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MOSCOW

MAY 2010

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Football for children in Luzhniki

Yorkshireman in Botkinskaya

Stalin, Hitler and the War

Practicum



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John Ortega
Owner and Publisher

The warm weather has finally come. Seasons here always seems incredibly intensive to me. It's either cold, really cold, for a long time, or it's hot and dry for ages. Sometimes it's slushy and not very cold in winter, but all the same it goes for a long time. The bits, soul-inspiring bits, in between aren't long enough. One thing is certain, both the Russian winter and summer are intensive in their extremes, and one soon forgets that the weather will indeed change, again.

What is there to write about in a magazine for foreigners? Everything. Things most of us take for granted like getting a taxi, having our clothes dry-cleaned are confusing, parallel-world experiences for new-arrivals. We will be starting a column for newbies next month. But this month we embark on a new series for those who have been here for ages and ages, or who want to look back at what on earth happened to the country that used to be here and in which they, or at least some of us lived/visited – the Soviet Union. This is a new historical series; a year or two a month, starting with 1986-7 in this issue. If anybody was here in 1988, next month's year, please write to John Harrison if you want to be included in the article: j.harrison@passportmagazine.ru

David Ford is an interior designer and builder who has been here for five years and active in the British ex-pat community. He found himself under five and a half tons of concrete whilst on a job in January. Rushed to hospital, he experienced the Russian health care system at its best, and worst. Read his story in this issue. Ian Mitchell continues his hard-hitting stories this month by looking at some of the causes of the Great Patriotic War. What else is in this issue? A lot! Please read on.

Sexy Logistics with Russian Fashion Week & DHL

DHL, the Official Logistics Partner of Russian Fashion Week, hosted a fashion party for around 200 customers and special guests at Moscow's Soho Rooms nightclub in April.

The event brought senior business and supply chain managers of some of the leading fashion and textile brands operating in Russia together with their counterparts from other industry sectors, as well as Russian celebrities including Prokhor Shalyapin, Irina Volk, Lena Knyazeva and Inusa Dawuda.

Guests were surprised to be greeted by models dressed in DHL wrapping materials, based on an innovative design from German designer Michael Mikhalsky. They were later treated to an exclusive catwalk show from award-winning Russian designer Olga Rusan.

"The world of fashion is a unique industry which is always one step ahead," said Adrian Marley, Managing Director of DHL Express CIS & South East Europe. "As a key logistics partner for the industry, DHL's job is to ensure that what's shown on the catwalks of New York today is in the shop windows of Tokyo tomorrow. We are delighted to be associated with Russian Fashion Week. The party was a great way of letting our customers know that we support the latest trends in fashion here in Russia too."



Chocolate it up!

From April, 15 till June, 27 MEGA shopping centers hold a unique project "Chocolate...or chocolate life". Everyone who takes part in it will get a chance to win the main prize - a half-million rubles worth certificate for shopping in MEGA or a new apartment. The winner will also receive gift certificates for purchasing some household appliances. The second and third prizes include a car and a romantic trip abroad, respectively. The action will take place in all MEGA shopping centers.

Asian-Pacific Charity Market – June 2010

The Asian-Pacific Women Group brings a traditional bazaar to Moscow and presents us with the chance to try Asian-Pacific kitchen dishes, win various prizes and enjoy a cultural programme. Guests will also have an opportunity to help orphan children by taking part in this event. All monies raised during the bazaar will be given to orphanages under patronage of the Asian-Pacific Women's Group, and to a few other charitable projects. The market will be held on June, 5th in Radisson SAS Slavyanskaya hotel, starting 10 am.

For more details contact Asian Pacific Women Group,
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Saturday, 1st

Nicolas Bearde (USA)

A supremely gifted singer and entertainer who is fluent in soul, jazz and R&B, Nicolas has been compared to vocal icons like Lou Rawls, Marvin Gaye, Donny Hathaway, and Jon Lucien. But such comparisons fail to capture his vocal artistry or do justice to his musical accomplishments on record or in performance.

Soyuz Kompozitorov Club, 20:30, also 2nd, 20:30



Monday, 3rd

Giggio Giovanni (Argentina). Soledad Orchestra (tango)

Giggio Giovanni is a new generation artist whose style features versatility and the union of many disciplines. He lived in Argentina till the age of 6 and at 14 moved to Brazil to take tango classes from Norberto "El Pulpo" Ez-bres. It took Giggio few months to become a teacher himself. For the next six years he developed his own approach to tango. Soledad Orquesta brings original energy and intense emotions back to Astor Piazzolla's music. Today Soledad Orquesta is arguably the only Russian orchestra mastering such a vast musical material on Argentinian tango.

Soyuz Kompozitorov Club, 20:30



Friday, 7th

Global Clubbing presents: Armin Van Buuren

Armin van Buuren is a Dutch trance producer and DJ. In 2007, 2008, and 2009 he has been named number one in DJ Magazine's annual top 100 list of the most popular DJs. Since 2001 Van Buuren has hosted a weekly radio show called A State of Trance and claims to have over 30 million weekly listeners in more than 40 countries. Global Clubbing is a must-see event for any clubber.

Expocenter, 20:00



Tuesday, 11th

British Women's Club in Moscow: Coffee morning and Committee elections

Monthly coffee mornings are usually held on the second Tuesday of every month, except during July and August, at the British Embassy from 10am-12noon. These meetings are informal and there is plenty of time to chat and even to shop, as different artisans are invited each month to sell their wares during the meeting. There's a book exchange table (with proceeds going to a BWC-supported charity), including some of the new "Living in Moscow" books for sale at 2,000 rubles.

British Embassy, 10:00

Friday, 14th

The Moscow International Choir presents: Spring Concert

The choir will be performing John Rutter's Gloria and a selection of well-

known songs from around the world. Tickets cost 450 roubles on the door or 400 roubles in advance. To book, call (985) 924-5581.

St. Andrew's Anglican Church (Voznesensky Pereulok, 8), 19:30, also 21st, 19:30

"Painful US Democracy in the Age of Obama"

A lecture by Linnea Goodwin Burwood (Fulbright Scholar, Moscow 2009-2010). Political debate in the U.S. has become more partisan, strident and uncivil in the past two years. Is this a new phenomenon or is it due to an economic downturn, the twenty-four hour news cycle or the policies of Barack Obama and the democratic majority? In recent weeks we have seen Congress people spat on, death threats to public officials and arrests of militia members. The political atmosphere and tensions are at a height not seen since the days of Vietnam. What is happening in America and how may it be interpreted?

Chekhov Library (Strastnoi Bulvar, 6), 19:00, more information on www.elemoscow.net

Accept (rock, Germany)

With their brutal, simple riffs and aggressive, fast tempos, Accept was one of the top metal bands of the early 80s. With two of the best heavy metal albums of the decade under their belt ("Restless and Wild" and "Balls to the Wall"), Accept is returning with their recently recorded "Blood Of The Nations" featuring Mark Tornillo on vocals, and producer, Black Sabbath guitarist and just a devoted Accept fan Andy Sneap. The first Accept's album for a decade "Blood Of The Nations" (winter 2009-2010) delivers 14 smashing tracks as if played by the old 80s Accept but with modern sounding.

B1 Maximum, 21:00

Juno Reactor (club music, UK)

Originally Juno Reactor was formed as an art project in 1990; Ben Watkins wanted to collaborate with other artists to produce and be involved in exciting projects that were not commercially driven. He wanted to create experimental music/non musical soundtracks that would work with installations, art pieces and film projects. Juno Reactor are known for their unusual mixture of styles. They contributed much to the soundtracks for Matrix, Mortal Combat and other movies.

Milk Club, 21:00

"Viva Espana!" (Moscow International Flamenco festival)

The Moscow International festival of a flamenco 'Viva España! - 2010' is hosted by the Russian Youth Academic Theatre for the 9th time. It is a friendly meeting of fans, and has during the last years become an appreciable cultural event, drawing attention not only Russian flamenco fans but well-known foreign stars of the genre as well.

Russian Youth Academic Theatre, 19:00, also 15th and 16th, 14:30, 19:00

Saturday, 15th Tsereteli Gallery presents: Night of the Museums (concert)

This is a concert of excellent Russian and Western classical music. At the end of the concert, late at night, guests will hear Antonio Salieri's "Requiem". The Crystal Chapel Modern Art Museum also participates in the program.

Tsereteli Gallery, (Prechistenka, 19), 18:30

Wednesday, 19th Laibach (rock, Slovenia)

Laibach once said that "Pop music is for sheep and we are shepherds disguised as wolves". It formed in 1980 in Trbovlje, Slovenia, and represents the musical wing of the Neue Slowenische Kunst (NSK) art collective. In honour of the 30th anniversary of the existence and work of Laibach, the group has decided to release two very special limited edition albums "The Laibach Revisited" and "The Volkswagner" due to come out soon. Tonight they present some of their new material and old hits as well.

B1 Maximum, 21:00



Friday, 21st Unkle (trip-hop, UK)

A British musical outfit founded in 1994 by school friends James Lavelle and Tim Goldsworthy. Originally categorized as trip-hop, the group once

included producer DJ Shadow and has employed a variety of guest artists and producers. The concert is timed to coincide with the opening of a new Moscow club, Arena. The band is going to present their fifth album during their performance.

Arena Moscow, 21:00

Cranberries (rock, Ireland)

The Cranberries rose to international fame in the 1990s with their debut album "Everybody Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We?", which became a commercial success and sold over five million copies in the United States, with total US sales over the decade topping 14.5 million albums. The band has achieved four top 20 albums on the Billboard 200 chart. After some years in limbo, the Cranberries reunited in 2009 and began a North American tour, followed by dates in Latin America and Europe this year, including Moscow.

Luzhniki, 20:00



Avant Fest 2010

In 2004, Avant exposed Moscow audiences to a new young Russian music and set a higher-level standard of festival movement. For six years Avant Fest has won a reputation as a trendsetter independent of radio stations' policies, sponsors, crisis and competition. The festival's eclectic musical format covers various genres and styles. Whatever rhythms, melodies and songs are played on the Avant stage, all participants share the same passion for experiment, true creativity, new trends and the same concept of modern music as a true art. There is an expanding Avant Community, attracting people with a taste for everything new and progressive. This year Avant Fest is headlined by The Horrors (UK).

Artplay Center on Yauza (Nizhnyaya Syromyatnicheskaya, 5/7), 16:30

Wednesday, 26th Chris Isaak (rock-n-roll, USA)

The songwriter Chris Isaak has transferred the sweeping melancholy of Roy Orbison's classic Monument singles ("Crying," "Oh, Pretty Woman," "In

Dreams") to the more stripped-down, rootsy sound, resulting in a stylized take on '50s and '60s rock & roll that turned him into a star in the early '90s, propelled to a great degree by the hit single "Wicked Game."

B1 Maximum, 21:00



Friday, 28th Zhanna Aguzarova (rock)

Some love her for her shocking behaviour, others admire her God-given talent or delight in her unforgettable voice and freaky looks. Zhanna Aguzarova will perform on stage at the 16 Tons club. All her best songs are known to people who have stayed in this country for more than a year.

16 Tons, 21:00



Saturday, 29th Charity show of stars against breast cancer

This is going to be one of the largest charitable auctions, aimed to unite all Russian stars in the campaign against cancer. The concert will be held on Vasilievsky Spusk. At noon, prior to the show there will be a charity walk in central Moscow in support of Russian women, personified by a huge pink tape, the world symbol of the campaign against breast cancer. All money raised will be used in struggle against the disease. Avon has organized and sponsored this event in Moscow for the tenth time.

Vasilievsky Spusk (by Red Square), the walk starts at 12noon, the show at 17:00

Hand-made going self-made

photos by Alina Kalinina



Drugie Veshi ('other things') is the label for an artistic project that originally appeared four years ago in Moscow to unite independent clothes and interior designers and actually introduce hand-made accessories to Muscovite fashionistas.

The project started very humbly from knitting needles, when friends of friends knitted mittens and other essential items. It was easy to get other designers together and make the first show in a club. There had never been a show like this, where you could come, touch and try on whimsically ornamented shawls and scarves, mosaic vases, silk postcards, bear-shaped pillows, coffee-scented candles, felt earrings and beads, all hand-made. Soon an internet gallery was set up, inviting designers and presenting their works on-line.

Since then Drugie Veshi have held about one hundred thematic shows in Moscow and also held workshops for anyone who wants to find relaxation and self-expression in making something for themselves or their homes with their own hands. This May, Drugie Veshi goes open-air and invites you to the Trubetskie's Mansion in Khamovniki. There will be over one hundred designers with their original handicrafts, theatre performances for children, lounge music area, workshops and inspiration!

May 22

11:00 – 21:00

More information at www.drugie-veshi.ru

5, Savelieva street

Trubetskie's mansion park

Art to the People of the Night!



While Museum Day (May 18) has been observed in Russia for several decades, Museum Night (May 15), is rather new, but already a tradition. Moscow museums and galleries are preparing art programmes for those who are curious what happens at museums when night falls. This year, for example, federal museums will offer special open air programmes such as an international video art festival with venues spread across the city.

Right across the courtyards and parks opposite the Tretyakov Gallery, the Pushkin Theater, NCCA and the Bakhrushin Theatre Museum, masterpieces of European video art will be displayed on big colour screens, along with poetry readings, master classes, a performance entitled Drawings in the Sand, and even a concert of classical music performed by a symphonic orchestra.

www.nochvmusee.ru

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The Tretyakov Gallery presents an exhibition of Alexander Shevchenko's works

Alexander Shevchenko was a Russian-Soviet painter, he also worked in graphics and was one of the best teachers for many eminent painters of the Soviet epoch. His art is deservedly part of what is considered to be the best of the 1910–1930s Russian and Soviet art. Be that as it may, in 1933 his works were presented to Stalin as examples of Formalism, meaning that he paid too much attention to colour and shape rather than realism and context. His jubilee exhibition held in the Museum of Fine Arts was immediately closed ten days after opening without any explanations. These were not the best of times for an artist and for the whole country.

The Tretyakov presents a retrospective of Shevchenko's works in which it is possible to trace the evolution of his own taste and style galloping along against the background of the first three decades of the 20th century with its Futurism, Art Nouveau, Cubism and Art Deco. He never declared himself to be a leader of any artistic movement. Adoring Cezanne, he created sunlit passages with the same ochre and lazurite colours. Being in Mikhail Larionov's circle, he fell under the spell of his oriental moods. Applying and developing new trends from his colleagues, he yet remained faithful to his own perception and expression.

State Tretyakov gallery
www.tretyakov.ru
10, Krymsky Val street
Open: 10:00 – 19:00
except Monday



What do you think of Brand Realism?

Since Andy Warhol we have become accustomed to seeing labels and logotypes on pieces of modern art. Already a part of everyday life, they are a natural part of our visual input whenever we watch a film or go to an exhibition of one or other of our contemporaries. To come to an opening night and say



photo by Maria Barleben



that this is all no good would be inappropriate, as you are probably already standing in front of those art works with a glass of champagne and the invitation envelope in your pocket. To take it all in an ironic way would be the best, which is what the curators of the Fine Art gallery also think.

They present an exhibition of Sergey Shnurov's artwork premiering it on the 15th of May - Museum Night. Sergey Shnurov - a would-be architect, restorer and theologian became much more famous thanks to his leadership of the 'Leningrad' rock group, whose concerts were forbidden in Moscow by its mayor in early 2000.

Yet the band's wild instrumentals have found their way to the hearts of a huge number of people, from students to oligarchs. Willingly or not, the leader of 'Leningrad' became much more than that - he himself became a brand for modern popular culture. Apart from his musical career, he was a columnist for the Russian version of 'Rolling Stone', launched his own TV channel on the internet, won a Nika - a movie award for the best soundtrack and also tried his hand at acting and directing.

A logical continuation in the career of his brand "Wild Man" would be his paintings on display at Fine Art. "Following Aristotle, we are observing the conflict of trademarks as if from a distance," Sergey says. From what distance? Aristotle would visit the exhibition, for sure.

May 16 – June 20
Fine Art Gallery
Bolshaya Sadovaya Ulitsa, Dom 3, Str. 10
www.fineart.ru

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Victory! in contemporary photography

Military photography has been a vital part of photo-journalism since it started. From the first pictures taken by the English photographer Roger Fenton, who took over 300 pictures of the Crimean War in 1855, to the present, when photographs from Iraq or Afghanistan are an inseparable part of the World Press Photo Contest, we are, through photography, time and time again taken over by the bitterness and injustice of war.

