

# SKY TIMES

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**Magical Moments  
Surrounding Spring Festival**

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Photo by Hendrik Morkel



# Editor's Letter

## Celebrating the New Year in Style

When the calendar flipped onto the first day of 2018, people around the world celebrated the New Year, enjoying the happiness of family reunion. But for Chinese, Lunar New Year is a much more important celebration, starting on Feb. 16 this year and marking the start of the Year of Dog, one of the most popular zodiac creatures in China. It is a time when everyone seeks to return home to spend the festival period with their family. On behalf of the *Sky Times* team, I send my best regards to you, and wish you a very happy New Year.

As the Master said in *Confucian Analects*: "While his parents are alive, the son may not go afar. If he does go abroad, he must have a fixed place to which he goes." Due to special circumstances, some people working in the civil aviation industry have to sacrifice celebrating the festival at home. In the *Focus* section, we bring you a series of stories recording the unusual life of five civil aviation workers and their mixed emotions during the busy Spring Festival travel rush (page 14).

Winter is the best time for snow-based activities. Last month, I visited Les Trois Vallées in Savoie, France, which consists of eight famous snow resorts, such as Val Thorens, Courchevel, Meribel and Les Menuires. During the six-day trip, I was so impressed by the heavy snow and the enthusiasm of skiers — everyone there embraced the winter wonderland. Gliding on the snow can give one a feeling of freedom and help you forget the trivialities of daily life. A skier becomes entwined with nature in an instant, and nothing is more pleasant to the ear than the whistling wind and the sound of friction between skis and snow. In the *Lens* section, we present you with something special involving snow (page 48).

Shangri-La is described as a beautiful, breathtaking spiritual Garden of Eden in the best-selling novel *Vanishing Horizon*. In reality, it is both ethereal and down-to-earth. In the *Travel* section, we visit Shangri-La, a village under the holy light of the Buddha (page 36).

The year 2017 marked the 45th anniversary of the normalization of Sino-Japan diplomatic relations, while this year will mark the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between China and Japan. Munemitsu Erikawa, Japan Airlines' Executive Officer & Senior VP for China, believes such landmarks will be a positive turning point for Japan-China bilateral mutual exchanges, not only politically, but also in the business and cultural sectors. In the *People* section, *Sky Times* interviews Erikawa in his Beijing office to hear his story about Japan Airlines (Page 54).

I hope you enjoy the New Year issue and, as always, we endeavor to bring you a newer and better *Sky Times*.

Again, Happy New Year and we wish you a pleasant journey.



Cao Shenshen  
Executive Editor



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**Executive Editor:** Cao Shenshen

**Editors:** Feng Shuangqing, Wang Ruosi

**Editorial Consultant:**

Dominic McIver

**Editor-Visuals & Photographs:** Lu Ning

**Advertising Director:** Zong Miaomiao

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多米尼克·麦基弗

视觉编辑: 路泞

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## World Cup Carriage Launched on Moscow Metro

A new blue-and-red train promoting the upcoming FIFA World Cup has been launched on the Moscow Metro's Circle Line. Inside the carriages people can read interesting facts about previous tournaments, look at iconic soccer photos and get acquainted with the event's official mascot: A wolf called Zabivaka (meaning "The One Who Scores"). Russia is set to host the FIFA World Cup finals from June 14 to July 15 at 12 venues spread across 11 cities, including Moscow, St. Petersburg and Sochi.



## Brides-to-be Battle for Wedding Prizes

Thai brides-to-be do a math task at the Running of the Brides event in Bangkok, Thailand, on Dec. 2, 2017. A total of 600 brides-to-be and their grooms competed in a running race for a chance to win more than 2 million baht (US\$61,000) in wedding package prizes, including a pair of white-gold diamond rings and a honeymoon trip to the Maldives.





## The Smallest Hotel in the World

The smallest hotel in the world is basically just a Volkswagen Beetle with a gutted interior filled with hand-embroidered sheets and pillows on a bed that pretty much fills up the car. The Beetle hotel was opened in 2011 by now 64-year-old Mohammed Al Malaheem in the tiny Jordanian village of Al Jaya. The Beetle sleeps two, and offers a traditional Jordanian breakfast or lunch, as well as excellent service from Al Malaheem and his wife and daughter, who also crafted the Beetle's interior furnishings.



## Robot Serves Customers Craving Coffee

Located in Lac Trung street, Hanoi, the robotic coffee shop has attracted a large number of customers these days with a robot serving drinks to the tables. A group of young people have successfully created a robot named Mortar, which is 130 cm tall and 20 kg in weight. The robot can work in 15 hours with fully charge. When a customer order a drink, the coffee staff will prepare and place the tray on the robot's hands, choose the table number so it can find the way to the table. The magnetic sensor will help Robot Mortar detect a tract to follow. The robot can say simple words such as hello, thank you, please or ask people to give way.





## Animated Fun at the Animation Fair

Anime fans dress as Spiderman at the Tokyo International Animation Fair in early December, 2017. Anime and Manga are an integral part of Japanese culture, capturing the attention of millions of fans worldwide.

The first post-90s generation are travelling to the Antarctic during the 2018 Chinese Spring Festival. The group is said to travel more frequent than last generations, who also take an unusual path when it comes to the travel destination. One third of the customers who choose our Antarctic tour are born in the 1990s, who are apt to leading and guiding the future travel market.

– Fliggy, OTA Platform



Artificial intelligence (AI) may actually create more jobs than it's expected to eliminate. By 2020, AI will generate 2.3 million jobs, exceeding the 1.8 million that it will wipe out. The number of jobs affected will vary from industry to industry. The public sector, healthcare and education are expected to gain the most jobs, while manufacturing and transportation may be the hit the hardest.



– Gartner, Consulting Firm

A flourishing ecosystem is bound to come across its fair share of black swans and grey rhinos, but by working together and sharing success, we can make ourselves immune to them – or at least fend them off while we find our way forward in a thoroughly uncertain future.

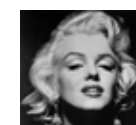
– Huawei, Smartphone Producer

# VOICE



Don't walk in front of me... I may not follow... Don't walk behind me... I may not lead... Walk beside me... just be my friend.

– Albert Camus



I believe that everything happens for a reason. People change so that you can learn to let go, things go wrong so that you appreciate them when they're right, you believe lies so you eventually learn to trust no one but yourself, and sometimes good things fall apart so better things can fall together.

– Marilyn Monroe



# Get the Gear to Go Skiing



## Z3

### Ski Helmet

HMR Helmets Hammer, Italy

Z3 features an outer part made of high-polymer polycarbonate materials, while its internal part is made of polystyrene materials with a ventilation structure design. In addition to the two ventilation devices installed on the top of the helmet's inner part, there is a ventilation hole on its back, which allows the ready passage of water and air. Z3 complies with the EN1077 standards, with each helmet having passed strict quality management tests. The built-in ear pads are made of synthetic leather with the thermal shaping technology guaranteeing a reasonable earshot for skiers.



## Speedmax Classic Cold N06717

### Carbon Fiber Snowboards

FISCHER, Austria

As an established sport brand with a long history in Austria, FISCHER holds an important position in the international tennis and ski markets, especially having unshakable dominance in the cross-country skiing and ski-jumping fields. With its high technological content and extremely low self-weight, FISCHER's latest cold-resistance products, Speedmax series snowboards, are suitable for cold weather below -2°C, and are specialized snowboards selected and used by World Cup players.



## Hawx Ultra 130

### Snowshoes

ATOMIC, Austria

Hawx Ultra 130 are known as the simplest and lightest type of snowshoes in ATOMIC's production history. Due to the innovative structure design, they weigh at least 25 percent less than other snowshoes. In addition, they have an automatic memory system, which can help adjust the shoes to meet your needs for dimension and inner lining within several minutes, freeing you from the repeated adjustment troubles. The extremely simple design styles enable you to enjoy visual agility and comfort.

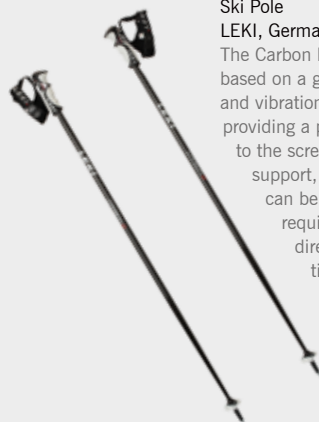


## Carbon Fiber D

### Ski Pole

LEKI, Germany

The Carbon Fiber D Ski Pole is designed based on a golf club, featuring anti-skidding and vibration-damping functions, and providing a perfect sense of handling. Due to the screw mounts on the top of the pole support, pole supports of various sizes can be screwed up or down without requiring any tools, with vibrations directly dampened. The elastic pole tip made of carbon fiber with the same density as diamond is strong and hardwearing, and meets the needs for any terrain with its angularity being 30 degrees.



## Icon



### Ski Jacket

Helly Hansen AS, Norway

On the strength of its H2Flow™ temperature correction system, Helly Hansen has raised its ski jackets' temperature control performance to a new level. The drainage system of Icon can bring cold air in or out through pores, improving the jackets' heat transfer performance by 20 percent. In order to ensure better comfort, rear panels made of smooth fabrics are used for its inner lining, perfectly matching the jackets. As another highlight of the jacket, the pockets at the chest position are designed for warmth retention purposes, which can improve the warmth retention performance threefold and can ensure the safety of mobile phones and maintain temperatures for normal use.



## H059-2335

### Ski Pants

HALTI, Finland

Featured with slim fit, lightweight and high-end style, the ski pants are skin-friendly and warmer due to the wool blend materials in their inner lining. Latest environmental technologies have been adopted for their fabrics, providing sufficient personal protection while achieving environmental protection purposes. They are four-way resilient and highly air-permeable.



## Deep gloves

### Neutral Gloves

HALTI, Finland

DrymaxX fabrics are used for the surface of the HALTI neutral gloves, having wind- and moisture-proof features. Microtherm 80-series thermal fibers are inserted in its inner part, providing impressive warmth retention performance. Due to its pattern design perfectly matching the hand structure, users can still use their hands freely when they wear such gloves.



## REVENT Q

### Eye Protection Glasses for Skiing

ATOMIC, Austria

As specialized eye protection glasses designed for all-terrain skiers, Revent Q has clear super-large views and can be easily adapted to different environments. Its prominent feature is the "quick-click" mirror surface system, which can achieve mirror switch in seconds through one click. The two-sphere mirror surface has scratch- and fog-proof functions, and multi-coated lenses can effectively prevent the damage that may be caused by harmful rays to eyes. The personal real-time FIT system can guarantee Revent Q's intimate adaptation and comfort at any time and any place.



## K2

### Snowboards, the USA

As K2's brand founders, brothers Bill and Don Kirschner are reputed as the "Fathers of Glass Fiber Snowboards in the United States". Their colorful snowboards are still favored by young snowboarders even today.



## Top Statistics on Traveling to Europe

Twenty years ago, taking a trip to Europe was a luxury for most Chinese. But now, with the improvements in people's living standards and the sustained growth of China-EU relations, increasing numbers of Chinese are able and willing to travel beyond Asia. Recently, China's famous online travel agent Qunar.com released its European Travel & Tourism report, providing statistics about the most popular destinations and the best time to go.



### 1 Best destinations and dates for European travel

Most Chinese travelers like going to Europe in July, August and September, with peak numbers seen in September. In December, during the ski season, more travelers visit northern Europe to go skiing or see the aurora.

### 2 Favorite countries for male and female travelers

In 2017, the top-3 most popular destinations for Chinese travelers were Russia, the United Kingdom and France, with the proportion of men to women visiting Europe measuring 1:1.35.



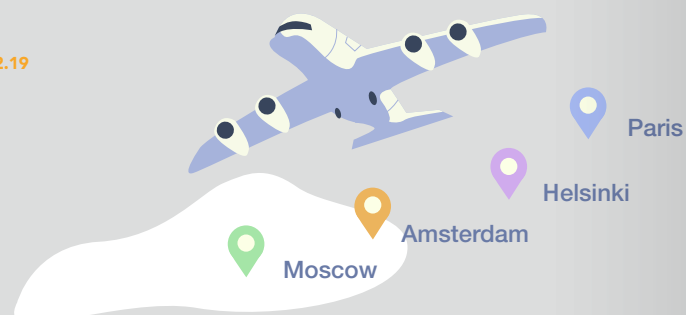
### 3 Best time to book air tickets

March and November are the cheapest months to travel, with the average price (including tax) of round-trip tickets being 3,233.42 RMB (US\$487) and 3,212.19 RMB (US\$484) respectively. Due to the summer vacation period, the prices of tickets are highest in July.



### 4 Most popular transit cities

As we all know, connecting flights help save money. In 2017, 55 percent of travelers chose connecting flights to go to Europe, with Moscow, Amsterdam, Helsinki and Paris the most popular cities for transit.



# FOCUS



# Magical Moments Surrounding Spring Festival

Photos Wang Yang  
Special thanks to Aman Summer Palace



Home is a place we are sentimentally attached to. The Chinese Lunar New Year is regarded as the most important day in China, on which people make an arduous journey to rush back home. Due to special positions, some people, in particular those in the civil aviation industry, have to deviate from the direction of home. With people anxious to return to their families, the Spring Festival travel rush is the busiest time of the year. These five stories record the unusual life trajectory of five civil aviation workers and their mixed emotions at this time of year.



# A Pilot's Sacrifice for the Greater Good

Text Feng Shuangqing

Yang Yong  
Captain for China Eastern Airlines



It was New Year's Eve, colorful fireworks brightened the night sky in downtown Shanghai, rising here and subsiding there. About 30 kilometers away, the light on the apron of Pudong International Airport appeared sporadic and hazy in the fog. Captain Yang Yong stared at the scene outside the cockpit window and worried about the worsening weather, with the desire to take off punctually more urgent than usual. There were not many passengers on the aircraft, but the luggage racks were full of New Year gifts.

With the cabin door beginning to close as the scheduled departure time approached, Yang Yong received an inquiry from the ground service desk asking whether more passengers could board, as two people had just arrived at the boarding gate. Airline companies often close the hatches about 15 minutes before takeoff, and only when the hatches are closed can the captains request a takeoff time from the control tower. Reopening the hatch means that a new departure time must be obtained. In an airport where takeoffs and landings are frequent, opening the hatch may delay the flight by half an hour or more. According to regulations, unless there are special circumstances, the hatch may not be opened after it is closed. However, Yong quickly thought it over and decided to let the passengers on.

Low visibility meant many airplanes waited on the apron of the airport. Minute by minute, travelers who were eager to go home became increasingly impatient. Due to heavy fog and delays, the flight faced being canceled. Yang Yong was busy in the cockpit communicating with air-traffic control staff about the departure time. He then addressed the passengers: "I will do my utmost to ensure that the plane takes off and flies you home." With the joint efforts of the crew, the plane took off successfully. After

landing, Yang Yong deliberately came out from the cockpit and sent off the passengers at the cabin door together with the crew, offering holiday greetings. The thanks he received from the passengers left a warm feeling in his heart.

"Such stories are normal," said Yang Yong. Having graduated from the Civil Aviation Flight University of China in 1998, he now serves as a captain of A330 aircraft for the Flight Department of China Eastern Airlines Beijing Branch. Yang Yong has flown nearly 16,000 hours. During his two decades of flying, he can only remember spending New Year's Eve with his family three times. "I have not spent New Year's Eve with my family for many years; it now seems abnormal to spend the festival with my family."

China's Spring Festival is a time for returning home. Whether traveling by trains, planes or automobiles, people head back to their family nest like migratory birds. But for Yang Yong, he has to work as usual and it is the busiest time of the year for him. With more frequent flights and newly added routes, Yang Yong often needs to perform three flights a day. The A330 aircraft he flies can carry nearly 300 passengers, with all flights full during the Spring Festival.

When a flight lands, hurried footsteps showcase the passengers' anticipation of seeing their loved ones. Yang Yong's desire to return home ripples in his heart. The words "New Year" are full of festivity and cause an image of sizzling firecrackers alongside red decorations and a variety of delicacies to flash through his mind. Although it was long time ago, Yang Yong remembers the first time he could not go home on New Year's Eve. It was the second year after he had started flying. Although his parents were very supportive

of his work, it did not do anything to combat his feeling of being homesick. However, this bitterness has now developed into a feeling of responsibility.

