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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sadia

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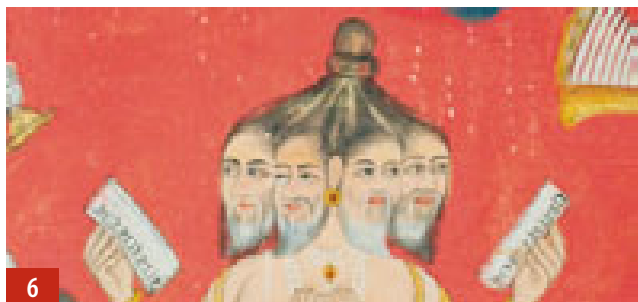
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Conspirator, by Helen Rappoport



John Ortega
Owner and Publisher

Although I have lived in this country for two decades, the way that New Year completely takes over the mind souls and bodies of Russians never fails to amaze me. The only other country whose New Year celebrations are anything like that of Russia, is China, however there family food and fireworks are the focus of attention, rather than the explosive mixture of family food and alcohol as in Russia. Chinese New Year lasts a week, whilst the Russian version doesn't really stop until the 13th of 14th of January, after the Old Russian New Year. Only then do some Russians at last feel that it is all over. So what's it like being a foreigner in these circumstances? It all depends on how deeply you have acclimatised to Russia. The season provides ample time to visit friends and family back home. New Year provides a forced rest; frustrating for anybody who wants to actually get things done here, and ample opportunity for drawn-out periods of drunkenness followed by hangovers. It is for these people that a little sobering-up advice is offered to our readers, written by deputy editor Elena Krivoviyaz.

In this issue we also continue with our section for families, and hope that children will enjoy part two of Ross Hunter's 'Lisa' story, as well as various games which will hopefully come in handy during the school holidays. As this section of Passport magazine develops, we welcome contributions from children and parents. Olga Slobodkina writes about the unreproductibility of Art, which makes interesting reading in this age of digital synthetic culture. Heather Whyley continues with her fashion series, and this month writes about sequinned jackets. There is hopefully something for everyone in this issue of Passport. Welcome to 2010.

From the 26th -28th of January, the restaurant 'Not Far East' invites guests to celebrate its third birthday

'Not Far East' has brought the best of different aspects of the restaurant business together. The restaurant has a tremendous interior from the Japanese design studio Superpotato, a great open kitchen with professional equipment of the highest quality to compliment an incomparable Pan-Asian cuisine from executive chef Glen Ballis, authentic Malaysian dishes from Malaysian chef Mamu, a new view on Russian cuisine from Andrey Rostov, surprising desserts from the star pastry-chef Kobayashi Katsuhiko, the amazing 'Tuna Show'... All this, and more, can be found in 'Not Far East', which will celebrate its anniversary at the end of January. The restaurant continues to impress its guests with creative new culinary surprises.

For our third birthday, 'Not Far East' has prepared an unforgettable array of surprises and gifts over three days: a special menu has been prepared which includes the gastronomic hits of 2007, 2008, 2009 and also the future best sellers of 2010. There are three unforgettable DJ-sets, unique ice sculptures with illumination and many other things. On January the 27th there will be a Gala-dinner, where the stars will be different seafood from every corner of the globe. Octopuses on ice, rare species of Australian fish, tuna Blue fin, lobsters, sea cuttlefishes, all kinds of oysters... and certainly crabs! The crab leitmotif will frame each detail of 'Not Far East': the menu, scenery, gifts for the guests and even a gala-cake!

Cirque du Soleil finishes its tour in Moscow



Cirque du Soleil is a world-known circus brand, which has been long awaited in Russia. Late in 2009 it finally came to Moscow with a show Varekai, which premiered in Montreal in 2002. The plot is based loosely on the Greek myth of Icarus, who melts his wings after flying too close to the sun. Rather than drowning in the sea below him, in Varekai Icarus lands inside a lush forest, in which the creatures teach him how to fly again. The show was directed by Dominic Champagne. Varekai was on in Moscow from October till the 13th of December. The tour was prolonged for two weeks more, as

too many people wanted to see it. The show was sponsored by the Infinity car brand who made this tour possible. There was also an exclusive Varekai show for Infinity car owners. Various VIP attended, such as Giorgio Armani and many others.

Cover painting by Yulia Nozdracheva



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Saturday, 2nd French Christmas in Moscow

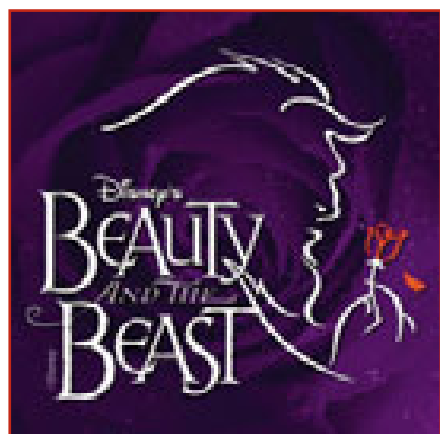
The Second International Christmas Festival "French Christmas in Moscow" is to take place from December the 7th to January 9th. For the second time, the 'Iskusstvo Dobra' (Art of Good Will) fund invites all art connoisseurs to participate in a festive celebration. Every year the festival centres on Christmas musical traditions from different countries. This year it is dedicated to France and includes seven very different concerts – from Gregorian chants to jazz – to be performed by the best musicians from France and Russia. There will be a family concert in which the Children's Choir of the Bolshoi Theatre, professor of Dijon Conservatory, Sylvain Pluyaut (organ, France) and Fabien Conrad (soprano, France) will perform Christmas hymns from France and other countries.

14:00, Roman Catholic Cathedral of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Beauty and the Beast (musical)

Beauty and the Beast is a musical with music by Alan Menken and lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice, based on the screenplay that was written by Linda Woolverton for a 1991 Disney film of the same name. Seven new songs were written for the stage musical. There were 5,464 performances of Beauty and the Beast between 1994 and 2007, and the show became Broadway's sixth-longest-running production in history. The musical has grossed more than \$1.4 billion world-wide and played in thirteen countries and 115 cities. The musical, which is known world-wide opens for its second season in Russia's capital. Over 400,000 people have seen it since it was first performed in October 2008.

MDM, 14:00, 19:00, also 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th, 12th, 13th-17th, 19th, 20th-24th, 26th-31st



Bely Orel (pop)

The name of the band can be translated as White Eagle. It was formed in 1996 by a businessman and attained record-breaking popularity in Russia in the late 1990s. The group was nominated for many prestigious Russian awards. Their songs are intimate and melodic, no matter if you know Russian or not, you'll understand what they are about by their emotional power. The band, forgotten for ten years, is now back. On the 2nd of January they are going to present their new album.

Teatr Estrady, 20:00



Disney on stage: Winnie-the-Pooh and friends

Here's a way to give your children a New Year treat. Get to know the fairytale land of Winnie and his friends.

Luzhniki Sportcomplex, 12:00, 15:30, 19:00, also 3rd, Sunday



Wednesday, 13th International Women's Club Presents: Cocktail Hour

Join IWC for an evening of cocktails and socializing. For IWC members and spouses only. Kindly note that you will need to pay for your drinks and food.

For time and location see web site: www.iwcmoscow.ru

Saturday, 16th Guano Apes (rock)

Guano Apes is a female-fronted alternative rock quartet from Göttingen, Germany, whose career took off in

1996 after they won a contest for local unsigned bands with their song "Open Your Eyes". The song was also their first and most successful single, followed by the release of their 1997 debut album Proud Like a God. "Open Your Eyes" also appears in the Warren Miller movie, "Fifty" (1999). In the middle of the 2000s, the band broke up and was only reunited this year. After completing the "Return" tour, the band announced that they will record their fourth album sometime in 2010.

DK Gorbunova, 19:00



Thursday, 21st International Women's Club presents: General Meeting

For further details see web site: www.iwcmoscow.ru

David Briggs (organ music)

David Briggs is an English organist and composer. He has a busy schedule as a concert artist, composer and organ advisor. David Briggs now lives in Boston, Massachusetts and is Organist Emeritus at Gloucester Cathedral. He gives regular masterclasses at the Royal Northern College of Music and Cambridge University.

MMDM, Svetlanov Hall, 19:00

Saturday, 23rd Neschastny Sluchai (pop)

This is a Russian alternative rock band that was formed in 1983 by students of Moscow State University, Valdis Pelsh and Alexei Kortnev. The name translates into English as "(unfortunate) accident", although the band is often called simply The Accident. Despite being popular in Russia, the band is virtually unknown abroad. The band leader, Alexei Kortnev, has repeatedly cited as major influences such bands as Queen, King Crimson, and Genesis. The band's lyrics are at the same time grotesque and sentimental

while their music features complicated structures and melodic turns rooted in the prog rock of the '70s. They are still active in Russia and have released about ten albums.

B1 Maximum, 21:00



Saturday, 30th

Latin American Association presents: Gala Dinner 2010

The Latin American Women's Association invites you to one of the most eagerly anticipated parties in Moscow: the Gala Dinner 2010, including music and dancing. Tickets 4,000 rubles. You can buy your tickets at: www.damaslatinas.ru or dlatinas@yahoo.com.

Swissotel Krasnye Holmy Conference Center, 52, Kosmodamianskaya nab., bld.6, 19:30.

Panik (rock)

Panik is a German rock band, consisting of six members from Neumünster, that was established in Hamburg in 2007 under the name Nevada Tan. Almost all of today's members have made music since 2002 in another band called Panik. On 20 January 2008, Nevada Tan announced that they had officially changed their name from Nevada Tan to Panik because of differences with their management, which resulted in their switching from Universal Records to Vertigo Records. Panik unites rap elements with hard rock - this genre is called "nu metal". Their style is often compared to the style of Linkin Park, although they don't like being compared to them.

Milk club, 20:00



Sunday, 31st

Babyshambles

Babyshambles is an English indie rock band from London. It was formed by Pete Doherty after difficulties with his former band, The Libertines, but Babyshambles has since become his main project (although recently he has been focusing on his solo work). Babyshambles have released two albums, three EPs and a number of singles. The band has received a great deal of attention from the British tabloid press as a result of interest in Doherty's personal life.

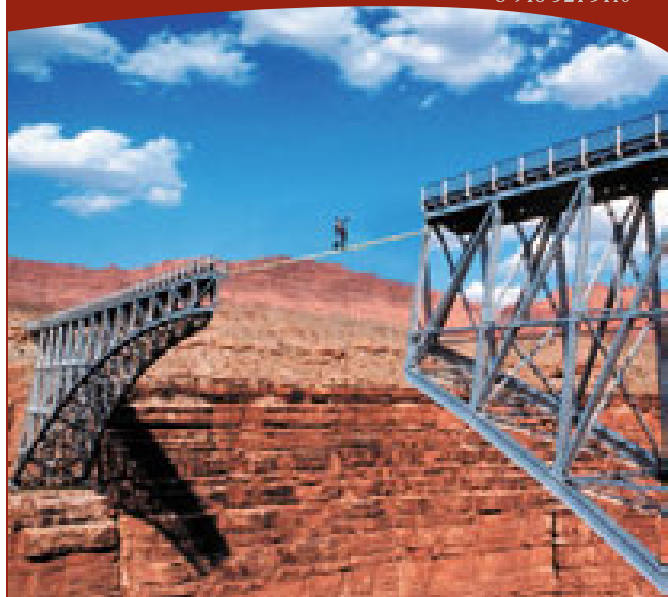
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Portraits of a Faithful Samurai of True Loyalty



Pictures of the floating world is the poetic name of painting and woodcut genres that reigned in Japan from the 17-20th centuries, featuring landscapes, theatre and stories, sometimes partially historical. A series of colour woodcuts at the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts is representative of this style, is entitled *Portraits of Faithful Samurai of True Loyalty*, created by Utagawa Kuniyoshi (1798 – 1861), one of the last great mas-

ters of the era of Japanese woodblock prints. This is a series of portraits and biographies of 47 Samurai who revenged their master and then killed themselves. It was strictly forbidden for artists to depict recent historical events during the Edo period, that is why theatrical plays about events in the 12th century and the names of the main characters – Samurai – were slightly altered, yet remained easy to figure out. Behind that plot there

was a real story. In 1701, one Japanese nobleman by the name of Asano of Ako was provoked by another nobleman to take out his sword in the Shogun's palace and was forced to kill himself for that act. Asano's forty-seven Samurai, now called ronin (Samurai without masters) carried out a successful plan and revenged the offender of their master. Acts of revenge were not accepted in Japan then, but nevertheless, this event roused the sympathy of whole country. The Samurai were sentenced to hanging, but due to the pressure of public opinion they were allowed to commit the noble hara-kiri. Utagawa Kuniyoshi grew up with this story and carved several blocks to illustrate it. Later in 1847-1848, he completed a full series of portraits. A complete collection of those is a rare thing nowadays, yet a Russian collector Alexander Orlov-Kretchmer has managed to collect those woodcuts. In Russia and in the rest of the world this unique series is displayed for the first time since their creation in Kuniyoshi's workshop.

Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts
To February the 14th
Open: 10:00 — 19:00,
every day except Monday

Photographic Minimalism from Masao Yamamoto

There is something in the art of photography, its momentariness, that makes it similar to the poetic form of a haiku. Masao Yamamoto's photography performed in a rather black and white manner, and employs the visual and poetic aesthetics of this island country. His prints are small — about 5 x 3 inches, almost devoid of colour and make their author seem indifferent to the sophisticated digital gadgets made in Japan for tourists. His photographs are simple, even too simple for those unaware of this simplicity, but suggestive – what is

so highly valued in his motherland. The viewer in this case has a chance to interpret and thus complete something unsaid, becoming involved in the world of the photographer. Landscapes, still-lives are his favourite themes. They are like a vague record of places and moments Yamamoto has lived through. For him "holding small-sized prints on the palm of his hand is like holding a memory."

This exhibition is presented in the premises of the Red October Chocolate Factory – the new location of the Pobeda Gallery that has moved here from Winzavod.



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Gods and Mortals

Indian Miniatures and Sculptures from the Collection of the Indian National Museum (New-Delhi)

If Bernard Picart, author of the book *Cérémonies et coutumes religieuses de tous les peuples du monde*, could only imagine that three hundred years after the publication of his book there would be exhibitions dedicated to Indian gods in Europe, he would certainly be surprised, despite all his tolerance, so ironical was he about seven-seas-away Indians and their cult of gods. In January the State Historical Museum in Moscow presents an exhibition dedicated to the applied arts of Indian craftsmen – featuring miniatures and sculptures representing Hindu gods. The year of 2010 is the year of India in Russia, the current exhibition inaugurates this and displays 111 miniature paintings and sculptures, thoroughly selected by Doctor Daljit from the stores of the National Museum in New Delhi. The exhibits are performed in different techniques ranging in epochs from the 8th to the 19th centuries, illustrating the artistic evolution of Indian applied arts. The exhibition is divided into two categories — eternity and that which is limited within time, historically described as gods and mortals. The central images at the exhibition are the three gods – Brahma – god of creation, Vishnu – who supports, sustains and governs the Universe and Shiva – “the Destroyer”. The exhibition is organised so that the exhibits create a visual projection of the world of the immortal gods. Thanks to such a perception, Indian culture transforms the abstract into a visible shape, and ideas into images. The other part of the exhibition is about human and mortal beings with their pleasures, usually to a background of beautiful paysages, with an expression of gratitude to nature as to its divine character.



State Historical Museum
To the 15th of February
Open: 10:00 – 19:00
Except Monday



The 2009 St. Andrew's Night Ball raised a fantastic \$24,000 for local charities!

Thank you to Irn Bru, Grolsch, The Famous Grouse, Walkers shortbread and all our other sponsors for their support in making the ball such a great success.

We look forward to welcoming everyone at the Burns Supper on 30th January, 2010.
For more information or to reserve a ticket please email standrewsocmoscow@gmail.com



www.scottishmoscow.org

Fragile Perfection

Porcelain – is one of the inventions that came to Europe from China, along with powder, silk and paper. Even samovars and pelmeni – those famous attributes of Russia came from China. Fragile Perfection is the name of the exhibition at the Museum of Oriental Arts. Exhibits of this fine craft dating from the 18th to the 20th century are on display. For Chinese the encyclopaedia of the Celestial Empire, geography itself, its history and mythology, evolution of its artistic concept and even diplomatic relations with other countries can all be found in porcelaine. The main component for the famous China porcelain was found near the village of Gaolin, and the clay was named after the name of the village - kaolin. Europeans who for some centuries paid gold for the fine cups and vases delivered through Eurasia, could not learn the secret of its production for a long time. The best examples of blue-toned glaze, famille rose, famille verte, Longquan celadon or Yixing clay ware are on display at the exhibition, each with its history and rite of application.

*Museum of Oriental Arts
To the 22nd of January
Open: 10:00 – 19:00
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Fast Track – For Some

Text by Timur Beslangurov
Managing Partner,
VISTA Foreign Business
Support

In the past (November and December) few issues of Passport magazine, we described some of the complexities of current Russian migratory legislation and the need for change. Change for the better is coming; however it is no secret that any change associated with the Russian Migration Service takes rather a long time. In this article, I would like to draw your attention to such changes that will affect citizens of certain countries such as France and Germany who enjoy some privileges in regard to the visa and work permit regime.