For May 9, Victory Day, the Lumiere Brothers' Gallery presents an exhibition of Soviet photographers who worked during WW II, and not just as observers,

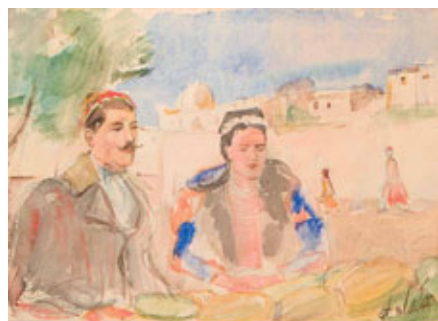
but as soldiers and officers equipped with Leicas along with Kalashnikovs. There is little detachment from reality here. The bitterness and ashes of the war as they were seen from the trenches, views that thousands of soldiers had seen, comes across. Alexander Ustinov, Boris Ignatovich, Iakov Khalip, Mikhail Trakhman are well-known to photography-lovers the world over. Their other works are more often on display, but this month their military photo journalism will narrate the nightmares and the final victory that they experienced themselves.



*Lumiere Brothers' Gallery
Open: 12:00 – 20:00 except Monday
Building 1, 3 Bolotnaya Embankment*

Watercolours from the home front

When the WW II began, Soviet Middle Asia became home for thousands of families who left central Russia un-



der the pressure of the Nazi invasion. Among them were painters and poets who expressed their gratitude to the country that became home for them for more than four years before they could return. The exhibition held at the Oriental Arts museum is named "Rakhat, Tashkent!" which translated from Uzbek as "Thank you, Tashkent!" - a line from a poem by Anna Akhmatova, somebody who spent a long time in 'evacuation'. Some exhibits for the show were provided by the Museum of New Jerusalem (Istra, Moscow region) and also private

owners. Among the pictures are works by Vladimir Favorsky, A. Nyurenberg, Sergey Gerasimov, L. Kramarenko, I. Zh-danko, A. Axelrod, A. Labas, M. Nikiforov, V. Kedrin.

*Museum of Oriental Art
www.orientmuseum.ru
12a, Nikitsky boulevard
Open: 11:00 – 19:00 except Monday*

Festival of symphony orchestras



For five years the twelfth of June – Russia Day – has been celebrated in Moscow to the sounds of classical music. Famous symphony orchestras are invited to participate in the Festival traditionally held in the Column Hall of the House of Union on Bolshaya Dmitrovka street. The festival has particular themes every year but on the whole the concept is simple: the best orchestras, conductors and music is performed in the white marble hall at the beginning of summer. This year's programme, for example, is closely interwoven with Asia. Thus, we will hear the Tatarstan Symphony Orchestra conduct-

ed by Fuat Mansurov, the Presidential Symphony Orchestra of Turkey conducted by Cem Mansur, the China National Symphony Orchestra conducted by Michel Plasson, the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Myung-whun Chung and the Symphony Orchestra of India conducted by Alexander Anisimov. Compositions of Russian, European and Asian composers will be performed.

*More information at
www.symphonyst.ru
House of Unions
Bolshaya Dmitrovka Street 1-8*



The Chekhov International Theatre Festival

Elena Rubinova

Photos courtesy of Chekhov Theatre Festival

The 9th Chekhov International Theatre Festival starts in Moscow on May 25 offering a large-scale jubilee programme dedicated to the 150th anniversary of Russia's most celebrated playwright. The central event of "Chekhov Year" features major productions by foreign directors from Europe, Asia, North and South America, not to mention some quite outstanding productions directed by Russians. Valery Shadrin, General Manager of the Festival, commented: "all this will allow the public to gain a versatile image of Chekhov's drama as seen by contemporary theatre practitioners from all over the world".

"Chekhov Days" held in the end of January included quite a number of events: a scholarly theatre conference in Moscow, a series of bold premiers, and even a brief visit of the Russian President to Taganrog, the birthplace of Chekhov. But all that was only a prelude to the main jubilee Festival. Anton Chekhov was one of the few writers who made an equally brilliant contribution to both theatre and fiction, but the great international affection for Chekhov is based mostly on the popularity of his last plays which continue to be staged frequently and enthusiastically. "In Russia he is Russian. In England he is English. In the United States he is American. Or maybe the secret is that he always leaves us perplexed and curious to know more. Rather like life itself", says John Freedman, an American theatre critic living in Moscow.

The program of the 9th Chekhov Theatre Festival mirrors the diversity that is one of Chekhov's defining features by addressing various genres of his creative output. Drama companies and choreographic groups from 14 countries are bringing their stage productions of Chekhov's plays to Moscow. The two-month theatre marathon will open with the highly anticipated new staging of an adapted version of "Three Sisters" and of the novella "Peasants" called "Nach Moskau, Nach Moskau" writ-

ten by Sebastian Kaiser and directed by Frank Castorf. Castorf, artistic director of the Berlin "Volksbühne", is acknowledged for his works in post-dramatic theatre. He has not hesitated to adapt classical novels and has brought Ibsen, Bulgakov and Dostoevsky to theatre audiences.

Right after the opening the Meyerhold Center will host two theatre companies from South America. Daniel Veronese from Argentina brings a courageous adaptation of "Uncle Vanya", the play with truly passionate characters reminding the audience that Chekhov is strikingly contemporary. Given the fact that the Moscow public recently applauded "Uncle Vanya" directed by Andrey Konchalovsky, a famous Russian film director, and another version by Rimas Tuminas at Moscow Vakhtangov Theatre, it's hard to say at this stage how successful the Veronese' version will be. Teatro en el Blanco, an inventive and original theatre company from Santiago (Chile), will present the play "Neva", written and directed by Guillermo Calderon. The company creates an ingenious fusion of Chekhov's texts and the company's unique artistic language. Based upon real characters, "Neva" sets an ironic and sometimes comic situation as it discusses acting techniques, theatre and historical events.

Classical drama versions of Chekhov will be followed by modern dance and ballet interpretations shown in early June. Choreographic Chekhov may still seem unusual but ballet critics believe that the musicality of Chekhov's dramaturgy and prose makes choreographic interpretation possible. A co-production of Niigata-city Performing Arts Center and Chekhov Theatre Festival promises a fantastic fusion of refined music, reserved movement of modern European dance and traditional Japanese theatre culture. Jo Kanamori is a European-trained 33 year old choreographer from Japan and a second time participant of Chekhov Festival who stunned the Moscow public last year with a Chekhov-based mystical ballet "Nina". This time he brings a stage version of "The Black Monk" and "Ward № 6" performed to the music of contemporary Georgian composer Gia Kanchelli and Italian Gaetano Braga. "Chekhov's story is universal and timeless. But I don't aim to stage Chekhov's story, I aim to stage Chekhov's suffering. We all live in Ward №6 and we all have a Black Monk inside us..."commented Jo Kanamori. On the same day, the Mossovet theatre will be hosting the leading Swedish choreographer Mats Ek of the Royal Dramatic Theatre of Stockholm with his recent version of the "Cherry Orchard". Mats Ek believes that "a theatre director and a choreographer are two entirely different occupations. A director is bound by the dramatic text that is given. But the text is a springboard to jump into the performance". Mats Ek is known for telling complex stories of love and life using the laconic and reserved language of dance that combines classical ballet and modern dance elements. **P**

Passport Magazine will continue to cover The Chekhov International Theatre Festival. The full program of the Festival can be found at <http://chekhovfest.ru>



May Theatre Review

Marina Lukanina

"Marriage"

The Tabakov Theater

This recently opened production of Gogol's famous play is now being performed on the stage of one of the Moscow's well-known "basement" theatres, venues which have recently become popular places to view Gogol's masterpieces. This particular production stands out from the crowd because of its dynamism, its interesting cast (the role of a matchmaker is played by a young talented actress Luiza Khusnutdinova) and almost no set design. Attention is solely focused on the actors. One should highlight the superb act-

ing of Mikhail Khomyakov who makes the hero Yaivhnitsa very true to life and perhaps even more grotesque than in the original play. This classic play, which most Russians know from their school days, has been produced using various interesting techniques – there are moments when you feel you are watching TV rather than a theatre production when the director wants to create the impression of the passage of time. This is a very suitable performance for a family outing, especially taking into account that this play is part of the mandatory program of the Russian Literature course at any Russian school.



May 12, 18, 28
Tabakov's Theater
1A Chaplygina Str.
Tel: +7 (495) 628-96-85
www.tabakov.ru

"The Hen Club (Devichnik)"

The Pushkin Theater



Despite a negative press, I still decided to go and see this play because of the three leading actresses and because it is directed by Roman Kozak. The plot is based on Ivan Menchel's story "The Cemetery Club" – three widows organize a "hen club" after their husbands die and regularly visit the graves of their husbands together. All of a sudden however, one of widows decided to start a new life and remarry. This did not please the other two wives very much...

If you are like me and want to see and enjoy the acting of Vera Alentova, Maria Aronova and Larisa Golubkina, you will

most likely appreciate this performance. The play itself is at times rather weak and you almost want to press a button and "speed it up". The second act definitely beats the first in this respect. The performance is full of "black humour" so if this doesn't appeal, stay away.

May 2, 19
The Pushkin Drama Theatre
Tverskoi Blvd., 23
(495) 694-1289
(495) 650-1896
<http://www.teatrpushkin.ru>

"Five evenings"

The Sovremennik Theater

A famous play by the modern drama play writer Alexander Volodin is back at the Sovremennik. It was originally staged by Oleg Efremov (Sovremennik's founder) and Galina Volchek (current artistic director) back in 1959.

This is the story about a meeting after a 17-year separation of two people in love – Alexander Ilyn (played by Sergei Garmash) and Tamara (played by Elena Yakovleva). They were separated during the war and they have only five evenings to find a way back to each other. Both actors show their superb talent and skill in making the audience believe this story indeed happened to them. Alexander Ogarev directed this well-known play by emphasizing the tragedy of each separate person rather than the overall tragedy of people who lived

through the war. The leading idea of the performance is that it is important to live the present to the full without looking back and wondering why things did not go the way we wanted them. The finale suggests that it is never too late to start again.

It is worth mentioning the very creative set design for this production – a wide space up to the wall. The back-stage is fully open and in the upper right corner there is a light on in one window which vaguely symbolizes hope. Attributes of a typical Leningrad street complete the picture – a street lamp, a fire ladder covered with snow and huge gates. Tamara's apartment recreates the style and atmosphere of a Leningrad apartment back in the fifties.

I wish I hadn't read the play before coming to see it. It is indeed a great play and it would have been a "double



joy" to discover it on stage rather than through reading.

May 9, 17
Sovremennik Theater
19A Chistoprudny Boulevard
Tel: +7 (495) 628-7749
www.sovremennik.ru

Soviet Art of the 1970s

(continued from the part one in the April issue of Passport)

by Olga Slobodkina-von Bromssen



Viktor Kalinin

Irina Starzhenetskaya

In this issue we continue our observations about the Soviet artists of the 1970s, the so-called *semidesyatniki*. The young artists of this movement portrayed the bitter truth of real life in that decade through the vehicle of primitivism, but against the background of the sedate and established style of the time: socialist realism. Like any other movement, the *semidesyatniki* gave birth to superficial works, conceited manners, and at times, showy stylisations. But there was an essential grain of living truth inherent in works created by artists of this movement.

The leaders of the movement were somehow larger than their stylistic interests. Some inner necessity was growing,

evolving, trying to reveal itself in their primitive images. However, their style cannot be understood without placing it in a historical perspective, although the attitude of those artists to the artistic heritage, to the stylistic tradition is extraordinary and paradoxical. On the one hand their choice of tradition was partly functional.

On the other hand, tradition was an independent subject of culture for many of them, a subject of admiration and a desirable foil. In this dialogue of equals going through many layers of the artistic archive of the past, those young artists continued learning the lessons of the famous artist Dmitry Zhilin-

sky. But they soon outgrew those lessons. They passionately strived to combine the incongruous.

Alongside with primitivism they were gravitating to 'the museum' of traditional art as well. Therefore the canvases of these artists reveal some blunt linearity alongside with earthliness and refinement. That is what we see in the paintings of Viktor Kalinin and Sattar Aitiev, Irina Mesh-



Tatyana Nazarenko

aykova and Irina Starzhenetskaya, Martyn Petrosyan and Inta Tselmini.

Their works attract us due to their spirituality, subtle psychology and complicated colour combinations. It was not by chance that this generation of artists turned to the masters of the past who taught them to understand the dramatic complexity of human nature and its existence. These artists appreciated aesthetic harmony and realized only too well how many contradictions it contains. The 'museum rooms' frequented by the artists of the 1970s were Quattrocento, the Renaissance in the North of Italy, masters on the turn of the

19th and 20th centuries. By observing great art through the ages the young artists of the 1970s managed to create a new symbol of their own that fitted their own epoch and was understandable for their contemporaries.

In this respect one should pay tribute to Tatyana Nazarenko. She ascends from the brutal prose of the semi-genre, semi-lubok (a kind of art connected with folklore whose image is simple, direct and succinct) to a most intricate image in the portrait of I. Kupryashin (1974). She is using the primitivistic grotesque, but at the same time she manages to put across the moral aspect in 'Rendezvous' (1973) and 'Drinking Tea in Polenovo' (1973). Some masters of the 1920s and early 1930s who were close to the art group 'Makovets' cultivated a special school of contemplation: the aesthetics of 'philosophic conditions' in the spatial-colour image. But never before the 1970s had this type of contemplation attracted so many painters of different types and never before was there such variety as in the Soviet art of the 1970s.

In this connection, one should mention the Estonian artist P. Mudist. His paintings are full of lyricism, regardless of the topic. They are similar to the life of the human soul in a special space where two opposite sources of emission direct their rays: the natural essence of being, and modern civilization with its demands, temptations and losses.

Some of Nesterova's motives echo those of Mudist, but she interprets the themes in her own way. The intricate relationship of the natural and the social evolves in the inner selves of her characters. Many people view her pictures as being rough and cartoon-like. You could think her faces are created arbitrarily. However, this painting manner testifies to an existence which strives towards, but can't achieve, harmony. Usually the life of these characters occurs in the landscape. Nature seems to be full of silent sympathy to men who accept the pain of trying to solve the riddles of nature, but fail to do so.

The dramatic inclination towards spirituality and beauty is a source of constant tension in the paintings of Irina Mesheryakova. Her canvases reveal a light colour range which is full of rhythmic contrasts. They bear a kind of symbolic conflict. This conflict was brought about by the collision of spatial aspects, by the struggle of the palette-knife and the brush with the very essence of the paint. The artist uses all this to construct her painting, which is aimed at sensitive perception and rich imagination.

Irina Starzhenetskaya looked for a naive and subtle greatness in the life of the soul. At first her concept of colour influenced Mesheryakova. However, both women artists create their own worlds. Starzhenetskaya's feelings are mostly idealistic, but in her world of imagery there is polemic meaning, a kind of a preaching. One can feel this as she makes comparisons between her world and everyday life.

To sum up the art of the 1970s, we can say that it reflected the epoch of stagnation during Brezhnev's rule in a negative way, by way of painful contradictions. At the same time, the paintings present the currents of life in that period. The Soviet art culture of the 1970s created various cultural centres and fresh energy which foresaw and prepared the mentality of the people for the change that was to come. This happened not only in the fine arts, but in cinema and literature as well. As for the artists of that period they made their own contribution by creating a truthful picture of the Soviet life in the 1970s through their imagery. **P**



A Fashionable Education



Heather Whyley

Waiting for the first speaker of the day to take to the stand, I sit amongst an audience of Moscow's rising young hip fashion talents. Set against the backdrop of the industrial beauty of the Chocolate Hall at the Red October Factory, I am witnessing the educational programme, Practicum: British Fashion. The British Council and Mestnaya Moda brought British guest designers, journalists, consultants and buyers together for a day of talks and discussions alongside Russian experts in the same field.

The day kicked off with a talk from Hywel Davies, senior lecturer at Central Saint Martins College, London. Graduates include some of the most successful British designers of today, the late Alexander McQueen, John Galiano, and Stella McCartney. Movies and TV shows like "The Devil wears Prada" and MTV's "The Hills" tend to glamorise the fashion industry and perhaps contribute to the competitive nature of getting a 'break'. Hywel pointed out that whilst at CSM they nurture creativity, they also encourage students to "work really hard so they are prepared for the realities of the industry".

