led to Star Wars-themed art exhibitions in 55 movie theaters across the country.

THE PLAYLIST

From The xx's languorous dream pop to Super Junior's boy band club-bangers, here are our favorite tracks from artists playing in the PRD this month.

The xx - VCR

Rainie Yang - 雨爱

Bolbbalgan4 - First Love

Daniel Chan - 曾经

Namie Amuro - Hero

William Hu - 没有想不开

Siu Fay - 日落时让恋爱终结

Mayday - 你不是真正的快乐

Super Junior - Devil

KARD - You in Me

WHAT'S NEW

China Will Have World's Largest Film Market by 2020

News about China overtaking the US to become the world's largest film market by 2020 first began circulating back in 2012, thanks to an Ernst &

Young report on the subject.

The projection has resurfaced again just two years out from the deadline after a statement by SAPPRFT that China would produce 800 films across 60,000 cinemas by 2020. Some industry experts agree with the claim, citing China's record-breaking RMB55.9 billion (USD8.6 billion) box office revenue in 2017, thanks in part to major hits like *Wolf Warrior II*. Because international films often find success in the Middle Kingdom (from Hollywood films like *Coco* to Indian film *Dangal*, which earned more in China than it did in its home country), the nation can further bolster its sales by importing more foreign films in a way that the US cannot. Paired with the slow yet steady rise of the domestic film market, China has all the tools it needs to take the top spot.





Valentine's Day Special

Celebrate the joy of togetherness with someone special on 14th February
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Reservation Hotline: +86 18926258505

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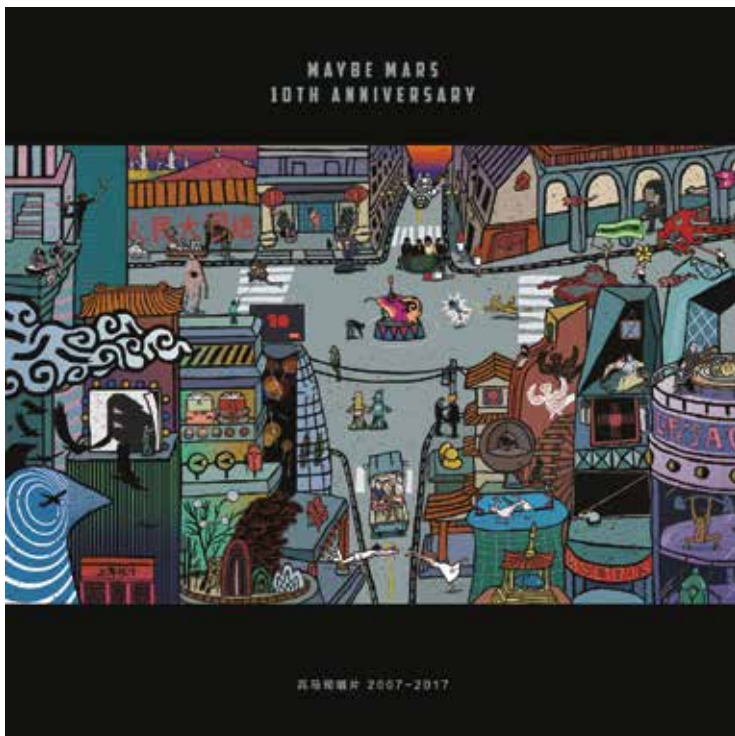



ILLUSTRATION BY ZHENG DONG, DESIGNED BY GUO ZHEN

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: MAYBE MARS 10-YEAR COMPILATION ALBUM

Compiled by Erica Martin

Widely considered one of the best labels for Chinese independent rock music, Maybe Mars celebrated 10 years of unique and uncompromising releases with a concert series in Beijing last fall. They're now kicking off 2018 with a 38-track compilation of songs from the punk, rock, noise and experimental bands whose work has defined the label over the past 10 years. We asked a few bands involved in the project to share their favorite memories with Maybe Mars, and their thoughts on the label's effect on China's underground rock scene.



Band: AV Okubo
Genre: punk/noise/experimental
Hometown: Wuhan
Song on album: 'Uncle'

“ AV Okubo's music adventure began a decade ago when we signed a contract with Maybe Mars. Since then, our touring has spanned more than half the world. In 2013, we toured with legendary [English post-punk band] Gang of Four through China and Europe. Recently, we successfully invited Dave Sitek [of TV on the Radio] to produce our third full-length album. One by one our dreams have come true. Long live Maybe Mars!

”



Band: Hiperson
Genre: rock
Hometown: Chengdu
Song on album: 'Curtain'

“ We met a lot of friends from working with Maybe Mars. For example, we've gotten to know Fazi from Xi'an and The Fallacy from Xinxiang, and in 2016 we planned a concert together called 'The Spirit of the Scene.' For Maybe Mars' 10th anniversary show in 2017, we invited Lonely Leary and Birdstriking to play the first song with us. It was very energetic with a bunch of boys screaming onstage! Maybe Mars' more improvised and lax cooperation is very much in tune with indie music, and we are very grateful for their support.

”



Band: Fazi
Genre: post-punk/
 surf-rock
Hometown: Xi'an
Song on album:
 'Borderless'

“ Maybe Mars has a good system; they clearly understand the ideas of their bands and provide their full support, including a focus on overseas expansion, which is very important to Chinese independent music. Many new Chinese bands are getting more exposure as a result of this. ”



Band: Dirty Fingers
Genre: punk
Hometown: Shanghai
Song on album:
 'Diaosita'

“ The artists who sign with Maybe Mars have something very clear in their mind, and when you join the label you are not joining a commercial company, but a family. That's the reason the label is so careful to sign artists. Once they like you, they spoil you. They support us, give us freedom and help us on a personal level if we are in a difficult moment. They are cool. ”



Band: Birdstriking
Hometown: Beijing
Genre: noise rock
Song on album: '25'

“ Whenever foreigners talk about Chinese bands, they will inevitably mention one or two Maybe Mars bands. In this sense, Maybe Mars is fantastic! Rock and roll fans from the post-80s and -90s generations basically grew up with Maybe Mars' music, which is why Maybe Mars is right when they describe themselves as the voice of the Chinese youth. They are more focused on the development of a band, rather than thinking about how well your album is selling, or how much money you can make in one show. They don't consider these short-term goals, because good works of art must pass the test of time before they can be proved to be authentic. ”



Band: Alpine Decline
Genre: psych-rock
Hometown: Beijing via LA
Song on album:
 'Pre-Columbian Artifact'

“ To us, Maybe Mars seemed like an organic manifestation of the scene that had flourished at [Beijing live house] D-22. When we came to Beijing in 2010, we were only in town two nights. We went to D-22 and saw The Molds (whose set led to no fewer than three fights in the crowd), Ourselves Beside Me, and PK14 perform. It was real jaw-on-the-floor type stuff. To us haggard lifers from the music circus, there was clearly something powerfully vital happening under the aegis of Maybe Mars and D-22. We returned to the US, got married, quit our jobs and promptly moved to Beijing. ”



Band: Chui Wan
Hometown: Beijing
Genre: psych-rock/
 noise rock
Song on album: 'One Eye Closed'

“ For me and the band, Maybe Mars is not just a record label, but also a family. It's aesthetically first-class, inclusive, and musicians in the bands have been spared no support and help. We are very fortunate and proud to be a part of Maybe Mars. ”

CHINA

MUSIC CORNER

Three New Homegrown Albums on Our Radar This Month

By Erica Martin

***Into One Name* by Organ Tapes**

Formerly based in Shanghai before relocating to London, where he works with Bala Club and is gradually finding notoriety, producer and vocalist Organ Tapes released this record with Genome666MBP during a visit to Shanghai over the winter holidays. With a pop sensibility that approaches romantic balladry, *Into One Name* is engaging from the first hums of its lovely opener 'Rust' to its closing track's final twang. In between, Organ Tapes overlays dancehall-like beats with a dizzying array of experimental sounds, including Christian choir samples, the burbling of a brook, spare piano and plenty more. His autotuned vocals, mumbling about broken hearts and missed connections, sound like an emotionally present cyborg. The record is also proof that Genome can embrace an even more diverse range of club music than they have thus far, because despite being poppier and a bit more accessible than their other releases, *Into One Name's* sci-fi and avant-garde elements allow it to fit squarely in with the rest of the label's philosophy.

Listen here: genome666mbp.bandcamp.com/album/gnm005-into-one-name



Sound and Fury



Sprout

***Sprout* by Sound & Fury**

Shenzhen's Boring Productions proudly announces on their Bandcamp page that "bedroom pop rules the world," so it makes sense that they'd end 2017 by releasing the debut of lo-fi pop band Sound & Fury. Hailing from Chengdu, the four-piece group toured and experimented for six years before settling down to record *Sprout*, an apt album name for a band in its fruitful early stages. Vacillating between sugary pop and brooding shoegaze, but with a lo-fi grittiness throughout, the album notably features both male and female vocals. Several of the best tracks, like the shambling 'It's All Ok,' shine thanks to the mumbling female voice. The album as a whole has a sun-kissed, reflective quality, ending on a strong note with the stirring track 'Candy Memory' and seven-minute shoegaze closer 'Snow Song.'

Listen here: boringproductions.bandcamp.com/album/sprout

***Love is Illusion* by Joy Ginger**

Beijing producer Joy Ginger offers up an EP of liquid, loungy R&B, managing to be profoundly pared-down and relaxing while still appealing throughout. The album's name plus the cool blues and neon of its striking cover make the record seem like it will be much more melancholic than it actually is. The songs feel earnest and romantic, with twinkling, future-forward sounds overlaid onto classic R&B grooves that deserve the genre name 'neo-soul.' He also braids in the types of ambient sounds that are appearing more and more in downtempo electronic music, with a charcoal pencil scribbling noise at the end of 'Luv Letter' and a few plaintive cat meows throughout the effervescent 'Stay in My Arms.' On the remixes, fellow producer sususu seamlessly weaves a horn section into 'Moonbow,' adding layers of funk to the vocal samples. It's another solid release to bolster the already intriguing Babel Records.

Listen here: babelrecords.bandcamp.com/album/love-is-illusion



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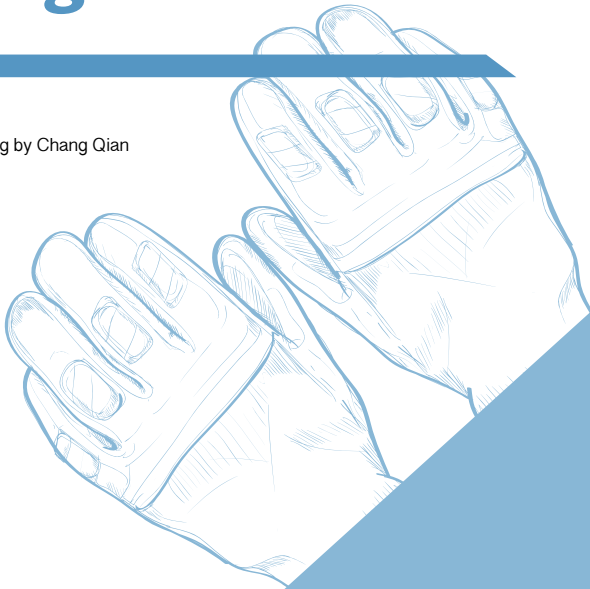




MOVING MOUNTAINS

The Rural Chinese Town Becoming a Global Skiing Hub

by Noelle Mateer
additional reporting by Chang Qian







Hebei doesn't care about winter sports.

"I don't really care for skiing," she tells me, at the base of one of China's finest slopes. "I've only done it a handful of times in my past three years here. I'm too busy."

Hebei is just here to work. The restaurant manager had originally left her hometown, in another county of Hebei province's Zhangjiakou, after university, to work in Shenzhen. The opportunities there were greater, the city had a fun, international feel, and it was warmer. She loved it.

But then Zhangjiakou was announced as the home of the 2022 Winter Olympics, alongside Beijing. Hebei felt the pull of opportunities close to home. And so she went to Chongli, a rural district of Zhangjiakou, where, she'll admit, she's kind of bored.

"Are you happy here?" I ask.

"Sure," she says with a shrug.

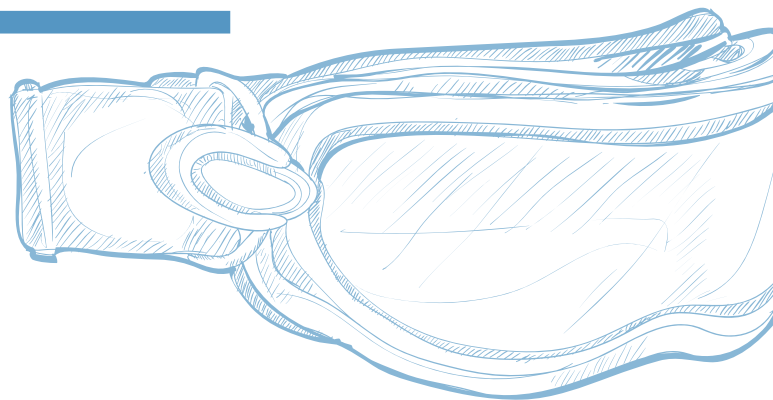
"Are you looking forward to the Olympics in 2022?"

"Sure... I guess," she says with a laugh and another shrug.

"What about your friends and family, do they ski?"

"Not really," she says. "Well, actually, I do have one friend who likes to ski. She came up here once to try it, and now she loves it. She's from Beijing though."

The mountains around Chongli are a ruddy brown, and snow must be produced artificially for its mountains to be skiable at all. Skiing is not native to this



region – in fact, the first ski field didn't open here until 1996. People here did not grow up learning to ski. They grew up, mostly, farming.

Only now, Chongli is in the midst of a jaw-dropping transformation. China is currently experiencing a boom in winter sports facilities. In 2000, China was home to 50 ski resorts. As of 2015, the country had 568, according to *China Ski Industry White Book*, written by industry veteran and vice president of a major ski development company Benny Wu.

