

# PASSPORT

MOSCOW

JUNE 2011

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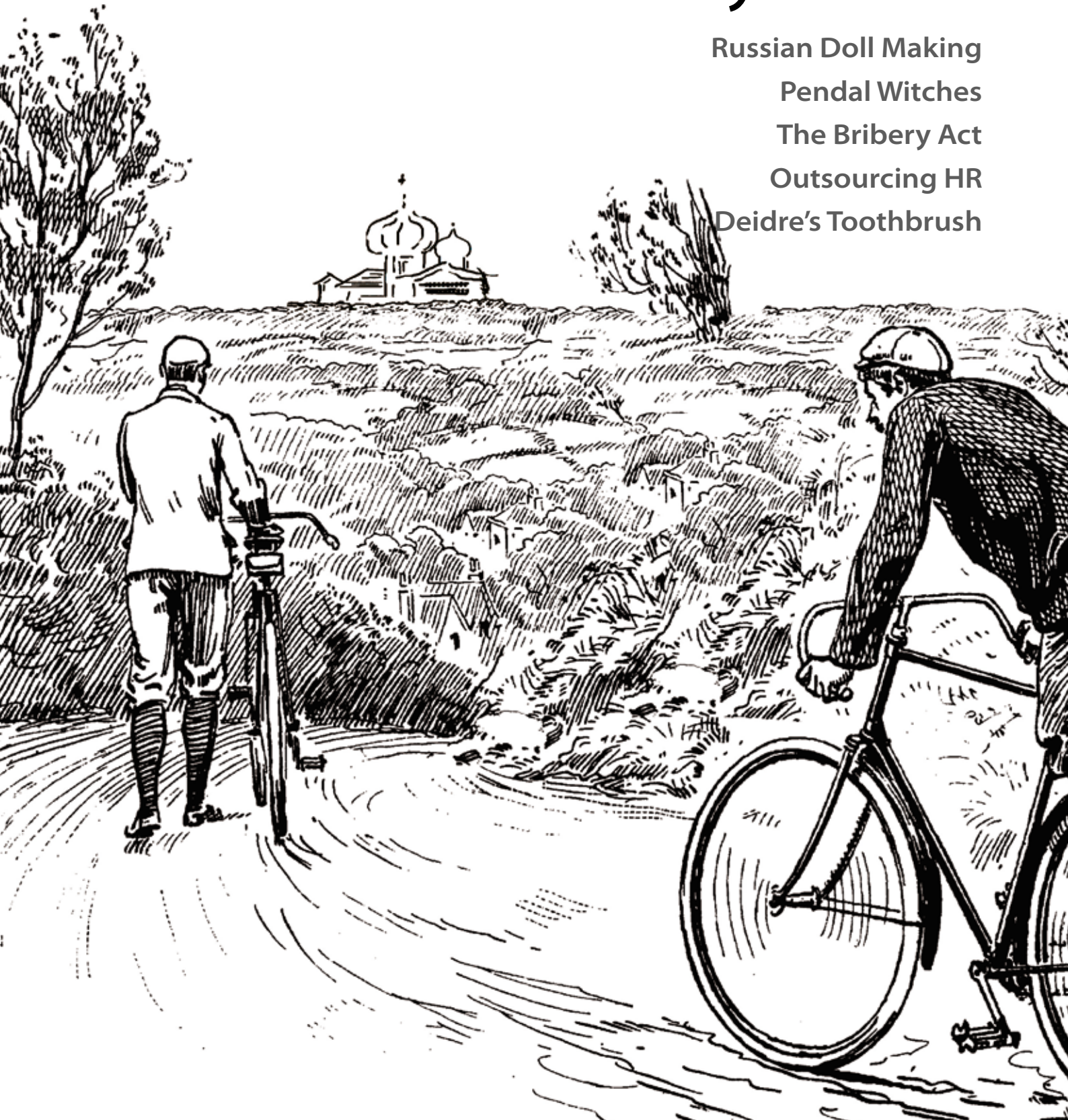
Russian Doll Making

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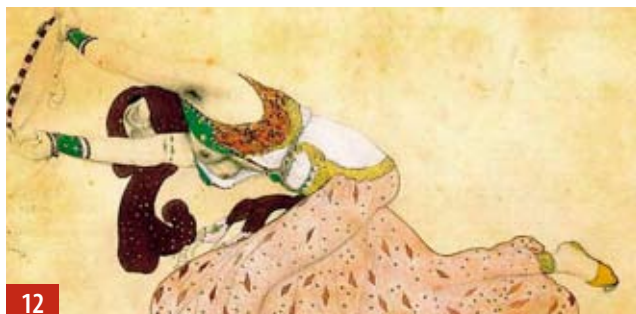
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**John Ortega**  
Owner and Publisher

Summer is here, but it won't be here for long. So get on your bike and explore this city and environs whilst the warm weather lasts. Touring cyclist Ian Mitchell takes you through the hows and whys, and even gives you some hints as to where to cycle once you get your bike. On a more serious note, Elena Rubinova presents a sobering article about who are the new Russian poor. Doran Doeh explains the UK's Bribery Act, which will come into effect

on July 1st. This act, as part one of this two-part series partly explains, is likely to have a direct, and serious effect on some British companies operating in Russia.

In this issue, Marina Lukanina talks to Tatiana Baeva, one of the most well-known Russian doll-makers. Russia was never considered to be a major European doll-maker, but the country is catching up fast.

School children aspiring to go to university next year may find our new Education Special useful. Now into its third month, the section is going from strength to strength, and we realise that there are a lot of people in this city, parents included, who would like to know more about what is on offer here in terms of higher education here, and abroad. This is something we will be continuing with, and we welcome any contributions from institutions of further education wishing to advertise and educationalists wishing to share their expertise.

Anth Ginn talks about witches in the north of England, Deidre Dare about sneezes and orgasms, and my sister Lucy about Ho Chi Minh City. Enjoy!

## Summer at The English International School

Long summer holidays are a mixed blessing! Children are better being busy, and learning while they play. While parents are working, filling every day can be tricky. One solution is a summer programme. Older students will find the advice in the PASSPORT Education Briefing section helpful. For children aged 4-15, have a look at Summer Club at EIS. For a week or a fortnight in July (11-22 this year), EIS offers a mixed programme of relaxed study and creative activity. The mornings include language work in English, Russian and French as well as computing, music, drama and art. The afternoons include sport, practical chal-



lenges—all taught in English. Anyone is welcome, for one week or two. [www.englishedmoscow.com](http://www.englishedmoscow.com) or 495 301 2104

## bmi is first British airline to enable flights to be booked via its mobile site

The launch of a new site delivers increased functionality designed for smartphones. bmi, British Midland International today launches a new, easy-to-use mobile site enabling customers to book and pay for flights using their smartphones—becoming the first British airline to do so.

The new mobile site, available via [flybmi.com](http://flybmi.com) allows customers with smartphones to gain enhanced access to the website. Users will get the key functionality that they would ordinarily get from accessing [flybmi.com](http://flybmi.com) on a computer but deliverable on the move and at their fingertips.

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- Frequently Asked Questions

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# BUSINESS LUNCH

BUSINESS DAYS 12PM - 4PM

## Lost pages

Lost pages is the title of the first exhibition in Moscow by Carmel Ilan, an artist from Jerusalem. This exhibition also inaugurates the opening of a new space for the famous Triumph gallery in Moscow.

Carmel Ilan was born in 1960 and was raised in Jerusalem. In 1984, she graduated from Shenkar School of Design in Tel Aviv and later was accepted for an apprenticeship in Parson's School of Design in New York. Between 1987 and 1988, upon returning to Israel, Ilan worked as a freelance fashion designer in Israel, while teaching fashion design at Shenkar School of Design. In 1989, Carmel established "Ikoo", an innovative chain of children's furniture that specialized in colored wood. The company had a fresh

outlook, with the concept of bright colors and fun shapes for children's furniture. In 1998, "Ikoo" was sold to "Beitili", a large chain of furniture stores, which kept the concept and Carmel's designs alive. In 2004 Carmel graduated with Honours from Basis School of Sculpture and has worked ever since as an artist in her studio in Even Yehuda. The collection of works presented for this exhibition is performed in a unique technique which partially explains the title: the pictures are compiled from thousands of books and magazine pages folded and matched in colour and tone. Some critics compare Carmel Ilan's works to woven carpets. Weaving and books in this context come together strengthening through each



other the idea of trespassing the traditions from one generation to the following. **P**

**May 20-June 12, 11:00-20:00**

*Triumph gallery*

*Building 5, 3/8 Ilyinka street*

## Holy Russia



The current exhibition at the State Tretyakov Gallery is an unprecedented show dedicated to the history of Christian Russia and is entitled Holy Russia. It encompasses Russian Art from the 9th to the 18th century, and was initially prepared by curator Jannic Durand especially for the Louvre Museum in Paris. Opened by presidents Medvedev and Sarkozy last spring, it was a huge success with the French audience, so a decision was taken to bring the exhibition to Moscow. The exhibition is arranged chronologically and starts with the appearance of "Russians" in the historical record and the rivalries and power struggles between Latins, Vikings and Byzantines. With the "baptism" of Vladimir the Great in 988, "Rus" became Christian, taking its ecclesiastical model from Constantinople. Christian art flourished in Kiev, Chernigov,

Novgorod, Pskov. Vladimir and Suzdal eagerly absorbed elements of the Byzantine art and generated its own peculiar Russian features. After the 13th century invasion and domination of the region by the Mongols, Christian art was revived in the major Russian centres, bringing notable painters such as Theophanes, Rublev and Dionysius to Russia.

This renaissance was accompanied by an unprecedented proliferation of monasteries and the gradual ascendancy of Moscow. For Jannic Durand the "heart of the matter is that it's not Byzantine art, it's not Christian art, it's not oriental art, it's Russian art." **P**

**May 26-October 30,  
10:00-19:00, except Monday**

*State Tretyakov gallery*

*[www.tretykovgallery.ru](http://www.tretykovgallery.ru)*

## Jazz open-air

The beautiful mansion of Arkhangel'skoye on the bank of the Moscow River historically was a site of entertainment for the nobility. Its founder Prince Nikolai Golitsyn who was a favourite of Catherine the Great, began the construction of this magnificent palace in the 1780s. Nowadays, every June the huge park hosts an elegant open-air festival called Usadba Jazz. The layout of the park makes it possible to create different zones for music fans of different genres. The event brings together the best jazz musicians and their fans for a weekend of music under the summer sky. All styles—mainstream, lounge, free jazz, acid jazz, jazz rock, funk etc.,

will be represented on four stages by more than 30 names from Russia and other countries. This year's programme presents impressive line-ups: Lucky Peterson, the band "of all epochs" Bravo, Nino Katamadze, Billy's Band Sextet, the Amsterdam Klezmer Band.

Felix Aranovsky will present a symphonic programme with the orchestra of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Guitarist John Scofield, the Melvin Williams Group from the USA, special guests Linley Marthe & Paco Sery will all be playing on the Aristocrat stage. A new stage for this year called Bereg (river bank) will present Ukrainian jazz in the form of the Gorchitza band and the Tesla Boy group (Moscow). To provide



parents with a chance to actually relax, the organizers have prepared a special game zone for children. As usual we are waiting for a day of jazz and sunshine during the day, and jazz and fireworks at night. **P**

**June 4-5, 14:00-22:00**

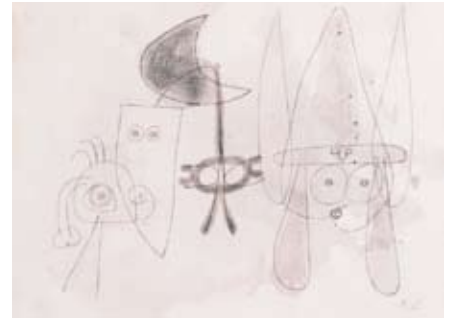
*Arkhangel'skoye Mansion*

*For schedule and address see:*

*[www.usadba-jazz.ru](http://www.usadba-jazz.ru)*



## Masterpieces of the XX century from the collections of Instituto Valenciano de Arte Moderno (IVAM)



This exhibition is a part of a large-scale cultural exchange programme of Spanish art in Russia and Russian art in Spain. The guest of the Moscow Museum of Modern Art is its counterpart from Valencia, the IVAM museum. Both institutions have much in common: both were launched approximately at the same time: two decades ago. Both museums store about 10,000 items and both are focused on the national artists, illustrating the fundamental forms of expression of twentieth-century art. The thematic areas on which IVAM specially focuses

are photography and photo-collage, installations and new media, abstract art, pop art, sculpture and drawing on paper. Francisco Jarauto, professor of philosophy and consultant at IVAM is the curator of the Moscow exhibition. He has selected the best of the best from IVAM's collection of photography, installations and new media. IVAM was the first Spanish museum to start a collection of contemporary photography and it now possesses a series of major works by László Moholy-Nagy, El Lissitzky, Alexander Rodchenko, Walker Evans, Cartier-Bres-

son, Constantin Brancusi, Georges Brassai, Robert Capa, Man Ray and others. On display are also abstract works featuring Jean Arp, Alexander Calder, Alberto Corazón, Robert Delaunay, Lucio Fontana, Naum Gabo, Julio González, Luis Gordillo, Raoul Hausmann, Paul Klee—to name but a few. **P**

**June 8-October 30, 11:00-19:00,**  
except Mondays  
Moscow Museum of Modern Art,  
25, Petrovka Street

## Baroque in the Palace

Concert of Baroque music at the Sheremetev family's summer estate of Kuskovo

Chamber Orchestra "Cantilena", conductor Andrei Istomin  
Olga Zhirova (soprano, Russia), Henriette Schenk (mezzo-soprano, Holland), Helen Womack (alto, England) and Daria Gushcha (harpichord, Russia) in a glittering programme of music by Purcell, Monteverdi, Vivaldi, Handel and Pergolesi **P**

**Tuesday 7 June, 19:00**  
Kuskovo Estate, Ul. Yunosti 2  
Tickets: 500 roubles Information:  
Tel. 613-2719, 375-5252

## Jamiroquai

Jamiroquai, one of Britain's best jazz funk and acid jazz bands is to premiere to premiere its new album *Rock Dust Light Star* in Moscow. The band is in Moscow this June to premiere material from its new studio album, *Rock Dust Light Star*. The musicians recorded the disc in Jay Kay's home record studio in Buckinghamshire and also Karma Studios in Thailand to present a brand new sound, from beyond the previous musical frontiers of the band. Jamiroquai has sold 25 million records to date, according to Universal. The band's biggest selling U.K. album, 1996's *Travelling Without Moving*, has sold 1.2 million units, according to the Official U.K. Charts Co. **P**

**June 12, 19:00**  
Crocus City Hall

# 16th-20th centuries paintings from the Kursk State Art Gallery at the Tretyakov Gallery

Olga Slobodkina-von Bromssen

This new exhibition is part of the Federal project "The Golden Map of Russia," which is designed to display the collections of the Russian regions. This is the 35th project, and presents about 60 works of art of Russian, Italian, Dutch, French and Swiss masters, transported from their home at the Kursk State Art Gallery.

up a museum was implemented only in 1935 when about 200 works were allocated from the art department of the Regional National Historical Museum. That same year, the famous Soviet artist and sculptor Alexander Alexandrovich Deineka who was born in Kursk in 1899 also donated his own works to the museum, which was named after him in 1969 when he died. At the present time, the museum has over 8,000 works of art—paintings, sculptures, drawings, works of folk and decorative applied arts, created both by national and foreign masters. The current exhibition at the Tretyakov Gallery displays the most interesting works from the Kursk Art Gallery.

West European art is presented by 13 canvases, which originally came

Barocci (1535-1612), a representative of the late mannerism.

The Russian part of the display includes over 40 works of art dating back to the 18th-20th century, here you can see canvases of such famous Russian masters as Ivan Kramskoy, Vladimir Makovsky, Isaak Levitan and Ilya Repin.

The gallery owns a precious collection of works from the beginning of the 20th century including that of artists of the famous "The Jack of Diamonds", "The Donkey's Tail" and "The Target" art groups. Viewers will see the remarkable work of Ilya Mashkov "Still-life with Reed" and "Still-life with a Red Tray" by Piotr Konchalovsky (both painted in the 1910s). It's interesting to compare two portraits painted by Robert Falk: "A Lady Wearing a Yellow Blouse" (1910) and "A



*Giovanni Tiepolo, A Left hand*



*I.E. Grabar, Flora, 1934*



*K. Trutovsky, In a Flood.*

The history of the collection is older than the museum itself, something typical for art museums in the Russian provinces. The collection began when historical-archeological museum and the handicraft museum came into being (1903-1905). The first works were donated by individuals, and the main part of the collection was formed during post-revolutionary years when canvases were expropriated from nationalized mansions belonging to such famous aristocratic families as the Baryatinskys, the Shwartzs, the Nelidovs and the Rebinders. However, the idea of opening

from the Baryatinsky and the Shwartz mansions, such as "Still-life with a Self Portrait" by the Italian master Francesco Maltese (second half of the 18th century), and the canvas "St. Catherine from Alexandria" by an unknown artist of the 17th century. The Baryatinsky's collection also includes "The Head of an Old Man" by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo (1696-1770) as well as "The Portrait of the Great Princess Elizaveta Alekseyevna" (1797) by the famous French lady artist Élisabeth-Louise Vigée-Le Brun. The real masterpiece of the collection is "The Portrait of a Girl" by Federigo

Parisian Lady" (1936), which demonstrate the evolution of the figurative language of the master. Also on display are "A Gild with Flowers" (1917) by Boris Kustodiev, which is not well-known to the Moscow public, "By the River" (1894) by Viktor Borisov-Musatov and "A Lady Taking off her Glove" (1924) by Alexander Osmyorkin. **P**

*The current display is runs until  
July 31, 2011*

*Engineer Building, 2nd floor,  
Lavrushinsky Pereulok 12*





Compiled by Ross Hunter, Headmaster,  
The English International School

PASSPORT's third education briefing goes global. April's and May's briefings started with the UK and the USA, and we will look at those in more detail throughout the summer. Prospective students wanting a first degree in English will inevitably think first of those two. However, there is a huge and expanding range of alternatives, all over the world. We cannot cover every option, but give you a sample of the diverse opportunities, from the Atlantic to the Baltic, from Moscow to the Pacific.

Remember, do not confine your choices to subjects studied at school. Applications are a six to ten month process, and you need to start now to be ready for the (usual) late-autumn deadlines. Use your spare time well. For vocational subjects such as medicine, holiday or weekend time spent working or observing in hospitals, clinics or vets' surgeries is essential. Fine art is different! A really strong personal portfolio is a must, so Lesley Marks offers vital advice. Do contact anyone on these pages, but above all, get professional advice, early. We welcome feedback and especially articles by experts. [ross\\_hunter@englishedmoscow.com](mailto:ross_hunter@englishedmoscow.com)

### Portfolios for Art Students

Firstly, the portfolio should portray a student's own ideas, and not the ideas of a teacher. We are looking for indicators of how the student sees the world: what is of interest, how

### Calendar of Events – June

- 5-8** Art and design student exhibition at BHSAD
- 7** University of Nottingham: presentation at The British Council, Moscow
- 9** Media Management: lecture by The University of Westminster also at The British Council
- 30** PASSPORT July edition published, featuring advice on scholarships (by Westminster University), portfolios for fine art students (by Middlesex University), UCAS and cost planning, and much more.

it is perceived. Buy a small sketchbook and use it as an "art diary", sketching, drawing or painting objects of interest every day. Try describing in words why the objects you have sketched interest you. In this way, you develop the ability to think about what influences you, why you see things in a certain way, and how to articulate your feelings about what you see around you.

Secondly, the portfolio should demonstrate a range of media: sketches, drawings, paintings, photography, ceramics or sculpture. Original works need not be included unless you are showing the portfolio in person.

Thirdly, the portfolio should demonstrate your progress over at least two years. Include 20-30 best works dating back up to 4 years. Labels or short descriptions can also be included if you feel this enhances the understanding of the work.



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Students often apply to fashion design, graphic design or fine art programmes before they have tested their abilities. Many undergraduate applicants will be required to join a one-year foundation programme during which they will discover their real skills. This process often leads to a change of direction and the fashion designers of yesterday turn out to be the graphic artists, or interior designers, or product designers of tomorrow!

There are no certainties at the start of a career in art and design, but the process cannot be cut short. It is helpful if this information is included in the personal statement and reflected in the mature portfolio. Lesley Marks, Middlesex University, London: l.marks@middlesex.com.cy

## Partnerships offering courses & UK qualifications in Moscow

This list is not exclusive. Data kindly supplied by The British Council. Contact us to add your course.

