

SKY TIMES

Inflight Magazine

003 JAN/FEB 2017

**New Year's Resolutions for
the Year of the Rooster**

China's Aviation
Superpower Goal Takes Off

Ice Paradise
on Earth

Pushing the Limits
of **3D Printing**

AIR FRANCE-KLM:

TIGHTENING TIES WITH EUROPEAN HOTSPOTS

Hot Cocktails

to warm up your winter

**Bringing in the New Year
with Nianhua**

Italy's
Undiscovered Jewel

Dramatic Dreams in
Oriental Venice

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EDITOR'S letter

Warm Wishes for the New Year

When the clocks strike midnight and the New Year is ushered in, people all around the world will celebrate with excitement and anticipation, wishing each other a wonderful beginning to the New Year. In Chinese culture, 2017 is the Year of the Rooster, which is endowed with many beautiful meanings. On behalf of the entire *Sky Times* team, I send my best wishes to you, our dearest readers, and wish you a very “Happy New Year”.

People always say the first step is the hardest. For *Sky Times*, 2016 was a memorable year, leaving so many impressive moments captured in my mind, in addition to having published just two issues. *Sky Times* is a young publication, so there are lots of things we need to learn, but I am so happy that our magazine has already received so much attention from all of you; with your support and encouragement, we can do better and go further.

In the New Year issue, we bring you many interesting stories. Wuzhen, the dynamic water town in the Yangtze River Delta of China, shows you a dramatic dream of oriental Venice, and serves as a transition from ancient to modern China (page14). Then we move to the real Italy, to take a journey through the two historic regions of Emilia and Romagna and discover the remains of invaluable treasures along a Roman road that boasts a 2,000-year history (page24).

For Chinese, the most important festival of the year is Spring Festival. During the weeklong holiday, most Chinese will choose to go back to their parents' home, while others will take a family trip. So we will show you some traditional culture, such as *nianhua*, also known as the New Year's picture, which originated from the pictures of Chinese door gods used during the Qin Dynasty. For thousands of years, *nianhua* served not only as colorful ornaments used during Chinese New Year, but as representations of Chinese culture, aesthetics, beliefs and morals (page30).

If you stay with family, how to cook Spring Festival dinner should be the first you need to consider. Fear not, as our food columnist, Mike Peters, will give you the recipes you need and his ideas for the greatest festive feast (page70). We also bring you the best hot cocktails to warm you up this winter (page66).

What is your New Year's wish? This remains one of the most popular questions asked at this time of year. Everybody has plans for the coming year – can you pick the wish that matters to you most? In this issue, we ask 16 ordinary people to share their New Year's wishes with us. Check it out, maybe you will find you have something in common (page58).

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

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



Cao Shenshen

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Making a Splash

A trainer performs with a dolphin at the Moscow Oceanarium of Russia on Dec. 9, 2016 as part of a show to celebrate the New Year.







Woman and Dog under Supermoon

Light from a supermoon casts a woman and dog in silhouette in Gryon, Switzerland on Dec. 12, 2016. The phenomenon happens when the moon is full at the same time as, or very near, perigee – its closest point to Earth on an elliptical, monthly orbit. There are likely as many as three supermoons per full moon cycle, the period between alignments of the lunar perigee with the sun and the Earth.



Diving in at the Deep End

Children dive into a tide pool in Cape Town, South Africa. The scenic country has rolling hills, desolate land and high mountains, but the most beautiful of all is its long coastline. The diverse, multicultural nation, capping the southern tip of the sprawling continent of Africa, has a 2,735 km coastline bordering two oceans.



Noble Presentation of Nobel Prize

King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden awards the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2016 to Jean-Pierre Sauvage in Stockholm on Dec. 10, 2016. The prize was awarded jointly to Sauvage, Sir J. Fraser Stoddart and Bernard L. Feringa “for the design and synthesis of molecular machines”.



Running as Santa Claus for Good Cause

Thousands of people wearing Santa Claus costumes warm up before the Santa Claus Run in Stockholm on Dec. 11, 2016. Runners participated in a 5 km or 10 km fun run. The Santa Claus Run is an internationally recognized holiday tradition that attracts families, businesses, locals and tourists. The event helps to raise funds to support programs and services for people with disabilities.

What makes



Chairman

Made of natural materials, Chairman is an armchair with iconic appeal. It is manufactured using recycled fleece felt and offers a kind of comfort comparable to that of a padded shell chair. Its minimalist, distinct style, combined with the base frame made of wood or metal, produces an attractive chair series for both the public and private sectors.



Cobra

The Cobra lounge chair has an inclined seat made of stretchable material, which conforms to the contours of the body, thus increasing seating comfort. As soon as the user sits down, they sink into the chair as if it were a cushion. It rests on a flexible construction made of stainless steel or chromeplated tubular steel, which follows the movements of the user and allows flexibility.



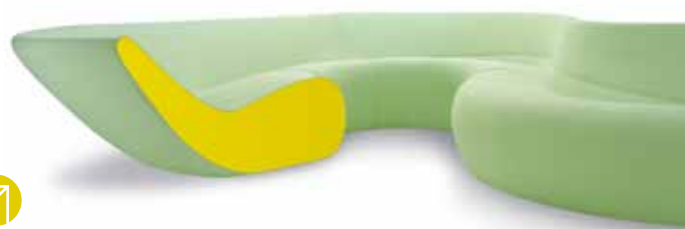
Wyspa

The Wyspa collection offers an original solution for integrated interior and furniture design. Each sofa is embedded in a surrounding wall element. Placing several elements adjacent to each other provides an atmosphere conducive to intimate conversation, while positioning them opening out toward a room is an option for an unconventional meeting. The collection includes armchairs and sofas, with either two or three seats, along with vibrant or pastel-colored upholstery.



Circle Sofa

The Circle Sofa is a simple, elemental shape and one instinctively attributes it with particular characteristics. It symbolizes intimacy and a feeling of security. Due to its geometric consistency, the circle provides reliable orientation within a room. The sofa unit is made up of four parts, two of which make up a semicircle; all of which together create a round sculpture.



Neva Light

Neva Light is an elegant solid wood chair. It is defined by its organic lines, which take their inspiration from the simplicity of natural wood. Modern manufacturing methods enable the mass production of even the most complex parts of the chair and reinforce traditional wooden joints at the right points. That results in a chair that is as light as possible, while still ensuring it is sturdy and functional.



a good chair ?



Scarlett

Scarlett is both a sofa and a chaise longue. The round seat is encircled by a ring of brushed and burnished steel that supports a system of saddle leather straps. This construction serves as an armrest and a backrest simultaneously. The frame is made of solid beech wood, while the sofa is equipped with eight castors that allow it to rotate 360 degrees.



Perillo Lounge Chair

The sculptural appearance of this piece of furniture displays an individualistic style. A futuristic and extravagant look combined with an extraordinary seating experience are the striking features of this lounge chair. The inviting textile lamination of the seat and armrests, available in various colors, attractively contrast with the smooth plastic surfaces.



The Shnug

The Shnug was designed for multifunctional use in bars, lounges, clubs, cafes or for use poolside. Made from polyethylene, using rotational molding, this multipurpose chair is recyclable. Its robust surface can withstand the considerable stress of commercial use both indoors and outdoors.



Züco Little Perillo

The shell of Züco Little Perillo is manufactured using the so-called in-molding process and is made of flexible polyurethane foam. The result is a high-quality surface that can be toned in two different colors, on the inside and outside, in one manufacturing step.



Pelikan

This chair has been designed to reflect the typical beak form of a pelican. It proves its value in all places where one has to sit for extended periods, such as in libraries, conference rooms or at reception desks. Imitating the space where the bird stores food is a storage area for a book, laptop or bag. The chair comes in two versions — with or without armrests — which are available in a cosy, comfortable material.



What's the most impressive drink you've ever tried in China?

I like *baijiu* and I drink some on special occasions. On my travels, I have tasted *baijiu* from all over China, but my personal favorite is *baiyunbian baijiu* from the small city of Songzi in Hubei province.

Most impressive drink? Honestly, I have been addicted to pearl milk tea since day one. I have it at least two or three times a week, even if I am abroad.

The black truffle martini by Frankie Zou at Botany bar in Beijing. He makes his own bitters and his cocktails have intriguing Asian elements. He also uses smoke to make some presentations almost magical.

Not sure what it is called, but it is sweet, with pear and mushroom in it.



Mark Levine
(United States, Professor)



Lilla
(Hungary, Flight Attendant)



Mike Peters
(United States, Journalist)



Kathita
(Thailand, Engineer)

What's the most charming scenic spot in China you've ever been to?

Having traveled to 25 provinces in China, it is difficult to pick a favorite, so I will choose the place I have been to most often – Zhangjiajie's Wulingyuan Scenic Area in Hunan province. I have been there seven times. The karst rock formations are extraordinary and are said to have been used as a model for the mountains in the movie *Avatar*. I wrote a song about the legend of the origins of Tianzi Mountain. I have visited the Yellow Mountain Cave several times and have performed in the beautiful, state-of-the-art Hallelujah Theater several times.

Two years ago, during university, I did a lot of traveling and the most impressive place I visited was the Leshan Buddha in Sichuan province. It was breathtaking, not only the size, but the whole surroundings. It took us two hours of walking in the rain to get there, but it was worth every minute.

Erhai Lake in Dali. It is a gorgeous mountain setting, and it is great fun to go out in a boat and watch the fish eagles hunt for their lunch.

The Great Wall at Mutianyu in the winter.



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Heading Home for the Holiday

In Chinese culture, Spring Festival means going back home and celebrating the holiday with family. Millions of Chinese will be making their way home from the beginning of January. The Spring Rush, as it is called, is the largest annual migration of people in the world. This year, Spring Rush comes earlier and will last for 40 days, from Jan. 13 to Feb. 21. Recently, a report by *Qunar*, a Chinese online travel platform, said the most centralized outbound days of Spring Rush 2017 will start on Jan. 24, four days ahead of Spring Festival, while inbound days will start on Feb. 2. According to the report, the top 10 departure cities will be Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu, Shenzhen, Chongqing, Guangzhou, Kunming, Xi'an, Haikou and Hangzhou.



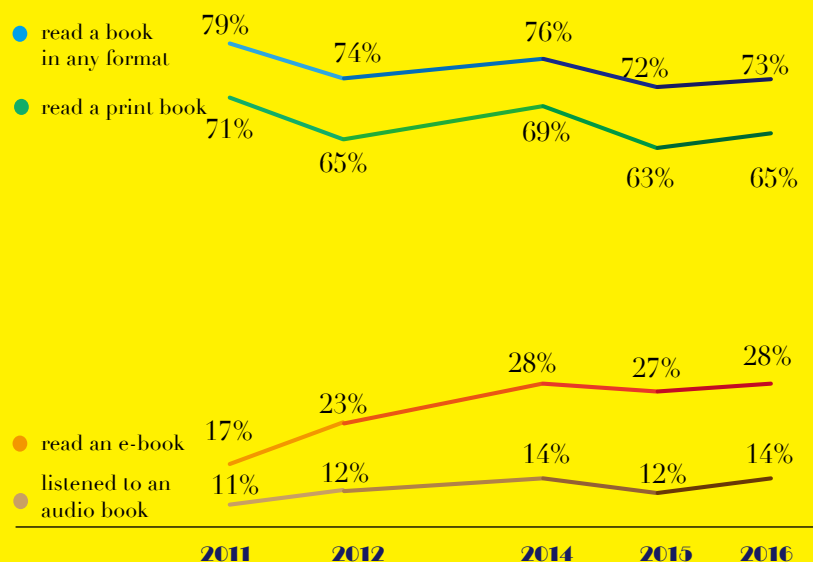
Source: Qunar.com

BOOK READING 2016

United States citizens today have an enormous variety of content available to them at any time of day, and this material is available in a number of formats and through a range of digitally connected devices. Yet even as the number of ways people spend their time has expanded, a *Pew Research Center* survey found that the share of US citizens who have read a book in the past 12 months, 73 percent, has remained largely unchanged since 2012. In addition, when people reach for a book, it is much more likely to be a traditional printed copy than a digital version. A total of 65 percent of those surveyed have read a printed book in the past year, more than double the share that has read an e-book, 28 percent, and more than four times the share that have consumed book content via audio methods, 14 percent.

PRINT BOOKS CONTINUE TO BE MORE POPULAR THAN E-BOOKS OR AUDIO BOOKS

% of US adults who have _____ in the last 12 months



Source: Pew Research Center

TRAVEL



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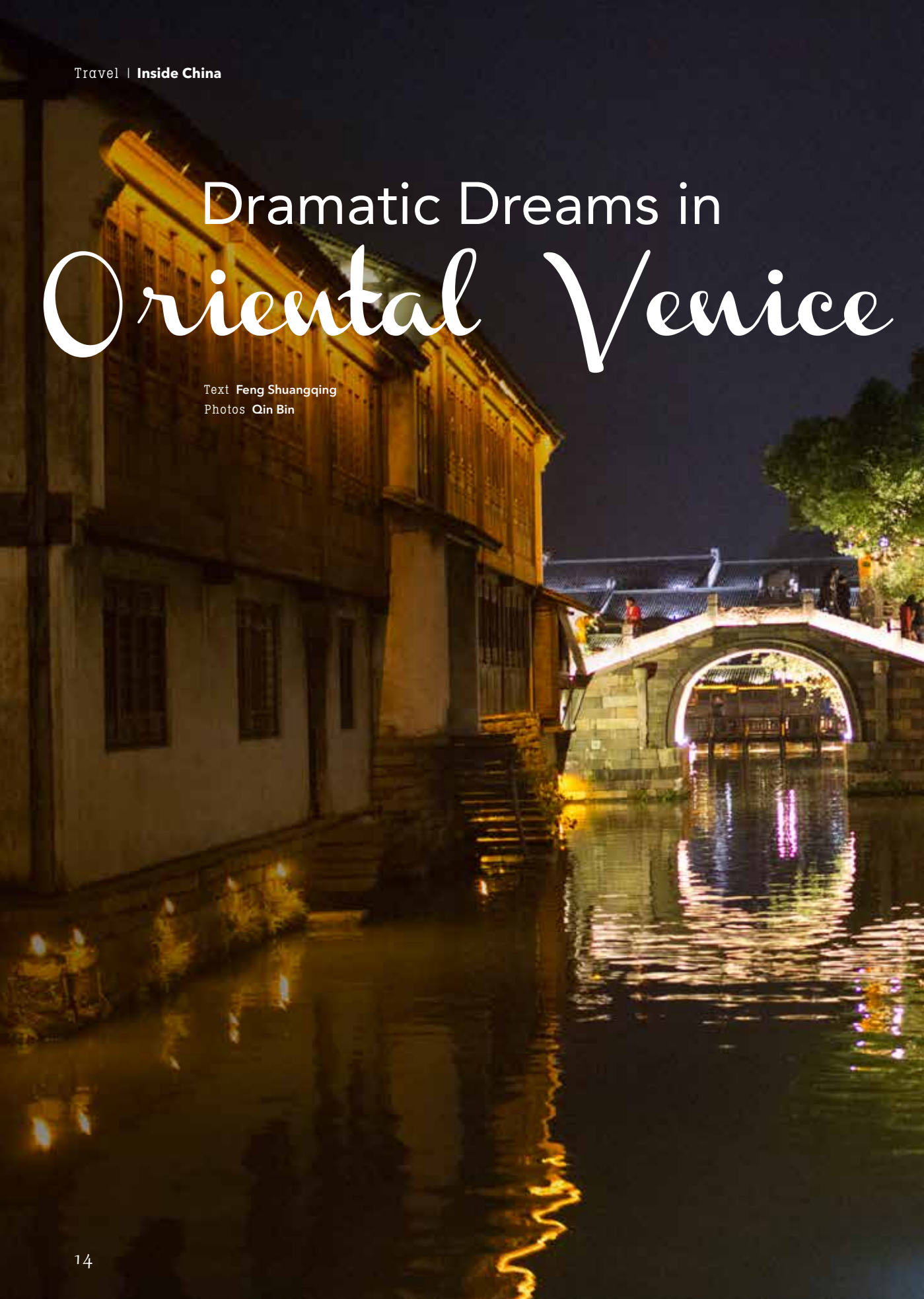
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Dramatic Dreams in *Oriental Venice*

Text Feng Shuangqing

Photos Qin Bin





If the words “city of water” are mentioned, most people tend to think of Venice, where canals provide the means for transport of goods and people. However, China’s Yangtze River Delta is dotted with ancient towns floating on water, among which Wuzhen stands out.

Located at the center of China’s Golden Triangle, consisting of the bustling metropolises of Shanghai, Hangzhou and Suzhou, Wuzhen is a provisional retreat away from the turmoil of modern cities. With no railway station, visitors must traverse a vast tract of cropland and pastureland, which serves as the belt of transition between modern and ancient, for about an hour before being able to capture the contours of the utopia-like town.

A decade ago, the 1,300-year-old water town was not even found on maps, only coming to light after being featured in the romantic television show *Things Past*, which was filmed in primitive Wuzhen, showcasing the town’s archaic, secluded and delicate surroundings, featuring stone bridges, brooks and cottages built by the water. The ancient Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal, the longest canal in the world, flows through Wuzhen, with stone railings and arched bridges connecting both banks.

For centuries, the locals have been building their houses along the river’s edge. The wood and stone architecture made of black bricks and gray tiles, contrasting sharply with white walls, are half suspended over the waterway with stakes or stone pillars embedded into the riverbed. In ancient times, locals living inside the “waterside pavilion” were able to do their washing at home by simply lifting up a coverplate on the floor.

Crisscrossing waterways divide the whole town into four scenic

sections—*Beizha*, *Dongzha*, *Nanzha* and *Xizha*— which refer to the north, east, south and west grids, among which east and west sections are more worthy of visiting as they are better preserved.

