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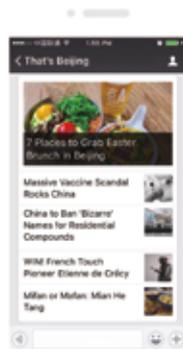
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It's no mystery that people love a good mystery. From the riddles of ancient history to modern dating, there's something about the things that we can't understand right away that seems to pique our intrigue even more.

In this month's cover story, Matthew Bossons of *That's PRD* travels to the northwestern region of Gansu in an attempt to uncover one such mystery of the ages: a lost Roman city of China's past, known today as Liqian. Suspected to have been occupied by a Roman legion thousands of years ago, the town is now a quiet home to Chinese villagers. Did Romans really settle in Han Dynasty China? And better yet, are these current inhabitants the descendants of Roman legionnaires? (Read more on p. 40.)

Elsewhere in the magazine, I sit down with Liu Fei of local music venue School Bar to chat about his latest project (p. 34); Edoardo Donati Fogliazza savors the flavors of Peru right here in Beijing (p. 60); and Andrew Braun checks out the city's newest lounge bars (p. 58 and 61, yeah, there are more).

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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BEIJING POLICE CRITICIZED AFTER BABY-SNATCHING INCIDENT

by Edoardo Donati Fogliazza

Beijing police have been criticized for their decision not to press child trafficking charges against three women who attempted to abduct an 11-month-old baby from his stroller outside a Fengtai District shopping mall on October 2.

In dramatic scenes, the baby was recovered moments after the incident took place when a local shopkeeper intervened.

The baby-snatching was an apparent case of mistaken identity. A review by Beijing's Public Security Bureau concluded that the three women were acting on behalf of another woman, surnamed Li, who thought the baby was her grandson. Li had apparently not seen the baby since it was born due to a family dispute.

Earlier on the day of the incident Li, who had traveled to Beijing from Shandong with her friends in an attempt to see the grandson, saw a woman who looked like her daughter-in-law pushing a stroller in Fengtai. As she attempted to pursue them she apparently fell down but told her friends to give chase. In a

Weibo post written by the father two days after the incident he relayed his wife's traumatic experience. He stated that one of the women looked at the baby and said, "He's really charming," before attempting to pull the baby from his stroller seat. While the mother was able to prevent the first woman from taking her child, the other two ladies managed to snatch the baby. By that point, a crowd had begun to gather, and a shopkeeper came to the rescue.

The worker said in an interview on October 6, "When I rushed to the scene, the child's mother was lying on the ground yelling, 'Call the police. They're taking my child!'" The man sprung to action, securing the frightened, crying baby in his arms while questioning the women on what was going on.

Once the police arrived at the scene, they brought the women to the police station for questioning and verified Li's story by visiting her daughter and grandchild. Ultimately, the women were issued five days of administrative detention, though one was not detained

due to health ailments. It was this light punishment that sparked the online protest targeting the Beijing police, who were lambasted for failing to investigate the ladies for child trafficking.

The father of the baby vented his anger on social media, expressing his concern with a lack of accountability towards criminals. Other commenters echoed his thoughts, with one pointing out: "This happened in a jam-packed area in Beijing during broad daylight, but with an end result that merely scratches the surface. This is practically encouraging criminal activity."

THE BUZZ

GENERATION GAP

Brooklyn Beckham, son of soccer superstar David Beckham, was targeted by Chinese netizens in October after he posted a sarcastic comment about Chinese tourists in Venice. How do you feel toward his take on the increasing number of mainland tourists that head abroad during the holidays?

LI, 29



Well, what he highlighted is the rise of a nation. Now, China is much richer than just 40 years ago – more and more people have the financial freedom and the free time necessary to travel abroad and explore other countries.

Is this really so special? I think this trend attracts so much attention because Chinese tourists still show a mindset and a behavior that doesn't really fit their socio-economic condition. When they go abroad, them and the locals are not really compatible, and tend to clash. On the other hand, although we ourselves can certainly improve our manners, foreigners should really start to relate to Chinese people from an equal standing. I think other countries were used to treating China as a poor friend who they patronized, only to then come to envy what that poor friend has become. What else could be wrong with Chinese tourists traveling to Italy?

To be honest, Chinese people tend to lack manners, in every aspect of life. Not a long time has passed since the start of the reform and the process of personal refinement of Chinese people is still underway. This is certainly something that immediately strikes foreigners when they meet Chinese tourists, and I would say this might have influenced Beckham's son when he posted the pictures. With that being said, China is also a rising power and every country is dealing with this fact in different ways. America is trying to curb China's rise while others are taking a more defensive stance against us. Truth is, the tables have turned and this is producing reactions from foreign people that are either rooted in history or in fear. But China's rise is an inevitable trend. Eventually, foreigners will have to come to terms with it. Still, Brooklyn's pictures show a lack of respect that is probably just a personal trait of his.

WU, 76



As told to Edoardo Donati Fogliazza

TINY TUNES

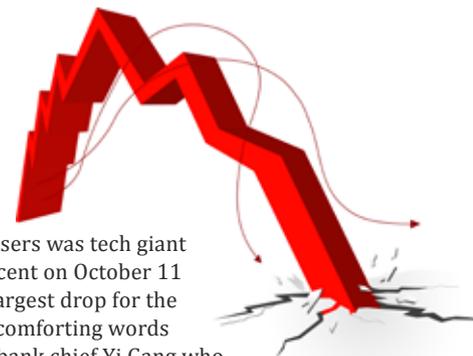
A child plays with the 'Music Wall,' one of the installations of the Beijing Design Week.

photo by Instagram user @bj_lily



Free Falling

The Chinese stock market had a rough awakening after the weeklong October holiday. On October 8 and again on October 11, the Mainland's stocks plummeted sharply, leaving the Shanghai Composite Index depleted of almost 4 percent of its value. Among the biggest losers was tech giant Tencent, which fell by as much as 7.5 percent on October 11 on the Hong Kong Hang Seng Index, the largest drop for the company since 2011. Despite the losses, comforting words came from authorities, including central bank chief Yi Gang who pledged to introduce new measures in support of the economy, and stock prices began to rise again towards the end of the month.





“When we make everything in China and not in America, then we’re cheating on our country”

...said Kanye West at a bizarre press appearance at the White House in October, where he briefly discussed China with President Trump. Other topics brought up by the rapper included the US criminal justice system, North Korea and replacing the Air Force One with an Apple-designed 'iPlane 1.'

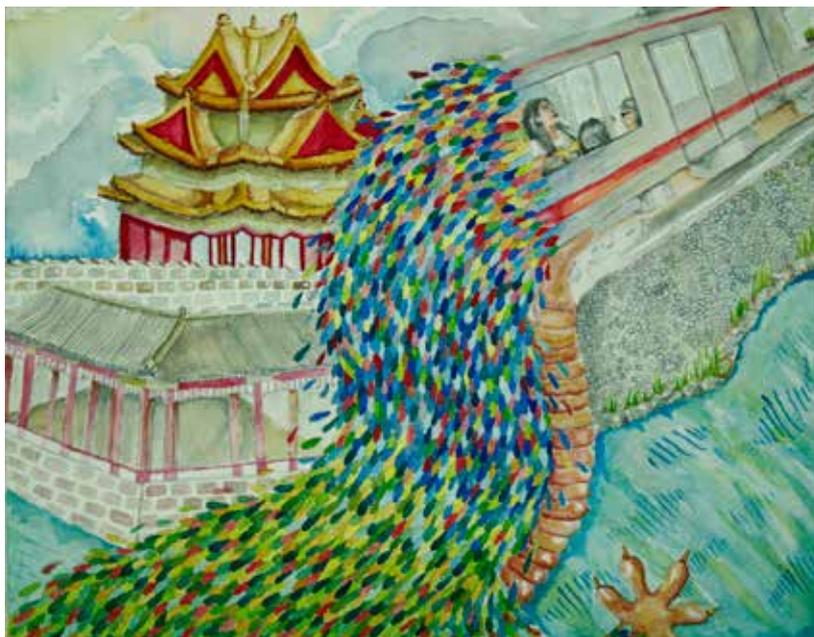
80 km

...is the expected optical range of the illumination satellite, dubbed the 'artificial moon,' that the city of Chengdu is preparing to launch in 2020, according to Wu Chunfeng, chairman of the private space contractor Chengdu Aerospace Science and Technology Microelectronics System Research Institute. By integrating the brightness produced by the moon each night, the device will be eight times brighter and should be able to replace street lights in the city.

STREETSIDE SERENADE

THE LIFE OF A LAOWAI
BUSKER IN CHINA

by Benjamin Lipschitz



"I did not want to make music that was only for middle-class people."

"Good afternoon, everybody, and thank you for listening to my music. These songs that I have just played you have been, of course, free of charge; I simply wish to deepen the way we interact in public spaces. However, singing on the metro everyday requires one to have an income, so if anyone cares to share one or two RMB with me, it would be a great contribution to my art."

I then pass through the metro car, accepting whatever support is offered, whether it's money, snacks or hugs. People laugh as I announce that I have a QR code for the 'especially modernized characters' that no longer carry cash.

Years ago, as a teenaged musician, I started making the rounds of Beijing's Sanlitun, Gulou and Wudaokou bars. Late nights in pubs were an exciting way to develop my art, but early mornings running for the school bus were always a rude awakening and eventually it was clear that I needed to make a change.

I had always thought of street performance as a last resort for people with few options for survival, and yet, for me it increasingly seemed like a dignified alternative to serenading the drunken patrons of late-night establishments, a work environment that not only exposed my vocal chords and harmonicas to secondhand smoke, but occasionally had me wondering what song might soothe the tensions of violent brawls. More than once, I was threat-

ened by audience members who were angry that I could not fulfill their song requests.

Folk music was my art, but my employers made their money selling booze, and I realized that in their minds my music was essentially the same as the peanuts they put on their clients' tables: just another amenity to keep the drink orders flowing. I wanted something different.

I started bringing my music to the sidewalks of Beijing's 798 Art District, where I could play on sunny afternoons, make as much money as I had in bars and still get my full adolescent's night's sleep. Better yet, whereas in those bars the diversity of my audience was limited by the financial and cultural capital necessary to frequent those fine establishments, on the street my audience was full of people I would never have sung to before: babies, children, elders; rich people, poor people; city folk, rural migrants; people from all over the world.

I can't overemphasize how important this was to my artistic development: the form that art takes is as much determined by its audience as it is by its maker. I did not want to make music that was only for middle-class people.

Still though, 798 was just 798, with its own limitations, its own four walls and particular types of people wandering around inside them. I soon discovered the true beauty of sidewalks: all cities had them! I traveled to Shandong, Shaanxi, Fujian, Hong Kong

and eventually Taiwan. I got more ambitious. I went to the United States, and eventually to Mexico, where I lived for a year and a half. Everywhere I went, I found that by seeking sustenance in the streets with my music I could learn more about a place and its culture than by visiting tourist sites.

It became a puzzle: what style of music do people here respond best to? What rhythms? How should I interact with children who are ever-so-curious at the sight of me? How should I interact with people intent on invading my personal space? How should I interact with police?

This last question, in recent years, has been most central in determining how I work. When I returned to Beijing from Mexico in 2017, after a three-year absence, I discovered that my old street corners were no longer available due to increased presence of *chengguan*, or city management officials, in 798. Thankfully, in Mexico, I had found a vibrant informal performing arts economy, and I learned some tricks of the trade.

There, I discovered that the sidewalks were the domain of mariachi bands and other more formal acts, who not only played the traditional songs that people wanted to hear, but were also invariably much better dressed than myself. People like me, with more informal acts, whether they were folk musicians with guitars and accordions, rappers with microphones and backing tracks,

or clowns with red noses and balloons, made their living performing on city busses and metro cars.

In May of 2016 I had my first crack at a transit performance. The benefits were self-evident: on a street-corner, a busker seeks high foot-traffic. This means people have places to go, and while it is touching when someone takes a break from their journey to listen to a full song, it doesn't happen often, and much like in the bars, people who can't afford the luxury to stop and smell the roses will only ever hear fragments of my music. On the trains I have, for lack of a better phrase, a captive audience.

But perhaps that is the perfect term to describe people who are stuck spending more and more of their lives in transit. Oftentimes metro-riders are held captive, but it is not by me. The seemingly unstoppable momentum of urbanization and gentrification force people farther and father away – from their jobs, each other and places of social gathering. The time that people spend getting around is as central to the functioning of an urban economy as it is to urbanites' alienation from their surroundings. I see my work as an effort to take back that time for new possibilities, and to open up that space as a social space in and of itself.

"I did not want to make music that was only for middle-class people."

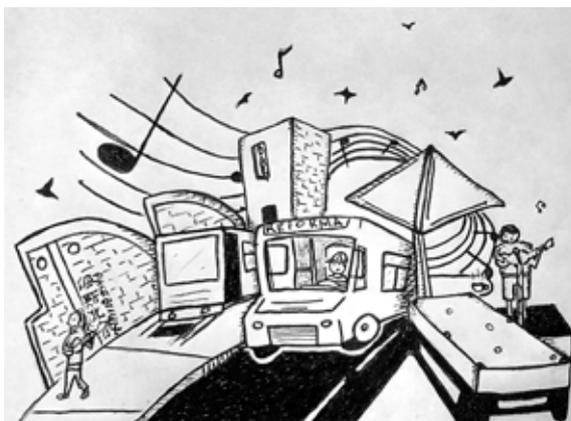
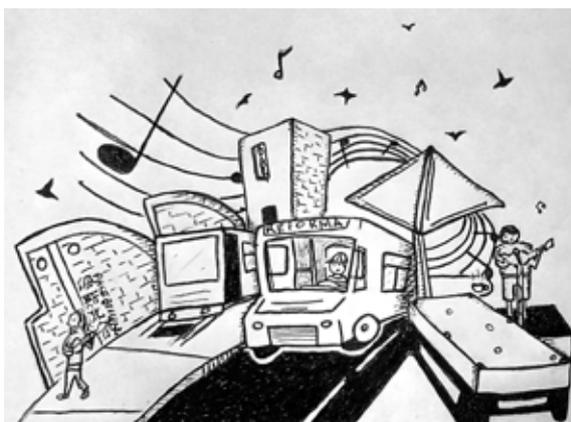
While I chose this work over working in bars, it does present its own challenges: my ability to perform depends on the ever-fluctuating state of public security. For example, since returning to China there have been two occasions on which high-profile government meetings have effectively put me out of business for two weeks due to the increased security presence on the trains.

Of course, as a visible foreigner I am subject to very different penalties from my Chinese friends in the same line of work. The situation changes constantly: in recent years subway performers in Beijing have faced anything from a few hours' detention with a RMB50 fine to multiple-night stays in jail, though these days it tends towards the former. However, when I am caught, station attendants usually just insist that I stop playing and leave. The attendants range from apologetic to mean to nervous at the thought of speaking to a laowai. But they have never fined me and have only rarely attempted to detain me. The fact that I am a foreign passport holder surely would complicate the process of penalizing me, and extra paperwork is always a good deterrent to that kind of action.

Each city I play in has its own dynamics. In Wuhan, authorities are less draconian but much more vigilant: there, not even my Chinese peers get fined, but few workdays

"Sometimes I measure my success by the number of people that I get to put down their phones and look me in the eye."





end for us without getting booted from the train. In Guangzhou, the attendants seem to really not know what to look for. As long as I stick to the back of the train and get real quiet when the doors open at a station, I have no trouble. However, if the music carries me away and I forget to quiet down, the attendants get much more indignant than in other cities. I'm not sure why that is, but there is a flip side: the audience thinks it's hilarious! The doors close, the attendant radios ahead to the next station, and I have a couple of minutes to apologize to the giggling audience that my performance has been cut short, and make my rounds for tips. I usually make more money when this happens.

That being said, for all of the interactions I've had with police and station guards in my line of work, the busker's most daunting adversaries in China by far are the volunteer retirees who seem to sincerely enjoy the sense of authority that comes with their position. The few times I've dared try to convince one of them to let me play, I have always regretted it. While whole subway cars have thrown in their voice to help me talk down a guard who seems to want to detain me, nobody would dare back me up against an ayi with an arm band. I won't go into details, but I too have learned my lesson.

"Sometimes I measure my success by the number of people that I get to put down their phones and look me in the eye."

For the most part though, I can make it through my three songs without interruption, and people are more than happy to support me. While I play, I often hear an echo of myself with a 10-second delay as people review the WeChat Moments they've just posted of me. It feels strange when people right in front of me experience my live music through their cell phone cameras. Sometimes, I measure my success by the number of people that I get to put down their phones and look me in the eye.

Other ways of measuring success, however, are unavoidable. I do need to eat. A friend, whenever he is present when I count up my day's earnings, always tries to decide what denomination of bill is best: "do you prefer one kuai bills or 50 kuai bills?" The answer may seem obvious, and though it is true that I would not be able to survive working this way if nobody ever outdid my request for "one or two RMB" and slipped me a 10, 20 or a 50, I would be equally unable to get by if everyone who can only afford to support me with one or two kuai felt ashamed and thus gave me nothing. And that is my favorite aspect of my work: it is crowd-sourced in the realest sense possible. That is, funded by actual crowds, by all kinds of people.



kaiguā / kāi guà / 开挂 v. To use cheat codes in a game, to excel so much it's like you're using a cheat code

A The CEO of this billion-dollar company is only 22 years old.

I'm the same age but I'm broke.

B

A He must know something we don't.

What a Kaiguā life he has. We'll never get to his level.

B

What kids today understand – and what we should all get through our thick and aging skulls too – is that life is a game with the sole objective of leveling up in the material world. If Level 10 is like working a demanding rat-race job for a crabby boss, Level 100 is like having a trust fund while traveling the world “searching for yourself” and Level 1,000, is like having a fabulous wine cellar or a fleet of yachts (or both). Happiness simply can't be found on Level 10 when everyone else is at Level 100 and some are even on Level 1,000. But how do we get there?

Until very recently in China, life seemed fair. Everyone logged into the game at the same level and whoever worked the hardest and killed the most trolls leveled up the quickest. However, in the past couple of decades, it seems that some players have been born into Level 100 status and quickly leveled up to 1,000 without diligently killing trolls or spending much time in the game at all. Some players started on the same level as us, but after a while started to level up much faster, leaving us in the dust. To the rest of us still killing trolls one by one, they look like they have typed in some kind of cheat code.

Originally meaning to use cheat codes in video games, *kaiguā* refers to what we think those overachievers seem to have done to advance so much in so little time, as if they knew some kind of secret to the game that we don't.

We all know these people, who got into good schools, were given coveted jobs and became CEOs by the age of 26, all seemingly without much effort. Or those who went to the same high school as us, but later became international film stars and business moguls. Or those who used to share an office desk with us, but later launched a Nasdaq-listed company. They don't seem to be following the same rules of leveling up as we are, but we don't know their secrets.

Upon closer inspection, people who seem to *kaiguā* have many reasons for overachieving – some due to family connections, others by deciding to abandon the rat race or focusing on one craft, starting the right business at the right time or pursuing a true passion.

You don't have to *kaiguā* at a young age. Plenty of accomplished people only started to *kaiguā* later in life, like Colonel Sanders who founded KFC in his 60's. In the game of life, it's never too late to *kaiguā*. Just remember to play it smart, not hard. **Mia Li**

ADVERTORIAL

MAKING WAVES

A Q&A with Vicky Fan, Director of Sales and Marketing at the Newly Opened Beijing Marriott Hotel Changping

What motivated the decision to open a hotel in Changping District? What is special about this area of Beijing and what potential do you see in it?

Fengshui is really good in Changping district. Ming emperors decided to build their burial sites here centuries ago because of the unique climate and orography. Now, the district wants to make the most of it and develop its tourist industry, taking advantage of the clean air and the natural hot springs. Also, we are just a few minutes away from Badaling Great Wall, the Ming tombs and one of the most famous shopping outlets of the capital.

Tell us more about the hotel's unrivalled hot springs.

This area previously hosted the very famous Tianlongyuan hot springs. We are taking over them and want to keep offering everyone these special waters full of fluorine, that come from 300 meters underground and surface at around 38 degrees. They are particularly good for nurturing the skin of children and elders.

What makes your new hotel unique?

I would say our nature is that of a resort. That means our main focus is on wellbeing, on providing guests a place to unwind and take care of themselves. For example, apart from the gym and the hot springs, we also have a menu full of healthy and light dishes. I believe this is a 'healthy hotel' in every aspect: the environment, the air and the food all help the guests to be better, and we can also give them suggestions and tips to improve their health, if they ask.

You work every day to communicate your hotel's commitment to the wellbeing of the guests, but how do you yourself unwind and deal with the pressure of your job?

I run every morning to the hotel to keep exercised, but the activity that really calms me down is practicing calligraphy. You cannot push and be impatient, you can only go with the flow and keep exercising to actually get better at it. Quite different from marketing work!

In your long career you have worked for numerous hotel brands. In your opinion,

how has the hospitality industry changed in Beijing and in China in general?