Russia and France signed a bilateral, inter-governmental agreement on the 27th of November 2009 to simplify and therefore ease the requirements for entrance, stay and work in Russia for French nationals and vice versa. The agreement covers employees working for foreign representatives (affiliates) – citizens of one country working in representative offices of foreign legal entities located in the other country; employees working for companies of the same group; company directors –



Timur Beslangurov

citizens of a foreign country who manage the company's activity staying in the other country; highly qualified specialists – citizens who fulfil two of the following three criteria: that they are degree-holders corresponding to the occupied position, that they have no less than five years' experience in this position or that their salaries are no less than 3,200 Euro a month, although this last point has yet to be confirmed.

The agreement will be ratified in no less than 6 months time, and introduces a liberal migration regime almost unheard of in Russia. Thus, French representative companies in Russia will still have to apply for work permits for their staff not under the quota system. Usually, the number of work permits issued is strictly limited and companies have to apply for the number of permits they need before the 1st of May of the preceding year. This rule will not be

applicable any more. It will also no longer be necessary for employers to have to prove that they cannot find suitable unemployed Russians who could do their jobs. Work permits which will be given to such people will be valid for the whole of Russia, not just for Moscow or St. Petersburg. Multi-entry work visas will be issued by the Diplomatic post / Consular organisation and valid for a year at a time and extendable to three years. Valid French medical documents will be recognised in Russia. And, last but not the least, the necessity of registering in different Russian cities when travelling is to be lifted if the length of stay in each city is no more than 10 days.

However it should be added that this is not the only inter-governmental agreement with a European government. In 2004 an agreement: 'Agreement between the governments of the Russian Federation and the Federal Republic of Germany on the easing of travelling restrictions between the two countries for Russian and German citizens,' came into force. The agreement introduced the following privileges for entrepreneurs and members of business circles of the two countries:

Chambers of commerce can apply for multi-entry visas up to 5 years for their members without the need for an invitation; a stipulation that is usually demanded of all German government officials. The period of stay in this case is limited to 180 days within a year.

The agreement covers German commercial organisations, or their daughter companies in the Russian Federation, and members of their families (travellers of this category can stay in Russia for two years without having to leave).

Russian or German citizens, having obtained a temporary residence permit, can enter or leave the respective countries without a visa.

This agreement with Germany, unlike the above mentioned agreement with France, is not concerned with questions such as labour laws.

Adopting these agreements must be taken as a positive step forward in the regulation of Russia's migration policy. We feel that these laws are a good way to solve real visa and work permit problems, and a good example for solving migration problems with citizens of other countries which invest in Russia. **P**





Best of the Year That Was

By Vladimir Kozlov

2009 was a year to remember, and for most of us it was because of the crisis. A lot else happened this year, and Vladimir Kozlov recounts some of the most memorable occasions on the cultural front.

The never-ending Bolshoi remont

One of the most expensive government-funded projects in the cultural domain, the renovation of the country's main theatre, Moscow's Bolshoi, is behind schedule, and the government stepped in last summer in an attempt to speed up the process. The theatre's main building was closed for renovation in 2005 and was originally expected to be reopened in March 2008. Later, the completion date was set back to November 2009, and then to 2011. The project is costing 11.7 billion roubles (\$390 million). Meanwhile, a governmental commission formed in the summer of 2009 to oversee the project, found evidence of unjustifiably raising costs, replaced

the main contractor and raised the number of workers on the site in a bid to meet the 2011 deadline.

Eurovision finals in Moscow

If you remember in the still-heady days of May, the Russian capital for the first time hosted the final of the Eurovision Song Contest, thanks to singer Dima Bilan's victory the previous year. The Moscow final is likely to go down in history as the most grandiose and expensive Eurovision show ever. The exact budget was never disclosed but Russian media mentioned a bill of Euro 24 million. Even Eurovision officials admitted that the next country to host the contest's final is set to have trouble trying to match the Moscow show. Meanwhile, the event stirred controversy a few months before it was held when Georgia's entry, Stefane & 3G, pulled out due to a dispute over the line "We Don't Wanna Put In" in the lyrics of its contest song, which some people interpreted as an intended pun on the last name of Russia's Prime Minister.

Moscow Biennale

The 3rd Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art was held in September in the aftermath of the global economic down-

turn. However, the event seemed to be little affected by the crisis. Still, it lost some of the projects that were originally going to be put on display. French artist Bertrand Lavier's project, "Afternoon", didn't make it to Moscow, reportedly due to the lack of a venue that would be high-profile enough for an artist with previous exhibitions at the Pompidou Centre and the Tate Gallery. Another exhibition, "Event Horizon", by British sculptor Antony Gormley, was also cancelled.

Spat over control of the Film-makers' Union

While the future of state funding for domestic films, a crucial issue in the cinema industry, remained uncertain, members of the Russian Film-makers' Union, a successor to the Soviet professional association, kept fighting for control. Director Nikita Mikhalkov was elected chairman at an extraordinary congress in late March, thereby cancelling the results of a previous vote three months earlier, which had made Marlen Khutsiyev the Union's head. The Union members who sided with Khutsiyev threatened court action, but nothing came of it. Observers said that the feud was primarily about the Union's lucrative real estate, though most Union members who are in their sixties and seventies, were more concerned about the meagre size of their pensions.

Rock band Mumiy Trol's North American tour

Very few Russian rock acts have been able to get exposure, much less promi-

nence, in the West. So the news that the band Mumiy Trol was embarking on a two-month tour of the United States and Canada in October and November 2009, was important for the domestic music industry. Organized by the well-known Agency Group, which has managed tours by artists like Gogol Bordello, King Crimson, Muse, My Chemical Romance, The White Stripes and The Hives, the tour included about 50 dates. Most were in places where Russian immigrants traditionally live, such as Brighton Beach. Founded by singer/songwriter Ilya Lagutenko in 1983, Mumiy Trol is one of the leaders of the domestic independent scene and recently made attempts to conquer Western audiences as well. In early 2009, the band played several dates in North America, and released its first international album, "Comrade Ambassador", last April.

Author Vasily Aksyonov dies

Novelist Vasily Aksyonov, one of the most prominent writers of the so called Shestidesyatniki generation ("the 1960s generation"), died in Moscow on July 6, 2009. In January 2008, he suffered a stroke while driving his car and never recovered the power of speech. Aksyonov came to the limelight in the 1960s and was primarily associated with the literature of the "meltdown" period, which allowed some young Soviet people to express ideas that to some extent defied Communist ideology. In 1980, as ideological pressure was stepped up, Aksyonov was forced to emigrate to the United States. In the last few years, he has divided his time between France and Moscow. He is primarily known in the West as the author of *The Burn* and *Generations of Winter*.

Shows of the skinhead movie Rossiya'88 cancelled

The year's most controversial movie in Russia was certainly "Rossiya 88" ("Russia 88") by first-time feature director, Pavel Bardin. It was selected for the Berlin International Film Festival last February, but had a hard time finding audiences at home. The film chronicles daily life of several Moscow skinheads, using homemade video, and the title refers to the name of the St. Petersburg-based skinhead gang, Shults 88. The producers' attempts to get permission for an official release in Russia failed, while the film's premiere shows, including one at the Cinephantom film discussion club in early June, were cancelled

due to requests from anonymous "representatives of authorities." What exactly turned the authorities against the film remains unclear. What is even more worrying is that film censorship seems to be back after a twenty-year absence.

Pop diva Alla Pugacheva promised to call it quits

Alla Pugachyova, one of the country's best known singers in the 1970s and 1980s, turned 60 last April. She said she was going to terminate her singing career after an anniversary tour running through the end of this year. She gave her state of health as the main reason for her decision, saying that after surgery, her voice no longer allowed her to perform the way she wanted to. Reports about the pop diva's alleged plans to retire have been circulating in the media for several years. Many would like to see her go with dignity and would not like to see this as being yet another publicity stunt aimed to promote the singer's tour.

Plans to tear down the Central House of Artists stir controversy, future uncertain

In a situation when Moscow's architectural heritage is being destroyed building by building, block by block, plans to demolish the Central Artists' House (TsDKh) on Krymski Val, revealed early in the year, caused a great stir in the architectural community. Even though the building itself, dating back to Soviet times, seems to be of little architectural merit, it houses numerous art galleries. Some people are concerned that if it were to be torn down, much less room would be given to art in whatever is to be built on its site. However, the plans were put on hold later due to uncertainty about funding.

St. Petersburg's show of Madonna takes place despite obstacles

Madonna played her second-ever Russian show on Palace Square in St. Petersburg on August 2, despite rumours that city authorities might ban the show or move it to another venue because that one was too close to the historic Hermitage art museum. It was thought that the sound system might harm the building. Eventually, the promoters were able to allay the authorities' fears. For years, Madonna refused to perform in Russia, and her first show in the country took place only in September 2006 at Moscow's Luzhniki stadium.

Oleg Yankovsky dies

For Russians over the age of about forty, the death of Oleg Yankovsky was the cause of considerable grief, making the death of Michael Jackson look insignificant in comparison – thank goodness. Oleg died in May shortly after filming *Tsar*, in which he co-starred with Peter Mamonov. Oleg Yankovsky came to fame in Soviet times, however his popularity as an actor able to play complex personalities with great strength, lives on.

2010: What To Expect?

In the music industry, the year's biggest events is going to be the first-ever Russian show by the Irish rock band U2, scheduled to be held at Moscow's Luzhniki stadium on August 25. The fact that U2, which Russian producers were for years unable to bring to the country, is now coming to Russia, testifies to the fact that the Russian capital is at last becoming a regular destination for top-level touring artists, just like any other major city of the world.

Meanwhile, several high-profile Russian movies are expected to premiere in 2010, including "Generation P," a long awaited screen version of Victor Pelevin's bestselling novel, Nikita Mikhalkov's sequel to his Oscar-winning 1994 movie "Burnt By The Sun," and "Chyornaya Molniya" ("Black Lightning") produced by Timur Bekmambetov, Russia's most successful export to Hollywood. **P**



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The Unreproductibility of Art

by Olga Slobodkina-von Bromssen

Back in Soviet times we, art students and art lovers used to study the world of art through reproductions. Not in our wildest dreams could we imagine going to Paris, Rome or Barcelona, say, on our own or through a tourist agency, let alone having dollars, or writing for a foreign magazine, such as *Passport*. That would have been bordering on crime. A trip abroad could only happen through one's work and one was sure to be watched carefully by the notorious and ubiquitous three-letter agencies

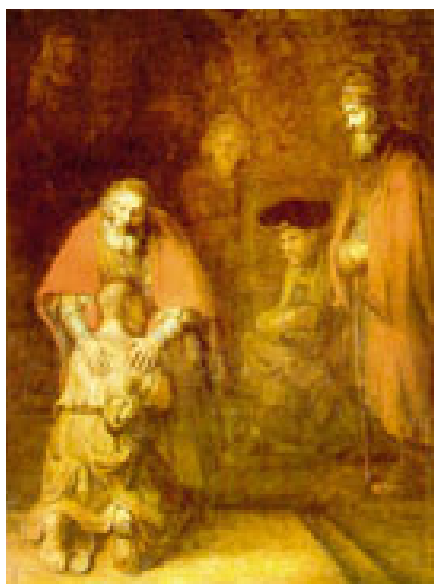
However, things changed and the Soviet Union fell. (We would have more readily believed in the end of the world rather than the end of the communist state, even as recently as 1986). Although the cloak-and-dagger brigade are as eagle-eyed now as they ever have been for the past twenty years, I've been able to travel round the world, at first through private invitations and then on my own.

Apart from the other surprises that the West had in store for me, I was shocked by its galleries. And not only by the sheer size of these places, but also by the professionalism of their display. But most of all by the originals themselves. One of my first encounters with original western art was the Royal Collection in Buckingham Palace in London in 1989. I was astounded by Rembrandt van Rijn, especially his painting "Agatha Bas" (1641), also known as "Lady of the Fan". I had seen it in reproductions many a time! But there and then I realized for the first time in my life that art is unreproducible.

There she was right in front of me, emerging out of nowhere, out of non-existence, against a deep black background with her wistful enigmatic face, her skin seeming to breathe, her thin fair hair almost translucent, the fabric of her garments heavy and so clear in relief, and so realistic that you felt you could touch the material or weigh it in your palm. The lace seemed to be coming out of the canvas like pop-art, and the fan was so realistic that I wanted to hold it.

That was not art but life itself reaching out to me across the centuries, and I stood in front of it dumbfound, in rap-

ture and unable to move. I've seen Rembrandt's original canvases in Moscow at the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts and in the Hermitage in St. Petersburg, "Return of the Prodigal Son" (1669), for example. But never before had the impression been so strong.



Rembrandt's "Return of the Prodigal Son"

I stayed in England for two months, in London and Cambridge, and never missed an opportunity to visit a gallery. I visited the National Gallery fourteen times and the Fitzwilliam Museum about five or six times. On my last day in London I went to the Tate Gallery hoping to see my favorite William Blake, and was very excited. I thought: if he is so great in reproductions what are the originals going to look like?

You can't imagine my utter disappointment when I saw the originals in their perfect glass frames. They were exactly the same as the reproductions in my book at home, and almost the same size. So the original Blake did not tell me more than the reproductions. Coming back to Moscow I picked up a book of Blake and saw the same pictures that I had seen at the Tate, the excellently displayed works of Blake in electrically-lit glass cases. There was nothing behind them. All the artistic, metaphysical and spiritual information was there, in the reproductions in a book.

But Rembrandt was different!

This August I was traveling around Andalusia in Spain and, of course, I stopped

in Malaga, the capital of Andalusia. Apart from the breath-taking Cathedral of Malaga and its Fortress, La Alcazaba, there are some fine art museums, including two collections of Picasso, at Casa Picasso (the Picasso Birthplace Museum, located in Malaga Town Hall), and at Museo Picasso.

I did not have a lot of time and was not really sure I wanted to see Picasso. I knew him by his blue and pink period, represented at the Pushkin Museum. I've seen some of his work in the Musée d'Orsay in Paris and, of course, I've seen quite a number of reproductions. To be honest, I did not think much of him. I actually thought he was mocking mankind a little bit when drawing his precious doodles, which cost a lot of money, especially at the end of his life. But since Museo Picasso was not far from the Malaga Cathedral I decided to go there. That visit made me come back to Malaga the second time to go to see the Casa Picasso.



Musée d'Orsay

His art was a revelation to me. This genius of the 20th century mastered all the schools of art, from realistic to abstract, and invented his own style. He broke all the rules, but turned rule-breaking into a tradition in its own right. As his family put it, Picasso spent his life "learning to paint like a child."

The portrait of his first wife, the Russian ballet dancer Olga Khokhlova, was done in a realistic manner. It's called "Olga Khokhlova Wearing Mantilla" (Barcelona, Autumn 1917, oil on canvas). Actually the head-wear of that sophisticated woman was not really a mantilla, but rather a tablecloth that Picasso found in the hotel room where the couple was staying at that time.



Olga Khokhlova

Secondly, the painting strikes you as surprisingly conventional. Every detail is done with meticulous care and craftsmanship: the folds of the soft white shoulder piece pinned by a brooch, the mantilla-tablecloth, and the intelligent, beautiful face of a young woman, tight-lipped, showing a glimmer of bitterness, so characteristic of a lofty, refined soul unfit for crude, down-to-earth reality. And although

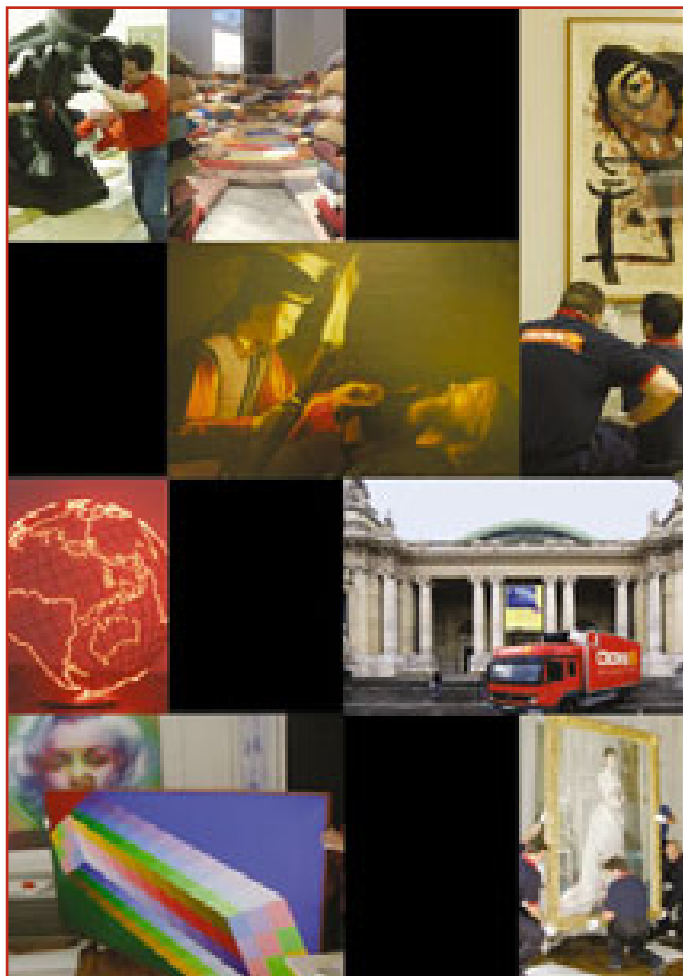
this portrait evinces a shock from the viewer – is this really Picasso!? – here as well as in his other works Pablo reveals his famous quality: “snatching pieces of the world around him and turning them into something entirely his own.” Seeing these works in real life made all the difference for me.