Moscow Higher School of Social and Economic Sciences & University of Manchester, <http://msses.ru/en/>

Academy of National Economy & Kingston University, <http://www.ane.ru/homepage.html>

MIRBIS & London Metropolitan University, <http://mirbis.ru/en/listpartner.htm>

Higher School of Economics & The Universities of Birmingham, Leeds, London Metropolitan, <http://ir.hse.ru/faculty>

British Higher school of Art and Design & Hertfordshire, [www.britishdesign.ru](http://www.britishdesign.ru)

## More on the USA

In May, we published an introductory guide to study in the USA. With help from Occam Education, here are some tips for applications:

- Standardised tests (SAT or ACT) will be needed, and need practice. There are testing centres in Moscow;
- You are likely to need to prove your English with TOEFL (on line) or IELTS (at British Council, inter alia);
- Visit USA and UK Universities in the Easter or summer breaks, a year before finishing school.
- Build your Curriculum Vitae: make sure you have got a broad range of skills and interests. You need to show a "spike" of real, dedicated commitment, experience or brilliance in your principal field, plus an interesting balance of sport, music, drama, charity work, social service and whatever else makes you an asset to them;
- Summer courses: especially for USA-bound applicants, taking a course at one of your target places during the over-long summer is considered helpful.

Contact: Nancy Maxwell at [raypsychser@aol.com](mailto:raypsychser@aol.com) or Patrick Brown at [pbrown@occameducation.com](mailto:pbrown@occameducation.com)

## The Sino-British College, Shanghai

Are you interested in China, and would like to obtain a UK degree from a top UK university? There is a university set up in Shanghai: the Sino-British College (SBC) which can help you. This is a joint venture between the University of Shanghai for



The Sino-British College, USST  
上海理工大学中英国际学院

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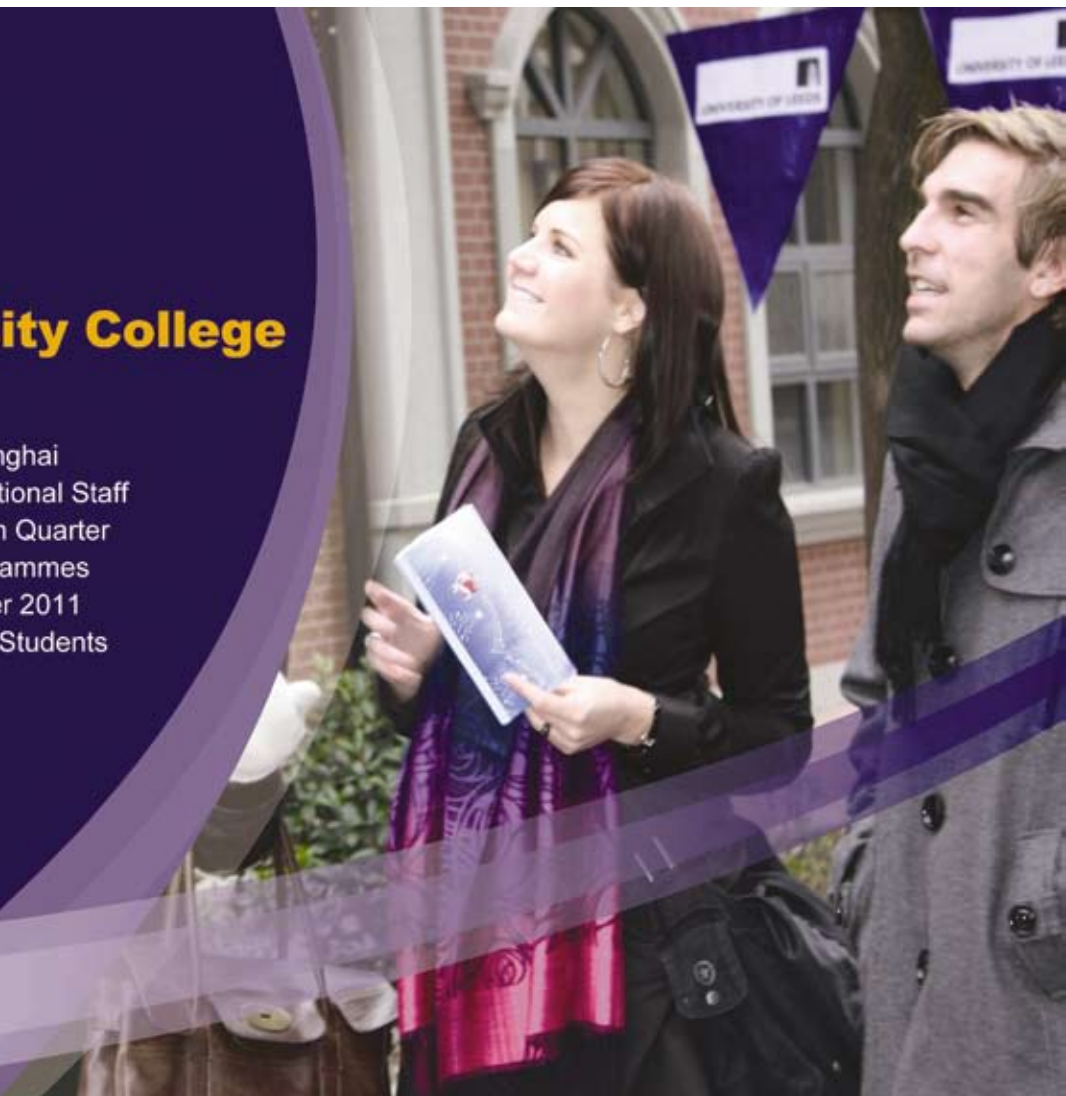
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[www.sbc-usst.edu.cn](http://www.sbc-usst.edu.cn)





Science and technology and nine British universities, including the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield Hallam, Bradford and Manchester Metropolitan. Tuition is in English and Chinese is also offered. These UK universities specialise in engineering and business studies, and SBC offers 120 such courses, from accountancy to business management, to automotive, aerospace and mechanical engineering, from air transport and logistics management to retail management and more. Each degree is awarded by that UK university collective which specialises in that subject. There is a large range of options available which include time in the UK, such as 3+1 or 2+2 years. You can select the most suitable combination for you.

Graduates are awarded the same British degree as that of wholly UK-based graduates. The difference is that when all costs are added up, the total price comes to about half of that of studying in England, and graduates, who will speak reasonable Chinese by the end of their course, will have access to the UK job market, as well as opportunities in the rest of the world, because a UK degree is accepted almost everywhere. SBC is based in central Shanghai, where there are many job opportunities with international companies. The college also helps students to apply for competitive internships with key multinational businesses during their time.

Enquiries and applications can be made directly here in Russia: for further details, write to [harrisonjohnng@gmail.com](mailto:harrisonjohnng@gmail.com)


## **The European University** – Business Management

Established in 1973, The "EU" concentrates on business, at undergraduate and MBA levels. Marketing, banking, finance,

HR and sports management are notable specialisms. The broad network encourages students to participate in inter-campus exchanges, and spend at least one year in an alternate location. Choose among Spain, Switzerland, Germany, The UK, Austria, Kazakhstan, Syria, Taiwan, China, Malaysia and Singapore. Time is spent on case studies and in leading businesses. EU has also developed dual award programmes with partners in the USA. All courses are taught in English, and co-ordinated across campuses. EU is accredited by ACBSP, IACBE and CEEMAN, and highly ranked by reviewers in Spain, Europe, China and elsewhere. Visit [www.euruni.edu](http://www.euruni.edu).

## **MBA at St. Petersburg University**

Started in 2009, this dual degree executive course 'DDEMB-A' is a joint programme of the Graduate School of Management, St. Petersburg University and the business school HEC Paris. This joins two faculties from two leading and highly ranked business schools. Taught in English, this formative programme is designed for mid-career professionals.

The thirteen core courses include business simulation, one major and two professional projects. The core courses and business simulations are held in St. Petersburg and Paris. Major projects are held in Europe, the Americas, Asia and the Middle East. Notably, it mixes participants from different business sectors and home markets. It is led by Dr. Kai-Alexander Schlevogt, who trained in Oxford and came to Russia from Singapore. He enthuses about such international training as being the model for the next generation of business leaders. Visit [www.gsom.pu.ru](http://www.gsom.pu.ru). 

# THE·END·OF·YEAR·EXHIBITION·2011

— Graphic Design and Illustration, Interior and Spatial Design, Product Design, Fashion Design, Foundation Art and Design —



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Marina Lukanina

## **“Les Contes de Hoffmann” by Jacques Offenbach** The Stanislavsky Music Theater

The latest opening night at the Stanislavsky Theatre was devoted to Jacques Offenbach's only opera, *Les Contes de Hoffmann* (Hoffmann's Fairy-Tales). In the programme for the performance at the Stanislavsky Music Theatre, the opera is described as being a “fantasy opera in three acts with a prologue and epilogue”. Several of Hoffmann's stories are used in the opera's libretto.

Twenty five years ago, this opera, which is rarely staged in Russia, enjoyed tremendous success at the Sverdlovsk (now Ekateriburg) Theatre, and was later brought to Moscow on tour. The same three key people who created the original opera helped to recreate it on the Stanislavsky Theater stage—Alexander Titel, the Director and the Artistic Director of the theatre, Valery Levental, the Set Designer, and Evgeny Brazhnik, the Production Music Director.

The new opera is amazing, which is not a surprise taking into account the high artistic and music quality of this theatre's productions. The set design deserves a special mentioning. You have three hours to feast your eyes on a great variety of stage sets—Paris theatre Garnier, streets and cafes, Venice with its beautiful gondolas, huge Pegasus statue.

*Les Contes de Hoffmann* uses the technique of “theatre at the theatre”. According to the libretto, Hoffmann speaks about love and misdeeds while there is a performance going on in the nearby theatre.



I was particularly impressed by Hibla Gerzmava, the leading soloist, who sang four different music parts. This is a very well-done production with impressive singing and beautiful set design. **P**

**When: June 20**

*The Stanislavsky Music Theatre*

17 B. Dmitrovka str.

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## **“Pushkin. Duel. Death”** The Moscow Young Generation Theater (MTYuZ)

I can fully relate to the point mentioned by one of the critics about this performance that: “After this play you have a strong urge to get all the books you have about Pushkin, look through them, compare and ask yourself the same question as Ginkas (the director): could this have happened any other way?”

Alexander Pushkin was a Russian author of the Romantic era who is considered to be the greatest Russian poet and the founder of modern Russian literature. Pushkin pioneered the use of vernacular speech in his poems and plays, creating a style of storytelling—mixing drama, romance, and satire—as associated with Russian literature ever since, and greatly influencing later Russian writers. He died as a result of a duel with Georges d'Anthès at the age of 37.

In this play, Pushkin's contemporaries get together around the table to talk about his genius and discuss the consequences of the duel and what a great loss Pushkin's death was for the Russian cultural heritage. The performance is played in a small white room (Small Stage) with about 50 people in the audience. It creates a real connection between the audience and the actors. Several minutes into the performance you are totally swept away by the magnitude of the acting talent of the cast. This performance makes you feel as if these events just happened; you start to empathize with Pushkin as if he were someone you personally knew. That is one of the key elements of this production—you feel personally touched by the tragedy being told.

It is impossible to believe that this performance, which won Kama Ginkas, the director, received the State Prize of Russia,



has been in this theatre's repertoire since 1999. It is so alive, intense and encouraging. I hope it will remain in the repertoire for many more years. **P**

**When: June 6, 28**

*The Moscow Young Generation Theatre (MTYuZ)*

10 Mamonovsky per.

Tel: +7 (495) 699-5360

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## "The Rostov Action"

The Moscow State Academic Chamber Musical Theater named after Boris Pokrovsky



On April 26th this legendary show was performed at the theatre for the 250th time. The opening night dates back to 1982. While watching this performance I felt like I was back in the Middle Ages witnessing a passion play (mystery) at the medieval theatre.

The Rostov Action is what they call a "Christmas comedy" of the 17th century. It was written by the great churchman Dmitry Rostovsky (1651-1709). He was especially talented in music and composed a series of chants. He created The Rostov Action at a time when Russia was in the midst of Peter the Great's reforms, and when the church experienced difficulties in defending and maintaining basic spiritual principles.

This passion play tells the story of Christ's birth, and along with the usual Biblical characters we see some allegorical ones that represent such notions as Kindness, Evil, Love, Hatred, Peace, and War. This performance is full of church chants as well as folk songs that were sung for centuries in Russia, Ukraine and Poland.

Besides the ordinary stage, the actors use some sort of a podium and the audience sits on both sides of it; therefore, the entire stage resembles a T-structure, placing the audience almost in with the actors. No matter how long ago the play was written, it is still very relevant, raising eternal human problems, like the unending battle between good and bad.

This was one of the most original performances I have ever seen. The genre is highly unusual for the Russian theatre. So if you would like to listen to some extraordinary music and picture yourself as the audience of a medieval theatre, then you should check this one out. **P**

*When: check the repertoire*  
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# The World of Art group

Olga Slobodkina-Von Bromssen

The World of Art group was very important in the celebrated art of the Silver Age of art in Russia, which in turn played a very significant role in the history of Russian symbolism and art nouveau. This movement started in St. Petersburg at the end of the 1890s. The first members were Alexander Benuea, Walter Nouvel and Dmitry Filosofov. Leo Bakst, Eugene Lancere, Konstantin Somov and Sergei Dyagilev joined later. A magazine, with the same name was first published in 1898 by group members. The founding members were St. Petersburg artist Alexander Benois and Sergei Dyagilev, the theatre entrepreneur, patron and organizer of the famous festival of Russian art in Paris "Russian Seasons".

After 1904, the group expanded and lost its ideological unity. In 1904-1910, most World of Art members joined the Union of the Russian Artists. After the 1917 Revolution, many artists had to emigrate. The group ceased to exist in 1924.

The artistic orientation of the World of Art group was interconnected with art nouveau and symbolism. To counter-balance the so-called traveling artists (a famous 19th century realistic movement), World of Art members proclaimed lofty aesthetic principles of self-expression of the individual. In one of the first issues of the movement's magazine, Dyagilev wrote: "A work of art is important not by itself, but only as an act of expression by its creator." Supposing that civilization is antagonistic in regard to culture, members of the World of Art group looked at the art of the past for inspiration. On the pages of their magazine, artists and writers opened up the beauty of the Russian Middle Ages for the reader, in both architecture and icon-painting. This culture was not adequately appreciated at that time, they thought. They also revealed the elegance of classical St. Petersburg and its neighbouring palaces. They made the public ponder over the fact of how contemporary ancient civilizations were, and to reconsider their national artistic and literary heritage.

The group's main idea was laid down by the outstanding art patron and connoisseur Sergei Dyagilev (1872-1929) in an article he wrote: "The complicated issues. Our alleged decay". Beauty was declared as the main idea of the fine arts, and not just beauty, but subjective beauty as perceived by each individual artist. This gave the artist absolute freedom when choosing topics, images and expressive means. This was quite new and extraordinary for Russia.

The World of Art group helped Russian audiences appreciate many interesting facets of Western culture, for example Finnish and the Scandinavian painting, the British pre-Raphaelite artists, as well as the graphic art of Beardsley. The artists grouped around Benois and Dyagilev considered it very important to cooperate with symbolist writers. In 1902, the poet Andrey Bely published his article, The Forms of Art. After that the most famous poets-symbolists were regularly published in the magazine. World of Art artists, however, did not involve themselves only in symbolism. They strived towards not only stylistic unity, but also towards creating a unique creative personality. They shifted the emphases from the issues of the form to the problems of creating a pictorial language.

The World of Art was very versatile. The artists involved painted, worked as theatrical designers, and decorative ap-



*Mstislav Dobuzhinsky, Courtyard in St. Petersburg.*



*Leo Bakst, sketch for Scheherezade*



*Mstislav Dobuzhinsky, Man in Glasses.*



plied artists. However, the most important place in their heritage belongs to graphic art.

Alexander Benois excelled in graphics. His illustrations he created for Alexander Pushkin's poem, *The Bronze Horseman*, from 1903 to 1922 are striking. St. Petersburg itself became the protagonist of the whole cycle. Its streets, canals, architectural masterpieces are revealed in the cold austerity of thin lines, against a dramatic contrast of bright and dark patches of light.

Leo Bakst (1866-1924) was strongest in theatre design. The most interesting are his works for the operatic and ballet productions of "*Russian Seasons*" in Paris in 1907-1914. Bakst drew sketches for the sets and costumes of the *Salome* opera by Johann Strauß, for *Scheherezade*. Music by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, for the ballet *Afternoon of a Faun* by Claude Debussy and other productions. Especially gorgeous are his costume sketches, which became independent graphic works of art of their own right. The artist designed the costumes keeping in mind the system of movement of the dancers. Through the lines and the colour, he aimed to reveal the design of the dance and the character of the music. His sketches amaze one by their insight into the nature of the image, the nature of the ballet and their extreme elegance.

One of the main themes for many of the artists of this group was the art of the past, nostalgia for the lost ideal world. Their favourite epoch was the 18th century, and first and foremost, the Rococo period. The artists did not only try to recreate that time, they directed public attention to French art, to Antoine Watteau and Jean-Honoré Fragonard for example.

The works of Alexander Benois are connected with the images of "the gallant age" where the palaces and parks of Versailles are presented as a beautiful and harmonious world, but abandoned by the people.

Rococo motives are especially expressive in the works of Konstantin Somov (1869-1939). He became a serious student of art history as a young man (his father was the director of the Hermitage Museum collections). Somov graduated from the Academy of Arts and became a committed connoisseur of Rococo painting, which he incorporated into his own paintings. The main genre of his creativity could be called a variation of "the gallant scene". The characters of Antoine Watteau come back to life in Somov's canvases—ladies wearing beautiful dresses and wigs, actors of the comedies of the masques. They flirt with each other and sing serenades in park alleys surrounded by the caressing glow of the setting sun.

However, "the gallant scenes" in Somov's paintings were not devoid of pain. It is not by chance that the image of death appears, for example in his water-colour, *Harlequin and Death* (1907). The composition is strictly divided into two halves. In the distance we can see a traditional set of Rococo clichés: the starry night, love couples and so on whilst in the foreground we see characters wearing masks, including the Harlequin wearing a motley costume and Death, a skeleton with a black cloak on. The silhouettes of both figures are delineated by sharp broken lines. In this bright palette, in the intentional striving for a stereotype, one can feel a gloomy grotesque atmosphere. Refined elegance and the horror of death turn out to be two sides of the same thing.

Mstislav Dobuzhinsky (1875-1957) concentrated on city landscapes. His Petersburg, unlike Benua's Petersburg, is devoid of romantic charisma. The artist chooses the most unattractive views, showing the city as a huge mechanism killing the soul of man.



Alexandre Benois, *Chinese Pavilion. The Jealous One*.

The World of Art did not exist for long as an integral literary and artistic group. In 1904 the movement's magazine was closed because of differences between the artists and writers. When the group was restored in 1910 its members could not regenerate its former glory. However, the group left a deep mark in the history of Russian culture. **P**



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# The Art of Doll-making

*"A small-scale figure of a human being, used especially as a child's plaything"*

– Webster's International Dictionary's definition of a doll



Tatiana Baeva, doll maker

## Marina Lukanina

Dolls have been a part of our collective culture since pre-historic times. The first dolls were found in Egyptian graves dating back to 2000 BC. Dolls placed in these graves led some to believe that they were cherished possessions.

In more recent times, Europe became a major hub for doll production. These dolls were primarily made of wood. An alternative to wood was developed in the 1800s. They are made of a mixture of pulped wood or paper that was used to make the dolls' heads and bodies. Papier-mâché, was one of the most popular such mixtures. In addition to wooden dolls, wax dolls were popular in the 17th and 18th centuries. Munich was a major manufacturing centre for wax dolls, but some of the most distinctive wax dolls were created in England between 1850 and 1930. Porcelain became popular at the beginning of the 19th century. The French "bebe" was popular in the 1880s. The bebe, first made in the 1850s, was unique because it depicted a younger girl. Until then, most dolls represented adults.

Doll-making did not become an industry in the United States until after the Civil War in the 1860s. Doll production was concentrated in New England. Dolls were made from a variety of materials such as leather, rubber, papier-mâché, and cloth. Celluloid was developed in New Jersey in the late 1860s and was used to manufacture dolls until the mid-1950s. After World War II, doll-makers experimented with plastics. The first well-known American doll-maker was Ludwig Greiner in Philadelphia. He made papier-mâché dolls from the mid-1840s to around 1874.

Doll-making as an artistic activity started appeared in the 1950s in Europe. The artists started making exclusive dolls as a means of self-expression, the dolls were intended for avid collectors.

PASSPORT talked to Tatiana Baeva, one of the most famous Russian doll-making artists. Tatiana is a member of Artist Alliance of Russia, head of the Doll Artist Association of Moscow Artist Alliance and is also a member of the National Institute of American Doll Artists (NIADA), a worldwide organization of doll artists, supportive patrons, and friends whose purpose is to promote the art of original handmade dolls. Her dolls are part of many private collections around the world; seven of her dolls are part of Demi Moore's collection.