Nowhere has been more impacted by this transformation than Chongli, where a small population of 126,000 now supports seven ski resorts. Since the announcement, Chongli has seen investment in local ice and snow tourism reaching nearly RMB88 billion as of last summer, and last winter (2016-17), Chongli received 2.77 million visitors, according to *China Daily*.

"Most of our customers are Beijingers," says Summer Zhou, one of the directors of Thaiwoo Ski Resort.





“

I don't really care for skiing. I've only done it a handful of times in my past three years here. I'm too busy

”

“We give some free passes to locals, but they often prefer to work.”

Before Thaiwoo took over its section of Chongli, a tiny farming village existed on the property. The average income there was RMB600 per month, making it one of the poorest regions in China. Today, this area is the wealthiest in Zhangjiakou.

The story of fast-paced development is one we've heard about happening in countless towns in China before – except in Chongli, the stakes are higher. First, there's a deadline: all slopes and infrastructure must be ready before 2022. But most importantly, the Olympics will introduce more than GDP-boosting infrastructure projects: they'll give the town a new identity. Chongli residents, many of whom had never skied before the Winter Olympics announcement, are now the backbone of the country's finest ski resorts.

Despite their lack of familiarity with the sport, residents of Chongli are finding a way to profit off the recent push.

Liu Juan is a 20-year Chongli resident who never learned to ski until very recently. But she's making money from China's ski boom nonetheless.

In early 2015, Liu invested in property along downtown Chongli's main strip, and opened one of the town's first coffee shops. (Today, there's a Starbucks in Thaiwoo).

“It was a big gamble,” she says. But it paid off, when later that year, the International Olympic Committee named Zhangjiakou, along with Beijing, the host of the 2022 Winter Olympics.

From her cafe, whose decor looks conveniently similar to popular Korean chain Maan Coffee, she tells me there were hardly any foreigners in Chongli before the announcement. Now, the former vice premier of Croatia is a regular.

“He's some sort of ambassador for the Winter Olympics. He came and drank my coffee,” she says, referring to Ante Simoni, who was the Croatian ambassador to China from 2008 to 2013,





“Most of our customers are Beijingers. We give some free passes to locals, but they often prefer to work”

and was quoted by Xinhua as saying: “Chongli boasts of high quality snow and the best skiing coaches, so welcome to Chongli for skiing fun.”

Few people know Chongli better than Liu. As president of the Chongli Photographers’ Association, she’s dedicated the past two decades to documenting the county with her camera. She gives me a copy of *Charming Chongli*, a book of photos that she produced with fellow photographers.

“See this?” she says, pointing at a photo of a lush, verdant valley on its pages. “I took this photo in 2007. Today, it’s just a highway.” She flips the page: “This one is a ski resort now.”

Since the Olympic announcement, Liu has shifted her focus from nature shots to documentarian ones, focusing on the changes happening in her region.

“I take pictures of houses being demolished and apartments being built,” she tells us. “Because I think it’s important to document the changes.”

When I ask what her photo subjects think of the changes, she says they’re mostly happy. Residents who’d had their land taken away and given to resorts were, for the most part, compensated generously, as well as given new apartments downtown. And according to both Hebee and Thaiwoo’s Zhou, farmers who lost their land to new projects are first in line for jobs on the resort.

“We offer training for locals,” says Zhou, who says many go on to be ski instructors.

When I ask Liu if I should visit Chongli’s Ice and Snow Museum, a

quick walk from her cafe, she says: “Ski culture is something that was introduced to the city. It’s not original.” To see a part of Chongli’s past that predates its snow sports, Liu recommends something unusual: a Catholic cathedral.

“There’s a Catholic history of this town – it’s been around for 300 years,” Liu says.

Today, Chongli hosts a sizeable Catholic minority – left over from missionary visits that occurred centuries ago. In the 18th century, Chongli, then known as Xiwanzi, was a hub for Catholicism in Northern China, according to Xinhua.

Xiwanzi was designated as a diocese in 1946, and outlawed shortly thereafter, when the People’s Republic was founded.

“That church was rebuilt,” says Liu. “The original one got burned down during the Cultural Revolution.”

Catholicism is no longer banned by the Chinese government, but the Diocese of Xiwanzi is. Priests in the unrecognized diocese refused to officially register as members of the Patriotic Association – thus rendering their practice illegal. Several priests have been arrested in Hebei in recent years, according to CNN.

Liu, meanwhile, is not Catholic. She just thinks history is important.

“The Great Wall was built here during the Ming dynasty, and Chongli also has this religious culture,” she says. “The local government isn’t showing the full character of Chongli.”

Skiing may not be from Hebei, but many are quick to claim that it is from



China. The world's oldest documented skiing culture can be found in Xinjiang, where cave paintings in a remote town show ancient dwellers carving up the slopes.

"You know, we say skiing started in China," says Benny Wu. "But this is not that kind of skiing."

Wu is one of the world's foremost experts on China's ski industry. He began working in Chongli in 2005 ("it was very underdeveloped then," he says), and later joined Wanda to develop a European-style ski town in Jilin province, complete with two golf courses. Today, he's turned his attention back to Hebei.

But while he's an old hand in China's ski industry, Wu only started skiing when he was an adult. He believes a deeper Chinese ski culture will come from the next generation.

"I started when I was 30 years old," he says. "But my children are 9 and 11, and I've already got them learning on the slopes."

The China National Tourism Administration expects to see over 300 million people involved in winter sports by 2022. Wu believes this is possible, given the current upward trends in the industry.

Liu's son, for instance, is currently studying winter sports management at a sports academy in Shijiazhuang, the provincial capital. Every winter of his childhood, Liu sent him to ski camps at

Wanlong resort.

"He thinks Chongli is great, and would like to come back to work, but maybe after some exchange programs to the West," she says. "A lot of families here are in the same situation. My friend's son just graduated high school, and started working as a ski coach."

Recently, neighboring Zhangjiakou University introduced a mandatory skiing instruction program for freshmen, the first of its kind in the country.

Wan Bo is a university student who spends his winters in Chongli, in between semesters in Tianjin. When I ask why, he says, "All my friends love to ski. I want to learn to ski and go skiing with them."

"The market is largely Beijingers, and increasingly, people from Shanghai and South China, who travel north to ski," says Benny Wu.

Beijinger Cui Bo invested in Chongli property five years ago, before the town was announced as an Olympic host. Cui, by the way, goes by

'Skymaster,' because he wears a Storm Trooper costume to *Star Wars* events in his spare time. "He's part of the official Storm Trooper army," his business partner, Xin, tells me.

Both Skymaster and Xin have been passionate skiers for years – though Xin says that, when he first started skiing in Chongli in 2007, there was just one guesthouse, and only one hot pot restaurant in town. When I ask Xin what he would have thought had someone told him then that Chongli would one day host the Olympics, he laughs.

But by 2015, the tides had changed. Skymaster opened a store on Chongli's main strip, and waited patiently for his new home to be announced as an Olympic host. (If there's one paradox I come across again and again while talking to Chongli residents, it's that everyone was surprised Chongli got the Games – but also, no one thought they'd go to the runner-up: Almaty, Kazakhstan).

Today, Skymaster and Xin fix ski





“ The Great Wall was built here during the Ming dynasty, and Chongli also has a religious culture. The local government isn’t showing the full character of Chongli ”



parts and sell sporting accessories, and their shop, Nordica Lounge, is now one of the most successful ski stores in the area. “We have a lot of foreign customers,” Skymaster says. “But mostly people from Beijing, some Shanghai.” Chongli residents? Not so much.

Skymaster believes life has improved in Chongli over the past few years, and even mentions seeing traffic jams form on the street outside his shop – a brand new phenomenon.

Skymaster tells me Chongli is best in the summertime, which reminds me – Liu Juan said Chongli was best in the summertime. Summer Zhou, from her office in Beijing, said, “You must visit Chongli during the summertime.”

Hebee had mentioned that she’s

from an area famous for its meadows, which I absolutely must visit, in the summertime. Even the real estate pamphlets I’d picked up showed pictures of Chongli, in the summer time, with a description beneath reading, “The average temperature in the summertime is 18 degrees Celsius.”

It is perhaps an oversimplification, but perhaps also very telling, that everyone in Chongli seems to prefer the summertime. They, like so many people in China, still prefer summer weather to snow. But as long as there’s profit to gain from China’s snow sports boom, they’ll go along for the ride.

And then they’ll enjoy their hometown, without the snow machines and tourists, in the summertime.



NOW YOU SKI ME

A Quick and Dirty Guide to China's Ski Areas

Chongli (Hebei)

Why Go: Some of China's best slopes, in easy striking distance of Beijing.

Slopes: Varies. Everything from easy to difficult.

Facilities: Top-notch. Thaiwoo has multiple high-end hotels operating at the base of its slopes; Wanlong has been known to throw music festivals.

How to Get There: Shuttles operate from downtown Beijing. A high-speed train will connect Chongli to Beijing in 2019.

Yabuli (Heilongjiang)

Why Go: You'd like to hit up the Harbin Ice Festival afterward.

Slopes: Passable.

Facilities: Average. Yabuli is one of China's longest running ski areas... but that also means its offerings are less than modern.

Beidahu (Jilin)

Why Go: Arguably the best slopes in China.

Slopes: High quality.

Facilities: As tricked-out as Dongbei gets.

Wanda's village is in the style of an Alpine ski town, and a Club Med offers all-meals-and-booze-inclusive packages.

Beijing

Why Go: You've been offered as tribute to 'the Capital.'

Slopes: Mild. The ones in Nanshan aren't thrilling, but they aren't awful either – bonus points for being an easy daytrip.

Facilities: Meh. These aren't destinations – they're more like afternoons. But hey – at least you can be downtown with a craft beer in your hand in an hour.

Guangzhou's Winter Wonderland

As the Middle Kingdom warmly embraces the frosty bosom of winter sports, perhaps it should come as no surprise that a large number of the breakout names and places to watch are hailing from the nation's cooler climes.

Don't write off South China too quickly though – Guangzhou is getting a piece of the action, with plans to build one of the world's largest indoor ski parks in the city's Huadu District already under way.

The Wanda Group, which recently opened a massive 80,000 square meter indoor ski park in icy Harbin, is bringing snowy fun to the City of Flowers too, with another enormous indoor park under construction at the new Guangzhou Wanda Mall set to open in June of next year.

Cantoners will get the chance to escape the subtropical stickiness of daily Guangzhou life with four full-length slopes ranging in difficulty from beginner to amateur to professional, the longest of which will measure 460 meters from top to bottom.

All in all, the indoor facility will clock in at 75,000 square meters of skiable area and sport a considerable 66-meter vertical drop. Developers expect the park to be able to accommodate 3,000 skiers at a time, which is good news, as this one-of-a-kind addition to the roster of weekend activities in the city is sure to draw crowds.



GOING FOR GOLD



Wu Dajing

Short Track Speed Skating – Men's

Having earned a silver (Men's 500 meters) and a bronze medal (5000 meter relay) at his Winter Olympics debut in 2014, the 23-year-old speed skater from Heilongjiang just claimed victory at the ISU Short Track Speed Skating World Cup in Seoul last November. Will his winning streak lead him to snatch his first ever Olympic gold this month?



Sui Wenjing & Han Cong

Pairs' Figure Skating

While this is the duo's first time representing China in the Winter Olympics, Sui and Han have been collecting accolades for years, including a gold medal at the World Championships in 2017. Fans are hoping their luck will continue in Pyeongchang.

8 Chinese Athletes to Watch in the 2018 Winter Olympics



Jia Zongyang

Freestyle Skiing – Men's Aerials

China may be a snow sports underdog, but this Liaoning native's victory in the Freestyle Ski Aerial World Cup last December is giving Chinese sports fans hope. Pyeongchang will likely be Jia's final Winter Olympics – will the 26-year-old be able to add a gold medal to his name before retirement?



Zhou Yang

Short Track Speed Skating – Women's

At just 26 years old, the Changchun-born speed skater has already won Olympic gold three times, finishing first in the Women's 1500 meters race during the 2010 and 2014 Winter Games. The pressure is on for Zhou to defend her title this month.



Han Tianyu

Short Track Speed Skating – Men's

Han was just 17 when he picked up his first silver (Men's 1500 meters) and bronze medals (Men's 5000 meter relay) in Sochi. Four years later, and with more international trophies under his belt, analysts have high hopes that Han will earn his first Olympic gold in Pyeongchang.



Fan Kexin

Short Track Speed Skating – Women's

Originally a favorite, Fan fell down during the 500-meter race in Sochi and failed to claim any medal in the event. (Though she ended up taking home silver in the 1000-meter just days later.) Will Fan finally be able to pick herself up and dust herself off right at the spot she fell?



Xu Mengtao

Freestyle Skiing – Women's Aerials

Having just won gold in the FIS Freestyle International Ski World Cup in Salt Lake City last month, the 2014 silver medalist in Freestyle Skiing arrives in Pyeongchang with great momentum. Xu will be competing on the first day of the Year of the Dog, which also happens to be her father's birthday. In a recent interview, the 27-year-old skier has expressed her hope to bring home a gold medal as a gift for Papa Xu.

COMMUNITY

CouchSurfing

A bed or couch and local perspective, p48



Take Five
P49



Healthcare in China
P50

VALENTINE'S DAY ON THE CHEAP

Five Date Ideas for the Penny-Pinching Paramour

By Sky Thomas Gidge



1. Furniture shopping

The fastest way to get your date into bed? IKEA. After dining on some authentic *ahem* Swedish cuisine, there is plenty of space to lounge around. Just go during a weekday, or you might have the bedside company of other faux shoppers. Unless you're into that.

Cost: about RMB50



5. Browsing pre-wedding photo books

Find a gaudy tent in a commercial square, inside you'll find people selling pre-wedding photo packages through books filled with sample images. A bride on a beach! A groom holding a fake guitar! If bringing up marriage on the first date doesn't go down well, you should consider whether you want your date in the picture.

