

SKY TIMES

Inflight Magazine

013 SEPT/OCT 2018

School Starts

Amazing Winemaking in Monferrato

Turkish Airlines Prioritizes
Customer Satisfaction

China Conquers Sharing Economy

ISSN 2096-1375



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Editor's Letter

Fall into the New Season Full of Fervor

With the arrival of September, *Sky Times* celebrates its second birthday. Thinking back over the past 12 issues, we remember all the covers, content and stories, from Chinese cultural heritage to attractions around the world, from different elements of design, food, fashion and lifestyle to interviews of fashion gurus, craftsmen, business leaders and civil aviation employees.

During the past year, we have made some small adjustments to provide our readers with an even more enjoyable experience. We created a series of feature stories on the civil aviation industry, focusing on *A Memorable Day*, *Tastes of Hometown Food*, *Magical Moments Surrounding Spring Festival*, *Industry Giants Outline Plans*, *Our 24 Hours* and *A True Story of Triumph in the Skies*. We hope these interesting stories and the people behind them bring you closer to life in the air.

As we all know, numerous new-media platforms have become a huge part of our daily lives. As the editor of a printed media form, I believe we need to give our readers more valuable stories to get a slice of the pie in today's fast changing media landscape. So in the new issue, a few subtle changes can be found — see if you can spot them.

September is a time for students to go back to school. For graduates, although those days on campus are gone, September always seems to arouse the memories of younger and more innocent days, full of passion, romance, confusion and great expectations. In our *Focus* section, *Sky Times* brings you the *School Starts* story (page 14).

Autumn is always the best season for travel. So, our *Travel* section takes you to Monferrato in Italy, Qingdao in Shandong Province and Baoding in Heibei Province to discover the charm of East and West (page 26). Meanwhile, the *Lifestyle* section lists a few recent openings of note in Shanghai — each have a unique atmosphere and chef's signature dishes alongside a sense of freshness and a strong identity (page 64).

Turkish Airlines was founded 85 years ago, with only five airplanes. Now, as a member of the Star Alliance, it has 325 planes, connecting 304 destinations around the world. In our *People* section, Ahmet Dalgul, General Manager of Northern China for Turkish Airlines, talks about the airline's strategic goal for China, stating: "Customer satisfaction is our main focus in the China market" (page 52).

I hope you enjoy the September/October issue, and as always, we wish you a pleasant journey and hope you enjoy a bright start to the autumn.



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Responsible Institution: Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC)

Sponsor: China Civil Aviation Publishing House

President: Ma Songwei

Publication: China Civil Aviation Publishing House

Editor-in-Chief: Li Yong

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Designed By: Alinea Productions

Advertising:

CAAC Magazine Corporation

Address: CAAC Journal, Civil Aviation Building A, Shilihe, Chaoyang District, Beijing, 100122

Printing:

C&C Joint Printing (Beijing) Co., LTD.

Advertise in Sky Times

Email: caacmag@163.com

Tel: (86-10) 87387199

主管: 中国民用航空局
主办: 中国民航出版社
社长: 马松伟
出版: 中国民航出版社
主编: 李永
执行主编: 曹慎慎
编辑: 冯霜晴、王若思
语言顾问: 多米尼克·麦基弗
视觉编辑: 路宁
广告总监: 戴晋京
设计: 利雅法盛

广告独家代理: 中国民航杂志社

地址: 北京市朝阳区十里河民航空管楼A座
中国民航报社

印刷: 北京华联印刷有限公司

ISSUE 13

SEPT/OCT 2018

国际标准刊号: ISSN2096-1375

国内统一刊号: CN10-1381/G1

Now 04

Floral Carpet Constructed in Brussels
Yokohama Hosts Pikachu Parade
Olympic Torch Blazes in Buenos Aires
The Tunnel of Love
Sky Team Flying High in Tour de France

Talk 09

Items 10

Data 12



Focus

13



Travel 25

Amazing Winemaking in Monferrato / 26
Special Qualities of Coastal Qingdao / 30
WOW Qingdao / 33
Escape City Life in Beautiful Blossoming Baoding / 34

Culture 39

Cunning Craftsman Constructs Tin Utopia / 40
Using Watercolors to Commentate on Society / 46

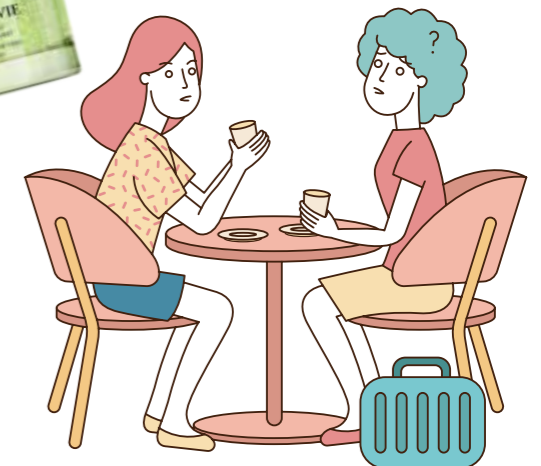
People 51

Turkish Airlines Prioritizes Customer Satisfaction / 52
Finding the Meaning of Life Through Living It / 58



Lifestyle 63

Shanghai's Latest Top Spots for Culinary Excellence / 64
China Conquers Sharing Economy / 70
Chic / 74
Books & Films / 76
The Perfect Tuscan Retreat / 78
Astonishing Waldorf Astoria
Tops Shanghai's Heritage Experience / 83
Tomamu Hokkaido: Where Life is a Celebration / 84



Flying 85

Airlines Flying High in 2017 Financial Year Rankings / 86
BCIA Benefits from Transferring Control of Airport Apron / 90
Ask the Captain / 94
News / 96

Cover: **Amsterdam autumn.** Photo by Skreidzeleu.
Back: **San Francisco.** Photo by Richard Lee.

Floral Carpet Constructed in Brussels

A carpet of more than 500,000 flowers was unrolled in August in central Brussels' Grand Place. The carpet, measuring 75 meters by 24 meters, was mainly composed of begonias and dahlias. It took about 100 volunteers around eight hours to assemble the giant floral puzzle. The event has been held every two years since the 1970s. Belgium is the world's leading producer of tuberous begonias, which have a long flowering period, a wide range of colors and a wide variety of forms.



← Olympic Torch Blazes in Buenos Aires

The Olympic torch lights up Argentina's capital ahead of the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics taking place in Buenos Aires this fall. The Youth Olympics flame for Buenos Aires 2018 has been officially received, following the lighting of the torch in Greek capital Athens and the torch relay.

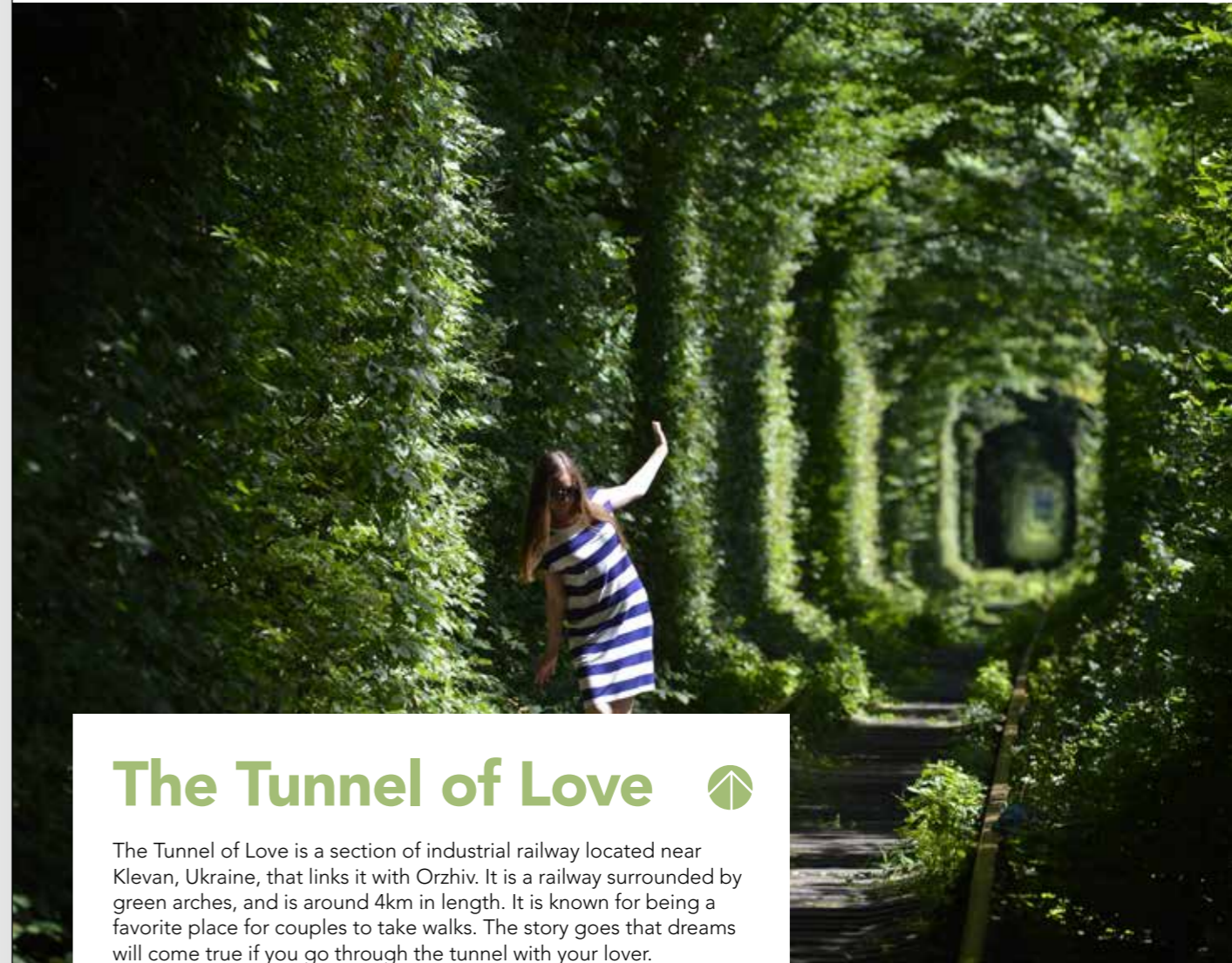
Yokohama Hosts Pikachu Parade →

Performers dressed up as Pokemon character Pikachu take part in a night parade in Yokohama, Japan, in August. A total of more than 1,500 Pichachus greeted visitors to Yokohama's Minato Mirai harbor district, which was hosting the "Pikachu Outbreak!" annual parade for the fifth consecutive year. The event was themed "Science is Amazing".



The Tunnel of Love ↑

The Tunnel of Love is a section of industrial railway located near Klevan, Ukraine, that links it with Orzhiv. It is a railway surrounded by green arches, and is around 4km in length. It is known for being a favorite place for couples to take walks. The story goes that dreams will come true if you go through the tunnel with your lover.



Sky Team Flying High in Tour de France

Geraint Thomas from Sky Team sealed his overall victory at the 2018 Tour de France, crossing the Stage 21 finish line in Paris safely behind the sprinters. Alexander Kristoff from UAE Team Emirates took the final stage victory on the Champs-Elysees. At just 116 kilometers, the final leg of the Tour de France was a processional stage, starting out in Houilles, a commune 14 kilometers from the center of the city. The riders covered 54 kilometers before entering Paris and completing nine laps of the Champs-Elysees circuit.



THE CHARMING LANGUAGE OF Chinglish

不作死就不会死

“no zuo no die”



It means that if you don't do stupid things, they won't come back to bite you in the ass. (But if you do, they most certainly will). *Zuo* is a Chinese character meaning to act silly or daring (for attention).

Example
A: Some dude baked a cookie shaped like an iPhone and held it in his mouth while driving to mess with traffic cops.
B: Did he pull it off?
A: The cop was mad and ran his details through the system. Turns out he's got unpaid speeding tickets!
B: No zuo no die.

你行你上

“you can you up”



The phrase means that if you can do it then you should get up and do it. It's used against people who criticize others' work, especially when the person criticizing is not that much better. It is often followed by “no can no BB”, which means: “If you can't do it then don't criticize.”

Example
A: That person does not deserve the award.
B: You can you up.

真给力

“gelivable”



This Chinglish word means being able to excite, or making someone feel cheerful. *Ge-* in Chinese means give, while *li-* means power, strength or energy.

Example
A: Wow, China has overtaken Japan as world's second-biggest economy — it is so gelivable!
B: It is gelivable that Spain won the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

人山人海

“people mountain people sea”



It means there are a lot of people in a place, or it is very crowded. It's usually used to describe as a big event, a scene. The phrase comes from a Chinese idiom.

Example
 The parade is great. There is people mountain people sea.

CHINGLISH VS. IDIOMATIC ENGLISH

Chinglish

Idiomatic English

The price is very suitable for me. The price is right.
 How to say? How do you say this in English?
 I haven't English name. I don't have an English name.
 I think I can't. I don't think I can.
 I don't dance well too. I am not a very good dancer either.
 What time it is now? What time is it, please?
 Would you like to join our party on Friday? Would you like to come to our party on Friday night?
 I have no experience. I don't know much about that.

Craft: The Reset

New Power of Chinese Design

Craft: The Reset is a large-scale exhibition about the re-awakening of crafts in contemporary Chinese design and society. Following the inaugural exhibition *Minding the Digital* on the impact of digital innovation on human society at Design Society's Main Gallery, it investigates the widening possibilities of crafts as an equally important

creative impulse for China's future innovation.

The exhibition opens on September 15, 2018 and will run until February 19, 2019. More than 50 exhibitors will present over 100 works, showing a new attitude toward detail, time, culture, skill, value and connection.

SHE Chair / Installation

Designer: Fanglu Lin
Brand: Miss Lin

Fanglu Lin is a young designer who graduated from China Central Academy of Fine Arts in 2016. In the same year, she was named by the China Building Decoration Association as "Young Designer of the Year". She chooses to create special textures for unusual daily life through traditional Bai tie-dyeing, and explores the intimacy of natural fibers for skin, using natural dyes and materials. The SHE series of works are finished in a small village in Yunnan, and are all handmade using Bai tie-dyeing techniques.



Screen Chair - Pao

Designer: Jeff Dayu Shi
Brand: Dragonfly Design Center

The Screen Chair is a combination of a screen and a couch, giving the user the option of "concealment" or "exposure". The ability to switch from a regal podium to a sheltered retreat refers to a Taoist philosophy that reflects on the balance between concealment and public display.

The skillfully gridded screens obscure the user from view, while letting through light. The base of the couch is made from bamboo slats. Its natural flexibility approximates the feeling of a cushion and provides natural, ergonomic support.

Screens were one of the first types of home furniture invented in China. The continued development of screens demonstrates the cultural influence of court life across dynasties on today's furniture design.



Wood Pulp Lamp

Designer: Shen Wenjiao & Zhang Dawei
Brand: Soso studio

The Wood Pulp Lamp is made of wood pulp mixed with cement. Taking into account the contrasting characteristics of paper and cement, different ratios of pulp to cement are mixed and placed in different tiers one by one, either in a positive sequence or in reverse order. The product thus combined is 80 percent lighter than that of pure cement, which reduces transportation costs and is more environmentally friendly.



Gaia Urn

Designer: Sally Lin
Brand: Sa'Bella design

Gaia Urn/Go Home is a collection of biodegradable cinerary urns, made from carbonated grain husks and seeds. As the urns slowly dissolve in the ground, the ashes nourish and revive the soil. The container also functions as a plant pot, turning the mixture of soil and ash into a fertile base. In this way the work gives back to the earth, using natural materials and ingredients.

The object title, Gaia, refers to the earth. Just like going home, everything is giving back to the earth through sprouting and growing, inspiring the materials in this series.

Sally Lin is designer, acting as an Associate Professor at Shih Chien University, Taiwan, in the Department of Industrial Design, as well as a counselor for "Sa'Bella design".



KANJIAN•Gold Pot with Coral Button

Designer: Dong Liu
Brand: KANJIAN Creation

Dadawa is one of China's most popular singers, crossover artists and independent producers as well as the Artistic Director of Kanjian Creation. Over the past 20 years, Dadawa, with music as her point of departure, has embarked on her journey of crossover artistic exploration.

Kanjian Gold Pot with Coral Button is a limited edition Chinese handicraft designed by Dong Liu. The body of the pot is handmade with 280 grams of pure gold, which has been stricken more than 10,000 times to create a stable structure. Using natural red coral for the button, and Hetian jade for the handle, the integration of gold, jade and coral is truly intriguing. The hand-carved coral button is inspired by the coral lotus bead — one of the seven treasures of Buddhism — which vividly exhibits exquisite craftsmanship of the design.



YANG HOUSE'S Armchair

Designer: Jamy Yang
Brand: YANG HOUSE

Tenons are a uniquely Chinese traditional furniture manufacturing method. The Yang House armchair reconstructs the traditional tenon process by choosing a swallowtail structure to cleverly combine different angles of the backrest, seat surface and handrail beveled into a folded paper-like design. This creates a new sitting experience with subversive traditional visual philosophy. The armchair achieves the perfect fusion of tradition and modernity, and has won the United States IDEA design award.



Da Tian Di Carbon Fiber Chair

Designer: Qionger Jiang
Brand: SHANG XIA

"DA TIAN DI" carbon fiber chair combines a simple contemporary and linear charm with a classic Ming dynasty style. Light but strong, this piece subtly fuses tradition with modernity. Where the Ming chair is made of heavy, solid wood, the "DA TIAN DI" chair integrates new technology, making the chair lighter, thinner and stronger. Even though the chair has a very slender structure, the carbon material makes it possible to support up to 130 kilograms. A wooden chair of the same size would weigh five times as much.

It shows a contemporary take on combining high-end crafts with luxurious materials, which is an integral part of SHANG XIA's style.





CHINA AVIATION

MARKET ON VERGE OF SURPASSING U.S.

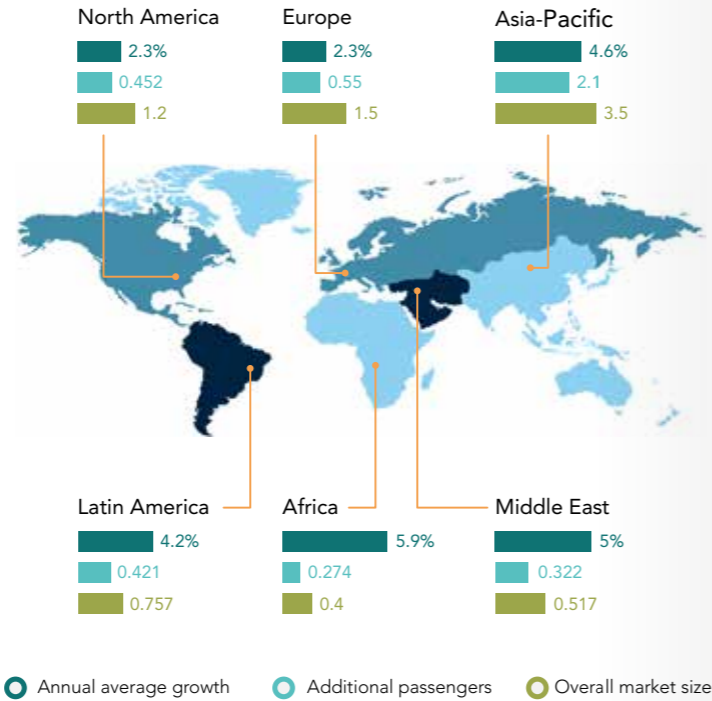
IATA released a report on its passenger forecast for the next 20 years. According to the data, 7.8 billion passengers will travel by air in 2036, a near doubling of the 4 billion expected to fly this year. The biggest driver of demand will be the Asia-Pacific region. The region will be the source of more than half of the new passengers over the next two decades. It's noteworthy that the point at which China will displace the United States as the world's largest aviation market is forecast to occur around 2022.