### **How did you get into the art doll-making?**

I graduated from an Art School called "Art School named after 1905", as a Fine Art Restorer. I made my first doll collection in 1982 as a side interest from my other artistic endeavours. This was a new direction in that time, and there were no specific courses or supplies for doll-making. I had to experiment and play with different materials and techniques. Finally it became my true passion and devotion. Since the early 1990s, I have been focusing exclusively on doll-making. In 1992 I first went to Germany for the Global Doll Society Convention and won second prize there for my textile doll. I was amazed at the variety of materials used for doll making and how advanced everything was.

### **How do you define what an art doll is?**

That is not as easy question, as there are so many styles and looks, the entire world is trying to define that. It could be one-of-a-kind or a limited edition which tries to please the viewer and be in a way one's silent companion. Since such dolls are not for playing with, the word "doll" is being looked at



St-Petersburg, 16" (sitting), one-of-a-kind, Ekaplast, 1997, photo by Oleg Kaplin

Lorenza, 15" (sitting), one-of-a-kind, Ekaplast, 2010, photo by Maxim Poluboyarinov





Gregory, 17 1/2",  
one-of-a-kind,  
Efaplast, 2009,  
photo by Maxim  
Poluboyarinov



Moscow, 12",  
one-of-a-kind,  
Premier, 2005,  
photo by  
Tatiana Baeva

as being misleading and diminishing their value. Sometimes the notion "figurative art" is used these days. I call my dolls "dressed sculptures".

#### How do you start to create your masterpieces?

I first sculpt and paint the dolls and then dress them up. I make the costumes and shoes myself as well. My main goal is to give each doll a specific character. I do not link my dolls to any particular epoch. The costume has a secondary meaning and only helps to reveal the doll's character. If I make a Japanese woman, I don't dress her up in a kimono cut the original way. Rather I build the image through silhouette and associations. I try to make the costume as less sophisticated as possible and usually end up with a lot more work to do. That is one of the reasons my dolls are not "easily read". I once made a doll that looked Japanese but was dressed in black and I named her Carmen. To me this character is "nationality free" and could have existed in any country.

Every person sees different things in my dolls. Sometimes I am told about interpretations of my dolls that I hadn't thought of when creating them.

#### Do you create series of dolls?

Sometimes. One of my favourite such series is devoted to cities—New York, Venice, Verona, St. Petersburg and Moscow. The New York doll, the first one in this series, was a real breakthrough for me in terms of approach. I was driving a car in New York when all of a sudden I "saw" an image of this doll. It ended up being a guy dressed up in a white suit with a panoramic city scene drawn over it, a subway map on his shirt and his cylinder hat resembled the city silhouette.

The Moscow doll has lots of windows in her costume. Ever since I was a child I was amazed by open Moscow windows. I would always imagine possible stories that were happening

behind those windows. The St. Petersburg doll is a man playing cello and wearing an overcoat made up of a real map of Leningrad. In this series I again focused on my own associations that I had with these cities rather than trying to be historically correct. I love using subtle hints rather than concrete detail and then I add some illogical things to the characters. Demi Moore bought both Moscow and New York dolls.

#### What does the Russian art doll world look like nowadays?

In Russia, art doll making started quite late compared to the West. The first big international doll exhibition happened in 1997 with only three Russian artists. It is very different now and you can see wonderful works of many talented artists at various doll shows and related events. There are several galleries that exhibit and sell art dolls. I cooperate with the Elena Gromova Gallery "Doll Collection". This gallery offers doll making classes for people with different levels of interest.

#### What are you currently working on?

I am working on female characters, and my sculpting is almost done. So the next step is sanding and then painting. It seems like I have some vision and goals as it what it would look like, however, based on my experience it is too soon to talk about the details. Sometimes it feels like the doll is taking control over my plans, and steering my way. That is what makes this process so challenging and fun. I have just recently launched my own web-site, see: [www.baevadolls.com](http://www.baevadolls.com) **P**



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# Happy Russians on Planet

# Goa

By Helen Womack

I've finally lived to see it: a mass of happy Russians, smiling, friendly, relaxed and at ease. Of course, they weren't in Russia.

In Russia, Russians are stressed. When you get to know them personally, they make the best friends, being loyal, warm and hospitable. But *en masse*, on the Metro and in the marshroutkas, they are surly, sulky and obviously deeply dissatisfied. Who can blame them? As the Russian saying goes: "A dog bites because it lives a dog's life."

In Goa, a former Portuguese colony on the west coast of India, Russians are discovering another, gentler way of being. As if on another planet, they've started to love themselves. Or perhaps it's just that they're on holiday, having a high old time.

But the great thing is these vacationers are not rich; not super-rich, anyway. Ordinary Russians can afford a package getaway to Goa in January. Small business people, who can run their affairs from a laptop on the beach as easily as from an office in Moscow, are staying, in some cases, for the whole winter.

They are renting old, Portuguese villas and living as at the dacha until the season turns—the monsoon comes to India and the sun returns to Russia—and real dacha life resumes in the wooden cottages of the Moscow region.

This year, in particular, Goa was crowded with Russians because the revolution

in Egypt sent tourists looking for alternative warm destinations. On the 23 February, masses of Russians, including many from the military, celebrated Russian Army Day with cocktails at sunset on Baga Beach.

"Oh God, I'm so happy to be back," said Kolya, who shared a taxi with me from the airport to the hotel. "I've been coming to India for the last four years now. I travel but I make my base in Goa. I love it. I'll show you around later, if you like."

"Morning, morning, good morning," the guests greeted each other as they went to the breakfast room. Casually dressed, they spoke softly among themselves and it was hard to catch which language they were speaking: English, German, Russian? They were mostly Russian, in fact.

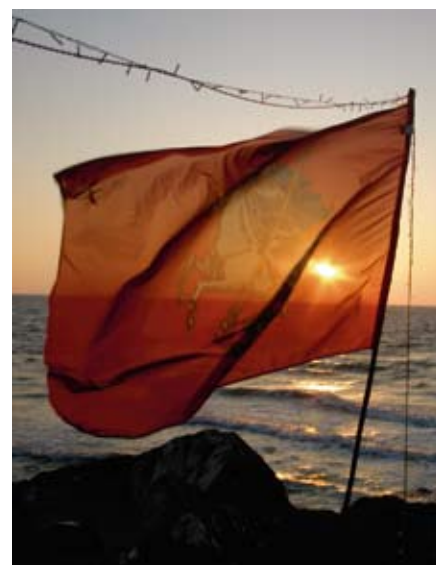
"My friend, my friend!" called out one Russian to the waiter. He had a problem. He wanted giant prawns for breakfast but lacked the English to order them.

The waiter lacked the Russian to explain to him that it was a set breakfast: eggs boiled, fried, scrambled or poached, toast and jam, tea or coffee.

"The Russians can be quite rude," the waiter said to me in an undertone.

"No, no, it's just the language barrier," I said, offering to translate.

The guest, who turned out to be called Volodya, a driver from Moscow region, didn't understand why, if he'd enjoyed giant prawns the previous evening, he



couldn't have them again for breakfast. I explained and he embraced me like a long-lost friend, an Englishwoman who spoke Russian.

The waiter was equally surprised and roped me in to giving a crash course in Russian to all the waiters, so they could communicate better: *zavtra* = tomorrow; *zavtrak* = breakfast etc.

Everyone was happy.

"Fancy a ride on the back on my scooter?" suggested Kolya after breakfast, so I let him take me along palm-fringed roads to nearby Vagator Beach, where he left me to walk, swim and sunbathe.

In front of the beach huts were rows of sun loungers, patrolled by Indians offering fresh fruit and bright sarongs. Behind the beach huts, I gathered, a fair amount of marijuana smoking was going on. No wonder everyone was so happy.

Down the beach, I spotted a red flag but it wasn't warning of dangerous currents. It was the flag of St. George, ensign of Moscow, advertising Restaurant Five, which offered borsch, pelmeni and okroshka to homesick Russians fed up with the spicy Indian diet.





abuzz with Russians buying clothes and souvenirs but I also discovered a community of near-resident Russians, who live by selling their crafts to the tourists.

Masha and her boyfriend, who sell paintings, invited me for a meal at their rented house and it was like going to the dacha in Moscow region on a summer evening.

"We basically live here all the time," they told me. "We rent out our flat in Moscow to finance a much more relaxed life in Goa."

The only problem was that from time to time, they had to leave India to renew their visas. "We just go to Thailand and then come back in again," they said.

On the last night, I watched the sunset with the package tourists from Novogireevo. "We'll be back," they said. "Maybe next year, we'll rent a house and stay longer."

I reflected that back in the 1990s the rabid nationalist politician Vladimir Zhirinovskiy predicted that Russian soldiers would "wash their boots in the warm waters of the Indian Ocean".

He turns out to have been right—but in the nicest possible way. **P**

The cafe was run by Margarita and Sasha Kuznetsova who, with help from local partners, had managed to take on the business for the season. They were doing a roaring trade, selling cocktails to tourists from Tyumen.

"This beats winter in Siberia," laughed one of the drinkers.

The most amazing thing was that the only public toilet on the entire beach—and clean it was too—was provided by these Russians. We had a good laugh about that.

Over the next few days, I hung out with the Russian tusovka crowd. There

was some serious drug-taking going on and not only marijuana.

"I've just come back from seeing the cremations at Varanasi," laughed one guy, completely off his face and naked except for a pair of threadbare underpants, decorated with rabbits. "Oh man, the bodies, the burning bodies, ha, ha, ha!"

This wasn't quite my scene but Russian Goa had other attractions to offer.

On Saturday, everyone said, I had to go to the night market, with all the latest tropical fashions. It was

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# Sunday in the Mekong: Cycling into fresh air

Sunday morning. Phu My Hung,  
District 7, Ho Chi Minh City.



Text and photos by Lucy Harrison

A day off work! An English teacher in Ho Chi Minh City with 184 "Persuasive" essays to mark. We have a program at work called Mark Master which inserts computer generated comments on essays. This is supposed to make things easier, but somehow the papers still come home and stare at me. Pleading. I remarked yesterday, at work, that Mark Master was a very sexist programme and was well suited to linguistics

imperialism of which, of course, and I am the first to admit it, I am a part. An oscillating part without a subject which puts me in the typically colonial position of resenting that which I am. Still, semantics never helps when it is Sunday and one is looking at 180 essays. Hmm. An alternative is in the making.

I have wheels! True. I make them go round with my own muscles. Quads. I am saving the earth's resources. My bicycle comes from China and cost a whopping \$100. So, if one considers that a policeman earns \$150 a month in Ho Chi Minh City, one can appreciate that a bicycle is quite a valuable asset. Hence I have two locks.

More valuable than its cost is the little bit of freedom it has given me. For the last two weeks I have practiced the art of going left. After leaving the underground parking lot I turn right, go over two bridges and then turn left. I go on for about 10 miles and turn left again. I keep turning left until I find myself back on the main road. I don't have a map as turning left always returns me to the place from which I departed. Next time I will try going right, it will end the same way. Isn't this how they discovered the world was round?

Turning left leads me in to the Mekong. Here I find ponds without a single plastic bag, styrofoam lunch box, remains of numerous meals or animals or every indescribable ghastly thing one every imagines that Hitchcock could put in a movie to tap into my vulnerable and never-to-recover

from "Psycho" psyche. I wouldn't like to fall into one of these ponds though as I can't see the bottom. It is, after all, only relatively clean. I imagine lots of soldiers wading through this and know that for me I would not have survived one day in THAT war.

I pass men fishing, lots of men fishing, fishing for crabs, some kind of fish, fish that thrive in suspect environs. I pass one room houses and am enshrined by a mask of incense and imagine all the relatives hovering above the metal roofs that have now replaced the thatch. Past a whole lot of garbage and straight in to a concert of Karaoke. I am invited in. And I go. This is what I did in Oman, and how much more or less dangerous could my dropping in for tea be in this country than the other?

Although there is an enormous amount of Tiger beer everywhere I am given iced Jasmine tea. Who are we fooling? Where are you from? I am asked by what could easily be a Pot Pol disciple but is probably a village policeman former interrogator former teacher, one can imagine so many things after seeing the likes of the 4th of July or Platoon, or, or, or. Canada I say. And I sing Oh Canada into the microphone and the Mekong and I am only on my first glass of jasmine tea.

It is always safe to say one is Canadian. Except in the UAE as Canadians have fallen out of grace—and Afghanistan of course. And.

Four hours later I have come full circle and am back on the two lane congested polluted incredibly noisy frenetic frantic mad, mad, mad, road back to Saigon (HCMC). Unlike last weekend, I have 6 bottles of water including one which says REVIVE and includes electrolytes. As a result, a phrase I teach my English for Academic Purposes Students, I am not so completely knocked out by exercise and relatively clean air as I was last weekend. In fact, I make it back to my apartment pretty much in one piece.

I remember that there weren't any happy screamers playing "war" this morning under my window. Why? Oh yeah, it is Easter. Ham' dillil'ah. **P**



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# A Day Out from Moscow

## Part 1: The Joys of Cycling

Ian Mitchell

To paraphrase Mick Jagger: summer's here and the time is right for cycling in the streets. I have been doing just that since I first came to live in Moscow nearly five years ago. I bought a second-hand mountain bike for exercise, local mobility and to make it easier to carry the week's shopping home from Ashan. For 3,000 roubles, I acquired the ability to cycle blithely past both trudging, bag-laden pedestrians and traffic-jammed motorists.

I next explored Khimki by bike, finding Beria's old dacha in the woods at Kurkino and a wonderful open-air pool in a sports complex at Planernaya which I still visit whenever the roads are dry. After thoroughly exploring Khimki I decided to go further afield. That was when I discovered the key to pleasurable cycling in Russia: the railways. You can take a bike on any elektrichka (though not long-distance train).

My first expedition was to visit the Polish cemetery at Mednoye. I wrote about this in *PASSPORT* in July 2008. I took the train from Khimki to Tver, and then changed to another and travelled a further four stops to a tiny country station, Kulitskaya, where I got off to find cows grazing beside the line, chickens running around the village and a dirt road leading off into a forest of tall pines and birches. Ten kilometres later I was next to the Tvertsa river, which was the final front line in November 1941 before the Soviet counter-attack began. It crosses the old Leningrad highway (the new road by-passes the town) at Mednoye. Close by, in the middle of a beautiful forest where the NKVD used to have its dachas, are the mass graves of about 6,000 Poles who had been killed in 1940 in a parallel operation to that at Katyn.

In Mednoye I found a shop where I could buy a can of beer, then sat in the sunshine by the war memorial at the bridge, overlooking the river, and ate my "bootterbrod" and a bar of chocolate amid the lush, mid-May greenery. This, I remember thinking with the force of revelation, is the way to see Russia.

Of course, I could have reached that spot by car, but the problem with cars is that you speed along and do not think of the little by-ways, much less explore them as I have done so many times to find unexpected surprises. You never get to places like Kulitskaya. And, of course, you do not get any exercise.

By the time I got back to the station, I had cycled 40 kilometres on a rather unhandy mountain bike on roads which were mostly either sand (see above) or lethally pot-holed tar. It was hard work. I was tired. I decided that I needed to buy a bicycle more attuned to long-distance cycling—and also to find better roads. To condense three years' experience into a very broad generalisation: stick to the Moscow oblast.

Another reason for confining yourself to the Moscow oblast is that it is the only part of Russia where there is a really excellent guide book, in English, which tells you where you might like to go and why. This is Kathleen Berton Murrell's *Discovering the Moscow Countryside* (I.B. Taurus). It has taken me three summers to explore only the highlights of the available destinations on the north-west to north-east quadrant out of Moscow, which is the most accessible from Khimki.

But the main thing you need to enjoy doing this is a proper bike, what the Russians call a шосейный велосипед (chausseyny velociped), or what I call a Tour de France-style bike. What is the best way to buy one?





There are many bicycle shops in Moscow, ranging from Ashan itself, where you can buy cheap but perfectly serviceable mountain bikes, to places like the specialist bike shop close to Tushinskaya Metro station or the enormous sport-equipment centre near Rechnoy Voksal, called Ekstreem (take the green line Metro to the north end then get the free marshrutka which shuttles between the two). However, the best place by far is the specialist bike market at Sokolniki, which is where I went. It has no street address and is not immediately obvious. Go to the rear of the Holiday Inn by the Sokolniki Metro station and walk about until you see bikes in profusion, then go inside, where you will find a covered market with innumerable traders who will not only sell you a bike, but make one up to your specification.

I found a friendly seller of Tour de France-type bikes and asked for the cheapest serious bike he could sell me. We selected a frame, handlebars, saddle and the type of pedals and gears I wanted. He put it all together on the spot (see above). I bought all the accessories I thought I might need: a "baggazhnik", water-bottle, speed-distance clock, some tools, spare inner tubes etc., and then cycled proudly home to Khimki.

The bike itself cost 15,000 roubles, and all the extras, including a foot pump and some more tools from Ekstreem, another 5,000. I was up and peddling for 20,000 roubles all in. That bike runs like a dream and has never given me a moment's trouble, though I have been careful to keep it clean and well-oiled etc. The result is that I have travelled all over the northern part of the Moscow oblast and been to places which few other foreign residents of the city have seen. My average weekend run is between 60 and 90 kilometres (the longest was 115 kms, cycling to Dubna on the Volga then taking the train back). Yet

it is so easy to ride that bike that I get into the bath afterwards feeling pleasantly tired rather than utterly knackered.

I plan my trips round the places of interest described in Ms Morrell's wonderful book. Then I consult the Moscow page of the Weather Underground website ([www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com)) to see which way the wind is likely to be blowing that day. Finally I look up the Russian Railways timetable on the internet and organise myself on the basis of travelling the downwind leg by bike and the upwind one by train.

I have also cycled quite a lot around urban Moscow on sunny weekends. Almost everyone expresses horror at the idea of taking a bike on the same roads as "Russian drivers". True, I have had "hairy moments" here, though very few, and no more often than I had them cycling in Edinburgh. In fact, Russian drivers are usually courteous towards cyclists, though some seem blind to their presence. If I were forced to generalise, I would say that there are more inattentive drivers in Russia than in Britain, but fewer aggressive ones. The result is much the same. Nowhere is cycling entirely safe. But then a life lived fully is not safe either.

Perhaps that is why cycling appeals to so many celebrities. Mick Jagger cycles, as do Paul McCartney, Eric Clapton, Madonna, Daniel Day-Lewis, Robin Williams and even the prince of petrol-heads, Jeremy Clarkson. They are all very much alive. The only celebrity I know of who came to harm on two wheels is George W. Bush. He famously crashed his bike into a carelessly-sited policeman while waving to the crowd at the G20 summit at Gleneagles in 2005. Arguably, that makes my point! **P**

*Over the next four months I will describe four of the most interesting places I have cycled to near Moscow.*



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## The Art of Poverty, Russian Style

Elena Rubinova

**Cameras, glossy magazines and TV love the rich and famous. No wonder we know an awful lot about the Russian “new rich”. We know a lot less about the “new Russian poor”. Who are they? What does the notion of being poor in today’s Russia actually mean? How do sociologists assess poverty and what are the distinctive national traits of poverty?**

The number of billionaires in Russia has doubled over the last year according to the annual *Forbes* list. The Russian capital has more of them than New York—out of 101 Russian multi-millionaires listed, 79 live in Moscow. But the super-rich aside, it has been recently stated by researchers and experts that Russia has achieved very good results in the struggle with poverty. The situation among the most vulnerable layers of the population—children and the elderly—has improved immensely, so the experts say.

Even the economic crisis of 2008 did not erase the picture of a well-off country. Experts of the Higher School of Economics who recently unveiled the results of the Russia Longitudinal Monitoring Survey (RLMS), a series of nationally-representative surveys, said in their latest report that the number of households with an income below the poverty line in Russia dropped from 38%-3% from 1998-2009. Three per cent is the lowest index reported during the entire period of observations. But have Russians really become as affluent as it is pictured?

### **Who is considered poor?**

If a pensioner in Moscow gets a tiny pension, but owns some real estate worth \$200,000 is he or she rich or poor? Is a rural dweller poor if he owns a plot of land with a farmhouse but has to live on a nugatory wage? What about young mothers who are out of work but could work if there were child-care facilities? Are they poor? What exactly is the poverty line—the cost of living that ensures only physical survival or a more or less decent existence?

The most advanced approach to poverty assessment is based on an assessment of all resources for a family or individual as

opposed to taking in consideration only monetary income. Yet in many countries, including Russia, the poverty line is measured by minimal survival level, the subsistence minimum, which is based on the price of a minimum of goods needed to keep you alive. Those whose income is under this figure, who cannot satisfy basic needs are officially considered poor. Russia is huge, and regional disparities in living standards cannot be neglected. The subsistence minimum is calculated by Rosstat, the official state statistics body. For each region of the country every year, last time in 2010. The figure ranges from 5000-8000 roubles across Russia depending on the region and category of the population (children, pensioners or adults). Some experts call this figure “a misery level”, “because it’s virtually impossible to even physically survive on this money.

