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城市漫步上海
英文版4月份
国内统一刊号
CN 11-5233/GO

China Intercontinental Press

ISSN 1672-8033



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主管单位：中华人民共和国国务院新闻办公室

Supervised by the State Council Information Office of the People's Republic of China

主办单位：五洲传播出版社

地址：北京西城月坛北街 26 号恒华国际商务中心南楼 11 层文化交流中心
11th Floor South Building, Henghua International Business Center, 26 Yuetan North Street, Xicheng District, Beijing

http://www.cicc.org.cn

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Fax (020) 8363 3759 ext. 816

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广告经营许可证：京海工商广字第 8069 号

Legal advisor: Hong Shaorong, Dacheng Law Firm

国际标准刊号：ISSN 1672-8033 国内统一刊号：CN 11-5233/GO

定价：25.00 元 邮发代号：4-845

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**Distribution
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200,000
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Editor's Note

APRIL 2021

Here at *That's*, we do a lot of writing – from daily news coverage and travel guides to stories about ostriches running amok in Yunnan. Writing takes on many forms and is used in countless ways to express ourselves and the world around us. Think best man speeches, eulogies, love letters, or break-up texts – writing is the name of the game. In this month's Cover Story, we uncover the inner workings of Spittoon Collective, a passionate multicultural group of individuals sharing their creative literary and art works within an ever-expanding community. I had the chance to chat with Matthew Byrne, the founder and director of Spittoon, and other key members to learn what makes Spittoon's story a special one. Check it out on pages 36-43.

Elsewhere in the magazine, we talk 'surf' shop about the waves rolling into Sanya in our Nation section (pg10-13). Arts & Lifestyle Editor Phoebe Kut chats with *Bottled in China* Host Emilie Steckenborn about all things wine and her fascinating podcast (pg15). In the Travel section, Editor Sophie Steiner reminds us of Thailand travel with a feature on the sleepy, pleasant town of Chiang Rai (pg25).

Lastly, I'm happy to announce the brand new launch of *That's Sanya*. Vanessa Jencks and her team are already off to a great start in China's top beach destination. Feel free to reach out to Vanessa via WeChat (vanessajencks) to learn more about the latest *That's* addition in the Middle Kingdom.

Regards,



Ryan Gandolfo
Editor-in-Chief



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Spring Recharge Package

Winter will soon be over – so 'spring' into the new season with a 5-visit trial pass for all PURE Fitness and PURE Yoga locations in Shanghai iapm mall or Central Plaza

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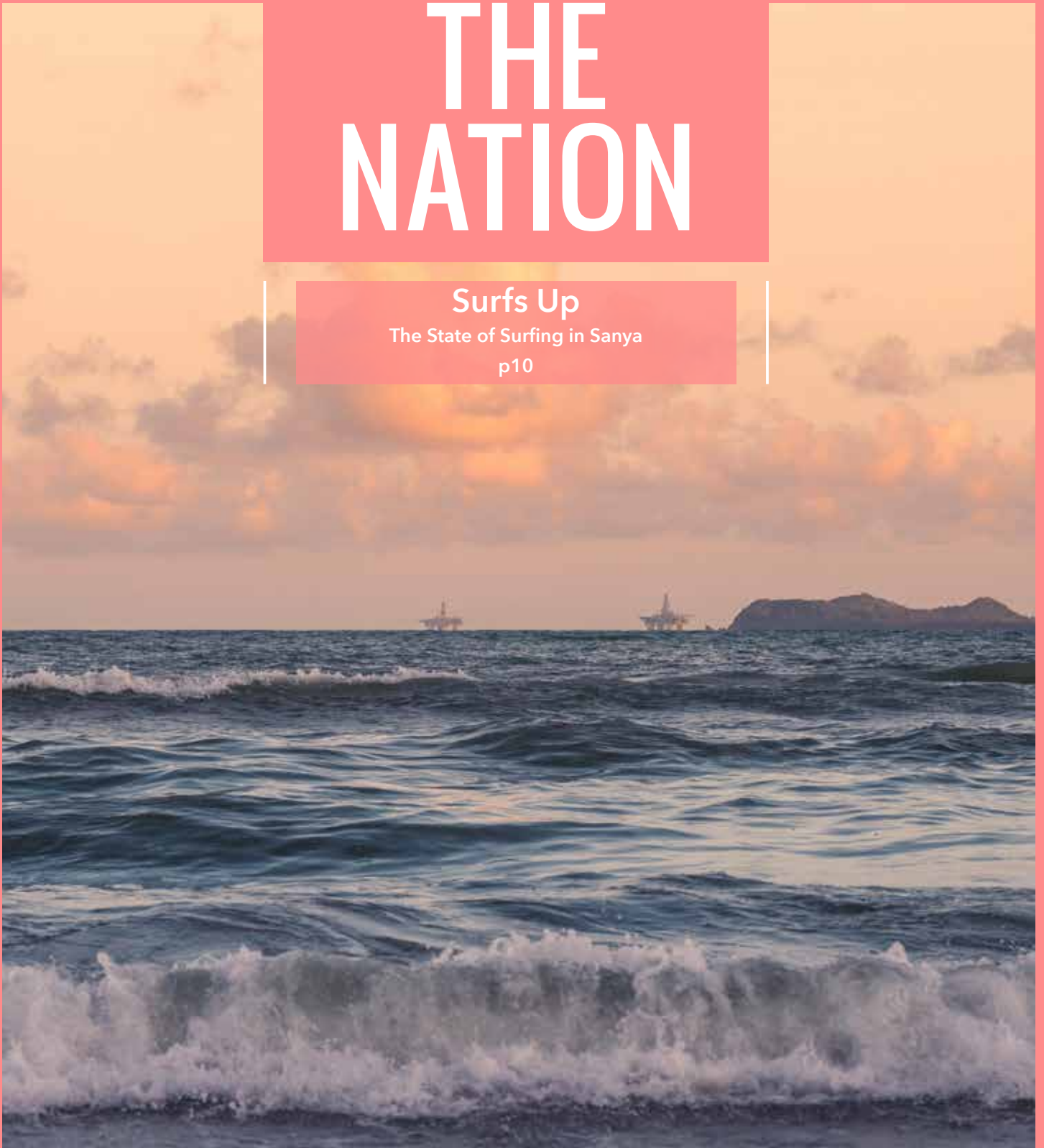
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GYM RAT

Did a Shanghai Woman Really Spend ¥630K on Gym Lessons?

By Alistair Baker-Brian

When a female Shanghai resident, surnamed Li, felt she was getting out of shape, she decided to sign up for private fitness classes in October 2019.

Satisfied with the lessons at Physical Gym (舒适堡健身中心), Li proceeded to sign up for private fitness sessions worth RMB560,000, according to Shanghai Observer. Following the regular class schedule, the private sessions would last until the year 2034.

When it dawned on Li what she had signed up for, she quickly realized her monthly income of RMB8,000 would not be enough to finance the private workouts. She applied for two separate loans worth RMB204,000 and RMB70,000, respectively. Including the interest she would pay on the loans, the total cost of her private classes over time would amount to RMB630,000.

Things took a turn for the worst in August 2020 when Li was diagnosed with liver hemangioma, a non-cancerous benign tumor caused by clusters of blood-filled cavities. Her doctor told her not to do any rigorous exercise, including her private fitness classes.

With this in mind, Li asked Physical Gym for a refund on the private classes which she had already paid. The gym agreed, but only on the condition that she pay a 20% get-out fee, amounting

to RMB112,000. She thought this was unfair and decided to take the gym to court.

The Wenxing District People's Court in Shanghai ruled that terminating the agreements she signed for the lessons was fair because of Li's health problems. However, the court also ruled that Li should pay 5% of the total price of the classes as compensation to Physical Gym.

Health and fitness is big business in China. Estimates put the current number of gyms at around 108,000, with a projected revenue for the sector approximately USD6.2 billion by 2024. Those aged 25 years or younger are thought to be the highest spenders.

American Mike Schramm, a teacher in Shenzhen, said he usually visits the gym five times per week and pays only RMB2,680 for a two-year membership. He told *That's* that he wouldn't spend any more than RMB3,000 per year on a gym membership. And although he doesn't take private classes, he stressed that RMB400 per hour would be his spending limit if he were ever to do so.

The appetite for gym-going in China is likely to only get bigger in the coming years. Hopefully, the trend will result in slimmer waistlines rather than slimmer wallets.

For more China news, scan the QR code below:



THE BUZZ

RANDOM NUMBER

130 MILLION

... is how many permanent residents are expected to be in Guangdong province by 2035, according to a recent plan released in Guangdong. The Guangdong Province Land and Space Plan (2020-2035), which was issued by Guangdong's Department of Natural Resources, has also outlined several exciting infrastructure plans for residents, including new maglev lines and airport expansion plans. Guangdong is currently China's most populous province, with a permanent population of 115 million in 2019. To achieve its new population goal, the province will need to have over one million people settle here, on average, for the next 15 years. In 2019, the Central Government released a development plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA), which is currently underway for developing the area into a 'world-class city cluster' that's expected to play a role in China's Belt and Road Initiative. Each of the 11 cities in the GBA has been called on to bolster specific sectors of the economy, such as tech and international commerce. A boost in population size will help accelerate the country's development of the GBA.



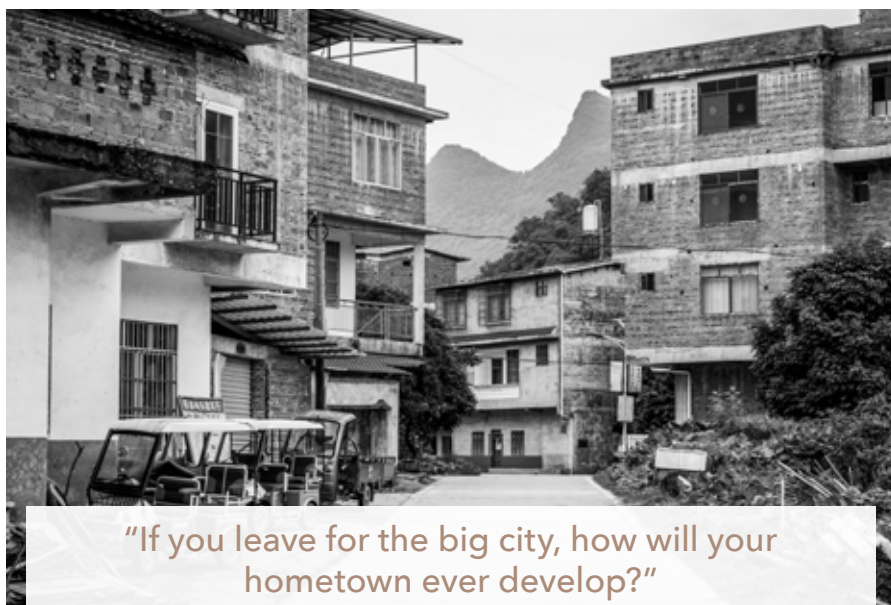
DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

DeAille Tam

DeAille Tam, the executive chef of one of Shanghai's newest and hottest restaurants, Obscura, was recently named Asia's Best Female Chef of 2021. The award was voted on by more than 300 industry experts spread out across the continent, who also put together the list of Asia's 50 Best Restaurants each year. Tam was born in Hong Kong but moved with her family to Canada when she was 10. During college, while studying engineering, she fell in love with cooking and decided to leave university to pursue her culinary passion. After receiving the award, Tam said, "This award marks a major milestone in my career. I am humbled that many industry leaders who I admire have followed my evolution in this industry. I hope to be able to inspire others to pursue their passion."



QUOTE OF THE MONTH



"If you leave for the big city, how will your hometown ever develop?"

Posted one Weibo user under a trending topic about whether young adults should leave home and make a life in big Chinese cities. The topic was viewed over 13 million times, with many comments encouraging those who seek an adventure to leave home and find their path in life. However, this phenomenon does leave a void in smaller towns that's become more of a concern in recent years, with some villages mostly comprised of the elderly and children. A common argument for avoiding the concrete jungle was sky-high housing prices and high-pressure employment. They're not kidding, either.

MANDARIN MUMBLES

4 Ways to Use Hui

Since the Two Sessions (两会 - liǎnghuì) wrapped up last month, we thought it'd be useful explaining some of the many uses of the character huì (会). This dynamic character can indicate a meeting or council, an ability, a prediction, or simply the future tense.

