

PASSPORT

MOSCOW

MARCH 2010

www.passportmagazine.ru

What Do Russians Read?

Best Res Areas

Russian Superstitions



I WANT TAXES YOUR

In spite of everything (joke),
we wish you every
happiness not only
on the 8th of
March but for
ever (sincerely)





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John Ortega
Owner and Publisher

Sex'n'drugs'n'rock'n'roll. That was what used to sell magazines. Deidre Dare's column in the previous issue of *Passport* attracted more visitors to our site than any person, article, or event in over six years of publishing, and our average daily hit-list is in the thousands. No, it's good old sex and everything related to it that sells. Perhaps we have been barking up the wrong tree for over half a decade? Perhaps our mission to haul readers up steep cultural slopes to glimpse the depth of the Russian soul and all the totally depressing stuff that goes with it has been in vain?

No, there will always be a scribe with a mission working at *Passport*, determined to lead you up the path to true cultural enlightenment. But we do need more fun, especially as the weather gradually improves, and we vaguely recollect that there is in fact a reason to struggle on: the summer holidays are coming!

No less than two travel articles this month point the way to getting it together to leave the city once in a while. For all US citizens, our cover was not supposed to frighten you more than we already are. Nevertheless, Art Franczek's article will hopefully point out the ridiculousness of our situation in comparison, tax-wise to most other foreign citizens working here. And we only have your own government to blame.

And if you have read this far you are one of the zero point two percent of expats who read at all! Congratulations! For more about reading habits, see Elena Rubinova's article on Russians' reading habits. As usual, there is too much in this issue to comment on, and anyway, letters at the front of magazines aren't read anyway, so enjoy it, OK?



Kai welcomes French cuisine

From 22nd to 26th of March the Kai restaurant is hosting its Guest Chief Week with French Chef Daniel Chambon. During his visit, Daniel will prepare lunch and dinner menus featuring his interesting interpretation of classic French cuisine that earned him one star in the Michelin guide. He is the proud owner of the Le Pont de l'Ouyse, a small and charming three star hotel with a one-star Michelin restaurant located in the south of France, at Souillac. It is a place for truffles, foie gras and good food. During the week the Chef will present a selection of dishes which best represent his passion for the art of cooking.

Kai Restaurant & Lounge
is located on the 2nd floor
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Auction of Russian art at Leonid Shishkin Gallery on March 13th

Mark your calendars for the Leonid Shishkin Gallery's auction of Russian Art on March 13th at 3 pm. The Leonid Shishkin Gallery specializes in Russian painting, graphics and applied arts of the 20th century and it has been running monthly auctions since the year 2000. The Gallery is situated on the very heart of Moscow, on Neglinnaya Street, 29. Delivery worldwide and export papers are available.

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реклама

Grand-Master Satiyavati

Tuesday, 2nd

RBCC presents: Construction and Real Estate Conference

2009 saw the biggest reversal in Moscow's booming real estate sector in the city's modern history. Total investment in the sector, from both local and international sources, fell dramatically, while major construction projects were either delayed or abandoned.

What promises does 2010 hold for the construction and real estate market as the world nervously prepares for a slow but inevitably painful recovery? This conference will bring together leading industry analysts and senior professionals working on the market, and will provide a platform for interactive discussion, contact-building and business development.

*Marriott Moscow Tverskaya,
1st Tverskaya-Yamskaya, 34, 9:00.*

Thursday, 4th

Gershwin Gala (jazz)

The Russian Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra performs George Gershwin's 'An American in Paris', concert for piano and orchestra in F major, Suite from the opera 'Porgy and Bess', Blues rhapsody. These compositions perfectly combine traditions of jazz, Afro-American folklore, Broadway musicals and European musical classics, together they define the major stylistic features of Gershwin's music. Soloist: Daniil Kramer (piano). David Handel (Music Director of the National Symphony Orchestra of Bolivia) conducts (USA).

MMDM, Svetlanov Hall, 19:00



Rachmaninov, Prokofiev

The State Symphony Capella of Russia performs: Rachmaninov's Concert No. 2 for piano and orchestra; Prokofiev's excerpts from the ballets "Romeo and Juliet", "Cinderella", and his waltz suite for symphony orchestra. Vladimir Andropov conducts. Soloist – Andrey Diev (piano).

Tchaikovsky Concert Hall, 19:00

Current 93 (pop, UK)

Current 93's David Tibet blends Gothic chanting and haunting atmospherics

with industrial noisescapes courtesy of tape loops and synthesizers. Though Tibet doesn't quite have other bands with which he closely collaborates, he frequently works with a core of musicians including ex-Psychic TV compatriot John Balance.

Ikra, 22:00

Friday, 5th

SCSI-9 (club music)

The duet of Anton Kubikov and Maxim Milutenko is an export version of the Russian Deep House music. No one can match SCSI-9 in multi-tasking from hotly-tipped releases on such labels as Trapez, Morris/Audio, Force Tracks and Kompakt, the first life act at London's club Fabric and tours to Japan and Latin America to a full-fledged band, performing real songs with lyrics and promotion support for the friends on Pro-tez label. They are still in demand in Moscow, giving just three concerts a year.

Sixteen Tons, 00:00



Saturday, 6th

Brainstorm (pop-rock, Latvia)

Although Latvian rockers Brainstorm never won the Eurovision Song Contest - they finished third in 2000 - they are nevertheless one of the handful of competing acts to have established a credible international presence in the aftermath of their appearance. Jonathan King, the English pop impresario, described them as "the cream of the contest. They enjoy themselves, smile on stage, and the lead singer has such charisma, such star quality." Other highly publicized admirers include Bob Dylan, Anton Corbijn, and Michael Stipe, while the band has toured Europe behind Depeche Mode, R.E.M., the Rolling Stones, and the Cranberries, among others.

B1 Maximum, 21:00

Monday, 8th

Richard Clayderman featuring Dmitry Malikov (piano and vocal, Russia, France)

World-famous pianist Richard Clayderman is coming to Moscow to give a joint concert with Dmitry Malikov (piano, vocal). Richard Clayderman entered the Guinness book of records for being the most successful pianist in the world. He created a "new romantic style" in piano playing exemplified by combination of classical and popular music. Clayderman performs masterpieces of classical and popular music in arrangements for piano and orchestra, including compositions by Chopin, Schumann, Bach, Lloyd Webber, Stevie Wonder and, of course, his own famous hit, "Ballades pour Adeline", that sold 40 million copies. Dmitry Malikov also performs masterpieces of classical and popular music in arrangements for piano and orchestra, including compositions by Mozart, Liszt, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, and songs by ABBA.

MMDM, Svetlanov Hall, 19:00

Tuesday, 9th

International Women's Club presents morning coffee

These coffee mornings are a great opportunity to meet women who can share their experiences with you and become your friends!

Le Pain Quotidien, 10:00

Wednesday, 10th

Tokio Hotel (goth-pop, Germany)

Tokio Hotel emerged as one of the most successful new German acts of their generation, scoring three number one singles via their 2005 debut LP "Schrei". Bill and Tom Kaulitz - twin brothers - formed the group in their native Magdeburg in 2001, recruiting drummer Gustav Schafer and bassist Georg Listing to round out the lineup. Since signing with Universal in May 2005, TH have sold almost three million records and DVDs in Germany alone, with countless German awards and platinum awards for sales in Austria and Switzerland. Their albums have both topped the charts spawning four No.1 singles.

Olimpiyskiy Sportcomplex, 20:00



Thursday, 11th

Mum (pop, Iceland)

Iceland pop experimentalists, Mum, were formed by Gunnar Orn Tynes, Orvar Poreyjarson Smarason, and classically trained twin sisters Gyða and Kristín Anna Valtysdóttir. Mum's music is a delicate, eclectic mix of electronics plus a full range of various wind, stringed, keyboard, electronic and electrical sounds with mellow, enveloping vocals. Mum performs as an orchestra with the wind and violin sections, with lots of unconventional devices, including bells and whistles.

B1 Maximum, 21:00

Friday, 12th

Bloodhound Gang (USA)

Bloodhound Gang, an American alternative band with a post-punk revival-influenced sound, currently consists of Jimmy Pop (vocals), Lupus Thunder (guitars), Evil Jared Hasselhoff (bass), DJ Q-Ball (turntables, vocals) and The Yin (drums). They started out as a small alternative band called Bang Chamber 8. They released one tape, which was self-titled. Soon they changed their name to the Bloodhound Gang and changed their style to a blend of obnoxious and politically incorrect punk rock with hip-hop.

B1 Maximum, 21:00



Saturday, 13th

Jazz Olympus: Freddie Cole (USA)

Freddie Cole is a brilliant pianist and vocalist, one of the most influential musicians among classical jazz performers. Performances at Manhattan bistros and jingles on radio and TV made him famous. Cole debuted in 1952, and in 1972 he formed his own quartet and toured in USA, Europe, the Far East and Latin America. Freddie Cole has lots of albums under his belt, recorded both on European and English labels. Freddie Cole's delicate, elegant manner of performance may remind you of his brother Nat King Cole, Frank

Sinatra and Billie Holiday, though his voice has its own identifiable sound, characterized by flexibility and purity in intonation. This unique manner of singing brought international fame and audience affection for Cole.

MMDM, Svetlanov Hall, 19:00



Wednesday, 17th

Cezaria Evora (Cape Verde)

A native of the island nation of Cape Verde, Cesaria Evora is known as the country's foremost practitioner of the morna, which is strongly associated with the islands and combines West African percussion with Portuguese fados, Brazilian modinhas, and British sea shanties. With Evora now a celebrated international star, the new millennium didn't see any loss of momentum for the singer and she continued to record and tour the world. Her growing popularity in North America led to the 2004 Grammy for Best Contemporary World Music recording for 'Voz d'Amor'. The same year she was recognized by French culture minister, Jean-Jacques Aillagon, as an 'Officer des Arts et des Lettres'.

The State Kremlin Palace, 19:00



Friday, 19th

"Charlie Parker: Jazz Genius, Jazz Tragedy" (lecture)

By Helen Campbell, Collegiate Professor, University of Maryland, Heidelberg, Germany, to be hosted by ENGLISH LANGUAGE EVENINGS at 19:00 at the Chekhov Cultural Center, Strastnoi Bulvar 6. (Thru tunnel, first door on left).

Metro: Chekhovskaya. 50 rubles.

www.ELEMoscow.net

Thursday, 25th

'Da Zdrastvuet Frantsia' French photographers will take part in the Moscow photo-biennial at the Multimedia Complex of Modern Arts, and many other sites around Moscow.

March 5 - April 25

The French National Science Research Centre and the French national Academy of Sciences will participate in meetings of the presidium of the Russian Academy. Russian institutions will participate in a similar program in Paris.

March 16

Friday, 26th

"Do Artists and Scientists Ever Collaborate?" (lecture)

By Lloyd Anderson, Deputy Director British Council Moscow, to be hosted by ENGLISH LANGUAGE EVENINGS at 19:00 at the Chekhov Cultural Center, Strastnoi Bulvar 6. (Through tunnel, first door on left).

Metro: Chekhovskaya. 50 rubles.

www.ELEMoscow.net

Alessandro Safina (classic music, Italy)

The early 21st century saw the rise of Italian singer, Alessandro Safina, who has combined his opera roots with modern-day pop music, to create a striking, hard-to-categorize style. Born in 1968 in the small town of Sienna, Italy, Safina became interested in opera at an early age, and sang in stage productions across Europe in such operas as Puccini's La Boheme and Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin. It wasn't until he was in his late teens that Safina became an admirer of pop and rock music, drawing inspiration from such bands as Genesis, the Clash, Simple Minds, and U2. Later, he began to combine these two styles.

Crocus City Hall, 19:00

Avant-garde Artists as Collectors of Arts

All the World's a Stage is the name of an exhibition being held in the graphics section of the Tretyakov Gallery. It presents a private collection of engravings that used to belong to two of the most avant-garde Russian artists of the twentieth century – Mikhail Larionov and Natalya Goncharova. The engravings were donated to the museum at the end of the 1980s. Larionov's and Goncharova's own masterpieces are frequently shown at major exhibitions in Moscow and in many other museums abroad.

But this time, the curators are displaying those things the couple collected and which served as inspirations for their own art. Mikhail Larionov, a painter who became attached to Impressionism, Primitivism and Rayonism (near-abstract art presented by Larionov himself in 1913), in the 1910s worked with the ballet-producer Sergei Diaghilev on the Ballets Russes.

His wife, whose great-aunt was Na-

talya Pushkina (Goncharova by birth), the poet's wife, played a key role in the avant-garde movement in pre-Soviet Russia, being an absolute equal to her husband. As provocative as any Futurists' actions in the 1910s, their lectures, exhibitions, illustrations yet proved them as leaders of this movement in Moscow. Like her husband, Goncharova also worked on ballet sets, first in Geneva and later in Paris where she joined Diaghilev's team.

The exhibits at the current exhibition include engravings and lithographs of the 17th-20th centuries from Europe and Asia, on the history of costume, theatre billboards, sports, circus and dance. Some of these, like Gallo Gallina's Greek Dance from Giulio Ferrario's encyclopedia on history published in Milano in 1816, or Utagawa Toyokuni's fine woodcuts of the Edo epoch, are real rarities and are surely worth seeing.



March 1 – until September
Tretyakov Gallery
Graphics section
10, Lavrushinsky lane
Open: 10:00-19:00
except Monday
www.tretyakov.ru

Moscow Nights and Moscow Days as seen by a Swiss in 1957



If only you knew how dear to me
Are these Moscow evenings!

Leonard Gianadda surely heard this song – Moscow Nights – when he came to Moscow in 1957 to make a photo essay for the Swiss newspaper *Illustré*. A student then, but already a photographer, he arrived in the USSR together with 34,000 other young people from different countries of the world for the World Festival of Youth and Students. That was an ambiguous event for all participants. On the one hand, freedom of communication and friendship was proclaimed, and on the other, Soviet stu-

dents were prosecuted later for simply writing to their new foreign friends. This was when a group of small-time business people called *fortsovshiks* started coming up to foreign students in the lobbies of their hotels and hassling them to buy them Soviet badges, signs and hats, jeans and sneakers. This joyful, but certainly dualistic festival was recorded for posterity in video and photo chronicles. Young people danced and sang in Gorky Street, Prospect Marx and on Pushkin Square. They got to know each other, listened to jazz, danced and discussed their lives. For the photographic eye be-

hind a 35mm Leica belonging to Leonard Gianadda it had two sides: perfectly directed official events, a myriad smiling faces but at the same time rows of soldiers defending or protecting (who from whom?), an overcrowded underground. This series became a starting point for Gianadda as a street photographer; and he began to travel extensively. He created a photographic series about Cuba and the USA, became Chevalier of the National Order of the Legion of Honour Member of Council of Musée Rodin, Musée Toulouse-Lautrec, Musée d'Orsay, Fondation Henri Cartier-Bresson and founded the Pierre Giannada Foundation in honour of his tragically deceased brother. That Moscow series of photographs was not written about in Soviet papers, they were considered much too 'scandalous'. There is nothing scandalous about the photos now; everything has a backstage. And at that pre-Cold War period this particular backstage was neither in fashion, nor in demand even outside the USSR.

Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts
Private Collections Department
10, Volkhonka street
Until March, 14
Open: 10:00 – 19:00
Except Monday

Futurologia from Garage

Garage is the name of the Centre for Contemporary Culture that opened in Moscow in 2008. The place was originally a bus garage designed by constructivist architect Konstantin Melnikov. Nowadays Garage is one of the best exhibition spaces in Moscow and surely one of the largest.

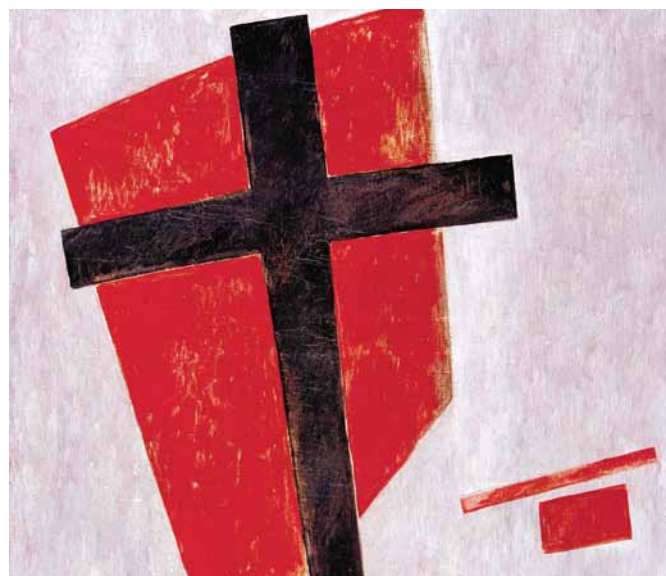
It has hosted such events as: Ilya and Emilia Kabakovs' Retrospective, an exhibition of a collection from Francois Pinault Foundation, an exhibition of Antony Gormley's whimsical sculptures, and the Third Moscow Biennale of Contemporary Art. This March it reopens after renovation with two big projects entitled Futurologia and Russian Utopias.

The first project is curated by Herve Mikaeloff, an arts consultant with LVMH Group. For this exhibition he has selected several items which are kindly provided by the Moscow Museum of Modern Art.

His idea is in putting Kazimir Malevich, founder of Suprematism and an absolute leader in abstract art, at the top of the Futurologia pyramid, whereas the works of eighteen modern painters are presented around him as in tribute, dialogue or argument.

The second exhibition, Russian Utopias, is presented by two young curators Aksenova and Volkova who make a bet on Russian contemporary artists: Yury Avvakumov, Kirill Asse, Oleg Kulik, the Blue Noses group and others.

The two projects, performed in two different ways, but united under the same roof, actually complement each other, and together



provide for a more detailed picture of Avant-Garde of the 20th century and its reflection at the beginning of the 21st.

