

# PASSPORT

MOSCOW

JUNE 2010

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



- **Interview with Leonid Shishkin**  
The non-Soviet aspects of Soviet Art
- Restaurant Reviews: L'Albero, Tatler Club and 21 Prime
- Timeless Torzhok
- Book Review: The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo



# Passport Magazine Seminars for Expats:

Living in Russia - the Practicalities

Speakers:

Stefan Schmidt, Allianz Rosno

Nathan Stowell, Crown Relocations

Elena Semonova, Four Squares

Ross Hunter, The English International School

June 11th, 16:00 to 18:30

Buddies Cafe, 12 Tverskaya Street, Building 8, 125009 Moscow

+7 (495) 694-02-29

Entrance free, all welcome. Refreshments will be served and prizes raffled.



These seminars are designed to provide a format where experience can be shared amongst the expat community. Time will be allocated for questions and answers.

For further details please contact the Passport editorial office:  
[seminar@passportmagazine.ru](mailto:seminar@passportmagazine.ru)





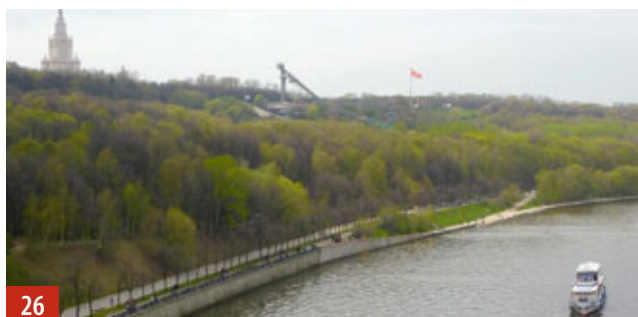
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**John Ortega**  
Owner and Publisher

Soviet Art, seemingly boring and Socialist Realist, turns out to be an amazingly rich juxtaposition of contrasting styles and genres. This is the opinion of gallerist, Leonid Shishkin, as he explains in an interview on page 10. Soviet Art has indeed become the theme of this issue, with a painting by Yuri Pimenov 'Ball at Olympia's House' on the cover. In this month's 'Russian Reflections' section, Tobie Mathews offers a chilling insight into literary censorship under Stalin, a time when Osip Mandelstam (before he died in a labour camp) quipped: "Poetry is taken so seriously in Russia that people are even shot for it." We all know that Alaska was Russian, but do we know how, and under what circumstances, the Russians sold off these extensive territories? In this issue we publish the first of a two-part series by Yuri Samoilov on the sale of Alaska.

In our travel section, Larissa Franczek takes us to picture-postcard, yet mostly unknown, Torzhok, only a four-hour train ride from Moscow. The one-upmanship present between Washington and New York, and London and Edinburgh for example, is also present in Russia, when citizens of the present day capital; Moscow, talk down their noses about yesterday's capital St. Petersburg, and *vice versa*. This article on the subject by Maya Rusanova may be of interest to anybody planning a trip to the 'Northern capital', or interested in good old Russian 'snobizm'.

In our 'Your Moscow' section, Ross Hunter takes us for a quick tour of three interconnected parks: Gorky Park, Neskuchny Sad and Sparrow Hills, whilst Katrina Marie walks us down one of Moscow's oldest streets: Bolshaya Ordinka.

Whatever your interests, I hope there is something for you in this issue of PASSPORT.

## Event especially for disabled people

An Open Theatre event for disabled people is being held on the 5th June in Ekaterinsky Park. Participants can take part in a variety of sports activities, receive information about jobs and education, communicate and listen to music. Special master-classes will be held.

Everybody who wants to spend a Saturday in the open air is welcome. The long-term goal is to change society's attitude to invalids.

The lives of disabled people in Russia are still far from what is considered to be normal in other countries and in Russia their opportunities are very limited. Open Theatre aims to change all this.

Sponsored by ROLF in Ekaterinsky Park, on the 5th June, Bolshaya Ekaterinskaya Ulitsa, Dom 27 (entrance from Olympic Prospekt). Start: 15:00 For further info call Marina Glushkova, Julia Antipova, (495) 967 9671. Mobile: 8 916 854 4973 meglushkova@rikf.ru; YOAntipova@rolf.ru www.opentheatre.ru



## 'Usadba' celebrates its anniversary

'Usadba' real estate agency recently celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the Moscow real estate market at the Turandot restaurant. The day was spent in private, with employees and long-term customers. Besides, the anniversary year was marked by a move to the one of the best business centres of A-class in Moscow, which is situated in the truly *deluxe* residential area, 9 Trekhpudny Lane.

The 'Usadba' company started its development in the Rublevo-Uspenskoe highway area and continued its operation entering other market segments. It evolved from a small to a wide-ranging company. Today it is one of the most outstanding representatives at the *deluxe* real estate market.



Cover painting by Yuri Pimenov 'Ball at Olympia's House'

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## Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup>

### One Republic

Featuring the anthemic songwriting of Ryan Tedder, One Republic rose to prominence in 2007, when "Apologize" began its reign as the most popular digital download in American history. Hip-hop producer Timbaland took notice of the group's audience and signed One Republic to his own Mosley Music Group, a joint venture with Interscope Records. Timbaland also remixed one of the group's most promising tracks, Apologize, and included it on his own album, 2007's Shock Value. The song quickly became a platinum-selling single in many countries, breaking airplay records in the UK, selling an unprecedented 4.3 million digital downloads in America alone.

*B1 Maximum, 21:00*



### Blackberry Café's Gastronomic Celebrity Wednesdays

In May, Blackberry Café held a master-class gala-dinner with head chef Luisa Pestano of the luxury resort, Reid's Palace, in Madeira, Portugal. Celebrities, businessmen, and expats - the event was all you could ask for! Every Wednesday the Café holds a Gastro-nomic Celebrity Dinner. Instead of going to a bar before the club, why not do something different?

*Blackberry Café, 10, Prospekt Akademika Sakharova,  
www.blackberrys.ru*

## Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup>

### Oomph!

Hailed as pioneers of the German 'tanz metal' (dance metal) scene and heavily influencing late-'90s acts like Rammstein, Oomph! were arguably one of the most controversial, influential, and popular German goth-industrial bands to emerge in the early '90s. 2009 onwards saw the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Oomph! The band didn't even think of taking it easy but was looking ahead towards the new decade.

*B1 Maximum, 21:00*

## Tenors of the XXI Century

Tenors of the XXI Century are leading soloists of the Moscow opera houses (the Bolshoi Theater, Stanislavsky and Nemirovich-Danchenko Theatre, Novaya Opera) performing at the best venues in Milan, Dresden, New York, Tokyo, etc. Tonight Tenors of the XXI Century perform compositions by Spanish and Latin American composers. Participants: Alexander Zakharov (tenor), Maxim Paster (tenor), Yuri Medyanik (violin, bandoneon).

*MMDM, Chamber Hall, 19:00*

### Tim Amann (UK, jazz)

The Tim Amann Band plays melodic and soulful contemporary jazz. With various additions over time, the original quartet comprises Tim Amann (piano, composer and arranger), Sam Rogers (saxes), Adam Gilchrist (bass) and Carl Hemmingsley (drums). The group plays a wide variety of lyrical original jazz compositions with influences ranging from folk to soul and gospel. The four core members of the group are also part of the award winning Walsall Jazz Orchestra.

*Soyuz Kompozitorov Club, 20:30*

## Friday, 4<sup>th</sup>

### President Symphony Orchestra of Turkey

President Symphony Orchestra of Turkey perform Erkin's Dance rhapsody for orchestra, play for orchestra; Tuzun's Breeze; Altinel's Origins of Night; Alnar's Prelude and two dances; Schumann's symphony No. 4. Cem Mansur conducts.

*Column Hall of the House of Unions, 9:00*

### Fun Lovin' Criminals (rock, USA)

The New York trio known as Fun Lovin' Criminals hit the alternative airwaves with a blend of hip-hop beats, alternative style, and bluesy rhythms. FLC played around the area, and released their self-titled debut album in 1995 on the Silver Spotlight label. Signed to Capitol the following year, the group gained popularity as an alternative radio hit with their single Scooby Snacks, which featured samples from films by Quentin Tarantino. In 1997, the band played stateside dates as U2's opening act on their Popmart tour. Eighteen months later, FLC returned with 100% Colombian. Love Unlimited and Korean Bodega were red-hot hits across Europe and moderate favorites on college radio in the States.

*Green Theater, 20:00*

## Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup>

### Asia Pacific Women's Group (APWG) Charity Bazaar 2010

Shoppers to the Bazaar will be spoilt for choice with the many unique handi-crafts for sale from the Asia-Pacific Region as well as ethnic food to tantalize your taste buds. Be entertained with songs and traditional dances by the children of the orphanages and members of the APWG. Other highlights include lucky draws with a Samsung 46" television as one of the top prizes, a silent auction of paintings and a bronze sculpture by famous Russian artists, hotel vouchers and more. Proceeds will be donated to the APWG adopted orphanages and charity projects. Entrance tickets are only 100 rubles.

*Radisson Hotel, M.Kievskaya*

*10:00-16:00*



## Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup>

The International Women's Club of Moscow invites you to a Meet & Greet coffee at Le Pain Quotidien (Novinsky building, 7). Great opportunity to join IWC and to socialize.

*Le Pain Quotidien, also Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup>*

*For more information please see  
www.iwcmoscow.ru*

### Usadba-Jazz

Arkhangelskoye Estate is the official venue for Usadba Jazz festival. More than 30 Russian and foreign groups are taking part, such as Jazzanova (Germany), Giulia y los Tellarini (Spain), Zap Mama (Belgium). There will be three main stages: 'Whim', where swing and rock'n-roll reigns, 'Orchestra' with jazz-rock and world music as the main theme, and 'Aristocrat' where traditional jazz sound will be heard. Over 30 Russian and foreign bands will take part. The stage 'Livejournal session' gives everyone the chance to take part in a mega-jam-session with famous jazz musicians.

*Arkhangelskoye Estate, 5<sup>th</sup> kilometer of Il'inskoye shosse, also Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup>,  
12:00-23:00*

## Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup>

### Arsenal (jazz-rock, Russia)

Formed about 30 years ago by Alexey Kozlov and recently re-formed with a new line-up, Arsenal has a special place in Russian musical culture. It symbolizes innovation, a fascinating fusion of different genres going far beyond pop-culture and show business. Arsenal collaborates with the likes of Tamara Gvardtsiteli, Yuri Bashmet, the Moscow Male Jewish Choir 'Hasidic Capella', Shostakovich Quartet to name a few.

*MMDM Svetlanov Hall, 19:00*

### Guns 'n' Roses

At a time when pop was dominated by dance music and pop-metal, Guns N' Roses brought raw, ugly rock'n'roll crashing back into the charts. They were not nice boys; nice boys don't play rock'n'roll. They were ugly, misogynist, and violent. They were also funny, vulnerable, and occasionally sensitive, as their breakthrough hit, 'Sweet Child o' Mine', showed. While Slash and Izzy Stradlin ferociously spit out dueling guitar riffs worthy of Aerosmith or the Stones, Axl Rose screeches out his tales of sex, drugs and apathy in the big city.

*Olimpiyskiy Sportcomplex, 19:00*

### Randy Klein

Randy Klein is a multi-talented jazz pianist and composer. He pursued a very successful career, winning four Emmy awards for film soundtracks. The musician and composer masterfully uses a combination of different genres referred to as 'jazz eclectics': solo piano improvisations, jazz standards with and without vocal, songs for musicals and shows, music for television, pop-music, country and R&B.

*Soyuz Kompozitorov Club, 20:30*

## Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup>

### Deftones (rock, USA)

Deftones were one of the first groups to alternate heavy riffs and screamed vocals with more ethereal music and hushed singing, spawning a fair amount of imitators. They are an American rock band from Sacramento, California, formed in 1988 and consisting of Chino Moreno (lead vocals and guitar), Stephen Carpenter (guitar), Chi Cheng (bass), Frank Delgado (keyboards and turntables), and Abe Cunningham (drums and percussion). They have released six albums to date, with their most recent, Diamond Eyes, coming out this spring.

*B1 Maximum, 21:00*

## Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup>

The International Women's Club of Moscow presents: General meeting - boat trip!

*For further details see web site: [www.iwcmoscow.ru](http://www.iwcmoscow.ru)*

## Friday, 11<sup>th</sup>

### Philip Subbotin (piano)

Whilst still a student of the Gnessin Academy of Music in Moscow, the young pianist Philipp Subbotin won the First Prize at The Art of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competition in Vicenza, Italy (2002) and established a reputation as a brilliant performer of Mozart's clavier concertos. Philipp continued his education under the famous Ivan Moravec at the Prague Academy of Performing Arts. Tonight Philipp Subbotin performs Mozart's Sonata in E minor; Beethoven's Sonata in F major; Dvorak's Sonata in G major; Smetana's From the Home Country; and Sveceny's Paganiniada.

*MMDM, Chamber Hall, 19:00*

## Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup>

### Boy George (pop, UK)

Boy George is now more than just a talented London musician. The singer and DJ has been in the public eye for a quarter of a century, first finding fame as the androgynous 'gender bender' front man for Culture Club, who affronted Middle England with his appearances on Top of the Pops in full make-up, effeminate clothes and long, ribboned hair. At the top of his career, Boy George turned his attention to acid-house, founding his own label, More Protein, and starting to write hits for dance floors. In 2007, he released new album, Time Machine, and took part in Kylie Minogue's album production.

*B1 Maximum, 21:00*



## Peter Mamonov (songs, monologues & theatre)

In 1995, leaving behind the over-the-top pleasures of his 'shaking-the-stage' life, Mamonov secluded himself from society in the Moscow forests, and settled down in his wooden house somewhere near the town of Vereya to concentrate on two dozens cats and reading the Holy Writ. Sometimes he comes back to us to sing new songs and present his one-man show to the Moscow aesthetes. His concerts combining songs, monologues and theatre actions, are fascinatingly thrilling: kind of funny, kind of shocking, sending shivers down the spine and provoking one thought: Genius!

*16 Tons club, 21:00*

## Sunday, 13<sup>th</sup>

### Laura Garcia (jazz, Spain)

The Soyuz Kompozitorov Club welcomes Laura Garcia with a solo program, Flamenca de Segovia. The Aflamencados dancing troupe delivers a unique and brightly expressive performance. Spanish dancer Laura Garcia demonstrated her mastery at major venues in Spain, Italy and USA. Laura takes part in grandiose dance projects launched by theatres in Rome, Madrid, Grenada, Seville, Cordova and other cities.

*Soyuz Kompozitorov club, 20:30*

## Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup>

### Gala Concert, closing of the season (classical music)

The Moscow Symphony Orchestra, Russian Philharmonic, conducted by Maxim Fedotov, performs Vivaldi's Four Seasons; Rimsky-Korsakov's Spanish Capriccio; Mussorgsky's Dawn at Moscow River; Borodin's Polovtsian Dances from the opera Prince Igor and Ravel's Bolero.

*MMDM, Svetlanov Hall, 19:00*

## IX Festival of Sand Sculpture

From 1 May to 30 September, VDNKH (All-Russia Exhibition Centre) is hosting the IX International Festival of Sand Sculptures. The best domestic and foreign sculptors are creating breathtaking figures out of sand. This year the mysterious moments of our past are the main theme of the exhibition. Visitors will see giant dinosaurs, volcanoes, UFO people and many other outstanding things.

*All-Russia Exhibition Centre, metro VDNKH, 10.00-23.00 – every day, tickets: 100-250 rubles.*



# IX Chekhov International Theatre Festival

Elena Rubinova

Performances at the Jubilee Chekhov International Theatre Festival in June represent both traditional theatre and experiments in dance and music. Two dance versions of *The Cherry Orchard* and *Platonov* are expected to sell out fast and become one of the most attended performances in the Festival calendar.

In Chekhov's world, there were multiple perspectives and this is probably one of the reasons why his plays are so often transformed by various theatre directors into genres that the author himself could hardly have imagined. Not in his wildest imagination could he have envisaged that his last play, *The Cherry Orchard*, would serve as endless inspiration to modern choreographers. The stage version being performed in Moscow, directed by Mats Ek of the Royal Dramatic Theatre of Stockholm, tries to portray "a drama about time and loss of time", as the famous Swedish choreographer refers to his own vision of the play.

Another attempt to tap into Chekhov's spiritual message in *The Cherry Orchard* is brought to Moscow audiences by the outstanding Taiwanese choreographer and founder of the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan, LIN Hwai-min, a fourth-time guest of Chekhov International Festival. This production, to be staged on June 10-13, is based on *The Cherry Orchard* and performed to music for solo cello by J. S. Bach. The creative ideas for *Whisper of Flowers* came from both the classical Chinese literature work, *Dream of Red Chamber*, written around the middle of the eighteenth century and Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*. Lin's imagery in the dance is one of exuberance fading into unknown darkness. He also forsook the characters and drama of the original play and illustrated this universal theme with the use of metaphors.

"In Hwai-min's production of the *Cherry Orchard* and its inhabitants, its angels and demons, its dead and its living, its metaphysics of light and shadows become the key elements, the central metaphor and the environment of the acting space," says Russian theatre critic Alyona Karas, who went to see Lin Hwai-min's Chekhovian meditation in 2008 when it premiered in Taiwan.

The performance opens on a stage full of red petals. As dancers leap and run with abandonment, petals are tossed into different 'geographies'.



New productions of Chekhov's plays at Moscow theatres are also part of the June festival program. The Stanislavsky Moscow Drama Theatre is dedicating 'The Chekhov Brothers' to Chekhov's personality, his childhood and personal life.

"Our intention was to explore the time when the young Chekhov was maturing into the great classical writer Anton Chekhov," says Director Alexander Galibin. The play is to be staged on June 15-16.

Chekhov Gala is a composition of five one-act plays by Anton Chekhov directed by Alexei Borodin of the Russian Academic Youth Theatre.

"Each story storms into another, interrupting and overtaking its predecessor. It is a kaleidoscope of human passions, a collision of absurd situations and impracticable intentions that evolve into a sparkling Chekhovian phantasmagoria," says Alexei Borodin about his vision of this play. It premieres on June 17.

The month finishes off with *Platonov*, put on by the National Drama Center of Madrid on 29-30 June. This early play is also known as *A Play Without a Title*. It was written in 1878, but published only in 1923. It is famous because of two productions: one a successful 1984 adaptation by UK playwright Michael Frayn; the second a highly rewarding performance by Lev Dodin at the Maly Theatre of St. Petersburg, staged in 1997. The latter version inspired a celebrated film: *An Unfinished Piece for Mechanical Piano*, made by Russian film director Nikita Mikhalkov in 1976.

