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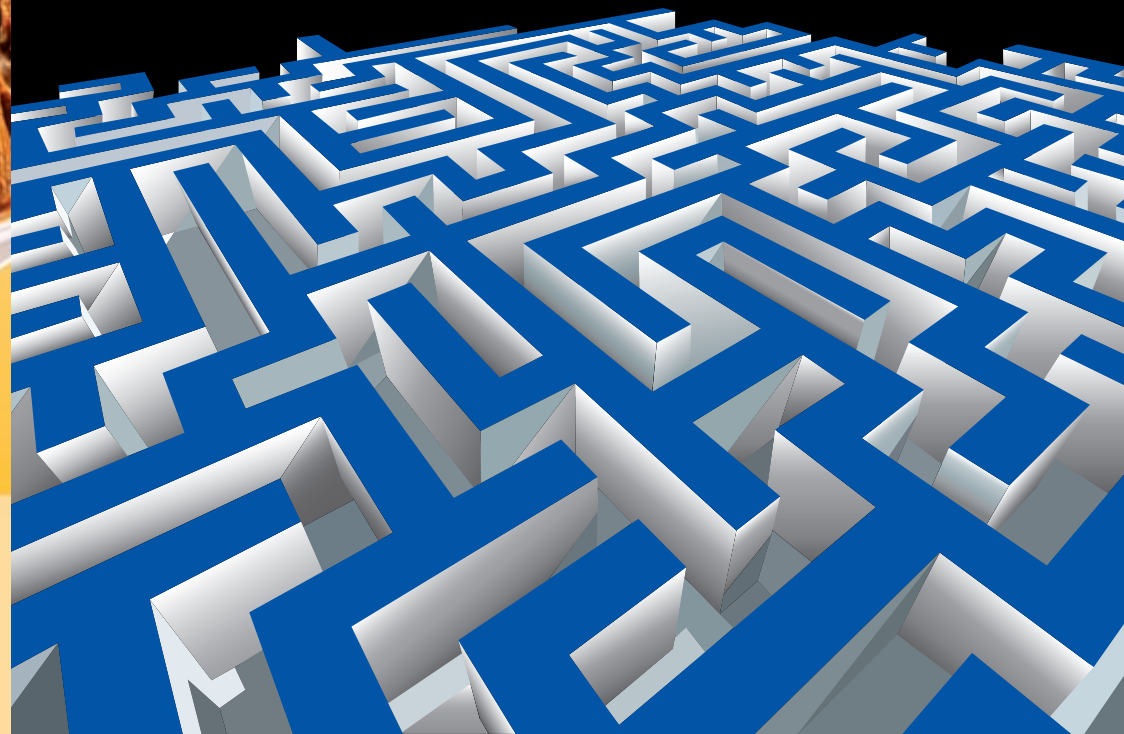
# PASSPORT MOSCOW

NOVEMBER 2009

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

- The Evolving City
- Interview with Mayhew's James Hogan
- The Mysterious Murder of Alexander Men

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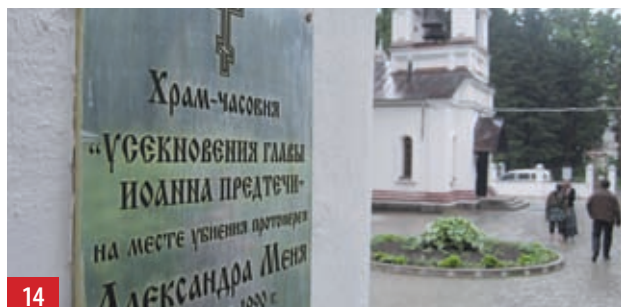
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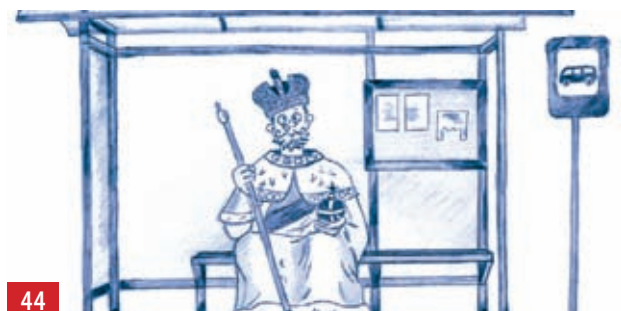
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**John Ortega**  
Owner and Publisher

Recently I spent some time stuck in a traffic jam and had the opportunity to reflect on the state of the economy here in Russia. We are told regularly on the news that things are getting better economy-wise, whilst at the same time we read in western newspapers such as the *New York Times* that Russia is drifting along on the edge of a 'serious breakdown in authority' (Leon Aron, October 17, 2009), led by the crumbling situation in 'monotowns' such as Pikalevo. The number of fancy cars in Moscow certainly does not seem to have decreased, even the ruble has strengthened, and surely things must be OK now that oil is rising up into the seventy-dollar-per-barrel mark? Every businessman I meet in Moscow assures me that his business is doing just fine thank you, although such positive statements are usually accompanied by a slight twitch to the side of the mouth or an uncertain end-of-sentence statement such as: well, that's what it seems to me. *Umom Rossiou ne ponyat!*

Not being a Harvard economist or even wanting to keep up with the rapidly changing political situation, I am at a loss of what to make from news reports which conflict with each other not only in approach, but in factual details. On the one hand, people are losing their jobs in droves, on the other, I am invited to restaurants on a constant basis which are packed out with people having a great time and seemingly oblivious to economic gloom. We seem to be entering another period when not only are the majority of Russians unable to clearly identify whether things are getting better or worse, but more depressingly, nobody seems to care; after all, it is all 'their' fault. As I swore blindly at a 4x4 cutting in from the left, I remembered a joke that *Passport* wine and dining editor Charles Borden told me: a monk and a merchant were walking down a road in ancient Rome. They came across a dog dying in the middle of the road covered with flies. The merchant issues forth a string of swear words expressing exactly what he feels about the dog, the town council, the weather and of course the government whose fault it all is. The monk smiles and adds: but look at his gleaming white teeth! Normally I would identify with the monk; after all, he is adopting a philosophically independent and even outrageous position, however perhaps the merchant is right; at least he is expressing a normal human reaction.

## ■ Scandinavian Women Meet in Moscow

On the October 17 the Swedish Embassy on Mosfilmovskaya Uitsa was the destination of a women's pilgrimage. They attended a cocktail party hosted by the SWEA – the organization of Scandinavian women living outside of Nordic counties.

The wife of the ambassador, Mrs. Lisa Romaeus Bertelman, hosted the reception and welcomed guests with her greeting speech in Swedish. There were guests from the UK, Switzerland, Germany, USA, Italy as well as from Western Europe. Maria Sporri, the president of SWEA in Moscow, said that there are over 80 SWEA members living in Moscow. "The main goals of SWEA are to promote Swedish culture and traditions, and to function as a social network for our members," Anna Gustafson Bril, the vice president of SWEA commented. Many of the members supported her opinion saying that SWEA gives them a good opportunity to mix. "We leave home after our husbands who find work in different countries and sometimes we have nothing to do ourselves, but this organization helps us to find friends and an occupation," a member from Lithuania commented.



*Maria Sporri, Lisa Romaeus Bertelman, Anna Gustafson Bril (left to right)*

## ■ Ararat Park Hyatt Moscow Announces its New Program

Ararat Park Hyatt Moscow understands that family travel, especially with young children, can be a challenge. To ensure that your next family stay is a comfortable and memorable experience, Ararat Park Hyatt Moscow provides a VIB – Very Important Baby – program, which includes a range of services and amenities that cater to the needs of little guests and their parents.

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## Sunday, 1<sup>st</sup>

### Celtic New Year

MMDM Theater Hall hosts the International Festival 'Celtic New Year'. The program features music from Ireland, Scotland, Brittany and other Celtic regions, performed by Russian musicians on folk instruments (bagpipe, flute, strings). Groups include Telenn Gwad (Moscow) – the oldest Russian 'Celtic' outfit; Foggy Dew (Rostov-on-Don) – which performs Irish music under the guidance of multi-instrumentalist Alexander Dzhilashov, known as the 'best Irish vocal in Russia'; Maria Singal of the Irish Dance School (a gold medallist of the All-Ireland and International Dancing Championship); Joe Burke and Anne Conroy (Ireland, Dublin). Joe Burke is a true virtuoso of the button accordion – an Irish national musical instrument. He has been performing Irish music for more than 50 years; many labels have released his records, tapes, CDs and DVDs. Joe has performed at Carnegie Hall in New York, The Royal Albert Hall in London and the Ubuesque Hall, Paris.

*MMDM, Theater Hall, 19:00*



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

### Latin Rey

Latin Rey performs Cuban and Latin American inflammatory music. Latin Rey is a music parade and a dramatized show filled with a sunny mood, love, passion and dreams. It leaves no place for melancholy and sadness – live dance music, bright colors and Cuban atmosphere are favourable for dancing and having a good time.

*MMDM, Svetlanov Hall, 19:00*

## Friday, 6<sup>th</sup>

### Cherubini, Poulenc (classical)

Female choristers of the Gnesin State College, conducted by Filipp Chizhevsky, and the Moscow Conservatory Orchestra (artistic director, professor Anatoly Levin) perform Cherubini's Requiem for mixed choir and symphony orchestra and Poulenc's Litanies a la Vierge Noire for voice and organ, with organist Marianna Vysotskaya.

*Roman Catholic Cathedral of Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary, 19:30*



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

### Paolo Grazzi (Italian Classics)

Ensemble of Soloists "Hermitage", Pratum Integrum Orchestra and Paolo Grazzi (baroque oboe) perform compositions by Pavel Karmanov, especially created for this concert. After obtaining a diploma in oboe from the Parma Conservatory at the age of 17, Paolo Grazzi undertook the study of the baroque oboe, first by himself and later with Paul Dombrecht at the Royal Conservatory of Brussels. In 1981, he obtained the "Premier Prix" with distinction from the same Conservatory in both oboe and baroque oboe, and very soon became an authority on this instrument, both as a performer and a teacher, in Italy and abroad.

*MMDM, Svetlanov Hall, 19:00*

## Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup>

### Infected Mushroom

This band remains one of the Middle East's biggest international cult successes. Erez Aizen's background in obsessed bedroom computer tinkering had led him into and out of a number of crude dance efforts, and when a mutual friend suggested he should get together with Amit Duvdevani, a trash metal fan who had just returned from an aborted career path in India, the two found enough in common to explore the rising psychedelic trends pouring out the nation's clubs. Their albums elevated Infected Mushroom to one of Israel's key trance producing duos.

*B1 Maximum, 21:00*



## Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup>

### Rimsky-Korsakov

Rimsky-Korsakov Central Concert Exemplary Orchestra of Navy performs fantasy based on the Arabic fairy tale "One Thousand and One Nights" and Rimsky-Korsakov's symphonic suite. Artistic director and chief conductor – Alexey Karabanov.

*MMDM, Svetlanov Hall, 19:00*



### Life Contrasts (exhibition)

This is a solo show by Suren Suro. The work in this exhibition is mostly figurative and filled with erotic expressions. This is a special suggestive eroticism which has little in common with naked bodies, but some of the works are very suggestive. The exhibition shows how perceptions of eroticism have changed over the past 100 years.

*Central House of Artists, till November 9*



### Goran Bregovic (gypsy music)

Goran Bregovic & his Wedding and Funeral Orchestra are perhaps the

# What's On In November

largest, most diverse and most irresistible world music group to hit the world's stage. A household name in his native Balkans for more than three decades as a film composer and rock musician, Bregovic has been broadening his appeal around the world with his ecstatic, eclectic and charismatic style of gypsy dance music.

*B1 Maximum, 21:00*



## International Women's Club presents: Saturday Coffee Morning

For further details see website:  
[www.iwcmoscow.ru](http://www.iwcmoscow.ru)

*Le Pain Quotidien, 10:00*

## Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> International Women's Club presents: New Comers' Coffee

For further details see website:  
[www.iwcmoscow.ru](http://www.iwcmoscow.ru)

*Le Pain Quotidien, 10:00*

## Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> Pyotr Rachon (Organ, Poland)

Paths of Organ Art – From Germany to Poland. The chief organist of Archicathedral of St. John the Baptist in Warsaw, professor of the Warsaw University Piotr Rachon (organ, Poland) performs Bach, Vierne, Lublinsky, Sava, Surzynski and Ronczkowski.

*Roman Catholic Cathedral of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 19:30*

## Questa Musica

Vocal-Choir ensemble Questa Musica is a promising creative outfit comprised of the gifted young musicians – graduates and postgraduates of the Moscow Conservatory and Choral Art Academy. The ensemble's repertoire features Russian and foreign classics, Renaissance and Baroque compositions, music by contemporary composers, spirituals, folk songs and arrangements of instrumental music. Questa Musica has a CD

to its credit, tours a lot popularizing the best samples of the world's musical culture. Questa Musica performs Thompson, Hindemith, Schonberg, Schnittke, Shchedrin, Sviridov and Lloyd Webber.

*MMDM, Chamber Hall, 19:00*

## Daniel Propper (Sweden/France, classics)

Daniel Propper (piano, Sweden, France), Sergey Suvorov (violoncello) perform Beethoven's sonata for piano No. 6 in F major, comp. 10, No. 2, twelve variations for violoncello and piano on the theme of march from Handel's oratorio "Judas Maccabaeus", twelve variations for violoncello and piano on the theme of Mozart's opera "Magic Flute"; Grieg's Lyrical plays for piano, sonata for violoncello and piano in A minor. Daniel Propper, was born in Sweden but is descended from a well-known Viennese musical family. He studied first at the Royal College in Stockholm, then at the famous Juilliard School in New York, thereafter settling in France and completing his diploma at the Paris Conservatoire. His teachers have included the great pedagogue Gunnar Hallhagen, as well as Jacques Rouvier, Bruno Rigutto and Gerard Fremy.

*MMDM, Chamber Hall, 19:00*



## Soul of Japan Festival

Yaeko Okabayashi's outfit presents Japanese classical music and dances in the program "Flights over Kyushu – Songs of Japanese Aristocrats".

*MMDM, Theater Hall, 19:00*

## International Women's Club presents: Cocktail Hour

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

For time and location see website:  
[www.iwcmoscow.ru](http://www.iwcmoscow.ru)

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

### Marilyn Manson

Love him or hate him, the self-proclaimed "Antichrist Superstar" – Marilyn Manson – was indisputably among the most notorious and controversial entertainers of the 1990s. Celebrated by supporters as a crusader for free speech and denounced by detractors as little more than a poor man's Alice Cooper, Manson was the latest in a long line of shock rockers, rising to the top of the charts on a platform of sex, drugs, and Satanism. Though widely dismissed by critics, his brand of metal nevertheless struck a major chord with the youth market, and he became a mainstream anti-hero on the strength of a masterfully orchestrated marketing campaign, much to the chagrin of conservative politicians and concerned parents. Such attention pushed many of his songs into the upper reaches of the modern rock charts during his heyday.

*B1 Maximum, 21:00*



## 'The Importance of Being Wrong: Reflections on Public Politics in America and Russia'

This is the title of a lecture to be given by Sam Green, Deputy Director of Carnegie Moscow Center.

*English Language Evenings at the Chekhov Cultural Center, Strastnoi Bulvar 6. (Thru tunnel, first door on left) 19:00*

## Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup>

### George Benson (jazz)

George Benson is simply one of the greatest guitarists in jazz history, but he is also an amazingly versatile musician, and that frustrates to no end critics who would put him into a narrow bop box. He can play in just about any style



– from swing to bop to R&B to pop with supreme taste. He has a beautiful rounded tone, terrific speed, a marvelous sense of logic in building solos, and, always, an unquenchable urge to swing. Benson can also sing in a lush soulful tenor with mannerisms similar to those of Stevie Wonder and Donny Hathaway, and it is his voice that has proved to be more marketable to the public than his guitar.

*State Kremlin Palace, 18:00*



## Alisa (rock)

Alisa is a Russian hard rock band, who are credited as one of the most influential bands in the Russian rock movement. The band was formed in 1983 and since that time the sound of Alisa has become even heavier than it was before and now includes elements of nu, industrial and heavy metal. Music critics credited Clawfinger as Kinchev's greatest new music influence. This has given Alisa a new fan base among Russian hard rock fans.

*Luzhniki Sport Complex, 19:00*



## Underworld (rock)

Underworld is an English electronic group, and principal name under which duo Karl Hyde and Rick Smith have recorded together since 1980. The band is perhaps best known for "Born Slippy N.U.X.X.", a track made popular in the hit 1996 Danny Boyle film, *Trainspotting*.

*Forum Hall, 22:00*



## Masterpieces of Scandinavian Music

The National Philharmonic Orchestra of Russia conducted by Gintaras Rinkevicius (Lithuania) performs Sibelius' symphony No. 1; Maskats' Tango (composition selected from 1,000 pieces to enter the final of the International Competition "Masterprize" in London); Vasks' patriotic violoncello concert, dedicated to the outstanding violoncellist David Gerindas. Soloist – Dmitry Prokofiev (violoncello).

*MMDM Svetlanov Hall, 19:00*

## Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup>

### International Women's Club presents: General Meeting

*Theme: Russian Jewelry. For further details see website: [www.iwmoscow.ru](http://www.iwmoscow.ru)*

*Glav UpDK Cultural Center, Olafa Palme Ul.d.5, Korpus 2*

## Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup>

### A' Studio

A' Studio is a dance act consisting of Kazakh producers Vladimir Mikloshich, Baigali Serkebayev and Baglan Sadvaka-sov, who hail from Almaty, and Russian singer Polina Griffith, who comes from Tomsk. The band has been around since 1987, changing many members over the years. In August 2004 Polina left the group to pursue solo work. In March 2005 a new vocalist Katy (Keta Topuria) joined the group, a Georgian native with Italian and Irish heritage. They released their single *S.O.S.* in the UK on June 26, 2006, where it reached #64 on the UK Singles Chart.

*B1 Maximum, 21:00*



## Illustrations for the Nutcracker and Other Fairy tales (exhibition for children)

Studio 11 gallery hosts a special exhibition for children. The exhibition features illustrations to stories all children know such as *The Nutcracker* and various Christmas tales. The books were illustrated by Anna Goshko and Michail Aldashev respectively.

*Studio 11 Gallery (4/11 Chistye Prudy), 11:00, +7 (903) 759-9756*

## Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup>

### International Women's Club presents: Winter Bazaar

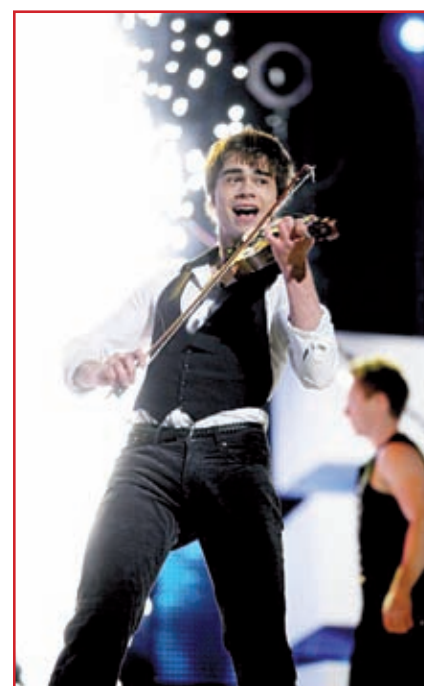
Marvelous and unfamiliar, The Winter Bazaar is back. It is a great international fair where the diplomatic community comes together in a spirit of friendship and cooperation to sell arts and crafts, regional goods including homemade national foods for the benefit of local charities. For more info, please see website: [www.iwmoscow.ru](http://www.iwmoscow.ru)

*Radisson SAS Slavyanskaya Hotel. 10:00-16:00*

## Alexander Rybak

Representing Norway in the 2009 Eurovision Song Contest in Moscow, Rybak won the contest with 387 points — the highest tally any country has achieved in the history of Eurovision — with *Fairytale*, a song he wrote and composed. Nevertheless, this is not the only song by Rybak and he will prove that during the concert.

