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Hong Kong ABCs

Maverick HKTV boss Ricky Wong has said that he's thinking of running for Legco later this year on an "ABC" platform—that's "Anyone But CY." Admit it: Without knowing a single thing about Wong's campaign, you still want to vote for him, don't you? It just shows the power of a strong "ABC" political slogan, which is why we've got some other Hong Kong ABCs for you.

Always Be Closing

No, it's not a sales catchphrase: These are in fact the instructions delivered to all proprietors of small businesses who are trying to stay afloat in this year's crappy economy. Stunning new restaurant concept? Always Be Closing. Great startup idea? Always Be Closing. Found a market niche you can cater to? Always Be Closing, dude.

Anyday But Chingming

Radical localist group with a zealous devotion to the Ching Ming festival. This group advocates violent revolt against the status quo at all times except for April 4/5 (Ching Ming), because on that day we are grave-sweeping and it is very important to respect one's elders. Slogan: "Smash the corrupt system (on 364 days of the year)!"

Artisanal Bros. Coffee

Name of a new Sheung Wan hipster coffee joint we're thinking of starting. What we'd do is roast each individual bean with a blowtorch separately to ensure genuine care and attention goes into every single mouthful. We'd make millions.

American/Australian Born Chinese

Common catchphrase: "I just felt it was time to come back to Hong Kong and really rediscover my roots." Habitat: SoHo.

Identifying characteristics: Speaks broken Cantonese, works in finance and thinks that going for hungover dim sum is the same as communing with ancestors.

Acapella Band Competition

Nothing is better suited to deciding the future of Hong Kong than an all-vocal sing-off. Will CY Leung's resonant timbre be sufficient to hold together his disharmonious group? Will the weak treble chirping of the localists be enough to carry the crowd? Or will Beijing just turn the bass up to 11 and blow us all away?

Anson #Blessed Chan

Forget Ricky Wong. Is it time for the former Chief Secretary and "Conscience of Hong Kong" to step up and grab the reins of office? Yeah it is. #Anson2017.

Who's in charge?

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South China Morning Post Publishers Ltd.
Morning Post Centre, 22 Dai Fat Street
Tai Po Industrial Estate, New Territories
Hong Kong

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\$25 Beer, Thanks to HK Magazine!

HK Magazine turns 25 this year, and to celebrate we've partnered with the LKF Group to offer you \$25 happy hour beers all through this month—just over a week left! Head to promotions.hk-magazine.com/25years to sign up for an SMS code that gets you \$25 drinks at 19 of LKF's best bars.

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HOME



Mr. Know-It-All's
— Guide to Life —

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

The word “wet market” was just added to the Oxford English Dictionary. But why are they called “wet markets”? — Wet Wally

This is one of those answers that is totally straightforward: Because of all the moisture. Because of the water sprayed on vegetables to keep them looking fresh, because of the tanks holding the fresh fish, because of the stalls which are hosed down at the end of a long day, scrubbed out to make way for the next day's goods.

In Cantonese wet goods, “sup for” (濕貨), means “fresh produce”—as opposed to dry goods, “gon for” (乾貨), which entails everything from tinned goods to sweets to dried fish and Chinese herbs. A wet market specializes in fresh produce, although of course in practice the distinction, especially in streetside markets, is rather less fine.

Hong Kong's wet markets arose from China's agrarian society. Farmers would be largely self-sufficient, but for the goods they couldn't grow or make themselves, they'd have to barter for them: Hence the rise of market days, when the countryside would come together to buy what they needed, or trade away their excess. There are records of one of these “periodic markets” in Yuen Long as early as the 1500s.

As Hongkongers moved away from farming and into more specialized trades, the markets became permanent. They began to occupy official buildings as well as streets—and the city's first official wet market is also its most tragic.

A Central Market of some kind stood in the same spot since 1842, sandwiched in-between Jubilee and Queen Victoria Streets in Central. Once a grand Victorian structure, the building is now in at least its third iteration: A less attractive Bauhaus edifice built in 1938. But in its heyday, the Central Market was the biggest meat market in Southeast Asia—a nexus for the entire city's next meal (less glamorously,

it also hosted the first female public toilet in Hong Kong).

But as times moved on, wet markets sprang up closer to residential areas and supermarkets rose to prominence. Central Market fell out of favor, and was finally closed for good in 2003. These days one narrow section of the market serves as the Link Alley, that ugly bit we walk through between IFC and the Central Mid-Levels Escalator.

The glory days of the market are long past. Revitalization projects are often mooted, but nothing much has been done for more than a decade. A promising “floating oasis” design fell apart. A new cheaper plan was finally approved in March this year, with a projected completion date of 2020.

It's a poor legacy for a building that was once the city's lifeblood. But perhaps that's the inevitable fate of the wet market: Washed out at the end of the day, scrubbed away to make way for the next day's goods.



The second iteration of the Central Market, built in 1895

Letters

“Very upset that ‘Double Confirm’ didn’t make it in.”

Words, words, words

Responses to our viral online story (“Oxford English Dictionary Adds Hong Kong Words,” May 12) about the OED adding 13 Hong Kong English words to its database, including “char siu,” “milk tea,” “shroff”—and the extremely controversial “guanxi.”

“Guanxi” is from mainland China, not Hong Kong, it is mandarin instead of cantonese.
Kathy Cheung

“guanxi” is not from Hong Kong.
Miyuki Tse

Guanxi sounds more big6 than 852
Johnny Yuen

Yes, I'm surprised and disappointed that OED could get this so wrong.
Bob McNab

Very upset that “Double Confirm” didn’t make it in 😞
Gordon Sanders

milk tea: best drink in the world.
Joey Tang

Yes for Char Siu! No Gwei-Lo yet though
Diego López

Shroff. This word fucks me right off 😡😡
Joshua Woodley

I got free parking coupon from the shroff lol no one will know wtf I'm talking about in Massachusetts
Johnny Yuen

點解叉燒要叫Char Siu, 奶茶唔叫 nai cha? [why is char siu called char siu, but milk tea isn't called “nai cha”?]
Andrew Chan

Dai pai dong all day long 🍔
SirValentin Horatiu

🍔🍔🍔
Emax Cheung

Hahahah its about time! I'm gonna get some [char siu] today to celebrate.
Geet Goenka

This is awesome!! I once learned shroff was originally borrowed from India by the colonial English. Dai pai dong and sitting out area are total faves. Totally agree about guanxi (get your regions of “China” right OED!) Still waiting for them to add 「他 on-the-way 了」
Dan-Xia Bossard

#PrivateEyeHK



The Dark Side—and the Light

Photo by Matt Haslam / Matt Haslam Photography

Need to get something off your chest? Got an amazing photo? Write us! letters@hkmagmedia.com. Letters are printed as-is (unless they need fixing).



This week in My Perfect HK:

Got an adorable pet? Of course you have! The SPCA Hong Kong has just opened enrolment for its 2017 cat and dog charity calendars. Sponsor your favorite furry friend to appear as a day, a month—or even on the cover—of the calendar. Best of all, your donations will go to cover the cost of living expenses for animals awaiting adoption. Deadline for entries is June 30, so check it out at spca.org.hk/calendar.

Are you ready for your close up, Mr. DeMeow?



Sunday 5/22 Cabana Jam

It's cabana season, so why not go to the biggest one in the city? **Cabana's Spring Celebration** has everything you need for maximum daytime partying: Champagne, live DJs, Japanese onsen hot tubs and sweeping views of Repulse Bay from on high.
3-7pm. Rooftop, The Pulse, Repulse Bay.
\$580 includes admission, a bottle of champagne and snacks from cabana1505.pelago.events

Friday 5/20 Let's Go Crazy



Still reeling from the passing of His Royal Badness? Honor his contribution to music and cinema by attending the **Hong Kong Open Air Cinema Club's screening of "Purple Rain"** at the rooftop terrace of the Hive. Wear your Princeliest outfit in his memory.
6:30pm. The Hive, 21/F, The Phoenix Building, 23 Luard Rd., Wan Chai.
\$120 includes two drinks from purplerain.pelago.events

Saturday 5/21 Pop and Block It

Hit up Sheung Wan this Saturday for the **Little Burro Block Party**: a whole day of chilled-out fun with live DJs Re:Flex, Kel & Paul and others, margaritas on tap, craft beers and ciders, and as many burritos as you can manage.
Noon-6pm. Little Burro, 1 Upper Station St., Sheung Wan.

Monday 5/23 Spritz Up Your Week

Start your week right with the **Summer of Spritz at Stazione Novella**. Enjoy a \$48 Aperol Spritz (a light, refreshing cocktail of prosecco, aperol and club soda) and all-night aperitivos at this alfresco SoHo spot.
5-11pm. 52-56 Staunton St., Central. \$48 per cocktail.

Tuesday 5/24 Finger Lickin' Good

This month the city's restaurants are battling it out over fried chicken. From Korean fried chicken to Cajun buttermilk fried chicken; karaage to Kentucky-style, it's not just the pride of the chefs on the line: It's an international crisis. During **Winner Winner Chicken Dinner**, taste and vote for your favorite at Jinjuu, Moonshine and the Po' Boys, Okra, Jan Jan Kushikatsu and others.
Through May 31. At participating restaurants.
Find out more at facebook.com/jinjuuHK

Wednesday 5/25 Exploring the Kosmos

A new photo-collage exhibition by Hong Kong-based French artist Antoine Rameau, **Kosmogonia**, opens at Sogo in Causeway Bay. Each piece of art explores some facet of space and Greek mythology, finding new visual spaces from familiar images.
Through Jun 5. Sogo Club, 16/F, 555 Hennessy Rd., Causeway Bay.



Thursday 5/26 Mix It Up

Who's the best bartender in Hong Kong? You decide. The **World Class Street Food Jam** brings together the top mixologists in the city and pairs their concoctions with street food-inspired dishes by Amber, Duddell's, VEA, and other restaurants.
7pm. Kong Art Space, 3 Staunton St., Central.
\$550 for Foodie Club members, \$650 for non-members at afoodieworld.com

Friday 5/27 Collect 'Em All

Stock up on the best Hong Kong fashion and beauty brands during **Fashion Collective's Spring Pop-up**. Vendors include Chicameo, Granny Puckett, Milk, What the Frock and more. Join them for opening night: they'll have cocktails, canapes and a guest DJ.
May 27-29. Opening party May 27, 6-9pm. The Space, 210 Hollywood Rd., Sheung Wan.

Saturday 5/28 Viva Italia!

Taste a little bit of la dolce vita at the fourth annual **Italian Market**. Visitors can browse Italian fashions and crafts, knock back chianti and prosecco, and generally celebrate the country that gave the world gelato, focaccia, olive oil and pizza. Grazie, Italia!
May 28, Noon-9pm; May 29, noon-8pm. The Arcade, Cyberport, 100 Cyberport Rd., Pok Fu Lam. \$50 from icc.org.hk

Coming Up

Party With Paris

Kick off your summer on a high by partying poolside in Macau with none other than Paris Hilton, at the **Summer Love Pool Party**. Join the beautiful people hanging out by the cabanas at Studio City's diamond-shaped pool, while Paris drops the beat—then keep going all night long at Pacha Macau.
Jun 11. Level 3 Outdoor Pool, Studio City, Estrada Flor de Lotus, Cotai, Macau.
\$350 before Jun 1; \$450 thereafter.
tiny.cc/hk-paris-pool-party



Edited by Stephanie Tsui
stephanie.tsui@hkmagmedia.com



Illustrations: Joyce Kwok

Last Week In Reality

SAT 7

Total Buzzkill A photo of signs posted outside a park in Tseung Kwan O goes viral: Visitors are asked not to eat, hang their laundry out to dry, or make noise in the park. Netizens question why the park was even built in the first place, and suggest that they just put up a "Keep Out" sign instead.

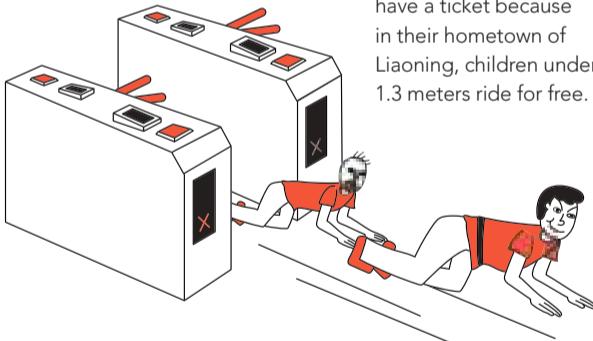
SUN 8

Keep Calm and Carry On In a video uploaded to Facebook, an agitated middle-aged man is seen arguing with a police officer after being asked to show some ID. Gesturing wildly and shouting obscenities, the man tells the officer he wants to lodge a complaint against him and questions whether he is actually a real officer of the law. The policeman responds that he can get his supervisor to verify his identity. The man then taunts the officer for seeming nervous and dares him to draw his gun. Netizens blame the heated exchange on rising tension between police officers and Hong Kong citizens.

MON 9

Free Riders A video uploaded to Facebook goes viral: A man and a boy are seen crawling under the turnstiles of an MTR station while a woman holding a piece of luggage waits for them on the other side. A bystander says the man claimed he had bought a ticket, but didn't know how to use it to exit the station because it was his first time in Hong Kong, while the woman said the boy didn't

have a ticket because in their hometown of Liaoning, children under 1.3 meters ride for free.



TUE 10

Illegal Dumping A 64-year-old unemployed man is sentenced to two months in jail for the possession of drug paraphernalia and for discarding the body of his drug addict roommate in the stairwell of their Nathan Road residence. His lawyer told the court that the man did not report his roommate's death because he was afraid the police would suspect he was involved. This sentencing comes a day after a 72-year-old owner of a Tsuen Wan flat was also sentenced to two months in prison for disposing of the body of a 60-year-old man in the stairwell of his apartment block. The flat owner dumped the body after finding the man unconscious in his flat and failing to resuscitate him.



WED 11

Model Mom At 1:30pm, an SUV which appears to have lost engine power pulls over along Paterson Street in Causeway Bay. A woman driving with her daughter rear-ends the SUV. The owner of the SUV gets out of the vehicle to speak to her, but the woman tries to drive off, even as the SUV owner and a passing taxi driver stand in front of the car to stop her. The driver is seen sticking her tongue out at passersby who are recording the incident. The woman is finally stopped and police later arrive to question her. She is released.

THU 12

Creepy Cop At Tsuen Wan Magistrates' Courts, a 23-year-old police officer pleads guilty to loitering. He was accused of following various women into the elevator of a Tung Chung apartment block and taking photos of their legs and shoes over the course of two hours. He was also accused of masturbating into a female resident's shoes, which had been placed outside her apartment. The officer allegedly wiped the shoes down and was about to leave the building when a security guard stopped him. When searched, his pocket was found to contain a phone with 21 pictures of women's legs and shoes, and a piece of tissue with the officer's semen on it.

FRI 13

Call of Nature A video of surveillance footage goes viral: A man and a woman enter a lift in a mall in Mong Kok. Soon after the doors close, the woman pulls her pants down and squats to urinate. After about five seconds, the woman gets up, puts her pants back on and presses an elevator button. The doors open and the couple leave quickly.



Quote of the Week

"I believe he's visiting us to cheer Hong Kong on... I don't think he'll be commenting on any particular issues."

Basic Law Committee member and local deputy to the National People's Congress (NPC) Maria Tam Wai-chu tells a radio show what she's expecting of Zhang Dejiang's visit to the city. Zhang is the chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC and is the top official overseeing Hong Kong affairs.

Talking Points

We read the news, so you don't have to.

Hong Kong Words Make OED

A total of 13 Hong Kong English words have made it into the **latest update of the Oxford English Dictionary**, including loanwords from Cantonese such as "char siu" and "dai pai dong," as well as English language formations that are unique to Hong Kong such as "sitting-out area." Other terms that have made it into the OED include "compensated dating," "kaifong," "guanxi," "lucky money," "sandwich class," "milk tea," "shroff," "siu mei," "yum cha," and "wet market."

Our take: We're hoping that "add oil" is next up for inclusion.

Organ Donors Needed!

A poll of Hong Kong residents by youth group Junior Chamber International Victoria has found that despite more than 90 percent of 580 respondents saying that they would donate their organs after death, **only a third were registered organ donors**—and younger respondents were actually less likely to be registered. Respondents said they had not registered because they didn't know how to do so, what organ donations involved, or were **unsure if their families would approve**. Some 200,000 donors are listed on the government's register—just **2.7 percent of the population**. Health chief Ko Wing-man attributed the low organ donation rate to traditional beliefs.

Our take: We're all for tradition... but some traditions have to end. Register to become an organ donor at www.codr.gov.hk



Illustration: Elaine Tang



Street Talk

Siufung Law was born female, is socially male but competes in women's bodybuilding internationally. The champion bodybuilder and University of Hong Kong teaching assistant tells Stephanie Tsui about confronting prejudice and pushing society to see bodies as just bodies.

Photo: Gray Wong / flickr.com/graywong

HK Magazine: You're socially male but you compete as a female bodybuilder. Why?

Siufung Law: A few years ago I identified as a trans man, but I now describe myself as "genderqueer" because I've come to believe that gender identity is fluid. The term has a very broad definition—in short, it's about challenging gender assumptions and stereotypes. According to traditional transgender theories, the "self" is fixed, and you arrive at the conclusion that your gender identity differs from the one you were assigned at birth. I believe that the "self" is ever-changing. [In everyday life] I use the male bathroom and people refer to me as a "he." But in the bodybuilding world I'm a "she," because my legal documents still say I'm female.

HK: What made you want to become a bodybuilder?

SL: To me, bodybuilding is an experiment as well as a sport. I wanted to find ways other than surgery to achieve my ideal body, because I'm a perfectionist and wouldn't want to feel disappointed if surgery didn't go the way I expected. Bodybuilding culture is fascinating partly because it's very contradictory: It subscribes to the gender binary and gender assumptions, yet it's also where you find the world's most muscular women. In Hong Kong, certain other divisions of female bodybuilding are favored over the "physique" and "bodybuilding" divisions, so there are very few local competition opportunities for people like me because we're considered too "ugly" or "manly" for the market. Many people assume that women who use steroids or anabolic drugs become men—which is completely untrue. When will we start seeing bodies as bodies and not as "female" or "male" bodies? Some people criticize athletes for taking steroids because it's "unnatural," but what does "natural" mean? Why would you consider working out natural and using steroids unnatural? They're both forms of body modification.

HK: What challenges have you faced as a genderqueer individual?

SL: During a summer exchange program four years ago, I hung out as a guy with a group of guys, but was constantly afraid of them finding out I was actually a trans man. I was never completely myself, which was a shame because they were good guys. A lot of trans people are so focused on transitioning that they don't prepare themselves for what comes after—how to associate with members of their chosen gender, or address questions about their identities...

HK: How do you deal with prejudice?