Juan Mayorga's *Platonov* runs to two and a half hours, which is much shorter than the original. The Spanish dramatist cut the meandering text of the young Chekhov, which has a lot of storylines and is generally regarded as juvenilia. Geraldo Vera and his actors set a fast rhythm enabling the inner pulse of Chekhov's play to reach the pitch of a hurricane.

"*Platonov* is a captivating world in which the characters experience the same existential pains that torture the more emblematic personages of Chekhov's great plays; characters that became a perfect mirror for all the social and cultural prototypes of late 19<sup>th</sup> century Russian society," says Gerardo Vera about the play that had a triumphal reception in Spain, where it premiered in March 2009. **P**

**PASSPORT will continue to cover the Chekhov International Theatre Festival. The full program of the Festival can be found at [chekhovfest.ru](http://chekhovfest.ru)**

## From Raphael to Goya

Two museums are collaborating to bring you some fantastic art in June. The Museum of Fine Arts from Budapest is displaying paintings at the Moscow Museum of Fine Arts. The two museums themselves are almost twins: look at the eclectic-neoclassical style of their design, their dates of construction—both in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century—and their cultural interaction for years.

Irina Aleksandrovna Antonova, the director of the Moscow Museum of Fine Arts, manages to arrange new exhibitions in a way that enable one to learn more about the visual arts not only from Russian artefacts but also from those of museum's counterparts. Thus, coming up in June, we have the chance to

view, right here in Moscow, sixty classical paintings from the Esterhazy collection of the Budapest Museum, including masterpieces by Raphael, Giorgione, Titian, Veronese, Tintoretto, Dürer, Hals, Velázquez, José de Ribera, El Greco, Goya and others.

The Spanish painters are a special object of pride at the Budapest Museum. Its collection is comparable to that of the Prado in Madrid. The title of the exhibition, *From Raphael to Goya*, promises to provoke new queues around the building in Volkhonka Street after the successful Picasso show.

*From June 8  
Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts  
Open: 10:00-19:00*



## When the Trees Were Tall

At the Lumiere Brothers' Centre for Photography they have adopted a safe strategy for displaying reportage photographs: by decades, as part of an anthology of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Some people have asked: "What exactly does the curator do in such a show?" But the very first show, *The 60s*, which was held two years ago at the Central House of Artists, turned out to be very competent, even when compared to the simultaneous PhotoBiennale, for example.

Choosing pictures for a show to be arranged by decades does produce curious results. Those buildings, fashion, ways of

life captured in the photographs evoke scents, tastes and music from deep down in our memories, and this is all in a time when today's ten year olds think that sms and emails are the only way to write messages, and that photographs are printed only from flash cards. This summer, the Lumiere Brothers Gallery is presenting new exhibitions in a larger space at the Red October Gallery, with pictures by best Soviet reporters: Dubinsky, Abaza, Gnevashev, all of whom worked for the Soviet news agencies: Rian, Itar Tass.

*May 28 – August 1  
Lumiere Brothers Gallery  
3, Bolotnaya embankment, building 1  
Open: 11:00-20:00, every day except Monday*

## Ottoman Sultans' Treasures

The Topkapi Palace is a fantastic example of a rambling ensemble of buildings making up an Ottoman palace. Those who have visited Istanbul will know that it is also home to numerous exhibits and relics such as the prophet Muhammed's cloak and sword. This palace was the major residence of the Sultans from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and maintains under one roof the best examples of what Turkish artisans, sculptors created during those four hundred years.

It may be rather difficult to define a specifically 'Ottoman' culture, so large and diverse was the Ottoman empire, yet in such centres as the Topkapi Palace, one can certainly speak about the national peculiarities of that culture.

This is the first time that treasures from the Palace are being displayed in Moscow. More than a hundred exhibits illustrate the every-day life of the Ottoman Sultans. There are gorgeous weapons including parade helmets, swords, some of which belonged to Suleiman the Magnificent. He was the longest-reigning Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, ruling from 1520 till his death in 1566. Here you can find costumes, jewelry and certainly manuscripts of the Koran created in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, miniatures never shown in Russia before.

*May 25-August 15  
Moscow Kremlin, Cross Chamber of the Patriarchal Palace  
Open: 10:00-17:00, open every day except Thursdays  
[www.kreml.ru](http://www.kreml.ru)*





## Alexandra Exter

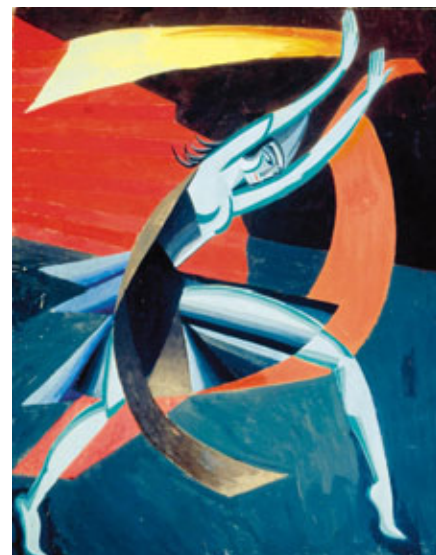
### Goddess from the avant-garde

It is impossible to imagine the Russian art of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century without Alexandra Exter. This Byelorussian-born artist who lived in Kiev, Moscow, Toscana and Paris, an apprentice of Malevitch and a great admirer of Etruscan art, was a bright star of the Russian avant-garde. He took part in all that group's major exhibitions, including those organised by the 'Jack of Diamonds' and: 'Union of Youth', '№ 4', 'Tram B', 'Shop', '5x5=25', also exhibitions in Berlin, Venice, Vienna, Paris and Prague in the late 1920s. After that decade and her death in 1949 she was largely forgotten, and only exhibitions held in the 1970s, held in Europe and in the USA (Lincoln Center, New York) reminded the world that

Exter was actually one of the leading lights in the avant-garde movement.

She created Cubo-Futurism, and played a vital role in familiarizing Russian viewers with the latest developments of the Parisian avant-garde. Being friends with Pablo Picasso, Fernand Léger, Robert and Sonia Delaunay, Guillaume Apollinaire and many other brilliant figures of the time, she promoted their work in Russia.

In her own work, she demonstrated ways for Russian artists to adapt their discoveries. The current exhibition at the Moscow Museum of Modern Art is actually Exter's first retrospective and presents collections of several museums at once: Bakhrushin State Theatre Museum, Moscow Museum of Modern Art, National Art Museum of Ukraine, Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts and State Russian Museum, St. Petersburg.



May 29-August 22, 2010  
Moscow Museum of Modern Art, 25,  
Petrovka Street  
10:00-20:00, open every day except  
Monday



## Tonino Guerra's Rainbow

Dom Nashchokina Gallery presents an exhibition celebrating Tonino Guerra's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was a brilliant playwright, author and co-author of numerous films by Fellini, Antonioni, Bertolucci and Tarkovsky, architect, designer, sculptor and author of pictures, mosaics, and interiors. The latter will be on display. He is thought of as a Renaissance artist because he is so broad-minded and multi-talented, and constantly manages the most surprising

things. For example, he laid out a garden of forgotten fruits as described in Catherine De Medici's medicine books near the small medieval Pennabilli in the mountains where the maestro usually spends the winter. Guerra's paintings are like poems, and radiate happiness. He believed that a drop of water is a miracle of creation, something that is expressed in his art and is constantly revealed to other people.

Dom Nashchokina Gallery  
From May 27, open: 12.00-21.00 daily  
[www.domnashchokina.ru](http://www.domnashchokina.ru)

## Watermark: Commemorating Brodsky

It would have been the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday of Joseph Brodsky on 24 May. The Nobel Prize laureate's poetry, prose, essays, lectures, views and personal story attract more and more attention. Joseph Brodsky threw a bridge between Russian and world literature. After emigrating from the USSR he lived mainly in the USA, but his favourite city remained Venice, which he always visited in winter. His essay, Watermark, essay declared his love for the city. According to his will, Brodsky was buried in San Michele where thousands of his fans come to pay tribute. Konstantin Leyfer and Galina Bystritskaya are authors of the exhibition at the Vspolny Gallery.

In photographs and paintings, they illuminate Brodsky's favourite corners of the city. Bystritskaya created landscapes in an expressive manner, whereas Leyfer was the author of the winter mood works dedicated to Brodsky. The photographs and paintings follow the text of the Watermark essay, not illustrating it but recreating the ties between Venice, the city



on the water, and Saint-Petersburg, another city on the water which is often called the Venice of the North, and was where Brodsky was born.

Gallery at Vspolny, 3 Vspolny Pereulok  
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# The French

# Connection

Elena Rubinova

For three months, French modern art will be all the rage in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Nizhny Novgorod, Ekaterinburg, and other Russian cities. The public will be able to see the best works by Bernard Lavier, Claude Leveque and Annette Messenger, the *crème de la crème* of French contemporary art.

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, to think of modern art was to think Paris, Montparnasse, post-impressionism or the early days of cubism. It was, some say, French art that defined the art process for at least half a century before the center of contemporary art drifted to New York and later to London. Nevertheless, at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, French modern art is strongly felt on the international art scene. Artists selected for the Moscow exhibitions fully represent this tendency.

From 21 May to 4 July, TSUM Art Foundation ( [www.tsum.ru](http://www.tsum.ru), ul Petrovka, 2) is mounting an exhibition of Bertrand Lavier's work. M Lavier is one of the most respected contemporary French artists of the older generation (born in 1949). The exhibition presents 13 works of different genres covering the artist's creative work from the early 1980s. Painted objects, murals, video-art outline the whole landscape of Lavier's works displayed in 2000 square metres of exhibition area.

"It took us a long time to make a decision what would be the best site for the future exhibition. Lavier came to Moscow several times to absorb the atmosphere of this city. He selected very provocative and unusual works for his Moscow show", says Maria Kravtsova, curator of the exhibition.

Lavier often works with the signs and symbols of mass culture transforming them into something unrecognizable. He reacts to contemporary consumer fashions, but everything he does has a rare touch of intelligence and wit. Lavier inhabits the border between art and reality, finding his personal distinction between fine art and popular art. He is one of the few artists whom critics define as being both an intellectual and a popular artist at the same time. Lavier considers that his art brings together incompatible elements to create hybrids, and says he was influenced by his educational background in horticulture.

"If you combine an orange with a mandarin, you get a tangerine. Similarly, when I paint a piano or put a fridge on a safe, the result seems to float between two separate things. Under the layers of paint is the real piano, but you can also concentrate on the paint as paint. One could say that my works are like tangerines", said Lavier in an interview.

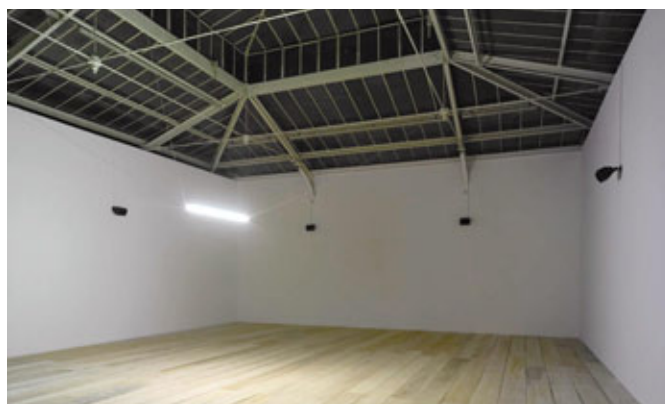
His famous pieces about Walt Disney, created back in the 1980s or a Lips Sofa, which was produced on the basis of sketches by Salvador Dali, are considered iconic images of modern art. During his long and successful career, Lavier has exhibited at numerous international venues, including New York's Museum of Modern Art, the Tate Gallery in London, the Pompidou Centre in Paris, and the Venice Biennale.



*B.Lavier Walt Disney*



*Pacific Blue Picasso*



*2004 Ligne blanche*





Lavie

The National Centre for Contemporary Art ([www.ncca.ru](http://www.ncca.ru) Zoologicheskaya ul, 13) offers a huge installation by another, no less distinguished and prolific, French veteran artist, Claude Leveque (born in 1953). The installation, called *Ende*, from the FNAC collection, initially shown in 2001 in Yvon Lambert Paris gallery, has been recreated here in Moscow. It starts out as a typical installation: a black curtain waiting to be pushed aside. Follow it through and you're led into a soft-walled, soft-floored, pitch black space. This is supposed to be what the total unknown feels like. One of Joe Dassin's songs performed by Leveque's mother is heard in total darkness. Leveque has participated in more than 90 group exhibitions. Last year represented France at the Venice Art Biennale with the installation, *The Great Evening* (*Le Grand Soir*) that turned a national pavilion into a prison. Coming of age in the 1980s, Leveque became involved in gathering and manipulating objects, but he is neither a formalist nor a postmodernist in his

attitude. Most of Claude Leveque's work consists of large-scale installations that articulate objects, sounds and lights that take control of places and spectators. As the artist puts it: "I think that contemporary art can create a space of contrasts where things can be rediscovered, outside the consumerist obligations laid down by the degrading media, corrupted politicians and the vendors of games, houses and cars".

He is famous for using unusual venues and sites, many of his works play on the ability to provoke visual and sensory emotions. The Moscow exhibition is open from 25 May to 22 June.

On 24 June, the Yekaterina Cultural Foundation ([www.ekaterina-fondation.ru](http://www.ekaterina-fondation.ru), Kuznetsky Most, 21/5) will host an exhibition of Annette Messager, France's leading female artist. Playing on her surname, critics once called her "a bold messenger for feminist art". She has been held this title for a long time; creating art works since the 1960s. She often incorporates photographs, prints and drawing into sculptural projects, fuses cuddly children's toys with dangerous effigies thus reaching the hearts and feelings of numerous fans. She has been widely exhibited in solo and group exhibitions around the world and represented France at the Venice Biennale in 2005, where she was awarded the Golden Lion. **P**

Finally, from May 28 to July 25, Baibakov Art Projects ([www.baibakovartprojects.com](http://www.baibakovartprojects.com) Bersenevskaya Naberezhnaya 6) showcases a group exhibition called *Perpetual Battles*. It includes works by Thomas Hirschhorn, Saadane Afif, Cyprien Gaillard, Latifa Echakhch, and others.






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# Soviet Art wasn't just Socialist Realism



Leonid Shishkin and his gallery are well known to many foreigners in Moscow who are interested in Soviet art. At the end of April, he opened a new gallery space in the atrium of the salubriously redecorated Ukraine Hotel. Paintings by Zinaida Serebryakova, Pyotr Konchalovsky, Yuri Pimenov and Alexandre Deineka's adorn the walls. It is slightly shocking to see many works by these masters that I had previously seen only in art text-books hanging right in front of my eyes. But the everyman approach is misleading, some of these works have five or six figure (in dollars) price tags. John Harrison talked to Leonid about his life's work.

## **Why did you move to this hotel?**

I would never move to any other hotel. This is the only hotel I could move to because it is quintessentially Soviet, one of Stalin's 'wedding cakes'. Also, the new owners of the hotel have made a special point of presenting all 1,400 pieces of their collection of Soviet paintings and sculptures, which were mostly created in the 1950s, when the hotel was constructed, thus raising the etiquette and awareness of this period of culture in Moscow.

## **Why do you specialise in Soviet Art?**

I used to be a journalist and worked for the magazine, *Soviet Union*. The magazine covered a lot of cultural themes, but it was all the official side, and I hated it. All my friends were underground painters, such as Nikolay Smirnov, and they suggested that I stage an exhibition highlighting the underground art of the time.

I organised my first exhibition in 1987 in Prague, and I exhibited the work of all my non-conformist artist friends. It was successful. At about the same time I travelled around Russia, and returned to my home city Ekaterinburg. When I was living there I brought a few European landscapes, from one of the most famous artists of those days, just because I liked them. I came to understand that there was a huge difference between the artists of the older generation, who were taught by people who received their education before the revolution, and the new generation of artists. I began to understand that their work was of very good quality, and they were conscientious.

As for my friends, I know most of them were inspired by Polish art magazines, where they saw contemporary art that was not really so difficult to produce. I started to buy and collect Soviet Art. Just at that time, during Perestroika, an Italian antique dealer, Marco Datrino came to Russia with the idea of exporting Russian antiques. It was only when he got here did he find out that it was impossible to take antiques out of the country, and he wasn't exactly bowled over by contemporary art. I showed him some Soviet art of the 1950s. He said: "Oh, I like this." I sourced some paintings for his first big exhibition of this kind of art in

1990 in his gallery in Turin. We organised exhibitions in Turin together for three years. The first year was successful, the second was half as successful, and the third year, not successful.

About this time, I made the acquaintance of Dmitry Nalbandyan. He was a very famous artist in Soviet times, but the intelligentsia and the artists didn't like him because he was the only artist whom Stalin posed for. He also painted Khrushchev and Brezhnev, so he was a high-class court painter.

During Perestroika, I saw an article in *Ogonyok* magazine about him, which associated him with Soviet times and was pretty negative. I decided to go and see him, something that I could never have done before, as he was way too high for me. His son and wife had died, and he was a lonely old man. We had a long talk. He was a brilliant guy. Nobody liked him because they accused him of being a conformist during the Soviet Union. He actually was a foreigner, from Georgia. His attitude was that he simply wanted to be successful. He wasn't too concerned about who was in power.

I started to buy his paintings, which he sold very cheaply. That is how I got into dealing Soviet art.

## **Please tell me more about Soviet Art**

It is a strange that the Soviet period is only known for one school of painting: Socialist Realism. In fact there were at least four different styles. Before the Soviet period, up to about 1920, the major schools in Russia were classicism as in the *peredvizhniki* school, and the Moscow impressionist school. Soviet art absorbed these and turned impressionism into Soviet impressionism, and the *peredvizhniki* into socialist realism. There was also the avant-garde movement as personified by Pyotr Konchalovsky, Aristarkh Lentulov, Alexandre Kuprin and the 'Jack of Diamonds School'. This was a mixture of post-impressionism and Cezannism. Then there was constructivism, with artists like Yuri Pimenov and Alexandre Deineka, who were young in the twenties, and who were influenced by German expressionism and Art Deco.

