

PASSPORT MOSCOW

SEPTEMBER 2011

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Moscow's Best Restaurants

What Makes Russians happy?
The Moscow Metro





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John Ortega
Owner and Publisher

Welcome back! We Americans hope that Russia gets a functioning democracy soon, and when it does, tell us what it's like! My British editor says something similar about the UK, after seeing the way that the August rioters there have been handed out inordinately severe sentences by the courts. It is difficult for me to accept how quickly things have changed. No longer are we able to preach to the world and be taken seriously when all we can do to stay afloat is print money. I have even started to worry about good old America, my country. I admit that I find myself thinking that Russia, despite being the most goddam awful place to work, isn't so bad after all. I mean at least there is work, and people still have money in their pockets to spend. Let's hope that by Christmas we are all still in one piece, and the financial tsunami which is the second wave of the crisis doesn't hit Russia too hard. The disarray in our own countries does mean that Russia can continue to destroy democracy here, and only Gorbachev cares. Does it matter to you?

We present a variety of articles, from "What Makes Russians happy" by Frank Ebbecke, written for seasoned ex-pats, to an introductory article on the Moscow Metro, for new arrivals. Whatever your level of exposure to Russian culture, I hope that PASSPORT has something for you.

You can afford it! It is Cuba! It is Libre!

On 21st of July the Cuba Libre bar on Kuznetsky Most officially opened.

Guests at the opening party found themselves at a carnival in the spirit of free Cuba. But to get onto the island, visitors had to pass a border post where especially suspicious guests were searched by girl-frontier guards. Having made it to the bar, visitors had already forgotten their problems. There was a Latin-American atmosphere with the mixed drink Cuba Libre, bachata music and a salsa performed by the group Cubamania. This was a night to remember!

M. Chistye Prudy; 17 Ulitsa Pokrovka, 624-07-18, M. Kuznetsky most; 4 Kuznetsky most, 692-02-14 www.cubalibrebar.ru



Starbucks Help Children

Dear friends! We have wonderful news for you! On the 20th and 27th of August at 13:00 in the Starbucks at Arbat 19/2, we are holding an informal meeting to tell people about our Nastavniki program (www.nastavniki.org); about how each of you can help change children's lives for the better! Please come round for a cup of Starbucks coffee or a cold cocktail. Come all at 13:00 at the address Arbat 19/2 (Starbucks coffee). We are looking forward to seeing you all!



Volvo Fashion Week Moscow will take place in Gostiny Dvor on October 26-31, 2011.

Spring/Summer 2012 collections will be shown on the walk ways of Gostiny Dvor by leading Russian designers, including Alena Akhmadullina, Cyrille Gassiline, Sergey Sysoev, Victoria Andreyanova, Natasha Drigant, Ilya Shiyani, Antonina Shapovalova, Olga Deffi, Alina Assi, Erica Zaiants, and many others. Each year, Volvo Fashion Week

Many pleasant surprises and society events are in store for regular guests and enthusiasts of the project: the Opening Party that traditionally brings together all socialites of the Russian capital city in the most popular night clubs and restaurants; bright shows with stars of Russian

show business taking part; collections created in association with celebrities; and fashion exhibitions and installations arranged by partners of Volvo Fashion Week Moscow. Cafes, bars and lounges will be open on the territory of Gostiny Dvor for guests of Volvo Fashion Week Moscow. You are welcome!

On the 19th of August, 2011 Valeria Astakhova and Sergey Savinets got married. The editors of PASSPORT magazine sincerely congratulate the newlyweds and wish them a long married life! As they say in accordance with Russian tradition —Gorko!!!



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BUSINESS LUNCH

BUSINESS DAYS 12PM - 5PM

Paul Poiret: King of Fashion

Aline Kalinina

This autumn the Kremlin Museums present a show dedicated to a representative of one of the most refined epochs in arts and fashion: Paul Poiret, King of Fashion. This is a diverse exhibition encompassing dresses, accessories, designs and perfumes created by Poiret le Magnifique. Poiret with his exotic oriental tendencies, love and eye for colour, admiration for theatre and ability to express it all in a piece of clothing, was a pioneer in many spheres: he created designer's perfumes, mixed fashion with interior design and was thus the first to promote the concept of a "total lifestyle" characteristic of the Art Nouveau epoch.

Before the opening of the exhibition, PASSPORT Magazine's Aline Kalinina speaks to the curator of the exhibition, Svetlana Amelekhina, keeper and curator of the fabrics department at the Kremlin Museums.

Svetlana, how did the idea to make a Paul Poiret show in the Kremlin Museums emerge? Paul Poiret was originally a fashion designer, he made clothes, right?

First of all, at the beginning of the 20th century, Paul Poiret was acclaimed not only as a successful fashion designer but equally as a talented artist. For the Russian audience he was a genuine star with Alexandre Benois naming him in one of his articles as a brilliant artist. Paul Poiret himself often said that he was a long way from being a tailor, and in the world of fashion and art he positioned himself as an artist and had an absolute right to do so. Secondly, in 2008, at the Moscow Kremlin Museums there was already an exhibition entitled: "Two Centuries of British Fashion" from the Victoria and Albert Museum's collection. It was a huge success so we decided to make other exhibitions and tell our audience about more couturiers. This is how the idea of Poiret show appeared. Besides, Poiret

first came to Russia exactly 100 years ago—in 1911.

The exhibition comprises exhibits from four museums: the Musée Galliera (Paris Fashion Museum), which has supplied dresses, illustrations from *Gazette du Bon Ton* (a Paris-based magazine), accessories, shoes and hats; dresses from the Victoria and Albert Museum (London). Paul Poiret collaborated intensively with the Victoria & Albert museum when he studied the collection of Indian turbans for his own fashion collections. Poiret's perfume line is generously contributed by the International Museum of Perfume in Grasse. And the State Hermitage Museum presents their collection of Paul Poiret's evening gowns.

Poiret often mentioned that Sergei Diaghilev's Ballets Russes influenced him a lot. What other sources of influence and inspiration can we find in his creations?

Well, Léon Bakst had some influence on him, though in his memoirs Poiret usually dismisses this. Paris, being the



theatre capital of the world at that time could not but affect Paul Poiret. Poiret's vision for fashion was expressed through his special silhouettes: "lampshade" tunic or his "harem trousers", or pantaloons—his leanings towards the Orient. Also his high-waisted Directoire Revival silhouette was of the most avant-garde innovations in the fashion of his epoch. Those designs by the way appeared in two beautifully made and coloured pochoir editions—in Paul Iribe's *Les Robes de Paul Poiret* (1908) and George Lepape's *Les Choses de Paul Poiret* (1911). The same year—1911—Poiret made his first international tour when he visited Russia and other countries.

He stayed in Moscow and Saint-Petersburg. His fashion shows were a huge success in both cities, attracting the local nobility and patrons of arts, and inspiring designers such as Erté (Romain de Tirtoff - a Russian born artist) for example who later followed Poiret to Paris. Erté spent one year there studying painting and fashion design and when he showed his sketches to Poiret, he was immediately invited to his Maison. Poiret made the young man acquainted with the publisher of *Gazette du Bon Ton*, and Erté's later successful career is well-known in France and in Hollywood as the author of fine illustrations for the *Vogue* magazine and others.

In his later memoirs Poiret remembered Moscow vividly, inspired by what he saw there, he created several collections named *Samovar* and *Petrushka*... In 1913, when he came to the US, his wife and muse Denise was wearing one of Poiret's garments named *Moscovite*. Poiret named all of his creations. He created fashion for the leading actresses of his epoch such as Sarah Bernhardt or Gabrielle Réjane. In our exhibition we make a special section for Poiret and Cinema presenting film images we found in the Cinématèque Française in Paris with ac-



tors wearing clothes in those films designed by Poiret.

Please tell us some more about Poiret's models and his principal Muse – his wife Denise.

The principal muse and model for Poiret was his wife Denise. For Poiret this slender woman was the embodiment of the modern woman. He met her when she was about nineteen. To his friends he said that he saw a huge potential in this girl. He taught her fashion, but also

taught her to pose for photographers and certainly wear his fashion. In our exhibition we present photographs taken during the couple's visit to America in 1913. You can see what an icon of fashion Denise was then already, how simplistic and modern the Poiret creations look now. *Vogue* commented on every fancy accessory Madame Poiret wore. Her style was copied immediately.

In the 1910s, Poiret started his own perfume line, can you tell us something about that?

It was in 1911, when Poiret was almost at the peak of his career. He expanded his clothes business to include perfume, textile and interior design. The perfume company was named after his elder daughter, Rosine. And the interior Atelier was named after his second – Martine. When Poiret was in Vienna, he had already become acquainted with the principle of "total work of art" by artists from the Wiener Werkstätte, but it is through his own approach which combined fashion, perfume and interior design that he elaborated this concept of "total lifestyle." Directed by Poiret at the Martine Atelier theatre were created designs for book covers, delicate perfume flacons or wall papers, and he attracted well known though later artists and craftsmen such as Paul Iribe, Raoul Dufy, Georges Lepape.

How is the exhibition arranged?

The exhibition is logically and spatially divided into two sections: in the One-Pillar Chamber we tell the Paul Poiret story before and during WWI. The second section presented in the Assumption Belfry illustrates Poiret's phoenix revival. **P**

**September 7-January 15
Kremlin Museums
Paul Poiret. King of Fashion**

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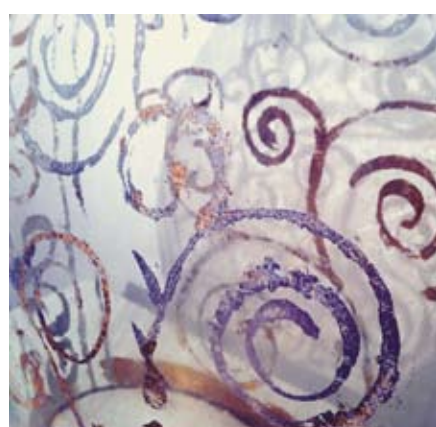
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New Look—New Glass



A biennale of art in glass is a common thing in many countries. Along with London and Venice, the Museum of Modern Art in Moscow has initiated an exhibition that will hopefully grow into a larger-scale project. For the moment the project presents the works of 12 artists from Moscow from the New Glass association (Novoe Steklo in Russian), who continue the artistic process that began in the 1960s, when utilitarian decorative functions of glass started to become defunct. Glass became a fully-

fledged plastic material that provided the opportunity to create something more than just decorative works. Experiments opened up new spatial and figurative potential. These artists' work focused on exploring possibilities and limitations of glass as an artistic material. Modern glass, if using new forms, is capable (equally with art and sculpture) of expressing the artist's individuality, his ideas, the thoughts of his time. Mirrors, lenses and engravings widen artistic possibilities. Plastic works made of

glass create a new sensation of space—transparent but still possessing form and volume. Every one of these 12 artists works in his or her own way, first stepping aside from traditional templates, then using habitual technics. **P**

Until September 16, 10:00-19:00
every day except Mondays
Moscow Museum of Modern Art,
25, Petrovka Street

Conservatoire re-opens



The Grand Hall of the Moscow Conservatoire opens after a major renovation that has been completed in a very limited period of time. The rest of the Conservatoire complex will be under restoration until 2016. But this month the central place for classical music fans opens with a star-studded cast of guest performances, one of which will be given by the Orchestre Des Pays de Savoie conducted by Nicolas Chalvin. This Orchestra was founded by the Assemblée des Pays de

Savoie in 1984. Since then its musical directors have been Patrice Fontanarosa, Tibor Varga, Mark Foster and Graziella Contratto, under whose the orchestra has become one of the most dynamic in France. Nicolas Chalvin took over as musical director in September 2009. Nicholas was previously a chamber and orchestral musician before deciding to devote himself entirely to conducting. After studying at the Conservatoire (CNSM) in Lyon, Nicolas Chalvin embarked on a career as



an oboist, first of all with the Orchestra National de Lyon, then with the Luxembourg Philharmonic. On the programme in Moscow are Mozart's Flute Concerto No. 1 and Haydn's Symphony No. 83. **P**

September 14
19:00, 13, Bolshaya Nikitskaya street
Season opening at the Consevatoire
Soloists: José- Daniel Castellon,
flute (France)
Philippe Berrod, clarinet (France)

Parisian School

From 1900 to the middle of the century, Paris with its inspiring climate was an extremely attractive location to which artists of different nationalities gravitated from different countries. The Parisian School or the School of Paris is rather a conventional name to describe that group of French and non-French artists who lived and worked in this city. The group was initially concentrated in Montmartre, but subsequently moved to Montparnasse in the 1910s. Portraiture, landscapes and still lifes were the



main subjects the artists focused on, applying a diversity of techniques and style—the dynamic colours of Fauvism, the geometric methods of Cubism, the modernist qualities of Expressionism, and the transcendent worlds of Symbolism. Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) became one of the leaders of this movement when he moved to France in 1904. His collaboration with the Frenchman Georges Braque (1882-1963) fostered the development of Cubism. It was after Braque's exhibition in 1908 that the term Cubism was humorously coined by one journalist.

Giorgio de Chirico (1888-1978), another influential member of the movement also resided in Paris and is considered a precursor to realism among the Surrealists. Amedeo Modigliani (1884-1920) and Constantin Brancusi (1876-1957) were other artists within the School who exchanged styles and ideas about art. The current exhibition at the Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts presents works by more than fifty painters, displaying collections from Russian private collections along with those from the George Pompidou Centre. **P**

September 20-November 20
Private Collections Section, Pushkin
Museum of Fine Art
14, Volkhonka street
Open: 10:00-19:00, except Monday



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Compiled by Ross Hunter, Headmaster,
The English International School

PASSPORT's sixth Education Briefing comes as the time arrives for 2012 applications. You should have done most of the work by now, and only have the final polishing to do. If you have just decided to apply for 2012, it can be done, but you need to move quickly, and get good help. The clock is now ticking fast. See PASSPORT's monthly briefings from April onwards for expert advice. July and August focused on help with UCAS. This month's spotlight is on scholarships and financial aid. Anna's article is also extremely useful for UCAS and USA applications. We welcome feedback and especially articles by experts. Contact anyone in these pages for help.

ross_hunter@englishedmoscow.com

Calendar of Events – early Autumn

- 10 Sept 1200-1700 Undergraduate Education Fair,
at Radisson Slavyanskaya Hotel
- 16-17 European Education Fair in Novosibirsk
- 19-23 Social Media Week
(Educational Hub), at Strelka and the British Council
- 26 1800 University of Southampton at The British Council
- 29 British Education Fair in St Petersburg

- 1 Oct University of Westminster, London at
the British Council
- 1-2 1200-1800 Education UK Fair,
at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel
- 4 1800 University of Exeter open evening,
at the British Council
- 5 1800 Studying in London (King's College, UCL, LSE),
at the British Council
- 19 Nov Private Schools & Kindergartens Fair,
at the Swiss Hotel

Scholarships and financial help for international students

By Rebecca Blake, International Officer, Kingston University
London r.blake@kingston.ac.uk

The majority of international students studying in the UK fund their studies through their families or private finance. Alternative sources of funding can be found through the local Ministry of Education, UK government, or individual universities.