SL: I'm now freeing myself from past identities and burdens. I used to be angry with the people who discriminated against me. To be consistent with my bodybuilding identity, I've been using the female changing room at the gym. That's caused a lot of misunderstandings. I've had someone open the shower curtain on me to see what sort of genitals I had. One time, a woman asked why I was in the female changing room. When I showed her I was wearing a bra, she said my breasts weren't female breasts. I used to argue with people like that, but part of liberating myself is becoming better at dealing with negativity. Nowadays I try to be patient and educate people who don't understand.

HK: Does your family support your identity?

SL: I never came out to my parents as transgender or genderqueer, but I like keeping things somewhat ambiguous—it's how we get along best. My dad used to get defensive when people addressed me by male pronouns. But he's changed. One time, a salesperson asked if I was his son, and dad just said, "Take a guess!" When people compliment me on my size, dad tells them I'm a competitive bodybuilder. My mom used to say my muscles looked ugly, but now she'll ask me when my next competition is so she can watch. Sometimes mom still emphasizes that I'm her daughter, but she knows I'm a different kind of daughter.

Siufung Law was crowned Women's Physique Champion at the 2015 NABBA International Universe Bodybuilding Championships. Follow him on Instagram @siufung_law.

Blowing Water

吹水 (*chui sui*), v. Cantonese slang. To chat, bullshit.



jam2

sing3

"DRINK WIN"

"Cheers!" In Chinese *sing* is a homophone for "saint," which was a euphemism for "alcohol" during prohibition in ancient China. The Putonghua phrase *ganbei* (乾杯), "drink your cup dry," is avoided because "dry" has connotations of poverty.

HongKabulary



Supermarket Sweep (supermarket sweep), n.

Having to visit five different markets just to cook a single fancy meal.

"Wow, this roast chicken is great!"

"Thanks! I got the chicken from ParknShop, the potatoes from the wet market, the Brussels sprouts from Market Place by Jasons, the chicken stock from Wellcome and the redcurrant jelly from City'Super. It was a real supermarket sweep."



STAY, DON'T GO

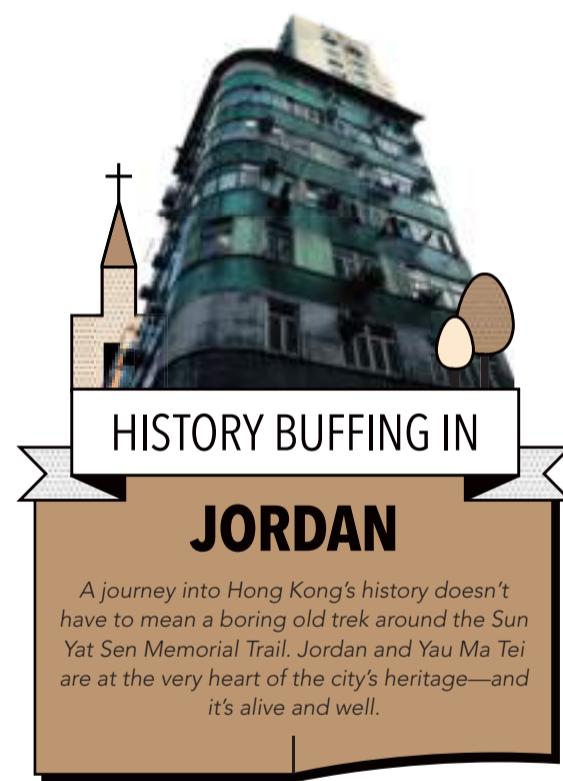
Sure, you live here. But that doesn't mean you can't see the city anew with these fantastic city staycations.

By HK Staff



HISTORY BUFFING IN JORDAN

A journey into Hong Kong's history doesn't have to mean a boring old trek around the Sun Yat Sen Memorial Trail. Jordan and Yau Ma Tei are at the very heart of the city's heritage—and it's alive and well.



WHERE TO STAY: **Hotel Stage** is an urban nomad's dream pad. This brand-new boutique hotel is cloistered away just off Nathan Road, with colonial buildings on one side and Zaha Hadid's avant-garde Innovation Tower in the distance. The hotel is all beautiful shades of gray offset by warm wood, and it's strongly rooted in the city. Unique artwork from Hong Kong artists is the name of the game—we stayed in a suite decorated with a wall-wide depiction of the Mido Café just around the corner, painted by up-and-comer Kwong Man-chun. A library-lounge space and the gorgeous wine bar-slash-exhibition-and-performance-space Muse are the perfect places to perfect that screenplay, if the cutting-edge cool of the rooms isn't doing it for you. **Rooms from \$1,430 per night. 1 Chi Wo St., Jordan, 3953-2222, hotelstage.com**

WHAT TO SEE: Cross the road from Hotel Stage to check out the forbidding **Old South Kowloon District Court** (38 Gascoigne Rd., Yau Ma Tei), a beautiful colonial building built in 1936 that now serves as the Lands Tribunal. From there venture around the corner to the **Kowloon Union Church** (4 Jordan Rd., Jordan). Built in 1931, this house of worship stands out thanks to its



Get intimidated at the old District Court



Get closer to history (or God) at Kowloon Union Church

Photo: Tksteven via Flickr

red-brick construction, neo-gothic windows—and Chinese-style tiled roof. Used as a stable by the Japanese during World War II, nowadays it's a fully restored place of peace—complete with wooden vaulted ceiling and fans hanging from on high. Next, wander down to the **Former Kowloon British School** (136 Nathan Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui): Built in 1902 for the children of expatriates, this Victorian school building is full of tropical flourishes, such as a wide verandah and pitched roofs.

Head north along Shanghai Street (see more things to do on p.20), where you'll find **Man Wah Tailor** (文華洋服, 176 Shanghai St., Jordan, 2384-9197). This shop has been around since 1966, and you're sure to see sifu Lee Yim-ming at the cutting table—or playing mahjong with his friends.

Further north is Hamilton Street and **Luk Bing Kee Copper Ware** (陸炳記銅器, 1 Hamilton St., Yau Ma Tei). Over 70 years old, this is the only remaining coppersmith in Hong Kong. The Luk brothers still hand-beat pots, pans, tea urns and more—including the huge copper gong used to open racing season at Sha Tin Racecourse.

Last: A bite. Dodge the tourists and head to the dai pai dongs at the northern end of **Temple Street**. The trinkets sold in the street stalls may be rubbish, but the food served up is the real deal. Not into fried noodles? No problem. Yau Ma Tei has long been a home to the city's Nepalese population, and **Manakamana Nepali Restaurant** (165 Temple St., Jordan, 2385-2070) serves up a taste of home, from deep-fried momo dumplings to lip-smacking curries. Historical getaway: complete.



AN ARTY GETAWAY IN

WONG CHUK HANG

With its own MTR station opening soon, Wong Chuk Hang is only going to get hotter amongst stylish staycationers. This industrial jungle is full of gems, if you know where to look. Save yourself the trouble of scratching around—we've rounded up some of the best art, food and houseware shops to check out in this concrete treasureland.



HIPSTER HANGOUTING IN

TIN HAU

If you thrive on posting gorgeous photos online and making your friends wonder if you really have a day job, head east towards the sleepy nabes of Tin Hau, Tai Hang and Fortress Hill. Full of quirky hidden gems and quaint cafes, it's cool but not outlandish, and still close enough to the center of town to be relevant—just like yourself.

WHERE TO STAY: With its sleek, shadowy facade, boutique hotel **TUVE** is hidden in plain sight on restaurant-laden Tsing Fung Street. Upon reaching the foreboding iron front gates it feels as though you're entering some sort of sacred hipster temple, and the cinematic background music and minimalist marble and concrete interiors add to the effect. The whole hotel is painstakingly simple, teeming with clean lines. If space and luxurious comfort is what you're after, the largest 30-square-meter Premier room will do the trick: a massive king bed takes center stage, complete with a roomy rainfall shower so large you could practice yoga in there. **Rooms from \$1,000 per night, 16 Tsing Fung St., Tin Hau, 3995-8899, tuve.hk**

WHERE TO STAY: **I'hotel Island South** is the perfect chilled-out headquarters for getting around the area. Look out for art installations scattered around the hotel—think butterflies made of used CDs or an enormous wall installation entirely made from real fish skin. Pick up a tan on the balcony of the top-floor Aqua Suite on the 37th floor, while drinking in views of Ocean Park and taking in the gentle breeze of the Southside. Pamper yourself with Salvatore Ferragamo toiletries before heading to the pool or pigging out on briny oysters and red king crab at a sumptuous dinner buffet in the **LIS Café**—and after a day's exploring, lounge on the couch with some late-night television before passing out on the plush queen bed.

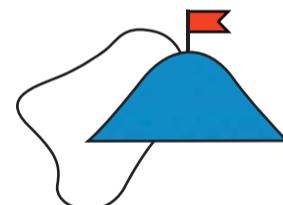
Rooms from \$888 per night, Aqua Suite Celebration Package \$3,488 per night, both include breakfast and dinner. 55 Wong Chuk Hang Rd., Aberdeen, 3968-8888, ihotelsouth.com



WHAT TO SEE: Hunt for designer homeware in the little stores tucked away in the area's industrial buildings. Pop into the showroom of **Establo** (Room C&D, 4/F, Kwai Bo Industrial Building, 40 Wong Chuk Hang Rd., Wong Chuk Hang, 3565-5207), which boasts an extensive collection of Scandinavian furniture; or turn down a back-alley to find **Mirth** (M/F, 23 Yip Kan St., Wong Chuk Hang, 2553-9811), full of a brilliant jumble of quirky tableware, handcrafted tassel necklaces and anything you need for a party of any kind.

Grab brunch at the super-chic **3/3rds** (22D Yally Industrial Building, 6 Yip Fat St., Wong Chuk Hang, 3462-2951): A tahini-dressed roasted eggplant salad and a chilled gazpacho soup should be perfect to fend off the summer heat. **Blindspot Gallery** (15/F, Po Chai Industrial Building, 28 Wong Chuk Hang Rd., Wong Chuk Hang, 2517-6238, blindspotgallery.com) is a must-go if you have an eye for contemporary photography—right now it's hosting an exhibition of Japanese erotic photos.

As the saying goes, a vacay without photos is no vacay at all—wanderlusters can up their Instagram game with snaps in front of **The Factory** (1 Yip Fat St., Wong Chuk Hang), a huge events space that has been dressed up with bright yellow comics by Italian artist Mauro Marchesi. After a long day's wandering, take the weight off at **Above** (23/F, Ovolo Southside, Wong Chuk Hang Rd., Wong Chuk Hang, 3460-8159)—this rooftop bar boasts a killer weekday happy hour with free-flow drinks for \$180 per person. And the best part of all? Everything's so close, you can just wander on back to the hotel.



WHAT TO SEE: This part of Hong Kong is a glutton's paradise. Grab a late breakfast from Tai Hang's **The Pudding Nouveau** (G/F, 17A King St., Tai Hang, 3585-7325), which does great coffees and full fry-ups. You can't leave without trying the duck and waffle—impossibly crispy skin and melt-off-the-bone duck leg over a soft and lightly crisp waffle, dipped (or drenched) in maple syrup.

Snap a few #blessed pics at the **Lin Fa Kung Temple** nearby, where you can pay your respects to Guanyin, the goddess of mercy, before continuing on your food explorations. Sip one of 140 varieties of artisanal loose leaf teas at **Jrink** (G/F, 21 Ormsby St., Tai Hang, 2284-4203), as you while away a chilled-out afternoon.

For an afternoon snack? You'll want to grab one of the best Napoleon mille-feuille pastries in town from **Mimosa Patisserie** (Shop 36N, Golden Court, 22-52 Electric Rd., Tin Hau, 2806-0782—call ahead to make sure they haven't sold out for the day). Soak up your fill of art at the **Oi! Street Art Space** (12 Oil St., Fortress Hill, 2512-3000), which is currently exhibiting "North Point Dream Properties Limited," a commentary on the local property market in the form of a satirical show flat.

Cap off the weekend of good eats and Hong Kong culture with cart noodles and tea eggs from **Hooray 萬歲** (Shop 9, G/F, Wang Fai Mansion, 2-12 Wang On Rd., Fortress Hill, 3105-9681). This retro-style Hong Kong snack shop even stocks the once popular Green Spot orange soda, and you can play old school arcade games as you wait for your food.



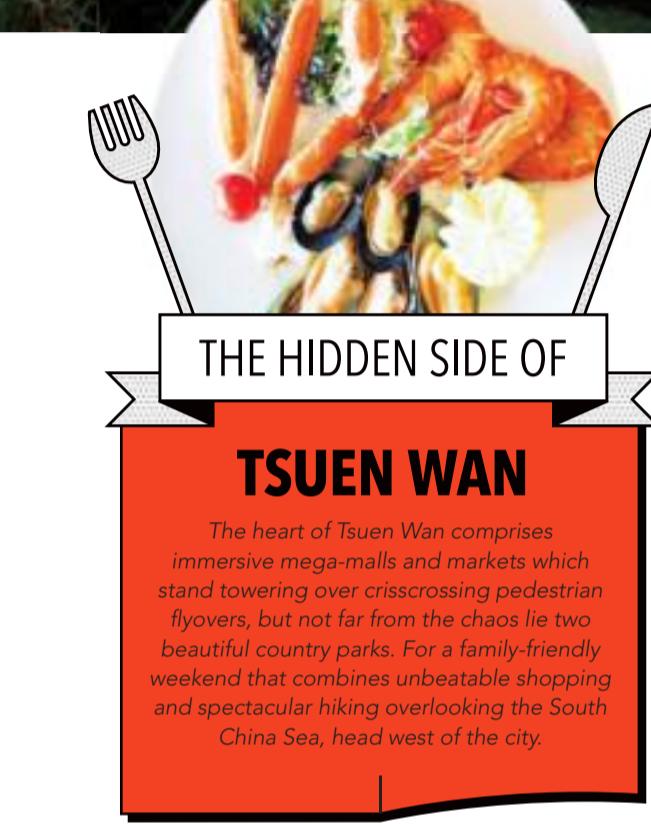
Minimize your life at **TUVE**





THE HIDDEN SIDE OF TSUEN WAN

The heart of Tsuen Wan comprises immersive mega-malls and markets which stand towering over crisscrossing pedestrian flyovers, but not far from the chaos lie two beautiful country parks. For a family-friendly weekend that combines unbeatable shopping and spectacular hiking overlooking the South China Sea, head west of the city.



Be top of the town at Tai Mo Shan

Photo: Potash via Flickr

WHERE TO STAY: The Bay Bridge Hong Kong is a sleek and modern hotel/residence offering fully serviced apartments and studio rooms, located a quick shuttle bus from the station. Their one-bedroom apartments exude a hip beach-house vibe, with wide bay windows overlooking the sea, 150-square-foot patios perfect for a morning coffee or evening nightcap, plus dining table and kitchenette. Not one for cooking on holiday? Grab a breakfast buffet at **Anchor's Seafood & Beer House** before repairing to the mosaic-tiled swimming pool, which offers sweeping views over the South China Sea. Similar views are on show in the lounge, making it ideal for a pleasant happy hour spent watching the boats pass by under the long, picturesque bridge to Tsing Yi. The "Delicious Journey" package starts at \$770 per night, including \$100 of credit per day to be used at Anchor's Seafood & Beer House. 123 Castle Peak Rd., Yau Kom Tau, Tsuen Wan, 2945-1111, baybridgehongkong.com

WHAT TO SEE: You could board a shuttle to Tsuen Wan and pass a whole day in the labyrinthine **Discovery Park** mall (398 Castle Peak Rd., Tseun Wan) with its various kid-friendly themed areas, including a "tropical rainforest" with artificial waterfall and a K-Pop zone.

But if you didn't leave home just to go to another mall (really?), follow the signs towards the **Sam Tung Uk Museum** (2 Kwu Uk Lane, Tseun Wan). This restored 200-year-old Hakka village contains 12 original rooms, each housing their own mini-exhibits: Down one corridor, you can learn about the history of rice farming in Hong Kong and surrounding areas; down another is a series of rooms displaying woodblock prints of everyday life two centuries ago. Their major exhibition hall is a tour through Hong Kong's intangible cultural traditions, including Cantonese Opera, tea ceremonies, and the art of the guqin (including a real guqin you can play on the spot).

To really stretch your legs, Tsuen Wan is one of the closest entry points to **Tai Mo Shan**. Hong Kong's highest peak boasts the 35-meter-tall **Long Falls**, Hong Kong's longest waterfall. But the peak isn't quite as steep as it seems, and much of it is on a paved trail. From Tsuen Wan MTR, take bus 51 to the "Country Park" stop. From there, follow Section Eight of the Maclehose Trail. Head up and you'll be rewarded with breathtaking views of Kowloon—but pick a cooler day and don't forget to bring sunscreen and lots of water.



Photo: Adam Kuplowsky



A RESORT GETAWAY... IN

SHA TIN?

Sometimes, you just need to get away. Don't have the time to hop on a plane? Take a weekend escape to a family-friendly urban resort that looks and feels like an island getaway.



Kick back at the Hyatt Regency

WHERE TO STAY: The **Hyatt Regency Hong Kong, Sha Tin**, is a one-minute walk from University MTR station. Not what you had in mind for a weekend getaway? You'll be surprised: The escalator from the ground up to the hotel is a portal to a whole other world. You'll forget you almost tripped on a row of luggage on your way over: Here the only rows are rows of palm trees and greenery. Sign up for the **Summer Getaway Package** for two, overlooking a lush mountain view or a constellation of headlights along Tolo Harbour. The package features a breakfast buffet, two drinks, and bike rental for a breezy ride around the area. If activity isn't really your thing, dive into their serene, secluded outdoor pool or opt for a foot or scalp, neck and shoulder massage at the Melo Spa



Travel back in time at the Hong Kong Heritage Museum

Photo: LCSD

(from \$298). Witness chefs whip up authentic northern Chinese cuisine in **Sha Tin 18**'s open kitchens, and grab a nightcap at **Tin Tin Bar**.

Rooms from \$1,100 per night. Summer Getaway Package (Jun-Aug) from \$1,280 per night. 18 Chak Cheung St., Sha Tin, 3723-1234, hongkong.shatin.hyatt.com

WHAT TO SEE: Feeling like you should spend at least some of your staycation outside of the hotel? Sha Tin has plenty to check out. The orange houses of the **Hong Kong Heritage Museum** (1 Man Lam Rd., Sha Tin, 2180 8188, heritagemuseum.gov.hk) peek out from a wooded area along the Shing Mun River. Its galleries tell the story of Hong Kong's cultural history and also host regular rotating exhibitions. From now through July 11, the museum features the artwork of Impressionist master Claude Monet—don't miss it.

What better way to take in Tolo Harbour than by cycling? Wake up early to ride the waterside bike path that stretches from **Shing Mun River to Tai Po Waterfront Park**. The park's grassy lawns are a favorite of kite fliers and there's a lookout tower offering great views of Tolo Harbour. Want to keep going? Follow the path all the way up to the beautiful **Plover Cove Reservoir** by Tai Mei Tuk.

