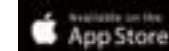


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COVER STORY
2015: The year in stupid

16

HK ONE JUMBLED HALF UNFINISHED THE DUBIOUS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2015 YEAR

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>16</p>  <p>NEW YEAR'S EVE Don't have NYE plans? You do now</p> | <p>22</p>  <p>ESCAPE ROUTES Hate Hong Kong this time of year? Book an NYE getaway</p> | <p>26</p>  <p>CUTTING IT FINE One-stop shops to solve your last-minute Xmas gift dilemmas</p> |
| <p>28</p> <p>OH CRAP OH CRAP I only had time to go to 7-Eleven</p>  | <p>32</p>  <p>DINING 'Tis the season to stuff your belly, fa-la-la-la-la</p>  | <p>34</p>  <p>BEST OF FIRST PERSON The best of the coolest people of the year</p> |

For this special bumper Christmas issue of HK Magazine, we asked our staffers (and their baby photos) what they wanted for Christmas.



All I want for Christmas is NOTHING! Just want all of us to spare a thought for those less fortunate and kick ourselves into gear to help others. Pay it forward!
Luisa Tam



Peace for the world. And if there's still room in Santa's sack, a Fender Custom Shop Stratocaster in lake placid blue would be highly appreciated.
Dan Creffield



Time to spend with all the people I like. And time to do more chicken pot and karaoke.
Evelyn Lok



To be happy for the rest of my life. My WHOLE LIFE! Forever!
Isabelle Hon



For my Jewish parents to understand that three WhatsApp conversations a day aren't, in fact, necessary.
Justin Heifetz

I never ask for anything at Christmas. But I've wanted an electric cello for years.
Adrienne Chum



A second stomach so I can eat more without my body knowing... And, umm, world peace.
Leslie Yeh



Who's in charge?

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Features Editor Leslie Yeh
Digital Editor Justin Heifetz
Film Editor Evelyn Lok
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Mr. Know-It-All's
— Guide to Life —

Dear Mr. Know-It-All,

What's that plant with the huge red flowers I see all over town at Christmas? — Poinsettia Patty

You're speaking, of course, of the poinsettia plant, whose red leaves—not flowers—blaze all over the city's shopping malls and building lobbies this time of year. But on the surface of it, they're not actually a particularly Hong Kong plant.

In fact, the poinsettia is indigenous to Mexico, where the plant was long treated as a symbol of purity, and used to make dyes and medicines. You can blame its global popularity (and name) on Joel Robert Poinsett, the first American Ambassador to Mexico. He took a shine to the plant and introduced it to the U.S., where it's become a cornerstone of the American Christmas industry.

How did it become associated with Christmas? Well, the legend goes that in 1500s Mexico, a poor girl had nothing to offer her church's nativity scene but a handful of green weeds which she had painstakingly gathered from the side of the road. When she placed them by the altar, the weeds grew beautiful red leaves: a poinsettia came into being.

But there are reasons for the poinsettia's enduring popularity in the SAR. In Cantonese the poinsettia is *yat bun hung* (一品紅), literally "a red item," which is at least an accurate translation. But *yat bun* also means "first-rate" or "superb," so that you could translate the name as "reddest of all."

It's exactly that shade of first-rate red that's ideal for our city, given its love of this auspicious hue. After all, while the

rest of the world packs away its poinsettias after Christmas, in Hong Kong they remain through to Chinese New Year. A plant that's good for a western and an eastern festival alike: Could there be a more perfect Hong Kong flower?

One last thing about poinsettias and the SAR. Let me tell you about Hong Kong Poinsettia Primary School. It was set up in 1999 as the only school in the territory which provided education aimed at the city's Nepalese community, who were struggling in the local system—a system which to this day has little time for ethnic minorities. The school was desperately poor and occupied a makeshift campus inside a deserted shopping mall in Yuen Long, with empty shop spaces taking the place of actual classrooms.

Sadly, the struggle to keep the school open given a lack of government subsidies became too much, and after years of financial difficulty it shuttered in 2010. But for a few years Hong Kong Poinsettia Primary school blossomed like the flower it was named for: Unassuming but somehow able to grow bright and vivid. What better icon of hope could there be for a city?



This week in **My Perfect HK:**
The holiday season is here, and it turns out that gifting a little neighborly help is as easy as having a meal at a social enterprise restaurant. Check out social-enterprises.gov.hk for a full list of the dozens of outlets across the city that exist to help the community. Just one meal here will help a charitable cause instead of big business. Sounds pretty worth your while—especially at Christmas time.

Letters

"This term makes me sick."

Doing Good Work

Readers on our interview with Leung Choi-ling ["Street Talk," December 11, issue 1126] who employs people with mental illness but whose *cha chaan teng* is threatened with closure.

I wish you and your staff every success - in finding affordable new premises, in employing such worthwhile people, in cooking good food. The world needs more people with vision such as yours x

Margaret Rowena Usman

How sad! We need more businesses that will help those who society sees as unfit to hire.

Wicked Ahjumma

Best of the Rest

Our list of the year's best restaurants ["Top Tables 2015," December 11, issue 1126] sparked a discussion online.

There's nothing Hong Kong about these restaurants. This article could have been about any cockanamie city serving up the same boring, globalised uni unami crapola every day. And trust me, half of them will be gone within the next 5 years....because Hongkongers know what they like.

Sue Ling Ng

I actually think it's been a pretty bullshit bland year for openings this year. The price points in HK have gotten crazy for just ok food. To be fair, I haven't tried all of the places on that list yet but just wait til I find that spare HKD2000 in my pocket. But opinions is what makes food

interesting and while I don't fully agree with your list, Merry Christmas HK Magazine :)

Fuck Yeah Noms

Worse meal I've had in HK was the Michelin star at Four Seasons, had to go straight to Kowloon City to fix the disappointment

Jason Huang

Why don't I have any desire to try any of these places ? They don't excite me like a new NYC restaurant. God is sending me some not so subtle signs of boredom and ennui.

Ming Infante

Meaty Rage

Last week's Blowing Water [December 11, issue 1126] was "Little Fresh Meat," a term used across the Chinese internet. Readers weren't impressed.

And this is NOT A CANTONESE SLANG
THIS IS FROM TAIWAN

Shirley Lee

This ain't Cantonese at all, do more research mate

Ho Yin Ng

Can't stand this term, so derogatory

Angela Kwok

Nope, not Canto. And this term makes me sick

Joseph Kwok

Worst term ever.

Dorothy Lee

#PrivateEyeHK



The Other Side of the Market

Photo by Chloe Yuen

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).

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THE WEEK

Feeling bored during the holiday season? Here's three weeks of awesome stuff to do over Christmas and New Year.

Thursday 12/24

A Very American Christmas

Yeah, you've been so busy buying gifts for everyone that you haven't had the time (nor patience) to cook anything for the holidays. Fear not—Lily & Bloom's chef Billy Otis has a special five-course **American-style Christmas Dinner**. Nurse your post-thanksgiving turkey withdrawals with their Fried Heritage Turkey, which is organic and hormone- and antibiotic-free. Does that mean the turkey didn't go through puberty?

5-6/F, LKF Tower, 33 Wyndham St., Central, 2810-6166. \$880 per guest plus 10 percent.



Friday 12/18

Light Toes

Hold off on the Christmas feasts and burn up the dance floor at the **Salsa Fever One Year Anniversary Party**. There's a free salsa lesson at 9pm, plus a live Latin music and "Latin belly fusion" dance performance—if you're able to resist the scrumptious food and drinks.

8pm-late. Rude Bar & Lounge, UB/F, 79 Wyndham St., Central, 2950-9608, tiny.cc/hk-salsafever. Free entry.

Saturday 12/19

Open Season

Still scrambling to put together THE Christmas party? The Butcher's Club is holding the **Butcher's Barrel Open Day** with all the fresh, locally sourced ingredients (plus alcohol) that you'll need to cook the perfect festive dinner. There'll be decorations and Christmas trees up for grabs too. Best of all? Free nibbles and mulled wine while you shop!

17 Shelley St., Mid-Levels, Central, 2530-3170.

Sunday 12/20

Live and Feeling

Feeling super artsy? Head over for the final day of Mobile M+'s **Live Art 1995-2015**. The five-artist exhibition includes photography, videos and text-based instructions that all aim to bridge the gap between art and event documentation. Is that like... Instagramming a sculpture?

Through Dec 20. Exhibition Hall, Sheung Wan Civic Centre, 345 Queen's Rd. Central, Sheung Wan. Free.

Monday 12/21

Leaving it Late

Four shopping days left until Christmas: Better start getting your gifts. Check out the **Central Night Market** at Central's Pier No. 7 to grab some handmade presents.

Dec 21-22, 4-7pm. 1/F, Central Pier No. 7, Central, facebook.com/hkcda.

Tuesday 12/22

O Banyan Tree, O Banyan Tree

Practice your Hong Kong carols before the big day. Dashing through the smog, in a two-deck open tram... Send us your lyrics at letters@hkmagmedia.com.

Wednesday 12/23

Rebel Stouts

Have you seen "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" yet? No? For shame! Go watch it, and quaff a **Storm Trooper Imperial Pilsner** while you're at it. Warning: it's 8.1 percent.

taipanbeer.com.



Friday 12/25

Fa-la-la-la-la

It's **Christmas**! Wake up excited, drink lots of egg nog and try not to argue with your family. Alternatively, head to PMQ and rock up your Christmas Day with their Hidden Agenda music show featuring Hong Kong band Chochukmo and Taiwanese rockers Quarterback and Tolaku. San(ta Claus) Miguel is giving out free beer.

7:30pm. The Qube, 2/F, Hollywood Block, 35 Aberdeen St., Central. \$240 in advance from timable.com/event/1014028; \$300 at the door.

Saturday 12/26

Joie de Vivre

So what if Christmas is over? Hang on to the Boxing Day spirit and grab some last-minute deals at the final week of the **Joyeuserie Christmas Pop-up Store**. The Parisian online retailer will have everything from accessories to clothes to interior decorations up for grabs.

Dec 3-31, noon-8pm. 17 Shing Wong St., Central, joyeuserie.fr. Free entry.

Monday 12/28

All's Fair

D2's holding a **Party Fairish Market** running until the end of the year, for those who "haven't had time to meet up before Christmas" (that's code for "I still need to buy you a gift"). The mall has even transformed their rooftop garden into a winter wonderland called "Snowy Garden" to keep that holiday spirit going.

Dec 24-31. D2 Place, 9 Cheung Yee St., Lai Chi Kok, d2place.com.

Tuesday 12/29

Shining, Shimmering, Splendid

It's still Christmas time at the theme parks, so head down to **Sparkling Christmas** at Disneyland or **Christmas Sensation** at Ocean Park for some sparkly holiday fun before they close. **Through Jan 3. \$345 from oceanpark.com.hk; \$539 from hongkongdisneyland.com; buy-three-get-one-free until Jan 3.**



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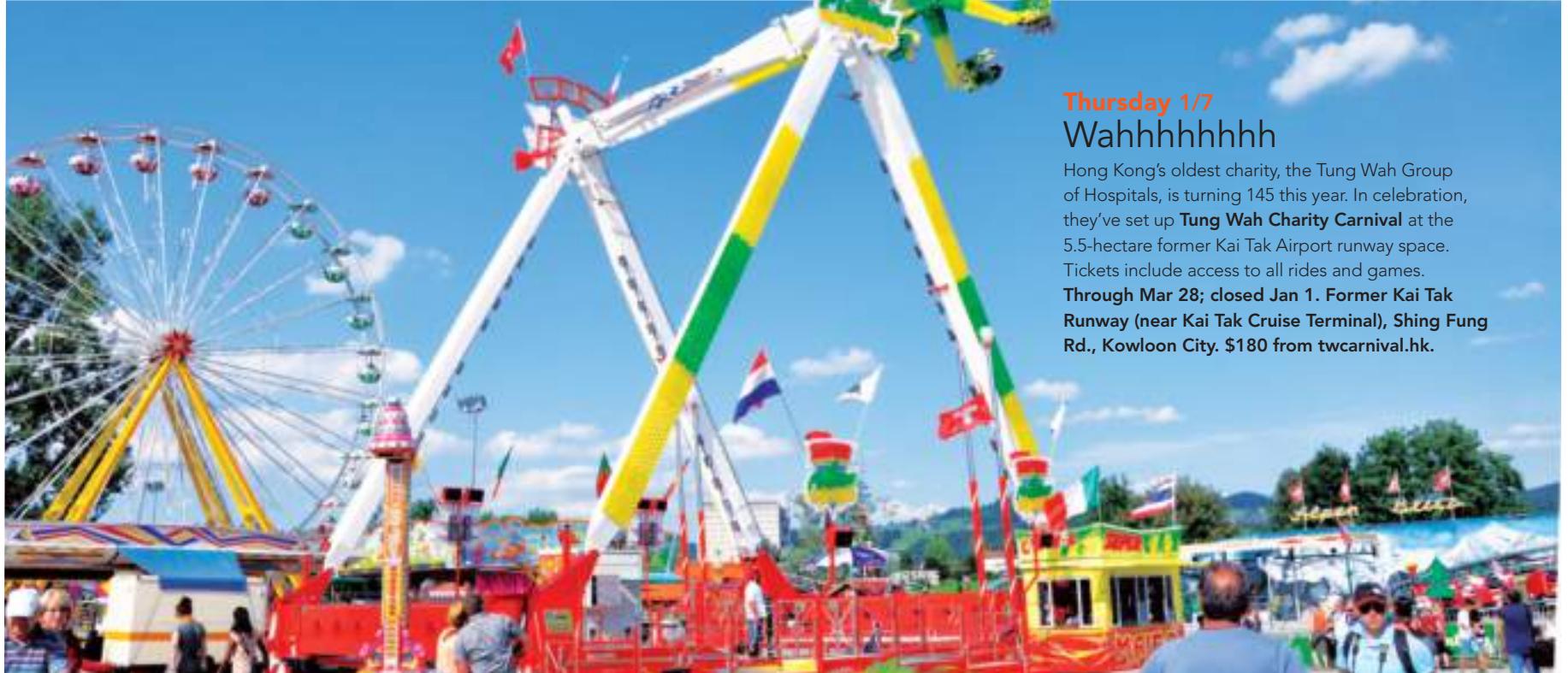
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Wednesday 12/30

Yearly Deals

You can't miss out on the annual **Hong Kong Brands & Products Expo**, held at Victoria Park every year. Dare you fight the crowds for cheap deals of every kind, as well as shows, competitions and games?

Dec 12-Jan 4, 11am-10pm. Victoria Park, Causeway Bay. \$10 at the door.

Thursday 12/31

Ratchet Rundown

It's New Year's Eve. You still haven't figured out what to do. Here are a few options, in order of decreasing ratchetness:
 • Board Beatship's **Lost in Time Festival** and party for the next 30 hours with comedians and fortune tellers, fitness classes, multiple countdowns, and drag queen bingo.
Sails at 8:30pm, returns Jan 2, 9am. \$1,550 and up from beatshiphk.com.

- Wear your favorite bikini (or mankini) for **Boogie Wonderland**, a (probably cold) beachfront party. Shuttle buses to Central are available at the end of the party, so at least you're not stranded at 4am.
- 10pm-4am. Hotshot, G/F, Shop 114-115, The Pulse, 28 Beach Rd., Repulse Bay.** \$60 and up from boogiewonderlandNYE.pelago.events.
- If you like going into dark alleys with strangers, head down to Brickhouse. They're hosting a **New Year's Eve Mardi Gras** party and there's even a New Year's Eve piñata in case you get belligerent and need to hit something.
10pm-4am. Brickhouse, G/F, 20A D'Aguilar St, Central. \$590 for free-flow beers, special cocktails and 1am free-flow tacos.
- Or you could just grab a six-pack of Tsingtao and watch the fireworks at the **Central Piers**. You'll get a nice view of everyone's cameras and mobile phones while you're at it.

Friday 1/1

New Year, New Beer Gut

We know you're hungover, so grab a Pocari Sweat and **sleep it off**.

Saturday 1/2

Commitment Problems

Start your new year with a commitment to that healthy lifestyle resolution: Yoga instructor Adam Weirick will take you through the four basic elements of alignment-based **Vinyasa Yoga** in Tamar Park. It's all about being aware of your body and mind, which might come in handy the next time you're too drunk to stand. All levels welcome; bring your own mat.
11am-12:30pm. Tamar Park, Admiralty, tiny.cc/hk-vinyasa. Free.

Sunday 1/3

Cure that Good

All rested up? It's time to dive back into the hardcore life. Make the most of your final day before work begins again by moshing to metal at Taiwanese band Beyond Cure's "Into The Void" tour. So much for those resolutions...
8:30pm. Hidden Agenda, 2A, Winful Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Kwun Tong, tiny.cc/hk-beyondthecure. \$150 in advance, \$200 at the door.

Tuesday 1/5

Talking to the Moon

We know you're too busy to actually stop and admire nature, but nothing's stopping you from looking at art after work. Don't miss the last few days of **Look Up At The Moon**, an exhibition about the slower pace of life, by Rainbow Leung, an artist who grew up in a Fo Tan village and therefore knows what being laid-back actually is.

Through Feb 6. PubArt Gallery, G/F, 7B Chancery Lane, Central. Free.

Thursday 1/7

Wahhhhhh

Hong Kong's oldest charity, the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals, is turning 145 this year. In celebration, they've set up **Tung Wah Charity Carnival** at the 5.5-hectare former Kai Tak Airport runway space. Tickets include access to all rides and games.

Through Mar 28; closed Jan 1. Former Kai Tak Runway (near Kai Tak Cruise Terminal), Shing Fung Rd., Kowloon City. \$180 from twcarnival.hk.

Wednesday 1/6

Stress Less, Princess

If you're already exhausted from the first week back at work in the new year, take some time out to relax at the **Mindfulness Community Practice** with meditation teacher Elena Maria Foucher. She'll be taking you through simple meditation techniques tailored to our hectic lifestyles.
Jan 6, 20; Feb 3, 17. 7:15-8:15pm. S502, 5/F, Staunton Block, PMQ, 35 Aberdeen St., Central. \$300 drop-in, \$500 for two sessions, \$675 for three, or \$800 for four from eventbrite.hk.

Friday 1/8

Revenant is Mine

Go watch Leo DiCaprio do grizzly rugged winter survival things in **The Revenant**, which opens tonight. With luck, this time he won't freeze to death (sorry, Rose).

See Film (p.44) for more.

Saturday 1/9

Got the Runs

Still haven't given up on your new year's resolutions yet? Good for you! **The Green Race** will get you motivated by taking you on a road- and trail-running journey through the island's most beautiful landscapes. There are various routes suitable for different experiences, and if you're not up for a solo run you can join pair or team runs.

8am. Race starts and finishes at Braemar Hill Playground, 45 Braemar Hill Rd., North Point. \$300-650 from thegreenrace.hk.



Monday 1/4

Amuse Me

Impress your friends and embrace your new, knowledgeable self with **free admission to all LCSD museums** for the entire month of January. Nerd. **Through January, citywide.** See list of museums at lcsm.gov.hk.