Having had to give up the joy of reuniting with his family, Yang Yong thinks the Spring Festival is particularly special for him. On New Year's Eve, when he flies to the cities in which the company's operating bases are located, the company will organize the crew coming from all corners of the country to have a reunion dinner. If he flies abroad during the Spring Festival, he and his colleagues enjoy the Chinese New Year celebrations going on in other countries. In Sydney, the major streets in the central business district are festooned with red lanterns. The walls of the opera house are lit red, while dragon and lion dances and firecrackers are often seen. On New Year's Eve, he can appreciate the lanterns, songs and dances on the street. Going to Chinatown in the early hours of the first day of the Lunar New Year, he may also receive "lucky money" wrapped in red envelopes from the mayor of Sydney. In Bangkok, the oldest and largest temple — the Reclining Buddha — is often festooned red lanterns, and the Thai monks chant in groups to bring in the Chinese New Year. No matter where he is, Yang Yong likes to spend the festival surrounded by noise and excitement, which is the traditional way for Chinese to celebrate the Spring Festival.

After flying for so many years, he has gained a deep understanding of his occupation. In Yang Yong's eyes, his responsibility is to deliver passengers to their destination safely. He even finds joy in knowing that his sacrifices at a time like Chinese New Year are for the greater good. It is something he considers not only his duty, but his mission.



# Spending Spring Festival in the Air

Text Feng Shuangqing

Yuan Yang  
Flight Attendant for Air China



Each year, during Spring Festival, passengers taking Air China Beijing-bound flights will see a Chinese knot hanging on the wallboard of the cabin door and other red decorations featuring Chinese characters wishing them blessings such as health, wealth and happiness.

If you happen to fly home on the days leading up to the holiday, you may enjoy a Spring Festival-themed flight. Flight attendant Yuan Yang, who has worked previously as a television hostess, often plays the role of MC in the air. She asks quiz questions related to air safety and interacts with passengers who answer questions, giving out gifts prepared in advance to the winners.

On a flight from Karamay, a passenger who answered a question left a deep impression on Yuan Yang. He wore his work overalls from Karamay Oilfield because he had no time to change before rushing to the airport to take the last flight home. As the working environment at the oilfield is tough, employees take turns to go home to celebrate Spring Festival. The man's story struck a chord in Yuan Yang's heart.

"Passengers' stories about their joys and sorrows, told on the most important days of the year for Chinese people, have left me deeply moved," she said.

Yuan Yang's hometown is Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province. For children in the northeast, Spring Festival is synonymous with snow. When there is heavy snowfall, they build snowmen and decorate them with their own scarves and hats. Each finished snowman is stamped with a strong personal touch and left standing for many days. The winter vacation is the best time for them to go skating, when they can experience the joy of speed skating, which symbolizes the speed and passion of life in the north.

Yuan Yang started working as a flight attendant in 2013, which is the last time she celebrated Spring Festival at home. Many migrant workers go home in the days leading up to New Year's Eve, during which flights are more frequent than ever. Yuan Yang can only return home to have a reunion dinner with her family after the initial travel rush is over. An old woman on her way to reunite with her daughter for Spring Festival once turned to her and said: "Dear, you have had a long flight. Hope you would enjoy the happy family hours at home." Yuan Yang was overcome with mixed emotions and held back her tears.

"To be honest, I missed my parents very much, but at that special moment, I realized that being an airline stewardess is a noble profession and we can take pride in our sense of mission when transporting passengers home," she said.

Due to her profession, Yuan Yang occasionally spends the most important holidays abroad. During the Lunar New Year in 2016, she had to fly to London. Before boarding, Yuan Yang and her colleagues went to the local supermarket to buy meat and vegetables, and then made dumplings together. "As ingredients for Chinese food are rarely sold in foreign supermarkets, and the crew has no time or facilities to cook a big dinner, dumplings represent Spring Festival for them. Eating dumplings in foreign countries gives them an important taste of home."

Spring Festival is a major test for many industries, civil aviation in particular. During the holiday, the number of passengers and amount of luggage transported reaches yearly highs. With passengers anxious to return home as soon as possible, Yuan Yang and her colleagues make efforts to help passengers place their luggage in an orderly fashion to save boarding time and avoid delays caused by human error.

With spring following winter, the holiday is not only to celebrate the harvest, but also to greet the New Year. In Yuan Yang's eyes, Chinese New Year represents reunion and growth. One's heart grows fonder of faraway loved ones on lonely festive days. The festival reminds people of the sequence of time and the past year's harvest. When the New Year comes, people find peace in their hearts and leave negativity behind, taking on a fresh outlook for the year ahead.

On New Year's Eve, when the clock strikes midnight, people begin to set off fireworks to celebrate Spring Festival. One year, when Yuan Yang's flight was landing, she saw fireworks from the plane window. She felt the joy of others behind a curtain of twinkling lights and was overcome with emotion. "If I did not choose this profession, I might not have had the chance to enjoy such a magnificent moment."



# Life's Most Fantastic Firework

Text Cao Shenshen

For Li Dejun, the best Chinese New Year's Eve he has ever had was the one he spent at Beijing Capital International Airport three years ago. At midnight, Li and his colleagues climbed up the open rooftop. Fireworks joyously bloomed in the night sky. So near, yet so far. "It was like being surrounded by the fireworks — a feeling I have never had before," he said. Memories of this moment are deeply embedded in Li's mind, and he will never forget it.

While Li has spent his past 21 years at the airport, seeing airplanes come and go, he does not have any special feelings about the Spring Festival travel rush. Over the years, Li's work has been restricted to the three runways. "You cannot sense the atmosphere of Spring Festival unless you deal with passengers."

Among all civil aviation departments, Li's has the longest preparation period for winter operations. "From July or August to the following March or April, we have work on vehicle maintenance, personnel and emergency drills to get ready for the winter."

In Li's daughter's mind, snow is nature's clock. "When it begins to snow, Daddy will go to work, no matter what time it is," she said. The girl has a simple wish. She hopes that, one day, Li will build a snowman with her. But every time

he comes home, the snow has already melted.

Li Dejun is a ground officer at Beijing Capital International Airport, which means his scope of work covers all areas where aircraft operate. In spring, summer and winter, his work mainly focuses on the testing of airstrips and taxiways, including their friction coefficient and potential risks. In winter, he has another important duty — the commander of snow removal on the runways.

Li, a veteran who is always on duty when snow comes, said: "Once the alarm is sounded, we must switch to standby status and be ready to work anytime."

The airfield is the area for the takeoff, landing, taxiing and parking of airplanes. In this area, there are airport traffic control towers; hangers for aircraft maintenance; special vehicles with various functions; functional numbers and lines on the ground; letters and numbers on light boxes; and white or blue lights on the airstrips and taxiways.

"During the winter, the work of de-icing includes snow removal on the field road and ice removal from airplanes." Li's department is responsible for snow removal on

the field road, including the snow on the strips and taxiways, as well as on the apron.

As you can imagine, it is not light work. The airfield at BCIA covers 15.73 square kilometers, of which 7.56 sq km is road area. There are 139 taxiways and 319 aprons. With only 150 snow removal workers and 98 vehicles, it is stressful work. Staff must make sure that aprons, roads and indicator lights are snow-free so that they can direct the way for aircrafts.

When there is no snow, snow removal drills are still carried out at the airport, but snow removal vehicles only operate in winter. "When in operation, a dozen of the vehicles move steadily along the strips in precise positions with different functions," Li said.

In the front is an instructor vehicle. It drives along the center

line of the strip. Like a symphony conductor, it controls the speed of the whole operation. Following are four snow removal vehicles, which move along in two rows. The first two vehicles push the snow away, while the other two clear any snow that is left behind.

Behind are six snow-plow vehicles in three rows. In the lower front of the vehicles, there is a huge rolling brush, which can blow away snow with cool air and push snow to both sides. Then there are two prominent snow-throwing vehicles, which can swallow the snow piled up by the former vehicles and spit

out in batches using strong air-blowers. Drawing out a beautiful curve, the snow falls down to the soil besides the strip.

Following are four de-icing vehicles and two friction coefficient testing vehicles. The de-icing vehicles spray a specially processed fluid on the ground. "It cannot do any harm to the strip or aircraft components, especially the tires," Li said.

With such a grand troop of vehicle, we can clear a strip within 25 to 30 minutes. The friction coefficient testing vehicles are the most important of the whole snow removal task. Without their

permission, no aircraft can use the strips. "Only after the friction coefficient reading exceeds 0.3 is the airworthiness requirement satisfied."

Passengers never see these backstage snow removal operations. "What we do every day is quite normal. The hustle and bustle of transportation during the Spring Festival travel rush is nothing special for us." That being said, whenever he recalls the New Year fireworks at the airport, Li feels a sense of joy and fantasy. The fantastic imagery has become a lifelong memory, which will never fade away.

Li Dejun  
Ground Officer for Beijing  
Capital International Airport





# Chinese New Year for a Foreign Son-in-Law

Text Feng Shuangqing

Every year, foreigners come to China for work, travel and to live. They witness many traditional Chinese symbols, among which, Spring Festival is the most important and unique.

Matthias Ravn is German. For him, Spring Festival in 2016 was more important than ever before. It was not only the first time for him to celebrate the Chinese New Year, but also the first time for him to accompany his wife in returning to her hometown in Hunan Province to celebrate the festival with her friends and relatives. The rural life of the south, featuring the curling smoke from kitchen chimneys and various festival customs enabled Matthias to experience a different side of China.

If asked to describe the Spring Festival in one word, Matthias would choose “food”. At his parents-in-law’s home, a day starts with a bowl of hot noodles. “We had to eat from morning to night. From one relative’s home to another, we had to eat something everywhere we visited. Friends and relatives always served us with fruits and nuts,” he said. The long preparation for New Year’s dinner surprised Matthias. Chicken and pork joints are steamed in the cooking range, while pig’s knuckles and beef are braised in the stockpot. Cured meat and hot pot is also prepared. Matthias’ wife said that

on New Year’s Eve, her parents would be busy until 2 a.m. or 3 a.m., adding that they would get up early the next morning to prepare a dozen dishes.

Matthias found out that in his wife’s hometown, people compete against each other to be the earliest to begin dinner. At 9 a.m. or 10 a.m., firecrackers begin to crack and splutter, with the sound becoming deafening. Combined with the alarm of electric motors and cars, it seems to make the earth tremble and the mountains sway. Matthias’ wife explained that is a signal for dinner. In Matthias’ hometown, fireworks are also a must-have during festivals. But instead of being watched, China’s fireworks are to be listened to, with the sound lasting for several days. “You want to sleep? No way. You want get up after 6 a.m.? No way,” he said.

In the rural south, where there is no heating, Matthias sat around the fire with his wife and relatives. Spring Festival Gala — the most popular TV show — was broadcast again and again. People talked with each other loudly and warmly. Though Matthias cannot speak Chinese, relatives and friends did not give up talking to him. “They would communicate through body language, or simply offer me food. They have various ways to show their friendliness.”

The first time Matthias went to his wife’s hometown, he received a red envelope from her relatives. Though Germans send each other gifts at Christmas, Matthias found it surprising that Chinese people send each other money. Taught by his wife, he also sent red envelopes to kids when they were paying New Year’s visits.

“In Hamburg, my hometown, we have similar ways to celebrate the New Year. We also have reunions with our relatives and have parties. But we only celebrate the festival for one day — Dec. 31. In China, family members all over the nation go back to their hometown and celebrate the festival for 15 days. I am curious as to why the date of these 15 days is different every year.”

Matthias is a production manager for Aircraft Maintenance and Engineering Corporation (Ameco). His workplace encompasses more than 30,000 square meters of hangers and 8,500 square meters of repair workshops. His duties include all production processes of passenger cabin configuration, interior structure and fuselage spraying.

At the age of 14, Matthias worked as an intern at Lufthansa’s maintenance base. This internship aroused his interest in aircraft maintenance. After graduating



**Matthias**  
Production manager for Aircraft  
Maintenance and Engineering  
Corporation

from high school, he became an apprentice of aircraft structural maintenance engineering. Then he went to Hamburg Polytechnic University, where he got his master’s degree in production economics. In 2014, he participated in a cooperation project between Ameco and Lufthansa, and went to China for the first time. In Beijing, he not only found himself a job, but also met his true love — a colleague at Ameco from Hunan Province.

Working in the transportation industry, Matthias has a deep

connection with large-scale transportation during the Spring Festival. With the volume of flights soaring, the workload of craft maintenance also increases. In Matthias’ department, the number of airplanes in need of maintenance during Spring Festival largely exceeds that of other times. Before the festival, to ensure their best condition and all-day operation, Matthias has to work all week long without a day off.

From 2016 to 2017, from the north to the south, and from urban to rural areas, together

with millions of Chinese people, Matthias experienced the transportation rush during the Spring Festival. In 2017, when Matthias took the high-speed train, he was struck by how crowded the station was. From the crowd, he sensed people’s hope and excitement. His Chinese colleagues and friends told him that some people fail to buy a ticket and have to stand on the train for three days. But, despite this, nothing can stop Chinese returning home during the Spring Festival.



# Hidden Heroes of the Control Tower

Text Cao Shenshen

In the film *Flipped*, Julia, the heroine, likes the big sycamore tree next to the bus stop so much that she would give up everything including her own life to protect it, because she can see the most breathtaking view of the town from its top. Julia's feeling strikes a chord with Liu Yixian.

There is a group of people who work every day in the 90-meter-high control tower, surrounded by 360-degree panoramic views. Earphones, microphones, marks and planes on the tarmac are all part of their routines. Although they cannot reunite with their families for Spring Festival, they behold the most fascinating landscape in the world — the sky above — which they safeguard day and night.

Things feel different when one celebrates Spring Festival at the control tower. "On Spring Festival Eve, we can appreciate almost all of the fireworks shot up into the sky above the city of Beijing. Without referring to a watch, we are able to tell when it is midnight by the density of fireworks. It is the best view one can witness from that height," said Liu Yixian, a controller at the Beijing Control Tower of CAAC North China Air Traffic Management Bureau.

Liu has spent six Spring Festivals at the Beijing Capital International Airport over the past seven years.

As her hometown of Shijiazhuang in Hebei Province is not far from the capital city, she has offered to be on duty during the Spring Festival so that her colleagues who come from further afield could return home and reunite with their families.

Be it a domestic or overseas pilot arriving in Beijing, Liu greets them by saying "Happy New Year". On Spring Festival Eve everyone in her team prepares a dish that presents a taste of his or her hometown. "Those from northeast China bring dumplings with sour vegetable fillings; those from Shaanxi share *bianshi*, a northern version of dumplings; and those from Hunan offer a plate of glutinous rice cakes."

The traditions of Spring Festival are of great significance and shared by all Chinese. Children look forward to new clothes and red envelopes, while adults strive to return to their hometown. For Liu, the festival has a special importance attached to it, because her birthday happens to be on the 30th day of the last month of the Chinese lunar calendar, namely, Spring Festival Eve, which means it is the happiest day of the entire year for her.

"When I was a little girl, Spring Festival was my favorite holiday. Everything about it was memorable: the blossoming of daffodils; the delicious food

prepared by Dad; the dumplings made by Mom; the creamy birthday cake; the *tianguozi*, a Chinese traditional dessert cooked by my grandparents; and the fascinating array of fireworks I would watch with my Dad after the Spring Festival Gala came to an end." Liu's memories of Spring Festival were perfumed with the fragrance of daffodils and the sweetness of life.

After graduating, Liu and her Mr Right, whom she met at college, went to Beijing together. Liu worked as a tower controller, commanding takeoffs and landings, taxiing, and the pushing back and starting up of all planes at BCIA's three terminals. Meanwhile, her husband served as an approach controller, in charge of the command of the aircraft getting into and out of the terminal areas. Despite different duties, the sacred sense of purpose and the joy of having similar responsibilities provided the two with a special kind of happiness. In the days when they could not celebrate Spring Festival together at home, they met each other, comforted each other, or had meals together in the canteen at their workplace. Things are plain and simple between them, but that is how they celebrate.