Cost: Free, hope of a future relationship

February is the season of love and there's no better way to show that special someone how much you care than treating them to some one-on-one romancing.

But date night doesn't have to leave a hole in your pocket and there's no reason Valentine's Day should be responsible for blowing you and your lover's Chinese New Year travel budget. Let this handy guide to a fiscally responsible V-day be your ticket to domestic bliss with a side of savings.



2. Urban exploration

Take your date out of their comfort zone by taking them out of the safety of the city center. 'Filthy alley walking' may be a better title for this activity. Stop off at a high-end booze shop and grab some deer penis wine before hitting the allies. Who knows what will happen when you throw that philter into the mix?

Cost: RMB79 for alcohol



4. Walk in the park

Okay, a bit cliché. But a walk in the park can teach you a lot about someone. For instance, how far they can walk. Be sure to scout your route ahead of time and note a landmark – say, an artificial pond. Memorize a poem about water, recite it beside the pond and you'll sound about 3-meters deep.

Cost: Your dignity



3. Billiards

Is that an awkward silence? No, it's the clack of billiard balls. Street-side billiard places can be as cheap as RMB8 per hour. If you're a pro at pool, it's a great chance to show off by pocketing some shots. If you're just a beginner, perhaps your date can help with your stroke.

Cost: as low as RMB8 per hour

COMMUNITY

DEAR JAMIE

Baker's Boredom

Dear Jamie,

My wife and I have been in Shenzhen for six months. I work for an American company that has offices in the city and we relocated to South China from Portland, Oregon.

Unfortunately, when we moved, my wife had to give up her job at a small bakery. While the gig was more of a passion project than a career, she has quickly become bored living as a 'traveling spouse.'

I suggested she hop on the English teaching train, but she has little interest in the idea of working with children.

At present, she basically sits around the house all day watching TV waiting for me to finish at the office for the day.

It has become tiresome on our relationship, because, as you'd expect, she hasn't met many people lazing around the house and I feel like she is unhappy – and that I am responsible.

What can I do to get her more involved in the community and out of the house?

-In the Doghouse

Dear Doghouse,

The issue you are facing is a well established one, so much so that a survey released by InterNations a couple years back actually touched on the topic.

According to said survey, 60 percent of expat spouses said that giving up their previous career "has been difficult for them." Slightly less than 50 percent stated that they are completely happy with their romantic relationship.

I'd say it's fair to accept that your wife is having trouble getting into the swing of things in Shenzhen and may (or may not, I'm a life coach not a mind reader) miss having something to keep her occupied from nine to five.

Short of moving back home, I'd suggest 1) talking to her about what she wants out of life in China, and 2) seeing if there is a job in Shenzhen that better suits her skill set.

There is no shortage of fine F&B shops in Shenzhen that would probably jump at the idea of having an experienced baker on their team. Maybe I'm wrong, but it sounds like she would be happier cookin' up a storm than singing the ABCs with 7-year-old kids.

-Jamie

Problem? jamiinchina@outlook.com.

AROUND TOWN



SOCIAL SKILLS

CouchSurfing in the PRD

It's hospitality-meets-networking for the digital age. Inspired by American founder Casey Fenton's trip to Iceland, CouchSurfing started as a small project in 1999 and turned into a non-profit corporation in 2004. Today, the organization boasts 12 million members worldwide, all coexisting in an online community where accommodation, food and local know-how are shared mutually between hosts and travelers – free of charge. CouchSurfing's only revenue stream is its optional paid identification verification service which charges members a tiny fee to prove they are who they say they are.

Visitors to a new city can use the service to put them in touch with a local. The CouchSurfer not only gets accommodation, be it a bed, couch or some empty floor space, but also a local perspective and connection that crosses oceans, continents and cultures.

In return, hosts get to meet interesting people from around the world, while also building connections and positive reviews for their profile, allowing them to enjoy the hospitality of others when they find themselves

on the road as well.

Since its founding, CouchSurfing has hosted countless travellers and a total of 550,000 events, including language exchanges, dance classes, hikes and dinners. According to their website, registered members are spread across the world in approximately 200,000 cities.

Guangzhou's CouchSurfing branch, for instance, began in 2007, with weekly meet-ups being held ever since. Since the beginning, Guangzhou expat Balazs Kaplar, who studied in the city in 2001-02 and later moved to live here, has organized the meet-ups, where CouchSurfing hosts, travelers and any individuals interested in community can get together. "The meeting is about travelling. It's for people who are on the road and happen to be in Guangzhou at the time and for locals who are interested to meet travelers who are visiting their city."

Go to couchsurfing.com to sign up as a host or traveler, or to connect with community members organizing weekly meet-ups.

TAKE FIVE

Alexandre Lacroix

Alexandre Lacroix has lived in Guangzhou for the past three years, making a name for himself as an effective organizer of late-night debauchery (read: he promotes nightclubs). This month we caught up with the French national to chat about his experience in Guangzhou's dynamic party scene.

Tell us a bit about your work experience in Guangzhou.

I've been doing business with clubs since I arrived in China four years ago. During the day, I used to be a sales director at a trading company, which I left to focus on my other growing activities. At the moment, I am preparing a mobile app and still doing consulting in sales-related fields - when I'm free from the 'night world.'

Your nickname is 'Hot Pot.' How did you come up with that moniker?

I don't really like hot pot, I was just looking for a nickname to protect my privacy. I had two criteria: 1) it had to be easy to remember and 2) absolutely not scary! These were the very same reasons why Steve Jobs chose Apple for his com-



pany's name, while walking in an apple orchard. I was walking on a Chinese street, so I came up with Hot Pot.

What is the stupidest thing you have seen someone do in a club?

One good friend of mine was trying to impress a girl while sitting on the edge of a fountain. He

confidently placed one of his legs next to where she was sitting and bent towards her. He accidentally pushed her bag into the water. He tried his best to get it back and apologized for 15 minutes before taking a taxi home.

What factors do you look at when inviting someone to come to a party?

Of course, people contributing to the brand image are more welcome than others, which means I appreciate guests to be handsome, well-dressed, well-educated, outgoing, et cetera. But everybody is always welcome.

What advice could you offer people looking to start a career as a club promoter?

Treat people the way they deserve to be treated and always keep your word. Remember that everybody is important and has their own role to play. No club would be profitable without spenders, no spender would come without dancers and no dancer would perform in a boring club, so inviting a few crazy students might be as strategic as inviting ballers (aka big spenders).

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GOING FORWARD

The Future of Healthcare in China

By Dr. Sandro Rasgado



Over the past 30 years, many things have changed in China. Most notable is the migration of people from rural areas to big cities, which has impacted both the economy and society.

The healthcare system in particular has evolved dramatically. But despite spending on health services keeping up with China's growing GDP, spending on oral healthcare remains low.

By 2020, China's population is expected to reach 1.5 billion people. The population is also aging rapidly. It is estimated that by

2040, citizens over 65 years old will number 374 million.

The demographic change will consequently impact oral health. For instance, seniors are more susceptible to chronic diseases, tooth decay, gum disease and oral pathologies. Amidst this looming demographic challenge, a varied landscape of healthcare providers are vying to serve China's aging population.

In the past, private health organizations were often perceived as having poor healthcare quality or lacking in the patient safety

department. One of the main reasons for this was poor government regulations: there was a need for a change in the culture of health providers and that depended on effective government policies.

A study released in 2004, led by Meng-Kin Lim, found that the majority of participants felt that doctors in public hospitals have better skills than their counterparts in private clinics. Additionally, there was also the perception that some doctors from the private sector did not possess sufficient certifications.

On the other hand, public hospitals were not immune to criticism. Public institutions were viewed as having employees with poor interpersonal skills, being overly bureaucratic and failing to adjust care to suit a patient's needs. Here, private clinics were seen as a useful alternative, being viewed by survey participants as more caring, responsive and flexible.

One of the main issues facing the healthcare sector is the inability of professional and governmental agencies to fully monitor the enormous web of healthcare organizations available in China.

Increasingly, as the economy develops and the general population gets more aware of oral health, there is an opportunity for further growth within the sector – and governments and private actors each have an important role to play in the expansion.

With the marketplace expected to become more competitive, organizations are working to position themselves by offering quality services to middle and upper income families. There is also a focus on cosmetic treatments.

Going forward, patients need to be empowered with the right information to make educated choices about their health, which will, consequently, impact health outcomes and patient satisfaction in both public and private hospitals – as well as in the dentist chair.

Dr. Sandro Rasgado is currently working as family dentist, cosmetic dentist expert, implantologist and clinical consultant at Deron Dental. Office hours: 9am-6pm Mon to Sun; 39/F, Tianying Plaza East Tower, No.226 Liede Dadao, Tianhe District, Guangzhou 广州市天河区珠江新城猎德大道226号天盈广场东塔39层5-9 (020-3886 4821)





HARD TRUTHS

Dealing with Child Protection Concerns

By Lena Gidwani

The headline shocked expat parents throughout China: “[T]eacher dismissed for sending sexually explicit messages to students.”

Recently making the rounds on WeChat was a lurid post detailing the abuses of a teacher in Shanghai who should’ve never been allowed anywhere near children, let alone working in a school surrounded by them. What makes this so particularly painful is that the perpetrator was a trusted individual, someone the kids knew well, so much so that they felt guilty and unable to report it. Forget stranger danger, moms and dads. These are the people that we need to be wary of.

Research from the US by the National Children’s Alliance tells us that an estimated 90 percent of child sexual abuse perpetrators are people that our children know, love and trust, like a family doctor, a tutor or even a sports coach or university counselor. In most cases, they often have power over a child’s future. About 30 percent of that figure are family members. And just 10 percent of all perpetrators are strangers.

If you’re shaking your head in disbelief, don’t. Across the world, children are facing an epidemic. Child sexual abuse appears to be one of the most widespread health issues that children face in our modern world, with a devastating array of lasting consequences. From emotional problems to issues with relationships and trust, children today aren’t as safe as we want to believe they are.

It’s not about putting a GPS tracker on them and monitoring their every move so they don’t get kidnapped and molested. It’s more about ensuring that you’re keeping an eye on your child and allowing for open, honest conversation, so that if ever an issue occurs, they feel that they can talk about it. Their body belongs to them and the key is to keep the doors of communication open at all times.

This is precisely why every home, every school and every public place where children gather requires trusted, responsible adults that are willing to stand up and protect our young ones from any and all forms of child sexual abuse.

At schools in particular everyone plays a part in protecting them from such harm and

abuse. Creating a safe teaching and learning environment and identifying students who are suffering or at risk of harm – and then taking suitable action – are vital steps to help keep children safe.

As parents, you can help by ensuring that the school your children go to maintains a solid child protection policy, with clear guidelines and trained staff members that have the professional responsibility and training to comply. Perhaps it’s time that you ask, if you haven’t already.

We’re living in a moment when victims of abuse are speaking up after years of silence. This has proven a breakthrough for not just women, but for communities that have maintained a culture of denial. Pioneering an important and overdue conversation, we are now at a point where we are ready to come clean and say that yes, we have a problem, and we are ready to deal with it.

The protection of our children is not only an individual issue of one teacher or a school, but a community concern as well. Everyone has to be involved in our efforts to combat child sexual abuse, and it starts with an honest conversation.

CITY SCENES

Shenzhen New Year Midi Festival (Supported by **that's**)

Themed 'No Plastic Food Packaging', the 2017/18 Shenzhen New Year's Midi Festival once again assembled thousands of music fans at Shenzhen Universiade Sports Center to welcome the new year with sonic celebration. The annual theme of 2018 is No plastic food packaging. International and indie favorites like Ensiferum and Colin Phils joined China's homegrown talents like Second Hand Rose and Ono Jiangzhe, among dozens of hip hop, folk, metal and rock performers. The 2017 Midi Kids Band Competition took place at the Kid's Midi stage. Also, congratulations on all winners of the 9th China Rock Midi Awards, especially Penicillin (Best New Artist), Li Zhi (Best Live Performer and Best Male Rock Vocals) and Re-TROS (Rock Album of the Year and Best Rock Performance by Group With Vocals).



FC SES & My Star Christmas Party 2017 (Supported by **urbanfamily**)

It was a heartwarming end to 2017 in Shenzhen as FC SES and My Star brought families together for a great cause. Nearly 50 children enjoyed a day of fun with football and basketball coaches at a Christmas event sponsored by Urban Family, in support of 'A Heart for China.' Families donated over RMB5,300 to the charity, along with an abundance of household goods to help people in need. May 2018 bring even more support for this worthy cause.



TEDxZhujiangNewTown 2018

(Supported by **that's**)

The 2018 edition of TEDxZhujiangNewTown was held on January 14 from 1-6.30pm at the Grand Hyatt Guangzhou, embracing this year's theme of 'City Future, City Now.' Eight diverse speakers from a range of professional fields, from manufacturing and commerce to sports and entertainment, shared their stories, viewpoints and observations of life in Guangzhou and the Pearl River Delta at large.



Ganèa Restaurant Opening

(Supported by **that's**)

Six months after its construction broke ground, Ganèa Kitchen Fairy Tales officially opened its doors in Guangzhou's Pazhou area last month. The new establishment is headed by a dedicated team of restaurateurs and winemakers from the European nation of Moldova, who aim to introduce a kick of life to Guangzhou's food and beverage scene. Guests were presented with finger food, as well as English roast beef made from Australian premium, grain-fed Black Angus beef. The meaty treats were prepared live for attendees in the restaurant's open kitchen.



PRD FOCUS



Ahead of the 2018 Chinese New Year holiday, China Hotel, A Marriott Hotel and Zi Gei Jau Group joined hands to launch the 'I Love Canton' Chinese New Year gift set. The aim of the package is to recover the one-of-a-kind gift-giving tradition of Canton through innovation.