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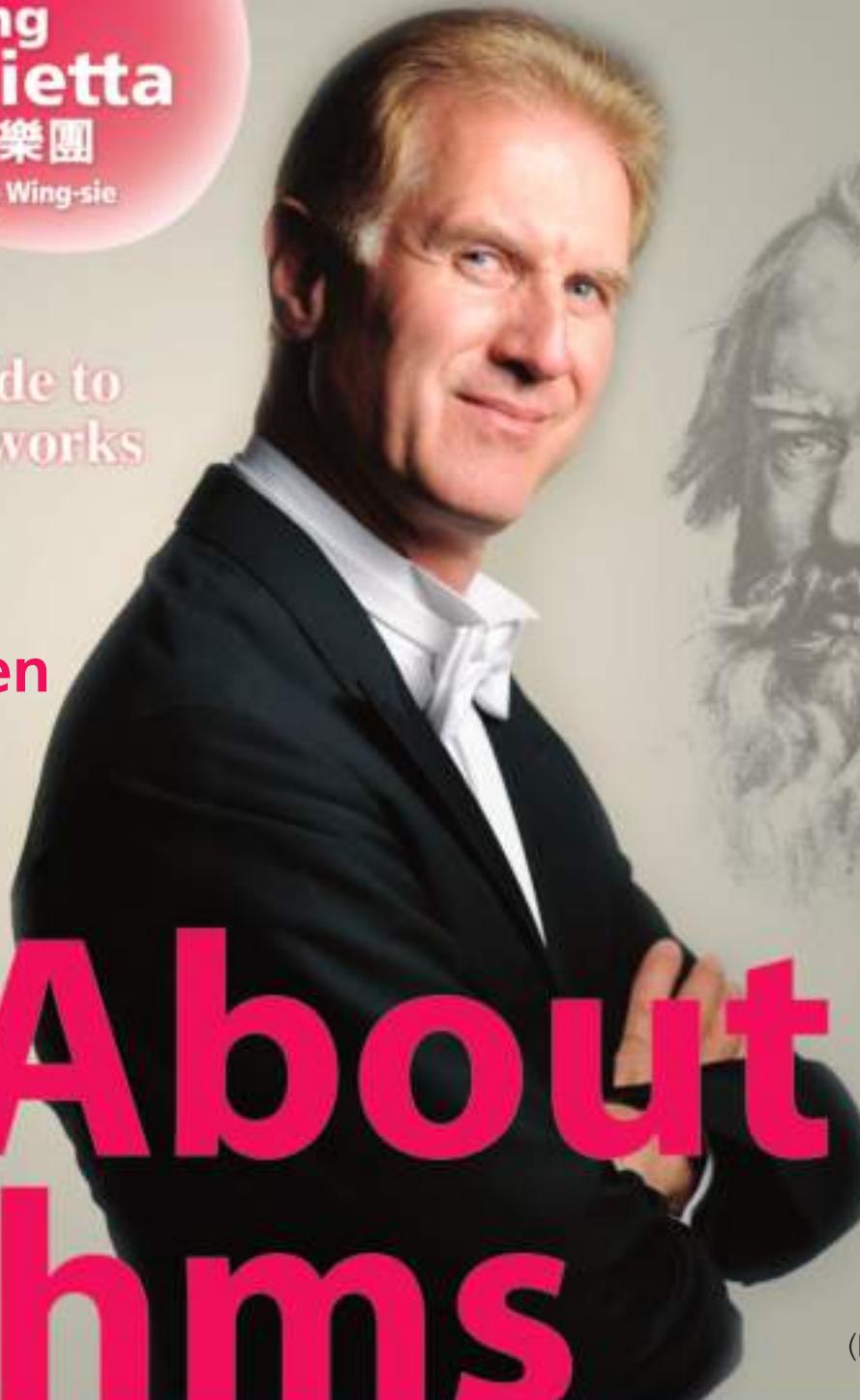
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- Piano Quartet No 1 in G minor, Op 25: 4th movement*

9.1.2016

(Sat) 7:30pm

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Last Week In Reality

SAT 5

I'll See You in Smell

At 11am, a 43-year-old man who lives in a Tsuen Wan private housing estate heads to the building management office and complains about the smell coming from the food waste collection point below his apartment. The incident escalates into an argument and the man goes to the estate's podium level, climbs over the fence and stands on the planters, threatening to leap from the building. Police and firemen arrive and inflate a rescue mattress below him. After two hours of negotiation, the man comes back to safety without incident. The estate had already planned to install more exhaust fans to reduce the smell.

SUN 6

Fare Dealing

A video circulating online shows two Putonghua-speaking women arguing with an MTR staff member. According to the person who filmed the video, the two women were seen teaching their children to jump over the ticket gates to avoid paying. When the station staff member comes over to object, the women start to shout at him. Netizens criticize the women for being shameless and unreasonable.



MON 7

Stuck Pig

A photo of a blackboard outside a restaurant in Tai Po advertising a "pig-opening show" causes a stir online. Netizens question the purpose of such an event, saying that while tuna-cutting by a Japanese chef might be treated as a work of art, butchering a pig would not be quite so delicate.

TUE 8

Smash and Cab

At around 3am, a young couple has an argument in a North Point street. In the middle of the argument, the woman hails a taxi and tries to leave. The man chases after her and begs her to get out of the car. When she refuses, he picks up a nearby object and throws it at taxi's rear windshield, shattering it. The girl gets out of the taxi and the couple flee the scene together.



WED 9

Ghostly Encounter

At around 4am, a 57-year-old man is found floating in the sea by Kennedy Town. A passer-by throws him a lifebuoy and nearby boats help rescue him. When questioned by police, the man explains that he had been chased by ghosts all the way from Kwun Tong to Western, where he was forced to jump into the sea to hide. Police suspect the man of suffering from mental illness.

THU 10

Cigarette Withdrawal

At around midnight, a middle-aged man walks into a 7-Eleven in Aberdeen asking for a pack of cigarettes. When the cashier tells him that the brand is sold out, he asks if he can buy another pack for \$45. The cashier says that the cheapest brand is \$55. The man angrily uses his umbrella to sweep everything off the counter, claiming he is a triad member. He breaks the display of the cash register and destroys two credit card readers. He calls out "I've swept up this time, and I'll come back to sweep up again!" and runs away. Another cashier chases the man, who punches him in the mouth and leaves by taxi. Police have yet to locate the assailant.

FRI 11

Totally Baked

At 11pm, a drunken baker gets off a bus in Tuen Mun and falls into the street. An auxiliary police officer tries to help the man, who pulls out a revolver and brandishes it. The officer restrains the drunk man and calls the police, who arrest him. They discover that the revolver is a BB gun which the baker uses to scare the rats out of his bakery.

Quote of the Week

"The dreams of Beyond already belong to all of you. No matter what I do I won't be able to fulfil [them]. Please protect this name."

Steve Wong Ka-keung of seminal rock band Beyond responds to criticism after performing alongside CY Leung at a pro-government political party anniversary dinner. Wong came under fire for bringing shame to Beyond's name and contradicting his outspoken support for the umbrella movement.

Talking Points

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

Hong Kong Still Hates Cops

The University of Hong Kong's Public Opinion Programme (POP) has conducted a survey of the public's satisfaction with the city's nine "disciplinary forces." **With an 88 percent approval rating, the Fire Services Department** continues to be the most popular disciplinary force in Hong Kong, followed by the Government Flying Service and Auxiliary Medical Service teams at 73 percent. The **Hong Kong Police Force, however, bottomed out the table with an approval rating of 29 percent**—even lower than the PLA Hong Kong Garrison's satisfaction rating of 39 percent.

Our take: You're not back in the public's hearts just yet, guys...

Illustration: Elaine Tang

Michelin Curse Strikes Again

Gai Gai Desserts, a Chinese dessert shop in Jordan, was recently included in the 2016 Michelin Guide Hong Kong and Macau. A month after receiving the honor, the **restaurant's landlord raised the shop's rent by 120 percent, from \$100,000 per month to \$220,000**. The founder's son explained that if an average dessert costs \$19, the **shop would have to sell 6,315 more desserts** per month to make up for the increase. After a desperate search for new premises, a long-time customer has agreed to rent out a space in nearby Ling Po Street, at \$90,000 per month. The new shop is two-thirds the size of the old one and the streets are narrower, but the new shop will open for business on March 1.

Our take: Greedy landlords: It's a story as old as time itself.



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Street Talk

Santa Claus isn't coming to town: He's here already. Meet Chik Hiu-kit, aka **Santa Apple**. The 22-year-old represented Hong Kong in the International Santa Winter Games in Sweden, coming in first and winning the title of Santa of the Year 2015. He tells Isabelle Hon how he started on the road to Santa stardom.

HK Magazine: How did you become a registered Santa?

Santa Apple: I had always wanted to be a Santa Claus. I started three years ago, and this year I took part in the Santa Games at Park Central in Tseung Kwan O. I won and became the representative for Hong Kong, sent to Sweden to take part in the International Santa Winter Games in Gällivare.

HK: What's the Santa Winter Games about?

SA: There are different sections of the competition which include parcel stacking, the lasso, a dance contest and a grand finale. I won the dance contest and the grand finale. I learnt some simple Swedish and prepared Hong Kong-style Christmas gifts for the children, such as bamboo dragonflies and paper airplanes. The children had never seen those toys before, so they were amazed.

HK: Why call yourself "Santa Apple"?

SA: I was really into the [Taiwanese romance] movie "You Are the Apple of My Eye," and I started getting my friends to call me "Apple Jai." The Santa champion in Hong Kong last year was called "Santa Banana," so I thought naming myself "Santa Apple" would be funny. Also, we do want to present a healthy image to public. I'm looking forward to next year's Santa. If it's a she, I may persuade her to call herself "Santa Cherry."

HK: You're a pretty skinny guy. Have you ever thought of gaining weight to look the part?

SA: Before I visited Sweden, I also thought the

Santa Claus stereotype was that they were all chubby. But there are many Santas with different body shapes: Some are fat and short, some are tall and skinny, some are old, some are young—I'm not even the youngest. There are women too, we call them Santa lo por [Mrs. Claus]. But there are lots of other stereotypes about Santas: People think that they ride sleighs and live in antique cottages. In fact their lives are as modern as ours. Santas use iPhones and drive cars, too.

HK: I want to be a Santa Claus as well! What are the job requirements?

SA: To be a Santa Claus, you need to have a kind heart. You can't be shy and you need to hug people. Also, be very creative. When I was giving away my Hong Kong gifts, I also used some magic I had learned specially for this trip. Most children like me a lot, but it doesn't work every time. Once I showed my big smile to a baby and she screamed. I ran away.

HK: Seems like Santa is the man with everything. What do YOU want for Christmas, Santa?

SA: To me, Christmas 2015 has been a really big gift. First I was sent to the International Santa Winter Games in Sweden and got first place. The day of the awards ceremony was my birthday, and I proposed to my girlfriend on stage. That was a really meaningful day for me. But as people nowadays have too much work to do and children have so much homework, my Christmas wish is for less stress for Hongkongers, so everyone can enjoy Christmas!

Blowing Water

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

gong2 je4 sou1

講耶穌

"TALK JESUS"

"Tediously lecturing." Derives from the idea of someone preaching about a subject the listener is uninterested in.

HongKabulary



New Year's Grief (nju: jərz grɪf), n.

Trying to arrange where to go on New Year's Eve but every one of your friends wants to do something different.

"Hey, let's go to that rooftop party for NYE! It's got an amazing view of the fireworks!"

"Nah, I want to go to the LKF club night/Lamma island sleepover/druggie Wan Chai house party/refined cocktail evening/I have children now!"



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THE DUBIOUS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

2015

Broken promises, shattered dreams and general malaise: 2015 has been a year of the incomplete and the unfinished. Sure, it was never going to live up to 2014, when thousands hit the streets for Occupy Central. But the fact remains that this year has been notable mainly because nothing got done. What a lazy, half-assed 12 months... By Adam White



POLITICS

MOST TEDIOUS ONGOING SAGA (PUBLIC SECTOR)

The HKU Pro-Vice-Chancellor Debacle

Why won't it just end? The saga over who will be second-in-command at HKU has been dragging on for an entire year now. 2015 saw some god-level prevarication as the HKU Council—several of whom are directly appointed by CY Leung—repeatedly voted to delay the discussion over the appointment of legal scholar Johannes Chan to the post of Pro-Vice Chancellor. The move was almost certainly motivated by Chan's close ties to pro-democracy figures, including Occupy Central founder Benny Tai.

The delays lead to a group of students storming an HKU conference room and knocking respected surgeon and apparent crybaby Lo Chung-mau to the ground, where he remained clutching his knee, giving rise to countless memes. A leaked recording of an HKU Council meeting led to a gag order being taken out to prevent the media from reporting it. In September the HKU Council finally rejected the appointment for good.

The problem isn't whether Chan would have made a good university boss. The problem is that HKU is a publicly funded institution... and the whole process has been as transparent as a cup of Hong Kong milk tea. It seems all too obvious why Chan's been blocked from the post: Not a pleasant conclusion to draw.

Chan's out of the running, but the university still needs a second-in-command. This messy business isn't going anywhere.



MOST QUESTIONABLE DECISION

Sitting on the Ken Tsang Trial

On October 15 during the Occupy Central protests, activist Ken Tsang was allegedly beaten by seven police officers in a dark corner of Tamar Park. A video of the incident was captured by a TVB cameraman.

The police officers alleged to be involved were identified and then suspended—on full pay—pending an investigation. A year later, we were still waiting for the results. It seemed an awful lot like someone was dragging their heels on the investigation: Not exactly what the public wanted from a police force which needs to regain public trust post-Occupy.

The seven officers finally appeared in the Eastern Court for a preliminary hearing on October 19, a year and four days after the alleged incident. Also appearing in the court at the same time, on the same day: Ken Tsang, charged with assaulting and obstructing police. Some Eastern Court clerk appears to have a well developed sense of irony.

The seven officers appeared in the District Court on December 8, pleading not guilty to the charge of causing grievous bodily harm with intent. The case has been adjourned to March 11, 2016. It looks like it won't be over any time soon.

MOST CHINA BOSS GRIPE EVER

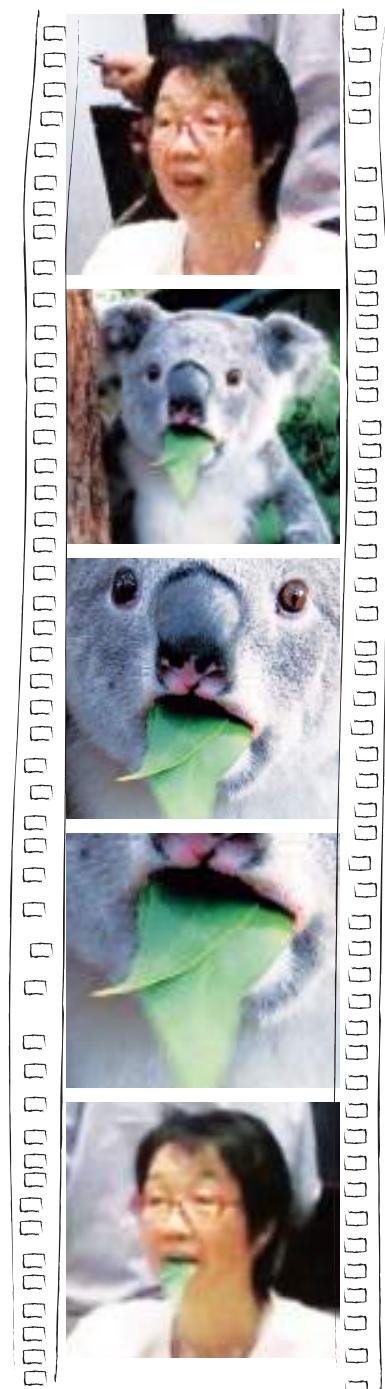
Hong Kong's Failure to Decolonize"

In September Chen Zuoer, the former deputy director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, lamented Hong Kong's failure to shrug off its colonial oppressors, opting instead to groan under its current masters. "There is no de-colonization but just de-sinofication," he said. This came hot on the heels of Liaison Office boss Zhang Xiaoming's description of the Chief Executive's position as "transcendent" over all other branches of the government, which went down about as well as Long Hair at a pro-government fundraiser.

How did the government respond to this criticism? Apparently, by getting Hongkong Post to cover up the royal emblems on 59 of Hong Kong's remaining colonial-era postboxes, thus ensuring the re-sinofication of all our mail. It's a shame not to recognize that you can commemorate history without eradicating it—but somehow in Hong Kong, that's no surprise at all, is it?



Pro-Beijinger Chan Yuen-han reacts to the walkout (and then turns into a koala)



MOST LUDICROUS FARCE

The Hong Kong Reform Vote

The city's reform vote was never going to be an easy one. CY Leung faced the task of passing a reform package that hadn't changed since it sparked the Occupy Central protests. But he had to give it the ol' college try, anyway. Yet the way everyone went about it turned it from a tragic comedy into a straightforward farce. There was the onslaught of government adverts begging the public to support the bill. There was the pan-democrats' rigid refusal to bend. But the real cherry on the stupid cake came with the vote itself on June 18.

Seconds before the vote was called, pro-Beijing lawmakers staged a mass exit from the chamber after being denied a 15-minute recess, which had apparently been requested so that Heung Yee Kuk grandee Lau Wong-fat could arrive. But the vote went ahead without them because there was a sufficient quorum, leading to a landslide defeat for the government of eight votes in favor of the reform package, and 28 against. Miscommunication, bad timing or stupidity: take your pick.

But that's not all. Just days later, the Oriental Daily News published several screenshots of WhatsApp conversations between pro-Beijing legislators and the ostensibly impartial Jasper Tsang, president of Legco. In the chat the lawmakers discussed tactics and timing—not that it seemed to make a difference. Tsang, his hand caught in the partisan cookie jar, refused to admit he'd been wrong.

So the reform package fizzles, the pan-dems pat themselves on the back... and nothing changes. In 2017, we'll almost certainly get CY Leung again. Goddammit.



SLOWEST LAUNCH

California Tower

We were all really excited about the brand new 27-floor California Tower, back when it was projected to open... in September/October 2014. It didn't, thanks to various delays—but over the slow course of this year we're finally at a point where the new cornerstone of LKF actually has some restaurants in it. Credit the LKF Group for building great spaces for restaurant concepts (those with a lot of upfront capital, at any rate). And bear in mind what Allan Zeman must be repeating to himself like some kind of Buddhist mantra: "If you build it, they will come..."

MOST REALLY SHITTY THING

The Lead Water Scandal

In June 2015 drinking water tested in Kai Ching Estate in Kowloon Bay was found to contain traces of heavy metals, particularly lead, which were in excess of global health standards. What seemed at first like a bit of a mistake was soon revealed to be a widespread problem that's to date spanned 11 public housing estates and several schools. There's a good chance that the lead comes from the solder used in the pipes. But what really matters is how widespread the contaminated water is—and worst of all it's concentrated among the poorer sections of the city, people who can't afford the expense of getting extra bottled water. Housing Chief Anthony Cheung says that it'll take at least a year to replace all the pipes. Thanks for nothing, guys!