"During the day, the controller has to command a large amount of domestic and overseas flights,

Liu Yixian  
Air Traffic Controller of  
CAAC North China Air Traffic  
Management Bureau







Photo by Nordwood Themes

while at night, it is rush hour for cargo airlines and international flights,” said Liu. “So our work is non-stop, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.”

The process of departure clearance, pushing back and starting up, taxiing and taking off takes an aircraft approximately 30 minutes. It involves several controllers in the control tower doing different jobs simultaneously. Out of one minute, 25 seconds is used to send instructions, 25 seconds to receive the pilot’s readback and another 10 seconds to coordinate the control plan. On top of that, the controllers have to type the digital flight strips, with eyes on the runway to make sure nothing is in the way. “At the busiest time, we are constantly talking and have no time for a break.”

In 2018, Liu will spend her seventh Spring Festival in the control tower, a period of time when the flight volume sees an increase of around 100 flights per day. “Instructions upon instructions. We literally have no time for break.” During Spring Festival, the controllers work from 5 a.m. until 3 a.m. the next day, totaling 20 hours of intensive work.

Spring Festival is the final hurdle for CAAC employees. Overcoming

it safely and smoothly counts as a real end of the year for them. “Once we have completed that period, we always sleep for a whole day, because we are so tired.”

As the flight volume increases, the chance of emergencies goes up. “During Spring Festival, due to the large number of travelers and the cold weather, it is highly possible to encounter incidents such as passengers becoming ill during a flight. To handle it, we must race against time.” On a day close to Spring Festival Eve one year, Liu received a sudden application from an aircrew for priority landing when a pregnant woman was suffering a hemorrhage.

“The first thing that came to my mind was to seize every minute to help protect a new life,” Liu said. As the flight volume in the airspace was near saturation, the only option was to open a “green channel” in the air for the plane. “Due to the limited space and large number of aircrafts, the plane had a high risk of collision with other planes, but no one opposed the action. Instead, we fixed our eyes on the radar screen to avoid this from happening. Everyone breathed a sigh of relief after the flight landed safely on the runway.”

The passengers would not have been aware how complex the situation facing the controllers in

coordinating the landing was, but Liu and her team could feel the relief the pregnant woman and her family felt after she was treated in hospital. They felt as satisfied as the doctors who successfully treated the woman.

Liu’s wish for Spring Festival this year is that all passengers return home safely and reunite happily with their families. Behind every takeoff and landing are countless efforts of CAAC employees. When flights soar freely in the sky, it is workers like Liu who help ensure the safety of passengers.

Many years ago, in a memorable video clip issued by the National Air Traffic Controller Associations of the United States, it said “We guide you home” as a little girl ran toward her father. As the busiest airport in China, BCIA ranks second in the world in terms of the number of daily takeoffs and landings on a single track. Underneath the moonlight, air traffic controllers are sending instructions to each aircrew. While aboard the planes, some passengers are looking forward to returning home and others are already enjoying a reunion. At this moment, the selfless controllers are sacrificing their New Year celebrations to guarantee the safety of every aircrew and passenger.

# TRAVEL



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# Lose Yourself in the Lovely Luang Prabang

Text **Patsy Yang** Photos **Yuan Tingting**

*Luang Prabang in northern Laos may not be on the itinerary of every tourist, but those looking for inner peace and spiritual satisfaction are unlikely to give it a miss.*

Since I traveled to Myanmar five years ago, no other Southeast Asian country or city had impressed me for its landscape and spirituality as much as that nation did until I visited Luang Prabang, which stands at the confluence of the Nam Khan and Mekong rivers in northern Laos.

In just three days, this incredibly enchanting town full of heritage, regal history and spiritual nourishment left a deep impression on me.

With ancient temples and stupas scattered everywhere, and beautiful French colonial houses lining up the main streets, the town slows down your pulse rate. All you need to do is unhurried exploration on foot. Luang Prabang might be overshadowed by locations in its more popular neighboring countries Thailand and Cambodia, but after it was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995, it has grown as a destination in the region. But despite a surge in tourist traffic, it has still managed to retain its nostalgic vibe, serenity and peace.

Like its friendly slow-paced locals, Luang Prabang has its own rhythm and pace. High-end international hotels and resorts have been eyeing this piece of land as their next leisure destination, including Amantaka; La Residence Phou Vao retreat overlooking the lush jungle; and M Gallery by Sofitel that is housed in a restored historical

colonial building. The newest entrant, Azeraiby renowned hotelier Adrian Zecha, offers a contemporary, elegant dwelling.

A comfortable and luxurious stay is assured in Luang Prabang, but outside, early in the morning, the saffron-clad monks walk silently down the street collecting alms.

It is called the Tak Bat ritual.

It reveals the city's venerable tradition and distinction besides the top-notch hospitality.

The locals prepare the alms even before the monks arrive. They are full of Lao staple — sticky rice and some other food. It is a tradition that every monk gets a scoopful of rice in his bowl. They carry a large lidded bowl attached to a strap hanging from the shoulder. The streets are lined with almsgivers who are usually kneeling on the ground.

This ceremony is done in silence — monks do not speak, nor the almsgivers.

A spiritual township and a former capital of Laos, the peninsula town is recognized as a cultural and religious center for Theravada Buddhism. There are over 30 active temples scattered throughout the peninsula, and groups of saffron-robed monks and novices from eight to 80 years old are a common sight at any time of the day throughout the town.

Once the home of the 14th-century Lan Xang Hom Khao (meaning “A million elephants and the white parasol”), Laos became a French protectorate in 1893. More than a century later, it is now one of the lesser-known, but beautifully preserved, living heritage sites in the world.

The exceptional fusion of traditional architecture and urban structures influenced by the 19th- and 20th-century European colonial settlers provides a picturesque setting for residents and visitors.







An early morning stroll following the town's daily sacred traditions is probably the best way to appreciate the many beautiful temples hidden among the intricate blend of buildings with French, Vietnamese and Chinese influences.

I started my exploration from Wat Xieng Thong, the town's best-known monastery and the religious emblem of Luang Prabang. It is a beauty composed of a central ordination hall, several stupas and little compact chapel halls featuring intricately carved walls, lavish and elaborate paintings, mosaics and rare Buddhist deities. The site is also an important gathering place for the town's significant annual festivals.

The temples have common features such as the gleaming temple roofs and elaborate front facades. The tips of the roof are adorned with finials shaped like

a naga, the mythological serpent believed to protect Buddhism.

The temples are all unique and nestled against the lush green backdrop. There is a rare sense of peace early in the morning in this compact riverside town, and an unhurried way of life as you follow the beauty of the architecture and the meandering path of the Mekong.

The former Royal Palace just off the main street showcases a mixture of traditional Lao and French beaux-arts style. Set in a well-tended garden and built in 1904, it was the residence of the king and is now the Royal Palace Museum boasting much of the well-preserved treasures of the kingdom. It is well worth a couple of hours to learn about Lao's history and culture.

Luang Prabang is a captivating place to spend time, wander through the Lao temples and

admire French provincial architecture. Check out the 100-meter-tall Phu Si for fantastic town views.

If time permits, discover the local handmade textiles, have a Laotian beer along the riverbank and indulge in the local gastronomy.

Although Luang Prabang teems with travelers and backpackers often seen in Thailand, it is not such a party destination. Travelers often show up in the night market, where an eclectic mix of vibrant handcrafted textiles, home wares and jewelry alongside some authentic local street food and tropical fruits are displayed.

By 11 p.m., much of the town goes to sleep and its bliss until sunrise again when one wakes up to the almsgiving tradition.



## IF YOU GO

### *How to get there*

Luang Prabang International Airport can be reached by scheduled flights from Bangkok (1 hour, 35 minutes), Kunming (1 hour ) or Hanoi (55 minutes).

### *When to visit*

Laos enjoys a warm, tropical climate year-round. The best time for travel is during the dry season — from November to March — when the temperatures can drop to 15°C in the evening, and remains around 25°C during the day. Visitors should wear light but conservative attire during temple visits.

### *Where to stay*

Azerai renowned hotelier Adrian Zecha chose the heart of the old town of Luang Prabang as the location for his first hotel property under the new Azerai hotel brand. Azerai is a contemporary interpretation of a simple and elegant dwelling for today's urbane travelers. The hotel is designed around a central garden with its 25-meter-long pool shaded by an old banyan tree and flanked by daybeds and loungers. It has 53 rooms and boasts one of the best spas in town where the therapists are well trained in their craft.

3 Nagas Luang Prabang — M Gallery by Sofitel. If you want to experience the colonial charm where past meets present, 3 Nagas is an ideal dwelling in the heart of Luang Prabang. The timeless boutique hotel, composed of three historic houses, is a bewitching place to explore the colorful street markets, glistening temples and cultural sites. Its 3 Nagas Restaurant is one of the most famous in town, offering succulent Laotian cuisine in a cozy indoor bistro or al fresco courtyards.

Belmond La Residence Phou Vao is positioned atop a hill with stunning mountain views and is a memorable place to stay away from the city center. Set within the hectares of lush green vegetation, the hotel is a blissful retreat where guests can indulge in French-influenced cuisine, open-air spa, or simply soak up the relaxing vibe.



## Living like a local in

# Hong Kong

Text **Cao Shenshen**



Born in Taiwan and educated in Boston, Jessica is now living in Hong Kong. She loves traveling, hiking, exercising and most importantly, eating. She is willing to try anything and with attractions, food, culture and history, Hong Kong is just the right place to fulfill all her needs.

### **What makes Hong Kong special in your eyes?**

It is essentially a concoction of cultures — the ultimate melting point with so much to offer. Not just culturally, but landscape-wise as well. You can find yourself being inundated by the crowds at Mong Kok, then 20 minutes later, you are surrounded by serenity in the rolling hills of some of Hong Kong's most beautiful country parks.

### **How does one spend a day in Hong Kong like a local?**

Simple — eat. And when I say eat, I mean finding the most dilapidated-looking place and order yourself a meal or two. It is usually those places that offer the most mouth-watering, irresistible treats. Another obsession I have is Hong Kong's "ice rooms" that serve up Hong Kong's version of all-day breakfast, which consist of scrambled eggs, toast and best-of-all, macaroni. Pair this up with a glass of refreshing ice-cold milk tea and you are set for the day.

### **What are the city's must-see attractions?**

If you search this on the web, you will get answers like The Peak and Lady's Market. As fascinating as these places are, my list of must-see attractions gives you a sneak peak at Hong Kong's much calmer side.

Tai Lam Chung Reservoir offers a breathtaking view of Hong Kong's thousand islands — a stark contrast to the bustling districts of Asia's world city.

Tai O Fishing Village is the Venice of Hong Kong, featuring little houses on stilts — some of which you can dine in.

Sheung Wan is Hong Kong's financial district and home to streets of mom-and-pop stores, quaint cafes that brew up a great cup of coffee. Head toward Sai Yin Pun and you will find yourself wandering the high streets lined with numerous restaurants, offering all types of cuisines.

Kowloon City is home to some of Hong Kong's most notorious criminals, gangs and businesses. Now, home to Hong Kong's Thai community, the district has preserved its dilapidated outlook, but perhaps, not for long. If you are in Kowloon City, be sure to drop by Kowloon City Park and marvel at the remodel of the Kowloon Walled City. End your day with some authentic Thai food and conclude your meal by dining at Hap Sing Dessert for a warming bowl of hot almond soup.

### **What is Hong Kong's best-kept secret away from the tourist trail?**

Get off the MTR at random spots. Do not always head for Causeway Bay or Central — try Sham Shui Po or Tai Po — you never know what you might run into or what hidden gem you might find.

### **Where do you take your guests to taste traditional Hong Kong cuisine?**

Tung Po — set in the North Point wet market — serves one of my favorite savory dishes paired with beer in a victory bowl. At weekends it plays loud music and is the definition of a local night out in Hong Kong, although these days, it is flooded with tourists.

Photo by **Timon Studler**



**What does a typical night out involve?**

For me, a typical night out will be dining on local Chinese street food or at Dai Pai Dong for some steamed fish, stir-fried vegetables and fried squid coated in egg yolk. After that, I will head to Causeway Bay's Boba Bear for a night of shisha and drinks with some friends. If I am feeling extra energetic, I will head to Arena in TsimShaTsui for some beer pong — because a little challenge never hurt anyone!

**Where do you shop for fashion?**

I am not a big fashionista, so I shop online. But for a little inspiration, I will head to Lane Crawford or roam the alleys of Causeway Bay and Wanchai to see if anything catches my eye.

**When is the best time to visit?**

October and November or Feb. and March. Summer is way too hot and on top of that, the humidity makes it impossible to enjoy a nice afternoon out.

# Wine and Dine at HONG KONG'S FINEST

Text **Feng Shuangqing****Food for thought**

The two-star Michelin restaurant Tin Lung Heen serves refined authentic Cantonese cuisine at its best. Set against contemporary oriental decor with a dramatic backdrop of Victoria Harbour and the Hong Kong skyline, the signature restaurant creates the perfect ambiance to savor the lavish local and regional specialties, including some of the best traditional dim sum dishes in the city. A comprehensive selection of the world's finest teas is available to enhance guests' dining experience. Private dining rooms offer the perfect setting for business entertainment or special family celebrations.

**Address:**

102F, The Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong, International Commerce Centre, 1 Austin Road West, Kowloon, Hong Kong

**Opening Hours:**

Lunch: 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Mon-Fri), 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Sat, Sun and Public Holidays); Dinner 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

**Tin Lung Heen****OZONE****Drinks worth sipping**

Being the highest bar in the world and designed by Tokyo-based interior designer Masamichi Katayama, OZONE pushes the boundaries of Hong Kong urban nightlife. Guests may indulge in signature cocktails, and an exotic selection of Spanish tapas and Japanese specialties, accompanied by vibrant DJ beats. Step outside for an al fresco dining alternative, with the casual yet dashing terrace showcasing the captivating vistas of the city and Victoria Harbour. On Sundays, the area becomes part of the city's see and be seen brunch venue, featuring a scrumptious selection of culinary favorites.

**Address:**

118F, The Ritz-Carlton, Hong Kong, International Commerce Centre, 1 Austin Road West, Kowloon, Hong Kong

**Opening Hours:**

5 p.m. to 1 a.m. (Mon-Wed); 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. (Thurs); 5 p.m. to 3 a.m. (Fri); 3 p.m. to 3 a.m. (Sat); 12 p.m. to 12 a.m. (Sun)

**Venues to visit**

Where is the best place to enjoy the colorful night scene that encompasses Hong Kong and Victoria Harbour? Victoria Peak is a good location to see such views. Being 554 meters (about 1,818 feet) above sea level, the Peak is the highest point in Hong Kong. How does one reach Victoria Peak? Tourists can take the Peak Tram, a pleasant ride ascending the mountain. The tram has been in operation for more than 100 years, and to date, no accidents have ever occurred. Your journey aboard the tram will take 8 minutes and upon reaching the summit, you will see a seven-story building in the shape of a ship. This is the Peak Tower in which there are several attractions, including Madame Tussauds Hong Kong and Sky Terrace 428.

**Address:**

1 Lugard Rd, Hong Kong, China

**Suggested Duration:**

2-3 hours

**Victoria Peak**

Photo by Florian Wehde





# A Winter Journey to Shangri-La

## The Horizon that Never Vanishes

Text Monica    Photos Yoan Boselli

*The countryside in winter is like a quiet and wonderful plateau ring road. In the best-selling novel Vanishing Horizon, it is described as a beautiful, breathtaking spiritual Garden of Eden. In reality, it is both ethereal and down-to-earth.*

Shangri-La, a village under the holy light of the Buddha

The golden rooftop of Songzanlin Temple shines so luminously at dusk in the winter that Kena Village situated at the foot of the mountain is deprived of freedom for being almost shrouded in the Buddha's future-symbolizing holy light. The first night of the plateau falling, the Songtsam Retreat looks quiet and peaceful in the chilly air, offering a glimmer of light to visitors.

The fire in the restaurant was crackling, and a bottle of Shangri-La beer, produced on full moon night, was particularly tasty under the moon on the 15th day on the lunar calendar.

Rinchen, an old staff member at the Songtsam Retreat who comes from Kangting in Sichuan province, has been here for years and is now a tourist housekeeper. This role is not static, but mobile. In the following "Shangri-La Route", he is the soul of the relationship between the hotel and the local people. I do not think it appropriate to say that he is the tour guide.