One of the most well known UK government scholarship schemes is the Chevening programme that funds postgraduate and research scholarships in certain subject fields: www.chevening.com/about/faqs. Many UK universities offer partial scholarships and bursaries for international students on a competitive basis. The British Council holds information about many sources of funding in the UK including their scholarships database: www.educationuk.org/scholarships. Other sources of funding may be found through organisations such as the United Nations or European Commission and the British Council should be able to provide information about schemes available.

What makes a good scholarship application?

By Anna Campbell-Colquhoun, International Officer, University of Westminster a.colquhoun@westminster.ac.uk

If you're applying for a scholarship you will be in competition with some of the strongest students in the world. Spend sufficient time on your application so present yourself at your best. Apply only for those scholarships for which you are eligible. Unless you are applying for a particular scholarship, simply and honestly tell the scholarship provider what level of financial aid you need and they will fit the scholarship to you. Make copies of the application form so that you can create a working draft: you will need several efforts to get it right.

The scholarship application form introduces you to the judges. You need to make that introduction as crisp and business-like as possible. The application form must be word processed. Don't use fancy scripts; stick with standard business fonts. Legibility and neatness are extremely important. Your application may be eliminated if it cannot be easily read. Check, check and re-check for typos. Enlist help: it is very hard to proof-read your own material. Inevitably, your mind's eye reads what you thought you wrote, not what actually made it onto the page. A fresh reader will catch the words that you missed and find the spelling errors.

Place the requested documents in the package in the order that they are requested. This consistency makes it easier for evaluators to locate information. It's also simpler for you to check the documents against the list of requirements. Do not send documents that have not been requested.

Make a copy of the full application. It is important to have a complete record of everything you send in exactly the form it



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was received. Use an envelope that will hold your application without folding it: the application will look much better without creases. Send the application "return receipt requested" or use a courier service that allows you to track the package's path and verify who signed for it. You need proof that the application was received by the university.

The scholarship application is a paper model of you. Make sure your application is professional and compelling. This is an opportunity for you to speak about yourself. It should show that you have ideas and opinions, are able to think logically, and can express yourself clearly, with economy and elegance. Clear writing comes from clear thinking. First and most important, decide what you want to say. Consider carefully what you wish to impress upon the reader. Make sure that you have answered the question set, many write what they want to say, not what the awarding committee wants to hear. Do not write in a cute, coy, or gimmicky style. Do show that you have thought deeply and broadly about what you have learned in your academic career, what you hope to learn next and how this will help the development of your country upon your return.

When you have written a first draft, start the work of refining, simplifying, and polishing. Do you say exactly what you mean? Is any section, sentence, or word superfluous, ambiguous, or awkward? Are your verbs strong and active? Are you sure that each accomplishment and interest you mention supports one of your main ideas? Do not apologize. Do not misrepresent yourself. Correctness and style are vital. Neatness counts. Check and check again your spelling and grammar. Ask several individuals whose judgment you respect to read and criticise a draft of your essay. Remember, in any application (for a job, grant, graduate school, etc.) the reader

wants to know three things: why is it important to you, why it is right for you and why you are right for it. Your application should be built around this message. **P**

English Standards

Bachelors' Degrees may ask for IELTS of 6, TOEFL or 6.5, TOEFL, and 7.0 for the most competitive, demanding courses.

Master's degrees for an MBA, for example, may require:
Or 6.0 IELTS/ 550/79 TOEFL (or equivalent) plus a pre-session-
al English course.

Useful information

UCAS: The umbrella for all UK undergraduate courses. One application form for 5 choices. wwwucas.com

Brian Heap: Author of (UK) University Degree Course Offers – Trotman Press ISBN: 978 1 84455 246 7

British Council: Nikoloyamskaya 1, Moscow, 495 287 1839, www.educationuk.ru educ@britishcouncil.ru

Matriculation: the start of a course, usually a 3 or 4 year undergraduate degree programme

BA, BSc, BEd, BEng: Bachelor of arts, Sciences, Education, Engineering ... qualification from a first degree (3-4 years)

MA, MSc, MPhil: higher degree, only possible after a BA (etc), taught or by research, usually 1-2 years

MBA: Master of Business Administration. The standard post-graduate qualification for aspiring executives

PhD: Doctor of Philosophy top level research based qualification, in any subject, usually 3-5 years after a BA.

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Part 4: High Summer at the Bruce Estate



Text and photos by Ian Mitchell

On a beautiful Sunday morning in August, I wheeled the bike out of the entrance to our *pannelny dom* in Khimki at about 7.30, when all was quiet and cool, but already bright. I was on the MKAD within ten minutes, heading east. I cycled forty kilometres round to the Chaussee Entusiastov exit, then headed slightly north of east towards Losino-Petrovsky.

I am constantly assailed by people who tell me that they would never cycle on the MKAD. But in fact it is one of the best routes in Moscow. It is the only road where you have a whole lane to yourself (usually), so the trucks do not crowd you towards the pave-

ment or the pot-holed dirt shoulder, as sometimes happens on other roads. The surface is good, and it is properly drained so that after rain you do not have to navigate pond-sized puddles which, elsewhere, I worry about as they can conceal pot-holes. Furthermore, there are no traffic lights, wayward pedestrians, barking dogs, broken glass or lunatic Lada drivers darting out of side-roads as if they had important meetings to get to.

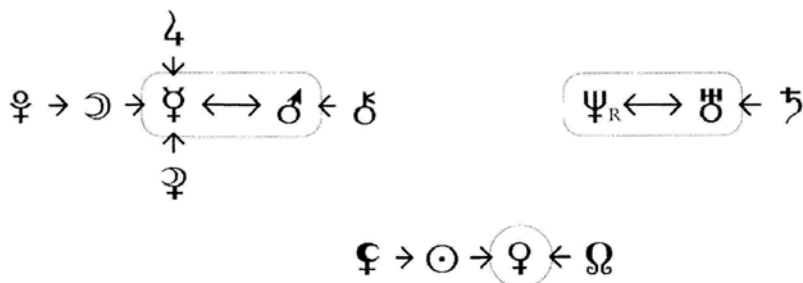
True, the traffic moves fast, but so it does elsewhere. I like the MKAD and, just for the hell of it, plan to do a full circuit one Sunday in the autumn, when the weather is cooler. Anyone who wishes to join me for a non-competitive cycle

“rally”, should email me (ian@ianmitchellonline.co.uk). It might be fun.

A word about those Lada drivers. I noted in the first article in this series that, in general, in Moscow a lower level of attention is paid to other road users than in Britain. I should qualify this. The fact is that most Russian drivers are courteous to cyclists, but there are two types of road-user you need to watch out for.

The first are the Lada drivers, in which category I also include the drivers of elderly Russian cars, like Volgas, as well as of busses, marshrutki and, surprisingly, ambulances, though not, equally surprisingly, police vehicles. In my experience, the police usually give cyclists a courteously wide berth. A minority—I should

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 ☾ - Луна ♀ - Венера ♃ - Юпитер ♎ - Хирон ♊ - Нептун ♏ - В.Узел ♋ - Лилит

stress that—of these people drive as if cyclists are trespassing on the road.

The other problem category is the driver of a black-windowed Lexus or LandCruiser who is very conscious of your presence on the road. They do not view the road as territory that should be forbidden to cyclists, Soviet-style, but as place for free competition where the market favours weight and aggression, capitalist-style.

But don't let that discourage you. The vast majority of drivers are polite and make every allowance for the presence of cyclists. And the situation overall is getting better, not worse. In the five years I have been riding the roads of the city, I have noticed a definite improvement in the level of courtesy.

Beyond the behaviour of some drivers, the other big danger for cyclists in Russia is the condition of the roads. Here, as elsewhere in Russia, my motto is "expect the unexpected". Apart from the obvious problems of holes and bumps etc., there is the fact that you often have to take rapid avoiding action if you are not to crash into a pot-hole and buckle a wheel or ride through a scatter of broken glass and puncture a tyre. Sudden manoeuvres annoy some Lada-drivers, so the better the road the pleasanter the cycling, which is another reason why I favour the MKAD.

After turning off at Chaussee Entusiastov, I had about 25 kms to go, first through grim Moscow semi-suburbia, and then through beautiful wheat fields and woods before I reached the little village where Jacob (James) Bruce, one of Peter the Great's most important *confrères*, built an estate, called Glinka, in the 1720s.

Some of the Bruces of Airth (in Stirlingshire) came to Russia as mercenary soldiers in the time of Peter's father, Tsar Alexis. Jacob was born in the Nemetskaya Sloboda in Moscow in 1669. There he



met Peter, and became a close friend. In 1697 he travelled with the young Tsar to England where, amongst other things, he introduced him to Sir Isaac Newton.

Bruce is said to have been one of the best-educated men in Russia. He had a scientific bent, founding the first astronomical observatory in the country, on top of the Sukharevsky Tower. His book collection later became an important part of the Russian Academy of Science library.

Bruce was also a talented military engineer, and served with distinction in many of Peter's wars. He commanded the artillery at the crucial battle of Poltava, when Sweden's challenge to Russia's Baltic expansion was decisively crushed. In 1721 Peter made him one of the first Counts of his newly-proclaimed Empire.

Six years later, Bruce bought the Glinka estate where he built a modestly-sized but elegant mansion of his own design (see picture opposite above). A normal man would have settled down to enjoy the fruits of a productive and interesting life-time. But Bruce was as

restlessly energetic and curious as many of his illustrious ancestors—he claimed a family tree going back to Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland and hero of the battle of Bannockburn in 1314.

At Glinka, Jacob researched what we would today call the occult arts. In this he was following Isaac Newton, who devoted more of his life to alchemy than to physics. Bruce tried to derive what he called "the formula of the soul", which was given in a booklet which I bought from a kiosk at the Estate. It is Greek to me, but I reproduce it here in the hope that PASSPORT's resident mathematician, Ross Hunter (M.A. Cantab.), can unlock the secret.

Bruce was known in Moscow as "the Scottish magus". It was discovered long after his death that he had built a network of secret tunnels connecting the various buildings on his Estate so that he could move equipment and secret materials away from prying eyes—at least that is what their purpose is thought by researchers to have been, but nobody knows for sure. He was a mysterious character, and I wanted to see the small museum which both Kathleen Berton Morrell in her book, *Discovering Moscow's Countryside* and several internet sites said was housed in Bruce's old laboratory at Glinka.

This being Russia, I discovered after cycling 65 kms there that the contents of the museum had recently been moved to Moscow. There was nothing to see, though I was, of course, welcome to wander round the grounds of the sanatorium which is now there. It appears to be used mainly by Lada drivers, who seemed perfectly pleasant people when out of their cars. Expect the unexpected.

I spent a leisurely afternoon exploring the Estate, during the course of which I discovered, totally by accident, the most astonishing church I believe it is possible to find anywhere. It was a vast, baroque building in a state of ruination such as one might have expected to see five years after the London Blitz (see photo opposite). Then I heard beautiful singing coming from somewhere underneath the rubble. I investigated and saw people filing into a decorated chamber where a service was being held in what was called the Cathedral of the Apostle and Evangelist Ioann Bogoslov (see above). Once again, in Russia: expect the unexpected. That's the joy of the place, except on the MKAD. **P**



Mmm... Malta

- magical,
marvellous,
magnificent!

Martine Self

Take a few dollops of Sicilian passion and Roman Catholic religion, mix with a *soupçon* of French civil code, add a large dash of Phoenician (now Lebanese) language, a few table-spoons of North African architecture, a smattering of Greek maritime skills and a cup or two of British restraint and order, and you have Malta and the Maltese, a unique melting pot seasoned with an unforgettable charm and a well-deserved reputation for bravery and heroism.

Just four hours flying time from Moscow on Air Malta, lies 7000 years of history with plenty to sample over a week's holiday. Poised strategically between Sicily and North Africa at the crossroads of civilisations, it has attracted the attention of ad-

venturers from around the Med, over millennia, and all have left their stamp. The British Empire ruled Malta for 150 years and has left behind a love of all things British, not least the English language, as well as red telephone boxes, post boxes, and a love of tea and bingo. The Maltese language which sounds Arabic, is the national language, while Italian is also widely spoken.

They say good things come in small packages, and Malta, which joined the EU in 2004, has plenty packed into its 300 sq km (one-third the size of Moscow). About 30km long and 15km wide, Malta (population 370,000) has two little sister islands: Gozo (pop 30,000), and tiny Comino (pop 8). In Malta, everything is nearby: the airport is nearby; the sea is nearby; and so are some spectacular architectural sites.





For those who appreciate archaeological history, a trip to Malta can be a rich journey back in time. Here you will find truly ancient architecture, and in several cases, the oldest surviving structures in the world, predating the pyramids and Stonehenge by at least 1000 years (visit www.heritage-malta.org).

In medieval times, Malta was home to the Crusaders, the Knights of St John, who, being at the forefront of the battles between Muslims and Christians, valiantly withstood a siege by the Byzantine forces of Suleiman the Magnificent in 1565, and turned the tide in Christianity's favour. Even Russia played a small part in Maltese history when Emperor Paul I became the Grand Master of the Knights of St John between 1798 and 1801 when protecting the Knights after they were expelled from Malta after Napoleon's brief invasion.

By virtue of its strategic position and excellent natural harbour, the island took centre stage again, when, during World War II, it served as an important British naval base and underwent the heaviest bombing of the war by German and Italian forces when some 3,000 bombing excursions attempted to destroy the island-state.

The fortified citadel of Valletta, now also the capital, was built after the Great Siege of Malta in 1566. Described by Disraeli, former British Prime Minister when he visited in 1830 as

"a city of palaces built by gentlemen for gentlemen" (referring to the Knights), he also said that Valletta equals, in its noble architecture, if it does not excel, any city in Europe. I think I fell in love with Valletta as our car drove up to its gates on the night of our arrival and I was spellbound by the seductive honey-coloured glow of the illuminated city walls. Once inside the limestone walls, lighting reveals a city of narrow streets with great romantic atmosphere.