MOST TEDIOUS ONGOING SAGA (PRIVATE SECTOR)

ATV's Continued Woes

Despite repeated and increasingly desperate attempts from various parties to save embattled broadcaster ATV, in April the government finally had to pull the plug on the station by refusing to renew its free-to-air TV license. But the blows are still coming, as earlier this month ATV's executive director Ip Ka-po was handed a \$150,000 fine after being convicted of 102 charges relating to a failure to pay staff on time. He stepped down from his post soon after. Because the government is bound to give a year's notice, the station will continue to operate until April 1, 2016: Yes, we've got another four and a half months of badly made China tourism shows on repeat. Turn on, and tune out...



WHITEST ELEPHANT

The Guangzhou High-Speed Rail Link

What a fiasco. After months of hinting at the issue, in November the MTR finally came out and said it. As if it's a cake that needs a few more minutes in the oven, the high-speed rail link to Guangzhou is three-quarters done—the MTR just needs \$19.6 billion in public money to finish it off.

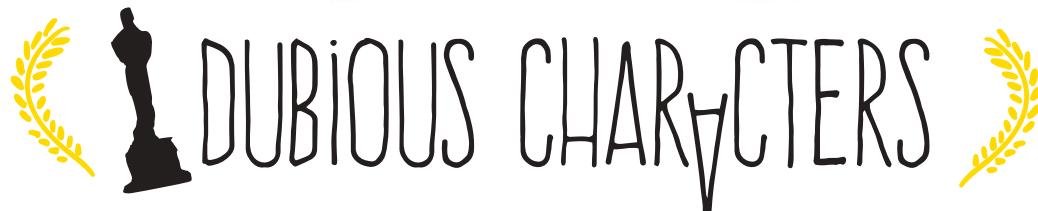
As everyone concerned is very keen to remind us, by this point the project is just too big to fail. And it wouldn't be a Hong Kong tale without some fractious politics: There's talk of stationing mainland immigration officers in Kowloon, raising the expected "two systems" grumbles.

So for a total of \$84.42 billion and a few months of political scrapping we'll get the late delivery of a speedy rail link to Guangzhou—something which, in fact, we already have. Has there ever been a more annoying hole into which to throw taxpayer money? At least it's a refreshing change from hoarding it all in some great big surplus pile somewhere underneath Government House...

MOST DODGY GOVERNMENT-DEVELOPER DEAL

The Avenue of Stars Redevelopment

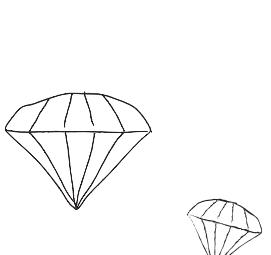
No self-respecting Hongkonger sets foot on the annoying tourist trap that is the Avenue of Stars, but that doesn't mean we don't want to be asked about it. In August the government announced it had appointed long-time site manager New World Development to redevelop the site, closing off the waterfront promenade for a good three years. The problem? They didn't really tell anyone about it, and instead of putting the job out to tender just gave it straight back to New World, provisionally inking a 20-year deal with the property developer. The people weren't impressed and cried collusion, and the government's been forced to backtrack and come up with a public consultation plan. We're not holding our breath.



MOST ABSURD USE OF MONEY

Joseph Lau's Diamonds

Over the course of two days in November billionaire property mogul Joseph Lau bought a 16.08-carat pink diamond for \$222 million and a 12.03-carat blue diamond for \$375 million. The sale shattered records for the most expensive jewel sold at auction and the most expensive diamond ever, respectively. The two jewels were renamed the "Sweet Josephine" and the "Blue Moon of Josephine" for his daughter, whose name is indeed Josephine. Two days later the tycoon, who is a fugitive from Macau after being convicted of bribery last year, sold his company's MassMutual Tower for another record of \$12.5 billion, which easily covers the \$597 million he dropped on those two diamonds. Guess it's all a matter of scale, isn't it?



MOST CALVINIST STATEMENT

Carrie Lam's Heaven

Chief Secretary Carrie Lam has had a tough time of it this year, as her reputation continues to suffer from the pragmatics of trying to get stuff done in an ideologically entrenched environment. But it doesn't help when you tell a group of people that you're one of God's Elect, as Lam did in early November when she told a crowd that "there is a place reserved for me in Heaven" because she had suffered criticism for taking the right path. From your lips to God's ears, Carrie...



LAST YEAR IN REALITY

2015



April

Wed 15

Posh Fast Food

A McDonald's outlet at New Town Plaza in Sha Tin is forced to close after more than 30 years due to high rent. Snap, a newly formed community organization, puts on "Black Tie at McDonald's"—a silent protest against the influx of expensive shops in the mall. A group of 20 people from Snap turn up dressed in suits and dresses, bringing plates and champagne glasses to eat on. The McDonalds outlet of New Town Plaza was at one point the busiest in the world. Developers are set to replace it with sneaker shops.

July

Thu 30

Justice Hands Down

A 65-year-old man does a celebratory handstand outside Sha Tin Court after charges of illegal hawking are dropped and his repair tools returned to him. The man was arrested on June 28 for receiving compensation for his services as a bike repairman: Two FEHD officers had watched him install handlebars and waited until he was handed \$10 to cover the cost of parts before taking him away. He says he plans to continue repairing bikes for his neighbors.

October

Thu 8

Date Drama

A 24-year-old model is convicted of stealing an iPhone during her first date with a chef last December. While on the date the model asked the chef, who claimed to be a restaurateur, to buy her \$200,000 worth of gifts from Chanel. When he refused, she asked to borrow his iPhone to call her brother, but then left with the phone. The model acted for herself in court, claiming that accepting expensive gifts is widely accepted in the modelling industry. She says that she took the phone because she required compensation for wasting a whole day with him, and that if she had known he was just a chef she never would have gone on the date.

August

Mon 10

Grand Theft Mini

At around 5am an Australian tourist is arrested after allegedly hijacking a minibus on Lockhart Road, driving it through Causeway Bay and along Stubbs Road before abandoning the vehicle. He is found nearby. In court, a magistrate sets bail at \$5,000, but the man is unable to pay because he lost his wallet during the joyride.

November

Tue 24

Prodigal Pornographer

A 62-year-old man is sentenced to 20 weeks in prison for charges related to selling pirated discs and pornography in the 1990s. The man used to own four shops selling pornography and pirated goods, but fled to the mainland in 1996 after being charged in Hong Kong. Over the years, he developed a successful wine business in China to support his daughter's schooling in the US. He explains that he decided to surrender himself because he wanted to return to Hong Kong to take care of his bedridden 90-year-old mother.

January

Sat 31

Goodbye Ding Dong

Thousands bid farewell at the funeral of Francis Lam Pou-chuen, the Cantonese voice of Japanese robot cat Doraemon. Many are in tears, remembering how Lam's voice accompanied them through their childhoods. The funeral hall is filled with floral wreaths in Doraemon-inspired patterns. Six screens show video clips of Lam's past work. Lam passed away in early January at 63.

Illustrations: Ryan Chan



February

Sat 14

Dinner for One

A Sham Shui Po restaurant offers a dinner set for one on Valentine's Day. Apple Daily visits the restaurant at 7:30pm and finds three men enjoying the set. A staff member says about 15 people made a reservation—they were hoping to seat single men and women together—but many did not show up.

March

Tue 3

Secret Umbrella Notes

A dozen books in the Kowloon Public Library about China and Hong Kong's politics and economy are found to contain yellow notes inside the pages which read: "Fight bravely; Hong Kong will establish its own state" in Chinese. Between the two Chinese lines, "Umbrella Revolution" is printed in English.

June

Tue 23

Lingerie Larceny

At 2am in the morning, a 44-year-old Kwun Tong man is caught stealing lingerie from his neighbors. The residents had installed two network-connected cameras in their home, as lingerie had been stolen four months ago. The camera alerts one of the residents by phone when the man enters their home. Police find the man shirtless and carrying a plastic bag containing a black spaghetti-strap dress, two panties and two bras. He is arrested. The flat shows no signs of forced entry and police suspect he had a key.

September

Fri 4

Turtle Cove

A man is sentenced to three months in jail for stealing giant tortoises and turtles from a Yuen Long pet shop in July. The defendant stole an Aldabra giant tortoise worth \$55,000 on July 30, then went back the next day to steal more of the same species as well as an East African leopard turtle, altogether worth more than \$40,000, but was caught in the act. He says he wanted to bring the first tortoise home as a pet, but when it kept hitting its cage and making noises released it into the Hong Kong Wetland Park and returned to the shop for more.

December

Wed 2

Lying with the Enemy

A 65-year-old man appears in court charged with knowingly misleading a police officer. In October the man called for a prostitute to come to his house, but discovered after she left that his Rolex watch, worth \$30,000, had been stolen during her visit. Not wanting his wife to discover the reason, he instead told police officers that he had been robbed by two teenagers in the hallway of his building. The judge at his trial tells him off for his dishonesty and asks him to say sorry to his wife at the trial, who accepts the apology in tears. The man is fined \$2,000.





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MOST SURPRISINGLY LOW PROFILE

CY Leung

Our city's Chief Executive has kept his head largely below the parapet this year: A decision which was, let's be honest, entirely right. After stonewalling masterfully during Occupy last year, and leaving Carrie Lam and the pro-Beijingers to try to pass the reform bill, he's been content to have spent a relatively quiet 2015, although confirming that the role of the Chief Executive was indeed "transcendent" above all branches of government is something we could have done without. The most notable thing he's done in the last six months? Joined Facebook, where he posts holiday snaps, photos of Hello Kitty dim sum, his dogs and recent gardening successes. Nothing humanizes a person like Facebook. That said, in September CY's approval ratings hit an all-time low of 38.5 points: Seems like even going off-grid isn't enough to make people forget that they hate you.



BEST SMACKDOWN

Leung Chai-yan

On Halloween night Leung Chai-yan, daughter of the Chief Executive, went out to party in Lan Kwai Fong. As you'd expect of an LKF night out, things got messy. When Leung's mother Regina Tong was called and showed up in the early hours to take a not-totally-sober Princess Chai home, Leung slapped her face twice, yelling, "You know this mum is not my actual biological mother." It's clearly a troubled relationship: But we couldn't help but feel a little satisfied.

MOST UNWISE GIG APPEARANCE EVER

Steve Wong Ka-keung

The third anniversary of the Beijing loyalist Business and Professionals Alliance early this month saw a star guest in the form of Steve Wong Ka-keung, bassist of seminal Hong Kong rock band Beyond. Critics were incensed: Beyond were a famously anti-authoritarian band, and their 1993 hit "Under a Vast Sky" became the anthem of the Occupy movement. Worst of all, CY Leung was in attendance and posted a selfie of the two on Facebook. Wong explained that he was not aware that the Chief Executive would be at the event, and that he'd just been booked to play a private gig. Hey—a job's a job, right?

DUBIOUS CHARACTERS

MOST UNFORTUNATE POLITICAL FOOTBALL

Siu Yau-wai

Spare a thought for 12-year-old Siu Yau-wai, who lived illegally in Hong Kong for nine years, mostly confined to his flat, until his grandmother came forward with his story in May with the help of trade unionist lawmaker Chan Yuen-han. That's when it all went wrong. Chan was accused of using the boy to score political points, the grandmother was accused of being a poor guardian—and localist groups saw the boy as symptomatic of non-Hongkongers who took advantage of the city's resources. In a stunning piece of assholery, they attacked the school which had offered to help him, plastering protest placards to its doors and yelling that the boy should go back to where he had come from. Siu Yau-wai is currently in Shenzhen, awaiting some kind of decision about his future.

MOST WELL-MEANING XENOPHOBIA

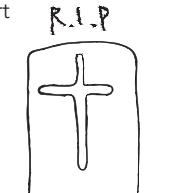
Hong Kong Sports Fans

Overseas, football is a sport known for its hooligans. But this year Hong Kong fans were keen to show their support for the callous side of the Beautiful Game: They've been booing the Chinese national anthem as it plays before Hong Kong games. After FIFA warned fans not to boo ahead of last month's World Cup qualifier match against China, creative fans held up signs which said "boo" on them instead, as well as "Hong Kong is not China" banners. Still, all the smack-talking seemed to work as the SAR played China to an unexpected tie. Jeering your own national anthem, out of national pride: What a city.



Resto in Peace

So farewell then, **Goldfinch Cafe**. The "soy sauce western" restaurant in Causeway Bay served customers faithfully for 53 years before closing in September. It's best known thanks to appearances in director Wong Kar-wai's "In the Mood for Love" and "2046." There are rumors that the restaurant has only closed for renovation, but we're not holding our breath. Other sad losses this year have been the **giant neon cow** from Sammy's Kitchen in Sai Ying Pun, finally taken down after 37 years of being an illegal structure. Then there's Wan Chai stalwart **Delaney's** and vegan haven **Life Cafe**, which have both shuttered this year. Oh, and most of the city's **Burger Kings**: One of the city's two franchisees had been operating without a license—and hadn't been paying its staff and rent. We're not quite so broken up about that one.





New Year's Eve 20

Evelyn Lok picks the city's best parties to ring in the new year.

The Beautiful & The Damned New Year's Eve Ball

Kee Club goes full sin city for NYE, setting up blackjack and roulette tables and giving guests the chance to win luxury staycations, spa treats and vintage bubbly. Come countdown, the decks will be taken over by legendary DJ Matt Caseli, who was a resident at Ibiza's Pacha for 15 years. Want to go all-out? Pick up a \$3,288 ticket (reserve via gladys@keeclub.com) for early access, a five-course dinner and \$3,000 worth of chips to play at the tables. **Dec 31, 10pm. 6/F, 32 Wellington St., Central, 2810-9000. \$500-700 from [ticketflap.com](#); both include two martinis and \$500 worth of chips for the tables. Dress code: Art Deco.**

Dapper Decadence

Stockton's New Year's bash is a chic free-flow booze affair, inclusive of house spirits, wines, Delamotte champagne and Stockton's usually pricey signature cocktails—making this party a fantastic deal. Eric Lau and K-Melo from Sol Passion Music will be gearing up the house for the countdown, and canapés will be served after 1am. **Dec 31, 10pm. 32 Wyndham St., Central, 2565-5268. \$580 from [ticketflap.com](#).**



A Bebop 50s New Year's Eve

Ring in the new year Don Draper style at Central's newest speakeasy, **Foxglove**. Japanese jazz masters Bloodest Saxophone—best known for their bebop and swing tunes—are flying in to perform for two sittings at 6:30pm and 9pm. The later celebration, lasting through to midnight, includes free flow champagne, wines and Black Isle organic craft beers, all for a cool \$2,300. The band is also playing Jan 1 and 2 at 10pm.

Dec 31, 6pm. 2/F, Printing House, 6 Duddell Street, Central, 2116-8949. Dress code: 1950s Glamor.

Rewind: New Year's Eve Masquerade Party

The folks from Rewind, the best daytime party in town, turn up for NYE with a mischievous masquerade at the **FoFo by El Willy** rooftop. A mix of techno, house and deep bass will be pumping all night. **Dec 31, 8pm. 20/F, M88, 2-8 Wellington St., Central, 2900-2009. \$100 from [rewindnye.pelago.events](#); \$150 at the door. Dress code: Masks Mandatory.**

A New Year's Eve Countdown Party at Épure

Looking to ring in the new year with a backdrop of the harbor? Look no further than the open bar at French fine-dine **Épure**, which gets you unlimited house beer and wine. Tack on an extra \$300 for free-flow champagne and canapés.

Dec 31, 9pm. Shop 403, Ocean Centre, Harbour City, 3-27 Canton Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 3185-833. \$650-950, reserve by phone or at [epure.hk](#).



Go fifties at Foxglove



Get Lost in Time aboard Beatship

Walk Like An Egyptian Into 2016

Duddell's brings us yet another weird, glittery holiday party. This year, the ball drops at the art gallery-slash-lounge with a distinctly Egyptian theme, complete with a live band and DJ. Best dressed that night gets a \$5,000 voucher to dine at Duddell's, so don't hold back on the eyeliner.

Dec 31, 10pm. 3-4/F, Shanghai Tang Mansion, Duddell St., Central, 2525-9191. \$580 from [ticketflap.com](#) before Dec 23; \$650 thereafter, both include welcome champagne and late-night canapés.

Nude Noir at Aqua Spirit

Who really sees the fireworks on New Year's Eve unless a) they've been chilling at the harborfront since 5pm, or b) they're high up in a five-star bar in Tsim Sha Tsui? Be a part of the smug latter group and ring in 2016 at **Aqua Spirit** with free-flow champers, premium spirits and gourmet Italian and Japanese canapés all night.

Dec 31, 9pm. 29/F-30/F, 1 Peking Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui, 3427-2288. \$2,000 from [eventbrite.hk](#).

The Butchers Club Secret NYE Warehouse Party

Want to greet the year with full bellies, far from everyone else in town? The **Butchers Club** boys are teaming up with the DJs of Bunker Club for a secret warehouse do, including a hog roast and barbecue dinner at 7pm and free-flow wine and beer from 10pm.

Dec 31, 7pm. \$550 from [nyewarehouse.pelago.events](#) or [store.thebutchers.club](#); \$650 at the door.

Glitterati New Year's Countdown Extravaganza

Toast the new year from the top of LKF at **Cé La Vi**'s rooftop bar. Hailing from Ibiza's Nikki Beach club, Mademoiselle Sabah will be bringing in some sultry deep house, while CLV resident DJ Yeodie teams up with Hawaii's top dog K-Smooth to spin your favorite Top 40 hits. Want to scream Tay Tay lyrics as the ball drops? You know where to go.

Dec 31, 9pm. 24-26/F, California Tower, 32 D'Aguilar St., Central, 3700-2300. \$300 from [hk.celavi.com](#).

Dress code: Glitter Chic.

Lost in Time Festival

One-night New Year's Eve parties are sooo last year. **Beatship** and **Hushup Events** are partnering to bring us a two-day music festival aboard the SuperStar Virgo cruise liner. International headlining DJs (from Hong Kong's own Janette Slack and Frankie Lam to the UK's James Zabiela) will be spinning everything from hip hop to techno from NYE through to New Year's Day and beyond. But what will there be to do when the sun comes up? In between all that raging you'll be able to catch dance classes, movie screenings, stand-up comedy and even drag queen bingo. Check-in is 6-8pm and the ship will return to Harbour City at 9am on Jan 2. All tickets include cabin space, meals and access to parties, movie club, performances, classes and workshops.

Dec 31-Jan 2. **Boarding at Ocean Terminal, Harbour City, 7-27 Canton Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui.** \$1,550-12,000 from [beatship.hk.com](#).