*B1 Maximum, 21:00*



# November Holidays

text by Elena Rubinova

## **Day of National Unification** **Wednesday, November 4**

This is the youngest of all state holidays in the new Russia and since very recently an official day off. Only in 2005 did the State Duma finally scrap the October Revolution memorial day holiday, traditionally held on November 7; after an attempt to turn it into the Day of Paci-



fication and Agreement. The anniversary of the October Revolution became an official pretext to organize pro-communist rallies and other protests; hard-liners still marched under red banners and the government decided to solve the problem radically. The new date was not chosen by chance. The new holiday is supposed to refer to events in 1612, when the Polish army was expelled from Moscow by troops led by Minin and Pozharskiy. Mikhail Romanov was crowned Tsar the following year and the "Smutnaya Vremya" ("Dark Ages" that stand for disarray between Rurik and Romanov dynasties) came to an end. The Romanov's ruled for 300 years.

November 4 is also the traditional Orthodox Christian celebration of "Icon of Kazan God Mother" which was a talisman of the Minin and Pozharskiy troops. This icon was carried before their regiments as they fought to regain the capital from the

Poles. When the Polish army was finally driven from Moscow, victory was attributed to the intercession of Mother of God, and the Kazan icon became a focal point for Russian national sentiments.

The vast majority of the Russian population is not against the idea of yet another holiday, but is absolutely indifferent in regards to what exactly is being celebrated. In 2008 less than 28% of respondents in the survey conveyed by the 'Levada Analytical Center' were able to name the holiday marked on November 4. The majority consider November 4 to be an "empty", "false", or "forced" holiday and 40% of recipients who participated in the VSIOM poll considered the date to be an alternative to November 7 and complain that this holiday was "withdrawn". Despite the change of date, every year ultra-nationalist groups use the new date for political manifestations and rallies.

## **Day of Militia** **Tuesday, November 10**



Unlike the newly established holidays, some Soviet professional holidays are very enduring, and have outlived the regime itself. The Soviet version of a law enforce-

ment agency, as opposed to the secret police was the militia, founded in 1918. The USSR was rather lacking in social service agencies and militiamen had a broad mandate not only to maintain public order, but also to issue internal and foreign passports, register foreigners and citizens and keep track of domicile registration. Later on a special traffic police unit, now called GAI, was formed. The Day of Militia was established back in 1962 as a professional holiday with the slogan: "my militia protects me!" which has survived up to recent times. Maybe militia workers still unite for celebration on that day, but the public image of the Russian militia is far from ideal. Over 65% of the Russian population feel unprotected and furthermore see them-

selves as potential victims of power abuse on behalf of law enforcement agencies. Many visitors from abroad, especially from ex-Soviet republics, report cases of blackmail, artificial visa problems and prefer to pay a bribe than spend a few hours in the police station having their papers checked. The struggle against corruption seems to be an on-going campaign: just last month the Minister of Internal Affairs ordered the police to eradicate corruption among staff within a month. However, it seems that the minister has ordered the 'militia' to do the impossible – a kind of 'mission impossible operation' – because, according to Russian Supreme Court Chairman Vyacheslav Lebedev, the highest level of corruption in state organs is in the police.

## **Beginning of Christmas Fast** **Saturday, November 28**

The 40 days prior to Christmas from November 28 are known as Advent. For these 40 days, Orthodox Christians fast in spiritual preparation for the Feast. This fast is known as either the Christmas Fast or as St. Philip's Fast, starting as it does the day after St. Philip's Day on November 27. During this fast, Orthodox Christians abstain from meat, dairy products and eggs. It is not as strict as Great Lent however, and on some days

fish is allowed, as is food cooked in oil. However there are also strict days, in particular, the last week before Christmas is a strict fast. In Russia nowadays a growing number of Christians do not follow strict fasting guidelines, but the main fasts are generally observed by believers. Some restaurants offer special food for those on fasts. Besides food restrictions, Orthodox Christians try to pray more, as well as observe confession and communion. Christmas Eve is a very strict fast day. A Russian tradition is

to fast during the day until the first evening star is visible, and then the dinner that follows is very much a celebration, although, meat is not permitted immediately. Traditionally, the "Holy Supper" consists of 12 different foods, symbolic of the 12 Apostles. Kutya, a type of porridge, is the primary dish. It is made of wheat berries or other grains which symbolize hope and immortality, and honey and poppy seeds which ensure happiness, success, and untroubled rest.



## 'I Am... Sasha Fierce'

Beyoncé Knowles is an American R&B singer who gradually attained fame through singing and dancing competitions in childhood, then became the lead singer of the R&B girl group Destiny's Child in the 1990s. Today Beyoncé has a strong solo career with albums: *Dangerously in Love* released in 2003, *B'Day* (2006) and finally *I Am... Sasha Fierce* released in November 2008, inspiring Beyoncé to do a world tour. According to critics from Northern America who have already seen the show, it promises to become one of the best concert shows of 2009, something that was confirmed in a recent statement from the *Billboard* magazine ranking it among the top 15 grossing tours of the year. As an addition to Beyoncé's real hits from latest and previous discs, Thierry Mugler – a famous French designer was invited to work not only on the costumes for the show but the whole visual concept for the show and the video clips for TV.

## Sports Complex Olimpiyskiy

November 2

19:00

## Dance, Dance, Dance

Goran Bregovic and his Wedding and Funeral Band are similar to the Japanese haiku that lasts into the late autumn. Goran Bregovic was born in Sarajevo, studied violin at the conservatory and committed his love for rock n'roll by forming The White Button group at the age of sixteen. Since then he has composed for such varied artists as Iggy Pop and Cesaria Evora. Together with the film director and musician Emir Kusturica, Bregovic has become known internationally for his scores for the latter's films (*Time of the Gypsies*, *Arizona Dream*, *Underground* – Palme d'Or at the 1995 Cannes Film Festival). Together with his ensemble of more than 50 people, Bregovic performs a repertoire of Balkan folk arrangements infused with his own musical ingredients, finding inspiration in the raw energy of brass-powered gypsy bands. During his show, musicians come out one after another and fill the whole stage, and when they all begin to sing, play, and dance, it becomes impossible for the audience to stay still. This autumn Bregovic is back in Moscow with the programme of his latest album – *Alcohol*.

## B1 Maximum

November 4

21:00

## New at the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts

One of the things that museums do as institutions of the arts is preserve art traditions, trying to be unique or at least to possess collections that other arts institutions don't possess. There are different ways to obtain such collections: government support, sponsors, auctions, donors... It's extremely rare for museums to mount exhibitions of new items which they have acquired. The Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts is now displaying in its section of ancient Eastern Arts various new exhibits. One of these: an ancient Palestinian vessel was presented by the director of the museum, Irina Antonova, herself. The section of Old European Masters has been enriched with the works of a Dutch painter Gysbrecht van der Kuyt (1604-1673). His "Musicians" is a superb example of late-Caravaggio-style Northern European painting. The graphics department features a collection of Claude Lorrain's etchings. He was an engraver whose career was closely connected to both France and Italy. There is a gorgeous collection given to the museum of Japanese woodcuts in the ukiyo manner – literally translated as "floating world" from Japanese, presenting precise compositions of a Japanese woodcut printmaker Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849) and others. An exhibition of the Japanese applied arts enjoyed huge success at the museum a couple of years ago; no doubt such success will be repeated this time.

The museum has benefited greatly from a donation of work of a great Russian and Soviet photographer and designer – Alexander Rodchenko. Thanks to his grandson Alexander Lavrentyev's donation, the Pushkin Museum now has one of the biggest public collections of this great avant-garde trend-setter of the 20th century. The Pushkin Museum's Museum of Private Collections is worth checking out.

## Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts & Museum of Private Collections

Volkhonka 12, Volkhonka 10

Open: 10:00-19:00

Except Monday

## Jay-Jay Johansson

The first experiment combining light, visual arts and music on stage was made at the beginning of the 20th century by composer Mikhail Matyushin, by librettist Aleksei Kruchonykh and Kazimir Malevich who was responsible for lighting, sets and costumes. This was during the Futurist opera: *Victory over the Sun* premiered in 1913 at Luna Park in Saint Petersburg. Frankly speaking, to contemporary listeners their show was quite a shock, yet the idea proved vivacious in later days. So nowadays the visual is a great part of U2's concert show for example, MTV movies are the applied principle of music plus visual. Jay-Jay Johansson, a well-known singer from Sweden, and in some media sometimes described as a performer from the future, presents his other talents – those of a photographer and a painter. During over fifteen years of his successful musical career he designed all the covers for his albums, directed his own videos and participated in different exhibitions as a photographer. His exhibition is entitled *Cluster* and is presented in several chapters. The first one – *Drift* is a series of still lifes created in different medias – photo and video. The second chapter conveys us more through Johansson's own self-portraits. The others – landscapes and graphics – are to frame the exposition. Remaining a true musician, Johansson made a special soundtrack, *Harmonium*.

## Rodchenko School of Photography

November 5 – 19

Open: 10:00-19:00

[www.rodchenko-school.ru](http://www.rodchenko-school.ru)



## BAM: Soviet romanticism with spikes and spades



There existed thousands of rhymes to the Russian abbreviation BAM or Baikal-Amur Mainline in romances and songs young komsomoltsi had enough time to compose during their travel to construction sites. The first plans to construct a railway route alternative to the Trans-Siberian Railway appeared at the end of the 19th century. Under Stalin it was gradually continued from Tayshet to Bratsk and finished uncompleted after his death. It was Soviet General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev who revived BAM to the Soviet people as "the construction project of the century" at the beginning of the 70s and by implication became the author of those romantic Komsomol and not romantic real life songs. Eight photographers present their works at Manezh: Gennady Koposov, Valery Koreshkov, Viktor Akhlomov, Dmitry Baltermants, Yury Rost, Alexander Abaza and Arkady Shaikhet. They all worked for leading Soviet media and consequently followed their criteria. After an avant-garde idea of supplying Red Army soldiers with photo cameras, the principal genre became photomontage; turning the unreal into the real and thus displacing normal photography for some time. Soviet photojournalism was influenced by this for a considerable period of time.

### Manezh

**Open: 11:00 – 20:00**

**except Monday**

**November 4 – December 22**

**[www.mdf.ru](http://www.mdf.ru)**

## Photographic sketch by Yury Abramochkin



The more digitalized the modern generation becomes in terms of photography, the more precious and exclusive become photographs made from films, developed, dried and manually printed in lightrooms... The Lumiere Brothers gallery knows that well and remains attached to analogue prints especially by esteemed masters of photography. For our generation, again, so absorbed in the modern rule of reading gaudy advertising images and recognising brands a visit to this photographers' exhibition of black and white photographs of the minimalistic 60s must be a relief to the eyes. Yury Abramochkin would not have become accepted to the State News Agency if it had not been for the Festival of Youth that took place in 1957 in Moscow. Yury, then a young student himself, brought some photographs he was taking with an old FED camera – a present from his father to the agency where George Zelma, Mikhail Ozersky, Abram Sterenberg and other photographers – stars of the Soviet photojournalism worked. Though Abramochkin describes himself as a fidgeter turning from one hobby to another, photography has obviously remained the passion of his life. Some see his best works as being his photographs of fishermen at the Baikal or reindeer herders in the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug. As a political reporter Abramochkin visited many countries and photographed political leaders from Nikita Khrushchev to Dmitry Medvedev, Queen Elisabeth to Fidel Castro, choosing along with protocol portraits "interim" shots that sometimes illustrate and frame a situation best. The current exhibition presents photographs manually printed by Maestro himself.

### Lumiere brothers Gallery

**Open: 10:00 – 19:00 except Monday**

**November 11 – December 13**

**[www.lumiere.ru](http://www.lumiere.ru)**



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# How to Buy Winter Clothes in Moscow

text by Ludmila Lukanina

Severe, cold, slippery, windy, snowy, beautiful, freezing, slushy – all these adjectives can be used during the Russian winter. Temperatures can fall as low as minus 20°C (-4°F). Warm, lightweight clothes are “must have” items for those who spend winter in Moscow.

Shopping for winter outer clothing is not a one-day matter. November is the peak time to buy what you will wear in the winter months. The coat becomes the most universal decision. You will also need to keep your feet, head and hands warm at all times. So the smart shopper will make a list of clothing that he needs to buy.

**Essential clothing in winter generally includes:**

- a warm jacket or heavy winter coat;
- a warm shirt and sweater;
- fleece lined walking boots;
- thick gloves;
- fleece or flannel jeans
- fleece or wool scarf;
- woolen hat or snow cap;
- warm socks
- winter boots

## Down-padded or Synthetic Padded Coats?

Russians now are switching from more traditional furs and sheepskins to down-padded or synthetic padded coats. There are pros and cons for down or synthetic material. Some people say that down is warmer – others vote for modern technologies. If you choose down, look for the DIN EN 12934 sign on the label. Another label you might want to look for is a DuPont sign meaning that the outer layer of the coat was Teflon-treated, which is a guarantee that the down won't find its way out of the coat.

Padded coats made from polyester are easy-care winter wear. You can machine wash them and wear the next day. Slimming is the rage of the century and winter coats have followed suit. From bulky, thick and heavy versions, the styles have become sleeker without compromising on insulation. Synthetic material now rules and jackets and coats hug the body. This insulation is often warmer than down and the like. This does away with the bulkiness and thickness normally associated with winter coats.

If you are not a big fan of fur or sheepskin coats and do not plan to spend a fortune on winter clothes, you can look for reasonably priced winter clothes at the stores listed below. BASK, BAON, FINN FLARE, SAVAGE and PUHOVIK brands are worth looking at. When shopping for winter footwear I would recommend checking SPORTMASTER, City Shoes and COLUMBIA stores.

When deciding where to go, visit the company website first. Most of the stores do have an English language version of their websites. You can browse the winter 2009-2010 catalogue on-line and compare prices and then choose where to go. Buying on-line might not be a good idea unless you shop at well-known shops such as QUELLE or BONPRIX, but I doubt they can offer a big variety of warm-for-Russia clothes.

**BASK** – outdoor and extreme sports clothing. The store offers down clothing, clothing with synthetic insulation, warm un-

derwear, hats, gloves and mittens. Their website has decent navigation and an English language version.

Website: [www.bask.info](http://www.bask.info)

**BAON** – outdoor and sports clothing. This is a Russian division of international textile group GARTEX OF SWEDEN BAON. Their website has both Russian and English language versions. Please note that there are four BAON discount stores.

Website: [www.baon.ru](http://www.baon.ru)

**FINN-FLARE** – The Finnish FINN-FLARE retail network is presented by 42 stores in Helsinki, Moscow, Saint Petersburg and Astana. Their website has Russian, English and Finnish language versions. The “Store Locator” option with a Moscow metro map allows you to choose the closest shop to you.

Finn Flare has three discount stores in Moscow.

Website: [www.finnflare.ru](http://www.finnflare.ru)

**SAVAGE** – has been on the Russian market since 2000. Each year their design bureau works out up to 1,000 styles of outerwear (down-padded coats, jackets, coats, raincoats) and light wear. There are more than 10 stores in different parts of Moscow and 3 discount stores.

Website: [www.savage.ru](http://www.savage.ru)

**PUHOVIK** – more than 10 stores in different parts of Moscow offer outerwear for men, women and children, including down-padded coats and synthetic padded coats, winter pants and skirts, hats, gloves, and other accessories in a big variety. Their website is only in Russian.

**Other websites to check in reference to shopping for winter clothes:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

[www.city-shoes](http://www.city-shoes)

## General Recommendations

If possible go shopping on week days. The fitting rooms and stores in general will not be overcrowded and you will get the attention of a shop assistant.

If the weekend is the only time you have for shopping, choose Sunday morning. Traffic jams on Saturday have become a sad reality in Moscow.

Do not wait for a 90-percent discount for the coat you like. It may never happen.

According to a law adopted by the Moscow government, the Guarantee Period for winter clothes (outer clothes) starts from November 1.

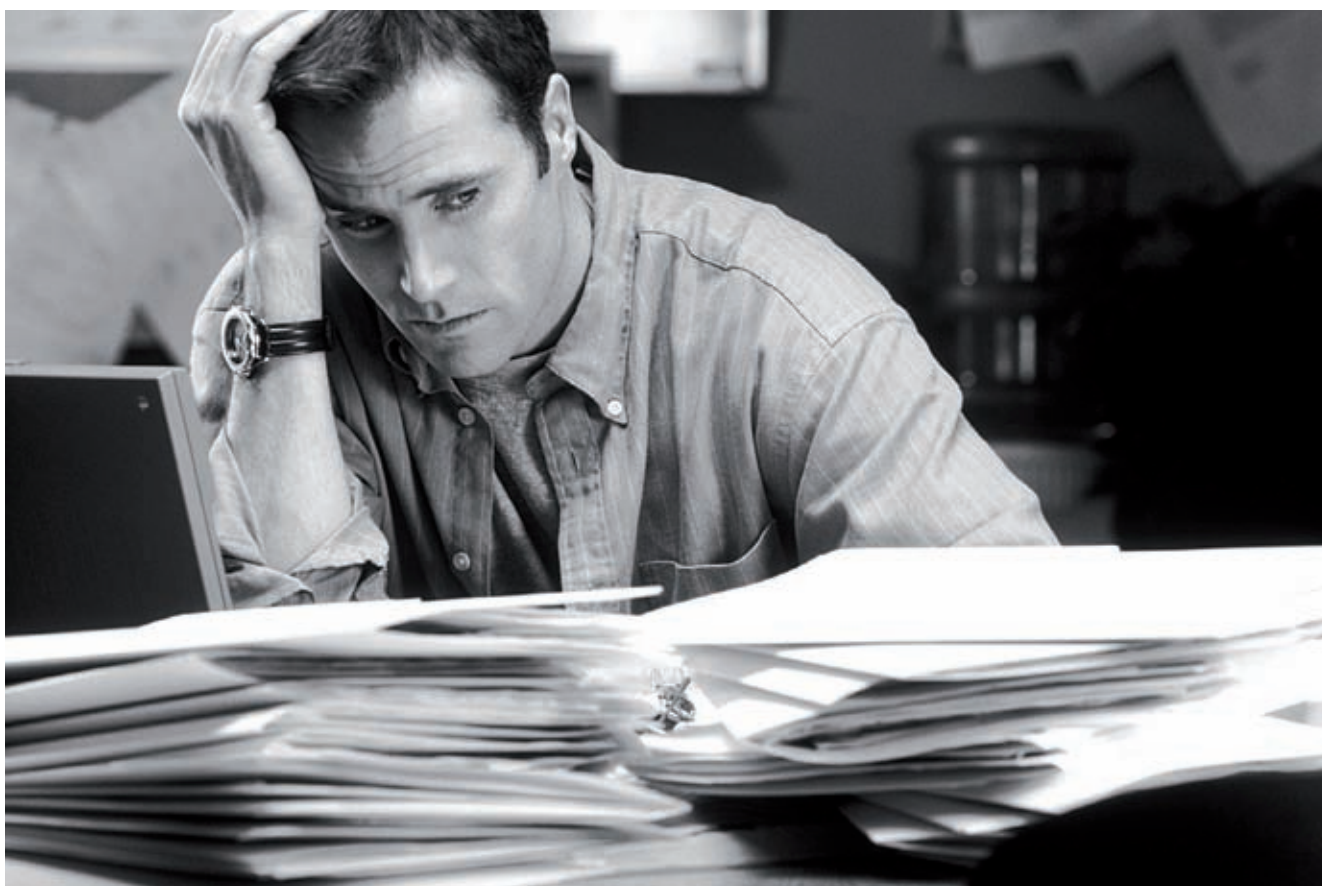
Please note, that while it's cold in the street, indoors it's normally well above “room temperature”, so unless you're planning to spend the whole day outside you're better off with things that can be easily taken off and put back on again.