All of these four trends were mixed up, and collectively, it became known as Soviet Art. All the key players were full members of the Academy of Art, as were traditional artists like





Arcady Plastov and Sergey Gerasimov. So the style of the art was individual. The only thing that united these artists was that paintings were commissioned officially. There were five or six established subjects: people struggling for their rights, chiefs with the people and with banners, people very happily working hard, some still lifes and landscapes, and some genre painting with very happy Soviet people. All the paintings in this hotel, for example, belong to the still life and landscape categories. That's why it's rather boring.

During the Soviet Union, I hated Socialist Realism. But during Perestroika, when I saw the new Russian contemporary painting as a protest against all that, I reappraised Soviet art.

#### **Who buys Soviet Art?**

Before 2000, only foreigners bought Soviet art, but starting in 2000, Russian buyers began to appear. However the market for Russian clients is not Soviet art, if they do buy Soviet art, it will only be the big names they are interested in, for example that theatre sketch by Yuri Pimenov [Leonid points to a painting on a wall on sale for \$250,000] or Zinaida Serebryakova, Kuzma Petrov-Vodkin, artists who are selling at the big international auctions in London and elsewhere. One of my ideas is to hold auctions in this hotel.

#### **Are you able to keep on selling through this crisis?**

The major downturn was from September 2008 until November 2009, but already in December 2009, the market was picking up again, and we have already held successful auctions this year. The market is constantly changing. Because of the internet, Russians from the provinces have started to bid, and buy. The Russian market is bigger for us than the foreign market. But I still need foreigners to fill the auction house in Moscow. Most of the auctions are on a Saturday, and most Russians are at their dachas, so they bid over the telephone. But it is not possible to have an auction if nothing is happening here.

#### **What period would you recommend to foreigners who are here for a short time and who are starting out as collectors?**

A lot depends on whether you are buying for pleasure or for investment. In Russia, the problem is that foreigners don't know that there is a huge amount of Soviet Art. Marco Datrino thought, "I will buy 1,000 paintings and then I will have them all, everyone will come to me and buy my paintings." But he didn't know that there are not only 1,000 Soviet paintings in this country, even not only one million! In no period of history in any one country was such a huge amount of money invested in artists. We had about 20 art institutes which produced

each year at least 20 – 30 artists. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century there were about 2,000 members of the Guild of Artists. In the Soviet Union, there were about 6,000 members of the Union of Artists. Artists received a modest salary, a studio, free materials, and had to present one painting a year in an official exhibition, and they could sell in exhibitions as well.

#### **So how do you make the decision who to buy?**

It is difficult, because the most well known names are already out of the market, and they are very expensive. There are a lot of artists who people do not yet know, take for example Nikolay Timkov, a painter from St. Petersburg, good quality work but not famous. His paintings sell for up to \$5,000 but no more. The secret is to find out who is going to be promoted and buy that artist's paintings.

#### **How do you find out who is going to be promoted?**


It is down to market knowledge and advice. It is a good idea to talk to somebody who is already investing money, to learn from him or her. It is difficult to make it alone.

Buying art is infectious. I always tell people who start buying: be careful, you will want to buy more and more. What is happening is that most of the revolutionary art has been sold out of the country, now we are busy buying it back from the West. Non-conformist Soviet art, for example, is all in the West, not here. There are more and more people who want to own such art, I think that this process will carry on for ever. In decades to come, people will start to wake up and want to buy back Soviet Art. **P**

## Leonid Shishkin Gallery



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# Miffed by MIFF

## Inside Russia's film festivals

Vladimir Kozlov

In June, Russia's two main film festivals, the national Kinotavr and the country's oldest international film event, Moscow International Film Festival (MIFF), are to be held, and both are far from being in good shape.

For about two decades, Kinotavr—the 21<sup>st</sup> festival is scheduled to be held in the Black Sea resort of Sochi from June 5

to 13—has been the main showcase for the domestic cinema industry, and the main venue for foreign festivals' selectors to turn to for new Russian films.

In the years preceding the global financial downturn, the festival was able to attract major sponsors and was held lavishly at the Zhemchuzhina Hotel. Critics said that the event was primarily an opportunity for Russian film industry people





to have a seaside vacation, and that the awarding of prizes was secondary.

In any case, the festival's budget had to be dramatically cut last year, and just a few weeks before this year's festival is about to start, the news came that co-owner Igor Tolstunov and one of the festival's main sponsors, the cell operator Vypelcom, are pulling out.

And although the other co-owner, Alexander Rodnyansky, to whom Tolstunov had sold his share in the festival, insisted that this year's event is going to run as planned, and he would be providing \$2.5 million out of his own pocket on top of 7 million roubles (\$241,000) coming from the culture ministry and local authorities, the future of the festival remains uncertain.

Rodnyansky told the Russian media that in order for the festival to continue, either the government should step in and provide funding, or a new major sponsor should be found, both options being extremely uncertain in the aftermath of the financial crisis.

Another constraint on this year's festival is the fact that film production in Russia has declined substantially because of the economic downturn and a recent reform of the state funding system for the film industry. Because of this the government hasn't provided a single rouble for a new film project for nearly a year and a half.

Last year, Kinotavr's organizers said it was the last time that they had such a huge selection of films for the official competition, as most of them were completed or nearly completed before the crisis hit the industry. And although this year's lineup has not yet been announced, chances are that it is not going to be very strong.

Similarly, the Moscow International Film Festival (MIFF), which is to be held in for the 32<sup>nd</sup> time at the Oktyabr multiplex cinema from June 17-26, is also experiencing financial problems. But that's not its main problem as, unlike Kinotavr, which has a more or less clear goal of being the domestic film industry's showcase, MIFF has been desperately trying to find its identity for years, and this year is not going to be an exception.

In Soviet times, the festival, which was first held in 1935 as a one-off even and was resumed in 1959 on a regular basis, in spite of the dominance of communist ideology, attracted some major-league international filmmakers by its anti-bourgeois and anti-capitalist stance, which might explain why Federico Fellini's *8½* was shown at the festival. It won the main prize in 1963.

But the heyday of MIFF coincided with Gorbachev's reforms of the mid-1980s, and the interest in the Soviet Union, which was opening up to the rest of the world, was the main factor that brought major foreign films and filmmakers to Moscow. In that respect, 1987's festival was probably the best one, with the jury headed by US top-level star Robert de Niro and Fellini's *Intervista* (Interview) in the official competition (predictably, the festival's main prize went to the Italian director's movie). And although at the time the festival was quite chaotic and didn't have a clear message or strategy, the atmosphere of newly-granted freedom under Perestroika was its major asset.

However, things changed when Russia went out of fashion. The festival's organizers were unable to define a strategy, message and philosophy that would make the Moscow festival stand out among dozens of international film events. While the festival was turned into an annual event in 1999, as opposed to being held every other year, it has been largely avoided by major international filmmakers.

True, top-league directors like Quentin Tarantino or Emir Kusturica have turned up in Moscow for the festival, but they were just hanging out, while preferring to send their movies to more prestigious events.

One other thing that might have made the international film community sceptical about the Moscow Film Festival is the fact that domestic movies of dubious artistic merits have several times in recent years earned the favour of the international jury, picking up the main prizes, like Nikolai Dostal's *Pete on the Way to Heaven* last year or Vera Storozheva's *Travelling with Pets* three years ago.

Most likely, this year's festival's official selection won't contain any gems. But the good thing about the Moscow festival is that it normally shows lots of good films promoted by its international competitors, giving people in Moscow an opportunity to view movies that they wouldn't otherwise be able to see for another several months, or ever on a big screen. Traditionally, all the best films from the Berlin International Film Festival and the Cannes International Film Festival, which are held earlier in the year, are part of the non-official programs.

Most of the programs are still in the works and are to be announced closer to the festival's date, but among those which are to debut this year is *Generation Zero*, compiled of films that had the biggest influence on domestic directors of the younger generation.

Among other events worth checking out are a retrospective of movies by Italian director Sergio Leone and several French programs on the occasion of the celebration of the Year of France in Russia. **P**

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# Torzhok



## Text and photography by Larissa Franczek

Are you interested in architecture? Do you see, feel and enjoy its harmony? Is your heart thrilled with delight when you hear the names of Kazakov, Lvov and Rossi? If the answer is yes, then take a four-hour train ride to Torzhok, a small town in the Tver oblast. As soon as you arrive you will realize how strongly it attracts and lures you. You keep pressing your camera button and no matter which way you turn, understandable, dear and loved Russian landscapes surround you. Only the posts carrying electric cables remind you that this is the 21<sup>st</sup> century. If you try, you can easily find a secluded spot on a street where there aren't any such intrusions.

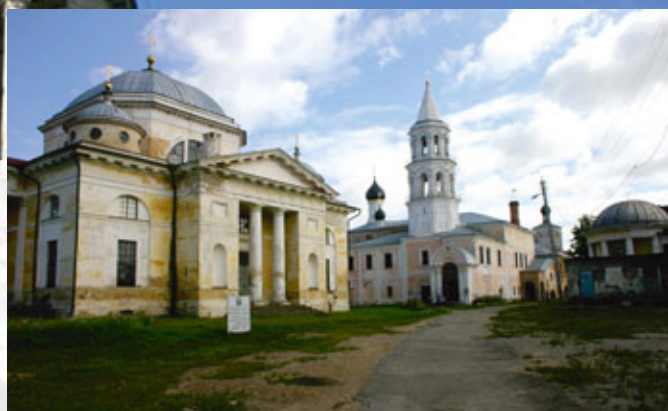
Torzhok is a marvelous example of an artistically complete architectural ensemble in the classical style. That's why the town is considered to be a model of Russian architectural art of the 18-19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The most amazing thing is that Torzhok has preserved its architecture almost untouched.

"Torzhok undoubtedly is one of the most beautiful towns in Tver province. The banks of the beautiful Tvertsa river are fine and diverse. The ancient town is located on eight hills. Its streets and squares open a delightful panorama in front of you. And there are quite a few architectural and historic monuments around you that witness both sad and joyful events gone by." That's what A. Ostrovsky, a great Russian playwright, wrote in his diary about the place. I can only share his opinion and testify to its truth.

Looking at the majestic Savior's Transfiguration Cathedral, the cozy churches, the Road Palace, Kamenny and Petrovsky bridges, you feel stunned and perplexed. Finding all this splendor and grandeur in an off-the-beaten-track provincial town like Torzhok is surprising.

Over 30 churches, cathedrals and monasteries have been preserved here. Services take place in some of them; some are closed and their interiors dilapidated. Be that as it may, Torzhok is more fortunate than many other Russian towns. Few churches were destroyed here during the Soviet times.

The Ascension church deserves special attention as a para-



gon of wooden architecture. It is difficult to find examples of this kind of construction which are not museums.

Talking about Torzhok's architecture, you cannot help mentioning the name of N. Lvov (1751-1803), to a great extent the creator of the town's inimitable look. He was a man of many talents: not only a great architect, whose buildings are scattered all over Tver oblast and other parts of Russia, but also a civil engineer, a choreographer, a historian, a musician and a botanist.

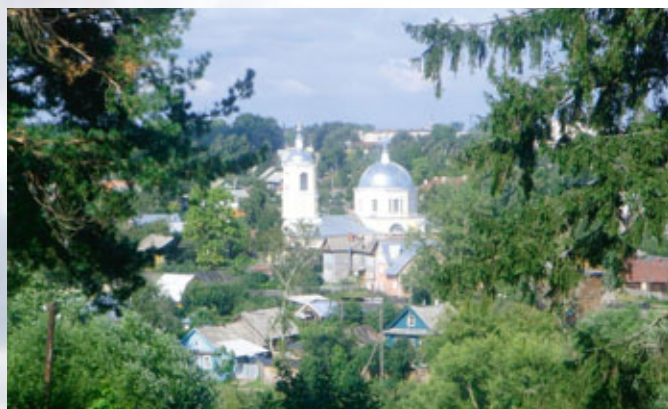
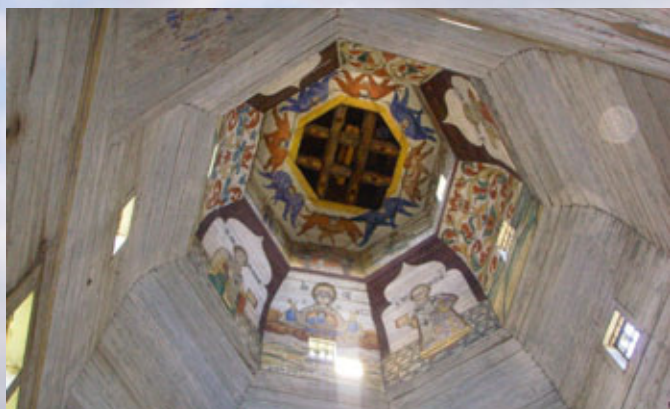
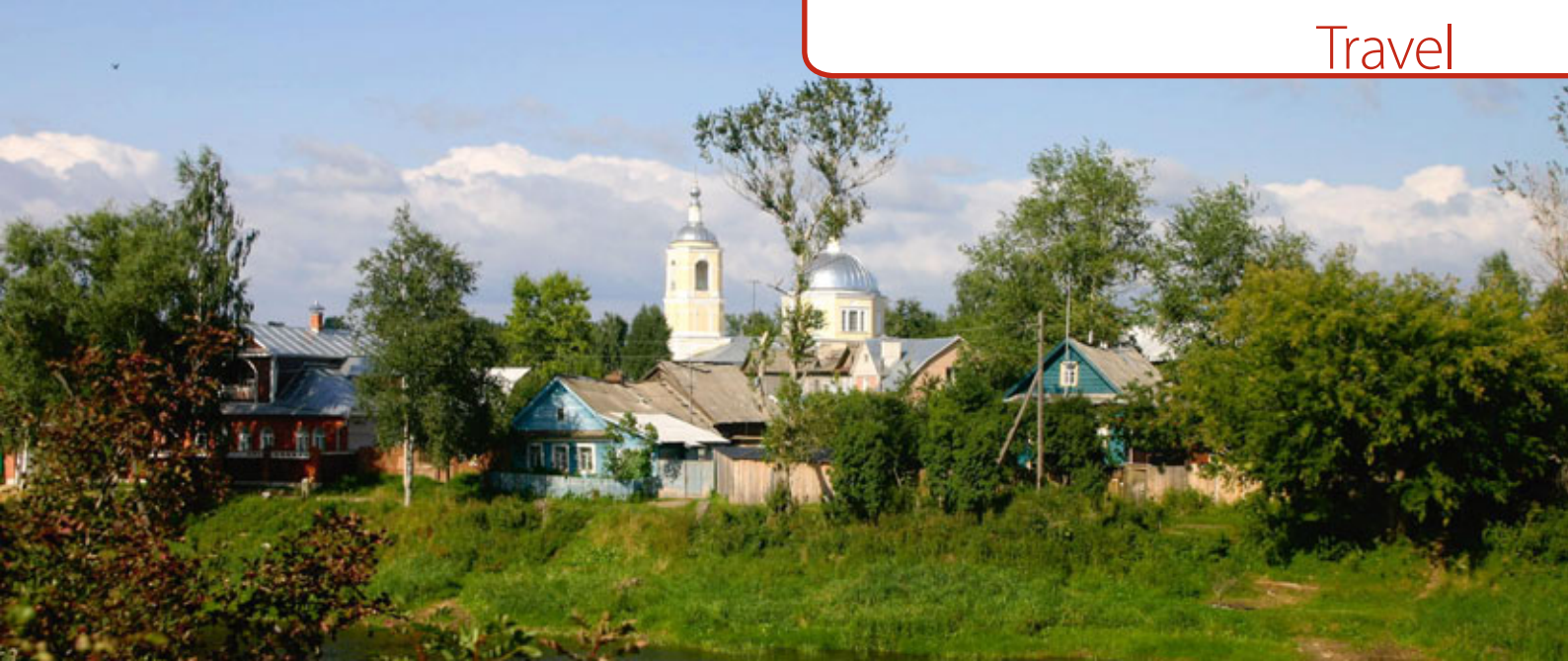
On the bank of the Tvertsa river, Lvov built an elegant Rotunda, the form he preferred above all others. Now the Rotunda houses a souvenir shop and is the gem of the town. There is a monument to Lvov right next to it.

The ancient Boris and Gleb monastery, founded in 1038 and redesigned in Neoclassical style by Lvov, was home to a whole series of events in the history of Torzhok. The name of the town was first mentioned in Russian chronicles in 1015. Torzhok was conveniently located at a commercial crossroad connecting the lands of Novgorod, Vladimir and Suzdal. It frequently changed hands during medieval times.

In the 18th century, a land road, the so-called 'sovereign's way' between Moscow and St. Petersburg, was laid through Torzhok. But even now there is no direct railway here, though Torzhok lies half way between the two capitals. The legend is that local merchants who had become wealthy transporting their goods by river bribed the right people and the railroad was built some distance from the town.

Torzhok was well-known in Russia 100 years ago as an important industrial and commercial centre. Already in ancient times, the town was a centre of gold embroidery in Russia. Some histori-





ans have asked the question: what is older, the town or the craft? Excavations on the spot of the former Kremlin have determined that embroidery with gold threads was practised here even before the Mongol invasion.

Embroidery was used by tsars, boyars and senior clergy for decorating their clothes, as objects of interior design and for cult purposes. Many boyars' wives at court had their own workshops, but seamstresses from Torzhok had always been trendsetters. Here is a well-known fact: in order to embroider the porphyra (a purple gown of a monarch) for his coronation ceremony, Alexander II commanded that 30 of the best needlewomen from Torzhok be brought to St. Petersburg.

The golden age of the craft occurred in the 18-19<sup>th</sup> centuries. A gold embroidery factory still works in the town. It was there that they made beautiful costumes used in such movies as War and Peace and Anna Karenina. Now they embroider clothes, military banners, Russian coats-of-arms, church shrouds, glasses, cosmetic cases and other objects.

Many outstanding personalities of the past visited Torzhok, among them Tolstoy, Gogol and others. The great Alexander Pushkin, on his way to his village, stayed here more than 20 times. Even if Torzhok had not been known for its architecture and gold embroidery, this fact would have been enough to make it famous. There is a very nice museum of the poet in the town.

On one of his visits, Pushkin bought some embroidered belts and sent them as a gift to a lady-friend in Moscow. He then

asked her whether she wore the belts and whether Moscow's women of fashion were envious.

Pushkin stayed in Pozharsky's inn. Its fame started with one of his letters. The beginning of the letter was written in prose, but the part describing Torzhok was nothing but wonderful poetry. Pushkin wrote about the inn and highly praised the cutlets that he ate there. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, they were enormously popular all over Russia and even abroad.