THE LARGEST 10 PASSENGER MARKETS

(ranked by passenger numbers to, from, and within each country)

2016	2036
USA	China ↑
China	USA
UK	India ↑
Japan	Indonesia ↑
Spain	UK
Germany	Japan
India	Spain
Italy	Germany
France	Turkey ↑
Indonesia	Thailand ↑

GROWTH BY REGION



THE FIVE FASTEST-GROWING MARKETS

in terms of annual additional passengers in 2036 compared to 2016 will be:



FOCUS

SCHOOL STARTS

For students on campus, September is when school opens. It makes them feel anxious and excited as they embark on an unknown journey, bringing infinite possibilities. For graduates, although those days on campus are gone, September always seems to arouse the memories of their younger and more innocent days, full of both passion, romance, confusion and great expectations.

Daring to Dream of Becoming a Pilot

Text Chen Hongying Photos Wang Yang

The beginning of a new semester in September brings vitality back to the campus of the Civil Aviation University of China (CAUC) in Tianjin, where the roars of the passing airplanes to and from the nearby Tianjin Binhai International Airport can be heard from time to time.

Upon hearing each roar of the airplane engines above his head, Xu Xiang feels as if the tree-lined path under his feet on the campus is an airport runway, and he is seated in the cockpit of a Boeing-737.

Seven years into his service as a pilot of Boeing-737 in the civil aviation industry, Xu Xiang, a pilot for China United Air-

lines, pays an occasional visit to CAUC to work. Like the freshmen on the campus, he cherished the dream of becoming a pilot since he was a boy, yet he experienced more frustrations than other pilots before fulfilling his dream.

He missed the chance of learning to fly in senior high school, which was only open to students specializing in sciences. Growing up near the Xijiao Airport in Kaifeng, Henan Province, Xu Xiang wanted to become a pilot, a dream also shared by his father. As his Chinese given name suggests — Xiang literally means “flying” — he seemed to be destined to become a pilot.

In his fourth year at the university, he had a chance to switch his specialty to become a pilot. This time he grabbed the chance firmly. Having completed theoretical studies and passed relevant tests in China, he went to TransPac Aviation Academy in the United States to learn practical flying. As he got closer to realizing his dream, he treated each chance to learn carefully. It was important for him to get a feeling

Is the knowledge that you have learned at the aviation academy applicable to your present work?

— **Xu Xiang:** Everything that is taught at the aviation academy is applicable. We have learned the most essential three elements of flying. They represent the fundamental philosophy of flying, including the attitude toward flying. According to Americans, you need to be in awe of flying, in addition to loving it. This is because flying an airplane can ascend you into the heavens, or result in your death.

Why did you choose the aviation major?

— **Liu Yuchen:** Being a pilot requires a strong sense of responsibility. I wanted to become a doctor, but I chose aviation instead, because I can have better access to cutting-edge technologies and exposure to internationalized communication. Moreover, the aviation major offers many interesting courses.

for flying through exercises.

Xu Xiang still remembers the sense of accomplishment he got from successfully flying solo for the first time. When he arrived at the academy, he purchased a pair of pilot glasses. The moment he put on the glasses, he felt as if he had command of the entire sky. Now he has matured into a veteran pilot, who is able to remain calm in the face of any emergency.

The most unforgettable course was entitled “Spiral”, which tests the learner’s capability of dealing with an emergency. The pilot is required to bring the airplane under control after it begins to spiral downward as a result of the rapid loss of speed. The most fundamental requirements of civil aviation are safety and comfort, differing from the purely technical courses at the aviation academy. In addition to pilot proficiency, a pilot working for an aviation company needs to take into consideration the ever-changing circumstances in commercial aviation. Despite his years of experience, Xu Xiang still needs to constantly study to better undertake his responsibilities.

Two tall, energetic young men come into view suddenly at the end of Xu Xiang’s “runway” on campus. They are sophomores majoring in flying — Lyu Bohan and Liu Yuchen. With the beginning of a new semester, these students restart the daily routine of getting up at 6 a.m. to go running outdoors, complete gym sessions and take theoretical courses. They have developed rapidly both mentally and physically in just one year of military-style living. A year ago, they looked forward to turning their biggest dream of flying into reality, but they will not fulfill this dream until they can sit in the cockpit and fly the plane independently like pilot Xu Xiang, who is approaching them in the opposite direction on the path.



Xu Xiang
Pilot, China United Airlines

**Lyu Bohan,
Liu Yuchen**
Flying Techniques Major, Civil
Aviation University of China



Hostesses Shine From Classrooms to Cabins

Text Feng Shuangqing Photos Wang Yang



Zhou Ying
Purser, China
United Airlines

Du Xiaoqing
Flight Attendant
Major, Civil Aviation
University of China

As school starts again, the campus, which is not far from the airport, becomes lively again after a quiet summer. The chirping of cicadas and the rumble of airplanes are drowned out by the joyful buzzing of freshmen and returning students. This is the Civil Aviation University of China (CAUC) in Dongli District, Tianjin, just across the runway from the Tianjin Binhai International Airport. On campus, one can even watch aircraft take off and land.

Luggage-laden new students walk at a brisk pace, brimming with an excitement that is written all over their faces. This is all too familiar for Du Xiaoqing and Du Yuxuan, who is now in their sophomore year. A year ago, they were one of the new students walking around the unfamiliar campus, nervously looking forward to meeting her roommates and classmates, and being curious about their major. Previously, they had not known that it was possible to study a flight attendant program at university, and had little idea about what she would learn.

Du Yuxuan said that after one in college, she felt like a new person. Cabin Attendant College, where she is studying under paramilitary management, requires students to go running at 6:20 a.m. No hair or dust is allowed to be seen on the ground during the daily routine check of sanitation tasks. This is a profound change for Du, who used to leave her room in a mess.

Courses are tightly arranged, covering topics such as civil aviation passenger transportation, flight and navigation foundation, English speaking and comprehension, tea and wine, etiquette and body language. In the first semester of her freshman year, Du and her classmates took a course in make-up, which taught them how to apply make-up and style hair buns. The Cabin Attendant College requires the blue uniform to be matched with purple eye shadow, and the white uniform to go with golden-brown eye shadow

and orange or magenta lipstick. "I had not expected to acquire so much specialized knowledge," Du said.

Of all her specialized courses, Du loves English best. To have a good command of English can facilitate communication with foreign passengers on the plane. "I have been looking forward to flying to different places, meeting various people on the plane and listening to their stories," she said.

Flying in the blue sky and traveling around in a beautiful uniform was also a key reason for Zhou Ying, purser of the China United Airlines, choosing to be an air hostess. In the past nearly four years of flying, she has realized that the job is not how she imagined it would be. "As an air hostess, I do not just serve drinks to passengers. In fact, we shoulder a very heavy responsibility. The chief responsibility for us is to ensure the safety of all passengers."

Low pressure and air humidity in an enclosed cabin at 30,000 feet may contribute to some illnesses or exacerbate existing ones. When she first started flying in her early 20s, Zhou Ying was actually a little afraid. "If you fail to control your emotions, you will not put passengers at ease," Zhou Ying said, adding that "the safety of the passengers and the flight depends on the timely and professional actions of cabin crew members".

A careless girl in her daily life, Zhou Ying was not good at housework before she became an air hostess. At the end of every service process on the flight, air hostesses have to clean up the kitchen and the trash created by passengers. Zhou has brought the discipline of her work into her daily life. "Ever since I got this job, I really cannot bear it if my room is messy and I am always cleaning it up," she said. "Flying is an experience that I am continually learning from. I hope to better myself, achieve my full potential and shine like a star."

What have you studied in school that has helped you improve at work?

— **Zhou Ying:** In school, the accumulation of knowledge, the learning of methods and techniques, and the formation of one's views towards the world, values and life in general are particularly helpful. At work, I have gradually learned to communicate with different people. An air hostess has to pay a lot of attention to communication, especially with colleagues and leaders.

What is the most beneficial lesson you have learned for being an air hostess?

— **Du Xiaoqing:** To not be anxious whatever happens. In an emergency, you must remain calm and try to figure out a solution. As a lot of things are involved in schoolwork every day, you need to make plans for each task. I am now able to stay calm in a crisis and have learned to be more patient.



Du Xiaoqing

Du Yuxuan
Flight Attendant
Major, Civil Aviation
University of China

Engineering Excellence Helps Solve Problems of Tomorrow

Text Cao Shenshen Photos Wang Yang

Xu Lanhe did not go back home to Jilin this summer. Although he is just a freshman, his schedule was full. When his vacation began, he went directly to the air defense artillery training base to participate in a two-week summer training camp. He has many practices to do every day under the scorching sun, including a 3-kilometer morning run, 1-minute emergency exercise, formation action training, military skill training, anti-aircraft artillery training, and a comprehensive flood control equipment drill. After 14 days, Xu passed the assessment and will work as a student instructor to assist freshmen in completing military training when school begins.

The holiday is probably the quietest time on campus. Walking around on the campus of the Civil Aviation University of China (CAUC) in Tianjin, you will not see any students in summer. As a “left-behind”, Xu clocked in at the study room every day, because his new goal is to participate in the RoboMaster Robotics Competition launched by

the five provinces in North China.

Recalling the time when he obtained an offer letter to attend CAUC last summer, Xu’s face beamed with delight. “I have been obsessed with flying since I was a child. With progressive cognitive maturity, I wanted to understand the structure and principles of aircraft.” When filling in college application forms, Xu, a native of Northeast China, did not hesitate in choosing CAUC.

Xu was often deeply touched by what happened to him as a freshman. “In class, I was thrilled to see the taking-off of the Quadrotor, which I designed by myself.” In Xu’s view, the biggest achievement in college for him was to gain knowledge in so many new areas of interest.

“Open the window, let out loneliness; This empty room longs for some freshness; Still in the air, the cheering emphasizes the gorgeous emptiness; I myself need a dream, a compass.” These are the lyrics from a song by Leehom Wang, a famous singer in Hong Kong, and one of Xu’s favorites. He said listening to Wang’s music in tranquility brings

What courses do you need to study, which do you like best, and what is most challenging?

— Xu Lanhe: We need to understand knowledge of aircraft structures and systems. For freshmen and sophomores, the basic courses of science must be mastered, such as advanced mathematics, linear algebra, general physics, theoretical mechanics and aerodynamics. Since I am still in my first year, only some courses of certain subjects are available to me now, but I have great expectations for aerodynamics. The most challenging thing is to combine knowledge with reality and to make innovative progress.

What knowledge acquired at college is most valuable for your work and what requires constant improvement?

— Sun Yichen: I think that for engineering students, especially those who want to do technical work, the basic courses in college are very helpful. For example, I took various mechanic courses and mechanical design courses, and I have directly applied what I learned to my work. But, more importantly, we should learn to explore the unknown ourselves through available resources. I have accumulated a lot of practical engineering experience in my job. Observations on the production line as well as the experience accumulated in solving technical aircraft problems over time are more helpful thanks books for us to understand aircraft structure. In addition, things such as the troubleshooting of technical problems and the feasibility of solutions cannot be obtained from theoretical studies, thus continuous learning is needed to master these areas.



Xu Lanhe
Aircraft Manufacturing
Engineering Major,
Civil Aviation University of China

Sun Yichen
A Technical Support
Engineer, Airbus
Tianjin A320 Delivery
Center

him emotional stability and strength.

Xu has thought a lot about the future. “I hope to be an excellent aircraft structural engineer, who masters both maintenance and innovative design.” If he has the opportunity, he also wants to learn how to be a pilot. Maybe a few years down the line, he will be able to fly a plane and soar in the sky.

At the Airbus Tianjin A320 Delivery Center, 10 km from CAUC, Sun Yichen is drawing, conceiving a technical solution for colleagues on the assembly line. Being a frequent airplane passenger, this young girl from Tianjin never thought of becoming an aircraft structural engineer.

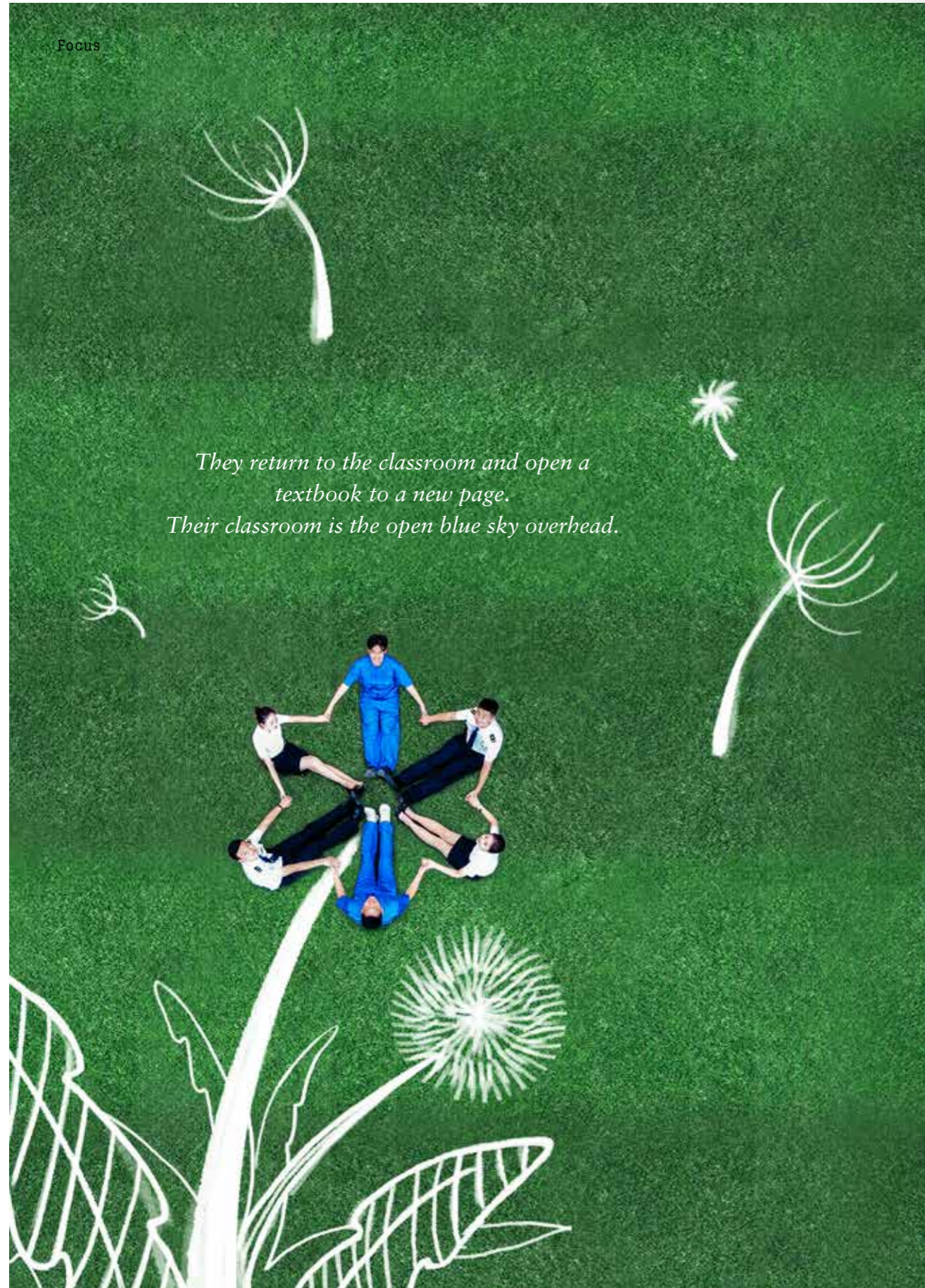
Sun’s current life is what Xu Lanhe dreams of.

In 2012, Sun was a senior in the School of Chemical Engineering at Tianjin University. She participated in the Airbus Campus Recruitment Seminar, and since then, has become interested in aircraft design and manufacturing. “At that time, I thought that aircraft designer or structural engineer jobs were quite cool, so I was keen to try myself.” Sun then joined the Airbus (Beijing) Engineering Technology Center and was involved in the design work of the A350 super-wide passenger aircraft.

“Our work is very similar to that of the airline’s maintenance engineers. Both are ‘doctors’ of the aircraft. The difference is that our focus is on solving problems that have emerged in the production process — the assembly and delivery of aircraft.” All problems that appear on the aircraft assembly line need to be addressed via an immediate repair plan, design plan or release decision.

Some people think that being an aircraft engineer is a man’s job. But in the eyes of Sun Yichen, women may have more advantages thanks to their scrupulous attitude. “New problems emerge every day, and you never know what you are going to deal with tomorrow.”

*They return to the classroom and open a
textbook to a new page.
Their classroom is the open blue sky overhead.*



TRAVEL



Amazing Winemaking in Monferrato / 26

Special Qualities of Coastal Qingdao / 30

WOW Qingdao / 33

Escape City Life in Beautiful Blossoming Baoding / 34

Amazing Winemaking in

MONFERRATO

Text Patsy Yang



Photo by Ben Neale

The beauty of Monferrato lies partly in its ancient towns and medieval characteristics, but mostly in its gentle slopes and hilly stretches planted with rows of vines.

The magnificent scenery of Monferrato and Langhe-Roero became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2014. UNESCO describes the region as “an exceptional living testimony to the historical tradition of grape growing and winemaking processes, of a social context, and a rural economy based on the culture of wine”. According to the official reason of inclusion: “The vineyards of Langhe-Roero and Monferrato are an outstanding example of men’s interaction with his natural environment.”

The hilly area of Monferrato is made up of small communities filled with warmhearted people welcoming anyone who comes to share their way of life.

I recently explored this relatively quiet oasis in the center of Europe, where an idyllic hilly vineyard always seemed to be around the corner, wines were waiting to be discovered and mouth-watering Piedmontese cuisine ready to be tasted.

Everywhere I went, from the vineyards to the tasting sessions, from winemakers’ family meals to Michelin-starred restaurants, I found myself in the presence of genuine winemakers, who

dedicated themselves entirely to the art. Everyone, despite different opinions and methods in terms of winemaking, was full of energy and had a great desire to push the boundaries of the art.

Monferrato, crossed by rivers Tanaro and Belbo, running eastward toward Italy’s longest river, the River Po, which flows from the Piedmont region into the Adriatic Sea, is an area of hidden pockets, shielded by successive waves of protective hills that conceal its identity. For years, it remained off the beaten track, but it is its uncontaminated nature that gives it an authentic charm.