Do not expect thick layers of snow on the streets of Moscow.

The floors of buses and metro trains will be muddy due to the residual snow carried in by winter boots, so bear this in mind when shopping for a winter coat and winter shoes; a smart choice would be water-proof material for the coat and water-resistant material for the shoes.

Before leaving home in the morning, check the temperature outside. Moscow weather tends to be unpredictable at times which might be dangerous in the winter season. **P**

# RE Registering Your Business



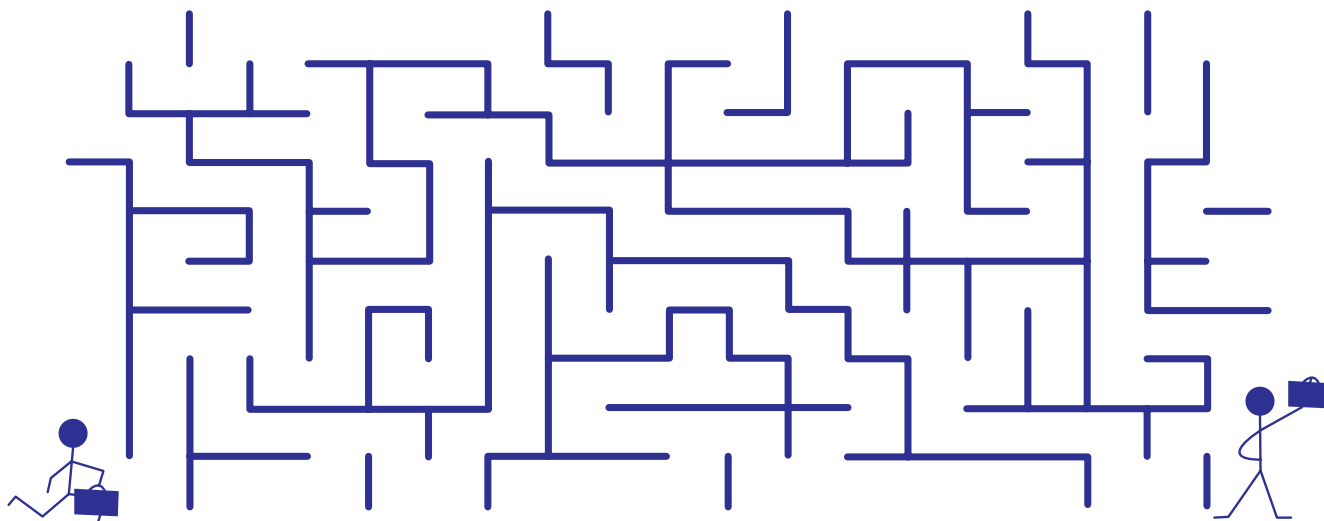
Timur Beslangurov

text by Timur Beslanguro  
Managing Partner, VISTA Foreign Business Support

If you own or are a shareholder of an OOO (limited liability Russian company), you may have received an e-mail from a member of staff about a new law out which states that you have to re-register your business. By now, you should already be well on the way to getting all the relevant paperwork together, otherwise come New Year, you may find that your company is no longer a valid legal entity.

The law governing limited companies was changed in December of last year. The Federal Law No. 312-FZ dated December 30, 2008 "On changes to Part 1 of the Civil Code and other laws of the Russian Federation" introduced changes to Law No. 14-FZ "On limited liability companies", Civil Code and Law No. 129-FZ "On state registration of legal entities and individual entrepreneurs". This law came into force on July 1, 2009, and affects the huge number of entrepreneurs whose companies are registered in the most popular legal form of a limited liability company; OOO.





A number of lawyers have commented that it is very strange why this law came into force just in the middle of the holiday season when many of the affected entrepreneurs were actually outside of Russia.

The changes oblige all OOOs registered before July 1, 2009, to change their incorporation documents and register the changes with the relevant registration authority from July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009. Otherwise a registered OOO will not be able to continue its activity starting from the New Year.



The following changes have to be (if necessary) made to the incorporation documents of an OOO: The Incorporation Agreement is to be excluded from incorporation documents, and along with changing the status of the agreement it must be re-named as an Agreement on Incorporation of an OOO. The company charter is deemed to become the only incorporation document which does not, on an obligatory basis, contain information on shareholders, and the size and value of their shares (as was required before). Another change stipulates that a shareholder may leave an OOO without the agreement of other shareholders only if this kind of exit is stipulated in the charter. Such a provision should therefore be introduced into the charter if necessary. The procedure for the selling of shares has also been amended: Deals on the sale of OOO shares are to be notarized, otherwise they are considered void. From now onwards, it is the notary which is to provide information on shares-selling deals to the registration authorities.

So, in order to bring documents of the existing OOO into line with the new legislation, it is required to compile a new edition of the OOO's charter; Agreement of Incorporation as well as some other applications that are to be filed with the registering authority: The Tax Inspectorate. All of this might really not be a problem if it wasn't for the fact that the application forms are still not approved; despite the new federal law already being in force. Thus, many companies that have already filed applications using the samples approved by the prior statutory act have been refused re-registration because of invalid forms of application, although this has now changed and the old forms are being accepted.

Thus, it would appear that it is not only entrepreneurs who were not ready for legislative changes but also those state authorities which are supposed to bring documents into line with the new rules.

As was stated above, OOO is the most widespread legal form of organization in Russia. The total amount of OOOs on the territory of the Russian Federation currently exceeds 1.5 million. Therefore, taking into consideration the fact that the Tax Inspectorate is not absolutely ready for the flow of applications and the mess with examples of application forms, it is doubtful that all these companies will succeed in re-registering their documents until January 1, 2010. Last summer, when only a small number of entrepreneurs were aware of the changes and were eager to commence work on re-registration, standing in queues to fill out applications took about two hours; at the moment it is already no less than 4-5 hours, while we foresee that in December people will have to take their places in queues the day before they submit documents.

It should be added here that it is still unclear what will happen to companies that will not manage to re-register their documents by January 1, 2010. First of all, such companies may be liquidated by judicial means. Thus, the Tax Inspectorate will be in a position to liquidate companies registered in the name of nominees; companies that do not file accounting reports, as well as abandoned companies. They may also say that refusal to re-register the company's documents within the specified time will be interpreted by tax officials as a sign of inappropriate behavior. In each of these cases, the Tax Inspectorate will instigate a check-up. **P**

# Russian Recovery Appears Even Closer

text and graphics by John Cavan

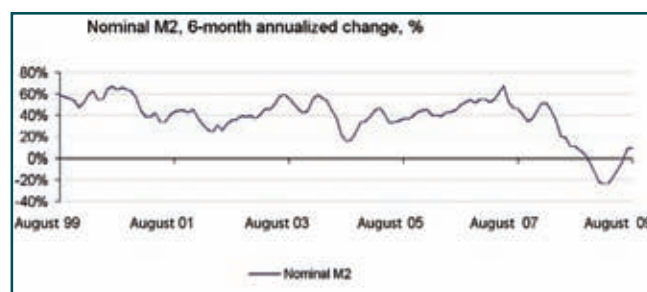
Economic data shows that the Russian economic downturn is drawing to a close. Although imports continue to fall, a sign that internal demand is weak, the money supply continues to increase, on both a monthly and six-month annualised basis. The PMI survey indicates both the manufacturing and services sectors are starting to increase, with both sectors reporting PMI levels greater than 50. Indeed, the manufacturing PMI is at the highest level that it has been since May 2008. Oil prices remain around \$70 a barrel, and have not fallen below \$60 since early July.

Globally the situation seems similarly upbeat. Most of the major world equity markets have surged and talk about the global financial system collapsing (always overblown in my mind) has been replaced by stories about record bonuses. PMI surveys in most over countries show a similar story to those in Russia and the talk is about the exact date when recovery can be judged to have begun. Does this mean that Russia can look forward to a period of export led growth – or even a repeat of the commodity surge that sustained the economic boom that ended last summer?

Unfortunately, my view is that any optimism needs to be tempered by some uncomfortable reality. The historical trend price of oil, always the key indicators when looking at

the Russian economy, is nearer to \$50 than the current level of \$70. Given that the experience of \$140 oil still lingers in the memory of policymakers, we can expect any upsurge in energy demand from the US and Western Europe to be muted by the effects of conservation measures, and investments in alternative energy sources. At the same time, the huge amount of money that flowed into commodities in the belief that it was a genuine asset class, will not return – at least in the short to medium term.

It should also be noted that the current level of monetary growth is not sufficient to ensure trend growth. Ideally, it needs to be closer to 15%, rather than the 9% it is currently. The Central Bank of Russia also hasn't learnt the key lesson from this experience, which is that a semi-fixed currency and high interest rates are not a good idea when going through a monetary shock. Therefore if a further fall in fall in the oil price does cause another monetary downturn, then we could see a partial repeat of last winter's experience. **P**





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# Alexander Men – The Mystery of the Assassinated Priest

text by Phil Baillie

*Churches (below) and museum (right) erected in memory of Alexander Men in Semkhoz*

Semkhoz, a small village situated an hour and a half north west of Moscow on the electricchka, consists of a group of houses dispersed between dipping, twisting roads radiating from a hiding, still blue lake. Each house in the area varies in style and age, the majority of the humble abodes nailed together with old wooden panels, ornate skirting, yet often with shiny, tiled roofs. There is one shop beside the station, well supplied with alcohol more than anything else, while a mixture of bare-backed Russians and cheaply hired Chechen guest workers appear and disappear from and to the surrounding forest to collect their daily supply of bread. The village holds a certain air of mystery, possibly due to the silent knowledge of the locals that a horrifying act of violence occurred on these soils almost two decades ago. Amongst the overgrown trees and tall weeds silently sits an enclosure of whitewashed church buildings; today a pilgrimage point built on the spot where influential and renowned Orthodox priest Alexander Men was fatally struck down by an axe-wielding pair of men on September 9, 1990. Yet today, almost twenty years after his death, inquests personally headed by Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin, radio discussions on 'Echo Moskva' and television programs have all failed in their attempt to identify the perpetrators of the murder of a great Russian and a holy man.

## Underground Boy

Born into a Jewish family in 1935, during the Stalinist 'Catacomb' years, a period particularly associated with the suppression of Christianity, Alexander Men started life already in a hostile environment. His mother, Elena, converted to Christianity through her sister, and secretly baptised the infant Alexander into the faith. The Church at that time operated in an underground manner, meeting at homes of believers to avoid suppression from the political authorities. By the age of twelve, Men had written his first book entitled "What Does the Bible Tell Us?" and had



**It is possible that the KGB had finally decided that Father Men had reached a point of influence that was no longer acceptable in the communist regime, and took the decision to finally eliminate him after years of constant surveillance and threats.**

already expressed his ambition to become a priest. Since he was barred from university studies because of his Jewish background, he took up an alternative path in biology in Moscow and Irkutsk where the young student was known to be a voracious reader and became firmly involved in parish life; a commitment which ultimately cost him his graduation. Eventually, in 1958, his day of reckoning had come and he was ordained as a deacon, by a Moscow bishop convinced of his worthiness for the position. In 1960 he was ordained as a priest and assigned to a parish at Alabino, later Novaya Derevnya (New Village) where his spiritual influence would flourish, culminating in nationwide fame at the end of the 1980's until his sudden and shocking death outside his home in Semkhoz.

## Orthodoxy and Openness

Father Men was accused of being guilty of 'ecumenism' by many Orthodox critics who saw the embrace of other religious practices within Christianity as unorthodox in its openness to western culture and a rejection of the 'pure' Christianity of the Orthodox Church. Little, therefore, has been written in a positive light about the man who did in fact write extensively on Orthodox liturgy and correct practices during prayer or communion; clear evidence that Men was not anti-Orthodox as many might have claimed. His writings and sermons were to open the way for a recognition of Christian diversity in a complex world of cultures; a view that encourages mutual understanding, tolerance and most importantly love of others as one church body, just as Paul the Apostle wrote to the Church in Corinth in the New Testament to confront intolerance between Jewish and gentile Christians.

## Soviet Pressure

Due to the repressive political atmosphere of the Soviet period, Men wrote under various pseudonyms (including Pavel, or Paul), publishing his works from abroad. Apart from anti-religious propaganda, writing on religion was certainly seen as a display of dissidence; an act which attracted the interest of





the intelligence and internal security service otherwise known as the KGB. Despite efforts to hide his identity, Men received plenty of attention from the KGB; harassment by interrogation, frequent house searches and constant surveillance for the entirety of his active service in the Orthodox Church. It was not just his writing that attracted suspicion and criticism, but his outlook and approach to personal ministry. He encouraged people to meet in their homes to pray, read the bible in groups, visited parishioners in their homes and took a humble approach to people, explaining who Jesus was in simple terms, avoiding complicated theological terms that could alienate people from religion. On the other hand, he had influence among the intelligentsia including Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. His progressive approach must have alarmed the right-wing arm of the Orthodox Church as well as the Soviet authorities as he inspired a religious enlightenment in Russia, especially as his platform grew to incorporate televised sermons and radio broadcasts during the Gorbachev thaw.

## Brutal Murder

At 6:30am on Sunday, September 9, 1990, Father Alexander Men walked to the Semkhoz station platform on his way to Church. Approximately 300

meters from the platform, two men approached him, handing him a piece of paper with writing on it. While reading, Father Men was suddenly struck from behind with a sharp object, thought to have been an axe (the Russian weapon of revenge), leaving a gushing wound to his head while the assassins fled into the surrounding forest. Despite the pain and open wound, the bloodied priest stumbled on to look for his stolen briefcase. According to witnesses interviewed for an NTV documentary Men rejected offers of help, determined to find his briefcase. When the pain became too great he stumbled back along the road towards his home for help, collapsing against a fenced gate. His wife rushed out to the distressed man, unable at first to identify her husband, who had been disfigured by the blow.

## Modern Martyr

There are various possible theories suggesting a suspect or motive for the elimination of Alexander Men. Firstly, he was an influential Christian of Jewish descent, living in an anti-semitic environment, making him a possible target for the extreme right-wing National Patriotic group 'Pamiat' who burnt his books. Furthermore, his openness to ecumenism created suspicion and sharp criticism from the religious right of the Orthodox Church, threatening, as they considered, a heretical movement. It is possible that the KGB had finally decided that Father Men had reached a point of influence that was no longer acceptable in the communist regime, and took the decision to finally eliminate him after years of constant surveillance and threats. Crucially, it is important to consider that the case is left unresolved today despite multiple investigations by the politicised KGB, police and prokuratura. Perhaps the case was always going to be left unresolved; investigations were to be frustrated by the perpetrators of the crime.

For whatever reason or by whomever Father Men was assassinated on that fateful morning, there is no doubt that his work still resonates in Russia today. His sermons and books are still read, and have inspired a new generation of Russian Christian groups, encouraging them to 'love thy neighbor,' in an age of intolerance. As new findings on the holy man's life and works are uncovered, history will surely stand up for a man who stood up for his faith. **P**





# Evolving City (1)

## From the Stronghold to the Metropolis

text and photos by Dr. Olga Zinovieva

The Vorobyovy Gory observation ground is one of the highest points in Moscow, where one can enjoy spectacular views of the metropolis. From there, Moscow looks like a huge bowl full of high-rise buildings housing public offices, international banks and global corporations, famous museums, galleries, expensive restaurants and boutiques, all connected by a network of streets full of traffic both day and night. Moscow has a vibrant commercial center attracting diplomats and business people from all over the world. Moscow is a huge Tower of Babel spread across an area of 386 square miles within the limits of the Moscow Ring Road which is 50 miles long.

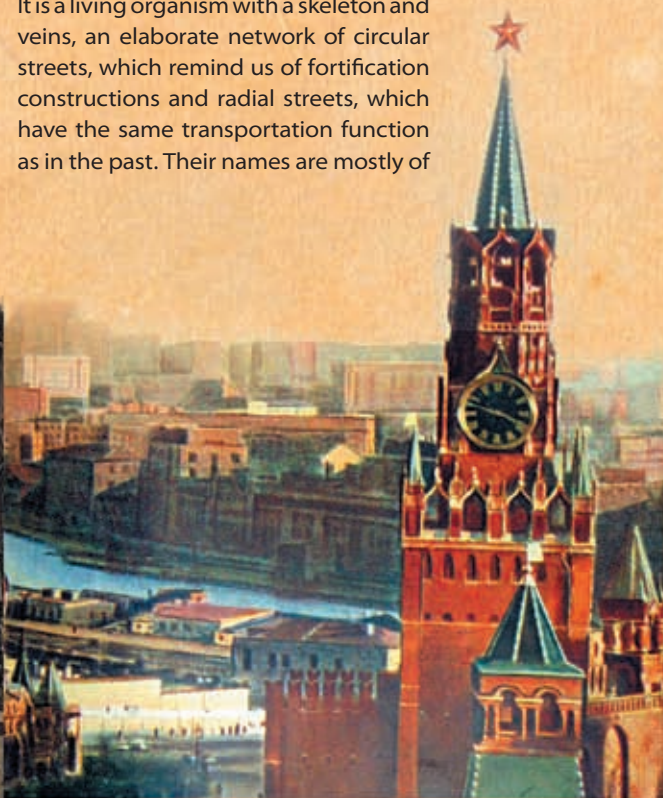
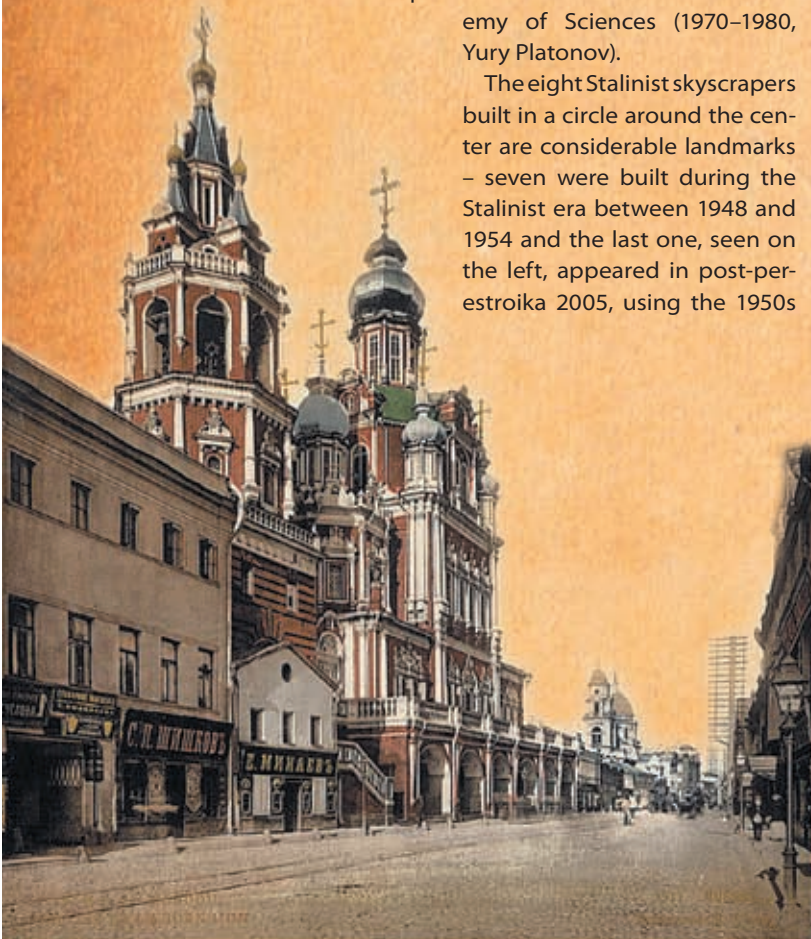
Your attention is caught by the vast area of the Luzhniki Sports Center (1955) just below the observation ground. On your left is a double-decker bridge with ground transportation on the upper level and the metro station Vorobyovy Gory (1959) on the lower level. Further on is a white building with a weird decoration on top, resembling some scaffolding left behind. This is the headquarters of the Russian Federal Academy of Sciences (1970–1980, Yury Platonov).