Toni & Guy has just expanded to Foshan. The new branch store in Foshan is located on the first floor of iPark, a space of over 900 square meters in Foshan's financial CBD area, and is near Wanda Plaza and Ikea Foshan, boasting a luxurious, black and vintage fusion style.



On January 10, The British School of Guangzhou welcomed pioneering cellist Mike Block and Grammy Award-winning violinist Mario Gotoh. They both provided special workshops for students as part of the school's collaboration with Juilliard – the world's leading performing arts conservatoire.



In 2018, Cathay Pacific Airways has more to offer for passengers, including a brand-new model of Airbus, new routes to Washington, Brussels, Dublin, Copenhagen, Barcelona, Tel Aviv and Fukuoka, as well as the addition of Wi-Fi and periodicals and newspapers such as the *Washington Post*, the *Guardian* and more.



Atotal of 11 five-star hotels in Geneva, namely Le Richemond, Genève, Intercontinental Genève, Hôtel de la Paix, Hôtel d'Angleterre, Métropole Genève, La Réserve, Mövenpick Hotel & Casino Genève, Beau-Rivage, Four Seasons Hôtel des Bergues, Mandarin Oriental Genève and Grand Hôtel Kempinski Genève, conducted a road show in four Chinese cities from January 22 to 26. A buffet dinner was held on January 24 by the Switzerland consulate to celebrate the success of the road show.

9Z

Guangzhou reviews,
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HOT POT WITH A CRUNCH

We Tried Lay's Spicy Hot Pot Chips and So Should You

By Matthew Bossons

Dubbed 'Numb & Spicy Hot Pot Flavor' by the creative geniuses at Lay's (a literal translation of *mala huoguo*, the Chinese term for numbingly spicy hot pot from Sichuan and Chongqing), the chips deliver a flavor that is incredibly similar to its namesake. The zesty taste of Chongqing-style broth and the bite of Sichuan peppercorn are both easily recognizable in the chips.

Admittedly, Lay's Numb & Spicy Hot Pot Flavor chips appear to have been around for awhile (in Hong Kong, anyway), but we only recently came across the chips in Guangzhou and said aloud, "What the hell, let's give these things a try!" Here are our thoughts:

The taste is true to name.

As stated above, the Numb & Spicy Hot Pot Flavor potato chips are an impressive interpretation of the bold and invigorating taste one experiences when indulging in the fiery hell-broth that is Chongqing hot pot.

Hot, but not too hot.

While Chongqing and Sichuan hot pot is generally unpalatable to those who dread unrelenting spiciness, we consider these Lay's chips to be largely accessible – even for chip consumers who are unfond of heat. The chips

do have a mild peppercorn kick, but it's nothing compared to eating a cracker soaked in Tabasco sauce and wasabi because you lost an ill-advised drunken wager during a late-night round of Cards Against Humanity.

Crinkle-cut.

Maybe we're the only ones, but aren't crinkle-cut (or wavy-cut, or ruffled, or whatever the hell you call them where you are from) chips oh-so-much more desirable than plain, old, normal-cut potato chips? If you agree with us, you'll be happy to learn that Lay's Numb & Spicy Hot Pot Flavor are crinkle-cut, which (in our books, anyway) is kind of the icing on the cake – or should we say, the thinly-sliced meat in the pot!



Have you ever eaten Chongqing hot pot and thought: geez, I wish this meal came in an easy-to-eat, casual snack form that I could enjoy on the go? If you answered yes to this question, then we have some good news: Lay's has a flavor inspired by Chongqing's celebrated regional variety of huoguo.



GRAPE VINE

THE SCANDALOUS SCOOP

We're digging:



The long-awaited arrival of **Doors**, which serves Turkish cuisine that has gained quite a following with our neighbors down in Shenzhen; **Spin**, a new speakeasy specializing in cool vibes and quality drinks for those in the know (page 66); the fact **13 Factories** is still dishing out delectable eats, despite the closure of the eatery's second floor; the new RMB25 drink menu at **The Brew Bistro & Bar** in Zhujiang New Town; the new curry and sausage shack on Jianshe Liu Malu; Guangzhou's first **Outback Steak House**; and the succulent CNY meal specials debuting at most top-tier Guangzhou hotels this month.

We're done with:



The ongoing 2am curfew at **Party Pier** (enough is enough, already); Jiangnanxi's **Curry Monster** being replaced by a fruit and veggie shop; the closure of **The Brew Bar & Bistro**'s Jianshe Liu Malu location, RIP; and people stacking their pizza wayyy too high at **The Pizza Factory** (page 59).

OLDIE BUT GOODIE

Carefree Vegetarian

It's not always easy in Guangzhou to find a quality vegetarian meal. Celebrated though the city is – for better or worse – as a culinary mecca of Chinese cuisine, Cantonese cooks don't always have the highest sensitivity towards plant-based diets, and to the disappointment of many a vegetarian transplant, a fair share of Guangzhou's most famous delicacies fall squarely on the meaty side of the menu.

Enter, Carefree Vegetarian. For years the restaurant has been serving up a dizzying variety of meat-free dishes and earning the rare distinction of being one of the few eateries along the leafy streets and storied byways of Shamian Island that won't break the bank.

Its previous incarnation as a Thai restaurant remains evident in the vast menu, which seesaws between Southeast Asian and Chinese fare. Notable dishes include



the red curry with mustard soy balls



(RMB68), which, despite the foreboding chili icons that accompany it on the menu, doesn't quite register on the serious spice scale. Its vegetables, however, are seasoned and cooked to perfection alongside chewy orbs injected with mustardy cream cheese that burst with quirky surprise.

The soups too, are not to be overlooked; the Thai spicy and sour with coconut milk (RMB58/pot) packs a hot tang that's buoyed by the coconut's subtle sweetness, while the mushrooms lend an earthy note.

On the Cantonese side of things, the okra with *char siu* 'pork' (RMB43) is a piglet-free take on a southern classic, awash in sweet lady finger slime, while rice and dim sum dishes round out the menu.

If the endless selection of plant-based vittles and historic setting in an ex-colonial enclave aren't enough to draw you down to Carefree Vegetarian, at least come for the bodhisattva-heavy wall decorations and stay for the slightly cultish Buddhist chanting on the lunchtime soundtrack.

Open daily, 11am-9pm; 54 Shamian Dajie, Shamian Island, Liwan District 荔湾区沙面大街54号



KITCHEN CONFIDENTIAL

Pizza Monstrosity

This month we talk to Matt Slack, proprietor of The Pizza Factory, which just opened its second location near Beijing Lu.

“One of our major selling points is that we market our toppings as ‘unlimited.’ For most people that come into the shop, we let them know that four or five toppings is probably the best mix, but some insist on getting the best value.

“One loyal customer insists on getting 20-plus toppings each time he comes in, and the pizza winds up really looking more like a salad, or a mountain. Sure, we are probably losing money on this pizza every time he comes in but, with our slogan being ‘custom made,’ if this is the way he likes his pizza – this is the way we’ll make it for him.”



WHAT'S ON WAIMAI

So Salad

Shenzhen-based takeout eatery So Salad is run by a bunch of young folks who want you to become “better and more beautiful” through a healthier diet.

Organic veggies growing on a Huizhou farm, which, according to their official WeChat, meets European standards, are processed, sterilized, hydrated and checked for metallic contamination before they are delivered to their 12 branch stores in China, most of them located in Shenzhen and Guangzhou.

At So Salad, dressings, the soul of salad, are allegedly crafted by a Michelin-starred chef together with a dietitian, and you can choose from low-calorie Thousand Island, ‘secret’ sesame, vinaigrette and grapefruit honey options. Also on offer is a range of freshly prepared, pure juices, at prices averaging about RMB22.



Basic salads, which come with a base of lettuce, broccoli, niblets and cherry tomatoes, are priced RMB35-48, with salmon and chicken breast, salmon and plum, as well as beef and sweet potato making up the top of the price range.

Patrons are able to compose their own salads as well, with options for mains including prawns, duck breast, beef steak, salmon and chicken breast, while avocado, kiwi, orange, apple, pear and cherry tomato make up the fruit department.

Price: RMB35-60

Good for: robust salad, fresh juices

Search: sosalad

Available on: Meituan, Dianping, E Le Ma

F&B UPDATE

Second Floors be Damned

Late last December, local authorities moved to shutter second floor and mezzanine areas in a large selection of bars and restaurants (as well as other businesses) in Zhujiang New Town.

The second floor ‘sting’ affected notable pubs McCawley’s, Bravo and Morgan’s, as well as popular eateries Social&Co and 13 Factories. While things initially looked dire (and still kinda do, to be honest), most establishments hit by the second floor clamp-down are trudging on.

According to 13 Factories proprietor Justin, “Closing our second floor has been hard, not just for us but for every storefront affected. Rents in the area are quite pricey and it’s especially hard when the large majority of seating is on the second floor. Hopefully this is a temporary situation. Luckily, we have a cozy first floor seating area.”

Over at Social&Co, Aaron McKenzie told *That’s* last month that their team are working to navigate the new rules and that all of the restaurant’s regular promotions and specials are ongoing.

Next door to Social&Co, Bravo Brewing’s proprietor Wayne Shen tells us that the

bar’s second floor was previously used to host private parties and client events, something that is no longer possible. Events at Bravo can now only be held at the big table on the establishment’s ground floor.

Things have carried on as best they can at Morgan’s Public House, with the pub still hosting events, both public and private, and

offering its standard daily specials.

“I just hope whoever made the decision to close all the second floors can give everyone a chance to get their buildings up to the standards and regulations required to open back up,” says Morgan’s own Captain Johnny Morgan. “Otherwise, there’ll be a lot of closures.”



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Five Oddball Chinese Desserts You Should Try

By Bailey Hu

Chinese cuisine may be world-famous, but some dish names just don't translate well (ants climbing up a tree, anyone?). We've gathered five desserts that, while in desperate need of rebranding, are nevertheless delicious.



'Eight treasure rice' (八宝饭)

With ingredients like lard and glutinous rice, plus a fruitcake-like appearance, this dessert can be a little off-putting. But health concerns aside, it's much better than it looks (and sounds). Warm *babaofan* is sweet, soft, and studded with 'treasures': tasty dried fruit and nuts. It's also sticky and filling, so we recommend going easy on the after-dinner treat.



'Double-skin milk' (双皮奶)

This Cantonese steamed dessert tastes kind of like pudding. Done right, the texture is creamy, soft and smooth. Ingredients are kept simple – milk (traditionally from water buffaloes), egg white and sugar – but the process of cooking, i.e., creating the 'two skins,' can be surprisingly tricky. Eat it plain or with toppings like red beans, mango or lotus seeds.



'Ginger milk curd' (姜撞奶)

Its name literally translates to 'ginger hits milk,' which is a pretty accurate description of how this Cantonese dessert is made. Warm, sweetened milk is poured into a bowl with ginger juice, then covered and left to set for a few minutes. The result is a delicate, milky concoction with a zesty ginger kick. Whatever you do, though, don't stir – the ultra-soft texture might revert back to liquid form.





'Sugar oil cake' (糖油粑粑)



This Hunanese dessert may not look like much, but it's a tempting snack when made fresh. The basic recipe is easy: combine glutinous rice flour with water, then pan fry lightly. Add in sugar water to caramelize and you'll soon have chewy, sweet, golden-brown 'cakes.' The simple treat is served at Hunan restaurants and street food stalls, but it's also a cinch to make at home.



'Wife cakes' (老婆饼)



Also known as sweetheart cakes, this Cantonese dessert is made of candied winter melon inside a flaky pastry crust. Origins of the name have been lost to time, though more than one story gives credit to a loving couple. Ironically, since lard is involved in their creation, wife cakes probably aren't that great for your heart.



Bonus: 'condom ice cream' (安全套雪糕)

While trawling the Chinese net in search of desserts, we came across this awkwardly-packaged frozen treat that shocked and alarmed parents back in 2009. Despite appearances, the *paopao xueni* ('bubble slushie') dessert was not wrapped inside a condom, and even enjoyed some popularity among schoolkids. Sadly, it seems to have fallen out of production since – proof that the world just wasn't ready yet.



JACK FIN

Aussie-Style Fish and Chips

By Kheng Swe Lim

The Place

There are days when you crave something less than healthy. Sure, Guangzhou may be seeing an increasing number of salad places catering to the vegan, organic, gluten-free crowd, but sometimes you just can't beat some deep-fried goodness on a Friday evening after a hard week at the office.

For those of us who have spent some time in what used to be the British Empire, that usually equals fish and (British-style) chips, served with a dollop of tartar sauce. To get your fill in Guangzhou, look no further than Jack Fin, which serves it Australian-style on (fake) newsprint.

The Food

Let's be honest: there's nothing particularly complicated about good fish and chips, which would set you back RMB58 at this restaurant. If you



want something a bit more complex, the fish pocket (RMB48) has cheese stuffed into the fillet.

The fish used is not cod or haddock, meaning that it lacks the clean, deep-sea taste of those species. However, given that Guangzhou is rather far from the North Sea, this is to be expected.

Both the fish and the chips were not too greasy, and they came with a mayo-based dip and ketchup. The dip, though, lacked the chunkiness of a superior-quality tartar sauce. The set came with a salad bathed in mayo dressing; perhaps vinaigrette would have better offset the heaviness of the fish batter.

The chicken nuggets (RMB26) were decent. The shrimp salad (RMB40) was rather unremarkable, again with a heavy mayo-based dressing; although the prawns were rather large. The menu also offers classic sides like battered sausage (RMB22) and onion rings (RMB30).

Of note is the lack of salt and vinegar offered at the table. Though perhaps not essential, their addition would immediately transport a homesick Englishman right back to his childhood in Bournemouth, chomping on piping-hot seafood to the tune of churning waves.

While not outstanding in comparison to the genuine article found in the Commonwealth, the food is decent enough to make Jack Fin the local, go-to chippery of Jiangnanxi expats.