Martyn Roberts is the Director of Fashion Scout, an organisation that gives new designers the opportunity to showcase their work to a global audience of buy-

ers and media during London Fashion Week. He offered up a host of information on how to get financial support for fashion design businesses. International next generation designers discovered by Fashion Scout are provided with support and mentoring as well as the whole catwalk experience.

Stefan Siegel founded Not Just a Label, this website is a free tool that is a platform for designers to present their work to a global market. They represent over 300 designers from 78 countries. Stefan spoke about starting up a fashion business on your own and warned about the realities you face when starting out. It can be exciting but also incredibly challenging. The fashion industry's business model is a hard one and many talented people find it difficult to deal with the business side of things.

The creative atmosphere was further fuelled by the 'Local Fashion' trunk show. A series of exciting eastern European designers exhibited their collections to a who's who of Russian fashion media and buyers.

I noticed that even as a seasoned fashion stylist I sadly fall for comfort over fashion when it's the depths of a Moscow winter. For many of these designers plummeting minus temperatures is all they've known. They are challenging these objectives head on with key piec-

es from their collections that work with the Russian climate and at the same time keep you looking your stylish best. I'm a fan already!

Inches is a brand new label, literally a few weeks old but if this female duo can pull this off at such short notice I have high hopes. They only use natural fabrics to create some very sculptural unisex pieces. I especially loved the men's grey wool overcoat.

X'U is a Kiev based label that was established five years ago with stores in Kiev and one in Moscow. The designer explained that the inspiration for her autumn collection is based on the story of a city girl playing dress up as a country girl. A kooky mix of woollen leggings, chunky knits with country motifs such as chickens are mixed with metallic platform boots. Interesting, but it works.

Watch this space, if the Practicum's celebration of Russian design is anything to go by, don't be surprised to hear Moscow is the next capital of cool. **P**

www.britishcouncil.org/russia
www.csm.arts.ac.uk
www.vauxhallfashionscout.com
www.notjustalabel.com
www.xu-collections.com
www.localfashion.ru
www.messto.r

British design talent, Osman Yousefzada Wows Russian Fashion Week

Heather Whyley

Russian Fashion Week, the highlight of Moscow's fashion calendar, took place in the Congress Hall of the World Trade Centre last month. All the sparkle and glamour of this biannual event is a welcome finale to the long winter we've just endured. Russian Fashion Week is the biggest fashion event in Eastern Europe and it's hectic schedule started on the 1st of April and closed on the 6th. It was a dazzling showcase of designers from Russia, the former Soviet Union, Italy, Croatia and the United Kingdom.

In conjunction with the British Council, on the 2nd of April we were treated to an exceptional line up of young British design talent. Kicking off with Clare Lopman, Osman, Eley Kishimoto and closing with PPQ, the day lived up to the UK's reputation for innovative and cutting edge fashion.

Osman Yousefzada, is a rising star of British fashion. Son of Afghan immigrants, he grew up in Birmingham, England and moved to London to study at Central Saint Martins. Today, his celebrity fans include actress Thandie Newton, supermodel Kate Moss and Australian pop star turned TV presenter, Dannii Minogue. When given the opportunity to show his collection in Moscow he said he "grabbed the opportunity with open arms" as he really feels his style fits into the Russian market.

His autumn 2010 collection stayed with you long after the models had left the catwalk. Navy blue is clearly the new black. Judging by the swathes of draped midnight jersey dresses that opened his show, I believe him when he says "navy is coming back big time" and it "is such an easy colour for anybody to wear". The muted tones of winter were injected with pops of hot pink in beautifully made suede envelope clutch bags. Uplifting sparkles shone from the runway as chunky crystals adorned shoes and tops. The long toga style Grecian dress is set to be a hit with the 'red carpet mafia' but it was the floor length mink coat that stole the show, setting off a cacophony of camera flash bulbs and delighted gasps from the front row. Painterly stripes and checks were printed onto silks and his trademark funnel necks completed sculptural tops and coats. Softly tailored trousers created a fresh silhouette teamed with the fur swing coat and a shorter length tunic.

Old school glamour clearly set the tone. When asked what the inspiration was behind his collection he admits to a "fascination with dead socialites". Peggy Guggenheim, the wealthy American art collector was the starting point. For Osman it is not about youth it's about dressing real, strong women. He feels that you can't be considered a 'style icon' until you've hit forty, "had your children, seen the world and savoured everything" and this is how it was for these socialites, they were grown up women. Osman's clothes are cut in such a way that they form to the body, he fuses different cultural dress to create something wearable and well proportioned for real women to wear.



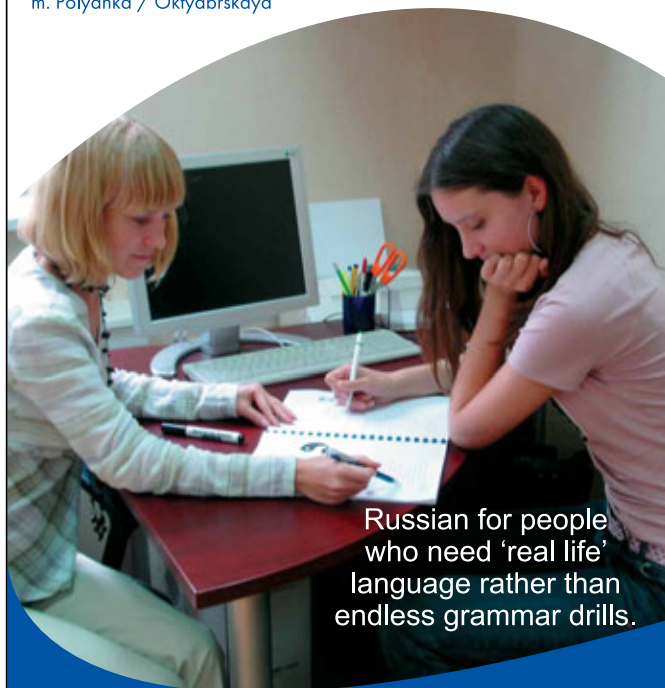
Gordon Brown's wife, Sarah recently commissioned four outfits from Osman after watching his Fall 2010 show in London from the front row. She wore one of his dresses to the Elle magazine style awards – the same dress as worn by Hollywood starlet Mischa Barton. Despite the age difference the dress worked amazingly well on both women, a sure sign of a successful designer.

In this age of botox obsession and not growing gracefully into old age, Osman Yousefzada's approach to fashion is refreshingly appealing. **P**

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Yemen

Text & photos by Luc Jones

If there's one country in the world presently making the global headlines for all the wrong reasons, it's Yemen. Our trip to the Middle East began with a 3 day stop-over in Qatar to watch England take on Brazil (to any American readers, we're discussing football, not soccer)! Thousands of fans from Ing-gur-lund, whose ranks were swelled by masses of English expatriates from all over the Gulf to Doha in a friendly for what hopefully, will be a prelude to the final in South Africa 2010 this summer. In the pubs before and after the game when we announced our next destination, we were greeted with stunned looks – nobody we spoke to had ever been there, or seemingly had any desire to visit despite having lived in the region for years, and in many cases decades.

The afternoon Qatar Airways flight to the capital Sana'a was scarcely a quarter full, and my friend Tim & I appeared to be the only non-Yemenis aboard apart from the crew. The reports of Yemen being the latest Al-Qaeda stronghold, press stories of foreign tourists having been kidnapped (and occa-

sionally beheaded) and not to mention the bombing of the USS Cole a decade ago had obviously put off all but complete nutters.

Yet Sana'a in the evening was what you would expect from an Arab city, shops and cafes staying open late with the usual bustle, only minus the western trappings – Yemen is the only country in the Gulf not to boast a McDonalds, but the local restaurants served up a fantastic dish of spicy chicken and rice, together with freshly baked naan bread and sweet tea. But apart from stuffing our faces, there was plenty to visit – in fact it's hard to describe Sana'a without seeing it; you can walk for miles in the ancient quarter without seeing a new building, and Sana'a could probably lay claim to having the world's oldest skyscrapers. OK, they are might not rival anything New York has to offer, but these are thousands of years old, yet fully functioning.

The capital's national museum shows artifacts dating back several millennia and gave an interesting insight into the country's pre-Islamic past. Yet the best way to feel Sana'a is to wander the streets, soaking up the atmosphere, especially in the market. Shortly after lunch the city takes on a different flavour as the majority of the Yemeni menfolk begin their favourite pastime, chewing qat (pronounced 'gat') in big lumps – Qat to Yemen is what vodka is to Russia, or wine to France – it's a hallucinogenic leaf which is chewed for hours on end and supposedly gets you high. Personally I tried it and it tasted awful, give me a beer any day – especially given the heat in the afternoon sun.





Yemeni fishermen

Our domestic flight to the southern city of Aden was surprisingly uneventful and in fact rather civilised (ie, no goats wondering down the aisle) and brought us to the former British protectorate which was Queen Victoria's first colony. Her statue stills adorns the central square, and the main port entrance proudly shows photographs of when Queen Elizabeth & Prince Phillip visited the city back in the 1950s. Such is the British influence on the city that there is even a model of Big Ben on the top of a hill. When my British grandfather was in the army, he was posted to Aden so my father spent several years of his childhood here, although it appears as though unlike Sana'a, Aden has since been given a concrete facelift in the form of non-descript high-rise blocks of flats – possibly testament to the fact that Yemen was the only official Marxist Islamic state. Aden nevertheless considers itself to be more open than the rest of the country – the Somalian influence evident by the darker faces on the street (and much less likely for the ladies to be covered up) – and it was fine to go for a swim in the warm gulf of Aden, although I didn't spot any string bikinis.

Our next stop was a road trip to Ta'iz through the countryside, to visit the famous market with the local cheese a favourite delicacy – and a trip up a mountain for a fantastic view of the city and the castle on a hill. Followed, of course by tea in an outdoor café with bemused but friendly locals who seemed happy for us to join them. The following day saw us travel leisurely back to the capital with stops in Jiblah to visit a local mosque, and Ibb for a race around the winding streets of this hilly town pilion on motorcycles thanks to enterprising youths.

Our final day, after a boozy evening in a Sana'a restaurant & nightclub (yes, they have a nightclub where alcohol is served) we climbed the Wadi Dahr's Rock Palace not far from the capital, driving through fields of qat and witnessed a traditional Yemeni tribal dance, complete with knife waving! But our tour would not have been complete without dressing up in traditional Yemeni clothing in the market for the flight on to Kuwait.

Adventurous we might be, but I must stress that at no time did we ever feel in any kind of danger and our guides were at pains to point out that Yemen is a safe & friendly country to visit – probably more so than wherever you happen to come

from. Sure, there are some no-go areas (in the north, by the Saudi border) but then we didn't go there! Yemenis are very welcoming to foreigners who respect their country and culture, and are saddened that the world seems to have picked on them as being a haven for terrorists. At first glance you might think you really wouldn't want to get on a plane with a bearded guy who has a knife stuck in his belt, towel in his hair and chewing qat – but we saw only smiles from all concerned – and if more people saw this for themselves then how different things might be. Oh, and the food was delicious!

Travel to, and in Yemen: Most Middle Eastern Airlines fly from all of Europe's largest cities (including Moscow) to Sana'a with a change of planes in their respective capitals, as do Lufthansa – however the twice weekly flight to London on Yemenia has recently been cancelled for 'security' reasons. Most nationalities (Westerners, and Russians) can buy a tourist visa upon arrival at Sana'a airport without any prior arrangement. It is highly recommended that you book a tour in advance, as the agency will sort out your transport, and you will breeze through the numerous checkpoints with ease. Additionally English is not anywhere near as widely spoken as it is in other parts of the Middle East, even if many signs are in both English & Arabic. We went with Marib Travel & Tourism who were excellent as well as extremely friendly – contact Shakib Al-Khayyat on +967 1 426 833 or at: info@marib-tours.com **P**



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David Ford's Life Saved in Moscow

The Passport Interview: John Harrison talks to David Ford, Moscow resident, Yorkshireman, builder and survivor.

David Ford has been in Russia for four normal years, and 2010. He has a Russian fiancée, Tanya, and works as an interior designer and builder. Habitues of the British Business Club know David through his active participation in various events such as the village fete, Trafalgar Ball and not least, making mince pies. This winter a wall collapsed on him, and he was taken to a number of Russian hospitals for treatment. He is still alive if not yet quite kicking and typically jovial when recounting the tale:

What happened?

14 January 2010. We were doing a 're-mont' out in Kurkina, taking down a solid concrete partition wall: 30cm thick, 2.5m high and 6m long. We started really well. It had all the necessary rebar [reinforcement bars] and mesh reinforcements. We got to the last metre, and there was nothing there, no rebar, no reinforcement, nothing. It was held in by foam filler. As soon as we hit it, it all fell down. Being a big guy, I wasn't fast enough to get out of the way, so a moment later I was laid under five tons of concrete, conscious. My head had split wide open and my foot was smashed and pierced by a piece of rebar. Luckily it didn't break any bones. My labourer was in the next room, so he wasn't hit. He almost fainted when he saw me, but ripped my shirt and bandaged my head with it. I phoned Tania, my better half. She told me afterwards that I said: "I'm sorry love, I've had an accident." She thought I was joking, and told me she

wasn't in the mood. I passed out. Six minutes later, I could hear Tanya shouting: "David, David". Then Stanislav my labourer spoke to her. It was instinct to phone her first. She told him to phone an ambulance, which I did. I told Stanislav not to move anything in case any bones were broken. The ambulance crew came in and I just burst out laughing. I said "Look at the ambulance crew! Two small women. How in God's name are you going to move all this concrete and get me out from the third floor?" I'm no lightweight. But the girls were really efficient. I gave Stanislav money to go outside and get more help.

How long did you have to wait for the ambulance?

It was quite good, under 20 minutes. They were so efficient, and were straight in with morphine. All the skin had pulled away where the concrete hit me. I did have a hat on, not a hard one obviously. I didn't know I had split my skull, my foot was hurting worse. They pulled the bar out of my foot, it was agony, but eased once they had removed it. Then my head started hurting. I remember one of them saying "you've just been through a trauma, and you're still quite humorous". They got this big inflatable rubber thing, I remember asking if I was going rafting. They rolled me to one side then the other, and it's getting tighter and tighter on me. Then they put the poles through the thing; I couldn't move. It was like a cocoon, I was there, rigid, oozing with blood. Stanislav came up with four big men, one of whom was sick when he saw me there.

This is the first time that I've ever had any medical problems. I am not insured for Russia. You hear so many stories about how bad the medical services are. Botkinskaya hospital is one of the oldest here. It was originally a paupers hospital, and my first impression wasn't very good either. As hospitals go, I can't say I've seen worse. You're laying on your back and you see the ceiling is falling down, the walls are terrible and cockroaches roam the floor, but the treatment was excellent. They gave me a brain scan (found nowt) and x-rayed me, then Tanya arrived at the hospital in



tears. I was in a ward with lot of young Georgians with neurological problems. I remember a doctor measured the wound in my head with a ruler.

You are saying that the medical treatment was first class, despite all the primitive techniques?

They took me to the theatre where they injected novocaine into my head, plated it and sewed it up. An Asian doctor could speak a little English. He told me exactly what he was doing. The operating theatre was spotless, a bit primitive, but they did their job. Tanya took two weeks off work. She was my angel, she was there from 9am to 9pm every day. She brought me food, super. All they did with my foot was put some blue liquid over it to seal and dry the wound, as we were in the neurological department and they don't 'do' feet.

A nurse wheeled me across the road to another building in the snow for a scan on the 15th. I thought I was go-



Tanya

ing home. But it was ten days before I could even sit up. Even now, if I sit up suddenly, my head spins. I left the hospital on the 27th January. I was beginning to get a bit of pain in my foot. On the 4th February, my foot started swelling. At the local polyclinic the surgeon took one look at my foot and said that I'd got an infection. The polyclinic was spotless, I was very impressed. The surgeon injected my foot with novocaine and started cleaning out my foot. Tanya was absolutely sick. There was a hole the size of a golf ball when the doctor had cut out all the puss. I had to go back there every two days, at Rb.7000 each visit, for more dressings and injections.

Was it a smooth recovery?