To explore *Dongzha* (east grid), which maintains its basic original layout, is to enjoy all kinds of traditional folk customs, with workshops there turning out indigo-dyed cloth and bamboo weavings. A walk along the stone paved alley leads visitors to a museum housing an exhibition of dozens of ancient beds, the oldest one dating back to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). In addition to the ingenious design philosophy and elaborate carving, the symbolism etched upon them by ancient Wuzhen residents is most charming. Grapes, for example, signify a hope for plenty of sons and grandsons. Every bed is a unique piece of art and tells its own story, from the newlyweds who pray for a happy and healthy life to the old couple that shared the same bed for a lifetime. The iconic *Bed Made by Thousands of Craftsmen* collection took more than 1,000 craftsmen three years to make, hence its name.

Early morning in *Dongzha* provides perhaps the most local of experiences that Wuzhen has to offer, with the sound of creaking doors, the smell of scalding porridge and pickles, and the offer of a typical southern Chinese breakfast. At the floating market, boats loaded with, shrimp and fresh vegetables come and go from waterside pavilions, with housewives lowering bamboo baskets with string while striking deals through gesticulation.

In contrast, there are no longer any locals living in *Xizha* (west grid), which has been reconstructed to reproduce the ancient appearance of the water town. At nightfall, a riverside café

provides the perfect setting to watch boatmen lit up by the town's nightlights, sculling in rhythm. Reflections in the water paint another town, with the bridges, cottages, boats, trees and lanterns rippling gently in the water, blurring the boundaries between reality and illusion, and between past and present.

Renaissance of a water town

"I came to *Dongzha* to search for settings for *Things Past* in 2001. I traveled to many water towns, but chose the then-desolate Wuzhen, for its unique tranquility," said Huang Lei, director and lead actor of the television show, and one of China's most prominent actors.

In 2013, Huang's affection for Wuzhen and acting prowess earned him the role of co-founder of the Wuzhen Theater Festival, which takes place more than 1,200 km southeast of Beijing and is considered the country's most popular theater festival.

"Many years ago, Chinese opera was performed on the stages of small towns on a daily basis. Ancient opera stages and theaters in China's countryside are reminders of the time-honored tradition of the art form," said Chen Danqing, a Chinese-American artist, writer and art critic.

In addition to the artists and performers from 13 countries and regions who staged 22 shows, the highlight of last year's Wuzhen Theater Festival was a nonstop carnival of nearly 2,000 performances in narrow alleys, corridors, docks and even on boats of the ancient town, including street theater, music, contemporary performance art, traditional Chinese opera and juggling, among

other activities.

A campus troupe performed *Romeo and Juliet* on the doorstep of an old courtyard, watched by crowds of theater lovers as well as tourists who happened to be visiting Wuzhen, but stumbled upon the street play. A little boy aged three or four in the front row burst out crying in fright when Romeo suddenly fell on his knees and delivered his line at the top of his lungs. The crowd broke out in a riot of laughter, adding to the drama of the performance.

Theater originated from outdoor performances, and in Wuzhen, it seems that people have returned to the most primitive and pure state of the art form.

A Lithuanian play, *Kaligula*, was a big hit at the festival last year. The play's director, Vidas Bareikis, has led the "No Theatre" troupe to a number of festivals, but described Wuzhen as his favorite.

"It is really interesting in a way that the whole town is working on the festival. There are many areas and places where you can meet audience and participators on the streets," Vidas said.

Ancient theaters

Some people might wonder what theaters are like in ancient towns. It is a magnificent experience to weave through the crowds in the criss-cross lanes, passing a stretch of street vendors and walking over several bridges before turning a corner to see a brilliantly illuminated arena-like building thrust upon you. The Wuzhen Grand Theater is enclosed in a zigzag fan-shaped glass front with a Chinese motif on the window. It glows in the evenings and is reflected in the water like an islet, adding charm to the already surreal atmosphere of this otherworldly water village.



Waterside pavilion
at Wuzhen.





Drama carnival of nearly 2,000 performances in narrow alleys, corridors, docks and even on boats of Wuzhen.



There is an amphitheater called the Water Theater, where audiences view performances from across the water, with ancient buildings in the background, surrounded by the ruins of a poetic broken bridge and a stately bailian (white pond lily) pagoda in the distance.

There are a total of 12 theaters in Wuzhen, both old and new, indoor and outdoor.

“Various drama forms are performed on different stages according to their style. No matter how many theaters there are in Beijing, they are all scattered in different districts,” said Han Tongsheng, a Chinese actor with 40 years of experience in theater and television.

According to Hazim Begagic, artistic director of the International Theater Festival of Bosnian and Balkans Drama in Zenice, Bosnia and Herzegovina, who visited Wuzhen due to its increasing influence in international theatre circles, the Chinese water town has much to offer.

“It is not only important to have buildings, walls, bridges and canals. It is also important for the town to such festivals, because the festival exhibits culture and meaning something more than just architecture,” Begagic said.

Long Street Banquet

It is known to many that the Spring Festival is time for family reunions in China. Those who visit Wuzhen during the country’s most important holiday will witness the ancient town’s annual neighborhood reunion.

To welcome the arrival of the Chinese New Year, the neighborhood hosts its Long Street Banquet, when households align tables and chairs along the streets and feast on local delicacies.

A legend among the locals states that during the Qianlong Emperor’s tour of southern China, the longest-reigning de facto ruler in the history of China went missing for three days. It is believed he attended the Long Street Banquet in Wuzhen in disguise and was so impressed with the local food that he spent three days enjoying the feast.

The most renowned dish is mutton braised in soy sauce made using the tender, lean meat of local sheep, cooked on a wood-burning stove overnight and seasoned with soybean sauce, turnip, millet wine, red date, rock candy and old ginger. Locals believe mutton is the best tonic in winter, and folklore states that “a pot of mutton surpasses a couple of pounds of ginseng.”

The most festivedish is the hotpot, which tourists from afar can enjoy together with locals, eating and socializing together. They boil chicken nuggets, fish and various meats, each resplendent in its array of colors, while toasting the new year with friends and strangers alike. Steam rises above their heads, with the delectable aroma wafting over the entire ancient thoroughfare.

The grand banquet continues from the first to the sixth day of the lunar new year. Viewed from above, the several-mile-long stretch adorned with what appears to be an unending variety of red lanterns in *Xizha* resembles a dragon lying entrenched through the middle of the town.

The unpretentious folk tradition causes one to pause and contemplate your own childhood excitement during celebrations such as Spring Festival, and it becomes obvious to see why people say that nostalgia for the water town is rooted in every Chinese.

The Greatness of Guangzhou

Text Cao Shenshen

Photos Luo Guangtai



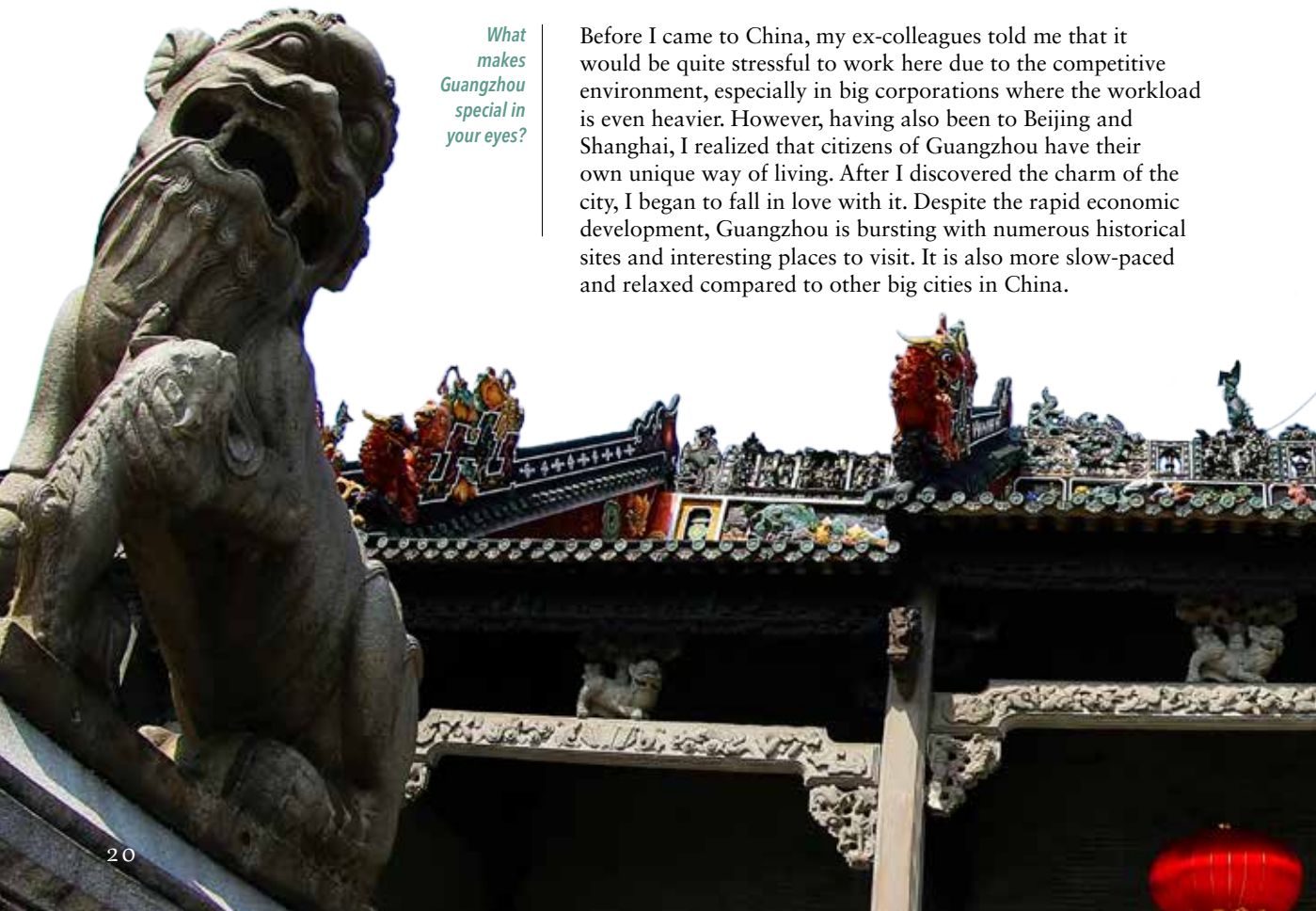
Teo Boon Siew, who was born in Chaoshan, Guangdong province, grew up in Malaysia and worked as a news editor at the *Sin Chew Daily*, but she now has a new life as a flight attendant for China Southern Airlines, living in Guangzhou and traveling the world.

In Teo's eyes, leaving Kuala Lumpur to move to a new country was a breakthrough. She had been longing to work in China for many years, so she is now happily adapting to her new life in Guangzhou. She loves Cantonese cuisine, understands Cantonese dialect and says she even has more of a connection with Cantonese than people from northern China.

We caught up with Teo to get an insight into life in Guangzhou, a top-tier city with delicious cuisine, great scenery and a fascinating culture.

*What
makes
Guangzhou
special in
your eyes?*

Before I came to China, my ex-colleagues told me that it would be quite stressful to work here due to the competitive environment, especially in big corporations where the workload is even heavier. However, having also been to Beijing and Shanghai, I realized that citizens of Guangzhou have their own unique way of living. After I discovered the charm of the city, I began to fall in love with it. Despite the rapid economic development, Guangzhou is bursting with numerous historical sites and interesting places to visit. It is also more slow-paced and relaxed compared to other big cities in China.



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

Guangzhou locals like to dine in the morning and it is a must for them to wake up early for traditional Chinese tapas, known as dim sum, which is delicious and includes dishes such as boat porridge and egg yolk buns.

What is the best-kept secret away from the tourist trail?

I think Guangzhou's best-kept secret is Haizhu Square. It is one of the older areas of the city, where you can always see lots of people swarming the streets, transporting goods by truck, bike, scooter, car and even on foot. You also get lots of food offered to you on the streets near the market. Some of this food tastes great and it is extremely cheap. The type of food that street vendors offer varies from dried scorpion to snake meat, and there are many kinds of soup, as locals believe drinking soup is good for health.



How about your flight attendant life in Guangzhou?

When I had just joined China Southern Airlines, I felt anxious because things did not seem so smooth at the beginning. The job scope and environment, for example, were totally different from my previous working experiences. I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the leader of my department for guiding and assisting me along the way. With such help, I now feel more confident and find myself improving day by day on my journey as a professional flight attendant.

Where do you bring guests to taste traditional Guangzhou cuisine?

I am always being asked by passengers on flights about what to eat in Guangzhou. For me, you must not miss the unique Cantonese dim sum here. The two dim sum restaurants that stand out from the rest of the pack are Guangzhou Restaurant and Dian Du De. Since 1935, Guangzhou Restaurant has been regarded as a dining institution in the city, and it now has numerous branches upholding its fine reputation — they never compromise the quality of the food. Dian Du De, which in Mandarin means you can order whatever you want, is guaranteed to have visitors wanting to order everything on the menu.



What does a typical night out involve?

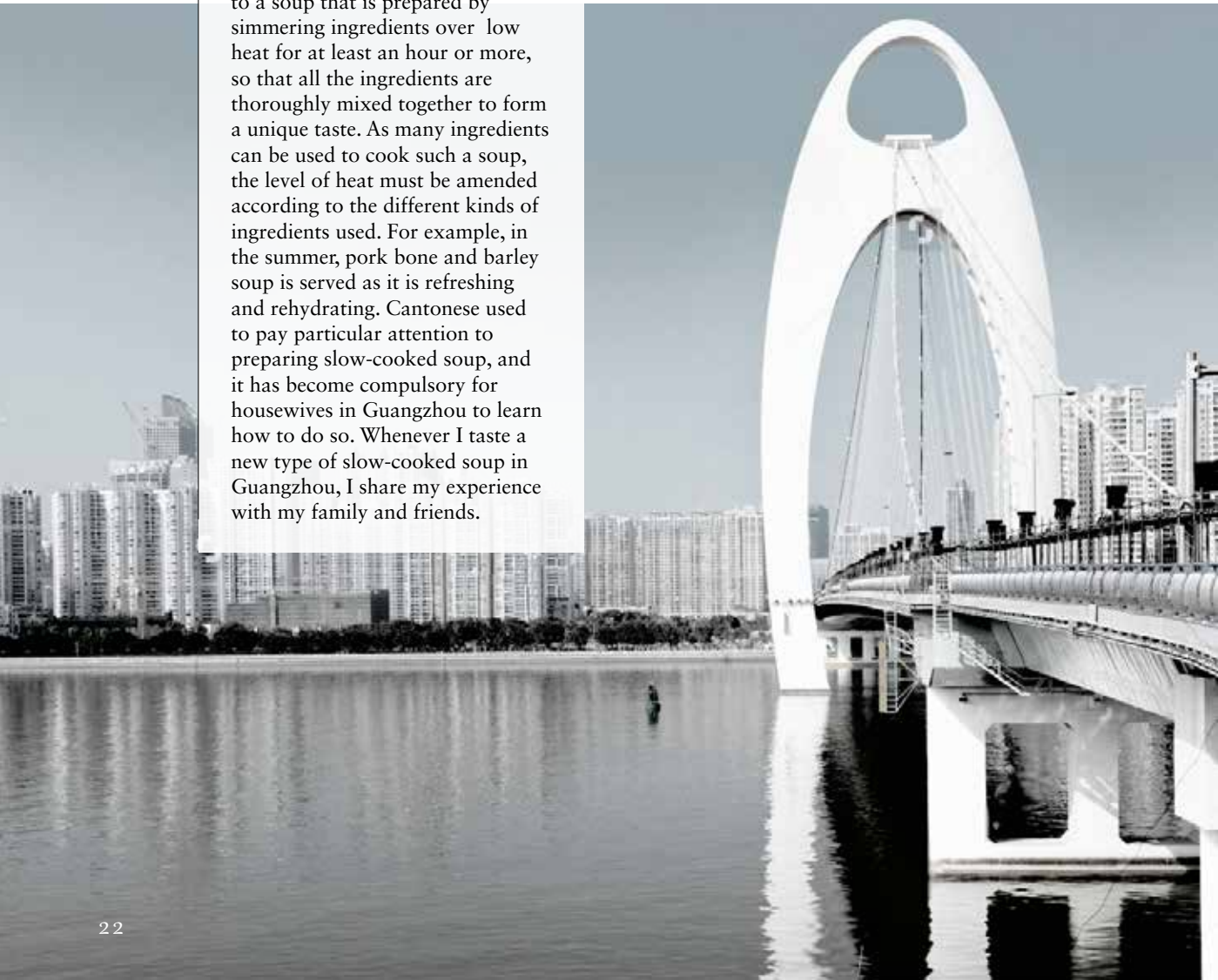
On my off days, I like to go to Baiyun Mountain, which is near my accommodation, to enjoy the night view. I would recommend that place to people visiting Guangzhou. From there, Guangzhou's Central Business District can be seen, and it is a great place to escape the noise of the city traffic.

What is your latest great find in the city?

Every time I am invited over to a friend's home for dinner in Guangzhou, I find there is always a particular dish on the table — slow-cooked soup, or lou fo tong in Cantonese. It generally refers to a soup that is prepared by simmering ingredients over low heat for at least an hour or more, so that all the ingredients are thoroughly mixed together to form a unique taste. As many ingredients can be used to cook such a soup, the level of heat must be amended according to the different kinds of ingredients used. For example, in the summer, pork bone and barley soup is served as it is refreshing and rehydrating. Cantonese used to pay particular attention to preparing slow-cooked soup, and it has become compulsory for housewives in Guangzhou to learn how to do so. Whenever I taste a new type of slow-cooked soup in Guangzhou, I share my experience with my family and friends.

Which restaurant is your personal favorite?