The Vibe

The restaurant is small but slickly decorated, with dark, wood-paneled floors and walls and a shelf stacked with various cutesy ornaments. On our visit, speakers were playing Western rock music, but not too loudly, which added to a pleasant ambience.

From the outside, Aussie-themed windows shout the down-under origins of the food within. There is a small outdoor patio where, if you so wished, you could sit on a breezy day to enjoy an alfresco meal.

Price: RMB80-100

Who's going: locals in the Jiangnanxi area
Good for: fish and chips, deep-fried goodness

Nearest metro: Jiangnanxi (Exit D), 10 minutes

Open Mon, Wed and Thu 11am-11pm, Fri-Sun 11.30am-11.30pm; 55 Jiangnanxi Dadao, Zilong Da Jie, Haizhu District 海珠区江南西大道紫龙大街55号



THE PIZZA FACTORY 2.0

Stole a Pizza Our Hearts... Again

By Matthew Bossons

The Place

The last time the *That's PRD* team caught up with Matt Slack was at our annual Food & Drink Awards, an event at which the friendly proprietor of The Pizza Factory was honored with our 'Pizza of the Year' award.

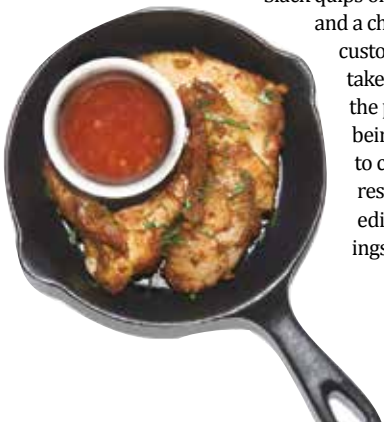
Slack opened his first Guangzhou F&B establishment, the aforementioned Pizza Factory, in Haizhu's Icon Mall back in October 2016. Since then, the DIY 'za shop has earned considerable praise from both foreign and Chinese clientele and become a destination eatery for Guangzhou pizza lovers from Panyu to Baiyun.

Now, in the opening act of 2018, Slack brings us his follow-up: The Pizza Factory 2.0.

Like its forerunner, the new Pizza Factory is also located in a mall – Yuexiu District's new(ish) A Mall to be exact, which is located a short stroll from Beijing Lu.

The interior of The Pizza Factory 2.0 is open, well-lit and sports the same fast-casual feel as Slack's inaugural Jiangnanxi location. Large bags of flour and tins of tomato sauce, among other ingredients, line the back wall – convenient storage,

Slack quips on our visit, and a chance for customers to take a look at the products being used to craft the restaurant's edible offerings.



The Food

As its name suggests, The Pizza Factory is all about 'za! Here you can build your own unlimited topping pizza or order one of the restaurant's specialty pies. We recommend the former, because, in the immortal words of someone, somewhere: "Custom is king."

First, choose a size: 9-inch (RMB58), 12-inch (RMB78) or 14-inch (RMB98). Next, choose your desired sauce (tomato, pesto, white or pink) and cheese (mozzarella or a four-cheese blend).

Once you have the pie's foundation, it's up to you to adorn it with toppings – of which there is no shortage. Fruit and vegetable options include tomatoes, onions, spinach, roasted bell peppers and cauliflower, olives, jalapenos, corn and pineapple, among others.

In the protein department, The Pizza Factory 2.0 offers pepperoni, Argentine beef, pastrami, chorizo, smoked chicken, bacon, calamari, sausage and shrimp.

Once you've chosen your toppings, your pizza will be baked and ready to eat in a lightening-fast two minutes.

If making your own pizza sounds like too much work, we recommend sampling the Fujiyama or cheeseburger pizzas. The Fujiyama comes topped with white sauce, mozzarella cheese, sausage slices, mushrooms and French fries, while the cheeseburger pie is composed of tomato sauce, mozza and cheddar cheeses, minced beef, tomatoes, onions and lettuce.

On our recent visit, we also sampled Slack's chicken wings (RMB28), which are marinated for

24 hours in a finger-lickin' 'pesto-esque' sauce. Flavor-packed and cooked to near-perfection, these chicken appendages are our choice appetizer at the Factory.

The French onion soup (RMB22) is another noteworthy pre-pizza snack, although we would have enjoyed a tad more cheese suspended in its savory depths.

Dessert? Look no further than the red velvet cupcake (RMB16).

The Vibe

After suffering through two-and-a-half hours of that atrocious new *Star Wars* film, we were certainly in need of a sequel we could swallow, and The Pizza Factory 2.0 is it. It succeeds in replicating its precursor's relaxed, casual, family-friendly environment and warm service.

This new shop is perfect for almost any occasion: birthdays, bar mitzvahs, Tinder dates, solo meals, family dinners, snackin' while self-ieiin', the list goes on.

Price: RMB70-100

Who's going: picky devotees of the 'za, young Chinese women

Good for: custom eats, crafty cupcakes, your 10-year-old's birthday party

Nearest metro: Gongyuanqian (Exit E), five minutes

Daily, 11am-10pm. 5/F, A Mall, Zhongshan Wu Lu, Yuexiu District 越秀区中山五路捷登都会5楼 (8352 5220)



ANTIDOTE RESTAURANT AND BAR

Counteracting the Poison of Dull Dining

By Tristin Zhang

The Place

Tucked away among residential buildings in the Tianhe North neighborhood, in the immediate vicinity of Feel More Coffee & Bagel, Antidote Restaurant and Bar humbly introduced itself late in September, offering the restful locale another fine-dining option, lur-



ing eaters with its artsy aura and beautifully presented Western fare.

Two tables sit on a deck outside for eaters to lunch in sunny weather. But visiting, as we do, on a windy, winter afternoon, we opt for cozier, indoor seating where a waitress attentively fills our glasses with lukewarm water.

The Food

Dining here is simple: seven appetizers, seven main courses and one dessert. There's no profusion of menu choices, at least not for the time being. Drink options, on the other hand, are numerous. So take our word for it and treat yourself to the afgado (RMB30), a cold coffee paired with a scoop of a vanilla ice cream.

Of the seven appetizers on offer, we first chose the arugula salad with ham (RMB42) which proved to be a fine choice. The arugula itself, coupled with black vinegar, is a delight to the palate. And the cheese, figs, roasted cherry tomatoes and dried, sour tomato bits that round out the dish are delicious additions.

Next, we try the sausage platter (RMB78), which, with four types of sliced sausage baked with cheese and sprinkled with coriander, proves itself a well-seasoned sampler.

For mains, try the saffron sauce seafood angel hair (RMB78). Served on an ivory-white plate, the fishy capellini infusion prepared with scallops and clams is flavored with saffron and is nothing if not scrumptious. Big ballers might consider shelling out for the Angus Valley steak (RMB228); flawless in texture, taste and color, with

Antidote's sweet onion sauce, mashed potatoes, mushrooms and asparagus on the side. Other standouts are the *confit de canard* (RMB268) with duck confit and foie gras, as well as the French lamb chop (RMB168) prepared with a special cherry wine sauce.

The bar, facing the dining area, serves some unique cocktails, such as the 'Energy Brunch' (RMB88), a Chambord liqueur- and Baileys-based drink mixed with cranberry and lemon juice.

The Vibe

Adorned with conceptual, grandstanding artworks and marble tables the intimate, soft-lit dining area has a pleasant, welcoming ambiance also reflected in the wait staff.

Price: RMB200

Who's going: lovey-dovey couples, culturati diners

Good for: date night, lip-smacking capellini
Nearest metro: Linhexi (Exit C), 10 minutes

Tue-Sun, 11.30-2am; 39 Qiaoyi Yi Jie, Tianhe Bei Lu, Tianhe District 天河区天河北路侨怡一街39号 (186 2071 9898)



JZ YAKINIKU

Barbecue That's Smoky in More Ways than One

By Tristin Zhang

The Place

Yakiniku is the Japanese style of cooking which utilizes a gridiron to grill, typically, bite-sized edibles over burning charcoals, and has been introduced into Korean cuisine. Or, is it a Korean cooking style that's been introduced to Japan? It's a chicken and egg situation.

Restaurateurs at the newly opened JZ



Yakiniku have done a brilliant job introducing the cuisine to the city. The restaurant, housed in a mixed-use building on a Tiyuxi backstreet, makes for a cozy place to dine, even on Guangzhou's wintriest days; with the warm stone tables giving off an intoxicating glow of heat, absorbed from their built-in wood-charcoal grills.

The installation of a ventilator at each table makes a noble gesture towards the lung health of patrons and, to be fair, you won't smell like barbecue smoke after a meal here. It's a nod to clean air, however that seems at odds with the *laissez-faire* attitude JZ takes towards tobacco – smokers are given free rein to puff away at the eatery. Expectant mothers, be warned.

The Food

The menu is composed in large part of Wagyu beef selections imported, naturally, from Australia. Price for a regular plate of sliced beef, depending on the cut, ranges from RMB68-109. The M9 Wagyu beef plate (RMB109), though an average graded meat, is the most popular order, and its texture is one of distinction. You can also upgrade to a Wagyu banquet by ordering the M9 platter (RMB428), the star order on the premises.

Although it's typical for diners to cook on their own in a *yakiniku* restaurant, waiters at JZ, who all receive a one-day training in addition to ongoing hands-on cookery instruction, grill your meal (unless asked otherwise) and cube your

lamb steak (RMB58). Bite-sized, remember?

A salty-sweet diced onion and tare, a thick soy sauce, accompany the beef as condiments, while seafood and lamb are paired with other flavoring sauces. The seafood platter (RMB69), consisting of shrimp, squid and scallops, is another sexy addition to the table. To add some variety to the otherwise meaty spread, get the veggie platter (RMB35), formed of eggplant, mushroom, corn, pimiento and cucumber.

The Vibe

There's a certain friendly and energetic atmosphere to the restaurant, where waitpersons salute and bid farewell to patrons in a buoyant manner. However, the rolling, cheesy pop music seems difficult, under any circumstances, to justify.

Price: RMB150

Who's going: Chinese families with a smoking papa

Good for: 'meat-ing' up with the Wagyu squad

Nearest metro: Tiyu Xilu (Exit A), five minutes

Daily, 11am-3pm, 5pm-1am; 3/F, complex building behind New Tianhe Hotel, 178-188 Tianhe Lu, Tianhe District 天河路178-188号新天河宾馆院内综合楼3楼 (8708 5626)



SPIN

Smoke, Mirrors and Mixological Glory

By Daniel Platker



The speakeasy concept can often come across as gimmicky and overdone, but even the most cynical drinker has to hand it to Spin for really sticking the landing.

Tucked down a quiet street in Zhujiang New Town, brave adventurers hunting for mixological glory might have a challenge ahead of them if they seek out Spin. An unassuming vape shop serves as the downstairs 'front' to the operation and a little creative snooping will be necessary before the truly well hidden entrance is revealed. Behind the smoke and mirrors of the secreted approach however, is no game: the cloak-and-dagger bar team of Spin mean business.

The disciplined mixologists behind the magic at Spin are headed up by Jackwing, a fierce female cocktail conjurer at the top of her craft. With years of experience in the bar departments of several top-tier Guangzhou hotels, Jackwings brings a meticulous attention to detail along with boundless creativity.

The hooch house focuses on signature cocktails and original concoctions – offering the classics only at explicit request. The tastefully appointed menu offers a bounty of choices to the sophisticated drinker, but one is just as well served by accepting the invitation to join bartenders on a magical mystery tour of the palate. At Spin, indulging queries about tastes and spirit preferences is rewarded manifold with a personally crafted flavor profile and carefully tailored course of bespoke cocktails.

On our visit, we sampled Spin's spin on the classic Old Fashioned: the Holmes cocktail (RMB108). A little sweeter than we're used to, to be sure, but the spicy, herbal swirl of homemade cinnamon syrup and smoked rosemary alongside premium bourbon and amaretto make for a compelling swallow.

The Never Again (RMB128) on the other hand is a five-star tour de force. Built on a base of impossibly floral gin, this cocktail is

a tart, perfumey bouquet that comes alive in Jackwing's hands. It's a delicate dance of homemade apple purée, lemongrass and powdered rose that had us dancing in our seat to Spin's retro jazz soundtrack.

On top of A-grade drinks, Spin makes for a hell of a place to sit and sip them. With all the class and sultry swagger of a 1920's cabaret, the dark wood tones and rich leather upholstery of the spot get a playful update with eclectic wall decals and understated neon lighting.

Sure, a visit to Spin has the potential to leave a seriously deep hole in your pocket, but for a cutting-edge cocktail to celebrate a special occasion – look no further.

Price: RMB200

Who's going: rum runners, cocktail connoisseurs, *fuerdai* types

Good for: bespoke beverages, clandestine rendezvous

Nearest Metro: Gangding (Exit C), 20 minutes; Liede (Exit C), 20 minutes

Daily, 8pm-2am; Store 106, 1/F, Hejing Ruifeng, 12 Haile Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District 天河区珠江新城海乐路12号合景睿峰1楼106铺 (155-2131 8223, 133-1280 8778)



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● **Blue Timezone** Exhibition



The color blue appears time and again as a motif in the works of Nuria Rossell, Rosa Solano and Yang Shun, three female, Barcelona-based artists. The three artists come from different backgrounds and have different interpretations of the color. However, they have one thing in common: their work speaks of refinement, certainty, detachment and emotion. In the varied brushstrokes of the three women, audiences will find common ground.

Tue-Sun until Mar 4, 11am-8pm; free entry. Kui Yuan Gallery, 9 Xuguyuan Lu, Yuexiu District 越秀区恤孤院路9号逸园艺术馆 (8765 9746)

● **China Animation & Comic Art Exhibit** Exhibition



This is the first exhibition featuring animation and comic artworks by artists nationwide. Over 200 vivid, comical drawings, paintings and statues are being showcased until April.