No! It started to look better, but on 6th March my whole leg swelled double size from my thigh downward, and my

temperature hit 39.0. We went to the local hospital, Federal no. 82, where the doctor said I should go into hospital. We said we can't afford it, having already spent Rb.80,000, using up all our savings. So the doctor said that we could try it for a week at home. Tanya said she injected her dog and cat, so she could do those! Instead of getting up at 7am for work, she nursed me from 6am, came home at 9.30pm and not to bed before 11pm. She did everything, gave me blanket baths which I enjoyed, she was an angel. We had to go back for a scan, which showed that I had deep vein thrombosis in my leg caused by the trauma, which is why my foot wasn't healing. The blood clot was floating. I've only got one lung, and the doctor said to me that I must go into hospital. You cannot walk or go to the toilet. Under any stress this clot could have a champagne bottle effect and go straight to the heart or lung and kill me. Next we found out that they couldn't accept foreigners because it's a Federal hospital. The only option was back to Botkinskoe. No! He said that there is a diplomatic department there. Why wasn't I told that the first time?

Once there, they said I must have an operation, but not there, because the diplomatic section is under renovation. Tanya hinted that we have the papers to show that there was something wrong with their treatment last time, which scared them. They couldn't do the operation, so we started to phone around and we were still there at 11.30pm. Then a doctor said that an

ambulance is going to take you to the Sklifosovsky hospital. By then I was in quite a lot of agony. The ambulance crew were very good. They gave me an injection to stop me going to the toilet, and strapped my legs together so that I couldn't move them. My legs looked as though they belonged to two different bodies. The vascular surgeon, Dr. Yevgeny Kungurtsev was absolutely superb and spoke a bit of English. They operated on me the next day.

'The Skif' is absolutely first class. Spotless. I was made to feel so welcome. The nursing staff, were all so friendly. They all tried to speak a bit of English. Tanya couldn't take any more time off work, but she was there every morning and evening. The surgeon asked me if I was ready. I said "yes, just put me to sleep and let's go". He said "oh no, you're not going to sleep. We need you awake to help". A beautiful nurse injected me five times in the base of my spine. I felt the numbness working up my body and going numb. It was quite strange. The operation to remove the clot lasted about one hour and twenty minutes. Then he wiggled this thing in front of me, honest to God, it was eleven centimetres long, jet black and as thick as my finger. I said put it in a jar and I'll have it later. Yevgeny said that it could have shot up to my heart at any moment, and I would have been dead within minutes, and that would have been that. He had saved my life.

Again, money was a worry, but David Morley borrowed Rb.60,000 to pay for the hospital straight away, and then a whip round at the British Business Club raised the money to pay that back, so I found out later. The morning before I was due to leave, I felt a tremendous pain in my heart. The doctor told me I had pneumonia. With only one lung this was serious. So, another five days, with antibiotics up the backside.

I left the Skif finally on the 30th March. I've got another three months on all sorts of tablets. But I know that I'm on the mend, and in a while I'll be able to start work again. I'm incredibly grateful to Tanya and to all the people I know and I don't know who have helped me through this. The Russian hospitals were great. I would use Russian medicine again. I cannot praise the staff of these places enough. The Skif medical staff were unbelievable. I wouldn't have any hesitation, apart from the awful food: you can't eat the mashed potato with a fork. It's kasha for breakfast, kasha for tea. **P**



A corner of Botkinskaya hospital

1986



John Harrison

This new series looks at Russian history year by year, from 1986. If you were here in the eighties, and would like to share your experiences, before we forget, please write to the author: j.harrison@passportmagazine.ru

At the 27th Party Congress, which opened on the **25th of February 1986**, Gorbachev proposed economic reforms which would, through perestroika, "reveal the potential of socialism", and the Party. The General Secretary was either the ultimate 'God's fool' for believing that the Soviet Communist Party could survive in any form in Russian free market conditions, or an incredibly clever politician who only revealed certain sections of his master plan when the time was right.

Democracy in the western sense of the word had never taken hold in Russia, and to expect the Soviet Union to be able to

adapt principles of social democracy as advocated by his friends Willy Brandt, François Mitterrand and Felipe González (who were not Leninists) in a few years seems in retrospect rather naïve. After unleashing explosive pent-up public opinion there was no way back.

He might have achieved his goals which were to modernise the Party if he had followed the Chinese model of reforming agriculture first and allowing private enterprise but leaving the press clamped. But Russians aren't Chinese. In the end of the day, Gorbachev did all he could have in the situation.

25th-26th April 1986, Chernobyl. At 1.45am, technicians at the Chernobyl nuclear power station near Kiev carried out an experiment. Two massive explosions occurred which dissipated a lethal amount of radiation into the atmosphere, exceeding norms 87 times,

mostly because the technicians involved didn't communicate with each other. Special equipment and specialists were not brought until the evening of the next day. The leadership in Moscow wasn't even aware of how serious the problem was. Emergency workers received heavy doses of radiation. Fifty thousand citizens living locally were evacuated at least a day late. Only on the 28th of April did a short bulletin on the national news programme 'Vremya' convey that there had been 'an incident'. Glasnost had failed miserably, probably because it was initially designed to be an instrument of the government in shaping public opinion, not to work in the other direction. One hundred and twenty five people died as a result of Chernobyl over the following ten years. Gorbachev declared that the event 'was a turning point' in terms of the development of greater awareness.

Mark Bond
1986



It was June 1986 and I was coming to the end of my year studying in Moscow as part of my degree in Russian at Oxford University. I was about to get married to my Russian girlfriend, which I had managed to organize in time before my visa had run out at the end of the month, through the good contacts of a famous Russian lawyer friend.

The only place that a foreigner was allowed to get married: Marriage Palace 1 (or ZAGS No.1). I was also working for TBS/CNN, producing short "fillers" of 3 minutes about Russia for the American public as part of the Goodwill Games taking place that summer. I was given a large Texan cameraman to take around, but we were unable to do much filming, because every time we asked for permission to film a market or a monastery, it would take 4-6 weeks for permissions to come through.

So one day we took our State Television minibus and drove to Kolomensky Monastery in Moscow and filmed the beautiful building and the ordinary Moscovites having fun in the park and on the slope down to the river. A colonel of the KGB turned up and started berating us for filming without permission to which I asked him why was it necessary to have permission to film people at play? He started shouting and I shouted back saying that we were showing Americans that the Russians are normal too and that he must be anti-Soviet if he objected to that. I have never seen any Russian official's jaw drop like that before or since.

Having married, I thought that as in any normal country I would be allowed to stay. TBS tried to get my visa extended, but the Russian side was adamant that I had to leave. Ted Turner Jr.



June 1986 Glavlit was instructed to relax its rules. Hitherto unpublished novels were printed. Classics such as *Sobachoe Serdtse* by M. Bulgakov, *Kotlovan* by A. Platonov, forbidden works by Anna Akhmatova and Mikhail Zoshenko, Osip Mandelstam, Vladimir Nabokov and many others were printed for the first time in huge editions. In the summer of 1986, 'guided glasnost' (directed by the propaganda Department of the Central Committee) began. The most popular vehicles of the 'new thinking' were *Moscow News* which was headed by a new editor Yegor Yakovlev, and *Ogonek*, edited by Vitaly Korotich. Both publications were used to agitate for change. As Archie Brown, in his book *The Gorbachev Factor* points out: 'On the one hand [this] made possible the maintenance of political stability. On the other, it made impossible a root-and-branch critique of all

that was wrong with the Soviet system'.

From 1985 onwards the Party introduced measures to reduce alcoholism which by 1984 had beaten all known records: half a litre of vodka per week for every man woman and child! Vodka sales were severely restricted, resulting in a growing black market. People bought moonshine and counterfeit vodka from taxi-drivers with the code words "have you got anything to read?" The driver would nod and silently produce a bottle rolled up in newspaper for ten roubles. Taxi-parks became very popular destinations. Some have said that vodka was a Brezhnevite 'opium of the people', with a docile population and the government benefitting from massive tax revenues.

October 1986 Gorbachev met President Reagan in Reykjavik and won him over to an agreement for all nuclear weapons to be abolished within ten

years. But at the last moment Reagan's aides, who wished to bargain from a position of military superiority, dissuaded him from signing the preliminary agreement.

November 1986. The Law on Individual Labour activity was passed which semi-legalized black-market activity such as selling clothes and food from stalls. This law was the forerunner of much more far-reaching legislation on cooperatives in 1988.

16 December 1986. Gorbachev seemed to have reached a point in his secretarship where he felt strong enough to do something quite horrible to the party hardliners. He lifted the phone and spoke to the dissenting physicist Andrei Sakharov (who spoke on a phone specially installed in his flat) and invite him to return from exile in Gorki. Sakharov stated his approval of Gorbachev was 'conditional'. **P**

decided not to pursue this matter since he thought that it was more important getting goodwill going. I tried several other jobs, e.g. for Progress publishers as a translator, but was told off the record that the "Pervy Otdel" or KGB cell had blocked any employment.

I had become a threat due to the fact that I had married a Russian. So I left four days after my wedding and was only able to come back once in October 1986 on an Intourist trip to see my wife, where I had to pay for the hotel and transfers etc. The Intourist tour guide was rather put out when I told her that I would see them all 3 days later at the hotel when we were due

to fly back. She told me I was not allowed to spend the time with my wife. I disregarded her advice. I was also told that there were problems my wife's exit visa, since her stepfather worked in the

defence industry as a radio technologist. This was obviously laughable, since the USSR was many light years behind western radio technology, which had then made the step up to digital.

Finally, after a great deal of behind the scenes political and diplomatic pressures, my wife and my daughter who had been born by then were granted an exit visa and Xmas/New year 1986 to 1987 I was allowed to come and pick her up. I was prepared for the same dour and

unfriendly exterior of Moscow as before and was duly stopped at customs and had one book of Bulgakov short stories from the Oxford University library confiscated as well as my suitcase turned inside out as usual. It was at this time, at the end of December 2006, that I finally discerned a thawing of attitudes on the street.

Up to this time, it is often forgotten, that Gorbachev had been in power for

almost 2 years and there had been no real sign of glasnost. However, suddenly, I noticed something strange, some people were talking and laughing loudly on the street, which only had seemed to happen before when they were drunk. It was a strange realization, since I had been used to some people staggering away from me in almost terror, when they heard Russian with a

slight foreign accent, when I asked the way. When we went to someone's apartment, I was told to keep quiet and literally hold my head down, since neighbours might inform on the host that a foreigner had come to visit and then everyone would be in trouble.

So at the beginning of January, 2007, I finally got my wife out of Russia and left intrigued, that something may be happening and that a thaw may be on the way. **P**

RUSSIAN REFLECTIONS

Hitler and Stalin: the Realities Remembered

Ian Mitchell

My mother, who was from Aberdeen, used to say to me when she thought I was being too clever by half: 'You're so sharp you'll cut yourself.' In all the controversy surrounding the 65th anniversary of the end of the European part of the Second World War it is well to remember that this phrase applies with particular force to the person who many Russians think was the architect of that victory, Joseph Stalin.

Saluting the bravery of the Soviet armed forces should not obscure the fact that none of the catastrophic sacrifices of blood and treasure would have been necessary if the war had not started in the first place. Stalin's role in bringing conflict to Europe has been much less closely examined than his conduct once it started. But war was not inevitable. It happened partly due to Stalin's attempts to be clever.

Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany in January 1933 after a general election, held in November 1932, at which the Nazi Party secured 33% of the vote. The second largest party was the Social Democrats, who got 20%, and third were the Communists with 17%. Together, the Social Democrats and the Communists could have outvoted the Nazis. The fact that they did not combine but fought each other and thereby let Hitler into power, was directly due to Stalin.

In 1928 Stalin laid down the policy for Comintern, the body tasked with fomenting world revolution. As far as Germany was concerned the basis was hatred of Social Democrats. They were socialists, but they believed in democracy. Stalin believed only in force, violence and the power of fear. The German Communist Party under Ernst Thälmann, whose statue stands today outside the coffee shop by Aeroport Metro station, attacked the Social Democrats continually and mercilessly. Often Communist thugs joined Nazi thugs in beating up the democrats.

One of the best-informed historians of Soviet foreign policy, who later worked in Moscow but who was in Berlin in 1933, was the American diplomat, George Kennan. He has written: 'Throughout this period, as the shadow of Nazi brutality and intimidation fell deeper and deeper over German political life, the attitude of the Communists toward moderate opponents of Hitler remained undeviatingly hostile and destructive. It was clear that this aided the Nazis; but to this situation, Stalin remained, to all appearances, frigidly indifferent.'

Not only did Stalin's approach deprive Germany of a credible alternative when the Nazis were close to power, he had also helped bring about the change in German public opinion which brought Hitler out of the political wilderness five years earlier.

In the German general election of 1928, the Nazi party received just 3% of the vote, while the Communists received 11% and the Social Democrats 30%. In 1930, the Social Democrats



were down to 25% and the Nazis up to 19%, having overtaken the Communists. Two years later, the Nazis had overtaken the Social Democrats as well.

The Great Depression was the major reason for this revolution in public attitudes, but it was not of itself decisive. What tipped the balance was the shift in middle-class opinion which began to think that, without Hitler, Germany might end up being governed as the USSR was. And that was starting to seem to many law-abiding bourgeois voters a living nightmare.

In 1928 Stalin had assumed complete control of Soviet economic policy with the introduction of the first Five Year Plan. Associated with this was the principle of the show trial. When the Plan did not work as expected, Stalin arrested and tried engineers and scientists who were accused of 'wrecking'—deliberate disruption of the Plan. The accused were forced to make humiliating public confessions about crimes which they had not committed in courts which seemed to mock the idea of the rule of law.

The first of these bizarre events took place in 1928 and was known as the Shakhty trial, after the town in the Donbass where the accused had been working. The affair was widely publicised internationally, not least in Germany as German engineers working for a famous German firm, AEG, were amongst the accused. Even the pro-Stalin journalist, Walter Duranty, said in the New York Times that the trial was ultimately unconvincing.

The UPI correspondent in Moscow, Eugene Lyon, himself a former Communist, went further and wrote in his book, *Assignment in Utopia*, 'This was no spick-and-span trial on the democratic model, with its hypocritical blindfolded Justices dangling a silly pair of scales. This was Revolutionary Justice, its flaming eyes wide open, its flaming sword poised to strike. Its voice was not the whining of "fairness" but the thunder of vengeance.'

Show trials were not the only evidence of communist inhumanity. These were also the years of mass starvation in rural Russia, especially the Ukraine, of the liquidation of the kulaks, of shootings, torture and imprisonment on a huge scale, of the almost complete militarisation of Soviet society, and the introduction of slave labour on projects like the Baltic-White Sea Canal, whose construction between 1931 and 1933 cost 100,000 lives, for negligible economic benefit.

What Stalin failed to take into account, in his cynicism and general contempt for humanity, was that people read about these events in countries like Germany—perhaps especially in Germany, given its proximity to the USSR and its large Communist Party—and drew conclusions. The consensus about both Communism and the Nazis' role as defenders against it began to change after 1928. Hitler was the beneficiary of Stalin's brutality.

Stalin did not mind. He preferred that Germany be ruled by Hitler than by a more respectable politician. His calculation was that this would prevent the western European powers ganging up against the Soviet Union. Stalin's best-case scenario was that they all go to war with each other.

Hitler was the only statesman—arguably the only human being—that Stalin appears to have trusted. That was one of the reasons why, in early 1941, he ignored all the warnings about Operation Barbarossa from people like Richard Sorge, the heroic German spy in Tokyo whose statue now stands forlornly in a scruffy park near Polizhaevskaya Metro station. Stalin believed that in the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, which carved up Poland, Hitler had given his word. The tragic results are well-known.

The Soviet spy-diplomat, Walter Krivitsky, wrote in 1939, in his book *I Was Stalin's Agent*, 'The idea prevailing up to the recent Russia-German pact that Hitler and Stalin were mortal enemies was pure myth. The true picture of their relations was that of a persistent suitor who would not be discouraged by rebuffs. Stalin was the suitor. There was enmity on Hitler's side. On Stalin's there was fear. If one can speak of a pro-German in the Kremlin, Stalin has been that figure all along. Stalin's whole international policy during the last six years has been a series of manoeuvres designed to place him in a favourable position for a deal with Hitler.'