There is a huge variety of delicious food in Guangzhou. My personal favorite is the buffet at River Café in the White Swan Hotel. When I was celebrating my birthday in Guangzhou last year, I chose to enjoy my special day at this restaurant. It is known as one of the best buffet restaurants in the city, emphasizing the flavor of traditional Cantonese cuisine. Here, people can enjoy a five-star dining experience at a reasonable cost. For my birthday, I reserved a window seat so that I could enjoy the delicious food while gazing out at the beautiful night view of the Pearl River. The restaurant's location is simply fantastic.



Where to go

IN GUANGZHOU

Text **Feng Shuangqing**

Guangzhou is a prosperous metropolis full of vigor. It is the capital of Guangdong province and the largest city in southeast China. The fascinating and historic city offers travelers many attractions in both its gleaming towers and leafy alleys. Guangzhou is easily accessible from Hong Kong and Macau, while its culturally diverse population combines to give it a unique cosmopolitan flair.



WHERE TO EAT

Guangzhou Restaurant

In the birthplace of Cantonese cuisine, how can one avoid dim sum restaurants? Guangzhou Restaurant is an icon in the old part of the city, and certainly an ideal site to experience the local way of life. The restaurant is most famous for its “*wenchang* chicken”, created by chef Liang Duan. There is no difficulty in ordering dishes as the menu has pictures for all of them. Shrimp dumplings, steamed rice-flour rolls and stir-fried rice noodles with beef are among the most popular local snacks.

Address: No.2 Wenchang South Road, Guangzhou

Open Hours: 7 a.m.–3 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.–10 p.m.

WHERE TO DRINK

True Color

You will find lots of bars on the northern bank of the Pearl River. But for live music, True Color is the best place to go. Inside the club, your soul will be ignited by exciting shows, dynamic sounds and a vibrant crowd. The atmosphere is unparalleled and the DJ is skilled. Music makes the high-quality cocktails even more intoxicating.

Address: No.276 Yanjiang Zhonglu, Yuexiu District, Guangzhou

Open Hours: 8:30 p.m.–4 a.m.



WHERE TO VISIT

Canton Tower

Paris has the Eiffel Tower and Guangzhou has the Canton Tower. The Canton Tower is 595.7 meters tall, currently the third-tallest tower in the world. There is a small rotating ellipse at the top, twisting up counterclockwise, with other larger rotating ellipses at the bottom, which create a “slim waist” in the middle and makes it appear like a lady looking back, full of passion and emotion. Thus, locals refer to the tower by the nickname “slim waist”. The Canton Tower has the world’s highest horizontal Ferris wheel on the periphery of the platform, which offers tourists a dreamy bird’s eye view of Guangzhou.

Address: No.222 Yuexiang West Road, Haizhu District, Guangzhou

Open Hours: 9 a.m.–10 p.m.



Italy's

Undiscovered Jewel

Text Yang Di

There are two ways of traveling in Italy. The first is to set foot in all of the well-known cities, such as Rome, Florence, Venice and Milan. The second is to pick a lesser-known region, but indulge in the essence of what the country can truly offer.

Emilia-Romagna, comprising the two historic regions of Emilia and Romagna in northern Italy, is famous for being a land of true flavors, with art and history to match, and is an enchanting destination for the gourmand in search of tradition, uniqueness and produce. A journey to this land enables you to discover the remains of invaluable treasures along the Via Emilia, the Roman road from Rimini to Piacenza that boasts a 2,000-year history.

Bologna has the oldest university in the Western world, while Ravenna was three times the capital of Italy and Rimini is the birthplace of the great Italian movie director Federico Fellini.

Classic, enchanting cities and towns in the region deserve to be discovered slowly to capture their very essence and reveal their warm hospitality and unique food culture. On top of all that, the province remains blissfully crowd-free compared with the more well-known tourist hotspot cities.



Old Town charm

Bologna is the capital of the Emilia-Romagna region and is the seventh-most populous city in Italy. By train, it is only 37 minutes from

Florence, an hour from Milan and less than two hours from Rome.

Bologna natives are warm-hearted people who welcome anyone wishing to experience their way of life and absorb the city's enduring charm. That charm lies partly in its miles of porticos and ancient towers. The porticos, which have been nominated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, date back to the 13th century and form the architectural heart of the Old Town. The Old Town is one of the most beautifully preserved medieval cities in Europe.

Exploring Bologna is made for people who enjoy discovering cultural treasures on foot. That includes the Piazza Maggiore, the famous twin towers, the old university and some hidden architectural delights in a maze of alleyways.

The magnificent Piazza Maggiore, which was built in the 13th century, is characterized by iconic wraparound porches. It was a gathering place as it is where the market was located. Today, it continues to serve this function and is still the preferred meeting place for Bolognese.

This area is surrounded by buildings that have been around for centuries. The Palazzo D'Accursio, the headquarters of Bologna Town Hall and now seat of the city government, was the official residence of the papal

legates from the 16th to the 19th century. Across the courtyard is a large, corded staircase leading to the Salad' Ercole; the Galleria del Senato, today the seat of city council; and the Sala Rossa, where civil marriages are celebrated.

From the piazza, walk to Palazzo dell'Archiginnasio, the first unified seat of the University of Bologna. The building was commissioned between 1562 and 1563. The upper floor features the remarkable Anatomical Theater made from carved wood. The most striking wooden statues here are the wooden sculptures of the "skinless men."

Bologna's Old Town is known for its surviving medieval towers, with the two most-famous towers standing at the ancient entrance to the city. The 97-meter-tall Asinelli Tower and the 43-meter-tall Tower of Garisenda are city landmarks. Both date back to 1100. Visitors can climb nearly 500 steps up a long, narrow, spiral wooden staircase to the top of the Asinelli Tower for splendid city views. The Tower of Garisenda is not open to visitors.

Of the remaining towers, Prendiparte Tower in the small

Sant'Alo square is worth a visit. The tower has been restored and is now a hotel with only one suite. All 12 floors are accessible, including a roof terrace with great views across the Old Town.

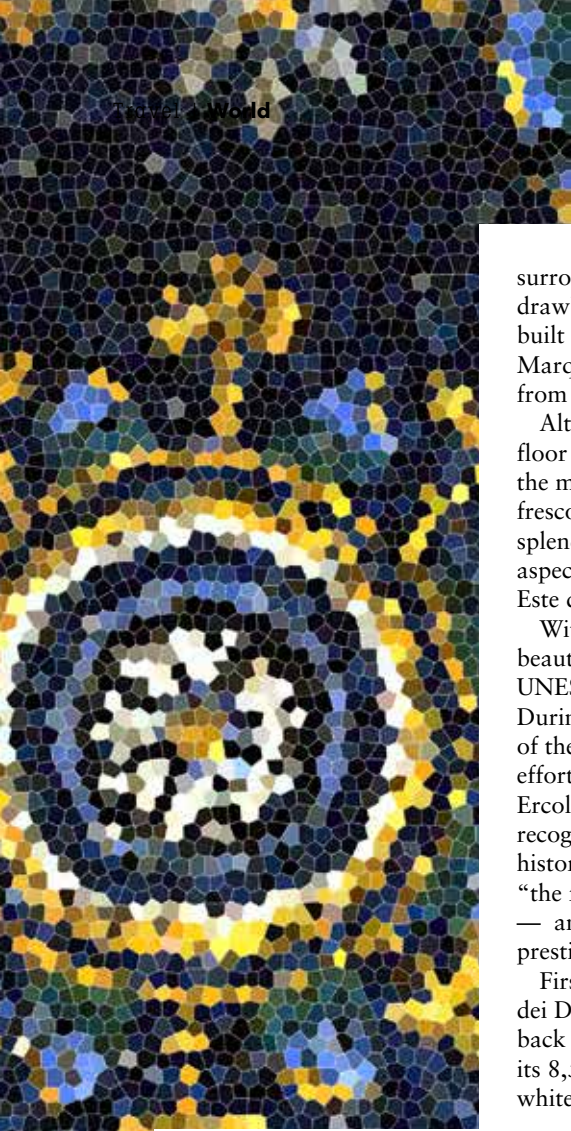
Another distinct feature of Bologna is its porticos that are everywhere in the Old Town. As the city is hot and steamy in summer and it rains frequently in the winter, town planners in the Middle Ages had the foresight to include arcades in their plans.

The portico of San Luca is one of the most striking. It was built between the 17th and 18th centuries and stretches 3,796 meters. It was built as a covered arcade to the Sanctuary of the Madonna of San Luca.

Northeast of Bologna, Ferrara is the pristine pearl of the region. Lucrezia Borgia, the femme fatale of the infamous Borgia family of the Renaissance, spent the latter part of her life in this city at the Estense Castle. The moated medieval castle in the center of Ferrara is a real gem.

Commissioned in 1385, the brick building





surrounded by a moat with drawbridges and four towers was built to protect Niccolo II d'Este, Marquis of Ferrara, and his family from the town's irate citizenry.

Although the rooms on the first floor lack the original furnishings, the magnificent ceilings and frescoes still retain their former splendor, displaying the different aspects of life at court under the Este dynasty.

With a dramatic history and beautiful landscape, Ferrara is a UNESCO World Heritage City. During the Renaissance, the size of the city doubled due to the efforts of the first duke of Ferrara, Ercole I d'Este. His addition can be recognized by the structure of what historian Jacob Burckhardt called "the first modern city in Europe" — an ideal city where many prestigious buildings were erected.

First and foremost is the Palazzo dei Diamanti, a masterpiece dating back to 1493. It owes its name to its 8,500 diamond-shaped ashlar of white-and-pink stone. The palace

is now the home of the Gallery of Modern Art, which hosts prestigious temporary exhibitions, and the National Picture Gallery, which houses works by renowned painters from the 13th to the 18th century.

The region's artistic jewel

Of the Emilia-Romagna region's artistic jewels, none shines brighter than Ravenna's cascade of glorious Byzantine mosaics.

At the start of the 4th century, when the Roman Empire was crumbling, the Western capital was moved from Rome to Milan and then to Ravenna, until that empire collapsed in AD 476. Emperor Honorius chose Ravenna because he thought the malarial swamps around the town would provide protection from invaders.

In the next couple of centuries, between the Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire's arrival in AD 540 and the Lombard capture of the city in AD 752, the city grew into a glittering showcase for Byzantines, who elevated the mosaic craft by using glass, piecing together tiny shards into a collective radiance that boggles the mind. Visitors can still view this traditional art in the local workshop.

Check out the Basilica of San Vitale for the crown jewel of Ravenna's collection of mosaics, a sheer visual luxury. Consecrated in AD 547, this is one of the most significant centrally planned Byzantine churches to survive, and much of its interior decoration remains intact. In contrast to the somber exterior, its interior is awash with color as the rich greens, golds and blues of the mosaics are bathed in soft yellow sunlight.



Coastal towns ideal for vacations

Rimini is perhaps best-known as the birthplace of the great Italian movie director Federico Fellini. This seaside city on Italy's north-eastern coast was often the source of inspiration for Fellini and his movies.

In bygone days, the upper class would sip champagne and dance the night away at the renowned Grand Hotel in Rimini, which symbolized the Italian way of life. Fellini loved the Grand Hotel so much that he immortalized it in some of his most famous films. Today, the hotel rooms are still decorated with Venetian and French 18th-century antiques.

Over a period of 30 years in the later part of the 20th century, Rimini established itself as "the" place to holiday for Italians. It is estimated that more than half of the Italian population has visited Rimini at least once.

Rimini's most iconic monument is the Arco di Augusto, which was built in 27 BC and is the oldest

surviving Roman triumphal archway in existence.

Another marvelous piece of historical architecture is the Ponte di Tiberio, which has been celebrated since the start of its construction 2,000 years ago. It remains largely as it was, with its sturdy white stone and original inscriptions, giving visitors a feeling of having traveled back in time, as does much of ancient Italy.

The historic city was in the hands of the Malatesta family in the 13th century. A glowing white basilica named for the medieval lords of the region, the Tempio Malatestiano, is considered an emblem of the Renaissance as well as the city's grandest monument.

Another neighborhood worth checking out in Rimini is Borgo San Giuliano, which was a fishing village with medieval origins. Strolling along its cobbled alleys, one is forced to slow down and explore its lively, multicolored vibe



and charming houses embellished with flowers, artwork and graffiti.

It is highly recommended visitors stay in Rimini for at least two nights to better experience its historic charm and seaside surroundings. Another coastal town between Ravenna and Rimini that is also worth spending some leisure time in is Cesenatico, an unpolished gem that is considered an authentic Italian seaside town.

The taste of Emilia-Romagna

The Emilia-Romagna region is considered by many to be the heart of northern Italian food, offering the best Parmesan cheese, prosciutto, culatello, handmade





pasta, balsamic vinegar and extra-virgin olive oil.

As Massimo Bottura's Osteria Francescana Modena wows the world in distinctive Italian style, considered one of the world's best restaurants, the region is receiving more global attention for its culinary excellence.

Each city is unique and special in its food traditions. Modena is well known for its production of balsamic vinegar. Visiting Leonardi in Modena and walking through the aging rooms, you can learn about the history of balsamic vinegar, with an intense aroma coming from the barrels.

The charming city of Parma is where the world-famous antipasto

prosciutto di Parma was born. The old artisan methods of treating and curing continue locally. In addition to prosciutto, Zibello makes the highly prized culatello from high-quality pork butt matured in the bladder of the animal. Traditional culatello can be found at Antica Corte Pallavicina, not far from Parma and next to the banks of the Po.

One of the region's great strengths is its vast range of handmade egg pasta. Bologna is the place to sample the many varieties. Here, specialists continue the tradition of rolling pasta out by hand, and visitors can watch as they make tagliatelle, tagliolini and tortellini among others, at many restaurants and groceries.

Romagnols are proud of their local specialty bread, piadina. The simple flatbread is both a street food and a comfort food made with flour, salted water and pig lard.

Coastal locales like Rimini and Cesenatico are paradises for seafood lovers. These seaside spots have a great variety of fish and are

famous for their seafood soups.

The region boasts 43 European Union Protected Designation of Origin and Protected Geographical Indication products, including the renowned Parmigiano-Reggiano, Culatello di Zibello and Aceto Balsamico Tradizionale di Modena, in addition to quality Denominazione di Origine Controllata and Indicazione Geografica Tipica wines, 15 Slow Food Presidia and more than 200 traditional products named in the ministerial register.

The region is aptly referred to as Food Valley, because of its celebrated culinary traditions, ranging from Michelin-rated restaurants to street-side treats.



How to get there:

Emilia-Romagna is in the north of Italy, just over the Apennine Mountains from Tuscany. Its international airport in Bologna has connections with China and elsewhere via major European and Italian hubs.

CULTURE



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Bringing



Text & Photos
Wang Yuanchang

In 1907, Soviet sinologist V.M. Alekseyev wrote in his *China Travel Diary*, “I do not know if there is another nation in the world that is as good at expressing itself through simple paintings as the Chinese. They portray not only their colorful life, but also the fantastic world. Some paintings are about allegories, legends and myths; some appear as comics, totems and puzzles. During the Chinese New Year, the festive New Year pictures are a delight.”

Nianhua, also known as the New Year’s picture, originated from the pictures of Chinese door gods used during the Qin Dynasty and earlier to ward off evil spirits.

During the Song Dynasty, thanks to the rise of woodblock printing, *nianhua* art developed rapidly and various coloring formats appeared as techniques evolved.

The Ming Dynasty saw *nianhua* develop into an independent art form, with its heyday coming during the Qing Dynasty, when almost every family made such paintings. *nianhua* art was responsible for some Qing towns and regions thriving, such as

Yangliuqing in Tianjin, Taohuawu in Suzhou, Weifang in Shandong, Mianzhu in Sichuan, Foshan in Guangdong and Fengxiang in Shaanxi, with these areas continuing to produce such art to this day. In fact, *nianhua* in Yangliuqing, Taohuawu and some other regions have been added to the list of China’s National Intangible Cultural Heritage.

For thousands of years, *nianhua* served not only as colorful ornaments used during Chinese New Year, but as representations of Chinese culture, aesthetics, beliefs and morals. In the colors and lines of *nianhua*, we observe how Chinese live, think and express themselves, as if we are reading a vivid and highly condensed encyclopedia.

Nowadays, people still hang *nianhua* on their walls during Spring Festival, and some collect them as well. Connoisseurs often talk about the “Southern Peach” and “Northern Willow”, which are two of the most appreciated types of *nianhua*, favored for their expressiveness. “Southern Peach” refers to Taohuawu, which means “peach blossom castle”, while “Northern Willow” refers to

in the New Year with *Nianhua*

Yangliuqing, which means “green willow”. Just like their names, the two regions produce *nianhua* of different styles, with the “Northern Willow” considered to be like a bold boy, and the “Southern Peach” like an elegant girl.

Wonder created through rigor

“Only a painting with a story is everlasting; only a word with a blessing is gratifying; only a person with virtue is inspiring,” Zhang

Keqiang wrote,



reflecting the content of, and motivation behind, traditional *nianhua* as handed down from old *nianhua* artisans, such as Zhang himself, who comes from Yangliuqing.

The production of woodcut *nianhua*, which includes drafting, carving and printing, demands perfect teamwork. Even comparatively minor work such as coloring, shading and mounting require great attention.

When a theme is decided upon, the painter starts to draw a draft on paper. After several drafts, the painter uses ink to produce the final draft. To facilitate the carving, the painter must make sure the lines are balanced, without too many curves. Accordingly, the painter draws the final contours more meticulously to make the details clear and smooth.

After finishing the contouring, the painter must make a colored draft and then draw four or five color-separated drafts from it to be used for carving the color boards. The arrangement of color is very important. The carver needs to carve four to six boards to make a single piece of *nianhua*, a process that can take up

to a month.

The quality of the final product is closely related to the artisan’s carving skills, so he works very carefully, especially when dealing with the complicated lines of a character’s face and hands. A skilled carver gives the character soul.

The wood board used to print *nianhua* is usually made of hard, dense wood that is unlikely to crack or warp. Boxwood is the best choice, while pear wood and birch-leaf pear wood are also widely used. A board is usually 6cm thick and must be shaved and polished smooth before the draft is pasted on the board.