Ian D’Agata, the world famous Italian wine expert and author of *Native Wine Grapes of Italy*, explained to me: “Monferrato has a long and distinguished history of winemaking traced back to the Middle Ages when laws were passed against damaging vines. It is the home of Barbera, one of the 30 most-planted grapes in the world and one of the five most cultivated varieties in Italy.”

It’s not a one-grape area. Monferrato also has another eight red grape varieties and a couple of whites unique to the land, which are not available anywhere else in Italy or the world. The grapes have been adapted for centuries in this specific terroir with a very specific microclimate and soil.

“The varieties of indigenous



Photo by Brigitte Tohm

grapes in this region give people a range of options for wine drinking involving different aromas, colors and flavors,” D’Agata said.

Barbera, though grown in many other regions in Italy, is most at home in Piedmont. This grape variety, originally from the Monferrato district, is cultivated mainly in the provinces of Asti and Alessandria, where it reaches its maximum expression in Barbera d’Asti and Barbera del Monferrato, two wines that were given their Denomination of Origin (DOC) in 1970.

In the 1980s, a new growth stage started, pushed by some

producers who wanted to improve Barbera’s general quality with new concepts. In 2008, the DOC became a DOCG (Denomination of Controlled and Guaranteed Origin). Barbera d’Asti DOCG undoubtedly represents a constantly evolving product in the region that can be enjoyed young or as an aged wine with complex aromas and a taste designed for a deferred consumption over time. The Asti wine zone is also the home of a small enclave called Nizza, one of the three sub-zones where arguably the best Barbera d’Asti is made.



Photo by Gaetano Cessati



Photo by Adele Payman

“People say Barolo is the king and Barbaresco is queen, but I have a different opinion. Compared to the full-bodied Barbaresco, featuring massive tannins, I consider Barbera the queen — round and silky with well-balanced acidity, alcohol and fruitiness,” D’Agata said.

I agreed. Barbera d’Asti best speaks of the land and its people, and it’s the most consumed red wine in Monferrato, generally pairing well with many local dishes. To better understand this local grape, I visited the winery of Alfiero Boffa, a 10-minute drive from Castello di Costigliole d’Asti.

Alfiero Boffa specialized in the production of Barberac d’Asti Superiore when, in 1984, he set out to select all vineyards of his wine estate with separate vinifications.

“Before, Barbera was meant to be enjoyed young, but I decided to change the method of aging in barriques for Barbera Superiore in the 1980s. We want not only the traditional daily drinking of Barbera, but also for it to be a wine opened on special occasions,” Boffa said.

Boffa ensures his grape is positioned to get the best out of the sun-exposed hills. While showing his beloved vineyards, overlooking the enchanting landscape, he took out a piece of paper and read a prosed poem he had written entitled Nostalgia.

Beautifully written, there is a profound truth in what he said

and this childhood curiosity had led him to put his faith in new winemaking methods, guiding the winery along a path of constant improvement in quality.

I had a wonderful home meal matched with a vertical tasting of some of Boffa’s older vintages from the cellar. For anyone who would like to experience the degustation experience at Boffa, it can be arranged in advance. Boffa is merely one example of the region’s warm hospitality and winemaking spirit.

Another memorable stop was in the Monferrato Astigiano district, where you can find one of the rarest autochthonous grape varieties — Ruche. The wine is ruby red, slightly aromatic and with scents of dried rose, violet and spices. One taste and you will never forget it.

In the 1960s, the parson of Castagnole Monferrato, Don Giacomo Cauda, recovered an old vineyard belonging to a church and cultivated it. Ruche reached the DOCG in 2010 and is now the backbone of the Monferrato economy.

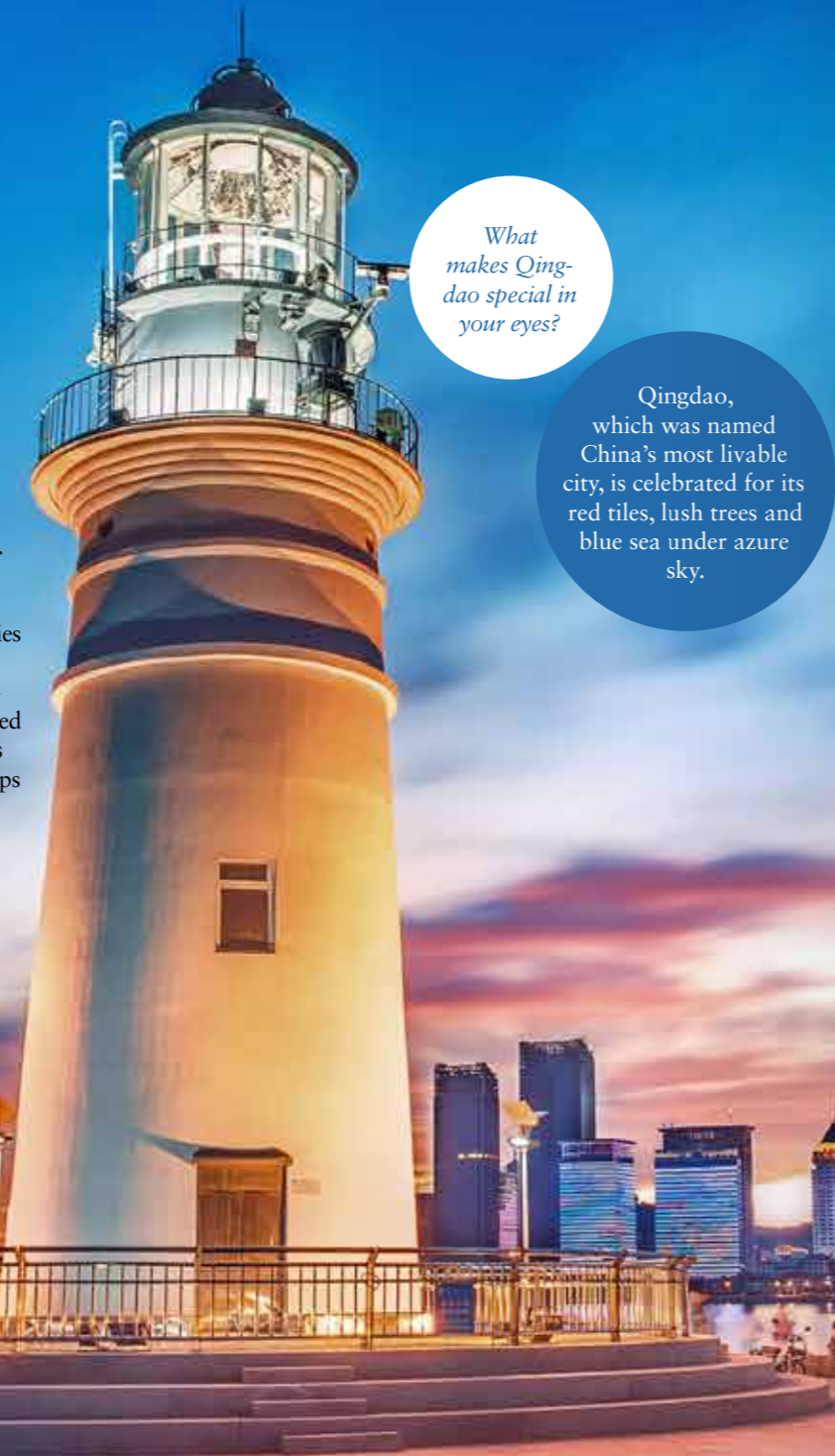
“If someone in Castagnole Monferrato offers you Ruche, it’s because they like you,” is written at the entrance to the capital of Ruche. Besides tasting Ruche, a visit to the castle of Castagnole is recommended. Along the wine route, numerous stops were made to admire the vine-clad landscape and sample local wines rarely found in foreign markets.

Special Qualities of Coastal Qingdao

Text Stella



This June, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit (SCO) 2018 was held in Qingdao, a beautiful coastal city in eastern China's Shandong Province. As a local, Xu Shen has been in Qingdao for more than two decades. After graduating from Tianjin Foreign Studies University, he went back to his hometown to run his own business in a foreign-language training center. He shared some of his best-kept secrets about his hometown with *Sky Times*, offering tips on exploring this charming city.



What makes Qingdao special in your eyes?

Qingdao, which was named China's most livable city, is celebrated for its red tiles, lush trees and blue sea under azure sky.

How does one spend a day in Qingdao like a local?

Drinking fragrant beer, munching delicious seafood, going swimming at the beach, and going jogging on the wooden bridge on the seashore.

What are the city's must-see attractions?

There are so many must-see attractions, such as the Trestle Bridge (or Zhanqiao Pier), Xiaoyu Mountain, the Eight Great Passes, Qingdao Sculpture Street, May 4th Square together with the light show at night, Qingdao Olympic Sailing Center (QOSC) and Stone Man in the twilight.

What's the 'best-kept' secret away from the tourist trail?

I would recommend Tsingtao Brewery Museum.

Where do you bring guests to taste Qingdao cuisine?

In case they have some trouble making their mind up, I like to take them to self-service restaurants, such as the Inter-Continental Qingdao by the Olympic Sailing Center.

Which restaurant is your personal favorite?

Kaihai Restaurant and Shangri-La Hotel are good choices.

What's your latest great 'find' in the city?

SEGA in The Mixc.

Where do you shop for fashion?

The Mixc.

When is the best time to visit?

In spring, summer and autumn, the various beauties defined and distinguished by the changes of seasons will ignite your senses.

What does a typical night out involve?

Taking a walk along the seaside after dining and drinking.

Taking a walk along the seaside after dining and drinking.

What does a typical night out involve?



Wine and Dine

at Qingdao's Finest

Text Fannie

Food for Thought

Big Cake

Big Cake combines French pastry art with modern techniques and culinary traditions. With its pastry kitchen located within, this pastry shop is about design and taste. Big Cake features cakes, macaroons, chocolates as la carte or take away; or as high-tea set throughout the day. This is an ideal venue for gathering and social interactions. Pastry classes, seasonal delights, wedding and birthday cakes built to order are just some of the many offerings on the menu.

Address

Ground Floor, InterContinental Qingdao, No.98 Ao Men Road, Qingdao

Open Hours

10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.



Drink Worth Sipping

Venu+ Lounge Bar

An exquisite lounge and bar with amazing views of the skyline of Qingdao. The best up-scale nightlife venue in town. This vibrant lounge and bar with resident and guest DJ's, live bands, tasty snacks and impressive cocktails are designed to unwind and have fun with friends at an elite yet cozy environment. Most importantly, it's the place where you can enjoy the incredible views of Olympic Sailing Center and 180° ocean views.



Address

22F, No.98 Ao Men Road, Qingdao

Open Hours

Opening Hours: 5:30 p.m. - 2:30 a.m.

Place Worth Visiting

Qingdao International Beer Festival

Established in 1991, the Festival has been held 15 times, beginning the second weekend of August and lasting 16 days. During the festival, the whole city is in great revelry. Beer drinking competitions, parties, entertainment and trade exhibitions stimulate interest. Dozens of beer companies from all over the world join the festival. Beer products and cultures from Germany and Korea are introduced into China, and interaction which enriches the Chinese beer market and enhances the cooperation of Chinese and foreign beer companies. If you are a serious drinker or a casual weekend enthusiast, you'll see the best of China's beer drinking culture at this event.



Escape City Life in Beautiful Blossoming Baoding

Text: Meng Li & Meng Chenjing

In Baoding, the old capital of the former Zhili Province and now a second-tier city, you can enjoy the distinctive style of Beijing West Leisure Resort, and find that the small towns to the south of Beijing are great locations for living, working and sightseeing. Meanwhile, China Baoding International Pastoral Leisure Resort was opened this summer.

Covering a total area of 1,503 square kilometers, the new leisure resort boasts many tourist attractions, including: a national 4A-level tourist sight; six major historical and cultural sites placed under state protection; Han Tombs in Mancheng, which is one of the 20th century's significant archaeological discoveries; Wang's Manor, which is the largest civilian residential building complex completed at the end of the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644) and early Qing Dynasty (1644–1911) in northern China; and the scenic spot of Yao culture at Yiqi Mountain — a cradle of Chinese civilization.

Hometown of peach

Shunping, an old town with a history of more than 1,000 years, was where the legendary ancient monarch Emperor Yao was born. It is rich in culture, and the people are simple, honest and unspoiled. It is also a naturally elegant place. The spring is all the more beautiful when bright peach flowers present a blend of pink, red and white.

In *the Book of Songs* it says: “The peach tree is young and elegant; Brilliant are its flowers.” Shunping County is home to nearly 200 sq km of fruit trees, of which peach gardens occupy an area of more than 130,000 sq km. In 2001, it was named “China’s Hometown of Peach” by the former Ministry of Forestry. Starting from the seat of Shunping County, you can reach Hekou and Yiqi Mountain heading west, and reach Taiyu going north. Along the road, which is nearly 50 km long, you can smell the flower’s fragrance from time to time while observing the peach blossom. There are 100 sq km of peach farms along the Yiqi Mountain, where the folk custom culture park is the venue for the Shunping Peach Blossom Festival. It is also one of the first national agricultural tourism demonstration districts. Here you can purchase high-quality organic products while enjoying the pastoral scenes. Today, it has become an ideal destination for people from bustling cities to get away, go hiking and enjoy blossoming flowers in spring.

Zen time

Phoenix Mountain is 19km to the north of the seat of Shunping County. There are five small mountains, with Phoenix Mountain in the middle, taking the form of a lotus flower in blossom. Seen from a distance, Phoenix Mountain looks like a phoenix spreading its wings as it descends.



Standing atop Phoenix Mountain, the Great Temple of Buddha's Light displays an architectural style commonly seen during the Tang Dynasty (618-907). Painted black and white, the temple looks magnificent, fully expressing the openness and inclusiveness of Buddhism. Elder Chuan Yin, president of the Buddhist Association of China, and Master Hsing Yun from Fo Guang Shan in Taiwan wrote the inscriptions on the horizontal boards. At present, the principal buildings inside the temple include a stone-carved archway at the temple's gate as well as the Palace of the Temple's Gate, Bell Tower, Drum Tower, Palace of Five Saints, Palace of the Mahakala Wealth of God, Mahavira Hall and Hall of Medicine Buddha.

The Great Temple of Buddha's Light distinguishes itself from other temples through four cultural themes — practicing Zen, playing Go, brewing wine and observing the traditions of rural households in northern China. Boasting rich cultural heritage and distinctive local characteristics, the temple has become a tourist attraction known for its Buddhist culture in a modernized, elegant environment. It is China's only temple that does not have an incense burner, as incense burning is not practiced there. It is also a 4A-level scenic spot that does not charge visitors for entrance. In spring, it is embedded in a sea of peach flowers and trees; in summer, it is covered in lush green vegetation and fragrant flowers; in autumn it is turned into an orchard bearing fruit; and in winter it is blanketed in snow, as people come to pray for blessings. It has become another piece of holy land for Buddhism.

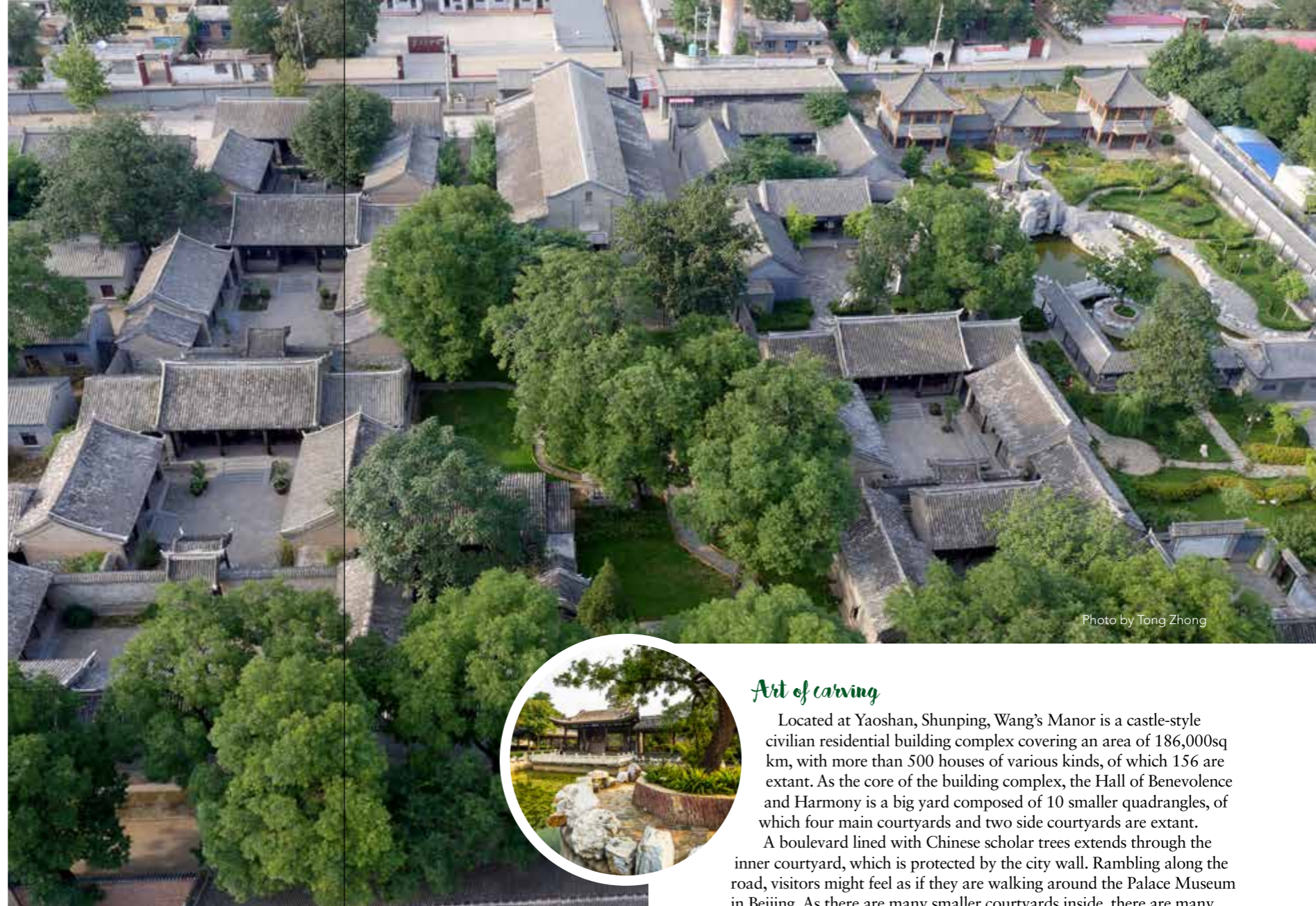


Photo by Tong Zhong

Art of carving

Located at Yaoshan, Shunping, Wang's Manor is a castle-style civilian residential building complex covering an area of 186,000sq km, with more than 500 houses of various kinds, of which 156 are extant. As the core of the building complex, the Hall of Benevolence and Harmony is a big yard composed of 10 smaller quadrangles, of which four main courtyards and two side courtyards are extant.

A boulevard lined with Chinese scholar trees extends through the inner courtyard, which is protected by the city wall. Rambling along the road, visitors might feel as if they are walking around the Palace Museum in Beijing. As there are many smaller courtyards inside, there are many gates here. The main residential area of the Wang Family is in the northern part of the manor, in which a temple is built. The southern part is the "General's Mansion", where Dorgon, — who pursued his love at the expense of his chance of becoming an emperor — dated his lover Li Yu'er.