Stalin got that deal in August 1939. A month later he got the war he wanted between Hitler and the Western powers. It was a clever strategy, and it worked—until Hitler did what he said he would do right from the start, and attacked the Soviet Union. In the end, Stalin had been so sharp that he had cut not only himself but the whole Soviet people. The tragedy is that it was not he but they who did the bleeding. **P**



CONSUMERISM

Elena Rubinova

The consumer boom of the past decade, "conspicuous consumption" and the controversial issue of the middle-class in modern Russia was in focus in the first part of this article (April 2010). In this second part, sociologists disclose the structure of private finance, define the typology of consumers and uncover an emerging young culture as an alternative to consumerism.

Language mirrors reality. Names of exhibitions such as: "Luxury Boutique ELITE LIFE-2009" which presents elite real estates, the golf industry and yachts, ads with punch lines such as: "business elite gets tsar treatment", "glamorous weekly parties", "elite yoga club for you", are not only decorating Moscow streets, but are daily published in classified sections of magazines and even newspapers. Fully in compliance with Ludwig Wittgenstein's theory of language which

emphasised the link between words and their external environment, modern Russian reflects the ideology of glamour, which has become the most ostentatious and alluring aspect of Russia under Putin. "Elitny" (elite) and "glamourny" (glamorous) are the two of the most popular words in the Russian mass-media, culture and even politics. Unlike the bourgeois milieu in other countries, where glamour is exclusive and for private consumption; in modern Russia, glamour is very



much about the new consumer culture representing glory, beauty and success. It is on display and on the tip of everybody's tongue. Interestingly enough, the survey carried out in 2007 by the Public Opinion Foundation (FOM) indicated that almost a quarter of the population (23%) across Russia and over 50% in Moscow use the Russian for "glamour" and "glamorous"; words which have only comparatively recently entered the vernacular. Only 8% of respondents had negative connotation associated with these words. It's hard to say for how long the alluring world of glamour will inspire consumers' appetite, but today Russians want to make the most of their money and enjoy everything money can buy.

The structure of private finances

Even in times of crisis, people have not radically changed their consumption habits, and are not ready to renounce their habits in favour of regular savings. An opinion poll carried in July 2009 by "Levada Center" showed that only 25 % of the population had savings and that was the highest figure since 2002. Data obtained by VCIOM, one of the Russia's largest opinion research centres, correlated with these figures: roughly two thirds of the country's population is not saving at all. The structure of private finances is dramatically different in Russia and the West: some 70% of Russians' income is disposable, versus around 40% for a typical Western consumer. After deducting 13% income tax, necessary payments for housing and utilities, the average Russian spends the rest. People are not being encouraged to save and are assailed by images in the media exhorting them to borrow. For those who fall within the \$1,500-\$2,000 income bracket, a fur coat or a home movie theatre is for today and a pension is something to worry about in the long distant future. Tatyana K., a 42 year old Moscow-based arts expert and the mother of two, says that in the current economic situation, she could barely imagine how her family could save for the future: "the only thing worth saving for is our kids' education. In Russia you never know what's going to happen, and we have so many immediate needs to fulfil".

Profiling the consumer

A decade after consumer culture won on the Russian battlefield, traditionalism is still opposed to new values and consumption styles fully reflect such social diversity. It's virtually impossible to draw a sociological portrait of an average Russian consumer since everyone is a consumer of certain good or services. Rather than trying to identify this too generalized social type, sociologists define certain groups according to their consumption of industrial goods. Alexei Levinson, the Head of Social Research Department at Levada Analytical Centre, unveiled the consumer pyramid in Russia today as: "On the territory of such a huge country as Russia, all consumer segments are present. The upper group are brand-name consumers, the next wants the same class of goods, but for less, so they go to cheaper stores or markets. Then come consumers of non-branded or pseudo-branded goods, second-hand cars and second-hand electronics. Finally there is a very broad layer of elderly urban and almost all of the rural population that consumes everything left on the second-hand and third-hand market of industrial goods. Thus inside Russia we have our own Europe and our own Asia." This general picture correlates with consumer segmentation based on consumption habits and lifestyle rather than traditional demographic gender-and-age

and income characteristics. "Region media", specialists in Russian advertising, published results of such survey and identified seven main groups. The names of cluster groups speak for themselves: the "Innovators" young and seeking the best (18% in Moscow and 8% in the whole country), the "Spontaneous" (about 12% nationwide and 8% in Moscow), the "Ambitious", the "Self-realised", the "Settled" characterized by conservative taste and great brand affinity (25% of consumers in Russia and 21% in Moscow), the "Traditionalists" (16% in Russia and 20% in Moscow) and, finally the smallest group: the "Thrifty" who mainly frequent discount shops.

Consumers of the future

Visitors to Russia's cities often interpret the presence of designer clothes shops, internet cafés, and a vibrant club scene as evidence of the "westernization" of Russian youth. To some extent it is true that the younger generation has adopted a "pick and mix" strategy with regard to western cultural commodities. Nevertheless, speaking about Russian youth consumer culture it's important to note an essential differences from the same age groups in most other post-industrial societies – the definition is more often used when information and service cultures prevail in the economy. Karin Kleman, a French sociologist who has been studying Russian youth culture for several years emphasizes: "Until very recently, the majority of Russian youth was very conformist; it did not have a counterculture that would be opposed to consumerism. It was pointless to speak about any struggle against consumerism; everybody including the young were struggling for access to consumer society. Quite recently, though, we have seen gradual shifts." Generalizing about social tendencies of the past decade it's clear that for the majority of young Russians aged 18-25, their life strategy has primarily meant realising their aspirations for a prosperous life and the imitation of established patterns of social success. There is no room in Russia for anti-consumerism movements, pressure groups of ethical consumers calling for sustainable consumption or ecologically-friendly youth. "Only in the past 3-4 years can we speak of an independent youth culture that is growing in Russia. It is mainly, but not exclusively finding its home in the internet which was accessed by 1/3 of the population in 2008, where this emerging culture has rich forms", said Alexei Levinson.

On the other hand, after the crisis put the brakes on the Russian economy, Russian yuppies started demonstrating tendencies that have been popular in the West for decades. But as sociologists found out, even downshifting has a different motivation. An average young Russian, usually the dweller of a big city, who quits his job and moves to some inexpensive country like India and Thailand leasing his Moscow or St. Petersburg apartment, is hardly a true downshifter. Most often a change for a better climate and cheaper lifestyle does not imply a change in one's attitude to life and a re-evaluation of one's values and priorities. They are not disappointed by their excellent careers but are trying to escape from realities or temporary lack of career perspectives. Vladimir Petukhov, sociologist from VSIOM, is convinced: "Downshifting will take a classical Western shape only when Russia gains a proper middle class. Society must be ripe enough to produce a protest against prosperity and well-being. This does not happen without real well-being prevailing in society." **P**

Boys' Football at Luzhniki



Charles W. Borden

Like many Moscow visitors, I first saw Luzhniki Park and Stadium from the panoramic view above it and the Moscow river from Lenin Hills (which re-acquired its pre-1935 Vorobyovy Gory (Sparrow Hills) moniker in 1999). From that perch, with its huge ski jump descending down to the Moscow River, the huge Luzhniki park is surrounded on three sides by the river, and is now separated from the city on the fourth by the Third Ring Road. My wintertime inquiry to the expat 'list-serve' about boys' football resulted in firsthand acquaintance with this sublime corner of Moscow.

After five years in the Moscow Youth Soccer League, the fabulous but all too short Saturday programme for boys and girls that the Moscow Times organises each autumn, my son was ready for more serious play. Irish expat David Gilmartin kindly responded to my email plea; his son David had already been training at Luzhniki with a group of about 25 boys bearing Torpedo Moscow team colours.

Unlike youth football back home (we call it soccer) where schools organize sports teams and leagues, Moscow teams are independent and usually affiliated with one of the many stadiums in the city's districts. In some cases, well-known Russian professional clubs such as CSKA, Lokomotiv, Dinamo or Spartak sponsor teams that are preparatory to a place with the professionals. Teams are organised by year of birth; a boy born in 1999 will be on the 1999 roster.

Oleg Gennadievich Alfimov, a long-term veteran of Russia's Dinamo (Moscow) and the Metallurg (Krasnoyarsk) teams is the trainer at Luzhniki. Alfimov supervises

two groups, ages 6-9 (birthdates from 2000 to 2003), and ages 10-13 (birthdates from 1997 to 1999). At these ages, the play is at the serious recreational stage. The season starts in August and continues through June with training late afternoon three days per week for up to two hours a day. The cost is about 2000 rubles per month. For players who show promise, Alfimov will recommend a player to one of Moscow's teams such as Torpedo, where training shifts to high gear five days a week with league competition.

Training is indoors in the winter, and moves outside in early spring. Oleg Gennadievich also organises other special events for his trainees, for instance he arranged for them to accompany Russia's Rubin Kazan players to the field for the CSKA-Rubin Kazan game that opened the Russia Cup in early March. He will have a summer football camp outside Moscow in July.

The Olympiski Kopleks Luzhniki (OK Luzhniki) controls and operates the Luzhniki complex, which covers 180 hectares and provides services for dozens of sports in more than 150 training areas and halls, courts and fields. Football alone commands five standard fields and five outdoor mini-football areas, many with artificial turf, plus a number of indoor football halls. Tennis, hockey and water sports are also well represented.

The Luzhniki centrepiece is the massive Luzhniki Grand Arena, which bore Lenin's name when it was used for the ceremonies of the 1980 Olympics. Other main buildings include the Small Arena (though the building is huge) and the once-majestic Olympic pool complex.

The Grand Arena, awarded five stars

by UEFA, hosts the country's major football events such as the recent Champions League games between CSKA and Sevilla and Inter-Milan. Spartak plays its home games at the Grand Arena, and the stadium hosted the UEFA final between Manchester United and Chelsea in 2008, and the 1999 UEFA Cup Final between Parma and Marseille. The Grand Arena has also been a cultural centre, home of the 1989 Moscow Music Peace Festival, and later Moscow concerts by Micheal Jackson and Madonna. U2 will perform its first concert in Russia at the Grand Arena in August.

We met David Gilmartin for introductions for our first visit to football training in the middle of this snowy winter. I paid the fifty rubles car fee at the park entrance and drove right up to main entrance of the Grand Arena, which faces the ski jump on the other side of the river. I was fascinated with Luzhniki from that point on; one could call it love at first sight. To me this was like putting your son to Little League at Yankee Stadium.

At the entrance I noticed the bronze UEFA Five Star plaque, and signs for the Luzhniki hotel on the fourth floor and the sports center on the second floor. We passed the Luzhniki Press Centre on the way up. The kids were already in the changing room, with soccer mums and a few dads hanging around the hallway. After a quick introduction to Oleg Gennadievich, Yan was quickly off to the indoor mini-football hall.

I now use my hour and a half, three days a week for a welcome break, some fresh air, walks and exploration. The hotel was an easy first stop, up a couple of flights of stairs, to ask a few questions.

The receptionist was courteous and the hotel, which occupies the southwest side of the arena, appeared clean and well maintained, and it is open to the public at rates that are low by Moscow standards. I thought, "what an interesting place to stay (as long as one has

It's the longest metro station, accessible from both sides of the river, with tall panoramic windows.

I passed the Luzhniki pool, just a football kick away from the metro entrance. At the hotel I had been told there was no indoor pool, but was directed to

river opposite the ski jump, which was open even in the dead of winter. Blini are prepared on the spot with filling of your choice – I like the honey and walnut at 110 rubles and another 30 rubles for a hot tea with lemon – perfect to enjoy standing at a round Coca Cola table by the frozen



auto transport or don't mind a 700 meter walk to the nearest metro station)." Over the next weeks I noticed a number of team buses at the hotel.

The Luzhniki Museum of Sport occupies the northeast side of the Grand Arena near the large statue of Lenin. The museum is an archive of artifacts and history of Russian sport dating from pre-revolutionary times to the present and it contains trophies, prizes and gifts from sports federations around the world. The ticket office for Luzhniki events is nearby.

I paced off the distance (700 meters) southeast to the Vorobyovy Gory metro station, which hangs over the Moscow River from the Metromost (metro bridge). This station, originally built in 1958, was closed for eighteen years and finally re-opened in 2002 after repairs.

the outdoor Luzhniki swimming pool, which was operating – and this was mystifying, since the temperature outside was -10. There were dozens of cars in front of the large 50s-era building that houses both a 50-metre and 25-metre pool with steep stadium seats on two sides. I went through the main entrance and peered back through glass doors to the pools to see condensation rising from the warm (25-27 degree) pools with snow piled around the edges. I checked the rules: with a doctor's certificate and bathing cap, a swimmer can appoint a set 45-minute period for a swim or make a regular schedule of appointments. There is also a scuba club that issues PADI certificates.

Luzhniki has a few snack kiosks, but my favorite is a blini stand directly on the

Moscow river with an air temp of -10.

There is a VIP Restaurant inside the stadium and a buffet by the museum. The restaurant Olimp stands on the Moscow River near the metro, which has a large pan-Caucasus menu. Olimp has several private lodge-type dining rooms on its grounds. I regularly see a number of large, black elitny cars out front and expect that Olimp makes a good, out-of-the-way meeting place for Moscow's businessmen.

As spring, and the skaters and bicyclists, rolled in I noticed how well maintained are the grounds at Luzhniki; none of the stray plastic bags and trash that tarnishes many of Moscow's other recreational areas. There are skate and bike rentals and even a paintball park. It is a refreshing place to explore. **P**



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To IB or not to IB

This really is the question



British International School

Since 1968 the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma programme has been growing in importance in over 180 countries around the world, including the UK. In 2009 there were 1969 IB schools and at the current rate of 10% growth per year, the IB is planning to work with 10000 schools and over 2.5 million students by 2020. The IB has been in the Russian Federation since 1994. The Diploma programme is challenging, and demands a desire to learn from the student. For many parents there are a number of important questions which need to be answered, such as what are the advantages of studying on this programme, do these outweigh the difficulties? Edward Parker, the IB coordinator at the British International School, Moscow talks to Passport on this very subject.

Interview by John Harrison

How long have you been in Moscow, and how long have you been teaching at the British international School?

I've been in Moscow since 1994 and have spent most of this time in Russia. I've also worked as a secondary school teacher in the UK. I've been at the British International School since September 2003 as a teacher of German as a foreign language, and since September 2009, as the IB Diploma coordinator here. Before then I was working a lot with IB students as the IB Creativity, Action and Service coordinator.

The British International School made a very bold decision in 2004; to abandon 'A' levels. Why?

It was a complicated step, but one that we felt suited our students. I don't know

if you are aware or not, but every year in August we read the same headlines in the British papers about 'A' level standards falling. We talk about "grade inflation". One hears the grumble: "when I was at school, things were much more difficult" and so on. Confidence in 'A' levels has been falling year after year for quite a long time. 'A' level course teachers suffer from interference from national government, some of it benign, some of it less so. IB is completely free from this "help". IB is based on many national programmes, but not dependant on any one. IB is based in Geneva, with the operations base in Cardiff, UK with offices all around the world, but they are not dependant on some politician who one year might decide against a second foreign language post-fourteen, and the next year decide that everyone has to study a foreign language in primary school.

Surely parents in Moscow who want to give their children a British education want that certain 'Britishness' associated with 'A' levels?

Sixteen-year-olds are not ready to decide what they are going to be doing for the rest of their lives. This British idea of being either in the Arts or the Sciences doesn't exist elsewhere in the world. Solzhenitsyn was a mathematician, Bulgakov was a doctor. These people didn't think that they had to be good either at natural sciences or in literature. And that's the type of student that we are trying to foster in this school, students who can speak at least one foreign language, students who study maths and science until eighteen. Everyone gets the chance. I did economics, French and German 'A' levels, I only wish that

I would have had a science that I could have combined with my languages.

But now you can do more than three 'A' levels?

People in Britain tend to do four or five subjects in what we call year 12, and they would probably take that down to three or four subjects in year thirteen, the 'A' level year. What does that really mean? They are stressed right from the beginning; they are doing exams in year twelve. They are being prepared for the tests by teachers who are thinking about league tables and so on.

I've heard that because IB is holistic it does not give students as much in-depth study as with 'A' levels?

Mathematically, you would think that this should be true, and this is how a lot of university admissions officers perceive it. They think: if someone is working hard to do four 'A' levels, how can it be if somebody is doing six subjects, that they can be academically challenged in all of them? I can say as a German teacher, that Higher Level IB German is much more difficult than 'A' level German, and Standard Level German is probably about the same as 'A' level German. There may be slightly fewer topics at standard level that need to be covered than at 'A' level, but that is a standard level subject. Students do three subjects at Higher Level and three at Standard Level. So there will be at least three of the six subjects where they will be challenged at least as much, or in my humble opinion, even more than they would be at 'A' Level.