I started my career in the hospitality industry in 2004. At the time there were not many luxury hotels in Beijing and for the few players the revenues were definitely higher. Then, the austerity campaign that started a few years ago, in particular the regulations that prevented state officials staying in luxury hotels, posed a threat to revenues. Still, I think the industry is growing and the increase in the number of private citizens who can afford a stay in these facilities is making up for the losses.

29 Nankou Lu, Chengnan jie, Changping 昌平区城南街南口路29号。(For reservations call 8191 8888)



SKY-HIGH STYLE ON TURKISH AIRLINES

No one flies in style quite like Turkish Airlines. In celebration of 85 successful years, the popular airline has unveiled all-new uniforms specially designed for its cabin crew. The updated looks will begin to be used following the opening of the brand-new airport in Istanbul, the “new home” of the flag carrier airline.

Inspired by many classic elements of Turkish design and culture, the new uniforms incorporate traditional patterns found in artisanal glassware, ceramics and calligraphy with contemporary textures and details. The collection combines shapes and colors typically found in Istanbul’s Bosphorus with fresh details, symbolizing the effortless and dynamic energy flowing through Turkey’s most vibrant city as an intersection between East and West.

The global airline, which flies to more countries than any other, paired up with Milan-based fashion designer Ettore Bilotta to create the remarkable new uniform design, signifying a new era and brand identity for the national flag-carrier.

Unique and recognizable with a deep red and anthracite gray palette, the collection includes hats, gloves, dresses, bags and accessories. Another key aspect of the project is that the uniforms of the cabin, cockpit, flying chefs and ground services will be streamlined under a single design approach to offer the passengers to live a holistic brand experience. These new designs were not only conceptualized in consultation with trailblazing fashion designers and Turkish Airlines’ own team of cabin crew, but tested rigorously on long-haul trial flights in different climates.



In Bilotta’s own words: “When I started to design for Turkish Airlines, the first thing that inspired me was Istanbul. This city has been a melting pot for art and civilization for centuries and has a rare richness as a common heritage of many cultures. I wanted to bring elements from traditional calligraphy and mosaics together with the new interpretations of Turkish motifs, which emphasize modern lines, into foulards and ties to reflect a contrast and duality.”

To launch the new look, the successful carrier teamed up with globally renowned British photographer and artist Miles Aldridge to shoot the new collection in Istanbul’s most unique and scenic spots.

Rich in culture and history and vibrant in color and texture, Istanbul provided a stunning backdrop to the uniforms. Drawing on his ability to combine a meticulous approach and rare flair for drama and narrative, Aldridge shot the collection using the city to create a selection of bright and bold images, ready for the launch of the uniforms.

Bilotta’s beautiful designs bring together form and function – an essential consideration for the airline that flies to the most international destinations in the world. See them for yourself on your next trip with Turkish Airlines!

Learn more at www.turkishairlines.com

LIFE & STYLE



TRASH TO TREASURE
The Freitag brothers talk their one-of-a-kind bags, p24



Time and Space
p18



Singles' Day Gifts
p20



Temple Design
p22

WANBING HUANG

Designer and Founder of
AT-ONE-MENT

interview by Dominic Ngai

Since rolling out her eponymous label in 2016, Wanbing Huang has caught the eye of the fashion industry in China and beyond, and her work has been featured in some of the most prominent fashion magazines and websites around the world. Just before her return to Shanghai Fashion Week to showcase her Spring/Summer 2019 collection, we chat with the Guangzhou-born, London-based designer about her design inspirations, collaborating with Nike on a global campaign and the decision to rename her brand.

You grew up in Guangzhou, studied in Tokyo, and is now based in London. In what ways have these cities influenced your designs?

Guangzhou is my hometown and 'spiritual comfort zone,' I love the cosy environment, delicious food and all my friends. In Tokyo, besides world-class pattern cutting skills, I learned a lot about the rigorous and professional attitude and traditional Japanese artisan spirit. London is a melting pot of different cultures and a world-class art capital. I really enjoy immersing myself in this environment as it keeps me calm and creative.

How would you describe someone who wears your clothes?

I want to create clothes for those sophisticated yet emotional women. They are strong and fragile, and are seeking artistic design that allows them to express themselves. My clothes captures their subtle but dynamic consciousness and highlights their beauty by creating a feminine image with elegance and spiritual connotation to help them to find the true selves. My clothes can be a form of protection in a feminine way, but not an armor.

Where do you find your design inspirations?

Usually I would dive deep into my own spiritual world and think: As a woman, how should I react and respond to the world? I don't treat artwork as my design inspiration, but a tool for my spiritual exploration. Some artists like



Bill Viola and Ana Mendieta touched me a lot, I love the tension, emotion and messages hiding in their works. As for fashion designers, I really like Paco Rabanne quite a lot; I find the futuristic mood in his work to be intriguing.

Can you tell us about the new Spring/Summer 2019 collection?

The theme of my collection is called 'La Lumière Intérieure,' which is inspired by the French avant-garde movie *La Cicatrice Intérieure*. I want to use clothes to show the experience of a woman defeating her inner loneliness and pain through self-resistance to find the light of their soul and the meaning of life. The silhouettes are more fluid and romantic, and all the sharp edges are hidden to express a sense of elegance. The use of my signature fabric with peony-patterned jacquard conveys a romantic charm, and through the overlapping of lace and organza, I want to create some subtle yet polarizing hues. The collection also features exquisite craftsmanship of embroidery in the form of three-dimensional floral decorations.

You recently renamed your label as AT-ONE-MENT. Why did you make this decision? How will your design under this new label be different from before?

AT-ONE-MENT is also the name of my graduation collection at Central Saint Martins, and I think it is a good name for my new chapter – to scale up and share my vision and creation with more women. I still follow my heart when I design, so the artistic and experimental parts are still in the new label. I'm starting to think about sophisticated females as a wider group, and to further consider their emotional and physical needs. I want to build a wardrobe for them, which allows me to create more wearable pieces and develop a more complete collection.

You worked with Nike in 2017 in their Vision-airs campaign. How did the collaboration come about, and what was the experience like for you?

Nike spotted me at my Labelhood presentation, and they liked it a lot. Though Stavros Karelis (founder of Machine-A), they invited me to participate in this global campaign. I have to say it was really a wonderful collaboration. The Nike team was very respectful of my idea and approach and provided some very useful feedback. I've learned a lot from them about how a big company operates and the importance of professionalism.

Visit wanbinghuang.co.uk to see more of the designer's work

STYLE RADAR

UNDER THE LENS

ALEXANDER WANG X UNIQLO

After a 10-year hiatus, Alexander Wang and Uniqlo are putting the band back together to release a new underwear collection this month. Titled 'Warmth Reimagined,' the new collaboration sees the New York designer putting his minimalist aesthetics on the Japanese fashion label's Heattech fabric. According to Vogue, you can expect a range of neutral colored body-suits, T-shirts, leggings, bras and briefs for men and women. Available at select Uniqlo retailers and their website on November 9.

> uniqlo.cn



COVET

ANICORN X NASA



Hong Kong's Anicorn Watches has teamed up with NASA to create a limited edition timepiece to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the US government organization devoted to space research advancement. With only 60 pieces available worldwide (each marked with its own number from 1-60), the white textile strap features NASA's logo as well as the GPS coordinates of the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, while the mechanical timepiece with Cerakote ceramic coatings. The watches, which were priced at USD650, sold out moments after their online launch.

> anicorn-watches.com

OVERHEARD

"There are a lot of fake products on most of these platforms"

... said Gucci CEO Marco Bizzarri of his decision to refrain from partnering with e-commerce platforms run by Alibaba and JD.com at the Business of Fashion conference in Shanghai last month. Despite China's continuous growth in luxury sales, luxury giants like Louis Vuitton, Prada and Gucci only sell their products through their official websites and still have yet to jump on the third party e-commerce platform bandwagon. According to Bizzarri, in addition to maintaining the brand's exclusivity, his main concern is that the brand's presence on these platforms would legitimize the act of counterfeiting. While he admits that the company had been in touch with both Chinese e-commerce giants, he'd still prefer to wait until the situation improves before rethinking his decision.

> Gucci.cn



Nike Air Max 98 Shanghai

Nike just released a pair of Air Max 98 that is exclusive to the China market. Inspired by the Middle Kingdom's most populous city, the 'Air Max 98 Shanghai' features a gray monogram of the Chinese characters for Shanghai printed all over its black upper. Available for RMB1,299 at select Nike retailers and the official website.

> nike.com



SCENE&HEARD



NOME

Nome is the newest one-stop shop to land in Ginza Mall. Located downstairs right next to Hotwind, the ultra-mod lifestyle brand offers a wide variety of Swedish-designed products for hip design junkies on a budget and is a sweet substitute for the ridiculously overpriced Muji. It's chic and cheap – Ikea meets Miniso. There are home goods (think small, mostly lamps and wall decor), office supplies, fashion accessories and beauty products. Also on offer is a bountiful collection of basic staples for your wardrobe ranging from outerwear to shoes. It's a great spot for last-minute gift hunting. Also, for changing your identity, since you can essentially deck out your entire room and yourself from head to toe with one trip here.

Daily 10am-10pm, B2 Ginza Mall, 48 Dongzhimenwai Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区东直门外大街48号东方银座B2层



PURE YOGA

With several well-established locations across Asia, Pure Yoga, an international premium yoga brand, just opened its first branch in Beijing. Located in WF Central, the new studio is sleek and spacious with high-end amenities. They even have their own line of activewear in-house and a supply of healthy food options so you can get a full circle experience, conveniently without all the effort. Pure Yoga offers core classes, from hatha to vinyasa, while also offering more trendy variants like hot yoga, aerial and yogalates. With such flexibility, beginners and devoted yogis alike can find an ideal class that fits their needs and their schedule just right.

Mon-Fri 6.30am-10.30pm, Sat-Sun 9am-8pm; 4/F, 404 WF Central, 269 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区王府井大街269号院王府中環東座4层404号商铺

One and Only

11 Quirky Gifts for Your Single Friends

compiled by Dominic Ngai

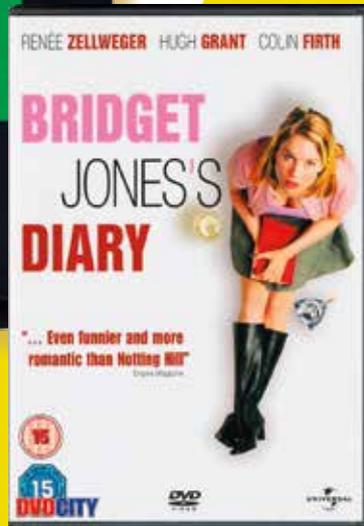
Singles' Day has in recent years become another excuse to shop online in China, but to honor the origins of this special day, here are a few funny gift ideas for your single and fabulous friends.



'Single' T-shirt
RMB118
tmall.com



'Single Dog' Plush Toy
RMB23
tmall.com



Bridget Jones's Diary DVD
approx. RMB15
your local DVD vendor

'Seeking Sugar
Daddy' Cushion
RMB56





Four Pieces of Youtiao ('1111')
approx. RMB10
your local breakfast food vendor

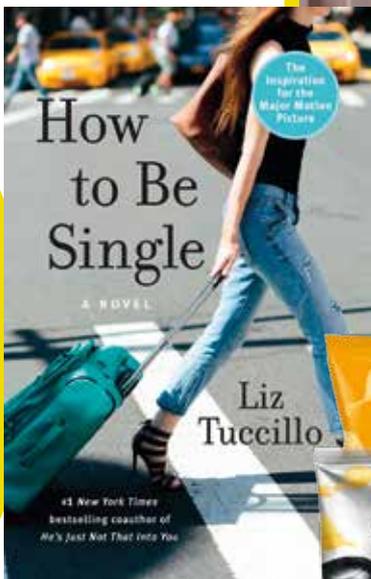
'Single and Looking' iPhone
Cover
RMB76
tmall.com



Instant Noodles for
Singles (12 pack)
RMB66
tmall.com



Lei Feng Coffee Mug
for Singles
RMB31.6
tmall.com



How to Be Single
Novel
RMB40.85
amazon.cn



'Single Dog' Chips
RMB10
tmall.com



tmall.com
'Missing a Girlfriend'
Hoodie
RMB169
tmall.com



NEW MONEY

A Temple to the God of Wealth gets a Fresh Look

words by Dominic Ngai, photos by Zhang Qianxi

Project name: Temple for the God of Wealth

Location: Huoshan county, Lu'an City, Anhui

Area: 20 square meters

Design company: CNRPD / Fuyingbin Studio

The brief: While they were constructing a public square and parking lot for Huoshan county, the project team from CNRPD and Fuyingbin Studio discovered a nearly 200-year-old temple for the God of Wealth onsite. As they dug deeper into its history, which had been a spiritual gathering space and a sign of luck for the local village for generations, the designers decided to convince their client to allow them to move the monument and rebuild it in a nearby site.



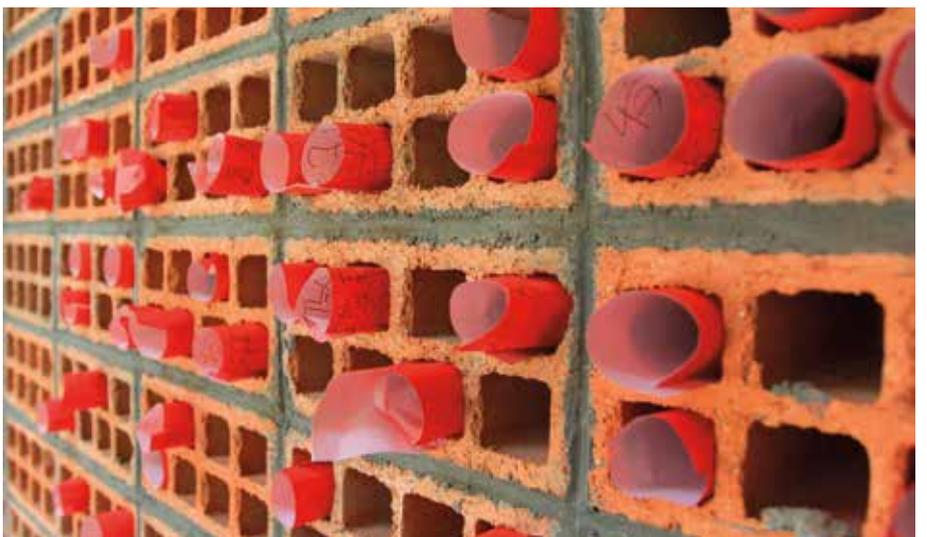


▲ Unlike the former structure, which was dark and covered by concrete walls and a traditional roof, the new pavilion features an open-air area for worship.



◀ Moved just 10 meters away from the original site, the new temple is surrounded by hills and greenery on three sides.

◀ For the temple's concrete frame, designers enlisted the help of local craftsmen to create a unique mold that resembles woven bamboo mats.



▲ The walls are made with hollow red bricks, which allow plenty of natural light to enter the area of worship. Local villagers have also filled the holes with wishes and blessings for their loved ones.

BAG BROS



Markus and Daniel Freitag
on Taking Their Brand
from Zurich to Shanghai

by Dominic Ngai

PHOTO BY BENJAMIN THELLIER

With a devoted fan base around the world, Freitag, a Zurich-based company that has been producing one-of-a-kind messenger bags, backpacks and accessories from old truck tarpaulin, seatbelts and bicycle inner tubes since 1993, is considered by many to be a cult brand. Search for its name or the '#frtg' hashtag on Instagram and you'll find hundreds of accounts, as well as tens of thousands of posts where fans all over the world show off the latest addition to their colorful and unique collections.

And if Freitag is a cult brand, then founders Markus and Daniel Freitag would be considered cult leaders. Both designers by training, the two brothers created their very first messenger bag out of recycled material some 25 years ago when they needed a water-repellant bag to transport their design drafts while cycling through their hometown's notorious wet weather.

Today, the brand employs 200 people around the world and produces 450,000 bags and accessories a year from their factory in northern Zurich, selling them through

their website, 24 Freitag stores in Europe and Asia, as well as hundreds of dealers and partner stores across the globe.

Over a period of 10 days in September, the brothers roamed through Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Beijing and Shanghai to participate in a series of design talks at various venues around China, in addition to attending the opening of their first store on the Chinese mainland in Shanghai. During their whirlwind tour, *That's* sat down with Markus and Daniel to discuss their brand philosophy, Freitag's popularity in Asia, and what it's like to build a business as brothers.

Out of Context

The official opening party of Freitag Store Shanghai is still a couple of hours away, but a group of die-hard fans from Beijing are already patiently waiting in line outside the cordoned-off complex. Armed with their favorite Freitag bags and accessories, they're determined to be the first to see the inside of the brand's 23rd branded outlet around the world, and to have Markus and Daniel

Freitag sign their bags. This is a scene that the brothers are familiar with, as they've done this many times at previous store openings or brand events everywhere from Tokyo and Bangkok to New York and Berlin.

The brothers' resourcefulness allowed them to become pioneers of upcycling, and many of their loyal fans are initially drawn to the brand because of their label's sustainable nature.

"This is something that has remained the same over the past 25 years, which I think is quite special for a fashion brand," says Marcus of Freitag's main offerings.

Even with their success and recognition worldwide, the Freitag brothers still remain as the company's creative directors and act as central figures of the brand's internal and external storytelling process. "In the beginning we just called it recycling," Daniel says. "But over the years, we've become much better at articulating what we do in a more precise manner – dissecting the issue of sustainability down to finer points with a term that we've come to love: 'recontextual-



ization.”

Indeed one of their most frequently used buzzwords, recontextualization, or taking something out of its original context and putting it into a new one, makes one stop and raise questions: Why do Freitag bags look so dirty? (Because they're made with used truck tarps.) Why are there 19 rusty freight containers stacked on top of each other in the center of Zurich? (That's Freitag's Flagship Store.) From that point on, a dialogue is established, and the conversion process is initiated.

Spreading the Gospel

“You can't really narrow [our target audience] down to a specific demographic or style,” Daniel tells me. “But we know that Freitag is popular among the ‘creators’ in various fields – music, arts, journalism... This is an advantage for us as they're good storytellers and love to spread the word out, and the rise of social media has really helped in that regard.”

One example of a devout disciple of

Freitag in China is a freelance designer and art teacher nicknamed Darou, who is better known as his Instagram handle @freitag-stranger. A longtime follower of the brand, the Shanghai native has been taking snapshots of Freitag bags he sees on the streets of the city since 2015.

“These days, I run into anywhere from three to seven people wearing Freitag bags in my neighborhood on a daily basis,” Darou tells me. “But in terms of the hardcore collectors, I think those in Japan and Thailand are much ‘crazier’ than the ones in China. In particular, I think Japanese pop culture has had quite a lot of influence on the brand's popularity in China.”

From fans who specifically seek out rare all-black items to those who go out of their way to find all products cut out of the same piece of tarp to reconstruct an entire truck, Freitag has established a loyal fan base in the two aforementioned Asian countries since the late 1990s and early 2000s.

In the book *Freitag – Out of the Bag*, a brand biography published by the Zurich Museum of Design, Ken Jungnickel, former director of JyK Japan Inc (Freitag's local reseller), attributes the brand's popularity among the Japanese to the society's preference for collectivism over individualism, a notion that also rings true for other East Asian countries like China.

“The individuality that is part of the philosophy behind the brand also gives customers the chance to be unique and to show it, to be proud of their choice of bag. That's what makes Freitag so special here,” Jungnickel said to the interviewer.

Besides the desire to rebel against the collective social norm, however, Freitag fans in Asia are actually not all that different from their Western counterparts. “We see Asian male customers prefer smaller bags, something that isn't very common for Europeans; that's the most obvious difference,” explains Daniel. “But color-wise, it's as diverse as

other markets. Generally speaking, newer markets go for more colorful bags with interesting patterns or designs, while more mature ones favor more laid-back, darker colors and monochromatic designs.”

Family Business

Working with your own brother, according to both Markus and Daniel, comes with its pros and cons. “I think one of the good things about working as brothers is that, you can challenge each other in a tough way, but in the end, you know you're still family,” Marcus says, adding that disagreements between business partners are common regardless of whether or not they're brothers.

“Since we've been working together for 25 years, and have known each other for our entire lives,” Daniel continues, “we've developed a slang where we're able to communicate with just a few spoken words – that's both good and bad because we run into the danger of staying in the same pattern, and breaking them is a constant challenge that we have to work on.”

While their company has grown from a two-person team to 200 employees since 1993, Markus and Daniel still very much consider Freitag to be a family business. “We've been known as a Zurich brand, a Swiss brand and a European brand, but I think it's time to become a multi-domestic brand. Having established local teams with local colors of the brand in different countries has really enriched our perspective,” says Daniel of Freitag's growing global presence.

“Living in Europe, China's portrayal in mainstream media is always related to its politics, its rapidly growing economy and changing society,” he adds. “What's interesting for us on this trip is to see that the awareness of sustainability is also growing here. Freitag may still be speaking to a niche audience here today, but hopefully this niche will become the future of the market.”