The Hall of Benevolence and Harmony is the core building complex in the manor. The screen wall facing the gate, the largest one of its kind in northern China, has a rough and uninhibited style. The adjoined buildings can be found under the shade of the ancient Chinese scholar trees, beside vegetable farms, orchards and flowers. As these buildings are renowned for their exquisite "three kinds of carving" that indicate harvest and prosperity, they are reputed by experts as "a museum of carving arts". The arts of brick carving, wood carving and stone carving find their full expressions here, indicating the ancient ideas of "felicity, longevity and wealth". The carvings are coated with tung oil, and the festoon gate is painted black and chestnut, reflecting a distinctive beauty. While drinking a cup of tea, visitors are likely to be mesmerized by what they see in the long, deep courtyards. You can also stroll along the long road while appreciating various kinds of carving art.



Photo by Wang Datian



Region of rivers

Located inside the intersection of the southern part of Beijing's Second Ring Road and the western part of the Third Ring Road, Dajidian Village is an ancient commercial town with a history of more than 3,000 years, which boasts a kind of unadorned tradition with rich local characteristics.

As the village faces water on three sides, the water torrents formed during the rainy season present a spectacular view. Hence the name Dajidian, which literally means "big water-drawing compounds". Strolling in the village, you are greeted by scenery that is often seen along the lower reaches of the Yangtze River, such as gurgling water running below a small bridge, ancient paths lined with green trees, the sunset to the west, and singing coming from fishing boats returning at dusk. The village is dotted with gardens everywhere — from along the Huishui River and the Xingguo Lake (Lake of Invigoration) to the area surrounding Mingyue Tang (Bright Moon Pool) and Zhenwu Terrace. Flowers bloom in three seasons and green foliage can be seen throughout the year. Rowing a boat on the azure water, you will be delighted by the beautiful scenery that is evocative of historical events.

Dajidian was encircled by walls on its east, west and north sides, where city gates can be found. The east gate is located to the west of Dongming Bridge. It is a two-layered building, with the upper part being the Pavilion of God Kuixing, meaning the "god governing literature and writing". The statue of God Kuixing holds a large brush pen in his hand and faces west. Behind it, there is another statue of Guan Yu, who is reading by light at midnight. These two statues demonstrate the spirit of the village — upholding culture and encouraging martial spirit. Located in the center of the village's square is the ancient opera house, the construction of which began in 1891. It is still the site for theatrical performances in the village. Opposite is the Hall of the Goddess of Mercy, which is the best-preserved ancient building in the village. There are many ancient temples and stone bridges in the village.

In 2012, Baoding Agricultural and Ecological Park was established in the village. This is a park integrating agricultural scientific research, demonstrations and promotions, tourist attractions and leisure activities, with a graceful tourist resort having been created. Dajidian World Music Festival has also earned fame for Baoding, with its entirely new form combining "the internet, tourism and music".

CULTURE



Cunning Craftsman Constructs

TIN UTOPIA



Text Wang Junyan Photos Qiu



Tinware: a metal product made of tin. Chinese tinware dated from the Yongle period of the Ming Dynasty (1403-1424), mainly produced in Yunnan, Guangdong, Shandong and Fujian provinces. Among them Gejiu in Yunnan is the most prestigious tin production area. In the 1950s, Gejiu City established a professional plant to produce tinware. Since then, there has been substantial development of tinware, with products being sold abroad.

Gejiu in Yunnan Province used to be a giant in the tin world, but this desolate mining city has new reason for hope. Tin craftsmanship has shown resilience in the face of the dying large-scale metal trade, and Lai Qingguo is the perfect craftsman. In the utopia he has created by himself, tin promotes cultural industrialization

while retaining its traditional characteristics. As a craftsman and entrepreneur, Lai has adopted two identities simultaneously.

Regarded as the wizard of metal, tin carries an air of mystery. In ancient times, people placed tin at the bottom of wells to purify the water, while the greatest wine in the Imperial Court in Japan was preserved in tinware to make it more mellow and flavorful. In 1745, the East India-man Gotheborg, a famous ocean-going merchant ship of the Swedish East India Company, hit rocks and sank in the ocean with 370 tons of tea on board. In 1984, more than 230 years later, it was salvaged with more than 1,000 kilograms of tea found to still be fresh due to its encapsulation inside of tin cans.

Promising future

In Gejiu, a city on Yunnan's Red River and the former "tin capital", more than 100,000 people used to work in jobs related to the mining industry. The mining area was the size of a small city, complete with staff dormitories, residential buildings, schools, movie theaters and flowing traffic.

However, in 2008, Gejiu was listed as a resource-exhausted city and thousands of workers lost their jobs. It is difficult now to find a pedestrian in the streets of the mining area, which has become a scene of desolation. "Tin Street", which is less than 50 meters long, was famous for being home to more than 40 tinware workshops, with the small street filled with the sounds of bellows being pulled, tinwares beaten and goods being sold. But all of these scenes have become a legend of old times.

Lai Qingguo developed the Creative Industry Park of Tin Culture, where the plants can be visited, as well as exhibition rooms of tinwares, classrooms for apprentices, workshops of non-material cultural heritage, a village church, tearooms and a



Lai Qingguo

Born in 1963, a native of Gejiu, Yunnan, he is a master of tinware arts and craft.

nostalgic pavilion. He has even included a wrecked train carriage, a lotus pond, bamboo forest as well as several golden pheasant and peacocks to bring color and life to the park. Lai has managed to transform tin from a declining old industrial age to a carrier of new cultural identity, demonstrating the metal's vitality.

Bareheaded, bearded and dressed in traditional Chinese clothing, Lai leans against a tree and holds a pipe, with the sunlight beaming on him and a soft breeze stirring his clothes. Lai's image is elaborate, just like his career and tin kingdom, which have all blossomed and have a promising future.

"I spent three years building this park and platform. From this year on, I will focus on creation. Social activities will take some time, but the conditions are already much

better," said Lai, who started to learn artistic skills with traditional craftsmen when he was a teenager, but still considers himself a beginner.

Tea caddies

In the corner of the plant are two brick stovetops. Put tin in the iron cauldron and it turns to liquid at 231 degrees Celsius. It is then poured into moulds before cooling down and quickly taking on a new shape. Tin is gentle and can easily be tempered. Tin cans have always been regarded as the best vessel to preserve tea, as they can be well-sealed and do not alter the flavor of the tea inside, which is why they are the most popular products in Lai's park.

Cooling and shaping through moulding is just the first step. There are about 40 or 50 processes



required to complete a tea caddy, including shaping, welding, polishing and matching caps, among others. Some of the stages need to be repeated several times, especially the last step of matching caps. The caps need to be sealed gradually. Besides, the air should be exhausted before the can is opened again to ensure it is airtight.

Lai picked up a polished tea caddy and casually began to inscribe it with a small electric drill. Lots of visitors ask him to make works with his own hands, thus the inscribing has become the most unique part of the tea caddies. Learning tinware craft after graduating from junior high school, Lai followed several master craftsmen in their 60s or 70s, but did not have any theoretical framework. Nor had he been trained in aesthetic literary. A few years later, he pursued crafts in an art academy, specializing in drawing. After graduation, Lai taught for three years and developed his theoretical perspective so he could engaged in the tin industry.

"I always make time to paint," said Lai. Craftsmanship is not only a part of his work — it is his way to escape life's mundane affairs. With several brushes of landscape, two boats and a man in light garments swollen by the breeze, the artistic conception of a refined scholar can be depicted on an inch of tinware. Lai called it a "simple Chinese painting on metal". He paints with smooth twists and turns, all of which display a natural talent that has formed from 30 year's of practice.

Stove mould wealth

Lai built an exhibition room on his own. At first, it was not admitted as a "building" by professionals in the architecture industry, as it was just a combination of different geometric squares, an imitation of the crystal structure of tin. Then he placed a huge train carriage to



one side of the room, and on the other side a red church spire. The exhibition room is used as a base for education of tin culture, with recent works and foreign featured tinware being categorized carefully.

In the corner of the park is a locked house, which is home to thousands of brick-sized stove moulds piled up in order. In the past, craftsmen did not have steel dyes so they used stove moulds in a range of shapes, then they poured the liquid tin into moulds to form the original ware. Modern tin technology seldom adopts the stove moulds, but Lai collected them one by one to put on display. "I don't have money, but these are my wealth," he said.



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Using *Watercolors* to Commentate on Society

Text Feng Shuangqing

Crushed Rocks and Trembling Debris, 54.7cm*37.5cm

As one of China's top artists and a renowned contemporary Chinese water-color painter, Yang Zhiling's iconic "flowing colors" technique and his method of using water to mix colors and "leave traces" serves to construct a new language system of painting.

During Yang's childhood, which was influenced by Chinese illustrated storybooks, he worshiped heroes and decided to praise virtue and punish vice with his brush. After receiving a national science and technology award for restoring ancient structures, Yang became even more determined to protect human civilization and

nature, and such sentiments can be seen in his works.

Painting process

Yang's "flowing colors" technique is different from the "splash painting" technique commonly found in Chinese ink painting, because it involves the simultaneous actions of painting and moving the canvas to enable the flow of paint. The process also requires the constant addition and increase of colors, flowing and tilting until the artist achieves the desired affect. The direction in which the paint flows creates a composition that has a spirit which interacts with the viewer. Yang's painting process

is a creative methodology, an innovation marrying artistic technique and performance art.

The traces of Yang's mixed water and blended colors reflect his philosophy on life. His paintings possess a certain charm, forming their own unique and unparalleled linguistic style, which has a strong connection to "intervention" in Western oil painting. It's a body of work that embodies the poetic charm of the East, while at the same time subverting the Chinese ink-painting tradition.

Tao of nature

The ultimate goal in the realm of Tao is for all civilizations to achieve the same goal by different means.

"Nature" is at the core of Yang's art. The kind of naturally produced image we see in his work is like an organic fruit, different from that produced by human intervention. Nature provides the rules; nature provides the concept; nature is the Tao, the "true" way.

A member of the China Artists Association, Yang is a national first-grade artist and a renowned contemporary Chinese water-color painter. He is also a part-time professor at the Shenzhen-based Graduate School of Tsinghua University, a visiting professor at Shenzhen University and artistic advisor to the World Alliance of Low Carbon Cities.

*Don't Uncover Don't Know, 78cm*54.5cm*



*Who Says I'm not as Good as You? 52.4cm*36.2cm*



*In the Shadow of Presbyter, 53.5cm*38.8cm*

The lifelong artistic practice of Yang is characterized by a pioneering spirit that pervades his work. Through his continual experimentation with watercolors, he employs a natural creative method that paves a new road, arriving at the ultimate, lofty realm of the Tao.

With regard to Yang's art, "nature" possesses two meanings: a breakthrough in technique; and a subversion of thoughts and ideas pertaining to a "humanized nature". His method of using "naturally radiant and flowing colors" reconstructs a completely new system of artistic language, acting as glossy advertisements for the enchanting power of nature.

Yang's works are fundamentally an art of temporality and frequency. But perhaps more remarkable is that he has transformed the temporality of watercolors, constantly keeping pace with and relating to the zeitgeist of contemporary society, thus fusing the two concepts of "nature" and "humanized nature".

Karma in color

Yang's art of nature emerges both from his own life experiences and his philosophical meditations. If one observes Yang's painting process, you will discover layer upon layer of water droplets that form a vortex evocative of the dictates of karma and the all-encompassing swirling forces of good and evil. Looking at these paintings might enable the viewer to see that everything is born from good and evil, with karma like the intermittent ripples formed by the action of tossing a stone onto the calm surface of a lake.

Take his watercolor series on the Zhoushan Archipelago as an example. The works in that series are named after various strengths of wind, which are depicted through portraying the movement of waves, reflecting his views on environmental protection.

As another example, the fervent burning colors in Yang's piece *Volcano* represent the uncontrollable

pulsations of life — like the fluctuations of a heart rate — an eruption of life's colors, or a cathartic rhythm. In turn, the artwork's intention is to display the ebb and flow of strengths and accomplishments. This painting, full of vitality, represents the natural flow of moods and mental states; a materialization of the spirit.

Yang's consistent inquiries into life's meaning and his understanding of the world become the ultimate goal. The flame of life burns throughout Yang's paintings, radiating the brilliance of the human spirit. Through the appearance of the soul — sparkling, beautiful and crystal clear — he tries to awaken people to the unity of nature, the universe and man, symbolizing the endless proliferation and reproduction of both light and eternity.

Humanized nature

Yang is adept at "embedding" humanistic morals into this "objective nature", or using the morphology of nature to "verbalize"



the multiplicitous forms of human society. Yang's "nature" isn't a simple aesthetic gimmick, but an externalization or glance at an inner realm — the view of nature that we "see". Therefore, the "people" who constitute the objects and the "nature" which constitutes the subject obtain a state of unity in Yang's work. He thus creates an aesthetic value on the canvas by means of righteousness and positive energy expressed through the trajectory of visual art. Yang's art is not confined to the single dimensions of technique or painting, rather it is an expression of a desire for social progress, or even the sublimation of the medium and the form of painting — a "humanized nature".

Yang has created a "conceptually reflexive" approach to art; abandoning the representation of the externality of specific objects, converting the figurative image into the essence or spirit of the painting.

For example, his work *The Tibetan Secret of the Meaning of Colors* uses flowing color to interpret the mystical connotations of Tantric Buddhism.

Through his brush, landscape and spirit become intertwined through flowing colors that merge in a kind of chemical reaction to produce a resplendent burst of charm, expressing the omnipresence of the Buddha, embodying the spiritual intentions that are in line with these esoteric teachings.

Artistic enlightenment

Like the "Light of Yamantaka",

Yang's art takes advantage of these flowing colors from the center of the painting toward the four cardinal points, displaying the limitlessness of the colors. When he discovered how to transcend the strictures of realism, it allowed him to avoid this meaningless contest of scientific or methodological image making, and forge a new path.

Although Yang's works explore many themes, his "conceptually reflexive" approach has always been at the core of his artistic thinking and has become a central principle of his artistic production. With this as a focus, Yang explores the interconnected territories of subjective psychology and social awareness, embarking on an in-depth analysis of the ontology of humans and the attributes or properties of social culture. This form of art penetrates the membrane of subconsciousness.

Yang's art responds to the common demands of the development of human society; at the same time, it also forms a strong social resonance. His art is seen by many to be a reflection of societal developments of our era. The artist remains distanced from the artistic discourse of any particular school or artistic movement. Instead, he uses his method of painting to commentate on the well-being of mankind and social progress, immersing himself in the past and the present, and human knowledge as a whole.

Yang manages to unite the objectivity of nature and the subjectivity of human emotions, expanding the concept of "nature", enhancing people's understanding of civilization, culture, society and history, and playing an indispensable role in promoting the development of society and civilization.

His goal is to make use of this knowledge to enrich people's lives under the structure of the collective fate of humanity. This is really the core motivation behind Yang's art— to spread good deeds and the supreme way of the Tao.

PEOPLE



Watercolour installation, Edition A, from *Surface/ Not Surface*, 200*110cm



Ahmet Dalgul,
General Manager
of Northern
China for Turkish
Airlines.

Photo by Wang Yang

Turkish Airlines

Prioritizes Customer Satisfaction

Text Cao Shenshen

When talking about Turkish Airlines' strategic goal for China, General Manager of Northern China for Turkish Airlines, Ahmet Dalgul, told *Sky Times*: "Customer satisfaction is our main focus in the China market."

According to traffic data for January to June in 2018, Turkish Airlines' passenger load factor reached 80.4 percent, an increase of 4.4 percent on the previous year. Volume of passengers carried soared to 35.6 million person times, representing a 17.8-percent increase year-on-year. Talking about the airline's performance in the first half of year, Ahmet said he was satisfied: "We hope to maintain this level of performance, and we are always devoted to improving services and adding new destinations for our passengers."

Turkish Airlines was founded 85 years ago, with only 5 airplanes. Now, as a member of the Star Alliance, it has 325 planes, connecting 304 destinations around the world. "Our advantages are our service quality and network. We have high-quality services both

in the air and on land, and we also have the widest network in the world — not in terms of total destinations, but in terms of the number of destination countries," Ahmet said. "Having the widest network gives us a big advantage, especially in the China market."

Istanbul New Airport will be inaugurated on Oct. 29 this year, aiming to achieve the goal of making Istanbul a global aviation hub by serving 90 million passengers per year during its first phase. "We are going to transfer all operations from the current airport to the new one, and we will continue to offer high-end services, especially in relation to lounges and other land services."

Ahmet joined Turkish Airlines in 2009, working for the revenue management department. Over the past nine years, he has worked in the Istanbul, Helsinki and Beijing offices. Although his family wants him to stay in Turkey and manage the family business, Ahmet wants to see the outside world. "When I was young my grandfather told me that big seas have big fishes. For me, China is the big ocean, and I want to learn more."

► **ST: How many nonstop routes does Turkish Airlines operate in the Greater China region, and are there any new international routes to be launched in 2018?**

Ahmet: On the Chinese mainland, we have three destinations in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, with daily flights to all three destinations. We also have six flights per week to Hong Kong and a daily flight to Taipei.

We are satisfied about the overall

performance and growth trends in the Chinese market in recent years. We appreciated how we have been welcomed here and we are also happy to serve Chinese people.

We are eager to explore additional routes in China, but cannot disclose further information at this point. We look forward to sharing our developments with you in the near future. Turkish Airlines is confident about the positive growth and collaboration opportunities in

China's aviation, tourism and travel sectors. We hope the relevant authorities and their progressive and prudent planning and development initiatives allow new opportunities in the relevant sectors.

► **ST: What's the main goal for Turkish Airlines in the China market in the near future?**

Ahmet: Customer satisfaction is our main focus here and it is also at the core of Turkish Airlines' global

operations, as we have high-quality services both in the air and on land. With the airline's network growing every day, Turkish Airlines is offering more services, maintaining customer satisfaction as a priority. Overall performance in the first half of 2018 was excellent and we expect to continue this performance for the rest of the year and 2019.



► **ST: What products and services has Turkish Airlines launched to meet the needs of Chinese passengers?**

Ahmet: Turkish Airlines is passionate about growing and providing the dynamic Chinese market with an exceptional travel and dining experience. We are trying to provide premium and customized inflight products and services for Chinese travelers, including plush and comfortable cabin interiors, a state-of-the-art entertainment system and a delectable Chinese menu.

Made up of classic Chinese dishes such as Yuxiang chicken with fried rice, deep-fried marinated tofu, Mei Cai steamed buns with preserved Szechuan pickle, sizzling beef dumplings, egg noodle, beef congee and chicken congee, the new menu reflects the diversity of Chinese cuisine. Plans are also in the pipeline to develop a new Chinese website and a customer service call center for Chinese travelers, as well as recruit more Chinese-speaking cabin crew members.

► **ST: With Turkish Airlines celebrating its 85th anniversary this year, it won the Best Southern European Airline award at the Skytrax World Airlines Awards for the ninth consecutive year, and was also given three traveler's choice awards by TripAdvisor. Are there any further plans to ensure maximum comfort for passengers?**

Ahmet: We are always looking for opportunities to increase customer satisfaction and provide better-quality and new services.

