

PASSPORT

An impressionistic painting of a forest scene. A path leads from the bottom left towards the center, crossing a small wooden bridge made of horizontal planks. The path is flanked by dense green foliage and tall, thin trees. The brushwork is visible and expressive, with a mix of green, brown, and yellow tones. The overall mood is serene and natural.

MOSCOW

JULY 2010

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Summer in the City – Park Pobedi and Fili

- Sailing Regatta
- Russian Superstitions
- Fish n' Chaps
- Stalin & Hitler II
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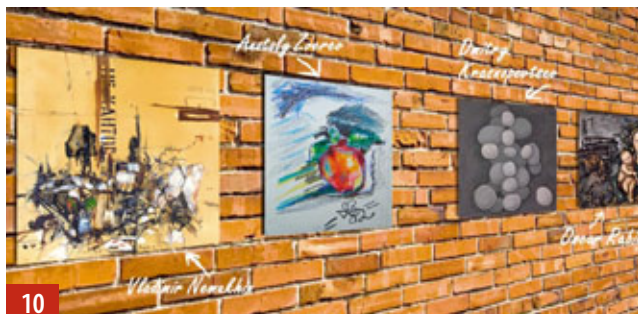
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John Ortega
Owner and Publisher

Never revile the crocodile's mother until you've crossed the river. *H.W. Tilton*



Greenpeace and the British International School hold 'Earth Day'

In March the world celebrated Earth Day, and the British International School held its own Earth Day on the 11th of June at its central campus (Nakhimovsky Prospekt, 35A). The event was mainly addressed to younger pupils and was organized by the School Council and Greenpeace. Dr. Ivan Blokov, the Campaign Director for Greenpeace, hosted the event. He discussed the kinds of projects Greenpeace is involved with, as well as promoting eco-friendly ideas that we can all take part in to help reduce climate change, promote energy conservation and recycling. Dr. Blokov described the problems our planet is experiencing due to climate change: destruction of the world's forests as well as pollution of our oceans. He also described specific things that children can do to help, such as turning off lights when they are not being used, and recycling. Finally, Dr Blokov described the special program 'The Children for the Forest', which is an ecology education programme run by Greenpeace in 500 local Russian schools.

Sandeep Walia – New General Manager of the Ritz Carlton Moscow



As of June 2, 2010, Hotel Manager Sandeep Walia will assume the role of General Manager of The Ritz-Carlton, Moscow. Sandeep Walia is not new to Moscow. Since July 2007 he has been responsible for the hotel's operation as Hotel Manager, and was instrumental in positioning the Ritz-Carlton, Moscow, as the city's leading hotel. It received several accolades, such as "Hot Hotels 2008" by Condé Nast Traveler US, number one "Best of the Best 2008" by Robb Report US and the Crystal Boat Award winner in the category "Industry Leader" by the Moscow Government.

"We are delighted to have in Sandeep Walia such a dedicated leader who knows the Ritz-Carlton, Moscow, and the team so well. He has demonstrated outstanding leadership during the last three years and has substantially contributed to the recent initiatives such as the new Pan-Asian restaurant, Ginkgo, and enhancements in the suites for business travelers," says Bob Kharazmi, senior vice president Ritz-Carlton International.

35-year old Sandeep Walia studied at the Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology (Mumbai) and the Oberoi Centre of Learning and Development (New Delhi), and completed studies in Hospitality Quality Management at AHMA (US).

He began his career in the hotel industry as a butler services manager at the Oberoi, Mumbai. Sandeep worked with the Oberoi group in several hotels in India in different hotel management operational positions. He moved up the career ladder very quickly and was appointed to handle food and beverage operations at the Oberoi, Sahl Hasheesh in Egypt. In 2005, Sandeep Walia joined the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company to pursue a career in luxury international hotel operations as Executive Assistant Manager, Food and Beverage.

Over the last several years, Sandeep Walia has assisted in the openings of Ritz-Carlton hotels in Tokyo, Doha and Dublin. In 2009, he completed the Ritz-Carlton Leadership training in Washington DC. Walia is married and has a seven-year old daughter.

For more information and reservations, call The Ritz-Carlton, Moscow at +7 495 225 8888 or visit www.ritzcarlton.com

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Changes to the Law “On the legal status of foreign nationals in the Russian Federation”

Prepared by Marina Gordeeva, TIM Services

On 1 July, 2010 the Federal Law dated 19 May 2010, #86-FZ, “On amendments to the Federal Law ‘On the legal status of foreign nationals in the Russian Federation’ and other normative acts of the Russian Federation” will come into force. Below is a brief summary of the main changes introduced:

Highly qualified specialists

The above stated Federal Law introduces a new category of foreign national referred to as a “**highly qualified specialist**”. This new concept is defined as a foreign national (coming to Russia with or without a visa) having experience, skills and achievements in a certain sphere and **earning 2,000,000 Russian roubles** (approximately \$68,000) or more per annum.

According to the Regulations, the following is applicable to highly qualified specialists:

A work permit and an invitation to enter Russia are issued without quotas regularly established by the Russian Government.

A work permit is issued for the validity of a concluded employment (civil) contract with an employer inviting such a specialist, but for no more than 3 years.

Immigration authorities have to issue a work permit within 14 days of the submission of an application.

A work permit can be renewed for three year periods within the validity of an employment (civil) contract.

If a highly qualified specialist is planning to work in several regions of Russia, one work permit covering these regions can be issued.

The employers will assess themselves the qualification of specialists according to documents/education credentials, references and other information demonstrating professional experience and skills. At the same time, a foreign national can declare himself as a highly qualified specialist according to the established procedure.

An employer of a highly qualified specialist is required to ensure this individual (as well as his/her family members) be covered by voluntary medical insurance from the first day of entering Russia.

An employer is required to file quarterly notifications to the immigration authorities on the salary of highly qualified specialists, termination of employment (civil) contracts and other matters.

An employer is required to register highly qualified specialists with the Russian tax authorities and further report the registration to the immigration authorities.

Highly qualified specialists and their family members can apply for permanent residence in Russia.

Highly qualified specialists can be employed by:

- Russian commercial entities;
- Russian scientific organizations, educational institutions (except religious institutions);

- medical institutions and other organizations conducting scientific, technical or innovative activities, research projects, the testing and preparation of staff according to state priority areas of science and technology development in the Russian Federation, if they are covered (as required by Law) by state accreditation;
- accredited (as required by Law) branch offices of foreign legal entities in the Russian Federation.

The standard procedure, including applying for employment permission and a work permit is not applicable to the following categories of foreign nationals:

- 1) Permanent residents in Russia (holders of permanent residence permit);
- 2) Participants in state programs for the assistance of voluntary relocation of nationals living abroad and their family members wishing to relocate to Russia;
- 3) Employees of the diplomatic corps, consular institutions of foreign states in the Russian Federation and private domestic staff of the above;
- 4) Employees of foreign legal entities (producers or suppliers) hired to assemble and maintain equipment imported into Russia;
- 5) Journalists accredited in the Russian Federation;
- 6) Students studying in Russian educational establishments and working on vacations;
- 7) Students studying in Russian educational establishments and working there as assistant staff in their spare time;
- 8) Lecturers (tutors) invited by an educational organization (except individuals coming to teach in religious institutions);
- 9) Employees of accredited (as required by Law) **representative offices** of foreign legal entities that are within the quota of allocated staff **according to bilateral international agreements between Russia and respective jurisdictions.**

Other categories of foreign nationals (except highly qualified specialists) should follow standard immigration procedures and make applications within the quotas, filed at an Employment Centre, obtain employment permission, work permits, etc.

Other amendments

The Federal Law dated 19 May 2010, #86-FZ, introduces particular changes to Tax, Budget Code and other normative acts of the Russian Federation.

Special attention should be paid to amendments of Article 23 of the Federal Law dated 18 July 2006, # 109-FZ, “On the immigration recording of foreign nationals and stateless individuals in the Russian Federation”. Beginning 1 July 2010 the **termination of the existing immigration registration of foreign nationals traveling within Russia is processed automatically upon registration in a new location in Russia.** **P**

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Thursday, 1st

Currently Denis Matsuev is arguably the most sought-after Russian pianist and one of the greatest musicians of the present. Being a winner of many prestigious prizes in Johannesburg and Paris, and the Tchaikovsky XI International Piano Competition, Denis won the true love of audiences as a virtuoso jazz pianist-improviser.

MMDM, Chamber Hall, 19:00

Chicago, Earth Wind & Fire (jazz-rock, USA)

Crocus City Hall welcomes Bill Champlin from Chicago and Earth Wind & Fire Experience with the participation Al McKay. Bill Champlin is a guitarist, keyboard player and vocalist who played in the legendary jazz-rock band Chicago for 28 years. He authored many solo albums and songs, such as "After The Love Has Gone", "Turn Your Love Around", "Don't Wanna Live Without Your Love", "Hard Habit To Break" and "You're Not Alone". Al McKay is a guitarist, multi-platinum composer and one of the founders of the most influential and popular 20th century bands Earth, Wind & Fire.

Crocus City Hall, 19:00

Saturday, 3rd

WWF Annual Charity Ball

The WWF "Ball on the Grass" will take place on a green meadow near the shore of the picturesque lake located in the gulf-club in Nakhabino, Moscow. "Ball on the Grass" is a mixture of a jet-set party, a musical festival and an open-air picnic. The Ball will gather people of different professions and interests, famous politicians, businessmen, actors, directors, musicians. Traditionally, during the whole event, musicians of different styles will be singing for the guests of the Ball. Among them are Neschastny Sluchai, Iadar Gainullin, Evgeny Feklistov, Jukebox trio, Madre Victoria, Kubanaty, Victor Dobronravov quartet, Abelardo Alfonso Lopez, Blondrock, Gosha Kutsenko band. You may order tickets by phone 727-0939, or 8 916 5452986, or HYPERLINK "http://www.wwf.ru/bal/register/" online. All money raised during the event will be directed to Russian nature reserves and national parks.

Le Meridien Moscow Country Club, time to be confirmed

Wednesday, 7th

Stanley Clarke (jazz, USA)

A brilliant player on both acoustic and electric basses, Stanley Clarke has spent much of his career outside of

jazz, although he has the ability to play jazz with the very best.

MMDM, Svetlanov Hall, 19:00

Thursday, 8th

Peter Nalitch

(pop-rock, Russia)

Possessing a fine, mellow timbre, tenor Petr Nalich happened to become the first Russian musician with an internet start to his career. He also represented Russia at Eurovision 2010 although his band was not a success there. This is his first performance after the contest.

Green Theater, 20:00

Friday, 9th

Seal (pop, UK)

In a remarkable career that spans more than two decades, Seal has garnered countless accolades, including three Grammy Awards, and has sold more than 15 million albums worldwide. Known for his one-of-a-kind soaring, husky baritone voice and classic song-writing, Seal has seen success across numerous genres of music. His emotional, romantic love songs, such as "Prayer For the Dying," the Grammy Award-winning "Kiss From A Rose," and "Don't Cry," and "Love's Divine", delighted fans and earned him critical acclaim. This concert is a real must-see because Seal is performing in Russia for the first time.

B1 Maximum, 21:00



Tuesday, 13th

Megadeth

(heavy metal, USA)

After he left Metallica in 1983, guitarist/vocalist Dave Mustaine formed the thrash metal quartet Megadeth. By making the music more threatening, as well as making the lyrics more nihilistic, Megadeth became one of the leading bands of the genre during the late 1980s. Each album they released went

at least gold, and they continually sold out arenas across America, in addition to developing a strong following overseas.

B1 Maximum, 21:00, also Wednesday, 14th

Wednesday, 14th

Ornette Coleman (jazz, USA)

One of the most important and controversial innovators of the jazz avant-garde, Ornette Coleman gained both loyal followers and lifelong detractors when he seemed to burst on the scene in 1959 fully formed. Coleman, who recorded for Verve in the 1990s, has remained true to his highly original vision throughout his career and, although not a technical virtuoso and still considered controversial, is an obvious giant of jazz.

MMDM, Svetlanov Hall, 19:00

Thursday, 15th

Janine Carter (jazz, USA)

Janine Carter won the Absolute Jazz competition in 2002, reached the final of FMJS 2003 and Billie Holiday competition 2004, and was nominated for the Best Jazz Vocalist award in 2006, 2007, 2008. Her second jazz release "A Song for You" was also nominated for the Best Jazz Album award in 2006.

Soyuz Kompozitorov Club, 20:30, also Friday, 16th

Saturday, 17th

Global Gathering Freedom Music 2010 (club music open air)

This is a worldwide music festival, attracting over a quarter of a million people from all corners of the globe every year. In Russia this festival is traditionally held in Saint-Petersburg. The line-up of the participants is breathtaking and includes the world-known names, such as Above&Beyond, Steve Angello, Markus Schultze, Dubfire, Mark Knight, Darren Emerson, Serge Devant and many more.

Saint Petersburg, Tuutari Park, 19:00

Sunday, 18th

Bavaria Moscow City Racing

This event will traditionally take place around Kremlin, in the heart of Moscow. Special grandstands will be constructed for the spectators who will witness one of the most breathtaking events of the year. The real Formula 1 cars will be driving round the Kremlin.

Territory near Kremlin, 14:00

World Press Photo at Red October

World Press Photo is an annual travelling exhibition following the most prestigious contest in photo-journalism. The winners were awarded prizes in Amsterdam in February at the headquarters of the contest organisers. This exhibition features two hundred works selected from over 100,000 images by over 5,000 photographers. The juries—nineteen picture editors, photographers and representatives of press agencies—judged the 2009 reportage in the following categories: People in the News, Sports, Nature and Portraits. The first prize, the 'World Press Photo of the Year' prize, was awarded to the Italian photographer Pietro Masturzo. The picture shows women shouting protests from a rooftop in Tehran following the contested presidential elections in Iran.

Ayper Karabuda, the first juror, commented on the jury's choice: "The photo shows the beginning of something, the beginning of a huge story. It adds per-



spectives to news..." For greater effect and explication they could add voices to the photograph of course, but then this would have been an installation, not photography. The images do indeed capture so much that it becomes difficult to breathe: Afghanistan victims, human and animal; draught victims in Africa.

Those pictures are the background of Euronews you watch every day, in the hope that violence is left behind.

*June 11 – July 11
Red October Factory
Chocolate Hall
Bersenevskaya Embankment 2, Building*

The Feast of Trimalchio AES+F

'The Feast of Trimalchio' by the quartet of AES + F is a monumental piece of art. The quartet is made up of Russian artists Tatiana Arzamasova, Lev Evzovich, Evgeny Svyatsky and Vladimir Fridkes. They have worked together from the late '80s, and like to invent artistic projects

as big as mountains: huge canvases, panels, sculptures the group works. This time, to illustrate a subject like this, they have created a monumental 9-channel video installation and a series of large-scale digital 'paintings'. The idea is to interpret the ancient Roman poet Gaius Petronius Arbiter's fiction 'Satyricon', which concerns excessive wealth, luxury and the other side of paradise. Here are

the masters of this world with their servants, and with global catastrophes hidden around every corner. Together they cast a dark shadow. This is a geographical and temporary concentration of people's virtues and vices. The project was presented at the Biennale of Venice some time ago, but has been enhanced with new scenes. It is premiered for the Moscow audience this July.



*June 19 – August 29, 2010
Garage Contemporary Culture Centre
Open: 12:00-22:00*

Stop! Who goes there?

Roman soldiers when on guard duty had to ask all strangers passing by: "Qui vive?", which means "Who goes there?", and then follow up with more questions: where is that person going to, where from and of what family he or she is. These questions formed the basis of the words connected with "index" in Latin. The curators of the Biennale of Young Art taking place at numerous artistic venues in Moscow in July are not interested in linguistics as such, but do concentrate on the first question and set it as indicator for what is happening in the Arts amongst youth.

The project is ambitious and unites initiatives from not only Russia, but other countries. For curators, the key criterion is creative passion, love for experimentation and initiative. Every Biennale runs a special theme. This time it is about boundaries. It is curious to note that young authors who were born after the fall of the Berlin wall applied this subject in their works.



What boundaries are perceived by young artists in the epoch of globalisation, easier communication and thus interaction? That is a good question. The answers can be found in Moscow centres of modern art, galleries and street performance.

July 1 – August
For venues and schedule see
www.youngart.ru

Pompeian artifacts at the State Historical Museum

As it becomes more and more fashionable, different countries are being celebrated in Moscow year by year. France is the principal theme for year 2010; French arts and music has been, and is being, celebrated at major venues. Meanwhile Russian cultural institutions are gearing up to host Italian guests next year. Mysteries of the Buried Town is the name of the current exhibition being held at the State Historical Museum, and it is easy to guess that we are talking about Pompeii. The exhibition has been organised by the authorities of the Italian region Campania and is part of the Naples Culture Week, a preview of



the 2011 Italian festivities in Russia. All exhibits come from the Naples National Archaeological Museum. For the Historical Museum, which houses the largest collec-

tion of archaeological artifacts in Russia, it is a great delight to display exhibits from its Italian counterpart. For visitors, this is a unique opportunity to see with their own eyes things that were intrinsically Roman, and yet whose owners were destroyed in a second. The major part of the exhibition dates back to the discoveries of the 17th-18th centuries. About 115 frescoes, jewellery, pottery, sculptures and silverware were found, not only in Pompeii but in Herculaneum, Stabiae and Boscoreale, towns which were also buried under Vesuvius' ashes.