Open:
Monday-Thursday 11:00-21:00
Friday-Sunday 11:00-22:00
19A, Obraztsova street
www.garageccc.com

Right Prospectives

On March 18, the 8th International Festival of Photography – the Moscow Photo-biennale opens. This takes place every second year, and is dedicated to a particular theme, which this year is: 'Vive la France!' and 'Retrospectives and Prospectives'.

The Moscow House of Photography has always worked closely with French photographic institutions and festivals: Maison Europeenne de la Photographie or Paris Photo for example, with the support of which many exhibitions were organised in Moscow, including the memorable expositions of Brassai or Lumiere brothers' works in colour. But there was also a politico-social base for that: this year is the year of France in Russia and vice versa: in France, receptions are being organised for Russian museums and artists.

One of the highlights of the retrospectives part of the exhibition will be a show of rare works by Henri Cartier-Bresson and his Belgian wife, Martine Franck.

There are also some works by Elliott Erwitt in the exhibition, and some special projects dedicated to the 40th jubilee of the Rencontres d'Arles festival held annually in France. The 'Prospectives' section consists of the work of several young photographers from Château d'Eau Gallery. The festival will last till May 15. Look for the schedule of the Photo-Biennale's numerous exhibitions in more than thirty venues at www.passportmagazine.ru



Moscow
Photobiennale
March 18 – May 15
Moscow

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presents AUCTION
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March 13, at 3 pm



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Martin Cooke interviewed by John Harrison,
photos courtesy of Zhennia and Dima at the
City University

British playwright and director Martin Cooke has been in Moscow since 2006, and through his inimitable brand of to-the-point, British and soulful (not an oxymoron) theatre, is becoming known on the Arts scene here. One of his goals, he says, is to help Russians enjoy English theatre. He has a difficult job on his hands, as Russia is the home of world-class theatre. But for Martin, this is precisely the point.

Together with a small band of dedicated collaborators, both foreign and Russian, such as Elena Morozova and Titus Adam, Martin Cooke creates legitimate theatre, in pubs, universities



English actors

and embassies. His repertoire is extensive and selective. From Harold Pinter ('A Slight Ache'), to Eduardo de Filippo ('The Inheritor'), and Strindberg ('Eric the 14th') as well as his own works, 'The Princess Who Knew Everything' and 'Pop Pop I kill Them'.

Missions aside, Martin Cooke succeeds in showing a genre of theatre to the Russian public which they would probably have little chance of seeing otherwise.

Passport recently caught up with Martin for some inside information:

What gave you the idea of coming to work in theatre in Russia?

My English theatre company 'Rough as Guts', under the direction of Deborah Bruce, toured a three-person version of 'The Tempest' round Poland in 1993. We took a brilliant, twisted play called 'The Card Index', back to England where it premiered. The play was written by Tadeusz Rosewicz, aka the Polish Samuel Beckett. Rosewicz himself, on his seventieth birthday came to the premiere and congratulated me, in floods of tears, with the most complimentary words I'd ever heard, saying 'he hadn't recognised his own play.'

When I worked as stand-in dramaturge at the theatr Clwyd under artistic director Helena Kaut-Howson, I came into further contact with Eastern European drama. It was through Helena that Sir Anthony Hopkins and Julie Christie came to theatr Clwyd, Hopkins to do his version of 'Uncle Vanya', called 'August', Christie to play Pinter.

I was inspired by Eastern European drama. I preferred it's defamiliarised otherness. Hopkins's Vanya had suggested to me that the one thing missing from the 'avante garde' was a substantial 'classical' dimension. I assumed that the best place to find that classical dimension would be in Russia, where it would have been preserved, without any murky intervention from money-grabbing promoters of Laodicean twaddle, determined to replace dramatic art with computer games and soap operas.

In 2006 I came to Russia, firmly half-believing that I would find a theatre unsullied by commerce and politics, that the actors would be universally brilliant, dedicated and sober; that the interest in English texts would be bigger than the interest in the Beatles and levis and that I would become the most famous English theatre director in Russia.

How do you manage to produce so many different plays with limited resources and no finances?

Just keep going. Peter Brook says a Director directs. I am fortunate in that I have experience as an actor, in which case I can direct myself if need be. For example with my one-man "Charles and Diana in Drag" show, I played at proekt fabrika,



Elena Morozova, Titus Adam and Chris Karle in Harold Pinter's 'A Slight Ache', shown for the first time in Russia at the City University of Moscow, directed by Martin Cooke

Dom Bulgakov, the Actors Gallery, and in a tantric sex club. As a result, I went on to direct a Beckett piece called 'Catastrophe'; then to commission a masterly translation of Pinter's 'The Dumb Waiter' by Alexander Yarin, which was given a rehearsed reading (one character speaking English one character speaking Russian) at a swingers club in Belorusskaya.

Chekov says that all drama is three people sitting around a table drinking tea. Theatre happens in the space created by the confluent imaginations of the living and the dead.

Good work generates growth and is rewarded with flowers. It is natural to suppose that this 'predictable mystery' will continue. Goethe says something like: 'Begin, and the universe will send mighty forces to come to your aid.' Where's the limit?

Financial backing

I have come to Russia to realise something. An unknown play, which we can all discover, ('The Inheritor') or a well-known play, which is rare here and which we can see again in a fresh light ('Slight Ache'). Money is vital but the play's the thing. There's no such thing as free sponsorship, as we imagine the Greeks practised, yet we are looking for sponsors to cover the costs of flights and so on. But my soul has so often been ravaged by sycophancy when bending my vision to the whim of an autocrat's cheque book, that I can't be obsequious anymore. If people can see for themselves how our friendship with them, or their company might be mutually beneficial, then I'll be delirious.

In London, pub theatre is real theatre, not theatre designed for inebriates. It's easy to misunderstand this aspect of our project. We have a humour night providing light entertainment – but this is not our *raison d'être*. Pubs can be the happy solution to our empty space problem – but we insist on artistic autonomy.

Who comes to your performances?

Who do you prefer?

Everyone is welcome. We are serious and sincere and what we present is rare and authentic, we're not copying anyone, we are literally peerless, we're doing something unique. I'll say Russians are preferable since if 'fame is the quintessence of misunderstanding surrounding a new face' then it's nice to be misunderstood so often, by so many.

Plus, I don't suffer outright abuse and cynicism here as much as in England. Also the Russian theatre goers I meet never miss a beat on the emotional truth. 'Foreign' audiences perhaps see things more clearly as they are not encumbered with conditioned expectations of what ought to be.



What's it like working with Russian actors?

It's an eternal joy of unmitigated derangement.

What do you think is wrong with Russian theatre today?

I have huge respect for the tradition which created Elena Morozova, she is one of the best actresses I've ever seen in human form. She is probably on a par with Ellen Terry. What is wrong with a theatre tradition which creates such a great talent as hers? Who am I to say critical things against people who make a living in the theatre, even if they do it by juggling cats? God bless us all. We may be actors' batmen but we're human beings too.

I want to be an artist of the drama theatre said the young man to his master.

Are you willing to be poor, humiliated, abused and ignored until you are 42 said the master?

Yes, inquired the young man - then what?

By then you will have gotten used to it, replied the master.

De Mello. **P**

Planned performances in March (check: chris@english-actors.ru):

March 7th Auditions for HARLEQUINADE: venue to be announced.

March 11th "Shakesperience" Pavel Ruminov's naked cinema film preview, starring Martin Cooke.

<http://www.proektfabrika.ru/eng/stat.php?id=1>

March 14th: Strindberg evening. Pivo Vodi Pub Theatre, 26/1 Sretenka Ulitsa, metro Sukharevskaya

March 21st 2nd showing of Shakesperience - Pivo Vodi Pub Theatre 7.00PM

March 28th ANGLO-AMERICAN humour night. Pivo Vodi Pub Theatre 7.00PM

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Theater Review March

Marina Lukanina

In theatre circles March is definitely associated with the Golden Mask Theater Festival that takes place every year in Moscow. The Festival was established in 1994 by the Council of Theater Professionals (Союз Театральных Деятелей) and makes professional awards in theatre arts (drama, opera, ballet, operetta/musical, puppet theater). The winners are selected during the Festival where the nominee performances are shown.

This year the Festival will be held from March 27th (International Theatre Day) till April 15th. *Passport* would like to introduce two plays that are part of the Main Festival Program and one that is part of Mask Plus Program (out-of-competition program).

"The Shore of Women" ***The Vakhtangov Theater***

This is an original performance for the Vakhtangov Theater repertoire as it is a musical dancing performance rather than a drama. The Lithuanian choreographer Angelica Kholina decided to explore the theme of war through dance and music. This is the story of women of different nations who are forced to run away from violence and destruction caused by war. While the men turned into warriors, women found themselves in the unknown land at a cafe waiting to be saved and to find a new place to live.

Each of them tells her story accompanied by the songs of Marlene Dietrich.

This is a very schematic performance – one dance is followed by another. Marlene Dietrich sings in German, English, French, and Hebrew. This aspect vividly emphasizes the different nationalities of the main heroes. The performance shows several hours of women's lives that are sometimes tragic, anxious or disturbed.

The performance lasts one hour and 30 minutes without an intermission. Half of the actors are recent graduates of the Shukin Theater School.



March 27th
The Vakhtangov Theater
Arbat str. 26
(499) 241-16-79
<http://www.vakhtangov.ru/>

"The Oldest Son" ***The Tabakov's Theater***

This performance has been nominated for the Best Director (Konstantin Bogomolov), Best Male Role (Yuri Chursin) and Best Small Scale Production Golden Mask Awards.

The performance is based on a famous play by Alexander Vampilov. Two guys find themselves in the middle of a provincial town without a place to stay overnight.

They knock at the very first house on their way and one of the guys pretends to be a son of the person who lives in that house.

Young actors of the theatre play in this performance so it makes it harder for them to act out the atmosphere of the sixties of 20th century when the action takes places. However, they are doing a wonderful job! Various supporting details such as radio broadcasts of Leonid Brezhnev's speeches, the song "Bella, Ciao" by Muslim Magomayev strengthen the atmosphere of those days and make the audience nostalgic. The play clearly shows that even if a person did not find personal fulfilment in work and did not build an impressive career, he can still be happy if he has someone to care about.

March 8, 15, 31
Tabakov's Theater, 1A Chaplygina Str.
Tel: +7 (495) 628-96-85
www.tabakov.ru

"Producers" ***Et Cetera Theater***

This performance has been nominated for Best Musical/Operetta, Best Director, Best Female Role, and Best Male Role Golden Mask Awards.

This comedy about two adventurers who decided to swing a shady deal with staging the performance "Spring for Hitler" immediately became very popular. In 1968 Mel Brooks, an American actor made his debut movie called "Spring for Hitler". Thirty years later this movie was staged on Broadway. After New York the musical was staged in London, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Tokyo, Mexico, etc. and finally in Moscow.

The key success factor of the Moscow production is the fact that special copy-right was obtained from the Broadway



production as well as the permission to adapt the musical for the Russian audience. The cast is very well-chosen: one of the main male roles is played by a famous singer Maxim Leonidov. He gives a very funny performance that is definitely great for a week-end treat!



March 4,5,6,7,8, 26,27,28
Et Cetera Theater
Frolov per. 2
(495) 625-2161
<http://www.et-cetera.ru>

Commemorating Maestro Rostropovich

Alevtina Kalinina

The 27th of March was the birthday of one of the greatest musicians of the 20th century – Mstislav Rostropovich – citizen of the world, father, cellist, husband, conductor, Maestro...

His death in 2007 was a shock for all music lovers, for his numerous pupils, friends and all those who felt the special aura that existed around this man. Considered as one of the world's greatest cellists he inspired his contemporaries to compose music. Rostropovich had an influential career, was obliged to leave his home country, and returned when it needed him most. Whilst abroad, he was Musical Director of the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, conductor at London's Symphony Orchestra, New Japan Philharmonic, and the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestras. As a pianist he was an ideal accompanist to his wife, the diva Galina Vishnevskaya, and they toured together all over the world after leaving the USSR.

The Maestro became a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Commander of the Legion d'Honneur of France and the Japanese Art Association's Praemium Imperiale. He also received a Stalin Prize and the State Prize of Russia for his defence of human rights in post-Soviet Russia, where he returned with his wife in the early 1990s. He found that this country really needed them, and Vishnevskaya and Rostropovich gladly shared their knowledge, experience and love with Russian musicians who immediately encircled them.

This is how the Opera Centre emerged. Mstislav took an active part in organising unique master classes and concerts such as 'Unknown Shostakovich – Music of the War Brigades', for example, that became a unique part of the history of the young Centre, since it opened in 2002. It was under Rostropovich's direction that in 2004 the Centre went on its first foreign tour together with the Russian National Orchestra. Soloists perfumed at a concert completing the Year of Russia in Germany. According to the Maestro, he was happy that 'Russia is still rich in talent', something that was proved through his creation, the Charity Foundation, launched in 1997, which is now directed by his daughter Olga Rostropovich.

The Foundation gathers the best Russian violinists, pianists, cellists and other performers from different regions of Russia, presents them with scholarships, organises concert performances, and cultivates young musicians artistically. Last year, the Opera Centre organised a commemorating concert in honour of Mstislav Rostropovich that featured the best soloists from the Opera Centre of Galina Vishnevskaya Foundation and Yuri Bashmet's symphony orchestra 'New Russia'. This year they launched a festival which enjoyed international status right from the beginning. The festival billboard includes those same top Moscow concert halls which greeted



the Maestro years ago: the Grand Hall of the Conservatory, the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall, the Colonnade Hall of Soyuz House and others. Among performers are Yuri Bashmet, Boris Belkin, Maxim Vengerov, Sergey Krylov, Yuri Temirkanov, the English Chamber Orchestra, the Russian National Orchestra conducted by Mikhail Pletnev, Moscow State Academic Choir directed by Vladimir Minin, the young cellists Sergey Antonov and Xavier Philipps.

All the light and love that Rostropovich planted during his life in his pupils has now taken root roots and blooms in memory of Maestro. **P**

March 27 – April 2

For schedule see www.passportmagazine.ru

More information about the Foundation at:

www.rostropovich.org

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Moscow does Not Believe in Tears

Vladimir Kozlov

This year, the thirtieth anniversary of one of the most successful late-Soviet movies, 'Moscow Does Not Believe In Tears' ('Moskva Slezam Ne Verit') is celebrated. The strongest point of that hybrid of the Cinderella story and a classic Hollywood melodrama was the main female characters, both likable and realistic, with whom millions of Soviet women were able to identify. Even today, the movie remains one of the most popular "female" stories in the Soviet/post-Soviet cinema.

The script, written by Valentin Chernykh, was more than simple. In the late 1950s, three provincial girls, Katerina (Vera Alentova), Lyudmila (Irina Muravyova) and Antonina (Raisa Ryazanova), come to Moscow to conquer the capital. They share the same room in a dormitory, as well as dreams of meeting a handsome young Muscovite and marrying him.

To make their dreams come true, the girls are ready to go to almost any lengths. When Katerina is asked by her wealthy relatives to stay in their apartment and look after it while they go away, she and Lyudmila pretend that they are actually living there, being daughters of a prosperous professor, and throw a party, inviting potential Muscovite husbands.

Katerina's luck seems to turn when she meets television cameraman Rudolf (Yuri Vasilyev) and they apparently fall for each other, but upon learning about the fraud, Rudolf dumps Katerina who by then is expecting a child. The episode accentuates the unavoidable importance of the Kvaritny Vopros (the accommodation issue) which pervaded every aspect of life in the Soviet Union.

Then the movie leaps forward some twenty years, to the late 1970s, which was the present at the time it was made, showing Katerina as a prosperous boss of a large factory, leaving with her now 20-year old daughter Alexandra (Natalya Vavilova), but still unmarried and unhappy in her personal life, reduced to having an affair with an older married man. Soon enough, another man, Gosha (Aleksey Batalov), arrives in her life, but it is going

to take a while for him to come to terms with the fact that he, a simple worker, is dating a woman who is much higher than him on the society ladder.

While the first part is basically a Cinderella story that goes wrong when the girls choose to cheat instead of patiently waiting for their "prince," the second part is a traditional melodrama, quite in line with Hollywood story plots, involving money, social status and "true love." The two parts seemed to work well together, and the combination, complemented with lots of 1950s and 1970s details and a universally understandable story line about a provincial who comes to the capital, proved to be a success.

'Moscow Does Not Believe In Tears' became the Soviet box office champion in 1980, with more than 90 million admissions, and the Soviet Union's second-highest grossing movie of all times, surpassed only by 'Piraty Dvadsatogo Veka' ('Pirates of the 20th Century'), a movie made along the lines of Hollywood action films, which was released the same year.

Interestingly, Soviet cinema bosses were originally less than impressed with the picture, criticising it for promoting decadent values and playing on audiences' feelings. But the movie's international recognition and domestic box-office success lead to an official recognition as well: in 1981, Menshov, Alentova, Ryazanova, Muravyova, Batalov and set designer Sayid Menyalschikov were awarded the state prize.

Meanwhile, the movie turned out to have the potential of travelling across the Iron Curtain. 'Moscow Does Not Believe In Tears', directed by Vladimir Menshov, for whom it was only the second feature, was invited to the official selection of the Berlin International Film Festival and later released in a dozen foreign countries, including the United States, France and West Germany. Its international success reached the highest point with an Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film in 1980, winning over Akira Kurosawa's "Kagemusha" and François Truffaut's "The Last Metro" and becoming the third ever Soviet movie to take the prestigious award (and the last one before the collapse of the Soviet Union). According to some reports, US President Ronald Reagan watched the film several times before his first meeting with the then Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in the mid-1980s in a bid to gain a better understanding of the "mysterious Russian soul".

