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As the new editor of *That's Beijing*, I have some pretty big shoes to fill in the *That's* hall of fame. For the past six months, I've worked alongside Noelle Mateer and Dominique Wong, the driving forces behind this magazine's success, and it has been an incredible honor to learn from such dedicated and talented writers. Their wholehearted devotion to each and every issue has been nothing short of inspiring.

But hey, I'm getting emotional over here. And besides, I'm not the only new blood. Our intern, the talented Edoardo Donati Fogliazza is stepping up as Senior Editor. Together, we hope to keep bringing you the latest scoop of all the hip happenings in the city.

Which brings me to this month's cover story (p. 38): With the unstoppable acceleration of technology, Adam Robbins explores the possibilities of augmented reality in China. It sounds wild, I know. But with the hype of *Pokemon Go*, Snapchat filters, virtual reality games (quick shout out to Raffles City for providing quality entertainment for both the players and the viewers, lol) and mind-boggling inventions like Google Glass, the seemingly far-fetched future starts to feel more within reach – maybe more than we'd like to admit.

Elsewhere in the magazine, Edoardo interviews Philipp Grefer of the creative collective WISE, (p. 27); I catch up with J-pop icon KOM_I of Wednesday Campanella before her Beijing show (p. 30); and Andrew Braun checks out new Aussie burger joint Royal Stacks (p. 54).

Until next month,



Valerie Osipov
Editor-in-Chief

We're giving away tickets to some of the very best Beijing parties, openings, shows and talks all month, alongside free meals, drinks, discounts and prizes. All you have to do is scan the QR code below, follow us on WeChat and keep an eye out for your chance to win. You'll get some other great stuff on your phone too.



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DIDI RELAUNCHES WITH IMPROVED SAFETY FEATURES AFTER SECOND MURDER

by Edoardo Donati Fogliazza

It has been a long summer for Didi Chuxing. The ride-hailing company suspended all late night car services for a week last month to restructure its safety measures, after the second case of murder perpetrated by a Didi Hitch driver at the end of August. One of Didi's various ride-sharing services, Hitch let passengers snag a ride with drivers heading in the same direction.

The temporary halt applied to their express, express pool, premier, luxury, reserved and taxi services, all of which were unavailable from 11pm to 5am to the inconvenience of night owls. After the reboot, the app came equipped with an upgraded new emergency button. Users that feel any threat during their ride can easily tap the prominent icon to instantly notify the police or a security contact of their choosing. Moreover, Didi launched

an encrypted sound recorder within the app, which will automatically record audio in the car for the duration of the trip – a condition that must be accepted in order to use the app. The recordings will be deleted after seven days if no dispute over the ride arises.

During the week of the upgrade, millions of users had to resort to alternative solutions to find a ride, as Didi continued to face fierce public criticism online and was even forced to submit to an inspection by the Ministry of Transport and the Central Cyberspace Affairs Commission. In the wake of the scandal, the company suspended Hitch indefinitely and released a fervent apology online through which it addressed criticism and took full responsibility for the recent tragedies. Didi also announced that Hitch's general manager Huang Jieli and customer service operations

vice-president Huang Jinhong were removed from their duties.

While Didi services are operating normally at present – with the exception of Hitch – only time will tell if their latest safety measures prove to be effective or not.

THE BUZZ

GENERATION GAP

How do you see future relations between China and Africa in light of the recent FOCAC Summit that took place in Beijing?

YU, 19



I think the partnership between China and Africa will have a hugely positive impact on both. As a college student, I think it's really generous of the Chinese government to provide so many scholarships to African students. I already have many African classmates, but I would be excited to meet more in the future, as Sino-African relations develop further.

In general, I think this conference acted as a bridge between China and Africa. I used to think they had nothing in common before, but now I'm starting to think it's going to be a promising alliance. One thing I hope is that Africans coming to China might be able to benefit from the opportunities our country offers in the areas of business, trade, finance and education.

ZHANG, 55



I think a lot of TV watchers here in China are very interested in and well informed on this topic. I might not be one of them, but I think Sino-African relationships will definitely improve in the future. And I believe it's not only going to happen on the political level, but also inside society at large, because I feel that we Chinese people don't tend to have a strong ethnic bias.

As told to Yuka Hayashi

RUN, BEIJING, RUN

The runners of the 2018 Beijing Marathon didn't miss the photo op at the starting line, in Tiananmen Square.

photo by Instagram user @natstevens8



Missing in Action

The mystery continues surrounding actress Fan Bingbing, who hasn't appeared in public nor on social media since July 1 of this year. After being at the center of a heated nationwide debate on the Chinese "money worshipping" film industry for months (so heated that it prompted the government to come up with an ad-hoc law to cap actors' paychecks), Fan started to make headlines for her absence instead. Despite her studio denying any wrongdoing and not being formally accused of any crime, the actress – who turned 37 last month – is still nowhere to be seen. As China's biggest movie star, her silence is deafening.





“It’s my responsibility to share, whether people like it or don’t”

Jack Ma told Bloomberg days after he announced his plans to retire as executive chairman of Alibaba Group, the tech giant that redefined Chinese consumer culture - and made him famous around the world. After almost twenty years at the head of the company, China’s richest man said he now wants to go back to teaching, his true passion, and follow the example of Bill Gates by focusing on his Jack Ma foundation for which he said he has special plans in mind.

15 billion

...Is the staggering number of single streams collected by hit iQiyi show *The Story of Yanxi Palace*, that aired its grand finale in September, as reported by online portal Maoyan. Breaking every record, the show gave a fresh update of the well-worn genre of palace intrigue and recently garnered the title of ‘China’s Game of Thrones’. It was also moderately successful overseas, being distributed in 70 countries, and exceeded 1 million views on YouTube, notably a tough platform for Chinese entertainment. If you’re curious but still struggling with your HSK scores, don’t worry: the show is now available with English subtitles. You can also collect the viral WeChat stickers.

that's 2018 HOSPITALITY AWARDS

*Forget the Journey,
Go for the Destination.*

After months of preparation and anticipation, the That's 2018 Hospitality Awards were held on August 30 at the Conrad Guangzhou, the event's first appearance in the Pearl River Delta.

Launched last year, That's Hospitality Awards celebrates the very best of China's diverse and world-class hospitality industry. The ceremony and gala dinner were attended by over 220 prominent personalities from around China, among them hotel professionals, industry suppliers and members of the diplomatic and business community.

The That's 2018 Hospitality Awards party kicked off with a lovely wine and cocktail reception outside the Conrad Guangzhou's grand ballroom. We then moved into the ballroom for the awards ceremony. The ceremony bestowed honors on the most innovative, ambitious and acclaimed hotels in China. Thirty-three awards were given out over 10 categories, with over 100 hotels honored.

A huge thanks to our wine sponsor Summergate Fine Wines, water sponsor FIJI Water, spirit sponsor Camus and our 'Gold Sponsor,' Cathay Pacific and Cathay Dragon Airways. And of course, a major thank you to the team at Conrad Guangzhou for hosting us in their fabulous ballroom!

Without further ado, we give you the winners of the That's 2018 Hospitality Awards.



NEWLY-OPENED HOTEL OF THE YEAR

Bellagio Shanghai
The Sukhothai Shanghai
W Suzhou
The Shanghai EDITION
Dhawa Jinshanling
InterContinental Guangzhou Exhibition
Center
Hyatt Regency Shenzhen Airport

THE MOST HIGHLY ANTICIPATED NEW HOTEL OF THE YEAR

InterContinental Shanghai Wonderland
Le Méridien Hangzhou, Binjiang
InterContinental Zhuhai

NEWLY-OPENED SERVICED APARTMENT OF THE YEAR

Marriott Executive Apartments Hangzhou
Fraser Place Binhai Tianjin
Shama Changfeng Shanghai

THE MOST HIGHLY ANTICIPATED NEW SERVICED APARTMENT OF THE YEAR

Shama Hongqiao Shanghai
Oakwood Apartments Sanya
LN Residence

THE MOST POPULAR HOTEL FOR BUSINESS TRAVELERS

Pudong Shangri-La, East Shanghai
The Westin Bund Center Shanghai
InterContinental Shanghai Expo
Greenland World Center Hotels
Cordis, Shanghai, Hongqiao
Days Hotel Beijing New Exhibition Center
Ascott Macau

THE MOST POPULAR RESIDENCE FOR BUSINESS TRAVELERS

Shanghai Marriott Hotel Pudong East
Jing An Kerry Residences

AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CITY VIEW

Le Royal Méridien Shanghai
The St. Regis Shenzhen

LUXURY SERVICED APARTMENT OF THE YEAR

GTC Residence Beijing
Ascott Raffles City Shenzhen

TRENDY LUXURY HOTEL OF THE YEAR

Conrad Guangzhou

MICE HOTEL OF THE YEAR

Mandarin Oriental Pudong, Shanghai
 Kerry Hotel Pudong, Shanghai
 Sheraton Grand Shanghai Pudong Hotel
 Crowne Plaza Beijing Chaoyang U-Town
 Renaissance Beijing Wangfujing Hotel
 Langham Place, Guangzhou
 LN Garden Hotel, Guangzhou
 Pullman Guangzhou Baiyun Airport
 Marco Polo Shenzhen

NEWLY-OPENED BUSINESS HOTEL OF THE YEAR

Shanghai Marriott Hotel Kangqiao
 Hyatt Place Shanghai Tianshan Plaza

THE MOST HIGHLY ANTICIPATED CO-LIVING APARTMENT OF THE YEAR

Cohost West Bund

NEWLY-OPENED FAMILY-FRIENDLY HOTEL OF THE YEAR

The QUBE Hotel Shanghai Sanjiagang

AWARD FOR EXCELLENT HOTEL MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Suning Hotels & Resorts

LUXURY HOTEL OF THE YEAR

The St. Regis Shanghai Jingan
 Jumeirah Nanjing
 Jing An Shangri-la, West Shanghai
 Four Seasons Hotel Pudong, Shanghai
 Grand Hyatt Shanghai
 Waldorf Astoria Chengdu
 Fairmont Peace Hotel
 Waldorf Astoria Beijing
 W Guangzhou
 The Langham, Shenzhen



HOTEL SPA OF THE YEAR

The Spa at Mandarin Oriental Pudong, Shanghai
 The Spa at Mandarin Oriental, Guangzhou
 FLARE Spa at Four Seasons Hotel Pudong, Shanghai

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One Sunland Serviced Suites Managed by Lanson Place
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FAMILY-FRIENDLY HOTEL OF THE YEAR

Hilton Dalian Golden Pebble Beach Resort
 Hilton Huizhou Longmen Resort
 Hyatt Regency Chongming

BOUTIQUE HOTEL OF THE YEAR

Hotel Indigo Shanghai on the Bund

LANDMARK HOTEL OF THE YEAR

Park Hyatt Shanghai
 Futian Shangri-La, Shenzhen

URBAN RESORT HOTEL OF THE YEAR

Crowne Plaza Shanghai Harbour City
 Sheraton Dameisha Resort Shenzhen

AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING HOSPITALITY DESIGN

Indigo Living

GETAWAY HOTEL OF THE YEAR

Annshe Resort Hotel
 Sunrise Kempinski Hotel Beijing & Yanqi Island
 Hilton Zhoushan

BUSINESS HOTEL OF THE YEAR

Grand Kempinski Hotel Shanghai
 Okura Garden Hotel Shanghai
 Hyatt on the Bund
 Golden Tulip Shanghai Rainbow
 Jinling Hotel

AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING HOTEL DESIGN

The Middle House
 Andaz Xintiandi, Shanghai
 Niccolo Chengdu

FAMILY-FRIENDLY SERVICED APARTMENT OF THE YEAR

Kerry Parkside Residences
 Ascott IFC Guangzhou
 Oakwood Gold Arch Residence Guangzhou

OUTSTANDING HOTEL SWIMMING POOL OF THE YEAR

Rosewood Sanya

ART HOTEL OF THE YEAR

LN Hotel Five, Guangzhou

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Shanghai Jin Jiang Louvre Asia Hotel Management Co., Ltd
 Greenland International Hotels Group

HISTORIC HOTEL OF THE YEAR

Pan Pacific Suzhou

CONTEMPORARY LIFESTYLE HOTEL OF THE YEAR

W Shanghai - The Bund
 NUO Hotel Beijing

OUTSTANDING HOTELIER OF THE YEAR

Ken Chow
 Jimmy Sung
 Florian S. Kuhn
 Marco Avitabile
 Michael Zhu

AWARD FOR EXCELLENT RESIDENCE SERVICE

Parkside Serviced Suites by Lanson Place
 Oak Chateau
 Atlantic Heights
 Beijing Kerry Residence
 Tyms Residence



The official water of the That's 2018 Hospitality Awards







kejin / kè jīn / 氪金 v. to spend a lot of money playing a game, or on in-game purchases

A Ah that guy just killed me! I didn't do anything to him. Why?

Because he can. Look at all the weapons he has. He is a kejin player.

B

A But I want revenge!

Then you better kejin too!

B

In case you missed it in the news, the global economy isn't doing so great right now. Trade wars, tariff wars and currency wars are no fun. However, another kind of wars are all kinds of fun, like *World of Warcraft*, *Battle Royale* or *Clash of the Titans*! Yes, we're talking about games.

Researchers have discovered that the gaming industry does especially well when the economy is tanking and thus unemployment is high. Gaming helps us escape to a world where we have special powers, can buddy up with our best friends and conquer exotic lands, and have fulfilling lives. And the Chinese gaming industry is booming right now, with a USD100 billion domestic market and foreign ones too. Chinese gamers are willing to pay hundreds – sometimes thousands – for features and weapons in games, with per-user spending growing 10 folds year on year which now brings it to 30 percent more than players in the US.

When you drop serious money in an online game, it's called *kejin*. To be clear, we are not talking about the measly 5 yuan spent so you can customize your character's haircut. *Kejin* is dropping one month's rent so your character in the game looks really fly, or has exclusive powers and spells, or even to take your virtual girlfriend out in style.

Those who defend *kejin* say it's okay to spend money to have fun, and virtual fun is just as fun, while those who don't like it say if you always kejin to take your virtual girlfriend out, she'll be the only girlfriend you'll ever have. More cynical players say that the *ke* in *kejin* comes from the word "lesson." Since *jīn* means money, *kejin* means "lessons you pay for," meaning you'll regret doing it but hopefully learn to do better next time.

If you don't kejin, it might take you months to get to the same level as the kejin players. The things you toil for, other players can just kejin and get instantly, just like in real life. Wait a minute... We thought games were supposed to be our escape?!

Well, at least happiness is guaranteed in games when you pay. Another round of *Honor of Kings*, anyone? **Mia Li**



TREAT YOURSELF AT SHANGRI-LA TIANJIN

Shangri-la Hotel, Tianjin invites you to make yourself at home at one of the most refined establishments in the city. From first glance, it's clear that a commitment to perfection is the defining trait inside the Shangri-la Hotel. Take the opulent lobby, filled with works of contemporary Chinese artists, or the beautifully crafted wooden furniture that populates its 304 contemporary guest rooms and 79 fully serviced apartments — everything is made to stimulate your senses for an epicurean experience like no other.

During your stay, Shangri-la Hotel, Tianjin also invites you to try its excellent dining op-

tions, from the delectable Cantonese cuisine and Tianjin specialties offered at the Shang Palace to Café Yun's international buffet extravaganza and of course, the elegant afternoon tea offered at the Lobby Lounge.

Work off those exquisite treats with a refreshing dip in the spectacular resort-style swimming pool featuring underwater music or pay a visit to the spacious Health Club, equipped with all the fitness equipment you may need such as complimentary weights and studio classes. Looking to indulge a bit more? Blow off some steam at CHI, The Spa, equipped with 10 private suites for heavenly pampering



ADVERTORIAL



treatments.

Shangri-La Hotel, Tianjin also offers facilities specially designed for banquets and meetings — the highlight being the spacious Grand Ballroom, featuring a foyer and enormous windows that provide fantastic views overlooking the Haihe river. Become a Horizon Club member and unlock the luxe Horizon Club Lounge on the 32nd floor, where guests can enjoy an even more lavish experience. Members will also have access to services like express check-in and check-out. Join now to make your stay at Shangri-la, Tianjin even more memorable!

Learn more and book your stay at www.shagri-la.com/tianjin

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Dining Service

Meals on board are crafted with fresh, seasonal ingredients, neatly presented and personalized to fit every customer’s needs. Discover new dishes from all over the world on their international and transatlantic flights, from breakfast to dinner, with snack services offered on several flights as well.

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LIFE & STYLE



CAFE SOCIETY

A woody, contemporary cafe in
Guangzhou p20



Timeless Style
p18



Smash Hit
p19



Explore Urumqi
p22

CHARLOTTA GANDOLFO

Entrepreneur and Designer

Interview by Dominic Ngai

Originally from Sweden, Charlotta Gandolfo launched her eponymous womenswear label a little more than a year ago in Shanghai. Bringing a minimalist touch to traditional resortwear, Gandolfo's dresses are inspired by her upbringing and adventures around the world.

What's the inspiration behind your brand?

I design for internationally-minded women who travel. I decided to create the brand because there wasn't really anything that caters to us and our needs: versatile clothes that are both elegant and effortless and made with high-quality material.

What is Scandinavian resortwear?

Growing up in Scandinavia, my taste is influenced by the minimalistic aesthetic from the region. This allows me to bring a unique perspective and an understated tone to resortwear, a category dominated by cultural designs and material. With my designs, you can dress up or dress down for different occasions, and they're versatile enough to transition from beaches to the streets of urban metropolises.

What occasions are your dresses most suitable for?

For us, resort is neither a season nor a place, but a state of mind. With an air of playfulness and ease, my dresses aren't only for being worn at a specific place – it's an aesthetic, or a mood. I've seen my customers wear them at weddings, nightclubs in Ibiza, swimming pools of resorts, casual dinners with friends, date nights, parties, attending red carpet events and even during their



travels to exotic destinations. Basically, any time when you want to have a good time is a good occasion.

How has the customer feedback been since you launched your brand last September?

The customers love it. Despite having produced a large quantity, everything sold out quickly and now there is a waiting list for most of the items for the summer collection.

What are your bestselling items at the moment, and why do you think they're so popular?

One of the most popular is the Slip Dress, which looks simple, but the cut makes every woman look amazing when wearing it. I have several customers who bought it in every color because it's so easy to wear and very comfortable. Another one is the Biker Jacket, a sequin jacket in pale gold or snake-skin that adapts the brand's design concept for fall and winter. My customers wear it as an evening jacket with a statement skirt, or with jeans, sneakers and a tee for a chic and casual look.

What's your personal favorite item from your collection, and what accessories would you pair with it?

I love all items in my collection but an outfit I wear a lot is the Black Jerry Silk Jacket and the Black Silk Harem pants, that I usually pair with black simple pointy flats during the day, and metallic heels and clutch at night. I also wear the Grace Maxi Skirt and the white silk tank top a lot. They're perfect for hanging out at my country house in the Stockholm archipelago, as well as for attending a Mediterranean wedding. The Flora Sandal in Pink Gold from the collection goes very well with this fabric.

What's next for the brand?

This winter, I'm adding gorgeous knitted silk essentials – think cardigans and shrugs – to my collection. I'm also working with a friend, an Italian female artist, to develop the next generation of metallic jacquard pattern as well as a new delicate floral print. In addition, some of the world's most exclusive resorts are reaching out to me to sell my collection in their shops. There's a lot to look forward to.

Find out more at charlottagandolfo.com

STYLE RADAR

UNDER THE LENS

ANGEL CHEN'S NYFW DEBUT



Last month, Shenzhen-born designer Angel Chen made her debut at New York Fashion Week to showcase her SS19 collection. The Central Saint Martins alum wowed the audience with her penchant for loud colors, bold patterns and cultural elements, which all take center stage in her latest work.

> nyfw.com/tmall-china-day-angel-chen

COVET



New Women's Watch Collection by Kate Wood

Known for their watches, sunglasses and bicycles made with natural wood and bamboo, Shanghai-born lifestyle brand Kate Wood has been busy planning its expansion to Bali and Amsterdam while simultaneously working on a new three-piece collection of women's watches. Named after European cities – Geneva, Vienna and Turin – all three feature wooden cases and leather straps of different colors, as well as a touch of metallic finishing.

> katewood.com

OVERHEARD

"Can I get a mantou with that?"

So wrote one Weibo user in response to the Lao Gan Ma hoodie that went viral during last month's Tmall China Day event during New York Fashion Week. Tao Huabi, the 71-year-old founder of the world famous Guizhou-style chili sauce, became an unlikely fashion sensation overnight after the sauce's logo (her face) was emblazoned onto hundreds of bright red sweaters and sold at a pop-up shop. These sweaters are also available via Tmall for approximately RMB130 each. Get them while they're hot.

> tmall.com





Guangzhou-born, London-based fashion designer Wanbing Huang launched her eponymous label back in 2016, and has since become a regular at Shanghai Fashion Week and other high-profile shows around the world. This season, however, the Central Saint Martins grad has decided to rename her brand 'AT-ONE-MENT', and the first collection under this new label was unveiled on Sep 30 during Paris Fashion Week. The three-hour-long presentation was accompanied by an installation created by Chris Cheung, where the duo explored new possibilities of blending the mediums of fashion and art.

wanbinghuang.co.uk

SCENE&HEARD



SMASH

Have you ever had the urge to – oh, I don't know, just spitballing here – say, smash a TV with a spiked baseball bat? What if we told you that there was a place where you could do just that? Tap into all that rage burning inside you and unleash your dark side at Smash, Beijing's first-ever 'deconstructotherapy' center in 798. The cutting-edge brainchild of the guys that brought you Palms L.A. and Taco Stop, this installation is all about good old-fashioned stress release and since its grand opening, it's been a smashing success. Solo sessions start at RMB220 and go up to RMB700 for a bigger squad – a modest price to pay for a room, a safety suit and a bin full of glass goodies to do with whatever you please. For fervent spenders, you can upgrade your "weapons" and opt for big-ticket items like lamps, printers and old flatscreen TVs. Also on offer: refreshers like unusual energy drinks (RMB12-22) and Slow Boat brews (RMB35-40). So go bananas. Just maintain a small dose of civility and don't start smashing the wall, OK?

Daily 12-8pm, North of Qixing Zhong Jie, 798 Art Zone, Chaoyang, 朝阳区798艺术区七星中街北口 (Add them on WeChat at SMASHBeijing for more info)

DARK COFFEE

A Charred Wooden
Hideaway in
Guangzhou

Words by Dominic Ngai, Photos by Cao Haochang

Project name: .jpg Cafe
Location: Tianhe district, Guangzhou
Area: 24 square meters
Design company: Infinity Nide
> infinitynide.com

The brief: Located in Guangzhou's Zhukong International Center, the design of .jpg Cafe is inspired by the fast-paced and pressurized life-style of the city. Inside the small 24-square-meter space, charred reclaimed wood pieces of various lengths jut out from the ceiling and walls to create an almost claustrophobic atmosphere around the shop while bringing visual focus to its centerpiece – the coffee bar.





▲ A rectangular concrete coffee-making station sits in the middle of the room. There are no seats or tables available in this grab-'n-go concept.

▲► The cafe's bright yellow entrance serves as a strong color contrast with the building's metallic exterior.

▼ The walls and ceiling of jpg Cafe are covered with reclaimed pine wood pieces that have been blackened after a carbonation process.



▲ A barista shows off his craft at the bar counter amid a sea of blackened wood pieces assembled in a seemingly random manner.

BLAZERS

Colorful Takes on the Classic Jacket

Compiled by Dominic Ngai



H&M
RMB799
HM.COM



ZARA
RMB399
ZARA.CN



HENRIK VIBSKOV
RMB3,682
HENRIKVIBSKOVBOUTIQUE.COM

Blazers, sport coats, suit jackets - no matter what you call them, fashion labels are bringing their own creative spin on the classic silhouette with a vibrant mix of prints, patterns and bold colors. Here are some of our favorites.



H&M
RMB329
HM.COM



ZARA
RMB299
ZARA.CN

HER

OF GLORY



SUITSUPPLY
RMB3,580
SUITSUPPLY.COM



HIM

SACAI
RMB7,245
FARFETCH.CN



MOSCHINO
RMB4,024
FARFETCH.CN



ETRO
RMB7,926
FARFETCH.CN



BEAMS
RMB1,250
BEAMS.CO.JP

A TRIP TO UIRUMQI

Discover the Dramatic Landscape and Delicious Food of Xinjiang

Compared to places like Shanghai and Beijing, Urumqi in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region rarely gets the spotlight for being a hot tourism destination in China. Nevertheless, this city is as mesmerizing as many other major cities.

Geographically positioned along the historic Silk Road, Urumqi has long been a melting pot of different cultures. Composed of Uyghur, Hui Muslim, Kazakh, Manchu, Mongols and more ethnic minority groups, the modestly sized old town is packed with a vast array of business establishments. From street vendors selling aromatic local bread to traditional musical instrument stores, there is so much to see and taste in this vibrant place.

Landmarks



XINJIANG UYGHUR AUTONOMOUS REGION MUSEUM

For a dose of insider knowledge of Xinjiang's natural history and ethnographic makeup, head to the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region Museum. There's a remarkable collection of mummies, most remarkably the 'Loulan Beauty,' which dates back to 1,800BC. Although not intentionally mummified, these bodies have been precariously preserved by the nearby desert for centuries until their excavation in the 1980s.



NANG BREAD

Nang is the culinary backbone for the Uyghur community. While it only has one name in Chinese, nang comes in all shapes and forms: from the donut-shaped buns that resemble a bagel to the gigantic flatbreads, they can easily fill up entire families for dinner. The breads are traditionally baked in tonur stoves, and you can see people carrying stacks of these home around the old town area.

THE INTERNATIONAL GRAND BAZAAR

This iconic complex is a place you must visit in Urumqi. Built in 2003, International Grand Bazaar houses a myriad of vendors selling produce and tradition handicrafts and souvenirs. The nearby square also serves as the stage for ethnic dance and music performances, including a recital of the 12 muqams commencing at 8pm every evening.

TIANSHAN MOUNTAINS

The formidable Tianshan or 'heavenly mountains' flanking the southern edge of Urumqi is an easy one-hour drive from the city. With the highest peak reaching an altitude of nearly 7,500 meters, Tianshan and its dramatic snow-capped terrains are well-worth visiting for excursionists, while faint-hearted travelers can still drive up the National Forest Park and snap a breathtaking view at Tianchi ('heavenly lake').



THE TURPAN BASIN

A three-hour drive away from Urumqi lies the old town of Turpan. Engulfed by the Turpan Basin (also known as the Death Valley of China), temperatures here can reach a meter-breaking 50 degrees Celsius in July and August. But don't let that put you off from visiting the historic Jiaohe Ruins (or 'Yarkhoto'), which remains one of the region's largest and most well-reserved ancient citadel.

Flights depart daily from Beijing to Urumqi and are approximately 4 hrs each way.



MUTTON POLO

You can find mutton polo – tender spiced lamb chops served with rice – in almost every alleyway around the city. This hearty dish is garnished with shredded carrot and sometimes apricot for sweetness, and cooked in a sizable pot that easily serves a dozen eaters. A small plate of finely sliced and pickled carrots is a common pairing to add a touch of zing to the palate.



PEPPERED CHICKEN

This dish is a common sight at Hui Muslim family restaurants behind the Grand Bazaar. The chicken comes in halves or whole, and is braised until it's tender before getting tossed with finely sliced red onions and marinated in a piquant chili-peppercorn sauce. The taste is fresh and pleasantly numbing, and is suitable for those with a penchant for Sichuan dishes.



Food

ARTS



PILLOW TALK

Ten things you didn't know about the soul-pop artist Sam Smith, p34



Wednesday Campanella
p30



Blossoms
p34



New Albums
p36

PHILIPP GREFER

Founder of WISE, and
Co-founder of
FakeMusicMedia & NEU

Interview by Edoardo Donati Fogliazza

FakeMusicMedia is one of the most respected and well-known record labels in China. Having booked the likes of Röyksopp, Hot Chip or Faithless while managing domestic artists like Nova Heart, SHAO and The Hormones, their co-founder Philipp Grefer has gone on to develop a conference exploring the intersection of creativity, business, science and technology. Under the name WISE, on October 26, they'll partner with UCCA, a leading Chinese contemporary art museum. Grefer discusses telling his parents what he does, AI, and how technology affects the music ecosystem.