After all that exercise, you're going to want some spiritual rest. Shame it's going to take a 430-step hike to get it. The **Ten Thousand Buddhas Monastery** (221 Pai Tau Village, Sha Tin) is a feast for the eyes—it's home to countless buddhas lining the path to the top of the hill, on which sit temples and pavilions—which are all also full of buddhas. It's not the shortest hike, but who ever said the road to enlightenment was easy?



10

GREAT HONG KONG

TOURIST IDEAS

Still want to scratch that tourist itch? Here are 10 more great ideas for a tourist-tastic time.

1. Queue for ages to **ride the Peak Tram** up to the Peak, because the queue is the REAL experience.
2. Explore "**The Dark Side**," land of terrifying legends and great Indian food.
3. Spend a whole weekend pretending **not to speak English or Cantonese**, to get a feel for what it's like to be a real tourist overseas.
4. Go to Chanel and LV on Canton Road and **buy all the expensive bags**. Sheepishly try to return them the next day.
5. Walk into a cha chaan teng, **point at everything on the menu**, get hounded out for wasting the server's time.
6. Go to Lan Kwai Fong, **party like you've only got one night** in Hong Kong, make bad decisions, wake up the next morning and realize that you actually live here and you shouldn't have alienated everyone you met.
7. Ride the **Star Ferry**, do the "I'm the King of the World!" thing.
8. Call the tram the "**ding ding**," like only tourists do.
9. Take a bottle of wine, a sleeping bag and a change of clothes with you to the office on Friday night. Pretend you're working late, and then just **bunk up for the next two nights** in air-conditioned luxury. Raid the office fridge for leftovers. Best of all, you'll be early to work on Monday morning.
10. **Stay in your flat** all weekend. Who has money for a holiday?



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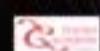
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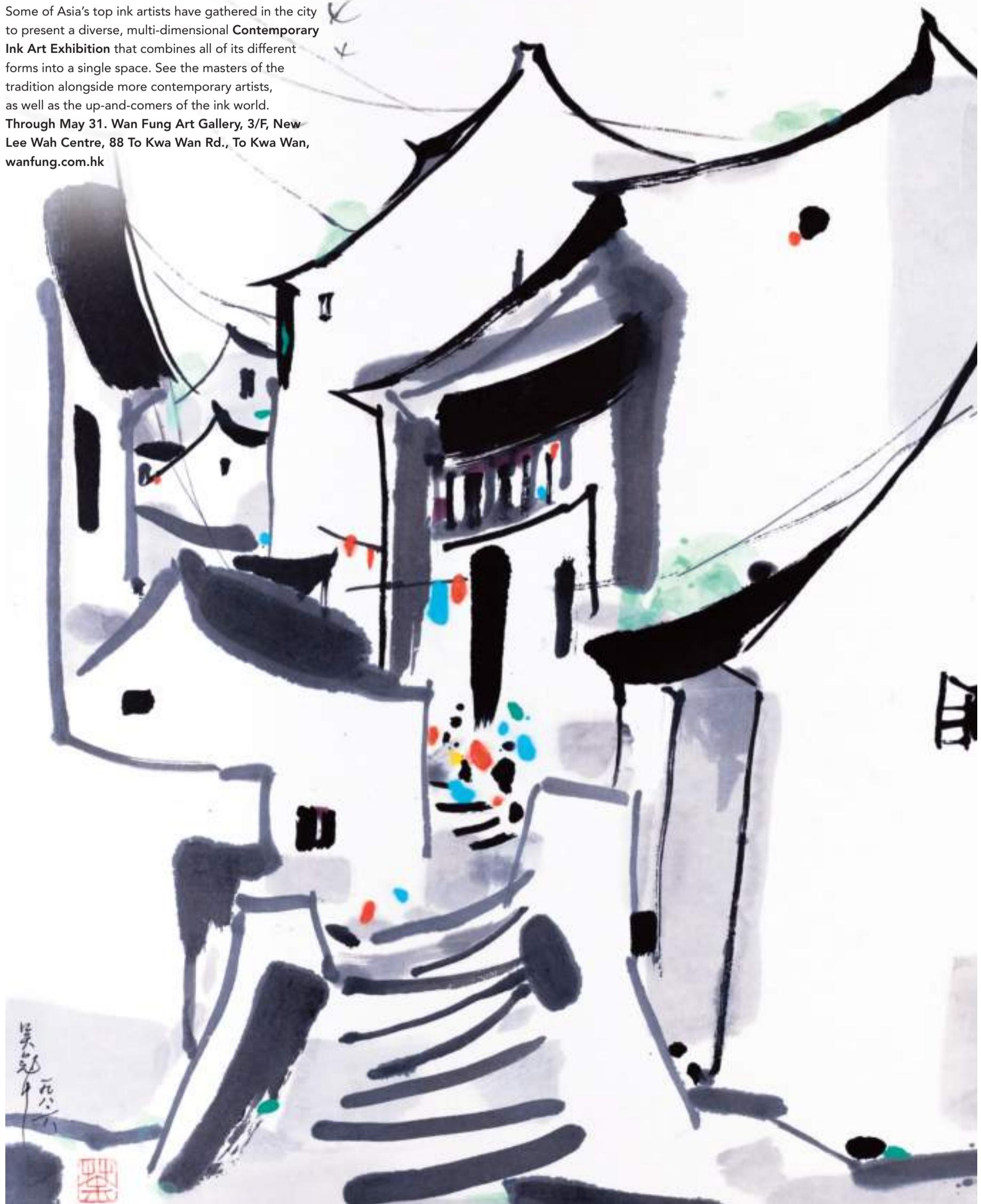
Please refer to our website for programme details and various discount schemes.

www.lcsd.gov.hk/cp

Cultural Presentations Section

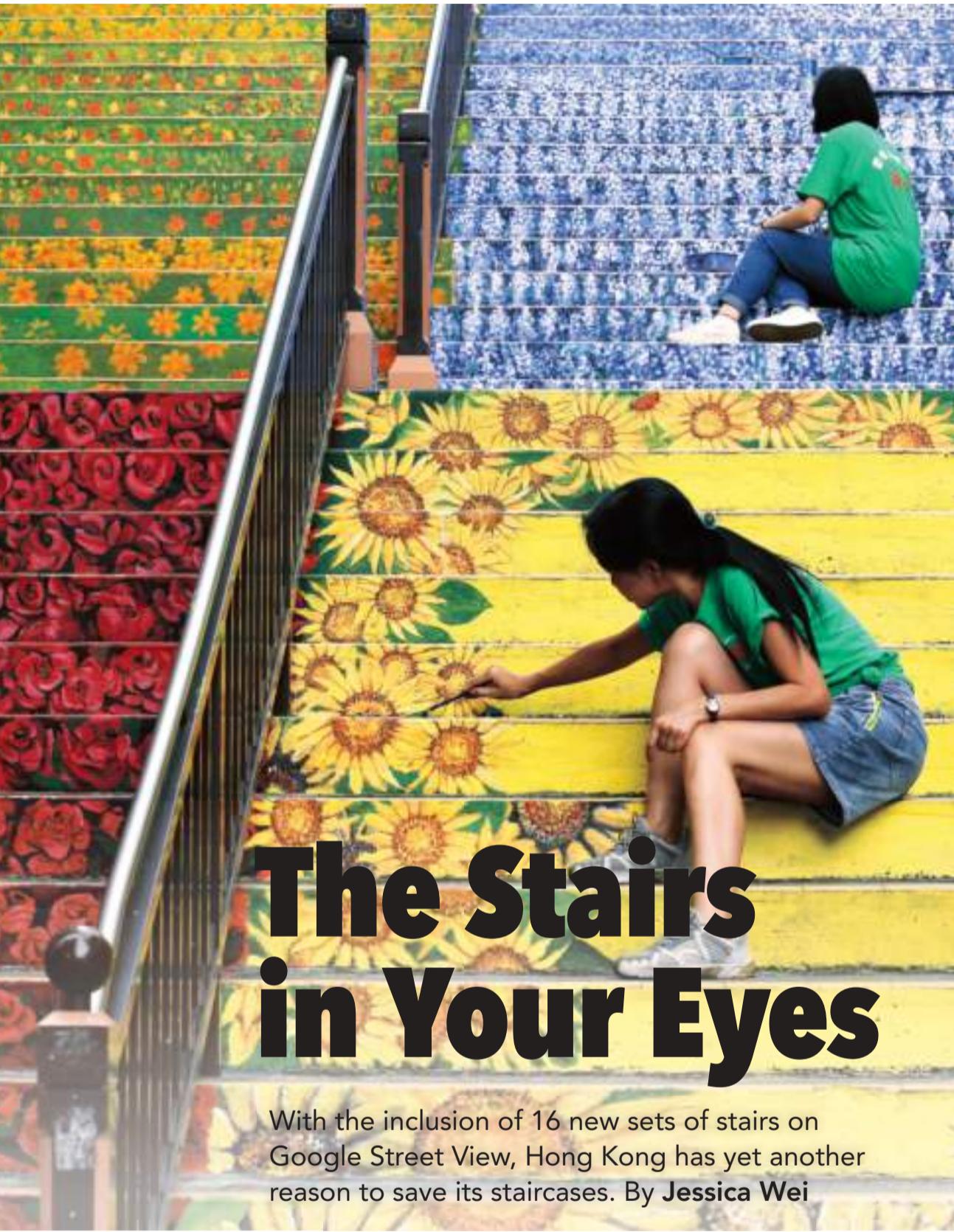
Think Ink

Some of Asia's top ink artists have gathered in the city to present a diverse, multi-dimensional **Contemporary Ink Art Exhibition** that combines all of its different forms into a single space. See the masters of the tradition alongside more contemporary artists, as well as the up-and-comers of the ink world. Through May 31. Wan Fung Art Gallery, 3/F, New Lee Wah Centre, 88 To Kwa Wan Rd., To Kwa Wan, wanfung.com.hk



"Small Town in Jiangnan," Wu Guanzhong

NEWS FEATURE



The Stairs in Your Eyes

With the inclusion of 16 new sets of stairs on Google Street View, Hong Kong has yet another reason to save its staircases. By **Jessica Wei**

Imagine walking in a straight line with a book placed on your head. Now imagine that the book is the Google Trekker: an 18kg sphere studded with 15 camera lenses encased in metal and held aloft over your head. And that straight line is a long set of worn-down, slippery, uneven stone steps—and you still need to keep your balance. It's all in a day's work for Google Trekker operator Raf Ho, who wanders the streets and trails of Hong Kong as part of his work for Google Street View.

Google has been mapping Hong Kong onto its digital database since 2010, but until the advent of the wearable Google Trekker camera in 2013, the only way to map the city was through their Street View car. But this year the search company isn't just going off-road: It wants to preserve our disappearing heritage, too.

Snapping Steps

Since May 5, anyone with an Internet connection can head to Google and scale any one of 15 staircases: from the 373 steps of Ladder Street, which connects Sheung Wan to Caine Road via Man Mo Temple; to the path leading up to the Ten Thousand Buddhas Monastery, lined with hundreds of life-size gilded statues.

"What we're doing right now is archiving history, to allow [current] users or people in the future to see how this city changes over time," says Cynthia Wei, the Asia Pacific Project Manager for Google Map's Street View. "Most of the stairs are open to the elements. It's always fast-changing; new parts of the city develop and old parts get quieter and quieter."

There's a lot more still to go: Currently, there are over 3,000 stairs in Central and Western district, according to Stair Culture, a research project founded by landscape architect and Polytechnic University research professor Melissa Cate Christ. She and her team are creating their own archive of the city's stairs in an effort to provide the city with a sense of the roles that stairs play in the community.



Stairs and the City

"Stairs perform a function of public space that we are lacking in Hong Kong," says Cate Christ. Much like parks but located more conveniently, stairs are meeting places, resting areas, and quiet corners far from traffic. Not long ago, the city's staircases served as market streets. Before cars, people mostly stuck to stairs to get around the city quickly, so shops opened up to capture this foot traffic. Wide landings offered relief to coolies as they made their way up the city.

But increasingly, staircases are subject to development. A proposal to put in a new escalator on Pound Lane in Sheung Wan, which would cost some \$200 million to construct, has been met with contention in the community.

"The area is historic," says Cate Christ. "We already have a SoHo. We already have a Lan Kwai Fong. If an escalator gets put in, then we're going to see gentrification overnight, like what happened with Centre Street [in Sai Ying Pun]." She remembers when, early on in the government's proposal for Pound Lane, units around the escalator were already being bought up by developers— "[Escalators] have a history of increasing rent, and that's why developers like it."



Tripped Up

"We're making the argument that the stairs should be considered public space," says Cate Christ. "Stairs are structures, not just sidewalks, and they should be catalogued." In 2012 Cate Christ and her students suggested to the Central and Western District Council and the Transport Department that instead of installing the escalator, the government simply implement small changes—such as putting in a new handrail, widening the sidewalks, or putting in green edges and benches—to increase the quality of life in the neighborhood.

But her pleas went ignored. "The government wasn't really interested in improving the quality of the neighborhood," she says. "They were interested in redeveloping."



The Stairs my Destination

Stair Culture and Google both say they're trying to highlight something that many don't see: That there's significance to Hong Kong's stairs beyond moving people around. In this city of fast cars and hyper-efficient public transport, they are the only places which are wholly and freely for pedestrians. "Maybe we can help to introduce these amazing stairs to future generations," says Google's Cynthia Wei. With luck Raf Ho can get through all our stairs before they truly become history.

Explore Hong Kong's Street View staircases at tiny.cc/hk-staircases. Visit Stair Culture at stairculture.com

Photo: Felix Wong/SCMP

Where the Pedestrians Roam

Learn more about Hong Kong on these walking tours.

1. **HK Free Walk** Free, tip-supported walking tours of Tsim Sha Tsui, with stops at historic landmarks and guides who cover everything from street food to Bruce Lee. hkfreewalk.com
2. **Walk Hong Kong** Hiking is more fun when you know where you're going. With Walk Hong Kong, participants discover the heritage and trivia of Hong Kong's natural landscapes—and its man-made defenses. walkhongkong.com
3. **Little Adventures in Hong Kong** Tailor-made food walks and culture tours with some of our favorite people. littleadventuresinhongkong.com

Raf Ho and his Google Trekker camera (Photo: David Wong/SCMP)





Compiled by Sophia Lam
sophia.lam@hkmagmedia.com

ESCAPE ROUTES

Luxurious hotels and beach getaways might mean a well-spent holiday, but if you want to immerse yourself in local culture, there's nothing like joining in a city's celebrations. Here are the best festivals around the world to hit from now until the end of the year.

JUL

Go Mad for Mud in Korea

Get dirty this summer on the western shores of South Korea. The **Boryeong Mud Festival** is back, and it's celebrating its 19th year with an extra splash. Boryeong's mineral-rich mud is acclaimed for its cosmetic qualities, so hit up the Self Massage Zone and get muddled up for that signature flawless Korean face. Brace yourself to be splashed by strangers, or get dragged to the Mud Prison for a head-to-toe mud wash. Afterwards, you're in for a dirty ride as you go barreling down the enormous Mud Pool Slide. Challenge friends to a mud wrestling tournament before leaving with bags full of Boryeong mud skincare products. Jul 15-24. Daecheon Beach, 123, Meodeu-ro, Boryeong-si, Chungcheongnam-do, South Korea. \$66 for 1-day pass from mudfestival.or.kr

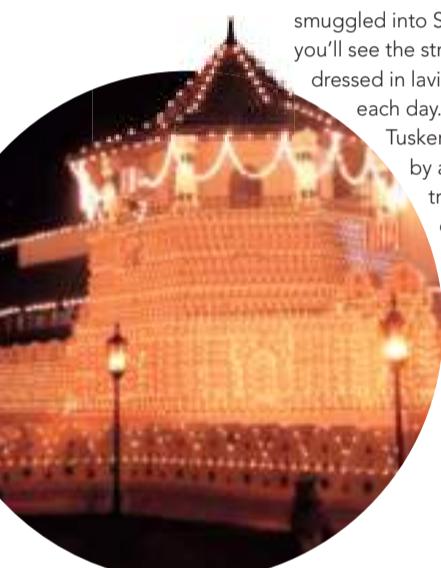


AUG

Feel the Bite of Sri Lanka

Be transported back in time at the **Esala Perahera**, a 235-year-old festival that honors a sacred relic of Buddha's tooth. The story goes that the left canine of Buddha was smuggled into Sri Lanka from India some 1,700 years ago. Today, you'll see the streets of Kandy enlivened with spearmen and dancers dressed in lavish costumes, with the procession growing larger each day. On the last night, make way for the grand Maligawa Tusker elephant carrying a replica of the relic, followed by a parade of elephants in extravagant costumes tramping down the streets to the rhythm of the drums.

Aug 8-18. Sri Dalada Maligawa, Sri Dalada Veediya, Kandy, Sri Lanka. Free.



OCT

Find Your Passage to India

Head to India in autumn to take part in a fiesta of fireworks, flowers and food: **Diwali**, which translates to "rows of lighted oil lamps," is arguably the most important festival in Hinduism, celebrating the victory of light over darkness. Legend has it that when the god Rama defeated the demon king, the people lit oil lamps to guide him home. You can book a tour to experience the festival with a local family and watch as thousands of Hindu houses glow with clay oil lamps. Feast on a spice-imbibed Diwali dinner before ending the tour with a cacophony of firecrackers.

Oct 30-Nov 3. Delhi, India. Tours start from \$723 on viator.com



SEP

Get Fired Up in Spain

If you love to party, **La Mercè** in Barcelona should be on your bucket list. With origins tracing back to the 1600s when the Virgin of Grace is said to have delivered the city from a plague of locusts, this Catalonian fiesta is an energy-packed parade that lasts well into the night. Fuel up on sangria, then join the throngs as you cheer on eight-story-tall human towers and papier-mâché giants. Make sure to cover up before the Correfoc, or "fire run," in which devil-costumed revelers set off streams of fireworks, showering the crowd with sparks.

Sep 24. Barcelona, Spain. Free; Insider tours available from \$854 on viator.com



NOV

Light Up the Night in Nagoya

Jazz up your #travelgrams at Nagoya's Nabana no Sato Flower Park: Their **Winter Light Festival** sees over seven million mini LED bulbs lit up in a sea of tulips and daffodils. Visit Begonia Garden—a vast greenhouse packed with potted blossoms—in the afternoon, before staying to watch the lights go up as the sun goes down. Dance to music in the magical 200-meter Tunnel of Lights, where glistening lights weave in and out of the foliage above. Starts mid-Nov. Mie Prefecture, Kuwana City, Nagashima Cho, Komae Urushibata, Nagoya, Japan. \$152, includes \$73 gift and food voucher.



DEC

Go Avant-Garde in Pattaya

Hippie travelers can satisfy their yearnings for an unconventional itinerary at the **Wonderfruit Festival** in the fields of Pattaya, Thailand. This Thai version of Coachella is a visual feast of jaw-dropping acrobatics, musical performances and futuristic art installations. Take in a midwinter night's dream of avant-garde music, laser beams and booze in tents draped with colorful bunting flags. Seek spiritual serenity in the yoga workshops, and chow down on mouthwatering snacks from local vendors.