To express a prediction or possibility,
you can also use huì.
小心你会摔倒
Careful, you will fall.
Xiǎoxīn nǐ huì shuāidǎo

The first way a Mandarin learner often encounters huì is as the verb 'can' or 'to be able.'
他真的是会做饭的人
He really can cook [well].
Tā zhēnde shì huì zuòfàn de rén
你会不会帮我
Can you help me?
Nǐ huìbùhuì bāng wǒ

If something definitely will happen in the future, go with huì.

老板明天会骂我
The boss will scold me tomorrow.
Lǎobǎn míngtiān huì mà wǒ
后天我会去成都
I will go to Chengdu the day after tomorrow
Hòutiān wǒ huì qù chéngdū

To find helpful videos and phrases, scan the QR code below:



Huì has the ability to make anything into a noun referring to a council on the matter, often in conjunction with 议 - yì.

理事会会议在会议室举行
The meeting (会议) of the council (理事会) is held in the conference room (会议室).
Lǐshì huì huìyì zài huìyì shì jǔxíng



The State of Surfing in Sanya

By Rakini Bergundy

China is a newcomer to the global surfing scene – but we find more and more young Chinese people sharing their hobby of shredding serious gnar on China’s southern coastline. Surfing is making waves – no pun intended – as the country continues to open itself to less-popularized sports. Here we dive into China’s surf capital of Sanya, a slice of tropical paradise where surfing is becoming a mainstay for riders in Asia.



SURFS



UP

"Surf culture in China is younger and more chill than say some places like France," Benjamin Bocage tells us over a cup of coffee.

Bocage recently moved to Sanya after a friend asked him if he was interested in helping open up a surf club called 無盡之夏SUN-SEA-SURF in Houhai Village. He had worked in the wine business in the city but decided he was ready for a change of pace last year.

Bocage first visited Hainan in 2013 and discovered Riyue Bay, a popular surfing destination, which is also home to China's national surfing team. He loved it and ended up going back at least once or twice a year. However, Riyue Bay's waves are bigger, which makes it a bit harder to teach surfing.

Bocage tells us that most of his students are young Chinese adults and tourists who are beginners. Where he lives, Houhai Village, the beach is perfect for surfing lessons as the water is very shallow and the waves are gentle.

He notes that Houhai Village is reminiscent of Canggu in Bali. It's a close-knit, relaxed community where you can spot locals in wetsuits walking around the street, enjoying a coffee or just hanging out.

Although China's central government has favored policies to attract foreign talent and open up Hainan in the next five years, Bocage hasn't seen many foreigners living in the island province yet. Hainan is also set to become China's next free trade port, the "first of its kind in the country."

With the pandemic, Sanya has become an increasingly popular destination for surfers who cannot hop over to Bali or the Philippines.

We spoke with Kim Scamman, who has traveled four times over the past year from Shanghai to surf. "There are a lot of places to surf, but sadly every time I've gone the surf conditions haven't been the greatest," Scamman tells us. "The most popular spot is Riyue Bay, and Shaka Surf is a surf club that has become incredibly popular in the past year as they were featured on a Chinese reality show." As a result, the area has become quite crowded, but it's worth checking out if you want to experience the surf culture.



"Dadonghai is more of a touristy party area. The surf is good, it's easy to rent boards and cheaper than Riyue Bay"



She continues, "Dadonghai is more of a touristy party area. The surf is good, it's easy to rent boards and cheaper than Riyue Bay. Fuliwan is smaller but way less crowded. It's a cute beach with small waves, so it's great for beginners that don't want to be around people. The area is not commercialized and is quite underdeveloped."

According to Bocage, the best place to surf year-round in China is Sanya – specifically from October to March.

In the north, he suggests Shilaoren Beach in the coastal city of Qingdao, and in the south, there's Zhangzhou in Fujian province and Huizhou and Shanwei in Guangdong province.

ARTS & LIFE

Grocery Gold

The 11 'Most Valuable Brands' in China That You Probably Never Buy p20



Doll Domination
P16



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EMILIE STECKENBORN

Host of 'Bottled in China' Podcast

Interview by Phoebe Kut

Listening to *Bottled in China*, you can immediately grasp Emilie Steckenborn's passion for F&B and, in particular, wine. Steckenborn has lived in China now for almost 10 years and originally came to explore an opportunity working with a wine importer. In addition to the podcast, she has worked with established wine brands and distributors to build wine education programs across China. She shares with us some top Chinese wine producers at the moment, her favorite podcast episode and, of course, her favorite wine(s).

Where did your love of wine start?

Several factors influenced my decision to get into wine. My family didn't drink much at home, but I would recall my grandparents bringing German Riesling at Christmas or Thanksgiving. I do recall being allowed to take a sip and feeling very elegant!

Long before I knew anything about the business, my father read about how wine was an industry filled with passionate individuals and producers. It combined my love for food, travel, culture and he actually suggested it. As a young adult, I thought it was very classy to let my friends know that I wanted to be in the wine industry. I'm grateful he knew me so well and I kickstarted my career in wine and haven't looked back!

How did you break into your current role?

I first came to explore an opportunity working with a wine importer specialized in US and Canadian wines. At the time, the market was just starting to take off, but French wine – and especially Bordeaux – was the only style of wine consumers wanted to buy. They brought me to showcase the diversity of wine and educate new consumers about various wine regions. Today, the market is very different, Chinese consumers are open-minded and willing to explore new wine regions and styles.



"The most important thing about wine is to be open minded"

I've been lucky to work with some of the largest wine brands and distributors to build wine education programs across China. Educating both internal staff and hundreds of thousands of downstream consumers about wine education and service.

Where are the top producers in China?

The key wine regions in China are Shandong, Ningxia and Yunnan province. All three regions are very distinct. Currently, I'm enjoying Yunnan, it's a boutique wine region where an altitude of 2,000-3,000 meters brings finesse and elegance to the wines. My favorite producer from that region is Xiaoling Estate. I was lucky enough to help out a bit during their recent vintage. What gets me excited about this producer is the small-scale production and hands-on approach. Also, the village of Xiaoling has an interesting wine culture as French missionaries planted vines back in the 19th century. Most locals are actually catholic and there's even an old church in the city which feels very unusual for China!

On the other hand, Ningxia's sunny climate makes richer and bolder wines. Some good producers to check out are Xige Estate, Kanaan and Silver Height.

The Chinese wine industry is still just getting started, and quality is improving each year. If you've had a bad experience with bulk wine from China, then you should give it another try.

What's your favorite episode of *Bottled in China*?

There are too many! We've published over 115 episodes. In regards to wine, I quite enjoyed speaking with Christelle

Chene of Xige Estate. This was a two-part series covering everything you'd want to know about wines made in Ningxia, including why most Chinese wines are so expensive!

I enjoyed learning from Eric Hoang of Zeya (previously Lingya) regarding the seltzer category in China as well as the couple behind a Chinese-made gin: Crimson Pangolin.

When it comes to food, I've discovered the fascinating world of alternative protein where we spoke to the CEO of Nature's Fynd about creating revolutionizing lab-grown food backed by NASA. This podcast made me think about the future of food, and the possibilities we have yet to explore!

What's your favorite wine and how do you like to enjoy it?

That's a difficult question as it changes all the time! I always go for Riesling when going out for a Chinese dinner. Dr. Loosen is an excellent producer that can be found easily in China.

If I'm looking for gifting or something with a heavy meal, then Penfolds from Australia is a very popular and well-respected brand internationally. It has an incredible story and the wines are muscular and juicy. A crowd pleaser!

I personally love to collect old Rioja and old vintages of Chateau Musar. I also enjoy drinking grower Champagne, wines of the Loire Valley and make sure I always have some Tawse Winery in my cellar back home!

The most important thing about wine is to be open-minded.

> 'Bottled in China' podcast is available on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.

STYLE RADAR

OVERHEARD

"It's quite clear they just want women to have children early"

One netizen commented on the National Health Commission's ban on single women freezing their eggs. This was a hotly debated topic at the end of February by academics, officials and, of course, on social media. In recent years, authorities have encouraged couples to have more children due to the declining birth rate. However, the commission's reasoning for the ban is that egg freezing technology has health risks for women and ethical issues. They continue on, stating that the commercialization of egg freezing technology may bring false hopes to women who plan to give birth later in life. Furthermore, the policy is supposedly in place to stop women from selling their eggs and surrogacy, which is illegal in China.



COVET

Un Garçon Charmant

Surprise! Luhan, an ex-member of K-pop group EXO, is one of the founders behind streetwear brand Un Garçon Charmant (UGC). He's kept his association with UGC under wraps for four years now, until an interview with *i-D* magazine in March. On UGC's website, the About Us page states, "U.G.C was founded by a bunch of trend setters, internet addicts and senior gamers from the Data World."

Fans applauded Luhan's desire to let the brand organically grow during its initial years. Luhan has nearly 63 million followers on Weibo, while UGC's Weibo has around 47,000 and Instagram, 10,500 followers.

You can snag one of UGC's signature velvet track-suits starting from RMB1,286.

> Scan the QR code to shop.



UNDER THE LENS



Doll Domination

Chinese supermodel Liu Wen is the first Asian model to have a Barbie designed in her likeness. Her doll will join the 2021 Barbie Shero collection, which honors inspirational women and girls.

Born in Hunan province, Liu Wen has achieved a lot of firsts during her career. She was the first Chinese model to walk the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show, the first East Asian spokesmodel for Estée Lauder and the first Asian model to ever make *Forbes* annual highest-paid models list.

Other women who have been honored with dolls in this collection are: Ashley Graham, Naomi Osaka, Yara Shahidi and Tessa Virtue, to name a few.

There also have been other Chinese women named Sheroes such as Chen Man, a Beijing-based artist, and diving champion Wu Minxia. The dolls usually retail for USD29.99.



CITY SNAPSHOT

@ aligos

Alina is from Ukraine and has spent the past five years in Beijing. She's currently studying for her master's degree in photography at the Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology. In this photo, she's at a bookshop called 钟书阁 (Zhong Shu Ge), located close to Lingjing Hutong (灵境胡同). There's also space to sit and read, but most people head there to take photos with the beautiful bookshelves.

> For more of Wong's work, follow @_ik_wong on Instagram.



Dim Sum Meets Fashion

Vogue-Style Dim Sum by Zijin Mansion

The stylish collection also includes steamed rose bun, which resembles a genuine gorgeous rose that is in full blossom. After tasting, your palate will burst with the subtle fragrance of red bean paste combined with a natural flavor of fresh rose; crispy glutinous rice with salted egg and carrot custard, carrot-styled crispy glutinous rice filled with the delicate filling of fluffy and creamy salted egg custard. The taste renders a long-lasting fragrance and sweetness; crispy glutinous rice with waxberry, under the crispy skin of the glutinous rice lies the healthy mashed purple sweet potato and fresh bayberry flesh. This filling offers a refreshing, fragrant, and sour taste and thus perfectly negating the oily texture brought by fried dim sum.



Fine food is a stylish lifestyle that will never be outdated. One bite of dim sum with a sip of fine tea makes for an ordinary yet unforgettable lunch break at Zijin Mansion. The brand vogue-style dim sum set will create a fantastic experience for the taste buds of those seeking fashion and beauty. Call 010 8520 8913 for reservations.

Time: Monday to Saturday 11:30am-2:30pm

Price: RMB268*/person

*Prices are in RMB and subject to a 15% service charge

Michelin One Star restaurant Zijin Mansion is the perfect setting to blend exquisite Cantonese cuisine with Western wines. Guests walk out of the elevator on the third floor to an impressive view of the full wine cellar, a living testimony to poetic luxury. Inspired by Zijin Mansion's four seasons, Chinese Executive Chef James Wang and his team combine mindfully selected ingredients with local food culture to develop an authentic Cantonese menu and dishes. From March 25, Zijin Mansion at Waldorf Astoria Beijing happily launches its stylish dim sum set to introduce

a selection of ingredients of the highest quality that are handcrafted creations characterized in a vogue-style theme while inheriting the essence of traditional dim sum. From fresh and steamed to crispy and fried, every dish is transformed into a gourmet feast bursting with fashion, beauty and an unparalleled taste.

The vogue-style collection retains several classic Cantonese dim sum dishes, including golden fish steamed shrimp dumplings, steamed matsutake mushroom dumplings and steamed red rice flour rolls with shrimp.

SPRING ATTIRE

10 Vests for Warm Chests

Compiled by Rakini Bergundy

Hello, Spring. It's that lovely time of year where it's slowly warming up but still chilly in some parts of China. Vests are the perfect solution, whether sweater vests or puffer vests – your chest will stay cozy while those arms can flap freely.