What's it been like bringing Chinese musicians to the international stage with your label FakeMusicMedia?

When we started FMM in 2008 it was an absolute novelty to tour a Chinese band abroad or bring international acts to China. So when we took electro punk outfit Pet Conspiracy to Berlin, Cologne, Barcelona and Budapest, it was big news back here. They also played a legendary gig at one of the first editions at Hong Kong's Clockenflap festival – every year when I go, people still ask me about it. Then, unfortunately, lead singer (and FMM co-founder) Helen Feng quit the band. We were just in Istanbul where we met Rodion, who would go on to become the producer of Nova Heart's first album, so we put all our focus on this new project. Now Nova Heart is one of the best-known Chinese indie bands here and abroad.

When we got a full page in Germany's most important newspaper, I could finally tell my parents what I was doing all that time in China. Now we have our new signing, The Hormones from Chengdu, playing in Australia in November. It's their first time playing outside of China, so that's quite exciting.



What started you thinking about combining music and technology?

It probably all started with Kraftwerk. When I was studying in California in the mid-2000s, you could already see that music was one of the first industries to be disrupted by tech. Companies like Spotify, Tencent, Apple or YouTube play an increasingly important role in the music ecosystem. But also, how music is produced has changed drastically. AI can now write music by itself, and it might soon be produced in VR or AR.

Tell our readers about your most recent endeavor, WISE.

I wanted to create something where I can make good use of all the experience I've gathered in the last three decades and surround myself with people who are smarter than me. I studied political science, economics and history, worked in media, PR, a government agency, a gaming company, as an entrepreneur, and have been lucky enough to be one of the few foreigners involved in the Chinese music industry. It's like a think tank for millen-

nials, where we try to find answers to how we want to live in the future.

What should we expect from the upcoming WISE event?

WISE is a platform for big ideas as well as practical knowledge. It's all about learning, for your job, for life, in a fun and inspiring way. It's about looking at the world from different perspectives and having them clash to create new insights.

We have a wide range of speakers at the crossroads of creativity and tech. We'll talk about China's emerging youth cultures, the state of the electronic music scene, hip hop, voguing, and where design is heading in the future.

Your career spanned several disciplines and industries. What advice do you have for aspiring polymaths?

Try to stay ahead of AI, use your full human and creative potential to do so and enjoy your life.

wisenotwise.com; fakemusicmedia.com

COLLAGE

COMING SOON



★ SEPTEMBER 30 ★

Shadow

Director Zhang Yimou brings to the screen a story of struggle and survival in a film that translates the visual style of traditional ink painting into a new kind of art. Set in the Three Kingdoms Period, an exiled king goes up against his doppelganger in a fight to reclaim his land and his title. Having been screened at multiple film festivals in the past year, this will be the official public release of the action packed tale of darkness and redemption.



★ OCTOBER 16 ★

Brothers of the Wind

After the death of his mother, a teenage boy named Lukas (Manuel Camacho) struggles to navigate his relationship with his grieving father (Tobias Moretti). As the two grow further apart, Lukas increasingly turns to nature to find his own path, upon which he discovers an abandoned baby eagle. What ensues is a coming of age story of growth, perseverance and the relentless pursuit of freedom.

TRANSCRIBED

“This AI’s heart is too dark, the music is shallow”



a QQMusic user said of AI composer, AIVA's, newly released album of Chinese music. While Aiva Technologies SRL's music writing AI technology isn't new, its foray into East Asian art certainly is. Their eponymous program has been composing music through 'studying' the works of Bach, Beethoven, Mozart and other canonical greats. Recently, 'she' chose to switch up her musical styling and released an album of Epcot-esque, Chinese-inspired classical music, which you can find on Spotify, Apple Music and QQ Music. AIVA's Chinese name, 艾媧 (Aiwā), was specifically chosen because of its relationship to the terms 'elder,' suggesting knowledge, and 'Nüwa,' the mother goddess of Chinese mythology. Impressive as it sounds, it seems the AI sister from another mister may have yet to fully grasp the taste of audiences in the Middle Kingdom.



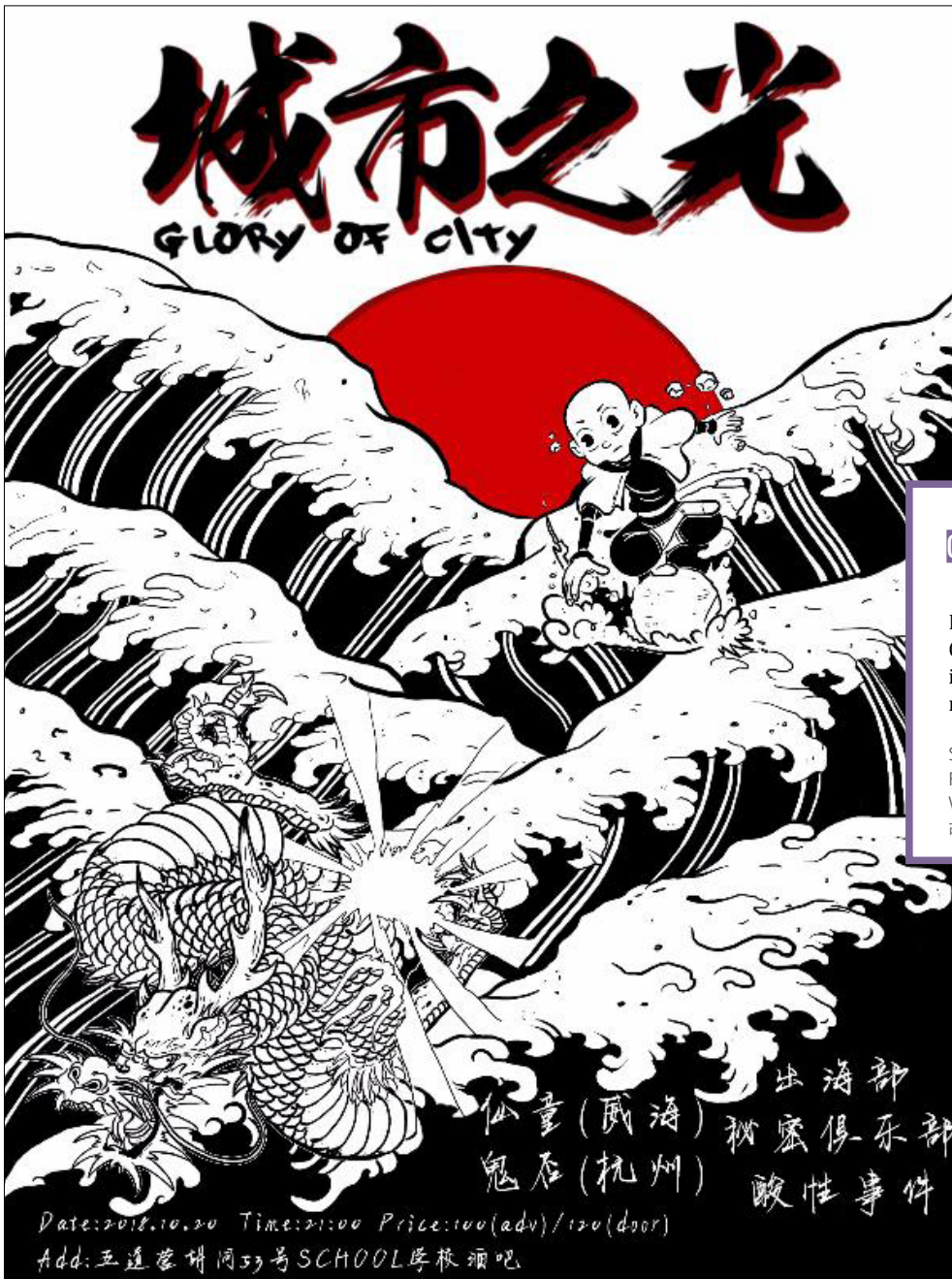
HAO

Twenty-one out of 324 films being screened at the 2018 Busan International Film Festival were either partially or completely filmed in China. While some of the nominees have already made it to theaters, like Chinese blockbuster *Dying to Survive* like *The Island*, directed by Huang Bo, will be making their debut on the global stage. These films will air alongside a roster of representatives from 28 countries, in a nine-day celebration of emerging talent in Asia.



BU HAO

With the announcement of a *Crazy Rich Asians* sequel set to be filmed in Shanghai and Hong Kong, Chinese audiences are still left waiting on the first film. The movie, featuring an all-Asian cast, was a smashing success worldwide, though currently has no release date in China. Here's hoping it hits theaters here soon.



GIG POSTER OF THE MONTH

Put on by local promoters Drunkard, Glory of City showcases the most exciting local music talent. Expect a lively night of post-rock and sweat.

Sat Oct 20, 9pm; RMB100 (advance), RMB120 (door); School Live Bar, 53 Wudaoying Hutong, Chaoyang 朝阳区 五道营胡同53号 (6402 8881)

Our favorite tracks from artists playing in Beijing this month. For full nightlife and gig listings, visit thatsmags.com

THE PLAYLIST

'Audrey' (2017)
Wednesday Campanella

This bubbly club banger by the unconventional J-pop trio will make it impossible to sit still.

'How Long Will This Last?' (2018)
Blossoms

The UK band's spirited single from their latest album beams with glorious '80s pop synths.

'For the Girl' (2006)
The Fratellis

Nostalgia hits hard with this punchy throwback by the enthusiastic Scottish indie rockers.

'Baby, You Make Me Crazy' (2017)
Sam Smith

Pop crooner Sam Smith gets emotional but stays upbeat in this brass-infused breakup anthem.

'TARINAI' (2017)
ZOMBIE-CHANG

Groove to the heavy-hitting anthemic beat and sparkly synths in this jam from Japan's dance pop oddball.

'Body Language' (2017)
Tennyson feat. Aloe Blacc

This playful, jazzed up tune by the brother-sister soultronica duo features R&B artist Aloe Blacc.

BAMBOO PRINCESS

Wednesday Campanella's KOM_I Talks Fashion and Dancing Herself Clean

by Valerie Osipov

It's pouring out. In the middle of the stage, a spherical figure made of gold foil flitters as it fills with air. The music has already started and seems to build with the rain, though the crowd at Beijing's Strawberry Music Festival has long forgotten about their muddy shoes and cold, dripping ponchos. Everyone is fixated on the stage, scanning every corner hoping to steal a glimpse of KOM_I before she makes her grand appearance.

The trendy frontwoman of Japanese dance-pop group Wednesday Campanella is notorious for her quirky and unconventional live performances. She surely doesn't disappoint this time – the glistening foil orb slowly opens, unveiling KOM_I's dollish face as she peers out at the unsuspecting crowd with delight.

Her vibrant stage presence can be compared to that of Icelandic indie enigma Björk and is nothing short of mesmerizing – wide-eyed fans stand hypnotized as the vivacious pop pixie prances across the stage, fluidly moving with her music. Though out of the spotlight, she admits she's quite the opposite. "I'm not really [an] energetic person. [My] performance is [like] washing myself. It sounds cheesy but [it's a] ritual session for [myself] and the audience."

The group consists of two other members, Kenmochi Hidefumi and Dir.F, who are long-time friends and collaborators. From their first club gig together in Tokyo to landing slots at festivals overseas – such as Tyler, the Creator's Camp Flog Gnaw Carnival in Los Angeles last year – Wednesday Campanella is well on the way to becoming an international sensation. But if you ask KOM_I, she still feels tiny.

Bold, electric hits like 'Audrey' and 'Aladdin' from their sophomore release *Superman* playfully push the boundaries of bubblegum pop, enhanced with bouncy club beats that are dangerously danceable, while more surreal techno tracks like 'Melos' and 'The Bamboo Princess,' from their most recent album *Galapagos*, experiment with traditional sounds and showcase the purity of KOM_I's angelic voice.

"When I write, [I] like to preserve [a] scene or emotion I had before," the singer-songwriter says, stating that she embraces all vibes as inspiration and the transformations they bring. "We are always changing, like liquid." She does just that on her tracks, organically progressing from delicate vocals to edgy rap verses.

Recently, the band gained even more exposure after being featured on Scottish

synth-pop trio CHVRCHES' new single 'Out of My Head,' which KOM_I wrote some lyrics for. "They found me very early. I made them [wait] for [a] long time but they [were] very nice and patient! Real superstars."

Aside from being a music icon, the charming oddity is a fashion force as well, having been voted one of *Vogue Japan's* 'Women of the Year' in 2017. "My current mood is '90s b*tch,'" says KOM_I (though confesses that she never leaves the house without her wireless headphones.) "And I'm following many Chinese girls on Instagram. I'm really inspired [by] them because their fashion is fearless and they have [the] energy of [a] young country. I feel like China is [both the] oldest and youngest country."

Wednesday Campanella's China tour includes stops in Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Shanghai. Though it's not her first time, KOM_I is excited to see some new places in each city by day – especially Shanghai as she's eager to go to Disneyland – and hit the club scene by night.

"And hotpot! I would love to have hotpot after clubbing."

Fri Oct 19, 8.30pm; RMB300 (advance), RMB360 (door); Tango (see Listings for details, visit 247tickets.com to purchase)



**“I would love to have
hotpot after clubbing.”**

10 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT

SAM SMITH



As Sam Smith prepares to take the stage at Beijing's Cadillac Arena, *That's* has dug up some facts on the emotionally expressive master of pop songs for the brokenhearted. Time to hit the books and get ready for his The Thrill of It All World Tour.

1 When he was 22, Smith lost 14 pounds in 14 days. While he admits he still struggles with his weight, he currently maintains it by doing intermittent fasting, avoiding bread and working out regularly.

2 He scored an unexpected win at the 2015 BET Awards, which celebrate African American musicians and entertainers, in the Best New Artist category.

3 Smith won an Oscar for Best Original Song in 2016, but said in his acceptance speech that he was the first gay person to win an Oscar. Elton John called him out on it at the after party, to which he apologized profusely.

4 His parents told him that he's related to pop star Lily Allen, which the 'Smile' singer later confirmed on Twitter. Allen's brother, Game of Thrones actor, Alfie, initially questioned their connection, but they are in fact distant cousins.

5 Smith held a royal-themed 26th birthday party in Portugal as it fell on the same day as Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's wedding.

6 Smith once skipped school to go to a Lady Gaga concert. He forged a letter from his father on the library computer stating he had to go to a funeral. While all could've been perfect, he made the rookie mistake of forgetting to log out of his account, leading the librarian to discover the note.

7 The singer is very open about his affinity for partying and drinking. On *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon*, Smith said he once threw up in his hand at a Sydney bar after taking a shot of tequila.

8 Smith hates karaoke and will only ever sing Fifth Harmony's songs ('Work from Home' is his go-to song). During his Carpool Karaoke session, James Corden hooked him up with the popular American girl group and they had a blast.

9 'Money on My Mind' might be one of Smith's most popular singles, but the singer once admitted he hates the song.

10 When he won Record of the Year and Song of the Year for 'Stay with Me' at the 2015 Grammys, he thanked the guy who broke his heart.

Thu Oct 25, 7.30pm; RMB480-1880; Cadillac Arena, 69 Fuxing Road, Haidian 海淀区复兴路69号凯迪拉克中心 (for tickets, visit 247tickets.com)

IN FULL BLOOM



Blossoms on Touring with Noel Gallagher and the New Record

by Valerie Osipov

Glittering synths, triumphant riffs and catchy, sing-along vocals – these are all characteristics of the supreme sounds of '80s glam rock and pop. Stockport indie rockers Blossoms pay ode to these very sounds.

With the release of their self-titled debut album, the synth-pop quintet found itself at the top of the UK Albums Chart. The lush record is a sonic emblem of the greatest hits era, notably revolutionized by rock-goes-disco bands like The Killers and Arcade Fire. Euphoric singles like 'Charlemagne' and 'At Most a Kiss' are glossed with starry, synth-soaked melodies and exuberant vocals,

while 'Blown Rose' and 'Honey Sweet' take a more soft and silvery approach.

"We definitely want to sound modern and current, but our core influences and the music we grew up loving will always find their way into the songs," says lead vocalist Tom Ogden.

In fact, the UK group got a bit nostalgic recently with a live rendition of Madonna's 'La Isla Bonita,' and Ogden says they wouldn't be opposed to covering some ABBA hits, if the opportunity to play with a full band setup arose.

Their recent sophomore release *Cool Like*

You followed in the footsteps of the first, chock full of high-powered anthems like 'How Long Will This Last?' and 'There's A Reason Why (I Never Returned Your Calls)' – proving that Blossoms has the formula down pat.

In addition to Ogden, the remaining members consist of bassist Charlie Salt, lead guitarist Josh Dewhurst, drummer Joe Donovan and keyboardist Myles Kellock.

They're all close, despite the tense Twitter feud that took place earlier this year between Ogden and Donovan, which was actually a staged publicity stunt before the



release of the new record. And it worked like a charm – both fans and media outlets anxiously began to anticipate a potential breakup, so much so that Blossoms even launched a free helpline for concerned listeners, answered with a prerecorded message by Dewhurst offering words of comfort. In reality, collaborating as longtime friends has never been very challenging for the band.

"It's always come really naturally to us," Ogden says. "We trust each other and we have a level of honesty that you would never get from anyone else."

The accomplished musician says his most prized record is *(What's the Story) Morning Glory?* by influential '90s rock band Oasis, and credits this as the album that forever shaped his songwriting. As fate would have it, this past April, Blossoms found themselves touring Europe with Noel Gallagher, the enigmatic Oasis frontman himself. "His songs are the reason I started writing myself, so to go on a month-long tour, having a drink with him and listening to [those] songs every night – it doesn't get much better."

Blossoms make their China debut in Beijing and Shanghai early November. Fans

can expect a bold live performance from the group, as the new album is laden with booming tracks. "We knew when we were writing and recording this [new album], we wanted to have more songs that would take the live set up a level," says Ogden.

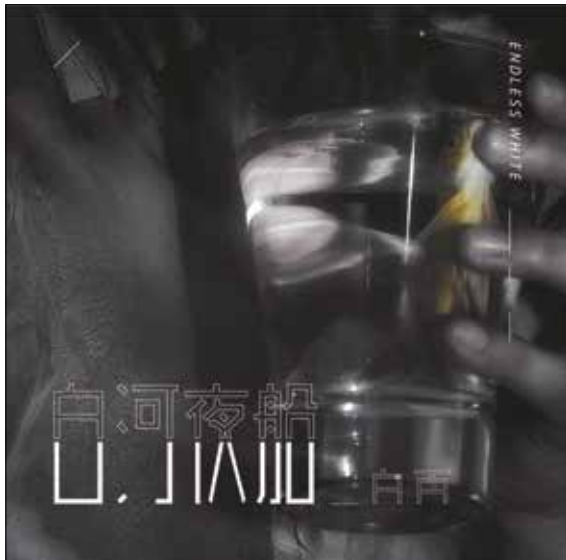
"Since we've been playing these songs, the pace of the set has gone up and the energy on stage is better than ever."

Fri Nov 2, 9pm; RMB220 (presale), RMB280 (door); Omni Space, B103 Tianqiao Arts Center, Xiachen Square, Xicheng 西城区天桥艺术中心下沉广场B103 (for tickets, visit 247tickets.com)

FOR THE RECORD

Three New Homegrown Albums on Our Radar This Month

by Sarah Forman



FLOW WEST TO YOU

by Endless White

Xi'an-based Endless White have released their first album in two years. While they've been around since 2015, they've swapped out a few of the original members, making for a new four-piece that is really cementing their sound. Signed to Ruby Eyes Records, their shoegazey guitars, high-pitched vocals, and frenetic power chords make for a 10-track dreamy kind of heartbreak. The indie rock band's most recent album is more focused with stronger production values to back it up. With each song featuring vocalist Zhang Wanyi more predominantly than their 2016 release, *Flow West to You* is bright and bittersweet, giving you all the feels from the inside out.

Listen here: endlesswhite.bandcamp.com/album/flow-west-to-you

YOYOGI

by Kaygeecii

Harsh lyrics can be heard on Kaygeecii's second EP *Yoyogi*. The third song "-w-" sports the lyric "I found your b*tch on Tinder, she called me little Bieber," but the only thing this Beijing-based rapper has in common with the Canadian banned from entering the country is an affinity for Ferraris. It starts out with heavy, trappy beats, followed by old school hip-hop splicing, and ends with the track 'Savagest,' which pays homage to British rapper Tricky's haunting, slow pacing. Despite its length, the four-track EP showcases a diverse range of rap produced by YUNGDOWN and an entertaining array of styles from the capital's underground scene.

Listen here: kaygeecii.bandcamp.com/releases



AERODYNAMICS

by Parachutes on Fire

Parachutes on Fire have landed their latest album. All of their groovy, psychedelic tracks boast aviation-centric lyrics and titles. 'Holiday' has a beachy, piña colada-craving vibe, whereas "Tailspin" takes cues from classic, Space Age 60s rock. The band's members are veterans of the Shanghai music scene, and their bold harmonies and appreciation for acoustic guitar bring elements of folk into the mix. Smooth sailing!

Listen here: parachutesonfire.bandcamp.com/album/aerodynamics





**Martin Wehmer,
'Qi'**

Through Nov 18, Pékin
Fine Arts

**Cao Fei, 'A
Hollow in a World
Too Full'**

Through Dec 9, UCCA



Gillian Ayres, untitled

Through Nov 15, PIFO Gallery

PICK OF SIX ART

EXHIBITIONS

For gallery information visit www.thatsmags.com/beijing



**He An, Liu Wei and
others, 'Entropy'**

Through Feb 24, 2019,
Faurtschou Foundation Beijing



**Yan Jiechang, 'Sixs
Two Zen'**

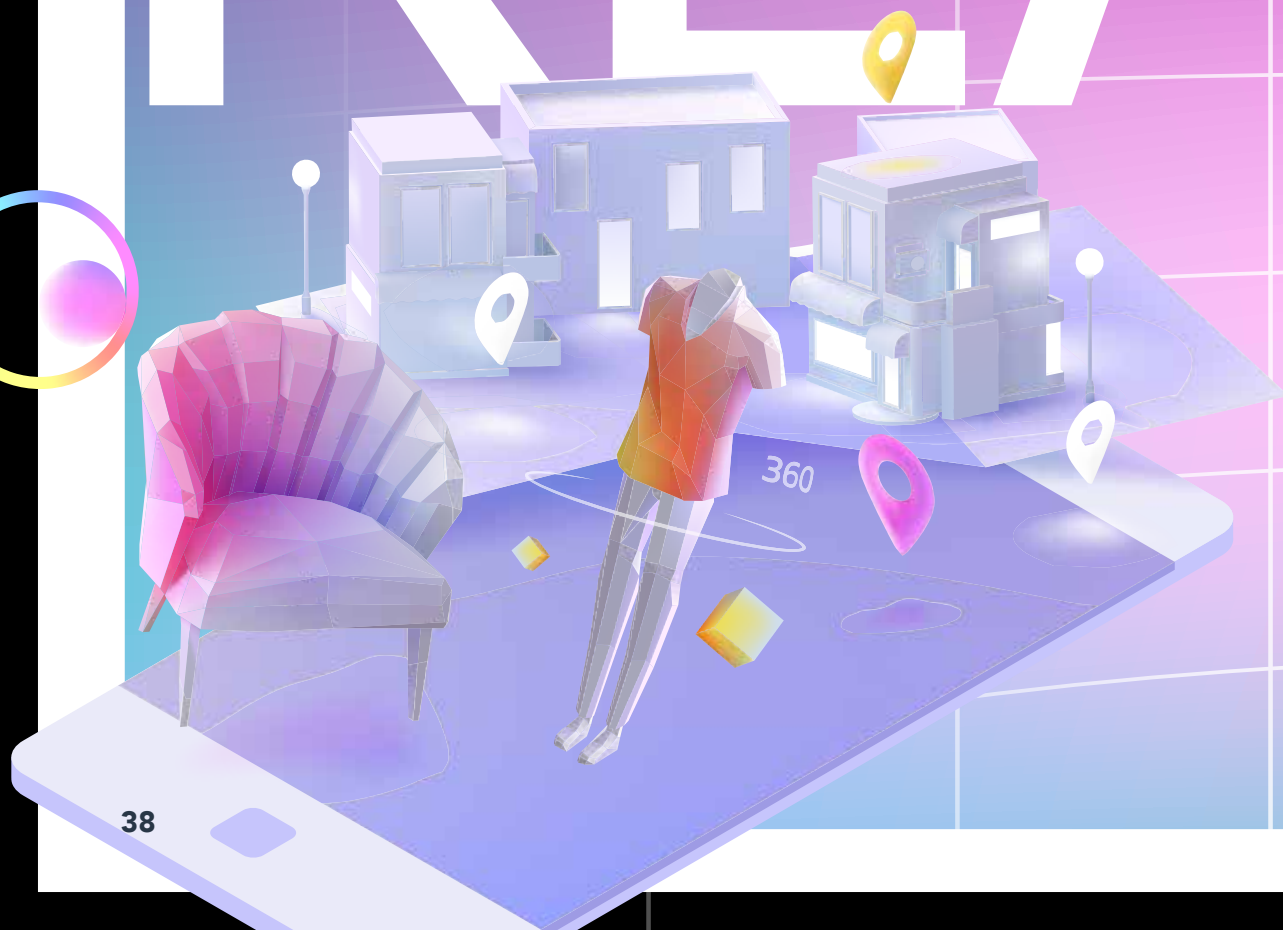
Through Oct 18, Tang
Contemporary Art

**Vivien Zhang,
'Codescape'**

Through Oct 28, Long
March Space



REMI REAL



FIXED CITY

China's Tech Firms Go Through the Looking Glass

words by Adam Robbins
illustrations by Dave Alber
graphics by Iris Wang

YOUR WORLD AS NEVER SEEN BEFORE

Technology progresses by leaps and bounds, radically changing everything. It frees us from our fossil fuel addiction; it even filters out the poisons and excess carbon in our air. Our livestock are spared as we grow fake meat that's actually appetizing. Ever-smarter robots do the heavy lifting and free us from our tedium. We expand our minds, internalize our technology or change our DNA to achieve impossible things. We join Elon Musk on Mars and live among the stars.

While this could all come to pass, one realm of technology has the potential to blur our understanding of reality itself. In China, a combination of lax privacy controls, official protectionism and dizzying state investment, the edges of reality are starting to blur.

Augmented reality (AR), or mixed reality, is distinct from virtual reality (VR). In VR, our sight and hearing are completely filled with an artificial world, where nothing real remains. It's exciting and potentially limitless, but many futurists consider it a niche technology, best suited for games and training exercises. With mixed reality, the world is still visible and audible, but enhanced with signs and sounds to show us more.

"It's not just a gimmick. We're not locked into a small 2D screen. We're 3D creatures in 3D space – it [reality] can be augmented in the way it's connected, way more than just a small tag. We're trying to get closer to what we naturally do – we grab an object,

we don't click on it."

This eager movement to the future comes from Loïc Kobes, co-founder and CEO of the Shenzhen-based startup Coolhobo. The firm is working to create augmented stores for shops like CityShop and Walmart. When it's ready to launch, the app will provide info on the history and rankings of products: the alcohol content of a beer, the nutritional information of a packaged meal and much more. It will also provide a 3D model of the store, visible through your mobile device, so you can name an item and a virtual character will guide you there.

"Tech isn't going to stop – it's still accelerating, [...] with more brain-power working on it," Kobes explains. "Analyzing algorithms, machine learning to classify what it sees." And in mobile-saturated places like China, those machines can see a lot. "If 20,000 people run their cameras over a space, it's incredibly accurate. You can start to make it very interesting in 3D."

The whole world could be mapped that way. Imagine going for a run in the near future, wearing comfortable mixed reality glasses (or contact lenses). The sky is a brighter blue, the path looks clear and you can see and hear a rushing river where there would otherwise be an empty drainage bed. Your device recognizes potholes before you do and they glow to help you avoid them... or, if your autopilot is on, your headset adjusts your internal equilibrium so you veer to avoid the obstacles without even noticing.