State Historical Museum
Open: July 1 – August 15
10:00-18:00, open every day except
Mondays
www.shm.ru

Arch.stoyanie

"We come to remind you that the Earth, the sun, planets and stars are living creatures," it says in the invitation to the summer festival, Nine muses of the Labyrinth, held in Nikola-Lenivets village, Kaluga region. This festival of 'land art' takes place every summer. Twenty architectural groups and individuals, among whom are Evgeny Asse, 'Meganom', Yury Grigoryan and many other talented and bright architects from Moscow, are all participating.

Labyrinths created by nature or by humans are of equal interest. Muses in

this context can be seen as nine different kinds of human perception. And though there are nine muses, there are many more labyrinths: Ariadne's thread, solar circle, mirror reflections, pit of Babylon, sound, wind, way of water and so on. These are the allusions the artists are planning to interpret through installations set up right in the fields and forests and the banks of the beautiful Ugra river.

July 24 – 25
More details and maps are here:
www.arch.stoyanie.ru



Mark Riboud vs. Vladimir Lagrange?

Both Riboud and Lagrange are famous photographers in their respective home countries, France and Russia. They worked in the same epoch, but never together. Riboud worked for the world-known 'brand' agency, Magnum. The other worked in a country where they didn't know what the word 'brand' meant. He took photographs for The Soviet Union magazine and presented the country of the Soviets in a better light in France.

Mark Riboud was born in Lyon in 1923. During World War II he joined the French Resistance. In 1948 he entered the Ecole Centrale to become an engineer but opted out for photography, which brought him huge success. In 1951 he became part of Magnum Photos of which he was vice-president for Europe from 1959. Vladimir Lagrange was born in Moscow in 1939. In the 1950s and 1960s he worked for TASS



news agency, and later for the The Soviet Union magazine. He travelled all over the country and took numerous propaganda reportage photographs and a lot for himself that he could not publish in Moscow due to censorship. The genres of the reportage and artistic photography are not juxtaposed in this exposition, but are complimentary. The curators of the current exhibition at the Zurab Tsereteli gallery surely enjoyed their time looking through the archives of the two photographers when preparing this exhibition. Between them, they have thousands of negatives from the 1950s. The result of their selection is on display in July.



*Zurab Tsereteli Gallery of Arts
19, Prechistenka Street
Open: 12:00 – 20:00
Except Monday*



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Who said what about Moscow nightlife



By Miguel Francis

Moscow's nightlife, oh so extravagant and lavish isn't it? An expat sometimes may feel like a small fish in a huge pond, and finding the right way could prove difficult. That's why we're here for you at Passport Magazine, guiding you through the new happenings and upcoming nightlife events that we think will fit the interest of an international clubber or, in our case, an expat!

My name is Miguel Francis, I've worked in the nightlife industry in Moscow, Los Angeles and Miami, both as an event producer and a DJ. I only review the places I've personally enjoyed and believe are up to the standard of the Passport Magazine reader. Allow me to set you on the right path to enjoying the Moscow nightly jungle!

Let's start with the recent grand opening of a club that manages to provide a

cozy and intimate atmosphere but brings out the euphoria behind Moscow's nightlife. Imperia has opened its doors to support Moscow's demanding tastes. The club was produced by the infamous nightlife guru, Aleksei Gorobiy, the master-mind behind some of the best night clubs in Moscow, and in my opinion, the world! Gorobiy's first major venture was the club Titanic opened in 1995, revolutionizing Russia's nightlife and club culture, bringing in the foreign sounds of international electronic music. Shortly after, Gorobiy's success expanded with projects like Shambala, Leto, Osen, Jet Set and of course DyagileV Project. After two years away from major club market, Aleksei brings you Imperia, intentionally named after the infamous vodka, Russian Standard Imperia.

I went there last week and was amazed at what I experienced. Pasha Facecontrol greeted me like a true brother at the door and ensured a swift entry. As I walked in I was instantly exposed to Gorobiy's exquisite design of the lobby. This man knows how to sell air, and sell it so well that you can't wait for the next weekend to come around. You take the stairs up and wow, you're in a magical maze of nightlife extravaganza. There are three club rooms, all similar in geometrical design which resembles a small DyagileV. Each room (or hall might be a better name for it) has a circular bar in the middle, walking area or 'dance-floor' around the circumference of the bar, and a table area a step upward from the dance-floor, encircling the whole room. Each room is quite different from the others, evoking different atmospheres and igniting different emotions. The music was superb, good quality disco, vocal and commercial house, just the

way we like it! I met quite a few expats that night. There were Englishmen, Americans, Italians, people from Dubai. It was like a little WMC (Winter Music Conference, Miami) in Moscow. The club is located near Metro Ulitsa 1905 Goda on Ul. Mantulinskaya 5/1. See you there next weekend! Oh, forgot to add that the drinks there were monstrous, 0.7 liters! Their glasses for their Mojitos and Long Islands are so huge that one drink is good enough. And the pricing was rather ironic, 700 rubles for a Long Island, meaning about 100 rubles every 0.1 liters, so for almost one liter of Long Island, you end up paying twenty bucks, gotta love Russia.

Sometimes a bar may just be the place to start off the evening. Bar Veche (Evening), Bolshaya Lubanskaya 13, is located on the left side of the Lubyanskaya Square near Metro Lubyanka. It is a medium size, St. Tropez-like bar in the middle of Moscow. The place has been putting out some great foreign pop music performances by UK's very own boy band 5ive. About two weeks ago, they had me DJ'ing with Marty Cintron from No Mercy, perhaps you all remember them by their single Where Do You Go. The place is owned and operated by Lubov Isaeva (ex-good-old DyagileV project), Arkadiy Doncov (the son of the famous Russian writer Daria Doncova, nevertheless a guru of Moscow's nightlife behind clubs like Famous and DyagileV) and DJ Mr DYF (the only Russian DJ who managed to partner up and release a great dance tune: Hold On with Britain's very own Freemasons!). The place brings about a posh and chic atmosphere but with a definite scent of something new and exciting. Every Thursday Veche's got Giorgio's (ex Hustler Magazine) Ex-



pat Parties along with his courageous dance group Honey Bunny, who manage to play violin, electric guitar and sing rather well to their very own House music tunes! The face control is moderate, although they've been soft opening every day, and their schedule will continue to stay the course Mon-Sun from 9pm to the last guest. The grand opening is on May 22nd. Come with a smile and enjoy yourself with the rest of us!

If you think Krisha Mira (<http://kryshamira.ru/>) The World's Roof located on Tarasa Shevchenko Naberezhnaya 15) is the only great Moscow after-hours place, you may need to place your bets on this one too! A new after-hour tiger has risen and his name is Progressive Daddy (<http://progressivedaddy.ru/>). Situated on the riverbank of Ul. Beresnevskaya Naberezhnaya 6 right next to Rai and the Rolling Stone, presents itself as another great addition to an already amazing arsenal of diverse bars and clubs that have opened around the super club Rai (<http://rai-club.ru/>). The pricing is decent, as with all the clubs and bars in Moscow 12-17 USD per drink from soft to hard liquor. The atmosphere is rather dark and mysterious; numerous ultra violet lights really make it quite captivating. The feel in general is still of a more modern, smaller Krisha Mira, with thrilling and chilling Miami and Ibiza-type progressive house tunes. Beginning on the 21st of May, the club will be working Mon-Thur. from 9pm-2am and Fri & Sat. 9pm to early morning. The face control is open-minded but sometimes they do have list-only entry that you can also avoid, just come up to the face control guy and act extremely expat!

We Are A Family Disco Hotel Moscow (M. Kitai Gorod, Lubyanskii prospekt 15),

the super club that was created by the infamous Dyagilev Project masterminds Sinisha Lazarevich and Misha Kozlov, is still today the only Moscow super club that is simply infected with foreigners. From DJs to the audience, it's us! We Are A Family brings over a whopping 2-4 foreign DJs a month, which is a great number for international bookings considering today's economic crisis. Last month, the club brought over super star DJs Andrea T Mendoza (Italy), Tristan Garner (France) and Javi Mula (Spain). The wonderful international content is not the only thing that We Are A Family is known for. The club just came back from Kemer, Turkey. The grand trip that involved all the club's promoters and producers along with its crème de la crème attendees packing their bags and flying off to get a tan in luxury surroundings of the 5-star Rixos Hotel. In Russia this kind of clubbers' group tour happens quite often. Make sure to stay tuned to our nightlife section, I will be bringing you updates on the next trip!

Sometimes the whole routine of a bar, club, after-hours place can get quite boring, even in the magnificent Moscow. Feel like being different? Instead of going to a bar before your dose of Moscow's nightlife, you can go to a cook-out at the Blackberry Cafe (<http://www.ginzaproject.ru/english/blackberry/> M. Krasnie Vorota, Prospekt Akademika Saharova 10). Every Wednesday the place holds a Gastronomical Celebrity Night, a cook-out with the celebrities. This week it's a gala-dinner with world renowned Luiso Pestano, the chef-cook of the infamous luxury resort Reid's Palace Madeira in Portugal. Luiso will start off the dinner with a cooking master-class, presenting a dish that perhaps any one of us can

cook! In the weeks to come Blackberry will hold similar cook-outs with local and international celebrities, from top chefs to rock stars. Come on over and enjoy!

When I first came out to Moscow in 2004 I was shocked with the nightlife scene. It was full of thrills and excitement. I have to say it hasn't really depleted its potential just yet. Russian folks keep thinking of new ideas, new ways to make it better, more unique and way more prestige than anyone out there.

That's why from now on keep that Passport Mag handy, as we will be bringing you updates on the full spectrum of the entertainment genre in Moscow, including its diverse, intriguing and mesmerizing nightlife. **P**



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Soviet Art of the 1960s, Part 1

by Olga Slobodkina-von Bromssen

Our retrospective history of the 20th century Russian art has come round to the artists of the 1960s. That was a very special decade for the Soviet Union. At the 20th Congress of the Communist Party in 1956, Nikita Khrushchev dethroned Stalin, so to speak, by denouncing his 'personality cult'. The foundations of the totalitarian regime were undermined. Nobody knew exactly what was going to happen next, but one thing was clear, the time of Stalin's repressions was over. Now everything changed: politically, economically, socially and internationally. The short period that followed is now known by the name of Khrushchev's Thaw. It lasted only a decade, but that decade was very creative for art.

1957 saw the 6th World Festival of Youth and Students in Moscow, which was perceived as being the first tangible breath of freedom. It gave people an insight into non-figurative art and the existence of various visual models of the world. The first solo retrospective display of Pablo Picasso in Moscow, held in 1956, caused a revolution in the minds of those who visited it. It is now traditional to consider the 1960s as a time of new hopes, burning eyes and naïve thinking. However, that time was as ambivalent as any other period in human history and its falsity became evident only too soon. In 1958 Boris Pasternak won the Nobel Prize for

his novel *Doctor Zhivago* and was immediately condemned by the authorities for having ties with the West. In 1962-1964 *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* by Alexander Solzhenitsyn was published, which led to the author leaving for the West. The same happened to poet Josef Brodsky who was condemned for 'parasitism'. Years later, both writers became Noble Prize winners. Those events marked very sharp border lines on the way to freedom, and gave birth to a whole generation of the so-called 'underground artists of the 1960s-1970s', who confronted the official art of socialist realism.

On December 10, 1962, Nikita Khrushchev visited an exhibition of modern artists at the Manezh exhibition hall near the Kremlin. His response to the exhibition of new Soviet modern art was quite severe: "This creativity is alien to our people." After this 'official' statement, the artists who participated in the exhibition were forever after labelled 'nonconformists'. This group of artists who chose to not conform led very different lives from each other. Some emigrated to the West and returned only after the fall of the Soviet Union; some continued working in the USSR. Those artists who stayed in this country went underground. Their works were not exhibited because they did not fit in with the officially approved art of the USSR. These are famous people now: Anatoly Zverev, Dmitry Kras-



nopevtsev, Oscar Rabin, Vladimir Nemukhin, Lidia Masterkova, Evgeny Kropivnitsky and many others.

Unlike Dmitry Krasnopevtsev, who was a hermit and who stayed away from the art world creating his philosophic still-lives in his small apartment on the outskirts of Moscow, or Anatoly Zverev, who never stayed at home, but was always with the people boozing and selling his works for a bottle of vodka, Oscar Rabin was not only an artist but also a social figure who grouped artists around his family. It was he who organized the famous exhibition of underground art in Belyaev, Moscow, on September 15, 1974, known as the Bulldozer Exhibition. The authorities decided to send in bulldozers to crush the works displayed. In the Soviet Union there was always official art, which was very well paid for, and there was non-official art, very much frowned upon and suppressed. Now that art was called 'another art' or 'a different art'. At the beginning of the Soviet rule the 'different artists' were Filonov, Malevich, Tyshler, and later Tselkov, Rabin, Plavinsky, Nemukhin, Kropivnitsky, Rukhin, Weisberg, Zverev and Yakovlev.

Oscar Rabin was born on January 2, 1928. He became an orphan at an early age. He did not live in an orphanage, though, but found his second home with the family of artist and poet Yevgeny Kropivnitsky. When he grew up, he married Kropivnitskaya's daughter Valentina, with whom he lived his whole life, both in Moscow and later in Paris. He went to the Riga Academy of Arts and to the Surikov Art Institute, but was mostly educated by the family that adopted him, a family where good artists, poets and musicians used to get together for the sake of art.

Rabin gathered around him free thinking artists who were living in or near his place of residence in Lianozovo, outside Moscow. This group was later known as the Lianozovo Group. Lianozovo was not just a name. It was a symbol, a sign, a definition of a different epoch, a different art opposing Soviet rule and the idiotism of the Komsomol (the Young Communist League). Rabin was the leader of the Moscow underground art at the time. After the Moscow Festival of Youth and Students in 1957 there was a lot of heated discussion about which way artists should go. Artists Yevgeny Kropivnitsky, Nikolai Vechtomov, Vladimir Nemukhin and his wife Lidia Masterkova plus poets Igor Kholin, Genrikh Sapgir and Vsevolod Nekrasov were the nucleus of the group and the focus of those discussions.

In 1968 Rabin completed a painting called *A Still Life with a Fish and The Pravda Newspaper*. In his book *Three Lives* he wrote that although he was blamed for being anything but a realist, he thought his painting was realistic: "I was reproached for my still-lives, for vodka bottles and for a herring sitting on a newspaper. But haven't you ever drunk vodka with a herring? At all the feasts, including the official ones, one drinks vodka. Nothing doing..."

From the point of view of the Communist Party, that piece of art was mocking the Central Party organs, comparing the party and Pravda with vodka and herrings, and marring heroic Soviet reality.

Underground art was brought about by the energy of resistance, non-conformism and opposition to the Soviet state. Almost each piece dating back to that period is a cry of protest, a satirical portrait of a pathological society. For example, Rabin's painting *Unexpected Joy* is a portrayal of the Holy Virgin icon of the same name against the background of a winter landscape crossed by a high voltage wire. The feeling of unease and depression, the dominant mood of Brezhnev's stagnation period, which followed the Thaw is rendered perfectly.

Foreign correspondents recorded events during the Bulldozer Exhibition, which soon became a world famous scandal. That episode made Soviet rule look so pathetic in the eyes of world public opinion that the authorities had to allow the non-conformists and other 'formalists' and 'lefts' organize another exhibition in Izmailovsky Park. It was quite a sight. Artists holding their works formed a line while above them on a hill stood rows of policemen and KGB agents. Of course, the authorities remembered that exhibition for a long time. It was their disgrace and defeat, and the victory of Rabin and his friends.

However, that victory came at a great price. At first Rabin was put under house arrest. Later he was sent to prison. He wrote: "I'm not afraid of prison. And I know for sure that I'll never emigrate." The poor artist did not know that the whole question about his leaving the country had already been settled behind closed doors. Rabin and his wife Valentina Kropivnitskaya were allowed to make a trip to the West. Half a year later they were stripped of Soviet citizenship, which was only restored in the 1990s. They were treated very similarly to the opera singer Galina Vishnevskaya and cellist Mstislav Rostropovich.

However, notwithstanding the hard struggle between underground art and official art, such events could have only happened at all during and after the Thaw. The very fact that the Bulldozer Exhibition followed by the Izmailovo exhibition did take place and was covered by the international media was only due to the fact that Stalin's regime was gone. **P**

To be continued in the next issue



Scenes from the film: *The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler*

West Meets East.

John Kent Harrison presents his film: *The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler*

By Peter Hainsworth

The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler is a film about a Polish woman who led a conspiracy that saved the lives of 2,500 Jewish children from the Warsaw ghetto before and during 'liquidation' in WWII. The film was made by an American director and shot in Riga. Usually films made by foreigners are not taken seriously by Russian audiences. This film was not only taken seriously at its premier at 35mm cinema on May 28th, people were left in a state of shock. Why?

The film is a 96-minute drama, and covers real episodes of a quite extraordinary brave and apparently hitherto virtually unknown Polish heroine, Irena Sendler. At great risk to herself and other members of the Warsaw social services department where she worked, Irena smuggled 2,500 Jewish children out of the Warsaw ghetto. She was eventually arrested by the Gestapo and only narrowly escaped a firing squad.

