



**SUZHOU SHOWDOWN:
THE MAN BEHIND
THE FIGHT**



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



Drink



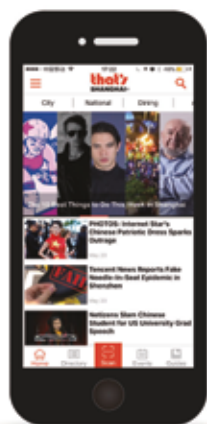
AR



Directory



News



Dining



Events



Around Me



Lifestyle

GO ON, DOWNLOAD IT.



**that's
app**



GORAN MARTINOVIC

The Mind and Muscles behind Suzhou Showdown

A former member of the Croatian national boxing team, Goran Martinovic moved to Suzhou in 2015 to help his brother Marko set up the Suzhou Showdown white-collar boxing events, and last year he opened Black Tie Boxing Academy. With training for the next Showdown starting this month, we caught up with him to find out what it is all about.



What is your background?

I was born in a sports family. My dad won the European handball championships in 1972. He started training me and my older brother Marko boxing when I was just 3 years old. I joined the Croatian national boxing team when I was 17, and I also trained in the national wrestling team. I've fought more than 300 fights all over the world, and taken part in more than 30 wrestling competition.

How did Suzhou Showdown come about?

Marko was coaching a group of people in a gym here. After a while, a friend of his who had fought in a white collar event before gave him the idea to organize something similar in Suzhou. He told me about it, and I came out to China to join him and help get the project going.

How many have you done so far?

This will be our fourth event in May. And this year we will put on events in other cities too.

Nanjing Showdown will be the first to have event beside Suzhou, so there are exciting times ahead of us.

What can people expect on a fight night?

Really good fun and exciting fights in a five-star hotel with a fantastic lake view. We have also had more participants from China at our most recent events, and we are happy to see local citizens getting involved in this interesting sport.

Is Suzhou Showdown your full time gig?

Before 2017, yes. I moved to Suzhou to prepare guys for white collar boxing events. But in 2017 I opened my own boxing gym, Blacktie Boxing Academy. I have a whole team of coaches now.

We do more than train people for the events too; we also have specially designed training programs for people who just want to use boxing as a way to keep fit - women, kids, everyone. I want to build Blacktie

Boxing Academy into a chain.

Do you need boxing experience to sign up for Suzhou Showdown?

No, you just have to be prepared to train hard. You don't even know how to put on a pair boxing gloves, we will teach you everything, starting from basics.

// Training for the Suzhou Showdown starts March 5, with the event scheduled for late May. info@blacktieboxinginternational.com or call 133 7210 1920 for more details. Black Tie Boxing Academy, 5/F 506 Nison City Mall, 205 Suzhou Dadao Xi, by Xingdu Jie, SIP 苏州园区苏州大道西205号尼盛尚品汇5楼506室, 近星都街.



MOD CRAFT BEER TAPROOM

GOOD BEER AND TASTY FOOD

By Tess Humphrys



THE PLACE

Mod Craft Beer Taproom's Incity location is the brand's second foray into Suzhou's craft beer scene. Riding on the success of the original shop at Xietang Laojie, the décor and offerings are similar at both joints.

THE DRINKS & FOOD

Diving right into its core offerings, Mod has a rotating selection of 15 beers and ciders on tap from breweries in China and the US, but for non-beer drinkers, a list of expensive bottled spirits is also available.

The fruity, slightly sweet Zinnbach apple cider and the robust, hoppy Dream Brewers Old Driver IPA (both RMB50/60 for medium/large) were tasty and fresh. With their premium prices (by Suzhou standard), however, these were not drinks to knock back, but to sip and savor. While there are currently no Suzhou-brewed in on the menu, we were offered samples of Mod's own wheat beer, which were made to mark the official opening of the outlet. All signs point to the strong possibility of being able to enjoy some locally brewed goods on tap soon.

In terms of food, expect large portions

pub-style food. The house ground mini burgers (RMB98), which were basically a selection of three sliders (beef, bacon and avocado and chicken) served in brioche buns that lived up to expectations. A pleasantly fruity, spicy sauce gave the mini sandwiches an interesting dimension. The pub fries (RMB48/68 for small/large) were crispy and nicely seasons and accompanied by a delicious herby mayonnaise dip. The only misstep was the kimchi-roasted nachos (RMB58/78 for small/large), as the advertised pungent fermented cabbage flavors were replaced by a touch of sweetness.

THE VIBE

With an industrial-style décor, dim lighting and a chill playlist, this new branch of Mod offers a relaxing ambiance. On a cold weeknight not too long after the official opening, the space was pretty quiet. Once the weather gets warmer, however, we expect to see the sliding doors open up and Mod will transform itself into a great place for some semi-alfresco drinking.

Unit 1020, Incity, 1699 Xiandai Dadao, by Xinghang Jie 现代大道1699号印象城1020商铺, 近星杭街 (512 6621 5559)





YOGA FLY

A Rush of Blood to the Head

By Tess Humphrys

Aerial yoga – or yoga fly as the class is being called at FlipAngels yoga studio – combines acrobatic moves with anti-gravity yoga postures. A typical class sees students suspended off the ground, often upside down, the idea being that by using a silk hammock to support yourself you will find more length in your spine and safer alignment in your postures.

It certainly looks totally Insta-worthy, but can someone with no circus skills manage it?

Instructor Elynn has been teaching yoga for almost a decade but only recently began offering classes at her own studio. The space has a beachy vibe, with bright blues and whites creating a calming environment.

Her class (taught in English) begins with a warm up using the silk to support us as we stretch, which is especially helpful for beginners. The first test comes in our first flip – hooking one leg back through the silk and launching ourselves off our standing leg, upside-down and around. It's pretty nerve-racking and we're not even far off the floor.