For Songzanlin Temple, the early morning is the best time of the day. Rinchen and I start from the hotel, walk along a path in the fields and meet some local villagers who get up early for praying while climbing up the mountain. Several days of Monlam provides an opportunity to the monks living in each temple on ordinary days to assemble in the early morning. And the platform in front of the palace on top of the hill instantly becomes a

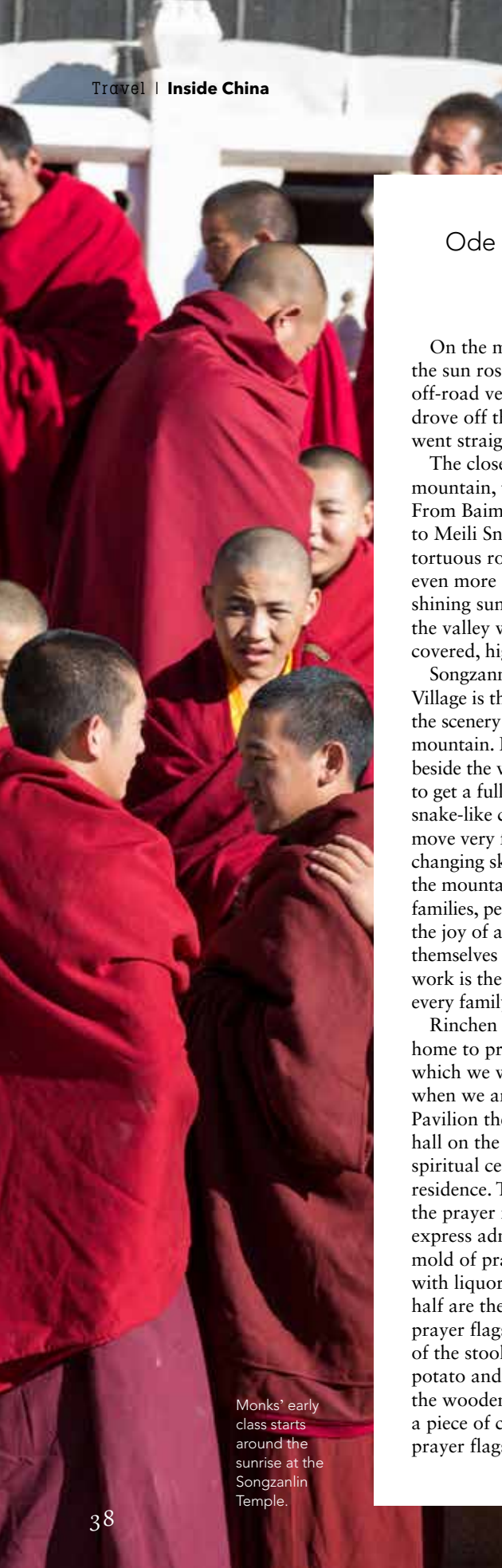
carnival of spiritual practitioners. Since British writer James Hilton wrote his famous book *Vanishing Horizon*, the development of the picturesque land has been fuelled by tourism in Diqing prefecture and the famous fire in the ancient city of Dukezong in 2014. Free from tourist delegations and selfie sticks, Songzanlin Temple only enjoys tranquility in the morning light of the winter.

Winter is also the season when black-necked cranes return to the Napa Sea. Every year in mid-November, black-necked cranes, white-tailed eagles, crested ibis and other birds return in groups and enjoy their vacation in the Napa Sea, which is not far from Songzanlin Temple and Shika Snowy Mountain. Originally a mirror-like lake, Haizi has become a real wetland as the habitat of its wild friends. This road along the lake is Rinchen's favorite. He does not need to say too much. All that he does is put up the telescope and let the guests enjoy quietly. The back garden under the mountain has been permanently branded in everyone's heart.

### Tip: Drink beer

Shangri-La fine-brewed beer, developed by the Shangri-La Tibetan Jiesu Songzan, who grew up in Switzerland, brings together the highland barley in Tibetan areas, water flowing from three rivers, and the fine process from Europe, with a total of five flavors in its series, including the mellow and light flavor yalasuo; songga, which is close to the traditional European flavor; Tibetan Ale, which has a strong Tibetan flavor; Black Yak, which has an espresso taste; and Supernova, which is brewed only on full-moon night every month, standing at the highest end of the product chain.





## Ode to Meili Snowy Mountain

On the morning of departure, the sun rose above our head. The off-road vehicle, carrying our bags, drove off the lakeside highway and went straight up the mountain.

The closer we got to the snowy mountain, the less lonely we felt. From Baima Snowy Mountain to Meili Snowy Mountain, the tortuous road made the journey even more adventurous. The shining sun and flowing river in the valley was replaced by a snow-covered, high-altitude field.

Songzanmeili in Gujiunongzang Village is the best place to enjoy the scenery of the snow-capped mountain. Lying in bed or sitting beside the window will allow you to get a full view of Meili. The snake-like clouds in the mountain move very fast at dusk and the ever-changing sky looks spectacular. In the mountain village with only five families, people are immersed in the joy of a secluded life. Devoting themselves to Buddhism after hard work is the source of happiness for every family.

Rinchen took me to a villager's home to print the prayer flags, which we would use for praying when we arrived at Qudeng Pavilion the next day. The praying hall on the second floor is the spiritual center of the whole residence. This is the place where the prayer flags are printed to express admiration. The wooden mold of prayer flags, the ink mixed with liquor, and the potatoes cut in half are the materials for printing prayer flags. On the two sides of the stool, we each hold half a potato and then press them against the wooden mold separated by a piece of cloth. That is how the prayer flags are made manually.

Monks' early class starts around the sunrise at the Songzanlin Temple.

### Tip: Print prayer flags

Because of the geographical location of Meili Snowy Mountain, many passersby prefer to put up the prayer flags and pray at Keys Picking from Qudeng Pavilion to Meili. If you have the chance to stay in the village of Gujiunongzang, you may wish to experience how to print the prayer flags in the private Buddhist temples of the local people's home.

## Cizhong: A gift from missionaries

More than 100 years ago, French missionaries came to Cizhong from Myanmar via Weixi and built the Chinese-Western Cizhong Catholic Church. They also taught the villagers to grow grapes and make wine. The reform caused quite a stir over a period of time and triggered two incidents in Adunzi and Weixi. For this reason, the influence of Catholic and French missionaries is still evident to this day. Catholicism

is practiced by the Tibetan, Naxi, Han and Lisu people in several villages nearby. Even in the same family, Tibetan Buddhism and Catholicism can coexist peacefully and harmoniously.

Cizhong Church is a relic of the unique combination of Chinese and Western religious buildings in the Tibetan area in Yunnan. You will likely marvel at its beauty and integrity the closer you get to it. Graced with the features of Roman-style churches and combined with a traditional Chinese pavilion and cornice roof, it has never lost its appeal, despite

An antique photo taken by Joseph Charles Francis Rock in Shangri-La.



being more than 100 years old. On the contrary, its old age has made it look more like a treasure.

Besides Catholicism, the French missionaries also brought wine. To this day, the village has also preserved the vineyard, orchard, garden and paddy fields built at that time. More surprisingly, the "rose-honey" grape, which is now extinct in France, is still alive here all these years later.

Bao Sanmei's father, Bao

Lanyong, has a small vineyard where some rose-honey grape trees are grown in addition to cabernet sauvignon. His wine, though limited in yield, is sold out every year. He took me to see his winemaking tools, which included a large plastic bucket and a dustpan with various types of gauze used to filter at different stages. "This method has been handed down from ancestors. More accurately, it was taught by missionaries. Every family in the village has learned the ropes and every family has a vineyard to make their own wine."

### Tip: Attend Mass

Attending Mass at Cizhong Church is a unique way to experience how immersive the Tibetan Catholic villages are. Even if you are not interested in religion, you may want to do it once with a view to experiencing the local atmosphere. Of course, the precondition for doing it is paying respect. You will see the villagers go into the church, dressed in Tibetan costumes, attend Mass and sing. The scene is quite special.

Napa lake is surrounded by mountains.







At the bottom of Shangri-La, Tacheng is rich of sunshine and grapes.

## Tacheng: The wedding ceremony on the terrace

Tacheng is the lowest point on the ring road, which appears in the company of Lancang River. Golden terraces, farmers working in fields, tractors and motorbikes passing across the asphalt road through the terraces and warm sun in the sky will give you a feeling of not wanting to leave Tacheng in Songzan. Looking out of the window, you will find yourself fascinated with the moving pictures of an idyllic life.

Tomorrow is the wedding day of Wang Lifen and Zhang Awei from Cizhong. The bridegroom-to-be is already in the bride's home. Tonight, the whole village will go to Lao Wang's house. Rinchen tells me that if I am not tired, I can go to the Bodhidharma Cave nearby to pray.

It was getting dark. Rinchen and I quickly went down the mountain to Wang Lifen's home to see what was happening on the eve of a Naxi wedding. The light of the bride's house seemed to be illuminating the whole terrace, but we still could not see the way clearly. There are no streetlights in Hada Village. When passing through the vineyard, in the dim light we could see the grapes hanging in the tree. I picked one and put it in my mouth. The mellowness was so refreshing that

I could not help walking faster to join the pre-nuptial party. At this time I heard the Naxi and Tibetan love songs. Walking into the courtyard, I saw the villagers dancing around the bonfire, blessing the two young people who were to get married the next day. That scene reminded me of the logo of a type of Shangri-La fine-brewed beer called *yalasuo*.

That night, we walked back to Songzan after dancing in the bride's house. With no street lamps, the vineyard and terrace looked exceptionally mysterious under the moonlight. Above this mysterious land and crops, the endless starry night sky easily captured the heart of the person who had just drunk barley wine and performed the Guozhuang dance. The galaxy formed a clear picture of stars over the plateau. Drinking and singing made me happy enough to resist the cold of the quiet night and the slightly drunken gaze let me keep in mind the starry sky that seemed to never end.

### Tip: Eat bean curd

In Tacheng, the local people are good at grinding bean curd and making all kinds of bean products. Traditional grinding stones and organic harmless beans allow you to experience the whole process in the house of local people. Tofu pudding, which is produced in 10 minutes, mixed with the bean sauce and chili sauce, is a tasty local snack here.

# CULTURE





# THE WONDER OF *Wuzhen Theater*

Text Feng Shuangqing

Wuzhen, a town in southeast China with a history of more than 1,300 years, is transformed into a splendid stage every autumn, when a grand celebration of the art of performance is held. Theater lovers all over the world are invited to enjoy and participate in a tantalizing feast of the theatrical arts at Wuzhen

Theater Festival.

One of the unique qualities of the Wuzhen Theater Festival is the charm and variety of all of its theater spaces. Within walking distance of each other in the old town are more than 10 indoor venues that sport widely differing characteristics — all exuding the charm and beauty of the old town. There are also amphitheaters and many outdoor

plazas for performance, with the striking venues creating a unique theater cluster.

Amongst the historical buildings of the Western District, Festival director Chen Xianghong and artistic director Stan Lai have led the planning and design for the reconstruction and renovation of five smaller venues. Together they form the Wuzhen theater cluster, which unites the allure of

the old town with the unlimited imagination of performing arts, creating the timeless appeal of the festival. The majestic Wuzhen Grand Theater is a landmark, and is often referred to as the most beautiful theater in China. Each of the smaller venues have their own historical heritage and unique

spatial quality. When the festival is not running, all of the venues are used for artistic events.

## Wuzhen Grand Theater

Wuzhen invested heavily in the construction of Wuzhen Grand

Theater, which was designed by renowned architect Kris Yao and took three years to complete. It has one level underground and seven above. Located near the entrance of the Wuzhen West Scenic Zone, the Grand Theater covers an impressive 54,000 square meters next to Yuanbao Lake, where an enormous glass front glows in the evenings and reflects on the water to striking effect.

When not used for the festival, the building's state-of-the-art theaters host a variety of performances and other cultural events. As an architectural masterpiece, Wuzhen Grand Theater integrates cultural characteristics of northern and southern China, as well as local elements. The exterior features oversized, ancient "bricks" of a slate appearance and a thick, downward-sloping wall made up of petal-like segments.

Based on the culturally auspicious "double lotus", the building encompasses one large and one mid-sized theater back to back. The theaters are separated by a removable soundproof wall, so they can be used either together or independently. The smaller of the two theaters — the charming Studio Theater — is a flexible space for performance within the Wuzhen Grand Theater that is separated from the main. It can form a macro stage with the Grand Theater, or work independently with end stage audience seats for 224 people. The space can also be used for events and film screenings.

The core performance space is the Wuzhen Grand Theater stage, with more than 1,000 seats on three levels, including theater boxes on the second level. The walls are covered in a lovely flower pattern from Wuzhen's own signature silks, promising a pleasant experience.



West Warehouse Theater



Wuzhen Grand Theater



## Wuzhen's Water Theater

Wuzhen Water Theater is a stunning amphitheater that seats more than 2,000 people. The audience views the performance across water, with ancient buildings in the background, framed by the ruins of a poetic broken bridge, and the stately Bailian pagoda in the distance. On the edge of Wuzhen's old town, the Water Theater is a unique and magnificent venue for outdoor performance.

## Ancient Courtyard Theater

If you wander along the main street of the West Scenic Zone in Wuzhen, you cannot miss the Ancient Courtyard Theater. The theater was originally an open-air traditional Chinese-style courtyard stage. An architectural jewel, it has been painstakingly restored to its former splendor under the supervision of eminent theater artist Stan Lai, and enclosed to host performances in any season. The hand-carved dome, the exquisite details in the original woodwork and the resplendent decorations provide a special aesthetic experience. The Ancient Courtyard Theater can entertain an audience of up to 300

people for each performance. An especially spectacular feature is that the back wall of the theater opens onto a picturesque canal, where the Emerald Pond holds additional seating and a viewing area — offering the unique possibility of using the stage to face either indoors or outdoors. The renovated Ancient Courtyard Theater serves as the venue for both traditional Chinese opera and contemporary theater productions.

## East & West Warehouse Theater

One of two former warehouses located in close proximity of each other, separated by Xiushui Plaza, the East Warehouse Theater is in

an endstage configuration, with a wraparound gallery on the second floor, seating approximately 150 people, with all members of the audience having an intimate view on the performance. The seats can also be removed, creating a stunning open space for alternative performance configurations.

The West Warehouse Theater is configured in a shallow thrust, and is the center of activity for the Youth Competition. It seats approximately 200 people, also providing intimate views.

## Shen Estate Teahouse Theater

The Shen family was one of many illustrious merchant clans

in Wuzhen. Today their courtyard estate has been converted into the festival headquarters. The third courtyard has been converted into the stunning traditional Teahouse Theater that seats approximately 100 people. The new theater is equipped for traditional performances, where one can sip tea while enjoying a show, or for cutting edge shows, where the audience can be configured in any way.

## Poetry Square

Poetry Square is located at the end of the Xizha Street, close to the outdoor Water Theater. It is a stately plaza bordered by the elegant facade of an old silk factory, shops and hostels. Historically, it was used as a

place for silk merchants to dry out silkworms and silk. When renovated in 2008, the poetry of many famous historical people from Wuzhen was carved into the square in many places, thus giving its name “Shi Tian”, meaning a “field of poetry”.

## Portal Hall

Portal Hall skirts the Wuzhen Grand Theater, essentially functioning as an annex. Forming the first impression for visitors arriving at the Grand Theater, Portal Hall ingeniously combines the characteristics of the town of Wuzhen itself, with its well preserved and richly ornamented traditional buildings incorporating elements of modern design.



Hall is used for exhibitions, press conferences and banquets, and is also used as a performance space during the festival. With the stairs serving as seats, and effective acoustics produced by the dome, the function of this space is being further developed for theater.

## N Theater

N Theater is one of the venues of the Wuzhen Internet International Conference & Exhibition Center, located in the northwestern part of Wuzhen West Scenic Area, with the Grand Canal to the west and Huanhe Road to the east, covering a total construction area of 60,000 square meters. With its understated, environmentally friendly and “smart” features embodying its design idea, the style of this space also reflects elements of the internet age, along with features of traditional Chinese culture and this southern Chinese riverside town. The N Theater seats 427 people, and is equipped with professional lighting and sound systems.