Another portrait that struck me was “Woman with Raised Arms” (1936, oil, charcoal and sand on canvas). The expressivity of this painting is beyond art. I saw the irritated woman with raised arms, long nails, her nostrils puffed up, spilling out her anger and indignation at the man (because such anger and indignation could only be addressed to a man, her own man), her frenzy making one of her eyes go almost up to the forehead. The whole composition is nothing but a circle made up of the furiousness of the enraged woman.

Picasso proved to be not only a painting genius, but also a masterful graphic artist. He also achieved a high level of skill in many techniques, from dry-point to lino-cut. He used mythological and Biblical subjects as well as his direct impressions of life, starting with women and ending up with bulls and corrido de

toros. While I was still in the museum, I guessed that his innovative but masterly graphics might be better reproduced than his oils. But still I could not look at a single album or postcard in the museum shop. The images were flat, inexpressive, toneless. I averted my eyes and quickly went out into the street. I wanted to preserve the impressions gained from seeing the originals.

When I left Casa Picasso realizing that Picasso played a crucial role in the whole epic of modern art, I saw a monument to the artist. It was erected at the Plaza de la Merced, across from the statue of a Spanish General (what’s his name? I forgot it the minute I saw it). Unlike the General (proud of himself and standing), Picasso’s monument (he is shown old, tired and seated) has no indication who the subject is. Yet the very place is associated with the famous artist. I asked an elderly Spanish couple if they could take a picture of me – Picasso and me – since I had discovered the greatest master for myself and, “snatching that piece of the world, made it my own.” Without the original art, would there have been anything worth snatching? **P**



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Season's Cuisine

by Sue Hunter

photos by Ross Hunter



Winter Warmer – Carrot Soup"

Ingredients

50 g butter
350g carrots
2 large leeks
450 ml chicken stock
salt and pepper
150 ml milk
6 tblsp. Cream
chopped parsley to garnish

Method

Melt butter in a large pan.
Clean and chop the leeks and carrots and add to the butter, stir for 5 minutes.
Add stock and seasoning, simmer for 20 minutes.
Sieve or puree with a blender and return to the pan.
Stir in milk and reheat gently.
Serve and garnish with a swirl of cream, parsley and crusty bread.

Serves 4 and takes 30 minutes to make.



"Beef in Baltika"

Ingredients

1 kg stewing beef trimmed and cubed
2 large onions sliced
2 large carrots chopped
a handful of frozen peas (optional)
1 tin chopped tomatoes
1 bottle dark beer (Baltika 5)
1 tblsp cooking oil
1 small tin tomato purée
200g chopped mushrooms
Mixed herbs (fresh or dried)
Chopped parsley
Salt and pepper

Method

Put the oil in a large pan or wok, heat and stir-fry the beef until browned.
Add the onions and carrots, continue to stir-fry for a few minutes.
Pour in the bottle of beer and tinned tomatoes, stir until all is mixed together.
Add salt, pepper and mixed herbs to season.
Leave to simmer gently for 1 and a half to 2 hours, or put in a casserole in the oven at 180 C for 1 and a half to 2 hours, until the meat is tender.
Stir in the mushrooms, peas and tomato purée, simmer for a further 15 minutes.
Serve with potatoes or pasta, and with fresh vegetables if wanted.
Garnish with parsley.

This will serve 8 people and takes 2 and a half hours to make.



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Trend page:

Sequinned Blazers

Set the New Year a-blaze in a riot of sparkles...

Heather Whyley

The New Year is already upon us, and after all last month's over-indulgence there is nothing like something new to lift the spirits.

Get style-savvy and you need only invest in one fabulous piece to get you through the rest of the winter: the sequinned jacket.

golden waterfall jacket (5,500 rub). It's the perfect separate to have you dazzling day and night. Supermodel, Elle Macpherson oozes sophistication in her gold sequins, and Cheryl Cole uses them to add interest to a simple black top.

Don't be afraid to play with your accessories. Oversized pieces such



1. White and bright stone embellishment, 5500 rub, Topshop
2. Gold waterfall jacket, 5500 rub, Monsoon
3. Leather and silver sequins, 5900 rub, Topshop
4. Bronze and black checks from a selection at River Island
5. Black sequins, from a selection at Per Una, Marks and Spencer
6. Bib necklace, from a selection at Accessorize



The trend for sparkle-smattered tailoring has been gathering momentum this season. It all began with Karl Lagerfeld at Chanel and YSL's beautifully cut dinner jackets, and summer's biggest hit, the boyfriend blazer. This soon evolved into the ultra-luxe sequinned jackets spotted on the catwalks at Matthew Williamson and Diane Von Furstenburg. See Topshop for their similar version (5,500 rub), also seen on the likes of Popstrel, Beyonce.

The sequinned jacket is an instant wardrobe update to all your classics, the LBD, a great pair of trousers, a crisp white blouse. Completely versatile, it's guaranteed to see you into spring. Surprisingly easy to wear, you can sling it over your favourite little cocktail dress. Try black or midnight-blue with bright colours or bold patterns. Dress up jeans and a simple vest with something like Monsoon's

as a fabulous clutch bag, an embellished cuff or bib necklaces are the way to go. Accessorize and Aldo have a vast selection or, try H&M for a purse-friendly treat. Olivia Palermo, star of the hit MTV show, The City, shows us how to accessorize her Topshop jacket with some statement accessories.

Combine high fashion with practicality, and swap your party shoes for a pair of shoobs (part shoe, part boots). They look great with opaque stockings or bare legs, and can be dressed up for day or night. Perfect for negotiating Moscow's snowy pavements. Rendez Vous and Zara have some of the best to choose from.

Check out my selection of Moscow's finest shimmering jackets and those January wardrobe blues will be a thing of the past. **P**

Stockists

H&M: Metropolis,

16 Leningradskoye Shosse,
www.hm.com

Aldo:

Europeskiy shopping centre,
2 Kievskaya Pl.
www.aldoshoes.com

Topshop: Metropolis,

16 Leningradskoye Shosse,
www.topshop.com

River Island: Metropolis,

16 Leningradskoye Shosse,
www.riverisland.com

Monsoon/Accessorize:

Atrium, Zemlyanoy, Val 33,
www.mosoon.co.uk

Marks and Spencer:

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Rendez Vous:

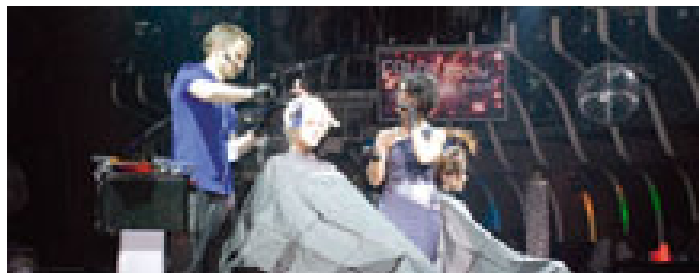
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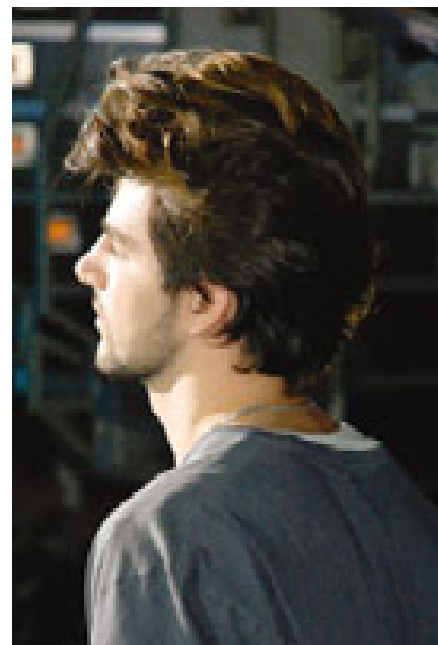
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presentation
of new
collection
of images
and styles
'Goldwell
Color Zoom
2010'

Just Naked



photos by John Harrison



the official representative of **Goldwell**, **KMS** and **Olymp** brands in Russia and the Baltic states, attended the presentation which created an opportunity for participants to communicate in an informal environment, view the latest products and styles on attractive models, and ask thousands of questions about things that only hair stylists know about.

Presentation of the collection **Just Naked** in Russia was one of the brightest events for stylists and hairdressers in 2009. The world premiere of the Just Naked collection was on 25-26 October in the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, USA. Russia became the first country in the world to present the collection after that, on December the 3rd at The Opera Club, which is one of Moscow's most popular night clubs, and on the 5th of December in St. Petersburg, at the Park Inn Pribaltiyskaya Hotel. About 500 guests and partners of the Laima-Lux company,

Just Naked reflects the directions of fashion, colour trends, and cut-and-colour techniques that will be popular in the next new season. The collection of new, fashionable, progressive cut-and-colour techniques, **Color Zoom 2010**, is an opportunity to become inspired and is an unlimited source of ideas for every stylist. Look&Learn seminars on cut-and-colour techniques can help hairdressers create fashionable looks in their everyday work, give them full information about their collections, and allow them to make their own fashionable and creative looks unique and individual. **P**

Two Trips to Karelia



text by Irina Baranova, photos courtesy of RussiaDiscovery

Last winter I went to Karelia twice. The first time was on a business trip. I made my way through traffic jams, looked at the grey sky, the dirt on the cars, the slush under foot and thought that the winter must already have passed outside Moscow. I arrived at the station just in time to jump on the train, and the lullaby of the rails quickly rocked me to sleep. The next morning it was still dark outside, but it felt different – something seems to have changed overnight. Snow! There is white snow piling up in high, puffy snowdrifts outside the window!

In Petrozavodsk, my colleague Denis informs me that Petrozavodsk is as old as St. Petersburg and was built on the orders of Peter the Great. This city feels similar to St. Petersburg, with regular streets, neat buildings and embankments. Petrozavodsk is on the shore of Lake Onego and what a lake it is! A white plain stretches before me for hundreds of kilometres. Denis comments that the Onego and Ladoga lakes in Karelia are the largest in Europe. And somewhere there – he waves his hand vaguely – is Kizhi island, the UNESCO heritage site. Kizhi? I recall an amazing picture of a multi-domed wooden church my friend took during a cruise from Moscow to St Petersburg. I decide to take advantage of this trip and see something of Karelia.

I spend two days working. It is like Finland here - the people are unhurried, friendly, profound. Life seems slow after Moscow. On Friday evening my colleagues suggest a weekend programme: a trip to Kizhi on some mysterious apparatus named a Hivus and a visit to a Karelian village.

Next morning, the Hivus arrives right at the hotel. It is a strange vehicle: an ice hovercraft which glides in zigzags be-

cause of the wind. It takes 2 hours to get to Kizhi but we are not in a hurry and stop for ice-fishing. There are local fishermen sitting for a few hours at a time in the cold with their rods and vodka. The pure air, fresh wind, and endless whiteness finally makes me feel that this is a real winter.

We arrive in Kizhi and I am silent for a while. What a striking view! The magnificent wooden Transfiguration church dominates the island, and its 22 domes of aspen look silvery in the sun. According to the museum guide, the church was built without a single nail. All the wooden structures – houses, chapels, barns, windmills – are old, some dating back to the 17th century. The silhouettes of the traditional buildings fit strangely well into the lake's landscape, creating a special ambience of quiet beauty and harmony. We are the only visitors. Kizhi is magic.

Next day we depart to the 440-year-old village of Karels-Livviki-Kinnerma. The village is tiny, 15-20 houses in total, and cozy. Only two or three households stay here over winter, though there are more in the summer when families come to the village to their dachas. The houses are traditional for the Russian North, the youngest being 120 years old.

We meet our local hostess, Nadezhda. It's been 10 years since she and her sister decided to revive the half-forgotten village. They created a small exhibition on the village's history and opened their large wooden house up to travellers. Nadezhda is especially proud of her 120 year-old 'black' banya. We walk around Kinnerma as Nadezhda tells us the history of its houses and people. She goes home to pick up the keys and opens the famous 300 year-old Kizhi chapel. The interior has been arranged by the villagers and some of the icons are hand-woven.

Nadezhda invites us to the table for lunch and a talk about life. The homemade food is delicious, outside it is getting frosty, and we are sitting in the warmth of the izba listening to the cracking of the firewood in the old Russian stove. We wait for the samovar to boil and kalitki (Karelian salty pastry) to bake. Time stops, the village gives me a feeling of peace so rare in my life.

But everything good comes to an end. Back in sulky grey Moscow, my thoughts keep wandering back to the Karelian winter and northern hospitality, and I have a nice warm feeling inside.

A month later, my Karelian colleagues invite me for a long weekend to take part in a 3-day snowmobile safari. It is difficult to take Friday off, but with the impressions of the January

My eyes close by themselves. I put my head on the pillow and doze off instantaneously.

On Sunday we get on our iron horses and make the last 100 km to Petrozavodsk, the city that is no longer foreign for me. On the train back to Moscow I close my eyes and continue my snowmobile safari in Karelia, trees flying on both sides. A friend of mine says that life is not in the cities but in the journeys between them, and this feels so true.

Now I know that Carelia and Karelia are not alike. Carelia was and will be Finland – European, civilized, touristy, artificial. Karelia is Russian and authentic, and I am so grateful to it for the impressions it gives. **P**



trip still fresh in my mind, the idea of snowmobiling sounds exciting, so I take an extra day off.

Again I am in Karelia! This time I arrive earlier, to a different place in the south-west of Petrozavodsk. It is a challenge to wake on time for a three-minute stop at 6 in the morning. I get off the train to find out that there are five other people on this tour, and that my Karelian friends will join us later. The guide shows us into a mini-bus, and I sleep during the 100 km journey to the guesthouse. I open my eyes in fairy-tale countryside – snow-dusted forest, high snowdrifts, a small village lost in the middle of nowhere, and six cottages built in the Finnish style: cozy and warm.

Some years ago I went snowmobiling in Finland. Our ride lasted for a couple of hours in the vicinity of the hotel where we were staying. Here the itinerary looks more serious. Today we have a 100 km ride to lake Ladoga. We put on thick winter clothing, and practice managing the snowmobile. Then off we go. The snowmobiles take us along picturesque tracks in the fir forests, sometimes we cross small lakes and fields and stop in the villages. We come across a local in a Telogreika with a horse carrying a homemade sled, going to the river for water. In the evening, a banya is organized. The building is a good one, made of wooden logs, with moss in between them, and a stone stove. After a good steam, some people go all the way and dive into the snow.

Next morning, listening to the day's itinerary, I realize that we will visit Kinerma again, this time by snowmobiles! I am glad to see Nadezhda, she greets us as good old friends. And again – the forest drowned in snow, the fields, the lakes. Today we have 150 km to travel, arriving back at twilight. After a hearty dinner, I am out like a light. My body is nicely tired.







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Bird Paradise

Within 80 kilometres of Moscow, you can find yourself in an exotic forest filled with tropic parrots, flamingos, monkeys, ostriches, kangaroos and many other rare animals. Has the author had too much to drink or perhaps smoked the wrong kind of cigarette? No, there is an extraordinary place called The Bird Park, in one of the tiny villages in Kaluzhskaya oblast, which welcomes several thousand visitors every week. It is one of the largest private zoos in Russia, but not very well known, to put it mildly.

text and photos by
Elena Krivoviyaz

“Beware of ostriches!”