I ❤️ New York Times Square NYE Countdown ▼

Who needs New York's mirror ball drop when you can get the whole Times Square experience in our sister SAR? Studio City is not only paying tribute to NYC this New Year's, but it's also bringing in Kelis to gear the crowds up for the countdown, supported by UK DJ Nikki. Expect milkshakes, boys, yards, etc. A special hotel package is available (from \$4,398), including one night's stay in a suite, VIP access to the NYE event, New Year's Day champagne buffet brunch for two and more.

Dec 31, 10pm. **Times Square Macau, Studio City, Estrada Flor de Lotus, Cotai, Macau,** (+853) 8865-6868. Free, [studiocity-macau.com](#).



Soul Train New Year's Eve at Mahalo

Channel your best Beyoncé à la Foxy Cleopatra and party like it's 1970 at **Mahalo**, hosted by FuFu's resident DJs for all the funk and nu-disco you can handle. Dec 31, 8pm. 29/F, QRE Plaza, 202 Queen's Rd. East, Wan Chai, 2488-8750, \$300-400 from [ticketflap.com](#), \$600 at the door.

Shogatsu: New Year's Eve at Zuma

Both floors of **Zuma** get dazzled up for New Year's Eve: The restaurant side gets a seasonal menu along with live saxophone and modern geisha dance performances, while the upstairs lounge will be treated to creative and funky beats from DJs J. Pennyworth from New York and Disk0Kidz from Taiwan. Dec 31, 10pm; 5/F, The Landmark, 12-16 Queen's Rd. Central. \$888 from [shogatsu.pelago.events](#), includes one-hour champagne reception and free-flow open bar and canapés until 2am.

Metales Balearicos Soundsystem

Want to do a casual house party for New Year's Eve but don't want to be the one cleaning up? **MyHouse** has you covered, starting with a six-course wine pairing dinner and then moving into Balearic beats from 8pm onwards, courtesy of Barnaby Bruce and Roy Gonzalez. Dec 31, 10pm. 202 Queen's Rd. East, 26/F QRE Plaza, Wan Chai, 2323-1715. \$1,288 for wine pairing dinner.



香港中樂團
HONG KONG CHINESE ORCHESTRA

藝術總監：閻惠昌
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR : YAN HUICHANG

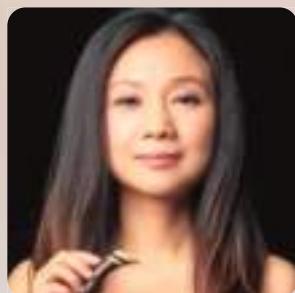
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Romantic
Concertos of
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小提琴協奏曲
梁山伯與祝英台
第四二胡協奏曲
蝶戀花
箜篌協奏曲
孔雀東南飛
箏、樂、詩
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The Butterfly Lovers
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Zheng, Orchestra and Poetry
Lu You and Tang Wan

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25% ticket discount for FoHKCO. Patrons can only enjoy one of the discount schemes for purchasing tickets. Discount only applies to standard tickets.

詳細資料：請瀏覽樂團網頁。For latest information, please visit HKCO website, 香港中樂團保留更改節目及表演者權利。Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra reserves the right to change programme and artists.

香港中樂團由香港特別行政區政府資助
Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra is financially supported by
the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

香港中樂團為香港文化中心場地伙伴
Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra is
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Paradise by the Dashboard Light

The taxi is a Hong Kong icon, and Allison Haworth West's new book "Taxi Art" celebrates the city's cabs through a collection of stories and photos of their interiors. As drivers customize their cars with hanging ornaments, dashboard figurines and phone holders, they create their own living installation art, and passengers become a part of their world.

It might be a world in which you can never cross the harbor, but no one said art has to be perfect. \$300 from bookstores, G.O.D. and Amazon.

Find out more at taxiarthk.com.





Last-Minute Shopping, Again...?

You've left it to the last second to do your Christmas shopping, haven't you? These festive one-stop shops and streets will solve your present woes.

Do It All Online

Worried about your presents not getting to you on time? Never fear. These stores offer next-day delivery. Unless you live in DB, because it's some kind of delivery blackout zone.

A Boy Named Sue

Super-cool eco-boutique stocking sustainable fashions from all over the globe. Perfect for the stylish, ethical giftee.
aboynamedsue.co.

Grana

Hong Kong brand which sticks to simple, high-quality basics. Good gifts if your recipient could do with upping their everyday look.
grana.com.

Backroom

Add some "urban luxe" to your life with this carefully curated wardrobe.
blkrm.com.

Carte Collective

Easy-going rompers and beautiful statement dresses from Hong Kong designers.
cartecollective.com.

Sally's Toy

Gift a sex toy for Christmas and you'll get to play with it too! Just make sure a) you know it's going to be well received and b) you don't wrap it in the same paper you've put aside for mom's present.
sallystoy.com.



Give a sexy dress from Carte Collective this Christmas



Trendy gifts for trendy people at Zixag

Sprint Across Town

It's December 24, you bunched off work early and while all your colleagues are getting drunk you're sprinting around trying to buy enough presents so your family doesn't hate you. Head to one of these shopping areas to get it all done inside of 20 minutes.

Gough Street

Gough Street retains its hipster cool with plenty of boutique stores to brighten up anyone's Christmas. Stop by **Homeless** (29 Gough St., Central, 2581-1880) for funky décor then pop into **WOAW!** ("World of Amazing Wonders," 11 Gough St., Central, 2253-1313) for hip, hard-to-find items such as foldable Polaroid cameras, on-trend watches and cutting-edge kicks. Then head up the steps of Mee Lun Street, where **Über Tunique**, **Gold Yard** and **Callixto** (7, 9 and 11 Mee Lun St.) form a row full of super-trendy jewelry, clothes and accessories for women, men and everyone in between.

Tai Ping Shan

Need awesome gifts? Hit up Tai Ping Shan in Sheung Wan. Salon-slash-clothing-boutique **Mood** (22 Tai Ping Shan St., Sheung Wan, 2559-8308) is the epitome of cool, with Japanese and vintage-inspired clothing and home accessories for sale. **Rat's Cave** (18A-B, G/F, Tai Ping Shan St., Sheung Wan, 2858-9001) sells post-industrial art and accessories by street art crew Start from Zero. **SWY** ("Scent With You", 18 Upper Station St., Sheung Wan, 2499-1098) stocks scented candles shaped like macarons to brighten up the house. Wrap up your gift run at **Zixag** (G/F, 40 Sai St., Sheung Wan, 3585-7467) which showcases awesome items from local and overseas designers alike.

Causeway Bay Plaza + Island Beverly

Island Beverly (1 Great George St., Causeway Bay, 2890-6823) stocks unique Japanese and Korean fashions that we guarantee you won't be seeing anywhere else on the street. **One + One** is a one-stop shop for handbags and clutches, while **V Love U** is your go-to for silk and lace. Once you're stocked up on hip Asian fashions, walk across the road to **Causeway Bay Plaza I** (489 Hennessy Rd., Causeway Bay) for knick-knacks, stuffed toys and more fashion. And there's always **Sogo** (555 Hennessy Rd., Causeway Bay, 2833-8338) just up the street to knock those last few items off the list.

PMQ

PMQ (35 Aberdeen St., Central) is full of one-of-a-kind items if you have the patience to brave the maze. Head to **Kapok** (HG10-12, 2858-8170) for designs in everything from candles to shirts to mini gold satchel bags. **Alternative Country** (R311, Block A, 3580-2910) is great for expertly crafted leather work boots that are cool enough to wear casually. Stop by **Home.Works** (S506, Block A, 2858-8135) to pick up cool stationery, handcrafted soaps and beautifully designed notebooks. End your shopping spree at **A O G P** ("An On Going Project", S202, Block A, 3170-3965) for gorgeous, intricate jewelry that you'll want to keep instead of gifting.

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Oh Crap, I Only Had Time to Go to



You left it so late to buy presents that everywhere is shut? Head to a large 7-Eleven to create a gift hamper that will mollify the whole family. Maybe.

By Adam White and Evelyn Lok



Wolf Blass Red Label, \$99

This blend of pinot noir and chardonnay grapes may not have quite the subtlety of a bottle of Dom Perignon, but it's also about a tenth of the price. Serve very cold and maybe no one will notice.



Hello Kitty Lightning Bows Gummy, \$12.90

Seize one of Hello Kitty's gummy bows with the provided tongs, and they'll LIGHT UP IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES! Don't we all deserve a little bit of Christmas magic?



Hello Kitty Party Cups, \$14.90

Six paper party cups from which the whole family can quaff semi-fine sparkling liquids.



Star Wars Pez Dispenser, \$22

They still make Pez? Who knew? Decapitate this stormtrooper every time you want another tiny candy. Also available: Darth Vader, Yoda.



Pocari Sweat Sachets, \$12.50 & Panadol Extra Advance (20 caplets), \$81.50

Woke up on Boxing Day with a killer hangover from too many paper cups of sparkling wine? Mix up one sachet of Pocari Sweat, pop two Panadol, and go lie down somewhere cool and dark.

Star Wars Mini Lightsaber with Candy, 2x\$42.90

Not only do these adorable mini lightsabers light up, they also contain candy for the ravenous Jedi knight. Obviously, you HAVE to buy two.



Calbee Seaweed Jumbo Prawn Crackers, \$25.90

Extra large prawn crackers to demonstrate the extra large love you have for your family. Also has the benefit of economically bulking out the hamper.



Gudetama USB Hand Warmer, \$150

This USB-powered hand warmer in the shape of Sanrio's lethargic anthropomorphic egg is the perfect present for anyone in your life who has cold hands and a weird passion for lethargic anthropomorphic eggs. For everyone else it's kind of a non-starter.

**TOTAL COST
\$613.50!!!!**

Merry Christmas, cheapskate!



7-Eleven Basket, \$??

You're going to have to ask for this on long-term loan. Or maybe grab it and sprint out the store.

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Suitable for ages 3 and above · The performance lasts approximately 2 hours including an intermission · Latecomers will not be admitted until a suitable break or the intermission · The presenter reserves the right to alter the programme and artists · Hong Kong Ballet is financially supported by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region · Hong Kong Ballet is a Venue Partner of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre

HONG KONG INSIDER'S GUIDE

A series of stories, recommendations and tips on Hong Kong from people in the know. Explore our city based on the travel experiences that interest you and get itineraries for off-the-beaten-path neighborhoods.

Beyond the Walls

In its earliest days, Hong Kong was a series of small communities subsisting on the land and living inside walled villages, and if you travel up into the New Territories you'll discover traditional life still exists behind these walls. In fact, you don't need to move too far away from the heart of downtown Hong Kong to discover a region that will make you feel you've ventured back in time to this era, where you'll still find ancient traditions and a more simple way of life.

Village Life

The Tang clan first settled in Kam Tin in the early 14th century, and Lo Wai was the first of the five wai—or walled villages—they built. It's enclosed on all four sides by brick walls, with a gateway and entrance tower, which protect the central ancestral hall and adjacent dwellings. Much of the original village walls and internal layout still exist here: if you follow the **Lung Yeuk Tau Heritage Trail** you can see the protected entranceway and walls, but much is closed to the public to protect the villagers' privacy.

Community Spirit

An ancestral hall is the focal point for any wai villager: it's a study hall for children, as well as a place for worshipping ancestors, for social gatherings, and for discussing important village issues. **Liu Man Shek Tong Ancestral Hall** in Sheung Shui Wai is an elaborate example built in 1751 by the prosperous Liu clan, who initially settled from Fujian in the Ming Dynasty. Built in the typical three-hall, two-courtyard style, the decoration of the main building is opulent—you'll be able to see plaster moldings, intricate wood carvings and significant murals.

Organic Growth

Instead of merely surviving off the land to feed themselves, entrepreneurial villagers have branched out to sell their produce—producing a trend across Hong Kong for locally grown, locally sourced ingredients. **Po Sang Yuen Bee Farm** in Fanling does a great job of protecting the environment in its enterprise, while the trendy **IPC Foodlab** is a restaurant that advocates eating local farm produce and practices what it preaches. On the fusion menu you'll find all-organic vegetables picked from its farm in Fanling, with descriptions and the medicinal properties each ingredient can provide.

For more insider info on Hong Kong, head to www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide

Spotlight on: North District

Many residents of the North District, which sits right up on the border with mainland China in the New Territories, can trace their origins back to China, when families moved south to escape war and unrest. These clans set up villages—some surrounded by walls—and lived off the land. The area is still mostly rural, populated by farmers who pursue their ancient traditions and follow a more modest way of life.



Fanling Wai

Living Heritage

To learn more about ancient village life in Hong Kong, visit **Fanling Wai**, one of the area's best preserved walled villages. It was thought to have been built by the Pang clan between the 12th and 13th centuries, and inside you'll see fine examples of Ming and Tsing dynasty architecture through its temples, ancestral halls, school, watchtowers and cannons. Also worth a stop is **Tsung Pak Long**, a Hakka walled village established in the 19th century by five different clans. The village of Ma Shi Po in Fanling is a prime example of urban encroachment onto farmland.

Natural Beauty

Much of the North District is still made up of farmland and beautiful natural resources. The eight majestic peaks of **Pat Sin Leng Country Park**, known as the “eight fairies”, dominate the territory's skyline and are surrounded by emerald lakes, with many walking trails which start and end at the **Lau Shui Heung Reservoir**, taking in pavilions, a campsite and barbecue and picnic spots. The protected wetland of **Long Valley** is also a birdwatchers' paradise, being home to more than 200 different species of birds, many rare.

Soul Food

To sample locally farmed food, make a stop at the **Wun Chuen Vegetarian Centre**. At the entrance to the 70-year-old Taoist Wun Chuen Sin Koon temple, surrounded by gardens, lotus ponds and bridges, the restaurant offers healthy and delicious dishes made to resemble their meaty counterparts. For a little bit of heritage with your dinner, also check out **Kwan Kee Beef Balls & Pork Knuckles**—a Guangdong establishment that's one of Fanling's oldest and most popular food joints.

Time for Tea

If you're interested in traditional Chinese art forms, why not try Wing Chun, a scientific form of Chinese martial art that dates back to the late 1800s. **Wan Kam Leung Practical Wing Chun** is a school teaching a modern-day version. Or if you're seeking a more peaceful inroad to traditional Chinese culture, **Ming Cha Teahouse** holds interactive tea tasting workshops that will educate you on five different types of tea.

Head online to www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide to create your personalized itinerary for North District.

Lau Shui Heung



Fire dragon dance

Enduring Culture

Wherever you look in Hong Kong you will see how immigrants from around the world have impacted on the city's culture; from its culinary tastes to its artistic forms and traditional festivals. There are thousands of experiences that will take you back centuries: whether it's in the traditional Chinese festivals, cultural arts, or family-run restaurants.

A night at the Opera

Hong Kong is underpinned by the Cantonese culture evident in the city's food, music and festivals. For an artistic expression of this you only need to watch Cantonese opera: an elaborate art form combining singing, acting, martial arts, acrobatics and incredible costumes. **Ko Shan Theatre** is one of the last remaining venues to showcase this art. Operas are held here on an almost daily basis, some of which are free.

Taste the Culture

Another notable cultural influence on Hong Kong comes from the city's Chiu Chow and Hakka descendants. The Chiu Chow people's movement south from the Chaozhou region in eastern Guangdong can be traced back thousands of years, and you can also experience the culinary side of their culture at **Chan Kan Kee** Chiu Chow restaurant. For a taste of the Hakka population's offerings, head to one of the branches of the popular **Chuen Cheung Kui** chain.

For more insider info on Hong Kong, head to www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide

Spotlight on: Sha Tin

In the easterly New Territories, Sha Tin has grown from a huge area of farm land popular with migrating groups from mainland China into a new town that boasts one of the city's largest populations. If you visit the district today you'll be able to spot a real cultural mix: from 19th century walled villages and Chinese traditional temples to modern, spacious parks.



Lung Wah Hotel

Built on History

Some of the earliest immigrants to Sha Tin from the mainland were the Hakka people, who built walled villages upon their arrival to protect them from rival clans. You can still see some of these villages remaining: **Tsang Tai Uk** was built in the 19th century by the Hakka Tsang clan and is one of the biggest structures still standing, while the "Old House" is a remnant of the historical Wong Uk Village, a trading station for merchants built in the 1800s.

Culinary Heritage

Sha Tin is renowned for its roast pigeon, in part thanks to the area's iconic restaurant, the **Lung Wah Hotel**. Built in the 1930s, it was transformed into a hotel in 1951 and has attracted celebrities such as Bruce Lee over the years, mainly to feast on the house specialty, pigeon. For more of a taste of old Hong Kong dishes, seek out **Chan Kun Kee**: this dai pai dong

on a public housing estate in Sha Tin is a hub for the community's residents and serves up creative, homely Guangdong cuisine.

Natural Resources

Besides the traditional Chinese cultural elements on offer, Sha Tin has lots of beautiful natural resources for recreation. Add the **Shing Mun River** to your itinerary—a wide waterway that gives incredible night views of the district. It's also where you'll find Hongkongers out cycling and running, plus the annual Dragon Boat Festival takes place here too. Next door sits **Sha Tin Park**, a garden with traditionally styled Chinese archways, gardens and fish ponds.

Head online to www.DiscoverHongKong.com/InsidersGuide to create your personalized itinerary for Sha Tin.

Get insights and tips on your tablet from Hong Kong Insider's Guide

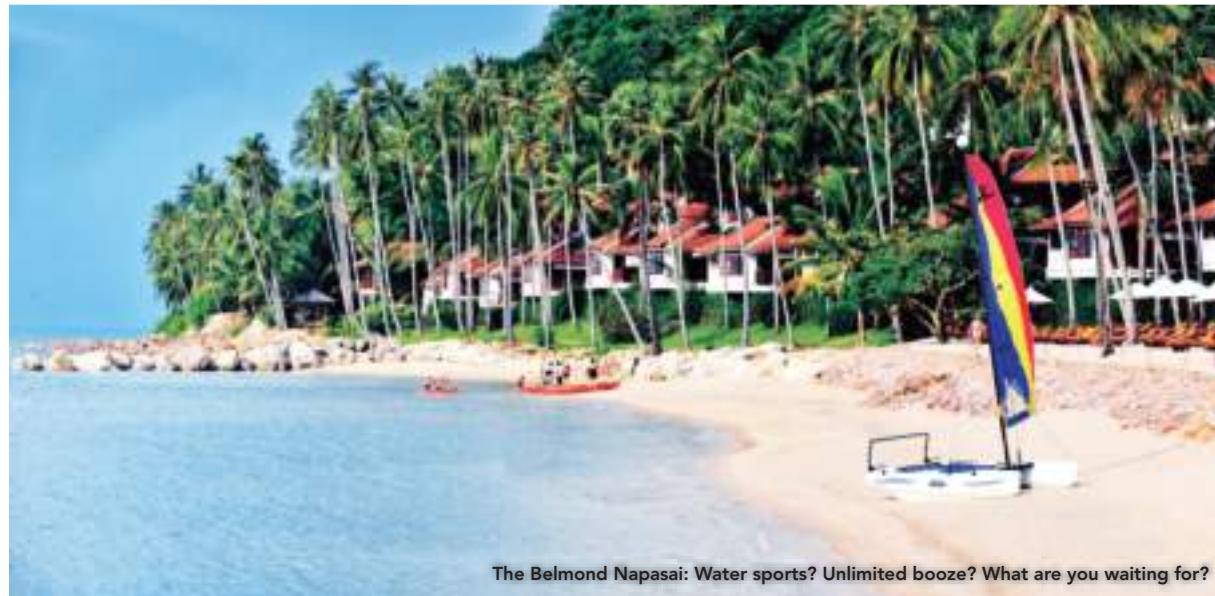


Old House, Wong Uk Village

Edited by Daniel Creffield
 daniel.creffield@hkmagmedia.com

New Year's Escapes

Want to book a last-minute New Year's Eve getaway? Do it!