:CHOCOOLATE

RMB399

Scan the QR code to purchase.



Stradivarius

RMB99

Scan the QR code to purchase.



Etro

RMB2,895

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Stradivarius

RMB135

Scan the QR code to purchase.





Zara

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Mango

RMB299

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Mango

RMB499

Scan the QR code to purchase.



Mango

RMB299

Scan the QR code to purchase.



Nike

RMB399

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Adidas

RMB329

Scan the QR code to purchase.



GROCERY GOLD

The 11 'Most Valuable Brands' in China That You Probably Never Buy

By Rakini Bergundy

Pantry staples like milk, bread, water and condiments make up the bulk of Hurun's 'most valuable food and beverage brands' of 2020. Hurun Report, a Shanghai-headquartered firm that provides research and consulting services, released their China brand value report earlier this year.

Here are some stats: seven of the 11 are private brands, and the top spot (look right to see who) replaced Yili as the most valuable brand in the F&B industry this year. Its brand value rose 95% from last year to RMB120 billion.



1. Haitian Flavoring

Brand value: RMB120 billion

Soy sauce – a staple in all Chinese pantries and kitchens. Haitian Flavoring, a Foshan-based company, is the largest soy sauce maker in the world.



2. Nongfu Spring

Brand value: RMB71 billion

You probably encounter Nongfu Spring on the daily in all types of stores. The CEO of the Hangzhou-headquartered brand, Zhong Shanshan is the richest person in China as of March 2021, with an estimated net worth of RMB550 billion (USD85 billion).



3. China Feihe

Brand value: RMB43 billion

This is China's most recognizable infant formula producer. Their products are meant to mimic Chinese mother's milk, in particular, according to the 'About Us' page on their website. As for the company behind the 2008 infant formula scandal, Sanlu Group has since gone bankrupt.

4. Yili

Brand value: RMB40.5 billion

Yili is the competitor of Mengniu (the other large dairy company in the number 6 spot). It's also located in Hohhot.





6. Mengniu

Brand value: RMB18 billion

Headquartered in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia, this company manufactures dairy products and ice cream.



5. WH Group

Brand value: RMB28.5 billion

Have you ever seen those creepy little sausages in the supermarket? WH Group probably produces them as they are the largest meat producer in China and the world.



8. Dali

Brand value: RMB11.5 billion

Dali has a vast portfolio consisting of pies, wafers, chips, biscuits and beverages.



10. Taoli Bread

Brand Value: RMB8.5 billion

Taoli Bread was started in 1997 and mainly produces prepackaged bread, pastries and moon cakes. Unlike trendy, high-end bakeries, the company has kept its products in its portfolio to under 30 and uses a central factory and wholesale model. When consumers are asked about the brand, they say it's like a "taste of their hometown, a memory from their childhood."



7. Wahaha

Brand value: RMB14.5 billion

Wahaha is the largest food and beverage manufacturer in the Chinese mainland and the fifth largest beverage manufacturer in the world.



9. Teway Food

Brand Value: RMB9 billion

We all need a little spice in our lives, and Teway Food delivers with their hot pot bases, chili sauces and other mouth-numbing products. The company was founded in 2007 in, you guessed it, Sichuan.

11. Wanglaoji

Brand Value: RMB8 billion

Chinese herbal tea has made it to the mainstream thanks to Wanglaoji. Wanglaoji's history can be traced back to 1828 in Guangdong and Guangxi provinces. The drink was founded by a doctor named Wong Chat Bong. Wanglaoji is made of seven herbs, contains no caffeine and can supposedly help clear excessive heat and detoxify while quenching thirst. Perfect to pair with spicy hot pot.



TRAVEL

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NOELLA FERNS

British Airways Head of Sales – Asia Pacific

Interview by Ryan Gandolfo

Noella Ferns is British Airways' newly-appointed Head of Sales for the Asia Pacific region. Ferns has over 30 years' experience at British Airways in operational and commercial roles in Sydney, Hong Kong and Beijing. Tasked with driving forward the airline's commercial and external communications strategy in key Chinese markets, she shares insight into how British Airways and the industry at large are gearing up for normalized international air travel.

Would you tell us about British Airways operations in China?

Our connection with China and Chinese destinations is longstanding and very important to British Airways. We started operating a regular service to Beijing in 1980 and Shanghai in 2005. China is a country of 'firsts' for British Airways - we flew HM The Queen to China on her first state visit in 1986; we arranged the first Concorde trip to China in 1995; we were the first international airline arrival at the new Terminal 3 building at Beijing Capital in 2008; and over a decade later we were the first international arrival at Beijing Daxing. Although our Beijing and Shanghai services have been disrupted as a result of COVID-19, China will continue to be a significant market. In 2019, we signed a joint business agreement with China Southern Airlines and, through this partnership, we hope to further strengthen and deepen our connection once we start flying again.

One airline CEO recently said that 2020 was the most challenging year in history for the aviation industry. Would you agree?

I think everyone within aviation would agree. Our own CEO Sean Doyle also recently described this as the 'worst crisis in the industry's history.' The huge reduction in travel and the ongoing disruption to our schedules as a result of changing global restrictions has forced us to re-structure our business. Primarily, we need to make sure we provide customers



"Our own CEO Sean Doyle also recently described this as the 'worst crisis in the industry's history'"

with a safe and enjoyable journey when they are eventually able to come to the UK. We'll also keep beating the drum to promote Britain as a destination.

When do you expect international air travel to normalize – returning to pre-pandemic levels?

This is difficult to predict and will depend on several factors, although the consensus is at least two to three years. However, given the importance of aviation to so many sectors of the global economy, it's crucial the industry works with governments around the world to restart international travel as soon as possible. British Airways is keen to help develop international standards that provide reassurance to travelers and governments alike. One solution we're actively exploring are digital health travel wallets and secure document verification. We're already trialing the VeriFLY health app on all inbound international flights and are also working closely with IATA on the development of its Travel Pass app.

What are some international aviation trends we might see over the rest of 2021?

A key area of innovation for British Airways is to make the customer experience as contact-free as possible through digital technology – and not just when you check-in and arrive at the airport. For example, we have moved our High Life shop online, meaning that customers can purchase their duty-free goods before

they fly, and we will deliver them directly to their seats during the flight. We have even developed a lounge app so that food and drinks can be ordered in a contactless way. For us, it's about making sure we're standing ready to welcome customers back on board and hopefully offering an even better and more enjoyable experience than before the pandemic. Separately, as flying resumes customers will rightly expect there to be a focus on how we can do this sustainably, and despite these unprecedented times, we're continuing to take urgent action to tackle the impact aviation currently has on the planet. In the short-term, this includes improving our operational efficiency, flying more fuel-efficient aircraft and introducing carbon offset and removal projects. In the medium to longer term, we're investing in the development of sustainable aviation fuel, which we expect will be available to power a number of our flights from late 2022, and looking at how we can help accelerate the growth of new technologies such as zero-emissions hydrogen-powered aircraft and carbon capture technology.

> This interview has been edited for brevity and clarity.

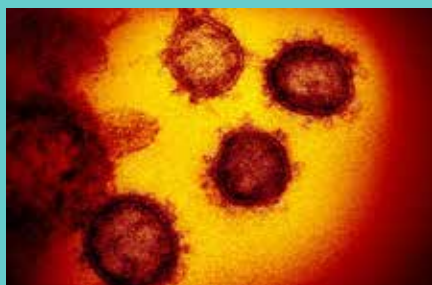


ITCHY FEET

ROLLER COASTER

Tricky Travels

Japan and the US recently lodged complaints with China's ministry of foreign affairs over allegations that diplomats and citizens from these countries were subject to anal swab COVID-19 testing. While the two countries sound bummed out, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said China adjusted anti-epidemic measures "in a scientific manner" in accordance with relevant laws and regulations. Chinese studies have shown that stool tests may be more effective than respiratory tests in identifying SARS-CoV-2. According to a study published by the Guangzhou Medical University, it concluded that "Detectable SARS-CoV-2 RNA in the digestive tract was a potential warning indicator of severe disease." Many Chinese netizens commented on the reports that incoming travelers need to comply with China's guidelines. The country has mainly reported imported cases of COVID-19 in recent weeks.



MILE HIGH

Full Sails?

The Chinese CDC's chief epidemiologist, Wu Zunyou, stated last month that travel restrictions between the US and China could be lifted as early as August. This remains dependent on the US successfully achieving their target of vaccinating 90% of their



population by that time, according to *Global Times*. So far, under 20% of the US population has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, as cited by NPR. Wu speculated that, if additional political barriers are also removed, the two countries could be the first in the world to remove all travel barriers.

HOSPITALITY HIGHLIGHT

Hilton Dalian Golden Pebble Beach Resort

If you're looking for a golf or beach getaway, Sanya and Shenzhen probably come to mind. But another enticing option for families is the Hilton Dalian Golden Pebble Beach Resort. Located on the beautiful beachfront of Golden Coast in Luneng Resort Dalian, this accommodation is secluded from the city center and offers guests a great vacation destination. The resort boasts a spacious outdoor garden and is in close proximity to the Golden Pebble Beach Golf Club (18 minutes) and Discoveryland Theme Park (five minutes). Guest rooms are beautifully designed, with gorgeous views of surrounding mountains and the ocean. There are three restaurants at the resort, serving both local and international cuisine.



HOT SPOT

Chiang Rai

Chiang Rai, a small town on the border of Thailand and Myanmar, is most famous for its ornately beautiful temples and sprawling coffee plantations.

The celebrated White Temple, built by Chalermchai Kositpipiat as a Buddhist offering, focuses on escaping greed and desire while moving towards enlightenment through Buddha's teachings. Hellish imagery of the eternally damned flank the grounds, while the hands of the unworthy deceased, mimicking the River Styx, reach up from the depths to pull the undeserving down to the underworld.

The Blue Temple (Wat Rong Seur Ten) is a modern Buddhist Temple recognized for its bright blue coloring, intricate statues and dragon-like carvings. Finally, Wat Huay Pla Kung is the most symmetrical temple imaginable, juxtaposed against a towering Buddha statue and a nine-floor high pagoda, all sitting atop a mountain that looks like it catches fire during sunset.

After exploring Chiang Rai's night market and stuffing yourself silly with northern Thai curry, rent a scooter for the day and head south towards the Doi Chang, the most famous coffee-growing region in all of Thailand. Skip the highway and speed down the winding scenic route through forests, past lakes, into small towns and across mountains – a natural landscape that is constantly changing yet constantly breathtaking. Although there are numerous coffee plantations, we suggest Doi Chang Coffee Farm. This friendly operation that involves a tour of the entire coffee production process, from growing and picking all the way to distribution and production. Afterward, enjoy the most robust coffee beverages in the open-air cafe attached to the farm, reflecting on your Thai getaway.



GORGEIOUS GUANGZHOU

Nestled along the banks of the Pearl River, the capital city of Guangdong is known to some as the third largest metropolis on the mainland and to others as 'Canton' – the birthplace of Cantonese language and culture.

Though today it lacks the same international flair as Shanghai and political prestige of Beijing, for much of history, Guangzhou was China's primary window to the world – a prosperous port city that attracted affluent businessmen, explorers and missionaries from across the globe.

A stroll through sections of old Canton can therefore feel like traveling in Europe, as one encounters Western-style mansions in Dongshankou built by returning overseas Chinese during the 1920s, or discovers Shamian Island: a former foreign concession that once housed international embassies.

As with many cities in China, the landscape of Guangzhou transformed rapidly over the past 10-plus years, as 100-year-old villages gave way to luxury apartment complexes, shopping malls and skyscrapers in Zhujiang New

Town. Modern architectural feats like the Canton Tower, Guangzhou Opera House and Guangdong Museum have become the new cultural landmarks of the city, reflecting both its growth and ongoing relationship with the outside world.

There's a saying that "Cantonese people will eat anything," and a walk through the famed Qingping Market may reaffirm that impression, as its curious spices, medicinal herbs and different animal parts shed light on the peculiar tastes of the local people.

Cantonese cuisine is characteristically lighter than Northern Chinese dishes. Seafood and vegetables feature prominently, as do sweet dishes like *char siu* (sweet barbecued pork) and claypot rice with Cantonese sausage.

The city was thrust into the global spotlight in 2018 with the arrival of Guangzhou's inaugural *Michelin Guide*, which celebrated its third edition in September 2020. In short: big things are happening in the 'City of Flowers' and a visit here should be considered a must on any China itinerary.