Dec 15-18. Siam Country Club, Pattaya, Chonburi Province, Thailand. \$885 (early bird price until May 31), regular price \$1,321 for a four-day pass from wonderfruitfestival.com



Deep Sea Dining

From jumbo prawn heads to plump oysters and mussels, there's nothing more exhilarating than savoring seafood in its natural state. **Leslie Yeh** scouts out the best seafood towers in town, so grab a bib and dig in.



Not Another Meathead

David Laris' LKF implant **Porterhouse** might flaunt its steak first, but the seafood options are just as gratifying. Opt for the impressive seafood tower to share, washed down by a crisp white varietal from the steakhouse's accessible wine selection. You'll get a chilled platter of Canadian lobster, king crab legs, oysters, shrimp and whatever else is fresh for the day—accompanied by assorted house condiments to whet your appetite for the meat feast to come.

\$750 for two, \$1,500 for four. 7/F, California Tower, 30-36 D'Aguilar St., Central, 2522-6366.

Go Fish ▶

If you can't get yourself to the beach, the next best place to eat seafood is poolside at the JW Marriott's cozy **Fish Bar & Pool Lounge**. Get in a few strokes at the sparkling outdoor pool surrounded by lush foliage, then bunker down at a table to sate your appetite with an assortment of poached prawns, snow crab legs, oysters, mussels, clams and Boston lobster. We also love the variety of dipping condiments, from red wine vinegar with shallots to wasabi soy and a classic cocktail sauce.

\$790 for two. 7/F, JW Marriott Hotel, One Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty, 2810-8366.



Ocean Hysteria

Chef Gianni Caprioli's cheerful seafood palace **Fishsteria** is all about the wow factor—from the luxurious caviar and blinis to the whole salt-baked fish, and of course, the elegant seafood platter bursting with ocean produce. The smallest platter (\$248) features oysters, scallops, langoustine and blue shrimp, while the next level up (\$488) includes cherry stone clams, red shrimps and crab legs. For the full monty, the large platter (\$888) offers a complete spread, including three different types of shrimp. If you love oysters, stop by on Tuesdays from 5-7:30pm for \$10 bivalves and caviar specials.

111 Queen's Rd. East, Wan Chai, 2343-8111, fishsteria.hk



American Shores

Going strong for more than 25 years, **The Bostonian** is still one of the best places in the city to savor western-style seafood due to its American-sized portions and wide produce selection. The Seafood Castle (\$898) is a mountain of fresh Boston lobster, oysters, scallops, prawns, Alaskan crab leg, jade whelks and razor clams, served with cocktail and mignonette sauces. If you prefer DIY, you can create your own platter for two (\$918), three (\$1,327) or four people (\$1,786), choosing 10 items from an expanded menu. Don't miss the famous lobster bisque (\$148), a thick and creamy soup boasting a deep oceanic flavor.

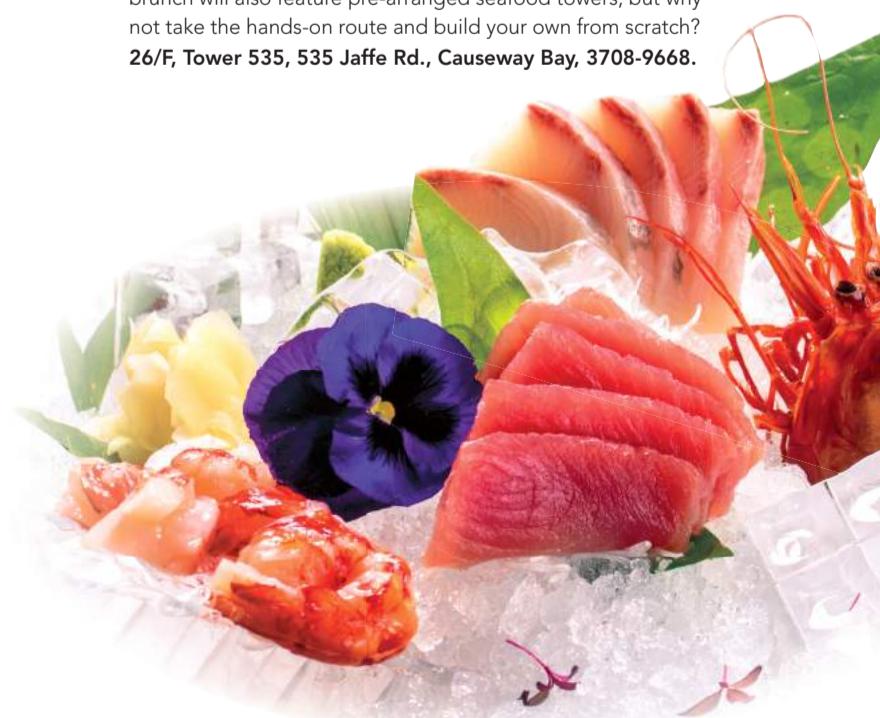
The Langham Hong Kong, 8 Peking Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2132-7898.



▼ Bulldozing Into Town

There's no trendier spot to immerse yourself in the heart of the sea than at the newly opened **Seafood Room**, a behemoth restaurant from Russia-based Bulldozer Group perched high above Causeway Bay. The idea here is to build your own seafood platter from the stunning assortment of fresh seafood displayed at the restaurant's entrance, including sashimi, oysters and live shellfish including fresh-market lobster and prawns (sold at market price). The just-launched weekend brunch will also feature pre-arranged seafood towers, but why not take the hands-on route and build your own from scratch?

26/F, Tower 535, 535 Jaffe Rd., Causeway Bay, 3708-9668.



BUBBLING BROTHS

Not to be outshone by the west, multi-tiered seafood steamer towers are the new "it" dish at many a hotpot restaurant across the city. Here's where to get your seafood boil on:



Steamer Ready

The more seafood stacks the better at Asian fusion hotspot **The Seafood Kitchen**: you can layer up to nine steel containers filled with everything from scallops to abalone to geoduck and mantis shrimp. Place the layers carefully on the induction cooker and watch as your seafood is steamed and ready to eat in 10 minutes tops.

18 Catchick St., Kennedy Town,
2556-8555.

Top of the Pot

Seansin Seafood claims to be the "seafood hotpot experts" and for good reason: you'll find lofty platters of all types of fresh seafood for reasonable prices, including jumbo prawns and lobsters with the tails intact—ready to dunk into the bubbling broth. Sick of seafood? Order the premium beef set, which also comes in a grand three-tiered tower.

1/F, Gofuku Tower, 62-64 Woosung St., Jordan, 2677-6488.

▲ Continental Cravings

Even five-star hotel chains are getting in on the nine-layer seafood tower hotpot trend: Head to **Harbourside** at the InterCon Hong Kong for a seafood extravaganza featuring a rotating selection of steamed items—think abalone, shrimp, sea whelk and scallops—accompanied by a homemade seafood congee that's warm and satisfying.

18 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui,
2313-2335.

▼ Seoul Fresh

Korean hotpot is on the menu at **Nine Steam Fresh**, with a teetering five-story "Seoul Tower" (\$398) of razor clams, scallops, periwinkles, littleneck clams, mud crab and more, accompanied by traditional Korean soups like ginseng chicken, with spicy kimchi on the side. Order additional king crab, wagyu beef and black pork to round out the epic feast.

Shop G26, Site 11, Whampoa Garden, Hung Hom, 2321-0188.



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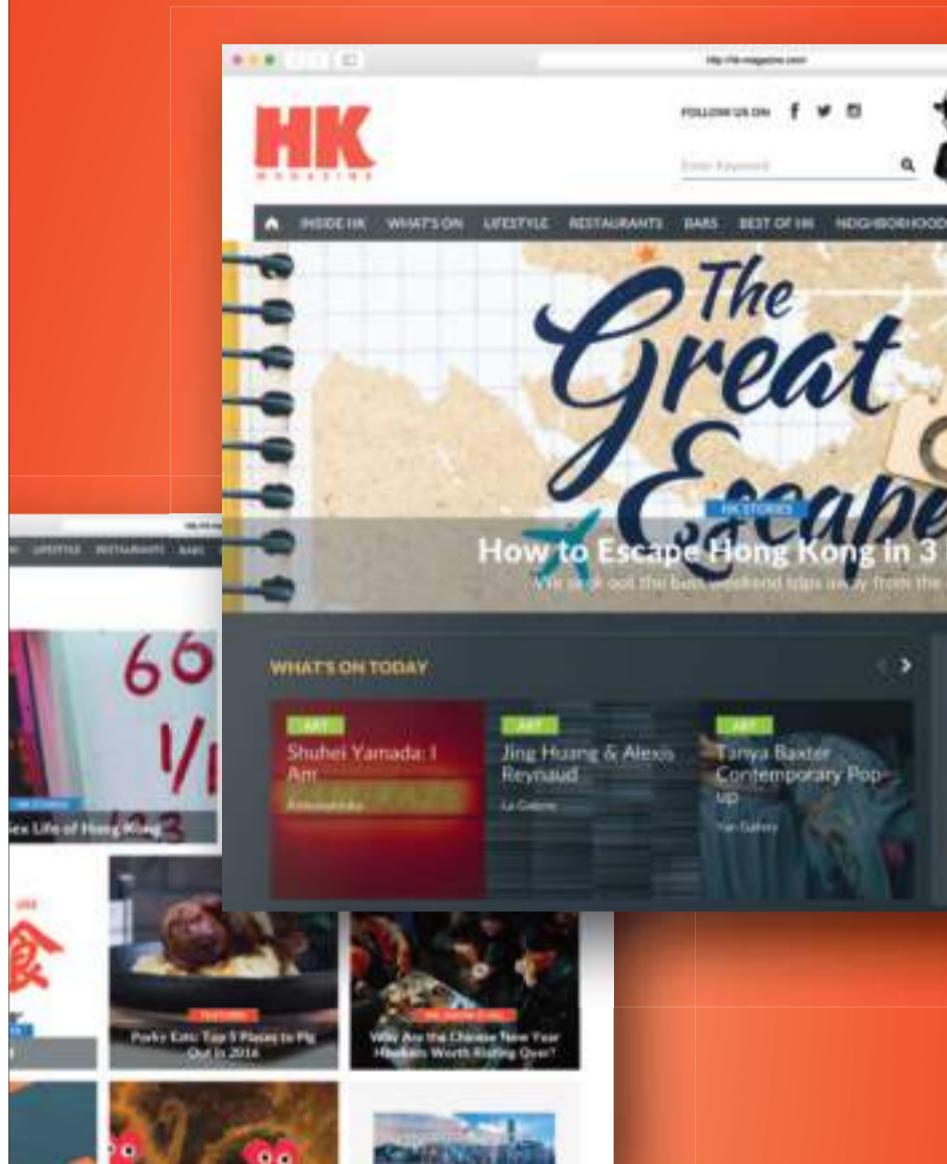
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HK

FIRST BITE

We tuck into the hottest new tables in town.

Keeping It Old-School

New TST dining destination **Esmé at Maison Eight** sticks to old-world charms.

Want to come face-to-face with the richest man in 19th-century Hong Kong? You can at new TST dining destination Maison Eight: Sit in the company of the bald, stern-faced noble merchant Howqua as you savor craft cocktails from world-renowned bartender Salvatore Calabrese underneath a thousand twinkling chandelier lights. To your left is the "Ballroom" for late-night dancing, and to your right—the world's first Bollinger champagne room, housing some 2,300 bottles including their Special Cuvée blends and key vintage Bollinger bubbles.

Starting to sound like another snooty place to drop a fortune? Despite having all the makings of a style-over-substance fine dining establishment, prices at Maison Eight remain surprisingly fair—and the quality is consistent enough to make this a place we could return to regularly, especially to skirt the island-side crowds while enjoying a unique vantage point of the harbor.

Maison Eight's 8,000-sq.-ft space is separated into four distinct sections: the bar Salvatore at Maison Eight; the Ballroom, with retro Art Deco-style furnishings and jazzy tunes on the weekend; the Bollinger champagne room Le Club 1829; and Esmé, a refined French restaurant. Heading up the kitchen at Esmé is executive chef Joe Chan, who honed his skills at the Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong before coming to Maison Eight. Soft-spoken, chef Joe's style comes through in his food, which progressively impressed us as the night wore on. There's not a strain of modernist cooking here, which is a breath of fresh air; instead you'll find simple, beautifully presented interpretations of classic French dishes executed with modesty and attention to detail.

We started off the meal with a savory mille-feuille of Scottish salmon, pressed between layers of buttery homemade puff pastry sheets with a tart Bollinger rosé

"There's no modernist cooking here, which is a breath of fresh air"

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Good BBQ ★★★★

Roast meat. Shop 2, Li Yuen St. East, Central, 9852-1062.



with a good fat-to-meat ratio and a dark, sticky caramelized edge. The meat was tender and evenly cooked, proving the merits of the slow-cooked method. We also enjoyed the poached chicken breast, with tender, almost pinkish meat and a silky, ginger-scented skin.

■ **MISS** While the other roasted meats looked promising, the texture disappointed. Both the pork belly and roasted duck breast were on the dry side, although the pork belly had an appropriately crispy and delicious crackling. The vegetable sides were a joke, with a few pieces of broccoli and roasted eggplant going for \$8 each; however the onsen egg was a nice addition to the extras menu (\$9 each).

■ **BOTTOM LINE** A good delivery option the next time you're craving char siu for lunch but want to appear a bit more trendy and eco-conscious in the office.

**Open Mon-Fri, Sun 11am-8pm
(delivery weekdays 11am-2pm). \$**

Ratings

★ Don't go ★★ Disappointing ★★★ We'll be back ★★★★ We'll be back—with friends ★★★★★ You MUST go

Price Guide

\$ Less than \$200 \$\$ \$200-\$399 \$\$\$ \$400-\$599 \$\$\$\$ \$600-\$799 \$\$\$\$\$ \$800 and up



Edited by Leslie Yeh
leslie.yeh@hkmagmedia.com

champagne reduction. Our smooth saffron-tinted mussel soup poured tableside was a refreshing taste of the sea, while the lobster thermidor had a broiled creamy cheese topping insulating perfectly cooked lobster flesh. The rack of lamb arrived cleanly Frenched with a seasoned garlic and herb crust, again showing off the kitchen's simple yet elegant philosophy. Desserts—a bitter chocolate tart and vanilla panna cotta—didn't blow us away, and you might be better off ending the meal with the selection of French cheeses accompanied by bread and fruits.

After dinner, head to the champagne room bedecked in bold blue and red to end the night on an extravagant note, or simply grab a drink to savor at the bar—where the watchful gaze of Howqua will make you feel as swanky as you wish to be.

Recommended: Salmon mille-feuille, lobster thermidor, creamy mussel soup, roasted duckling.

Prices: Starters \$100-200, mains \$250-450. Cocktails \$88-138.

Open: Daily noon-late.

21/F, 8 Observatory Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 2388-8160.

Chef's Fave!



King Scallops with Bacon and Anise Sauce

"This dish features two seared king scallops and sautéed brunoise of pancetta, cooked with dry white wine, fish stock, anise sauce and cream. It's served on the shell with baked garoupa mousse, then placed on a bed of sea salt. I love the sweetness of the fresh scallops, which are always my perfect protein—simple and tasty, and full of umami."—Chef Joe Chan

For more in-depth reviews, visit hk-magazine.com!

Deligator ★★★★☆

Sandwiches. Shop G, 2 Johnston Rd., Wan Chai, 5989-9428.



With a live band jamming out Cuban beats, an exotic cocktail list and some great sandwiches, Deligator hits the right notes for a casual night out when you're after those feel-good vibes.

HIT An eclectic mix of Latin American trinkets and souvenirs, from potted cactus plants to wooden mariachi men, adorns the playful interior of this "Cuban deli," although the menu is far more international, reading like a greatest hits list of best sandwich inventions: From Philly cheesesteaks to lobster rolls, plus chicken and vegetable paninis. We were immediately won over by the Philly cheesesteak (\$95) as soon as we bit into

the freshly toasted baguette, slathered in a provolone cheese sauce. The beef slices were packed with flavor, although it was the caramelized roasted pepper and onion medley that really took it over the top. The lobster roll (\$120) was similarly appetizing, with a generous filling of sweet lobster meat mixed with crisp celery and mayo, and bread fried in butter for an extra satisfying crunch. We topped off our meal with a huge portion of curly fries for just \$25.

MISS For a restaurant-bar that claims to be Cuban-inspired, there's not much Cuban food on the menu, and the staff don't seem to know what the deal is either. Unfortunately, the two sandwiches we most wanted to try—the "El Cubano" and "Chicken Parmesano" were sold out on the night we visited.

BOTTOM LINE Great food at even better prices? We'll take that above a coherent concept any day of the week.

Open daily 11am-10pm
(drinks until 3am). \$

Our Policy

Reviews are based on actual visits to the establishments listed by our super-sneaky team of hungry reviewers, without the knowledge of the restaurants. Reviews are included at the discretion of the editors and are not paid for by the restaurants. Menus, opening hours and prices change and should be checked. New restaurants are not reviewed within one month of their opening. Reviews are written from a typical diner's perspective. Ratings are awarded in accordance with the type of restaurant reviewed, so the city's best wonton noodle stall could earn five stars while a fancy French restaurant could be a one-star disaster.

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CITY STROLL

Shanghai Street

Once the most prosperous street in Kowloon, Shanghai Street still has some magic up its sleeve. More than two kilometers of unique kitchenware and trinkets line this thoroughfare that extends from Mong Kok to Jordan. With its old-school shophouses and quirky colorful stores, this street characterizes all that's best about Kowloon. Compiled by **Danielle Harris** and **Jack McCormack**



I Love Cake

Your one-stop shop for all things dessert, I Love Cake offers pre-packaged ingredients, baking pans in fun shapes, and plenty of intoxicating smells. You don't need to have baking plans in mind to enjoy a quick browse here—but you might end up walking out with some.

338 Shanghai St., Yau Ma Tei, 2671-2671.



Yau Ma Tei Fruit Market

Feel like a part of history as you pick up your daily fruits (in bulk, as it's mostly wholesale) from a market that's been going strong since 1913. It's busiest during the wee hours of the morning for those who like to start the day off strong—an apple a day, right?

Corner of Reclamation Street and Waterloo Road, Yau Ma Tei.



Ju Bo Sing (聚寶城)

If you love all the art and trinkets you find on Shanghai Street but don't understand the religious undertones, find your middle ground at Ju Bo Sing ("Treasure City"), which we affectionately coined, "antique shop: dollar store edition."

370 Shanghai St., Yau Ma Tei, 2781-0699.



Shanghai Street Artspace

The Shanghai Street Artspace is a home for the effort to learn, preserve and cultivate art and culture in the area. With regularly rotating exhibitions taking over the space, you're sure to be inspired no matter when you go.