ConfigReality, also based in Shenzhen, has already developed algorithms to take the first steps toward that. Their '5x10' project, commissioned by Shenzhen's Design Society, shows the power of visual perception – shifted by VR headgear, novel space design and complicated math – to change a person's walking path. "For now the algorithm is not in real-time scanning the physical space. So if you suddenly put a chair somewhere... the audience will have no way to avoid it," Leo Liu of ConfigReality tells us. We can't run on autopilot today because "the current headset is not providing the related function... But yes, probably in the future."

Now imagine standing before a mirror. With a gesture you can see how you'd look with a dozen hairstyles, various cosmetics or accessories. You

can even reach out and feel them. ActiMirror is giving customers some of those options right now. In your virtual reflection you could see that exclusive virtual pet that cost you thousands of points, or a tiny angel of your spiritual persuasion sitting on your shoulder with content-appropriate advice.

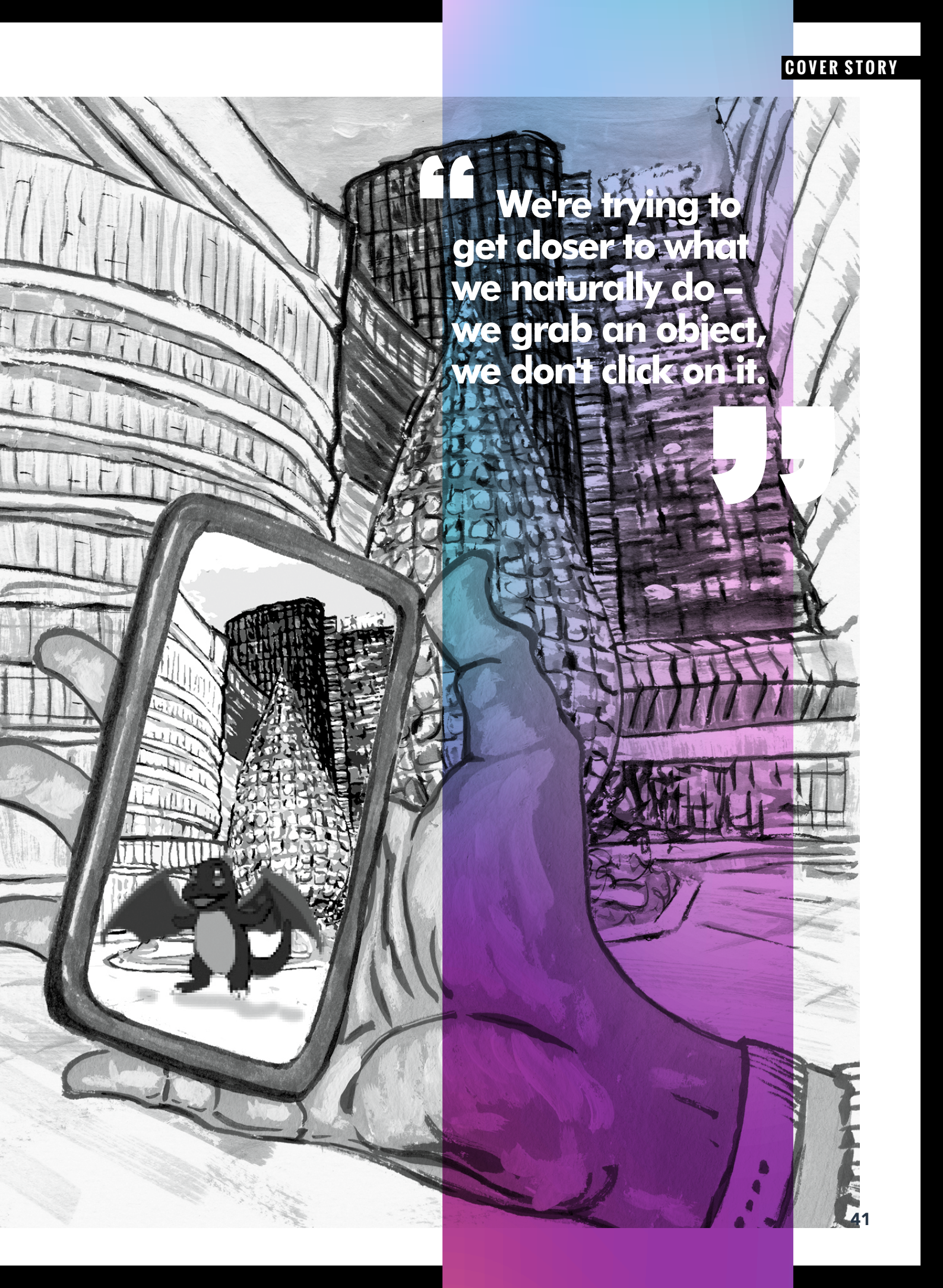
You could even visit friends and family, who live on the other side of the world but now appear to be sitting in the chair right before you.

Consider work. "You won't need people to be physically in the same room," Kobes claims. "Give the sense of presence and there's no need to take a flight for all those hours. It will change the way we work and perceive information. Helping humans to collaborate more because they can see the same thing at the same time."

“ You won't need people to be physically in the same room. Give the sense of presence and there's no need to take a flight for all those hours. ”

Dealing with anger, trauma or despair? Your device could read your pulse and the chemicals in your sweat, then manifest that stress into view while a therapist helps you through calming exercises. Real-time monitoring would let you watch that distress dissipate. Or that AR mirror could reflect back your image as a person of another gender or race.

And of course any new technology will be conscripted to the search for love. Gaze into a crowd and the artificial intelligence could reveal your perfect potential match, enhanced and shining brightly as everyone else is dulled to gray. No more swiping.



“ We're trying to get closer to what we naturally do – we grab an object, we don't click on it.”



“ There's huge hype around these new technologies — people have too-high expectations, too early ”

SO CLOSE, YET SO FAR

We've already seen the dawn of this new era. Google Glass, the clunky smart eyewear by the tech giant, catapulted augmented reality into the mainstream in 2013, though all agree that this was only a primordial version of what we'll see. The display was tiny and only offered text in the peripheral vision of one eye. Though an interesting idea, the project proved questionable in terms of comfort and social interaction (turns out

wearing super high-tech goggles in public makes you look pretty uncool.) But it was proof of concept and designers continued to innovate.

In the years since, startups and tech behemoths have thrown money at the problem, with varying levels of success. After a wave of VR headsets were released to general indifference in 2016, attention turned to AR options. Microsoft released its HoloLens visor in 2016 with industrial applications — 3D modeling, architectural design — and a more consumer-friendly version is planned for 2019. Apple is expected to release glasses of its own in 2020 and, sometime before 2025, Beijing's Nreal should release “the lightest and most immersive MR smartglasses in the world,” Product Manager Zhao Zhihao pledges.

The latest whizz-bang device is Magic Leap. Funded by behemoths like Alibaba and Google, it was promised to reach consumers by the end of

this past summer. But Magic Leap has suffered through the cycle of overinflated expectations. An earlier promo, showing a fully-rendered whale splashing into a school gymnasium, seems a far cry from the reality that people have been able to demo: a tiny monster appears on your desk to toss rocks at your head.

“There's huge hype around these new technologies — people have too-high expectations, too early,” Kobes says. “You'll have to be patient with the developer that the demo isn't as impressive as they want... It's easy to make a cool video about it — so there's disappointment when you actually get it. It requires patience. It will happen, eventually.”

IT'S ALL IN YOUR HANDS

While we wait for amazing new hardware, developers in China and abroad have turned to the supercomputer that's already in the palm of our hands.

GAME ON

In the summer of 2016, **Nintendo** launched *Pokemon Go*, the killer app that made AR accessible to millions (unlike Google Glass). To match this, Tencent came up with a *Journey to the West*-tinged copycat, *Yiqi Lai Zhuo Yao* (*Let's Hunt Monsters*).

SELLING POINT

In January 2017, **Baidu** launched an AR Lab, following DuSee, the company's AR platform that displays fixed 3D images and animations on your screen. Advertisers can add markers to print advertisements, which reveal animated displays when seen through your phone.

BUZZING TECH

Last year, Alibaba made a splash when it partnered with **Starbucks** for an AR tour of the coffee chain's Shanghai flagship store.

LINE 2

Passengers riding this **Beijing Metro** line can use their phone to view 3D renderings of the capital's nine city gates in their original form.

CASHING IN

Tencent is investing their massive cash reserve in Snapchat's World Lenses – 3D stickers you can add to the world, as seen through your phone.

CORE COMPETITORS

Earlier this year, Tencent signed a patent-exchange agreement with **Google**, receiving early access to ARCore — Google's platform that shifts AR from only recognizing specific markers to a much more dynamic system that recognizes surface and, eventually, everyday objects.

But Google also gave developers in America and Europe an advantage in the March 2018 release of ARCore that would not be available on Asian phones. With the advantage expiring, Xiaomi quickly announced the addition of ARCore to their Mix 2S devices, with Huawei not far behind.

THAT'S AR

That's right. In January 2017 and earlier this February, **That's Beijing** created our very own AR app which unlocked an interactive design inside the front cover of the two issues.

USD3 MILLION

...Is the stake that Tencent invested in **Innovega**, a startup developing the least obtrusive hardware. Their emacula combines contact lenses with normal-looking sunglasses for a lightweight device that's ready for extended wear. After successful clinical trials, the project is now pending review by the US Food & Drug Administration.

ADD TO CART

In 2016, **Taobao** ventured into AR shopping experiences on their app with Buy+, but postponed this to focus on conceptualizing VR stores.

EYES ON THE PRIZE

With big data, size matters. And China's population is a goldmine for data feedback.

"That's why China is so much better at [developing] the applications, using all that feedback," Kobes explains.

Still, there's room for improvement. "China is beating everyone on applications and using existing technologies. But not that deeper tech. For pure tech, other countries still have an edge. China is putting a lot of money to develop

this, but you can't change a whole culture that quickly." But where there's a will (and cash), there's a way. As part of China's 13th Five Year Plan, governments from the local to the national level are investing in technical research – for artificial intelligence (the foundation for any workable AR system), neural networks inspired by the structure of the brain, interactive film and other fields that could help mixed reality take off.

SenseTime, with offices in Shenzhen, Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu, Hangzhou and Japan, has emerged as the world's highest-valued AI company. With over USD1 billion in investment and huge contracts with the Chinese government, it's working to process the firehose of data coming from the nation's surveillance cameras, to recognize individual faces and connect them with relevant databases. Beyond facial recognition, they're researching technology for image recognition ('computer vision') in hospitals and everyday settings, like self-driving cars.

This, too, is AR. Our future cars don't need to augment reality, Kobes explains, "but they need to understand it. And that's what's going on behind AR."

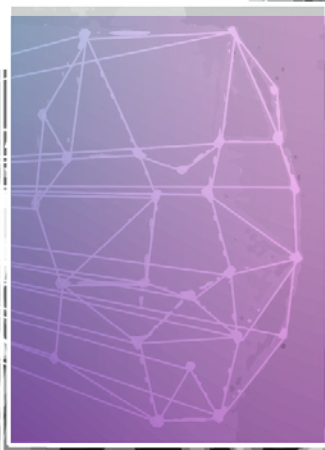


“That's why China is so much better at [developing] the applications, using all that feedback.”

Wang Lin
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Nikita Clement
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Liang Si
3479704038



Crimes:
• Armed robbery
• Arson
• Homicide

Potentially armed
and dangerous.
• Call for backup.

So, with all this promise and investment, why are all the current AR applications so underwhelming? What's standing in the way?

There are still "many hurdles in optics, software algorithms, design and hardware integration [that] need to be overcome," Zhao says. And the Director of Strategy and Planning at Futurewei, Huawei's US outpost, José Roberto Alvarez points to "very serious network challenges." "Tremendous bandwidth is needed to be able to capture reality and then superimpose virtual objects on top of that reality," he said in a 2015 interview.

So even if we could get the best cameras and displays to rest like a feather on the bridge of our nose, we're still looking at a computing challenge.

That's where China is leading the way.

Tencent Cloud currently holds the world record in four categories of the Sort Benchmark, a set of standard tests that measure computing speed — basically the Olympics of computing. In 2016, WeChat's parent company smashed the previous year's records, processing up to 60 terabytes per minute, or roughly 1,000 gigabytes

a second. This was more than three times as fast as the 2015 record.

Though no tests were announced for 2017 and the results for 2018 are still pending, we can expect the internet behemoth to stay on top.

China's scientists have already announced the stronger, faster microprocessing chips needed to stay ahead, ready to power devices equipped for faster-than-ever 5G data transfers — an essentially unnoticeable upgrade for us humans, yet providing seamless communication between machines. Huawei researchers, along with others in China, are issuing more patents than ever for 5G-enabling technology, still just a collective 10 percent of the world's total, but enough to start lobbying for international standards with Chinese characteristics. Within five years, 5G is projected to be fully mainstreamed, with CCS Insight predicting 1.3 billion people on these networks worldwide. Chinese users will make up more than half.

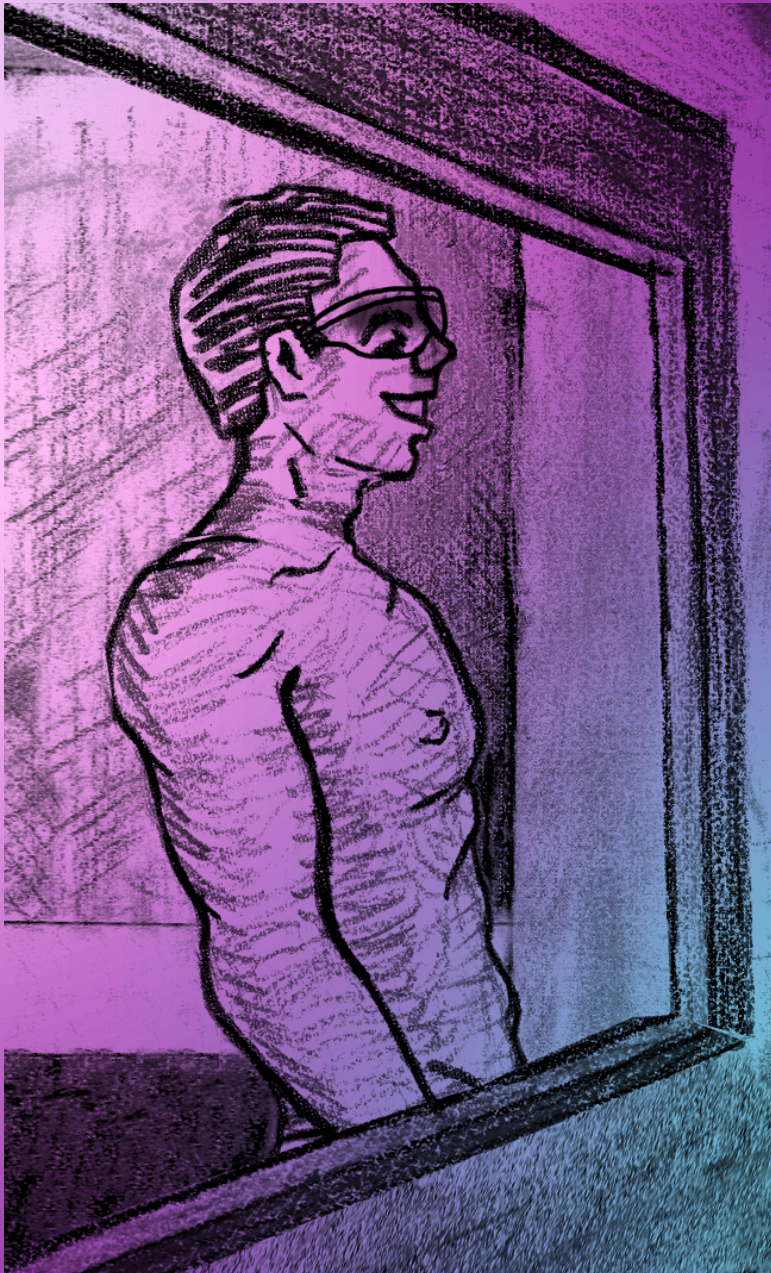
The world of 2023 isn't far away, but the changes in store are potentially more radical than any we've yet seen. Remember that five years ago, China had neither Ofo nor Mobike, and WeChat Wallet had just been

introduced.

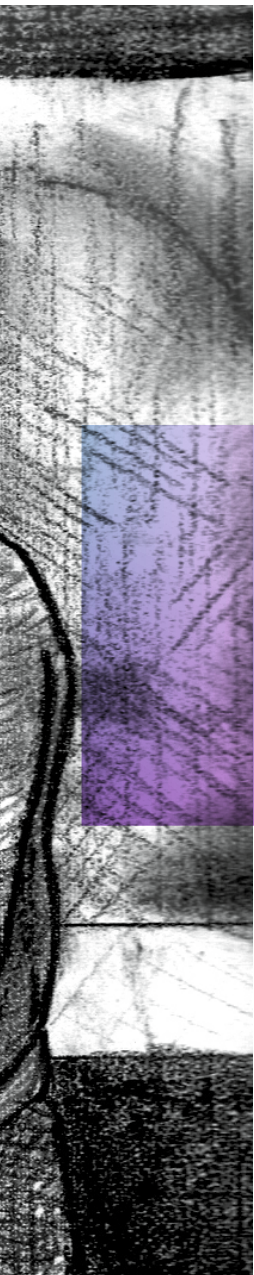
If research continues at its current pace, by the mid-2020s the world will have achieved the technology to make AR living a reality. Most exciting is the combination of open-air gesture control and ultrahaptics. With the first, sensors (including tiny radar) will track the subtle motions of our hands, allowing us to swipe and pinch our way through mixed reality. The second will let us actually feel those virtual objects. With enough computing power, our devices can manipulate sound waves beyond the range of human hearing. Condense enough of those sound waves onto the same location, and we can feel it with our fingertips. No special gloves required.

By 2025, China may very well have access to these technologies. Combine those breakthroughs with the advances from wide-reaching 13th and 14th five-year plans, along with the Made in China 2025 program that aims to shift Chinese tech onto domestic platforms from Huawei, Tencent and the like, and China stands ready to make possible all those futurist dreams.

But is there anything that should keep us up at night?



“ Tech isn’t going to stop – it’s still accelerating, [...] with more brainpower working on it ”



THE FUTURE STATE

Beyond the dangers of distraction and advertisement overload that come with on-your-face media, China faces its own unique possibilities.

In the country's recent tech boom, convenience and prosperity have flourished alongside the decay of privacy and anonymity. The facial recognition technology that lets you unlock your phone with a glance also allows the cameras on the street to track you anywhere in the city. One of the first pure AR wearables in China was produced domestically by LLVision for use by police at a train station in Zhengzhou, Henan province, and highway checkpoints in Beijing. With a glance, authorities can match a person's face against a database of suspects, displaying a red warning if there's a match.

There are also fears about China's growing surveillance state, conceptualized as a "social credit system." Currently, the system is a variety of lists at the city, regional and national level, recording actions that are commendable or discouraged. Citizens can be added to the blacklists for violations like shirking debts, acting badly on a flight, smoking in non-smoking sections, jaywalking, driving

badly, or "buying too many video games and posting fake news online." Right now the consequences vary, and the system has yet to be fully implemented.

But take these consequences and apply them to an augmented future. People with high social credit could simply live a better life – not just better schools and better jobs, but a world that literally looks and sounds better: Full access to landscape beautification, lifelike AR interactions and all the unbridled creativity that follows from a limitless virtual world.

With a low score, access could be denied, throttled, left cartoonish and pixelated, or dimmed and gray. Fall far enough in your social credit and it's easy to imagine a *Black Mirror* scenario where you're persona non grata: instead of you, others would see a gray blob. Or worse, through their glasses your fellow citizens don't see you at all and the device adjusts their equilibrium so they unconsciously walk around you. You're unpersoned with a flick of a switch.

Of course, any vision of the future is bound to fall short. There are too many variables. So don't worry – we still have years to go.

Right?

EAT & DRINK

MONUMENTAL FIND
New speakeasy lounge Arch Bar
is worth the hunt, p56



Angel Burger 2.0
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Seafood & Gin
p52



Curvy Corridor
p55



GETTING MODERATELY DEEP WITH...

A Mongolian Beef Jerky Shop Owner

interview by Yuka Hayashi

This month we meet Mr. Gao, the owner of a Mongolian beef jerky shop.

What is your idea of the perfect day?

The perfect day for me is when my products sell a lot and when I'm blessed with a bit of luck.

What is the first thing you thought when you woke up this morning?

That I had to go to work.

Who is your best customer?

Everyone! *[blushes]*

Who was your worst customer to date?

Nah, I don't think I've had any.

How are you feeling today?

Very good actually, I'm in a great mood.

When and where were you happiest?

Anytime I'm spending time with my family, but I'd say Chinese New Year is always the best of all.

Which talent would you most like to possess?

I'd like to be able to fly, because then I could travel to Yunnan – which is my favorite place to visit, but for free! *[laughs]* Yeah, that's how much I love to travel.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Don't think I've had that yet.

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

I'd like to change some of my bad habits like smoking and drinking. I feel guilty about smoking every day...

What is your most treasured possession?

Health. Without it, I couldn't do anything.

What trait do you most value in a person?

Kindness. If one possesses it, I wouldn't feel insecure being around him or her.

What is it that you most dislike?

Rainy days, they just give me such gloomy vibes. I guess the same goes for cloudy days.

What's your motto?

"Miracles are another word for effort."

What always makes you laugh?

When things that make me happy happen, like good sales. That always makes me laugh *[smirks]*.

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

Ming and Qing but perhaps Qing more, because my ancestors used to work for the Qing government.

Who is your hero?

Mao Zedong, for sure. I mean, he's our hero... He founded China!

You can try Mr. Gao's beef jerky at his shop at 35 Xiaoyun Road, Chaoyang 朝阳区霄云路35号

GRAPE VINE

SNACKS AND THE CITY

Well, Beijing – it's officially fall. The swampy summer heat is now a fading memory, replaced by a glorious autumn breeze. Rejoice. Of course, there are some things we'll miss: So long, frozen margs, boozy pool parties and beer gardens. (Yeah, we pretty much spent the whole summer drinking.)

But it's not all sad news. Fall also comes bearing tasty gifts.

For starters, **Home Plate** has revamped their menu and added some fresh meat like crispy pork belly and spicy Chengdu sausage. Oh, and smoked duck too. They've even glammed up their dessert menu with pecan pie and a smoked banana pudding.

Meanwhile, **Bistrot B** at the Rosewood Beijing is keeping it classy with a brand new afternoon tea dubbed 'Black Gold,' featuring champagne and caviar. How ritzy.

Slow Boat's brews continue to pop up all over the city, sometimes in the most unexpected places (see Smash on p. 19). The brewery has now teamed up with **Ramo** to serve you some beer-inspired snacks like saucy chicken wings and BBQ burger pizza at the trendy Lido joint. Plus, sip on a discounted pint of Slow Boat's citrusy Helmsman's Honey Ale at **La Villa** every Wednesday.

Cheers to that. **VO**

NEWS BITE

RAT TALE

Last month, a video of a pregnant woman fishing a dead rat out of her half-eaten bowl of steaming broth at a hotpot restaurant circulated on the web. The unfortunate, boiled rodent suffered a gruesome fate at the Weifang branch of national chain **Xiabu Xiabu** in Shandong province, which was closed shortly after amid an ongoing investigation. A public statement was released by company representatives immediately after the event reassuring customers of their safety and hygiene standards, but has since been deleted. Shares in the company's stock plummeted after the foul discovery went viral, costing the popular chain up to USD190 million in market value. Talk about feeling the heat (though not quite like the rat, we presume). **VO**



OFF THE BEATEN PLATE

The end of summer is fake news at the new Mixing House near Chaoyang Joy City, where they're making summer great again with their outrageous new cocktail: Trump's Summer. This secret menu offering is worth the splurge, purely for the presentation. To be honest, we weren't expecting to be served such visual accuracy. Made with melon liqueur, grapefruit and lemon juice, the obnoxious lime green concoction – too bad it's not orange – comes topped with fluffy cotton candy, taking cocktail garnishing to tremendous heights. Who knew comb-overs could be this delicious? So trade in that cup of covfefe and numb your political dread with this loud and proud cocktail. Believe us, it's going to be *huge*. A lot of people are saying it. **VO**

RMB85, The Mixing House (Chaoyang Joy City),
117, Bulding 20, Tian'ewan Beiqu, Yacheng Erli,
Ganluyuan Zhongjie, Chaoyang 朝阳区甘露园中街雅
成二里天鹅湾北区20号底商117号



MIFAN/MAFAN



Lady M

Following ChickaLicious this summer, another New York confection-ary sought to breathe some life into Beijing's stale dessert scene. Lady M does so with its signature mille crepe cakes in the classic (RMB68), matcha and rose varieties (RMB75), with a smoothie menu to complement. As expected, the elegant treats came with long queues – though not as miserable as the five-hour lines that shocked the cake shop's Shanghai location last year. Let's just say this: If you're willing to spend almost 40 minutes trapped in Chaoyang Joy City, you can have your cake and eat it too at Lady M. Well, you'll actually have to eat it elsewhere – there's another line for that.

Daily 10am-10pm; 2F Joycity Chaoyang, 101 Chaoyang Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳北路101号朝阳大悦城2楼2611 0407



Angel Burger Chaoyang

Angel Burger just opened a second location in Chaoyang Park. Located next to Pizza Saporita, this new space evokes an atmosphere familiar to any New Yorker: checkered wax paper? Check. Red vintage-style diner booths? Check. And, really, if you take a small leap of imagination – OK, maybe a big one – isn't Chaoyang Park basically our very own Central Park? The burgers are tasty and reasonably priced (their signature Angel Cheeseburger comes in at RMB43), while the classic sides – fries, nachos, onion rings and more – come in hearty portions, but unfortunately, so does the salt.

Daily, 10am-10pm; Building 4, Park Avenue, 6 Gongyuan Nanlu, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳公园南路6号公园大道生活广场4号楼底商

Beer Girl 77

Located near Lama Temple, Beer Girl 77 is a quaint (and dog-friendly) find that offers a bountiful selection of beer. The bright bar is stocked with 17 varieties on tap, a few of which they brew in-house. Go for the King of Bull IPA (RMB55, sneakily potent so tread lightly) or the GaoLaoZhang Blonde Ale (RMB40) if you're looking for something tamer. Who is this mysterious 'beer girl'? We're not sure but if you're looking for a new hutong haunt, 77 Beer Girl is suitable enough for knocking back a few brews before a big night out on the town.

Daily, 10am-2am; 55 Guozhijian Dajie, Dongcheng, 东城区国子监大街55号 (186 1007 9263)



Palette

Stumbling upon Palette, a quiet Dongzhimen bakery and cafe nestled beside That's Mandarin (a language school we're still waiting on royalties from for the name), you wouldn't think too much of it. The 'antique café with a modern twist' design is charming, but nothing new. It's the three diplomas from Le Cordon Bleu and all the classic finds of French patisseries that really catch our eye. The flaky croissants (RMB16) and buttery mini brioche pastries (RMB8) are pleasantly sweet. Macarons come in four pastel-colored varieties: litchi-rose-raspberry, jasmine tea-white chocolate, lemon curd and blueberry-raspberry (RMB12 each). The coffee is a pleasant accompaniment to the sweets, with even sweeter prices. A basic Americano is RMB18, with a cafe latte at RMB33. Despite the dainty selection, Palette makes for a nice spot to relax and say *au revoir* to Beijing for an afternoon.

Mon-Fri, 7am-7pm; Building 2, 7 Xinzhong Jie, Dongcheng 东城区新中街7号2号楼

PICKERING'S SEAFOOD AND GIN BAR

In Good Spirits

by Edoardo Donati Fogliazza

As *baijiu* makes its way to America, a Scottish company is planning to take the lead in bringing top-shelf gin to China. Pickering's, an established gin distillery from Edinburgh, launched their first gin bar in China this summer. The new venture is the result of Pickering's recent partnership with local craft brewery Panda

Brew with the intent to penetrate the *baijiu*-dominated Chinese market and, if successful, will be followed by 19 more venues across the mainland.

Located on the second floor of Nali Patio, the bar's goal to cater to Chinese clientele is clear. The interior represents a modern take on the 1920's spirits bar concept that seems to be all the rage now, equipped with bronze finishes, dim lighting, marble countertops and cheeky gimmicks like a large-scale gramophone-shaped cocktail mixer (something you need to see to believe) and a newspaper-themed menu dubbed *The Pickering's Times*. It's all these components that target the impressionable foodie more than the seasoned connoisseur.