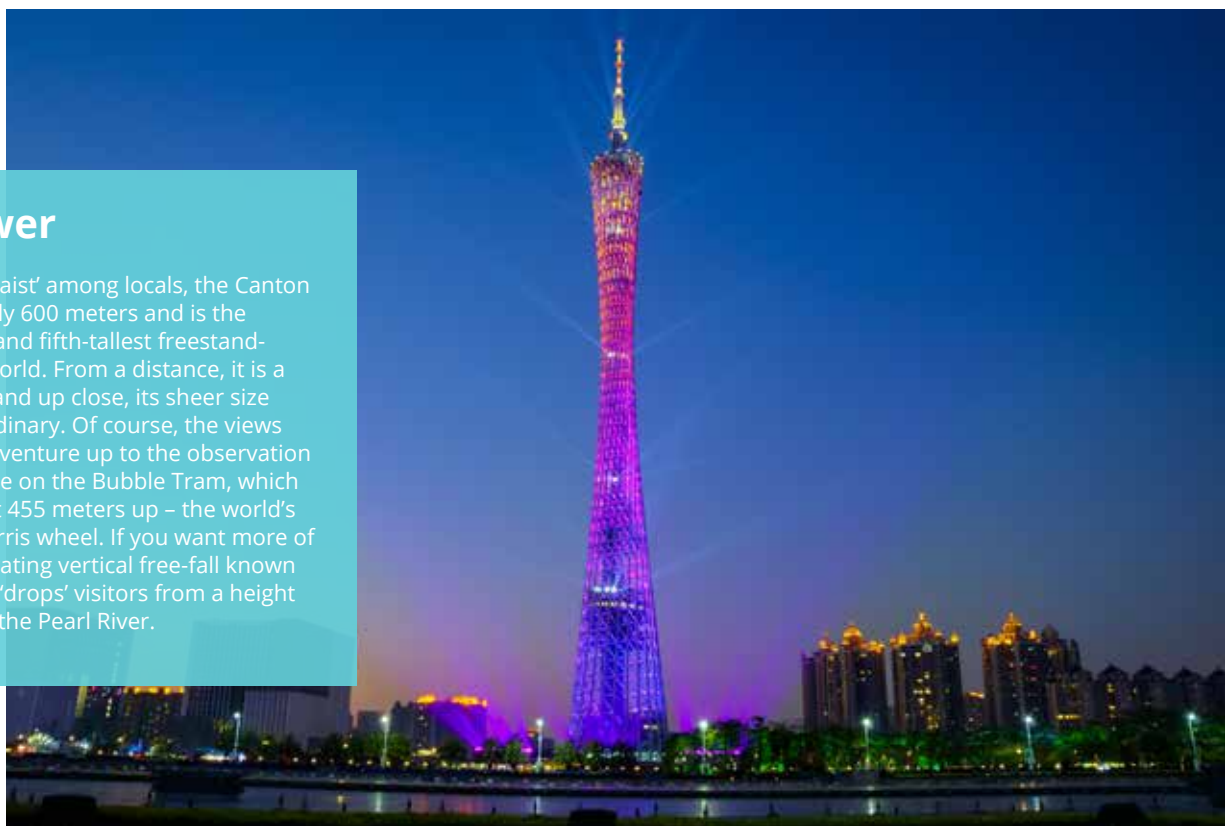


Looking for more expert guides to China's biggest cities and hottest destinations? Purchase our *Explore China* travel guide, which offers insider tips, detailed city guides and more. You can scan the QR code below to order:



Canton Tower

Known as the 'Slim Waist' among locals, the Canton Tower stands at nearly 600 meters and is the second tallest tower and fifth-tallest freestanding structure in the world. From a distance, it is a spectacle to behold, and up close, its sheer size is even more extraordinary. Of course, the views only get better if you venture up to the observation platform or take a ride on the Bubble Tram, which encircles the tower at 455 meters up – the world's highest horizontal Ferris wheel. If you want more of a thrill, try the exhilarating vertical free-fall known as the Sky Drop, that 'drops' visitors from a height of 485 meters above the Pearl River.



Yuexiu Park

Despite being China's third largest metropolis, Guangzhou also hosts a fair number of parks that offer protection from the beating sun and hazy streets. Yuexiu Park is undoubtedly your best bet if you're only in town for a couple of days, as you can snap a few photos of Sun Yat-sen Memorial Hall upon entering, see the remains of Guangzhou's old city wall built during the Ming Dynasty, pose next to the iconic Statue of the Five Rams and tour the historic Zhenhai Tower, which now functions as the Guangzhou Museum. There's also a new skywalk that now links Yuexiu Park to several other parks, stretching 6.2 kilometers long. It's a great way to spend an afternoon before hitting the town later in the evening.



Shamian Island

Formerly home to the city's foreign concession area, today this picturesque locale is popular with two groups of people: those seeking gorgeous colonial architecture and brides-to-be. Many couples come to Shamian to take their wedding snaps, and white veils can often be seen fluttering out from between porticos and colonnades. An afternoon walk through the quiet, shaded lanes is a great precursor to dinner at the historic White Swan Hotel, one of the first in the city to achieve a five-star rating. If you come early in the afternoon, wander over to Guangzhou Cultural Park to explore the 13 Factories Museum. Recounting the history of Canton's international trading era, the museum presents fascinating records of early exchange between local Cantonese and foreigners.



Dim Sum

Originating in Guangdong, dim sum, sometimes referred to as 'zaocha' or 'morning tea' in Mandarin Chinese, is a mix of small dishes typically consumed with tea for a leisurely early or mid-morning meal. Classic dishes to try include the shrimp dumpling (*xiajiao*), egg tarts (*danta*), steamed custard bun (*naihuangbao*), shao-mai, fried rice noodles (*chao hefen*) and rice noodle wraps filled with anything from pork or beef to eggs and shrimp (*changfen*). Adventurous travelers can opt for a plate of chicken feet (*fengzhua*).

Qiuda 6 Zaiji

You can't visit Guangzhou without experiencing dim sum and Qiuda 6 Zaiji is one of our favorite spots to indulge in the world-famous cuisine. Helmed by celebrated Cantonese chef Qiu Weiguo, who has served such notable figures as Deng Xiaoping and Queen Elizabeth II, the food here ranges from authentic to experimental and all of it is top quality. The *xi-aolongbao* here are exemplary, as are the *xiajiao* and *shaomai*. The real highlight at Qiuda 6 Zaiji, though, is the *danmai chashao bao* – an in-house specialty perfected by Chef Qiu himself.

> No. 523 Binjiang Dong Lu, Haizhu District 海珠区滨江东路523号丘大6仔记

13Factories

One of the most recommended Western restaurants among Guangzhou expat circles, 13Factories has an impressive menu full of delicious burgers, sandwiches and American-style eats like chicken and waffles and jambalaya, among others. Located in Zhujiang New Town across the street from the US Consulate, it's a prime place to grab a bite and a pint (or three) in between trying all the local fare. If you're in town on a weekend, swing by for a boozy brunch to celebrate, well... anything. The nearest metro station is Zhujiang New Town (Lines 3 and 5).

> No. 121 Huasui Lu, Zhujiang Xincheng, Tianhe District 天河区珠江新城华穗路121号十三行 (3884 9230)



IVAN SEET

General Manager at Commune by the Great Wall, in the Unbound Collection by Hyatt

Luxury villas, an authentic Chinese restaurant, walking distance to the Shuiguan Great Wall and much more. Commune by the Great Wall, in the Unbound Collection by Hyatt makes for a great getaway in Beijing's picturesque Yanqing district. The site is set to officially open on April 17. *That's* caught up with the new general manager, Singaporean native Ivan Seet, to learn more about the resort.

You recently became the new general manager at Commune by the Great Wall, in the Unbound Collection by Hyatt. Congratulations on your new position! Can you tell us about your previous experience in the hotel industry?

I started in the hotel industry in Singapore back in 2002. I got into hospitality by chance after attending a workforce development fair. That gave me some exposure to hospitality and I just thought: "Why not give it a shot?"

I started in sales and marketing in 2002 and then moved to Beijing at the age of 30. I've been here eight years and now Beijing is a second home for me. The hospitality industry in China is particularly exciting because the speed of progression is so much faster than in somewhere like Singapore. Every day brings something different.

I've had experience with other brands here in Beijing such as Shangri-La but I have worked at Hyatt for the past six years.

Once the hotel opens, what can guests expect to experience there that they can't experience at other 5-star hotels and villas?

Commune by the Great Wall is now managed by The Unbound Collection by Hyatt. One of the most unique things that guests can experience here is the location of the property. There aren't many properties from which guests can get such a good view of the Great Wall of China.

What kinds of cuisine can guests expect to find?

In our restaurants, we want to showcase cuisine from northern China. Guests can experience a range of gourmet food



created a 'Kid's COMMUNE,' where we have lots of different activities for children. Parents can go and enjoy spa treatment while the kids can take part in exciting activities run by professionals. Many of the activities are outdoor activities, such as camping, star-gazing and many more.

Media reports have suggested that as early as August, travel between China and the foreign countries could resume. Will the domestic market continue to be a focus throughout 2021? How about the international market?

From our point of view, we are confident in the COVID-19-control measures implemented here in China. Regarding the return of international travelers, we expect that to happen sometime before the end of this year. This will lead nicely to 2022 and the Beijing Winter Olympics.

However, after we open our doors on April 17, we will likely be focused solely on domestic travelers for some time. This will likely include travelers from Beijing as well as from neighboring cities.

With the opening of the borders and the arrival of the Winter Olympics, we will then start to focus more on the international market. Having the Shuiguan Great Wall right next to our hotel makes us very attractive to international travelers. Visiting the Great Wall is often a must-do for overseas travelers. You could even say that you haven't really been to China if you haven't visited the Great Wall!

> This interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

primarily from northern China because we want to reflect the location of the hotel. We hope that with such a creative and comforting cuisine, we can create a "home away from home" for our guests.

Other than the living areas and restaurants, what other facilities are available at the property?

Another unique aspect about the hotel is our outdoor pool, something you won't find in a lot of other places in northern China given the cold weather conditions. Attached to the pool, there is also a pool-side cafe and bar.

We are also very much a family-oriented property. With this in mind, we have

BUSINESS & TECH

Cha-Ching

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JAVEN ZHENG

Business Innovation Consultant

Interview by Ryan Gandolfo

Prior to being a business innovation consultant, Javen Zheng was a tech journalist at Southern China Media Group, a publication company with significant influence in southern China. His passion for building a sustainable startup ecosystem and helping valuable ideas spread led him to the role of co-director at Startup Grind Guangzhou, where he's hosted over 30 monthly events to connect entrepreneurs with local startups and help them grow their businesses. We reached out to Zheng to learn more about Guangzhou's startup community and his role with Startup Grind.

How'd you get started with Startup Grind Guangzhou? What's your background?

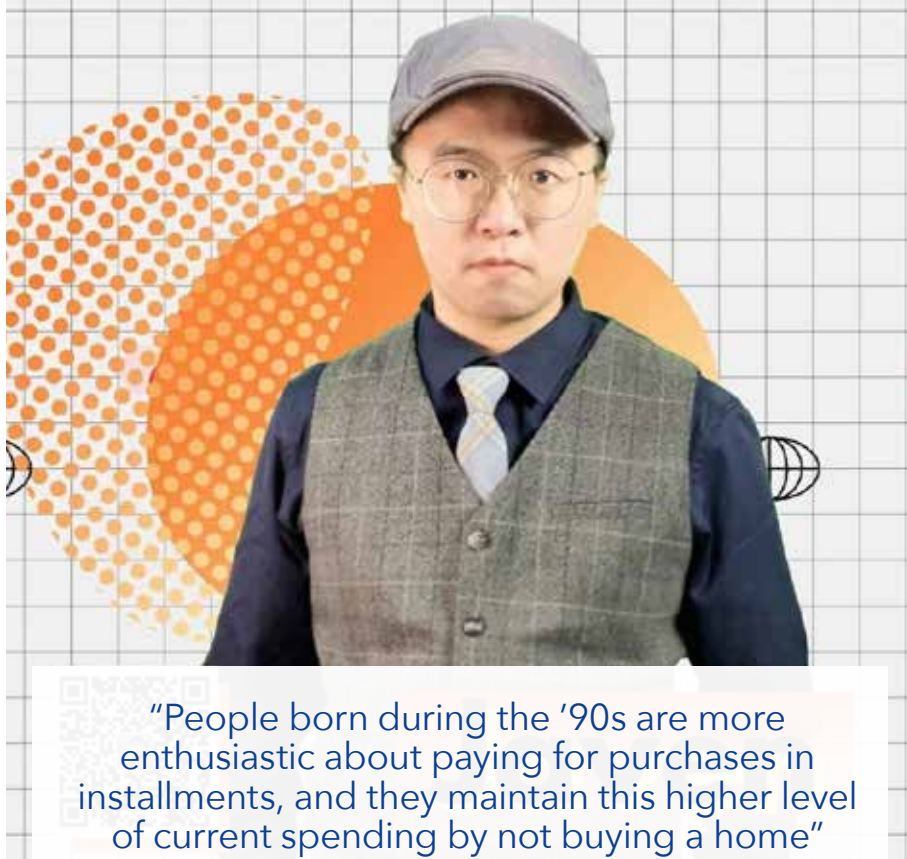
Five years ago, I started my first business in Macao, and my business partner told me about Startup Grind and that they were in partnership with Google for Startups. The format would be a fireside chat between an interviewer and a successful entrepreneur – along with networking and some food and drinks. I remember at the first Startup Grind Guangzhou event that I joined, the speaker was KK Wong, the co-founder of Xiaomi. That event inspired me a lot, and I decided to apply for the co-director position at Startup Grind Guangzhou.