Baroque churches and palaces, separated by grand squares, are all neatly enclosed in a massive fortified citadel reinforced by impenetrable bastions. Valletta, which has the distinction of being Europe's first planned city, is now a World Heritage site and set to be the European city of culture in 2018. To me, it felt like being in an open-air museum or a movie set—I expected to find a knight come clattering round the corner on his white steed, in full armour and on some quest to repel invaders. Occasionally, a cacophony of church bells peals down the quiet streets overlooked by charming Maltese balconies, and lined with timeworn polished steps remind you of those who have trod these same steps over the centuries. Modern day Valletta is home to concerts, art and jazz festivals, parades, and yacht races and while we were there, Brad Pitt was filming "World war Z", his latest movie and MTV held its annual free concert attended by nearly 50,000 people.



If you are an art lover, do not forget to visit the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St John. Its ornate interior houses the huge Caravaggio masterpiece featuring the Beheading of St John, and completed while the artist was in exile on Malta for a few years during his short and eventful life.

Not only is Malta oozing with culture and history, it is also a comfortable blend of antiquity and modernity, which will satisfy a wide spread of tastes. The conurbations of Sliema and St Julian's offer a buzzing nightlife to those who prefer to eat, drink, soak up the sun and be merry. You can also gamble, play golf or play with dolphins, go sailing or diving and take leisurely harbour cruises. Sadly, Malta only has a few sandy beaches but there are several Lidos where you can buy a day's membership and take advantage of swimming facilities.

Shoppers familiar with British chains such as Marks & Spencer, British Home Stores, Monsoon, Topshop, Next and Oasis, Dorothy Perkins, Zara can find them in Valetta and Sliema, across the bay. Note that many shops like to take a siesta between 13.00-16.00 and the banks open mostly in the first half of the day. According to the latest EU statistics, Malta clothing prices are 88% of the EU average and hotels and restaurant prices are 77% of the average, making Malta a good value destination. Budget to spend around Eu70 for a meal and drinks for four.

It's worth planning day trips to Gozo and Mdina. Easy-to-get-to Gozo distinguishes itself from Malta by its more rural and quieter charm. A ferry leaves the north of Malta every 25 minutes during high season. Once there, take a hop-on/hop off open top bus tour of the island and stop off at Victoria, the quaint capital that seems to be in a bit of a time warp, visit the megalithic Ggantija ruins and take a dip or a dive at Dwerja Bay.

Mdina is a stunning mediaeval walled city of chapels, convents, cathedrals and palazzos. There are no cars in its quiet, narrow and curved streets, so designed to impede the flight of arrows. Visit the Mdina (audio-visual) Experience to understand its history, stay at the 5-star Xara Palace boutique hotel, or take in the panoramic views from the Fontanella Tea Garden while you enjoy lunch.

In case you are planning to brush up on your English skills as a business professional, or perhaps send your child, you could consider one of Malta's 50 language schools which welcome twenty to thirty thousand English-language students each year.

If you are feeling homesick, pay a visit to the Russian Centre for Science and Culture, in Valletta www.rcscmalta.org.mt which holds weekly cultural events such as concerts and exhibitions, films, piano recitals. From them, I learnt that some 5000 Russians live on the island

If you still need to fill your time, you could take advantage of Malta's proximity to Italy, by visiting Sicily, only 90 minutes away by fast catamaran together with one-day guided excursions to Pozzallo, Taormina and Mt Etna www.virtueferries.co

The Maltese, who have been called the friendliest people in the EU, seem to be a happy race and this is evident in their enthusiastic and frequent celebration of religious feast days for the patron saints of each parish. These take place on weekends throughout the year, but mostly in summer, and involves prayer, processions, revelry, band playing, elaborate fireworks displays and late night partying and feasting. The streets of the village are richly decorated with flags and bunting, suggesting a medieval atmosphere. Each village usually has a band club or two which comprises local men from the village who practise their instruments all year especially for the Festa, while the women help with decoration and food and drink.





Need-to-know

It's possible to swim from mid-May to mid-November, making it ideal for that pre-winter getaway from Moscow in October and November when you will experience mild daytime temperatures in the 20s. Although Malta appears arid, like all other Mediterranean destinations, during the months from May to October, the rain starts falling in November (mostly at night), and it becomes attractively green within a matter of days. January, February and March are the coldest months but temperatures rarely drop below 10C. In April, May and June the rain stops and the temperature cranks up reaching the 30s by the end of June. Expect the highest temperatures in the 30s in July and August.

In summer, you will see blossoming oleanders, oranges, and lemons wantonly hanging from trees, while palms and rubber trees, prickly pears and grapevines help to remind you that you have truly entered another climatic zone.

Malta has been rated joint second best place in the world to live with New Zealand by International Living magazine, and as having the best climate in the world along with Zimbabwe. Sunshine averages about 300 days a year

The island is crowded and the drivers have a bad reputation, but in my experience, are no worse than in Moscow. Driving is on the left side of the road. The bus transport system is reasonably priced and makes it easy to get to all parts of the island, so much so, that you can get by without hiring a car.

Cross the harbour from Valletta to the Three Cities by contacting: www.maltawatertaxis.mt.com from March to December. There is a regular ferry service from Valletta across the bay to Sliema.

One way of finding out more about the layout of Valletta *vis á vis* the surrounding harbours is to take a the 90-minute, Two Harbours cruise tour (Latini Cruises). The hop-on/hop-off open-top buses take in either or both the north and south of the island each lasting three hours if you do not get off (info@exploremalta.com.mt).

There are restaurants aplenty, pizza and pasta abound, as well as good Italian-style gelato. Prices are very reasonable, try the favourite national dish of rabbit (fenek) served in a sauce with garlic, onions, wine and herbs. Many different types of seafood including octopus, dorado, swordfish, sea bass, bream, grouper and rockfish are available. We very much enjoyed the local La Vallette wine.

Try the pastry snacks (pastizzi) which are ricotta cheese and pea-filled-pastries, best before 11.00 from small local bakeries. Valletta, in particular, is very atmospheric and romantic venue for dining at night.

Visitors who would like to hone their gambling skills can take advantage of one of four different casino sites: Oracle Casino and Portomaso, Dragonara in St Julian's and Casino di Venezia in Three Cities.

If the children get bored, visit the dolphins at the Mediterranean Biopark or the village filmset for the movie Popeye www.popeyemalta.com. Teenagers and twenty-somethings will enjoy Paceville an area to the north of St Julian's which has become a fashionable mecca for nightlife, with many bars, clubs and restaurants. This is the place to see and be seen.

The Maltese tourism association : www.visitmalta.com at 229, Auberge d'Italie, Merchants Street Valletta (info@visitmalta.com). **P**



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Reykjavik remembered, 25 years on

Text and photos Luc Jones

Until the country went into financial meltdown in 2008, Iceland rarely made the international news—and why would it? It's a lump of volcanic rock just below the Arctic circle containing a population of a third of a million, over half of whom are huddled in and around the capital Reykjavik. In fact mention Iceland to most people in the UK and they'll assume you're referring to the ubiquitous frozen food chain, if they've heard of it at all.

What possessed the first settlers to leave the relative comfort of the Norwegian coast and sail northwards into the unknown is beyond me and quite what they were looking for or what they expected to find upon arrival are also unanswered questions. Iceland was unsurprisingly uninhabited when the new arrivals landed in 874AD and slowly began to settle the land, founding a parliament in 930 which today is the oldest still in existence. Over the centuries Iceland quietly got on with farming & fishing in relative isolation resulting in one of the most homogenous populations in the world, and it was only after World War II that the western world began to take an interest in the island as a strategic outpost. Iceland was allied-occupied during the war and became a member of NATO in 1949, despite having no army of its own; cue the arrival of the Americans who set up a large military base not far from the only international airport at Keflavik.

The post-war years in Iceland saw an economic boom, thanks largely to the Marshall Plan and industrialization of the fishing



industries, despite the Cod Wars of the 1970s. Yet it was in the early autumn of 1986 that all eyes turned on Iceland when it was announced to the world that Reykjavik would be hosting a historic summit between Ronald Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev in October of that year. Ironically the talks collapsed at the last minute but the event will always be remembered as the moment when the United States of America met face to face with the Soviet Union, and Reagan's coined phrase: "The Evil Empire" appeared more docile after decades of cold war hostilities and arms stockpiling. Both sides agreed to meet again and eventually put in place a timeframe to reduce their nuclear arsenals. A few, short years later, communism in Europe collapsed and the world moved on.

For an uninviting, remote, rocky outpost, Iceland attracts more than its fair share of tourists, and certainly packs a punch in the way of natural attractions—it is after all the second largest island in Europe after Great Britain. Conveniently from the capital, most tourists do the "golden triangle" as it's an easy day trip. We opted for our own wheels and were kindly given an upgraded vehicle, a massive, white SUV, which led a member of our team to comment: "I thought we were doing a road trip around Iceland, not delivering aid to Somalia!" First off is the Thingvellir national park where little remains of the original parliament but it's beautiful barren setting gives an indication of how difficult it must have been for the earliest people to seek out a living from the land. Next stop is





the trusty Strokkur geyser which conveniently “erupts” every 8 minutes, blasting boiling water into the air several metres high, in front of (for me at least) the highpoint which was the Gullfoss waterfall, which is partly frozen and highlights the beauty that is Iceland’s interior. Given our mode of transport, we chose the off-road route back to base which took in Kerid, a volcanic crater lake formed some three millennia ago.

The real fun however is on the runtur, a weekend evening out in Reykjavik, which is basically a glorified, mass pub-crawl for tourists and locals alike (runtur literally translates as “round tour”) with much of the action taking place along and around the pedestrianized Laugavegur street. Expect packed, noisy pubs, rounded off at the end of the night with a famous hot dog down by the harbour. Thanks to the global economic crash, Iceland isn’t anywhere near as expensive as it once was, but for booze expect to pay at least London prices so backpackers should stock up on duty free and sink a few sharpeners in the hostel before venturing out (this is what the local youth do). And what could be a better remedy the next day than a leisurely soak in the geothermal Blue Lagoon spa before heading back into town for a reindeer steak for dinner?

No trip to Iceland could be complete without a trip to Eyjafjallajökull. Yes, that little bugger which brought European skies to a standstill in the spring of 2010, grounding almost all aircraft following a violent eruption of ash. It looked pretty tame by the time we rocked up but the debris on the ground was there to see—many said it was Iceland’s response to having been bankrupted less than two years before.

Getting there: There are no direct flights from Moscow, although Icelandair fly to many key European (and North American) destinations; the easiest change being in either Stockholm, Copenhagen or London. **P**



Getting in: Westerners need to show just a passport, but as Iceland is part of the EU, Russians require a Schengen visa. Bizarrely, Icelandic Embassies don’t issue visas; they leave this hassle to their Norwegian friends

When to go: As a Nordic country, the later in the year you go, the earlier it becomes dark and the colder it becomes in the evenings but this doesn’t stop Iceland from being a year-round destination

What to speak: English is widely spoken by all, even in the remotest spots

Costs: This is Scandinavia so it’s pricey but nowadays not as bad as you’d expect, with accommodation and restaurants available to suit most budgets



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Taking Care of Money

Peter Hainsworth

Being an ex-pat has always been associated with earning some serious money. Indeed, why put up with the pressures of a difficult job and environment if the pennies aren't coming in? If you are one of those fortunate enough and hard-working enough to earn reasonable money here, it does seem logical to make sure that you make the most of your capital, and take advantage of any tax advantages which living abroad ensues.

With global markets being the way they are right now, the task of managing your money has become more difficult. When should you enter a market, when should you buy shares in this fund or that fund, when to exit, when to buy property and when to sell? The list of questions goes on and on. Who is going to give you the advice you need, when you need it? Perhaps it is better to wait for a while, anyway, the job may not be as secure as you hoped. But tomorrow never comes, and opportunities carry on walking straight by every day. I for one, simply don't have the time to track every fund let alone think about acquiring others assets. As a result, I remain, well, not rich. Enter financial service companies like The Business Class Group.

Mark Kirkham, Operations Director for Business Class Group, www.business-classgroup.com operates a company that recommends investment solutions based on the individual's circumstances and goals. Usually investments are made for a minimum of five years. Mark says that his companies would make allowances for a typical business cycle, irrespective of what the external environment is like. Payment holidays and flexibility is part of what makes this company's approach different, and these can be built into the plan. Business Class Group, and more specifically Platinum Financial Services, who are now operating in Moscow, provides an additional option of full investment management. I asked Mark how this would

work in practice and he explained that for between 0.5% and 1% per annum, their Hong Kong-based portfolio management team would offer both initial and ongoing investment recommendations. They would allocate client monies into funds and then when appropriate switch in line with the client's risk profile as the dynamics of markets and asset classes change. He stresses that all monies are invested directly into the funds, and switched between one fund and another in the investor's own name. As the investments are made on an individual basis and Business Class Group operates internationally, investment plans can be taken with you regardless of where your career might or might not take you. Business Class Group ensures that your funds are "tax effective" meaning that as long as you are an expatriate when you start investing, you will not pay a penny or a cent more tax than you actually legally have to, including on gains made whilst living abroad.

Saving for special purposes such as retirement and education requires specialist knowledge, and these are areas that Mark's company has a lot of experience in. How many of us know all the ins and out of how best to capitalise on UK pension plans by transferring it to a "QROPS," which has all sorts of advantages, for example? This is an area where lack of knowledge alone can cost money, a lot of money.

Business Class Group has all bases covered when it comes to their clients' investments, many people turn to property to help them create wealth for the future. Their specialist property arm is Lifestyle Properties who are now also operating in Moscow. For the Moscow expatriate or indeed wealthy Russians, investing in the right property brings not only a feeling of security but an income through lettings, if that is the purpose you designate for your investment. Of course you may be looking purely for capital growth if the property

selected is the right one. Lifestyle Properties concentrates on well-established residential areas in major world cities like London where capital appreciation is, even now, a reality. The company also helps people who basically want a lifestyle property, a pad to hang out in over the winter or a cosy place in a warm climate to retire to. There is also a third type of property investment which the company specialises in: a so-called "alternative" category, where the company helps individuals buy into land or even food producing plantations and forestry.