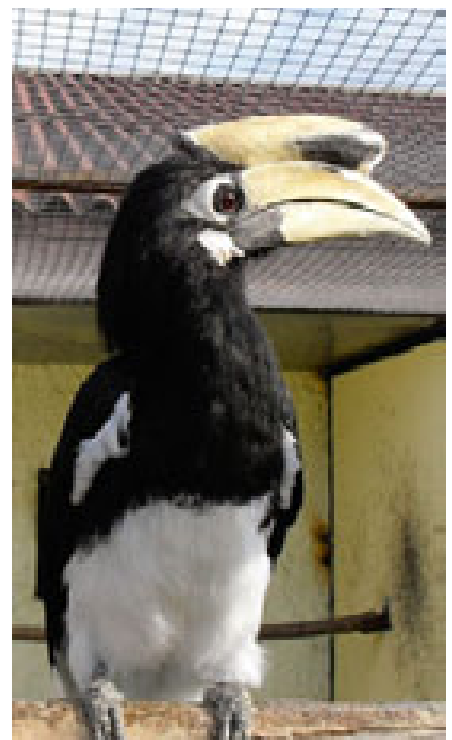
The park opened in 2005 and has grown steadily ever since. Now it consists of two parts: the bird park proper, and the ostrich farm. Guide Tatyana Belyakova took me round the Ostrich farm. Whilst we were walking to the place, one of the children in our group shouted: “Mom, I can see them! The ostriches! Over there!” But Tatyana laughed and said: “No, they aren’t ostriches, they’re emus.” The emu looked sleepy and didn’t pay much attention as we walked by. Then came the



ostriches: some of them were quite big, but there were also some much smaller birds scurrying around. “New-born ostrich nestlings can run and eat just like adult animals,” said Tatyana. “They dry out a bit when they are hatched, get up and off they go.”

The nestlings we saw were two-weeks old, but they were already half the size of an adult. Several big ostriches were standing nearby so I decided to take a look up close. They stared at me with great interest. “Please be careful,” I heard Tatyana’s concerned voice. “They can be dangerous. They can kick like a horse.”

I didn’t need to be told twice and stepped back immediately. Tatyana also said that two adult ostriches recently broke through the fence and ran off into the forest, and were only caught several hours later. “Many farmers in Russia are opening Ostrich farms at present,” continued Tatyana. “They turn out to be





much more profitable than ordinary poultry farms. Ostriches are unpretentious: they eat poultry-feed and don't need any special temperature conditions, 40 degrees of frost is nothing for them. A single ostrich egg is large enough to make omelettes for twenty hungry people."

Ostriches can be purchased at the Bird Park for 6,000 roubles for a two week old bird. Russians haven't yet heard of the ostrich-farm-pyramid-scams which plagued or rather are still plaguing the West. I had the opportunity to tell a work colleague about those scams a few weeks ago at work. He turned pale, thinking about the \$3000 he had invested recently.

Exotics from all over the world

Ostrich omelettes can be tasted at the café inside the park, but I had look around the bird park before I tasted that exotic treat. This park-zoo is clearly different altogether from the Moscow zoo where all you can see are lots of box-like cages. This is vast, and entirely different. Decoration is natural fauna: bushes, flowers, ornaments, artificial springs, ponds and foot-bridges, one of which is a suspension bridge across a river at the end of the park. You can bounce up and down on it. Some children make a point of doing exactly that. This kind of place may be common in the West, but it certainly isn't in Russia.

Pompous turkey-cocks and guineafowl strutted around and welcomed us into the Bird Park proper. To the left there were enclosures with a diversity of poultry birds - doves, hazels and cock, from Germany, the Netherlands, China, Mexico and other far-off places. At some distance, peacocks paced around in their open-air cage, a Japanese crane and a Russian bustard (one of the largest birds that lives in the steppes of Russia) roosted in separate and fenced zones.

Suddenly I saw a small crowd in front of a fence: there was a fawn. "This one is four months old," the guide explained to visitors. "We found him in the forest and I fed him from a small bottle." A hare lay in the grass near the deer. The animals are used to people.

The Bird Park is well-known for breeding parrots, even a rare species such as Macaw. Prices vary from 600-60,000 roubles, depending on rarity. The most amazing birds I saw there were toucans, with their flashy beaks as long as their bodies. Then I saw the lengthy open-air cages for birds of prey like owls, hawks (they are expensive, as they need rats to eat every day, Tatyana explained) and even penguins! There were about a dozen of them, waddling along by an artificial lake. Penguins, Tatyana was keen to tell me, "are the most expensive animals in the park as they demand kilos of fresh fish every day, even more than pelicans and flamingos."

Two post-Soviet engineers founded this huge park, with more than 2,000 species and the ostrich farm, without any sponsor. How?

"It all began more than 30 years ago," recalls co-owner Tatyana Belyavskaya. "I met my future husband Alexander. He was fond of birds and collected them. At the beginning, our collection consisted mainly of parrots. But we travelled and Alexander brought more species and then we moved to the country." Finally, when the couple had 300 species, they decided to stop being engineers, and look for some land.

"That wasn't easy, because of legal problems," said Belyavskaya. "But one day some friends suggested buying out a bankrupt collective farm they owned. We came here and saw this was exactly what we needed! We started construction in 2003 and opened two years later. We didn't expect it, but the park started to pay for itself by the end of 2006."

Tatyana insists they don't get any donations from anyone, except a thousand roubles a month from the Russian Scout Association, which supports two eagle-owls. But the owners aren't complaining. They are going to open a terrarium, botanical gardens and a Japanese garden in a few months. These new facilities are needed, they say because present facilities are too small. "We don't want our guests to feel crowded," commented Tatyana Belyavskaya.

I hope to return there one day to see piranhas in the terrarium and to taste an ostrich omelette again, yummie! **P**



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Lisa, our friendly fox, has another adventure with her cubs this month to start the Family Pages. Then we have some puzzles, including a Sudoku and lots of quizzes with flags, kindly created for us by The English International School. Passport is keen to publish new writing, so if you have a story that would fit in the Family Pages, and would like to see your name and work in print, please send it to us. 500-800 words, not longer, with or without illustrations. It must make the Editor smile. Happy writing!



Lisa's Winter Tail

Ross Hunter, illustrations: Nika Harrison

YUK! 'I hate winter!', sighed Lisa as she peered out of the burrow window into Moscow's snowy dawn. The four cubs were still asleep, curled up in their usual hopeless mess, so she had time to think while doing the day's dusting, scrubbing, washing and brushing.

Christmas had passed, the trip to Lapland now only a fading memory. They would not fall for playing Santa, Elves and Reindeer again. It had been fun, with Sasha curling his white tail tip round to make Santa's beard, and Boris playing sleigh for the twins to ride on. But that was past.

Four very hyper cubs to amuse in one small burrow, every day.

What to do? Hide and seek is too easy in the snow, despite bushy brushes shuffling snow over the footprints. Fishing through the ice is hard work and Dasha and Masha get bored. Stay inside and the boys will wreck the place. Winter sports! Lisa groaned to herself as she muttered it, knowing that the cubs will have fun, and she will be exhausted.

First, persuade them. A good goose-rich breakfast for stamina, hot honey for energy, and suggest reading. Collecting firewood. Writing thank you letters. Or a winter pentathlon: skating, sledging, snowballing, 'White Fox' and a BBQ. Sorted. Out they went.

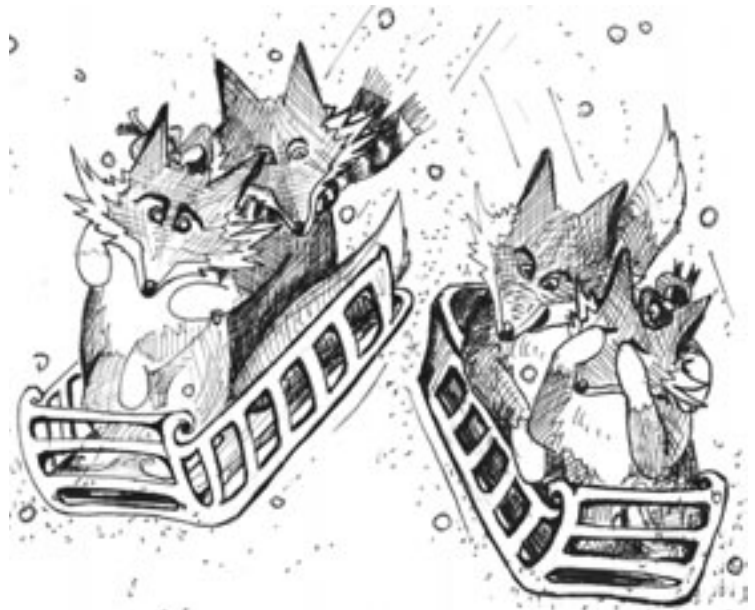
Build the BBQ fire first. Now, hauling frozen fir cones and fallen branches from the woods is a normal winter chore, but made into a race with prizes, even the boring can be fun, and soon they had ten times what they needed, and Lisa could use the rest for a week afterwards. Job done. Inevitably, the snowballs flew as each tried to destabilise the others' loads. Another tick.

Skating is much easier for foxcubs than for you and me, as they have long tails for balance, although this wasn't obvious when they were getting going on the ice. Only Sasha found it easy, and was soon sliding and skidding, pirouetting, dancing and prancing. Until Boris caught him. Boris lacked style and grace, but he did have sharp shoulders and elbows, and nobbled Sasha every third circuit.



The girls got nowhere, frozen to the edge, gripping each other, tripping and stuttering. Boris spotted their struggles and went to help. 'Mum!' they yelled, thinking he was about to tease them. But Boris slowed down, eased them apart and away from the edge and back again, until they gave it a go themselves. Even Sasha stopped showing off and lent a paw, and there was applause when Lisa said 'Enough! Next sport'.

Sledging was a bit the same. Sasha sped, slalomed, scythed and swooshed showily. Boris bounced, bundled and bonked into unyielding yews. 'Oww! By Dose Hurds!' he boaned, sorry, moaned.



Masha and Dasha scratched slowly down the slope, paws and tails braking hard and breaking speed.

'Boring!' Said the boys, 'come on, let's do it properly', and grabbed and dragged sisters and sledges back up again. With the girls in front, they gradually got them to open their eyes, unclench their paws and enjoy steering the sledge a bit faster and a bit faster each time.

'Yeheey!, they whelped, this is great!'

They had so much fun, it was dusk before they even remembered 'White Fox', their favourite game, which we'll save for another story. Lisa eased four very tired and very happy cubs back into the burrow, and sat them down for tea. When they had wolfed their goose and feather fritters, and while their hot milk was cooling, Lisa checked on the day's experiences.

Sasha burst first: 'I was great today, Mum. I can skate backwards in circles both ways, and I taught the girls how to sledge!'

'We learned lots, Mum...', piped in the twins, thoughtfully, as Sasha puffed his chest out '.... from Boris!'

Everyone stared. In Boris' case, from behind a bandaged nose.

'Boris isn't that good at skating or sledging, Mum, but he was really good at helping us, and showing us how to do it - badly is a good start, and better than not at all'.

Boris blushed a bit, and Sasha unpuffed himself.

'So, what have you learned?'

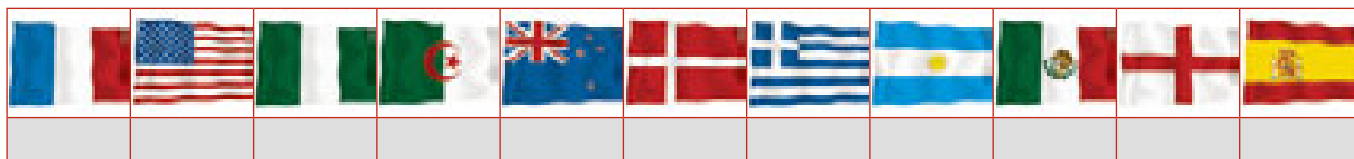
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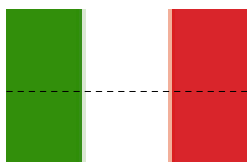
Flags and football: 32 countries have qualified for the World Cup Finals in June. Four puzzles based on their flags.

1. Here are the flags of 11 of the teams. Which countries? The first letter of each spells out a slogan.

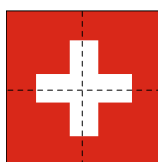


2. Is it the right way up? Some flags are symmetrical, some are not.

Two sorts of symmetry are shown here:



(L) The Italian flag has a LINE of symmetry through the middle (L)

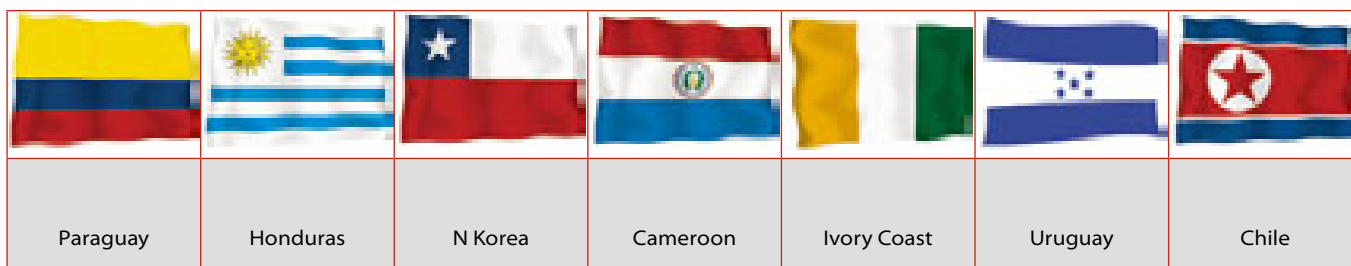


(R) the Swiss flag can be ROTATED and still look the same. This flag can be rotated 4 times, not the usual 2, as it is the only square flag!(R)

Which of these flags have (L), (R), both (LR) or no (O) symmetry? I've done the host for you!



3. You probably have friends at school from most of these countries. The next ones are less likely, as they are all small countries and a long way away. Can you match the flag to the country?



4. Can you name the capital cities of the countries we haven't mentioned yet?



5. Who will win the World Cup? Make your prediction, write it here and keep this until the finals!

I predict that the winning country:

- Will have a coastline (cross out all 'landlocked' states)
- Will be on the Atlantic, NOT the Pacific
- Will not have a flag on which you can count the stars.

Who does that leave?

Good luck!

6. Sudoku. Medium

	3		1		6	7		
9				3			6	
	2	1				9		
7			9		8			
				5			1	
		5	4			3		6
	5				4			
		6	2	7			8	
2					5	6		1

Solutions to the puzzles are in the 'Passport' section of the EIS website:

www.englishedmoscow.com



EIS The English International School Moscow

Looking forward to a peaceful and successful 2010



Our resolutions for the coming year:



Look smart -
think smart



Team work makes the
impossible simple



You can if you
think you can



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Children's Theatres in Moscow

text: Marina Lukanina,
photos by Alina Ganenko

Live theatre plays a big part in the entertainment industry in Russia. The first theatre visits usually happen when children are about 2-3 years old. For this age it is better to choose a performance no longer than 30 minutes, and one that is colourful and dynamic so that it holds the attention of a young viewer. Puppet theatres or shows with animals in them excite children and keep them focused. Children's performances with real actors usually last longer (about one and a half hours with intermission) and are more targeted towards older children.

In Russia there is a special kind of children's theatre at this time of year: 'New Year's Tree' performances. These are entertaining, and dynamic shows are held throughout mid-December and early January. Their aim is basically to have fun and they usually involve children's participation, such as when children have to shout for the Father Frost (known in Russia as Ded Moroz) to come and light up the New Year's tree.

The very first children's theatre in Moscow was founded in 1918. It only existed for a month but served as a catalyst for the development and establishment of this genre. Nowadays, the city offers a variety of theatrical opportunities for the little ones, so there are

plenty of such theatres in Moscow. Theatre trips are organized as a part of Russian schools' extra-curricular activities. For many of them, going to the theatre becomes something they are used to. Let's explore some of the most famous children's theatres in Moscow.

"Durov's Animal Theatre"
Durova str. 4
Phone: 495-681-9812
<http://www.ugolokdurova.ru>

This is one of the oldest theatres, and is also known somewhat inconsistently as: "Durov's Corner", "The World of Wonders of Grandpa Durov", and "Animal Theatre Named after V. Durov." It is



famous not only in Moscow but also in other cities in Russia, and amongst tourists from abroad.

"Durov's Corner" was opened in 1912 by a very famous circus actor, clown, animal-trainer, writer, zoologist, and first Honoured Circus Artist of Russia, Vladimir Durov. He developed his own training method without using whips or sticks. He used to say that "cruelty humiliates and only kindness can be wonderful."

The theatre comprises of the Main and Small stages, the amusement ride called "Mouse Railway" and the museum. The repertoire includes various performances with animals and birds. Several excursions throughout the month will give you a chance to learn more about Durov's dynasty and the history of the theatre. The theatre's motto is: "Teach by entertaining!" The founder of the museum, Vladimir Durov, hoped that his theatre would teach the children to treat animals with respect and care.

"Yuri Kuklachev's Cats Theatre"
Kutuzovsky prospect, 25
Phone: 8-499-249-2907
www.kuklachev.ru/eng

The head of the theatre, Yuri Kuklachev, is a famous circus actor and cat-trainer. For a long time he worked as an independent performer, but then he decided to open his own theatre. His performances are one-act plays and are targeted at children from age 3.

The theatre hosts two independent artistic teams, headed by Yuri Kuklachev and his son Dmitry Kuklachev, so, despite active touring, the theatre's doors are almost always open to its audience.

This theatre frequently makes world tours. Its shows are well-known in the USA, Canada, Finland, China and Japan. It has won many international prizes, among which there is a Golden Cup and the Title of "The Most Original Theatre in the World", won during a tour to France.