Covering 6,000 square meters and with a 1,000 seat capacity, the Turkish Airlines Lounge at Istanbul Ataturk Airport exceeds expectations of Business Class passengers. The lounge provides maximum comfort using both modern and traditional designs, together with free Wi-Fi access throughout. The existing facility, which includes a children's playground, library, billiards area, prayer room and teleconference section, has been expanded to include showers and additional massage beds. The enhanced lounge caters to virtually every passenger's needs.

Istanbul New Airport, which is expected to be inaugurated on Oct. 29, 2018, aims to achieve the goal of making the city of Istanbul a global aviation hub by serving 90 million passengers per year during its first phase. Along with the final phase, the facility is expected to

welcome 200 million passengers. We also have the domestic CIP Lounge in Istanbul, so we will have five different lounges.

► **ST: How do you maintain an advantage over other European carriers in the intensely competitive China market?**

Ahmet: Turkish Airlines invests in its quality of service, inflight entertainment system, comfortable seats, gourmet cuisine and human resources. Turkish Airlines is always at the forefront of the latest technological advances and innovations in the aviation industry, and boasts one of the youngest fleets. As the airline expands its routes and number of aircraft, continually training its employees is of the utmost importance for ensuring the safety of its passengers.

In China, Turkish Airlines continues to innovate and customize its offerings for the dynamic Chinese market. The airline provides premium and customized inflight products and services for Chinese



travelers, and is confident about the positive growth and collaboration opportunities in China's aviation, tourism and travel sectors.

► **ST: How do you attract passengers from China to Turkey?**

Ahmet: Turkish Airlines welcomes Chinese travelers to visit or transit in Turkey. We are a member of the Star Alliance, which currently offers more than 300 destinations

in 121 countries. Its acceptance by the market has been recognized by numerous awards within the sector, as well as awards from passenger-rating organizations.

Turkish Airlines flies to 304 worldwide destinations, including 255 international and 49 domestic locations, in 121 countries. By transiting in Turkey, passengers can reach one of 80 different destinations within three hours.

► **ST: What efforts have Turkish Airlines made to go digital?**

Ahmet: Turkish Airlines recently launched an APP, which provides greater convenience for customers, such as online booking and checking in. Turkish Airlines also has official Weibo and WeChat accounts for Chinese customers, giving updated travel guides and information on Turkish Airlines, including sales promotions.

► **ST: What's your fleet composition?**

Ahmet: Turkish Airlines operates with a fleet of 325 aircraft, including cargo freighters. The company mainly operates with narrow and wide-body Airbus and Boeing aircraft, offering the best mix for serving its wide global and domestic network.

Turkish Airlines ordered a total of 60 wide-body Boeing 787-9 and A350-900 in March this year.

► **ST: What will happen to the management and services of Turkish Airlines after moving to Istanbul New Airport in the coming October?**

Ahmet: Turkish Airlines will be moving its operations to Istanbul New Airport in October 2018. The company will thus be continuing to offer its high-end services to its customers in a modern, disability friendly, "green" airport, adopting a

high recycling and rainwater utilization capacity.

► **ST: On an average day, what is your biggest priority, and what takes up most of your time?**

Ahmet: Most of the time we have meetings to announce decisions that have been made and also for leading and coaching our team. I think the leading of the team is the most meaningful aspect, because it includes teaching and educating people, so you try to solve the problems they have by coming up with solutions that are most beneficial for them.

► **ST: In your spare time, what activities do you do to help you relax?**

Ahmet: As we are pretty busy, I don't have much free time. My work is a little bit tough, but I can say that spending time with my family is one way of relaxing. I have two daughters and just lying down on the sofa listening to them talk is pretty relaxing for me.

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

Ahmet: I think taking care of the team and also convincing them of the targets for the team and the company is important. Another main issue for a team leader is solving your team members' problems. When they have issues, you have to help them resolve them.

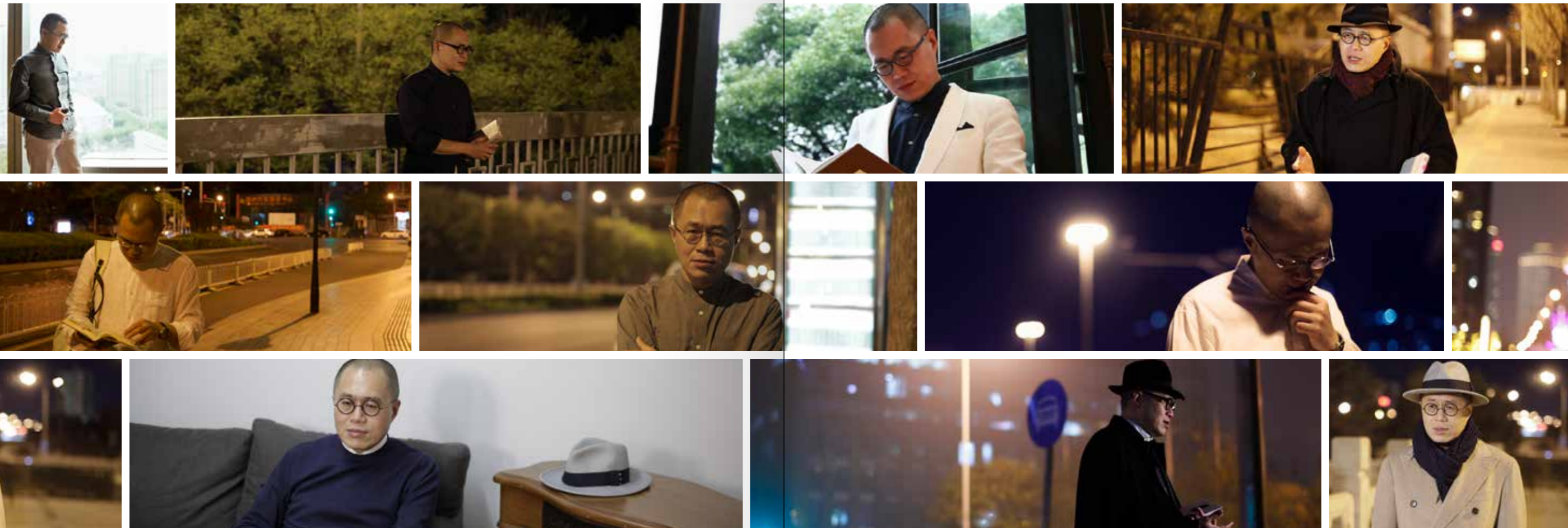
► **ST: What's been your greatest challenge or career setback and how did you overcome it?**

Ahmet: I think my biggest challenge is myself — my mind. Our minds set limits and tell us what we can or cannot do, but you have to find a way to break those limits. When you do that, success becomes much easier.

I think we also have to learn more new things and try to think outside the box, so different opinions are important.



Turkish Airlines' CIP lounge at the Ataturk Airport in Istanbul.



Finding the Meaning of Life

Through Living It

Text Wang Ruosi

In spring 2018, *Sky Times* interviewed Leung Man-tao during the first Open Day Festival hosted by Vistopia. Every weekend for the whole March was packed with events. Although Leung opened and hosted events, he managed to squeeze in some time for the interview during his only allotted meal

time of the day. However, when he sat down, he brimmed with excitement and spoke captivatingly on topics both old and new.

Hong Kong

Leung was born into a Roman Catholic Hong Kong family in 1970. When he was four

months old, his parents were posted abroad to work, so he was sent to his grandparents' home in Taiwan until he was 15 years old, when he returned to Hong Kong to continue his studies.

When at school, Leung was a hard working student. Although his grades were not fantastic, beginning in high school, he started submitting articles, writing screenplays and poetry, and participating in many stage plays, and artistic and community events. The column reviews he wrote about films and plays, and also his editorials began to get published by a number of mainstream media outlets, and he even performed naked behavioral art to express his political views. Upon graduating with a degree in philosophy from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Leung joined Phoenix Television, becoming a resident guest on popular Chinese talk show *Behind the Headlines with Wen Tao*. He later hosted the renowned *Eight Minutes Reading*, with Leung, Dou Wentao

and Xu Zidong becoming the "Iron Triangle" of Phoenix Television's discussion schedule.

In 2002, at To Kwa Wan Dock Corner No. 63, in Hong Kong's most run-down neighborhood, Leung set up a non-governmental school focused on civil education. The building had previously served as Hong Kong's Quarantine Station and slaughterhouse, somewhat similar to Beijing's 798 Zone, and in its early years it attracted a group of "non-mainstream" Hong Kong artists and cultural folk. Leung personally funded the school's expenses, inviting an array of scholars, government officials, artists and small-scale merchants to speak, passing on the kind of knowledge that can't be found in a text book.

"The school idea has never been about theoretical knowledge, but about the cultivation of a set of values. It was my goal for intellectuals to mingle with the grassroots," Leung said.

Meaning of life

For Leung, philosophy and religion are two cornerstones with which to temper his thoughts. Born into a family with a strong faith in Catholicism, Leung was baptized in the Roman Catholic tradition. His ambition when he was young was to be a priest. However, he left his church in his third year of senior high school. At that time, he was mesmerized by philosophy and felt he could no longer entertain the theist belief system.

In classical Greek, the word philosophy means to “love knowledge”, which neatly encapsulates Leung’s natural interest and thirst for knowledge. He was already contemplating the meaning of life while in sixth grade at primary school, so reading philosophy for undergraduate and postgraduate studies was a natural choice. He has published books, written special features and become a cultural personage, a public intellectual, and even a “life tutor” in the eyes of many people. However, none of these exploits have helped Leung uncover the meaning of life, and have actually led to more confusion. In fact, he is somewhat dissatisfied with his own accomplishments.

“It is like walking into a forest to find some fruit. Afterward, you know every tree in the forest. You know their names, how they grow and when they flower — yet you forget about your initial motivation,” Leung said. He gradually came to realize that reading did not provide an answer to the meaning of life — that could only be achieved through actual deeds. Meaning has come to Leung through his pursuits. Efforts invested in such deeds have become a kind of active meditation.

Leung said that he was initially attracted to

Born in Hong Kong, Leung’s youth was spent with his grandparents in Taiwan. He returned to Hong Kong for schooling when he was 15.



In his early professional years, Leung opened a non-governmental school focused on civil education, published a great many academic works and also hosted a reading program. Two years ago, he recorded the video reading program *A Thousand & One Nights*, which took him all over Beijing.

Buddhism because the religion had 3,000 years of tradition. It has so many schools of thought that he felt that there must be some doctrines that could teach him what he desired to learn. He started to meditate in 2008, and since converting to Buddhism, he meditates for at least an hour a day. He also isolates himself for a period of contemplation at least once or twice a year. “Although I still have not found the answers to my earlier confusions, I know that I have at least found a method,” Leung said.

Of course, this isn’t a method that suits everybody. Leung said that if people ask him about the meaning of life, he usually suggests that they tell their lives as a “story”, because every description will point toward an ending point, and there will be necessary ups and downs along the way. If life can be described as a story, then it has meaning. Reading does not give you the answer, but it gives you the materials and tools you might need to solve problems; the meaning of life is something that you create for yourself.

Thought process

In 2015, Leung left Phoenix Television after more than 20 years and started working with publishing agency Imaginist setting up new brand Vistopia, which has successively released a series of internet videos and audio programs. Cultural figures such as Chen Danqing, Dou Wentao, Ma Shifang, Pai Hsien-yung and Jia Zhangke have joined Leung, with their fresh and inspired broadcasting making the series of programs extremely popular. It has achieved a click volume in excess of 200 million in the year that it has been online. In March 2018, Vistopia held an offline event entitled *Indoor Lifestyles* at the Beijing CHAO hotel, and in the past month it has allowed people to get an insight into different lifestyles through its concept stores, culture and art salons, lectures, workshops and touring theaters.

For Leung, “publishing” simply means providing worthwhile content to the public. Publishing can come in many different forms, such as audio or video programs, and even through objects or product. The programs recorded by Vistopia are just a form of image-based publishing.

Leung is positive when speaking about traditional paper-based publishing. Similar to how cinema cannot replace television and vice versa, new media formats will only help the older formats more accurately find their own role — they will not fully supersede them. Leung said that a phenomenon that has aroused a lot of interest in

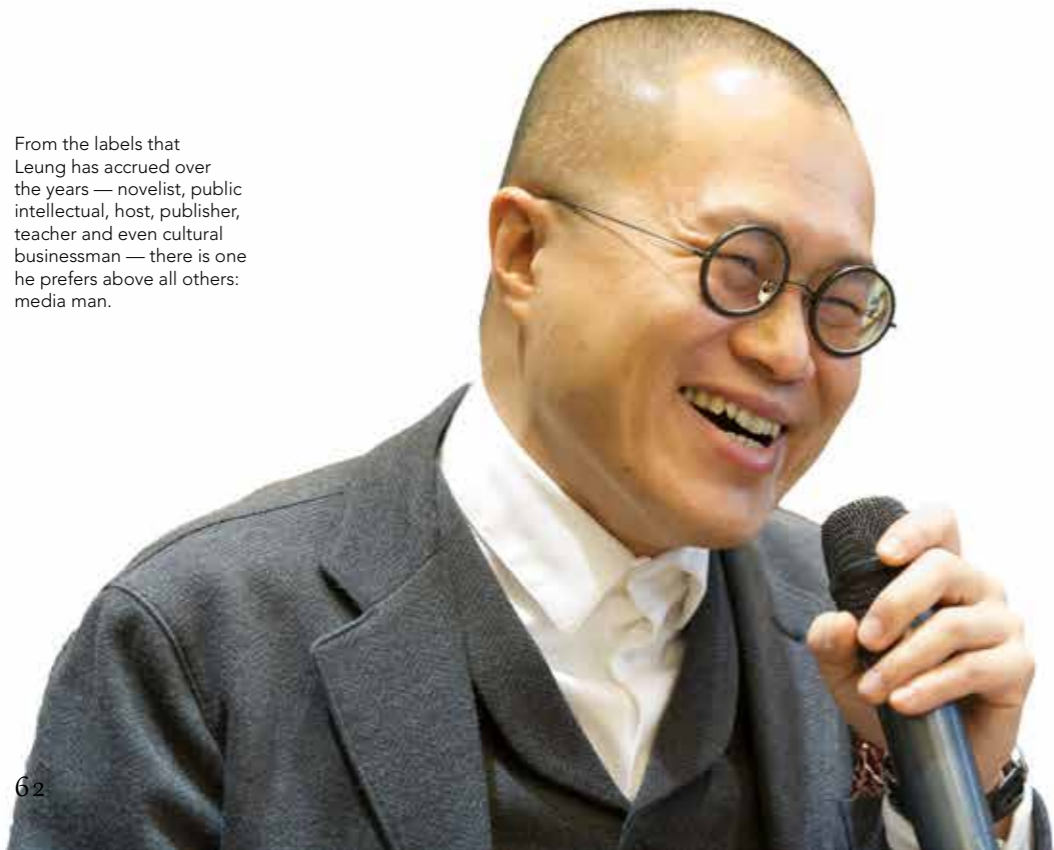
the field of international publishing over the past few years is the variety and number of published traditional paper books being on an upward trend, while electronic publishing, such as the Kindle, has encountered a bottleneck.

Beginning in 2015, the recording of *A Thousand & One Nights* meant that Leung traipsed through almost all of the main avenues and back streets of Beijing. Sharing classic works from a range of different fields, the camera also recorded the full gamut of people experiencing Beijing's nightlife.

Compared to many cultural figures who pay little attention to their attire, Leung has an exquisite, snazzy style. His English-style woolen cap with round glasses, a black cloak and a pair of shining Oxfords on his feet is his classic, ravishingly fashionable look in *A Thousand & One Nights*. His attire each episode leads to fervent discussion amongst netizens, and there are even those who call him "Sherlock Leung".

Leung wholeheartedly approves of the aesthetic education concepts promoted by Cai Yuanpei, president of Peking University and founder of the Academia Sinica, that life is a cover that rests atop of that which lies at the heart — aesthetic education. So-called culture is always just a little bit of sophistication, accumulated day by day, gradually digging deeper, until finally the possibility for a different kind of life emerges.

From the labels that Leung has accrued over the years — novelist, public intellectual, host, publisher, teacher and even cultural businessman — there is one he prefers above all others: media man.



LIFESTYLE



Shanghai's Latest Top Spots for Culinary Excellence / 64

China Conquers Sharing Economy / 70

Chic / 74

Books & Films / 76

The Perfect Tuscan Retreat / 78

Astonishing Waldorf Astoria Tops Shanghai's Heritage Experience / 83

Tomamu Hokkaido: Where Life is a Celebration / 84



SHANGHAI'S LATEST TOP SPOTS

for Culinary Excellence

Text Yang Di

Shanghai has gained the status of being a global gastronomic hub, with its wide offerings of local delicacies and regional Chinese cuisines to the innovative concepts of many young yet established chefs growing their own businesses.

Below, *Sky Times* has listed a few recent openings of note in the city — each have a unique atmosphere and chef's signature dishes alongside a sense of freshness and a strong identity.

H O T S P O T S F O R T H E H U N G R Y



Photo by Yang Di

Dao Jiang Hu

Ginger, a modern favorite Asian restaurant among Shanghai foodies, is embarking on a new venture — this time, moving from modern Asian toward modern Chinese.

Long-time Singaporean restaurateur Betty Ng — the creative mind behind Ginger on the leafy Xingguo Road — recently found an ideal space on Donghu Road to launch her new food concept, which is a fusion of regional Chinese culture with her own personal twist and interpretation.

Ng has named her new restaurant Dao Jiang Hu, which is a Shanghaiese colloquial term that means “messing around”.

The 120-seat indoor dining space is dimly lit with beautifully appointed mood lights, and exudes a cozy, mysterious atmosphere, including vintage Shanghai knickknacks, as well as bold, colorful

paintings by Ng’s friend Basmat.

Each dish is perfectly executed, emphasizing the juxtaposing flavors and textures, while retaining Chinese roots. Some highlights include: lotus chicken in rice crust, baked filled with shiitake and Yunnan ham sticky rice (188 yuan); deep-fried yuxiang spring rolls with pork, mushrooms and mozzarella (48 yuan); barbecued iberico pork collar lotus bun (68 yuan); kong-pao mushrooms with chili crisps, leek and hazelnuts (68 yuan); mapo tofu with feta cheese crumbs (58 yuan); and dandan noodles (38 yuan). Gluten-free options are also available.



Opening hours: 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.-11 p.m. (weekdays); 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m. (weekends)
Tel: 5404-8085
Address: 20 Donghu Rd
Average price per person: 220 yuan (US\$32)



Together

YuYuan Road has always a quiet residential area until recently, when a mix of foodies and well-dressed city dwellers started showing up to wine and dine at Together, a newly opened restaurant with a smart but homely feel.

The interior design is the brain-child of renowned design firm Neri & Hu. As for the food, expect perfectly created dishes made from high-quality produce using innovative methods. Dynamic young chef Bina Yu heads the kitchen. At Together, she brings the best of both Eastern and Western cuisines.

The contemporary, relaxed design space is divided into a dining space for more intimate conversations and a bar table facing the open kitchen where Together allows guests to look inside where the chefs work their magic.