Today the film is still a tear-jerker, and if you want to find out a bit more of what life used to be like here, it is well worth seeing. The film is usually shown on television at this time of year, or you can find it without too much trouble in the classics section of most DVD shops. **P**

The London Stock Exchange comes to Moscow

Text and photos Ian Mitchell

On the 2nd of February the Moscow International Currency Exchange, or MICEX, held its fourth annual joint conference with the London Stock Exchange. The theme for the day was the general investment climate in Russia, especially as it impacted on the prospect for Initial Public Offerings (IPOs). In the mid-2000s, these became the favoured method by which large Russian companies attracted external finance. London was the most commonly-used exchange. But in 2008 the flow dried up. What signs are there for new life in the market?

Rather as was the case at the RussiaTalk seminar organised last October by the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce, the atmosphere at this gathering was one of caution, reserve and "reality checking". There was none of the boastful, condescending talk which was common in Russian business circles three years ago, when the rouble and the oil price seemed to be marching in lock-step towards world domination. This year's atmosphere gave far more hope for Russia's future because of its realism and the evident willingness of the participants to listen and learn. It was therefore a useful meeting.

Perhaps the most galvanic speaker was Victor Shvets, the emerging markets specialist at Nomura, who gave a forceful presentation, accompanied by a blizzard of statistics, in which he did not shirk from confronting the underlying problem of corruption in the Russian economy.

"All emerging markets are corrupt," he said. "It is just that some corrupt more efficiently than others. And Russia does corruption badly."

The result of this was that the economy went from boom to bust in a way which gave no assurance to the markets that if it went back to boom, bust would not once again be round the corner. This was due to the oligarchic structure of control of the economy. The result was, Mr Shvets said, that it was doubtful whether Russia is capable of growing at all without serious economic restructuring, including an "aggressive attack on infrastructure constraints".

Added to that is the problem of "rusty Russia", by which he meant that long-



term capital neglect has put much of industry beyond hope of recovery from purely internal improvement. But would outside investors flock to assist an economy that seems structured round the interests of the owners of a few very large corporations, to the disbenefit of almost everyone else? Beyond a six-month readjustment period which he foresaw due to recent over-discounting, he doubted it. What is there to invest in? There are always possibilities, and he said that high-tech companies were the

best bet if you can find them, and Moscow property the worst bet. Beyond this, he would not be specific.

The implication behind Mr Shvets's comments was that in the medium term Russia will have to rely on its human rather than its physical capital. But this, as Nick Koemtropolous, the Russia specialist at Credit Suisse, argued is not the sure bet it once was. The Russian educational establishment is under serious threat due to lack of government funding. Today the country produces only 10% of the scientific papers that the United States does. Russia is no longer a scientific super-power.

Nor is native entrepreneurship likely to save the day. Mr Koemtropolous pointed out that only 10% of Russians work in companies with fewer than 200 employees, compared with an international average of 40%. The small and medium-sized business sector, traditionally the driver of commercial innovation in free economies, is under threat just as much as the scientific sector is.

My personal impression from talking to delegates during the day, and afterwards at the lavish reception in the History Museum, was that everyone present would have been supportive of the reform proposals announced the day after the conference by the Institute of Contemporary Development, whose board of Trustees is chaired by President Medvedev. These would pave the way for an open economy and movement towards the rule of law.

Yet I would also guess that the majority of those delegates would not hold out much hope that any such proposals will actually be implemented. Business as usual. **P**



Nowhere to hide, or Tax Dilemma for US Expats

Art Franczek
artwork by Elena Krivovyaz

Ben Franklin once said “nothing in this world is certain but death and taxes”. He must have been thinking about the modern US tax system. Most countries in the world have an income tax that is levied on its tax residents. The general definition of a tax resident is someone who resides in the country for 183 days or more. If an expat works in Russia and resides here for 183 days within a 12 month period he/she is considered a tax resident and is taxed at a rate of 13% of income generated from services performed in Russia. If however he/she resides in Russia less than 183 days they are taxed at a rate of 30%.

There are few countries that levy income tax not only on residency but also on the basis of citizenship. One of these countries is the Belarus, another is North Korea and of course the United States. Under the Internal Revenue Code residency is based on the number of days an individual resides in the US over a 3 year period. US citizens or Green Card holders are subject to US income tax on their worldwide income regardless of how many days they reside in US. Section 911 of the Internal Revenue Code allows an exemption from US taxation of \$91,400 of their foreign earned income if the individual meets the Bona Fide residence test for which there are a number of criteria. The other test that can be used to qualify for the \$91,400 exclusion is the Physical Presence test which requires that the taxpayer live outside the United States for 330 days out of the previous 12 month period. There is some debate as to what constitutes a foreign country for purposes of a 911 exclusion. Recently the US Tax Court decided that Antarctica was not a foreign country so the taxpayer who worked there was denied a 911 exclusion. US citizens who qualify for the 911 exclusion can also exclude up to \$90,900 from their taxable income for housing expenses. It must be noted that the \$90,900 housing exclusion applies to

those who reside in Moscow. The IRS stipulates a different housing exclusion for each country. Several years ago the IRS set a limit of \$12,000 for the housing exemption. This created a great uproar among US expats living in Moscow because it meant that their US tax liability would increase by about \$25,000. After a strong lobbying effort by the US business community and letters to the Secretary of Treasury the housing exclusion was increased to \$90,900.

Let's assume there are two expats living in Moscow for 330 days in 2009 and earning each \$500,000. Ian is from the UK and Joe is from the US.

As we can see from this example the US expat pays an additional \$70,000 in tax because he is subjected to income tax on his worldwide income even though he may have resided in the US for only 30 days during 2009. Ian as a citizen of the UK pays only Russian tax because he is a tax resident of Russia and not the UK.

	Ian (UK)	Joe (US)
Income	\$500,000	\$500,000
Russian tax 13%	\$65,000	\$65,000
Additional US tax		\$70,000(a)
Total income tax for 2009	\$65,000	\$135,000

(a) Additional US tax is computed as follows: \$500,000 - \$90,000 (911 exclusion) - \$90,000 (housing exclusion) x .35(US rate) = \$112,000 (total US tax) - \$42,000(credit for Russian tax) = \$70,000

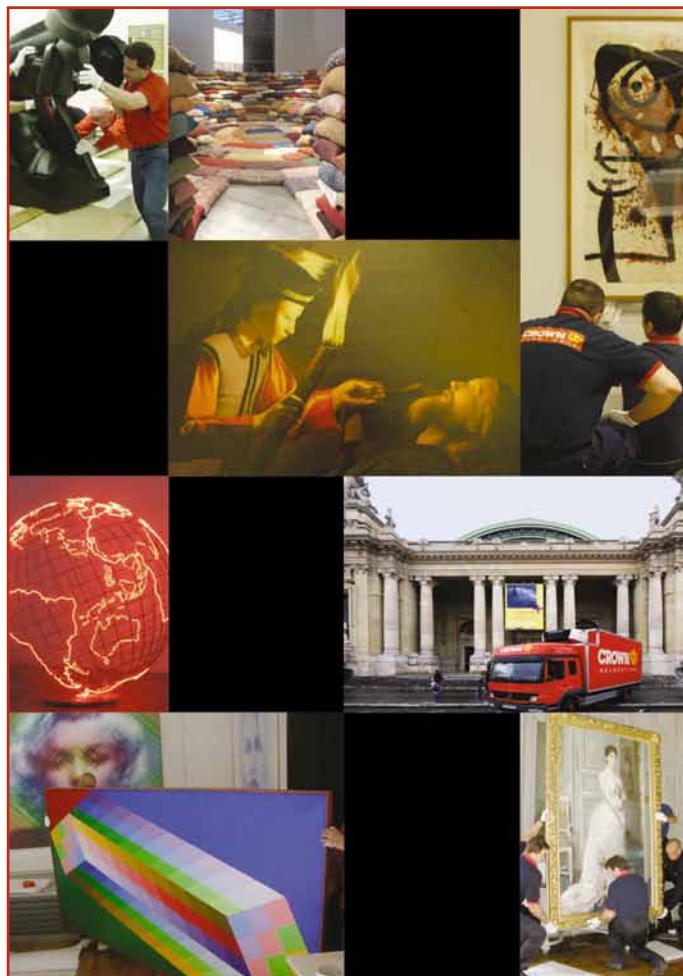
The previous example illustrates why many US expats renounce their US citizenship. For example a few years ago William Browder renounced his US citizenship to become a citizen of the UK, ostensibly because he felt more comfortable in the UK. I seriously doubt that was the main reason. I know US expats in Moscow who have also renounced their US citizenship, supposedly because they didn't like the war in Iraq and again I have my doubts if

this was the primary motivation. Thousands of US expats renounce their US citizenship each year. Most of these people are wealthy individuals who want to avoid taxes and live on the beaches of the Bahamas, or perhaps they purchase citizenship in St. Kitts. Prior to 2008 wealthy US expats who renounced their citizenship were required to file a US tax return for 10 years after the date they renounced their citizenship and they were not allowed to enter the US. In 2008 the rules for expats surrendering their citizenship with a net worth of \$2,000,000 or more or a high income had to act as if they sold their worldwide assets at market value and to a tax on the gain. The new rules are described as an exit tax and provide a cleaner break from the US than the previous rules. Many younger US expats who are early in their careers use the new expat rules so they can avoid US taxes and they are not wealthy enough for the exit tax to be applied.

Wealthy people everywhere don't like to pay taxes, certainly that is one of the reasons why they are wealthy. These people have bank accounts in Cayman Islands, Bermuda, Switzerland etc., where the local governments have very strong laws on bank secrecy and low or no taxes. The OECD estimates that 5-7 trillion dollars are deposited in tax haven bank accounts, hedge funds etc. In today's crisis-ridden world the IRS and its European counterparts are looking for new sources of revenue. Recently, the IRS forced UBS, Switzerland's largest bank to pay a fine of 780 million dollars and to release the names of 5000 US citizens who had bank accounts at UBS. The UBS case was the result of information turned over to the IRS by a whistle-blower that was paid by

the IRS. In this case it was revealed that UBS bankers were recruiting rich American clients by attending yachting regattas, golf and tennis tournaments and "anywhere the rich hangout". These UBS bankers explained exotic tax evasion schemes that UBS could facilitate. UBS bankers even served as couriers to avoid money transfers that might be detected by US surveillance. The IRS subpoenaed the names of UBS's US clients. UBS vehemently protested claiming that the IRS subpoena violated Switzerland's strict banking secrecy laws. UBS relented when the IRS threatened to revoke its right to do business in the US. The IRS currently requires that US citizens who have foreign bank accounts with balances in excess of \$10,000 must file form 90-22, in addition the foreign banks are required to report on form 1099 the interest that is earned on these accounts. As we can see from the UBS case, the IRS is getting more serious and sophisticated in its enforcement procedures. The once invulnerable Swiss banking secrecy laws are giving way to governments desperately in search of new revenues.

The Europeans are also cracking down on banking secrecy and tax evasion, and the German authorities are considering purchasing a stolen database of German residents who have bank accounts in UBS. The G20 recently promised to stop the rich from salting away vast sums of money in offshore tax havens. The latest report of the G20 indicates that many new countries have relaxed their bank secrecy laws and established procedures for exchanging information. The trend against tax evasion is unstoppable and in the future those who wish to evade taxes either by expatriation or secret bank accounts will have no place to hide. **P**



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Many of us would like to think that there are some magic forces that affect our life and make us happy or unhappy. You are in the right country, because a lot of Russians still believe in magic. Don't be shocked when you see something strange or illogical in your Russian partner's behavior. It is not his or her fault – it is superstition. This is the first in a three-part series on superstitions actively practiced in Russia.



Russian Superstitions

Text and illustrations by Elena Krivoviyaz

First of all, Russians have lots of beliefs about money which most people would find rather strange. Don't be surprised if you are asked to put a bank note on the table instead of putting it into somebody's hands, this has nothing to do with corruption, but is a reflection of a deep belief that money shouldn't be actually put into to your hands, as doing that would make it more likely that you are going to run out of money soon. Why? God knows, perhaps. However, if you don't obey this strange rule, you may see your Russian friend shaking his hands: "No, no! Don't give me your money! Put it on the table or I'll lose my money someday..." It seems funny for the first time, but when you see how serious people are about this superstition, you begin to believe in it yourself. Perhaps it is a reinforcement of a feeling of an almost religious that cash is somehow dirty and should not be touched, however this is only practiced in a widespread way in Russian homes, not at work.

You are asked to step over the doorstep when stretching out your hand to your friend or a partner so there is no barrier between you and him. Why? Even Russians don't know what happens if you don't obey this rule, but they are afraid of it and always say: "Don't stretch out your hand to me (or pass something to me in your hand) over the doorstep! Please step over it!" Afford them that pleasure, cross the threshold, no questions asked, and that will be appreciated very much, thank you

Superstitions
are means by
which Russians
perceive reality

Somebody touches his lips with his forefinger if you whistle. This means you should stop whistling immediately, because you will both lose your money. Why? Whistling, of course, is not a common habit, and maybe you don't purse your lips together and blow at all. But be careful even if you want to whistle, especially if you are staying at somebody's home. Homes are usually non-whistling zones, and this may cause loss of money in the future, you have been warned.

"Don't whistle! You'll frighten off money" you may hear somebody cry out. Observing superstitions may bring you luck, as well as prosperity and wealth, and not observing them may bring the opposite. Many Russians zealously believe in higher powers and try to convince everyone that superstitions are not superstitions. So this is all highly amusing on the one hand are rather serious for those who you might laugh at.

"You will be rich!"

This often happens when you ring somebody and don't immediately recognize somebody's voice on the other end of the phone. This is good luck for the person you are phoning, and Russian popular superstition says he will be rich if you don't recognize his voice. So in Russia, the following conversation may often be heard: "Hello, I'd like to talk to Petya, would you... Who? Petya (Masha, Tanya, Kostya), is it you? I didn't recognize you... So you will be rich!" I wished this superstition worked! Everybody could become rich if we mention the quality of GPRS communications in Moscow's high buildings and in the metro.

"Guess which ear?..."

If one of your ears is ringing, don't waste your time: make a wish and then ask anybody near to guess which of your ears is ringing (right or left) and if he is right, it means your wish will be fulfilled. You need to make your wish whilst your ear is ringing. If you're in the middle of making your wish but your



ear suddenly stops ringing, your attempt has failed. An amusing superstition, but please don't go insane in the process.

Itching for money

What do you do when your skin starts itching? Right, you go to your doctor. But Russians get happy, because it means that

money will be coming your way soon. So if a Russian scratches his nose or hand, he won't get worried or call a medical center, he'll be waiting for a sudden arrival of money. This superstition is not very helpful for people who are subjected to skin disease and sometimes it is more sensible to go to a doctor than wait for a pot of gold. **P**



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“A Fair day at Donnybrook with nothing barred”

- A short celebration of Ireland in honour of St Patrick's Day

Ian Mitchell

The only non-Russian saint's day publicly celebrated in Moscow is St Patrick's Day, when there is a parade down the New Arbat. St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, having brought Christianity into the island and expelled the snakes. Actually, Ireland never had snakes, but that is the nature of myth and legend, which are stronger in Ireland than in most places.

The tradition is that St Patrick, who died on 17 March 460, taught the Irish about the Holy Trinity by referring to the shamrock, the three-leaved variety of the clover which symbolises the fertility of well-watered fields. So little is known for sure about St Patrick, that it might be better to celebrate his memory by simply stating three things that I, as an outsider, love about Ireland.

The first of my trinity is the Irish sporting spirit. Though it happened twenty years ago, I remember with undimmed joy the experience of going to see Lester Piggott riding at the Ballinrobe races.

Having sailed from Scotland round to Westport, County Mayo, my wife and I hitch-hiked out into the lush countryside. We found a course laid out amongst hay-bales and oak trees over a couple of fields that normally had cattle in them. Nonetheless there was a small grandstand, plus a forest of bookies' pitches and a long bar.


The afternoon sun slanted in from the west and the greatest flat jockey of all time galloped round this little course (he came 6th) for no reward but the simple joy of sport amongst people to whom that was enough for an afternoon's entertainment, which is why he did this every year. He was one

of my wife's heroes, and he seemed to be similarly regarded by the locals, partly, I am sure, because he had only recently finished serving a jail sentence for VAT fraud—another type of sport.

The second thing I love about Ireland is the wit, especially literary wit. There is only space here to give one example, which comes from one of the lesser-known stars of the Irish literary firmament, Flann O'Brien. In the 1950s he wrote a column in the *Irish Times*—the pieces are now collected in book form—which was unlike anything found in post-Cromwellian Britain.

Here is his definition of the Gaelic word, *Cur*. First, as a verb, it is “the act of putting, sending, sowing, raining, discussing, burying, vomiting, hammering into the ground, throwing through the air, rejecting, shooting, selling, or addressing.”

As a noun, it is “the crown on cast-iron buttons which have been made bright by contact with cliff faces, the stench of congealing badgers' suet, the luminence of glue-lice, the noise made in a house by an unauthorised person, a heron's boil, a leprachaun's denture, the act of inflating hare's offal with a bicycle pump, a leak in a spirit level, the whine of a sewage farm windmill, a corncrake's clapper, the scum on the eye of a senile ram, a fairy godmother's father, the art of predicting past events, a wooden coat, a custard-mincer, a blue-bottle farm, a gravy flask, a timber-mine, a Fair day at Donnybrook with nothing barred, a stoat's stomach-pump.”

And finally, there has to be music. I hope everyone will open YouTube on St Patrick's Day and listen to the the Dubliners singing The Fields of Athenry: <http://www.youtube.com> 





History Flavored Starbucks in Moscow

Coffee is well-known for its *goût de terroir* —“the taste of the place” - distinctive flavor that comes from its land of origin. Still, few know that *genius loci* (spirit of a place) is almost equally important in creating a unique impression of a good coffee. To put it straight: it's not only what you put in the cup, it's also where that matters.