The Belmond Napasai: Water sports? Unlimited booze? What are you waiting for?

Just Let it Appen

If you're prepared to leave it until the 11th hour (literally), and consider pretty much any destination in the Asia-Pacific region, last-minute hotel booking app **HotelQuickly** might be your best bet. The free app offers discounted rooms in three- to five-star quality hotels in Asia. It's all done through the app itself: Customers can browse hotels and get tips on things to see and do nearby. For New Year the booking

period will begin at 8am on December 31—good for a last-minute staycation, perhaps? Cities include Bangkok, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Taipei, Kaohsiung, Kenting and Singapore. Prices range from city to city: They're typically \$1,000-\$3,000 in Hong Kong, \$200-\$1,000 in Thailand and \$500-\$2,000 in Taipei and Singapore.
hotelquickly.com.

Move—and Pick, Quick

Fancy a big fat 30 percent off your New Year break? That's the deal on stays at the **Mövenpick Hotel Mactan Island** and **Mövenpick Hotel Hanoi**. Mactan in Cebu is an ideal warm winter getaway location for this New Year's Eve, with ocean views and a private white sandy beach, as well as some of the country's best dive sites. Prices start at \$1,007 per night.

Meanwhile Hanoi, a 1.5 hour flight from Hong Kong, is a fascinating city of history, culture and amazingly cheap beer. The Mövenpick Hotel Hanoi is in the central business district and close to the city center, making it ideal for a new year's exploration of the Vietnamese capital. Prices start at \$806 per night.

Mövenpick Mactan Island Cebu, The Philippines,
 (+63) 32-492-7777; **Mövenpick Hotel Hanoi, 83A Ly Thuong Kiet St., Hoan Kiem, Hanoi, Vietnam,** (+84) 4-3822-2800.

Let's Luxe

While they don't have specific New Year deals, the **Belmond Napasai** in Koh Samui is offering an all-inclusive "luxury treat" package that covers the festive period. As well as breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner, it includes unlimited booze (selected drinks) and a daily choice of activity: yoga, sailing, cookery classes, scooter rental and more, so you can sweat out all that booze. Sea view villas start at \$4,000 per night, while beach villa suites start at \$5,500.

65/10 Baan Tai, Maenam, Koh Samui, Thailand,
 (+66) 7742-9200, belmond.com/napasai-koh-samui/packages



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ESCAPE ROUTES

Havana Wonderful Time

Heading all the way out to Phuket for a Havana-themed party on New Year's Eve? Sounds good, and **Kata Rocks'** accommodation—"sky villas" each with its own infinity-pool—look pretty special as well. Along with great food and poolside restaurant and bar, the resort features a luxury spa and fitness center. (The passion fruit mojito is a must, apparently). The party itself is \$2,155, including food, drinks and a bottle of champagne.

One-bedroom Ocean Loft, \$15,298 per night; four-bedroom

Sky Villa, \$133,537 per night, both until Jan 5. 186/22, Kok Tanode Rd., Kata Beach, Phuket, katarocks.com.

Come Fly With Me

Flight Centre has picked out a small selection of New Year's getaways. For the following you must fly out on either December 30 or 31:

Hua Hin: Return economy airfare to Bangkok, three nights at Anantara Resort Hua Hin (premium garden view room), breakfast, return airport transfers; New Year's Eve gala dinner. From \$10,999 per person.

Langkawi: Return economy airfare to Langkawi, three nights at Westin Langkawi Resort & Spa, daily breakfast, return airport transfers, New Year's Eve gala dinner. From \$10,299 per person.

Maldives: Return economy airfare to Maldives, four nights at Six Senses Laamu, daily breakfast, return airport transfers by domestic flight and speedboat. From \$45,699 per person (ouch). flightcentre.com.hk.



The Maldives: Beautiful, but a bit flippin' pricey



Hitting the surf at Hua Hin

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Sweet Santa Snacks

Christmas is a week away, and all the goodwill and festive cheer has got us craving something sweet. These lip-smacking holiday desserts are perfect for your greedy little fingers... By Leslie Yeh

Red Instead

Bring your camera and a big appetite to **The Popsy Room**, which is plating up a flowery, festive menu this season inspired by floral artist Kirk Cheng. Holiday elements appear in unconventional ways throughout the dinner degustation, accompanied by edible flowers and festive greens and ending in "A Fruitful Wreath"—chocolate ganache painted around a decadent, flourless chocolate cake. Red berries, redcurrants and hazelnuts round out this delightful painting on a plate.

"**A Fruitful Wreath**" is part of **The Popsy Room's** holiday degustation menus, starting at \$988 per person for six courses; 30 Upper Lascar Row, Sheung Wan, 2234-6711.

Sky-high Sweets

Why have one dessert when you could have 10 or 15? Follow the cookie crumbs to the **Hong Kong SkyCity Marriott Hotel** by the airport, where the giant 8-foot-tall gingerbread house in the lobby (made with no fewer than 3,000 pieces of gingerbread) is just the icing on the cake. Delicious treats can be found at every corner of this candyland, from a Christmas High Tea Set with mulled wine and minced pies to an afternoon tea buffet with one of the most extravagant dessert displays we've seen so far. Don't miss the charity cookies on sale at Java+ coffee bar to benefit the Hong Chi Association, which works to support those with intellectual disabilities.

Christmas High Tea Set is \$368 for two people through Dec 31; **Afternoon Tea Buffet** is \$208 per adult, \$108 per child through Dec 27. 1 Sky City Rd. East, Lantau, 3969-1888.

Cocoa Rush

It's not Christmas without plenty of chocolate: From deep, earthy cocoa flavors to zesty fruit-scented sweets, **Jean-Paul Hévin**'s luxurious range of festive treats get us every year. The Christmas Macaron "Star" (\$26) carries the intense flavors of Brazilian cocoa while also bearing a low sugar content (meaning you can have more than one, right?). We also can't get enough of the Christmas Bonbon "Sparkles" (\$24) with notes of coffee and spice blended into a dark chocolate ganache. Gift them to the biggest chocaholic in your life inside Jean-Paul's classic Christmas tins or gift hampers.

Shop 212, Ocean Centre, Harbour City, Tsim Sha Tsui, 2735-3268.



The Marriott's winter candyland



I Dream of Ice Cream...

Have your cake and eat it too (and quickly, before it melts) with Häagen Dazs' new festive creations, featuring their first ever multi-layer ice cream cakes. The "Pure Love" cake is pure bliss, with thick layers of white chocolate, strawberry and Belgian chocolate ice cream, and soft sponge cake to tie it all together. For a more whimsical addition to the holiday table, the "Allure of Wine" cake boasts shredded milk chocolate and wine-soaked cranberry chocolate ice cream molded into a vintage wine crate.

**\$599 at Langham Place, 8 Argyle St.,
Mong Kok, 2789-4998.**

Keep On Rollin'

For those planning on getting their steak-frites fix over Christmas, La Vache is decorating its legendary dessert cart with a bit of festive cheer in the form of a traditional Buche de Noël all through December. For \$98, you can dig into this timeless Christmas classic—a moist, soft chocolate cake rolled with layers of fresh whipped cream and topped off with juicy berries. Who needs diets when you have chocolate cake?

48 Peel St., Central, 2880-0248.



Winter Warmers

Need to wash down all that sugar? Spring for the drink of the season: A comforting mug of mulled wine infused with cinnamon, allspice and star anise at Quarry Bay hotspot Mr & Mrs Fox. More of an eggnog person? They're also serving up this classic winter warmer, with lots of spicy nutmeg. Oh, and the mince pies look mighty delicious, if you can sneak one in on the side...

**23 Tong Chong St.,
Quarry Bay,
2697-8500.**

#JoytotheWooorld

What a Woo-nderful Woo-rlid!

Christmas is an occasion for sharing and there is nothing better than savoring the joyful moment over a delectable meal. We proudly present you a sizzling roster of festive menus to celebrate Christmas and New Year's Eve in true Wooloomooloo style.

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Edited by Leslie Yeh

leslie.yeh@hkmagmedia.com



Flamin' good chorizo

Sold on Sangria

The people behind British favorite Bricklane are jumping on the tapas trend just in the nick of time with a spacious ground floor resto a stone's throw from K11 in Tsim Sha Tsui. Spearheaded by executive chef Antonio Moran, **One Minden Tapas Kitchen** (G/F, 1 Minden Avenue, Tsim Sha Tsui, 2722-1707) is a casual place to grab light bites and a glass of sangria (the house blend is excellent, made with red,

white or rosé, mixed fruits and a layer of "molecular sangria foam" for \$98) or brunch with the four-course weekend menu (\$476 includes free-flow sangria, cava and beer). If you want something a little more filling than bite-sized bombas or flaming chorizo—served on an alcohol-fueled terracotta pig—try the paella for two, which is generously portioned and dotted with fresh seafood for \$298.

RESTAURANT REVIEWS

Hanjan ★★★★☆

Modern Korean. G/F, 4-5 Wo On Lane, Central, 2409-6000.



bacon, onion, beef, kimchi and melted mozzarella cheese. The volcano fried rice (\$128) was our favorite dish of the night, spicy and not too oily, surrounded by a pepper-dotted egg omelette which was a creative twist on conventionally scrambling the eggs directly into the kimchi rice.

■ **MISS** We were most excited to try the Seoul bulgogi with strips of soy-marinated beef (\$180), but were let down by the pile of overcooked and over-salted meat. Our food took quite a long time to arrive, which was a bit of a buzzkill on a Friday night.

■ **BOTTOM LINE** Go for familiar Korean flavors in bar snacks like fried chicken, cheesy baby back ribs and ramen, all washed down with an innovative kimchi cocktail or a bottle of Chamisul soju (\$98).

**Open for lunch Mon-Fri noon-2:30pm;
dinner Mon-Thu 5pm-1am, Fri-Sun
5pm-4am. \$\$**

More of a watering hole than a restaurant, Hanjan is a fun venue in Lan Kwai Fong that fuses familiar Korean ingredients with western-style bar snacks. Its semi-alfresco space lets you enjoy the buzzing LKF atmosphere without having to shout over blaring music and drunk partygoers.

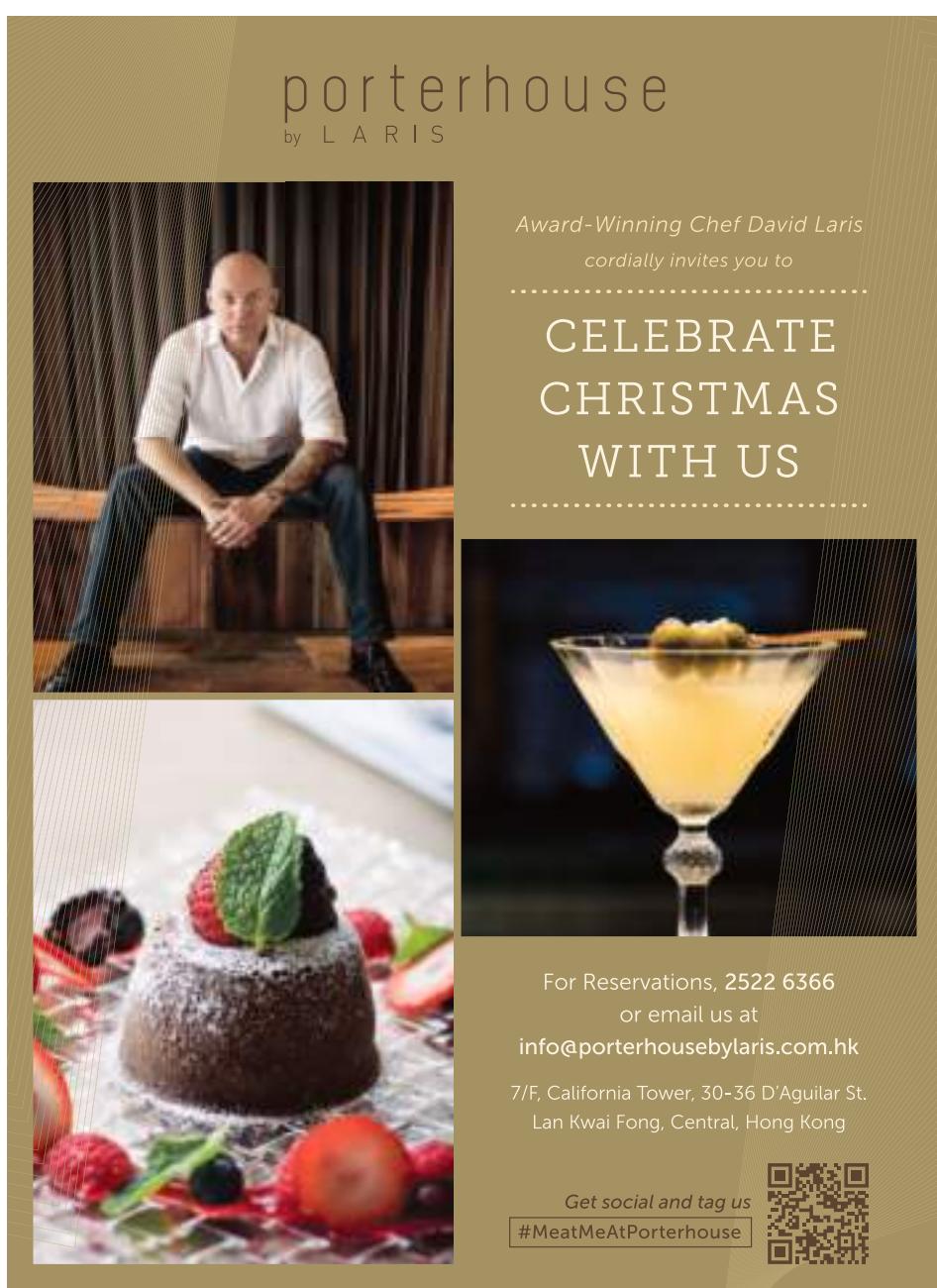
■ **HIT** With the Korean fusion trend popping up around the city, we appreciated the innovation of the kitchen at Hanjan and (for the most part) the solid execution. The "flying nachos" (\$140) weren't really nachos at all but plain tortilla chips arranged around a dip which was well-balanced and flavor-packed with

Ratings

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

Price Guide (per person)

| | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| \$ Less than \$200 | \$\$ \$200-\$399 | \$\$\$ \$400-\$599 | \$\$\$\$ \$600-\$799 | \$\$\$\$\$ \$800 and up |
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NEW AND NOTED



Verde Mar brings the Latin flavor

Baby, It's Cold Outside

As the weather turns cold, there's only one way for dedicated ice cream fans to consume the frosty treat over the holidays: with a shot of booze added into the mix, naturally. Comfort food haven **Boomshack** (Shop B, G/F, 8-12 Wo On Lane, Central, 2660-5977) has turned the naughty or nice list into two tempting menus of alcoholic and non-alcoholic ice cream floats to satisfy your sweet tooth this season. Spiked floats include the rich Chocolate Guinness, the Green Tea Ginger with a shot of whisky, and the festive Raspberry Aperol. As the new year arrives, you can feel ever-so-slightly less guilty with the virgin varieties, featuring a fruity watermelon-lime yogurt and the energizing caramel macchiato.

Craving Cactus?

Wan Chai's food scene is booming these days, with burger and tapas joints popping up on every block. For flavors south of the U.S. border, head to **Verde Mar** (24 Tai Wong St. East, Wan Chai, 2810-0888), which brings an authentic taste of Mexico featuring mostly familiar ingredients alongside some more intriguing ones (anyone up for grilled cactus?). Colorful, rustic interiors make for a pleasant ambience as you dig into fish ceviche, shrimp diablo and skirt steak carne asada. The oaxaca cheese fundido (\$148) is a hot mess of the best kind, while the chargrilled chicken (\$298) is hands down the best of the meats. Attention carb-lovers: The homemade tortilla chips with salsa and guac are highly addictive.

Yau Sum Private Kitchen (友心私房菜) ★★★★

Sichuan. 10/F, Jardine Center, 50 Jardine's Bazaar, Causeway Bay, 2567-9808.



You might recognize the glowing yellow sign for Sadness Sour Spicy Noodles (傷心酸辣粉), a cheap and cheerful (despite the name) Sichuan noodle shop with a dozen branches citywide. This outlet hidden away in a Causeway Bay commercial center is the more upscale arm of the brand.

HIT You can't really go wrong with mouth-watering chicken (\$88), though we got a few too many wing tip pieces. Fried prawns with Chongqing chilies (\$158) was covered completely in chilies and sprinkled with cashews. The prawns were fried well enough to

eat with the shell on (but took a bit of digging to find), and the chilies served their purpose, delivering a tingly but not overbearing spice. Stir-fried green beans (\$78) were a hit, with plump, crunchy greens that ended with a salty kick—great to curb the chili sweats throughout the meal.

MISS The waiter kept trying to upsell us on their signature seafood dishes, and when we opted for one of many razor clam dishes, they'd run out. Opting for a failsafe bowl of dandan noodles to fill our bellies instead, it came overly soggy and with a lackluster soup base. That said, it was \$39 and could easily feed two.

BOTTOM LINE Expect slightly more premium options here—we're eyeing the countless seafood dishes for next time—but you'll still find all the same down-to-earth Sichuan favorites.

Open daily noon-11pm. \$\$

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.

#Joytothewoorld

What a woo-nderful woo-rld!

As a more relaxed sister of Wooloomooloo, The Chop House focuses on serving fun and casual comfort food. Festive group menu is available in December to maximize the experience for those who are looking for a great place to relax and socialize together.

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www.the-chop-house.com

CITY STROLL

Hung Hom

The residential area and transport nexus of Hung Hom has a few tricks up its sleeve that no one saw coming. From awesome shops tucked in side streets to stores hidden in plain sight, there's a lot more to Hung Hom than meets the eye. This month, we're exploring these streets and having fun doing it.



Need to Know

"Hung Hom" means "red cliff." Various origins of the name have been suggested, from the color of the earth in Hung Hom Bay, to a more fanciful story of deep red water which emerged when construction workers built a well—feng shui experts called it "dragon's blood." Since the earliest days of Kowloon, Hung Hom has been an industrial area of docks, concrete works and a power station. **The Hong Kong and Whampoa Dock Company**, later Hutchison Whampoa, had its dockyards here, where the Star Ferries were built. After the demise of the industry in the 1970s the dockyards were developed into the **Whampoa Garden** housing estate.