The eight Stalinist skyscrapers built in a circle around the center are considerable landmarks – seven were built during the Stalinist era between 1948 and 1954 and the last one, seen on the left, appeared in post-perestroika 2005, using the 1950s

as a source of inspiration. Another island of tall buildings is Moskva City, being erected at Krasnaya Presnya.

This urban landscape, even with its modernity, is still full of traces of the city's intriguing past. It takes a while to identify the golden glitter of the domes above the Kremlin churches and silhouettes of medieval monasteries. The past is still with us and its influence is more critical than we think. Without a long running start in history, we are denied the necessary momentum needed to understand the present and to take a sufficiently bold leap into the future. A large part of our present architectural plans, which we call "advanced" or "progressive" either depend on or repeat the ideas of the past. We tend to idealize the old quarters and monuments of Moscow, based on ambitious "general" plans of Moscow by Peter I, Catherine II or Joseph Stalin; at least some of those old quarters have survived. This ideal, romantic attitude of ours has more to it – it has taken over 850 years to sculpt the current form of the city and we like to feel connected with something that we call original or authentic – the nature and drama behind the historic horizon.

The view from Vorobyovy Gory gives us the basic idea of how the city started. It is a living organism with a skeleton and veins, an elaborate network of circular streets, which remind us of fortification constructions and radial streets, which have the same transportation function as in the past. Their names are mostly of





geographical origin, carrying the destinations and directions from the ancient city gates: Tverskaya Ulitsa, Ordinka, Minskoye Shosse and many others.

In seeking the origin of Moscow we should go to its center – the Kremlin, which means “fortress” in Old Russian. The official “birth certificate” of the city dates back to 1147, when the Ipatiev Monastery chronicle mentioned a tiny fortified settlement of Moscow between the rivers of Moskva and Neglinka. Only archeologists can show us material evidence that the settlement really existed in the Western corner of the current Kremlin. Several fortresses originally made of wood, limestone and brick replaced one another.

Moscow grew together with its principality, and survived traditional historical dramas of devastating fires, enemy attacks and depopulating diseases. The long rule of Ivan III (1462-1505) was marked by the absorption and annexation of the surrounding principalities step by step – Veliky Novgorod, Rostov and Dmitrov. The unification of the territories around Moscow was completed in the late 1480s. The new political establishment required a new capital, and Ivan III undertook an unprecedented project, the impact of which we can still admire. The first Cathedral of the Assumption (Aristotle Fiorovanti) was built in 1478; the next steps included the new Cathedrals of Archangel Michael, the Annunciation, Moscow Kremlin Church of the Disposition of the Robe, Ivan the Great Bell Tower, as well as all of the Kremlin walls and towers created by the best Russian masters, and architects from Renaissance Italy. Each Kremlin tower (without its green marquees added in the XVII century) looked like an Italian feudal castle with teeth on top; the walls were very asymmetrical, following freely the riverside landscape in a Russian manner. The Market Square (now Red Square) spread along the eastern wall, the roads came out from five gates and the basis for the XXI century metropolis of ten million people was laid.

In 1480, Grand Prince Ivan III, a proficient diplomat, obtained independence from the Mongolian Golden Horde. His next step in international diplomacy was his marriage to Princess Sofia Paleologue, a niece of the last Byzantine emperor. When Byzantine fell to the Turks, Ivan III had very good reasons to consider himself a successor to Byzantine statehood. The center of Orthodox Christianity shifted to Moscow. The Byzantine state emblem – a double-headed eagle – became the emblem of Russia.

Initially the whole of Moscow's population could fit inside the Kremlin, but in the XVI century three more fortifications each with its own life span but with the same significant impact on the urban environment sprung up: Kitai-Gorod (Middle Town), Bely Gorod (White Town) and Zemlyanoi Gorod (Dirt Wall Town). One can still see two patterns of the Kitai-

Gorod walls, built in 1535-1538 by Petrok Maly, an Italian architect, contracted by Elena Glinskaya, the mother of Ivan the Terrible. Coming out from the metro station Kitai-Gorod to St. Barbara Ulitsa (Varvarka), a round-shaped lime stone foundation of the St. Barbara Gate comes into view. There is another section of the wall behind the Hotel Metropol next to a recent remake of a brick tower with restaurants and shops. The Voskresensky (Resurrection) Gate under picturesque XVII-century twin tents was destroyed in 1931 and rebuilt in 1996. Now the main squares of Moscow – Manege, Lubyanka and Slavyanskaya follow the historical line of Kitai-Gorod, including its old streets of Nikolskaya, Ilinka and Varvarka, running to Red Square.

The memory of Bely Gorod is reflected in the layout of the Boulevard Ring, which is a semi-circle connected with the Moskva River. The names of its ten famous boulevards with squares – Yauzsky, Pokrovsky, Chistoprudny, Sretensky, Rozhdestvensky, Petrovsky, Strastnoi, Tverskoi, Nikitsky and Gogolevsky indicate where the gates were. The walls and towers of Bely Gorod were erected by Fedor Kyon in 1585-1593 during the reign of Fedor, the last and unhealthy Romanov representative, but actually supervised by Boris Godunov. The whole fortification was knocked down in late the 1770s by Catherine the Great to make room for a ring of Parisian-type boulevards.

In 1591 the last fortification construction of the XVI century – Zemlyanoi Gorod – was also undertaken by Boris Godunov, who had become Tsar by this time. Successful construction of wooden walls and brick towers could not protect the city against internal political battles, and in the late XVI century, Russia entered a period of history called ‘the troubled times’.

Two semi-circles of monasteries and nunneries – one in the north (Nikitsky, Strastnoi, Visoko-Petrovsky, Sretensky) and another in the south (Novodevichy, Andreevsky, Donskoy, Danilov, Simonov, Spaso-Andronievsky) contributed to the fortification system of medieval Moscow. Some of them still exist and keep amazing us with their sudden appearance among boring high-rise constructions. These are little islands of old Russia, which once regarded itself as a legitimate successor to the greatest world empires – Roman and Byzantine, with Moscow as the “Third Rome”. **P**







*Helping One Animal Will Not Change the World,  
But It Will Change the World  
for that One Animal – Anonymous*

## James Hogan – Canine Savior



James Hogan is the vice chairman of Mayhew Animal Home & Humane Education Centre in London, established in 1886. James visits Russia regularly and *Passport* caught up with him in Moscow in September. A band of stray dogs wandered around aimlessly on the pavement outside the café at Taganskaya where we met, as if sensing we were talking about them.

### ***Can you give me some background as to your involvement in Russia?***

I first came to Russia in the mid-nineties, as a result of having a long-term interest in all things Russian, particularly the theater and literature. It was a natural progression to having an interest in the country to attempting to see if I could have some positive influence on developments that were taking place here – especially in regard to the welfare of animals.

When I came to Russia in 1995, it was a very depressing scene. Hoards of stray dogs on the streets were being captured and killed in an inhumane way and the story across other parts of Russia was equally sad. So I left after the first visit being very aware of the extent of the problem, and how huge it was to tackle. In the following years, my efforts consisted largely of providing promotional materials to encourage people to set up animal charities. It was all very basic stuff as everything was at an embryonic stage. I came back again in 1998, just in time for the economic crisis which pretty well occupied me as much as anything to do with animals.

Things became a little more positive around the turn of the century after the Moscow city government appointed Tatiana Pavolova to take over the city fauna department, and she was very positive about how you could humanely deal with the stray dogs situation.

There are a number of approaches about how the stray dogs' problem can be best dealt with in an urban environment. The one favored by most animal welfare activists is to trap, neuter and then release them. The principal is that this method gradually stabilizes the numbers of stray dogs on the streets; as dogs die naturally and there is also a reduction rate from other causes such as traffic accidents and the like, the numbers start decreasing. Of course nobody accepts that this is an ideal situation, but you are starting from a very undesirable position in the first place and it is seen as part of a phased process that eventually leads to having no animals living on the streets.

It is accepted that you have to sterilize at least 75% of the stray dog population as quickly as possible, ideally within one breeding season, to achieve the desired stabilisation effect and, at the same time, you should also pro-actively encourage people to sterilize their own dogs. A very forensic and methodical approach is needed to make a TNR program work but this never happened in Moscow. Lots of money was spent without achieving the desired result, and naturally enough people complained to their political representatives. Gradually the policy fell into disrepute and was eventually abandoned.

The city government has now created large mega-shelters that can house up to 3,000 dogs each, a policy which does not meet with the approval of most animal welfare activists. The management of large numbers of animals kept in close confinement, especially those that have come from the street, is particularly daunting. The animals can become terribly stressed, it is very difficult to prevent the spreading of disease and it is still not addressing the root cause of the problem. Along with this, people are not being encouraged



pro-actively enough to stop animals breeding or to sterilize the ones they own, and of course there is not the same culture here of adopting animals. I believe that something like 950,000,000 rubles was spent on the shelters, which is a really breathtaking sum.

**What happens to the animals once they are taken into one of these shelters?**

Well, the theory is that new homes will be sought for them, otherwise they will be kept there indefinitely. However, since they opened last year, the design and operation of these shelters has come in for severe criticism from animal welfare activists in Moscow. The city government has also announced



recently that it is cutting the budget for these shelters by 66% for the next financial year so it is not at all clear what impact that will have on how the shelters will be managed and operated in future.

**What is responsible pet ownership?**

Being a responsible pet owner means that you don't buy on impulse and you think through carefully the implications of adopting an animal. You only take it on the basis that you are going to be able to look after it for 15 years minimum, you will care for it whether it's healthy or not and that you understand the full implications of such a responsibility.

**What is the legal situation here in regard to unwanted and abandoned pets?**

There is one rarely enforced article in the criminal code which relates to the treatment of dogs and cats, and there are a couple of other pieces of legislation hanging over from the Soviet era, but there is nothing that one would recognize as being a comprehensive animal protection law. That is one of the big concerns of animal welfare campaigners here. In the Yeltsin era, an animal protection bill was developed in the Duma which made it through two readings and finally reached the President's desk. Unfortunately, Yeltsin left office before it was signed and one of the first things that Putin did as president was to send it back to the Duma, where it has languished ever since. A special meeting was arranged by welfare campaigners earlier this year with Duma representatives to discuss the resurrection of the bill but no progress was made and the legislative situation remains in limbo. One could even say that there has been a step backwards on the legislative front because President Medvedev recently signed

into law a bill which expands hunting rights, something that has greatly upset a lot of campaigners here.

**So your main work is to offer advice and expertise based on experience?**

Yes, The Mayhew was established in Britain in 1886 and we also work in other countries so we know from great experience what works and what doesn't. I hope that our engagement with the Moscow city government, whose officials came to visit us in London last October, will bring about a positive outcome in due course. While they were in London, we showed them how we do things and introduced them to other organizations which have a role to play in animal welfare, such as local councils, the metropolitan police and, crucially, how these agencies are integrated to work together for a common cause.

I think there is a huge challenge here to change public attitudes, and I think education is the key, along with legislation and regulation, in other words, enforcing legislation.

**So what's the plan here?**

Our International Projects Team, led by our CEO, Caroline Yates, is maintaining an ongoing dialogue with the Moscow city government officials about animal welfare matters generally but especially regarding their shelters and how best to improve conditions for the animals held there. Before joining The Mayhew, Caroline worked in Russia for some years and speaks Russian fluently so her knowledge of the country and the language is a significant advantage for us in promoting our ideas with the city government.

We're also providing assistance for Barbara Spier and the initiatives she supports under the umbrella of Moscow Animals ([www.moscowanimals.org](http://www.moscowanimals.org)). This supports individuals who take abandoned animals into their homes. We created their website, and that has been very useful in terms of educating people and providing homes for animals.

**What can foreigners do to help?**

Volunteers are needed at every level from raising funds, to going to shelters and walking dogs to adopting animals. If anybody wants to help in any such a way, they can contact me by e-mail, [james@mayhewanimalhome.org](mailto:james@mayhewanimalhome.org), and I will put them in touch with the right people here. A big difference between Russia and other countries is that the whole idea of helping animals is much more prestigious abroad. When you come into our centre in London you are welcomed by professional staff and enter a pleasant environment. Trying to change the image of helping animals is not going to be easy here. Legislation is largely outside of our control so it is down to individual initiatives and the activities of the animal welfare NGO. It would also be good to get some humane education program operating in the schools and, of course, more public education about responsible pet ownership is vitally important if we are to achieve the desired changes in how people regard animals. **P**

Interview by John Harrison

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# Touring for Pleasure?

text by Vladimir Kozlov

The announcement that the Irish rock band U2 is to play its first ever Russian show at Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium on August 25, 2010, can be viewed as a testimony to the fact that the Russian capital has finally become a regular destination for top-level touring artists, just like any other major city of the world.

But getting the Irish rockers to come and play in Russia was a difficult and long process despite the kind of money that they can earn here. Information about artists' fees for a large concert is almost never made public, but, according to rumors, figures between \$500,000 and \$1.5 million are most typical. In the case of U2, the figure might be even higher. According to Dmitry Zaretsky, senior talent buyer at SAV Entertainment, the promoter of the upcoming show, negotiations about U2's first Russian concert took quite a while to complete. Although the band never openly refused to play in Russia, as the band did with regards to some other countries, there were rumors that one of the reasons why the band was unwilling to perform here – at least, at some point – was its members' disagreement with the federal government's policy on Chechnya.

The band's publicist didn't respond to a request to comment on the issue, and Zaretsky didn't comment on the rumors about political motivations behind U2's reluctance to play in Russia, either.

Meanwhile, he mentioned logistical obstacles as one explanation why it

is taking the band so long to come to Russia. "For any major touring artist, coming to Moscow is expensive and logistically complicated, because the city is located quite far away from the majority of traditional European touring stops, and it takes several days to bring all the equipment here and then take it to where the next date on the tour schedule is," he said.

SAV Entertainment wouldn't disclose the artist's fee for the Moscow show, but Zaretsky said that about 80,000 people are expected to show up at Luzhniki for U2's concert, which would be "the biggest show ever in Russia".

He also mentioned the impact on the entire promoting industry. "This is going to be a landmark event for the Russian touring industry," he said. "Most other top acts have already played in Russia, and some of them even more than once, while U2 has never performed here so far."

But establishing itself as a regular destination on the road map of touring Western pop and rock acts turned out to be a challenge for Russia, and it didn't happen automatically with the collapse of the Communist rule.

Until the mid-1980s, the Iron Curtain prevented most Western pop and rock stars from touring

the Soviet Union. Among notable exceptions were Boney M, a West Germany-based disco band with an international lineup, and British singer Elton John.

Rumor has it that then-Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev personally invited Boney M to visit the country in late 1978, and they became the first recording artists ever to be allowed to film their video on Red Square.


In 1979, Elton John played eight shows in Moscow and Leningrad. According to rumors, the singer was very closely watched by Communist "curators" who even recommended that he should not jump on his piano stool while performing.

In the mid-1980s, as the country began to open up thanks to perestroika reforms, several major rock bands, including Pink Floyd and Status Quo, came to perform in what still appeared to them to be exotic territory.

One of the groups







that was able to capitalize on their visits to Russia was the German hard rock band Scorpions. By the mid-1980s, the band's popularity in the West had been declining, but the song *Wind of Change*, which exploited the then-fashionable perestroika theme, became an international hit, for a short time bringing Scorpions back into the limelight.

The 1980s' sporadic visits by Western pop and rock stars to the Soviet Union culminated in two big events, the Peace Music Festival at Luzhniki Stadium in August 1989, featuring, among others, Ozzy Osbourne, Cinderella and Motley Crew, and a show at Tushino Aerodrome in September 1991, the headliner of which was Metallica.

Despite all that, it took another decade or so for Russia to become a regular date on major

Western stars' touring schedules. With the Iron Curtain no longer there, foreign music came to Russia much faster than before, and fans of Western pop stars no longer had problems getting records – yet, in most cases, pirated – by their favorite artists. But when it came to seeing them live in concert, the situation turned out to be more complicated.

And, ironically, piracy was one of the issues why some top international acts were unwilling to play in Russia. For instance, Madonna rejected offers to perform in Russia until the late 2000s, citing failure to observe copyright law in the country as the main reason. Only in 2006, did she for the first time play a concert in Russia.

Another reason why agents and managers of some major rock and pop stars preferred to steer clear of Russia for most of the 1990s and early 2000s, was a shortage of reliable and experienced promoters. Cases when promoters failed to implement their obligations weren't uncommon, although this didn't involve top-level acts. Now, however, the problem has been resolved as there are several major promoters in the market, each having a rather long track record in the business.

And the economic boom of the second half of the 2000s created a new phenomenon: high-profile Western artists were in-

vited to play here at private and corporate parties, with prosperous companies and wealthy individuals ready to offer huge fees. Among artists that have come to Russia to perform for selected audiences at corporate and private events reportedly are Jennifer Lopez, Robbie Williams, Ricky Martin, Mariah Carey, Justin Timberlake, 50cent, Beyonce and Christina Aguilera.

Most such gigs were organized with a lot of secrecy, and often no details were made public. Among the few exceptions was Lopez's performance at the 50th anniversary of Telman Ismailov, the owner of the AST group, three years ago, for a reported fee of \$1.5 million. Promoters of regular shows complained that private gigs were "spoiling" artists with huge fees that couldn't be matched by what they offered for a normal show.

Incidentally, much less popular artists with a much smaller price tag, like, for instance, various reincarnations of Boney M, also capitalized on the booming corporate gig industry, spending nearly a month in Russia each year during the winter holiday season and playing small corporate gigs one after the other for, reportedly, about \$20,000 each.

But the economic downturn nearly killed the private gig business, prompting artists' agents and managers to accept offers to perform at traditional venues for tens of thousands of devoted fans rather than for a handful of selected guests at a private party.

Now that U2 have scheduled a show in Moscow, the list of high-profile Western top and rock acts that have not yet played here has become very short. Nearly all major international stars, from The Rolling Stones to Limp Bizkit have performed in Russia at least once.