Moscow's appearance, just like most other heavily globalized cities in the world, is changing rapidly, losing its historic heritage to modern architecture, infrastructure and, alas, to a dynamic lifestyle. Still, there are some refuges - historic districts and communities still intact which make you feel comfortable after the crowded modernistic glassy city of office buildings and traffic jams.

Historic Pokrovka street located downtown Moscow next to the Kremlin is among such places. For native Muscovites the street and its vicinity have long been a symbol of Old Moscow (watch the all-time famous Russian TV-movie 'Pokrovskie Vo-rota' to make sure about that one).

With over 500 years of historic heritage, time almost has stopped here. Old 2-3 storey stone houses, narrow lanes, crooked sideways and lots of churches make it possible for you to imagine Moscow sometime early in the 19th century.

People come to Pokrovka street after work to spend time dining or just walking around. That perfectly matched the Starbucks' 'third place' idea.

A new Starbucks coffee shop recently opened at 5, Pokrovka street, adding something to the area's modern prominence of a cosmopolitan center, something like Little Italy in NYC. Restaurants are always full here, especially on Friday nights and weekends.

This building was an annex to the ancient Assumption of the Virgin Mary Cathedral, built late in the 17th century but pulled down in 1930s. The building has seen a lot of refurbishment and renovation. A part of the original cathedral wall and belfry stairway decorated with stylish bas-relief has remained intact. These decorations have become the pride of Starbucks on Pokrovka str.

A fireplace and lots of soft upholstered sitting places – arm-chairs and even sofas, all help to make you feel at home here. From the second floor, you can enjoy a panoramic view of historic Pokrovka is one of the oldest of Moscow streets. **P**

Ostashkov on the Seliger Lake



Larissa Franczek

People sometimes think that the most beautiful, interesting and charming places are somewhere far from where they live. This is particularly true for Russians who for decades lived behind the iron curtain and are now enthusiastically exploring the outer world with almost childish wonder.

My 15 years of travelling experiences have convinced me that there are some really magnificent, marvelous, even mysterious spots close by.

I have lived a considerable part of my life on the Volga. And I'd been always dreaming of seeing where the greatest of Russian rivers starts, what it originates from. So I went to Ostashkov.

I was amazed at the town's quiet, tranquil and measured life. In a local museum I studied a map of the town as it looked in 1902. The historic part hasn't changed at all, even street names remain the same.

Ostashkov is one of very few Russian towns with a panoramic view that was formed by the middle of the 19th century. It's a great place to make a movie based on Ostrovsky's plays as you don't have to build any scenery or create any entourages. Both are available, and lots of things have remained untouched. Not only the windows of houses but gates, too, are marvelously carved out of wood. Unlike big cities with their iron doors and gates, here in Ostashkov there are only wooden ones, even in the stores. They are so old that the thresholds are worn in the middle. Inside the stores you see stoves used to keep the buildings warm. Next to residential houses there are stacks of firewood and boats. Garages with boats in them are as common in Ostashkov as garages with cars are in Moscow.

The town is located on a peninsula surrounded by the Seliger lake. On its banks there are special wooden decks with wide tables on them. Housewives do their laundry there. I saw them and thought, it's OK in July, but how can you do the washing or even rinsing in winter?



The oldest industry is the tannery. It has existed ever since the time when shoe-making was one of the town's main forms of livelihood. It was first mentioned in records in the 17th century.

The Savins, who had their own large factory, were the most famous tanners. Ostashkov long boots, nicknamed ostashi, were in great demand in sea- and lake-side towns, especially in the Baltic area. A pair of ostashi boots is displayed in the local museum. It doesn't differ much from those sold in the town's stores. Tsar Alexander I visited the Savins. Engravings illustrating this fact are also kept in the museum.

The type of leather made in Ostashkov was called yuft. It was red, white and pale yellow in color. Yuft was valued for its softness, and was used for manufacturing suitcases, bags, cases, notebooks and luxurious items. In the 19th century, Ostashkov leather was sold in America, France, Italy, Germany and Britain. In 1812, the town's tanners and shoemakers provided the Russian army with boots.

There are many stores supplying goods for tourism, hunting and fishing in the town. This is not surprising, because the lake is a paradise for those who like at least one of the pastimes.

The Seliger lake actually consists of a huge number of lakes. It's strange that they all are called Seliger, too, while in fact they are a system of lakes connected with channels. The distinctive feature of the lake is the islands. There are 169 of them. The biggest island, Khachin, lies in the middle. On it there are also lakes. The name of this phenomenon is Seliger matryoshka.

For those who make it here, visiting the islands is a big attraction. Judging from the number of mushrooms, berries, animals and fish, only the Siberian taiga can be compared with the woods and waters of the Seliger. For the first time in my life I drank water from a spring in the woods. It was clean, clear, cold and tasty.

In the 17th-18th centuries, the lake was a fishing centre. Fresh, dried, salted, frozen fish were sold at fairs in Ostashkov and delivered to Tver, Moscow and other cities. Pike and perch from Seliger were served at the courts of the Tsar and the Patriarch.

Ostashkov is near the source of the Volga. You drive along a paved road, then through some woods and finally on to a dirt road through the fields. Best to arrive in the early morning when there is no one around, and the whole spot will belong to you.

The Volga starts from a tiny brook nourished by a spring. Above it there is a chapel on a wooden platform and a gate. Next to it there is a big stone with words written in a simple but solemn Russian. It says "Traveller! Turn your eyes on the Volga source. The cleanness and grandeur of the Russian lands rise here. Here is the source of the people's soul. Preserve it. This stone was mounted on June 27, 1989. For those living now and for future children of Russia. Glance back while leaving".

Reading about this stone sitting in an arm-chair at home

or while watching a TV program, won't touch you as much as when you are standing there, right next to it. The mystery of birth is not completely understood by people. It's the same with this spot. The birth of the great river remains an exciting enigma. How, why does the brook not dry out and cease to exist? Of course I jumped over the Volga. My feelings towards the river were similar to those towards a baby – a mixture of tenderness and concern.

The Nilovo-Stolobensky monastery founded in the 16th century is something else you shouldn't miss if you are in Seliger. If you climb up a bell tower you'll be rewarded with a breathtaking view of the vastness of the lake below.

You can get to Ostashkov and the Seliger by bus, train or car from Moscow. It takes about six hours by car. **P**



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Kamchatka



Text by Irina Baranova,
photos courtesy of RussiaDiscovery

Eruptions take place in Kamchatka constantly from one of the 600 active volcanoes in the area. No less than three volcanoes at any one time are spewing out ash, pebbles, and plumes of smoke. They say that watching volcanoes is highly addictive. My husband and I checked this out: it's true.

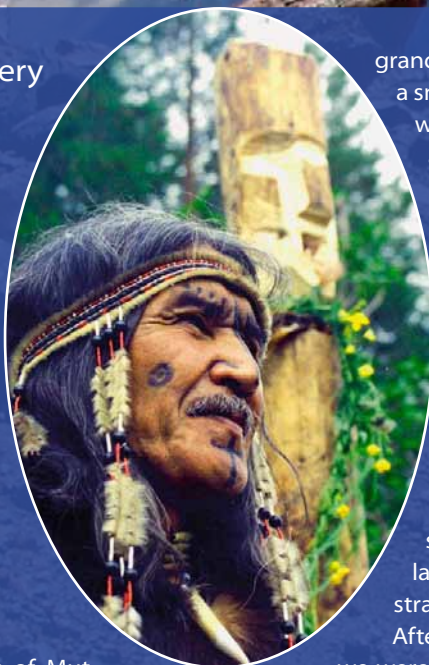
My first volcano

By the time we arrived at the foothills of Mutnovsky, the clouds and fog had drawn a grey curtain between us and our first volcano. My imagination drew pictures of a classic, fuming cone-shaped volcano, dramatically throwing out red-hot rocks, with lava flows on the slopes.

My first real volcano turned out very different from the classic Vesuvius or *National Geographic* version. I learned in Kamchatka that all volcanoes are different. Each has its own character and shape. We had been hiking for quite a while along a dirt track up the mountain slopes, across tundra and immense snow patches, when Viktor, our local guide, suddenly stopped, waved his hand in front of us and announced "and here is the entrance to Mutnovsky crater".

My husband and I exchanged glances silently. No cone, no summit, only another wall of the mountain and an impressive vertical cloud of fog behind it?

The fog was disappearing little by little, and by the time we entered the crater, the sun had started shining. The Mutnovsky crater (2,300m) turned out to be a huge, continuous fault in a mountain, with walls of incredible colours. At the bottom of the mountain there was a frozen lake, and an immense vertical plume of vapour was rising from the ground - Mutnovsky's



grand fumarole. We crossed the "fumarole field", a small valley with outlets in the ground issuing white and yellowish vapour. Some fumaroles are dangerous, the worst being those with a high content of carbon monoxide. Locals are wary of fumaroles: because the wind can change, and sometimes colourless and odourless gas can envelope the unwitting human.

To the importance of the weather

We were lucky with the weather in Mutnovsky - we realized that clearly only the next day, when we climbed Gorely, (1800m), which has a crater of an amazing, surrealistic colour. But the creamy turquoise lake is not of harmless - fumarole gases go straight into the water making it acidic.

After a three-hour trip straight up along the trail, we were at the edge of its crater. But, while we had been hiking towards it, the fog was catching up with us. Finally, we stood on the edge of the magnificent crater, peering into its depths, or trying to as it was hidden from us by dense white fog! We accepted that we would not see Gorely in its full beauty only after an hour-long walk along the crater edge, when we felt the volcano as an independent and majestic living being, with its own breath of fumaroles, unexpected sounds of rocks falling, its own mood - and the weather! There, on the top of Gorely, we made a resolution in future to ask every volcano before the ascent to allow us to see its wonders.

The real scale of things

It was Tolbachik that gave me an appreciation of the real scale of a volcano. It was there that the sixth-largest crack eruption on the planet took place. The way up north towards Tolbachik was simply exhausting. One needed incredible patience to bump 600km there in 4 x 4. We talked, tried to sleep and read, looked out of the window, slept again. Luckily, there were two short stops for a dip in the Malki hot springs and at a local market in the village!

We were stunned when we finally arrived at Tolbachik. What a

life - only tens, hundreds of kilometres of volcanic ash erupted by Tolbachik in 1975-76... Being there, one could easily imagine an 18-km column of ash and gases rising up from the volcano and eliminating all life around. It became clear why the area is described as being akin to the surface of the moon. Moreover, there was a small service place where we stopped called Lunokhodchiki



("moon-walkers") to commemorate the testing of the first Soviet moon-walking machines there. The place gave an impression of being on another planet, abandoned and mysterious.

At seven next morning, we started the hike up Tolbachik to reach its top before the midday fog. This was a long hike up to the crater. In fact, there are two Tolbachiks - the snow-topped Ostry (Sharp, 3680m) and the longish, flattened Ploski Tolbachik (Flat, 3100m), which was actually the goal of our trip. Its three kilometre wide crater was funnel-shaped, surrounded by a thick, permanent glacier. Stones from the walls rolled into its depths making a deafening noise, and a few fumaroles fumed angrily. This volcano was not as active as Mutnovsky but much more monumental. Nearby are caves created by underground lava flows, which left memorable scratches on my hands.

Bear - no salmon

Kamchatka's logo is a volcano and a brown bear catching a salmon (sometimes instead of a bear there is a fisherman). We were not that interested in salmon/loach angling, but Kamchatka's wildlife sounded interesting, and it was, though not at the famous Kurilskoe Lake.

I did not particularly welcome the idea of my husband meeting a brown bear (especially in the middle of the night), when I was the only one in the tent who was lying awake thinking of a bear catching the whiff of our fried sausages. Our guide's instructions to make a loud din if a bear should approach was not very reassuring. But in Kamchatka seeing a bear was inevitable.

In the daytime, the tundra is covered by a carpet of multi-coloured flowers and berries that range from wild raspberry to bilberry and honeysuckle, and appear to be a good grazing area for a bear. Despite the scary tales of hungry bears attacking tourists all the time, young bears are usually careful, and it is a question who is actually afraid of who during a meeting. The first young bear we met got so involved in berry picking that he did not notice us until we were very close to each other. We did not see him either, so there was a moment of mutual discovery and wild panic from both sides. By the time I had managed to extract my camera and change the lens, the bear was too far away. He ran so quickly that it became crystal clear that it was useless to ever trying to compete with a bear in track & field athletics.

Apart from another peacefully grazing bear, we met plenty of photogenic black-headed marmots, curious ground squirrels, hovering white-tailed sea eagles. While I never considered myself a "bird" person, an outing on a boat in the Avacha Bay was unlike anything I'd ever experienced. There were literally thousands of birds! - all shrieking, nesting, fly-



ing, rushing around, catching fish. A couple of seals and orca nearby completed the impression.

Leaving Kamchatka, I realised that I needed more time there. There still was so much to see - the amazing Valley of Geysers and Uzon caldera, the grand Avachinsky and Karymsky tenderly called by locals "home volcanoes", Kurilskoe lake...

Now I know that Kamchatka is really another planet. Not a single photo is able to render its fascination. You have to see it yourself. **P**

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Sasha's Treasure Hunt

A 'Lisa & Friends' story (no.4).

Story & characters: Ross Hunter;

illustrations: Nika Harrison

Sasha loved exploring. He had a nose for it, you might say. Ideally alone, about twilight, he delighted in sneaking ever further from home, sniffing out new smells, new creatures, a snack surprised and chased here, a brush with danger there and leaving his scent in a novel spot before bounding home and exaggerating his exploits to the other foxcubs. Sometimes he took the twins with him, but Dasha and Masha were too girly about the expeditions, not wanting risks or going far from home. Brother Boris was better, when not lost or in bother or both. Sasha thought that if you dropped Boris in a bucket of roses, he would come up smelling of pigpoo. But the extra pair of paws was handy.

Such as in the great treasure trove adventure. Sasha had been out for the evening, visiting one of Moscow's smarter, or as he put it, tastier areas. He had already had fun: attacked a cat, de-plumed a pigeon and provoked the Metro dogs who couldn't catch him, when all of a sudden his whiskers were hit by a gorgeous odour. His wet nose dried with excitement. Whaaat? Roast chicken! Where!? He raced around and around before accepting the unlikely answer – the big bin belonging to the classy block of flats. Amazing. Except he couldn't get



in it. It was too tall, and the heavy lid was down. One last sniff and a shove, and home to fetch Boris.

Sasha was sharper, but Boris was bulkier, and if free food was hovering over the menu, he was amazingly inventive. Back at their large lunch box, Boris surveyed the situation. Push it up to the wall. Jam stones under the wheels. Up the wall, onto the lid, squeeze between bin and bricks and heave. Heave! Straining and groaning, eventually it tipped, and there was an almighty crash as all the contents spewed out onto the yard, dusty cubs included. The brothers instinctively fled for cover, but crept out again when nobody arrived to investigate.

What a party! They couldn't believe their luck. Half a chicken beautifully cooked and waiting for them. Table manners were forgotten as it was scoffed in seconds, apart from two tasty chunks saved for their sisters. This was not just generous: more a chance to show off a trophy, and recruit new helpers for further fun. With greasy whiskers and cheesy grins, Sasha and Boris scrambled through the chaos. Amongst the real rubbish was more food than they could swallow, clothing good enough for nesting in, toys in working order and even a fleecy rabbit destined for fun at the burrow.

The two cubs dragged their booty home, jaws aching from grinning and lugging the loot. It was easy to sign up the twins for the next search parties. Soon, they were roaming all over the city's better heeled suburbs collecting wondrous things. They got better at searching and pickier about what they collected, there was so much choice. Mum Lisa was horrified at the clutter choking the burrow, and gently steered them towards separating what to keep from what could be passed on.

In no time at all, the four cubs were at the market. The boys did the hunting, or rather scavenging, the girls ran a



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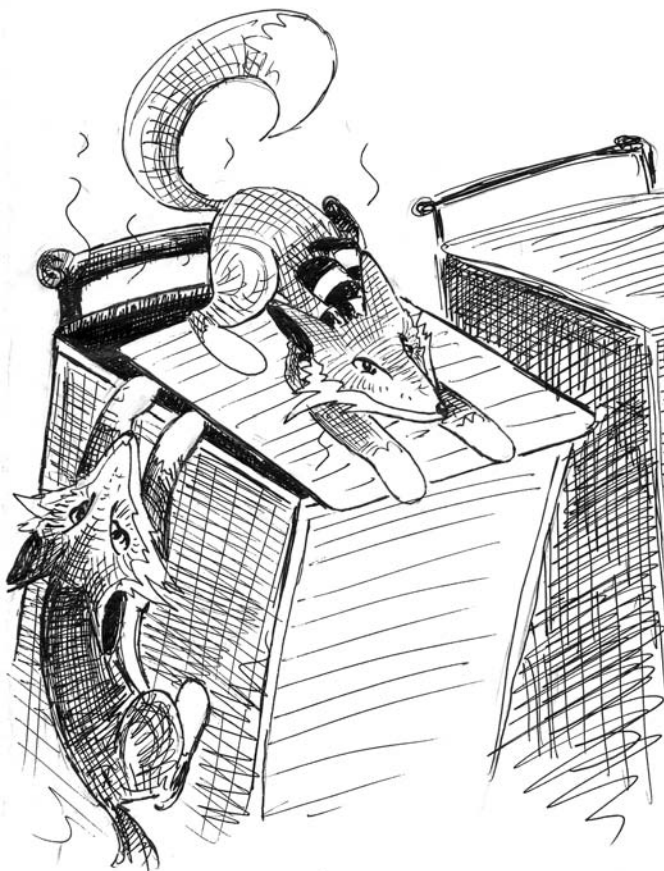
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street stall, selling the accumulated goodies. They made – for them – loads of money. Who cared whether they were reselling essential items, or whether Dasha and Masha's cuddly salesmanship softened buyers' purse strings? It was profitable fun.