To be in Torzhok and not to try Pozharsky cutlets is impossible. I tried them. They were tasty but that's all that I can say. Unfortunately the original recipe was lost. **P**

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Maya Rusanova  
artwork by Julia Nozdracheva

St. Petersburg is well worth a visit at any time of the year. Especially in the summer when you can 'гулять' (walk) all night long, as although the sun sets, the night never really begins. Take a weekend off, and enjoy this superb city which is so different from Moscow. When you go there, it may be useful to know that there is real competition between St. Petersburg and Moscow, just as there is between Edinburgh and Glasgow, or Washington and New York, to name but a few examples.

Officially the capital of Russia is Moscow. However St. Petersburg is often called the Northern Capital. This isn't by chance. These two cities came to prominence at separate times, and they have been competing with each other for 300 years, beginning in 1703, when Emperor Peter the Great founded St. Petersburg on the banks of the river Neva.

The reason for the confrontation lies in the fact that St. Petersburg was originally built to be exactly what is: the opposite of Moscow. Moscow is the embodiment of the Russian city; St. Petersburg of the European city. This is evident in architecture, fashion and even language. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, French was more popular than Russian in the upper classes in St. Petersburg, and the city became a 'window to Europe', just as Peter the Great planned.

Moscow's history stretches back a lot longer than St. Petersburg's, all the way back to 1147. Moscow grew organically and sporadically; it was built on the confluence of important trading routes. The original settlement was a small village. To this day, citizens of St. Petersburg still tease Moscow citizens, calling Moscow a 'big village', which in many respects it is.

St. Petersburg was a capital from birth, something that Muscovites resent; they suddenly became provincials when Peter the Great moved the capital there in 1712. However St. Petersburg managed to prove its superiority in some things. The newest trends in fashion, architecture, drawing, music and literature ap-

peared in the northern capital first, and only reached Moscow some time later. Even when the capital was moved back from Leningrad, as St. Petersburg was known then, to Moscow after the Bolsheviks came to power, in 1918, the city was still considered the cultural capital of Russia. Many Muscovites will debate this. Take rock music. In the 1980s St. Petersburg spawned many leading rock groups. Aquarium, Kino were from St. Petersburg, whereas Mashina Vremeni and Zvuki Mu were from Moscow. Whether Moscow or St. Petersburg music was better or worse, was a heated topic for most young people.

Moscow is faster, more hectic and business-like. In the 18-19<sup>th</sup> centuries, however, St. Petersburg was also very bustling as a capital city should be. Much dancing and many sumptuous dinner parties took place. The city was full of merchants, the streets of the city were full of shops, cabs and people. Today St. Petersburg lives calmly and measuredly. In Moscow, for example, people run down the elevator; in Petersburg people ride on it. Muscovites seem brusque and impolite to citizens of St. Petersburg. If you ask somebody the way in St. Petersburg, locals may not only give you directions, they may take you for a mini-excursion around the city. People in Moscow aren't often able to do that, many are often visitors like you.

In Petersburg one doesn't need to hurry. The city is much smaller than Moscow. There a person wants to walk, not run, although Muscovites don't walk, they take cabs or the Metro during the long winter. Muscovites accuse St. Petersburg of being depressing, because the pace of life is too slow. This is partly because of the climate. St. Petersburg lies much further north and the city is very wet and windy. Muscovites often catch cold after visiting St. Petersburg. The sun rarely warms the citizens of Petersburg, because of high humidity.

Moscow is sunnier, and that's why it seems smarter, than Petersburg. But there is an eclecticism that is peculiar to Moscow. An antique building and a glass skyscraper can be neighbours in Moscow, but not in St. Petersburg. That's why citizens of St. Petersburg say that the Muscovites don't have a





sense of style, whilst Muscovites accuse St. Petersburg as being boring.

St. Petersburg was built according to a well thought-out plan. City regulations even today forbid the erection of buildings over 4 - 5 stories in the city centre. New buildings have to work, architecturally, with old buildings.

On a linguistic level, people speak differently. For example, white loaves of bread in St. Petersburg are called 'bulka', and the Muscovites: 'belyi khleb' (white bread). A pavement is called by the former 'porebrik', the latter 'bordyr'. The list of differences continues: in St. Petersburg the entrance in a block of flats is a 'paradnaya', in Moscow a 'pod'ezd'; a doughnut is a 'pyshka' in St. Petersburg and a 'ponshik' in Moscow. If you visit other Russian cities you will notice that people there use Moscow language and perceive words used in St. Petersburg as being out-of-date.

The reason why St. Petersburg language is so exotic can be traced in the way it was formed. Some of the population of Petersburg was originally formed by new arrivals, Germans and Dutchmen. It was difficult for them to study Russian, because local people spoke a lot of different Russian dialects. For newcomers it was extremely important to speak Russian as quickly as possible so as to progress up the institutionalised career structures. So these foreigners turned to any kinds of documents in Russian that represented the most universal source of Russian language. They were documents full of formal phrases.

Nowadays there is an opinion that the difference between Moscow and St. Petersburg has become a myth or a legend, as new high-speed trains services draw the cities closer and closer together. But there are major differences in the people themselves. Moscow is a very cosmopolitan city today. Who is a Muscovite? Nobody really knows. The majority of St. Petersburg citizens are drawn from Russian stock, but from northern Russian stock, and consequently they look and behave more like people from Finland or Scandinavia. St. Petersburg is nearer to Western Europe in more senses than one. **P**


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## Books have their own fate

Text and photos by  
Tobie Mathew

"Poetry is taken so seriously in Russia that people are even shot for it." This quip, uttered by the great poet Osip Mandelshtam, may have been meant ironically but it still contains more than a kernel of truth. Since the earliest days of ancient Rus, the written word has been granted near mythic status in the country; worshipped by its citizens as the



*Osip Mandelshtam*

source of ultimate knowledge, but desecrated by rulers in fear of its power.

Russian governments throughout history have sought in vain to control the shape and flow of printed matter, unilaterally imposing their views on the literary world and silencing all other dissident voices. In the minds of the country's leaders, writers were alluring but dangerous creatures who all too often needed to be separated from the masses by the black bars of the censor's pen. And when this failed the threat of the hangman's rope was never far away.

Those in power had good reason to be fearful, for writers were uniquely placed to work against government, using their creations as vehicles for spreading subversive opinion. As the Soviet leaders later found out to their cost, books were often far more effective than ballot papers in giving a largely disfranchised population a democratic voice. The state tried hard to combat this, but while it succeeded in subjugating the vast majority, there was always someone who, in Tolstoy's words, "could not stay silent"; a novelist or poet who was prepared to risk their all to present an alternative narrative to the people.

Both tsarist autocrats and Soviet commissars were highly alert to this threat

and between them they succeeded in staining the history of Russian literature with the blood of many of its finest writers. One name however stands out from all the rest: Stalin, who took this dubious tradition to a new extreme, murdering a slew of writers, poets and intellectuals in an effort to shut down forever what the political thinker Alexander Herzen called, "Russia's second government".

In Stalin's world there was no freedom of thought, let alone freedom of speech. Writers who did not bend to the will of the state sooner or later found themselves at its mercy. As his brutal dictatorship slowly clamped its jaws around the literary milieu, all aspects of creative thought were stifled. Isaac Babel noted wryly at the time that a man could speak freely, "only with his wife, at night and with the blanket pulled over his head."

Babel and Mandelshtam both paid the ultimate price for their inability to conform, a fate shared by countless others during Stalin's reign of terror. "I would like to recall them all name by name but the list has been taken out, it is nowhere to be found," wrote the poetess Anna Akhmatova. Most of the victims, including Babel and Mandelshtam, were buried in unmarked graves, their final resting places lost forever. But while nothing carnal remains of these two writers, their literary and spiritual legacy survives almost untouched, for this Stalin could never destroy.

Today, almost every Russian knows the quotation, "Manuscripts do not burn", from Mikhail Bulgakov's anti-Stalinist satire, *The Master and Margarita*. The novel in part tells the story of a young writer who torches his life's work, only to have it restored to him later by the devil. Bulgakov wrote the story, 'for the desk drawer', knowing that it was highly unlikely it would ever see the light of



day. Unbeknown to Bulgakov however, his words were to prove surprisingly prophetic. In 1967, more than twenty-five years after the author's death, the novel was finally published.

This salutary lesson is by no means unique. Many of Russia's greatest twentieth century works of literature were written in secret and only published openly at a far later date. Through handwritten copies and samizdat or self-publishing, the work of writers passed over by the regime was kept alive for future generations.

It is not only the texts of suppressed works that have lasted to the present day; even the banned books themselves still exist. One amongst many is Anna Akhmatova's, *Selected Poems 1910-46*, which provides an excellent example of how these works survived, and moreover what they came up against in the process.

It is said that throughout her life Akhmatova shared the fate of Russia itself. If this is true for the poet then it is certainly also true of her books, and in particular *Selected Poems*, whose entire print run was destroyed by the Soviet Government. The book itself is not what one might call pretty. It was cheaply produced, and ostensibly differs little from hundreds of thousands of others produced at the time. The importance of this secular relic however, lies not so much in its looks or even in its poems as in the reflection it carries of the literary and physical deprivations of Stalinist Russia.

Before the October Revolution Akhmatova had been a popular and celebrated poet, but her fortunes changed after the Bolsheviks took power. To some degree this was because of her perceived sympathy for the old regime, but it was mainly due to the content and style of her work. Poetry that gave precedence to honest emotions and experience above the output of cement factories was always destined to struggle in a literary world that became dominated by the doctrine of Socialist Realism.

After her poetry stopped being printed in the early 1920s, Akhmatova survived largely through translation work. She continued to write poetry, but it was not until 1940, after a gap of nearly eighteen years, that a new collection was finally published. It was said that Stalin only allowed *From Six Books* to be published as a present to his daughter, Svetlana, who was a great admirer of Akhmatova's work. If this is true, the gift was short-lived. A few weeks after

going on sale, Stalin ordered the book to be withdrawn, ostensibly because it contained a poem that denigrated him. The fact that the verse was written long before he was on the political scene was apparently not considered important.

Following the Soviet Union's victory in the so-called Great War of the Fatherland, Akhmatova had some cause to hope for a better future. In 1946 she was given a standing ovation at the Writer's Union in Moscow and further to this, preparations were being started on the publication of two books of her poetry. The second of these, *Selected Poems 1910-46*, was not intended to be a new work as such but a cheap collected edition designed for mass consumption. It would effectively signal official acceptance for the popularisation of her work.



*Mikhail Bulgakov*

As the publication date neared however it became apparent that the war-time relaxation of rules governing civil society had only been a temporary interlude. For Akhmatova, the realisation of this was sudden and ominous: the announcement of an official investigation into the recent publication of several of her poems and a subsequent denunciation by Party Secretary, Andrei Zhdanov.

The report into Akhmatova's work claimed that her poems were, "full of pessimism and disappointment in life". "Akhmatova has a sympathy and leaning towards the past," it added, echoing earlier accusations against her. Following this report Zhdanov, Stalin's Minister of Culture, was quick to condemn her. "How could the work of this half-nun, half-whore ever have seen the light of day," he furiously demanded.

By this stage both of Akhmatova's books had already been printed, but an order was immediately sent out to pulp them. With only a very few exceptions this demand was carried through, and today surviving examples are extremely scarce. According to Professor Natalia Kraineva from the State Library in St. Petersburg there are thought to be only around seven copies of *Selected Poems* still extant, the majority of which are in institutions. Some of these were taken by print workers at the time of publication and one copy was even saved by a secret policeman, who years later donated it to the Akhmatova Museum in St. Petersburg.

From a literary point of view the total disappearance of *Selected Poems* would not have been a major loss. The poems would all have survived in other forms. This is not so much a book, therefore, as a memorial, both to Russian writers and to the power of their work. Its yellowed pages and the words they carry are the physical manifestation of literature's enduring triumph over earthly power. "Habent sua fata libellii" or "books have their own fate," as Akhmatova was fond of saying.

Akhmatova was fortunate in that it was not only her books that escaped the purges; so did she, though hardly unscathed. Her former husband Nikolai Gumilyov was shot in 1921 for alleged counter-revolutionary activity, and her son Lev spent years in the Gulag, a hardship for which he never fully forgave his mother.

Akhmatova's highly personal response to the mass killings and deportations was the epic, *Requiem*, which first appeared in Munich, a few years before her death. The full text was not printed in the Soviet Union until 1987, but today the poem is a far better known and more celebrated reflection of life in Stalin's Russia than all of his own grandiose and self-serving monuments put together.

A few months before *Requiem* was published the children's writer and literary critic Kornei Chukovsky made a short entry in his diary. "Stalin's police thugs have come a cropper," he wrote, "and it is all Akhmatova's doing. The man in the street may think it's a miracle but we don't find it in the least bit surprising; we know that's how it always is." Intriguingly it appears that Stalin himself should also have been aware of this. Many years earlier the dictator's fellow revolutionary Nikolai Bukharin warned him about literature's indomitable nature, saying that, "poets are always right, for history is on their side." **P**

# 1987



John Harrison

**January 1987.** For most of 1986, Gorbachev had been preparing for major changes, but little was actually done. At the January 1987 Plenum of the Central Committee, Gorbachev went on the offensive and called for changes in the party's official ideas. 'Developed socialism' was out, 'self-development' was in together with the development of the 'socialist market'. Gorbachev denounced the period of stagnation without mentioning Brezhnev, and declared that there were too many Brezhnev-era cadres in the Party. A Party Conference was convoked in mid-1988, to get rid of them.

On television, Soviet viewers were amazed to see the show 'Prozhektor Perestroika'; a section of the 'Vremya' news programme broadcasts news from the centre and from the provinces. Programmes often showed Gorbachev on his travels around the country and highlighted the 'green shoots' of perestroika in contrast to the old dark evil places where people were not yet per-

estroiking themselves. 'Vzglyad', by far the most radical show so far, hit the screens in October, becoming ultra-popular when Alexandre Litvinov and Vladimir Mukusev joined the team and aired discussions on subjects like getting rid of Lenin's tomb. Several episodes were cut, but the show had become unstoppable and somehow survived until it was closed in 1991. Glasnost was out of control in 1987.

**28<sup>th</sup> May 1987.** A Cessna 172P light aircraft landed just outside Red square piloted by a 19-year-old German, Mattius Rust. Rust was seeking Gorbachev's attention, and he got it. Whilst flying over Finland, he dropped to a height of 60 metres and dropped a canister with petrol to imitate a catastrophe, then flew on to Moscow. Soviet air defences assessed the risk as being minimal, and failed to take any preventative measures. Rust landed on Vasilievsky Spusk and was applauded by passers-by. Gorbachev took this opportunity to get rid of Minister of

Defence Sergei Sokolov and General Alexander Koldunov, the Chief of the Air Defence Forces, both of whom were not exactly bright beacons of perestroika. Many have said that this event together with Chernobyl helped to destroy the reputation both of Soviet science and of Soviet Power.

**August 1987.** Demonstrations in Lithuania and Estonia were held during the anniversary of the 1939 Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Treaty. Gorbachev continued to maintain a non-involvement policy towards the constituent republics of the Union.

**11<sup>th</sup> November 1987.** Intellectuals who previously backed Gorbachev started to shift allegiances to Yeltsin who was First Secretary of the Moscow party. The Moscow boss went about implementing radical changes, as a result of which he became a tremendously popular mayor. He fought corruption (thus the dismissal of just about everybody), allowed street traders, and attacked abuse of party privileges. He saw himself to be in the

Douglas O'Donnell  
February 1987



My second trip to Moscow was in February of 1987. I was apart of an international group of approximately 400 students studying abroad. It was known informally then and still today as Semester At Sea. We travelled to twelve countries as we circumnavigated the globe. Our third port of call was Yalta.

In 1987, we thought we were in what we thought was the middle of the Cold War. Accordingly, we were both apprehensive and excited to have a backstage pass to the capital of what our President called the "Evil Empire". From the Black Sea, the sea side resort looked dreary and grey. We were transported from the boat to our Aeroflot flight to Moscow via Intourist buses.

Upon arrival, the tension in the air

was palpable. There was a multitude of security personnel, military and airport workers. What there were not: smiles. The immigration and customs agents were all business. There were three signs that struck out at me: "No Talking," "No Photography", and "No Pornography". They did not share in our elation to be off the flight and our desire to explore the capital of our biggest "enemy". We boarded the spartan buses and headed directly to the Hotel Cosmos. On the way, there were a plethora of large monolithic buildings and monochromatic edifices lined the highway. The mood and the landscape were dark, cold and grey.

"Welcome to the Hotel Cosmos!" was the phrase with which we greeted upon



advance guard of Perestroika.

He had little tact, or rather had no tact at all. During the run-up to celebrations of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Soviet Union, Yeltsin ravaged Gorbachev and the leadership of the party as being compromised. Not a man to accept criticism in public, especially from Yeltsin who had previously complained to both hardliner Yegor Ligachev about his wife, Raisa, meddling in affairs of state, Gorbachev, accepted Yeltsin's resignation as a candidate member of the Politburo in October. But that wasn't enough. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, a conference of the Moscow City Party Organisation was called. Although Yeltsin was sick and in hospital, he was pumped full of drugs and dragged along to attend. Many saw this as one of Gorbachev's lowest act. Yeltsin admitted his faults, but a decision had already been taken: a succession of speakers denounced his arrogance and he was sacked as the capital's Party Secretary. From this point on, neither man was rational when contemplating the other. To counter Yeltsin, who was still a force to be reckoned with, Gorbachev had to consider going further along the reformist road than perhaps he had originally intended.

Meanwhile, the west saw 'Gorby' as the saviour of mankind. He became one of the most talked-about people on the planet in 1987. This was 'Gorby



mania' year, where one incredible event followed the next to a thumbs up from 'Maggie' and 'Ronny'. Crowds gathered wherever Gorby went, and the General Secretary published a book.