All of Lifestyle Properties are turnkey solutions, which means that the investor has a lot less worry and stress. The company has a whole range of investment opportunities available, for example in the UK, from student flats for £28,000 and delivering a 10% yield to flats overlooking the Queen's gardens for millions. The company looks at real estate as being an investment product first and foremost, and this perhaps explains why the due diligence that it carries out is rather more demanding than that carried out by a real estate company which will be looking at making a profit during sale or purchase and then getting out. This factor places a whole different angle on the real estate investment business and the more one thinks about it, the more it makes sense to work with an investment company which specialises in property rather than a real estate company which tries to attract investment from abroad. Lifestyle Brokers can arrange mortgages on favourable terms with international lenders who actually favour expatriates with their relatively stable incomes at the present time. Rob Dennis, the area development manager for Lifestyle Properties added that interest can be set against tax returns. UK interest rates are much lower than for example in Russia, so the international investor can make a lot more on capital growth on money that is not actually his.

All of these issues and many more, can be discussed with Business Class Groups Moscow representative on an informal or formal basis. He'll be glad if you give him a call: **P**

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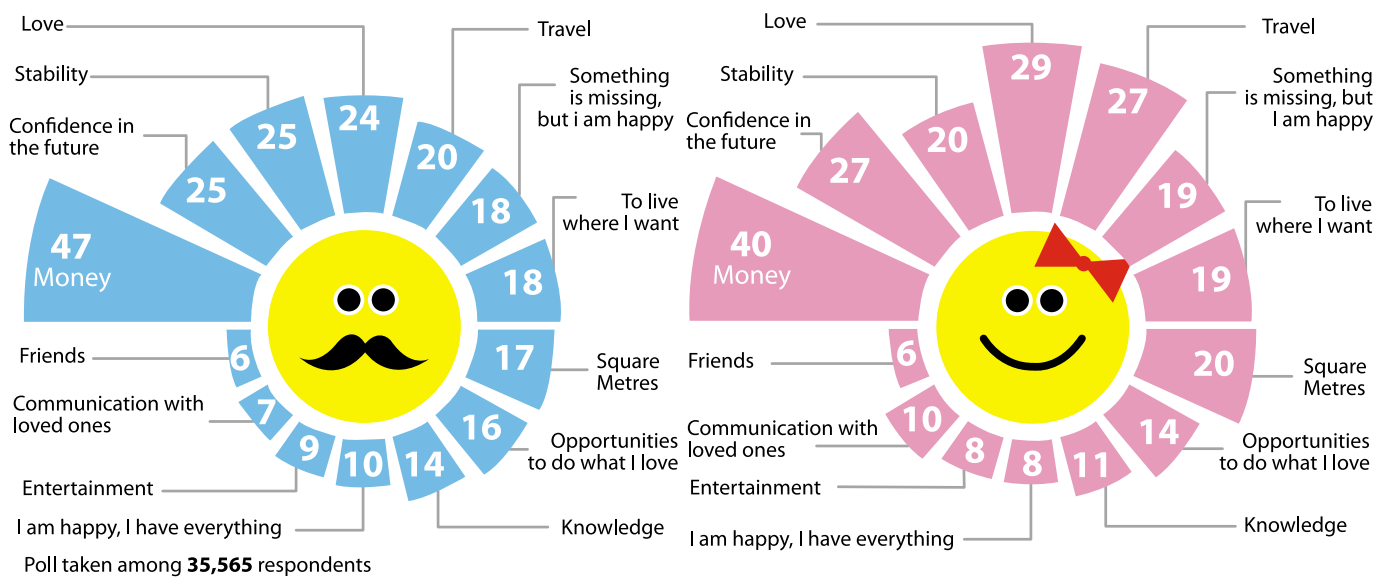
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What Makes Russians Happy?



The market research agency Masmi Russia found out what it takes for Russians to attain complete happiness
What makes you happy? (percentage of total number of respondents, no more than three answers)



Frank Ebbecke

In July, Masmi Russia, a respected market research company, conducted a poll among 35,565 representative respondents across this vast country. Their simple, straightforward key question was: "What makes Russians happy?" The simple, straightforward answer was: "Money". Shocking? Surprising? Amusing? Not really. This is what everybody thinks everywhere, the difference is that bearing in mind the Soviet past, all this is very new in Russia.

Almost half of the men, to be precise 47%, are apparently most happy with their lives when there is loads of money around. Forty per cent of women totally agree with the poll. Did they ever realize that money has the bad habit of disappearing quicker than it comes? There is a common attitude here to spend rather than save. With money one can simply buy everything. They reckon.

Russians just love the newest electronic gadgets, the latest fashion, fancy cars, exotic travels, glitz & glitter. Stylish brands to show off. Whatever it costs. At least this is true in Moscow, the hub of the nation. "Shop till you drop". All you need is mon-

ey. Of course. Money is said to be the name of the happiness game. And if it's not enough? Easy. Borrow some.

Even high interest rates do not seem to deter people applying for them, although the rate of personal borrowing is far behind that of the West. People borrow from their friends here, simpler than from a bank. Why save? Who knows what's going to happen tomorrow, better spend whilst you still can.

Why are such attitudes so prevalent?

Over more than half a century during the Soviet Union, accumulating big money made little sense. It wasn't as if there was an awful lot to buy. But that has changed.

Dramatically. In Russia today you can buy just about everything from just about everywhere. Russians have swallowed the dangerous disease of consumerism as speedily as plunging down a shot of vodka.

Look West. It's better there. Today, 70% of Americans living in the US are said to be unhappy with the performance of their elected officials. Growing unemployment. Growing debts. No money. Materialism can prove to be a toxic poison for happiness. Let's not forget the somewhat frightening fi-

Russians have swallowed the dangerous disease of consumerism as speedily as plunging down a shot of vodka.

nancial disaster scenario in good old Europe: pray for Greece, Portugal, Spain and now Italy. Who's next? If countries like these, including the USA, were private companies they would have been put out of business long ago. One crisis follows another, faster and faster. Who still has enough money nowadays? Maybe Russians. Well, some of them.

What else do the research results tell us about happiness? What about concepts like "stability", "confidence in the fu-

Why not just take it easy with Lev Tolstoy: "If you want to be happy, be happy". Some have already understood: after all, 10% of the men and 8% of the women interviewed claimed "I'm happy, I have everything".

ture" or "knowledge"? These highly desirable qualities of life scored much lower in the ratings. These are perhaps the only thing that money cannot buy, or at least money *alone* cannot buy.

What about "love?" Only 25% of men and 29% women think that is important. Just a quick note on this. The average length that people stay married is just two years until the first divorce on average in Moscow. Drinking problems are attributed as being the most common reason (45%), and money problems (17%).

The lowest happiness-rating criterion goes to "friends", who notch up only 6%. I beg your pardon? This is a country in which for well over half a century everybody was taught to be everybody's friend. The second last criterion for becoming happy is "communication with loved ones" (7% of men & 10% of women). How can this be, when we live in a country where everybody tells you that family ties are the highest form of human communication!

Happiness. Happiness is a quite fuzzy concept. There are roughly seven billion people fighting daily for a human, decent way to live on this planet. And they experience as many billion reasons to feel happy. Or rather unhappy. Happiness can mean billions of things to billions of people. Like a cup of clean water. Like a handful of food which makes millions of people happy these days in certain regions of East Africa. On the other hand a majority of people in classic capitalist strongholds like the US and Germany claim that a professional career makes them most happy. One reason for this is that career growth usually means an increasing disposable income, which can be used for self-realisation, a second is that career growth brings self-realisation in itself, in many cases.

Here, in Russia, the general rule seems to be making money for the sake of money. Whatever it takes. Often with selfish greediness and social irresponsibility. Where does that lead to? Not that far on the bumpy road to becoming happy. Happiness, sociologists say, is simply a mental state of well-being. Whereas in Russia, happiness seems to be the physical state of a full pocket.

Obviously money alone is not enough. American psychologist Martin Seligman provides the acronym PERMA to summarize his findings. People seem to be happiest when they have Pleasure (tasty food, a beautiful sunset, the smell of flow-

ers) "Engagement" (the absorption of an enjoyed yet challenging activity), "Relationships" (social ties—an extremely reliable indicator of happiness), "Meaning" (a perceived quest or belonging to something bigger), "Accomplishments" (having realized tangible goals).

A quote from the wealth of Russian historical (at times hysterical) sayings and beliefs: "A Russian (in particular a woman) is only happy when unhappy." Well, then everything sounds pretty much OK. Because who has enough money in this quickly changing society, other than a famous few? If money is what makes roughly half of the Russian population really happy, then this half of the nation must be sadly unhappy, which should make them happy, shouldn't it?

Sounds confusing? It is. Like so many things. Never even try to understand. Why not just take it easy with Lev Tolstoy: "If you want to be happy, be happy." Some have already understood: after all, 10% of the men and 8% of the women interviewed claimed "I'm happy, I have everything."

Allow me one concluding comment, as Russians just love music and singing. And now all together: "Don't worry, be happy". This 1988 worldwide #1 hit by New York-born Bobby McFerrin made everybody everywhere pick happiness over worrying. In fact, these famous words originally were the last words of Indian Guru Meher Baba. Back on July 10, 1925, he took a vow of silence. He did, indeed, stick to this vow until he died 44 years later, only communicating in writing or by hand signs with the rest of the world. However, it has been never reported whether his very individual lifestyle made him really happy. **P**

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Paintings by Alexander Chalovsky

The culture of the British Teddy Boy is not one that is associated with works of art. But in Moscow another first has been achieved.

Ever since the 1950s, when many working class teenagers in the UK became Teddy Boys and thus helped to invent the first ever culture devoted to Youth, the cult of the Teddy Boy has been associated generally with loud clothes, loud music, and rebellious behaviour. In the 1950s in particular, Teds were branded in the media as public enemy number one, responsible (it was claimed) for gang fights, violence and anti-social behaviour generally. In the 1970s, during the Teddy Boy Revival, they were known in addition for their rivalry and antipathy to Punks and the Punk movement. Aah, takes me back to my Ted days in the 70s, and reminds me of jokes like: what's the difference between a punk and the scarecrow in the Wizard of Oz? The scarecrow is better dressed. The great thing about a Punk festival is that after a nuclear attack it looks exactly the same as before.

As a lifelong Ted myself, I can testify the above stereotype does not quite do justice to Ted culture. For one thing, Teds have always had their codes of honour, even when it came to physical aggression.

And for sheer style you cannot beat that Ted look: long Edwardian-style colourful drape jackets, drainpipe trousers, bolo ties, brothel creeper shoes—magic!

Which leads into what is happening right now in Moscow:

The Russian artist Alexander Chalovsky became fascinated

with the British Teddy Boy culture after we met for the first time 3 years ago in Moscow. Since then he has produced works of art depicting the Ted as a latter-day knight of old, with his fighting codes of honour and colourful dress code. Rather than put on these exhibitions at art galleries, he has chosen to exhibit his Teddy Boy works at rock'n'roll concerts in Moscow. He feels this gives his works a more authentic appeal, instead of in the more sedate confines of an art studio.

This is not only a first for Moscow, but a world first. Never before has an art exhibition been devoted solely to Teds and their

What's the difference between a punk and the scarecrow in the Wizard of Oz? The scarecrow is better dressed the great thing about a punk festival is that after a nuclear attack it looks exactly the same as before.

culture. In addition, Alexander is very much a modern artist. He is the foremost exponent of the "new romantic" style. Rather than re-create just what he sees, his works are very much an interpretation of what he sees and observes, enlarging and emphasizing the things he considers most important. Have a look at the paintings and you'll see what I mean.

The Way It Is and Was



And it's refreshing to see a well known and renowned artist focus on an aspect of working-class culture, as opposed to the so-called "high-brow" middle and upper-class ones. Alexander is no stranger to controversy. Over the years he has ruffled some feathers in the artistic world—in particular with his female nudes and even stronger erotic works!

In December of last year, the world's number one Teddy Boy band, Furious (from Liverpool, UK) came to Moscow to perform. I was the concert promoter. Alexander was there to exhibit his works and talk to the band. It was a big moment for both the members of the group and for him to meet each other and exchange information on Ted culture.

So, Thank you to Alexander for giving us Teds what we've deserved all along—recognition that we're not just a bunch of juvenile delinquents (or in the case of some of us, aging delinquents!). And hail the Teds—along with other 1950s trailblazers, we were the first real youth culture in history:

Dear Mods, Rockers, Punks, Glam Rockers, Skinheads, Heavy Metal freaks, Rappers, Hip Hoppers, etc., if it wasn't for us you'd never have happened!

To see more of these Teddy Boy works of art, go to www.gallery.ru and www.linearts.ru

To find out more about Alexander's works, contact the Line Arts studio at www.linearts.ru/

More details about the Teddy Boys and their history can be found at www.edwardianteddyboyassociation.com

For more info about Teddy Boys in Russia, go to my website at www.coopjive.co.uk (head for the feedback page). **P**



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The Kremlin Cossacks

Text and photos by Ian Mitchell

Recently PASSPORT visited the Kremlin Equestrian School at its stables and showground at Krasnogorsk, near Khimki. The occasion was one of the regular, public displays of Cossack-style riding, which are very impressive indeed. The riders are from the stunt team of the Cavalry Escort to the Presidential Regiment. They will be performing in Red Square at the time of

the military tattoo "Spasskaya Bashnaya 2011", from 1st to 4th September. The school is a commercial organisation, despite its name, which appears to have been "franchised", partly because the Commandant of the Kremlin Cavalry Guard is a shareholder in the enterprise. Interested potential customers should consult the website: www.kremlin-ksk.ru Others should try to get to Red Square for the daytime displays. **P**





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Moscow metro fun, an idiots' guide

Jay Morley, photos by Julia Nozdracheva

Taking the Metro here in Moscow takes some getting used to if you are not from a big city or if you are not used to using the Metro or "Underground" as we Brits like to call it. As a country mouse, I found taking the Metro here difficult to do and it took me at least a year to get the hang of it as thankfully I only use the Metro on an occasional basis.

We all know Moscow is a mega city, like a bee hive that has run out of space and so the Metro gets very crowded during rush hour. There is almost a continuous flow of bodies onto

and off the platforms and a continuous flow of sweaty bodies on and off the trains in the summer. The seasons make a difference to your Metro experience. In the summer, the Metro abyss is cool and a welcome break from the intense city heat and smoke. Some trains have air-conditioning, while most of the trains are old and you will cook in the summer however, the Russian trains are bright and larger than the London Underground where the London Underground trains are fine if you are small and don't mind having all your dignity removed as you stand with your nose pressed against the armpit of a



Metro Tsvetnoi Bulvard



Metro Tsvetnoi Boulevard



Metro Dostoevsky

fellow train user. In the winter, the Moscow Metro is warm and a welcome break from the ice and snow. Many of the stations are beautiful to look at and offer a glimpse of the past and the Utopian Socialist work ideal. The Metro is like a glorified path to "work for all" rather than a journey to the hum-drum working week. The Moscow Metro is fairly cheap and very reliable. I think it is a lot better than the London Underground.