404 Shanghai St., Yau Ma Tei, facebook.com/greenwaveart



Photo: LCSD

Cinema Paradiso

The only pre-war theater building in Hong Kong, the **Yau Ma Tei Theatre** has been a mainstay of the area for decades. Built in the late 1920s, the theater has changed a lot over the years: It was a normal theater during its infancy, a Japanese propaganda outlet during the Occupation—and just before it was closed down in 1998 it became a porn cinema in an attempt to bolster flagging attendance. After renovation and revitalization in 2012, it's now a Cantonese opera venue, breathing new life into this traditional artform.

6 Waterloo Rd., Yau Ma Tei, lcsd.gov.hk/en/ymtt

Check back next week for more awesome things to do on Shanghai Street!



幾多錢呀? – Gei dor chin ah? – "How much is it?"
 喂, 大佬, 呀貴嘅? – Wai, dai lo, gum gwai geh? – "Dude, so expensive?"
 唔好玩我啦, 平啲啦! – Mm ho waan ngor la, peng di lah! – "Don't mess with me, let me have it for cheaper!"
 算啦, 我去對面買 – Suen la, ngor hui dui meen mai. – "Forget it, I'll go buy it at the shop opposite."
 實際, 我唔識講廣東話。我喺呢本雜誌學嘅。 – Kei sut, ngor mm sik gong gwong dong wah. Ngor hai ni bun jarji hok geh. – "In fact, I don't know how to speak Cantonese. I just learned it from this magazine."



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Compiled by Jessica Wei

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UPCLOSE: METRO VOCAL GROUP



Hong Kong-based a capella singers **Metro Vocal Group** hit the limelight when their Cantonese cover of Beyond's signature song "Under a Vast Sky" became an internet sensation back in 2010. Ahead of their first large-scale concert in Hong Kong, Eric Monson, Michael Lance, Sean Oliver and Kevin Thornton (L-R) tell Xavier Ng about their journey to Hong Kong and how they started singing Cantopop.

HK Magazine: How did you four become a group?

Eric Monson: In 1998, I was contacted by an agent to perform on a cruise ship. He asked if I wanted to put a group together and I said, sure! We went on to have our first gig on a cruise ship to Vancouver. It started off as a six-month contract, and here we are, 18 years later.

HK: Why did you decide to settle down in Hong Kong?

EM: On cruise ships we traveled to over 60 different countries, but after a while we always seemed to get bored of the cities we were visiting. Hong Kong was the first place that we actually felt could be home. So we decided, in 2008, to make Hong Kong our home base.

Kevin Thornton: I love Hong Kong! It's the most exciting city in the world—plus I met the love of my life and got married here.

HK: How did you start singing Cantopop?

Sean Oliver: We did our first Cantonese song "My Pride" [by Cantopop singer Joey Yung] in 2010, and then Beyond's "Under a Vast Sky," and it forever changed our lives. Our friends suggested the songs and that was our first exposure to Beyond. We fell in love with them. I still think they are the best band that's ever come out of Hong Kong. It opened our ears to music that we hadn't heard before: from Taiwan, China, Hong Kong, the Philippines, everywhere. We were like kids in a candy store.

HK: Did you master your Cantonese in the process?

EM: Siu siu [a little bit]. We made the locals laugh a lot because singing in Cantonese is incredibly hard, especially the rising tones. We have a coach, my wife, who comes in—she's a singer as well. She worked with Sean for two months for "Under a Vast Sky."

SO: Because we're not Chinese, we had to do it perfectly. But we added our own flavor to it.

HK: What's unique about your sound?

SO: We grew up in a barbershop harmony society, and barbershop has a very fluid sound. A lot of contemporary a cappella groups focus more on rhythm, but we focus on fluid sounds. That gives us a bigger sound and it's very dynamic.

HK: What do you think of the a cappella scene in Hong Kong?

Michael Lance: A cappella wasn't as mainstream as it is now. All these sing-off shows and the "Pitch Perfect" movies have brought the a cappella world into more of a mainstream environment. In the past six or seven years a cappella has gone huge in Hong Kong. I'd like to think we had a part in that.

EM: In the States, barbershop music has been around for centuries, and guys getting together singing a cappella is part of the university experience. Hong Kong is starting to find those opportunities we grew up with. We see more high school and university groups, and it's much easier to start up a band.

HK: How do you decide on your songs?

SO: We have so much to choose from now because not only do we have the western market, but we also have the eastern market. We are looking to do some K-pop too. Our new venture now is to write our own music: We'll debut a lot of our own tunes in the upcoming concert, and we will release an album of original songs in October.

Don't miss the Metro Vocal Group on May 25, 8pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$150-500 from urbtix.hk

Concerts

Steven Ma: Symphonic Delights

A popstar and TV personality since the 80s, Steven Ma joins a 70-piece Chinese music orchestra for a one-night-only performance. The show features a mix of Chinese and Western pop and jazz standards, with the help of multiple-award-winning erhuist and composer Chu Wan-ping, the Tai Po Children's Choir and the Wao! Singers. Jun 5, 7:30pm. Sha Tin Town Hall, 1 Yuen Wo Rd., Sha Tin, 3761-6661. \$280-480 from urbtix.hk.

Paris Combo with SIU2

Paris Combo, a French cabaret and pop fusion group which mixes elements of gypsy music and Latin and Middle-Eastern rhythms, is bringing their unique sonic blend to Hong Kong. They've added extra fusion to their tunes by reinterpreting some of their repertoire with guest performers

SIU2, a Hong Kong group which blend Chinese traditional instruments with Western guitar and drums. May 20, 21, 8pm. Amphitheatre, Academy for Performing Arts, 1 Gloucester Rd., Wan Chai, \$180-480 from hkticketing.com.



HK Phil Presents Scheherazade

Get ready to be slapped in the face by two of the "Mighty Handful"—Russia's answer to the Romantics. Under David Atherton's baton, the Hong Kong Philharmonic will be playing selections including Polovtsian Dances from Borodin's "Prince Igor," and Shostakovich's mighty Cello Concerto No.1 led by Jing Zhao, one of China's fastest rising cellists. They round off the show with Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherazade" from the epic tale, "1001 Nights."

May 27-28, 8pm. Hong Kong Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$180-480 from urbtix.hk.



Solomusica: The Face of Mercy

In celebration of the Papal year of Mercy, Solomusica has organized two concerts of Mozart's seldom-performed "Misericordias Domini," a sacred work he composed at the age of 19 that's now considered a minor masterpiece. Featured in this performance are Francesca Lombardi Mazzulli (below), Roberta Marmelli, and Mirco Palazzi from Italy, as well as Hong Kong's own tenor Attis Y Chen. Proceeds go to Save the Children and Helping Hand. Jun 16, 23, 7:30pm. St. John's Cathedral, 4-8 Garden Rd., Central, solomusica.org. \$288-1,450 from ticketflap.com.



Classical

Stephen Hough Piano Recital

British pianist and composer Stephen Hough is one of the few living musicians to have been awarded a MacArthur "Genius Grant." He returns to Hong Kong to debut his own piece, "Third Sonata," and plays selections from Schubert, Liszt and Franck. May 30, 8pm. Concert Hall, City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central. \$80-580 from urbtix.hk.

Dance



I, Carmen

Spanish flamenco artist María Pagés returns to Hong Kong with a new take on the classic tale of "Carmen." But instead of the original story's femme fatale, this retelling reflects the real lives and feelings of ordinary women. May 27-28, 8pm. Auditorium, Sha Tin Town Hall, 1 Yuen Wo Rd., Sha Tin, \$180-450 from urbtix.hk.

Recital Flamenco with Manuel Liñán

Don't miss this opportunity to see one of Spain's leading male dancers grace the Hong Kong stage. Manuel Liñán will be dancing selections taken from his best productions, with live accompaniment from guitarist Francisco Vinuesa and flamenco singer David Carpio. Jun 5, 8pm. Sheung Wan Civic Centre, 345 Queen's Rd. Central, Sheung Wan. \$250-\$500 from urbtix.hk.



Fame:

A Weekend of Dancing Stars

For two hours, let yourself be carried away (hopefully not literally) by the high-flying aerial stunts of the Aerial Arts Academy. Their new "Fame"-themed production delivers provocative aerial silk and hoop performances, burlesque and pole dancing, and acrobatics. Jun 4, 7pm; Jun 5, 3pm. Youth Square Y-Studio, 2/F, 238 Chai Wan Rd., Chai Wan, aerialartsacademy.com. \$295-355 from urbtix.hk.

Cinderella: A Neo-Classical Production

In Thierry Malandain's contemporary ballet reimagining of the classic folk tale, Cinderella gets recast as a rising, dancing star. This minimalist production balances ballet with a hint of burlesque, all set to the score of Prokofiev's original 1944 opus. Jun 1-2, 7:30pm. Grand Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$120-480 from urbtix.hk.



Beauty & The Beast by Malandain Ballet Biarritz

Based on Jean Cocteau's masterful 1944 film of the same name, the Malandain Ballet Biarritz offers an intellectual and whimsical interpretation of the duality of humanity in Beauty & The Beast. French-Medieval costumes and a selected score from Tchaikovsky makes this one wonder-filled production. Jun 3-4, 8pm. Grand Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$120-480 from urbtix.hk.



Extrémités

All it takes is a few wooden planks, some bottles of gas and a few precarious acrobats exercising their balancing skills to make "Extrémités" a rollicking visual experience. This performance features three members of the French Cirque Inextremiste troupe, including one in a wheelchair: They work together in solidarity to keep the structure they create from collapsing. Through their efforts, a story of trust and survival unfolds. Talk about trust exercises... May 20-21, 8pm. Auditorium, Kwai Tsing Theatre, 12 Hing Ning Rd., Kwai Fong, \$100-300 from urbtix.hk.

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Exhibitions



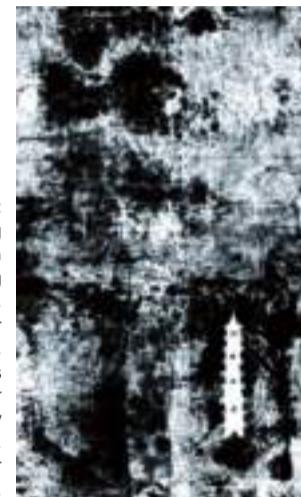
Paris Extended: A Photographic Exhibition

In Jean-Philippe Lebée's new photography exhibit in collaboration with Aéroports de Paris, viewers get an intimate look at the au revoirs and bienvenues which occur in the place where these words are spoken the most: the airport. The joie de vivre of Paris moves from its grand boulevards to small, tender moments in the corners of the airport. Through May 28. City Hall, 5 Edinburgh Place, Central, 2016.lefrenchmay.com.



A Singular Life: Calligraphy and Art by Yeh Shih-Chiang

Yeh Shih-chiang has devoted his life to Zen Buddhism and creating art. After apprenticesing with the master artist and revolutionary Gao Jianfu, he moved to Taiwan before the Chinese Civil War and lived his life in solitude and inner cultivation, only to emerge again as one of the country's master calligraphers and ink, oil and watercolor painters. This new solo show at Hanart TZ Gallery celebrates his truly singular life and works. Through Jun 4. Hanart TZ Gallery, Room 401, Pedder Building, 12 Pedder St., Central, hanart.com.



Shifting Surfaces at Karin Weber Gallery
At Karin Weber Gallery's new group show "Shifting Surfaces," four German artists—Willi Siber, Angela Glajcar, Udo Nöger and Tina Buchholz—come together to celebrate the diverse uses of textures in art. These pieces encompass steel sculptures, handworked paper, mixed media canvas and light and glass. Through Jun 11. Karin Weber Gallery, G/F, 20 Aberdeen St., Central, 2544-5004. karinwebergallery.com.

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Event Details

Date & Time 11 June 2016 (Sat) 2:30 - 6:00pm	Location The EAST & Lee Tung Avenue, Wan Chai	Online Registration promotions.hk-magazine.com/winemwalk
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NIGHTLIFE

OPEN BAR BEACH CLUB CAFÉ

The buzz: The sister bar to the original The Beach Club in Kuala Lumpur brings the beaches of Malaysia to Hong Kong—white sands, kitschy beach bar vibes and all.

The decor: Green lighting, beachy clapboard and bamboo walls adorn the open-air venue. But the most interesting feature is at the bar itself: Above it, baby sharks lurk within the mini aquarium, and working with the Hong Kong Shark Foundation they're fostered here before being released back into the wild when they're bigger. The bar counters are glass cases, and under your drinks is a quirky sandy beach display with plenty of common seaside detritus: from seashells to plastic toys and even used condom wrappers.

The drinks: It's Knutsford, so you'll find your share of generic Carlsbergs and Kronenbourgs, plus a simple, tropical-themed cocktail list to round out the menu. Beach Club Café's got a twist on the Mojito which blends its mint leaves for a smooth, bright green cooling beverage, though we're not sure that extra step justifies its price upgrade to \$120 for a classic drink. The Spicy Pina Colada (\$118) tasted like a more nuanced version of the vacation cocktail, with the addition of spice nicely toning down the

otherwise usually too-sweet and creamy drink. Our favorite was the Beach Club Coco Rum (\$100), served in a coconut shell, which uses Havana 3-Year-Old rum with a hint of pineapple juice, coconut cream and 7-Up, topped off with fresh coconut water. It's just what you need on a hot summer's day: a lightly sweet punch with just enough fizz to quench your thirst, while the coconut water makes it taste deceptively healthy... it's a pretty dangerous order.

Why you'll be back: With happy hour deals (every two draft beers come with a basket of fries) and twists on drinks that everyone knows, Beach Club Café makes itself an easy choice for the after-work crowd. Speaking of after work, they've also got a sizable food menu with classic Malaysian dishes such as the intensely aromatic Penang prawn noodle soup (\$128); and the Beach Club Satay (\$98/six skewers, \$170/a dozen), which features sweet satay sauce flown in straight from Malaysia.

Looking to fuel up for a big night? Make Beach Club your first stop. **Evelyn Lok**
Shop 13A, 13 Knutsford Terrace, Tsim Sha Tsui, 2511-1688.

Clubs

Disclosure

Guy and Howard Lawrence, aka the brothers behind British house/electro duo Disclosure, are hitting up Hong Kong this summer for the first time ever. Twice nominated for a Grammy and loved for their pop collabs with stars like The Weeknd, Lorde and Sam Smith, you can bet tickets will be selling like electro hotcakes. Aug 12, Hall 10, AsiaWorld-Expo, Hong Kong International Airport, Chek Lap Kok, \$580-880 from hkticketing.com.

Volar x Love & Beats Present Nakadia

From humble beginnings in a rural village in Koh Samui to international DJ star, self-made Thai EDM princess Nakadia will be working the turntables with her deep house, tech house and techno sounds at Volar. May 27, 10pm. Volar, B/F, 38-44 D'Aguilar St., Central, \$250 from ticketflap.com/nakadia, entry before 12:30am with two drinks, or one drink thereafter; \$300 at the door before 12:30am, \$350 thereafter, both with two drinks.



Studio Presents: Autograf

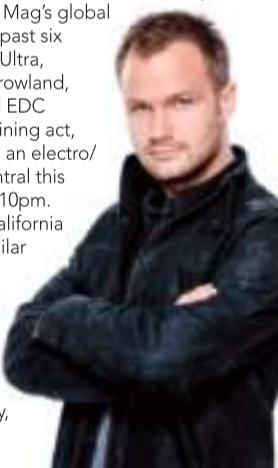
Former artists-turned-DJ-trio Jake Carpenter, Louis Kha and Mikul Wing bring their signature dreamy house and visual art-influenced tunes to Studio. May 20, 11:30pm. Play, 1/F, On Hing Building, 1 On Hing Terrace, Central, free, reserve from autograph.pelago.events.

Body & Soul in Hong Kong

Legendary 90s New York party Body & Soul comes to Tazmania Ballroom for one night only. Bringing a trifecta of disco/funk, dance and electro are DJs Danny Krivits, Joe Claussell and co-founder François K himself. If you're looking for that classic New York sound, don't miss it. Jun 8, 10:30pm. Tazmania Ballroom, 1/F, LKF Tower, 33 Wyndham St., Central, \$300 at the door.

Electric Wonderland Featuring Dash Berlin

DJ Jeffrey Sutorius from Dutch electronic trio Dash Berlin is indeed dashing, but he also boasts a pretty impressive CV of never dropping below the top 15 in DJ Mag's global rankings for the past six years. A regular Ultra, Zoukout, Tomorrowland, Creamfields and EDC Las Vegas headlining act, Sutorius brings an electro/house set to Zentral this month. May 26, 10pm. Zentral, 4-5/F, California Tower, 32 D'Aguilar St., Central, \$388-688 from DashBerlinHK.eventbrite.com. VIP tickets include a glass of bubbly, priority entry and giveaways.



Concerts



Super Junior Super Camp

K-pop gods Super Junior, all 57 of them (kidding: there are only 13, but seven of them are currently serving in the army), head to Macau's Studio City for a mini concert to meet the fans and to celebrate their 10-year career. For the superfans who care: Leeteuk, Heechul, Yesung, Kangin, Ryeowook and Kyuhyun will be making appearances. All tickets are seated. Will you be able to stay in your seat? May 28, 8pm. Studio City Event Center, Studio City Macau, Estrada do Istmo, Cotai, Macau, \$580-1,580 from aegticketing.com, studiocity-macau.com or hkticketing.com.



Tegan and Sarah

Indie rock fans are in luck, because the Grammy-nominated twin sisters are back in town! After a fantastic set at Clockenflap in 2013 and hot on the heels of their eighth album release in June, Canadian indie queens Tegan and Sara return to the city for a one-night-only concert at KITEC. Jul 28, 8pm. Rotunda 3, KITEC, 1 Trademart Drive, Kowloon Bay, \$588 from hkticketing.com (all standing).



Rain: The Squall

It's rainy season, and our sister SAR is bringing in the stormy weather with the King of K-pop himself, Rain. Part of his first world tour in years, Rain will be slicking the Venetian stage for one night only with his famous dance skills, smooth pipes—and washboard abs—before heading off to Japan, Europe and the US. Jun 4, 8pm. CotaiArena, The Venetian Macao, \$380-1,680 (VIP) from hkticketing.com. Add \$108 for a round-trip Cotai Water Jet ferry ticket between Hong Kong and Macau.

Gigs

Charlie Lim & the Mothership

Don't let this unassuming Singaporean dude fool you. Indie singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Charlie Lim has been building up a name for himself ever since last year's double EP release, "Time/Space." He was even seen jamming with Hong Kong star Khalil Fong back in January. Don't miss his eclectic blend of indie pop, folk, R'n'B, electronic and acoustic tunes when he plays Hong Kong this month. May 22, 7pm. Hang Out, 1/F, Youth Outreach Jockey Club, 2 Holy Cross Path, Sai Wan Ho, \$280 from charlielim.pelago.events; \$300 at the door.