The same is true for the over-the-top seafood menu, made to attract customers day and night with flamboyant offerings such as the standup Irish Viagra (mussels flavored with

coriander and Irish beer, RMB125), the Mr. Squid Fashion (squid fried with orange and bourbon, RMB90) and the decadent Seafood Angles (RMB109) – pasta with a seafood mix, topped with airy red prawn foam. Odd names aside, every entree is freshly prepared with ingredients sourced directly from Scotland – great for quality, though not the price.

But Pickering's is a gin bar, after all, and you need no other reason to pay a visit than its 'Great Wall of Gin,' featuring more than 100 varieties. Still, the most appealing part of the menu remains their gin-based craft cocktails. The 'Sparkling Juniper' (RMB88) we're told is a crowd favorite, but you can also choose from a curated list of seven creative concoctions named after each of the seven emotions from traditional Chinese philosophy – be it the simple and sweet 'Delight,' made with black tea and roasted marshmallows or the dangerously delicious 'Fear,' flavored with citrus and cinnamon (both at RMB88).

Despite the somewhat tacky approach, the Beijing location is filled with high-quality offerings and all the classy details that characterize a quality gin bar. Only time will tell whether this is the right recipe to stir up a love for gin in China.

Daily, 11.30am-1.30am; 2nd floor Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Beijing, Dongcheng 东城区三里屯北街81号 那里花园2层





BOXING CAT BREWERY

Pumped Up Kicks

by Valerie Osipov

Sure, we *could* properly introduce Boxing Cat. But we're quite positive that the pioneer of China's craft breweries doesn't need our help to establish itself, especially in the beer department – it's doing just fine. The Shanghai-based brewery has just unveiled its first Beijing location on Xinyuanli, moving in next door to pizza pros Bottega, with a menu boost to match.

The new digs are spacious: There's plenty of outdoor seating on the terrace (not to mention an actual waterfall – so extra, but we'll take it) and wooden tables and chairs dot the room inside. The colossal bar sweeping the back wall features 16 house brews on tap.

Scanning the menu, it's clear Boxing Cat is shifting their focus from the pub to the grub. They're going beyond the bar-food selections one would normally expect and adding some serious upgrades.

Devised by Colombian chef Juan Mateus (previously the brains behind Mosto's menu), the substantial list of offerings set themselves apart by distinctive flavors from Thailand to the Mediterranean, bringing an unexpected edge to the tireless East-meets-West concept we've grown weary of.

Among the savory snacks and small

plates, the standouts are the parmesan cauliflower bites (RMB38) served with warm pesto, whipped beetroot tahini dip with pita bread (RMB48) and the truffled ahi tuna poke (RMB98) with toasted quinoa, crispy seaweed and a kick of jalapenos. Level up your appetizer game with the New Zealand green mussels (RMB68), sautéed in a sweet coconut-chili broth.

With their neighbors already established as one of the city's premier pizza joints, Boxing Cat isn't interested in moving into any marked territories. Instead, they're dishing out flatbreads, which are the real showstoppers here. We couldn't get enough of the Great Thai Pumpkin (RMB68) topped with a red curry sauce, soft pumpkin, roasted eggplant, mozzarella and seasoned with Thai herbs. Don't miss out on the fan-favorite Ocean's Eleven (RMB78) – shrimp, bechamel sauce, pesto, capers and sundried tomatoes. Still hungry? Choose from original sides like the nutty stir-fried quinoa (RMB28) topped with miso sour cream. Trying to decide the perfect brew to wash it all down with? Look no further than the suggested pairings, conveniently listed under each item.

They've even cooked up a late night menu for you night crawlers featuring some sharea-

ble starters to meet your carb-loading needs. Choose from sweet potato fries with honey-chipotle aioli (RMB38) and their Contender BBQ Ribs (RMB88) – slathered with their pale ale, passion fruit and pineapple BBQ sauce – as well as some sizable options like the Sichuan Pulled Pork Sandwich (RMB78) featuring pickled daikon and Napa slaw on a toasted sesame bun, and several varieties of flatbreads.

Whatever your craving, Boxing Cat's new menu is redefining pub food as we know it. So go wild – no sides of guilt served here.

Mon-Thu, Sun
11.30am-1am, Fri-Sat
11.30am-2am; Room
109, Jingshang, Bldg 20,
Xinyuanlixi, Chaoyang 朝阳区
新源里西20号楼金尚首层
109





ROYAL STACKS

Fit for a King

by Andrew Braun

Things are changing out in Chaoyang. Take a Mobike east past the shiny CCTV headquarters and you'll see the influx of new developments firsthand, stretching as far as the eye can see. Ever heard of the Vanke Times Center or the area around it? No? Well, give it a year and maybe you will.

At least that's what Royal Stacks, Beijing's latest and greatest burger joint, is banking on. Located in that complex, the Australian fast-food chain has premiered in the capital, following their grand China debut in Chongqing earlier this year.

From the first glance inside, any American will undoubtedly experience some level of *deja vu*. Whether

it's the images of old-school drive-in diners that cover the walls or the inevitable parallels to star-spangled favorites like Shake Shack or In-N-Out, Royal Stacks has the kind of familiar vibe that invites you in and makes you want to stay for a couple cola refills.

The menu hits all the essentials, plus a number of loaded extras that fulfill our greasiest dreams. We tried the mouthwatering Saint burger (RMB68), the classic Double Stack (RMB58) and the monstrous Bacon Bacon (RMB68). All three of the carnivorous options were stacked high with crisp veggies and Aussie beef between a pair of potato buns. Looking for something less glutinous and veg-friendly? Opt for the Queen Bee (RMB 32), substituted with a chickpea

patty that more than satisfies, though could use an extra punch of spice.

If that's not enough – we salute you – grab a hearty helping of fries (RMB 12 for small, RMB15 for large), which were fresh but unsalted, and the Chili Beef Gems (RMB37 for small, RMB45 for large), a heavenly heap of gooey cheese and hot, hearty chili over crispy tater tots. Go wild on your cheat day with the Oreo Concrete milkshake (RMB 24) to finish off your meal.

Though located a bit far from all the casual dining hotspots we typically frequent, Royal Stacks, well, stacks up nicely to the city's burgeoning burger scene.

Daily 8am-6pm. 1/F, Vanke Times Center, Shilipu, Chaoyang 朝阳区十里堡甲3号院1号楼万科时代中心L1001-01





CURVY CORRIDOR COURTYARD

Ahead of the Curve

by Edoardo Donati Fogliazza

Curvy Corridor Courtyard (try saying that five times fast) is a somewhat unassuming name for the ambitious project it represents. Back in 2015, owner Lin Jin, an art collector, spared no expenses to convert five Qing dynasty hutong residences into a modern art gallery-cum-tea house – and the hard work paid off. Upon completion, the award-winning project made headlines in architecture magazines.

Now, the ambitious entrepreneur is adding a high-end dining experience to the mix to make the most of the stunning interiors.

We enter Curvy Corridor through a small, white-framed door that peeks out from a narrow alley off Dongsi Shiyitiao. The design of the interior is impressive. There's a spacious area soaked in natural light thanks to the large glass walls that encase the room's indoor bamboo forest. A serpentine path of curved walls gives the place its tongue-twisting name. The seating areas feature preserved wood structures, lined with century-old gray brick walls that periodically host the works of contemporary artists.

Curvy Corridor's dining concept is infused with the same attention to detail seen in the design. The former teahouse now boasts a 10-course set menu (RMB788, but you can still order a la carte) based on local, seasonal ingredients devised by Shanghai's former Bund 18 Chef Jin Xin. The delicacies arrive in green celadon bowls imported from Sichuan, Mr. Lin's most loved collectibles (and several

times more expensive than the food they contain), further signifying the emphasis on the art of food.

The taste confirms this – the tender yak beef Carpaccio (RMB120) almost melts at first bite. The Qishan truffle noodles (RMB280), a Chinese staple married with Western ingredients, follow the same principle – the filling portion of delicate noodles balances the pungent taste of the truffles. The menu features many extravagant offerings, a highlight being the pan-fried Wagyu beef steak (RMB580) – though a bit *too* extravagant for our budget. The extensive wine list includes varieties from France, Italy and Spain, as well as local selections from Ningxia.

Curvy Corridor's new dining experiment lives up to the extremely high expectations, offering an exquisite selection of fusion dishes in a tranquil gallery setting. Still, we weren't surprised to see that many online reviewers did not seem to agree. That's because Curvy Corridor isn't for everyone – the high-ticket menu and exceptional artistic design of this hutong hideout is an all-sensory experience. If you're scoffing over there, we get it. Though if you're looking for a tasteful experience for both the palette and the eye (and are more than willing to cough up some cash), then be our guest.

Daily, 12-9.30pm; 25 Dongshiyitiao, Dongcheng District 东城区东四十一条25号



ARCH BAR

Hide and Chic

words by Holly Baer, images by Andrew Braun

There's something about a bar that's hard to find that makes us feel like we've been let in on a juicy secret. We feel like we are joining an exclusive club of trendy craft cocktail aficionados who "know where it's at." Arch Bar definitely builds on that allure. Hidden near Zhangzizhonglu station, Arch requires a few right turns and – OK, fine – maybe even shamefully asking a security guard if you're in the right place.

Upon finally finding Arch, its clean and crisp design reflects the breezy, fall night outside. We make our way inside through a button-activated door (which confused at least four patrons during our observations). With '60s-inspired vintage furniture and a sleek, modern bar, Arch contradicts itself in many ways – it looks cozy and inviting, but there's an aloof coolness to the patrons and the staff. We can't shake the nagging feeling that we were somehow intruding.

After admiring the luxe interior decor, we decide to retreat back outside where our waiter brought us menus, hawthorn bar snacks and even a button to press when we needed him. It's all a bit much but that's part of the draw here. Our notions are confirmed by the list of drink specials, served on top of a gold clipboard, and the napkin holders, which – you guessed it – are also gold. It's an aesthetically pleasing touch and if you're looking to enhance your social media image, by all means – indulge.

We decide to go with a Dust In The Wind and a Paper Plane (both RMB90). The first is a sweet concoction made with lychee, Bianco vermouth and lime juice, among other ingredients we certainly don't keep in our personal liquor cabinets. It's pleasantly fresh and light but regrettably small, as we've come to expect

from fancy lounges. The Paper Plane is classic – bourbon, bitters, brown sugar and orange peel – and easy to sip on.

If those don't suit you, try any of the other signature cocktails (all around RMB90) or go straight for the hard stuff – they have more than four pages solely dedicated to whiskey from all corners of the world.

All in all, this is the ideal spot to bring a special someone. The dark corners and sultry ambiance make it a place to unwind, confess a few sins and walk back into the night with your friend or lover, content in the close company you shared. Sure, you can crash with larger groups, but that almost feels like a waste of what Arch has cultivated. The casual intimacy of it all makes us want to come back again with someone to impress. Maybe after payday.

Arch is a lounge bar to its very core – it's classier than it needs to be, but it holds on to that aesthetic fiercely. It's the future wrapped in the past – a comforting yet false nostalgia, distilled with contemporary tastes and amenities. It's a bar to come to as you are. Well, maybe in slightly better shape – we wouldn't be caught dead here in sweatpants. Not because they wouldn't let us in, but just because it feels disrespectful to an establishment with gold ashtrays.

Daily, 7pm-2am; 3 Zhangzizhong Road, Ping'an Avenue, Dongcheng 东城区张自忠路段祺瑞执政府内 (6333 6188)



CITY SCENES

JLL representatives say 'cheers' to being a part of it – and we mean New York, New York, where the company recently partnered with China Construction America to build the high-end apartment complex Greenwich West.



Visitors at the AAF Exhibition in **Hotel Jen** are captivated by their guide (or just wondering why he's wearing shades.)



No one was blue at the 'Dinner in Blue,' hosted by iconic beer brand **1664**.



Fraser Suites employees celebrate 10 *suite* years of service at their anniversary bash.



Yogis and beginners alike stretch it to the limit at *That's Beijing's* rooftop yoga session with **WeSlash**.



● Knwledge & J Rocc DJ

After Mild High Club's debut in September, two more impressive Stones Throw Records acts are touching down this month. Catch esteemed producer and songwriter Knwledge along with beat maker J Rocc at Playhouse for a night of funky, experimental hip-hop. Sat Oct 13, Playhouse, 58 Gongti Xilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体西路58号

● Bake DJ



One of the UK's freshest DJ talent and co-founder of Glasgow label All Caps, Bake lands in Beijing thanks to party people Suan Pan. Check out his original club beats when he takes over the tables at underground club Zhao Dai. Fri Oct 19, 10pm; Zhao Dai, Glass Hotel, 19 Xinyuanli Xilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区 新源里西路19号

● The Fratellis / Gig



Scottish rockers The Fratellis are bringing the early 2000s back. The dynamic three-piece is touring in support of their fifth album *In Your Own Sweet Time* featuring the cheerful single 'Starcrossed Lovers,' though expect to hear all your favorite chant-worthy indie bangers like 'Chelsea Dagger' and 'Henrietta.'

Sun Oct 21, 8pm; RMB480 (presale), RMB580 (door); Tango (see Listings for details – for tickets, visit 247tickets.com)

● Electric Lady Festival / Music



Ladies, it's time to get in formation. China's first music festival with a focus on female musicians lands at Yue Space this month. The badass lineup spans various genres from R&B and indietronica to jazz-pop and folk. Don't miss acts like synth punk outfit SUBS, art pop musician Jing and hip-hop talent Aruna H. The festival will also host several pioneering female artists creating live designs during the event and an open discussion, inviting women to share their stories.

Fri Oct 12 & Sat Oct 13; RMB150-180 (presale), RMB260-320 (door); Yue Space, 7 Banqiao Nanxiang, Dongcheng 东城区 板桥南巷7号

● Bruno Major Gig



British singer-songwriter Bruno Major sets off on his Asia tour. The alternative indie artist is known for emotive, R&B-influenced tracks like 'Easily' and 'Fair-Weather Friend,' and has even toured with pop superstar Sam Smith. Soak in the soulful vocals and blissful melodies mastered by this expressive musician with his powerful set at Tango.

Fri Oct 12, 8.30pm; RMB120 (presale), RMB150 (door); Yugong Yishan (see Listings for details)

● Zombie-Chang & Siamese Cats Gig



Yet another stellar act from Japan graces Chinese fans. Known for her genre-less anti-EDM music style, Zombie-Chang is sure to deliver a wicked playful set at Omni Space with Japanese indie-pop rockers Siamese Cats.

Thu Oct 25, RMB180 (door), RMB280 (door); Omni Space, B103 Tianqiao Arts Center, Xiachen Square, Xicheng 西城区 天桥艺术中心下沉广场 B103 (for tickets, visit 247tickets.com)



● Anti-Social Sundays Community

In a world of Instagram posts and never-ending group chats, Caravan refuses to #tag along. Unplug at their Anti-Social Sunday event, where you can score a sweet discount if you hand in your phone to the bar. Can you resist?

Every Sunday, 11am-1am; Caravan, 44 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区光华路44号

● Rumble in the Jumble Shopping



Rumble in the Jumble, the hutong pop-up market, is back at Modernista. This month's theme is 'Happy Endings' and will be the chance to say farewell to founder Helen Bentley, who started it all in 2016. Creative goodies, fabulous company and even some snacks make this the ideal Saturday afternoon. Come for the crafts or rent a booth and sell your own!

Sat Oct 13, 12-6pm; Modernista, 44 Baochao Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区宝钞胡同44号 (to apply, send a message to rumble.jumble.bj@gmail.com)

● Phantasmagoria / Art



Immerse yourself in the labyrinthine fictional worlds of Leon Fenster's artworks at the Art Museum Hotel. The illustrations of the British artist, with previous exhibits in the UK, China and Singapore, are lucid dreams overflowing with bright colors and bizarre characters that tell the countless stories of contemporary cities as the artist sees them. Ironic and engaging, Fenster works are guaranteed to entertain you, but also incite some thoughts. Maybe looking at the world with fresh eyes is just the cure we need for our city-sickness.

Daily 9am-6pm; Open through Tue Oct 15; Art Museum Hotel, 26 Dongzhimen Waidajie. Chaoyang 朝阳区东直门外大街26号

● Datong Tour Trip



Datong is home to some of China's most well-known archaeological wonders. And, fortunately, is close enough to Beijing that a visit fits perfectly into your weekend. Follow China Culture Center for an overnight tour to the gravity defying Hanging Temple and to the stunning Yungang grottoes filled with Buddhist art..

Sat Oct 20-Sun Oct 21; RMB2600; China Culture Center, D4 The Victoria Gardens, Chaoyang Park West Road, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳公园西路维多利亚花园D4. For info and booking at china-culturecenter.org.

● Rent Musical



The musical that taught us how many minutes are in a year lands in Beijing this month as part of their 20th anniversary touring production. The Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning masterpiece will make you cry, laugh and sing along with the cast to the tunes inspired by Puccini's 'La Boheme.'

FrThu Oct 11-Sun Oct 21, 2.30pm and 6.30pm; RMB80-880; Beijing Century Theatre, 40 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区亮马桥路40号 (tickets via 247tickets.com)



● Oktoberfest @ Kempinski / Event

Paulaner Brauhaus is bringing the experience of Oktoberfest to Beijing this fall. Celebrating Bavaria's world-famous beer and folk festival, the cheery event will feature hearty food, beer and festive evenings filled with traditional yodeling, sing-alongs, dance-alongs and entertaining performances.

Fri Oct 12-Sun Oct 28, 6pm; Kempinski Hotel Beijing Lufthansa Center, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区亮马桥路8号

● Slow Boat @ RAMO Deal



Slow Boat presents their latest collaboration with Ramo: A menu that unites classic BBQ treats with craft beer for a perfect pairing. Feast on the BBQ Burger Pizza and add two pints of Zombie Pirate Pale Ale for just RMB158, or pick the Slow Boat Beer Mustard Sauce Chicken Wings (RMB48).

Daily; Ramo, 9-2 Jiangtai Xilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区将台西路9-2号

● Bistrot B Afternoon Tea Tea



Spend an afternoon in exquisite style at Rosewood Beijing with a new afternoon tea at Bistrot B, a charming haven away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Dubbed 'Black Gold,' the extravagant set features caviar and champagne.

Daily 2.30-5.30pm; RMB220/set, RMB580 (includes free-flow champagne). Bistrot B Lounge Bar at Rosewood Beijing (see Listings for details)

● Jing-A 8x8 Brewing Project Beer Festival



Eight breweries across Greater China (including Hong Kong and Taiwan) and eight of the top breweries from Nordic countries meet at the 8x8 Brewing Project, an international beer festival organized by Jing-A. They're joining forces for the occasion to create eight collaborative brews that will be presented at the end of the month. The boozy event will feature four free-flow tasting sessions. Tickets on sale now!

Fri Oct 26-Sat Oct 27; RMB208-888 Langyuan Vintage, 6 Tonghuihe Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区通惠河北路郎家园6号 (for info and tickets, visit 8x8brewingproject.com)

● Brunch & Spook @ EAST / Holiday



Halloween might still be a month away, but nobody came more prepared for this year's spookiest celebration than EAST. They're throwing a monstrous bash dubbed 'Brunch & Spook' for all you guys and ghouls. Over at Feast, they're hosting a Halloween brunch with tricks and treats, featuring frightfully fun activities like pumpkin decorating, face painting and more. RMB398 per person gets you free-flow boo-ze. After you're all stuffed, get spooked at Xian's haunted house.

Sun Oct 28, 11.30am-3pm; RMB398/person (includes free-flow drinks); East (see Listings for details)





● Now You See Me Magic Show

The new Lionsgate magic show inspired by the popular heist movies will launch in China this month, featuring cutting-edge technology, surprise twists and some of the best performers in the world. Don't worry, they won't steal anything this time.

Fri Nov 2-Sat Nov 3, 7.30pm;
RMB280-880; Workers' Gymnasium, Gongti Beilu, Dongcheng 东城区三里屯工体北路 (for tickets, visit 247tickets.com)

● Doctor Zhivago Theater



As part of the second Lao She International Theater Festival, the Tianqiao Performing Arts Center hosts 'Doctor Zhivago,' a play adapted from Boris Pasternak's novel of the same name, set in Russia during the first half of the 20th century.

Sat Oct 20-Sun Oct 21, 7.30pm;
RMB99-1408; Tianqiao Performing Arts Center, Bldg 9, Tianqiao Nandajie, Xicheng 西城区天桥南大街9号楼 (for tickets, visit damai.cn)

● Shoji Ueda Retrospective / Art



Photo gallery Three Shadows presents the first extended retrospective on the work of Shoji Ueda, the Japanese photographer famous for his masterpieces set in the sand dunes of Totoro and his unique modernist style, impermeable to the passing fads of the art market.

Tue-Sun, through Sun Nov 25, 10am-6pm; Three Shadows Photography Art Centre, 155A Caochangdi, Chaoyang 朝阳区草场地155A

● The Australian Ballet: The Sleeping Beauty Ballet



This David McAllister production of the famed Tchaikovsky ballet shines in baroque golds and vivid colors, spilling over with fairies, princes, woodland nymphs and storybook charm, while casting a spell of delight all the way to a true love's kiss.

Thu Oct 11-Sun Oct 14, 7.30pm;
RMB100-800; National Centre for the Performing Arts, 2 Xichang'an Jie, Xicheng 西城区西长安街2号 (for tickets, visit 247tickets.com)

● Laputa – Castle in the Sky Concert / Multimedia Concert



'Laputa' is much more than just a concert: It is a multimedia performance featuring songs from the Studio Ghibli animated classics we all know and love, including the eponymous *Laputa: Castle in the Sky*, as well as *Kiki's Delivery Service*, *My Neighbour Totoro*, *Princess Mononoke* and the Oscar-winning *Spirited Away*. Born from the minds of composer Joe Hisaishi and director Hayao Miyazaki, these Japanese animation classics will be brought to life on the stage by the renowned ensemble Music Fans Classical.

Sat Oct 13, 7.30pm; RMB100-580;
Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Beixinhua Jie, Xicheng 西城区北新华街1号 (for tickets, visit 247tickets.com)

LISTINGS

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

OPEN DOOR



VIA ROMA AT KEMPINSKI WELL-ROUNDED TASTE

Almost every trip to a pizzeria starts off with an intense staring contest with the menu. The pressure is on to choose which style and combination of toppings will best satisfy your craving. That's where Via Roma comes in. The celebrated Italian restaurant at the Kempinski Hotel is launching a new à la carte menu featuring a 'Create Your Own Pizza' option, aka the answer to your pizza prayers. Unleash your creativity and explore hundreds of topping possibilities. At Via Roma, the world is your oyster – or pizza.

Those overwhelmed by the plethora of choices can choose from the chef's own recommendations featuring the San Daniele pizza with fresh San Daniele ham, parmesan cheese slices and cherry tomatoes, the Tartufata black truffle pizza topped with mouthwatering burrata cheese and porcini mushrooms, or the salty smoked salmon and caviar variety. It's not all pizza at Via Roma – let Chef Andrea Rumere surprise you with more of his original creations such as lobster ravioli, plump with ricotta cheese and lobster, or homemade potato gnocci with basil pesto. To top it all off, pair your meal with a fine glass of Pinot Grigio – *perfetto!*

> Daily, 11am-10pm, Kempinski Hotel, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区亮马桥路50号凯宾斯基饭店

RESTAURANTS

The Hot One Hundred

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

CHINESE

Contemporary & Mixed Cuisine

8 Qi Nian 祈年8号 (Cantonese/Sichuan)

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

> Daily 11:30am-2:30pm, 5:30-10:30pm; 2/F, New World Beijing Hotel 8 Qian Street, Chongwenmen, Dongcheng 东城区崇文门祈年大街8号北京新世界酒店 (5960 8811)

Din Tai Fung 鼎泰丰 ¥ (Taiwanese)

This Taipei-based franchise impressed Ken Hom enough to call it one of the best 10 eateries in the world, back in 1993. Famous for its dependably delicious *xiaolongbao* or little steam buns. Book ahead, there's always a long wait.

> Daily 11:30am-2:30pm, 5-10pm, weekends 11:30am-10pm; 24 Middle Street, Xinyuanxili, Chaoyang 朝阳区新源西里中街24号 (近渔阳饭店) (6462 4502) > Additional branches in Shin Kong Place; Parkview Green; Grand Pacific Mall Xidan; Modern Plaza Zhongguancun; see www.dintaifung.com.cn for details

Jing Yaa Tang 京雅堂 (Chinese, Peking Duck)

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

> Daily 12-10:30pm, B1/F, The Opposite House, Sanlitun Bei Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯北街11号院1号楼瑜舍酒81楼 (6410 5230)

Huang Ting

Huang Ting celebrates the sophisticated flavours of fine Cantonese cuisine in an atmospheric setting that recreates a Beijing nobleman's courtyard home. A new Tea Lounge decorated with Ming Dynasty-era tables and parasols serves traditional Beijing snacks accompanied by more than 50 types of premium Chinese tea.

> Daily, Lunch 11:30am-2:30pm; Dinner 6-10:30pm, B2/F, The Peninsula, 8 Jinyu Hutong, Dongcheng District 金鱼胡同8号王府半岛酒店地下二层 (8516 2888 Ext 6707)

Peking Duck

The Horizon 海天阁 (Cantonese Beijing Duck) **

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

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

Country Kitchen

The name 'Country Kitchen' may sound like a diner, but a diner this is not. Rosewood Beijing's resplendent Northern Chinese restaurant serves elegant Hebei fare unlike you've ever had. Excellent peking duck is on offer as well.

> Daily 11:30am-2:30pm and 5:30-10:30pm; 3F Rosewood Beijing, Jing Guang Centre, Huijialou, Chaoyang 朝阳区呼家楼一号京广中心北京瑰丽酒店3层 (6597 8888)

Da Dong 大董

Among the city's most famous haunts, Da Dong guarantees slick cuts of Beijing-style roast duck and detectable wrap fillings. The venue's a class act and the plum sauce is hard to follow.

> Daily 11am-10pm; 22 Dongshishitiao, Dongcheng 东城区东四十条甲22号 (5169 0328); see www.dadongdadong.com for more locations

Duck de Chine 全鸭季 ¥ *

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

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

Xihe Village Restaurant and Bar

> Mon-Fri Lunch: 11am-2:30pm; Dinner: 5-9pm; Sun: 11am-9pm, 59-33, 3/F, South Area of Sanlitun Taikooli, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路19号三里屯太古里南区三层59-33(6417 6082)

Honglu 红炉



北京菜



Quality Peking duck on the cheap? Oh yes, it's possible – thanks to Honglu. The popular restaurant serves traditional Beijing food with a stylish twist (which is exactly why it's so crowded at lunchtime).

> Daily 11am-9:30pm, Sanlitun: Daily 11:00am-10:00pm, 60 Meters Of No. 6 Building Sanlitun South Road Chaoyang 三里屯店: 朝阳区三里屯南路6号楼南侧60米 (6595 9872; 6593 8970) Raffles: Daily 11:00am-10:00pm, 5 Floor Of Raffles shopping center Dongzhimen Dongcheng 来福士店: 东城区东直门来福士购物中心5层 (8409 8199; 8409 8234)

Shanghai

Shanghai Min 小南国

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

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

Wang Jia Sha 王家沙

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

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

Sichuan/Hunan

Chuan Ban 川办 *

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

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

Karaiya Spice House 辣屋 *

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

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

South Memory 望湘园

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

> Daily 11am-10pm; 2/F, 230-232, Fenglian Plaza, 18

Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝外大街18号丰联广场2楼230-232号 (6588 1797); see www.southmemory.com for more locations

Yu Xin 渝信川菜

Open since 1993, Yu Xin's authentic Sichuan dishes have earned a loyal fanbase. Their *liangfen* – a jelly-like substance cut into chunky strips and dressed in an addictive spicy sauce – hits the spot. The rustic, intimate setting of bamboo cubicles and swift, friendly service complete the experience.

> Daily 11am-10pm; 5A Xingfu Yicun Xili, Chaoyang 朝阳区幸福一村西里甲5号 see www.yuxin1997.com for other locations.

Yunnan

Dali Courtyard 大里院子 *

If you like authentic Yunnanese food, you'll have to trust the staff: there's no menu, it all just arrives in an intimate courtyard setting. The price (RMB120/person) matches the rustic ingredients.