Tue-Sun until April 26, 9am-5pm; free. Guangdong Museum, 2 Zhujiang Dong Lu, Yuexiu District 越秀区珠江东路2号广东博物馆 (www.gdmuseum.com)

● **Simultaneous Eidos – Guangzhou Image Triennial 2017** Exhibition



The successor of the *Guangzhou International Photography Biennial Exhibition*, *Guangzhou Image Triennial 2017* gathers over 40 artists and photographers from China, Japan, France, the US, Brazil and beyond. Exhibits include documentary, photography, installation and more. Two of the many highlights from the exhibition are photos of China in the 19th century by British adventurer John Thomson and images of Chinese cities in the 1950s-'60s by Hong Kong photographer He Pan.

Tue-Mon until Mar 8, 9am-5pm; free of charge, ID required. Guangdong Museum of Art, 38 Yanyu Lu, Ersha Island, Yuexiu District 越秀区二沙岛烟雨路38号广东美术馆 (www.gdmoa.org)

● **Tibetan Yak Culture** Exhibition



Straight out of Lhasa, the Tibet Yak Museum is the very first of its kind. Dedicated to Tibetan customs associated with yaks, it boasts a total of over 500 artworks, yak specimens, and products – all of which are currently on display as a temporary exhibit at the Guangzhou Museum of Art.

Tue-Fri, 9am-5pm; Sat-Sun, 9.30am-4.30pm; until Mar 11; free. Guangzhou Museum of Art, 13 Luhu Lu, Luhu Park, Yuexiu District 越秀区麓湖公园麓湖路13号广州艺术博物馆 (www.gzam.com.cn)

● Children's Ballet – Swan Lake Ballet



The Guangzhou Opera House's own ballet troupe will stage a performance of the time-tested classic *Swan Lake*. Performed by some of the most talented child dancers in the city, it is guaranteed to be a feast for the eyes.

Tue Feb 6, 7.30pm; RMB150. Guangzhou Opera House, 1 Zhujiang Xi Lu, Tianhe District 天河区珠江西路1号广州大剧院 (www.gzdjy.org, 3839 2888)

● The Purple Hairpin Cantonese Opera



This eight-scene Cantonese opera is an adaptation of a Ming Dynasty classic by the same name. It tells of a love story between a gifted scholar and a courtesan.

Mon Feb 19, 7.30pm; RMB80-180. Guangdong Cantonese Opera Art Center, 703 Dongfeng Dong Lu, Yuexiu District 越秀区东风东路703号广东粤剧艺术中心演艺中心

● Xuanzang's Journey to the West Musical



Based on the ancient tale of Xuanzang, a Chinese Buddhist monk, scholar and translator who travelled to India in the 6th century, this musical features a wide range of music played with various instruments, including the erhu, xiao, gong and drums.

Sat-Sun Mar 3-4, 7.30pm; RMB380-480. Guangzhou Opera House, 1 Zhujiang Xi Lu, Tianhe District 天河区珠江西路1号广州大剧院 (www.gzdjy.org, 3839 2888)





● National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine Classical Music



Lead by conductor Nicola Giuliani, the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine will stage a memorable, film-inspired concert at Xinghai Concert Hall this month. Expect to witness some of the most powerful and moving film scores of all time performed live, including songs from *The Godfather*, *Schindler's List*, *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* and *Harry Potter*, among numerous others.

Tue Feb 13, 8pm; RMB100-880. Xinghai Concert Hall, 33 Qingbo Lu, Ersha Island, Yuexiu District 越秀区二沙岛晴波路33号星海音乐厅 (www.concerthall.com.cn, 8735 3869)

● Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra Concert Classical Music



Renown Israeli conductor Eliahu Inbal possesses a passionate conducting style and excels at symphony pieces of late-Romantic music, especially those by Austrian composers Gustav Mahler and Anton Bruckner. The concert will feature 'Symphony No. 7', which is, in the words of Richard Wagner, the "apotheosis of the dance." Also performing in the concert is talented Chinese cellist Qin Liwei, who has been lauded as the next Yoyo Ma.

Sun Mar 4, 8pm; RMB100-680. Xinghai Concert Hall, 33 Qingbo Lu, Ersha Island, Yuexiu District 越秀区二沙岛晴波路33号星海音乐厅 (www.concerthall.com.cn, 8735 3869)

● Heidi Jazz Duo Jazz



While studying music in Italy, Hong Kong singer Heidi began performing Italian folk songs, sung in local Italian dialects, across the country. Her work was later noticed by Italian music aficionados and brought to stage, where she performed alongside Italian pianist Danilo Tarso. The duo will be in Guangzhou this month to present original compositions, as well as some classic jazz tunes.

Sun Feb 4, 8-9.30pm; RMB120 presale, RMB200 door. Zhile Art Space, Rm. 1805, Hejing Ruifeng Building, 12 Haile Lu, Tianhe District 天河区海乐路12号合景睿峰大厦1805室知乐艺术空间

win!

We have a pair of tickets to this show to give away! Message **our official WeChat account (That'sGuangzhou)** before February 3 with the subject 'Heidi' and why you should win. Please include your full name and contact number.

● Rap China Concert



Rappers straight from the hit TV show *The Rap of China* are performing in Guangzhou! Besides big names, such as Chris Wu and MC Hotdog from China's Taiwan, many a talented rapper – all of whom made a striking impression on audiences – will throw down on stage this month in the 'Zhou.

Sat Feb 10, 7.30-9.30pm; RMB550-1,919. Guangzhou International Sports Area, 2666 Kaichuang Dadao, Huangpu District 黄浦区开创大道2666号广州国际体育演艺中心 (www.damai.cn)

● **Traditional Chinese Music** Concert



Catch this troupe of brilliant female musicians as they present Guangzhouers with a performance featuring traditional Chinese and Cantonese music. The auditory artists will utilize a combination of both Western and Chinese instruments, including the suona, yangqin and guzheng.

Sat Mar 3, 8pm; RMB80-380. Xinghai Concert Hall, 33 Qingbo Lu, Ersha Island, Yuexiu District 越秀区二沙岛晴波路33号星海音乐厅 (www.concerthall.com.cn, 8735 3869)

● **Amber** Musical



Helmed by Chinese avant-garde drama director Meng Jinghui, *Amber* has become a box-office success in the Middle Kingdom. Its stage effects mimic the feel of a modern metropolis, with cold-color lighting and a wall of air-conditioners creating an intense, mysterious vibe. This musical is full of fantasy, intensity and absurdity: don't miss this chance to be wowed.

Sat-Sun Feb 24-25, 7.30pm; RMB80-680. Guangzhou Opera House, 1 Zhujiang Xi Lu, Tianhe District 天河区珠江西路1号广州大剧院 (www.gzdjy.org, 3839 2888)

win!

We have a pair of tickets to this show to give away! Message **our official WeChat account (ThatsGuangzhou)** before February 21 with the subject 'Amber' and why you should win. Please include your full name and contact number.



● **Guangzhou Special Purchase for Spring Festival Fair**



If you're looking for CNY decorations, snacks and or goodies to gift your loved ones, this fair, now in its 12th year, is where you want to go. Taking place before Spring Festival, this market is the largest of its kind in the city and offers a great array of goods.

Daily until Feb 11, 9am-6pm. Poly World Trade Center Expo, 1000 Xin'gang Dong Lu, Haizhu District 海珠区新港东路1000号保利世贸博物馆

● **Ultralight Trike**
Extreme Sport



Take to the skies above Panyu's Seagull Island in an ultralight trike, a powered hang glider which is control during flight by weight-shift. Prices for an aerial ride range from RMB399-999, with discounts for students. Of note: there is a weight limit of 80 kilograms. Call 400 0520 980 for more info.

Ongoing, 8am-6pm. Seagull Island, Panyu District 番禺区海鸥岛

● **BSG China Week**
School Event



From February 5-9, the British School of Guangzhou will hold its annual China Week to welcome the Year of the Dog. This event includes arts and crafts, dragon dances, cooking classes and a special dress-up day to celebrate Chinese culture.

Mon-Fri Feb 5-9, time TBD; free. The British School of Guangzhou, 983-3 Tonghe Lu, Baiyun Lu 白云区南湖同和路983-3广州英国人学校 (8709 4788)



● **The Night for The One at G Restaurant Valentine's Dinner**



Come and spend an evening of romance with your beloved in a contemporary and festive setting. Enjoy an exquisite, five-course menu for two: 'For Her, For Him', specially prepared by Executive Chef David Jean Marteau, featuring different courses for ladies and gents.

Wed Feb 14, 6-10pm; RMB1,314 plus 15 percent. G Restaurant, Grand Hyatt Guangzhou, 12 Zhujiang Xi Lu, Tianhe District 天河区珠江西路12号广州富力君悦大酒店 (8396 1234 Ext. 3451)

● **Heat Up This Winter with a Hot Pot Feast Hot Pot & Buffet**



The spread of hot pot selections on offer at Hilton Guangzhou Baiyun will make this winter a heart-warming one. Delight in an array of clay-pot specialties, including mutton, beef, chicken, abalone, duck, goose, hairy crab and more at all-day dining restaurant Senses. Meanwhile, the China Club Chinese Restaurant offers a semi-buffet hot pot experience, prepared by an experienced team of Chinese chefs. The premium Iberian black pork belly and seafood platter, with its dizzying variety of aquatic delights, bursts with authentic flavor. Call to reserve seats.

Daily until Feb 28; RMB328 plus 15 percent for buffet (6-10pm), RMB688 for hot pot for two (5.30-9.30pm). Hilton Guangzhou Baiyun, 515-517 Yuncheng Dong Lu, Baiyun District 白云区云城东路515-517号广州白云万达希尔顿酒店 (6660 8076)

● **CNY Dinner at Lai Heen Dinner**



On CNY's Eve and CNY's Day, the Cantonese cuisine connoisseurs at Lai Heen are presenting well-crafted courses including roast suckling pig, king crab salad, steamed giant grouper and other scrumptious dishes.

Feb 15-22, various times; from RMB2,988 (for four on CNY's Day)/6,888 (for six on CNY's Eve) plus 15 percent. Lai Heen, The Ritz-Carlton, Guangzhou, 3 Xing'an Lu, Tianhe District 天河区兴安路3号广州富力丽思卡尔顿酒店 (3813 6888)

● **Weekend Brunch at Gail's Brunch**



At Gail's enticing weekend brunch, diners can choose from the vegetarian breakfast salad with boiled eggs; Cajun shrimp scramble; California breakfast burrito with salsa; toast with avocado, egg and mozzarella or Gail's waffle with whipped cream. Unlimited refills on coffee and tea are on offer.

Sat-Sun ongoing, 10.30am-2.30pm. Gail's American Cuisine & Bar, Shop 11, 2/F, 6 Xingsheng Lu, Tianhe District 天河区兴盛路6号尚东君御二楼11辅 (8350 1667)

● **Love Is in the Air at Ebony Valentine's Dinner**



The Mandarin Oriental's Ebony Restaurant is hosting a special seven-course romantic dinner for two on Valentine's Day, specially designed and prepared by the hotel's executive chef Jonothan Shea. For a further romantic touch, each couple will be presented with a fresh rose, a pair of handmade macarons and a voucher worth RMB200 for both spa treatments and future dining.

Wed Feb 14, 6-10pm; RMB1,899 plus 15 percent. Ebony, Mandarin Oriental, Guangzhou, 389 Tianhe Lu, Tianhe District 天河区天河路389号文华东方酒店 (3808 8884)

HONG KONG & MACAU CALENDAR

FEB 9-11
FRI-SUN



Longines Masters, 8am-7pm; HKD230-3,200. AsiaWorld-Expo (www.longinesmasters.com) One of the most prestigious equestrian events in the world arrives in Hong Kong, between its stops in New York and Paris. The sixth edition of the 'Grand Slam of Indoor Show Jumping' brings together decision-makers, VIPs and the world's 30 best riders for a heart-pounding competition. Enjoy world-class entertainment amid outstanding fashion, art and gastronomy, with glittering after-parties running late into the night.

FROM FEB 23
DAILY



Hong Kong Arts Festival. Various locations (www.hk.artsfestival.org) An international array of acclaimed theater, dance, live music, opera, circus and more fill the city with creativity until March 24. There's far too much to mention here; check out the complete schedule online.

FEB 24-25
SAT-SUN



Theatre of Nations: Shukshin's Stories, 2.30pm, 7pm; HKD200-480. The Hong Kong Academy For Performing Arts (2824 2430)

HK

The short stories of Vasily Shukshin – a household name in the Soviet Union of the 1960s and early 1970s – are brought to life by an award-winning cast of Russian actors. Witness these eccentric Siberian lives, hopelessly out of touch and out of time, struggling with the gap between their dreams and their reality. In Russian with English and Chinese surtitles.

THROUGH FEB 25
TUE-SUN



The Great Circus of Europe, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm & 8.30pm; HKD150-400. Central Harbourfront Event Space (www.tgec.asia/circus) Witness a heart-pounding thrill show the whole family can enjoy, featuring zero animals and over 25 experienced performers from around the world including, England, Colombia, Kenya, Mexico, and Morocco. Marvel at death-defying feats performed in front of your eyes without the aid of video effects or film trickery.

MAR 2-4
FRI-SUN



Cantonese Opera: Pavilion of a Hundred Flowers, 8pm; HKD200-360. The Hong Kong Academy For Performing Arts (2824 2430) More than just a restaging of the popular 1958 opera about spies and rebels, director Fredric Mao's 2018 project takes a fresh approach to stage design, lighting, music and costume. With young playwright Kong Chun-Kit reworking the script to add modern perspectives to the classic, the new production welcomes new audiences to Cantonese opera with a work adapted to our times.

FEB 10
SAT



Rock Concert, 8pm; MOP430. Macau Convention Centre (www.macau-ticket.com) Five leading Hong Kong rock bands are set to cross the Pearl River estuary this month to rattle 'n' shake the city of Macau. Kolor, Yellow! 野佬, ToNick, RubberBand and Supper Moment will perform a selection of their most popular songs, in what is bound to be a rockin' and rollin' evening!