The artisan first places the draft on the board and marks its four corners with a pencil.

Next, they smear the board with a thin, even layer of glue. Finally, they hold the draft in one hand while using a small brush in the other hand to brush outward from the draft’s center to quickly paste it on the board, according to the marks. The draft should be pasted without the slightest fold, which requires perfect technique. Placing and pasting the draft are the most important steps, which if not done

“ Only
a painting
with a
story is
everlasting;
only a
word with
a blessing is
gratifying;
only a
person with
virtue is
inspiring. ”

健康長壽



李長壽
畫

The god of longevity with peaches offered as a birthday present in his hand.

perfectly, will result in even the best carver producing a “derailed” work.

Both the contour board and color board are carved with one tool: the *quandao* or “fist knife”. True to its name, it fits one’s hand and can be used in many ways. The key is to locate with accuracy, stir with strength and remove the wood with care. If you overexert, you will destroy the work. A skilled carver has to gain a feel for the art bit by bit.

Nianhua is printed on bamboo paper, *xuan* paper or *fenlian* paper. The ink used to print the contour is made by the artisans themselves. Water and mineral colors are used to print the color, which needs to be diluted with boiling water before being used. The amount of water is critical. The diluted color also has to be blended with glue. On cold days, there should be less glue, while on hot days, there should be more. Purple is considered the strongest color, with red, green and yellow also considered strong. Pink and grey, on the other hand, should be light. This is to make the picture vivid, bright and harmonious.

In China, even two neighboring regions can have dramatically different customs, due to ethnic, historical and geographical influences. Hence, the technique used to make woodblock printed *nianhua* varies as well. In Sichuan’s Mianzhu, only the ink contour is printed, while all the colors are filled by hand. In Yangliuqing, *nianhua* are printed using two or three color boards, but the artisans still make great efforts to paint the details. In Taohuawu, and Shanxi’s Linfen and Fengxiang, all the color comes from the color boards. In Fujian’s Zhangzhou, only color

boards and colored paper are needed, and there is no contour board, whereas in Yunnan’s Dali and Lijiang, only the contour board and colored paper are needed. In addition, there is also a technique that uses a wax paper, with the image cut out and color painted on it to print a colored picture — the contour is then printed with the contour board. This technique is used in Guizhou and some regions in Henan.

In addition to technique, artistic styles also vary considerably between regions. In days gone by, being close to the imperial capital, Yangliuqing boasted a prosperous economy and rich culture. To cater to its aristocrats’ aesthetic tastes, *nianhua* produced in the market town was delicate and magnificent, appearing as luxurious as royal paintings. By contrast, *nianhua* artwork in Taohuawu, an ancient metropolis in southeast China with inclement weather and millions of merchants and literati, was more refined and even influenced by Western painting styles.

In Shandong and Hebei, two agricultural provinces, there are more *nianhua* works with farming themes, and their styles also tend to be more plain. In Shaanxi, which boasts a profound history and well-preserved local culture, *nianhua* art is closely related to other folk artforms. For example, facial makeup in local opera can also be seen in *nianhua*.

In Henan’s Kaifeng, another region in central China with rich culture, *nianhua* is usually inspired by historical stories and myths, showing powerful lines, impressive composition and even a little



wildness.

Different towns and cities have formed their own unique techniques and styles to create classic *nianhua* that are still popular today, such as “Lotus and Fish” in Yangliuqing, “Kui the Great Ghost Catcher” in Zhuxian, “Door God” in Mianzhu, “Harmony” in Taohuawu and “Six Babies” in Wuqiang. These time-honored images are symbols of the highly diverse Chinese folk culture.

Full of festivity

A colorful *nianhua* is an indispensable ornament during Spring Festival, representing good fortune and kind wishes, and creating a festive atmosphere. Taohuawu’s “Harmony” and Yangliuqing’s “Lotus and Fish” are the two most popular themes.

The original “Harmony” *nianhua* was created during the Qing Dynasty in the reign of the Yongzheng Emperor. In early 2008, it was successfully duplicated in Taohuawu Woodcut New Year Picture Museum and was the first of a series of classic *nianhua* to be reproduced. The original was created for concubines in the imperial palace to exhort them to “co-exist in harmony”, and as its popularity spread, people started





Kids are playing on the back of a cow.

to use it to express their wish for unity, harmony and peace.

The most enduring work of Yangliuqing *nianhua* is the “Lotus and Fish”, which features a chubby baby holding a huge carp in his arms and a lotus in one hand. In Chinese culture, the carp represents prosperity, while the lotus represents fertility. The lines are elaborate but clear, depicting the beautiful baby and carp. Yangliuqing *nianhua* is a distinct combination of the traditional painting styles of the 10th to 14th centuries and the elements of woodcut, handicrafts and even local operas in the 14th to 17th centuries.

Artisans in Yangliuqing and Taohuawu employ similar methods to make *nianhua*, including drawing a draft, carving several wood boards and printing. However, Yangliuqing artisans have to spend much more time on hand painting, adding more detail to the picture. The artisans express different emotions in their paintings, even when they are working on the same theme, which is why every piece of Yangliuqing *nianhua* is unique.

The Year of the Rooster is coming, and *nianhua* artisans across China are ready to get to work. With dexterity and imagination, they will create a beautiful New Year in everyone’s homes and hearts.

Ice

Antarctica is the coldest, highest, windiest, driest and loneliest continent on Earth.

The first thing you'll notice upon arrival might be the stillness, as the only sound you will hear will be the crunch of snow beneath your feet and ice cracking in the heat of the midday sun.

Antarctica is home to about 90 percent of the freshwater ice on Earth, in an area approximately one-and-a-half times the size

of the United States. Being the nearest thing to the residence of the Ice Queen, more than 99.5 percent of the continent is covered in ice. Miraculously, the size of the frozen plain varies through the seasons, with expanding sea ice along the coast practically doubling in size during winter in the Southern Hemisphere. Always moving, breaking, flowing, melting and refreezing, it is the ice that makes Antarctica so alluring yet perilous.

Paradise

on Earth

Text Feng Shuangqing



Photo by Wang Chen



Antarctica has its unique omnipresent guardians — enormous icebergs that line the final approach to the continent. The freely floating icebergs are pieces of ice that break off from ice shelves or glaciers, speckling the water and standing tall against the sky. As the veritable reflection of the old adage “just the tip of the iceberg”, merely 10 percent of an iceberg is visible above water. It’s a breathtaking and soul-stirring experience to see the mirror-like reflections of iceberg tips and the

blue sky offered by the remarkably still and crystal clear waters, along with the fathomless ice glowing aquamarine below the surface.

Nature seems magical when light is refracted and reflected off the ice. The world in pure white and silver can be suddenly dyed translucent blue, green and sometimes violet. As part of the daily light show, Antarctica turns into a warm-toned paradise at dawn when the gold and orange glow from the low sun is reflected.



The secluded ice world is home to wild creatures such as penguins, seals, whales, terns and petrels. You may be able to view penguins and seals up close, hanging out on icebergs, if they aren't scared off by the boat approaching.


Squawking, cooing and honking penguins are, without doubt, the most famous residents of Antarctica, and arguably the world's most beloved birds. They love to slide around on their bellies and splash around in the water. Most penguin species mate from

November to March. In the early summer months, you might witness the penguins' strange mating rituals, while in the late summer months, you could be lucky enough to see penguin chicks clamoring for food.

Sometimes leopard seals nap on the shore after a big meal, or wait for an oblivious penguin to walk within reach. It would be a wise move for your own safety to keep your distance from leopard seals, as they might not be as friendly as penguins.







One of the best places to witness the beauty of Antarctica is at the pristine Paradise Bay, a wide sanctuary for cruise ships to dock. Located on the continent's west side, the name Paradise Bay was first applied by whalers operating in the vicinity. Still waters and fascinating icebergs in an infinite variety of shapes and shades of blue make it the epitome of Antarctica.

Longing for a thrilling and exhilarating experience of paddling beside icebergs?

As they are constantly shifting positions with the wind, it is not possible to cruise the area when aboard large ships — after all, no one wants a repeat of the Titanic disaster. Small inflatable crafts, known as Zodiacs, are the most popular way to move through the waters in Antarctica. Floating in a Zodiac and listening closely to the deep rumbles of chunks of ice plunging to the water inspires a feeling of absolute bliss that might have you believing you are in heaven.

Photo by Wang Chen

Female Chinese Designers

Making Their Mark

Text Yang Yang

Despite China's importance in the global luxury and fashion markets, a new breed of homegrown and internationally educated female design talents has been gradually re-shaping the country's fashion scene on the global stage. They are presenting their concepts at the major fashion trade shows around the world and have a passion for translating their rich cultural heritage into something new and edgy. Below we pickout a few noteworthy names that have started to change the image of "Made in China" into "Made in China (with pride)".

Yang Fang

Fashion designer Yang Fang founded By Fang in 2013. The label is infused with the adventurous spirit of a cosmopolitan designer who studied in Paris and found inspiration by looking at her roots from a contemporary, multicultural point of view.

The elegant designer's longtime passion for origami slowly blossomed into an essential component of By Fang's designs and is now a well-known signature. Each collection features origami in different forms and expression, sparkling with a fresh, blossoming metropolitan attitude, wholeheartedly engaging in its promise of feminine elegance and fun. Beyond its oriental artistic roots, origami symbolizes the designer's creative universe of imagination, volume and architecture.

"In my thought, being a designer is not about trying to set the next trend. A truly happy and radiant woman is not fighting, pretending or hiding to protect who she really is, but being





sweet, at peace and self-confident,” she said. “I hope my creations inspire a woman to reveal and feel herself, true and sensual.”

Her spring-summer 2017 “Andalousie” collection is inspired by the rich artistic heritage of southern Spain. It explores the abundant natural and architectural diversities of the meridional Iberian Peninsula, home to centuries-old cultural phenomena. With a combination of warm colors, yellow and pink shine harmoniously with black and white shades.

“Flamenco-inspired ruffle dresses, intriguing striped coats and multilayered silk blouses associate to signature origami ornaments in a festive, arty yet contemporary elegant identity,” she explained.

In addition to her own collections, Yang Fang has been working with Swarovski, a longtime supporter of creativity and original designs. Swarovski has selected Chinese homegrown fashion labels, including By Fang, which was recently chosen again for the Swarovski Collective



Modern elegance and effortless beauty are at the heart of PINGHE brand.

Yang Fang’s “Andalousie” collection is inspired by the rich artistic heritage of the Southern Spain region.

program to integrate Swarovski crystals into its collection. The designer, who has collaborated with Swarovski for the past two years, continued to fuse her signature origami with Swarovski crystals to create an extremely detailed and precious collection. The capsule, named “White Monochrome”, is an elegant and luxurious line combining fine silk and cotton laces that are hand embroidered with Swarovski crystal pearls.

“This third season in the Collective program is a renewed impression of an inspiring design work and a true creative freedom fully supported by the Swarovski team,” said Yang, who added that she enjoys the opportunity to fully express her signature design and to reflect her Shanghai-based couture label, Atelier by Fang, which is now well established in China and beyond.

“We value the partnership as long-term and mutually beneficial. I believe it is a sharing of common values with Swarovski when it comes to By Fang’s identity, creative mindset, and social and environmental responsibility,” she added.

He Ping

Among China’s fashion stars, He Ping is a name to watch out for.

A postgraduate of fashion and textile design from Nottingham Trent University in England, she worked at Alexander McQueen and Camilla Staerk before joining Aftershock London as head of design. Her five-year tenure saw the highest sales growth in the company’s history, a roster of A-list clients, including Madonna and Uma Thurman, and a Best Rising Star award from the British Fashion Council.

The Chinese designer launched her eponymous ready-to-wear label, PINGHE, in 2012 and was soon invited to show at Vancouver Fashion Week, and later debuted at London Fashion Week. The label quickly attracted the attention of Harvey Nichols CEO Joseph Wan and former chairman of the British Fashion Council Harold Tillman, who went on to mentor the designer.

The London-based Chinese designer is renowned for her artisanal and technical expertise. In less than three years, she has successfully grown her brand internationally, with 15 stockists in seven countries and showrooms in London, New York and Canada.

“Modern elegance and effortless beauty are at the heart of the PINGHE brand. Femininity, form and functionality are in a constant dialogue. Integral to the brand’s DNA is the juxtaposition between contrasting elements: elegance and power; tradition and modernity; and structure and fluidity,” He Ping said.

“PINGHE clothes do not shout, nor do they whisper — they speak with quiet confidence. They empower modern women,” she added.

When talking about women who wear PINGHE, the designer said: “The PINGHE woman is sophisticated and strong. Having experimented with a variety of styles in her early 20s,



her taste is now sophisticated and beautifully refined. She wears clothes that are flattering, chic and versatile. Her wardrobe boasts effortless, timeless staples that she can style in variety of ways. She is excited by contradictions and loves to surprise.”

She uses a combination of technical fabrics, sculpted embroidery lines and innovative seams to create fashion pieces that allow for modern versatility. Each collection features statement coats, dresses and separates realized in a variety of flattering fabrics such as leather and soft sheers. Details are also key, as they incorporate embroidery techniques and laser cuts, she said.

The PINGHE collection is fearless and bold, an ode to inner strength. The designer assimilates assorted facets of womens’ history to make one of her very own. The collection is imbued with a level of refreshing “undone-ness”, calling to mind hedonistic strong women.

Liu Lu

The gorgeous Beijing-born fashion designer Liu Lu left a career in New York City to pursue fashion, art and creation back in her hometown of Beijing, but her label, Luvon by Liu Lu, shows equal inspiration from West and East, reflecting her international attitude toward life and highlighting a Chinese sense of beauty. Her designs are aimed at cosmopolitan, independent Chinese women who often live a Westernized lifestyle. The creations are known for their simple elegance and playful sexiness.

“My collection also reflects social and humanitarian elements in its designs for each upcoming season to encourage women to channel the power of their love by giving back and improving the world around them one small step at a time,” she said.

Her 2017 collection “Ocean’s Tear” is inspired by a video on Youtube entitled *Plastic Pollution, Our Ocean, Our Future*.

“When I saw it on Youtube, it was the first time the situation of environmental pollution struck me and made me realize our daily habits have constantly contributed to this

worsening global situation. I wanted to create a collection to raise awareness and consciousness,” she said.

To describe the story, the color of the ocean is the tone for this spring-summer collection, reflecting different shades of the ocean from white, blue and grey to shivering silver and gold. Design-wise, fringes — which are currently in fashion — have been incorporated to symbolize the flow of the ocean.

The new collection continues to reflect Luvon by Liu Lu’s spirit: living life with love and thankfulness. Liu said she hopes her followers who wear her creations can spread the warmth and love among us.





Weili Zheng

Weili Zheng's cross-cultural explorations have been imbued with a lively intelligence and a spirit of creative entrepreneurship that reflects the essence of contemporary women with a carefree spirit. Born in China and raised in Bologna, Italy, Zheng's eponymous brand reflects her own spirit and life concept.

"Weili Zheng women tackle the urban world with the sweetness and strength that comes from the past: They are modern jet-setters who face all obstacles using the power of color, not taking themselves too seriously, but determined to smile in the face of reality. They are women who are daring and powerful," she said.

In recent collections, the designer often included oriental flair, such as dragon motifs on the back of a bomber jacket and Chinese phoenix embroidery on the back of a shirt, which are inspired by traditional oriental outfits, but come in bold colors. The daring, enchanting, modern oriental designs were appreciated by many European bloggers and actresses spotted wearing Weili Zheng pieces during the most recent Paris and Milan fashion weeks.

The new spring-summer 2017 collection identifies with a contemporary elegant woman who embraces the underground subculture. If it were a city or a perfume, it would be direct, decisive and fragrant with spice. If it were music, it would be a melody filled with notes from the past mixed with powerful techno.

The collection features all-white male outfits inspired by a 1970s film by Lauren Hutton; bright lime-colored pants; embroidered gold bomber jackets; lightweight slippers; silky kimonos; glittery suits and oversized denim skirts. They are strong pieces with a distinct identity where glam merges with a contemporary and casual look while defining the DNA of the new Weili Zheng woman.

Silky kimono with Oriental prints is the highlight of Weili Zheng's collection.

The collection "Ocean Tear" is inspired by a video on Youtube "Plastic Pollution, Our Ocean, Our Future."



Tong Wenwei

Those who value refined but quirky forms manipulated through impeccable craftsmanship might want to check out the concept and attitude behind Shaoo and Shaoo Shadow, two labels created by Shanghai-born designer Tong Wenwei.

Tong's creations combine femininity with an edge in a way that is wearable everyday without looking ordinary. Beyond the carved jade rosettes, leather collars and lace patterns, her jewelry reflects a modern fashion attitude: classic, feminine, yet with a slight rock-chic element.

Given her upbringing in an artistic family, Tong said it was her father and grandmother who shaped her early appreciation of beauty. Her father is a famous calligrapher and antique collector. He helped develop Tong's interest in Chinese culture and art. Her love of vintage fashion was influenced by her grandmother, an actress in 1930s Shanghai. Her grandma was always interested in Western fashion and culture, which Tong picked up at an early age.

After graduating from the Fine Arts University of Shanghai, Tong moved to Paris to study fashion design at ESMOD International in 2000. She launched her first collection, a leather jewelry line, in 2004 at Colette, which became a great success in Paris. Despite old-school touches, Tong let her imagination run wild without boundaries. Her designs are intricate, using leather laser-cutting, which in her hands is a modern adaptation of Chinese paper-cutting techniques and shadow puppetry.

"I figured out that leather is lightweight, easy-to-wear and always looks sexy," Tong said. "The funky, lace leather designs easily mix and match with any kind of outfit: a basic T-shirt, a party dress or office wear. The statement pieces simply spice up even the most basic look."