ARTS



HEART BEATS

Expressive vocalist Mike Milosh of sophisti-pop project Rhye, p32



Lindy Lee
p30



Boy Pablo
p38



New Music
p39

GRANT NICHOLAS

Lead Singer of the Welsh Rock Band Feeder

Interview by Sarah Forman

Feeder released their first album back in 1997 and went on to become one of the most successful bands their hometown of Newport, Wales had ever seen. With 10 studio albums, 12 compilations, four EPs and 40 singles, they've authored an extensive library over the years, despite a two year hiatus. While their lineup has changed more than once, two of the original members – Grant Nicholas and Taka Hirose – still remain after two decades. We sat down with lead singer Nicholas to talk fish, the Rolling Stones and throwing cans of tuna.

We've heard your pet goldfish was the inspiration for your band's name. How did that come about?

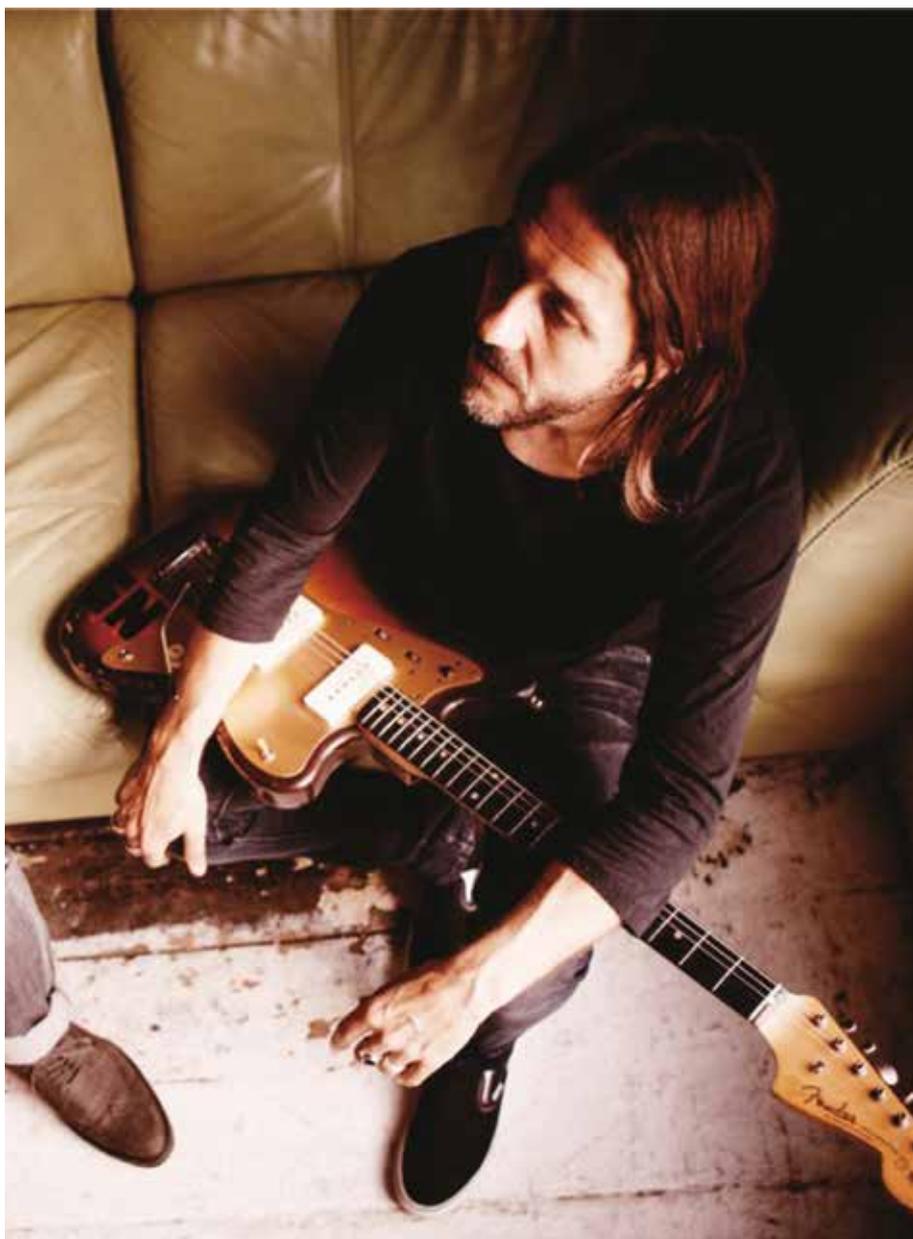
I think I had a pet goldfish called Feeder when I was very young, but the name actually came after flipping through a fishing book when we were looking for an original name. I liked the way it looked with the three 'e's in the logo and it was a bit different.

You guys first played at Reading in 1996 – do you still remember that gig?

It was a massive show for us and I remember it being a huge turning point in our musical career.

What are some of your most memorable shows?

Reading festival in '98 is definitely up there, but we have had some great shows at Fuji Rock festival in Japan and supporting U2 and the Rolling Stones was surreal. One of the worst shows was at a big Italian festival many years ago, when the audience decided to pelt all the bands with whatever they could pick up. Our tour manager got hit in the face with a bottle of urine and I remember getting a can of tuna thrown in my direction.



You guys have been together a long time and been through some pretty trying times. When [original Feeder drummer] Jon Lee died, did you guys talk about breaking up the band? How did you get through that period?

It was a very tough time and I think Taka and I kind of felt it was the end of something we had dreamed about our whole lives. I personally decided to deal with it by locking myself away in a small local recording studio and continuing to write songs. It was a really emotional time, but it somehow inspired me to write in a different way and express feelings I had not shown before. The songs that came about ended up in *Comfort in Sound*, which is still our bestselling album. I think that album had a connection with people.

Have you had any songs that you guys are particularly attached to that weren't a major hit?

I still have a musical loyalty with 'Descend,'

'High' and 'My Perfect Day' from our first album *Polythene*, but as a songwriter, 'Forget About Tomorrow' from the *Comfort in Sound* album is one of my favorites.

Having played together for so long, how did it feel to go on hiatus? And to pick things back up again?

After being in a band for 20 years without any real breaks, it was important for us to try some new projects for a while and think about the next step for Feeder. Personally, doing a more stripped-back solo album (*Yorktown Heights*) was key as it inspired me for making the next Feeder record *All Bright Electric*. It made me approach and record with a more organic and fresh headspace to capture Feeder's heart and sound. We are really looking forward to playing China and can't wait to see you all in November.

Fri Nov 23, 8pm; RMB380 (presale), RMB480 (door); Tango, 79 Hepingli Xijie, Dongcheng 东城区和平里西街79号 (For tickets, visit thmart.com.cn)

COLLAGE

COMING SOON



★ NOVEMBER 1 ★

The House With a Clock in its Walls

Based on the spellbinding novel by John Bellairs, Jack Black, Cate Blanchett and Kyle MacLachlan face off in a wizardly battle of good versus evil. Black and Blanchett's characters seek the help of orphan Lewis Barnavelt (Owen Vaccaro) in an attempt to save themselves and their home from the evil that is foretold when the clock in its walls hits its final strike. With an all-star cast, this children's fairytale comes to life in a magical spectacle for all ages.



★ NOVEMBER 9 ★

Venom

Marvel's back with their newest anti-hero, Venom. Investigative journalist Eddie Brock (Tom Hardy) gets more than he bargained for when pursuing a lead at a bioengineering lab. Science fiction, intense fight scenes, Hong Kong skylines and impressive motorcycle races ensue when Brock embraces his inner demon (and by that, we mean alien parasite that's forcing him to play host). Critics claim that Marvel learned their lesson with Deadpool and have come back in full swing with this action-packed atypical good-gone-bad film.

TRANSCRIBED

“Unique storytelling, worth a watch #filmkissingbooth I've waited so long. Youth is still merry. Want to see #GoldPickingUnexpectedRomance”



... so writes an excited Weibo user. Fans of Kevin Kwan's best-selling novel *Crazy Rich Asians* were ecstatic last month when it was announced that the recent film adaptation would hit the big screen in China under the name 'Gold Picking Unexpected Romance.' Having made international news as Hollywood's first all-Asian cast, the blockbuster was originally released in North America on August 15, with subsequent international releases in the following weeks. While there's been some question as to how the movie will sit with Chinese viewers, you'll find out whether or not these glammed up, good looking men and women about town will bring in the same kind of cash that the studio's been banking overseas at the end of the month.



HAO

Krish Raghav of Split Works and music journalist/former drummer for Chui Wan Josh Feol, have started working on a comic book that highlights 10 formative bands in contemporary Chinese music history. Starting with Beijing-based Hang on the Box, one of China's first all-girl punk bands, the respective chapters aim to present a corrective history from the mid-90s to present day – one that puts the musicians at the forefront. With the first chapter well underway, this narrative is looking to add an important voice to the industry's ever-evolving story.



BU HAO

Xinhua reported that world-famous actress Fan Bingbing has been fined about RMB884 million for tax evasion. The actress, who has been in (and out) of the public eye for the last few months, was accused of signing illegal 'yin yang' contracts, declaring two different incomes. As a first-time offender, Fan won't be prosecuted if the fines are paid in full by the established date, however, if she does not she could face criminal charges.

THE PLAYLIST

'Norgaard' (2011)
The Vaccines

English indie rockers amp up the energy with this fun, upbeat single from their debut album.

'3 Days' (2013)
Rhye

This animated track from the Canadian singer-songwriter's first record seamlessly marries R&B and soft pop.

'Feeling Lonely' (2018)
Boy Pablo

The young Norwegian indie-pop sensation delivers another jangly and heartfelt lo-fi tune.

'Unicorn' (2013)
Four Tet

Lively beats and sparkling synths make this an effortlessly catchy hit from the experimental electro whizz.

'Any Kind of Mood' (2018)
Nocturnes

This ethereal track is the latest release by local indie wonders and a tranquil escape.

'Cloud Nine' (2018)
Owl City

This beat-driven track from the electronica artist's most recent album is a cheerful synth-laden anthem.

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

GIG POSTER OF THE MONTH

Specializing in cheery indie rock, Danish five-piece Virgin Suicide set out on their China tour. Dance along to their glittery tunes at Omni Space.

Thu Nov 22, RMB100 (advance), RMB120 (door); Omni Space, B103 Tianqiao Arts Center, Xiachen Square, Xicheng 西城区 天桥艺术中心下沉广场 B103

Virgin Suicide
2018 CHINA TOUR

预售票 100
现场票 120

TICKETS

NOV 16 杭州/Hangzhou LOOPY
嘉宾/Support: City Flanker

NOV 17 上海/Shanghai 育音堂音乐公园 YUYINTANG PARK
嘉宾/Support: Rubur

NOV 20 深圳/Shenzhen HOU LIVE
嘉宾/Support: Thin City

NOV 21 广州/Guangzhou MAO Livehouse
嘉宾/Support: HOO

NOV 22 北京/Beijing 猫进酒 OMNI SPACE
嘉宾/Support: Last Goodbye

HAZE 秀动 LOOPY HOLI MAO OMNI SPACE



LIT FROM WITHIN

Artist Lindy Lee on Fire, Taoism and 'White Australia'

by Sarah Forman

Born in Brisbane, Lindy Lee grew up as a first generation Australian in a Chinese family. From a young age, she knew she had no other choice besides being an artist. Having practiced throughout her life, the 63-year-old with her iconic, black bangs has experimented with a number of mediums. From photography to burning paper, it wasn't until later in her career that she turned to the large scale, perforated steel sculptures she's become famous for – and that can be found across China.

For nearly 40 years, Lee has been working in and outside of the PRC, finding different ways to engage with her heritage. Having been recently acknowledged as the winner of one of the Melbourne Art Foundation's biennial Visual Art Awards, Lee found herself surrounded by a new generation of female, Asian-Australian artists, in a moment that she refers to as one of the brightest in her career. Her experience navigating a white-dominated art space is part of a larger ongoing conversation about the narratives being put forward through contemporary cultural relics in Australia, but her practice is one that reaches far beyond its borders.

How did you first come about working in China?

I've been traveling to China since 1979, first as an art student, then during the 1990s and early 2000s when I did a number of artist residencies in Beijing. In 2009, I began to incorporate fire and water into my work. Shortly after that, Alison Pickett, a Hong Kong-based art consultant, commissioned me to do a work for Shanghai IFC Mall. Coincidentally, it was through this commission that I met Daniel and Matthew Tobin, the founding directors of UAP. Since then, I have collaborated with them on many public art projects not only in China but also throughout Asia, Australia and the US.

How does it compare to working in Australia?

I love living and working in Australia. My studio is in a rainforest so it doesn't get better than that. However, it completes me to work and travel to China frequently, particularly Shanghai where I have strong connections in both friendships and work relationships. Although I was born in Australia, a very big part of my psyche is Chinese.

What is the focus of your practice?

The focus of my work has always been concerned with the nature of 'self' in the world. Being born Chinese in a predominantly white society gave me pause when I was growing up. I had to reflect very deeply on how I could live an authentic life when my primary experience of 'being' was of the schism between ancestry and birthplace. This profound sense of 'split-ness' led me to Zen Buddhist philosophy, where the first principle is that humanity

and cosmos are inextricably linked. By virtue of interconnection, we can never step outside of the cosmos. A sense of intimate connection with the infinite is what I want to convey.

You work in a lot of different mediums – was that process something that came naturally for you, or how did you go about transitioning from 2D to 3D (paper to metal)?

The transition from 2D to 3D had a lot to do with my relationship with UAP. I showed Dan and Matt my fire drawings and they immediately saw the potential for this method to be applied to more substantial materials like steel. They offered to support my experiments, so my modest fire perforated drawings, which were done in the isolation of my Beijing studio 10 years ago, became the basis of my monumental stainless steel sculptures like 'Life of Stars' and 'Tenderness of Rain.'

As a Chinese-Australian woman, how has your experience and your identity shaped what you do?

It has shaped my entire existence. In Australia, from 1949-1973, there was an immigration policy called 'White Australia.' [Editor's note: The policy was implemented in 1901 and was dismantled over the 24 years mentioned.] Chinese in particular were not welcome. Luckily, my grandfather was already living in Australia, although he was not allowed to ask his family from China to join him. When my grandfather decided to return to China, my father was granted permission to take his place. However, it took almost a decade for my father to find a way to bring my mother and brothers to Australia, and then my sister and I were born. Questioning race, identity and belonging have been a core motivation in my work, especially at the beginning of my career.

What do you hope viewers take away from your work?

I'd like people to experience a deep sense of connection with something vaster than any individual human life, but contains every aspect of that existence nonetheless. Life is very mysterious – there is something wonderful, ineffable and magical about it. We lose sight of that sometimes.

What ongoing project are you most excited about?

Generally speaking, I'm excited about all my projects, but I get most excited about the ones that are closest to installation. Right now, I'm finishing 'Tenderness of Rain' - a large work that will be placed outside the headquarters of the Times Group in Guangzhou.

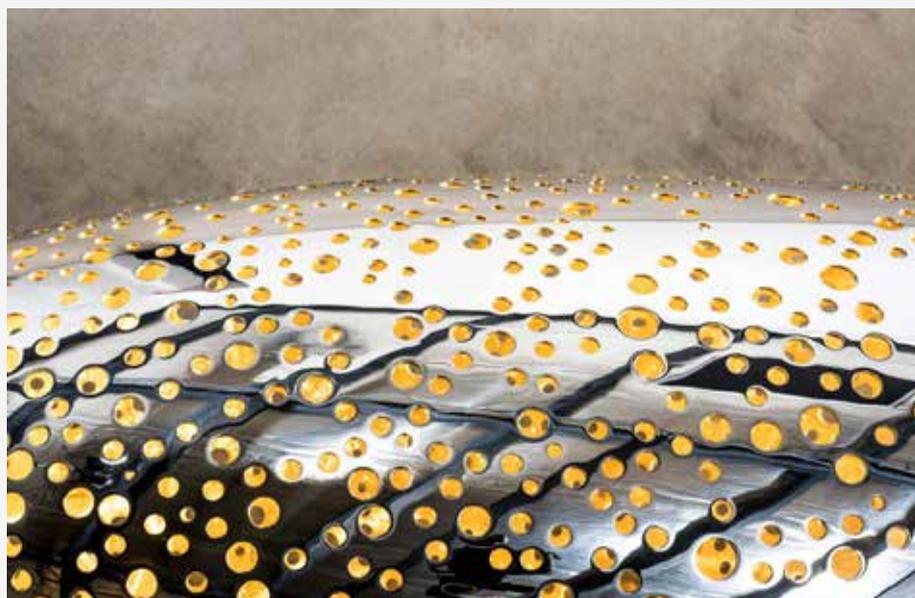
What would you most like to experiment with?

I'm going to learn to paint with fire on metal. Fire warps and scorches metal to produce a wondrous array of lusters, depending on the type of metal.

What has been one of the most rewarding aspects of working in China? How about making art in general?

The rewards of working in China have been immeasurable. Those early residencies in Beijing gave me the space and time to be very experimental in my studio practice and were extremely important for developing the work I am now doing. Now I work mostly in Shanghai, which gives me another kind of opportunity to immerse myself in Chinese culture as a way of connecting with my ancestry, especially through the friendships I've been able to form.

To learn more about where you can see Lindy's exhibitions and installations, visit lindylee.net.



SOFT AND

Rhyme on Their Emotive New Record and Being Vulnerable

by Valerie Osipov

From their ambiguous start, intensified by the androgynous and illusive vocals of lead singer Mike Milosh, Rhye captivated listeners with their subdued rhythm and blues-influenced pop. Though Milosh admits this initial cloud of mystery was never intentional.

"I was never trying to dupe anybody. It was just other people's interpretations. But I wasn't really surprised by it – I just sing high."

The Canadian artist never neatly fit into society's structured mold of masculinity, having no trouble expressing fragile and inevitable human emotions.

"I don't think I ever adhered to the normal male archetypes," says Milosh, who was involved in dance from a young age. "I was never overly sensitive or overly dominant, I just never understood why so many men can't be vulnerable. Everyone has emotions, everyone has feelings and everyone needs to express that."

Illuminated by sultry synths and honeyed melodies, his music mirrors that very belief, intimately conveying themes of love, heart-break and everything in between. Starting

out as a duo with Danish instrumentalist Robin Hannibal, Rhye debuted their first album *Woman* in 2013. The romantic record, featuring the tender and expansive single 'Open,' is a flawless collection of delicate disco layered with lush vocals – an echo of the soft and sensual funk perfected by '80s singer-songwriter Sade.

After parting ways with his collaborator and riding the fragile waves of a divorce, Milosh returned with *Blood*, his valiant sophomore release, in February of this year. The tantalizing record flows gracefully with some newfound edge yet keeps the same velvety vocals and slow, pulsating beats. Tracks like 'Count To Five' and 'Taste' are more experimental and bass-driven, while the haunting opener 'Waste' is raw and simple, a gentle exposure of the wounds Milosh is reflecting on.

On playing those songs live, he takes pride in bringing Rhye's serene sound to the stage with a full band: "It's all live music. There are no backing tracks, no computers on stage. It's a very organic experience."

"I wanted to make a record that translates live really well. For me, it was a product of

playing so many concerts and allowing that to inform the sound of the new record."

Despite being quite well-traveled from touring all over the globe, Milosh makes his China debut this month, with stops in Shanghai and Beijing. He looks forward to discovering unfamiliar cities and connecting with even more of his fans.

"It's kind of amazing to find a place I've never been to before," he says. "A place that's still unique to me – it's a very adventurous feeling."

Aside from writing and producing his music, the ambitious artist is also inspired by other forms such as photography and even directs his own music videos, with plans to make a feature film eventually. Though a demanding career, Milosh has no complaints: "I do things that I enjoy doing. I enjoy making music, I enjoy producing, I enjoy trying – I do the things I love doing."

"If I don't enjoy it, then I just don't do it."

Wed Nov 14, 9pm; RMB350 (presale), RMB450 (door); Omni Space (see Listings for details). For tickets, visit 247tickets.com.

SOUND



SCHOOLHO

School Bar Opens an Actual School of Rock

interview by Valerie Osipov

Revolutionary Wudaoying institution School Bar has been a core component of Beijing's buzzing rock music scene. As well as hosting big names, the kickass live music venue is devoted to supporting local underground talent in the capital, having fostered many up-and-coming musicians early on, from their first gig to their debut album release party.

Now, bar owner Liu Fei is shifting his focus to a newer venture – an actual music school dubbed Let'School. We sat down with the rock-and-roll aficionado to talk about the ambitious project and all things music.

How long has Let'School been in the works?

We started to plan about two years ago. My partner Liu Hao, the Casino Demon bass player, [and I] thought that maybe we could do something brand new. You know, because at the live bar we can only produce new blood and give people [finished] music. But with an academy and education – I mean, we're called School! – it's another business.

I love the movie *School of Rock* – the first time I saw it, I thought "That's what I want to do!" We have a lot of friends that are all good musicians. So, why not open a real school to teach more and more young people to pick the guitar, bass or drums and just play? We wanted to make more people want to [learn] rock.

What made you passionate about music?