FEB 17-18
SAT-SUN



The Procession of Passion of Our Lord. St. Augustine's Church (www.macaotourism.gov.mo) The Procession of Passion of Our Lord is a unique religious celebration in Macau. An image of Christ carrying the cross is taken in solemn procession from St. Augustine's Church to the Cathedral of Macau for an overnight vigil and then returned through the city via the stations of the cross, accompanied by a magenta-robed escort and crowds of the faithful and curious.

UNTIL FEB 21
TUE-SUN



Imaginary Beings, noon-8pm; free. Taipa Village Art Space (taipavillageartspace.org.mo)

MO

In 2014, Ana Aragão was selected among the 200 best illustrators in the world by the renowned Lürzer's Archive magazine. Her solo exhibition *Imaginary Beings* showcases a collection of water-color and black-ink pen artworks which blend architecture with illustration to create dreamy buildings.

FEB 23
FRI



Dance on the String, 8pm; MOP60/80. Dom Pedro V Theatre (www.icm.gov.mo) The show *Dance on the Strings* sweeps audiences off their feet with skillful erhu (Chinese two-stringed fiddle) performances. The award-winning pieces presented in the concert demonstrate a creative style that combines tradition and modernity and blends Chinese and Western music.

FEB 25
SUN

Brushing Up Macau, 3.30pm; MOP150. Macau Cultural Centre (www.macaoticket.com) This multimedia dance performance is a fusion of dance, music, calligraphy and AR/VR elements. A novel experience, *Brushing Up Macau* transforms colors, lines and shapes into a mass of illusions, which is presented alongside a dance performance that blends classical dance art with modern technology.

UNTIL FEB 25
TUE-SUN

The Memorable Time – The Traditional Handicraft Industries of Macau, 10am-6pm; free. Macau Museum (www.macaumuseum.gov.mo) The exhibition *The Memorable Time – The Traditional Handicraft Industries of Macau* allows audiences to get a glimpse into the evolution of the city's industries, such as incense, firecrackers and match manufacturing, which prospered in the 1950s and '60s, as well as the local lifestyle of the past. Workshops will also be held alongside the exhibition.

HOTEL NEWS

NEWS

Daniel Brooker Appointed as Executive Chef at Sofitel Guangzhou Sunrich

Sofitel Guangzhou Sunrich has appointed Daniel Brooker as executive chef. The New Zealander started his culinary career in Auckland in 2000. His career has taken him to many parts of the world where he has worked with leading international hospitality groups. In 2011, he won the "Chef of the Year award" at the Emirates International Salon Culinaire in Dubai as well as a Gold Medal at the 2012 Culinary Olympics in Germany.



John Webb Appointed General Manager of Pullman Guangzhou Baiyun Airport

John Webb, who joined Accor Hotels in 2015, has been appointed as general manager of the Pullman Guangzhou Baiyun Airport. With Pullman Guangzhou Baiyun Airport having just marked 10 years of successful operations, Webb could not be joining the team at a more perfect time as the hotel enters another fruitful decade.



Juan Samsó Appointed General Manager of The St. Regis Zhuhai

Marriott International recently announced its pick of Juan Samsó as general manager of The St. Regis Zhuhai, the much anticipated luxury hotel set to open in the middle of 2018. Samsó joins The St. Regis Zhuhai fresh from his role as general manager of The Ritz-Carlton, Macau. Prior to this, he held the position of hotel manager for The Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong.



Hilton Adds Idyllic Hot Spring Retreat to Chinese Resort Portfolio

Nestled against the scenic Nankun Mountain, Hilton Huizhou Longmen Resort just opened its door to guests. The resort boasts modern interiors, a variety of fine dining options and is the first Hilton property in China to feature a natural hot spring, allowing guests to delight themselves at leisure.



Wharf Hotels Announces the Opening of The Murray, Hong Kong, A Niccolo Hotel

On January 15, Wharf Hotels announced the opening of The Murray, Hong Kong, a Niccolo Hotel, as the group's new flagship Niccolo property and the latest addition to this line of luxury, contemporary-chic concepts by Wharf Hotels.



Guests Appreciation Party of InterContinental Foshan

On January 17, InterContinental Foshan held a guest appreciation party at the hotel's grand ballroom, with over 270 attendees from various fields sporting a dress code straight out of Broadway. Fine dining, lucky draws and shows entertained the house.

Courtyard by Marriott Shunde Longjiang

The Courtyard by Marriott Shunde Longjiang, the first Courtyard-branded property in the city of Foshan, occupies a prime location in the heart of Longjiang commercial center.

Simon Wong Wins The 11th Asian Culinary Exchange Contest

The 11th Asian Culinary Exchange contest was held in Foshan's Nanhai District, which attracted 10 of Asia's top chefs. Themed 'Nourishing Chinese Cuisine - The Taste of Hometown', the competition aimed to boost Asia's food culture. Simon Wong, executive chef of Ming Court, Langham Place, Xiamen, won the gold award in this competition.



The Ritz-Carlton, Guangzhou Has Been Awarded for Its Community Contribution

The Ritz-Carlton, Guangzhou has been honored at the Select Fashion Awards as "Annual Influential Community Corporate" by Tencent Charity in recognition of its continuous efforts and contribution through the social and environmental responsibility program – Community Footprints. In total, ten corporations nationwide received the honor under this category.



Wyndham Grand Foshan Gaoming

As a landmark of Gaoming District, Foshan, the fish-shaped Wyndham Grand Foshan Gaoming hotel is located in the new business area of Foshan city, the core of Xijiang New Town, along the Xi River. The hotel's design was conceived by the team behind Burj Al Arab in Dubai.

PROMOTIONS

Valentine's at LN Hotel Five, Guangzhou

Savor delectable cuisine with your special someone at LN Hotel Five with a one-of-a-kind Valentine's feast for two at RMB688 available at Tea 5 and Rooftop Bar. Spend the evening with your special someone on the Rooftop Bar with a beautiful 180-degree Pearl River view or indulge in a delightful dining experience at Tea 5.

LN Hotel Five, Guangzhou, 277 Yanjiang Zhong Lu, Yuexiu District 越秀区沿江中路277号广州岭南五号酒店 (8931 0505)



Chimelong Hotel CNY's Eve Dinner and Room Package

Dinner and room packages at Chimelong Hotel on Chinese New Year's Eve are priced as low as RMB1,698. Dinner will be held at Chimelong International Convention Center with circus shows for the night's entertainment. For more information, call 8478 6838 or visit www.chimelong.com.

Guangzhou Chimelong Hotel, Panyu Dadao, Panyu District 番禺区番禺大道广州长隆酒店 (8478 6838)



Lion Dance and Spring Festival Feast at LN Garden Hotel, Guangzhou

Like every year, LN Garden Hotel, Guangzhou will usher in the upcoming Year of the Dog with a traditional lion dance ceremony at 8.28am on February 16. Chefs of the hotel have crafted a special Chinese New Year feast available for a limited period from February 15-22 at the hotel's fine dining restaurant Peach Blossom. Prices start from RMB2,988 per table. For reservations, call 8333 8989.

LN Garden Hotel, Guangzhou, 368 Huanshi Dong Lu, Yuexiu District 越秀区环市东路368号广州花园酒店(8333 8989)

Conrad Guangzhou Holiday Promotions

For this Spring Festival, chefs at Conrad Guangzhou have crafted palatable Cantonese dishes aplenty to add a festive touch to its dining options. At Cantonese restaurant Yun Pavilion, meal sets with festival treats are available from February 14 to March 2, while at Sense restaurant a scrumptious buffet dinner is on offer on Chinese New Year's Eve, and a romantic buffet on Valentine's Day with a gift of 'pink' champagne for each diner.

Conrad Guangzhou, 222 Xingmin Lu, Tianhe District 天河区兴民路222号广州康莱德酒店 (3739 2222)

TRAVEL DEALS

Delightful Time at Kids' Spring Camp at Chimelong Hengqin Bay Hotel, Zhuhai

The Kids' Spring Camp at Chimelong Hengqin Bay Hotel lasts three days and two nights with a wild range of spectacular activities in this season of spring. Come and discover the fantastic Ocean Kingdom, explore the mysterious circus wonderland, relax in the intimate, constant-temperature Hengqin Bay Water World and enjoy the premium buffet feast, all of which are sure to make this spring festival memorable for you and your family. Furthermore, you could also join the floriculture or cooking workshops with a special rate starting from RMB78. For more information, call 0756-299 8888 or visit www.chimelong.com.



FEATURED LISTINGS



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FOOD & DRINK

1920 Restaurant 1) 4/F, 1 Jianshe Liu Malu, Yuexiu District; 2) Shops 67, 69, 72 & 76, The Canton Place, Qingfeng Jie, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District (8388 1142); Shop MW01-03, 05, Central Zone, Mall of the World, 89 Huacheng Dadao, Tianhe District (8709 6033)
1920 咖啡厅 1) 建设六马路一号前幢 4 楼; 2) 天河区珠江新城清风街 48 号广粤天地 67, 69, 72, 76 号铺; 3) 天河区花城大道 89 号花城汇 MMV01-03, 05 商铺

Aroma Bistro Shop 117, 1/F, Voka Street, 460 Tianhe Bei Lu, Tianhe District (185 0200 1416) 天河区天河北路 460 号沃凯街首层 117 号



Bravo Shop 114-115, 6 Huajiu Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District 天河区珠江新城华新路 6 号 114-115 铺

The Brew Sports Bar & Grill 1) Unit 9-11, Huanan Country Garden, Panyu Dadao (across the road from Chime-long Theme Park), Panyu District (3482 0401); 2) West Section, Bao Lin Yuan, Huaxun Jie, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District (3408 9549); 3) Shop 11-13, Yuhai Food Street, 1 Jianshe Liu Malu, Yuexiu District (8382 8299)
1) 番禺区番禺大道华南碧桂园碧华商业 2 街 9-11 号; 2) 天河区珠江新城华讯街保林苑西区加拿大布鲁咖啡街, 近发展中心; 3) 越秀区建设六马路普海食街 11-13 号铺

The Eating Table With seats for more than 200 diners to explore gastronomy at a less frenetic pace, The Eating Table's warm, alluring design enlivens the senses. The owner, who spent years in Melbourne, has ensured that the food delivers to both local and foreign palates. Enjoy a gratifying meal, with a menu that boasts a wide range of appetizers, soups, pastas and both meaty and marine-filled mains. On the occasion of The Eating Table's 2-year anniversary this past October, Michelin-starred chef Michel Portos has crafted a series of appetizing

dishes for this winter.
Shop 401, 4/F, GTLand Winter Plaza, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District 天河区珠江新城高德置地冬广场 4 楼 401 室 (8398 0860)

Buongiorno 1) 3/F, Yi An Plaza, 33 Jianshe Liu Malu, Yuexiu District (8363 3587); 2) A7, Xinshijie Haoyuan Diyi Ju, 168 Dongcheng Nan Lu, Dongguan (0769 2339 6499)
邦双意大利餐厅 1) 越秀区建设六马路百安广场 3 楼; 2) 东莞市东城南路 168 号新世界家园第一层 A7 号

Element Fresh 1) Shop L302, TaiKoo Hui, 383 Tianhe Lu, Tianhe District (3808 8506); 2) G/F, 42 Qingfeng Jie, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District (3828 8482)
新元素 1) 天河区天河路 383 号太古汇广场 L302 店; 2) 天河区珠江新城清风街 42 号首层

Happy Monk 1) Back of Yi'an Plaza, Jianshe Wu Malu, Yuexiu District (8376 5597); 2) No. 109, 7Xingsheng Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District (3877 8679); 3) Outdoor Plaza, Happy Valley Mall, 36 Machang Lu, Tianhe District (3832 5317)
1) 越秀区建设五马路百安广场后; 2) 天河区珠江新城兴盛路 7 号 109 号铺; 3) 天河区珠江新城马场路 36 号太阳新天地户外广场

Hooley's Irish Pub and Restaurant 1) 101, 8 Xingsheng Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District (3886 2675); 2) Section 2, Yijia Yuan, 7 Xingzhongdao, Zhongshan
1) 爱尔兰西餐酒吧, 天河区珠江新城兴盛路 8 号 101; 2) 中山市兴中道 7 号颐嘉苑 2 卡

In · Side · Out By Threedrops 3/F, 10 Xietianli, Lingnan Tiandi, Chancheng District, Foshan (0757-8203 1400, 189 885 25470) 佛山市禅城区岭南天地协天里 10 号 3 楼

M9 Restaurant Lounge Shop 112, 9 Xingsheng Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District (3802 0171)

McCawley's Bar & Grill Shop 101, 16 Huacheng Dadao, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District (3801 7000)
天河区珠江新城花城大道 16 号 101 铺

Oggi Pizzeria 1) Shop 119, 8 Xingsheng Lu, Tianhe District (3805 1282); 4) 1 Tianlun Garden, Jianshe 4 Lu, Yuexiu District (8356 1196) www.oggirestaurant.com
卡布里西餐厅 1) 天河区兴盛路 8 号 119 铺; 2) 越秀区建设四马路天伦花园首层

Paulaner Bräuhaus L307, 3/F, TaiKoo Hui, 383 Tianhe Lu, Tianhe District (2808 6333) 宝莱纳, 天河区天河路 383 号太古汇广场 L307

Rebel Rebel 42 Tiyu Dong Lu, Tianhe District (8520 1579) 天河区体育东路 42 号

Ricci Creative Eats Shop 015B, G/F, Popark Mall, No.63 Linhe Zhong Road, Tianhe Dis-

trict, Guangzhou, China (Across the street from IKEA) (3809 6330)
天河区林和中路 63 号东方宝泰购物广场首层 (宜家家居对面)