According to Rosstat in July 2010 approximately 14% (20.6 million people) still live below the poverty line. It means that every 8th citizen does not earn even the regional survival minimum. The situation is even less radiant if we look at the results presented in 2010 by the All-Russian Centre for Living Standards. This think tank diversifies the degrees of poverty and groups of the population according to a per-capita monthly income: extremely poor (below the official poverty line of around 5000 roubles), poor (1-3 times the subsistence minimums not exceeding 15000 roubles) and relatively poor or badly off whose income accounts to 3-7 subsistence minimums accounting to approximately 15000-35000 roubles), a level that by western standards, would still represent poverty.

Vyacheslav Bobkov, director of the All-Russian Centre for Living Standards says that in his estimation “two thirds of the Russian population are near the physical survival level. Thus 90% of the country’s population does not even approach the criteria of the middle class”. Earlier this year, an opinion poll was conducted by the Levada Centre, Russia’s leading independent sociological institute. 1600 people in 45 regions of Russia were questioned. When asked “what do you consider the most pressing problem for Russian society?”, 59 % of polled named poverty and drop of income as their main problem. 81% named inflation as issue number one.

### **The “new poor” and “traditionally poor”**

Officially in Soviet Russia, poverty as a self-generating and persistent social phenomenon did not exist. Or rather, it was claimed to have been totally eradicated as the result of the planned economy: standards of living were



ascetic and minimal, wealth more or less equally distributed. Even if an average citizen got poorer, it was a statistical and temporary predicament. Karl Marx would have been delighted to see the situation best characterized as “equality in poverty,” at least, in the years of late socialism. One should not be misled and think that in those years there were no people who lacked material wealth. They were called “nuzdaushiesia” (“people in need” or “with low level of well-being”) and stood for such categories as large and single mother families, the disabled, pensioners, mostly women, living on a social security pension because of lack of a work record. Later on those groups would be referred to as “traditionally poor” when a phenomenon of “new poverty” emerged in Russia as a result of the liberal reforms of the 1990s. At this time, civil servants and white-collar workers employed in education, medicine and other non-manual industries as well as industrial workers protected in Soviet times experienced prolonged downward mobility and a radical loss in status.

## Poverty Profile in Brief

Unlike many Asian or African countries where poverty is a surface phenomenon and very evident, in post-Soviet Russia it's very covert. If one visits a provincial medium-sized Russian town today, you won't see slums, barefooted crowds of children in rags, even fewer beggars. Poverty camouflages itself in the “well-off” Russia of the 21st century, but economists and sociologists are univocal in their assessments.

The majority of the “new poor” in Russia are to be found among working families headed by adults with average technical and professional training, and in families with children, the largest sub-group of the working poor. Most of the working poor are employed in the public sector, including teachers, physicians and low-ranking civil servants. Traditionally poor categories—primarily large families, the disabled, the homeless, the single elderly living alone, mostly women, are still in the poverty picture, but it's the working poor who keep poverty statistics high. The “new poor” in post-socialist Russia are mostly long-term poor with low standards of living, lacking material assets, cultural and social capital. They are able-bodied people employed in unstable jobs and often excluded from the system of social support.

According to Svetlana Yaroshenko, associate professor at the Department of Comparative Sociology, St. Petersburg State University, “Long-term exclusion from generally accepted standards and discrimination because of age, gender, employment opportunities and other factors results in accumulation of poverty that often leads to isolation and gradual exclusion from society.” Extended case studies conveyed in the Komi Republic by Svetlana Yaroshenko and her colleagues from the Institute of Social and Economic Problems of the North, span from 1998-2008. They clearly show trends in Russian poverty over the past decades. Some are similar to other Eastern-European countries that went through economic transformations, some vividly demonstrate specific national traits of poverty in Russia.

## National traits of poverty

First of all, poverty is widespread on the vast territory of Russia. It's true that since early 2000, economic growth has resulted in the slow reduction of the number of poor people, but it's still high. Between 8% and 35% of Russians have an income lower than the subsistence minimum.

Secondly, in the years of transition, especially in the 1990s, poverty affected previously secure social strata. Economically active people who were protected by the state but for a long time (10-15 years) experienced sustained downward mobility and employment insecurity. Svetlana Yaroshenko also claims that another peculiar trait of poverty in modern Russia is “the threat of permanent poverty passed down from generation to generation, a high degree of social imparity that is caused not only by low income, but by a very limited access to basic medical services, quality education and living conditions regarded as standard.” It is even possible to speak about a “culture of poverty” when a person is influenced by a poor environment and lifestyle for generations, and is not aware of other lifestyles. In this regard, Soviet habits of living in austerity and a typical Russian mind-set of the older generation to tolerate anything played a negative role. When “the new poor” suffer from downward mobility, there is no tradition of defending individual rights, and in this regard, “the situation in Russia is close to that in Bulgaria or Romania,” commented Svetlana Yaroshenko.

Another distinctive feature for Russia is the ruralisation of poverty. In contrast to western countries, where poverty is often concentrated in the large cities, the poor are more frequently found in Russia's villages and towns.

And finally, poverty in Russia has a clear gender dimension: it has a female face. On average, women are paid 36% less than men and in general in the course of economic transformations, women were marginalized into disadvantaged positions. At certain times in the past decades, women on average represented two-thirds of the unemployed. **P**



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# The Jury's Out on Juries in Russia (part 5)

Ian Mitchell

The previous part ended with the destruction of the entire pre-Revolutionary legal system, including juries, by the Bolsheviks immediately upon assuming power in November 1917. This final part brings the story up to date.

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Partly, it would seem, because he was a failed lawyer (despite having been a brilliant law student), Lenin loathed everything about conventional legal systems, calling them “a blind, subtle instrument of merciless suppression of the exploited, defending the interests of the money-bag”. After the Revolution he laid it down that: “Anybody can act as a judge basing himself on the revolutionary sense of justice of the working classes.”

Within a few months of the Bolshevik coup, the Russian legal system, which had been among the most advanced in Europe, was reduced to such a shambles that even after fifteen years of re-professionalisation, 85% of People's Court judges had no more than a primary education. As late as 1935, the Procuracy, which was considered the most important part of the system, was so badly resourced that the journal *Soviet Justice* carried an article about a new “shock” campaign headlined: “A Bicycle for Every Investigator!”

Decree No 1 on 24 November 1917 provided for the complete abolition of the courts, Procuracy, Bar and law schools, and the introduction of Revolutionary Tribunals staffed by lay assessors. They dispensed their own ideas of justice in an atmosphere of complete procedural informality—if those words can be stretched to cover such strange meetings. We have a description of one such trial in Moscow from a New Zealander, Allan Monkhouse, who was accused in early 1918 of stealing British-delivered munitions from the Soviets.

“The Court consisted of one Jewish lawyer, a political agitator and two workmen, one of whom I recognised as an illiterate plumber who had formerly been in my employ. Prisoner, judges and witnesses sat round a rough table with a torn, green-baize cover. The room was full of tobacco smoke. The president, a glass of tea in one hand, and a thick slice of black bread spread with red caviar in the other hand, addressed me with his mouth so full that I could hardly distinguish his words. My case dragged on until the late evening. In those days punishment for crimes of this nature was immediate execution and, though I was entirely innocent of the charges against me, nevertheless my case went badly, and I shall always remember watching the sun set over the Kremlin Towers and thinking to myself that in all probability it was the last time I should see it.”

The legal theory that these courts were based on was aptly summarised as late as 1977 by no less an authority than Kim Philby, the famous English spy. In a lecture he gave to KGB operatives, which is quoted in his wife Rufina's book, he is reported as saying, “We must always remember that bourgeois law is designed primarily to safeguard the possession and acquisition of property. It therefore involves elaborate safeguards for all sorts of individual skulduggery.” It was to cut through all these “elaborate safeguards” that Revolutionary Courts, and their successor institutions, were developed.

The main theoretician of Soviet law was an aggressive Lithuanian Bolshevik called Evgeniy Pashukanis, who had studied jurisprudence at Munich University before the First World War. Believing that law was only designed to facilitate property transactions, he argued that once Communism was established, law would “wither away”, as Engels had said the state would. He wrote that in the Soviet Union, law was “95% political”, by which he meant that it must be adapted by judges in their courtrooms to the current leadership's “general line”, even if no law had been passed to give that “line” statutory substance.

This meant abandoning the ancient principle of *nullum crimen, nullum poena, sine praevia lege* (no crime, no punishment, without previous law). Even when there were laws, the people expected to obey them were not always told of their existence. It was only in the late 1950s that the practice was stopped of trying people in secret for breaches of laws which had been promulgated in secret. Today, the general approach of Pashukanis and his followers is what President Medvedev calls “legal nihilism”.

Part of the reason for this ruthlessness was that the leadership felt the country to be surrounded by enemies, and penetrated by wreckers, spies and what we would today call terrorists, whose alleged plans to destroy Soviet society were taken seriously to the point of paranoia. The result was a further extension of “people's justice”. Comrade's Courts were introduced, in which local communities—inhabitants of a block of flats, for example—would get together without any legal personnel or formalities in order to criticise the non-criminal behaviour of one of their number, with the power to extract apologies and small fines.

That was social control; political control was advanced by measures like the one which Nikolai Krylenko, Commissar of Justice, proposed in 1927, namely preventative detention. He drafted an amendment to the Criminal Code which would provide for the imprisonment of those “who had not committed any crime at all but, because of their connections with criminal surroundings or because of their past activity, they give reason to expect that they could commit some crime.” This precisely echoed the Tsarist practice from the 1880s onwards (see part 3: George Kennan). Though Krylenko's proposal was not implemented, many would say



that it became the unarticulated principle behind the Great Terror a decade on.

We in the West have sometimes adopted a similar approach, for example with Guantanamo Bay. In Britain, when Control Orders were introduced in 2005, the government proposed house-arrest without trial for suspected terrorists, people who had not been convicted of any offence. They would be confined to their homes without knowing the charges against them or the evidence for those charges. Echoing Krylenko, the then Home Secretary, Charles Clarke, said, "There are serious people and serious organisations trying to destroy our society."

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In 1936 Stalin introduced a new Constitution, which conferred extravagant rights, often beyond those customary in advanced democracies. At the same time, he proceeded to terrorise or kill anyone who tried to assert those rights. It was only after he had died, and his reputation been partially buried by Nikita Khrushchev with his widely-circulated "secret" speech denouncing the "cult of personality" in February 1956, that Soviet law began to come alive again.

It went through many subtle changes, but no fundamental ones, before 1988 when, at the Nineteenth Party Conference, Mikhail Gorbachev publicly repudiated the principle that law must be subordinate to politics. Though today it is still, in unacknowledged practice, subordinate to politics in most important aspects of public life, it is rarely so in private, or ordinary criminal, litigation. Before describing the ambiguities of the situation today, it is

worth pausing to consider the public involvement in justice when Communism was at its most self-confident, that is roughly the five years after Sputnik but before the Cuban missile crisis. What was the best the old system could offer its citizens in court?

In 1962 a young American legal scholar, George Feifer, came to Moscow to study Soviet law. He spent much of his time touring the city's courts discovering how justice operated at ground level, which he described in a fascinating book, called *Justice in Moscow*. Before getting down to specifics, Feifer noted: "Many of the lawyers are maimed—an arm missing, a leg, an eye. The number of crutches, black gloves, flapping sleeves and twisting scars at courtroom tables stand out even in Moscow where one gets accustomed to seeing middle-aged men with missing parts. These men went to war as boys, and afterwards, as cripples fit only for paperwork, they entered the law."

With Revolutionary Tribunals long gone, there were three levels below the Supreme Court: the lowest was the Comrade Courts, which still had the informal procedure and non-criminal remit that they had been given in the 1920s; above them were the People's Court where most crime was tried; and finally the City Court which was for state crimes and the like, plus appeals from the People's Courts. Procedure in the latter two was similar, though still informal by Western standards. The judge, the procurator and the advocate were the only professionals involved.

Juries did not exist, of course, so Feifer posed the question: "Who makes law in Russia? Trial by whom? The men flanking the judge at every trial are 'lay assessors', direct representa-



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tives of the People, workers. They are elected by the trade unions at their factories and offices to sit two weeks a year for two years." These lay assessors were supposed to enjoy equal status with the judge, but in practice they usually followed his or (more usually) her lead. Feifer noted that judges almost always followed the trend of whatever campaign the Party was publicising at the time. Political control of the courts, though loose, was effective.

The charm and fascination of Feifer's book lies in the verbatim accounts of the many trials he observed. The wild agitation and self-pity of the young Georgian accused of having kissed a girl against her will is balanced by the fatalistic resignation of many of the Russian accused. "At the worst moment, Kondakov, still calm and awkward, still somehow impervious to his misfortune, looks at the windows. [He gets] a year for stealing a pair of galoshes from the factory where he works. His wife rushes to him and kisses him before he is led away."

Once, in the Comrades' Court, he saw a wild argument between two babushki over a 28 kopek electricity bill for a communal flat. That was only the start. "After ranting about the floors, the screams shifted to cleaning rags and cooking smells, while the chairman followed from side to side as if at a tennis match." When she tries to calm things down, the allegations are only compounded: preventing a son from studying, taking washing from the line when wet, obstructing use of the kitchen after 11 p.m. when it should be 12. The chairman simply cannot get the two sides onto the issue of the electricity bill. After three hours everyone is exhausted, and the chairman orders halving of the bill, 14 kopeks each. The three hundred spectators seem to approve, and the two protagonists "look at each other with shy, tentative smiles."

And then there was the case of the man who went to court to get his wife to return the winter coat she had kept as a "hostage" after he left her for another woman; and the snappily-Westernised youths who taunted and harassed the fussy old lady in the *detsky sad*, and set fire to her hat. The stories are endless and make absorbing reading. In most cases, the public gallery was so vocal as to become almost a part in the proceedings. To say that public opinion was absent from the judicial process in the Soviet Union would be inaccurate, even though it had no formal role beyond the ineffective presence of the lay assessors.

On the other hand, Feifer notes, "The one thing most clear from a year's stay in Moscow is the utter absence of 'public'

or 'community' apart from the Party." Possibly that was why, after the bloom had gone off the Communist rose and perestroika had become the campaign of the hour, one of the most forcefully articulated proposals for law reform was the re-introduction of juries. The model was to be the reforms of 1864 (see part 2).

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In 1993, juries returned to Russia for cases concerning crimes for which the court could hand down sentences of death or prison terms of more than ten years. The method of operation is not dissimilar to that in the late nineteenth century and comparable with British and American practice, even though it differs in many details. The reforms were enthusiastically received, but unfortunately the effect has been negligible, due to the right enshrined in the law that the state can appeal acquittals.

A lawyer friend of mine who was finishing her studies around the time the new procedure was being introduced was told by one of her lecturers that there was no point in devoting too much time to mastering the jury system since the state would appeal 50% of acquittals and get them overturned. "And she was right," my friend says wearily today. "Or nearly right. In fact that figure is not 50% but 80%. Russian juries are meaningless. In any case, the main problem is not the law, but the people operating it, especially the judges and the prokuratura. They still think as Soviet lawyers."

If law reflects society then this is a fact of profound significance for anyone who hopes for the development of the Rule of Law in Russia on the sort of basis that was presaged in England by Magna Carta. But, as in Britain, if you look back to the twentieth century, it is not hard to see the nineteenth century in the background, and so on further and further back. Who today has not experienced something like the last case Feifer watched in the People's Court half a century ago? A factory worker had walked out at lunch-time with a small electric motor.

"On the basis of what, the judge asked okhranik, a tattered, bearded grandfather, did he permit valuable objects to leave the gate? On the basis of documents. What documents? He didn't know. Laughter in court. Who signs the transfer papers? He didn't remember. Why, then, is he stationed at the gate? To open and close it. Belly laughter. But mightn't he just as well leave it open altogether? No, for then he would be out of a job. Pandemonium. Then why did he sit there? That was his job. What was his job, what exactly was he supposed to do there? He wasn't sure. Didn't he know he was supposed to prevent theft? Sure, but everyone at the factory steals anyway. The judge grows purple. 'You are incredible, simply incredible, a figure out of Chekhov.'"

I started this account of Russian law with its medieval beginnings, and it is appropriate to end there. In trying to explain the long-term, underlying passivity of Russians in the face of the law, a passivity which is one of the main reasons why it neither develops nor commands the respect of the people, Feifer asks what has caused the paralysis. This is his answer: "It is not the knout or the thumbscrew so much as the enormous power and lethargy of the administrative bureaucracy in a country where the tradition of protection for the individual is still feeble. This is not Stalin's doing, so much as Nichols I's and Peter the Great's, and even the Mongols.'" **P**



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# The Bribery Act *Part I* is coming to Russia,

Doran Doeh, Managing  
Partner, Russia, for SNR Denton

## Introduction

The UK Bribery Act will come into effect on 1 July 2011. Its extraterritorial scope, the boldness of its approach and the novelty of some of its provisions have caused a stir amongst international and local businessmen worldwide in countries where corruption is widespread. This is particularly so in Russia where the government has launched its own anti-corruption campaign, and those fighting corruption hope the UK action will strengthen their efforts.

In this first part of two articles, I shall cover the background to the legislation: why the UK and why now? To a substantial extent the UK has been pushed to act by its own tardiness in bringing its legislation into line with international standards. The previous UK legislation, the Public Bodies Corrupt Practices Act 1989 and the Prevention of Corruption Acts 1906 and 1916, goes back to Victorian and Edwardian times. It has been suggested that it reflects the sensibilities of the British upper classes of those times, people who worried about their servants taking commissions from local tradesmen. In recent years there has been a flurry of international conventions dealing with corruption which the UK has been party to but failed to implement, most notably the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention. The OECD 2008 report heavily criticised the UK's inaction in the BAe Systems case when dealing with allegations that surfaced in 2003. However, the Bribery Act does much more than close the gap in international compliance, it places the UK, alongside the United States, in the forefront of nations battling corruption.

As a piece of legislation, the Bribery Act is unusual in a British context. It is very short, written in "plain English" (language that, in theory at least, ordinary people can readily understand) and without the extensive detail and definitions that UK legislation usually contains. In that sense, it is much more like Russian legislation, and it has the same effect that Russian legislation has of giving the government much greater

control over the way it is administered and implemented.

It is also innovative. The key feature is the new crime of "failing to prevent bribery" which applies to corporate entities. The point is that it is very hard to get convictions against corporates because, in order to prove a criminal offence, it is necessary to show that the behaviour complained of was activated by the corporate mind, in other words by the senior management of the company. This is, in most cases, impossible to do beyond a reasonable doubt, which is the standard required for a criminal conviction in the UK. The cleverness of the Bribery Act lies in its ability to turn the tables, by placing the onus on a company to show that it has NOT failed to prevent bribery when in fact an act of bribery has occurred.

To understand how this works, it is first necessary to consider the core offences: bribing, receiving a bribe and bribing a foreign public official.

**Bribing** – Section 1 provides that a person (an individual or a corporation) commits an offence if he (directly or indirectly) offers, promises or gives a financial advantage to another person and intends the advantage to induce/reward the person for the improper performance of a relevant function or activity; or knows or believes the acceptance of the advantage is itself improper performance.

*EXAMPLE: P provides a friend (who works in the same company as X) \$10,000 to give to X, to persuade X to send P confidential information about the company that P wants in connection with her own business.*

**Being bribed** – Section 2 provides that a person commits an offence if he (directly or indirectly) requests, agrees to receive or accepts a financial or other advantage; and intends there to be improper performance as a consequence; or (b) there is improper performance of relevant function or activity (whether as a reward, or in anticipation or consequence of a request, agreement or acceptance).

In the cases outlined in (b), there is no requirement for person to know or believe that the performance of the function or activity is improper.



Doran Doeh

## EXAMPLES:

- (a) R asks P for \$10,000 if he – R – or a colleague destroy supporting documents submitted by rival bidders for a contract P is seeking with R's employer.
- (b) R, a civil servant, asks for \$1,000 for himself to process a routine application.
- (c) R, a civil servant, asks for \$1,000 from P as a reward, having processed P's application especially quickly.
- (d) R, an agent, accepts P's bid for a contract on behalf of a company, because R expects P secretly to reward him personally.

Sections 1 and 2 apply to almost any activity or function, whether in public or private business, in relation to which the person: (A) is expected to perform in good faith (B) is expected to perform impartially and/or (C) is in position of trust by virtue of performing it. "Improper performance" means performance or failure to perform in breach of a "relevant expectation" under conditions (A), (B) or (C).

What is expected? "What a reasonable person in the United Kingdom would expect in relation to the performance of the type of function or activity concerned... any local custom or practice is to be disregarded unless it is permitted or required by written law". In other words UK standards apply even if the behaviour takes place in Russia, unless Russian legislation permits or requires it.

**Bribing a foreign public official (FPO)** – Section 6 provides a specific offence of bribing an FPO if the person intended to influence that FPO in his capacity as an FPO and intended to obtain or retain business or an advantage in the conduct of business.

This applies if, directly or through a third party, the person offers, promises or gives any financial or other advantage to a FPO or another person at the

request or with the assent or acquiescence of the FPO.

There is an exception if the foreign public official is permitted or required by applicable written law to be influenced by offer promise or gift, for example off-set arrangements.

For section 6 there is no requirement for conduct to be deemed improper, and the FPO does not commit an offence by being bribed (unless it is also within section 2).