V King Lounge

Take a stroll down the pier and soak in the incredible view of Hong Kong Island across the way. V King Lounge is part of the pier itself, making it a great place for a quiet beer as the waves slap against the side of the dock.

G/F, Hung Hom Ferry Pier, Hung Hom, 2330-4608.



Seafood Stand

Get your fix of western-style seafood over at Seafood Stand. Adorned with posters on every wall and high stools for that hipster vibe, the specialities are prawns, squid and lobster. Prefer to stay on land? Lamb, chicken or beef burgers are also available. Oh, and don't forget the waffle fries. They alone will keep you coming back.

Shop 13, G/F, Hung Wen Court, United Building, Baker St., Hung Hom, 2968-0606.



Popcorn Private i Salon

Try out a new look for the new year with the help of Popcorn Private i. A cut and dry starts at just \$290, and services range from keratin treatments to perms, color and even a trendy ombre nail manicure.

Shop G5-01B, G/F, Site 5 & 6, Whampoa Garden, Hung Hom, 2364-2299.



Hutchinson Park

Leisure days are the best days. Instead of lying in bed all day or lazing in front of the TV, head to Hutchinson Park for a quiet stroll. This small and tranquil park boasts water features and a serene rock garden. Find a tree-shaded spot to spend the afternoon with a book, or just go for a relaxing walk around the grounds.

Dyer Avenue, Hung Hom.



Check back next month for another amazing area!



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UPCLOSE: AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 MUSIC VIDEOS



Imagine having a job that takes you and your significant other around the world filming indie rock music videos. Brazilian couple **Diana Boccaro** and **Leo Longo** are currently living that life as they tackle their "Around the World in 80 Music Videos" project. They shared some highlights of their travels with Kadiah Watkins, and why they approached Hong Kong band Silhungmo.

HK Magazine: Why did you start the project?

Diana Boccaro: We were working in Brazil. Leo is a TV director and I am a TV producer and screenwriter. We had a break from our projects so we went on a road trip across the southern U.S. We did Nashville, Memphis, Clarksdale and New Orleans: the birthplaces of blues, rock, country, jazz and soul. When we came back, we felt we really wanted to keep traveling but also do music. Since we're not musicians and don't write for travel magazines, we decided to create something instead. We brainstormed how to combine music, filmmaking and travel and decided music videos were the best way.

HK: Has being a couple impacted your project?

DB: I think it really helps because we know each other very well. We've been together three years. He trusts me to do what I have to do and I trust him to do what he has to do. After a long day we just lean on each other. We don't even have time to fight because we're always busy doing something, so we just keep doing the work.

HK: What is the hardest part about this project?

Leo Longo: I think it is trying to do one music video per week. It's really hard because we are always changing countries! You have to find your next place, neighborhood, friends and contacts in the new city. After this you need to listen to the song, find the band and a location and come up with the concept.

HK: Tell us a great travel story.

DB: We had a really cool experience in Brazil. We are from São Paulo so we did 10 music videos in Brazil. Most of the bands also lived in São Paulo, but two bands were in the capital, Brasília.

When we got there we were so busy thinking about the two music videos we had to shoot in four days that we didn't plan anywhere to stay. The flute guy from the band told us we could stay with his mom! We spent three days with him in his mom's house and she took care of us. I cried when I left because I fell in love with her. When we were done shooting that music video we had another one in the same city. They also invited us to stay with them. We spent five days in Brasília living with the bands! It was amazing.

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

LL: Indie rock here is very small. I don't know why because the bands are really good. It's more about the Hongkongers not wanting to listen to the local rock music. They are listening to K-pop and pop from other countries.

HK: What drew you to Silhungmo and made you want to reach out to them?

DB: We have to believe in their music in order to create something with them. When we listened to them, we liked what they do. Then we invited them to be a part of the project, they said yes and it's been amazing.

HK: Which country has been your favorite so far?

LL: After traveling across 13 countries, I think the experience in Ireland was really nice. In just three weeks, we made videos with five bands.

HK: Which country is next?

DB: The next stop is South Korea. We're going to Seoul!

Follow Diana and Leo's videos at facebook.com/atw80musicvideos.

HK PICKS

Udderbelly Festival Hong Kong

From Edinburgh Festival Fringe comes the very first Udderbelly Festival Hong Kong, a crazy cool two-month stage festival. There will be music and dance, circus and comedy, cabaret and family shows, and even a sing-along cinema. It'll all take place inside Violet, a ginormous upside-down purple cow, and there will of course be food and drink. Oh, and the Christmas event is with Thomas the Tank Engine. Choo choo! Through Feb 14 2016. Central Harbour Front Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. udderbelly.asia.

Theater

Music for Kids with Harry Wong

The magician and entertainer Harry Wong presents Music for Kids. So on top of an HK Phil program that includes Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite, "The Night Before Christmas" and sing-along carols, you can expect a little extra magic—Harry style. Dec 23-24, 8pm. Concert Hall, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$180-480 from urbtix.hk.

Cirque Adrenaline

Cirque Adrenaline's Strong Men come to the city to show off their physiques. The Cirque's upcoming show will have 15 choreographed acts with high-risk stunts that include acrobatics, humor, and lots of spinning. Woo! Dec 22-Jan 3, 2016. AsiaWorld-Arena, Sky Plaza Rd., Chek Lap Kok, 3606-8828. \$295-895 from hkticketing.com.

iD

Canadian circus troupe Cirque Éloize performs in the SAR with their unique fusion of circus acts and urban dance. Oh boy, breakdancing on stilts! Dec 30-Jan 3, 2016. Grand Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$120-380 from urbtix.hk.

Farfalle

From Italy comes the Teatro di Piazza o d'Occasione, a theatre company that's all about interactive theatre and the use of space. Their show, "Farfalle," reinterprets the metamorphosis of a caterpillar's cocoon to a butterfly through a pair of dancers, colorful lights and some butterfly wings. Sounds like a good trip... Jan 8-10, 2016. Studio Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$260 from urbtix.hk.

Inherit The Wind

This production by Aurora Theatre is set in 1920s America and loosely based on the Scopes Monkey Trial, in which a teacher named John Thomas Scopes was accused of unlawfully teaching human evolution at a state-funded school. Directed by Nicole Garbellini, the play focuses on the courtroom battle between a lawyer who represents the creationist side, and one who fights for science and freedom of thought. Jan 8-10, 2016, 8pm; Jan 9-10, 2016, 3pm. HK Rep Black Box Theater, 8/F, Sheung Wan Civic Centre, 345 Queen's Rd., Central, Sheung Wan, 3103-5930. \$220-300 from urbtix.hk.

Classical

Happy Go Lucky Big Band

Kenny Matsuura of The Flying Machine Revival Quartet and the HGL Big Band take over the Fringe Dairy for a night of slick classical jazz. Expect all things Duke Ellington. Take it as read that this gig means a whole lot. After all, it doesn't mean a thing if you ain't got that swing. Dec 19, 10pm. Fringe Club, 2 Lower Albert Rd., Central, 2521-7251. \$150 in advance; \$180 at the door.



Piano Opera

Musical nerds and nerdy musicians assemble! Nobuo Uematsu returns with another arrangement of his iconic music from the "Final Fantasy" video game series, this time alongside pianist Hiroyuki Nakayama. Game footage will be projected alongside the music, so you can admire Sephiroth's perfect hair while lamenting that he had to be the bad guy. Most of the music covered will be from Final Fantasies VI through IX. Feb 4, 2016, 8pm. Concert Hall, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$340-890 from urbtix.hk.

A Christmas Party

Presented by the Hong Kong Chorus Society and music director Henry Shek, "A Christmas Party" will feature Christmas classics from, um, "The Sound of Music" and "The King and I," plus Beatles hits. Sure, why not? Dec 20, Sheung Wan Civic Centre (Theatre), 5/F, Sheung Wan Municipal Services Building, 345 Queen's Rd. Central, Sheung Wan, 3761-6661. \$190 from urbtix.hk.

Ringing by the Candle Lights

Need more Christmas music to put you in that joyous mood? "Ringing by the Candle Lights" is a melody-filled evening featuring instrumental handbell music presented by the Asia International Handbell Association. Dec 20, Youth Square Y Theatre, 238 Chai Wan Rd., Chai Wan, 3721-8888. \$120-200 from urbtix.hk.

Comedy

Steve McGrew

Steve "Mudflap" McGrew is in town to celebrate Takeout Comedy's ninth anniversary all weekend: This high-energy southern comic is a regular at comedy clubs all over the U.S., and he draws on his past experiences to poke those funny bones. Jan 21, 2016, 8pm. Champs, 209 Wan Chai Rd., Wan Chai; Jan 22-23, 2016, 9pm. TakeOut Comedy, B/F, 34 Elgin St., Central, 6220-4436. \$250-300 from takeoutcomedy.com.

Dance

The Nutcracker

The Hong Kong Ballet returns for its year-end celebration with the legendary Christmas classic, "The Nutcracker." As the yuletide season draws ever closer, it's high time for the retelling of the magical tale of young Clara and the chivalrous Nutcracker who saves her from the clutches of the evil Rat King. Stunning costumes and set, a heartwarming tale and the timeless music of Tchaikovsky paired with the work of the talented HK Ballet dancers: It just never gets old. Dec 18-27, 2:30pm, 7:30pm. Grand Theatre, Cultural Centre, 10 Salisbury Rd., Tsim Sha Tsui. \$120-380 from urbtix.hk.

Musicals

Sing-a-long-a Frozen

The Udderbelly Festival Hong Kong presents Sing-a-long-a Frozen, a screening of Disney's "Frozen" with on-screen lyrics so kids (or you) can belt out all the words. Best dressed Frozen-themed prizes will be awarded at every screening. Dec 23-27, 5:15pm; Dec 31-Jan 1, noon. Central Harbour Front Event Space, 9 Lung Wo Rd., Central. \$228-316 from hkticketing.com.





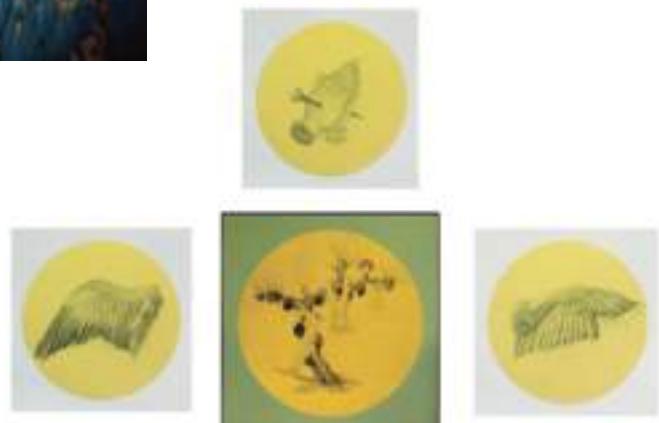
Edited by Adrienne Chum
adrienne.chum@hkmagmedia.com

Exhibitions



Un/natural

Alisan Fine Arts hosts their first ever photography exhibition this month. It's a joint show by Ming Thein and Stephen King (no, not the author) all about the relationship between natural and unnatural elements. King shows nature doing things that look unnatural, while Ming shows man-made things which seem organic—while still revealing an unnatural core. Through Jan 9, 2016. Alisan Fine Arts, Room 2305, Hing Wai Centre, 7 Tin Wan Praya Rd., Aberdeen, 2526-1091.



Wu Xihuang

This solo exhibition by Wu Xihuang reimagines his personal experiences through paint, ink, sculpture and other media. With provocative work titles such as "Enjoy Me" and "The Righteous People of Sodom," Wu takes a long, hard look at how social issues, including LGBT concerns and religion, have affected his experiences. And yes, those are body parts strewn across a tree and crucified. You won't find that in a classical wuxia novel. Through Dec 30. Leo Gallery Hong Kong, 189 Queen's Rd. West, Sheung Wan.



Play Manuals

Art Experience Gallery hosts Taiwanese artist Shih Yung-chun's first solo exhibition in Hong Kong. His works are a painted collage of imagination, memories and self-entertainment, with surrealist scenes and games that tap into our secret desires and yearning to play. His toys and friends routinely make appearances, and you might even find Shih in there himself. Through Jan 8, 2016. Art Experience Gallery, Room 2009, Cable TV Tower, 9 Hoi Shing Rd., Tsuen Wan, 2110-9928.



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To choose a Christmas gift from heart is not enough but should take into account the practicality. Want a special gift to your beloved one, the most respectful mother, dearest daughter, sister, or give "him" a surprise in Christmas Eve? Lingerie is definitely an ideal choice! All answers are in Private Shop.



 Cosabella Tentadue

Never Say Never



 Cosabella Paris Flock

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www.privateshop.com.hk Facebook: privateshopphk
Customer Service Hotline: 2422 0100



Clubs

Ummet Ozcan: Christmas Eve Party

Boasting venerable DJ cred after playing Electric Daisy Carnival, Tomorrowland and more, Dutch-Turkish EDM producer Ummet Ozcan makes his way to Club Cubic to celebrate Christmas Eve in style. Dec 24, 11:30pm. Club Cubic, 2/F, Hard Rock Hotel, City of Dreams, Estrada do Istmo, 2828 6696. \$380 from calling 6638-4999 or emailing rsvp@cubic-cod.com.



XXX Presents: Onra (Last XXX event in Sai Wan)

Slap on those dancing shoes: International producer Onra will make a special appearance at XXX for the underground venue's last gig before it relocates to Tai Kok Tsui. Into deep, funky disco synths and old school R'n'B? Don't miss it. Hong Kong DJs Fun Key, Achun, Enso, Kid Fresh and Yao will also be on the deck. Jan 2, 2016, 10pm. XXX Gallery, B/F, 353-363 Des Voeux Rd. West, Sai Ying Pun. \$150 from ticketflap.com, \$200 at the door.



Music Festivals

Grass Camp 2016

What are you doing first thing in 2016? Escape to the woods of Fei Ngo Shan's Gilwell Campsite for three days as you roast marshmallows while being serenaded by the dulcet sounds of indie bands. There'll be appearances from the likes of pop band Teenage Riot and shoegazers Thud, and food and water facilities are available on site. Workshops such as mindfulness yoga, stargazing and DIY all-purpose balm-making are also available. A shuttle bus will take you from Choi Hung MTR (\$20 per head), so all you need is yourself, your gear and your official Hipster Membership Card. Note that all overnight tickets are sold out, but day tickets are still available. Jan 1-3, 2016. \$250-600 from lawnmaphk.org.



Photo: Jake Won/
Flickr

Concerts

Diana Krall

The "Look of Love" jazz crooner is performing a one-night-only gig in Hong Kong as she tours her latest studio album, "Wallflower." Get ready for classics from the 60s onwards, and an all-new number composed by Paul McCartney, "If I Take You Home Tonight." Jan 24, 2016, 8pm. Hall 10, AsiaWorld-Expo, Chek Lap Kok. \$480-880 from hkticketing.com.



The Vamps

Not to be confused with the 60s Aussie all-girl rock band of the same name, boyband The Vamps first started off as a YouTube sensation and further exploded on the UK pop scene when they supported a McFly show in 2013. The foursome are playing Hong Kong in early 2016 and are accompanied by The Tide, an American teen group that they've just signed to their own record label. Teen-tastic! Jan 28, 2016, 8pm. Hall 10, AsiaWorld-Expo, Chek Lap Kok. \$488-888 from hkticketing.com.



Photo: Sombilon Photography/Flickr

Rain: The Squall

Early noughties K-pop fans can still their heavy breathing because the king of shiny vests and body rolls is arriving in Hong Kong this January. Expect the stage to be dripping with slick moves and buttery R'n'B. Jan 30, 2016, 8pm. AsiaWorld-Arena, Sky Plaza Rd., Chek Lap Kok, 3606-8828. \$380-1,680 from hkticketing.com.

Gigs

Nathan East

You'll have heard him on records by Stevie Wonder, Eric Clapton and Daft Punk—jazz and R'n'B bass whiz Nathan East brings his all-star band and his original Grammy-nominated hits to Hong Kong for one day only. Don't miss the VIP meet and greet at 3pm. Dec 19, 4:30pm, 8:15pm. Academic Community Hall, Hong Kong Baptist University, 224 Waterloo Rd., Kowloon Tong, 3411-5182. \$380-880 from supportlivemusic.net.

All About Jazz

Hong Kong jazz vets Eugene Pao, Ted Lo, Sylvain Gagnon and Charles Foldesh band together for an intimate gig in Fo Tan. Pao is also promoting his new CD "To Paris With Love" so fans will have a chance to nab autographs. Ticket sales go towards Rock Angel Band Sounds Foundation, a charity promoting the local band scene. Dec 19, 7:30pm. Rock Angel Band House, Unit 607-608, 6/F, Fonda Industrial Building, 37-39 Au Pui Wan St., Fo Tan, 2388-9225. \$200 in advance by bank transfer to HSBC account 652-155128-838 (ISee Ltd.), bring bank slip to the door to exchange tickets; \$250 at the door.

Les Lumieres de Christmas: Indie Music Christmas Street

Queen's Road East and the piazza of Hopewell Centre is getting a whole lot more indie, thanks to the arrival of Japanese street artist and singer Mr. Wally. He'll be joined by local indie stalwarts SilHungMo and GDJYB, as well as various caroling groups. Through Dec 26. Free. See more at theeast.com.hk.

Toro y Moi: What For? Asia Tour

All the cool kids better sit down for this: American producer Chaz Bundick, better known as Toro y Moi, is hitting up Hidden Agenda in early 2016. From bedroom musician to chillwave master to R'n'B and dance mix pro, the artist has recently returned to more guitar-based sounds (think Todd Rundgren meets Death Cab For Cutie), touring Asia for his latest album "What For?". The show will be opened by Boston duo Arms and Sleepers and Hong Kong's own Ni.ne.mo. Jan 12, 2016, 8pm. Hidden Agenda, Unit 2A, Wing Fu Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Ngau Tau Kok. \$220-260 from ticketflap.com, \$320 at the door.

One OK Rock

Bilingual Japanese rock band One OK Rock blends western and Japanese rock stylings. They're a lot better than just OK, too, having toured with the likes of All Time Low, Sleeping With Sirens and Hoobastank. For the first stop on their Asia tour, the band's back in Hong Kong. Jan 14, 2016, 8pm. Hall 10, AsiaWorld-Expo, Chek Lap Kok. \$480-780 from hkticketing.com.



Edited by Evelyn Lok
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PDT Pop-up Bar

The Shell at MO Bar will be given a makeover this season to recreate legendary New York speakeasy, PDT (Please Don't Tell). Just like the New York original, you'll enter the bar through a secret entrance via a phone booth from MO Bar, and you'll find three of PDT's top bartenders—founder Jim Meehan, current GM Jeff Bell and veteran bartender Nick Brown—whipping up a list of 12 classic PDT and new Hong Kong-inspired cocktails. Jan 5-30, 2016. MO, The Landmark Mandarin Oriental, 15 Queen's Rd. Central, 2132-0077.