Her signature lace patterned leather pieces were featured in top fashion magazines, and high-fashion malls and boutiques around the world within two years of the brand's inception. At the same time, Tong began to hunt for a new material and wanted to express

herself in a more luxurious manner. She opted for jade.

"Jade is known as the 'royal gem'," she said. "In the long history of art and culture through all the Chinese empires, jade has always had a special significance. I thought it was such a pity that the precious material never really reached Europe and other parts of the world."

Normally, jade is associated with the color green, but Tong wanted to break this association by using black and white Hetian jade, also known as Chinese imperial jade. All of her jade pieces are handcrafted by Shanghai based artisans who have more than 30 years of experience. One piece of jewelry usually takes a month to complete.

Despite employing Chinese materials and skills in her jewelry creations, Tong's designs are mostly inspired by European art, fashion and culture.

"I consider Sandro Botticelli my muse. Botticelli had a way of capturing intense emotions in his paintings. I also look up to Alexander McQueen and Karl Lagerfeld in terms of how they do things and their in depth knowledge of fashion," she said.

The Shanghaiese jeweler said she represents women of today: elegant, smart and witty, yet with a strong character.

"It is important to me that my creations express the essence of the women who wear them," Tong said.

Tong loves to inject her sense of humor into her creations that reflect a modern fashion attitude. For her Shaoo Shadow collection, Tong developed a wide range of leather bags and clutches that share the same design philosophy. The funky, lace leather designs easily compliment most outfits and add glamor to even the most basic look.

Tong set up a refined boutique carrying both of her labels in Shanghai's vibrant *Xintiandi*, where one can find a dazzling variety of leather bags and clutches as well as some of the jewelry creations.



The Shanghaiese designer breaks the normal association by using black Hetian jade in her fine jewelry design.



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Air France-KLM

TIGHTENING TIES WITH

When talking about the long history of Air France's China route, Bas Gerressen, general manager of Air France-KLM Greater China, said "The first flight from France to China is at the heart of the company's history. Since then, we have been continuously striving to share our most innovative products on our China routes, such as new travel cabins, personalized services, products developed exclusively for Chinese customers and the latest new aircraft. We must continue this momentum and help strengthen Air France's presence in Greater China, where the company has already received several awards for its products and services."

Back in September 1966, Air France used the Boeing 707 "Chateau de Cheverny" to launch its Paris-Shanghai route. At that time, three different crews shared the 23-hour flight, with stopovers in Athens, Cairo, Karachi and Phnom Penh. Air France went on to become the first European airline to fly direct to China.

Like the longtime friendship Air France and Chinese passengers share, Gerressen also has an affinity with China. "Beijing should be my second hometown, as my youngest kid was born here," said the tall Dutchman who joined KLM as a corporate

management trainee 17 years ago. From 2007 to 2010, he worked in Dubai as commercial director of the Air France-KLM Gulf region before moving to Beijing.

Gerressen said 2016 was not an easy year for the company. "The safety image of Europe was worse than 2015 because of terrorist attacks, and the biometric visa for Chinese nationals visiting Schengen countries also implemented at the end of 2015, which both decreased the volume of travelers." The other reason is the imbalance between supply and demand — a lot of airlines increased their seat capacity, while the market was going down.

Although 2016 was a tough year, Air France-KLM also completed a number of meaningful tasks. "We worked on digital development, enhanced cooperation with our Chinese airline partners, using new aircraft to fly to Chinese cities, and most importantly, celebrated Air France's 50th anniversary of operations in China," he said. "We look forward to 2017 when I think everything will be better."

Air France-KLM currently operates 77 flights per week, linking the hubs at Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport and Amsterdam Airport Schiphol to nine destinations in Greater China: Beijing, Chengdu, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Taipei, Wuhan and Xiamen.

Over the past five decades, Air France-KLM has also strengthened its network. With Sky Team Alliance members China Southern Airlines, China Eastern Airlines and Xiamen Airlines, the Air France-KLM group operates up to 132 weekly flights to China.

"So, for Air France-KLM, the China market ranks No.1 in Asia Pacific, and No.2 among all international markets," Gerressen told *Sky Times*.

At the end of 2016, *Sky Times* interviewed Gerressen in his Beijing office, where he spoke about the strategy, challenges and goals for Air France-KLM in the China and Asia markets.

ST: The year 2016 marked the 50th anniversary of flights between France and China, which is a significant milestone for the two countries. Could you talk about the history of Air France and the 50-year friendship between Air France and Chinese passengers?

Gerressen: Air France always wants to be innovative, new and to change constantly. Fifty years ago, we started to fly to China. France was the first Western country to recognize the new People's Republic of China, and in 1966, Air France was the first Western airline to fly to Shanghai. After that, we kept developing, becoming the first European airline to fly to Beijing, in 1973,

EUROPEAN HOTSPOTS

Text Cao Shenshen

“ We offer the most innovative products on our Chinese routes, such as new travel cabins, personalized services and products developed exclusively for Chinese customers. ”

Bas Gerressen





and the first European airline to fly to Guangzhou, in 2004, and to Wuhan, in 2012, showing our interest in developing a sustainable relationship with China.

Air France has an 83-year history, and together with KLM, we are one of the leading airline groups in the world. One of our strong points is our network, with destinations all over the world. We have strong brand names, strong products and services, and we also have professional sales staff around the world.

ST: In this winter season, Air France-KLM offers 77 weekly flights between Paris/Amsterdam and Chinese destinations. Could you please briefly summarize the performance of Air France-KLM in the China market in 2016? Which destination was most popular?

Gerressen: Frankly, 2016 was not as good as 2015. The image of Europe and travel demand to Europe was weaker than 2015 because of terrorist attacks in several cities. So the safety image was worse than 2015. The other aspect was the biometric visa for Chinese nationals visiting Schengen Area states, which was

implemented at the same time as terrorist events, decreasing the amount of travelers.

In addition, a lot of airlines increased their seat capacity, because 2015 was such a good year, while the market was going down. So there was mismatch in supply and demand this year. Our flights suffered, as did those of our competitors, with some even having to stop routes. I think we still had a decent performance, relatively speaking. Of course, bigger cities always do better than the smaller cities, because in second-tier cities, we rely more on group travelers. But the issues mentioned above mainly impacted group travelers. We expect to recover from now, so we should forget 2016 and look forward to 2017, when I think everything will be better.

At present, is not suitable to add new destinations, but we are still talking to local governments and airports because they want to start international flights. So we are still in discussions, and maybe one day we can pick it up. But we did increase our partnerships, meaning China Eastern started its Shanghai to Amsterdam route in 2016. KLM has flown the route to Amsterdam for many years, but we decided to include China Eastern in our joint venture relationship. This January, China Airlines of Taiwan will begin the Amsterdam route, and we also have a strategic partnership with them.

ST: What is the goal of Air France-KLM in the China and Asia markets? What is your expectation and how can you achieve such goals? I noticed in your Trust Together strategy, your group wants to be the No. 1 carrier in Europe long term — what are the challenges regarding this goal?

Gerressen: As a group, our new CEO began the Trust Together

project, which addresses the fact that we used to be the biggest carrier group, but now, we are more challengers and have low cost competition in Europe. We are now in a position to challenge them, so rather than being in a defending position, we can take a more offensive approach. In the Trust Together strategy, one of the key elements is that a new airline will be started that is focused on the long-haul market, with lower cost than Air France-KLM. It does not mean a low cost company, but a lower cost level, with newer cabin crew and contracts, for example. In airline innovation, we are trying new digital strategies, but that is a more central strategy. What we want to do locally here is mainly focusing on our partnerships.

Of course, the dynamic of China can change quickly, and outgoing travel demands are still growing in China, with more people traveling every year. We have to grab this commercial opportunity. We want Chinese customers to choose our products and services.

ST: Air France and KLM have launched their own flagship stores on Alitrip (Fliggy). How is the current performance? How about performance for the Double 11 Day? Why have you cooperated with China's OTA website?

Gerresen: We started our digital strategy with Alitrip, with Air France and KLM both opening their official flagship stores on Fliggy on Feb. 22 last year, offering all cabin products with whole network air tickets online. We are



the first European airline to take this step in the Chinese market. Developing the digital strategy can lower the distribution cost and help us to find potential customers.

As e-commerce is experiencing fast-paced growth in China, this initiative displays our continued focus on investment in China. With this cooperation, the two sides will work together to provide more affordable prices, better products and better services for Chinese customers.

We have a big call center in Guangzhou and an excellent service center with a high quality of service to our customers, where they pick up the phone and answer immediately. We also have WeChat customer services. We are so glad that we can learn about our customers' problems via our stores, so we can help them immediately.

For the past Double 11 Day (Single's Day), we had a good performance. We cannot disclose the exact amount, but we got an award from Alitrip for the best foreign airline sales. Actually, 2016 was a year of learning for us, having only started our Alitrip adventure in February. Since then, we developed our stores, trying to figure out what is working and what it not. We are

satisfied with the results, but we can still achieve more.

ST: In Europe's aviation market, there are so many competitors, such as Lufthansa, British Airways, Ryanair and also many Chinese airlines. How do you maintain an advantage? How do you cope with the challenges?

Gerressen: It is true, there are so many competitors. I think we should try to focus on our strengths and try to be smart. We also have a few advantages. First, we have two really good hubs in Europe: Paris and Amsterdam. That gives people more choices — they can fly out with Air France and then come back with KLM, so it is a good connection to Europe and also South America. Second, we have excellent sales staff, who are really well trained and skillful. We also have developed our own revenue management system in house. I think we have the best data and latest tools in the airline industry. Third, we invested in our products and services last year — KLM used new B787-9s to fly to Chengdu, Hangzhou and Xiamen, while Air France has new in-flight entertainment and new seats. Fourth, we have solid partnerships with Chinese partners, such as China Eastern, China Southern and Xiamen Airline. For example, in July last year, Air France-KLM signed a new agreement with China Eastern Airlines, which included KLM as part of the existing joint venture between Air France and China Eastern. The new agreement strengthened both of the airlines' networks and optimized the route capacity connecting Europe to China.

ST: For China's routes, what products and services did Air France launch to meet the needs of Chinese passengers?

Gerressen: Since 1966, Air



France has implemented tailor-made services for all customers traveling to and from China, before, during and after their trip.

We offer the most innovative products on our Chinese routes, such as new travel cabins, personalized services and products developed exclusively for Chinese customers.

At Paris-Charles de Gaulle Airport, we have a special team of staff speaking Mandarin and Cantonese who are available to assist customers with arrivals, check-ins and when they have connecting flights.

ST: Could you please recommend a couple of popular European destinations to travel to in the spring season on Air France and explain the reasons why?

Gerressen: There are many beautiful cities in Europe, but I will absolutely recommend Paris and Amsterdam. It is not just because of our flights, it is because springtime in both cities is really nice. In spring, the flowers are blossoming and the trees are turning green, especially in the parks and gardens. If you go to Amsterdam, you can enjoy tulips. People stay at home in winter, but are happy to go out in spring. A lot of people picnic outside, and there are also a lot of food and music festivals. I think it is really nice time to take a long walk in the city, because the summer is too hot. If you go to Paris, you can also visit Provence to enjoy the beautiful flowers, where it will be warmer than northern France.

ST: Which Chinese city is your favorite?

Gerressen: It is a difficult question. I've visited many Chinese cities, and all of them are different, as China is so big. If I had to pick one, I would say Lijiang in Yunnan province, as it is very beautiful



and perfect for a holiday.

ST: On a normal day at work, what takes up most of your time?

Gerressen: I spend a lot of time on my e-mails, because I get a lot of questions and requests. Sometimes, it is high-level content about budgets and strategic priorities, but lesser issues can also occupy a lot of time. It could be a customer complaint, a big event or celebration, or maybe the CEO visiting from our head office. The most meaningful part, I think, is the end of the day, if you achieve big results — even if it is just one happy customer, it will make you happy. Also, it could be a commercial success, a strategy working, or a booking coming in — any kind of good result can make you happy.

ST: In your spare time, what activities do you like to do to relax and help you do a better job?

Gerressen: I spend a lot of time with my family and kids. As you know, I have three kids and it is relaxing to play with them; I will lose my thoughts on work immediately. I also like to do some sports and socialize with my friends, go to dinner and also travel.

ST: Do you like Chinese dishes? Which one is your favorite?

Gerressen: I have tried many Chinese dishes. I think one of my favorites is the same for most foreigners, *kung pao* chicken. I know it is very basic, but I like it; I can eat it every day. And I also like Peking duck and Sichuan hot pot.

Boeing Celebrates Innovative Strategic Partnership with China

Text Hu Tao / XINHUA

“Boeing is 100 years old this year, and over the past 45 years, Boeing and China have established a partnership based on mutual benefit,” John Bruns, president of Boeing China, said during Zhuhai Airshow in 2016.

“Boeing has made the major decision to extend its 737 production system overseas at the right time, taking its innovative and strategic partnership with China to the next level,” Bruns said in an interview at the 11th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition.

“The secret to vitality lies in innovating and believing in dreams, as well as in partnering with the right partner at the right time for joint development,” Bruns said, adding that Boeing has enjoyed its partnership with China, which will be crucial to its success in this century.

On Oct. 28 last year, just a few days before the opening of the air show in Zhuhai, Boeing signed a strategic cooperation framework agreement on a Boeing 737 completion and delivery center with the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC) and Zhejiang province. The center, in the northeast city of Zhoushan, will be the first section of its 737 production system outside the United States.

“Boeing has followed its own logic and roadmap for its development in China, giving due and full consideration at each step of the way to maximizing the benefits for both sides,” Bruns said.

From delivering aircraft to

Chinese customers to partnering with China in production of parts and components; from market integration to joint innovation, “We have arrived where we are today so that we can take a new step,” he said.

“All types of Boeing aircraft with parts and components manufactured in China meet our requirements and we are pleased to work with China’s aviation enterprises to steadily enhance aviation manufacturing, as well as innovation capabilities,” he added.

Boeing’s deliveries to China each year account for one-quarter of the world total, and one-third of all 737 aircraft deliveries are bound for China.

In addition, parts and components made by Chinese manufacturers serve the global aerospace industry. AVIC Chengfei Commercial Aircraft Co. delivered the first batch of rudders, a critical component, for the Boeing 737MAX and the new widebody 787-10 on Sept. 9 last year.

“We regard China as a very important strategic partner, not only because of the civil aviation market and potential, but also because we are willing to provide support to our Chinese partners. Making each other successful is more in line with our long-term interest and steady cooperation between the two sides,” Bruns said.

Seats for passenger aircraft produced by Ali-Jiatai have been listed as an option in the 737 equipment catalog.

“This brings more options for our customers domestically and around the world,” Bruns added.

On Nov. 1 last year, COMAC and Boeing signed an agreement to expand research collaboration and explore new technology for sustainable aviation biofuel through the Boeing-COMAC sustainable aviation technology center.

“The global aviation market is a huge pie that is getting bigger and bigger. There are always new entrants joining in, as many countries want aircraft manufacturing capability. Boeing welcomes competition that is conducive to the sound development of the industry and we are confident of keeping our advantages through innovation,” Bruns said.

He explained that when COMAC was established, Boeing began collaboration in biofuel, safety and other fields, adding that the latest research center is a testament to that cooperation. To Bruns, China is not just a remarkable market, but it will also become a strong competitor in global commercial aviation, reforming the current structure of the market.

“Boeing has established an innovative and strategic partnership with China’s aviation industry, striving for collaboration, while maintaining competition,” he said.

To maintain cooperation while competing with each other creates a subtle and challenging situation, which requires confidence and strength. Bruns believes Boeing and China will both benefit and grow stronger through collaboration.

“The future will be more challenging for Boeing and we choose to face it boldly,” Bruns said.



“ Boeing has established an innovative and strategic partnership with China’s aviation industry, striving for collaboration while maintaining competition. ”

John Bruns

NEW YEAR'S

Text Feng Shuangqing & Cao Shenshen

Photos Lu Ning & Feng Shuangqing

Chinese New Year, also called Spring Festival, has a more than 4,000-year history. It is the grandest and the most important annual event for Chinese. Spring Festival is celebrated at the turn of the traditional lunar Chinese calendar. In 2017, the first day of the Chinese New Year is on Saturday, Jan. 28. Every year is represented by a zodiac animal sign, and the coming year is the Year of the Rooster.

Spring Festival is a time for families to reunite, which is similar to Christmas Day in the West. It is also a time for introspection and making wishes — saying goodbye to things past and welcoming things to come.

Sky Times invited 16 people from all walks of life to share their feelings concerning their biggest achievement or regret in 2016, and their New Year's resolutions for 2017.



Chen Kaijian

45, Engineer,
from Sichuan province

Chen Kaijian is an experienced engineer who has worked for Aircraft Maintenance and Engineering Corp. (Ameco) for more than 21 years. He joined Ameco in 1995 after graduating from Northwestern Polytechnical University. At present, he is the manager of the Maintenance Control Center. For the Year of the Rooster, he wishes his family health and happiness.



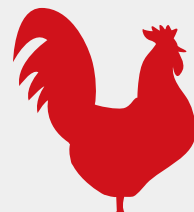
Yang Su has worked at Air China as the captain of Boeing 737 for more than 10 years.

For the past nine Spring Festival holidays, he has only been with his family on two occasions. "There is no difference between Spring Festival and ordinary days. Our responsibility is to carry passengers to their hometown safely and punctually," he said, adding that for 2017, his wish is for all pilots to have a safe year.

Yang Su

32, Pilot, from Beijing





RESOLUTIONS

for the Year of the Rooster



Chen Mengying

30, Civil Aviation Safety Inspector, from Heilongjiang province



There are 5,000 Civil Aviation safety inspectors working at Beijing Capital International Airport (BCIA), Chen Mengying is one of them. She comes from Daqing, a city located in the southwest of Heilongjiang province, but has worked for Capital Airport Aviation Security Co. for nearly 10 years. Her job involves conducting security checks on each passenger who wants to take a flight from Terminal 2 at BCIA. In the New Year, she hopes to find her Mr. Right, and even though she cannot go back to her hometown, she wishes for her family to stay healthy and safe.