Perhaps IB is too difficult? How many students get through the course percentage-wise?

The question should perhaps be: how many people get the full diploma, not just complete the certificate course. It is possible to get a certificate in every single subject you do, but you won't get the full Diploma. We offer the full Diploma programme at this school. This is difficult. Apart from the six subjects; they also have to write an extended essay and to take part in community service. In terms of numbers, we started off with eleven students in 2004, and as with every new programme, we had our teething problems; trying to get teachers who used to be 'A' level students to become IB teachers. Out of these first eleven students, three received the diploma. With-

in two years, we had the same amount of students and a one hundred per cent pass rate with above world average points-37 [in the IB point system], when you are talking about a world average of about 30. Last year we had our biggest ever cohort of twenty students, eighteen of whom received the diploma, and all of them got into the university that they wanted. The people who didn't receive the diploma received IB certificates and entered higher education. This year we have over forty diploma students in years twelve and thirteen.



Edward Parker

Are your students mainly Russians or foreign?

We have a truly international school with a range of about forty different nationalities.

How does IB compare to 'A' levels when it comes to entering university?, particularly in light of the news a week ago that 50,000 holders of good 'A' level grades will not be able to get university places this year?

Most of our students wish to enter university in Britain, although they are not limiting themselves quite as much as

they would do if they were doing 'A' levels. The IB Diploma is recognised by all of the major UK and US universities, as well as by an ever-increasing list of universities worldwide. If you are looking at the traditional sort of university that would accept a candidate with two 'As' and a 'B', you are looking at 36 IB points. If the demand for university places is increasing, then entry requirements should increase. But raising entry requirements does not automatically help universities differentiate between excellent students and average students because so many people

are getting two 'As' and a 'B'. So they are looking at other aspects: how balanced are these students? Can they speak a foreign language? Do they have the ambition and the study skills that IB students have? The more they find out about IB students, the more they like them. When it comes to a borderline situation, where an IB or an 'A' level student doesn't quite make the grade, I have been told by some university admissions officers, that they will go for an IB student.

University funding in Britain is declining. Some of the universities are actively attracting foreign students. Foreign students have a positive effect on their UK students. Of course much higher fees are charged, they say that that's fine though, because that enables them to subsidise UK students. So, some of our school's non-UK students have been pleasantly surprised to find out that the conditional offers that they have been receiving from universities are slightly lower than the standard Diploma entry requirements published on the universities' websites.

It is for these reasons and many others reasons that I heartily recommend the IB programme for any young person. **P**



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Back to New Zealand



Charles W. Borden

This month, the Knights of the Vine took a trip to New Zealand courtesy of HSBC when the bank sponsored a huge wine event at the top of the Swissôtel. New Zealand wines, though fairly recent on Moscow wine lists, have become popular in the city, so by the time of the event the guest list had swollen to close to four hundred. The event started at 7pm, but when I arrived at 6:40, a crowd was already forming. The Swissôtel wait staff began to pour the first wine, Saint Clair Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2007, shortly after seven. HSBC brought in Vladimir Capelik, well-known Moscow wine expert and President of the Independent Wine Club, to narrate and discuss each wine as it was served. There were a number of guests of honor, led by New Zealand Ambassador Ian Hill and his wife, and two New Zealand wine importers, Fort and Trinity, set out tables to pour some of their other selections. The format was stand-up with a buffet of starters and desserts.

During the past few years since Moscow's first significant import of New Zealand wines, winery representation has steadily grown to about twenty-five, mainly the better known labels.

For the most part, New Zealand wine prices push past 1,000 roubles (and even well past), though there are a few wines – from Sileni, Nobilo, Villa Maria, Montana – that can be had closer to 500 roubles. Nobilo, owned by wine giant Constellation, has a bargain brand, Orca Bay, which hits the lowest price point for New Zealand wines in Moscow.

Sauvignon Blanc first drew international attention to New Zealand wines; the region's terroir produces grapes that provide these white wines with vibrant and intense fruitiness, which put them among my personal favourites a number of years ago. New Zealand Chardonnay also does well, and local winemakers generally do not favour the heavy oak that this grape receives in other areas, particularly California. For reds, New Zealand excels at Pinot Noir, a very finicky grape that thrives in few places, but this country is one of them. Surprisingly, Cloudy Bay Vineyards Sauvignon Blanc, now a cult classic, is not yet imported to Russia.

As I understood from Johan Sekora, Head of PFS Russia for HSBC and organizer of the event, a considerable amount of pre-planning went into the final selection of the six wines that were on offer for the evening. There were a

number of pre-tastings to pare the selection down.

The HSBC New Zealand Wine Selection

My personal ranking for the evening is as follows:

Saint Clair Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2007

Villa Maria Cellar Selection Sauvignon Blanc 2009 (Wine Spectator 93)

Kumeu River Mate's Vineyard Chardonnay 2006 (Wine Spectator 93)

Palliser Estate Pinot Noir 2006

Nobilo Regional Collection East Coast Chardonnay 2007

Saint Clair Vicar's Choice Pinot Noir 2006

I particularly enjoyed the Saint Clair Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc, an absolutely wonderful and fruity wine and great example of the potential for the grape. The Villa Maria Sauvignon Blanc, apparently available at Metro for under 500 roubles, gets the nod for best quality/price rating.

The evening ended with a lottery with a top prize of a trip for two to New Zealand. But I did win a handsome Russian language coffee table book about New Zealand wines authored by Mark Kauffman, Moscow's first major importer of wines from that country. We look forward to the next HSBC wine gathering. **P**

French Creativity Despite the Weather!

Jean-Michel Hardouin-Atlan is the executive chef at the Swissôtel, Krasnye Holmy, Moscow. Over the past few years he has redesigned the whole approach the hotel takes to the culinary art, and has acquired a high reputation in Moscow both as a creative cook and a warm-hearted person. Hotel food in Moscow is seldom highly rated. In this interview, Jean-Michel shares some of his thoughts about food, the Swissôtel and Moscow's weather.

Interview by John Harrison

How long have you been here, what do you do in your job?

I've been two and a half years at the Swissôtel, which is enough time to feel I have settled in. I like it when I hold the same post for a while because if you keep changing the head cook every six months or so, you have no consistency. My job has been to redirect and rethink the food and beverage services of the hotel.

Is it difficult to please everybody?

Of course. Whatever you prepare, wherever you prepare it, food is a personal interpretation. Either you like it or you don't. I personally do not like spicy food, but there are many people who do. There are international dishes which everybody knows, and which I prepare in a way that everybody likes. But when you go into more specific food, then it is much more about your own interpretation of cooking.

Your career has involved a lot of travelling. Which country have you enjoyed most?

That is a very difficult question because every country has its plusses and minuses. Whether it's the weather, the people, the ability to find the product you need to prepare a certain dish, it's very hard to find the ideal solution. One of the best places I worked in was Hong Kong. Apart from the nine or ten million Hong Kong Chinese, there are a lot of foreigners liv-



ing there as well. We had serious competition, and to be ahead you always have to make sure that your customers love coming. In the meantime it's a very stressful situation. At the other extreme, there is Mauritius, which is a resort island. The sun shines every day. Everybody is on the beach in a swimsuit, except you because you are working. In the beginning it's fantastic, it's great, but after several years it starts to seem boring. You are not there to enjoy the place you are there to make sure that your customers enjoy their stay because of what you offer them. So the perfect place doesn't exist, really. One of the advantages about working here in this hotel is the budget, which is higher than in many places where I have been working, and that is very very good for the chef because if you are always restrained by the budget it's much harder, you have no freedom.

So how does that relate down to the individual customer?

It means that we are able to customise the hotel to individual guests. We get to know what regular guests like, how they want their rooms arranged, what kind of food they like. So if a guest is recognised by the reception staff when they enter the hotel, that's a big plus. If the room is arranged in the way the guest likes, that's another. Then there is the restaurant,

where the manager knows them and can help them order what they want, because he or she knows what they want.

What's it like living in Moscow?

Tough. The weather is really difficult for me as I have worked my whole career in hot countries. This is a very cold country [Jean looks sad in a French way], well, it is awful! Now the Spring is coming, it completely changes your mood. Of course you cannot change your way of cooking just because it's raining or it's minus 25 outside. That would not be fair and it is totally unacceptable. However it does affect my mood.

What kind of food do you like to eat?

This is a tricky question, but for me, I love Italian food more and more although originally I'm from the North West of France where we cook with lots more butter and cream than in the South where seafood and fresh vegetables are much more important. But because I worked in the Middle East and Lebanon for many years, Italian food gradually became more and more important to me. However I like to eat Chinese food a lot, and also Thai food, but I have a personal problem in that I don't like chillies and hot spices.

Here in Swissôtel, which restaurant do you like the most?

Kai, because it is here that I can do things that I like. At the Café Swiss, you have international dishes which are very important to have on your menu, but you don't have to be very creative to prepare such food. In Kai we create dishes which we like, that we want to share with our customers. For me it is fantastic that I can do that.

So you're not too keen on the weather, but you like your job?

Yes, As long as you stay inside during the winter! **P**



Wining about Asia Hall



Charles W. Borden, Photos Alina Ganenko

Unfortunately, I had to pass up about five invitations to Asia Hall from Publisher John Ortega during the past month, but we finally managed a hastily arranged visit on a Monday evening. John had already informed me that Asia Hall had risen to the top of his favourites list.

Asia Hall is located on the third floor of the Vremena Goda mall, which is at Kutuzovsky 48, on the right side as you head out of town. Vremena Goda (seasons), which caters to the elitny crowd that traffics by, is pretty quiet, so it's not difficult to get in and out of the parking garage. Apart from the fact that the brands are among the most expensive, there is nothing particularly distinguishing about the mall, and thus the entrance to Asia Hall.

The wait staff seated us at John's favourite table by the open kitchen prep area, large and round with a "lazy Susan" and about a half a dozen shiny Peking Ducks hanging nearby. Jack Wong, the Singaporean executive chef, was away but Chef Anatoly Kharchenko came over to greet us. Chef Kharchenko apparently became a chef in 1997 after leaving the Russian tax service and traveling to Montreal. After several years

in Montreal's kitchens he returned to Moscow for stints with Marriott and several casinos.

John already knew his favourites, but I took a thorough look over the menu and wine list. The pan-Asian menu has an extensive selection of dishes that includes samplings from many cultures: sushi and sashimi, Peking Duck, dim sum, among many others.

John first ordered the Wasabi Prawns (600r), a variant of a dish that has become a standard at Moscow's "Asian Fusion" restaurants. This presentation was delicious, very fresh, meaty prawns dressed with a green, slightly sweet wasabi sauce and orange flying fish roe, and served with "Wasabi peas" and mandarin slices. The (substantial) Vietnamese Spring Rolls (380r) followed. These were huge rice wrappers rolled around fresh carrot, green mango, cilantro and a bit of iceberg lettuce, garnished with a thin, bright red, spicy dipping sauce. Unlike Chinese spring rolls, Vietnamese are not fried and are presented open-ended. We also tried Chinese Fried Rice (300 roubles), a large patty of relatively bland, somewhat oily rice with chicken and pork.

Out came an order of one of John's favourites, Chili Crab (1750r) – a Singaporean tradition that consists of lengths of



deep fried, lightly breaded Kamchatka crab swimming in a platter of red chili sauce. The sauce was not particularly spicy and it was served with several bright white and soft and slightly sweet rice buns that are meant to sop it up – these were delightful and I was thankful that the basket was placed near my end of the table. The last entrée was Stir Fried Lamb with Black Pepper and Mint (1100r), and I was very surprised at how tender were the small pieces of lamb.

I was extremely pleased with the food at Asia Hall, and the pricing seems relatively fair in Moscow terms. However, I must dish out some scorn for the wine selection and pricing system. The wine list, though not extensive, has a few interesting wines, for instance the South African Glen Carlou Chardonnay 2007 (4000r) that we ordered – a previous vintage of this wine took a place in the Wine Spectator Top 100 list a few years ago. But how could this wine be practically the least expensive white wine on the list; the least expensive white is 2,500 roubles and the cheapest red is 4,000 roubles. The price mark-up at Asia Hall appears to be four times retail – retail!! And that's not the main problem – can't they find wines that, even with such an outrageous mark-up, would end up at 1,500-2,000 roubles?

The wine price situation has taken a turn for the worse at some Moscow restaurants in the past year or two, with lower priced wines stricken from lists. Perhaps it's the attitude I heard was expressed by one well-known Moscow restaurateur when he entered one of his restaurants, "I don't want these people in my restaurant – let's raise the prices." I don't know the reason(s) prices are so high, but it's surely not the standard answer, which we heard from Anatoly, "well import costs are so high." This is just not true – the importer costs for Glen Carlou should be about \$15 delivered and customs cleared in Moscow. John paid \$140.

I would like to go back to Asia Hall – the food was wonderful, just as John had promised – and I could have a nice dinner for two with, let's say, the Vietnamese Spring Rolls, Wasabi

Prawns, Chinese Fried Rice, and the Stir Fried Lamb for 2380 rubles (\$82), not bad. But a bottle of wine would double or triple the bill. **P**

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Professor Brumfield's forty years of visiting Russia

On Tuesday 30 March, the United States Ambassador to Russia, Mr John Beyrle, held a reception at his splendid residence in Spasopeskovskaya Square for the distinguished American historian of Russian architecture, Professor William Brumfield. The occasion was the fortieth anniversary of Professor Brumfield's first visit to this country, and it took the form of a lecture on the resources available, principally on-line, for those who wish to inform themselves more about the architectural history of Russia. (See: World Digital Library.)

Perhaps two hundred invited guests crowded into the elegant ballroom of Spaso House, the last of the large Moscow mansions to be built before the Revolution—it was completed in 1916 and the owner never lived in it. Mr Beyrle opened the proceedings with a respectful minute's silence for the victims of the two bomb atrocities on the Metro which had happened the previous morning.

Professor Brumfield then cracked into his theme by stating his credo: 'There is poetry in ruins.' He qualified that by saying, 'Perhaps we do need quite so many ruins to find the poetry.' The truth is there is a crisis of preservation in Russia, exacerbated by the philistine approach of modern Russian architecture, whose creative development in the traditional line stopped in the early twentieth century. Constructivism was fruitful for only a brief period. Today we have little more than pastiche, plus an awful lot of slavish copying.

Professor Brumfield gave one remarkable example of preservation, however, the baroque iconostasis in the church in



Veliki Ustiug. It had a counterpart in Totma, but there the iconostasis was completely destroyed—burnt for firewood apparently—when the church was turned into a vodka-bottling plant in the late 1940s. The Veliki Ustiug church should, Professor Brumfield believes, be listed by UNESCO as 'one of the greatest monuments of the European baroque; it could be in Italy.' Instead, few people know about it. This is the case all over Russia, not least because Western experts see the country as peripheral to world architectural development. Though that is the case today, it clearly was not always so.

Professor Brumfield takes the opposite view. He is often asked why he does not go to cities like Florence and Paris. His answer is that he has not yet visited Soligalich, just north of Kostroma. Nor has he been to Astrakhan and a few other places that he named. 'Why do I need Rome,' he asked, 'when Soligalich beckons?'

Ian Mitchell

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Collectors' dinner held to inaugurate exhibition of paintings from Russian private collections in the Heritage gallery in March

The tradition of organizing receptions for private collectors and their collections originally came to Russia from Western Europe and was something that the Heritage gallery started to do in 2008 when it organized the first collectors' dinner in Moscow. The event has become an annual event, and provides a format where leading figures of Russian culture, representatives of leading museums, auction houses, foundations and galleries can mingle.

The exhibition which the collectors' dinner 2010 inaugurated consisted of leading Russian and European painters. Among them: Marc Chagall, Niko Piroshmanishvili, Maurice Vlaminck, Ivan Aivazovsky, Isaak Levitan, Chaim Soutine, Andre Derain, Piotr Konchalovsky, Emile Othon Friedz, Lado Gudishvili, Lubov Popova, Vasily Polenov, Robert Falk and many others. During the eve-



ning a concert of chamber ensemble Soloists of Moscow under Yuri Bashmet's guidance was given. The music of N. Paganini, Y. Benda and A. Shnitke created a suitable ambience.