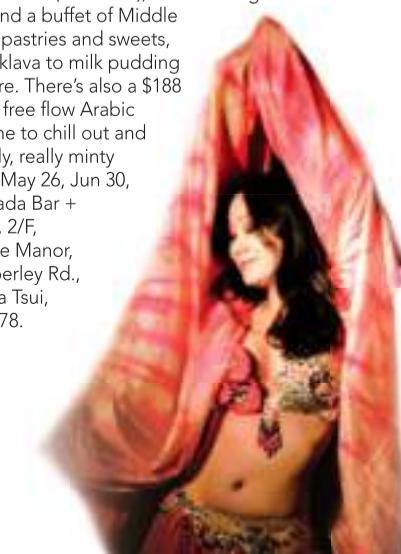
The Bollands

The Bollands are back! The foot-stomping husband-and-wife indie folk duo were mainstays of the Hong Kong gig scene, but they returned to their Kiwi home a year ago. They're coming back for a one-off gig together with local rockers Tango and Snatch, playing all-new material. If you missed them the last time they were in Hong Kong, don't make the same mistake twice. Jun 25, 9pm. Hong Kong Brew House, G/F & Basement, 21 D'Aguilar St., Central, \$100 at the door, includes one drink.

Nightlife Events

Exotic Arabic Nights at Dada Bar + Lounge

The Luxe Manor hotel's Dada Bar + Lounge is hosting a monthly Arabian-themed night from April to June, featuring belly dance performances (of course), Arabic lounge beats, and a buffet of Middle Eastern pastries and sweets, from baklava to milk pudding and more. There's also a \$188 deal for free flow Arabic teas: time to chill out and get really, really minty breath! May 26, Jun 30, 9pm. Dada Bar + Lounge, 2/F, The Luxe Manor, 39 Kimberley Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 3763-8778.





Edited by Evelyn Lok
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Dimensions HK

Croatia's EDM festival Dimensions is teaming up with Bass Music China and music promoters Push to bring a Hong Kong launch of the event to Social Room. Featured DJs include live sets from Casey Anderson, Ouissam from Cliché Records, and AKW from Push. May 28, 11pm. Social Room, 3/F, Won Hing Building, 74-78 Stanley St., Central, \$100 at the door.



Born Out of Music Pool Party

June kicks off with The Asia Music Conference, an EDM conference that brings together global DJ talents, club owners and promoters to network and check out seminars by industry giants. Thankfully, it's not all dry talk of beat-matching: It all tails off into a pool party at the Hard Rock Hotel. Wanna party with a pool full of DJs? Here's your chance. Jun 4, 3pm. Hard Rock Hotel Macau, City of Dreams, Estrada do Istmo, Cotai, Cotai, Macau, tamcasia.com. \$480-580 from bootticketing.com, \$680 at the door. For cabana and table booking, email amy.mak@tamcasia.com.



Spring Celebration at Cabana

Through to the end of June, The Pulse's rooftop bar Cabana is hosting G.H. Mumm-fueled parties every weekend where you can relax in a Japanese onsen hot tub and sip on iced bubbly, with chill house beats spun by live DJs. Sounds like an ideal weekend plan to us... May 21, 22, 28, Jun 5, 12, 19, 26, 3pm. Cabana, 4/F, The Pulse, 28 Beach Rd., Repulse Bay, \$580 from cabana.hk, \$680 at the door, includes a bottle of complimentary G.H. Mumm. VIP Cabanas available for booking. Dress code: beach chic.

Dining Festivals

Hong Kong Rum Fest 2016

The two-day Hong Kong Rum Festival is back for its fourth annual run, bringing an even thicker list of rums to the SAR: a staggering 151 different types of the liquor with a few being brought to Hong Kong for the first time. There'll be a host of special events and masterclasses, including an introduction to rums from all over the world (plus apparently, a little bit of pirate talk) by Ian Burrell, Global Rum Ambassador (May 27); a cocktail flairing demo; and a talk on Indonesian rums by brand specialist Sam Jeveons and Potato Head Group's Dre Masso. Still not got enough rum? There'll be after-parties on both days at Tiki bars Honi Honi and Mahalo. May 27-28, noon-8pm. Mahalo Tiki Lounge, 29/F, QRE Plaza, 202 Queen's Rd. East, Wan Chai, facebook.com/rumfestivalhongkong.

Cezaire Spins at Ozone

Ozone's about to get all Frenched up: The founder of the French label Roche Musique, Cezaire is bringing his bass-heavy, old school G-Funk grooves to the sky bar. Also on the lineup is Argentinian DJ Adrian Giordano with his Balearic beats and Miya from Hong Kong's own Cliché Records. May 21, 10pm. Ozone, 118/F, International Commerce Centre, 1 Austin Rd. West, West Kowloon, \$250 at the door, includes a glass of Veuve Clicquot Rich.

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Chongqing Hot Pot ★★★★

(China) Screwball Comedy. Directed by Yang Qing. Starring Chen Kun, Bai Baihe, Qin Hao, Yu Entai. Category IIB. 96 minutes. Opened May 12.

A good mala spicy hotpot is so much more than a straight-up chili broth. Spicy but layered with sideways kicks and twists, "Chongqing Hotpot" succeeds by packing on interesting flavors that work together, but just like a real-life hotpot, it falls short the moment it tries to add too much to the mix.

We start with a tension-filled bank robbery scene, in which four robbers wearing animal masks take down a bank in Chongqing. But when they break in we see that a long tunnel has already been dug into the central vault—yet the money remains untouched. A botched earlier attempt? Or did they just get there first?

We then flash to three buddies: Liu Bo, Xu Dong and Four Eyes, who are attempting to sell their failing hotpot business, which is situated in an old bomb shelter. Despite being the protagonists, they're no heroes: Just a nerd, a gambling lowlife and a stingy man with a vindictive wife. By sheer luck, while trying to renovate the restaurant they dig a tunnel straight into the bank vault, and they don't know what to do next—secretly fix the hole, or take the money and restart their lives debt free?

Enter disenchanted bank employee Yu Xiaohui (played by the lovely Bai Baihe, who creates a simple yet headstrong and multifaceted girl from a rather thin script), an old classmate and crush of Liu Bo's—she's a femme fatale of sorts whom the trio seeks out for help with the bank heist. As the foursome figure out their next move,

the movie becomes an introspective journey: looking at loyalty, responsibility, self-control—and a nostalgic look back at young puppy love.

In between all these twists and turns, we get the stylistic spiciness of a great mala hotpot. We get sharp, ambitious long shots of violent action. We get slow, numbing stasis when the characters are faced with having to reconnect with the past and decide how to face the consequences of their actions. We get the excitement of a bubbling romance, with a burning intensity that only a naïve young love could deliver.

Director Yang Qing constructs a varied string of magnificent shots throughout this winding narrative, from gang fights to slow intimate conversations. But towards the end of the film the cinematography gets deliberately slick, and winds up over-glorying mindless violence with bloodshed replacing dialogue. It's disappointing given what's come before.

The best moments in the film are those that toe the line between the down-to-earth and the artistic, mixing the grimy and the aesthetic—all enhanced by the use of Sichuan dialect throughout. The perfect hotpot experience is messy, convivial, earthy, flavorful and leaves you gasping for more. "Chongqing Hotpot" mostly serves it up just right. This one's definitely spicy enough to catch on. **Evelyn Lok**



Coming Soon

The Jungle Book ▾

(USA) The beloved 1967 Disney cartoon gets a CG/live-action makeover and they've packed the screen with star A-listers. Bill Murray voices Baloo, the lovable bear; the Bengal tiger baddie, Shere Khan, is played by Idris Elba. Opens May 26.

The Program

(UK/USA) Depicting the meteoric rise and dramatic fall of one of America's most promising athletes, this biopic follows Lance Armstrong (Ben Foster) as he overcomes testicular cancer, wins the Tour de France seven times—and then loses all his medals when it's revealed that he's been doping all along. Also stars Dustin Hoffman and Lee Pace. Opens May 26.

Opening

What a Wonderful Family!

(Japan) Twenty years after making his last comedy film, Yamada Yoji returns with the 49th installment in the "Tora-san" series about a romantically inept traveling merchant. In this movie, an aging couple surprises their three grown children with news of their divorce. Opened May 19.

X-Men: Apocalypse

(USA) This sequel to "Days of Future Past" returns to 1973, and this time the gifted youngsters have to battle an ancient and powerful mutant (Oscar Isaac), who is set on (what else) destroying humanity. Also stars Michael Fassbender, James McAvoy, J.Law, and Rose Byrne. Opened May 19.

Continuing

Bad Neighbors 2

(USA) If you saw the first "Bad Neighbors" and thought to yourself, "Man, that was phenomenal, but I really want to see that again with sorority sisters!" then congratulations: Christmas has come early this year for you, weirdo. The one star is for Zac Efron's unbelievably hot body. ★



Book of Love

(China) In the second installment of the phenomenally successful "Beijing Meets Seattle" franchise, the two leads Tang Wei and Wu Xiubo reprise their roles as star-crossed lovers—but this time they live in Los Angeles and Macau, respectively. Will they or won't they get together in the end? They probably will, but certainly not without some high-flying skyline porn.

The Boy

(USA/China/Canada) Old tropes die hard for a reason, and that reason is that people will never not be freaked out by three things: dolls that come to life, mysterious messages on the wall written in blood, and deadpan British children. Horror veteran William Brent Bell ("Stay Alive," "The Devil Inside") directs this thriller starring Lauren Cohan ("The Walking Dead") as a nanny to an English family's porcelain doll, which goes, inevitably, from weird to murderous.



Captain America: Civil War

(USA) The gang's back together, and by "together," we mean, separated into two factions and in debate about whether a rag-tag group of ass-kicking, superhuman misfits with megawatt smiles should have more government intervention or less. A well-developed narrative and explosive inter-Avengers fight sequences make this an elevated, exciting comic book movie. ★★★

Chongqing Hot Pot

(China) See review, above.

The Dressmaker

(Australia) Tilly Dunnage (Kate Winslet) is a couturier in the 50s who returns to her provincial Australian childhood home to take care of her ailing mother. Having been accused of murder as a child and exiled at an early age, she's back to find the truth and get revenge on her accusers, armed with... a sewing machine?

Hardcore Henry

(Russia/USA) Video gamers won't know what to do with their hands when they sit down to watch "Hardcore Henry," a first-person-shooter movie filmed almost entirely on a GoPro worn like a mask on Henry—a newly resurrected cyber-soldier with no memory of his past life. A cool idea, but it's more like watching someone play "Call of Duty" than a good movie. ★★

The Himalayas

(South Korea) Two South Korean mountaineers (played by Jung Woo and Kim In-kuon) are lifelong trekkers who must scale Everest to retrieve the body of a stranded teammate under ever more forbidding circumstances.

The Inerasable

(Japan) Keeping with Japan's tradition of slow-burning, bone-rattling horror films, "The Inerasable" follows a novelist as she investigates the case of a student who hears strange noises coming from an empty room in an otherwise perfectly ordinary house.

The Kid from the Big Apple

(Malaysia/Hong Kong/Singapore) A lot of people will recognize this story of an assimilated, second-generation Asian kid who goes back to the old country and deepens her cultural awareness of her roots. Stars legendary Shaw Brothers veteran Ti Lung as a conservative grandfather and Malaysian newcomer Tan Qin Lin as Sarah, the kid in question.

Life

(Canada/USA) This biopic of James Dean by Anton Corbijn ("A Most Wanted Man") centers on Dean (Dane DeHaan) and photographer Dennis Stock (Robert Pattinson) and their unexpected friendship while they travel the USA shooting a now iconic Life magazine spread. A gorgeous film but ultimately lacking, "Life" seems better viewed in photos than on screen. ★★



The Lobster

(Ireland/UK/Greece) In a city in the ambiguous future, single people are given 45 days to find a partner or they're forced to turn into animals and are released into the wild. It is in this chaos that newly arrived David (Colin Farrell) has to get over his former love and start anew. Also stars Rachel Weisz and John C. Reilly.

Marguerite

(France/Czech Republic) In the sumptuous era of Paris in the 1920s, one voice rings clearly and tunelessly out into aghast concert halls. It is that of Marguerite (Catherine Frot, "Haute Cuisine"), a wealthy socialite who has no idea how terribly incapable she is of carrying an aria yet insists on finding bigger and bigger stages to perform on.





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Need to Know

AMC Cinema, 2265-8933
amccinemas.com.hk

Broadway Circuit,
2388-3188
cinema.com.hk

Golden Harvest Cinema,
2622-6688
goldenharvest.com

MCL Cinema, 3413-6688
mclcinema.com

UA Cinema,
3516-8811
uacinemas.com.hk

The Grand Cinema,
2196-8170
thegrandcinema.com.hk

The Metroplex, 2620-2200
metroplex.com.hk

Microbe & Gasoline

(France) In this French-language film from Michel Gondry ("Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," "The Green Hornet") two awkward teen boys in Versailles decide that the solution to all their teenage hardships is to build a car out of a lawnmower engine and a few planks and hit the road. Stars the always lovable Audrey Tautou.

Money Monster

(USA) Economic disparity is the theme of this Jodie Foster-directed suspense film. A financial TV presenter (George Clooney) is taken hostage by blue-collar viewer (Jack O'Connell, "Unbroken") who lost all his money on a bad tip. Features Julia Roberts and a soundtrack by Bruce Springsteen.

Mustang

(Turkey) A group of sisters in a conservative town live under strict house arrest by their grandparents: Taken out of school, they're taught to sew, cook, and perform other domestic tasks as they wait for marriage. But as time wears on, the sisters start to plan their escape.

My Mother

(Italy) In "Mia Madre," a movie director on the verge of a nervous breakdown must balance her hectic life with her mother's illness and daughter's adolescence. This Italian film features John Turturro as a pain-in-the-neck American actor.



The Propaganda Game

(Spain) With the guidance of Alejandro Cao de Benós, the only foreign employee of the North Korean government, director Álvaro Longoria delivers a unique and surprising documentary all about how information is manipulated—both inside and outside North Korea. Depicting the DPRK with a rarely seen playfulness thanks to interviews with unreliable narrators, Longoria leaves us with a distinct feeling of unease. ★★★★

Race

(Canada/Germany/USA) Jesse Owens was one of the greatest American athletes, an African-American runner from Alabama who set three world records at the age of 26 and went on to win four gold medals in the 1936 Summer Olympics in Berlin—during the rise of Nazi Germany. This biopic is an exciting journey from start to finish, but absurdly unearned optimism makes it an awkward and dissatisfying watch. ★



"Phantom Boy," Le French May Utopias

Film Festival

Le French May Cinema Program: Utopias

Le French May has found inspiring ways to inject a little French soul into all sorts of arts, presenting unique plays, exhibits, and concerts. It's no surprise that they're also shining a light on France's cinematic tradition: This year, their cinema program is presenting 15 films, with the theme "Utopias." Highlights include award-winning animated fantasy thriller "April and the Extraordinary World" starring Marion Cotillard, and black comedy "The Brand New Testament," in which an exceedingly grumpy God lives in a run-down Brussels apartment. May 10-31. Broadway Cinematheque, Prosperous Garden, 3 Public Square St., Yau Ma Tei; Pacific Place, 1801, Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Admiralty, 2388-0002. \$85-\$95 from cinema.com.hk.

Special Screening

Frozen Planet in Concert: A Cinematic Journey With Live Music

Thought nature show "Frozen Planet," with its soaring shots of the magnificent icy wild, was stunning enough on its own? Then prepare yourself. Under the baton of Benjamin Northe, the HK Phil brings the full scope of the Arctic to life in all its vibrant glory. It's the best way to experience the frozen wild without having to buy a scarf. Jun 3-4, 8pm. Concert Hall, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, hkphil.org. \$180-480 from urbtix.hk.

Listings compiled by Jessica Wei

HOT PICKS

SPONSORED FEATURE



Hotel ICON Pierre Gonalons Design Exhibition

As part of Le French May celebration, Hotel ICON is proud to partner with renowned French designer and artist Pierre Gonalons for his first exhibition in Asia. Hotel ICON will host a specular 6-course Cantonese dinner together with wine-pairing at Above & Beyond on May 26th, created by award-winning chef Paul Tsui. Public exhibition will be available from 2:30pm to 5:30pm, May 27th to June 26th.

Above & Beyond, Hotel ICON, 17 Science Museum Road, Tsim Sha Tsui East, 3400-1368.



Carlos Acosta's "A Classical Farewell"

After an unparalleled career spanning 26 years, internationally renowned ballet star Carlos Acosta will present his final classical ballet programme to Hong Kong audiences before bidding farewell to the stage. Featuring highlights from his career as a dancer on the international stage, Acosta will perform excerpts from his favourite ballet repertoire alongside an outstanding cast of dancers from Cuba.

June 30 – July 2, Hong Kong Cultural Centre
(\$160 – \$520) Enquiry: 2268-7323



OnTheList: New sales in June!

OnTheList, which organizes F&F Pop Up sales – highly discounted – announces its two June sales:

- @PMQ, June, 4th & 5th for the super cool brand FAGUO & the HK designer Berayah. Discounts up to 90% off. Food, drinks, music...
- 8th of June: luxury swimsuits sale: Vilebrequin. Discount up to 70% off. To get the personal invitation?

Register once for free with the community code HK to www.onthelist.hk

PMQ sale: 4th – 5th of June – 11.00A.M – 8.00P.M
Vilebrequin sale: 8th - 11th of June – Central – Central – 1/F – 3 Pedder Street

2016 Prestige summer lifestyle and gift fair.

This highly anticipated Prestige Summer Fair is on and just the right time for the upcoming travel season. You will be spoiled for choices that are suitable for vacations and getaways or even when spending summer in town from their 150+ pop up shops. Not just shopping; special highlights are free talks on subjects such as "Starting Your own Business", "Plant-based Diet" and more. Preview the fair at www.prestigefairs.hk.

June 3, Friday, 10am – 7pm
Grand Ballroom – Conrad Hong Kong



FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

ROB BREZSNY

TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20): The short attention span is now enshrined as the default mode of awareness. "We skim rather than absorb," says author James Lough. "We read Sappho or Shakespeare the same way we glance over a tweet or a text message, scanning for the gist, impatient to move on." There's a problem with that approach, however. "You can't skim Shakespeare," says Lough. I propose that we make that your epigram to live by in the coming weeks, Taurus: *You can't skim Shakespeare.* According to my analysis, you're going to be offered a rich array of Shakespeare-level information and insights. To get the most out of these blessings, you must penetrate and marinate and ruminate.

GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20): "There are situations in life when it is wisdom not to be too wise," said Friedrich Schiller. The coming days may be one of those times for you. I therefore advise you to dodge any tendency you might have to be impressed with your sophisticated intelligence. Be suspicious of egotism masquerading as cleverness. You are most likely to make good decisions if you insist on honoring your raw instincts. Simple solutions and uncomplicated actions will give you access to beautiful truths and truthful beauty, especially if you anchor yourself in innocent compassion.

CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22): To prepare you for the coming weeks, I have gathered three quotes from the Bulgarian writer Elias Canetti. These gems, along with my commentary, will serve you well if you use them as seeds for your ongoing meditations. Seed #1: "He would like to start from scratch. Where is scratch?" Here's my addendum: No later than your birthday, you'll be ready to start from scratch. In the meantime, your task is to find out where scratch is, and clear a path to it. Seed #2: "All the things one has forgotten scream for help in dreams." My addendum: Monitor your dreams closely. They will offer clues about what you need to remember. Seed #3: "Relearn astonishment, stop grasping for knowledge, lose the habit of the past." My addendum: Go in search of the miraculous.