I've been in the music business for over 15 years, even during my studies in university – but only management or event organizing, with festivals and live music. I tried to play some instruments. On the guitar, I maybe know three chords... but everyone probably does. I tried to study drums too. I can't learn music deeper. So that's why I'm not a musician.

But I wanted to be involved in the background. When I was a [kid] and I got my first chance to [hear] rock-and-roll, I thought "That's real music," because in the '90s it was all pop music from Hong Kong and Taiwan, so it was another kind of thought. And the lyrics... Yeah. It really touched me. That's why we opened School Bar – sure, to invite famous musicians, but also to help new bands get the first showcase of their life.

A music academy is a different side of music. A venue is a venue – that's so easy for me. But education is another business. So in the first month, we were all f*cking confused. But I guess that's how everything starts – at the beginning. We have to do it.



USE ROCK



“ I love the movie 'School of Rock'
- the first time I saw it, I thought
'That's what I want to do!' ”



What makes Let'School unique?

I think [what makes] Let'School special is that we want to do it like it is at School's basement. With people's first time seeing a live show in School Bar, they think 'Wow, that's so cool. Maybe I can do that.' At Let'School, you can. You can learn all the instruments and the music. Our teachers, they're all at the frontline of Beijing's underground rock and roll scene. They're all musicians and rock stars, so they can teach them how to be real rockers. [They can] teach them how to collaborate and help them rehearse. If you study guitar, I study bass and another girl studies the drums, we can meet here and make a band. Why not?

We'll invite musicians, businessmen and tour managers to teach a special class for our students too. So not only are you learning the instruments, but the business. And every one or two months, we're planning to do a showcase of Let'School, to give [our students] a stage. We can [even] help them record their EPs or songs. So it's a full circle. That's the most special thing.

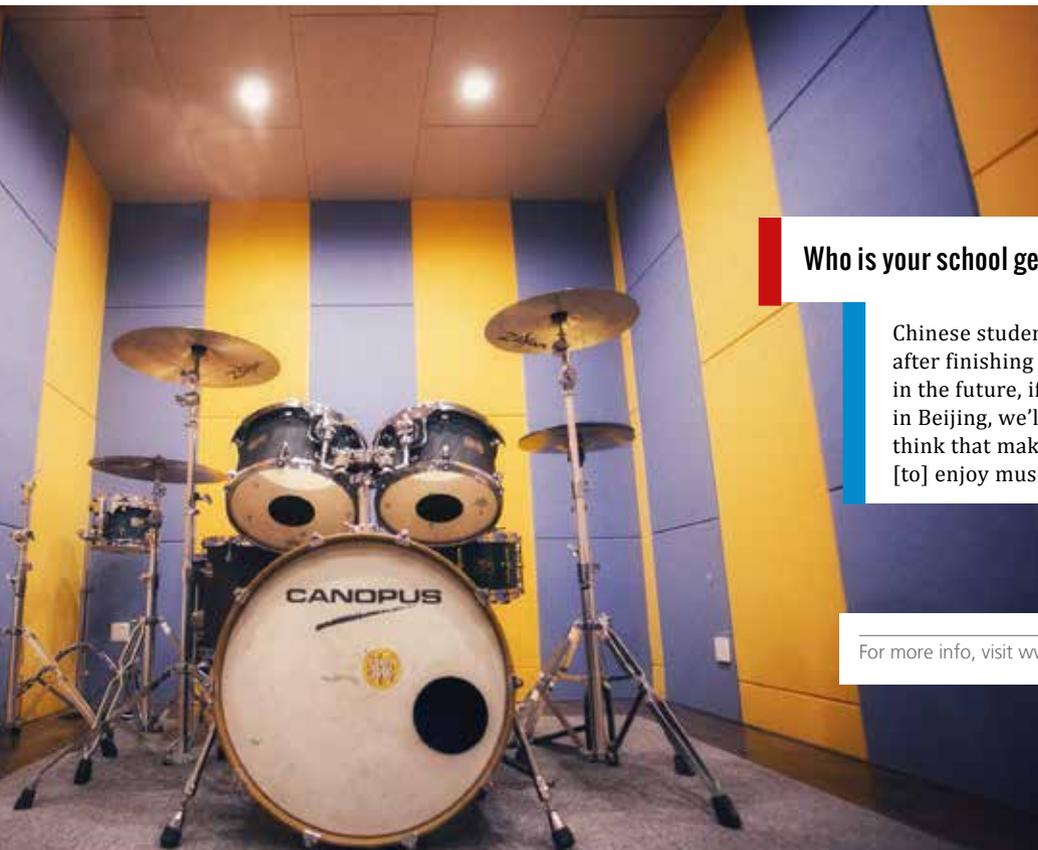




What do you like about Beijing's current rock scene and what do you think is missing?

I think for the past few years, it's getting better and better. The crowd [at School Bar], they're all young people who come to see a showcase – it's a part of [their] lives now. That's what I think is better. More and more young people take instruments and make bands and what I think is the most different, is that lots of young bands have their own jobs already. So they don't care about the money. They're just playing the music for fun. [They're] choosing different music. There's not only indie rock, there's hip-hop, electronic – they can get lots of information now.

I think 10 years ago was Beijing's indie rock golden age [though]. D-22, Maybe Mars – lots of amazing bands. [It was] an explosion of a whole generation of Chinese indie rock. We'd all drink together [after the shows] and talk about our future, music, girls and all that. But now when the show's over at School Bar, they just [leave.] They don't [connect] with other bands. But now there are more music venues. So that's good.



Who is your school geared toward?

Chinese students. Some of them will come here at night, after finishing a job, just to do something different. Maybe in the future, if we can invite foreign musicians who are in Beijing, we'll try to do an open class for all students. I think that makes sense. I just want [people] to come here [to] enjoy music and the real [spirit of] rock-and-roll.

For more info, visit www.letschool.cn or add them on WeChat: letschool.

BANDCAMP BABY



The 19-Year-Old Internet All-Star, Boy Pablo

By Sarah Forman

The frame is shaky, the resolution poor. The camera slowly zooms in on a boy standing alone on a dock in Bergen, Norway. Wearing a pink sweatshirt and black athletic shorts, Nicolas Pablo Muñoz plays an unplugged electric guitar. After a quick cut, four other teenage boys join him, all playing their own disconnected instruments, while the camera zooms in and out to relaxed, dreamy, indie rock. This was where it all began for Boy Pablo.

Taking influence from traditional Chilean music, US rapper Tyler, the Creator and Sweden's queen of pop Veronica Maggio, Pablo's sound incorporates aspects of all three in a true dream-pop bedroom lo-fi phenomenon that's designed to go viral. But their sound isn't the only thing working in their favor. The music video for 'Everytime' would rack up over 13 million views thanks to thousands of votes on Reddit and YouTube's algorithms, but this 2017 release was just the

first of many to make the internet A-list. The opening shot of 'Sick Feeling' zooms in on a partially submerged floating guitar and ends with Pablo jumping fully-clothed into the body of water. As of October 2018, the video had 2.3 million views. The band has three recorded a capella versions of 'Afternoon Delight', written by Bill Danoff, sung in a park, a desert and in a lake while the five of them sit in an inflatable lounge.

Their videos are fun with an inextricably DIY feel, but one of their most appealing traits is that it doesn't seem like Boy Pablo is doing it for anyone but themselves. In live shows, songs are constantly interrupted by laughter and occasional quips. The band introduce each other under fake names and relationships, and clearly don't take themselves too seriously. It's just a group of high school friends who like making and playing music together – a refreshingly genuine stance on a worldwide web that's saturated with try-

hards.

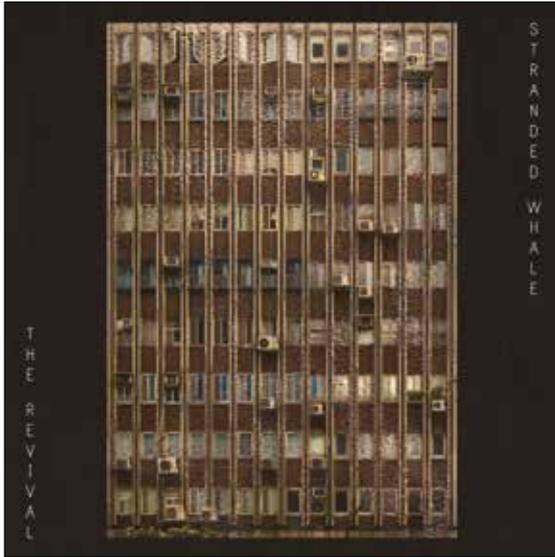
While the US-based streaming platform has been huge in spreading the band's music, Pablo got his own start on Bandcamp, an independent distribution platform for unsigned artists and indie record labels. He came from a musical family, picking up his brother's drum set and his father's guitar before moving to the computer, where he learned to record and mix on Garage Band. While the band may be moving into bigger and better recording spaces, their sound and attitude remain true to their boyish charm. They've just released their most recent album *Soy Pablo*, and will be making their way through Asia with instruments and video cameras in hand. At this rate, if anyone's going to break the internet, we think it just might be them.

Nov 16, 8.30pm. Omni Space, B103, Tianqiao Arts Center, Xiachen square, Xicheng 西城区天桥艺术中心下沉广场B103

FOR THE RECORD

Three New Homegrown Albums on Our Radar This Month

by Sarah Forman



THE REVIVAL

by Stranded Whale

Sad boy city folk and harmonies reminiscent of Elliott Smith are two of the most notable features of Stranded Whale's new album *The Revival*. Their 2015 release, *Northern Tower*, sported lazy guitars, vaguely psychedelic chords, a dose of jazz and soft vocals, while their new work is pointedly darker. The second album from the Hong Kong-based band turns more toward alternative rock, with a diverse range of influences that really highlight the work they have put in over the last two years. 'Sunday's Over' takes a page from Radiohead with eerie, monotonous vocals and a heavy piano presence, while 'Grey' features the members of Taiwan-based chamber ensemble, Cicada. Distributed via Qiii Snacks Records, this conversion of their sound toward a heavier and more emotional ethos truly is a revival for the five-piece band.

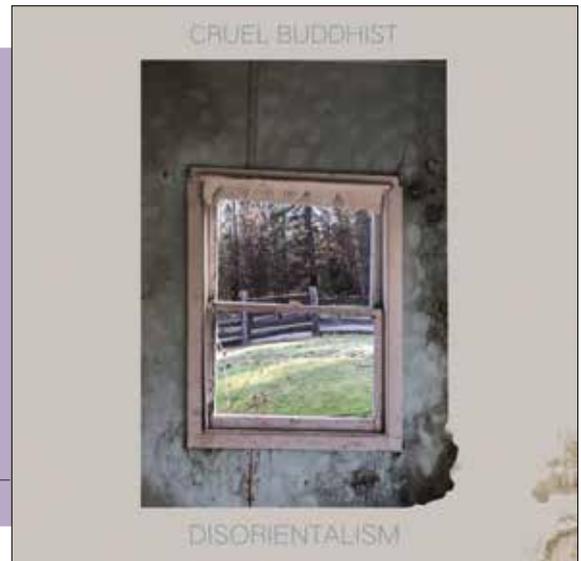
Listen here: qiiisnacksrecords.bandcamp.com/album/the-revival

DISORIENTALISM

by Cruel Buddhist

With a lo-fi Christmas album under his belt, Cruel Buddhist is no stranger to songs evoking an instant reaction. *Disorientalism* isn't any different – a seven-track release with seamless transitions, well-timed glitches and synth strained strings. Instrumental hip-hop and low-sitting beats make for a perfect late-night bike ride or slightly disorienting study soundtrack. It's a good kind of weird that lands somewhere between the softer side of Flying Lotus and the less aggressive side of Adult Swim. With sparingly used distorted lyrics pulled from other media samples, this Shanghai-based producer has continued to solidify his place in the lo-fi funk rolodex.

Listen here: cruelbuddhist.bandcamp.com/album/disorientalism



GENTLE MOON

by Pocari Sweet

Riffing off of one of Asia's favorite hangover cures, Pocari Sweet's first album truly lives up to its moniker. The four-person band from Guangzhou put together a four-track dream pop gem. Its beachy vibes (with track titles like 'By the Ocean'), gentle reverb and echoing verses are a beautiful ode to a season quickly fading into memory. This album gently floats you from summer to fall, with the full potential to carry you through to warmer weather six months from now, in the meantime, these songs may cause you to stare out of windows and wish for rain.

Listen here: pocarisweet.bandcamp.com/releases



**'Disappearance:
Three Films by
Pathompom 'Mont'
Tesprateep'**

Through Dec 18; de Art
Center

**Bing Yi,
'Impossible
Landscapes'**

Through Nov 25; Ink
Studio



PICK OF SIX ART EXHIBITIONS

For gallery information visit www.thatsmags.com/beijing

**Li Sa, Ma Ke, Yu Yang
b.1979, 'Beasts'**

Through Dec 2; EGG Gallery



**Sun Cunming,
'Addictive
Document'**

Through Jan 6,
2019; Qi Mu Space



**Huang Shuofei,
'6490'**

Through Dec 31; The
Garage

**Michael Cherney, 'The
Heart-Mind Learns
from the Eyes'**

Through Nov 25; Three
Shadows Gallery



CITY SCENES

NBA Style dunks Chinese-style as they celebrate the opening of their 200th store and a shining new logo.



Things get pretty fishy at the JW Sunday Brunch at JW Marriott Hotel Beijing.



Paulaner Brauhaus at the Kempinski Hotel threw another lively Oktoberfest bash.



Viewers attend a photography exhibition and charity sale at the Shangri-La Hotel Tianjin.



Scandinavian design meets Chinese tradition at the special event held by Lova Weddings and HungWanKwa.

LOST IN TIME

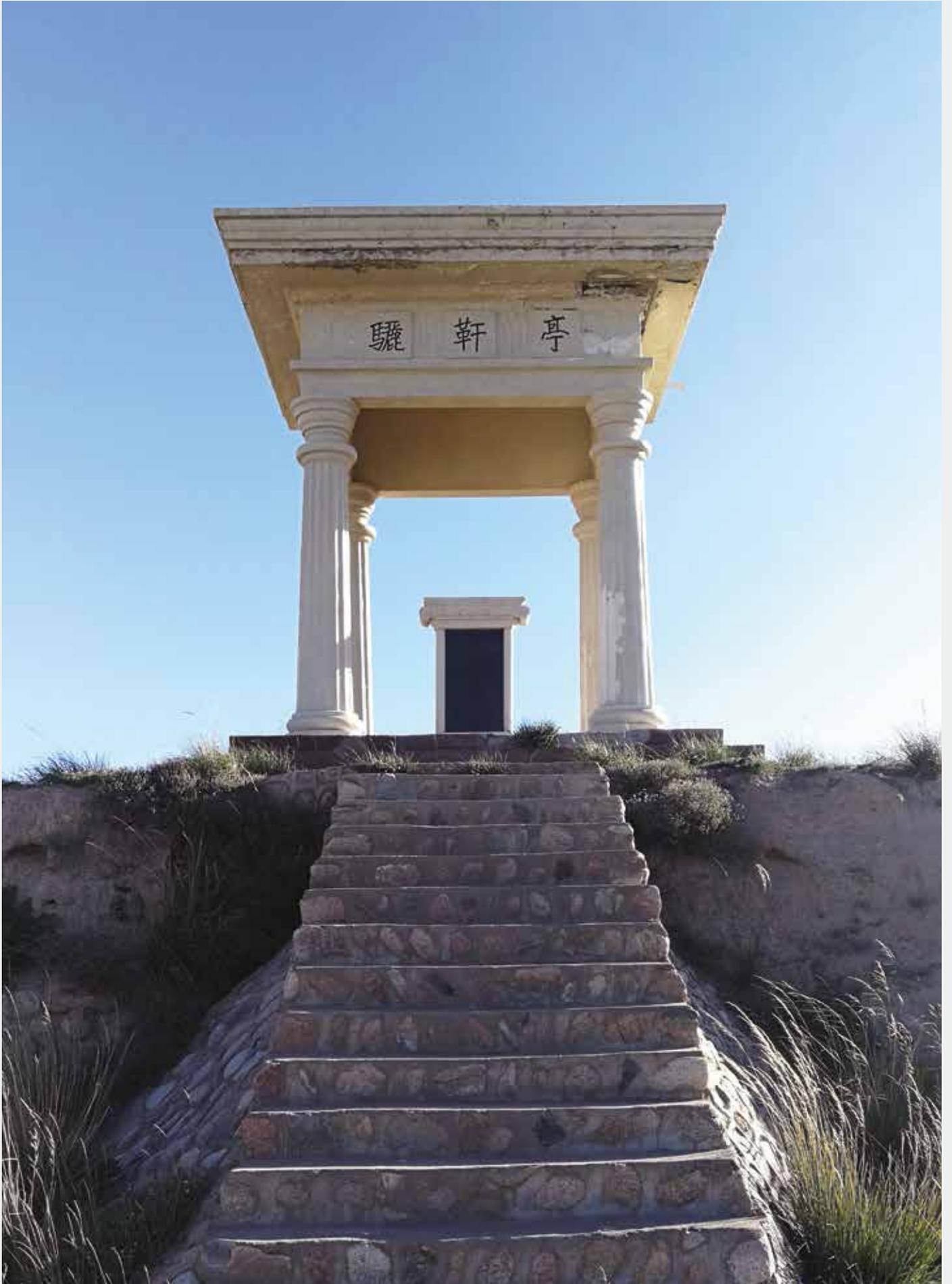
The Vanished Roman Legion of Ancient China

words and images by Matthew Bossons

In 1957, American sinologist Homer H. Dubs published *A Roman City in China*, a book detailing the academic's theory that a group of Roman soldiers worked as border guards for the Western Han Dynasty at the empire's western edge. These ancient expatriates, Dubs suggests, were survivors of Rome's catastrophic loss to Parthia at the Battle of Carrhae in 53 BCE, afterwards moving to the eastern front of the Parthian Empire before eventually finding their way into battle with Chinese troops. In defeat, Dubs claims, the out-of-place legionaries were moved by the Western Han Dynasty to "a specially created frontier city, to which the Chinese of course gave their name for Rome, which was Lijien (now Liqian)."

Today, Liqian is a small village of earth-rammed homes located in northwestern China's Gansu province and, in the decades since the publication of *A Roman City in China*, Dubs' theory has led researchers, archeologists and even geneticists to visit the town, all looking to answer the same tantalizing questions: did a Roman legion settle in ancient China? And, if so, are those living in Liqian today the descendants of these lost troops?





A ROMAN TOWN IN CHINA

“The locals believe this story about the Romans”

On an arid expanse of earth at the edge of the mighty Gobi Desert lies the county of Yongchang. Located in Gansu province's north-central region, the area is a four-hour drive away from the provincial capital of Lanzhou via National Highway G30, and by rail.

But the journey by slow train, while scenic, puts Yongchang's remoteness into perspective. China's iconic green, yellow-striped trains travel the barren landscape like aged serpents, slowly passing forgotten town after forgotten town, crumbling, abandoned industrial infrastructure, derelict, earthen homes and the occasional golden-domed mosque. It's a three-and-a-half hour ride from Lanzhou to Jinchang, the nearest train station to Yongchang, and when I make the journey on a cool afternoon in late September, the train is virtually empty.

From the prefecture-level city of Jinchang, Yongchang town is a 40-minute drive over long stretches of rocky, unpaved road. While more remote places certainly exist within the boundaries of the Middle Kingdom, the area feels about as far away from the comforts and convenience of first-tier cities as one could imagine.

Yongchang, which had a population of around 235,000 in 2010 according to census records, has a long history. The area is set within the Hexi Corridor, formerly a key section of the ancient Northern Silk Road, and human habitation here dates back thousands of years. It is within the boundaries of Yongchang county that one finds the town of Liqian, the fabled city allegedly founded by Roman survivors of the slaughter at Carrhae.

Liqian, according to Dubs, is the “most ancient Chinese name for Rome,” and the

name first found its way into the history books when it appeared on the record of Chinese countries and cities for the year 5 CE. The settlement existed until 746 BCE, when, Dubs writes, “the Tibetans overran that part of China.” Inspired by Dubs' research, Australian scholar and author David Harris suggested the town of Zhelaizhai could be the ancient city of Liqian. At the conclusion of the 20th century, Zhelaizhai officially adopted the ancient moniker of Liqian.

It is late in the afternoon when I arrive in Yongchang proper. While wandering the small city's central area, the rumored Roman heritage of the region is on full display. The lampposts running along the city's roads sport plate-sized metal plaques featuring Roman architecture and a helmet-clad legionary, and along the main thoroughfare stands a towering, concrete statue of two Romans flanking a Western Han Dynasty official.

“The statue was built in 1983 or '84,” Mr. Zeng, a security guard at the Yongchang Museum, tells me. When I arrive at the small museum, which is located a short stroll from the aforementioned statue, Zeng is the sole person at the site.

At the mention of my research into the county's alleged Roman heritage, Zeng – who is eclectically dressed in a suit two sizes too big and a pair of weathered red Nikes – becomes visibly excited.

“The locals believe this story about the Romans,” he tells me, adding that descendants of ancient Romans still live in the area.