Before you even get to the Metro, plan your journey and study the map carefully, it will help if you can at least read the Russian alphabet and read the Metro stations. As you enter the Metro, your first challenge is to make it through the heavy doors without getting a broken nose. This is because they are heavy and swing shut almost as if the Metro does not want you to enter it but the reality is that the Metro creates a kind of vacuum seal due to the constant piston action of trains pushing air through all the tunnels. Once inside, you must then buy a ticket. You can buy tickets by single journeys or by many journeys. They come in one, ten, twenty or sixty rides. At the time of writing, sixty Moscow passes/tickets will cost you about 1,250 roubles. The women behind the ticket desk wear blue overalls and look like office cleaners, a smile is not included in the ticket price. Before you take the Metro,

you can ask a friend to write the station you want to go to in English on a piece of paper, then just say the station to the ticket women making a the gesture of both ways with your hands (a return ticket) or just hold up your fingers to say how many train rides you want. At the barrier, to enter the bowels of the Metro labyrinth, swipe your ticket on the yellow dot and it will deduct one ride from your ticket total and let you inside Stalin's magical fairground ride, minus candy floss.

Head to the escalators that plummet deep down into the abyss and to the platforms below. Stand on the right of the escalator steps as mad people who are either late or who wish to get fit without paying a gym membership, push past you going down or up to shave two minutes of their journey time! I always stand in the middle on the steps just to annoy people and to see if the woman in her glass box is still awake as she peacefully dozes in front of her CCTV. There is something about the low mechanical thud of the escalators that is almost hypnotic. At the bottom, make your way past the old sleeping woman who sits in her glass box. Her job is to check the escalator and make occasional important announcements just to prove to people that she is not sleeping or dead. I think some are actually dead but no one remembered to re-



Metro Marina Roschi

Metro Stretenski Boulevard



A metro carriage

move them from the glass cabin, they sit there like Lenin for all eternity preserved by the putrid stale Metro air. I think the Metro administration somehow forget to put a line through that job "escalator monitor" when they made staff changes some twenty years ago.

Read the signs and find your platform, breathe and keep calm, your goal is in sight. Many stations have stations within stations and some Metro stations are vast marble cathedrals to a now discarded ideal. Walking up and down tunnels and corridors is the norm in Moscow and it will keep you very fit. Once on the train, grab a seat and count the stations to your stop. At every stop a message will tell you what the next station is. If you are worried or if you are lost, like I often am, just look sorry for yourself, find a pretty girl and ask her where you are. Many young Russians speak some English and by my experience are often very happy to help you. There are of course mad people and drunks sometimes, like in any big Metro system. My advice is common sense, if you see a crazy or a drunk, don't make eye contact and move on down the train or move down the platform. Some ex-pats have been badly beaten at stations and the police generally are not around or don't care if you are attacked. Be safe and

be sensible. You will see boys in the Metro that look like they are film extras from a Nazi war movie, they wear long trench coats in the winter and walk together in silent packs down the Metro corridors.

I have noticed that many Russian Metro users are polite to older people or to pregnant women and will get up and give their seat to them. This is fairly unusual in my country where a pregnant woman or an old person is just left to stand there, often on crutches while some spiky haired guy listens to his poof diddy rap music without giving a shit. Respect still lives on, or at least it does in some parts of Moscow on the Metro. However and in contradiction to the above, Muscovites tend to push onto the train when the doors open at the station, so be ready to push your way off the train like a bull at a matador.

When you leave the train at your destination, the escalators are packed with bodies at rush hour, metal barriers funnel people like laboratory rats to the escalator stairs. Shuffle slowly forward and guard your personal space with care and with confidence. Stick to the metal barrier to avoid being crushed and don't be too surprised if you see a person with a dog, bicycle or a pair of skis on their shoul-

der. I don't recommend taking small kids on the Metro at rush hour. If you have child backpack, put your beloved in that and carry him or her on your back, (not recommended if they are teenagers) they will be a lot safer than in a pushchair (stroller) again, walk by the metal barrier to the escalator rather than in the centre of the crowd. If you take a pushchair, go backwards up the escalator and hold on tight. People are usually considerate if you have a child with you on the Metro.

When you leave the Metro, make sure you take the correct Metro exit. Moscow is vast with huge roads in every direction. If you exit at the wrong point at your destination, you will have a long walk to get to where you want to go. Leaving a Metro station is the one thing I don't really enjoy and there are many signs that are a bit confusing to the linguistically and mentally challenged like myself. Again, target the right person and they will help you to get out to where you want to go. Try to take note and remember the way out as

you leave the station so that you will know how to get back to your platform to go home again. If you get drunk and wish to get home again, good luck, your wife will not see you till the next day or maybe never again.

Moscow is such a populated city that driving in the week is only for the mad, bad or very brave or if you are lucky enough to have a company or personal driver. It would be interesting to see how Moscow is in ten years' time and to see if the Metro and road system is still functioning or to see if it has totally collapsed under the population strain? I suspect it will have collapsed by then if nothing is done to improve the transport systems of Moscow. The same can be said for London and Tokyo but money for such things usually disappears or is never put aside for projects to improve unimportant things like public transport, especially in a country like Russia.

For more information and further thoughts on this, ex-pat life and other topics see English Dad In Moscow at: www.englishdadinmoscow.com **P**

Regulations Governing Health Care of Foreign Citizens in Russia

Alexander Ksenofontov, Senior Lawyer, LEVINE Bridge

Regulations governing health care of foreign citizens in Russia are defined by Resolution #546 of the Government of the Russian Federation of September 1, 2005.

Medical care is provided to foreign citizens in any medical institution that is federal, municipal or private care facility.

Emergency and ambulance medical care is provided to foreigners for free and without delay. Emergency medical care is provided to foreigners in all state and municipal medical care facilities, and attended to by medical care professionals, first responders and police officials. These institutions and persons are obligated to provide medical care to a foreign citizen when his or her life is threatened due to accident, trauma, injury, poisoning or other reasons.

Once emergency medical care has been rendered and the foreign citizen is released, a foreigner can be provided with on-going medical care for a fee.

Foreign citizens who have temporary and permanent residence are insured via a compulsory medical insurance program. Costs associated with medical care are paid not by the patient, but by the medical insurance provider. Funds for a medical care program are derived from mandatory health insurance premiums that are paid by:

Employers for their employees;

Customers and licensees in the name of natural persons who are their contractors, authors or licensors;

Entrepreneurs or barristers representing themselves.

To receive medical care under the compulsory health insurance system, a foreigner must obtain a medical insurance policy from a certified medical insurance provider and show it each time when he is seeking medical attention.

The amount of medical assistance under the compulsory health insurance system is limited. For additional health care a foreigner must pay for medical services provided, or opt in to a voluntary health insurance program (purchase medical insurance).

Special rules governing payment for medical service are established for foreigners, who are Highly Qualified Specialists and members of their families according to Federal Law of 25.07.2002 № 115-FZ "On the Legal Status of Foreign Citizens in the Russian Federation". Even when such foreigners have temporary or permanent residence in Russia, they are not considered as being covered under the compulsory health insurance system. Payment of medical care services for



such persons is the obligation of their employers (customers).

Foreigners temporarily staying in Russia without either kind of residency status are eligible for free emergency care only. Payment of other medical services is the responsibility of the foreign citizen. They can request payment for medical services be made by the person who invited them to Russia (inviting party) or may at his own expense purchase health care or medical insurance.

When a foreigner citizen is applying for a medical plan, a doctor may request a statement of medical history, data from previous clinical, radiological, laboratory and other tests. In addition, it is necessary to remember, medical records in Russia are maintained in Russian only. **P**

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Kaido Kaarma, General Director of the real estate company Est-a-tet, spoke to PASSPORT about prospects of investment in residential real estate in the Moscow market



Q: Before the economic downturn, investment in residential real estate in Russia, and especially in Moscow, yielded high returns and was quite popular. Then, due to the economic crisis, investors basically fled from the market. What is the situation now?

A: The segment of newly constructed property is still popular. But previously an investor could enter just about any project, without giving it much consideration, and a 20% a year return on investment was pretty much guaranteed. Now, the average return on investment is about 25% for the entire construction period – from the beginning to completion. And the most attractive objects for investment are individual projects rather than larger-scale developments. As far as larger-scale projects go, very often sales go down at a certain point because price expectations hit the maximum.

Q: If we look back at the economic crisis, what was the immediate impact on the real estate market as far as investors are concerned?

A: As a result of the crisis, both demand and supply shrank. At first sight, one balanced the other, but what also changed was the investor's mentality. Today's consumers understand that such high demand as we used to have, is no longer there, and take their time making decisions. Consequently, in large-scale projects, prices don't go up significantly, making investment uneconomical. But as for individual projects, supply is smaller, and it is possible to find a good investment opportunity by carefully studying apartments for views, layouts and so on. But a potential investor needs to very carefully choose a project as well as a particular apartment in it. It happens that some apartments are noticeably underrated, especially in the first stages of construction.

Q: How has the proportion of so-called "investment apartments"—those bought by individuals as an investment rather than to live in—changed in the wake of the crisis?

A: When speaking about "investment apartments", we should rather look at individual development projects rather than the market as a whole. There were projects, in which

up to 50% of apartments were bought either as investments. But these days, in the economy and business-class segments, this figure is no higher than 20%. Even when it comes to more expensive property, it is more important for a customer to purchase an apartment. And then they will be able to see whether they would move in or resell it with a profit. But what is important is that the price should be lower than a market average, so that the capital [invested in a property] would be working.

Q: Is it possible to make an investment decision without having any specific expertise in the field and knowledge of the market?

A: An investor will need professional assistance in any case. It's very important to understand the overall situation in the market and also have a good idea what exactly is going on in a particular neighborhood and in a particular project. For instance, last year, we had a project, the ninth neighborhood in Reutov, where prices went up by 45% in just one year. The most important factor that had an impact on that growth was the opening of a Metro station close by. I have repeatedly pointed that out: if the Metro comes to any of Moscow's satellite towns, that has a serious impact on real estate prices there.

Q: What other factors can have an impact on the price of a residential property, making it a potentially profitable investment?

A: Sometimes properties are sold at a deliberately discounted price, which could also be a good investment opportunity. One example is The English Quarter. It has been under development since 2006, and has gone through different stages, including suspension. And although that's a business-premium class project, when sales started in August 2010, the price was around 150,000 roubles to 160,000 roubles, [per square metre] attracting a substantial proportion of investors. But by December, the price went up to over 200,000 roubles, and since then, growth has slowed down.

One important criterion for choosing an investment project is the reliability of the developer. Risks of a project not being completed are still there. So, it is vital that a realtor,

through which an investor purchases a property, deals only with reliable developers. An investor needs to know who the developer is and where the financing for the project is coming from—whether a loan is involved or the project is financed exclusively by proceeds from pre-selling apartments. There is an idea around that construction of a building can be financed exclusively from pre-sales of apartments in it, and prices are thus lower because the developer doesn't have to pay interest on loans. However, if sales don't pick up quickly, a project can be suspended. So, this is something to watch out for.

Q: What projects should potential investors with different budgets, say, 2 million roubles, 5 million roubles, 10 million roubles and up, look at in the market of Moscow and the region?

A: If we are talking about an investment between 1.5 million roubles to 2 million roubles, the returns won't be significant. We have sold apartments in the project Marusino, in which apartments ready to move in sold for under 2 million roubles and we are currently selling apartments in Zelenogradsky near Pushkino, which retail between 1.5 million roubles and 2.5 million roubles. But getting a 25% return on investment won't be easy there because that kind of property, being really affordable, is primarily bought by young families to move in. The share of investors in such projects is under 10%. If an investor looks at a building within a range of 5 million roubles, they should look at Moscow Oblast towns where supply of new residential property isn't extensive, like, for instance, Shcherbinka.

And an investment should be made at an early stage of construction. For 10 million roubles, one could consider options within city limits, like on Michurinsky Prospekt. And, talking about more expensive properties, I would still suggest The English Quarter, even though prices there are unlikely to go up there as substantially as they did in the past. Once the construction is completed, the average price of an apartment there is likely to be around \$10,000 per square meter, and at this point it's still possible to buy at \$7,500 per square meter. There is also the residential building Shatyor, which could bring investors a good return, as in that area, around Krasnoselskaya metro station, nothing much is being built at this point. And the building is also good in terms of quality.

Q: Would it make sense to take a mortgage loan on a residential property, expecting to eventually make a profit from price growth surpassing the interest rate?

A: I'm rather negative about this. Even if you can take a mortgage loan from Sberbank at 8% a year, which is hardly possible when it comes to newly-built properties and primarily applies to secondary-market options, the interest will kill all your potential profits. The mortgage might be worth looking at if someone just wants to buy an apartment that could be later rented out. But again, profits from renting out an apartment are not that great, around 5% a year. In my opinion, the mortgage is a good solution in a situation when someone lives in an old, poor-quality apartment, like a "Khrushchevka" building, and wants to move to a better one, but not for investment. **P**



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Moscow remains over-populated

The average size of residential property per Moscow resident is currently about 19 sq meters, compared with 35 sq meters on average in Europe and 65 meters in the United States, the business daily *Kommersant* reported. According to the report, it will take 15 years to increase that figure to at least 22 sq meters. Technically, the existing housing capacity could be doubled if residential buildings are constructed on the sites of industrial zones within city limits and five-story "Khrushchevka" buildings, but that would present an unsurpassable challenge for the city's infrastructure. Meanwhile, the residential situation in the country's other major cities is better than in the capital. For instance, for St Petersburg, which has a population of 4.9 million people, compared with Moscow's 11.5 million, the average residential property figure is 22.4 sq meters per resident, which corresponds to the national average.

City to privatize hotel assets

Moscow authorities are planning to partially privatize the early 1950s building which currently houses the Hilton Leningradskaya, Natalya Sergunina, head of the city government's property department was quoted as saying by the wire service RIA Novosti, adding that the city owns a 30% share in the building and is ready to completely pull out. The building, located near Komsomolskaya Metro station, is one of the "Seven Sisters" skyscrapers built in the late 1940s and early 1950s in Stalinist neoclassical style. The evaluation process is to begin this autumn, after which the city's share in the building will be put up for sale. According to Sergunina, the city government also plans to sell its minority share

in OAO Gostinichnaya Kompaniya. However, the evaluation of that holding could be difficult, as the fate of the company's most valuable asset, the plot of land on which the demolished hotel Rossiya used to be located, is uncertain.