After the war, Irena lived humbly, completely unknown to the outside world.

She kept a record of the children who she smuggled out of the ghetto and their new families by recording these details on small pieces of paper which were hidden in a jam jar. Irena's story only came to the attention of the international media in 1965 when the Israeli Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority, Yad Vashem, awarded her the title: Righteous Among the Nations. Only in 2003 did the Polish government award her the highest government award, the Order of the White Eagle. Irena, aged 98, died in June 2008. She did not get to see the film.

Unlike Steven Spielberg's *Schindler's List*, which we have all heard about and probably all seen, John's film is relatively low-budget and gets by on simple though effective sets and pure emotion.

"I had no interest in making another grand, historical evocation of the Holocaust. I wanted to tell a small story, an intimate story about a family, in this case a Jewish family but it could be any family, yours or mine, hopelessly trapped by the



Writer/Director/Producer John Kent Harrison

suffocating terror of genocide," explained John to the audience at the Moscow premier on the 31st of May.

The screenplay, written by Harrison and Lawrence John Spagnola, was based on the 2005 biography *The Mother of the Holocaust Children* by Anna Mieszkowska. The film stars Anna Paquin as Irena, and Marcia Gay Harden as Irena's mother, both actresses being Oscar winners. Croatian actor Goran Visnjic plays as Stefan Zgrzebski, who she married after the war.

At the premier the Latvian, Israeli, Polish ambassadors, as well as the first secretary of the Canadian embassy, all spoke. John told me he was nervous as to how Russian audiences would take his film. After all, it was made for American TV, and thus had to be 'nice' enough to satisfy 'broadcast



standards' which monitor the amount of violence and risqué material allowed on US national channels. The film is a sponsored presentation of the Hallmark Hall of Fame, the flagship of an enormous feel-good greeting card company.

Sitting in the front row, John looked behind to see how many people had got up during the screening. Nobody left. People were crying. A general state of shock set in. I asked John during an interview the next day what on earth happened: "I was very surprised that the reaction was so strong. My way of directing movies is to plug into the under-currents of the emotions, and follow them. It seemed like the audience completely connected with that; they were deeply moved and basically speechless by the end of the movie."

The suffering of women and children, something that you don't need a million or 50 million bucks to portray is a universal theme. The four hundred or so people who saw that film at the end of May did not watch a film made by an American producer in Latvia, using Polish actors and actresses who spoke English with a Polish accent, and which was subtitled in Russian. We watched a film about human suffering and compassion, full stop.

If anything, the restraints created by 'Broadcast Standards' and the Hallmark Hall of Fame ended up being a blessing in disguise, although this was something John wasn't aware of before coming to Moscow. Russian cinematographers have never favoured explaining things which

are obvious. People here are far too clever to need detailed explanations. Look at Tar-kovsky, at Pudovkin, at the classics. They are essays in understatement. Detailed explanations insult the Russian viewers' dignity in that they curtail the God-given right to use imagination.

This is something completely misunderstood, it seems, by the majority of western directors trying to make movies about serious themes. Plugging into the collective emotions underlying events and following them through, even if that might mean a little improvisation here and there is OK. A strong, director-led movie works fine in Russia, as long as the director is as clever or more clever than the audience. But that is not always the case, particularly when the director is from another culture.

Here we find combinations of the banal and the horrifying, such as children singing competing with each other to sing a cheerful song the best, as they are marched off to a death camp; a young boy from the ghetto trying to buy bread in an ordinary bread shop in Warsaw and being shunned by ordinary people; this sort of scene had a profound effect on the audience at 35mm.

The film raises some interesting questions. For example, how exactly do you persuade a Jewish parent to let their children be adopted by Christians, in a predominantly Catholic country? Is religion more important than life itself?

"Irena Sendler first had to persuade Jewish families to give up a child. Can

you possibly imagine that conversation! And then she had to find Polish families outside the ghetto who were brave enough to hide these children when the penalty for such an action was immediate execution," commented John.

John Kent Harrison is a Canadian filmmaker who originally hails from London, Ontario, and has lived for the past 25 years in California. He is best known for his TV Mini-series such as: *The Water is Wide* (2006), *Pope John Paul II* (2005), and *Helen of Troy* (2003). Before TV, his best known feature film was 'Beautiful Dreamers', about that great Canadian poet, and dreamer, Walt Whitman.

The film was shot on location in Riga, which John describes as being ideal: "Although I intended to shoot the film in Warsaw, I found very little that was usable for such a specific location. I considered Lithuania but felt ambivalent about what I saw. Finally, I was persuaded to visit Latvia and I remember driving through Riga and suddenly shouting for the driver to stop. I jumped out of the car, ran towards some abandoned buildings and disappeared through a hole in a crumbling brick wall. When Igor and the others found me, I looked at them with the radiance of St. Paul on his way to Damascus, 'It's one stop-shooting!'"

The *Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler* will be shown on Russian TV. Watch the *PASSPORT* web-site to find out when. DVDs will be available shortly.

John himself hopes to return to Moscow to make a film that would be a Russian story, set in Moscow and the countryside.

"It appears there is an audience in Russia for my way of telling visually compelling and deeply emotional stories. It makes sense to come back and work with Russian filmmakers and actors. It would be fun." **P**



Russian Superstitions II

Text and illustrations by Elena Krivoviyaz

Show your tongue and beware of the evil eye

In the preceding issue we looked into the most popular Russian superstitions which have anything to do with money. But these are not the only superstitions that affect Russians' lives. Now let's look at some weirder (for foreigners) ritual habits that many Russian take to be normal.

However strange it may seem, the majority of Russian superstitions are concerned with some supernatural power or mystic existence, that can ruin people's happiness and luck if certain specific rituals aren't followed. Russians are not only respectful but afraid of that mysterious thing called fate, that peculiarly Russian factor that can change lives in drastic ways, and not always for the better. Being subject

to doses of fear or unhappiness that cannot be confronted, like everyone else on the planet, arguably more often than others have, Russians invented vast numbers of superstitions, beliefs and legends many centuries ago that still exist and even control their lives and behavior.

Russians don't like to talk about their personal affairs and success with people that seem envious

"Don't come back, it's bad luck!"

This is a really weird and common superstition that can ruin your plans for the entire day. Imagine a trivial situation: you lock your apartment door in the morning on the way to work but after leaving home you realize you've forgotten your phone or money. The first thing you want to do is to run back and get whatever it is you forgot. But a Russian will hesitate, because to go back is bad luck, and the whole day can go wrong. But if you really have to go back home, like if you have left a tap on, you

should look at yourself in the mirror and stick your tongue out at yourself when leaving. After this complicated ritual, Russians calm down and know that they have won over this particular superstition and some evil forces.

“He put an evil eye on me!”

Sometimes evil forces may live in somebody's head, consider Russians (really!, see *Besi* by Dostoevsky for example). And these people should be avoided at all costs. This often happens when somebody is intensely jealous of somebody else, he or she may unconsciously radiate negative emotions towards you. This can cause you to feel bad or cause things to go wrong, many Russians think. That's why Russians don't like to talk about their personal affairs and their success with people that seem dubious or envious. If somebody faces a misfortune

Mirrors are considered to be mysterious and spiritually charged artefacts

after a long period of bad luck, he starts to think that some jealous people put an evil eye on him. This phenomenon is called *sglaz* (сглаз) or *portcha* (порча) in Russian. Of course, in big cities you are unlikely to find too many evil eyes, but in smaller cities or villages, this kind of semi-witchcraft is still evident, and being a witch is still a career prospect in Russia. The lion's share of witches' income nowadays comes from business people who want to deflect the evil eye cast on them from their business rivals, political opponents and personal enemies. Many large Moscow entertainment newspapers and even glossy magazines still publish classifieds like this: “Fifth generation witch. Deflection of Evil eye, 100 % guarantee!”

Believe it or not, but many Russians are willing to spend a fortune just to have a witch saying that he or she is “absolutely free of evil eye forever after”. Russian authorities don't pay much attention this kind of ‘business’. But they want the tax income. So if you register your witch business officially as a consulting service and pay your taxes as you should, officials probably will not come around, and if witches pay their taxes, the authorities don't really care what they get up to.

Young children are considered to be the most susceptible to the evil eye. That's why babies are kept from strangers; just in case they cast an evil eye on the newly born. And for God's sake, don't let any strangers or doubtful people complement your baby and say how cute and healthy it is, because it may fall ill after that! Taking pictures of your child and showing them to everybody is not welcomed either because the evil eye may sometimes have a long distance affect, believers suppose.

Mirrors, mirrors...

Russians have been afraid of looking glasses since olden times, and nobody knows why. Anyway, mirrors are considered to be one of the most mystic appliances in any world culture, and in Russia they are awarded a special role in the hall of fame of spiritually charged artefacts. According to a common Russian superstition, it is not recommended to look in a mirror after midnight (probably no one does anyway, especially those who ever seen the 2008 horror movie directed by Alexandre Aja called *Mirrors*) because you can see—my hands are almost trembling while writing this—some creatures from the other world peering through to you in the mirror. No one can say exactly whether there is evidence of ghosts in mirrors after midnight, but it is arguably not a good idea to stare into a mirror in the night. That's why some Russians rush so quickly to the toilet if they have to pass a mirror on the way.

As a mirror half belongs to the world beyond, it is not considered to be an appropriate present for your friend's birthday or house-warming party. Thus, bringing a pier glass or something similar as a present is often being perceived as bad manners. No need to say that breaking a mirror promises you bad luck.

Anyway, we don't want you to go insane knowing all of these superstitions. And moreover, a good way to conquer a superstition is not to take it seriously. So all of this is complete rubbish! Just watch those evil eyes in the mirror! **P**





Misty morning in Gagra

Abkhazia – a region that's trying hard to be a country!

Photos and text by Luc Jones

Since the breakup of the Soviet Union, Abkhazia has made international headlines precisely twice. Firstly, in 1992-3 during the civil war when the Abkhaz Republic tried to break away from Georgia, and then again in 2008 following Russia's brief foray into Georgia to 'liberate' South Ossetia.

The larger neighbour recognized both territories as full nation states, despite international condemnation, and being the only country other than Venezuela at the time to actually do so. But both republics had been de-facto independent since Georgia itself became a sovereign country in 1991. It wasn't always like that; in fact Abkhazia was where much of the elite (read: those who were more equal than others) would enjoy their summer holidays during Soviet times, at spas and sanatoria along the Black Sea coast.

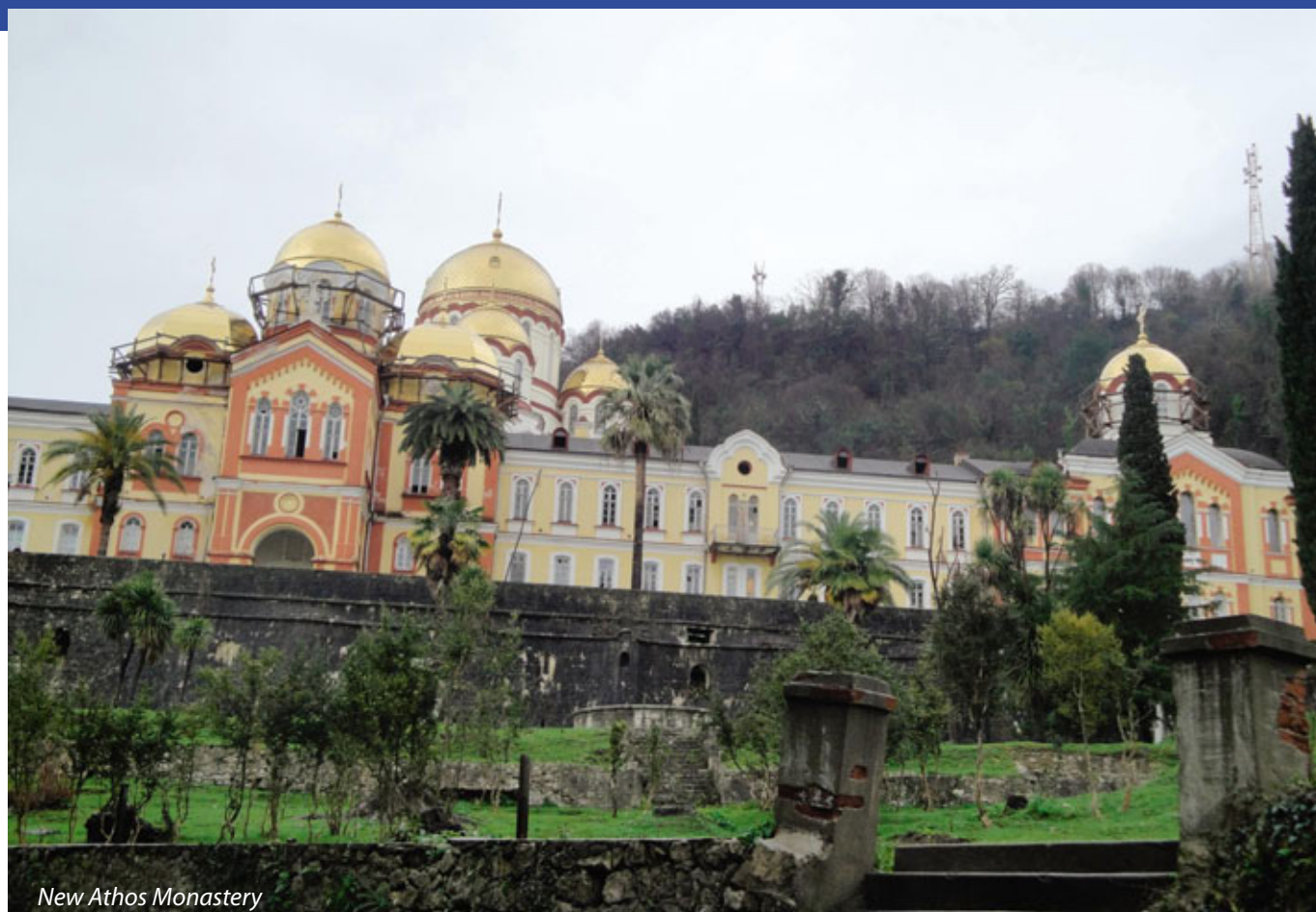
Abkhaz nationalists argue that Abkhazia had never been a part of Georgia, and was only incorporated in 1918 following the October revolution the previous year when Soviet demography rarely paid much attention to who lived where when lines were drawn. In fairness to the Abkhaz, the Soviet government actively encouraged Georgian and Russian immigration to the region whilst suppressing local traditions (especially under Stalin) to the extent that the Abkhaz had become a minority in their own region.

Yet even during the difficult years following the collapse of

communism, Russian continued to flock to the beaches of Abkhazia, lured by the low prices and the nostalgia, or perhaps habit, of years gone by. Foreigners, however, were a rarity.

Today non-CIS citizens require a visa which cannot be obtained at the border with Russia (the border with Georgia on the other side is pretty firmly shut) but with no Embassies abroad to issue them, there is a cumbersome process of obtaining official permission from the interior ministry in the capital Sukhumi by downloading various application forms, faxing a packet of documents, cutting out some special offers and sticking your underpants on your head, then a week later hopefully receiving a positive reply, by fax, which you present at the border and which allows you in. However, that's not all. You then need to proceed to the capital and apply for the visa itself at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (open weekdays only) which lets you leave the country again. Being far too old and ugly to bother with such hassles, we decided in true British style to try to blag our way in. And hopefully out again!

Any hotel in the Sochi area can arrange a day trip to Abkhazia, and hawkers on the streets will happily book you up too. We made it clear that we weren't Russian and were told that we'd be fine. It's an early start; expect the bus to pick you up around 7:30 to make the short trip to the border. Our fellow passengers looked more like shuttle traders than touristy day-trippers. Since we were the only non-Russians on the almost full bus we were given some



New Athos Monastery

rather bemused looks to begin with. Our Abkhaz guide introduced himself and facilitated our walk across the border (passengers disembark for the short stroll across the Psou river which doubles as the border between Russia and Abkhazia (which strangely is called Apsny in the Abkhaz language, which uses a version of Cyrillic, although Russian is spoken by all).

Once the border guards had spent a few minutes shaking hands with each other whilst studying our passports and had established that we were on an organized tour for the day, they were happy to let us through adding “when you go back to your England, tell your Prime Minister to recognize our independence”.

The first stop was the port of Gagra, which even in the morning mist looked like it had definitely seen better days. We quickly moved on to the resort of Pitsunda for a breakfast of tasty, warm khachapuri and coffee which overshadowed the empty accommodation blocks against a backdrop of Spring drizzle. March is definitely the low season for tourism so we had the place to ourselves for visiting the impressive New Athos Orthodox Monastery where we arrived after a wine- and cognac-tasting session at a nearby winery. Some had been excellent and a few a bit on ropey side, but they ‘got us there’! And with more wine over an excellent shashlik lunch, we were ready for what was probably the high-point of the trip.

The Krubera caves are the deepest in the world at over 2,000m from the highest to lowest explored points and are reached by an underground train that resembles the Moscow Metro! Russians refer to them as the Voronya, or Crows Caves in Russian, but whatever you call them, they are a spectacular sight full of stalactites and stalagmites glistening from the dripping water in the artificial light, and it takes a good hour to walk through

all the main areas. For the truly claustrophobic they’re not, but there’s plenty of space inside and you wouldn’t do Abkhazia justice without coming here. And there were souvenir shops so you can prove to those back home that you’ve actually been here (your passport won’t be stamped on the Abkhaz side) and conveniently the Russian rouble is the currency in use.