Zeng leads me into one of the museum's three exhibition halls, walking me through a small display on the area's Roman roots, the centerpiece of which is a glass-topped box housing skeletal remains. The bones, he claims, are those of an ancient Roman immigrant to the region.

FROM CARRHAE TO THE EDGE OF THE GOBI

“Outside the wall horsemen gallop about, and more than a hundred foot-soldiers are lined up on either side of the gate in a fish-scale formation”

In the year 53 BCE, Marcus Licinius Crassus launched an unprovoked invasion of the Parthian Empire, marching an army of 35,000 heavy infantry, 4,000 light infantry and 4,000 cavalry into Upper Mesopotamia.

Crassus was an extraordinarily wealthy politician and, along with Julius Caesar and Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus (otherwise known as Pompey the Great), he was a member of the First Triumvirate, a political alliance established to counter the Roman Senate. Crassus launched war with the Parthians in an effort to further his political aspirations and to earn himself a military reputation in line with that of his partners, Caesar and Pompey.

His grand military ambitions came to a head near the town of Carrhae, close to the present-day settlement of Altınbasak, in southeastern Turkey. On his advance across the barren landscape, Crassus spotted an army of Parthian mounted troops. The commander ordered his troops to execute a large, hollow square formation, with heavy infantry forming the four boundaries of the square and his 4,000 cavalry inside. The battle formation was intended to prevent his army from being flanked by the enemy.

He then commanded his light infantry forward to engage the Parthians, although they were swiftly driven back towards the relative safety of the square by a flurry of arrows fired by 9,000 horse archers.

Parthian forces, which were outnumbered by about four to one, then moved on Crassus' square of soldiers, launching arrows at the Roman heavy infantry while maintaining a distance that kept them out of range of Roman

projectiles.

Crassus dispatched his son, Publius, to lead a charge of 1,500 mounted soldiers to push back the Parthian horse archers. While this tactic initially appeared successful, Publius and his men were baited into an ambush by 1,000 heavily armored mounted troops called cataphracts. The majority of Publius' force were slaughtered in the maneuver and Publius is believed to have killed himself.

What happened next was a bloodbath, with both Parthian mounted archers and cataphracts descending on Crassus and his square formation of soldiers. Arrows rained down on the helpless men, while cataphracts directly engaged the Roman heavy infantry. The slaughter continued until nightfall, when the surviving Romans were able to flee.

The following day, Crassus was summoned to meet with the commander of the Parthian forces, Surena, to negotiate a truce. Crassus was killed during a scuffle that broke out during the assembly and legend has it that molten gold was poured into his mouth by the Parthians to signify the Roman leader's 'thirst for wealth.'

When the dust of war settled, Roman dead totaled 20,000, and 10,000 were captured. While estimates on Parthian losses vary greatly, it is widely accepted that the number of Parthian dead was relatively low. A meager one-fourth of Crassus' army is believed to have escaped to Syria.

The fate of the 10,000 captured Roman troops is a key element of Dubs' lost legion theory. He notes in his book that little is known about what happened to these prisoners, before adding that Pliny (presumably a reference to Pliny the Elder, a Roman author, philosopher



and naval and army commander) claimed the captives were moved to Margiana “to guard the eastern frontier of Parthia.”

Margiana is a historical region that is today part of Afghanistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan; the area was home to the Silk Road oasis of Merv.

There are no records indicating how many of the Parthian’s Roman prisoners made it to Margiana. Dubs notes that the distance between the battlefield at Carrhae and Margiana is vast and that captive invaders “would hardly have been treated kind on such a march.”

Dubs suggests that some of the Roman survivors of Carrhae did manage the journey to the eastern frontier of Parthia and that the next time they appear in the historical record is on a battlefield facing down soldiers of the Western Han Dynasty.

The Battle of Zhizhi took place in 36 BCE in what is present day Kazakhstan.

The belligerents were the Western Han Dynasty and the chieftain Zhizhi Chanyu of the nomadic Xiongnu, with Chinese troops laying siege to a fortified settlement occupied by Zhizhi and his men. Dubs notes that 100-145 Roman troops who fled Parthia were possibly present at the battle, fighting as mercenaries on behalf of Chief Zhizhi. To offer weight to his claim, Dubs cites an account of the battle by Chinese historian Ban Gu: “Outside the wall horsemen gallop about, and more than a hundred foot-soldiers are lined up on either side of the gate in a fish-scale formation.”

‘Fish-scale formation’ is a historical clue for Dubs, who notes that the term is wholly unique in Chinese literature. He likens the concept of a fish-scale battle formation to that of the famous Roman *testudo* formation, a defensive tactic in which a legion’s members press their

shields together in a manner that, visually speaking, is not unlike that of fish scales.

A Roman City in China also states that Zhizhi’s troops made use of a wooden palisade during the battle, something Roman forces frequently utilized “to strengthen their ditches, especially before gates.”

This evidence, coupled with the fact Roman troops were (in theory) within walking distance of the site of the conflict, leads the Roman-curious sinologist to conclude that survivors of the Battle of Carrhae were on the field of battle when troops from the Western Han Dynasty laid siege to Zhizhi’s fort.

At the conclusion of the confrontation, Dubs surmises that the Roman mercenaries surrendered to the Western Han Dynasty. The ancient foreigners were then settled on the fringes of the empire in a settlement their conquerors gave their name for Rome: Liqian.

MAYBE THEY ARE, MAYBE THEY AREN'T

“The people here don’t know if they are descended from Romans. It’s uncertain”

Back in Gansu, I arrive at the village of Liqian. The site is now split into two distinct – and vastly different – sections: the town itself and the recently built Jinshan Temple.

Both sites lie within a couple kilometers of each other, roughly a 25-minute drive from Yongchang county’s urban center.

Jinshan Temple, which was constructed some time in the past decade, according to locals, is where I’m dropped off. As I meander past the toll collector stationed at the gate to the gravel parking lot outside the temple, the man in the booth eyes me curiously, his vivid green eyes and light brown hair immediately set him apart from other parking lot attendants I’ve seen in China.

Passing the decidedly European-looking toll man, I wandered into the deserted entrance of the Buddhist temple complex, an area occupied by a bizarre, Colosseum-inspired visitor’s center that, among other Romanesque elements, features 11 large, life-like statues of Roman legionaries.

There’s a gift shop, of course, and inside Rome-themed trinkets and faux suits of armor are available for purchase.

Beyond the entrance and through the gate of a large stone wall, Jinshan Temple is anything but traditional by Chinese standards. The grand, column- and dome-clad structure draws serious inspiration from neoclassical architecture, and a sign outside the building states it was designed in the style of a Roman temple – “skillfully combining Buddhist and Roman culture.”

It’s an interesting spot, but it’s hard to ignore the obvious: Jinshan Temple feels rather

gimmicky, an empty Disneyland for Chinese tourists looking to snap a selfie at the alleged convergence point of two ancient powers.

“It’s rarely busy here,” a barbecue stand attendant tells me on my way out of the temple. “Except on holidays.” The middle-aged woman of Hui ethnicity says that she’s been living in the old town of Liqian for over 20 years. I head there next.

While all roads lead to Rome, only one road leads into modern day Liqian and visitors traveling through must walk pass a massive gate – part of a wall erected last year that surrounds most of the village.

Inside the barrier, Liqian is a ghost town, said for the occasional camel grazing on the yellow-tinged grass that protrudes in patches from the rocky earth.

Earthen walls surround old homes that aren’t aging very gracefully. A short walk from the new town gate are the remains of the old city wall; nearby stands a sign declaring the ruins a cultural relic of the county. The sign also states that in the late 1970s, villagers digging near the old wall recovered shards of pottery and Wuzhu coins from the Western Han Dynasty.

“No Roman artifacts have been found here,” Yan tells me, echoing what I’d heard from others on my way to the town. The 43-year-old man lives just around the corner from the ancient Liqian wall with his retired parents and works as a cattle rancher.

“The people here don’t know if they are descended from Romans,” says Yan. “It’s uncertain.” It’s a vague but fair answer, being situated on the Silk Road, many have passed through this area over the past 2,000 years

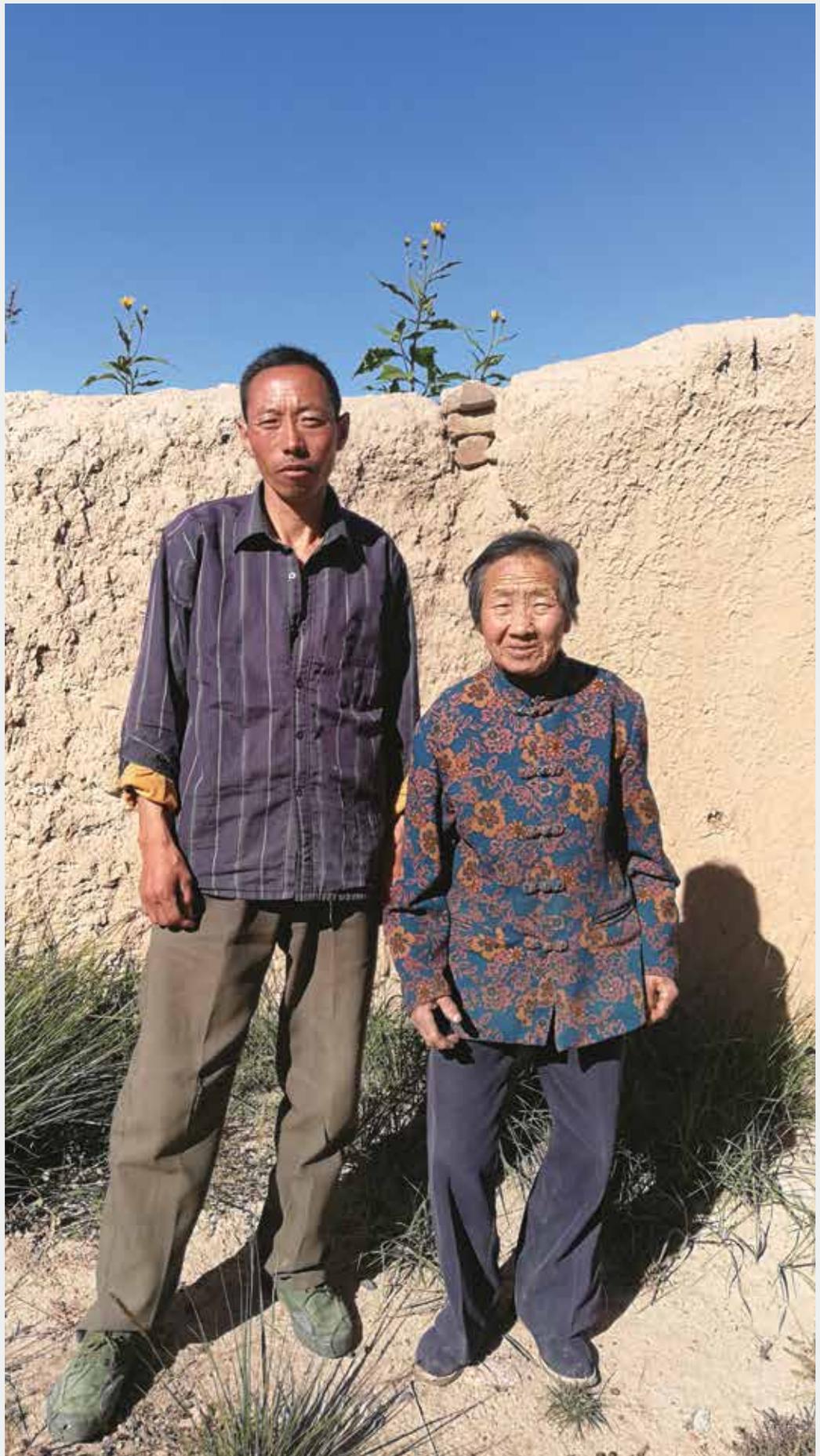
and the prevalence of European features among locals is by no means proof of Dubs' lost legion theory.

I press Yan about the skeleton in the Yongchang Museum and he says he's aware human remains of a "large size" have been found in the area, before adding that he has no idea who they belong to.

Yan is skeptical of the area's alleged Roman heritage, believing that the theory is played up to attract tourists to the sleepy town. Despite his suspicion, he admits "there are people living in the region that look different than your average Chinese person, people with yellow hair and blue eyes."

Before we part ways, Yan encourages me to head to the edge of town. There, he says, is a monument to the town's alleged Roman founders. After a 10-minute stroll, I come to an empty, windswept patch of earth at the edge of a small cliff. At what feels like the end of the world stands a white, Roman-esque pavilion, complete with Doric-style columns.

A sign near the monument states that the pavilion was originally built in 1994 - 2,046 years after the Battle of Carrhae.



DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES

“The ‘foreign’ origin of the Yongchang villagers, as proven by the DNA tests, does not necessarily mean they are of ancient Roman origin”

The idea that a rag-tag band of survivors from one of the worst military defeats in the history of Rome managed to cross thousands of kilometers of potentially hostile land and find a new home in China is undoubtedly intriguing.

For one, if Roman and Chinese soldiers did cross swords at the Battle of Zhizhi, it would be the only known time in history that the two powers engaged militarily.

Also, if the theory is true, it could mean that citizens of ancient Rome were responsible for founding a settlement that still exists in China to this day.

Unfortunately for the believers, not everyone buys into Dubs' theory.

“In the academic world, that theory is conclusively false,” Zhang Defang, a retired researcher with the Gansu Archaeology Institute, tells *That's* Senior Staff Writer Tristin Zhang. “The story is made up by local authorities.”

Zhang is not alone in his assessment. In a *China Daily* report published in 2011, Professor Yang Gongle of Beijing Normal University addressed Liqian residents' European features, pointing out that interracial marriages were not uncommon on the old Silk Road, and that light-colored hair, blue eyes and hooked noses are not sufficient proof that the villagers are descended from survivors of the Battle of Carrhae.

“The ‘foreign’ origin of the Yongchang

villagers, as proven by the DNA tests, does not necessarily mean they are of ancient Roman origin,” said Yang.

The genetic tests Yang is referring to occurred in 2005, when blood samples were taken from more than 90 Liqian residents. The results of the test suggested that some of the villagers' DNA was up to 56 percent of Caucasian ancestry.

In 2007, a follow up DNA test yielded results that were far less exciting to believers in the legend of Roman settlers in Liqian: 77 percent of the locals' Y chromosomes were limited to East Asia, according to the *Journal of Human Genetics*.

“The Liqians are closely related to Chinese populations, especially Han Chinese populations, whereas they greatly deviate from Central Asian and Western Eurasian populations,” states a *Journal of Human Genetics* article published on the subject back in June of 2007.

According to Song Guorong, though, the results of the 2007 genetic test do not invalidate Dubs' theory. “The Roman Empire covered vast territories, and many soldiers in the legion were mercenaries,” he told *China Daily*.

The lack of Roman artifacts found in the region is another major factor that detractors of the theory often point to, although it is prudent to point out that the likelihood of Roman captives being allowed to carry any of their personal belongings with them after surrendering at Carrhae seems extremely low.

The only real, hard evidence that Romans settled in the area is the skeleton housed in the Yongchang Museum. The remains were discovered back in 2003 in a 2,000-year-old grave, according to the *Economist*, and are of a 1.8-meter-tall male, much larger than the “average Chinese” person back then. The height of the ancient man alone seems to be what’s led to the conclusion he was a Roman immigrant, with *China Daily* writing, the “human skeleton [is] believed to belong to a Roman soldier because it is 1.8 meters tall.”

While disagreement is widespread on Dub’s theory, scientific consensus seems to have labeled *A Roman City in China* a myth, with the physical traits of Liqian’s inhabitants easily attributed to Silk Road commerce and travel, and the lack of hard evidence being a major sticking point.

One thing everyone does seem to agree on, though, is that the theory has introduced tourism to the remote region.

“The name change,” Zeng, an ardent believer in the Dubs’ theory, tells me, “that was to attract tourists.”



EAT & DRINK



A TASTE OF PERU
Peruvian joint Pachapapi
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GETTING MODERATELY DEEP WITH...

The Owner of a Pork Bone Soup Joint

interview by Edoardo Donati Fogliazza

This month we meet Li, the owner of a diner specializing in bone soup and *malatang*, and a true cat lover.

What is your idea of the perfect day?

The perfect day is one in which we can live as we please, according to our heart's desires. Today we tend to live under great pressure from every side and to have the freedom to live as we want is a rare luxury.

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

I thought, "It's Thursday, two more days to go!"

Who is your best customer?

My best customer was a guy who came here just after the opening and with whom I started a good friendship that goes on to this day. He's both a loyal customer and a friend, the perfect combination.

Do you have some bad customers then?

Mine is a restaurant with few pretenses. The customers that decide to come usually do not complain about the service or the presentation of dishes. I think I've never really had bad customers who complained or refused to pay.

Which living person do you most admire?

Although there are many personalities that I truly respect, I really admire what Xi Jinping has done for the country, introducing a lot of important new policies to help the most backwards parts of China and the disadvantaged.

When and where were you happiest?

It was the day I got married. That day I turned from a single man to part of a family, a change that had a significant impact on me and brought me great joy.

Which talent would you most like to possess?

To predict the future. This is because everything today changes so fast, it is very hard to keep up! For example, I just found out a few days ago from a friend that Victoria's Secret now does not just sell lingerie but has a whole range of day clothes. When did that happen?

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

Right now, I would really like to change my apartment.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

To have lived in good health up to this day. It's not a given at all.

What is your most treasured possession?

My friends. Many in China, like me, are only children, and friends for us become new family members that help us out and that we can confide in.

What trait do you most value in a person?

Honesty.

What is it that you most dislike?

Hypocrisy.

What is your motto?

I really like the phrase "Everyone is in charge of their own destiny." Keeping in mind that my fate is mine to make helped me in many situations and to overcome pressure.

What always makes you laugh?

Interesting things that stimulate me... and messy people.

You can find (and taste) Li's soups and other specialties at Miao La 喵辣 at 11 Dongyangwei jie, Dongzhimen, Dongcheng 东城区东直门东扬威街11号

GRAPE VINE

SNACKS AND THE CITY

Fall is definitely my favorite time of the year. Not just because of my birthday, but for other reasons too. Like sweaters. And whiskey, which is now acceptable to drink more of as a way to stay warm.

Fall in Beijing also marks hairy crab season and while there are an ocean of dining options that are expertly preparing the golden season delicacy, **Jing Yaa Tang** are dishing out the classic crustacean in superior style. Stop in for their wok-fried crab meat and roe on roasted *youtiao* or some hairy crab roe *xiaolongbao*.

For those of you looking for a tasty escape from the office, good news – there are some sweet lunch deals going on around the city. **Hulu** just premiered a three-course 'power lunch' with offerings like pumpkin soup, seared Norwegian salmon, steak tartare and more. **Bottega** also debuted a new set menu, featuring plates like salty smoked salmon, topped with strawberries and dainty dollops of caviar, and creamy risotto with porcini mushrooms. Is lunch the new brunch? Probably not, but that doesn't mean you can't get a cocktail or two.

Over in Chaoyang Park, **Cravings** is serving up some brand new dishes that are on offer at all times of the day, like chicken lollipops with Sichuan pepper and chargrilled grouper served atop hay (yes, hay) with a 'secret sauce' that's not so secretly prepared in front of you at your table.

Happy fall, y'all. **VO**

NEWS BITE



RUFF TIMES

In recent news, the ongoing trade war between China and the US has shifted from man to man's best friend. As reported by the *New York Times*, the latest tariffs are targeting a particular American brand of dog food called Canidae, among other imported puppy chow varieties. Though research has yet to prove this, many skeptical pet owners believe that some types of Chinese pet food can be untrustworthy and toxic to their furry friends due to the questionable freshness and quality of the ingredients, opting for imported foreign brands instead. There have been a few cases of delayed shipments once the bags of treats make it to China, with some tariffs as high as 25 percent reported back in July. Even with hopes that the looming threat might be all bark and no bite, pet owners anxiously stocked up on the high-quality goods for their canine companions. **VO**

OFF THE BEATEN PLATE

Ah, Lay's potato chips. Despite being a timeless staple that reigns in the glorious kingdom of American junk food, you can find this starchy delicacy stocking the shelves of almost every 24-hour convenience shop around the globe in unique regionally-inspired flavors. With some of the most bizarre varieties found right here in Beijing, we stumbled upon the two latest (though not so greatest) flavors to premiere in China – a salted egg yolk variety and durian fruit. So, naturally, we had to taste-test them both. Tearing open the first bag, we were fully expecting to be hit with a pungent smell but were pleased to find that the eggy scent was not as invasive.