*Water Stain* of the fifth Wuzhen Theater Festival at Poetry Square

## HALL No.3 & No.5, Wuzhen International Internet Exhibition & Convention Center

Covering 81,000 square meters and consisting of three functional areas (a conference center, a reception center and an exhibition center) this area meets the needs of the World Internet Conference, including hosting meetings, forums and exhibitions. The convention center is composed of a main venue and 18 meeting rooms, while the exhibition center has eight pavilions. The interior decoration of the venue meets the standard of most large international conferences, with a complete set of facilities, plus fast and reliable internet services.

“When entering the theater space, and while watching a play, one can feel that, in the corner, secretly hides the warm and beautiful god of theater,” said Tian Qinxin, the artistic director of the fifth Wuzhen Theater Festival. To see great theater in these special, historic venues is to experience the unique spell that the Wuzhen Festival casts on all its audiences.



# Something Special about Snow

Text **Stella Cao**

Of all the climatic phenomena, snow is the most popular, with its rich white color and exquisite patterns. Yet it creates various kinds of mood in the hearts of different people — happiness, mystery, joyfulness or sadness.

Nothing is more joyful than a snowy day for ski lovers. Brave people enjoy the challenge of the unknown. In the same vein, people redefine speed, courage and the power of nature when they ski. Of those films set in the snow, skiing is an important theme, as well as love. There are numerous ski-themed films, among which the most familiar ones include *Snowboarder*, *Chalet Girl*, *Steep*, *All I Can* and *Frozen*.

Why do people fall in love with skiing? Gliding on the snow can make one feel unrestrained and able to forget the trivialities of daily life. A skier becomes integrated with the nature in an instant, and nothing is more pleasant to the ear than the whistling wind and the sound of friction between skis and snow.

Why are people liable to get addicted to skiing? Interesting answers are available on zhihu.com. One netizen said: “One can get addicted to skiing, which is why snow is also known as white opium.”



Of all the ski-themed films, *Eddie the Eagle* left the deepest impression on me. It has no soul-stirring plots nor heartthrobs or beauties, but is a simple yet thought-provoking tale. Based on a true story, it recounts how Eddie Edwards, a British ski-jumper, earned his name at the 1988 Winter Olympics held at Calgary, Canada.

In his *Story* seminar, Robert McKee says: “An obvious characteristic of a comedy character is blind perseverance.” Eddie is such a kind of person. He insisted on fulfilling his dream despite being very nearsighted and unable to move in an agile manner, transforming from a downhill skier into a ski-jumper at the “advanced” age of 22. To realize his dream of participating in the Olympic Games, he overcame difficulties such as the lack of funds and his own physical disadvantages. He represented Great Britain at the 1987 World Championships, with his performance qualifying him as the sole British applicant for the 1988 Winter Olympics ski-jumping competition. Although Eddie finished last in the competition events and was not presented with any award, he still left an indelible imprint on the history of Winter Olympic Games.

📍 Les 2 Alpes, Mont-de-Lans, France  
Photo by Matthieu A





 **Grand Massif Samoens, France**  
Photo by **Club Med**

“The most important thing in life is not triumph, but struggle” is the last line in the subtitles at the end of the film. It highlights again the theme of the film. “Triumph” is defined by others, while “struggle” stems from one’s own heart. This is substantiated by what Eddie was told by his coach before making his last jump — to fly for himself instead of the crowd.

In fact, Eddie knew better than any other person why he worked his way to the competition arena of the Winter Olympic Games and what price he had paid for it. He may have been at a loss after being left in the cold for so many years, but he discovered courage from watching the ski field of the Winter Olympic Games.

# PEOPLE



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# SINO-JAPAN RELATION DRIVES

## JAL Rejuvenation

Text **Cao Shenshen**

A record 250-strong delegation of Japanese business and entrepreneurial heavyweights arrived in Beijing on Nov. 21, 2017, kicking off their annual China visit. The delegation comprised of major Japanese companies, including Japan Airlines (JAL). Munemitsu Erikawa, Japan Airlines' Executive Officer & Senior VP for China, said: "It means Japanese companies are expecting greater success for their business in China in the near future."

Last year marked the 45th anniversary of the normalization of Sino-Japan diplomatic relations, while 2018 will mark the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between China and Japan. Erikawa believes such landmarks will be a positive turning point for Japan-China bilateral mutual exchanges, not only politically, but also in the business and cultural sectors.

According to statistics from TripAdvisor, global inbound travel interest in Japan has been growing at an average rate of 30 percent year-on-year over the past four years, with majority of interest focused on Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto prefectures. Moreover, during the first six months of this fiscal year, the Japanese economy had experienced a moderate recovery and was also impacting on JAL's operation. "Due to the recovery, we have witnessed a steady increase in business-

passenger traffic both from and to Japan, especially to North America and Europe," Erikawa said.

Erikawa joined JAL 33 years ago after graduating from university, majoring in Brazilian-Portuguese language and the Sociology of Brazil. At that time, he wanted to use his language skills to help foreign passengers and launch new routes from Japan to South America. He started his career at Narita International Airport before transferring to the sales and marketing department and human resources head office of JAL.

The biggest challenge of his long career in the civil aviation industry came in 2010, when JAL went bankrupt. At that time, Erikawa was working as an executive responsible for human resources. He needed to handle the harsh and painful process of restructuring the company and dismissing employees. "The JAL group had about 48,000 employees, but bankruptcy meant it had to remove 16,000 employees from its payroll," he said.

In 2013, he was appointed as Executive Officer & Senior VP of JAL for China, with the position based in Beijing. Erikawa has a lot of Chinese friends in the capital, and during weekends, he teaches karate to children. He loves living in Beijing and hopes JAL can grow in popularity and bring the Japanese "omotenashi" service concept to Chinese passengers. *Sky Times* recently interviewed Erikawa in his Beijing office to

hear his story about Japan Airlines.

**ST: How many nonstop routes does Japan Airlines operate in the Greater China region? What is the overall performance of the routes to China launched by JAL?**

**Erikawa:** Currently we are operating 14 daily flights between the Chinese mainland and Japan, excluding Hong Kong. We used to fly to more cities, but due to the bankruptcy, we downsized our capacity.

We have been enjoying relatively strong demand of Chinese tourists visiting Japan in the past three or four years. On the other hand, the demand of Japanese tourists coming to China has decreased in the past three or four years, although it has picked up in the past few months. I hope that this year will be a turning point for the number of Japanese tourists coming to China.

**ST: From April 1 to Sept. 30, 2017, the operating revenue of JAL grew to 692.3 billion. How did the company achieve that?**

**Erikawa:** Actually our operating revenue picked up more than we expected at the beginning of our fiscal year. International passenger traffic enjoyed strong demand both from Japan to overseas destinations and vice versa. Domestic passenger traffic also increased. One of the reasons is that JAL introduced free Wi-Fi services on every domestic route in Japan, which became



Photo by **Lu Ning**



a strong incentive for business tourists in Japan. Meanwhile, cargo traffic has also been steadily increasing.

**ST: What is your goal for JAL in the China market in the near future and what is your expectation?**

**Erikawa:** From the viewpoint of JAL's international marketing strategy, China is one of the most important and promising markets for now and in the future. We would like to be the most preferred quality airline for Chinese customers, as well as in Japan and the rest of the world. We would like to differentiate JAL from competitors by further enhancing our excellent quality of services. We strongly believe that the China market requires high-quality Japanese services, and customers are willing to pay reasonably higher air prices for quality services.

**ST: Do you have some strategic partnerships in China and the Oneworld Alliance to promote the development of inbound tourism?**

**Erikawa:** There is no Chinese airline in the Oneworld Alliance. However, we have a close relationship with China Eastern Airlines and China Southern Airlines, respectively, on a bilateral basis. We would like to maintain or further develop our relationships with these two major Chinese airlines.

**ST: What products and services have JAL launched to meet the needs of Chinese passengers?**

**Erikawa:** We believe there are four key factors that attract Chinese frequent travelers to Japan: punctuality of flights, quality of

inflight meals, comfortable seats and atmosphere in the cabin, and excellent human services.

JAL's Boeing 787 seat space in economy class is wider than the average seat space on other airlines. For inflight meals, we offer dishes using ingredients from Hokkaido and Kyushu. Haagen-Dazs ice cream is also popular among Chinese passengers.

We started to employ Chinese cabin attendants based in Shanghai for our international routes 18 years ago. In our training curriculum for cabin services, we put great effort into making sure Chinese flight attendants understand and acquire highly

valued traditional Japanese service skills. For example, they will experience "Japanese Tea ceremony rituals" during this training period. We already have experienced Chinese senior instructors who can teach high-valued Japanese services to the newcomers. I conducted a China Seminar to 60 managers and directors of the cabin and airport divisions at head office in October 2017, in order for them to understand Chinese customers and the importance of this market. This kind of effort made by JAL to ensure better mutual understanding between these two different cultures is important for further betterment of quality services.

**ST: How do you compete with other Chinese domestic carriers and Japanese carriers in the intensely competitive China market? How do you keep your own advantage?**

**Erikawa:** As you pointed out, there is a lot of competition in this market and we must keep on

polishing our competitive edges such as high quality services. At the same time, however, the air travel market in China is huge and has a lot of potential for growth. In that sense, we will not only compete with other carriers, but also work together with them to further

develop and explore this gigantic market potential for Japan.

**ST: According to TripAdvisor, global inbound travel interest in Japan**

**has been growing at an average rate of 30 percent year-on-year over the past four years. Which Japan destination is the most popular in China market?**

**Erikawa:** It remains Tokyo and what we call the "Golden Route", which is Tokyo to Fuji mountain to Kyoto and Osaka, is the most popular travel route. Also,

visiting Aomori, and Okay Airlines is operating direct flights between Tianjin and Aomori. We are proud that JAL's longstanding efforts to promote Aomori has, to some extent, contributed to this increase in Chinese tourists there.

**ST: How important is the role that JAL plays in promoting Japanese culture to China customers?**

**Erikawa:** I strongly believe that the role of global or international airlines is not only to make money, but also to contribute to mutual understanding and exchanges of people, cargo, culture and friendship. Therefore we would like to put more emphasis on Japan-China's cultural exchanges and social contribution in both countries. For example, on top of the currently existing JAL Scholarship for collage students, we are now planning to start a new program aimed at exchanges of high school students. Also, in December this year, along with Beijing Japan Club and the Japan Embassy in China, we are now planning to hold Japan's traditional comedy storytelling Rakugo event in Beijing for better recognition of Japanese traditional culture among Chinese people.

**ST: Which destination that you have never been to would you like to visit?**

**Erikawa:** Well, I have never been to Tibet or Xinjiang. I want to go there and take the train across the highland in Tibet. That is my dream and I am looking for any chance to go there.

**ST: On a normal working day, what takes up the most of your time and what is most important?**

**Erikawa:** Dealing with a lot of

Hokkaido and Okinawa are very popular in China. However, we have been witnessing more Chinese tourists starting to visit local cities all over Japan. Five years ago, when I was transferred to China, almost nobody in China knew much about Aomori, but nowadays many tourists are



incoming emails is what takes up most of my time, although it is also the most important task, because it involves the sharing of important information.

**ST: In your spare time, what kind of activities do you like to do in order to relax and do your better job?**

**Erikawa:** I teach Japanese karate every weekend. The number of students has already exceeded more than 50, and almost half of them are Chinese. By practicing karate with them, it makes me relaxed and keeps my body fit and healthy. On top of that, I can enjoy making friends with Chinese people in a very natural and intimate way.

**ST: What do you think makes a successful leader?**

**Erikawa:** I think there are three major factors. First, leaders should be always cheerful and optimistic in their outlook. Pessimistic types does not give energy to their staff or subordinates. Second, leaders should share their values and visions with their colleagues. I learned this from Doctor Kazuo Inamori, who is a famous and prominent entrepreneur and philosopher. Third, leaders should always maintain a self-reliant attitude. Leaders should not rely on other people or good luck. They should always rely on themselves.

**ST: Could you recommend a couple of winter destinations to travel to in Japan?**

**Erikawa:** My recommendations are Aomori and Niigata. Both of these prefectures are wonderfully snowy in the wintertime and full of delicious seafood, vegetables, rice and Japanese sake. Also, people are extremely kind and welcome tourists from China enthusiastically.





# Designing 'Letters of Love'

Text Stella

Beijing has the most mesmerizing scenery in late autumn. In a studio named Bei Garden on the East Fourth Ring Road, I came across a charming woman, a designer of "love letters", who took me on a journey into fashion to gain an understanding of elegance.

## Something done well lasts forever

"Each item of clothing I design is a letter of love, and the message each one conveys is one of love," said Chen Bei, the owner of

Bei Garden. Since graduating from the Academy of Arts& Design, Tsinghua University, she has lived in Paris for a decade, following which she brought her BEI brand back to Beijing. Maturing in Paris and blossoming in Beijing, in a beautiful instant, Chen Bei continued her beautiful journey of appreciation of elegant aesthetics.

It is often said that people are at their most fortunate when they uncover their likes and dislikes, when they listen to their internal voice, and follow their own heart. On this point, Chen Bei is in full agreement. "This is the perfect vocation for me, I have never considered doing anything else. When I was young I did not know what a clothes designer was, but felt it sounded like a fun 'game to play'. Now I believe it is something that can help one continuously improve oneself. It brings together many different fields of knowledge, and is also an extremely challenging job. Most importantly, a designer also contributes to the cultural and aesthetic level of a society."

Chen Bei  
Fashion designer

Immersed in the world of clothing design, Chen Bei refines her skills. Using aesthetic beauty to pay back time. To her, it is a kind of fortune, but also a kind of choice.

"I think that design comprises a part of my life. Do you not think that being able to play one's favorite game each and every day is very interesting?" Since designing her first dress when she was 11 years old until the present day, all the clothes that Chen Bei has worn have been designed by herself.

It is possible that her pursuit of aesthetic beauty and dream of being a designer have already set down roots. When girls of the same age as her sat at home watching television or playing games, she played with scissors, a tape measure, and needle and thread. She would stay indoors during holidays and painstakingly design items of clothing.

Chen Bei's memory is extremely clear when thinking back to her first creation when she was young: "It was a dress with a defined waist that I designed for my birthday. There was a small mushroom print on the top half, all yellow and green. I did not use a sewing machine for that one, the entire dress was stitched by hand. I also did a black-edged collar, the middle of which had a decorated button." This small curtain dress has now been hanging in Chen

Bei's cupboard for more than two decades. It represents the beginning of her dream, and as such, she has never thrown it away.

## Communicating through clothes

As far as Chen Bei can remember, Jan. 11, 2001, was a special day, when she arrived in Paris from Beijing. This start of the new year also signified the start of her new direction in life in France. "Those two years of studying in France fundamentally transformed my understanding of art and approach to design, and made me become aware that the most important aspect of clothing design is to comprehend what you like. This seems like it should be easy, but not everybody is able to find the answer." During those two years of school in Paris, Chen Bei was constantly on a quest to discover what her style was. In the end, she found herself and submitted an excellent graduation piece for design.

"A good designer can turn trash into treasure; they can turn water into wine." Looking at Chen Bei's graduation design Yin & Yang series, you will understand the importance of her words. Every single item of clothing is fashioned out of curtain linen. Chen Bei candidly states: "I wanted to use the plainest material possible, and turn it into something quite extravagant. Luxury is not bound by the material used, but in the spirit and atmosphere that it creates. These are my design concepts."

With her confidence and evident ability, Chen Bei set up her own high-end clothing brand, BEI style, in Paris in 2004. "B stands for beautiful, E for elegant, and I for international. These are the concepts I really wanted to communicate. Apart from this, I also wanted to express a kind of

elegant life style, an externalization of internal beauty, to unleash that inner beauty; and finally the so-called internationalization, meaning that the styles are not limited to any particular locale, they are both oriental and international."

Chen Bei believes that "people should remember a person's internal beauty rather than what she is wearing". Clothes serve people, their purpose is to raise, shape and help express the wearer, with their soul and vitality being grounded entirely in the human being.