*EXAMPLE: (offence) P asks R, a civil servant in Toyland, to process quickly P's application for licence to engage in construction work in Toyland. R says that will only be possible if P provides X, a relative of R, with help in the conversion of flats on X's land. P agrees to provide the help.*

*EXAMPLE: (no offence) P asks R, a civil servant in Toyland, to process quickly P's application for a licence to engage in construction work in Toyland. R says that will only be possible if P helps to build a new school in Toyland. P agrees to provide the help. The written law applicable to R says that favourable treatment may be given to foreign businesses if they agree to fund school building work in Toyland.*

## Failure to prevent bribery

In order for a company or partnership to be convicted of offences under Sections 1, 2 and 6 it would be necessary to prove that the "controlling mind" of the organisation had the necessary knowledge or intention. Section 7 provides a new strict liability offence with no requirement that the "controlling mind" authorise, encourage or be aware of the bribery.

Under this, a "relevant commercial organisation" is guilty of an offence if a person "associated" with it bribes another person intending (a) to obtain or retain business for the commercial organisation or (b) to obtain or retain an advantage in the conduct of business for the commercial organisation.

This applies wherever in the world the offence takes place.

It is a defence for a relevant commercial organisation to prove that it had in place "adequate procedures" designed to prevent persons associated with it from undertaking such conduct.

An "associated person" is any person who performs services in any capacity for or on behalf of the relevant commercial organisation. It can include agents, subsidiaries, intermediaries, distributors, contractors, joint venture partners and consortium members. Employees are assumed to be "associated" unless it is proven that they are not performing

the service for or on behalf of the relevant commercial organisation.

It is the "associated person", rather than the relevant commercial organisation, that needs to have the intention to obtain or retain business.

The meaning of "performs services" will be determined "by reference to all the relevant circumstances and not merely by reference to the nature of the relationship between A and C".

The role of subsidiaries is unclear and begs difficult questions of corporate identity and whether a subsidiary is really just an extension of its parent.

*EXAMPLE: C (a company incorporated in the UK) wishes to do business in Toyland. C employs an agent (X) living in Toyland to establish business contacts on C's behalf with government officials in Toyland. X bribes those officials to place contracts with C. The directors of C had given no guidance to A on their attitude to bribery, even though it is well-known that officials in Toyland are open to bribery.*

## Extraterritoriality

The core offences of sections 1, 2 and 6 will affect persons having a close connection with the UK (British citizens and residents, and British companies) even when they are abroad. If they operate through local subsidiaries the issue mentioned above as to the role of subsidiary will arise.

However, the most controversial aspect of the extraterritorial reach of the Bribery Act is section 7, failure to prevent bribery. The definition of "relevant commercial organisation" includes any body corporate or partnership—a Russian company or partnership would fall within this—which carries on business or part of a business in the UK.

*EXAMPLE: C, a company incorporated in Noddy Land, with a branch in the UK, wishes to do business in Toyland. C, through its head office in Noddy Land, employs an agent (X) living in Toyland to establish business contacts on C's behalf with government officials in Toyland. X bribes those officials to place contracts with C. The directors of C had given no guidance to X on their attitude to bribery, even though it is well-known that officials in Toyland are open to bribery.*

Question: Does operating in the UK through a branch or a subsidiary make a difference? In theory, at least, it will limit the risk of falling within the ambit of the Bribery Act if Russian companies doing business in the UK only do so through subsidiaries which do not have operations in companies where corruption may take place. However, the issue

mentioned above as to the relationship between the UK subsidiary and the Russian parent and with other subsidiaries of the parent may not be simple and straightforward in a particular case.

The Act does not define carrying on business and it will be a matter for the courts to decide in particular cases brought before them. There is already a significant body of judge-made law in the form of court decisions on this point. However, much of the case law relates to taxation and may not be relevant to bribery situations; conversely the judges may take a different approach in such cases.

Under the existing case law, "business" does not necessarily involve profit or gain and a single transaction can in some cases qualify. It is not at all clear at this point whether listing on the London Stock Exchange will qualify. There is guidance from the Ministry of Justice to indicate that listing in itself may not necessarily do so, but the Ministry itself leaves the matter to the judges.

## Adequate procedures

The only defence to failure to prevent bribery is for the organisation concerned to have "adequate procedures" in place designed to prevent persons associated with a commercial organisation from bribing. Guidance on this has been published by the Ministry of Justice (available on its website). Although the full Guidance runs to 43 pages, there are six principles which may be usefully summarised here.

Proportionate procedures: the procedures should be proportionate the risks the organisation faces and the nature, scale and complexity of its activities.

Top-level commitment: the top level management of the organisation are committed to preventing bribery by its associated persons and foster a culture in which bribery is never acceptable.

Risk assessment: the organisation assesses the extent of its exposure to risks of bribery on its behalf by its associated persons. The assessment must be periodic, informed and documented.

Due diligence: the organisation applies due diligence procedures in respect of the persons who perform service for it in order to mitigate identified risks.

Communication: the organisation's bribery prevention policies and procedures are embedded and understood throughout the organisation through internal and external communication, including training



Monitoring and review: the organisation monitors and reviews procedures and makes improvements where necessary.

## Penalties

The key penalties are as follows:

Sections 1, 2 and 6 (core bribery offences): individuals, up to 10 years and unlimited fine; organisations, unlimited fine. Section 7 (failure of commercial organisation to prevent) unlimited fine.

There are also other consequences, such as debarment from bidding for government contracts in the EU.

## How will the Act be interpreted and implemented?

The Act is written deliberately broadly to catch all forms of bribery and does not include any safe havens or *de minimis* levels.

In England and Wales, proceedings for offences under the Act require the personal consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) or the Director of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO). The latter will be responsible for prosecutions under the Act in relation to offences outside of the UK. Before bringing a prosecution the Director must be satisfied that:

- there is sufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction
- and if there is sufficient evidence, whether a prosecution is in the public interest.

The more serious the offence the more likely it will be in the public interest to prosecute.

The SFO and the DPP have published joint legal guidance for prosecutors which is available on the Crown Prosecution Service website.

To give a flavour of what approach will be taken, it may be useful to mention some comments that have been made by official sources:

## Facilitation payments:

*"It will rarely be in the public interest to prosecute... for the payment of small sums to secure the performance of routine tasks".* However, facilitation payments will still be prohibited by the Bribery Act even though there may be low risk of prosecution in the UK, although the Guidance points out that in some instances "individuals may be left with no alternative but to make payments... to protect against loss of life, limb or liberty" and that in such cases a defence of duress may be available.

It is worth noting, however, that facilitation payments are also prohibited by

Russian law and the laws of many other countries.

## Corporate hospitality:

*"Corporate hospitality would trigger the offence only where it was proved that the person offering the hospitality intended the recipient to be influenced to act improperly. Obviously lavish or extraordinary hospitality may lead a jury to reach such a conclusion but "most routine and inexpensive hospitality would be unlikely to lead to a reasonable expectation of improper conduct."*

*"Bona fide hospitality and promotional or other business expenditure which seeks to improve the image of a commercial organisation better to present products and services or establish cordial relations is recognised as an established and important part of doing business and it is not the intention of the Act to criminalise such behaviour."*

*"An invitation to foreign clients to attend a Six Nations match at Murrayfield as part of a public relations exercise designed to cement good relations or enhance knowledge in the organisation's field is extremely unlikely to engage section 1 as there is unlikely to be evidence of an intention to induce improper performance of a relevant function."* (This is intended for a commercial context. The answer might be different if the invitation was to an FPO as the relevant intention is different.)

## "Offset" arrangements

– additional investment offered or required as part of a formal tender is "unlikely to give rise to difficulties".

## How does the Act relate to the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA)?

Those organizations already subject to the FCPA, who also carry on business or part of a business in the UK will have to adapt their anti-bribery policies and procedures to comply also with the Bribery Act, which in some ways is stricter and more demanding than the FCPA.

The FCPA applies to companies incorporated in the US and their corporate groups. It also applies to foreign companies registered with the US Securities Exchange Commission. Whilst the latter encompasses many organisations from western Europe which have raised funds in the US, very few Russian companies come within this category.

There are, however, a significant number of Russian organisations which themselves carry on business or part of a business in the UK or which have subsidiaries that do so and for whom the

Bribery Act will be relevant, even if the FCPA is not.

## What effect will this have in Russia?

British companies which do business in Russia will need to review their anti-bribery policies and procedures to ensure that they are robust enough to comply with the Bribery Act. Some commentators believe that the Bribery Act will make it easier for British companies to resist or avoid paying bribes, particularly if Russian officials become aware of the Bribery Act and that they may invite trouble if they approach British companies. Whether this turns out to be the case remains to be seen.

Others which clearly carry on business in the UK—this will include many multinationals as well as some big Russian organisations—will need to do the same to ensure their procedures are adequate or to establish them if they do not already have existing ones. Whether this brings about a change of corporate culture in those companies that do not currently have a high level of anti-bribery compliance is a significant question.

For a number of businesses, however, the position may not be clear and they may need to take legal advice.

The chances of the SFO prosecuting a Russian organisation with a UK subsidiary in a situation where a Russian subsidiary of the same organisation pays a bribe to an official in a remote part of Russia are pretty small; it is difficult to see what the UK public interest would be in such a prosecution. However, where an EU-based car producer engages in bribery to sell its products in preference to others who manufacture in Britain so that the latter lose out, the situation would be different.

Sadly, bribery and corruption is a fascinating subject, so attention is likely to be focused on the effects of the Bribery Act, not only in Russia but elsewhere in the world, for a long time to come. There are a number of uncertainties over its implementation. We can assume that the SFO will bring some major prosecutions to show its effectiveness, and these may bring some answers to the outstanding questions.

In part II of this article, which shall be printed in the July issue of PASSPORT, I shall cover the issues of: Extraterritoriality, Adequate Procedures, Penalties, implementation, and the effect that the act will have in Russia. **P**

# HR and outsourcing

John Harrison, photos Alina Ganenko

***PASSPORT is starting a series on business practices in Russia. In this first article, we take a look at outsourcing HR.***

Outsourcing staffing and personnel may sound like an expensive option for a developing business, in fact for any business. So why are companies here taking up this option in increasing numbers? Because outsourcing HR needs is based on a business model well suited to the Russian market; basically it works. If you have, say, a call centre of about 100 staff who you pay a monthly salary to, you pay all the payroll costs, carry out all the banking procedures, and take care of all the tax issues. Fine, but these procedures are not straightforward here in Russia. There are six taxes and contributions to be paid for each employee, for example contributions to the social fund, income tax payment and pension fund payments. The accountant has to handle all of these issues, and tax regulations here are extremely complex; a situation found in many countries which inherited the Soviet Union's administrative system. The chief accountant in a Russian company sometimes enjoys a very superior status, as his or her interpretation of the law, or laws can have a very serious effect on operations. Russian companies and the people who manage them have grown up with the system, they know how to handle it, somehow, and they get by one way or the other. We, foreigners don't, and in many cases don't want to do things in that way.

So how does the outsourcing company do it? It's all in the contract that they write with employees. That's what they do, they find solutions that allow the client to have the flexibility that they need with their human resources, and they make sure that the employee is hired on those terms. The advantages are not just on the employer's side. The outsourcer, especially if it is a big company like Work Service can offer that merchandiser,



***Robert Knights, COO Work Service Russia***

sales representative, engineer, warehouse worker or forklift driver another job somewhere else, for another client, when the contract with one particular client ends. The employee can even move into other positions, get more responsibility, get promoted earn service bonuses, and so on.

So what other reasons are there for outsourcing your HR requirements? Business, any business is an unpredictable animal that responds, or should respond, rapidly to changes in the market. Changes can sometimes happen very rapidly. You win a new contract, great! You know that contract means hiring another twenty people. No problem—there are so many people unemployed now, aren't there? Yes, but it's not that easy. The costs involved can be staggering, particularly when you make a mistake.

There are advertising costs, the time it takes you to find the right people, interview them, train them, background checks, security checks, and then when the contract ends or a downturn occurs you are faced with the problem of letting those people go, and before that, dismissing people who just didn't work out. Sacking is a dirty word here, it is expensive and difficult to do. As in other countries the employee quite rightly has rights too, and you can be sued for what is considered to be unfair or wrongful dismissal. Russians who sue foreign companies for "unfair work practices" win more times than lose. Downsizing can be just as expensive, if not more expensive than hiring, and things can happen at the wrong moment in terms of cash flow. Then there is the cyclical nature of demand to take into account. A soft drinks manufacturer for example, will need more packers in the summer than the winter. A promotional campaign may need temporary staff, a manufacturer may need to balance his risk on employing people as the company grows or he may open a new facility in a new region.

So, in steps an outsourcing company like Work Service, which says OK, we can take over all your payroll work. We will take over all your staff, they will work for us, and then we will invoice you. We will employ your staff on a variety of different contracts depending on your internal cultural requirements, the labour code and other relevant legislation. We will also look at productivity schemes, bonus schemes, key performance indicators and other critical business parameters as part of the solution, which may reduce rather than increase your costs.

Is it legal? There is no legislation which currently prohibits outsourcing. Some within the Duma are looking to clarify and strengthen legislation with regards to agency employment which the outsourcing industry broadly welcomes. The responsibility for operating correctly under the law falls on





the outsourcing or out staffing service providers. Such practices are already becoming quite widespread in Russia. Work Service, for example, provides staffing solutions to key retailers, manufacturers, logistic operators, banks, call centres and software companies. The next time you go into one of Russia's largest DIY retailers, you will find that some of the staff are working for Work Service and not the retailer! The Work Service staff provide key merchandising services, they are an integral part of the store teams from Moscow to Siberia and the south. Work Service pays their wages every month, takes care of all the tax issues, takes responsibility for the staff, for their uniforms, training and recruitment and invoices the retailer in one standard format invoice as a standard service.

How much does it cost? Charges obviously depend on the complexity of services offered. Different outsource-

ers are strongest in different sections of the market. Outsourcing for manual labour is different from outsourcing a company's requirements for qualified and experienced staff. But the basic principles and the advantages for client companies remain the same. Basically, if the cost of employing a management team, which includes accountants and HR specialists, and the budget that they need to operate, is cheaper than getting an outside company to do the job, then you don't need to outsource. But if it is more expensive, and the outsourcing company can simply do a better job, because that is what they do all the time, then outsourcing does make sense.

At the end of the day, it is worth talking to a good outsourcing company to find out if they can, in fact, save you money, and a whole load of headaches. **P**



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# The Future of Shopping Centres in Russia?

Guillaume L'Ecuyer, property manager at the Retail Property Management Department at Jones Lang LaSalle, talked to PASSPORT about trends and prospects in the shopping centre segment of the Moscow real estate market.

Interview by Vladimir Kolev,  
photos by Alina Ganenko

**Q: Can you single out any trends in the shopping centre segment in Moscow and Russia's other regions?**

A: Investors are mostly interested in assets that are already working successfully. Unfortunately, there are a limited number of such shopping centers on the market. If you look at Moscow, there are 80 shopping centres, but few are for sale. Having said that, the shopping centre stock in Russia is to increase by 29 per cent from 10.4 million sq m to 13.4 million sq m by the end of 2012. And trends that we have seen in Europe over the past years are now coming to Russia. We will see both new developments and re-development of existing shopping centres.

If we look at Moscow and St. Petersburg, shopping centres that were built

in the past 20 years, are outdated and in need of refurbishment. There is no choice for owners of such property other than reinvest. That's a really big issue now. And simply doing a façade-lift isn't going to be enough. The whole retailers' mix must change to incorporate new brands on the market, otherwise your competitor will get the business.

Another interesting trend is the rise of outlets shopping, which is a new format for Russia. Two new outlets are projected: one in the North of Moscow and one in the South, the outlet village Belaya Dacha and Fashion House Outlet Centre. You might see more of open air or covered streets shopping in the future. Currently, there aren't so many luxury shopping centers like Vremena Goda or Barvikha luxury village projected, instead, [new] shopping centers will dedicate a gallery or a part of it to luxury brands.

**Q: What is the situation in Russia's regions other than Moscow and St. Petersburg?**

A: If you look further east, Kazan is already saturated with twice as many square metres of retail per 1,000 inhabitants than London, the European capital of shopping! While more mature markets in Russia are approaching retail saturation, others are still quite a long way off this point, and shopping center developers see real potential in cities of 500,000 inhabitants and more. Cities like Oryol, Chelyabinsk, Ulyanovsk and Tver are seeing developers' activity at the moment as well as less populated cities like Tambov and Anapa.

**Q: In what way are shopping centres of the "third generation"; those which are being built now, different from those already in operation?**

A: Shopping centres are not solely perceived as a purchasing destination but as comfortable places for meeting, spending



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time with friends and relatives and, incidentally, shopping. You might see more thematic malls anchored by non-standard entertainment facilities being developed soon. Currently in Moscow, 50 per cent of all shopping centers are anchored by a cinema. But cinemas, game zones or bowling alleys alone are no longer such a pull, now you expect to see rollerdromes, aqua-parks, aquariums, night clubs, concert halls, thematic amusement parks, rollercoasters and vertical wind tunnels or artificial ski slopes, like you have in a Dubai shopping centre.

**Q: What are the main factors that make Moscow's shopping centres more attractive or less attractive for customers?**

A: Generally, accessibility ranks first. Moscow has one of the finest Metro systems in the world, and if a shopping center has direct access to this network, that will benefit it enormously. If it doesn't, the management company will have to be more creative to attract the customers. In fact, 45 per cent of quality shopping centers in Moscow are located less than one kilometer away from a Metro station.

A mistake that some developers make is to address public transportation questions last. We recognize adequate public transportation as a winning opportunity that should not be left to hazard. You can always adapt your strategy if a developer failed to build a proper car park or negotiate public transportation with the local transportation company, but you will have a hard time creating value if both questions aren't solved. Money spent on advertising will never fully compensate for such deficiencies, and Mos-

cow customers will find a new destination that fills their needs among other shopping centers that are in town.

After good accessibility and the right retailers, services come next on top of the list. Services can differentiate a shopping centre from the competition and since "there's nothing like a free lunch"—all services are expected to be free! From a personal shopper to VIP rest rooms or well decorated mothercare feeding room to an animated kindergarten, gift wrapping kiosk and educational activities for children, the sky's the limit to what you can do for customers.

**Q: What are shorter-term prospects?**

A: Over the next year, you could see an increase of about 11 per cent in rental rates. Generally, we will see more quality retailers in the market—because customers are becoming pickier.

**Q: In what way (if at all) has the situation changed since the new mayor of Moscow took office?**

A: There seems to be willingness to take a pause and take the right decisions from an urban planning point of view, which is positive. We do know and acknowledge that a successful shopping centre's arrival can worsen the traffic situation, and that won't help the neighbourhood. Some of Moscow's malls attract over 50 million visits a month: twice as many as Istanbul's Grand Bazaar! The right location and concept need to be identified and public transportation routes and frequency adapted accordingly.

Although it is beneficial to redevelop some projects in the city center to parking or residential, large retail properties in the suburbs are important to people living and working in those districts.

The main implications of the current city planning changes are limitation of new supply and thus higher rental rates for commercial properties. Official documents from City Hall are expected to be published in June and we'll be able to evaluate the final impact of the changes then.

While new concepts and locations are being discussed at the moment, public transportation solutions should not be left behind. Shopping centres can bring a lot to the community, creating working places, promoting local talents and culture.

**Q: From a customer's side, in what way is a typical Russian shopping centre going to be different in a few years' time?**

A: In Moscow and St. Petersburg, the quality will be the same as in any of the world's capitals. If we talk about the country's other regions, too much design exuberance means that we won't see much difference from the properties that are being built at the moment. We already see third-generation shopping malls being constructed in the regions. In terms of quality, you may see more thematic projects coming. A great example from Canada I could refer to is West Edmonton Mall, which for 30 years was the biggest shopping center and attraction complex in Americas thanks to its aqua-park. This is something you might see here, as well. **P**



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Vladimir Kozlov



## Moscow continues to annul development contracts

Moscow authorities will continue to annul construction and development contracts that were approved by the previous government on unfavorable conditions for the city, mayor Sergei Sobyenin was quoted as saying by RIA Novosti. "Currently, we are in the process of major revision of land, property and development contracts [signed] over the last few years," Sobyenin said, adding that development contracts in Moscow, which are currently in force, cover 40 million sq. meters of property.

"This is a [huge] amount that requires serious and attentive consideration by authorities and in many cases by courts," he went on to say.

Earlier, Sobyenin reorganized the city government's construction complex in a bid to optimize its operation. Among steps taken by the city's new authorities were the introduction of a ban on new construction in the centre of Moscow and the cancellation of development contracts that would create obstacles to traffic. At the same time, investors in construction projects were promised more favorable conditions.