G. A. Ungvald-Khilkevich, a respected film director is general director of the theatre. Mr. Ungvald-Khilkevich's creative talents helped to prepare eight unique performances: "Catnappers", "Prince Nutcracker and the Rat King", "Cat Clowns and Love", "The Cat in the Boots", "Cats from the Universe", "My Favourite Cats", "Swan Lake" and "School of Kindness."

In 2005, "Kuklachev's Cat Theatre" received the status of State Cultural Institution of Moscow.





The Children's Musical Theatre named after Natalia Sats
Prospect Venadskogo, 5
Phone: 495-930-7021, 930-5177
www.teatr-sats.ru

The Moscow Children's Musical Theatre was founded in 1965 by the prominent Russian teacher and musical producer Natalia Sats. This theatre was the first professional venue in the world where the art forms of opera, ballet and symphony were addressed to a young audience.

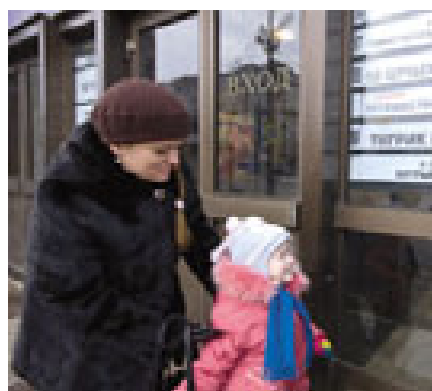
The emblem of this theatre is the Blue Bird, also known as the Bird of Happiness. The theatre, which was originally set up in a tiny hall, now has two halls. The Main Hall has 1,100 seats and three stages, and a beautiful theatre curtain featuring the images of the Rimski-Korsakov's opera "Sadko". The Small Hall has just 300 seats. The theatre also has a unique Palekh Room, painted with characters and scenes from traditional Russian and European fairytales. Before each performance, the actors come out dressed up in costumes, and mingle and talk with the children.

The theatre offers a diverse repertoire of operas and ballets staged specifically for children. Among the current productions are Mozart's "The Magic Flute", Kolmanovsky's "Snow White", Rubin's "Three Fat Men", Terentiev's "Maximka", Rauhverberger's "Cinderella", "The Wizard of Oz" and "Peter and the Wolf" by Prokofiev.



The State Academic Puppet Theatre named after S. Obraztsov
3 Sadovaya-Samotechnaya Ulitsa
Phone: 495-699-5373
<http://www.puppet.ru>

The Obraztsov Theatre is the largest puppet theatre and puppetry-teaching centre in Russia. It contains the Russian State Museum of Theatrical Puppets,



containing over 3,000 puppets from over 50 countries, making it one of the largest puppet museums in the world. It also has a library devoted to the art of puppetry, and various manuscripts and documents related to puppetry are held in the centre's pedagogical department.

The theatre is named after Sergei Vladimirovich Obraztsov (1901-1992), the great Russian puppet-master. He established puppetry as an art form in the Soviet Union, and is considered to be one of the greatest puppeteers of the 20th century. Throughout his acting career, he pursued a personal interest in puppetry and gave regular independent puppet shows. In 1931 he was chosen by the Soviet government to be the first director of the State Central Puppet Theatre in Moscow. He developed the theatre's productions and performances over a period of some 60 years.

The theatre puts on shows for both children and adults, with matinee performances full of humour and ideal for children, and evening shows more likely to be silent or mimed. The theatre's repertoire includes "The Divine Comedy" (by the Soviet drama play-writer Isidor Schtuck), Swift's "Gulliver's Travels", "Cinderella", "Winnie-the-Pooh", and many others.

There aren't that many plays in the world which run with a full house for 50-60 years in a row. In the Obraztsov Puppet Theatre there are few such plays, but the main one has been recorded in the Guinness book of Records for its longevity. It is called "Unusual Concert." After its first night in 1946, the play was shown in different countries around the world a total of nine thousand times. This famous play is still in the repertoire so don't miss it. **P**

How to survive the New Year holidays

text and illustration Elena Krivoviyaz



The New Year is celebrated all over Russia by 10 days of total idleness: nobody answers business calls and whoever you see out on the streets seem to be almost lonely. There are no traffic jams, which is amazing. Most of the cafés are deserted, as if in the middle of a war, and there's no need to book a table at any restaurant in Moscow. All the dentists and notaries are gone as well. You may have no choice but to let your business go for a while.

This Shangri-La can turn to a nightmare in some ways, especially if you are one of the few people to be working. For some reason, foreigners probably spend more time working, proportionally speaking, than their Russian counterparts, as through a sense of Protestant guilt still hanging on from when they worked in that other world, the West. Don't be surprised when a secretary asks you to wait another week or two before her boss comes back from Thailand or the Maldives. What, never! That's what my friend said for the first 15 years in Russia.

Don't try to change your life overnight as that is the shortest way to depression

Never-ending festival

Nearly all Russians long for these days of New Year nothingness. But finally when New Year comes, many are at a loss as to what to do, and they waste their free time. Those who didn't fly away to exotic places try to celebrate the New Year at home with dozens of litres of vodka and loads of Russian salad which they dress up, or the shop does, to be French. You might be invited to parties like that several times each day, because Russians celebrate the New Year from 31st of December to 3rd of January, then they start to prepare for Russian Christmas on the 7th of January. Finally they celebrate the Old New Year on the 13th of January.

After that, it's back to work, quite often in a state of complete depression. Many are very upset that they have put on so much weight, others are upset because all they did during the goddamned holidays was have the time to analyse

themselves and their situation, but without the professional analysts. How should we spend this 10 day-long holiday?

Promises, promises

The most obvious thing to do is to escape to China or any other place where New Year is not at this time at all. Being in a different place and trying to get used to new surroundings means you won't have time to get into yourself too much. But if you weren't able to get tickets to anywhere and don't want to go to China, let's look at other methods.

Never give yourself unreal promises before a New Year, like getting fit and starting to look like your favourite Hollywood star, stopping smoking or learning French or Russian perfectly, or growing fond of your mother-in-law whom you hated before etc. Many people promise themselves to sign up for a gym, but consume vast amounts of alcohol which no amount of pumping iron can compensate for. Better to start with something minor and more realizable, like a decision to drink fresh juice twice a week or to go to sleep a half an hour earlier (easier to say: I will get up later tomorrow!). Don't try to change your life overnight as that is the shortest way to depression.

Rivers of alcohol

Even if you're an absolute and confirmed teetotaler, it's almost impossible not to fall into the abyss and drink when everyone around you is doing so. But if you refuse to drink you may offend your friends. Driving a car is a good idea. Everybody knows how high the fines are for drunken drivers, so you'll be excused not drinking.

But what happens if you do have a few (which is most likely) and then get stopped? Could be a way to spend a hellishly horrible New Year, unless you have at least \$500 on you, depending on what kind of car you drive and what you end up doing in a drunk state.

What should you do when it gets very late and somebody has to take you home and take your socks off because you're unable to do it yourself? More serious, is what happens when you wake up not remembering how it was that you got home at all, and somebody tells you that they rescued you from a neighbour's apartment, unconscious.

The first thing you're recommended to do is to drink a cup of black tea with a lot of sugar in it when you wake up. If you ate too much the day before, which is very difficult not to do because New Year in Russia is about food as well as alcohol, you probably don't want to eat at all in the morning. Fine, go on a diet for a day or two. There are millions of pieces of advice how to get over your throbbing headache, feelings of complete depression, such as hair of the dog, which means: drink some more.

This kind of advice can actually be helpful if you are able to control yourself and only have one drink. But what happens if you turn into a vodka-dependant sloth? Will you still be respected at work? Probably the answer is that you will be more respected, if you work in a Russian environment. But it is not going to be too good for your image if you work for Western company. Russians say: only having sex

with your partner is a good resolution; as is drinking only 'pure' vodka, which is supposed not to cause any hangover at all (sure, sure!).

But there's only one remedy that is considered universally apt: TO DRINK WATER AS MUCH AS YOU CAN. If you're not suicidal, don't drink alcohol at all if you're still sick after celebrating the night before. This simple advice will keep you going until the next hangover.

Stay fit

It's really hard to make yourself wake up and go anywhere in mid-winter, as the weather is freezing and horrible. But sometimes it's important to break this hibernation and try to do something: run around your house, do puzzles or dust bookshelves. Boring as hell. Quite. So buy a snowboard and get out of your flat for exciting hills of snow in suburban parks. Terrorise the locals!

Doing 15 minutes exercise a day is much better than lying on the sofa in front of the TV all day, at least that's what I've heard. Take the opportunity to read that mountain of books that you have been looking at for a year without opening. Excuse: you can't get it in Moscow? You'll be surprised just how much is available in Moscow English-language bookshops if you look. You could even try and learn some Russian, but that would probably be pushing it, after all, a holiday is a holiday, right? **P**

There's only one remedy that is considered universally apt: to drink water as much as you can



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The West End: The Arbats

The seventh of a complete guide to the favourite residential areas

Text and photos by John Harrison, Julia Nozdracheva



The Arbat is of course the first place that any expat hears of before they get to Moscow: lavishly treated by artists, the first pedestrianised street, lined with tourist-orientated retail and entertainment palaces, handily between the Kremlin and the river, and surrounded by the more important class of embassy. Then there is the vital matter of expat watering-holes, the archetypal TV sports bars where tribal loyalties bow before the great god Cyclops, or is that Skyclops?

The two streets could not be more different in appearance, architecture or amenities. The old Arbat is civilised. It reflects much of Moscow's history, is lined with noteworthy buildings and sculptures, and is thronged with humanity. The new Arbat is a later creation, modernist in style (if that is the word), free of the burdens of history or tradition and, even if full of folk, really a machine-space not a people place. Outdoor lift-muzak mars the malls. My resident spies warn me that the urban idyll is tainted by traffic. At the end of the Kremlin-to-Kutuzovsky elitni avenue, black-limo priority means longer queues for us proles. At the other end of the social scale, young 'entrepreneurs' may be watching your pockets.

But the value of the Arbat area is entirely behind the commercial facades. The enduring memories are to be had behind the bright lights and free of the tourist traps. One of Moscow's most famous scenes, the courtyard and church painted by Polinov (1878) when this area was the edge of Moscow, has survived urbanization all around. The square is tucked in on Spasopeskovsky Pereleuk. The view is restricted by the mature trees more than buildings, but the feeling is still there. Step forward an era, and Moscow's most futuristic and most neglected building hides on Krivoarbatskiy Pereleuk. The great architect, Melnikov, was allowed to build his own house

in 1927, a rarity in the fledgling Soviet state, and its two interlocking cylinders with honeycomb hexagonal windows was years ahead of its time. Sadly, it is neither open to view nor restored, as it deserves to be. See it before it crumbles away.

The area is an architectural kaleidoscope and the many, splendid pre-revolutionary buildings are best explored during a gentle stroll, with a tourist guide book to hand. Navigating the Arbat is easy, as the eye is constantly drawn to the dominating, gothic bulk of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Arguably the least attractive of Stalin's Seven Sisters, its odd proportions are explained by the fact that the squat tower design did not please the great leader, so an ill-fitting spire was hastily gummed on top to appease him.



Apart from the touristy restaurants and bars, mostly with prominent brand names, there are unique small places off the beaten track, like the café-studio coffee shop on the corner of Bol. Nikitskaya and Nozhovnie Pereulok (funky goods and books are sold in the basement, and it has a lovely summer outdoor patio area). The boulevard has had a pleasant face-lift recently and hosts outdoor music festivals in the summer. Culturally there's plenty going on, with lots of theatres and music venues, especially if the area is extended to include Bolshoi Nikitskaya. That adds a host of elegant and delightfully individual boutiques and antique shops. At any time of day, or week, there are plenty of goings-on going on. Wom-

be your chance of a pre-revolutionary house in good shape with well-renovated façade and entrance, and near the Arbat.

A sample of special buildings:

M. Molchanovka 8, the 'Lion House', opposite the Belgian Embassy, a pre-revolutionary building completely reconstructed behind the original façade and roof;

Stary Arbat 23, a beautiful, original and all too rare old house; Romanov lane, especially no.5, loved by expatriates for its closed yard, proximity to Old Arbat and for its huge apartments by Moscow standards, up to 350m2.

Lovers of the new, try: Grubber House (Arbat 29), Fillipovskiy 8, 1st Smolenskiy 17, B. Levshinskiy 11, known as Dvoryanskoe Gnezdo.



en's coffee mornings under BWC, IWC and AWO umbrellas (see childreninmoscow.ru or expat.ru for details).

The special bits

The Arbat: visitors' Moscow in a nutshell – all the photo opps, souvenirs and bars you could ask for... as well as a good slice of history and culture, all traffic-free.

New Arbat has activity, restaurants, sports bars, bookshops and expats in abundance.

Tucked away between the Arbats is the setting of **Polinov's church**, that most evocative painting (see reproduction – original in the Tretyakov).

Buildings & statues. There is a statue for every taste on The Arbat. Gogol's, just off new Arbat (behind 7 Nikitskiy Blvd.), is the most evocative. Best building is the hidden-away and tragically un-restored avant-garde Melnikov House. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is imposing, and is an ever-present compass point.

Best Metro stations. The star-shaped Arbat and the exit from dark blue Smolenskaya are both iconic. Nearby the only 4-line station is worth an hour or two, which is as well, as it always takes me that long to find my way out of it. Smolenskaya is also two stations with one name, on a system where usually one station has two names.

Where to live? You have plenty of choice, from all eras and qualities: top tier and dodgy pre-revolutionary, Stalin-soviet, sixties brutalist and brand-new. So much so that in each direction, there is a seamless transition into another top quality area: Prechistenka and Ostozhenka to the south, the various embankments to the west, Barrikadnaya and the zoo are NW, and towards Patriarchy Ponds to the N and NE. Together, one can safely predict that this is the largest concentration of expats in Moscow. With plenty of renovation already complete, this could

Nearby? If you like this area but can't find what you want, check with the real estate experts. Lots of nice neighbours, but none of them are cheap: all are on the 'heading-for-GO' side of the Monopoly board. You name the expensive street, it is within a dice roll of an Arbat or two.

Top 10 +/-

The list of all that matters most

1. Expat central: an unrivalled choice of places to meet fellow exiles.
2. Not enough Metro stations – and one/four of those will frustrate you.
3. Cafés and restaurants for every taste and budget.
4. Every foreign sports match is on TV, somewhere.
5. Old Arbat verges on being a stage set or museum;
6. ... while the New is a warning how to do modern badly.
7. Well served by kindergartens and child care clubs;
8. ... if too bustling and built-over to be family friendly.
9. Must-sees aplenty: Gorky's house, Melnikov's house, Pushkin statues and the city centre.
10. Unmissable: people watching. – enjoy the varied throng on a summer's evening.

Bolshoi thanks to the experts for their detailed insights. Do contact them for more on this famous area: Andrei Sadko at Penny Lane: andreisado@realtor.ru, Marina Semenova at Intermark Savills: m.semenova@intermarksavills.ru, Anna at www.eolia-relocation.ru, Harriet at www.childreninmoscow.ru; and EIS parents at www.englishedmoscow.com. Next month: **Chisty Prudy** – your news and views please: ross_hunter@englishedmoscow.com **P**

Is it possible
to learn
Russian? ДА!
~~НЕТ~~



Naomi Britz of Ruslingua,
and Marina Lukanina

140 million Russians, not to mention 120 million neighbouring Georgians, Armenians and Kazakhs will tell you it is. Granted, they have a distinct advantage; so is it possible for a Westerner, based in Moscow for a limited amount of time, to learn Russian? I'll still tell you it is, and I'll tell you why.

There are two elements to consider: Russian itself and how you approach learning it.

The nature of the beast

Russian has a lot of familiar words, and even a beginner student will find he has a substantial vocabulary. Apart from the obvious international words like футбол, компьютер, кафе and туалет, Russian started borrowing words a long time ago from other languages. Thus we have этаж (fr. étage/floor), парикмахер (ger. Perücke macher/lit wig maker i.e. hairdresser), бухгалтер (ger. Buchhalter/bookkeeper or accountant), молоко (eng. milk) and видеть (It. videre/to see). There are of course all the Russian words which have entered English like vodka, tundra, tsar, balalaika, and Leninism, which may not necessarily be the most frequently occurring of words, but are encouraging nonetheless.

Sometimes Russians add -овать to English verbs, and voilà, they have new Russian verbs: адаптировать (adapt), контактировать (contact), компенсировать (compensate), дублировать (duplicate), копировать (copy). My personal favourite is нокаутировать, which really does mean to knock someone out. Adjectives are similarly adopted and adapted by adding -ский or -ний, hence дипломатический, романтический, драматический, регулярный, профессиональный, квалифицированный. Familiar nouns include анализ, операция, реакция. Pity the poor Westerner racking his brains over what результат might mean, the trick lies in appreciating what looks easy in print but is far less easy to recognise when spoken.

Don't stress it

What about cases, gender, declensions, prefixes, conjugations, adjectival agreement?