The flavor was salty with a powdery finish – all in all, a decent attempt at imitation yolk. Well done, Lay's. We tossed back a few more and braced ourselves for the latter. Glacially peeling apart the packaging, the powerful smell of durian fruit – notorious for being either feared or loved – managed to hit us right between the eyes. With every vile crunch, the unsavory and all too juicy flavor is just downright foul. One and we're done. **VO**

RMB13.60, 7-Eleven



MIFAN/MAFAN

We Tell You
if the Rice is
Worth the
Hassle



Chunli Chifan Gongsli

Sanlitun's Bar Street is a notorious shapeshifter – from its bars to its street food offerings. The modest food stalls that once dotted the boozy block were transformed into upscale snack joints. The latest addition comes courtesy of the Chunli brand – you might know them from their recent hole-in-the-wall coffee spot a few blocks away. Chunli Chifan looks like a Hong Kong diner from the '50s, with a design so cool we can't help but sneak a photo. The food offerings are just as attractive: They serve six variants of delicious Taiwanese Guabao (RMB32-42) – basically a less greasy *roujiamo* – plus a decent selection of fried sides and drinks.

Daily, 11.30am-4am; No. 1060, Bldg 3.3, 33 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路33号3.3大厦西门1060



Beijing Pie

Beijing Pie was the go-to joint to taste traditional Beijing eats in Wangfujing before being forced to move to its new location near the Forbidden City. The new Beijing Pie retains the original folksy charm but is no greasy spoon: The signature *roubing*, in the traditional pork and beef variations (RMB28 and RMB25), has no fat or cheap meat cuts in the rich filling. Their kungpao chicken, also available in the chicken thigh variety (*gongbao jituiding*, RMB36) is a classic and much better than others you can get for the same price around town. With a list of *ergoutou* baijiu to complete it, the menu doesn't get any more laobeijing than this, and the portions are Beijing-sized too.

Daily, 10am-9pm, 101, Building 7, 14 Xila Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区锡拉胡同14号7幢1层101

Luckin Coffee (Forbidden City)

Luckin did not hide its ambition to dominate the Chinese coffee market. The Chinese unicorn has now unveiled its most prestigious location to date – inside the Forbidden City. The new mini shop is somewhat subdued (the company had to ditch the signature blue here to blend with the architecture) and you won't find anything more than Luckin's basic selection of drinks and snacks, but there's much more to it than meets the eye. Since Starbucks was evicted from the Forbidden City back in 2007 amid a massive protest, the attraction was considered off-limits for ambassadors of capitalism like large international corporations, though Luckin (a company recently valued at USD1 billion) opened its new location without much fuss. Times have changed, we guess.

Daily, 8.30am-3.30pm, The Palace Museum, 4 Chang'an jie Jingshan qianjie, Dongcheng 东城区长安街景山前街4号故宫博物馆前亭旁



Trutasty

In the buzzing Chinese coffee market there are the big players – Luckin and Starbucks – and the small players. Then, there are the micro players, like Trutasty. Nestled on the second floor of Guanhua Lu Soho, this tiny cafe barely fits a table but it is what's behind the counter that matters. With a fine selection of single origin beans, a real espresso machine and a dedicated staff, this newcomer cannot be easily dismissed. Our pour over brew (RMB34), made with Ethiopian beans, surprised us with its fruity flavor and complex acidic notes. It's a good destination, whether you're a coffee buff or just craving a simple Americano. Just go solo – there's not much room for more.

Daily 9am-7pm. 119C, Guanhua Lu Soho 1, 22 Guanhua Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区光华路22号光华路SOHO 119C室(8408 5300)

EL BARRIO

Raising the Bar

words by Valerie Osipov, images by Andrew Braun

Gin bars, Italian joints and cocktail lounges – Nali Patio’s ever-expanding inventory of quality late-night hotspots is really proving its superiority as of late. Now joining the party is a Mexican bar and restaurant, helmed by pizza pros Bottega, which is located just a few steps away.

As we walk into El Barrio, across the gray tiled floors of the cheery terrace (quite a glow up for the once barren and neglected space), we’re greeted by lively rows of tables, a modern marble bar – stocked with top-notch tequila – along with eccentric art and vivid neon lights adorning the walls.

After taking in the ultra-hip decor, we can’t help but carb-load here and go big with the El Barrio nachos (RMB68), dosed with Monterrey Jack cheese, a black bean puree, avocado salsa and juicy pico de gallo.

Aside from the quintessential offerings one would hope to find at a Mexican restaurant, the Lamb Birria



(RMB138) caught our eye – a tender Herculean hunk of slow-braised lamb that pulls apart effortlessly.

But we came here for the tacos (and you probably will too.) Sticking to the basics, we opt for the al pastor (RMB68), topped with grilled pineapple salsa, and carne asada (RMB118) made with chargrilled wagyu flank steak, both of which vanish within minutes of being set down on our table. They also offer tasty Baja-style fish tacos (RMB88), made with crispy Icelandic halibut and garnished with chipotle crema and a cabbage slaw.

Wash it all down with the Frozen Batida (RMB68), a frosty and boozy treat – mixed with pineapple, coconut milk and lime – that we can only imagine was concocted with a sun-soaked rooftop in mind.

We stay for the dessert, a seductively sweet

Kahlua chocolate flan (RMB48) and are left scraping the dish for every liquor-drenched drop of custard.

By the end, we’re fully convinced that El Barrio is about to take over this nightlife hub. If not just for its trendy and tasteful party vibe, then for its expansive outdoor seating (though we’ll have to wait a season or two to fully capitalize on the airy space.)

This begs the question: Is there anything Bottega can’t do?

Daily, 5.30pm-2am; Building 2, Nali Patio, 81 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区三里屯路81号那里花园2楼





FREAK SHAKE

Legend-Dairy

by Valerie Osipov

A few years ago, freakshakes – also known as milkshakes on steroids, thanks to their insane serving size and all the loaded extras – caused an instant stir on social media in frenzied foodie cities around the globe. These monstrous, over-the-top (literally) treats sent everyone on a sugar rush, from Melbourne to London. But while most trendsetters boasting a mega sweet tooth were left enjoying milkshake-induced naps, Beijing had yet to get a sip of the huge desserts. That is, until now.

Enter, Freak Shake. With a mini shop already nestled on the top floor of Xidan Joy City, the milkshake mogul has now moved into a more spacious spot – right beside the Viva shopping center in Shuangjing, no less.

With the flashy slogan 'Get Your Freak On' (Missy Elliott, get behind this free endorsement), it's obvious that Freak Shake is playing on the whole obnoxiously trendy factor. And the interior loudly echoes that observation. The splashy red, pink and white retro design make it seem like the scary cherry-red Kool-Aid Man just burst through the walls a few moments ago.

Freak Shake's menu offers several varieties of the epically indulgent shakes, available in two sizes: Freak (RMB45) or Baby (RMB35), though we don't know what kind of baby

would be able to handle this dangerous dose of sugar. Their crazy concoctions range from the Pretzella, a Nutella-based shake garnished with crunchy pretzels and oozing with chocolate, to the Fruity Freak, a tropical fruit-flavored version, drizzled with artificially vibrant syrup and topped with a popsicle.

We order the Like a Velvet, in the Freak size. The cashier immediately tempts us with another shake for half the price, to which we probably respond with a look of sheer horror – we're not worried about the price here, lady, just our blood glucose levels. The red velvet cheesecake variation is stacked high with cream cheese frosting, strawberry jam and a bite-size cake on top, making it almost too sweet to eat – almost.

Though the towering treats are their specialty, Freak Shake also sells other desserts such as ice cream, cakes and donuts, presumably to be enjoyed with their shakes and possibly followed by a heart attack.

Here's our verdict: Freak Shake's milkshakes will bring everyone who's anyone to the yard. Or to Shuangjing.

Daily 10am-10pm; 1/F, Viva Mall North, 65 Dongsanhuan Zhonglu, Shuangjing 朝阳区东三环中路65号北京富力广场购物中心北区一层





INCEPTION

Dream a Little Dream

by Andrew Braun

In a city of over 20 million people seemingly on a nonstop bustle, finding a quiet spot to kick back, have a drink and turn off your brain for an hour or four is a luxury that seems to be in demand. And in fact, the capital has recently seen an influx of expertly curated cocktail establishments with a forceful devotion for the craft. Now, stepping up to bat is Inception, Dongzhimen's newest addition to the roster – and the 1920s-style lounge bar is swinging for the fences.

The dark and moody pub design out front suggests a completely different interior than what we are met with. Stepping inside, we're greeted by a bulldog effigy donning a pair of shades – not sure how that ties into the idea here – and the smooth sound of jazz, of course. What else would a bar so rooted in the die-hard theme of vintage Prohibition-era lounges possibly be playing? On our way to the bar, we get a whiff of Cuban cigars, which only adds to the involuntary sense of nostalgia. The interior is expansive but dimly lit, evoking an intimate feel, and hosts two distinct areas – a large foyer with a mixture of eclectic seating and a small stage for live entertainment, as

well as a lower level that leads up to a well-stocked wooden bar.

If the interior seems meticulously detailed, the skill level of the bartenders might exceed it. We opt for the classics and order an Old Fashioned (RMB85) – a drink that is easily made but not so easily made well – which was



up to par to this Kentucky boy's taste buds. Our second drink of choice is the sweet and subtle Ada's Kiss (RMB85), essentially a vodka cranberry, smoked with oak and served beside a rose encased in a glass bell jar – giving a more interesting take on the cocktail as old as time.

For those that fancy the avant-garde drink-

ing experience, choose from any of Inception's 'special cocktails,' like the Taste of the South (RMB80) – dark rum, black sesame paste and chocolate bitters – served artfully in a wooden cube-shaped cup, or the Amber Room, made with jasmine flower-infused gin, passionfruit puree and tea liqueur, served in a treasure chest (which has us questioning the theme here again.)

If cocktails and liquors aren't your poison of choice, there's a wine cellar with a wide selection of bottles to choose from and coffee for those late nights out – or simply as an afternoon pick-me-up.

After knocking back a couple drinks and savoring our time away from the noisy streets, we get the sense that Inception is carefully crafting a reputation that'll be around for a while.

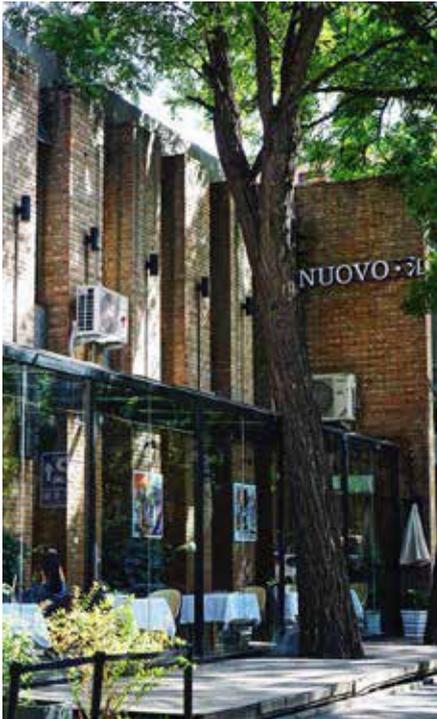
No, really, if we've learned anything from this city's adoration for a good concept lounge bar – it'll be around forever.

Daily 1pm-2am; Building 1, Ziming Building, No. 12, Xinzhong Jie, Dongzhimen 东城区新中街乙12号紫铭大厦一号楼

NUOVO

New Kid On the Block

by Edoardo Donati Fogliazza



Former Eatalia's 798 location just relaunched as Nuovo (Italian for 'new') and is set to be a favorite among gourmands in the ever-popular art district. Here, the name is certainly not misplaced: Nuovo undertook the task of updating the same old Western food model with fierce determination, and the result is a bold menu that will keep you on the edge of your seat.

Nuovo kept the crowd-pleasing Italian staples on the menu, from the Fettuccine alla Bolognese to the Linguine al Pesto (both RMB68), but the new recipes, heavily inspired by French cuisine, all play on contrasting flavors: The regal starter of Foie Gras with Passionfruit (RMB98) is a masterpiece that balances the unique scent of foie gras with the acidic and musky sweetness of the passionfruit. As we try it, we cannot help but be impressed by the chef's gumption. We are presented with Chinese foie gras and promptly challenged to draw comparisons with the more widely accepted (and wildly pricier) French varieties. Incapable of doing so, we learn a valuable lesson: The quality of this delicacy is not just in the ingredients, but in the hands of the cook.

At Nuovo, dishes are designed to be shared – a nod to Chinese tradition, but also a way to offer customers fine-dining options without creating a stuffy, uptight atmosphere. Taking on the delicious Foie Gras Chicken Roul with Chestnuts (RMB128) alone would be no small feat, and the same goes for the New Zealand Lamb Chop with Polenta (RMB158), that plays



skillfully with Northern Italian ingredients, adding cannellini beans and spicy sauces for an extra twist. But if you're looking for something less challenging, the menu seamlessly transitions to a selection of simply exquisite soups: Try the velvety Porcini Mushroom soup (RMB58) – so fragrant it will make other patrons' heads turn as it is served. Finish your meal with outstanding desserts like the Passionfruit Panna Cotta with White Chocolate (RMB45) and the Lavender Chocolate Mousse (RMB58) – both exquisite treats we couldn't say no to, if not just for the decadent presentation.

While its high-quality and inventive dishes, presented with flair, position the restaurant in the fine-dining category, Nuovo defiantly lets the reasonable prices and playful interiors contradict this assumption. It's a stylish yet affordable lunch break as you stroll by the art-ridden lanes of 798. And we sure do love style on a dime. What else is new?

Daily, 11am-9.30pm, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Qixing Xijie, Chaoyang 朝阳区七星西街酒仙桥路4号



signed hybrid that blurs the boundaries somewhere between lounge bar, American diner and brewery. Be it the slick interiors or the overall trendy party vibe, Red Rose makes us feel like we're part of the in-crowd.

The main attractions here are the drinks: Served at the huge countertop that welcomes you as you enter, the specialty cocktails cover all the classics along with

some playful recipes like the Nippon Mojito, with matcha rum and fresh mint (RMB68) or the Black Meteor, with truffle rum, port and chocolate bitters (RMB88). The champion of them all is the Smoke Old Fashioned (RMB78) that comes in a jar filled with wood smoke, of course. With cocktails already down, Red Rose is working on adding their own in-house craft brews. Stay tuned, as they're still perfecting that first batch.

The drinks certainly set the bar high, but we were delightfully pleased to find that the food menu follows suit. Keeping gym buffs in mind, American chef Matthew Ona designed

a set of healthy yet tasty dishes that are gains – without all the grease. You can pair beers and drinks with some guilt-free hummus (RMB38), or a plate of grilled veggies (RMB48), but we strongly recommend the kale-based Rose's Chop Chop Salad (RMB48, RMB72 to share) with sweet corn, edamame, broccoli, cauliflower, sundried tomatoes and crunchy wontons. For those seeking a little more substance, opt for their deliciously filling chicken sandwiches (RMB68) or the Mac 'N' Triple Cheese (RMB68), a stuffing recipe of gooey goodness we couldn't get enough of.

With its blending of concepts and superior offerings, Red Rose proves to be a promising addition to Sanlitun's established brewpubs. If every rose has its thorn, we're still waiting on this one.

Daily, 5.30pm-late; 1 Xingfuyicun 7th Alley, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工人体育场北路幸福一村七巷西里一号



RED ROSE BREW

Coming Up Roses

by Edoardo Donati Fogliazza

Red Rose derives its name from a renowned Xinjiang restaurant that previously occupied a large space in front of Workers' Stadium for at least three decades. Now, the massive space of the restaurant is ready for its new life as a state-of-the-art gastropub.

Red Rose shuns labels. It's a cleverly de-

PACHAPAPI

Back and Bolder

by Edoardo Donati Fogliazza



It's no secret that fusion concepts are abundant in this city's wide-ranging gastronomic universe, and while we're always up for inventive combinations, many restaurants run the danger of putting novelty before flavor and texture. Pachapapi, Beijing's one and only Peruvian restaurant, is a rare exception: It's not a fusion restaurant by choice, it's a fusion restaurant by definition.

Thanks to Peru's biodiversity and unique history of conquest and migration, the country's resulting kaleidoscopic cuisine stands well on its own, mixing elements of Chinese, Japanese, African and Italian gastronomy. If you're not too familiar, we don't blame you. Despite the *New York Times'* confident announcement that Peruvian food was "taking over the world" back in 1999, it has yet to achieve a more prominent distinction outside gourmet food circles, where the ubiquitous Mexican and Argentinian counterparts still largely monopolize Latin cuisine.

That's where Pachapapi comes in. After a

bumpy start as Buena Onda, followed by Pachakutiq, Pachapapi has found a more permanent home in Xinyuanli – right by culinary celebrities Bottega and Boxing Cat – where we now have the chance to get an authentic taste of Peruvian fare in the capital.

As we enter, we're met with an explosion of neon colors: The walls are covered in flashy posters, graffiti and traditional embroidery, evoking the vibrant atmosphere of the streets of Lima.

We're told by our very eager waiter that Peru's essential food is the potato and that the best way to taste the starchy staple is the Causa Lima Style (RMB50). Indeed, the mashed yellow potato enveloping a mixture of eggs, tuna, squid and avocado is a delightful starter. Then comes the national dish – the *ceviche*, or a tangy raw fish salad cured with citrus juice and served cold – quite possibly the entire reason we came here. Pachapapi whips up the zesty and refreshing delicacy with seabass, potatoes, corn, lime, chili and coriander (RMB108), though they also offer other varieties such as the Pacha, with squid (RMB125) and the Tropical, with golden berries (RMB90) – all prepared fresh and with a punch of spice.

The dishes come fast and in sizeable portions, with stories attached. We enjoy the Chifa (RMB108), a Peruvian-Cantonese take on fried egg noodles – influenced by the large population of Chinese migrants who settled in Peru – along with the Lomo Saltado (RMB98), grilled meat flavored with coriander and onion and served with a side of fried potatoes. For those craving more crossover concepts, opt for their large selection of sushi. We choose the beef tenderloin roll with red pepper and onion (RMB58), an unusual but satisfying twist.

Drinks are also a real treat here: The Pisco (RMB78) is strong and sweetened with notes of tropical fruit flavors such as mangos, golden berries and passionfruit while the cinnamon-infused Chilcano (RMB78) is subtle yet satisfying.

With every sip, the lively atmosphere of Pachapapi grows louder and everyone seems to join in on the festive mood. (OK, maybe we've just had too many pisco sours.)

As we finish off our meals, we feel as though we've fed both our bellies and our brains. Turns out, you don't have to travel far to get a taste of Peru's melting pot of flavors.

Daily, 6pm-12am; 105, 1/F, Jinshang Bldg, 20 Xinyuanli Xi, Chaoyang 朝阳区新源里西20号金尚写字楼1层105室



DNA BAR

Down to a Science

by Andrew Braun

Located conveniently between the two juxtaposed nightlife hubs of Dongzhimen and Sanlitun, DNA Bar is another new player in Beijing's craft cocktail scene.

Just a few steps away from Inception, with which it shares the same owners and food menu (a piece of information that should come as no surprise, as the classy lounge vibe is blatantly omnipresent), this gin bar stays true to code.

From the subdued interior to the knowledgeable and overdressed bartenders, DNA Bar is composed of the same elements of in-

timacy and attention to detail – we're just left wondering how organic it is. It's as if they're looking to confirm a hypothesis that all it takes to attract clientele is the right mood lighting and an extravagant cocktail menu. Though much like its nearby counterpart, once inside you can't help but be instantly transported somewhere else entirely. The warm atmosphere, made warmer by flickering candles, makes it an ideal spot to test the chemistry with a date or take refuge alone on a bone-chilling winter night.

The drink selection is undeniably impressive, with an entire wall of liquors scaling the bar area. DNA boasts over 100 kinds of gin, which may just beat any other bar we've seen.

After examining the cocktail menu, we decide on a Mint Julep (RMB70), a classic bourbon-based cocktail garnished with fresh mint, and the New York Sour (RMB80), a mixture of whiskey, lime juice, syrup and red wine. To tie-up the night, we go for the expertly made gin-based creations – the fresh London Mist (RMB70), made with cucumber and lime juice, and the tart Pink Bird Gogo (RMB80), infused with grapefruit and passionfruit syrup, lemon juice and egg whites.

At the very least, you should come for the abundant supply of gin (and then stay for the nice bathroom. Seriously – equipped with



an air purifier, swanky toiletries and scented candles, it might be the classiest thing about this place.)

Despite lacking a bit of substance, DNA is a solid first stop to experiment with a few drinks and continue on to break bad elsewhere.

Daily 6pm-2am; 15, Building 39, Xingfucun Zhonglu, Xingfu Guangchang, Chaoyang 朝阳区幸福村中路首开幸福广场39号楼底商15





● Owl City Gig

American electronica project Owl City lands in Beijing. Known best for starry synth-soaked singles like 'Fireflies' and 'Good Time' with pop star Carly Rae Jepsen, singer-songwriter Adam Young proves he's not a one-hit wonder with his most recent album *Cinematic*.

Wed Nov 14, 7:30pm; RMB380-780; M Space, 69 Fuxing Lu, Haidian 海淀区复兴路69号 (tickets via 247tickets.com)

● Nocturnes & Future Orients Gig



Having recently released the atmospheric single 'Any Kind of Mood,' local indie talent Nocturnes are embarking on a six-city Asia tour with a stop in Beijing this month. Catch their spell-binding and ambient tunes at their School Bar gig, with supporting act Future Orients.