Organizing Startup Grind events is a great opportunity to help startups grow faster and make more new friends to help each other in Guangzhou. It's been a wonderful thing for me.

How would you describe the startup community in Guangzhou?

For the people who want to start their own business, is a great entry point to the startup world. For the entrepreneur who wants to scale their business, it is a good opportunity to connect them to more commercial resources.

You can meet so many interesting



"People born during the '90s are more enthusiastic about paying for purchases in installments, and they maintain this higher level of current spending by not buying a home"

people and possibly find your [business] partner at the event. Startup communities in Guangzhou connect startups to corporations and facilitate mutually beneficial partnerships. Startup Grind Guangzhou community gatherings open up networking opportunities that help build chemistry among stakeholders to potentially cement a partnership or at least learn about the unique perspective of startups and corporations alike.

While covering tech as a journalist in South China, did you notice any trends in entrepreneurship that reflect China's rise in startups?

This past year, we could see several new business trends emerge from the world's second-largest economy. Here are the trends in entrepreneurship that would be worth watching out for.

1. Rise of Chinese Brands

Ten years ago, many Chinese brands made an effort to look like they were a foreign product to attract local customers. Now, things have changed – more and more brands are molding themselves with Chinese traditions and style.

2. Structural Change in Investment and Consumption

In the next few years, the Chinese middle class will become the main force behind consumption. In 2019, consumer retail spending increased 8% year-on-year. People born during the '90s are more enthusiastic about paying for purchases in installments, and they maintain this higher level of current spending by not buying a home.

3. Leader in High Technology

Chinese high technology, such as 5G, artificial intelligence, semiconductors and autonomous vehicles, which have been developing rapidly for several years, is now entering a new stage with China at the forefront.

Are there any differences you've noticed between Chinese entrepreneurs today and their predecessors?

Chinese entrepreneurs today are generally savvier, wealthier and more experienced than their predecessors.

The current generation of successful entrepreneurs largely comprises those with significant work experience and extensive extant business knowledge. Furthermore, many of these founders have overseas experience or have been exposed to international media covering related industries. Chinese entrepreneurs know about cutting-edge technological developments emerging in Silicon Valley and can quickly emulate and adapt those concepts to the China market.

Has Startup Grind Guangzhou had to make any changes over the past year? If so, what were they?

To adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic, Startup Grind Guangzhou launched an online media program and hosted webinars to connect local entrepreneurs and global commercial resources. We found that it's a more effective way to connect local startups and entrepreneurs from all around the world.

> This interview has been edited for clarity. To learn more about Startup Grind Guangzhou, add Javen Zheng (Javen_V) on WeChat.

TAKE STOCK

TAP THAT APP

Ren Ren Shipin

Nowadays there's simply an abundance of streaming platforms for all your favorite shows and movies. Unfortunately, you need to subscribe to all of them for optimal entertainment. Ren Ren Shipin (人人视频) is one of our go-to streaming apps in China. It covers a wide range of foreign movies and TV series in addition to domestic shows and releases. While we love us some 'Netflix and Chill,' if you or your partner rely on Chinese subtitles then a Chinese streaming app/website is the way to go as it usually has Chinese subtitles. Just be careful though, as Ren Ren Shipin has some serious binge-watching tendencies, with a March Weibo poll finding three-quarters of binge-watchers use the app for streaming pleasure.

> Ren Ren Shipin is available on iOS and Android devices.

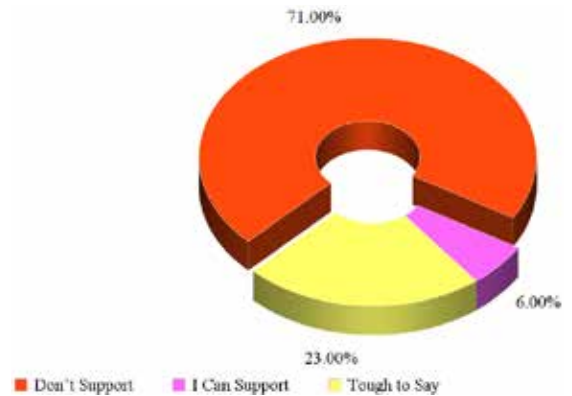


CHART ATTACK

Cat Calls

A new 'cat rental' service recently popped up at a Chengdu shopping mall, charging customers RMB9.9 to spend the day with a random cat. As bizarre as it sounds, residents did, in fact, rent out felines. Sina Tech created a poll asking netizens how they viewed the latest 'shared economy' phenomenon. As expected, a majority of respondents rejected the notion of renting out animals for such a limited time. Our biggest question is... Do you name it?

Opinion on Cat Share Economy



Source: Sina Tech

INSPECT-A-GADGET

Phone Screen Enlarger

One of those typical products that look too good to be true – screen magnifiers for smartphones seem to be a pretty clear scam unlike the screens! We tested a screen magnifier out from Taobao and found that despite the screen being enlarged, the quality drop-off was too much to handle. Admittedly, the magnifier we purchased was under RMB100, however, it's hard to justify much use for this product in a world that's already so smartphone-focused. In the grand scheme of things, we doubt this product will do much to help out our eyesight, but rather collect dust in the desk.

> You can purchase phone screen magnifiers on Taobao starting at RMB20.



HIGHS AND LOWS



Highs

- China is teaming up with Russia to construct a lunar research station – a bold project between the two countries. The station will be “built on the lunar surface and/or on the lunar orbit,” according to a statement released by China’s space agency. Russia’s Roscosmos and China’s National Space Administration are the countries’ equivalents of NASA. Once the station is complete – far into the future – it will be open for use by other countries.
- A recent report indicated that China took the lead in the global 5G market last year, with 200 million new 5G connections that accounted for 87% of the global total. The report, released by the Global System for Mobile Communications Association, said China’s 5G connections are expected to hit 822 million by 2025.
- There’s been a buzz about Bilibili in recent weeks as the streaming site currently has a firm grasp on China’s millennials and intends to double monthly active users (MAUs) by 2023. Eighty-six percent of its 202 million monthly active users are under the age of 35, according to *China Daily*. However, China consumer and tech expert Michael Norris has noted that the company’s losses grew faster than revenue in 2020 and user stickiness (DAU/MAU) is falling. It’s certainly a NASDAQ-listed company to keep your eye on as the company’s stock price has fallen 30% over the past two months.



Lows

- Microsoft’s LinkedIn recently suspended new sign-ups in China, where the Western social media network is still available for Chinese mainland users. The app, which has played a role in connecting business communities across the West and Asia, is reportedly working to ensure it remains compliant with local law, according to a statement from a LinkedIn spokesperson, as cited by CNN. Hopefully, everything checks out, and the app opens back up for young graduates looking to build their network both in China and overseas.
- Chinese investors were shocked last month after stocks plummeted – with the nation’s benchmark CSI 300 Index falling 14% in 14 trading days. *Bloomberg* noted the market turmoil was particularly unusual with the NPC in session. Before the slump, the Chinese stock market was performing at an all-time high, with Liquor maker Kweichow Moutai Co. surging to a stock valuation of more than USD500 billion.

Cha-Ching

6 Staggering Stats on China's Billionaire Ballers

By Ryan Gandolfo

On March 2, Hurun Report released the *Hurun Global Rich List 2021*, which gives a ranking and breakdown of the world's billionaires (in USD).

According to Hurun Report Chairman and Chief Researcher Rupert Hoogewef, "China has added more new faces than the rest of the world combined" in the past year, with EVs, e-commerce, blockchain and biotech notably the fastest-growing industries.

The combined wealth of billionaires in China is USD4.5 trillion, more than Germany's GDP.

With so many new billionaires, there may be a noticeable difference in China's household income distribution. In 2019, China's gini coefficient – a statistical measure intended to represent wealth inequality – was 0.465, according to CEIC. This represents a big income gap and is on par with many developed countries around the world, including the US.

Here are six staggering stats on China's super-rich elite.

1,058

is the number of 'known' dollar billionaires in China – more than the total from the next three countries (US, India and Germany). In 2020, China added 256 billionaires and is the first country to have more than 1,000 billionaires. Hoogewerf said the number of dollar billionaires in China may actually be closer to 2,500 – accounting for undisclosed assets.

6

is the number of Chinese cities in the top 10 for the highest concentration of dollar billionaires. Beijing took the crown as the world's billionaire capital for the sixth consecutive year, with 145 billionaires living in the city. Shanghai is listed second, followed by Shenzhen (#4), Hong Kong (#6), Hangzhou (#8) and Guangzhou (#9). This past year, the capital city added 35 billionaires.

\$85 billion

is the net worth of 'Bottled Water King' Zhong Shanshan, who became the first Chinese national to make it into the Hurun Global Rich List Top 10. Known for popular bottled water brand Nongfu Springs, Zhong also has a venture in the pharmaceutical sector and is now the richest man in Asia. Drink up!

66%

is the percentage of the world's 231 'known' self-made women billionaires living in China. The China list is led by Zhong Huijuan, CEO of drugmaker Hansoh, with USD23 billion.

39

is the age of vaping brand Relx's founder Wang Ying. With a net worth of USD11 billion, she is the most successful self-made female entrepreneur under 40 in the world.

3%

is how much Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei's wealth dropped in 2020. Ren was one of the few to lose wealth in a year that saw many of the world's richest make more money than ever. Ren's wealth is closely tied to Huawei, which has been dealing with US sanctions as well as allegations over intellectual property theft.



Spread

How a Beijing Arts Collective is Growing Around the Globe

By Ryan Gandolfo



In 2016, a Beijing-based UK native, with charisma and a knack for making things happen, founded a project known as Spittoon Collective – cultivating a new multicultural community of creative thinkers. The concept started as a poetry night in a *hutong* that then expanded to other literary genres, art and music, adding color to a city in constant change.

Fast forward six years and the arts collective has spread like wildfire from the capital to Dali, from Ethiopia to Arizona. In the following pages, find out what makes this group of passionate individuals unique and how this project is being exported around the globe.

ing Spittoon





A Hutong Start

Matthew Byrne started something he can no longer turn off. The British poet moved to Beijing in 2013 and felt that the capital city's poetry scene was lacking. His obsession for starting poetry events inevitably led to the founding of the Spittoon Collective in May 2015. "[At the time], the hub of literary activity in Beijing was The Bookworm based in Sanlitun – that was the crystal palace, the beacon of light," Byrne tells us on a call from the UK to our Guangzhou office.

While Beijing's bona fide literary institution would go on to close in the fall of 2019, Spittoon would continue to grow as a community for poets and writers, as well as musicians and others in the creative scene.

Byrne describes the collective as a platform for people to share ideas, from literary works to different forms of art, with projects sprouting from the creative energy within the community.



While studying in Manchester, England, he organized a group called the Unsung Collective with a few friends where they published works from poets outside the university. "At the end of the month, we'd run a drunken, well-attended event, which was kind of the proto-Spittoon, and I didn't even know it," Byrne says.

Spittoon originally started as a poetry night at the now-defunct Mado Bar in Dongcheng district's Baochao Hutong. "In Beijing, you have these wonderful *hutong*, ancient structures and alleyways that you can walk down and visit cool bars, so I thought it would be good to have a poetry event as it seemed like poetry belonged very naturally to this area," Byrne tells us.