## Federal residential construction program stumbles

The federal program Zhilyo (Residential Property), aimed at improving the housing situation in the country, considerably lagged behind planned figures in 2010, *Vedomosti* reported. Only 259 out of 727 buildings that were supposed to be constructed within the framework of the program, were completed. The program was originally launched in 2006 for a three-year period and then extended to 2015. According to data from the Ministry of Regional Development, by 2015, the annual residential construction in the country is to increase to 90 million sq. meters. 621 billion roubles is to be spent

on the program from the federal and regional budgets, while another 219 billion roubles is to be provided by the population and by banks in the form of loans.

## Moscow's offices more expensive than in Paris and Singapore

The international consulting company Knight Frank has ranked Moscow as the world's fourth most expensive city in terms of premium-class office rent. The average rate of 754.5 Euros per sq. meter per year in a top-class office centre put Moscow in front of Paris (750 Euros), Singapore (715 Euros) and London's City (690 Euros). London's West End (1,067.9 Euros) and Tokyo (1,051.4 Euros) topped the ranking.

## Opinions differ on construction ban in central Moscow

Players in the Moscow real estate market have differed on the subject of the recent ban on new construction in the centre of Moscow, RIA Novosti reported. The decision to ban all construction in the historical centre of the capital was triggered by the recent demolition of a historical building on Bolshaya Yakimanka, which was permitted by previous mayor Yuri Luzhkov's government.

"As a Muscovite, I support the initiative aimed at preserving the city and consider [the situation] when buildings that were not in line with the surrounding were erected in central Moscow, to be wrong," said Alexei Kuchvalsky, head of the department for services to office space owners at Jones Lang LaSalle.

But some developers were less than happy about the Moscow government's decision. "The city certainly has a need to preserve architectural monuments but the revision of the procedure for treating buildings that don't have any historical or cultural value will only stimulate corruption and infringe on the rights of investors," said a spokesperson for the development company Capital Group. **P**

## How to: use the internet in Russian

Words Russians use for Internet:  
интернет = инет = сеть

### General internet vocab:

Лазить в интернете – *to surf the internet*

Сидеть в интернете – *to be on the internet*

Сидеть в социальных сетях – *to hang out on social networking sites*

Скачать с сайта – *download from a site*

Загружать файл – *upload a file*

Что вы ищите? Просто наберите в поиске "грузинский ресторан Москва" *What are you looking for? Just type in 'Georgian restaurant Moscow'*

### Checking out a webpage:

Зайдите на наш сайт! – *visit our website!*

Вся информация есть на нашем сайте – *all the information is on our site*

Какой адрес у вашего сайта? – *what's your website address?*

Пришлите мне ссылку на этот сайт, пожалуйста – *please can you send me a link to that site?*

На домашней странице – *on the home page*

Скажите, где кликнуть, чтобы попасть на эту страницу? – *where should I click to load that page?*

### If you're having problems with your connection:

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**Ruslingua**





# Gogol's House

Marina Kashpar

The part of Moscow containing the Arbat and Nikitsky Boulevard; where Gogol's house stands has a long history. The area was settled back in the 16th century. In 1582 Boyar Nikita Yurev, grandfather of Tsar Mikhail Feodorovich, founded a monastery in the area devoted to St Nikita the Great Martyr. Bolshaya and Malaya Nikitskaya Streets, and Nikitsky Boulevard were named after the monastery. The first owner of the estate was Stolnik Ivan Buturin. The stone building was constructed by Dmitry Boltin who was famous not only as an architect, but also as the first translator of Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *Confession* in Russian. Up until 1847, the estate was owned by Major-General A.I.Talyzin, then it was passed on to his relative Count Alexander Petrovich Tolstoy.

This old 18th-19th century estate in Nikitsky Boulevard, right in the heart of Moscow, was built in the late Russian empire style and looks pretty much the same today as it did when it was built. This is the only surviving building in Moscow where Nikolai Gogol, the internationally acclaimed Russian writer, lived. Here he resided from 1848 up to his death in 1852. Gogol moved here, having come back to Russia to stay, and was a guest of Count Tolstoy and his wife.

In Tolstoy's house, "Gogol was looked after like a child and could do whatever he wished. He had nothing to care about." He enjoyed the quiet of two ground floor rooms, a study and sitting room, and had an opportunity to arrange his life in such a way that nothing would draw him away from his work. It was here that he prepared for the printing of the second edition of his work *Selected Passages from Correspondence With my Friends*, wrote *The Author's Confession and Discourse on the Holy Liturgy* and the second volume of *Dead Souls*. It was also here that he received his friends: Mikhail Schepkin, Mikhail Pogodin, Ivan Turgenev and others. Anyone visiting the house would as a rule find Gogol working at a high bureau or rewriting a manuscript sitting at the table. When working, Gogol used to pace the room reading out the text he had just created and playing out whole scenes.

At the beginning of 1852 his illness took a sharp turn for the worse. On the night of February 11th Gogol found himself in an extremely severe state, morally and physically, burnt the manuscript of the second volume of *Dead Souls* in the fireplace, and then refused to eat and be treated by doctors. On the 21st of February Nikolai Gogol died. The mystery of Gogol's death and the fate of the second volume of *Dead Souls* remains unsolved to the present day.

Nowadays, Tolstoy's former estate is known as Gogol's house in Moscow. The old house is filled with a quite unique 19th century atmosphere: memorial and literary history displays fill the house. Here you can see reconstructed 19th century furniture in Gogol's study and in the sitting room. There are many engravings, photocopies and drawings, and genuine objects associated with Gogol, such as his death-mask made by sculptor N.A.Ramazanov, an inkstand, a box for sewing needles from Gogol's estate in Vassilyevka and an album of musical pieces by Mendelssohn. **P**

*Gogol's House*

*7a, Nikitsky Bulvar Moscow*

*Tel: (495) 695 92 56*

*Open daily, except Tuesdays from 12:00-19:00*





## cafe VESNA

Every spring, the restaurant "Vesna" (Spring) opens an elegant summer veranda on Novy Arbat, which has become a favorite place for guests to plunge into the evening cool of a hot day. This summer you will find a light and fresh menu: Italian, Japanese and Mediterranean cuisine, new cool cocktails and a cozy atmosphere. In "Vesna" you can hold a business meeting, invite your relatives to a family dinner or relax before going to a party.

19 Novy Arbat  
+7 (495) 783 6966, +7 (495) 783 69 68







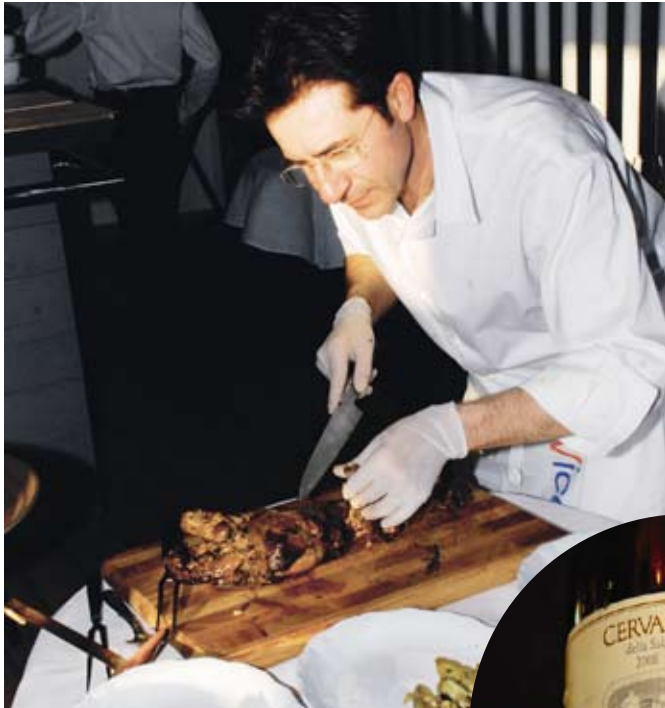
# Good Times at Bontempi

Ross Hunter, photos John Harrison

Valentino Bontempi's eponymous restaurant is a treasure waiting to be discovered. Discovery is the word, and only the intrepid will succeed. To get to it and in it gives a sense of well earned success, even before the reward of discovering the cuisine has begun.

The old Red October Chocolate factory complex on Bolotnaya Island is a veritable phoenix. Until recently, the maze of red brick factories, warehouses and rabbit runs jumbled into the site like a shaken chocolate box was looking well past its sell-by date. Now, however, no month passes without another new nightlife hotspot, art gallery, craft workshop or fashion boutique opening its doors. The area is fast becoming a bohemian paradise, the place to be and to be seen. It is anarchic and fluid, with change being the only constant. A model for modern life, as consuming the good things of life replaces the making of chocolate confections. It is a work in progress, a living experiment and creative laboratory. Enter today's hero, Valentino Bontempi, chef, restaurateur, writer and entrepreneur.





Sit at an upstairs window table, with views of and across the river, watching the sunset lights changing, and listening to our host's effusive enthusiasm and be carried into an enclave of Italy. Valentino loves Moscow, loves cooking and loves Italy. He is dedicated to providing the authentic taste of Italy. No compromise, no sushi. The restaurant is elegantly Spartan in décor: functional without being distracting, allowing the maximum of investment in the cuisine. After coming to Moscow to be head chef at the expanding and agreeable Jean Jacques group, Valentino set off on his own last October.

His menu is precise and purposeful, with extras on a chalkboard. The range of Italian delicacies without needless duplication. As he explains, the quality of ingredients is key. While some of the fish comes from home, of necessity, and meat for the Osso Bucco from Canada, as much as possible comes from Moscow's splendid markets, Dorgormilshi in the van.

*A table, citoyens!* Our evening was something of a progressive meal. Guests and chef arrived and left at irregular intervals, making for more of a smorgasbord than a set feast. We therefore enjoyed sampling delights in unusual orders, no bad thing at all. One constant was an exceptional wine, which kept us good company throughout. The 2008 Cervo comes from the Umbrian hills above Florence. 85% Chardonnay gives the reliable body and durability, and a lineage back to 1458 adds the distinctive local taste.

The hors d'oeuvres were so delicious, we kept ordering more. Whitebait in batter, and slivers of anchovy in wafer thin fried bread. As you would expect in Italy, the bread basket is a masterpiece in itself: panini, slender sticks, salt bread and coated hot rolls to melt in the mouth. Next up, I savoured the subtleties of Pasta al Funghi while the two Johns tucked into substantial dishes of wild boar and bourbillasse. The former was full of flavour, in both meat and sauce, and a great favourite of any Mediterranean hill area. John Ortega cheerily disappeared behind a huge serving of the iconic port dish, with fish, clams, giant prawns and scallops wrestling for attention in a sauce of even more flavours. Olesya could not be distracted from her Lenten diet, so she sampled a vegetarian Lasagne. A good test

for a chef, to entertain the palate with a restricted range of ingredients. Easy! Quality pasta, interleaved with tomatoes, carrots, aubergine and leek did their jobs together.

And if all that does not entice you, wait patiently for Valentino's own party piece. Concocted at your table, an exquisite Mango sorbet to die for, chilled as it is whisked in a tornado of liquid nitrogen.

With only 92 covers, (and an alfresco extension for the summer) the atmosphere is personal and familial, but booking is essential, especially for the long weekend evenings.

How to get there. Despite the two new and fanciful footbridges, access to the area can be confusing, a healthy stride from a Metro, something of a labyrinth to navigate by car. Bontempi restaurant itself is unmarked and devoid of ornamentation. Not even a web address. But well worth the quest.

Persevere! You will be richly rewarded. By way of hints, it is on the embankment and adjacent to the better-arrowed Strelka Bar, itself an ideal place to meet and to watch the beau monde passing by. By way of a digestif, they did us a generous and sparkling Margarita cocktail to round off a splendid evening.

Bontempi 12 Bersenevskaya Nab., Bldg. 1, Krasny Oktyabr, Metro: Kropotkinskaya, Tel. 223-1387 Across from The Cathedral of Christ the Saviour (khram Khrista Spasitela) near old October Chocolate factory and behind Rai Club **P**



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T./F.: +7 495 797 63 08/09  
www.novikovgroup.ru**

## AMERICAN

### CORREA'S

New American, non-smoking environment, cool comfort food at several Moscow locations  
7 Ulitsa Gasheka, 789-9654

**M. Mayakovskaya**

### STARLITE DINER

Paul O'Brien's 50s-style American Starlite Diners not only have the best traditional American breakfasts, lunches, and dinners in town, they draw a daily crowd for early morning and lunchtime business meetings. Open 24 hours. 5 locations.

**M. Pushkinskaya**

Strastnoy Blvd. 8a,  
989 44 61

**M. Mayakovskaya**

16 Ul. Bolshaya Sadovaya,  
650-0246

**M. Oktyabrskaya**

9a Ul. Korovy Val,  
959-8919

**M. Universitet**

6 Prospekt Vernadskovo,  
783-4037

**M. Polyanka**

16/5 Bolotnaya Plushchad,  
951-5838

[www.starlite.ru](http://www.starlite.ru)

### AMERICAN BAR & GRILL

This veteran Moscow venue still does good hamburgers, steaks, bacon & eggs and more. Open 24 hours.

2/1/ 1st Tverskaya-Yamskaya Ul,  
250-9525

### BEVERLY HILLS DINER

The new kid on the diner block with a full range of American standards.

1 Ulitsa Sretenka,

**M. Chisty Prudy**

### HARD ROCK CAFE

For those longing to Americana, HRC's main asset is its great location on the Old Arbat overlooking the busy pedestrian mall. The usual rock paraphernalia and a somewhat mediocre presentation of the HRC standard menu.

44 Stary Arbat, 205-8335

**M. Smolenskaya**

[www.hardrock.com](http://www.hardrock.com)

## ASIAN

### AROMA

Indian Restaurant  
Krizhizanovskovo Street 20/30,

**M. Profsayounaya**

[www.aromamoscow.ru](http://www.aromamoscow.ru)  
+7(495) 543-54-26

### TURANDOT

Fabulous Asian food in a palatial and exquisite setting. The owners reportedly spent a mid-eight figure amount on the fit-out including a two million dollar dim-sum kitchen. Try the Wasabi shrimp.

26/5 Tverskoi Bulvar, 739-0011

**M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya**

[www.turandotpallace.ru](http://www.turandotpallace.ru)

### MR. LEE

Fashionable and expensive Chinese from Novikov.  
7 Kuznetsky Most, 628-7678

**M. Kuznetsky Most**

### NE DALNY VOSTOK

Passport's 2009 number one Moscow restaurant. Chef Glen Ballis turns out fabulous crab specialties, Asian, grill and salads. Come by when they bring in a big tuna. "Classy."

15 Tverskoy Bulvar, 694-0641, 694-0154

**M. Tverskaya**

<http://eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/>

## COFFEE AND PASTRIES

### COFFEE BEAN

Jerry Ruditsger opened the first coffee shops in Moscow, and still serves the best coffee. Smoke-free. Several locations.

56 Leningradsky Prospekt, 742-3755

[www.coffeebean.ru](http://www.coffeebean.ru)

### COFFEE MANIA

The Coffee Mania next to the Moscow Conservatory is a popular daytime informal business venue. Open 24 hours. Several locations.

13 Ulitsa Bolshaya Nikitskaya, 775-5188, 775-4310

**M. Arbatskaya, Biblioteka im. Lenina**

[www.coffeemania.ru](http://www.coffeemania.ru)

### STARBUCKS

Now has 32 locations.

[www.starbuckscoffee.ru](http://www.starbuckscoffee.ru)

### VOLKONSKY PEKARNYA-KONDITERSKAYA

The coffee service at this bakery takes second place to its fabulous French-style baked goods. Smoke-free.

2/46 Bolshoi Sadovaya

**M. Mayakovskaya**

## EUROPEAN

### CARRE BLANC

Moscow's top French restaurant. Try the bistro and weekend brunch.

9/2 Ul. Seleznevskaya, 258-4403

**M. Novoslobodskaya**

[www.carreblanc.ru](http://www.carreblanc.ru)

### BLACKBERRY

Elegant but comfortable with an eclectic international menu: Asian, Russian, Italian, sushi and other cuisines.

10 Academic Sakharov Prospekt

926-1640, 926-1645

**M. Chistiye Prudy**

### CAFE DES ARTISTES

Restaurant and bar offers fine European cuisine in a relaxed atmosphere, often with recent artwork on the walls of the upstairs room.

5/6 Kamergersky Pereulok, 692-4042

**M. Teatralnaya**

[www.artistico.ru](http://www.artistico.ru)

### GALEREYA

Trendy, lavish and expensive. The place to see and be seen.

27 Ulitsa Petrovka, 937-4544

**M. Pushkinskaya**

[eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/](http://eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/)

### GRAND ALEXANDER

Named after poet Alexander Pushkin, this opulent restaurant at the Marriott Grand Hotel is one of Moscow's top French-European restaurants.

26 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 937-0000

**M. Tverskaya**

### JEROBOAM

Ritz-Carlton's Jeroboam, under the stewardship of celebrity German chef Heinz Winkler, offers "la Cuisine Vitale" in the new building that replaced the eyesore that was the Soviet-era Intourist Hotel.

3 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 225-8888

**M. Okhotny Ryad**

### KAI RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE

Some of Moscow's best contemporary French cuisine with an Asian touch from chef at Swissotel Krasnye Holmy.

52/6 Kosmodamianskaya Nab, 221-5358

**M. Paveletskaya**

### MARSEILLES

"Marseilles": the cozy and warm atmosphere of "Le Cabaque" in the historical centre of Moscow. European and Mediterranean cuisine. Concerts of French chanson, or pop-rock, literary evenings, the tango and dance till you drop.

St. Krasnoyarskaya, 16. Pp. 1, +7 (495) 232 47 02

**M. Novoslobodskaya**

### SCANDINAVIA

The summer cafe is one of Moscow's main after-work meeting venues. Excellent Scandinavian and continental menu.

19 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 937-5630

**M. Pushkinskaya**

[www.scandinavia.ru](http://www.scandinavia.ru)

### SKY LOUNGE

Dining on the roof of the Russian Academy of Sciences offers guests unparalleled views of the city.

32a Leninsky Prospekt, 915-1042, 938-5775

**M. Leninsky Prospekt**

[www.skylounge.ru](http://www.skylounge.ru)

### VANIL

Hip French and Japanese near the Cathedral of Christ the Savior.

1 Ulitsa Ostozhenka, 202-3341

**M. Kropotkinskaya**

[eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/](http://eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/)

### VOGUE CAFE

Elegant, trendy partnership with Vogue magazine.

7/9 Ul. Kuznetsky Most, 623-1701

**M. Kuznetsky Most**

<http://eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/>

## LEBANESE

### SHAFRAN

Quiet and cosy atmosphere. Culinary masterpieces of Arabic cuisine. Varied and substantial lunches. Unusual and tasty breakfasts. The mezze is completely addictive!

Spiridonievsky pereulok, 12/9, 737-95-00

[www.restoran-shafran.ru](http://www.restoran-shafran.ru)

## FUSION

### GQ BAR

A warm, active hang-out for the elite just up from the Kempinski Baltischug Hotel. Partnership with GQ magazine.

5 Ulitsa Baltischug, 956-7775

**M. Novokuznetskaya**

[eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/](http://eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/)

### SOHO ROOMS

Chef Laura Bridge mixes it up at this trendy restaurant-club along the embankment near Novodivichy Monastery.

12 Savinskaya Nab., 988-7474

**M. Sportivnaya**

[www.sohorooms.com](http://www.sohorooms.com)

## HEALTHY

### JAGGANNATH CAFE

A simple but excellent vegetarian buffet with an eclectic mix of Asian and other dishes.

11 Kuznetsky Most, 628-3580

**M. Kuznetsky Most**

[www.jagannath.ru](http://www.jagannath.ru)

### LE PAIN QUOTIDIEN

Simple and healthy food and bakery at the Moscow extension of an international chain. Delivery. Multiple locations.

5/6 Kamergersky Pereulok, 649-7050

[www.lpq.ru](http://www.lpq.ru)

## LATIN AMERICAN

### NAVARRO'S BAR & GRILL

El Salvador born chef-owner Yuri Navarro excels at everything from tapas to eclectic Peruvian-Mediterranean fusion, seafood to grilled meat. One of Moscow's few chef-owned restaurants.

23 Shmitovskiy Proezd, 259-3791

**M. Mezhdunarodnaya**

[www.navarros.ru](http://www.navarros.ru)

### OLD HAVANA

An amazing place, with a stunning Brazilian table-side show nightly from Thursday to Saturday. The food is good, but the highlight is the unbelievable three-hour extravaganza with about two dozen dancers and capoeira performers.

28 Ulitsa Talalikhina, 723-1656

**M. Proletarskaya**

[www.old-havana.ru](http://www.old-havana.ru)

## ITALIAN

### ILFORNO

Restaurant-Pizzeria 25 kinds of great tasty stone oven baked Pizza. Great choice of fresh pasta and risotto. Grilled meat and fish

8/10 Build.1 Neglinnaya Ul.

(495) 621-90-80, (495) 621-35-41

[www.ilforno.ru](http://www.ilforno.ru)

### SEMIFREDDO MULINNAZO

Sicilian chef Nino Graziano dishes up the best of Sicily and the Mediterranean with the help of his personal grill out front. Huge Italian wine list.