Meanwhile, British rockers Radiohead remain among the few that haven't. "Many Moscow-based promoters, including us, have been negotiating with Radiohead for roughly ten years," said SAV Entertainment's Zaretsky. "But it looks like the situation will only change when the band itself expresses the desire to come to Russia." **P**







*"A City Scene", 1920s, (paper, watercolor, cardboard)*

# Sisters Posthumously Acclaimed

text by Olga Slobodkina-von Brømssen

Inscrutable are the ways of God and art is no exception. Sometimes an artist unknown during his or her lifetime becomes a legend for further generations. This was the fate of two sisters from St. Petersburg – Yevgeniya and Nadezhda Pogonyalov. They created a series of watercolor drawings in the 1920s. The first exhibition took place only in the middle of the 1990s, but it immediately created a sensation in the art world.

The sisters were born into a large family of six children. Their father Pavel Fyodorovich, an accountant in the 'Baltic' factory, provided well for the family, which often summered at its dacha in Kilomyagi on the shores of the Finish Bay. Elena Pogonyalova, their mother, ran a shop where all five of her daughters worked. The girls did not receive any professional artistic training, but it may have been in this workshop that they learned about fashion and honed their keen skill of observation bordering on photographic memory. Or perhaps their drawing ability came from their love of cinema and theater. The young sisters idolized Rudolph Valentino, Ivan Mozhukhin, Lilian Gish and many other actors of silent movies. Until the Civil War intervened and they were forced to evacuate, the two studied at a local girl's school.

During the war, the Pogonyalov sisters moved from St. Petersburg to the south to live with their godfather in the Cossack village of Nevinnomysskaya on the Don River. They returned home two years later and started to paint. Their first drawings are dated 1924, at which point Yevgeniya and Nadezhda were aged 18 and 16 respectively. By that time the sisters realized only too well what "the whites" and "the reds" were like – whenever the village was taken by one or the other, the sisters had to hide themselves in the basement of their godfather's house. They also saw what they had lost as a result of the Proletariat Revolution of 1917. Maybe it was



*"A Waiting-room", 1920s, (watercolors, cardboard)*

because of these ordeals that the sisters turned to art. Their drawings reveal a kind of beautiful existence, which was impossible for them.

Though hardly a realistic portrait of life at that time, the drawings provide a clue to the styles and fashions of the "high life" of the 1920s. Their multi-figure compositions, which may be scrutinized with a magnifying glass, are subtle and refined. Scenes on an embankment, in a café, in a living-room or at the theater reveal the hand of a master or, to be more exact, of two masters – today it's difficult to tell Yevgeniya's and Nadezhda's work apart. In any case these watercolor drawings can't strictly be attributed to naïve art. The construction of space on the sheets (which are, in fact, clean newspaper pages, before printer's ink has been applied) are taken from theater design, the absence of chiaroscuro already rejected by the impressionists; *recherché* correlations of hues (the combination of blue and orange); the automatically correct construction of bodies and the intact silhouettes so uncharacteristic for untrained artists – all this not only testifies to the great gift of the young sister artists, but is also proof of the serious approach they took to their work.

The drawings contain thin figures in the style of Pre-Raphaelites while their clever designs "spawn" across the sheets. Compositions are reminiscent of Mark Chagall. Familiar subjects like a balcony, for example, go back to Goya through Édouard Manet. The complicated drawing boasts a scrupulous attention to detail, but is nevertheless created as a single organic whole. Some drawings were made in the style of Iranian miniatures; others can be likened to Japanese prints while still others have something in common with Egyptian and Greek civilizations, with their rhythmic series of columns and people portrayed in profile. All are brilliant examples of original graphic art.





*"A Group of People", 1920s, (paper, watercolors, cardboard)*

There is something mysterious about the Pogonyalov sisters' art. Maybe the girls were guided by intuition. At any rate, the secrets of the Pogonyalov sisters' creativity are as unclear as the ability of a child to learn a language without studying grammar rules or laws of word-building.

The last drawings were made in 1928 and the girls grew up and had to earn a living. They studied with a draftsman and continued to work in that field for the rest of their lives. They never returned to drawing, although Yevgeniya used to draw dolls for her daughter on tracing paper. Those dolls were wearing glamorous dresses. She drew them, because the little girl did not have a lot of toys. In total, Yevgeniya and Nadezhda created about 200 drawings, 65 of which have survived.

Both sisters had trouble making ends meet and Yevgeniya's husband, a magnificent baritone, died of starvation during the Siege of Leningrad in 1942. She never remarried and was forced to work day and night. Her daughter remembers waking up at night to see her mother at the drawing board. Sometimes Yevgeniya would get out her cherished drawings and burst into tears – her dream of a beautiful life had become unattainable. Her reality was morbid and cruel.

She spent the last years of her life in terrible health – she could not recognize her relatives and often lapsed in and out of consciousness, but time and again she would ask her daughter to give her the drawings of her youth and then the daughter would extract the papyrus-like sheets from a folder that was kept under the sofa. Nadezhda, too, had a difficult life. Her husband, a naval engineer, went to the front in the first years of World War II. Shell-shocked and captured by Germans, he later spent 10 years in a Soviet prison and was released sick and beaten. He died five years later. Of the once large Pogonyalov family, only two people, both children of Yevgeniya and Nadezhda, are alive and 65 drawings remain.

Today we review all the artistic treasures accumulated by the 20th century and the wave of interest towards the 1920s is quite natural – many masterpieces were created then – and not only towards the art of that period, but to the general stylistics, to the motifs in clothes. Today we, Russians, try to realize what we have lost and what gave such a huge creative impulse in the 1920s, regardless of hardships and horrors.

The art of the Pogonyalov sisters allows us to get an insight into Russia of the 1920s; to learn the kind of beauty its people dreamt of, but never knew. **P**



*"A Girl in a White Dress with a Dog", 1920s, (watercolor, cardboard)*



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# Studio 11

Deep in Chistye Prudy, one of Moscow's oldest districts, parallel to Chisty Prudny Boulevard is a gallery called Studio 11. The gallery opened recently; in December 2008, but is a cultural hotspot dating back to before the revolution. Valentin Kataev, a well-known prose writer of the middle of the last century, lived here and from then onwards the flat became a regular haunt of Sergei Yesenin, Velemir Klebnikov, Valdimir Mayakovsky and Ilf and Petrov. The flat was turned into a communal flat during the Soviet period. The artist Suro managed to reclaim the premises, and it has now become both his own studio, and also a gallery with a working, in-touch-with-reality atmosphere. The curator of Studio 11 is Zarina Taiz, who talked to *Passport* about the gallery and the art that is shown there.

## How did Studio 11 start?

It all started when I started to sell the pictures of an artist called Suro, here in Moscow. The idea came of expanding his flat into a gallery, and this finally happened last December.

## What kind of art do you prefer to concentrate on here?

Mostly contemporary painting and some sculpture. Mostly we exhibit modern artists who have been active since the end of Perestroika, and new emerging artists. Most of our artists are already established artists, with an art school education. I am not so keen on the new 'primitive' style, and although I recognize this as being a valid school of art, I just don't like those people who use this style because they really cannot paint at all, and call themselves artists. Some people say they have worked with some well know conceptualist or have a humanitarian education as if that in itself is a passport to success. I like people who recognized at a young age that they are artists, dedicated themselves, developed their art over a long period of time, and have achieved something really worthwhile, such as the 'Vosmedesyatniki', [artists from the 1980s].

## Who, generally speaking, is your public?

That is difficult to say, because each artist has his or her own following; but mostly educated people, among whom are usually a few art collectors; among them, Russians, Americans and Japanese. There are some embassies near here, and some of their staff have become regular visitors, including ambassadors.

## What would you like to do in the future?

I like to discover and promote previously undiscovered new artists, and show something new in art. In the Soviet Union we had socialist realism, then that all finished and now although we now have a lot of conceptualist art, traditional painting is not going to disappear. It is still a mainstream form of artistic expression and nobody has the right to just dismiss it as being irrelevant. I think that the old medium of oil painting on canvas is very beautiful, and I want to promote that as an important, viable and meaningful form of art. Of course there is nothing wrong with conceptualism, it is alive, but it works best in museums in large exhibition spaces, not as things you can put up at home or as things you can keep and enjoy.



## Is there a demand for such art nowadays?

We opened in December, and we have sold about 30 paintings already, and that, in Moscow is a lot. This goes to say that painting is a form of art that has a right to exist and also that we have been fortunate to exhibit good paintings.

## You are also organizing an exhibition at the Central House of Artists?

Yes, this is an exhibition of one artist – Suro. The exhibition is called: Life Contrasts (Контрасты Жизни), and the work is mostly figurative; in this exhibition erotic. We are not talking about naked bodies, but suggestive eroticism. What we are trying to do at this exhibition is show how perceptions of eroticism have changed over the past 100 years. The exhibition starts on October 30. **P**

## Studio 11

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[www.st11.ru](http://www.st11.ru) / [zarinatayts@mail.ru](mailto:zarinatayts@mail.ru)



There is a bewildering array of massage available in Moscow and at times it can seem as if almost anybody is offering to stroke or pummel your body. You can get a massage in most fitness centers, beauty salons or clinics. Here we try to describe the main forms and help you choose what is right for you.

Massage has been used since ancient times in most countries to keep soldiers and sportsmen in good condition, to improve health and to aid relaxation. In the Soviet Union in the 1930s a specific physiotherapy massage technique was developed by Ivan Mikhailovich Sarkizo-Serazini and is used today as the basis of sports and medical massage. While European and Russian massage is more centered on rubbing the body, Eastern forms of massage concentrate more on 'points' – pressing specific points on the body to open and close flows of energy.

Traditionally massage is divided into medicinal, sporting and relaxing massages. Sporting massage is a vigorous activity to warm up the body before sport and to help cool down after it. It keeps particular joints and groups of muscles toned and helps avoid injury and strains during sport. It can also help healing and to reduce inflammation and bruising in localized areas. Try fizkult.ru or your local gym.

Medical massage is practised in clinics and always by a qualified specialist. It focuses less on muscle tone and more on improving circulation of blood and lymph around the body. It is therefore lighter in touch because lymph lies between the muscles and the skin. It can be effective in treating many illnesses and disorders: low and high blood pressure, arthritis, and even depression and anxiety. This is because good blood and lymph circulation is vital for overall good health. Getting

# Massage in Moscow

text by Stephanie Droop

sauna :: massage :: bar :: restaurant :: billiards :: karaoke

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sauna :: massage :: bar :: restaurant :: billiards :: karaoke



a massage has a huge positive psychological effect because the very act of surrendering your time and body to someone's capable hands itself makes you feel as if you have been 'sorted out'. Depending on the extent of your ill health you can go to a clinic for up to a week and use massage as part of a whole course of treatment, drop in for a one-off session, or even make an appointment to have a trusted masseur come to your house with his or her own massage table.

However, the most popular type of traditional massage is for those who are generally healthy but want to relax and forget the world outside while toning their body and circulation. A relaxing massage uses essential oils and can be as vigorous or as light as you wish, aiming to both remove tension from your body and to give you the pleasurable sensation of touch. Most masseurs pay special attention to the feet, back and shoulders because lots of tension is stored in the shoulders and the feet bear the weight of the body. Most beauty salons have a whole range of relaxing massages and if you are into the banya then there is usually a massuer on duty in the banya who can make sure you are thoroughly de-stressed. Spa Palestra or Tan Chinese salons are reputable chains.

In recent years the anti-cellulite massage has become very popular: this is a very energetic massage, usually on the buttocks, hips and thighs, that aims to stimulate cells and dislodge the fatty deposits between them. It is not for the faint hearted and can even be painful. It involves manual manipulation like vigorous rubbing and squeezing the flesh as well as the use of special jars that are placed on the skin to suck out the air and other contraptions such as those made by LPG. Another form of anti-cellulite massage involves rubbing the body with special mineral gel then wrapping you up in a thermal blanket to let the minerals tone the skin. Sa-

lons recommend that you sign up for a course of these massages, once a week for a month, then a break before another course. Many sites claim that anti-cellulite massages can not only remove the 'orange peel' texture from the skin but also help you to shed inches and pounds. We would urge you to be sceptic of such claims because scientific evidence suggests that massage can aid weight loss only when accompanied by a balanced diet and exercise.

Another popular trend in salons and spas is a hot stone massage, where round pebbles are used to rub oil into your skin. The hard round texture of the hot stones is a wonderful difference from human fingers and thumbs, and the soft clink of the stones is relaxing. Salons go to great lengths to make a relaxing environment, with soft music and lighting, and the tension and cares of the city just melt out of your back. Sensation becomes focused as the stones move slowly and steadily over your skin and as you become aware of your body in new ways, your mind empties and becomes peaceful.

The massage market in Moscow is like any other diversified market, with a confusing array of specialist products. This is be-







cause everyone wants to make sure that their product stands out from the crowd. Some salons say on their sites that they offer more types of massages than they actually do, for example vitamin or hydro massage, playing on the human desire to appear knowledgeable about new and niche products.

Newer trends at the moment are Thai massage which is more similar to yoga in that you do it clothed, and the specialist manipulates your limbs in different ways to stimulate and tone your joints; and Lomi Lomi Hawaiian massage where the masseur uses not only his hands but also arms, shoulders and elbows, as if dancing on your body. Another change is that where once beauty salons were the territory of women, now many more men are into pampering themselves and taking care of the condition of their body and mind.

The typical cost of a massage is 1,500 rubles for an hour although anti-cellulite costs a bit more because of the special equipment used. More upmarket salons charge more, especially those with English-speaking staff like the Expat Salon (4,250 rubles for a hot stone massage; [expatsalon.ru](http://expatsalon.ru)). A massage is normally an hour or an hour and a half although shorter if for a specific part of the body like the back or feet.



Other places to check for English-speaking salons and gyms:

<http://expat.ru/phonedir.php?cid=11>

<http://guides.moscowtimes.ru/travel/detail.php?ID=13444>

Massage is not advisable if you have thrombosis, stomach upsets or vomiting, skin infections or broken skin, serious heart defects or malevolent tumours. Pregnant women should also avoid strenuous massages.

When choosing a place for a massage bear in mind that newspaper ads that say simply 'massage' and any that show pictures of girls are usually sex services rather than qualified specialists. Normal common-sense rules apply: shop around various sites and choose one that is well designed and professional. Even though a salon or spa is a brand, bear in mind that people are all different and massage style will vary from specialist to specialist. You may have to shop around until you find your favorite masseur and you can always ask for them again. Massage is a very intimate process and involves putting your naked body in someone else's trust. It should always be a pleasurable, relaxing experience and you should never have to suffer pain or embarrassment. It is a common misconception that if it doesn't hurt then it isn't working: this is not true because an expert will know how to find and touch the necessary points in a comfortable way. You should agree with the masseur what you want and expect beforehand and it is perfectly alright to give guidance during the actual massage. Massage is an ideal way to relax, improve your overall wellbeing, focus on your senses and experience the benefits that the contact of another person's hands can bring, and Moscow is a competitive place to experience it. **P**

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# "How Do We See?"

*A talk by David Wansbrough, September 25, 2009,  
hosted by English Language Evenings*

text by Stephanie Droop

This is David Wansbrough's 26th time in Russia; he has been coming since the 70s for a few months at a time. David is a writer, artist and all-round visionary whose main skill lies in connecting people and making things happen. His talk about belief structures and intuition was a lyrical delight, mixing his usual wisdom and perceptive insights with anecdotes about jaw-dropping coincidences and poetry.

The main theme was that "the more we know, the richer the world is", which rings in different ways depending on how we interpret 'knowledge'. If we mean knowledge in the sense of Wittgenstein's "when you see something, you find a name for it", classifying our world, then we run the risk of losing a depth of perception that enables us to see intuitively and objectively. An example is when David's friend was giving an art tour in a gallery: she stopped before a painting by Shishkin and asked the students what they saw. A physics professor said, "17 birch trees, 5 oak, 3 larch...", listing the trees but missing the harmonious atmosphere and play of light.

Intuitive knowledge, however, comes when we don't rely on classifying things. We have no names for any of the lines or hollows of the human face, but that does not prevent us from intimately knowing each others' faces. In *Ways of Seeing*, essayist John Berger mentioned how the Salon of the Refused artists realized that the sky was blue, whereas in the art academy up until then the sky had always been grey-green. When artists can see objectively and intuitively it forges new paths in vision and hence shows us the next way we will see. The other times that we see more objectively are when we are in love (heightened senses), when we are close to death or when someone close has died (minutes dragging by).

Although intuition and received wisdom may seem to be opposites – some common practices are continued long after they become redundant – there



is an interesting element of overlap because what started as intuition can quickly become received wisdom. People with flat feet are not allowed in any army, although the many flat-footed Olympic athletes have shown that it does not limit performance. It could be that long ago people noticed that when standing on guard, those with high arched feet could sense intruders coming by vibrations in the gap between foot and ground? Or is it a baseless custom that we continue with for no reason?

People often call David clairvoyant, which he modestly says is because he observes details and draws conclusions. Once he asked a man who regularly attended his lectures, "how long will your mother be in hospital?" The man was shocked at how anyone could have known that his mother was ill. David had remembered that the man lived with his mother who did his laundry, and so when the man was in a dirty, rumpled shirt he could see that his mum was away somewhere for a long time. But many of David's stories contain coincidences so fantastic that they are hard to explain away prosai-

cally. Time spent in his company is full of richly entertaining stories of how he predicted the future leaders of Russia from a photograph of 600 Soviet citizens and other examples of truly impressive perception.

It seems that perception might go in waves and that there is a collective consciousness that links us. How else can we understand the phenomenon in the 60s when psychologists were doing experiments on rats, when no progress was made for years, then one day a rat in Princeton solved the Skinner maze and the next day all the rats in Paris did it? Or that someone else independently tried to patent the lightbulb at the same time as Edison? Or that Japanese artists discovered linear perception the same time as artists in Europe? There are things that we cannot rationally explain. You have to suspend disbelief when listening to David, especially when he suggests that positive thinking causes positive events, or that virgin forests give out vibrations of soul, but on the whole listening to this wonderful person is entertaining, rewarding and stimulating. **P**



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## British Business Club Flies Into the Night

On September 24 the British Business Club held its once-monthly meeting at NightFlight. This particular evening was a truly memorable occasion. 144 members of the club filled a part of the first floor premises of NightFlight's salubrious establishment on Tverskaya. Thanks to the club's generosity, drinks were 'on the house' until 9pm after which time some guests disappeared into the night. NightFlight's excellent management has made the club somewhat of an iconic venue in Moscow, and the evening worked equally well for those who have resided for many years in Moscow, as well as those who just arrived.



## Diwali Festival Celebrated in Moscow



As from now, the Indian festival of lights – Diwali is celebrated not only in India. On the October 18 it was held in Moscow and gathered hundreds of expatriate Indians and many Russians interested in Indian culture.

The festival was held at the concert hall of the Oil and Gas University on Leninsky Prospekt, which was decorated in an Indian way with colored garlands. The hall was packed out with Indians in traditional dress. There was a vast fair with all kinds of Indian goods, clothes, spices, decorations and other merchandise. Indian food and drinks were available. The show continued into the evening with a concert featuring oriental dance performances and a concert by Indian pop singer Gloria Deli. The party concluded with fireworks and the ignition of traditional Indian lamps.

Sponsors of the event included Imperial Tailoring, Swissotel, Cosmo Travels and many others.