The readings would mainly be in English, but with an international community a new section called 'Poetry-in-Translation' was started, which featured works in Chinese, Afrikaans, French, Arabic, Russian, Spanish, Sinhalese and Mauritian Creole, among other languages.

Poetry and the diverse audience would turn out to be the "well-spring" for Spittoon's launch into other creative ventures, such as Spittoon Fiction, Spittoon Poetry Slam, Spittoon Storytelling and Spit-Tunes. "We created a kind of theme park-like atmosphere where every Thursday was occupied by a different literary genre or art form."

One of the collective's more successful projects to date has been Spit-Tunes, a blend of poetry and music that led to the founding of Poetry x Music, a band featuring writer Anthony Tao and classical guitarist Liane Halton.

Joining organized activities like Spittoon can serve as a lifesaver for those caught up in a unidimensional life. These groups are especially important in China as people need to build new relationships to find purpose while living in a different country.

In a May 2020 *Harvard Business Review* article, author Rob Cross notes four life connections that create purpose: spiritual, civic and volunteer, friends and community and family. But among these four connections, the argument can be made that friends and community surpass the



Spittoon Beijing

The objective now is to discover Chinese voices and broadcast them to the rest of the world

others, considering that some folks may not be spiritual, and their families are back home. Having a trusted network and sense of community can make the difference between a purposeful chapter or blimp on the radar of life.

As Spittoon gained momentum and more members were involved with various projects, friends and community became the adhesive in which the collective held together.

Beijing-based university teacher Zuo Fei, also known as Sophie, was connected to the collective after meeting some of the members in the spring of 2018. "It was quite an accident," Zuo recalls over the phone from the capital city. "One of my American colleagues [at the university] told me about a translation workshop, and there I met Matthew and Simon Shieh, who was the original editor-in-chief of *Spittoon Literary Magazine*."

Zuo started contributing translations to the magazine and enjoyed working together with new like-minded friends.

Spittoon started putting together a biannual literary magazine the same year the collective started up. The mag was

comprised of a collection of the best English poetry and fiction they could find written in Beijing and Chengdu, along with a selection of articles, interviews and translation pieces.

Nowadays, Zuo and Shelly Shan, a poet currently based in Tokyo, are in charge of the magazine, which switched to publishing Chinese writers in translation. "The objective now is to discover Chinese voices and broadcast them to the rest of the world," says Byrne. The issues, formerly sold at The Bookworm and now available on Weidian, combine a unique array of poetry and fiction with an aesthetically pleasing design.

But beyond the pages are the cultural exchanges made between local Chinese and expats volunteering on the project. Zuo describes the process of grouping native English speakers with Chinese speakers for translations in the magazine and the challenge of becoming a bilingual publication. "If we just use one language, then [the magazine] will be much easier [to make]. A bilingual version is way more difficult. I always tell people that the time and energy we put in is no less than that of a big publication or journal despite having fewer people to make it," Zuo says.

“

The China bug bit me early... I thought China was really cool and wanted to live here forever

”

While she admits to feeling a bit of pressure putting it all together, she notes there is “strong support from other members.”

For the collective, Zuo and other Spittoon members aren't driven by financial interest but rather a passion to create and share ideas in the literary and arts scene. “I enjoy it very much – it's voluntary work, but sometimes I tell Matthew it's like the Spittoon job is getting more important than my regular job,” Zuo jokes.

Byrne has the same mindset, as his job in the UK is separate from his role as founder and director of the collective. “I think that's the strength of Spittoon. If we occupy the hobby space in peoples' lives, we can add meaning to their creative endeavors. The skills, experiences and personalities of people are naturally invested in the project.”

There's plenty of literature published about the importance of cultivating a passion outside of the workplace, especially during a pandemic which has caused many to reflect on their lives pre-COVID. We realize that a paycheck doesn't equal passion, and often our jobs don't quite enable us to be inventive or experiment the way we want. That's where a new side hustle or creative project comes into play.

One of the main benefits we've learned regarding Spittoon is the opportunity it gives members to create and contribute something new and involve others in the community. Byrne provides us with an example of the person running the collective's Instagram account, simply going beyond the pale after starting to attend their events in Beijing.

While his parents might be confused by his “obsession” with a project that doesn't benefit him financially, Byrne argues, “If so many people are interested in something that you created or managed, then it's difficult to let it go. You feel like it's somewhere that you've actually had an impact.”



China Calling



It wasn't long after Spittoon got started in Beijing that it found another home in spicy Sichuan province. Annie Leonard, the Spittoon Chengdu Leader, discovered a love for the PRC dating back to 2005 when her family moved from Detroit to Shanghai for a job with General Motors.

"The China bug bit me early... I thought China was really cool and wanted to live here forever," Leonard recalls over a phone call on her way to her Sichuanese husband's cafe.

The *Harry Potter*-themed shop, aptly named Harry's Wizard Cafe, is one of the locations where Spittoon members will get together in Chengdu for various literary events. "We'd like to make it into more of a cultural hub, kind of like what The Bookworm [Chengdu] used to be," says Leonard, who originally joined The Bookworm Writing Group before starting up the collective in the provincial capital.

She learned about Spittoon in 2017 after another group, the Loreli collective, interviewed her about Chengdu's writing community. From there, Leonard would go on to connect with Byrne and other members and start a new chapter for the arts collective. Spittoon Chengdu has since hosted monthly and bi-monthly events for poetry, prose, slams, competitions and music poetry – similar events to Beijing.

But Leonard points to one stark difference out in western China. "We are slightly different from Beijing as in we are more of a mix of locals and foreigners. Beijing was originally more expat-focused, but just by nature of Chengdu, there is a lot more integration of Chinese and a lot of foreigners here also speak good Chinese."

One of the events Leonard hosts bilingually is a multilingual night, which celebrates a lot more Chinese writing among other languages.

Chengdu is what Byrne describes as

one of Spittoon's two established cities, while other collectives are forming in Shanghai, Xi'an, Shenzhen as well as Dali – the first Chinese-led Spittoon collective. From what we gather through Byrne and Leonard, it's the transient nature of expats in China that's led to new collectives forming in other urban areas – along with a passion for literary creation.

It does have its drawbacks, of course, as Zuo expresses that many of the friends made in Beijing sooner or later move on to the next chapter of their lives. "Every time someone has to leave, it's difficult. Many of my girlfriends are American, and they recently left – making every moment they're here something special," says Zuo.

On the other hand, there's a growing interest in poetry and other art forms among China's youth that keeps Spittoon expanding its audience in the Middle Kingdom. Zuo tells us about multiple aspects that encourage Chinese locals to participate, from having an opportunity to practice English speaking and writing in an international setting to learning more about themselves.

"Because the changes over the past 20 to 40 years [in China] have been so rapid, these days we realize it's time to take another look at ourselves, or in a cultural way to rethink the Chinese identity and traditional values in terms of poetry and literature," she says, adding that many people in the '80s who went to study and work abroad, especially in Western countries, are ready to return home. Zuo notes that China's younger generations are also showing an interest in foreign poetry.

She runs a WeChat platform called 外国诗歌精选 (*Waiguo Shige Jingxuan*), which introduces foreign poets and their translated works to Chinese readers. But beyond shared interests, Zuo describes her own reason for joining Spittoon as an opportunity to bridge the gap of language and cultural barriers between China and the West.



Spittoon isn't slowing down anytime soon. The success shared among Chinese cities has transcended the collective to the world at large. Byrne's excitement was apparent over the phone as he told us about up-and-coming collectives in Africa, Europe and the US – a sign of the potential for a group that started at a *hutong* bar.

"People find out about the community and join and then leave after their work contract ends, taking the seed of Spittoon elsewhere," says Leonard, noting that Spittoon collectives in Riga, Latvia, and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, were started by two women who previously worked with the Chengdu collective. In Beijing, some of the early members have since left the capital and carried the project onto new destinations like Lisbon, Portugal, and Gothenburg, Sweden.

After getting mixed up with Spittoon three years ago, David Huntington has brought the group's creative energy to Tucson, Arizona, where he returned to school in August 2020. He volunteers as the managing web editor and has helped organize and host events in Beijing and Shanghai. Eventually, Huntington "missed it enough" when he got back, so he brought the brand to the US. "I felt like I hadn't noticed anything similar to [Spittoon] like an open mic night or poetry reading night, so I tried to start one, and it's worked out so far," he tells us over a WeChat call. Still in its early stage, Spittoon Tucson has done three meet-ups virtually as a result of the pandemic.

Huntington brings up a unique challenge that the collective doesn't encounter as much in China. "In the US and other places, it can be a bit intimidating to do literary events because it feels like it needs to be of a certain quality and approved by certain 'gatekeepers' and things like that," he says. However, he points out that Spittoon has demonstrated that there's a demand for participating in literary activities and that communities can be built without anyone having to approve it. "Without Spittoon, I wouldn't have had the gumption to come in and start an event."



Going

“

People find out about the community and join and then leave after their work contract ends, taking the seed of Spittoon elsewhere

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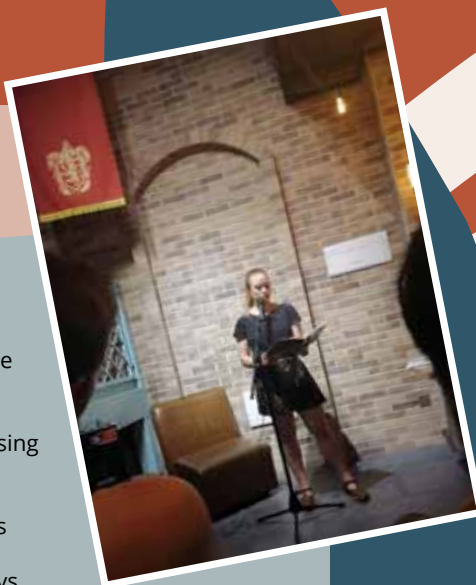


As Spittoon continues to spread and empower individuals interested in language and culture, Byrne tells us that he's positioning himself more in the international center to try his luck at growing the collective more outside of the PRC. While still involved with the group's China operations, he says his "China timer was going off," which prompted a move back to the UK.

There are notable challenges for Spittoon, from funding projects such as the literary magazine to the mercurial nature of the collective's members. Byrne describes the hustle to gather resources at times, saying previous projects were funded through magazine sales, ticketed events and fundraising campaigns.

But some of Spittoon's challenges are also unique opportunities to share this all-encompassing literary and arts brand and its Chinese roots with the rest of the world. "The diversity in our output is really cool and sets us apart," he says, hinting at the possibilities of connecting Spittoon collectives overseas with the more established Chinese cities. He views China and Beijing, in particular, as the blueprint on how to grow the community into a global arts cluster. "If I create a [group] in the UK similar to Sweden, then that can be a conduit to draw out more content from China into the UK that's generated from within China," he says, suggesting potential projects like linking university students with Chinese poets to create dialogue through postcard poetry.

His ideas racing over the phone, Byrne's passion for Spittoon is contagious, and we hope to see it thrive for years to come.



Global



FAMILY

Ending English?

China Considers Dropping English as
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HU XIAOHONG

CIEO Deputy Brand Director

Interview by Joshua Cawthorpe

The importance of education in China is no surprise, but some key areas of inequality have been highlighted across the education sector in recent years. For starters, only a fraction of China's labor force graduates from high school. A comprehensive study by education startup Zuoyebang and Beijing Normal University also revealed a noticeable difference in the difficulty of math problems between wealthy first-tier city neighborhoods and poor city districts and rural areas. With 73% of China's primary and middle school students residing in third- to sixth-tier cities and rural towns, education inequality needs to be addressed in a more pressing manner.

Several initiatives have sprung up to begin bridging the equity gap in education. One such program, founded in 2013, is the Canadian International Education Organization (CIEO) Education Fund, which was established in partnership with the Foshan Children's Welfare Association to provide support and resources to families and underfunded schools in rural areas. The fund aims to address some of these vulnerabilities and create opportunities for students that might otherwise fall through the cracks. We reached out to CIEO Deputy Brand Director Hu Xiaohong to learn how they are helping students from far and near.

How long has the charity been operating?

The CIEO Education Foundation is a private foundation approved by the Guangdong Provincial Civil Affairs Bureau in 2013, to provide help to underprivileged children. So far, it has been operating for



"Cultivating social responsibility and compassion is as important as cultivating knowledge"

eight years. As an educational group, CIEO will always stick to the philosophy we believe in – 'Education is Love.' CIEO believes that in addition to transferring knowledge to children, it is more important to let children learn to be grateful, understand generosity and be willing to help others in need. Cultivating social responsibility and compassion is as important as cultivating knowledge.