I hear you groan. Don't let the cases get to you. It is far more important to say something meaningful than to say something beautiful. You can say something wrong and still be understood. You aren't in school and won't be marked down if you get your cases mixed up. Of course, if you jazz up your speaking with some evocative body language, even broken Russian can get you far.

Pronunciation is, in my opinion, the greatest barrier to understanding and speaking. It's not surprising when you consider that Russian has 33 letters and people only have 32 teeth to get their tongues round them. The way to overcome this particular hurdle is to listen.

Active listening – take your cue from the most natural of language learners

Babies spend a year just listening before they vocalise the words they need the most. Your adult brain reduces the time lag, but take it from babies that listening is the most important factor in language acquisition. When babies do start speaking, they're not spouting modern political theory but communicating simple needs like wanting a drink or to be picked up. Keep your aims similarly grounded – in the early stages you need Russian to get things done, be that catching a cab, buying a blin or flirting with a devushka.

Fake it

The best language learners are those who aren't afraid to risk sounding stupid, making mistakes or entering into conversation in the first place. Of course, this can lead to self-destruction. Once while I was staying with a Russian family, the father started a diatribe on... I wasn't sure what. I nodded and smiled and said да a lot until he suddenly asked me «это хорошо или плохо?». I understood the question, but my heart was pounding at having to answer it. Given I had a 50/50 chance of satisfying him

with my response, and judging by his furrowed brows during the telling I plumped for «плохо». He nodded, gratified and I was out of the woods... until he looked up and asked «почему?». Panicked, I muttered something about really needing the loo and ran away, but later I proudly related having had my first discussion of political issues in Russian!

The tricks of the trade

The more you know, the easier it gets. Make sure you really know the essentials – the pronouns, easy verbs, basic objects – the hooks you can pin new knowledge on – and then start thinking laterally. Names of people and places are a great place to pick up language hooks. Remember Yugoslavia? It's where the Southern Slavs lived. And it's not a coincidence that Yugo^zapadnaya metro is located in the South West of the city. Consider Prime Minister Putin, whose first name, Vladimir means ruler of the world (владеть to rule/own, мир – world). Vladivostok rules the east. There was already a Novgorod in the North, so Nizhni-novgorod identified the Lower New City.

A little goes a long way

Many new students quickly become intimidated by the effort they think they have to put into learning Russian. Knowing you can't commit two hours a day is not a reason to abandon your more modest efforts. Studies have shown that the optimal time for really intense study is 10 minutes. Faced with lack of time, just learn a word or two a day – don't wait for the perfect evening to study for hours on end – and before long you'll have a decent sized vocabulary. Listen out for the new words you've covered, this will help you stop focusing on everything you don't know and start reveling in what you do. The words will stick and you'll be able to figure the gist of conversation.

Catalysts

Language acquisition is drastically aided by drinking, smoking and having sex. Alcohol loosens the tongue in any language, ponsing fags is an easy conversation starter and the pillow method is exceedingly effective.

Enjoy!

Regardless how much you study and the specific methods you employ, relax and enjoy yourself. The more fun you have, the better you will speak. Правда!

In a separate interview conducted by Martina Lukani-na, Yuri Prokhorov, Head of the Pushkin State Russian Language Institute, added:

- It is essential not to be afraid to ask questions and to speak, even with mistakes. Russians are usually tolerant

to foreigners who do not speak Russian and therefore are eager to help. Learning the language implies leaning not just the grammar and punctuation rules but the entire cultural background, such as the fact that you cannot give an even number of flowers in Russia unless you attend a funeral service; you have to open the gift if you receive one right away, in front of guests and the person who gave it to you and not just put it aside, etc.

- So the "situational language practice" is necessary to receive high results?

- Absolutely. There should be courses of everyday communication. For example, an expat taking a walk with his teacher to a store and role play various situations there. The model of communicative behavior is very important here. How to behave in the store, at the restaurant, at the gas station? Everyday component of a speech is crucial.

- At what level of Russian would you recommend using language courses?

- I'd say from the very beginning. I know that expats are usually too busy to attend group classes; however they prove to be the most effective. You hear a lot more information in a group class than in "one-to-one" setting. **P**

Ruslingua

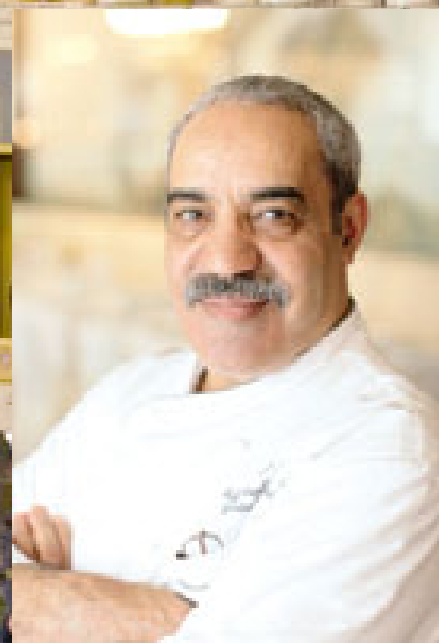
Tel.: 748 3185
www.ruslingua.com
m. Polyanka / Otkyabrskaya



Russian for people who need 'real life' language rather than endless grammar drills.

Join a class or have a teacher come to your home or office.

A Tunisian Tide



text by Charles W. Borden,
photos courtesy of La Marée

Our return to La Marée was a last minute plan change; we were set on steaks at Beef Bar until one of our diners, Shiraz Mamedov, sent a message about some health research he was doing. Publisher John Ortega followed up with some Internet pages and by the afternoon had decided that we had to find something healthier than beef.

La Marée is one of Moscow's best restaurants and it certainly has the best seafood in the city, as it should be since Tunisian owner Mehdi Douss is the Big Onion's premium seafood importer and distributor. He flies seafood to Moscow from the corners of the globe several times a week. The entire selection is laid out on ice in the adjacent seafood boutique, usually a La Marée diner's first stop for a peek at the catch of the day. Live Kamchatka crab and blue Breton lobsters glare out from fish tanks and there are about a dozen varieties at the oyster bar including huge Kurile oysters (660r each). Our oysters ranged from about 200 to 350 rubles each.

Chef Abdessattar Zitouni's menu is extensive, drawing on scores of seafood selections prepared whole, filleted, baked in salt, steamed, "la plancha" or with Tunisian spices. Zitouni is a master of the Tunisian kitchen presenting such dishes as Tunisian Fish Chowder (750r), but he has also conquered other cuisines with such creative plates as Crispy Cheburek with Tuna, Capers and Soft Egg (480r), Soft Shell Crab and Vegetable Tempura with Ginger Sauce (1320r),





or Fennel Crusted Giant Scallop with Artichoke (1050r).

Chef Zitouni joined us in the seafood boutique where we decided to bypass the menu; John ordered Bouillabaisse for the table and he and Shiraz selected fish and seafood for a La Plancha dinner: baraboulka, sculpin, sardines, calmari, scallops and a couple of varieties of shrimp.

A chef's complement was first out, a cube of fresh tuna with finely chopped fresh sweet pepper, accompanied by a basket of very fresh home-baked breads and rolls and some very thin sliced dark bread. The Bouillabaisse was dished out at the table after the servers hung starched white bibs around our necks. This Marseille specialty fish stew consisted of a dozen varieties of fish and shellfish, large pieces or even whole swimming in a thick textured, dark amber broth – so good you could almost feel the Provencal coast. The “la plancha” seafood came out on a huge

platter, grilled without adornment, just the way to enjoy La Marée's fresh catch.

La Marée has a very good wine list, naturally heavy on white wines. We started with a Bonny Doon Albarino Ca' del Solo 2007 (3200r), a California Central Coast biodynamic production from a white grape from northwestern Spain (3200r). We then tried a Condrieu Andre Perret 2007 (6100r).

La Marée left a better impression on me than our last visit; it appears to have matured. Its impeccable and polite service makes its operation appears tight, and, as I understand, a reflection of Mr. Douss' pride in his establishment, the sign of a consummate restaurateur. **P**

La Marée

Ulitsa Petrovka, 28/2

Tel.: 694-0930

Opening hours: every day noon to midnight

Swedish Celebrated Christmas in Advance



There are about 200 Swedish living in Moscow and almost all of them came to the Scandinavia restaurant on the 6th of December to celebrate Swedish Christmas. The evening was organized by the SWEA organization which unites Swedish women living outside of Scandinavia and the majority of those who attended were SWEA members with their spouses and children. A tall Christmas tree was placed in the centre of the hall, which attracted a lot of attention from children. The traditional Swedish Christmas hot drink glogg was given out for free to all the guests who had much to discuss as most of them haven't met since the previous SWEA meeting. Favourite Swedish dishes such as: sliced salmon, traditional Swedish meat-balls called kotbullar with cranberry sauce, gingery biscuits and many others were served. The evening ended by a surprise: a real Ded Moros (Santa Claus) appeared with a sack filled with presents for children.

British Business Club

The British Business Club held its monthly meeting for November on Thursday 26th in Moscow's newest Irish pub, Katie O'Shea's. This is situated conveniently close to the Irish Embassy, at 5 Gorkholsky Pereulok, not far from the Prospekt Mira metro station. The owner and entrepreneur is Steve Conway, the Irishman who is known as Moscow's answer to Tiger Woods—or should that be Padraig Harrington? Steve, who has lived in Moscow for seventeen years, also owns Silvers, the "fish and chips" pub near the bottom of Tverskaya, in a basement on Nikitsky pereulok. At Katie O'Shea's we were given cupfuls of delicious Irish stew to eat while we drank our Guinness and sipped our Jamesons. If the aromas emanating



from the kitchen are anything to go by, this is going to be a real "gastro-pub", something that Moscow sorely needs. Anyone wishing to join the British Business Club should apply through the website: www.british-club.ru

Peace Declared between Denmark and Russia



On 2 December the Moscow the Moscow International Rotary Club met in the library of the Katerina Hotel near Pavletskaya to hear the Danish Ambassador to Russia, Per Carlsen, talking about 500

years of peace between Denmark and Russia. In fact, the period was 516 years since the bench-mark date was the Treaty of Copenhagen in 1493 when Ivan III tried to ensure Danish neutrality in his war with the Lithuanians. Mr Carlsen selected some interesting incidents and personalities from the history of relations between the two countries, including the discovery of the Bering Strait, the marriage of Princess Dagmar to the future Alexander III, and the story of C.A. Kofoed, who was the inspiration behind the agricultural reforms of Peter Stolypin in the early 1900s. Finally, Mr Carlsen noted that next April, President Medvedev is planning a state visit to Denmark, and that this will be the first since 1964, when Nikita Khrushchev visited, one month before he fell from power.

Irish Degustation

On 10 December the Irish Embassy hosted a degustation for the Irish food and drink industry. The theme was "Ireland: Food Island", presumably to counter the previous prejudice, which was Ireland: drink island. But the truth was both were marvellous. In the presence of the new Irish Ambassador to Russia, Philip McDonagh, a lunch of quite extraordinary quality was provided to a small table of invited guests. The main course was beef on mashed potatoes. This sounds plain, and it was—triumphantly. It was, quite simply, the best-hung, best-cooked and generally nicest beef I have ever tasted. This was

followed by a variety of cheeses from Ireland, not normally thought of as a cheese island. However, the "Cooleeny Raw Mature" was something to die for. It can only be obtained from Sheridan's cheesemongers in County Meath (www.sheridanscheesemongers.com), but the aim is to export it to Russia in due course. All this was followed by a tasting of no less than fifteen whiskeys, from Jameson's to Tyrconnell, plus a range of Irish cream liqueurs. While the English-speakers at the bottom end of the table swapped anecdotes about Moscow, the Russians, who were in the majority, took notes. The best place to learn their views on the wonders of



the Emerald Isle's napitky is www.irish-whiskey.ru

Knut Hamsun



On 25 November, the All-Russian Museum of Decorative Folk Art, on Ulitsa Delegatskaya (Metro Mayakovskaya), opened an exhibition of figurines based on Norwegian folk tales, in honour of the 150th anniversary of Knut Hamsun's birth. Hamsun is an ambiguous figure, having won the Nobel Prize for Literature and been a Nazi supporter during the Second World War. His most famous novel, *The Growth of the Soil* was published in 1917 and was an anti-democratic paean to the virtues of what was



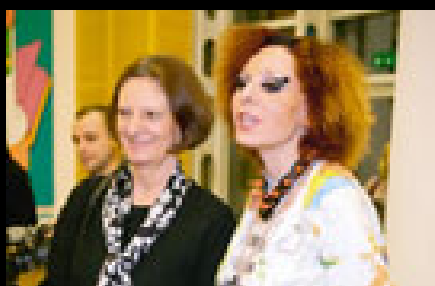
later to become, in Germany, the Blood and Soil movement. Hamsun also loved Russia, having visited it in 1899 when he fell in love with the Russian tradition of fairy-stories. The exhibition is small but the figurines are beautiful and whimsical. Also very beautiful is the Museum generally, and the building it occupies, which is the Osterman house, is one of the most elegant but under-publicised eighteenth century mansions in Moscow. The exhibition runs until 22 December. See www.vmdpni.ru

Visa Briefing at the British Embassy



On 26 November, the UK Border Agency, in conjunction with the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce, held a short but illuminating briefing on visa application procedure and practice at the British Embassy on Smolensky Bulvar. The main speaker was Jon Gray, the Deputy Director of Visa Services at the Embassy. He was assisted by Ross Hunter, a gravely-voiced Scot, who supervises the day-to-day work of the visa section, and is in charge of what an industrialist might call quality control and also what a lawyer would call appeals procedure. The Embassy processes around 140,000 visa applications every year, and grants 92% of those. Mr Gray was at pains to emphasise that many of those rejected are turned down on a technicality and the applicant is successful a day or two later with an amended application. So the stories that so many Russians tell of the difficulty of getting into Britain would appear, on the face of it, to be exaggerated. The overall impression was of a painstakingly fair assessment process, with fixed, published and readily-comprehensible rules, and a serious appeals procedure in the event of a rejection. It is not an amusing subject, but nonetheless Michael Byrne of RFT Consulting managed to enliven the proceedings by referring to the question on the visa application form, "Are you a terrorist?", and asking how many people have answered, "Yes." Details of visa application procedure can be found on the Embassy website: <http://ukinrussia.fco.gov.uk/en/visas>

Victorian Day at the British Embassy



On the 3rd of December, the British Embassy welcomed cinephiles and journalists to a private showing of the film: *Young Victoria*. The showing was intended to promote the British history and attracted both Russian and British visitors. Various celebrities gathered to watch the film, like Zhanna Aguzarova (Russian singer), Arkady Novikov (restaurant entrepreneur) and others. Guests sipped wines cocktails and snacks in anticipation. The evening was hosted by the British ambas-

sador to Russia Mrs. Anne Pringle. Ambassador Pringle introduced CEOs of 'World Fashion Channel' and 'Top Film Company' which supported the event.

Film maker Martin Scorsese was also involved as a producer in this film and his participation played a great role in the promotion of *Young Victoria*. The movie traces the first years of Queen Victoria's reign and her love story with German Prince Albert. The acting is authentic and the costumes are incredibly lavish without being gaudy. Like all historical movies, the movie has some factual errors. Prince Albert, for example, was not injured in the attack on the Queen, as is depicted in the film. In her opening speech to the Privy Council, the new Queen Victoria refers to herself with 'I' and 'me'. This would never have happened in the day - monarchs always referred to themselves with the royal plural "we". Anyway, the film is rich with historical details, characters and traditions and can be rated as an educational program for anyone who is fond of English history.

Russian Men: Deidre Dare Passes Judgement on Russian Men



text by Ian Mitchell,
photos by Alina Ganenko

Any woman who changes her name to Deidre Dare is likely to be a self-publicist, especially if she writes Sex and the City-type novels, and announces at public meetings that she has taken 15 grams of valium that day.

However, until recently, Deidre was an unobtrusive lawyer, working in Moscow for a large, London-based firm that represents some of the major banks. Then she was unceremoniously sacked when it was discovered that she had published a novel on the internet combining oil and sex in an allegedly inappropriate way. Now she has to sing for her supper, and she came to one of Stephen Lapey-Rouse's English Language Evenings in Moscow, on 27 November, to publicise her views on Russian men, who are the focus of much of her writing.

Deidre grew up in Brooklyn, New York. Her father was Jewish, and her mother Irish. She has been married to two Americans and a Frenchman, and currently has an "attachment" in Singapore and a "muse" in Australia. Despite that she came to Russia intending to date.

Deidre's talk centred round the story of her affair with one particular Russian man, a painter whom she met at a party and got wildly drunk with on Russian champagne. She envisaged a one-night stand but instead got a lesson on the passions and fears of a man who, on two years' experience in Moscow (and without speaking any Russian), she concluded was typical of all Russian men. Nonetheless, the large number of Russian women in the audience seemed to agree with most of what she said about their menfolk.

The first indication that Deidre's expectations with the painter were going to be upset came on the morning after the party when he announced he



was in love, despite the fact that he was ten years younger than her, had never known her sober and was himself already married.