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# The Blue Eye of Siberia

text by Elena Krivoviyaz, photos courtesy of RussiaDiscovery

The Chinese called it the "North Sea" in ancient times. Buryats believed Baikal had consciousness and worshipped it. Russians used to see in Baikal an old man, wise and powerful. Even nowadays no locals ever refer to Baikal as just a lake – it is always Him, like a human being, respected and worshipped.

Baikal is a must-see for many reasons. It is well known that it is the largest natural reserve of fresh water on Earth – the lake contains about one-fifth of the world's drinking water. Covering an area the size of a small country like Belgium or the Netherlands, it contains as much water as five Great Lakes put together. It is also the clearest and deepest freshwater lake in the world – Baikal is 1,637 meters deep. Nobody knows how old Baikal is; some experts indicate that it is 20 million years old, some think it is more than 30 million. Despite its age, the lake is pretty much alive – minor earthquakes are frequent on its shores, and major earthquakes take place every 150 years or so. During a devastating earthquake in 1862 an area of 200 sq km with six Buryat settlements went down under the water, and a tremor in 1959 resulted in the deepening of another section of the lake by 10-15m. The ancient lake is still

active and in the process of formation. The lake is special because it is inhabited by numerous creations in its whole depth, whereas other lakes are inhabited only in their upper strata of water. Many of the inhabited animals are endemic. There are, for instance, the Baikal seals which live in abundance on the Baikal islands. There are about 100,000 of these animals and they are protected by the Red Book. The animals are considered to be very curious and may swim up to boats. The Baikal omul is also endemic and it is a popular national delicacy. The coastline territory of Baikal houses brown bears, sables and musk deer. The legendary snow panthers lived in the Sayany Mountains near Baikal, but they became extinct many years ago.

The lake's coastline is about 2,000 km long and it takes about three or four months to travel around it on foot. The lake is surrounded by numerous nature preserves with taiga forest, vast steppe and majestic mountain ranges, dissected by small and mighty rivers bringing their waters into the lake. The locals say that Baikal has 500 sons (500 rivers flowing into the lake) and only one daughter, Angara (the only river flowing out of Baikal). Legend has it that Old Baikal got bad-tempered in ancient times, after his daughter, the beautiful Angara, ran away from her father to her beloved Yenissei. Since then Angara has been carrying its waters to merge with the Yenissei River, while strong winds and storms have become quite frequent on Baikal.

A lot of people visit the shores of Baikal in summer, and only very few know how magical Baikal is in winter, when there are no tourists but only the locals and primeval nature. The Siberian frost is easy to bear due to its low humidity, while the snow is crispy and puffy under the feet, and the days are bright and sunny, as Baikal's shores boast 25% more annual sunshine than the famous Russian resorts in the south of the country.

The immense body of water doesn't get ice-stricken until late January, and at the beginning of winter one can see the legendary "boiling" of Baikal: powerful waves attack the shores leaving bizarre ice shapes on the rocks; white clouds of steam rise above the dark waters enveloping every branch of the nearby pines and firs into a fairy tale winter attire. Baikal freezes in an unusual way. When walking around Baikal in winter, you'll see how bizarre it looks – like a frosty planet with huge incrustations of ice and weirdly-shaped hills, which are







actually waves that turned into ice in motion and were dusted with snow. In some places the ice is almost as transparent as spring water, and you can see the ice patterns through a dozen meters deep down into the very heart of Baikal.

Ice trekkers may be shocked by optical illusions of Baikal ice in winter. "Sometimes it's really scary when you climb a high ice hill in the middle of Baikal and suddenly see a dark yawning abyss of water right ahead under your feet," recalls Irina Baranova, a Baikal local who

**Legend has it that Old Baikal got bad-tempered in ancient times, after his only daughter, the beautiful Angara, ran away from her father to her beloved Yenissei. Since then Angara, which is the only river flowing out of Baikal, has been carrying its waters to merge with the Yenissei River, while storms have become rather frequent on Baikal.**

now works for a Moscow tour operator. "But it is actually Baikal's thick ice, so dark blue and transparent that it looks like open water." In fact, by February the ice is always at least 20 inches thick, which is enough to support the weight of a motor vehicle. The other striking feature of the frozen Baikal is that there are impressive cracks over the whole length. Some of the permanent cracks, which are the result of underwater streams or springs, or sudden temperature changes, are up to 2m wide and dozens of miles long.

"When in winter the ice starts cracking with a deafening noise, you realize just how powerful Baikal is," says Baranova. But experienced locals can distinguish the potentially dangerous areas of cracks by the peculiar shade of the ice. A trip to Baikal in winter can become a wonderful meditating discovery or a true adventure where every day you experience a new winter activity.

One of the most exciting is Siberian husky sledding. After learning to mush the dog team in the Listvyanka settlement, one can travel along the shore for short distances through taiga woods or on the ice of the lake. Or, you can go to Baikalsk, a town in the south east of the lake known for its mountain skiing center. Snowmobiling is breathtaking and fun, and allows you to travel for greater distances. Popular snowmobiling routes for beginners run in the Pribaikalsky National Park woods – in the vicinity of Listvyanka or to the picturesque Circum Baikal railway, famous for its numerous tunnels and bridges built in the mountain range. More challenging snowmobiling itineraries cross Baikal from east to west and lead to small villages and the snow-topped peaks of the Khmar-Daban Mountains.

A popular means of transportation at Baikal is ice-hovercraft, which is called *Hivus* by locals after the name of one of

the Baikal winds. Hivus can take you to what is probably the most amazing destination in winter – Maloye More (The Little Sea). This is a part of Baikal that is separated by its vast fields of bare ice and Olkhon Island with its scenic rocks, caves and grottoes decorated by the incredibly transparent stalactites and stalagmites. Olkhon is the biggest island on Baikal and is located in the very heart of the lake. Incidentally, it is considered to be a sacred center among locals. According to legend, the Spirit of Baikal – Burkhan – inhabits this island. There are a lot of sites worshipped by shamanists and Buddhists alike on Olkhon, and you can distinguish these sites from the rest by the special beauty of the landscape and traditional colorful ribbons tied to the trees by the locals. These ribbons remind us of the ancient shamanist traditions and sacrifices. Shaman-ka Mountain is one of the most mysterious places on Olkhon Island which attracts hundreds of pilgrims from all over Siberia. The mountain has a tunnel running through it which is 12 meters long. The mountain used to be very special and nobody but the shaman could enter its tunnel and stay in it for a long time. Locals claim that Shamanka has a magic power.

On Maloye More, a part of Baikal that separates Olkhon from the mainland, ice-angling is by far the favorite activity among the locals. The national dish here is raw, freshly frozen fish, called "raskolotka" or "stroganina" – depending on the way it is prepared – dipped into salt and pepper. This is a traditional Baikal snack that comes along with a shot of vodka.

No matter what you do during your trip, take your time – Baikal's shores are the right place to appreciate the grandeur of nature and feel its eternity. **P**

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wall of windows overlooking the embankment, though these are covered with dark brown wooden blinds.

A Slovak group, J&T Finance, which purchased the Baltschug Kempinski Hotel, owns the hotel and restaurants, and the management and chef also hail from Slovakia. Massimo Attanasio, the Italian head chef, shares his time between Mamma Giovanna and another restaurant that J&T plans in Bratislava called

## At Mamma's

text by Charles W. Borden,  
photos by Maria Savelieva

A business colleague invited us to try a client's new Italian restaurant, Mamma Giovanna, located at the new Kadashevskaya Hotel, a boutique establishment with about 35 rooms, located on the embankment near the Old Stone Bridge and not far from the Tretyakov Gallery. With its separate entrance on Kadashevskaya Naberezhnaya, I did not realize Mamma Giovanna was a hotel restaurant until well into the meal, sparing me my predisposition towards such establishments. The problem with hotel restaurants is that they serve more than one master. For hotel management, the restaurant is one of many guest services, necessary to provide breakfast, room service, hopefully keep customers in the hotel for lunch and dinner, and certainly at least break even. Few hotels are able or

willing to expend the resources to create an extraordinary restaurant that draws customers in from the city - independent of the hotel. That being said some of the world's best restaurants are in hotels, and in some cities such as Las Vegas or Dubai virtually all top restaurants are in the hotels. In the right location, they can assist a nice romantic weekend.

We planned an early start, but Moscow traffic was again not obliging so guests arrived more than an hour past start time. Mamma Giovanna is in a bright renovated complex, well-marked from the street next to the south branch of the Moscow River (the Vodootvodniy Canal). It is small but smartly decorated with an emphasis on dark brown; the dark brown polished wood and tile floors are carried up the walls and across the ceiling. There is a long open bar and lounge area to the left and tables to the right, with a long







Mamma Lucia. Martin Kurmajec is in charge of day-to-day business in Moscow. Moscow has a number of excellent Italian restaurants so the bar is set pretty

high for any rookies coming to town.

The Mamma Giovanna wine list is almost entirely Italian with a selection limited to about two pages. While we were waiting for the guests we ordered a bottle of white Allegrini Soave 2008 (1,900 rubles) and a Sicilian red Tasca d'Almerita Regaleali Nero d'Avola (1,800 rubles), both excellent wines and reasonably priced by Moscow standards.

The menu is also minimalistic but has interesting entries in every category, including pizzas. I started with the Mamma Giovanna Salad (380r), a substantial serving of arugula, cherry and dried tomatoes, large green olives, mozzarella cheese with parmesan shaved across the top and a balsamic dressing. We ordered two pizzas for the table: the Seafood Pizza (520r), covered with thinly sliced calamari, octopus and mussels and a layer of bright red flying fish roe, and the Pizza Prosciutto (480r), a simple pizza with Italian ham. The fish roe, which is the very small type that one usually finds on a California Roll, was a surprise and this pizza got favorable reviews around the table.

The pastas are listed by sauce, and the customer has a choice of pasta type: fettuccine, spaghetti, linguine, etc. I chose Penne Bolognese (450r). John Ortega ordered Tagliata di Manzo (680r), thin slices of seared beef with arugula and parmesan and drizzled with a balsamic sauce. We learned from the management that their beef comes from Argentina, and in this case the beef was very tender and delightful. We also ordered Scaloppine di Vitello All 'Aceto (660r), veal marinated in balsamic vinegar, which was also nicely done. As usual we skipped dessert and headed for the bar to relax with an iced imported limoncello.

We got a brief tour of the hotel and a look at one of the rooms, which were quite comfortable and outfitted with the latest technology. This is generally a quiet quarter of Moscow despite the proximity to the Kremlin. The Kadashevskaya Hotel fits in well and appears cozy. Its guests should be pleased with Mamma Giovanna.

We were generally pleased with our meals at Mamma Giovanna, though it is no match for the substantial Italian restaurant competition in Moscow at the luxury end. But for its ambiance and quality, with wine and food at reasonable prices, Mamma Giovanna is well worth a stop if you are in the neighborhood - at the Tretyakov for instance. And it is definitely a worthwhile in-city romantic venue. **P**

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## Ukrainian Wine Country – Crimea

text by Charles W. Borden,  
photos courtesy of Legenda Krima

Ukraine was part of the Russian Empire by the nineteenth century, and later became a founding republic of the Soviet Union. Ukraine has a long coastline along the northern Black Sea and western Azov Sea where vineyards are favored by the moderating influence of the sea and soils that provide excellent conditions for wine grapes.

Ancient Greek settlers planted the first vineyards when they arrived on this Black Sea coast in the seventh century BC. They settled villages on the Taman Peninsula from Anapa and the northern country, and across the straits to the Azov Sea and the Crimean Peninsula near Kerch. The area became a principal trade center for the Bosphorus region and wine was a major commodity. After successive tribal invasions that swept civilization from the area, Italian Venetian and Genoese traders developed the area in the 13th century for the trade route from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea. Later the region became part of the Ottoman Empire until incorporated into the Russian empire.



Prince Golitsyn

The Crimean Peninsula, which lies between the northern Black Sea and the Azov Sea was transferred from Russia to Ukraine in 1954 – an event that Russia has come to regret today. Most of Ukraine's best wineries are located in Crimea. Massandra, Novy Svet, Inkerman, Koktebel and Magarach are the best known. Until recent years, sweet wines were heavily emphasized.

In the nineteenth century however, the Russian market for champagne created incentives to try making sparkling wine along the Black Sea. Russia had become the largest foreign market for French Champagne. The Russian aristocracy preferred sweeter wines, and French winemakers responded with wines for the *Goût Russe*. These wines were very sweet, even by today's generally sweet Russian tastes that favor wines from 2.5% to 6.5% sugar. The Russian official sweetness classification starts with brut with less than 1.5% sugar. A dry wine has about 2% sugar, *polsukhoye* (half-dry) has 4%, *polusladkoe* (semi-sweet) has 6%, and sweet has 8% or more.

Under the authority of Emperor Pavel I in 1799, the first sparkling wine was produced at his palace on the Crimean Peninsula at Sudak. Within

two decades, several companies made sparkling wines in Crimea and a State Winemakers' Academy was started. One foreign businessman named Krich was exiled from Russia by an angry Emperor Nikolai I when it was learned he was labeling Crimean wines with the French Roederer label.

Later, beginning about 1840, Prince Vorontsov produced sparkling wines in Crimea under the Ay-Danil label but all Crimean wine production ceased during the Crimean War (1854-1856). English and French invaders tore out vineyards, destroyed production equipment and a large laboratory, and extensive documentation about winemaking was lost. Vorontsov's son started the construction of a chateau at Massandra in 1881, the area where the region's most spectacular winery is located, but it was not completed until 1900.

Late in the 19th century, Prince Golitsyn, the patriarch of







modern Russian winemaking, restored the tradition of Russian sparkling winemaking when he founded Novy Svet winery near Sudak and helped develop the Abrau-Durso winery on Russia's Black Sea coast near Novorossiysk. These are now two of the region's most famous wineries and both continue to make sparkling wines by the classic French method. Golitsyn also took over production at Massandra.

Prince Golitsyn began intensive experimentation with over 600 varieties of grapes near Novy Svet in 1878 and studied grape variety behavior in Black Sea coastal conditions. He finally settled on the French varieties of Pinot Franc, Pinot Gris, Aligote, and Chardonnay. Golitsyn started construction of the Novy Svet wine cellars and tunnels in a spectacular location at the foot of Koba-Kaya Mountain directly on the Black Sea in 1890. Golitsyn's first experimental sparkling wine production using the méthode champenoise began at Novy Svet in 1892. In 1896, he served his wines at the coronation of Tsar Nicolas II and they received the Grand Prix medal in Paris in 1900.

Though Novy Svet and Abrau Durso make some sparkling wines using classical methods, most Russian and Ukrainian sparkling wine is made by the reservoir system which is a less expensive method developed in the Soviet Union. With the reservoir method, the wine passes through a series of seven or eight tanks and a continuous supply of yeast and sugar is added to the base wine. This results in a sparkling wine that can be bottled after three or four weeks.

## The Wineries

**Novy Svet Winery** continues the tradition of classic sparkling wine production. Look for Novy Svet Brut or Novy Svet Half-Dry, or try the special wine first produced in 1995 on the 150th anniversary of Prince Golitsyn's birth called Jubilee Dry.

**Massandra Winery** ([massandrawine.com](http://massandrawine.com)) excels at sweet wines and has a huge cellar collection of wines that it sells as "collection" wines. The labels include red port, white port, Madeira, Tokay, Kagor with residual sugars up to 20%.

**Inkerman Winery** ([www.inkerman.ua](http://www.inkerman.ua)) was founded in 1961 near Sevastopol and specializes in oak barrel aged still and fortified wines.

**Koktebel Winery** ([www.koktebel.ua](http://www.koktebel.ua)) is located in eastern Crimea near Fedosiya. It makes fortified wines such as maderia and port, aged in old oak barrels in the open air.

Count Vorontsov founded an estate, vineyards and winery at the site that would become **Magarach Institute** ([www.magarach.com](http://www.magarach.com)) near Yalta in 1828. Magarach would become the region's leading wine research institution. Magarach produces dry and fortified wines.

**Artyomovsk Winery** was founded in 1950 north of Crimea in the Donetsk region. It has a special microclimate of 26 underground hectares of abandoned alabaster mines to produce exclusive sparkling wines from still wines that are brought from the Crimea.

Like the Russian wine industry, change has been slow to come in Ukraine since 1992 and there are still no modern wineries of note. There are several Massandra Wine Shops in Moscow that carry a broad selection of Ukrainian wines from all of the Crimean wineries. Unfortunately, with few exceptions, these wines are perhaps worth a try only for "local color". Crimea wineries have not yet extracted the great potential of the region that Princes Vorontsov and Golitsyn envisioned in the 19th century. **P**

**Massandra Shops**

**Zvenigorodskoye Shosse, 7**

**Oktyabryskaya, 5**

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**\*\*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 Ploshchad, 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 Stary 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.coffeemia.ru

## STARBUCKS

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

## VOLKONSKY PEKARNYA-KONDITERSKAYA

The coffee service at this bakery takes second place to its fabulous French-style baked goods. Smoke-free. 2/46 Bolshoi Sadovaya

M. Mayakovskaya

## EUROPEAN

### \*\*CARRE BLANC

Moscow's top French restaurant. Try the bistro and weekend brunch. 9/2 Ul. Seleznevskaya, 258-4403

M. Novoslobodskaya

www.carreblanc.ru

### \*\*NEW\* BLACKBERRY

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

10 Academic Sakharov Prospekt

926-1640, 926-1645

M. Chistiye Prudy

### \*\*NEW\* BOLSHOI

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

3/6 Ulitsa Petrovka, 789-8652

M. Kuznetsky Most

eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/

### CAFE DES ARTISTES

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

5/6 Kamergersky Pereulok, 692-4042

M. Teatralnaya

www.artistico.ru

### ELSE CLUB

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

www.elseclub.ru

### GALEREYA

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

27 Ulitsa Petrovka, 937-4544

M. Pushkinskaya

eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/

### GRAND ALEXANDER

Named after poet Alexander Pushkin, this opulent restaurant at the Marriott Grand Hotel is one of Moscow's top French-European restaurants. 26 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 937-0000

M. Tverskaya

### JEROBOAM

Ritz-Carlton's Jeroboam, under the stewardship of celebrity German chef Heinz Winkler, offers "la Cuisine Vitale"

in the new building that replaced the eyesore that was the Soviet-era Intourist Hotel.

3 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 225-8888

M. Okhotny Ryad

## KAI RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE

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

52/6 Kosmodamianskaya Nab, 221-5358

M. Paveletskaya

## SCANDINAVIA

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

19 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 937-5630

M. Pushkinskaya

www.scandinavia.ru

## SKY LOUNGE

Dining on the roof of the Russian Academy of Sciences offers guests unparalleled views of the city. 32a Leninsky Prospekt, 915-1042, 938-5775

M. Leninsky Prospekt

www.skylounge.ru

## VANIL

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

M. Kropotkinskaya

eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/

## VOGUE CAFE

Elegant, trendy partnership with *Vogue* magazine. 7/9 Ul. Kuznetsky Most, 623-1701

M. Kuznetsky Most

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

## FUSION

### \*\*NE DALNY VOSTOK

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

15 Tverskoy Bulvar

694-0641, 694-0154

M. Tverskaya

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

### \*\*GQ BAR

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

5 Ulitsa Baltschug, 956-7775

M. Novokuznetskaya

eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/

## SOHO ROOMS

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

12 Savinskaya Nab., 988-7474

M. Sportivnaya

www.sohorooms.com

## HEALTHY

### JAGGANNATH CAFÉ

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

11 Kuznetsky Most, 628-3580

M. Kuznetsky Most

www.jagannath.ru

### LE PAIN QUOTIDIEN

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

5/6 Kamergersky 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

## BOCCACINO

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

M. Pushkinskaya

## CASTA DIVA

Great Italian and pizza to die for with award-winning Italian pizza chef. Try the Black Truffle Pizza.