The tour packs a lot in a single day, and doesn’t even take you as far as the capital, but you’ll need an overnight stop for that. Time will tell whether Abkhazia begins to attract tourists from outside of the CIS, although since for a one-day trip you’ll need a double, or multi-entry, Russian visa it may take a while. Flights are from the nearby Sochi/Adler airport, and there’s no way around this for now. But with decent investment this place could certainly become somewhere alternative for those who’ve ‘done’ the Crimea. **P**

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Hitler and Stalin: the Realities Remembered Part II

Ian Mitchell

In the summer of 1941, the free world was voting with its wallets for the first 78 rpm record in history to sell a million copies. Within six months—things happened more slowly then—Chattanooga Choo Choo, by Glen Miller and his Orchestra, had become the world's first-ever 'gold disc'. Together with Moonlight Serenade and In the Mood, the song featured in the soundtrack for the movie, Sun Valley Serenade, about a newly-opened ski resort in Idaho.

Nothing could have presented a starker contrast to the atmosphere within the eight million square miles of misery and fear known in those days as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. That misery and fear was about to be compounded by the uncovenanted arrival of two and half million heavily-armed Germans. The USSR's fight against Hitler has been portrayed as a crusade against fascism. It was nothing of the sort. It was a fight for survival. Stalin was actually Hitler's strongest international supporter until the Fuehrer turned round and bit him.

I described in the May Issue of PASSPORT how Stalin's foreign policy in the 1930s was orientated around trying to form an alliance with Hitler against the West. In 1938, Stalin made a speech in which he said, "There is one common element in the ideology of Germany, Italy and the Soviet Union: opposition to the capitalist democracies."

That policy intensified after France and Britain declared war on Germany in 1939. The claim to have been opposed to fascism was a self-serving, public relations justification invented in late 1941 to conceal the fact that the USSR had been Nazi Germany's active, complicit partner during the previous two years of war against a world which permitted people like Glen Miller to exist outside a concentration camp or grave. Stalin's diplomatic and military aim was to destroy freedom wherever he could. But for Britain's international reach and America's industrial power, he might have succeeded.

Immediately on the outbreak of war, Britain imposed a naval blockade on Germany, which imported most of its strategic raw materials. Chrome, manganese, plati-

num, tungsten, and nickel had traditionally come from places like South Africa. Rubber was tapped in Burma and oil shipped from the Middle East and America. With the oceans of the world closed to Hitler, the only alternative supplier for most of these goods was the Soviet Union.

If Stalin had actually been an opponent of fascism, he could have joined with Britain and strangled the German war economy in its cradle (to use Churchill's phrase about the Bolshevik revolution). In fact, he preferred to see Britain defeated. He made all these supplies available, as well as wheat and cotton, under the terms of a German-Soviet Commercial Agreement, which was signed in August 1939 at the time of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.

Stalin accelerated this process by signing a new and more extensive Commercial Agreement with Germany in February 1940. This made millions of tons of essential supplies available for Hitler's war machine as it geared up to attack France. Three months after that attack, the Battle of Britain was fought by the Nazis with Soviet-supplied petrol and rubber, without either of which the Luftwaffe would quickly have been grounded.

The rubber is an interesting case, because it illustrates the lengths to which Stalin was prepared to go to help Hitler. The USSR was not a producer, so it used the fact that it was not officially at war with Britain to buy rubber from India, which it then sold on to Germany.



Many Luftwaffe bombers rolled out for take-off on tyres made from material originating from the British Empire. By the time the attacks on Biggin Hill and the other airfields of southern England began, over 50% of all German imports came from the Soviet Union.

Stalin went even further, offering the Fuehrer direct military help by, for example, making available a base for U-boats near Murmansk to attack Anglo-American trade (though the invasion of Norway in April 1940 rendered this redundant). But perhaps Stalin's most astonishing move was to apply to join the Axis.

In October 1940, and again in November, Stalin had Molotov, his Foreign Minister, write to the Fuehrer asking if the USSR could become a member of the alliance between Italy, Germany and Japan. The two communist leaders discussed the spoils to be picked up after the defeat of Britain. Stalin remarked that it would be like "a gigantic estate in bankruptcy".

Hitler ignored these supplications, but the message was clear: Stalin was not "buying time", as the apologists have said ever since Ivan Maisky, the Soviet Ambassador in war-time London, came up with the idea. Stalin was actively trying to have the world carved up between himself and his Nazi partner at the expense of the democratic countries. He had enslaved his own people, and now he wanted to join Hitler in enslaving the rest of the world.

That included America, and it is not often remembered today how extensive the campaign was that Stalin mounted to undermine the military potential of the United States, mainly by means of strikes in armaments factories, especially those supplying Britain. Moscow ordered Earl Browder, the local head of the Communist Party, to subvert President Roosevelt's aim of making his country "the arsenal of democracy".

Roosevelt used that phrase in a speech he made in December 1940, at the

height of the Stalin-Hitler co-operation. He warned his fellow citizens: "If Great Britain goes down, the Axis powers will control the continents of Europe, Asia, Africa, Australasia, and the high seas, and they will be in a position to bring enormous military and naval resources against this hemisphere... The nation expects our defense industries to continue operation without interruption by strikes or lockouts."

Right away, on instructions from the Communist Party, strikes began to break out in places like the huge Allis-Chalmers plant in Wisconsin, which made naval motors and tanks. It was paralysed by a walk-out which lasted from January to April 1941. The Aluminium Company in Cleveland, which made castings for the aircraft industry, was idle for months at the height of the Blitz when deliveries to Britain were desperately needed. The most dramatic strike, at the North American Aircraft Company in Inglewood, California, started on 6 June 1941, just two weeks before Hitler invaded the USSR. It ended only when the US Army took over the plant.

The situation changed overnight on 22 June, when Hitler unleashed Operation Barbarossa. Suddenly, the Soviet Union was "resisting fascism" and Churchill was his friend. Roosevelt became his friend too on 7 December that year, though it was not because, after six months' steady progress, Chattanooga Choo Choo finally made it to number 1 on the US Billboard chart, where it stayed for seven weeks. It is doubtful that the Vozhd was grooving around in the Kremlin, clicking his fingers and singing: "You leave the Pennsylvania Station at a quarter to four/ Read a magazine and then you're in Baltimore./ Dinner in the diner, nothing could be finer/ Than to have your ham and eggs in Carolina."

The truth is that what Russians call the Great Patriotic War was simply that, a patriotic war in self-defence. There is no shame in that. But it is totally inaccurate to describe it as a crusade against fascism. The reality was almost exactly the opposite.

Stalin wanted to help destroy those free countries who tried to put an end to the international menace of Nazism by declaring war on Germany in 1939. There were just six of them: Britain, France, Canada, Australia, South Africa and tiny, far-away, undaunted New Zealand.

Readers who wish to see Glen Miller playing Chattanooga Choo Choo in Sun Valley Serenade should go to this link:

www.youtube.com **P**



1988

Text and photos by John Harrison

It is difficult, even 22 years later, to fully appreciate everything that happened during those 12 long months in 1988. Gorbachev's reforms started to bite, and the Soviet Union, like a patient whose supply of medicine and anaesthetics, in the form of a planned economy and an ideology had been cut off, began to show signs of terminal illness. As a free market appeared and property rights were discussed, the union of Republics began to break up. No longer was politics a preserve of old men shuffling around the Kremlin; people became engaged in current events for the first time, and took sides. The participation of Soviet citizens in politics, which lasted only a few years, was perhaps Gorbachev's greatest achievement, and paradoxically it led to his downfall.

January. The market economy charged straight into Soviet society. In January 1988, a draft law passed the year before came into effect giving workers the right to elect factory directors. Previously directors had been appointed centrally. Provisions were made for five state-controlled banks to be set up. Gorbachev still seems to have thought at that time that a NEP-type, market economy could exist within a much larger state sector, and that together both sectors would reinvigorate the Soviet economy. In May a law on co-operatives was passed allowing people to set up their own production procedures and make their own deals both in the USSR and abroad, in other words, private business was finally legalised.

February 4. Nikolai Bukharin was posthumously rehabilitated as a member of the Communist Party, along with nineteen other Bolshevik leaders after a campaign in the press. For all the arguments for and against Gorbachev and Perestroika, commentators were too busy to note that in 1986 Gorbachev, himself from a family of 'enemies', granted full amnesty to most political prisoners. By 1988, virtually the whole camp system, including the use of psychiatric hospitals to dope thousands of dissidents, had been disbanded. Most of the ex-prisoners were soon forgotten about, their dissidence being submerged in the reforms of the time. Some, however, vented their anger



and went straight from prison to the wild world of provincial politics. One of these was the Armenia, Levon Ter-Petrossian, who was soon elected president of his country and started advocating independence.

Stalinism became one of the most widely-used words in the Russian language. A film about the first concentration camps, *Vlast Solovetskaya*, directed by Marina Goldovskaya, was shown to packed audiences during 1988. In the foyer was a huge map of the USSR with lamps placed over almost the whole map showing the location of the GULAG camps. In May, a new mass-burial grave of 1930s terror victims was found in Kuropata near Minsk; 510 bodies were found, however an estimated 30,000 people were shot on a 30-hectare site. Most incredibly, the issue was fairly openly discussed in the press.

February 17. Alexandre Bashlachev, one of the most popular Russian poets and songwriter died. Bashlachev sang of Russia's hidden moral life, which Western style bureaucracy, imported into Russian by Peter I and passed down to Soviet times, had not, according to Bashlachev, managed to trample down.

Rock in Russia started later than in the West, as it was repressed by Soviet authorities. This repression made it easy for the West to win the information war in the 1980s. In the 1960s and 1970s, records were brought back home by Russian diplomats then passed

on and duplicated using reel-to-reel tape recorders, and even home-made records. Russian rock thrived in the underground. By 1988 a distinctive Russian kind of popular music was present. It was angry, and it was Russian. The late 1980s and early 1990s were in many respects the heyday of Russian rock, be it rock, punk, new wave, heavy metal, vodka-driven rock. There was still something to sing against and now there was the freedom in which to sing it. Few of the original rockers survived the transition to the more commercial world that was to follow.

On the **20th February** a group of deputies from Nagorno-Karabakh petitioned the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and two neighbouring Soviet Republics to allow Nagorno-Karabakh (historically part of Armenia) to leave Azerbaizhan (Muslim) and join Soviet Armenia (Christian). Of the 200,000 inhabitants of this mountainous, 4,400 sq km area, 90 per cent were Armenians, and Christian. Typically, Stalin had placed the area under Azerbaizhani control, presumably to break down nationalistic feelings

ocratic party was established, which openly called for secession. During 1988, Tbilisi was full of strikes and meetings to agitate against forthcoming changes to the Soviet Constitution which promised to limit the Republics' option to opt out of the Soviet Union.

In the Baltics, opposition to the Soviet Union was also longstanding. The 'Helsinki-86' group demanded the restoration of cultural rights (notably the use of the native languages), an end to Russification, and the holding of a referendum on secession. Major demonstrations took place in Riga, Latvia, in 1987, and similar protests broke out in Estonia. The Republics' respective legislatures were re-elected in 1988 and local languages were reinstated in Latvia in 1988, in Estonia and Lithuania in 1989, along with pre-Soviet national flags, anthems and public holidays. Sovereignty was the new unifying creed in the Baltics.

In 1988, the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee tried to prevent a new popular front from gaining strength



within the population. Azerbaizhani rule was inefficient; Nagorno-Karabakh was treated as a colony, and neglected in terms of infrastructure. This first open armed conflict in the USSR began, and it soon turned into war. It is no exaggeration to say that the whole country was a powder-keg about to explode.

In January 1988 violence broke out in Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh. Azeris reciprocated by staging a pogrom of Armenian residents in Sumgait, near Baku. 90 people were killed, according to official figures. The unofficial figure was far higher. Hundreds of thousands fled. Azeris in Armenia, no longer feeling secure, followed their example. Moscow tried diplomacy and failed. Then extra troops were introduced, but often the soldiers surrendered their weapons to irregular militia bands. The disputed region was placed under a 'special administrative regime', but also this proved ineffective, and in 1989, violence escalated.

Equally unstable was the situation in Georgia. Many outside observers presumed that local ethnic differences had been merged into a common allegiance to a single Georgian nation. This proved to be naïve. Georgians were united in opposition to centralised Georgian power, just as they were in relation to the USSR. Patriotic societies were set up, which pursued both cultural and political goals. The National Dem-

in Minsk, but the members simply decamped to neighbouring Lithuania and held their founding congress in Vilnius.

May/June. 1988 was the 1000-year anniversary of the conversion of the Rus to Christianity. On the eve of the official church celebrations, the Soviet government unexpectedly decided to turn away from official atheism and make the religious festival a state holiday. The return of church property, most of which had been seized by the state, began; 809 churches were restored to clerical use in 1988, and over 2,000 in 1989. This was in a country that had declared 'God to be a Joke' only in 1963.

On the **29th of April**, Gorbachev met the Patriarch Pimen and the permanent members of the Synod in the Kremlin. This was the first such meeting since 1943, when Stalin, needing the support of the church to help motivate the population against the Nazis, restored the Patriarchy. Suddenly in 1988, TV viewers were shocked to see crosses on churches. Previously filming such symbols was sacrilege. For the first time in the Soviet Union, there was a large print run of bibles: 100,000 were distributed. Suddenly it was permissible to be both Christian and Soviet, and adults were for the first time able to openly wear crosses on necklaces or bracelets.

The new acceptance spread to moral values as well. Over 55 million people saw the film *Malenkaya Vera* in 1988, mak-

ing it the most popular film that year. The film was about a teenage girl who has just finished school, and felt trapped in her provincial town. The film had a pessimistic view of Soviet society, and this 'chernukha' (black stuff) became the name of the day. The film featured pretty explicit sexual scenes which were suddenly no longer controversial.

One would have thought that the whole government had been behind the changes taking place in Soviet society, so great were they. But this was not so. The party was split, with hardliners adamantly protesting against the apparently wayward Gorbachev, who seemed bent on destroying everything the Communist Party stood for. The hardliners saw their chance when a long letter from a communist in Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) called Nina Andreeva was published in *Sovetskaya Rossiya* on the **13th of March**. She demanded the rehabilitation of Stalin's reputation and implied that the country's woes after the October revolution had been chiefly the fault of the Jewish element in the party's leadership. The letter was professionally

communism to balance the horror tales of the 1930s which were rife in the press. The reformist magazines were bringing existing and past Soviet politicians, with the notable exception of Gorbachev, into disrepute. If only the first decade of the USSR's history was now deemed to be acceptable, how could the Politburo justify its continuing rule?

Gorbachev's answer was to get rid of as many of the old guard as possible, and then claim 'nothing to do with me'. Between 1985 and March 1988, new first secretaries in the RSFSR's provincial party committees were appointed by Gorbachev personally. However once in power, these new secretaries did not implement reforms as quickly as they could have done. After all, the emperor was a long way away. The fresh air ventilating public discussions in Moscow rarely reached the provinces. Gorbachev's appointment of his own aides was far from democratic.

In April 1988, the USSR announced its wish to make a swift, complete withdrawal from Afghanistan. Gorbachev emphasized his commitment to 'new thinking' in international relations.



rewritten by *Sovetskaya Rossiya* journalists in conjunction with officials from the Central Committee. Despite the anti-semitism, Yegor Ligachev, who was in charge of the party apparatus and ideological concerns, facilitated the letter's publication and organized a meeting of newspaper editors to impress on them that the season of free-fire shooting at communism's past and present was at an end. I remember seeing the contents of this letter being read out on TV. Gorbachev was abroad that week, and people started saying: 'Oh you know it was all going to end sooner or later, nothing ever changes here.'

But this was not the end. On his return from his week-long visit to Yugoslavia, Gorbachev conducted an enquiry, and Ligachev denied any involvement. Gorbachev took the opportunity to promote Alexander Yakovlev, who had become a Politburo member in mid-1987 and now became a radical-reformer counterweight to Ligachev in the central party apparatus. Yakovlev supervised the publication of material about abuses under Brezhnev as well as under Stalin. A number of articles appeared about Bukharin, who was depicted as the politician who had deserved to succeed Lenin. The image of Bukharin as a harmless dreamer was at variance with historic reality, but Gorbachev needed positive stories about Soviet

Gorbachev opened the 19th Party conference on **28 June 1988** in the hope of getting rid of a lot of dead wood, although he had only half-succeeded in having his supporters elected as delegates. He wanted to disband the economic departments in the Central Committee Secretariat and to reduce the size of the party apparatus in Moscow. The Supreme Soviet, which previously had only an honorific role, was to become a kind of parliament with over 400 members who would be in session most of the year and be chosen from a Congress of People's deputies consisting of 2,500 persons. In a sop to the Communist Party, one third of these delegates would be provided by 'public organisations', including the party. Gorbachev expressed the hope that delegates would be also elected to the Supreme Soviet, really wanting the electorate to use their votes to get rid of his opponents.

Gorbachev's audience consisted of delegations led by precisely the sort of Communist Party officials he wished to eliminate. Ligachev received rapturous applause; Gorbachev not much. Things were definitely not going Gorbachev's way. Then prodigal son, Boris Yeltsin, unexpectedly strode boldly down to the front of the conference holding his party card and demanding to be reincorporated in the party elite.