General partner of the dinner was Gazprombank Private Banking, one of the leaders in Private Banking industry in Russia. The event was supported by Burevestnik Group, Tatler magazine, Insignia Lifestyle Management and The Macallan.



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Traditional Japanese Sushi Demonstration

At the end of March in the Residence of the Japanese Ambassador to Russia, master Japanese cook, Mr. Bunshiro Hirano, gave an audience of about 60 people from the Asia Pacific Women's Group a master-class on sushi making. Before the class started, hostess Mrs. Noriko Kohno, the wife of the Japanese ambassador informed us that sushi is particularly popular at the end of March and beginning of April, as this is the time when cherry-blossoms are in full bloom in Japan.

With a twinkle in his eye and quick role of his sushi mat, Bunshiro Hirano rolled out perfect maki. The audience looked on transfixed at what had always been beyond them, but was suddenly made simple. Seemingly obvious techniques, like putting a little vinegar on the chopping knife or using a rolling mat, were displayed. These secrets aren't always explained in the books, and they caused 'ooohs' and 'aaahs' from the audience. This master cook, who works in the Residence inspired the cooks and would-be sushi cooks present with the feeling that this is something that they could actually do at home.

Here are the sushi dishes that Bunshiro Hirano prepared:

Sushi Rice recipe: Three Easy Steps

1. Wash and steam the rice. Water to rice ratio varies according to the rice you use. For example, Japanese rice is one part rice to one part water. Water to rice ratio has to be adjusted according to the rice's specification.

2. Make the sushi vinegar mixture. In a pot, mix 540cc of rice vinegar, 60g salt, and 100g sugar. Place the pot on the burner and gradually warm to about 70°C then take off the heat and cool. For 180cc/200g of uncooked rice, mix with 50cc/g of the sushi vinegar mixture.

3. Put the steaming rice into a bowl and pour in the sushi vinegar mixture at once. Swiftly mix the hot rice using a cutting motion to prevent the rice from clumping and becoming sticky. Once the sushi rice is thoroughly mixed, the rice should be immediately cooled by fanning to allow the rice to absorb the vinegar and become more workable.

Salmon and Tuna Nigiri (Hand-shaped) Sushi

1. The raw fish for nigiri sushi should be cut thinner, longer and wider for sashimi to obtain the best shape.

2. Take a thumb-sized portion of sushi rice in your hand and form a ball.

3. Put some wasabi according to taste onto the rice and top with raw fish. Serve.

Standard California Maki (Roll)

1. Lay a piece of nori (laver) on your sushi mat and gently spread some sushi rice on top. Leave about 1 cm of nori uncovered on the far end.

2. Make some indents into the rice to prevent the ingredients from spilling out of the ends.

3. Sprinkle some sesame seeds onto the rice. Next, lay the lettuce, cucumber, avocado, shrimp or crab and mayonnaise according to preference.

4. Take the near end of the sushi mat and roll toward the far end.

5. Cut and serve.



Reverse California maki

1. Lay a piece of cling wrap on your sushi mat and gently spread some sushi rice on top.

2. Cut the sheet of nori in half and lay it on top of the rice so there is a 1cm band of nori toward the front and a 1cm band of rice peeking out on the far end.

3. Place your ingredients on the rice and roll.

4. Sprinkle some sesame seeds on the rolls and cut.

Shops for Sushi Ingredients in Moscow:
Japro (Джapro) Astrakhanski Pereulok 5, bldg. 1. Tel: (495) 680 0212
www.japro.ru

La Maree Petrovka 28/2, bldg 1
Tel: (495) 650-0979 www.la-maree.ru



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RUSSIAN FASHION WEEK CELEBRATED ITS 10 YEARS/ 20TH SEASON JUBILEE

The 20th jubilee season of the most renowned Russian Fashion Week (RFW) closed successfully on April 6 leaving behind over 50 new collections by the best local and international designers. Among Russian designers the RFW schedule included Slava Zaitsev, Anna Direchina, BIRYUKOV, Dasha Gauser, LENA KARNAUHOVA, Masha Kravtsova, Narciss O.K.M., POUSTOVIT, St. Bessarion, SV2, Viva Vox, Egor Zaitsev, Elena Souproun, Lyudmila Norsoyan, PARFIONOVA, Masha Sharoeva, Olga Brovkina, Yulia Nikolaeva and many more.



St. Bessarion

The international flavor was added by the Italian Dismo which showcased two lines AILE and VANET and by the Croatian MAION by Marina Prevolssek. Her show was held



Konstantin Andrikopoulos

within the frameworks of co-operation between RFW and Fashion Week Zagreb. On April 2nd, RFW in cooperation with the British Council presented the British Day which included shows by Clare Lopeman,



Serge Sorokko

OSMAN, Eley Kishimoto and PPQ. The British Day opened with a press-conference given by the RFW President Alexander Shumsky, Deputy



Stella Ndombi



Polina Kitsenko

Director of British Council Russia Lloyd Anderson, and the designers. The business part of the Project contained an educational Practicum: British Fashion organized by the British Council.



Diane Pernet

On April 2nd, RFW presented Extending the Runway: Tatiana Sorokko Style exhibition which featured a collection of over 80 garments and accessories from Sorokko's largely couture wardrobe by Lanvin, Balenciaga, Ungaro, Hermès, Jean Paul Gaultier, Gianfranco Ferré, Vivienne Westwood, Comme des Garçons, Yamamoto, and more.

The exhibition will run until May 10, 2010 in the Russian Fashion Museum established in Moscow in October 2009 as a part of the All-Russian Museum of Decorative and Applied Arts. The event partners were

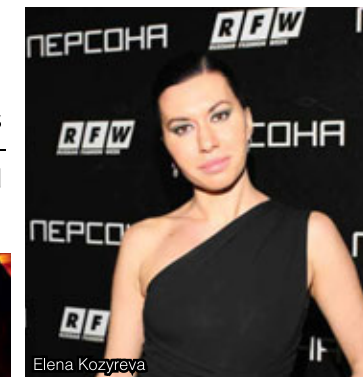


Alexander Shumsky (RFW President), Tatiana Sorokko in Nobu

the Tatler, The Ritz-Carlton, Moscow, Louis Roederer and Zvezda Stolitsi official dealer of Mercedes-Benz. On April 3rd, Russian Fashion Week and Diane Pernet presented A Shaded View



Viva Vox



Elena Kozyreva

on Fashion Film (ASVOFF). ASVOFF is a festival including a film selection & competition, documentaries, features and installations. Jury members for the 2nd edition included designer Rick Owens, photographer Nan Goldin and



Karim Rashid

actress Maria de Medeiros. The ASVOFF at RFW was supported by Hennessy.

On April 3rd, the traditional Presidential Reception, also supported by Hennessy, was held in Nobu restaurant and attracted Moscow's fashion elite and RFW's international guests who enjoyed an exclusive DJ-set by Karim Rashid, a starring guest of RFW supported by Gorenje.

Dare to ask Dare



Photo by Maria Savelieva

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

Dear Deidre:

I am a fan from Texas. I love the picture of you in your Passport column. Yowza! (English for Hot Babe!). OK, my question: I have a partner, but I've wanted to get you naked and have NSA wild animal sex with you for years now, is that wrong?

Dear Horny Cowboy:

No. Although I suspect that your partner might disagree with me. But she might not. I have a boyfriend (or two or three) and I've wanted to get President Medvedev naked and have NSA wild animal sex with him for years now and I don't think any of my fellows are too perturbed by that.

The only thing that's troubling me: I don't really know what "NSA" sex is. It has the whiff of a national security threat. Maybe my having sex with Medvedev would be that kind of threat, but I can't see my having sex with a Texan being one. Unless of course, Cowboy, you're actually Prez Bush?

Xxoo, DD

Dear Deidre:

One day I made an appointment with an Italian guy. He is in the prime of his life, handsome and sexy. And he was concerned about acquiring a family – well, almost a perfect guy. But I was

20 minutes late for the first date (you know, there were snowfalls in Moscow those days). And I was 25 minutes late for the second date as well (because of the traffic jams). I had sent him dozens of apologies by SMS explaining I'm on my way. Then I left my car somewhere and ran to meet him. Suddenly, there was nobody at the place. I phoned him and he told me "I left, because I'm not intended to wait for you that long. Maybe you Russians dare to be late, but we Italians never come late! So don't call or write me anymore!" Then he just hang up the phone. Can you comment on that?

Dear Late, Late for a Very Important Date:

Let's be honest. You Russians are always late. Yes, there is snow and traffic in Moscow, but I always manage to be on time by taking those factors into account. It's not rocket science.

Still, your date was wrong to act the way he did. Particularly because he's Italian. A long, long time ago, Saint Augustine was hanging out with a bunch of Italians in Rome. He had a problem and he turned to his mate Saint Ambrose and asked him if they should fast on Saturdays as was the custom in Rome, or not, as was the custom in Milan. We all know what St. Ambrose replied: "When in Rome, do as the Romans do."

If this Italian guy of yours can't adapt himself to Muscovite ways, he's going to have a pretty hard time living here. And if he storms out on every Russian lady that's late, he's going to have a celibate life here.

Therefore my advice is really for him. As I mentioned, like him, I am always on time. So, whenever I have a date with a Russian, I bring a book along so I'll have something to do for the predictable "waiting period." Using this technique, I got through War & Peace in only three months recently.

Why don't you send him a copy of this column and an Italian translation of Tolstoy's masterpieces? One of two things will then happen. Either he will ask you out again OR he'll ask me. Whichever way it turns out, at least one of us will get this hot-blooded hunk. After all, we wouldn't want some prim and prompt Brit to get him, would we?

Ciao, DD

Dear Deidre:

I am a guy from Australia and I find it ridiculous that all the other expats here don't learn Russian (I did). Why is that?

Dear Sanctimoniously Bi-Lingual:

Why is it that you learned Russian? Or why is it that other expats don't?

Why is it that you can't construct a proper sentence?

Your question should have read: "I am a guy from Australia who has learned Russian. Why is it that other expats don't learn it?"

I'll assume that's what you meant to ask me.

By and large, Moscow is a short-term assignment for expatriates. Let's face it: this city's not considered a "lifestyle" destination. People come here to make a lot of money fast and then get out as soon as they can. Under these circumstances, expats generally don't think they have either the time or the necessity to learn Russian.

Of course, there's another kind of expat. And I assume you fall into this small class. The distinguishing feature of this type of foreigner is that he (women don't fall into this group) has learned Russian. And he did that for one reason and one reason only: to meet more Russian chicks.

I hope it's working for you.

Dosvidaniya, DD

Dear Deidre:

I suspect you of working for the KGB. Are you?

Dear President Bush Again, I Presume:

Howdy.

Must you write to me every day? Is this your way of saying you meant "KGB" sex?

This is the first time this particular accusation has been levelled at me. Usually, people just suspect I'm CIA. Which, if true, would limit me, I suppose, to only having boring old "CIA" sex.

Anyway, what self-respecting KGB, CIA or double agent would answer this question with a "yes"?

So obviously: no, I'm not KGB.

'Bah, DD

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



MOSCOW GOVERNMENT

Moscow Committee of Culture, Moscow Committee for Advertising, Information and Decoration, Chamber of Commerce and Industry



VOLVO FASHION WEEK MOSCOW

HIGH FASHION AND PRET-A-PORTER ASSOCIATION

Presentation of VOLVO XC60 R-DESIGN at Valentin Yudashkin show



Volvo Fashion Week Moscow FW 2010-2011 was a success and full of bright moments, talented shows, beautiful people and great gifts. Numerous fashion shows and parties, press-cocktails and events turned Moscow into Fashion Capital once again. The Title sponsor of the Event Volvo presented the new crossover VOLVO XC60 R-DESIGN of bold fire red colour, which appeared on the runway at the end of Valentin Yudashkin show. Another newsbreak was the presentation of VOLVO C30 AKHMADULLINA Edition, designed by internationally famous Russian designer Alena Akhmadullina specially for Scandinavian brand.



Designer Leonid Alexeev and the model with photocamera NIKON



KEITH SCHAPER (Volvo) and Alena Akhmadullina



Alexander Shustorovich



Alexander and Ida Dostman



Miss Russia 2010 Irina Antonenko



Yury Shtromberger



Erica Zalonts



Kira Plastinina with the gift from MEKRA company



Sergey Sysoev and the look designed specially for cigarette brand Glamour



Antonina Shapovalova



Dima Bilan and Lena Kuletskaya



Cigarette brand GLAMOUR continues its collaboration with Russian designers. Headliners of VFW Sergey Sysoev, Natasha Drigant and Irina Karavay created special "GLAMOUR style" looks.



Getting Round the anti Ex-pat Firewall

Svieta Reznik

Thanks to technology, expats are not as isolated as we used to be. Skype, electronic book readers and PDAs help us stay connected and within summoning range of the boss at work, for good or for bad. As well as these well-known solutions, there are lesser known but valuable software tools that help manage and use digital media and content.

A common question ex-pats have is "How do I watch my favorite sports match or TV show?" Hulu is one of the web's most popular sites. It works as a free online service that streams popular TV shows and movies. Try accessing its content from outside the U.S. however, and you're met with a black screen that reads: "We're sorry, currently our video library can only be streamed within the United States".

ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, SciFi, Comedy Central, BBC, ITV, Ch4, Ch5 and others broadcasters put their shows online but filter their content to restrict users outside the U.S. and U.K. Online newspaper sites like Wall Street Journal and Pandora (a popular music streaming service) also filter or block their content to visitors from outside their home countries. Free applications, like Hotspot Shield, allowed users to get around this restriction by creating anonymous proxies to shield the origin of an IP address but many sites like Hulu are onto them and are blocking anonymous IPs.

Many expats resort to Torrents downloads to get their TV fix out of frustration, but there's a better alternative than illegal peer-to-peer downloads and risking the viruses. A tool called Identity Cloaker creates a virtual private network (encrypted data tunnel) that not only allows you to access these sites but protects your data from identity theft and allows you to bypass firewalls. While this may sound techie, the software is easy to download and the tech support, if you run into a problem, is responsive. Once you have the software running, you simply select your country proxy from a dropdown box and you will appear as if you are in that country to the sites you are visiting on the web. When I switched my server to the U.S. and opened my browser, I was directed to the U.S. landing page of the Wall Street Journal rather than the European one, bypassing the content filter. The only drawback to Identity Cloaker is that sites take longer load.

The Identity Cloaker software runs on Windows XP, Vista, or 7 and they currently have a MAC OS beta version available. A 10 day trial version is available for 4.97 Euro. 12 month subscription 79.97 Euro. 14 day money back guarantee. The 6.66 Euro a month seems steep but compared to the cost of missing an episode of 24 or True Blood, it becomes reasonable.

How to ... drink with the best of them

So we know Russians are good at drinking. You may not ever be able to keep up, but at least let's get a glass in your hand and a toast up your sleeve.

Ordering at the bar

Мне бокал белого вина.

I'll have (lit. for me) a glass of white wine.

Нам бутылку красного вина.

For us, a bottle of red.

Какое есть разливное пиво?

What beer do you have on tap?

Какие коктейли делаете?

What kinds of cocktail can you make?

Getting to the real drinking

Сто грамм. 100 grams (any thing less isn't worth it)

Каждому по сто. 100g for everyone

С лимоном. With lemon (DON'T forget the lemon!!)

Пятьсот грамм и пять рюмок.

500g and 5 shot glasses.

Starting the toasts

Я хочу предложить тост! I'd like to make a toast.

Поднимите свои бокалы! Raise your glasses.

Предлагаю выпить за счастье и здоровье! Let's drink to happiness and health!

За хозяина / хозяйку! To the host / hostess!

За именинника / именинницу –

To the birthday boy! (girl)

За нашу тёплую компанию! To our warm

company! (not the one you work for, the people around you)

За вас, друзья! To you, friends!

When you're expected to keep them going

Пусть будет так - чем больше лет, тем больше счастья!

Let it be – the more years, the more happiness!

За то, что все мы здесь сегодня собрались вместе радоваться жизни!

To the fact that we've come together to enjoy life!

За долголетие! That you should live a long life!

Courtesy of RUSLINGUA
www.ruslingua.com



Country Life

Ian Mitchell

One of the few Russian words every English-speaker knows—vodka, gulag and sputnik are others—is 'dacha'. It has no exact counterpart in English since the term 'country cottage', which is what a dacha ostensibly is, implies something very different. The distinction is important.