26 Tverskoi Bulvar, 651-8181

M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya

www.castadiva.ru

## CIPOLLINO

Coffee- and cream-colored stylish Italian cafe a stone's throw from the Cathedral of Christ the Savior. 7 Soimonsky Prospekt, 695-2936, 695-2950

M. Kropotkinskaya

www.cipollino.ru

## JAPANESE

### \*\*NOBU

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

M. Okhotny Ryad

www.noburestaurants.ru

### ICHIBAN BOSHI

High-quality, affordable Japanese with cool ambience. Several locations. 22 Krasnaya 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

### TSVETENIYE SAKURU

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

M. Mayakovskaya

### SEIJI

One of the few Moscow sushi restaurants that actually has a Japanese chef, even a celebrity chef – Seiji



Kusano, who also set up the O2 Lounge at the Ritz-Carlton.  
5/2 Komsomolskiy Prospekt, 246-7624  
**M.** Park Kultury

## CAUCASUS ARARAT

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

**M.** Teatralnaya, Kuznetsky Most

## BAGRATIONI

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

**M.** Baumanskaya

## BARASHKA

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

**M.** Kuznetsky Most

21/1 Novy Arbat

**M.** 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. Neglinskaya, 625-2596, 200-6836

**M.** Kuznetsky Most, Teatralnaya

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

## RUSSIAN \*\*CAFE PUSHKIN

A Moscow classic serving upmarket Russian cuisine in a lavish, 19th century setting. Bustling, ground-floor dining hall and a more sophisticated (and pricier) experience upstairs. Reservation essential.  
26a Tverskoi Bulvar, 739-0033

**M.** Pushkinskaya, Tverskaya, Chekhovskaya

## GODUNOV

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

**M.** Teatralnaya

## \*NEW\* GUSYATNIKOFF

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

**M.** Taganskaya

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

## NA MELNITSE

Homemade cuisine – *kvas, mors*, vodka, pickles. Russian style with

plenty of wood. The food is far from cheap, but the portions are enormous: it's like being fed by an overzealous babushka.

7 Tverskoi Bulvar, 290-3737

**M.** Pushkinskaya, Tverskaya, Chekhovskaya  
24 Sadovo-Spasskaya Ulitsa, 625-8890, 625-8753

**M.** Krasniye Vorota

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

## OBLOMOV

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

**M.** Dobrynskaya

## ONE RED SQUARE

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

**M.** Okhotny Ryad, Teatralnaya

[www.redsquare.ru](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.beefbar.com)

## EL GAUCHO

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

**M.** Mayakovskaya

6/13 Ul. Zatspeysky Val, 953-2876

**M.** Paveletskaya

3 Bolshoi Kozlovsky Pereulok, 623-1098

**M.** Krasniye Vorota

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

## GOODMAN

Moscow's premium steak house chain. Crisis menu added. Numerous locations.  
23 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 775-9888

**M.** Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya

[www.goodman.ru](http://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](http://www.torrogrill.ru)

## BARS AND CLUBS BOOZE PUB

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

Weekdays from 12:00 to 17:00.

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

5 Potapovsky Pereulok, Bldg. 2,

621-4717

**M.** Chistiye Prudy

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

## KARMA BAR

One of the most popular night clubs in town. Eastern-inspired interior, hookahs, and pan-Asian cuisine. Latin American dancing, Thursday-Saturday, 21:00-midnight. Every Saturday, the amazing Show Girls night. Every Sunday 12:00-6:00 – R&B and hip-hop party night.

3 Pushechnaya Ulitsa, 624-5633

**M.** Kuznetsky Most

[www.karma-bar.ru](http://www.karma-bar.ru)

## KRYSHA MIRA

The club has a reputation of being a

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

Face control

Open 23:00-06:00

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

**M.** Kievskaya

## B2 CLUB

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

Open daily noon-06:00

8 Bolshaya Sadovaya Ul., 650-9918

**M.** Marksistskaya, Tretyakovskaya

## NIGHT FLIGHT

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

Open 18:00-05:00

17 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 629-4165

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

**M.** Mayakovskaya

## PAPA'S

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

2 Myasnitskaya Ulitsa, 755-9554

**M.** Kitai-Gorod

## PROPAGANDA

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

Face control.

Open: noon-06:00

7 Bolshoi Zlatoustinsky Pereulok,

624-5732

**M.** Kitai-Gorod

## TOCHKA

Open Monday-Sunday, 18:00-06:00

6 Leninsky Prospekt, Bldg. 7, 737-7666

**M.** Oktyabrskaya

## SAKHAR

Open Tues.-Thurs. 20:00-06:00,

Fri. 12:00-6:00, Sat. 20:00-07:00.

23/25 Bolshoi Sukharevsky Pereulok,

207-2838

**M.** Sukharevskaya

## CENTRAL HOUSE OF ARCHITECTS

Face control. Open Mon.-Sat.

24:00-12:00.

7 Granatny Pereulok, 290-3249

**M.** Tretyakovskaya

## NOTE:

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



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## South West: The Frunzenskaya Peninsula & Park Kultury

*The fifth of an essential guide  
to favorite residential areas*

text and photos by Ross Hunter

*The Mandelstam Park*



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**Apartments For Rent**



Getting to and enjoying this enchanting area is delightfully easy. Start at Kropotkinskaya, pausing to enjoy fine views of the eponymous metro station and the new-old Cathedral, and lament that the statue facing you is Engels, not Kropotkin. Head briskly down Ostozhenka Ulitsa. The famous 'Golden Mile' is itself one of THE addresses to have in Moscow, and if you can afford it, a splendid place to live, steeped in history, ideally located for access and amenities and lined with top-class apartment blocks. The area has an agreeably bohemian reputation. Well-heeled bohemian, mind, as *The Moscow Times* reports Ostozhenka as being the world's ninth most expensive street. You are tracking Moscow's very first metro line, which is only cut-and-cover depth beneath you. The air vents are housed in ornate chalets.

This is only the apéritif. Skip over the Garden Ring, using the helpful flyover by Park Kultury metro station, and you are on the peninsula of interest this month, a place locally called Hamovniki. Expect to get familiar with a host of evocative and impressive names including Frunzenskaya, Novodevichy and slightly more equivocally, Luzhniki. The area is clearly bounded by the Garden Ring and the river, with its busy but scenic embankments. Through traffic has little incentive to come this way, so the atmosphere is calm and the pace gentler than in most other areas. The few big roads frame the district. They are literally, 'a spoon of tar' in the works: easy to ignore from a distance, but an eye- and ear-sore nearer. Bridges do lift the Garden and Third Rings out of the way, and in the latter case, creates an urban sports zone. The streets are broad and festooned with trees.

The focal point of the peninsula is the delightful Mandelstam Park (officially renamed Usadba Trubetskikh, but the poet's name endures). Right next to Frunzenskaya metro station, cinema, shops and market, this is a wonderfully developed and family-friendly area. Beautifully kept, full of flowers, with a good sized lake, it also boasts special areas for canine and equine enthusiasts. There is also ice skating, sledging, birds and squirrels (caged, sadly). At any time on weekends, the park is thronged with families, prams and pets. It even boasts a recently built sledging hill.

Housing surrounds the park. Not overmuch is quaint or pre-revolutionary, but there are more than enough solid Stalin



Frieze in the Frunzenskaya metro

era and later buildings to cover every taste and budget, and a constantly growing selection of brand new buildings. There are good facilities at street level, and it should be easy to get a flat with a river view, and the longer vistas that come with it. The whole area feels solid, secure and green. Third Frunzenskaya is the place to start: some really stylish Stalin buildings, excellent views, and as a finishing touch, an orchard of apple trees lines the strolling areas in the middle. New developments popular with expats include 'Camelot' at Komsomolky 32, 'Vienna House' at 1st Neopalimovsky Pereulok, 'La Defense' and 'Fusion Park'.

Shopping is not my patch, but even I can spot a long line of top quality emporia when I see one. Fashions, furniture, fine foods and antique shops catch the eye, notably along Frunzenskaya and Kosomolsky Prospekt. There are also plenty of convenience shops, groceries and fast food outlets. Coffee lovers are 'espressoly' well catered for. Squeezed between the metro and the park is a splendid fresh foods market, much appreciated by locals. Friday's market is especially recommended for eggs and honey.

This is above all a family area, ideal for jogging, pramming or cycling along the embankments one way round to Red Square, the other way to Kievskaya. Or how about the long run round Luzhniki Park? An abundance of parks and gardens includes Novodevichy, and crossing the river opens up Gorky

## Great New Offers



Lot 62358

The apartment in Stalin-Era building. High-quality renovation. The apartment is equipped with full kitchen set of appliances and tastefully furnished. Bathroom has high - quality European equipment.



Lot 61736

The apartment is located in the center near the Kremlin. Newly renovated in classic style with the features of modern style. All included. Panoramic view. Parking. Playground. Underground Parking.



Lot 50890

The apartment in modern building. Bathrooms have high - quality equipment Imported Western furniture in modern style. Underground Parking. Secured territory.



*Ostozhenka des res*



*3 Frenzenskaya Naberezhnaya*

Park, Neskuchniy Gardens, and the Sparrow hills (Vorobyovy Gory) nature reserve. For urban youth, the Luzhniki Stadium area being underdeveloped offers basketball under the fly-over, rollerblading and skateboarding concrete surfaces, indoor and outdoor tennis, fitness clubs and more.

If you want a good dose of exercise, traverse the whole area in a morning or an afternoon, from Sparrow Hills to the Cathedral of Christ the Savior, or the other way round. This long green stroll covers a variety of landscapes, historical ties and even the setting of the sunset finale of The Master and Margarita in Neskuchniy Garden.

## The special bits:

### **Novodevichy Monastery, cemetery and park**

Virtually intact since the 17th century, this is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Mandelstam Park** One of the best family parks in Moscow and the center of the area.

**The Embankments are** wide, varied and offer wide vistas.

**The Luzhniki Stadium** or rather, stadia, are magnificent buildings, full of stories – glorious, heroic and tragic – and a vast play area away from match days. If there is a game on, either go to it – the atmosphere inside is amazing – or get as far away as possible, before you get stuck.

**Tolstoy's House** Now there's an address. One of the nicest houses in Moscow, and an evocative museum.

**Buildings & Statues** Tick them off as you go. As well as those mentioned above, there are amusing views of the amusement park follies of Gorky Park across the river, and best of all, there are few places where the view is spoiled by the ever ghastly Peter The Great bronze monstrosity.

**The Best Metro stations** Kropotkinskaya, magnificently overbuilt, awaiting the never to arrive Palace of the Soviets.

**Nearby?** If you like this area but can't find what you want ... the neighbors are pretty decent: Zamoskvarechy (see *Passport*, Sept. '09), Smolenskaya and the Arbat (to be covered in the January 2010 issue – opinions, please!) and Universitet/Gagarin/Leninskiy Prospekt all have their own special character. See 'thanks' below for more contacts.

## Top 10 +/-

### **The list of all that matters most**

1. An area that exudes solid, peaceful comfort;
2. Well defined and untroubled by the surrounding kaleidoscope...
3. ...yet perfectly placed for the city and all its amenities.
4. Arguably the most family friendly inner area, festooned with well tended parks and gardens;
5. Culturally endowed by Novodevichy and Tolstoy (beat that!),
6. and home of Russia's football...
7. ....so all advantages are 'off' on match day afternoons or evenings;
8. Perfect at weekends, spoiled for choice for family cycle rides;
9. Not many exits can make for commuter congestion.
10. Unmissable? Absolutely! Comfortably on the podium of best areas for families.

I am most grateful to the following experts for their detailed knowledge. Do contact them for more on this enchanting area: Marina Semenova at Intermark Savills: m.semenova@intermarksavills.ru for real estate matters; as well as Penny Lane Realty: sado@realtor.ru; Harriet at www.childreninmoscow.ru for opportunities for children; Anna at www.eolia-relocation.ru and EIS parents www.englishedmoscow.com **P**

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# Cost Reduction Strategies for Mobility Professionals

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

In a recovering economy, realizing cost-saving opportunities is more important than ever before. Staff reductions over the past 12 months have left business professionals trying to meet and hopefully exceed their goals, with fewer resources at their disposal and they are seeking new strategies to reduce costs.

## Reducing Direct Costs

Direct costs such as travel, temporary accommodation, housing, etc., generate significant savings opportunities through negotiation and leverage. While many organizations deploy procurement experts to produce cost savings across functional areas, global relocation companies employ similar exercises to leverage their global purchasing power. Partnering with procurement teams helps to identify savings in direct costs across the value chain and throughout the relocation process.

Organizations can leverage buying power by utilizing a “single source, one stop shop” service partner. Everyone understands the value and savings of “buying in quantity.” As a single source provider, or “one-stop shop,” Crown can provide total relocation program management from policy development and on-going counseling, support and coordination to origin and destination real estate services, shipping, etc. The client leverages its buying power by transferring the cost of ownership from multiple vendors to one holistic service partner. This approach generates process efficiencies across the value chain through a broad global footprint and breadth of in-house capabilities.

## Avoiding Costly Exceptions

Managing the “tempo” of a relocation, e.g., correct timing of services, helps prevent the occurrence of unexpected situations, or exceptions, which are costly. Working with the transferee, during the briefing and planning phase of a relocation, to identify critical dates and developing a relocation plan that realistically aligns the employee’s needs with corporate objectives and budgets is a critical step in planning and controlling the costs of the assignment.

Through program administration, shipping and relocation services, mobility professionals have a complete and total view of the relocation process and can plan the most cost effective timeline. Upfront planning will reduce the time spent in temporary accommodation. And household good shipments can be transported via sea, both of which lower the costs of the relocation.

## Innovative Policy Strategies

Re-structuring of policy, through innovation, alignment of assignment types with tax requirements and the use of flex-



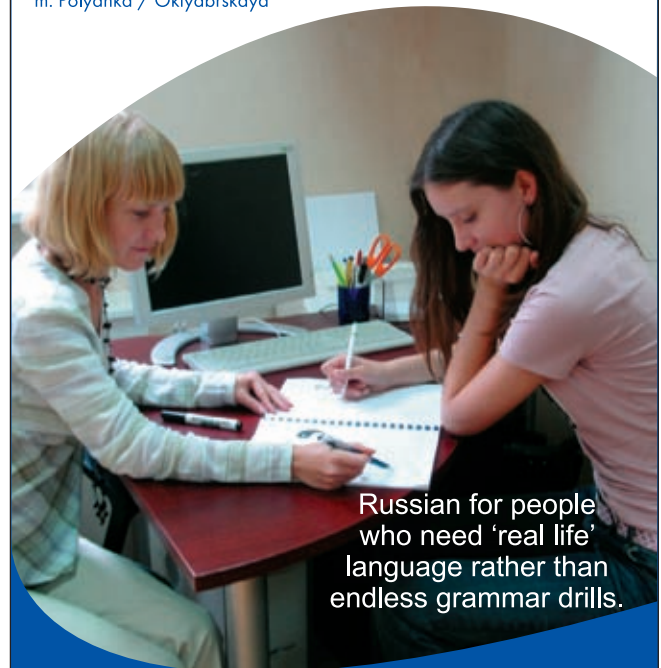
ible options creates the greatest savings opportunities.

For shorter-term assignments, critical tax dates should be reviewed against the planned assignment dates. Creativity in tax planning can provide advantageous cost reductions. A flexible menu of policy provisions also provides cost savings opportunities. A policy that is structured with a variety of options to suit the needs of the employee, the spouse, the children or singles, will enable employees to enjoy the support most needed or desired, eliminating benefits that may be perceived as “nice to have,” depending on the circumstances of each individual assignment.

Relocations Global Mobility experts walk the client through these critical cost saving strategies to ensure the final policy and process deliver the best value to the organization and support the transferee at the lowest possible total cost. **P**

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## Should You Use a Real Estate Agency to Find a Flat?

by Andrei Sado, Director, Elite Residential Rental Penny Lane Realty

"Can I do it?" This is a question which we have been asking ourselves forever. Answering this question in the affirmative will prove to us one more time that we are not average, better than the rest, and different. Our ego will be satisfied because, after all, without struggle there is no progress.

Humanity possibly would have not existed if it wasn't for people who ask "Can I do it?" Could we fly in

the air, could we even know how to make fire, if it wasn't for that one strange looking guy, who kept trying to twist a straw until it smoked and burst into flames. Whether we are driven by curiosity, ego or the simple desire to object to somebody else's accusation that we are weak, we challenge ourselves to do things we usually wouldn't do, or have at least never considered. Of course life sometimes brings us surprises where we simply have to ask ourselves this question; for example if we get lost in the woods and have to battle to survive, or we perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on a drowned man, or we find ourselves on an uninhabited island. How we deal with these situations quite often helps us understand who we really are, because it brings out the best or the worst in us.

However, there are certain things which are best left to professionals. Let's not try to do our own heart transplant, or think that we know the financial markets better than the Wall Street guys. Trying to plan our own vacation is okay when we are twenty, or when we have twenty million in the bank, but to screw up the only one-week vacation you got for the past five years together with your wife, only because you were trying to prove to her that she did marry a MACHO man and never asks for directions, is silly.

Professionals can do it better, faster and in the end, cheaper. Yes of course there are exceptions, but it would be a mistake to think that one can be an exception in every case.

Yes, you can probably find your own home in Moscow, but it will take time, patience, lots of dictionaries, a couple of million destroyed brain cells and in the end you will still have to pay.

The Russian real estate market is different from anywhere in the world. 99% of all apartments are owned by individuals, and to protect themselves they advertise their best properties only through agencies. Professional real estate agencies give landlords guarantees which protect them from unwanted tenants. Every landlord knows that if a client so wishes he can write a 30-day notice and terminate the contract, however if a tenant has paid a commission fee, the chances are that he will not do this, and that, for the landlord, is a very good guarantee that the tenant will stay for the whole term of the contract.

Well, back to our assumption that people can enter into rental agreements themselves. Finding properties is a lot of work; you have to look at the sites of major real estate agencies to find what you like. You have to contact every apartment owner separately and organize your own viewings; you have to prove to a landlord that you are credible and financially well off.

Last week we had to prove to a landlord that Schlumberger is a worldwide major corporation. The landlord did not like how Schlumberger sounds and found somewhere in Yandex that the company has an office in Panama, and decided that Schlumberger and its employees are crooks. Trying to prove him wrong by yourself, especially if your Russian is not that good; well, good luck!

I am sure that one in every hundred people, who will decide to find an apartment on their own will succeed without major bloopers. The rest will learn by mistakes, hopefully not major ones, because there are hidden traps that can ruin your stay. I will touch on that more in the next issue.

Maybe in ten years, when we will have in Moscow new residential complexes, built for the sole purposes of rent, people will have a better chance to do it themselves. But until then, the developers and investors will continue to build to sell, simply because the return on their investments is much faster that way. We are in a world dominated by individual landlords, and in this battle for better price, location, view or parking space, you will need every bit of help you can get, and a professional broker is a partner worth paying for. **P**

## How to say 'How do I get?'

### For directions around town:

Извините, пожалуйста, как попасть на Гоголевский бульвар?  
How do I get to Gogolevsky Boulevard?