However, everything eventually turned out fine, despite the challenges at the beginning. For Yu, it is essential to be open to new ideas and it helps to give a sense of place to the food and the dining experience.

My dining experience including the two best-selling appetizers: Australian wagyu beef tartar with egg yolk, kimchi and garlic bread crisp (138 yuan); and octopus with gochujang (a Korean fermented condiment), crunchy crumbs and aioli (118 yuan).

The mains are divided into seafood and meat. Pan-seared snapper with basil-shallot oil and yuzu (148 yuan/288 yuan); and New Zealand lamb chop with mint chimichurri and mushroom sauce (148 yuan/288 yuan) are highly recommended.



Opening hours: 10 a.m.-10 p.m. (Monday-Friday); 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. (Saturday); 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Sunday)
Tel: 5299-8928
Address: 546 Yuyuan Rd
Average price per person: 250 yuan (US\$36)

Courtesy of Together

Inkwood

Hidden inside lifestyle destination Columbia Circle (still under construction) at the end of Panyu Road near Yan'an Road West, Inkwood is one of the most talked-about new dining venues in town.

Inkwood is the first restaurant in the complex to officially open.

Its minimalist design features quality, sleek furniture and details in every corner of the dining area that opens to the outside. A welcoming yet soothing vibe is created with the abundant use of contrasting hues, with the open kitchen and bar in the center of the space.

Chinese Star chef Yang Beichuan, who gained wide recognition via reality TV shows, co-owns the restaurant and heads the kitchen. He perfected his culinary skills by spending around 14 years in some of the world's top restaurants, including Canada's Joe Beef, Liverpool House, Maison Publique and Charcut.

On a recent visit, I tried several of the chef's specialties. Though most of the dishes are made with simple ingredients, the final results are more than the sum of their parts. Course after course, each

dish is flavorsome, with meticulous cooking skills and abundant creativity behind them. One of the highlights is beef tongue (78 yuan) — cured tongue with ketchup salsa after seven days of preparation. It looks super simple in presentation, but it's a must-try here.

I also enjoyed the foie gras parfait (103 yuan) served with hawthorn berry jam with toast that was an unusual taste yet well balanced. The confit duck tortellini with chestnut and water chestnut (88 yuan), and turnips braised with miso (58 yuan) are also highly recommended.

Opening hours: 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.-11 p.m. (weekdays); 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m. (weekends)
Tel: 5404-8085 **Address:** 20 Donghu Rd
Average price per person: 220 yuan (US\$32)



Photo by Yang Di



Photo by Betty Richardson

Bird

Bird is born with a clear thought behind its partners — a comfortable neighborhood spot with a well-chosen wine list and short, simple food menu, both of which change frequently to keep people coming back for more.

Camden Hauge, behind Egg cafe and other food events, found an ideal venue on Wuyuan Road that boasts a distinct neighborhood vibe in the middle of Shanghai. The interior has a very clean structure — mostly white and natural wood colors, with touches of rattan elements giving off a natural aesthetic.

Shanghainese chef Chris Zhu was a surgeon for seven years before becoming disillusioned with medicine and turning to his other passion, cooking. He returned to Shanghai, studied at Cordon Bleu and began cooking at a friend's wine bar before meeting Hauge when he walked into Egg to ask about participating in their Chef's Table dinner series.

Bird changes both wine and food menus every two to three weeks, with further specials new on the board every day.

Sitting along the bar table ensures a more intimate dining experience both for your company and to the in-house wine expert, who helps find your ideal pairing with the selected food item.

The team is not trying to pair each dish with a single wine. Rather, they have a curated selection of wines that go with most of their food.

Regarding the food, I tried several dishes for sharing and particularly loved the roasted radish with smoked herring butter and brown bread; sweet potato chips with egg yolk (lemon-and-thyme-cured); rice cakes with bechamel sauce and prosciutto; and steamed blue lip mussels, with their own house-baked bread to sop up the fragrant white-wine broth.

The dessert was equally attractive: a Parisian-inspired lightly sweetened and spiced ricotta scattered with rum-soaked dates and pistachios.



Opening hours: 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. & 5:30 p.m.-11p.m. (weekdays); 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m. (weekends)
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China Conquers Sharing Economy

Text Fannie

The peer-to-peer nature of the rental economy combined with fast innovation, high smartphone penetration, widespread mobile payment, a dense population and users who are more open to the idea of sharing rather than owning things, have all added to the success of the rental economy in China.

Rent a ride

While bike-sharing is no rarity in other parts of the world, the Chinese version has given a whole new meaning to the concept, with customers able to pick up a bike anywhere in the city (thanks to GPS-enabled apps) and leave it anywhere at the end of their journey.

Users simply download an app on their smartphone, which allows them to locate and unlock a nearby bike. It's a cheap service, with providers charging as little as 1 yuan (US\$0.15) for 30 minutes use, meaning bike-sharing is all the rage among students and young professionals across the nation for being convenient, cheap and "green".

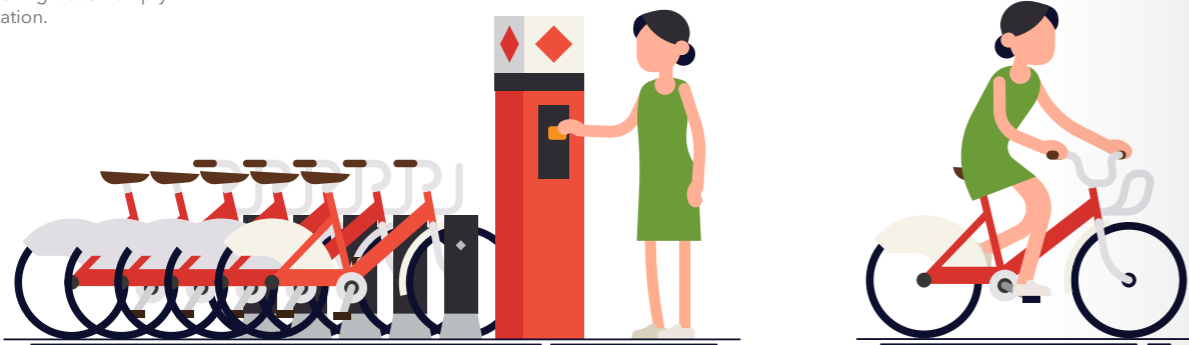
When a trip is completed, riders are encouraged to park at any public bike rack or public location that does not interfere with pedestrians or traffic. It's a different model to traditional bike-sharing programs, where users must pick up and drop off bikes at fixed, designated racks.

The bike-sharing industry has brought many lifestyle changes in China. The ability to use a bike whenever and wherever without having to worry about losing or maintaining the bike offers great flexibility that cannot be imitated by other public transit options.





Woman taking bike from the station, traveling and leaving it at an empty station.



Power-up in public

How many times have you regretted not having charged your phone and/or power bank? Not to mention trying to find a power plug.

Convenience takes precedence in a hectic society like ours and being literally tethered to a charging station constrains our lifestyle. People often find themselves in places of high volumes of human traffic without charging ports or cables readily available, such as at shopping malls, bars, restaurants and train stations.

Therein lies a solution, when charging becomes a service — renting power banks. You do not

have to store your phone in a fixed location, nor do you have to purchase a power bank.

How does it work? The process is simple: download the corresponding app on your mobile phone, rent power banks using a credit system and return them at supporting locations once you are done. All of this is accomplished via GPS and QR codes, a process similar to bike sharing.

Cloud closet

For girls, special occasions and parties mean finding a fashionable or formal dress, which is often costly and then rarely worn afterward. To



solve this problem, websites that rent high-end designer gowns for a fraction of the retail price have emerged at the right moment. “Clothes In The Cloud” gives members the option to pay a monthly fee of less than US\$100 for access to a rotating closet of designer clothes and accessories, which can be rented three at a time and kept for as long as needed.

As a favorite for customers seeking unique, special-occasion dresses, closet-sharing platforms have carved out their own new tech niche in an established industry. By selecting your style preference, closet-sharing websites are capable of

customizing your wardrobe. All you need to do is to pick what you like, add them to the shopping cart and then wait for the apparel and accessories to arrive at your home. You can keep the rented clothes as long as you wish, and return them by simply putting them into the pre-prepared suit bag and waiting for the home service.

Working together

Today, the nature of work is changing. There are companies providing shared workspaces, technology startup subculture communities, and services for entrepreneurs, freelancers, startups, small businesses and large enterprises.

Recruitment, retention, innovation and productivity now require not just coffee, but also yoga, and not just printers, but also art installations. Coworking spaces offers companies of all sizes the opportunity to engage employees through refreshing design, engaging communities and benefits for all.

Companies are able to choose working spaces of different scales, starting with a shared workspace — a flexible hot desk environment in an open space or a permanent dedicated desk in a shared office. You get access to premium amenities with a guaranteed spot to plug in and get to work. There are also private offices — enclosed, lockable offices that can accommodate teams of any size, which are move-in ready, with desks, chairs and filing cabinets. Finally, there are office suites that offer a team a space of their own. The suites include dedicated conference rooms, collaboration lounges, executive offices and a branded reception area.

GLOWING TIPS FOR PERFECT SKIN

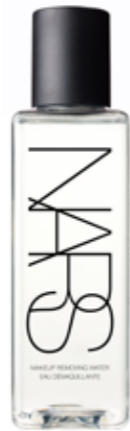
Text Clare



GIORGIO ARMANI
Cream Nera Extrema
Super Renewing Mask



LANCÔME
The Illuminating & Purifying
Exfoliating Mask



NARS
Skin Multi-Action
Hydrating Toner



ORIGINS
Cleansing Makeup
Removing Jelly
with Willowherb

SUPERIOR SKINCARE

Restore the healthy glow of your skin's surface layer, fortifying its natural ability to repair and regenerate. Your skin will be beautiful, resilient and refreshed, leaving you ready to face the day.



CPB
High-performance Serum2



FRESH ROSE
Deep Hydration
Facial Toner



GIORGIO ARMANI
Cream Nera Extrema
Antioxidant Treatment Lotion



LANEIGE
Brush Pact



ESTEE LAUDER
CC Radiant Cushion
Compact



GIORGIO ARMANI
Essence-In-Foundation
Cushion

GYM GLEAM

Forget a plain old healthy glow, this season's skin should sport a straight-from-the-gym gleam. What do you need for this athletic flush? Tons of hydration, light foundations, pearlized cream color shades and highlighters.



NARS
Light Reflecting Setting
Powder-Pressed



BENEFIT
Dandelion Twinkle



NARS
Light Reflecting Setting
Powder-Loose



BENEFIT
The PORE Fessional



Buzz: The Nature and Necessity of Bees
By Thor Hanson

Ecological statistics pertaining to bees carry a sting: More than 75 percent of the world's 115 primary crops require pollination or thrive better through interaction with pollinators.

Bees are the primary pollinators in the animal kingdom, yet sudden and massive die-offs of these insects began in 2006 and continue now, with a 30 percent annual loss reported by North American beekeepers.

These statistics — and the severity of this enormous reduction in bee numbers — is at the heart of *Buzz: The Nature and Necessity of Bees* authored by conservation biologist Thor Hanson.

The now-famous “Colony Collapse Disorder,” where whole populations fall apart when workers go off on foraging trips and never return to the hive, is only part of the story, Hanson emphasizes. Bees face extreme pressures from the four P’s — caused or exacerbated by human encroachment

upon the natural world: parasites, poor nutrition, pesticides, and pathogens.

A skilled communicator, Hanson explain details of these pressures through his interviews with bee biologists and conservationists. *Buzz* shines the most brightly, though, when Hanson’s own adoration of bees comes through: he wanders around the landscape observing them and musing about their natural history in ways that light up the page and make the book a rewarding choice for readers keen on science and nature.

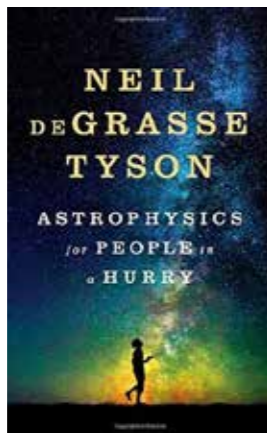
A theme in *Buzz* is the splendid diversity of the world’s bees — a richness tallying to more than 20,000 species — that goes largely unrecognized because honeybees command so much of our attention. Hanson urges his readers to go outside on a sunny day, “find a bee on a flower, and settle down to watch.”

Astrophysics for People in a Hurry

By Neil deGrasse Tyson

What is the nature of space and time? How do we fit within the universe? How does the universe fit within us? There’s no better guide through these mind-expanding questions than acclaimed astrophysicist and best-selling author Neil deGrasse Tyson, who brings the universe down to Earth succinctly and clearly, with sparkling wit, in tasty chapters consumable anytime and anywhere in your busy day.

Tyson riffs on topics such as gravity, the speed and makeup of light, the shape of space, and dark matter, maintaining as chatty a tone as possible as he tries to make these important principles comprehensible to the uninitiated.



Everything We Keep

By Kerry Lonsdale

Planning a funeral is nothing like planning a wedding. Aimee, the protagonist in this marvelous debut, has loved her fiancé, James, since childhood. She’s elated to be finally planning their wedding. But her plans are interrupted by earth-shattering news: James has disappeared and is declared dead after presumed foul play. Aimee finds herself at James’s funeral, her dreams of forever turned into an eternal nightmare.

Everything We Keep explores the devastation of loss, the euphoria of finding love again, and the pulse-racing repercussions of discovering the truth about the ones we hold dear and the lengths they will go to protect us.



Three Identical Strangers

Three strangers are reunited by astonishing coincidence after being born identical triplets, separated at birth, and adopted by three different families. Their jaw-dropping, feel-good story instantly becomes a global

sensation complete with fame and celebrity, however, the fairy-tale reunion sets in motion a series of events that unearth an unimaginable secret — a secret with radical repercussions for us all. You’ll find out sometimes a documentary filmmaker gets hold of a story so perfect — rich details, fascinating characters, and more twists than a thriller — that the smartest decision is to not get in the way.



Ant-Man and the Wasp

From the Marvel Cinematic Universe comes a new chapter featuring heroes with the astonishing ability to shrink: “Ant-Man and the Wasp.” In the aftermath of “Captain America: Civil War,” Scott Lang

grapples with the consequences of his choices as both a Super Hero and a father. As he struggles to rebalance his home life with his responsibilities as Ant-Man, he’s confronted by Hope van Dyne and Dr. Hank Pym with an urgent new mission. Scott must once again put on the suit and learn to fight alongside The Wasp as the team works together to uncover secrets from their past.



Skyscraper

The signature promotional image of “Skyscraper,” the latest Dwayne Johnson summer extravaganza, features the charismatic blockbuster star hanging from a soaring building by only his left hand. His wedding ring gleams prominently in the foreground, illuminated by the deadly blaze that’s raging all around him.

The ring draws our attention as powerfully as the earnest intensity in his eyes, a reminder that — not unlike the “Fast & Furious” franchise in which Johnson figures so prominently — this story is all about family. Mainly, though, it’s a mindless mash-up of “Die Hard” and “The Towering Inferno”: just intense enough to provide a much-needed diversion, just light-weight enough to make you forget about it soon after it’s over. It’s not exactly “good,” per se, but it does what it sets out to do in terms of putting us on edge, which makes it ... successful?

But writer/director Rawson Marshall Thurber has attempted the problematic combination of making you feel good about bravery and resilience while also making you feel nothing about the countless bodies that get blown to bits in a hail of automatic gunfire.

You’re not here to think, though. You’re here to have fun, and “Skyscraper” does indeed provide that in its many dizzying and death-defying action sequences. It’s the connective tissue between the daring stunts that’s flimsy.



The Perfect Tuscan Retreat

Text Patsy Yang

The cozy living area features a fireplace and armchairs in fine cashmere specially fitted with over 1,200 buttons per chair.

Firenze is a Tuscan town where you get the best of both worlds — a strong connection with the wild natural environment and close proximity to the splendid Renaissance city of Florence.

It is here that Florentine designer Stefano Ricci constructed and designed his family's secluded country home so he could make the most of the area's eye-catching scenery and ensure his family live a more simple existence.

"We looked for our dream family house for years," said Stefano's son, Filippo, the creative director of the family's design business.

"While other Florentine families invest in the Chianti region for Tuscan wines, we're more interested in wild natural settings, so we went to explore the Mugello region — a wide, green valley just a few kilometers north of Florence known for its race track owned by Ferrari," said Filippo.

The family bought the plot of land seven years ago and Stefano soon set about radically revamping an old country house set on the land. It took five years to complete the design and renovation.

The 2,400-square-meter house is a striking architectural design inspired by local traditions, materials and Stefano's design identity. Firenze is famous for its production of pietra serena (a grey sandstone used to build several of Florence's palaces), and the family kept the exterior of the property, which is made of hand-carved pietra serena, to show off its historical 15th-century charm, while building "the dream" inside from scratch.

Back in 1993, Stefano chose Shanghai to open his first mono-brand store, with a strategic vision on the future of China that was ahead of its time.

The Florentine luxury menswear brand has since progressively expanded its collections from menswear, leather accessories





and perfumes to the launch of SR HOME in 2009, featuring porcelain and crystal dinnerware, silverware, furnishings, luxury linens and leather home accessories.

“The idea of this family home was to develop a concept for interiors that would suit anywhere in the world, using the soul of our products, but also by being able to adapt to different tastes,” Filippo said.

The exterior blends naturally into the backdrop, while the inside shows the family’s taste for good living and Italian traditions, from raw materials to every single detail of high-level craftsmanship.

The four-level main building is a family living area. The garage on the ground floor keeps six of the family’s vintage Ferrari race cars. “Vintage cars for our family are works of art. We have been collecting vintage cars for years and designed a special garage just for part of our collection,” Filippo said.

The first floor is an open-plan living and dining area with large windows that frame amazing views of nature.

“Your eye is constantly drawn outside. This makes the space feel larger and you can see green everywhere,” Filippo said.

The space has a soaring ceiling chiseled from pietra serena with oak

beams, while the dark oak wood flooring provides a rustic contrast to the precious silk curtains and long crystal-top dining table.