## Fusion of East and West

In 2012, Mo Yan, a famous Chinese writer, gave his acceptance speech for winning the Nobel Prize in Literature in Sweden, wearing a Chinese tunic suit embroidered with his own name. As a Chinese literary giant, people around the world knew him, and many media members strove to find out the identity of the mysterious designer of his and his entire entourage's outfits. That designer was Chen Bei. "I hoped that the attire would state what Mo Yan wanted to express, and what should be said, and also communicate to everybody on the international stage the character, world view, lifestyle, cultural background and emotions of the wearers."

In fact, this was not been the first time that Chen Bei had appeared under the media spotlight. As early as 2005, she won over Parisians at her own roadside launch event "When BEI Ladies Arrive", following which, she designed the characteristic "cloth square trousers", catching the attention of Carla Bruni Sarkozy, the wife of the former French president Nicolas Sarkozy. With so much brilliance, one could not help but wonder the exact nature of this

Pants: Flares  
Upper Garment: Vicky





female designer's "magic".

"I did not want my design to have mass appeal. It is like a hybrid, making you feel that it is noticeably different yet intimate."

Chen Bei is measured when talking about her designs. For her, fashion in clothing reflects the spirit of the times, while good clothes effortlessly adhere to an elegant style. "I hope that my clothes can empower thoughtful, cultured women to find a style that they can truly call their own in this age of convergence." What Chen Bei has always focused on is ensuring that, no matter whether undergarments or an overcoat, when wrapped in exquisite textures and materials, the delicate gradients of the female form are unveiled, graceful and simple, whilst also containing fashionable elements. There are no surprises from excessive complications or overly ornate pomposity, just understated luxurious comfort. Chen Bei's designs reflect her own charm, and have an otherworldly elfin spirit.

"It is difficult to work out which aspects are Eastern or Western inspired with these kinds of aesthetics, but it has melded the characteristics of both together in an incredibly natural fashion, creating its own unique character." Chen Bei's design is suited to the fusion of the Orient and Occident, allowing people

from both locales to find their own sense of belonging. External circles have defined BEI products as being "hybrid", and this is also how Chen Bei herself positions her designs.

### Bringing art to life

Chen Bei's longstanding viewpoint is that clothing must have an artistic component. She is not too bothered about the appellations of "designer" and "artist", for she only wishes to promote an appreciation of aesthetics and seamlessly integrate artistic attire into the wearer's life. When she achieves this, she feels she has achieved her goal. "I am not engaged in the creation of artwork for onlookers to admire, and being collectable for some, but unattainable for others. I hope to turn attire into an aspect of life. In so doing, its beauty can be promoted."

However, are beautiful things not certain to start trends? When asked this question, Chen Bei thought deeply, saying that what becomes trendy is not necessarily beautiful, but is commercialized and hyped up. She does not follow trends. What she wants to do is to guide people through beauty, because everybody deep down has a desire for beautiful things and feels a strong pull toward them when they see them.

Some people say that the modern age is infused with a love of the vulgar and Chen Bei strongly agrees. "It is an extremely interesting concept, and it is a phenomenon apparent everywhere one goes in the world." Many young people think that wearing the current fashion is necessary no matter whether it looks any good or not. But, in fact, every person is unique, and so the same item of clothing on people of different physiques and carriages will give very different results. What Chen Bei wants to do is to study human aesthetics, and help people find the attire most suited to them through the design of individual articles.

Having created more than 1,000 designs over a decade or more, Chen Bei's BEI label is no longer merely a clothing brand. It represents an aesthetically holistic approach to life like at Bei Garden where Chen Bei occasionally hosts salons, Bei Aesthetics Class, and art exhibitions, bringing together fashionable attire, art, photography and performances, and sharing Bei's newest works in a unique, artistic fashion.

Chen Bei often says that art is the companion of the spirit, and clothing is the best vehicle for its transmission. Apparel can transcend time and space, and most importantly, it is its most honest, sincere and loving representation.



Dress: Natery  
Upper Garment: Vicky



# A Fiery Trajectory of AEROBATIC FLIGHT

Text **Lu Ning**   Photos **Wang Yang**

Everyone on every flight will approve of one word: smooth. A trip of peace from departure to arrival. There is a group that refuses to be smooth and steady. Rather, they are flamboyant and mysterious: Stunt pilots.

**A**erobatic flight is when pilots conduct various difficult and composite aerobatic maneuvers when navigating planes along the longitudinal, horizontal and vertical axes. The origin of aerobatic flight stemmed from aerial combat, where highly skilled pilots invented a number of extraordinary stunts to attack or evade.

In the process of acrobatic flight, such parameters of the aircraft as height, speed, direction and overload undergo drastic changes, and pilots must ascertain at any time the state of the flight and control the aircraft in a timely and precise manner. Any overload in flight will give rise to insufficient blood supply to the pilot's head and surrounding areas, constriction of visual field, and even blackout if the overload continues to increase. Consumption of physical strength is unimaginably enormous, so acrobatic flight generally lasts less than half an hour, including takeoff and landing.

At present, aerobatic pilots are rare around the world, and pilots that can perform stunts are sure to be excellent fighter pilots. The completion of various stunts

**AEROBATIC TEAM**  
天空联盟特技飞行表演队



depends not only on the technical level of pilots, but also on the performance of the aircraft. For example, all handmade XA-42 aircraft made by German company Xtreme Air have a carbon fiber fuselage and structural design, with instrument limit overload value being +/- 10G and +/- 12G in theory. These advantages make it an unlimited champion aircraft at competition level, and it is currently the only certified CAAC aerobatic plane. China's Sky Alliance aerobatic team now has three planes, and the figure will soon rise to five.

The XA-42 plane smoothly completed the established training course in the air, maneuvering freely like needlework, moving skillfully between the earth and the sky at sunset. The heart-stopping maneuvers are part of a distinctive everyday routine for the aerobatics team.

During this period, Cao Wei sent commands from the control tower. He is a friend of Zhang Cheng, vice president of Reignwood Star. "Aerobatic flight is extreme. In China, aerobic flight is still in its infancy. Aerobatic teams such as Ba Yi and Feng Lei are military forces. There are no standards for aerobatic flight in China, while training, management and air-worthiness are still undeveloped. Sky Alliance is the biggest in scale and it is really special," said Cao Wei. He said it is necessary to give more support to aerobatic flight, because it will make a big difference.

"Aerobatic flight is rare, but it is of profound significance for training aviation enthusiasts and promoting aviation culture. Aerobatic training is especially important for young people to develop their interests and for pilot reserves. In view of technical requirements and psychology, aerobatic pilots require a genuine



love of flying, like Zhang Cheng." Cao Wei said Zhang Cheng is devoted to industrializing aerobatic flight, and this is an original idea. "In China, someone has to take the lead in this aspect. He is a banner."

The operation of the aerobatic team requires a great deal of financial support; the establishment of an industry, the ideal is only the beginning. Fortune always favors those who are determined and hardworking.

In 1999, the Lake Tai Aerobatic Flight Competition and the flight through Tianmen Cave in Hubei Province left a deep impression on him for he saw that it was all foreigners that piloted the planes. He was certain that he was also able to make it, but he had to keep it to himself as he was serving in the army at that time. A report in a flight magazine that talked about a foreigner being the "Godfather of China's aerobatic flight" left him shocked and was the motivation



“Aerobatic flight is the symbol of freedom, ultimate experience and even an embodiment of the soft power of China's aviation development.”

— Zhang Cheng





for his transformation. When he retired from military service, he was determined to undertake aerobatic flights, set up a Chinese aerobatic team, participate in and win the world aerobatic championship.

He loves the military and that love never dies. To this day, Zhang Cheng is sincerely proud of the strength of China, and proud of the development of the air force. After he retired from military service, he tried to collect all data concerning aerobatic flights, attended exhibitions, and showed great concern over aerobatic flights. He even tried to figure out how every move was made from looking at pictures, and why planes were able to make 90-degree maneuvers. While looking at pictures, he weighed techniques over and over again, and then practiced them.

To outsiders, aerobatic flight means danger at every second. But Zhang Cheng is very rational in his belief that aerobatic flight is the symbol of freedom, ultimate experience and even an embodiment of the soft power of China's aviation development. He is intuitive and fierce like a beast, and the carrier of courage and strength.

Zhang Cheng was also aware that it was impossible for him to build an aerobatic flight industry on his own, and it was necessary to introduce capital into a new model. "There must be a new business model to attract capital. Initially, it was a dream that drove us to create a Chinese aerobatic team and start

to be engaged in investment and cooperation. We had to build a good, feasible, forward-looking and sustainable business model, and thus Sky Alliance came into being. Sky Alliance has developed into a group company headquartered in Shanghai with seven wholly-owned subsidiaries, including two general aviation companies, one engaged in aerobatic teams and the other in amphibious aircraft and other aircraft, including hot air balloons, helicopters, unmanned aerial vehicles, flight simulators; an airport construction management company; an aircraft manufacturing company; a culture, sports and tourism company; an aviation service company; and an aircraft import and export corporation." Flight is Zhang Cheng's love and the modern enterprise he established is growing rapidly. From aircraft production, marketing, after-sales service and air material supply to navigation operation, pilot training, air travel, air shows, aviation events and aviation towns, Sky Alliance is a whole industry chain and a comprehensive group. It has also established an aviation public fund, which does not depend on government backing, but was built up entirely by businesses to help more people who love flying. Zhang Cheng has grown aware of the necessary conditions for sustainable development, with aerobatic flight acting as a core product driving the development of the entire industry.



# LIFESTYLE



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# BEIJING WINTER Brunch Guide

Text **Feng Shuangqing**

Embracing a bright brunch can't be more suitable for a cold Sunday winter day at Beijing. The city has endless options to fulfill your weekend needs from free-flow deals to the best French toasts. Now here we give you some the best hotel brunches in town.

## The Lobby at The Peninsula Beijing

The Sunday Brunch Buffet served in the Lobby at The Peninsula Beijing creates memorable culinary moments for family diners. The sumptuous weekend feast combines international farm-to-table buffet and a la carte options with contemporary French cuisine, paired with free-flow fine wines, champagnes, bespoke cocktails and fresh, healthy juices.

Each Sunday, family diners enjoy unlimited access to a lavish presentation of freshly imported seafood, featuring succulent lobsters, shrimps and shucked

oysters accompanied by homemade sauces, condiments and dressings. An extensive selection of cold cuts includes cured and smoked fish, while the delicatessen station also offers an impressive platter of premium cheeses from around the world.

In addition to the extensive buffet selection, guests can choose from an a la carte menu of hot appetizers, signature rice dishes and main courses. Each main course is served with fresh organic vegetables, which are produced by local farms certified for their sustainability and traceability as part of The Peninsula Beijing's farm-to-table

dining concept. To complete a truly unforgettable family brunch, a mouthwatering selection of handcrafted desserts and freshly baked pastries and muffins are guaranteed to bring a smile to diners of all ages.

The delicious brunch cuisines are paired with free-flow wines from the Wine Market; a handpicked selection of four fine red and four delicious white wines from Italy, France and Spain. You can also choose a free-flow option of The Peninsula Champagne by Deutz and Krug Grand Cuvée Champagne.



Address:  
1F, The Peninsula Beijing, 8 Goldfish Lane, Wangfujing, Beijing  
Opening Hours:  
11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Sunday



## Bistrot B

One of Beijing's most renowned chefs and a protege of Daniel Boulud, one of the United States' leading culinary authorities, Jarrod Verbiak invites guests to enjoy the Chef's Brunch at Bistrot B, featuring exquisite dishes that he would delight in serving to friends and family in his own home at the weekend.

Diners can whet their appetite with hors d'oeuvres especially made for sharing from the "Catch on Ice" platter offering the freshest seafood and an artisanal cheeses trolley. You may select a delectable main course from a mouth-watering array of Shunyi

Farm egg dishes, bistro classics and specialty yakitori.

Completing the menu is a divine

pastry counter featuring freshly baked fruit tarts and cheesecakes, as well as an artisanal ice cream bar. Moreover, you will be surprised and entertained by the frozen-popcorn trolley, something never seen before.

No brunch is complete without free-flow libations. You may sample the Sommelier's Selection, which features an assortment of white wines, red wines and hangover cocktails. For those partial to some bubbles, the sparkling package offers a selection of champagnes and sparkling wines.

"A Sunday just is not Sunday without brunch, and we wanted to create a new menu for guests to enjoy as they unwind with

friends and family on the weekend," Verbiak said. "I am excited to be able to choose the best seasonal ingredients and to recreate dishes like those I would serve to special guests at home."

Address: Rosewood, Beijing, Jing Guang Center, Hujialou, Chaoyang District, Beijing  
Opening Hours: 12 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. every Sunday



## Zijin Mansion

If you are a big fan of Cantonese dim sum, be sure not to miss Beijing's most lavish seafood dim sum and BBQ brunch at the incomparable Zijin Mansion at the Waldorf Astoria Beijing. Masters of the fine art of dumplings and pastries roll, fold and pinch exquisite bundles of salty and sweet perfect bites as you move through and savor over 60 different offerings including hand-pulled noodles, chilled seafood, selected cold appetizers as well as a BBQ and dessert station.

The freshest seafood will be transformed into beautiful steamed dumplings stuffed with scallop, shrimp, abalone and pork or rice noodle rolls with king crab. Indulge on delicate blanched sea snails marinated in sesame oil and spring onion or deep fried prawns with wasabi mayonnaise.

Zijin Mansions fragrant, crispy hand-cut suckling pig is cooked in a traditional manner, but prepared with the chef's own secret and guarded sauce. It is cooked low and slow to achieve a moist flesh and crispy golden skin, and is served on the BBQ station along with traditional roasted goose and Beijing duck. Feast on comforting hand-pulled noodles served in deeply layered fish stock or with marinated beef in chicken stock. Finish with a selection of Cantonese sweets, including chilled sago mango cream with pomelo, and sweet almond and egg white soup.

Address: 3F, Waldorf Astoria Beijing, 5-15 Jinyu Hutong Dongcheng, Beijing  
Opening Hours: 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday





## Feast (Food by EAST)

The original weekend destination, Feast offers an unlimited selection of salads, imported cheese, pasta, seafood and fine desserts, alongside cooked to order classics such as salmon eggs benedict, baked stuffed lobster and fluffy pancakes. With free flow soft drinks, coffee, tea, beer and house wine all included, plus a fabulous Moët & Chandon champagne package, there really has never

been a better time to Feast.

Feast has always been an ideal hangout for families and with the all new Kid's Corner, Mom and Dad can really relax over the amazing buffet while the little ones play. With nearly 40 square meters of toys, play cars, picture books, play sets, the latest kids movies and adult supervision, Feast is the perfect weekend destination for all-day family fun.



Address: 2F, EAST, Beijing, No.22 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing  
Opening Hours: 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday



## Grill 79

With views reaching all the way to the rooftops of the Forbidden City, Grill 79 is a captivating destination for anyone in search of a memorable dining experience.

Appetizers at Grill 79 provide a fresh start, with the offering of salad nicoise, salmon gravlax, prawns Caesar salad and Mediterranean Tabbouleh. The charcuterie and seafood platters bring delight to the tip of diners' tongues. The selection of foie gras and broken eggs, scrambled egg and eggs Benedict ensure a morning full of vitality.

The brunch experience at Grill 79 involves four hearty main courses in seafood linguine, slow-cooked veal loin, Wagyu beef tenderloin and grilled Boston lobster. The dessert menu features Belgian waffles, American buttermilk pancake and white chocolate parfait, adding a bit of sweetness to a bright family gathering on Sunday.

Address: 79F, China World Summit Wing, Beijing, No. 1 Jianguomenwai Avenue, Beijing  
Opening Hours: from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Sunday





## A Traditional Touch of

# Italy in Shanghai

Text **Yang Di**

Photos **Dong Jun**

The essence of Italian living is centered around the dining table - the porcelains tableware, the way to serve food, the authentic Italian food and wine.

Vintage pieces and naturally-aged materials are paired with modern Italian design to give the residence of the Italian consul general in Shanghai a homely feel. Stefano Beltrame and his wife, Nicoletta Beltrame, moved into this residence in the end of 2014.

Having lived in Kuwait, Italy, the United States, Germany and Iran for more than 20 years, the couple began their experience of living in East Asian Shanghai. Having maintained a traditional Italian lifestyle in different cities and countries, Nicoletta again grabbed the chance to introduce color, texture and a personal style to her new abode.