This time Yeltsin had nothing but praise for Gorbachev and Perestroika, but this only encouraged Ligachev in tearing Yeltsin to shreds. Nevertheless, Yeltsin's interjection did allow Gorbachev to rush through a couple of votes severely limiting the size and function of the central party apparatus. The party was dropped as being the vanguard of Perestroika, now was the time of the Congress of People's Deputies elected by the people, at least that was the idea. The same plenum left Vadim Medvedev instead of Ligachev in charge of ideology and gave Yakovlev a supervisory role in international affairs. Foreign policy veteran Gromyko was pushed into retirement and replaced as Chairman of the Supreme Soviet by Gorbachev himself. The Soviet Union remained a one-party state but the party as such had lost much of its power.

September 1988. An exhibition of modern and contemporary Russian art in Moscow was held in the summer of 1988, organised by Sothebys of London. There was great competition amongst artists to participate, and some of them be-

came bewilderingly rich overnight. The quality of some of the paintings was questionable, however, as purchasers found out in years to come; many of the leading artists had already left Russia by 1988.

3 October. As the nationality question exploded, conservative hardliners in the government probably realised that it was necessary to be able to put down demonstrations using a centrally-controlled force. OMON, whose mission was 'to work where other MVD forces cannot', was formed in 14 Russian centres in Russia, the Ukraine, Byelorussia and Kazakhstan.

7 December. As if the problems in neighbouring Nagorny Karabak weren't enough, a 10-point Richter scale earthquake shook almost half of Armenia. The town of Sital, at the epicentre of the earthquake was completely destroyed. Only 15 people survived out of 20,000. As in Chernobyl, Soviet authorities proved themselves unable to cope with the emergency in the first crucial hours and days. Help arrived only 5-6 days later. This time, however, the USSR accepted foreign aid, which also arrived late. **P**

Elena Derzhitskaya

photograph supplied by Elena Derzhitskaya



In late 1987, the country's leadership has declared a policy of 'glasnost' and 'perestroika'. Suddenly people began to speak out loudly about what had been kept as secrets before. We partook of this freedom of speech, reading in thick magazines full of disclosures about former leaders.

I celebrated the 1988 New Year in Kabul. At that time my international passport was given to me unexpectedly quickly (at Soviet times one needed a new passport for each journey abroad) and in late December I was allowed to leave for Afghanistan. My husband was serving as a translator in Herat, in western Afghanistan, and managed to get a holiday for the time of my arrival. We lived in an 'advanced' neighbourhood of Kabul which reminded me of Cheremushki suburb. The occasional tanks with Soviet soldiers passing down the streets, was pretty much the only reminder of the war.

We found a Christmas tree for the New Year celebration; I had brought decorations from Moscow with me. We celebrated New Year in a traditional Russian way, with champagne, Russian salad and lots of guests. My husband returned to Herat and I had to leave Kabul on my own. The night before my departure, the airport was bombed, and the flight was postponed for a day. Calling Moscow was impossible, and my family almost went crazy, running around Sheremetyevo airport, trying to figure out where the missing plane was. We flew out of Kabul on a foggy, cold morning. I am still impressed with the professionalism of those pilots who flew the plane up in a corkscrew flight path. It wasn't exactly a smooth take-off; the aircraft flew up like a rocket. We were accompanied by helicopters in the dense fog, emitting rocket-protection chaff.

In February, teachers from the UK came to the school where I was teaching, and because, apparently, only I, a history teacher, could speak English (for some reason all the foreign languages teachers hid), the delegation was sent to my class. I wasn't informed about their visit beforehand. But everything turned out pretty well, and both the children, and the guests, were very happy and so was I.

Then, another delegation arrived, of British Quakers (which I had never heard of before). They held a training session on Conflict Resolution. We didn't even know that such a science existed at all. These were new times indeed.

In February the pull-out from Afghanistan was announced. At the same

time my position at school changed: I became very popular among pupils because of Afgan stories and my knowledge of English. My kind colleagues could not bear the rise in my popularity and soon decided to exclude me from the Komsomol organisation, the membership of which was obligatory. But times were changing and my English knowledge was needed in school so my possible exclusion from the Komsomol was soon forgotten.

In the summer, my passport for another trip was ready in just one month, and when I rushed to the one and only air ticket booking office in Moscow, near the bridge at Park Kultury, I had a very unpleasant surprise. The office, which was usually deserted, was packed with people and I had to spend 3 days and nights in a queue for a ticket out of the Soviet Union.

In that queue the usual lists with the names of people standing in the line were made, and one had to be there day and night to make sure that your name wasn't taken off them. Once I got to the cherished window of the booking office, I discovered that I could only fly to Kabul first class. After that I had to go and stand in a similar line at Sberkassa (the Soviet bank) the bank on Zemlyanoy Val, the only place in Moscow at the time where roubles could be exchanged for foreign currency.

Hooray! The Iron Curtain was lifted and life was changing in front of our eyes, and it was great! I was only 24 years old and the whole world suddenly opened up for me! **P**

Was Alaska Sold for a Song?

Part II: Preserving Prestige

By Yury Samoilov

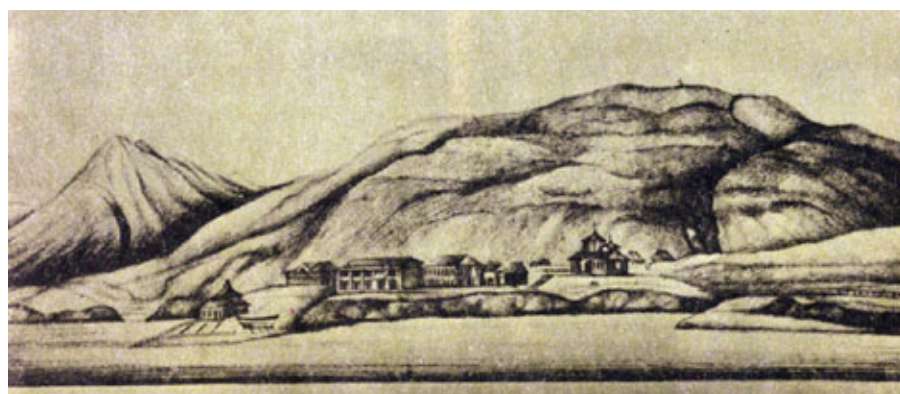
In the June issue of *PASSPORT* Yury Samoilov told the first part of the Alaska story: how the western part of the country was settled by Russians, and why they decided to leave and keep their prestige intact. In this article, Yury elucidates the terms of the treaty that was signed by the U.S.A. and Russia.



On the Aleutian Islands



Alaskan river view



The Pavlovsk settlement on lake Kadyal. Drawings (left and right) by I.G. Voznesenski

In order to negotiate a settlement, Alexander II ordered the last governor of the Russian colonies in Alaska, Prince Dmitry Maksutov, to estimate the value of all assets of the Russian American Company (RAC). The actual settlement was of no real concern to Alexander, because he had already decided to leave Alaska, and the sooner the better.

After brief negotiations, both sides came to an agreement by which Alaska with adjacent islands should become a part of the US and that Russia should leave the American continent, having received \$7.2m from the USA. The treaty was signed on 30 October 1867 and is entitled: "Treaty Concerning the Cession of the Russian Possessions in North America by His Majesty the Emperor of all Russia to the U.S.A."

Many Americans accused the then US Secretary of State, William Seward, who had put his signature on the treaty, as being a "waste of money". Why pay all this

money, they argued, if Russia was going to leave anyway? So, in my opinion, Mr Seward created a cover-up whereby the US actually bought Alaska with a total area of 1.5m sq km from Russia at a fantastic low price, about 2 cents an acre. The story was repeated so many times by American and Russian politicians, that in the public conscience it became something like an irrefutable truth. That is indeed how the issue is presented in history books and literature in general.

However there are other versions. One of them points out that there was no real sale of Alaska at all. According to this version, \$7.2m was paid for real estate (houses, fish processing plants, dockyards and so on), owned by RAC. The land was a free supplement. Despite its paradoxical nature, this version is quite plausible. For example, the \$30,000 paid for Fort Ross included all the houses, implements and cattle with exception of land. At that time, Mexico considered



Indian winter shelters.

all land in California its own possession. Russia was forced to agree, although it had also considered this land its own.

My own version of events is that there was neither a sale of Alaska nor the sale of RAC real-estate. A gentlemen's agreement was probably reached between the US and Russia, by which Russia basically left Alaska and never came back for \$7.2m. Putting this agreement in the form of an official treaty was something that Russia was extremely interested in. In principle the US could offer a considerably smaller sum, but in this case, the prestige for Russia of having appeared to have sold Alaska would not have been achieved. The sum of \$7.2m was defined, in my opinion from this very consideration, but not from the real price of Alaska land, which cost thousands of times more than 2c per acre. The price of land in Alaska and the price of the RAC assets on this occasion simply didn't matter. **P**

Recipe Pages

by Sue Hunter

Top and tail a meal into a banquet with these two classy summer dishes to start and complete a feast.

Caviar & cream-cheese mousse

Red or black caviar
350g (2 pkts) Philadelphia cheese
1 can consomme soup (or stock cubes)
1 sachet gelatine
4 tbsp sherry or 2 tbsp Armenian cognac
Lemon slices, dill
Thin toast triangles



Mix consomme and gelatine, bring to boil, pour into a lightly greased shallow ovenproof dish, circular or oval. Allow to cool, then put in fridge and let it set well. Mix cheese and sherry/cognac, spread evenly on firm jellied consomme base. Spread caviar on top of this. Turn on to serving plate. Garnish with lemon slices alternative with fine sprigs of dill. Serve with toast. Expect everyone to want second helpings, at least. Ideal with a chilled dry white wine, Champagne or Pimms.

Summer Pudding

6+ slices White bread – yesterday's old loaf is ideal
700g Summer fruits – raspberries, strawberries, bilberries, stoned cherries, redcurrants etc
100g sugar
5 tablespoons water
Cream to serve



Cut crusts off bread; line the bowl with them. Boil all the fruit and water, simmer, and add sugar. Add half hot fruit mixture into bread lined bowl, cover with more bread fingers and repeat. Top with remainder of bread. Cover with an upturned plate, weighted down with canned food or similar. Refrigerate overnight. Turn onto the plate and remove bowl. Use the last juice to tint any patches of white bread, most will be gorgeously purple already. Garnish with mint and a choice strawberry or two. Serve with lashings of cream.

Green parts – south west

With the long summer evenings, head towards the sunset and help us explore inner Moscow's green area. Cross the Third Ring and head along Kutozovsky Prospekt. A pause to enjoy the very splendid Borodino Diorama display is well worth the effort, and then you are at Park Pobedy and, next door, Fili. Both are easy to reach by car. Usually I recommend cycling, but the trudge up along Kutosovsky under pedal power is noisy and anything but relaxing. Alternatively, of course, the Metro does the job perfectly, and at weekends you can take a bike with you. Each park has its own Metro station, on the Dark Blue and Light Blue lines respectively.

Text by Ross Hunter

illustrations by Julia Nozdracheva

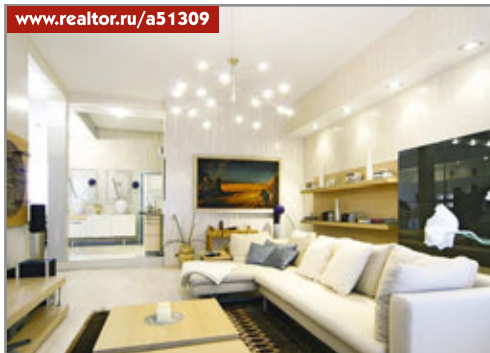
Park Pobedy

I was comparing notes about Park Pobedy with a friend, and we discovered that despite having three favourite parts each, they did not overlap at all. So: enjoy at least six separate parts of a park. Like most of inner Moscow's dense green spaces, Pobedy can absorb a phenomenal number of people, all doing their own thing.

First and foremost, it is a memorial to the unimaginable sacrifices made by the Soviet peoples in the Great Patriotic/Second World War. This alone makes the park unique and makes for equivocal emotions. Dominating the area is the obelisk which is ostensibly devoted to peace but has a disturbingly triumphalist and domineering air. Behind it is the memorial building, which is a model of dignity. The upper amphitheatre is dedicated to the Heroes of the Soviet Union, listed in humbling number. Below it is a wholly dignified and realistic memorial to the Soviet and Allied war effort: frank, comprehensive and balanced. Both make for emotional visits.



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Back outside, a long line of fountains sits opposite tributes to each of the eleven main fighting areas on (what we call) the Eastern front. Views of Moscow, souvenir sellers and throngs of people doing what people do with a bit of free time and space all compete for your attention. Here is the equivocation. Is skateboarding and lolling over a tribute to war dead disrespectful, or a celebration of the freedom so to do, so expensively and tragically fought for and won? You decide.

Below and behind the main edifices, the park offers much more still. To the right, near the main road, is the original children's adventure area. Old tanks make great climbing frames and fantasy armies for little generals. Further round, the lawns open up and provide niches for the great Moscow wedding sightseeing parades, picnics and shashlik lunches, refreshments of all sorts and space to stroll and play. Around the southern flank you find an assortment of military hardware museums. Navies, air forces and armies of assorted ages, nations and states of preservation are represented in very hands-on accessibility. Some parts require a modest admission fee, others are free to view or climb over. There is a good representation of front line scenes, with both pre-battle preparations and living

conditions, and wrecked equipment to show the ensuing destruction. It is a museum that will keep the attention of children of all ages, for ages. Take a few and prove it. You will return.

Fili Park

Only a little further from the centre and back towards the river again lies Filjovskiy (Fili) Park. Just a healthy stride from the Metro (Bagrationovskaya is the better choice), the forest looms large. The entrance archway gives the game away: it is surrounded by cycle hire stands. Fili is a park for those with wheels. A short stroll with a pram is fine, near the entrances and the commercialised quarter, but otherwise, the paths through the woods invite mobility. Between the maples, firs, pines, poplars, willows, occasional oak and of course birches, you have every chance of getting lost. The sylvan richness reduces vistas, and impairs navigation. Rollerblades, scooters or bikes allow exploration, as well as error and recovery. Fili is bigger than it looks, and even then can be extended by heading further along the river banks. Not so good for those seeking a sun tan or watching the clock, but a good place for the energetic and the nature lover. Explore and enjoy! **P**

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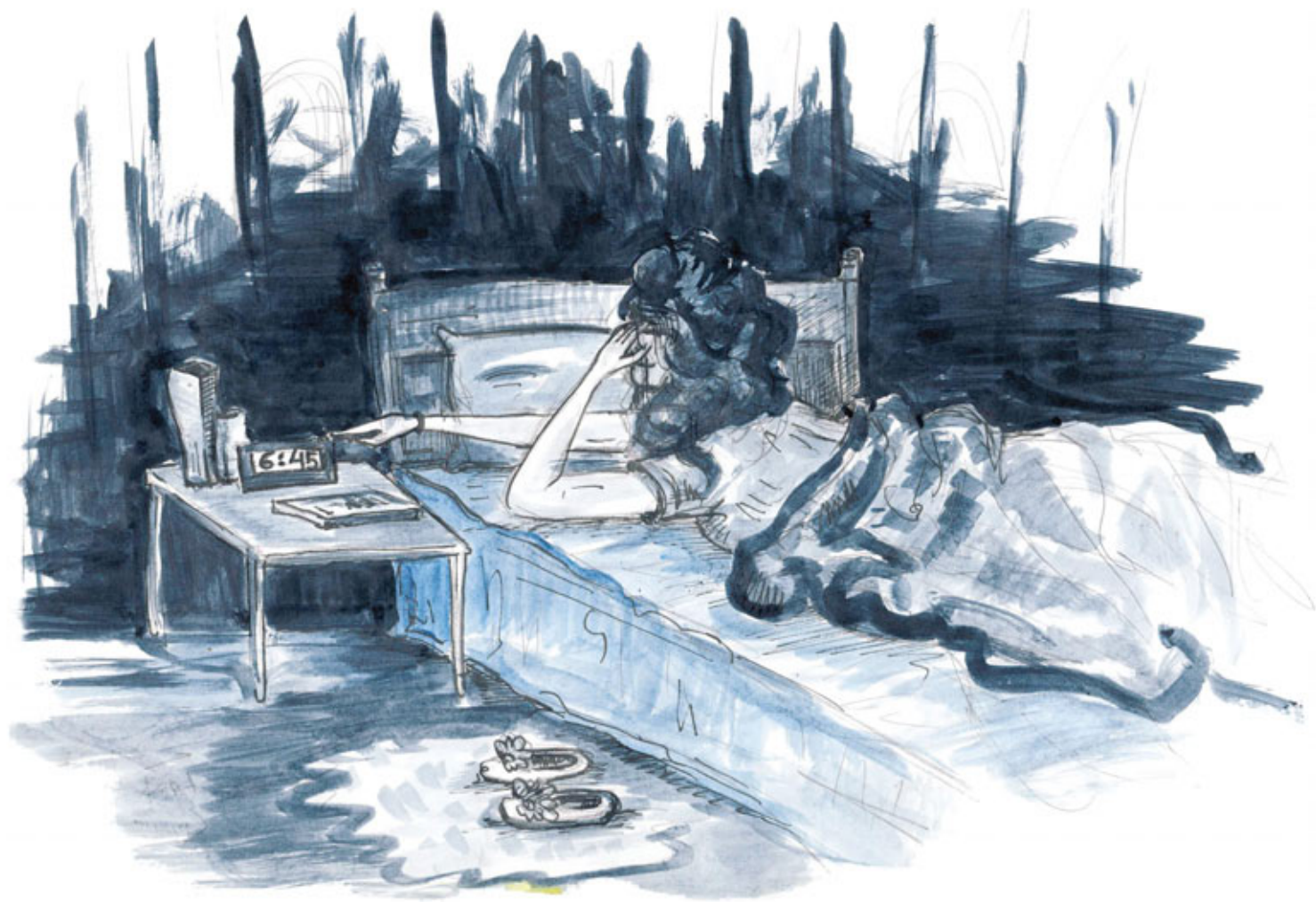
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A Day in the Life of an English Teacher

Text by Emily Fieldhouse,
illustrations by Nika Harrison

6.45. Another day, and just enough time to gulp down some instant porridge before it all begins. Showered and out by 7.45, I've got to be a good mile's walk from a Metro station somewhere on the other side of Moscow for my first appointment of the day. My nine o'clock has asked me if I can teach her children. I would love to, I explain, but on a 40-hour per week teaching schedule (not including the travelling and planning involved) it may just tip the balance in favour of a heart attack. The next student, somewhat conveniently, works in the same office, and although he has never studied English in his life, has a wonderful instinct for the language.