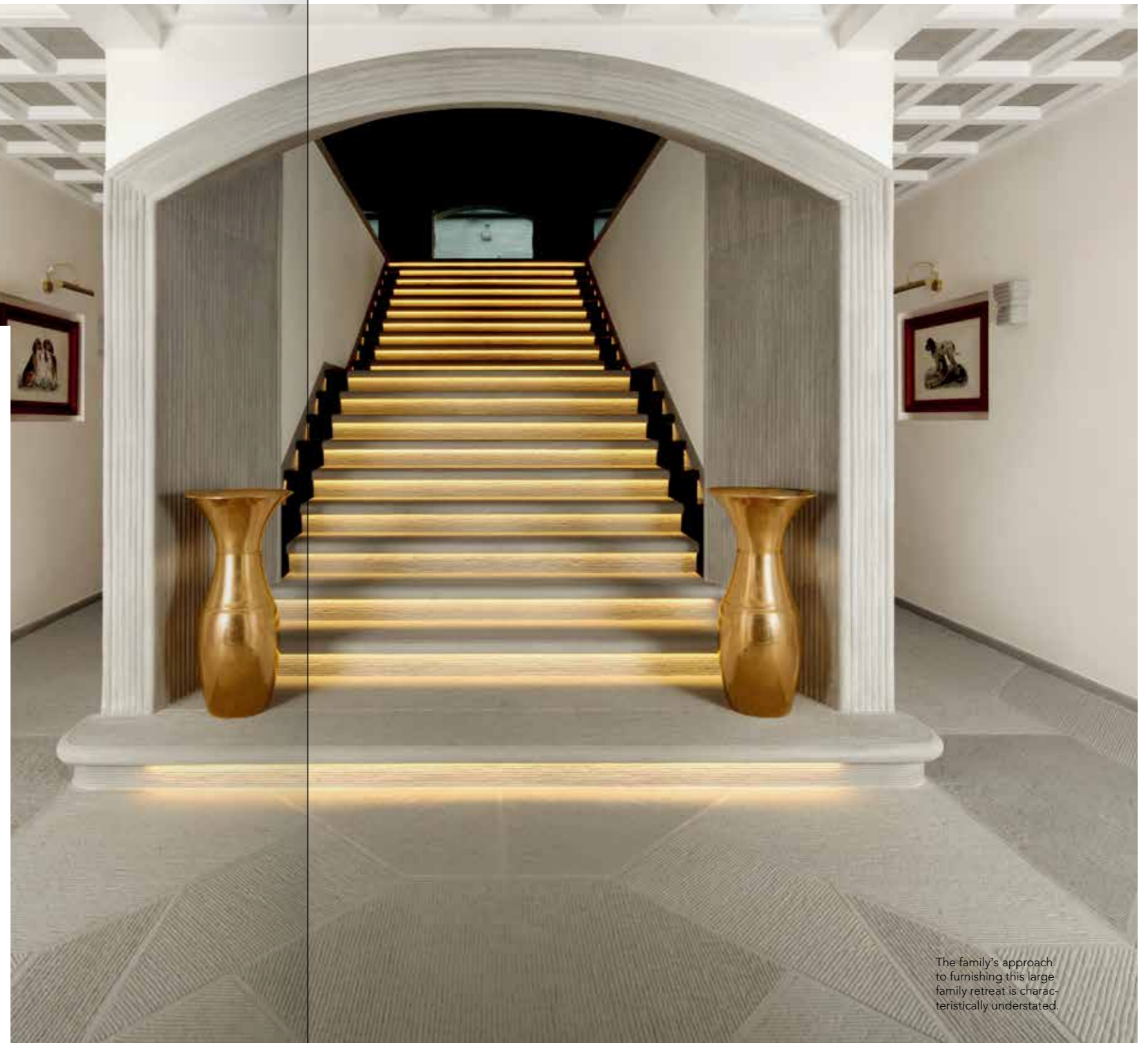
The family’s approach to furnishing this large, flowing space is characteristically understated. They chose the luxury of simplicity in the living and dining areas rather than opulence. It gives a modern vibe with a timeless appeal, which melds harmoniously with distinctive local architecture.

“It’s a family retreat where we can also host friends and clients from around the world,” Filippo said. “This family home is the first 360-degree lifestyle concept to be developed that displays our philosophy. It also gives off a more contemporary image of Stefano Ricci.”

The Ricci family love leather and that is evident in their home furnishings, whereas all of the fabric is silk made in the family’s silk atelier.

Silk was a source of wealth and importance for many noble Florentine families in the 14th century. Around the middle of the 18th century, some noble families decided to establish a workshop that would regroup all of the looms, patterns and fabrics.

Antico Setificio Fiorentino was established in 1786 and, in 2010, Ricci



The family’s approach to furnishing this large family retreat is characteristically understated.



The living area has a soaring ceiling in chiseled pietra serena with oak beams. The dark oak wood flooring contrasted well against the pietra serena.

acquired the historic atelier to guarantee its future and the continuation of its remarkable craftsmanship-based traditions in Florentine hands.

The acquisition of Antico Setificio Fiorentino, together with the launch of the brand's home collection, brought these collections to the attention of the international elite and design world.

The iconic silk fabric in his family home, including sofas, cushions and curtains, are meticulously made by weavers respectfully utilizing the tools and traditions of the past in order to create vibrant designs.

The sumptuous silk fabrics with different patterns and designs in different rooms also showcase the variety of options the home collection

can offer.

Filippo, the family's youngest son, opts for a contemporary style for the private zone of the house, while his brother, Niccolo, goes for richer tones.

Throughout the house, there are several special pieces the family has brought back from their travels — be it a memorable gift from a friend or a triumph from a hunting trip in Africa.

“This house is the Ricci family's private world and each member feels completely at ease here. It's the perfect getaway. We spend time with our parents and kids. As a family business, we work a lot together, but we also share quality time away from work.”

Astonishing Waldorf Astoria Tops Shanghai's Heritage Experience

Text Stella

This autumn, step back in time with Waldorf Astoria Shanghai on the Bund as we take you on a journey through Shanghai's sensational past. Follow us as we help you uncover the Bund's best-kept secrets of a bygone era before revealing how Pudong was transformed into one of the world's most iconic skylines.

Situated at No. 2 on The Bund, Waldorf Astoria is the perfect place from which to start your tour. Constructed at the turn of the last century, the hotel's waterfront building was once home to Shanghai's premiere gentlemen's club — The Shanghai Club. Throughout the years, it has welcomed United States presidents, played host to the city's colonial powers, survived several wars, housed Shanghai's first-ever KFC, and, more recently, become the city's most luxurious hotel — Waldorf Astoria Shanghai on the Bund.

As part of this Heritage Experience, you will be taken on a private tour by a local tour guide, focusing on the history of the Bund, from its time as a port area occupied by colonial forces, all the way up to the development of the area under the Reform and Opening Up Policies introduced across China in the 1970s. The tour will take you along the historic waterfront, before heading down towards Suzhou Creek and the famous Garden Bridge.

You will be guided back to the comfort of the Waldorf Astoria Shanghai on the Bund where you can enjoy a complimentary cocktail at the Long Bar.

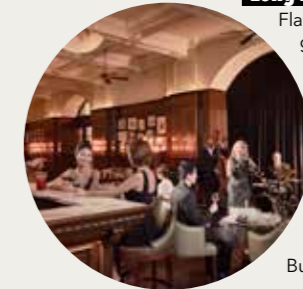
Featuring a luxurious two-night stay at the Waldorf Astoria's Bund Heritage Suite, the exclusive Shanghai Bund Heritage Experience truly is a must for history lovers looking to learn more about this remarkable city during a romantic staycation for two.

The Shanghai Bund Heritage Package can be reserved by calling +86-21-6322-9988 or by emailing Shanghai_on_the_Bund@waldorfastoria.com.



HIGHLIGHTS

Long Bar



Flawlessly restored to the former glory of its 1911 Shanghai Club past, the Long Bar elegantly graces this Shanghai hotel's Waldorf Astoria Club heritage building, providing a blend of classic sophistication and grandeur. Sip on luscious cocktails and admire spectacular sweeping vistas across the Shanghai Bund's Huangpu River.

Pelham's



Pelham's at Waldorf Astoria Shanghai on the Bund features Asian cuisine with an international flavor. Named after Sir Warren Pelham, the British Consul General who launched the exclusive Shanghai Club for gentlemen in 1910, the intimate restaurant is situated at the very same address on the Bund as the legendary Shanghai Club of yesteryear. Within the stately heritage ambience of Waldorf Astoria Shanghai on the Bund, Pelham's at Bund 2 emanates warmth, intimacy and elegance, without being overly formal.

TOMAMU HOKKAIDO

WHERE LIFE IS A CELEBRATION

Text Fannie

Sprawled across more than 145 hectares of Tomamu Mountain, Club Med introduces a thrilling summer escape where boundless activities are waiting to be discovered. Centrally located at the heart of the island, Club Med Tomamu Hokkaido invites you to uncover Hokkaido's summer charm and experience an ideal gateway close to nature.

As the pioneer of all-inclusive premium holidays, the new trendy resort offers endless fun, such as high-flying adventures on a trapeze, the art of face painting, percussion and dance as well as cultural and outdoor activities in the summer.

The most fascinating aspect is the G.O. (gentil organisateur, or friendly organizer) team, which embodies the Club Med spirit. The experienced G.O. team will take you to the mountains for an exhilarating adventure, making Club Med Tomamu Hokkaido your launchpad for a dynamic itinerary of excursions. A mountain-biking adventure along the scenic roadways or a hike all the way to the top will be rewarded with a magnificent view, and is without doubt a sensational summit experience for those keen to uncover Hokkaido's stunning vista and summer shades.

You may get up early to behold the sunrise, as well as witness the magnificent "sea of clouds" natural phenomenon as the clouds rise above the mountains at Unkai Terrace. Bask in the breathtaking panoramic views as you enjoy a cup of coffee 1,088 meters above sea level.

After exploring the vast scenic landscapes in the day, the resort will be ready to entertain you in the evening with the trendiest beats and engaging performances all night long. Creative entertainment shows that are designed to dazzle are held on stage at night, the theme of which varies daily. You may also become a playful part of the dance guided by the versatile G.O. team. The festive evenings reiterate that at Club Med, life is a celebration.

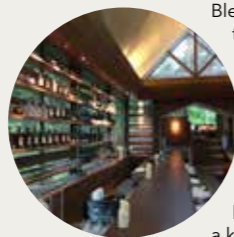
With incredible mountain vistas in every direction from both of the resort's main buildings, a total of 341 rooms and suites at Club Med Tomamu Hokkaido provide a perfect holiday setting for honeymooners, families or friends looking for an adventuresome escape. Here you'll come across design elements that effortlessly blend modern with natural chic. Crafted by award-winning

architect and designer Jean Philippe Nuel, the hotel embodies an urban aesthetic mixed with elements of Japan's colorful four seasons throughout.

Fresh seafood, premium Wagyu beef and award-winning locally brewed spirits make Club Med Tomamu Hokkaido not just a destination to discover, but a culinary journey to enjoy. You can savor a variety of international and Japanese delights at the main buffet restaurant, Itara. Four distinct spaces — Bucolic Valley, Farmhouse, Sea of Clouds and Rays of Sun, as well as Unkai Terrace (only open in summer) — are inspired by Hokkaido regions, each offering a unique gastronomic experience. Haku, the speciality restaurant, provides an authentic farm-to-table yakiniku barbecue experience that you grill right at your table.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Nest bar



Blending old tradition with modern trends, The Nest bar offers a daily immersion into some of the best local whiskies and sakes. You may enjoy a guided tasting of premium Japanese whiskies, such as the award-winning Nikka and Suntory's single malt Yamazaki or Hakushu, as well as local sakes, under the guidance of a knowledgeable bartender, while savoring light bites to pair.

Mina Mina Beach



Making a splash and diving into Japan's largest indoor wave pool is also a must-try experience. Nearby Mina Mina Beach is the perfect place to laze in the cradle of gentle waves and bask in the warm waters all summer long. Floating, swimming or even paddle boarding are all perfect ways to escape from the heat. Don't miss the warm outdoor bath at Kirin-no Yu, which offers a peaceful reprieve. When night falls, countless stars fill the night sky — a delightful treat for both the eyes and soul.

FLYING



Airlines Flying High in 2017 Financial Year Rankings / 86

BCIA Benefits from Transferring Control of Airport Apron / 90

Ask the Captain / 94

News / 96

Airlines Flying High

in 2017 Financial Year Rankings

Text Zheng Xue



FlightGlobal recently released the 2017 Financial Year Global Airline Ranking, which revealed that strong tourist demand and the sustained recovery of the air freight industry led to the global aviation transportation industry posting outstanding results in 2017. The rankings suggested that American airlines posted strong profits; European airlines are likely to enter a new phase of growth following a phase of consolidation; the growth of Middle Eastern airlines slackened; and the performances of airlines in the Asia-Pacific region were varied. So, who are this year's top performers in such a highly competitive global market?

US\$1 billion dollar club

FlightGlobal's worldwide airline ranking showed that the revenue of

the largest 100 airlines grew by more than 10 percent in the 2017 financial year. Of which, 87 airlines published their operating profit for the 2017 financial year, with their gross operating profit falling by nearly 3 percent compared with 2016.

In the 2017 financial year, a record 20 airlines posted operating profit in excess of US\$1 billion, two more airlines than the previous year, with Emirates Airline and Turkish Airlines rejoining the "US\$1 billion dollar operating profit club".

Closer analysis reveals that American airlines account for seven members of the "club", while European airlines occupy four places, mainland China three, and Japan two. It is regrettable that not a single airline from either Latin America or Africa has a presence

in the "club". Chilean LATAM Airlines was the strongest performer in the Latin American market, but only displayed an operating profit of US\$715 million during the 2017 financial year. Africa remains a challenging market. Although Ethiopian Airlines turned a profit, South African Airlines posted a loss. Egyptian Airlines declined to announce their business performance.

Of the three main Middle Eastern airlines, only Emirates made the list. The currently restructuring Etihad Airways posted a loss of US\$1.52 billion. In addition, Qatar Airlines has been forced to reorganize its route network due to disputes arising from the "breakage of diplomatic relationships" in June 2017, with CEO Akbar Al Baker stating that Qatar Airlines would

post "large losses".

The revival of air freight transportation in 2017 is worthy of mention, with air cargo companies such as Luxembourg Cargo, Lufthansa Cargo, Air China Cargo and Singapore Cargo posting profits in excess of US\$100 million, having previously posted either losses or slim profits.

Survival of the fittest

American airlines contributed nearly half of the total profits of the global air transportation industry. One of the key elements of which remains mergers, which has also been one of the reasons why North American airlines have performed better than those of other regions. The Asia-Pacific region and Europe are home to the highest number of airline companies, averaging

more than 240 airlines in each region. The North American region has 104 airlines, of which there are only 11 airlines on trunkline routes. Following multiple bankruptcies and restructuring, the small number of large-scale American airlines have experienced increased competitiveness.

How strong are American airlines? FlightGlobal's data shows that, in terms of the scale of the fleets, annual passenger volume, operational profits and revenue per passenger kilometer, American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, United Airlines and Southwest Airlines occupy the top four slots in the 2017 financial year rankings.

The operational profit of these four most profitable American airline companies was somewhat

lower than the previous year, but they still achieved US\$1.7 billion, comprising 30 percent of the total operating profits of the top 100 airlines worldwide. The net profit of North American airline companies increased for the 2017 financial year, owing to a one-off tax reform bonanza.

The European aviation market underwent a wave of consolidation during 2017. As such, the laws of survival of the fittest applied — the fittest of which appeared in the global airline rankings for the 2017 financial year.

As for revenue per passenger kilometer and operating profit, Lufthansa rose up to No.5 in the rankings, just below the "Big Four" American carriers, but surpassing International Airline Group, and

recapturing its throne as the largest traditional airline in Europe. Lufthansa's revenue even exceeded that of United Airlines, which was ranked No.3. Lufthansa made a net profit of US\$2.36 billion for the 2017 financial year. The main reason for such success was the full acquisition of Brussels Airlines and the acquisition of the majority of assets of Berlin Airlines.

Air France-KLM Group and Lufthansa are engaged in the European wave of consolidation. However, they have different destinies. Although its operating profit had exceeded US\$1 billion for three consecutive years, Air France-KLM Group posted a net loss of US\$313 million for the 2017 financial year, leading to the resignation of the CEO following a breakdown in collective negotiations.

Berlin Airlines and Monarch Airlines are not the only European carriers to

experience operational difficulties, signifying that the wave of consolidation is set to continue. Although bigger does not necessarily mean better, a further round of consolidation might lay the foundations for increased profitability — the precondition being that European airlines are able to turn around loss-making carriers that they take over.

Low-cost carriers

Low-cost airlines continue to play an increasingly important role in the aviation industry. FlightGlobal's data shows that for the 2017 financial year, low-cost carriers and chartered carriers comprised 16 percent of the total worldwide revenue of the top 100 carriers, while the 50 largest low-cost carriers and chartered carriers worldwide exhibited an 11-percent increase in revenue on the previous financial year.

Low-cost airlines occupied three places in the "US\$1 billion operating profit club" — USA Southwest Airlines, Ryanair and JetBlue.

Whilst industry experts believe the center of the global aviation market is shifting eastward, not a single low-cost carrier from the Asia-Pacific region made it into the "club".

The operating profit of the No.1 low-cost airline in the Asia-Pacific region, IndiGo, was only US\$485 million, falling well short of the US\$1 billion mark.

As the forefather of the low-cost carrier industry,

USA Southwest Airlines achieved the highest operating profit and net profit of low-cost carriers in the 2017 financial year, which were US\$3.51 billion and US\$3.49 billion respectively. In fact, USA Southwest Airlines is the third-most profitable airline worldwide. Although Ryanair faced serious challenges, such as flight cancellations, in the 2017 financial year, it still managed to achieve significant profitability, second only to USA Southwest Airlines.

USA Southwest Airlines, Ryanair and JetBlue posted operating profit ratios of 16.6 percent, 23.3 percent and 14.3 percent respectively for the 2017 financial year. In comparison, the most profitable traditional carrier, Delta Air Lines, posted a profitability ratio of 15 percent. The UK's easyJet is another one of Europe's outstanding low-cost carriers, but it failed to enter the "US\$1 billion operating profit club". Its operating profit ratio stands at only 8 percent, lower than that of Lufthansa, which enjoys a rate of 8.4 percent.

In fact the low-cost carrier market is set to continue expanding. Almost all of the 50 largest airlines

in this industry displayed revenue growth in the 2017 financial year, of which 34 carriers sustained double-digit growth. In addition, the low-cost business plays a crucial role for many large-scale aviation groups. Roughly half of the 30 major airlines are currently expanding their low-cost business. As illustrated by the further expansion of Eurowings, Scoot and Level, the low-cost business is a rapidly growing market segment for the parent companies of these low-cost carriers.

Chinese mainland market

The three biggest Chinese mainland airlines submitted impressive results for the 2017 financial year.

Air China, China Eastern and China Southern all joined the "club" by posting operating profits of US\$1.75 billion, US\$1.4 billion and US\$1.36 billion respectively. Air China's operating profit ranked ninth globally, making it the only airline in the Asia-Pacific region to make it into the top-10 ranking of global airlines' operating profits for the 2017 financial year. Such performance even exceeded that

of strong competitors such as Emirates, Macao Airlines and Japan Airlines. Furthermore, the three main Chinese carriers posted net profits in excess of US\$1 billion.

From the perspective of operating profit ratio, Air China, China Eastern and China Southern posted ratios of 9.5 percent, 8.6 percent and 7.2 percent respectively. Although there is still a significant gap between these three carriers and the most profitable airline worldwide, Delta Air Lines, they are already on a par with American Airlines at 9.6 percent, United Airlines at 9.3 percent, and Lufthansa at 8.4 percent.

Different from the mature American carriers, the main three Chinese carriers realized comparatively rapid growth during the 2017 financial year, and also maintained ratios of in excess

of 80 percent seat utilization. From the perspective of seats per kilometer, Air China, China Eastern and China Southern exhibited growth on the previous year of 6.4 percent, 9.6 percent and 9.6 percent respectively. Emirates, which over the past few years has enjoyed rapid growth, has slackened its pace, with its seat per kilometer ratio only increasing by 2.4 percent during the 2017 financial year, with a total seat utilization of 77.5 percent.