Slow Life An organic, health-conscious Western restaurant that excels in Spanish cuisine, Slow Life aims to be a place where guests can take a break from their busy schedules to visit with friends and family over a feast of delicious fusion dishes. Shop 107, 1/F, Gaozhi Dasha, 120 Huangpu Dadao Xi, Tianhe District
天河区黄埔大道西 120 号高志大厦首层 107 铺 (3788 7173, 3788 7172)

Shami House 2/F, Zhao Qing Da Sha, 304 Huanshi Zhong Lu, Yuexiu District (8355 3012 / 8355 3091)
沙米屋, 越秀区环市中路 304 号肇庆大厦 2 楼



Summer House Directly behind the Marriage House, Xietian Li, Lingnan Tiandi, Chancheng District, Foshan (133 9223 6374, www.summerhouse.com.cn) 佛山市禅城区岭南天地协天里 (嫁娶屋正后面) 粤天地 112-116 号铺

Sultan Restaurant Turkish BBQ
1) 1-3/F, 367 Huanshi Dong Lu, between Baiyun Hotel and Friendship Store, Yuexiu District (8349 4170, 8349 4171); 2) Shop 102 & 114, Zhonghai Jinghui Huating, 31 Xingsheng Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District (3801 5002) 1) 苏坦土耳其烧烤餐厅, 越秀区环市东路 367 号 1-3 楼 (白云宾馆与友谊商店夹位处); 2) 广州市天河区珠江新城兴盛路 31 号中海锦晖华庭二期商铺 102 & 114

The Tavern Sports Bar Traditional English style bar that fosters a cosy intimate atmosphere. Both Taverns offer an extensive menu of Western favorites and different theme nights throughout the whole week. 1) Poly 108, 6 Huajiu Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District (8550 3038); 2) On the right side of the Huanan Country Garden, Yingbin Lu, Panyu District (3482 4882, www.tavernchina.com)
致盈 1) 天河区珠江新城华新路 6 号保利 108 公馆; 2) 番禺区迎宾路华南碧桂园大门口右侧

HEALTH

All Smile - Dr. Lu Int'l Dental Clinic Rm 603-604, 6/F, Metro Plaza, 183 Tianhe Bei Lu (24-hour hotline: 8755 3380). Mon-Sat 9am-6pm (other times by appointment)
大都会牙科, 天河北路 183 号大都会广场六楼 603-604

Bellaire Medical Center Rm 302D, Fuli Park, 28 Machang Lu (3891 0511/ 24-hr 152 1881 8990), Bellairclinic.com
贝利尔诊所, 天河区珠江新城马场路富力公园 28 商业区 302D

Deron Dental 39/F, Tianying Plaza East Tower, No. 226 Liede Dadao, Tianhe (3886 4821, www.kaiyiyk.com)
德隆齿科诊所, 天河区珠江新城猎德大道 226 号天盈广场东塔 39 层 5-9

Dr. Sherily Xiao Master of Medicine. 20 years TCM & Acupuncture & Massage & Physiotherapy Experience. Only for appointment. Fu Lai Garden Shui Yin Zhi Jie Shui Yin Road Yue Xiu District Guang Zhou. (Tel: 137 1052 6617. E-mail: xiaoshuilian@hotmail.com. L5, Zoo station, C exit)
广州市越秀区水荫路水荫直街福莱花园

Eur Am Medical & Dental Center 1/F, North Tower, Ocean Pearl Bldg, 19 Huali Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng (3758 5328, 24-hr urgent care: 137 1041 3347, www.eurammedicalcenter.com)
广州康康医疗, 珠江新城华利路 19 号远洋明珠大厦北座首层

iBorn Clinic Rm 2202-2203, Qiaoxin King-old Century, 62 Jinsui Lu, Tianhe District (3736 2020/ 24-hr 3736 2110)
爱博齿科门诊, 天河区珠江新城金穗路侨鑫金融中心 2202-2203

iBorn Women's & Children's Hospital No.6 Longkou Dong Lu, Tianhe District (2811 6375/185 2018 8335)
广州爱博妇产科医院, 天河区龙口东路 6 号

H&H Dental Center 1/F, Mingmen Building, 4 Huacheng Dadao, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District (3808 0700, 3808 0729; 24-hour hotline: 139 2516 2826; E-mail: hnh-dental@163.com)
H&H 牙科中心 (嘉西医疗门诊), 天河区珠江新城花城大道 4 号名门大厦正门首层

Sing Health Medical
2 Xian Cun Rd, Zhu Jiang New City, Tian He District, Guangzhou, Mon-Fri 9am-7pm, Sat-Sun 9am-3pm, Tel: 3739 2500 Open Every Day
广州新宁门诊, 天河区珠江新城洗村路 2 号

United Family Guangzhou Clinic 1/F, Annex Bldg, PICC Bldg, 301 Guangzhou Dadao Zhong (4008 919 191, 24-hr urgent

care: 8710 6060)

广州越秀和睡家门诊部, 广州大道中301号人保大厦南塔副楼首层

LIFESTYLE

SO' O LK (Hair Salon) 1) G/F, 545 Binjiang Dong Lu, Haizhu District (3425 7429); 2) Shop 103A, World Trade Centre, 371-375 Huanshi Dong Lu, Yuexiu District (8760 6299); 3) Shop101, 712 Binjiang Dong Lu, Haizhu District (8419 1022); 4) Shop101, Fuli Edinburgh Apartment, 2 Huali Lu, Zhujiang New Town, Tianhe District(3826 3718); 5) Shop 15 2/F, Chateau Star River Hotel, Yingbin Lu, Panyu District(3479 0641); 6) Shop81-82, G/F, New City Plaza, Olympic Garden, Luoxi New Town, Panyu District(3452 1826); 7) Shop 21, Agile Phase II, Fenghuang Bei Lu, Huadu District(3692 8686)

苏家路易士, 嘉玛发廊, 1) 天河区天河北路366号都市华庭13铺; 2) 越秀区环市东路371-375号世界贸易中心首层103A; 3) 海珠区滨江东路712号101铺; 4) 天河区珠江新城华利路2号富力爱丁堡公寓101铺; 5) 番禺区迎宾路星河湾酒店2楼15号铺; 6) 番禺区洛溪新城奥园城市花园首层81-82号铺; 7) 花都区凤凰北路雅居乐二期21号铺

True Pilates China Studio provides Pilates & Gyrotonic lessons for everyone. Add: 503-12 Huajiu Road, Zhujiang New Town (South of GZ American Consulate) www.truepilateschina.com 18620076022 珠江新城华就路12号503

EDUCATION

American International School of Guangzhou (AISG)

1) 3 Yanyu Nan Lu, Ersha Island (8735 3393); 2) 19, Kexiang Road Luogang District, Science Park, Guangzhou (3213 5555)

1) 广州美国人, 二沙岛烟雨南岛3号; 2) 广州萝岗区科翔路19号

Canadian Foreign Language School

Cambridgeshire Garden, Panyu District (39191868 ext. 0)

广州市番禺区剑桥加拿大外国语学校, 广州市番禺区剑桥都花园

Canadian International School of Guangzhou

Cambridgeshire Garden, Nancun Town, Panyu District (3925 5321) www.cisgz.com

广州加拿大国际学校, 番禺区南村镇雅居乐剑桥都花园内

Canadian Internatioanal Kindergarten

Agile Garden, Yinbin Lu, Panyu District (8456 6551)

加拿大国际幼儿园, 番禺区迎宾路雅居乐花园

Canton Global Academy

4 Chuangjia Road, Jinshazhou, Baiyun District, Guangzhou (180 2401 1757)

广州寰宇外籍人员子女学校, 广州市白云区金沙洲创佳路4号

Clifford School International

International Building, Clifford School, Clifford Estates, Shiguang Lu, Panyu District (8471 8273; 8471 1441; 8471 1694)

祈福英语实验学校, 番禺区市广路

Eclipse English Education 18D,

No.368, Tianhe Bei Road, GZ

(Tel:38780382,18922769713)

爱登英语, 天河北路, 368号, 18D

Guangzhou Nanfang International School

No.1 South Industrial Park, Yinglong Lu, Longdong, Tianhe District (3886 6952, 3886 3606, Fax: 3886 3680). www.gnischina.com

广州南方国际学校, 天河区龙河迎龙路龙山工业园南1号

ISA International School Guangzhou

Block C2-2, 128 Yuancun Siheng Lu, Tianhe District (8890 0909, info@isaschool.com)

广州爱莎国际学校, 天河区员村西横路128号红专厂创意园C2-2

The British School of Guangzhou

983-3 Tonghe Lu, Baiyun District (8709 4788) 广州英国学校, 白云区同和路983-3

Trinity International Kindergarten

663 Huacheng Dadao, Zhujiang New Town, Tianhe District (8558 3287) 圣心国际幼稚园, 天河区珠江新城花城大道663号

Utahloy Int'l School

www.utahloy.com 1) 800 Shatai Bei Lu, Baiyun District (8720 2019, fax 8704 4296); 2) Sanjiang Town, Zeng Cheng (8291 4691 fax: 8291 3303)

广州富德莱国际学校, 1) 白云区沙太北路800号; 2) 增城三江镇

HOTEL

Chimelong Hotel

Panyu Dadao, Panyu District (8478 6838, gz.chimelong.com)

长隆酒店, 番禺区番禺大道

Chimelong Hengqin Bay Hotel

Hengqin New District, Zhuhai (0756-299 8888, www.chimelong.com)

长隆横琴湾酒店, 珠海市横琴新区

Chimelong Penguin Hotel

Hengqin New District, Zhuhai (0756-299 3366, www.chimelong.com)

长隆企鹅酒店, 珠海市横琴新区

Chimelong Circus Hotel

Hengqin New District, Zhuhai (0756-299 3399, www.chimelong.com)

长隆马戏酒店, 珠海市横琴新区

China Hotel, A Marriott Hotel

122, Lihua Lu (8666 6888) www.MarriottChinaHotel.com

中国大酒店, 流花路122号

Conrad Guangzhou

222 Xingmin Lu, Tianhe District (3739 2222)

广州康莱德酒店, 天河区兴民路222号

DoubleTree by Hilton Guangzhou

391 Dongfeng Lu, Yuexiu District (2833 7215; 2833 2888)

广州希尔顿逸林酒店, 越秀区东风路391号

Grand Hyatt Guangzhou

12, Zhujiang Xi Lu, Zhujiang New Town, Tianhe District (8396 1234 www.guangzhou.grandhyatt.com)

广州富力君悦大酒店, 天河区珠江新城珠江西路12号

Guangzhou Marriott Hotel

Tianhe 228 Tianhe Lu, Tianhe District (6108 8888)

广州正佳广场万豪酒店, 天河区天河路228号

Langham Place Guangzhou

638 Xingang Dong Lu, Haizhu District (8916 3388)

广州南丰朗豪酒店, 海珠区新港东路638号

LN Garden Hotel, Guangzhou

368, Huanshi Dong Lu (8333 8989, www.thegardenhotel.com.cn)

LN Garden Hotel, Guangzhou, 368 Huanshi Dong Lu, Yuexiu District

广州花园酒店, 越秀区环市东路368号花园酒店 (8333 8989)

LN Hotel Five, Guangzhou

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That's
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Horoscopes

Finally, a horoscope that understands your life in Guangzhou.

BY DOMINIQUE WONG



Aquarius
1.21-2.19

You may regret agreeing to be a bridesmaid at your friend's wedding after you discover that she just wants to set you up with the best man. Give it a chance - he's also into Chinese rockers P.K. 14.



Pisces
2.20-3.20

Do what you always do: swim deep, but not too deep, or else you will get dysentery and maybe die. The Pearl River is still polluted and you're health insurance doesn't cover stupidity. Check out your local pool instead.



Aries
3.21-4.20

Don't be surprised if the lunar New Year has got you second-guessing yourself. Should you stay in Guangzhou? Adopt a dog or a cat? Relax; just remember that nothing you do really matters in the end. Happy New Year!



Taurus
4.21-5.21

When your Chinese girlfriend's dad keeps refilling your baijiu glass during CNY, don't try and be a hero: Just say no. You may lose face but you will keep your liver. Double the hongbao amount you planned to give.



Gemini
5.22-6.21

You're feeling a little anti-social and moody this month. Change your WeChat handle to your name and ' - away until forever,' and spend every evening guiltily binge-watching whatever TV program Angelababy is starring in on Bilibili.



Cancer
6.22-7.22

Chinese New Year is all about family. Sadly, yours live on the opposite side of the world and don't celebrate the holiday, anyway. Shame. Hang around your neighbor's apartment until they invite you to join in their festivities.



Leo
7.23-8.23

Turn that self-loathing into self-love. Start taking yoga classes but drop out after you realize the teacher only speaks Chinese. Buy a gratitude journal. Throw it out after you're repeatedly at a loss for what to write.



Virgo
8.24-9.23

Become addicted to watching Chinese beauty vloggers but refrain from buying anything they promote. You're too smart for that. Wear active wear every day but never go for a run or step foot in a gym.



Libra
9.24-10.23

Don't worry if you find yourself feeling off-balance. It's to do with the Lunar New Year, or scales, or something. Hit up Oxygen, or Cave Bar, depending on what kind of Libra you are, and you'll be in equilibrium in no time.



Scorpio
10.24-11.22

Your roommates are annoying but leaving aggressive notes on their dirty dishes and throwing loud parties isn't the answer. Neither is advertising for new roommates in all your WeChat groups. Or selling their crap. Bad Scorpio.



Sagittarius
11.23-12.21

Where you at this month, crazy Sag? Someone is looking for you. That someone may or not be your landlord, whom you owe two months of back pay rent. Get your sh*t together.



Capricorn
12.22-1.20

This month is just like Forrest Gump's mom always said: Life is like a box of chocolates; you never know what you're going to get. You know better, though - that movie was problematic AF and robbed *The Shawshank Redemption* of Best Picture.

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