British people who go to their weekend cottage in Norfolk or holiday home in the Lake District, generally think of themselves as visiting an alternative community which they usually want, to some extent, to participate in. Part of the attraction of the village is that there is a life going on which does not depend on the city for its existence.

Of course, this is becoming less so nowadays as rural England is hollowed out and turned into more of a commuter resource. But neither there, nor in America, where wealthy New Yorkers migrate to the Hamptons on summer weekends, is the sense of going to an alternative community completely absent.

Dacha settlements are a completely different concept. There is no pub, no church, no village hall, no collective sporting facilities, no farm at the centre of them, and no post office or local cricket team. There is no sense of community. Often there is not even a shop.

A dacha is in a sort of dormitory suburb inhabited only on summer weekends, unless babushka and her grandchildren migrate out there for a couple of months during the hot weather. The dacha owner is no more likely to be on chatting terms with his neighbours than he is when he is at home in Moscow or Petersburg. He does not feel part of a differentiated community in the way that the inhabitants of Dulwich, say, or Gramercy Park.

Despite this, the dacha has an appeal of its own, and it is the peculiarly Russian one of total inactivity. Is there any nation in the even semi-developed world with such a powerful passion for indolence? Stephen Lovell's excellent

book describes the history of what has become one of Russia's few popular social institutions: that private temple of torpor which we know as the dacha. 'Я устала как собака...'

Like most things in Russia, dachas first came into existence as a result of an initiative by one of the few insanely energetic people in the country's history: Peter the Great. He gave land on the road from Petersburg to Peterhof to wealthy courtiers with the idea that they would build smaller versions of his own summer palace on the Baltic. (The word 'dacha' comes from the Russian word 'to give'.)

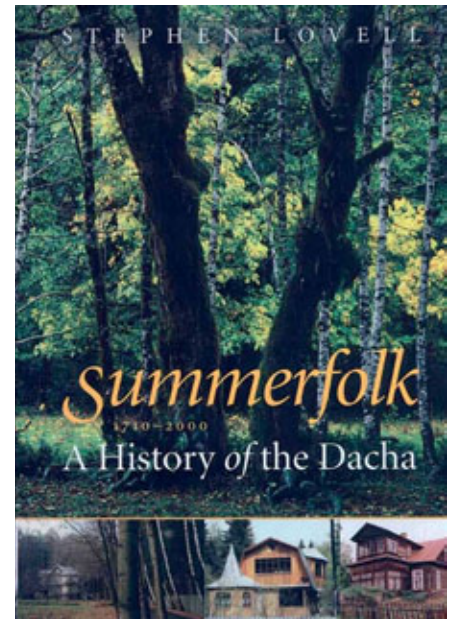
Through the eighteenth century people increasingly came to see an escape from the city as a practical necessity in the summer months when the level of disease was such that epidemics were frequent. But it was the arrival of the railways, which gave the middle-classes access to the country on weekends, that transformed dachas from individuated country residences into the kind of mass phenomenon that we know today.

Developers built dacha communities near railway stations outside Moscow and Petersburg. Families moved there for the summer months, with father travelling in to his office either on daily or weekly basis, depending on distance.

These communities were completely cut off from the rural life round about them. It was considered both dangerous and socially damaging to have anything to do with the locals who did not understand the respect for privacy that was behind institutions like the garden fence.

Dachas survived the Revolution and a wonderful map is published (available at the map shop in Kuznetsky Most) showing Moscow in 1931, with all its dacha settlements clearly marked. The larger ones were at Losinoostovskaya, Skhodnya, Kuntsevo and Tsaritsyno. But there were many others. All were near railway halts so the inhabitants of a city without cars could go the country on weekends.

The opening three pages of the book by Stalin's daughter, Svetlana Alliluyeva,



*Summerfolk 1710-2000:
A History of the Dacha*
Stephen Lovell
Cornell University Press £23.50

Twenty Letters to a Friend, is a hymn to the dacha in its heyday in the 1950s and 60s. It is a beautiful evocation of a time when people were still free to hike in the rich-scented summer forests, from Barvikha to Romashkovo, and on to Odintsovo, without the fences, security guards and general 'privatisation' which has ruined the experience since then. She writes poignantly of the tired but contented family travelling back into the city on a sunlit Sunday evening with 'a faded bouquet of wild flowers on the rack of the elektrichka.' You have to be completely immune to the charms of Russia not to be moved by her vision of these simple pleasures, now alas long gone.

Stephen Lovell has written the only book in English which will help you understand this tradition, and also why it is now dying. Today a dacha is likely to be as much a status symbol as any other form of property. Few ordinary people can afford to buy one within a reasonable distance of Moscow.

The ironic result is that such people have started buying derelict houses in villages, just their English and American counterparts have been doing from the time of Wordsworth and Thoreau. As rural England becomes a more purely recreational environment, it begins to resemble the original dacha idea. Russians move to villages which still at least have shops and a church, while we get deserted villages in which the Post Office has closed and the farm become a riding centre. So the world turns. **P**

Lisa started our family pages a few months ago. Here she is again to tell you of the next developments of this section – Ed.



"Thank you to everyone who has told me you enjoy the family pages, the stories about Dasha, Masha, Sasha & Boris, the puzzles and the quizzes. Please let me know if you like the puzzles – especially if they are too hard or too easy. This page is growing in popularity, so I need more puzzles – send in your favourites, and get your name in print!

"We are changing the story pages to allow more variety, and will alternate modern fables with classic folk tales, nursery rhymes, songs and the original fables, all freshly illustrated especially for Passport. This month, we start with *The Owl and The Pussycat*. The cubs are back in June with a story for the long summer holidays and then some more rhymes. Do let us know if you like them."

The Owl and the Pussy-Cat

By Edward Lear

Illustrations:

Nika Harrison



The Owl and the Pussy-Cat went to sea
In a beautiful pea-green boat:
They took some honey, and plenty of money
Wrapped up in a five-pound note.
The Owl looked up to the stars above,
And sang to a small guitar,
"O lovely Pussy, O Pussy, my love,
What a beautiful Pussy you are,
You are,
You are!
What a beautiful Pussy you are!"



Little Angels Kindergarten



Little Angels Kindergarten invites all the wonderful little angels ages 2-10yrs for our summer program starting from 14th June - 30th August 2010. Admissions are also open for the new session starting from September 2010. Our Saturday day care will be starting from 1st May for ages 16months - 7yrs. [limited space].

For more information and details please write to us at litang@mail.ru or call us at 332-16-03. ul.Novoheremushkinskaya No:49, office 12, Metro Profsauznaya website: www.littleangels.ru





Pussy said to the Owl, "You elegant fowl,
How charmingly sweet you sing!
Oh! Let us be married; too long we have tarried:
But what shall we do for a ring?"
They sailed away, for a year and a day,
To the land where the bong-tree grows;
And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood,
With a ring at the end of his nose,
His nose,
His nose,
With a ring at the end of his nose.



"Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling
Your ring?" Said the Piggy, "I will".
So they took it away, and were married next day
By the Turkey who lives on the hill.
They dined on mince and slices of quince,
Which they ate with a runcible spoon:
And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,
They danced by the light of the moon,
The moon,
The moon,
They danced by the light of the moon.



p'tit
Cref
The first trilingual
centre for children
in Moscow

Trilingual kindergarten
for children from 2 to 7
years old

Discover the world
with native speaking
teachers!

Tel: 007 495 697 20 06
www.ptitcreef.com

Puzzles compiled by Ross Hunter

Happy Birthday, Moscow Metro, 75 this month!

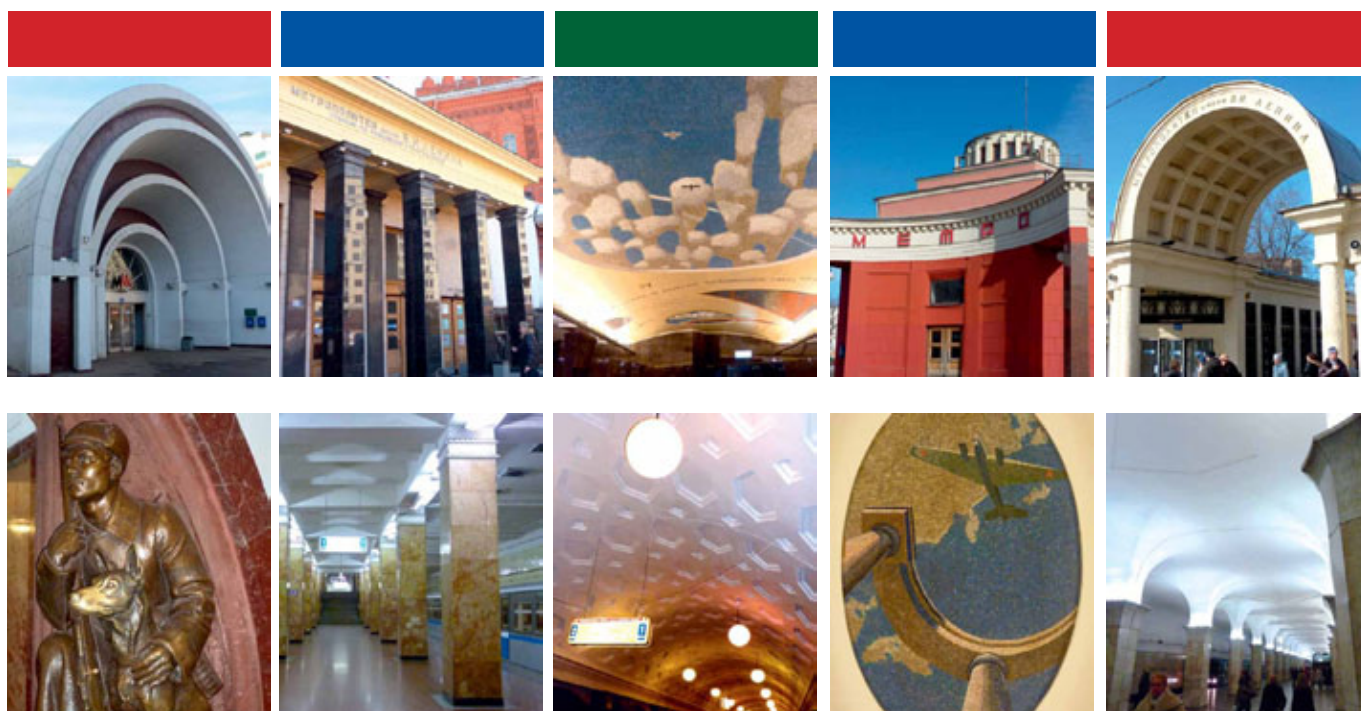
Lasar Kaganovich opened the Metro at Sokolniki on 15 May 1935 with these words: "We struggled with nature, with the treacherous soil under Moscow. Moscow geology proved to be pre-revolutionary, working against us!" More stations opened by 1938, and even in 1943, with the war going on.

1 Metro Miscellany

- 1 Which is the deepest station? Clue: opened in 2003, it has the world's longest escalators, at 126m each.
- 2 One station has 4 lines, seven are triple interchanges. Which ones? Clue: three are on the Brown line, the others are all inside it.
- 3 The Metro crosses the Moscow river 12 times, two of them on the surface. Where are the bridges?
- 4 Most are inside the MKAD. This year, two are opening outside. Which? Clue: Blue & Yellow lines.

2 Photo quiz

Five of the earliest stations (1935-38), on the Red, Green & Blue lines. Name the stations & match their platforms.



3 What's in a name?

Each of these stations has changed its name. Link the current and former names. I've done one for you.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Chistye Prudye | Dvorets Sovietov (to 1957) |
| Kropotkinskaya | Serpukhovskaya (to 1961) |
| Teatralnaya | Kirovskaya (to 1990) |
| Lubyanka | Dzerzhinskaya (to 1990) |
| Okhotny Ryad | LM Kaganovich 1955-57; Pr. Marksa 1961-90 |
| Sparrow Hills | Izmailovskiy Park (to 2005) |
| Dobryninskaya | Ploshchad Sverdlova (to 1990) |
| Prospekt Mira | Leninskiye Gory (to 1999) |
| Partizanskaya | Botanical Gardens (to 1966) |

4 Mini Sudoku & April answers

Mini Sudoku

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

Answers to April puzzles

Sudoku: see www.englishedmoscow.com/Passport

Eggs: Easiest in a table

	Brown	White	Beige	Speckled	
Hen	3	2	1	2	=8
Goose	2	2	1	1	=6
Duck	2	0	0	2	=4
Swan	0	0	1	1	=2
	=7	=4	=3	=6	

Passport Magazine Seminars for Expats:

Living in Russia - the Practicalities

Speakers:

Stefan Schmidt, Allianz Rosno

Nathan Stowell, Crown Relocations

Andrei Sado, Penny Lane Realty

Ross Hunter, The English International School

June 11th, 16:00 to 18:30

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

+7 (495) 694-02-29

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



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

For further details please contact the Passport editorial office:
seminar@passportmagazine.ru



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 Kamergerskiy 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.

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

M. Polyanka

bonmoscow.ru

**NE DALNY VOSTOK

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

15 Tverskoy Bulvar

694-0641, 694-0154

M. Tverskaya

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

**GQ BAR

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

5 Ulitsa Baltschug, 956-7775

M. Novokuznetskaya

eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/

SOHO ROOMS

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

12 Savinskaya Nab., 988-7474

M. Sportivnaya

www.sohorooms.com

HEALTHY

JAGGANNATH 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 Kamergerskiy 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 Ploshchad Evropy, 941-8020

M. Kievskaya

MISATO

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

47, Myasnitskaya st., 725-0333

TSVETENIYE SAKURY

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

M. Mayakovskaya

SEIJI

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

M. Park Kultury

CAUCASUS

ARARAT

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

M. Teatralnaya, Kuznetsky Most

BAGRATIONI

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

M. Baumanskaya

BARASHKA

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

M. Kuznetsky Most

21/1 Novy Arbat

M. Arbatskaya

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

BELOYE SOLNTSE PUSTYNI

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

M. Kuznetsky Most, Teatralnaya

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

RUSSIAN

**CAFE PUSHKIN

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

26a Tverskoi Bulvar, 739-0033

M. Pushkinskaya, Tverskaya, Chekhovskaya

GODUNOV

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

M. Teatralnaya

NEW GUSYATNIKOFF

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

M. Taganskaya

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

NA MELNITSE

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

M. Pushkinskaya, Tverskaya, Chekhovskaya

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

M. Krasniye Vorota

www.namelnitse.ru

OBLOMOV

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

M. Dobryninskaya

ONE RED SQUARE

The menu features lavish, centuries-old recipes in the State Historical Museum on Red Square. Expect cream-laden meat dishes with fruit-based sauces and live folk music. 1 Krasnaya Ploshchad, 625-3600, 692-1196

M. Okhotny Ryad, Teatralnaya

www.redsquare.ru

TSDL

The Central House of Writers' opulent Russian-French restaurant is located in the building with the same name. A memorable, top-notch meal in luxurious surroundings. 50 Povarskaya Ul, 290-1589

M. Barrikadnaya

YOLKI-PALKI

A Russian chain that serves a great selection of typical Russian specialties at modest prices. Many locations. 23 Bolshaya Dmitrovka, 200-0965

M. Okhotny Ryad, Teatralnaya

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

SEAFOOD

FILIMONOVA & YANKEL

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

23 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 223-0707

M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya

www.fishhouse.ru

LA MAREE

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

28/2 Ulitsa Petrovka, 694-0930

www.la-maree.ru

STEAKS

**BEEF BAR

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

M. Park Kultury

www.beefbar.com

EL GAUCHO

True Argentine menu. THE place for charcoal-grilled meats and fish. 4 Ul. Sadovaya-Triumfalnaya, 699-7974

M. Mayakovskaya

6/13 Ul. Zatseskiy 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.torrogrill.ru

BARS AND CLUBS

ALL TIME BAR

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

7/5 Bolshaya Dmitrovka, 629-0811

M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya

BOOZE PUB

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

Weekdays from 12:00 to 17:00.

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

5 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. Tverskaya

PYATNICA BAR

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

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

www.pyatnica-bar.ru

PAPA'S

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

2 Myasnitskaya Ulitsa, 755-9554

M. Kitai-Gorod

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

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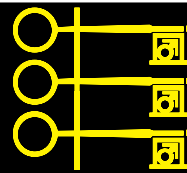
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