2 Rossolimo Ulitsa, (499) 766-4646

**M. Park Kultury**

[www.semifreddo-restaurant.com](http://www.semifreddo-restaurant.com)

### MARIO

Delightful elegance and style with the best-quality Italian dishes. Open noon to last guest.

17 Ulitsa Klimashkina, 253-6505

**M. Barrikadnaya**

### CIPOLLINO

Coffee- and cream-colored stylish Italian cafe a stone's throw from the Cathedral of Christ the Savior.

7 Soimonovskiy Proyezd, 695-2936, 695-2950

**M. Kropotkinskaya**

[www.cipollino.ru](http://www.cipollino.ru)



## JAPANESE

### KINKI

Authentic Japanese kitchen with amazing seafood delicacies like Tasmanian salmon, Madagascan shrimp and others. The range of Japanese drinks is extremely wide. You can taste true Japanese sake – rice-based hot drink – which is served in a special Japanese way.  
11, Osennaya Str., (495) 781-1697

**M. Krylatskoye**  
www.kinkigrill.ru

### MEGU

The best Sushi in town is served here according to PASSPORT's publisher John Ortega. Funky Korean décor and ambience.

Lotte Plaza Hotel Novinsky Bulvar 8

**M. Smolenskaya**  
+7 495 745 1000

### NOBU

The Moscow branch of the legendary Nobu is now open on Bolshaya Dmitrovka. Nobu moves directly to PASSPORT's Moscow Top 10 list.  
20 Bolshaya Dmitrovka, 645-3191

**M. Okhotny Ryad**  
www.noburestaurants.ru

### ICHIBAN BOSHI

High-quality, affordable Japanese with cool ambience. Several locations.

22 Krasnaya Presnya Ulitsa, (499) 255-0909

**M. Krasnopresnenskaya**  
50 Ulitsa Bolshaya Yakimanka

**M. Polyanka**  
www.ichiban.ru

### TSVETENIYE SAKURY

Completely new restaurant concept in Moscow based on a combination of traditional and contemporary Japanese cuisine. Ancient recipes are joined by recent innovations.

7 Ulitsa Krasina, 506-0033

**M. Mayakovskaya**  
**SEIJI**

One of the few Moscow sushi restaurants that actually has a Japanese chef, even a celebrity chef – Seiji Kusano, who also set up the O2 Lounge at the Ritz-Carlton.

5/2 Komsomolsky Prospekt, 246-7624

**M. Park Kultury**

## CAUCASUS

### ARARAT

A little corner of Armenia right in the center of Moscow at the Ararat Park Hyatt. Cozy atmosphere and spicy Armenian fare. All ingredients delivered straight from Armenia including fine Armenian brandies.

4 Neglinnaya Ulitsa, 783-1234

**M. Teatralnaya, Kuznetsky Most**  
**BAGRATIONI**

Great Georgian food and entertainment in a stylish mansion near Novodevichy Monastery and the Korean Embassy.

1/7 Spartakovskaya Plushchad, 267-6881, 266-0531

**M. Baumanskaya**  
**BARASHKA**

Our Azerbaijanian friends swear it's the best Azeri restaurant in town.

20/1 Petrovka Ulitsa, 200-4714, **M. Kuznetsky Most**

21/1 Novy Arbat, **M. Arbatskaya**  
http://eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/

### BELOYE SOLNTSE PUSTYNI

Named after White Desert Sun, one of the USSR's favorite films. An eclectic Central Asian menu that includes Azerbaijan and Uzbek cuisine.

29 Ul. Neglinnaya, 625-2596, 200-6836

**M. Kuznetsky Most, Teatralnaya**  
http://eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/

## RUSSIAN

### CAFE PUSHKIN

A Moscow classic serving upmarket Russian cuisine in a lavish, 19th century setting. Bustling, ground-floor dining hall and a more sophisticated (and pricier) experience upstairs. Reservation essential.

26a Tverskoi Bulvar, 739-0033

**M. Pushkinskaya, Tverskaya, Chekhovskaya**  
**GODUNOV**

For real lovers of all things Russian, including traditional Russian dancing, rivers of vodka and plates stacked with food in the Tsar's chambers from the time of Boris Godunov.

5 Teatralnaya Plushchad, 698-5609

**M. Teatralnaya**

### NA MELNITSE

Homemade cuisine: kvas, mors, vodka, pickles. Russian style with plenty of wood. The food is far from cheap, but the portions are enormous: it's like being fed by an overzealous babushka.

7 Tverskoi Bulvar, 290-3737

**M. Pushkinskaya, Tverskaya, Chekhovskaya**  
24 Sadovo-Spasskaya Ulitsa, 625-8890, 625-8753

**M. Krasniye Vorota**  
www.namelnitse.ru

### OBLMOV

Authentic Russian cuisine in a restored 19th century mansion.

5 Monetchikovskiy Pereulok, 953-6828

**M. Dobryninskaya**

### TSDL

The Central House of Writers' opulent Russian-French restaurant is located in the building with the same name. A memorable, top-notch meal in luxurious surroundings.

50 Povarskaya Ul, 290-1589

**M. Barrikadnaya**

### YOLKI-PALKI

A Russian chain that serves a great selection of typical Russian specialties at modest prices. Many locations.

23 Bolshaya Dmitrovka, 200-0965

**M. Okhotny Ryad, Teatralnaya**  
http://eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/

## SEAFOOD

### FILIMONOVA & YANKEL

You will find an outlet near many of the Goodman steak houses. Very fresh fish and a straightforward menu. Several locations.

23 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 223-0707

**M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya**  
www.fishhouse.ru

### LA MAREE

La Maree is Moscow's number one seafood restaurant, built by Tunisian Mehdi Douss, owner of Moscow's leading fresh seafood importer.

28/2 Ulitsa Petrovka, 694-0930

www.la-maree.ru

## STEAKS

### EL GAUCHO

True Argentine menu. THE place for charcoal-grilled meats and fish.

4 Ul. Sadovaya-Triumfalnaya, 699-7974

**M. Mayakovskaya**

6/13 Ul. Zatspeysky Val, 953-2876

**M. Paveletskaya**

3 Bolshoi Kozlovsky Pereulok, 623-1098

**M. Krasniye Vorota**

www.elgaucho.ru

### CHICAGO PRIME

#### Steakhouse & Bar

Chicago Prime Steakhouse, is the best of Chicago in downtown Moscow. U.S.D.A Prime steaks, a wide choice of seafood, valued priced wines, unique specialty cocktails and stylish interior will take you into an atmosphere of casual elegance and exceptional cuisine. Happy Hours daily from 5 pm till 8 pm

Strastnoy Blvd. 8a, 988 17 17

www.chicagoprime.ru

### GOODMAN

Moscow's premium steak house chain. Numerous locations.

23 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 775-9888

**M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya**

www.goodman.ru

### POLO CLUB

Dining at its finest at the Marriott Aurora. Features American prime beef and steaks.

Ulitsa Petrovka 11/20, 937-1024

**M. Kuznetsky Most**

### TORRO GRILL

The focus is on the best mid-priced meat in Moscow. Wine Bar. Several locations.

6 Prospekt Vernadskogo, 775-4503

**M. Universitet**

www.torrogill.ru

## BARS AND CLUBS

### KARMA BAR

One of the most popular night clubs in town. Eastern-inspired interior, hookahs, and pan-Asian cuisine. Latin American dancing, Thursday-Saturday, 21:00-midnight.

3 Pushechnaya Ulitsa, 624-5633

**M. Kuznetsky Most**

www.karma-bar.ru

### NIGHT FLIGHT

If you don't know about Night Flight, ask somebody! Open 18:00-05:00

17 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 629-4165

**M. Tverskaya**

www.nightflight.ru

### PYATNICA BAR

This is a nice city café with delicious and pretty cheap food. They serve Indian, Thai, Japanese, Italian and Russian dishes here so it's good for having lunch on working days. On Friday night it turns into crazy bar with vibrant, relaxed atmosphere and large selection of cocktails and other drinks.

Pyantitskaya, 3/4, build 1. 953-69-32.

www.pyatnica-bar.ru

### PAPA'S

Master night spot host Doug Steele is back, at Papa's tucked in the basement below Johnny the Fat Boy Pizzeria. Papa's features live music and lots of sweaty young bodies and sweaty older men.

2 Myasnitskaya Ulitsa, 755-9554

**M. Kitai-Gorod**

**NOTE:** For restaurants with multiple locations the most popular location is given – see the website for others. All phone numbers have city code 495 unless otherwise indicated. Reservations suggested for most restaurants.

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# Moscow's Best Restaurants?



Text and photos Charles Borden

When UK-based *Restaurant* magazine announced its annual list of the S. Pellegrino World's 50 Best Restaurants in April, Vavary became the first Moscow establishment to make the list at #48. On April 23, The Independent used the occasion of the Vavary pick to publish "The chef leading Russia's culinary revolution," an overview of Russia's restaurant market, and bio of Vavary chef Anatoli Komm.

Two other Moscow restaurants made the second tier of 51-100: Semifreddo (83) and Chaika (99). Semifreddo improved from #94 last year and Chaika, a relative newcomer on the Moscow scene, is a new entry. Two Moscow restaurants on the 2010 list, Pushkin Café (93) and Doce Uvas (85) did not make the 2011 listing. Pushkin Café had continued a slide from #62 on the 2007 list, and Turandot, which had been #65 that year had already dropped off.

The crowning of Vavary, Semifreddo and Chaika as the best three restaurants in Moscow painted a virtual red and white target on the door of each, and provoked heated discussion in our PASSPORT dining circle. Most comments were along the lines of "Unbelievable! Who makes these ratings?" The short answer from the 50 Best website story is that the awards are compiled by *Restaurant* magazine, sponsored by S. Pellegrino, and selected by a poll of over 800 leaders from the restaurant industry. The fuss led to an impromptu lunch at Chaika, and a drop by at Semifreddo and Vavary.

We've been to Semifreddo Mulinazzo, near Park Kultury, where chef Nino Graziano presents an entirely Italian menu

with a Sicilian slant. The Mulinazzo comes from the name of Graziano's Il Mulinazzo (now called Graziano), a Michelin star restaurant in the Sicilian village Villaftati. The wine list is a huge compendium of the top Italian wines available in Moscow. Semifreddo's wine and food prices are not for the faint-pocketed, but undaunted black Mercs and Land Rovers jam up Semifreddo's corner of tiny Rossillimo Ulitsa every night. Semifreddo still makes my top 10 list of Moscow restaurants.

Chaika occupies a free-standing building set back off Marksisetskaya, though on the wrong side to catch diners headed home from the centre in the evening. It's a lovely place, easy to find, marked by two white rhinoceroses grazing on the lawn. The day we visited the enclosed and very comfortable summer terrace had only recently opened. The hospitable chef, Dmitry Shurshakov, also oversees two other restaurants: Mechta on the Garden Ring near Paveletskaya, and Buffet. Shurshakov formerly worked at Grand Cru restaurant.

Perusing Chaika's menu, I agreed with my dining partner, just in from Paris, that the descriptions were not generally eye-catching, but "the proof of the pudding is in the eating." For our Saturday lunch, I ordered Green Asparagus Cream Soup (450r) and Risotto Four Cheese (490r). My guest ordered Rucola with Avocado, Tomato and Fried Porcini (450r with a 380r add-on for the porcini) and Pappardelle with Duck Stew (590r). I was pleased with both my selections. The asparagus soup, poured into my bowl at the table over a dab of vanilla ice cream, was delightful. Both of us declared the risotto the best dish on the table. My guest was less pleased with his order; it was "good, but not great," he commented. We concluded that Chaika was





well worth another visit, better for dinner. But is it one of Moscow's top three? Perhaps it's a contender for the top twenty.

Despite Vavary's presence on the Pellegrino 51-100 list last year, we still have not dined there, so no judgment is possible. We have dined at some of Vavary star chef Anatoli Komm's other establishments but many are now closed; it appears that he is focusing on his flagship. The comments about the Vavary selection were mostly negative: "pretentious", "outrageously expensive". Komm is a proponent of molecular cuisine, which often turns up on the table as a light and foamy presentation, the antithesis of a good piece of red meat (which you'll get at Chicago Prime in the same building).

Not one to accept hearsay, I decided to at least drop by Vavary. Entering through the side of the building that houses Chicago Prime and Starlite Diner, an elevator ascends to Vavary on the eight floor, and opens into the foyer of a darkly decorated but welcoming two floor *salle à manger* with windows overlooking the city to the northeast. There's a large photo of the chef contingent, which apparently exceeds a dozen, with the master (as the host called him). I looked over two menus, one a large selection of Italian dishes for a *la carte* orders, and a selection of gastronomic Russian cuisine *prix fixe* dinners prepared by Komm himself topping out at 8500 rubles.

On this nice spring day, I visited Vavary's magnificent open veranda on the top floor. I admit to being impressed by this first look and hope I got the point, that Komm is seeking to re-create a dining experience, with Russian cuisine, in the grand old style of the big kitchens of France. Has he done it? Somebody thinks so. **P**

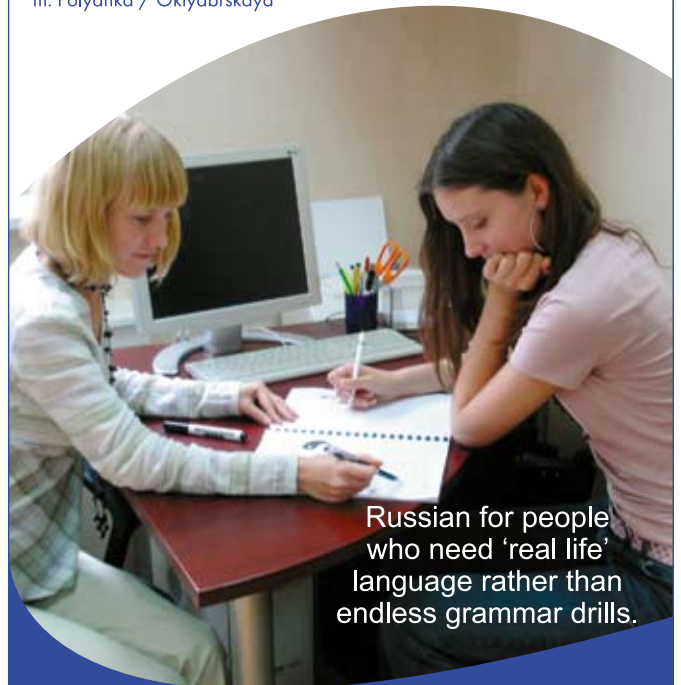
**Semifreddo Mullinazzo**  
2 Rossolimo Ulitsa  
Metro: Park Kultury  
Phone: +7 499 766 4646  
[www.semifreddo.ru](http://www.semifreddo.ru)

**Chaika**  
Ulitsa Marksistskaya 7  
Metro: Taganskaya  
+7 495 911 7989  
[www.chaika-café.ru](http://www.chaika-café.ru)

**Vavary**  
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# Toil and Water

Ian Mitchell

Are sailors inherently less biddable than land-lubbers? Many supporters of Alfred Theyer Mahon and the “maritime school” of world history would emphatically agree. They believe that those who have sniffed sea-breezes have forever after something of the Viking rover in their soul. The case of Arthur Ransome, the ex-Bolshevik author of the *Swallows and Amazons* books, would support such a theory.

Ransome was the ultimate contrarian—a public school man who married Trotsky’s secretary; a Bolshevik supporter who reported to British intelligence. While supporting the toiling, collectivist masses, Ransome was engaged in the ultimate individualist activity of learning to sail a small boat single-handed on the open sea. While his heroes, the Bolshevik revolutionaries, were massacring the Kronstadt sailors, Ransome was having a fine 30-foot sloop built in Riga. It was launched the month Lenin expelled many of Russia’s most prestigious scientists because they refused to conform to Bolshevik thinking. Ransome’s book about the subsequent voyage, *Racundra’s First Cruise*, ignored politics completely.

Roland Chambers’s fascinating biography of this curious man is entitled *The Last Englishman* and subtitled *The Double Life of Arthur Ransome*. The book focuses on Ransome’s intelligence work, which was for both the Bolsheviks and the British, most intensively so when they were at loggerheads. On one trip to London, he helped smuggle millions of roubles worth of diamonds out of Russia which was used to fund the Comintern. He also reported about Lenin to the Foreign Office.

Ransome’s father, a pious Yorkshire academic, sent him to Rugby School, where he was a poor student. But he had an inspirational Classics master who was an expert in Sanskrit and Eastern folklore. This man spent his summer holidays sailing with local fishermen in the Aegean while translating British sea shanties into Latin and ancient Greek. He gave Ransome’s imagination wings by encouraging his attempts to write. It is possible that to him we ultimately

owe the joy of reading about John, Susan, Titty and Roger in their little dinghy Swallow, and Nancy and Peggy in the Amazon, and their shared adventures on Wild Cat Island, in defiance of the malfasant Uncle Jim, or “Captain Flint”.

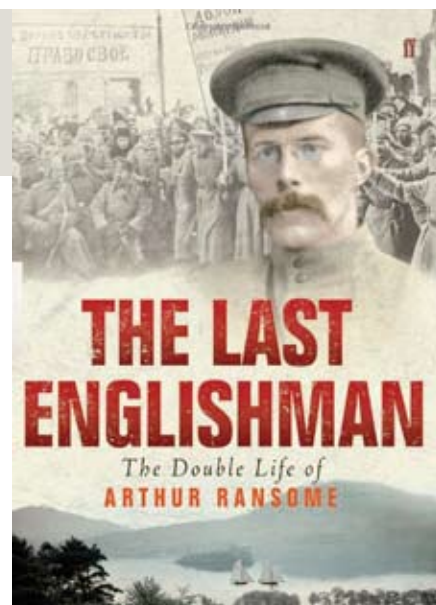
After Rugby, Ransome took an unsatisfactory job in Fleet Street, made a wholly unsuitable marriage, had a daughter from whom he was soon semi-estranged, and wrote a controversial book about Oscar Wilde which provoked a law suit from Lord Alfred Douglas. In 1913, he threw everything up and headed to Russia, intending to learn the language and study the folklore, possibly in imitation of his old Classics master.

By 1917, he was a convinced supporter of the Revolution, and accredited correspondent for the *Manchester Guardian* at Bolshevik headquarters in the Smolny. It was there, in a queue for scarce potatoes, that he met Evgenya Shelepina, who was Trotsky’s secretary. They spent the rest of their lives together, with Evgenya affectionately calling him “ducky” because of the odd way he walked due to a crucifying haemorrhoid condition.

In his intelligence work, Ransome was not a double agent: he was an agent of each side at the same time, which is a different thing. A double agent deceives his first employer by working for the other side against the first one. Ransome did not do that. He worked for both sides hoping, as naively as some of his fictional characters, to bring about reconciliation between capitalism and communism.

Lenin appears to have thought of him as one of the “useful idiots” from the West who could help to make Bolshevism respectable enough that devastated, post-revolutionary Russia could obtain credits and trade agreements. The British were less tolerant. In 1920, the order went out to arrest him as he passed through Helsinki at the time he was helping Russia to arrange a peace treaty with Estonia.

But the agent arrested the wrong journalist, so Ransome was able to finish his business in Finland and travel happily on to Norway, bearing a letter of accreditation from Lenin. From there he crossed to Newcastle, where he announced himself as an agent of



## The Last Englishman: the Double Life of Arthur Ransome

Roland Chambers

Faber and Faber £9.99

Her Majesty’s government who had “run considerable risks of detection at the hands of the Bolsheviks” while gathering information vital to Britain’s interests.

Secret service men shadowed him as he travelled to London. At King’s Cross, he was arrested—by a man in a bowler hat who offered to carry his bags for him *en route* to Scotland Yard. There, Ransome was interviewed by Sir Basil Thompson, the head of Special Branch, who wanted to find out where his loyalties ultimately lay. Thompson asked him straight out what his politics were. Ransome replied: “Fishing”, adding that he was anxious to get out of town as the trout season was about to open.

That worked. He was allowed to go about his business, and return to the land of violently imposed but still, to him, romantic egalitarianism. However when the New Economic Policy was introduced, abandoning pure Bolshevism, Ransome suddenly got bored with politics. After a few years’ aimless coming and going, he retired to the Lake District with Evgenia, and settled down to writing the series of delightful, if now rather dated, sailing stories that made him one of the world’s best selling children’s authors of the mid-twentieth century. The two of them lived happily ever after, into ripe old age, never giving Russia another serious thought. **P**



# The Bejewelled Newt

Nelen

Once upon a time there was a bejewelled newt that sang in a mid-summer pond, "beautiful, strange..."

A music master used to spend his holidays in a rustic cabin nearby and of a mosquito-buzzing, star-filled night, he would go down to the pond to listen to her. The voice was indeed most unusual, not creaky like the croak of the frogs, but soft, low and a little mournful.