Nightlife Events

Peace & Happiness at the Happy Valley Races

Happy Wednesdays at the races gets festive this month. Expect all the usual beery fun, plus lots of people dressed in funny costumes. And that's just the jockeys. Dec 23, 4:45pm. Happy Valley Racecourse, Happy Valley. \$10 at the door.



Stockton Ugly Jumper Christmas Fundraising Party

We trust your ugly Christmas sweaters are getting their year's worth of wear around this season, but Stockton's ugly jumper fete is also for a good cause. Raising funds for Half the Sky, a charity that supports orphaned children in China, your contribution is your cover charge (pay what you want). There'll be prizes for the worst dressed. Dec 19, 9pm. Stockton, G/F, 32 Wyndham St., Central, 2565-5268.

Rabbit Hole

Cliché Records's resident DJs and Jackrabbit, hailing all the way from Berlin, head to Mahalo for a topsy-turvy Alice in Wonderland-themed Christmas eve. Costumes encouraged. Dec 24, 8pm. Mahalo Tiki Lounge, 29/F, QRE Plaza, 202 Queen's Rd. East, Wan Chai, 2488-8750. Free entry.

White Christmas Party

Count down to Christmas by sipping on gingerbread cocktails and champers atop Armani/Privé's terrace. In your best Terry Crews voice, all together now: "Didn't anyone tell you this was an all white party?" Dec 24, 10pm. Armani/Privé, 2/F, Chater House, 8 Connaught Rd. Central, 3583-2828. \$250 from eventbrite.com, before Dec 20; \$300 at the door, both include two glasses of Moët.

Ladybeard Returns to Hong Kong

Bored of the Hong Kong music scene? Here's something completely different. Dressing up as a pigtailed 5-year-old, six-foot-tall Aussie wrestler and "kawaii-core" pioneer Ladybeard returns to Hong Kong for this gig. Known for his metal covers of Cantopop and his Japanese pop-metal band Ladybaby (formed together with two cute Japanese teens), Ladybeard's return is unmissable if you're after something a little more... alternative. Jan 16, 2016, 3:30pm. Focal Fair, 28/F, Park Avenue Tower, 5 Moreton Avenue, Causeway Bay. \$250 from undergroundhk.com; VIP tickets \$450 with access to meet and greet.

You & Me & Sweaty & Cramped

Feel the moist goodness of Hong Kong's indie rock scene at this Hidden Agenda gig. Three local groups are in the spotlight: Take This! (said to be "almost as handsome and at least three times more brutal" than UK pop group Take That), indie four-piece Oh! Nullah, and "meth rock" band Emptybottles. Joining all the way from Taipei and freshly revived from a two-year hiatus are punk rockers Tourning Magazine. Jan 16 2016, 7:30pm. Hidden Agenda, Unit 2A, Wing Fu Industrial Building, 15-17 Tai Yip St., Ngau Tau Kok. \$250 from ticketflap.com, \$280 at the door.



Cicada

Ready for some calming post-holiday tunes? Taiwanese instrumental band Cicada (so named because people tend to know cicadas by their sound, and not their appearance) headlines at Hangout this January, supported by acoustic guitar duo WoodyWoody, Hong Kong hard rock foursome Andy is Typing, and indie singing sister duo Tse Chin-tung and Tse Chin-lui. Jan 23, 2016, 7:30pm. Hang Out, 1/F, Youth Outreach Jockey Club, 2 Holy Cross Path, Sai Wan Ho, 2622-2890. \$180 from tiny.cc/hk-cicada; \$200 at the door.



The Woods Christmas Punch Bowl
Book a table at The Woods for six to 10 and get a complimentary Christmas Punch Bowl. Punch! Dec 24-26. The Woods, L/G, 17 Hollywood Rd., Central, 2522-0281. Reserve at thewoods.hk/reservations or by emailing info@thewoods.hk.

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PUZZLE
Flora Han & Kelvin Lam

HK Magazine's Top Films of 2015

In no particular order... by Evelyn Lok



Wild Tales
(Argentina) The year's been full of juicy little stories, but no one has captured the sheer rage that stems from everyday frustrations quite like Damián Szifrón. A collection of six darkly hilarious stories about petty revenge gone extreme—from a diner waitress serving the man who ruined her family to an idealist who plots against government bureaucracy when his car is unfairly towed—"Wild Tales" is a poisonous, well-written and well-acted gem of a black comedy.



Mad Max: Fury Road
(Australia) If Tom Hardy's stone-hearted lone soldier act hadn't won us over before, it surely did here. But what really caught our attention was "Mad Max" creator George Miller's return to his signature action—on steroids. It's a high-octane car chase from the first moment to the last, with all the over-the-top fixings we never knew our eyes needed: What's that? A War Boy shredding a double-necked, flame-throwing guitar atop a speeding truck? Hell yeah.



Me and Earl and the Dying Girl

(USA) You thought it'd be a pleasant teen drama about a loner kid who befriends a girl with cancer, makes her life better and learns about friendship along the way.



Love & Mercy

(USA) Exploring the inner life of The Beach Boys' Brian Wilson, this biopic did more than put "Surfin' USA" back in our heads. It also cemented his music-making genius, and sensitively described the struggle of mental illness without judgment or disdain.



A Most Violent Year
(USA) Coming to Hong Kong in spring, "A Most Violent Year" was one of the most beautifully shot dramas of 2015, concerning a couple making a crucial deal to expand their fuel supply business in violent and corrupt 1981 New York. Moving along ever so gently, the story—and Jessica Chastain's badassery disguised behind a perfectly manicured self—had us on the edge of our seats.



Inside Out
(USA) Handily scooping up the award for Film Most Likely to Ruin Your Childhood, "Inside Out" centers on the five emotions of 11-year-old Riley as she copes with a family move away from her hometown in Wisconsin. The subject and plot are simple enough, but it uses some pretty advanced psychology to pull in all the adults too. If you walk out of this without at least your eyes getting a little moist, you are a monster.

Port of Call

(Hong Kong) We couldn't imagine a nicer way to paint this picture of the real-life murder of a teenage girl. Instead of exploiting the violence, Philip Yung's artful approach takes into account the delicate psychology of killer and victim. Christopher Doyle's elevated Hong Kong grunge doesn't hurt, either.

Star Wars: The Force Awakens

(USA) Full disclosure: We haven't seen this as of press time, but there's just no way in hell it's not going to kick seven kinds of Ewok ass. Unless it's got Jar Jar in it.

Coming Soon

Snoopy: The Peanuts Movie
(USA) Relive the warm fuzzies of "A Charlie Brown Christmas" with an all-new Snoopy movie. As usual, Charlie Brown can't seem to get his act together, especially when he develops a crush on a red-haired girl who's just moved into town. While Charlie's head is in the clouds, so is Snoopy's, who's pretending to be a fighter pilot—while also having his eyes on a pretty poodle (voiced by Kristin Chenoweth). Opens Dec 24.

The Little Prince
(France) Could there be a more perfect Christmas film than Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's heartrending tale of a mysterious young boy from a tiny asteroid? Although done up in CGI-style, the updated retelling of the story—centering on a girl who meets an eccentric pilot and storyteller—and its ensemble voice cast (Rachel McAdams, Jeff Bridges, Marion Cotillard and more) surely won't disappoint. Opens Dec 24.

Ip Man 3

(Hong Kong) Six years on, Donnie Yen returns as Wing Chun legend Ip Man. This time, the grandmaster will be duking it out with none other than Mike Tyson himself... and a young, computer-generated Bruce Lee will also make an appearance. Um. Merry Christmas ...? Opens Dec 24.

Anniversary

(Hong Kong) This film celebrates a few milestones: 10 years since director Patrick Kong began filming Hong Kong romance flicks, but also 10 years since Alex Fong Lik-sun and Stephie Tang have been together on screen (and reportedly off screen as well). This time, they're playing a married couple stuck in a rut. Hope it doesn't hit too close to home. Opens Dec 31.

Joy

(USA) Another holiday season, another David O. Russell movie starring Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence. We follow J-Law as she plays through four generations in the life of Joy Mangano: Divorcée, matriarch and founder of the business dynasty behind the Miracle Mop. Opens Dec 31.

Sherlock: The Abominable Bride

(UK) It's TV's "Sherlock" on the big screen! The world's best sleuthing partners get a special episode to kick off the year. Sherlock (Benedict Cumberbatch) and Watson (Martin Freeman) return to the Victorian era to solve the case of a bride seeking revenge. Opens Jan 2.

The 33

(USA/Chile) The 2010 story of the 33 Chilean miners trapped underground for 69 days swept headlines everywhere when it happened, and now it gets the Hollywood treatment. Although dodgy accents make this seem like a bit of a cheap shot... Opens Jan 7.

Dheepan

(France/Sri Lanka) Inspired by the medieval literary work "Persian Letters," in which two Persian aristocrats write about their journey through France, "Dheepan" is the tale of three Tamil refugees who flee the Sri Lankan civil war to come to France. Apt for our times and deeply moving, the film won the Palme d'Or grand prize at the 2015 Cannes Film Festival. Opens Jan 7.

Continuing

Secret in Their Eyes

(USA) Chiwetel Ejiofor and Julia Roberts play FBI partners who are at a loss after Jess' (Roberts) teenage daughter is found murdered. 13 years later, Ray (Ejiofor) finds a lead that might just solve the case once and for all. Despite having an exceptional cast, the original 2009 film on which the story is based (it won the Best Foreign Film Oscar back in the day), might just be turning in its grave... Opens Jan 7.

The Revenant

(USA) Alejandro Iñárritu's latest has Leonardo DiCaprio starting the year with a bang as explorer Hugh Glass, who is brutally mauled by a bear during a snowy expedition and left for dead by his hunting crew. He navigates the chilling winter to make his way back to those who left him to die... and maybe his way to an Oscar, too? Opens Jan 8.

Opening



Star Wars: The Force Awakens

(USA) It's finally here. J.J. Abrams takes the reins for this first part of the sequel trilogy to the legendary space opera. Set 30 years after the fall of the Empire in "Return of the Jedi," a new military dictatorship has assumed rule... with the new Resistance bringing original characters Luke, Leia, Han Solo and of course, Chewbacca, back to the screen. Aarrgh! Opened Dec 17.

Love the Coopers

(USA) What would Christmas be without a bit of family dysfunction? When Sam Cooper (John Goodman) and his wife (Diane Keaton) get four generations of the Cooper clan around the table for their annual holiday bash, each family member's individual quirks and issues begin to resurface. A bittersweet holiday charmer or a tryptophan-laden snoozer? Probably the latter. Opened Dec 17.

Before We Go

(USA) "Before Sunrise" meets Captain America on his day off: Chris Evans plays a busking trumpet-player who meets a woman by chance in the Grand Central terminal, and a random encounter turns into an overnight whirlwind romance across New York City.

Burnt

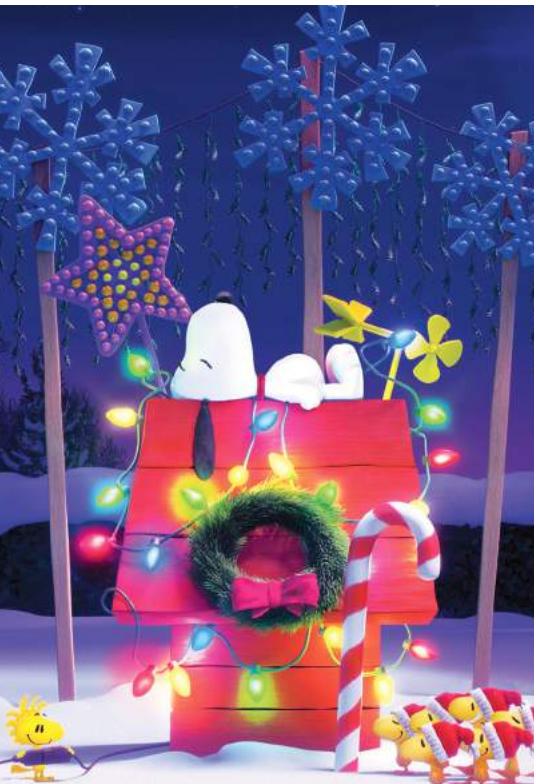
(USA) Bradley Cooper is Adam Jones, a former top chef in Paris whose substance abuse has led his career to collapse. After repenting for his crimes, he's hired as the head chef of a new fine-dine in London—where he vies for his third Michelin star. Playing another stereotypical kitchen tyrant, Cooper's too detached from his character for you to connect with the story, though the good-looking star and even better looking food might sway your attention. ★★

By the Sea

(USA) Penned and directed by Angelina Jolie, this flick is all about a couple trying to revive their marriage at a French seaside resort in the 70s. Part channeling French New Wave cinema, part perfume commercial, be prepared to sit through two hours before any real exposition comes through. Numbingly exhausting, like the marriage itself. ★★

Standing Tall

(France) A strangely harsh film to have opened the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year, "Standing Tall" is a peek into the French juvenile justice system through the story of Malony, from his mother's abandonment through 10 years of his life as social workers refuse to give up on him.





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Broadway Circuit,
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The Crow's Egg

(India) Here's to the next "Slumdog": Indian director-cinematographer M. Manikandan brings us a heartwarming Bollywood tale about two street children in the slums of Chennai, who hustle their way into buying a pizza.

Freeheld

(USA) "Freeheld" stars Julianne Moore in the real-life story of New Jersey detective Laurel Hester, who was diagnosed with terminal cancer and fought for the right to leave her life partner (Ellen Page) her pension benefits after her death.



In the Heart of the Sea

(USA) Beefy Chris Hemsworth takes on the terrors of the sea this winter as first mate Owen Chase in a 3D-tastic reimagining of the tale which inspired "Moby Dick." A valiant effort at making a whaling story relevant again in 2015, showing off the extreme lengths the crew (Hemsworth lost a staggering 33lbs) went to in order to portray a journey through hell and back. ★★★

Keeper of Darkness

(Hong Kong) Nick Cheung Ka-fai returns for his second stab at directing with this frankly insane horror flick, starring as a hip-looking, silver-haired exorcist who rids the city of vengeful spirits with his uncanny way with words. But when videos of his exorcisms go viral, he attracts the energy of a serial-killing spirit.



Spectre

(UK) Bond is back. The legendary British secret agent goes rogue (again) after receiving a coded message that takes him through Mexico City and Rome to investigate a shadowy organization known as Spectre. Daniel Craig gives a fitting send-off to his last round as the superspy. ★★★

Film Festival

French Film Festival: Retrospective

This year's French Film Festival isn't over yet: The month of January sees a retrospective of French cinema, featuring masterpieces including Luc Besson's legendary thriller "Léon: The Professional" (Jan 8) and Jean Renoir's impressionistic homage to concert-café culture, "French Cancan" (Jan 17). Jan 4-31. \$60-95 from hkfrenchfilmfestival.com.

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Programme details please refer to Profolio 79 available at all performing venues of the LCSD

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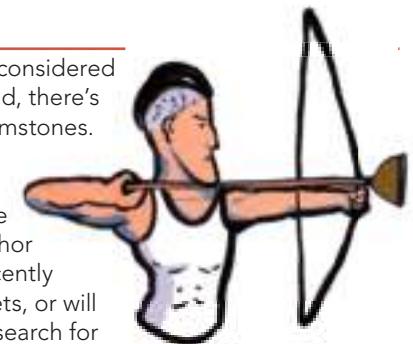
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SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22-Dec 21): Garnets are considered less valuable than diamonds. But out in the wild, there's an intimate connection between these two gemstones. Wherever you find garnets near the surface of the earth, you can be reasonably sure that diamonds are buried deeper down in the same location. Let's use this relationship as a metaphor for your life, Sagittarius. I suspect you have recently chanced upon a metaphorical version of garnets, or will do so soon. Maybe you should make plans to search for the bigger treasure towards which they point the way.



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 19): Ready for the Cool Anger Contest? You can earn maximum points by expressing your dissatisfaction in ways that generate the most constructive transformations. Bonus points will be awarded for your ability to tactfully articulate complicated feelings, as well as for your emotionally intelligent analyses that inspire people to respond empathetically rather than defensively. What are the prizes? First prize is a breakthrough in your relationship with an ally who could be crucial to your expansion in 2016. Second prize is a liberation from one of your limiting beliefs.

AQUARIUS (Jan 20-Feb 18): A fourth-century monk named Martin was a pioneer wine-maker in France. He founded the Marmoutier Abbey and planted vineyards on the surrounding land. According to legend, Martin's donkey had a crucial role in lifting viticulture out of its primitive state. Midway through one growing season, the beast escaped its tether and nibbled on a lot of the grapevines. All the monks freaked out, fearing that the crop was wrecked. But ultimately the grapes grew better than they had in previous years, and the wine they produced was fabulous. Thus was born the practice of pruning, which became de rigueur for all grape-growers. What's your equivalent of Martin's donkey, Aquarius? I bet it'll exert its influence very soon.

PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20): "The deepest urge in human nature is the desire to be important," said educator John Dewey. If that's true, Pisces, you are on the verge of having your deepest urge fulfilled more than it has in a long time. The astrological alignments suggest that you are reaching the peak of your value to other people. You're unusually likely to be seen and appreciated and acknowledged for who you really are. If you have been underestimating your worth, I doubt you will be able to continue doing so. Here's your homework: Take a realistic inventory of the ways your life has had a positive impact on the lives of people you have known.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 19): The Neanderthals were a different human species that co-existed with our ancestors, homo sapiens, for at least 5,000 years. But they eventually died out while our people thrived. Why? One reason, says science writer Marcus Chown, is that we alone invented sewing needles. Our newborn babies had well-made clothes to keep them warm and healthy through frigid winters. Neanderthal infants, covered with ill-fitting animal skins, had a lower survival rate. Chown suggests that although this provided us with a mere one percent survival advantage, that turned out to be significant. I think you're ready to find and use a small yet ultimately crucial edge like that over your competitors, Aries.

TAURUS (Apr 20-May 20): Artist Robert Barry created "30 Pieces," an installation that consisted of pieces of paper on which he had typed the following statement: "Something which is very near in place and time, but not yet known to me." According to my reading of the astrological omens, this theme captures the spirit of the phase you're now entering. But I think it will evolve in the coming weeks. First it'll be "Something which is very near in place and time, and is becoming known to me." By mid-January it could turn into "Something which is very near and dear, and has become known to me."

GEMINI (May 21-Jun 20): There is in every one of us, even those who seem to be most moderate, a type of desire that is uncanny, wild, and lawless. Greek philosopher Plato wrote that in his book "The Republic," and I'm bringing it to your attention just in time for your Season of Awakening and

Deepening Desire. The coming days will be a time when you can, if you choose, more fully tune in to the uncanny, wild, and lawless aspects of your primal yearnings. But wait a minute! I'm not suggesting you should immediately take action to gratify them. For now, just feel them and observe them. Find out what they have to teach you. Wait until the new year before you consider the possibility of expressing them.