"I was hung over, I had things to do, and I said that is not going to happen, but I had a nice night, great to meet you. Bye, bye!"

It was not to be.

"He stormed out of the flat, in a fury, slamming doors, and I never expected to see him again. Then he began this intense romantic pursuit. He would do crazy things like send flowers and the note on the flowers would say, 'I am



down stairs, let's go and karaoke.' I ignored everything."

Then the painter did the Russian version of climbing up the drainpipe. One evening he shinned up the scaffolding outside Deidre's flat with "a hamburger and a bottle of Moët." That decided the matter. Deidre was hooked.

It became a real relationship, she said, which was the end of her hopes of polyandrous dating in Moscow. He was did everything from sending her flowers to carrying her across "any scary street things that were going on" (presumably a lawyer's term for holes in the road). It was "incredibly romantic" to be taken out to his dacha in the middle of the night with "McDonald's and champagne in the car".

The first quality which Deidre inferred from all this was that Russian men are very romantic, much more so than any she had previously experienced, espe-

cially in America. But against this, her painter was upset about public opinion. He was even nervous of other diners in restaurants when he sensed their disapproval of a Russian man dating a foreigner.

His insecurities affected her too. "From the beginning, he was excessively jealous, even though he was still sleeping with his wife. Even if I had a conversation with another guy, he'd be jealous. And I think he was jealous of my boss."

The relationship ended when Deidre flew to Paris for a month, as she has done every June for many years. They were dining in a restaurant the night before she left when, at one point, he went out to make a phone call. He came back in and, without any explanation either then or later, stopped speaking to her. They finished their meal in silence. He drove her home in silence. He took her to the airport the next day in silence, and he did not answer any calls or messages of

any sort for the month she was in Paris.

When she got home she discovered that in her absence he had filled her flat with "every single painting he had ever done, and they are big, and made out of wood, and there are hundreds of them."

From that time to this she has neither seen nor heard of him. Despite all this, when pressed, Deidre confessed that she still loved him.

Most Westerners would infer from that story that this Russian man at least, forgetting the 70 million others, was a petulant, egocentric child who has trouble selling his paintings. Deidre was more general. She concluded that infantilism is general in Russian men, and that most of them are "Mummy's boys".

She illustrated her point by describing an evening at her flat when another Russian guy's mother rang up. Apparently she was at home and had run out of cigarettes. It was cold and she did not wish to go out. Despite being an able-bodied woman, she expected her son to travel half-way across Moscow and run an errand for her. Off he went.

"That," Deidre commented, "does not happen outside Russia."

Most Russian woman I have told this story to subsequently have laughed and said that all it illustrates is how gullible American women can be. Obviously the Russian guy was slipping out to see either his wife or his second girl-friend.

Deidre ended by giving a list of qualities which she thought were common (she was careful not to say universal) in Russian men. They are conformist, lazy, too fond of drink and are not good in bed, a point which raised an approving shout of laughter from the Russian women in the audience. By this, Deidre meant that they do not like cunnilingus, which she considers "pretty well standard operating procedure." The painter had once said to her that he would do it for her only if she "guaranteed results".

Beyond this Deidre said Russian men are poor communicators. They cannot explain what they like or dislike, so you are left with physical reactions, occasionally violent, as the only way of divining their thoughts and emotions. This makes it hard to trust them, especially for a woman.

"Russian men complain a lot about feeling emasculated," Deidre ended by saying. "I agree with them, they are emasculated, though sometimes I think it is partly their own fault." **P**



left to right:
Shiraz Mamedov, John Ortega, Milan Panic, Dr Ljubisa Rakic

ICN

Alumni Bash



left to right:
Sergey Panteleev, Milan Panic and Sergey Solomakha



John Ortega, Anastasia Stepanenko



Dr Ljubisa Rakic



The ICN Almuni Party was held at Nedralny Vostok on December 11th 2009, about 40 associates of the former company arrived for the gala event. Mr. Milan Panic and Mr John Ortega were present.

Milan Panic was former Prime Minister of Yugoslavia in 1992 and ran for President in 1993. Milan was founder and CEO of ICN Pharmaceuticals in 1959. ICN opened its first factory in 1992 in St Petersburg.

Mr. John Ortega was General Manager of ICN Russia and founder of ICN Apteka, and was instrumental in opening 110 drug stores in seven cities in Russia. ICN Russia was the largest pharmaceutical company that actually owned five factories, seven distribution centres and retail drug stores in Russia.

ICN Russia was sold in 2003 to Millhouse Capital London, owned by Roman Abramovich. ICN was later renamed Pharm-standard, and is now the largest pharmaceutical manufacturer in Russia.

Mr Panic is considering opening a new company: MPBio-medicals in Russia

Founder's Story

Chairman and chief executive of MP Biomedicals, Milan Panic (pah-nich) parleyed his experience, vision and good fortune from humble beginnings into a company that remains at the leading edge of discovery in the dynamic biomedical industry. Enduring the trials of World War II, communism, and exile in a German refugee camp, Mr. Panic followed tens of thousands of Eastern Europeans who had forfeited everything to seek a better life in the West. A refugee from communist Yugoslavia, Mr. Panic reached the United States in 1956 with \$20 in his pocket. Please visit MilanPanic.com to learn more.

Today

Milan Panic is the founder and owner of MP Global Enterprises and Associates LLC, headquartered in Costa Mesa, California. The company focuses on both business and humanitarian issues around the world.

Milan Panic entered politics at the beginning of the nineties after being elected by the Parliament of Yugoslavia to serve as Prime Minister of his native land. He fought bravely against a dictator and forged a path to democracy. He is regarded by most Serbs today as one man who helped redeem their sense of national pride.

Milan Panic made the American dream a reality. By any measure his career is an extraordinary one. **P**

Looking Back on Wine in 2009

text by Charles W. Borden, photos by Alina Ganenko



The financial crisis had some direct effects on the Moscow wine market. Initially, imported wines became a relative bargain – rouble prices did not change as the currency depreciated, so a 450 rouble bottle that was almost \$20 before became \$13.50. As the year wore on, importers adjusted prices upward to accommodate increased import costs as the older stock cleared.

Supermarkets such as Sedmoi Kontinent appeared to adjust buying strategies to peg rouble prices at pre-crisis levels to keep the majority of bottles in the 250- 500 rouble range. This meant that lower quality imports replaced some better wines on the shelves. Most boutiques just increased their prices since their customers are not particularly price sensitive.

Best Supermarket Wine Shopping

Azbuka Vkusa remains the best supermarket for selection of wines at various price levels from value priced to expensive. They stock an extensive line of very good wines and some you won't find anywhere else. Sedmoi Kontinent now runs a distant second. Globus Gourmet gets a prize for excessive prices, quite an achievement in this market – go to a boutique for these wines and save, a lot.

Best Wine Bargains

If you can get a membership card, their prices Metro certainly has the best prices in town and the selection is more than adequate. The only catch is the requirement of a membership card to shop at Metro.

Best Wine Boutique

The boutiques are generally owned by importers so they usually have the best prices for a particular wine, though the stock is mostly expensive to very expensive. Kauffman gets the nod for best boutique for stocking a very good line of wines priced under 600 roubles. In addition, Kauffman has been deeply discounting some of its stock, notably Australian wines. It looks like the other three principal boutiques, Magnum and Decanter shops owned by importer DP Trade, Grand Cru owned by importer Simple Wines, and Kolleksiya Vin, have given up on wines under 1000 roubles.

Best Russian Wines

There has been some reportable progress in the Russian wine industry in 2009, and domestic producers have been winners from the financial crisis. Though the French built and run Chateau Le Grand Vostock is still the leader, Fanagoria and Myskhako wineries, with the help of Australian flying winemaker John Worontschak have some competitive offerings. Also, the Fanagoria and Myskhako wines have better availability in Moscow – Myskhako opened a shop on Old Arbat across from Hard Rock Café and Fanagoria wines are regularly available at Sedmoi Kontinent and other retailers.

Passport Wine Event of the Year

Early in the year Passport tasted samples from the five first-growth Bordeaux chateaux. At over \$600 per bottle from one of the wine boutiques, we learned a lesson in Russian wine retailing – these wines, which should have been some of the world's best, were, well, disappointing would be an under-



statement. Wine shoppers take heed; fine wines require excellent transport and storage, which appeared sorely lacking in this case.

Impress your Russian guests with your knowledge of Russian wines on New Year's Eve

Tsimlanskoye Sparking (478 roubles), a sweet purple wine made "in accordance with an ancient Cossack method."

Novy Svet Pinot Noir Brut (577 roubles), a very dry rose sparkling wine made by classically, a wine that bested some French Champagnes in a Passport blind tasting in 2008.

Abrau Durso Classic Brut (616 roubles), a classic Champagne style wine from this historic winery on the Black Sea.

Try Fanagoria's dry Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon or Chardonnay wines produced from vines imported from France in 1997 (just before the last crisis). Fanagoria's Chorny Leker and Bely Leker, dark and light sweet and rich herbal wines, are a sure and inexpensive hit with Russian guests.

Samogan (moonshine) from Stavropol region's Praskovaya Winery (available at the Stavropol Wine and Cognac shop on Maly Gruzinskaya).

I'm often asked what to get for party and banquets this time of year. Chateau Le Grand Vostok is my usual answer – the prices are reasonable and many people appreciate to know that a good wine can be made in Russia, expats and Russians alike. **P**

Addresses:

DP Trade Shops

Decanter, Bol. Polyanka 30, Tel: 238-3808

Magnum, Kutuzovsky Prospekt 24, Tel: 937-6515

Magnum, Ul. Plyuschkina 20, Tel: 775 0674

Vinum, Prechistenka 40/2, Tel: 775-2305

Website: www.wine-dp-trade.ru

Kauffman Shops

Kutuzovsky Prospekt 22, Tel: 243-2238

Ul. Kuznetsky Most 3, Tel: 624-0464

Ul. Ostojhenka 27, Tel: 291-3671

Website: www.whitehall.ru

Kollektsiya Vin

Kutuzovsky Prospekt 18

Novinsky Bulvar 12

Ulitsa Tverskaya 20

Leninsky Prospekt 16

Website: www.vine.ru

Grand Cru Shops –

several in Moscow including:

Novinsky Passage, Novinsky Bulvar 31. Tel: 775-5553

Chateau le Grand Vostock

Gogolevsky Bulvar, 10

Tel/fax: 783-7463

Website: www.grandvostock.ru

E-mail: info@grandvostock.ru

Stavropol Wine and Cognac Shop

Ulitsa Malaya Gruzinskaya 12

+7 495 252 1408

Massandra (Kriymskikh Vin)

Komsomolskiy Prospekt 15

+7 495 247 0096

NOTE:

****Indicates *Passport Magazine* Top 10 Restaurants 2009.**

AMERICAN

**CORREA'S

Isaac Correa is a master of New American comfort food at his several Moscow locations. Luscious desserts. Great for a business lunch or takeout. Smoke-free.
7 Ulitsa Gasheka, 789-9654

M. Mayakovskaya
www.correas.ru

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 business and lunchtime business meetings. Open 24 hours.
Four locations.
16 Ul. Bolshaya Sadovaya, 650-0246

M. Mayakovskaya
9a Ul. Korovy Val, 959-8919
M. Oktyabrskaya
6 Prospekt Vernadskovo, 783-4037

M. Universitet
16/5 Bolotnaya Plushchad, 951-5838
M. Polyanka
www.starlite.ru

AMERICAN BAR & GRILL

Listed here for its status as a Moscow veteran, the American Bar & Grill still does good hamburgers, steaks, bacon & eggs and more. Open 24 hours.
2/1 1st Tverskaya-Yamskaya Ul, 250-9525

M. Mayakovskaya
ambar.rosinter.com

BEAVERS

Way down south (across from John Ortega's Fashion Mart), American proprietor and drinks importer Robert Greco serves some family recipes from back home. Pizza, wings, salads, steaks and other favorites.
171 Ulitsa Lyublinskaya, 783-9184

M. Marino
www.beavers.ru

HARD ROCK CAFÉ

The Moscow HRC has a great location on the Old Arbat overlooking the busy pedestrian mall. The usual HRC menu and rock paraphernalia.
44 Sary Arbat, 205-8335

M. Smolenskaya
www.hardrock.com

ASIAN

**TURANDOT

Fabulous Asian food in a palatial and exquisite setting – the owners reportedly spent a mid-eight figure amount on the fitout including a two million dollar dim-sum kitchen. Try the Wasabi shrimp.
26/5 Tverskoi Bulvar, 739-0011

M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya
www.turandotpallace.ru

BLUE ELEPHANT

Thai cuisine with impeccable service in an elegant royal setting. Try the Royal Thai Platter.
31 Novinsky Bulvar, 580-7757

M. Barrikadnaya
www.blueelephant.com

BUDDIES CAFE

No frills but very expat friendly – Szechuan, Thai, or Vietnamese from Singaporean Kelvin Pang. Sports bar.
12/8 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 694-0229

M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya

DARBAR

Hidden away in the Soviet relic Sputnik Hotel, veteran expats say it's the city's best Indian. In addition to the usual north Indian fare, Darbar has an extensive south Indian menu.
38 Leninsky Prospekt, 930-2365

M. Leninsky Prospekt

INDUS

"Elitny" modern Indian restaurant with Chivas bar on the first floor.
15 Plotnikov Pereulok, (499) 252-7979

M. Smolenskaya

COFFEE AND PASTRIES

COFFEE BEAN

Jerry Ruditsker 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

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

STARBUCKS

Starbucks arrived in late 2007 and already has too many shops (16) to list.
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

NEW 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

NEW BOLSHOI

The latest high-end Novikov restaurant. Modern in a Ralph Lauren kind of way, with a continental-Russian menu.
3/6 Ulitsa Petrovka, 789-8652

M. Kuznetsky Most
eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/

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

CITY SPACE

Panoramic cocktail bar. A breathtaking view and loads of delicious cocktails.

Located on the 34th floor of Swissôtel Krasnye Holmy Moscow

M. Paveletskaya

52 bld.6, Kosmodamianskaya nab., Moscow 115054
+7 (495) 221-5357

ELSE CLUB

A small jewel next to the Pokrovsky Hills development and the Anglo-American School which complements the neighboring extravagant health spa.
5 Ivankovskoye Shosse, 234-4444
www.elseclub.ru

GALEREYA

Trendy, lavish and expensive. The place to see and be seen.
27 Ulitsa Petrovka, 937-4544

M. Pushkinskaya
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

Contemporary French cuisine with an Asian touch at Swissotel Krasnye Holmy.
52/6 Kosmodamianskaya Nab, 221-5358

M. Paveletskaya

SCANDINAVIA

The summer café 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

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

VANIL

Hip French and Japanese near the Cathedral of Christ the Savior.
1 Ulitsa Ostozhenka, 202-3341

M. Kropotkinskaya
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/

FUSION

**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. "Classny."
15 Tverskoy Bulvar
694-0641, 694-0154

M. Tverskaya

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

**GQ BAR

A warm, active hang-out for the elite just up from the Kempinski Baltschug Hotel. Partnership with *GQ* magazine.
5 Ulitsa Baltschug, 956-7775

M. Novokuznetskaya

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

HEALTHY

JAGGANNATH CAFÉ

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

LE PAIN QUOTIDIEN

Simple and healthy food and bakery at the Moscow extension of an international chain. Delivery. Multiple locations.
5/6 Kamergerski Pereulok, 649-7050

www.lpqr.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

OLD HAVANA

An amazing place, with a stunning Brazilian tableside 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

ITALIAN

**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.
28 Rossolimo Ulitsa, (499) 766-4646

M. Park Kultury
www.semifreddo-restaurant.com

**MARIO

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

17 Ulitsa Klimashkina, 253-6505

M. Barrikadnaya

MAMMA GIOVANNA

The menu is also minimalistic but has interesting entries in every category, including pizzas. The wine list is almost entirely Italian with a selection limited to two pages. A definitely a worthwhile in-city romantic venue.

M. Novokuznetskaya
Kadashevskaya Naberezhnaya, 26

+7(495) 287-8710

www.mamma-giovanna.ru

BOCCACINO

Quiet, elegant Italian and pizza. A nice date venue without extravagant prices.
7 Strastnoi Bulvar, 299-7359

M. Pushkinskaya

CASTA DIVA

Great Italian and pizza to die for with award-winning Italian pizza chef. Try the Black Truffle Pizza.
26 Tverskoi Bulvar, 651-8181

M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya

www.castadiva.ru

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

JAPANESE

**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 Presnaya Ulitsa, (499) 255-0909

M. Krasnopresnenskaya
50 Ulitsa Bolshaya Yakimanka

M. Polyanka
www.ichiban.ru

SUMOSAN

Located in the Radisson SAS hotel, we have heard from many that Sumosan has Moscow's freshest and best sushi but this naturally comes at a cost. 2 Ploshchad Evropy, 941-8020

M. Kievskaya

MISATO

Japanese cuisine, great choice of alcoholic drinks, Japanese and non-Japanese.