Moscow's construction capacities insufficient

The city government is prepared to take out substantial construction contracts, but the existing capacities are not sufficient, the business daily *Vedomosti* reported. According to the report, construction capacities shrank as labour and some companies left the market originally due to the economic downturn and later because of uncertainty around many development projects in the city under the new Moscow government. Meanwhile, city authorities are optimistic, planning to invest 429 billion roubles into construction projects in the capital in 2012, 446 billion roubles in 2013 and 476 billion roubles in 2014.

Reconstruction planned in the city centre

Rostovskaya Embankment and Plushchikha Street in the centre are to undergo major reconstruction as part of the city's attempt to improve the traffic situation in Moscow, the wire service RIA Novosti reported. As part of the reconstruction works, the embankment and the street, located near Smolenskaya Metro station, will be widened to be able to accommodate more traffic, Alexander Kuzmin, the city's chief architect, was quoted as saying by RIA. The reconstruction and broadening of the existing transport arteries is the centrepiece of a plan aimed at improving the city's traffic situation and adopted by Moscow's new government under mayor Sergei Sobyanin. **P**

How to take public transport

Куда? – Where to?

Какой троллейбус идёт до метро?

Which trolleybus goes to the metro?

Этот автобус идёт до метро?

Does this bus go as far as the metro?

Этот троллейбус идёт до Полиньки?

Does this bus go to Polyanka?

Здесь автобус номер 5

останавливается? *Does the number 5 bus stop here?*

Этот трамвай останавливается

возле магазина "Всё для Дома?"

Does this tram stop near the shop

"Everything for the home"?

Билеты - Tickets

Где можно купить билет?

Where can I buy a ticket?

Сколько стоит билет?

How much is a ticket?

Сколько стоит проезд?

How much is one trip?

Дайте, пожалуйста, один билет.

One ticket, please.

Одну поездку на метро,

пожалуйста. *One trip to the metro, please.*

Сколько стоит проездной на месяц? *How much is a monthly pass?*

У вас есть единый? (метро, автобус, трамвай, троллейбус)

Do you have an all-inclusive ticket?

(metro, bus, tram, trolleybus)

Дайте, пожалуйста, 20 поездок на метро. *Please can I have a ticket for 20 metro trips.*

В общественном транспорте – On public transport

Вы выходите на следующей?

Are you getting off at the next stop?

Какая следующая остановка?

What's the next stop?

Садитесь, пожалуйста. Я постою.

Please have a seat, I can stand.

Вы не скажете, когда будет

Полянка? *Can you tell me please when we get to Polyanka?*



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Wining & Dining



Gut Check



Charles W. Borden

A few months ago, we questioned the results of the annual S. Pellegrino World's 50 Best Restaurants, which placed Varvary at #48, followed by Semifreddo and Chaika in the top 100. The crowning of Varvary, Semifreddo and Chaika as Moscow's best provoked a heated discussion in the PASSPORT dining circle, and a personal "gut check" of the Moscow restaurant menu.

The list below contains my Moscow Top 15. How do I define a "best" restaurant? It serves "a meal prepared with the highest quality, freshest ingredients, by people who greatly care what they serve, and led by a culinary artist, whether that artist was trained in a top chef school or is a local, self-trained artisan. The meal should be served in an enjoyable, restful or at least locally interesting environment, by courteous and responsive wait-staff."

The Supremes

The three below head the class, with sumptuous cuisine made from the freshest ingredients by a true artisan-chef, very good service, and comfortable and relaxing setting.

La Marée

La Marée owner, Tunisian Mehdi Douss, founded and runs Moscow's leading fresh seafood business, flying in fresh fish to supply many of the city's top restaurants. There are two **La Marée** in the city and one out in Zhukovka, my favorite opened just over a year ago in majestic digs on Malaya Gruzinskaya. Each **La Marée** has a boutique seafood market with the fresh-off-the-plane catch laid out on ice, a diner's first stop to select gifts of the sea to be prepared whole, filleted, baked in salt, steamed, "la plancha" or with Tunisian spices. Chef Abdessatar Zitouni oversees the **La Marée** kitchen, serving Mediterranean and Tunisian specialties. A favorite is Zitouni's magnificent, rich, dark ochre Bouillabaisse brimming with an assortment of Mediterranean shellfish and fish. **La Marée** also caters to Moscow's sushi fanatics with fresh sashimi assortment. If I have ever had fresher or better in Moscow I surely don't remember.

Nedalny Vostok (Not Far East)

Australian Glen Ballis is the artist in residence at **Nedalny Vostok**, the greatest of restaurateur Arkady Novikov's establishments. The restaurant centerpiece is its large, open, rectangular, stainless and glass kitchen, sous-chefs hard at work on all sides. Ballis serves a creative Pan-Asian-Fusion menu with an emphasis on Kamchatka crab. Ballis is a disciplinarian, with an obsession for detail that is on display to all each night in the open kitchen. More than a few Moscow restaurants have Glen to thank for kitchen staff who have served time at **Nedalny Vostok**.

Ragout

The newest and most democratic of the top three is Ragout, where Ilya Shalev is the chef-artist. A Stavropol native, Shalev returned to Russia after study at Cordon Bleu, and a stint with super chef and nouvelle cuisine pioneer Alain Senderens. The food at Ragout is exquisite and wonderfully presented, service polite without hovering, setting relaxed and cheerful, and the prices astoundingly reasonable. Ragout's menu, a single page, reflects Shalev's creative nouvelle cuisine influence, with a few nods to Asian and Russian.

The Best of the Rest

The restaurants below consistently offer exceptional food and a delightful dining experience.

Barashka

Barashka has Moscow's best Azeri menu in a comfortable cosmopolitan if not romantic setting. Passport's friend, Shiraz Mamedov describes Azeri cuisine as original and diverse, using a rich assortment of herbs, vegetables, fruits, spices, meat, and fish from the Caspian area, together with the strong cheeses typical of the Caucasus and the fresh and sour milk that are used as a base for soups and sauces. Barashka shows a passion for cooking and presentation that has been sadly missing from most of the Caucasus region establishments I have visited over the years. There are now three Barashka locations.

Café Pushkin

Lodged in a faux 19th century Russian lodge, **Café Pushkin** has long been the obligatory yet well deserved first dinner stop for foreign business visitors to Moscow. The Pushkin up-date of Russian classic dishes is superb, the service very good, just the place to make your first Russian business deal...

Cantinetta Antinori


Cantinetta Antinori, a partnership between the Italian Antinori wine family and Novikov, serves a rich Tuscan menu under the stewardship of Chef Bianco Mauro. Though the food is excellent, it's Domenico Anacletio, the front of house who keeps the restaurant in the stratosphere of Moscow restaurants. "Domenico", as regulars call him, represents an element all too missing from many, if not most, of the city's dining establishments.

Carre Blanc

This is Moscow's best French restaurant (and one of the few). Chef Eric Le Provos executes French classics, but Carre Blanc also has a small comfy bistro menu and a quiet bar.

NEW

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Petrovka street, 20\1
 Tel: 625-2606

Chicago Prime

Steak is Moscow's new restaurant growth market, but the first mover, Goodman's, has relegated itself to a mediocre chain. During the past year, the Starlite Diner folks opened **Chicago Prime**, specializing in corn-fed American beef and quickly took the lead.

Kai

This Mediterranean-Asian fine dining establishment at Swissotel is the only hotel restaurant on this list. Swissotel's Executive Chef Jean-Michel Hardouin-Atlas conceived **Kai** as French-Asian fusion. Seafood dominates, but the menu is full of inviting combinations.

Kinki

This Modern Japanese restaurant in the Krylatskaya sub-urbs features a big, wood-fired Robata grill as its centerpiece, ensconced by a large, heavy granite sushi bar. Kinki's seafood is some of the best in town, and Kiwi chef Aaron Stott's creative kitchen skills are more than a match for Moscow's two big names in creative Japanese cuisine. Kinki is well worth a trip to the outskirts.

Navarro's

Yuri Navarro heads one of Moscow's best (and few) chef-owned restaurants with a meticulously prepared and delicately spiced Latin American and Mediterranean menu.

Night Flight

Despite the **Night Flight** nightclub "let's do it tonight" reputation, the separate restaurant is the place to find elk carpaccio, grilled reindeer steak and genuine Swedish meatballs prepared by Swedish chef Michael Willuhn.

Osteria Montioli

Massimiliano Montioli is the master at this Italian country tavern, a cosy contrast to Moscow's many sterile Italian restaurants. I loved the Tagliolini con gamberi e pomodorini, prepared by the master in a hollowed out wheel of Parmigiano-Reggiano: flamed, melted and stirred until creamy and then the lightly cooked pasta gently slipped in to absorb the cheese.

Tinatin

Caucasian menus are typically voluminous, but chef Maya Patsatsiya's Georgian repertoire is more accessible with many creative updates of traditional favorites. **Tinatin** is also Moscow's first fine dining restaurant to feature a well-selected list of the few very good wines that are made in Russia's wine country along the northern Black Sea coast.

The Outlier

Varvari

The sole reason that Vavari makes this list is its Pellegrino coup. I haven't been there; it hasn't been in Passport's budget yet and certainly not mine, so I withhold judgment. Anatoli Komm's concept of a modern Russian cuisine (molecularized) is promising, and the premises inviting. **P**

The Top Three

La Marée (two locations)

Malaya Gruzinskaya 1/23

+7 495 609 3925

Metro Barrikadnaya

Petrovka Street 28/2

+7 495 694 0930

Metro Chekhovskaya

Ragout

Bolshaya Gruzinskaya 69

+7 495 662 6458

Metro Belorusskaya

Nedalny Vostok (Not Far East)

Tverskoy Bulvar 15

Tel: +7 495 694 0641, +7 495 694 0154

Metro Pushkinskaya

The Best of the Rest

Barashka

Ulitsa Petrovka 20/1

Tel: +7 495 625 2892

Metro Chekhovskaya, Kuznetsky Most

Novy Arbat 21/1

Tel: +7 495 228 3731

Metro Smolenskaya

Ulitsa 1905 goda

+7 499 252 2571

Metro Krasnopresnenskaya

Café Pushkin

Tverskoy Bulvar 26A

+7 495 739 0033

Metro Pushkinskaya

Cantinetta Antinori

Denezhniy pereulok 20

+7 499) 241 3771

Metro Smolenskaya

Carre Blanc

Seleznevskaya ulitsa 19/2

+7 495 258 4403

Metro Dostoevskaya

Chicago Prime

Strastnoy bulvar 8a

+7 495 988 1717

Metro Chekhovskaya

Kai

Swissotel Krasnye Holmy

+7 495 221 5358

Metro Paveletskaya

Kinki

Ulitsa Ocennaya 11

+7 495 781 1697

Metro Krylatskaya

Navarro's

Shmitovsky Proyezd 23

+7 499 259 3791

Metro Ulitsa 1905 Goda

Night Flight

Ulitsa Tverskaya 17

+7 495 629 4165

Metro Pushkinskaya

Osteria Montioli

Bolshoi Nikitskaya 60

Metro Barrikadnaya

Tinatin

Ulitsa Plyoshchenko 58

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Metro Smolenskaya

Varvari

Strastnoy bulvar 8a

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Metro Chekhovskaya



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M. Mayakovskaya

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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 and lunchtime business meetings. Open 24 hours. 5 locations.

M. Pushkinskaya

Strastnoy Blvd. 8a,
989 44 61

M. Mayakovskaya

16 Ul. Bolshaya Sadovaya,
650-0246

M. Oktyabrskaya

9a Ul. Korovy Val,
959-8919

M. Universitet

6 Prospekt Vernadskovo,
783-4037

M. Polyanka

16/5 Bolotnaya Ploshchad,
951-5838

www.starlite.ru

AMERICAN BAR & GRILL

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

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

BEVERLY HILLS DINER

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

1 Ulitsa Sretenka,

M. Chisty Prudy

HARD ROCK CAFE

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

44 Stary Arbat, 205-8335

M. Smolenskaya

www.hardrock.com

ASIAN

AROMA

Indian Restaurant
Krizhizanovskovo Street 20/30,

M. Profsayounaya

www.aromamoscow.ru
+7(495) 543-54-26

TURANDOT

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

26/5 Tverskoi Bulvar, 739-0011

M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya

www.turandotpallace.ru

MR. LEE

Fashionable and expensive Chinese from Novikov.

7 Kuznetsky Most, 628-7678

M. Kuznetsky Most

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/>

COFFEE AND PASTRIES

COFFEE BEAN

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

56 Leningradsky Prospekt, 742-3755

www.coffeebean.ru

COFFEE MANIA

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

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

M. Arbatskaya, Biblioteka im. Lenina

www.coffeemania.ru

STARBUCKS

Now has 32 locations.

www.starbuckscoffee.ru

VOLKONSKY PEKARNYA-KONDITERSKAYA

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

2/46 Bolshoi Sadovaya

M. Mayakovskaya

EUROPEAN

CARRE BLANC

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

9/2 Ul. Seleznevskaya, 258-4403

M. Novoslobodskaya

www.carreblanc.ru

BLACKBERRY

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

10 Academic Sakharov Prospekt

926-1640, 926-1645

M. Chistiye Prudy

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

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

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

52/6 Kosmodamianskaya Nab, 221-5358

M. Paveletskaya

EVERYDAY TERRACE BY IMPERIA LOUNGE

Due to its location in the Krasnopresnenskiy Park and sophisticated summer menu becomes a breath of fresh air in the hot Moscow days.

Executive Chef Bruno Marino has developed a menu with an emphasis on Mediterranean cuisine.

Mantulinskaya Street house 5 bld 7, 790 74 00

www.everyday-terrace.ru

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/>

LEBANESE

SHAFRAN

Quiet and cosy atmosphere. Culinary masterpieces of Arabic cuisine. Varied and substantial lunches. Unusual and tasty breakfasts. The mezze is completely addictive!

Spiridonievsky pereulok, 12/9, 737-95-00

www.restoran-shafran.ru

FUSION

GQ BAR

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

5 Ulitsa Baltischug, 956-7775

M. Novokuznetskaya

eng.novikovgroup.ru/restaurants/

SOHO ROOMS

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

12 Savinskaya Nab., 988-7474

M. Sportivnaya

www.sohorooms.com

HEALTHY

JAGGANNATH CAFE

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

11 Kuznetsky Most, 628-3580

M. Kuznetsky Most

www.jagannath.ru

LE PAIN QUOTIDIEN

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

5/6 Kamergerski Pereulok, 649-7050

www.lpq.ru

LATIN AMERICAN

NAVARRO'S BAR & GRILL

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

23 Shmitovskiy Proezd, 259-3791

M. Mezhdunarodnaya

www.navarros.ru

OLD HAVANA

An amazing place, with a stunning Brazilian table-side 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

ILFORNO

Restaurant-Pizzeria 25 kinds of great tasty stone oven baked Pizza. Great choice of fresh pasta and risotto. Grilled meat and fish

8/10 Build.1 Neglinnaya Ul.