What were the foundation's goals last year and did the epidemic change the desired outcomes?

Being private, the CIEO Education Foundation does not have a specific fundraising goal, but the purpose of the foundation has always been to support the education of children in need. Each year, the foundation develops a plan for how to carry out projects and how best to respond to the current circumstances. In the face of COVID-19, the CIEO Education Foundation launched a special fundraising initiative for CIEO family members to 'Cheer for Wuhan,' and raised nearly RMB80,000 in just a few days. All the funds raised were donated to the Guangzhou Charity Association to support the epidemic prevention and control work in Wuhan.

During the outbreak, the foundation's other projects continued as scheduled. CIEO Education Foundation donated a library to the Guangdong Provincial Education Foundation. It also donated daily supplies for students at Jiayi Central School, located in Sichuan's Jinyang county, and then donated financial aid to the

Foshan Children's Welfare Association's project – 'Care for Children· Let the Dream Fly.' Lastly, the foundation also donated educational equipment and facilities to the Women's Federation of Panyu District, Guangzhou.

What is the criteria and selection process for determining which students/regions will receive support?

The CIEO Education Foundation's funding and public welfare activities are centered on supporting education by funding teaching facilities and equipment in remote mountainous areas and providing assistance to families and children in need. We will provide financial aid to students who are excellent in both character and study as well as reward excellent teachers. Each year, the CIEO Education Foundation's Board of Directors will decide which projects to support in consultation with the city and district charity associations.

Can you tell us about the goals for the coming year?

In 2021, The CIEO Education Foundation will continue to support 10 children from families in need in Foshan, 10 children from families in Guangzhou as well as families in Gaozhou. Furthermore, the foundation also plans to help schools in Guizhou's Bijie city and other rural primary schools by donating libraries, educational supplies, multimedia equipment and other resources.

> This interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

LIVING ROOM

Reading Corner

There is nothing better than cuddling up for a bedtime story, your little one looking at the pictures as you read to them. But sometimes, let's be honest – whether it is because they have already had five books and show no sign of relenting, or you have just had an exhausting day – it is time to take the sleep mood up a notch. That's when we turn the lights off and get a story up on our phone – on the condition they lie down and close their eyes as we read them one last tale.

One fun option is sooperbooks.com, which has loads of options, often fun Roald Dahl-style rhymes. They are broken up into five-minute stories, 10-minute stories and free stories. We've always stuck to the free stories, but you can subscribe if the repertoire starts running thin. Scan the QR code to start reading.



Another collection – this one all completely free – can be found at storiestogrowby.org. Once again broken up, this time into five-minute stories, 10-minute stories and more, the selection here is huge and spans the earliest ages to stories recommended for 12+, so one to keep returning to. Scan the QR code to start reading:



Top Tip: Save your preferred site to your favorites on WeChat and then they are just a couple of clicks away in your hour of bedtime need!



ROOM

CLASS CLOWN

Mopping Madness

There's no better saying than 'Teamwork makes the dream work,' which was on full display at a school in Henan province last month.

A group of students formed a line to clean their campus floor in record time! Making

good use of the rainwater, more than 20 students lined up from various classes and did a swift scrub of the school grounds. Laundry detergent was the cleaning agent, according to a local media outlet.



HOME FITNESS

Swing Away

April is typically a rainy month, which means expect more time marooned at home – hey, at least it's not quarantine! If you're feeling uninspired to hit the gym, it's time you got yourself a kettlebell. Great for explosive workouts that target all muscle areas, kettlebell workouts are convenient and don't require much space at all. Keep a kettlebell in your living room or bedroom for fast and easy access. Just be sure to warm up beforehand and practice your technique before jumping into kettlebell swings!





VEGGIE MAMA

Double-Decker Tofu Tacos

Who doesn't love Mexican food? We sure do, with the fresh ingredients, unique flavors and the sense of community that comes with cooking and eating the cuisine. Upon arriving to China, we were surprised to see so many dishes and ingredients that reminded us of Mexican food: scrambled eggs and tomato, cilantro on everything, fried wonton strips that remind us of tortilla chips, and all sorts of flat pancakes that resemble tortillas.

So, here is Veggie Mama's plant-based take on the amazing love affair between Chinese and Mexican food.

> Scan the QR code for the full recipe.



Learning in Tomorrow's Schools

Wellington College China's 2021 Festival of Education explores the future of education

Wellington College China's Festival of Education returns once again this April with a series of informative events for education professionals, parents and general enthusiasts. From 17 to 25 April, Wellington's Tianjin, Shanghai and Hangzhou campuses will host talks, panel discussions and workshops with education thought leaders from China and abroad.

In addition to these in-person engagements, the festival will host several online events featuring world-renowned educators, researchers, authors and even television personalities. Admission to these online events will be free of charge and open to all.

Centred on the theme of 'Interpreting the Future of Education'. This year's programme will explore five key strands:

- Future Schools
- Early Years
- Bilingualism
- Wellbeing
- Mental Health

Festival Director Paul Rogers says, "The Festival of Education represents Wellington College China's continued commitment to exploring new horizons and encouraging debate about what education is and (in keeping with this year's theme) where it is headed. Now more than ever it is important to be tackling these tough questions, so we are excited to be resuming this annual event once again."



The 2021 Festival of Education will feature live events at Wellington College's Tianjin, Shanghai and Hangzhou campuses as well as six virtual afternoons.

Virtual Events

Sunday to Friday, 18 – 23 April

(Virtual events are open to all and free of charge)

Scan the QR code to register for the virtual Festival of Education.



Live Events

Saturday 17 April – Tianjin

Saturday 24 April – Shanghai

Sunday 25 April – Hangzhou

Pre-sale tickets are now available; scan the QR code to book your tickets now.



Ending English?

China Considers Dropping English as Core Subject, Again

By Joshua Cawthorpe

A proposal at the Two Sessions, China's most important annual political event, to remove English as a compulsory subject for primary and middle school students has resulted in a fierce online debate on the value of the language in today's China.

CPPCC National Committee member, Xu Jin, proposed the change on March 4 on the basis that less than 10% of university graduates use English for work, according to *China Daily*.

Xu suggested that more emphasis should be put on physical education, music and art. Additionally, he argued that technology like AI real-time translation software will eliminate the language barrier, and translators will be a profession that is soon eliminated.

Netizens and experts against the proposal contest that learning English helps students develop critical thinking and cultural awareness. Authorities in China have maintained their position towards openness on the global stage, and many critics see the removal of English as a step backward in this pursuit.

Removing it as a compulsory subject would also require the *gaokao*, the national standardized university entrance exam, to be revised. The *gaokao* was previously separated

into four parts: Chinese language, Math, English and a choice between either Science or Humanities. Reforms to the *gaokao* resulted in more flexibility with elective subjects and specialized sciences, but the core three remain the same, according to World Education Services (WES).

The *gaokao*, which takes place over three days in June, is already a source of controversy. The pressure to achieve a high score is enforced from a young age, and *gaokao*-related suicides have made headlines in recent years. Students who do not get high *gaokao* scores and cannot obtain a university degree are often trapped in low-paying jobs with little opportunity for upward social mobility.

The hashtag related to Xu's proposal had been viewed more than 140 million times on Weibo as of press time. A poll conducted by *China Youth Daily* found that 43% of respondents supported its removal while 48% believe English is crucial to globalization. Many Weibo users pointed out that scientific papers were largely published in English.

According to Statista, English is the most spoken language worldwide with just under 1.35 billion speakers, while Mandarin Chinese ranks second with 1.12 billion.

One Weibo user said that learning English was more beneficial for finding work than studying calculus or classical Chinese poetry. However, many netizens lamented the focus on test-taking English and grammar, suggesting that it should become more focused on oral communication with a lower level of difficulty.

A common theme in the comments section of a China Newsweek Weibo post was the concern that 'elite families' who could afford extra-curricular English classes would gain another unfair advantage in the highly competitive education system.

After a 12-year hiatus due to the Cultural



Revolution, Deng Xiaoping brought back the gaokao in 1977. As part of the 'Reform and Opening Up,' Deng's first rendition of the gaokao included an English exam, according to BBC. The English language then became a compulsory subject for schools in 2001 — the same year that China joined the World Trade Organization.

Since then, proposals to scale back its importance have become common.

During the Two Sessions in 2014, Chinese officials proposed to lower the portion of the total gaokao score or remove English from the exam altogether. Instead of removing the foreign language, the Ministry of Education allowed the English portion to be taken twice during the year, with the higher score submitted to help relieve pressure from students come June.

Then again, in 2017, a Chinese lawmaker and director of Yuhua Education Group (a publicly-traded company valued at just under HKD3 billion) called for English to become one

of the elective subjects on the *gaokao*, *Global Times* reported.

The English requirements, which can affect admission to notable middle and high schools, have led to a booming for-profit English education industry. Among countries worldwide, Chinese students attend university overseas by a massive margin. According to UNESCO, China sent just under one million students to study abroad in 2018, while North America and Western Europe combined sent 766,383 students abroad.

A Businesswire.com report on the English Language Training market in China speculates a compound annual growth rate of USD69.5 billion from 2020-2024.

In December 2019, WES reported that some 400,000 English teachers were employed in China, some working illegally despite government efforts to lift and enforce standards. These numbers have most likely decreased due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



LISTINGS

BEIJING



中8楼
MIDDLE 8



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 flavorsome well-priced dishes and a killer view to boot.
> Raffles: Daily 11:00am-10:00pm, 5 Floor Of Raffles shopping center Dongzhimen Dongcheng District. 来福士店: 东城区东直门来福士购物中心5层 8409 8199/8409 8234
> Indigo: Daily 11:00am-10:00pm, Jiuxianqiao Road No.20 Indigo F2, Chaoyang 朝阳区酒仙桥路 20 号颐堤港 2 层 8420 0883



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Lianbao Apartments is near Sanliun 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 CHN, HBO, TV3, BBC etc.

2Br.	176m ²	¥ 16,500
3Br.	202m ²	¥ 18,500
4Br.	227m ²	¥ 20,500

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E-mail: hanxingyue1127@126.com

Beijing Lianbao > 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)

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

PLANNING A POST-PANDEMIC CAREER

How Executives can Prepare Themselves to Weather any Storm

It's been over a year since the Covid-19 pandemic began, but it is still taking its toll on economies worldwide. This uncertainty has made many professionals think about the skills and qualifications that can help them disaster-proof and future-proof their careers. Those with managerial experience may find themselves eyeing an MBA to help accelerate their journey along the career ladder.

"There are usually five reasons a manager would pursue an executive MBA," says David Dufour, director of the International MBA for Executives at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University's International Business School Suzhou. "These would be to expand their vision beyond their current job function, learn

new and applicable skills, grow their networks, give their careers an international dimension and gain new opportunities."

The IMBA, a part-time course delivered entirely in English, does all these things, particularly giving careers a level of international applicability.

"Of the 15 academic staff in the IMBA programme, there are 11 different nationalities," says Dufour. "Our teachers also have at least 10 years of presence in China, so they can teach their topic with a Chinese understanding. We favour practitioners because they can bring their corporate experience to the role."

The school's high quality staff and teaching excellence have led to IBSS becoming the youngest business school in the world to be awarded the coveted 'triple crown' of business school accreditation (AACSB, EQUIS, and AMBA).

"The Triple Crown is a demonstration of the quality of our programmes," says Dufour. "Particularly the latest one from the Association of MBAs, which we received in December 2020."

Long-lasting Benefits

Kirsten Johnston, owner of branding agency JWDK and a 2019 IBSS IMBA alumna, says she chose the programme because it ticked several crucial boxes for her: a credible business school, offering a part-time English-led programme and one not too far from her home in Shanghai.

"Having experience in Australia and the UK, I initially wanted to pursue an MBA to gain a better understanding of the Chinese business landscape. But I got so much more – not only did I learn about cross-border business, but I also learned more about how the company engine works. I felt more in control of my company."



Dufour says entrepreneurs and business owners are a growing group within the programme. "We're seeing an increase in entrepreneurs who are looking for better management skills and better ways to develop their companies or investments," he explains.

Jeff Zihao Cao, VP Strategic Development China for ArrowFast and Chair of the IMBA alumni club, completed his IMBA in 2018. The programme gave him a greater sense of confidence, he says: "When I moved to a job in the healthcare sector in 2020, I was nervous, because this industry was uncharted territory for me. But the IMBA really helped me. Not only did it give me the tools to help me adapt to my new role faster, but I also gained a valuable network of peers who I could turn to for advice."