I now have half an hour to get to my twelve o'clock, who works in the same district, but in a rather inaccessible location. Try apologising to the General Director of a medium-sized Russian company for constantly being late. The combination of unreliable trams and over-vigilant security staff makes punctuality practically impossible! Even though I have been teaching there for nearly six months, they don't seem to believe that somebody like me could possibly have a reason

to be admitted to see him. This student is a real pleasure to teach, and never complains about my late arrival, however his lessons require rather more preparation than for my other students. His level is such that he finds even the most advanced material provided by the school too easy, and is constantly craving something more challenging, which takes time to find and adapt for use in lessons.

I am now an hour away from my half-past-two appointment, which is, rather annoyingly, just forty minutes away on average. If you have a good run, you still don't have time to order, eat and pay at a cafe, and if you take your time you arrive fifteen minutes early, which is rather embarrassing. On days like this, an 'al Metro' lunch is required, much to the disgust of my travelling companions. Next on the agenda is a two hour group session, although a good proportion of these lessons end up being one-to-one, be it due to business trips, work-related emergencies or a student's on-call status. This high absence rate makes planning difficult and progress slow, and it is almost impossible to ensure that everybody has covered all the required material for their regular progress tests.

Next stop is a marshrutka ride away from some faraway Metro station. This can take anything from forty-five minutes to an

Echinodermata (echinoderms, starfish, sea urchins, sea cucumbers)	hive of bees
Hemichordata (hemichordates)	host of sparrows
Pogonophora (beard worms)	husk of hares
Chordata (chordates)	kennel of dogs
Tunicates (sea squirts, appendicularians, thaliaceans)	knot of toads
Cephalochordata (amphioxus, lancelet)	labor of moles
Vertebrata (vertebrates)	leap of leopards
Cyclostomata/Agnatha (jawless fish)	murmuration of starlings
Chondrichthyes (cartilaginous fish)	muster of peacocks
Osteichthyes (bony fish)	nest of rabbits, wasps, or vipers
Amphibia (amphibians)	pace of asses
Reptilia (reptiles)	pack of wild animals moving together, especially dogs or wolves; grouse
Aves (birds)	parliament of owls
Mammalia (mammals)	plague of locusts
	pod of seals or whales
	pride of lions or peacocks
	sault of lions
	school of fish
	shoal of fish, especially bass
	shrewdness of apes
	skain of geese in flight
	skulk of foxes
	sloth of bears
	swarm of insects, especially bees
	team of ducks in flight; oxen or horses
	trace of hares or rabbits
	troop of monkeys
	watch of nightingales

ANIMAL GROUPS (popular names)	
bale of turtles	
bed of snakes	
bevy of quail	
bouquet of pheasants in flight	
cete of badgers	
charm of finches	
clowder of cats	
colony of ants, badgers or frogs	
confusion of guinea fowls	
covert of coots	
covey of partridges, pheasants, or quail on the ground	
drove of animals moving together; oxen, sheep or swine	
exaltation of larks	
flight of birds or insects	
flock of birds or sheep	
guggle of geese on water or ground	
gam of whales	
gang of elk	
herd of animals grazing together,	

ANIMAL SPECIES (from highest number to lowest)	
Arthropoda (crustaceans, insects, spiders)	
Mollusca (mollusks, snails)	
Chordata (chordates, vertebrates)	
Protozoa (amoebas)	
Annelida (segmented worms)	
Coelenterata (jellyfish)	
Nematoda (nematode worms)	
Platyhelminthes (flatworms)	

hour and a quarter. Attendance here is good, I normally get at least five out of the eight students, which means that the group work I organise can almost always proceed as planned. However, the students' levels are really quite varied, and it takes a lot of preparation to ensure that I satisfy everybody's needs. Their motivation levels are always excellent as they spend the majority of their working day on the phone with English-speaking clients. For this reason I feel rather guilty when I pity myself for having to spend at least half an hour waiting for the marshrutka to take me back to this middle-of-nowhere Metro. The free shuttle service is appalling in this particular business park. Maybe the reason for this lies in the fact that it is free. On these days I will get on the Metro no earlier than 9 p.m., and be home after 10.

This all does sound rather brutal but this is reality for me on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The other working days (including Saturdays) are marginally better, and allow me time to prepare for future lessons, compile and mark assessments, write reports, and to record my experiences on paper! Employed by a medium-sized international language school, I teach only corporate clients. Somebody teaching on the premises of their language school will undoubtedly have a somewhat different daily routine.

Complain though I may, I have no wish to teach all my lessons under one roof, or indeed to give up any of my current students for the sake of a nine-to-five working day. With all the travelling I do, I really feel I know Moscow much better than I would even if I had more time to wander and explore. In addition, I have lost 12 kg since arriving in August, which I do not miss at all!

When teaching corporate clients, you really do get a mixed bag. Those eager for promotion, who need to en-

hance their English skills in order to achieve this, generally hang onto your every word and make great efforts to practise new language during lessons. You might get some students in group classes who are less eager to participate, most likely those whose lessons are paid for by the company, and who are expected to attend, and would rather be doing something else. Then you have the 'Question girls', eager to know WHY one cannot use the future tense after the words 'after' and 'before'. I really do enjoy teaching curious philologists, but there is a limit!

Without exception, all of my students are wonderful people to know, and when I eventually move on from teaching, they will be excellent contacts. This is the key. For the vast majority of expat English teachers in Moscow, this is not a job that you will want to keep forever. For year abroad students, recent graduates, or anybody wanting a career break, teaching English in Moscow really does offer some wonderful opportunities for the future. However, if you are working for a language school, the bonds stipulated by the contract can hinder your efforts to find work elsewhere. Many of them are unwilling to allow teachers time off for interviews, and have a four week notice period. For this reason, as of next month I will be working freelance. The higher salary, along with the freedom to organise my schedule as I please won't hurt either. **P**


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Winemaking Legend

Charles W. Borden, photos by Maria Savelieva

Antinori is one of the oldest and best-known names in Italian wines with more than 600 years of grapes in the family tree. Based in Florence, Antinori is not just a big wine-maker, but it makes very big wines in the quality sense. Antinori has also been an innovator in Italy's strictly controlled wine market, even planting the French grape varieties that are used in the Super-Tuscan wines that they have pioneered. Renzo Cotarella, Antinori's top oenologist, was in Moscow at the end of May. We joined him at a winemaker's dinner at Cantinetta Antinori.

It was a pleasure to return to Cantinetta Antinori, which is located just behind the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and easily recognized from a distance by the expensive black metal that consistently lines either side of the street. The Moscow Cantinetta Antinori is one of several in Europe, this

one owned by Antinori's principal Russian importer, MBG Impex.

PASSPORT publisher, John Ortega, had reserved a table, which thankfully was strategically located near the guest of honor and his hosts. We were joined by Tony Wong (Abbott Laboratories), Johan Sekora (HSBC), Shiraz Mamedov (Goldwell), Jan Heere (Inditex Zara) and Ambassador Michael Tay (Russia-Singapore Business Forum).

The agenda for the evening included a food match with four of Antinori's wines. Three were Antinori signature wines, each bearing the IGT designation (Indicazione Geografica Tipica). This relatively new indicator was created to cover quality wines such as Antinori's Super Tuscans that fall outside the strict regional wine classifications (DOC and DOCG), which specify grape content and vinification methods. We were also provided with an order blank with prices (listed below).



Tony Wong,
Abbott Laboratories

Antinori Winemaker's Dinner

Montenisa Brut, Franciacorta DOCG

Canape with salmon

Canape with Ricotta cheese

Cherry tomatoes with tuna mousse

Cervaro Castello della Sala, Umbria IGT 2007 (2,300 roubles)

Tuna salad with green beans

Tignanello, Toscana 2006 (3,500 roubles)

Risotto with prawns and basil sauce Pesto

Solaia, Toscana IGT 2005 (12,400 roubles)

Marmoreal beef entrecote



Renzo Cotarella, Irina Fomina (President MBG Impex), John Ortega



Ambassador Michael Tay, Executive Director Russia-Singapore Business Forum

In its 26th generation, Antinori has accumulated a number of wine estates in Tuscany and Umbria. Marchese Piero Antinori, the scion and now patriarch of the family and in his seventies, brought his daughters Albiera, Allegra and Alessia into the business, which is also an innovation in the Italian wine industry.

The evening's guest wine-maker, Renzo Cotarella, has been behind many of Antinori's modern wines including the Solaia and Tignanello that we tasted this evening.

Renzo has also been actively involved in many of the Antinori ventures outside of Italy, which includes production of partner wines with wineries in Chile (Haras de Pirque), California (Antica and Stag's Leap), Washington (Col Solare), Malta (Meridiana) and Hungary (Tuzko Bâtaapàti).

We were greeted upon arrival with a chilled glass of Franciacorta DOCG Montenisa Brut, a relative newcomer to Antinori, launched in 2003 under the stewardship of Alessia Antinori. This is a Chardonnay, Pinot Bianco and Pinot Nero blend that is produced in Lombardy, golden and dry but surprisingly fruity.

The Cervaro (Castello delle Sala) must be one of Moscow's top selling super-premium white wines. I have seen Cervaro on the wine list at most of the Passport restaurant review venues and wine tastings in recent years, at prices that vary so considerably it could well serve as a wine list price index. Cervaro is a blend of 85% Chardonnay with the Italian grape Grechetto. It is a reliably delightful example of Chardonnay wine-making perfection that bears just the right level of oak, buttery yet generous with its fruit.

The Tignanello is made from grapes of a 47-hectare vineyard that Antinori acquired more than a century ago. It is a blend of Sangiovese (85%), Cabernet Sauvignon (10%) and Cabernet Franc (5%) and is an intense and powerful wine that opened up nicely. The Sangiovese grape is a personal favorite, so I was interested to later read Renzo's comments in a *Vino Wire* post about it and the tendency for Italian wineries to now grow non-indigenous grapes: "Cabernet and Merlot are easier to grow in Tuscany because they require less effort." But he apparently warned against the "abandoning the potential of the prince of Tuscan grapes and de-Tuscanizing the region's wines."

The Solaia is a Super Tuscan blend of the same grape varieties as its neighbour Tignanello but it is dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon (75%). Solaia consistently earns extraordinary ratings, and once named by *Wine Spectator* as "the best wine from the best vintage ever in Tuscany." The Solaia was wonderful, but as a long-term Italian wine fancier, I much preferred the Tignanello, even not considering the Solaia price premium.

With respect to Cantinetta Antinori, the accompanying food selections were a convincing reminder why this restaurant is certainly one of the best, if not the best, Italian restaurant in Moscow. **P**



The Tradition of Goose Roasting



Text by Charles Borden,
photos by Alina Ganenko

Chaine des Rotisseurs is the world's oldest international gastronomic society. Though founded in 1950 in Paris, it traces its history to the "traditions and practices of the old French royal guild of goose roasters." The Chaine has been active in Russia since 2002, first in St. Petersburg, and then Moscow beginning in 2005. Gerhard Mitrovits is the Bailli Regional (bailiff or should we say chief goose roaster) of the Moscow Bailliage (bailiwick or chapter). Membership is by invitation only. In addition to its non-professional gourmand members, the Chaine invites professional members such as chefs, restaurateurs and hoteliers.

PASSPORT Magazine caught up with the Chaine des Rotisseurs in June at Soho Rooms at the invitation of executive chef Laura Bridge. For the Chaine's monthly Dinner Amicale, Ms. Bridge presented an "Asian Exotic Summer Theme."

French writer Curnonsky was one of the big figures in Chaine history. Dubbed the Prince of Gastronomy, Curnonsky a prolific writer, particularly about food and wine and had a brief role in the history of Michelin guides. Curnonsky enjoyed eating, so much so that it is said that it took six friends to carry him out to his favorite restaurants each night. A pen name for Maurice Edmond Sailland, Curnonsky was derived from Latin for why not with a Russian "-sky" appended. However Curnonsky later said he was "neither Russian, nor Polish, nor Jewish, nor Ukrainian, but just an average Frenchman and wine-guy."

PASSPORT is now also on the trail of the Commanderie de Bordeaux, which apparently is also now active in Moscow. The Commanderie is part of a worldwide network of 65 Commanderies in 15 countries under the overall patronage of the Bordeaux-based Grand Conseil du Vin de Bordeaux. **P**

Junior Olympic Trials

Moscow hosted the European junior athletics trials in late May, at the Luzhniki complex. Top athletes from all over the continent were giving of their best to try and get places for the full Junior Olympics in Singapore in August. Competition was intense but friendly, and there was a good spread of flags on the award podiums. The Russian, German, Polish, Ukrainian and British anthems were all well practised. All the athletes were aged 16-17, and some of them were in the middle of public exams, which had to be taken in hotel rooms or with a Moscow international school, in exchange for an afternoon's javelin coaching between exams. There was even time for some of the students to enjoy Sunday evening in central Moscow before getting back to school on Monday. RDH **P**



Expat Football League Dinner



The world game is well represented in Moscow, at all levels. The over 28's expat football league is in its 9th season and is a League of Nations in its own right, with many continents represented. Tournament sponsors, Allianz Rosno, with the Stakan Restaurant in Kuznetsky Most, kindly sponsored the League's annual dinner and awards ceremony on 22 May, which was well attended. Founder and President Nick Rees did the honours and led the celebrating (within reason, of course, as there are still a few games to go this season). The most successful club, the Moscow Flagons (named in homage to the local oval ball Dragons) were very well represented, and the Moscow Bhoys were in good voice. The most enthusiastic table belonged to Russia Today, still in their first season, but with a cosmopolitan team (shorthand for expensively shipped in African stars), they have only one possible direction in the league table. Biggest cheer of the night was when Okan Yildirim of team Pasha got up on stage on crutches after a nasty ankle break, now on the mend thanks to the exceptional kindness of Allianz Rosno. The league is expanding all the time, with new teams due. Sign up at www.moscowfootball.com. RDH **P**

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Moscow Regatta

On 20 June, the weekend when the historic Round the Island race was being held off the Isle of Wight, the Club Italiani a Moscow (Moscow Italian Business Club) held a more modest but still highly enjoyable regatta on the Klyazma reservoir.

In addition to the Italians, there were teams from Australian,

Canada Great Britain and Russia. The base for the day was the Yacht Club Vodnik, which sits behind razor-wire not far from the bridge which carries the Dmitrovskoe Shuassee over the Moscow-Volga Canal.

The weather was hot and with only scattered clouds, and the wind light and variable. This made for close racing and very enjoyable sailing. All the boats were the Carter 30s,





though the quality of the sails varied. Each boat had a crew of five plus the owner. The Russians took the sailing most seriously of all the teams, whereas the Italians appeared to be enjoying themselves the most. The three English-speaking teams all sailed well, though the British possibly slightly better than the others, arguably due to the owner of our boat who sailed with us and shouted commands in a form of Rus-

sian which none of us could understand. But in any language, he was a wizard with his spinnaker!

The Italian Business Club hosted a wonderful party afterwards for all the crews and about two hundred guests. The food, the wine and the beer were all magnificently Italian, as was the weather. I think I would be correct in saying that everyone is looking forward to a return match next year. *Ian Mitchell* **P**



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The Asian-Pacific charitable bazaar, Moscow on June 5

Over 15 Asian-Pacific region embassies together with the APWQ (Asian-Pacific Women Group) organized this traditional event in order to help orphans and children with disabilities. Ambassadors' wives took an active part in the event and sold their countries' traditional goods with the help of volunteers. The Japanese embassy offered sushi and some other delicacies,



Indian women sold cosmetics, incense and a vast variety of dressings and textiles. The Malaysian, Indonesian, Thai and Vietnamese embassies brought traditional food, handicrafts and souvenirs. Apart from food and handicrafts, 100 valuable items such as a large-screen-TV, electrical appliances, hotel and restaurant vouchers as well as interesting prizes from participating embassies were raffled. Guests from various embassies and the expat community were present and networked. The bazaar transformed one of the business halls of Radisson Slavyanskaya hotel into a real oasis of Asian culture.