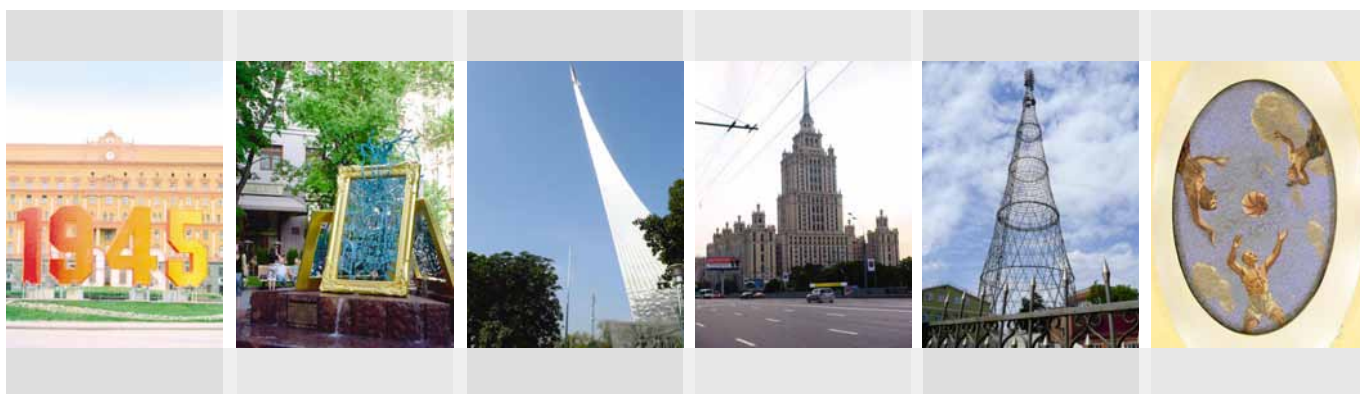
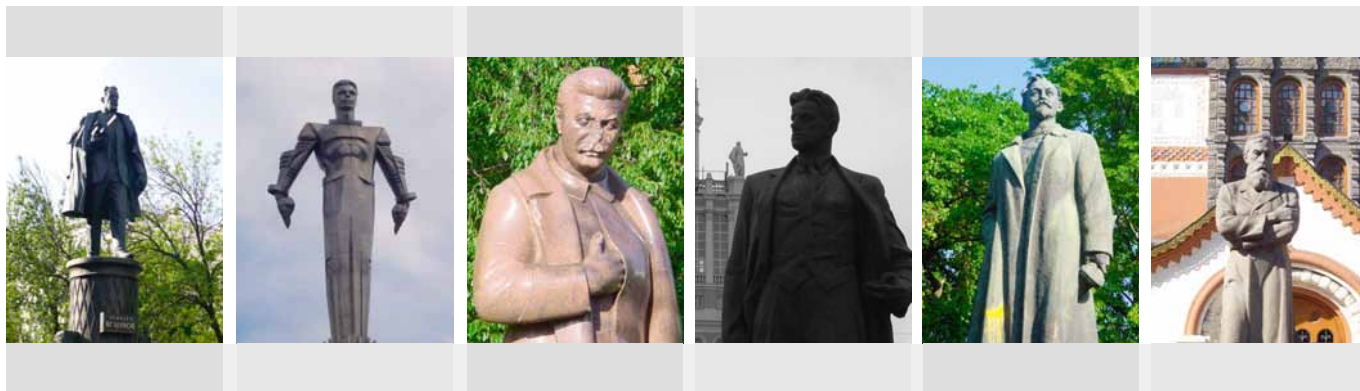
For a while. Gradually, Sasha and Boris found collecting harder. They got a hostile reception. Not from those who threw the goodies away, they couldn't care less, but from people who really needed scraps to survive. Shocked and hurt, not by a few things thrown, but by the thought that their fun was serious for others, they asked Lisa to explain: "Sadly, my cubs, some people have so much that they don't know the value of what they waste. Others have the bad fortune to need help, from wherever they find it. You can't stop this unfairness, but you should do your bit to make it a little bit better. Only take what you need; never waste what is still useful, and always help where you can". Foxes can be sheepish, and four cubs sneaked their ill gotten gains back to people who needed it more. And realised that giving is better than getting.

Puzzles

1 Here are six men famous in Russian history. All have statues in Moscow.

- Can you name them, and say where their statues are found?
- Below are six places, each linked to one of the men. Can you pair them up?

Who? Where?



2 Word search. How many words from the story can you find? Look in ALL directions.

f		g	r	e	a	s	y	e
z	o	s	u	r	v	i	v	e
d	e	x	p	l	o	i	t	s
a		h	c	a	t	s	f	
h	q	e	h	n	a	u	e	j
s	k	a	e	v	n	b		s
a	d	v	e	n	t	u	r	e
s	n	e	s	u	g	r	i	n
i	w		y	f		b		z

3. Sudoku.

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

Answers to games in the February issue:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 A square | 11 Two Mexicans resting after lunch |
| 2 Something that looks square | 12 Vicious circle |
| 3 A round | 13 Sunrise seen by me without my specs on |
| 4 Something that looks round | 14 Sunrise seen by a bat |
| 5 Bear climbing a tree | 15 Sunrise seen by a fly |
| 6 Pig going round a barn | 16 Sunrise seen by a goldfish |
| 7 Shark infested custard | 17 St. Basil's seen by a bird |
| 8 Forgetful hedgehog | 18 Red Square seen by Maleevich |
| 9 Mexican riding a bicycle | 19 Lenin's tomb seen by a bird |
| 10 Mexican frying an egg | 20 Moonrise seen from the Kremlin |

Triangle puzzle.

There are 15 small white and 10 small grey;
10 white of side two, and 3 grey;
6 white of side 3; 3 white triangles of side four;
and the big one = 48

Sudoku solutions

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

A Day Out for Petrol-heads

Ian Mitchell

Photos: Ian Mitchell
except below and left: Tatyana Andreeva



With all its wild country and forest roads, Russia should be ideal for car-rallying. Yet who knows anything about the Russian Rally Championship? Who has heard of Sergei Uspensky, the Subaru specialist who has won it thirteen times? And who is aware of Patrik Flodin, the unassuming young Swede who, in 2009, became the first-ever foreign driver to win the Championship?

Young Flodin is back for this year's competition, driving for Uspensky's Subaru team, and his main opponent

is Evgeniy Novikov, in a Mitsubishi. The first event was to be held in deep snow, not far from Moscow, near the famous beauty-spot of Lake Seliger. As a former track-racer myself, I have always been curious about Russian motor sport, so when one of Team Uspensky's sponsors, the Moscow-based OilTrade Company (who supply the Mobil lubricants the champion uses), invited me to join their party at the rally, I jumped at the chance. And a wonderful weekend it proved to be.

The first surprise was just how long it took to get to Lake Seliger, which does not look all that far away on most maps. We travelled out along the Riga highway, through Rzhev – we passed the gates of the tank factory – and it was over five hours of fast driving before the wall of forest on the right gave way to the sight of moonlight on an expanse of snow that was so flat and vast that we were obviously next to a lake.

We were accommodated in beautiful log cabins at the Ozerneya holiday complex, situated amidst tall pines on the edge of the lake. Vodka, a barbecue in the snow and a sauna set us up for an early start next morning as we had to drive further into the forest to the starting point of the rally, which was also where the circuit-driving element in the competition was to take place.





This was the only part of the rally course where spectators could watch as, unlike in Britain and western Europe, there are so few roads in rural Russia that there is no way of getting to the track-side except along the track itself. Given the presence of high-speed rally cars, being driven flat-out by young men of varying degrees of skill, it is probably best to avoid these roads on competition days.

But this proved not to be a problem, for two reasons. The first was that there were hardly any spectators, a hundred at the maximum. Russians in general display such an extreme love of high-speed motoring, especially in the centre of Moscow, that I assumed they would flock in their thousands to watch souped-up rally cars barrelling through the forest and perhaps disappearing into the undergrowth accompanied by the sound of banging and crunching

as they ricocheted off the unbending trees. But no, there were more mechanics and officials present than members of the public.

An even bigger surprise, given the way Russian women parade themselves in the city was the complete absence of what, in my Brands Hatch and Silverstone days, we used to call 'pit lizards'. Perhaps the fact that it was -15C had something to do with that. The only two women I noticed who seemed to have come to watch the action were soon fast asleep inside a car with the heater running.

The second reason for restricting ourselves to the circuit stage of the rally was that our party needed time to set up the barbecue and the samovar and make the ukha, or fish soup. Naturally, given the cold conditions in which this was done, a certain amount of warming vodka had to be taken. One thing led to another and we were soon in the Uspensky enclosure where "glintvein" (the Russian equivalent of glühwein) was being distributed along with brandy, sausage, cheese and more vodka - plus tea and coffee for those who felt the need of such beverages. Since the Uspensky enclosure offered the best vantage point for watching the circuit, this was an ideal arrangement.

All in all, I reflected over my fourth glass of Martell, this was motor sport as it should be. It fulfilled the old Brooklands rule of "the right crowd and no crowding".

For me, though, the icing on the cake was provided (before the lunch interval got really going, thank goodness) by the Uspensky team who were running a fully competitive rally car round the circuit and inviting selected guests to sit in the navigator's seat for a lap. I was lucky enough to be offered a spin.

I had to remove my coat and hat and put on a crash-helmet, and was then strapped in beside a man in flame-re-



tardant overalls who slowly idled us round to the entrance to the circuit and then, as Mario Andretti used to say, he “dropped the hammer”.

The car leaped forward with astonishing speed, given that we were on ice. But with heavily studded tyres and four-wheel drive, perhaps this should not have been so surprising. What was truly amazing was that we were heading straight into the sky. The first hundred yards led up a steep slope, between walls of snow perhaps five feet high, so there was nothing ahead of us but grey clouds and a few passing birds. At every gear-change the tyres would bite into the ice and, with a wrenching jolt, we would be catapulted forward even faster.

Before we actually took off, my chauffeur started turning the wheel round to the right, which seemed unnecessary as the sky had neither track nor off-track areas. Then, as we switch-backed over top of the rise, I saw that the course twisted away down to the right. There was method in his madness. We were now heading, at still-increasing speed, towards a rapidly-approaching wall of snow and ice from which the only way out was by means of a sharp turn to the left. But any escape in that direction looked as if it would require a drastic reduction in speed, and braking did not seem to be on this gentleman's agenda.

Almost without taking his foot from the throttle, my driver grabbed the iron bar that was next to the gear-stick (I had assumed it was a grab-hold for the navigator) and yanked it up, while spinning the wheel round to the left. We made

a perfectly-executed hand-brake turn and were suddenly facing down towards the next corner.

Being at least fifty yards away, that obviously called for further savage acceleration. We crashed up through two further gear changes before shifting down one, and standing very briefly on the brake pedal for the first time. Before we were down to anything like a safe speed, the driver stomped on the gas pedal and swung the wheel round to get the car into the right attitude to broad-side round a long, gentle curve at a fascinatingly high speed. I had to keep reminding myself that we were on ice.

So it went on, up hill, down dale (usually with a bone-jarring crash as we hit the bumps at the bottom of any dip) and through a narrow bridge with concrete supports that would have destroyed the machine entirely if the driver had made even a slight misjudgement in his drift angle.

It was over too soon. I would have loved two laps, or five laps, and then to have had a go in the flame-retardant overalls myself. But, almost before I had a chance to stop observing and start analysing, we were idling back into the paddock, where I felt I had a valid excuse for yet another glass of vodka. **P**

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The Best of the Best Places to Live

Your Moscow: eight interesting areas to live in. Which to choose? Each month's article tried to summarise an area in about 1000 words. This time, 100 words per district is the limit. We can avoid some repetition: all are desirable, all have traffic congestion, a shortage of parking places, a great Metro service, are handy for the city centre and have green bits but not as much open space as any family would like. None of these areas are cheap, but all offer a wide range of properties and prices. All have good points, and all have drawbacks.

Text by Ross Hunter, art by John Harrison and Julia Nozdracheva



Patriarchy Ponds (July 09)

The beauty, freshness and vitality of a London square. The most 'des res' district of inner Moscow, an oasis of safe and cultured if noisy calm. The atmosphere attracts families, and more besides. The ears can get confused and getting the dress code right is equally confusing. This place would be more popular if it weren't so crowded. Families come for the pond; young professionals prefer nearer Moscow. The soul of Moscow, compressed cultural history, thousands of literary references within a few steps. Secure, classy, expensive, unique. The best Metro station – Mayakovskaya. And the zoo and Pushkinshaya. Moscow as theatre.



Smolenskaya

Newly renovated and very comfortable 3-room apartment is offered in Smolenskaya area. Nice views on courtyard.
More photos at www.realtor.ru/a43401



Prospect Mira

The 3-room apartment with exclusive interior design is offered in reconstructed Pre-Revolutionary building. Completed with high quality european equipment.
More photos at www.realtor.ru/a47410

232.0099

Apartments For Rent



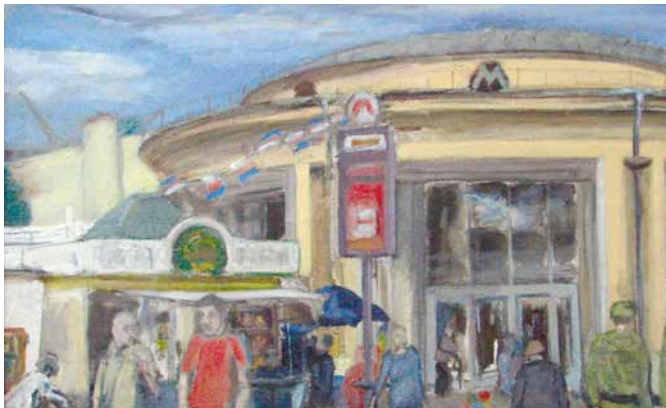
Arbat (January 2010)

The newcomer's first port of call, and the greatest density of expats. Lavishly treated by artists, the first pedestrianised concourse, lined with retail and entertainment palaces, between Kremlin and river, rich in embassies. Enjoy the tourist trinket-erie on Old Arbat, and expat sportsbarcity on the new. Tolerate traffic and appalling mall muzak and ghastly concrete, if you can. Be frustrated by poor Metro access. Enjoy Polinov, Melnikov, Pushkin, Gorky and Stalin gothic. Arbat risks being a theme park stage set, but people watching on a summer's evening is pleasant. Behind the bright lights traps, there are lovely places to live.



Frunzenskaya (November 09)

An enchanting area, from the Ostoshenka 'Golden Mile' to Luzhniki stadium by way of Park Kultury, Tolstoy's house, Novodivichy (17th century monastery, cemetery and park) and the long, long embankments of Frunzenskaya. Solid Stalin buildings line broad streets festooned with trees, even an apple orchard on 3rd Frunzenskaya. This is above all a family area, ideal for jogging, pramming or cycling along the embankments, exuding calm and comfort. The central focal point is Mandelstam Park: beautifully kept, full of flowers, with a good sized lake, it is full of families at weekends, and also boasts areas for dog and horse lovers.



Zamoskvareche (September 09)

One of Moscow's more enigmatic areas hides across the river. Just one bridge away from Red Square, enjoy a charming European-feeling old town with a delightfully random street pattern, lots of old buildings and remarkably few high rise landmarks. Moscow for people not machines: pavement cafes, car-free streets, intimate and changing views. A place for living in, not showcasing, popular with long term expats. Zamoskvareche is best explored on foot: Sculpture gardens, two Tretyakov art galleries, embankments, Gorky Park, the newlyweds bridge, street artists and a canal. What more could you want? The most historic and handy part of Moscow.

For Our Clients

- Multilingual brokers with experience more than 3 years.
- Corporate coordinator resolving all issues connected with apartment maintenance.
- Free technical support for all questions of apartment maintenance.
- Locksmith, woodwork and electrical works carried out by our certified specialists.
- Free one year insurance policy for an apartment.
- Comfortable transport provided for all viewings.
- Free orientation tour for newly arriving employees.
- 24-hour hotline support for expats in Moscow.
- Free services on lease/tenancy agreement prolongation or termination.



Patriarshie Ponds

Nicely decorated and fully equipped 4-room apartment in a historic quiet centre. Bright apartment is full of natural light.

More photos at www.realtor.ru/a43601





Prospect Mira (October 09)

Parts of Moscow look grand from the main avenues. The northern suburbs near Prospect Mira are better behind the traffic. There are places for children to play and couples to stroll, and many hospitals, clinics, retirement homes and public restaurants. It lacks a focal centre or sense of place. Best bits include Ekaterinsky Park, the army museum and theatre, the circus, the Olympic stadium and The Garage – modern art in an old Leyland bus depot. There are plenty of places to live, at better prices than near the famous ponds to west or east. A convenient but hardly compelling zone.



Chisty Prudy (February 2010)

This lovable, homely urban village is a delight for both eye and nose, in the middle of the Boulevard Ring. A delightful stroll by day or evening. Myastnitskaya was the butchers' district, and is above the Red no.1 Metro: Beautiful Gate to Culture Park, via Clean Pond, Kuznetsky's Bridge, Hunter's Row, Lenin's Library and Kropotkin's place. Perfect for coffee, a meal or a night out. Enjoy a cold glass, a warm sunset and a busy throng behind the pavilion. Don't miss the Chinoiserie tea shop, Leningradsky Hotel and Mayakovsky museum. Very popular, so expensive. A favourite with the French. Suffit?



Central Kitai Gorod (December 09)

The most central, oldest, interesting and varied of the popular residential areas. 'Moscow in miniature'. The original walled town now runs from the Metro, across the Boulevard Ring towards the Garden Ring, between the river Yauza and Chisty Prudy. Kitai Gorod has lots of shops and entertainments; an area full of life and history. With Red Square and GUM next door. The streets are busy, but the cloisters behind are calm. Maybe too hilly for the very old or the very young, but slopes make for great views. Green places are limited. A delight for painters, photographers, historians and explorers.