And she had the freedom to create an eclectic look.

There was not much furniture before the couple moved in. "I have brought almost everything from our home in Rome," she said, adding that she had visited Shanghai with her three children to look at the place before their move.

"I then started to think what furniture and decorative items would fit in here."

The first floor is the living and dining room area for the family, but is also used for official functions. The living room's high windows let in plenty of light, and the walls are painted cream, providing the perfect backdrop for artwork.

Rather than creating an interior that only reflects Italian culture, Nicoletta has carefully chosen pieces and materials that they have collected from the different countries they have lived in.

"We wanted to create an atmosphere with a well-balanced mixture of culture — from Iran, Italy and also China," Nicoletta said. "Of course, we have kept our European identity, but worked on a fusion style that is also very much integrated into the local culture."





Some of the best family memories are framed and displayed.

She thinks that the combination of old and new is more meaningful, saying it is important to mix them because the contrast enhances both styles and forms a truly modern look.

“As long as you fill your house with things you love, it will just fall into place, regardless of age or style,” she added.

Talking about the way she maintains her Italian identity, Nicoletta said: “The essence of Italian living is centered around our dining table — the porcelain tableware, the way we serve food, the authentic Italian food and wine. We love to host receptions and make our guests feel at home,” she added.

The dining room reflects Nicoletta’s preference for mixing Italian design with ethnic accents. Around the Italian table setting, there are amazing antique and ethnic pieces she picked up in Iran — a collection of potteries, old ceramics from mosques and small items. In a typical Iranian home, textiles and embroideries are key elements. Nicoletta bought the textiles and crafts from Iran and even custom-made cushions and shawls with her own designs.

An Iranian corner in the living space features abundant

light coming in during daytime. Nicoletta loves to spend time in this cozy corner, drinking tea or coffee, reading books and simply enjoying the special moments.

“Iranians have very good taste and I found very modern elements in their antique pieces,” she said.

Nicoletta pointed out the Iranian artworks in the living area.

“There are so many young painters and photographers in Tehran. I always checked their ateliers and discovered something new. The artwork by Farad Moshiri that I brought here with me is one of my favorites. His painted jars, which form a trademark of his production, representing three-dimensional objects, with mosaic effects.”

“Having moved recently to Shanghai, I am still in the stage of discovering the city by visiting art exhibitions and markets,” Nicoletta said.

The villa house also has a garden that the family enjoys, spending much of their weekends sunbathing in it or having brunch with friends.

“The compound is tranquil, and the trees and flowers in the garden make it a comfortable place to be, especially during warm seasons,” Nicoletta said.



The contrast of old and new in Italian Consul General Stefano Beltrame's residence in Shanghai enhances both styles and gives a truly modern look.

Italian Consul General in Shanghai, Stefano Beltrame and his wife Nicoletta Beltrame.







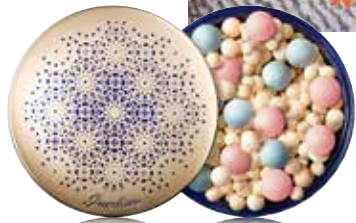
L'OREAL  
LA PALETTE AND  
CHEEK BISOLAS



SHISEIDO  
Shimmering Cream  
Eye Color



YSL BABY DOLL  
KISS&BLUSH



GUERLAIN Meteorites



SHISEIDO  
Eye Shadow



## Looking Like Roses

Text Clare

Pink can be relaxed, playful and flirty. Fresh, rosy faces are the hottest look for any season. In fact, hot pink can look pretty sweet and chic, rather than too Barbie. Beauty's elegant new mood is a soft focus on radiant skin. Prepare to get pretty.



Giorgio Armani  
Lip Maestro



GIVENCHY  
Prisme Libre Powder



Shu Uemura  
Eye Liner



CHANEL  
Rouge CoCo



Giorgio Armani  
Iris Celadon



BOSS Bottled

Lancôme  
Hypnose Pour Homme



## The scent of loves

It is the first thing you do, right? Sniff the product. Research shows that scents can ignite a sexier state of mind. Here are the most tasteful ways to use scents to set the mood. You can even wear these perfumes to bed.



Fresh Life  
eau de parfum



Atelier Cologne  
Pomelo Paradis



Ferragamo  
Tuscan Soul

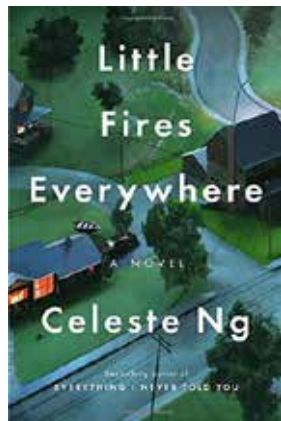


YSL  
L'homme Libre



Jo Malone  
London Wood  
Sage&Sea Salt





**Little Fires Everywhere**  
by Celeste Ng

From the bestselling author of *Everything I Never Told You*, *Little Fires Everywhere* is a riveting novel that traces the intertwined fates of the picture-perfect Richardson family and the enigmatic mother and daughter who upend their lives.

In Shaker Heights, a placid, progressive suburb of Cleveland, everything is planned — from the layout of the winding roads, to the colors of the houses, to the successful lives its residents will go on to lead. And no one embodies this spirit more than Elena Richardson, whose guiding principle is playing by the rules.

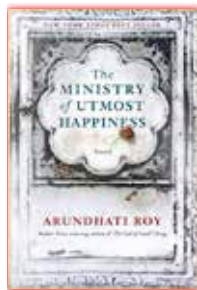
Enter Mia Warren — an artist and single mother — who arrives in this idyllic bubble with her teenage daughter Pearl, and rents a house from the Richardsons. Soon, Mia and Pearl become more

than tenants; all four Richardson children are drawn to the mother-daughter pair. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community.

When old family friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese-American baby, a custody battle erupts that dramatically divides the town, and puts Mia and Elena on opposing sides. Suspicious of Mia and her motives, Elena is determined to uncover the secrets of Mia's past. But her obsession comes at unexpected and devastating costs.

*Little Fires Everywhere* explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, the ferocious pull of motherhood and the danger of believing that following the rules can avert disaster.

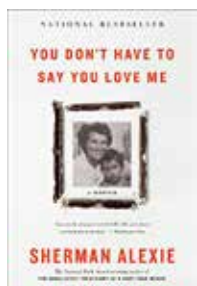
### The Ministry of Utmost Happiness by Arundhati Roy



*The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* takes the reader on an intimate journey over many years across the Indian subcontinent — from the cramped neighborhoods of Old Delhi and the roads of the new city to the mountains and valleys of Kashmir and beyond, where war is peace and peace is

war. It is an aching love story and a decisive remonstrance, a story told in a whisper, in a shout, through unsentimental tears and sometimes with bitter laughter. Its heroes are people who have been broken by the world they live in and then rescued and patched together by acts of love and by hope.

### You Don't Have to Say You Love Me by Sherman Alexie



Family relationships are never simple. But Sherman Alexie's bond with his mother Lillian was more complex than most. She plunged her family into chaos with a drinking habit, but shed her addiction when it was on the brink of costing her everything. She survived a violent past, but created an elaborate facade to hide the truth. She selflessly cared for strangers, but was often incapable of showering her children with the affection that they so desperately craved. *You Don't Have to Say You Love Me* is a searing, deeply moving memoir about family, love, loss and forgiveness.



## Call Me by Your Name

Timothee Chalamet, from *Homeland* and *Miss Stevens*, plays Elio, a smart, earnest, precocious kid living an odd and lovely kind of life in the summer of 1983.

His parents are international academics, spending summers at a villa in Northern Italy that Elio's mother inherited. Living in a multilingual household full of books and discussion about said books, Elio is beyond his years intellectually, a confident and curious kid who nonetheless feels woefully ignorant, or inexperienced, in one crucial field — love.

It is summer, and 17-year-old Elio is handsome, a beanpole topped with a thicket of dark curls,

so he has sparked the interest of some French girls staying nearby. He is interested in them, too, but is not pulled to them in the same way that he is drawn inextricably to Oliver, the 20-something grad student boarding at Elio's family's house while he works with Elio's father. Elio's attraction to Oliver — and Oliver's to Elio — is laid out delicately by Guadagnino. The film's pacing is fluid but helter-skelter, with long and considered scenes suddenly giving way to ecstatic short bursts.

A pretty good approximation of the rhythms of memory, of adolescent desire, of summer's intoxicating spell, *Call Me By Your Name* tells the short, bittersweet

story of Elio and Oliver, but it is more a terrarium of human experience, a sensory immersion that is remarkably full in its vision.



### Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri

*Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri* is a darkly comic drama from Academy Award winner Martin McDonagh. After months have passed without a culprit in her daughter's murder case, Mildred Hayes makes a bold move, painting three



signs leading into her town with a controversial message directed at William Willoughby, the town's revered chief of police. When his second-in-command, Officer Dixon, an immature mother's boy with a penchant for violence, gets involved, the battle between Mildred and Ebbing's law enforcement is only exacerbated.

### Thank You for Your Service

A group of United States soldiers returning from Iraq struggle to integrate back into family and civilian life, while living with the memory of a war that threatens to destroy them long after they have left the battlefield. It is an updated version of the classic *The*

*Best Years of Our Lives*, right down to following three soldiers returning to their home town. But while the earlier movie dealt with injury and re-assimilation issues, it did not deal with post-traumatic stress disorder, which was known then as "shell shock" or "combat fatigue". This movie does, brutally.







# MUSIC MIGHT EXPLAIN WHY HUMAN LOVE CATS

Text **Sun Morong**

What is the most popular pet? Answers may vary, but cats would definitely be one of the most competitive nominees. According to WorldAtlas, an informative geographic website, the country with the largest number of cats worldwide is the United States, with China in second place. House cats first became popular about 9,000 years ago. Since then, they have gradually won people's hearts, including those of our musicians. Here is the proof:

Frederic Chopin: Waltz in F Major, Op. 34, No. 3

Our first recommendation was composed by prominent Polish musician Frederic Chopin. People may have heard of his famous piece *The Little Dog Waltz* (*Waltz in D Flat, Op. 64, No. 1*), but it is rarely known that he also wrote a waltz for cats. It is said that one day, the cat of Georges Sand, a famous French novelist, jumped on to Chopin's piano and strolled back and forth across the keyboard. The sound this cute little creature created became Chopin's inspiration for this piece of music.

## ZeZ Confrey: Kitten on the Keys

Chopin is not the only person who found out that cats are capable of composing. About 100 years later, United States composer Zez Confrey wrote a piano solo called *Kitten on the Keys*, inspired by hearing his grandmother's cat walk on the keyboard of her piano. It became a hit,

eventually selling over 1 million copies.

In the introduction to Zez Confrey's *Modernistic Piano Solos*, the story behind the music is explained: "Zez was staying at his grandmother's house and was awakened by a strange series of sounds. He went down to investigate and discovered the house cat sauntering back and forth on the piano keyboard."

## Leroy Anderson: The Waltzing Cat

This piece of light orchestral music by United States composer Leroy Anderson is a vivid yet humorous portrayal of how cute cats are. As the music plays, you can imagine a soft kitty strutting and meowing in front of you, rolling over and exposing its belly. Everything is so peaceful and cozy until a dog's bark interrupts the cat's waltzing swagger.

Leroy Anderson (1908-1975) was a composer of short, light concert pieces. John Williams described him as “one of the great American masters of light orchestral music”.

Friends: Smelly Cat

*Smelly Cat* comes from the phenomenal television sitcom *Friends*. It is a song written and performed by Phoebe, one of the six main characters. It is not a perfect masterpiece. The lyrics are childish and the rhythm is simple, but it is definitely a classic. If you do not understand why this badly written song is so touching, watch the show — you will not regret it.



Spend a Special Festival Season in  
**Snowy Hokkaido**

Text Cao Shenshen

Have you ever wondered where to spend the festival season? The ideal destination for a winter vacation must have beautiful snow and good conditions for snow sports. Hoshino Resorts Tomamu the Tower Hokkaido represents the ideal destination.

A recent blockbuster featuring actors Hu Ge and Wallace Huo made Hoshino Resorts Tomamu the Tower Hokkaido so popular in China that it has become hard to make reservations there. The hotel's impressive entertainment facilities, cost-effective meals and superb natural scenery provide the perfect reasons to visit the resort.

Hoshino Resorts is a Japanese resorts management company with a 100-year. Founded in Karuizawa in 1904, Hoshino Resorts currently has four hotel brands —Hoshinoya, Hoshino Kai Hakone, Hoshino Risonare, and wedding brand Risonare Dream. Surrounded by mountains, Hoshino Resorts Tomamu the Tower Hokkaido has two hotels —The Tower and Risonare. The scenery is beautiful. Designed based on the natural landscape, the hotel has retained the primitive trees and grass, and is now a famous tourist destination.

The Tower is the resort's landmark construction, consisting of two 36-story buildings with a total of 514 rooms, each covering an area of 25 to 58 square meters. The hotel opened in 1986, and in 2006 invited Astrid Klein Mark Dytham, a well-known architect from Europe, to modify the exterior walls of the building.

Located in the central position of Hoshino Resorts Tomamu the Tower Hokkaido, Hoshino Risonare is a five-star family hotel, consisting of two 32-story towers with a total of 200 rooms. Each floor is designed into four suites, each suite covering an area of more than 100 square meters. The rooms are equipped with a shower, sauna and king-size massage bathtub. An Italian restaurant on the top floor offers panoramic views of the valley.

Tomamu snow, famous for its coldness in Hokkaido, almost contains no water. With sugar-like ski tracks and fantastic facilities, there are plentiful options to enjoy snow sports.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Forest restaurant

The forest restaurant Nininupuri is the largest self-service restaurant in the resort –the buffet offering fresh and delicious local food –surrounded by the century-old Emishi pine forest. On the side of the restaurant is a glass curtain, allowing diners to enjoy the fairy tale of the forest, providing a visual feast of green and white both in the day and at night.



### Ski lessons

In addition to the beautiful scenery and wonderful facilities, Hoshino Resorts Tomamu the Tower Hokkaido also offers a variety of snow-based projects and courses for different levels of skiers. Both experts who want to ski freely and beginners who want to learn systematically can be satisfied. The GAO Skiing School offers three levels of introductory, intermediate and advanced teaching courses for those over the age of 13. Females can also sign up for Girls Snowboarding courses.



• • • • • *Getting there* • • • • •

- You can take the JR tram from the New Chitose Airport,
- transfer at Minami-Chitose Station to Tomamu Station
- (1 hour, 10 minutes), and then take a free bus from the
- station to the resort. You can also choose to take the
- airport bus from the New Chitose Airport to the hotel
- (2 hours, 15 minutes). Buses run six times per day from
- 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



# BULGARI HOTEL BEIJING

A display of Italian design spirit

Text Wang Ruosi

Whether in London, Milan or Bali, if you are looking for an unparalleled haven of opulence, Bulgari is always the first choice. The recently opened Bulgari Hotel Beijing is a stunning place to experience the concept of “urban resort”, and is definitely a must-visit for fans of Italian design and romance.

The hotel is located in the Chaoyang neighborhood amid the prestigious green surroundings of the Embassy District. It is an oasis of tranquility that balances art and nature with sculpted gardens that extend along the Liangma River and include the Genesis Art Foundation.

The Bulgari Hotel Beijing was entirely designed by renowned Italian architectural firm Antonio Citterio and Patricia Viel. They conceived both the interior and exterior in a process comparable to the creation of a high-end Bulgari jewel: pairing rare, raw materials according to color, texture and feel, and sculpting them into objects of enduring beauty.

In the spirit of integral design dating back to the 1930s, the architects hand-selected or custom-designed every element for consistency, comfort and purity, allowing the hotel’s design to maintain an uncompromising Italian style, while simultaneously incorporating the uniqueness of its location.

The hotel’s 119 exquisitely furnished rooms — using outstanding Italian luxury residential furniture brands such as Maxalto, B&B Italia and Flos — include the exceptional Bulgari Suite, with some of the best views over the city. It measures nearly 400 square meters and offers guests modern Italian design with touches of Chinese tradition coupled with cutting-edge technology.