"Many challenges lie before us due to the changes our world is going through. Nowadays the role of universal values is more recognized and appreciated. It is time to breathe new life into one such value, the tradition of charity, the striving to make society better, happier and safer. It is time for us to remember that offering a hand to the needy is a virtue. Moreover, we all want to contribute something valuable to our host country, which is well known for its charitable attitude, deeply rooted in the Russian national tradition with its culture," commented one of the organizers. **P**



The 2010 St Petersburg Economic Forum

This year's St Petersburg Economic Forum held from June 17-19 was perhaps noticed to a greater extent on the world stage because of who attended than what was said. The participation of a G-8 leader, namely France's Nicolas Sarkozy has finally put Russia's prized forum on the map. Last year, Russia's economy was in nothing short of a freefall, marked by the largest drop in GDP in the history of the country and the Forum was only able to attract a few former G8 leaders and one non-G8 leader, namely the president of the Philip-



ines. What a difference a year makes. In step with very recent figures which have indicated that Russia's industrial production and GDP are now growing faster than almost any major G8 economy; not to mention that Russia is a country that is not afflicted by an overhanging public debt burden like most of its Western neighbors, Russia's economic profile has become the envy of many of its Western counterparts. The relative health and strength of the Russian economy may translate into much greater respect from Europe and other nations in step with President Sarkozy's decision to attend the forum. While many of the

biggest headlines from the Forum speak about who attends and the amount of deals that are signed, some of the most interesting news usually emanates from which business celebrities skip the event. Last year, the Forum was abuzz about the absence of Russia's then #1 oligarch Oleg Deripaska as he was busy with Premier Putin. This year, everyone, especially all the oil company leaders, were fluttering about the absence of regular-attendee Tony Hayward from BP who was busy with the US President Obama. For more information about the forum see www.forumspb.com **Daniel Klein.** **P**

Diema's Dream opens new doors for disabled children

Over 260 guests gathered in GUM's spectacular Demonstration Hall for the 'Dreams 2010' event, which was opened by Bob Foresman, Managing Director of Barclays Russia, a general sponsor of Diema's Dreams Auction.

"When the celebrated hammer of Christie's Chairman Hugh Edmeades came down on the final lot of the annual Dreams 2010 auction on June 5, the Diema's Dream Foundation, which supports disabled Russian orphans, had raised an astonishing \$313,000 for its programs in Russia," comments Zhenya Mendenhall, who is one of the organizers of the auction and Diema's Dream member.



photos by Alina Ganenko



Mary Dudley, the founder of Diema's Dream, gave the guests an update on the foundation's many programs, including the unique village for disabled children near Moscow.

Diema's Dream's larger goal is to support changes in society and legislation which would give parents an important role in the upbringing of their disabled children, who are usually sent to state institutions.

A highlight of Moscow's social calendar, the Dreams auction brings together hundreds of supporters of the foundation, as well as dozens of well-known Russian artists who donate their paintings and sculptures to be auctioned off for the charity. Christie's Chairman Hugh Edmeades made a special trip to Moscow to lead the guests through a spectacular – and generous – evening.

Other longtime and new supporters of Diema's Dream include: KPMG, Linklaters, Clifford Chance, TNK-BP, Morgan Stanley, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Coca-Cola HBC Eurasia, DeGolyer MacNaughton, White & Case, Credit Suisse and Conoco Phillips. Continuing a multi-year tradition, the sumptuous food was provided by Uley Catering. And the Ararat Park Hyatt, a year-round supporter of Diema's Dream, donated many services from its 5-star staff. **P**

First PASSPORT Seminar for Expats

On June 11th, PASSPORT magazine held its first seminar, at Buddies café on Tverskaya, dedicated to themes relevant to expats living in Russia. These seminars are designed to act as a platform to enable the sharing of specific information important for us; such as the latest on visas, schools, insurance, real estate, travel, etc.

This first event covered four major areas, the first of which was an update on Russian migration regulations given by Nathan Stowell, Business Development Manager of Crown relocations. This is a complex area of ever-changing legislation, which necessitates constant vigilance. Only a year ago,

Last, but by no means least on the bill, was Mr Ross Hunter, the Founding Headmaster of English International School, Moscow. Ross had to counter the growing level of decibels from a crowd in the next room who had come to watch the first round of the World Cup, something he did admirably, even without a microphone, so much so that some came in from next door to watch him instead.

Ross gave an interesting and unbiased account of education in Moscow, and shared some useful insights from a teacher's point of view on what is involved in bringing up children in an environment as interesting and difficult as Moscow, which was much appreciated by the audience.

Below are the contact details for all the speakers: **P**



photos by Maria Savelyeva

Nathan pointed out, all that foreigners needed was a 1 year multiple-entry commercial/business visa. The concept of tax residence and permits were neither enforced nor well understood. Nathan then proceeded to go through the steps required to get a work permit, which was all interesting stuff for the predominantly foreign audience.

Next to take the stage was Stefan Schmid of Allianz Rosno, who described the different types of insurance on the market today. Stefan went into some detail on the various kinds of vehicle, property and medical insurance packages available.

Michael Bartley, General Director, Four Squares gave an interesting talk on renting accommodation in Moscow. He described the advantages and disadvantages of living in each of Moscow's widely different areas, how to actually go about finding, securing a lease and negotiating the cost. He also gave some interesting ideas about rental contracts.

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Session Timeout

Fred Flintstone

Fred was pretty fed up with seeing the “Session Timeout” message appear on the screen after spending two hours assisting his friend Barney complete an online visa application to Fred’s home country. For most computer nerds, and Fred is probably one of them, “Session Timeout” means a significant period of time without keyboard activity, this to protect against third-party access when the user steps out for coffee. The dozen or so Session Timeouts that had already occurred were inexplicable since Fred and his cohort had been pretty busy at the keyboard. Fred was beginning to understand why the going price for services in bedrock to complete this new visa application is 11,000 rubles (\$350).

And “Save,” which the online application invited them to do regularly, a fine suggestion, wasn’t working for them. This meant that, if, say, Barney did not remember the exact date, down to the day of the month, he attended college thirty years ago, there is no timeout to call mom – Do Not Pass Go, Go Directly to Session Timeout, Pay \$350 to Visa Service Provider. Fred and Barney both have higher educations, and yet they still had barely completed half the application before the last Session Timeout. So much for the “75-minute time burden” stated on the online application.

Fred also hadn’t found a cheat-sheet on the embassy website, a sample of the questions that could be used to prepare for the online application beforehand. He finally found a sample on a Hungarian travel website, a fully completed app for one, now certainly well-known, Ramesh Gupta of Mumbai.

Fred was about to give up. Then he recalled that the intro to the visa application had declared it compatible with Internet Explorer 5.0 and Netscape 6.2, which together have an infinitesimal browser market share of less than one percent combined. Did this mean that 21st century web browsers such as Firefox and Safari or even Opera or Chrome wouldn’t work, which would mean that the system was practically inaccessible to a Mac user. Fred can hardly stand to look at a Windows machine, never mind touch one.

Fred’s readers may recall that he chronicled his Zhiguli experiences when he drove one for three years. The Zhiguli, like a Windows PC, is simple, parts are cheap, it’s easy to repair (which is very often necessary) and there are plenty of experienced mechanics around. Years ago Fred became a Mac-addict, and Bedrock residents are finally getting around to switching as well. They are also buying modern automobiles, like Fred’s Nissan, which starts every time, and has run with practically no maintenance for four years.

Barney found a PC with Internet Explorer, and sure enough, “Save” worked. After each section, Barney saved and moved on, but it still took another two hours to complete the visa application.

Fred sat through the last questions, those that have been added to trip up the bad guys; does the applicant run pros-

titutes, is a money launderer, participates in torture, political assassinations or genocide, or even defaulted on secondary school loans. Fred wonders why the application requires dates down to the day, such as when the applicant started college.

Fred is proud of his country, and marvels at its norm of efficiency. Life’s tasks, like a bank deposit or a laundry drop off, which take minutes back home, take hours in Bedrock, not even accounting for travel time. The new visa form surprised Fred.

Expats complain about visa problems when they come to Bedrock, but maybe this is because many don’t often need a visa to travel; the process is fairly efficient, and courtesy and common sense usually prevail. It takes about ten minutes to fill out a visa application at a consulate, and this can practically be done standing in line. It’s paper and pen. The spaces provided to list “Other Countries Visited” or “Dates of Previous Visits” are miniscule, but the consul officers are not too fussy about details, never mind precise dates. It reminds Fred of an old anecdote about Fred’s government having spent \$10 million to develop a pen that could write in space; in Fred’s current country of residence a cheaper solution was found – a pencil. **P**

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How not to go wrong when looking for accommodation in Moscow.

Vadim Lamin, head of department of luxury flats at Penny Lane.



Thousands of foreigners arrive in Moscow every day; on business trips, to take up temporary or permanent jobs, for a rest. The question which bothers them most is always how to find somewhere decent to live. Unfortunately, when looking for flats, most foreigners come up against serious problems...

The first time my friend Hans arrived in Russia, was when he was invited to work here. The first thing he had to do was to look for a good flat, something that he needed for the kind of job he had. He looked on the internet (he spoke Russian fluently), and entered: "rent a flat" in the search box. Thousands of sites, all offering luxury apartments, came up on screen. He found what looked like a luxury flat for a modest price. The only thing he could see as being a minus were poor quality photos of the actual flat.

Then he saw the same flat, presented by other agents on the same site for more money. These other proposals offered more details and better photos. He phoned the number on the advert where the price was the cheapest, met with a real estate agent, and they went to look at the flat. He was extremely surprised when the landlord asked for a com-

pletely different price (the highest price of all the offers on that site). The agent wanted to show Hans other flats, but the foreigner's trust in that agency had been completely destroyed, and he declined.

After that, Hans decided to adopt a different strategy. He drew up a list of the most reliable (the ones that have been on the market longest) real estate agencies in Russia, and chose one of them. He was quickly and professionally presented with a suitable flat. Moreover, he was offered legal support for the whole length of his tenancy, and help solving technical and organisational problems when moving.

Vadim Lamin, head of department of luxury flats at Penny Lane commented:

"It's true, you can find the same flat being advertised on one site for different prices. Here it is important to note the name of the agency offering the flat, and try to find out as much as you can about the history and manner of work of that agency.

"What happens is that as soon as a reputable agency, one which has been in the market a long time, advertises an exclusive property, other, usually smaller and less reliable, companies copy the information and advertise the same property for a much lower price, without even contacting the landlord. When people are attracted by the lower price, they are either offered another flat, or as in Hans's case, they are taken to see the flat where they find out about the real price and conditions.

"There is a lesson to be learned here: so as not to be disappointed when trying to rent a flat you like, use a well-known agency with a popular brand and a good reputation. Generally speaking, such companies adopt an individual approach to each client, have an extensive data-base with realistic prices and reliable service." **P**

How to: use the internet in Russian. Words Russians use for Internet: интернет = инет = сеть

If you're having problems with your connection:

Интернет очень медленно работает – the internet is working really slowly

Интернет тормозит – it keeps freezing

Страница не загружается – the page won't download

Ссылка не работает – the link doesn't work

Looking for the solution:

Попробуйте перезагрузить компьютер – try rebooting your computer

У вас стоит антивирус? – do you have antivirus software?

Вам нужно установить антивирус – you need to set up antivirus software

Вам нужно почистить компьютер – you need to clear out your computer

Checking out a webpage:

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

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

Зайдите на наш сайт! – visit our website!

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

На домашней странице – on the home page
Скажите, где кликнуть, чтобы попасть на эту страницу? – where should I click to load that page?

General internet vocab:

Лазить в интернете – to surf the internet

Сидеть в интернете – to be on the internet

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

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

Скачать с сайта – download from a site
Загружать файл – upload a file

Courtesy of RUSLINGUA
www.ruslingua.com

Ruslingua

Dare to ask Dare



Photo by Maria Savelieva

Expats and Russians alike ask celebrity columnist Deidre Dare questions about life in Moscow.

Dear Deidre:

It is obvious that we Russian people don't smile often or don't smile at all. How can we make people smile in the street, in the metro or just while meeting someone?

Dear Grins and Bears it:

During my time in Russia, I've tried the following techniques to get you locals to crack a smile:

Grinning maniacally at everyone I meet;

Doing a jig on the metro (a jig, by the way, is defined as "a lively folk dance");

Randomly handing out flowers to passing strangers;

Acting in an arbitrarily amusing manner - like unexpectedly breaking out into cheerful song on queues.

All to no avail whatsoever. All I've managed to achieve is to give the impression to the other residents of my 'hood that I am suffering from a rare American form of early-onset dementia.

So, alas, as far as I can tell, the answer to your question is: we can't.

xxooDD

Dear Deidre:

Do you believe that the saying "In Vino Veritas" is true?

Dear Student of Dead Languages:

I'm on the Vino right now and I'm telling the truth, so my first instinct was to answer "yes."

But then I took a moment and remembered some of the outrageous lies I've told whilst completely blotto.

"Of course I love you" is one of the more common and harmless misrepresentations I've come up with while under the influence. But some others have been real whoppers.

For some strange reason, for example, if I'm drinking something like vodka, I often tell people my father was part of the American army which liberated Paris. There isn't a grain of truth in that statement, but when I'm drunk I always think it's what happened. It's not that I'm lying per se - it's more like I'm hallucinating.

Since a mere bottle of wine won't bring on these delusions of mine, I'd have to say that I do believe that "in wine there is truth."

But, trust me, in vodka there are many, many lies. And that's probably a more relevant "truth" for all of us in Moscow. After all, who drinks only a bottle of wine here?

So when you're partying at Karma, don't believe a word anyone tells you.

xxooDD

Dear Deidre:

I am 35 years old and not married yet. For a Russian woman, this is a disaster! I read that my chances now of finding a husband are less than my chances of getting killed by terrorists! It is all depressing me a lot. Help!

Dear Panicked Single Gal:

Chill out.

I once believed that old malarkey also. And here I am: 42 years old with men fight-

ing over me left, right and centre. And no terrorist has gotten to me yet either.

But frankly if I was forced to choose between marriage or death inflicted by fanatical freak terrorist... Well, let's just say I'd have to think about it for a bit.

xxooDD

Dear Deidre:

I have recently been betrayed by someone I trusted. I can't get over it. Any advice?

Dear Trusting One:

My father (who was a part of the American army that liberated Paris) used to say "If you lay down with dogs, you get fleas." I've adapted that a bit since I've lived in Moscow.

I now say: "If you lay down with worms, you get slimed."

My advice is not to lay down with worms. And for good measure avoid the dogs in the future as well.

xxooDD

Dear Deidre:

I read that you are no longer writing for the Moscow News? Is that true? If so, why would anyone read that paper?

Dear Expat Fan:

I take the Fifth. Is there one here? If not, I take whatever one takes when in Russia.

xxooDD

(Vodka? - Ed.)

Do you have a question for Deidre Dare? If so, please email her at Deidre_Clark@hotmail.com.

COMMUNITY BOARD

PASSPORT magazine now has a 'Community Board' section on the home page of our website: www.passportmagazine.ru

If you have an announcement, such as a charity announcement, embassy notifications, that is not an outright commercial advertisement, please send them to: j.harrison@passportmagazine.ru

Holiday Poems

Illustrations by Catherine Hunter



A word from Lisa

"Another new addition to the popular Family Pages. While the cubs and I are away, here are some useful tips for your summer. In May, we sailed away with the Owl and the Pussycat. This month, two cautionary tales for your holidays: never trust a smiling crocodile, and keep your tails out of the water; then you might be able to tell the tale. Happy travels, from Lisa, Dasha, Masha, Sasha & Boris."

The Lady and the Crocodile

She sailed away
On a sunny summer day,
On the back of a crocodile.
"You see," said she,
"He's as tame as tame can be,
I'll ride him down the Nile."
The croc winked his eye
As she bade them all goodbye,
Wearing a happy smile.
At the end of the ride,
The lady was inside,
And the smile
Was on the crocodile.

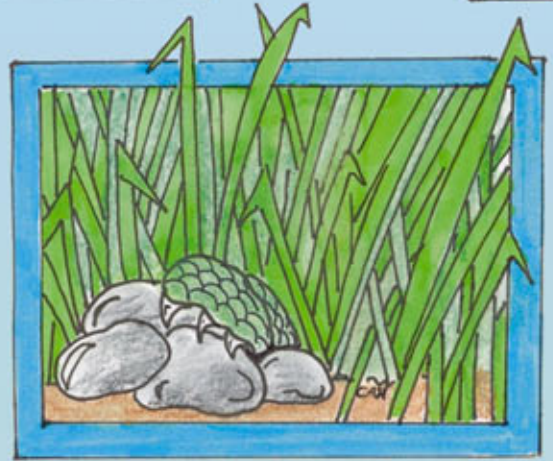


THE CROCODILE

by: Lewis Carroll (1832-1898)

HOW doth the little crocodile
Improve his shining tail,
And pour the waters of the Nile
On every golden scale!

How cheerfully he seems to grin!
How neatly spread his claws,
And welcomes little fishes in
With gently smiling jaws!