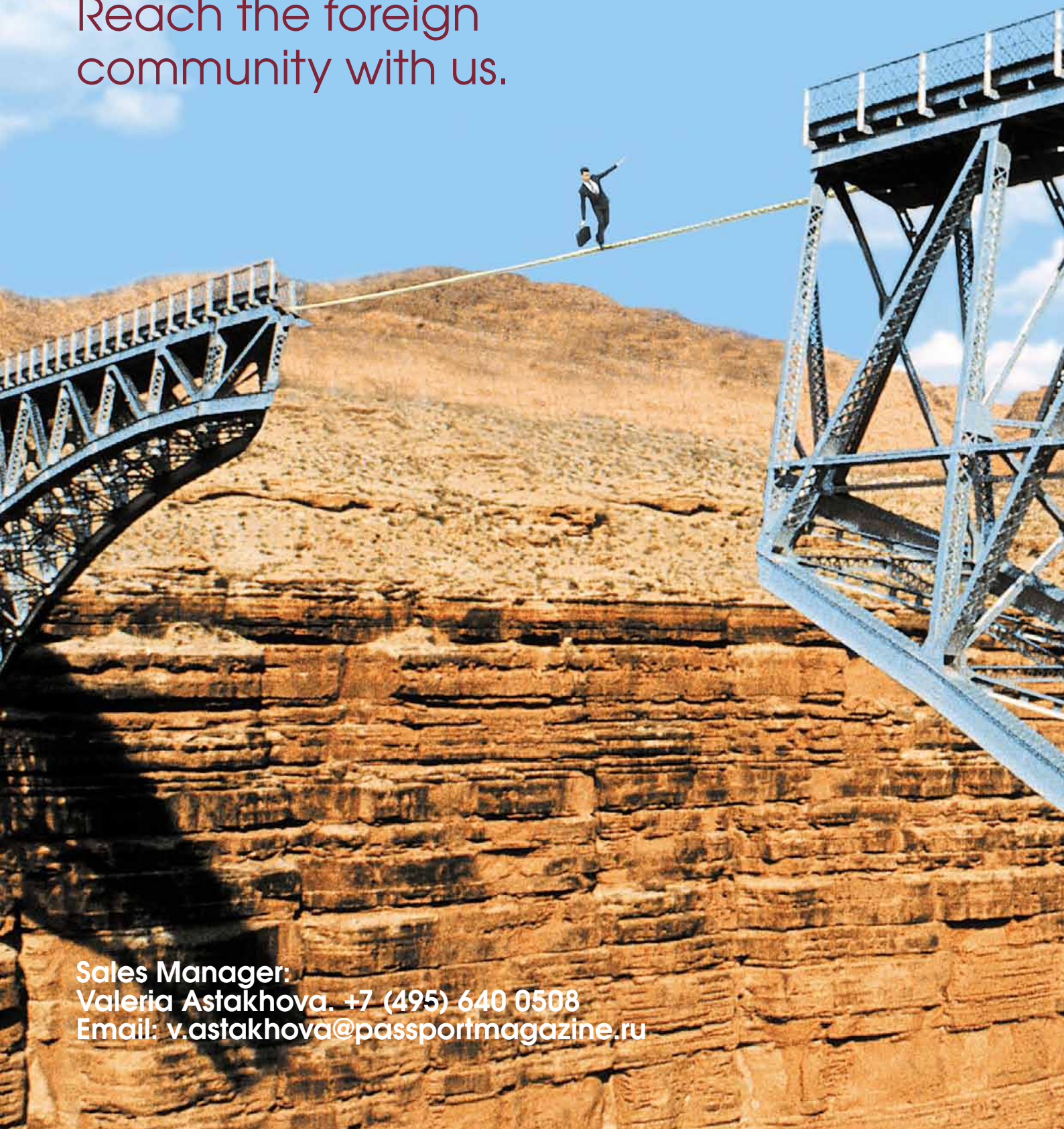
Taganka (August 09)

Stalin-era and pre-revolutionary buildings at discount prices, great views and easy transport, two Metro stops from the Kremlin? Taganka is oddly unfashionable, but on the verge of a major change. Significant multinational corporations have moved in already, and hotels and expat bars are opening regularly. In a largely flat city, Taganka is blessed with undulating slopes, so great views abound. The landmark is the skyscraper at Kotelnicheskaya Naberezhnaya. It is well served by shops, banks, pleasant restaurants and theatres. There are plenty of green spaces, and two rivers. Unmissable: the view over the river to the Kremlin at sunset.

Which is best? Impossible. You can, and mostly have, made your own choices. Family structure is crucial in deciding where is best. Single, well-salaried professionals might head for the city side of Patriarchy Ponds or the Arbats. Having a young family might ease you towards Frunzenskaya or Chisty Prudy. Those with a sense of history can choose anywhere, but especially near either Pond, Kitai Gorod or Zamoskvareche. On a budget, Prospect Mira and Taganska are attractive. Me? I love our place in Taganska, and if not there, would look near Tretyakovskaya, anywhere with a river view. Take your pick.

PASSPORT

In print for **6 years.**
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Pleasant Surprise

Charles W. Borden

photos by Alina Ganenko

My expectations were low when *Passport* publisher John Ortega and I accepted an invitation to Swissotel's Kai, based as they were upon our visit two years ago to the Italian restaurant that previously occupied its space. Snow-bound traffic forced me down to the Metro to the Pavletskaya station. After a short hike I approached one of Moscow's first modern



enclaves, set off by the Moscow River and one of its tributary canals, and the Garden Ring. The Swissotel occupies a prominent space on the east side of the Garden Ring that adjoins one of the first A-class office complexes built in Moscow in the 1990s where many a multi-national first set up shop. The Swissotel followed, built as part of the Moscow International House of Music, the city's state-of-the-art performance center that opened in 2003.

The Swissotel is a spectacular building and the entry and public spaces are grand with soaring views. Kai is on the second floor, which begs a question that nagged me then as it did two years before, "why not on the roof?" The short answer came later when we visited the City Space lounge on the 33rd floor. Its small cocktail tables, wrapped 360 degrees around the building core, offer one of the best, if not the best, views of the city out the tall glass windows that wrap up from practically under the tables' feet.

Perhaps too dizzying for a gourmet restaurant, but fine after a few cocktails.

My metro decision paid off. Even though 45 minutes late, I arrived well ahead of my colleagues. The Kai space is cozy-modern and understated, with tables widely spaced and a small open prep kitchen that displays fresh fish and an aquarium of live Kamchatka crab. Quiet this time on a Monday early evening, Kai would later be full by the time we left.

I had time to peruse the menu and wine list. Even the first page of showed that the evening had promise. First – seafood dominates – but then one reads "foie gras, truffle, pigeon, white asparagus," indicating a French base, and then "wasabi, Shiso, Enoki mushrooms, Sichuan pepper," a menu full of inviting combinations. Meats are limited to just one page of the eight-page menu.

The wine list is extensive, with each line listed twice, the front section sorted by region and the back organized by

grape. As might be expected prices soar to the stratosphere, but the bulk are in the \$100-\$200 range and there are a few decent wines under \$100. There are also some I don't often see in Moscow, an indication that Kai's list is more than a selection from two or three of the big importers. I found two white Vouvray wines from Huet, a personal favorite that has biodynamic grape production at that. Though the Vouvray were demi-sec (slightly sweet), I insisted that we try the Clos du Bourg 2005 (3740r) to see how it survived the trip to Moscow.

Executive Chef Jean-Michel Hardouin-Atlan joined us at the table. Kai is Jean-Michel's conception, "terre et mer" (earth and sea) as he calls it, and a French-Asian fusion. He hails from France's Loire region, but has spent a chef's life in Hong Kong, Oman, Mauritius and Lebanon. His favorite was Beirut, but sadly the French navy evacuated Jean-Michel and his family to Cyprus during the 2006 Israeli



I also went for the Cream of Green Lentil Soup with Forest Mushrooms and Nuts (600r), and John tasted the recommended Red Capiscum Veloute with Ginger, Mediterranean Shellfish and Parmesan Chips (950r). The lentil soup was delightfully hearty. John let me have a spoonful of his selection – very pleasant but not overly sharp. Both were excellent selections on this snowy night.

The two starters and soup were enough for me, but others at the table were impressed with their Lightly Smoked Sea Bass with Sturgeon Saviar Served with Celery Root and Vodka Cream Sauce (2450r) and the Steamed Wild Turbot with Baby Vegetables. The aromatic sea-bass, prepared in an in-house alder-wood smoker,



shelling and invasion. Thus he ended up in Moscow two and a half years ago.

Chef Jean-Michel discussed their intent to create a destination restaurant, a gourmet haven at Swissotel. "This is difficult to do in a hotel, particularly this building - it's impossible to create a separate side street entrance – here all must enter through the main lobby."

Swissotel has a cadre of visiting celebrity chefs – one usually flies in each month for special meal events. A number of menu entries are noted with the name of the chef who left the recipe behind, as well as the number of Michelin stars held by restaurants where they worked. Late this month, Danial Chambon, chef and owner of Le Pont de l'Ouyse, a one-star Michelin in Souillac in southern France, will be Kai's guest chef. We expect some specialties from the region's truffles and foie gras.

In honor of our discussion about Lebanon, we decided to try a red Lebanese wine, Chateau Musar 1999 (about 6000r)

– this was a disappointment – it did not appear to have traveled well since we have heard very good reports about this winery and a few others in Lebanon. However, we were cheered when a 'chef's complement' from Jean-Michel arrived, a short spear of white asparagus wrapped in a thick black squid ink and rice blanket displayed in an egg sauce. I realized that my earlier expectations would be exceeded.

After asking for a few suggestions, we selected cold starters: John had the Raw Sea Scallops with Fresh Marinated Foie Gras and Spices (1250r) and I the Red Tuna Tataki with Roasted Sesame Seeds and Tea Crust Served with Sesame Sauce (650r). Naturally Kai's seafood is airlifted to Moscow by premium importer La Maree, and this tuna was incredibly fresh, ample rectangular blocks slightly seared in a crust around the edges. For a hot starter I tried the Glazed Sea Scallops with Morel Mushrooms (950r), huge and fresh with a thin glaze that did not try to overpower the scallops.

was well received. We did not try the meat dishes, but the menu begged an invitation for a return visit to see how Jean Michel treats Black Angus or Australian Lamb Rack at prices that range upwards from 1400 rubles.

Most hotel restaurants suffer from identity problems. Hotel management tends to relegate them to a service for guests (ham and eggs at midnight for instance). Few, and usually only at a 5-star hotel, can become a destination establishment to draw clientele into the building by the quality of the food and service. I believe Kai has triumphed, and it certainly can hold its head very high among Moscow's better dining establishments. **P**

Kai Restaurant & Lounge

is located on the 2nd floor of Swissotel Krasnye Holmy Kosmodamianskaya nab., 52 bld. 6
Telephone: +7 495 221 53 58
www.swissotel.com/kai

NOTE:

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

AMERICAN

**CORREA'S

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

7 Ulitsa Gasheka, 789-9654

M. Mayakovskaya

www.correas.ru

STARLITE DINER

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

16 Ul. Bolshaya Sadovaya, 650-0246

M. Mayakovskaya

9a Ul. Korovy Val, 959-8919

M. Oktyabrskaya

6 Prospekt Vernadskovo, 783-4037

M. Universitet

16/5 Bolotnaya Plushchad, 951-5838

M. Polyanka

www.starlite.ru

AMERICAN BAR & GRILL

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

M. Mayakovskaya

ambar.rosinter.com

BEAVERS

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

171 Ulitsa Lyublinskaya, 783-9184

M. Marino

www.beavers.ru

HARD ROCK CAFÉ

The Moscow HRC has a great location on the Old Arbat overlooking the busy pedestrian mall. The usual HRC menu and rock paraphernalia.

44 Sary Arbat, 205-8335

M. Smolenskaya

www.hardrock.com

ASIAN

**TURANDOT

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

26/5 Tverskoi Bulvar, 739-0011

M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya

www.turandotpallace.ru

BLUE ELEPHANT

Thai cuisine with impeccable service in an elegant royal setting. Try the Royal Thai Platter.

31 Novinsky Bulvar, 580-7757

M. Barrikadnaya

www.blueelephant.com

BUDDIES CAFE

No frills but very expat friendly – Szechuan, Thai, or Vietnamese from Singaporean Kelvin Pang. Sports bar.

12/8 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 694-0229

M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya

DARBAR

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

38 Leninsky Prospekt, 930-2365

M. Leninsky Prospekt

INDUS

"Elitny" modern Indian restaurant with Chivas bar on the first floor.

15 Plotnikov Pereulok, (499) 252-7979

M. Smolenskaya

COFFEE AND PASTRIES

COFFEE BEAN

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

56 Leningradsky Prospekt, 742-3755

www.coffeebean.ru

COFFEE MANIA

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

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

M. Arbatskaya, Biblioteka im. Lenina

www.coffeemania.ru

STARBUCKS

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

starbuckscoffee.ru

VOLKONSKY PEKARNYA-KONDITERSKAYA

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

2/46 Bolshoi Sadovaya

M. Mayakovskaya

EUROPEAN

**CARRE BLANC

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

9/2 Ul. Seleznevskaya, 258-4403

M. Novoslobodskaya

www.carreblanc.ru

NEW BLACKBERRY

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

10 Academic Sakharov Prospekt

926-1640, 926-1645

M. Chistiye Prudy

NEW BOLSHOI

The latest high-end Novikov restaurant. Modern in a Ralph Lauren kind of way, with a continental-Russian menu.

3/6 Ulitsa Petrovka, 789-8652

M. Kuznetsky Most

eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/

CAFE DES ARTISTES

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

5/6 Kamergerski Pereulok, 692-4042

M. Teatralnaya

www.artistico.ru

CITY SPACE

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

Located on the 34th floor of Swissôtel Krasnye Holmy Moscow

M. Paveletskaya

52 bld.6, Kosmodamianskaya nab.,

Moscow 115054

+7 (495) 221-5357

ELSE CLUB

A small jewel next to the Pokrovsky Hills development and the Anglo-American School which complements the neighboring extravagant health spa.

5 Ivankovskoye Shosse, 234-4444

www.elseclub.ru

GALEREYA

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

27 Ulitsa Petrovka, 937-4544

M. Pushkinskaya

eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/

GRAND ALEXANDER

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

26 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 937-0000

M. Tverskaya

JEROBOAM

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

3 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 225-8888

M. Okhotny Ryad

KAI RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE

Contemporary French cuisine with an Asian touch at Swissotel Krasnye Holmy.

52/6 Kosmodamianskaya Nab, 221-5358

M. Paveletskaya

SCANDINAVIA

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

19 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 937-5630

M. Pushkinskaya

www.scandinavia.ru

SKY LOUNGE

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

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

M. Leninsky Prospekt

www.skylounge.ru

VANIL

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

1 Ulitsa Ostozhenka, 202-3341

M. Kropotkinskaya

eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/

VOGUE CAFE

Elegant, trendy partnership with *Vogue* magazine.

7/9 Ul. Kuznetsky Most, 623-1701

M. Kuznetsky Most

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

FUSION

BON

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

Yakimovskaya 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 CAFÉ

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

11 Kuznetsky Most, 628-3580

M. Kuznetsky Most

www.jagannath.ru

LE PAIN QUOTIDIEN

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

5/6 Kamergerski Pereulok, 649-7050

www.lpqr.ru

LATIN AMERICAN

**NAVARRO'S BAR & GRILL

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

23 Shmitovskiy Proezd, 259-3791

M. Mezhdunarodnaya

www.navarros.ru

OLD HAVANA

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

28 Ulitsa Talalikhina, 723-1656

M. Proletarskaya

www.old-havana.ru

ITALIAN

**SEMIFREDDO MULINNAZO

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

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 Soimonovskiy Proyezd, 695-2936, 695-2950

M. Kropotkinskaya

www.cipollino.ru

JAPANESE

KINKI

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

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

M. Krylatskoye

www.kinkigrill.ru

**NOBU

The Moscow branch of the legendary Nobu is now open on Bolshaya Dmitrovka. Nobu moves directly to *Passport's* Moscow Top 10 list.