47, Myasnitskaya st., 725-0333

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 Ploshchad, 267-6881, 266-0531

M. Baumanskaya

BARASHKA

Our Azerbaijani 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 Azerbaijani 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 Ploshchad, 698-5609

M. Teatralnaya

NEW GUSYATNIKOFF

The latest VIP Russian restaurant in an 18th century estate.

2A Ulitsa Aleksandra Solzhenitsyna

M. Taganskaya

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

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

OBLOMOV

Authentic Russian cuisine in a restored 19th century mansion.

5 Monetchikovskiy Pereulok, 953-6828

M. Dobryninskaya

ONE RED SQUARE

The menu features lavish, centuries-old recipes in the State Historical Museum on Red Square. Expect cream-laden meat dishes with fruit-based sauces and live folk music.

1 Krasnaya Ploshchad, 625-3600, 692-1196

M. Okhotny Ryad, Teatralnaya

www.redsquare.ru

WSDL

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

**BEEF BAR

The latest branch of the Monte Carlo hotspot serves top cuts of the finest imported beef: American, Australian, Dutch and French. Overlooks the river across from the Central House of Artists.

13 Prechistsinskaya Nab., 982-5553

M. Park Kultury

www.beefbar.com

EL GAUCHO

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

4 Ul. Sadovaya-Triumfalnaya, 699-7974

M. Mayakovskaya

6/13 Ul. Zatsesky Val, 953-2876

M. Paveletskaya

3 Bolshoi Kozlovsky Pereulok, 623-1098

M. Krasniye Vorota

www.elgauchito.ru

GOODMAN

Moscow's premium steak house chain. Crisis menu added. 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.torrogrii.ru

BARS AND CLUBS

ALL TIME BAR

The bar is decorated like New-York in Sex and The City series. You'll find probably the best Dry Martini here and Manhattan cocktail. This bar is a creation of Dmitry Sokolov who is considered the best bartender of Moscow. Welcome to the real cocktail paradise!

7/5 Bolshaya Dmitrovka, 629-0811

M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya

BOOZE PUB

English-style pub with real British beer and original cocktails. Daily from 5 a.m.

to noon: English breakfast for only 100 rubles.

Weekdays from 12:00 to 17:00.

Business lunch from 140 rubles and 35% menu discount. Sport matches on the big screen.

5 Potapovskiy Pereulok, Bldg. 2,

621-4717

M. Chistiye Prudy

www.boozebub.ru

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. Every Saturday, the amazing Show Girls night. Every Sunday 12:00- 6:00 – R&B and hip-hop party night.

3 Pushechnaya Ulitsa, 624-5633

M. Kuznetsky Most

www.karma-bar.ru

KRYSHA MIRA

The club has a reputation of being a very closed place. Rich clubbers and beauties will do anything just to get in, so every Friday and Saturday they stand in line all night long asking face control to let them in.

Face control

Open 23:00-06:00

2/3 Tarasa Shevchenko Naberezhnaya,

203-6008, 203-6556

M. Kievskaya

B2 CLUB

4 bars, sushi bar, concert hall for 800 people. Reasonable prices.

Open daily noon-06:00

8 Bolshaya Sadovaya Ul., 650-9918

M. Marksistskaya, Tretyakovskaya

NIGHT FLIGHT

If you don't know about Night Flight – ask somebody.

Open 18:00-05:00

17 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 629-4165

www.nightflight.ru

M. Mayakovskaya

PAPA'S

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

2 Myasnitskaya Ulitsa, 755-9554

M. Kitai-Gorod

PROPAGANDA

One of the best and oldest clubs in Moscow. At midnight all dining tables are taken off and the party usually begins. Stylish and delicious lunches, salads and other simple but unforgettable snacks. House, techno, minimal, disco.

Face control.

Open: noon-06:00

7 Bolshoi Zlatoustinsky Pereulok,

624-5732

M. Kitai-Gorod

CENTRAL HOUSE OF ARCHITECTS

Face control. Open Mon.-Sat.

24:00-12:00.

7 Granatny Pereulok, 290-3249

M. Tretyakovskaya

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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The View from Misty Albion

Text by Anth Ginn

As the nation crawls out of its festive hangover, a bill for the party has landed on the mat and it doesn't look good. The UK is over a trillion pounds (£1,000,000,000) in the red and we've entered the era of fantasy economics. Nobody is sure how much the debt is, who it is owed to and who's going to pay it back. And nobody really cares.

What the nation did care about was the death of Percy, despatched from this mortal coil, by a hit and run driver in sleepy Dorking. Percy was a popular character, loved by everyone. A shrine has been set up to his memory in St Martin's churchyard, near his home. A local pub is selling T-shirts and mugs with his picture on, and the local council are checking to see if the trillion pound national debt can be stretched to a trillion and five hundred pounds, to pay for a statue in Percy's memory.

The Chamber of Commerce in Olney, Illinois offered to ship an American replacement for Percy across to the UK, as they have over 200 Percy lookalikes in the town. Percy was an albino squirrel, and there is a fierce debate raging about whether Dorking's ancient cockerel emblem should be replaced by a squashed squirrel. The cockerel was killed by a Saxon hit-and-run hay-cart driver in the fourteenth century.

The residents of Dorking weren't as lucky as nine-year old Tasia Hadfield, member of the South of England Hamster Club, whose beloved pet, Claudia, rose from the dead like a hamster Jesus. Tasia found Claudia, stiff and cold on the floor of her cage. She was placed in a cardboard box with a couple of biscuits, a ring and a plastic bracelet, and buried in the garden.

Claudia, however, wasn't ready for the big exercise wheel of eternity, and after a period of subterranean samadhi, she regained consciousness, tried on the bracelet and ring, munched a biscuit, then gnawed her way through the cardboard box and tunnelled back to the surface world, where she wandered back home, and

was proclaimed the "messiah" by fellow hamsters. An official from the National Hamster Council said hamsters often go into shock and appear dead. Apparently, just before she went into a coma, Claudia watched an item on the BBC's Newsnight, which claimed that hamsters contain so much of the heavy metal antimony that they are too toxic to be held by children.

Mr Squiggles the toxic hamster.

The news item, of course, was referring to Mr Squiggles, the battery powered "Go-Go Hamster". The US consumer information group, GoodGuide, found Mr Squiggles had 93 parts per million of antimony in his coat and 106 parts per million in his nose. Antimony causes headaches and dizziness. However it has been estimated that a child will have to eat at least six toy hamsters, including batteries, before noticing any ill effects. Mr Squiggles's heavy metal content further inflamed UK-US relations in the world of make-believe, already badly damaged by the international Harry Potter Feast row.

Muggle lawyers, acting on behalf of Warner Bros, banned a woman, known as Ms Marmite Lover, from holding a themed Harry Potter evening in her restaurant. She runs the restaurant in her home, and planned to take guests down the side of her house, renamed "Diagon Alley". At the back door, they would be asked for a password by a portrait of "the Fat Lady", before entering for a meal which included dandelion wine, pumpkin soup and Dumbledore's favourite mint humbugs. Warner Brother's network of international spies heard about the event and it wasn't long before Ms Marmite Lover had a letter from their muggle lawyers, telling her she was infringing copyright, and suggesting she changed the name from "Harry Potter" night, to "Generic Wizard" night.

Restaurants in people's homes are a new trend in London. They are known as "pop-up restaurants" and are adver-



Edinburgh

tised by word of mouth and on internet sites like Facebook, which is where Warner Brothers spies found out about the illegal wizard's feast. Ms Lover had a better response when she organised a "Marmite" evening, when every course contained the oozing brown paste. Far from setting their lawyers on her, the manufacturers sent her a free case of Marmite. Fortunately the evening was over before GoodGuide could test the Marmite, or indeed Ms Marmite Lover, for antimony content.

Restaurants and pubs are closing everywhere. Those not going out of business because of copyright infringements are suffering from the recession as people discover it's much cheaper to eat and drink at home. Edinburgh is bucking the trend, where the latest social event is the divorce party. Divorce parties, like wedding parties, have their own cakes. They feature sugar dioramas of brides standing on the top tier wielding axes, and the grooms, three pink layers below, dead on the strawberry jam-splattered marzipan rocks. Edinburgh is famous for being a liberal, broad-minded, party town. In the festival season, it's impossible to go out to the local pet-shop to buy a hamster, without bumping into a stag or hen party on every corner.

A gay friend at this year's Edinburgh festival was stopped by a security guard at a pub door, to have his hamster's antimony level checked. The doorman said, "So you're gay. Nae problem. Weer modern nooadays. Nae mare prejudices. So, are ye a gay protestant, or gay Catholic?" **P**

Conspirator: Lenin in Exile

Helen Rappaport

Ian Mitchell

Helen Rappaport has written a study of Lenin's life as a revolutionary exile in Europe, and had called it *Conspirator*. When I mistyped this, my spell-checker miscorrected it and gave me "Constipator". I often notice incorrect spell-check corrections that seem absolutely right. This was one of the best, because Lenin's legacy to Russia has been an inability to digest new ideas, techniques, even people. Arguably the country still suffers, nearly a century later, from economic constipation.

Ms Rappaport's Lenin is in most respects ordinary, even dull. He was dull partly because of his one extra-ordinary feature, which was his obsessional focus on his great dream of power and violence. At a secret meeting in London in 1905, a British Special Branch detective who hid in a cupboard in the room where he was giving a talk reported that Lenin demanded "bloodshed on a colossal scale", without mercy, "in Russia first, and then from one side of Europe to the other".

Why? To bring about a better world? Ms Rappaport does not speculate on the logic which enabled Lenin to arrive at the conclusion that the conduct of the regime in Russia justified drowning the whole of Europe in blood. Yet this, surely, is the fundamental question about Lenin. Violence came to be the central tenet of Bolshevism, especially after it achieved power. Why did Lenin hate life so much?

The Bolsheviks said they were fighting for social justice, yet Lenin's first Commissar of Justice, Nikolai Krylenko, said: "Execution of the guilty is not enough. Execution of a few innocents as well will be even more impressive to the general public." Law, then, was to be nothing more than a demonstration of the power of the regime to commit whatever evils it chooses to commit.

Some people would argue that that principle still operates, and that Lenin's legacy is seen in the courts of Russia today. Property, especially on a big scale, really is theft. This is, therefore, an important point. But I could find no way

into it with Ms Rappaport's book, until my computer suggested that Lenin's most important role in Russian history was not his successful conspiracy to overthrow the Tsar but his stultification of Russian thought and constipation of the Russian spirit. Lenin and his followers clogged up what might be called the intellectual digestive system of the nation, which still cannot get rid of the turgid idea that it is better to have new rockets than well-maintained roads.

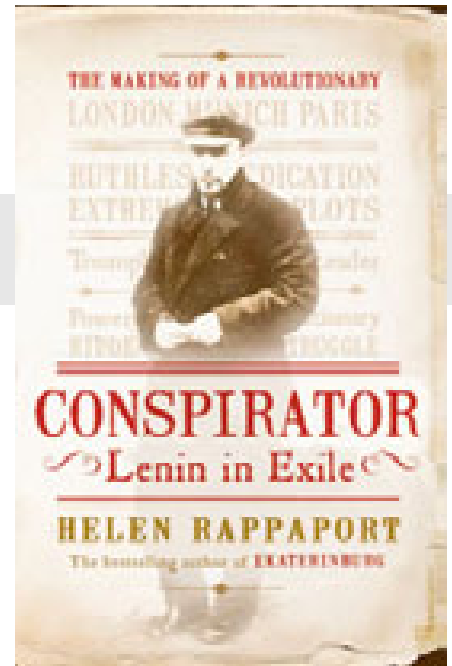
But life does not grow by killing. That fact was not apparent to Lenin and his followers (unless you call the NEP a tacit admission of the failure of violence as a way of forcing food out of farmers). The present state of Russia, which has an economy almost completely devoid of innovation, and a culture which is creative only in its extremities, is a vivid illustration of this fact.

Lenin destroyed a country which in his youth had been one of the world leaders in both wealth and culture (see "The Destruction of Russia", *Passport* June 2009), and he put nothing in its place except Soviet power. His was the bleakest vision imaginable. It transformed dullness into a religion. In that context, Ms Rappaport's book becomes more interesting.

Thus we learn, for example, that when he lived in Paris Lenin "turned his back on most of the cultural life of this great European city and resisted the constant urging of his colleagues to go out and enjoy himself more."

Likewise in London, he had no understanding of the human side of the life of the working classes of the East End, amongst whom he lived and on whose behalf he was supposed to be labouring. He was baffled by their habit of going to the music-halls and watching humorous lampoons of the ruling class. Why were they laughing when they should have been either manning barricades or sitting at home studying Marx? They weren't dull enough for the man of blood.

Throughout his life in exile, Lenin lived amongst the expat community, yet without having anything to do with



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it. He knew nothing of the locals and their culture, and was uninterested in the Russians around him. He was completely isolated from everyone except his fellow constipators.

Lenin was a misanthrope and an autodidact who hated—really hated—being contradicted. He was enraged, for example, when the Bolsheviks in the 4th Duma actually tried to co-operate with other delegates in order to achieve something positive. He split the party into Bolsheviks and Mensheviks over this issue. This level of rage at independent thought is not the sign of a strong will but of a diseased mind.

Ms Rappaport has subsequently written that she thinks Lenin contracted syphilis in a Paris brothel in 1902. (So he did get out and enjoy himself, only secretly!) In a long footnote in this book (p. 331), Ms Rappaport introduces this possibility as explaining her subject's gross misanthropy since his temper, headaches, irritability, sleeplessness and periodic loss of appetite were, apparently, conventional symptoms of second-stage syphilis.

After the Revolution, Professor Ivan Pavlov (of dog fame), who was probably the most distinguished scientist working in early Soviet Russia, and one of the few of any standing who knew Lenin, concluded that he was "a madman with syphilis of the brain". It seems the great constipator did not die of a stroke, as we have been told for so long, but of venereal disease. **P**

Are you Ready to Transition to Paperless? Not Sure Where to Begin?

By Sherman Pereira, Crown Relocations, Regional Director – Central and Eastern Europe

For organizations that are considering converting their paper documents into electronic images, they should consider the many benefits they will enjoy:

- Faster retrieval of documents
- Simultaneous access to a single document
- Elimination of misfiled and misplaced paperwork
- Reduction in physical storage requirements
- Utilization of converted images for inclusion on a company's Web site

Competitive advantages due to quicker access to information, which enables better client service

Before beginning any transition to a "paperless" or "less paper" environment, some fundamental decisions need to be answered. One question is whether to implement a "back-file" conversion system, when the organization's existing records are scanned and converted to electronic files, or implement a "day forward" system, when only newly generated documents are converted.

"Back-file" Conversions

To answer these questions, the retention periods of these records will need to be examined closely. For obsolete documents, scanning would be a cost-prohibitive option. For older records, the amount of time left in the records' lifecycles, potential compliance requirements and frequency of access can be measured against the cost of scanning them into electronic files. Regardless of whether an organization chooses to implement a "back-file" conversion system or not, they will still need to assess their needs for scanning their "day forward" documents.

"Dayforward" Conversions

For documents that employees will need to access on a regular basis, having them available as digital files and accessible on their own individual desktops will improve efficiencies. It will enable one, two, five or any number of employees to access the files simultaneously, all this will save time and money.

Before investing in any kind of imaging system, a significant amount of research will



need to be done in order to determine what type of system will meet the needs and objectives as cost effectively as possible.

Costs&Confidentiality

The most significant cost associated with an imaging system is labour: organizing the documents, removing staples and paperclips, scanning the documents, performing quality control on the images, performing data entry for indexing, packing the files into boxes for storage, storing or destroying the files, etc. The activity of actually scanning the documents is only a small aspect of the project.

Another important issue to consider is confidentiality. Confidential and other sensitive material, when in paper form, may be sealed, placed in a secure location and made inaccessible to certain staff. When these documents are imaged, security measures must also be implemented. The contents of all sensitive and confidential records must be examined and procedures must be put in place to control access and maintain their integrity.

On-going Access

Once the files have been scanned and converted into electronic files, the next step in the implementation is uploading the images to an online hosting system. Once they are uploaded, designated employees are given login names and passwords and trained on the software. They are trained on retrieving, sorting, viewing and printing electronic images.

How to:

The basics:

До свидания!
More like Au revoir than good-bye (literally: till the next meeting)
 Follow *до* with the genitive case and you can make all kinds of arrangements:
 До встречи!
See you when I see you!
 До вторника!
See you on Tuesday!
 До следующей недели!
See you next week!
 До скорого!
See you soon!
 До вечера!
See you this evening!
 До завтра!
See you tomorrow!

Wishing someone a good journey:

When you wish someone something, it goes into the genitive case, hence the endings:
 Счастливого пути!
Enjoyable journey!
 Удачной поездки!
Have a lucky trip!
 Хорошего отдыха!
Have a good holiday!

General good wishes

Хороших выходных!
Have a good weekend!
 Отдыхай как следует!
Make sure to relax!
 Береги себя!
Take care of yourself.
 Удачи!
Good luck!

When all the well wishing is done and you want to get on your way:

Ну давай, пока!
Ok then, see you!

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