Yang Fan

31, Ground Service
Duty Manager, from
Jilin province



Yang Fan has been working for China Eastern Airlines' ground services department in Beijing for 11 years. When passengers have difficulty getting tickets or miss their flight, they turn to Yang for help. In 2016, Yang won several honors for his outstanding performance at work. He wishes that he could spare more time with his parents, whom he has not spent the Spring Festival with for 11 years.



Tian Wenbo, Fu Ziqing and Lilla are all flight attendants for Hainan Airlines. For Tian and Fu, Spring Festival is not a time for reunion. They need to work so that passengers can fly back home and reunite with their families. Their colleague, Lilla, is a Hungarian national who came to China in 2015. She is excited and curious about the upcoming 2017 Spring Rush in China, during which she will be one of the travelers. For the flight attendants, their top New Year's wish is for safety and punctuality on all flights.

Tian Wenbo, Fu Ziqing and Lilla
Flight Attendants, from Heilongjiang
Province, Liaoning Province and Hungary

Hu Wenge

49, Beijing Opera actor,
from Shaanxi Province

Hu is the starring actor and performer of the *Dan* role in the Mei Lanfang Peking Opera troupe at Beijing Peking Opera Theatre. He was the disciple of Mei Baojiu, a Peking opera artist whose father, Mei Lanfang, was one of the most famous Peking opera performers ever. In 2016, Hu's biggest regret is that his dear teacher passed away. As the one and only *Dan* descendant of Mei School, Hu wishes that the spirit of the Mei School would last forever.



Li Jiang

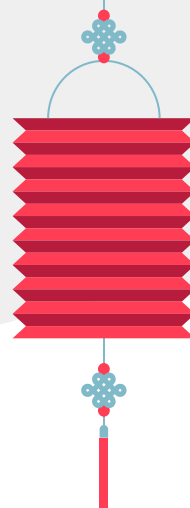
23, Product Manager,
from Jiangxi province

This is Li Jiang's seventh year in Beijing. He began working in the internet industry after graduating with a bachelor of economics from Beijing Technology and Business University. For him, his proudest achievement in 2016 was successfully joining his dream company, Tencent, which is one of the largest internet companies in the world. Li works as a product manager in the game domain, and he wishes to render better products and services to game players this year.

In 2016, Yang Zhonglei left his hometown, a small village in Hebei province, and moved to the international metropolis of Beijing about 200 km away to seek employment. He now works as a courier for Vipshop, an e-commerce company specializing in clothing and cosmetics, and delivers about 100 packages per day, rain or shine. Yang feels happier now than in his hometown, as he earns enough to support his family and gets exposed to a diverse world he never knew. In 2017, Yang wishes to spend more time with his parents, as he feels guilty for being away from them for so long.

Yang Zhonglei

30, Courier, from Hebei province



The year 2016 was a turning point for Qiu Fang, a woman from southern China who completed her master's degree in translation studies at Beijing Foreign Studies University. Qiu decided to be a teacher, one who is rigorous in her methods, but humane in her classroom. Qiu now works as an English teacher at Beijing National Day School. She said she is grateful to work with kind people and being able to teach a group of lovely children. In 2017, she wishes that everything would improve, both for her students and herself.



Qiu Fang

24, Teacher, from Hunan province



Huang Yanyan

25, Editor of Children's Books, from Guangxi province

Huang Yanyan said that she was blessed in 2016, as she stumbled on her passion in life — children's books. Huang is now in charge of editing the children's magazine THOMAS & FRIENDS at Children's Fun Publishing House. She hopes to learn how to communicate with children better in 2017 to improve her magazine.



Zhang Yize

14, Middle School
Student, from Beijing



Zhang Yize is a third-year student at Beijing Lu Xun High School. He is not only a merit student with excellent grades, but also excels in running and the high jump. In 2017, Zhang will take his first exam of vital importance—the senior high school entrance examination. His New Year's resolution is to get into Beijing No. 8 Middle School, where his good friends are and which has his favorite playground.



Guan

Yuan is the design manager of the Civil Aviation Administration of China's inflight magazine, and also the mother of two children, aged 4 and 7. Despite a hectic work schedule, Guan tackled her garden by trimming fruit trees with her parents and children in the countryside during the summer vacation in 2016, which she said was her greatest achievement of the year. In the coming year, Guan hopes she will be less busy and can travel more with her family.

Guan Yuan

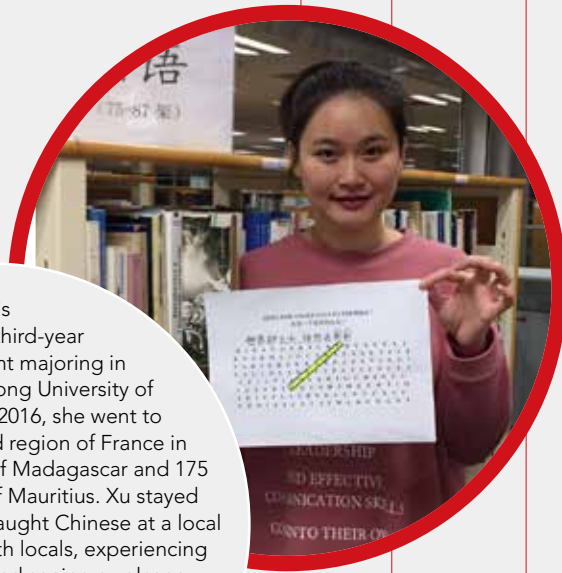
36, Design Manager, from
Shandong province



Xu Ting

23, Graduate Student,
from Jiangxi Province

Xu is currently a third-year graduate student majoring in French at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies. In 2016, she went to Reunion, an island and region of France in the Indian Ocean, east of Madagascar and 175 kilometers southwest of Mauritius. Xu stayed there for 10 months and taught Chinese at a local middle school. Living with locals, experiencing an unfamiliar culture and seeing a volcano in person for the first time are the most unforgettable things for Xu in 2016. In the year to come, Xu wishes that she could travel more and experience the colorful world she hasn't discovered.



Baking means much more than just a job for Fu Xiaoying — it also means a strong marriage, as she met her husband while making cakes. For Fu, 2017 will be a special year, as it will mark the arrival of her baby. As a bakery chef at Xiangbao Baking Studio, Fu wishes that she could bake healthy and delicious desserts for her new baby and people who love baking.

Fu Xiaoying

31, Bakery Chef, from
Heilongjiang province



LIFESTYLE



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Hot Cocktails

to warm up your winter

Text Wang Ruosi

Winter is a festive season both in China and the West. At a party, or after a strenuous or stressful activity, a cocktail can help people relax and drive away their winter blues. Below, the editor of *Sky Times* gives tips on where to find the best cocktails in Beijing this winter and what to order.



Atmosphere

As the highest bar in Beijing, YunKu Bar is located on the 80th floor of the China World Summit Wing, overlooking the entire city. With a unique panorama of Beijing, it is a popular choice of businessmen and fashionistas.

This bar offers various cocktails mixed with healthy ingredients, allowing guests to enjoy a rich malt liquor and a rare cigar, for example. In addition, the live music here injects vigor into the evening. The brand-new hot cocktails produced by YunKu Bar are a feast for elites who know how to enjoy life.

Address: 80th floor of China World Summit Wing, No.1, Jianguomen Avenue, Chaoyang District
Telephone: 010 8571 6459

Opening Hours:

Mon- Fri: 2 p.m.-2 a.m.

Weekend & Holidays: 12 p.m.-2 a.m.



Ron Zacapa Cha

Aged rum, honey, Assam black tea, cinnamon, cardamom

This cocktail contains Ron Zacapa rum aged 6 to 23 years, which is brewed using “virgin sugar cane honey”. This cocktail has an extremely rich and sweet taste, as the rum has been stored in a red oak barrel that once held bourbon, sherry and Pedro Jimenez wine. The deep aroma of cardamom and cinnamon is well set off by delicate Assam black tea. With the tea served in an iron pot and a rum shot served separately, customers can mix the two according to their own preference.



The Alps Toddy

Brandy, cocoa liquor, honey, cranberry juice

Switzerland is famous for its chocolate, thus this hot toddy with cocoa liquor is named “Alps”. With Martell Cordon Bleu as the base liquor, the fragrance of quality brandy in addition to its sweet and sour taste makes this cocktail a favorite with the ladies.



George's Bar & Restaurant

Located on the first floor of Hotel Eclat Beijing, George's Bar & Restaurant is inspired by the French movie, *Perfume*. This bar is filled with a mysterious, retro, elegant and fascinating scent. Louis-Augustin Gardon, a beverage manager from Lyon, France, has created an innovative cocktail list, catering to global customers, by integrating a retro French theme with advanced mixing trends. The magic surrounding the mixing of drinks here has transformed the process into an imaginative art.

Address: Ground Floor, Hotel Eclat Beijing, No.9 Dongdaqiao Road, Chaoyang district
Telephone: 010 8561 7758
Opening Hours:
Fri-Sat: 12 p.m.-1 a.m.
Other days: 12 p.m.-12 a.m.



Green Hot Chocolate

Chartreuse, hot white chocolate, hot brown chocolate



Chartreuse is French liqueur made by the Carthusian Monks since 1737. It is said to contain more than 100 herbs, and its recipe remains a mystery to this day. It is a tradition for French people to drink Chartreuse with hot chocolate after skiing. The fragrant alcohol (generally the alcohol content is 65% vol, 45% vol or 30% vol) goes with smooth chocolate, a perfect choice to replenish energy and relax. The fresh hot chocolate made from melted imported white chocolate and dark chocolate is slowly poured onto the rich Chartreuse until the liqueur rises up from the hollow cup to the same height as that of the hot chocolate. This cocktail is sure to impress you, whether it is through the sweetness of the hot chocolate or the fragrance of the Chartreuse.



Kentucky Coffee

Kentucky is the place of origin of American bourbon whiskey. Inspired by Irish coffee, this hot cocktail combines bourbon whiskey with strong hot coffee and vanilla cream, creating a fragrant beverage that suits those who do not wish to become too intoxicated.



Japanese Blazer

Flamed Japanese brandy, brown sugar, vanilla

George's Bar & Restaurant always provides special sensations for both the eyes and the mouth. There is nothing more exciting than observing a mixologist pour brandy, brown sugar and water into a metal canister before setting it alight to create an elixir that appears to have come from a witchcraft ceremony. When the cocktail is poured into a medieval-style crystal cup, vanilla and orange peel are added to provide a fresh, fruity fragrance and balanced flavor. This drink is inspired by the Blue Blazer, a cocktail created in 1849, but Gardon thought that Suntory brandy produced in Japan would provide more interesting flavors, with it is sweet, fruity and caramelized tones.



TRIBE Organic

TRIBE Organic is an award winning organic cafe and restaurant in the lively, bustling neighborhoods of Sanlitun and Lido. It offers organic, healthy fare at mid-range prices.

At the same time, TRIBE Organic is one of the few places in Beijing where you can purchase organic cocktails.

This winter, it is offering unique cocktails for customers who care about their health.



TRIBE Lido

Address: B-106, Lido Place, No.6 Jiang Tai Xi Road, Chaoyang District

Telephone: 010 6431 9289

Opening Hours: 8 a.m.-10 p.m.

TRIBE Sanlitun

Address: 1stFloor, Building 3, China View Plaza, 2 Gongti Dong Lu, Chaoyang District

Telephone: 010 8587 1899

Opening Hours: 10:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m.

Nadaman

Japanese sake has long been a force in hot winter cocktails. Nadaman is a Japanese restaurant, but it is known for its rich collection of sake, where you can find rare local sake, some of which is hard to find even in Japan.

Address: 4th floor of China World Summit Wing, No.1, Jianguomen Avenue

Telephone: 010 8571 6459

Business hours:

Lunch:11:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

Dinner:5:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.



Pomelo Sake

Not all sake is suitable for heating. According to the manager of Nadaman restaurant, in fact, some expensive sake with high purity is more suitable for iced drinks. Therefore, the hot Pomelo Sake cocktail uses pure rice wine. The fresh, sweet pomelo makes it taste sweet, but not syrupy. It is delicious on its own or as an aperitif. With flower-shaped pomelo peel immersed in the wine, you can enjoy a perfect taste of Japan.





Hot Coconut Winter Warmer

Malibu rum, coconut oil, pineapple juice, milk, coconut sugar

Malibu coconut-flavored rum in this hot cocktail is made from sugar cane grown in Barbados, which tastes fresh and mellow after being distilled three times. The light rum mixed with coconut makes a fantastic combination, creating a sweet, mellow taste representative of a carefree Caribbean lifestyle. Coconut oil and coconut sugar strengthen the flavor, while the milk creates a smooth finish that reminds you of drinking milk during your childhood.



Winter Sunshine

Bluecoat American Dry Gin, Pimm's No.1, lemon juice, ginger, syrup

In October last year, TRIBE formed ties with the Chinese Open tennis competition, with the Winter Sunshine cocktail promoted at the event as a refreshing tippie. It is made by mixing ginger and lemon juice to create a sweet and sour taste. As ginger is a top choice for people keen to warm up, this cocktail is much more suitable for winter.



Frankfurt Hot Toddy

Maker's Mark bourbon whiskey, raspberry juice, maple syrup, lemon juice, orange

Hot cocktails are often made with whiskey, while TRIBE is extremely cautious in mixing its ingredients. The Frankfurt Hot Toddy is a fruity number, with raspberry, yellow lemon and orange leaving a lingering sour finish. Sweet, but not oily, maple syrup reduces the intensity of this cocktail, without affecting the original flavor of the bourbon whiskey.



Festive Food for Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is rich with tradition, especially at the dinner table. “Lucky” foods are served during the eight-day holiday, commonly known as Spring Festival, which comes at a different time every year, based on lunar cycles. The Year of the Rooster arrives this year on Jan. 28.

What makes certain foods lucky? The auspicious symbolism is based on both the way the food is pronounced and what it looks like. Fish, dumplings, spring rolls and glutinous rice cakes are among the most common dishes eaten at Chinese New Year.

In Chinese, the word for fish, “yu”, sounds like the word for surplus. Chinese like to have a surplus at year’s end as it is thought that if you have managed to save some money throughout the year, then you will make more in the next year.

“When I’m at home, I like to have very simple Cantonese food with my family, such as a Chinese steamed fish, which is one of my favorite dishes, said Kwong Wai Keung, T’ang Court’s executive chef for Chinese cuisine. His Hong Kong restaurant in the Langham Hotel is one of only four Cantonese restaurants in the world with three Michelin stars.

Restaurant guests can enjoy a fancier version of what he serves at home: steamed sliced garoupa head and brisket with dried barbery

wolfberry fruit and tangerine peel. Containing an abundance of protein and a low calorie count, the garoupa fish symbolizes the meaning of excess or surplus.

“I wanted to create a health-conscious Chinese New Year menu using seasonal Chinese ingredients,” the chef said. “Considering that wolfberry fruit is a superfood, which has been used in traditional Chinese medicine for many years, I decided to use it as the theme of the menu.”

In some local traditions, two catfish are eaten — one on Chinese New Year’s Eve and one on New Year’s Day. If written and pronounced in a certain way, this pattern sounds like a wish for a surplus year-after-year. If only one catfish is eaten, with the upper part of the fish consumed on New Year’s Eve and the remainder on the first day of the new year, the term can be spoken with the same homophonic meaning.

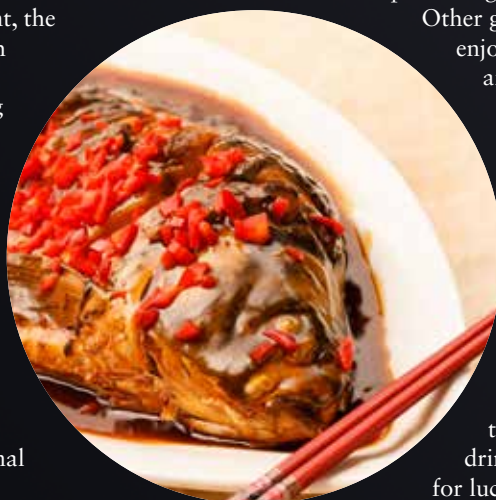
There is a ritual regarding the position of the fish. The

head should be placed toward distinguished guests or elders, representing respect.

Other guests can enjoy the fish only after the one who faces the fish head eats first — the fish shouldn’t be moved. The two people who face the head and tail of the fish should drink together for luck.

Chinese dumplings, *jiaozi*, are another important holiday dish, traditionally eaten on Chinese New Year’s Eve, especially in northern China. With a history dating back more than 1,800 years, dumplings can be made to look like Chinese silver ingots, which are not bars, but boat-shaped, oval and turned up at the two ends. The more dumplings you eat during New Year celebrations, according to legend, the more money you can make in the new year.

Fillings usually include minced meat and finely chopped vegetables. Cabbage and radish fillings are popular for New Year’s Eve, so that one’s skin will become fair and one’s mood will be gentle. However, Chinese sauerkraut filling is avoided at this time; it



ew Year

Text Mike Peters

suggests a poor or difficult future.

The potential for wealth imbues many dumpling traditions. Whether you boil, steam, fry or bake them, there must be a good number of pleats, as a junction that is too flat portends poverty. Also, dumplings should be arranged in lines, not circles, or your life will go round and round, never going anywhere.

Spring rolls, *chunjuan*, are so named because they are traditionally eaten during Spring Festival. These Cantonese dim sum cylinders are filled with vegetables, meat or something sweet. Because fried spring rolls look like gold bars, a popular saying is “*hwung-jin wan-lyang*”, or “a ton of gold”, which is a wish for prosperity.