LEO (Jul 23-Aug 22): "There are friendships like circuses, waterfalls, libraries," said writer Vladimir Nabokov. I hope you have at least one of each, Leo. And if you don't, I encourage you to go out and look for some. It would be great if you could also get access to alliances that resemble dancing lessons, colorful sanctuaries, lion whisperers, prayer flags, and the northern lights. Right now you especially need the stimulation that synergistic collaborations can provide. The next chapter of your life story requires abundant contact with interesting people who have the power to surprise you and teach you.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22): "Perfection is a stick with which to beat the possible," says author Rebecca Solnit. She is of course implying that it might be better not to beat the possible, but rather to protect and nurture the possible as a viable option—especially if perfection ultimately proves to have no value other than as a stick. This is always a truth worth honoring, but it will be crucial for you in the weeks to come. I hope you will cultivate a reverence

and devotion to the possible. As messy or maddening as it might be, it will also groom your powers as a maker.

LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 22): An invigorating challenge is headed your way. To prepare you, I offer the wisdom of French author André Gide. "Through loyalty to the past," he wrote, "our mind refuses to realize that tomorrow's joy is possible only if today's joy makes way for it." What this means, Libra, is that you will probably have to surrender your attachment to a well-honed delight if you want to make yourself available for a bright new delight that's hovering on the frontier. An educational blessing will come your way if and only if you clear space for its arrival. As Gide concludes, "Each wave owes the beauty of its line only to the withdrawal of the preceding wave."

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): "How prompt we are to satisfy the hunger and thirst of our bodies; how slow to satisfy the hunger and thirst of our souls!" Henry David Thoreau wrote that, and now I'm passing it on to you just in time for a special phase of your long-term cycle. During this upcoming interlude, your main duty is to FEED YOUR SOUL in every way you can imagine. So please stuff it with unpredictable beauty and reverent emotions. Cram it with mysterious adventures and rambling treks in the frontier. Gorge it with intimate unpredictability and playful love and fierce devotions in behalf of your most crucial dreams. Warning: You will not be able to rely solely on the soul food that has sustained you in the past. Be eager to discover new forms of nourishment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): "Here's how every love letter can be summarized," says Russell Dillon in his poem "Past-Perfect-Impersonal": "What is it you're unable to surrender and please may I have that?" I bring this tease to your attention because it may serve as a helpful riddle in the coming weeks. You're entering a phase when you will have an enhanced ability to tinker with and refine and even revolutionize your best intimate relationships. I'm hoping Dillon's provocation will unleash a series of inquiries that will inspire you as you imagine how you could supercharge togetherness and reinvent the ways you collaborate.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): Fifth-century Christian theologian St. Jerome wrote that "it requires infinite discretion to look for gold



in the midst of dirt." Ancient Roman poet Virgil on one occasion testified that he was "searching for gold in dung." While addressing the angels, nineteenth-century French poet Charles Baudelaire bragged, "From each thing I extracted its quintessence. You gave me your mud, and I made gold out of it." From what I can tell, Capricorn, you have been engaged in similar work lately. The climax of your toil should come in the next two weeks. (Thanks to Michael Gilleland for the inspiration: tinyurl.com/mudgold.)

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 19): "At this time in my life," says singer Joni Mitchell, "I've confronted a lot of my devils. A lot of them were pretty silly, but they were incredibly real at the time." According to my reading of the astrological omens, Aquarius, you are due to enjoy a similar grace period. It may be a humbling grace period, because you'll be invited to decisively banish worn-out delusions that have filled you with needless fear. And it may be a grace period that requires you to make strenuous adjustments, since you'll have to revise some of your old stories about who you are and how you got here. But it will also be a sweet grace period, because you'll be blessed again and again with a visceral sense of liberation.

PISCES (Feb 18-Mar 20): More than halfway through her prose poem "A Settlement," Mary Oliver abruptly stops her meandering meditation on the poignant joys of spring's soft awakening. Suddenly she's brave and forceful: "Therefore, dark past, I'm about to do it. I'm about to forgive you for everything." Now would be a perfect moment to draw inspiration from her, Pisces. I dare you to say it. I dare you to mean it. Speak these words: "Therefore, dark past, I'm about to do it. I'm about to forgive you for everything."

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19): "An oar moves a boat by entering what lies outside it," writes poet Jane Hirshfield. You can't use the paddle inside the boat! It's of no value to you unless you thrust it into the drink and move it around vigorously. And that's an excellent metaphor for you to keep in mind during the coming weeks, my friend. If you want to reach your next destination, you must have intimate and continual interaction with the mysterious depths that lie outside your known world.

HOMEWORK: What's the one thing you would change about yourself if you could? And why can't you? Go to Relastrology.com and click "Email Rob."

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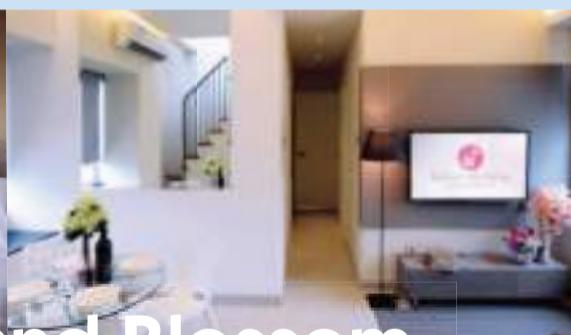


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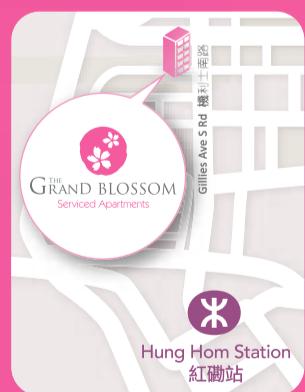
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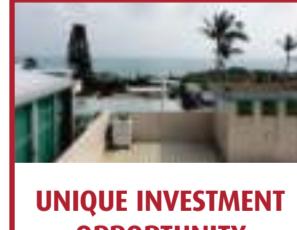
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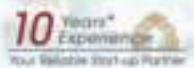
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SAVAGE LOVE

Dan Savage

Over the years, I have consumed what I believe to be an average amount of porn for a 44-year-old hetero guy. I have never paid for it, and I am now facing a troubled conscience for that fact. I could obviously just subscribe to some site or other now, but that would benefit only one company and/or set of performers. Is there a Dan Savage-approved charity relating to the adult film industry to which I could donate?
- Seeks Penance And Needs Knowledge

"Porn performers almost never get royalties for their scenes when they work for big studios," said Conner Habib, a writer, activist, and porn performer. "If you buy into the trickle-down theory of things, then more money for the studio should mean more money for the performers. If you don't buy into that—and not everyone does—there are other options."

To get your money directly to the performers whose work you're currently enjoying/stealing, SPANK, you can patronize smaller studios run by performers, book time with independent webcam models, and purchase porn created by performers on sites like Clips4Sale.com.

To atone for your years of freeloading, SPANK, you can and should make large donations to two organizations.

"The Adult Performer Advocacy Committee (APAC) (apac-usa.com) is the largest performer-based organization in the world, and its membership is made up entirely of performers," said Habib. "Full disclosure: I'm the vice president, but no donation money goes to me or any board member. It all goes to the organization, which works to improve the working conditions, quality of life, and safety of performers, as well as to fight anti-porn laws and stigma."

Habib also recommended donating money to the Sex Workers Outreach Project (swopusa.org).

"This isn't a porn-specific organization," said Habib, "but it works to protect and fight for the rights of all sex workers. Since many performers are doing other forms of sex work, donations go a long way to help porn performers."

Habib will be hosting an online lecture/seminar about the upside of porn on Sunday, June 5. His talk is titled "Pornworld: Why Pornography Is a Healthy Part of Our Culture," and you can find out more about it by searching "pornworld" at Eventbrite.com. You can—and you should—follow Habib on Twitter @ConnerHabib.

I didn't talk to my nearly-70-year-old dad for most of my 20s. Now that I'm back trying to maintain relationships with my parents, I am struggling. My dad is the king of the overshare. He makes creepy comments about women who are about 30 to 40 years younger than him—including women who were kids when he met them but are now grown-ups. Not something I want to hear. I don't think he is abusing anyone, just being creepy, but I desperately want him to stop with the inappropriate comments. He makes about one creepy comment per phone conversation. If he were a person at work, I would be able to stand up for myself and say, "That is not appropriate." But when he says creepy stuff, Dan, I'm a deer in the headlights. I go silent, it's awkward, and I keep hoping he'll understand how weird he's being. I would say something, but bringing up things that anger me causes him to act overly sorry, and that routine is annoying too. I asked my mom (they divorced a long time ago), and she had no suggestions. She was just like, yeah, he's like that. Any suggestions on what to say?
- Seeking Help Regarding Unpleasant Guy

"Dad! It creeps me out when you make comments about women you wanna fuck. I realize you're

a sexual person, and I honor that, and blah de blah blah blah. But these are thoughts you share with friends, Dad, not with your adult children. There's no need to go into your oh-so-sorry routine, Dad, we just need to change the subject."

My husband and I have been married for 16 years. We have been polyamorous for the last five years. We are a bit mismatched sexually in many ways. Polyamory was our solution. For much of this time, my husband had a girlfriend. Before I go on, let me say that I adore my husband in all ways except sex. We are raising a child together and are a good fit otherwise. I no longer have any desire to have sex with my husband. Lots of men and women write in to complain about their partner's low libido. This is not the case. My libido is fine. I just don't want to have sex with my husband. Whenever we would have sex in the past, I would get anxious and try to avoid it. We each have our issues. He feels insecure and has trouble maintaining erections. I always felt desexualized—not by him, but when I was younger. Being a poly woman dating in my 40s has been incredibly empowering and sexy. But my husband's experiences have been different. He is frustrated because it is hard for him to meet women, and his frustration is made worse by the fact that I don't want sex with him either. When he had a girlfriend, our sex life wasn't as much of an issue. What should I do? He's unhappy. I'm frustrated. Neither of us wants to divorce. Should I force myself?
- Lady In Baltimore Isn't Desiring Obligatory Sex

It is a truth universally acknowledged—in the poly universe anyway—that a married poly woman will have an easier time finding sex partners than a married poly man. Some men in open/poly relationships present themselves as dishonest cheaters rather than honest nonmonogamists because women would rather fuck a married man who's cheating on his wife than a married man who isn't cheating on his wife.

Go figure.

Anyway, LIBIDOS, the answer to your question—should you force yourself to fuck your husband?—depends on your answer to this question: How badly do you want to avoid divorce? Because if your husband can't or won't pretend to be cheating, LIBIDOS, and if women won't fuck him because he's in an open marriage, your refusal to fuck him could wind up incentivizing divorce.

So to save your marriage, LIBIDOS, you might wanna fuck your husband once in a while. Forcing yourself to fuck someone is tiresome and dispiriting, I realize, but you can always close your eyes and think about someone you'd rather be fucking—a time-tested stratagem employed successfully by millions of people in loving, stable, and sexually energizing/dead marriages.

And since you're off the hook when your husband has a girlfriend, LIBIDOS, you might wanna do everything you can to help him find a new one—a stratagem employed by tens of thousands of women in poly relationships. You don't want your husband stewing alone at home while you're out fucking your boyfriend(s), LIBIDOS, because that ups the odds of your resentful/unfucked husband asking you to close up your relationship again or asking you for a divorce. So help him craft messages to women he contacts online, go to play parties and poly mixers with him, and vouch for him to women he's interested in.

But between girlfriends, LIBIDOS, you'll probably wanna fuck him once in a while. Lube for you, Viagra for him, pot for you both.

Jillian Keenan, author of *Sex with Shakespeare*, on the Savage Lovecast: savagecast.com.

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at thestranger.com/savage.mail@savagelove.net

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To celebrate its second birthday, executive chef Carlos Salvador is presenting an array of creative new dishes, as well as classic popular items from the menu. Start your meal with chef Carlos' roasted whole onion stuffed with diced beef cheek and chorizo (\$128) for a mouthwatering beginning, or some of the diners' favorites including the enticing Spanish anchovies with mango vinaigrette (\$78), Andalusian style deep fried baby squid (\$68), and "Tortilla" Spanish pan-fried potato, onion and ham omelet (\$50).

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rustico.com.hk



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Available from 2:30-5:30pm on weekdays, Aberdeen Street Social's talented executive chef Chris Whitmore has creatively reinterpreted Cowshed's natural botanicals and mood-boosting essential oils, applying them to the exquisitely prepared scones, sweets and savories on the menu.

Taking inspiration from the spa brand's soothing and fruity ingredients ranging from mint to mandarin and rose to lavender, the delectable tea set offers items including the "Knackered Cow's" favorite cucumber finger sandwich with mint butter, "Horny

Cow's" Queen Victoria sponge cake with candy rose and strawberry, and "Wild Cow's" Eton mess with lemon and lavender cream—to name just a few.

Priced at \$288 for two, you get to wash down all those decadent bites with a selection of premium teas or coffee. Add \$100 or \$115 for a glass of Ruinart Champagne for those who fancy a bit of bubbly on the side.

You'll bring home something British, as well: Each guest will receive a complimentary Cowshed Knackered Cow Lotion (30ml) and Wild Cow Bath and Shower Gel (30ml) to top off the British experience. We know they smell great, but remember—they're not edible!

aberdeensestreetsocial.hk



A Sweet Taste of Ivory at Sabatini

It's the perfect season for white asparagus again: The tender and sweet culinary delicacy is available every year when spring arrives, and the Italians know how to cook them best.

To highlight the unique texture and sweetness of "the vampire of the vegetable world," Sabatini Ristorante Italiano at The Royal Garden is presenting a special menu that features this seasonal produce brimming with flavor.

Using fresh white asparagus from the Black Forest in Germany, the chef at Sabatini brings out the unique mild flavor of the legume with the simplest cooking methods, including poached white asparagus with ratte potatoes and sauteed onion, served with creamy Hollandaise sauce—a simple yet rich and flavorful dish.

Also not to be missed is the risotto with white

asparagus and Alaskan king crab, which combines succulent crab meat with raw white asparagus for a creamy concoction, as well as a juicy grilled US Wagyu rib eye served with white asparagus and port wine jus for those craving some meat to pair with the delicate veggie.

If you prefer a more traditional Italian experience, order the three-course early bird dinner menu (\$680 for payment settled before 7:30pm) to welcome the arrival of summer. Sample Italy's renowned gastronomic legacy from a selection of seasonal delights, including Sabatini's signature linguine with mixed seafood and light tomato sauce for a taste of the Mediterranean, and the ultra-tender charcoal-grilled lamb chops with thyme and oven-baked polenta.

rgk.com.hk



CAN'T FIND HK MAGAZINE?

CENTRAL

Ages b Café
Al Diner
Aluminium
American Club
Angel's Share
Anglo Chinese Florist Ltd. - Landmark Atrium
Appellation Wine Cellar
Baby Buddha
Beautique Int'l Ltd
Beruit
Beyrouth Bistro
Bit Point
Bridges Executive Centre Ltd
Brunch Club
Bumps to Babes
Bungalow
Byrne Hickman and Partners
Café O
Café Queen
California Beach Club
C'est La Vie
Chachawan
CitySuper Ltd
Classified - Exchange Square Podium
Classified - New World Tower
Club 71
Cochrane's
Coco Espresso
Daz
DiVino Italian Wine Bar & Restaurant
Dot Cod
DROP
Escapade Sports
El Grande - Hong Kong Brew House
Epic MMA
ESSENSUALS (CENTRAL) LIMITED
Feel Good Factor
Flawless
Flow Bookshop - 29 Lyndhurst Terrace
FoFo by el willy
Foreign Correspondents Club
Four Seasons Hotel Hong Kong
Frey & Ford
Fringe Club
G7 Private Dining
Garage Society
Gateway
Geronomo
Grappa's Cellar
Grey Hound
Hazel & Hershey
Helena May Library
Holly Brown
Holy Crab Bar & Restaurant
Hong Kong Book Centre
Hotel LKF
HYPOXXII Bel Paese
Impakt Academy
Infusion
Indulgence
Isola
Ivan the Kozak
Jeeves of Belgravia
Knight on Wyndham
La Belle Salon
La Piola
Le Gouter Bernaduad
LKF Group - Tokio Joe
Liberty Exchange Kitchen & Bar
Little Burro
Lumiere/Cuisine Cuisine
Mandarin Oriental Hong Kong
Maya Café
Mini Hotel Central
Natural Path
Nature's Village
O2 Hair Salon
Oolaa
Orange Peel
Orange Tree Restaurant
Ovo
Paisano's Central
Parentheses Continental Books Ltd.
Paul Gerrard Hair & Beauty
Peel Fresco Music Lounge/ Caravan Serai
Pier 7
Pizza Express
Propaganda
Red
Red Rock/Annexx
Rockabilly
Roundhouse Taproom

Sidewalk - LKF
Starbucks - 254 Des Voeux Rd
Starbucks - Alexandra House
Starbucks - Century Square
Starbucks - Duddell Street
Starbucks - Exchange Square 2
Starbucks - IFC Mall
Starbucks - Jardine House
Starbucks - Mainland Centre
Starbucks - Man Yee Arcade
Starbucks - MTR Station
Stormy Weather
Tandoor Indian Restaurant
Ten Feet Tall
The Globe
The Landmark Mandarin Oriental
The Putman
Tivo
Toni & Guy - 15 Wyndham St
Tranquil Touches
Uncle Russ Coffee
UP Health
Veggie SF
Wagyu
Yo mama
Yu Yuet Lai
Zentro - 66 Stanley Street
Zentro - IFC

SOHO

Bizou
Café d'I
Club 1911
Culture ClubDaddyo's
Enoteca Soho
Flaming Frango
Flutes
Flying Pan
Gourmet Burger Union
Gweilo Bar and Grill
Hair Craft
Jaspas
Libertine
Life Café
Mimi2Go
Mostaccioli Brothers
PMQ
Portobello's
Taco Loco
The Herbivores
The Pierre
The Tavern
Toni & Guy
Wagyu Lounge
Watson's Wine
Yorkshire Pudding Soho 8

SHEUNG WAN/ KENNEDY TOWN

208 Duccento Otto
99 Bonham
A&M U.S Groceries
Above Second
American Women's Association Office
Barista Jam
Boulangerie Bistronomique
Café Deco Pizzeria
Café O
Classified (Sheung Wan)
Corner Kitchen
Crispy Bistro
Fish N Chick
Forbes 36
Ho Mei
Holiday Inn Express Soho
Hotel Jen
Ibis HK - Central
Jaspa's - Kennedy Town
Kinsale
La Cantoche
La Viola
Little Burro
Living Art Café
Metropolitain
Monsieur Chatte
Ola
Park N Shop - Kennedy Town
Pizzeria Jacomax
Quintessentially
Shelter Lounge
Starbucks - 50 Connaught Road
Starbucks - Golden Phoenix Court
Starbucks - Hotel Ibis
Starbucks - Kwong Fat Hong Building
Starbucks - Shun Tak Centre
Tacobocha