By night, the newt would sing but by day, she led an ordinary life. She was married to a woodcutter and she worked as a librarian. The frogs came into the library, wanting modern self-improvement books, but all she could give them were the old tales about turning into princes. "Reddit, reddit, reddit," croaked the cynical frogs. They knew that the bejewelled newt sang at night but they advised her not to give up the day job.

All summer, the music master listened to her, enraptured. Her haunting alto seemed to be disembodied, for she was hidden in the dark water. When the time came for him to return to the city, he decided to speak his heart.

"Oh newt," said he, "that is a very rare voice you have. Come back with me to the Conservatory and I will train you up to be a famous diva."

It was a flattering offer and she accepted it without a second thought. She packed her case, tied a new ribbon to her tail and set off with him to the big city.

Who can say what her motivations were? Perhaps she was genuinely interested to study the possibilities of her voice; perhaps she was lured by the prospect of fame and gems more glittering than the shimmering obsidian of her own skin.

Who can say what his motivations were? Perhaps he honestly envisaged her upon a stage together with the song birds of the air; or perhaps he thought he could make a profit out of her.

The poor woodcutter was distressed. He thought the music master would distort the true voice of his subtly bejewelled wife but he did not stand in the way of her advancement.





When the newt first arrived in the metropolis, the music master treated her gently, dressed her in velvet and, at their first public performance, supported her on a cushion of his fabulous piano playing, so that she was almost an overnight success. The audience showered her with hothouse flowers in December.



Then to improve matters, the music master began to drum his techniques into her. "You are going to be singing in big halls now," he said. "The audience simply won't be able to hear you if you go on in your underwater way."

He drummed and beat and bullied and coaxed and she did her best to follow his expert instructions but her sound just went from bad to worse.

"Your best is not good enough," he said.

His Conservatory colleagues looked on aghast that he was wasting his time with such a hopeless creature.

The newt tried even harder but her sound just went from worse to worst. Finally, it became so awful that she gave up singing altogether. She started a love affair with him instead. It was not the first time a student had jumped into bed with her professor and it would not be the last.

Their sex was hot and a marvellous distraction for quite a long time, although both of them carried a heavy disappointment in their hearts. They had sacrificed much—he his professional reputation and she her old life with the woodcutter—in their attempt to bring the mysterious pond sound—"beautiful, strange"—to a wider audience.

The years passed and the music master worked with the birds of the air, struggling to enhance their trills, while the newt took comfort in books. The couple were happy enough on the surface but the newt's wound was deep. She no longer had access to her pond but only a bath, full of bubbles, in which she soaked in silence. The poor newt had so lost her confidence that she did not even dare to sing in the bath!

Then one day, when the newt and the musician understood they were growing old and it was too late for celebrity and they had nothing left to lose, they decided to hold a Christmas concert for the pure joy of music-making. They would invite all the birds of the air—the stars and the amateurs and the students—and the newt would get back into vocal form as best she could and all would bring their gifts, rich or modest, to the Christ-Child at Bethlehem.

The music master invited an African nightingale to take part and she agreed readily until she heard that the famous Nightingale of Berkeley Square had also been offered the chance to sing. Then the African nightingale suddenly fell ill with an unfortunate green sickness and dropped out of the enterprise.

Plenty of others were keen to leap on the bandwagon, however. There was a parrot from Singapore, an American reed warbler, a charming little hornbill and a couple of common song thrushes, not quite up to the standard of the nightingales, perhaps, but alluring in their own way.

And there was the newt, perplexingly bejewelled, who got up her courage again and began to sing in her hushed and calming voice, "beautiful, strange..." **P**

*To be continued in next month's edition*



## LITTLE ANGELS KINDERGARTEN

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- Little Angels Kindergarten invites all children ages 1.5 – 8yrs old for its summer program starting from 13th June – 12th August 2011.
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- Enrollment for September can also be done now as space is limited.








Compiled by Ross Hunter






## Summertime!

Moscow is full of nature and life. A few simple quizzes, all showing birds and trees which can be seen inside the city.

### Which leaf comes from each tree?

				
Birch	Oak	Beech	Willow	Ash

### Which footprint belongs to which bird? (You may need to go to the zoo for a couple of them. (Not to scale!))

				
Duck	Penguin	Crow	Eagle	Gull

#### Birds and Trees

Hidden in this camouflage are 23 local species. One of the trees is there twice, and a family of three birds are there. So are two cats, climbing up to get them, and one small flying mammal. Look across, vertically and diagonally. Hint: every square is used!

#### Latin and English

All trees are named in Latin. Can you match the proper tree to the common name? These are shuffled:

**Fagus – Quercus – Salix – Ilex – Acer**

Sycamore – Oak – Holly – Beech – Willow

C	H	O	R	N	B	E	A	M
P	H	B	A	T	U	L	R	O
S	I	A	W	I	L	L	O	W
P	R	G	F	T	L	U	O	L
A	C	I	E	F	F	G	K	B
R	R	O	F	O	I	T	T	E
R	O	W	A	N	N	R	A	E
O	W	L	A	R	C	H	C	C
W	B	I	R	C	H	A	S	H

#### Mini Sudoku June

Usual rules: 1-6 in each row, column and box.

		4			1
1					
		5		3	
	3			4	
					2
6		1	3		

Mini Sudoku solutions: see [www.englishedmoscow.com](http://www.englishedmoscow.com)

#### Answers to May puzzles

##### Looking up.

(1) The four splendid glass roofs are: (l to r) The Great Court of the British Museum, London; The dining room of the Hotel Metropol; The Garage arts centre; and GUM.

(2) The four Metro ceilings are: Komsomolskaya, Novokuznetskaya, Kropotkinskaya and Mendelevskaya.

##### Feeding Foxes:

1 There are 24 different ways of arranging the queue.  $4! = 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1$

2 If the twins go together, there are only 6 ways to sort them; 4 times easier, not twice.

3 There are 6 ways of dividing the meals up

4 If the twins have the same, only 2 options are left.

Apologies: We wrongly offered Mayakovskaya without a photo. Here is a picture of one of the mosaics. Enjoy!



# Witches in the Misty Isles

## How to Recognise a Witch 13th Century.

Disease spreads among crops, cattle and people  
Accompanied by an animal companion or 'familiar',  
usually a toad or cat  
Has a squint, being the mark of the evil eye  
Floats when thrown, bound, into water  
Bears "Devil's marks" which do not feel pain or bleed  
Confesses after torture.  
Tori Buxbury. Alleged witch.

## How to Recognise a Witch. 21st Century.

Hang around shops shouting racial abuse.  
Sit on bus shelter roof, shouting, screaming,  
throwing bricks at cars.  
Has mark of evil witch coven written in biro across face.  
Bears Devil's ASBO marks.  
Has diabolical presence on Facebook.  
Confesses after interrogation.

Britain has been a centre of magic for millennia. I'm not talking about Paul Daniels and his card tricks, or Tommy Cooper and his maniacal conjuring disasters. Real magic is taken seriously in Britain. Most homes have a pair of shoes under the floorboards, or a cat bricked into the wall, as a deterrent against witches. The country is full of women who cast spells to improve your bank balance or mix up potions to make someone fall in love with you. New Age, white witches have been flying in on their Intercity 125 broomsticks for decades.

The revival of the dark arts was heralded by the Crazy World of Arthur Brown, at the 1971 Glastonbury Festival, when Arthur cast a spell which involved hanging on a life size crucifix, setting himself alight and singing, "I am the God of Hellfire". (No rock stars or animals were harmed during this performance.) His ascent to the blazing cross opened the door between the world of the Dark Lord and England's green and pleasant land. The door, locked in the 17th Century by the execution of the Pendle witches, had been reopened in a satanic rite, by a New Age hippy drug fiend.

This pyromanic crucifixion unleashed dark forces throughout the Misty Isles. LSD began to curdle on the blotting paper, future fourteen year-old heavy metal punk guitarists threw their Incredible String Band albums into the street, sprayed, "DEATH TO HIPPIES" on their bedroom walls, turned the amp up full and began playing hymns to Satan. And the witches came out of hiding.

Every cult or religion has its public face, presented by people who put a rational, reasonable explanation on whatever insanity their group are preaching. This group protect and hide the hordes of lunatics who form the bulk of the membership. The same is true of the witches. The frontline call themselves "White Witches", and claim their magic is only used for "good". They run several respectable witch businesses. They'll even organize a pagan wedding for you, or supply you with a cauldron for the kitchen.

Modern, middle-class witches have a strong presence on the internet. Enter your credit card details and furnish yourself with spells for psychic self defence, healing broken hearts, fertility, business success and attracting love. Drop them into your virtual shopping basket, along with your dowsing rod, crow wings and jackal skull (£54.00 from Witchcraft Ltd). As viewers of the Time Bandits are aware, The Lord of Darkness loves microchip technology.

Strangely enough, Witchcraft Ltd, along with several other British magical outlets, are based in Glastonbury, the place where Arthur Brown opened the door to Hades in 1971. I took Natasha, my friend from Omsk there, hoping the door was still open, so I could cast her in. Unfortunately all I found was a field of cows and a souvenir stall.

The hardcore English witches, however, come from Lancashire, not namby-pamby, New Age Somerset. In Lancashire, the witches murder people, throw bricks at cars, then get executed, or more recently, served with spells called ASBOs. (Anti-Social Behaviour Orders). In 1612, ten witches from Pendle, Lancs, were hanged for witchcraft, at Lancaster gaol.

They were accused of selling their souls to familiar spirits or devils who appeared to them in human and animal form. In return for their souls, the witches received the power to kill or lame whom they pleased (an offer I'd certainly take seriously). The Pendle witches, in league with the devils, killed eleven people before their diabolical pact with Satan was exposed. Unfortunately political correctness wasn't there to save anyone in the 17th Century, and they went to the gallows. Happily, witches get off more lightly in 21st century Lancashire.

Tori Buxbury and Amanda Holt, come from Whitebirk, a suburb of Blackburn, only a few miles from Pendle. They were given the name, the Whitebirk Witches, by terrorised residents. The girls sat on the roof of a local bus shelter, banging and screaming, throwing stones at cars. They wrote anti-police spells on walls, using aerosol paint. The witches also had their own Facebook page, which they used to insult rival covens. They challenged a group known as Great Big Giants to a fight attended by over 30 witches and giants. They frightened some residents so much, they were afraid to leave their homes, or put their lights out at night.

The two witches are banned from seeing each other, and banned from inciting anyone to cast anti-social spells. The face an immediate jail spell from the MAGISTRATA if they break the ban.

Will the power of the ASBO defeat the witches of Lancashire? Will Amanda and Tori make it back to the Light Side? Or will Britain descend deeper into an age of satanic darkness? Perhaps I'd better spend £23.00 on a spell to banish forces of darkness. I can get one from newagerippoff.co.uk. **P**



# Dare to ask Dare



Photo by Maria Savelieva

Ex-pats and Russians alike ask celebrity columnist Deidre Dare questions about life in Moscow.

## Dear Deidre:

*I have been married to my wife for a very long time and now cannot have sex with her unless I am fantasizing. I don't fantasize about things I'd like to do: I fantasize about other women, so don't tell me to ask my wife to indulge my fantasies. She'd have to metamorphise. She's a fat English woman over 50 who has given birth to three children and Moscow is full of much more beautiful women, in my opinion. Is what I'm doing okay?*

## Dear Trips the Light Fantastic:

We're always told that it is perfectly normal to fantasize during sex. For instance, it seems to be a running joke in every banal situation comedy that women everywhere need to conjure up Brad Pitt to get off.

I, however, disagree entirely. I believe it is completely abnormal.

I think that at the point when someone needs to envision someone or something else when they are having sex with another human being, they should get the hell out of bed with that person, for clearly they are no longer fulfilled by him or her.

It's stating the obvious to say that no one fantasizes at the beginning of a sexual relationship. No one has to. In the beginning one still has passion, pent up desire and lust—all the things that make sex fun. Once those are gone, sex loses its power. Even, eventually, its allure.

A long-married woman close to me told me that these days she prefers the feeling of a good sneeze gives her to the feeling of an orgasm during sex with her husband. Seriously. Next on her list after a sneeze was—how should I put this?—well, a satisfying evacuation of the bowels. The orgasm came in third place, right before a massage. Again, seriously.

It's no secret that I believe almost everyone lives sexually unfulfilled lives (something I simply refuse to do) so I think that the "it's normal" line reflects the fact that this phenomenon is ubiquitous. And whilst people may long that it were, ubiquitous is not the same as normal. For example, Kudzu is ubiquitous in Charlotte, North Carolina (where I once lived) but, having been imported before its destructive capabilities were known, certainly not normal.

The other part of the problem is that someone fantasizing is not present and in the moment for their partner. How awful to be screwing someone who is miles away in their imagination, screwing some hot Russian chick they saw on the Metro? Especially when the Russian chick is probably doing all sorts of wild things with other Russian chicks in a steamy banya? Or in a cage? Or in a cage in a steamy banya?

In my own life, I reserve the use of sexual fantasy for "self-pleasuring" and, in bed, actually screw the person thrusting away on top of me. Or beneath me. Or behind me...

I never understood the point of being in bed with someone who doesn't turn you on. Particularly since being turned-on by a lover actually in a bed with you is one of the best feelings in the world. Just writing about it makes me hot.

As for the sexual fantasies that involve doing things with the person you're with: say, like being put in a cage in a steamy banya with Russian chicks, I just tell my lovers what I want and they are always happy to oblige.

I don't think we should have sexual bucket lists. In fact, I don't think we should have bucket lists at all: we should do everything we want to do and damn the torpedoes. Nothing annoys me more than being back in the States and hearing people tell me they hope that

someday, before they die, they get to see the Pyramids. Because, you see, the Pyramids, like the Northern Lights, are on their bucket lists. My life is my bucket list. In other words, if it's something I want to do, I do it. So, I've seen the Pyramids and the Northern Lights. And, by the way, I've been put in a cage.

I do believe, nonetheless, that sexual fantasy has a role in our lives. For "self-pleasuring," nothing beats the world of the sexually imagined.

I travel a lot and, in consequence, sometimes must endure trying dry periods. It used to be that I would get hung up a lot at airport security because most vibrators under an x-ray machine resemble, most unfortunately, bullets (and some other Weapons of Mini Destruction). It didn't take me long to learn that leering glances from the oafs at TSA are unendurable. With ingenuity, I adapted my SonicCare Electric Toothbrush to the job and now pass unheeded through Oafsville.

Toothbrush in hand, out come the sexual fantasies: including the one with the hot Russian chick doing all sorts of wild things with other Russian chicks in a cage in a steamy banya.

I suggest you divorce your wife or, at the very least, take a mistress. Maybe you should lurk around the Sandunovsky Banya and see what kind of trouble you can get into? Or, since I'm travelling alone and in Los Angeles this month, you could meet me here. My teeth are very clean.

xxoodd

## Dear Deidre:

*I get a lot of "self" pleasure from eating. I have tried doing this while running my SonicCare Electric Toothbrush but I find using it only inhibits mastication. What do you advise?*

## Dear Masticator:

If you can give yourself an orgasm like that, you are ahead of me. Could you fly out to LA and show me how? Like, tonight, dude?

xxoodd

**Do you have a question for Deidre Dare? If so, please email her at [Deidre\\_Clarke@hotmail.com](mailto:Deidre_Clarke@hotmail.com).**

## Restaurants & Bars

Adriatico  
American Bar&Grill, Zemlyani Val 59  
American Bar&Grill, 1st Tverskaya-Yamskaya 2/1  
Aroma  
BeerHouse  
Bookafe  
Buddies  
Cafe des Artistes  
Cantinetta Antinori  
Che  
Chicago Prime  
China Dream  
Coffee Bean, Leningradsky prospect 58  
Coffee Bean, Pyatnitskaya 5  
Cutty Sark  
Eat and Talk  
Everyday terrace  
Gandhara  
Gorki  
Hard Rock Cafe / Хард Рок Кафе  
Hot dogs (бывший Doug & Martin's Boar House)  
Il Forno, Neglinnaya 1  
Il Forno, Ostojenka 3/14  
Il Patio, Novinski 31  
Il Patio, Leninsky 68/10  
Il Patio, Prospekt Mir 33  
Il Patio, Trubnaya Ul  
Il Patio, Pushkinskaya 5  
Il Patio, 1st Tverskaya Yamskaya 2  
John Donne  
Katie's Pub  
Kostya Coffee, Vavilova 3  
Labardan  
LIGA PUB, Skromnoe obayanie  
Louisiana Steak House  
Luce  
Mario's  
Marseilles  
Mia Florencia  
Molly Gwynn's, Krasnaya Presnaya 1-7  
Molly Gwynn's, Novy Arbat 24  
Molly Gwynn's, Pyatnitskaya 24  
Nedalni Vostok  
Navarro's  
Night Flight  
Old Havana Club  
Pancho Villa  
Papa's  
Petit Cref  
Pizza Express  
Pizza Maxima  
Bar Riverside  
Республика Суши  
911 Club  
Rock'n'Roll bar  
SCANDINAVIA Restaurant  
Seiji / Сейджи  
Shafran  
Shamrock  
Shanti  
Sirena Restaurant  
Silvers Irish Pub  
Starbucks 5th Avenue  
Starbucks Atrium  
Starbucks Balchug

Starbucks Belaya Ploschad  
Starbucks Galereye Airopport  
Starbucks Druzhba  
Starbucks Dukat  
Starbucks Zbezdochka  
Starbucks Zemlyani Val  
Starbucks Kamergerski  
Starbucks MDM  
Starbucks Metropolis 1  
Starbucks Metropolis 2 Starbucks  
Metropolis Business Plaza  
Starbucks Moscow City  
Starbucks Pokrovka  
Starbucks Sokolniki  
Starbucks Festival  
Starbucks Chetire Vetra  
Starbucks Shuka  
Starbucks Academiya Plekhanova  
Starbucks Arbat 38  
Starbucks MEGA Belaya Dacha  
Starbucks MEGA Tyepli Stan  
Starbucks MEGA Khimki  
Starbucks Severnoe Siyaniye  
Starbucks Tulskaaya  
Starbucks Sheremetyevo  
Starbucks Gorod Stolits  
Starbucks Ashan Troika  
Starbucks Belyaevo  
Starbucks "Europeyskiy"  
Shopping Mall  
Starbucks Krasnoselskaya  
Starlight Diner,  
Bolshaya Sadovaya 10  
Starlight Diner,  
Prospect Vernadskogo 6  
Starlight Diner, Korovi Val 9  
Starlight Diner, Bolotny Ploschad 16/5  
T.G.I. Friday's, Tverskaya  
T.G.I. Friday's, Novoslovobodskaya 3  
T.G.I. Friday's, Zemlyanoi Val 33  
T.G.I. Friday's, Komsomoloski  
Propsect 28  
T.G.I. Friday's, Kievski Vokzal 2  
T.G.I. Friday's, Bolshaya Tulskaaya 13  
T.G.I. Friday's, Novy Arbat 14  
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Tiflis  
Uzbekistan  
Uley / Correas  
Vanilla Sky  
Vesna  
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Holiday Inn, Sushevski Val 26  
Iris Business Centre  
Katerina-City Hotel  
Lotte Hotel  
Marriott Hotels / Марриотт Аврора  
Marriott Hotels / Марриотт Гранд  
Marriott Hotels / Марриотт Тверская  
Maxima Irbis Maxima Zarya

Metropol  
Mezhdunarodnaya 2  
National Hotel  
Novotel Moscow Centre  
Pokrovky Hills  
Radisson Slavyanskaya, + sport club  
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Swissotel Krasnye HOLMY  
Zolotoye Koltso  
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Thailand  
Tunisia  
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UK  
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Business Center Mokhovaya  
Business Center Znamenskoe  
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Meyerhold House  
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Moscow Business Center  
Mosenka JSC  
Novinsky Passazh  
Olympic Plaza  
Park Place  
Romanov Dvor  
Samsung Centre  
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7 Кpacок  
American Center  
American Chamber of Commerce  
American Express  
AEB  
Astravel  
British Council  
Citi Bank

Coca Cola  
Crown  
DHL  
Direct Approach  
Dr Loder  
Ernst & Young  
Est A Tet Agency  
Expat Salon 1 & 2  
Four Squares  
General Electric  
General Motors CIS  
Halliburton International, Inc.  
HSBC  
IBM  
Initiative Media  
International SOS  
Jack's ZAO  
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JCC Jewish Community  
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Renaissance Capital  
Reuters Ltd  
Royal Bank of Scotland ZAO  
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SCANDINAVIA Restaurant  
Sport Line Club  
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Усадьба Агентство Недвижимости  
Work Service  
OOO Checkpoint Russia  
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American Clinic  
American Dental Center  
American Medical Center  
European Dental Center  
EMC, Spiridonevsky 5  
EMC, Orlovsky Per. 7  
Medincentre  
Tibet Clinic  
**Education**  
American Inst. of Business and  
Economics  
Anglo-American School of Moscow /  
Англо-Американская школа  
British Higher School of Design  
British International School,  
B. Academicheskaya 24  
British International School, Nakhi-  
movsky Prospect 35  
English International School  
Little Angels Kindergarten  
Montessori School  
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Golds Gym  
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