**November 1987.** In his book, modestly called *Perestroika: New Thinking for Our Country and the World*, Gorbachev denounced the 'Stalinist command-administrative-system'. He pointed out that growth had stagnated from 1981-1985. Gorbachev nevertheless idolised Lenin as a humanitarian and tried to isolate his hero from the violence that ensued after his death. However Gorbachev's drive to democracy was in fact anti-Leninist; Leninists

weren't very democratic. This ideological schizophrenia manifested itself in public with the enmity between hardliner Yegor Ligachev and those supporting the views of Alexander Yakovlev, who was widely seen as being the intellectual force behind Gorbachev's perestroika, and who was appointed to the same full politburo status as Ligachev in June 1987. Both men had been appointed by Gorbachev at different stages of his political journey, and Gorbachev was not averse to playing opponents off against each other to his own advantage **P**.



disembarking from our buses. As cold and foreboding as our introduction to Moscow was, our initial response to the Hotel was the exact opposite. It was as if we had just landed at a glitzy Las Vegas hotel. There was a gift shop, a Heineken bar, a bowling alley, grand stair-cases, high ceilings, and it was all so well lit!

At dinner that night, we sat at long tables. Large trays of dried meats, marinated vegetables and smoked fish were passed. But what was amazing was the amount of vodka and caviar that was served! I had never seen so much and it never ran out! Say what you want but the "Evil Empire" really knew how to party!

The next day we boarded buses for an all-day tour of Moscow. The Intourist guides were well dressed, smiled incessantly, they had beautiful teeth,



skin and hair, and they spoke perfect English. The people outside, were the complete opposite. The guides waxed poetical about the benefits of the Socialist State: free everything! Transportation, medicine, insurance, education

(we all did appreciate this one!) and rent was all paid for by the State. The people in the streets seemed not to be informed of this. They looked much older than they actually were. They were not well kept, their clothes were shabby and their teeth were universally stained and crooked! No smiles.

Only the 'traders' smiled. These people were generally young and surprisingly hip and they sort of spoke English. "Dooo-ouuglas, you want a Soviet flag, a furry hat to keep your girlfriend warm during a cold February Moscow night, a Soviet uniform, etc.... for your pair of American jeans?" I happily obliged. The fun was, as the Irish say, "the bit of banter" between the 'trader' and us. I am convinced that they are amongst today's Russian oligarchs.

What a great experience.... **P**



# Was Alaska sold for a song?



by the author

It is customary to consider that the USA bought Alaska together with adjacent islands with overall area of 1.5 million square kilometres for \$7.2m in gold, which works out as about 2c per acre. These figures are printed in Russian and American literature as well as in various atlases. But was there a sale at all, or was it more like the USA paid Russia so that it would finally leave the American continent? In the first part of a two-part series, Yury Samoilov takes us back to the mid-eighteenth century when fur-hungry Russia colonised Alaska.

Yury Samoilov

## Fur rush

For local residents of the Chukotka-peninsula, Russian-Alaska was a place they had known about for a long time. They regularly rode there on sleighs pulled by deer across the Bering Strait in the winter and on boats in the summer to exchange goods with natives of Alaska.

Such journeys took a single day. Intensive colonization of Alaska began only after Russian seamen, Vitus Bering and Alex Chirikov, reached the American continent in the summer of 1741 on the three-masted sailing ships, Saint Peter and Saint Pavel. Tales of a huge number of fearless fur-bearing animals wandering along the shores who were not afraid of human beings got Russian hunters excited. Disregarding the risks involved, they rushed to the new, unknown lands, set up fortified settlements, showing no mercy on animals or natives. A mass extermination of sea otters, the pelts of which were highly valued on world market, and other wild animals was started.

After a few years, American and British hunters joined in, enraging local Indians who mounted many, mostly unsuccessful, rebellions against the aliens.

## The Russian-American Company

To hold back foreign competitors, Russian hunters decided to unite their efforts, and in 1799 set up a powerful monopoly with the name "Russian-American Company" or RAC. The company was a joint-stock company founded solely with Russian capital.

The tsarist elite, having benefitted greatly in monetary terms from RAC, not only acquired part of the company's stocks, but decided to make use of it for

Alexander Baranov

the expansion of the Russian Empire.

The first governor of Russian colonies in Alaska was Aleksander Baranov, a merchant from the small Russian town Kargopol.

*One of his descendants, Zoja Afrosina who is alive today, found out quite accidentally about her kinship with her eminent ancestor. She was informed that her uncle (a relative of Baranov), had left her heritage. She discovered a large number of previously unknown documents, concerning Baranov's private life. He apparent-*



Novo-Arkhangelsk. Drawing by I. G. Vosnesensky





*A Russian village in present-day Alaska*

*ly literally went native and married the daughter of Indian chief and had two children by her. The full biography of Baranov is described in a new book on Alaska written by historian Allan Engstrom, which was presented in March of this year in the State Historic Museum in Moscow.*

From 1741 for 12 years, a considerable part of Alaska coast and most of its adjacent islands, the Aleutian and Kuril islands were colonized and explored. Baranov dispatched his assistant Ivan Kuskov in 1812 to set up in California. He created a settlement called Fort Ross, about 80 kilometres from where San Francisco stands today.

## Fort Ross

Fort Ross had a short history of only 30 years. At first it thrived thanks to the fur trade, but this was short-lived, as almost all sea otters in the vicinity were soon exterminated and the rich soils on which wheat, barley, fruits and vegetables were cultivated were soon exhausted. The then governor of the Russian colonies in Alaska, the future admiral Baron Ferdinand von Wrangel, tried to save the fort from destruction.

Descendants of Wrangel live, and still live, in the USA, Russia and Sweden. The

most famous of them was Peter Wrangel who was an officer in the Imperial Russian army and later commanding general of the anti-Bolshevik White Army in the final stages of the Civil War.

Ferdinand von Wrangel came to an agreement with the revolutionary Mexican government about the apportionment to Fort Ross of a large tract of land on condition of acknowledgment of Mexico by Russia. But Tsar Nicholas I who despised revolutions, categorically refused to have anything to do with Mexico. In 1841, Fort Ross was sold for \$30,000 to a farmer from Sacramento named John Sutter. Later on, the fort was repeatedly resold and a hundred years was almost completely decayed. In the 1930s, thanks to the efforts of American and Russian emigrants, the fort was completely restored to its original state and transformed into a national museum - Fort Ross State Historical Park.

*The author of these article who grew up in San Francisco, happened to visit this splendid park with his father, who was working in Soviet consulate there in the 1940s.*

In retrospect, there is no doubt that the sale of Fort Ross was, as far as Russians go,

an unforgivable blunder. Tsar Nicholas I totally failed to understand the strategic importance of California. To rub salt in the wound, only seven years after the fort was sold, a rich deposit of gold was discovered nearby, a discovery that preceded the California gold by seven years. The gold rush led to the rapid construction of roads, schools and infrastructure.

## A hard choice

The sale of Fort Ross was the first step towards the liquidation of the Russian-American Company (RAC) whose profitability had been hit with the decline of sea otters. In the last five years it lost money, which annoyed the tsarist elite, accustomed as they were to fabulous dividends.

The economic position and prestige of Russia noticeably worsened after its defeat in the Crimean war, at least in comparison to the rising might of Great Britain, France and the USA. The prestige of the 20 main settlements in Alaska, including Novo-Arkhangelsk, which had a population of 3,000 people on Baranov island, also suffered.

Most of these settlements were situated on the narrow western coastal strip of the Gulf of Alaska, which was separated from the huge, practically uninhabited, continental part of Alaska by a mountain chain.

No borders as such were established by the Russian settlers. The only thing that the Russians could do, and even then not always, was to put somewhere on the hill not far from their wooden forts, the posts or crosses with notices attached to them: "This land is the possession of Russian Empire".

They made further attempts to make their settlements more legal, they also buried iron boards bearing the emblem of the Russian State in copper, with the same text underneath.

Russia had two main choices as to how to what to do with its Russian colonies:

- either to render financial help to Russian American Company (RAC) and set up an Alaskan State administration, which would involve not only administrative expenses, but also stationing regiments of troops and the naval ships, to defend territories Russia claimed as her own possessions;
- or to leave Alaska, preserving its prestige.

As we all know, the latter course of action was adopted. But how and why, will be discussed in the next article in the July edition of Passport. **P**



*Anchorage by Evgeny Datsko*



## Do Russians push their children too hard?

The pressure's on for Russian kids this month, as they cram for exams while keeping up a host of extracurricular activities. And the holidays won't see an end to their labours, as they are packed off for extra lessons at camp. While the gifted can cope with the most gruelling of schedules with a smile, others will struggle. Are their childhoods being sacrificed to the modern age need to succeed?

Text by Peter Ellis

"I do it every day and I hate it. I really don't want to do karate but my mum says I've got to," says Pasha. With his soft brown eyes, wavy brown hair, trust-

ing face and all of his eleven years, he doesn't look like a killer. I ask him why he thinks his mum makes him do it. "To make me strong. Men have to be strong," he replies with a weak smile.

Pasha's sister Sasha, 13, shares the same woes. "And I've been doing it for two year's longer than him," she whimpers. The kids are two of my students, who have been booked in for extra English lessons by their concerned mother, though their English is well in advance of their years. We talked about their daily routine: these school children have schedules which would make an international executive's head spin.

Sasha and Pasha aren't alone in being busy. At weekends another of my students, Alex, goes to boot camp, where the day starts before breakfast with a five kilometre run with a heavy backpack, while during the week his free time is taken up with extra English, Spanish, and the martial arts. His father is hoping to get him into the FSB: a Russian James Bond in the making. But this seems part-

time compared to one of my colleague's twelve-year-old charges. She doesn't go to school except to take exams and is ferried from tutor to tutor in a seven-day-a-week, twelve-hours-a-day regime. "My mum thinks I'm a genius," she explains, though recently she has managed to negotiate some Sundays off.

Even when school's out, lessons don't stop for many of Moscow's youngsters. Busy working parents can relax knowing their offspring are being taken care of at a host of summer camps.

"It's great being away from home and with my friends. We had great fun especially in the evening when we had free time," says Andrei, another of my students who attended a two-week 'bio camp' last July, where he was taught woodland ecology, followed by a four-week language course in the UK.

Much of this extracurricular learning is organised by the youngsters' schools, where they can experience the sort of practical activities that UK schoolchildren take for granted, though there



are legions of private companies willingly selling sojourns so kids can study languages, sport, music, the arts and the rest, both in Russia and around the World.

Is it all too much? Worries about 'overscheduled' or 'overbooked' children have been niggling parents in the UK and the US ever since author and psychologist, David Elkins, highlighted the issue in his best-selling book, *The Hurried Child*, back in 1981.

"The perfect picture of a balanced childhood, one in which our kids go to school, do a little homework and play sport, is a myth for many youngsters. More and more children are involved in far too many activities," Elkins wrote recently in *Psychology Today*.

He quotes Berkley professor Diane Ehrensaft: "Middle-class children in America are so overscheduled that they have almost no 'nothing time'. They have no time to call on their own resources and be creative. Creativity is making something out of nothing, and it takes time for that to happen. In our efforts to produce Renaissance children who are competitive in all areas, we squelch creativity."

While round-the-clock schooling isn't as unquestioningly accepted in Russia as it appears to be in Japan and Korea, it doesn't seem to be causing as much hand-wringing as in the West. Moscow-based psychologist Anastasia Yerokhina says the pressure on children in Russia is not taken seriously enough: "It's not considered a problem by the majority of the public and not treated as a priority by health professionals. Parents believe hard working children are necessary for Society; others want their children to have the sort of opportunities that weren't available to them when

they were young. Many of the children themselves don't realise they have a problem but they are often nervous and tired all the time. They don't appreciate their lives.

"Overscheduled children are generally forced to study harder by their parents. They most probably don't like it at all, but are not able to oppose. Parents try to make children obey, and children try to avoid oppression. But in case of overscheduled children, they are not taught to resist this pressure. Further in their lives, this disability leads to a lot of problems within society and with feelings of self-worth as well. Such children tend to conform more than their peers. They have significant problems when they need to demonstrate independence and in their ability to make their own decisions."

The Church is also concerned. Archimandrite Zacchaeus is Dean of St. Catherine the Great Martyr Church, Bolshaya Ordynka, and Representative of the Orthodox Church in America to the Moscow Patriarchate. He says: "Life in Moscow is moving more and more to the western style, where both parents and children are bombarded with demands on their time and extracurricular activities. They miss church services and have less time for spiritual matters. We have the 'New York minute' (definition: 'half the length but with five times the activity than elsewhere'), soon there's going to be a 'Moscow minute'; it's a problem for all ages. The Holy Scriptures state 'be still and know that I'm God'. By being over busy we loose connection with both God and ourselves, and that is a very dangerous thing."

Like parents the world over, Moscow mums and dads want the best for their

kids. "My son had breathing problems, so I enrolled him in swimming classes," says the mother of one seven-year-old, "he was also shy and awkward with other children so I took him to drama class. His breathing was better and he was more confident when he started school".

"The world's a tough place," adds a father of two, "we've got to give our children every advantage so they can compete when they are older. They may not like it now but they'll thank us for it in the end". He also explains the parental preoccupation with self-defence: "When the USSR collapsed the streets were dangerous, a lot of parents got their kids into karate class for their own good. Parents still think this."

"The over-scheduled child is a myth," writes John Cloud in *Time* magazine. He blasts the idea that kids' "more rushed, scheduled and digitized" lives are doing them any harm. Quite the opposite, he says: busy children have "better well-being and less drug use ... they even eat meals with their parents more often." The desire for kids to slow down is an example of 'transference' he suggests, it expresses adults' wish for an easier lifestyle. "Childhood is an invention of modernity ... [so] the next time you're hauling your kids from basketball, to SAT prep, to violin lessons, ask yourself whether it is them who really wants a break ... or you."

Elkins remains concerned: "parents need to relax. Slow down. Activities are fine but don't go over the top. Research says that what children need most are relationships not activities. Focus on building meaningful relationships with your children, not becoming their chauffeur."

Veterans of parent pressure can look back wryly in adulthood. Zhenia is now a successful scientist: "My dad wanted me to play the piano and I spent hours at lessons. One day he said if I learnt three tunes he would buy me a kitten; I wanted a puppy. I don't touch a piano nowadays and the cat hates me, we have issues," she giggles "but that cat loves my dad."

Back in class I ask Sasha if she had asked her mum if she could give up karate. "Only if I start learning Chinese—she is really interested in China— but I don't want to learn Chinese". I ask what she would prefer to do if she had the choice. "I want to learn the guitar so I can play Beatles songs". And which of their songs does she most want to sing? "Help!" She replies forlornly. **P**



## “Your Moscow (2)”

# Green parts – south west”

Text and photos by Ross Hunter

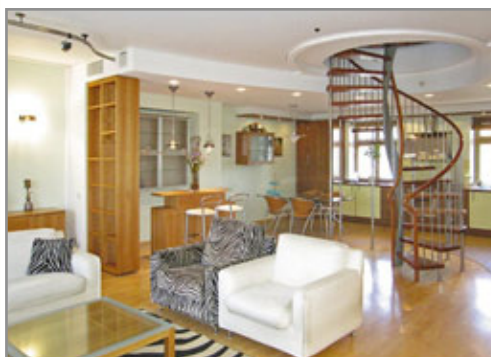
Our second spring-time excursion into Moscow’s unexpectedly generous green lungs takes us to the playgrounds immediately south west of the city, along the river from Gorky Park to Sparrow Hills: all under 7km from the Kremlin walls. In a largely flat city, these offer some of the widest panoramas as well as a pleasant diversity of entertainments.

### Gorky Park

Nearest to the centre and beside the Garden Ring is Moscow’s most famous recreational honey-pot. The swarm at the entrance arches, the roar of the traffic behind you and the shrieks and squeals from the big dippers tell you that this is a place for lively fun not quiet contemplation. Bring plenty of money, as this beehive is commercially driven. Expect plenty of amiable company, and enjoy roller coasters, rides, slides, ice creams, hot snacks and cold glasses, skating and snowballing in season, indeed, all the fun of the fair. Free amusements include people-watching and the frisson of people screaming themselves witless on the harem-scarem rides. Listening to them is not for the faint hearted, never mind actually going on the things: after you, I insist! Moscow traffic may even seem tame afterwards.

### Neskuchny Sad

Next, step beyond: ‘Neskuchny Sad’ means literally The Enjoyable Garden, and after the collective excitements of



#### Frunzenskaya

The apartment in the modern brick building with underground parking and security territory is offered. Duplex apartment is refurbished in modern style and completed with high quality European equipment. More photos at [www.realtor.ru/a59408](http://www.realtor.ru/a59408)



#### Zoologicheskaya Street

The 2-room apartment is offered in Elite residential complex with protected territory, Fitness Center and Spa. Author designed apartment is also completed with expensive accessories. More photos at [www.realtor.ru/a61198](http://www.realtor.ru/a61198)



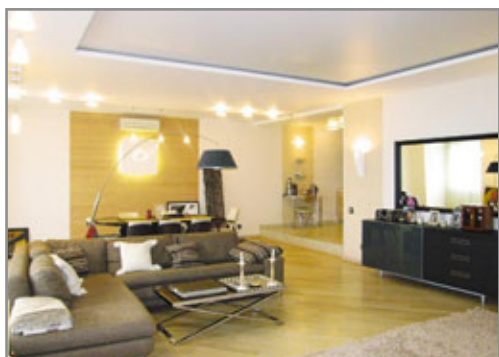
the man-made park, this is a complete contrast, an oasis of restful forest. It is free and you are free to make your own fun. Whether you are active on foot, bike or blades, or prefer idling, snoozing or picnicking on the grass, or enjoying the leafy views towards the river and nature, you have plenty of options for solitude, oneness with nature, or a friend. Surprisingly small swathes of forest feel remarkably expansive. There are wonderful bird watching opportunities, ornithologically speaking: see this month's family quiz on p44. I'd promise to see you there, but there are more paths than people, so you are likely to be in luck.

There is more yet. The new edifice of the Russian Academy of Sciences is a remarkable sight. What looks like a lonely brutalist concrete block from afar suddenly turns sci-fi or spy-fi with a wig of gloriously incongruous collection of gold cubes, shielding what? Dr Who? Dr No? Dr Quatermass? (Younger readers quiz parents here.) It is absurdly curious, from below. Once within, it is a coherent if perplexing complex of modernist architecture. Not only that, you can plot world domination while Bonding (sorry) in the excellent 22<sup>nd</sup> floor Sky Lounge restaurant, surveying all the Moscow you command: everything including all the 'seven sisters skyscrapers' (beat that) to the Kremlin to the competing Swiss hotel tower; from the river via Shukov's radio tower nearby to the distant Ostankino TV tower. Unbeatable without a balloon.