Извините, пожалуйста, как мне попасть на станцию «Охотный ряд»?  
*How do I get to Okhotny Ryad metro station from here?*

### How to get in or through to something:

Извините, как попасть на второй этаж?  
How do I get to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor?  
Переход закрыт, как попасть на ту сторону улицы?  
The pedestrian subway's blocked.  
How do I get to the other side of the street?

Это крутой клуб, как нам туда попасть?  
It's a very cool club.  
How do we get in?

Как попасть на концерт?  
How do I get in to that concert?

### If that's not what you were after:

Ну мы попали!  
Boy, we've got a problem now?!  
Вы не туда попали.  
You've got the wrong number.  
Я попал в передрагу.  
I've gotten myself into a bit of a fix.

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# The View From Old Blighty: Bells, Treasure and American Crayfish



by Anth Ginn

I've been watching the jackdaws. We throw spare bread onto our lawn. The jackdaws gather in a gang, hungrily inspecting the crusts and scraps from a couple of meters, swooping down for a piece, then changing their minds. Finally, one plucks up enough courage to pluck up a crust. The rest, immediately go into hysterics, screech, attack, and try to snatch the food from the bird foolish enough to have grabbed a bit, completely ignoring the pile on the floor. Which brings me to the party conference season.

In Brighton, Manchester and Bournemouth, the faithful have been gathering in conference centers to screech, grab and attack each other, waffle on for ages about nothing, and make empty, idle promises. They behave with the dignity of a clattering of jackdaws. With a general election looming early next year, the screeching is louder than ever, and you can't turn the TV on, without watching them ripping each other's feathers out, or snatching stale bread from each other's beaks. It's not surprising the nation is loosing the will to live.

However, there have been one or two glimmers of hope on the horizon. August saw lousy weather, but in September we saw the sun and blue sky for a couple of hours. We used to get "Indian Summers", but nowadays we're happy with the odd "Indian tea break". In Ipswich, Suffolk, the bells in St. Lawrence's church have been repaired. This caught the imagination of the nation, eager to grab onto any good news in these troubled times. They are the oldest bells in Christendom, and date back to the 15th century. They were silent for almost thirty years, but this autumn they were heard again. You can sit outside the church, close your eyes, listen to the bells ring and imagine you're Cardinal Wolsey. If you ignore passing traffic, overhead jets, and burglar alarms going off, you'll hear exactly the same sound the cardinal heard when he was sitting there, trying to figure out how the hell the king had managed to steal Hampton Court and York Palace from him.

Meanwhile, over in Oxfordshire, the bells of the 12th century St. Peter and Paul church, which chime every hour, could soon be silenced by Miss Higgins, 41, who lives 150 metres from the church, and hasn't had a night's sleep for over six years. The village is divided on the matter, and await the decision of the Parochial Church Council. Things are even worse up in Lancashire. The bell ringers of St. Mary's church, Leigh, have been served with a noise abatement order from Wigan council, due to complaints from nearby residents, who scurry down the High St ev-

ery week, clutching their ears, screaming, "The Bells. The Bells".

Meanwhile, down in Staffordshire, Terry Hebert, a metal detector enthusiast discovered a massive hoard of Saxon gold and silver buried in a field. Over 1,500 pieces of gold and silver, many decorated with precious jewels have been declared treasure, and handed over to the state. Mr Herbert will receive a reward, based on the value of the treasure, which will keep him well supplied with oatcakes for the rest of his days. The treasure is almost totally weapons fittings, and is believed to be the booty from a battle in 643 AD between Manchester United and Stoke City fans, when City knocked United out of the Ethel-read the Unready Cup with a disputed penalty in extra time. The trophy was renamed the Carling cup in the 989AD, when it became sponsored by the court of King Canute.

Wales played Russia in Cardiff, in the knock out stages of the World Cup. Things have changed since the days of the USSR. Wales played the old USSR team in Cardiff, in the 1980s. Before the game, the Welsh anthem was played. The crowd sang their heart out. Then the anthem of the USSR was played. The crowd stood in respectful silence. Finally the "English" national anthem was played. The crowd erupted in loud booing. We were in the final stages of the Cold War at the time, and the USSR were supposed to be our enemy, so it was so embarrassing to see the crowds reactions to the different anthems, that "God Save the Queen", was removed from the song sheet shortly afterwards.

There's a vicious battle for survival going on in our rivers and streams. The red signal crayfish has been introduced into UK waters from America, and is wiping out the sleepy old indigenous British crayfish, which spends most of its time laying around listening to 15th century church bells chiming, dreaming of buried treasure. A chattering of fascist jackdaws has picked up on this war in waterworld, and issued a statement. According to Lee John Barnes, the legal officer of the British National Party,

"The North American Crayfish is the Mike Tyson of crayfish. It is a diseased, psychotic, evil, illegal immigrant colonist who displaces the indigenous crayfish, colonizes their territory and then reproduces until it totally devastates the indigenous environment and indigenous crayfish... DEATH TO THE USURPERS!"

You can always rely on a Nazi jackdaw to explain things clearly. Meanwhile, Google searches for crayfish recipes have increased tenfold, and Ronnie Sullivan's crayfish traps are selling like hot cakes at £4.99 plus postage and packing. As we say in Cornwall, "Every red signal crayfish has a garlic buttered lining." **P**

# Diary of a Tsar-in-Waiting

by Michael Romanov

Somehow as winter draws on in Moscow two things seem to happen simultaneously: the nights get darker and the reports in the press of murders get more lurid. We seem to live in a very violent society and it will be one of my main priorities when I am elected Tsar to tackle this issue.

In doing so, I intend to follow the British example. More police are not the answer. It is unconventional methods which bring results. The real, unsung successes of British crime detection are cases which have been solved with the use of either foreign refugees or local amateurs, anything in fact other than the official police. I am sure this is a recipe which will work in Moscow too.

Its triumphs in Britain are no secret. They are the subject of a monumental, eighty-volume history, called the Christie Report. Millions of copies have been sold, worldwide. Anyone who believes day-to-day life in Moscow is more risky than that in suburban England should read it. Moscow is not as bad as people make out.

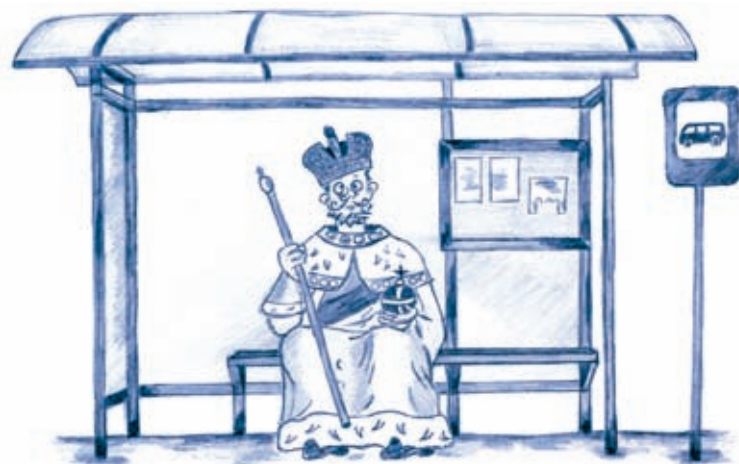
Speaking personally, not only have I never killed anyone, I have never been the subject of a killing. If just once I had actually been murdered myself, I might be more disposed to believe the stories in the media about the violence of Russian society. But I can only speak as I find and I have to report that as of this writing, I remain entirely unmurdered.

Would this have been the case had I elected to stay in Britain? I wonder. The Christie Report makes chilling reading. It seems that if you are a member of genteel society you are very likely to be killed by arsenic, potassium-cyanide or strychnine poisoning, or shot through the temple with a pearl-handled pistol concealed in a lady's handbag, or stabbed in the neck with a poisoned hat-pin while taking tea at the Café Royal. And what is most worrying is that not once, in the entire eighty volumes, is there a report of a case which was cleared up by the police.

The first volume in the series was issued as far back as 1920, incidentally illustrating the fact that crime is embedded historically in English society. A wealthy lady from rural Essex was poisoned by her husband in order that he should inherit her money. After the police are baffled by the facts of the case, a house-guest who is an old friend of the murdered lady's son, calls on the services of a middle-aged Belgian war-time refugee who happens to be living in the village attached to the estate. He potters up to the big house, finds clues everyone else has missed and solves the case.

The Report is structured in such a way that every case is the subject of its own, separate descriptive protocol. One of the most remarkable of these concerns the murder of a Mr. Roger Ackroyd who was killed after yet another wealthy lady was found dead, this lady in turn having been suspected of killing her husband. The most astonishing fact of that case was that it is the author of the protocol who turns out to have been Mr. Ackroyd's killer.

Once again, it is the Belgian refugee who solves the case. There seems to be death all around him. In such circumstanc-



es, one wonders why he does not return to Belgium, where life, for all its shortcomings (proximity to Germany being the main one in his case as that is why he became a displaced person in the first place) can hardly have been less risky than in the country houses of southern England.

The Report makes clear that the refugee who, under the thirty-year rule can now be identified as a M. Hercules Poirot, was in Britain quite legally, though it glosses over the position with his documents. We are not told if he was on a tourist, business or work visa and if so, how often he had to return to Belgium to get it renewed.

Even abroad, murder by genteel English people seems to follow M. Poirot around. One of the protocols records a case in Egypt where a honeymoon couple are on a Nile cruise and the husband shoots himself in the leg in order to disguise his shooting his newly-wed wife in the head so that he can inherit her immense fortune and run off with the woman he loves, who shoots two other people on board before finally, on the dockside, shooting both her lover and herself.

While the Belgian refugee is doing the police's work abroad, in Mesopotamia or on the Orient Express, an elderly spinster called Jane Marples holds the fort back home. She lives quietly in an ordinary Home Counties village, where she spends most of her time gardening. Life there is what gave her a nose for crime, she says.

It all goes to show that the answer to crime in Moscow is to call upon the city's stock of elderly spinsters and displaced persons. Surely everyone would vote for that. **P**





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# Empire of the Tsar: A Journey Through Eternal Russia

Marquis Astolf de Custine

*The book is out of print but readily available second-hand through Amazon and other on-line retailers at prices ranging from £6.00 per copy, plus post and packing*

text by Ian Mitchell

Having spent time in early September marking the seventieth anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War, perhaps it might be right also to mark the hundred and seventieth anniversary of the visit to Russia of the man who arguably started the whole business of thinking of Russia as a "problem" which Europe had, or one day would have, to deal with. It was in the little Rhenish spa town of Ems, in October 1839, that the Marquis de Custine sat down to summarize his impressions of the five-month trip to Russia which gave rise to perhaps the most famous travel account of this country ever written, *Russie en 1839*, usually rendered into English as *The Empire of the Czar: a Journey Through Eternal Russia*.

The book is still read getting on for two centuries later, and the reason is simple: de Custine was the first person to describe in an ordinary human way, rather than in a political or theoretical one, the fundamental feature of Russian governance which had been present since the time of the Mongols – namely autocracy. Indeed it was with the personal approval of the Autocrat himself, Nicholas I, that de Custine came to Russia.

He did so thinking he would find a form of government that he could admire. As French aristocrats, both de Custine's father and grandfather had been executed during the Revolution. The young, homosexual Marquis was an apolitical conservative. He hoped he would find in the Tsar's Imperium a model which western European countries might wish to emulate. But things did not turn out quite like that.

From the moment de Custine landed at Kronstadt in the early summer, he was assailed by feelings of oppression. Before he was allowed into Russia, he was asked by the customs officer why he had come here.

"To see the country," he answered.

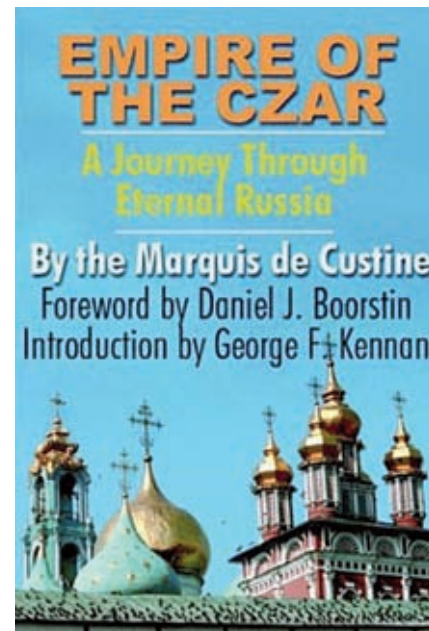
"That is not a motive for travelling," the officer replied. He then went on to ask if de Custine had a diplomatic commission, or secret orders, or a scientific purpose. When the visitor answered "No" to all of those, the officer then wanted to know if he was employed to examine the social and political state of the country, either by his government or by a commercial association. When de Custine answered "No" to that too, the exasperated official then said, apparently incredulously, "So you travel from mere curiosity?"

"Yes," de Custine answered brightly.

It was an appropriate start. It presaged much that was to follow. Within a couple of days, the visitor was writing about "this people's attachment to their slavery".

De Custine decided early on that the only free person in the whole, vast country was the Autocrat himself. Everyone else was either a servant or a slave. The servants worked for the Autocrat, and the slaves (we would call them serfs) worked for the servants. The idea that anyone could meander around freely, led only by their own desire to see new things, was alien to all Russians. "Pleasure without any ulterior motive, pleasure for its own sake, is unknown here."

De Custine writes mainly about the servants, as the slaves were too different



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from him, not least in terms of language, to enable much contact to be made. He is not uncomplimentary about ordinary Russians. "They have good mental capacity, and sometimes even elevation of character. But nevertheless, the principle which chiefly actuates their conduct through life is cunning. Ever on guard against their masters, who are constantly acting towards them with open and shameless bad faith, they compensate themselves by artifice for what they suffer through injustice."

It is their pseudo-Europeanized masters, the servants of the autocracy, that de Custine really dislikes. What are the duties of what he calls this "cringing aristocracy?" The answer is simple and devastating: "To adore the Emperor," he says. "To render themselves accomplices in the abuse of sovereign power, that they themselves may continue to oppress the people."

This situation poses a danger for Europe because "either the civilized world will, before another fifty years, pass under the yoke of barbarians, or Russia will undergo a revolution more terrible than that." He was not far off.

So what of the only free man in this system – the Emperor? De Custine had many meetings and several long conversations with Nicholas, whom he seems to have both liked and pitied. His "predominant expression is that of a restless severity" and he "cannot smile at the same time with the eyes and the mouth".

De Custine then observes: "Graceful courtesy insures authority, by removing the desire for resistance. This judicious economy in the exercise of power is a se-



cret of which Emperor Nicholas is ignorant. He is one who desires to be obeyed, where others desire to be loved." But this is a self-reinforcing problem as the more he is obeyed, the more the Emperor fears disobedience and thus, a consequent rupture in the huge, transcontinental machine which he alone directs and which he has to take responsibility for. He labors manfully but miserably under burdens that would have crushed a more sensitive soul.

This unnatural state of affairs even affects the Tsar's immediate family, especially the Empress Alexandra whom de Custine described as painfully thin, depressed and lonely. "Wife, children, servants, relations, favorites: all in Russia must follow in the imperial vortex, and smile on till they die. All must force themselves to conform to the wish of the sovereign, whose wish alone forms the destiny of all. The nearer anyone is placed to the imperial sun, the more he is a slave to the glory attached to his situation. The Empress is dying under the weight of this slavery."

The fear which runs through the imperial administration is palpable. Russia is "a country but not a nation" because there can be no common feeling

amongst people when all suspect each other of cheating their way up towards the corrupt favor of the elite. Not only do they mistrust each other, but Russians mistrust all foreigners, suspecting them of harboring unfavourable opinions of their strangely unconfident country. Yet they slavishly imitate their habits.

The results of these feelings of inferiority, mistrust and desire for outward show, are seen in the artificiality of "society". Women, according to de Custine, have elegance without taste, buildings have size without charm, conversation rarely involves any real communication, and a love of superficial novelty co-exists with a fear of innovation.

There is a host of other problems which de Custine draws attention to, including endemic violence ("a Russian of the lower classes is as often beaten as saluted"), and which, taken together, amount to a way of life which few would wish to emulate. Certainly the Russians themselves don't seem to be happy with it. From the slaves through the servants, right up to the Emperor himself, autocracy gives nothing to Russia but size. Yet Russians continue to insist that they be treated like a people which has

created its own culturally-autonomous civilisation. De Custine comments: "I do not reproach the Russians for being what they are. What I blame in them is their pretending to be what we are."

His basic point is his most harsh. Having asked where this habit of mutual oppression comes from, the Marquis answers that no responsible class of person has, over the long term, performed its role in society properly, conscientiously and fairly. The result is a community entirely without what we would call public spirit. Public life has died as a result. "An oppressed people have always deserved the ills under which they suffer," de Custine remarks. "Tyranny is the work of the nation."

Lest we in the West get too smug about this, it is perhaps worth noting that when I described de Custine's book to a respectable, well-travelled but anti-establishment Russian recently, and emphasized the interrogation which the Marquis was subject to when he arrived at St. Petersburg a hundred and seventy years ago, my friend replied with a laugh: "Those are exactly the kind of questions I am asked today when I apply for a visa to Britain or the United States." **P**



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India  
Israel  
Italy  
Japan  
Kuwait  
Luxembourg  
Malaysia  
Mauritius  
Mexico  
Netherlands  
New Zealand  
Norway  
Pakistan  
Peru  
Philippines  
Poland  
Portugal  
Saudi Arabia  
Singapore  
Slovenia  
South Africa  
South Korea  
Spain  
Sweden  
Thailand  
United Arab Emirates  
United Kingdom  
United States

## Medical Centers

American Clinic  
American Dental Clinic  
American Dental Center  
American Medical Center  
European Dental Center  
European Medical Center  
German Dental Center  
International SOS  
US Dental Care

MedinCentre

## Others

American Chamber of Commerce  
American Express  
Anglo-American School  
American Institute of Business and Economics  
Association of European Businesses  
Astravel  
Aviatransagentstvo  
Baker Hughes  
British International School  
Cara & Co.  
Coca Cola  
Citibank  
Concept MR, ZAO  
Dr. Loder's  
DHL  
English International School  
Ernst & Young  
Evans Property Services  
Expat Salon  
Foreign Ministry Press Center  
General Electric  
General Motors CIS  
Gold's Gym  
Halliburton International  
Hinkson Christian Academy  
Imperial Tailoring Co.  
Indian Shop  
Interpochta  
Ital-Market  
JAL  
JCC  
Jones Lang LaSalle  
LG Electronics  
Mega/IKEA  
Moscow Voyage Bureau  
Move One Relocations  
NB Gallery  
Park Place  
Passport Office  
PBN Company  
Penny Lane Realty  
Philips Russia  
Pilates Yoga  
Pokrovsky Hills  
PricewaterhouseCoopers  
Procter & Gamble  
Pulford  
Reuters  
Renaissance Capital  
Respublika  
Rolf Group  
Ruslingua  
Russo-British Chamber of Commerce  
St. Andrew's Anglican Church  
Savant  
Schwartzkopf & Henkel  
Shishkin Gallery  
Sport Line Club  
Swiss International Airlines  
TeamAllied  
Tretiakov Gallery  
Unilever  
Uniastrum Bank  
WimmBillDann