Niangao are glutinous rice

cakes made from sticky rice, sugar, chestnuts, Chinese dates and lotus leaves. *Tangyuan*, or sweet rice balls, are similarly popular at this time. The pronunciation and round shape of *tangyuan* are associated with reunion and being together, an important aspect of the New Year celebrations. In China’s northern regions, longevity noodles—longer than normal noodles and uncut—symbolize the eater’s life.

Tangerines, oranges and pomelos offer a roundness and “golden” color that symbolizes fullness and wealth, but the Chinese words also

have a lucky sound when spoken. For example, the Chinese word for orange (and tangerine) is “cheng”, which sounds the same as the Chinese word for success.

The New Year would not be complete without homemade puddings. These prosperous desserts bring good luck, while satisfying sweet and salty cravings. Festive flavors include turnip with preserved meat, and taro pudding filled with conpoy and dried shrimp, which are both popular gifts.



STAY WARM, PLAY COOL

Text Ting Ting



Yves Saint Laurent



Balenciaga



Acne Studios



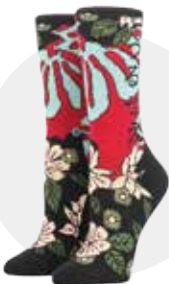
Salvatore Ferragamo



Stuart Weitzman

Her

It is often cold in the late winter, especially this year, with chilly winds blowing across cities and temperatures dipping dramatically. Time to give up looking good and just put on as many clothes as you can? No! Instead, get some fashion inspiration from models. With an oversized coat and boots that go over the knees, you can keep yourself free from the deep freeze, while still being fashionable. If you want to be more comfortable, just slip on some cozy leggings and a pair of ankle boots. It is easy to wrap up warmth and stay chic this winter.



Stance



Salvatore Ferragamo

No More Boring Attire

Him

Are you tired of wearing the same boring down coat to get through the whole winter? It is time to take tips from pop stars. This season, the key items to don are a bomber jacket and sneakers. A finely designed bomber jacket gives you a balance between fashion forward and approachable. In addition, it can keep you just as warm as a down coat. For sneakers, a limited edition is your best choice, such as Yeezys, NMD and retro Air Jordan. If you are not afraid to wear bold colors, socks designed by Stance are the best bet to.



Burberry



Prada

Montblanc



Rolex



Stance



Acne Studios



Church's

Keeping at the Forefront of Fashion

Text Stella Cao

The only constant in the world of fashion is change. Fashion changes from one minute to the next, while people strive to keep up with the new trends. Fashion in the modern era does not just relate to clothing and accessories. New trends in urban fashion permeate all aspects of a person's life, be it in the home, the office or entertainment venues.

Keeping up with fashion trends is an ongoing process, with those who are keen to be at the forefront of the fashion world needing to be on high alert at all times.

One of the latest trends in women's fashion is leggings, which can be worn with matching tops and look good on people of all sizes. Colors also play a significant role in fashion, with certain shades more popular in specific seasons.



Get Out and About

Call up friends, go to a bar, a concert or a party and begin observing. Sometimes, the best inspiration comes from random people. The chances are that a trend which is in will be worn by a majority of people out on the town. Spot fashionist as with friends and do not forget to take mental notes on what passes your eyes.

Fashion is always fun, but ever-changing, so for those who have a passion for being hip at all times, it is vital to always stay in the loop. For those seeking to make a fashion statement, do not forget to add some personal touches — after all, trend-setters are often imitated, never replicated.



Follow Fashion Weeks

In addition to attending fashion weeks in the world's four fashion capitals — Paris, Milan, London and New York — there are countless other ways to gain inspiration for new fashion styles. Check online for scheduled fashion events and advice from fashion aficionados, or to check out designers' collections being flaunted on the runway.

Be a Mall Rat

If fashion weeks seem a bit far-fetched, a visit to a dependable local mall could suffice. Mall stores usually sell clothes that imitate latest celebrity styles, as well as housing designer brands. Whether a shopper knows what they are searching for or they are in need of inspiration, malls often cater to everyone, from those on a budget to those willing to splurge.

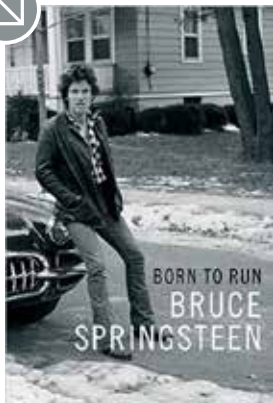
Look and Listen

Print, television and film are powerful sources of fashion inspiration. Magazines such as Allure, Cosmopolitan, Elle and Vogue offer insights into what's hot and what's not, and enable the more artistically minded readers to cut out their favorite outfits for future reference. Inspiration can also be found on television and in film, with popular shows and the latest blockbusters an excellent form of education.

Scour Social Media

Technology has made researching fashion trends a quick and convenient process. With the touch of a finger, it is possible to search, browse, share and discuss the latest fashion trends and tips as well as subscribe to fashion website updates or follow fashion designers and brands.





Born to Run

by Bruce Springsteen

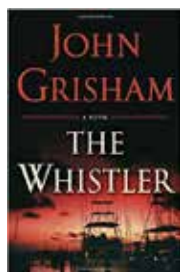
“Writing about yourself is a funny business...but in a project like this, the writer has made one promise: to show the reader his mind. In these pages, I’ve tried to do this.” —Bruce Springsteen

Bruce Springsteen’s autobiography, *Born to Run*, is the namesake of one of his most successful studio albums, released in 1975. The US singer-songwriter is best known for his work with the E Street Band. Nicknamed “The Boss”, Springsteen is widely known for his brand of poetic lyrics, Americana, working class and sometimes political sentiments centered on his native New Jersey, his distinctive voice and his lengthy and energetic stage performances — with concerts from the 1970s to the present decade running at up to four hours in length.

In the book, which was elaborately written over seven years, Springsteen brings to the story of his life the same honesty, humor and originality found in his songs. He describes growing up Catholic in Freehold, New Jersey, amid the poetry, danger and darkness that fueled his imagination, leading up to the moment he refers to as “The Big Bang”: seeing Elvis Presley’s debut on The Ed Sullivan Show. He vividly recounts his relentless drive to become a musician, his early days as a bar-band king in Asbury Park, and the rise of the E Street Band. With disarming candor, he also tells, for the first time, the story of the personal struggles that inspired his best work, and explains why the song, *Born to Run*, reveals more than people previously realized.

Funny and solemn, tender and insightful, Springsteen gives his fans tremendous insight into what it is that has driven him over the course of his life and career. He proves that he has taken on life fully engaged both in living and examining it, and in doing so, he has delivered a story as profoundly inspiring as his best music. The reader learns about Springsteen’s motivation, demons, anxiety, joys, fears, hopes and dreams — all the elements that have constituted The Boss’ muse over the past 50 years. It is like sitting next to Springsteen in the campfire light hearing his life story. You will be begging for another exhilarating refrain.

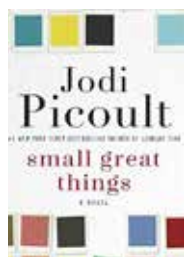
Born to Run is much more than a legendary rock star’s memoir. It is a book for anyone who has ever wanted to be baptized in the holy river of rock and roll.



The Whistler

by John Grisham

What happens when a judge bends the law or takes a bribe? It is rare, but it happens. John Grisham, the US bestselling author, takes a hard look at injustice and corruption in the legal world and in our society as a whole. *The Whistler* centers on an elaborate conspiracy involving an Indian reservation, an organized crime syndicate and a crooked judge skimming a small fortune from the tribal casino’s monthly haul in what is an important novelistic critique of modern society. Many of Grisham’s novels read more like investigative reports than literary fiction and *The Whistler* is exemplary of this type of prose.



Small Great Things

by Jodi Picoult

With richly layered characters and a gripping moral dilemma that will lead readers to question everything they know about privilege, power and race, *Small Great Things* is the stunning new page-turner from Jodi Picoult. The book tells a story of Ruth, a widowed African-American nurse and single mom. She’s worked as a labor-delivery nurse in a small hospital for 20 years and never has a problem until one day, when someone requests that she not take care of their baby because of her race, which eventually leads to a series of events where Ruth finds herself questioning the system she has lived in, worked in and everything she’s believed in. It is a book that challenges the reader and expands a cultural conversation about race and prejudice.

Room



Room is a 2015 Canadian-Irish independent drama. Both highly suspenseful and deeply emotional, it is a unique and touching exploration of the boundless love between a mother and her child.

The story takes place in Akron, Ohio, where 24-year-old Joy Newsome and her five-year-old

son, Jack, live in a squalid 10 foot by 10 foot shed they call “Room”. They share a bed, toilet, bathtub, television and rudimentary kitchen, while the only window is a skylight. They are captives of a man they call “Old Nick”, Jack’s biological father, who abducted Joy seven years prior and routinely rapes her while Jack sleeps in the closet. She tries to stay optimistic for her son, but suffers from malnutrition and depression. She allows Jack to believe that only Room and its contents are “real”, and that the rest of the world exists only on television.

Like any good mother, Joy dedicates herself to keeping Jack happy and safe, nurturing him with warmth and love, and doing typical things like playing games and telling stories. She has created a whole universe for Jack within Room.

As Jack’s curiosity about their situation grows, Joy finally enacts a risky plan to escape from the enclosed surroundings that Jack has known his entire life. The boy makes a thrilling discovery: the

outside world.

It is after Jack finally leaves the space for the first time that the potency of the film is most felt—in its ability to express his wonder and confusion and discombobulation at seeing things he had only experienced through a screen. The second part of the film is about how Jack and Joy recover and reintegrate into a society that does not know how to react to their whole ordeal. Separately, each segment of Room is tense and deeply moving, but they are even better placed back-to-back.

What makes the film so effective—and at times so beautiful—is that it is painfully aware of how time passes and things change. Back in their prison, when Jack rebels against Joy being honest about what is really happening, she shushes him with the line: “This is the story you get.” Room should hit home with anyone who worries about how to tell the generation behind them what lies ahead—especially when we cannot always see what is in front of ourselves.

Your Name

Two high-school kids who have never met — city boy Takaki and country girl Mitsuha — are united through their dreams. Told in three interconnected segments, the film follows a young man through his life as cruel winters, cold technology, adult obligations and responsibility converge to test the delicate petals of love. Amazing characters, scenery, city life and town life, as well as the suspense and the empathy combine to wow the audience.



The Edge of Seventeen

Growing up is hard. Seventeen is hard. High-school life gets even more unbearable for junior Nadine when her best friend, Krista, starts dating her all-star older brother. All of a sudden, the girl feels more lonely than ever, until the unexpected friendship of a thoughtful boy gives her a glimmer of hope that things just might not be so terrible after all.



Putting Ancient Traditions in a

Modern C

Deep in the mountains south of Guiyang, capital of China's Guizhou province, scattered across the limestone ridges and slopes in a land covered with bamboo forests, there is lush grass and running water that make for a vibrant, green environment in which many different ethnic groups live, including the *Miao* people.

Guizhou is a relatively remote region, far away from megacities and more or less detached from the sprawl and fast-paced life seen in the coastal cities. Although the *Miao* people live throughout southeast Asia, as well as in many parts of southern China, the *Miao* in this area are the ones with whom I have had the most frequent contact.

Among the different branches of the *Miao* people are many artisans, shamans, seamstresses and individuals who pass down the oral traditions that since antiquity have embodied much of the *Miao* collective spirit and culture.

Although fall last year was the first time I had a chance to see for myself, I had heard about these lands for many years. I had heard stories about their magical bamboo flute, the lusheng, from friends and classmates during my time in graduate school, but in particular through a colleague and classmate at the time by the name of Diegui, an active artist who is also one of the *Miao* people.

Diegui was born into a humble



Yelang Valley: Karst
Voice Live in Guiyang in
October, 2016

family deep in the remote mountainous region of the Qiandongnan district. His father is a carpenter and his mother a housewife. He became the first in his village to pursue a graduate-level degree, attending Minzu University of China to study art anthropology under the guidance of Wang Jianmin. It was during this time that I first got to know about Diegui and his vision for the future of his ethnic minority's cultural legacy.

I see him as a determined carrier of oral literature traditions, to say the very least, and this serves as a reminder that not every culture had its own writing system, historically. At the same time, it was from Diegui that I learned that there are traditions in this world among many cultures, including his, that blur traditional distinctions about what constitutes literature, music and oral narrative. Diegui understands this and thus as he searches for a way to keep

ontext

Text Andy Bauer



his ethnic traditions and culture relevant in the 21st century, he also searches for a way to share these ideas with the world at large.

It is not easy to achieve this task when there are not any existing successful models to emulate. Although there are written characters that have survived among the *Miao* people, not everyone, especially among the younger generation, grasps the cultural relevance or traditions of the ethnic group. There are even

fewer that understand the complex classical oral narrative, or rather oral literature-music tradition, the essence of which Diegui is searching for.

In a short period of time, he successfully organized major artistic projects to facilitate and bring together not only the young *Miao* people in this region, but also, through festivals such as Karst Voice Live in October last year, to bring together contemporary traditional local musicians from

many ethnic groups, as well as other southern regions and from abroad.

It is easy to assume that there is not much of a place for such subtle traditions in modern contexts, but Diegui's successful organization of such large-scale events and local propagation of national art in Guizhou proves otherwise. Thinking differently is not always about thinking outside the box; sometimes its about reinventing the way in which the box is viewed.

HOTEL ECLAT BEIJING

Art of Luxury & Luxury of Art

Text Wang Ruosi

As a member of the exclusive Small Luxury Hotels of the World, the five-star Hotel Eclat Beijing is a stunning landmark on the Beijing skyline. The hotel building, a gleaming glass pyramid, has won tons of architectural awards in the past few years, and it is without a doubt the best-designed luxury hotel in Beijing.

Located in the essential part of Parkview Green in Beijing's Chaoyang — the Central Business District and embassy area — the boutique hotel has been designed with the business traveler in mind. It's situated downtown in one of the world's most vibrant capitals, with more than 100 luxurious rooms, including 20 individually-styled suites with their own private indoor terrace and lagoon.

The hotel's owner, George Wong, is known as one of the most important art collectors in Asia. In the hotel, guests will be pleasantly surprised by Wong's luxury art collection and the way the art is displayed.

Every suite has a different theme, such as the Harry Potter suite, the Dark Warrior suite, the Scandinavia suite and the Miami Suite, among others. The designer furniture includes pieces by Hans Wegner, Timothy Oulton and Eero Aarnio, making every suite a unique and delightful space.

The indulgent 128-square-meter Miami suite is a showcase of design and style, and unmatched facilities and space, including a stunning 200-square-meter outdoor terrace and a 10-meter private jet pool, well protected from the elements by a roof which ensures natural light, and comfortable air quality and temperature. Inside, an ultra-spacious living room includes a separate dining area that seats up to 18 people. The suite is also a perfect place for events and parties.

Located on the 20th floor, the Presidential Suite offers the perfect place for receiving and entertaining important guests. The suite measures 400-square-meters with a further 300-square-meters outdoor area, including a private dining room seating 24 people, a reception room and terrace with dining table, and a private cinema/KTV room.

Aimed at redefining the upscale hotel experience and providing the most impeccable service to guests, Hotel Eclat Beijing offers butler services and gym access 24 hours a day.

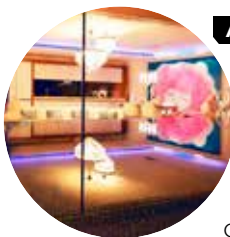
HOTEL HIGHLIGHTS

Fine Dining



Guests are spoiled for fine dining choices in Beijing. In addition to Hotel Eclat's lounge and 24-hour in-room fine dining, there are numerous luxury and casual restaurants around Parkview Green. For example, you can enjoy the best burger at Alfie's Beijing, delightful fine dining at Sun Ming Yuen restaurant, or grab a French vintage-style cocktail in George's bar and restaurant.

Art Collections



Hotel Eclat offers the rare opportunity of experiencing in-house, museum-quality art, with more than 100 incredible works in its guestrooms and public areas, including original sculptures and paintings from artistic greats like Salvador Dali, Pierre Matter, Zhang Guolang, Chen Wen Ling, Andy Warhol and Gao Xiao Wu. The hotel effortlessly combines the art of luxury with the luxury of art.



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THE REVERIE SAIGON

Italian Luxury in Vietnam

Text Patsy Yang

The Reverie Saigon offers a glimpse of Ho Chi Minh City's high life that would surprise anyone who knows little about the historic city other than that it was a major port in French Indochina in a bygone era.

The Reverie Saigon, set in the heart of the city, is one of its finest hotels, an extravagant example of the city's economic boom and wealth. A member of The Leading Hotels of the World, it is crafted to perfection high above the city, and is recognized as the only six-star accommodation in the nation.

The decor of the hotel oozes opulent luxury. The hotel owner has a true passion for Italian design and excellence, and the Reverie Saigon is sure to wow its guest with its luxury Italian craftsmanship. Master creations by Colombostile, Provasi, Giorgetti, Venini, Visionnaire and others are generously displayed and used throughout the venue, which is heralded as "an inspired and unparalleled cultural exchange between Vietnam and Italy".

Giulio Cappellini, art director of the Milan-based Poltrona Frau Group and an iconic trendsetter in the industry, said of the hotel: "I cannot think of any other property anywhere in the world that has brought together so many of Italy's leading designer furniture brands — except perhaps a museum."

Vibrant mosaics by Sicis of Italy, reminiscent of those found in grand Venetian palazzos, can be found throughout the hotel, from the towering walls of flowers adorning the seventh floor lobby to the white and gold mosaics that line the winding staircase of The Spa.

A grand, five-meter-long sofa from Colombostile's Baroque-meets-Rococo "Esmeralda" line, custom-made with purple ostrich leather and gilded trim, and bejeweled by a singular, precious amethyst stone draws much attention in the lobby. A Bechstein grand piano, dating back to 1895, that has been reinterpreted by Baldi as art is on display outside the La Scala ballroom.

Renowned Italian brands also provided the

furnishings for the hotel's 286 rooms and suites, which have incomparable views of the winding Saigon River and the city skyline. Each guest room and suite appears to be straight out of a top design magazine.