Teakha
The Press Room
The Beautywave Skin Care
The Lot
Three Monkeys
Waffling Beans

MID-LEVELS

Blessing Garden Phase I
Chicken on the Run
Coffee Book
Dymocks - Bonham Rd.
Il Bel Paese
Ladies' Recreation Club
Lime @ Soho 38
Lof10
Mier Serviced Apartments
Peak Café Bar
Seymour
The Phoenix
YWCA English Speaking Members Department

PEAK

Bubba Gump
Cafe Deco
Starbucks
The Peak Lookout Restaurant

ADMIRALTY

Brick Lane
Dan Ryan's
Gourmet Coffee
Grappa's Ristorante
Great
Island Shangri-La
Lab Concept
Metropolitan Café
Ruth Chris
Starbucks - Pacific Place
The British Council Library
UFC Group

WANCHAI

151 Gloucester Road Property Management Company Ltd
Academy for the Performing Arts
Agave
Amour Salon
Alliance Française
Arts Centre
Asian Tiger Mobility
Assaggio Trattoria Italiana
Bar 109
Berliner
Big Apple
Castello del Vino
Classified (Wan Chai)
Cosmos Book Ltd.
Coyote Bar & Grill
Divino Patio
DRAGONFLY @ Novotel
Ebeneezer's
Grand Hyatt Hotel
Harbour road café
Hotel Indigo
IAFT
Island Property
Joe's Billiards & Bar
Loplus @ Hennessy Serviced Apartment
Marriott Properties (International) Ltd.
Maya
Moon Izakaya
Mr. Taco Truck
Oliver's Super Sandwiches
Outback Grill
OVO
OVO Limited
Paisano's Wan Chai
Pizza Express - Wing Fung St.
Pizza Express - Ship St.
Pomme
Quemo
SIP Sun Hung Kai Centre
Slim's
Spring Learning
StarCrest
Starbucks - 4346 Queen's Road East
Starbucks - Gloucester Rd
Starbucks - Great Eagle Centre
Starbucks - Hopewell Centre
Starbucks - Sun Hung Kai Centre
Starbucks - WanChai Tower
Starbucks - Wsqaure

Thai Delight Restaurant & Bar
Tamarind
The Charterhouse Causeway Bay
The Doghouse
The Flying Pan
The Hive
The Queen Victoria
The Tonno
The Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club
The Wanch
The White Stag
VIM Pilates Studio
Xperience
Yo mama

CAUSEWAY BAY

18 Grams
A La Maison
Aluminium
Brechts Circle
Brookfield Global Relocation Services HK Ltd.
Brunch Club & Supper
Buddy Bar & Café
Café Corridor
Café Rivoli
CitySuper
Classified (Tai Hang)
Crowne Plaza Hong Kong Causeway Bay – Connections
Dickens Bar
Englishtown
Fleur de Sel
Hotel Pennington
Inn Side Out
Isabella Bistro & Bar
Island Seafood & Oyster
Jrink
Lanson Place
Little Burro
Mackie Kitchen
Madame Foster Deli
Mau I Business Centre Ltd - Eton Tower
Mau I Business Centre Ltd - Radio City
Mini Hotel Causeway Bay
Mr. Steak
Otto Restaurant & Bar
Outback Steakhouse
Page One
Roof Bar
Rouge
Starbucks - 50 Leighton Rd.
Starbucks - Causeway Bay Plaza 2
Starbucks - Hysan Place
Starbucks - Lee Garden 1
Starbucks - Tin Hau
Starbucks - Tiung Lo Wan Rd.
Starbucks - Windsor House
The Herbivores
The Sky Bar
The Warren
Watson Wine Cellar
Wired Café
W's Entrecôte
Yo mama

HAPPY VALLEY

Classified
El Grande - Happy Valley Bar & Grill
Hong Kong Cricket Club
Hong Kong Football Club
il Bel Paese
Jaspas
Movieland (3) - Happy Valley
Park N Shop - Happy Valley
Saint Germain
Starbucks - Le Cacet
The Jockey

QUARRY BAY/ TAIKOOSHING

East Hotel
Park N Shop - Kornhill Plaza
Pizza Express
Ruby Tuesday
Starbucks - Cityplaza
Starbucks - Hoi Kwong St.
Starbucks - Kornhill Plaza
Starbucks - Taikoo Shing
The News Room
Yo bago
Yo mama

NORTH POINT/ FORTRESS HILL

Cheung Chuk Shan College
Harbour Plaza North Point - Lobby
Fitness First - Fortress Hill
Para Site
Starbucks - AIA Tower
Starbucks - Fortress Hill
Starbucks - Kerry Centre

SAI WAN HO

Berliner Soho East
Chaiwanese
Jack's Terrazza Ristorante
Madera Café
Starbucks - Eastern Hospital

POK FU LAM

Delaney's Pub
HKUSU Student Union
Lee Hysan Hall Students' Association, HKUSU
Patisserie Les Amis
Prompt
Starbucks - Cyberport
Starbucks - Cyberport 3
Starbucks - HKU Library
Starbucks - HKUSU
T Hotel

AP LEI CHAU/ ABERDEEN

Aberdeen Marina Club
Alisan Fine Arts Limited
Bowls Café Limited
Flex HK
GCX
K Academy (English Language Learning Centre)
Movie Express
Tequila Kola
TREE
Shambala/ Café Piatti
Sift
Spring Workshop
Starbucks - Marina Square
Starbucks - One Island South
Y. Art Education

REPULSE BAY/ TAI TAM/ STANLEY

Beachside Bookstore
Classified (Stanley)
Chez Patrick Deli - Stanley
El Cid Caramar
Hong Kong International School
King Ludwig Beer Hall
Lucy's
Mini Hotel Stanley
Ocean Bay
Park N Shop - Parkview
Pickled Pelican Stanley
Pizza Express
Seafront
Smuggler's Inn, Stanley
Spices
Starbucks - Stanley Plaza
Taste
The American Club
The Boat House
Victoria Recreation Club

TSIM SHA TSUI

Agnes b Café Harbour City
Agnes'B Café SG
Assembly
Barista Caffe
Bistro on the Mile
Bombay Dreams
Bricklane - 2 Blenheim Avenue
Bricklane - 17-23 Minden Avenue
Brotzeit
Burger Republic
Carpaccio Pasta Pizza Vino
Castros Bar
CitySuper
Crema
Cucina - The Marco Polo HK Hotel
Delaney's
Eastsider Tavern
Eaton Hotel
El Cid
Fatt's Place
Finds
Grand Central Bar and Grill

JORDAN/YAU MA TEI/MONG KOK

18 Grams
Berliner Olympian City 3
Broadway Cinematheque
Colour Brown Coffee
Englishtown
Hotel Stage
Kadoorie Hill
Langham Hotel
Langham Place Hotel Coffee Shop
Madera Hotel
Park N Shop - Olympian City
Pink Coffee
Royal Plaza Hotel
Starbucks - 3 Jordan Rd.
Starbucks - Bank Centre Mall
Starbucks - Liberte Place
Starbucks - Nathan Hotel
Starbucks - New Kowloon Plaza
Starbucks - Olympian City 2
Take Two Brunch Coffee
The Olympian Hong Kong
White Noise
Zoo Records

SHATIN

Baptist University
Citysuper
Courtyard by Marriott Sha Tin
Crown Relocations
Starbucks - Fortune City One
Starbucks - New Town Plaza L1

SAI KUNG

Bacco
CC Café
Chez les Copains
Classified
Duke of York Pub
Firenze
HEBE ONE o ONE
Italiano's
Park N Shop - Clear Water Bay
Pepperoni's
Piccolos
Pizzeria La Gondola
Starbucks - Sai Kung Chan Man St.
Starbucks - The HKUST
The Bottle Shop

OTHER NEW TERRITORIES

Discovery Park
Englishtown
King's Belly
Mr Steak
Park N Shop - Hong Lok Yuen
Red Alert Airsoft Sports
Starbucks - Citywalk
Starbucks - Luk Yeung Galleria
Starbucks - Metroplaza
Starbucks - Tai Po Market MTR Station
Starbucks - Trend Plaza

LANTAU

Berliner German Bar & Restaurant
Café Duvet
Dymocks
Marriott Skycity
Park N Shop - Discovery Bay
Regal Airport Hotel Zentro Garden
Starbucks - Airport T2
Starbucks - Airport T1
Starbucks - Citygate
Zentro Garden

HUNG HOM

Open University Student Union
Sav Hotel
Starbucks - MTR Hung Hom
Starbucks - The Laguna Mall
Starbucks - Whampoa Site 5
Waterfront Bar & Terrace

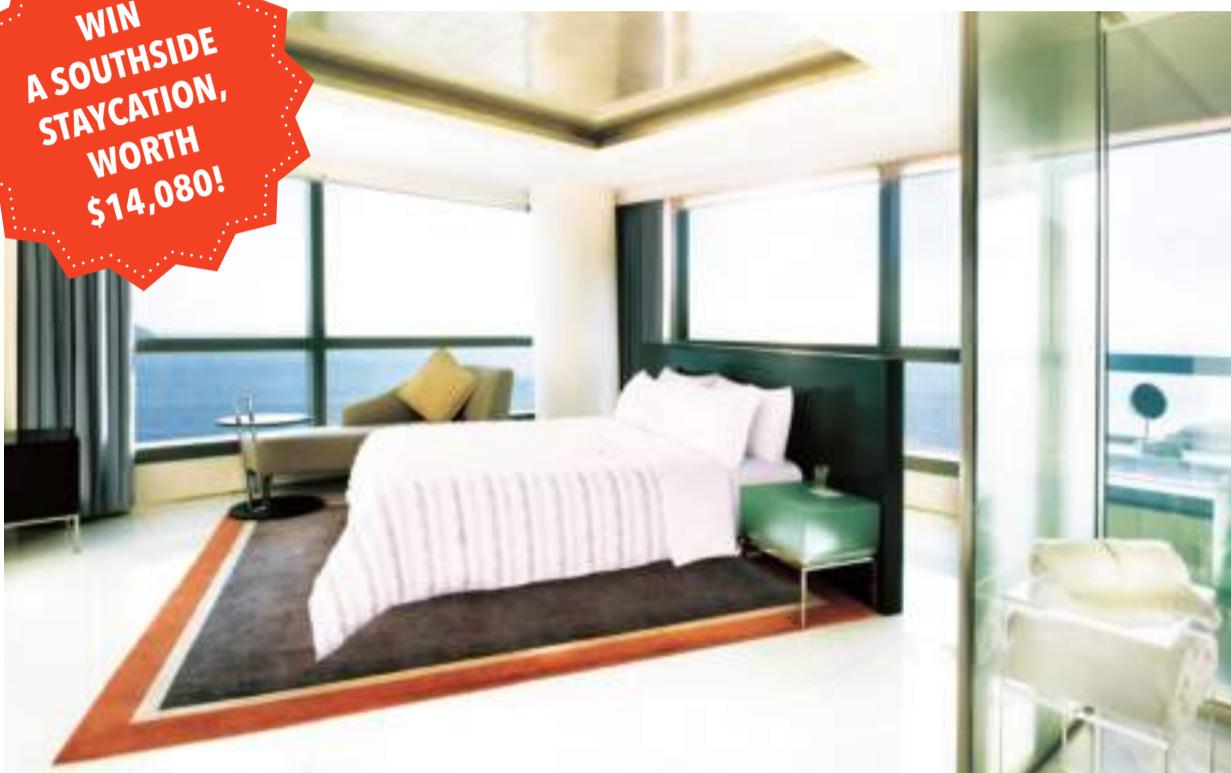
KOWLOON BAY/ KWUN TONG/ KOWLOON CITY

Bespoke
Englishtown
Forfar
Happy Corner Cakes Cookies Gallery
Headstart Group Limited
Kubrick
Oliver's Super Sandwiches
Pentahotel Kowloon
Starbucks - EMax
Starbucks - Megabox L6
Starbucks - Millennium City 1
Starbucks - One Kowloon
Starbucks - Telford Plaza 1

HK GIVEAWAYS

It's week three of our May giveaways already and we've got some lucky and athletic winners for Pure Apparel's stylish activewear! Not a winner yet? You can still win a fabulous staycation at Le Meridien Cyberport. Get entering now!

WIN
A SOUTHSIDE
STAYCATION,
WORTH
\$14,080!



Win a suite stay at Le Meridien Cyberport!

We know how much you want to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city. Nestled in a tranquil corner of Hong Kong Island, **Le Meridien Cyberport** is the perfect place to take a break from your busy city life without even crossing the harbor.

We've got a **one-night stay in a Bayside Premier Suite and breakfast buffet for two at Prompt** up for grabs. Just 15 minutes from Central, you get to hide from your urban troubles and embrace the blue waters of Telegraph Bay, with a relaxing stay at this chic and stylish Southside hotel. The total value of this amazing prize? \$14,080.

Wanna explore all that's cool in the Southside? Here's how.

If you've been reading the last two weeks, you should've already found an *italicized* word in the main Spotlight page article of those two issues. Now you have to do the same with this one! Once you've got all three, include them in a paragraph of no more than 30 words about what you'd do with a staycation at Le Meridien Cyberport. Go to hk-magazine.com/hk-giveaways to submit your entry before 10am on May 23, 2016.

Good luck! The winner will be announced on May 27.

Congratulations to the lucky winners of Pure Apparel's stylish activewear sets!

Congratulations to Stephanie Lau, Mei Ying, Tina Li, Steve Lau and Kevin Wong, who have each won a **set of fashionable activewear** from **Pure Apparel**!

Stephanie shared with us an embarrassing gym wardrobe malfunction story, Mei told us how she met her hot hunk of a boyfriend at the gym, while Tina once accidentally found herself in the men's locker room. Oops!

Steve shared his keen observation of how Hongkongers go to the gym during lunch (five minutes of chest presses with a takeaway coffee), and Kevin's childhood story of a random stranger mistaking him for her child in the gym was unforgettable.

Congrats again—now go break a sweat!

WE HAVE
WINNERS!



FIRST PERSON

Marshmallow mogul **James Middleton** may be better known as the brother of Kate, Duchess of Cambridge. But this entrepreneur is all about forging his own path—most recently with his company Boomf, which sells personalizable marshmallows and is expanding to the city. In town for the recent Food Truck Festival, he tells Evelyn Lok about his relationship with sweets, that royal connection and how his dyslexia is a strength, not a weakness. Photo by Kirk Kenny

I've always loved the excitement around sweet treats.

Marshmallows are a wonderfully nostalgic thing for adults. For kids they're just such fun because they're squidgy and fluffy.

What we wanted to achieve with Boomf was a personalized gifting product that we could send anywhere in the world.

I don't think there are that many products that really surprise people anymore. We feel like we've seen everything.

But when you see your Instagram photo printed on a marshmallow and delivered to you the next day, it's like "Oof! I didn't see that coming." That's what we've been aiming for.

I've had two businesses before, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

Some people say they failed, but how I perceive it was that I learned about something else and wanted to explore that [instead].

For that same reason, I conceived the idea of Boomf and moved forward.

[In Hong Kong], I've learned that there's a wonderful gifting culture here.

In a lot of other cities, everyone's out fighting for themselves, not looking out for anybody else.

In some countries you might just give someone a gift on their birthday or for a seasonal event.

Here I would give a gift just because you're my friend and I care about you.

I've definitely got the entrepreneurial spirit: unadulterated enthusiasm for what I do.

I wouldn't be doing anything else, despite sometimes working so hard—my longest shift was 42 hours, over Christmas.

It's hard work but it's such fun, and I wouldn't change it for the world.

Family are very good at giving sound and honest advice. Sometimes your friends or colleagues don't necessarily give you true advice: They give you what you want to hear.

They're extremely supportive of what I do, but they're also very grounding.

The media can sometimes take the easy route and make it seem like I'm overshadowed [by my sisters], or I'm taking advantage of the position I'm in.

I try very, very hard so that I'm not disrespectful of the position I'm in, but equally, I have to make my own path. It's not always represented like that.

Does it bother me? Not really. I have thicker skin than people probably think.

No, I don't think of my sisters differently.

They're still my sisters—sometimes really annoying, sometimes I love them to bits. They're nothing other than my sisters.

All the childhood memories and future memories will never be different. They're just Pippa and Katherine and will always only ever be Pippa and Katherine.

The biggest pressure I had from my family was to stay in university.

I dropped out. I feel there are parts where I missed out, but I gained many other brilliant experiences.

One of my biggest obstacles was [gaining] experience. You go into something very naively, and everyone around you is telling you: "you can't do it like that."

But sometimes the best way to do it, is to do it yourself.

If you went by everybody's advice the whole time, the whole world wouldn't go round: It would just plateau.

You can be told a hundred different ways to fry an egg but the best way is just to go ahead and fry it.

I always joke that I could run a business in the UK at age 19, but I still couldn't rent a van.

I'm very proudly dyslexic. I spent a fair bit of my childhood embarrassed by it. At age 17 I learned a bit more about it, and my mentality changed.

I think of it as more of a superpower. Like if Harry Potter has his invisibility cloak, I have... dyslexia.

With dyslexia my route to get to an answer, from A to B, goes via quite a few different stops.

I still get there—and the end result is always a little different.

I've learned to use it as an advantage.

Thank God for spell check.

I think you're pretty lucky if you have dyslexia. You should be putting that on the first line of your CV.

Then I know you've got a different and creative way of getting somewhere.

NEED TO KNOW...

Grab a box of personalized printed marshmallows from boomf.com. Prices start at \$195 for nine (free delivery).



"I don't think of my sisters differently. They're just Pippa and Katherine and will always only ever be Pippa and Katherine."



Photo: Kirk Kenny / studiozag.com

HONG KONG PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

UPCOMING CONCERTS

frozen planet IN CONCERT
BBC 《地球冰失》音樂會
3&4.6.2016
Fri & Sat 8pm



BENJAMIN NORTHEY conductor
Live music with film projection



JAAP Karen & Gomyo
17 & 18.6.2016
Fri & Sat 8pm



ROSSINI
La Gazza Ladra Overture

BRUCH
Violin Concerto no.1

BORSTLAP
Solemn Night Music
(New commission, Asian premiere)

RESPIGHI
Pines of Rome
Jaap van Zweden conductor
Karen Gomyo violin

Swire Maestro Series
JAAP'S BRUCKNER 4
10 & 11.6.2016
Fri & Sat 8pm



MOZART
Piano Concerto no. 22

BRUCKNER
Symphony no. 4, Romantic
Jaap van Zweden conductor
Louis Lortie piano

SEASON FINALE
ASHKENAZY & BEHZOD
1 & 2.7.2016
Fri & Sat 8pm



PROKOFIEV
Piano Concerto no.3

ELGAR
Symphony no. 1
Vladimir Ashkenazy conductor
Behzod Abduraimov piano



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