Against the backdrop of increased demand from the buoyant tourism industry, the three main Chinese carriers rely on the enormous Chinese market and flourishing international markets, while looking to expand further and continuing to strengthen their international competitiveness and profitability.



BCIA

BENEFITS FROM TRANSFERRING CONTROL OF AIRPORT APRON

Text Li Fangfang, Wang Ningning & Lyu Simin

“SIA801, Beijing apron, push back and start-up approved – Runway 36R, face south.”

“SIA801, Beijing apron, push back and start-up approved — Runway 36R, face south.”

A brief instruction is issued from the 9th floor of the Eastern Tower of the Beijing Capital International Airport (BCIA) — the world’s second-busiest and China’s largest airport — at 00:00 on June 21, marking the opening of a brand-new mode of operation and the complete transfer of control of the aircraft apron from the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) North China Air Traffic Management Bureau.

The move will help large domestic airports explore new ways to coordinate apron operations and guarantee the improved safety level and efficiency of airport ground operations, as well as increase convenience for passengers.

With an annual passenger throughput of more than 95 million, three runways, three terminals and a complicated taxiway system, great hopes have been pinned on the transfer of control over the apron at BCIA.

Aviation experts have said that if the transfer of control at BCIA is proved to improve safety and

efficiency, it will set a standard across the industry as a whole.

How to improve the utilization rate of jet bridges through scientific management is one of the breakthrough points for large airports to improve their operation efficiency. For this reason, BCIA and the bureau will further improve the comprehensive abilities of ground support, optimize the aircraft towing process, boost towing efficiency and effectively enhance the utilization rate of aircraft stands near boarding gates so as to optimize passengers’ flight experience.

Following the takeover, the

movement of aircraft in the apron area will be commanded by the airport. “In this way, once the jet bridge is empty, we can drag the plane from the nearby remote stand to the stand near jet bridge to reduce the number of passengers taking the ferry bus,” said Lu Ke, deputy general manager of the Airplane Operating Control Center of Beijing Capital International Airport Co., Ltd.

How busy was the ATC Command Center at BCIA? Statistics from the bureau show that the number of flights taking off and landing during peak hours has exceeded the 88 flights approved by the CAAC, with peak times experiencing 114 flights.

“After the transfer of control over the apron, the workload of our controllers has been reduced, so they can pay more attention to the runway’s intrusion prevention and collision prevention to ensure the safety of takeoff, landing and sliding,” said Zhou Hang, deputy

director of Air Traffic Control at the bureau.

“One of the reasons for the improved efficiency is that BCIA can fully address the connection of various links of ground support and reduce flight delays,” said Tang Chuanjun, secretary of the Party Committee of the Airport Corporation’s Operation Control Center.

In addition, in terms of the Capital Airport A-CDM (Airport Collaborative Decision-making) System, each flight has a green time axis, and the time of each key support node of the flight is clear at a glance. The airport can fine-tune the release sequence in time according to the departure time given by Air Traffic Control and the specific preparation conditions of each flight so as to reduce flight delays.

According to the agreement between the bureau and BCIA, the two sides have also optimized the rules for ground sliding and allocation of parking spaces in the airport, thus reducing the conflict between sliding and pushing out, and shortening the time for ground sliding.



In preparation, BCIA commissioned the China Civil Airports Association to carry out consultation on the transfer of airport control. The consultation team went to Hangzhou, Guangzhou, Xi'an and other domestic airports, as well as to overseas airports such as Atlanta and Dallas, to establish the Plan for Transfer of Airport Control at the Capital Airport in cooperation with the CAAC North China Regional Administration, the bureau and the Civil Aviation University of China to clarify the specific work on transfer mode, personnel team, facilities and equipment.

Since the formal report of the plan in November 2017, BCIA and the bureau have adhered to the long-standing tradition of working closely together. Based on the principles of "cooperation, coordination, understanding and friendship", the two sides have strictly controlled safety and efficiency issues and continually held discussions, cooperating efficiently.

"It is almost impossible to form a community without efficient cooperation between the two sides to carry out personnel training, work procedures and infrastructure construction," said Zhao Ying, general manager of the Operation Control Center of the Capital Airport Corporation. In terms of the establishment of rules and systems, the two sides jointly formulated the Operation Manual for the Apron Control Room at the Capital Airport and signed the Operation Agreement for Apron Control in June 2018.

Li Jiechao, the commander of the Airport Apron Control Room at BCIA, who is among the first batch of people to take up their post, said when recalling the training process: "Air Traffic Control has given us great support. Whether it's standard calls, or the development of situational awareness and cultivation of good control habits."

Hao Yalin, deputy director of the bureau's Tower Control Room,



who was also involved in this project, said: "As trainees from BCIA were all very active and cherished the internship opportunity, they completed the training on schedule and all passed the release test."

Thanks to the joint efforts of the two sides, the first batch of 10 airport control officers passed the release exam and were ready to take up their posts in early June. In addition, the bureau also arranged 12 controllers to accompany them after the handover.

According to the requirements of the bureau, the tower of each apron operation station shall be equipped with a command room and an equipment room. In addition, there is also a need for toilets and restrooms. For this reason, the

bureau has set aside its rest area to build an apron control room for the airport. BCIA has simplified and accelerated the pace of procedures, completing five construction projects, including the apron control facility construction project in the East Zone of the airport and the Capital Airport VHF construction project. At the same time, the two sides completed the construction and commissioning of command, communication and information systems.

It only took eight months to successfully complete the transfer of airport control, involving 32 specific tasks. Under normal circumstances, these construction projects would take much longer.

Safety is the top priority for BCIA.

The bottom line is that safety must be maintained, but to ensure safety requires time to train personnel.

BCIA has recently recruited 32 university graduates, who will receive on-the-job training after graduating in July. Industry experts said that according to the rules on air traffic control operation, release controllers, whether old or new, are a potential safety risk and require adequate training to prevent such risks. In addition, whether this newly-established team is in a position to handle special and complex situations or emergencies needs to be further tested and measured.

The improvement of operational efficiency will also be one of the important tests. Experts have suggested that how to scientifically and rationally use resources to optimize the process needs further exploration, adding that as a super-large airport, BCIA can only learn from its own actual operating experiences.

For example, the airport is faced with many problems, such as how to simplify the towing process of the aircraft apron, how to reasonably arrange the use of covered bridge seats, and how to make the connection between various links of aircraft flight support in ground operations more smooth. All these problems require the airport to tap various support resources in a more proactive manner in order to improve the support ability and efficiency. In addition, after the transfer of control, more reasonable ground sliding routes and further shortening of sliding distances are the expectations of airlines and the public.

The spiritual realm of "success does not necessarily depend on me" and the historical responsibility of "success cannot be achieved without me" are the portraiture of air traffic controllers and airport personnel in the process of the transfer of airport control at BCIA. Facing up to challenges and difficulties, they are working hand-in-hand to progress steadily.

Why Flying High Makes Safer Skies



Yang Yong

China Eastern Airlines
Plane type: Airbus A330
Hours of flight: Nearly 16,000 hours

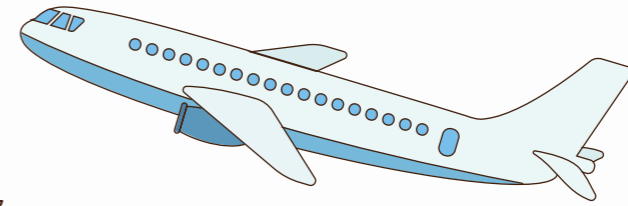
Q: Airplanes travel at high speeds in the air, and sometimes the visibility is quite low, so how do you steer clear of other aircraft?

Yang: An airplane's route in the air is simply called the flight route or airway. The flight route of the plane not only determines the specific direction, starting point and waypoint of the flight, but also specifies the width and flight level of route according to regulation of air traffic control, so as to maintain air traffic order and ensure flight safety. Airplanes are flown according to routes established by the air traffic control office, and air traffic controllers make allocations

according to the speed, altitude and heading of each airplane to ensure that there is a safe distance both horizontally and vertically between each aircraft.

Civil aviation passenger planes are equipped with an anti-collision system, known as the Traffic Collision Avoidance System (TCAS). This enables an airplane to continuously send inquiry signals in all directions. This kind of signal is similar to a radar pulse signal, with an effective transmission distance

of several tens of kilometers. When a plane with a transponder enters this airspace, the warning lights in the cockpit will flash and let out a warning sound to remind the pilots that other planes are approaching. At the same time, another plane's orientation, distance and altitude will be displayed on the screen. If the situation threatens the safety of the aircraft, the system will directly instruct the pilot to descend or climb to avoid a collision with another airplane.



Shan Guodi

China United Airlines
Plane type: Boeing 737
Hours of flight: More than 5,900 hours

Q: Why do passenger airplanes often fly at altitudes of 10,000 meters and higher?

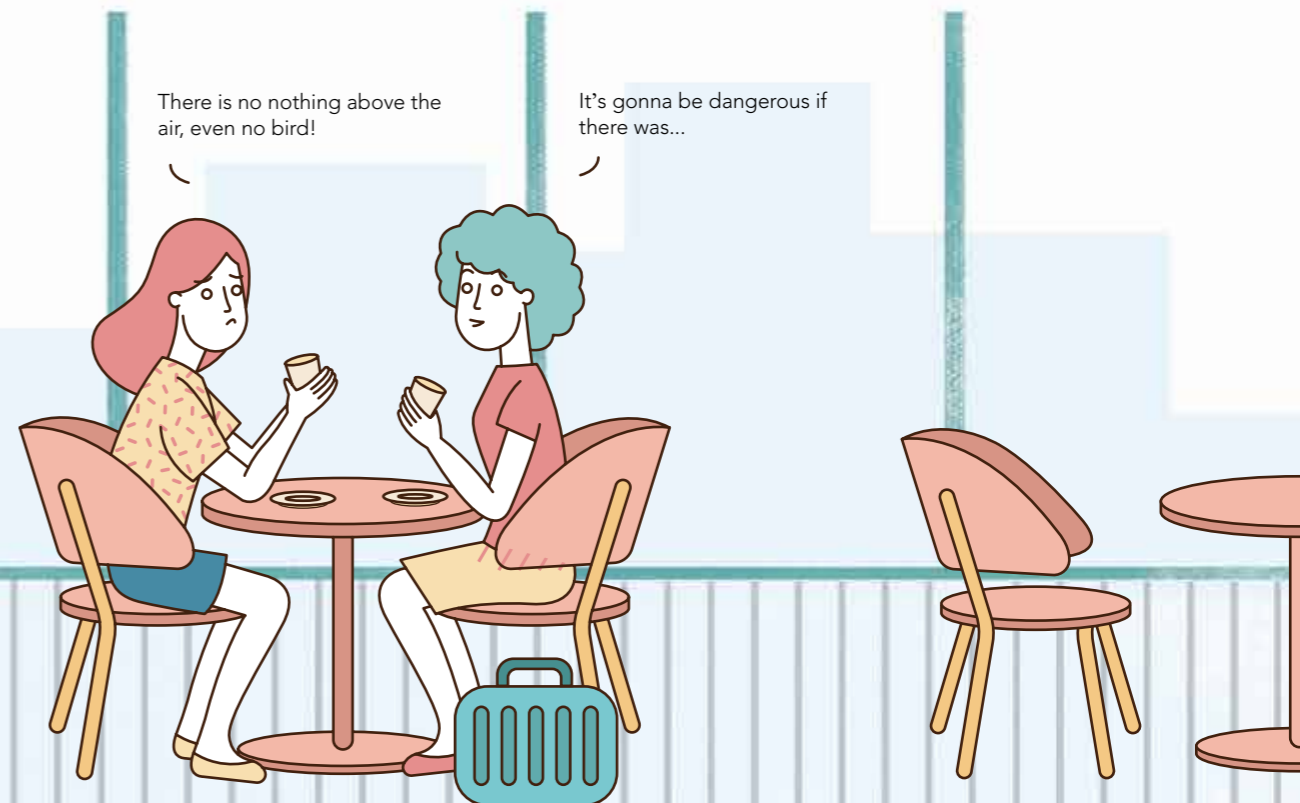
Shan: There are many factors that determine the altitude of a plane: First, the altitude of a plane is planned according to the altitude specified in the air force control regulations. The planned height of domestic routes within two hours is generally in the range of 8,900 to 10,100 meters, but aircraft may be deployed to higher altitudes due to controlled airspace. At this altitude, an airplane is flying near a relatively stable and powerful tropopause between the troposphere and the stratosphere. The air density at this altitude is low, which makes flying more

fuel-efficient than at low altitudes. Although it is sometimes disturbed by cumulonimbus clouds, the atmospheric conditions are much better than at low altitudes, making it more suitable for flying.

Second, the resistance is low at high altitudes, which is beneficial to high-speed flight. High-altitude weather is stable and sudden turbulence causing danger to an airplane rarely occurs. Due to high altitudes, no grounding collisions will occur. High-altitude flight provides enough time to troubleshoot an aircraft. It is also possible for an airplane to suddenly descend more

than 100 kilometers from high altitudes, maybe due to a sudden loss of power. With low-altitude flights, this would lead to a crash.

In general, high-altitude flight for civil aviation aircraft increases safety and comfort, and helps to save energy. Airplanes flying on short routes usually fly at altitudes between 6,000 and 9,600 meters, while those flying on long routes usually fly at altitudes between 8,000 and 12,600 meters. Currently, the maximum altitude of ordinary civil aircrafts does not exceed 12,600 meters, but for some private jets, it can be up to 15,000 meters.



Singapore Airlines to Offer ‘Wellness Cuisine’ on World’s Longest Flight

Singapore Airlines will offer “wellness cuisines” on its upcoming 18-hour, 45-minute flight between Singapore and New York, aimed at improving passenger comfort on what is soon to be the world’s longest commercial flight.

The airline will be partnering with wellness brand Canyon Ranch to develop new nutrition-focused menus along with scientifically backed sleep, exercise and stretching strategies designed to aid sleep and reduce jetlag.

The airline has confirmed two

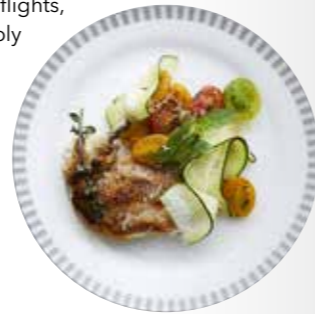
dishes so far: “Seared Chicken and Zucchini Pappardelle”, featuring pasta-cut zucchini, Parmesan, braised tomatoes, lemon vinaigrette and micro basil; and “Lox Eggs Benedict”, with a whole-wheat English muffin, chive cream cheese, smoked salmon, organic egg omelette and yogurt hollandaise.

The new suite of services will first be available on Singapore Airlines’ ultra-long-haul non-stop flights to New York (Newark), before being extended to its Los Angeles and San

Francisco flights.

The airline has been taking steps to improve the passenger experience on its longest flights, most notably

with the way it has laid out its Airbus A350-900ULR, which will fly these routes.



Air China and Sichuan Airlines Receive First Airbus A350-900s



Air China and Sichuan Airlines have both taken delivery of their first Airbus A350-900 aircraft, becoming the first Chinese airlines to operate the wide-body aircraft. Initially, both carriers will deploy their new aircraft on domestic routes before shifting them over to services to international destinations.

Air China configures its A350 with

three classes, offering a total of 312 seats. The Business Class cabin has 32 seats laid out in a 1-2-1 reverse herringbone format, meaning all passengers get direct access to the aisle. Meanwhile, the Premium Economy cabin has 24 seats laid out in a 2-4-2 format, and the Economy cabin offers 256 seats in a nine-abreast configuration.

Sichuan Airlines’ A350 offers just two classes, Business and Economy, with 28 seats in the former and 303 in the latter for a total capacity of 331 seats. The aircraft, which sports a special panda-themed livery, is the first of four that it will lease from Aer-Cap. However, earlier this year, the carrier firmed an order with Airbus to purchase an additional 10.

China Eastern Airlines and Japan Airlines Agree Joint Venture

A new joint-venture agreement between China Eastern Airlines and Japan Airlines is in the works. The two carriers signed a memorandum of understanding on Aug. 3, with the aim of pursuing a joint-business partnership sometime in the 2019 financial year.

According to a joint statement from the airlines, the agreement seeks to encompass Japan Airlines’ domestic network of more than 50 cities and China Eastern’s domestic network comprising more than 80 destinations.

Notably, the two airlines are members of rival airline alliances – Japan Airlines is a member of Oneworld, while China Eastern is a member of SkyTeam. A joint-business partnership would therefore give both airlines, and passengers, greater access to these markets.

That being said, the greatest benefits of a joint-venture agreement are the airlines themselves, since carriers share revenue on flights that fall under a joint venture, regardless of which airline is operating them.

Routes

Shanghai ⇄ London

China Eastern Airlines will launch non-stop flights between Shanghai Pudong Airport and London Gatwick starting on Dec. 7 this year. Currently available for booking on the airline’s website, the new route is expected to operate three times a week – Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

The departure from Shanghai is at 1:45 a.m., landing at Gatwick at 6:30 a.m. the same morning. The return leg departs London around noon and lands back in Shanghai early the following morning.

Shenyang ⇄ Los Angeles

China Southern’s proposed new flights between Shenyang and Los Angeles will commence on Dec. 18, giving the capital of China’s northeastern Liaoning Province and the West Coast city their first non-stop connection. Flight CZ609 departs Shenyang on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 1:20 a.m., arriving in Los Angeles at 9 p.m. the following day. The return Flight CZ610 leaves Los Angeles at 12:40 a.m. and lands in Shenyang at 5:10 a.m. the following day.

Hangzhou ⇄ Moscow

Capital Airlines launched a new flight from Hangzhou to Moscow on July 31. Flight JD475 departs Hangzhou on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9:40 a.m., arriving in Moscow at 3:20 p.m. Flight JD476 leaves Moscow at 5:20 p.m. and lands in Hangzhou at 8:05 a.m. the following day.



Turkish Airlines’ total revenue increased by approximately 30 percent during the first half of 2018 compared with the same period of last year, reaching US\$6 billion. Thus, having displayed a remarkable growth performance in 2017, Turkish Airlines managed to increase both passenger and cargo revenue in the first half of this year.

The airline managed to increase net operating profit up from US\$17 million to US\$258m, due to increasing demand and unit revenues, despite the increasing fuel prices.

In the first half of the year, earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, amortization and rent (EBITDAR), which is used as a cash generation indicator, stood at US\$1.2bn, representing a 38-percent increase. The EBITDAR margin improved by 1.5 percentage points to 21.5 percent. This value is the

highest first-half EBITDAR that Turkish Airlines has ever achieved, with the airline continuing to be one of the most profitable carriers in the sector.

During the first half of the year, total load factor climbed 4.3 percentage points to 80.4 percent, marking the highest load factor in Turkish Airlines history for the first half. During the same period, increase in total number of passengers carried, capacity (available seat kilometers) and demand (revenue per kilometer) was 18 percent, 9 percent and 16 percent respectively over the same period last year. Turkish Airlines carried more than 35 million passengers during this period. According to the International Air Transport Association’s figures for the first five months, the global aviation sector realized capacity growth of 6 percent and demand growth of 7 percent.

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