The hotel also features five of the city's most exemplary food and beverage outlets, from authentic Italian dining to the finest Cantonese restaurant. Other functions include a 1,200-square-meter spa and fitness center, an expansive outdoor swimming pool and 16 versatile, elegantly decorated function spaces.

HOTEL HIGHLIGHTS

Gracious hospitality



The Reverie Saigon meets the needs of the most discerning guests with its impeccable hospitality. The smiling faces, gentle gestures, superior facilities and excellent service make for an unforgettable stay in this historic city. The concierge also offers insider's tips for those who want to experience the city from a local's perspective without any tourist cliches, while the hotel collaborates with top tour operators, such as Vespa Adventures.

The Royal Pavilion



Even in a city with great local Vietnamese cuisine, the Royal Pavilion is worth checking out for its fine Chinese food. The arrival of this restaurant has raised the bar for Chinese cuisine in Ho Chi Minh City, with its exquisite presentation and well-executed dishes. The finest ingredients are imported from China, including delicacies such as abalone, sea cucumber and bird's nest. Other must-haves include dim sum, Peking duck and suckling pig. The decor and service in the restaurant are as impressive as the food.

FLYING



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Competition Heats

Aviation rights pact spurs Chinese airlines to expand further into Australia

Text Tu Lei



Up Down Under



Now that winter has descended on much of China, Australia could become a hot travel destination as the two countries have swept away many of the barriers to air traffic.

China and Australia have reached an agreement on aviation rights that will remove flight restrictions between the two countries, the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) announced in December, 2016.

The two countries also agreed to liberalize traffic rights and code-sharing arrangements. Commercial air traffic had been restricted since January 2015, especially in departure cities such as Beijing and Shanghai, as well as Guangzhou, capital of the southern province of Guangdong.

“[The agreement] will enable Australian and Chinese airlines to service destinations between and beyond both countries, and will allow them to take full advantage

of their cooperative arrangements with their commercial alliance partners,” Australian Minister for Infrastructure and Transport Darren Chester was quoted as saying in a statement posted on the Australian Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development’s website.

The policy will accelerate market liberalization and encourage the airlines to open more routes, Hainan Airlines said in a note sent to *Sky Times* in December, 2016.

Dominating *the market*

The China-Australia commercial aviation market has become the second-largest after the China-US market. The number of passengers flying between the two countries grew 13.5 percent to 2.4 million in 2015, according to CAAC statistics. The number was expected to reach 3 million last year, according to the CAAC.

Chinese airlines dominate the market. Seven Chinese airlines, including national flag carriers Air China, China Eastern and China Southern, fly to Australia. They launched 10 routes last year, including Air China's route between Sydney and Chengdu, capital of the southern province of Sichuan.

In late December, 2016, China Southern launched a route between Guangzhou

and Adelaide, Australia.

“Chinese carriers dominate nearly 95 percent of the Sino-Australian market,” Lin Zhijie, an industry market watcher, told *Sky Times* in December last year.

In comparison, only one Australian airline, Qantas Airways, flies to China, with routes to Shanghai and Hong Kong. The airline said it will restart a route between Beijing and Sydney in January, after a seven-year hiatus.

Jetstar Airways suspended its Chinese routes in October last year, although they were expected to be resumed during the Spring Festival holiday in late January.

Chinese airlines have plans to



Photo by Jing Lei

open more routes to Australia. In January, China Eastern is to open a direct route between Sydney and Wuhan, capital of the central province of Hubei.



Photo by Jing Lei

Greater interest in smaller cities

An article on the industry news portal *carnoc.com* reported in August last year that more than 60 percent of China-Australia seats are from Southeast Asia, New Zealand and the South Pacific, 53 percent of which are from Asia. China and Japan were the two fastest-growing markets in 2015.

Globally, China ranked as the second-largest aviation market after New Zealand in the inbound market for Australia in 2015, as China is now an important growing market for that country.

China Southern and China Eastern are expected to benefit the most from the aviation rights agreement because the two airlines could open more routes and increase the frequency of flights from their respective hubs of Guangzhou and Shanghai.

China Southern has had its

sights set on the Australian market for years, and it aspires to make its home city of Guangzhou a transfer hub between Oceania and Europe.

In a note sent to *Sky Times* in December, 2016, China Southern said it and Xiamen Airlines fly nine routes to and from Australia with 132 flights a week, giving them 30 percent of the market — the most of any airline in the Sino-Australian commercial flight market.

Like China Southern, Air China and China Eastern have been expanding into Australia for years. As slots at airports in the country's largest cities have grown scarce, the airlines have turned to smaller cities.

In November last year, Hainan Airlines became the sixth Chinese airline to fly to Australia. It opened two routes to Sydney: one from

Changsha, capital of the central province of Hunan and one from Xi'an, capital of the northwestern province of Shaanxi.

Flights on those routes are running at 70 percent of capacity, Hainan Airlines said in its note to *Sky Times*.

Hong Kong Airlines, a subsidiary of Hainan Airlines' parent HNA Group, launched a direct flight from Hong Kong to Australia's Cairns and the Gold Coast in 2015, and HNA has plans to further expand into Australia in the future.

In June last year, HNA agreed to buy at least a 13 percent stake in Virgin Australia Holdings, becoming the airline's third-largest stakeholder. The two companies also agreed to cooperate on code-sharing and service resources.



Flying

China's Aviation

Superpower Goal Takes Off

Text Hu Tao / XINHUA

Photos Chen Xiao





In the past year, three China developed large aircraft have debuted on the world stage: the Y20 heavy air freighter; the C919, China's first homemade large passenger aircraft and the massive amphibious AG600.

They all contribute toward China's goal of becoming a global aviation superpower.

"The aviation industry is king in the manufacturing sector. Large aircraft show the exclusive capacity of a great power," said Geng Ruguang, deputy manager of the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC), the country's largest state-owned aircraft producer.

"These latest aircraft models are the harvest of years of constant efforts. They represent the growth of the nation and scientific

progress," Geng said.

Unprecedented efforts in innovation include the aim of having China-made aircraft with China-made engines.

On Aug. 28 last year, the state owned Aero Engine Corporation of China (AECC) was established in Beijing with the goal of becoming a world-class aircraft engine company with Chinese innovation, as engines have long been an obstacle for China's aviation industry.

Establishing the new firm is a strategic move to enhance national strength as well as the capacity of the armed forces.

"Based on independent innovation, the AECC will strive toward creating a strong 'China heart' for our aircraft," AECC president Cao Jianguosaid.

Y20



“ China has bright prospects with a great nation’s determination to become a global aviation superpower, equaling the traditional Western powers.”



The corporation will focus on building a complete industry chain, including design, manufacturing, testing and key materials research.

“It will adhere to independent research and development,” Cao added.

The AECC received investment from the State Council, the Beijing Municipal Government, the AVIC and the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (CACC), with registered capital of 50 billion yuan (US\$7.5 billion).

Manufacturing aircraft engines is a complex process and any breakthroughs in this area will greatly improve China’s economic and military power.

Aviation development is included in at least 100 key projects for

the coming 15 years to increase China’s technological capabilities and improve living standards, as outlined in the government’s 13th Five-Year Plan unveiled last year.

China’s large aircraft family now boasts key members that meet national requirements and demands.

The C919, unveiled by the CACC, will be muscling its way into a civil aviation market dominated by Airbus and Boeing.

However, with its maiden flight set for this year and at least another three years of test flights, it will be some time before the single-aisle jet is in commercial service.

On July 6 last year, two Y-20 aircraft, China’s largest homegrown transport aircraft, officially joined

the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Air Force. They represent China’s new capacity for long-range transportation and its entry to the international “large aircraft club”.

On July 23 last year, China completed production of the AG600, the world’s largest amphibian aircraft under development. About the size of a Boeing 737, the AG600 is designed to fight forest fires and perform marine rescue missions.

“China has bright prospects with a great nation’s determination to become a global aviation superpower, equaling the traditional Western powers,” Geng said.

Pushing the Limits of 3D Printing

Although most people believe 3D printing, also known as additive manufacturing (AM), to be a modern phenomenon, the technology was born in the 1990s to enable rapid prototyping, and has been widely used in building and construction, engineering, industry design and aerospace as well as in the medical and automotive sectors, and even for jewelry and art.

“Rapid prototyping can significantly shorten the cycle time for designing or manufacturing products. The technology is able to produce designs that were not possible through traditional processes, which is why the aerospace industry, in particular, has adopted such methods,” said Xu Jun, aerospace engineering and technology executive leader for Honeywell Technology Solutions (HTS) China.

However, Alexandre Baudot, AM manufacturing project leader for Honeywell Aerospace, said: “Sometimes the 3D printers are not that friendly and can seem to make our life more difficult.”

For the past six months, Baudot has been leading the team in its “fight” with 3D printers at Honeywell’s Shanghai campus for its heat-exchanger program.

“The biggest challenge is that the plate fin for the heat exchanger is extremely thin, less than 0.2 mm, but 3D printers can only print products as thin as 0.3 mm to 0.4 mm, so this is a hurdle we must overcome,” he said.

“In addition, the metal powder we use expands during the laser sintering process and then contracts during the cooling process, meaning a stable thickness is difficult to achieve. So, 3D printers cannot actually print anything we want,” Baudot added.

Star Guo, a mechanical engineer at Honeywell Aerospace, is a key member of the project team. He previously worked on 2D technologies before joining Honeywell because he wanted to learn about 3D printing.

Tina Dou, a senior mechanical design engineer, is another project team member. She has been with Honeywell Aerospace for more than nine years and also joined the 3D printing laboratory to learn about 3D technologies.

“There is no secret formula for how to succeed in the field of technology. I started as a support designer, which is a crucial role in the 3D printing process. A design that is overly complicated results in a huge workload and adds cost due to the removal of support after printing is complete. However, an insufficient design leads to failure in printing. 3D printing is not



Text Amy Xu

like printing a paper document. As the design is three dimensional, it needs to be printed on a base, with a support between the base and the object that is being printed,” she said.

This year, the project team has conducted six design of experiments. It usually takes 10 days to conduct each experiment, which involves planning, designing, printing, support removal and function testing. It was during the second experiment that Guo and Dou found a feasible combination of support design and function, and parameters that could enable thinner printing. They then tried different combinations in the third experiment in hope of finding a perfect formula to overcome the technical obstacle.

“Heat exchangers play a key role in the mechanical component portfolio. It takes a tremendous amount of time and money to design and manufacture prototypes, with tooling for testing new types of fin requiring considerable investment. The cycle time to get such fins produced and assembled for a heat exchanger is about 6 to 12 months. Traditionally, it is a type of component with a fairly low manufacturing yield, as low as 85 percent. Therefore, we are eager for such parts to be manufactured using 3D printing,” Dou said.

For Baudot, Guo and Dou, each trial brings them closer to their goal. They recently produced a ratchet using 3D printing, with the patent for the innovative design having been filed.

“We recently launched a

collaborative project with a famous Chinese university to explore 3D printing design. Maybe in the near future, heat exchangers will no longer be square-shaped. In fact, if we can integrate the design, cost and functionality requirements into the early stages of product design and use the design for AM, we can use 3D printing for almost everything. For aerospace, if 3D printing can produce mechanical components even 0.45 kg lighter, which maintain their performance, it would make significant improvements to aircraft,” Baudot said.

There is still a long way to go before aircraft components are made using 3D printing technology, but with the team’s expertise and knowledge, they are steadily laying solid foundations for the future.



A new botanical wonder has taken root in the heart of the world’s largest natural flower garden in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Emirates Airlines has teamed up with Dubai Miracle Garden to construct the world’s largest floral installation through a life-size version of an Emirates A380, covered in more than 500,000 fresh flowers and living plants. When in full bloom, the aircraft structure will have an unprecedented total stem count of 5 million flowers and will weigh more than 100 tonnes (take-off weight of an actual A380 is 575 tonnes).

KLM, China Airlines Expand Cooperation

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and China Airlines will expand cooperation this year. From Jan. 9, China Airlines will begin operating four weekly direct services between Taipei and Amsterdam with a new Airbus A350, on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. KLM already operates a daily, direct Boeing 777 service between Amsterdam and Taipei, with a tail-end service to Manila, Philippines.

The two airlines have agreed to sell tickets for each other’s flights between Amsterdam and Taipei via code-sharing and block-space agreements, with each getting a set number of seats to sell on each other’s Amsterdam – Taipei – Amsterdam services, using their own flight number. This will enable China Airlines to offer its passengers a daily service between Taipei and Amsterdam, and will allow KLM to offer 11 weekly roundtrips on this route.

Hainan Airlines’ Direct Beijing–Las Vegas Service Commences

Hainan Airlines has launched a new non-stop, thrice-weekly service from Beijing to Las Vegas, the 10th route operated by the airline between China and North America. Hainan Airlines is the sole Chinese airline offering a direct route between the two cities.

As with its existing North America services, Hainan Airlines is deploying one of its B787s on the new Las Vegas route. All of Hainan Airlines’ B787s currently offer in-flight Wi-Fi, while business-class passengers receive Bose noise-canceling headphones and Bulgari-brand amenity kits. Meanwhile, the B787 deployed for the inaugural flight featured a Kung Fu Panda-theme livery, along with similarly themed interior design.



Lufthansa Announces ‘Direct Connect Solution’ with Ctrip

On Dec. 6, 2016, Lufthansa Group announced a new strategic cooperation with Ctrip, a leading provider of travel services in China. The Direct Connect Solution between Lufthansa Group and Ctrip, starting from Jan. 1, is an effort to further provide competitive flights.

With the implementation of the new Direct Connect Solution, Lufthansa Group is enabling Ctrip to display flights and services departing from airports outside of China, including international air tickets for routes from Europe to China, within Europe, and from Europe to the Americas and Africa. Chinese travelers who book their flight tickets with Lufthansa Group airlines, including Lufthansa German Airlines, SWISS, Austrian Airlines and Brussels Airlines, through Ctrip will get access to targeted offerings, improved travel technology and customer experience developments.

On Dec. 2, 2016, Boeing and AerCap, a global leader in aircraft leasing, celebrated the delivery of the first 787 for Air France. The airplane, a 787-9, signifies the delivery of AerCap’s 50th Dreamliner and will be deployed on Air France’s Paris to Cairo route starting in January. The airplane is also the 500th 787 produced on Boeing’s production lines.

The Air France-KLM Group has ordered a total of eighteen 787-9s and seven 787-10s, with an additional twelve 787-9s leased through AerCap. The arrival of Air France’s first 787-9 in Paris in December was part of the carrier’s continued renewal of its long-haul fleet.

The 787-9 leverages the visionary design of the 787-8, offering passenger-pleasing features such as the industry’s largest windows; large overhead bins with room for everyone’s bag; modern LED lighting; cleaner air; increased humidity at a higher pressure for greater comfort and technology that senses and counters turbulence for a smoother ride.

**Boeing
Delivers
500th 787
Dreamliner**



Routes



Guangzhou ⇌ Toronto

China Southern launched flights from Guangzhou to Toronto, Canada, on Dec. 8, 2016. This route is operated by B777-300ER, and is offered three times per week on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. Flight CZ311 will depart Guangzhou at 2:30 p.m. and arrive in Toronto at 4:30 p.m. The return Flight CZ312 will leave Toronto at 0:30 a.m. and arrive in Guangzhou at 5:10 a.m. the following day.

Shenzhen ⇌ Kuala Lumpur

Shenzhen Airlines has launched flights from Shenzhen to Kuala Lumpur. This route is operated with the B737-800, and is offered seven times per week. On Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, the service departs Shenzhen at 4:40 p.m., while on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, the service departs at 5:10 p.m. The return flight leaves Kuala Lumpur at 9 a.m. and arrives in Shenzhen at 1:05 p.m.

Shanghai ⇌ Brisbane

China Eastern Airlines launched flights from Shanghai to Brisbane, Australia, on Dec. 16, 2016. This route is operated by A330-200 four times per week on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday. Flight MU715 departs Shanghai Pudong International Airport at 9:35 p.m. and arrives in Brisbane at 10:05 a.m. the following day. The return Flight MU716 leaves Brisbane at 12:05 p.m. and arrives in Shanghai at 8 p.m.

Shenzhen ⇌ Auckland

Hainan Airlines began operating a thrice-weekly service from Shenzhen to Auckland, New Zealand, on Dec. 29, 2016. Flight HU7931 departs Shenzhen at 1:55 p.m. and arrives in Auckland at 6:30 a.m. the following day. The return Flight HU7932 takes off from Auckland at 8:30 a.m. and touches back down in Shenzhen at 3:25 p.m.

BEST AIRPORTS FOR SLEEPING

TOP



Text **Stella**

If you are a frequent flier, you are likely to have had a lot of experience spending time in airports. For everyone else, people often want to know the answer to the following questions: What is there to do when stuck at an airport or during a long layover? How can I save money on an airport hotel by sleeping in the airport? When taking a connecting flight, which airport is best for waiting at?

Recently, travel website *The Guide to Sleeping in Airports* released a survey, which asked travelers to rate airports worldwide based on their overall experience. They ranked their experiences on the following factors: comfort, including rest zones and gate seating; services; facilities and things to do; food options; immigration/security; customer service and cleanliness. Here are the Top 10 Best Airports in the World based on overall airport experience:



1. Singapore Changi International Airport
Singapore (SIN)





2. Seoul Incheon International Airport
South Korea (ICN)



3. Tokyo Haneda International Airport
Japan (HND)



4. Taipei Taoyuan International Airport
Chinese Taipei (TPE)

5. Munich International Airport
Germany (MUC)

6. Osaka Kansai International Airport
Japan (KIX)

7. Vancouver International Airport
Canada (YVR)

8. Helsinki Airport
Finland (HEL)

9. Tallinn International Airport
Estonia (TLL)

10. Zurich Kloten International Airport
Switzerland (ZRH)

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