20 Bolshaya Dimitrovka, 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 Plushchad Evropy, 941-8020

M. Kievskaya

MISATO

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

47, Myasnikskaya st., 725-0333

TSVETENIYE SAKURY

Completely new restaurant concept in Moscow based on a combination of traditional and contemporary Japanese cuisine. Recent recipes are joined by recent innovations. 7 Ulitsa Krasina, 506-0033

M. Mayakovskaya

SEIJI

One of the few Moscow sushi restaurants that actually has a Japanese chef, even a celebrity chef – Seiji Kusano, who also set up the O2 Lounge at the Ritz-Carlton. 5/2 Komsomolsky Prospekt, 246-7624

M. Park Kultury

CAUCASUS

ARARAT

A little corner of Armenia right in the center of Moscow at the Ararat Park Hyatt. Cozy atmosphere and spicy Armenian fare. All ingredients delivered straight from Armenia including fine Armenian brandies. 4 Neglinnaya Ulitsa, 783-1234

M. Teatralnaya, Kuznetsky Most

BAGRATIONI

Great Georgian food and entertainment in a stylish mansion near Novodevichy Monastery and the Korean Embassy. 1/7 Spartakovskaya Plushchad, 267-6881, 266-0531

M. Baumanskaya

BARASHKA

Our Azerbaijanian friends swear it's the best Azeri restaurant in town. 20/1 Petrovka Ulitsa, 200-4714

M. Kuznetsky Most

21/1 Novy Arbat

M. Arbatkaya

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

BELOYE SOLNTSE PUSTYNI

Named after *White Desert Sun*, one of the USSR's favorite films. An eclectic Central Asian menu that includes Azerbaijan and Uzbek cuisine. 29 Ul. Neglinnaya, 625-2596, 200-6836

M. Kuznetsky Most, Teatralnaya

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

RUSSIAN

**CAFE PUSHKIN

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

26a Tverskoi Bulvar, 739-0033

M. Pushkinskaya, Tverskaya, Chekhovskaya

GODUNOV

For real lovers of all things Russian, including traditional Russian dancing, rivers of vodka and plates stacked with food in the Tsar's chambers from the time of Boris Godunov. 5 Teatralnaya Plushchad, 698-5609

M. Teatralnaya

NEW GUSYATNIKOFF

The latest VIP Russian restaurant in an 18th century estate. 2A Ulitsa Aleksandra Solzhenitsyna

M. Taganskaya

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

NA MELNITSE

Homemade cuisine – *kvas*, *mors*, vodka, pickles. Russian style with plenty of wood. The food is far from cheap, but the portions are enormous: it's like being fed by an overzealous babushka. 7 Tverskoi Bulvar, 290-3737

M. Pushkinskaya, Tverskaya, Chekhovskaya

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

M. Krasniye Vorota

www.namelnitse.ru

OBLOMOV

Authentic Russian cuisine in a restored 19th century mansion. 5 Monetchikovskiy Pereulok, 953-6828

M. Dobryninskaya

ONE RED SQUARE

The menu features lavish, centuries-old recipes in the State Historical Museum on Red Square. Expect cream-laden meat dishes with fruit-based sauces and live folk music. 1 Krasnaya Plushchad, 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 Dimitrovka, 200-0965

M. Okhotny Ryad, Teatralnaya

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

SEAFOOD

FILIMONOVA & YANKEL

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

23 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 223-0707

M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya

www.fishhouse.ru

LA MAREE

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

28/2 Ulitsa Petrovka, 694-0930

www.la-maree.ru

STEAKS

**BEEF BAR

The latest branch of the Monte Carlo hotspot serves top cuts of the finest imported beef: American, Australian, Dutch and French. Overlooks the river across from the Central House of Artists. 13 Prechistinskaya Nab., 982-5553

M. Park Kultury

www.beefbar.com

EL GAUCHO

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

4 Ul. Sadovaya-Triumfalnaya, 699-7974

M. Mayakovskaya

6/13 Ul. Zatspeysky Val, 953-2876

M. Paveletskaya

3 Bolshoi Kozlovsky Pereulok, 623-1098

M. Krasniye Vorota

www.elgauch.ru

GOODMAN

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

23 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 775-9888

M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya

www.goodman.ru

POLO CLUB

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

Ulitsa Petrovka 11/20, 937-1024

M. Kuznetsky Most

TORRO GRILL

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

6 Prospekt Vernadskogo, 775-4503

M. Universitet

www.torrogrii.ru

BARS AND CLUBS

ALL TIME BAR

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

7/5 Bolshaya Dimitrovka, 629-0811

M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya

BOOZE PUB

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

Weekdays from 12:00 to 17:00.

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

5 Potapovskiy Pereulok, Bldg. 2, 621-4717

M. Chistiye Prudy

www.boozebub.ru

KARMA BAR

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

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. Mayakovskaya

PYATNICA BAR

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

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

www.pyatnica-bar.ru

PAPA'S

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

2 Myasnikskaya Ulitsa, 755-9554

M. Kitai-Gorod

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



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Books in Russia: readers versus twitts

Elena Rubinova

The Soviet past left us many myths that are hard to believe today. But one of those myths might have been close to reality: Soviets read the most out of all people on the planet. Statistics have confirmed this: research carried out just before the dissolution of the Soviet empire indicated that there were 40-50 million active readers (at that time about 25% of the adult population) and 161 million occasional readers (72.5%). Less than 20 years ago reading was named as the first priority by the majority. The book used to be a precious object, to own a rare book meant much then, that is why almost every family tried to create a home library and classic literature prevailed on shelves. For generations, Soviet people were taught to extract moral guidance from literature, classical authors were considered not only great literary authorities but also 'spiritual leaders'. Literature was endowed with a high symbolic status.

New times

In Russia, as everywhere else, reading patterns have changed substantially and will continue to do so. Surveys, reports, and newspaper articles carry alarming claims that Russians do not read anymore. Educators, publishers and even politicians are quaking in their boots: Russia, so renowned for its literature is no longer the reader-leader. Russians have replaced bookshelves with nooks for the internet. Post-socialist transformations have destabilized the status of social groups and cultural practices. According to the latest survey performed in 2008 by Levada Analytical Centre, 46% of Russians do not read books, 54% reveal they do not even read magazines.

Boris Dubin, one of the leading Russian sociologists and the Head of Social and Political research at Levada Centre, outlined the background of the situation in an interview: 'I would say today's situation is the bottom line: about 60% of Russians do not buy books on a regular basis and do not borrow them, 70% of households do not have more than a few books. Over the decades, the infrastructure of reading has changed completely: in the 1970s two thirds of books came from libraries, today 81% of Russians do not use libraries at all'.

The issue about Russia parting with its book culture became so pressing that in 2006 a long-term National Program for Promotion and Development of Reading was developed by the Federal Agency of Press and Mass Communications and the Russian Book Union. Furthermore, the year 2007 was announced 'The Year of Reading' in Russia.

This became the first all-Russian incentive of this scale in the post-Soviet era and instigated a lot of cultural initiatives. NGOs such as the Pushkin Library Foundation have taken the initiative, and since 2002 has supplied approximately 20 million books to regional library funds from Kaliningrad to the Far East, thus bridging the gap between the center and the provinces and re-establishing cultural links that were lost in the transition period.

Digital future versus paper

But this doesn't mean that Russians will automatically start reading again. Although practices and formats of reading are changing dramatically, the quest for information via the written word is thriving. It's just that people no longer want to read paper and ink. Teenagers and young adults spend hours on the internet writing and reading. Valeria Stelmakh, a prominent expert on sociology of reading, outlined in her book *Building Nations of Readers* that "Everywhere reading moved from the sphere of high culture to everyday environment, it's a global phenomenon."

Traditional reading is on the wane, but people are more engaged in communication with words than ever before with the help of the internet, CD-ROM capabilities, searchable databases, interactive resources, multimedia books and chat rooms. Russia is still in the early days of e-books, but elsewhere, the future for publishing and information is digital. Cross-media partnerships and advanced technologies had a vivid presence at last year's annual Non-Fiction book fair in Moscow. One of the new projects offered, Print on Demand, is expected to revolutionize traditional publishing, and has been booming during the crisis, as publishers only print the number of books ordered, thereby reducing print costs.

Reading Russians: Who are They?

Sociologist Boris Dubin drew a portrait of Russian readers as four figures with a figure of a reading lady in the center. Besides the lady who represents women of active age, the symbolic portrait includes a young professional from a large city with high income level, students and college graduates and, finally, elderly people.

Women love to read novels and everything associated with glamour, fashion and lifestyle. Young professionals consume literature that is trendy and in high demand, they tend to create a trend that then is followed by the majority of their group. Students and university graduates read a lot of professional literature, text-books, everything related to their profession. The 'aging' audience is usually composed of people who have always been surrounded by stacks of books, but now read what they can afford to buy or to borrow. While statistics differ, reading preferences of Russians are well-known and in this issue most studies and polls coincide.

Working people are willing to while away the time in a bus or a train with books, but not complicated novels or poems. The lion's share of fiction read in Russia today is comprised of detective stories, romance novels, adventure novels as well as genre fiction. 17% of Russians are crime-story aficionados, 11% read historical literature of various genres, 13% choose romantic novels (opinion poll conveyed by Levada Centre in August 2009).

Nevertheless, Russia does not follow all world trends: non-fiction, which has been falling off in popularity since the mid-1990s worldwide, is growing in popularity in Russia. Anatoly Sekerin, the head of Lomonosov Publishing, is fully convinced

that nonfiction has a huge potential in Russia. "When we set up our publishing house, we saw that the Russian market had an obvious niche that had to be filled - books for educated but not enlightened people. This is the category we are targeting, and they are the main audience of non-fiction literature in this country," he said.

Indeed, demand for books on modern psychology, geography, ethnography, history and literature for parents and teachers is growing steadily.

What's next?

By 2009, turnover on the Russian book market amounted to \$2.5-\$3 billion. Approximately 110,000 titles are published each year by 100 different publishers, more than 80 percent of which are written by Russian authors.

Despite the economic crisis, publishers and book retailers remain optimistic because the book market has not been as greatly affected by the economic decline as many other market segments. On the contrary, many people who have lost their jobs have turned to reading as a more affordable pastime.

The Levada Centre poll revealed that more than 40 percent of respondents claimed that they would continue to buy books. Any future generation will be just as hungry for knowledge as those who went before. In the contemporary culture of networking, where every rumor is blogged and 'tweeted,' people won't stop reading or writing. Furthermore, there are high hopes that with the spread of new technology and media, young Russians will use new resources to keep up their language and culture as fundamental heritage. And maybe then they would become a nation of readers again. **P**

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By the Zoo



Sun drenched 3-room apartment on the 4th floor of a 6-story pre-revolutionary building. Total area 77 sq.m, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Western renovation, new parquet, heated floors, tastefully furnished in modern style. Washing machine, dishwasher, Satellite TV, internet, video intercom. ID40010

Close to Moscow City



Move in right away or start collecting rental income from this conveniently located apartment. Recently renovated 2-room apartment can be delivered vacant or sold as an investment property with a tenant. Great Kutuzovsky location within walking distance to Moscow City and the main exhibition center offers easy commute to the center or Rublevka attractions. ID 42413. Please, see another option offered for sale or rent: ID 41778.

Lots of space



This three-room apartment boasts large living room, sauna, fireplace and a creative mix of modern and antique furniture. Fully equipped with home appliances for the most comfortable life. Pre-revolutionary building is located in a quiet yard close to Patriarch's Pond. Concierge, guarded parking. Offered for rent or sale. ID22949

Great Option for a Family



This fully furnished apartment in a modern development near the International School of Moscow is a great place for a family. Four bedrooms, spacious living room, two bathrooms, sauna, modern equipment, underground garage, total security and green setting. Offered for rent or sale. ID45880

Tverskaya



Enjoy great central location with the most popular shops, restaurants and theaters within minutes' walk from your home. Contemporary 3-room apartment on the top floor of a Stalin building is fully furnished and ready for move in. Offered for rent or sale. ID14045

Beautiful Duplex



Modern two-level 6-room apartment in Brusov lane - unbeatable location. Panoramic windows, 2 bathrooms, new parquet, air-condition, w/m, d/m. A pre-revolution building with beautifully restored entrance, concierge. Offered for rent or sale. ID43107

Close to the Anglo-American School



With 2 bedrooms, well-equipped kitchen, walk-in closet and 24-hour security this is an ideal family home. Located on the 20th floor of a new elite building, lots of light and a fantastic view of Moscow River. Easy access to one of the most popular international schools. ID44334

Chistye Prudy



Charming 6 room apartment with 3 bathrooms, walk-in closet, Jacuzzi, w/m, d/w is a great family residence. Located in a pre-revolutionary building right on Myasnitskaya street with beautiful historical buildings and cafes nearby. Exceptional location near lycée français. Offered for rent or sale. ID47679

The Bloody White Baron

Ian Mitchell

The fact that the most sadistic general in the Russian civil war was the only one who was a practising Buddhist will seem odd to many people. Baron Roman Feodorovich Ungern von Sternberg was a Baltic German anti-Semite who was devoted to both the Russian autocracy and the mysticism of the East. But in the dying days of Tsardom, there was nothing very unusual in that. What was unique about him was that he carried his beliefs into practice. In 1921, he became dictator of Mongolia with the idea of using his adopted country as a springboard for the overthrow of Bolshevik power in Soviet Russia.

Ungern, as he was known, was born in 1886, and brought up on his step-father's estate in what is now Estonia. He was an undisciplined boy with a violent temper who was saved from an aimless future by the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese war in 1904. He volunteered for service and was sent east. This changed his life. He discovered horses and the romance of an ascetic life on the open steppe. And he fell in love with the mysticism of the Orient.

After the war, he returned to St Petersburg and entered the prestigious Pavlovskoe Military Academy. At the same time, he began studying the occult arts, beginning with the famous Madame Blavatsky, inventor of Theosophy. There was a large Buddhist temple in Petersburg at the time, and the Tsar took an interest in Buddhist affairs, not least because of the competition with Britain for influence over Tibet.

After graduation, Ungern was posted to a Cossack Regiment in eastern Siberia, where he tried to form an Order of Military Buddhists in order to wage what he called "an uncompromising fight against the depravity of revolution". He believed that "evolution leads to Divinity and revolution to bestiality."

The rules of the Order prescribed both celibacy and the unlimited use of alcohol, hashish and opium. Ungern was later to change his views on alcohol, but not on drugs or women. Like many of his ancestors, he was giv-

en to fits of ungovernable rage if he thought his honour slighted. In 1913 he was cashiered from the Army for fighting duels.

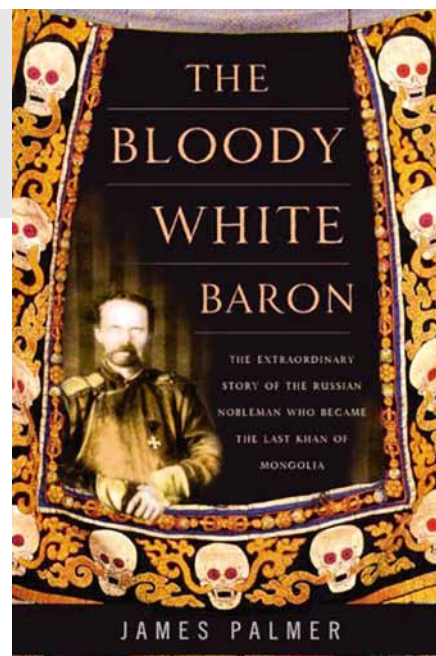
He did not return home to European Russia. Instead he wandered into Mongolia which, two years earlier, had declared its independence from China. He would have stayed amidst the mud, dead dogs, disease and prayer wheels of Ugra (now Ulaanbaatar) but for the outbreak of the First World War. He was recalled to the colours and fought with extreme bravery on the Galician front where, among other decorations, he won the Cross of St George, one of Imperial Russia's highest military medals.

After the February Revolution, he was posted back to the Far East. But when the October revolution happened, he mutated into a sort of military-administrative terrorist, operating on behalf of those who wanted to put Grand Prince Michael on the throne of Russia in place of Nicholas II. Unbeknown to them, and perhaps symbolic of the general unreality of Ungern's life as an anti-Bolshevik operator, Prince Michael had already been murdered by the Soviets.

Operating independently of Admiral Kolchak's 'official' White Army in Siberia, Ungern raised a force with which he hoped to imitate the feats of Genghis Khan. He was realistic enough, though, to solicit arms from the Japanese, who had their own anti-Chinese agenda.

With no more than 10,000 men, Ungern succeeded in driving the Chinese out of Mongolia. In March 1921 he declared himself dictator. However, by then the Soviets were firmly established in power and the window of counter-revolutionary opportunity in his homeland had been firmly shut. His remarkable feat of arms suddenly seemed pointless.

While other monarchists moved to Harbin, in Manchuria, and tried to continue life as they had known it before 1914, or resigned themselves to reality and became taxi-drivers in Paris or New York, Ungern stuck to his self-imposed mission. Dressed in a long, yellow Mongolian robe he travelled



James Palmer
Faber £9.99

through his domain on a white horse with his personal shaman who predicted the future from the way sheep bones cracked after being heated up over an open fire.

His ideas of military discipline were ferocious. He was an expert on the tortures of the East and had insubordinate soldiers or enemy informers torn apart by animals, or forced to sit in the tops of trees for days at a time, until they fell asleep and plunged to the ground, where they were shot. Others were exposed for nights on end on sheets of ice, or burnt alive. An ordinary punishment was a hundred lashes, which left men blinded by blood, but still able, as Ungern once observed with detached curiosity, to walk "even when flesh and bone are separated".

Ultimately, his methods provoked desertion as often as obedience. Just six months after assuming power, he was kidnapped by some unknown subordinates and handed over to the Bolsheviks across the border in Novonikolaevsk (now Novosibirsk). He was given a reasonably fair trial, but sentenced to death for counter-revolutionary activity, despite the fact that it had all taken place outside the court's jurisdiction.

James Palmer says at the end of this intriguing but slightly disorganised book, that he faced both the tribunal and the firing squad with "cold resignation". Prayers for his soul were read throughout Mongolia. **P**

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FAQs on Moving

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



When is the best time to move?

The best time to move is when it's right for you. However, there are some times of the year that are busier for the moving industry than others. The summer months (May – September) and the end of each month are periods of heavier demand.

When should I begin to contact companies about my upcoming move?

It is a good idea to contact the moving companies you are considering for your move with as much notice as possible. It is ideal to have companies provide an estimate five to six weeks prior to your desired move date. Try to select the moving company four weeks before your moving date. Be sure to sign the Estimate/Order for Service and confirm your packing, pick up and delivery dates.

What is an in-home survey?

Your professional removal consultant will come to your home to complete a visual survey of the belongings you plan to move. He or she has been trained specifically for this purpose and will be able to provide you with an accurate estimate. This will be based on a wide variety of factors, the two main ones being shipment volume and distance to destination. In addition, they will evaluate the need for professional services, such as packing and unpacking, appliance preparation, custom crating and storage. Your Consultant will need to look in cabinets, closets, under beds and any other area that the items to be moved are not visible.

In order to get an accurate estimate, all items that are going to be moved need

to be taken into account. If you know that items you plan to move are out of view, point them out. In addition, if you have items you do not plan to move, point them out too. He or she will be able to pinpoint all of the potential costs and service requirements of your relocation.