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www.ilforno.ru

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 to last guest.

17 Ulitsa Klimashkina, 253-6505

M. Barrikadnaya

CIPOLLINO

Coffee- and cream-colored stylish Italian cafe a stone's throw from the Cathedral of Christ the Savior.

7 Soimonovskiy Proyezd, 695-2936, 695-2950

M. Kropotkinskaya

www.cipollino.ru

JAPANESE

KINKI

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

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

M. Krylatskoye
www.kinkigrill.ru

MEGU

The best Sushi in town is served here according to PASSPORT's publisher John Ortega. Funky Korean décor and ambience.

Lotte Plaza Hotel Novinsky Bulvar 8

M. Smolenskaya
+7 495 745 1000

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

SEIJI

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

5/2 Komsomolsky Prospekt, 246-7624

M. Park Kultury

CAUCASUS

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. Neglinnaya, 625-2596, 200-6836

M. Kuznetsky Most, Teatralnaya

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

RUSSIAN

CAFE PUSHKIN

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

26a Tverskoi Bulvar, 739-0033

M. Pushkinskaya, Tverskaya, Chekhovskaya

GODUNOV

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

5 Teatralnaya Plushchad, 698-5609

M. Teatralnaya

OBLMOV

Authentic Russian cuisine in a restored 19th century mansion.

5 Monetchikovskiy Pereulok, 953-6828

M. Dobryninskaya

YOLKI-PALKI

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

23 Bolshaya Dmitrovka, 200-0965

M. Okhotny Ryad, Teatralnaya

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

SEAFOOD

FILIMONOVA & YANKEL

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

23 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 223-0707

M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya

www.fishhouse.ru

LA MAREE

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

28/2 Ulitsa Petrovka, 694-0930

www.la-maree.ru

STEAKS

EL GAUCHO

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

4 Ul. Sadovaya-Triumfalnaya, 699-7974

M. Mayakovskaya

6/13 Ul. Zatseskiy Val, 953-2876

M. Paveletskaya

3 Bolshoi Kozlovsky Pereulok, 623-1098

M. Krasniye Vorota

www.elgauch.ru

CHICAGO PRIME

Steakhouse & Bar

Chicago Prime Steakhouse, is the best of Chicago in downtown Moscow. U.S.D.A Prime steaks, a wide choice of seafood, valued priced wines, unique specialty cocktails and stylish interior will take you into an atmosphere of casual elegance and exceptional cuisine. Happy Hours daily from 5 pm till 8 pm

Strastnoy Blvd. 8a, 988 17 17

www.chicagoprime.ru

GOODMAN

Moscow's premium steak house chain. Numerous locations.

23 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 775-9888

M. Tverskaya, Pushkinskaya

www.goodman.ru

POLO CLUB

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

Ulitsa Petrovka 11/20, 937-1024

M. Kuznetsky Most

TORRO GRILL

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

6 Prospekt Vernadskogo, 775-4503

M. Universitet

www.torrogrii.ru

BARS AND CLUBS

CUBA LIBRE BAR

The real island of freedom in suffocating space of a dependent city. In the afternoon, at lunch-time, here it is possible to deal business, but at night you forget about all and enjoy freedom, the real emotions, passionate dances and democratic prices for cocktails.

M. Chistye Prudy; 17 Ulitsa Pokrovka, 624-07-18

M. Kuznetsky most; 4 Kuznetsky most, 692-02-14

www.cubalibrebar.ru

MARTINEZ BAR

Martinez Bar offers its guests a chamber setting and a cozy atmosphere without tobacco smoke and the city hustle. During the day, Martinez Bar is a comfortable location for a meeting (from 12:00 till 17:00 30% discount for the hole menu); during the evenings, the Bar is an ideal place for cocktails.

M. Chistye Prudy; 1 Ulitsa Sretenka, 760 81 92

www.martinezbar.ru

NIGHT FLIGHT

If you don't know about Night Flight, ask somebody! Open 18:00-05:00

M. Tverskaya; 17 Tverskaya Ulitsa, 629-4165

www.nightflight.ru

PAPA'S

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

M. Kitai-Gorod; 2 Myasnitskaya Ulitsa, 755-9554

ROCK'N'ROLL

Rock'n'Roll bar offering visitors all popular dishes and drinks, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In the afternoons we are a quiet place for business lunch, and at night we are a cheerful and rampant bar where it is possible to take pleasure with freshening cocktails while listening to dj sets.

M. Chistye Prudy; 1 Ulitsa Sretenka, 233 76 97

www.rocknrollbar.ru

SECRET BAR

In July Secret bar has slightly opened the doors and has ceased to be one of the most secret places of Moscow.

Cosy atmosphere of house parties, tasty meal, good drinks and the pleasant prices remain at former level, and here possibility to get to a bar is received by all interesting inhabitants of capital.

6 bld. 3 Pereulok Stolessnokov, 921-07-50

M. Teatralnaya

www.secretbar.ru

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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Sartorial Art



Whether you are a conservative banker or a rock star's PR manager, looking like a success is the first step to being successful. Most business professionals know the old saying "you don't get a second chance to make a first impression," and this is absolutely true. The simple fact is that in and out of the business world, people are judged by their wardrobe. Your image is everything; it's what makes your employer, clients and colleagues feel comfortable with you.

Those who strive for perfection always choose the finest art of individual tailoring.

Slipping into a custom-made suit is simply the ultimate in dressing sensations—a thrill that could be compared with the thrill of slipping behind the wheel of your own first car. If one hundred of the world's best dressed men gathered together, the majority would surely be wearing custom-made suits and shirts. Bespoke historically has

been the common language of Men of Style—from the royals to dandies, from movie stars to the rich there has always been a dialogue between a man and his tailor and it's no different today.

In ascending the fashion ladder, gentlemen who aspire to reach the heights of luxury and elegance will eventually arrive at the point where they realise that they want to go beyond mass production to custom-made clothing. Clothes made especially for you will only enhance your external image and imbue it with a luxury and style. Hand sewn initials on your clothes only serve to heighten refinement and elegance. For this, you will establish a dialogue with your personal tailor. History has shown that made-to-order clothes have always been a visiting card for gentleman. Kings and aristocrats, stars and entrepreneurs have always used the services of professional tailors, and this has not changed today.

You will walk with confidence know-

ing the clothes you are wearing were made just for you, with all of the details the way you always wanted but could never find in any off-the-rack selection. Others will see the difference right away, but more importantly, so will you.

For over 25 years Executive Fashions has been one of the most respected names in men's custom tailored clothing, identified with superior fabrics, meticulous hand-tailoring, and quality which is very hard to find now days.

Executive Fashions professional tailors create garments with attention given to each minor detail. Despite the fast pace of the mass production world, Executive Fashions tailors give each of customer an opportunity to express his individuality and uniqueness. Great pride is taken knowing that each and every garment produced is made for one individual, and no other garment exactly like it exists anywhere in the world.

On the 16th, 17th and 18th of September, Executive Fashions is organising a unique opportunity to meet with professional tailors from Scabal, the highly recognized supplier of top quality fabrics to the most prestigious tailors and textile businesses around the world.

Enjoy the pleasures of bespoke tailoring at Executive Fashions - choose the fabrics, style and the cut you prefer, get measured by a professional tailors.

"Scabal Days" in Executive Fashions is a unique chance to acquire a masterpiece of tailoring, which you will have every right to be proud of. **P**

Executive Fashions
Malaya Dmitrovka 8
Tel: (495) 785-21 36

www.executivefashions.ru



Executive Fashions

CLASSIC TAILORING

*Tailor-made
suits and shirts*

*Special Offer
Autumn - Winter 2011/2012*

Five hand-stitched shirts with personal monograms	— 40 000 rbl.	30 000 rbl.
Sports jacket from Scottish tweed	— 35 000 rbl.	30 000 rbl.
Classic suit in English wool Super 120's	— 50 000 rbl.	40 000 rbl.
Elegant suit in Cashmere Wool	— 75 000 rbl.	45 000 rbl.
Perfectly tailored Cashmere topcoat	— 70 000 rbl.	45 000 rbl.

Compiled by Ross Hunter

September Art Celebration

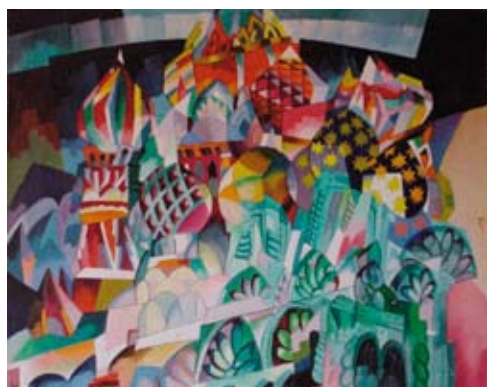
Jeremy Clarkson, of Top Gear fame, once claimed nobody could name two Russian artists. Passport readers know better of course, thanks to Olga's erudite and entertaining articles, and more. Here are copies of four of the most famous works and artists, probably in most people's top ten favourites. Enjoy! As this is a puzzle page, I have mixed up the artists' and paintings' names and dates. Nothing too hard to match up. Hint for Jeremy, if you read this: I have included a Kandinsky, so even you should score at least one.



Zinaida Serebriakova 1878
Aristarkh Lentulov 1923
Vassily Polenov 1909
Vassily Kandinsky 1913



St Basil's Cathedral
Transverse Line
At the Dressing Table
Moscow Courtyard



Back-to-School Word Search

Can you find at least 29 school-related words, including subjects, parts of the day and opinions? Some of them are obvious, but some are less easy or obviously school words. Hint: every square is used.

How old is this puzzle?

Mr and Mrs Abacus have four children at school, Albert, Basil, Calamity and Zoolobooie, the youngest. Tell the parents how old they are! 2 are even numbers, 2 are odd; their ages add up to 48. B is twice as old as Z; A was double C when Z was one. Two of their ages are even numbers, 2 are prime numbers. C and Z together are 2 years older than A. All are whole numbers.

W	R	C	D	H	C	N	U	L
I	A	O	R	E	A	E	U	I
L	O	R	A	A	L	W	A	B
F	O	R	M	R	M	S	S	R
L	I	I	A	E	L	P	P	A
A	F	D	C	C	O	A	T	R
G	E	O	G	R	A	P	H	Y
I	T	R	T	E	R	E	A	D
G	E	O	M	E	T	R	Y	C

Mini Sudoku

Fill in 1-6 in each row, column and box.

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

Answers to August puzzles

Word Search: The Seaside

Across - sandcastle puffin lee gull tides sing wave port jellyfish ball tide bass stone seal; vertical - salt jetty wellie pedalo ebb yacht flipflops oil lion gun light-house albatross; diagonal - fog pet boot spit sea lee eel path floss teal.

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Clarice and the Hostage Ostrich

Ross Hunter, illustrated by Catherine Hunter

"Now listen in, Clara, Celia and Emma! We're going on a rescue mission. It's a shocker, and it might get nasty. Get your camouflage plumage on. We meet in an hour."

When Clarice calls her Gals, it's an order. The ostriches and cousin Emma Emu were excited, curious and worried. Normally, Clarice says it'll be as safe as houses, and there are war wounds to treat (and show off). So when she starts by promising something nasty, the gals get nervous.

"All present? Roll call. Quack up: Clara, Celia, Emma? Good."

A bit unnecessary, the girls thought. Even a bird can count to three. But with Clarice in sergeant-major mood, it's best not to chirp up.

"Ahem... croaked Emma's deep throat. And?"

"Ah! You've brought Cyd along. Easy to miss a four metre python. She could be useful, thank you Emma."

Cyd blushed a little, as they remembered her flying elastic antics catching the fat thief.

"Now, where was I? I was out in the fields yesterday stretching my legs and getting some fresh air, when I smelled birds! The eyes said cows and sheep, but the nostrils said feathers. I followed my nose to a nasty grey barn surrounded by barbed wire, looking like a prison. I legged it over the wire and squeezed through a little door. It was horrible, gals: thousands of luckless chickens cooped up in cages."

"We have to rescue them! If there's one thing I can't stand, it's picking on birds!"

She sat down with a large hurrumph, pink around the gills, eyes popping even more than usual.

"Err, great idea," said Celia, thinking the opposite. Celia was the best educated and brightest bird, wise enough not to twitter like the others. She thinks before doing, which is unusual nowadays. She also nibbles while she thinks, so she is

A Brainy Bird Tall Tale (no.2)



rather plump, and the most rounded of the team.

She had reason to worry, as we shall see.

"But how are you going break in, and get the chickens out? Farmers tend to have guns, and we are not exactly small targets."

The others, even Clarice, gulped. This is quite a sight in a long-necked bird.

"We, Celia, we! Birds of a feather, stick together. Teamwork makes the impossible simple. Our feathered friends in the forest have agreed to help. I have got a spotter buzzard, an owl, if he can stay awake, some woodpeckers, pigeons and two crows to help with the tricky bits. They have already stolen me a gate key. Let's go! There's not a moment to lose. If we delay, the chickens' goose will be cooked."

Clarice scrambles words like other people scramble eggs. But she means well.

"Good luck!"

A wobble of ostriches, a snake, two hoodie crows and a buzzard set off with a brisk goose-step. Next to the nasty farm, they stood in the apple orchard, very still, with leaves over their feathers, and heads on the ground, looking like lollipop trees. Their eyes were not buried, and watched the farmer all the time. Toe nail by toenail they edged forward, nearer and nearer. When the farmer went round the back, they rushed in. Clarice had the crows' key, and opened up. Emma and Cyd chased the guard dogs into a shed and shut them in. Clara and Celia ripped open the barn doors, and ran through, flinging the cages open.

"This way, chickens," yelled Clarice, and a tumult of frightened, fluffy, wide eyed birds staggered into the sunlight. They streamed out of the farm and into the safety of the woods. Clarice led, Emma and Clara escorted. Cyd and the buzzard kept a very careful eye on each other, Cyd hissing and the buzzard mewing. Two pheasants flew in circles overhead, like vultures. Two fox cubs (Sasha and Boris, since you ask) and a ferret (I don't know his name, perhaps you do?) kindly offered to help, but were politely invited to clear off.

So far so good, except I've missed Celia. Suddenly, the two crows (they are twins, Hamish and Ewan) raced to the front with terrible news:

"Celia has been captured! The farmer has trapped her—she was too wide to fit through the end door!"