Moves become more challenging as the class progresses. More than once we find ourselves hoping that the silk is well-secured



to the ceiling, as we wriggle our way into the different postures and are lifted higher and higher off the ground.

The class culminates with us completely upside down with the silk wrapped around our legs, which are straight up in the air. We can feel our core muscles working hard as we maintain balance, while blood rushes to the head. By the time we bring ourselves upright and back on the ground at the end of the session, the redistribution of blood filled us with a euphoric feeling and a newfound respect for trapeze artists.

FlipAngels Lifestyle Home Decor Store, B1, Xintou Building, 308 Suya Lu, by Xinghai Jie, SIP 苏州市园区苏雅路308号信投大厦B1楼FlipAngels 焕屋邦, 近星海街 (181 1269 8222)



● **Yu Fei'an Art Exhibition: Splendid Creation of Nature**

Known for his famous paintings of flowers and birds, the works of Shandong-born artist Yu Fei'an (1899-1959) are featured in the 'Splendid Creation of Nature' exhibition at the Suzhou Museum.
 // Through Sunday, March 4. Suzhou Museum, 204 Dongbei Jie 东北街204号 (512 6757 5666)



● **League of Astonishing Strings - Voice of North America**

This joint performance courtesy of Ken Lavigne (formerly of The Canadian Tenors), North Shore Celtic Ensemble, Vancouver Island Choir and American music group Touch of Class features a setlist that covers a variety of musical genres from classic pop and opera to reinterpretations of American and Chinese folk music.
 // Friday, March 30, 7.30pm. RMB80-280. Suzhou Culture & Arts Center, 1 Guanfeng Jie, SIP 苏州工业园区观枫街1号 (www.sscac.com.cn)



● **Debussy and Beyond**

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of Claude Debussy's death, the SZSO will be paying tribute to the French composer's work in an intimate setting. Refreshments will be served after the concert.
 // Sunday, March 25, 10.30am and 2pm. RMB100.
 Suzhou Culture & Arts Center, 1 Guanfeng Jie, SIP 苏州工业园区观枫街1号 (www.sscac.com.cn)



● **Notes from Northland Concert by SZSO**

Conducted by Julian Kovatchev, an award-winning musician who has worked with various orchestras throughout Europe over the past three decades and now serving as the music director and conductor-in-residence of Daegu Symphony Orchestra in Korea, the SZSO will serenade the audience with music from Russian composers like Mussorgsky, Tchaikovsky and Shostakovich.
 // Saturday, March 10, 7.30pm. RMB80-580.
 Suzhou Culture & Arts Center, 1 Guanfeng Jie, SIP 苏州工业园区观枫街1号 (www.sscac.com.cn)



● **Yuehu Tai Musical Fountains**

Available every Saturday evening in March (weather permitting), the impressive light show has moved from Jinji Lake in the SIP to this new location.
 // Every Saturday, 7-7.30pm. Free. Suzhou Bay, East Tai Lake. 东太湖苏州湾悦湖台

EVENTS



● Swinging Beethoven by Quintessence Saxophone Quintet

Originally from Germany, this five-man contemporary jazz ensemble specializing in saxophone will bring their signature performances of classical and Baroque music from composers like Bach, Vivaldi, Beethoven, Mozart and Handel.

// Sunday, March 4, 7.30pm. RMB50. Suzhou Polygrand Theatre. 1 Dongyuan Lu 东苑路1号

● Auspicious Omens: Yan Xiaojing Solo Exhibition

Toronto-based Chinese-Canadian contemporary artist Yan Xiaojing showcases her talent in a series of sculptures and installations inspired by elements found in nature, including water droplets, fungi, and insects at the Suzhou Museum.

// Through Sunday, March 4. Suzhou Museum, 204 Dongbei Jie 东北街204号 (512 6757 5666)



● Carmen by Suzhou Ballet Theatre with the SZSO

The Suzhou modern dance troupe's reinterpretation of the 1875 French opera sees the focus of the story being placed on the male protagonist, Don Jose, a naïve soldier who's seduced by the title character and throws away his whole life for his newfound love, but ends up killing her in a jealous rage.

// Saturday, March 17, 7.30pm. RMB80-580. Suzhou Culture & Arts Center, 1 Guanfeng Jie, SIP 苏州工业园区观枫街1号 (www.sscac.com.cn)



● From Mozart to Broadway

Hailed as "opera's coolest soprano" by the New York Times, Australian-American singer Danielle de Niese will be performing with the Lucerne Festival Strings – one of the leading European chamber orchestras – to bring a selection of classical masterpieces and Broadway hits to the audience.

// Sunday, March 11, 7.30pm. RMB100-680. Suzhou Culture & Arts Center, 1 Guanfeng Jie, SIP 苏州工业园区观枫街1号 (www.sscac.com.cn)

Spring is in the Air

DRAGONFLY
HARMONY CITY

DRAGONFLY@HARMONY CITY
Harmony City Mall, Room 3210, Third Floor,
269 Wang Dun Road, SIP, Suzhou

☎ (+86 512) 6763-0486

dragonfly.net.cn

EVERYTHING SUZHOU EVERY. SINGLE. DAY.



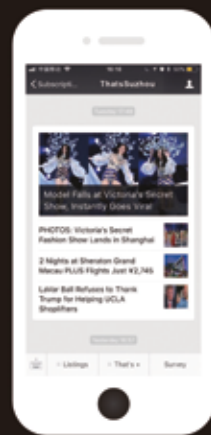
NEWS



EVENTS



FASHION



ART



RESTAURANTS



HEALTH



BARs



CULTURE



NIGHTLIFE



GUIDES



MUSIC



GIVEAWAYS

GO ON, FOLLOW US.