## Sparrow Hills

Carry on round the outside of the river's expansive bend, walking leisurely or cycling in your own style, and you will soon be in Vorobyovy Gory, the Sparrow (formerly Lenin) Hills. All my Russian friends tell me that this is their favourite part of the city. With good reason. Or, use the handy Red-line Metro shortcut to the station of the same name, unique in that the platforms are on a glass-walled bridge over the river, affording a great snapshot of this month's landscapes.

Sparrow Hills is a curious name. Hills they are not, more really the eroded meander scarp. Wildlife abounds and



### Slavyanskiy Bulvar

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More photos at [www.realtor.ru/a63480](http://www.realtor.ru/a63480)

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it forms the foundation for both Moscow's most famous scenic viewpoint and most famous University. Before you amble up the steepish slopes, or cheat using the ski lift,

enjoy the woodland idyll. There is plenty of wildlife within, avian and mammalian, though mostly quite shy and requiring some patience. The top arrives with pleasing suddenness, and the world changes in an instant. A car park festooned with souvenir sellers, not to mention the Olympic ski jumps, three road-rail bridges, newly-weds and their parties alighting here for the views, all let you know that this is a popular spot. Why? Turn around for the best natural view of the city. Pick a crisp, clear day, or the haze will frustrate you. The graceful ovals of the Luzhniki stadium dominate, followed immediately by the game of 'spot your dom', to the tune of the celebrations and entertainments all around you.

As if further evidence is needed, this is the spot chosen by Bulgakov for the eternal, ethereal climax of his definitive Moscow novel. After all their trials and frustrations and temptations, the eponymous Master & Margarita depart the city and the earthly life from here. It is their moment of revelation, of transience and eternity. It is the view of Moscow you will take with you. **P**

### How to get there.

Sparrow Hills: Metro to Vorbyovy Gory or Universitet (Red line), cycle along the river, or by car: park near the University. Neskuchny Sad: walk from Sparrow Hills, Gorky Park or the Academy Of Sciences. Orange Metro Leninsky Prospekt (by Gagarin). Enter at each end, or by the river. Gorky Park: Brown Metro Park Kultury or Oktyabaskaya.

*My thanks to Anna and Marina for their lifelong knowledge of these areas and help with research.*

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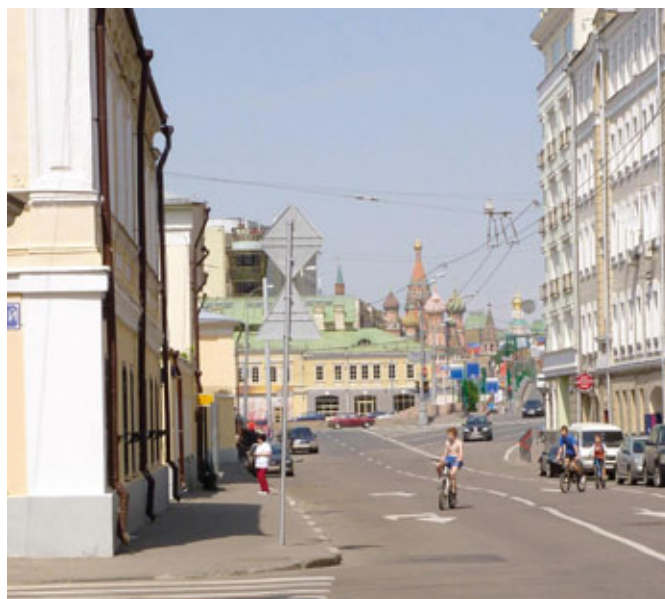
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# Bolshaya Ordinka: Street of the Golden Horde and Golden Domes



Text and Photos by Katrina Marie

The words Golden Horde evoke mystery, the Orient, and certainly another space and time. But a walk down Moscow's Bolshaya Ordinka unearths multiple layers of Russian history in the Zamoskvorechya district, from where Mongul-Tartars once launched raids against the Kremlin. Indeed, the name Bolshaya Ordinka itself is derived from the Golden Horde (Zolotaya Orda) and served as the main route from the Kremlin south in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

We begin at 69 Bolshaya Ordinka, the affiliate stage of the Moscow Maly Theatre, located just off the renovated Dobrinskaya Metro station. Dressed in Victorian-style blue and white scroll, the Maly features performances of Russian classics, such as Ostrovsky's *Wolves and Sheep* and Chekhov's *Seagull*.

At 60/2 Bolshaya Ordinka is the Russian Orthodox church of St. Catherine the Great Martyr-in-the-Fields, quite a beautiful discovery on a Saturday morning when angelic choral voices fill this airy church with song. Funded by Catherine the Great, the church was built in the 1760s and stands on the site of a bloody battle in 1612 during the Times of Troubles, when Moscow was threatened by Polish and Lithuanian invaders (who reportedly were driven hence out of Russia). The church offers an English service once a month.

At 39 there is another charming pink gem, the Church of Iveron Icon of the Mother of God-in-the-Fields, built between 1789-1802. It sustained heavy damage from fire in the Napoleonic wars of 1812 but was refurbished in the late 1800s. During the Communist period, the church was used as a club for a bus depot. But fortunately early frescoes once painted over are being revealed. One shows a heart-breaking pitiful woman gazing fervently toward heaven; others gleam in rich blue and red.

At 34, set off the busy street, is the unusual Marfo-Mariinskaya Convent, which envelopes the weary traveller in an oasis of tranquillity. Built between 1908-1912 by architect Shchusev (also the architect of Lenin's Mausoleum), it houses the

Church of Intercession of the Mother of God, a splendid mix of art nouveau and medieval Russian architecture. The murals are worth a special visit, earthy blues and yellows, modernist and wholly Russian, particularly the pastoral scene of Christ amongst the sick and needy. It was one of the last churches to be built before the revolution, and therein lies the tragic story of its founder, Grand Duchess Yelizaveta Fyodorovna, sister of Empress Alexandra (wife of Nicholas II). She established the convent after the murder of her husband by revolutionaries in 1905 only to perish herself two days after the 1918 execution of the royal family.

Cross the street to 27, listening to the burgeoning talent of the State Musical College of Bandstand and Jazz, and take a peek at the Church of Saint Nicholas in Pyzhy, a 17<sup>th</sup> century grandiose, pristine, white church. Perhaps more impressive on the outside, its icons are still certainly beautiful. The church's bell tower was reportedly seized by the Communists and given to the Bolshoi theatre in the early 1930s.

At 20 is the Church of the Consolation of all Sorrows. Neoclassic and ornate, the church was funded by a wealthy merchant in the mid 1700s who lived just opposite in the mansion that now houses the Russian Academy of Sciences department of Latin America. Rumour has it that an underground tunnel was built by the late owner between the mansion and the church, possibly for those frigid Moscow winters?

Though a stoic babushka cried from her window that there was nothing to see at 17, this apartment complex once housed famous Russian poet Anna Akhmatova. Indeed, while not much remains of that time, a soothing sculpture stands in the courtyard lovingly dedicated to Akhmatova.

Continuing north, the vivid onion domes of St. Basil's cathedral are now in clear view. As you leave Bolshaya Ordinka, perhaps for an outdoor coffee on Red Square, close your eyes for a moment and breathe in the rose and incense that has followed you from church to church. The glistening gold of the past will remain with you, a souvenir of Moscow's incredible history. **P**



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# Cooking Lessons in Moscow



Text by Rashmi le Blan,  
photos by Alina Ganenko

Have you noticed how there aren't many cooking lessons in Moscow? I have always been a foodie and used to love going to cooking courses, or watching beautiful food being prepared in gourmet shops. Since I am lacking that a bit in Moscow, I decided to start something on my own!

Although professionally I have never worked in a kitchen, food has always been my true passion. Now in Moscow, I want to try to share my passion with others. The cuisine will be French and European, mixed in with some fusion. I have started lunch classes: you can cook yourself a two or three-course meal and then enjoy it here.

A sample menu that I have in mind for the mid-day class would be:

Coquelet with Tarragon and Cream  
Fondant au chocolat

This is one of my personal favourites:

## Brandade of Salmon with green cabbage with poached egg

### Ingredients for 6:

800g filet of salmon  
800g potatoes  
20cl olive oil  
2 cloves of garlic  
Thyme and bay leaves  
1 litre milk  
1 litre water  
6 / 8 leaves of green cabbage  
30g butter  
6 eggs  
20cl vinegar

Peel potatoes, cut into cubes and let boil in salted water until tender.

In a big pot, add the milk, water, garlic, thyme and bay leaves and the filets of salmon. Bring to boil, and then let it rest for about 10 minutes. Take the filets, skin them and take out any bones. The fish should be cooked enough so that it flakes into pieces. Save the milk for the potatoes and decoration.

Once the potatoes have boiled, mash into a puree with a fork. Add some of the hot milk, then olive oil and the cooked garlic cut into small pieces. Keep the puree hot.

Cut the leaves of the cabbage into thin strips and cook in butter. Add a ½ cup of water and let to cook covered until all the water evaporates. Add this then to the mashed potatoes and mix well.

Boil some water in a pot, and add the vinegar. Break the eggs one by one into a small receptacle. When the water is boiling, create a little whirlpool in the pot with a spoon, and add 1 egg in the centre. Let it cook for about 2 minutes, and then take it out. Cook all eggs in this process.

On a large plate, arrange the above in a ring: first a layer of potatoes, then some salmon, and finish with potatoes. Remove the ring and place a poached egg on top. Break the egg with a knife so the yolk drips out, and serve immediately. Decorate with some dill if desired.

(If you have a special mixer, you could mix the milk into a mousse or foam and use it to decorate around the brandade.)

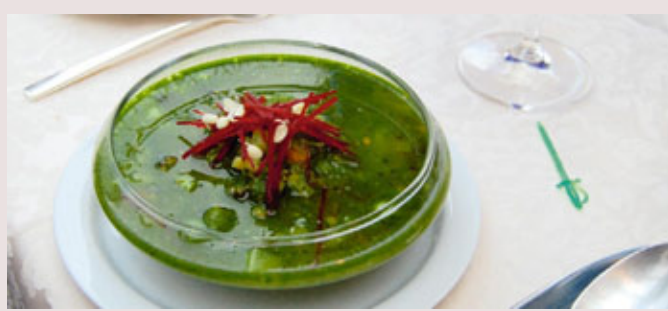
If you are interested to come and cook, please contact me. I hope that this will be a great way to meet new friends, share and enjoy good food together. I also plan to have cooking or theme evenings, or Sunday lunches, where you can come and cook a meal and then everyone can sit and enjoy the meal with some wine and have a fun time together. **P**

**Rashmi Le Blan**  
[rashmileblan@gmail.com](mailto:rashmileblan@gmail.com)  
(Classes at Metro:  
Bibliotheka Im. Lenina or Arbatskaya)

# Moscow Trio

Charles W. Borden

## Classic Italian off Delegatskaya



It's difficult to keep up with Moscow's new restaurant openings, and based upon stats, the Italian chef recruitment business must be booming. L'Albero is just one of a number of post-crisis Italian newcomers on PASSPORT's must-visit list. Opened by veteran restaurateur Andrey Zaitsev (Noa), l'Albero is ensconced in a grand old two-story building behind the fenced yard of an educational organization on quiet Delegatskaya, just north of the Garden Ring. The interior is light and open with huge windows, tables large and widely spaced, providing a very relaxed and quiet environment.

Jean-Michel Brunie of UBS, Elena Fedko of Baker McKenzie Kiev, and Antoine Poissonier of Collection Privee joined John Ortega and me for dinner. We were fortunate to meet resident chef Nicola Canuti to discuss his work and recommendations. Canuti's menu is "classic Italian with a new taste" according to the promotions. Canuti has worked in several Alain Ducasse restaurants including his Spoon restaurants in St. Tropez, Tunis and Mauritius.

L'Albero has a selection of Canuti's pasta, risotto, and meats creations and an ample selection of grill seafood that range in price from 290r per 100 grams for caldari to 900r for octopus. I started with an Octopus and Artichoke Salad (1550r),

large sections of octopus presented on an artichoke puree with hazelnuts, delightful. The pleasing, fresh, bright green Minestrone (400r) was beautifully presented.

The signature meat dish is a lamb filet, oven cooked slowly for 36 hours with fennel, oregano, cumin and sumac (1250r), which unfortunately was still in the oven. Nicola recommended the Osso Buco with Vegetables (1350r), which was perfectly cooked and served with a small silver spoon to lap up the centerpiece pureed marrow from the bone.

The restaurant prides itself on its bakery, and not just the creative, fresh baked goods that started the meal; we topped off the meal with a selection of small sweets from the chef's recipe book. L'Albero is easily one of Moscow's top Italian restaurants.

Business lunches range from 750 to 1200 rubles. Cooking classes are the rage in Moscow now, and chef Canuti has joined in. Classes are 3500 rubles, but children can apparently join as well, free. **P**

**L'Albero**  
Delegatskaya Str., 7  
+7 495 650 1674  
[www.albero.su](http://www.albero.su)



# Tatler in Ukraine



Tatler Club, the newest trendy Novikov place on the first floor of the renovated and reopened Ukraine Hotel, reminds of its sister GQ by the Baltshug. It's not really fair to review a restaurant the day after opening (in this case Tatler Club did not yet have an executive chef) but we wanted to give readers a heads-up on the first of the six or so restaurants that are planned for the Ukraine.

The Ukraine appears to have been luxuriously updated, while retaining its heritage as one of Stalin's Seven Sisters that include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Moscow State University. It's worth a visit to see the 400 square meter diorama of Moscow's center in the 50s. This award winning work, which was salvaged by the owners, toured Europe back in Soviet days, and has now been freshened up to stand at the back of the first floor.

The Tatler menu is eclectic with pasta and sushi, but we focused on the significant Ukrainian section. Our selection included Stuffed Carp (740r), Draniki (potato pancakes) with Sour Cream (450r), Pelmini with Meat (480r), and House Jellied Meat (kholodets) with Mustard and Horseradish (610r). We added Baked Beet with Almonds and Goat Cheese (640r) and Terrine de Foie Gras with Fig Jam (970r). The Ukrainian selections were very fresh if stylish presentations of classics, pricy but such is expected on both Novikov and a hotel that is sure to move to the top of Moscow's 5-star list. **P**

**Tatler Club**  
**Radisson Ukraina Hotel**  
**Ukraine Hotel,**  
**Kutuzovsky Prospekt 2/1**  
**Tel: +7 495 229 83 05**

# Another Steakhouse

Steak is also big in Moscow, and the past two years has seen the opening of two decent steakhouse chains, Ti-Bon and Torro Grill, following on the success of Goodman, plus a few luxury meat joints. Veteran restaurant promoter Doug Steele has been involved in the recent opening of 21 Prime Steakhouse and Bar next to Barashka on Novy Arbat about 100 meters from the Garden Ring. 21 Prime's menu and décor, heavy on deep, comfortable leather chairs and dark wood, are reminiscent of Steele's Doug's Steakhouse that quickly flamed out on Tsvetnoy Bulvar, though not because of the food. The walls are decorated with early 20th century black and white Americana photos.

Steele's signature is prominent across the entire menu: Cobb Salad, rows of fresh chopped meats and vegetables over lettuce with the classic dressing, and a Wedge Salad (395r), a large section carved out of an iceberg lettuce head served with ranch dressing. 21 Prime is using Steele's Australian ranch suppliers for the beef.

John Ortega ordered the 21 Prime T-Bone, an 18-ounce Angus with roasted tomatoes (1800r). Since this was lunch, I passed up the featured Ribeye Lite, a 9-ounce "bargain" and tried one of the bar menu items, Three Mini Filet Mignon Sandwiches with Mustard Mayonnaise (450r). These three small filets were perfectly tender, and the sauce a nice com-



plement. The wine list was a big surprise, featuring very decent wines starting just over 1100 rubles. If this holds, this will be a Moscow innovation, which alone should make 21 Prime popular with Passport readers. **P**

**21 Prime Restaurant and Bar**  
**Novy Arbat 21**



## Moscow Golf and Luxury Property Show

Interest in golf in Russia is increasing fast and to cater to this trend the ai-Group launched the Moscow Golf Show and the Moscow Golf & Luxury Property Show in central Moscow 23 & 24 April. The majority of the exhibitors were presenting high quality golf properties from destinations from around the world and received many enquiries from golf enthusiasts looking to own a property on a golf course. The highlight of the event was the Moscow Golf Show party which attracted more than 700 visitors who enjoyed excellent food and drink, a unique indoor golf competition, live music and a performance from the Pacha go-go dancers. [www.MoscowGolfShow.ru](http://www.MoscowGolfShow.ru)



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## Russian Art in Russia

On 17 May, MacDougall's, the world's largest auction house specialising in Russian art, held a VIP viewing of works which are to go on sale in London on 7, 10 and 11 June. The event was hosted by the British Ambassador at the newly-refurbished Residence on Sofinskaya Embankment.

Of all the sales of Russian art world-wide, 70% are held in London, 20% in New York and the remaining 10% split between Paris, Stockholm and Moscow. Last December MacDougall's overtook both Christie's and Sotheby's to become the largest seller. Amongst the classics was Vladimir Lyushin's *Two Girls on a Beach* (see picture), which is expected to fetch around £100,000. It is one of the earliest Russian works to show a woman in a bikini, a garment new to Socialist Realist art in the 1950s. MacDougall's lavish catalogue for the sale describes the picture as 'combining the anticipation of Khrushchev's Thaw with nostalgia for artis-



tic imagery of the early 1930s' while it 'reflects the artist's poetic dream of the free, harmonious human being.'

*Ian Mitchell*



## BBC monthly meeting – Renaissance Monarch

The British Business Club faced a fresh challenge at their monthly get together: how to fill the cavernous ballroom of the paint-still-wet new Renaissance Monarch Hotel, at Dynamo. It was 'job done' with the help of a good turnout and a record number of business ideas and presentations. Being St George's Day and Shakespeare's birthday, our host Anthony Farndon, the proud hotel manager, warmed us up with a topical account of the trials and tribulations of getting the project to completion, laced with lines from the Bard. His catering team did us proud with a magnificent spread, full of exciting oriental tastes and flavours, and those with a nostalgia for Blighty quaffed Spitfire ale, flown in from Kent. David Chitty from the UK Embassy updated us on security matters and In2 Matrix presented a new approach to health insurance. Most poignant, David Ford recounted his horrific accident (full interview in May issue of PASSPORT) and thanked the members

and Tania for their support. BBC chairman, Don Scott, held the reins, organised the raffle, updated us on the year ahead and promised free whisky—tomorrow. The serried ranks of troops exchanged notes and chatted noisily, trying to compete with the cacophonous roar from the gaudy carpet. The latter apart, a tasteful and purposeful gathering. Thank you!