The chicken convoy carried on to the woods with Clara and





Emma, while Clarice went back to the farm. Celia could not be seen but the farmer was standing with a gun in one hand and a loudspeaker in the other.

"Ahoy there, you scrawny necked oversized turkey!" He was not very polite, by farmers' standards. Clarice bristled. "If you are looking for your sister, she's inside. My, she's a big girl—lots of meat on her. Listen, bird-brain: get my chickens back,



or your mate gets the chop. She will be chops and steak by sunrise unless you cough up the chicks."

Clarice was scared but furious. "Don't count your chickens, mister!" she whispered to herself. She joined the others for a war council.

"If there's one thing I hate, it's kidnappers! Nobody takes an ostrich hostage, especially not our Celia."

"But what can we do?" cried Clara. "Are we going to send the chickens back?"

"No chance. Give me a moment. Let me have a butcher's at the situation."

"What? Is that Cockerel rhyming slang again?" asked a puzzled python.

"Sorry, yes: butcher's hook = look!"

"That's it! Got it! Clarice suddenly scratched and pecked out a new battle plan in the soil for the feathered few.

Night fell. The farmer and his dogs kept a wary watch. Every-



thing was quiet. Too quiet. First he got fidgety, then scratchy, dozy, irritable and panicky. The moon hid. An owl hooted. Celia heard it and started screeching and kicking her cage. The dogs went mad and barked and howled. The farmer went inside and shouted at Celia, who pecked him, and kicked his dogs, who bit him. His shotgun went off and scattled the roof. With a bigger bang, everything went black, including the floodlights outside. Six woodpeckers are handy if you want to chop a wooden electricity pole.

A riot in the dark. The owl dive-bombed the farmer's hat. The three free big birds made a dreadful din, drumming and rattling the walls, and the crows harried the dogs. Cyd slid under the door, opened Celia's cage, and for good measure tripped up the farmer. He fell face first in an awful lot of awful bird manure. The pigeons added to it. They left him there.

Safely home, they partied. Feathers flew.

"Welcome back, Celia," said Clara, "and thank you Clarice—we did some good today. But it was a bit too exciting."

"Come now, girls. As I always say, if you don't stick your neck out, you won't win the race! Be proud birds. Remember: no quills, no thrills!" **P**

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The Moral Aspects of Rioting and Looting in the Misty Isles

Anth Ginn

Last Friday I sat down to write my column for PASSPORT, telling English-speaking, tax-dodging, ex-pats and fugitives from justice, hiding out in Moscow, what's happening in the sleepy old UK. Nothing was happening. There was nothing to report. Britain was dozing on the beach, after a lunchtime pint, towel over head, tabloid fluttering gently at the feet.

Then three weeks ago, the London Police shot dead Mark Duggan, an unarmed, 29 year old black man from the Broadwater Farm Estate in Tottenham, North London. Mark, father of four, was shot in the chest and arm. Broadwater was the scene of riots in 1985, when black woman, 49 year old Cynthia Jarrett died when police burst into her flat. This was after riots in Brixton, the previous week, following the shooting of another black woman, Dorothy "Cherry" Groce, during a police search.

A protest march against the shooting grew into two nights of rioting in Tottenham. Then the rioting spread to other parts of London and the UK. By the time the riots left the borough, they had changed. Mark Duggan was no longer the issue. A more important agenda involved getting new trainers and mobile phones, or for the female rioters, the latest autumn lines from TK Max. Rioting quickly became looting.

People are rioting all over the world, for economic justice, equal rights, freedom of expression, democracy, an end to racism. But in the UK it's embarrassing, social disorder is an excuse to go shoplifting. To hell with the vote and free education.

"What do we want?" "A pair of size 9 Nike Dunk High Hyp Premium iD Men's trainers."

"When do we want them?"

"Now".

The politicians were horrified, and rushed back from holiday to appear on TV saying what awful, immoral, unacceptable people the rioters were and how they would be punished. Their crimes against humanity would not be tolerated. Several senior police officers displayed their lack of media savvy and looked complete idiots on TV, sounding like a WW2 propaganda film, they came out with corny platitudes like, "We have your photographs. We know who you are. You have been very, very naughty. We will hunt you down, no matter how long it takes. We will come round to your house and arrest you and send you to prison for thousands of years. See how cool you look with your hood up when you're in prison, getting raped in the shower by Mr Big. Ha ha ha ha..."

Londoners, who are well aware that the police don't even come round to your house if you phone and say, "There's a burglar in the bedroom right now," laughed back.

After recent the revelations about them kissing Rupert Murdoch's arse, fiddling their expense claims, the dishonesty involved in going to war in Iraq, and the mysterious insanity of attacking Libya, they needed to regain some moral high ground. Although when you're being swept towards the sea in an open sewer, any kind of ground will do.

The dollar is shaking and reaching for its gun, the euro trembling and reaching for the parmesan while the pound is groaning drunkenly, reaching for the remote control. As the Mexican child said towards the end of Terminator, "A storm is coming."

Cameron and Milliband are both hammering their lecterns, lecturing us on the evil of grabbing a pair of trainers through a broken shop window, or the pitfalls of stealing a mobile phone. Telling us how this type of behaviour will not be tolerated. Cameron said, "We need a criminal justice system that scores a clear and heavy line between right and wrong."

It's a pity he doesn't know the difference between right and wrong himself.

"What do we want?" "A pair of size 9 Nike Dunk High Hyp Premium iD Men's trainers."
"When do we want them?"
"Now".

During the week of the trainer riots, an incident, took place in Libya, which barely made the national news. It was buried by reports of broken shop windows and mobile phone theft.

NATO jets, under the orders of our moralising Christian, politicians, bombed a couple of buildings in Zlitan, Libya, and killed 85 civilians, including 33 children. The justification for our war on Libya was to establish a "no-fly" zone to protect civilians from being bombed. So what the hell's going on in Cameron's private little war? As with Iraq and Afghanistan, they haven't thought it through.

Imagine the media coverage if Libyans had bombed and killed 33 British Christian children. But because this atrocity was carried out by the RAF, under the orders of Cameron, there was no film of grieving relatives, no interviews with the bereaved parents and children, and there will be no anniversary this time next year. We've run out of grief and morality, at the same time.

Nobody is mourning the deaths of 33 Libyan children in the UK. Our tears were shed for the loss of a few JD Sports shop windows, and the theft of a few hundred mobile phones from Carphone Warehouse.

And unfortunately our politicians are clean out of morality again. Which is a shame, because I'd like Mr Cameron to morally justify a war nobody wants, asked for or provoked, which is costing billions we don't have, and is draining resources which we badly need at home. How does he justify twisting a UN resolution to establish a no-fly zone, into a mandate for bombing innocent civilians?

Or maybe it's about oil again, and Cameron is using the opportunity of a riot to grab a few cans, through the broken window of the petrol station, and run home before the police arrive—which could be weeks. **P**

Oli and the Forty Garkhs

Ian Mitchell

Older readers will remember “samizdat”, a Soviet-era practice whereby writers of unpublishable books circulated them unofficially in typescript, often by getting anyone who read one to type it out again, making a further five carbon copies while doing so. With Xerox machines under lock and key, that was viral marketing, USSR-style.

Now that capitalism has come to Russia, we have more copiers and printers than we can make sensible use of. Not only that, books can be disseminated through the internet. And if a stray typescript were to survive from the Second Age of Man, we could instantly run it through an Optical Character Reader, word processor and spell-checker before sending it off to a commercial publisher anywhere in the world. You would think that makes it easier to get material published than it was in Soviet times. WRONG! The story of Stephen Dewar’s book is an interesting illustration of the fact that capitalism has its own controls.

Stephen is an old Moscow hand, who will be known to many PASSPORT readers. He sent his manuscript out to a range of publishers and received universally negative replies, probably because they did not read it. Publishers today depend on literary agents to undertake that unpalatable, pre-Murdoch chore. Books? Who’s interested in books? Not publishers: they are interested in business, and preferably show-business.

My literary agent, in London, once told me that anything she submits to a publishing house is assessed by a 26-year old girl who would prefer to be looking at *Hello!* magazine. So how does a modern author with something original to say get published? The answer is: do exactly what Stephen Dewar has done and use Amazon, which now has a self-publishing division called CreateSpace.

For a fee of about \$50, you can get your own title formatted for publication and advertised on Amazon’s web-site for sale through Kindle, the paper-free book pre-

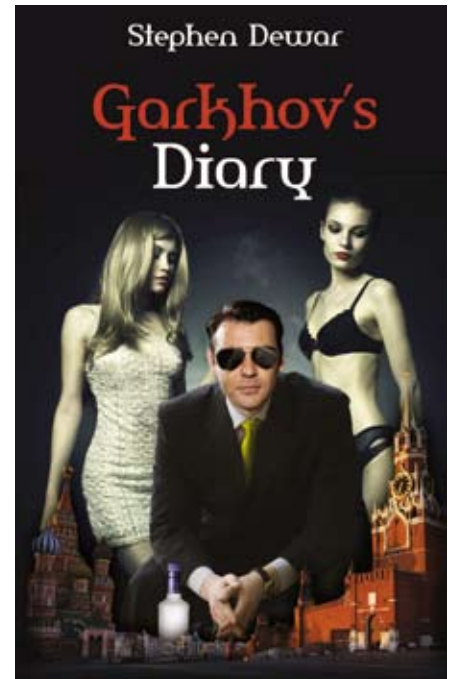
sentation gadget. For slightly more you can get it published on a print-to-order basis in hard-copy. On 22 June this year it was announced that an American crime writer called John Locke was the first person to sell a million copies of a book through Kindle alone. This is nothing like the old, embarrassing vanity publishing operations of yestercenury.

So what has Stephen Dewar got to tell us which the *Hello!*-reading dolly-brains of the modern publishing industry have not yet woken up to? By a nudge-nudge process he acquired the private diaries of a Russian *nouveau riche*, called Oleg (“Oli”) Garkhov for much of 2004. His book is an edited collection. This is a flavour of their content:

“One of my private lines rang. A strange man said, ‘I represent your wife, Natasha. We know you murdered her bodyguards in a vicious attempt to frighten and intimidate her. You’re in deep trouble. Now, make a sensible offer or else you know what to expect.’ I nearly fell off my chair with horror, but, as is my extraordinary custom, I quickly recovered. ‘Don’t be stupid,’ I quavered. ‘It was the police who killed Natasha’s thugs. It was nothing to do with me!’ But the man said, ‘On the contrary, it’s the police who saw you do it. I have seven signed eyewitness statements from police officers proving you did it.’ I believed him. You can buy anything in Russia, especially the police.”

Oli Garkhov circulates in a world peopled by Khodorkovsky, Berezovsky, Guzinsky, Vekselberg, Potanin, Abramovitch and all the other Russians who might feature in *Hello!* He sends his son to Eton, of course, communicates with Putin on the subject of his re-election, and has his girl-friend’s poodle fed to his dobermans after she gets bored of it and removes the diamond-studded collar.

Dewar skillfully creates a picture of a man who wants to dominate people around him but does not know how to do so, other than by spending money. This is an interesting evocation of the period that might be called “post-Soviet



Garkhov's Diary
Stephen Dewar
Amazon-Kindle £6.44

baroque”, which lasted from the time of the 1998 default to the 2008 crash, and which, in the class to which Oli Garkhov belongs, featured bumptiousness, conceit, arrogance, ignorance and anti-social extremes of wealth. Oli’s problem is that he fails to understand why these qualities, especially the last, do not endear him to the societies he aspires to belong to, particularly upper-crust Britain.

Dewar deftly illustrates his hero’s lack of *savoir faire* when he goes grouse-shooting. After spending £100,000 on a pair of Holland and Holland guns, Oli writes this in his diary:

“17 August: We flew into a place called Edinburgh, which Boris assured me was in Scotland. I just hoped nobody was there to see we had only a Boeing 737 and not a 797 or 888 or whatever my useless Swiss banker is supposed to be getting for me.”

The reader is left wondering why a man so obsessed with showing off should arrive in Scotland five days *after* the opening of the grouse season. *Of course* nobody will be there to see his wimpy little Boeing 737: they will all be back home in Herefordshire or Oxfordshire, leaving only healthy, high-flying birds for the Irish building contractors, Cockney property developers and better-off friends of the keepers to shoot. What on earth is the point of sending your son to Eton if he can’t keep you right on grouse-moor etiquette? You can buy anything in Britain except class. **P**

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American Bar&Grill, 1st Tverskaya-Yamskaya 2/1
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Chicago Prime
China Dream
Coffee Bean, Leningradsky prospect 58
Coffee Bean, Pyatnitskaya 5
Cuba libre bar
Cutty Sark
Eat and Talk
Everyday terrace
Gandhara
Gorki
Hard Rock Cafe / Хард Рок Кафе
Hot dogs (бывший Doug & Martin's Boar House)
Il Forno, Neglinnaya 1
Il Forno, Ostojenka 3/14
Il Patio, Novinski 31
Il Patio, Leninsky 68/10
Il Patio, Prospekt Mir 33
Il Patio, Trubnaya Ul
Il Patio, Pushkinskaya 5
Il Patio, 1st Tverskaya Yamskaya 2
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Kostya Coffee, Vavilova 3
LIGA PUB, Skromnoe obayanie
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Mia Florencia
Molly Gwynn's, Krasnaya Presnaya 1-7
Molly Gwynn's, Novy Arbat 24
Molly Gwynn's, Pyatnitskaya 24
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Starlight Diner,
Bolshaya Sadovaya 10
Starlight Diner,
Prospect Vernadskogo 6
Starlight Diner, Korovi Val 9
Starlight Diner, Bolotny Ploschad 16/5
T.G.I. Friday's, Tverskaya
T.G.I. Friday's, Novoslovobodskaya 3
T.G.I. Friday's, Zemlyanoi Val 33
T.G.I. Friday's, Komsomoloski
Propsect 28
T.G.I. Friday's, Kievski Vokzal 2
T.G.I. Friday's, Bolshaya Tulskaaya 13
T.G.I. Friday's, Novy Arbat 14
Tapa de Comida
Tiflis
Uzbekistan
Uley / Correas
Vanilla Sky
Vesna
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Цветение Сакуры

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Schwartzkopf & Henkel
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American Dental Center
American Medical Center
European Dental Center
EMC, Spiridonevsky 5
EMC, Orlovsky Per. 7
Medincentre
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Education

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Anglo-American School of Moscow / Англо-Американская школа
British Higher School of Design
British International School, B. Academicheskaya 24
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