The Bulgari Suite is one of the largest suites in Beijing. Offering guests sweeping views of the Liangma River, the Beijing skyline, and Bulgari’s own magnificent private gardens, the suite features modern Italian design coupled with state-of-the-art technology.

High ceilings make this luminous suite exceptional, together with teak finishing and floor-to-ceiling windows. The bedroom, with its comfortable super king size bed made from woven bamboo, has an elegant walk-in closet leading to the master bathroom. Languishing in the large Jacuzzi bathtub, guests can enjoy pure relaxation with perfect river views. The Bulgari Suite is also accompanied by its own spa treatment room and private sauna.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Il Ristorante



Niko Romito offers spectacular views over the park and an outstanding terrace for outdoor dining.

Michelin-starred Italian chef Niko Romito is the genius behind the gourmet delicacies at Il Ristorante. Working from his headquarters in Italy and regularly counseling his personally trained resident chef Diego Ottaviani, Romito brings to Il Ristorante a menu that optimally expresses the culture, elegance and vitality of Italy.

### Weddings & Events



The Bulgari Hotel Beijing offers beautiful venues to choose from on site, including the Bvlgari Ballroom and a stunning garden facing the river. The lavish ballroom can host up to 300 seated guests, while in the spacious foyer up to 400 people can enjoy standing cocktails prior to a function. The hotel gardens are the perfect location for weddings during the warm season. Scattered throughout the property, “living sculptures” represent resilience and longevity, and offer the perfect backdrop for outdoor events.

# FLYING



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# Eating While Flying

## Secrets of Inflight Meals

Text Feng Shuangqing

Inflight meals are not renowned for being the best quality, and it is not uncommon to hear people say they despise them. However, in today's highly competitive marketplace, airlines have to stand out from one and another, ensure the passengers' onboard experience is a positive one and ultimately generate customer loyalty. Given that, the stereotype of the barely edible inflight meal appears to becoming a thing of the past.

Airlines are upping their game in terms of their culinary offerings to draw the crowds in, exemplified by Singapore Airlines, which regards inflight meal services as highly significant to its customer experience. Not satisfied with only suiting passengers' taste, the airline has gone a step further to enhancing sustainability practices in its inflight food offerings, with a new initiative "From Farm to Plane".



## From Farm Products to Inflight Meals

Connecting consumers directly to the sources of their food is still an uncommon practice in the commercial food industry, and a novelty in inflight comforts. From 2018, passengers on Singapore Airlines may find produce sourced from Singapore's farms. On top of leafy greens, eggs and fish, local farmers also produce quails, quail eggs, frog meat, seafood, goat's milk, fruit, vegetables, edible flowers, herbs, spices and super foods rich in nutrients. A balanced and nutritious meal can be almost entirely domestically sourced.

With a population of 5 million crammed onto a landmass of just 715 square kilometers, currently only 7 percent of Singapore's food is grown domestically. The country imports most of its fresh fruit and vegetables daily from neighboring countries such as Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines, as well as from more distant trading partners like Australia, New Zealand, Israel and Chile.

Farms and agriculture are important to every country. The Kranji Countryside Association (KCA), a nonprofit organization that promotes local agriculture, food security and sustainability, has been working with public and private partners to maintain 1 percent of Singapore's land area for growing food in a secure, safe and sustainable way. At the World Gourmet Forum held by Singapore Airlines on Oct. 11 in 2017, eight world renowned chefs from the airline's International Culinary Panel (ICP) were hosted by local farmers in Kranji, where they got a chance to sample local produce to potentially be used in inflight meals. It was said that cherry tomatoes, pumpkins, green beans and lettuce might appear on a new inflight menu.

Preparing airline food that looks appetizing and tastes good requires getting creative with ingredients. With the "From Farm to Plane" concept, Singapore Airlines intends to use more sustainable and meatless ingredients in its inflight meals. In the near future, passengers who fly with Singapore Airlines might come across food provided by KCA members, for example, Kin Yan Agrotech situated at Lim Chu Kang Agro technology Park — Singapore's largest commercial, organic wheatgrass farm. The farm produces fresh edible cactuses, aloe vera, mushrooms as well as roselle fruits. The Fish Farmer is a proponent of green and environmentally friendly fish farming methods and also the largest marine fish farm in Singapore. It rears all its fish without injections, vaccinations or chemicals. Each fish is proudly given a QR code tag with suggested recipes and information about the farm.

"Our food and beverage sustainability efforts will further demonstrate and reinforce Singapore Airlines' ongoing efforts to help reduce our carbon footprint and ensure a greener environment," said Marvin Tan, Singapore Airlines' Senior Vice President of Products and Services.

Samples of inflight meal displayed at the 2017 World Gourmet Forum by Singapore Airlines.



## Menus by Michelin-starred Chef

In September 1998, Singapore Airlines set up the International Culinary Panel, comprising award-winning chefs from the culinary capitals of the world. The panel works closely with the airline's own chefs to create the unique selection that is available on board.

It is not often you get to enjoy a meal created by a celebrated chef. Let alone eight. Not just one, but eight world-renowned chefs form the International Culinary Panel. A look at the resume of the panel will ignite the imagination of a culinary feast, for both the eyes and the palate.

The Panel includes Alfred Portale of the United States, an internationally lauded pioneer of new American cuisine, whose Gotham Bar and Grill has received four consecutive 3-star reviews from The New York Times; Carlo Cracco of Italy, a leader in the new generation of progressive Italian cuisine, whose two Michelin-starred restaurant, Ristorante Cracco, garners worldwide attention for his creative takes on classic Italian food; Georges Blanc of France, a grand master of French cuisine, who has been consistently awarded the three-star rating in the Michelin Guide; Matt Moran of Australia, the youngest chef to receive the coveted One Chef's Hat for modern Australian cooking; Sanjeev Kapoor of India, chef, TV host, author of many best-selling cookbooks, restaurateur and winner of several culinary awards, whose innovations in Indian cuisine have made him a household name in India and abroad; Suzanne Goin of the United States, renowned for her

inventive and distinctly Californian style with preparations rooted in classic culinary traditions; Yoshihiro Murata of Japan, one of the few chefs able to discuss Japanese cuisine from a global perspective and whose creations are famed for their subtle French accent; and Zhu Jun of China, winner of the Excellent Chef award at the 15th China Chef Festival, whose dishes carry his signature Shanghaiese influence, with a dash of Sichuan, Huaiyang, Fujian and Guangdong touches.





Inspired by their culture and experiences, and the places where you fly to, the panel boasts a selection of exclusive and tantalizing signature dishes, and is constantly creating new dishes, designed to delight even the most discerning taste buds.

For example, the Shahi Thali — a platter of Indian rice, roti, chutneys and entrees — is designed by ICP chef Sanjeev Kapoor to give an authentic north to south Indian dining experience. Shahi Thali is cooked with the exact ingredients and in the same way that they are prepared in the regions in which they originate. ICP chef Yoshihiro Murata's Kyo-Kaiseki is a modern take on centuries-old Japanese cuisine — the imperial court

banquets of Heian, temple meals during Kamakura, the feasts of samurais during Muromachi, and the tea ceremonies of Higashiyama. The Kyo-Kaiseki meal takes passengers on a journey through these different periods, with fresh ingredients inspired by nature and its changing seasons. Furthermore, Zhu Jun, the ICP chef from China who is classically trained in French and Italian cooking, uses his training to re-interpret traditional Chinese favorites for Shi Quan Shi Mei — Chinese fine dining on board. Shi Quan Shi Mei emphasizes the use of seasonal and fresh produce with traditional cooking methods. To enhance the experience, the meal is paired with specially selected seasonal tea.

Indian Premium Meal preparation (Tandoori Chicken) at SATS



## How Does Inflight Catering Work?

Are you curious about how to offer quality meals to tens of thousands of people every day, when those meals will be eaten hours later after being reheated and served at altitudes that numb the taste buds to leave the richest foods tasting like oatmeal? Ever wondered how to produce meals in hundreds of varieties, addressing special dietary needs and the food preparation requirements of the world's religions, in time for hundreds of flights scheduled to depart day after day, while ensuring consistency, quality, variety and food safety?

The answers can be found in kitchens of SATS at Singapore Changi Airport, which got its start as Singapore Airlines' in-house catering service, before being privatized and grown into a publicly traded company that supplies 60 of the world's airlines.

Once recipes are developed in the laboratory kitchens, chefs test the results in a simulated aircraft cabin, which generates cabin pressure equivalent to the operating pressure inside an aircraft flying at 30,000 feet. Once they have been inside the pressurized cabin long enough for their palates to be affected, chefs trial their new creations and discuss changes required to get the flavor just right.

When recipes get perfected, specific standards are drawn up for preparation and presentation for the kitchens to follow. No detail is too small. The measurements of meat cuts, the exact amount of rice and vegetable accompaniments, the amount of sauce and the number of peas — each is counted and weighed. Ingredients are ordered in bulk from all around the world and



Casserole Assembly of Muslim Meal at SATS

are stored in specialized automated warehouses until work-orders call up a demand for warehouse robots to transfer them to distribution. At assembly, a master sample dish is prepared against which all other dishes are measured. The experienced workers do not need much guidance. Nevertheless, floor supervisors keep a watchful eye and are available to address any problems that could delay the next stage of completion.

Food safety could not be a more critical element of inflight catering. At SATS, there is a research and development centre equipped with a development kitchen, a laboratory and a sensory room, to ensure that the highest level of food safety is a part and parcel of every inflight meal. In addition to intensive research on the application of food technology, they also perform microbiological tests on drinking water, raw materials and finished products, as well as swab tests, hygiene checks and quality audit checks.

The catering center can produce up to 80,000 meals per day, with 19 separate kitchens including cold, pastry, oriental, dim sum, Indian, Japanese, Muslim, premium, Thai and western foods. This is what makes the inflight dining experience something to truly look forward to.





# Ask the Captain

Text **Fannie**

Q: Where does the electricity on a plane come from? What is the composition of a plane's power supply system? Which equipment is power supplied to?

**Yu:** The power supply system is roughly divided into three parts, including the engine, APU and accumulator. The electric generator driven by the engine is the major power supply system. Most of the time when the engine is running, for instance during cruising and taxiing, this system supplies the plane with electricity. However, the APU supplies power when the engine stops or in case of faults with the engine, for example during boarding, fueling or an engine power system failure. The accumulator works in a similar way to that of a car, but both capacity and power of the accumulator on a plane is much greater than that of a car. When a plane starts the APU from the status of aircraft on ground, it relies on the accumulator. In addition, in the process of flight, the accumulators of plane types 737-7/800 can supply power for at least 30 to 60 minutes even when all other power supply systems have failed.

**Yu Xin**

Xiamen Airlines

Plane type: Boeing 737NG

Hours of flight: More than 5,500



**APU**



Q: Can an aircraft be struck by lightning if it is flying through or near a thunderstorm? Would a lightning strike adversely affect an aircraft's normal operations? How can an aircraft avoid damage from a lightning strike?

**Duan:** An aircraft could be struck by lightning when flying through a thunderstorm. People and equipment in the aircraft would be safe because the metals used provide shielding effects, but lightning could damage an aircraft itself. As there are some non-metal parts and exposed antennas, serious damage could still be caused by the strong electromagnetic radiation of lightning. In addition, powerful lightning currents could fuse the metals, or even strike through the aircraft cover, damaging a large area. Being struck by lightning is an emergency situation, which doesn't usually cause the aircraft to lose control immediately. However, serious damage would cause a drop in aircraft pressure rapidly and the oxygen masks would appear, pilot should descend to safe altitude at once to ensure sufficient oxygen supply. Lightning could also interfere with the airborne electrical equipment for communication and navigation, and even lead to partial failure, but a well-trained professional pilot always knows how to deal with such an emergency situation.

The best way to avoid a lightning strike is just to keep away from it. Before each flight, we make a detour plan in advance based on meteorological data. We also detect a thunderstorm's coverage and intensity via the airborne weather radar during flight. Manual specifies that a certain distance must be kept between the aircraft and a thunderstorm area. If a thunderstorm area is too large to avoid, pilots might choose to delay the flight, turn the aircraft back or prepare for an emergency landing to ensure the absolute safety of all passengers.

**Duan Lian**

China Eastern Airlines

Plane type: Airbus A330

Hours of flight: More than 15,000





China Southern Airlines received its first Boeing 737 MAX 8 on Dec. 1, 2017. The 737 MAX 8 delivers the highest efficiency, reliability and passenger comfort in the single-aisle market by incorporating high-tech CFM International LEAP-1B engines, advanced technology winglets, the Boeing Sky Interior, large flight deck displays and other improvements. The efficiency gains helped make the MAX the fastest selling airplane in Boeing history, with more than 4,000 orders to date from 92 customers worldwide.

## American Airlines and Casper help travelers dream big with new onboard bedding



challenges of in-flight sleep. Casper's sleep engineers then applied their renowned expertise in sleep research and sleep science to design innovative products specifically for air travel and made exclusively for American Airlines.

American Airlines announced that it is partnering with innovative global sleep company Casper to offer a best-in-class sleep experience to American Airlines customers. Beginning in December 2017, customers seated in long-haul international and transcontinental First or Business classes or Premium Economy can now enjoy advanced sleep offerings designed by Casper's award-winning engineering team. The Casper line of sleep products include a mattress pad, duvet, pillow, day blanket, lumbar pillow, pajamas and slippers, with the exact offering varying based on the route. Casper studied travel conditions for months to better understand the

## New Nordic design for Finnair

Finnair is rolling out a new design in its Business Class cabins. New cabin textiles and amenities, including new seat covers as well as pillows, blankets and chinaware with prints from iconic Finnish design house Marimekko, are all being introduced from February 2018. The new designs aim to reflect Nordic interiors and landscapes according to David Kondo, Head of Cabin Interior Development at Finnair. In addition, the airline is introducing a new menu from Swedish chef Tommy Myllymaki, who is the creative director for five restaurants in Stockholm. Myllymaki will design menus for Finnair's Business Class, and his winter menu will be served on all Finnair long-haul flights departing from Helsinki from February 2018. The winter menu has dishes such as Jerusalem artichoke with cep mushrooms and pear, and braised ox with celeriac and kale. The summer menu will place more emphasis on seasonal, crisp fresh vegetables to celebrate the freshness of the Nordic summer.



## New A330-800 starts final assembly

Final assembly of the newest member of the Airbus A330neo Family, the A330-800, has started and is on track for the first flight planned in mid-2018. The A330-800 complements the A330-900, the largest member of the A330neo Family. With its 242-ton Maximum Take-Off Weight (MTOW), the A330-800 can operate routes of up to 7,500 nautical miles, and with the recently launched 251-ton MTOW variant the aircraft can operate ultra-long-range routes of up to 8,150nm. Together, the A330neo variants are part of the world's most comprehensive twin-aisle, twin-engine aircraft family from 260 to more than 360 seats, which includes the A350 XWB Family.



## Routes

### Beijing ⇄ Brisbane

Air China launched a four-times-weekly non-stop service between Beijing and Brisbane in December 2017. Flight CA 795 departs Beijing at 2:35a.m. and arrives in Brisbane at 3:10p.m. The return flight CA796 departs Brisbane at 7:30p.m. and touches back down in Beijing at 4:45 a.m. the following day. This route is operated by Airbus A330-200.

### Qingdao ⇄ London

Capital Airlines began operating a twice-weekly service from Qingdao to London on Nov. 17 2017. Operated by Airbus A330, flight JD431 departs Qingdao at 3:05p.m. and arrives in London at 7:50p.m. The return flight JD432 departs London at 10p.m. and arrives in Qingdao at 5:30p.m. the following day.

### Guangzhou ⇄ Cairns

China Southern Airlines launched a thrice-weekly services between Guangzhou and Cairns in December 2017. Flight CZ333 departs Guangzhou at 10:10p.m. and arrives in Cairns at 7:40a.m. the following day. The return flight CZ334 departs Cairns at 9:40a.m. and arrives in Guangzhou at 3:05p.m.

### Paris ⇄ Taipei

Air France will launch a thrice-weekly non-stop service between Paris and Taipei in April this year. Flight AF552 will depart Paris at 1:35p.m. and arrive in Taipei at 8:15a.m. the following day. The return flight AF557 will depart Taipei at 10:25a.m. and arrive in Paris at 6:20p.m.



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