> Daily 12-2pm, 6-10:30pm; Gulou Dong Dajie, 67 Xiaojingchang Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区鼓楼东大街小经厂胡同67号 (8404 1430)

Lost Heaven 花马天堂 (Yunnan, SE Asian)

An emphasis on Yunnan characterizes this menu's fresh journey through the SE Asia passage, with a grandiose yet dark teak interior.

> Daily noon-2pm, 5pm-10:30 (bar open till 1am). Ch'ien Men 23, 23 Qianmen Dongdajie, Dongcheng 东城区前门东大街23号 (8516 2698)

Middle 8 Restaurant 中8楼 *



An oasis at the top of Taikoo Li, Middle 8 is the go-to destination for fresh authentic Yunnan cuisine. The restaurant, stylish yet understated, has plenty of flavorful well-priced dishes and a killer view to boot.

> Sanlitun: Daily 11am-10pm, Taikoo Li Sanlitun South South Area F4, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯太古里南区4层 (6415 8858); Indigo: Daily 11am-10pm, Jiuxianqiao Road No.20 Indigo F2, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路20号颐堤港2层 (8420 0883); Zhongguancun: Daily 11am-10pm, Zhongguancun Plaza Pedestrian Street, No.17, Haidian海淀区中关村广场步行街17号 (5172 1728); Fenglan: Daily 11am-10pm, Xizhimen North Street No.32, Maples International Center Blok B, 1 Floor, Haidian海淀区西直门大街32号枫蓝国际中心8座1层 (6223 5583)

Youyun

> Daily, 10am-11pm, 63 Babaokeng Hutong, Beixinqiao, Dongcheng 东城区北新桥八宝坑胡同63号 6407 2050 / 185 1092 0709

Yun'er Small Town 云洱小镇

Folksy and affordable Yunnanese fare on Beiliuoguxiang. Fragrant dishes including the jasmine bulbs with scrambled eggs, lemongrass shrimp and banana leaf wrapped bolete mushrooms will keep us crawling back.

> Daily 10am-11pm, 84 Beiliuoguxiang, Dongcheng 东城区北锣鼓巷84号 (8404 2407)

Dumplings

Baoyuan Jiaoziwu 宝源饺子屋

Famous for their rainbow of dyed dumplings, Baoyuan have their *jiaozis* (six, under RMB10) wrapped in a larger *yuanbao* silver-tingot shape, with creative vegetarian options and authentic Sichuan food.

> Daily 11am-10pm; north of 6 Maizidian Jie, Chaoyang 朝阳区麦子店街6号楼北侧 (6586 4967)

Mr Shi's Dumplings 老石饺子馆

Since receiving a *Lonely Planet* recommendation the prices have risen and the walls are covered in backpackers' scribbles, but the fantastic dumplings – boiled and fried – are still fantastic.

> 74 Baochao Hutong, Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区鼓楼东大街宝钞胡同74号 (8405 0399, 131 6100 3826)

Regional

Crescent Moon (Xinjiang) *

Roast mutton enthusiasts go over the moon at this reputable Xinjiang Muslim restaurant. Eastern European and Central

Asian influences are evident throughout, with peppery and cumin-spiced dishes livening up traditional Chinese favorites.

> Daily 10am-11:30pm; 16 Dongsi Liutiao, Dongcheng 东四六条16号 (6400 5281)

Jia by NUO Hotel

Featuring modern Ming elements with inspired paintings from Xu Wei, a painter, calligrapher and food and wine connoisseur, the quintessentially authentic house of agriculture produces, Jia Chinese restaurant serves exquisite traditional Cantonese specialties in their purest form with chefs hailing from Hong Kong. Using the freshest ingredients from NUO's very own green farms, NUO Hotel Beijing provides an alternative green gourmet option in town.

> Mon-Fri: 11:30am-2pm, 5:30-10pm; Sat-Sun: 11am-2:30pm, 5:30-10pm; 1/F, NUO Hotel Beijing, 2A Jiangtai Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区将台路甲2号北京诺金酒店一层 (5926 8281)

Da Gui (Guizhou)

Guizhou's famed hot-and-sour cuisine nestled into a charming traditional alleyway. Munch happily into pickled greens and don't miss the salty-sweet deep-fried black sesame balls. They're sensational.

> Daily 10am-2pm, 5-10pm; 69 Daxing Hutong, Jiadaokou, Dongcheng 东城区交道口大兴胡同69号 (6407 1800)

Makey Ame (Tibetan)

Determined to prove that Tibetan cuisine consists of more than just yak-butter tea, the Beijing branch of this nationwide chain serves up nomadic classics such as curried potatoes and roast lamb.

> Daily 10-midnight; 11A Xiushui Nanjie, Jiauguomenwai, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国门外秀水南街甲11号 (6506 9616)

Xinjiang Red Rose (Xinjiang) *

One of Beijing's most famous Xinjiang restaurant, Red Rose serves some of the tenderest lamb skewers around, matched by enormous servings of classics like *dapanji* (a chicken, potato and pepper stew), *latiaozi* (noodles with a spicy tomato sauce) and *nang* (baked flatbread).

> Daily 10:30am-11pm; Inside 7 Xingfuyicun, opposite Workers' Stadium North Gate, Chaoyang 朝阳区工人体育场北门对面幸福一村7巷内 (6415 5741)

WESTERN

Fine Dining

Barolo ¥¥ (Italian) *

Average Italian abounds in Beijing: not here, though. Quite the opposite, in fact, meaning Barolo is as well-regarded as the Piedmont wine it is named after.

> Mon-Sun 11:30am-2pm, 6pm-10pm. Ritz Carlton Hotel, China Central Place, 83A Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国路83号华贸中心丽思卡尔顿酒店内 (5908 8151)

Maison Flo ¥¥ (French) *

Marble slabs, mosaic floors and brass fittings establish the Parisian bona fides; dishes like snails (RMB78), oysters (RMB48 each) and steak tartare (RMB158) confirm. The grandeur is matched only by the service, and the prices reflect the authenticity of the experience.

> Daily 11am-midnight; 18 Xiaoyun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区霄云路18号 (6595 5135)

The Georg **

This hutong mansion has an elegant restaurant, leather-couched lounge area, sleek bar and sick location near Houhai. But most importantly, it has some of the most thoughtful, innovative cuisine in town. Go for a dinner you won't forget.

> 10:30am-midnight (dinner 6-10:30pm), closed Mondays; 45 Dongbuyaogiao Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区东不压桥胡同45号 (8408 5300)

Héritage ¥¥

A French country-style chateau in the heart of Beijing. A chef de cuisine with Michelin star restaurant experience and an extensive wine cellar make this Sofitel Hotel restaurant one of the best French dining experiences in town.

> 6F Sofitel Wanda Beijing, Tower C, Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国路93号万达广场C座索菲特酒店6层 (8599 6666)

TRB (Temple Restaurant Beijing) ¥¥ **

Setting is everything here, especially if it's fashioned inside a restored Buddhist temple. The bold contemporary European cuisine is fitting in majesty and the service alone is worthy of worship.

> Daily 11:30am-2:30pm, 6-10pm; 23 Songzhushi Temple, Shatan Beijie, Dongcheng 东城区沙滩北街嵩祝寺23号 (8400 2232)

Mio ¥¥

Glitzy Italian fare at the Four Seasons, with

OPEN DOOR



JIA AT NUO HOTEL A TASTE OF HOME

Three years ago, JIA opened inside the NUO Hotel Beijing, bringing an authentic taste of Cantonese cuisine in an elegant home setting. The Chinese restaurant is celebrating just how fast the time flies with 'Warm Sunlight,' a new themed menu ideal for those crisp autumn days. JIA's commitment to excellence over the years shines through the polished menu, which features celebrated favorites alongside contemporary Cantonese-style dishes concocted by two culinary forces.

The talented Executive Chef Ho Hau Yuen cooks up traditional dishes with a masterful and modern touch, developed through his 20 years of experience with Cantonese cuisine, while Chef Mui Wing Fai, renowned for his knife skills and tasteful presentation, serves up delicate Huaiyang cuisine from the Yangtze River region. Much like the harmony between yin and yang, the dynamic duo complement each other, creating an innovative yet balanced fusion of flavors. Join in on the festivities this season and feast on exquisite Cantonese dishes while you let JIA do what they do best: make you feel warm and welcome.

> Mon-Fri: 11:30am-2pm, 5:30-10pm; Sat-Sun: 11am-2:30pm, 5:30-10pm; see listings for details

OPEN DOOR



8 QI NIAN CHINESE RESTAURANT AT NEW WORLD BEIJING HOTEL

ALL THAT AND DIM SUM

Enjoy dim sum with some flair at 8 Qi Nian Chinese Restaurant this season. The stylish Chinese restaurant inside the New World Beijing Hotel has glammed up age-old recipes to bring you something truly fresh and modern. With experience in Cantonese cuisine spanning three decades, the exceptional Chef Yuen proves himself as a master of his craft.

Using only the finest seasonal ingredients, the improved lunchtime menu covers all the traditional highlights like *Xian Xia Su Mi Geng*, a rich, salty corn and shrimp soup, and classic Cantonese favorites like *Bi Feng Tang Zhong Xia* – savory deep-fried shrimps with seasoned garlic, chilli and black pepper. The *Ban Tang Ma Ti Gao*, or water chestnut cakes, add something a bit sweet to balance out the mix.

Treat your fabulous self to some exquisite red or white wines, paired perfectly with your meal by the trusty in-house sommelier. Tea connoisseurs can also spend some time at the hotel's 'tea library,' helmed by none other than tea masters, of course. Who else?

> Daily 11:30am-2:30pm, 5:30-10:30pm; Dim sum is only available at lunch; Building 2, New World Beijing Hotel, 8 Qianian Street, Chongwenmen, Dongcheng 东城区崇文门祈年大街8号北京新世界酒店 (5960 8811)

LISTINGS

a mobile Bellini cart, wheeled straight to your table. The Chef crafts a superb squash tortellini by hand, and pampers diners with desserts like the deconstructed tiramisu.
> Daily lunch 11:30am - 2:30pm, dinner 5:30pm - 10:30pm, Four Seasons Hotel, 48 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang, 朝阳区亮马桥路48号北京四季酒店 (5695 8888)

Grange Grill **

Located in the Westin Beijing Chaoyang, Grange Grill serves up some of the city's best steak, seafood and grill offerings. The restaurant's welcoming decor provides a relaxing atmosphere to enjoy a cocktail or a glass of fine vintage from the extensive wine collection. Be sure to try the 'luxurious oyster feast,' where you can enjoy the delicacy raw, grilled or with cheese.
> Lunch: Mon-Fri 11:30am-2:30pm, Sat and Sun 11:30am-3pm; Dinner: Daily 5:30-10:30pm; The Westin Beijing Chaoyang 7 North East Third Ring Road, Chaoyang 东三环北路7号 (5922 8888)

Contemporary Western

Bistrot B

Rosewood Beijing's exquisite French restaurant is the sort of place chefs like to eat. Expect lavish luxury.
> Daily, 11:30am-2:30pm and 5:30-10:30pm; 1F Rosewood Beijing, Jing Guang Centre, Hujialou, Chaoyang 朝阳区呼家楼一号京广中心北京瑰丽酒店3层 (6536 0066)

Caribeño (Latin)

Heavy Cuban influence, but there are dishes from all over the Latin continent here. The Ropa Vieja (shredded beef on potato) is excellent – as are the Mojitos.
> Daily 11:30am-9:30pm, 1/F, China Overseas Plaza, 8 Guanghua Dongli, Chaoyang 朝阳区光华东里8号中海广场北楼1层 (5977 2789)

Chi (Organic, Fusion)

Hutong set-menu dining par-excellence, with organic ingredients all locally sourced. From the owners of neighboring Saffron.
> Daily, opens 10:30am, last order 9:30pm, 67 Wudaoying Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区五道营胡同67号 (6445 7076)

COMBAL 叁 by Tiago

> 127-129, 1/F, Tower C, Cofco Plaza, 8 Jianguomen Neidajie, Dongcheng District 东城区建国门内大街8号中粮广场C座一层127-129单元 (6528 2280)

C Pearl (Oysters, Seafood) ¥ *

This slick oyster restaurant imports fresh shells from Canada, South Africa, France, USA and more – and they are well worth the price. The fries are the best we've had in Beijing, beer and wine selection also excellent.

> Tue-Sun 5:30pm-2am; 14-2, Bldg 14, Shunyuanli, Xinyuan Jie, Yansha Qiao, Chaoyang 朝阳区燕莎桥新源顺源里14号楼14-2号 (5724 5886)

Feast (Food by East)

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

> Daily 6am-10:30pm, 2/F, EAST Beijing, 22 Jiuxiangqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路22号东隅酒店2层 8414 9820

George's Bar & Restaurant

George's Bar offers specially handcrafted cocktails featuring admirable art masterpieces blending with copperish elements. Afternoon tea set for two at CNY288 is available from 3-5pm daily. Gentlemen's Night every Saturday that men enjoy Buy 1 Get 1 on drinks. George's Restaurant presents creative world classic cuisine that revolves around local ingredients with exquisite touch that introduces an authentic yet distinctive palette. Daily special menu awaits you.

> Daily 11am-9:30pm; 5:30-10pm, Hotel éclat Beijing, 9 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东大桥路9号北京怡亨酒店L1 (8561 7758)

Grill 79 (Steak)

With views this good, Grill 79 would probably make it onto the list even if the food was terrible. It's something of a bonus then that the kitchen is superb, and supported by one of the most extensive wine lists in town.

> Daily 6:30-10:30am, noon-2pm, 6-10pm. 79/F, China World Trade Center Phase 3, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国门外大街1号国贸大酒店79楼 (6505 2299 ext 6424)

JF Royal Teahouse

> Daily 10am-9:30pm; B215 China World Trade Center Tower 3, Jintong East Road, Chaoyang Beijing 北京市朝阳区国贸商城区域3 地下二层B215 (8535 1625)

Jing

Jing Restaurant is a unique dining venue, celebrating contemporary French dining with Asian inspirations by Chef De Cuisine

Julien Cadiou in a stylish setting evoking a mystical Chinese garden.

> Daily, Lunch 12am-2:30pm; Dinner 6-10:30pm, B1/F, The Peninsula, 8 Jinyu Hutong, Dongcheng District 金鱼胡同8号王府半岛酒店地下一层 (8516 2888 Ext 6714)

Lin's Dining Lounge

> Daily 11am-10pm, 2/F, New Grand Dynasty Hotel, 58 Maizidian Jie, Chaoyang 朝阳区麦子店街58号新大饭店二层 (6500 6766)

Mosto (European, South American) ¥ *

A perpetually busy lunch and evening spot, thanks to chef Daniel Urdaneta's skill for modernising South American-style dishes like ceviche and risotto in his open kitchen.

> Sun-Thu noon-2:30pm, 6-10pm; Fri-Sat noon-2:30pm, 6-10:30pm. 3/F, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路81号那里花园3层 (5208 6030)

The English Tearoom 英国茶房

> Daily 10am-9:30pm; 101, Bldg 10, North area of Xiangyun Town, 9 Antai Dajie, Shunyi 顺义区安泰大街9号院中粮祥云小镇北区10号楼101 (8047 9661 / 8047 9661); Daily 10am-7pm Creativity Garden, 1 Shunhuang Lu, Sunhe xiang, Chaoyang 朝阳区孙河乡顺黄路甲1号创意园内 (8459 4407)

TrEat Restaurant & Bar.

Situated on the fifth floor of Oakwood Residence Dama Beijing with high ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows, fine city views complement the delicious a mixture of traditional European food and Western comfort foods, as well as Asia dishes.

> 5/F, Dama Center, Bldg 1, 7 Qingnian Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区青年路7号美中心1号楼5层 (8514 2211)

Sizzler

Sizzler invented 'casual dining' in Australia when it introduced the first soup, salad, pasta and fresh fruit concept. Since those pioneering days, it has expanded its 'classic grill' to include, not only steak and seafood, but also delicious chicken dishes, BBQ ribs, combination meals and burgers.

'Variety' and 'freedom to choose' set Sizzler apart from other dining experiences. At Sizzler customers are free to control the volume, nutritional balance and variety of each meal by ordering from the grill and helping themselves to our famous soup, salad, pasta and fruits.

> All stores open daily, 10am-10pm; Wangfujing Oriental Plaza Store 王府井东方广场店 (8518 6315); Chongwenmen Glory Mall Store 崇文门国瑞购物中心店 (6714 0399); Wangjing Capital Mall 望京凯德购物中心店 (6471 3876); Wanhui BHG 万柳华联商场店 (8258 9405); Wan Shoulu Crystal Capital Mall 万寿路凯德晶品店 (6826 086); Xizhimen Capital Mall 西直门凯德购物中心店 (5830 2199); Sanlitun Shimao Gongsan 三里屯世贸中心店 (8400 4014); Changying Paradise Walk 常营龙湖天街店 (8539 0438); Tianjin Joy City 天津大悦城店 (8728 1620)

Tomacado

Tomacado is indeed a mash-up of 'tomato' and 'avocado' – and while you'll certainly find these ingredients on the menu, you can also expect pleasant drinks, light soups and heartier main courses from this charming cafe. Fowers are also available for sale.

> Daily 10am-10pm (Lunch start from 11am, Only afternoon tea served on Mon-Fri 2:30-5pm), No. 19/20, B1/F, Jia Ming Center, 27 Dongshanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东三环北路27号嘉铭中心地下一层 19/20号 (6500 3354)

VIC

Not to be confused with the notorious nightclub of the same name, this VIC is the Sofitel Beijing's casual dining restaurant. All the major world cuisines are in attendance here – make sure you pay special attentions to the French-inspired breads and pastries – as is the customary Sunday champagne brunch.

> Sofitel Wanda Beijing, Tower C, Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国路93号万达广场C座索菲特酒店6层 (8599 6666)

Yi House (Contemporary Western)

Nestled in the confines of 798, Yi's great tasting brunch is bettered only by their wide range of cocktails. Sundays offer jazz brunches with lobster and champagne.

> Daily 11am-3pm, 6pm-12am; 2 Jiuxiangqiao Lu, 798 Yishu Qu, No.1 706 Houjie, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路2号院798艺术区706后街1号 (6436 1818)

Wood

> Daily 10:30am-11pm, Lakeside Gourmet Street, Solana, 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳公园路6号蓝色港湾南边湖畔美食街 近南边地面停车场 5726 8255

Stuff'd (Contemporary Western)

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

> Wed-Mon, 11:30am-2:45pm, 6-10pm, 9 Jinchang

Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区前胡胡同9号 (6407 6308)

Café/Deli/Sandwich

Café Flatwhite

Hailing from New Zealand, Café Flatwhite uses fresh and healthy ingredients in its tasty selection of sandwiches, pizzas, salads and brunch options, all served alongside some of the best coffee in Beijing.

> Open Daily, Mon-Fri 8am-9pm, Sat-Sun 9am-9pm; 798 Dashanzi Art District Store: D09-4, No.4, 798 Dashanzi Art District, Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路4号 798艺术区D09-1 (5978 9067 / 13051771436); Jianguomenwai Media Center Store: No.13 Bldg, Jianguomenwai DRC, 1 Xiushui Street, Chaoyang 朝阳区秀水街1号建国门外外交公寓13号楼1层东北角 B532-2633 / Jianguomenwai DRC Store: Building 7-11, 1 Silk Street, Chaoyang 朝阳区秀水街1号建国门外外交公寓7-11 (8532 2633 / 18701092186); FFStore: -107, B1/F, Fortune Financial Center, 5 Dongsanhuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区东三环中路5号财富金融中心1层107 (6596 9108); China Central Mall Store: L315, China Central Mall, Chaoyang District 朝阳区华贸中心写字楼三层 L315单元 (8588 7978) www.cafeatflatwhite.com, cafe-flatwhite@hotmail.com, WeChat username: Cafe-Flatwhite

Café Zarah (Café) *

A smart new interior and menu for this longstanding café has propelled it from hipster hangout to Gulou institution. Large, airy and with a terrace for summer, the only downside is it's always packed.

> Daily 9.30am-midnight, 42 Gulou Dongdajie, Dongcheng 东城区鼓楼东大街42号 (8403 9807)

Domain 域

A blend of café, business center and lounge, it has a gentle buzz all of its own. For privacy, Domain also provides workstations equipped with computers and ipads.

> Daily 7am-9pm, 2/F, EAST Beijing, 22 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路22号东隅酒店2层 (8414 9830)

Ricci

Named after a 17th century Italian Jesuit (duh), this creative café has a funky, kooky-meets-organic vibe and serves up some of the best casual western food in town, and a great brunch at the Wudaokou location (Chaoyang branch closed weekends).

> 1/F, Building D, Tsinghua Science Park, 1 Zhongguancun Donglu, Haidian 海淀区中关村东路1号院清华科技园D座1楼 (8215 8826)

The Rug (Contemporary Western, Organic) *

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

> Mon-Fri 7.30am-10.30pm, Sat/Sun 9.30am-10.30pm; Bldg 4, Lishui Jiayuan, Chaoyang Gongyuan Nanlu (opposite Chaoyang Park South Gate), Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳南路丽水嘉园4号楼(朝阳公园南门对面) (8550 2722) > Additional location in Sanlitun Nan Jie (see online.thatsmags.com for details)

TRIBE *

Salads, wraps and sandwiches, and noodle and grain bowls are as tasty as they are holistic, and there are more superfoods in one single dish than we even knew existed. Come hungry, leave basking in the warm glow that comes from knowing that you are eating well. Kombucha is the icing on the (organic, locally-sourced) cake.

> Daily 8am-10.30pm, 1/F, Building 3, China View Plaza, 2A Gongti Dong Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体东路甲2号中国红街大厦3号楼1层大厅入口南侧 (8587 1899)

Wagas (Contemporary Western)

Quality eats with minimal pretension. This stylish, no-fuss Shanghai rival to Element Fresh offers some of the best and most affordable Western lunch options in town. The zesty carrot-and-zucchini cake is a crowd pleaser.

> Daily 8am-10pm; S8-33, 3/F, Bldg 8, Taikoo Li South, 19 South Sanlitun Street, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯太古里南区三层 (6416 5829) > Additional locations in The Kerry Centre, Raffles Mall Dongzhimen (see www.thatsmags.com for details)

MOKA Bros (Contemporary Western) *

Power bowls, salads and wraps are the kind of fare on offer at this trendy Nali Patio space, which also has a great selection of cakes and pastries if you're feeling more indulgent.

> Sanlitun: Sun-Thu 11am-10:30pm, Fri/Sat 11am-11:30pm, B101b Nali Patio South, 81 Sanlitun Beilu Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路81号B101B南楼 (5208 6079); Solana: Solana Lakeside Dining Street, 6 Chaoyang Park Road, Chaoyang 朝阳区湖畔美食街朝阳公园路6号院蓝色港湾 (5905 6259)

American/BBQ/Grill

Eudora Station 亿多瑞站

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

Home Plate BBQ *

Scruffy looks and laid-back staff belie the popularity of this entry-level brick-smoker barbecue joint, that blossoms in the sunny months. Pulled-pork sandwiches are the favorites, followed by baby-back ribs racks. Beer and bourbons are taken care of, too.

> Daily 11am-10pm, 35 Xiaoyun Lu courtyard > 20m north of Xiaoyun Lu intersection, first right), Chaoyang District 朝阳区霄云路35号院过霄云路路口, 往北走20米,到第一个路口右转(5128 5584)

> Additional location in Sanlitun Nan Jie (see www.thatsmags.com for details)

NOLA

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

> Mon-Fri 8am-11pm, Sat-Sun 10.30am-11pm, 11A Xiushui Nanjie, Chaoyang 朝阳区秀水南街11号 (8563 6215)

The Big Smoke *

Taking the Home Plate BBQ concept and upscaling was a gourmet masterstroke. Full menu evenings only (also delivers rotisserie chicken via Uncle Otis).

> Daily Mon-Sat 11am-midnight, Sun 11am-10pm. First Floor, Lee World Building (opposite Fort Nails), 57 Xingfucun Zhong Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区幸福村中路 57 号楼利世楼 (6416 5195, 6416 268, www.uncle-otis.com)

The Woods *

New York native-owned, Manhattan-style restaurant, tucked in amongst the skyscrapers of CBD: you can't get more Big Apple than that.

> Daily 12pm-10pm, Central Park Tower 1, Suite 101, No. 6 Chaowai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝外大街6号新城国际1号楼101 (6533 6380)

Burgers

Blue Frog

Blue Frog is pleased to introduce a creative new Drinks Menu. As the new year begins, this new menu will wake up everyone's taste buds with a bevvy of specialty and original cocktails, mocktails, shots, beer, wine and healthy drinks inspired by popular ingredients.

> All open Daily 10am-late; S2-30, Level 3, S2 Tower, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路19号三里屯太古里南区三层S2-30 (6417 4030); No.167, 1/F, 18 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路18号1层167号 (8426 0017); No.125, 1/F, Bldg 1, Sanfeng(North), Chaoyang 朝阳区三丰北里1号楼1层125号 (8561 2665); Unit 15-16, 1/F, Bldg AB, Ocean International Center, 10 Jintong Xilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区金桐西路10号远洋光华国际中心AB座一层15 16单元 (8590 3168)

W&T BAGELS

Salads, Sandwiches & Pizza, Super price Mojito, Daily fresh Handmade Bagels. Small Café & Bar from Jacky's.

> Daily 9am-midnight, 1/F, FX Hotel, 39 Maizidian Xijie, Chaoyang District 朝阳区麦子店西街39号富驿酒店一层 185 1119 5551

German

Drei Kronen 1308 *

Authentic (truly – when they say 1308 they mean it) displays of armour and brewing kits draw regular evening crowds for the superb pork knuckle and heavy-duty helles (pale lager), wheat and dark beer (brewed on-site).

> Daily 11am-2am, 1/F, Bldg 5, China View, Gongti Donglu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体东路中国红街5号楼1层 (6503 5555)

Bodensee Kitchen

Bodensee Kitchen is a new German Restaurant in Beijing, located at the 2nd Floor at South German Bakery (Lucky Street). At Bodensee Kitchen, two Germans, and one Austrian, aim to bring back authentic, traditional, home made German-Austrian-Swiss cuisine from around the beautiful Lake of Constance region. You will find top quality German-Austrian-Swiss cuisine and a large variety of German beer and wines. And all this in a traditional and comfortable German restaurant setting with friendly and warm service. Bodensee Kitchen also offers great Catering Packages and Offers – no matter whether you need a small or big Catering, Bodensee Kitchen can help you out!

> 2/F, South German Bakery, 27 Lucky Street,

Chaoyang Park Road, Chaoyang District 朝阳区朝阳公园路好运街27号德国面包房二楼 (1314 685 2613)

Brotzeit German Bier Bar & Restaurant 博罗德国啤酒餐厅

Brotzeit offers its customers a unique experience with authentic German cuisine and world famous German beers in a casual environment. Coupled with its contemporary setting and unique brand appeal, Brotzeit is distinct from the traditional-style German restaurants still seen in Germany and other parts of the world.

> Daily 11am-late; F109, Grand Summit, bldg 5, 19 Dongfang Donglu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东方东路19号楼(DRC外交公寓大楼)一层F109 (8531 5166, www.brotzeit.co)

Hacker-Pschorr Brauhaus

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

> Room 3, Building 3, No.12, Xiindonglu Chaoyang 朝阳区新东路12号楼3号楼317 (5323 3399)

Paulaner Brauhaus

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

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

Italian

Bocca Della Verita *

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

> Dinner: 5-10pm; Lunch: 10am-3pm; 3/F, 277 Dongzhimen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区东直门内大街277号三楼 雍和宫大街和北新桥头条交叉处的四层商业楼三楼 (6455 3832, 1391 0969 240)

Annie's *

Now a certified Beijing institution, Annie's serves up the city's most reliable Italian fare. Delivery is free anywhere between Line 5 and the Fifth Ring Road (call for delivery prices outside this area), and can be ordered in English between 10.30am and 10.30pm from www.annies.com.cn. Alternatively, drop in to your local branch.