In addition to the network of professionals, students have said one of the most valuable aspects of the programme is the dissertation. Johnston says: "A few weeks ago, I did a presentation with a big property company here in China, and actually pulled a lot of my information from that dissertation. It's still very valid today."

Cao believes that an MBA is more than a qualification: "I always tell people who are thinking of getting an MBA that it's not a panacea. It's not going to solve all your problems. What it is, is a catalyst. It can facilitate you to progress faster, and to help you transform your career."

The International Business School Suzhou is accepting applications for its International MBA for Executives until mid-August for the 2021/2022 academic year. For more information, please scan the QR code.



HOTEL NEWS

BEIJING



Make the Most of Brunch at Kempinski Garden's All-You-Can-Eat Easter Buffet

Dive into a world of wonder with Kempinski Hotel Beijing Lufthansa Center's Garden All-You-Can-Eat Easter Buffet. In a separate area, kids can enjoy the petting zoo, take scenic photos and partake in a classic Easter egg hunt. Children can put their skills to the test with two specially designed magical-themed escape rooms and relax afterward in the movie room. So, don't be late and reserve your spot now for an all-day extravaganza down the rabbit hole! Entry tickets include a sumptuous Easter brunch buffet, unlimited beer, wine and soft drinks and whimsical Easter garden activities.



Journey of Taste – India By Hyatt Regency Beijing Wangjing

The series of 'Journey of Taste' at Market Café is making a comeback with its first stop at incredible India. Joining hands with Chef Sanjeev from Punjabi Restaurant, Chef Rabiul, Indian Chef of Hyatt Regency Beijing Wangjing, will bring food lovers authentic Indian delicacies, including Pani Puri, Kutti Mirch Ka Murgh (Roasted Chicken, Indian Spice Rub), Gosht Zimikand Ka Chaap (Braised Lamb, Yam, Yoghurt Gravy), traditional Indian Tandoori Kebab (Creamy Broccoli, Sea Bass, Chicken), Kewda Akhrot Vegan Kulfi (Green Cardamom, Pandan Cream, Vegan Oat Milk, Ice Cream) and more.

SHANGHAI



Spring Retreat at The PuLi Hotel and Spa

Leave ordinary behind and enjoy a fresh spring season at The PuLi, where an all-new retreat package has been curated just for you. A series of exclusive benefits, including Hostmanship™ benefits, room upgrade (subject to hotel availability at time of booking), daily breakfast for two and RMB300 hotel food, beverage and spa credit, will be offered to make this season more beautiful. This deal is valid until June 30.



The Westin Bund Center Shanghai Announces its Festive Brunch This April

The Westin Bund Center Shanghai continues to take its Sunday brunch to a new level. With two floors of food extravaganza (with weekly brunch themes throughout the year), free-flowing champagne, a wine buffet, a 'make-your-own' cocktail bar and a myriad of entertainers. For details and reservations, please contact Dining Reservations at (021) 6103-5048, e-mail: shanghai.restaurants@westin.com or visit www.westinshanghai.com/dining-sunday-brunch.

SHENZHEN



The Langham x Guerlain Afternoon Tea

The Langham, Shenzhen's Palm Court is once again partnering with French luxury cosmetics brand Guerlain to present 'Guerlain Sensational Temptation Afternoon Tea.' The pastry team has incorporated the Guerlain's Orchidee Imperiale series into tempting and exquisite dessert creations.



Refreshing Drinks at Afterwardz

Enjoy refreshing handcrafted beverages inspired by springtime at Afterwardz at Sheraton Shenzhen Futian Hotel. Flavors like fizzy grapefruit and blackcurrant ice tea are available for guests looking for a nice and relaxing time.

JINJIANG



Marco Polo Jinjiang Showcases New-Look Continental Club Lounge and Guestrooms

Marco Polo Jinjiang is delighted to unveil the newly refurbished Continental Club Lounge and guestrooms. The guestrooms on the Continental Club Floor have been refurbished with a focus on Asian accents and styling to reflect the ambience of the region - featuring open spaces and the use of natural light. With personalised check-in and round-the-clock butler service, The Continental Club offers contemporary accommodation with exclusive privileges and a full range of business facilities.

GUANGZHOU

Westin Guangzhou's Mouthwatering Seafood Soup is All the Rage

Enjoy deliciously and carefully prepared Western specialties in a stimulating atmosphere, enhanced by stunning panoramic views by the floor-to-ceiling windows from their top floor. Get together for an unforgettable dining experience and enjoy the mouthwatering seafood soup at Prego, offering five kinds of different ingredients plus premium dishes and Western favorites. Make a date with friends and family to experience the seafood soup at Prego. There is just something so warming about a plate of seafood goodness! The seafood soup is available till April 30.



SCHOOL NEWS

SHANGHAI



Wellington College China's Festival of Education

After a yearlong hiatus, Wellington College China's Festival of Education is returning once again in April. This annual event is an opportunity for educators, parents and general education enthusiasts to come together, share ideas and gain new insights into teaching and learning. This year's theme is 'Interpreting the Future of Education' and will feature live events on Saturday, April 24 and virtual events on April 18-23. Pre-sale tickets for live events are now available. Virtual events are open to all and free of charge. Scan the left QR code to register for live events and the right QR code for online events.



Dulwich College Shanghai Pudong Wizard of Oz

Dulwich College Shanghai Pudong Senior School students delivered three knockout performances of The Wizard of Oz on March 11-13. They were happy to be able to host a small number of parents in-person in the theater, essential for the performing experience, and were thrilled to see over 700 parents tune in to the livestream. The timeless themes of adventure, friendship and appreciation for home really resonated with the community. Said Caroline Taylor, Head of College: "Many students have played less visible, but extremely important roles bringing our Senior School production to life. Only with everyone playing their part can the show truly go on."



Dulwich Puxi Bursts into Color with A Midsummer Night's Dream

Dulwich College Shanghai Puxi students performed the Shakespeare classic, A Midsummer Night's Dream. A black and white world burst into color with dancing, disagreements and disco! Exploding with humor, this play is an example of Shakespeare's finest poetry. This year our amazing all-star student cast was supported by our first student tech crew who designed and ran the technical and back-stage elements of the performance.



100 Ways to Celebrate 100 Days of School!

On Monday, 22 February, SSIS celebrated 100 Days of School with many creative and inspiring activities. For Pre-nursery, Nursery and K1, each child wore on a T-shirt with either 100 items or the numeral '100' on it; K2 children dressed up as (tiny) 100-year-old people. Each Primary grade worked on a particular 100 theme, which afforded learning from mathematics to English to sustainability. The milestone afforded us the time to reflect on what we had learned and reminded ourselves about what we could still achieve for the rest of the academic year.

BEIJING



House of Knowledge International Kindergarten Hosts Reading Week

House of Knowledge International Kindergarten had a fabulous Reading Week in March! Reading week is an annual event at House of Knowledge. This year was very successful, with a weeklong celebration of literature, poems and storytelling time. House of Knowledge celebrated Reading Week by asking children to bring their favorite books and read them to the class. Furthermore, they decided to celebrate Reading Week by inviting parents to read to their child's classmates throughout the week. There were various activities to keep the children interested, ignited and inspired throughout the event, including dressing up as their favorite book character, show and tell, crafts and more.



YueCheng Courtyard Kindergarten Wins A+Awards

The YueCheng Courtyard Kindergarten recently won the 2020 Popular Choice Winners Award in the Institutional (Kindergartens) category of the 8th Annual A+Awards. Organized by Architizer, the awards are highly touted. Unlike other schools that have a 'campus first, education second' philosophy, YueCheng Courtyard Kindergarten considers the learning environment as an important part of the education program from the early stage of the kindergarten design.

GUANGZHOU



Canadian International School of Guangzhou Hosts International Women's Day Panel

CIS commemorated International Women's Day on March 8 with an inspirational panel discussion featuring an international, all-female lineup of four prominent working mothers in the Guangzhou community. The candid conversation ranged widely from the need to prioritize and lead by example, to the vital role of education and the essential challenge of encouraging today's generation. Students and guests were inspired to #ChooseToChallenge for a better, equal future for men and women around the world.

SHENZHEN



SWIS Takes Home 19 Gold Medals at Math Olympics Event

The American Mathematics Olympiad (AMO) is an affiliate of Math Olympiads for Elementary and Middle Schools. SWIS Primary students achieved nine gold medals, 10 silver medals, and 21 bronze medals while SWIS Secondary students achieved 10 gold medals, 11 silver medals, and 12 bronze medals. SWIS is celebrating two student's achievements in Grades 5 and 7 who came 2nd and 1st in their Grade categories for the entire ASEAN and Greater China Region. SWIS hopes all students are satisfied with their results and also would like to thank the exceptional math teachers at SWIS for continuing to challenge the students.

ZHUHAI

Dulwich International High School Zhuhai Pledges to Raise the Bar for International Education in China's Greater Bay Area

Dulwich International High School Zhuhai, or Dulwich Zhuhai, hosted a group of British government officials on March 11, including Ms. Jo Hawley, HM Consul-General to Guangzhou, Mr. David Bull, Director for Regional Affairs, Greater Bay Area, British Consulate-General Guangzhou and other Guangzhou-based officials with the British Department for International Trade. The officials paid a visit to Dulwich Zhuhai's new campus in the Hengqin new district and held talks with the management teams of Dulwich College International and Dulwich Zhuhai as well as engaged with students at its current campus.

Dulwich International High School Zhuhai was jointly founded by Dulwich College International and Zhuhai Huafu Education in 2010. It has announced that it will move to its brand-new campus in August 2021 and will recruit 110 new students for the new school year. These new students will join the existing 300 students who will move from the existing campus in Xiangzhou district.

The 17,000-square-meter new campus is located at Huandao Bei Lu in Zhuhai's Hengqin New District, with buildings designed with the concept of integrating the beauty of the traditional Lingnan architecture of southern China and the iconic Dulwich-style British college buildings. The new campus is purpose-designed and equipped with the latest technology and equipment to facilitate advanced learning. The high-standard indoor air quality management system promotes health and wellbeing of all students, staff members and parents and can host up to 800 students in the future.





Horoscopes

Finally, a horoscope that understands your life in China.

By Rakini Bergundy



Aries

3.21~4.20

It is crucial to start finding the small joys of living in China. Whether that means the ability to seamlessly browse Dianping or score cheap clothes on Taobao.



Taurus

4.21~5.21

You may personally feel like you're 'over' Covid but please, please remember to still wear your mask in public spaces, Taurus.



Gemini

5.22~6.21

Be deliberate and organized in your actions. Try to use the tag function in WeChat for all your new contacts. Stay ahead of all those random requests.



Cancer

6.22~7.22

It may be the North American way to split bills evenly at every dinner, but your friends are sniffing out your cheap ways. Try and treat them every so often.



Leo

7.23~8.23

Politeness and flirtatiousness are two separate things. Get it straight Leo and own up to your actions.



Virgo

8.24~9.23

Typically, you're very good at enforcing your boundaries and standards. However, you've been stretching yourself too thin.



Libra

9.24~10.23

A big move is in the cards in your near future. Don't worry, you got this. A new start is exactly what you need.



Scorpio

10.24~11.22

Great things are coming your way, Scorpio. Your diligence and meticulous habits will pay off soon – and in big fashion.



Sagittarius

11.23~12.21

Sagittarius, you seem to be living like you're still 20 and on daddy's credit card. Maturity is something you need to grasp sooner than later.



Capricorn

12.22~1.20

You've been hurt and it's hard to trust, Capricorn. Don't give into raw emotions. Take a deep breath and drink some jasmine tea.



Aquarius

1.21~2.19

Don't blame others who seem to have life all figured out. If you're looking to grow, buckle down and try making some real plans for the next step.



Pisces

2.20~3.20

Stop caring what people think. If you want to start a Douyin or Xiaohongshu account, do it! This is the place to explore your inner influencer.

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Founded in Zhuhai over a decade ago, Dulwich International High School Zhuhai offers three to four years of the Cambridge Assessment International Education curriculum to both Chinese and overseas students aged 14-18, covering the IGCSEs and A Levels.

In August 2021, a move to a new purpose-built campus in Zhuhai's Hengqin New District will enable the school to offer a greater range of cross-curricular programmes whilst maintaining its outstanding academic results. Combining the rich heritage of Dulwich and a traditional Lingnan style, the new 17000m2 campus offers a harmonious cross-cultural environment for up to 800 students.



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