Sat Nov 10, 9pm; RMB60 (advance), RMB80 (door); School Bar (see Listings for details)

● The Vaccines / Gig



Characterized by punchy guitar riffs and overall catchy tunes, the Vaccines make their China debut at Tango. The energetic UK indie rockers are releasing their most prized debut album *What Did You Expect from the Vaccines?* in 2011, which is laden with feverish hits like 'If You Wanna' and 'Wreckin' Bar (Ra Ra Ra).

Tue Nov 13, 8pm; RMB380-880; Tango Live, 79 Hepingli Xijie, Dongcheng 东城区和平里西街79号 (tickets via 247tickets.com)



● Call Super DJ



Party promoters Suan Pan are at it again with another masterful DJ act. This time they're hosting Berlin-based British producer Call Super at the end of the month. With his expert composition and lively beats, his set at Dada is not one to miss.

Fri Nov 23, 10pm; tickets TBD; Dada (see Listings for details)

● Four Tet Music



Experimental musician and producer Four Tet is bringing his lush eclectic mixes to Omni Space this November. Hailing from England, the electronica artist has been an influential beat-maker since 2001.

Sat Nov 17, 9pm; RMB220 (pre-sale), RMB300 (door); Omni Space, B103 Tianqiao Arts Center, Xiachen Square, Xicheng 西城区天桥艺术中心下沉广场 B103 (tickets via 247tickets.com)



● Badain Jaran Desert Caravan Hike

China Hiking invites you to participate in the ultimate hiking trip: a seven-day journey through the Badain Jaran Desert. Tracing up and down giant dunes all the way to the remote lake Nuretu, this will be a breathtaking experience – in every sense of the word. But even if you're not the most resilient of travelers, you can still jump on a camel whenever the fatigue kicks in and let the animal take you across the sand. Also, your friends and colleagues won't be able to reach you. How's that for a nice escape?

Sat Nov 17–Thu Nov 22; RMB9500; meeting point at Beijing airport; (for info, visit chinahiking.cn, email info@chinahiking.com or call 1565 2200 950)

● UFC Fight Night Sports



The Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) is bringing its fighters of all levels for a high-octane night at the Cadillac Arena this November. Talk about a show that packs a punch. Stay tuned for a full list of the fighters.

Sat Nov 24, 4pm; RMB280-1480; Cadillac Arena, 69 Fuxing Lu, Haidian 海淀区复兴路69号 (tickets via 247tickets.com)

● Chinese Traditional Painting Lesson / Class



Chinese painting has really something special. Because of China's unique history and culture, the country developed an aesthetic and style like no other. But you live in Beijing, which means Chinese painting does not have to remain a mystery to you. In fact, you now have the chance to grasp the basics of this fine art at the painting lessons organized by the Beijing Mandarin School. Under the skillful eye of a professional teacher, you'll be able to make your own work and even take it home to show it off.

Tue Nov 20–Thu Nov 29, 1-3pm; RMB100 (RMB80 advance); 904, E-tower, Guanghua lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区光华路丙12号数码大厦904室 (for info and to sign up, follow them on WeChat at BJMS-Etower, email info@beijingmandarinschool.com or call 010 6508 1026)



● Feathers of Fire Show



'Feathers of Fire' is a cinematic shadow play created by visual artist Hamid Rahmanian. While the story is a classic – the tale of two star-crossed lovers, inspired by the 10th-century Persian epic Shahnameh – the techniques used to bring it to life are pure modern innovation: The captivating graphics will be projected on a cinema-size screen. It's a visual pleasure for children and adults alike.

Wed Nov 21–Sun Nov 25, various times; RMB180-580; Tianqiao Performance Arts Center, Bldn 9, Tianqiao Nandajie, Xicheng 西城区天桥南大街9号楼 (tickets via 247tickets.com)

● Yoga Workshop Yoga



If a yoga class with David Lynch doesn't sound like a good time, it's because you're thinking about the wrong person. This Lynch is not a Hollywood director but a yoga instructor from New York City. He'll be paying a visit to Yoga Yard this November for a special workshop focused on mastering backbends and completing other challenging poses.

Sun Nov 25, 2-5pm; RMB400 (before Nov 10), RMB450; Yoga Yard, 6/F, 17 Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区工体北路17号16层 (6413 0774). (tickets via 247tickets.com)



● Gaja Wine Dinner Dining

Gaja is not the name of a new fancy fusion concept but the family name of Italian wine producer Angelo Gaja, whom you will have a chance to meet at this exclusive dinner organized by Jing at Peninsula Beijing. He will bring with him his best wines, made from 100 percent Italian grapes, while French Chef Julien Cadiou will take care of the rest.

Mon Nov 5, 7pm; Jing – The Peninsula Beijing (see Listings for details)

● Thanksgiving in Mutianyu Holiday



There's no better place to pass an expat Thanksgiving than the cozy Brickyard Retreat Center at the Mutianyu Great Wall, where you'll get to enjoy generous portions of roast turkey at one of the best hiking spots. For those who can't make it on Thursday, the Brickyard will serve a reprise on Saturday. While you're at it, check out the Brickhouse's spa, with an outdoor jacuzzi, and their stunning terraces facing the Wall – you won't regret it.

Thu Nov 22 & Sat Nov 24; The Brickyard Retreat Center, Beigou Cun, Huairou 怀柔区北沟村 (6162 6506)

● Asuka Japanese Tea Experience Tea



NUO is debuting the brand new Asuka Japanese Tea Experience – where premium Japanese teas are paired with creative pastries – and we're here for this luscious new take on afternoon tea. All the desserts are enhanced with tea in their preparation, for a full-out Japanese tea experience. A *matcha*-needed addition to Beijing's afternoon tea offers.

Daily, Thu Nov 1-Fri Nov 30; Nuo Hotel Beijing, A2 Jiangtai Road, Chaoyang 朝阳区将台路甲2号 (5926 8888)

● Sunday Brunch Brunch



Brunch at Zarah this month where they're bringing their all-you-can-eat buffet, created to make everyone happy – even the little ones. Opt for the all-you-can-drink option too so that you can get all the brunch grub you want, plus free-flow Jing-A brews, prosecco and seasonal cocktails.

Sundays, 10am-3pm; RMB198 (all-you-can-eat plus one drink), RMB298 (all-you-can-eat-and-drink); Zarah, 46 Gulou Dongdajie, Dongcheng 东城区鼓楼东大街46号 (8403 9807)

● CBAC Craft Beer Festival / Event



CBCA stands for the Craft Brewer's Association of China, the exclusive club that includes only Chinese beer producers, with zero ownership by commercial brands. As the Chinese craft beer market keeps growing at a fast pace, CBAC is holding its first-ever beer festival, where the *crème de la crème* of Chinese brewers will get together to meet the public and celebrate with some frothy brews. So, grab your complimentary sampling glass and learn everything about this exciting new world of Chinese craft beers.

Fri Nov 16-Sun Nov 18, 2-9pm; RMB150/session, RMB400 (weekend pass, 3 sessions), RMB500 (deluxe weekend pass, all sessions); TRB Copper, 13 Nafu Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区纳福胡同13号 (tickets via 247tickets.com)

● Hairy Crab Season / Dining



As the autumn winds blow and the Osmanthus flowers bloom, hairy crabs are back on restaurant tables in Beijing. Famous for their delicate flavor and buttery texture, these crustaceans are a rare treat available only for a couple months of the year. Jing Yaa Tang invites you to try the innovative recipes of Chef Li Dong, like crab roe *xiaolongbao* and stir-fried crab meat with milk curd and parma ham.

Through Fri Nov 30, noon-10.30pm; Jing Yaa Tang (See Listings for details)



● Chicago Musical

Murder, greed, corruption... And all that jazz! Chicago, the multi-award-winning musical following the story of 1920s starlet Roxie Heart is coming to Beijing and it's going to bring all the razzle dazzle that we need to get through the pains of brutal weather. Whether you're a fan of the movie or not, don't miss out on all the odd greatness of this roaring production. Thu Nov 6-Sun Nov 18, 7.40pm; RMB100-1080; Tianqiao Performing Arts Center, Building 9, Tianqiao Nandajie, Xicheng 西城区天桥南大街9号楼 (tickets via 247tickets.com)

● Gone with the Wind Musical



From the novel that inspired readers for generations comes this heart-wrenching musical adaptation, matched with music from Gerard Presgurvic. The beautiful costumes will evoke the American Civil War Era where this epic story, that spans through 10 years of the life of Scarlett O' Hara, takes place, while the songs will spell out the pains of growing up and coming of age.

Fri Nov 30-Sun Dec 9, various times; RMB180-1080; Beijing Exhibition Center Theatre, 135 Xizhimenwai Dajie, Xicheng 西城区西直门外大街135号 (tickets via 247tickets.com) 5层裸心社 (register via amcham.event-bank.cn)

● Disney on Ice / Show



Your favorite animated characters come to life thanks to world-class ice skaters in the upcoming live-action show Disney on Ice. The lavish costumes, dazzling light effects and overall whimsical production makes for great entertainment, and not just for kids. Catch the spectacular show on the rink at the Workers' Gymnasium, and if you feel like you're too old for all that, take Elsa's advice and just let it go. Sat Nov 10 and Sun Nov 11, various times; RMB180-580; Workers' Gymnasium, Gongti Beilu, Dongcheng 东城区三里屯工体北路 (tickets via 247tickets.com)

● Roberto Bolle and Friends Ballet



Roberto Bolle is one of the world's most celebrated ballerinos. The Italian ballet superstar is following in Pavarotti's steps and bringing his own 'Roberto Bolle and Friends' to China. He'll perform a collection of original choreographies, together with his fellow dancers, with his signature style and legendary precision.

Sat Nov 10 and Sun Nov 11, 7.30pm; RMB160-880; NCPA, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng 西城区西长安街2号 (tickets via 247tickets.com)

● Daniel Barenboim & Staatsoper Berlin Concert



Living legend Daniel Barenboim will lead the Staatskapelle Berlin orchestra to perform a repertoire that includes Brahms, Schubert and Beethoven for Beijing audiences. Don't miss this opportunity to see one of the world's most respected directors and to enjoy the prestigious sounds of Berlin's Staatsoper.

Sun Nov 18-Tue Nov 20, 7.30pm; RMB280-1680; NCPA, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng 西城区西长安街2号 (tickets via 247tickets.com)

LISTINGS

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

OPEN DOOR



FRESH CATCH

RENAISSANCE BEIJING WANGFUJING HOTEL

Late autumn, when the leaves turn red and the golden Osmanthus flowers bloom, is the season of the hairy crab. While Beijing street markets fill with chestnuts and persimmons, these delicacies mature in the fresh waters of eastern China and are available to China's gourmards for a period of only two months. Famous for their sweet flesh and buttery roe, the crabs are a much sought-after dish. If you wish to try this seasonal treat, then opt for the very best. Wan Li Restaurant at the Renaissance Beijing Wangfujing Hotel boasts only the finest crustaceans on their menu, prepared by the capable hands of Master Chef Liang.

You can try the crab steamed, as custom would have it, or in other tasty variations like the braised tofu with crab meat. We recommend the sauteed crab meat and crab roe with pea shoots or the steamed crab meat and crab roe dumplings, if you want a different take on this Chinese specialty. For the ultimate epicurean experience, try the gastronomic gem that is the marinated hairy crab in rice wine, soaked in a sweet mixture of Huadiao wine, crystal sugar, plum candy, green onion, ginger and medlar. Hurry and grab a seat before the season is over!

> Daily, 11.30am-2pm, 6-10pm, Wan Li, Renaissance Beijing Wangfujing Hotel (see Listings for details).

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.)

> Mon-Fri 11.30am-2.15pm, 5.30-9.30pm, Sat/Sun 12-2:45pm, 5.30-9.30pm; 2/F, New World Hotel, 8 Qianian Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区祈年大街8号新世界酒店2层 (5960 8822)

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 朝阳区三里屯路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 delectable wrap fillings. The venue's a class act and the plum sauce is hard to follow.

> Daily 11am-10pm; 22 Dongshihitiao, 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, S9-33, 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S9-33(6417 6082)

Honglu 红炉



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 spiced-salt ribs (RMB62) for a bit of Adam action.

> Daily, 51-30a Taikoo Li Sanlitun (on the third floor of it 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S9-30 (6415 3535)

South Memory 望湘园

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

favorites with locals.

> Daily 11am-10pm; 2/F, 230-232, Zenglian 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, Jiuxiangqiao 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.R17, Haidian海淀区中关村广场步行街R17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 Beiliuguxiang. 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 Beiliuguxiang, 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 *jiaozzi* (six, under RMB10) wrapped in a larger *yuانبao* 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 living 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 finest 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)

Makye 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, Jianguomenwai, 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 Xingfuyuan, 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 朝阳区建国路甲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 Dongbuyaqiao 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 Softtel 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)

OPEN DOOR

SWEET DREAMS OF CHAOSHAN
HYATT REGENCY TIANJIN EAST

This autumn, the innovative minds at Wok in the Garden inside the grand Hyatt Regency Tianjin East are dishing out delicious, authentic plates of Chaoshan cuisine. No frills here – fresh, natural ingredients and full-bodied flavors, from sweet to salty, do all the talking. Each of the exquisitely crafted and tastefully presented dishes takes you on a gourmet journey to the bountiful cultural hub of the far, far East.

Transport yourself with sweet honey-baked pork ribs, deep-fried BBQ pork and mushroom dumplings served with a tangy plum sauce as well as luscious yam, pumpkin and watermelon (all delightfully deep-fried). Let's be honest: There's not much better on a crisp fall night than indulging in a warm meal at one of the most extravagant five-star hotels in the city.

> Daily 11.30am-2pm, 5.30pm-9.30pm; Available through Nov 30; 126 Weiguo Road, Hedong, Tianjin 天津河东区卫国道126号

OPEN DOOR



NIU JIU FEN A RARE TREAT

There are plenty of meat-centered restaurants in carnivorous China, but Niu Jiu Fen might as well be the coolest – or the *niu*-est – of all. This steak haven boasts a century-old roast beef recipe that mixes Chinese and Western elements, passed down through generations since the Huang family opened their original Quanzhou restaurant in 1910.

So how does it taste? In order to avoid self-complacency, Niu Jiu Fen gave themselves 9 points out of 10, but we would not hesitate to give them a perfect score as well and to guarantee you that their offerings will meet all of your expectations. Their enormous steaks surprise with their mouthwatering tenderness, thanks to a long soak in house-brewed wine. Combine them with a signature sauce made with 21 different spices – a delectable dinner indeed.

> B1/21, Hopson one, 21 Xi Dawanglu, Chaoyang 朝阳区西大望路21号合生汇B1层21区

LISTINGS

Mio ¥¥

Glitzy Italian fare at the Four Seasons, with 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 蚕 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 朝阳区燕莎桥新源街顺源里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–2:30pm; 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号新大京饭店二层 (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 Damei 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, DAMEI Center, Bldg 1, 7 Qingnian Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区青年路7号达美中心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 望京凯悦购物中心店 (6471 3876); Wailiu BHG 万柳华联商场店 (8258 9405); Wan Shoulu Crystal Capital Mall 西单凯德晶品店 (6826 086); Xizhimen Capital Mall 西直门凯德购物中心店 (5830 2199); Sanlitun Shimao Gongsan 三里屯世茂工三店 (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 café. 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 Dongsanhuan 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)

Nested 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 东城区前厂胡同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: D09-1, 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 Xiusui 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 8532 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 (18523 2633 / 18701092189); FFStore: 107, B1/F, Fortune Financial Center 5, Dongsanhuan Zhonglu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区东三环中路5号楼财富金融中心1层107 (6596 9108); China Central Mall Store: 1315, China Central Mall, Chaoyang District 朝阳区华贸中心写字楼三层 1315单元 (8588 7978) www.cafeflatwhite.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-8pm, 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, Lishi Jiayuan, Chaoyang Gongyuan Nanlu (opposite Chaoyang Park South Gate), Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳公园南路丽水嘉园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 those 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, Tailook 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-Tu 11am-10:30pm, Fri/Sat 11am-11:30pm, B101b Nali Patio South, 81 Sanlitun Beili 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 朝阳区芳园西里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 朝阳区青云路35号院过青云路路口, 往北走20米, 到第一个路口右拐(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 Xiusui 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 Frost 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 bevy 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 朝阳区公园路好运街27号德南面包房二楼 (1314 685 2613)

Brotzeit German Bier Bar & Restaurant

博琛德国啤酒餐厅 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外交办公楼)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, Xindonglu Chaoyang 朝阳区新东路12号院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: Jiangtai Lu, opposite United Family Hospital 朝阳区将台商业街4号楼2楼和睦家医院对面 (6436 3735); Wangjing: 2F, beside the Daimler Tower, LSH Plaza, 8 Wangjing Jie 朝阳区利星行广场A座戴勒姆大厦裙楼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号瑞赛大厦商务楼2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 (858 98366)

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 Beixiaoje, 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 tiramisù. 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 supresses. 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 Dongjie, Jinnong 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 朝阳区芳园西路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1173商铺(6438 8772); Chaoyang Joy City: Daily 11am-10pm, 5F50/6F, Chaoyang Joy City, 101 Chaoyang Beili, 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33号3-3服装大厦西北角底商(5136 5582); Solana Branch: SA-48, 1/F, Bldg 3, Solana, 6 Chaoyang Park Road, Chaoyang 朝阳区公园西路6号蓝色港湾3号1层 SA-48 (5905 6106) > SOHU Shuangdu Branch: SH1112, SOHO Shuangdu, 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3-3服装大厦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-Tu 11:30am-10:30pm, Fri-Sun 11:30am-11pm 3/F, 3-3 Building, No. 33 Sanlitun Bejie, Chaoyang 三里屯北街33号3-3服装大厦3层3008号 (5136 5571, delivery 8989 177) > Additional branches in Gongti, Beida, Beita, Yayancun, Solana and Weigongcun, see www.online.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A7-109 (6586 1180); Wangjing store opening soon: 206, 2/F, RADIANCE, 6 Wangjing Dongyuan, Chaoyang 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研研究院内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店内 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 bibimbabs 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 5:10-10:30pm; 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.55-7 Xingfucun Zhonglu, opposite of April courtmet, Chaoyang 朝阳区幸福村中路55-7杰作大厦底商叶子超市斜对面 (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 Dongsanhuan, 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 inventory, 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, 01B, 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01B 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 dusty 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'Sheas, 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); Lidon store: 38 Fangyuan Xilu, Jiuxianqiao, Chaoyang District 朝阳区酒仙桥芳园西路38号 (5135 8353 / 8430 8700); CBD: 138A, B1/F, The Place, 9Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区光华路9号世贸天阶1号楼 (6587 2999); Shimao Dept Store: Room 202, No.1 Shimao dept store, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区工人体育场北路13号院一号楼世茂工二三层202 (6416 0181); Haidian: 6-02-01 Wudako U Center, 28 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District 海淀区成府路28号优盛大厦6-02-01 (6262 7944)

Indian Kitchen


Weekdays Lunch Buffet

11:30am-2:30pm
RMB78/person

Tel: 010-64627255

Address: 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 JinShiSong 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2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 Jiuxianqiao 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 Tuanjiehu 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); Lidon branch: 2F, No.9-3, Jianguai 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 朝阳区东三环农展北路东苑东一层底商一番街内 (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12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 西城区豆腐地胡同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号院17号楼国贸商城北区5层 NL5008 (8415 0863)

Malacca Legend

Malaysian food with a view, 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, Luozhengzhuang Village, Hoshayu 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坊1号北京希尔顿酒店

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); Parkview 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2号金融街购物中心2层东侧L220 (6622 0515)

Tianchu Maoxing (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, 6B Chaoyangmenwai Dajie, Chaoyang 朝阳区朝外大街乙6朝外SOHO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 sippy 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 Wudaoying 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 Jiuchang Hutong, Dongcheng District 东城区前门胡同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-Tue 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.floor@beijing.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 Doullao Hutong, Dongcheng 东城区豆角胡同6号 (5717 1399) ; Sanlitun: Daily 11:30am-2pm; Sun-Thu 5pm-midnight, Fri/Sat 5pm-1am, B12 Xinzhong Street 新中街212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-2am, 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 Bei Lu, 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-2am, 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 Xingfueruncun, 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 Beiluoguxiang, 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 Maomorabilia 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 Guangqu 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2-11 (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 foos-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叫板比萨隔壁 (8590 0390, troublebar@gmail.com, www.trouble.bar)

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 Meishuguan 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 Shantao 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 5259, 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 Xiangheyuan Lu, Dongzhimenwai, Dongcheng (next to MOMA Cinematheque) 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 B, 206 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng 东城区鼓楼东大街206号楼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 mosh pit. Fortunately, almost all the acts – usually hip-hop DJs, emo rocks 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 700AQL 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-Thr: 6pm-1am; Fri-Sat: 6pm-2am; 2 Jiangtai Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区将台路甲2号 (5926 8888)

Xian 仙

Bold moud – 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 gold leaf, dwarves, cabaret dancers and oddly-friendly Russian women. Timed 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)

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号三层 (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 'the best Mandarin school in Beijing' by That's Beijing magazine.