> All open Daily, 10.30am-11pm; Beijing Riviera: opposite west gate of Lane Bridge Villa, Shunyi 朝阳区来广营东路5号长岛澜桥别墅西门对面尚古城一楼 (8470 4768); Lido: Jianguati Lu, opposite United Family Hospital 朝阳区将台商业街4号楼2楼和隆家医院对面 (6436 3735); Wangjing: 2F, beside the Daimler Tower, LSH Plaza, 8 Wangjing Jie 朝阳区利星行广场A座戴姆勒大厦裙楼2层近望京商业中心 (8476 0398); Chaoyang Park: West Gate of Chaoyang Park 朝阳区朝阳公园老西门南侧 (6591 1931); Sanlitun: China View Building, opposite East Gate of Workers' Stadium 朝阳区工体东门对面中国红街一楼 (8587 1469); Ritan Park: Ritan High Life, 3F, north of Ritan Park 朝阳区神路街39号日坛上街3-108号 (8569 3031); The Place: East of the Place, south of Central Park 朝阳区金桐西路10号远洋光华国际中心AB座1层 (8590 6428); Guomao: Ruisai Business Building (southeast of Guomao subway) 朝阳区东三环南路2号瑞泰大厦商务楼1层 (6568 5890); Sunshine 100: Guanghua Lu, opposite Sunshine 100 Building 朝阳区光华路阳光100公寓对面首经贸南门 (8598 9836)

Assaggi *

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

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

Bene *

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

> Daily 11am-2.30pm, 5.30-10.30pm, Sheraton Beijing Dongcheng, 36 Northeast Third Ring Road, Dongcheng District 东城区北三环东路36号(5798 8995)

BK's Tavern

BK's Tavern shares your tiredness and serves you leisure with surprises. Good drink for an old friend of since.

> Daily, Mon-Sun 11am-10.30pm, 39 Maizidian Street by the side of Liang Ma River, Chaoyang District 朝阳区麦子店街39号亮马河南畔(8595 9609)

Cepe *

In a city inundated with Italian offerings, Cepe manages to stand out thanks to its attention to the smallest detail – everything from the vinaigrette to the Parma ham is import quality, and the wine is superb.

> Daily 11.30am-2.30pm, 6-10.30pm, The Ritz-Carlton Financial Street, 1 Jinchengfang Dongjiejie, Jirong Jie, Xicheng 西城区金城坊东街1号北京金融街丽思卡尔顿酒店大堂 (6601 6666)

Florentina 翡冷翠意大利餐厅

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

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

Mercante *

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

> Tue-Sun 6-10.30pm, 4 Fangzhuanchang Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区方砖厂胡同4号 (8402 5098)

Tiago Home Kitchen

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

> Indigo: Daily 11.30am-10pm, Shop 1173, Indigo Mall, 18 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路18号颐堤港购物中心L1173商铺(6438 8772); Chaoyang Joy City: Daily 11am-10pm, 5F50/6F, Chaoyang Joy City, 101 Chaoyang Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳北路101号朝阳大悦城5F50/6F(8558 3892)

Opera Bombana *

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

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

Pizza

La Pizza

Among the upper echelons of Beijing pizzerias is this Sanlitun goldfish bowl with a wood-fired oven and Neapolitan manners. Further branches in Solana and pasta/salad/mains-buffet restaurant in Sanlitun 3-3

> Sanlitun Branch: daily 10.30am-3pm, 6-11pm, 1/F, 3-3 Mall, 33 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路3-3号3层大厦西北角底商(5136 5582); Solana Branch: SA-48, 1/F, Bldg 3, Solana, 6 Chaoyang Park Road, Chaoyang 朝阳公园西路6号蓝色港湾3号1层 SA-48 (5905 6106) > SOHU Shangdao Branch: SH1112, SOHO Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区东大桥路8号SOHO尚都 SH1112号(5900 3112); La Pizza Buffet: 4F, Sanlitun 3-3 Mall, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯3层大厦4层 (5136 5990)

Tube Station

Nowhere does gigantic toppen-laden pizza quite like Beijing, and these guys claim to be the biggest in town.

> Sanlitun 3-3 Branch: Mon-Fri 10am-10pm, Sat/Sun 10am-11pm, delivery Mon-Thu 11:00am-10:30pm, Fri-Sun 11:30am-11pm 3/F, 3-3 Building, No. 33 Sanlitun Beijie, Chaoyang 三里屯北街33号3层大厦4层3008号 (5136 5571, delivery 8989 177) > Additional branches in Gongti, Beida, Beita, Yayancun, Solana and Weigongcun, see www.on-line.thatsmags.com for details)

Mexican/Tex Mex

The Mission



The Mission Mexican Grill is on, well, a mission – to bring quality grab-and-go burritos and tacos to the good people of Chaoyang. Stop by for tasty, fresh Mexican dishes using high-quality ingredients, and customize your order at their burrito bar.

> Daily 10am-10pm, China World Mall Store: NL4020, La North Zone, China World Mall 朝阳区国贸商城北区4层NL4020 (8535 1191); Central Park Plaza Store: 7-9, 1/F, Building 7, Central Park Plaza, 10 Chaoyang Park South 朝阳公园南路中央公园广场7-109 (6586 1180); Wangjing store opening soon: 206, 2/F, RADIANCE, 6 Wangjing Dongyuan, Chaoyang

LISTINGS

District 朝阳区望京东园6号楼金辉大厦2层206单元 (6478 8660)

Taco Bar

Rising from the ashes of its deceased hutong location, the new Taco Bar is hip, popular and able to produce some of the most authentic Mexican fare in town. Only RMB45 for three and great cocktails to complement.

> Tue-Thu 5:30pm-1am, Fri-Sat 5:30pm-2:30am, Sun 11am-1am; 1/F, Unit 10, Electrical Research Institute, Sanlitun Nan Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯南路机电研究院内10号1层 (6501 6026)

Q Mex Bar & Grill

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

Palms L.A. Kitchen and Bar * (Korean-Mexican fusion)

Tucked away near Gulou, this hip little hutong concept is truly one of a kind in Beijing. Quesadillas with kimchi and bibimbaps with melted cheese and hot sauce. Guess what? It works. Killer range of classic Cali cocktails, too.

> Daily 11:30am-midnight (closed Mondays); 14 Zhangwang Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区旧鼓楼大街张旺胡同14号 (6405 4352)

Steak

Char Dining Room & Lounge

Char is a Premium Steak house; a lifestyle concept, modern with live entertainment to fascinate customers with a hint of class and flair. Exceptional quality to truly reward guests and makes Char Dining Room & Lounge the place to be seen.

> Daily, Lunch: 11:30am-2:30pm; Dinner: 5:30-10pm; Bar: 10pm-1am. 3/F, InterContinental Beijing Sanlitun, 1 South Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区南三里屯路1号北京三里屯通盈中心洲际酒店三层 (8516 0065)

Morton's of Chicago (American) ¥¥ *

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

> Mon-Sat 5:30-11pm, Sun 5-10:30pm; 2/F, Regent Hotel, 99 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng 东城区金宝街99号丽晶酒店二层 (6523 7777)

O'Steak

A well-cooked steak in Beijing isn't all that rare anymore, and here we have affordable but quality cuts. Don't be fooled by the Irish sounding name, it's an authentic French bistro – not a Guinness in sight.

> Daily midday-midnight, Xingfu: No.557 Xingfucun Zhonglu, opposite of Agril courtment, Chaoyang 朝阳区幸福村中路557杰作大厦底商绿洲超市斜对面 (8448 8250); Central Park: No.0103 building 20, Central Park, No.6 Chaowai Avenue, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝外大街6号新城国际20号楼103 (6533 6599); Shunyi: No.11-102 Shine Hills, No.9 Antai Avenue, Shunyi 顺义区后沙峪安泰大街9号祥云小镇南门11号楼102 (8048 5080)

29 Grill (Contemporary Western) *

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

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

Agua ¥ *

Occupying the high end of Nali's Spanish invasion, Agua excels with reasonably priced classics like suckling pig, chorizo and jamon. Winner of the 2014 Golden Fork Editors' Pick for best restaurant.

> Daily Midday-2pm, 6pm-10pm. 4/F, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路81号那里花园 (5208 6188)

Casa Talia by Tiago

> Daily 11:30am-9pm, 018, 4/F, Raffles City, 1 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区东直门南大街1号来福士购物中心4层018 8409 4009

Niajo ¥ *

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

> Daily noon-10:30pm. 3/F, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路81号那里花园3层 (5208 6052)

Migas Mercado ¥ *

A place to dance and rowl, perhaps, rather than a drinks destination, TBAM, as on one calls it, focuses on upscale local DJs to get the party started. Good-enough cocktails are offered but mostly it's about the music, man

> Daily 11:30-3am, 7th Floor, North Zone, China World Mall, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

District 朝阳区建国门外大街1号国贸商城三期北区7层 (6500 7579)

Asian

Indian

Raj

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

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

Ganges

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

> Daily 11am to 10:30pm; Dongzhimen Branch: 2/F, 28 Dongzhimen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区东直门外大街28号2层 (6417-0900) > Additional branch in Sanlitun, see online.thatsmags.com for details.

Indian Kitchen

Weekdays Lunch Buffet
11:30am-2:30pm
RMB78/person
Tel: 010-64627255
Add: No.2 2nd Floor, Sanlitun Beixiao Jie, Liangmahe Nanlu, Chaoyang District, Beijing

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

> Daily 11am-2:30pm, 5:30-11pm, 2/F 2 Sanlitun Beixiao Jie, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯北小街2号楼 (6462 7255)

The Lobby

The Lobby is the heart of every Peninsula hotel, and the restyled lounge at The Peninsula Beijing presents an impressive setting to share the celebrated Peninsula Afternoon Tea with family or friends accompanied by live music. The Lobby also serves an a la carte breakfast, plus an eclectic selection of international and Asian favorite dishes.

> Daily, 11am-11pm, After Tee 2pm-6pm 1/F, The Peninsula, 8 Jinyu Hutong, Dongcheng District 金鱼胡同8号王府半岛酒店一层 (8516 2888 Ext 6764)

Japanese

HAGAKI 叶书 *

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

> Daily 11am-2:30pm, 1/F, EAST Beijing, 22 Jiuxiangqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路22号东隅酒店1层 8414 9815

Hatsune ¥ * (California Japanese)

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

> Daily 11:30am-2pm, 5:30-10pm; 2/F, Heqiao Bldg C, 8A Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区光华路甲8号和乔大厦C座2层 (6581 3939) > Additional locations in Sanlitun Tai Koo Li South; Kerry Centre Mall (see www.online.thatsmags.com for details)

Inagiku *

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

> Daily 11am-3pm, 6-10:30pm; Rm 315, 3/F, Park Life, Yintai Centre, 2 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国门外大街2号银泰中心悦生活3层315室 (8517 2838)

Sake Manzo *

The barmen here are serious about their sake. Boasting one of the best stocked drinks cabinets in town with over 60 different sakes on offer, this super-cool little eatery is the perfect

place to unwind after a hard day's toil. The sashimi is fresh to the cut, and the beer-marinated chicken is out of this world. One of the very best and least appreciated restaurants in town.

> Daily 6pm-midnight. 7A Tuanjieshu Beisiantiao, Chaoyang 朝阳区团结湖北三条甲7号 (6436 1608)

Yotsuba **

It doesn't come cheap (tasting menu RMB1,000), but what would you expect from some of the best sushi in town? Buttery and meaty fatty tuna sashimi is a cut above.

> Dongcheng: Tue-Sun 11:30am-11pm, Sanlitun branch: 2 Sanlitun Bei Xiaojie, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯北小街2号 (6464 2365); Lido branch: 2F, No.9-3, Jiangtai Xilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区将台西路9-3号2层 (8420 0998)

Sui Ka

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

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

Korean

Ai Jiang Shan

This upscale seafood restaurant proves that chargrill and composure can go together. Their RMB58 bibimbap lunch is an absolute bargain.

> Daily 11am-10pm, Sat and Sun until 9:30pm; 5/F, LG Twin Towers (East Tower), 12 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国门外大街乙2号双子座大厦东塔5层 (5109 6036/6037) see www.thatsmags.com for other locations)

South-East Asian

Cafe Sambal (Malaysian)

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

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

4Corners (Vietnamese, Fusion)

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

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

Purple Haze (Thai)

Given Beijing's lack of white sand beaches and backpacker bars, Purple Haze has to make do for the best Thai experience in town. Has all the classics like veggie spring rolls (RMB40), papaya salad (RMB46) and curries (RMB44-180) – but our pick's the seafood pad Thai (RMB45).

> Daily 11am-11pm, 55 Xingfu Yicun, Chaoyang 朝阳区幸福一村55号 (6413 0899)

Nyonya Kitchen (Malaysian, Nyonya)

This chain specializes in Nyonya style cooking – ostensibly Malaysian but with a mix of Chinese, South-East Asian and European influences resulting in lots of bold flavors and bright colors. The interiors are just as loud as the flavors – this place is colorful – and we love it. Nyonya goes beyond the requisite laksa and satay.

> NL5008, 5/F, North Phase, Bldg 17, China World Mall, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District 朝阳区建国门外大街1号17号楼国贸商城北区5层 NL5008 (8415 0863)

Malacca Legend

Malaysian food with a twist, this spacious and airy restaurant sits on the banks of Shunyi's Roma Lake and at a new unit in the heart of the city at The Place, making a great spot for their beef rendang or green curry prawns.

> Daily 11am-10pm; 6 Roma Lake: 6 Luodong Lu, Luogezhuang Village, Hoshayou Town, Shunyi 顺义区后沙峪镇罗各庄村罗马湖东北三路6号C院 (8049 8902); Signature: Shop L203, 2/F, The Place, 9 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区光华路9号世贸天阶2层L203 (6587 1393)

Makan Kitchen

A unique restaurant offering varied South-east Asian flavors and Chinese cuisines. Tuck into a buffet featuring regional Asian stations, a dedicated fresh juice bar and live stations to whet your appetite. With a beautiful private dining room for functions or meetings in comfort and style, Makan

Kitchen is the perfect venue for a relaxing get-together or a delightful weekend brunch.

> Mon-Fri, Breakfast: 6-10am, Lunch: 11:30am-2:30pm, Dinner: 6-10pm; Sat-Sun, Breakfast: 6-11am, Lunch: 12-2:30pm, Dinner: 6-10pm, 2/F, Main Tower, Hilton Hotel, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东三环北路东方路1号北京希尔顿酒店2层 (5865 5020)

Singapore Seafood

> China World Shopping Mall Branch: Daily 11am-10pm, NL4010, North Area of China World Shopping Mall, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国门外大街1号国贸商城北区NL4010 (8595 0251/8595 0361); Parview Green Branch: Daily 11am-10:30pm, 1/F, Tower C, Parkview Green, 9 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东大桥路9号侨福芳草草地购物中心C座1层(东大桥地铁站) (8518 8811)

Susu (Vietnamese)

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

> Tue-Sun 11:30am-11pm; 10 Qianliang Hutong Xixiang, Dongcheng 东城区钱粮胡同西巷10号 (8400 2699)

Vegetarian

Lotus 莲花空间

> China World Shopping Mall Branch: NL4006, North Area of China World Shopping Mall, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国门外大街1号国贸商城北区NL4006 (8527 4868); Financial Street Branch: Daily 11am-9pm, L220, 2/F, Seasons Place Mall, 2 Jinchengfang Jie, Xicheng 西城区金融街购物中心2层东侧L220 (6622 0515)

Tianchu Maoxiang (Asian)

Like many arrivals to Beijing, this place started out in Wudaokou and it's since made a successful migration to Chaoyang. Great range of veggie fare, reasonably priced and they offer cooking classes as well.

> Daily 10am-10pm; 19 Rm 0260, 2/F, Bldg D, Chaowai SOHO, 68 Chaoyangmenwai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳门外大街乙6朝外SOHO D座2层 0260 (5900 1288)(see www.online.thatsmags.com for details)

Veggie Table (Western, Asian) *

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

> Daily 10:30am-11:30pm (last order 10:30pm); 19 Wudayao Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区五道营胡同19号 (6446 2073)

BARS

TOP 40 BARS AND CLUBS

About This guide represents our editors' top 40 picks, and includes some *That's Beijing* advertisers. Bars rated(*) have been personally reviewed by our experts, and scored according to the cuisine, experience and affordability.

Arrow Factory

The newest craft beer taproom on the block, Arrow Factory is a rustic hideaway brimming with good Anglo-Scandinavian vibes (courtesy of the brew-masters) and the brand's distinctive Chinese brewed ales. A winning combination

> 38 Jianchang Hutong, Dongcheng District 东城区箭厂胡同38号 (6407 6308)

8-Bit

Drinking alongside multiplayer retro gaming – why didn't anyone do this sooner? Megadrive, Super Nintendo, N64... some real gems make up an ever-growing collection. Draft Kirin goes for a reasonable RMB25 a glass.

> Daily 1pm-2am; 13 Beiluoguxiang, Dongcheng 东城区北锣鼓巷13号 (159 1025 6538)

China Bar ¥¥

Top views from the 65th floor and flash drinks are the attractions on offer at this hip hotel-bar.

> Sun-Thu 5pm-1am, Fri-Sat 5pm-2am. 65/F, Park Hyatt, 2 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国门外大街2号柏悦酒店65层 (8567 1838/40)

First Floor

First Floor is like that friend who's too popular to properly enjoy their company. At weekends, it gets aggressively full, with regulars and the passing tourist trade all baying at the bar. A good place to meet new friends, perhaps.

> Daily, 4pm-late, Sanlitun Beixiao Jie, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯北小街 (6413 0587, first.floorbeijing.com)

El Nido *

The first hutong hang-out to patent the fridge-full-of-cheap-imports formula, El Nido inspires a loyal following, particularly in summer. The roast leg of mutton place next door is one of the best locally.

> Daily 6pm-late, 59 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区方家胡同50号(158 1038 2089)

Great Leap Brewing 大跃啤酒 *

The bar that began the whole Beijing microbrewing frenzy (yes, frenzy) specializes in idiosyncratic, local-style brews (RMB25-40) with intriguing flavors – their Sichuan peppercorn ale was memorably good. Reservations used to be recommended for their original hutong brewhouse, but the opening of a wildly popular new pub on Xinzhong Lu has shifted most drinkers there instead.

> Gulou, 5pm-late, Tue-Fri, 2pm-late Sat-Sun 2-10pm, 6 Douliao Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区豆角胡同6号(5717 1399); Sanlitun: Daily 11:30am-2pm; Sun-Thurs 5pm-midnight, Fri/Sat 5pm-1am, B12 Xinzhong Street 新中街乙2号(6416 6887, www.greatleap-brewing.com)

Heaven Supermarket

A purgatory of bottles, bongos and bedraggled English teachers, Heaven sells the cheapest alcoholic takeaways in town. You can also hang around and appreciate the afterlife (clientele) if you want. Caveat: the food is straight from Hell's own kitchen.

> Daily 11-4am. 14 Xindong Lu (next to The James Joyce), Chaoyang 朝阳区新东路14号(6415 6513)

Hidden Lounge *

Although frustrating to find, Hidden Lounge rewards the intrepid with good art-work and comfortable seating, suggesting a Kasbah, plus well-made drinks at great prices (wine from RMB100 a bottle, mix drinks from RMB25). You'll probably have to call them to find it, though.

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

Jane's & Hooch *

Acclaimed by some foreign press as one of the best bars in the world (cough), this not-so-plain Jane has been at the vanguard of the South Sanlitun gentrification. It serves RMB60-80 measures of your favorite Prohibition-era hooches in a fanstastic speakeasy atmosphere, with attentive staff and unimpeachable cocktails.

> Daily 8pm-2am, Courtyard 4 Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北路4号院(6503 2757)

Jing-A Taproom **

In just a few years, these guys developed from shady guerrilla brewers to upstanding publicans with their own range of souvenir T-shirts. Their bar is a peach: a bricks-and-mortar taproom, which is large, warm and sociable, and has up to 16 different beers on tap.

> Building B, 1949 The Hidden City, Courtyard 4, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北路4号院

Mao Mao Chong **

The cocktails at Mao's – such as their sublime 'Mala' Mule, a Sichuan peppercorn-infused vodka drink that's a long way from Moscow – are unique infusions using local ingredients and know-how. Grungey without being grimy, Mao's eschews flash while still keeping it real. And those pizzas.

> 12 Banchang Hutong, Jiaodaokou, Dongcheng 东城区交道口南大街板厂胡同12号(6405 5718, www.maomaochongbeijing.com)

Mesh *

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

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

Maggie's *

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

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

Parlor

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

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

Mai Bar *

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

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

Revolution *

Sanlitun doesn't really do hipster bars but if it did, this cramped ode to Maomorbabilia would be it. The East may be red but their cocktails (RMB45) are fit for a Chairman.

> Daily, 12pm-late, west of Yashow, Gongti Bei Lu, 朝阳区工体北路雅秀市场西侧(6415 8776)

The Brick

A Cheers-style atmosphere ensures you'll find this neighbourhood drinking hole-in-the-brick-wall faux dive bar either cliquy or inclusive. The heavy-duty cocktails (including the devastatingly boozy RMB80 Terminator) are probably needed for the bizarre Wednesday pub quiz.

> Daily 4pm-late. Unit 2-11, Bldg 2, Tianzhi Jiaozhi, 31 Guanggu Lu (northeast corner of Shuangjing Qiao), Chaoyang 朝阳区双井桥东北角广渠路31号院天之骄子2号楼底商211(134 2616 6677)

The Irish Volunteer

Everything – from the red-faced owner to the grub – is authentically Irish: tinged with alcoholism, doggerel and drunken regret. A good place to down a pint and a pizza before heading into town, then.

> Daily 9pm-2am. 311 Jiangtai Lu (opposite Lido Hotel East Gate), Chaoyang 朝阳区将台路311号(6438 5581)

Slow Boat Sanlitun Brewpub **

This popular microbrewery is a Beijing classic (if you haven't tried the Zombie Pirate Pale Ale yet, then what are you doing?). Other things to love: quality ales that change each season, a massive three-story space, and some of the best burgers in town.

> Daily, 11am-late; 6 Nan Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区南三里屯路6号(6592 5388)

Glen *

Experiences can vary at Glen (we've endured poor service and drinks that are scandalous at the price), which is located in a decidedly downbeat compound. But whisky lovers have been known to swear by its selections and dark, intimate atmosphere. See for yourself.

> Daily 6:30pm-2am. 203, 2/F, Taiyue Suites Hotel Beijing, 16 Nansanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区南三里屯路16号泰悦豪庭2楼203室(6591 1191)

Glen Classic *

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

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

Trouble Bar

Beijing's leading venue for imported craft beers. Stocks a large draft selection and an even larger selection of bottles. Also does a nice line in creative cocktails, if brews aren't your thing. Conveniently located next to Gung-Ho, hosts a full-sized foom-ball table, darts, and plenty of TVs to accommodate any event, meetings, and gatherings.

> 2-101, China View Building, 28 Gongti Donglu, Chaoyang (Next To Gung-Ho) 朝阳区工人体育场东路2号中国红街2-101甲板比萨隔壁(8590 0390, troublebar@gmail.com, www.troublebar.com)

Yun Summer Lounge

The only open-air roof lounge in Wangfujing gets set for sunset with hand crafted cocktails paired with beautiful Beijing views, modern Mediterranean sharing plates and chilling DJ tunes.

> Mon-Thur, 5pm-midnight, Fri-Sat, 5pm-1am, 15/F, The Peninsula Beijing, 8 Jinyu Hutong, Dongcheng District 东城区金鱼胡同8号王府半岛酒店15层(8516 2888)

10 Best Livehouses

Dusk Dawn Club (DDC) 黄昏黎明俱乐部

Great little livehouse near Meishuguozhan with a focus on jazz, folk and indie rock. Craft beer and whisky means you won't get bored of the drinks list quickly.

> Tue-Sun 1pm-2am; 14 Shanlu Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区美术馆后街山老胡同14号(6407 8969)

School Bar 学校酒吧 *

Crap drinks and regular, unscheduled fights; no wonder the cool kids adore this alternative livehouse/ DJ bar, founded by Beijing and Shanghai rock n' rollers.

> Daily 8pm-late. 53 Wudaoying Hutong, Chaoyang

朝阳区五道营胡同53号(6402 8881, 6406 9947)

Jianghu 江湖酒吧

This former Qing Dynasty courtyard home is exactly where you'd take that friend from out of town to prove you're cool. Its cozy atmosphere is also its downfall – any show with under 40 people and you're stuck looking through the windows. Hip and casually familiar, the jazz and folk bookings keep things low-key enough for the get-home-for-the-babysitter crowd.

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

Hot Cat Club 热力猫

A true stalwart of the Beijing scene, Hot Cat is the type of hard-working venue that helps cement a city's music scene.

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

The Post Mountain 后山

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

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

Temple *

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

> Daily, 7pm-late. Bldg 8, 206 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区鼓楼东大街206号B楼202(131 6107 0713)

Yugong Yishan 愚公移山 *

We've lost more body weight than we'd care to remember in YY's moist pit. Fortunately, almost all the acts – usually hip-hop DJs, emo riffs and obscure indie outfits from across the globe – were worth it. The upstairs bar area is a refuge from the sweat glands below.

> Daily 7pm-late. 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu (100m west of Zhangzizhong Lu subway station), Dongcheng 东城区张自忠路3-2号(6404 2711)

Hotel Bars

Atmosphere *

Beijing's highest bar, on the 80th floor of the 1,082-ft China World Tower, offers 300+ swanky cocktails from RMB65 with 360-degree views of the 700AQM PM2.5.

> Mon-Fri noon-2am, Sat and Sun noon-4am. 80/F, China World Summit Wing, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国门外大街1号北京国贸大酒店80(6505 2299 ext. 6433)

Centro *

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

> Open 24 hours. 1/F, Kerry Hotel, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区光华路1号北京嘉里大饭店1层(6561 8833)

MEI

One of the livelier hotel bars in town, MEI has a nightly band, serves creatively delicious cocktails and overlooks the CCTV 'trousers.' Don't leave without trying the frightfully delicious Panjiayuan Bramble.

Mon-Wed 6pm-2am, Thu-Sat 6pm-3am, Sun 5pm-midnight; 5F Rosewood Beijing, Jing Guang Centre, Huijialou, Chaoyang District 朝阳区呼家楼一号京广中心北京瑰丽酒店3层(6536 0083)

O'Bar

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

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

Xian 仙

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

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

Nightclubs

Chocolate

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

> Daily 7pm-6am. 19 Ritan Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区日坛北路19号(8561 3988)

Dada *

It hasn't been on the Beijing scene for too long, but already Dada is the hippest hangout in town. Their cosy Gulou confines under rock house Temple offer an intimate place to nod along to an eclectic range of all things electro from the best names on the underground scene.

> Daily 9pm-late, Rm 101, Bldg B, 206 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区鼓楼东大街206号B栋101室(183 1108 0818)

Lantern *

Founded by now-defunct Acupuncture Records, Lantern is a beacon of light in the strip of truly ghastly nightclubs and bars known as 'Gongti.' Serious about its music, it also makes good drinks and attracts international electronica DJs.

> Thurs-Sat 9pm-6:30am. 100m north of Worker's Stadium West Gate, Chaoyang 朝阳区工人体育场西门向北100米(139 119 77989)

MIX

A bit like a trip to the Forbidden City, Mix is one of those places in Beijing you have to experience before you leave. Not much is forbidden in this underground hip-hop disco palace and if you don't leave with hook-up in tow then you're doing something very wrong.

> Daily 8pm-6am, Inside Worker's Stadium North Gate, Chaoyang 朝阳区工人体育场北门内(6506 9888, 6530 2889, 150 1138 2219, mixclub@sohu.com)

Vics

Separated at birth from its identical twin brother, Mix, this is the definition of Gongti sweatbox meat-market chic at its very finest. The Chinese love it – as do moody Russians and jailbait students – helping Vics to become one of the most infamous clubs in the capital.

> Daily 8:30pm-late, Inside Worker's Stadium North Gate, Chaoyang 朝阳区工人体育场北门内(5293 0333)

Sports Bars

The Local *

Formerly Brussels, this beery bar has come into its own, with large (yet strangely unobtrusive) screenings of sports and political events, a pub quiz, quality fare and a nice selection of draughts and cocktails. Try the Bourbon Street Ice Tea – you won't need another.

> Daily 11-2am. 4 Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北路4号院(6591 9525)

Paddy O'Shea's *

An entire Irish-themed pub, which could easily be transported, untouched, from a back alley in Limerick and gently deposited in central Beijing. With plenty going on, including pub quiz and sports.