CANCER (Jun 21-Jul 22): Congratulations! You have broken all your previous records for doing boring tasks that are good for you. In behalf of the other eleven signs, I thank you for your heroic, if unexciting, campaign of self-improvement. You have not only purified your emotional resources and cleared out some breathing room for yourself, but you have also made it easier for people to help you and feel close to you. Your duty has not yet been completed, however. There are a few more details to take care of before the gods of healthy tedium will be finished with you. But start looking for signs of your big chance to make a break for freedom. They'll arrive soon.

LEO (Jul 23-Aug 22): The English word "fluke" means "lucky stroke." It was originally used in the game of billiards when a player made a good shot that he or she wasn't even trying to accomplish. Later its definition expanded to include any fortuitous event that happens by chance rather than because of skill: good fortune generated accidentally. I suspect that you are about to be the beneficiary of what may seem to be a series of flukes, Leo. In at least one case, though, your lucky break will have been earned by the steady work you've done without any fanfare.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sep 22): You may not have to use a literal crowbar in the coming weeks, but this rough tool will serve you well as a metaphor. Wherever you go, imagine that you've got one with you. Why? It's time to jimmy open glued-shut portals... to pry loose mental blocks... to coax unyielding influences to budge... to nudge intransigent people free of their fixations. Anything that is stuck or jammed needs to get unstuck or unjammed through the power of your willful intervention.

LIBRA (Sep 23-Oct 21): The coming weeks will be a favorable time for you to consort with hidden depths and unknown riches. In every way you can imagine, I urge you to go deeper down and further in. Cultivate a more conscious connection with the core resources you sometimes take for granted. This is one time when delving into the darkness can lead you to pleasure and treasure. As you explore, keep in mind this advice from author T. Harv Eker: "In every forest, on every farm, in every orchard on earth, what's under the ground creates what's above the ground. That's why placing your attention on the fruits you have already grown is futile. You can't change the fruits that are already hanging on the tree. But you can change tomorrow's fruits. To do so, you will have to dig below the ground and strengthen the roots."

SCORPIO (Oct 23-Nov 21): In the coming weeks, the pursuit of pleasure could drain your creative powers, diminish your collaborative possibilities, and wear you out. But it's also possible that the pursuit of pleasure will enhance your creative powers, synergize your alliances, and lead you to new opportunities. Which way will you go? It all depends on the kinds of pleasures you pursue. The dumb, numbing, mediocre type will shrink your soul. The smart, intriguing, invigorating variety will expand your mind. Got all that? Say "hell, no" to trivializing decadence so you can say "wow, yes" to uplifting bliss.

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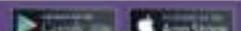
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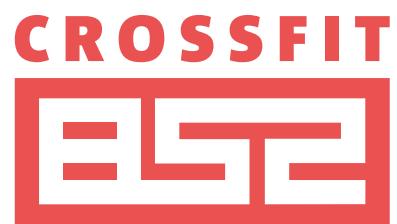
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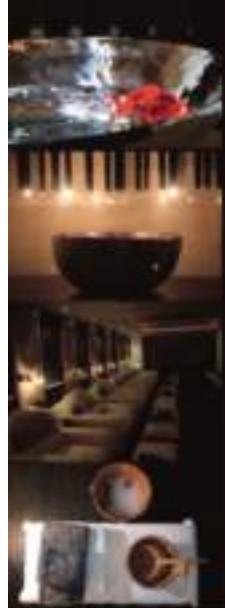
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SAVAGE LOVE

Dan Savage

I'm a straight 26-year-old man who wants advice on helping my fiancée realize a particular fantasy. We have been dating for three years and are in a happy monogamous relationship. I was always vanilla, but she enjoys rougher sex and light bondage. We've incorporated some of this into our sex lives, and we are both happy with how fun it is. She has expressed interest in a rape fantasy. Both of us want to be safe when we do this, and we trust each other completely. But I cannot think of a way in which she can get the experience she desires while still maintaining a safe dynamic. I am wondering if you have advice on how I can help act out her fantasy in a way that we both have fun.

– Seeking Erotic Advice Now

You and the fiancée are obviously capable of communicating about varsity-level sex play, SEAN; your track record with bondage and rougher sex demonstrates that. Now you just have to use the same interpersonal skills that made your past kinky fuckfests possible—along with the same respect for limits, boundaries, and each other—to negotiate and realize your girlfriend's edgy-but-thoroughly-common fantasy.

I recommend reading "Rape Fantasy: How to Carry It Out Safely," a long and thoughtful post at Slut Lessons (slutlessons.wordpress.com), an engaging sex blog that's sadly no longer being updated. The first recommendation from Educated Slut, the site's anonymous author: Maybe we shouldn't call them "rape fantasies" at all.

"A rape fantasy is almost invariably more about forced sex and not a desire to actually BE raped by someone," writes Educated Slut. "Very few people have the desire to be put through the physical and emotional trauma of a real rape. This is the primary reason I refer to this as 'forced sex fantasy' rather than rape fantasy; it just gives the wrong impression to some people."

You might be one of those people, SEAN. You seem to be under the impression that there's something inherently more dangerous about realizing/role-playing your way through a forced sex scenario. And it may be more dangerous and/or triggering on an emotional level—talking through any past traumas or fears will be important—but slapping the label "rape fantasy" on rough(er) sex shouldn't result in you having some sort of out-of-body experience that leads you to go apeshit on your helpless fiancée. Talk things through in advance, just like you have before, agree on a safe word—a word that stops the action cold should either of you utter it—and take it slow the first few times you go for it.

I'm a single straight guy and this is probably going to sound really stupid, but... I basically stumbled over the cuckold fetish and I can't get it out of my mind. I've tried to stay away from it because I'm pretty sure you aren't supposed to feel like garbage after enjoying porn. But I can't get it out of my head. It's worrying, since I fear that one day it might end up spoiling things when I fall in love with someone since I'm a bit of a jealous person. The idea of a cheating woman is really hot in spite of all of that. But there's this lingering feeling of disgust surrounding the whole thing. Is it possible to have a fetish you hate?

– Baffled About Romantic Future

Don't you just hate it when someone leaves a fetish sitting on the steps and then you come along and stumble over it and—bam!—you fall and hit your head and when you come to you've got a brand new fetish?

Yeah, no. We don't know exactly where people's fetishes and kinks come from—how or why someone's erotic imagination snaps on an inanimate object (high heels, leather gear, rubber

masks) or a particular sexual scenario (cuckolding, role play, outdoor sex)—but we can safely say that people don't stumble into their fetishes or kinks.

Forgive me for being a pedantic asshole, BARF—I'm sure you didn't mean you literally stumbled over a cuckold. But misinformed, sex-negative, kink-negative pornophobes routinely talk about fetishes and kinks—and fetish/kink porn—like a moment's exposure can transform an innocent person with purely vanilla tastes into a horned-up, slobbering, gimp outfit-wearing kink monster. And that's not the way it happens.

So what did happen to you, BARF? You found some cuckold porn online, and your dick said: "DUDE. THIS IS IT. THIS IS WHAT WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR. RUN WITH THIS." Your particular kink was already in there somewhere, already rattling around in your erotic subconscious, but you couldn't articulate it—it didn't take shape—until you finally "stumbled over" the images and narratives you were looking for all along. And your kink, like the kinks of so many other people (see SEAN's fiancée, above), seems to be grounded in insecurity and fear—you're the jealous type, you fear being cheated on, and your erotic imagination/reptile brain took your fears and spun them into a kink. Congrats.

On to your question: Yes, you can have a fetish you hate, i.e., you can have a kink you don't want to act on because the fantasy can't be realized for moral or ethical reasons (it involves children, nonconsensual acts, Donald Trump) or because you're fairly certain doing so would suck for emotional or physical reasons (potentially traumatizing, physically dangerous, Donald Trump).

But if your only issue with your kink are those lingering feelings of disgust, BARF, those feelings may diminish the more time you spend thinking/jacking about your newly revealed kink. Time will determine if your feelings of disgust are merely your run-of-the-mill, beneficial-to-overcome kink negativity or if they're a sign cuckold should remain a go-to masturbatory fantasy for you, BARF, without ever become a cheating-woman reality.

I've been dating a girl for a while, and I take our relationship seriously. Sometimes sex is a little difficult because of her pubic hair. She shaves it close to the labia, which is right where my cock is going in and out, and it's very prickly. I don't mean lightly prickly—it's like a bunch of wooden chopsticks have been filed down and shaped into a cylinder, and I've been asked to let them clench my dick. I brought it up once and tried to gently suggest a waxing or letting the hair grow back. She didn't want to talk about it. I get it: Nobody likes having their genital area critiqued. But the problem keeps recurring. I understand that I don't really have the right to dictate her grooming habits. And if waxing is out of the question for her—maybe there are philosophical implications I'm not up to speed on—how can I suggest that maybe there are other solutions?

– Seeks Counsel Regarding Agonizing Penile Exfoliation

The only solution is your girlfriend letting her pubic hair grow back permanently, SCRAPE, since waxed labia will eventually become stubble-covered labia. Here's how you suggest letting those pubes grow back: Start by letting your girlfriend know you're aware that women have had to endure millennia of misogynistic/religious garbage about their genitals—but you shouldn't have to silently endure painful sex because that garbage has made discussing her choices around genital grooming unnecessarily fraught. This isn't about appearance or preferences or clashing philosophies about pubic grooming. You're in pain. Address the matter directly.

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- **Venue Manager (Armani Prive)**
With Club/Lounge experience most preferred
- **Bar Manager (Armani Prive)**
- **Executive Chef (Chinese Cuisine)**
 - Italian Chef De Cuisine
 - Dim Sum Head Chef

The right candidates will be offered:

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Competitive Compensation Packages | 6. Discretionary Bonus |
| 2. 15 Days Paid Annual Leave | 7. 9 Hours Work Daily |
| 3. Birthday Leave and a Celebration Allowance | 8. Duty Meals |
| 4. Quarterly Incentives Scheme | 9. Employee Discount |
| 5. Annual Salary Review | |

Interested parties please send resume via email to opportunities@aqua.com.hk / whatsapp to 9175 6222 / by fax to 2542 3999 / call 3106 8030.

Personal data collected will be used for recruitment purposes only.

ADVERTISING CAREERS

HK Magazine Media Group – publisher of HK Magazine, The List, and the where® family of international travel publications, is looking to fill the following positions in its dynamic and exciting Advertising Department:

1. SENIOR ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE

- 1-year experience in media sales; magazine advertising sales a great advantage
- Fluent in spoken and written Cantonese and English
- Attractive remuneration package and performance based commission

2. ADVERTISING SALES EXECUTIVE

- Positive attitude towards magazine advertising sales
- Fluent in spoken Cantonese and English
- Entry level. Fresh Graduates welcome; no experience necessary

Interested parties, please send your cover letter and CV to resume@hkmagmedia.com



EDITORIAL CAREERS

HK Magazine Media Group – publisher of HK Magazine, The List, and the where® family of international travel publications, is looking to fill the following position in its Editorial Department:

REPORTER

- A love of politics, people and all things Hong Kong.
- Relevant journalism qualification would be an advantage.
- Fluent Cantonese is essential.

Interested parties, please send your cover letter and CV to adam.white@hkmagmedia.com



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Eat Elite!

Whenever a conversation turns to fine dining one thing is certain: It won't be long before the name Elite Concepts crops up.

That's hardly surprising. Elite has an enviable reputation for exceptional food and wines and the group prides itself on a holistic approach to the dining experience. Since 1991, at restaurants in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing and Taipei, the company has continued to set hospitality trends envied throughout Asia.

At Elite it's about so much more than enjoying an unforgettable meal. It's about the whole ambience of the occasion; originality, creativity and inspiration, with a dash of romance. Take that, spiced up with the company's own unique personality, and the result is a winning combination.

For more than two decades the formula has proved a winner, but Elite is never happy to settle. In the continuing

search for perfection another innovative creation has just been introduced. And it, too, seems destined for success.

Elite Dining is an exciting new idea that's certain to appeal to foodies of all persuasions. It offers the opportunity to sample private dining at one of Elite Concept's exclusive locations.

The idea is simple: Each restaurant offers a choice of seven cuisines in one of 50 superb private dining rooms. As if that's not enough to get the taste buds tingling, there's also a guarantee that the Elite Dining package will cater for your every need. All you have to do is provide your wish list and the people at Elite will set about satisfying your desires.

And not only will your dream dining experience be served up literally on a plate, it'll also be done on a budget of your choosing. All you have to do? Act now and make a booking.

elite-concepts.com



Silk and diamonds at the Melo Spa

Feeling good is something we all crave. Deep down everyone loves to be pampered and looked after. After all, there's nothing wrong with being made to feel special.

It's a perfectly natural desire to want to be at your best, so when the chance comes along to get some expert help, you have to grab the opportunity with both hands.

And there's no better time to go the extra mile and get into shape than the run-up to Christmas. Now's the perfect time to tone up your body.

Melo Spa at Hyatt Regency Hong Kong, Sha Tin, has introduced the Melo Luminous Care Treatment, which uses crystal and diamond concentrates to provide skin with deluxe care and give the body a glowing new look for the festive season.

The 90-minute Melo Luminous Care Treatment comes in at \$1,199 per person. Relax and enjoy a Crystal Silky Body Polish, taking advantage of mineral crystals rich in trace elements and natural salts, which help to restore skin, leaving it firm, supple, sleek and luminous. The polish also helps to remove impurities and dead cells.

The Diamond Rejuvenating Body Massage lasts 55 minutes and uses a soft concentrate of caviar extract and diamond powder to yield intense hydrating and nutritive effects, improving skin texture, firmness and tonicity.

Book this package now and enjoy a 30-minute relaxing milk bath and a 30-minute mini massage at a special price of just \$599 per person, plus 20% off on an AINHOA Luxury Diamond Facial.

hongkong.shatin.hyatt.com



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Duty Meals

Qualified applicants please forward your resume together with expected salary to:
jobs@diningconcepts.com or contact Human Resources Department at 3912 3920

Personal information collected is for recruitment purpose only.

HK GIVEAWAYS

December's almost over, and we've got winners for this month's HK Giveaways competition. Merry Christmas, and check back next year for another 12 months of amazing prizes!

WE HAVE A WINNER!



Congratulations to the winner of a holiday package at Studio City Macau, worth more than \$11,000!

Lori Enns is the lucky winner of a complete holiday package for two at the amazing new Studio City Macau, worth more than \$11,000. Lori picked up the magazine each week to find the words "magnificent" and "inspired," before putting them together into a description of the perfect Macau Christmas getaway.

Here it is:

*Leisure and luxury—
The theme of Studio City.
Its magnificent styles
Will promote many smiles.
I'm inspired to enter
For my husband to remember
Our 36 years of wedded adventure!*

Congratulations, Lori, and happy wedding anniversary. Enjoy your holiday!



Congratulations to the winners of some stylish swimwear!

Well done to William Ho and Tina Li, the winners of the **two sets of Perfect Moment swimwear** we have to give away, altogether worth \$4,000.

William tells us he wants to take his new gear to the Caribbean to "show off my strong body," so we hope he actually has one.

Meanwhile Tina is going to use her new suit to catch some waves off California's Cortes Bank or Belharra in France. She says they're the "perfect places to live in the present, be awed by the monstrous forces of mother nature, and pay tribute to the phenomenal world while exploring my inner limits." Surf's up, Tina!

Congratulations again, guys. Have fun and enjoy your new swimwear!

WE HAVE WINNERS!



BEST OF FIRST PERSON 2015

This year we met some of the city's coolest, best looking and most controversial people (sometimes they were all three at once). Here's a selection of the finest quotes from these wonderful Hongkongers.

"There is not enough hope being expressed in public. There should be more. Hong Kong deserves more."

Chong Chan-yau, President of the Hong Kong Blind Union

"Hongkongers don't really want to tell Hong Kong stories anymore."

Philip Yung, film critic-turned-director

"People are so used to hearing false things. You think of dishonesty as the norm. It warps your sense of ethics and morality. That is what I'm really worried about."

Audrey Eu, Civic Party founder and chairman

"I love Hong Kong because it is my home. It is where most of the people I love best in the world are, and where I can do whatever I want, except genuinely elect the Chief Executive."

Diana Lin, Senior Executive Producer at TVB Pearl

"Hong Kong people are ready for genuine universal suffrage. If we don't resolve this problem, I think Hong Kong is going to become increasingly difficult to govern."

Anson Chan, former Chief Secretary and "the Conscience of Hong Kong"

"People always say 'One Country, Two Systems.' Some don't notice that the starting point should be 'One Country.' If there is no 'One Country,' there's no 'Two Systems.'"

Tam Yiu-chung, Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference member and former DAB chairman

"The system was designed to defeat the Chief Executive. He or she can't do exactly what they want because they don't have a party behind them."

Allan Zeman, "The Father of Lan Kwai Fong"

"The Hong Kong government operates on the philosophy of projecting its authority over the population without listening, and thus fails to understand the needs, wants and goals of the people."

Robert Tibbo, Edward Snowden's lawyer

"Every time a single woman joins Legco, she leaves single."

Tanya Chan, founding member and vice-chairman of the Civic Party

"When most people in Hong Kong look at the ocean, they think, 'My real estate faces the ocean and the price is going to increase.'"

Sharon Kwok, actress and conservation activist

"I like shooting [photos] at night because personalities change then. A banker in the morning can be a drunk asshole in LKF when the sun goes down."

Xyza Cruz Bacani, photographer and domestic helper

"Contemporary love is a power game—women need to provide a reaction for men to follow."

Vincci Cheuk (aka GC Goo-Bi), comedian, DJ, writer and film director

"Many girls dream of being a princess. Rather than a princess I would say I'm a countess."

Zita Law (aka "Deep Snow"), author

"You could say I'm an anti-social icon. My communication and social skills are horribly lacking. I rarely talk to others."

Juno Mak, former Cantopop idol and multigenre indie artist

"Monsters may not be that evil. Humans make mistakes and even gods can be wrong."

Peter Pau, Oscar-winning cinematographer and director

"Art is everywhere. Art is not just inside a gallery—it's on the streets as well. It is accessible, if you open your eyes."

Katie de Tilly, founder of 10 Chancery Lane Gallery

"In art, you can do everything just to express your own feelings. But when you create something interesting within a frame, it's much more satisfying."

Roy Tsui (aka Lin Rixi), Cantopop lyricist and founder of Blackpaper and 100Most

Comedy is quite difficult. It's easy to make people cry. It's hard to make people laugh.

Sam Lee, actor

"Oh, there are so many things China needs to work on. Too many. The quality of its people and almost everything else."

Liza "Big Sister" Wang, actress and Chairman of the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong

"Sometimes I stand in the doorway of snack shops and just look at the food."

Rex "The Wonder Kid" Tso, Hong Kong's first professional boxer and undefeated super flyweight champion

"When you're talking about the competition between the future and the past, the past is doomed from the start. The future must win."

Alan Leong, Civic Party leader

"If I could have a heart-to-heart with my parents, I would say that I want to feel loved. Not just be loved, but feel loved. There's a difference."

Leung Chai-yan, daughter of Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying



Photos: Kirk Kenny / studiozag.com, Jesper McIlroy, Ramond Ho, Emily Chu, Tony Leung@Dot Workshop

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