*RDH. Photos supplied by Nadya Torina*



## Chicago Gangsters at Silver's.

Admit it, you were worried that the 'krissis' had driven all the hoods, hoodlums, gangsters and ne'er-do-wells abroad (or at least out along Rubolovsky Prospekt). Thankfully Silver's, the original genuine Irish bar, has restored our faith in the underworld. May Day night saw the subterranean pub transformed by the best barmaids in Mos-

cow into glitzy, seedy, noisy, dressy, dodgy roaring twenties Chicago. The days when the bling was for real and jazz was the deal. A feast of gold, silver and shady shades.

The costumes were eclectic, the bar girls were electric, the customers were charged and the atmosphere sparked. The music was the best from all the decades, from Billie Holliday to The Blues Brothers by way of Glenn Miller, Ray Charles and Dave Brubeck. Best of all



was Julia's virtuoso karaoke concert. She sang with the legs, the eyes and all her heart. If you were there, you'd know what I mean. If you missed it, big shame, but enjoy the photos. But don't believe all you see. That teapot flowed all night like the sorcerer's apprentice with moonshine potcheen hooch, although it tasted as good as genuine Jameson's. A great night! Thank you! Don't miss the next one! RDH





## Penny Lane's Rally

On April 24<sup>th</sup>, Penny Lane Realty took part in the opening of the Moscow rally season in an event organised by the Classic Car Club.

The rally cars gathered on Vasilevsky descent from where over 50 crews in rare European, American and Russian cars, manufactured no later than 1979, drove off. The rally drew the attention of many Muscovites, motorists and others, who gathered to goggle at the retro, stylish cars.

Here, on Vasilevsky descent, Penny Lane Realty announced two future rallies which the company is going to support in the near future: the Rally of the SuperCars, on September, 25<sup>th</sup>, and the Classic Cars Rally on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Both rallies will be organised with the support of the Classic Cars Club.

All present could see the information on forthcoming rallies displayed on a bright orange 1953 VW Karmann Ghia branded specially for this event. The car was accompanied by two charming Penny Lane Realty employees stylishly dressed in retro-style clothes. The Volkswagen drew the attention of all present, including VIP's, Evelinu Bledans, Pavel Derevyanko and Tatyana Vedeneyev, who took pleasure in being photographed by the car.

The rally cars passed down central Moscow streets, through a check-point in Stoleshnikov Lane where motorists had a short champagne break in the Royal Club boutique. Prizes were awarded to drivers and owners at the Marusya Bar & Restaurant and all were treated to a celebratory supper.

General Director of Penny Lane Realty, George Dzagurov, awarded a special prize: "For the will to win" to the crew of a 1970 Chevrolet Corvette, to Michael Ilyin and Inna Denisovoi.



The team caused a stir when the driver's assistant, the charming navigator Inna, courageously added water to the car's radiator throughout the rally, enabling the car to make it to the finishing line. In a gift from Penny Lane, the Chevrolet Corvette team received an automatic rifle with an engraving "For the Defence of Style of a Legendary Epoch".

"The opening of the rally season is a long-awaited sports event for true rally fans", said George Dzagurov. "I personally deeply respect rally car fans and am always ready to support this kind of event. Our rallies which we plan to spend together with Club of Classical Cars on July 10<sup>th</sup> and on September 25<sup>th</sup> will be real entertainment and great events for all supercar and retro-car motorists and judges. We assure you that we will surprise motorists with our hospitality, high level of organisation and worthy prizes".



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# Dare to ask Dare



Photo by Maria Savelieva

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

**Dear Deidre:**

*I thought the Russians toasted with "Na Zdorovye," but they don't. What's up with that?*

**Dear Film Buff:**

You must be a simpleton because you've let Hollywood movies lead you astray. The American film industry has a lot of wrong ideas about Russians.

Since living here, I've noticed that every "bad guy" in the movies is a Russian. According to Hollywood, all Russian men are mobsters and all Russian women carry little dogs in their purses. According to Hollywood, Russia has only one season: winter. According to Hollywood, all Russians make their money selling arms to terrorists. Oh, and according to Hollywood, we're all running around every night drinking vodka and saying "Na Zdorovye."

When it comes to Russia, don't trust Western source material.

And that includes, by the way, CNN.

Why don't you try l'chaim instead? That should go over well.

xxooDD

**Dear Deidre:**

*I attach the first two pages of my novel. It's about a divorced expat guy who moves to Russia and sleeps around with a lot of Russian women. I think these*

*pages are really good – what do you think?*

**Dear Don't Quit Your Day Job:**

Nabokov you ain't.

In other words: I think they are awful.

I still can't believe I wasted 5 minutes reading them.

You can't imagine how many Western men have sent me first chapters of their version of the Great Russian Novel. Here is a sample of the summaries I've received:

"It's about an Aussie guy whose heart gets broken and he moves to Moscow and has sex with a lot of Russian women."

"It's about an English couple who move to Moscow and the husband sleeps around with a lot of Russian women."

"It's about a guy who loses his job and moves to Moscow and then copulates with a lot of Russian women."

See a common theme, Don't Quit?

There's only one good thing about getting these kinds of queries: I reckon they move me up a rung on the "Famous Writers" ladder. Because I've heard that Famous Writers get a lot of novices sending them their meager attempts at literature and asking for guidance.

So I suppose it's just a cross I must bear. Sigh.

xxooDD

**Dear Deidre:**

*I've seen you at the Azbuka Vkusa on Novinsky Boulevard. Why do you insist on bagging your own groceries? I've noticed it upsets the staff.*

**Dear Scary Stalker:**

I suppose that with my \$500 a week grocery bill, I probably deserve having someone else bag my purchases. But I think if you can't be bothered to do it yourself, you're nothing but a Fancy Pants. And we've got enough of those running around in supermarkets in Moscow already.

For the life of me, I can't figure out why Russian women do their shopping in high heels and Chanel. The only explanation I can come up with is: Fancy Pants.

Anyway, it doesn't "upset" the staff, it "unnerves" them. Or used to. They're getting used to it now.

Here's my question for you: is there such a thing as a restraining order in Russia?

xxooDD

**Dear Deidre:**

*After my journey to Los Angeles, I realized that "babushkas" live only in Russia. Why do we Russian women want to become old people so early? Why do we wear such boring and unfashionable clothes? Why don't we want to look after ourselves after 45 and seem to forget about sex altogether? I am scared of getting to be old!*

**Dear Fearful & Forgetful:**

I have one word for you: Communism.

The Babushkas are a dying breed.

The Fancy Pants at Azbuka Vkusa will never, ever, EVER be Babushkas.

xxooDD

**Dear Deidre:**

*I am on an antibiotics course so I can't drink alcohol! What do I do?*

**Dear Delirium Tremens:**

It must not have been a Russian doctor you saw if he told you that. I can't really picture any Russian telling anyone not to drink...

Go get pissed!

That concept that you can't drink when on antibiotics thing was debunked years ago. It was made up by doctors in the old days to combat the disastrous combination of drunken sailors, STDs and whores.

Now, if you're a syphilitic sailor who habituates whorehouses (which I'm guessing you're not), avoid the booze. Otherwise, drink up!

xxooDD

**Dear Deidre:**

*What form of birth control do you use?*

**Dear Oddly Curious:**

My age.

xxooDD

Do you have a question for Deidre? If so please email her at Deidre\_Clark@hotmail.com

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



# Trash-Cloud Grounds election

Anth Ginn

Britain has been under a cloud, trying to sort itself out politically. Both the volcano in Iceland, and the general election have resulted in a very British type of chaos.

First the volcano. When it erupted the airports closed and the media caused everybody to panic. It took a couple of days for the nation to calm down, and realise that it hardly affected anybody. Aircrews had a few days holiday, and lots of families, stranded abroad, had extended holidays.

However, if there isn't a crisis, the media do their best to create one. All they had to work with were families stranded abroad, staying an extra few nights in the hotel, or coming home on a train instead of a plane. Reporters scoured airports looking for horror stories, but all they could come up with was things like, "This poor family had to sleep on seats in the lounge and live on bottled water, sandwiches and chocolates for three days."

Try as they could to make it look like a war zone, they failed miserably. They found one poor bloke who had to fork out £1,200 for a chauffeur driven limousine to take him from Amsterdam to Calais, where he took the ferry. Nobody thought to ask him why he didn't take the train and save himself £1,150. A family were interviewed by a crisis seeking reporter just before they boarded. The father was asked, "And what was the worst thing about your trip home?" The man thought for a few moments and replied, "I haven't been able to change my socks for three days." Earthquake victims eat your hearts out.

The lack of flights did have a positive side. The residents of West London have enjoyed the peace of not having noisy jets flying over them every five minutes. One person told a reporter, "It's been wonderful without all that noise in the sky. For the first time in years we can hear the traffic on the South Circular."

And as the poison, death bringing, invisible cloud of volcanic ash, hung like a giant dagger over the washing lines of the UK, we went into the general election. This time the election was presented like a voter driven talent competition, in the style of, "The X Factor", "Celebrity Come Dancing", "The Eurovision Song Contest", or "Big Brother", where the viewers watch the candidates do their thing, then vote. At last an election we

could all relate to. The three party leaders debated, live on TV, and the nation voted. Hair styles, facial expressions and tone of voice became far more important than economic policy, education or the health service. The next government depended on who looked into the camera, or who had the most sincere smile. And on election night, the computer graphics took over.

The BBC, ITV and Sky, poured millions into turning election night into a three party Avatar. David Dimbleby sprouted wings and horns and flew to the top of a mountain to commentate on the results. Andrew Neill was a giant goblin, who would ask questions to the three elves, then interrupt them, bite their heads off and pop their corpses into a cauldron. ITV went for 'Dungeons and Dragons' presentation, where the red monster, blue monster and orange monster fought it out, shooting fireballs at each other in the skies above a ruined castle, representing the UK. The election on Sky was more like an '80s version of Pac Man, where the big blue head ran around the screen, gobbling up little red cakes, representing labour party constituencies.

The day after voting, the computer graphics were over and we took stock of the results. The nation had spoken, but unfortunately nobody could understand what it said. The results were up in the air, unlike the UKIP plane, which crashed, injuring Nigel Farage, its European MP. Nigel had to watch the election results from his hospital bed.

Nigel wasn't the only candidate who was unhappy. In fact by the time the results were in, everybody was unhappy. The Lib-dems thought they were going to get a couple of hundred seats, and ended up with the same amount as in the last election. The Tories thought they were going to be in Downing St next day, but couldn't get an overall majority and had to hang around outside, knocking on the door. Labour, well, they lost. Peter Robinson, leader of the Unionists in Northern Ireland was shocked to lose his seat, but not as shocked as when he'd arrived home and found his wife in bed with an 18 year old man in the catering business.

There were a few firsts. Three Moslem women were elected, along with Britain's first Green Party MP. The youngest ever candidate, an 18-year old, stood



in Erewash, Derbyshire, on a platform of not allowing parents into their children's bedrooms without knocking, removing tax from pot-noodles, and the constitutional right not to make your bed if you don't feel like it.

The one party that managed to unite the nation was the British National Party, who turned everybody against them. They lost all their seats, but there was a debate whether this was due to their right wing policies, or their party song, "Christmas is a British Thing." Check it out on You Tube.

With no single party having an outright majority, we have a hung parliament. This disappointed many people, who thought this involved the gallows. The Liberal Democrats realised they held the balance of power, and went through the fastest transformation in British politics. It took them half an hour to change from a virgin with high principles, to a tart hanging out on the corner of Downing St, twirling her knickers around her index finger. Crying, "It's for the good of the country," she hopped into bed with a handful of amylnitrate poppers and David Cameron.

The winds of change are blowing. Britain's first female Moslem cabinet minister promptly cut her own benefits and had herself deported. National ID cards have been abolished, because Nick Clegg finally knows who he is. He's been given the "non-job" of deputy prime minister, and moved into John Prescott old office next to the broom cupboard at the end of the corridor. The combination of Tory Blue and Libdem yellow give impression we've been taken over by IKEA. Britain is entering a new era of flat pack government. It's bound to end in tears. **P**

# Moscow Open-air Swimming 2010

Svetlana Grebenuk

Russian superstition says you can go swimming open-air after the first thunder-storm in spring when the May storms purify the water. The Russian Ministry of Civil Defence says it is really only safe to swim from until June 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>.

Starting from June 1<sup>st</sup> there will be seven swimming places open in Moscow, four of which are not far from the centre and easily reached reach by public transport. This year, the requirements for the beaches in Moscow were tightened up, and no swimming zone will be approved before water samples are taken, rescue teams formed, and the bottom of lakes and stretches of rivers cleaned.

Serebryanny Bor is probably one of the best natural recreation zones in Moscow. A unique stretch on the banks of Moscow River with pine woods and fresh air is worth visiting even if you are

not a lover of outdoor swimming. Only 20 minutes' drive from the centre and you're at two beautiful beaches. The entrance is not free but affordable. Around 500 roubles segregates you from potentially undesirable beach neighbours, and life savers are on hand. There are three beaches, two beaches: #2 and #3 are open to the public. To reach beach #3 you can take a minibus taxi (marshrutka) or a bus 190 from Polezhaevskaya metro station and its last station will be the beach. Beach #2 will welcome you if you take a trolleybus 20 or 86 and hop off on the last station.

Another two beaches: Troparevo in the South-West of Moscow and Mesherskoye in the West are much cheaper but less comfortable. They have free entrance, but this means they are more crowded. You'll have to take your own umbrella with you, and there are no chaise longues or beach games to rent. Though Mesherskoye pond is closer to

the centre, about 15 minutes on minibus 500 which stops right next to the beach entrance (last stop). To find the bus you should come out of last metro wagon on Kievskaya station and look for the blue signs on the walls of the underground walkway that say the numbers of buses and follow the arrows to bus route 500. As soon as you come out of the walkway you will see a bus stop in a few meters from 'Evropeyskiy' shopping center.

Troparevo boasts a free parking zone but it's a longer way on bus 227 from 'Teply Stan' metro station than Mesherskoye. Come out of the last wagon on 'Teply Stan' station, keep left after the glass doors and walk to the end of the walkway and then up on the left stairs. A little right from the exit you'll see a path leading to the bus stop you need.

Anyway, whether you swim or not, don't forget to use sunscreen and drink hot green tea to avoid sunstroke. **P**

*Serebryannyi Bor is worth visiting even if you are not a lover of outdoor swimming Serebryaanyi Bor beaches are both approved for use (Beach #2 on the picture)*



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# The Dead Novelists Society

Two other books in the series are also available: *The Girl who Played with Fire* and *The Girl who Kicked the Hornets' Nest*

Ian Mitchell

Last month the third and final book in the strange but wildly popular series of crime novels by the Swedish journalist, Stieg Larsson, was published. Why am I so confident that this will be the last, when publishers like to extend successful series almost indefinitely these days? Because Mr Larsson is dead. And the curious thing is that he died in circumstances ominously connected with the subject-matter of his novels.

The heroine of the series is a tiny, lightly-built, unattractive, anti-social, bisexual computer ace with a love of violence, a hatred of men, a photographic memory and a preference for black lipstick and revenge of the classic Calvinist sort: two eyes for an eye; two teeth for a tooth. She seems to think of herself as incarnating the wrath of God.

Her name is Lisbeth Salander and she lives in Stockholm, a city not normally noted for ugly, mannerless, man-hating savages. But then the plots of the books turn mostly on the belief, which the journalist hero, Mikael Blomqvist, shares with the author, that Swedish society is riddled with misogynistic corruption, especially in the semi-fascist police force and security services. It deserves the vengeance of Lisbeth Salander.

Blomqvist is, as Larsson was in real life, involved in publishing a left-wing magazine which exposes these malign influences. He is a hero of the dull, self-righteous, moralistic sort that anyone who has experience of the international charity industry will be familiar with. He never laughs, rarely smiles, never makes a joke, and never does anything irrational, passionate or poetic. Apart from having sex occasionally, he does nothing but plod away making the world a better place.

Happily for the novel, he is attacked by a super villain, is defeated and nearly bankrupted and, as a form of salvation,

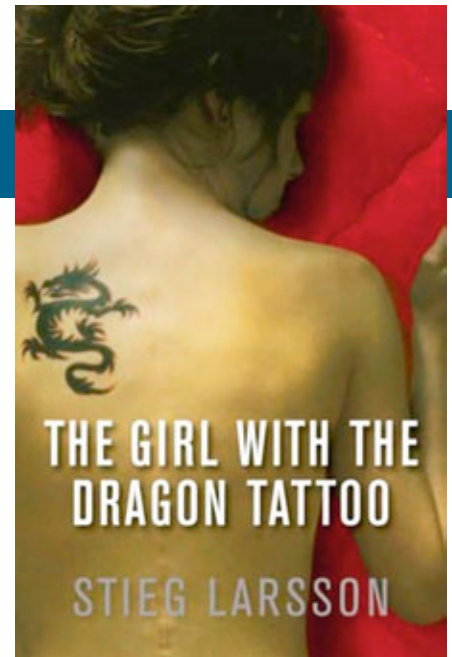
asked to solve the mystery of a series of murders in rural Sweden, which he manages to do only with the help of little Lisbeth. They do so in the spirit of people who refuse payment for work they did for moralistic reasons. They are not presented as likeable people, or even particularly interesting ones. Indicative of the author's approach is the Swedish title of this book: *Men who Hate Women*.

The writing focuses on material things to the extent that you learn more about the square-footage of the character's apartments than you do about their emotional lives and inner motivation. You really need a map of Stockholm to follow parts of the story. And the villains are such wooden, two-dimensional, predictable characters that they could almost have been invented by Jeffrey Archer. The prose is without a glint of anything resembling wit. You get life histories with dutiful completeness, but as Robert Graves said of the Bible, the ultimate moralisers' text, there is "not a smile from Genesis to Apocalypse".

So why have these books sold so well? In 2008, Larsson was the world's second best-selling novelist. I suggest there are two reasons, if one disallows the fad for Nordic fiction which erupted after Peter Høeg published *Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow* and Henning Mankell hit the top of the charts with the 'Detective Wallender' books. The first one is that Lisbeth Salander, for all her awfulness, is actually a curiously attractive character in her context.