> Dongzhimen: Daily 10am-late, 28 Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区东直门外大街28号(6592 6290); Sanlitun: 2/F, Tongli Studio, Sanlitun Back Street 三里屯北路43号同里二层(6415 0299)

V Sports

Spacious, comfortable, huge screens and no rowdy drunken cretins, V Sports makes a claim for the champion of Beijing sports bars.

> Daily 5:30pm-6am, Gongti North Gate East side, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北门内东侧(5293 0333)

BEAUTY & FITNESS

Black Golden Tanning Studio

古铜日晒中心 Beijing is hardly the best place to pick up a natural tan. When it finally reaches the warm summer, the sun's rays struggle to penetrate the smog. Thankfully, Black Golden Tanning Studio is on hand to give you that golden glow with its quick, safe and effective technology. With a membership card, enjoy a 50-minute session for RMB400 and come away with natural, healthy-looking color.

> Sanlitun: 11am-9pm, 2/F, Bldg 3, Sanlitun SOHO, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北路三里屯Sohos号楼2层217(5785 3711, jusonghao@hotmail.com); Wangjing: 11am-9pm, Rm T5, 3/F, BOTAI International Building, 36 Guangshun Bei Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区望京广顺北大街36号博泰国际商业广场3层T-5(8472 2855)

Alona Pilates Studio

Pairing up traditional Pilates with an innovative, full-body workout, Alona Pilates offers classes designed to tone and whip you into shape fast. It also provides a personalized experience for all its students, regardless of fitness, strength and flexibility levels.

> Daily, 7.30, late. 5/F at Heavenly Spa by Westin, 1 Xinyuan Nanlu, Chaoyang 朝阳区新源南路1号威斯汀酒店五层 (139 1029 0260, www.alonapilates.com)

Narcisse Beauty Brands Encompassed

One of a kind! A 600 m² brand-new concept of beauty salon—Narcisse, encompassed with professional brands on skincare, manicure and hair removal. Not only can we guarantee to give you the highest quality of products and treatments, but also an impressive one-stop beauty experience.

Brands inside Narcisse:

Youngfo: Facial Cleansing Center

Clean Out What's Deeply Buried In Your Skin

10+10: Minimal-Design Nail

Chic Workaholic's Luvi

Edelweiss: Laser Hair Removal

Latest Technology, Safe&Permanent

Deep Facial Cleaning —— 880rmb/onc

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

Daisy's Beauty Salon

Since 2001, Daisy's beauty salon has catered to thousands of Beijing expats and locals and is renowned for its premium waxing services and imported wax that smells like hot chocolate. If waxing isn't your thing, the salon also specializes in an array of other treatments including IPL Facial Rejuvenation and lifting, a 90-minute treatment that uses a laser to stimulate collagen production and soften lines. Laser and IPL permanent hair removal treatment is also proving popular and effective.

> Daily, 10am-8.30pm, Rm301, Building B, Sunshine100 International Apartment, Guanghua Donglu, Chaoyang 朝阳区光华东路2号阳光100国际公寓B座301室 (5100 0556 / 0557, www.daisysbeautysalon.com)

Beijing Hikers

Want to experience the wild, unrestored Great Wall, away from the tourist masses? Or do you just want to get out of the city for some exercise? Beijing Hikers offers hikes in the countryside of Beijing every week all year round. Hikes for all fitness levels! Regular hikes are priced from RMB380, with discounts for members. Cost includes hiking guide, transportation, tickets, food and water. We've also got adventures all over China.

> For more information, visit www.beijinghikers.com

Shang Xia

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

Lily Nails

A long-time favorite among locals and expats alike, Lily Nails is much more than a nail spa; they eyelash services, of pampering treatments and waxing too.

> U Town store: Daily 10am-22pm, Shop 19B, 4/F, U town Plaza, Chaoyang 朝阳区悠唐购物中心一期4层19B号 8561 5875 ; Fulllink store: Daily 10am-22pm, Shop 29/B1, Fulllink Plaza, Chaoyang 朝阳区丰联广场B1-29 6588 3633 ; Yansha store: Daily 10am-22pm, 09/B1, Ping An International Finance Centre, Chaoyang 朝阳区平安国际金融中心商业B1层9号 5601 9664 ; WDK store: Daily 10am-22pm, Shop16/F4, WDK Shopping store, Haidian 海淀区五道口购物中心4层1415号 6266 6070 ; Heshenghui store: Daily 10am-22pm, Shop B1-19, Heshenghui Mall, Chaoyang 朝阳区合生汇B1层19号 5601 9664 ; Pingan store: Daily 10am-22pm, Shop 09/B1, Ping An International Finance Centre, Chaoyang 朝阳区平安国际金融中心商业B1层9号 8444 2483 ; Taiyanggong store: Daily 10am-22pm, Shop B1-09, CapitaMall Taiyanggong, Chaoyang 朝阳区太阳宫凯德购物中心B1-15A号 8443 0619 ; WeLife store: Daily 10am-22pm, WeLife store, Shop B1/F, WeLife Shopping store, Chaoyang 朝阳区远洋未来汇购物中心 B1-116号 8588 6896 ; Wanliu store: Daily 10am-22pm, Shop 19/F4, Wanliu BHG, Haidian 海淀区华联万柳购物中心4层 8258 9517 ; Hongmei store: Daily 10am-22pm, Shop 3824-1, Shanghai 上海市市长宁区老外街虹梅路3824-1号 021-6215 5192

Zell Cosmetic Clinic

Founded by renowned dermatologist Dr. Shao Lin Hong, Zell uses recognized international cosmetology techniques to perform services including laser cosmetic surgery, minimally invasive cosmetic surgery, medical skincare and anti-aging.

> Room 2002, 1/F Building AB, Wantong Centre, 6 Chaowai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝外大街甲6号万通中心1/F, 2002 (400-696-3390, www.zellbeauty.com)

HAIR SALONS**Laurent Falcon**

As China's first REAL French hair salon we promise each and every one of our customers that we'll treat your hair like it's our own. We use only the finest imported products to guarantee that your experience with us is as relaxing and professional as possible. Come in and meet our specialist stylist and visit our facilities. Your hair deserves a true touch of French sophistication. Man cut 120RMB up; Women cut 180RMB up; Color 580RMB up; Highlight 680RMB up.
> SanLiTun salon: No.43 Building, SanLiTun Beijing South, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯北街南43号楼 (6409 4243, 1350 137 2971); GuoMao Salon: CB1007, B1, Middle Zone, China World Shopping Mall, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国门外大街1号国贸商城中区地下一层CB1007

Catherine de France

Awarded Best Expar Hair Salon in 2014/2015/2016/2017
Booking: 010-84425120 / 13521473492
Web: www.catherinedefrance.com
Language: Fn, En, Sp, Cn, Ru
北京市朝阳区新东路10号逸盛阁首层 (招商银行楼下) East Avenue, 10 Xindong Rd, Chaoyang Dist, Beijing

Awarded best expat salon in 2014/ 2015, with a trained team of international and local stylists, colorists and beauticians, this salon welcomes all ages and budgets in a modern and relaxed atmosphere for a wide range of hair and beauty treatments, include manicure, pedicure and waxing. Wella, SP, INOA, TIGI
Language: French, English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian.

> East Avenue BLD Ground Floor, No.10 Xindong Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区新东路10号逸盛阁首层(8442 5120, 135 2147 3492, eastavenue@catherinedefrance.com, Wechat: CDFSalon, www.catherinedefrance.com)

Blow+Bar

This salon is equipped with more than shampoo – the team here provides haircuts, dye, updos, hair treatments and more. With prices for almost everything listed under RMB1,000, Blow+ is a haven of reasonably priced good taste in Sanlitun's 3-3 Mall. They have champagne and a well-stocked bar, so bring your friends and make a night of it.

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

Sport**Yihe 42° Hot Yoga**

2 locations in Beijing: the best Yoga for Beginners! No previous experience necessary – and if your body is a bit stiff – that's okay! Yihe knows it can be a little intimidating to begin your journey into Yoga, so they are available to answer any questions you may have. It's a great workout for the body and calming for the mind. Call them today on (5905 6067, 8599 7395)

> Daily 10am-8pm. 3/F, No. 2 South Building, Blue Castle, Dawang Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区大望路蓝堡国际中心南写字楼2座3层 (8599 7395/96, www.yh42.com); 3/F, Bldg. 14, Solana, No. 6 Chaoyang Gongyuan Xilu Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳公园西路6号, 蓝色港湾14号, 三层 (5905 6065/67, www.yh42.com)

Broadwell International Tennis Academy

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

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

California Fitness Beijing Club

California Fitness Beijing's Group X program is among the best in the region, and with membership you have access to over 150 weekly Group X classes and a team of professional personal trainers in Asia. Your membership also includes free towel usage and a fitness assessment.

> South Tower, L4, 9 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang (4008 100-988, www.californiafitness.com)

Cycle China Inc. 北京非常之旅

Cycle China provides organized cycling and hiking tours in and around Beijing as well as longer tours throughout China. Some of their more popular tours take cyclists through the Olympic Green, Tian'anmen Square, and Beijing's traditional hutongs.

> 12 Jingshan East Street, Dongcheng 东城区景山东街12号 (6402 5653, 139 1188 6524)

Heyrobics

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

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

HEALTH SERVICES**American-Sino OB/GYN/Pediatrics Services**

北京美华妇儿医院

> 18 anyuan road, chaoyang district, Beijing 北京市朝阳区安苑路18号 (8443 9666, bj.americannobgyn.com)

Amcare Women's & Children's Hospital With a zero waiting-time policy, top-quality inpatient facilities, home visits, night services and transportation assistance, Amcare provides a trustworthy experience. English-speaking services include pediatric, gynecology and obstetrics.

> 9 Fangyuan Xilu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区芳园西路9号 (6434 2399, 24hr hotline 800 610 6200, www.amcare.com.cn)

Beijing International Medical Center

(IMC) 北京国际医疗中心
Established in 1993, the International Medical Center-Beijing counts on an expert team of foreign doctors, offering a wide range of medical services, including family medicine, psychological services, dental, ob/gyn, pediatrics and TCM. Drop-in services for travelers; x-rays and ultrasounds are also available. English, Farsi, Japanese, Chinese, Arabic and Russian spoken.

> 24hours. Room 5106/111 Lufthansa Center, 50 Liangmahe Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区亮马桥路50号燕莎中心A座2层3017室(5907 1266); Jianguomen Health and Wellness Center and 睦家建国门保健中心, Wi-Fi internet, Mon-Sun 8:30am-5pm, 21 Jianguomen Dajie, B1, The St. Regis Residence, St. Regis Hotel 朝阳区建国门外大街21号北京国际俱乐部饭店 (8532 1221 / 8532 1678 Immigration Clinic); Shunyi Clinic

Beijing United Family Hospital and Clinics

北京和睦家医院
> Wi-Fi internet. Lido, Emergency Room is open 24/7/365, Mon-Fri, 8.30am-5pm; 2 Jiāngtāo Road, Chaoyang District, 朝阳区将台路2号. (5927 7000 / 5927 7120 Emergency Hotline); United Family CBD Clinic and 睦家朝外诊所 Mon-Sat, 9.30am-6.30pm, Suite 3017, Building AB, Wantone Center, 6 Chaowai Street, Chaoyang, 朝阳区朝阳门外大街6号万通中心A座2层3017室(5907 1266); Jianguomen Health and Wellness Center and 睦家建国门保健中心, Wi-Fi internet, Mon-Sun 8:30am-5pm, 21 Jianguomen Dajie, B1, The St. Regis Residence, St. Regis Hotel 朝阳区建国门外大街21号北京国际俱乐部饭店 (8532 1221 / 8532 1678 Immigration Clinic); Shunyi Clinic

和睦家顺义诊所, Wi-Fi internet, Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5.30pm, Sat and Sun, 9.30am-4.30pm. Pinnacle Plaza, Unit 806, Tian Zhu Real Estate Development Zone, Shunyi District, 顺义区天竺开发区荣祥广场806号(8046 5432); Shunyi Dental Clinic 顺义牙科诊所, Wi-Fi internet, Mon-Sat, 9.30am-7.30pm, Pinnacle Plaza, Unit 818, Tian Zhu Real Estate Development Zone, Shunyi 顺义区天竺开发区荣祥广场818号 (8046 1102); Liangma Clinic 亮马诊所, Wi-Fi internet, Mon-Fri, 8.30am-5pm, 2nd Floor Grand Summit, 19 Dongfang East Road 朝阳区东方东路19号1号楼会所27号 外交人员公寓B区官舍16号 (5927 7005 www.ufh.com.cn, patientservices@ufh.com.cn)

Raffles Medical

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

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

> Suite 105, Wing 1, Kunsha Building, No.16 Xinyuanli, Chaoyang 朝阳区新源里16号昆莎中心1座105室(6462 9112/ 6462 9100, www.international-sos.com)

OASIS International Hospital

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

> Mon-Fri, 8.30am-5.30pm; Sat-Sun, 8.30am-12.30pm; 24 Hour Emergency Bldg C1, 9 Jiuxianqiao Beilu Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥北路9号C1栋 (400 876 2747, 5985 0333, www.oasishealth.cn)

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

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

Hongkong International Medical Clinic,

Beijing 北京港澳国际医务诊所

> Dongshihitiao: 9/F, Office Tower, Hongkong Macau Center-Swiss Hotel, 2 Chaoyangmen Bei Dajie 朝阳门北大街2号 港澳中心瑞士酒店办公楼9层 (6553 9752, 6553 2288/2345/6/7; service@hkclinic.com; www.hkclinic.com)

DENTAL**Pu Jing Dental Clinic 浦京口腔门诊**

Pu Jing dental clinic is located on the second floor of Nuo office building in Lido business district of Beijing. Pu Jing dental has become one of the most trusted dental care providers for the embassies, international schools and foreign companies. Pu Dental has cooperated with many insurance companies to provide direct billing service.

We are committed to helping you achieve and maintain optimal oral health.
> Rm.201,204, 2nd Floor, Office Building of Nuo Hotel, No.2A, Jiāngtāo Rd. Chaoyang District, Beijing 北京市朝阳区将台路2号 诺金酒店写字楼2层201, 204 室 64731326/64731286, 24hr hotline 4000 650 898 www.pjdental.cn

Arrail Dental

Affiliated with the University of Pennsylvania, Arrail Dental has access to top-class equipment. Its well-trained staff, multiple locations across town and excellent facilities make it one of the best dental providers in Beijing.

English-speaking staff. Dental services including examinations, whitening, root-canal treatment, orthodontics and implants.
> Rm 201, the Exchange-Beijing, 118B Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国路118号国贸桥东南角

汇大厦201室 (6567 5670); Rm 208, Tower A, CITIC Building, 19 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国门外大街19号国际大厦A座208室 (6500 6473); Rm 308, Tower A, Raycom Info Tech Park 2 Kexueyuan Nanlu, Haidian 海淀区中关村科学院南路2号科联资讯中心A座308室 (8286 1956); Rm 101, Bldg 16, China Central Place, 89 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区建国路89号华贸中心公寓16号楼101室 (8588 8550/6070); 1/F, Somerset Fortune Garden, 46 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区亮马桥路46号燕莎欧陆世纪花园1层 (8440 1926)

PrettySmile Dental

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

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

Beijing New Century Harmony Pediatric Clinic

> Shunyi, K-01, Building No.19, Harmony Business Centre, Liyuan Street, Tianzhu Town 天竺镇丽苑苑和商业中心19号楼K-01 (6456 2599; harmonypeds@nch.com.cn, www.nch.com.cn)

Beijing Passion International Medical Center

This full-service international clinic provides 24-hr general medical care and a patient-centered attitude. Beijing Passion International Medical Center is equipped with the latest in medical technology and is designed to support the comfort, safety and privacy of patients.

> 24hours, B1/F, Borui Building, 26 Dongsanhuan Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东三环北路26号博瑞大厦B1层 (6517 7667, www.passion-medical.com)

Joinway Dental

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

> Mon-Sat, 9am-6pm; 11D, Building D, Oriental Kenzo Plaza (Ginza Mall), 48 Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区东直门外大街48号东方银座D座11D (8447 6092/93, mobile:1326 181 6708, joinway@dentalcn.com, www.dentalcn.com)

United Family Shunyi Dental Clinic

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

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

Vista Medical Center 维世达诊所

> 24hours, W-Fi Internet, 3/F Kerry Center, 1 Guanghua Lu 光华路1号嘉里中心商场3层 (8529 6618, vista@vista-china.net, www.vista-china.net)

Parkway Health Clinic

> Mon-Sat, 10am-7pm; CBD, 1-2/F, Vantone Center, 6 Chaowai Street 朝阳门外大街甲6号万通中心A座一二层 (4000 662-882, 24hrs; enquiry@parkwayhealth.cn; www.parkwayhealth.cn); No.101-201, Beijing link, block2, No.6 Yuan, Jing Shun Dong Street, Chaoyang 朝阳区京顺东街6号院2号楼北京Link101-201室

SDM Dental 瑞德牙科

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

> Mon-Fri 9am-8pm. NB210, 2/F, CBD, Guomao, China World Shopping Mall, 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie 建国门外大街1号国贸商城地下2层 (6505 9439/3173, www.sdm-dental.com); Mon-Fri 9am-8pm. Olympic Area, F-0186B, Sunshine Plaza, 68 Anli Lu (east of Sunshine Plaza) 亚运村安立路68号阳光广场东侧 (6497 2173, 6498 2173); Mon-Sun 10am-11pm. LB07-08, Euro Plaza, No.99 YuXiang Road, Shunyi 北京顺义区天竺镇裕翔路99号欧陆广场LB07-08号 (8046 6084); Mon-Fri 9am-8pm. FC222, 21st Century Hotel, 40 Liang Maqiao Lu, Sanyuanqiao 亮马桥40号21世纪饭店4层 (6466 4814, 6461 2745); Mon-Fri 9am-8pm. 4076B, New Yansha Mall, Yuanda Lu, Haidian 远大路金源燕莎购物中心Mall4层4076B (8859 6912/13); Mon-Sun, 10am-7pm. Rm 5, 3/F, North Tower, China Overseas Plaza, 8 Guanghua Dongli 北京朝阳区光华东路8号中海广场北楼3层05号 (5977 2488)

IDC Dental

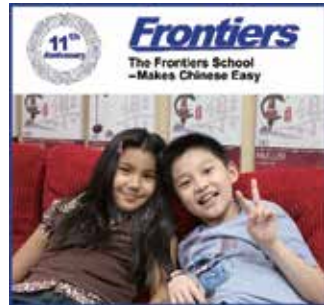
> Daily: 9am-6pm, Room 209, Bldg 7, Richmond Park Clubhouse, Fanyuan Nanti, Chaoyang 朝阳区芳园

南里丽都水榭会所209 (6538 8111, info@idcdentalbj.com)

EDUCATION

Mandarin Schools

The Frontiers School



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

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

Beijing Mandarin School

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

> E-Tower School (Guomao Area): Room 904-905, 9/F E-tower building 数码01大厦904-905 (6508 1026/1126); Guangming Hotel School (embassy area): Room 0709, 7/F, Guangming Hotel (near US embassy) 光明饭店7层0709室美国大使馆附近 (8441 8391, info@beijingmandarinschool.com, Skype ID: beijing-mandarinschool1998, Wechat: BIMS-Etower)

Gloria Chinese School

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

> R202 East Building, No.78 Maizidian Street, Chaoyang 朝阳区麦子店街78号一幢二座202室 (6500 8201, WeChat:1381 186 4656, www.gloriachinese.com)

Hutong School

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

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

The Bridge School 北京桥汉语学校

> The Bridge School Head office, Room 503, 5/F, Guangming Hotel, 42 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区亮马桥路42号光明饭店5层503室 (186 1244 1282 Gretchin)

Beijing Juncheng Language School

> 1) Room 208, 1 Panjiapo Hutong, Chaoyangmenwai, Dongcheng District 东城区朝阳门外潘家坡胡同1号东城区职工大学208办公室 (6525 9932/6526 7539) 2) Gucheng Village, 15 Huoshu Lu, Houshayu Town, Shunyi 顺义区后沙峪镇火沙路古城段15号 (8049 0307)

International Schools

Western Academy of Beijing

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

> 10 Lai Guang Ying Dong Lu, Chao Yang 朝阳区来广营东路10号 (5986 5588)

Beijing City International School

北京乐成国际学校
Located in Beijing's Central Business District, Beijing City International School (BCIS) lives by its motto: "Empowering and Inspiring through Challenge and

Compassion." This non-profit, independent co-educational day school offers an international curriculum under the International Baccalaureate (IB) World School system and is authorized to teach all three IB programs (Primary Years, Middle Years, and Diploma Programme).

> 77 Baizwan Nan'er Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区百子湾南二路77号 (8771 7171, www.bciscn.com)

Beijing BISS International School

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

3e International 北京3e国际学校

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

The International Montessori School of Beijing

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

> Bldg 8, 2A, Xiangjiang Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区香江北路甲2号院8号楼 (6432 8228 ext. 800, www.msb.edu.cn, admissions@msb.edu.cn)

Beijing World Youth Academy

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

> Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm. 18 Huajiadi Beili, Wangjing, Chaoyang Inside 94 Middle school 北京市朝阳区望京花家地北里18号 (6461 7787 ext.32, 8454 3478/0649, admissions@ibwya.net, www.ibwya.net)

Canadian International School of Beijing

北京加拿大国际学校
Located in the Third Embassy Quarter of downtown Beijing, the Canadian International School of Beijing (CISB) opened its doors in September 2006. This world-class facility offers an internationally recognized Canadian & IB PYP, IB MYP and IB DP education. The Canadian International School of Beijing develops the whole child in an environmentally sensitive school within a kind, caring community to become a citizen of the world.

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

Springboard International Bilingual

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

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

House of Knowledge

好思之家学校及幼儿园
In their Elementary school and two kindergarten House of Knowledge features a project-based approach to learning. Guided by the Reggio Emilia philosophy, Early Years learners follow the International Early Years Curriculum (IEYC) and Elementary student follow the International Primary Curriculum (IPC). Both curricula apply best practices in 21st century education and offer a truly international learning experience for children from age 18 months to 11 years.

> Chaoyang Park Campus: Victoria Gardens, 15 Chaoyang Gongyuan Xilu, Chaoyang 朝阳公园校区朝阳区朝阳公园南区15号维多利亚花园公寓 Shunyi Campus: North gate of Quafia compound, 18 Maqianyung Lu, Chaoyang 顺义校区北京市朝阳区马泉营路18号泉发花园北门 (admissions@hokschools.com, 400 650 7747, www.hokschools.com)

The British School of Beijing 北京英国学校

The British School of Beijing, established in 2003, has campuses in Shunyi (primary & secondary) and Sanlitun (primary). BSB of-

fers an enhanced English National Curriculum to 1,500 expatriate students, aged 1 to 18, beginning with Early Years Foundation Stage, Primary, Secondary, IGCSE exams in Year 10 and 11 and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma programme in Year 12 and 13. Admission & Fees: RMB102,993-246,057. Contact our Admissions team to arrange a school tour.

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

La Maison Montessori de Pekin

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

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

Beijing Mandarin School

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

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

Harrow International School Beijing

北京哈罗英国学校
Harrow International School Beijing prides itself on its high academic standards, a close-knit school community, a rich extracurricular activity program and the quality of its pastoral care provision. Leadership skills are promoted school-wide, with a range of enrichment activities to help students develop teamwork and creative thinking skills, as well as independence and responsibility. Students graduating from Harrow Beijing have won places at a range of universities across the world including Princeton, Yale, Oxford and Cambridge.
> Address: 287, Hegezhuang, Cuigezhuang County, Chaoyang 朝阳区崔各庄乡各庄村 287 号 (8610 6444 8900 Ext. 6900 Fax: 10 6445 3870, enquiries@harrowbeijing.cn)

Yew Chung International School

耀中国际学校
Located in downtown Honglingjin Park since 1995, Yew Chung International School of Beijing (YCIS Beijing) offers a truly international curriculum for children of foreign nationals in China. The school follows the National Curriculum for England but also integrates an extensive Chinese language and culture program, allowing foreign nationals to get the best out of their time in China. YCIS Beijing is one of only five schools in China accredited by three separate accreditation organizations and has a 100 percent pass rate within the IGCSE and IB programs. In addition, YCIS Beijing is the only international school in China to receive the Cambridge Award for Excellence in Education from the University of Cambridge International Examinations.
> Honglingjin Park, 5 Houbalizhuang, Chaoyang 朝阳区后八里庄5号红领巾公园 (8583 3731, www.ycis-bj.com)

Kindergartens

House of Knowledge International Kindergarten (HOK)

House of Knowledge International kindergarten (HOK) has locations in both Shunyi and Chaoyang. Both locations offer a Kindergarten program for children aged 10 months to 6 years (Pre-school). Students are treated as competent learners and the school emphasizes critical thinking and collaboration skills, in an environment where children "Learn to Learn". In addition, the Shunyi location also has a elementary school starting from grade 1 in September 2014.
> Quanfā Gardens Campus: North gate of Quanfā compound, 15 Maqianyung Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区马泉营15号泉发花园北门 (6431 8452, www.hokschools.com); Victoria Gardens Campus: 15 Chaoyang Gongyuan Xilu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区朝阳公园西路15号维多利亚花园公寓 (6538 2624, www.hokschools.com)

CLASSIFIEDS

ACCOMMODATION

Ascott Beijing

> No.108B Jianguo Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 北京市朝阳区建国路乙108号 (6587 0888)

Ascott Raffles City Beijing

Located in Dongzhimen, one of the most vibrant areas, Ascott Raffles City is near the second embassy district, which is rich in cultural heritage and is only a 15 minute drive to The Forbidden City. Other nearby leisure attractions include Food Street (Gui Jie) and Sanlitun nightlife district.

> No.1-2 Dongzhimen South Street Dongcheng District Tel: 8405 3888

Ascott Raffles City Chengdu

> No. 3, Section 4, South Renmin Road, Wuhou District, Chengdu 610041, China Post code: 610041, Telephone: (86-28) 6268 2888, Facsimile: (86-28) 6268 2889, GD5 Code: AZ, Reservations Telephone: 400 820 1028 (China toll-free); (86-512) 6763 1021 Email: enquiry.china@the-ascott.com

Ascott Riverside Garden Beijing

With a stunning east-meets-west architecture, the residence provides spacious studios, stylish one-bedroom apartments as well as unique two-bedroom penthouses and luxurious three-bedroom premiers. The lifestyle amenities and unparalleled recreational facilities offer the residents various options for relaxation and entertainment

> No.33A Zhou Zhuang Jiayuan Dongli, Chaoyang District, Beijing Telephone Number: (86-10) 8783 1666 Website: www.ascottchina.com Email: enquiry.beijing@the-ascott.com

Beijing Kerry Residence

Whether you're a single business executive or a busy family, Beijing Kerry's fully-furnished 1, 2 and 3-bedroom apartments will feel just like home. As well as enjoying all the comforts of modern living – including a well-equipped kitchen, entertainment systems, high-speed broadband and much more – residents are just moments away from the Kerry Centre's shopping mall and sports facilities. The rest of the CBD is on your doorstep too.

> 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区光华路1号 (8535 6888, www.beijingkerryresidence.com)

Lee Garden Service Apartments

A newly renovated high-end premier living residence in a central location next to the shopping and cultural sites of Beijing's Wangfujing, suites range from studios to 4-bedroom apartments (60-610sqm in size) and are tastefully furnished with specially selected materials.

> 18 Jinyu Hutong, Wangfujing, Dongcheng (100m East of Sun Dong An Plaza) 东城区王府井金鱼胡同18号 (新东安东侧100米); 24hr front desk: 6525 8855, Fax: 6525 8080, general.manager@lgapartment.com, www.lgapartment.com

FraserSuite CBD Beijing

The ultimate luxury in apartment living, Fraser Suites CBD Beijing epitomizes style and comfort, that surpasses the service level of many Beijing hotels. The 357 Gold-Standard Beijing apartment features contemporary concepts designed for luxury living.