Puzzles compiled by Ross Hunter

1 Bridging Time

Summer is the time for strolling along the embankment or taking a cruise on the river. In the centre, there are four pedestrian only bridges over the Moscow river, two over the Vodootvodny Canal and one over the Yauza River. Six of them are pictured below. Can you match them to their names, and the biggest attractions or eye catching buildings next to them?

The bridge names and nearby landmarks are in order, going downstream. The photos are shuffled.



Bogdana Khmel Nitskogo, near Kievskaya Station



Frunzenskaya Nab., near Gorky Park

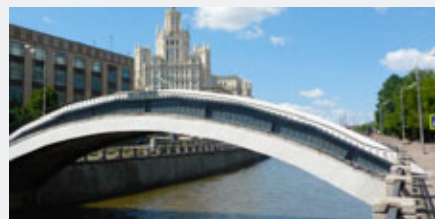
Prechistenskaya Nab., near Christ the Saviour Cathedral

Bolotnaya Nab., near the New Tretyakov



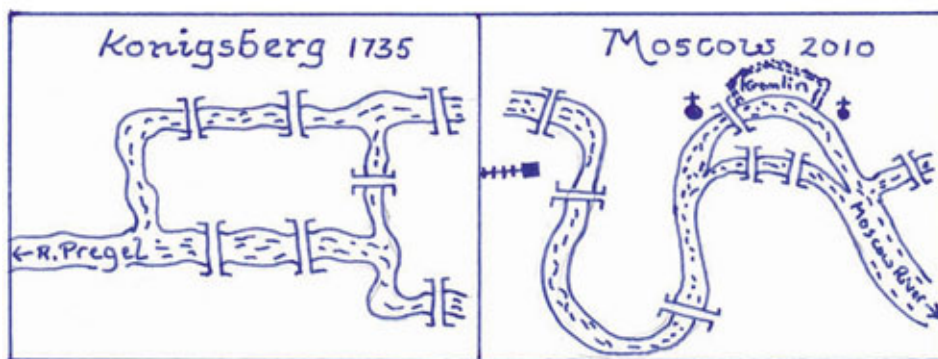
Luzhkov Br., near Bolotnaya gardens & Repin's statue

Tessinsky Br., near British Council & BBC



2 Timeless Bridge Puzzles

Leonid Euler invented the mathematical discipline of topology in 1735, while strolling over the seven bridges of Königsberg (currently Kaliningrad), by proving that you could not cross all 7 bridges only once on a walk. Can you work out why? Moscow's 7 foot bridges are similarly impossible! Removing one bridge or adding one, in the right places, would both make it possible. Can you tell where? (Hint: look for odd and even numbers of connections).



3 Prime Time

Like Miss Jean Brodie, I am in my Prime. But I had a birthday recently. Two prime number puzzles:

1 My irreverent IGCSE maths students asked me my age. Easy! This year I am a cube number times a prime number; last year my age was the product of two primes. Even my students can spot that I am over 21 and under 100. This only gives three possible ages. How old could I be?

2 They are <21, and realised that these rules fit those of one possible age. How old are they?

Two hints and clues:

a. curiously, '1' is not prime (it is a square and a cube number. Cubes: 1, 8, 27, 64 & 125);

b. prime numbers up to 100: 2 3 5 7 11 13 17 19 23 29 31 37 41 43 47 53 59 61 67 71 73 79 83 89 97

4 Mini Sudoku – July

6		3			
		4		2	6
	3		1	5	
	4				
	1	2			
3					1

5 June solutions

Mini Sudoku: see www.englishedmoscow.com

Bird puzzles:

Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Blue Tit, Tree Creeper, Great Tit.

Magic squares:

two more examples amongst many possible, a '15' & a '12'

2	7	6
9	5	1
4	3	8

8	4	0
1	6	5
3	2	7

In June, the story title A Quartet of Creative Cubs lost its last sentence. Sorry about that! Did you manage to guess it? If not, the story should have finished: Lisa asked the cubs what they thought of their busy summer. The twins said they had learned from their mistakes, which prompted Sasha and Boris to declare: "If something is worth doing, it's worth doing badly!"

Fish 'n' Chaps

Ian Mitchell

Why is fishing such an overwhelmingly male occupation? Perhaps it is because women have the good sense to do something more productive than wave rods about hoping they can deceive, with lure or bait, one of the less intelligent creatures on this planet. Women seem to know they are cleverer than fish, whereas many men feel the need to prove it on a regular basis.

That is one theory. Another, for which there is much evidence in this delightful book, is that fishing is balm to the soul. Unlike women, who prefer practical activities like earning money and getting on with life, men display a worrying desire for the peaceful contemplation of beauty, which fishing in the right environment permits.

Most people associate wild salmon with the Highlands of Scotland, as does the main character in this story, Dr Fred Jones, a fisheries scientist, who fell in love with angling there as a boy. His father used to take him on holidays to "the little spate rivers in the Flow Country or the West coast. We used to rent a bothy and sleep in that, my father and I gathering up wood to make a campfire, and if we caught a fish he'd show me how to gut it and cook it."

That was the explanation Jones gave to a wealthy sheikh who had come to Inverness-shire from one of the driest places on earth, the Yemen. He, too, has fallen in love with salmon fishing. The sheikh is a man of few words but has romantic visions about life. His motto is: "Faith comes before hope, and hope before love."

Jones described himself to the sheikh as having once been a boy "standing on the shingle of a wide stream turning silver and gold in the evening light, the bothy behind him, where smoke curls up from a wood fire. I remembered the low hills in the distance and the cries of the curlews and oystercatchers which had flown in from the estuary, and I remembered the stillness and fulfilment in my heart as I saw the fly come round

perfectly, and saw the swirl of the fish following it."

The sheikh feels that the soul-cleansing nature of salmon fishing would help his troubled country find peace. So, notwithstanding that salmon rivers tend to be in wet, cool places, His Excellency Sheikh Muhammad ibn Zaidi bani Tiham decides to employ Dr Jones to design and oversee a project to establish a salmon hatchery in the Arabian desert. I will not describe the plot in detail, but suffice it to say one of the nicer aspects is the unconditional demise of two of the villains of the story, the supercilious, media-driven Prime Minister of Great Britain and his manipulative, workaholic press secretary.

But they are peripheral to the tale, which has two main strands, the salmon project and the emotional development of Dr Jones. He is married to a mercilessly practical, emotionally stunted, high-achieving banker whom he met at Oxford. But he falls in love with the other important executive in the salmon project, the smart, attractive Miss Harriet Chetwode-Talbot. She is engaged to a British Army Captain serving in Iraq. When he is killed in action, she is devastated. She reaches out to Fred. But the age, class and culture gap between them is too wide to bridge, so he goes back to fish management, where he finds more peace and contentment than with women and the real world.

The story is told through a series of emails, press reports, Hansard entries and interview transcripts, which some readers might think interferes with the narrative flow. But a thread of satire on the ghastly emptiness of modern British bureaucratic life runs through the book. This is undoubtedly helped by the direct quotations.

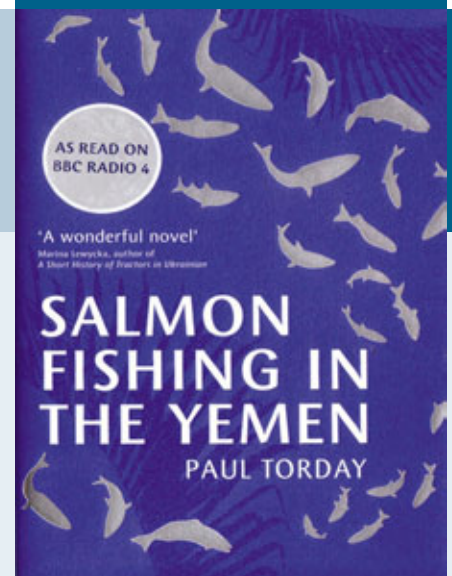
When Harriet, for example, distraught at the death of her beloved fiancé, tries to find out how he died and where, the Army is totally uninterested. She is referred to something called the Bereavement Management Centre in Grimsby, and sent a premium call rate phone number and an email address. When she per-

sists, she gets the email below from bereave@grimsby.com.

"Owing to the volume of enquiries and current MoD budgetary constraints, this operation has recently been offshored to Hyderabad, India. Please call us on 0800 400 8000 and you will be answered by one of our highly trained staff. All of our staff have taken the UK NVQ in bereavement counselling or a local equivalent of the same qualification. As this operation has only recently been transferred, you may experience some linguistic difficulties with some of our newer staff. Please be patient, they are seeking to do their best to help you. All calls will be monitored for training and quality purposes. The counselling is entirely free, but calls cost 50p per minute."

It is perhaps symptomatic of a country that treats its war widows in this way that the publishers of this book have seen fit to append to the author's text three pages of Reading Group Notes. These give suggested topics for discussion. Their patronising shallowness reflects exactly the point Paul Torday makes about the Bereavement Management Centre. One will serve to illustrate the whole: "Dr Jones has 'moved on from religion'. Instead of going to church on a Sunday, he goes to Tesco. Has he lost or gained?"

No wonder men go fishing. **P**



**Salmon Fishing
in the Yemen**
Paul Torday
Phoenix £7.99

NOTE:

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

AMERICAN

**CORREA'S

New American, non-smoking environment, cool comfort food at several Moscow locations

7 Ulitsa Gasheka, 789-9654

M. Mayakovskaya

STARLITE DINER

Paul O'Brien's 50s-style American Starlite Diners not only have the best traditional American breakfasts, lunches, and dinners in town, they draw a daily crowd for early morning 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

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

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

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

BEVERLY HILLS DINER ***NEW***

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

1 Ulitsa Sretenka,

M. Chisty Prudy

HARD ROCK CAFE

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

44 Stary Arbat, 205-8335

M. Smolenskaya

www.hardrock.com

21 PRIME ***NEW***

A new steakhouse from Doug Steele, with Australian beef and a modestly priced wine list.

21 Novy Arbat

M. Smolenskaya

ASIAN

ASIA HALL

Top class pan-Asian food in the Vremena Goda elitny mall on Kutuzovsky.

Kutuzovsky Prospekt 48, 788-5212

M. Slaviansky Bulvar

**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.turandotpalace.ru

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

With great views from the top floor of 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

DRUZHBA

Some say Druzhba is the only authentic Chinese in town, and very much like your corner Cantonese back home. Reasonable prices.

4 Ulitsa Novoslobodskaya, 973-1234

M. Novoslobodskaya

MR. LEE

Fashionable and expensive Chinese from Novikov.

7 Kuznetsky Most, 628-7678

M. Kuznetsky Most

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.coffeemia.ru

STARBUCKS

Now has 32 locations.

www.starbuckscoffee.ru

VOLKONSKY PEKARNYA-KONDITERSKAYA

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

2/46 Bolshoi Sadovaya

M. Mayakovskaya

EUROPEAN

**CARRE BLANC

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

9/2 Ul. Seleznevskaya, 258-4403

M. Novoslobodskaya

www.carreblanc.ru

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

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 ***NEW***

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

52/6 Kosmodamianskaya Nab, 221-5358

M. Paveletskaya

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

BON

Masterpieces of design art from Philippe Stark and filigree culinary skill from Arcadyi Novikov.

Yakimanskaya nab. 4, (495) 737 8008/09

M. Polyanka

bonmoscow.ru

**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 CAFE

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

11 Kuznetsky Most, 628-3580

M. Kuznetsky Most

www.jagannath.ru

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.lpq.ru

LATIN AMERICAN

**NAVARRO'S BAR & GRILL

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

23 Shmitovskiy Proezd, 259-3791

M. Mezhdunarodnaya

www.navarros.ru

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.

2 Rossolimo Ulitsa, (499) 766-4646

M. Park Kulury

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 minimalist 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

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

KINKI

Authentic Japanese kitchen with amazing seafood delicacies like Tasmanian salmon, Madagascar shrimp and others. The range of Japanese drinks is extremely wide. You can taste true Japanese sake – rice-based hot drink – which is served in a special Japanese way.

11, Osennaya Str., (495) 781-1697

M. Krylatskoye

www.kinkigrill.ru

**NOBU

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

M. Okhotny Ryad

www.noburestaurants.ru

ICHIBAN BOSHI

High-quality, affordable Japanese with cool ambience. Several locations. 22 Krasnaya Presnya Ulitsa, (499) 255-0909

M. Krasnopresnenskaya

50 Ulitsa Bolshaya Yakimanka

M. Polyanka

www.ichiban.ru

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 Neglinskaya 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 SOLNITSE PUSTYNI

Named after *White Desert Sun*, one of the USSR's favorite films. An eclectic Central Asian menu that includes Azerbaijan and Uzbek cuisine. 29 Ul. Neglinskaya, 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

GUSYATNIKOFF

The latest VIP Russian restaurant in an 18th century estate. 24 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

TSDL

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

50 Povarskaya Ul, 290-1589

M. Okhotny Ryad, Teatralnaya

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 Prechistinskaya 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. Zatspeysky Val, 953-2876

M. Paveletskaya

3 Bolshoi Kozlovsky Pereulok, 623-1098

M. Krasniye Vorota

www.elgauchor.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.torrogrill.ru

BARS AND CLUBS

KARMA BAR

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

3 Pushhechnaya 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. Open 23:00-06:00

2/3 Tarasa Shevchenko Naberezhnaya, 203-6008, 203-6556

M. Kievskaya

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. Tverskaya

PYATNICA BAR

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

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

www.pyatnica-bar.ru

PAPA'S

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

2 Myasnitskaya Ulitsa, 755-9554

M. Kitai-Gorod

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



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Blooming Sakura
Bookafe
Cafe des Artistes
Cafe Atlas
Cafe Courvoisier
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Cafe Michelle
Cafe Mokka
Cantinetta Antinori
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Coffee Bean
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Cutty Sark
Da Cicco
Darbar
French Cafe
Gallery of Art
Guilly's
Hard Rock Cafe
Hotdogs
Ichiban Boshi
Il Patio
Italianets
Katie O'Sheas
Labardans
Liga Pub
Louisiana Steak House
Molly Gwynn's Pub
Navaros
Night Flight
Pancho Villa
Papa's
Pizza Express
Pizza Maxima
Planeta Sushi
Prognoz Pogody
Real McCoy
Rendezvous
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Shafran
Shamrock
Shanti
Silvers Irish Pub
Simple Pleasures
Starbucks Mega Khimki
Starbucks Arbat 19
Starbucks Mega Belaya Dacha
Starbucks Moscow City Center
Starbucks Arbat 38
Starbucks Scheremetyevo

Starbucks Dukat
Starbucks Tuskaya
Starbucks Galereya Akter
Starbucks Metropolis Business Plaza
Starbucks Zemlyanoi Val
Starbucks Pokrovka
Starbucks Chetyre Vetra
Starbucks on Kamergersky
Starbucks Baltchug
Starbucks Festival
Starbucks Belaya Ploschad
Starbucks MDM
Starbucks Fifth Avenue Business center
Starbucks on Akademika
Plekhanova Street
Starbucks Schuka Business Center
Starbucks Zvezdochka
Starbucks Sokolniki
Starbucks Druzhba
Starbucks Mega Teply Stan
Starbucks Severnoye Siyaniye
Starbucks Atrium
Starlite Diner
Sudar
T. G. I. Friday's
Talk of the Town
Tapa de Comida
Tesoro
Vanilla Sky
Vogue Cafe
Yapona Mama

Hotels

Akvarel Hotel Moscow
Art-Hotel
Barvikha Hotel&spa
Belgrad
Courtyard by Marriott
Globus
Golden Apple Hotel
East-West
Hilton Leningradskaya
Iris Hotel
Katerina-City Hotel
Marriott Grand
Marriot Royal Aurora
Marriott Tverskaya
Metropol
Mezhdunarodnaya 2
Maxima Hotels
National
Novotel 1, 2
Proton
Radisson Slavyanskaya
Renaissance
Sheraton Palace
Soyuz
Sretenskaya
Swissotel Krasnye Holmy
Tiflis
Volga
Zavidovo
Zolotoye Koltso

Business Centers

American Center
Business Center Degtyarny
Business Center Mokhovaya

Dayev Plaza
Ducat Place 2
Dunaevsky 7
Gogolevsky 11
Iris Business Center
Japan House
Lotte Plaza
Meyerkhold House
Morskoi Dom
Mosalko Plaza
Moscow Business Center
Mosenka 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Novinsky Passage
Olympic Plaza
Romanov Dvor
Samsung Center
Sodexho

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Medical Centers

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American Dental Clinic
American Dental Center
American Medical Center
European Dental Center

European Medical Center
German Dental Center
International SOS
US Dental Care
MedinCentre

Others

American Chamber of Commerce
American Express
Anglo-American School
American Institute of Business and Economics
Association of European Businesses
Astravel
Aviatransagentstvo
Baker Hughes
British International School
Coca Cola
Citibank
Concept MR, ZAO
Dr. Loder's
DHL
English International School
Ernst & Young
Evans Property Services
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Foreign Ministry Press Center
General Electric
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Halliburton International
Hinkson Christian Academy
Imperial Tailoring Co.
Interpochta
Ital-Market
JAL
JCC
Jones Lang LaSalle
LG Electronics
Mega/IKEA
Moscow Voyage Bureau
Move One Relocations
NB Gallery
Park Place
PBN Company
Penny Lane Realty
Philips Russia
Pilates Yoga
Pokrovky Hills
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Procter & Gamble
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Reuters
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