> E-Tower School(Guomao Area): Room 904-905,

LISTINGS

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, www.beijingmandarinschool.com, Skype ID: beijing-mandarinschool1998, Wechat: BJMS-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号一幢二楼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 北京桥汉语言学校

>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 Grettchin)

Beijing Juncheng Language School

北京君诚语言学校
> 1) Room 208, 1 Panjiapo Hutong, Chaoyangmenwai, Dongcheng District 东城区朝阳门内潘家坡胡同1号东城区职工大学208室(6525 9932/6526 7539) 2) Gucheng Village, 15 Huoshu Lu, Houshayu Town, Shunyi District 顺义区后沙峪镇火沙路古城段15号 (8049 0307)

The Bridge School

北京桥汉语言学校
> (The Bridge School Head office) Room 503, 5/F, Guangming Hotel, 42 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区亮马桥路42号光明饭店5层503室 (15321793321 Grettchin)

International Schools

Canadian International School of Beijing

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 School

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)

The British School of Beijing 英国国际学校

The British School of Beijing, established in 2003, has campuses in Shunyi (primary & secondary) and Sanlitun (primary). BSB offers 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.britishschool.org.cn, admissions@britishschool.org.cn)

Western Academy of Beijing

东西国际学校
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 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 Baizhuan Nan'er Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区百子湾南二路77号 (8771 7171, www.bcis.cn)

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@bwya.net, www.bwya.net)

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 Houbaizhuan, Chaoyang 朝阳区后八里庄5号红领巾公园 (8583 3731, www.ycis-bj.com)

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; lamaisontessori@gmail.com; www.lamaisontessori.depk.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 www.harrowbeijing.cn
Harrow International School Beijing prides itself on its high academic standards, a close-knit school community, a rich extra-curricular 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 朝阳区崔各庄乡何各庄村 287 号 (8610 6444 8900 Ext. 6900 Fax: 10 6445 3870 ,enquiries@harrowbeijing.cn)

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 an elementary school starting from grade 1 in September 2014.

> Quanfa Gardens Campus: North gate of Quanfa compound, 15 Maquanying, 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)

EtonKids International Kindergarten

伊顿国际幼儿园
> LidoRoom C103 Lido Country Club, Lido Place Jichang Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区将台路机场路丽都广场 (6436 7368 www.etonkids.com) ;3/F, Block D Global Trade Mansion Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区光华路世贸国际公寓D座3层 (6506 4805); Southwest corner of Beichen Xilu and Kehui Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区北辰西路与科荟路交汇处西南角(8437 1006); Kehui Lu, Chaoyang, Beijing 朝阳区科荟路大屯里东口(8480 5538); Bldg 19, Central Park, 6 Chaowai Dajie Chaoyang 朝阳区朝外大街6号新城国际19号楼 (6533 6995); Palm Springs International Apartments & Chaoyang Park Nanlu Chaoyang 朝阳区朝阳公园南路8号棕榈泉国际公寓 (6539 8967); Bldg 21, Guangqu Jiaoyuan, Guangqumen-wai, Dongcheng 东城区广渠门外广渠家园21号楼 (6749 5008); Baoxing International Phase 2, Wangjing Chaoyang 朝阳区望京宝星园国际社区二期 (8478 0578); Block 1, Arcadia Villas, Houshayu Shunyi 顺义区后沙峪罗马环岛北侧天北路阿凯迪亚庄园1座(8047 2983); 20A Xidawang Lu, Chaoyang District 朝阳区西大望路甲20号首府社区内 (5870 6779)

Beanstalk International Bilingual School

青苗国际双语学校
> Kindergarten: 1/F, Tower B, 40 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区亮马桥路40号B座一层 (6466 9255); Primary School: Block 2, Upper East Side, 6 Dongshuan Beilu, Chaoyang 朝阳区东四环北路6号阳光上东二期 (5130 7951); Middle & High School: 38 Nan Shiliu, Chaoyang 朝阳区南十里居38号 (8456 6019)

House of Knowledge 好思之家学校及幼儿园

In their Elementary school and two kindergartens 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 District 朝阳公园校区 朝阳区朝阳公园南路15号维多利亚花园公寓 Shunyi Campus: North gate of Quanfa compound, 18 Maquanying Lu, Chaoyang District 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)

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 member-

ship 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Soh3号楼2层217 (5785 3711, jusunghao@hotmail.com); Wangjing: 11am-9pm, Rm T5, 3/F, BOTA 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 Luv!; **Edelweiss: Laser Hair Removal:** Latest Technology, Safe & Permanent

Deep Facial Cleansing——880rmb/once > 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 becoming 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 Center, 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/F, WDK Shopping store, Haidian 海淀区五道口购物中心心层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 Center, 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/F, 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滩虹梅路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6号万通中心1/F, 2002 (400-696-3390, www.zellbeauty.com)

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层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 6067/67, 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.

> 112 Jingshan East Street, Dongcheng 东城区景山东街112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

HAIR SALONS**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, TGI

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服3/F (for appointments, call 5136 5432) **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

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服3/F (for appointments, call 5136 5432)

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.americansino.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 pediatrics, 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 ultrasound

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号燕莎中心写字楼1层5106 (6465 1561/2/3, 6465 1384/28, www.imcclinics.com)

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 Jianguai Road, Chaoyang District, 朝阳区将台路2号 (5927 7000 / 5927 7120 Emergency Hotline); United Family CBD Clinic and和睦家朝外诊所 Mon-Sat, 9:30am-6:30pm, Suite 3017, Building AB, Vantone Center, 6 Chaowai Street, Chaoyang, 朝阳区朝外大街6号万通中心AB座2层3017室(5907 1266); Jianguomen Health and Wellness Center and和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 and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 to all patients and privileged access 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号琨莎中心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-5:00pm; Sat-Sun, 8:30am-12:30pm; 24 Hour Emergency Bldg C1, 9 Jiuxianqiao Bei Lu 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, Beijing 朝阳区北苑路2号 (6499 0000. contact@hmcare.org, en.hmcare.net)

Hongkong International Medical Clinic, Beijing 北京港澳国际医务诊所

> Dongsishitiao: 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 2288/23456/7; 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. P.J dental has become one of the most trusted dental care providers for the embassies, international schools and foreign companies. P.J Dental has cooperated

with many insurance companies to provide directly 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, Jianguai 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 64371326/64371286, 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 朝阳区建国路乙118号国贸桥东南角京汇大厦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 海淀区中关村科技园南路2号科联资讯中心A座308室 (8286 1956); Rm 101, Bldg 6, 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 8550/60/70); 1/F, Somerset Fortune Garden, 46 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang 朝阳区亮马桥路46号燕莎东侧盛福苑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.prettysmiledental.cn, psd3898@163.com)

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 Dongzhimen Wai 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)

Vista Medical Center 维世达诊所

> 24hours, Wi-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)

Beijing New Century Harmony Pediatric Clinic

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

IDC Dental

> Daily: 9am-6pm, Room 209, Bldg 7, Richmond Park Clubhouse, Fangyuan Nanli, Chaoyang 朝阳区芳园南里丽都水岸会所209 (6538 8111, info@idcdentalbj.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)

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AB座二层 (4000 662-882, 24hrs; enquiry@parkwayhealth.com; www.parkwayhealth.com); 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

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

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>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 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@gtrcresidence.com, website: www.gtrcresidence.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.

2Br.	174m ²	¥15,000
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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

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> 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

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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 北京市朝阳区工人北路甲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 北京市朝阳区工人北路甲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

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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

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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
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23/F, Taikang Financial Tower, No.38 East
Third Ring Road, Chaoyang District 北京市
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The company's logo is a yellow oval with a black mother cat carrying her kitten in her mouth, symbolizing the company's promise that they take care of items entrusted to them as though the items were their own family. The company is often colloquially referred to as 黒ねこ (Kuroneko) which means "black cat" in Japanese. The logo is as familiar in Japan as the Coca-Cola logo is in the United States. The logo was developed by founder Yasuomi Ogura.



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Tianjin reviews,
events and information





HIGH STEAKS

Fire House at the Renaissance
Tianjin Lakeview Hotel

Wine and dine yourself at the Fire House, nestled inside the palatial Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel. The international steakhouse prides itself in offering a refreshing and modern take on the classic steakhouse vibe with iron design elements and a wood-burning grill right in the center of the room. All through the end of December they'll be bringing you delectable barbecue dishes enhanced with Himalayan pink salt. The health benefits and flavor of this rosy mineral make this treat not only good for the soul but good for the body too.

Take a stab at the Black Angus beef ribeye (RMB298) or go all in with the decadent lobster (RMB418). Among the other seafood options are Bohai prawns (RMB228) and codfish (RMB218). Whether you're looking for some high-quality cuts of beef or fresh seafood to satisfy your appetite, Fire House has it all – with a plethora of fabulous wines to match.

Daily, 11.30am-2pm, 5-10pm; 1F, 16 Binshui Road, Hexi District, Tianjin 天津河西区宾水道16号 (022 5822 3150)

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伴隨著一曲夜來香，
一場 **PARAMOUNT** 民國復古派對
在夜色漸濃時拉開帷幕，
派對上不乏身穿中山裝、馬褂、旗袍等
民國風情服裝的男人女人參與其中，
一派復古光景！各位調酒師身穿長衫表演
花式調酒也別有一番風味！

022-27119858
和平區承德道與山東路交口
CHENGDE ROAD AND SHANDONG ST JUNCTION

Tianjin Pulse

Weekend Brunch Brunch



Renaissance Tianjin Lakeview Hotel is hosting a lavish brunch every weekend. It's kid-friendly too, so take advantage of the family package that includes a number of activities for little explorers, like oil painting and bouquet arrangement..

Every Saturday and Sunday, 11.30pm-2.30pm; RMB328/person; Tianjin Renaissance Lakeview Hotel, 6 Binshui Dao, Hexi 河西区宾水道16号 5822 3388

Heartbeat of Home Orchestra



Brainchild of the people who brought you Riverdance, Heartbeat of Home is a delightful blend of music and dance that mixes tunes from Brian Byrne with a combination of Irish, Latin and Afro-Cuban dances. Basically, this is one of the most ambitious spectacles you'll ever get to see, with a troupe of 37 dancers performing in a bold show that is certain to leave a mark.

Fri Nov 23-Sun Nov 25, 7.30pm; RMB280-1080; Tianjin Grand Theater, 24 Youyi Lu, Hexi 河西区友谊路24号

Juliet Petrus Concert



Juliet Petrus defiantly overcame the hardships of a career in the competition-ridden world of opera by creating her own niche and becoming the reigning foreign performer of Chinese opera music. Even if this isn't your scene, this well-traveled soprano is a sight to behold. Don't miss her at this one-time performance at the Tianjin Concert Hall.

Tue Nov 20, 7.30pm; RMB60-380; Tianjin Concert Hall, 32 Zhejiang Lu, Heping 和平区浙江路32号

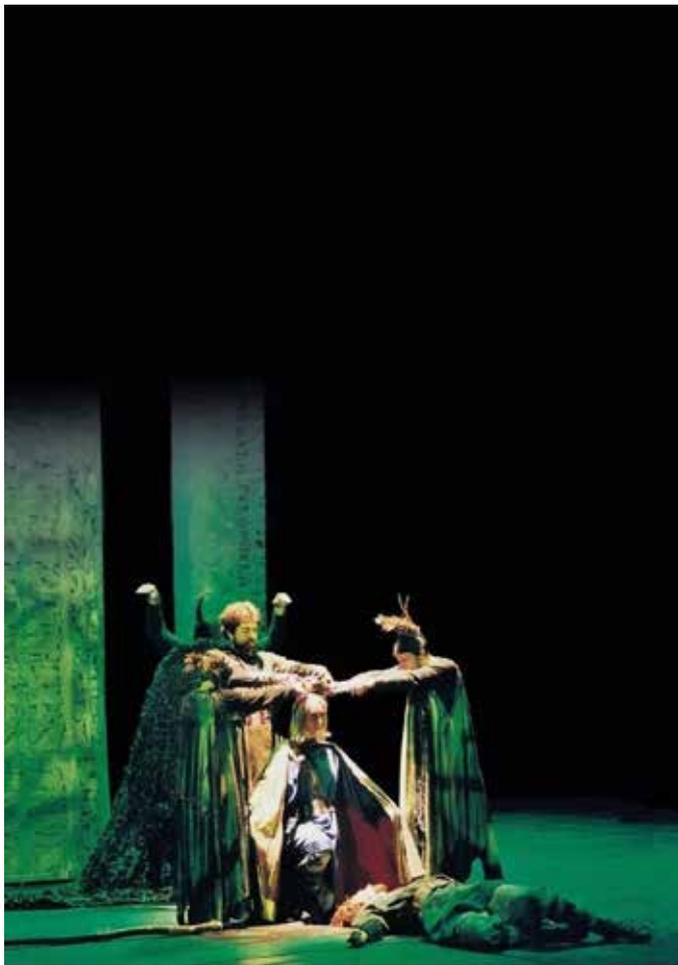
The Insanity of the Insane Comedy



Laughs are a given at this exhilarating play featuring a couple of travelers, a female trickster character and a lot of misunderstanding. Enjoy it for one night only at the brand new Binhai Performance Art Center.

Sun Nov 04, 7pm; RMB60-380; Binhai Performing Arts Center, 347 Xusheng Lu, Binhai New District 滨海新区旭升路347号

Macbeth / Play



Macbeth was TNT's first Shakespeare production and has been represented in 31 countries since 2000. That goes to say TNT's productions are a guarantee of quality, and their take on this timeless classic is certain to impress audiences for the bold approach to the source material and the crew's acting prowess.

Tue Nov 20, 7.30pm; RMB80-380; Jinwan Grand Theatre, Bldg 4, Jiefang Bei Lu, Heping 和平区解放北路4号楼





HOTTEST DEALS

The Bestsellers on thMart

Natural Spring Water, Towels, Designer Homeware and Tea Cocktails



Harrogate Spring Water, from RMB187

Favored by celebrities and high-end restaurants around the world, these natural water from The Pinewoods Conservation of the renowned UK spa town Harrogate epitomize style, quality and refinement.



Beverly Hills Polo Club Towels, from RMB89

These soft, fluffy towels are made with premium long stapled cotton, which absorbs moisture to keep your skin dry and comfortable.



Fotofalls Desktop PD, RMB180

Created by Canada's Umbra Design Studio, you can easily display multiple photos of your loved ones and favorite memories on this 'photo tree' on your desk or shelf.



Umbra Tub Dish Rack, from RMB130

Available in three different colors, this dish rack by Canadian design label Umbra allows you to keep your kitchenware organized.



Noveltea, from RMB 118

Combining tea and booze – two things that the Brits love – Noveltea offers a series of cold-brew tea and fine spirits mixes that are perfect for a lazy afternoon.



That's Beijing

Horoscopes

Finally, a horoscope that understands your life in Beijing.

by Dominic Ngai



Scorpio
10.24-11.22

Your soulmate will appear this month on the metro and conveniently sit right next to you on your Monday morning rush hour ride. Can't find an open seat? Better luck with Cupid's arrow next month.



Sagittarius
11.23-12.21

Your strange sense of humor will win you a lot of virtual awkward silences, so lay off posting weird WeChat stickers of yourself for the time being and switch your comedic focus to the Trump administration instead.



Capricorn
12.22-1.20

It's getting cold. All you can think of is hotpot. Go big and take yourself out to Red Bowl for a nice dinner. You deserve to treat your fabulous self every now and then.



Aquarius
1.21-2.19

You're feeling a little tired and stressed so maybe it's time to find a less demanding job. Switch things up for a bit and try freelance writing or start vlogging your daily routine to the world. You do love the spotlight.



Pisces
2.20-3.20

Your mobile devices have been a constant energy drain, so stop tweeting every single thought and try having a face-to-face conversation. Wait, there's no character limit? How does that work?



Aries
3.21-4.20

All of your friends are getting married, having kids and moving on with their lives but you're still curing those hangovers after Mix every weekend. Try adopting a cat. On second thought, don't. You can barely take care of yourself.



Taurus
4.21-5.21

The year is almost over, and like most people, you haven't even checked off one thing on your New Year's Resolutions list. The good news is, unlike your annual leave days, they can be carried over to 2019. Yay!



Gemini
5.22-6.21

The god of wealth is smiling upon you this month so try your luck at playing the lottery. If you win, donate half of your earnings to your friend's Kickstarter for that album he's been trying to put out but don't expect to see a penny of it ever again.



Cancer
6.22-7.22

Avoid going to Nali Patio on Friday and Saturday nights this month. Not because you can't afford it but it's pretty much a dead zone for cabs or Didis after 10pm. We're just looking out for you, OK?



Leo
7.23-8.23

You've been putting off taking your relationship to the next level for a few months now and it's finally time to do it. Invite that special someone home with you because you've got really fast Wi-Fi for hunting down Singles Day deals on Tmall.



Virgo
8.24-9.23

Spending a lot of time on the road this month means things will get a little out of control back home in Beijing. Be sure to remind your *ayi* not to touch a single thing on your desk or you might start to feel like you're going crazy.



Libra
9.24-10.23

Your regular Meituan deliveryman might be into you, but those feelings should not be reciprocated. Maybe just give him a five-star rating on the homepage on his next visit. He does always deliver pretty fast.

TRADITIONAL CHINESE DWELLINGS

Exploring China's Vast and Varied Architectural Styles

Written by Yin Lixin

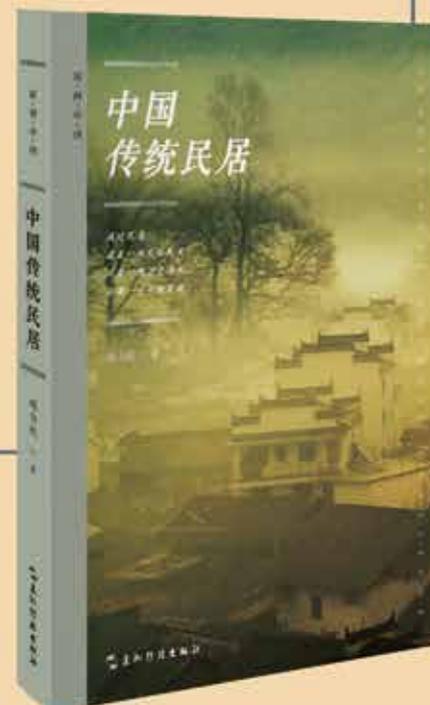
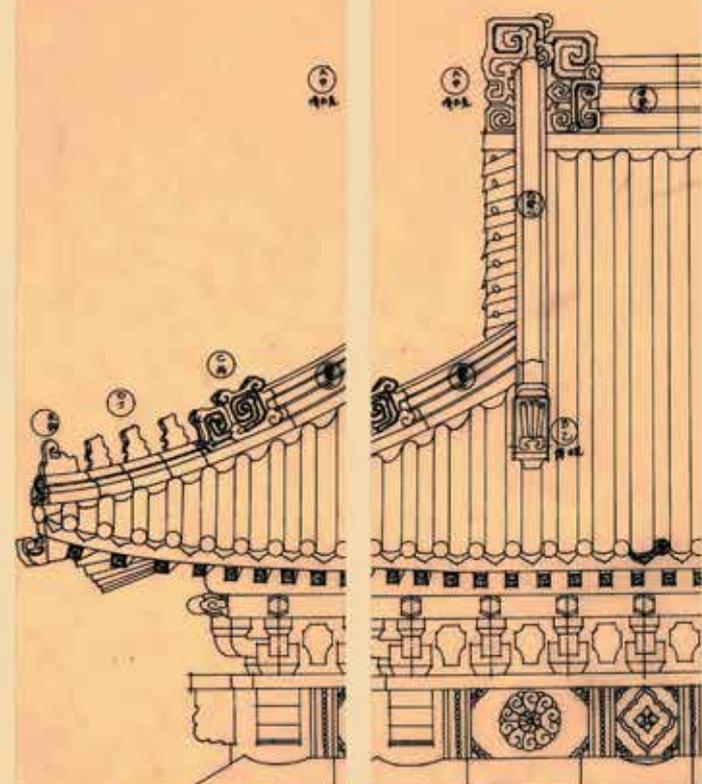
About the Book:

Architecture reflects the daily lives of people during a specific time period, and *Traditional Chinese Dwellings* is a book that explores the country's folk culture and customs using architectural styles and characteristics throughout history as a lens.

To get a comprehensive look at the subject matter, writer Yin Lixin dives into major historical events and the geography of different parts of China to explain how they affected the ways in which buildings and houses were constructed, as well as in what ways these structures have shaped the way people lived and interacted with nature and each other.

About the Author:

Yin Lixin is a member of Chinese Cultural Heritage Association's 20th Century Heritage Committee and the deputy chief editor of *Chinese Architectural Culture Heritage*. *Traditional Chinese Dwellings* has been recommended by architecture experts and has been referenced multiple times by industry insiders since it was published.





85 YEARS ALWAYS IN STYLE



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WIDEN YOUR WORLD