That context is the hideously conventional and, dare I say it?, un-Russian world of respectable Swedish society. She is a rebel, and small and fragile with it. Also she has a cause, which is not justice, as the dreary Blomqvist seems to think, but just to say "Sod the lot of you!" to complacent, conformist Swedish bourgeois society. Not surprisingly, she is revealed to have foreign blood in her. And that foreign blood is as dangerously anarchic as it seems a moralistic Swedish novelist can invent: her father is Russian, and an ex-KGB agent to boot!

The second factor is the strange story surrounding the author himself. He came from a family of committed



**The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo**  
Stieg Larsson  
Maclehose Press £7.99  
978-1-84724-545-8

communists in the hard-scrabble north of Sweden. Larsson was a militant left-winger, so much so, that he left the huge fortune resulting from the success of these books to the Communist Party in his hometown, of Umeö. Control has gone to his father and brother, excluding completely his wife of 30 years. He did not even like the brother, but presumably the cause was more important than his wife, who has been left penniless.

Larsson died on 9 November 2004 which, as the British journalist, Christopher Hitchens, has pointed out, is the anniversary of Kristallnacht. Officially, he suffered a heart attack, but there are rumours that he was the victim of a murder plot by a Swedish ex-SS veteran. He was only 50.

His British publisher has said, "I know someone with excellent contacts in the Swedish police and security world who assures me that everything described in these books actually took place. Larsson planned to write ten books in all. So you can see how people could think that he might not have died but have been 'stopped'."

Perhaps that is what makes these books compelling reading. Behind the prosaic glumness, there is something real about the stories: life red in tooth and keyboard. **P**



# A Quartet of Creative Cubs

A 'Lisa and Friends' story, no.6

Illustrations by Nika Harrison,  
story by Ross Hunter



**"BORED?"** Lisa could not believe her furry ears. "If only protecting the burrow from the ravages of four over-energetic cubs let me get bored", she thought. "You can't be! The school holidays have only just started".

"Mum, we're bored!", wailed Dasha, Masha, Sasha and Boris in unison. Lisa took her apron off and tried to think. She knew all too well from clearing the floor of toys that they had plenty of diversions if only they wanted them. She resisted the strong temptation to invite help with the housework, doubting if washing, cleaning, dusting and ironing would sell well.

With an exhausted sigh, she bought time by commanding bedroom-tidying while she looked for inspiration. Again. She glanced at the pile of papers needing attention, and saw their school reports. Plenty of pleasing effort from the twins, some good work from Sasha, with little effort, it seemed, and a string of catastrophes for Boris. Nothing new. Hang on! There is something missing. Everything normal is there, so far so worthy, but nothing creative, to tingle the heart or set the brain ablaze.

Before she got any further, the cubs returned. Not a purposeful procession, more a vulpine tornado of fighting fur, crashing and laying waste to all it rolled over. Prised apart, the damage could be assessed. Boris had a bruised nose, again. Sasha was nursing squashed paws. Dasha was choking on mouthfuls of foxfur and dust. Masha was rubbing scratched and pummelled eyes and ears. All exuded the rancid sweat of battle, and nursed bruised egos. They felt very small and foolish. That was it! Sight, smell, taste, touch and sound. That summarised everything.

A clean up first. TLC and TCP work wonders. Family conference time. "Each of you can be more creative with your





talents", said Lisa. "Sit there." The cubs went quiet while Lisa ferreted around the burrow, and dropped an ever growing pile of Good Things in front of them.

"Here are some ways to stretch not wreck your senses. Choose a hobby for the holidays, and stick with it. Otherwise", she added menacingly, "I'll choose for you." The cubs were in no position to argue.

"Masha, you first. Pull out whatever pleases the eye". Paper, brushes and pencils piled up. Dasha opted for Lisa's old violin (Nika – change that to any instrument you feel like drawing!) and make songs from her verses. Sasha chose carpentry, to make a rocking chair for Mum, with a side offer of finding mushrooms and truffles. "Good luck to him (and me if it ever needs testing", thought Lisa). "Boris, what smells good?" "Easy, Mum", said Boris, relieved, "food, flowers and fragrance. I'll cook".

Groans all round. "Stop!" ordered Lisa. "We haven't heard your songs yet or seen your pictures, so give Boris a chance. You can start in pairs. Masha and Sasha, get organised for painting, before you go into the shed and sort out wood-working tools. Dasha and Boris, you start in the kitchen and I'll teach you how to cook your supper, then you can make a song about it".

The cubs switched quickly from nothing to do to too much to do. With a hint of competition, a dash of pride and no small dose of fraternal jealousy as to what the others were up to, they got going.

Early results were not encouraging. Sasha's bashing and hammering sounded better than the strained squeaks from Dasha's fiddle. Masha's water-colour portrait looked uncomfortably similar to Boris's soup ingredients. There seemed to be more wood-glue flowing than consommé, and they resembled each other. Early on, Lisa's five senses were telling her that this was a mistake. It was hard to tell when Dasha stopped tun-

ing and warming up and started a tune. Sasha's first chair prototype failed to support... itself. Boris' culinary creations were clearly compost. Covered by Masha's unintendedly abstract canvases.

But, bit by bit, order asserted itself. Sasha foraged in the forest for better ingredients for Boris. Masha found she could draw good chairs, which Sasha then copied. They sang or whistled while they worked, and Dasha picked up the tunes. Sasha made a workable easel, then a music stand. Dasha's ideas and spices added to Boris' dishes. Boris couldn't draw or sing for toffee (or make it) but he became adept at composing both Masha's pictures and Dasha's ditties.

Best of all, they discovered that each creative skills offered clues and encouragement for the others. And their vocabulary, calligraphy and mathematical dexterity advanced along with their arts and crafts.

By the time they were done, Lisa could relax in her new chair, while enjoying her meal and being serenaded by pleasing tunes and fantasy landscapes. The cubs helped each other more and squabbled less. Their bedrooms somehow became tidier, though she never worked out why. Next term, their school grades improved, especially in the so-called core subjects.



Lisa asked the cubs what they thought of their busy summer. The twins said that they had learned from their mistakes, which prompted Sasha and Boris to declare: **P**



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## Puzzles compiled by Ross Hunter

### 1 Magic Squares

Lisa's story on pp. 42-43 was inspired by a famous wood-cut by Albrecht Durer, from 1514, which includes a magic square, shown below. There is a clue when he did the engraving, in the square. Can you make one? 3x3 or 4x4, or larger (but they get very tricky), all you have to do is fill in numbers so that every row, every column and both diagonals add up to the same number. These have been known about in the ancient Chinese, Arab and Western world for thousands of years. I've added a couple, plus space for you to do one. Good luck! Perhaps Sudoku is not so new. By the way, at the bottom of Durer's engraving, called 'Melancholia', is part of an Angel's wing.



a 3x3 square (15)

2	7	6
9	5	1
4	3	8

a 4x4 square (also 34)

4	5	11	14
15	10	8	1
6	3	12	12
9	16	2	7

Your turn:


Hint: pick a row total first

### 2 Photo quiz

Lisa and the cubs saw all these birds in under an hour during a walk through Sparrow Hills and Neskuchny Sad. Can you match the names to the pictures?



**Tree-Creeper**  
Certhia familiaris  
Пищуха  
обыкновенная

**Great Tit**  
Parus major  
Большая Синица

**Chaffinch**  
Fringilla coelebs  
Зяблик

**Greenfinch**  
Chloris chloris  
Зеленушка

**Blue Tit**  
Parus caeruleus  
Синица

Remember! Enjoy seeing pictures of wild birds' eggs. But, please, never go looking for eggs or interfering with nests. The Country code: "Take only Photographs – Leave Only Footprints".

### 4 Mini Sudoku & May answers

Mini Sudoku - June

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

### Answers to May puzzles

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

Chistye Prudye was Kirovskaya (to 1990)  
Kropotkinskaya Dvoretsov Sovietov (to 1957)  
Teatralnaya Ploshchad Sverdlova (to 1990)  
Lubyanka Dzerzhinskaya (to 1990)  
Okhotny Ryad LM Kaganovich 1955-57; Pr. Marksa 1961-90  
Sparrow Hills (1959) Leninskiye Gory (to 1999)  
Dobryninskaya Serpukhovskaya (to 1961)  
Partizanskaya Izmailovsky Park (to 2005)

Metro Bridges: Sparrow Hills, red line; Kievskaya, light blue

Outside the MKAD: Mitono, NW on Purple; Novokosino, E on Yellow



# Non vodka induced convulsion of fear: Customs

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

One of the most frequently asked questions concerning Expats shipping household goods to and from Russia is what Customs duties they will have to pay. Sometimes, the mere mention of having to deal with Russian Customs can send an otherwise normal Expat into non-vodka-induced convulsions of fear.

As with most things Russian, the issue is simple in theory, but bureaucratic in practice due to the sheer amount of documents and forms that need to be completed in duplicate, signed, notarized, apostilled, and sent to God-knows-whom in some government department that's who-knows-where, but at least seven Metro stops from wherever you are or intend to reside.

In theory, as a non-resident of Russia, you may import furniture and personal belongings without paying any Customs duties whatsoever. However, this is contingent on an Export Obligation that you sign promising to export those items when you leave. The duration of an Export Obligation is valid for the same duration as your visa, at which point it can be renewed. As long as this Export Obligation is presented to Customs upon departure, you should be free and clear of any duties on your personal belongings.

You are also exempt from paying any duties on most personal belongings and furniture that were purchased in Russia. The simple reason for this being that as it was purchased here in Russia, you've already paid your dues to the Russian government in the form of value-added tax. Exempt from this, however, are culturally valuable items such as books older than 100 years, some national artwork, military medals, antique coins, real coal-burning samovars, and other antiquities.

In practice, however, you should allow for several weeks' time at either end (whether arriving to Russia or departing from it) to submit the necessary forms to the company that will be assisting you with your move. You will normally need to submit, at a minimum, notarized and translated copies of your passport, visa,



and registration. A customs declaration for your non-accompanied items (that must be stamped by Customs at whatever airport (or train station) you arrive(d) at. In addition to the Export Obligation, you should produce a Power of Attorney (PoA) form allowing your broker to import/export your belongings on your behalf. The right company should be able to provide you with detailed instructions as well as templates for the export obligation and PoA.

A few other items bear mentioning here. If you're here for more than a year, the company that relocated your belongings here should automatically extend your Export Obligations for you. Some charge a minimal fee for renewal, but it's a good idea to make sure your company hasn't let you fall through the cracks, as the cost of renewing an expired one incurs a government fine that can be several hundred euros.

Also, you are not obligated to use the same company on departure that you did upon arrival. Any company shipping household goods can request the obligation from the company you arrived with. Don't neglect to get more competitive quotations for your move simply because your Export Obligation is being held by the company you arrived with.

All of the bureaucracy can be a hassle at a time that's already potentially stressful without having to consider Russian Customs. There are several companies in Moscow capable of the shipping, so approach them and save yourself and your wallet the time and money. **P**

## How to say... I'm not feeling well

The three most useful verbs are **болеть** (to be ill), **болит(-ят)** (to hurt, used in the 3rd person form only) and **чувствовать себя** (to feel). Armed with these three, you can easily talk about how you're feeling:

### Simply not feeling yourself:

Как ты себя чувствуешь?

*How are you feeling?*

Я плохо себя чувствую.

*I don't feel well.*

Я болею. I'm ill.

Я приболел.

*I'm coming down with something.*

### Something hurts:

У меня болит голова.

*My head hurts (I have a headache).*

У меня болит горло.

*I have a sore throat.*

У меня болит живот.

*I have a stomach ache.*

У меня болят глаза.

*My eyes hurt.*

### If you can be more specific:

Я болею гриппом. *I have the flu.*

Я простудился/простудилась.

*I caught a cold.*

У меня простуда. *I have a cold.*

*(interestingly, Russians also say this to refer to a cold-sore).*

Я отравился/отравилась.

*I have food poisoning.*

### Hopefully your symptoms are short-lived:

Сегодня чувствую себя лучше.

*I feel better today.*

Сегодня полегче. *Today is easier.*

Я думаю, ничего серьёзного, через пару дней буду чувствовать себя нормально. *I think it's nothing serious, in a couple of days I'll feel just fine.*

Жить буду! *I'm not going to die today!*

Courtesy of RUSLINGUA  
[www.ruslingua.com](http://www.ruslingua.com)

**Ruslingua**

## 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. Slavyansky 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.turandotpallace.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 \*NEW\*

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.coffeemania.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.artistice.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 Filipino 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. "Classy."

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 Kultury

www.semifreddo-restaurant.com

### \*\*MARIO

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

17 Ulitsa Klimashkina, 253-6505

M. Barrikadnaya

### MAMMA GIOVANNA

The menu is also 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 Soimonovsky 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 Neglinnaya Ulitsa, 783-1234  
**M.** Teatralnaya, Kuznetsky Most

### BAGRATIONI

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

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

**M.** Baumanskaya

### BARASHKA

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

20/1 Petrovka Ulitsa, 200-4714  
**M.** Kuznetsky Most  
21/1 Novy Arbat

**M.** Arbatskaya  
http://eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/

### BELOYE SOLNTSE PUSTYNI

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

29 Ul. Neglinnaya, 625-2596, 200-6836  
**M.** Kuznetsky Most, Teatralnaya  
http://eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/

## RUSSIAN

### \*\*CAFE PUSHKIN

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

Reservations 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.

2A Ulitsa Aleksandra Solzhenitsyna

**M.** Taganskaya

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

### NA MELNITSE

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

7 Tverskoi Bulvar, 290-3737  
**M.** Pushkinskaya, Tverskaya, Chekhovskaya

24 Sadovo-Spasskaya Ulitsa, 625-8890, 625-8753

**M.** Krasniye Vorota

www.namelnitse.ru

### OBLOMOV

Authentic Russian cuisine in a restored 19th century mansion.

5 Monetchikovskiy Pereulok, 953-6828

**M.** Dobrynskaya

### 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.** Barrikadnaya

### YOLKI-PALKI

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

23 Bolshaya Dmitrovka, 200-0965

**M.** Okhotny Ryad, Teatralnaya

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

## SEAFOOD

### FILIMONOVA & YANKEL

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

23 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 223-0707

**M.** Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya

www.fishhouse.ru

### LA MAREE

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

leading fresh seafood importer.

28/2 Ulitsa Petrovka, 694-0930

www.la-maree.ru

## STEAKS

### \*\*BEEF BAR

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

13 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. Zatspeyskaya Val, 953-2876

**M.** Paveletskaya

3 Bolshoi Kozlovsky Pereulok, 623-1098

**M.** Krasniye Vorota

www.elgauchito.ru

### GOODMAN

Moscow's premium steak house chain. Crisis menu added. Numerous locations.

23 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 775-9888

**M.** Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya

www.goodman.ru

### POLO CLUB

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

Ulitsa Petrovka 11/20, 937-1024

**M.** Kuznetsky Most

### TORRO GRILL

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

6 Prospekt Vernadskogo, 775-4503

**M.** Universitet

www.torrogriill.ru

## BARS AND CLUBS

### ALL TIME BAR

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

7/5 Bolshaya Dmitrovka, 629-0811

**M.** Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya

### BOOZE PUB

English-style pub with real British beer and original cocktails. Daily from 5 a.m. to noon: English breakfast for only 100 rubles.

Weekdays from 12:00 to 17:00.

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

5 Potapovsky Pereulok, Bldg. 2, 621-4717

**M.** Chistiye Prudy

www.boozebub.ru

### KARMA BAR

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

3 Pushechnaya Ulitsa, 624-5633

**M.** Kuznetsky Most

www.karma-bar.ru

### KRYSHA MIRA

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

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.

Pyatnitskaya, 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.



**Irish Bar & Restaurant**  
"Make yourself at home in Katie's"

Prospect Mira, Groholsky per.26, Bld. 5  
For reservation: tel. 792-51-88  
www.katieosheas.ru

**OPEN DAILY FOR BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER**

*Each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday after 5 pm :2 cocktails - 1 price.*  
*Best value of Sunday Roast Lunch in town - 600 rbl.*  
*Curry Sunday from 7-11 pm + bottle for free (call for details).*

**All June**  
**FULL COVERAGE OF WORLD CUP FOOTBALL**  
in Russian and English

## Restaurants & Bars

Academy  
Adriatico  
Adzhanta  
Aist  
Alrosa  
American Bar & Grill  
Apshu  
Art Bazar  
Art Chaikhona  
Australian Open  
Baan Thai  
Beavers  
BeerHouse  
Bellezza  
Bistrot  
Blooming Sakura  
Bookafe  
Cafe des Artistes  
Cafe Atlas  
Cafe Courvoisier  
Cafe Cipollino  
Cafe Michelle  
Cafe Mokka  
Cantinetta Antinori  
Carre Blanc  
Che  
China Dream  
Cicco Pizza  
Coffee Bean  
Costa Coffee  
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  
Navarros  
Night Flight  
Pancho Villa  
Papa's  
Pizza Express  
Pizza Maxima  
Planeta Sushi  
Prognoz Pogody  
Real McCoy  
Rendezvous  
R&B Cafe  
Scandinavia  
Seiji  
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 Tulskeya  
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

## Embassies

Australia  
Austria  
Belgium  
Brazil  
Canada  
China  
Cyprus  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Delegation of EC  
Egypt  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Hungary  
Iceland  
Indonesia  
India  
Israel  
Italy  
Japan  
Kuwait  
Luxembourg  
Malaysia  
Mauritius  
Mexico  
Netherlands  
New Zealand  
Norway  
Pakistan  
Peru  
Philippines  
Poland  
Portugal  
Saudi Arabia  
Singapore  
Slovenia  
South Africa  
South Korea  
Spain  
Sweden  
Thailand  
United Arab Emirates  
United Kingdom  
United States

## Medical Centers

American Clinic  
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  
Expat Salon  
Foreign Ministry Press Center  
General Electric  
General Motors CIS  
Gold's Gym  
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  
Pulford  
Reuters  
Renaissance Capital  
Respublika  
Rolf Group  
Ruslingua  
Russo-British Chamber of Commerce  
St. Andrew's Anglican Church  
Savant  
Schwartzkopf & Henkel  
Shishkin Gallery  
Sport Line Club  
Swiss International Airlines  
Tretiakov Gallery  
Unilever  
Uniastrum Bank  
WimmBillDann

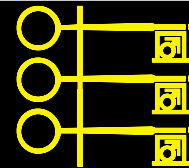


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