Can I pack and move my plants?

Typically, it is not advisable to move your plants. Most professional movers will only accept plants, if the shipment is not going more than 180 kilometres and/or delivery will be within 24 hours within the same country. In addition, if you are moving across borders quarantine or other restrictions may be applicable.

How should I move my jewellery and other valuable items?

It is recommended that you do not pack or ship your fine jewellery, precious metals, important papers (titles, tax forms, bank books, deeds, etc.), medical and dental records, prescriptions, coins, currency, stock certificates, notes and bonds. These items should be carried with you during your move.


Can I pack my own cartons?

For security reasons, many countries are no longer accepting shipments that were packed by the owner. In addition, any damage incurred to items you packed yourself may not be covered by transit protection. Therefore, it is suggested that you let the moving company pack your household items.

Will the packing crew use the original packing materials for my appliances?

If you have any of the original cartons and packing materials for your appliances or other household items, make sure that you inform your Crew Supervisor. He or she will inspect the materials to determine whether your goods will be safer using these or our own specialized packing materials

Why is Transit Protection necessary?

Your personal insurance policies (homeowners, renters or automobile policies) likely provide very limited, if any, coverage for your personal belongings. Should there be any further questions on moving which are not covered above please do not hesitate to contact me at spereira@crowdnrelo.com 

How to: maintain conversation

While you may not have a wide enough vocabulary to respond in-depth to everything you hear, there are ways to keep a conversation going other than by nodding and smiling. Here are a few handy phrases.

What you're hearing is surprising

Да ты что?! *Say what, for real?* (here and in other phrases 'да' doesn't mean 'yes', it's a very short sound used just for emphasis)

Да ладно? *No way?*

Как это так? *How can that be?*

You want to express disbelief

Да брось ты. *Come off it.*

Не может быть! *It's not possible.*

Что ты говоришь? *What are you saying?*

You want confirmation

Неужели? *Really?*

Правда? *Is that true?*

You're following the story avidly

Как интересно. *How interesting.*

Расскажи ещё. *Tell me more.*

Ух ты! *Wow, look at you!*

Resigned

Вот так вот. *That's how it is.*

Вот такие дела. *That's how things go.*

Вот такие пироги. *Them's the apples.*

Or horrified.

Ужас! *Awful!*

Какой ужас! *How awful!*

Только в России. *Only in Russia.*

Courtesy of RUSLINGUA
www.ruslingua.com



iphoned Moscow

Svetlana Reznik

The iPhone is fast becoming a ubiquitous Moscow accessory. While the technical merits of the \$1000 phone can be debated with the same religious fervor that ignites Mac vs. PC debates, the iPhone is an undisputed status symbol. If you've somehow managed to avoid the iPhone hype, say by living under a rock in Karelia, don't worry, no one will know if you run out and get one today. This article will examine your iPhone options and highlight the most useful Russian applications.

Most of the iPhones you see in Moscow are acquired on the grey market – purchased outside Russia or from non-authorized distribution channels in Russia. It took Apple so long to negotiate distribution agreements with Russia's top three telecoms (MTS, VimpelCom, and MegaFon) that according to *Vedomosti* Russia had an estimated half million phones in use by the time official distribution started last year. Today, these telcos are still struggling to unload their pricey 3G models while the newer 3GS models have already been introduced on the grey market and sell for nearly the same price.

The 3GS is the newest model iPhone. The new "S" version has a built-in video camera, upgraded 3 megapixel camera with built in autofocus, voice control, and longer battery life so for nearly the same price, it makes sense to get the 3GS. The 32Gb version goes for 29,000 rubles at Gorbushka, the destination for all things electronic and many things pirated. It can be found for even less online. Try <http://timegsm.ru> which offers the 32Gb 3GS for under 29,000 and will deliver it to you same day. In contrast, Megafon is still selling the 3G 8Gb for 22,000 rubles. If the 3GS upgrades are not worth the extra cost for you, consider purchasing a refurbished 3G. Depending on the condition, they start at half the price of a new

phone and are widely available online and at Gorbushka.

Be aware when purchasing 3GS phones in Russia that some stolen phones make their way to the market. At the end of last year, three million dollars worth of unlocked iPhones were stolen from a warehouse in Belgium and reportedly smuggled into Russia. Cell phone carriers can block those phones using the IMEI number, which is the phone's serial number. Play it safe by checking your IMEI number on the phone prior to purchasing it by checking the About screen. If your IMEI ends in NF, it means it is from Europe and you may want to avoid the European phones for a while. Colleagues of mine recently purchased the 3GS from timegsm and the IMEI did not end in NF.

If you've just arrived in Moscow with a locked US iPhone and want someone to crack it for you, you can get it unlocked for 2000 rubles at Gorbushka. Once unlocked, purchase a SIM card, and you're good to go. Moscow is a very wired city and you will be able to pick up Beeline's WiFi in most places.

The true value of the iPhone and the cause of the hype are the applications. There are thousands of applications which can be downloaded from iTunes. Skype's iPhone app, for example, will allow you to save on long distance expenses by letting you call home using the web. Below are a couple useful iPhone apps for Russia:

Language:

Russian Flip

Price: \$5.99

Flashcards are perfect for building your Russian vocabulary. Russian Flip lets you pick your level of difficulty, from easy to expert, and you can add your own words too. The app has 5000 Russian words and tracks your progress to drill you on harder words till you get them.

Lifestyle:

Afisha

Price: Free

Afisha's app lets you find events, movies, restaurants, concerts, exhibition, and theater listings in Moscow and St. Petersburg as well as letting you access user reviews and content. One of the best features is the GPS locator, which finds restaurants and entertainment around you and lists the numbers and addresses.

Getting Around:

iMetro


Price: \$1.99

Great for navigating the Moscow Metro in addition to 90 other cities for when you're traveling. The subway stations are listed in both English and Russian. In addition to Moscow, iMetro also has maps of St. Petersburg, Nizhni Novgorod, Novosibirsk, Samara, Ekaterinburg, Kazan, and Volgograd. Ukraine, Belorussia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Uzbekistan are also available.

Yandex.Traffic

Price: Free

Let's you avoid the probki around Moscow and 130 other cities in Russia and CIS. The maps show traffic in real time and help you re-route to avoid it.

Svetlana Reznik has worked in technology for 14 years. She may be contacted at svietareznik@yahoo.com 



Flintstones Become an Ikea Family

Fred Flintstone

Fred's boss at the plant scolded him, "why would you buy furniture anywhere but Ikea?" – this is after Fred recounted his tale about being ripped off on a divan purchase by a otechestvenaya (homeland) outfit, affectionately referred as nasha (ours) by locals. "My wife is an interior designer and even she buys from Ikea," his boss continued.

You may recall from last month's post that Fred and family have moved into a replacement apartment, gifted to Wilma by the city in exchange for their residence of ten years in a soon-to-be-demolished khrushovka, the five-story, panel construction apartment buildings that were built to accommodate a growing post-war population.

The first official notice finally appeared last summer, pasted to the door of the podyezd (building entrance), notifying apartment owners that they should show up at the city office to choose an apartment. Wilma came home with a contract for the new apartment and a few days later the Flintstones climbed ten floors in the back stairwell of the new building to see the space. It was time for a small celebration and to start shopping around for a kitchen, bathroom fixtures, flooring and even some replacement furniture.

The building well exceeded Fred's expectations, a sturdy concrete structure with brick trim, with expansive views up and down the Moscow River. The Flintstones spent a Saturday touring nashiy enterprises: the shop of the Italian Marazzi tile company that built a local plant, Stilniye Kukhniye that produces handsome designer kitchens, and finally (let's call it) Fabrika Fourth of July to look at divans and beds.

Fred Jr. needed a new bed, and the Fabrika Fourth of July Group of Companies (as it was called in the catalog Fred picked up) was offering a nice deal on convertible divans – interest free financing for six months with a thirty percent down payment. The one Fred Jr. picked was on sale at just 30,000 rubles. It would take some weeks to custom fit the fabric Fred Jr. picked, and they could wait to pick it up until the move a few months later. The financing was through a bank, and after a brief phone application at the store, Fred paid the down and they went out to celebrate their first housewarming purchase.

Each month Wilma dutifully made the bank payment, and from time to time the Flintstones stopped in to peruse for their own new bed. The staff was friendly and let them know when Fred Jr's divan was ready. "Just let us know when you want to take delivery."

The week the Flintstones received the keys, which meant a move within thirty days, Fred Jr recounted a news item he heard at his grandmother's that day, "thousands of clients of the Fabrika have lost their divans due to bankruptcy." They went to the shop; it was empty with only a small white sign providing the legal address of the representative and a phone number. No answer of course when Wilma called.


Fred got on the Internet to check the situation. There was nary a report except for a consumer site with email comments, which by then appeared to have at least one Fabrika contributor to squash any negative press. The Fabrika issued a press release stating that three companies that ordered furniture from them had become bankrupt and that they had no connection with the Fabrika. Funds paid by customers to these three companies had never been received by the Fabrika. But they planned to make a generous offer to the clients of the bankrupt companies. No answer to the questions:

Why were the shops allowed to display huge signage, and carried only the signage, of the Fabrika? What about the firmeni magazin (company store) signs?


How is it that the Fabrika proceeded to produce divans for these three companies without any prepayment?

Why is the Fabrika unable to provide customers with any legal information about ownership, management, or financial information about these three companies when they operated such a large network of stores under the Fabrika name.

A few days later Wilma got a call from the Fabrika. They had the Fred Jr's divan and could offer a deal – they could purchase the divan for about 30% of retail price, which was more than 80,000 rubles, or just 28,000 rubles. Wilma still had two more bank payments to make on the first 30k. Fred closed the discussion with a pogovorka (saying) from home, "F*** me once, shame on you. F*** me twice, shame on me." The Flintstones spent the next month at Ikea. **P**



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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 DD:

I don't live in Moscow, but I read your columns. What's it really like living there?

Dear Not One of Us:

I hate it with a passion when people ask me this question. Over my holidays in New Zealand and Singapore everyone asked me the same thing. Here's my answer: it's like living in a place where people don't ask you stupid, un-answerable questions.

xxoo, DD

Dear Deidre:

When will it get warmer in Moscow?

Dear Varmint-less:

In America we usually ask this question of a varmint called a groundhog, and not of hung-over women who have cricks in their necks from sleeping in unnatural positions after doing unnatural things.

You see, February 2nd is Groundhog Day back home. If, after emerging from his burrow, the groundhog sees his shadow, it will be a long winter and if he doesn't, spring is shortly on the way.

Since we don't have the same tradition in Russia, I decided that two can

play at the groundhog's sick little game, whisker-less and fur-less though I may be. In other words, I decided to emerge on 2 February and find out what my shadow was up to for you. I'm perfectly happy for us to call it Deidre Dare Day.

Unfortunately, when I left the warmth of my flat that morning, I was confronted with a sleeping drunken youth peeing in his pants as he lay on the sidewalk and I forgot to look for my shadow altogether in my desire to avoid him. But, as I recollect, the guy had no shadow. Therefore, courage! Spring is on its way.

xxoo, DD

Dear Deidre:

I just arrived in Moscow from Sydney. I see lots of references to "Feis Kontrol" but can't figure out what it means. Is it Russian? Can you help?

Dear Should Really Have Stayed in Sydney:

This is not a 'learn Russian' situation, but rather, a 'sound it out' situation, mate.

"Feis Kontrol" translates to "Face Control" which translates to "Will the bouncer think I'm cool enough to get in?"

Now Face Control is apparently a Big Secret in Moscow so make sure you never, ever talk about this subject to a Russian. I found this out the hard way. I got fired for writing about Face Control because my law firm thought it was "offensive to Russians" to even mention its existence to them. After all, we all know how sensitive and delicate these Russkies are reputed to be.

I realise (and I hope you do too, even if the English powers that be don't) that of course there is the equivalent of Face Control in Sydney, London, New York, etc. But maybe because we don't have a dramatically misspelled name for Face Control in those places, it doesn't seem to cause as much consternation to people as it does here.

But at any rate, if you couldn't figure "Feis Kontrol" out by yourself, I can assure you that you aren't cool enough to survive here, let alone get into Garage.

I suggest that you go home and hang out at Icebergs.

xxoo DD

Dear Deidre:

What is the whole thing about Cafe Pushkin anyway?

Dear Doesn't Get The Charms Of Pushkin:

1. They have Moet;
2. The waiters are gorgeous fuck-able hunks of men;
3. They give you breakfast at 5 am after you've been dancing all night even if you're all arguing drunkenly and loudly about politics;
4. Friends from out of town think you are showing them something "real" if you bring them there and feed them caviar (so you don't have to go on yet another Kremlin tour when people come over);
5. I go there every Friday night to read my column over a bottle of Moet. And I've been told that I'm quite charming indeed as I do so.

xxoo, DD

Dear Deidre:

I am a Russian woman and I just found out that my expat boyfriend has a wife back in the USA! So I emailed her and told her what an asshole her husband was. Did I do the right thing?

Dear Wants to Destroy Wife's Wedded Bliss:

God no.
xxoo, DD

Dear Deidre:

I understand you've been married three times. How about a fourth go-around? Will you marry me?

Dear Wants to Destroy My Unwedded Bliss:

God no.
xxoo, DD

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

Moscow Dragons' Ball

Valentine's day started early at the Marriott Grand when Moscow's leading expat rugby club hosted the 'Night of the Dragon' ball. Led by social secretary Annabelle Small, the committee worked flat out to make it a great success, while raising serious money for 'Operation Smile', supporting facial surgery for children with cleft palates. Tickets were great value, as was the food. The generosity of Parliament vodka, Glenmorangie whisky and more put guests in generous mood for the raffles and auctions. Top price was an amazing phone bid from a famous repatriated All Black Dragon for a signed Russian rugby team shirt – made more popular by Russia's triumph in qualifying for the 2011 world cup finals, in New Zealand! RDH



British Business Club

On Monday 15th February, the British Business Club (BBC) and the American Chamber of Commerce in Moscow (AmCham) held a joint networking evening at the Marriott Aurora in Pokrovka Street. The food was to the usual high standard of the hotel, but the drink supply seemed to respond to the master of ceremonies who said at the beginning of his speech that, "In the American tradition, I'll keep it short." The result was that for what remained of the evening many of the non-Americans discussed things like supply and demand, perhaps illustrating the sight mismatch between the British conception of a Club and the American idea of a Chamber. The wittiest explanation of the problem came from a Canadian who presumably could see the issue from both sides. "You gotta talk short if you wanna walk tall," he said.

Ian Mitchell



Creating and Managing World Class Investor Relations in Difficult Times

A seminar was held by Mark Hynes, an expert in international IR and corporate disclosure at the Institute for the Development of Financial Markets (IRFR).

This was the latest in a series of unusual IRFR educational events in Mos-



cow. The seminar was led by Mark Hynes, a world-renowned IR and corporate disclosure expert, a Board member of the IR Society (UK), a member of the FSA and CESR committees.

During the event Mark shared his IR experience in fund raising during difficult economic conditions and severe competition; highlighting the importance of the role of an investor relations officer in a public company.

The master-class attracted a high number of prominent participants; among them were Mikhail Matovnikov (Interfax), Neil Withers (Moscow IR expert and former SVP VTB), Olga Rink (NDC) Chris Gilbert (RBCC), and Alexandr Bykov (PR Newswire).

The master-class was organized by the Institute for the Development of Financial Markets – exclusive representative of the Investor Relations Society (UK) in Russia and CIS. One of the most important directions of the activity of the Institute is to provide a full range of high quality consultancy for financial communications, training and certification for investor relations officers.

Please sign up for any future events on www.irfr.ru

The event was supported by the British Embassy in Moscow, and PR Newswire.



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Out and About – Kingston University, London



The UK is a popular university choice for Russian and expat students in Moscow, and links are frequent. On 25 January, Study Group hosted Kingston University at the Novotel as they launched their new international foundation course. A large group of potential parents and education agents learned that Kingston has a 100-year history and 22,000 students, of whom 10% are visitors to the UK. Particular strengths include art and design, business and links with industry. Two Kingston graduates, Stanislav and Oxana, spoke warmly of their time there, and the reception afterwards was a friendly event. Lead presenter Rebecca Blake continued her visit with careers talks at prominent international schools in Moscow. www.studygroup.com



Our next lot is...

The Canada Eurasia Russia Business Association (CERBA) held a traditional annual charity auction together with Vladislav Tretyak's International Sports Academy and the Canadian Agency for International Development. The event took part on the 4th of February at restaurant Yar and attracted many hockey fans.

The first such auction was held in 2002, when the auction raised \$5,000. The event's popularity and money-making potential has snowballed: last year over \$126,000 was raised. But the recent auction almost doubled that, raising \$212,000. The auction was marked by highly valuable items, like an exclusive doll called Tanyusha by Vladislav Tretyak, a diamond

golden ring commemorating the Russian ice-hockey team winning World Hockey Championship 2009, autographed hockey jerseys and dinner with the Canadian Ambassador and many others.

All lots were sold at record speed. The guests were welcomed to a lavishly-laid table and were given an autograph-session with Vladislav Tretyak.

St. Valentine's Day is celebrated by Filipinos



On the 16th of February the Philippines Ambassador's residence was subjected to an invasion of beautiful Asian women, all dressed in red. The cause was St. Valentine's Day, which Filipinos celebrated later than anyone else this year. The celebration turned out to be glamorous and spectacular: all the walls and floors were lavishly decorated by numerous red hearts. The Expat Salon held exclusive presentation for the guests, providing them various beauty and spa services. There was also held a demonstration on pastry making and culinary art by a 5th star hotel pastry chef.

There was a special lottery organized for the guests: women received small hearts with numbers on each of them and after the final part of the lottery they received presents: certificates for Expat Salon and some other gifts.



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