> 12 Jintong Xilu Chaoyang District Beijing Tel: 5908 6000

GTC RESIDENCE BEIJING

One of the top residences in Beijing, GTC Residence is located beside the third ring road with 5 minutes' walk to subway line 5, 10 minutes' drive to Hou Hai. It is also within easily reach of CBD, embassy area, Financial Street and other urban

commercial, shopping and recreation areas. Fully equipped apartments with impeccable quality offer you a cozy living system and will meet all of your requirements for room decoration, furniture, electric appliances etc..

Unique sky garden with golf practice field and barbecue area is another symbol of GTC Residence.

> sales@gtcresidence.com, website: www.gtcresidence.com Tel: 56756666

Beijing Lianbao



Lianbao Apartments 联宝公寓

Lianbao Apartments is near Sanlitun Street, next to the second Embassies area. The apartments here rent out very quickly because of the wide space and reasonable prices. People who live here can enjoy satellite TV, including CNN, HBO, TV5, BBC etc.

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Hotline: 84190007 / 13810936118
E-mail: hanxingyue1127@126.com

> Unite 1C, Building 7, Xingfu Yicun Xili, Chaoyang District 朝阳区幸福一村西里7号楼1C (6415 8001, 138 1093 6118, hanxingyue1127@126.com)

Lusongyuan Hotel

A traditional compound of quadrangle composing of 5 courtyards which lies in the "hutong" area of Beijing. The hotel building is famous for its imperial living taste of the Qing Dynasty with a history of nearly 170 years. The original owner of this large private house was the Grand General SenggeRinchen, who lived here while he carried out top official duties, such as defense minister.

> Tel: (86 10) 6404 0436, Fax: (86 10) 6403 0418, Address: No.22 Banchang Lane, Kuanjie, Dongcheng District 东城区宽街板厂胡同22号 www.the-silk-road.com, E-mail: webmaster@the-silk-road.com

Marriott Executive Apartments

Ideally located in the center of Wangfujing area where the prestigious business, commercial, entertainment, and shopping center of Beijing. The Imperial Mansion, Beijing – Marriott Executive Apartments reflects an exceptional level of luxury.

> Gate, No. 1 Xiagongfu Street, Dongcheng District Tel: 6564 9999

The Millennium Residences of the Beijing Fortune Plaza

The Millennium Residences of the Beijing Fortune Plaza is located in the heart of the Beijing CBD which bears the most momentously potential of development and value elevation. While 25 minutes away from the Beijing International Airport, the Millennium Residences is walking distance from nearly all Embassies.

> 7 Dongsanhuan Zhonglu Chaoyang District. Tel: 8588 2888

Oak Chateau Beijing

Oak Chateau Beijing has 236 stylish and

contemporary fully serviced apartments from studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom, three-bedroom and four bedroom suites available, measuring 64 to 260 square meters. There is a 24-hours guest reception, and housekeeping is offered twice a week.

Nestled within the landscaped gardens of the Ocean Express commercial and residential complex, Oak Chateau Beijing is very close to the third Embassy Area and shopping and dining services at the Beijing Lufthansa Center. There are only 19 kilometers to the Beijing Capital Airport.

> 北京市朝阳区东三环霞光里66号远洋新干线D座 邮编 100027

Block D, Ocean Express, 66 Xiaguang Li, Third East Ring Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100027, P.R.C
Tel: (86-10) 84465888 Fax: (86-10) 84465999 Email oak.chateau@oakchateau.com Website: www.oakchateau.com

Oakwood Residence Beijing

Oakwood Residence Beijing offers 406 fully equipped luxury apartments ranging from studios to four bedroom penthouse and terrace apartments, all exquisitely furnished in elegant and stylish decor. Each apartment is fitted with a state-of-the-art air purification and air conditioning system which ensures 99.9% pure, triple filtered air, so you can trust in Oakwood and breathe easy.

> No. 8 Dongzhimenwai Xiejie, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100027, China reschaoyang@oakwoodasia.com Website: www.oakwoodasia.com/resbeijing Tel: 5995 2888 Fax: 5995 2999

Oakwood Residence Damei Beijing

The only serviced apartment in the city that has its own in-house supply of natural hot spring water supply. Expansive city views are available from floor to ceiling windows with the apartments situated from level 23 to 35 in the building complex.

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Building No.1 Damei Center, 7 Qingnian Road, Chaoyang District Beijing 北京市朝阳区青年路7号达美中心1号楼
Tel: 86-10 8585 2211 (8:30am-5:30pm)
86-10 8585 2888 (5:30pm-8:30am)
Fax: (86-10) 8585 2666
website OakwoodAsia.com

THE WESTIN EXECUTIVE RESIDENCES

The Westin Executive Residences at The Beijing Financial Street offer an array of world-class cuisine options and Westin's signature amenities designed to elicit personal renewal. Just 40 minutes from the airport, the Westin Executive Residences provides direct access to Beijing's business, entertainment and shopping district and close proximity to cultural landmarks such as The Forbidden City and Tiananmen Square. Each apartment is also fitted with contemporary furnishings, fully equipped kitchens, state-of-the-art appliances, home entertainment system and LCD flat screen televisions.

> Email: reservation.beijing@westin.com Website: www.westin.com/beijingfinancial Tel: 6606 8866

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>> BEIJING (20 LOCATIONS) <<

Lei Shing Hong Plaza [New]

北京利星行广场
5/F, Tower C, Lei Shing Hong Plaza, No.8 Wangjing Street, Chaoyang District

北京市朝阳区望京街8号利星行广场C座5层

Sun Dong An Plaza [New]

北京新东安广场
7/F, Office Tower 2, Sun Dong An Plaza, No.138 Wangfujing, Avenue, Dongcheng District 北京市东城区王府井大街138号新东安广场写字楼2座7层

Zhongyu Mansion [New]

北京中宇大厦
6/F, Zhongyu Mansion, No.6 North Workers Stadium Road, Chaoyang District 北京市朝阳区工体北路甲6号中宇大厦6层

Diplomatic [New]

北京亮马桥外交办公大楼
17/F, Tower E, Liangmaqiao, Diplomatic Office Building, 3rd Embassy District, Chaoyang District 北京市朝阳区第三使馆区亮马桥外交办公大楼E座17层

Kerry Centre - South Tower [New]

北京嘉里中心-南楼
10/F, South Tower, Kerry Centre, No.1 Guanghua Road, Chaoyang District 北京市朝阳区光华路1号嘉里中心南楼10层

Landgent Building [Coming Soon]

北京乐成中心
5/F, Block A, Landgent Center, No.20 East Middle 3rd Ring Road, Chaoyang District 北京市朝阳区东三环中路20号乐成中心A座5层

China World Tower 3

北京国贸三期
15/F, China World Tower 3, No.1 Jianguomenwai Street, Chaoyang District 北京市朝阳区建国门外大街1号国贸中心3座15层

China Central Place

北京华贸中心
9/F, Tower 2, China Central Place, No.79 Jianguo Road, Chaoyang District 北京市朝阳区建国路79号华贸中心2号楼9层

Lufthansa Centre

北京燕莎中心
C203, Lufthansa Centre, No.50 Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang District 北京市朝阳区亮马桥路50号燕莎中心C203

Kerry Centre

北京嘉里中心
11/F, North Tower, Kerry Centre, No.1 Guanghua Road, Chaoyang District 北京市朝阳区光华路1号嘉里中心北楼11层

Pacific Century Place

北京盈科中心
14/F, IBM Tower, No.2A North Workers Stadium Road, Chaoyang District 北京市朝阳区工体北路甲2号IBM大厦14层

Parkview Green

北京侨福芳草地中心
15/F, Office Building A Parkview, Green, No.9 Dongdaqiao Road, Chaoyang District 北京市朝阳区东大桥路9号芳草地办公大楼A座15层

China Life Tower

北京中国人寿大厦中心
5/F, China Life Tower, No.16 Chaoyangmenwai Street, Chaoyang District 北京市朝阳区朝阳门外大街16号中国人寿大厦5层

China Life - West

北京中国人寿大厦-西
West, 5/F, China Life Tower, No.16 Chaoyangmenwai Street, Chaoyang District 北京市朝阳区朝阳门外大街16号中国人寿大厦5层西区

IFC 北京财源国际中心

10/F, IFC East Tower, No.8 Jianguomenwai Street, Chaoyang District 北京市朝阳区建国门外大街甲8号财源国际中心东座10层

Prosper Center

北京世纪财富中心
6/F, Tower 2, Prosper Center, No.5 Guang Hua Road, Chaoyang District 北京市朝阳区光华路5号世纪财富中心2号楼6层

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12/F, Financial Street Excel, Centre, No.6
Wudinghou Street, Xicheng District 北京市
西城区武定侯街6号卓越国际金融中心12层

NCI Centre
北京新华保险大厦中心
15/F, NCI Tower, No.12A Jianguomenwai
Street, Chaoyang District 北京市朝阳区建国
门外大街甲12号新华保险大厦15层

Taikang Financial Tower
北京泰康金融大厦
23/F, Taikang Financial Tower, No.38 East
Third Ring Road, Chaoyang District 北京市
朝阳区东三环北路38号泰康金融大厦23层

Zhongguancun Metropolis Tower
北京中关村欧美汇大厦
7/F, Metropolis Tower, No.2 Dongsan Street,
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Tianjin reviews,
events and information





FAMILY TIME IS AT THE HEART OF THE ST. REGIS TIANJIN

For many, a hotel is just a place to go back to after a long day spent traveling for leisure or business but at the St. Regis Tianjin – it's much more than that. This autumn, the luxury hotel has made it their mission to become your personalized key to the city, with a new set of packages designed especially for families who are eager to discover all the sights that Tianjin has to offer. Created to satisfy the needs of children and parents alike, the St. Regis Tianjin's new packages capture the spirit of the coastal Chinese city and are the ideal way to experience the rich history, fascinating sights and the best attractions.

From the moment you book your trip, the St. Regis Tianjin gives you the option of selecting the entertainment packages that are the perfect fit for your family. For nature lovers, Zoonly is the way to go – the indoor zoo in Heping district is equipped with a watching area, an animal experience center and a theatre, providing your family countless hours of entertainment. Here, children are able to observe, interact and feed rare animals

like kangaroos and capybaras, as well as tamer lamas and cats, in an exciting and safe environment.

Education and fun go hand-in-hand with a package developed in collaboration with Tom's World, one of Asia's top providers of indoor entertainment. It's the ideal choice to instantly brighten a rainy day, providing quality bonding time for parents and children with a plethora of arcade games.

No matter how you decide to spend your day, don't miss out on the magic of a Haihe River cruise at night. Prepare to be captivated by the shining lights of the city skyline and soak in the reflections of the glittering Tianjin Eye in the blue waters of the river. The St. Regis Tianjin makes it all stress-free by organizing everything from start to finish, leaving you and your family to simply sit back, relax and take it all in. Even after your spectacu-



lar getaway comes to an end, the memories shared with your family will stay with you forever.

For those that want to continue reliving the experience, join the Marriott International's loyalty program – you'll be able to book a room at special discounted prices across their 6,700 distinctive properties in 130 countries and territories around the globe. Members can also indulge in 120,000 experiences offered on moments.marriott.com, for a truly unforgettable vacation.

Learn more and book your favorite package at www.marriott.com or call 022-5830 9933

that's TIANJIN 2018 FOOD & DRINK AWARDS

Tianjin's restaurant and bar scene is booming. For our annual *That's Tianjin* Food & Drink Awards, we set out in search of the best places to wine and dine. This year's ceremony, hosted in the brand new Hard Rock Cafe Tianjin, saw exciting new entries with some familiar faces as well. Take a look for yourself!

Local Cuisine of the Year

ZHEN Wanda Vista Tianjin

Among the plethora of services that the **Wanda Vista Tianjin** offers, including a massive state-of-the-art KTV room, their **Zhen** restaurant is definitely a highlight. And while Zhen favors local-style dishes, its pan-regional cuisine is excellent. The restaurant's tastefully decorated private rooms are perfect for casual and business gatherings and boast unique outdoor balconies that provide refreshing views.

Outstanding Pick

Offering the authentic highlights of Tianjin cuisine in a beautiful historic setting, **Cao Mansion** is a unique experience from start to finish.



Casual Dining of the Year Salsa

Salsa Public House just opened its 9th location this year but stays true to its core value: fusion. A blend of traditional Chinese flavours with unexpected elements is exactly what you'll find in Salsa's dishes, never predictable and made to be shared. And with each location having a unique style and atmosphere, we guarantee that each visit to Salsa will always feel like the first time.

Outstanding Pick

blue frog is famous for its outstanding burgers, but it's so much more than that. With tasty salads, steaks and cocktails, blue frog is the place to go for an all-around American experience.

Buffet of the Year Café Yun Shangri-La Hotel, Tianjin

Café Yun brings together the best of the Shangri-La team, offering a vast array of dishes from various cuisines. Munch on fresh seafood, salads, BBQ and – best of all – handmade desserts in the restaurant's relaxed and casual environment. Can't decide between international or local favorites? Café Yun satisfies all cravings.

Outstanding Pick

With one of the largest open kitchens you'll ever see, **BLD – Renaissance Tianjin** Lakeview Hotel makes for an unforgettable dining experience.



Desserts of the Year Maxim's de Paris

A continuous ambassador for French excellence, **Maxim's de Paris'** masterfully crafted desserts are just the cherry on top of the restaurant's outstanding menu. This one-of-a-kind venue exudes glamour and evokes the enchantment of the sparkling city itself, while the menu is sure to impress with its collection of French delicacies.

Outstanding Pick

Tianjin has plenty of options to satisfy your cravings for high-quality desserts, but the beautifully decorated and delicious treats of **Best+ café** stole our hearts.

French Cuisine of the Year
Maison FLO Tianjin



When it comes to dining in style, you simply can't go wrong with **Maison FLO**. The French restaurant stands out for a reason. Well, several reasons. First, the wine selection – a full cave of France's best. Then there's the service – some of the finest in China. Most importantly, there's the food – authentic French dishes, right here in Tianjin.

Outstanding Pick

Chic, elegant and with some of Tianjin's best French wines and dishes on offer, **Maxim's de Paris** stays true to its brand of French excellence.

Family Dining of the Year

Xihe Yayuan Peking Duck

There could be no better seal of approval for **Xihe's** ducks than this: They are hugely popular in the dish's birthplace. Everyone seems to love this Beijing chain's affordable, lean and tasty birds that have dazzled the palates of Tianjin diners.



Outstanding Pick

Tasty burgers, beers and music, plus unique rockstar memorabilia come together at the **Hard Rock Cafe Tianjin**.

Al Fresco Dining of the Year

Riviera
The St. Regis Tianjin



Riviera at **The St. Regis Tianjin** is unrivaled for its world-class dining and picturesque river setting. Featuring European-style cuisine, with fresh local seafood, a great wine selection and professional service, the Riviera has all the ingredients for the ultimate alfresco experience. Evenings on the terrace outside are especially beautiful for admiring the city lights over a glass or two.

Outstanding Pick

WE Brewery might be best known for their beers, but their outdoor terrace and dining options make it a great choice for an alfresco meal.

European Cuisine of the Year
DK 1308 Brauhaus



Serving a complete range of German and local dishes, **DK 1308's** high class kitchen earned this year's award. But we were equally impressed by the large selection of beers and for the carefully curated interiors, that give you the feeling of stepping into a true Bavarian Brauhaus.

Outstanding Pick

Rey de Gambas impresses us with its homey vibes and genuine Spanish menu.

Chinese Cuisine of the Year

Shang Palace
Shangri-La Hotel, Tianjin



Renowned for its sumptuous Cantonese cuisine, along with local Tianjin specialties, Shangri-La's signature Chinese restaurant **Shang Palace** is another place to try the famed Peking Duck, slow-roasted in a custom oven with jujube wood, without traveling to the capital. Not to mention the daily dim sum, tasty embodiments of everything there is to love about Cantonese food.

Outstanding Pick

Tian Tai Xuan at **The Ritz-Carlton, Tianjin** is a Cantonese restaurant that is not afraid to innovate, always introducing new and sophisticated takes on local dishes.

American Cuisine of the Year

blue frog

Nothing is quite as American as a burger, and nowhere does burgers like **blue frog**. The ultra-popular burger spot does sliders, beef burgers, chicken burgers and more – but it's not all about the burgers. Whether it's a nutritious salad or a juicy steak, at blue frog there is truly something for everyone.

Outstanding Pick

A new arrival from Beijing, **Tube Station** serves savory pizzas alongside salads, fries and wings.



Italian Cuisine of the Year
Prego
The Westin Tianjin

'Prego' is what you say to someone in Italy when you want them to feel at home. Through its premium pizzas, pastas and lively atmosphere, **Prego** does just that. Let the staff take you on a culinary trip to Italy, and enjoy watching the chefs do their magic in the great open kitchen.

Outstanding Pick

Ciao Pizza is our destination of choice when we want to indulge in some authentic Neapolitan wood-fired pizza.



Restaurant of the Year
Maison FLO Tianjin

Maison FLO's sophisticated design and stylish atmosphere truly makes it the most fabulous dining experience. Located in the heart of Tianjin, the French restaurant is known for its extensive wine selection, attentive service and authentic French dishes.

Outstanding Pick

Riviera at **The St. Regis Tianjin** continues to impress us with its elegant fare and refined atmosphere.

Cocktail Bar of the Year
Le Procope Lounge

The quality of the cocktails at **Le Procope Lounge** is so consistent, that we wonder whether head barman Kevin Wang is secretly making them all himself. The drink menu offers an ever-evolving choice of pleasantly balanced concoctions that make this the perfect place to start, finish or continue a night out.

Outstanding Pick

The winner of last year's award for Best New Bar, **Gal** continues to deliver. The service is second to none, but it's the inventive cocktails that really stand out.

Fine Dining of the Year
Riviera
The St. Regis Tianjin

It's no secret that the **Riviera** at **The St. Regis Tianjin** is nothing short of terrific. Vibrant and plush couch seating, boldly colored walls and pristine views of the Hai River provide atmosphere, while tastefully presented European cuisine is complimented by a stellar wine and beverage selection. But then again, you probably already knew all of that.

Outstanding Pick

Shang Palace at the **Shangri-La Hotel, Tianjin** fuses Cantonese and local culinary traditions with a constant push for innovation.



New Restaurant of the Year
Hard Rock Cafe Tianjin

Located in a premium location overlooking the Gui River, the spacious interiors of the **Hard Rock Cafe Tianjin** host live music and the collection of rock memorabilia that made the restaurant brand famous worldwide. But, most importantly, Hard Rock Cafe offers the best new dining experience, with an extensive menu of burgers and brews.

Outstanding Pick

Say hi to **Ciao Pizza**, another top pick of the city's best places to enjoy a real Neapolitan wood-fired pizza.



Pub of the Year
WE Brewery



WE Brewery serves up more than just delicious craft beer — it offers something else that can't be imitated: a community. Complete with weekly yoga, poetry nights and stand-up, it's no surprise that WE Brewery is our go-to pick.

Outstanding Pick

The Bavarian vibes and large selection of beers make **DK 1308 Brauhaus** one of our favorite hang outs in the city.

New Bar of the Year
G2 Cocktail Bar

G2, the speakeasy that surprised us earlier this year takes the cake with its innovative cocktails and alluring décor. So pay a visit to this new hip spot — if you can find it.

Outstanding Pick

Gal No.3 is the place to go to for an exciting night out with high quality cocktail creations that will knock your socks off.



Lounge Bar of the Year

River Lounge
The St. Regis Tianjin

This spacious terrace, with a unique view of the Hai River, is the ideal spot to enjoy a drink and recharge. As your eyes wander and explore the beauty of the Tianjin skyline, take the time to slowly sip from your glass of premium wine or opt for one of **River Lounge's** expertly-made cocktails.

Outstanding Pick

The luxurious ambiance of the **Lobby Lounge** at **Shangri-La Hotel**, facing the riverfront, is perfect for an afternoon tea as well as an evening cocktail.



Bar of the Year

Le Procope Lounge

There has been a slew of new bar openings in Tianjin, but none are ready to challenge the crown of three-time champion **Le Procope Lounge**. The industrial chic setting, unbeatable cocktails and sleek (but never pretentious) vibes keep us coming back again and again.

Outstanding Pick

We could not avoid another mention of **G2 Cocktail Bar**, the only bar in Tianjin disguised as a vending machine and serving cocktails inside actual books.



Atmosphere of the Year
Flair
The Ritz-Carlton, Tianjin

Flair, an oasis of metropolitan style and sophistication in the heart of bustling Tianjin, is the best setting to unwind. Grab a seat at the bar or relax on the luxe lounge chairs with your friends — then go ahead and order a cocktail, or three.

Outstanding Pick

Aria on 9 at the **Four Seasons Hotel Tianjin** makes for unforgettable Friday night.



● Ice Cream China 2018 Dessert



Who said ice cream is just for the summertime? Ice cream, desserts and a whole range of frozen treats will be on display at Ice Cream China 2018, an event for professionals of the industry as well as fans who want to take their passion for ice cream to the next level.

Thu Oct 11- Sat Oct 13, Tianjin Meijiang Convention and Exhibition Center, 18 Youyi Nanlu, Xiqing 西青区友谊南路18号

● Cologne Guitar Quartet Gig



Formed in 2014, the well-travelled Cologne Guitar Quartet is an international ensemble based in Germany. Coming from four different countries (Germany, Israel, Portugal, and Greece), they perform modern pieces by living composers, combining classical music with folkloric repertoire from their motherland.

Fri Oct 19, 7pm; Tianjin Grand Theatre, No. 58-1 Pingjiang Road 天津市河西区平江道58号增1号 (tickets via bandsintown.com)

● Sewing Classes by Patricia Community



Patricia invites you to the Nasca Linien culture center to share her passion of sewing. In this monthly three-hour session she will cover the basics of the meticulous craft (and more), from threading a machine to realizing complex patterns. What's more, materials and sewing machines are included.

Tue Oct 9, 10am-1pm; RMB300; Nasca Linien, 113 Chongqing Dao, Heping 和平区重庆道113号

● The Count of Wulong Mountain Theater



A boy and a girl with no job, no house and no car suddenly inherit a large sum of money, starting a chain reaction of misunderstandings and dangerous investigations that will change their life forever. Hooked already? Check out this Mahua Fun Age production at the Tianjin Binhu Theatre.

Thu Oct 18-Sun Oct 21, 7:30pm; RMB80-1408; Tianjin Binhu Theatre, 6 Huanhu Zhonglu, Hexi 河西区环湖中路6号

● Spanish Siesta @ Rey de Gambas / Dining



To find the taste of Spain in Tianjin, look no further than in the ex-legation quarter, where a century-old house now hosts Tianjin's Spanish food haven Rey de Gambas. Try their original take on Mediterranean specialties at their Spanish Siesta, featuring an irresistible tapas menu with free-flow Cava for just RMB150. Indulge, then take a well-deserved nap.

Sat Oct 6, 11am-2.30pm; RMB150 (free-flow wine); Rey de Gambas, 138 Xinhua Lu, Heping 和平区新华路138号



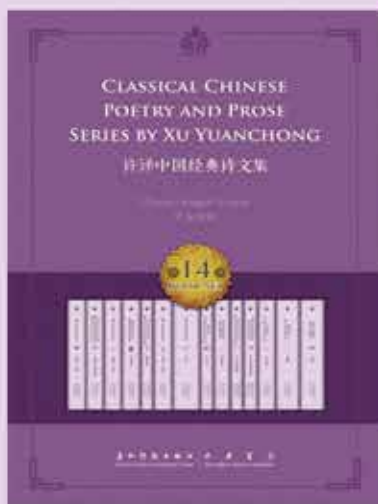
CLASSICAL CHINESE POETRY AND PROSE

An Accomplished Writer on the Art of Translation

Written by Xu Yuanchong

About the Author:

Born in Nanchang, Jiangxi in 1921, Xu Yuanchong graduated from the Southwest Associated University and Université de Paris and worked as a professor of literary translation at Peking University. During his decades-long career, Xu has published *On Chinese Verse in English Rhyme and Vanished Springs*, which featured a preface by Nobel Prize winner for physics, C. N. Yang. In addition to *Songs of the Immortals* published by Penguin Books, he has translated many Chinese literary classics into English or French. Some of his most notable work include *Book of Poetry*, *Elegies of the South*, *300 Tang Poems*, *300 Song Lyrics*, *Selected Poems of Li Bai*, *Poems and Lyrics of Su Dongpo*, *Romance of Western Bower* and *The Selected Poems of Mao Zedong*. He has also translated some world literary classics, such as Gustave Flaubert's *Madame Bovary* into Chinese. Prof. Xu received the Lifetime Achievement Award in Translation conferred by the Translators Association of China (TAC) in 2010.



About the Book:

More than 2,000 years ago, Chinese poets wrote the beautiful works *The Book of Songs* and *The Songs of Chu*. Later, they created more beautiful poems during the Tang and Song dynasties. Classic works like *The Analects of Confucius* and *Lao Zi* are not only symbols for traditional values and ideology, they're also an important bridge between the rest of the world and China.



That's Beijing

Horoscopes

Finally, a horoscope that understands your life in Beijing.

by Dominic Ngai



Libra
9.24-10.23

After all those mooncakes you ate last month, it's finally time to hit the gym again. Make sure to wear red workout gear for good luck.



Scorpio
10.24-11.22

Halloween falls right in the middle of your sign. It's the only time of year in which you can unleash your inner darkness and no one would bat an eye. Don't eat too much candy though - a sugar rush will make you do something truly embarrassing and it'll go viral.



Sagittarius
11.23-12.21

Attending multiple farewell parties this month will lead you to start thinking about your own China exit but all those free flow sangria brunches at Migas Mercado are still calling your name. Fine, maybe another year...



Capricorn
12.22-1.20

Refuse all group chat invitations this month. For groups you're already in, don't participate in any conversations unless they're directed at you. If you must reply, only respond in five words or less. Don't ask why.



Aquarius
1.21-2.19

There will be more than a few hiccups with your Didi rides this month, so we recommend sticking with the metro. Avoid any south-facing station exits, and remember to only take the escalators.



Pisces
2.20-3.20

Overspending on your Golden Week trip means you'll have to make some major cutbacks. Hunt for those cheap Meituan deals, or just cook your own food for once, you lazy fish. And don't even think about splurging on any fancy French cheese at Chez Gerard.



Aries
3.21-4.20

A friendly face will confront you about your questionable WeChat sticker choices this month - don't fight it. Listen to them to avoid further damage to your reputation and invest your energy elsewhere. Blow off some steam with a boxing class at JPEG.



Taurus
4.21-5.21

Your regular breakfast *jianbing* place is closed for good so it's time to try something new. It's a huge challenge for you since you're a creature of habit, but those 7-Eleven *baozi* aren't that bad - just get the ones with vegetarian fillings and skip the mystery meat. Yum!



Gemini
5.22-6.21

Alipay will fail you when you need it most this month, so have some backup cash in your wallet at all times. Or just ask your hot Tinder date to pay for your pricey drink at Arch Bar and expect to never see them again. Your call.



Cancer
6.22-7.22

Feeling a little crabby, Crabby? You should totally do a lavish staycation with your BFF using that hotel voucher you won a while back. Double check the expiry date before you go though - you can't afford it.



Leo
7.23-8.23

A stranger will approach you on the metro, introduce himself in Chinese as a modeling agent and ask for your WeChat. Whatever you do, don't give it out. Just pretend to be a tourist and act confused. That always works.



Virgo
8.24-9.23

You promised your partner that you'd try to become less controlling, but your regular Starbucks order is still a 'venti non-fat extra hot no foam vanilla latte.' That's fine. Just don't yell at the barista if they mess up your drink again, OK?



HOTTEST DEALS

The Bestsellers on thMart

Reusable coffee cups, traditional Korean wines and healthy drinks from Oatly



Keepcup, from RMB95

Available in different sizes and colors, these Australian made reusable coffee cups are environmentally friendly, well-designed, and most importantly, That's readers can enjoy a 30 percent discount on these items during the month of October. Simply scan the QR code and get yours on thMart.



Bohae Matchsoon Korean Plum Wine, from RMB49

Made with green plums and aged for 10 years, this traditional drink is the perfect companion for a Korean barbecue feast.



Bohae Bokbunjajoo Korean Raspberry Wine, from RMB60

This award-winning Korean wine is made from locally grown raspberries and has been endorsed by many celebrities.



Oatly Oat Drink Original/Chocolate, from RMB150

Get these healthily delicious oat drinks by the dozen and share them with your loved ones.





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